

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Cover: **Baird's Sandpiper** (*Calidris bairdii*). Shorebirding in Pennsylvania was as good as it ever gets in the autumn of 2010, and Baird's Sandpipers staged what was perhaps their best flight in recorded Pennsylvania history. This juvenile at Crooked Creek State Park 21 August 2010 added *Armstrong* to what would become a list of 26 counties reporting the species by season's end. (*Steve Gosser*)

## ... from the Editor

### Editorial Board

In February, the *Pennsylvania Birds* editorial board held a long-overdue face-to-face meeting and discussed a wide variety of topics, everything ranging from eBird to the problems we sometimes face soliciting feature articles.

One topic was the possibility of publishing *Pennsylvania Birds* in an electronic (eventually, electronic-only) format. Writing in 2000, then-editors Frank and Barb Haas speculated in their editorial for Volume 14 No. 1 about the future of print publications, and noted that publications like these would inevitably move to a digital-only format. I smiled as I reread their guess as to when that moment might come. "Five years? Ten years?"

Well, here we are 11 years later, and I am able (and, personally, happy) to report that the Day of Digital has not yet arrived, nor does it seem to be on any visible horizon. It is not currently necessitated by cost—the budget for the journal and newsletter remain quite stable. Over the years I've heard a few readers suggest that it might be time to begin conversion to a digital delivery, but the grand majority of readers I've talked to still appreciate the value and tangibility of the printed magazine. In the end this was one of the shortest and easiest topics to address with the editorial board, as all in attendance agreed that there would be no changes to format at this time.

Another topic related the journal's format was the length of the Local Notes section. The discussion was timely because this issue happens to feature 52 county narratives at a length of 40 pages—both records under my tenure as editor. We've also heard from a few readers who think the Local Notes are too long and should be reduced. While the editors agree with this on principal, we all also agreed that since *Pennsylvania Birds* serves as the only vehicle most Pennsylvania counties have to publish their official ornithological record, we should therefore allow the county compilers plenty of latitude to shape that record

into what they think is appropriate. We do our share of copy editing, and sometimes make some content edits (reductions) as well, but in general will allow the compilers to tell the stories of their counties as they choose. Personally I like it this way, and I'm thrilled that such a complete accounting of this season has been submitted to the permanent record.

### Reader survey? No—just send letters to the editor instead, please.

About seven years ago, PSO conducted a reader survey, soliciting opinion from all of you on the state of the journal and what improvements or changes you thought were warranted. The editorial board also discussed whether we should conduct another survey. In the end we decided not to do it now, but that doesn't mean you can't express your opinion. Please feel free to write to Yours Truly, and let me know what's on your mind, positive or negative. I'd of course very much appreciate letters for publication, but enjoy (and learn from) private letters as well. So, drop a line every now and again and let us know how we're doing.

### Feature Articles

Since my previous editorial in which I implored readers to consider contributing articles, and due to some salesmanship on the part of editorial board members following the board meeting, I'm pleased to say that a number of articles have been submitted or are in the works. But the battle never ends... so please don't wait for the next tersely-worded editorial before thinking about contributing! We can *always* use articles here and it's usually never too late to write about a certain topic, even if the season you're writing about has come and gone.

If you need a suggestion, one feature that has not appeared here for several years is the complete list of all species on record for a county. The last such list to appear was for *Warren* (a county now without compiler) in Volume 17 (2003). If you're a dedicated

record-keeper interested in your county's history, you might consider researching and compiling your county's list and publishing it here.

### Pennsylvania Birdlists News

This issue features the latest Pennsylvania Birdlists, updated through 2010. You'll notice that some of the lists, particularly the County Life Lists, are getting long again. As a result, beginning next year, the threshold for listing a County Life List will rise to 125 species, from its current value of 100. Listers are reminded of the Total Ticks category, which has served as an outlet for sub-100 county lists. Few people submit a Total Ticks list, why not count yours up? Who knows, you might actually be in the top 10 and not even know it.

### Shorebirds!

It's enjoyable for me to write about birds in this space every once in awhile too. As the fall of 2010 progressed, I knew it was a good year for shorebirds, but it wasn't until I performed the seasonal editing for all 52 of those reporting counties that I fully appreciated the scope of it. Unfortunately great shorebirding in our state is brought on only by extensive drought, as was seen here in summer of 2010. Still, birders always find a way to make good times out of bad situations. You'll notice Baird's Sandpipers all over this issue, much in the same way they were all over the state this year. Shorebirds also comprise one quarter of the Photo Highlights and the In Focus features. We've been pretty fortunate here in Pennsylvania lately... huge winter finch invasions, a bevy of first and near-first state records (anyone see an Anna's Hummingbird lately?), and now a shorebirding season for the ages. What will 2011 be remembered for?

(Yes, I'm talking to you, Evening Grosbeaks.)

*Geoff Malosh*  
Editor-in-Chief

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# Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2010

Laurie Goodrich

The 2010 Pennsylvania Autumn raptor counts increased over 2009 for 14 of the 16 regularly occurring species. Bald Eagle counts showed the strongest upturn with five sites setting new records. The statewide total of 2510 eagles represented a 49% increase over 2009. Raptor counts statewide were up 17% for a total of 138,469 migrants (Table 2). Raptor flights were particularly notable at sites along the central and western extents of the Kittatinny Ridge, as persistent northwest winds funneled migrants out of the northeast along its slopes. Piedmont sites enjoyed spectacular Broad-winged Hawk flights, reaffirming the Broad-wing's penchant for moving south of the ridges.

Three new autumn watchsites were established in 2010 in southeastern Pennsylvania, all in *Chester* (Westtown School, Bucktoe Preserve, and Hibernia Park). Sites within the southeastern region's *Broadwing SEPT* line did not report counts in 2010 but their absence was aptly filled by *Chester's* new contributors. Tussey Mountain in *Centre*, a well-established spring site, was manned more consistently in autumn 2010 providing an additional snapshot of flights in the northern ridges (Figure 1).

Weather, as usual, set up migration patterns in 2010 as cold fronts paraded across the state regularly in September and October. These produced steady migration along the ridges through early autumn. In November, storms stalled in the northeast and brought unsettled conditions and lackluster raptor flights. November also was less busy as a stalwart November migrant, the Red-tailed Hawk, moved through earlier than usual. Back-to-back cold fronts swept an impressive Red-tailed movement south in late October followed by lower numbers in November. Rare migrants in 2010 included four Swainson's Hawks (at least one light, one dark), observed at Allegheny Front, Hawk Mountain, Militia Hill, and Second Mountain, two Mississippi Kites (both juvenile) at Militia Hill, and one Gyrfalcon (pale gray) seen in December at Waggoner's Gap (Table 2).

With four new sites contributing, hours were up 14% in 2010 to 8409,

compared with 7370 in 2009, and days of coverage increased from 1132 in 2009 to 1213 in 2010. The average passage rate for 2010 was 16.6 birds per hour statewide, compared with 16.0 in 2009 (Table 2). Turkey Vulture increased 25% compared to 2009, Osprey 18%, Bald Eagle 49%, Northern Harrier 38%, Sharp-shinned Hawk 34%, Cooper's Hawk 11%, Northern Goshawk 47%, Red-shouldered Hawk 28%, Red-tailed Hawk 39%, Broad-winged Hawk 2%, Rough-legged Hawk 44%, Golden Eagle 26%, American Kestrel 20%, and Merlin 24%. State-wide decreases were seen only for Peregrine Falcon (11%). Some of the increases reflect the increased number of sites and hours; however some individual sites showed increases in some species as well.

Bald Eagles generated excitement during the 2010 migration with especially large flights in early autumn. At Allegheny Front, 30 Bald Eagles passed on 11 September, Hawk Mountain recorded 36 on 26 August, and Waggoner's Gap had 25 on 13 and 17 September (Table 1). The 36 Bald Eagles in one day at Hawk Mountain was the second highest one-day count in the 76-year history of the site. The only higher one-day count (48) occurred 4 September 1950, prior to the declines of the DDT era. Waggoner's Gap recorded the highest season total: 511 in 1215 hours of counts.

Pennsylvania's most abundant raptor migrant, the Broad-winged Hawk, was seen largely south of the ridges during mid-September. The highest one-day count was recorded at Militia Hill: 10,146, on 21 September. Counter Andy Fayer reported they had 14 different kettles in view at the same time! Rose Tree Park recorded the edge of that flight the day prior, tallying the second highest one-day count for the state: 1,939 on 20 September. Counters at a new site, Chester County Hibernia Park, spotted 1366 Broad-wings on 17 September, cementing the Piedmont's reign in Broad-winged Hawk totals. Despite new sites adding significant numbers, the state totals for Broad-winged Hawk were barely above 2009 totals and many sites showed below average counts.

One of our more abundant migrants in the autumn is the Sharp-shinned Hawk. In the 1980s numbers

of this species were much higher than recent years, possibly due in part to boreal forest cycles of spruce budworm and warblers. In 2010, some sites reported some of the highest counts seen since that period. Many of the peak flights occurred along the Kittatinny Ridge, as northwest winds created abundant updrafts during their peak migration period in October. One-day counts surpassed 500 hawks per day for five days at Waggoner's Gap, and three days at Hawk Mountain during October. Waggoner's Gap led the state with a peak one-day count of 837 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 8 October. Hawk Mountain recorded 682 and Little Gap 569, both on 7 October, and most other ridge sites had several days of several hundred hawks during that same period (Table 1).

Two late October cold fronts carried large numbers of Red-tailed Hawks out of the northeast with peak flights occurring around or on Halloween. The eastern Kittatinny sites recorded the highest counts as Little Gap led with 483 Red-tailed Hawks on 29 October followed, by Bake Oven Knob and Hawk Mountain with 394 and 438 on 31 October (Table 1). November flights were below average across the state, but Red-tailed Hawk counts were still above average for several watchsites, and state-wide totals increased 39% above 2009 tallies.

**Allegheny Front** (*Somerset/Bedford*) – Allegheny Front tallied 6660 hawks in 104 days and 801 hours of counting from 14 August through 11 December, averaging 8.3 birds per hour (Table 2). The highest count of the early season occurred on strong east-southeast winds when 41 Osprey and 30 Bald Eagles soared south, setting new one-day records for the site. Counters recorded the rarest migrant on 19 September, a Swainson's Hawk circling south within a small kettle of Broad-wings. Total counts were 26% below average partly due to low counts of Broad-winged Hawk, which totaled 2896, 32% below average (Table 2).

**Bake Oven Knob** (*Lehigh*) – Bake Oven Knob celebrated its 50th year of counting in 2010, an effort begun by Dr. Donald Heintzelman in 1961 and maintained today by the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. Congratulations to

everyone involved! Bake Oven counters recorded 11,469 hawks in 786 hours over 99 days from 15 August through 29 November, at a rate of 14.6 birds per hour. Sharp-shinned Hawk counts were slightly above average, 3275 compared with 3213 last year. Most species, however, showed below-average counts, and the overall total was 24% below the 10-year average (Table 2). Bake Oven Knob recorded 394 Red-tailed Hawks on 31 October, the third-highest one-day total for this species in the state (Table 1), and tallied its second-highest season count of Bald Eagles in 50 years: 226. Best was 236 in 2008.

**Blue Mountain-Route 183** (*Berks/Schuylkill*) – In the third year of consecutive counts from this re-established site on the Kittatinny Ridge, counters recorded the site’s highest recent count, 5857 hawks in 224 hours and 33 days of counts between 21 August and 27 November. Nearly every species showed higher counts compared to the past two years (Table 2). Blue Mountain recorded its highest one-day count on 19 September with 868 Broad-winged Hawks, 37 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Osprey, and singles of American Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon.

**Bucktoe Preserve** (*Chester*) – One of southeastern Pennsylvania’s newest hawk-watching sites, located south of Kennett Square and just north of the Delaware state line, tallied 2953 hawks in its 2010 season. Coverage extended from 31 August through 24 November and included 302 hours over 55 days.

Counters tallied 9.8 birds per hour for the period with noteworthy counts of Bald Eagle (104), American Kestrel (116), and Broad-winged Hawk (1729) (Table 2). We welcome this new southern site and hope it will host many great hawk-watching days ahead.

**Chester County – Hibernia Park** (*Chester*) – This second new *Chester* site is situated just north of Coatesville in Wagontown, Pennsylvania. It reported 3431 hawks in 360 hours over 55 days. The site recorded the third highest one-day total for Broad-winged Hawks (1366), suggesting it may be a place to watch next September (Table 1). A late push of Broad-wings was recorded on 26 September (1172). Broad-winged Hawks comprised 84% of the flight, with 2894 for the season, although most the count effort at this site occurred during September (Table 2). Osprey and Bald Eagle totals were fairly high despite the limited coverage, with counters spotting 138 and 100 respectively.

**Council Cup** (*Luzerne*) – Along the Susquahanna River, hawkwatchers tallied 962 migrant raptors in 139 hours and 25 days of counts from 9 August through 9 November. Coverage has remained fairly steady in the last three years, and past counts have proven the potential of the site. Daily counts ranged from 3 to 148 total migrants in 2010, at 6.92 birds per hour. Total count was below average, predominantly due to lower counts of Broad-winged and Red-tailed hawks

(Table 2). Despite the dip, Broad-winged Hawks (310) remained the most numerous migrant, representing 32% of the migrants (Table 2). Bald Eagles were seen regularly at this riverfront site with 95 total migrants and a peak day of 16 passing on 13 September (Table 1). Ten or more Bald Eagles were recorded on three additional days during mid-September.

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** (*Berks/Schuylkill*) – Counters here recorded an above average hawk flight in 2010, with 20,525 migrants counted from 31 July through 21 December, in 123 days and 1103 hours. New 76-year records were set for Turkey Vulture (650), and Bald Eagle (413; 406 during official count period). The total count was 24% above the 10-year average of 18,102 raptors. In addition to the new records, above-average counts were tallied for Black Vulture (135), Sharp-shinned Hawk (6440), Golden Eagle (140), American Kestrel (565), Merlin (228), and Peregrine Falcon (68). A cold front on 26 August ushered a Bald Eagle parade with as many as 14 in one hour, resulting in a one-day tally of 36 Bald Eagles, the second highest in sanctuary history. The highest one-day count for the 2010 season came on 16 September when an impending rain storm chased kettles south, resulting in a final count of 1282 Broad-wings passing before the cloud ceiling lowered. Counters that day also recorded a lone dark morph Swainson’s Hawk amid the Broad-wings in the mist.

**Jack’s Mountain** (*Mifflin*) – This site recorded 3183 migrating hawks within 207 hours and 40 days of counts. Broad-winged Hawks comprised 73% of the flight, with 2321 recorded. Highlights included 71 Bald Eagles, 95 Osprey, and 3 Peregrine Falcons for the season. Total counts were 38% below the ten-year average, although above the most recent two year’s counts (Table 2). Jack’s Mountain is one of several

**Table 1. Peak count dates for selected species at all Pennsylvania watch sites.**

Site	Bald Eagle		Sharp-sh. Hawk		Br.-winged Hawk		Red-tailed Hawk	
	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	<b>30</b>	9/11	87	10/13	1012	9/20	194	10/31
Bake Oven Knob	17	9/14	359	10/7	1127	9/16	<b>394</b>	10/31
Blue Mtn./Rte. 183	9	9/14	409	10/9	868	9/19	235	10/31
Bucktoe Preserve	9	10/28	35	10/10	869	9/21	47	11/10
Ches-Hibernia Pk.	13	9/17	39	9/17	<b>1366</b>	9/17	1	many
Council Cup	16	9/13	26	10/7	123	9/10	117	10/29
Hawk Mountain	<b>36</b>	8/26	<b>682</b>	10/7	1282	9/16	<b>438</b>	10/31
Jack’s Mountain	6	9/4	76	10/10	436	9/18	43	11/3
Little Gap	19	9/14	<b>569</b>	10/7	1101	9/19	<b>483</b>	10/29
Militia Hill	8	9/17	128	10/3	<b>10146</b>	9/21	24	10/21
Rose Tree Park	9	9/15	71	9/29	<b>1939</b>	9/20	45	11/1
Second Mountain	11	9/14,15	221	10/8	795	9/13	149	10/30
Stone Mountain	8	9/13	79	10/7	157	9/13	179	10/29
Tuscarora Summit	7	9/13	61	10/10	147	9/18	84	10/30
Tussey Mountain	7	9/9	84	10/7	56	9/14	183	10/29
Waggoner’s Gap	<b>25</b>	9/13,17	<b>837</b>	10/8	1158	9/14	327	10/31
Westtown School	2	10/7,11	9	10/11	34	9/14	5	9/21

*Bolded count numbers indicate the top three counts for each species*

Pennsylvania sites that could use additional volunteer help to cover the skies. In 2001 with full season coverage, more than 15,000 hawks were recorded. If you are interested in training or helping to count, contact this author or the site leaders—your time will help track raptors regionally.

**Little Gap** (*Northampton*) – Representing the eastern-most ridge site covered consistently during autumn migration, counters at Little Gap logged 13,534 total hawks in 483 hours over 72 days (Table 2). Although the 2010 count was 6% below average, above average counts were recorded for Black Vulture (82), Sharp-shinned Hawk (4138), Red-tailed Hawk (2419), Merlin (89), and Peregrine Falcon (43) (Table 2). A new season record was set for Turkey Vulture (755) and Bald Eagle (180). Little Gap had one of its best days of the season on 7 October when a cold front stirred 569 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 44 Cooper's Hawks, 13 American Kestrels, 9 Merlin, and 3 Peregrine Falcons past the lookout. An impressive 483 Red-tailed Hawks were tallied 29 October as well, one of the highest one-day counts across the state.

**Militia Hill** (*Montgomery*) – Counters tallied 22,070 raptors in 2010, during 462 hours over 60 days for an impressive 47.8 birds per hour and a new season total record. They surpassed their 10-year average of 10,409 hawks by nearly 10,000 birds. Broad-winged Hawks comprised 83% of the flight and represented the main reason for the jump in total raptors in 2010. The amazing Broad-winged parade began on 16 September with 1937 migrants, and culminated with 10,146 on 21 September, pushing the species to a new site record. In addition to Broad-wings, counters recorded a new season records for Turkey Vulture (886), Bald Eagle (109), Northern Harrier (132), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (1403). Militia Hill also tallied above-average counts for Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon to result in a fantastic 2010 (Table 2). Adding variety to the volume, counters recorded several rarities including 2 Mississippi Kites on 11 and 13 September, a light-morph Swainson's Hawk on 22 October, and a Rough-legged Hawk on 25 October.

**Rose Tree Park** (*Delaware*) – Hawk-watchers at this site recorded 6771

migrant hawks in 417 hours over 86 days of counts in 2010, only 4% below the 10-year average of 7039 and representing 16.2 hawks per hour (Table 2). The 2010 Broad-winged Hawk count of 3990 was 25% above the 10-year average of 3184, again reflecting the path through the Piedmont taken by this September migrant. This upswing was particularly notable considering the dip in hours of coverage compared to average: 417 compared to 642. 15 September brought one of the best flights of the season with 11 Osprey, 9 Bald Eagles, 29 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 716 Broad-winged Hawks, 5 American Kestrels and one Peregrine Falcon. The highest one-day count occurred five days later when 1939 Broad-wings swirled south along amid 1986 total raptors.

**Second Mountain** (*Lebanon*) – A total of 8820 hawks were tallied by counters in 2010 during 1041 hours and 132 days of counts, for 8.5 birds per hour. Counts occurred from 27 August to 6 December. A new record was set for Bald Eagle at 218, and above-average counts were tallied for Black Vulture (487), Turkey Vulture (670), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2786), and Golden Eagle (117). Mid-September brought an exciting few days. On 13 September the peak one-day count of 795 Broad-winged Hawks flew past amid 877 total migrants. The flight included a one-day peak of 33 Osprey, 24 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 7 Bald Eagles, and 2 Merlin. The next two days brought back-to-back 11-Bald Eagle days, helping vault the count to record levels. 18 September brought the rarest migrant for the season, a juvenile light-morph Swainson's Hawk. Golden Eagles were seen nearly daily through late October and November and reached a peak of 10 migrants on 24 November.

**Stone Mountain** (*Huntingdon*) – Counters at one of the northernmost hawk-watches in the state counted 3288 hawks amid 413 hours and 74 days of counts in 2010. Season counts were 29% below ten-year average of 4648. Despite this, Stone Mountain set a new record for Bald Eagle at 112, and tallied above-average counts for the Turkey Vulture at 178. The new vulture record was boosted in part by a peak one-day count of 108 Turkey Vultures on 13 October. Stone recorded one of its highest one-day counts on 29 October. A peak count of 179 Red-tailed Hawks were accompanied by 43 Sharp-

shinned Hawks, 30 Turkey Vultures, 7 Northern Harriers, 5 Golden Eagles, and a late Peregrine Falcon and Merlin. Stone finished their season with 19 Golden Eagles over a three-day period from 4 to 6 December.

**Tuscarora Summit** (*Fulton*) – Hawkwatchers at this site recorded 2820 hawks in 358 hours and 64 days of counts from 7 September to 21 November. This was their 38th year of counts. The most numerous migrant was the Broad-winged Hawk which comprised 34% of the migrants (955) (Table 2). A new season record was set for Black Vulture with 69 tallied for the season, 44 of which were counted on 20 October. Bald Eagle counts were above-average, with 50 counted compared to an average of 39 in the past 10 years. Overall, season counts were below-average, 2820 compared to an average of 4192. 13 September brought one of the highest one-day counts of 192, including 11 Osprey, 7 Bald Eagles, 21 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 135 Broad-winged Hawks, and 3 American Kestrels. October highlights included the flight on 29 October with 84 Red-tailed Hawks, 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Bald Eagles, and 2 Golden Eagles.

**Tussey Mountain** (*Centre*) – Known more as a traditional spring site, coverage increased at Tussey during autumn 2010 to 86 hours and 32 days, with counts spanning from 9 September through 15 December. The more than doubling of prior autumn effort was rewarded with a season total of 1310 raptors, at a rate of 15.3 hawks per hour. In contrast to most sites, the most numerous migrant at Tussey Mountain was the Red-tailed Hawk (738), and counts of Sharp-shinned Hawks (221) and Turkey Vulture (95) surpassed counts of Broad-winged Hawks (69). Known for its Golden Eagles in spring, Tussey recorded 30 in autumn 2010 with a peak count of 8 on 24 November. Hawkwatchers tallied their peak autumn day on 29 October with 211 hawks, including 183 Red-tailed Hawks, 13 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 7 Turkey Vultures, 3 Golden Eagles, one Bald Eagle and one Peregrine Falcon. One of the few Rough-legged Hawks seen in the state this autumn was recorded on 5 December (Table 2).

**Waggoner's Gap** (*Cumberland*) – Watchers here spent more time

counting than any other site and tallied the highest raptor count in the state, 24,212 in 1215 hours over 142 days beginning on 1 August and ending on 31 December. Raptors per hour of effort finished at 19.9, and the total surpassed the ten-year average of 21,937 hawks. New records were set for Bald Eagle (511) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (10,121). Above-average counts were tallied for Cooper's Hawk (891), Golden Eagle (265), Merlin (142), and Peregrine Falcon (68). The rarest migrant was recorded at 12:20 pm on 6 December, a pale gray Gyrfalcon! Watchers were able to view the bird from above and below as it flew along the north slope. Bald Eagles surpassed 20 per day on three dates: 13 September with 25 eagles, 14 September with 22, and 17 September with 25. Waggoner's Gap counters enjoyed more than 1000 raptors per day on three occasions. The peak one-day flight occurred on 13 September with 1365 total hawks including 1158 Broad-winged Hawks, 103 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 25 Bald Eagles (Table 1, 2). Another 887 Broad-wings

on 19 September contributed to a daily total of 1055 hawks. On 8 October, 837 Sharp-shinned Hawks filled the skies, part of 1017 total raptors including 96 Turkey Vultures, 42 Cooper's Hawks, and 5 Bald Eagles. A lone Red-tailed Hawk on 31 Dec closed Waggoner's Gap autumn count.

**Westtown School (Chester)** – One of the new sites for 2010 was established by veteran hawkwatcher Lance Tanino at the school where he taught, Westtown. The count hours were brief, but the birds per hour (10.9) suggest that with additional effort, the students might make a significant contribution to our understanding of southeastern migration patterns. The team recorded 164 hawks in 15 hours and 13 days of counts. Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawks were the most abundant migrants, 42 and 35 respectively. The school tallied 6 Bald Eagles, 7 Osprey, 15 Red-tailed Hawks, and 14 American Kestrels. The highest one-day count occurred on 14 September with 39 migrants, including 34 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Osprey, one

Bald Eagle, one American Kestrel, and one unidentified raptor. We hope the students will continue their pioneer schoolyard watch in 2011.

**Acknowledgments**

I thank Pennsylvania's hawk counters for their many hours of covering the skies, as well as the site compilers for organizing data and sharing their results. Data were collected from <www.hawkcount.org>, a website maintained by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (J. Sodergren, webmaster), with permission of the site compilers. I thank Jeannette McBryan for assistance with compiling tables, and David Barber for preparing the figure. Keith L. Bildstein provided valuable input on an earlier version of this report. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 202.

