

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 37, No. 3
Jun - Jul 2023
Issued December 2023





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 37 Number 3 Jun – Jul 2023

Mark Bonta, Editor-in-Chief

970 Pennsylvania Ave Apt 1

Tyrone PA 16686 USA

markabonta@yahoo.com | <https://pabirds.org>

Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning

Michael Fialkovich

Nick Bolgiano

Geoff Malosh

Department Editors

Book Reviews

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.

513 Kelly Blvd.

Slippery Rock, PA

16057-1145

(724) 794-2434

GeneWilhelm@aol.com

CBC Report

Nick Bolgiano

711 W. Foster Ave.

State College, PA 16801

(814) 234-2746

nickbolgiano@gmail.com

Hawk Watch Reports

David Barber

410 Summer Valley Rd.

Orwigsburg, PA 17961

(570) 943-3411

barber@hawkmtn.org

Data Technician

Wendy Jo Shemansky

41 Walkertown Hill Rd.

Daisytown, PA 15427

pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

Publication Manager

Franklin Haas

2469 Hammertown Rd.

Narvon, PA 17555

fhaasbirds@gmail.com

Photo Editor

Rob Dickerson

44 Oak Ridge Road

Lewistown, PA 17044

radickerson@gmail.com

Copy Editors

Sheryl Johnson

Delaware County

Carol Light

Clearfield County

Bird List Compiler

Andy Keister

akeister110@gmail.com

110 Hawk Ridge Road

Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Contents

Editor's Corner.....	155
RESEARCH UPDATE: Central Pennsylvania American Kestrel Nest Box Program (2023)	
<i>Steve Eisenhower</i>	156
Elements of the County Report.....	156
Three Pennsylvania Firsts—Limpkin, Broad-billed Hummingbird, and Ferruginous Hawk	
<i>Greg Grove, Barry Blust, Alicia Van Arsdale, and Ross Gallardy</i>	157
Summary of the Season: Summer 2023	
<i>Dan Brauning</i>	159
25 Years Ago in <i>Pennsylvania Birds</i>	
<i>Frank Haas</i>	162
Birds of Note – June and July 2023	163
PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS	168
Local Notes – June and July 2023	174
Publication Schedule.....	203
Submission of Materials.....	204
In Focus – Rare Breeders in Pennsylvania	<i>Inside Back Cover</i>

A picture is worth one thousand words: **Osprey** on a mission at Lake Redman, York 8 June.
(*Bob Reiter*)

Editor's Corner

Summer 2023 was filled with surprises, with three new records for Pennsylvania included in a separate photo section on page 157—a teaser for a full discussion of what's new in the state that I hope we'll see in an upcoming number.

As always, thanks to the seasonal editors and the copy editors for all their help on this edition, and particularly to Dan Brauning, who compiled the *Summary of the Season* (p. 159) and the *Birds of Note* (p. 163).

County Update

Our volunteer county compilers are without a doubt the life's blood of this journal. On page 156, I've provided a sample with callouts that helps orient everyone to the standards. Please note that though it's not exhaustive, it does cover some basics of formatting and content.

As the map on page 174 shows, we are lacking coverage of certain counties and are looking for volunteers to fill the gaps. Ideally, we would have at least a paragraph on each county for every edition.

Notes on the Third Pennsylvania Atlas

In reading through the *Local Notes*, the build-up to the next Atlas (2024-2029) is quite evident. I recently had the honor of listening to an overview of this massive undertaking from Amber Wiewel, the Atlas coordinator, on an extremely well-attended Zoom call. Wiewel reminded us that breeding bird documentation begins January 1, 2024 with Rock Pigeon, Bald Eagle, and Great Horned Owl, picks up by March, and reaches a crescendo not long thereafter...only to be repeated four more times, until all the nearly 5,000 blocks in the state have been adequately covered. What's more, the lean months, starting at the end of 2024, will see an intensive Atlas effort to document winter birds.

For those of us who participated in the first or second atlases, a novelty this time will be the use of eBird, and we were elated to hear that the Atlas portal is already available on it.

Like most of you, I am eager to do my part and inspire others to help. After a summer that was marred by palls of wildfire smoke worse than any in living memory but was also blessed by the visitation of wanderers from the South, climate change is not far from my mind, and the need to get better documentation on how birds are responding seems more urgent than ever.

Ornithological History

Pehr (Peter) Kalm (1716-1779) was a Finnish-Swedish naturalist and acolyte of Linnaeus sent to North America to research possibilities for establishing a silk industry in Sweden. He settled at Raccoon (now Swedesboro, New Jersey) in 1748 and spent a fair amount of time in and around Philadelphia. If the name sounds familiar, it might be because Linnaeus honored his fellow Swede with the name *Kalmia* – as in our state flower, *Kalmia latifolia*, the mountain laurel, samples of which Kalm sent back to Linnaeus.

Jacobson provides a helpful overview of Kalm's trip^a while Trotter discusses Kalm's contributions to our state's ornithology.^b Google Books has a copy of the English translation of his account from 1771, *Travels into North America; Containing Its Natural History...*

Kalm's notes on birds focus largely on the damage they do to crops, with detailed descriptions of abundant species such as the "purple maize thieves" (Common Grackle) and "stares" (Red-winged Blackbird). He also refers to the abundant "migratory pigeon" (Passenger Pigeon) and a migratory crane that had already decreased in numbers by the mid-1700s. This was presumably the

Whooping Crane, according to Trotter (251-252).

Kalm's woodpecker discussion was "probably the first annotated list of any group of North American birds" (Trotter, 254). For example, Kalm describes

Picus auratus, the gold-winged Woodpecker [Northern Flicker]: This species is plentiful here, and the Swedes call it Hittock, and Piut; both these names have a relation to its note; it is almost continually on the ground, and is not observed to pick in the trees; it lives chiefly on insects, but some times becomes the prey of hawk; it is commonly very fat, and its flesh is very palatable. As it stays all the year, and cannot easily get insects in winter, it must doubtless eat some kinds of grass or plants in the field. Its form, and some of its qualities, make it resemble a cuckoo.

Kalm's most enigmatic passage is doubtless the following: "*Picus principalis*, the King of the Woodpeckers [Ivory-billed Woodpecker], is found here, though very seldom, and only at a certain season." Leese^c discusses this in the context of other potential Ivorybill records. In a year that we have seen numerous Southern species, even flamingos, wander north, perhaps Ivorybills showing up near the borders of Pennsylvania would not have been so unthinkable 250 years ago.

^aJacobson, M. 2011. Peter Kalm in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Heritage*, Summer. <http://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/peter-kalm-in-pennsylvania/>

^bTrotter, S. 1903. Notes on the Ornithological Observations of Peter Kalm. *The Auk* 20:249-262. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4069787>

^cLeese, B.E. 2016. Putative Records of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic. *Pennsylvania Birds* 30:71-72.

—Mark Bonta
Tyrone PA
November 30, 2023

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times per year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammerstown Road, Narvon, PA 17555. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A \$30, Canada \$48, Foreign \$62. Library rate \$33. Single copies: \$9. Checks and money orders in U.S. dollars only should be made payable to PSO. Copyright © 2023 by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT EPHRATA, PA 17522 and additional entry offices.**

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555

RESEARCH UPDATE: Central Pennsylvania American Kestrel Nest Box Program (2023)

The 2023 nesting season produced record results for the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) and Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC) kestrel nest box programs. The CPC program produced 728 young in 170 occupied boxes, and the SCEC program produced 90 young in 28 occupied boxes. The young produced by county are shown in the table.

County	CPC young	SCEC young	Total
Centre	334	25	359
Huntingdon	231	26	257
Mifflin	87	39	126
Perry	50		50
Juniata	22		22
Cumberland	4		4
TOTAL	728	90	818

The total count of young produced from all listed Pennsylvania programs in 2022 was 2,060. The 2023 total count has not yet

been finalized, but it likely will exceed the 2022 count. Anyone interested in viewing the 2022 and – once it is finalized – the 2023 American Kestrel Northeast Region Annual Reports can find them at <https://www.americankestrel.online/about>.

Other individuals and organizations managing kestrel nest box programs in Pennsylvania: *Emily H. Thomas* and *Don Watts* in northwestern PA / *PA Game Commission, SE Region*, led by Lauren Ferreri and Dan Mummert / *Jim Moffett* in Chester and Berks counties / *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary* in Berks County, led by JF Therrien / *Hershey Area Raptor Partnership*, led by McKelvie, Holzman, and Hess / *PA Game Commission, NE Region*, led by Mario Giazzon / *Paul Karner Memorial Banding Team* in Bucks and Northampton counties, led by Jere Schade, Devich Farbotnik, and Kevin Kelly / *Jon Kaufmann*, Shaver's Creek

--Steve Eisenhauer (eisenhauer@natlands.org)
Regional Director, Protection and Land Stewardship, Natural Lands, Harold N. Peek Preserve, 1400 S. 2nd Street, Millville NJ 08332 / 856-825-9952 (office)

Elements of the County Report

Alphabetized list of locations includes those for which acronyms are used in the current account

All text: Arial font

Numbers one to nine are spelled out

Place names are formatted following the Abbreviations list (p174)

List of observers starts with compiler and contact info, followed by alphabetized contributors to this season's accounts

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Delaware River (DEL), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Township (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warmer Tract (PWT)

June was fairly cool at 3°F below average and with precipitation of 0.12 inches above average. July was a tad bit warm at 0.9°F above average, with precipitation at 0.96 inches above average. At times, hazy smoke from massive Canadian wildfires cast a pall over the landscape. The total number of 142 species was just above the five-year average of 139, bringing the new average to 140. Historical occurrence data come from Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* and from this journal. Multiple species, especially of warblers, were late in their spring departures. Few rarities were found, although *Bucks* did briefly cash in on the latest "Spoonbill Summer" dispersal event. 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.

Most summers leave at least one Snow Goose in the wake of migrant flocks sometimes an injured bird. One was feeding in a Plumstead Twp field 6/15 and 6/20 (BS, VWS). The high count for Mute Swans was just six at PWT 6/20 (DB). Up to four **American Black Ducks** were at PVP through the first week of Jun (ED, GV), with those four on 6/3 (AM). Another four were in Bensalem Twp on the DEL 7/27 (KE), making this summer an unusually good one for this species. **Hooded Merganser** breeds in the county now in small numbers, and a female and 10 ducklings at PWT 6/18 were a good confirmation of that (DD ph). Three tardy **Ruddy Ducks** were at PVP 6/1 (KF), one of which stayed to 6/4 (m ob.).

Observers: Paul Heveran, 27621 E Quartzite Dr, Florence, AZ 85132, 267-272-5225, birdmeister.paul@gmail.com, Jane Barker-Hunt, Barbara Beck, Dave Belford, Adrian Binn, Erich Boenzli, Kimberly Bou, William Culp, Dawn Denner, Edward Dolan, Lynne Fallersbauer, Devich Farbotnik, Kevin Fox, Carolyn Fraser, Mark Gallagher, Brandi George, Andrew Hamington, Trish Harrington, Karin Iselt, Paul Johnson, Kerry Lusk, Michael Lyman, Vicky Mahmoud, Annie Millotis, August Mirabella, Vinobha Pannerseelam, Cody Peters, Christopher Plummer (CPI), Karen Ruckio-Baronetz, Marc Gervais, Mark Bauer, Tom Gibb, Susan Sherman, Rick...

(Optional) intro describes weather, species numbers, and highlights

Reports give "Species ... Location Date (Observers)" as the standard format. Several observers should be "m.ob."

Narrative follows eBird taxonomical order with species names in bold, and paragraphs for families or other groupings. A selection of reports that the compiler finds noteworthy are included.

3-letter acronym for name that could be confused with another name

Three Pennsylvania Firsts—Limpkin, Broad-billed Hummingbird, and Ferruginous Hawk

Greg Grove (captions), with photos by Barry Blust, Alicia Van Arsdale, and Ross Gallardy



Long anticipated, but a pleasant surprise nevertheless when it finally materialized in Pennsylvania, this **Limpkin** at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster* became an instant celebrity, seen by hundreds. Found the evening of 7 July by a non-birding photographer, then re-located at dawn next morning, it spent the next six weeks feeding on snails. Limpkins invaded the northeast in 2023, with three more records in Pennsylvania (*Butler, Bedford, Montgomery*), as well as in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, and further west. (*Barry Blust*)



In contrast to the Limpkin, Pennsylvania's first **Broad-billed Hummingbird** stayed for only a few minutes of 11 July in a yard at West Gate, *Allegheny* - seen by just one person, fortunately ready with camera. Broad-billed Hummingbirds are denizens of Mexico and the US southwest, though they occasionally wander far across North America. There are previous northeastern records in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Ohio. (*Alicia Van Ardsdale*)



Perhaps even more bizarre than the Broad-billed Hummingbird was the state's first **Ferruginous Hawk**, given the circumstances of its journey to western Pennsylvania. Found injured and subsequently rehabilitated in Ontario, it was released with a tracking device that documented its travels through Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio before it finally reached *Washington* and *Greene* in our state 17-19 (here 19) July. The hawk then went back west and was eventually found dead in West Virginia. See the *Washington* (pp. 200-201) summary for more details. (*Ross Gallardy*)

Summary of the Season: Summer 2023

Dan Brauning

The species total this season is close to the previous high count of 258 species, pending the review of two species, **Arctic Tern** and **Western Meadowlark**, both from *Erie*, currently under PORC review. This lofty tally was accomplished with four species not previously reported in the state: **Limpkin**, **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, and the **Mottled Duck** that continued from spring, as well as the state's second record of **Neotropical Cormorant**. Combine those with the first **Bicknell's Thrush** record from the summer and the first confirmed breeding of **Swainson's Warbler**, this season is packed with highlights. The summer season is not typically noted for rarities, so the documentation of three new state records during this season is unprecedented. The tally was bolstered by a record high count of 33 warbler species, supported by several lingering migrants.

This remarkable lineup happened without weather events such as hurricanes that we usually associate with rare birds. The weather service lists two dates with EF-0 tornadoes in central Pennsylvania, one on 6/12 in York and another that traversed several counties on 7/2, but unusual birds were not noted in those areas. A generally dry June was replaced by an unusually wet July, which may have affected shorebird observations, but the local draw-down of Middle Creek Reservoir in *Lancaster* this year simulated a dry season, resulting in several notable shorebirds there. The robust species tally and notable records reflect the growth in birding activity, seen in the 18% increase in summer eBird records in 2023, and the strong network of compilers documenting bird life. That said, it is striking that 25 of these species were detected in only one county and 11 in a single report.

A southern vagrant and handsome favorite, the **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, just barely continued its five-year streak to appear on this summer's species list, as a "one-day wonder" (as the observer described it) at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia*, where it had been detected only a few times previously. Waterfowl lingering from spring migration again make this report because of their relative scarcity. **Snow Geese** were reported in ten counties, so they are not listed in the "Birds of Note." Most of them appeared in the eastern third of the state along the well-traveled spring migration flyway. This population has increased to destructive levels in its Arctic breeding range, so a liberal hunting season extends into February with no possession limit for the hunters. Inevitably,

some birds are wounded and haven't recovered, resulting in a few continuing into the summer.

The hybridization of the invasive **Mute Swan** with a conservation-priority **Trumpeter Swan** continued for a second year in *Monroe*, resulting in five young, and a nesting pair of **Trumpeters** at a nearby, private lake raised seven young. The established pair continued in *Cumberland*, raising at least one young and other pairs were seen in *Pike* and *York* with single birds in other counties. With two-and-a-half nesting pairs, it appears that the world's largest swan is gaining a foothold for continued expansion. **Mute Swan** numbers are increasing in neighboring New Jersey and most of our adjoining counties reported the species this year, along with scattered records from the Pittsburgh area.

Among the state's recent additions, the **Mottled Duck**, which graced the cover of the spring issue, continued until 7/16 at Canonsburg Lake, *Washington*. This individual was about 500 miles out of range, and over 100 miles from any other observation of the species this year. Like most seasons, vagrant ducks continued from spring into the summer including **Blue-winged Teal** in *Philadelphia*, a **Gadwall** in *Erie*, two **American Wigeon** in *Berks*, the less frequent **Northern Pintail** in *Cumberland*, **Green-winged Teal** in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*, and a **Lesser Scaup** in *Cambria*. **Red-breasted Mergansers** and **Lesser Scaup** continued as they usually do on Lake Erie and a **Greater Scaup** was seen there and in *Blair* and *Dauphin*. A **Northern Shoveler** showed up in mid-summer in *Erie*. The presence of two drake **Redheads** in *Lebanon* through the season was notable. Not surprising, summer records for **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Ruddy Ducks** came from at least five counties. Ring-necked Ducks nest locally in New York State and nested in Pennsylvania years ago, although none of this summer's observations suggest breeding. **Ruddy Duck** is more opportunistic, with several breeding events documented here during the past few decades. That said, the persistent reports of the species at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford*, did not suggest local nesting.

While waterfowl populations are doing better than many other groups of birds, the two teal didn't provide nesting evidence again this summer. All this year's reports were of single birds. This is a striking loss, particularly for the **Blue-winged Teal** that

was confirmed nesting in six counties during the 1980s. The upcoming Atlas Project will be quite telling for these two species. Similarly, **American Black Duck** numbers continue to dwindle. The lack of reports of this species from *Crawford* seems striking, although its historic breeding population was in the Poconos, where a brood was observed this year, in *Lackawanna*.

As described in my winter article on "first breeding" during the past 40 years, the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues in *Franklin* where it has been established since 2004. Continued reports in *Cumberland* suggest that expansion through the broad Cumberland Valley could continue. The lack of protection may limit this species' expansion.

It may be a bit problematic to mention an undetected species this season, but because Chuck-will's-Widow had been reported in 12 out of the past 14 years, the lack of any report this summer (or in spring) is notable. One of the challenges with the "absence of evidence" is it doesn't really provide evidence of absence, meaning that there are several possible reasons that chucks weren't reported other than that it wasn't there. Again, it will take a Breeding Bird Atlas to get a better handle on this species true summer and potential breeding status.

Their ability to fly is a deep part of our fascination with birds. But even though we have gotten familiar with the presence of western vagrants showing up here in the fall and even winter, the presence of a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was, as the *Allegheny* compiler described, "astonishing." I'm not sure how many times a "first state record" has occurred during the summer, but this was likely not on anyone's list of anticipated Pennsylvania species. The single-day record was nearly 1,500 air miles from the closest observation of the species during June; that's a lot of hummingbird feeders it could have been seen at between home (West Texas?), and Pennsylvania! That said, final approval of this new state record will depend on PORC confirmation.

Rails are notoriously elusive, lurking about in the dense growth of impenetrable marshes. As a result, we generally assume that the number of sightings of **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** don't reflect their true population or distribution. Similarly, **King Rail**, a state-endangered species, may well occur during more than the 30% of summer seasons in which it has been reported, and certainly in more locations. But this year, the number of eBird reports of **King Rail** was off

the charts, 162 in total, likely exceeding the sum of all previous years in Pennsylvania. Why? A very furtive rail remained at John Heinz Refuge for about 18 days, being seen almost daily. It first appeared on 6/21 and appeared to be alone, so no breeding evidence was observed. It certainly was a local celebrity.

An even bigger celebrity this summer was a **Limpkin** that showed up on 7/7 on the exposed mud of the drained Middle Creek Reservoir, *Lancaster*, hunting apple snails for three days. Like the accessible King Rail, this bird was readily visible, drew a crowd, and graced a lot of checklists. This was a notable and predicted first state record. A long way from home, the closest established population is in Florida, although one had been seen prior to this bird's appearance north of Toronto in Ontario. The Pennsylvania Limpkin received extensive attention and was dubbed the "Florida Bird" in the local media, although it would be upstaged later in the summer by another southern rarity. Unlike the above-mentioned hummingbird, this species appeared on more than half of the "predicted species" lists as an anticipated next new state species in the article published in 2020 (Grove, G., J. Gyekis, E. Zawatski, D. Brauning, C. Engstrom, A. Koch, and N. Pulcinella. 2020. Predictions for the Next Ten New Species to be found in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 34:196-206).

Sandhill Crane no longer gets a position on any season's "Birds of Note" lists as it often did for summer reports through 2017, now that its distribution has grown to include more than ten counties. That distribution continues to be heavily weighted to the western side of the state, with just a few summer records and very few breeding reports east of the Allegheny Mountains.

The **American Avocet** kicks off the list of summer shorebirds, as this large, showy species often does. As one of the more easily identified shorebirds, it is readily spotted and frequently reported, this season in ten counties.

As noted in the spring issue, **Piping Plovers** returned to the state's only historic nesting site at Gull Point, *Erie*. This year's activity is both encouraging and complex, as noted by the Game Commission's shorebird coordinator, Cathy Haffner. Four unique pairs nested, a record since this species returned to the site in 2017. From those nests, eight chicks fledged successfully, including those rescued and reared in captivity in response to flooding and loss of adults. Two chicks fledged naturally from one of the nests. Beach-nesting birds face extraordinary challenges; four chicks were lost to

depredation and two adults disappeared during this nesting season, probably also from predation.

Of the breeding shorebird species, the **Killdeer** was found in all counties (of course) and the **Spotted Sandpiper**, which is more vulnerable to variable water level fluctuation, was found in about 85%. The **Wilson's Snipe**, a rare breeder listed as "Endangered," was reported this year in the large wetlands of *Tioga* and *Crawford*. Breeding **Upland Sandpipers** are similarly state-listed and were found in potential breeding habitat this season in *Clearfield*, *Crawford*, and *Somerset*, with passage migrants seen at the Lancaster Airport, one of few migrant stopovers where Uppies are regularly reported.

The following section deals, as usual, with a variety of migratory shorebird sightings that include late north-bound birds in June and the likely south-bound individuals in July. An average number of species were observed in the state during this season, with drier conditions favoring shorebird habitat during the northbound migration and wetter conditions probably dampening those prospects in July. As mentioned previously, the reservoir draw-down provided shorebird habitat and drew an adult **Hudsonian Godwit** at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, the first summer record of this species in the state since one stopped by Gull Point in 2013. **Sanderling** and **Stilt Sandpiper** add to the list of notable shorebirds also drawn there in July. A **Marbled Godwit** contributed to the respectable list of 23 shorebird species found in *Erie* this season, not surprisingly the most species of shorebirds in the state this season, including three migrants documented in no other county: **Whimbrel**, **Red Knot**, and **Dunlin**. In past June reports, Red Knots have been detected flying north over *Chester*, but this year's reports came in May.

With the help of the Middle Creek draw-down, the second-highest count of shorebirds belongs to *Lancaster*, where mud flats historically found on the Susquehanna River and proximity to the Chesapeake Bay also favor suitable conditions annually. Despite changes in water levels on the Conejohela Flats, it still delivers during spring and fall migration, where a breeding-plumage **Ruddy Turnstone** just made it into the summer season only there and two **Black-bellied Plovers** were seen in the first few days of June. **Least Sandpipers** appeared in about half of the county reports, but the Baird's Sandpiper, seen in more than half of recent years, was missed this year.

Franklin's Gull reports seem to be increasing, so one at the Conejohela Flats in

Lancaster on 6/10 was notable. **Laughing Gulls** are regularly found, sometimes in good numbers, along the Delaware River, although rarely elsewhere, so a single adult bird photographed on 7/17 in *Berks* was notable and possibly related to storms along the coast.

Pennsylvania is peripheral to the nesting ranges of gull species. I included **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls as species experiencing long-term range expansions in the above-mentioned article because they colonized the state during the 20th century. Both species are found in and around the city of Erie year-round, but population control of breeding colonies by APHIS (US Dept. of Agriculture) has been carried out in two locations in recent years with over 2,000 gull nests, mostly of **Ring-billed Gulls**, destroyed. Both species nest on flat industrial roof-tops in the city. **Herring Gulls** also continue to nest on structures scattered along the Allegheny and Ohio rivers in our southwest.

Gull-billed Terns, extremely rare any time in Pennsylvania, were first documented during the summer season in 2019 by astute birders scanning the Delaware River in the urban area adjoining the Philadelphia International Airport. Three were seen roosting on Hogg Island, *Delaware*, on 7/10, at a location that is proving to be a hot spot for rare birds. **Common Tern** did not nest in *Erie* this year, although an adult was seen feeding an immature bird on Gull Point on 7/3, apparently after arriving from a remote location. As a peripheral note, the Least Terns reported on a summer Philadelphia eBird checklist were described as "lying upstream in a loose flock on the New Jersey side of the river", so these can be construed as "seen from Pennsylvania" but not a record in our state, at least during the summer season, so I opted not to include them in this year's Birds of Note.

Exceptionally rare in Pennsylvania was a possible adult **Arctic Tern** photographed at Gull Point on 6/12 and 6/13, which would be a second *Erie* record if confirmed by PORC. **Black Tern** have been reduced to passage migrants since they were last confirmed breeding in 2004. None of the various sightings in June suggest potential breeding.

The first summer record of **Neotropical Cormorant** provides the state's second record, after its initial appearance in 2021. Discovered on 6/9 and remaining until 7/21, it allowed many observers to compare identification and behavior with the common **Double-crested Cormorant** with which it associated.

The highly visible and easily identifiable **American White Pelican** has been observed in six of the past 10 summer seasons. This

summer it was reported in four counties, all toward the southeastern corner of the state and curiously not from any in which it was reported during spring. This pelican is expanding from the west. As regular and relatively common as **Brown Pelicans** have become along the New Jersey coast in summer, relatively few reach inland (even in New Jersey), so a report on Lake Wallenpaupack, seen from both *Pike* and *Wayne*, provides just the second summer record. Like one of this year's white pelicans, the bird was first reported by a non-birding boater.

Least Bitterns continue to be reported from multiple counties, suggesting that the robust results of marsh bird surveys in 2020 reflected a real expansion, at least compared with the results of the Second Bird Atlas. The **American Bittern**, also listed as state-endangered, was reported in only four counties this year, each for just a single day. Breeding surveys of this species are needed to better understand their true status.

Long-legged waders also contribute an interesting variety of non-breeding bird reports to the summer season. This year provided most of the usual assortment, missing the infrequent Wood Stork and Tricolored Heron. **Snowy Egret** (a former nester) was reported from three corners of the state, including the first *Washington* sightings. Most of the **Little Blue Heron** reports fell into the July pattern of post-breeding dispersal from southern colonies. **White Ibis** has, in the past 10 years, become an annual summer visitor, with three in *Delaware* and a presumably unrelated bird in *Lycoming*. This summer season had its own pink bird of distinction, with reports of **Roseate Spoonbill** providing first-count records in *Luzerne*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia* and the second report for *Bucks*. Spoonbill observations have now been made in four of the past seven years, but prior to that, the last summer record was in 1968.

The two night-herons persist here as breeding birds at low numbers. Breeding surveys and eBird references to nesting activity typically are included in May, and most June and July reports reflect post-breeding observations. References to immature (or juvenile) birds were widespread this year, from at least 16 counties including *Allegheny* and *Erie*, for the **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** have always been less common and restricted in distribution, so notable reports came from *Allegheny* and *Philadelphia* this year, as well as around the only known nesting sites in *Dauphin* and *Cumberland*.

Two kite species were detected in brief

passing observations, as is typically the case. The report of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** in *Mercer* provides one of few records from the western half of the state, while the **Mississippi Kite** documented in *Susquehanna* provides one of the few northeastern records of that species.

Joining the state's first records this season was **Ferruginous Hawk**, a species of open spaces of the American West. The bird was tracked with telemetry on the evening of 6/18 into *Washington*. It was seen and photographed on the morning of 6/19 (Jason Horn, Ross Gallardy, eBird, ph.) after an extensive search. Telemetry fixes indicated it roosted near Hickory Nut Road north of the village of Acheson that evening. While it was in *Washington* and *Greene* it ranged mostly along the I-70 corridor and the county line, getting as far east as Bentleyville. In the end, it spent three nights in Pennsylvania, last detected here on 6/20 before moving back into Ohio.

A lack of reports of the recently listed state-endangered **American Goshawk** is discouraging, although the sensitivity of this species may hold birders back from reporting sightings. The PA Game Commission reported, after this year's completion of the most extensive statewide playback surveys to date (481) at recently active territories, that they identified territorial behavior at only one site. The effort resulted in no documented nests.

Merlin numbers continued to expand; 2008 was the last year there was not a summer season observation. Reports this season come from a remarkable 28 counties. Also expanding dramatically, although taking much longer and bolstered by conservation and reintroductions, the nesting **Peregrine Falcon** population has grown to summer season observations in 32 counties.

Owl records are notoriously sparse during the summer and don't represent the scope of breeding populations. Surveys of **Barn Owl** conducted by the Game Commission had not been provided by the time of this publication, so we presume there were more nests known than in the three county reports that listed the species. Similarly, **Northern Saw-whet Owl** is challenging to detect, or maybe birders rarely attempt to find the, so reports in *Lackawanna* and *Potter* are probably not indicative of their real numbers in the state.

Late-migrant **Olive-sided Flycatchers** are reported almost every year in early June, but the report of one singing in a forested swamp deep in *Potter* raises the possibility that they could make a nesting attempt. Nesting as close as the Adirondacks in New York State, lingering birds probably have at

least attempted to nest in sites with similar features, although the most recent confirmed nesting was in the 1930s.

This is the first year in at least ten years in which **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was not documented on territory in *Wyoming*. This was not for lack of searching. As described below concerning **Blackpoll Warbler**, the primary nesting areas were again surveyed for this flycatcher. Pennsylvania's breeding population is disjunct from the closest population in the Catskills, where the species was confirmed nesting by the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III, providing some hope that this distinctive empid may colonize our northern bogs again. The other records this season from *Erie* and *Susquehanna* were out of breeding habitat and likely late migrants.

Pennsylvania's history with the **Loggerhead Shrike** is complex, but nesting here has not been documented in over 20 years. The small and dwindling population in Ontario, Canada, may have been the source of one seen on 7/16 in *Cumberland* that provided our first summer report since 2011.

The gradual expansion and behavioral proximity to people that the **Common Raven** demonstrates sometimes hides the dramatic change this species has undergone. Twenty years ago, I characterized their habitat as "forested areas of high elevations," but the 2023 summer season had reports from every county, with frequent notes about their becoming established.

It seems remarkable that any **Sedge Wren** persists into the summer, but just over half of the past 20 years have provided summer sightings. This year's entries came from two counties, although those reports were not sufficient to suggest nesting.

Among our more enigmatic species are the two thrushes with limited breeding range in northeastern North America, **Gray-cheeked** and **Bicknell's**, split into two species in 1998. The **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is detected annually at scattered locations across the state, sometimes solely by nocturnal recordings, as it migrates through the state on its way to and from the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. Reports have occurred in about half of recent summer seasons, but the presence of one singing in *Philadelphia* on 6/9, and just as strange, the reasonable description of one at the late date of 6/15 in the old-growth forest in *Warren*, provided notable sightings. (The possibility of the Heart's Content bird being the similar-looking Bicknell's Thrush should not be discarded). The **Bicknell's Thrush** has a more limited breeding range extending from the high peaks of the Adirondacks through Maine to Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula and has only been detected once prior to this year

during the summer season, by a nocturnal flight call. Thus, the mist-net capture on 6/7 of a **Bicknell's** could be considered the first summer sight record in *Lancaster*. The detailed photographs and measurements should provide adequate documentation of the species in a PORC review.

Red Crossbills provided some local excitement in several north-central counties this year, including *Centre*, *Clinton*, *Lycoming*, *Tioga*, and *Sullivan*, although none of these persisted for longer than a week. A single report of three **Pine Siskins** on 6/1 in *Huntingdon* provided the only report of this uncommon finch this season. It has been detected in all but one of the past 20 years.

Clay-colored Sparrow continues to barely hang on as a breeding species, with reports in *Clarion* of three singing birds and territorial behavior at the only established nesting area in the state. A lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed in June. A regular although uncommon migrant that breeds as close as upstate New York, the **Lincoln's Sparrow**, was seen on 6/6 on Presque Isle. This was the second June record for *Erie* and just the third summer observation in Pennsylvania.

Window and even automobile strikes are a familiar risk for birds, and mortality is usually the result. This summer, however, a **Nelson's Sparrow** was rescued after it bounced off a windshield in *Monroe*. The rare bird was recovered in reasonable condition, taken to nearby habitat, and

released. This is a striking observation of a species that has its nearest nesting population on the New Hampshire coast.

Reported in less than half of previous summer seasons, an immature male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen and photographed from the Gull Point observation tower. Unconfirmed reports of a **Western Meadowlark** in *Erie*, close to the New York State border in May, continued with an eBird report on 6/17, which would provide the only record of this rarity this season if accepted after a review.

Among the notable events this summer was the state's historic first documentation of confirmed nesting by **Swainson's Warblers** through a collaboration between David Yeane, of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and Nick Liadis, founder of the non-profit Bird Lab. David and Nick trapped and photographed a family group of these Southern warblers on 7/14 at Bear Run Nature Reserve, *Fayette*, including a female and a juvenile, with a male they had banded in May 2023. They also banded another male that day in a nearby territory. This provides the first solid evidence of nesting, with one young produced at North America's most northern location for the species. This has been long in coming, with males banded last year at this location, and territorial birds found many times over the past 20 years, including this and last year at the Mt Etna trail in *Blair*, and single males included in both previous bird atlases.

Breeding Swainson's Warbler certainly

provides the highlight among the warbler species, but as mentioned previously, a record total number of warbler species was reported for this season. Of the state's 41 documented warbler species, 33 were observed during this two-month period. Included were **Cape May**, **Wilson's**, and **Bay-breasted** lingering from spring migration. Both a **Wilson's** and a **Cape May** were noted in July, presumably reflecting early fall migration. Some speculate that nest failure due to the widespread and devastating fires in Canada may have pushed birds from territories early.

Blackpoll Warbler is barely holding on as a breeding species in the forested wetlands of *Wyoming*. Doug Gross did **not** find them in Coalbed Swamp, although he detected several singing males in nearby Tamarack Swamp on 6/9, but not thereafter this year. **Golden-winged Warbler** reports reflect the long-term declines in this species. Another breeding species that is reported even less frequently is the **Nashville Warbler**, nesting in northern bogs and brushy habitats where it can still be fairly common. The next atlas project will be revealing for these two rare warblers.

The only documented **Summer Tanager** this summer season was a bird continuing to 6/1 in *Delaware*.

Dickcissels continued in traditional areas of *Cumberland* and *Berks*, and the report of young in *Adams* came from close to where two had been reported in 2021.

25 Years Ago in Pennsylvania Birds



Volume 11 No. 3 (1997)

Nick Bolgiano discussed the records of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks on Pennsylvania CBCs

Rudy Keller documented the first nesting of Ruddy Duck in Berks County.

Skip Conant documented the first nesting of American Bittern in Sullivan County

Rare birds reported included Mississippi Kite, American Avocet, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Western Kingbird, Townsend's Solitaire, Swainson's Warbler, and Western Meadowlark.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Birds of Note – June and July 2023

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. Most 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 to rare but occur during this time period in most years.

Birds in **Underlined** typeface occur at least four to seven out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than four to seven 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* – *Philadelphia*: one observed 7/2 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (Rand Quinn, eBird, ph., m.ob.).

Trumpeter Swan – *Crawford*: one observed at Erie NWR - Deer Run Trail 6/12 (Eric Hall) and 6/17 (Jeff Brinker); *Cumberland*: the pair again nested at the lake at Creekview Road Marsh and Kuhn Lake with at least three cygnets 6/1 (Michael Illo) and at least one cygnet was still seen with the adults 6/3 (Andy Markel, Billy Weber). An adult was also at State Game Lands 169 on 6/9 (Donald Weidemann); *Dauphin*: first spotted in February, one continued at Susquehanna River-West Fairview through July (m.ob.); *Monroe*: for the second year in a row, a Trumpeter Swan and a **Mute Swan** bred successfully at Pocono Summit Lake (Paul Nale) with five hybrid cygnets seen throughout the period. A bigger surprise was the pair found with seven cygnets at the private, high-altitude Lake in the Clouds (Jan Olsommer); *Pike*: two were at Promised Land SP 6/3-7/21 (Edie Parnum, m.ob.) and another at Shohola WMA 7/1-16 (Alexsis Neenan, Bradley White, Ryan Johnson); *York*: a pair were at Spring Grove 6/28-7/31 (m.ob.).

Tundra Swan – *Cambria*: one seen 6/22 and 7/28 at Hinckston Run Reservoir (Andrew Mack, eBird, ph.); *Dauphin*: one observed on Susquehanna R at Fort Hunter 7/29 (Kevin Shannon, eBird); *Tioga*: one in the Darling Run area of the Pine Creek Rail Trail 6/10 (Camille F), one was on the northwest side of Cowanesque Lake 7/6 (Monika Wood).

Blue-winged Teal – *Crawford*: a single bird observed at Conneaut Marsh - W. Vernon Road 6/14 (Brian Miller, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow); *Philadelphia*: one at the John Heinz NWR impoundment on 6/16 (Ben Filreis, eBird, ph.) and one continued to 6/1 at the Art Museum Waterworks (Peter DeStefano, eBird); *Somerset*: one was seen 6/6 at Somerset Lake (Alexander Donley).

Northern Shoveler – *Erie*: a male found at Gull Point on 6/26 remained for several weeks during its transition molt (Jerry McWilliams).

Gadwall – *Erie*: a male continued to 6/14 at Presque Isle SP (Jason Bojczyk, eBird); *Montgomery*: a hen remained at Green Lake Park until 6/18 (m.ob., ph.).

American Wigeon – *Berks*: two were still at E. J. Breneman Quarry 6/18 (Joe Beatrice); *Clearfield*: one female-plumage on 7/10 at Curwensville Dam (John Forcey, eBird, ph.); *Erie*: a male 6/14 at Presque Isle SP (Jason Bojczyk, eBird); *Montgomery*: a drake was at Green Lake Park 6/30-7/10 (Len Hillegass, m.ob., ph.) was a second county record for June and a first county record for July.

Mottled Duck* – *Washington*: this remarkable rarity continued at Canonsburg Lake from May through 7/16 (John Flannigan).

Northern Pintail – *Cumberland*: a drake spent most of the summer at Children’s Lake, having arrived in late Feb and last seen 7/21 (m.ob.). Just three days later one was found at nearby Brackbill Pond 7/24 (Stefan Karkuff).

Green-winged Teal – *Dauphin*: one seen on Susquehanna River at City Island on 7/19 (Cathleen Wetzel, eBird, ph.); *Lancaster*: one reported 6/2 at Middle Creek WMA (Warren and Nina Wolf, eBird); *Montgomery*: a male was seen frequently at Green Lake Park through the period (m.ob., ph.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 6/12-29 (Ben Filreis, m.ob.).

Redhead – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee State Park throughout the summer (Mike and Laura Jackson); *Lebanon*: two drakes continued through the season (Tom Donahue, Jonathan Heller, eBird).

Ring-necked Duck – *Berks*: two were at Blue Mt Academy 6/5, 6/8 (Dan Knarr, Jo Spilde), one of them staying until 7/10 (Dan Knarr); *Blair*: one reported at Canoe Creek SP from 6/4 through 6/22 (Miriam Weaver, Connor Schmitt, John Kauffman, m.ob.); *Cambria*: continued with a Lesser Scaup at the Marina at Prince Gallitzin SP 6/3 (Adam Leisenring); *Franklin*: found at an Orrstown area farm pond 7/18 (Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler); *Erie*: one continued sporadically to 7/2 at Presque Isle SP (Jason Bojczyk, Amanda Williams, m.ob., eBird); *Jefferson*: a non-breeding bird was discovered at Jakes Farm on 6/22 and continued to at least 7/18 (John and Avis

Keener); *Lycoming*: a female was at Rose Valley Lake 6/3 (Bobby Brown); *Montgomery*: two drakes showed up at Green Lake Park 7/16 (Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, m.ob., ph.).

Greater Scaup – *Dauphin*: molting individual seen from Front Street on 6/3 (Andrew Markel, Billy Weber) and 6/10 (Steve Schmidt, Andy Brought); *Erie*: one seen at Dobbins Landing on 6/19 (Karin and Scott Sinnott, eBird, ph.) and one from Gull Point on 7/2 (Ripley Kindervater, eBird, no doc).

Lesser Scaup – *Cambria*: continued at the Prince Gallitzin SP Marina until 6/3 (Adam Leisenring); *Erie*: multiple June reports (eBird).

