

**Twenty-fifth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**  
**2018 Records**  
**January 2020**  
**Mike Fialkovich for the Committee**

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The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter "PORC" or "the committee") evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2018 that include 75 records of 46 species. The 70 accepted records represented a 93% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 29 counties.

Highlights include two American Oystercatchers, Ruff, Sabine's Gull, six Franklin's Gulls, Least Tern, Arctic Tern, Pacific Loon, two Brown Pelicans, three Roseate Spoonbills, first record of Rock Wren, first record of Varied Bunting, first record of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch and two Black-throated Gray Warblers.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photos, video, or audio whenever possible. Even poor photos can be diagnostic and elevate a report from Class III to Class I. However, written documentation is also extremely important, as there have been instances where a photograph was not diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the supporting information of the observer's written account.

Documentation can be submitted to PORC Secretary Ian Gardner at [gardnie07@gmail.com](mailto:gardnie07@gmail.com) or on the PORC section of the PSO Website at this address <<http://jotform.us/form/22068006649151>>.

#### The Committee

In 2018, three members were serving their third terms; the remainder were serving their first term. Terms are three years in length; there are no limits to the number of terms served except that no more than two terms can be served consecutively. Committee Members and terms for 2018 are as follows:

Holly Merker – Chair, first term (2015 - 2018)  
Dave DeReamus – third term (2016-2019)  
Devich Farbotnik – third term (2016-2019)  
Mike Fialkovich – third term (2016-2019)  
Ian Gardner – Non-voting Secretary (2015 – Present)  
Greg Grove – first term (2018 – 2021)  
Billy Weber – first term (2016-2019)

The committee meets face to face annually to discuss committee activities, procedures, second round voting, etc. Ongoing business is covered through email exchanges throughout the year as necessary.

#### Classification of Records

*Class I:* An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph, or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (P) photograph, (R) sound recording, (V) video clip, (S) specimen.

*Class II:* An accepted sight record written up independently by two or more observers.

*Class III:* An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

*Class IV-A:* A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification: the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubts.

*Class IV-B:* A record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation.

*Class IV-C:* A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in favor of an identification other than what was submitted.

*Class V:* The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escapee from artificial aviculture or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

#### Format of This Report

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In some cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in Pennsylvania Birds, and from incidental information gleaned from the PABIRDS email listserv, the Pennsylvania Birders Facebook Group, the PARBA GroupMe text message alert service, and its regional sub-groups and the eBird database. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the PORC record number, the record's classification and the votes for/against. Records submitted from previous years during the current year are indicated in the description. All photographs, video, and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary and archived on the PORC section of the PSO Website.

Abbreviations: N (Number), PB (Pennsylvania Birds), Twp. (Township), V (Volume).

#### 2018 Accepted Records

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck** (*Dendrocygna atummalis*) (13)  
One at Shenango Reservoir, *Mercer* 10 August 2018 (Jim Mondok (p); 102-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.

Two in West Nottingham Twp., *Chester* 10 August 2018 (Kendra VonNieda, Mark VonNieda (p); 102-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (18)  
One at Washington Crossing, *Bucks* 4 February 2018 (Barbara Bennett; 108-01-2018, Class I-P). 6/0.

**Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*) (39)  
One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 4 December 2018 (August Mirabella (p); 115-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.  
One at Pine Grove Twp. Recreation Park, *Schuylkill* 4 December 2018 (Ian Gardner (p); 115-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0



Image 1. Barnacle Goose, Pine Grove Twp., *Schuylkill* 4 December 2018. Photo by Ian Gardner.

**Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) (*Anas crecca crecca*) (35)**

One at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon* 20 March 2018 (Richard Rehrig (p), Barbara Rehrig; 119a-01-2018, Class I-P). 6/0. Photographs of the bird with American Green-winged Teal allowed for good comparison. The observer also noted the lack of the vertical white stripe on the side, eliminating a hybrid.

**Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (96+)**

One in winter plumage at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster* 30 March 2018 (Bruce Carl; 009-01-2018; Class III) 6/0. The bird was observed with a group of Horned Grebes allowing direct comparison.

One at Kahle Lake, *Clarion* 1 April 2017 (Michael David; 009a-02-2017; Class III). 7/0. Record submitted September 2018. A photograph was not submitted with this description, however there are photographs in ebird checklists from other observers.

**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (15)**

One in Plymouth Twp., *Luzerne* 5 May 2017 (Michael David (p); 413-02-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Record submitted 3 September 2018.