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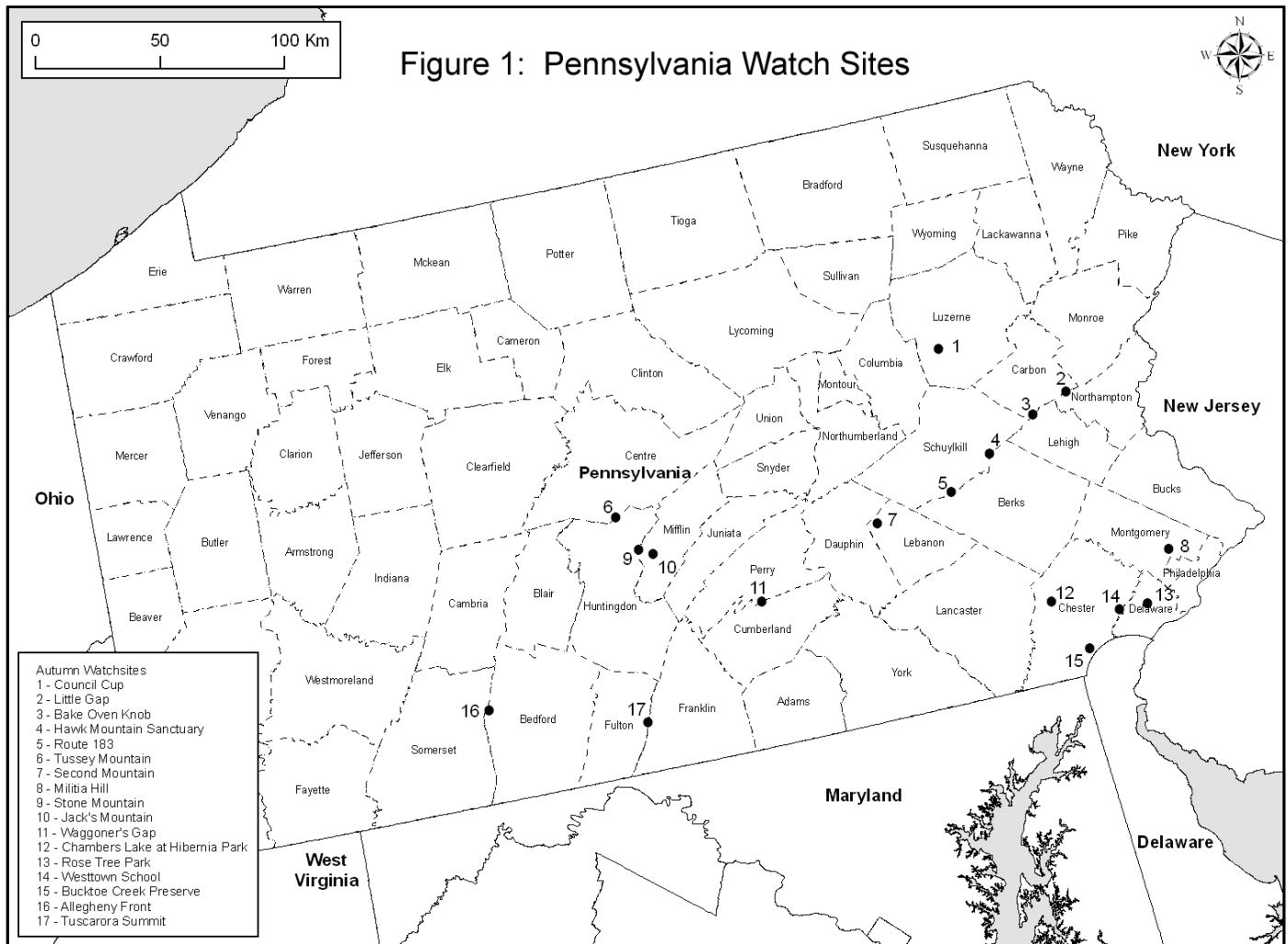


Table 2. Autumn 2010 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

**ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford/Somerset) - Che Mincone, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	127	5	3	21	13	2	20	17	0	0	0	268	48	0	12	2	0	0	16	427
September	27	220	5	22	83	58	31	236	103	1	1	2622	131	0	0	44	8	11	1	74	3431
October	29	224	13	234	12	8	27	496	104	2	61	6	790	0	10	22	28	9	0	108	1930
November	25	190	0	21	0	5	17	22	9	7	29	0	578	1	135	0	0	0	0	30	854
December	6	39	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2896</b>	<b>1555</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>6660</b>
Total per hr			0.03	0.35	0.14	0.11	0.10	0.97	0.29	0.01	0.11	3.62	1.94	0.00	0.19	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.29	8.32
% of flight			0.3	4.2	1.7	1.3	1.2	11.6	3.5	0.2	1.4	43.5	23.3	0.0	2.3	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.0	3.4	100.0
Average last 10yrs	111.4	804.8	23.6	543.3	117.7	68.2	70.7	1145.2	250.9	10.7	97.5	4270.8	1997.7	4.2	160.9	78.2	34.1	33.4	0.0	246.0	8972.4

**BAKE OVEN KNOB (Lehigh) - Dan Kunkle, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	129	26	132	23	41	11	38	6	0	0	186	68	0	0	20	4	0	0	45	600
September	28	233	78	279	237	104	50	757	56	0	9	3442	95	0	2	87	19	6	0	129	5350
October	28	229	66	360	67	64	42	2454	158	6	68	25	1149	0	25	90	52	25	0	51	4702
November	26	195	34	100	0	17	7	26	20	14	26	0	504	0	48	0	0	0	0	21	817
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>3275</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3653</b>	<b>1816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>11469</b>
Total per hr			0.26	1.11	0.42	0.29	0.14	4.17	0.31	0.03	0.13	4.65	2.31	0.00	0.10	0.25	0.10	0.04	0.00	0.31	14.59
% of flight			1.8	7.6	2.9	2.0	1.0	28.6	2.1	0.2	0.9	31.9	15.8	0.0	0.7	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.0	2.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	101.1	798.7	276.4	885.7	629.6	188.1	166.2	3212.6	392.6	35.1	147.7	5773.2	2552.7	2.4	93.6	204.7	93.4	53.7	0.1	293.8	15035.9

**BLUE MOUNTAIN Rte. 183 (Schuykill/Berks) - Scott Fisher, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	3	15	3	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	17	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	32
September	13	94	49	83	67	37	17	619	36	0	3	1762	56	0	0	57	8	4	0	17	2815
October	12	82	57	72	47	28	21	1513	141	4	28	6	729	1	17	32	7	6	0	25	2734
November	5	34	4	11	0	5	3	14	7	9	8	0	199	0	12	0	1	1	0	2	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5857</b>
Total per hr			0.51	0.74	0.51	0.31	0.19	9.60	0.83	0.06	0.17	7.98	4.41	0.00	0.13	0.41	0.07	0.05	0.00	0.20	26.18
% of flight			1.9	2.8	1.9	1.2	0.7	36.7	3.2	0.2	0.7	30.5	16.9	0.0	0.5	1.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 3 yrs	35.0	208.1	87.0	150.3	81.0	49.7	24.7	1728.3	144.0	8.0	29.0	1213.0	571.0	0.3	28.0	80.3	18.7	9.0	0.0	34.3	4256.7

**BUCKTOE PRESERVE (Chester) - Larry Lewis, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	1	9	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9
September	18	105	0	0	37	44	6	119	46	0	1	1706	4	0	0	71	2	0	0	0	2036
October	20	108	0	3	26	28	17	185	55	0	14	23	53	0	1	42	16	2	0	2	467
November	16	82	0	63	1	30	8	67	25	1	34	0	208	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	441
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1729</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2953</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.22	0.22	0.34	0.10	1.23	0.42	0.00	0.16	5.72	0.88	0.00	0.01	0.38	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.01	9.77
% of flight			0.0	2.2	2.2	3.5	1.0	12.6	4.3	0.0	1.7	58.6	9.0	0.0	0.1	3.9	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0

**CHESTER COUNTY HIBERNIA PARK (Chester) - Larry Lewis, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	28	211	0	0	32	33	1	2	5	0	1	11	1	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	98
September	26	144	0	0	102	64	11	116	39	0	1	2883	1	0	0	47	27	6	0	3	3300
October	1	5	0	0	4	3	1	14	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2894</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3431</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.38	0.28	0.04	0.37	0.13	0.00	0.01	8.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.01	9.54
% of flight			0.0	0.0	4.0	2.9	0.4	3.8	1.4	0.0	0.1	84.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.1	100.0

**COUNCIL CUP (Luzerne) - Donald Kapral, Compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	1	6	0	0	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
September	11	71	0	3	17	77	2	13	1	0	0	308	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	12	449
October	7	33	3	114	16	13	1	89	10	0	0	1	136	0	0	20	0	0	0	3	406
November	6	28	0	8	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>962</b>
Total per hr			0.02	0.90	0.25	0.68	0.04	0.76	0.09	0.00	0.00	2.23	1.56	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	6.93
% of flight			0.3	13.0	3.5	9.9	0.5	11.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	32.2	22.6	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	42.6	164.6	2.8	231.7	59.2	43.9	18.9	227.3	27.0	2.6	8.1	1156.0	853.2	0.6	3.1	49.8	2.9	3.0	0.0	39.9	2730.0

**HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Laurie Goodrich, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid.	Total
August	19	169	0	15	70	86	7	59	17	0	3	310	73	0	0	65	4	1	0	13	723
September	28	301	35	56	411	171	54	1064	130	0	7	6354	173	0	0	277	57	21	1	58	8669
October	30	285	40	431	172	90	96	5230	565	10	102	45	1912	0	34	222	159	45	0	86	9239
November	28	234	58	148	5	29	23	86	46	36	56	0	959	0	70	1	7	1	0	11	1536
December	18	115	2	0	1	37	3	1	0	6	3	0	68	0	36	0	1	0	0	0	158
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>6440</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>6709</b>	<b>3185</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>20525</b>
Total per hr			0.12	0.59	0.60	0.37	0.17	5.84	0.69	0.05	0.16	6.09	2.89	0.00	0.13	0.51	0.21	0.06	0.00	0.15	18.62
% of flight			0.7	3.2	3.2	2.0	0.9	31.4	3.7	0.3	0.8	32.7	15.5	0.0	0.7	2.8	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	124.0	1098.0	85.0	409.0	586.0	235.0	211.0	4386.0	743.0	47.0	225.0	7093.0	3111.0	5.0	117.0	453.0	164.0	55.0	<1	171.0	18102.0

**JACK'S MOUNTAIN (Mifflin) - Ron Singer, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid.	Total
September	19	114	0	0	31	25	5	85	14	0	2	775	48	0	1	12	3	1	0	8	1010
October	13	63	0	0	33	26	5	105	17	0	2	773	53	0	1	15	4	1	0	9	1044
November	8	31	0	0	31	20	5	174	24	0	3	773	63	0	1	20	5	1	0	9	1129
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2321</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3183</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.46	0.34	0.07	1.76	0.27	0.00	0.03	11.23	0.79	0.00	0.01	0.23	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.13	15.40
% of flight			0.0	0.0	3.0	2.2	0.5	11.4	1.7	0.0	0.2	72.9	5.2	0.0	0.1	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	52.1	324.3	23.8	174.6	115.8	46.0	55.0	837.4	105.0	9.1	18.0	2946.7	659.6	0.5	25.2	87.2	17.2	10.7	0.1	30.8	5162.7

**LITTLE GAP (Northampton) - Michael Schall, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	3	10	0	0	2	2	0	8	0	0	1	11	3	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	32
September	20	139	0	64	203	89	36	735	63	0	3	4548	137	0	0	86	20	12	0	28	6024
October	25	188	56	630	77	64	66	3358	330	20	86	14	1685	1	25	51	64	28	0	63	6618
November	20	129	26	61	1	19	9	36	18	13	27	0	574	1	25	0	4	3	0	14	831
December	4	17	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>4138</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>4573</b>	<b>2419</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>13534</b>
Total per hr			0.17	1.56	0.59	0.37	0.23	8.58	0.85	0.07	0.24	9.48	5.01	0.00	0.11	0.29	0.18	0.09	0.00	0.22	28.05
% of flight			0.6	5.6	2.1	1.3	0.8	30.6	3.0	0.3	0.9	33.8	17.9	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	92.6	580.4	63.9	419.9	427.4	137.2	135.0	3163.0	433.1	32.1	114.6	6611.1	2260.0	2.2	64.4	229.7	69.0	36.9	0.3	131.3	14331.5

**MILITIA HILL (Montgomery) - Andy Fayer, Lyn Jackson, Rich Conroy, co-compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	30	237	0	10	192	64	54	347	38	2	7	18158	6	0	0	181	15	23	0	29	19126
October	30	225	26	876	93	45	78	1056	109	1	83	174	134	1	4	191	14	14	1	44	2944
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1403</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>18332</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>22070</b>
Total per hr			0.06	1.92	0.62	0.24	0.29	3.04	0.32	0.01	0.20	39.72	0.30	0.00	0.01	0.81	0.06	0.08	0.00	0.16	47.82
% of flight			0.1	4.0	1.3	0.5	0.6	6.4	0.7	0.0	0.4	83.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	59.8	450.3	37.5	380.7	265.1	64.7	69.9	1010.9	143.9	1.7	45.6	7841.4	189.3	0.1	2.4	244.6	20.4	18.7	0.1	71.3	10408.5

\*two Mississippi Kites in September

**ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware) - Chris Pugliese, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	29	137	0	2	144	65	23	310	31	0	11	3807	7	0	0	62	11	6	0	12	4491
October	30	166	7	58	42	35	48	821	89	0	81	183	101	0	1	84	18	5	0	34	1607
November	27	114	32	153	0	17	12	118	28	0	94	0	197	0	4	2	5	3	0	8	673
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1249</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>3990</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6771</b>
Total per hr			0.09	0.51	0.45	0.28	0.20	3.00	0.36	0.00	0.45	9.57	0.73	0.00	0.01	0.36	0.08	0.03	0.00	0.13	16.25
% of flight			0.6	3.1	2.7	1.7	1.2	18.4	2.2	0.0	2.7	58.9	4.5	0.0	0.1	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	95.6	642.0	104.8	446.4	259.2	158.9	88.9	1504.8	240.5	5.8	180.1	3183.9	477.4	0.2	4.6	251.5	46.1	18.9	0.7	67.9	7038.6

**SECOND MOUNTAIN (Lebanon) - David Schwenk, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	23	155	0	0	14	11	3	16	11	0	2	65	51	0	0	11	3	0	0	5	192
September	26	234	20	5	129	81	31	631	92	3	12	2419	139	0	2	62	11	16	1	25	3679
October	29	267	279	506	50	79	69	2111	162	17	56	6	578	0	39	32	27	7	0	16	4034
November	27	215	151	157	1	31	15	28	11	17	22	0	297	1	59	0	0	0	0	6	796
December	27	172	37	2	0	16	4	0	0	3	0	0	38	2	17	0	0	0	0	0	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2786</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2490</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8820</b>
Total per hr			0.47	0.64	0.19	0.21	0.12	2.68	0.27	0.04	0.09	2.39	1.06	0.00	0.11	0.10	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.05	8.47
% of flight			5.5	7.6	2.2	2.5	1.4	31.6	3.1	0.5	1.0	28.2	12.5	0.0	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	139.6	1022.8	339.0	606.8	212.7	105.6	145.5	2200.4	287.7	56.2	142.8	3611.5	1417.9	3.1	81.5	129.9	46.5	28.5	0.7	74.3	9491.0

**STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon) - Greg Grove, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	3	13	0	0	3	12	1	3	0	0	1	18	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
September	23	131	0	0	46	54	16	184	37	0	3	695	51	0	1	50	7	4	0	17	1165
October	22	138	6	162	20	27	33	525	59	5	32	2	705	0	17	26	10	9	0	14	1652
November	21	102	0	16	0	14	9	11	1	6	20	0	259	0	44	0	0	0	0	1	381
December	5	30	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	19	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>1038</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3288</b>
Total per hr			0.01	0.43	0.17	0.27	0.15	1.75	0.24	0.03	0.14	1.73	2.51	0.00	0.20	0.18	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.08	7.96
% of flight			0.2	5.4	2.1	3.4	1.8	22.0	3.0	0.3	1.7	21.7	31.6	0.0	2.5	2.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	1.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	62.8	358.2	18.5	87.0	95.4	54.1	77.6	866.2	213.4	13.9	63.7	1580.6	1246.2	2.2	111.0	96.2	33.7	24.7	0.2	63.3	4648.1

**TUSCARORA SUMMIT (Fulton) - Dale Gearhart, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	22	135	0	2	60	31	22	301	35	1	2	952	3	0	5	22	1	2	0	38	1477
October	27	157	57	273	9	17	29	410	29	1	16	3	254	0	15	13	2	5	0	38	1171
November	15	67	12	31	1	2	8	2	0	1	5	0	98	1	8	1	0	0	0	2	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2820</b>
Total per hr			0.19	0.85	0.20	0.14	0.16	1.99	0.18	0.01	0.06	2.67	0.99	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.22	7.88
% of flight			2.4	10.9	2.5	1.8	2.1	25.3	2.3	0.1	0.8	33.9	12.6	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	2.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	66.5	368.4	30.1	352.1	99.9	39.3	70.3	890.4	88.7	3.3	28.6	1800.9	615.6	0.6	36.5	37.7	8.9	15.5	0.0	73.9	4192.3

**TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Dan Ombalski, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	4	12	0	0	8	13	0	5	1	0	0	69	8	0	0	14	0	0	0	6	124
October	10	43	7	93	1	15	5	215	12	0	1	0	604	0	4	27	3	4	0	3	994
November	10	23	2	2	0	8	2	1	3	2	3	0	107	0	22	0	1	0	0	4	157
December	8	9	0	0	0	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	19	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1310</b>
Total per hr			0.11	1.11	0.11	0.49	0.11	2.58	0.20	0.02	0.05	0.81	8.63	0.01	0.35	0.48	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.18	15.32
% of flight			0.7	7.3	0.7	3.2	0.7	16.9	1.3	0.2	0.3	5.3	56.3	0.1	2.3	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs			26.6	2.9	24.2	3.4	8.7	47.1	7.4	0.3	1.7	73.0	229.8	0.1	9.9	10.4	0.4	1.4	0.0	9.5	432.6

**WAGGONER'S GAP (Cumberland) - David Grove, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	30	212	0	0	56	85	22	78	25	0	9	246	73	0	0	49	0	1	0	13	657
September	27	262	0	0	315	236	56	2027	201	0	6	5628	198	0	0	198	50	31	0	57	9003
October	29	281	46	1107	103	92	136	7933	627	21	167	23	1835	1	62	91	89	33	0	91	12457
November	26	236	28	192	0	45	36	80	36	44	79	0	1075	1	121	1	3	3	0	26	1770
December	30	225	19	2	0	53	9	3	2	12	6	0	130	1	82	0	0	0	0	6	325
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>10121</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>5897</b>	<b>3311</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>24212</b>
Total per hr			0.08	1.07	0.39	0.42	0.21	8.33	0.73	0.06	0.22	4.85	2.73	0.00	0.22	0.28	0.12	0.06	0.00	0.16	19.93
% of flight			0.4	5.4	2.0	2.1	1.1	41.8	3.7	0.3	1.1	24.4	13.7	0.0	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	141.9	1134.0	105.2	1366.0	500.0	287.0	302.0	6896.0	878.0	79.0	290.0	6227.0	4088.0	7.0	226.0	341.0	104.0	59.0	0.0	184.0	21937.0

Gyrfalcon in December.

**WESTTOWN SCHOOL (Chester) - Lance Tanino, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	5	6	0	0	6	1	0	7	3	0	0	34	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	60
October	5	6	0	23	1	5	5	25	5	0	4	1	5	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	86
November	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164</b>
Total per hr			0.00	1.67	0.47	0.40	0.33	2.80	0.53	0.00	0.33	2.33	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	10.93
% of flight			0.0	15.2	4.3	3.7	3.0	25.6	4.9	0.0	3.0	21.3	9.1	0.0	0.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	100.0

**2010 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	145	1056	34	150	224	289	51	230	84	0	17	1133	324	0	0	174	18	2	0	105	2835
September	356	2572	187	526	2088	1214	414	7556	926	7	68	56162	1062	0	11	1287	239	143	3	946	72839
October	347	2496	663	4942	773	639	679	26540	2475	87	802	1285	10725	4	255	974	494	193	1	584	52115
November	263	1679	347	965	40	243	154	677	230	150	407	773	5204	5	550	26	28	12	0	135	9946
December	98	606	58	5	1	125	19	5	4	23	10	0	302	4	166	0	1	0	0	9	732
<b>Total</b>	<b>1209</b>	<b>8409</b>	<b>1289</b>	<b>6588</b>	<b>3126</b>	<b>2510</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>35008</b>	<b>3719</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>59353</b>	<b>17617</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>2461</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>138467</b>
Total per hr			0.15	0.78	0.37	0.30	0.16	4.16	0.44	0.03	0.16	7.06	2.10	0.00	0.12	0.29	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.21	16.47
% of flight			0.9	4.8	2.3	1.8	1.0	25.3	2.7	0.2	0.9	42.9	12.7	0.0	0.7	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	1.3	100.0
2009 totals	1132	7370	1288	5256	2655	1689	952	26152	3351	182	1018	58162	12200	9	780	2056	627	387	6	1054	117824
% change from 2009	6.8%	14.1%	-0.1%	25.3%	17.7%	48.6%	38.3%	33.9%	11.0%	46.7%	28.1%	2.0%	44.4%	44.4%	25.9%	19.7%	24.4%	-9.6%	-33.3%	68.8%	17.5%

\* Includes 2 Mississippi Kites and 1 Gyrfalcon.

**KEY TO TABLE HEADERS**

BLVU	Black Vulture	RSHA	Broad-winged Hawk
TUVU	Turkey Vulture	BWHA	Red-tailed Hawk
OSPR	Osprey	RTHA	Rough-legged hawk
BAEA	Bald Eagle	RLHA	Golden Eagle
NOHA	Northern Harrier	GOEA	American Kestrel
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk	AMKE	Merlin
COHA	Cooper's Hawk	PEFA	Peregrine Falcon
NOGO	Northern Goshawk	SWHA	Swainson's Hawk
RSHA	Red-shouldered Hawk	Unid	Unidentified

# Pennsylvania 2010 Bird Lists Report

## Compiled by Peter Robinson

Two new state species, if accepted by the PORC, provided opportunities for adding to state and county life lists. First was the White-faced Ibis seen March 21 in *Cumberland* by the few people who were close enough to arrive during the few hours that it stayed. Then, thanks to the Rufous Hummingbird banding effort, the Anna's Hummingbird was banded November 21 in *Berks* and stayed through the winter for many birders to see.

There are now 73 birders whose Pennsylvania Life Lists are 300 or more, an increase of three. Chuck Berthoud added ten species for a new total of 308, Dick Cleary's first life list submittal was for 300, and Carl Garner added two from 2009 for a total of 300. Twenty-one now have PA Life Lists of 350 species or more, the same as last year. Five are at 375 or more, an increase of two. The number of birders at the 300 mark or more in the PA Life List-Unassisted category rose by two to ten, with Skip Connant going from 275 in 2001 to 312, and Jonathan Heller's 2009 total increasing by one to 300.

Michael Schall's 279 was the top state annual list, Shannon Thompson was second at 275, and Devich Farbotnik was third with 274.

Eric Witmer added one species and now has the top County Life List with 328 for *Lancaster*. There are 16 County Life Lists of 300 or greater, one more than last year, with Ken Lebo adding one to his 2009 list for a new total of 300. Ten of the top 16 County Life Lists are for *Lancaster*.

There are several new leaders for County Life Lists. For *Carbon*, Barry Reed went from 248 in 2008 to 267. Nick Pulcinella added three to his 2009 *Chester* list for a total of 270. Fritz Brock now has 272 species for *Lehigh*, three more than his 2006 total of 269. Greg Grove is now at 205 for *Mifflin*, four more than in 2008. Russ States had not sent a *Venango* Life List before, but this year reported 251 as of 2000, a new top for that county.

### Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	386	Deuane Hoffman	2009	64	306	Ronald Leberman	2003	128	262	Jeff Payne	2008
2	380	Barbara Haas	2010	65	305	Gene Wilhelm	1992	130	260	Dennis Miller	1999
3	379	Franklin Haas	2010	67	304	Mark Vass	2006	130	260	Retta Payne	2008
4	377	Dave DeReamus	2010	68	302	Greg Grove	2010	132	259	Linda McWilliams	1992
5	375	Devich Farbotnik	2010	68	302	Sam Stull	1985	132	259	Eugene Zielinski	2000
6	373	Peter Robinson	2010	68	302	Edward Pederson	1998	134	258	Steve Graff	2000
7	371	Jason Horn	2002	71	300	Rick Koval	2004	134	258	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
8	370	Rick Wiltraut	2006	71	300	Larry Lewis	1988	136	257	Russell Ryan	1993
9	369	Eric Witmer	2010	71	300	Dick Cleary	2010	137	256	Ted Grisez	1996
10	365	Tom Garner	2010	71	300	Carl Garner	2010	137	256	Gerry Boltz	2010
11	362	Arlene Koch	2010	74	299	Keith Richards	1982	139	255	Nick Kerlin	2010
12	361	Al Guarente	2010	74	299	Trudy Kyles	2010	139	255	Martin Page	2010
13	359	Randy C. Miller	2009	76	298	George Malosh	2003	141	253	Scott Bastian	1999
13	359	Robert Schutsky	2009	77	297	Allan Keith	1998	141	253	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006
13	359	Jonathan Heller	2010	77	297	Mark McConaughy	2008	141	253	Brian Byrnes	2010
16	358	Steve Farbotnik	2006	79	296	Ed Kwater	1996	141	253	Kevin Fryberger	2010
16	358	Ken Lebo	2010	79	296	Allen Schweinsberg	2008	145	252	Carol Hildebrand	2009
18	357	Bernard Morris	2010	81	295	Frank Windfelder	1998	146	250	Stanley Glowacki	2002
19	354	John Fedak	2006	81	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	147	245	Bill Reddinger	1999
19	354	Nick Pulcinella	2010	81	295	Chad Kauffman	2010	147	245	Robert Frantz	2000
21	353	Harold Lebo	2010	81	295	Shannon Thompson	2010	147	245	Grant Stevenson	2008
22	346	Jerry Book	2000	85	294	James Baxter	1986	150	244	Harvey Troyer	1999
22	346	Joyce Hoffmann	2004	85	294	Terence Schiefer	1999	151	242	Walter Fye	1997
22	346	Fritz Brock	2010	85	294	William Reid	2001	151	242	Jerry Troyer	1999
22	346	Geoff Malosh	2010	88	293	John Peplinski	1994	151	242	Marvin Byler	2005
26	342	Michael Schall	2010	89	292	Dave Rieger	2003	154	241	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
27	339	Bruce Carl	2010	89	290	David Abbott	1998	155	240	Dale Gearhart	2000
28	338	Jan Witmer	1997	90	290	Chuck Tague	1999	156	239	Adam Miller	2000
28	338	Richard Colyer	2000	90	290	Deborah Grove	2010	157	238	Roy Ickes	1999
30	337	John Miller	1997	93	289	Kevin Crilly	1998	158	237	Jerry Skinner	2007
31	336	William Stocku	1997	93	289	Thomas Reeves	2010	159	235	Glenn Czulada	2005
31	336	Richard Timm	2010	93	288	Ross Gallardy	2006	160	234	Christopher Payne	2008
33	334	Jerry McWilliams	2009	96	286	Russ States	2000	161	232	Joe Strasser	1994
33	334	Mike Fialkovich	2010	97	285	Armas Hill	1996	161	232	Voni Strasser	1994
35	333	Chuck Chalfant	2010	97	285	Neal Thorpe	1997	163	231	Larry Brown	1998
36	332	William Murphy	2000	99	284	James Gray	1983	163	231	Jim Mountjoy	2000
37	329	Paul Schwalbe	1998	99	284	David Hawk	2010	163	231	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2006
38	327	Glenna Schwalbe	1998	101	283	Kerry Grim	1998	166	227	Mike Ward	2010
38	327	Steve Santner	1999	102	282	John Billings	1998	167	226	Eli Troyer	1999
40	325	Margaret Higbee	2008	102	282	Dick Byers	2002	167	226	Stan Kotala	2001
41	324	Harry Franzen	1996	102	282	Jim Dunn	2010	167	226	Leonard Hess	2003
41	324	Matt Wlasniewski	2010	105	281	Dan Richards	2009	170	224	Arlene Brown	1998
43	319	John Ginaven	1998	106	278	James Baird	1981	171	223	Pamela Woodman	1993
43	319	Bill Etter	2010	106	278	Merrill Wood	1991	171	223	Jim McVoy	2007
43	319	Aden Troyer	2010	106	278	Dustin Welch	2010	173	222	Linda Hess	2003
46	318	Phillips Street	1999	109	277	Bonnie Baird	1981	173	222	Joseph Greco	2008
46	318	Ronald Leberman	2009	110	276	Randi Gerrish	2009	175	220	Jon Dunn	2004
48	316	Tom Clauser	2007	111	274	Gloria Lamar	1992	175	220	Paul Mauss	2010
49	315	Evelyn Kopf	1995	111	274	Sarah Gerrish	2009	177	219	Ann Pettigrew	1996
50	314	Walter Shaffer	1999	113	273	Katrina Knight	1999	177	219	Daniel Snell	2000
51	313	Harold Morrin	1996	114	272	Scott Kinzey	1999	179	218	Helena Kotala	2007
51	313	David Kyler	2010	114	272	Bob Machesney	2005	180	213	Richard Murphy	1999
53	312	Skip Conant	2010	114	272	Pamela Fisher	2009	181	210	Gregg Gorton	2001
54	311	Dana Shaffer	1999	117	271	James Flynn	1997	181	210	Ryan Tomazin	2009
54	311	Don Henise	2000	118	270	Gary Edwards	2003	183	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
54	311	Drew Weber	2010	118	270	Barry Reed	2010	183	206	Dennis Weaver	2000
57	310	John Salvetti	2010	120	268	Sam Sinderson	2005	185	205	Jeff Michaels	2005
58	308	Robyn Henise	2000	121	267	Harry Henderson	1991	186	200	Fred Crowley	1995
58	308	Mike Weible	2007	121	267	Scott Bills	2003	187	199	Candy Krenzer	1999
58	308	Roger Higbee	2008	121	267	Bill Keim	2010	188	197	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
58	308	Chuck Berthoud	2010	124	266	Joe Meloney	1994	189	180	Thomas Mason	1999
62	307	Ernest Schiefer	2000	124	266	Lewis Grove	2010	190	168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
62	307	Wayne Laubscher	2010	126	265	Neil Troyer	2004	191	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
				126	265	Marjorie Howard	2008				
				128	262	Theodore Drozdowski	2005				