Bufflehead – *Lackawanna*: a female described on 7/14 at Mount Cobb (Brian Hess, eBird); *Lycoming*: a male was at Rose Valley Lake 6/24-7/16 (Bobby Brown, m.ob.) and a female was at Little Pine SP 6/2-7/17 (Bobby Brown, m.ob.); *Monroe*: continued from May on the Delaware River until 6/26 (Jon Mularczyk) and one was photographed at Gouldsboro SP 7/9 (Jon Mularczyk, eBird); *Northampton*: at Martin’s Creek Environmental Preserve 6/6-12 (Scott Angus); *Washington*: a male at the Simmon’s farm in Peters Twp. in late May remained to at least 7/2 (Mark Vass) and was suspected of having an injured left wing.

Red-breasted Merganser – *Erie*: up to three seen around Presque Isle SP through June (m.ob.), with one later record at the Perry Monument 7/17 (Paul Serridge, eBird), and seven described at the Mouth of Elk Creek near Erie Bluffs SP on 7/3 (Issy Lawrie, eBird).

Ruddy Duck – *Adams*: one on a pond along Teeter Rd 6/4 (Mary Beth Francis); *Bucks*: three continued to 6/1 (Kevin Fox) and one continued to 6/4 at Peace Valley Park (m.ob.); *Crawford*: this species is expected at the Pymatuning Spillway where a high count of seven were observed 6/3 (Mark Vass) and up to three seen 6/17-7/30 (m.ob.); *Erie*: nine were seen on 6/11 at Howard Eaton Reservoir (James R. Hill III, eBird, ph.) and one reported 6/26 at Presque Isle SP (Jason Bojczyk, Jennifer Ferrick, eBird); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lake Park 6/1-4 (Scott Godshal, m.ob., ph.); *Somerset*: a male and female at Somerset Lake 6/16-20 were seen by many.

Horned Grebe – *Crawford*: one was observed at Pymatuning SP - Fish Hatchery 6/2 (Eric Hal) and 6/3 (Ryan Hamilton); *York*: a nicely photographed adult at or near full breeding plumage at Codorus SP 6/10 (Steve Aprile).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Clarion*: seen in Strattanville where for the past two years has been seen at the same location and is the only report from western Pennsylvania (Jason Bojczyk, Bill Reddinger, Mike Stinson, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder); *Cumberland*: up to two continued along Enola Road near Newburg 6/1-6/13 (Scott Brookens, Steve Brookens); *Franklin*: frequent reports continued from their normal part of the county in the Greencastle-Marion-Shady Grove area.

Broad-billed Hummingbird* – *Allegheny*: one photographed at a feeder in Franklin Park 7/11 (Alicia Van Arsdale) provided an astonishing first state record. Unfortunately, the bird only visited the feeder once and was not seen again.

King Rail* – *Philadelphia*: seen in the open by many at John Heinz NWR from 6/21-7/9 (Kayann Cassidy, Wendy Sykora) was the second observation of this former breeder after a 10-year absence from the county; *Delaware*: this bird wandered

across the county line at least once on 6/25 (Rich Ziegler) when it was heard calling from the *Delaware* side of the dike.

American Coot – *Centre*: spotted 7/18 at Dreibelbis Birding Area – formerly known as Julian Wetlands (Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom); *Erie*: one reported at Lampe Campground 6/10 (Joyce Reid, eBird); *Huntingdon*: non-breeding individual was at Old Crow wetlands 7/6-13 (m.ob.). *Lycoming*: an injured bird was found in a swimming pool in Jersey Shore 6/11 (Collin Porter, ph.); *Philadelphia*: one reported at John Heinz NWR impoundment 6/30 (Deborah Hansen, eBird); *Snyder*: one reported at “The Levels” along Middle Creek 7/7 (Jessica Sauder, eBird); *Somerset*: one was present at Somerset Lake until 6/16 but not found later (Jeff Payne).

Limpkin* – *Lancaster*: found on the evening of 7/7 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, documented with photographs on Facebook (anon.), it stayed three days, feasting on snails in the lake (m.ob.).

American Avocet – *Adams*: two were at Long Arm Reservoir 7/15 (Conor Gable, m.ob.); *Berks*: two, apparently finding no suitable place to land, spent much of the afternoon of 7/16 flying back and forth around L. Ontelaunee (Linda Ingram, Tom Lecky, Brian Lineaweaver, Peter & Jane Wolfe; ph.); *Cambria*: two were seen at Prince Gallitzin SP Marina 7/21 (Dave Gobert); *Clinton*: on 7/24 one discovered at the Ohl/McElhatten Reservoir near Loganton (m.ob.) was a first county record; *Dauphin*: two were observed flying north on Susquehanna River 7/16 (Steve Schmit); *Delaware*: one at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/1 (John Zygmunt, m.ob.); *Erie*: season total of 23 reported and a maximum one-day count of 12 on 7/28 (Mary Bird); *Lycoming*: one was found at Williamsport Dam 7/17 (Kirsten Steliga, m.ob.), providing the fifth *Lycoming* record; *York*: one was found at Codorus State Park 7/14 (Carol Myers, Evan Vaeth, Cathleen Wetzel) and then a pair were seen at Long Arm Reservoir the next day, 7/15 (Evan Brooks, Mary Creager, Connor Gable) on both *Adams* and *York* shorelines.

Black-bellied Plover – *Crawford*: one was observed at Pymatuning – Millers Pond 6/2 (Walter Shaffer) and 6/3 (Mark Vass); *Dauphin*: one was photographed at Game Lands 290 Haldeman Island 6/5 and 6/12 (Steve Schmit); *Delaware*: at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd on 6/4 (John Zygmunt, Al Guarente), 6/6 (Rob Fergus) and one in breeding plumage 7/31 (Kiehl Smith, Megan McCullouch, eBird, doc); *Erie*: single birds seen sporadically through the season (eBird, m.obs.); *Lancaster*: two were discovered on the Conejohela Flats on 6/1 (Paul Nal), relocated 6/3 (Nina and Warren Wolf) and 6/4 (Mike Epler and Steve Schmit, eBird records, ph.); *Mercer*: one was present at the Shenango Wildlife Area Propagation Ponds on 6/3 (Steve Manns, Rebecca Hart) and 6/4 (Kim Springer, Jim Springer).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: four pairs nested this season at Gull Point (*vide* Cathy Haffner).

Upland Sandpiper – *Centre*: one recorded by nocturnal calls flying over State College on 7/22 (Joe Gyekis); *Clearfield*: one was seen along Sandy Ridge Road 6/13 (Dan Richards); *Crawford*: up to two were observed in their expected locations at Pymatuning State Park’s Miller’s Pond and Wilson Road

6/3-7/2 (m.ob.). A single bird was observed on a power line in the Guys Mills area 6/1, a new location (Issac Field, Steve Rotkovecz); *Lancaster*: two arrived at the Lancaster Airport on 7/22 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.); *Somerset*: single birds were found in grasslands at Gallitzin SF 6/1 (Jeff Payne) and 6/13 (Linda Greble) where one or two pairs may still breed.

Whimbrel – *Erie*: singles and doubles were observed at Gull Point from 6/12 (Jason Bojczyk) sporadically through 7/26 (mob).

Hudsonian Godwit* – *Lancaster*: an adult was at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 7/19-22 (Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, m.ob.), joining many other shorebirds along the edges of the drawn-down lake shore.

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: a total of five were confirmed from Gull Point with two on 6/30 (Ripley Kindervater) and singles on 7/8 (Yianni Laskaris), 7/14 (Annette Lambert), and 7/27, 28 (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie*: seen sporadically through the season at Gull Point, with high count of 10 on 7/27 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird); *Lancaster*: one in breeding plumage found at the Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Paul Nale, eBird, ph.).

Red Knot* – *Erie*: a molting adult was reported at Gull Point on 7/27-28 (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Erie*: two at Gull Point on 7/19 (Ripley Kindervater) and up to 3 there from 7/26 to 29 (Jerry McWilliams m.ob.); *Indiana*: water levels remained high throughout the summer allowing no mudflats to form for shorebirds at Yellow Creek SP and the white sand beach provided minimal habitat in rainy weather. July 25 brought a downpour during Todd Bird Club's Tuesday morning outing to Yellow Creek when four shorebirds landed on the beach, including this species (Court Harding, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee). As soon as the rain stopped, all four took off again; *Lancaster*: one in near breeding plumage on 7/31 at Middle Creek WMA (Bruce Carl, eBird).

Sanderling – *Delaware*: two at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/19 (Rob Fergus); *Erie*: seen through season with counts over 40 in late July (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one on 7/31 at Middle Creek WMA drawn-down lake (Bruce Carl).

Dunlin – *Erie*: seen at Gull Point through June, with high count of 12 on 6/12 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Bucks*: an adult was photographed at Penn-Warner Tract 6/18 (Dawn Denner, ph.); *Clearfield*: one found on 6/12 at Curwensville Dam expanded to 6 on 6/16 (John Forcey, eBird, ph.); *Dauphin*: photographed at Haldeman Island on 6/5 and 6/12 (Steve Schmit); *Erie*: several stopped at Gull Point on their northbound flight from 6/10 through 6/25 (Roger Donn, m.ob.) with a two-day maximum totaling 17 birds on 6/12 & 13 (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.); *Franklin*: two birds were at Keefer Road Farm Pond 6/4 (Bill Oyler, Andy Markel, Bob Koontz, John Carter) and single birds were at Antrim Commons Ponds 6/18 (Kyle Rambo) and 6/24 (Kyle Rambo, Bill Oyler); *Montgomery*: one, originally found 5/31, continued at Green Lake Park to 6/3 (m.ob., ph.).

Wilson's Snipe – *Crawford*: single birds seen at Erie NWR - Deer Run Trail on 6/7 (Eric Hall) and 6/21 at Hartstown Marsh (Eric Hall); *Tioga*: two were observed singing, calling, and

flushing from wetlands Pine Creek Rail Trail-Webster Road 6/7 (Lisa Doud) and 6/8 (Ken Cooper, Kathy Riley).

Willet – *Clearfield*: one was photographed at Curwensville Lake 7/29 (John Forcey); *Erie*: a season total of 15 were reported from Gull Point starting on 6/28 and continuing through 7/29 (mob); *Franklin*: two were observed by numerous birders 6/20-23 at Antrim Commons Ponds (Kyle Rambo, Dave Ebbit, Bill Oyler, m.ob.).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Berks*: two were at Blue Marsh Lake 7/16 (Brian Lineaweaver, m.ob., ph.); *Crawford*: four seen 7/15 (Jeffrey Levers, eBird) and two on 7/16 at Pymatuning SP Spillway (Kenneth Pinnow, Tomas Nonnenmacher, eBird); *Jefferson*: a lone bird was at Kyle Lake 6/7 (Don Nixon); *Erie*: one or two reported to eBird at Presque Isle – Gull Point on 6/11 (Jason Bojczyk), 6/18 and 7/30 (Ripley Kindervater); *York*: one was over Shanks Mare 6/18 (Bob Reiter).

Laughing Gull – *Berks*: a coastal storm apparently pushed an adult inland to Blue Marsh Lake 7/16 (Jo Spilde, ph.); *Bucks*: an estimate of 145 at Penn-Warner Tract 7/25 was the high count for this regular summer gull on the lower Delaware R. (Eric Zawatski). An adult in non-breeding plumage at Peace Valley Park 6/6 was less common that far inland (Edward Dolan, ph.); *Delaware*: regular along Delaware River through the season; *Philadelphia*: regular along the Delaware River through the season.

Franklin's Gull* – *Lancaster*: one was located at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats on 6/10 (Jan Roak, ph.).

Gull-billed Tern* – *Delaware*: three were observed at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd by many on 6/10 (Ethan Kang, Rob Fergus, m.ob., ph.).

Black Tern – *Erie*: one was observed flying over Eaton Reservoir on 6/8 (Ripley Kindervater) and two were over a private pond in Waterford on 6/24 (Jamie Hill); *Franklin*: made an evening stop at Antrim Commons Ponds 6/26 (Kyle Rambo); *Huntingdon*: two were found at Lake Perez 6/13-14 (m.ob.); *Tioga*: pictures taken of one resting on a buoy at the western end of Cowanesque Lake 6/15 (Dale and Karen Plumley).

Common Tern – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake stayed long enough 6/8-10 to give several birders good looks (Brian Lineaweaver, John Ruggles, Peter & Jane Wolfe; ph.); *Butler*: up to five were photographed at Lake Arthur 6/9-25 (Martin Carlin); *Erie*: present at Gull Point through the season, but nesting was not confirmed (*vide* Cathy Haffner). One photographed 6/8 at Howard Eaton Reservoir (Ripley Kindervater, eBird, ph.); *Indiana*: one appeared at Yellow Creek SP on 6/9 (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer); *Northumberland*: one described at Adam Bower Dam (Bryce Perles, eBird).

Arctic Tern* – *Erie*: a possible adult was described and photographed at Gull Point on 6/12-13 (Jason Bojczyk) pending PORC confirmation.

Neotropic Cormorant* – *Chester*: one was discovered on 6/9 and remained until 7/21 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) at Marsh Creek SP, only the second state record.

American White Pelican – *Berks*: reported by an unnamed kayaker to Mike Slater on the morning of 6/16 on Blue Marsh Lake (Russell Hoffman), confirmed flying later that morning

(Matt Wlasniewski) and later found on nearby E. J. Breneman Quarry until early on 6/18 (Joe Beatrice); *Delaware*: one was photographed soaring over a Garnet Valley yard 6/26 (Ethan Kang); *Lancaster*: one loafed around Susquehanna River Lake Clarke from 7/16 through the period (Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one was photographed on a boat dock on the Delaware R. at Riverton 6/27 (Mary Sue Gulick).

Brown Pelican* – *Pike*: seen at Lake Wallenpaupack on 6/6-7, and thanks to a local fisherman's posting on social media, several birders got to see this county-first bird (m.ob.); *Wayne*: the same one seen and photographed from *Wayne* side of lake 6/6 (Michael Schall).

American Bittern – *Bradford*: one reported in wetlands near New Albany 6/25 (Galen Groff, eBird, no doc); *Indiana*: one near Union Cemetery 7/22 (Henry Rummel) was the third summer record; *Luzerne*: one continued to 6/2 at the Hayfield Farms (Rick Koval, Wendy Koval, Jim Joyson, Jim Shoemaker); *Warren*: two were spotted flying over Camp Stone on 6/19 (Yonatan Simkovich).

Snowy Egret – *Dauphin*: one was observed in the Hershey-Hummelstown area 7/29-30 (Ian Gardner, Kevin Shannon, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Gull Point on 6/7-8 (Sarah Sargent, Jerry McWilliams, respectively); *Philadelphia*: one at the John Heinz NWR impoundment from 6/11 (Ben Filreis, ph.) to 6/13 (Walter Randall, m.ob.); *Washington*: two photographed at Canonsburg Lake provided the county's first on 7/8 (Pauline Hrynda).

Little Blue Heron – *Chester*: an immature was found at Magnolia Reserve Retention Pond on 7/24 (Jeff Kenney, m.ob.), and was still being intermittently reported through the end of the period; *Dauphin*: an immature was observed in the Hershey-Hummelstown area 7/31 and 7/26 (Ian Gardner, Kevin Shannon, m.ob.); *Delaware*: an adult was photographed in the smoky haze at Crum Creek Reservoir 6/7 (Rob Fergus) and another individual flew upriver at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/31 (Sara Busch); *Lancaster*: juveniles appeared at Middle Creek WMA and Susquehanna River Lake Clarke beginning mid-Jul (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one was reported at Bartram's Garden on 7/29 (Ben Filreis, eBird, ph.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Allegheny*: an immature was photographed at Peter's Creek in Jefferson Borough 7/23-25 (Connie Gallagher, m.ob.), providing the third county record; *Chester*: two adults were photographed with a cell phone as they flew over Black Rock on 6/1 (Ed Dolan); *Cumberland*: several sightings at West Fairview throughout the summer, including five on 7/17 (Kevin Shannon). A nest outside SGL169 produced two young that continued throughout the summer (Jennifer Moore); *Dauphin*: a juvenile was seen 7/23 at the Susquehanna River Middletown Access (Rosemary Spreha, eBird); *Lancaster*: one immature found 7/17 at Middle Creek WMA (Bruce Carl, eBird); *Montgomery*: a juvenile was at Bethayres Swamp 7/6-21 (Mike Grubb, m.ob., ph.); *Philadelphia*: an adult was found on 6/12 on Darby Creek across the from canoe launch at John Heinz NWR by an anonymous birder and seen through the day (m.ob., eBird); *York*: singles were at Gifford Pinchot SP 6/29 (Ed Bernot) and nearby at SGL 242 on 7/19-23 (m.ob.).

White Ibis – *Delaware*: three immature birds were reported from Ridley Lake Park 7/5 (Mark Anthony Casasanto Jr) and at least one continued through the end of the period (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: a landowner near Muncy reported a juvenile around 7/18 and it was confirmed by birders 7/20-21 (Bobby Brown, m.ob.), providing the second county record of the species.

Glossy Ibis – *Delaware*: a flock of 19 flew over Tyler Arboretum 6/28 (Robert Bedel, m.ob., ph.), and two were seen flying into the tank farm area John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in the early morning 7/30 (Al Guarente) plus one in the afternoon that day (Kiehl Smith, Megan McCulloch); *Lancaster*: one reported on 6/2 at the Middle Creek WMA Cul-de-sac (Warren and Nina Wolf, eBird) and 2 seen flying over the Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Paul Nale, eBird, ph.); *Philadelphia*: one found 6/5 at John Heinz NWR (Russell Roger, eBird, ph.).

Roseate Spoonbill* – *Bucks*: two immatures were seen briefly at Core Creek Park 7/16 (Tom Rich, ph.), although despite many people searching, the pair was not seen again. This is the second *Bucks* record and the first of more than one bird; *Delaware*: first seen from *Philadelphia* side of John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, it flew over the county border and came to roost in *Delaware* 7/29 (Jim McConnell, Deborah Hansen, m.ob.). The next night this bird was seen by many birders who lined up to see it in the evening as it repeated its bedtime routine but did not reappear for a third night. The spoonbill is *Delaware*'s 348th species on record and was one of many individuals of this species found north of its customary range this summer; *Luzerne*: an unmistakable subadult was discovered on the main pond of the Plymouth Flats 7/29, often in the company of Great Egret (Jonathan DeBalko, eBird, ph.), and continued until 7/31 after being seen by many; *Philadelphia*: one provided a first county record at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, seen only on 7/29-30 (Deborah Hansen, Jim McConnell, m.ob.).

Swallow-tailed Kite – *Juniata*: one was seen at Van Wert 7/22 (Paul Renno, no doc); *Lebanon*: one was photographed over Myerstown 7/20 (*fide* Zach Millen), providing a fourth county record; *Mercer*: one was seen on 7/27 at Jackson Center (Ryan Mullet) but not relocated by other birders.

Mississippi Kite – *Monroe*: at least one seen 6/2 at River's Edge Family Bike Park (John Mularczyk, doc.); *Susquehanna*: a county first, one was seen circling overhead and remained long enough to be photographed 6/17 (Brian Henderson).

Ferruginous Hawk* – *Washington*: tracked with telemetry into the state on the evening of 6/18 near the area where it was found and photographed, Letherman Bridge Road, the next morning (Jason Horn, Ross Gallardy, eBird, ph.) after an extensive search. Based on telemetry fixes, it roosted near Hickory Nut Road north of the village of Acheson on the evening of 6/19. While it was in *Washington* and *Greene* it ranged mostly along the I-70 corridor and the county line, getting as far east as Bentleyville on the afternoon of 6/18. It spent three nights in Pennsylvania but was last detected in Pennsylvania on 6/20, after which it moved back into Ohio (*fide* Geoff Malosh).

American Goshawk – the most extensive statewide surveys to date (481 surveys) were completed at recently active

territories, resulting in territorial behavior at just one site, but no active nests (*vide*, Sean Murphy).

Barn Owl – *Berks*: the only report was seen by chance when it flushed from a farm and was chased by an American Kestrel and other birds into a field in Heidelberg Twp. 6/26 (Anon); *Franklin*: up to two detected until 7/1 in St. Thomas Twp (Bill Oyler) and 3 detected, including young, near Chambersburg 6/3 (Andrew Markel, Billy Weber); *Lancaster*: one or two observed at nest box on State Game Lands 220 in July (m.ob., eBird, ph.), and heard during early morning of 6/6 near New Holand (Zach Hillen, eBird), and four banded by Dan Mummert (PGC) on 6/21 at Kauffman Orchards in Ronks (Joey Della Penna, eBird, ph.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Lackawanna*: one was detected at Pinchot State Forest on the morning of 6/1 (Chris Fischer); *Potter*: one was noted at Joerg Road 6/30 (Sarah Lindgren).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Adams*: one at SGL 249 on 6/1 (Andy Wilson); *Erie*: two were on Presque Isle S.P. 6/5 (Jason Bojczyk) and another was at SGL #109 on the late date of 6/14 (Jason Bojczyk, Jennifer Ferrick); *Potter*: one heard 6/22 at Ole Bull SP Beaver Swamp (Sara Lindren, eBird, doc).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Erie*: one in migration at Presque Isle SP on 6/1 (Jason Bojczyk); *Susquehanna*: seen and photographed in SGL35 during the Blitz for Conservation effort on 6/13 (Michele Morningstar, B4C team, ph.).

Loggerhead Shrike* – *Cumberland*: one was photographed 7/16 just north of West Front Street, Enola (Barb Matthews); *Dauphin*: the same individual was seen flying along Front Street toward Harrisburg (Barb Matthews).

Sedge Wren – *Carbon*: one heard and recorded on 6/16 in a gated community, the Indiana Lake Neighborhood, Albrightsville (Dan Michler); *Mercer*: one found on 6/17 along Wise Road (Gary Elderbroom, Carrie Kress) and seen through 6/24 (Brian Miller, Bill Winkler, ph, m.ob.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Blair*: nocturnal flight calls detected on multiple evenings through 6/10 (Mark Bonta); *Erie*: reported at Presque Isle on 6/1 (Jason Boczyk, eBird) and 6/2 and 6/7 (Dave Grise, eBird); *Philadelphia*: one reported singing at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge on 6/9 (Ben Filreis, recording); *Warren*: one described 6/15 at Heart's Content Old-Growth area (Thomas C Nicolls, eBird).

Bicknell's Thrush* – *Lancaster*: caught and banded at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 6/7 (Lauren Ferreri, Payton Miller, ph.), the 3rd official record for the county coming right on the heels of one only two weeks prior.

Red Crossbill – *Centre*: heard in flight and recorded Appalachian, Type 1 at SGL 100 (Julia Plummer); *Clinton*: on 7/17 one was observed at Westport (John Puschock), and another on 7/27 at the Ponderosa Pines Golf Course (Zach Millen); *Lycoming*: one was at SGL 68 on 7/17 (Jeff Kenney, Angela Romanczuk), and several reports came from Haneyville, beginning 7/21 (Diane Bitzer) and continuing at least into August (m.ob.); *Sullivan*: at least two were heard at SGL 13 Newel Rd 6/16 (Doug Gross, eBird); *Tioga*: reported several times during the season, first in Wellsboro 6/19

(Mathew Schenck) and last was heard flying over Hills Creek Lake 7/30 (Lisa Doud).

Pine Siskin – *Huntingdon*: three were observed at Lake Perez 6/1 (Eric Reitz).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Centre*: one was seen 6/23-24 at PSU Arboretum (Joe Gyekis, m.ob.); *Clarion*: three singing birds seen at the Stockdill Rd area of Mount Zion from 6/2-7/25, including nesting behavior including counter-singing and carrying nesting material (m.ob.); *Indiana*: one found on 6/3 (Dennis Lauffer) near SGL 273 where it continued singing through 6/10 (Mark Strittmatter).

White-crowned Sparrow – *Bucks*: an adult was described at the same time as a White-throated Sparrow in Hansell Park, Buckingham Twp, on 6/13 (Brandi George).

Nelson's Sparrow* – *Monroe*: deflect off the windshield of a car along Dutch Hill Rd on 6/10, the stunned bird survived and was taken to some nearby appropriate habitat and released (Rick Koval).

Lincoln's Sparrow – *Erie*: one was reported along Dead Pond Trail on 6/6 for a first county June record (Jason Bojczyk).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Erie*: an immature male was seen at Gull Point on 6/30 (Jason Bojczyk, Brian Miller, ph.).

Western Meadowlark* – *Erie*: reported in May at Dam Site Rd, North East and again 6/17 (Steve Wheller, Kathy Wheeler, pending PORC review).

Swainson's Warbler – *Blair*: two heard singing along Mt Etna area of the Lower Trail 6/15 and again there 6/28 (Nick Bolgiano); *Fayette*: continued at Bear Run Nature Reserve from May through the season (m.ob.) where the state's first confirmed breeding was documented with capture of a hatch-year fledgling (Nick Liadis, founder of the non-profit Bird Lab, David Yeany, ph.).

Tennessee Warbler – *Lancaster*: at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 7/23 (Jonathan Heller).

Cape May Warbler – *Erie*: on 6/5 at Presque Isle SP was the latest record in the county by five days (Jason Bojczyk).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Bucks*: one was still in Solebury Twp 6/5, a full 10 days after the previous known spring departure date (Jane Barker-Hunt).

Wilson's Warbler – *Delaware*: one at Chadds Ford 6/4 (Kristy Eleftheriou); *Lancaster*: at Middle Creek WMA on 7/9 (Melissa Easter); *Venango*: at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary on 6/5 (Kathie Goodblood, Jerry Stanley).

Summer Tanager – *Delaware*: reported at Wallingford on 5/31 and heard again on 6/1 (Ross Gallardy).

Dickcissel – *Adams*: one was at Gettysburg NMP 6/6-7 (David Arrow, Christopher Costello), a pair were found at the Long Arm Reservoir in June, and an adult with two juveniles reported 7/16 (Karen Rau); *Berks*: at least two males and a female returned to Rodale's rotationally grazed pastures for the eighth consecutive year and seen through the season (m.ob.) but were reported on none of the other farms that had intermittently attracted them in the past (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: at Valley Forge NHP on 7/4 (Adrian Melck, m.ob.), with last report from 7/18; *Cumberland*: up to three continued along Shady Road outside Newburg through 6/23 (m.ob.).

Photographic Highlights



The only one reported this summer in Pennsylvania, this **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia 29 July. (Debbie Beer)

Color printing

Sponsored by the Bird Screen Company

(More photos inside back cover)



Black-billed Cuckoo at Keating Summit, Potter 10 June. (David Poder)



Two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** discuss feeder access in Allegheny 26 June. (Constanza Ehrenhaus)



American Avocet seen only 24 July at McElhatten Reservoir, the first for Clinton; perhaps the same bird seen a week earlier in nearby Lycoming. (Wayne Laubscher)



Killdeer at Beaver Run Reservoir, Westmoreland 20 June. (Mark McConaughy)



Hudsonian Godwit at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster*, present 19 – 22 (here 22) July near the location of Pennsylvania's first Limpkin. (Jonathan Heller)



Five **Marbled Godwits** were found at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 30 June to 28 (here 27) July. (Jerry McWilliams)



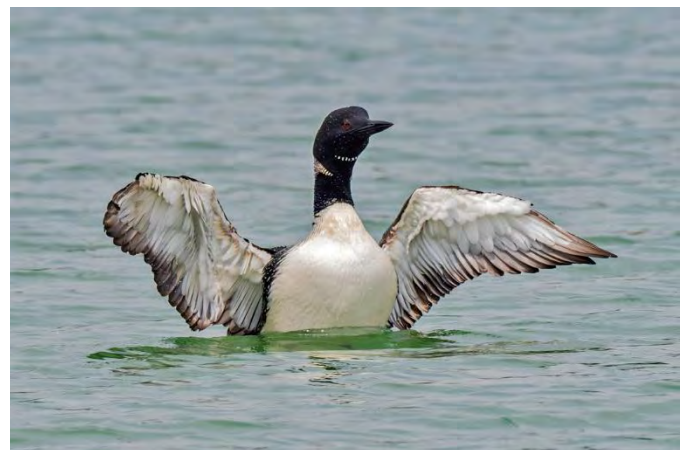
Southbound **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** at Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny* 27 July. (Mark Vass)



The only **Red Knot** for the summer was at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 27 July. (Jerry McWilliams)



One of three **Gull-billed Terns** present 10 June at Hog Island Rd., *Delaware*; most of the few state records are from the far southeast, although they have been found as far northwest as Snyder (2003) and Centre (1997). (John Drake)



Common Loon is often found at Pennsylvania lakes in summer, but not usually in breeding plumage like this loon at Bald Eagle SP, *Centre* 7 July. (Bob Snyder)



An **American White Pelican** at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, 16 – 18 (here 16) June was the first for the county. (*Russel Hoffman*)



Non-birders found this **Brown Pelican** at Lake Wallenpaupack, *Pike* 6 (here 6) – 7 June, the second of the year for Pennsylvania and a county first. (*Michael Schall*)



The small cormorant in the middle, a **Neotropic Cormorant** photographed 9 June at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* stayed until 21 July; second state record following one in *Lycoming* in 2021. (*Barry Blust*)



One or more juvenile **Little Blue Herons** were present at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster* from mid (here 22)-July through end of the report period. (*Pamela Fisher*)



A juvenile **White Ibis** stayed a couple days at Muncy, *Lycoming*, seen here 20 July; second county record. (*Bobby Brown*)



Roseate Spoonbill with **Great Egret** at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 29 – 30 (here 29) July; the first spoonbill for the county (*Victoria Sindlinger*)



Following the death of a female and nest failure in 2022, two **Bald Eagles** fledged in 2023 from this nest on the Clarion River, *Clarion*, seen here 5 June. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



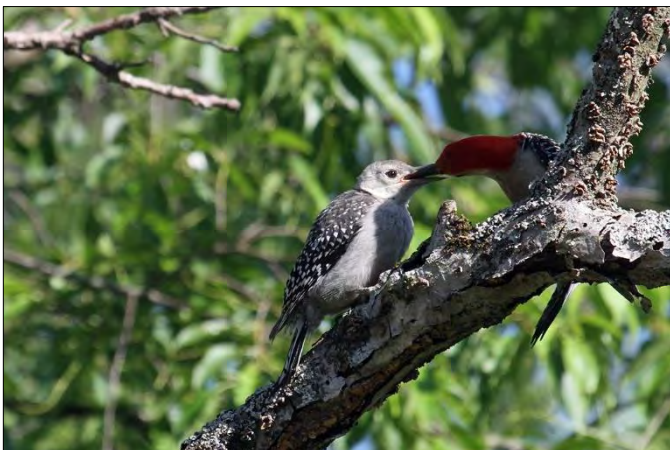
This **Barred Owl** in Sygan Hill, *Allegheny* 18 June, spotted by the photographer's grandson, spent a few hours on perch watching the kids at play. (*Dean Newhouse*)



Belted Kingfisher at 2 Mile Run County Park, *Venango* 20 June. (*Meg Kolodick*)



Adult **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Keating Summit, *Potter* 11 June. (*David Poder*)



Feeding time for a young **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Swissdale, *Clinton* 5 June. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Peregrine Falcon at Nazareth, *Northampton* 2 June. (*Dave DeReamus*)



Willow Flycatcher at Spring Mills, Centre 21 June. (Debra Rittelmann))



Delivery of a blueberry to a hungry juvenile **Eastern Kingbird** at New Milford, Susquehanna 9 July. (Nancy VanCott)



Formerly a rare nesting species in PA, this **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen briefly at Enola, Cumberland, along the Susquehanna R.; the first state summer record in over 10 years. (Barb Matthews)



Black-capped Chickadee at a nest hole in a parking lot post at Hearts Content, Warren 25 June. (Tom Kuehl)



Bank Swallow at SGL 35, Susquehanna 12 June; probably from a nearby large nesting colony. (Barb Stone)



Tree Swallow from one of at least ten nesting pairs at Kernsville Dam Recreation Area, Berks 16 June. (Andy Wlasniewski)



Cedar Waxwing in East Allen Township, *Northampton* 21 June. (Dave DeReamus)



An out-of-summer-range **Purple Finch** was at Murrysville, *Westmoreland* 6 June. (Tom Kuehl)



Henslow's Sparrow at Piney Tract, *Clarion*, a nesting hotspot, seen here 5 June. (Jeffrey Hall)



Female **Red-winged Blackbird** bringing food at New Milford *Susquehanna* 1 June. (Nancy VanCott)

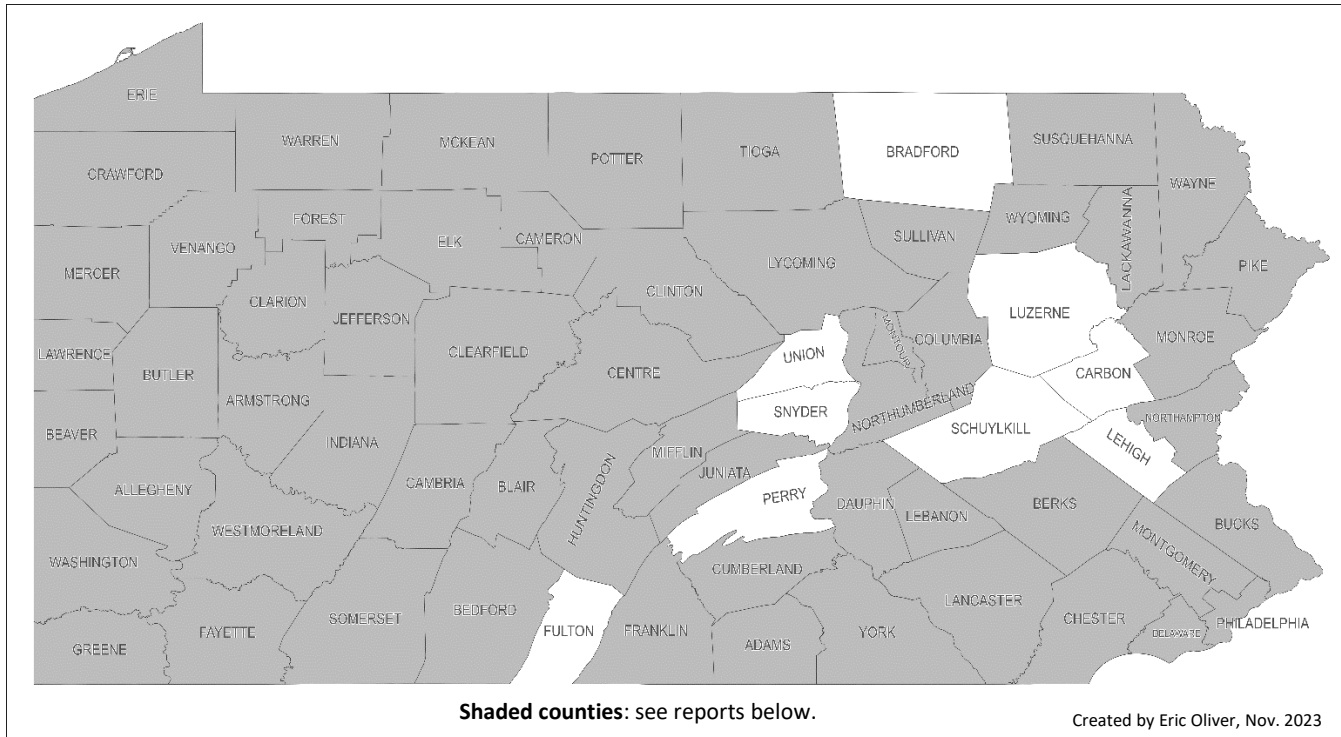


Common Yellowthroat was found in over 98% of blocks during BBA2, tops among breeding warblers in Pennsylvania. This yellowthroat was at 2 Mile Run County Park, *Venango* 2 July. (Meg Kolodick)



Blackburnian Warbler at SGL 35, *Susquehanna* 6 June. (Barb Stone)

LOCAL NOTES – JUNE AND JULY 2023



ABBREVIATIONS

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	min	minimum	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
CA	Conservation Area	m.ob.	multiple observers	Rd	Road
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Mt (Mts)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	Res	Reservoir
CP	County Park	NA	Nature Area or Natural Area	Rte	Route
Cr	Creek	NF	National Forest	SF	State Forest
et al.	and others	NFC	nocturnal flight call/s	SGL	State Game Land
E/N/S/W	East, North, South, West	NM	National Monument	sp., spp.	species, plural of species
Ft	Fort	NP	National Park	SP	State Park
GC	Golf Course	NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
GP	Game Preserve	PAMC	Pennsylvania Migration Count	subad(s).	subadult(s)
Hwy	Highway	ph.	Photographed	Twp	Township
imm(s).	immature(s)	Pt	Point	vr.	voice recording
Jct	Junction	PORC	Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee	vt.	videotape
juv(s).	juvenal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R	River	WA	Wildlife Area
L	Lake	RA	Recreational Area	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
max	maximum			WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

Data for county reports incorporate observations derived from eBird [ebird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed Nov 27, 2023)].

Adams County

Locations: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH).

It has been unusual to report South Central Pennsylvania experiencing near-normal temperatures and rainfall for the period, but that was the case. Total species count at 119 and 16 warbler species were at recent levels. Some of the better observations included a pair of **American Avocets**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a nice **Cerulean Warbler** count, continuing upward trend for **Blue Grosbeak**, and some **Dickcissel** presence, including juvenile birds.

A **Ruddy Duck** on a pond along Teeter Rd 6/4 (MF) was the only waterfowl report of any note. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued to see good reporting, and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at GNMP 6/12 (CD). Always a treat, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling in MICH 7/29 (GW). A pair of **American Avocets** was at LAR 7/15 (CG, et al.). This report is the second July report for the county following last year's 7/25 trio at LPRR. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was a nice find at LAR 7/27 (MS). The trend for increased **Osprey** reporting continued this summer with seven sites producing reports. Perhaps Pennsylvania's Third Bird Atlas (PBA3) will uncover nesting evidence in the county.

Red-headed Woodpecker reporting was solid, and the Gettysburg area continued to be the prime area for this species. A **Peregrine Falcon** was along Knorr Rd 6/23 (ML, NL). A trip to SGL 249 on 6/1 was rewarded with an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sighting (AW). The balance of the flycatchers and vireo family saw typical reporting levels. Up to seven **Horned Larks** were found at GNMP 6/6-7/4 (m.ob.). A pair were along Knorr Rd 6/11 (TA), and Hoffman Rd held one 7/8 (JD). A **Bank Swallow** was at the Cunningham Rd bridge 6/26 (ML), and a pair were at LAR 7/15 (EV, NW, WW). MICH produced the only reports of **Black-capped Chickadee** on 6/30 (PB) and **Brown Creeper** 7/24-30 (MaH, KR). A pair of **Veery** were found in MICH 7/17 (BO).

Ten sites producing **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a positive, and a nice 14-count came from GNMP 7/4 (CM). **Savannah Sparrow** sightings were limited to singles seen 6/10 (MS) and 7/14 (MS) at GNMP and a pair along Bushey School Rd 7/8 (2). Four **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports was a nice bounce over normal reporting with a pair noted at GNMP 6/11-7/16 (m.ob.). Five sites reporting **Bobolink** were paced by a 20-count at GNMP 6/6 (DA). A 10-count for **Eastern Meadowlark** along Bushey School Rd 7/8 (JD) was the high from the eight sites recording them.

A tardy **Northern Waterthrush** was at MICH 6/2 (EB). The sole report of **Blue-winged Warbler** was a bird along Harbaugh Valley Rd 6/15 (JH, MH). Often missed this period, a pair of **Cerulean Warblers** was at LPRR 7/9 (JC) and an approximately one-mile stretch of wooded areas along Harbaugh Valley Rd produced a six-count 6/15 (JH, MH). The first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PA BBA) produced two **Adams** blocks holding ceruleans while being undetected in the county during the second PA BBA. These recent sightings are encouraging at the start of PBA3. On the late side, a **Blackpoll Warbler** was at GNMP 6/1 (IP).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Gettysburg 7/13 (ML) was an unusual July report for the county. As noted in the intro, **Blue Grosbeak** continued to see good reporting (m.ob.) with seven sites producing birds. A single **Dickcissel** was at GNMP 6/6-7 (DA, CC), and a trio found at LAR 7/16 involved an adult with two juveniles (KaR). This marks the eighth consecutive summer period where dickcissels have been reported in the county. Although found in *Adams* during both prior BBAs, neither produced "confirmed" nesting records. It appears likely that PBA3 will confirmed nesting in the county.