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) (26)**

One at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford* 1 July 2017 (Michael David; 235-01-2017; Class III). 7/0. Photos in ebird from Glenn Koppel and James Flynn. Record submitted 26 September 2018.

**American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) (11)**

One along the Delaware River near the Philadelphia Airport, *Delaware* 15 April 2018 (Al Guarante; 266-01-2018 Class I). 6/0. Probably a spring migrant overshoot that wandered up the Delaware River from the coast.

One in Tinicum Twp., *Delaware* 2 June 2018 (Al Guarante (p); 266-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. A surprising discovery along the Delaware River in the absence of any strong storms that may have pushed this individual inland. Normally oystercatchers have been observed during the passage of remnants of hurricanes. While the photos are distant (taken through a scope) the distinctive features of the bird are visible.

**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (22+)**

One on Shaner Road, Plain Grove Twp., *Lawrence* 1 May 2016 (Michael David; 261-01-2016; Class I-P). 7/0. Record submitted 2 September 2018.

One at Shenango Reservoir, *Mercer* 3 September 2016 (Michael David; 261-02-2017; Class III). 7/0. The description was well written and references ebird checklists with photographs from other observers, but because the submitter did not include a photo, the record is classified as a Class III. Record submitted 2 September 2018.

**Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) (10+)**

A moulting male at the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks* 3 August 2018 (August Mirabella (p), Devich Farbotnik, Holly Merker, Ken Rieker; 321-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 2. Ruff, Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks* 3 August 2018. Photo by August Mirabella.

**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (62)**

One transitioning to breeding plumage at the Montour Preserve, *Montour* 16 April 2018 (Evan Houston (p), Andrew Keister; 331-01-2018; Class III). 6/0. The bird was observed during a period of rain so details cannot be seen clearly in the photographs submitted. Fortunately the written description includes details supporting Red Phalarope so the vote was Class III rather than a Class I-P based on the written description.

**Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (38)**

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 8 November 2018 (Jerry McWilliams; 333-01-2018; Class III). 6/1.



Image 3. Black-headed Gull, Washington Crossing, *Bucks* 12 November 2018. Photo by Seth Ausubel.



**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) (16+)

An immature at Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana* 11 September 2018 (Mary Alice Koenke, Glenn Koppel, Michael David (p); 360-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. A photograph of the bird in flight was submitted as well as a sketch with field notes.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (43)

One in first winter plumage at Washington Crossing, *Bucks* 12 November 2018 (Seth Ausubel (p); 344-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. An adult on the Delaware River at Morrisville, *Bucks* 7 December 2017 (Armas Hill; 344-02-2017; Class III), 6/1.

**Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) (17+)

An adult at Colyer Lake, *Centre* 11 April 2018 (Eric Zawatski (p); 339-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. The dark underside of the wings can be seen in the photos submitted and the description included details including comparison with Bonaparte's Gulls that were present at the time.

Three at Montour Preserve, *Montour* 16 April 2018 (Andy Keister (p), Carl Engstrom, Paul Dennehy, Lauren Shaffer, Karol Pasquinelli; 339-02-2018; Class III). 7/0. The description included two adults and one immature bird.

**Franklin's Gull** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) (19+)

One at Lewisburg, *Union* 31 March 2018 (Joe Gyekis (p); 338-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. An individual in first winter plumage resting with other gulls in a Walmart parking lot.

One at Somerset Lake, *Somerset* 12 June 2018 (Jeff Payne, Linda Greble; 388-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. This individual appeared during a period of unsettled weather and is only the sixth June record in that state and the second June record for this location.

An adult at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 15 July 2018 (Zachary Millen (p); 338-03-2018 Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V32:N3.

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 3 November 2018 (August Mirabella (p), Devich Farbotnik, Tom Fahie, Ian Baldock, Ken Rieker, Richard Smith, Bob McGarry; 338-04-2018; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at the Penn-Warner Tract in Tullytown, *Bucks* 7 October 2018 (Holly Meker (p), Devich Farbotnik; 338-05-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.

One along the Delaware River Trail, *Philadelphia* 7 October 2018 (George Armistead (p); 338-06-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Least Tern** (*Sternula antillarum*) (27)



Image 4. Least Tern, Lower Oxford Twp., *Chester* 16 June 2018. Photo by Patrick Millar.

Two adults at Lower Oxford Twp., *Chester* 16 June 2018 (Patrick Millar (p), Benjamin Millar; 372-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. Excellent photo documentation of this rarity.

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) (21)

An adult at Leaser Lake, *Lehigh* 20 May 2018 (Kevin Dougherty (p), Jeff Hopkins; 369-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was observed and photographed at close range perched on a boat dock railing.