**PA Life Lists – Unassisted**

("Chase" birds not included)

1	326	Deuane Hoffman	2009
2	322	John Fedak	2006
3	321	Jason Horn	2002
4	319	Robert Schutsky	2009
5	315	Jerry McWilliams	2009
6	312	Skip Conant	2010
7	308	Devich Farbotnik	2008
7	308	Eric Witmer	2009
9	305	Ronald Leberman	2003
10	300	Jonathan Heller	2010
11	292	Peter Robinson	2004
11	292	Geoff Malosh	2010
13	289	Franklin Haas	2000
13	289	Chuck Chalfant	2010
13	289	Al Guarente	2010
16	282	Nick Pulcinella	2005
17	278	Ken Lebo	2005
17	278	David Hawk	2010
19	273	Don Henise	2000
19	273	Michael Schall	2008
19	273	Mark Vass	2009
22	271	Bill Etter	2010
23	268	Barry Reed	2010
24	263	Steve Farbotnik	2000
25	260	Dave DeReamus	2009
26	256	Greg Grove	2010
27	254	Jeff Payne	2004
28	253	Neil Troyer	2004
29	252	Dustin Welch	2010
30	250	Retta Payne	2004
31	249	Pamela Fisher	2009
32	248	Mark McConaughy	2003
33	236	Bill Keim	2009
34	233	Ross Gallardy	2003
35	226	Stan Kotala	2001
35	226	Leonard Hess	2003
37	222	Linda Hess	2003
38	221	Jim McVoy	2007
39	217	Martin Page	2010
40	216	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2005
41	212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
41	212	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2005
41	212	Grant Stevenson	2005
44	207	Gregg Gorton	2001
45	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
46	205	Dennis Weaver	2000
47	190	Paul Mauss	2010
48	186	John Salvetti	2003
48	186	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
50	171	Helena Kotala	2007
51	165	Elmer Brenneman	2010
52	153	Douglas Anderson	2003

**PA Annual Lists 2010**

279	Michael Schall
275	Shannon Thompson
274	Devich Farbotnik
260	Drew Weber
247	Al Guarente
245	Holly Merker
237	Chad Kauffman
229	Kevin Fryberger
226	Jerry McWilliams
225	Matt Wlasniewski
220	Dave Hawk
220	Aden Troyer
215	Bill Keim
212	Alex Lamoreaux
211	Nick Pulcinella
198	Barry Reed
179	Carl Garner
178	Skip Conant
160	Dave DeReamus
151	Paul Mauss
138	Marjorie Howard
127	Martin Page
126	Elmer Brenneman

**PA Annual List > Personal Best**

313	Deuane Hoffman	1998
306	Robert Schutsky	1992
297	Jason Horn	2000

296	Devich Farbotnik	2002
294	John Fedak	1998
292	Mike Weible	2007
290	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
289	Geoff Malosh	2007
288	Barbara Haas	1986
288	Franklin Haas	1986
284	Peter Robinson	2002
279	Tom Johnson	2005
279	Michael Schall	2010
278	Sam Stull	1979
278	Gene Wilhelm	1983
276	Chuck Chalfant	2009
275	Shannon Thompson	2010
272	Randy C. Miller	1992
268	Terence Schiefer	1985
267	Jonathan Heller	1992
263	Jerry McWilliams	1983
262	Ken Lebo	1995
262	Walt Shaffer	1999
260	Dana Shaffer	1999
260	Mark Vass	2004
260	Drew Weber	2010
259	Mike Fialkovich	1998
258	Steve Santner	1992
257	Mike Weible	2006
248	Dave Rieger	2001
247	Al Guarente	2010
245	Holly Merker	2010
239	Bill Etter	2001
239	Rick Koval	2002
238	Ross Gallardy	2005
237	Chad Kauffman	2010
233	Greg Grove	2007
231	Dave DeReamus	1990
231	Tom Clauser	2007
230	Gary Edwards	2000
229	Mark McConaughy	1998
229	Russ States	2000
227	Pamela Fisher	2009
226	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
225	David Hawk	2009
225	Matt Wlasniewski	2010
223	John Salvetti	1996
220	Aden Troyer	2010
218	Jim Dunn	2003
215	Bill Keim	2010
210	Carl Garner	1997
209	Neil Troyer	1999
208	Sam Sinderson	1974
208	Gerry Boltz	2003
204	Marvin Byler	2004
200	Scott Bills	1996
199	Pamela Fisher	2008
198	Barry Reed	2010
192	Marjorie Howard	2004
186	John Salvetti	1999
177	Jeff Michaels	2005
174	Carol Hildebrand	2005
174	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
170	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
163	Paul Mauss	2008
161	Martin Page	2004
147	Elmer Brenneman	2008
142	Jim McVoy	2007
136	Marjorie Howard	2008

**Total Ticks**

(Total Of All County Life Lists)

13,731	Deuane Hoffman	2009
10,122	John Fedak	2006
4,723	Randy Miller	2009
4,626	Deborah Grove	2010
4,485	Greg Grove	2010
4,047	Al Guarente	2010
3,421	Geoff Malosh	2009
3,370	Nick Pulcinella	2010
3,279	Jim Dunn	2010
3,274	Devich Farbotnik	2010
2,867	Drew Weber	2010
2,607	Michael Schall	2010
2,466	Chad Kauffman	2010
1,944	Brian Byrnes	2010
1,907	Russ States	2000
1,732	Sam Sinderson	2005
1,267	Bill Keim	2010

1,030	Pamela Fisher	2009
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**County Life Lists (100 or More)****ADAMS**

213	Arthur Kennel	1995
213	Deuane Hoffman	2007
207	Carl Garner	2006
193	Nonie Kennell	1995
182	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
161	Paul Mauss	2010
150	Steve Santner	1995
144	Russell Ryan	1993
124	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
108	John Fedak	1998
104	Don Henise	2000

**ALLEGHENY**

269	Geoff Malosh	2010
265	Mike Fialkovich	2010
261	Mark Vass	2010
255	Joyce Hoffmann	2004
224	Bob Machesney	2006
224	Shannon Thompson	2010
208	Ed Kwater	1996
203	Sam Sinderson	2005
200	Ross Gallardy	2006
200	Deuane Hoffman	2007
189	Randi Gerrish	2009
188	Scott Kinzey	1999
180	Sarah Gerrish	2009
176	Dave Rieger	2003
173	Margaret Higbee	2008
168	George Malosh	1989
141	Greg Malosh	1991
139	John Fedak	2001
138	Roger Higbee	1993
122	Dick Byers	1999
102	Steve Santner	1995

**ARMSTRONG**

239	John Fedak	2000
232	Margaret Higbee	2008
221	Roger Higbee	2008
188	Scott Bastian	1997
185	Steve Graff	2000
181	Deuane Hoffman	2000
175	Bill Reddinger	1999
148	Mark McConaughy	2004
100	Steve Santner	1995

**BEAVER**

251	Geoff Malosh	2009
245	Mark Vass	2010
199	Bill Hintze	2000
171	Deuane Hoffman	1999
168	Nick Kerlin	1996
152	George Malosh	1998
138	Scott Kinzey	1998
124	John Cruzan	1994
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Greg Malosh	1991
108	John Snarey	1997
102	Steve Santner	1995

**BEDFORD**

230	Deuane Hoffman	2007
219	Ross Gallardy	2006
152	John Fedak	2000
148	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
131	Margaret Higbee	2008
122	Steve Santner	1995
121	Richard Murphy	1999
121	Deb Grove	2009
116	Greg Grove	2009
111	Dick Byers	2003
102	Randi Gerrish	1999
102	Sarah Gerrish	1999

**BERKS**

306	Matthew Spence	2007
300	Ken Lebo	2010
295	Harold Lebo	2010
289	Matt Wlasniewski	2010
287	Jason Horn	2002
276	Deuane Hoffman	2006



109	Deb Grove	2010
106	Greg Grove	2009
100	Al Guarente	2010
DAUPHIN		
289	Deuane Hoffman	2009
243	Scott Bills	2003
238	Mark McConaughy	1998
235	Grace Randolph	1996
234	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
219	Steve Santner	1995
214	Chuck Berthoud	2010
211	Richard Colyer	1999
175	Don Henise	2000
169	Drew Weber	2010
159	Chad Kauffman	2010
156	John Fedak	2002
147	Randy C. Miller	2007
140	Jonathan Heller	2003
128	William Reid	2001
127	Merrill Wood	1991
124	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
114	Greg Grove	2010
110	Deb Grove	2010
100	Jim Dunn	2009
100	Nick Pulcinella	2010
DELAWARE		
289	John Miller	1985
283	Al Guarente	2010
276	Nick Pulcinella	2009
262	Skip Conant	2010
256	Barbara Haas	2000
250	Thomas Reeves	2010
226	Paul Schwalbe	1998
224	John Ginaven	1999
219	Deuane Hoffman	2009
160	Brian Byrnes	2010
151	Jason Horn	1995
145	Martin Page	2010
130	Steve Santner	1995
119	John Fedak	2001
ELK		
198	John Fedak	2006
183	Linda Christenson	1997
165	Deuane Hoffman	2005
105	Steve Santner	1995
ERIE		
324	Jerry McWilliams	2009
305	Donald Snyder	2002
291	Sam Stull	1985
291	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
290	Deuane Hoffman	2007
277	John Fedak	2005
274	Ed Kwater	1996
273	Geoff Malosh	2006
268	James Flynn	1997
268	Mike Fialkovich	2008
263	Ronald Leberman	2001
257	Jason Horn	2002
253	Linda McWilliams	1992
253	Margaret Higbee	2004
252	Russ States	2000
249	Barbara Haas	1996
237	Roger Higbee	1999
236	George Malosh	1989
235	Sam Sinderson	2005
233	Gene Wilhelm	1992
231	Dave Rieger	2003
224	Randy C. Miller	2002
223	Bob Machesney	2003
221	Richard Colyer	2000
217	Greg Malosh	1991
208	Steve Santner	1995
204	Jonathan Heller	2002
197	Terence Schiefer	1998
180	Don Henise	2000
180	Randi Gerrish	2003
179	Sarah Gerrish	2003
178	Bernard Morris	1998
178	Marjorie Howard	2008
164	Greg Grove	2010
146	J. Kenneth Gabler	1999
144	Steve Graff	2000
142	Michael Schall	2010

139	Rick Koval	2004
138	Devich Farbotnik	2007
135	Deb Grove	2010
110	Bill Reddinger	1999
108	Chad Kauffman	2010
100	Ross Gallardy	2004
FAYETTE		
170	Mark McConaughy	2004
153	Deuane Hoffman	2000
126	John Fedak	2005
125	Randi Gerrish	2003
120	Sarah Gerrish	2003
119	Steve Santner	1995
111	Ed Kwater	1996
FOREST		
188	John Fedak	2005
183	Deuane Hoffman	2006
141	Ted Grisez	1996
108	Steve Santner	1995
FRANKLIN		
269	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
269	Carl Garner	2010
216	Deuane Hoffman	2009
215	Dale Gearhart	2000
213	Jeffrey Walck	1989
146	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
141	Don Henise	1997
130	Steve Santner	1995
114	John Fedak	1998
FULTON		
205	J. Kenneth Gabler	2000
200	Daniel Snell	2000
195	Deuane Hoffman	2007
194	Daniel Snell	1997
152	Jeffrey Walck	1989
144	Carl Garner	2010
119	Steve Santner	1995
118	Robert Walker	1989
115	Dale Gearhart	2000
108	John Fedak	2001
GREENE		
195	Marjorie Howard	2009
194	Ralph Bell	1993
162	Deuane Hoffman	2001
134	Roy Ickes	1996
109	Steve Santner	1995
109	John Fedak	2001
103	Sam Sinderson	2000
101	Mark McConaughy	2003
HUNTINGDON		
250	David Kyler	2010
247	Greg Grove	2010
239	Trudy Kyler	2010
235	Deb Grove	2010
214	Jim Dunn	2010
196	Deuane Hoffman	2006
181	Merrill Wood	1991
178	John Salvetti	2003
171	Lewis Grove	2000
155	Eugene Zielinski	1998
126	Chad Kauffman	2010
122	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
106	John Fedak	1998
104	Steve Santner	1995
INDIANA		
281	Margaret Higbee	2008
262	Roger Higbee	2008
233	Gloria Lamer	1992
232	Steve Graff	2000
212	Deuane Hoffman	2007
195	Anne Hedgpath	1986
193	Leonard Hess	2003
185	Linda Hess	2003
184	John Fedak	2001
177	Mark McConaughy	2004
173	Randi Gerrish	2003
173	Sarah Gerrish	2003
137	Ross Gallardy	2003
118	Steve Santner	1995
104	Bill Reddinger	1999

JEFFERSON		
225	John Fedak	2000
181	Margaret Higbee	2008
172	Deuane Hoffman	1998
105	Bill Reddinger	1999
104	Steve Santner	1995
JUNIATA		
258	Aden Troyer	2010
237	Deuane Hoffman	2007
217	Chad Kauffman	2010
143	John Fedak	2006
118	Jonathan Heller	2002
117	Jim Dunn	2010
116	Greg Grove	2010
115	Deb Grove	2010
108	Steve Santner	1995
LACKAWANNA		
200	Glenn Czulada	2007
172	Deuane Hoffman	2003
169	Rick Koval	2004
158	William Reid	2001
136	John Fedak	2002
103	Steve Santner	1995
LANCASTER		
328	Eric Witmer	2010
327	Tom Garner	2010
324	Deuane Hoffman	2009
323	Randy C. Miller	2009
318	Robert Schutsky	2009
314	Bruce Carl	2010
314	Jonathan Heller	2010
306	Jerry Book	2000
301	Chuck Chalfant	2010
300	Barbara Haas	2009
292	Jan Witmer	1997
291	Harold Morrin	1996
288	Jason Horn	2002
274	Steve Santner	1995
260	Drew Weber	2010
248	Al Guarente	2010
243	Pamela Fisher	2009
243	Nick Pulcinella	2009
240	Larry Lewis	1988
224	Richard Colyer	2000
213	Geoff Malosh	2009
212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
209	Ernest Schiefer	2000
201	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
198	Pamela Woodman	1993
196	Dennis Weaver	2000
187	Terence Schiefer	2009
184	Don Henise	1997
172	John Fedak	2006
166	Chad Kauffman	2010
161	Matt Wlasniewski	2010
160	Kevin Criley	1998
155	Bernard Morris	2008
150	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
148	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
147	Douglas Anderson	2003
147	Michael Schall	2010
146	Steve Farbotnik	2001
133	Devich Farbotnik	2009
133	Martin Page	2009
132	J. Kenneth Gabler	2001
129	Mark McConaughy	2001
118	Margaret Higbee	1993
114	Brian Byrnes	2010
109	Marjorie Howard	2008
108	Roger Higbee	1993
107	Deb Grove	2007
106	Greg Grove	2009
LAWRENCE		
210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
194	Margaret Higbee	2008
171	Geoff Malosh	2009
160	Deuane Hoffman	2006
158	John Fedak	2000
102	Steve Santner	1995
LEBANON		
288	Randy C. Miller	2009
259	Deuane Hoffman	2009

243	Jonathan Heller	2010	108	Steve Santner	1995	117	Jonathan Heller	2001
236	Steve Santner	1995				107	Deb Grove	2010
221	Chuck Chalfant	2010	MONROE			PHILADELPHIA		
214	Bruce Carl	2010	222	Phillips Street	1996	290	John Miller	1985
208	Stephen Mallanson	1996	178	Michael Schall	2010	253	Al Guarente	2010
206	Gery Boltz	2010	176	Jason Horn	1995	245	Frank Windfelder	1992
202	Bruce Weaver	2000	162	Deuane Hoffman	2003	244	Nick Pulcinella	2010
201	John Fedak	2006	138	Bernard Morris	2008	243	Harry Franzen	1996
190	Chuck Berthoud	2010	111	John Fedak	2001	241	Barbara Haas	1996
181	Jason Horn	1995	111	Devich Farbotnik	2009	235	Skip Conant	2006
152	George Wertz, Jr.	1986	110	Steve Santner	1995	219	John Ginaven	1998
132	Al Guarente	2010	101	Rick Koval	2004	218	Thomas Reeves	2010
130	Don Henise	1997	MONTGOMERY			214	Deuane Hoffman	2009
130	Pamela Fisher	2009	275	Jason Horn	2002	184	Jim McKinney	1992
122	Barbara Haas	1996	260	William Murphy	1999	177	Brian Byrnes	2010
121	Nick Pulcinella	2010	255	Kevin Crilley	1998	167	Jason Horn	1995
108	Drew Weber	2010	241	Harry Franzen	1996	167	Gregg Gorton	2001
LEHIGH			238	Deuane Hoffman	2009	163	Stephen Lawrence	1990
272	Fritz Brock	2010	232	Bernard Morris	2010	155	Steve Farbotnik	2001
271	Jason Horn	2002	223	Neal Thorpe	1997	154	Steve Santner	1995
269	Bernard Morris	2007	207	Devich Farbotnik	2010	152	Bill Keim	2010
260	Rick Wiltraut	1998	203	Joseph Greco	2008	129	Thomas Mason	1999
219	Michael Schall	2010	193	Michael Schall	2010	120	Terence Schiefer	1998
208	Deuane Hoffman	2009	184	Steve Farbotnik	2001	120	Devich Farbotnik	2009
206	Dustin Welch	2010	170	John Fedak	2005	113	John Fedak	1998
179	Bill Etter	2010	168	Nick Pulcinella	2010	107	Kevin Crilley	1998
146	Devich Farbotnik	2010	162	Al Guarente	2010	106	Martin Page	2008
136	Robert Frantz	2000	154	Brian Byrnes	2010	101	Randy C. Miller	1998
132	John Fedak	2005	141	Gregg Gorton	2001	PIKE		
110	Al Guarente	2010	137	Steve Santner	1995	201	Joe Strasser	1994
104	Nick Pulcinella	2010	133	Patrick O'Donnell	2008	201	Voni Strasser	1994
103	Steve Santner	1995	129	Thomas Mason	1999	174	Deuane Hoffman	2003
LUZERNE			125	Bill Keim	2010	147	Michael Schall	2010
280	William Reid	2001	125	Thomas Reeves	2010	144	Phillips Street	1996
265	Rick Koval	2004	112	Martin Page	2009	138	John Fedak	2001
216	Mark Blauer	1985	107	Robert Walker	1989	101	Steve Santner	1995
212	John Fedak	2005	105	Rick Koval	2004	101	Barbara Haas	2001
194	Deuane Hoffman	1999	100	Barbara Haas	1996	POTTER		
149	Kevin Crilley	1998	MONTOUR			218	David Hauber	1999
131	Jim Ridolfi	2009	236	Deuane Hoffman	2006	188	Chuck Chalfant	2007
121	Glenn Czulada	2003	222	Allen Schweinsberg	2008	173	Deuane Hoffman	2004
115	Bernard Morris	1998	212	Barbara Haas	1996	171	John Fedak	2003
104	Steve Santner	1995	140	John Fedak	1999	104	Steve Santner	1995
LYCOMING			119	Steve Santner	1995	104	Paul Schwalbe	1998
230	Paul Schwalbe	1998	104	Kevin Crilley	1998	102	Drew Weber	2007
223	Deuane Hoffman	2009	NORTHAMPTON			SCHUYLKILL		
124	Steve Santner	1995	294	Arlene Koch	2010	266	Tom Clauser	2005
124	Carol Hildebrand	2008	286	Dave DeReamus	2010	223	Deuane Hoffman	2007
119	John Fedak	1999	279	Michael Schall	2010	218	Mike Ward	2010
106	Jim Dunn	2009	269	Rick Wiltraut	1998	177	Jason Horn	1995
103	Don Henise	2000	248	Jason Horn	2002	164	Bruce Carl	2003
103	Greg Grove	2009	246	Dustin Welch	2010	164	Matt Wlasniewski	2010
101	Deb Grove	2004	239	Bernard Morris	2009	152	Bernard Morris	2007
100	Randy Miller	2009	232	Deuane Hoffman	2006	151	Dave Rieger	2003
McKEAN			229	Steve Boyce	1990	137	Drew Weber	2007
265	John Fedak	2005	220	Brad Silfies	1990	133	Steve Santner	1995
155	Deuane Hoffman	2005	220	Dennis Miller	1998	127	Barbara Haas	2000
117	Steve Graff	2000	219	Adam Miller	2000	113	John Fedak	1998
103	Steve Santner	1995	171	Devich Farbotnik	2010	112	Randy C. Miller	2009
103	Ted Grisez	1996	130	John Fedak	2005	104	Al Guarente	2002
MERCER			117	Steve Farbotnik	2003	SNYDER		
246	Neil Troyer	2004	112	Al Guarente	2010	215	Deuane Hoffman	2004
232	Harvey Troyer	1999	106	Steve Santner	1995	202	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
231	Jerry Troyer	1999	105	Matt Wlasniewski	2010	140	Chad Kauffman	2010
216	Eli Troyer	1999	102	Randy C. Miller	2002	132	Steve Santner	1995
213	Deuane Hoffman	1998	NORTHUMBERLAND			127	John Fedak	2006
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992	241	Deuane Hoffman	2004	SOMERSET		
205	Margaret Higbee	2006	228	Allen Schweinsberg	2008	254	Jeff Payne	2008
191	John Fedak	2000	166	Barbara Haas	1993	251	Retta Payne	2008
190	Neal Troyer	1998	138	John Fedak	1999	238	Scott Bastian	1999
183	Geoff Malosh	2009	112	Steve Santner	1995	231	Christopher Payne	2008
166	Marvin Byler	2002	PERRY			185	Deuane Hoffman	2004
155	Russ States	2000	242	Deuane Hoffman	2009	177	Richard Murphy	1998
124	Steve Santner	1995	235	Richard Colyer	2000	170	Ross Gallardy	2003
102	Randi Garrish	1999	159	Don Henise	2000	168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
MIFFLIN			157	Steve Santner	1995	149	John Fedak	2000
205	Greg Grove	2010	141	Walter Shelly, Jr.	1992	126	Steve Santner	1995
204	Deuane Hoffman	2005	139	Dallas Dowhower	1992	109	Mark McConaughy	2004
161	Jim Dunn	2010	129	Randy C. Miller	2009	108	Randi Gerrish	1999
142	Deb Grove	2010	129	Chad Kauffman	2010	107	Sarah Gerrish	1999
127	John Fedak	2006	126	John Fedak	1998			
			119	Mark McConaughy	2001			

SULLIVAN		
172	Nick Kerlin	2000
170	Skip Conant	2010
161	Deuane Hoffman	2004
129	John Fedak	2005
121	Thomas Reeves	2010
115	Randy Miller	2002
105	Al Guarente	2008
104	Steve Santner	1995
102	Rick Koval	2004

SUSQUEHANNA		
212	Jerry Skinner	2007
183	William Reid	2001
182	Jerry Skinner	1999
150	Deuane Hoffman	2000
133	John Fedak	2005
105	Steve Santner	1995
103	Rick Koval	2004

TIOGA		
223	Larry Brown	1998
215	Arlene Brown	1998
205	Benjamin Israel	2000
198	Deuane Hoffman	2006
179	Bruce Carl	2007
159	Chuck Chalfant	2010
158	Drew Weber	2010
153	John Fedak	2002
120	Steve Santner	1995

UNION		
232	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
204	Deuane Hoffman	2007
132	Barbara Haas	1996
117	Steve Santner	1995
110	John Fedak	2001

VENANGO		
251	Russ States	2000
249	Gary Edwards	2003
220	John Fedak	2005
209	Deuane Hoffman	2006
175	Gene Wilhelm	1992
153	Nick Kerlin	1997
103	Steve Santner	1995

WARREN		
256	John Fedak	2006
227	Harris Johnson	1986
227	Ted Grisez	1996
153	Deuane Hoffman	2001
114	Steve Santner	1995

WASHINGTON		
231	Ross Gallardy	2009
224	Geoff Malosh	2009
210	Margaret Higbee	1993
209	Roger Higbee	1993
197	Roy Ickes	1996
161	Russ Ruffing	1991
158	Deuane Hoffman	2006
141	George Malosh	1989
115	Sam Sinderson	2002
106	John Fedak	1998
100	Steve Santner	1995

WAYNE		
221	Joe Strasser	1994
221	Voni Strasser	1994
162	Deuane Hoffman	1998
129	John Fedak	1998
126	William Reid	1999
102	Steve Santner	1995

WESTMORELAND		
247	Dick Byers	2008
232	Mark McConaughy	2008
208	Linda Christenson	1996
201	Margaret Higbee	2008
200	Randi Gerrish	2003
193	Sarah Gerrish	2003
193	Deuane Hoffman	2006
188	Linda Hess	2003
186	Roger Higbee	2008
185	Leonard Hess	2003
161	John Fedak	2006

137	Steve Santner	1995
129	Richard Murphy	1999
123	Sam Sinderson	2005
120	James Flynn	1997
114	Drew Weber	2007
114	Deb Grove	2008
112	Greg Grove	2008

WYOMING		
251	William Reid	2001
191	Rick Koval	2004
152	Deuane Hoffman	2000
145	Skip Conant	2010
118	John Fedak	2000
111	Steve Santner	1995
102	Thomas Reeves	2010

YORK		
274	Deuane Hoffman	2009
242	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
229	Russell Ryan	1993
225	Dick Cleary	2010
194	Steve Santner	1995
185	Ann Pettigrew	1996
172	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
169	Carl Garner	2007
166	Jeff Pheasant	1995
160	Jason Horn	1995
160	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
158	Jonathan Heller	2003
158	Paul Mauss	2010
154	Don Henise	2000
153	Candy Krenzer	1999
153	Randy C. Miller	2008
138	Don Henise	1997
128	Drew Weber	2010
121	John Fedak	2004
119	Nick Pulcinella	2010
113	Pamela Fisher	2009
111	Barbara Haas	1996
102	Deb Grove	2006
101	Greg Grove	2006