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, 717-259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Tony Arnold, David Arrow, Peter Babcock, Eric Beck, John Carter, Christopher Costello, Jonathon DeBalko, Cy Dietz, Mary Beth Francis, Conor Gable, Matt Hunter (MaH), J Huston, M Huston, Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Callan Murphy, Bill Oyler, Irvin Pitts, Kyle Rambo, Karen Rau (KaR), Michael Schwanebeck, Evan Vaeth, Galen W, Andy Wilson, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf.

Allegheny County

Locations: Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP).

The season was warm to hot with no rain for the three-week period 5/21-6/10. Smoke from the massive wildfires in Canada gave us several days of hazy conditions. Several late migrants were reported in early June.

Every few years we have received reports of released **Northern Bobwhites**. This year single birds were at NP 6/8 (JE), Allison Park 6/12 (BP), and in Elizabeth Twp 6/19. A **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was photographed at a feeder in Franklin Park 7/11 (AVA) providing an astonishing first county and first state record. Unfortunately, the bird only visited the feeder once and was not seen again. The pair of **Virginia Rails** reported in spring at Wingfield Pines continued through the season (DH, TC). Breeding was not confirmed.

There have always been a few late spring or early fall shorebirds, and sometimes it has been difficult to know which direction they were heading. An early **Semipalmated Plover** was at IMP 7/27 (MV, SN). A late spring migrant **Least Sandpiper** was at Dashields Dam 6/2 (MV). The first of the fall migrants were at IMP 7/7-27 (m.ob.). One was at NP 7/19-20 (DB, AF). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 6/14 (AF), and two were at Dashields Dam 6/16 (MV), apparently late spring migrants. Two were also at IMP 7/19 (DNe). Four **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at IMP 7/9 (AF, JC). Up to two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP 7/19-29 (m.ob.), one was at a small wetland in Harmar Twp 7/16-22 (RBU, JF), and one was at NP 7/11-27 (AF). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at IMP 7/27 (MV) and NP 7/15-16 (DK).

The **Herring Gull** colony at the Emsworth Dam was monitored during the season. The max number of adults was 38, and there were 11 chicks tallied (PB). A late **Common Tern** or **Forster's Tern** was at Chapel Harbor 6/10 (PB). A late **Common Loon** continued from May at Chapel Harbor to 6/10 (m.ob.). An out-of-season **Great Egret** was at NP 6/29-7/9 (JJ, m.ob.). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at a small marsh in Harmar Twp 7/15-22 (MF, m.ob.). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed at Peter's Cr in Jefferson Borough 7/23-25 (CG, m.ob.), providing the third county record.

A **Black Vulture** was at Beechwood Farms 6/4 (DM). An **Osprey** nest in Emsworth at Duquesne Light contained three young 7/6, and another nest nearby on Neville Island held two or three young 7/15 (PB). A single **Merlin** was present near last year's breeding site 6/11-12. Two were there 7/3 (MK), but breeding was not confirmed this year unfortunately. Another **Merlin** was photographed in Wexford 7/24.

Alder Flycatcher has been a rare migrant here and unheard of in Jun. Two apparent late migrants were found in the early part of the month. One was at Boyce-Mayview Park 6/1 (ST), and one at NP 6/5 (DN). Two **Blue-headed Vireo** reports were unusual, but not unheard of, for June. One was at Walker Park in Sewickley 6/6 (DNe), and one at NP 6/11 (LS).

High counts of **Fish Crow** included 35 on 7/4 and 20 on 7/6 in Squirrel Hill (MK). A surprising count of 12 **Common Ravens** were at IMP 7/23 (MV).

Two **Bank Swallows** were at NP 6/10 (EH), and up to two **Cliff Swallows** were at NP through Jun (BM, AH, TC). Two were photographed gathering mud for nests 6/16 (AH). Both species are the least common swallows in the county and rare breeders. **Veery** continued at NP and nearby areas as the only regular breeding location in the county. One was at Walker Park in Sewickley 6/3-12 (LG, DNe, NN). A late migrant **Swainson's Thrush** was in Indiana Twp 6/9 (DY). A pair of **Purple Finches** were in Pine Twp during the season, the only location in the county where this species has been consistently present in summer (PL, SL).

A very late **Dark-eyed Junco** was photographed visiting a feeder in South Park Twp up to 6/12 (PS). **Savannah Sparrows**, **Grasshopper Sparrows**, and **Henslow's Sparrows** were all present at IMP during the season (m.ob.). They are restricted to the few remaining grassland areas that have not been developed. Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at two sites at IMP in Jun and Jul (m.ob.). One was at Barking Slopes 6/3 (AH), a reliable location in recent years. Chats have been rare breeders in the county.

A **Northern Waterthrush** was at Highland Park 7/24-25 (MCO). This is the time either species of waterthrush may be present, but the description and habitat seemed to fit northern. There were several late migrant warblers this spring. Single **Magnolia Warblers** were in Upper St Clair 6/3 (ST), at Beechwood Farms 6/4 (STh), and at NP 6/4 (AF). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Barking Slopes 6/3 (AH, PM); single

Chestnut-sided Warblers at Beechwood Farms 6/8 (DM) and Frick Park 6/16 (DM); a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Mt Washington 6/4 (LM); single **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Beechwood Farms 6/2 (JK), Mt Lebanon 6/4 (JS), and Tom's Run Nature Reserve 6/4 (SN).

Ovenbird has only been a local breeder in *Allegheny* despite their widespread occurrence in neighboring counties. Several were at Deer Lakes Park, where they have been regular breeders. One was heard at Boyce Park 7/10 (SM), and one at SGL 203 in Wexford 6/7 (KP). **Worm-eating Warbler** continued from May at Harrison Hills Park (m.ob.). **Cerulean Warbler** has only been reliable in the Sewickley area, where it continued to breed. **Prairie Warbler** was most reliable at IMP until the development progressed there, but one was still holding on in the same location as last year where it was observed regularly during the season (m.ob.). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** continued from May at IMP this summer. As habitat has continued to dwindle, we have wondered how long they will remain in the area.

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, mpfial@verizon.net, David Bennett, Paul Brown, Jeff Ciesiak, Thomas Connor, Jeff Evans, Joe Fedor, Adrian Fenton, Connie Gallagher, Lynn Goldbach, Eric Hall, Amy Henrici, Dan Hinnebusch, Julie Jansen, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Justin Kowlakowski, Malcolm Kurtz, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Pat McShea, Lori Maggio, Steve Manns, Dan Mendenhall, Bob Mulvihill, Dean Newhouse (DNe), Norma Newhouse, Steve Northrop, Dick Nugent, MC O'Neill, Kevin Parsons, Brandon Pass, James Saracco, Liz Spence, Paul Smith, Steve Thomas (STh), Shannon Thompson, Alicia Van Arsdale, Mark Vass, David Yeany II.

Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail near the Red Bank Creek parking lot (ATR), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL).

Records from eBird showed there were 117 species observed in the county during the June-July period, the same as last year and five more than the average over the past decade. To prepare this report, I downloaded eBird data for the two months and used a spreadsheet to calculate, for each of the 117 species, the proportion of "complete" eBird checklists (not incidental checklists) in which the species was reported. The data supplied online from eBird is organized by week, so to come up with a single number for each species, I found the average of the eight weekly proportions (four weeks per month) to come up with the average. Again, this gives us an idea of how frequently a particular species is found, such that a proportion of 0.10 indicates that 10% of the eBird checklists include a Yellow Warbler, for example. With the 2023 data in hand, I then downloaded a similar dataset from eBird, but this time selected all complete checklists from the most recent 10-year period and calculated the average proportion of checklists that included each of the 117 species found in 2023.

Throughout the rest of this report for *Armstrong*, I compared the 2023 value to the 10-year average to find species with large differences, either positive or negative. To shorten this report, I have selected only the species which showed a great difference between the 2023 and 10-year averages, and then only those that I thought represented true differences. Analyses dependent on eBird checklists are subject to fluctuations related to the number of observers and their level of skill. Summer 2023 included 240 complete checklists, while the 10-year average during the same period was 204. I concluded our sample size in 2023 was certainly adequate to make comparisons. However, I cannot judge the skill level of those who submitted records. There were statistical tests I could have used for the following analyses, but I have left that for others to do at a statewide level.

To begin my report, I start with a common bird, the **Mourning Dove**. It was seen less frequently than normal. Comparing this summer with the previous 10, as I described above, the proportion of complete eBird checklists that included Mourning Dove was down 24% (0.34 vs. 0.45). Because it has been such an easy bird to detect, the difference seemed worth noting.

In contrast, **Chimney Swifts** were much more abundant this year than in the past decade, with 43% of complete eBird checklists including this species in Summer 2023, compared to the 10-year average of 20%. This is good news, given this species is reliant upon a decreasing supply of human structures used for roosting and nesting. The species is an aerial insectivore, and it should be noted that most of the other species sharing this niche seemed to experience a decline in detections, as noted below.

Just one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was recorded in the county. It was found at ATR 6/8 (KA). This was a good find, since it is one of the least common species in the county at this time of year; it has not been, however, classified as rare. The same observer also happened upon an **American Woodcock** during the same hike covering 0.87-mile in one hour (KA). This was one of only two detections of woodcocks. The other was at Stone House Rd 7/4 (AB).

One **Black Vulture** was seen in *Armstrong*, which is the first summertime sighting recorded in eBird, and only the second sighting recorded in the county at any time of year. It was spotted very close to the *Westmoreland* border in Leechburg 7/3 (JB), but it still counts! Another lucky raptor sighting was in Kittanning at the intersection of Rte 422 and Red Mill Rd where a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen 7/6 (MSr). The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that nested on the Graft Bridge in Kittanning in the past were also spotted 6/23, but it was not indicated whether they had an active nest at the time (MH, RH). One was seen a week later flying over Ford City 6/30 (AB).

Nearly all members of the tyrant flycatcher family normally in *Armstrong* were seen less often compared to 10-year averages. Checklists with **Eastern Wood-Pewee** were down 9% (0.20 in 2023 vs 0.22 past 10-year average); **Acadian Flycatchers** down 14% (0.18 vs 0.21); **Willow Flycatchers** down 23% (0.026 vs 0.036); **Eastern Phoebes** down 41% (0.13 vs 0.22); **Great Crested Flycatchers** down 42% (0.02 vs 0.03). There were no Least Flycatchers recorded in *Armstrong*, whereas 2.6% of summer eBird checklists over the last 10 years have recorded that species. The only bright spot within this family was the **Eastern Kingbird**, which was found 18% more often this year compared to the 10-year average (0.11 vs 0.09). Several of these flycatchers have always been uncommon, so year-to-year fluctuations may be an artifact of uneven sampling by observers. However, the large decline in Eastern Phoebe sightings is meaningful because it has been a common bird and less likely to be missed by birders of average skill. Meanwhile, because all members of the family except for the Eastern Kingbird have been showing the same trend, this makes it more likely that the decreases have been real rather than a statistical anomaly.

Reports of **Blue Jays** were 40% higher than the 10-year average (0.49 vs. 0.35). This is one example of several common species that showed an increased trend, as shown below. **Horned Larks** were spotted at two locations. One individual was seen along Fox Hollow Rd 6/15 (TR) at a location that typically hosted that species in other seasons. The other was found along Sam Shirley Rd in Mayport 7/21 (BR).

If the flycatchers were recorded less this year, was the same true for their fellow insectivores, the swallows? Yes, but their decreases were not as uniform nor as severe. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported about 8% less in Summer 2023 compared to the seasonal 10-year average (0.061 vs 0.066); **Tree Swallows** were down 30% (0.05 vs 0.07); and **Barn Swallows** were down 40% (0.13 vs 0.21). **Cliff Swallows** were down 22% according to my calculations (0.007 vs 0.009), but this species has been rare anyway, so the percentage change should be taken with a grain of salt. For example, the only Cliff Swallow record in Summer 2023 was a report of three on the CCL peninsula 6/6 (JP). Only in three other years of the last 10 has this species been reported in *Armstrong* during Jun or Jul. No **Bank Swallows** were reported; indeed, none have been detected in the county during the summer since 2020. Meanwhile, **Purple Martin** reports were up 49% over the 10-year average (0.03 vs 0.02), but because this species is usually sought out by observers near artificial nest boxes, this difference may be due to observer behavior rather than a change in bird distribution. The locations where Purple Martins were found have all been within a short distance of managed colonies: the control tower and below-dam sites at CCL on multiple dates (MM, DR, EW et al), and the Gastown Track along Rte 210 north of Edleron 6/26 (MS).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported at Mill Street just north of Freeport 6/26 (SW). There have been several evergreen trees in that area that might make this good habitat for the species. Another uncommon species observed was a **Vesper Sparrow**, found at Minich Rd in Mayport 6/29 (AJ, MS).

In addition to the Blue Jay mentioned above, a host of common species were a little more common in 2023 than 10-year averages would predict. **Carolina Wrens** were observed at a rate 17% greater than average (0.42 vs 0.36); **House Sparrows** were up 71% (0.36 vs 0.21); **Song Sparrows** were up 76% (0.71 vs 0.57); and **American Robins**, already the most frequently reported species on eBird checklists in summer, were up 20% (0.84 vs 0.70). **Eastern Towhees** were less common than the 10-year average for eBird complete checklists.

Detections were down 46% (0.18 vs 0.32). **Common Grackles** were also down, by 32% (0.22 vs 0.32).

Finally, several warblers showed concerning decreases. The **Common Yellowthroat** was indeed common, being detected in 17% (0.17) of complete eBird checklists submitted this summer, a higher percentage than any other warbler species. However, the 10-year average was 27% (0.27), which suggested a meaningful decline. The second-most common warbler species, the **Yellow Warbler**, was down 39% (0.11 vs 0.18). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were reported in the county, a few less than normal. They were both found within the vicinity of the Red Bank Valley Trail between downtown New Bethlehem 6/5 (AD) and the Mayport area 6/29 (AJ, MS).

Three **Prairie Warblers** were detected at a single spot near Glacial Sand Rd 6/18 (JB) that may have once been a strip mine. This species has been reported there in previous years, so the habitat apparently remained favorable. Apart from this one location, no other **Prairie Warblers** were reported. In past years there have been some at Keystone L, but this year no birders submitted observations from that location, making it hard to know if the species has been in decline like the other warblers. Only one record included the **Kentucky Warbler**, of two breeding pairs carrying food near ATR 6/8 (KA). Two **Cerulean Warblers** and one **Black-throated Green Warbler** were recorded during the same productive outing (KA). These two species, in contrast to the others listed above, were found at higher frequencies across *Armstrong* than predicted by their 10-year averages, with **Cerulean** up 61% (0.07 vs. 0.04) and **Black-throated Green** up 34% (0.06 vs. 0.05).

Observers: Jim Kellam, Dept of Biology, Saint Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd, Latrobe, PA 15650, 724-805-2171, james.kellam@stvinc.edu, K.M. Anderson, John Bobak, Alan Buriak, Amber DeBardelaben, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Alyssa Jones, Mark McConaughy, Julia Plummer, Duncan R., Bill Reddinger, Theo Rickert, Mike Stinson, Mark Strittmatter (MSr), Eamon W., Stacy Waltenbough.

Beaver County

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

Common Mergansers again summered at multiple locations. Like last year, they were at IND, RBNP, and New Brighton, and this season they were also at the RCSP Wildflower Reserve, where the county's first breeding record occurred in 2017 after sporadic reports since 2014. A **Northern Bobwhite**, almost certainly a released bird, was noted at the Siebel farm in Independence Twp on three dates 6/2-16 (MV). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at RCSP 7/27 (RT) was the last of three reports in the county this summer. **Least Sandpiper** returned to the spillway at RCSP 7/5-15 (JM, MV), and one was at Beaver Falls 7/16 (MV). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at RCSP 7/3 (MV) was a nice early find for the park. The summer's only **Great Egret** was at Beaver Falls 7/3 (MV). **Peregrine Falcons** continued from the spring and were reported a few times at both the Aliquippa-Ambridge bridge and in the Monaca/Bridgewater area (MV, JM). No reports mentioned nesting this year, though they probably at least attempted it in both locations.

A singing **Alder Flycatcher** near the former Little Blue L site 6/17 (MV) was a remarkable summer season bird for *Beaver*. It was very close to the location where one had been found 5/17, so it was possibly the same individual. **Common Raven** was noted at four different locations, including two separate spots within RCSP. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded singing at Brady's Run Park 6/3 (TJ). This species has been rare in the county away from the grasslands around SGL 285 in the northwestern corner of the county, an area that receives precious little coverage from birders, especially in summer. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was frequent at RBNP all summer, and a juvenile was noted there 7/14 (DZ). Reports of **Bobolink** included one each at the Little Blue L site 6/4 (MV) and along PA-18 near RCSP 7/8 (SM).

Black-and-white Warbler has been a very rare and less-than-annual breeder in the county. This season they were found in RCSP 6/7-21 (TH, OL); the last mid-summer record for the park was in 2016. Again, SGL 285 has been the best place to find them in the county in summer, but they go unreported from there nearly every year due to lack of coverage. (The same has been true for **Prairie Warbler**, which was not reported in the county this summer at all, despite probably being annual at SGL 285.) A **Kentucky Warbler** was photographed along a small creek on Grange Rd 6/17 (WP), a nice find at a new location for the

species. A recently fledged **Louisiana Waterthrush** was also photographed there that day (WP). **Black-throated Green Warbler** has been annual in RCSP for some time now, and they were present again this season 6/16 (JH, MV).

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Rd, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, 412-735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Todd Hooe, Jason Horn, Timothy Johnson, Oliver Lindhiem, Steve Manns, Jeff Moore, William Patsy, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Dante Zuccaro.

Bedford County

Locations: Big Creek Road (BC), Blue Knob State Park (BK), Everett (EV), Mountain Meadows - Jackson Property south of Everett (MM), Rural Home Site (RHS), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Whitetail Wetlands (WHW).

A drought over much of Pennsylvania, including *Bedford*, dried up spring seeps and shallow pools in early summer and no doubt stressed local bird populations. While other areas of the state possibly received too much rain, precipitation in *Bedford* was spotty and inadequate. A dry spring did appear to help **Wild Turkey** poults, as more were observed than in previous years. **Wood Ducks** were in abundance at L Gordon 6/15, where 36 were reported (J&BC). Unusual but consistent sightings of one **Redhead** occurred at SSP throughout the summer (M&LJ).

Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were infrequent but widespread in the county, with a high count of three at BC 6/19 (CH), while a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at only two locations: one at Canal Ponds 6/18 (AB), and one at Frazier Rd 6/19 (m.ob.). Unfortunately, no **Common Nighthawks** were reported. Continuing the disturbing downward trend of reports, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported at only five locations, most frequently at RHS where a high count of two was recorded 7/4 (J&BC).

Most **Chimney Swift** sightings were clustered in a corridor from SSP to EV, with a high of 15 at EV 7/2 (M&LJ). A single **American Woodcock** was flushed at MM 6/3 (M&LJ) and another at RHS 7/19 (J&BC). Just one **Great Egret** was seen along Bedford Valley Rd 7/7 (TL).

Osprey continued to frequent SSP where two were seen 6/11 (M&LJ). No confirmed nests have been reported in *Bedford*. **Bald Eagle** sightings were scattered around the county, with a high of two at Shatzer Farm 6/5 (M&LJ) and two at BC 6/18 (CH). Active nests have been increasing in *Bedford*, a good sign that the population of our national bird is still on the rise in the county. A high of four **Red-shouldered Hawks** was observed at SSP 6/19 (EB). Unlike last year, no **Barn Owl** nests were found. Three **Barred Owls** were heard at Milligans Cove Rd 6/26 (EB).

Although uncommon in the county, sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are up; a high of four was reported frequently in Jul at Layton Property (BL). **American Kestrels** were scarce in the county, but the most frequent sightings were at Union Memorial Church 6/2-7/30, with a high of three on 7/4 (EB).

A high count of four **Acadian Flycatchers** was reported at SSP 6/25 (PR). **Willow Flycatchers** were regularly reported at RHS 6/1-7/2 (J&BC), but the high count of eight was reported from WHW 7/21 (EB). A high of two **Least Flycatchers** was also reported at WHW 7/21 (EB). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were regularly sighted in Jun at MM (M&LJ), but a high of six was reported at SSP 6/3 (EZ). **Eastern Kingbirds** were regularly reported from SSP with a high of six 6/14 (KP).

White-eyed Vireos were reported from two locations in southern *Bedford* with one at RHS 6/16 and 7/28 (J&BC), and another one nearby at L Gordon 6/18 (GY). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were recorded more often than **White-eyed Vireos**, with a high of three at SSP 6/3 (EZ) and 6/19 (EB), while more consistent sightings were reported at RHS 6/16-7/28 (J&BC). **Blue-headed Vireo** reports were scattered, but a high of three was seen at BK 7/30 (J&BC). A high count of two **Warbling Vireos** was observed at SSP 6/3 (EZ) and 6/17 (NW, WW). **Fish Crows** along the Raystown Branch of the Juniata R were under-reported, but one was noted in EV 6/11 (M&LJ). A high of six **Common Ravens** was reported at Sollenberger Rd 7/2 (EB).

A high count of eight **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was seen at SSP 6/19 (EB). A high of four **Purple Martins** was at Canal Ponds 6/18 and 6/29 (AB). A high of 23 **Cliff Swallows** was reported at SSP 6/3 (EZ).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at a few locations; a high of three was observed at Union Memorial Church 7/9 (EB). Although most

Dark-eyed Juncos left *Bedford* for the summer, there were a few holdouts at BK with a high of five reported 7/9 (BS). The only **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted at Sollenberger Rd 6/13 (EB). **Swamp Sparrows** were reported from SSP and WHW 7/21 (EB). There were five reports of **Yellow-breasted Chats**, with the latest an individual at SSP 6/25 (RD). Surprisingly, the only **Bobolinks** reported were 12 along Hoover Rd 6/3 (EZ). A handful of **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported (EBo et al.), with a high of three at BC 6/18 (CH). **Orchard Oriole** sightings increased in *Bedford* compared to 2022, and the high was eight at SSP 6/19 (EB).

Twenty-one species of warblers were reported in the county, three more than last year. A high of two **Worm-eating Warblers** was reported at SSP 6/3 (EZ). Few **Louisiana Waterthrush** were reported, but three were observed at BC 6/13 (CH). Three sightings of **Golden-winged Warblers** all occurred at SSP, with a high of three 6/3 (EZ). **Kentucky Warblers** were consistently heard at MM in Jun (M&LJ), the only location in *Bedford*. A few **Hooded Warblers** were reported in the county; a high of two was seen at RHS 6/1 (J&BC). Five **Cerulean Warbler** sightings were reported, with a high of two at BK (DR). **Northern Parula** were vocal in early to mid-Jun at SSP, with a high of five reported 6/3 (EZ). The only **Prairie Warbler** was spotted at SGL 261 on 6/18 (EB).

Observers: Mike and Laura Jackson, 8621 Black Valley Rd, Everett, PA 15537, 814-494-4439, jacksonlaura73@gmail.com, Edward Baptist, Aimee Benitez, Erika Bowman (EBo), Jan and Brent Chippendale, Ronald Doverspike, Carolyn Hendricks, Beth Layton, Terry Lodge, Kevin Palmer, Doug Raybuck, Barbra Salas, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, George Young, Eric Zawatski.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), EJ Breneman Quarry (BQ), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Kittatinny Ridge (KR), Lake Ontelaunee (LO).

A non-birding kayaker found Berks County's first **American White Pelican** on BML early on the morning of 6/16. Word spread on social media, and many birders saw and photographed the white giant at BML and later at nearby BQ. It was last seen at BQ early on 6/18 (JB).

Three overwintering duck species were tardy in leaving this year. Two **American Wigeons** were still at BQ 6/18 (JB). An imm male **Ruddy Duck** lingered at BQ until at least 7/8 (RK). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were at BMA 6/5 and 6/8 (DK, JS), one of them staying to 7/10 (DK). Over decades, **Ring-necked Duck** has been the most likely non-breeding duck to stay for part or all of the summer. A **Hooded Merganser** hen was seen with ducklings in a riverine swamp near Old Morlatton Village in May (LI). **Common Mergansers** again nested along the Manatawny Cr in Amity Twp (RS). Both merganser species have become well established as breeders.

A **Northern Bobwhite**, an escapee first reported in early spring, was seen near Gring's Mill 6/9 (P&JW). Three **Wild Turkey** hens leading 30 poults presented a vivid example of breeding success as they crossed Sell Rd in southern *Berks* 6/22 (AZ). Two hens with 12 poults were seen near Shoemakersville 7/15 and 7/21 (MW). Single turkeys were reported at many other places. **Ruffed Grouse** persists on the KR, where one was seen at HR 6/15 (KG). It is unusual for **Eurasian Collared-Doves** to be seen outside *Shartlesville*, but this summer one was seen to the west at Camp Swatara with three **Mourning Doves** 7/20 (EH). There were several drive-by viewings of one to four Eurasian Collared-Doves perched on utility wires along Main St in *Shartlesville* during the period. No nest or dependent young of this dove have yet been found at this colony.

One to two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard intermittently at all the usual places, but this was the first summer since 2015 during which no Black-billed Cuckoo was reported. An anomalous **Common Nighthawk**, maybe a late migrant, was seen early afternoon in *Fleetwood* 6/20 (DK). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** still sing through summer nights on the KR. Two were heard near Port Clinton 6/8 (DB), and as many as four were enjoyed by evening birders at *Northkill Gap* well into Aug.

Two **American Avocets**, apparently finding no suitable place to land, were photographed as they spent much of the afternoon 7/16 flying back and forth around LO (LI, TL, BL, P&JW). Refueling on their northbound flight were five to eight **Semipalmated Plovers** at BMA 6/5-7 (DK, JR, AW, MW). Southbound **Least Sandpipers**, **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** appeared as usual in small numbers in Jul and increased in

Aug (m.ob.). Presumably breeding **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported at about 10 places, one to three birds per location. Courtship behavior and territorial chases were sometimes noted.

Two late migrating **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BML 7/16 (BL, et al). A coastal storm pushed an adult **Laughing Gull** inland to BML 7/16 (JS ph.). The usual small group of less than 12 **Ring-billed Gulls** scavenged the beach at BML all summer. A **Common Tern** at BML 6/8-10 (BL, JR, P&JW) stayed long enough to give several birders good looks while photographing. One to six non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants**, annually summering birds, were occasionally reported at BQ, BML, LO, and on the Schuylkill R through Jul.

Every year starting in late May or Jun, local birders see adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at LO or BML and wonder where they might be nesting. No rookery has been found since 2014, but reports of juveniles in summer give hope that the 'Quok' may still breed in *Berks*. This year, there were about 10 reports of juveniles, all singletons, 7/17-8/23, probably including multiple sightings of some individuals. Most were seen with one to four adults at various places around LO and BML, but one juvenile was seen alone at School Rd pond in *Fleetwood* 8/15-23 (RK). Perhaps the upcoming bird atlas will raise interest in finding a rookery.

Pennsylvania's upcoming atlas may also confirm or debunk the perception that **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Barred Owl** have increased as breeders since the last atlas. There were five reports of the hawk and several of the owl in the wooded hills of eastern *Berks* this season, more than usual. The more secretive **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported singly at the usual places: piedmont forest around FCSP, the oak-forested KR, and the wooded hills of eastern *Berks*. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was confirmed breeding at three locations including Bastian Rd in Bowers (SFo), a nesting site active for decades. Singletons were seen at several other probable breeding locations. The only reported **Barn Owl** was seen when it flushed from a farm and was chased by an **American Kestrel** and other birds into a field in Heidelberg Twp 6/26. Perhaps the easiest way to confirm breeding by **American Kestrels** has been to watch for adults accompanied by fledged young on roadside utility wires in Jul. Ten such family groups, numbering three to six birds each, were reported at 10 farmland locations across the county this Jul, a very encouraging breeding outcome for this declining falcon.

Blue-headed Vireos were reported in non-breeding habitat at BML 6/1 (JS) and Heidelberg Twp 6/14 (BL) that belong in the late migrant group. Single birds were reported on the KR at *Northkill Gap* 6/5 (BL) and 6/10 (SF) and three were at HR 6/9 (KG) in hemlock breeding habitat, where annually found in summer. Early nesting **Horned Larks** have been inconspicuous by Jun, but likely breeders were seen or heard on various dates in the limestone farm belt of the Great Valley that extends across central *Berks*. There have been many **Purple Martin** colonies on farms in the Great Valley, but none documented by their owners or by birders except on drive-by counts. A colony at *Fleetwood Mennonite School* had about 50 birds 6/30.

Our only known **Bank Swallow** colony at Haines & Kibblehouse's Quarry near *Birdsboro* got little attention. Four birds were seen there 6/7 (TU) and nine on 6/11 (AW). The perception that the two **Cliff Swallow** colonies at LO are declining, as they are now 57 years old, was reinforced by a count of only 20 birds at each of the bridges in mid-Jun (RK). As recently as 2017, the count for both bridges was 140. The only other colony reported to be active, when there were once five, was the small one at the bridge on Old Church Rd at BML, where just four birds were seen 6/17 (EB).

There have been many reports over the years of **White-throated Sparrows** lingering into Jun. This year's bird was singing in a rhododendron thicket at HR 6/9 (KG). The grassland-sparrow trio continues to be well reported in *Berks* farmland. Up to six **Glossop Sparrows** were counted in *Hamburg's Monument Rd* hay fields in Jun (KG). As many as eight **Savannah Sparrows** were found in the shaggy pastures at *Rodale Experimental Farm* in *Maxatawny Twp* with several breeding confirmations. **Vesper Sparrow**, often the under-reported member of the trio, was cited seven times on seven farms. **Swamp Sparrow**, an uncommon and thinly distributed breeder, was reported twice in suitable breeding habitat. One was in a wetland along Ammon Rd near FCSP 7/18 (S&F), and two were at *Hamburg Commerce Park* basins 7/24 (SH).

One to four **Yellow-breasted Chats** pleased birders with their antics in Jun along the *Big Woods Trail* in FCSP, where many have gone to see them. One was reported at *Green Hills Preserve* 6/24 (AZ).

Bobolinks and **Eastern Meadowlarks** persisted in pockets of habitat that might sustain breeding, but reported numbers were small with mostly one to three birds per location, and sometimes more of Bobolinks, and breeding outcomes have been largely unknown. However, small groups have reproduced, evidenced by breeding confirmation of **Bobolink** at Goose Run Park near Pottstown, where only two or three birds were present (NW, JT).

Yet more additions to the lengthy list of tardy migrants of 2023 were a **Magnolia Warbler** and a **Canada Warbler** at Hay Cr 6/3 (BL), a **Blackpoll Warbler** at FCSP 6/4 (CL), and another at Hay Cr 6/13 (BL). A **Blackburnian Warbler** at HR 6/13 (KG), though singing in hemlocks, probably was part of this group. Counts of seven **Worm-eating Warblers** on the rocky slopes of Neversink Mt in Reading 6/11 (CL) and five at Northkill Gap on the KR 6/10 (SF) indicated healthy breeding populations. **Kentucky Warbler**, often confined to one or two locations, was reported at five this summer. Three were previously occupied sites, but birds on the Appalachian Trail near Rt 183 on 6/3 (RW) and at Bear Cr Resort in eastern *Berks* 7/15 (AR) were on new territory. **Hooded Warbler's** winning streak continued. Its stronghold has been the large, mature piedmont forest around FCSP, where 17 were counted in an old burn area on the *Berks/Chester* line 7/28 (PW), and 13 at neighboring Hopewell Furnace Natl Historic Site 7/13 (PW). Up to 10 were counted at HR on the KR in Jun (KG). About three were at each of two sites in the more fragmented woods of the eastern *Berks* hills in Jun (RK). **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Prairie Warbler**, all of which need some form of early successional habitat, were reported at only one or two sites each. Our specialty warblers at KR have been **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Singing Black-throated Blue Warblers were at three places in Jun (DB, KG, BL), more than usual. The slightly more common Black-throated Green Warblers were at about four places, including Hawk Mt Sanctuary, but seem to be best established in the hemlock/rhododendron ravine at HR, where two to four males have been found annually (KG).

One or two **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at each of 11 locations, which is about standard. **Dickcissels** returned to Rodale's rotationally grazed pastures for the eighth consecutive year, first seen 5/20 and last reported 7/30 (m.ob.). As in previous years, birders mostly reported one, sometimes two, males singing tirelessly from roadside utility wires. No female was reported until 7/30, when a male and female were photographed while perched near each other on a fence. There was no breeding confirmation. Dickcissels were reported on none of the other farms that had intermittently attracted them in the past.

Observers: **Rudy Keller**, rkeller544@gmail.com, Joe Beatrice, Ed Bernot, Dan Brennan, Kevin Dougherty, Steve Ferreri, Steve Fordyce (Sfo), Kerry Grim, Scott Harp, Eric Hartshaw, Russ Hoffman, Linda Ingram, Dan Knarr, Chris Langman, Tom Lecky, Brian Lineaweaver, Andrew Reiter, John Ruggles, Jo Spilde, Robert Sprague, Stollery & Flood, Jaime Thomas, Todd Underwood, Patty Werth, Nicholas Wilson, Renee Wolcott, Andy Wlasniewski, Matt Wlasniewski, Peter & Jane Wolfe, Art Zdancewic.

Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park and IBA (CCSP), Frosty Hollow (FH), Lakemont Park Pond (LPP), Little Juniata River (LJR), Lower Trail (LT), Lower Trail-Cove Dale Trailhead (LT-CDT), Lower Trail-Mt. Etna Trailhead (LT-MET), Lower Trail—Mt Etna to Williamsburg (LT-MW), Plummer's Hollow Nature Reserve (PHNR), State Gamelands 147-North (SGL147-N), State Gamelands 158 (SGL158), State Gamelands 198 (SGL198), and State Game Lands 278-North (SGL278-N).

Birders detected 137 species in the county this season. Records have been gleaned from eBird and augmented by the NFC record from PHNR. Highlights included a first eBird county record of **Short-billed Dowitcher**, two **Swainson's Warblers**, and a count of 114 **Purple Martins** at a Sinking Valley farm. This summer was the first time that nocturnal flight calls have been recorded continuously for *Blair* over the entire period, revealing the migratory movements of shorebirds, late migratory thrushes, and July post-breeding dispersal (molt-migration) of some warblers and others.

All-time county highs on eBird were recorded for several species. Eleven **House Wrens** were tallied at LT-MW 6/2 (NB), six **Northern Mockingbirds** were at CCSP 6/4 (MK), and nine **Brown Thrashers**, mostly in pairs, were at PHNR 6/18 (MB). The 114 Purple Martins, tallied 6/20 (NK), were at the breeding colony at Hilltop Produce on Stevens Hill Rd.

Unusual waterfowl records were few but included a single **Ring-necked Duck** that hung out at CCSP 6/4-22 (m.ob.) and a **Greater Scaup** at Spring Dam Park in Roaring Spring 7/6 (TS). **Common Merganser** appeared throughout the season, with multiple weekly sightings and up to 15 at a time along the LJR at PHNR (MB), one seen 6/17 at the LT-MW (NB), and five at CCSP 6/22 (JK). The presence of mixed family groups with young on the LJR suggests that the species breeds in either northern *Blair* or adjacent *Huntingdon*.

After a strong showing as NFCs during Spring migration, **Black-billed Cuckoos** became quite scarce. At least one pair was suspected to breed at PHNR and the species was recorded through the season there (MB); elsewhere, singles were tallied at CCSP 6/5 (CS), FH 6/1 and 7/30-31 (BB, LB), and along the breeding bird route BBS62S32 6/17 (RH, SM).

Common Nighthawk migration wrapped up with singles recorded at PHNR 6/1 and 6/8 (MB), with a 6/29 record there suggesting breeding somewhere in the area. MK recorded two 6/12 and one 7/19 in Altoona and believes that the species may be breeding in that city. Meanwhile, **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was recorded through the season at PHNR (MB), where at least a pair breeds.

A daily count of **Chimney Swift** revealed the numbers that passed over the LJR and PHNR at dawn and dusk to and from nesting locations in Tyrone (MB). In June, the high count was 23 (6/18). In July, 30 were present by 7/8 and up to 60 by the end of the month. This is not a complete count of the town's population, as many others enter and exit Tyrone from locations invisible to the vantage point of the count.

Shorebirds were well represented in Blair this season with the advent of continuous NFC recording that captured the end of the northward migrations in June and the commencement of the southward migration in July. The stars were Short-billed Dowitchers, with at least two passing low over Brush Mountain at PHNR 7/1 (MB) and around six more 7/12 over the course of a 2.5-minute period. The last recorded **Virginia Rail** was 6/8 and **Semipalmated Plover** was recorded 6/3, both as NFCs over PHNR (MB). In July, a **Least Sandpiper** went over PHNR the night of 7/19 (MB), while a **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at the LT-MET 7/18 (DG) and recorded 7/21 over PHNR (MB).

Three **Caspian Terns** 6/22 at CCSP (JK) were quite a surprise, while the season's only **Double-crested Cormorant** at CCSP the same day (JK) was less unusual.

Great Egret, never common in the county, had a decent showing this summer, with a single recorded at CCSP 6/17 (MK), 6/20 (ER), and 6/21 (JL). One was seen over PHNR 7/17 (MB).

One to three **Black Vultures** were seen regularly and usually together through the season at PHNR (MB) and JK saw three at LT-CDT. 6/28. Single **Osprey** were seen at CCSP 6/15 (KB), 7/4 (m.ob.), and 7/13 (ER), at PHNR 6/3 (MB), at LT-MW 6/2 (NB), and 7/4 at Duncansville (EB). The biggest raptor surprise was a **Northern Harrier** seen flying over a field 2km W of Williamsburg 6/17 (RH, SM). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen at PHNR, where they potentially breed, 6/18 and 7/9 (MB), and at SGL158 (RH, SM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was heard along the LJR at PHNR 6/15 (MB) and MN recorded two at SGL278-N 7/26.

Red-headed Woodpecker continued to increase, though nesting was not reported. Records of singles came from Frankstown Twp 6/2 (RZ), Fort Roberdeau CP 6/10 (BF), Blue Knob 6/0 (KS), and SGL278-N 6/27 and 7/13 (MN, ph.).

Merlin, another species apparently on the increase, was recorded in downtown Altoona 6/19 and 7/6 (MK), with two seen together, indicating breeding activity, on the latter date. One was hunting at the corner of the PHNR in Tyrone 6/29 and 7/31 (MB).

What were presumably late migrant **Alder Flycatchers** were reported twice at night at PHNR 6/7 (MB), while one was seen 7/30 at SGL278-N (MN).

White-eyed Vireo is a suspected breeder along the 6-to-10 trail in the Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS. Two separate observers reported the species from at least two distinct locations there 6/5 (MC reported one, MS reported two, with ph.), PI photographed one 6/6, and MC saw two individuals 0.9 miles apart 6/13. In addition, one was heard singing 6/2 along the LT (NB).

The **Gray-cheeked Thrush** migration tapered off finally at the very late date of 6/10, with one to two birds migrating over per night at PHNR (MB), according to the NFCs. **Swainson's Thrushes** held on a little longer, with the last definitive NFCs 6/16 (at least four separate individuals), but the species returned, presumably heading the other

direction, a couple weeks later in July, and were recorded sparsely through that month. The July returnees may have been failed breeders.

Grasshopper Sparrow singles were recorded via NFC flying over PHNR through the season (MB) and indicate birds displaced from breeding habitats. They were recorded in good habitat during the day 6/20 at Scotch Valley Rd E of Quarry Rd and at Lower Piney Creek Rd near Williamsburg (JK). **Vesper Sparrows** were recorded on the same date in the same area, with two each at Lower Piney Creek Rd, Cedar Hill Rd, and Clover Creek Rd (JK).

The sole record of a **Yellow-breasted Chat** came from CCSP 6/22 (JK). A **Bobolink's** nocturnal flight call recorded over PHNR 7/26 (MB) was probably of a migrant, as the species begins to migrate at this time.