Image 5. Arctic Tern, Leaser Lake, *Lehigh* 20 May 2018. Photo by Kevin Dougherty.

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) (16)

One at Walnut Creek Access, *Erie* 6 November 2018 (Jerry McWilliams; 002a-01-2018; Class III). 6/0. This bird was in the company of Common Loons actively feeding. The bird was described comparing field marks against the Common Loons and a nearby Red-throated Loon.

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) (8)

One at Wildwood Lake Park, *Dauphin* 24-25 June 2018 (Timothy Becker (p), Dominic Mirarchi (p); 099-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. Two photographs published in PB V32:N3, including the cover.

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) (10)

One at Sheppard-Meyers Reservoir, *York* 22 May 2018 (Kathye Shue, Chuck Berthoud; 067-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. A one day wonder; it was not relocated the following day.



Image 6. Brown Pelican, Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks* 9 August 2018. Photo by Michael David.

One at Lake Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks* 9 and 11 August 2018 (Timothy Becker (p), Kathy Becker, Michael David (p); 067-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. One photo with the wings spread shows the lack of the white line along the underside of the wing indicating this bird is an adult. Typically birds that have been aged in the state have been juveniles. Photo published in PB V32:N4.

**Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (44)**

A juvenile at Lake Redman Boardwalk, *York* 12 August 2018 (Bob Reiter; 087-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V32:N4.

**Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (150)**

One on Smith Station Road, Hanover Twp., *York* 10 April 2018 (Caroline Boose (p); 089-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0.  
One in Lower Nazareth Twp., *Northampton* 7 May 2018 (Todd Watkins (p); 089-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 7. Cattle Egret, Hanover Twp., *York* 10 April 2018. Photo by Caroline Boose.

An immature in New Bethlehem, *Armstrong* 4 November 2017 (Michael David (p); 089-02-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Record submitted 27 September 2018.

**White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (50)**

An immature at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lebanon* 10 August 2017 (Timothy Becker (p), et al.; 093-06-2017; Class III). 7/0.

**Roseate Spoonbill (*Plata ajaja*) (7)**

One at a privately owned pond in Springfield Twp., *Bucks* 25 May 2018 (Jennifer LaStella (p); 097-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. A fortuitous discovery in a suburban neighborhood.

A juvenile at Octoraro Reservoir, *Lancaster* 14 July 2018 (Larry Bernhardt; 097-02-2018, Class III) 6/1.

One at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 23-27 August 2018 (Monica Edwards, Bill Libhart, Meredith Lombard (p); 097-03-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V32:N4.

As in 2017, Roseate Spoonbills were present in several states north of their range including Ohio, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia and Virginia (ebird).

**Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (29)**

One in Boliver, *Westmoreland* 1 August 2018 (Mike Fialkovich; 168-01-2018; Class III). 6/0. Discovered and photographed by Andrew Mack the previous day and entered into ebird.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (111)**

One at East Fallowfield Twp. Park, *Chester* 3 September 2018 (Joe Sebastiani; 171-02-2018; Class III). 6/1.

**Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) (8+)**

An adult dark morph in East Allen Twp., *Northampton* 28 February 2018 (Bill Etter (p); 200-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was discovered in a field feeding on a dead Snow Goose. It was likely the same bird that was seen during this time in nearby New Jersey. Photograph published in PB V32:N2 and an article with additional photographs was published in PB V33:N2.

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (7+)**

One at Black Rock Sanctuary, *Chester* 25 November 2018 (Barbara Hostetler (p); 542-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) (1)**

One at Dixon Meadow Preserve, *Montgomery* 2-6 October 2017 (Ben Dziedzic (p), (v), (r), Richard Bell (p), Mike Fialkovich (p); 619-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. A thoroughly documented first state record, this cooperative bird was observed and photographed by many birders during its stay at a small nature preserve. The bird made appearances at a rock filled drainage area running through a large patch of tall grasses. This species is accidental in eastern North America with records from Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, Nova Scotia and Ontario as well as the southeastern states of Florida, Alabama and Louisiana (Birds of North America Online). Two photos published in PB V32:N4 including the cover.

**Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (16)**

One at Greenwood Furnace State Park, *Huntingdon* 5 May 2018 (Shawn Davis (p); 650-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographed at close range perched and in flight. The majority of records of this species are from winter. There are three spring records in the PORC archives and one published in McWilliams and Brauning. Photograph published in PB V32:N2.



Image 8. Townsend's Solitaire, Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana* 27 December 2018. Photo by Michael David.