### County Life Lists Top 50

1	328	Lancaster	Eric Witmer	2010
2	327	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
2	327	Lancaster	Tom Garner	2010
4	324	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2009
4	324	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2009
6	323	Lancaster	Randy Miller	2009
7	318	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	2009
8	316	Bucks	Steve Farbotnik	2006
9	314	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2010
9	314	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	2010
11	306	Lancaster	Jerry Book	2000
11	306	Berks	Mathew Spence	2007
13	305	Erie	Donald Snyder	2002
14	301	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2010
15	300	Lancaster	Barbara Haas	2009
15	300	Berks	Ken Lebo	2010
17	298	Bucks	Bill Etter	2010
18	295	Berks	Harold Lebo	2010
19	294	Northampton	Arlene Koch	2010
20	292	Lancaster	Jan Witmer	1997
21	291	Erie	Sam Stull	1985
21	291	Lancaster	Harold Morrin	1996
21	291	Erie	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
24	290	Philadelphia	John Miller	1985
24	290	Bucks	Jason Horn	2002
24	290	Erie	Deuane Hoffman	2007
27	289	Delaware	John Miller	1985
27	289	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2009
27	289	Berks	Matt Wlasniewski	2010
30	288	Lancaster	Jason Horn	2002
30	288	Lebanon	Randy Miller	2009
32	287	Berks	Jason Horn	2002
32	287	Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2008
34	286	Northampton	Dave DeReamus	2010
35	283	Delaware	Al Guarente	2010
36	281	Indiana	Margaret Higbee	2008
37	280	Luzerne	William Reid	2001
38	279	Northampton	Michael Schall	2010
39	278	Cumberland	Deuane Hoffman	2009
40	277	Erie	John Fedak	2005
41	276	Berks	Deuane Hoffman	2006
41	276	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	2009

43	275	Berks	Kerry Grim	1998
43	275	Montgomery	Jason Horn	2002
45	274	Lancaster	Steve Santner	1995
45	274	Erie	Ed Kwater	1996
45	274	York	Deuane Hoffman	2009
48	273	Erie	Geoff Malosh	2006
49	272	Centre	Merrill Wood	1991
49	272	Lehigh	Fritz Brock	2010

### County Annual Lists

(Top 10 of 100 or More)

ADAMS			
201	Arthur Kennell		1992
144	Deuane Hoffman		2001
140	Carl Garner		1991
137	Carl Garner		1998
126	Carl Garner		1999
114	Carl Garner		2006
109	Carl Garner		2005
105	Deuane Hoffman		1998
105	J. Kenneth Gabler		2000
101	J. Kenneth Gabler		2001

ALLEGHENY			
233	Geoff Malosh		2005
227	Geoff Malosh		2004
224	Geoff Malosh		2009
221	Mark Vass		2005
210	Mark Vass		2004
205	Geoff Malosh		2007
190	Geoff Malosh		2003
190	Mark Vass		2006
180	Geoff Malosh		2006
167	Scott Kinzey		1998

ARMSTRONG			
201	John Fedak		1997
177	Scott Bastian		1996
152	Margaret Higbee		1993
149	Margaret Higbee		2008
141	Steve Graff		2000
139	Roger Higbee		2008
133	Bill Reddinger		1998
116	Bill Reddinger		1999
113	Mark McConaughy		1998
113	Mark McConaughy		2004

BEAVER			
225	Geoff Malosh		2006
202	Mark Vass		2005
202	Mark Vass		2006
192	Geoff Malosh		2007
186	Bill Hintze		1999
168	Geoff Malosh		2005
161	Bill Hintze		2000
124	John Cruzan		1994
117	Deuane Hoffman		1999
110	George Malosh		1974

BEDFORD			
223	Sally Dick		1997
221	Tom Dick		1997
155	Deuane Hoffman		1998

BERKS			
252	Ken Lebo		1995
240	Ken Lebo		1999
236	Ken Lebo		1997
229	Ken Lebo		1996
219	Ken Lebo		1998
217	Matt Wlasniewski		2003
217	Matt Wlasniewski		2010
215	Matt Wlasniewski		1999
213	Matt Wlasniewski		2008
213	Matt Wlasniewski		2009

BLAIR			
143	Beryl Sternagle		1995
141	Beryl Sternagle		2000
126	Beryl Sternagle		1990
121	Beryl Sternagle		1989

BRADFORD			
147	Ronald Young		1993
146	Ronald Young		1992
141	William Reid		1999

128	William Reid	2001
102	Deuane Hoffman	1996
BUCKS		
277	Devich Farbotnik	2002
258	Devich Farbotnik	2007
253	Devich Farbotnik	2001
253	Devich Farbotnik	2008
248	Devich Farbotnik	2004
247	Devich Farbotnik	2000
247	Devich Farbotnik	2009
246	Devich Farbotnik	2006
245	Devich Farbotnik	2003
234	Devich Farbotnik	2005
BUTLER		
245	Gene Wilhelm	1983
229	Gene Wilhelm	1985
225	Gene Wilhelm	1982
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998
CAMBRIA		
177	John Salvetti	1992
175	John Salvetti	1997
174	John Salvetti	1995
171	John Salvetti	1999
165	John Salvetti	1998
161	John Salvetti	2002
CAMERON		
119	Deuane Hoffman	1998
CARBON		
222	David Hawk	2009
218	David Hawk	2007
217	David Hawk	2010
215	David Hawk	2008
204	David Hawk	2002
201	David Hawk	2003
198	Barry Reed	2010
194	Barry Reed	2009
192	Michael Schall	2005
189	David Hawk	2006
CENTRE		
224	Terence Schiefer	1985
221	Molly Heath	2003
214	Terence Schiefer	1986
212	Drew Weber	2010
211	Terence Schiefer	1984
201	Jim Dunn	2003
200	Greg Grove	2006
172	Jeff Michaels	2005
170	Deuane Hoffman	1998
158	Nick Kerlin	2005
CHESTER		
232	Kevin Fryberger	2009
227	Holly Merker	2010
225	Larry Lewis	1988
225	Kevin Fryberger	2010
221	Larry Lewis	1983
219	Larry Lewis	1986
217	Chuck Chalfant	2006
200	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
197	Nick Pulcinella	2004
197	Nick Pulcinella	2008
CLARION		
231	John Fedak	1998
223	John Fedak	2000
219	John Fedak	1996
213	John Fedak	1997
208	John Fedak	1999
188	John Fedak	2001
152	Deuane Hoffman	1998
119	Mark McConaughy	1999
115	Bill Reddinger	1999
CLEARFIELD		
155	John Fedak	1997
102	Deuane Hoffman	1997
CLINTON		
159	Carol Hildebrand	2008
157	Carol Hildebrand	2005
153	Carol Hildebrand	2007

143	Carol Hildebrand	2004
142	Carol Hildebrand	2006
133	Deuane Hoffman	2005
125	Greg Grove	2005
117	Deuane Hoffman	2000
115	Deuane Hoffman	1999
111	Jim Dunn	2009
COLUMBIA		
117	Deuane Hoffman	1997
112	John Fedak	1997
111	Deuane Hoffman	1998
CRAWFORD		
230	Ronald Leberman	2009
222	Ronald Leberman	2007
222	Ronald Leberman	2008
208	Ronald Leberman	1994
202	Ronald Leberman	1989
201	Gene Wilhelm	1992
196	Ronald Leberman	2000
188	Ronald Leberman	2003
180	Marvin Byler	2000
180	Marvin Byler	2004
CUMBERLAND		
244	Andy Markel	2008
227	Deuane Hoffman	1989
227	Andy Markel	2007
226	Deuane Hoffman	1998
225	Deuane Hoffman	1992
221	Deuane Hoffman	2000
219	Deuane Hoffman	1999
217	Deuane Hoffman	2001
210	Deuane Hoffman	2005
148	Carl Garner	1997
DAUPHIN		
251	Deuane Hoffman	2005
246	Deuane Hoffman	2003
242	Deuane Hoffman	2006
234	Deuane Hoffman	1997
231	Deuane Hoffman	1998
230	Deuane Hoffman	2000
229	Deuane Hoffman	1996
226	Deuane Hoffman	2001
224	Deuane Hoffman	1999
210	Grace Randolph	1998
DELAWARE		
241	John Miller	1969
211	Al Guarente	1996
209	Al Guarente	1998
206	Al Guraente	1997
205	Al Guraente	1995
203	Al Guarente	2005
200	Sheryl Johnson	1997
200	Al Guarente	2010
194	Al Guarente	2007
189	Al Guarente	2009
ELK		
116	John Fedak	1997
113	Deuane Hoffman	1996
ERIE		
264	Sam Stull	1979
256	Jerry McWilliams	1992
252	Jerry McWilliams	1991
251	Jerry McWilliams	1983
251	Jerry McWilliams	1988
251	Jerry McWilliams	2004
248	Jerry McWilliams	1989
246	Jerry McWilliams	1993
245	Jerry McWilliams	1996
244	Jerry McWilliams	1985
FAYETTE		
145	Mark McConaughy	2000
112	Mark McConaughy	1998
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
FOREST		
144	April Walters	1993
143	Richard Walters	1993
138	Deuane Hoffman	2005
132	John Fedak	1997

FRANKLIN		
215	Dale Gearhart	1999
185	Carl Garner	1997
182	Carl Garner	2004
180	Carl Garner	1993
180	Carl Garner	1994
180	Carl Garner	2007
178	Carl Garner	1999
176	Carl Garner	2008
174	Carl Garner	1998
174	Carl Garner	2009
FULTON		
173	Daniel Snell	1997
128	Deuane Hoffman	1996
120	Deuane Hoffman	2001
115	Kenneth Gabler	1988
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
108	Kenneth Gabler	2000
GREENE		
137	Ralph Bell	1985
134	Ralph Bell	1986
130	Ralph Bell	1990
122	Deuane Hoffman	2000
115	Marjorie Howard	2007
109	Marjorie Howard	2005
107	Deuane Hoffman	1998
HUNTINGDON		
205	David Kyler	1996
201	Greg Grove	2003
195	Greg Grove	2008
194	Greg Grove	1994
191	Greg Grove	1992
191	Greg Grove	2000
191	Greg Grove	2004
190	Greg Grove	2002
188	Greg Grove	2001
180	Greg Grove	1998
INDIANA		
206	Margaret Higbee	1993
203	Margaret Higbee	1991
203	Margaret Higbee	2008
195	Steve Graff	1998
186	Steve Graff	2000
173	Roger Higbee	2008
131	Deuane Hoffman	1998
115	Mark McConaughy	2003
114	Mark McConaughy	1998
107	Mark McConaughy	2001
JEFFERSON		
198	John Fedak	1997
143	Deuane Hoffman	1996
121	Deuane Hoffman	1998
JUNIATA		
188	Aden Troyer	1996
176	Aden Troyer	1997
174	Chad Kauffman	2008
172	Deuane Hoffman	2000
170	Deuane Hoffman	1996
167	Deuane Hoffman	1998
167	Aden Troyer	2000
166	Aden Troyer	1995
166	Aden Troyer	1999
164	Chad Kauffman	2007
LACKAWANNA		
169	Glenn Czulada	1996
161	Glenn Czulada	1995
117	Richard Koval	1995
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
103	William Reid	2001
LANCASTER		
277	Deuane Hoffman	2009
270	Chuck Chalfant	2009
268	Deuane Hoffman	2000
268	Deuane Hoffman	2006
258	Deuane Hoffman	2005
255	Robert Schutsky	1992
249	Jonathan Heller	1992
242	Deuane Hoffman	2001

239	Jonathan Heller	1993
236	Randy Miller	1991
LAWRENCE		
210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
118	John Fedak	1997
110	Deuane Hoffman	1996
LEBANON		
222	Randy C. Miller	1999
215	Randy C. Miller	1993
213	Randy C. Miller	2002
211	Randy C. Miller	2000
210	Randy C. Miller	2003
210	Randy C. Miller	2008
205	Randy C. Miller	1996
204	Randy C. Miller	1998
184	Jonathan Heller	2010
179	Deuane Hoffman	1998
LEHIGH		
200	Bernard Morris	1984
192	Michael Schall	2009
189	Michael Schall	2006
132	Deuane Hoffman	1998
128	Michael Schall	2003
119	Deuane Hoffman	1997
110	Michael Schall	2001
LUZERNE		
224	Rick Koval	2001
220	Rick Koval	1996
220	Rick Koval	2002
219	Rick Koval	1995
219	Rick Koval	1997
206	Rick Koval	1994
153	William Reid	1999
132	William Reid	2001
121	Deuane Hoffman	1998
LYCOMING		
158	Deuane Hoffman	2005
126	Deuane Hoffman	2000
120	Deuane Hoffman	1999
112	Deuane Hoffman	1997
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
100	Don Henise	2000
McKEAN		
222	John Fedak	2003
221	John Fedak	2005
219	John Fedak	2002
217	John Fedak	2004
151	John Fedak	2001
119	Deuane Hoffman	1996
MERCER		
213	Harvey Troyer	1999
212	Jerry Troyer	1999
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
210	Neil Troyer	1999
192	Neil Troyer	1997
192	Eli Troyer	1999
190	Neil Troyer	2001
190	Neil Troyer	2002
187	Neil Troyer	2009
186	Neil Troyer	1998
MIFFLIN		
164	Greg Grove	2005
160	Deuane Hoffman	1998
155	Deuane Hoffman	2000
128	Greg Grove	2003
127	Jim Dunn	2007
126	Deuane Hoffman	1997
113	Deuane Hoffman	1996
100	Jim Dunn	2005
MONROE		
160	Michael Schall	2003
145	Corey Husic	2009
103	Deuane Hoffman	1999
101	Deuane Hoffman	1998
MONTGOMERY		
194	Steve Kacir	2008
167	Joseph Greco	2002

153	Michael Schall	2004
151	Deuane Hoffman	1999
150	Joseph Greco	2007
140	Deuane Hoffman	1998
132	Deuane Hoffman	1997
126	John Fedak	1997
113	Michael Schall	2002
MONTOUR		
143	Deuane Hoffman	2000
133	Deuane Hoffman	2005
126	John Fedak	1997
115	Deuane Hoffman	1997
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
NORTHAMPTON		
236	Michael Schall	2003
231	Michael Schall	2004
226	Michael Schall	2008
212	Michael Schall	2007
210	Adam Miller	2000
209	Michael Schall	2006
209	Michael Schall	2010
206	Michael Schall	2002
205	Michael Schall	2009
203	Michael Schall	2000
NORTHUMBERLAND		
227	Deuane Hoffman	2005
224	Deuane Hoffman	2003
157	Deuane Hoffman	1999
147	Deuane Hoffman	1998
144	Deuane Hoffman	1997
128	John Fedak	1997
PERRY		
202	Richard Colyer	1997
199	Deuane Hoffman	1995
193	Deuane Hoffman	1996
188	Deuane Hoffman	1998
185	Deuane Hoffman	2005
184	Deuane Hoffman	2000
179	Deuane Hoffman	1999
171	Deuane Hoffman	2001
PHILADELPHIA		
225	John Miller	1965
208	Edward Fingerhood	1996
162	Al Guarente	1992
135	Skip Conant	1999
133	Skip Conant	1998
132	Skip Conant	2000
127	Deuane Hoffman	1998
127	Skip Conant	2007
123	Skip Conant	2008
120	Skip Conant	2001
PIKE		
123	Michael Schall	2002
112	Deuane Hoffman	1999
109	Deuane Hoffman	2000
POTTER		
169	Chuck Chalfant	2004
160	David Hauber	1992
160	David Hauber	1995
160	David Hauber	1999
157	David Hauber	1993
SCHUYLKILL		
225	Tom Clauser	2005
217	Tom Clauser	2007
215	Tom Clauser	2004
212	Tom Clauser	1999
210	Tom Clauser	2001
210	Tom Clauser	2002
209	Tom Clauser	1996
208	Tom Clauser	1997
203	Tom Clauser	2000
203	Tom Clauser	2003
SNYDER		
177	Deuane Hoffman	1998
175	Deuane Hoffman	1996
172	Deuane Hoffman	1997
158	Deuane Hoffman	2000

SOMERSET		
222	Scott Bastian	1999
219	Jeff Payne	2002
218	Jeff Payne	2003
216	Jeff Payne	1996
216	Retta Payne	1996
208	Scott Bastian	1994
206	Jeff Payne	1999
204	Christopher Payne	2008
202	Jeff Payne	2004
199	Christopher Payne	2006
SULLIVAN		
140	Nick Kerlin	1999
130	Nick Kerlin	1995
125	Skip Conant	1995
124	Nick Kerlin	1997
123	Skip Conant	1999
121	Skip Conant	2000
118	Skip Conant	1998
114	Skip Conant	2001
114	Skip Conant	2002
114	Skip Conant	2008
SUSQUEHANNA		
173	Jerry Skinner	2007
170	Jerry Skinner	2003
157	Jerry Skinner	2004
153	Jerry Skinner	2005
145	Jerry Skinner	1999
109	Deuane Hoffman	1997
109	William Reid	2001
107	William Reid	1999
105	Deuane Hoffman	1996
103	John Fedak	1997
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
TIOGA		
197	Benjamin Israel	2000
174	Larry Brown	1998
167	Larry Brown	1992
163	Benjamin Israel	1999
160	Arlene Brown	1992
142	Arlene Brown	1998
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998
110	Drew Weber	2010
UNION		
171	Deuane Hoffman	2004
121	Deuane Hoffman	1999
102	Deuane Hoffman	1998
VENANGO		
221	Gary Edwards	2000
207	Gary Edwards	1995
207	Russ States	2000
194	Gary Edwards	1991
192	Russ States	1991
113	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WARREN		
204	John Fedak	2003
201	John Fedak	2002
165	Ted Grisez	1992
152	Ted Grisez	1985
141	John Fedak	2001
117	John Fedak	1997
WASHINGTON		
192	Ross Gallardy	2006
134	Russ Ruffing	1985
132	Roy Ickes	1984
100	George Malosh	1975
100	Geoff Malosh	1999
WAYNE		
127	Deuane Hoffman	1997
121	John Fedak	1997
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WESTMORELAND		
190	Mark McConaughy	1999
179	Mark McConaughy	2000
175	Mark McConaughy	2002
167	Mark McConaughy	2003
163	Mark McConaughy	1998
163	Mark McConaughy	2001

138	Mark McConaughy	2004
WYOMING		
196	William Reid	1999
193	William Reid	1993
188	William Reid	2001
181	William Reid	1994
134	Richard Koval	1994
122	Richard Koval	1999
105	Skip Conant	2000
102	Skip Conant	1998
101	Skip Conant	2001

YORK		
219	Bruce Fortman	1999
214	Deuane Hoffman	1999
202	Deuane Hoffman	2001
196	Russell Ryan	1992
191	Randy Phillips	1999
190	Deuane Hoffman	2005
189	Deuane Hoffman	2000
182	Deuane Hoffman	1998
178	Russell Ryan	1991
153	Candy Krenzer	1999

### County Annual Lists Top 50

1	277 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
1	277 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2009
3	270 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2009
4	268 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2000
4	268 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2006

6	264 Erie	Sam Stull	1979
7	258 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2005
7	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2007
9	256 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
10	255 Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
11	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
11	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2008
13	252 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
13	252 Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
15	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
15	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
15	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
15	251 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2005
19	249 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
20	248 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
20	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
22	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
22	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
24	246 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
24	246 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2003
24	246 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
27	245 Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
27	245 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
27	245 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
30	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985
30	244 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2008
32	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
32	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
34	242 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
34	242 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2001
34	242 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2006
37	241 Delaware	John Miller	1969

38	240 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
38	240 Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
38	240 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
41	239 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1993
41	239 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1994
41	239 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2001
44	238 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1990
44	238 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1999
46	237 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1995
46	237 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2000
48	236 Lancaster	Randy Miller	1991
48	236 Berks	Ken Lebo	1997
48	236 Northampton	Michael Schall	2003

*Editor's Note: beginning with the 2011 Pennsylvania Birdlists, to be printed in Volume 25 No. 4, the threshold for inclusion in the county life lists will increase to a minimum of 125 species.*

## Townsend's Warbler on the Delaware/Philadelphia Line

### Tony Croasdale

On 20 November I was leading Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center's first bird walk with twenty-eight participants. We had a teacher and students from Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament school, members of Cobbs Creek West Community Association, and several residents who saw the flyers posted around the neighborhood. Keith Russell of Pennsylvania Audubon graciously lent us binoculars for the event. Also in attendance was Wendella (Wendy) Willis, a junior in high school who is training to be a Cobbs Creek Junior Docent park guide.

We started the walk at 9:30 after everyone enjoyed coffee and doughnuts provided by Betsy from Cobbs Creek West. The crowd was very enthusiastic and the birds were pretty cooperative albeit the usual suspects for se. Pennsylvania woodlands in November. At about 10am Wendy pointed out a yellow bird on top of a large bare shrub next to the trail. I was expecting the bird to be a goldfinch, a bird we had not seen well yet on the walk. I was happy to get the group a good look at this charismatic species. However when I got my binoculars on it, I realized this was no goldfinch. I instantly recognized its significance but unfortunately I didn't instantly yell for everyone to get on the bird. I was processing what I

was seeing in my head... not a goldfinch... a warbler... wow, a Black-throated Green in November... no, not a black-throated green... a western warbler... a Townsend's Warbler! This took about twenty seconds and the bird of course flew off.

It flew far back in the woods and was not relocated despite walking down a trail in the area of the bird's trajectory. Only two other people on the

trip watched birds as a hobby. One of them was Dan Efrogmson, my good birding buddy, but he has experience with birding only locally. However he was a big enough bird nerd to know the significance so he was happy to keep a vigil while I kept the walk moving along. Despite my quick look at the bird I knew it was a Townsend's Warbler and also knew I had to pull the alarm. So I made a few quick calls



**This Townsend's Warbler delighted the 50+ birders who were fortunate enough to see it 20 (here) and 21 November 2010 at Cobbs Creek Park. During its stay it made its way to both sides of the Delaware/Philadelphia line. (Holly Merker)**

to members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club to have them spread the news that I had a probable Townsend's Warbler.

I kept the walk moving along and up another trail when Dan called and said the bird had returned. Dan observed the bird eating a moth. At this point the walk was about over. After I said my goodbyes I ran inside to my office and posted on PABIRDS, where I didn't even write "probably", I boldly depressed the caps lock key and declared TOWNSEND'S WARBLER! I invited Wendy to stay and see if the bird was relocated but she declined. I tried my best to explain the significance of her find but I guess outside of our birding world our excitement over these things just does not translate.

Dan and I stayed to try to relocate the bird. I called my friend Mike McGraw who lives in DelCo to tell him about the bird. He is a professional field biologist and has a family so it's rare to get him out these days, but he informed me he was inbound. When Mike arrived we took a quick look for the bird but I wanted to get to the shooting range. Hunting season was approaching and I wanted to be sharp. However Mike knocked some sense into me and said, "Hey brother, this is only the second or third record for this bird in the state, let's make history together!" How do you argue with that?

Dan, Mike, and I headed back to the bird's original location. At this point about a dozen other birders had assembled. One of the assembled was Al Guarente. This really made me nervous when Mr. DelCo birder himself shows up to a rarity I identified in his country. I better be right! An agonizing two hours passed. Finally a young birder (unidentified to protect his work avoiding uncle) runs up from the trail to declare they had the bird. The birders trucked down the trail with scope and cameras to the end of the trail and sure enough the Townsend's Warbler was there, but it flew off after a quick look. The anonymous re-finder of the bird said it came into to his pishing. The mob requested that he pish and immediately popped up only five meters away. It was very active and cooperative, feeding in some honeysuckle and even on the ground. Many photographs were taken and the bird stayed around for over an hour. I believe every birder that came for it on the first day got to see it.

I returned the next day to guide

birders to where the bird was last seen. The parking lot was full and I passed some birders I knew who informed me the bird was relocated in the original spot. Frank Windfelder, DVOG president and fellow Philadelphia native, expressed disappointment that the bird had not been spotted on the Philadelphia side of Cobbs Creek. Fortunately Keith Russell, yet another Philly boy, found the bird later in the afternoon on the Philadelphia side of the creek. Hence, Philadelphia and Delaware County both got their first record of Townsend's Warbler. About fifty birders came in on the second day and I believe most saw the bird; however neither I nor any of the other birders who came in the next few days were able to relocate it.

For almost all of the birders who came, it was their first visit to Cobbs

Creek Park. Many commented that the park seemed to have great potential for birding. During the search for the warbler, nice birds like Fox Sparrow, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, and four species of raptor including a beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk were observed. I suspect that this park will prove to be a fantastic migrant trap in the spring. I missed the last spring I worked here, to do field work in Alaska instead, where I got to see my first Townsend's Warbler. The Junior Docent Program will host guided walks in April, just in time for migration. You never know what Wendy will spot next!

*Staff Naturalist, Program Coordinator  
Cobbs Creek Community  
Environmental Education Center  
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Philadelphia, PA 19143*

## Answer to Photo Quiz #29

Rick Wiltraut

At first glance this bird seems to be a small Larid of some sort, either a gull or a tern. Note the rather broad wings and tail which eliminates terns. Also note the white tail with dark band at the tip. Many species of gulls in first-winter plumage show this character. First-winter Black-legged Kittiwake, Ross's Gull, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, and Bonaparte's Gull all have white tails with a dark tip but show a "M" pattern on the upper wings and thus can be eliminated here. First-winter Sabine's Gull has white tail with black tip but is boldly patterned above. First-winter Ring-billed and Common Gull also have white tails with black tips but have light colored mantles and highly variable patterns on the wings.

This gull closely resembles a first-winter Laughing Gull but the upper wing on this bird is more gray than brown. Also note the clean white under wing and mostly whitish primaries, as opposed to the dusky markings and dark primaries shown by a first-winter Laughing Gull. Also note the white outer tail feathers. Second-winter Laughing Gull can show a partial band on the tail with white outer tail feathers but has solid dark gray upperparts like an adult.

This out-of-place Franklin's Gull was photographed at Pymatuning Lake, Crawford County, Pennsylvania 31 August 2009 by Geoff Malosh. A rare visitor to the state, Franklin's Gulls usually appear between April and June and mid-September to November. Like Ring-billed Gulls, Franklin's Gulls often show up in plowed fields looking for earthworms. Of four Franklin's Gulls I've observed in Pennsylvania, three were in plowed fields. Other places to look for this species are larger lakes, rain-soaked athletic fields, landfills, and with Ring-billed Gulls at fast food restaurants. A first-winter Franklin's spent several weeks at a McDonald's parking lot in Atlantic City, NJ in early 1995. Probably the best spots are anywhere in the vicinity of Lake Erie and the Susquehanna River, where most records have occurred.



# BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

## BIRDS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, after Merrill Wood with Additional Contributors. Includes four avian front-cover photographs by Lewis Grove, 24 figures, 29 tables, 14 seasonal occurrence bar-graphs, bibliography, and index of species; published by Stone Mountain Publishing Company, State College, Pennsylvania; xii + 262 pp., 2010, \$20.00 + \$3.50 shipping. Contact Nick Bolgiano for the book at <nbolgiano@pennwoods.net>.

Fortunately for Commonwealth field ornithologists and citizen scientist volunteers, two books appeared in print at the writing stage of the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project: *Avian Ecology and Conservation: A Pennsylvania Focus with National Implications* by Shyamal K. Majumdar et al. (2010), reviewed earlier in *Pennsylvania Birds* (see Vol. 24, No. 3, p. 135) and this thoroughly revised and expanded book originally written by Merrill Wood with the same title. Both books were invaluable, up to date references for the atlas.