The stand-out among the 21 warblers recorded was the **Swainson's Warbler** at LT-MET, where two singing males were heard 6/15 and a single on 6/28 (NB). **Tennessee Warbler**, perhaps fleeing the Canadian wildfires, returned to PHNR by 7/22 (MB) and to FH 7/30 (BB, LB, ph.). An adult as well as a juvenile were seen at the latter location. **Kentucky Warbler** had a poor showing again this year, with a single record from SGL147-N 6/20 (JK). Single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were recorded at SGL278-N 6/10 (MN) and PHNR 6/18 (AP). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler** 7/14 at PHNR (MB) may have been a molt-migrant, as the species does not breed in the hotspot. Where it does breed, along the Lower Trail, two were recorded 6/28 at the LT-CDT (JK), and up to three were reported at the LT-MET 6/28-7/18 (m.ob.). A single **Prairie Warbler** was heard singing at SGL198 north of US22 6/4. Molt-migrant **Canada Warblers** returned to riparian habitat at PHNR 7/23 (MB), and a single was recorded 6/1 at FH (LB). As for other high-altitude breeders in the county, their appropriate breeding habitat was not surveyed this summer.

Multiple **Black-and-white Warblers**, **American Redstarts**, and **Indigo Buntings** were picked up regularly on NFCs at PHNR (MB) through the period. These may indicate local nocturnal overflights due to displacement from breeding habitat, molt-migration, or even long-distance migration of early breeders or non-breeders southward.

Observers: Mark Bonta, 970 Pennsylvania Ave Apt. 1, Tyrone, PA 16686, (814) 600-8394, markabonta@yahoo.com, Kathleen Bechdel, Lisa Blazure, Nick Bolgiano, Erika Bowman, Brian Burket, Lowell Burket, Michael Croyle, Brian Freiwald, Deborah Grove, Rebecca Hart, Pam Illig, Jon Kauffman, Michael Kensinger, Jack Lundy, Mark Nale, Steve Manns, Andrew Price, Eric Reitz, Tracy S, Max Scheeler, Connor Schmitt, Karen Sell, Randa Z.

Bucks County

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

June was fairly cool at 3°F below average and with precipitation of 0.12 inches above average. July was a tad bit warm at 0.9°F above average, with precipitation at 0.96 inches above average. At times, hazy smoke from massive Canadian wildfires cast a pall over the landscape. The total number of 142 species was just above the five-year average of 139, bringing the new average to 140. Historical occurrence data come from Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* and from this journal. Multiple species, especially of warblers, were late in their spring departures. Few rarities were found, although *Bucks* did briefly cash in on the latest "Spoonbill Summer" dispersal event. 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.

Most summers leave at least one **Snow Goose** in the wake of migrant flocks, sometimes an injured bird. One was feeding in a Plumstead Twp field 6/15 and 6/20 (BS, WS). The high count for **Mute Swans** was just six at PWT 6/20 (DB). Up to four **American Black Ducks** were at PVP through the first week of Jun (ED, GV), with those four on 6/3 (AM). Another four were in Bensalem Twp on the DEL 7/27 (KB), making this summer an unusually good one for this species. **Hooded Merganser** breeds in the county now in small numbers, and a female and 10 ducklings at PWT 6/18 were a good confirmation of that (DD ph.). Three tardy **Ruddy Ducks** were at PVP 6/1 (KF), one of which stayed to 6/4 (m.ob.).

The highest reported group of **Wild Turkeys** was a family of at least 11 at PVP 6/1 (AM). The number of sites where 23 **Yellow-billed**

Cuckoos and three **Black-billed Cuckoos** were detected hovered around average this summer. One of the Black-billed reports at PVP 6/4 (KI) could have been a late migrant as opposed to a breeder. Four **Common Nighthawks** were reported at separate locations to 6/8 (JBH, AH, PJ, KRB). The relatively early summer date, plus the fact that three of four sites were on or near the DEL, suggests that these were late migrants. No rails were reported this summer. On 6/14, a Bedminster Twp homeowner photographed a **Sandhill Crane** on his property before the bird headed north (*fide* DF). Although rare in summer, reports have been increasing in recent years.

A single **Semipalmated Plover** was at BRD 6/4, just a bit late (VP). A general lack of shorebird habitat at BRD and other sites resulted in an exceptionally low season total of two **Least Sandpipers**. One was at BRD 6/4 (VP, AM), and a returning bird flew past the same site 7/31 (AM). An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** was closely photographed at PWT 6/18 (DD), part of a statewide migration pulse by our latest spring migrating "peep." The latest of three **Semipalmated Sandpiper** reports (ED, AM, VP) was of two individuals that stayed in Richland Twp to 6/7 (CP). **Solitary Sandpipers** were more solitary than usual this summer. Although the species was reported at six sites (m.ob.), the high count was only of four at PVP 7/31 (TH). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at PVP 6/1 (WC, AM) was a rare Jun report. Oddly, not even one was reported in July! Likewise, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at BRD 6/4 (VP) was both a new spring late date and the only report for the summer season. The total of nine reported shorebird species this summer was low, but it was the numbers reported that were even more exceptional.

An estimate of 145 **Laughing Gulls** at PWT 7/25 (EZ) was good to have for this regular summer gull on the lower DEL. An adult in non-breeding plumage at PVP 6/6 was less common than far inland (ED). **Herring Gull** is also present in summer on the river, as evidenced by 80 in Morrisville 7/11 and 90 at PWT 7/25 (both EZ). No lingering Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, unlike some previous years where one or more could be found at NSP or PVP during the season. Their larger **Great Black-backed Gull** cousins were seen in small numbers on the lower DEL at four sites (m.ob.), with a high of 3 at PWT 7/25 (EZ). **Caspian Terns** are the most dependable to appear in the summer months here. A late spring adult flew north past Owls Nest Park 6/6 (CF), while Jul records included one in Quakertown 7/26 (BB) and 2 at PVP 7/2 (KF), with another at PVP 7/4 (WC). A single **Forster's Tern** at PVP 7/13 was early enough to retain the full black cap of breeding plumage (ML). The total of four gull and two tern species was a bit below average for this time period.

From time to time, a summering **Common Loon** can be found in one of the larger lakes or along the DEL in the county. This summer was unusual in likely having five different individuals vacationing in our waters. Two nonbreeding plumage birds were at NSP 6/5-7/23 (m.ob.), and a breeding plumage adult joined them on 7/23 (TT). Another breeding plumage bird was on the river in Lower Makefield Twp 7/28 (AM), and a non-breeding individual was on the river in Bensalem Twp 7/24-28 (KB). A total of at least 41 **Great Egrets** were spread widely over 16 sites (m.ob.), with a high of 18 at Bristol 7/23 (DF). It was a little bit unusual to have neither Snowy Egret nor Little Blue Heron for the summer report, but sometimes it takes them until later in the summer to reach the county (spoiler alert!).

Black-crowned Night-Heron observations included some odd twists this season. At the usual Silver L Park location, one adult was seen 6/11 (DD). On 6/10, an adult flew low over the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Bensalem Twp (AB). An adult flew past NSP well after dark 7/1, lit up by marina lights (EB), while a bird that was flushed at the north end of NSP 7/5 may have been an immature (JBH). By far the rarest wading birds this season, two immature **Roseate Spoonbills** were seen briefly at Core Creek Park 7/16 (TR ph.). Despite many people searching, the pink pair was not seen again. This was just the second *Bucks* spoonbill record and the first involving more than one bird.

As far as nesting raptors go, there was no official report on **Osprey** nest numbers, especially along the DEL, but multiple nests existed (m.ob.). **Bald Eagles** have had multiple nests in the county for a while now, too. This year, the PVP nest successfully fledged 2 juvs (LF). **Broad-winged Hawk** breeding activity was confirmed at several sites in the upper half of the county (m.ob.), although no official report was received from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's monitoring efforts. Single **Barred Owls**, denizens of deciduous woodlands and swamps, were reported at three locations this summer (CV, VM, NR).

One of the developments birders have been keeping an eye on is the local increase in **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, particularly during

breeding season. At least 10 sites had these beautiful woodpeckers this summer, including a couple sites with multiple pairs, and many birders watched one or two pairs at NSP through the season (m.ob.). Photographs of the adults showed that while typical insect prey was brought to the nest (cicada sp, various larvae, etc), the woodpeckers were also bringing back non-native wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*) and other berries for the nestlings (KF, MR, JT).

The following table presents the results of the annual **American Kestrel** nestbox project carried out by Devich Farbotnik:

American Kestrel Project								
	2023	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17	'16
Boxes	96	93	92	88	85	77	76	71
Nests	72	68	73	67	62	62	60	52
w/eggs								
Nests failed	16	?	11	9	13	10	8	3
Nests fledged	56	60	62	58	49	52	52	49
Eggs laid	330	319	343	316	283	291	274	248
Fledged	229	273	239	253	~213	208	208	203

Overall, it was a bit of a down year for kestrels. Although a good number of eggs were laid, only 244 out of 330 hatched. The 16 failed nests were a new high count for the project, and 5 of the 56 nests fledged produced only one juvenile. More predator guards will be installed before the next season (DF). **Peregrine Falcons** were documented at five sites, a normal total for this reintroduced breeder (m.ob.).

A late migrant **Alder Flycatcher** was heard singing at PVP 6/3, always a good Jun bird (ED, AM vr.). Groups of four to six **Common Ravens**, some of which were likely family groups, were seen at eight sites (m.ob.). This reflects their status as a well-established breeder here. Sadly, Horned Lark went unreported for a second straight summer. They have been known to breed at MKF in recent years.

Here is a run-down on this year's **Purple Martin** nest monitoring in **Bucks**:

Purple Martin Colony – East Rockhill								
	2023	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17	'16
Gourds	144	144	144	143	144	144	132	134
Nests*	140	137	134	102	137	141	126	119
Nests w/Eggs	81	67	51	64	48	78	73	96
Eggs Laid**	356	284	260	252	209	291	273	459
Eggs Hatched	197	189	154	129	140	180	112	364
Fledged	159	178	118	121	128	167	108	346
Failed Nests	29	12	14	29	12	25	37	9

Purple Martin Colony – Penn-Warner Tract								
	2023	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17	
Compartments	60	60	64	60	60	60	60	
Nests*	36	27	31	34	24	56	38	
Nests w/Eggs	29	24	22	22	14	27	29	
Eggs Laid**	121	78	77	53	71	96	90	
Eggs Hatched	45	42	40	44	?	47	41	
Fledged	40	40	40	44	51	34	32	
Failed Nests	17	?	?	9	0	13	15	

*Gourds or compartments where nesting cups with added leaves and/or material were found. **Instances where first laying was unsuccessful and a second laying occurred.

Both martin colonies fared a bit below average in terms of young fledged, despite many eggs laid at both sites. Multiple nestlings were found dead in gourds. At least for the E Rockhill colony, drought in May and early Jun was a suspected factor in poor nest productivity. Many thanks to

Devich Farbotnik for his dedicated work in maintaining the colonies, and to Hart Rufe for monitoring and providing a summary for the E Rockhill Twp colony.

The earliest report of **Bank Swallows** for the season was an intriguing one from the DEL at Washington Crossing 6/28. Somewhere around 11 birds were well described, and young were observed being fed (DB). Especially along the river, breeding is rarely confirmed but should be watched. **Cliff Swallows** were watched, and breeding birds were reported from six bridges along the DEL in the middle and upper county (DB, m.ob.). There is also a colony at PVP which has dwindled some lately, although this year's colony reached about 35 birds when all the juveniles emerged by 7/23 (EZ, m.ob.).

At least one, possibly two, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were detected in pine trees at NSP 7/24 (AH). While this is a bit surprising considering that this fall is not expected to be a flight year for them, late Jul is the time that they typically begin to disperse into the region. Last Jul featured quite a few more reports by this date. The discovery of two singing **Marsh Wrens** in Neshaminy SP 6/18 (AH) was somehow both notable and very plausible at the same time. At least one bird remained 7/1 (DB) and 7/2 (DF). Summer reports, especially in mid-Jun, have been rare since breeding at Quakertown Swamp apparently stopped nearly 20 years ago. However, singing Marsh Wrens were documented just a few miles away from Neshaminy SP in New Jersey for much of the summer (m.ob.), and they are common breeders farther down the DEL on both shores.

One to two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen and heard at the annual Van Sant Airport site 6/4-7/13 (m.ob.). None were reported from other areas this season, but more breeding habitat certainly exists and has not always been checked. An adult **White-crowned Sparrow** was described at the same time as a **White-throated Sparrow** in Hansell Park in Buckingham Twp 6/13 (BG). Because White-crowned has a much more northerly core breeding range than White-throated, it is quite rare in Pennsylvania during the summer months. The county late date is listed as 6/16, but no other records have occurred during the modern eBird era in **Bucks**. Two other late **White-throated Sparrows** at PVP 6/4 (KI ph.) were a good find, but more regular Jun lingerers. A pair of **Savannah Sparrows** near MKF 6/12 were in a solid date for breeding birds, and indeed they have bred in that area before (RS). It was concerning that **Bobolinks** were reported breeding at only three sites, much lower than usual (m.ob.). Next year's report will likely give more insight into whether this year simply saw fewer birders looking or if there has been a sharp decline in progress. **Eastern Meadowlark** was a little more encouraging, with birds reported at seven sites (m.ob.).

As many as 20 species of warbler were found during the summer months, much higher than usual. However, only 12 were breeding and two more were historical breeders reported just once this season. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was recorded singing at PVP 6/2(CP vr.), but not subsequently. A male **Mourning Warbler** got close to the observer at NSP 6/13 (Barbara Bennett). This is a new county spring late date by nearly two weeks. A singing **Hooded Warbler** at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/4 may have wandered over from the breeding cluster that persists at nearby Baldpate Mountain in New Jersey (MG). They are all but gone as regular breeders in **Bucks**.

Magnolia Warblers were one of several species that continued their migration into Jun this year. The previous spring late date was 5/31, but three individuals surpassed that. One was at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/1 (SS, LWC), another at Churchville Park 6/3 (WS), and one was at Silver L Park as late as 6/10 (DD). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was still in Solebury Twp 6/5, a full 10 days after the previously known spring departure date (JBH). **Blackpoll Warblers** have regularly passed through in the beginning of Jun, so four birds at different sites up until 6/5 were not that strange (m.ob.). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen by many in riverside sycamore trees 6/20-7/16 (EB, AH, TH).

Add **Black-throated Green Warbler** to the list of warblers that forgot to check the calendar. A very late one was singing at Neshaminy SP 6/9, a new spring late date by almost a week (KL). A slightly less late **Canada Warbler** sang at PVP 6/1 (AM). However, one in Solebury Twp 6/9 was quite late and set a new spring late date (DF). **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in good numbers this season, which made sense given their gradual range expansion. One or two were at MKF as usual 6/17-7/13 (RS), and at least one was at PWT 6/18 through Jul (DD, DF). A breeding pair was found at Holicong Park in Buckingham Twp 7/3, staying through at least 7/30 (DS, m.ob.). Another pair was seen in Upper Makefield Twp 7/26-29 (CP) and yet another in Solebury Twp 7/28 (DF).

Observers: Paul Heveran, 27621 E Quartzite Dr, Florence, AZ 85132, 267-272-9225, birdmeister.paul@gmail.com, Jane Barker-Hunt, Barbara Beck, Dave Belford, Adrian Binns, Erich Boenzli, Kimberly Bou, William Culp, Dawn Denner, Edward Dolan, Lynne Falterbauer, Devich Farbotnik, Kevin Fox, Carolyn Fraser, Mark Gallagher, Brandi George, Andrew Harrington, Trish Harrington, Karin Isett, Paul Johnson, Kerry Loux, Michael Lyman, Vicky Mahmoud, Annie Milionis, August Mirabella, Vinobha Pannerselvam, Cody Peters, Christopher Plummer (CPI), Karen Rankin-Baransky, Mark Raouzon, Noah Raven, Tom Rich, Susan Sherman, Richard Smith, Douglas Stemke, Barbara Stollsteimer, Philip Stollsteimer, Will Stollsteimer, Jaime Thomas, Terry Tindall, George Varkoly, Colette Vranicar, Lesley Weissman-Cook, Eric Zawatski.

Butler County

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

Following three weeks of dry weather in May, the weather service declared western Pennsylvania in a drought watch. Some rain brought relief, but on 7/7 the Department of Environmental Protection and the Commonwealth Drought Task Force issued a drought watch for the entire state. It was not known if passerines were affected, but resident geese and ducks, which were **Wood Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and **Common Mergansers**, raised broods, and **Virginia Rails** were confirmed breeding in a new location.

Double-digit numbers of up to 90 **Canada Geese** gathered at LO through the season with smaller flocks at LA. **Wood Ducks** with young were widespread, as were **Mallards**. One **American Black Duck** was present at LO 7/22 (KB). **Hooded Mergansers** were confirmed as successfully nesting in at least five locations, while **Common Mergansers** continued breeding in remote corners of the county. Unexpected was a male **Common Merganser** at LA 7/25 (MC) which would continue into August.

Small flocks of **Wild Turkeys** were in many places, but the only report of **Ruffed Grouse** was a lone bird at Burton Road 7/19 (RN). Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** outnumbered those of **Black-billed Cuckoos** by five to one. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied near Lutherlyn during a BBS stop 6/4 (MAK, GK). One was heard at Spitzer Rd 6/7 (KB), and two were there 7/7 (MAK, GK). Known to have bred at SGL 95 and in marshes around LA, **Virginia Rails** were discovered nesting in a new location; two downy young were photographed at Glade Run L 6/5 (KH), and this continued to 6/11. **Sora** were observed at Stoughton Rd 6/11-7/1 (MC et al.).

Sandhill Cranes were rather scarce, being reported only from the northwest area of the county and SGL 95. Ten shorebird species were observed: **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Of these, **Short-billed Dowitcher** is the least frequently seen in *Butler*. One of very few reported in western Pennsylvania this season was photographed foraging at LO 7/22-23 (KB). Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** have summered at LA with no evidence of attempts at breeding. A **Caspian Tern** stopped at LA 7/5 (EH), and up to five **Common Terns** were photographed there 6/9-25 (MC). A **Common Loon** lingered at LA until 6/2 (MC), and single **Great Egrets** were observed at LO 7/6-10.

One lowlight of the season was an attack on a well-known Osprey nest at Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. The Moraine Preservation Fund sponsors a webcam on this nest, and the attack was recorded. A Great Horned Owl raided the nest, and the Ospreys were unable to fend off the owl to save their offspring. The owl was recorded on video taking all three juveniles. The episode was posted on Friends of Moraine website and elicited a wide range of responses from sadness and sympathy to outrage, then sober reminders that unfortunate events are frequent in the natural world. On the positive side, there are at least six other nests around and just outside Moraine State Park and at least eight other juvenile Ospreys continued to thrive.

Bald Eagles successfully reared young at SGL 95 and LA. After their nest blew down during the winter, the pair at LO may have built another, but it was not found and juveniles were not seen. Three resident owl species were accounted for but seemed scarcer than in recent years:

Eastern Screech-Owl, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl**. Occasionally confirmed breeding at certain locations in *Butler*, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were present in Clay Twp 6/4 and 6/27 (BB), while **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were enjoyed in at least eight widespread locations. On the increase in *Butler*, a **Merlin** was observed at Stoughton Rd 7/29 (MC et al.). **Common Ravens** kept to their usual summer pattern, being observed less frequently and at fewer locations than in any other season. **Bank Swallow** reports have also increased in the past few years, with up to eight seen at LA (MC). During the second Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA), **Winter Wrens** were confirmed breeding only in the glaciated northwest section of the county. Three were heard singing at two locations in the northeast section 6/25 (KB). Grassland Sparrows were hard to come by with Worth Twp being the only area to host these three: **Grasshopper Sparrows**, **Savannah Sparrows**, and **Henslow's Sparrows**. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at two locations, near Mars and Harrisville, during BBSs (MAK, GK).

During the second BBA, **Northern Waterthrush** was found only in the northwest quadrant of the county, but one was noted at Todd Sanctuary 6/21 during an outing of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. Overall, 15 warbler species were observed, the two most unusual being a male **Blackpoll Warbler** recorded singing at Clay Twp 6/4 (BB), and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** observed at Thorn Res 6/2 (KB).

Observers: Oscar Miller, aoscarmiller3@gmail.com, 412-855-0483, Brendyn Baptiste, Kimberly Berry, Martin Carlin, Eric M. Hall, Karlee Holmes, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Richard Nugent.

Cambria County

Locations: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Three waterfowl reports are of note. The first was a **Tundra Swan** present at Hinckston Run Res 6/22 and 7/8 (AM). A **Lesser Scaup** and **Ring-necked Duck** continued together at the Marina at PG 6/3 (AL). Two **American Avocets** were seen at PG Marina 7/21 (DG). Only one **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen, at Hinckston Run Res 7/28 (AM).

A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in downtown Johnstown flying over Central Park 6/2 (MHu). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at Colver Res 7/21 (PI, WI). One **Fish Crow** was reported at PG 7/4 (PI, WI). Only one **Horned Lark** was found outside of Patton 6/3 (MH, RH) in an area known to be breeding habit in the past.

Reports from Gallitzin SF had good numbers for **Grasshopper Sparrows** 6/18, 7/3, and 7/12, a high number of seven **Bobolink** 6/18, 7/3, and 7/12, and high count of nine **Eastern Meadowlark** 6/18 and 7/3 (BS, DP). **Eastern Meadowlark** continued at PG, observed 7/4 and 7/23 (PI, WI).

Observers: Pam Illig, 2091 Hixton Road, Duncansville, PA 16635, pillig24@yahoo.com, Dave Gobert, Matthew Hunt (MHu), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Winnie Illig, Adam Leisenring, Andrew Mack, David Poder, Bob Stewart.

Cameron County

Locations: Sterling Run Mines (SRM), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP).

There were 115 species found this season. Thirty **Mallards** were seen at SSP 6/11 (MS). Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at Emporium 6/3 (AS). Three **American Woodcocks** were at SSP 6/8 (AS), and five **Great Blue Herons** were there 7/16 (MS). An early **Osprey** was at Sterling Run 7/26 (KJ). Five **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at SRM 7/24 (AS). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, along with one juvenile, visited a feeder at Britton Hill 7/23 (S&LZ).

Five **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were found at SRM 7/4 (AS). Three **Acadian Flycatchers** were at Rich Valley 6/15 (BB). Three **Alder Flycatchers** were seen at SRM 6/8 (AS). Ten **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at SSP 6/18 (MS), and 45 **Cliff Swallows** were there 7/22 (MS). Four **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at SRM 7/23 (AS). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SSP 6/25 and a **Brown Creeper** 6/8, as was a rare **Northern Mockingbird** 6/25 (all MS). Eight **Veeries** were found at SRM 7/4 (AS) and seven **Wood Thrushes** at the same location 6/15 (BB).

Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at SRM 7/22 (AS). Two **White-throated Sparrows** were at Hicks Run 7/22 (AS). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at SRM 7/15 (AS), as were two **Bobolinks** 7/22 (AS), 11 **Common Yellowthroats** 7/24 (AS), and five **Hooded Warblers** 7/24 (AS). Ten **Blackburnian Warblers** were at SSP 6/8 (MS). Seven **Indigo Buntings** were at SRM 7/4 (AS).

Observers: Mark Johnson, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, Pa 15832, 814-546-2886, luckybirder@gmail.com, Brendan Baptiste, Kathy Johnson, Matt Schenck, Andy Sidelinger, Steve & Laura Zoschg.

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Dreibelbis Birding Area, formerly known as Julian Wetlands (JUL), Duck/Centre Furnace Pond (DUCK), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), State College (STCO).

Rarities heard during NFCs (Nocturnal Flight Counts) are contributing reports of rarities to the *Centre* list each season. Data from these counts provided the only record of four of the 23 species included in this report, and one of only two reports for a fifth species. Each of the following rare species were observed in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Common Merganser**, **Osprey**, and **Northern Waterthrush**. Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A rare **American Black Duck** was spotted at BESP 6/17 (AM). **Hooded Merganser** was reported in three locations. On 6/4, a female was observed at a Louisiana Waterthrush survey site near Ginter (MK), and another was seen in the Sinking Cr area 6/9 (LR). As many as four were present at JUL 6/2-7/29, with up to two being juv or imm (MN, et al.). One **Pied-billed Grebe** also at JUL was present 6/7-7/5 (SS, KO, GY).

Virginia Rails were identified at three locations. Two were at Curtin Wetland 6/4, when one was seen while another was calling (MoM). Nearly all reports of Virginia Rails at JUL 6/6-7/25 mentioned only one bird (MN, et al.). However, the last observation 7/25 (DH) reported "loud screechy calls ... [while] another called in return from afar. [The birder] got a few glimpses of the close one." One was also heard at BMSP 7/3 (JL).

First reported in April, a casually occurring **Common Gallinule** continued through 6/5 at JUL (MD). This was the eighth breeding-season record. The first recorded observation of this species was of three birds at the McCoy Dam in 1952. In 1954, a pair was present at DUCK, and in 1955, a confirmed nest containing 10 eggs was found there. Additional observations of single birds were made in 2004 at Toftrees and SGL 176/Toftrees and was probably the same bird, 2018 at JUL, and 2020 at SCO.

An **American Coot** was spotted 7/18 at JUL (CE, KE). This is the fifth observation of this species during breeding season. Previous sightings included single birds at BMSP in 1999, DUCK in 2021, and BESP in 2022. These were most probably early or late migrants. Two birds, a possible breeding pair, were noted at BESP in 1997.

Five rare shorebird species were reported, three of which were identified only at an NFC station in STCO. These included one casually occurring **Upland Sandpiper** 7/22, one or two casually occurring **Short-billed Dowitchers** 7/9-20, and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/9-19 (all JG). At least three **Least Sandpipers** were reported at the NFC station in STCO 7/20-31 (JG). Two were present at Howard Park and boat launch 7/22 (SS). The only reported **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed at BESP 7/18 "foraging around the small wet areas on the dam breast" (CE, KE, RS). Considering that most of these observations occurred in the latter half of Jul, it was likely that most, if not all, of these reports were of early migrating birds.

Two to six **Caspian Terns** were observed flying at BESP 6/16 (JP). An adult **Common Loon** was seen swimming and diving at various locations on the lake at BESP 6/22-7/8 (JP, et al.). This was probably the same bird that was reported "swimming on the lake" at Howard 6/21 (AF), because the lake referred to in the records for each location is the same lake. Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were spotted at BMSP 6/2-

7/23 (JL, et al.) and at BESP 7/25-29 (CE, MD). Up to three **Great Egrets** visited BESP 6/17-7/6 (AM, et al.), including one that flew into a tree and perched there for a while.

Two **Northern Harriers** were observed. An imm female was seen at the Mid-State Airport 7/21 (JK, KA). The other was seen flying over the parking lots and nearby fields at the baseball stadium at Penn State's University Park campus (MM).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported near Port Matilda 7/19 (GN). One **Merlin** was spotted in STCO 6/28 as it flew overhead and perched in a tree (JG). Although there was a confirmed nest in the STCO area in 2021, there was no evidence that this bird was one of a nesting pair.

At least one **Swainson's Thrush** was recorded in each of nine NFC counts at a STCO station 6/18-7/30 (JG). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, a summer rarity, was seen 6/23-24 at Penn State's Arboretum (JG, et al.). Another birder observed a **White-throated Sparrow** at the PSU-Central Campus area 6/7. A **Nashville Warbler** was reported at BESP 7/30 (DC, SD). In SCO, the only reported **Mourning Warbler** was spotted 6/3 (DRn).

Observers: N. Butkovich, njbutkovich@verizon.net, Kevin Abbott, Anonymous eBirder, Daniel Curry, Shiyu Ding, Michael Dreibelbis, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Alicia Folk, Joe Gyekis, Dan Hannon, Jon Kauffman, Michael Kensinger, Jack Lachendro, Alan MacEachren, Matt Marsden, Moses Michelsohn (MoM), Gail L. Nale, Mark Nale, Kazumi Ohira, Julia Plummer, Larry Ramsey, Debra Rittelman, Robert Snyder, Stew Stewart, George Young.

Chester County

Locations: Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GH), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP).

Uncommon breeders in *Chester*, nine **Hooded Mergansers** were observed during a float trip down the Pottstown R 6/10 (RG), while one to two birds were reported from MCSP during the period. On this same trip, 15 **Common Mergansers** were observed. Another significant report of eight birds came from East Brandywine Cr 7/8 (AR).

Identified by call, a lingering **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from Schuylkill R Trail 6/19 (SSt). Also heard was **Common Nighthawk** with two reports in early Jun, and **Eastern Whip-poor-will** from GH 6/2, where it breeds. The second sighting of **Common Gallinule** at Exton Park was reported 7/11 during the monthly Birds-and-Brews Walk; the bird was last seen 7/14. A lingering **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Mosquito Lane Retention Pond 6/9-12. Jul brought the first reports of "fall" shorebirds, including **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper** (the only documented *Chester* nesting shorebird, excluding **Killdeer** and **American Woodcock**), **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. A report of **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Glenville Farm Pond 7/24 (LL) was a bit early. A few single-bird-single-day reports of **Ring-billed Gull** came from MCSP and Struble L, while three birds were at Exton Square 7/19 (DS). MCSP and Struble L as well as Octorara Res were also the location of **Caspian Tern**, another single bird seen on a single day.

Long anticipated, the presence of **Neotropic Cormorant** in *Chester* was finally documented 6/9 (LL, m.ob.) at MCSP, only the second state record; the first was found in *Lycoming* in 2021. Fortunately, the bird remained until 7/21, allowing many observers to define the obvious smaller size and browner coloration. Behavior also helped to pick out the bird from the many Double-crested Cormorants with which it associated, particularly in the roost tree, where it was often seen pecking at its larger cousin.

An imm **Little Blue Heron** was found at Magnolia Reserve Retention Pond 7/24 (JK, m.ob.), and was still being intermittently reported through the end of the period; this observation is one of a growing number that have come from retention ponds associated with increased housing developments. Another unusual early wader was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** found at Exton Park 7/2-14 (KC, m.ob.). Two adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were photographed as they flew over Black Rock Sanctuary 6/1 (ED), perhaps a pair headed to known breeding areas around Harrisburg.

Early Jun was the time for three sightings of **Northern Harrier**, with no subsequent reports from any site. Many Jun sightings of **Broad-winged Hawks** from MCSP and surrounding area support the possibility

of local nesting. Beaver Dam Rd continued as the **Red-headed Woodpecker** capital of *Chester*, while Kirkwood Preserve was the source of a rare seasonal appearance of **Merlin** 7/12 (AC, DP). **Peregrine Falcon** continued at the Schuylkill R Trail's Cromby/Phoenixville nest site.

Not known to nest in *Chester*, three locations reported for **Alder Flycatcher** were quite unusual. A particularly unexpected sighting, of a migrant, was from the Parkesburg Walmart Retention Pond, where a bird was found 6/4 (PW, JW) sitting on and singing from a fence rail amidst all the activity of a Sunday afternoon. Outside typical migration dates, one was heard at GH 6/18-7/5 (JK et al.), and another at Pocopson Park and Trail System 7/1-7/15 (CS et al.). **Bank Swallow** reports began during the second half of Jul, while three **Cliff Swallows** were observed 6/4 (RG) flying around the Rte 422 bridge near Pottstown, a known location for the species.

A female-type **Purple Finch** was at a feeder near Longview 7/11(JS). Also at Longview, a **White-throated Sparrow**, possibly sick or injured, spent the summer at this residence eating bird seed (JS), seen 6/4-7/6. Another White-throated Sparrow was at a residence near Phoenixville 6/4, this one a lingering, singing bird (TV). Single-bird sightings of **Yellow-breasted Chat** were widespread, but the serpentine barrens habitat of GH and Nottingham CP continued to be the most reliable spots, typically of multiple birds.

Prothonotary Warbler was reported from two locations. On 6/13 (SS) and 6/20 (KF), song was heard at a location within SGL 43, where nesting has been suspected over the years. Another Prothonotary Warbler looking for a mate was photographed and voice-recorded at Coatesville Res on 6/3 (BB, m.ob.), but it apparently gave up and left the area 6/9. SGL 43 was also the go-to location for **Hooded Warbler** and **Worm-eating Warbler**. While birders searched for the Neotropical Cormorant, a late **Mourning Warbler** was mostly heard but also seen at MCSP 6/10 (JV, m.ob.). Another late migrant, a **Cerulean Warbler**, was voice-recorded at Towpath Park near Pottstown 6/1 (KC), and the annually occurring **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Kerr Park. The season's only **Dickcissel** was found in *Chester* at Valley Forge NHP 7/4 (AM, m.ob.), with a last report 7/18.

Observers: Rick Robinson, 114 Mallard Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320, 610-639-0114, birder18@verizon.net, Brian Byrnes (BB), Kayann Cassidy, Aaron Coolman, Kevin Fryberger, Ross Gallardy, Jeff Kenney, Larry Lewis, Adrian Melck, Doug Pratt, Alexis Rose, Christian Scheibe, Joe Sebastiani, Scott Stollery, Derek Stoner, Sam Stuart (SST), Tom Voter, John Werth, Patty Werth.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest State Parl (CF), Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Zion/Piney Tract/State Game Lands 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT).

Ruffed Grouse reporting continued to be sparse with only two sightings of note: one seen at MZ 6/9 (AD), and one heard drumming near the fire tower at CF 6/20 (DKn). The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** that has been in Strattanville for the past two years continued to be seen at the same location and has been the only one reported in western Pennsylvania (JB, BR, MS, R&TGS). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was only noted along the Clarion R near Clarion, with one calling in the evening of 6/25 (AJ).

Spotted Sandpiper has not been reported commonly in summer months, but there were three sightings of note. Three were seen along the Allegheny R near Emlenton 7/14 (ES), and one was seen along Redbank Cr at St Charles 6/11 (MC). At KL, an adult was seen with three young birds along the shoreline 6/21 (DD, CW). In the past several years, **Double-crested Cormorants** have become more regular, often young birds, and one was present again this year at KL 6/3 (RH, SM).

Remarkably, a **Least Bittern** was found for a second season at KL, present on the southeast side of the lake in one of several large areas of *Phragmites* along the shore. It was found calling repeatedly and responding strongly to playback, clambering along the edges of the reeds in open view. Unfortunately, despite a recheck of the area, no other signs of breeding were noted. The lake is due for a drawdown in the spring, making the likelihood of their return or breeding success next year unlikely. A **Great Egret** was seen rather early in migration at a small farm pond near Leatherwood 7/25 (CW).

While there has been no reported nesting site for **Osprey**, one was seen at KL 6/21 (CW) and 7/3 (KB). In reviewing the past ten years of eBird data, **Northern Harriers** very sadly have appeared to be on a slow but steady decline for the breeding season. There was only a single

report of a male seen at the main site of MZ on the evening of 6/22 (DD, CW). This was the lowest number of reports of which this compiler is aware, especially given the increase in visitors to MZ and the increased use of eBird. While it has been hard to draw definite conclusions given the variables, especially of the amount of observer time searching for these beautiful grassland raptors, it has been a very troubling trend. Land use has also changed in the past ten years, with some grasslands having been used to grow crops, as well as many strip mine fields now aging into more shrubby areas, all having an effect on the amount of suitable nesting habitat for this species. **Bald Eagles** have been numerous enough that only breeding records make the report, with a past nesting site along the Clarion R near Callensburg again active this year, and two young still at the nest through 6/5 (JH, RH, SM, BR).

Possible nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found in two close areas near Lickingville where there are several large stands of dead ash in otherwise open areas. Two single birds were seen in separate areas 6/17 (ES) and then again two in the same area 6/24 (T&JK). While **Merlins** have been likely nesters in *Clarion* for the past several years, this was the first season with young birds finally reported to confirm breeding. Multiple sightings were noted 6/29-7/30 (SG, DM, ES) with adults, and two young were first reported together 7/7 (ES).

Alder Flycatchers have been generally reported in regular but small numbers during their late migration period, but just one was reported singing at CV strips 6/3 (RH, SM). **White-eyed Vireos** are known as breeders only in select areas of appropriate habitat, and they were found in just two areas. Two were seen at CV strips 6/3 (RH, SM), and one was found at MZ 6/7 (DB, LC, JJ) as well as two birds there 7/6 (MSc, SS). While **Golden-crowned Kinglets** are regular breeders in the CF area, there were three reports from other more southern habitats where they have occasionally bred in stands of Norway spruce or other pine plantations. A singing bird was seen on the RVT near St Charles among areas of hemlock and pine 6/13 (AD), and another seen singing in pine stands near New Bethlehem 6/25 (AJ, MS). North of I-80, a single bird was found singing in Norway spruce near Lucinda 7/3 (ES). Another species that inhabits similar habitat, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, also had several reports in areas other than its typical nesting area of CF. One was found at SGL 63 on 6/11 (TS), and one was also in pine stands at Mt Airy 6/8 (PC, PF), where they have been found breeding in previous years.

Grasshopper Sparrows were reported in typical numbers although in fewer locations this year (m.ob.). **Clay-colored Sparrows** certainly drew the most visitors to the county this year, with up to three singing birds seen at the Stockdill Rd area of MZ 6/2-7/25 (m.ob.), with just one report of nesting behavior in the observation of nesting material being carried. **Vesper Sparrows** have regularly been the rarest nesting sparrow, but this year there was more reporting. Single birds were reported at MZ 6/8 (GV), 6/10 (RR), and 7/20 (TB). At MZ on Stockdill, one was also reported 6/9 (AD) and 7/25 (CK, DK, EK). **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported throughout the season from just three other areas than their stronghold at MZ. This included CV strips, grassland on a farm near CV where they have nested previously, and one found at a grassland near Limestone. The bulk of sightings were from the various grasslands at MZ, and numbers there have seemed to be declining somewhat in the past several years, possibly due to some changes in management of the grasslands (m.ob.). This is more concerning as available grasslands throughout southern *Clarion* have become scarcer with land use changes and old strip mines grown into shrubby habitats that are no longer appropriate for Henslow's.

Yellow-breasted Chats are at the northern end of their range for Pennsylvania, but they continued to be recorded mostly from overgrown strip field areas. They have likely been more prevalent and just not reported as often due to lack of birder activity in these remote scrubby habitats. Up to two birds were found at CV strips between 6/13-7/22 (DKa, BS) and a singing bird near CV that was present 6/4-7/4 and confirmed breeding there (CW). One was also found at MZ 6/8 (KA). Surprisingly **Worm-eating Warblers** were only reported from one location, along the RVT where one was singing 6/21 (TR) and again 7/13 (CW). **Mourning Warblers** are at the southern edge of their breeding range, so it was great to have another breeding-season sighting, with a singing bird in a previously logged area near Leeper 6/17 (ES). **Kentucky Warblers**, on the other hand, are at the northern edge of their range here, and their habitat is limited. They were reported from just one area on the RVT near Redbank, with two seen 6/6 (KyB, TrS), then four were present with one seen carrying food 6/8 (KA). **Cerulean Warblers** continue in small numbers on the Armstrong Trail at Redbank where two

were singing 6/6 and 6/8 (KA, KyB, TrS) and one continuing 7/6 (MS, SS). Along the RVT towards Lawsonham just one was heard singing 6/21 (TR) and 7/6 (MS, SS). Three birds were found singing at Sarah Furnace 6/8 (KA). MZ is one of the most reliable places for **Pine Warblers** in the county, and one was on territory at the main site 6/8 and 6/10 (KA, RR). One was also found on Stockdill Rd 6/13 (MM, KS). Their other typical location is CF, and single birds were reported in four areas there from 6/15-7/17 (CK, DK, et al.). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are another species at the southern end of their range and have been sporadically present in the right habitat. One was found this year at MZ 6/18 (CP, WP) and in two areas of CF where single birds were reported 6/10-7/18 (JK, AR, RR). The last warbler of note, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, is also limited by habitat and reported at only one location: RVT at Lawsonham. One continued singing there 7/6 (MS, SS) and was heard again 7/13 (CV).