One at Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana* 26-27 December 2018 (Ed Donley, Margaret Higbee, Michael David (p), David Yeany II (p); 650-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. A pleasant surprise during



the Indiana Christmas Bird Count. Photographed well and observed by many visitors.

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) (1)

One visiting a feeder in Meadville, *Crawford* 2-24 February 2018 (Shawn Collins (p), Mary Alice Koeneké (p), Al Guarante (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), many observers; 878-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. A surprising visitor to a feeder providing a first state record. The homeowners understood the desire of birders to see it, but reside in a retirement community that could not accommodate large numbers of vehicles. S. Collins and the homeowners coordinated visitation and took observers in groups to see the bird so it was well documented by many birders. A photograph was published in PB: V32:N1.



Image 9. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Meadville, *Crawford* 2 February 2018. Photo by Shawn Collins.

**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*) (24)

One in Buckingham Twp., *Bucks* 14 August 2018 (August Mirabella (p), Richard Smith, Devich Farbotnik; 820-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Blue Rock Road Boat Launch, *Lancaster* 10 September 2017 (820-02-2017; Meredith Lombard (p); Class I-P). 7/0.

**LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (20)

One at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming*, 21 April 2018 (Bobby Brown (p); 829-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 10. LeConte's Sparrow, Pine Run Reservoir, *Bucks* 6 October 2018. Photo by August Mirabella.

One at Pine Run Reservoir, *Bucks* 6 October 2018 (August Mirabella, Jason Horn, Paul Heveran; 829-03-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. Excellent photos taken.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (36+)

One at Doylestown Twp., *Bucks* 1 January 2018 (August Mirabella (p); 839-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. One visited a backyard feeding station remaining until at least 5 March.

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) (12)

One in Townville, *Crawford* 4 February 2018 (Michael David; 840a-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/1. The majority of the committee agreed the photo shows good contrast of the hood with the brown back and breast to identify this bird as an Oregon rather than an intergrade.

One at Pennsburg, *Montgomery* 20 November 2018 (Paul Heveran (p); 840a-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. Good photos showing a complete hood with contrast between the hood and mantle and clean cut border with the breast.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) (50)

An adult male in Paradise, *Lancaster* 16 January 2016 (Zachary Millen; 859-01-2016; Class III). 6/0. This record was submitted 11 July 2018.

One visiting a feeder in Furlong, *Bucks* 18 April 2018 (Richard Bell (p); 859-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V32:N2.

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullocki*) (19)

An adult male visiting a feeder in Hampton Twp., *Allegheny* 9 December 2017 (Michael David (p); 847a-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. A rare visit by an adult male to the state. The bird remained through December. Photo published in PB V32:N1.



Image 11. Bullock's Oriole, Hampton Twp., *Allegheny* 9 December 2017. Photo by Michael David.

**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) (88)

One in Petersburg, *Huntingdon* 18 April 2018 (Michael David (p), other observers: Greg Grove, Deb Grove; 861-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. The photos show a female in a field, found originally by Jon Kauffman.

**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*) (6)

One at Bake Oven Knob, *Lehigh* 15 September 2018 (Scott Keys (p); 738-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. This amazing discovery was

found in a mixed flock of migrant warblers that included Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Observed briefly but long enough to photograph before the entire flock moved on.



Image 12. Townsend's Warbler, Bake Oven Knob, *Lehigh* 15 September 2018. Photo by Scott Keys.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) (7+)**

A male at Noel S. Dorwart Park, *Lancaster* 17 October 2018 (Seth McComsey, Pamela Fisher (p), John Lahr; 731-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. This bird was associating with various migrants and moved throughout the park. It remained well into December, seen and photographed by many visitors. Two photos published in PB V32:N4.

One at State College, *Centre* 17 December 2018 (Mike Fialkovich (p); 737-02-2018; Class I-P) 7/0. This female/immature was discovered at the Duck Pond 12 December and was observed by many birders. Photo published in PB V33:N1.

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (18+)**

A female visiting a feeder in Bedminster Twp., *Bucks* 19 and 24 January 2018 (August Mirabella (p), Judy Mirabella, Nick Pulcinella (p); 782-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0. Present since 16 January. Photo published in PB V32:N1.

A female in Mohnton, *Lancaster* 1 January 2018 (Anne Hurst (p); 782-02-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird visited a feeder from 23 December 2017 to 16 January 2018.

One at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp., *Bucks* 4 November 2018 (Richard Smith, Daniel H. Smith; 782-03-2018; Class III). 6/0.

**Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*) (1)**

A male visiting a feeder in Elizabeth Twp., *Allegheny* 5 May 2018 (Elizabeth Cain (p), Mark Vass, many observers; 793-01-2018; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird generated great excitement and was seen and photographed by many. It remained until 7 May. First state record and first record in the eastern U.S. Two photos published in PB V32:N2; one on the cover.

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (24)**

A male at a feeder in Mohnton, *Lancaster* 17 December 2017 (Linda Keens (p); 794-02-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. The second winter in a row the presumed same individual visited this backyard.



Image 13. Western Tanager, Mohnton, *Lancaster* 1 January 2018. Photo by Anne Hurst.

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.** (Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)**

One heard at Pennsy Swamp, SGL 284 *Mercer* 6 May 2018 (235-01-2018; Class IV-C). 1/6. This record went through two rounds of voting. A recording was submitted that sounded like a calling King Rail, however some committee members were not certain about the recording and did not feel it was conclusive. This record was submitted 3 April 2019.

**Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)**

One near Swatara Creek in Middletown, *Dauphin* 22 May 2018; 074-01-2018; Class IV-B). 3/4. According to the description the bird was seen soaring as the observer drive past the area on the Pennsylvania Turnpike at 70 mph. Some of the committee members were concerned the observation was too brief to see details given the circumstances.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**

One in Swarthmore, *Delaware* 15 September 2018 (171-01-2018; Class IV-C). 2/5. Two committee members concluded the identification was correct but others thought the bird was more likely a species of buteo. Unfortunately the photograph submitted was not diagnostic.

**Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)**

One in Lower Merion Twp., *Montgomery* 20 October 2018 (418-01-2018; Class IV-C). 0/6. The photograph submitted shows a Mourning Dove.

**LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)**

One at Plymouth Flats, *Luzerne* 23 May 2018 (829-01-2018; Class IV-B). 3/4. Some committee members thought the description lacked critical plumage details including the crown stripe and nape pattern to arrive at a conclusive identification while some noted the behavior described was consistent with LeConte's and the identification was probably correct.

**The PORC would like to thank all the observers for submitting rare bird documentation to the committee for review.**

**This report brings the committee up to date with rare bird voting and reporting. The committee has acknowledged the**



lack of annual reports and falling behind in voting to the birding community of Pennsylvania through the PA Birds Listserv and other outlets. We have been committed to getting caught up and current with reviewing rare bird submissions and appreciate the patience of Pennsylvania birders.

The PORC would like to thank all the observers for continuing to submit rare bird documentation to the committee for review during this time.

#### References

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#### American Kestrel nest box numbers from 2019

One of our most charismatic birds in Pennsylvania is the American Kestrel. Indeed, in 2011, the American Kestrel was the first species to be designated by the American Birding Association as “Bird of the Year”. We have featured the kestrel in these pages in recent years, and most birders know there are concerns on the population status of kestrels, particularly in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic states, including eastern Pennsylvania. We have previously highlighted kestrel nest box field work in *Pennsylvania Birds*, and we continue that by providing data for 2019 from the various projects from around the state and recognition for those doing the field work. The numbers below are from the second annual American Kestrel nest box program report from Steve Eisenhauer of The Natural Lands Organization. Steve’s full report on kestrels in the northeastern United States is highly recommended reading – contact Steve at: [eisenhauer@natland.org](mailto:eisenhauer@natland.org) to get the full article.

#### 2019 counts of Kestrel nestlings reaching banding age in Pennsylvania

62 by Emily Thomas Perlock and Don Watts in NW PA includes 49 banded with 13 additional unbanded young believed to have fledged (up from 35 in 2018)

165 by Dan Mummert and Lauren Ferreri with PA Game Commission in SE PA (no record in 2018 report)

137 by Jere Schade and Paul Karner in Northampton County not including 6 boxes with young fledged before they could be banded (up from 93 in 2018)

134 by Nick Kerlin, Jon Kauffman and Steve Eisenhauer in 3-county area around State College with 4 additional unbanded but photo-confirmed (up from 48 in 2018)

14 by Jim Moffet and Steve Eisenhauer in Reading area includes 5 banded and 9 additional un-banded but photo-confirmed (no record in 2018 report)

80 by J.F. Therrian and James Klucsarits in Berks County area (equal to 80 in 2018)

56 by Nate McKelvie in Harrisburg area (up from 44 in 2018)

217 by Devich Farbotnik in Bucks County (217 also in 2018)

18 by Jere Schade and Steve Benningfield in Bucks County (down from 35 in 2018)