Foreword comments by Doug Gross set the tone of the work: "This book is not so much about 'going out to get a bird' as it is 'going out to have an experience of seeing and hearing many birds in wonderful places' ... It is a manifestation of the hard-earned personal knowledge learned in many hours afield inspired by the birds of the Appalachian Mountain wilds ... The data keep piling up, mostly from passionate and committed volunteers. Curiosity has been a driving force in its collection."

The co-authors are no strangers to Pennsylvania birders and ornithologists. Bolgiano is a statistician and graph designer who utilized his expertise in making the marvelous graphics in this tome. Especially outstanding are the 24 figures, mostly maps of specific birding sites, and the clearly illustrated, simply defined seasonal occurrence bar-graphs of avian species (pp. 236-250). Nick has specialized in avian biogeography of central Pennsylvania with keen focus in the distribution of landscape plants and animals and how human impact has changed that landscape in space and time. Greg Grove has moved

beyond the initial excitement of finding life birds to an interest in the dynamics of avian populations and ways of monitoring birds in all seasons. Founder of the Stone Mountain Hawk Watch, Lake Raystown Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey, and three Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in Rothrock State Forest, he was past president of the State College Bird Club and the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO).

Six other contributors shared their special expertise in helping make this volume so rewarding: David Brandes has developed mathematical models of eagle migration using digital terrain and weather data. Nan Butkovich is interested in compiling records for the Centre region and has prepared bird checklists for several State College bird hotspots. Stan Kotala is a long-time member of the National Audubon Society and active in Juniata Valley Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) volunteer at Canoe Creek State Park. He also conducts breeding bird point counts for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), and The Nature Conservancy. David and Trudy Kyler have been avid birders in the Raystown Lake Region for the past 25 years and were regional co-coordinators during the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project. Bob Snyder enjoys combining birding with photography, is a member of the State College Bird Club, compiler for the Bald Eagle State Park CBC, and the Centre County migration count (pp. ix-x).

As already mentioned, this book is a complete revision and expansion of Merrill Wood's *Birds of Central Pennsylvania*, first published in 1958 and last updated in 1983. It brings up to date regional avian sightings since the early 1980s but more importantly expands the coverage area from a 25-mile radius around Pennsylvania State University to a six-county region that incorporates Blair, Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin counties for a total of 4250 square miles or 9.5% of Pennsylvania's land mass. This represents more than a two-fold increase in coverage area. Wood's book consisted of avian species accounts containing abundance,

seasonal occurrence, habitat information, dates, and locations of rare birds. This revised volume contains chapters on the avian studies and ecology of individual locations, updated and expanded species accounts, and bar-graphs of seasonal occurrence and abundance. The revised book's goal is to clearly represent what is unique about the bird life in central Pennsylvania, how birds are arrayed across its landscape, and how humans have affected that landscape and its avifauna. It is made clear by the authors that the book is *not* a bird-finding guide but instead an example of the validity of citizen-scientific data collecting at many (but not all) noteworthy sites in central Pennsylvania.

Chapter 1: Introduction includes the geography, topography, and climate of the region, human history, an avifauna overview, ornithological history, Merrill Wood, the listing of four regional bird clubs, bird surveys (currently 7 CBC counts, 18 active BBS routes, 10 IBAs), conservation issues, and cautions while birding afield. The diversity and numbers of breeding birds, particularly of forest birds, are the most noteworthy aspects of the region's bird life. The region is a meeting ground for birds whose main distributions are to the north, like Yellow-rumped Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Northern Goshawk or like Carolina Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler to the south. In fact, central Pennsylvania harbors 26 species of breeding warblers. Further, these forests are home to critical populations of Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Worm-eating Warbler.

Of special note is Chapter 8: Hawk Watching in Central Pennsylvania, which describes and illustrates in three figures the locations of selected hawk watches, and details some primary fall and spring raptor paths, the including Golden Eagle's passage through this region (perhaps as many as 700 individuals). Chapter 10 is devoted entirely to the Golden Eagle migration and Chapter 9 to Stone Mountain and Jacks Mountain Hawk Watches. Chapter 11: Winter Birds and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) mentions State College being the first (1940) of

# Birds of Central Pennsylvania



NICK BOLGIANO AND GREG GROVE

AFTER MERRILL WOOD

WITH ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

seven CBC sites for the region. Other chapters cover the various birding sites, complete with their history and ecology, special bird studies, and directions for each site under "If You Go."

The section of the book titled Species Accounts (pp.136-235) updates Wood's third and last edition of *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* in 1983 through 2009. Each species account begins with its current **Status** for which the following categories are used: Regular – Occurs every year, Casual – Occurs about once to several times per decade, Accidental – Not expected in the region, Introduced – Not native to the region, Extirpated – Formerly, but no longer, a breeding species in the region, Extinct – No longer alive anywhere. As part of the species **Status**, a statement

on relative abundance is given: Abundant – Almost impossible to miss and found in large numbers, Common – Almost certainly present and likely to be found in a given day in small to moderate numbers, Uncommon – Not always found or present even in the appropriate season and habitat, Rare – Seldom reported, not expected on any given day. With so many data on the avian species graphically illustrated, it is recommended that these four categories of relative abundance be quantified and perhaps two more categories could be added: Occasional – Reported only a few times per season, and Irruptive – Great numbers vary from year to year, especially since the last category is already used in the book for Pine Grosbeak, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Common

Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. Also, under **Status**, the four seasons of avian activity are defined: Spring migration – Primarily March through May, Breeding/summer – Primarily in mid-May through mid-July, Fall migration – Primarily from mid-August to early November, and Winter – Essentially December through February. **Habitat** and **Comments** follow for each species account.

An impressive total of 337 species accounts encompass the book. Of these accounts, 222 species are considered Regular in status, 47 Casual, 59 Accidental, 3 Extirpated, 1 Extinct, and 6 Supplemental. This latter term refers to those species reported only one time in the region, not supported by written documentation, photograph, or specimen, and submitted report rejected by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. Of these species, 155 definitely or probably breed in the region or previously have since the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980s. In comparison with the 337 species above, Wood listed a total of 292 species in 1983.

Handsome bar-graphs (pp. 236-250) depict the seasonal occurrence and abundance of the avian species that have been recorded in the six-county region and serve as visual complements to the earlier species accounts. The abundance categories are the same as in the species accounts (see p. 136-137): Abundant, Common, Uncommon, and Rare. In addition, individual symbols represent single records of accidental, early, or late occurrences. Finally, the book ends with an appropriate seven-page bibliography (pp.251-257), and the common names are listed in an Index of Species (pp. 258-262).

Perhaps this revised, expanded, and excellent *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* will entice other ornithologists in eastern and western Pennsylvania to use the book as a model for documenting their own ecoscapes of avian diversity.

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# Leucistic Barn Swallows

Barbara Leo

Barn Swallows (*H. rustica*) have a widespread distribution and appear on all continents except Antarctica. Because of its close association with humans and artificial structures such as bridges and barns, it has become more studied than any other swallow species, this according to *Birds of North America*. Abnormal plumage is uncommon in this species but does occur, as was expressed by two juveniles in a colony nesting on a barn in Waymart, Pennsylvania in early August 2009. Two birds in this colony were found to be leucistic. When used in reference specifically to birds, the term *leucism* generally refers to white or pale “washed out” coloration on some or all feathers, but normally-colored eyes, legs and bill. It is not synonymous with “albino”, which is a complete lack of pigmentation in all tissues and is expressed as completely white plumage and pink eyes, legs, and bill. Generally, birds that exhibit either of these conditions do not survive until the next breeding season, for obvious reasons. They are targets for predation, the plumage tends to be weak, and other birds of the flock or colony may attack them.

When I observed these birds, they were flying with the others in the colony and being fed by adults. They stayed with the group until the next week when the flock began their dispersal and migration. It is interesting to speculate how there was an incidence of two birds in the colony of otherwise normal individuals. A literature search revealed that there is extra-pair copulation in pairs where the male exhibits a very long tail and appears very robust in build. There can also be polygyny in females who may be tolerating unmated male helpers at the nest. But the question is still fascinating because we could not tell from which nest the birds were fledged. Was it a mated pair or an unmated copulation?

Because swallows return to the same nesting sites year to year, we were careful to observe the activity around the barn this season (2010). The leucistic swallows did not return to the barn and there were no leucistic birds fledged from the colony.

Photographs are courtesy of Thane Rickard, who used a Canon EOS-xsi and 70-300mm lens. Thane is a senior at Scranton Prep and has a passion for photography. He photographed these birds on his aunts’ barn!



**Image 1. Leucistic Barn Swallow (juv.) at Waymart, Pennsylvania, August 2009. (Thane Rickard)**

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**Image 2. Leucistic Barn Swallows (left and right) with normal individuals. Waymart, Pennsylvania, August 2009. (Thane Rickard)**

# The Baird's Sandpiper Flight of 2010

## Geoff Malosh

The fall of 2010 saw an amazing—perhaps an unprecedented—flight of Baird's Sandpipers across Pennsylvania. Moderate to severe drought had affected most corners of the state by late summer, creating good shorebird habitat in many locations and lots of happy shorebirders.

Already by early September, I had realized this was a special season for Baird's Sandpiper, at least in western Pennsylvania. On 9/5 I found Allegheny County's first Baird's since 2005, a few hours after I had seen 3 crisp juvenile Baird's at Shenango Reservoir in Mercer County. A few days later I witnessed a flock of 4 Baird's fly past me at Beach 10 at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, as I was watching for Long-tailed Jaegers. The day before this flyby, Jerry McWilliams had reported 10 Baird's at Gull Point.

So when I walked out to the flats at Shenango again on 9/9, I was expecting to find a few Baird's. I wasn't expecting to find *sixteen* of them, however. Thirteen juveniles were clustered together in a relatively tight flock, a sight the likes of which I had never seen anything even remotely close in Pennsylvania before, not even at Gull Point back in the heady pre-breakwater days of my childhood. Three more were found a little ways away, including an adult, a rare sighting so late in the season.

So later, (much later—in March—and much too close to my deadline), as I began to compile the seasonal summary for this issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*, I paid special attention to the county compilers' reports of Baird's Sandpipers. I also searched for additional reports on the PABIRDS listserv and on eBird. In total, a staggering 26 counties reported the species, 24 in the pages of this journal and an additional two on the PABIRDS list. Reports began 8/7 in Lancaster County and ended with one injured bird in Indiana County that stayed to 10/21. There was a very obvious peak between 9/3 and 9/12, which included the most impressive of the one-day counts: 10 in Erie, 7 in Lebanon, 8 in Montgomery, and 16 in Mercer. Three counties reported them in October.



**Baird's Sandpiper at Independence Marsh, Beaver County, 18 September 2010. (Geoff Malosh)**

Table 1 summarizes all sightings reported by compilers and gathered from PABIRDS and eBird data.

A quick and cursory check of the historical record seems to indicate that this year's flight was indeed unprecedented in Pennsylvania's recorded history. A search of Birds of Note listings and Summaries of the Season in past issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* revealed a previous high count of 7 counties reporting Baird's in a single season (2008). For many years through the 1990s, Baird's were considered regular, but generally uncommon, enough so to warrant detailed annotation in the Birds of Note, and never seemed to appear in more than 3 or 4 counties in any year. It's true that they were likely never as unusual as they were believed to be in those days, with advances in birders' knowledge and numbers accounting for most of the difference. Still, it's probably safe to say that Pennsylvania's birders had never before seen a Baird's season quite like this one. -Ed.

**Table 1. Reports of Baird's Sandpiper in Pennsylvania, Fall 2010**

County	Date(s)	Location(s)	Peak Count	Comment
Allegheny	9/3-8	Imperial Grasslands	1	First for the grasslands since 2005
Armstrong	8/21-22	Crooked Creek S.P.	1	
Beaver	9/16-24	Independence Marsh	2	One may have been same bird as in Allegheny
Bedford	9/28	Dunnings Creek Wetlands	1	
Berks	8/30	Near Topton	1	
Bucks	8/18-9/26	Pine Run Res., two others	1	"Unprecedented" flight; 8 total birds
Butler	9/20	Lake Oneida	1	
Centre	8/22-9/6	Bald Eagle S.P. and Colyer L.	1	2 total birds; first county record since 1999
Chester	9/18-10/17	Chambers Lake and Unionville	1	2 total birds
Crawford	9/6	Woodcock Lake	1	
Cumberland	9/5	Deerfield Commons	1	
Erie	8/20-9/8	Gull Point	10	Peak 9/4; also 9 reported 9/8
Franklin	8/29-9/19	none listed	-	
Huntingdon	9/12	Smithfield Twp.	1	First county record
Indiana	10/14-21	Yellow Creek S.P.	1	Injured bird
Lancaster	8/7-10/9	Conejohela Flats and others	7	Peak count from eBird. Multiple locations.
Lawrence	8/14-9/12	Mason Road and Black Swamp	1	2 total birds
Lebanon	9/1-7	Kreider Farm	7	Peak count from eBird (9/5).
Luzerne	9/6-10	none listed	1	
Mercer	9/3-9	Shenango Reservoir	16	Flock of 16 on 9/9 had 15 juvs. and one adult
Montgomery	8/22-9/18	Green Lane Reservoir	8	Peak 9/4
Northampton	8/23-24	Mt. Bethel Twp.	1	
Pike	9/11	Lake Wallenpaupack	1	
Venango	8/24-9/19	Kahle Lake	3	
Washington	9/19-9/30	Bentleyville	1	2 total birds. Fifth or sixth county record.
York	9/14-16	Brunner Island	1	

## Summary of the Season

### Geoff Malosh

Drought was the operative theme throughout many county reports for the fall of 2010. With a rain deficit across much of the state that began mid-summer and continued through the end of September came low water levels and memorable shorebirding in many counties. Conversely, waterfowl reports were well off—more so even than several recent years which were themselves considered substandard—due no doubt to relatively calm weather through the first half of the season, which spawned few fallout events. However, rain returned to most regions in October and especially November, and by this time waterfowl numbers improved and a few significant fallouts were observed. Temperatures moderated in October and became truly cold quickly in some areas; frost was reported as early as 10/10 in *Butler* following a scorching September in sw. Pennsylvania.

In many ways the fall of 2010 was the inverse of the fall of 2009, when abnormally cool and rainy conditions persisted throughout August and September (resulting in a very poor year for shorebirds), followed by an unseasonably warm and dry November. The strangely inverted conditions of 2009 played havoc with what many consider “normal” migration patterns, but this was not the case in 2010. Particularly in 2009, hawk watches reported relatively poor flights attributable at least in part to the adverse weather, but in 2010, the state’s hawk enthusiasts turned in impressive tallies. Songbirds, too, seemed to have a much better than average flight, with many compilers commenting on the good woodland birding in September and early October. There were considerably fewer notably late dates this year, in other words a return to a more typical pattern, as opposed to 2009 when a balmy November held some migrants in place long after their expected departures.

It was an active season for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic. There were no fewer than four classic “Cape Verde” hurricanes (Danielle, Earl, Igor, and Julia), storms that form off the west coast of Africa usually between 10°N and 20°N latitude and which take a slow track to the west before bending to the northwest and ultimately to the

north as the near North America. These are usually powerful storms, and indeed all four storms achieved Category 4 status while in the middle of the Atlantic. Historically, these have been the storms most likely to have a direct effect on Pennsylvania, most memorably in 2003 when Hurricane Isabel hammered the North Carolina coast and tore through Pennsylvania a few hours later. The path taken by Earl in late August 2011 was eerily similar to Isabel’s famous track, but this year the storm was turned back into the Atlantic at the last moment by an encounter with a relatively dry high pressure air mass and increasing south-southwesterly shear; it is the storms that do not happen to encounter adverse conditions like these as they approach the coast which continue a west-northwesterly track and plow into the North American continent.

So, the mid-Atlantic was spared the worst of the hurricane season, and birders, always at the ready to make lemonade of these particular meteorological lemons, settled for the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole, a minor storm that formed off the Florida coast in late September and was already extratropical by the time it passed to the northeast of the Bahamas. The remnants were still a strong low pressure system that dumped plenty of rain on southeastern Pennsylvania 9/30 and 10/1, but hopeful birders *Delaware* could manage nothing more significant than a fallout of 47 **Caspian Terns** 10/1.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** continued their impressive showing in the northeastern United States, evidenced in our state by two more records in early August in *Franklin* and *Berks*. As is now usual, the first southbound **Greater White-fronted Geese** had already appeared by season’s end, this year in both *Bucks* and *Montgomery*. Reports of **Brant** were off, with mentions in only four counties, probably a function of a lack of fallout weather. (Compare the epic fallout of 25-26 October 2007, when Brant were recorded in ten different counties those two days alone.) Reports of **Cackling Goose** in seven counties, including as far west as *Bedford* where they are not annually expected, were impressive. Western Pennsylvania **Snow Geese** were found in *Clarion*,

*Crawford*, *Erie*, *Indiana*, and *Westmoreland*, further evidence that the species is more frequent autumnal visitor to this side of the state than widely held. A flock of 100 which passed Stone Mountain in *Huntingdon* 11/6 was also notable. In *Bucks*, one was recorded as early as 9/2. A probable **Ross’s x Snow Goose** was found in *Chester*.

Unbanded **Trumpeter Swans** continue to be occasionally reported, particularly in the west; this season’s markers came from *Bedford* and *Butler*, both in the first half of October. A perusal of first dates for **Tundra Swan** revealed an average arrival in the second week of November, typical for the species. As usual most reports were of migrant flocks moving overhead.

The 5th and 6th of November (the latter being the same day that saw 100 Snow Geese wing past the Stone Mountain hawk watch) saw a strong cold front pass across the state that brought rain and winds which put down one of the few notable waterfowl fallouts of the season. In *Berks*, 140 **Bufflehead** and 536 **Ruddy Ducks** were counted, while on the other side of the state in *Indiana*, notable counts included 135 **Ring-necked Duck**, 135 **Lesser Scaup**, 66 **Bufflehead**, and 418 **Ruddy Ducks** during and after the storm. Elsewhere in the state notable birds from this storm included 16 **Snow Geese** in *Crawford*, **White-winged Scoter** in *Centre*, **Red-throated Loon** in *Berks* and *Lebanon*, and **Dunlin** in *Delaware*. Another storm 11/16 did not bring as many numbers, but did bring more unusual species, for example all three **scoters** in a selection of central and eastern counties, **Long-tailed Duck** in at least six counties (*Carbon*, *Chester*, *Lebanon*, *Luzerne*, *Snyder*, and *Somerset*), **Snow Goose** in *Indiana*, **Red-throated Loon** in *Cambria* and *Carbon*, and **Red-necked Grebe** in *Luzerne*. Interestingly, late **Tree Swallows** were also recorded in *Delaware* and *Indiana* 11/6 and in *Chester* 11/7.

Some great totals of **Wood Duck** were reported from all corners of the state, for example 249 in *Bradford* 9/23, at least 226 in *Bucks* 10/29, and 589 in *Crawford* 9/18. Early arrivals included a **Gadwall** in *Montgomery* 9/4, a **Bufflehead** in *Dauphin* 8/8, and

a **Ruddy Duck** in *Beaver* 8/23. **American Black Duck** continues to exhibit a pattern of occurrence that's hard to pin down; this season the 11 compilers who reported the species generally agreed that numbers was way down, with most counties limited to two or three reports each. In other years, black ducks are much more commonly reported throughout the state. Large flocks of **Blue-winged Teal** were found in mid-September in *Beaver* (max 33 on 9/17) and at Tinicum in *Philadelphia* (max 100+ on 9/19). Very late was one blue-wing over Rose Tree Park in *Delaware* 11/28. Tinicum also hosted the highest numbers for several other species, notably **Northern Shoveler** (360), **Northern Pintail** (470), **Green-winged Teal** (430), and **Ruddy Duck** (740). The sight of a **Northern Pintail** leading a v-formation of 19 **Tundra Swans** over *Indiana* in late November must have been very odd.

Single summering **Ring-necked Duck** (*Berks*) and **Lesser Scaup** (*Bucks*) were gone by mid-August, but a ring-necked that summered in *Dauphin* stayed to the first week of October. A **Surf Scoter** in *Venango* 10/3-10 was very early; the species was found in seven counties by the close of the season. **Black Scoter** was found in 11 counties beginning 10/25 in *Bucks*, and included one in *Allegheny*, just the fourth record for the county, but **White-winged Scoter** was limited to just eight counties. There was a report of a **Smew** in *Crawford* 10/9 (no doc), but the bird was not relocated thereafter. *Crawford* also hosted the largest flocks of mergansers: 1720 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 418 **Common Merganser**, and 356 **Hooded Merganser**, all in November.

**Ruffed Grouse** were mentioned in only eight counties, but perhaps counties where populations are stable simply don't bother reporting them. **Ring-necked Pheasant** is pretty much finished as a self-sustaining breeder in most parts of the state; the point was comically (yet anecdotally) reinforced by the sighting of a pheasant walking down a staircase in a *Bucks* apartment building! This bird seemed unlikely (at best) to pass its genes onto the next generation someday.

**Red-throated Loons** were reported from a respectable 10 counties, with just one outside the month of November. Several compilers lamented a poor flight of **Common Loon**; only eight mentioned sightings

of the species at all. **Red-necked Grebes** were widely but thinly reported from the first week of October through the season. After a few years of few **Eared Grebe** reports, this season they were found in three counties: *Blair* (via eBird) in September, and *Erie* and *Centre* both in November.

**American** and **Least Bittern** were recorded in six and four counties, respectively, with *Chester* registering a late American Bittern 11/21-23. **Great Egrets** lingered into November in three counties: *Chester*, *Crawford*, and *Dauphin*. **Snowy Egret** was very well reported from six southeastern counties and *Snyder* and *Bedford*, most notably, up to 8 in *Bucks* and 6 in *Philadelphia* in August. Similarly **Little Blue Heron** was found in six counties including one in *Crawford*. The Birds of Note summary in this issue shows an absolute glut of **Cattle Egret** records. The fall of 2010 was one of the best seasons for this species in many years. They were recorded in nine counties, including three in the west (*Allegheny*, *Crawford*, and *Westmoreland*) where even one regional record makes for a good season. Dates of occurrence were spread from August to November, with a slight bias toward early-season sightings in the east and late-season sightings in the central and west. Late **Green Herons** included one in *Crawford* to 11/20, and one in *Lancaster* to 12/3. **White Ibis**, like Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, kept pace with its recent upswing in occurrence; this season reports were of 6 immature birds in *Dauphin* and one immature in *Perry*, both mid-August. All records of this species in recent years have been of immature birds. **Glossy Ibises** were found in *Bucks*, *Montgomery*, and *Lancaster*, where they generally draw yawns from local birders, but one in *Huntingdon* 8/8 was a county first and surely would have garnered a fair bit of interest if it had stayed more than one day.

November **Osprey** were listed in *Cambria* (11/5), *Philadelphia* (11/15), and *York* (11/25). Laurie Goodrich, in her summary of the fall 2010 hawk watches elsewhere in this issue (which see), details how **Bald Eagles** had one of their best showings ever, with a 49% increase over 2009 and record or near-record seasonal counts made at sites all over the state. Furthermore every watch site which reports a 10-year average by species showed Bald Eagle besting its average this year, often by 50-100% or more. County reports

augment the results at hawk watches; compilers from all corners were impressed with the ever-increasing rate of Bald Eagle sightings in their counties. Goodrich also reports that **Sharp-shinned Hawks** had one of their best seasons since the spruce budworm heydays of the 1970s and 80s, but this is a species that is not often mentioned in county reports (perhaps like Ruffed Grouse in this regard). So it is interesting to read of a fight of 83 Sharpies in two hours the morning of 10/16 in *Carbon*—at a site that is not an established hawk watch. The Militia Hill hawk watch in *Montgomery* registered the best single-day total of **Broad-winged Hawks** this season, 10,146 on 9/21. **Swainson's Hawks** were reported five times from mid-September to mid-October, four of which were from hawk watches and the other in *Bucks*, but the state's birders continue to do a poor job of documenting and submitting these records to PORC; only one of the five were sent to the committee. Early **Merlins** were found in *Lebanon* 8/14 and *Montgomery* 8/7, the latter a record early date for the county. The enigmatic **Prairie Falcon** returned for the fourth consecutive winter to *Cumberland*.

**Soras** were found in 10 counties with four reaching into October, not bad results for a secretive species that goes quiet in fall. Birders were not so lucky with **Virginia Rail**; reports for this bird were limited to one each in *Bedford* and *Philadelphia*. **Purple Gallinule** is yet another species typically of the southern or southeastern U.S. which has been seen more frequently in Pennsylvania recently; this season reports were made of juveniles in *Adams* 10/12 and in *McKean* 10/19-24. The latter record, via eBird since *McKean* has no compiler, was particularly interesting. The bird was found in a residential yard where it remained for much of its stay, allowing absurdly close approach and many pictures (see the Photo Highlights in this issue). According to the observer, it did not appear injured or sick in any way. An impressive aggregation of 2000+ **American Coots** gathered in *Indiana* by the end of November. **Sandhill Crane** was reported from 11 counties, a new high count for the fall season, and has been removed from the Birds of Note listing.

As mentioned in the intro, the excessively dry summer had at least one positive side-effect: shorebird

habitat. Pennsylvania birders enjoyed a banner year this season, one of the best of the past decade. Thirty-one species were recorded, with the only species that could be reasonably considered as “misses” being Whimbrel and Marbled Godwit. Purple Sandpiper was also missed for the season, but a lack of sightings made by 11/30 is hardly reason to write them off for the year.

First the rarities: *Bucks* contributed the season’s only **American Avocets**, surprising given that they were one of only a few shorebirds to show well in 2009 despite deplorable shorebirding conditions for much of that season. The better conditions of 2010 apparently did not attract avocets this year, for whatever reason. **Willetts** did much better, appearing in seven counties primarily in August but with two records in late October. The charismatic **Hudsonian Godwit** put in a brief appearance in *Carbon* during a storm 9/16, representing a probable first county record. Another was in *Bucks* 9/28-30. **Ruddy Turnstone** was limited to *Cumberland* (at the amazing Mud Level Road site) and *Bucks*. The increasingly rare **Red Knot** was found in three counties: a juv. in *Erie* 9/4-5, 4 birds in *Montgomery* 8/15, and a juvenile 9/20 in *Lancaster* seen on an enormous weed bed that developed in the Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom (more on this in a moment). **Western Sandpiper** was found in five counties, with no record later than 9/8. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was listed in seven counties, mostly in the southeast but also in *Washington* where it was a first. *Washington* also scored its first **Long-billed Dowitcher**, a juvenile photographed 9/30. The only other long-billed was one in *Crawford* 9/5. All three phalaropes were found: **Wilson’s Phalarope** in *Bedford*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia* (4 on 9/19), **Red-necked Phalarope** in seven counties including *Wyoming* where there are surely few records, and **Red Phalarope**, one at Presque Isle in *Erie* 11/28.