Observers: Carole Winslow, cjwinslow94@gmail.com, KM Andersen, Kimberly Berry, Jason Bojczyk, Kyle Brock (KyB), Dave Brooke, Todd Burtner, Michele Carlson, Pat Comas, Linda Croskey, Amber DeBardelaben, Don DeWolf, Patience Fisher, Sharon Gardoski, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder, Jeffrey Hall, Rebecca Hart, Julie Jansen, Alyssa Jones, Deborah Kalbfleisch (DKa), Colin Keith, Dave Keith, Eric Keith, Dale Kennedy (DKn), Jeff Kenney, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Dani McCauley, Megan McCulloch, Steve Manns, Andrew Markel, Candace Patsy, William Patsy, Bill Reddinger, Theo Rickert, Russell Rogers, Angela Romanczuk, Barry Saylor, Matthew Schenck (MSc), Susan Schenck, Eric Schill, Tabassam Shah, Kiehl Smith, Mike Stinson, Travis Suckow (TrS), Grace Vesho.

Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL), Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment (SISW).

An **American Widgeon**, more common in migration than in the breeding season, was photographed at CL 7/10 (JF). **Ruffed Grouse** were observed throughout the county; most notable was a hen with five poults near SISW 6/30 (AS). One **Upland Sandpiper** was seen along Sandy Ridge Rd 6/13 (DR). A **Willow Ptarmigan** was photographed at CL 7/29 (JF). A **Great Egret** was seen along River Rd 7/21 (JF).

Two **Osprey** continued to be seen at the SISW nesting platform 6/9 (JF). Two adult and two juv **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at Bimini L 7/26 (DR). **Merlins** were confirmed to be nesting at two sites in DuBois 6/24 (DN). A **Blue Grosbeak** was heard singing along McGees Mills Rd 6/13 (DR). Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report.

Observers: Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave, State College, PA 16801, 814-238-8183, dkb246@usa.net, John Forcey, Don Nixon, Dan Richards, Andrew Sideling.

Clinton County

An **American Avocet** was discovered at the Ohi/McElhatten Res near Loganton 7/24 (m.ob.). This was a first county record.

Both **Osprey** nests at Mill Hall and Beech Cr produced young during the period (m.ob.). The **American Kestrel** nest at Swisssdale also produced young during the period (WL). **Merlins** nested in a residential area of Lock Haven (GF). Up to two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at Kettle Creek SP 7/6 and 7/27 and up to three at North Bend 7/6 and 7/7 (VH).

One **Vesper Sparrow** was found near Rote 7/31 (AK, TS). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was reported at SGL 321 on 7/8 (BS). On 7/17 a **Red Crossbill** was observed at Westport (JP). From 7/20 through the end of July, a juvenile male **Blue Grosbeak** was seen frequently near Rote (m.ob.).

Observers: Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wmlaubscher@comcast.net, Garette Fallon, Virginia Hoffman, Andy Keister, John Puschock, Brian Schmoke, Tom Shervinski.

Columbia County

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

started very dry, but by the time July rolled around, rainfall was abundant, and we finished the season above average for the year.

A highlight for the season was two **Common Nighthawks** observed flying and vocalizing above the lake at Weiser SF 7/8 (JS). This is the first breeding season report of this species in the county in more than a decade.

Unusual for the county, a single **Sandhill Crane** spent the entire summer moving between downtown Catawissa and a residential yard on the other side of the Susquehanna R. Most days it could be seen standing beside a house and driveway. It was first reported 7/2 (m.ob.) and was still present at the end of Jul.

The season's only report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** was a single bird singing at the edge of a field at SGL 226 on 6/15 (KP). It was unknown if it nested there.

Observers: Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Rd, Bloomsburg, 17815, 570-337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com, Karol Pasquinielli, John Slotterback.

Crawford County

Locations: Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning State Park (PSP), Miller's Ponds (MP), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A single **Trumpeter Swan** was observed at Erie NWR's Deer Run Trail 6/12 (EH) and 6/17 (JBr). **Blue-winged Teal** reports included one at Conneaut Marsh's W Vernon Rd 6/14 (BM, TN, KP). Notably, there were no observations of American Black Duck during the summer season. **Ruddy Duck** was a notable species at PSP's Spillway during the summer season. A high count of seven were there 6/3 (MV), and up to three 6/17-7/30 (m.ob.).

No Ruffed Grouse were reported during the summer season. A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SGL 214's HM 6/19 (EH). A late **Horned Grebe** was at PSP's Fish Hatchery 6/2 (EH) and 6/3 (RHa). **Black-billed Cuckoo** observations included single birds in the Centerville area 6/1 (AJ), at SGL 146 on 6/19 (KP) and 7/9 (TN), and in the Saegertown area 7/16 (RK). All observations of **Common Nighthawk** were in the Meadville area, including two 6/1 (IF) and singles seen 6/18 (TN), 6/21 (BM), and 6/23 (KW).

Virginia Rail, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule**, notable breeders throughout the marshes of Crawford, were in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane**, a notable bird throughout the year in Crawford, was observed in its usual breeding locations (m.ob.).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at PSP's MP 6/2 (WS) and 6/3 (MV). Up to two **Upland Sandpipers** were in their expected locations at MP and PSP's Wilson Rd 6/3-7/2 (m.ob.). One was observed on a power line in the Guys Mills area 6/1 (IF, SR), a new location for this species. Up to four **Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen at MP 7/7-16 (m.ob.). Observations of **Wilson's Snipe** included single birds seen at Erie NWR's Deer Run Trail 6/7 (EH) and 6/21 at HM (EH). Early observations of shorebirds included a single **Solitary Sandpiper** in the Saegertown area 7/10 (RK); observations of **Lesser Yellowlegs** included two at MP 6/28 (EH) and three at the same location 7/7 (CH). **Greater Yellowlegs** included one at MP 6/28 (EH), two at the same location 7/7 (CH), and one at PSP's Fish Hatchery 7/1 (MV).

A **Common Loon** was observed at PSP's S Lake Rd area 6/17 (SS). Reports of **Least Bittern** included single birds observed at HM 6/2 and 6/19 (EH), and at Conneaut Marsh's McMichael Rd 6/3 (BM) and 7/16 (TN, KP).

Osprey were observed as expected (m.ob.), as was **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a notable breeder for Crawford (m.ob.). **Merlin** observations included two in the PSP's McArthur Boat Launch area 6/13-19 (HB). **White-eyed Vireo** were observed in their usual habitat locations (m.ob.). **Common Raven**, expected on the eastern half of the county but scarce on the western half, were reported as expected (m.ob.). **Horned Lark** observations, especially notable during the summer season, included two during a Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) survey 6/13 (SK) and five in the Rundletown area 6/29 (BM, KP). Observations of **Bank Swallow** included one at SGL 85 on 6/10 (RM), three at MP 7/19 (PF), and two at the same location 7/30 (TN).

Red-breasted Nuthatch included single birds observed at Woodcock L's Abandoned Rd Trail 6/10 (KP), Woodcock L's Dickson Rd Trail 6/19 (TN, KP), and PSP's Railroad Grade Trail 7/16 (JL). **Winter Wren**, a notable breeding bird in the county, were in their expected locations on the eastern half of the county (m.ob.). **Marsh Wren**, a

notable breeding bird throughout the marshes in *Crawford*, were observed as expected (m.ob.).

Observations of **Hermit Thrush**, scarce in the eastern half of the county, included single birds in an undisclosed location 6/3 (KZ), in the Centerville area 6/4 (BM, TN, KP), and SGL 144 (DS). **Northern Mockingbird** is scarce, so observations of three birds in the Adamsville area 6/17 (BM, TN, KP), and single birds at the McArthur Boat Launch area 6/13-19 (HB) are notable. **Purple Finch** was observed as expected (m.ob.).

Single **Vesper Sparrows**, scarce in *Crawford*, were in the Conneautville area 6/17 (BM, TN) and at Erie NWR's Tsuga Trail 6/17 (JBr). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows**, noted at this location the last several years during the summer season, were at PSP's Wilson Rd 7/2 (MH, AR, AW). A late single **White-throated Sparrow** was observed at PSP's S Lake Rd 6/4 (SS). **Bobolink** were in their expected locations and numbers (m.ob.). A high count of 21 were observed in the Pymatuning area during a PGC Survey 6/13 (SK).

Northern Waterthrush, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**, all notable breeders in *Crawford*, were observed as expected (m.ob.). A single **Kentucky Warbler**, rare for *Crawford*, was observed at SGL 152 on 6/18 (PF). A single **Dickcissel**, also scarce here, was at MP 6/26 (JB, JF).

Observers: Rob Hodgson, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, 515-708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com, Jason Bojczyk, Jeff Brinker (JBr), Helen Butts, Jennifer Ferrick, Isaac Field, Patience Fisher, Eric Hall, Ryan Hamilton (RHa), Michael Hartshorne, Craig Holt, Alyssa Jones, Stefan Karkuff, Ripley Kindervater, Jeffrey Levers, Rachel Mannino, Brian Miller, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Ashley Rathman, Steve Rotkovec, Walter Shaffer, Scott Sinnott, Dan Skalos, Mark Vass, Katie Wickert, Amanda Williams, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

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* because the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

The nesting **Trumpeter Swans** were found at the lake at Creekview Rd Marsh and Kuhn L with at least three cygnets 6/1 (MI), and at least one cygnet was still seen with the adults 6/3 (AwM, BW). One adult was also at SGL 169 on 6/9 (R&TGS, DW). A drake **Northern Pintail** spent most of the summer at Children's L, having arrived in late Feb and last seen 7/21 (m.ob.). Just three days after the last appearance at Children's L, a drake Northern Pintail was found at Brackbill Pond 7/24 (SK).

Up to two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued along Enola Rd near Newburg 6/1-13 (DB, ScB, StB). There were several sightings of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at W Fairview throughout the summer, including five 7/17 (KS). The newly discovered **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** nest outside SGL 169 produced two young that fledged and continued throughout the summer (JM).

By far the most unexpected sighting of the season came 7/16, when a **Loggerhead Shrike** was photographed just north of W Fairview and seen in both *Cumberland* and *Dauphin* (BM). This bird was only seen briefly and represents the first *Cumberland* sighting since 2012.

A singing **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found along Ridge Rd in Michaux SF 6/24 (KB, PL), and another at St Eleanor Regina Chapel 7/5 (DB). A **Brown Creeper** was found at Colonel Denning SP 7/23 (KM), an unusual summering bird for *Cumberland*, especially away from Michaux SF.

A singing **Northern Waterthrush** was a surprising find at Yellow Breeches Cr near Lisburn 6/8 (AM) and is the only known summer record for *Cumberland*. A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at King's Gap SP 6/3-7/14 (RP, JC), up to two at a traditional area east of SGL 230 6/7-7/3 (PL), and one along the Appalachian Trail north of Sherwood Rd 6/3 and 6/24 (KS, RK). In an excellent summer for the species, **Yellow-throated Warblers** continued throughout the season at three locations along Yellow Breeches Cr, from Grantham to Lisburn (m.ob.). Up to three **Dickcissels** continued along Shady Rd outside Newburg through 6/23 (m.ob.).

Observers: Tim Johnson, 334 Greason Rd, Carlisle, PA 17015, 717-409-4805, tj359@sbcbglobal.net, Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens (ScB), Steve Brookens (StB), Kathryn Byrnes, Jady Conroy, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder, Michael Illo, Stefan Karkuff, Ramsay Koury, Peter Lusardi, Andrew Markel (AwM), Annette Mathes, Barb Matthews, Kevin Mock, Jennifer Moore, Rebecca Payne, Kevin Shannon, Billy Weber, Don Weidemann.

Dauphin County

Locations: State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (HI).

A **Trumpeter Swan**, first spotted in Feb, continued to be sighted from the Susquehanna R at W Fairview through Jul (m.ob.) A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard in northern *Dauphin* 7/16 (IG), and a **Ruffed Grouse** was seen on Blue Mtn Parkway 6/4 (MB) and on HI 7/26 (LM).

For the second year in a row, a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nest was discovered at Wildwood L in Jul (LI) with many visitors observing the female successfully raise her two young. Two **American Avocets** were seen flying north on Susquehanna R at Front St 7/16 (SS). A **Black-bellied Plover** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** were photographed at HI 6/5 and 6/12 (SS).

A **Snowy Egret** and an immature **Little Blue Heron** were observed in the Hershey-Hummelstown area 7/31 and 7/26, respectively (IG, KS, m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcons** continued to be sighted at Clark's Ferry Bridge, but confirmation of nesting was not obtained this year.

The find of the summer was a **Loggerhead Shrike** photographed along Front St in Enola 7/16 (BM). Twenty species of warblers were observed during the reporting period.

Observers: Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, 717-329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com, Mary Brenner, Ian Gardner, Lary Imes, Barb Matthews, Laura Minnich, Steve Schmit, Kevin Shannon.

Delaware County

Locations: Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (DRHIR), Governor Printz Park (GPZ), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR).

June was one of the coolest on record with temperatures about 3F° below average; July continued that below-normal trend. Precipitation, however, ran above average for both months but was highly variable depending on exact location. For example, on 7/9 parts of the county received nearly 5 inches of rain, while other parts had only 0.5 inches; chose deluge or a quick passing shower. The only problem: that choice was not ours to make, just ours to experience. In addition, periodic smoke drifting from Canadian wildfires caused frequent air quality alerts. While we could stay inside to avoid this hazard, our avian friends went about their business as usual, leaving one to wonder how such conditions might affect their productivity.

A lingering **Snow Goose** was on the Delaware R through 6/10 (m.ob.). **Hooded Mergansers** once again bred at JHNWR (m.ob.); Chadds Ford Marsh was also confirmed as a breeding location (JZ). Although at least one **Common Merganser** stayed at SR through 7/4 (JZ), no breeding was detected there through the end of the period. A single skittish **Wild Turkey** visited feeders in Chadds Ford 6/26 (LF, AS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos put in a decent showing but were most reliable at RCSP (m.ob.). Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were in Chadds Ford 6/2 (LF, AS) and in Drexel Hill 6/12 (SG), elusively dining on caterpillars near Pennock Woods Park. A vocal **Common Nighthawk** was reported from a residential area near JHNWR 6/8-9 (RR). The **King Rail** at JHNWR wandered across the county line at least once on 6/25 (RZ) when it was heard calling from the *Delaware* side of the dike.

An **American Avocet** was a nice find at DRHIR 7/1 (JZ), and it stayed long enough for several birders to get to see it. Other good birds at this location included: **Black-bellied Plover** 6/4 (JZ, AG), 6/6 (RF), and 7/31 (KS, MM); **Semipalmated Plover** on six dates with a high of 10 on 6/3 (JZ); two **Sanderlings** 7/19 (RF); **Short-billed Dowitchers** 7/9 (JZ), 7/16 (JD), 7/18 (JZ), and four 7/24 (BS). Only two **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen in Jul, both from CCR, on 7/15 (JZ) and 7/19 (RF).

At DRHIR, three **Gull-billed Terns** were observed by many 6/10 (m.ob.), while a high count of 18 to 19 **Caspian Terns** was reached 7/31 (JZ, KS, MM). **Forster's Terns** were also regularly there or at GPZ

throughout the period (m.ob.). A **Common Loon** visited SR 6/10-11 (JZ). A surprise **American White Pelican** was photographed soaring over a Garnet Valley yard 6/26 (EK).

Least Bitterns were only reported on four dates from JHNWR (m.ob.), but there were also two reports from DRHIR (JZ, RR) and one from a small pond in that general area 7/30 (DH). A **Little Blue Heron** adult was photographed in the smoky haze at CCR 6/7 (RF), and another individual flew upriver at DRHIR 7/31 (SB). Flying downriver at GPZ 7/1 (RF) was a **Black-crowned Night Heron**.

Long-legged waders made for an interesting summer. Three juvenile **White Ibis** were reported from Ridley Lake Park 7/5 (MAC), and at least one continued through the end of the period (m.ob.). This species had a single historical report from SR in 1953 until 2019 when one showed up at Taylor Memorial Arboretum 8/10 (CS). Another visited RCSP in 2022 (m.ob.). This species is becoming increasingly common in Southeast Pennsylvania as juveniles wander at the end of the breeding season. The second ibis species of interest was a surprise flock of 19 **Glossy Ibis** that flew over Tyler Arboretum 6/28 (m.ob., ph. Robert Bedell). Another two were seen flying into the tank farm area of JHNWR in the early morning 7/30 (AG), and one was seen flying in the afternoon that day as well (KS, MM). Most exciting, however, was an ibis relative, a **Roseate Spoonbill**, that was first seen from JHNWR, *Philadelphia*, flying over the county border as it came in to roost in *Delaware* 7/29 (JMc, DH). The next night this bird caused much excitement and received cheers from the many birders lined up to see it in the evening as it repeated its bedtime routine. Unfortunately, it did not reappear for a third night, but no doubt delighted other birders elsewhere on subsequent days. The spoonbill is *Delaware's* 348th species on record and was one of many individuals of this species found north of its customary range this summer.

Broad-winged Hawks were at their usual RCSP location (m.ob.), while **American Kestrels** were reported mostly from DRHIR (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcons** popped up at six county locations (m.ob.), more than usual.

One **Alder Flycatcher** was recorded at SR 6/3 (JZ). The **Purple Martin** colony at Glen Mills School yielded 174 nestlings for banding, down from last year's 268 (DM, m.ob.). A single **Cliff Swallow** was reported from JHNWR 6/2 (JMc, DH). Otherwise, up to five were reported from Chadds Ford where they nest at a bridge along Creek Rd (m.ob.).

Late **Swainson's Thrush** NFCs were recorded 6/10 over both Garnet Valley (EK) and Media (JD). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was singing at Pendle Hill from 6/1 (JD) through at least 6/16 (EK), while an even later bird was heard at CCR 6/22 (RF). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at the BT 6/2 (BS) and 6/10 (EK et al.).

Nineteen warbler species were reported during the period including: **Worm-eating Warbler** at Swarthmore College 7/8 (JM), **Blue-winged Warbler** at the BT 6/2 (BS), 6/3 (RH) and 7/4 (KS, MM), and at Bethel Springs Elementary School 7/28 (ES), and **Prothonotary Warbler** at JHNWR 6/1-13 (m.ob.). **Northern Parula**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** most likely bred at RCSP because they were reported (m.ob.) throughout the period. A late **Magnolia Warbler** was reported there, from the BT, 6/6 (PB). **Wilson's Warbler** was a good find in Chadds Ford 6/4 (KE). A **Summer Tanager** reported from Wallingford the previous day (JD) was heard again 6/1 (RG). **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from Harvey Run Trail 6/4 (BS), though no one confirmed it breeding there this year. This species was also present at First State National Historic Park, where it was reported on five dates (EK).

Observers: Sheryl Johnson, 453 Duck Pond Lane, Haverford, PA 19041, 610-649-4621, sbjohnso@haverford.edu, Peter Bowlin, Mark Anthony Casasanto Jr., John Drake, Kristy Eleftheriou, Rob Fergus, Linda Fields, Sean Gallagher, Ross Gallardy, Al Guarente, Deborah Hansen, Rich Horwitz, Ethan Kang, Jim McConnell (JMc), Megan McCulloch, Doris McGovern, Jonathan Mott, Russell Rogers, Celeste S, Alan Schreck, Kiehl Smith, Ethan Stracinski, Bob Suter, Rich Ziegler, John Zygmunt.

Elk County

Locations: Benezette (BEN), Brandy Camp (BRA), East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), Hallton (HAL), Rasselas Road (RAS).

There were 121 species reported on eBird in Spring. Two **Wood Ducks** were on Little Drummer Trail while one was at Buzzard Swamp RA 7/15 (CW, MHi, RH) and 7/18 (JK, ARo). **Ruffed Grouse** had a high count of six at EBL 6/5 (BB); other sightings were 6/14 (MM), 6/21 (BB), 6/28 (RB), 7/10 (BB), and 7/23 (AN).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported in the Beaver Run Impoundment/Marion Brooks area 6/4 (BH, MHe), and near Dents Run 6/11 (CL). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at Kersey 6/10 (CB) and Dents Run 6/11 (CL). Four **Common Nighthawks** were seen near Portland Mills 6/20 (CB). There were five reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**: in St. Marys 6/11 (MM), at EBL 6/15 (BB), in BEN 6/12 (MS), near Portland Mills 6/18 (CB), and at Weedville 7/2 (CB).

American Woodcocks were reported at BEN 6/12 (MS) and near EBL 6/15 (BB). A confirmed nest of **Spotted Sandpiper** with three eggs was observed at EBL 6/10 with reports to 7/25 (BB); an additional individual was at Little Drummer Trail 6/21 (BB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was photographed at Twin Lakes RA 7/18 (JK, ARo).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was on RAS 7/18 (JK, ARo), and two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen near Beaver Run 6/4 (MH). When "intentionally out listening for owls" for about 90 minutes, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was "singing for the second night" along the Clarion River near HAL 7/10 (CK). One **American Kestrel** was seen near BRA 6/11 (CB), at two locations in St. Marys 6/13 and 6/16, and at EBL 6/14 (BB), at St. Marys Airport 6/29 (MM), at Elk SP 7/16 (MSi), and on RAS 7/28 (BB). The only **Merlin** was near Wilcox 7/3 (CB).

In addition to several reports of **Acadian Flycatchers** and **Alder Flycatchers**, a **Willow Flycatcher** was near BEN 6/11 (KK, JP, PSOD), at West Cr Wetland Learning Center 6/14 (BB), and at Buzzard Swamp 7/15 (RH, MHi, CW). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported near HAL 6/28 (RB), and a **Warbling Vireo** was at Dents Run 6/12 (RR) and at West Cr Center 6/14 (BB).

One **Bank Swallow** was "flying over the lake" at EBL 6/12 (BB). A high count of six **Cliff Swallows** was at Clarion R Bridge 6/30 (DK), five were at Rasselas Marsh 7/1 (BB), up to four were seen in four sightings at EBL 7/4-15 (BB), and four were in Elk SP 7/16 (MSi). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in Horton Twp 6/17 (CC) and at Loleta RA 7/25 (AN). A **Winter Wren** was outside St. Marys 6/13 (MM) and at EBL 6/15 (BB). There were also two north of Johnsonburg 6/22 (BB), and one at Twin Lakes RA 7/18 (JK, ARo).

The six reports of **Brown Thrasher** were 6/11-12 (RR, MS et al.). A **Northern Mockingbird** seen in BEN 6/1 (CL) was "chattering away on electric wire. Merlin [app was] picking up Purple Martin and Eastern Kingbird, Killdeer, Red-headed Woodpecker and others. It flew to back of yard when a real Killdeer flew over." One **Swainson's Thrush** was reported above Johnsonburg 6/22 (BB).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was near BRA 6/11 (CB) and near Loleta 7/3 (MH, AR, AW), and two were in BEN 7/17 (RL). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at BRA 6/4 (CB); two were on RAS 6/11 (KK, JP, PSOD) and 7/1 (BB). **Bobolink** was reported five times at both Portland Mills and RAS 6/4-7/1 (BB, CB, RR et al.). **Cerulean Warbler** was near HAL 6/28 (RB); **Pine Warbler** was in Weedville 6/17 (CC); **Prairie Warbler** was also near HAL 6/28 (RB).

Observers: Carol Light, Benezette, PA, 717-964-2324, lightpc2@gmail.com, Brendyn Baptiste, Chelsea Beck, Ryan Bell, Cory Chiappone, Bill Hendrickson, Michael Hartshorne, Marsha Hendrickson (MHe), Margaret Higbee (MHi), Roger Higbee, Cory Kampf, Dave Keith, Jeff Kenney, Karen Kottlowski, Ren LaFave, Melinda Marconi, Alyssa Nees, Julia Plummer, PSO Data, Ashley Rathman, Russell Rogers, Angela Romanczuk (ARo), Matthew Schenck (MSi), Amanda Williams, Carole Winslow.

Erie County

Locations: Gull Point (GPT), Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

Rainfall was above average for the season, but unlike other parts of the region where temperatures were above normal, temperatures remained near normal in northwestern Pennsylvania. Shorebirds were the most widely reported birds of the season with some of the larger shorebirds from the west becoming annual over the last decade or so. A

conversation with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services agent from the US Department of Agriculture said one of their main services in the Erie area is gull control. He reported over 2,000 gull nests at the Wabtec plant of mostly **Ring-billed Gulls**, but also a significant number of **Herring Gulls**. Because animal control is part of the function of this agency, it is likely the nests were destroyed. Erie Forge was another site where numerous nests of both species were found on gravel or debris piles. Both sites and a few other industries with flat rooftops within the city of Erie have been established nesting sites for both **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** in recent years as well. The following birds of note were recorded from PISP unless noted otherwise.

A male **Northern Shoveler** reported from GPT 6/26 (JM) remained for several weeks during its transition molt. **American Avocets** have become regular in the county with a season total of 23 birds reported and a maximum one-day count of 12 on 7/28 (MB). **Piping Plovers** successfully nested this season at GPT with details to be reported by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Singles and doubles of **Whimbrel** were observed at GPT from 6/12 periodically through 7/26 (mob). A total of five **Marbled Godwits** were confirmed from GPT with two on 6/30 (RK) and singles on 7/8 (YL), 7/14 (AL), and 7/27-28 (JM et al.). The only **Red Knot** reported for the season was a molting adult at GPT 7/27-28 (JM et al.).

There were two **Stilt Sandpipers** at GPT 7/19 (RK), and up to three there from 7/26-29 (JM et al.). Several **White-rumped Sandpipers** stopped at GPT on their northbound flight 6/10-25 (RD et al.) with a two-day maximum totaling 17 birds 6/12-13 (JM et al.). A season total of 15 **Willetts** were reported from GPT 6/28-7/29 (m.ob.). A **Black Tern** was observed flying over Eaton Res 6/8 (RK), and two were over a private pond in Waterford 6/24 (JH). A possible adult **Arctic Tern** was described and photographed at GPT 6/12-13 (JB), which would be a second county record if confirmed, pending PORC review.

A **Snowy Egret** made a fine showing at GPT 6/7-8 (SS, JM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** spotted 6/14 was a bit late for this species (JB). Thirteen **Osprey** nest sites, with at least a dozen of those active, were reported in *Erie* in Jul (JH). Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen 6/5 (JB), and another was at SGL 109 on the late date of 6/14 (JB, JF). Rarely reported in the county, especially during the nesting season, were two singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** in Girard in a field near the Battle Museums of Rural Life 6/29 (JC). A rather late **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported along Dead Pond Trail 6/6 for a first county Jun record (JB).

One or two female, or imm male, **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at GPT 6/30 (JB, BM). Photos were taken and slight plumage differences indicated there may have been two different individuals. Ten **Prothonotary Warbler** boxes were placed on PISP by Jamie Hill, who reported that 10 **Prothonotary Warbler** eggs were laid, 10 young hatched, and six were fledged for the season. A **Cape May Warbler** spotted on 6/5 was record late in the county by five days (JB).

Observers: Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd, Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com, Mary Birdsong, Jason Bojczyk, John Campbell, Roger Donn, Jennifer Ferrick, Jamie Hill, Ripley Kindervater, Annette Lambert, Yianni Laskaris, Brian Miller, Sarah Sargent.

Fayette County

Locations: Bear Run Nature Reserve (BRN), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** in Farmington 7/4 were the only report this season (KW). **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, a noteworthy species, had reports of two at Laurel Ridge SP 6/11 (JM), one at the Heritage Scout Reservation 7/4 (GC), and one at OSP 7/8 (AA EA).

The first fall shorebirds were present in July. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Mill Run Res 7/30 (KW), and a **Least Sandpiper** was at the Heritage Scout Reservation 7/6-7 (GC). **Black Vulture** reports continued from OSP where one was seen 6/6, four 6/7 and single birds 7/7-8. One was along Rte 43 northwest of Uniontown in Redstone Twp 6/7 (RB), and one was nearby on Dearth Rd 6/30 (JH, TH). Two were at Jumonville 7/24 (RB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported at various locations on Laurel Ridge during the season (m.ob.). Up to three **Merlins** were present at Deer L (JC), but breeding was never confirmed. **Peregrine Falcon** has rarely been reported; one was at the Rte 40 Bridge in Brownsville 6/6 (GM).

Red-eyed Vireo abundance was in evidence during a BBS 6/3 with birds recorded at 49 out of 50 stops totaling 105 individuals (GM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Ft Necessity National Battlefield 6/4 and 6/7 (DB, et al.) and at BRN 7/10 (JHu). An interesting leucistic **Winter Wren** was at BRN 6/16, described as mostly white with brown mottling (JKn).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Camp Riamo 6/14-15 (CT, m.ob.). **Bobolink** was recorded at the usual stop in Stewart Twp during a BBS 6/3 (GM). One was near Cranberry Glade L 6/4 (KB), and five were at Camp Riamo 6/18 (CT, m.ob.).

The **Brewster's Warbler** near Ohiopyle continued into Jun (SD). **Cerulean Warbler** could still be found in the Ohiopyle area: one at BRN 6/2 (T&JK) and 6/25 (RM); one at OSP 6/3-4 (DR, EZ), 6/17 (EH), 6/19 (MR) and 6/26 (JD); two at Mill Run Res 6/25 (RM, MD). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was at OSP 6/10 (KW). Two **Prairie Warblers** were at Ft Necessity National Battlefield during the season (AA, EA, LH), and one at Farmington 6/11 (KW). The **Swainson's Warbler** found in May continued at BRN through the season (m.ob.).

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, mpfial@verizon.net, Andy Avram, Erin Avram, Kerry Bell, Ron Burkert, David Burlison, Jane Clark, Greg Cookrey, Jonathan DeBalko, Steve Decker, Matthew Domer, Eric Hall, Jarod Hitchings, Linda Houghton, Jason Hull (JHu), Tiffany Hitchings, Jeff Kenney (JKn), Tom & Janet Kuehl, Geoff Malosh, Joshua McCoy, Ryan Mathis, Doug Raybuck, Mark Ross, Carl Thompson, Ken W, Eric Zawatski.

Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Kellettsville (KEL), Marienville (MAR), Tionesta (TIO), West Hickory (WH).

There were 118 species reported in eBird for the summer period. Of the three reports for **Ruffed Grouse**, there was one in BUZ 6/5 (RP), five there 6/21 (EST), and five near MAR 7/30 (HA, BY). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported in BUZ 6/30 (RT), and two **Sora** in BUX 7/24 were "heard in two different locations" (AN). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was on Lighthouse Island at TIO 6/5 (JM), and one was there 6/29 (MH, RHi).

A **Northern Harrier** was at BUZ 6/5 (RP) and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was near TIO 6/17 (ES). One **Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported near KEL 6/22 (EC, TM). An **American Kestrel** was near TIO 6/14-17 (RR, ES).

There were several reports for **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and **Least Flycatcher**, but only one for **Willow Flycatcher** with three at BUZ 6/5 (RP). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at BUZ 6/5 (RP), then up to four were seen at four other locations 6/11-29 (T&JK, CW, JY NY). Five locations were noted for **Cliff Swallows** (DB, TB, RH, SM) with "21 nests on and under bridge" at WH 7/1 (RK) and a high count of 10 outside MAR 7/6 (MS, SS). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was near Tionesta Cr 6/17 (CW), and two were near WH 7/8 (KS).

One **Northern Mockingbird** was at BUZ 7/29 (JW), and a **Swainson's Thrush** was at KEL 6/9 (TS). A **Vesper Sparrow** was near MAR 7/30 (HA, BY). There were three reports of one **Savannah Sparrow** in the TIO area 6/17, and up to two **Bobolinks** and an **Eastern Meadowlark** (all ES) were in that area on that date. Another **Bobolink** was reported at BUZ 6/5 (RP) and 6/30 (RT), and another **Eastern Meadowlark** was near Vowinckel 6/16 (RR).

Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were near MAR 7/10 (CK), and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen several times near Cooksburg 7/9 (EA, DB, TB, RM). Three **Blue-winged Warblers** were photographed near WH 7/8 (JS, KS). A **Nashville Warbler** was near Cooksburg 6/14 (MB, TiB), and two were near MAR with an "adult feeding fledgling" 6/25 (ET).

A **Cerulean Warbler** was reported near KEL 6/25 (T&JK). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were near WH 7/1 (RK), and one was there 7/8 (JS, KS vr.). A **Prairie Warbler** was heard along a trail in Cook Forest SP 7/21 (CL). A **Canada Warbler** was near Vowinckel 6/6 (JN) and then at BUZ 7/16 (RL).

Observers: Carol Light, Benezette, PA, 717-964-2324, lightpc2@gmail.com, Helena Abbott, Dick Bondi, Trip Bondi, Matt Bohan, Timothy Bohan(TiB), Eric Chapman, Ash Eury, Rebecca Hart, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee (RHi), Ripley Kindervater, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Steve Manns, Jim McGuire, Tom McNamara, Alyssa Nees, Jonathan Newport, Rob Porter, Russell Rogers, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Jim Springer, Kim Springer, Travis Suckow, Eric Schill, Emily Stevenson (ES), Emily Thomas, Ryan Tomazin, Jamie Watts, Carole Winslow, Ben Yeasting, Nathan Young.

Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Buchanan State Forest's Broad Mountain Eastern Slope Trails (BMES), Upper Horse Valley (UHV).

For our location in south-central Pennsylvania, *Franklin* has had a surprising number of **Willetts** putting down at ponds in our county. During this reporting period, two were observed at ACP 6/20-23 (KR, DE, BO, m.ob.). This is one of only four locations in Pennsylvania in 2023 with report of this species through July, the others being Presque Isle SP in *Erie*, Raystown Lake in *Huntingdon*, and Curwensville Dam in *Clearfield*. Historically in eBird, PORC records of an unknown number of the species are logged 5/14/1995 and 5/15/1997 at Mt Parnell Fisheries near Ft Loudon. This location is now off-limits to access due to requirements adhered to for the export of goldfish. Additional records are of four birds at Long Lane Pond 4/21/2002 (CG), one at Greencastle Res 5/7/2013 (CG, BO, AM), one at ACP 4/26/2020 (CG, BO, BK), and an amazing count of 50 Willets at Kriner Rd Retention Ponds 5/6/2020 (CG, DC, BK, BO, GA). These birds were resting in high grass at the edge of a retention pond, and a count of 50 (DC) was determined from a photo taken.

An out-of-season **Ring-necked Duck** found at an Orrstown area farm pond 7/18 was the only noteworthy waterfowl of the period (MW, BK, BO). A **Ruffed Grouse** was reported from UHV 6/10 (JC). A family of grouse were in Michaux SF 7/11 (MB). Frequent **Eurasian Collared-Dove** reports continued from their normal part of the county in the Greencastle-Marion-Shady Grove area. A **Virginia Rail** was heard at Happel's Meadow 6/3 (JC) which followed a report in late May.

The summer reporting period has been of shorebirds still in northbound migration into the month of Jun, and later in southbound migration as Jun turns to Jul. The timing of shorebird migrations has kept a measure of birder anticipation going during a time when most birds have settled into their breeding territories. There were lingering reports of northbound **Semipalmated Plovers** in the first part of Jun with the first southbound report at ACP 7/28 (BO). **Least Sandpipers** lingered into early Jun with the first southbound report 7/2 at ACP (BO). **White-rumped Sandpipers** typically migrate through here in the later side of spring. Two birds were at Keefer Rd Farm Pond 6/4 (BO, AM, BK, JC), and single birds were at ACP 6/18 (KR) and 6/24 (KR, BO). The first southbound report of **Pectoral Sandpipers** was at ACP 7/20 (KR). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** also migrate northward through here during the later side of spring with frequent reports through 6/18, and no reverse migration reported in Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher, an annual but infrequently found species, was at ACP 7/25 (BO) and 7/28 (KR). There were reports of lingering **Solitary Sandpipers** into the third week of Jun with the first return report being at ACP 7/18 (DE). The first report of southbound yellowlegs species was a **Greater Yellowlegs** at ACP 7/29 (JC) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at ACP 7/24 (KR).

Always a treat to watch, a **Black Tern** made an evening stop at ACP 6/26 (KR). This was the second 2023 sighting of the species in *Franklin* as an earlier one was observed and photographed 5/13 in the spring season. A grounded **Common Loon** was found by Letterkenny Army Depot security doing their rounds on depot roads in early Jul (DC). The bird was taken to Rocky Spring L inside the depot where it remained at least through late Jul. The depot is off limits to birders, and the lake is not viewable from outside the depot. **Great Egrets** have arrived in *Franklin* during Jul after dispersing from nesting elsewhere, and this year a high count of seven was at Mountain Rd fisheries ponds (JC).

Barn Owls nested again at an undisclosed location in the Edenville area with at least one young likely fledged (BO, AM). A single report of **Peregrine Falcon** was from Otterbein School Rd 7/4 (JS). Peregrines sometimes show up in *Franklin* during the summer but have more likely been here later in fall and winter.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was found at UHV 6/10 (JC). There was a report from this general location in May. **Cliff Swallows** again nested under the Wilson Run bridge on Wenger Rd (BO). The annually occurring post-nesting numbers of **Tree Swallows** again grew into the hundreds at Greencastle Res prior to the end of Jun (KR). There were multiple reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** from the same area of Caledonia SP 6/13-7/30 (BO, VG, TM, JC). A **Brown Creeper** was reported also from Caledonia SP 6/17 (EV).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at UHV 6/17 (JC) which followed reports from May. This has become the most reliable location

for the species in the county. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported from Lower Horse Valley 6/15-26 (BK, DC, BO). This species has not been reported as often here in recent years during breeding season. **Kentucky Warbler** fledglings were confirmed at a suspected breeding location at BMES. Observations included agitated adult behavior, adults carrying food, and eventually observation of fledglings (R&TGS, DC, BO). Somewhat unusual here, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported at BMES 6/10 (JC), and **Canada Warbler** was reported from the Quarry Gap/Dark Hollow area of Michaux SF 7/9 (JC), 7/16 (BO), and 7/23 (JC). An annual check for these species at these locations in summer is in order for the future.

For the first time in many years there were no reports of Dickcissel in *Franklin* through the end of the summer season. After a period of regular annual sightings, the past couple of years have experienced a marked change.

Observers: Bill Oyler, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, Pa 17201, 717-360-5191, oylerbill@gmail.com, Gavin Anderson, Mike Bertram, John Carter, Dave Cooney, Dave Ebbitt, Vern Gauthier, Carl Garner, Ron & Tracy George-Snyder, Bob Koontz, Andy Markel, Tracy Mosebey, Kyle Rambo, Jefferson Shank, Evan Vaeth, Miriam Weaver.

Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Franklin Twp (FT), Morgan Twp (MT), Perry Twp (PT).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported in PT 7/29 (CR). An **Osprey** was seen in FT 7/17 (BB) as was a **Broad-winged Hawk** 7/7 (AH). **Great-horned Owl** was heard in Dunkard Twp 7/30 (MB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee and **Acadian Flycatcher** were found 7/15 in PT (JA). **Willow Flycatcher** was observed in MT 6/3 (EZ). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was observed in MT 6/19 (m.ob.). **Eastern Kingbird** was found in MT 6/20 (JD). **White-eyed Vireo** was in FT 7/14 (LG). **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** were in PT 7/15 (JA). **Warbling Vireo** was present in Whiteley Twp 7/1 (AW).

Common Raven young were begging for food in EV 7/24 (MH). **Barn Swallow** remained throughout the period. **Cliff Swallow** was reported in Cumberland Twp 6/20 (JD). **House Wren** and **Gray Catbird** were in FT 7/14 (LG). **Brown Thrasher** was last reported in EV 7/10 (MH). **Wood Thrush** was last reported 7/15 in PT (JA). **Cedar Waxwing** and **Field Sparrow** were heard in FT 7/14 (LG). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard in MT 7/7 (KK). **Eastern Meadowlark** was found in MT 6/20 (JD).

As for warblers, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **American Redstart** were found in PT 7/15 (JA). **Cerulean Warbler** was found in Cumberland Twp 6/20 (JL). **Yellow Warbler** was present in FT 7/14 (LG). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard in MT 7/7 (KK).

Scarlet Tanager and **Indigo Bunting** were in PT 7/15. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** remained throughout the period at EV (MH).

Observers: Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, rkbirdclub@yahoo.com, John Anderson, Mat Barry, Brian Bockhahn, Jonathan De Balko, Larry Gulling Jr., Adam Hobe, Kathy Kern, Jeffrey Levers, Chris Rockwell, Amanda Williams, and Eric Zawatski.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon – town (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Mierley wetland (MIE), Old Crow wetland (OC), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Mt. (SM), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Whipple Dam SP (WD).

For the season, 135 species were entered into eBird for *Huntingdon*. June was cooler than normal, balanced by slightly above-average temperatures in July. Following the dry spring, rainfall was a bit above average, especially in July.