There were plenty of highlights worth mentioning among the more expected species as well, but none so notable as the incredible flight of **Baird’s Sandpipers** all across Pennsylvania this fall. They were so impressive that they warranted a separate article unto themselves to describe their season. Suffice it to say here that they were mentioned in 24 of

the 52 county reports submitted this season. A search of the PABIRDS list produced two additional counties (*Pike* and *Erie*) but the eBird database did not contain anything not already reported here. The most impressive total was 16 on 9/9 in *Mercer*. Might 26 be a record number of counties reporting Baird’s Sandpiper in a single year? Probably. **Black-bellied Plovers** can sometimes be hard to come by, but this season reports came from 13 counties with the last 11/12 in *Crawford*. **American Golden-Plovers** were even more apparent with reports in 16 counties, including notable counts of 29 in *Franklin* 9/18 and 38 in *Lebanon* 10/17. One was still in *Philadelphia* 11/4. Peak counts of **Lesser Yellowlegs** (250 on 9/4) and **Greater Yellowlegs** (150 on 9/29) were both from *Philadelphia*. Greater lingered to 11/28 and Lesser to the end of the season in *Bucks*, which also harbored a lingering **Spotted Sandpiper** to 11/12. Sightings of **Sanderling** continue to be impressively frequent away from Lake Erie and the lower Susquehanna; this season reports came from nine counties in the central and southeast, with *Cumberland* registering just its fourth in 30 years and *Lebanon* its fourth ever. Peak count of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was 250 in *Bucks* 8/11 and of **Least Sandpiper** was 200-300 in *Delaware* in late August. **White-rumped Sandpiper** made headlines in 10 counties, with one notably late (and probably injured) bird lingering in *Bucks* to 11/29. **Dunlin**, a hit-or-miss species from season to season, was found in an impressive 11 counties including a few where it is considered rare. Were it not for Baird’s Sandpiper, **Stilt Sandpiper** might have stolen the show this year; 16 compilers reported them, and additional research on eBird (1) and PABIRDS (0) brought the final total to 17 counties. Huge flocks were reported in some locations, topped by an amazing 52 in *Montgomery* 8/15, and 27 in *Bucks* 9/12. August Mirabella, long-time *Bucks* compiler, called the Stilt flight “probably unprecedented” with reports from four locations of at least 58 individuals. Notable daily counts were also made in *Mercer*, where plentiful mudflats at Shenango Reservoir were a long-overdue treat for shorebird starved western Pennsylvania birders, and in *Philadelphia*. **Short-billed Dowitchers** put in a characteristically early appearance in nine counties; none

were reported later than 9/10, and only two counties—*Mercer* and *Lancaster*—mentioned the subspecies involved, *hendersoni* in the former and both *hendersoni* and *griseus* in the latter. Even the secretive **American Woodcock**, rarely reported after the breeding season, was found in 8 counties in October and November.

Rare gulls made waves in the state this season. Best was undoubtedly a juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake** in *Indiana* 11/4 (under review). Runner-up was a **California Gull** in *Erie* 11/27 (no doc). Other notables included an early **Glaucous Gull** 10/30 in *Crawford*, **Franklin’s Gull** in *Lancaster*, and **Black-headed Gull** in *Bucks* on the odd date of 8/1. **Laughing Gulls** were found out of range in *Beaver* (third record), *Bucks* (away from their normal county haunts), and *Chester*. **Bonaparte’s Gulls** were well reported, seemingly almost at random: they were found in many counties as early as 8/9 through the end of the season, during storms and in clear weather, from single birds up to the best count of 2660 in *Crawford* 11/28. *Bucks* was once again the hotbed for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, but reports from other counties, particularly those that do not border on *Bucks*, were few.

**Forster’s Terns** were spotted in October in four counties (latest, 10/13 in *Allegheny* and 10/14 in *Bucks*), but the real news with this species was made at the aforementioned Susquehanna River weed bed in *Lancaster*, which attracted a staggering flock of Forster’s Terns throughout September, peaking at an almost unspeakable 700 birds 9/19. Surely such a spectacle is once-in-a-generation stuff here in Pennsylvania. All three of the other regular terns were also recorded at the weed bed, but none nearly so numerous as Forster’s. Away from the weed bed, notable terns included a report of a **Gull-billed Tern** (no doc) at the Conejohela Flats 8/18, and a **Least Tern** in *Philadelphia* 8/28-29. **Common** and **Black Terns** were thinly reported in August and September, the latter a bit more so than the former.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues a very slow expansion from their stronghold in *Franklin*; reports were received from six other counties this season, all in the southeast. Tardy **Mourning Doves** were still fledging young in *Center* and *Dauphin* in the first half of October.

Notable reports of owls were few, with the exception of the banding results for **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. The season total at Allegheny Front in *Bedford* was 164, with a peak of 51 on 11/1, and the Skytop site in *Monroe* captured 81 for the season, including a recapture of one bird banded near *Quebec City* in 2008. **Common Nighthawk** is a species of concern; as a result compilers tend to state all of their results for the species. Overall they were mentioned in 21 counties. Some counties reported good numbers, even in the hundreds, but many reported only single sightings or single-digit counts. However a few counties with dedicated late-August “nighthawk watches” reported outstanding numbers. Season total in *Delaware* was 2731, *Montgomery* had a single day total of 2400 (8/28) and several other triple-digit days, and *Venango* saw 805 for the season. In other words, it appears that finding Common Nighthawks (at least in late summer) is very much a right-time, right-place proposition. The species may well be in decline, but the fact that they aren’t seen in a given area by observers not engaged in a dedicated search doesn’t seem to mean much with regard to local status.

Once again hummingbirds made big news in Pennsylvania. The bird of the season was undoubtedly the state’s first **Anna’s Hummingbird**, banded by Scott Weidensaul 11/21 in *Shartlesville, Berks* where it had been present since late October. This charming and plucky female, built to withstand cold weather better than most hummingbirds (and as we know, most hummingbirds withstand cold weather just fine, thank you very much), gamely braved the Pennsylvania winter and stayed in *Shartlesville* at least until the time of this writing (mid-March 2011). It was seen by hundreds of observers and was subject of thousands, or perhaps, in this digital age, tens of thousands of photos. The state didn’t have to wait long for its second **Allen’s Hummingbird** either; following last year’s first state record in *Lancaster*, that county also hosted the state’s second Allen’s this season, this time near *Lititz*. It was banded 11/7 and remained to 11/13.

Not that anyone noticed given the excitement generated by these two birds, but reports of **Rufous Hummingbird** were a little off this year, with only two banded and

definitively identified by season’s end, but *Selasphorus* sp. were found in three other counties. Not to be outdone, **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** staged an event of their own. An adult male made a surprise appearance at a feeder in *Beaver* during the last week of November, last seen 11/30. In *Chester*, an immature female was banded 11/29 and remained to at least 11/30. Finally in *Tioga*, one was reported 11/28. The *Beaver* bird is a candidate for the latest adult male in the state’s history.

Another species of concern is **Red-headed Woodpecker**, so reports from 16 counties were encouraging.

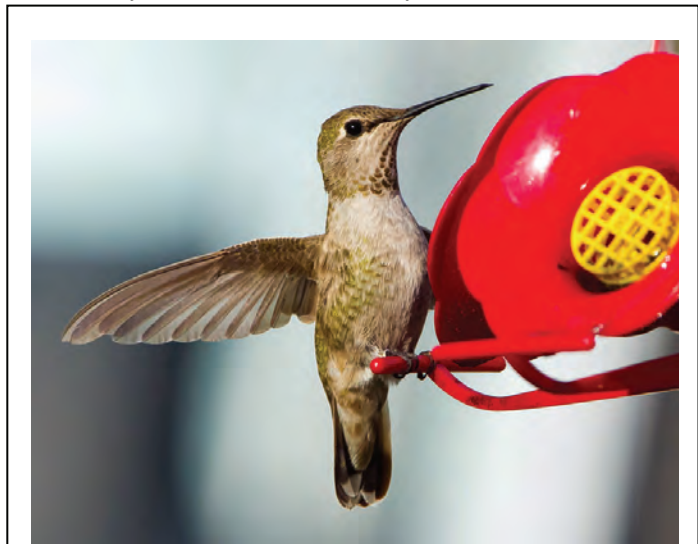
**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were up with reports from 28 counties; only one in *Cumberland* 10/28 and one in *Montgomery* to 10/7 had not left the state punctually by the end of September. Similarly, **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found in 16 counties, but one can’t help wonder whether at least a few of these confusing fall flycatchers aren’t misidentified. There was no mistaking a late **Acadian Flycatcher** in *Allegheny* 9/22, however—this one was singing. The last **Least Flycatcher** reported was one procrastinator in *Philadelphia* 10/17. **Eastern Phoebe** made it into December in *Centre* and *Lancaster*.

This season **Northern Shrikes** characteristically made their first appearances in November, except for one bird in *Crawford* which appeared 10/26 and one in *Northampton* 10/29. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** in *Beaver* 10/4 was fairly late. Reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** seemed above average but despite the many found this season, only a few stayed past 9/30. Another late breeder was a **Red-eyed Vireo** found feeding a begging juvenile in *Allegheny* 9/11.

**Common Ravens** continue to run rampant across the state. Sixteen counties reported the species either expanding into new areas or increasing in established areas. One was even spotted in *Delaware* where

the species is still considered a true rarity. *Venango* alone saw 18 reports for the season. As mentioned, last **Tree Swallows** for the season were associated with a storm 11/6-7. The last **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** of the season not located at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant in *Philadelphia* (where up to 110 were preparing to winter again by season’s end) was one in *Lehigh* 10/30. Last **Barn Swallow** was one day later on 10/31 on the Lake Erie shore, which disappointed the observers who were hoping for a Cave Swallow instead. But **Cave Swallows** were found nonetheless, in three counties: *Bucks* 11/4, *Chester* 11/17, and *Philadelphia* 10/31 at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant. Pennsylvania birders must be growing bored with these birds, however, as none of them caused much of a stir when reported and none were submitted to PORC.

By mid-October it seemed evident that a major invasion of **Black-capped Chickadees** was shaping up for the winter, as large flocks of migrating chickadees were being reported in extreme southern Ontario and upstate New York. Pennsylvania also saw at least one of these mega-flocks, when an amazing 700 or more were seen migrating over the lake at *Beltzville State Park* in *Carbon* 10/11. *Berks* also saw a decent movement in October. Some of the October flocks in Ontario even carried a few Boreal Chickadees well south of any recent normal range for the species, bringing with them the tantalizing possibility of Pennsylvania’s first Boreal since 1984. Unfortunately, after October the



Pennsylvania’s first **Anna’s Hummingbird** was this adult female at a feeder in *Shartlesville, Berks*, banded 11/21 and present deep into the winter. (Ed Norman)

movements of chickadees everywhere the region appeared to drop off dramatically; eventually they became but a footnote in the reports of several southern counties where Black-caps are considered unusual. A mass invasion never fully materialized and was left without a Boreal Chickadee for the 26th consecutive year.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** broke somewhat from their two-year cycle of irruption in Pennsylvania. Recently, those years ending in an odd number (particularly 2007) were invasion years, and even-numbered years were not. Yet they appeared in better numbers in 2010 than they had in 2009, this season reported in at least 30 counties. Some were already appearing in *Berks* in July, and they had appeared before the end of August in six other counties.

Few compilers comment on the status of **Carolina Wren**, but one suspects that the harsh winters since 2007 must be taking something of a toll on the state's population. This appears to be the case in *Butler*, at least. The only **Sedge Wren** was one reported in *Bucks*. Along with Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches came a good number of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** this year, especially in the west, where *Beaver*, *Butler*, and *Washington* in particular saw an excellent flight. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** stayed in *Franklin* to 12/18. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** lingered into mid-October in three counties. A **Mountain Bluebird** was well seen in *Chester* 10/6 (no doc). Late **Gray Catbirds** were reported in a few counties but top honor went to one still in *Clinton* 12/19. **American Pipits** were exceptionally well reported, with several counties reporting sizeable flocks and many counties reporting at least one sighting.

Many counties reported a good year for warblers. Best of all was a **Townsend's Warbler** at Cobbs Creek Park on the *Delaware/Philadelphia* line 11/20-21, which was enjoyed by over 50 birders during its two-day stay. The only **Brewster's Warbler** was one banded in *Westmoreland* in August. There were reports of **Orange-crowned Warbler** from 14 counties; this is another species that might be a little over-reported, particularly before the second week of September. One in *Huntingdon* 11/7 was late. For some reason **Northern Parula** lingered very late into the fall at a number of locations: *Adams* 11/30, *Lackawanna*

11/13, *Lebanon* 11/21, and *Philadelphia* 12/4. Other late warblers included **Magnolia Warbler** banded in *Chester* 10/28, **Cape May Warbler** in *Delaware* 11/3, a **Pine Warbler** possibly setting up for the winter in *Bucks* beginning 11/9, **Prairie Warbler** in *Armstrong* 10/7, **Blackpoll Warbler** in *Philadelphia* 11/17, **American Redstart** in *Philadelphia* 11/26, **Worm-eating Warbler** in *Bucks* 9/25, and **Ovenbird** at the Temple University campus in *Philadelphia* 12/13, where one was also seen in late fall in 2008 and 2009 (though this year's date is the latest). An *albilora* **Yellow-throated Warbler** appeared in *Berks* beginning 11/24 and stayed to at least mid-January. It was joined by a **Pine Warbler** 11/25. A few **Palm Warblers** switched sides of the state late in the season; eastern "Yellow" Palms were found in *Allegheny* 10/3 and 11/13, and the western variety was found in *Northampton* 10/23 and in *Lehigh* 11/11. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** still singing in *Fulton* 9/5 was quite unusual; normally they stop singing as early as July, and many have already left the state by early September. **Connecticut** and **Mourning Warblers** were both well reported.

**Summer Tanager** was reported in *Beaver* 9/20 and at a feeder in *Crawford* 11/17-12/8. The latter bird proved quite cooperative (and its host quite gracious) and was seen by several birders during its stay.

A compelling report of a possible **Spotted Towhee** in *Beaver* 11/1 fell just short of confirmation. Reports of sparrows were fairly pedestrian, with a few exceptions, most notably a **Le Conte's Sparrow** in *Bucks* 10/10-12, and a possible **Cassiar Dark-eyed Junco** (*J.h. cismontanus*) in *Allegheny* 11/19 (no doc). A few **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported both in the east and the west. The only **Lark Sparrow** was one in *Montgomery* 10/20. An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** appeared in *Berks* 8/27. Reports of **Nelson's Sparrow** have been off for the past few years since their upswing in the middle of the last decade; birders are still turning up a few each year in *Bucks*, but this year the only other report was a single in *Lancaster*. Unlike 2009 with its mild November, **Snow Buntings** appeared in Pennsylvania on time in 2010, with eight counties reporting them before the close of the season. A few front-running **Lapland Longspurs** also

tagged along to be counted by season's end (three counties).

November **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were scored in three counties: *Berks* 11/6-13 at a feeder, *Butler* 11/15, and *Washington* 11/12-18 at a feeder. **Blue Grosbeak** was noted in eight eastern counties but only one in *Northampton* 10/24 was a true migrant. **Dickcissel** was recorded in four counties, all in the east.

A probable **Bobolink** in a mixed flock of blackbirds in *Delaware* was extremely late if identified correctly. Another at a nectar feeder in *Northampton* 10/30 was both late and very out of place. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was located in *Lancaster* 11/28. **Rusty Blackbird** is another species to which compilers pay special attention. They were mentioned in 20 counties, with at least eight of these reporting good or very good numbers. Best was a flock of 260 in *Butler* 11/6. Single **Orchard Orioles** in two different locations in *Bucks* 10/2 were considered possible fallout from Tropical Storm Nicole. A **Baltimore Oriole** returned to a yard in New Hope, *Bucks*, for an amazing seventh consecutive winter.

Winter finches were limited to appearances by **Purple Finch**, **White-winged Crossbill**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak**. **Purple Finch** were reported in 23 counties beginning in late August and in some impressive numbers, for example, 62 on 10/11 and 49 on 10/28 at Hawk Mountain, *Berks*, 45 in *Chester* 10/20, and 63 in *Montgomery* 10/24. **White-winged Crossbills** were found in seven counties beginning 11/10, five of these as singles at feeders for a one or a few days. Still in shock from the epic siskin invasion two years ago, Pennsylvania birders can be forgiven for perhaps missing the mini-invasion **Pine Siskins** staged again this year beginning mid-October. They were mentioned by 36 of 51 reporting compilers with a very obvious peak between mid-October and mid-November. The difference this year was a lack of huge three-digit flocks, and a noticeable tapering off of reports heading into December and especially January. Still, it was a good season for siskins in Pennsylvania once again. Once again the puzzling **Evening Grosbeak** teased our state's birders with early November reports from at least 13 counties, but most of which were one-day wonders, flyovers, or singles at feeders for a few days.

## Birds of Note – August through November 2010

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included. "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler. "Atlas" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the PBBA database but which do not appear in the county reports. "eBird" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database for counties with no reporting compiler.

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

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

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

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

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

***Black-bellied Whistling Duck\**** – *Berks*: two on the Wyomissing Creek in Mohnton 8/3-8 (Larry Koch, Barbara Murse, *doc submitted*); *Franklin*: one near Chambersburg 8/14 (Sandy Powers, *doc submitted*).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/7 (Ken Rieker *fide* Devich Farbotnik) and 11/12 (August Mirabella); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 11/20-21 (Kevin Crilley).

**Brant** – *Bucks*: 7 at the Penn-Warner Tract 10/3 (Stan Glowacki) was a new early date for the county; *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek State Park 11/5-6 (Holly Merker); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 11/28 (Mike Schall); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 11/19 (Tim Becker, Pat Williams, Richard Williams).

**Cackling Goose** – *Bedford*: 2 at Shawnee State Park 12/3 (Alex Lamoreaux, Anna Fasoli); *Berks*: one over Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 12/14 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: first sighted 10/10 and many times thereafter (m.ob.); *Chester*: multiple reports; *Franklin*: one at Long Lane Pond 9/14 was very early (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: 3 at Greenfield Industrial Park 11/13 (Justin Bosler); *Lebanon*: 2 at Second Mountain 10/14 (Fred Wilcox); *Montgomery*: first sighted at Green Lane Reservoir 10/26 (Kevin Crilley, Michelle Crilley).

***Trumpeter Swan*** – *Bedford*: one unbanded bird at Dunning Creek 10/14 (Tom Dick) was present for about a week; *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur 10/1 (Mark Vass).

***Smeu\**** – *Crawford*: one seen at close range at Woodcock Lake 10/9 was not relocated the next day (Ron Leberman, *no doc*).

***Eared Grebe*** – *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek S.P. 9/17 (Justin Bosler, eBird); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 11/6 (ph. Joe Verica); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 11/28 (Mike Schall).

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: returned 11/16; *Lehigh*: one imm. at Lehigh Canal Park 9/18-10/9 (Mark Boyd); *Philadelphia*: returned 10/19.

***Anhinga\**** – *Lebanon*: one flying south over Second Mountain 8/12 (Morris Cox, *no doc*).

**Snowy Egret** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning Creek Wetlands 8/29 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: as many as 8 continuing from July to 9/11 at Rohm and Haas-Bristol (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one brought down by rain at Phoenixville 8/21 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 8/23 (Herb Weigle); *Lancaster*: one at the Falmouth Boat Access 8/18 (Mike Epler); *Philadelphia*: 6 at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/7 (Dave

Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Snyder*: one at the mouth of Penns Creek 8/14 (Jason Weller); *York*: up to 4 at Brunner Island 8/9-18 (Lou Carpenter).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Berks*: one juvenile near Topton 8/24 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: at least 11 individuals across five locations (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 8/17 (Ron Leberman); *Dauphin*: one immature at West Fairview 8/26 (Ramsay Koury) may have been the same as one seen there again 9/6-7; *Lancaster*: one at the Falmouth Boat Access 8/18 (Mike Epler); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Farm Park 8/15 (August and Judy Mirabella); *Philadelphia*: 3 lingered at John Heinz N.W.R. (m.ob.), and one very late flyover at Pennypack on the Delaware 11/17 (Frank Windfelder).

**Cattle Egret** – *Adams*: 8-10 at Rock Creek 10/8 (Don & Jennifer Gilbert); *Allegheny*: one in Marshall Twp. 11/5-18 (Oliver Griswold, Janet Heintz); *Bucks*: 6 at Rohm and Haas-Bristol 8/21 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 5 at the King Ranch cattle farm in Doe Run 8/17 (Sharon Pulcinella *fide* Nick Pulcinella); *Crawford*: four at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 10/29 (Thomas Clare Nicholls) with 3 continuing the next day; *Dauphin*: one at East Hanover Twp. 11/17 (Sally & Rich Zaino) was found with a second bird 11/18 (Richard and Patricia Williams), both stayed to at least 11/24; *Lancaster*: one on Millcross Road 8/29 (Justin Bosler); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 10/13 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall) and the same or another at Bath 10/23 (Steve Boyce); *Westmoreland*: one near Lower Burrell 10/21 (Bob Shearer *fide* Dave Wilton).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Dauphin*: several birds through 9/12 at West Fairview, including up to 8 immatures, presumably most from nearby nests in Harrisburg (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one near Gap through 8/28 (Chuck Chalfant) and one late juvenile at Octoraro Lake 10/6 (Chuck Chalfant); *York*: one at Brunner Island 8/9 (Lou Carpenter) and 2 on 8/24-25 (Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary).

***White Ibis\**** – *Dauphin*: six immature birds at Wildwood Lake 8/23 (Larry Imes, *doc submitted*) were the third for the county; *Perry*: one immature on the Juniata River at Millerstown 8/14-17 (Toby J. Petersheim, *doc submitted*).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Bucks*: up to 2, with one positively identified to species, at Rohm and Haas-Bristol 8/7-21 (Devich

Farbotnik); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow wetland 8/8 (David Kyler) was a county first; *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 8/18 (Deuane Hoffman); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir continuing from July was joined by a second 8/1-4 (Peter Saenger, Kevin Crilley) with one continuing to 8/14.

**Swainson's Hawk\*** – *Bedford*: one at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, unspecified date (Joe Sabo, Bob Stewart, *no doc*); *Berks*: one apparent dark morph at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 9/16 (David Barber, Joe Jehl, Rudy Keller, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 10/23 (Butch Lishman, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Second Mountain 9/18 (no observer listed, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one at Militia Hill hawk watch 10/22 (Rich Conroy, Andy Fayer, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Prairie Falcon\*** – *Cumberland*: returned to Mud Level Road for the fourth consecutive winter beginning 11/20 (Matt Sabatine, m.ob.), origin unknown (*no doc*).

**Purple Gallinule\*** – *Adams*: one juvenile at SGL 249 on 10/12 (Mike Weible, *doc submitted*) was not seen thereafter; *McKean*: one juvenile in a residential neighborhood in Kane 10/19-24 (ph. Rocky Holland, eBird, *doc submitted*).

**American Avocet** – *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas-Bristol 8/18 (Devich Farbotnik) and two at Peace Valley Park 9/3 (Gene Constantine, Margaret Constantine, ph. August Mirabella).

**Willet** – *Adams/York*: one at Long Arm Reservoir 8/19-10/23 (Richard Cleary, m.ob.); *Bedford*: one over Dunnings Creek Wetlands 9/8 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: 3 at Blue Marsh Lake 10/28 (Joan Silagy); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 9/17 (Rick Robinson); *Erie*: 7 at Presque Isle State Park 8/14 (James Hill III); *York*: one at Brunner Island 8/17-18 (Steve Dale).

**Hudsonian Godwit** – *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 9/28-30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Carbon*: one at Beltzville State Park 9/16 (Dustin Welch).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Bucks*: one at Mud Island 8/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: a small flock at Mud Level Road 9/18 (Andy Markel).

**Red Knot** – *Erie*: one juvenile at Gull Point 9/4-5 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one juv. on a weed bed in the Susquehanna R. off Peach Bottom 9/20 (Bob Schutsky); *Montgomery*: 4 at Green Lane Reservoir 8/15 (Ken Reiker, Bill Keim, Devich Farbotnik).

**Western Sandpiper** – *Berks*: one near Topton 8/8 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas-Bristol 8/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Franklin*: one at Kriner Road 9/8 (Dale Gearhart, et al.); *Montgomery*: 4 at Green Lane Reservoir 8/1 (Peter Saenger, Kevin Crilley), also recorded as late as 9/6; *Venango*: one at Kahle Lake 8/27 (Russ States).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – *Berks*: one near Topton 8/30 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at Buckingham Twp. 9/6-8 (Devich Farbotnik) and one at Rohm and Haas-Bristol 9/18-19 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/22 (Shannon Thompson); *Lancaster*: present at the Conejohela Flats 8/21-31 with a max of 3 on 8/31 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: 2 at Kreider Farm Pond 9/1 (Randy C. Miller) was a first county record, up to 3 continued to 9/8; *Montgomery*: 2 at Green Lane Reservoir 8/30 (Joe Greco, Kevin Crilley) with one still there 9/1 (August Mirabella), and 2 there 9/14 (George A. Franchois); *Washington*: one at Bentleyville 9/5 (Andy Berchin) was a first county

record.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 9/5 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Washington*: one at Bentleyville 9/30 (ph. Ross Gallardy, Andy Berchin) was a first county record.

**Wilson's Phalarope** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 9/19 (Tom Dick); *Chester*: one at the Brandywine polo fields in New Garden 8/22 during heavy rain (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/13 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Mike Epler); *Philadelphia*: 4 at John Heinz N.W.R. 9/19 (Doris McGovern) with 2 continuing to 9/23.

**Red-necked Phalarope** – *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 9/15 (Chuck Chalfant); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/5 (Shannon Thompson) and one at the head of Presque Isle Bay also 9/5 (Ken Anderson) may have each been the same bird; *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 9/26 (ph. Shannon Thompson); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Reservoir 8/22 (Mark Vass); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 8/27 (Kevin Crilley, Diane Cameron) and one there 9/5-6 (Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: one at the Frankford Arsenal boat ramp 10/1 (Frank Windfelder); *Wyoming*: two males on the Susquehanna River 9/19 (Jerry Skinner).

**Red Phalarope\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 11/28 (Mike Schall, ph. Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

**Jaeger sp.** – *Erie*: one (Pomarine or Parasitic) over Lake Erie off the mouth of Elk Creek 10/31 (Ben Coulter).

**Franklin's Gull** – *Lancaster*: one first cycle at Wood's Edge Pond 11/29 (Dan Heathcote).

**Little Gull** – *Erie*: a total of 5 during waterbird surveys at Sunset Point, Presque Isle 10/10-11 (Jerry McWilliams) and one at the Presque Isle marina 11/27 (Mike Schall).

**Black-headed Gull\*** – *Bucks*: one at Bristol 8/1 (Devich Farbotnik, ph. Holly Merker, *doc submitted*).

**California Gull\*** – *Erie*: one adult in the parking lot of a casino near the Lake View Landfill 11/27 (Mike Weible, *no doc*).

**Iceland Gull** – *Berks*: one adult at Blue Marsh Lake 11/29 (Jason Horn); *Bucks*: first reported 11/16 (Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella); *Chester*: one first winter bird at Struble Lake 11/22 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: one dark first cycle bird, perhaps Thayer's-type, during a waterbird survey at Sunset Point, Presque Isle (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: one first winter bird at Nazareth Quarry 11/29 (Dave DeReamus).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 10/30 was very early (Ron Leberman).

**Black-legged Kittiwake\*** – *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 11/4 (Justin Bosler, *doc submitted*).

**Gull-billed Tern\*** – *Lancaster*: one adult at the Conejohela Flats 8/18 (Deuane Hoffman, *no doc*).

**Common Tern** – *Crawford*: two at Woodcock Lake 9/12 (Ron Leberman); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 9/12 (Justin Bosler) and 9/14 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Melissa Little, Marge Van Tassel); *Lancaster*: present at a weed bed near Peach Bottom in mid-Sep (m.ob.) and one at Conowingo Pond 8/8 (Bob Schutsky, et al.); *Venango*: 14 at Kahle Lake 9/12 (Gary Edwards).

**Least Tern** – *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/28-29 (Lynn Roman, Denis Brennan, Dan Efroymsen).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Adams*: one at Arendtsville during the week of 8/9 (Mike Weible); *Dauphin*: one near the Colonial Golf Club 11/18 (Randy Brenner); *Franklin*:

continue in and around Shady Grove (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at the Greenfield Industrial Park 9/18 (Roger Stoner) was in the company of a second bird which was likely a Ringed Turtle-Dove; *Lebanon*: one or two seen regularly near Kreider Farm Pond beginning 8/13 (m.ob.); *Northampton*: 2 in Bethlehem Twp. 8/2 (Bill Winkelman), one continued to 9/12; *Philadelphia*: one at the corner of Gray's Ferry Ave. and University Ave. 9/1 (Bob Schutsky, Nancy Schutsky).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Dauphin*: one heard on the grounds of the Milton S. Hershey School in early Aug (Nate McKelvie); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 10/18 (Ruth Swaney); *Tioga*: one near Millerton 11/19 (Larry Brown).

**Chuck-wills-widow\*** – *Lebanon*: up to two continued from the summer season to 9/20 (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Anna's Hummingbird\*** – *Berks*: one adult female, which appeared at the home of Renee Gery in Shartlesville in late October and was banded 11/21 (Scott Weidensaul, *doc submitted*), remained deep into the winter season and would represent the first state record if accepted.

**Rufous Hummingbird** – *Adams*: one immature at a home in Gettysburg was first seen 11/19 and was banded 12/4 by Sandy Lockerman (no finder listed); *Delaware*: one imm. male at a feeder in Swarthmore 10/14-20 (Dave Eberly, banded by Nick Pulcinella).

**Allen's Hummingbird\*** – *Lancaster*: one at the Landis Homes retirement community near Lititz (Edith Bailey) was banded 11/7 (Scott Weidensaul, *doc submitted*) and remained until 11/13.

**Selasphorus sp.** – *Butler*: one at a feeder in Muddy Creek Twp. from an unknown start date to at least 12/15 (ph. Cathy Setzer); *Lebanon*: one at a feeder in Grantville 10/10-15 departed before it was banded (Kathy and Tim Becker); *Lehigh*: one at a feeder in Fountain Hill 10/10 was present to 10/14 (Ed and Angie Sinkler).

**Northern Shrike** – *Bucks*; *Carbon*; *Chester*; *Crawford*; *Erie*; *Lawrence*; *Northampton*.

**Loggerhead Shrike\*** – *Cumberland*: one south of Newville continuing from 5/26 was last seen 8/13 (Vern Gauthier, *doc previously submitted*).

**Cave Swallow\*** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S.P. 11/4 (Jason Horn, *no doc*); *Chester*: one at the Bucktoe Creek Hawk Watch 11/17 (ph. Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant 10/31 (Frank Windfelder, *no doc*).

**Sedge Wren** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 10/2 (ph. August Mirabella).

**Mountain Bluebird\*** – *Chester*: one seen briefly but closely at the Chambers Lake Hawk Watch 10/6 (Larry Lewis, *no doc*).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 8/28.

**Townsend's Warbler\*** – *Delaware/Philadelphia*: one found on the *Delaware* side of Cobb's Creek Park 11/20 (Wendy Williams, Tony Croasdale, Dan Efroymsen, *doc submitted*) was seen on the *Philadelphia* side 11/21.

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Allegheny*; *Bucks*; *Carbon*; *Chester*; *Crawford*; *Cumberland*; *Delaware*; *Franklin*; *Juniata*; *Lancaster*; *Luzerne*; *Montgomery*; *Northampton*; *Philadelphia*; *Schuylkill*; *Washington*; *Westmoreland*.

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Beaver*: one female in Economy Borough 9/20 (Karyn Delaney, *no doc*); *Crawford*: one at a feeder in the village of Woodcock 11/17-12/8 (Clair Landis, m.ob., ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Delaware*: one in Springfield

10/16 (Debbie Beer, ph. Adrian Binns); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 9/14 (ph. Marge Van Tassel, Margaret Higbee); *Lebanon*: one at Second Mountain 11/20; *Luzerne*: one 9/16 (Kevin Ripka); *Northampton*: one in Bath 9/19 (Dustin Welch).

**Lark Sparrow\*** – *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 10/20 (ph. Susan Marshall, *no doc*).

**Le Conte's Sparrow\*** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 10/10-12 (August Mirabella, ph. Devich Farbotnik, *doc submitted*).

**Nelson's Sparrow** – *Bucks*: singles at Pine Run Dam 10/2 (Dave Wilton), 10/9-10 and 10/17 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at the Penn-Warner Tract 10/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 10/3 (Bob Schutsky, Eric Witmer).

**Cassiar Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis cismontanus*)\*** – *Allegheny*: one at a feeder in Harmar Twp. 11/19 (Jim Valimont, *no doc*).

**Dickcissel** – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville State Park 10/6 (Dave Hawk, Dustin Welch); *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek State Park 10/29 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one first winter bird at Middlecreek WMA 11/14 (Mark Furman, William Keim); *Northampton*: present at the Koch Farm 10/13-29 (Arlene Koch).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Lancaster*: one near Wakefield 11/28 (Dave Wilton).

**White-winged Crossbill** – *Bucks*: one at a feeder in Doylestown 11/14 (Karen Isett); *Centre*: one at a feeder in Stormstown 11/27 (Linda Stevens); *Chester*: one at Waterloo Mills Preserve 11/14 (Kevin Fryberger) and 4 at the Laurels Preserve 11/24 (Kevin Fryberger); *Cumberland*: one at Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch 11/10 (Brad Lanning); *Erie*: one at a feeder in McKean 11/28 (Sam Stull); *Luzerne*: one imm. male at a feeder in West Wyoming 11/25-26 (Stan Galenty); *Somerset*: one female at a feeder in Summit Mills 11/17 (Elmer Brennehan).

**Evening Grosbeak** – *Berks*; *Bradford*; *Carbon*; *Crawford*; *Cumberland*; *Dauphin*; *Erie*; *Lehigh*; *Luzerne*; *Montgomery*; *Schuylkill*; *Venango*; *Wyoming*. Most records were of flyovers or of birds at feeders for a day or two, mostly in November. See Local Notes.

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## ADDENDUM to the Birds of Note for Summer 2010, Volume 24, No. 3 (V24N3).

The following report was received in January 2011:

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck\*** – *Chester*: one at McPherson Lake in Nottingham County Park 6/27/2010 (ph. Rachel Bishop, *doc submitted*) would represent a county first if accepted.

These reports were inadvertently omitted from V24N3:

**Bufflehead** – *Lancaster*: a late migrant at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 6/5 (Deuane Hoffman, Bob Schutsky); *Lawrence*: a female 6/11 at Three Rivers Gravel Pond (Mark Vass).

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**CORRIGENDA for V24N3:** the **Loggerhead Shrike** should have read Station Road (not Stanton), and reference to 3 birds there indicates the presence of 2 birds at Station Road and another at Gobbles Run Road, for a total of 3 birds in *Cumberland* in Summer 2010, as described in the Summary of the Season.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



**Brant (*Branta bernicla*).** Juveniles of this species that show up in Pennsylvania are frequently very tame, allowing close study and approach. This bird at Marsh Creek State Park Chester 5 November 2010 was no exception. (*Holly Merker*)



**Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).** An average season for Red-necked Grebes included this one at Bath, Northampton 5 October 2010, early enough in the season for the bird to still be showing much of its red neck. (*Mike Schall*)



**Brant (*Branta bernicla*).** Another late-season immature Brant at Presque Isle State Park Erie 28 November 2010 was the only Brant for Erie this period. (*Mike Schall*)



**Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).** Snowies showed well this season, with reports from eight counties. This outstanding image was made at the Conewago Boat Launch, York 17 August 2010. (*Steve Dale*)



**Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*).** After a number of years with few reports, the fall of 2010 featured a respectable three reports statewide, including this one at Bald Eagle State Park, Center 7 November 2010. (*Joe Verica*)



**Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*).** This Green Heron at Wingfield Pines, Allegheny 28 August 2010 was much more inquisitive than most others of its species. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*).** One of the best seasons for Cattle Egret in recent memory (nine counties reporting) included this bird near Hummelstown, *Dauphin* 22 November 2010. (*Drew Weber*)



**Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).** This remarkable portrait of a bird in hand was made at Little Gap on the *Northampton/Carbon* border 29 October 2010. (*Rick Wiltraut*)



**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).** *Huntingdon's* first Glossy Ibis came in the form of this bird at Old Crow Wetland 8 (here) to 9 August 2010. (*Dave and Trudy Kyler*)



**Sora (*Porzana carolina*).** Reports of this secretive species were made from 10 counties. This bird was found at a replacement wetland near Murrysville, *Westmoreland* 8 October 2010. (*Dale Matzua*)



**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).** This ibis at Church Road, Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* 2 August 2010 was one of two there in early August. One had been present since July. (*Howard Eskin*)



**Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*).** Sometimes hard to find, Black-bellied Plovers were anything but in this great season for shorebirds; this juvenile was photographed at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon* 4 October 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



**American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*).** Golden-Plovers were found in an amazing 16 counties this season; this transitional adult at Independence Marsh 2 (here) to 6 September 2010 represented Beaver's contribution to the total. (Geoff Malosh)



**Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*).** Always an exciting find, this bird was nicely photographed at Core Creek County Park, Bucks 29 September 2010. It was one of only two for the state this season, the other a flyby in Carbon. (Mike Schall)



**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*).** Surprisingly underreported in what was otherwise a memorable shorebirding season was American Avocet; these two at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 3 September 2010 represented one of only two reports for the season statewide, both from Bucks. (August Mirabella)



**Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).** Sanderlings continued a recent trend of turning up quite often away from Lake Erie and the Conejohela Flats; this bird was photographed at Shawnee State Park, Bedford 12 September 2010. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*).** A fine portrait made at Conewago Boat Launch, York 17 August 2010; this bird furnished one of at least nine records of Willet statewide this season. (Steve Dale)



**White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*).** This cooperative bird allowed remarkably close study by many birders during its stay at Independence Marsh, Beaver 27 August to 3 September 2010 (here 28 August). (Geoff Malosh)



**Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*).** The showing by Stilt Sandpipers in Pennsylvania this season was eclipsed only by that of Baird's Sandpipers. This juvenile Stilt at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 13 September 2010 was part of a (likely) unprecedented season for the species in the county. (*Ed Norman*)



**Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*).** This one-morning wonder at Black Swamp, *Lawrence* 26 September 2010 was later chased off by a Peregrine Falcon, but not before its discoverer was able to "put it on the record" with some quick digiscoping work. (*Shannon Thompson*)



**Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).** This juvenile *hendersoni* was photographed at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 21 August 2010. Both *hendersoni* and *griseus* were present that day. (*Justin Bosler*)



**Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*).** This colorful juvenile posed for many photographs at Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* 6 September 2010. (*Howard Eskin*)



**Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).** Washington's first record of this species was provided by this bird at Bentleyville 30 September 2010. (*Andy Berchin*)



**Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*).** Present at Bristol, *Bucks* 1 August 2010, this bird represented one of the earliest fall records for the species in the state's history. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



**Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).** Continuing a slow but perhaps inexorable expansion into Pennsylvania from its south-central stronghold, this collared-dove was photographed in *Northampton* 5 August 2010. (*Dave DeReamus*)



**Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*).** A species rarely photographed in Pennsylvania; this image was nicely captured in an *Economy Borough (Beaver)* yard 22 September 2010. (*Karyn Delaney*)



**Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*).** This amazing photo of a Saw-whet in flight was made at the Little Gap Bird Observatory (*Northampton/Carbon*) during a night of banding 2 November 2010. It was one of 46 birds captured that evening, part of a season total of 265 captures including 15 foreign recoveries. (*Rick Wiltraut*)



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).** A big-late season surprise was this adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a feeder in *Economy Borough, Beaver* 30 November 2010. Not seen the next day, it was certainly the latest ruby-throat for *Beaver* by a wide margin. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).** Setting another county record for late ruby-throats was this immature female at banded *Devon, Chester* 29 November 2010. According to the homeowner it stayed to 4 December. (*Nick Pulcinella*)



**Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*).** After waiting much too long for its first Allen's, which appeared in *Lancaster* in the fall of 2009, Pennsylvania had to wait less than a year for its second, an immature male at Lititz, *Lancaster* banded 8 November 2010 and last seen the morning of 13 November (here 9 November). (*Holly Merker*)



**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).** Just one of two confirmed Rufous Hummingbirds in the state this fall was this immature male at Swarthmore, *Delaware* 14 to 20 October 2010 (here 18); however there were reports of three other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds statewide which eluded confirmed identification. (*Adrian Binns*)



**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*).** This species is perhaps over-reported in fall, when confusing *Empidonax* flycatchers are generally silent, but there was no doubt about one in hand at Little Gap (*Northampton/Carbon*) 22 September 2010. (*Rick Wiltraut*)



**White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*).** This arresting close-up portrait was made at Jacobsburg State Park, *Northampton* 13 September 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).** It was another fine season for this species, with reports from 17 counties. This one was photographed at Little Gap 5 September 2010 (*Dustin Welch*)



**Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*).** It seemed a massive invasion of Black-capped Chickadees was underway by mid-October; these birds were part of an amazing flock of 700 migrating over the lake at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon* 11 October 2010. Unfortunately the invasion fizzled out before long. Still, there were several reports of this species well south of their normal range as the winter wore on. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).** This bird was one of a surprisingly nice selection of species found on the edge of a cornfield (usually overlooked by birders searching for songbirds) in *Northampton* 19 September 2010. Other good finds in this location on 19 September were Connecticut Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. (*Dustin Welch*).



**Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*).** Another rare species found more frequently in recent years is Le Conte's Sparrow. This year's marker was provided by this bird at Peace Valley Park 10 to (here) 12 October 2010. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



**Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*).** It was a fine season for Golden-crowned Kinglets, particularly in western Pennsylvania. This bird was photographed at Northmoreland Park, *Westmoreland* 31 October 2010. (*Steve Gosser*)



**Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*).** A favorite among birders, this handsome sparrow was photographed beautifully at Little Gap 21 September 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*).** Dickcissels were found in four counties this season; this bird was well studied at the Koch Farm in Northampton, here 26 October 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).** A great season for Snow Buntings in the state kicked off in early November; this bird was one of a flock of 15 at the Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny (a county where the species is quite rare) 5 November 2010. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*).** Siskins staged an impressive migration in October and November, but did not invade in numbers anything like the epic winter of 2008-09. This bird was photographed in Tioga 26 October 2010. (*Gary Tyson*)

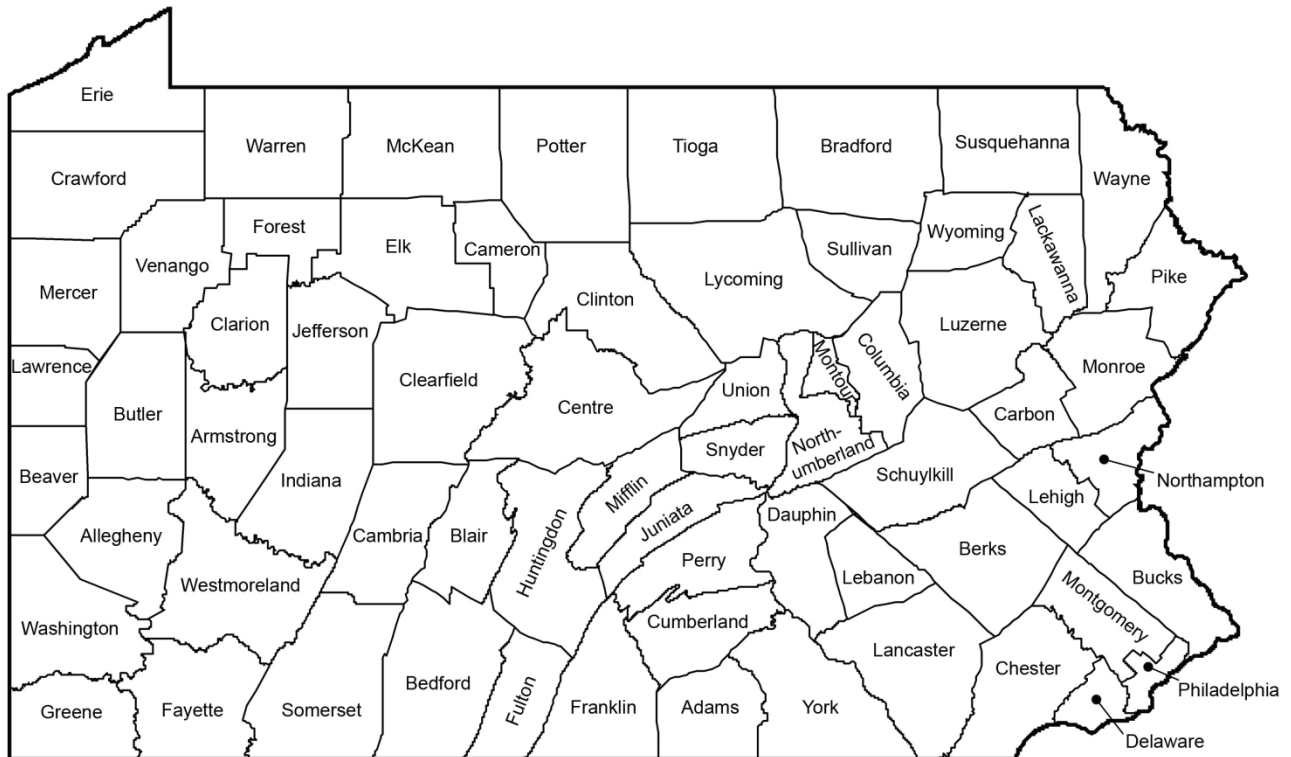


**Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).** A spate of November Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was recorded this season; this female was at Peters Township, Washington 12 to (here) 18 November 2010. (*Luke Gerben Kaspar*)



**House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).** This abnormally white (bird was photographed in a Greenville, Mercer yard 14 September 2010. (*Dawn Boyles*)

# Local Notes – August to November 2010



## ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count	m. ob.	many observers	Rte.	Route
C.P.	County Park	Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	S.F.	State Forest
Cr.	Creek	N.A.	Nature Area or Natural Area	SGL	State Game Land
et al.	and others	N.F.	National Forest	S.P.	State Park
Ft.	Fort	N.M.	National Monument	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
G.C.	Golf Course	N.P.	National Park	subad(s).	subadult(s)
G.P.	Game Preserve	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge	Twp.	Township
Hwy.	Highway	PAMC	Pennsylvania Migration Count	vr.	voice recording
imm(s).	immature(s)	ph.	Photographed	vt.	videotape
Jct.	Junction	Pt.	Point	W.A.	Wildlife Area
juv(s).	juvinal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	R.A.	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

## Adams County

Locations: Biglerville (BIGV), East Berlin (EB), Fairfield (FFLD), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Huntington Township (HUNT), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Mountain Rd. (MTN), SGL 249 (SGL).

This period provided a number of noteworthy sightings. Heading the list was a sighting of an immature **Purple Gallinule**, providing a county first.

Waterfowl reports were very limited. An 8/5 report of a female **Ring-necked Duck** on a pond along Red Bridge Rd. (MW) was the only waterfowl report of note. In posting the sighting to PABIRDS listserv, Rudy Keller noted that this observation likely reflects the occasional summertime presence of non-breeding individuals in this region.

Four **Ring-necked Pheasants** at SGL 10/24 (PK) suggested very recent stocking. There were no reports of Ruffed Grouse or of Wild Turkey. There were 3 **Double-crested Cormorants** at LPRR 9/11 (PK). There were four reports of **Great Egret** throughout the county 8/14-30, with high counts of 6 on two occasions. A late group of 8-10 **Cattle Egrets** were spotted in a field near the Harrisburg Rd. crossing of Rock Creek 10/8 (DJG). Double-digit counts of **Green Heron** were

commonplace at the SGL wetlands pond along Gun Club Rd. 8/1-15. The high count was 18 and their presence appeared to be a result of a dense population of green frogs and bullfrogs.

Raptor sightings were reasonable with 12 species reported. Single **Bald Eagles** were seen at LPRR 9/11 (PK) and at the Rte. 94 & 234 intersection 10/23 (RDS). A **Merlin** was at GNMP 11/20 (DJG).

The immature **Purple Gallinule** found at SGL 10/12 (MW) was photographed and documentation was provided to PORC. The visit was apparently very short as no additional date past 10/12 was reported. MW has provided many noteworthy *Adams* sightings throughout the years and especially during the fall migration period at SGL.

The wetlands pond at SGL along Gun Club Rd. provided some mudflats, as the PGC drained the pond for embankment repairs. Additionally, a drainage area and retention pond near FFLD provided suitable shorebird stopover habitat. Overall, 9 shorebird species were reported from these two locations. SGL reports were for the period of 8/1-15 and FFLD reports spanned 9/3-8. High counts of the more notable species include; 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** at SGL (MW), 8 **Greater Yellowlegs** at FFLD (MOB), 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at SGL (MW), 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at SGL (MW), approximately 70 **Least Sandpipers** at SGL (MW), 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at SGL (PK), and a single **Wilson's Snipe** at SGL (MW). Although SGL and FFLD

provided the most shorebird variety, single sightings of **Willet**, **Dunlin**, and **Short-billed Dowitcher** at other locations were the shorebird highlights. The **Willet** was first seen on the York side of LAR 8/19 (RC) and sporadically came to the limited *Adams* shoreline. The bird was present through at least 10/23 (m.ob.). The **Dunlin** was at LAR 11/17 (PJR). The **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at a pond along Red Bridge Rd. 8/11 (MW).

A report of a juvenile **Bonaparte's Gull**, rare for the county, came from BIGV 8/9 (MW). Two **Caspian Terns** were present at LAR 8/18 (PJR).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** seen during the week of 8/9 (MW) in Arendtsville was not the first for the county, but does represent one of only a handful of reports. A single **Short-eared Owl** was present in the early morning at SGL 10/9 (MW). **Common Nighthawk** occurred four times during their typical migration period, but all were of single birds. A count of approximately 200 **Chimney Swifts** was noted over FFLD 10/6 (RDS). Last-of-year **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at MTN on 10/8 (RDS). In 2010, *Adams* shared in the *Selasphorus* trend of recent years with an immature **Rufous Hummingbird** at an undisclosed GBG-area home. The bird first appeared on 11/19 and was subsequently banded by SL 12/4. This is the first report of a Rufous Hummingbird in the county since an extended stay of one at the Siefken home on MTN in the fall of 1996.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at MTN at different times 9/17-11/23 (RDS). A pair was at HUNT 11/13-14 (DJG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at SGL 8/11 (MW). A few irruptive woodland species showed up. Four **Black-capped Chickadees** were at EB on 10/30 (PK). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported at various state locations in late Aug, and one was at MTN 8/29 (RDS). Three other reports included a pair at EB 10/30 (PK) and singles at MTN on 10/24 and 11/10 (RDS). **Brown Creeper** was at HUNT 11/28 (DJG). Both kinglets were found. A pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was at SGL 11/28 (PK), and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at MTN 10/5 (RDS).

An interesting report of an **Eastern Bluebird** with a ringneck snake in its beak came from MTN 8/16 (RDS). This location also had a nice count of up to 100 **Eastern Bluebirds** 9/21 (RDS). A lone **American Pipit** was at SGL 10/13 (RK).

Sixteen species of warbler were reported, with the majority of reports from MTN. Reports comprised the expected migrants during typical a fall migration. No fallouts were reported. Most significant of the warbler sightings was a very late female **Northern Parula** at MTN 11/30 (RDS). This is likely a new *Adams* last date for this species.

Also seemingly late was an **Eastern Towhee** at GNMP on 11/20 (DJG). Sparrow reports were decent. Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at Possum Hollow Rd. 8/21 (PK). **Savannah Sparrows** included a single at GNMP 8/17 (RCa) and 5 at SGL 10/13 (RK). A **Fox Sparrow** was at MTN 11/16 (RDS). The best sparrow of the period was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at SGL 10/13 (RK). A pair of **Swamp Sparrows** was found at SGL 10/24 (PK). A single **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared at MTN 11/4 (RDS). **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at GNMP 8/6 (RCa) and GBG 8/8 (TJ).

Northern finches made a showing. **Purple Finches** were at MTN 10/1 and 5 on 10/5 (RDS), at HUNT 10/18 and 11/13-14 (DJG), and a pair was at EB 10/30-31 (PK). **Pine Siskin** reports were of a single at EB 10/31 (PK), and at MTN 11/18 and 10 on 11/23 (RDS).

**EXOTICS:** A hunting dog club released a number of **Chukar** at SGL along Gun Club Rd. in Aug. Their behavior was that of domestic chickens, pecking along the gravel shoulders of Gun Club Rd.

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### **Allegheny County**

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park and Wingfield Pines Area (BMP), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Findlay Township (FT), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP).

The season was warm and dry with unseasonably mild temperatures hanging on in October. By the middle of November rain and colder temperatures were in place. Several county rarities (and one state rarity) were found during this lengthy season when a variety of

migrant species from waterfowl to sparrows are moving through.

**Tundra Swans** passed through beginning 10/29 when a flock flew over Ross Twp. (BM). My mid-Nov reports were more frequent with approximately 100 flying over Tarentum 11/15 (RP), a flock flew over Forest Hills after dark 11/18 (TBI, MB), 24 flew over Brentwood 11/20 (DF), a flock flew over Plum Borough 11/26; heard but not seen (AH, PM) and approximately 60 flew over Pine Twp. 11/26 (PL, SL).

A flock of 14 **Wood Ducks** was at HHP 9/18 (MF). A **Gadwall** was at DASH 10/30 (MV). An **American Wigeon** in FT 11/20 was the only one reported (MV). There were only two reports of **American Black Duck**: 2 at Blawnox 11/28 (DY) and one at FT 11/29 (MV). **Blue-winged Teal** reports included 4 at NP 9/4 (MV), 2 in FT 9/5 growing to 5 at that location 9/24 (MV) and 2 at BMP 10/7 (SC). Two **Northern Pintails** were in FT 9/24-29 (MV). Two **Green-winged Teal** were at IMP 11/6 (MV) and 6 were at NP 11/19 (MV). A **Ring-necked Duck** was in FT 11/20 (MV), surprisingly the only report. Single **Lesser Scaup** were at DASH 10/14 (MV) and Blawnox 11/28 (DY). A female **Surf Scoter** was at Aspinwall 11/8 (DY). A female or immature **Black Scoter** was also at Aspinwall 11/7-14 (DY, et al.), providing the fourth county record. Two **Bufflehead** were at Duck Hollow 11/20 (YC), 2 were at Harmar Twp. 11/26 (AH, PM) and 2 were at Blawnox 11/28 (DY). A **Ruddy Duck** was at IMP 10/10 (MV), 4 were at DASH 10/19 and 2 were in FT 11/20-29 (MV). A **Hooded Merganser** was at DASH 10/30 (MV), 7 were at NP 11/19 (MV), 5 were at Harmar Twp. 11/27 (AH, PM) and one was in Etna 11/28 (DY). Two **Common Mergansers** were in Etna 9/21-26 (DY), 14 were at Fox Chapel 11/14 (AH, PM) and 12 were at Etna 11/28 (DY).