The highlight of the season was the first known, to this compiler's knowledge, nesting attempt by **Osprey** in the county, at least in modern times, and certainly since the DDT era. A nest was noticed in late Apr (KT) on a high cell tower on Stone Creek Ridge overlooking the town of Huntingdon and the Juniata River. Eventually at least three nestlings were evident and apparently successful fledging occurred in early August.

Hooded Merganser is an uncommon nesting species here; one or two were at OC from mid-Jun through mid-Jul (KT, ER, Nico), and two were at ENN 6/29 (DW). **Common Mergansers** are more common nesters, or at least more conspicuous; groups of 16 and 24 were on the JR at HU 7/22 and 7/24 (Nico).

Ruffed Grouse was reported only three times: singles at LP 6/1 (ER), Tram Rd. in RSF 6/13 (MC), and on SM 6/18 (NB). A **Pied-billed Grebe**, not a nesting species, was at OC 7/19 (Nico), representing the fifth summer eBird report for the county. One **American Coot**, also non-breeding, was at OC 7/6-13 (m.ob.). Following a busy spring, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was again numerous, with most reports coming from relatively heavily birded SV; **Black-billed Cuckoo**, however, was reported only four times, typical of this less common cuckoo.

Sixty-three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied on three long-running (14 years) Nightjar Surveys (30 total stops) in RSF, a record high count. The 14-year average is 48, and the annual count has varied from a low of 33 in 2014 to the high of 63 this year. Most stops are in northern *Huntingdon*, with a few in *Mifflin* and *Centre* (GG, DG, DB).

Two additional *Huntingdon* nightjar routes were created in 2020; this year 19 Whips were recorded on the route in TCV in southern *Huntingdon* (also part of RSF) and 13 on a route in the area of Stone Creek Ridge and SGL 112, both of these numbers about average for the four years run. Thus, in total for the 50 stops (5 x 10), 95 Whip-poor-wills were recorded.

Uncommon and possibly declining nesters (based on atlas results), **Spotted Sandpiper** reports were limited to singles at RL 6/2 (LG) and WD 7/19 (VG) and 7/27 (CE). Two **Black Terns** were found at LP 6/13-14 (m.ob.); two previous summer records were of singles, 6/1/03 and 6/10/22.

Among four reports of summering (non-breeding) **Double-crested Cormorants**, the high was six at LP 6/27 (DW), and two were there 6/13 (KB, BT); singles were at RL 6/20 and OC 7/22 (Nico). Dispersing lone **Great Egrets** were at MIE 6/16 (JK) and HU 7/3 (GG). **Green Herons** were in their usual summer locations, with high counts of six at OC, two at MIE, and two at LP (m.ob.).

In addition to the nesting **Osprey** mentioned above, there were five scattered Osprey reports elsewhere, well away from the nest location at HU, typical for the season. A **Northern Harrier** was at Warrior's Mark 6/19, the third summer report in eBird (LB). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** is presumably an uncommon nesting species here, but evidence of nesting or even their presence in summer is limited for this shy species; thus, significant was a report with photos of an adult and a juvenile in RSF 7/30 (KO).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at the Dry Hollow area of RSF 7/30 was well-described (LB); it was the second summer report in eBird for the county. **Red-headed Woodpecker** followed a strong spring with reports from six locations. **Alder Flycatcher** is a rare summer species here. As has been the case, beginning in 2020, at least one territorial bird was present through this summer at OC (Nico *et al.*). One was found on a BBS route in Chilcote Hollow 6/11 (JK), and singles were noted around SCEC on three occasions in Jun (DW, JK, JA).

Single **White-eyed Vireos** were found at LT 6/20 (JK) and on the Raystown Branch of JR 6/30 (CM). A count of 15 **Horned Larks** at Nelson's Rd 7/16 represented an unusually high number for the summer season (JK). Following a winter when few were present, three **Pine Siskins** at LP 6/1 was unexpected (ER). As is usually the case, several species were found mostly only in RSF in the northeast corner of the county, including **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Dark-eyed Junco**.

Among grassland species, there were five widely scattered reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow**. Single **Vesper Sparrows** were found near Warrior's Mark 6/19 (JP) and Alexandria 6/20 (JK). Savannah Sparrow was not reported. About 10 reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** included none of more than three birds. A lingering **White-throated Sparrow** at Chilcote Hollow 6/11 was the first summer eBird report for *Huntingdon* (JK). One to two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported from Red Rose Rd in SV 6/19-29 (m.ob.), and singles were at PET 6/6 (DK, TK), SGL 121 on 6/13 (DG, GG), and Neff's Mill 6/18 (MC).

Twenty-two warbler species were recorded in eBird, right on the average of the past five years. Golden-winged Warbler was not reported, including on a directed Golden-wing survey in SGL 121 on 6/13, although a **Brewster's Warbler** was recorded (DG, GG). Three reports of one or

two **Blue-winged Warblers** all came in early Jun from the LP area (DW, ER, MM, MB). The survey of **Cerulean Warblers** on the *Huntingdon* portion of LT saw a peak count of 15 on 6/15 (NB).

Blue Grosbeaks occasionally wander into the county from the nesting population to the south in *Franklin* or possibly *Fulton*. One was found at Saltillo 6/27 (KB).

Observers: Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu. Julian Avery, Marcella Baiz, Diane Bierley, Lisa Blazure, Nick Bolgiano, Ken Bowman, Michael Croyle, Constanza Ehrenhaus, Vern Gauthier, Linda Grebe, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Michael Maffie, Crystal McNeal, Nico, Kazumi Ohira, Joshua Potter, Eric Reitz, Brady Thomas, Ken Tucker, Doug Wentzell.

Indiana County

Locations: North Point (NP), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

The first 11 days of June were dry with only a small amount of rain falling during this period (0.08"). This was a continuation of very dry conditions from the end of May which saw no significant rainfall for three weeks. Rainfall then increased for the last part of the month and finished with 4.4", with 4.1" falling in just five days. Increased moisture continued in July with over 7" of rain during the month. Two days saw more than 1" of rain each (total 2.83") and a third, almost 1".

Temperatures ranged from a low of 37° F to a high of 89° F for the month of June. The average temperature was 62.7° F, which was -3.8° F below normal. July's temperatures ranged from a low of 57° F to a high of 91° F. The average was 73.9° F which was 0.7° F above normal.

Water levels remained high at YC as well as at other area ponds throughout June and July; areas that in drier years provide mudflats for migrating shorebirds were well under water. The puddles in the fields near West Lebanon that in previous years provided great shorebird habitat now contain large stands of grass, so the mud is now non-existent.

A single **Hooded Merganser**, an uncommon breeder in *Indiana*, was a nice find at YC 6/17 (CG, MH, RH, GL); unfortunately, it was not reported again. **Common Mergansers** were twice confirmed for the B4C when a hen with five fledglings was spotted along Mahoning Creek in the county's northwestern corner 6/13 (CG, MH, RH, GL) and another female with three young was found, not too far away, at NP on the same day.

SGL 174, in the northeastern corner of the county, yielded single **Ruffed Grouse** 6/11 and 6/13 (CG, MH, RH, GL) while another was sighted at Nolo 7/1 (AB). This is a great improvement from 2021 when none were reported, and 2022 when only one location boasted grouse.

The scarcity of **Black-billed Cuckoos** was unusual as the only individual was found near Lewisville 6/1 (MC).

A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at SGL 332 on 6/9 (CG, MH, RH, GL). Whip-poor-wills are no longer calling near West Lebanon where they were last heard in 2021.

A **Virginia Rail** was calling from the marsh at NP 6/11 (CG, MH, RH, GL).

Water levels remained high throughout the summer allowing no mudflats to form for shorebirds at YC. The white sand beach provided minimal habitat in rainy weather when swimmers were absent. A downpour 7/25, during Todd Bird Club's Tuesday morning outing, caused four shorebirds to land on the beach: a **Stilt Sandpiper**, two **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and a **Greater Yellowlegs** (CH, MH, RH). As soon as the rain stopped, all four took off again. Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted between 7/2 (AM, HR) and 7/25 (CH, MH, RH) at YC in areas where they had previously nested; three were listed 7/10 (EH) at Conemaugh Dam where one was still present 7/31 (MM). The only **Ring-billed Gull** report in *Indiana* mentioned three individuals at YC 6/3 (KD). One **Common Tern** appeared at YC 6/9 (CG, MH, RH, GL); this is only the fourth eBird summer record for Common Tern. **Double-crested Cormorants** visited YC on three dates bracketed by 6/9 (CG, MH, RH, GL) and 7/25 (CH, MH, RH) with a high tally of seven on the latter date; one was at NP 6/13 (CG, MH, RH, GL) while another visited Hemlock Lake 6/16 (AK, JK).

Seldom found in the county during the summer, an **American Bittern** near Union Cemetery 7/22 (HR) was the third summer record. A **Great Egret** stopped at YC 7/8 (AM).

Black Vultures were confirmed nesting 6/23 (GT) when two nestlings, "fully in down with wing and tail feathers erupting," were photographed in the cave opening along the Ghost Town Trail; the adults were not present. Two other sightings of this range-expanding species

were noted along US 119 south of Indiana on 6/12 (MS) and 7/16 (JT). **Ospreys**, still unconfirmed at YC, were noted on four dates this summer (m.ob.). As they continue to expand their range, **Merlins** were listed at four county locations (m.ob.).

Five **Alder Flycatchers** were heard in the northern part of the county 6/13 (CG, MH, RH, GL): four near NP and one SE of Smicksburg along Mahoning Creek. Another was at Jimmy Stewart Airport 7/9 (JP). Ever more difficult to find in *Indiana*, the only **Least Flycatcher**, possibly a late migrant, was recorded at BS 6/4 (ES).

A congregation of between 1,500 and 2,000 **Barn Swallows** continued to arrive in flocks of 50-60 post-dusk in a marsh along the WPT 7/26 (DL).

An uncommon breeder in the county, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at two locations: three near Brush Valley 6/15 (MSC) and one at YC 6/23 (AM, HR). Previously a nesting species at this location near SH before the red pines were thinned by dying, the appearance 7/29 (MH, RH) of a scruffy female **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a surprise.

A **Veery** at YC 7/11 (CH) is the only summer report on record for the park.

The number of **Grasshopper Sparrows** reported increased to at least 13 individuals this summer. Unusual for the county, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found 6/3 (DL) near SGL 273 where it continued singing through 6/10 (MS). It was good to see **Savannah Sparrow** reported at four locations this summer as they have become increasingly difficult to find. **Henslow's Sparrows** were noted in early Jun (MW) this year at the newly acquired addition to SGL 273 near Brush Valley; they continued at this location through 6/24 (KD) when the top count of seven was obtained.

Twenty warbler species were listed during the breeding season. Highlights included one to two **Pine Warblers** at YC 6/11 (CJ, HR) through 7/4 (MH, RH), **Yellow-throated Warblers** at three locations along the WPT between 6/4 (AH) and 7/10 (EH), **Worm-eating Warblers** at three new spots in the northwestern part of *Indiana* found during the B4C 6/13 and 6/15 (CG, MH, RH, GL), and a **Canada Warbler** that was possibly carrying food after foraging alongside a back road near SGL 174 on 6/15 (CG, MH, RH, GL).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was a great find near SGL 273 on 6/3-4 (MW).

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, 724-354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net, Alice Beatty, Marcy Cunkelman, Kristin Duty, Carol Guba, Eric Hall, Court Harding, Amy Henrici, Roger Higbee, Caelie Jones, Avis Keener, John Keener, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Avi Marshall, Michael McDevitt, Joseph Pumford, Henry Rummel, Matt St Clair (MSC), Emma Skundrich, Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor, Greg Tomb, Mike Weible.

Jefferson County

Locations: Fordham Lake (FL), Heath Canoe Launch (HCL), Himes Acres (HA), Jakes Farm (JF), Kyle Lake (KL), Martini Road (MR), Punxsutawney (PXY), Ringold (RG).

Noteworthy sightings included a non-breeding **Ring-necked Duck** at FL 7/18 (JAK), a lone **Bonaparte's Gull** at KL 6/7 (DK), and a tardy **Common Loon** at KL 6/7 (DK). Additionally, a trio of **Double-crested Cormorants** found suitable habitat at KL 7/13 (DK), and three **Merlins** were discovered around PXY 7/22 (DN).

Assorted passerines of note this summer included a **Warbling Vireo** along MR 7/27 (DK), a **Northern Mockingbird** near RG 7/31 (JAK), an **Orchard Oriole** at the same location RG 7/14 (JAK), and a **Vesper Sparrow** at JF 6/11 (JAK).

Resident warblers of interest this season included a **Worm-eating Warbler** in RG 6/14 (JAK), a pair of **Northern Parulas** along the Clarion River HCL 7/10 (DK), three **Prairie Warblers** at JF 6/15 (JAK), and a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** at HA 6/15 (JAK).

Observers: Dan Richards, 1151 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801, (814) 771-2471, drichards7@verizon.net, John and Avis Keener, Dave Keith, Don Nixon.

Juniata County

Locations: Academia (AC), BBS E. *Juniata* (BBS), Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Cocolamus Dam (CD), Juniata River (JR), McAlisterville (MA), Metz Rd (MR), Mifflintown (MIF), Port Royal (PR), Van Wert (VW).

For the summer season, 107 species, highlighted by two rarities, were entered into eBird, about average compared to recent years. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen at VW 7/22 (PR); no documentation was provided, although this species is obviously very distinctive. A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen regularly at the Dan Renno farm near PR for much of the season (DR, DG, RF *et al.*). This is at least the fifth county eBird record for Blue Grosbeak, including the same location last summer.

Two mergansers were likely nesters in *Juniata*, albeit uncommon. A group of 24 **Common Mergansers** on the JR at CC 6/1 consisted mostly of young birds (CK). **Hooded Mergansers**, of less certain breeding presence, included two at CC 6/3 and two there again 7/22 (CK).

An excellent count of 11 **Whip-poor-wills** was made at SGL 107 on 6/11 (JP). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were found at CC 7/22 (CK) and on the same date two were at CD (MP). One to two southbound **Solitary Sandpipers** were at MA 7/20-22 (MP).

Black Vultures were scarce, with no count of more than two, perhaps because of avian flu. Six reports of **Osprey** were centered on MIF and the nearby JR 6/27-7/27; Osprey is not known to nest in the county. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were present throughout the season at CC, with a high count of four on 7/23 (CK).

Willow Flycatchers were recorded at five BBS stops on a route in eastern *Juniata* 6/4 (JPI). Also on that route, **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo** were recorded at one stop each; these two species are likely under-reported in the county, found most often along the JR. Uncommon at best, up to five presumably migrating **Bank Swallows** were at CC 7/27-31 (CK).

Purple Martins banding was again conducted by Nick Kerlin. At the Dan Renno farm, Nick banded 57 young Purple Martins. On 6/24, there were an estimated 300 Purple Martins at the Renno colony and an estimated 1,000 **Cliff Swallows** were present on this farm where structures have been built to encourage nesting of Cliff Swallows. The martin banding is part of a three-year project to assess natal dispersal of Purple Martins in a four-county area (*Blair, Centre, Juniata, Mifflin*).

Among grassland species, two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were recorded on the BBS 6/4 (JPI) and one was at MA 6/9 (MP). Single **Savannah Sparrows** were found at Flint Rd and MR, both 7/22 (MP). Only three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported: singles at MA 6/19 (MP), PR 7/3 (DG, RF), and MR 7/22 (MP). No **Vesper Sparrows** were listed.

Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were recorded at two BBS stops 6/4 (JPI). Up to two **Orchard Orioles** were present all season at CC (CK), one was at AC 6/4 (TF), and two were listed on the BBS 6/4 (JPI). Eleven warbler species were recorded, 10 being likely nesters, highlighted by four **Cerulean Warblers** at SGL 107 on 6/11 (JP). A **Magnolia Warbler** at AC 6/4 was probably a late migrant (TF).

Observers: Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu, Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715. Tracy Fitzgerald, Roana Fuller, Deb Grove, Nick Kerlin, Jason Petersheim, Michael Petersheim, Dan Renno, Paul Renno, Julia Plummer (JPI).

Lackawanna County

Locations: Pinchot SF (PSF).

Unlike the months preceding the period, June and July experienced some much-needed rainfall thus allowing the region to work its way out of prevalent drought conditions. Breeding bird activity within *Lackawanna* continued as normal despite this change in weather, and several birders began their annual efforts to locate notable species.

American Black Ducks are scarce and difficult to locate to locate within the Northeast Region during the breeding season, thus making the discovery of a hen with nine ducklings ph. at PSF 6/1(CF) of value. Also of note there that morning was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (CF). Corby Swamp continues to be the most reliable *Lackawanna* location at which to find

Least Bitterns; one was there 6/12 (CF). Breeding pairs of **Merlin** appear stable, or even increasing, across the county; a single bird was reported from PSF 6/26 (Donald Freiday). Following this came the observation of three with a nest ph. west of Blakely 7/6 (David LaVerne, David Trently). **Cliff Swallows** found their way onto more checklists this period with four seen above the Lehigh River at the northern boundary of SGL 127 from 6/24-28 (m.ob.) followed by a single bird at a dairy farm south of Scott 7/3 (Patrick J. Blake). Rounding off the notable sightings were two relatively late wood-warbler reports. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen and heard from Lake Kewanee west of Fleetville 6/16 (Meagan Moran), and a **Mourning Warbler** was singing at a private residence in Madison Twp 6/3 (Meghan Leuthe).

Observers: Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com, Chris Fischer.

Lancaster County

Locations: Lancaster Airport (LA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Woods Edge Park (WEP).

Weather for the season was routine, with temperatures and rainfall close to average. Weather information is sourced from the NWS Harrisburg station. The species count was 164, versus the 5-year average of 158 (150, 154, 163, 162, 161 previous). The first state record **Limpkin**, third **Bicknell's Thrush**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, and **Franklin's Gull** were seasonal highlights. Several out-of-season warblers were documented. The all-time county list increased to 365.

On the evening of 7/7, a **Limpkin** was found at MC, documented with photographs on Facebook (anon.). This first state record has been overdue in PA, and it's not surprising that Middle Creek was where it finally happened. The Limpkin stayed on well post-period, feasting on an abundance of snails in the lake.

A **Sandhill Crane** was seen in flight near Lititz 7/1 (KB, TB). Two **Upland Sandpipers** arrived at LA 7/22 (BC, m.ob.), after being missed at this location last year. An adult **Hudsonian Godwit** was at MC 7/19-22 (NW, WW, m.ob.), joining many other shorebirds along the edges of the drawn-down lakeshore. A **Franklin's Gull** was located at SRCF 6/10 (JR), and an **American White Pelican** loafed around SRLC from 7/16 to after the period (NW, WW, m.ob.). A **Least Bittern**, likely a migrant, was heard calling nocturnally at WEP 7/25 (DS). Juvenile **Little Blue Herons** appeared at MC and SRLC beginning mid-Jul (m.ob.).

A **Bicknell's Thrush** was caught and banded at MC 6/7 (LF, PM), the third official record for the county coming right on the heels of one only two weeks prior. There were 16 breeding warbler species present in the county this summer, along with several odd, out-of-season sightings, such as a **Northern Waterthrush** at MC 7/8, which continued along the lakeshore into Aug (MEP, m.ob.). **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Tennessee Warbler** were at MC 7/22 and 7/23, respectively (JH both), as well as **Canada Warbler** at NDP 6/18 (DK), and **Wilson's Warbler** at MC 7/9 (MEa). Perhaps one or more of these individuals was a failed breeder, driven out of Canada by the extensive wildfires this season. We'll never know.

Observers: Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com, Kathy Becker, Tim Becker, Bruce Carl, Melissa Easter, Mike Epler, Lauren Ferreri, Jonathan Heller, Dan Keener, Payton Miller, Jan Roak, Derek Stoner, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf.

Correction: the Spring 2023 article listed the county species total as 365. It was 364 at the time.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strip Mines (VSM), Vosler Road (VR).

It was a very quiet season in *Lawrence* this summer. A **Hooded Merganser** at BS 6/11 (PS) was possibly breeding there. They have a history of confirmed breeding at gravel ponds in the southern half of the county but are found less than annually in summer in the northwestern

corner. A few pairs of **Sandhill Cranes** were found around VSM and Plain Grove Twp as usual, with the top count of eight birds made at the end of Jul (m.ob.). Five **Semipalmated Plovers** and four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at VR 6/2 (MV) were procrastinating on their northbound journey. The sandpipers were still there the next day, but the plovers were not. The first returning **Solitary Sandpipers** were two at BS 7/23 (PS) and three at VR 7/27 (MV). Three **Great Egrets** were a nice find on the Beaver R at West Pittsburg 7/29 (MV). Easily the best bird of the season was *Lawrence's* second **Black Vulture**, which was well-described along the Pennsylvania Turnpike very near the Ohio line, outside of Enon Valley 6/16 (RT). Intriguingly, the county's first record was of two birds just last year on 5/8/2022 about a mile due south of where the turnpike crosses into Ohio. Perhaps one or two of them have summered in that vicinity for each of the past two years. These birds also are yet another indicator of this species' recent and now very noticeable expansion into southwestern Pennsylvania. A **Northern Harrier** was at SR 6/11 (PS), tantalizingly suggesting breeding in the area. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted in two locations: at Covered Bridge Rd east of New Wilmington 6/5 and 7/13 (MH) and at Mudbridge Rd near Enon Valley 6/30 (JS). This season's random **Common Raven** report was made in Ellwood City 6/3 (PS). **Marsh Wren** tends to be surprisingly rare in the summer months given the appropriate (albeit limited) habitat in the county; this season one was at BS 7/2 (PS). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at VSM 6/5 and 7/14 (MH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a nice find along the Mahoning R west of Edinburg 6/18 (DR). They have been found annually there since 2020.

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Michelle Hanko, Dan Rabosky, Pam Shaw, Jason Short, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FIG), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found at SGL 211 on 6/10 (JFi, RS). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen at MC 6/10 (SF). Two **Virginia Rails** continued from the spring quarter at SL in FIG 6/10 (JFi, RS).

A **Dowitcher species** was photographed at Krieder's Pond 6/21 (RSt). The photos suggested Long-billed Dowitcher; however, the identification remained inconclusive. Neither Long-billed nor Short-billed Dowitcher have been recorded in *Lebanon* in June.

A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was at MC 6/15 (JS).

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was photographed over Myerstown 7/20 (*fide* ZM), providing a fourth county record. A **Barred Owl** was calling at SGL 211 on 6/10 (JFi, RS). **Peregrine Falcons** were reported from the Walmart Distribution Center near the GLRA 7/20 (RSt), from Clear Springs Rd near Annville 7/23 (JF, NF, BB, BBr, SB), and from Fox Rd 7/25 (P&RW).

A **Winter Wren** was singing 6/10 (JFi, RS) in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 where they are uncommon breeders.

A **Cerulean Warbler** continued from the spring quarter along Cold Springs Rd at FIG 6/10 (JFi, RS).

Blue Grosbeaks were reported at MC 6/15-7/24 (JS, JH, SW, KS). One was singing at the GLRA 6/19 (TB, KH, AH, RSt). Two were found at FIG 7/7 (KS, CT, RK).

Observers: Timothy Becker, tjbecker81@aol.com, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown (BBr), Stefani Brown, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, Steve Ferreri, Jim Fiorentino (JFi), Jonathan Heller, Katie Hess, Ann Holtzman, Rick Koval, Zach Millen, Kevin Shannon, Rosemary Spreha, Rita Stima (RSt), Jerr Stine, Cassidy Titus, Steve Walthius, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RW).

Lycoming County

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

A total of 144 species were reported during the summer.

A female **Ring-necked Duck** was at RVL 6/3 (BB). A male **Bufflehead** was at RVL 6/24-7/16 (BB, et al.), and a female was at Little Pine SP 6/2-7/17 (BB, DB, RB, DeB, BoB et al.).

Two **Virginia Rails** were heard at SGL 75 on 6/15 (AS, OS), and one was along Upper Bodines Rd 6/16 (DanB, DF). A **Sora** was at SGL

68 on 7/24 (JD, DR), and two were at SGL 75 the same day (JD, DR). An injured **American Coot** was found in a swimming pool in Jersey Shore 6/11 (CP).

An **American Avocet** was found at WD 7/17 (KS *et al.*), providing the fifth *Lycoming* record of that species. Two early migrant **Lesser Yellowlegs** were near Muncy 7/20 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB), and two more were at SGL 252 on 7/30 (BB, AK).

An immature **Herring Gull** was at WD 7/17 (BB *et al.*). A group of seven **Caspian Terns** dropped in at WD 6/16 (BB, DB).

A landowner near Muncy reported a juvenile **White Ibis** around 7/18, and it was confirmed by birders 7/20-21 (BB *et al.*), providing the second *Lycoming* record of the species.

A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at SGL 75 on 6/16 (AS).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was heard singing at James E. Short Park 6/1 (EH).

There were several **Red Crossbill** reports in the western part of the county. One was at SGL 68 on 7/17 (JK, AR). The remainder of the reports came from Haneyville, beginning 7/21 (DBi) and continuing at least into Aug (m.ob.).

Cerulean Warblers were in Slate Run during Jun (BB, DB, RB, DeB, BoB *et al.*).

Observers: **Bobby Brown**, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com, Diane Bitzer (DBi), Dan Brauning (DanB), Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Rebecca Brown, Jean Dalton, Dave Ferry, Evan Houston, Andy Keister, Jeff Kenney, Collin Porter, Angela Romanczuk, David Rothrock, Adam Smith, Owen Smith, Kirsten Steliga.

McKean County

Locations: Kinzua Valley Trail (KVT), Ormsby Swamp Conservation Area (ORM).

There were 104 species reported to eBird this season. A **Common Merganser** "hen with 9 fledglings" was on KVT 7/20 (CA). **Ruffed Grouse** had three sightings: KVT 6/11 (BS; near Kane 7/17 (JC); near Red Bridge 7/31 (CW).

One **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Marilla Res 7/30 (MC), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was at ORM 7/18 (CA). One **Ring-billed Gull** was seen in Bradford 7/30 (MD). A **Common Loon**, an "immature foraging in the bay," was in Sugar Bay 7/1 (JD, AD), and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was on Shawmut Trail 7/16 (CA). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near Mt Jewett 6/7 (BH), and one was near Lafayette 7/22 (MM). The only owl report was of a **Barred Owl** at Cady Hollow Campground 6/23 (RH, SM).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported from KVT 7/20 (CA). Four reports of single **Alder Flycatchers** were from Cady Hollow Campground 6/23 (RH, SM), Kinzua Bridge SP 7/20, ORM 7/18, and KVT 7/20 (all CA). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was near Mt Jewett 7/17 (CA) and near Kane 7/18 (JC). Five **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Marilla Res 7/30 (MC). **Winter Wrens** were reported nine times 6/23-7/31 including counts of two, five, and seven "singing males" (CG, DR, CW *et al.*).

While 15 locations in nearby Allegany SP, *Cattaraugus*, New York, showed numerous eBird reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, only two reports were made for *McKean*: three near Red Bridge 7/17 (CW *vr.*) and one at ORM 7/18 (CA). **White-throated Sparrows** were near Smethport 7/16 (AA, CA), at Rixford 7/22 (LC), and in Bradford 7/30 (DS). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were near Kinzua Bridge SP 7/16 (CA). The only report for a **Bobolink** was near Smethport 6/12 (BG). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was near Mt Jewett 7/1 (BB) and near Port Allegany 7/19 (JK, AR).

Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were outside Kane 7/19 (CA), and a **Nashville Warbler** was outside Hazelhurst 6/15 (BB). Two reports for **Mourning Warbler** indicated one near Red Bridge 7/1 (CW) and in Rixford 7/22 (LC). A **Pine Warbler** in the Meade Run area 7/20 was "singing from a Hemlock stand" (CA).

Observers: **Carol Light**, **Benezette, PA**, 717-964-2324, lightpc2@gmail.com, Amelia Adams, Carl Adams, Brendyn Baptiste, Michele Carlson, Lisa Chapman, Jim Crumpler, Matthew Daw, Jillian Dither, Adriaan Dokter, Rebecca Hart, Colby Galliher, Barbara Gee, Bill Hendrickson, Jeff Kenney, Steve Manns, Melinda Marconi, Angela Romanczuk, David Rothrock, Barry Saylor, Dennis Smith, Carole Winslow.

Mercer County

Locations: Greenville (GN), Golden Run (GR), Jackson Center (JC), Propagation Area (PR), Sharon (SH), Sharpville (SV), Tieline Rd (TE), Wise Rd (WI).

Temperatures for June and July were generally above average with a very dry June. June was hot with an above average temperature of 77F (maximum 90F, minimum 64F). Slightly less than 2 inches of precipitation fell for the month (average 6.3 inches). July was slightly cooler with an average temperature of 75F (maximum 88F; minimum 69F). The month saw 6.0 inches of precipitation fall primarily during several thunderstorm events and is slightly above the historical monthly average of 5.6 inches.

A single **Common Nighthawk** was reported on multiple evenings at SH (MH), and four were observed there on 7/9 (MH). Two **Virginia Rails** were found at SGL 284 on 6/18 (AF, JP).

Three species of shorebirds were observed for the period, with all reports coming from PR. One **Black-bellied Plover** was present 6/3 (SM, RH). Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were there 6/10 (JB) and five were there 6/15 (MW). A group of seven **Least Sandpipers** were present 6/10 (JB).

A Swallow-tailed Kite reported on 7/27 at JC (RM) was described well by an experienced birder but could not be relocated by other birders. The second *Mercer* record of successful breeding by **Merlins** was documented by following the development and fledging of three young between discovery of the nest on 6/25 through the end of Jul (KS). Because of concern for disturbance at the nest site, the exact location was not disclosed.

A singing **Winter Wren** was heard 6/11 at SGL 130 (GK, MAK). The most exciting passerine was a **Sedge Wren** found 6/17 at WI (GE, CK) and seen through 6/24 (BW, m.ob.). Two **Bank Swallows** were found at PR 7/12 (JM). **Bobolinks** were observed 6/26 at TE (NK), where an estimated 30 individuals were displaying.

Single observations of **Louisiana Waterthrush** came from GN 7/19 (MW) and 7/31 (MW) near the end of their breeding season. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was found 6/4 at GN (MW), the last date the species was reported in *Mercer*. Of interest was a **Mourning Warbler** first found in GN 5/29 (MH) and still at the same location 6/4 (BW, m.ob.). **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed in their usual breeding area at GR with a maximum of three there 6/25 (KS).

Observers: **Mary Alice Koeneke**, koenekema@gmail.com, Jeff Brinker, Gary Elderbroom, Adrian Fenton, Rebecca Hart, Mimi Hoffmaster, Carrie Kress, Glenn Koppel, Mike Kovach, Nikki Kraft, Steve Manns, Jim Mondock, Ryan Mullet, Joel Postema, Kim Springer, Michael Williams, Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County

Locations: Bald Eagle SF (BESF), Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW), Milroy (MIL), Newton-Hamilton (NH), Rothrock SF (RSF), Zook farm near Belleville in Big Valley (ZO).

For the summer season, 107 species were reported, about average.

There were several reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, but none of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, always the less common. A Nightjar Survey Route conducted in the Cooper's Gap area of RSF 7/4 included three stops in *Mifflin*, at which a total of seven **Whip-poor-wills** were heard (GG, DG; see *Huntingdon* report).

The highest count of **Black Vulture** was only three, maybe reflecting the effects of avian flu. Non-breeding **Northern Harriers** were at ZO 6/8 (JZ) and seen from JMHW 7/15 (KB). Among nine reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**, one at Airydale was a family group of six (DB).

An **Alder Flycatcher** in BESF 6/4 was likely a late migrant as this species is one of the last to move north in spring and not known to nest here (KC); it was only the third eBird report for this species in summer in *Mifflin*. The only report of summer resident **Willow Flycatchers** was of three at MIL 6/6 (JK). **Purple Martins** were banded again by Nick Kerlin - see article elsewhere in this issue. The highlight was a colony of about 150 near BE, from which 53 young were banded.

A BBS route run in RSF 6/1 included about 20 stops in the Cooper's Gap and Spruce Mt. area of *Mifflin*. On that route, **Veeries** were recorded at eight stops in the excellent rhododendron/mountain laurel understory (DG, GG).

All grassland species reports came from the farmlands of BV. There were seven reports of **Grasshopper Sparrows**, mostly around BE and

MIL, and eight of **Savannah Sparrows**, all of one to three birds. Less often reported are **Vesper Sparrows**; three were found near MIL 6/6 and singles near BE 6/8 and 6/23 (JK). Nine **Bobolinks**, at best rare nesters here, were in a field near MIL 6/6 (JK) and 10 were counted there 6/19 (SB, RF, JL). Six reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** totaled 16 birds, with a high of seven near MIL 6/6 (JK *et al.*).

Eighteen warbler species were recorded. There were six reports of **Louisiana Waterthrush**, including at four stops on the BBS route in RSF 6/1 (DG, GG). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at NH 6/10 (BF). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were recorded in Tuscarora SF 6/8 (JZ). A **Magnolia Warbler** on the BBS 6/1 may have been a late migrant, but they are probably rare nesters in RSF (DG, GG). Two **Canada Warblers**, also rare nesters, were found on the BBS 6/1 (DG, GG), and one was along Lingle Valley Rd in RSF 6/2 (JZ).

Observers: Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, Pa. 16652, gwg2@psu.edu. Susan Braun, Ken Bowman, Dick Brown, Kay Cramer, Brian Franks, Roana Fuller, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Jen Lee, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Broadhead Creek Park (BCP), Delaware River (DR), Mount Pocono Airport (MPA), Pocono summit Lake (PSL), Skytop (ST).

The summer season kicked off nicely with a couple of **Kentucky Warbler** sightings and a successfully breeding pair of **Trumpeter Swans**. As if that wasn't enough, naturalist Rick Koval kept tabs throughout the summer on a successful breeding pair of **Merlins** at Skytop Lodge Resort.

For the second year in a row, a **Trumpeter Swan** and a **Mute Swan** bred successfully at PSL (PN), with five hybrid cygnets seen throughout the period (last year, a fox killed all the cygnets). A bigger surprise and success story were the two **Trumpeter Swans** with seven cygnets at the private, high-altitude "Lake in the Clouds" (Jan Olsommer). A **Bufflehead** continued on the DR through 6/24 (JM).

The shorebird season seemed to be in full swing very early this year. On 7/6-7, MPA had a **Short-billed Dowitcher**, two **Least Sandpipers**, a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and two **Solitary Sandpipers** (m.ob.). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find on 7/21 at PSL sitting snugly on a beaver lodge (Matt Drago).

A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were documented throughout the period at BCP, successfully fledging two young (JW, NT). Another huge success story were the pair of **Merlins** that successfully fledged two young on the large open areas and golf course of ST (RK). I have no way of verifying for sure, since there are many old-time birders who keep their sightings private, but the breeding Merlins and Trumpeter Swans may be the first for Monroe County in modern eBird times, emphasizing the importance of publicly accessible data of such rare breeding events.

A **White-eyed Vireo** continued through the period at the Cherry Valley HQ (JM, m.ob.). Two **Kentucky Warblers** were seen in the month of June, very rare for the county. The first was on 6/3 in a high-elevation mountainous location, which is unusual in itself (Angelo DelloMargio). The second was on 6/17 in the more appropriate lower-level riparian habitat (JM).

Last, but definitely not least, is the head-scratching account of a vehicular strike of a **Nelson's Sparrow** on 6/10 at ST (RK). The bird survived and was taken to some nearby appropriate habitat and released in apparently good health. This was one rare bird for the date and location...and one lucky bird and birder!

Observers: Bruce Johnson, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com, Rick Koval, Paul Nale, Jon Mularczyk, Nancy Tully, Jeff Wilkens.

Montgomery County

Locations: Bethayres Swamp (BS), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg SP (ESP), Fischer's Park (FP), Franconia Twp (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Mermaid Lake Park (MLP), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Summer 2023 was a bountiful one for bird species in *Montgomery*. Excluding three varieties of presumed escapees, 146 species were recorded. That number far exceeds the summer average for the last

decade, 125.7, as well as the previous recent high-point, summer 2021, when 139 species were found. Unfavorable shorebird habitat and relatively low diversity at GLP in Jul, coupled with a poor early Jun flyover showing at GLP and elsewhere, was more than compensated for by better-than-typical waterfowl and passerine hauls, including 10 species of ducks and 19 species of warbler.

As always, all county record claims are based on eBird data. Although we have an extensive, robust dataset in eBird, it may not necessarily be complete.

Hoy Park, at the south end of ESP, has hosted a **Snow Goose** since at least Dec 2021. The goose was seen at/near the park throughout the period (LT, m.ob.).

A hen **Gadwall** remained at GLP to 6/18 (m.ob., ph.). A drake **American Wigeon** at GLP 6/30-7/10 (LH, m.ob., ph.) was both a second county record for Jun and a first county record for Jul. An **American Black Duck** was at GLP for the entire period (JV, m.ob., ph.), with a second reportedly joining it 6/20 (LJ, MS). Another was found on the Schuylkill at Conshohocken 7/19-22 (RB, m.ob., ph.). A male **Green-winged Teal** was seen frequently at GLP through the period (m.ob., ph.), representing only a third record for the month of Jun. Two drake **Ring-necked Ducks** showed up at GLP 7/16 (AD, ED, m.ob., ph.). **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at five locations (m.ob.), including a group of seven at Graterford 6/14 (JT, ph.). A **Ruddy Duck** was at GLP 6/1-4 (SG, m.ob., ph.).

An early **Pied-billed Grebe** made an appearance at GLP 7/16 (AD, ED, m.ob., ph.).

None of the period's **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen. All were detected via NFC. One went over FT 6/6 (SG, vr.), others over Wyndmoor 6/2 and 6/20 (JF, vr.), and one more went by ESP 7/31 (JS, vr.).

Sora NFC was recorded from Wyndmoor 6/11 (JF, vr.). Sora were seen regularly at DMP beginning on the early date of 7/7 and continued into the fall period (PM, m.ob., ph.). Another Sora was reported calling at MLP, an ex-golf course in Whippen Twp., after sunset on 7/8 (DB). Prior to this year, the county's only Jul Sora record was a 7/15 NFC. These would have been the only rail(s) of the summer were it not for the shocking discovery of an adult **Common Gallinule** at BS 6/11 (JC, ph.). It paddled around the swamp through at least 6/28 (m.ob., ph.). This bird set a few records: it was the first Jun record, second breeding season record, and the third gallinule to be found in *Montgomery* within the last 20 years.

A late **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at GLP 6/13 (KR, m.ob., ph.). A **White-rumped Sandpiper**, originally found 5/31, continued at GLP to 6/3 (m.ob., ph.). A remarkable five White-rumped Sandpipers were at GLP 6/13 (KR, m.ob., ph.), the first summer report of more than one of this species since 1980. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were noted at GLP 6/2-7 (m.ob., ph.), while another was at WWP 6/8-9 (MS, m.ob.). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were taped as they flew over Huntingdon Valley 6/2 (JC, vr.). Two dowitchers were seen on the ground at WWP 6/19 (GP, m.ob., ph.), and one was at GLP 7/25 (JFu). A notably early, or maybe very late, **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at WWP 6/22 (CD, m.ob., ph.).

Unusual for the date, a **Ring-billed Gull** was at GLP 6/2 (AD *et al.*, ph.). An early pair of **Caspian Terns** were seen at GLP 7/9 (DB), followed by a single bird at GLP 7/16 (AD, ED, ph.). In what was to be the third Jul sighting of this species within the last decade, a **Forster's Tern** was spotted at GLP 7/16 (AD, ED, m.ob., ph.).

Though typically scarce in Jun, a group of **Great Egrets** were seen by many at BS starting 6/13 (m.ob.), including a Jun-record high count of eight on 6/24 (TF). Seventeen **Green Herons** were counted at GLP's Knight Lake 7/20 (KR), the best spot in the county to see this species in bulk. A juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at WWP 6/19 (RB, m.ob., ph.), while a juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at BS 7/6-21 (MG, m.ob., ph.).

Speaking of juveniles, two young **Osprey** were photographed at a nest in Palm 6/21 (LH, ph.). Osprey have nested on the same cell tower since 2020. **Broad-winged Hawks** were observed in traditional nesting areas in ESP and GLP this period (m.ob.), while another was reported at NFP 6/3 (SGr).

Two pairs of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** remained near nests locations in the UCV through 7/17, at least (m.ob., ph.). A juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker turned up in a Salford Twp yard 7/30 (WBH, ph.).

An early **Merlin** at Willow Lake Farm 7/25 (RB, ph.) was a first county summer record.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard vocalizing at Upper Schuylkill Valley Park 6/3 (JH *et al.*, vr.).

White-eyed Vireos were on their usual ESP breeding territory, as well as relatively newfound territory at VFNHP (m.ob.).

Horned Larks were located, in singles and in pairs, in FT farmland 6/27-7/6 (AH, m.ob., vr.), and at two locations in Upper Hanover Twp 7/13-14 (ED, vr.).

Bank Swallows continued at Norristown Dam to 6/16, with as many as five individuals reported (m.ob.).

Rolling Hill Park, the only spot in the county with a dense **Veery** breeding population, had at least 11 vocal birds 6/5 and 7/19 (SJ). **Swainson's Thrush** NFC over Wyndmoor 6/11 represented the third latest county record of this species (JF, vr.), while a Swainson's photographed at GLP 6/9 represented the latest ever sight record (DC, ph.). Additional Swainson's Thrush NFC were recorded from Wyndmoor, FT, and Haverford College to 6/6 (JF, SG, SJ, vr.).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found in low, single-digit quantities at seven locations (m.ob.), including at FP 6/18-7/30 (AD, vr.), where they were a first park record. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was in the UCV 6/16 (KC, ph.). Single **White-throated Sparrows** were observed in Dresher 6/13 (TV, ph.), FP 6/18 (AD, vr.), the Green Ribbon Trail near WWP 6/18 (RB, ph.), and Perkiomenville 7/21 (WS). The Perkiomenville sparrow was only the fourth Jul record. Defining *Montgomery's* second ever Jul record was a **Swamp Sparrow** at DMP 7/24 (MK). Solo **Savannah Sparrows** were at Fell Rd in FT 7/6 (WBH, ph.) and DMP 7/18 (SJ).

Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** continued at VFNHP to 7/8 (m.ob., ph.), while the pair at Heuser Park were present until at least 6/17 (m.ob., ph.). A single chat was also located at Pottstown Landfill 6/4 (JT, ph.).

A flock of 1,200 **Common Grackles** was seen at GLP 7/30 (AD, ED).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** was recorded singing at ESP 7/22 (PN, TN, vr.). A **Prothonotary Warbler** found at Central Perkiomen Valley Park 5/23 persisted to 6/1 (m.ob.). Another Prothonotary Warbler was downstream, at Lower Perkiomen Valley Park, 6/7 (PB, AuD, vr.). A pair of **Hooded Warblers** were seen at Lorimer Park 7/30 (TF, ph.). A singing male **Cerulean Warbler** was at GLP for just one day, 6/7 (SS, m.ob., ph.). Given the date and behavior, there was a good chance of it having been a failed nester from elsewhere, wandering around. **Northern Parula** were at 11 sites (m.ob.). Five **Magnolia Warblers** were found at assorted locations to 6/6 (m.ob.). Prior to 2023, there were only two Jun records of this species. Now there are seven. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** NFC captured in FT 6/2 was the first Jun record since 2005 (SG, vr.). An especially late **Blackpoll Warbler** was at MLP 6/9 (DB). **Pine Warblers** were at seven locations (m.ob.). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at NFP 6/3 (SGr), and two more were documented at VFNHP 6/10-29 (AW, m.ob., ph.).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was recorded singing at BS 7/12 (MK, vr.). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** were at VFNHP 7/2 (PD, vr.), and FT 6/27-7/6 (AH, m.ob., vr.), but the species was most frequently reported from DMP, where it was present for the entire period (m.ob., ph.). A **Dickcissel** was found at VFNHP 7/4 (AM, ph.), just barely on the *Chester* side of the county line. Two birders eager for a *Montgomery* tick reportedly scoped it in *Chester* from "our" side of the border 7/5 (SGr, DB). Whether that counts as a *Montgomery* bird is a subject for debate.

EXOTICS: A pair of **Black Swans** discovered at GLP in early May continued to 6/4 (m.ob., ph.), at which point they abruptly disappeared. Three probably released **Northern Bobwhites** were at Fort Washington SP 6/4-7 (KRu, m.ob., ph.).

ADDENDUM: A NFC recorded 5/20/2022 was recently identified as a **Long-billed Dowitcher** (SG, vr.), representing the first spring record for this species in *Montgomery* since 1991.

Observers: W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp, PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com, Dave Belford, Pam Bojanoski, Redmond Brubaker, Danielle Clark, Josh Cooper, Kevin Crilley, Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, Audrey Dorofy (AuD), Paul Driver, Curt Dunn, Jason Fehon, Tom Filip, James Funk (JFu), Scott Godshall, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Andrew Harrington, Jeff Herbst, Len Hillegass, Lynn Jackson, Sheryl Johnson, Marjorie Keefe, Patricia Lee McGrath, Adrian Melck, Pat Nastase, Tony Nastase, Geoff Pawlikowski, Kenneth Rieker, Katie Ruth (KRu), Martin Selzer, Jonathan Sowers, Sam Stuart, Walter Stutz, Jaime Thomas, Linda Tomeo, Jeff Vinosky, Tom Voter, Amanda Williams.

Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP)

This smallest county in the state lacks diverse breeding habitat and did not produce any eyebrow-raising sightings.

Up to six **Snow Geese**, some likely injured and others perhaps pair-bonding, were seen in Jun at the MP, with a lone bird remaining by the end of Jul. A **Northern Harrier** was seen from Shultz Rd 6/15 (KP). **Merlins** likely nested at the MP, with sightings in Apr, May, and 6/15 (AK).

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

Northampton County

After a very dry May, there were plenty of rainy days in June. A late **Bufflehead** was at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 6/6-12 (SA). A high count of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was on SGL 168 from the Katellen Trailhead 6/10 (MS, CCS). An **American White Pelican** was photographed on a boat dock on the Delaware R. in Riverton 6/27 (MG). There was a **Least Bittern** at Minsi Lake 7/1-7 (MD). An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Hron** was found at Green Pond 6/12 (BW). There was a late **White-throated Sparrow** at Housenick Memorial Park 6/27 (LF) and on National Park Dr in the Delaware Water Gap NRA 7/1 (SM). **Blue Grosbeak** was at Grand Central Landfill 6/10-7/17 (MS) and at Graver's Hill 6/25 (BW).

Observers: Michael Schall, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com, Scott Angus, Megan Davis, Linda Freedman, Mary Sue Gulick, Sandy McPhail, Corinne Campbell Schall, Billy Weber.

Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Warrior Run Wetlands (WRW).

The summer season was slow in the county with few reports due to decreased birder effort. Summer weather started very dry but ended extremely wet. Temperatures were average.

The season's only report of **Forster's Tern** was a single bird seen at the ATBD 7/27 (KP).

The highlight of the season was a **Common Loon** that spent the entire season at the ATPD observed/reported between the dates of 6/12-7/26 (m.obs.).

Last year, **Marsh Wrens** nested at the WRW. This year, the only reports of the species was also at WRW on 6/6 (BP) and again on 6/9 (KP).

Observers: Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com, Bryce Pertes, Karol Pasquinnelli.

Philadelphia County

Locations: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Schuylkill River (SR), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP).

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was a one-day wonder at JHNWR 7/29 (DS, MT). One of a handful of **Snow Geese** seen over the last 10 years was at JHNWR 6/5-10 (RR *et al.*). Rarer summer visitors were a **Green-winged Teal** at JHNWR 6/12-29 (BF *et al.*) and a **Lesser Scaup** at Frankford Arsenal Boat Launch on 7/16 (HP) – the first ones since 2012 and 2014, respectively. Five recently fledged **Common Mergansers** were loafing on a rock in the Manayunk Canal 6/15 (RF). Summer observations including offspring have been recorded in this section of the SR since 2020. Hopefully, efforts during the upcoming Pennsylvania Third Bird Atlas can clarify if these are true *Philadelphia* breeding records or "spillovers" from upstream populations in *Montgomery*.

Enjoying the attention of many, a **King Rail** frequently strutted out into the open at JHNWR 6/21-7/9 (KC, WS, m.ob.). This was the second observation of this former breeder in as many years, after a 10-year absence from the county. The first summer recordings of a **Sora** in six years were made at JHNWR 6/9-13 (BF *et al.*). John C. Miller highlighted "a few breeding records in the [Tinicum] area" in the 1950s, but this

species has only been noted on migration since then, apart from sporadic summer observations. *Philadelphia* continues to produce >90% of Pennsylvania's (known) **Common Gallinule** offspring. However, at SWTP the number of pairs may have declined to two or three from five last year (DB, HP). No offspring was reported at JHNWR though adult birds were seen copulating (m.ob.). Very unusual was an early migrating **American Woodcock** in one of Center City's pocket parks (CH). Because the bird was clearly distressed, wildlife rescue was called in for help.

At least one pair of **Least Bitterns** was back at SWTP, and one or two birds were seen at JHNWR though no offspring were confirmed (m.ob.). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery at JHNWR grew to at least 16 occupied nests (m.ob.). Compared to the double-digit numbers at JHNWR from last year, **Little Blue Herons** were peculiarly absent except for a single bird. Up to three **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, including two immature birds, were along the SR at the Art Museum 6/18-7/18 raising hopes that they might have bred in the area (PD *et al.*). And while we, finally, were blessed with a first county record of a **Roseate Spoonbill** at JHNWR, the bird unfortunately only stuck around for a day 7/29-30 (DH, JM).

A juvenile **Black Vulture** was with an adult at the Navy Yard 7/12 where a family bred successfully in 2020 (MDo). **Osprey** nests were confirmed from 12 locations within the city limits (excluding nests at Glen Foerd and JHNWR), an increase from eight last year (m.ob.). Up to five breeding sites were reported for **American Kestrels**, all in heavily urban areas (m.ob.). After discovering the first confirmed breeding site last year, **Common Raven** families now appear to be established at three locations: Red Lion Road in NE Philadelphia, Parkside Avenue in W Philadelphia and north of Bartram's Garden (EE, BF, HP).

A pair of **Horned Larks** raised one young at the former Island Green Golf Course (HP). No breeding attempt was made at the Army Corps of Engineers, the likely cause being habitat deterioration due to overgrowth. The **Bank Swallow** colony there was still active with 40 burrows counted but only a handful of birds seen on site (TB, MDe, HP). The small **Cliff Swallow** colony discovered in 2022 continued to thrive with as many as 10 nests under the Columbia Bridge over the SR (MDe). A singing **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at JHNWR on 6/9 was the latest spring record for the county (BF). Adult **Savannah Sparrows** were photographed carrying food at Northeast Philadelphia Airport 6/4-17 (PM) which marked the first confirmed breeding in the city since 1950 when John C. Miller found ten nests in the Tinicum area.

Observers: Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflucke.holger@gmail.com, Debbie Beer, Tanya Burnett, Kayann Cassidy, Peter DeStefano, Martin Dellwo (MDe), Manny Dominguez (MDo), Ed Edge, Ben Filreis, Rebecca Froggatt, Deborah Hansen, Christopher Hinkle, Jim McConnell, Patrick McGill, Russell Rogers, Daniel Singer, Wendy Sykora, Meredith Tamminga.

Pike County

Not a lot of uncommon sightings to report in Pike for the period but a few good ones. **Trumpeter Swan** continues to be regular with 2 **Trumpeter Swans** at Promised Land SP 6/3-7/21 (EP). Another **Trumpeter Swan** was at Shohola WMA 7/1-16 (CF). A **Common Merganser** with many young was on the river at the Dingmans Campground Access Point 6/19 (S&F). Good birds seen at Lake Little Teedyuskung included a **Pied-billed Grebe** on 7/20 (RJ) and a **Virginia Rail** 7/17 (RJ). On 6/6-7 thanks to some local fisherman posting on social media, several birders got to see a county-first **Brown Pelican** at Lake Wallenpaupack. At Forest Lake, a **Least Bittern** was recorded on 6/2 (NR, JW). A **Great Egret** was seen at the Zane Grey Museum on the Delaware R. 7/22 (PS). In Delaware Water Gap NRA at Adams Creek, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found 6/19 (S&F).

Observers: Michael Schall, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com, Cathy Fisher, Dawn Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Edie Parnum, Nate Rice, Patti Shreiner, Stollery & Flood, Jason Weckstein.

Potter County

Locations: Austin (AUST), East Fork Road--Austin (EFR-AUST), Rock Ridge Road--Austin (RRR-AUST), Prouty Lick Road--AUSTIN (PLR-AUS), Cherry Springs SP (CSSP), Coudersport (COUD), North Hollow Road--Coudersport (NHR-COUD), Summit Township (SUTWP), Cross Fork (CRFO), Billy Lewis Road at Denton Hill (BLR-DH), Dingman Run Road--Eutalia Twp (DRR-EU), Losey Run

Road--Galeton (LRR-GA), Schoolhouse Hollow--Galeton (SH-GALE), Galeton Lake (GALA), Lake Lloyd, Genesee Mills Road (LAL-GMR), Dingman Run Road--Hebron (DRR-HE), South Hollow--Homer Twp (SOH-HT), Joerg Road (JOERG), Keating Summit (KESU), Long Toe Road clearcut (LTRC), Lyman Road Campground--Galeton (LRC-GALE), Palmatier Hollow, Lyman Run Campground (PH-LRC), Lyman Run Road--Galeton (LRR-GA), Lyman Run SP (LRSP), North Fork Dam (NOFD), Ole Bull SP--Beaver Swamp (OBSP-BS), Ole Bull Vista--Spring Brook Road (OBV-SBR), Lanninger Creek Road--Roulette (LCR-ROUL), Roulette-Railroad Avenue (ROUL-RA), Phoenix Run Road--Sabinsville (PRR-SAB), Shinglehouse (SHINGL), Sizerville SP--Potter (SIZSP-P), Sinnemahoning SP--Potter (SISP-P), Ansley Road--SGL-64 (AR-SGL64), State Game Lands 64, East Unit (SGL64-EU), State Game Lands 204 (SGL 204), Susquehannock SF--Baker Run, Odin (SUSF-ODIN), Susquehannock SF--Hammersly Wild Area-Potter (SUSF-HWA-P), Sweden Hill Cemetery (SWHIC), South Woods Road--Sylvania Twp (SWR-SYL), Ulysses (ULYS).

A total of 127 species were listed for the county. Three duck species were reported: **Wood Duck** at LRR-GA, COUD, OBSP-BS, and ULYS; **Hooded Merganser** at GALA, LRR-GA, and SH-GALE; **Common Merganser** at GALA, COUD, and SISP-P (, m.ob.). **Wild Turkeys** were seen at 20 locations, with a high count of six at LRR-GA 7/13 (ES, m.ob.). There were 11 reports of one to three **Ruffed Grouse** from 11 locations, with three birds reported from PRR-SAB 6/4 (CG, m.ob.). Both species of cuckoo were more abundant this summer than in past years. There were 16 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** from 11 locations and 16 observations of **Black-billed Cuckoos** from eight locations, with most reports from Jun (m.ob.). Single **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from SGL64-EU 6/1 and PRR-SAB 6/2 (DR, CG). **American Woodcock** reports (as single birds) were confined to just three locations. **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen at LRSP 6/23 and GALA 7/27 (MS, SS). The only report of gulls was of 13 **Ring-billed Gulls** at LAL-GMR 7/9 (KB). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at LRSP 6/28 (MS).

Ospreys (1-2 birds) were observed 28 times from nine locations primarily along US Hwy 6, in the vicinity of COUD and LCR-ROUL and an occupied nest was reported from a location near US Hwy 6, east of ROUL 6/2-7/31 (ES, m.ob.).

Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were observed at a private camp near ULYS 7/7 and SISP-P 7/19 (SD, MS, JK, AR). **Cooper's Hawks** were reported from KESU 6/11 and COUD 7/10 (DP, ES). **Bald Eagles** were reported (1-2 birds per sighting) 14 times, from five locations, while single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from nine locations. **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported as single-bird sightings from 10 locations across the county. There were 12 accounts of **Red-tailed Hawks** county-wide, mostly reported as single birds.

One **Great Horned Owl** was reported at NHR-COUD 7/15 (RSc). Single **Barred Owls** were reported from SISP-P 7/15 (MS), Prouty Road, AUST (nocturnal) 7/17 (ES), Ansley Road, GALE 6/1 (JM), JOERG 6/7 (SL) and OBV-SBR 6/9 (DF). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was noted at JOERG 6/30 (SL).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at LRSP 7/16, and the description included "[u]nmistakable large white wing patches" (DJ). After checking eBird for Jun-Jul for data over all years, the only other RHW reports were from Ulysses Twp (Nathan Weyandt, Nick Voris and Chelsea Beck 6/18-6/19 2018)

Single **American Kestrels** were reported from four locations: GALA 6/4, 6/18, SWHIC 7/2 and 7/16, and SGL 204 6/15 (CG, CC, RSc, DJ). A single **Merlin** was near a bird feeder in SHINGL 7/4 and three were observed at the fire dept in COUD 7/15 (KE, MM).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at OBSP-BS 6/22 (SL). Single **Acadian Flycatchers** were seen at CRFO 6/9 and SISP-P 6/15 (DF, BB). Single **Willow Flycatchers** were observed at a private camp near ULYS 6/11(SD), BLR-DH 6/13 (LT), NOFD 6/23 (KC) and two were reported from DRR-HE 7/1 (BB). Just one **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported for the county, from the S part of *Potter* at a residence on JOERG 6/3 (SL). Only one or two observations each (single birds) was submitted for the following species: **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, AUST 6/4 (DK), **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, SHINGL 7/4 (KE), **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 6/1, 6/2 SISP-P (MS), **Marsh Wren**, NOFD 7/23 (KC), **Northern Mockingbird**, LRSP 7/17 (DJ), and **Savannah Sparrow**, DRR-HE 7/1 (BB).

Bobolinks were found in low numbers at nine locations (m.ob.) with a high count of six in fields along ROUL-RA (BBS route) 6/23 (RH, SM).

Orchard Orioles were seen at just three locations: single birds at SISP-P 6/2 (MS) and Creek View Road, AUST 6/4, and two were observed at a private camp near ULYS 6/11 (SD).

A single **Worm-eating Warbler** report came from SHINGL 7/4 (KE), and another one was seen at GALE 6/2 (MS). Three other sightings of single WEWAs were also reported from BBS routes from ROUL-RA and SWR-SYL on 6/23 (RH, SM). There were two reports of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** as single birds from SUSF-HWA-P 6/5 and SISP-P 6/15 (BM, BB). Only one report was given for **Blue-winged Warbler**, a single bird seen along NHR-COUD 6/28 (DF). Eleven reports of **Mourning Warbler** (single birds) came from 10 locations (BB, BC, ES, MH, TH). Single birds were also noted for **Cerulean Warbler** 6/9 at CRFO (DF), **Blackpoll Warbler** AR-SGL64 6/1, **Pine Warbler** SHINGL 7/4 (KE), **Prairie Warbler** DRR-HE 7/1 (BB), and single **Canada Warblers** from DRR-EU 7/1 (BB), EFR-AUST 6/7, RRR-AUST 6/20, LYSP 7/26 (ES).

Observers: Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com, Brendyn Baptiste, Kimberly Burkholder, Cory Chiappone, Braden Collard, Ken Cooper, Sue Dibble, Kathy Ebling, David Ferry, Cassie Gehenio, Marc Hanneman, Rebecca Hart, Dan Jolley, Jeff Kenney, Darlene Kershner, Sarah Lindgren, Steve Manns, Melinda Marconi, Dani McCauley, Joshua McCoy, Bill Mendat, David Poder, Doug Raybuck, Angela Romanczuk, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Ronnie Schenkein (RSc), Eric Schille, Larry Tasillo.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 (Flt 93), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Payne Property (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake (SL).

It was a typical breeding season, with most forest birds holding their own while grassland birds were scarcer than previous years. For the first time in over 10 years, SL was refilled to capacity with abundant emergent vegetation and willow trees, which encouraged breeding species not seen in the county for decades. It will be intriguing to see if increased coverage with next year's PBA3 efforts will turn up any new breeders.

Wood Ducks had a good year at SL with up to eight clutches found in Jun. A **Blue-winged Teal** was rather late at SL 6/6 (AD) but not seen afterwards. **Hooded Mergansers** may have bred in one of the Wood Duck boxes as up to four birds in female plumage were seen on 6/16 at SL (JP). Interesting were a male and female **Ruddy Duck** at SL 6/16-20 (m.ob.). Though this species will occasionally breed on a heavily vegetated lake, no later observations were made. A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** in the BA's now dissolved Wild Pheasant Reintroduction Area 6/20 (CP, JP, RP) may be a surviving remnant of that program as no known stocking occurs nearby. The origin of a calling male 6/19 in the far southeastern portion of the county was unknown (CP, JP, RP). There were no seasonal reports of **Ruffed Grouse**; however, **Wild Turkeys**, including hens with poults, were widely reported.

The stars of the breeding season were found in the thick vegetation of the newly flooded SL. At least four pairs of **Pied-billed Grebes** were present and one to three juveniles were seen with adult birds through the period (m.ob.). More gratifying, but not totally unexpected, were up to three calling **Common Gallinules** first found 6/16 (JP, MP) and subsequently seen and heard by many observers. Although becoming stealthy and quiet by mid-July, the next reporting period will show they did not disappear. This species has not been reported in the county since at least the 1970s. An **American Coot** was present up to 6/16 (JP, LG) but not found later.

Both cuckoo species were well-reported throughout the period. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard through the entire period mostly in Glencoe and CA. A nice find in cattails near Boswell at Mallard's Rest passive treatment area 6/30 (EH) were both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**, probably breeders. Single **Upland Sandpipers** were found in grasslands at Gallitzin SF 6/1 (JP) and 6/13 (LG) where one or two pairs may still breed. **American Woodcock** were at PP 6/8 (JP) and near Meyersdale 6/16 (Ade). The only other shorebirds found were **Spotted Sandpipers** through the period at SL (AD, JP).

A **Caspian Tern** making a couple of passes at SL 7/11 (JP) was unseasonal. A basic-plumaged **Common Loon** stayed at SL from at least

6/12-23 (CP, JP, RP, TO). **Double-crested Cormorants** frequented the many new snags at SL, with a high count of 10 on 7/7 (JP). A **Great Egret** was at SL 6/19 (CP, JP, RP). **Green Herons** were numerous in the willows at SL. **Black Vultures** garnered just three reports of one to three birds from 6/6-18. **Osprey** singles and pairs were reported 10 times throughout the period at various lakes. **Northern Harrier** was scarce with just a single male reported 6/30 at Gallitzin SF (BOy, KS). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was near Fairhope 6/5 (JP), but **Cooper's Hawk** was somewhat more common. **Bald Eagles** and **Broad-winged Hawks** were found frequently while **Red-shouldered Hawks** were only seen twice, both times on Mt. Davis 6/9 (CA, JM) and 7/19 (DB). Both **Eastern Screech-Owls** and **Great Horned Owls** had two reports, while **Barred Owls** were detected six times.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were downright common, with 26 reports from higher elevation areas. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** also seemed to be on the upswing, with at least 10 locations reporting birds. **Merlin** has been found in recent breeding seasons, and this year a single was at Youghiogheny Reservoir 6/20 (CP, JP, RP); three birds in *Somerset* in July may have been a family unit (BF). The *Empidonax* group in the county was well-represented by **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers**, while **Least Flycatcher** was less often found; a 6/18 report of two **Alder Flycatchers** at Flt 93 may have been late migrants (AD). **White-eyed Vireos** were sparingly found at lower elevations as this year's three reports from CA and Fairhope demonstrate. **Blue-headed**, **Yellow-throated**, and **Red-eyed Vireos** were well-represented, but surprisingly there were no **Warbling Vireos** recorded this season. **Horned Larks** were sparse, with birds from 6/12-20 (TO) near Markleton.

A group of 31 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was at Hooversville 6/18 (AD). Pioneering **Purple Martins** were at four sites, with a strong colony present near Springs. Single **Bank Swallows** were at SL 7/3 (JP) and CA 7/10 (BOt). The sole **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Laurel Summit 6/7 (AD). Other high-elevation birds were **Brown Creeper** with four records, **Winter Wren** with 11, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** with four. **Hermit Thrush** was widely found mostly at higher elevations and at KRNA. The six reports of single **Northern Mockingbirds** were at lower elevation areas. **Purple Finch** was a breeder; there were many reports of between one and five birds.

A nice count of 14 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was at Gallitzin SF grasslands 6/19 (CP, JP, RP). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were breeding at Mt. Davis and on Laurel Mountain. **Vesper Sparrows** were found at Gallitzin and on a farm south of Meyersdale (JP). **Savannah Sparrows** seem to be found less frequently than in the past, with Gallitzin and Flt 93 the most reliable spots. **Henslow's Sparrows** are also sparingly found at the above-mentioned two sites and at a beef farm pasture south of Windber. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** found was in the far SE corner of the county 6/19 (CP, JP, RP). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were a bit sparse, but many were singing at Flt 93 6/7 (JP).

Twenty-four warbler species were reported this breeding season. Among the noteworthy: six reports for **Worm-eating Warbler**; two pairs of **Northern Waterthrush** at Mt. Davis 7/18 (DB); **Golden-winged Warbler** near Shaffer's Run 6/6 (JP, AD); **Kentucky Warbler** on Comps Rd 6/19 (CP, JP, RP); three reports of **Cerulean Warbler**; many reports of **Northern Parula**, **Blackburnian**, and **Magnolia Warblers**; migrant **Blackpoll Warbler** 6/1 at Laurel Summit (MH); **Pine Warbler** at QR 6/14 (LG) and Seven Springs 7/25 (DP); two reports of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** from Laurel Summit (JM, KD); **Yellow-throated Warbler** in CA 7/10 (BOt); **Prairie Warbler** 6/1 on Laurel Summit (MH); nine **Canada Warblers** 7/19 on Mt. Davis (DB).

Very notable for the county was a first-year male **Blue Grosbeak** at the Jacob Fisher farm near Pocahontas 7/9-11 (BF *et al.*) loudly singing for a mate. This compiler went looking the morning of 7/12 and found it had departed.

Observers: Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, paynemt@gmail.com, 814-279-8142, David Blokstein, Amanda Deal (Ade), Karen Delaney, Alexander Donley, Ben Flora, Linda Greble, Eric Hall, Matt Hunter, Joshua McCoy, Tiffany Ohler, Bonnie Ott, Bill Oyler, Chris Payne, Matt Payne, Rebecca Payne, Derek Pulhemus, Kevin Shannon.

Sullivan County

Locations: Estella (EST), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), High Knob Inn Rd (HKI), Hunter's Lake (HL), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Ricketts Glen State Park Hayfields (RGSPH), Saxe Pond (SP), SGL 13 Newel Rd (SNR), SGL 13 Painter Run Rd (PRR), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), Summer Trail (ST), Ticklish Run Rd (TR).

The dry weather that dominated May finally broke with more seasonal rains in June and July. This report highlights species that are unusual or uncommon for the county.

A **Ring-billed Gull** was at EML 6/5 (SS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at RGSP 7/19 (JD). A singing **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at SNR 6/16 (DG). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at SDP 7/14 (AR).

A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was found on ST 6/24 (SM). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found at RGSPH 7/31 (CF), and **Warbling Vireo** was at HL 6/5 (SS). One **Bank Swallow** was present at SP 7/3 (MG). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at RGSPH 6/19 (CS). At least two **Red Crossbills** were heard at SNR 6/16 (DG). An **Orchard Oriole** was in EST 7/29 (TR). **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen at HKI 6/6 (SS). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at TR 6/6 (SS). A **Mourning Warbler** was in LSF 7/3 (SM). **Nashville**, **Hooded**, and **Cerulean Warblers** were observed at PRR 6/22 (KF).

Observers: Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-858-6361. robert.r.megraw@gmail.com, Jonathan DeBalko, Chris Fischer, Kevin Fryberger, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Doug Gross, Sean Minnick, Angela Romanczuk, Thomas Roth, Shannon Scheffler, Christian Scheibe.

Susquehanna County

Locations: Broadhead Pond (BP), Camp Susquehannock (CS), Crystal Lake (CL), Oakland Township (OT), Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center (PWR), Quaker Lake (QL), State Game Lands 35.

"Lots of birds and lots of fun" is a great description for the PSO's Blitz For Conservation (B4C). The local team (KF, EM, JM, MM, TN, BS, GS, NV), Day and Night Hawks, found 84 species during its county event 6/9. The following week, the team held its Low Carbon B4C walk in SGL35 and listed 60 species 6/13 (MM, RS, BS, GS, NV). There will be more details on a few of the individual birds from these events later in this report.

This is the third year a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** have arrived in the spring and spent the summer months at BP, but again this year we were unable to include this species as a breeding bird in *Susquehanna* because no evidence of a nest or colt(s) were seen. The pair was observed for an hour on 7/25 by JS, who only saw two adults; her observation was confirmed by two neighboring landowners.

A **Common Loon** remained at CL after spring migration, and local residents observed that the bird appeared listless and was not diving or flying. Wildlife In Need was contacted, and a volunteer from that rescue organization captured the female loon and transported it to PWR 6/30 (RL). According to PWR, the bird was doing incredibly well, diving in its pool and eating. Sadly, its death on July 4th was attributed by the rehabbers to the stress the bird experienced due to the noise of fireworks. Meanwhile, at the other end of the county, another **Common Loon** had ended its spring migration early and was residing at QL 6/19 (anon.). This bird was not in breeding plumage, but it seemed healthy and remained throughout the end of the period. Prior to this year, there had been only one documented report of this species during breeding season and that was of a single bird at CS that appeared to be injured 6/9/17 (WS).

The bird of the season award goes to a **Mississippi Kite** as this is the first time this species has been documented in *Susquehanna*. The observer (BH) was searching for a singing **Mourning Warbler** 6/17 in SGL35 when he noticed a raptor circling overhead. It remained long enough to be photographed but was not seen again. There were no other reports on eBird for **Mississippi Kites** during this period in Pennsylvania or in upstate New York which is only a few miles from this location. Alas, the **Mourning Warbler** remained heard and not seen.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** caused quite a stir when it was seen and photographed in SGL35 during the B4C 6/13 (m.ob.). Initial speculation entertained the possibility of this being a breeding bird; however, because it was not seen again in the following days, it appears to have been a late migrant.

Each year, local birders are allowed a one-hour access in an aggregate company's sand and gravel pit to survey a **Bank Swallow** colony. As the group rounded the final corner into the pit, at least 100 of the swallows were seen foraging in the air and entering and exiting their nesting burrows. It is exciting to see this colony in OT continue to thrive despite the species' steep decline 6/13 (m.ob.).

There was just one report of **Grasshopper Sparrow**, a singing bird photographed on private property near South Auburn 7/16 (TB) where it remained for two days before moving on. The observer speculated it may have been cut out of its territory when a hay field was mowed.

The 23 warbler species reported all included multiple listings except **Cerulean Warbler**. This single, singing male in SGL35 was photographed during the B4C Low Carbon event 6/13 (m.ob.). It was not seen or heard again in the days that followed.

Observers: Barb Stone, PO Box 935, Hallstead, PA 18822, 570-879-2421, barbstn@yahoo.com, Tom Boyle, Kelly Finan, Brian Henderson, Rebecca Lesko, Evan Mann, Julia Mann, Michele Morningstar, Tom Norville, Winn Shafer, Richard Smith, Gary Stone, Joyce Stone, Nancy VanCott.

Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake (COWL), Hills Creek (HIL), Landrus Blind in Tioga State Forest (LBL), "The Muck," State Game Lands 313 (MSGL), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT) at Webster Road (WEB), Wellsboro (WEL).

The summer season seemed to pass quickly. Observers continued to be active when they visited the lakes and parks and their own yards as usual. Observations from two BBS routes in the county were reported to eBird. Rain returned and reversed the drought that had developed at the end of May and into early June, and 145 species and 10 other taxa were eventually recorded in the county.

One late **Snow Goose** was observed flying with a flock of **Canada Geese** over the northeast side of WEL 6/6 (MS). Two **Tundra Swans** were documented with photos. The first was in the Darling Run area of the PCRT 6/10 (CF). The second was on the northwest side of COWL 7/6 (MW). It is unknown if this was the same or two different individuals. **Mallards** and **Wood Ducks** were present as expected. (m.ob.). **Hooded Merganser** observations dropped to just two: one at WEB 6/24 (KC) and one at LBL 7/15 (KC) This seemed to be a low count since the species has bred in the county. Perhaps observers were not frequenting the same locations as the mergansers. **Common Mergansers** also have bred in the county and were reported in the expected locations (m.ob.).

One fortunate observer near Roseville got a look at a **Northern Bobwhite** as it flew from the underbrush making squeaking sounds 7/30 (BS). A few **Ruffed Grouse** were observed one or two at a time at Middle Ridge Swamp, in the HIL area, in the Stephenhouse Run area, and flushing from beside Rte 15 (m.ob.).

Spongy Moth populations were high again this year. The abundance of caterpillars likely provided meals for both cuckoo species. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported into mid-Jul (m.ob.). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was on Kendrick Rd near Covington 7/27 (KC). **Common Nighthawks** were observed during both months. Jun started with reports of two: one near Rexford 6/2 (KR) and the other in WEL 6/2 (MS). The second report was of a single bird flying over Kendrick Rd 7/2 (KC). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was along Landrus Rd 6/16 (BC).

Virginia Rail were observed at MSGL (m.ob.) and in the wetlands near where the PCRT crosses WEB. **Sora** were reported at the Muck into Jul (m.ob.), and one was at the wetlands in the WEB area 6/2 (SM). A single **Least Sandpiper** was spotted at COWL 6/18 (D&KP). **American Woodcock** was found from Tannery Hill Rd in the south 6/17 (MS) to Leonard Harrison SP in the west 6/9 (RE) to the HIL area in the northeast 6/27 (LD). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were observed singing, calling, and flushing from wetlands at WEB 6/7-8 (LD, KC, KR). None were spotted in Jul, so it was unknown if the birds were attempting to breed here or were passing through.

A **Black Tern** was photographed resting on a buoy at the western end of COWL 6/15 (D&KP). The last five **Double-crested Cormorants** reported during the season were also seen at COWL 7/30 (CC, KC). A lone **Black Vulture** was at Colton Point SP 7/2 (RE). Three other reports were all on the northeast side of WEL 7/24-29 (MS). A solo **Northern Harrier** flew over Copp Hollow Rd at a BBS stop 6/10 (EH, BP). **Bald Eagles** and **Osprey** frequented the lakes and streams in the county as usual (m.ob.).

Three species of owls made their presence known during the summer season. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were observed near Roseville 6/22 (BS) and along Kendrick Rd 7/24 (KC). This observer knows of one near HIL and another near MSGL that were not reported to eBird during this season. A **Great Horned Owl** was in WEL 6/1 (MS).

Barred Owls were more frequently noted, with reports at eight locations from the southern and central portions of the county. The southernmost observation was on Tannery Hill Rd 6/17 (MS). Moving north and east, one was heard along Landrus Rd 6/4 (LD). Continuing north and west, a single Barred Owl was recorded in Gaines Twp 6/3 (JM). Farther north and east in the HIL area, they were reported several times during the season 6/8-7/8 (LD, KC). Barred Owls in this area have been heard consistently calling from several locations, leading this observer to believe that there might have been as many as three nests in the area.

American Kestrels were observed throughout the county during the breeding season (m.ob.). **Merlin** appears to be increasing. Ten years ago there were no reports during the summer season. Five years ago there were only two reports during the season. Both reports were near WEL. This year, **Merlins** were observed at seven locations in the central regions of the county and near the northern border at COWL. Most observations occurred in Jun, but several at two locations continued into Jul (m.ob.). One **Peregrine Falcon** was reported from Tioga L 7/5 (D&KP). This is the same watershed where one was reported during the winter season. **Fish Crows** were reported throughout the county, from a woodlot north of Liberty 7/26 (SW) to near Rexford 6/3 (KR), and north to Tompkins Campground 7/30 (KW).

Swallows, flycatchers, **Indigo Buntings**, and other expected passerine species were present in the county. Several less common species were also reported. Notably, **Bank Swallows** were near HIL 6/1 (LD), Two were seen flying over the river at Ives Run Recreation Area 6/4 (AA) and another was at COWL 6/18 (D&LP). Some of the gravel pits where Bank Swallows were known to breed have been closed, graded, and replanted. Active gravel pits are not a good place to attempt to observe birds, so this species might be underreported.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were still present with the last observation at Colton Point 7/16 (RE). **Winter Wrens** were reported from Letonia and from Stephenhouse Run Rd (m.ob.). **Marsh Wrens** were at the Muck (m.ob.), and one was at Sheer Rd Swamp 6/4 and 7/15 (KC). **Red Crossbills** were reported several times during the season. The first was in WEL 6/19 (MS). The last was heard flying over Hills Creek L 7/30 (LD).

Grasshopper Sparrows were located at a Christmas tree farm in the Lambs Cr area 6/15 (LD), at COWL 6/17 (KR), and along West Hill/Hillfiger Rds 7/27 (KC). **Vesper Sparrow** were reported from various locations. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported in the same area it had been in last year along Kendrick Rd 7/2 (KC). **Bobolinks** were reported throughout the county, including along both BBS routes (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also observed throughout the county (m.ob.). **Orchard Orioles** were spotted at five locations, all in early to mid-Jun (m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warblers were at Colton Point SP 6/10 (MS), Pine Creek Gorge 6/17 (BC), Rattler Rd 6/18 (D&KP), and Leetonia 6/18-19 (LS). **Cerulean Warblers** were found in Gaines Twp 6/20 (JM) and Hills Creek SP 6/23 (RH, SM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in WEL 6/6-7 (BN).

Observers: Lisa Doud, Hills Creek Lake Rd, Wellsboro, PA 16901, 570-723-2616, lissum05@ptd.net, Andrew Albright, Bruce Carl, Christine Cooper, Ken Cooper, Robert Edkin, Camille F, Rebecca Hart, Evan Houston, Steve Manns, Joshua McCoy, Sean Minnick, Beth Norman, Bryce Perles, Dale and Karen Plumley, Kathy Riley, Mathew Schenck, Barbara Silverstein, Laura Steele, Kenneth Williams, Sam Williams, Monika Wood.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Allegheny River Trail (ART), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Clear Creek State Forest (near Kennerdell) (CCSF), Emlenton (EML), Franklin area (FA), Franklin (FR), Gibb Road (GR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil City Marina (OCM), Oil Creek State Park (OCSF), Sandy Creek (SC), Tippery Meadow (TM), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

The summer season was very slow and not very birdy. A dry June was followed by a somewhat wetter July, but still left us in drought conditions, with temperatures mostly in the 70s F.

Cuckoo reports were in short supply this season. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was only reported 7/18 at BHNS (JS, KG) and 7/29 at EML (JM), and there were no Black-billed Cuckoo reports. **Common Nighthawk** was observed all of Jul in FR (JH, DH); none were spotted in OCA. A migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at GR on 7/21 (DM). **American Woodcock**, not commonly reported in summer, was observed 7/15 at TM (CH).

Double-crested Cormorant, not often seen in summer here, was reported twice, at ART 7/10(JH) and at OCM 7/27 (RS). One **Osprey** was seen near Polk on SC 6/18 (RS), and another at the AR several times 7/19-31 (RS). **Broad-winged Hawks** are rarely reported in summer, but one was observed at FA 6/3-25 (NB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, an uncommon breeder, was reported in OCSF 7/4 (RS) and at FA 7/8-25 (NB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at CCSF 6/2 (RV). There were several sightings of **American Kestrels** throughout Jun and Jul from various locations (JH, NB).

Flycatchers included: **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at FA 6/10-18 (NB) and at ART 7/7-22 (JH), one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, probably a late migrant, at BHNS 6/6 (KG, JS), and **Acadian Flycatcher** from ART 7/7 and 7/22 (JH). **Alder** and **Willow Flycatchers** were both observed at BHNS 6/12 (JS, KG). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was only reported at TMRP 7/2 (RS).

Yellow-throated Vireo seemed a little more numerous this year with sightings 7/4 at OCSF (RS) and 7/5-12 at ART (JH). **Warbling Vireo** was reported 6/11 and 7/4 at OCSF (RS) and 7/5-24 at ART (JH). The only **Purple Martin** observations for the season were at BF 7/14 (JH) and KL 7/31(JS). **Bank Swallow** was reported near FR 6/18 (RS). **Cliff Swallow** nests on bridges at OCSF and FR are both decreasing. An observation from ART 7/19 (JH) was encouraging.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was in FA 6/19 and 7/4-31 (NB). **Brown Creeper** was observed in OCSF 7/4 (YL). The only **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** sightings were from FA in Jul (NB). The only **Northern Mockingbird** report was from BF 7/14 (JH). **Wood Thrush** were reported from FA 6/19 and 7/10-22 (NB), OCSF 7/2 (RS), and ART 7/3-12 (JH). **Hermit Thrush** was observed at BHNS 7/29-30 (JS, KG).

Purple Finch was sighted at FA 6/7 and 7/8-27 (NB). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at BF 7/7 (RN). **Field Sparrow** was at ART 7/14 and 7/22 (JH). From BF came reports of **Savannah Sparrow** 7/7 (RN) and **Henslow's Sparrow** 7/14 (JH). The only **Eastern Meadowlark** report was also there 7/14 (JH). An **Orchard Oriole**, scarce in Venango, was sighted at TMRP 6/14 (RR).

Warbler highlights included: **Worm-eating Warbler** at ART 7/12 (JH), **Louisiana Waterthrush** at TM 7/16 (KD), **Black-and-white Warbler** at ART (JH) and FA both 7/19 (NB), **Mourning Warbler** at OCSF 6/3 (JB), **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL39 on 6/18 (RS), **Cerulean Warbler** at ART 7/3-12 (JH), **Northern Parula** at EML 7/7 (JM), **Blackburnian Warbler** at BHNS 6/5 (JS), **Blackpoll Warbler** at BHNS 6/2-3 (JS, KG), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at ART 7/19 (JH), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at ART 7/7 and 7/12 (JH), **Black-throated Green Warbler** at FA 7/30-31 (NB), **Canada Warbler** at OCSF 6/21 (JT), and **Wilson's Warbler** at BHNS 6/5 (KG, JS). **Scarlet Tanager** was reported throughout the season (m.ob.).

Observers: Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, 814-758-3935, pelagics202@gmail.com, Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, 814-676-3011, gedwards3011@gmail.com, Nancy Baker, Jeff Brinker, Kristin Duty, Kathie Goodblood, Diane Hall, Jeff Hall, Court Harding, Yianni Laskaris, Joshua McCoy, Dan Michler, Richard Nugent, Russell Rogers, Jerry Stanley, John Taylor, Richard Voytko.

Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Buckaloons Campground (BK), Camp Stone (CS), City of Warren (CW), Economite Rd (ER), Game Lands 86 (GL), Hearts Content Natural Area (HC), Ice Cream banding site Rt 337 (IC), Longhouse Drive (LH), Old State Road (OS), Pittsfield (PF), Sugar Bay (SB), Sugar Grove (SG), Tidioute (TI), Tidioute Trail (TT).

Unlike the rest of the country, we here in *Warren* enjoyed a relatively cool and dry summer. Overall, many birds seemed to be unusually sparse, notably both cuckoos, hummingbirds, Broad-winged Hawks, several warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Wood Ducks were found in numbers in their usual haunts, with up to 14 reported from AS 7/19 (AR, JK). Similarly, **Common Mergansers** were spotted throughout the season on various waterways, but a group of 43 at TT 6/12 (CW) was an extremely high count. **Wild Turkeys** appeared to have pulled off a successful breeding season with many poults seen; high counts of 10 were spotted at GL 6/24 and nr HC 7/1 (both CW). A group of three **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at TT 6/12 (CW) may have been late migrants. The sole report of a **Common Nighthawk** came from CW 7/14 (TS). For at least the second year in a row an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** called from a regenerating clearcut at IC on 6/24 (CW). A group of 11 **Chimney Swifts** were seen over CW 7/25 (TS), almost certainly breeding within city limits. Six **Virginia Rails**, an unusually high count, were heard and recorded at AS 7/19 (AR, JK), along with single **Sora** and **Common Gallinule**. Few shorebirds are seen in *Warren* due to a paucity of appropriate habitat, so a **Least Sandpiper** seen in the company of a **Spotted Sandpiper** 6/2 at AS was noteworthy (BR).

A lone, immature **Common Loon** was seen at the mouth of SB 7/1 (JD, AD); it was likely the same bird heard calling on the evening of 7/12 at the same spot (DK). An excellent find was two **American Bitterns** spotted flying over CS 6/19 (YS); one was also spotted 6/23. An impressive 10 **Green Herons** were seen and heard at AS 7/19 (AR, JK). At least one pair of **Merlins** bred in CW this summer; birds were seen (and heard!) repeatedly on the east side of town (m.ob.). Another pair likely bred in TI based on numerous observations over several weeks (EN). Highly unusual was a **Peregrine Falcon** mobbed by blackbirds while flying over BK 6/25 (DH). Though often rather sparse this far north, a total of six **Willow Flycatchers** were heard in the first few stops of a Breeding Bird Survey Route along OS 7/7 (SHS). Also noteworthy were five **Least Flycatchers** and five **Warbling Vireos** at GL 6/11 (RR). Locally, gourd houses on farms provided nesting sites for *Warren's* only **Purple Martins**, with a high of 21 seen around a colony at a farmhouse on the west side of SG 7/7 (SHS).

A family of **Purple Finches** were resident around CS this summer with up to four seen 6/19 (YS). An exciting find at ER on 7/8 (CW) of two adult **Grasshopper Sparrows** carrying food while chipping anxiously indicated breeding by this locally rare species. Up to four **Savannah Sparrows** were seen regularly at CS with a high count on 6/21 (YS). An impressive 25 singing **Swamp Sparrows** were heard at AS 7/19 (AR, JK). Equally impressive of this county was a report of 30 **Bobolinks** in the fields of GL 6/11 (RR). Also of note were six **Louisiana Waterthrush** seen along the TT 6/12 (CW). **Blue-winged Warblers** have grown increasingly scarce in *Warren*, so a pair carrying food at AS 6/2 (BR) was encouraging. **Cerulean Warblers** were found in their usual haunts, with a high count of five at GL 6/11 (RR) and an active nest low in a white oak at LH found on 6/6 (SHS). Also at LH 6/6 was a pair of **Northern Parulas** near their 2022 nest tree, but no nest was found (SHS). Single **Prairie Warblers** (an unusual species for the county) were reported from GL 6/11 (RR), PF 6/25 (Tsk), and TI 7/1 (RK); there was no evidence that any bred. Seemingly scarce this summer were **Red-eyed Vireos** and **American Redstarts**, two of our most abundant breeding species in most years.

Observers: Scott H. Stoleson, 114 Sanders Rd, Sugar Grove, PA 16350, (814) 489-3734, stoleson@aol.com, Jillian Ditner, Adriaan Dokter, Daniel Hanson, Jeff Kenney, Don Kiel, Ripley Kindervater, Elizabeth Nicholson, Bruce Robinson, Russell Rogers, Angela Romanczuk, Yonatan Simkovich, Tom Skelton (Tsk), Travis Suckow, Carole Winslow.

Washington County

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

Summer is almost always the slowest season of the year for southwestern Pennsylvania counties, but that was not the case in *Washington* this year. It was a season of rarities here, coming right on the heels of the county producing the state's first **Mottled Duck** in May; the Mottled Duck remained in place at CL throughout Jun and was last reported (as of this writing) on 7/16 (JF). The male **Bufflehead** that appeared at the Simmon's farm in Peters Twp in late May remained until at least 7/2 (MV) and was suspected of having an injured left wing, which would explain its extended stay. A family group of **Northern Bobwhites** was noted at Coal Center through 6/27 (AT); their origin was unknown, but the fact that the group was reported as a family was intriguing.

The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was one at Washington 7/21 (LC). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were thick at HSP all summer, where the high count was a remarkable 10 birds 6/28 (TB). A late **Semipalmated Plover** was still at CL 6/5 (ph. NM), but later still (relative to their usual migration window) were two **Least Sandpipers** that also remained at CL to at least 6/3 (JHe, EZ et al.). Both of those late species were found by Mottled Duck chasers. The first returning Least Sandpipers were three at CL 7/8 (MC, JO), also the result of Mottled Duck searches. An early **Solitary Sandpiper** was also already back at CL by 7/6 (JF) where they were then seen through the season, and one other was at CC 7/20-29 (FK). The first returning **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at CL 7/16 (AK). What would have been the birds of the season, if not for the species described in the following paragraph, were the county's first **Snowy Egrets**, two birds that were photographed at CL 7/8 (RW, ph. ph.). Unfortunately, they were present only for a short time and were not seen by anyone else.

Washington was host this summer to one of the most fascinating avian events in recent Pennsylvania history. In early May, an adult female **Ferruginous Hawk** was found injured beside a road, presumably struck by a car, near Erieau, Ontario. It was taken to a rehabilitator where it recovered and was successfully released 5/20 with a cellular data-enabled tracking device, which periodically (twice daily, when in range of cell towers) uploaded the bird's latest movements and positions to a central database. The bird was dubbed "Erieau," and its cumulative flight track was then published online, each update delayed by a few days, allowing birders in the last known general vicinity to attempt to locate it in the field, without knowing its exact location. It spent the next 10 days roaming around southern Ontario, before finally crossing the Detroit River into Michigan on 5/30. From there it was twice found in the field, once in west-central Michigan near the town of Newaygo 6/5, and again in northwestern Ohio south of Norwalk 6/13. Up to that point the bird had wandered from Detroit west through the Michigan Lower Peninsula, then south past Grand Rapids into Indiana where it spent time around Fort Wayne, and then finally eastward through northwestern Ohio before arriving near Norwalk. From there it, somewhat unexpectedly, made a nearly straight-line flight southeastward, arriving on Pennsylvania's doorstep near Steubenville, Ohio on 6/15.

Anticipating that the bird would cross into Pennsylvania, birders began searching likely areas in *Washington* and *Beaver* hoping for the best. It wasn't until 6/17 that the Ferruginous Hawk crossed into Pennsylvania, and in the early morning of 6/19, it was located along Letherman Bridge Road northwest of Cokeburg (RG, JH). By rights, it was already the first state record even if nobody had seen it, because its tracking device unambiguously showed it in Pennsylvania, but now it was added the traditional way as well. Unfortunately, birders searching that area and nearby for the rest of the day on 6/19 and all day on 6/20 were unable to relocate it.

All told it spent three nights in Pennsylvania. After it crossed over on 6/17, it roosted that night on Reeves Road in *Greene*, north of the town of Nineveh. It roosted the evening of 6/18 near where it was found on Letherman Bridge Road the next morning, and on the evening of 6/19, it roosted on Hickory Nut Road north of the village of Acheson, also in *Washington* and well to the west of where it was seen earlier in the day.

While it was in *Washington* and *Greene* it ranged mostly around the I-70 corridor and the *Washington/Greene* line, getting as far east as Bentleyville on the afternoon of 6/18.

Unfortunately, this was the last time the bird would see Pennsylvania. After 6/20, it moved back into Ohio and spent a while near Cadiz, and then it moved into the northern panhandle of West Virginia where it remained for several days near New Manchester in early July. There it frequented an area that was less than a mile from the *Beaver* border, but it never crossed, and then sadly, after it had failed to “check in” for several days, it was found dead in that same area of the panhandle sometime after 7/10. The remains were taken for examination, and no obvious cause of death was found, though it did not appear as if the bird had been shot or had suffered some other kind of traumatic injury. As of this writing, West Nile Virus was a suspected cause of death.

Birders from around the state searching for the Ferruginous Hawk descended on *Washington* in mid-Jun, and although none of them other than the two who found it early on 6/19 were able to see it, their efforts did reveal the current extent of one of the more notable ongoing range expansions in the state: that of **Black Vulture**. Formerly casual to accidental anywhere in western Pennsylvania west of the Allegheny Front, Black Vultures have become rather frequent in the southwestern counties, especially *Washington*. Still, the reports from no fewer than five distinct locations 6/15-20 were something of a shock. These were as follows: one near Burgettstown 6/15-16 (ST, JH), two near Midway 6/17 (MK), one very near the Ferruginous Hawk site on Letherman Bridge Road 6/19 (MD), one at California 6/20 (JD), and two near Avella 6/20 (SS). One wonders what an extended, concerted effort to find Black Vultures might turn up in counties like *Greene*, *Fayette*, and *Beaver* these days.

Another species on the increase here in recent years is **Red-headed Woodpecker**, and likewise, Ferruginous Hawk searches provided valuable insight into exactly how extensive the increase has been. They were found in at least 10 locations during the Ferruginous Hawk week, mostly in the general area of CC, but also spread around the western half of the county (where most of the searching occurred). They remained in at least a few of these areas through the season. The **Peregrine Falcon** nest at the Lane Bane Bridge that was discovered at the end of May was monitored all summer; it appears at least two juveniles fledged. The two youngsters were both highly mobile and highly vocal as of 6/19, however that was the last day that both juveniles were seen at once. Reports of one juvenile continued through 7/11 (all data, FK).

Another interesting find was made by an out-of-town Ferruginous Hawk hopeful: a colony of **Cliff Swallows** was noted underneath the PA-88 bridge over Tenmile Creek near Millsboro 6/20 (JD). Quite remarkable was a **White-throated Sparrow** at a feeder in *Washington* 7/15-24 (ph. JP). Mid-summer records of this species in *Washington* are basically unheard of; perhaps this bird arrived in eastern Canada only to find the widespread wildfires there this summer and retreated to the south well ahead of schedule. It will be interesting to see whether this bird was a “one-off” or part of a larger regional pattern of out-of-range, mid-summer white-throats. **Vesper Sparrow** is sparse in the county, so two well-described birds at SGL 117 on 6/5 (MM) were a welcome find. Likewise, **Black-and-white Warbler** is a very rare breeder, so one at CC 6/6 (FK) was quite notable. There is only one record of **Prothonotary Warbler** for *Washington* in the 21st century (4/14/2008 at Peterswood Park), and probably only one or two others ever prior to that. So, the two different birds found this summer were unprecedented. One was found at CL during a Mottled Duck chase 6/3 (EZ), and another was heard (and recorded) at HSP 6/28 and 7/5 (TB).

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, 412-735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Trip Bondi, Martin Carlin, Lauren Conkle, Michael David, Jonathan DeBalko, John Flannigan, Ross Gallardy, Jonathan Heller (JHe), Jason Horn, Fred Kachmarik, Michelle Keinholtz, Andy Keister, Michael McDevitt, Nathaniel Moulton, James Offhaus, Jo Popma, Steve Schmit, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Eric Zawatski.

Wayne County

Location: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

A **Common Gallinule** and three **Least Bitterns** were reported at White Oak Pond 6/19 (JeG, JoG). A **Brown Pelican** photographed at LW 6/6 (MS) was the first eBird report for *Wayne*. Three **Marsh Wrens** were observed at a mostly dried-up Hankins Pond 6/25 (MS). Twenty-two warbler species were counted during the period. **Mourning Warblers** returned to breeding grounds at logged sections of SGL 159, Upper Woods Pond, where four individuals were spotted 6/13 (CF) and photographed 7/9 (JJ). A **Cerulean Warbler**, a species not often recorded in the county, was also reported at the Upper Woods Pond area 6/25 (MS).

Observers: Josh Jones, unclchu76@gmail.com, Chris Fischer, Jeffrey Greco, Joe Greco, Michael Schall.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir at the Rte 380 Overlook (BRR), Beaver Run property of Municipal Authority from Trees Mill to Rte 286 (BVR), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property, Murrysville (KP), Laurel Highlands (LH), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Mammoth Park (MP), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), Powdermill Nature Reserve and Bird Banding Station (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), St Vincent Ridge along Rte 130 near Impact Life Church, private location (SVR), St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands (SVL), Wolf Rocks Trail (WRT).

Breeding season began during an extended period without rain and with the steady drift of smoke from Canadian wildfires. No particularly rare species were recorded for the season; however, two warbler species reported were unusual for the breeding season, and reports of several species suggested the possibility of early dispersal and migration.

Wood Duck was widely reported for the season, including three hens and 19 ducklings at Northmoreland Park 6/2 (TR). An **American Black Duck** was at MP 7/22 (EH, SMi, DW). A few reports of **Common Mergansers** notably included 19 on the Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (PC), and a report that confirmed breeding of two groups for a total of 24 on Loyalhanna Cr along Rte 381 near Ligonier. A photo of the first group was of a hen with 13 ducklings, and another group of 10 was just a few yards upstream (AL, TL).

It was good to have two reports of **Ruffed Grouse** for the season: one near Donegal of two recently fledged young sitting in a tree, and one at SVR 7/15 (RC). As a continuing trend, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was widely reported while there were just a few reports for **Black-billed Cuckoo**, only found in LH at SFB and on WRT, with reports of one at SFB beginning 6/7 (AD), and one at SFB 6/7 (LR), then two 6/17 (AD) and ending with one 6/21 (FK, AN). There was just one **Common Nighthawk** at a home location in Vandergrift 6/2 (MCe). Staff at PNR provided several reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** for the season: one at PNR 6/6 (ADo), also two at Weaver Mill Rd 6/6 (GM) and two again on Weaver Mill Rd in the early morning of 7/5 (AL, JS). The only report of **Virginia Rail** for the season was of one at SVL 6/6 (JKm).

Two **Least Sandpipers** were at BRR 7/22 (EH, SMi, DW). Low rainfall resulted in substantial mudflats at BVR, which provided for a report of four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/24 (KB). For **American Woodcock**, one was at PNR 6/6 (ADo) and one at SVR 7/18 (RC). Likely including both breeders and migrants, **Spotted Sandpipers** were at several locations, including SVL with two 6/15 (RC) and two again 7/10 (JKm), one on Conemaugh R near Saltsburg 7/5 (T&JK), one at MP 7/12 (MM) and two 7/22 (EH, SMi, DW), and on the mudflats at BVR with one 7/17 and two 7/30 (T&JK). **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported at two locations: at MP beginning with two 7/18 (PC, PF), one 7/22 (EH, PC, PF), and ending with one 7/27 (PC, PF), and at BVR with three 7/24 (KB). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at BVR 7/17, then two there 7/28 (TK).

An opportune visit to DL on 7/27 provided the only reports for two species this season of two **Forster's Terns** and one **Great Egret** 7/27 (EH). No gull species were reported for the season. The only report of **Common Loon** was of one at DL 7/2 (BS). There were two reports for **Double-crested Cormorant**. One was at CRL 7/1 (T&JK), perched on a snag in the Conemaugh R so it could be credited to both *Indiana* and *Westmoreland*, and one at Keystone SP 7/17 (CK).

Excepting a 7/1 incidental report of seven from a passerby (JKp) on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, the only report for **Black Vulture** was of two at HRP 6/6 (MM). **Osprey** were at the DL nesting site 6/17-7/27 with a high count of four 7/20 (EH). Keystone SP was another productive

location for **Osprey**; the four reports for the season included a high count of four 7/27 (JKm). Interesting that one **Osprey** was found on Turtle Cr along Westmoreland Heritage Trail near Trafford (MC). Reports at two locations indicated a possibility that **Sharp-shinned Hawk** could have bred in *Westmoreland* this season. Two **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at the Walters Nature Reserve in Murrysville 6/28, reported with a recording of their cackling calls (PC). Follow-up reports at this location were of one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 7/3 (PC) and one 7/20 (SM). In what could be the same territory, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at BRR 7/4 (MM).

Of the several reports of **Bald Eagle**, one was at the Ice Pond at the Lady of the Lake B&B nest location near Ligonier 6/9 (MD). Two adults were at Keystone SP 7/18 (MM). Reports of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were provided at several reliable locations this season. At the KP, one and occasionally two birds were heard and/or seen on many of the days 6/1-7/29. At PNR there were several reports of one 6/8-7/14 (ADo), and one at DL was there 7/20 (EH). Scattered reporting of **Broad-winged Hawk** indicated the likelihood that they bred at both higher and lower elevations in *Westmoreland* this season. Low-elevation reports included one at Hyde Park in Leechburg 6/9 (MVT), one at PVP 6/10 (SMi), and on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail from Delmont to Trees Mill 6/10 (MC). Reports from LH included four at PNR 6/9 (ADo) and two on WRT 7/22 (CH).

Eastern Screech-Owl, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** were reported for the season. One **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at the KP 7/28 (JK), one **Great Horned Owl** was heard and recorded in Kellman Park in Murrysville 7/22 (PC), two **Barred Owls** were heard at the KP 6/1 (JK), and one was heard on the BVR 6/23 (KB) and 7/21 (MC). Reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were all in the LH and included four on WRT 6/17 by several participants on a Three Rivers Birding Club outing led by Mike Fialkovich (T&JK).

There were no reports for Alder Flycatcher for the season, and just two for **Least Flycatcher**: one on CRL 6/12 (KB) and one at SVL 6/26 (RC). There were just a few reports for **Great Crested Flycatcher**. The most productive location was SVR where one or two were there on 10 different days 6/3-7/26 (RC). There were just a few reports of **White-eyed Vireo**, including two at Northmoreland Park 6/2 (TR) and two at Bushy Run Battlefield 6/6 (MC). As expected, **Blue-headed Vireo** was in the LH with **Warbling Vireo** widely reported at lower-elevation locations. **Common Raven** was widely reported at both high and low elevations during the season.

The highest count of **Purple Martins** at the nest boxes maintained at BRR was of 12 on 6/6, 6/20 and 7/30 (MM). **Bank Swallow** was at just two locations for the season: three at MP 7/18 (PC, PF) and one 7/22, and one was at BRR 7/22 (both EH, SMi, DW). **Cliff Swallow** was more widely reported with regular visits to BRR 6/6-7/30 (MM) and included a high count of four 6/26. Three were reported at Friendship Farm east of Pleasant Unity off Rte 130 on 6/19 (T&JK), six at Loyalhanna Dam 7/4 (DG), and five at MP 7/18 (PC, PF). Unusual and without explanation, given that it was not very late in the season, there were several reports for **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: one at CRL 6/12 (WM), one at SVL 6/13 and 6/15 (RC), and one at SVR 7/7 (RC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch was only found in LH. On 6/17 one was reported on WRT by participants in a Three Rivers Birding Club outing (MF, T&JK), and also on Laurel Ridge that day one was reported at SFB (AF, FS). On Chestnut Ridge one was at SVR 6/25 (RC). There were two reports of **Brown Creeper** with one at WRT 6/25 (KD) and one at the Walters Nature Reserve 7/20 (SM). One **Winter Wren** was at LRSP 6/10 (SB), and one was heard on a drive through the Park during the 6/17 Three Rivers Bird Club outing (MF, T&JK). Other **Winter Wren** reports included one at PNR 6/6 (ADo, GM) and 6/23 (ADo), and one at SVR 7/24 (RC).

The Laurel Summit Area, specifically SFB and WRT, were productive for **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush** during the breeding season. For **Veery** the highest count 6/7-7/4 was of 14 at SFB 6/25 (KD, DK, KS), and for **Hermit Thrush** at SFB 6/5-7/26 the high count was of four on 6/21 (FK, AN), on 7/16 (EW) and on 7/22 (AH). In addition to several expected high-elevation reports, it was unusual that there were several reports of **Purple Finch** at low-elevation locations for the season. At the KP, one Purple Finch that appeared to be a juvenile male visited the feeders 6/8 and 6/14 (T&JK), one was heard singing on Cloverleaf GC on 6/29 (TK), and one was at SVL 6/13 and 6/15 (RC). At higher elevations, one was heard at SFB during the Three Rivers Bird Club outing 6/17 (MF, T&JK), and at SVR one was reported 7/18 (RC).

There were no reports for Grasshopper Sparrow at the most productive grassland habitats in *Westmoreland*, however reports were

provided at MP 6/13 (MMt) and on roughly a dozen days at SVR 6/15-7/14 (RC) with one on most days; however, two on 6/18, 6/23, 6/24 and 7/18. Savannah Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow were not reported. **Swamp Sparrows** were found at several locations including six at HL 6/18 (KA, YL) and six at DL 7/20 (EH). As quite a rarity in *Westmoreland*, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen at two locations for the season: at SVR 6/19 (RC), one at MR 6/2 (EC), then two 7/3 (MC) and one 7/9 (LS).

Hopefully due to a lack of birding effort rather than true scarcity, **Bobolink** was only at SVR, with many reports 6/1-7/18 (RC), including the highest count of seven on 6/24 and 6/25. It was a bit better reporting for **Eastern Meadowlark**, with several reports that included one to three (no higher count reported) seen flying to a perch on a fencepost along Rte 711 south of Ligonier (KD). Both **Baltimore Oriole** and **Orchard Oriole** were reported at many, well-scattered locations during the season.

The only report of **Worm-eating Warbler** was of one at PNR 6/23 (ADo). The two reports of **Northern Waterthrush** was one at LRSP 6/19 (KD) and one that could possibly be an early migrant at BVR 7/28 (KB). No Golden-winged Warblers were reported, but there were several reports of **Blue-winged Warbler**, including one at PVP 6/10 (SMi) and one at PNR 6/26 (AL). Survey work by Tammy Colt of the Pennsylvania Game Commission provided a report of one bird singing a **Blue-winged Warbler** song at a location along Rte 381 north of Donegal 6/7. In the same area, intriguing is a report of a **Nashville Warbler** 6/23 (AD). The several reports of **Kentucky Warbler** included one at LRSP 6/1 (AL), two at PVP 6/10 (SMi), and at PNR a dozen reports from several observers 6/2-30 included the high count of four 6/22 (ADo).

Cerulean Warbler was only reported at CRL, beginning with one 6/4 (AH) and a high count of three 6/12 (WM). The high count of several reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** was of three on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail along Turtle Cr between the county line and Trafford 7/16 (T&JK). The only **Prairie Warbler** was at SVR 6/4 (RC). LRSP- and Laurel Ridge-specialty warbler species have included **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**; these were all reported during the season. Unusual west of Laurel Ridge during breeding season, one **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at DL 6/24 (MS).

Observers: Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Rd, Export, PA 15632, 724-325-1918, tjkuhl@comcast.net, KM Anderson, Steve Bucklin, Ken Byerly, Pat Comas, Michele Carlson, Meredith Cellitti (MCe), Edward Cellucci, Richard Chirichiello, Mike Daubenspeck, Ankur Dave, Karyn Delaney, Alexander Donley (ADo), Patience Fisher, Eric Hall, Court Harding, Amy Henrici, Fred Kachmarik, Jennifer Kalb (JKb), Chloe Kalp, Jim Kellam (JKm), Jamie Krupka (JKp), Tom & Janet Kuehl, Wesley MacIntosh, Yianni Laskaris, Annie Lindsay, Tommy Lindsay, Wesley MacIntosh, Steve Manns, Mark McConaughy, Micheal McDevitt (MMt), Susan Miller (SMi), Grace Muench, Alyssa Nees, Lenor Raffie, Theo Rickert, Kathy Saunders, Joe Saxfield, Bolana Schofield, Mike Smith, Lucy Stanislaw, Marge Van Tassel, Delia White.

Wyoming County

Locations: Davis Crossing (DC), Hoppy Road (HR), Somer's Brook (SB), Sordoni's Farm (SF), Vosburg Neck State Park (VN).

County birders reported 126 species during this season. That number, the third largest in the past ten years, compares closely with the average of the previous five years (123), according to eBird. Among the 21 species of warblers, 17 were previously confirmed as breeders and the other four (Prairie, Hooded, Worm-eating, and Nashville) were listed as "probable" during the last BBA.

Ruffed Grouse, a once plentiful species and confirmed breeder, was reported only twice: eight birds 7/25 at CS (AR, JK) and three at SB 7/18 (DG). **Chimney Swift** is another once-plentiful species that often appeared in large flocks, but not recently. The only reports for the period included a single bird reported over Meshoppen 6/4 (KK), two birds at DC 6/13 (SP), and two birds near Falls 6/24 (DeG, GG).

Virginia Rail was confirmed in the atlas as a local breeder, but it is rarely reported. Records for this period included single birds 6/18 at SL (TB) and 6/13 at DC (SP).

Peregrine Falcons fledged young from two sites last summer, Laceyville and HR. This year, only a single bird was seen in flight 7/16 at HR (SP). Hopefully, we just missed them, and we will find them next season.

The only report of **Henslow's Sparrow** identified one or more birds singing from hidden perches at SF 7/1 (TB).

There are rare reports of **Orchard Oriole**, which was identified as a breeder just a few years ago. Local birders reported four single birds and no breeding behaviors: 6/2 near Forkston (KH), 6/4 at VN (KK), 6/8 at VN (JD), and 6/11 at HR (JD, SP).

Another rarely seen species in *Wyoming* is **Swainson's Thrush**. From four to 10 birds were reported from SGL 57 during the season (DG).

Observers: Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 570-836-1468, Tom Boyle, Doug Gross, Deborah Grove (DeG), Greg Grove, Karen Hergan, Jeff Kenney, Kelly K, Sue Petty, Angela Romanczuk.

York County

Locations: Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR).

This period's total count of 136 species, including 17 warbler species, was consistent with the prior two summers. Highlights were centered on summer-period "firsts" for the county: **Horned Grebe** and **Dark-eyed Junco**. Other notables included **American Avocet**, a record **Great Egret** count at the Kiwanis L rookery, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, and **Prothonotary Warbler** found at four locations.

A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** were at Spring Grove 6/28-7/31 (m.ob.). Trumpeters have now been detected in the county in all reporting periods since Winter 2021-22. An **American Black Duck** at LAR 7/27 (MS) was the sole report. Up to four **Hooded Merganser** were seen at BI 6/14-20 (m.ob.) and a pair of **Common Merganser** were along Gut Rd 7/19 (CE). Three reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** were unusually high for this period. Singles were at SGL 243 on 6/23 (MS), SGL 242 on 7/19-30 (m.ob.), and CSP 7/30 (SA). The Horned Grebe was a nicely photographed adult near or at full breeding plumage at CSP 6/10 (SA). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued its solid reporting trend with 18 sites producing reports. **Black-billed Cuckoo** reporting was limited to a bird at CSP 6/18 (SM).

A single **American Avocet** was found at CSP 7/14 (CMY, EV, CW) and then a pair was seen at LAR the next day 7/15 (EBK, MC, CG), on both *Adams* and *York* shorelines. It is hard to say whether the single was joined by another to produce the pair sighting, or three separate birds were involved. Distance between the two sites is about three miles. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at LAR 7/27 (NW, WW), and a pair was seen at CSP 7/21-30 (EBK, EV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at CSP 7/31 (BR) was the only report. Uncommon for the period, **Bonaparte's Gull** was over Shanks Mare 6/18 (BR). Up to three **Common Loons** spent the period at CSP (m.ob.), and one was at GPSP 6/15 (LC). The Kiwanis L rookery produced a record count of 72 **Great Egrets** 6/24 (MS) and a solid 21-count for **Black-crowned Night Heron** 7/4 (EZ). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at GPSP 6/29 (EB) and at SGL 242 on 7/19-23 (m.ob.). These sites are 10 to 12 miles from the established *Dauphin* colony in Harrisburg.

A nice summer count of 60 **Black Vultures** came from CSP 6/17 (BR). All other raptor and owl reports were at typical levels. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at 14 sites, within the normal range for summer reporting. Single **Peregrine Falcons** were seen over Red Lion 6/11 (KC) and Manchester 7/11 (AS). Flycatcher and vireo reporting produced nothing out of the ordinary. Lone **Horned Larks** were seen at Felton 6/19 (AM) and HTP 7/29 (BF). Four **Bank Swallows** were seen over Susquehanna Riverlands SP 7/29 (JT). Sightings in recent summers strongly suggested the understructures of bridges at/near LR have been hosting a **Cliff Swallow** colony. This year, up to 10 birds were seen at LR 6/8-20 (KJ, BR, RS). The only other known *York* colony at CSP continued its long history of hosting Cliffs this summer. A good summer find was a **Brown Creeper** at BI 6/21 (SG, SMU).

A trio of **Veery** was found at GPSP 7/2 (JC), and CSP produced reports of a single 6/3-18 (LM, SM, EV). A bit tardy, a **Hermit Thrush** was at LR 6/2 (BR). Four sites held **Grasshopper Sparrow** with up to five at LAR 6/2-7/15 (m.ob.) and up to six at HTP all period (m.ob.). Remarkably, a **Dark-eyed Junco** was in Loganville 6/20 (BR), producing *York's* first summer record. **Savannah Sparrow** was found at four sites with a high count of four coming from HTP. **Swamp Sparrow** singles were found at LAR 6/27 (BR) and at LR 7/16 (BR). **Yellow-breasted Chat** showed themselves at four sites, which is a falloff from the prior two summers. Additionally, all sightings were limited to a single bird. In contrast, 12 sites reporting **Eastern Meadowlark** was a likely record for the county. High count was 10 birds at HTP 6/21 (MC).

A nice nine-count for **Ovenbird** came from GPSP 6/29 (EB). A single **Blue-winged Warbler** was at SGL 242 on 6/18-7/30 (m.ob.). **Black-and-white Warbler** singles were at Wizard Ranch 7/15 (m.ob.) and Nixon CP 7/15 (MG). Three of the four sites reporting **Prothonotary Warbler** were along the Susquehanna R, with all three sites producing a pair or more. Visits to BI 6/20-21 produced up to four (m.ob.), while a 6/9 visit to Indian Steps (AM) and the 7/1-29 period along Gut Rd (CE) each produced a pair. The off-river sighting at GPSP 6/6 (LT) was of a single bird. A **Magnolia Warbler** on Bruaw Dr 6/1 (DA) was running a bit late. **Yellow-throated Warbler** singles were found at Indian Steps 6/9 (AM) and GPSP 6/18 (CD). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at GPSP 7/12 (SJ) continued recent trends for sporadic summer reporting in the county. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** singles were found in York Twp 6/11 (CM), at Silver Lake 7/4 (AL), and SGL 242 on 7/22 (DA, FB). Seven sites producing **Blue Grosbeaks** continued their positive distribution trend in the county. Up to a pair of **Dickcissel** were at LAR 6/26-7/16 (m.ob.) for the only report.

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, 717-259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Steve Aprile, David Arrow, Ed Bernot, Frank Blum, Evan Brooks (EBK), John M Campbell, Leigh Chow, Ken Cooper, Mary Creager, Connie Deline, Chad Ehrhart, Bill Frost, Connor Gable, Melissa Grove, Sue Guers, Keith Jackson, Steve Johnson, Adam Leisenring, Andy McGann, Linette Mansberger, Carolyn Mathur, Sarah Miele, Sean Murphy (SMU), Carol Myers (CMY), Bob Reiter, Michael Schwanebeck, Alex Sharp, Robin Smith, Jamie Thomas, Lisa Thumma, Evan Vaeth, Cathleen Wetzel, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, Eric Zawatski.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers	Articles due to Editor	Pub. Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 Mar	1 May	Jul
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 Jun	1 Aug	Oct
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 Aug	1 Oct	Dec
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 Dec	1 Feb	April

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

We welcome submission of feature articles, research notes and field observations, artwork, or photographs that focus on any aspect of Pennsylvania ornithology, birds, or birding.

- Submissions of all materials other than photos (see below) and county compiler reports should be sent as email attachments to Mark Bonta at markabonta@yahoo.com / in the email, please explain 1) the scope of the submission and 2) for which issue it is intended.
- The editors reserve the right to accept or reject submissions (including photos); submissions may or may not be reviewed externally; authors may or may not receive proofs to review prior to publication.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS – DETAILS

Consult the Chief Editor and/or previous published submissions for further guidance.

- Bibliographies should contain only references to works cited; cite references in text parenthetically, in alphabetical order (Jones 2021, Smith 2023); check that all citations correspond to REFERENCES section entries in earlier issues.
- REFERENCES: alphabetical order; older refs. first; same year: 2023, 2023a, 2023b, etc.
- **Basic reference example 1:** Smith, G. and C. Jones. 2023. *Title of Book in Caps and Italics*. Publisher, Place.
- **Basic reference example 2:** Smith, G., M. Williams, and C. Jones. Title of Article in Caps but not Italics. *Journal Title Spelled Out*: 3(233-245). ["3" is vol. #; there is no need for issue #].
- Draft text submissions of feature articles and similar written content must be in MS Word (*.docx preferred) and include author contact info and references as necessary; at the end, list captions of all tables and figures.
- All tables and figures should be referred to in the text at least once, and all references should be cited in the text. Figures and tables can be in any format for initial submission, but authors will be required to submit all tables in Word prior to article acceptance.
- Figures, which include maps, should be submitted as separate files, one figure per file, as jpegs or other common graphics formats at the highest resolution possible, and the corresponding author should retain editable map files for requested edits to figure content.
- Editors may reduce figure and table dimensions, edit style, and/or condense data / **please do not submit tables as Microsoft Excel files** / submit all tables as separate Word files / tables should use Arial font, small type size. Small tables should fit on one column while large tables should be legible at a width of 7.3 inches / **all tables should be in Portrait (vertical) alignment.**

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

The photo editor posts solicitations for photos for each journal issue to e-mail lists and social media.

- Send digital photos or scanned image files for consideration to radickerson@gmail.com in JPG format and submit as attachments, not embedded in the e-mail.
- Horizontal images (preferred) MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 700px with a resolution of 300 px/in and vertical images MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 1313px at 300 px/in.
- Images will not be enlarged/upscaled; high-resolution images are requested during initial submission.
- Submissions must also include pertinent information for captioning: species, location of photograph; county of photograph; date of photo; any other significant information / editors crop or adjust photos for color, brightness, or contrast, as required, without notice to photographer / photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted.
- Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

REPRINTS

Request article reprints from PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd. Narvon PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

ADVERTISING

Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

IN FOCUS – RARE BREEDERS IN PENNSYLVANIA



A cooperative **King Rail** that many saw at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 21 (here 24) June-9 July. King Rail was confirmed nesting in two and zero blocks, respectively, in BBA1 & BBA2. (*Rick Robinson*)



This **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Gulf Lab Road ponds, *Allegheny* 15-22 (here 20) July, one of only two in western PA for the summer. The species was confirmed nesting in 18 and 16 blocks, respectively, during BBA1 & BBA2. (*Dean Newhouse*)



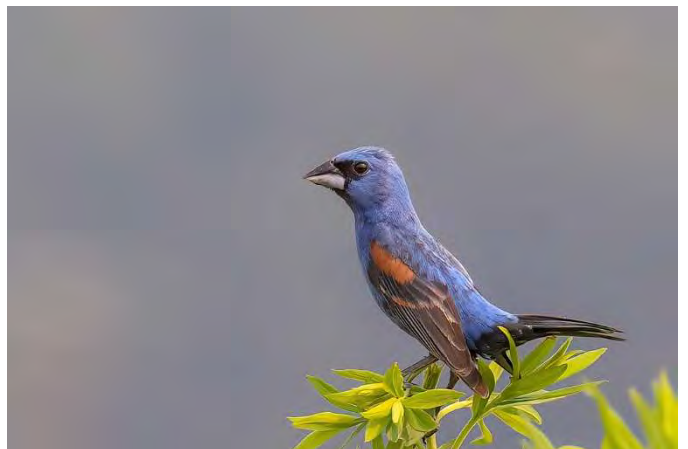
One of two **Red Crossbills** at Haneyville Campground, *Clinton* during July (here 23 July); found at about eight locations in the state this summer. During BBA1 and BBA2, they were confirmed nesting in zero and four blocks, respectively. (*Bobby Brown*)



This **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Penn State Arboretum, *Centre* 24 June (not a breeding location). These rare PA breeders were confirmed nesting in zero and three blocks, respectively, during BBA1 and BBA2. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



A **Prothonotary Warbler** sang in habitat at Coatesville Reservoir, *Chester* 3-9 (here 3) June, attempting to attract a mate. The species was confirmed nesting in 15 blocks during BBA2, with concentrations on the lower Susquehanna R. and in *Crawford*. (*Brian Byrnes*)



Blue Grosbeak at Hopewell Twp Rec Area, *York* 17 July. A regular nester in southeastern PA, Blue Grosbeak was confirmed nesting during BBA1 and BBA2 in 20 and 27 blocks, respectively, with some indication of northward expansion during BBA2 – will we see continued expansion in BBA3? (*Bob Reiter*)