The only **Horned Grebe** report was on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox where 2 birds were present 11/28. **Double-crested Cormorants** were at DASH in Sept and Oct with a high count of 19 on 9/1 (MV).

An **American Bittern** was found in the IMP area 10/2 (BC); the first since 2008. Extremely rare in *Allegheny* and sw. Pennsylvania, a **Cattle Egret** was found with a small herd of cattle in Marshall Twp. It was first noted as an ebird entry 11/9 (JHe, *fide* MV), but the owner of the cattle stated it was first seen 11/5 (OG). This rarity attracted numerous local birders during its stay and was last seen 11/18 (OG). The last confirmed record was in 1967! There was an unconfirmed sight record by a non-birder who provided a convincing description in 2004, however that bird was never relocated. The last report of **Green Heron** for the season came from Pine Twp. 9/29 (PL, SL). Strangely there was not a single report of **Great Egret** this fall.

A flock of 43 **Turkey Vultures** was observed at Elrama 10/14 (AB). A somewhat late **Turkey Vulture** was seen flying over Penn Hills 11/26 (DY) although in recent years seeing a few during the winter isn't unheard of. An **Osprey** was along the Allegheny R. in the Sharpsburg and Etna areas from 8/18 through September (DY, TB). One was at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 9/12, and 2 were there 9/19 (DY). One was observed flying over the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 9/24 (TBI). A **Bald Eagle** was seen along the Allegheny R. at Barking Slopes 9/26 (KSJ); an adult was at DASH 10/14, two were there 10/19 (MV) and an adult was there 11/5 (GM). An adult was seen flying over Brackenridge 11/27 (RP) and continued across the Allegheny R. to *Westmoreland*. A **Merlin** was a nice find at NP 10/4 (BVN) and was seen again 10/6 (POB) and 10/14 (DN). Now that construction is complete on the 62nd Street Bridge in Lawrenceville/Etna, the displaced **Peregrine Falcons** apparently returned. One was seen there 9/13 and 9/21 (DY). Two were nearby in Etna 9/23 (DY).

Shorebird reports were rather dismal this fall. Despite extensive mudflats at North Park, shorebirds were not as numerous as in spring. There was a lot of heavy machinery working to dredge the now drained lake this summer and fall, so the activity most likely discouraged shorebirds. Development continues at Imperial and by August the grassland around the main pond at Bald Knob was completely bulldozed into a field of mud. The pond remains as of this writing, however shorebird reports were few.

A **Semipalmated Plover** at BMP 8/24 (SC) was the only report. There were only single reports of both yellowlegs for the entire season! A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at IMP 9/4-8 (MF, DW, ST) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 8/16 (MV). Up to 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP in August (LM, CD, GM, MV) with one remaining 9/8 (DW, ST). Singles were found at BMP 8/24 and 9/5 (SC), Barati's Ponds in Jefferson Borough 8/24 (SSn) and NP 9/4 (MV). The only **Semipalmated Sandpiper** report came from IMP along with a **Least Sandpiper** 8/22 (GM). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at NP 9/4 (MV) and 9/29 (BC), and one was at IMP 9/8 (DW, ST). The highlight of the

shorebirds was a **Baird's Sandpiper** at IMP 9/3-8 (GM, et al.), the first since 2005. Usually more commonly reported, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at NP 9/29 (BC) was the only report for the season.

S.A.

There is a **Wilson's Phalarope** update from the spring 2010 season. In the spring report, a **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported at Wingfield Pines 5/8 and at Imperial later that day. Due to the rarity of this species in the county and relatively close proximity of both locations it was listed in the report as "possibly" a single bird that moved from Wingfield Pines to Imperial. From a chance conversation months later, some questioning of observers regarding the time the birds were seen at both locations, and comparison of photographs of both birds, it was determined there were indeed two birds (both males) present that day. Thanks to Dave Wilton for bringing this to my attention and Malcolm Harter and Steve Gosser for sharing their photographs and details of their observations. The additional bird provided the ninth county record.

A late **Forster's Tern** flew past DASH 10/13 (MV).

Numerous **Eastern Screech-Owl** reports were submitted during the entire season from nine locations. Most were calling but one was found roosting at Frick Park 9/25 (TM, NM). **Great Horned Owls** were heard in West Mifflin 9/23 (CD) and at Barking Slopes in Plum Borough 9/26 (KSJ). One was heard in another part of Plum Borough 10/16 (AH, PM) and one was perched in a tree at NP 11/19 (MV).

Migrant **Common Nighthawks** were seen in small numbers this fall with the highest count of only 41 at Moon Twp. 8/30 (GM). One was observed roosting in a tree in Pine Twp. 8/30 (PL, SL).

I received a surprising report from a fellow county compiler of a hummingbird seen flying inside the Consol Energy Center arena in Pittsburgh during a Penguin's hockey game 11/27 (DG). It was only seen briefly as it flew past, however other members of the crowd recognized it as a hummingbird. Unfortunately the species and fate of the bird remains undetermined.

There were three reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a rare bird in the county. An immature was at Sewickley Heights Park 8/27 (BJ) during a Three Rivers Birding Club outing. One was seen in flight in Mount Lebanon 10/12 (ST) and another was at BMP 11/12 (SC). This species was last reported in *Allegheny* in 2007. Late Sept brought the arrival of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** to many locations.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at BMP 9/5 (SC); the only report of this species for the fall. Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported at Sewickley Heights Park 8/18 (BVN), Plum Borough 8/20-21 (RG, SGe), HHP 9/5 (PH), Sewickley Heights Park 9/6 (MV), and Beechwood Farms 9/16 (BC). There were two reports of **Acadian Flycatcher** in Sep: one at Beechwood Farms 9/15 (BC) and one singing at NP 9/22 (POB). Occasionally they do sing in the fall which is a benefit when trying to identify a lone flycatcher that belongs to this confusing genus. A rather late **Eastern Phoebe** lingered at BMP 11/6 (JM). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was a nice find at NP 9/18 (SC); this species is not always reported in fall. A **Red-eyed Vireo** was observed feeding a begging juvenile at BMP on the late date of 9/11 (ST).

**American Crows** were flying over Forest Hills 11/11 en route to the roost site in Pittsburgh. A total of 2250 were counted as they flew over (TBI, MB). A **Fish Crow** was heard as it flew over the Strip District 11/27. Thousands of **American Crows** were in the area perched on buildings and walking on lawns, apparently staging and feeding prior to going to a roost site (RT). The crow roost continues to move around the Pittsburgh area from year to year. **Common Raven** sightings include one perched on a street lamp in FT near the Pittsburgh Airport 8/28 (MF), one in Hazelwood 9/21 (DY), 2 at IMP 9/24 (MV) and 2 at Brunots Island on the Ohio R. 10/30 (MV).

Two late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at DASH 10/3 (MV). It was a good fall for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** with numerous reports from thirteen locations. **Marsh Wren** reports were good for this county rarity this fall. All were found in the wetlands at Wingfield Pines near BMP. One was found 9/22 (ST) and another 9/23 (DW, ST). Two were present 10/14 (DW, ST), and one 11/3-4 (DW, ST) and 11/8 (CD).

There was a large movement of thrushes 9/11, detected by flight calls at dawn in Moon Twp. A few **Veeries** were detected, dozens of **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, an estimated 1500 **Swainson's Thrushes**, one **Hermit Thrush** and hundreds of **Wood Thrushes** (GM). Hundreds

of **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard the morning of 9/26 at the same location, but no other species were detected that morning (GM). An **American Robin** was feeding a juvenile in a backyard Penn Hills at the late date of 9/9 (MF). **American Robin** roosts became active in Sep. One in Ross Twp. has been active for several years and many birds were observed the entire month of Sep (MK). Activity at the large roost near Carnegie was noted 9/20 (SK).

A total of 32 species of warblers were tallied during the fall migration. **Orange-crowned Warbler** reports were good with single birds at Beechwood Farms 8/31 (BSh), Sewickley 9/14 (DN), Jefferson Borough 9/25 (SSn), Pine Twp. 9/25 (PL, SL), HHP 9/26 (PH), NP 10/3 (POB, BC), HHP 10/9 (MF, SG), Oakland 10/11 (TBI) and NP 10/19 (POB). A **Northern Parula** was at Beechwood Farms 9/15 (BC) and one was at NP 9/18 (POB). **Cape May Warbler** reports were very good. Interesting totals include 5 at IMP 9/5 (MV), 5 in Natrona Heights 9/23 (PH) and 6 at IMP 9/28 (BC); normally they are reported singly. A bird even managed to get itself trapped in a garage in Natrona Heights 10/12 (PH)! Fortunately it was freed. **Prairie Warblers** are rarely recorded during migration so a bird photographed at HHP 9/4 was a rare discovery (SG). One was also found at IMP 9/5 (MV), however it could be an individual that bred at that site, but it's impossible to know for certain. **Palm Warblers** were regularly reported at BMP and NP during the season. Others were reported at Beechwood Farms 8/31 (BSh), Imperial 9/15 (MV) and 10/1-2 (BC) and Knob Hill Park 9/26 (KD). There were two reports of "**Yellow**" **Palm Warblers**: one at NP 10/3 (BC) and one in West Deer Twp. 11/13 (DY). Rarely found in fall, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 8/27 (BVN). **Northern Waterthrush** reports were more numerous than usual for the fall season. Single birds were at HHP 9/12 (CT), NP 9/19 (BC), BMP 9/25 (BC), HHP 9/26 (PH) and Frick Park 10/2 (MF). A late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen at NP 9/4 (MV). The observer had a close view so it was distinguished from northern. A **Kentucky Warbler** was another nice find for fall at Boyce Park in Plum Borough 9/4 (AH, PM). **Connecticut Warbler** reports were numerous by *Allegheny* standards. One was observed at close range and photographed at HHP 9/11 (SG); it was relocated 9/12 (DW, ST). One was at Beechwood Farms 9/21 (BVN), one was at BMP 9/25 (ST) and one was at Sewickley Heights Park 10/1 (DN). Single **Mourning Warblers** were found at Sewickley Heights Park 8/18 (BVN) and Knob Hill Park 9/26 (KD, SC). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at BMP 8/24 (SC) provided a rare fall record.

A **Field Sparrow** was lingering at BMP 11/4 (ST). A **Vesper Sparrow** and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** were seen at IMP 8/22 (GM). **Savannah Sparrows** were numerous at IMP 10/1 along with a single **Grasshopper Sparrow** (BC). A **Fox Sparrow** was at NP 10/17 (POB) and one was at Deer Lakes Park 11/3 (PB). This species was present at BMP 10/23-11/20 (DW, ST, SC) with a high count of 5 on 11/4 (ST). One was present at feeders in Pine Twp. 11/1-23 with 2 present 11/16 (PL, SL). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported widely this fall with very good counts of 15 at NP 10/3-4 (POB, BC, BVN). A **Dark-eyed ("Cassiar") Junco** with a dark gray hood, gray flanks and a slightly reddish/tan mantle (*Junco hyemalis cismontanus*) visited a feeding area briefly in Harmar Twp. 11/19 (JV).

A flock of 15 - 20 **Snow Buntings** were at IMP 11/16 (MF). Although recorded fairly recently (2008), this is a rarity in the county. This group was very cooperative for observers while they fed on weed seeds for a few hours.

A **Rusty Blackbird** was at IMP 10/2 (BC), 2 were at HHP 10/4 (MF, JV) and 4 were at BMP 11/2 (JM). Flocks of hundreds of **Common Grackles** were noted in Pine Twp. from mid-Sept to early Oct (PL, SL). Thousands were seen in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 10/11 (KSJ).

**Purple Finch** reports were very good. The first was at Knob Hill Park 9/26 (KD) followed by numerous reports the entire month of October from NP, Pine Twp., Crafton, Upper St Clair, and BMP (m.ob.). The highest counts include 6 at NP 10/10 (POB), 6 at Crafton 10/29 (SC) and 6 in Pine Twp. 10/31 (PL, SL). The last report for the season was in Hampton Twp. where a single bird visited a feeder 11/7 (DN).

There were encouraging reports of **Pine Siskins** in Oct and Nov. The first was a single bird flying over Penn Hills 10/10 (MF). Four visited feeders in Pine Twp. 10/28-29 with one remaining 10/30-31; 12 were present there 11/1 and smaller numbers remained to 11/22 (PL, SL). Seven visited a feeder in Upper St. Clair 11/1 (DW, ST) increasing to 16 by 11/4 (ST), one visited a feeder in Hampton Twp. 11/4, followed by 4 on 11/7 (DN), and one visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 11/16 (SSn).

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## Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Leechburg (LB), Vandergrift (VG).

High counts of **Canada Goose** were 161 at KR 10/7 (MH) and 149 at CC 10/22 (MVT). Nine **Tundra Swans** appeared at CC 11/16 (MVT) and remained through 11/18 (MVT); CC's high was 27 on 11/19 (MS). A single **American Black Duck** at CC 11/26 (MVT) was the only one noted. **Mallard** counts included 29 on 9/16 (MH) and 15 on 10/7 (MH), both at KR. KR also hosted 3 **Green-winged Teal** 10/7 (MH). One **Ring-necked Duck** stopped at CC 10/22 (MVT). Seven **Common Mergansers** were still present at CC 11/26 (MVT). Five **Ruddy Ducks** landed at CC 10/19 (MVT).

CC harbored 2 **Common Loons** 11/18 (MVT). A **Double-crested Cormorant** visited CC 8/27 (MVT). Four **Great Blue Herons** were listed at KR 9/16 (MH) and 10/7 (MH). Single **Great Egrets** were found 9/10 (MVT) near LB and 9/16 (MH) at KR. Last **Green Herons** were 2 sighted at KR 9/16 (MH).

Three **Turkey Vultures** 10/16 (MVT) at CC were last. **Osprey** reports included singletons near VG 9/20 (MVT), at Milton Loop 10/16 (MVT), and at CC 10/28 (MVT). **Bald Eagles** were noted on nine dates, of which six reports occurred at CC; an immature bird was found 9/16 (MH) at KR where an adult was observed 10/7 (MH); another adult was near VG 9/20 (MVT).

Two **Semipalmated Plovers** visited CC 8/22 (AH). Last **Killdeer** noted were 26 at CC 10/28 (MVT). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** stopped at KR 10/7 (MH). Last **Spotted Sandpipers** were 2 found at Robb's Fording 8/21 (SG) and 2 at KR 9/16 (MH). CC hosted a **Least Sandpiper** and a **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/21 (SG); the Baird's was still present the following day (AH). The only **Ring-billed Gulls** reported were 2 on 11/7 (MH) at KR, where the water level was extremely low. A **Herring Gull** on the river at VG 9/20 (MVT) was the lone report.

Twenty-three **Chimney Swifts** at CC 9/15 (MH) were the last noted. Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** occurred 9/22 (MVT) near LB. Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at KR 10/7 (MH) and at CC 10/10-11 (MVT).

Last dates included 10/7 (MH) near Elderton for **Eastern Phoebe**, 8/27 (MVT) at CC for **Great Crested Flycatcher**, 8/16 (MVT) at Cherry Run for **Eastern Kingbird**, 10/13 (MVT) at CC for **Blue-headed Vireo**, and 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT) at CC for both **Warbling Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo**. A **Common Raven** was found at CC 8/12-11/16 (MVT). A **Winter Wren** appeared at CC 10/13 (MVT) while 2 were at Milton Loop 10/16 (MVT). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** lingered near VG 9/20 (MVT).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through the county between 10/7 (MH) when 6 were counted at KR and 10/19 (MVT) when the last was spotted at CC. A **Swainson's Thrush** stopped at CC 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT). CC hosted the last **Gray Catbird** 10/28 (MVT) and the last **Brown Thrasher** 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT).

KR yielded a **Tennessee Warbler** 10/7 (MH). CC produced the last 2 **Yellow Warblers** 8/16 (MVT) and the last **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT). **Magnolia Warbler** reports included 2 at CC 9/15 (MH) and 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT) and a singleton at KR 10/7 (MH). **Cape May Warblers** moved through CC between 8/27 (MVT) when one was listed and 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT) when the last 2 were sighted; 2 were also at KR 9/16 (MH). One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and the first 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** stopped at KR 10/7 (MH); best count of the latter was 15 at Milton Loop 10/16 (MVT). Five was a good count of **Black-throated Green Warblers** 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT), but 2 at KR 10/7 (MH) were last. A **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/15 (MH) at CC and a **Prairie Warbler** 10/7 (MH) at KR were the last noted.

Best **Blackpoll Warbler** tally was 5 at CC 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT); 3 were noted at KR 10/7 (MH), and last were 2 at CC 10/11 (MVT). Other last dates included 9/15 (MH) for **Black-and-white Warbler** and **Ovenbird** at CC. Four **Common Yellowthroats** remained at KR 9/16 (MH). Three **Hooded Warbler** were still at CC 9/15 (MH) and the last report was also one at CC 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT). A **Wilson's Warbler** at KR 9/16 (MH) was the season's lone report. **Scarlet Tanager** was last found at Robb's Fording 9/16 (MVT).

October 28 (MVT) was the last date at CC for both **Eastern Towhees** and **Chipping Sparrows**. Two **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 4 **Swamp Sparrows**, 2 **White-throated Sparrows**, and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** in the same shrub row at KR 10/7 (MH) were nice finds. The White-throats were first arrivals, but 14 were counted at CC 10/10 (MVT). CC hosted the first 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/6 (MVT) and **Armstrong's** last 10/28 (MVT). First **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared at CC 10/13 (MVT). Last were a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 10/11 (MVT) and an **Indigo Bunting** 9/23 (MH, JV, MVT), both at CC. A single **Pine Siskin** appeared near LB 10/27 (MVT).

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## Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

The fall waterfowl migration was generally unremarkable, with a few exceptions. **Canada Geese** reached a maximum of 132 at IND 9/28 (MV), an amalgamation of local breeders and their young of the year. **Tundra Swan** southbound migration in Nov went unreported save one big day 11/24, when MV counted 220 over IND and 65 over RCSP, for an impressive one-day total of 285.

A **Gadwall** was at Rochester 11/10-12 (BS), the only report. The enigmatic **American Black Duck** was reported but twice: one at BBW 9/3 (MV) and one at Rochester 11/10-12 (BS). It was interesting to track the size and dynamics of a flock of **Blue-winged Teal** at IND in Sep. Beginning with a report of 3 there 8/28 (MF, MV), the flock grew to 24 by 9/8 and peaked at 33 on 9/17 (MV, GM). Double digit daily counts persisted to 9/30, and the last report was of 6 on 10/4 (MV). The species was also reported in small numbers twice at BBW in the first half of Sep (MV) and at AR 9/28 (BS). **Green-winged Teal** sightings were more limited. One was at BBW 9/11-18 (MV) and one was at IND 9/17 (MV), the only report of the species there. A good count of 17 was at BBW 10/1 (MV), and 11 were at AR 11/22 (BS). The only report of **Bufflehead** was of 5 at Rochester 11/19 (MV). The first post-breeding **Hooded Merganser** appeared 9/11 at BBW (MV). Twelve **Common Mergansers** stopped at AR 11/12-22 (BS). On the last day of their stay they were joined by singles of **Hooded Merganser** and **Red-breasted Merganser**, making for a rare 3-merganser day in *Beaver* 11/22 (BS). A very early **Ruddy Duck** was at IND 8/23 (MV, GM); otherwise the only other report was of one at AR 11/24 (MV).

A **Common Loon** was at RCSP 11/24 (MV) on the same day as the large **Tundra Swan** flyovers. The first **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at Hereford Manor Lake 11/22 (SD). The only **Horned Grebe** for the season was at Rochester 11/10-12 (BS). First **Double-crested Cormorants** were located at Beaver Falls 8/26 (MV). An impressive count of 22 **Great Blue Herons** was made at IND 9/11 (MV). The only **Great Egret** of the season was on the Beaver River at New Brighton 8/1 (MV). Last **Green Herons** were 2 at IND 9/21 (GM).

**Osprey** reports were limited to one at IND 8/28 (ST, DW) and 2 at AR 9/28 (BS). Two adult **Bald Eagles** from the summer season continued at IND to at least 8/15 (m.ob.), and one was there 9/24 (GM). An early **Merlin** was at an odd location in Beaver Falls 9/22 (SG). Though this date is certainly not unprecedented for the region, it is still notable by *Beaver's* historical standards. One or two **Peregrine Falcons** persisted in the Monaca area though Oct (m.ob.). One was seen perched on the Ambridge-Woodlawn Bridge on three occasions in early Nov (GM); it remains to be seen whether anything will become of this (i.e., a new nesting site) as spring approaches.

A **Sora** was seen repeatedly at BBW 9/11-18 (MV). The only reports of **American Coot** were one at Hereford Manor Lake 10/22 (SD) and one at Rochester 11/19 (MV).

IND saw perhaps its most impressive season for shorebirds on record, owing to moderate drought conditions in the region in late summer. It's unfortunate that Little Blue Lake is generally inaccessible anymore; it's anyone's guess what might have showed up there in a season like this. Still, IND's accessibility and small size provided county birders with some excellent opportunities to closely study the 14 species reported there this season. All shorebird sightings that follow are from IND unless otherwise noted.

For the second consecutive season an **American Golden-Plover** was recorded at IND, this year represented by a molting adult present 9/2-6 (MV, ph. GM). Small numbers of **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported throughout Aug but not after 8/30 (m.ob.). Peak **Killdeer** count was exactly 100 on 9/11 (MV). Smaller numbers persisted to the end of the season, as usual. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared 9/18 (GM), with one staying to at least 9/30. Four were reported 9/28 (BS). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were more visible, with one to four reported nearly every day between 8/15 and 9/17 (m.ob.). As was the case with Blue-winged Teal, it was interesting to note the fluctuating numbers of **Solitary Sandpipers** at the marsh through the season. The following table summarizes notable daily counts of the species by various observers. It's interesting to speculate just how much actual turnover in individuals occurred from day to day, and how much of the variability in counts was due to inaccuracy by observers, or to individual birds using nearby and out-of-sight areas for foraging without actually migrating, giving the appearance of fluctuating flock size. Of course it's just that: only speculation, but interesting speculation nonetheless.

**Counts of Solitary Sandpiper at Independence Marsh, Fall 2010**

Date	Count	Date	Count
8/1	20	9/11	11
8/4	29	9/13	6
8/8	24	9/16	5
8/15	19	9/17	5
8/21	26	9/24	5
8/25	25	9/26	2
8/28	20	9/28	2
8/30	30	9/30	5
9/2	13	10/3	5
9/4	4	10/4	1
9/6	13	10/9	1

**Spotted Sandpiper** persisted until 9/13. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported only three times: 8/30 (MV), 9/6 (MV, GM), and 9/11 (MV). A number of **Least Sandpipers** was present for much of Aug and Sep. Seven birds were present 8/1, and at least that many were reported daily until 9/13, peaking at 10 on two different days (m.ob.). One stayed until 9/30. A molting **White-rumped Sandpiper** discovered 8/27 (MV) allowed a memorable close study through 9/3 and provided just the second record for the marsh. **Baird's Sandpipers** staged a great flight in western Pennsylvania this season, with IND providing *Beaver's* contribution to the record. One Baird's was there 9/8 (GM), and two were seen daily 9/16-24 (GM, m.ob.). An interesting observation was made by GM on one of the birds there beginning 9/16—one of the two appeared to have an injury on its upper back. This was notable because a Baird's Sandpiper with an injured upper back was found a week earlier by GM at nearby Bald Knob in *Allegheny*, last seen there 9/7. The bird at IND appeared to be in much better shape (but still injured) than the bird at Bald Knob... if it was the same bird it was interesting to note the speed of its recovery between sightings on 9/7 and 9/16. One or two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found periodically between 8/28 and 9/16, and 6 were present 9/6 (MV, GM). A **Stilt Sandpiper** put on a show 9/18-20 (ph. GM), and a second bird appeared 9/28 (BS). A **Wilson's Snipe** 11/2 (GM) completed the marsh's run to 14 species for the season.

Away from IND notable shorebird reports included the following. The reservoir at Brady's Run Park was drawn down, and sightings 8/8 included one **Semipalmated Plover**, 15 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and one **Least Sandpiper** (MV). Unfortunately the lakebed was apparently not checked later in the season. Shorebird habitat also formed at BBW, where sightings included 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/18, 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** 9/3-18, 8 **Least Sandpipers** 8/27 with at least 3 continuing to 9/18, one or 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 9/3-18, and one **Wilson's Snipe** 10/1 (all MV).

A first cycle **Laughing Gull** at the dam in Beaver Falls 8/26 (MV) was a big surprise and provided the third record for *Beaver*. It was not

seen thereafter. **Ring-billed Gulls** were back on the Beaver R. by 8/1 (MV) and small numbers were occasionally reported throughout the season. A **Herring Gull** was on the Beaver R. 8/1 (MV); *Beaver* still inexplicably awaits its first breeding record of this species, despite several established colonies on the rivers of *Allegheny* including one just one mile from the *Beaver* line at Dashields Dam.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at IND 10/9 (MV) was a bit late. **Common Nighthawks** were reported only from IND 8/30 (MV) and ECON 9/22 (KD). IND attracted large flocks of **Chimney Swifts** which hawked for insects over the marsh in the late afternoons; peak was 70 on 9/30 (MV). Two persisted there to at least 10/11 (GM). A hummingbird reported at a feeder in late Nov in ECON (L&PF) was surprisingly confirmed (and photographed) by GM 11/30 as an adult male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. This not only set a new late date for the species in *Beaver* by nearly four weeks, but was doubly surprising as an adult male, which are normally the first rubythroats to head south in the fall, sometimes as early as mid-Aug. The bird was not seen 12/1 or thereafter. The homeowners, P&LF, also described a second hummingbird present in late Nov, this one likely a female or immature, but this was never confirmed and only the adult male rubythroat was present 11/30. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported twice just two days apart: one at ECON 10/1 (KD) and one at IND 10/3 (MV).

Last **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at AR 9/10 (BS). **Eastern Phoebe** held on in ECON until 9/25 (KD) and at IND until 10/3 (MV). A late **White-eyed Vireo** was located at BBW 10/1 (MV). Even more surprising was a late **Yellow-throated Vireo** at IND 10/4 (MV), which was accompanied by a **Blue-headed Vireo**. Last **Warbling Vireo** was at ECON 9/25 (KD), as was the last **Red-eyed Vireo** 10/4 (KD).

**Black-capped Chickadees** staged a mass invasion into the lower Great Lakes region for the first time in many years. Though no super-flocks were seen in sw. Pennsylvania, *Beaver* nonetheless felt the effects of the event in early Nov, when pure-bred black-caps were reported at IND 11/2 (MV) and in Independence Twp. later in the same week (GM), well south into what is usually Carolina territory. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** returned beginning 9/22 in ECON (KD) and were reported from then to the end of the season. **Brown Creepers** were reported frequently from four locations, and were most notable at AR beginning 9/10 (BS) and thereafter. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** appeared in impressive numbers in Oct, and small flocks persisted at AR to the end of the season (m.ob.). A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at IND 11/2 (BS).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** responded to pishing at AR 9/28 (BS) for the only report. **Swainson's Thrushes** were much more easily found this season, with several reports from ECON (KD) and AR (BS) in the latter half of Sep through 10/1. A **Hermit Thrush** at AR 11/12 (BS) might have been setting up for the winter. Last **Wood Thrush** was found at AR 9/28 (BS). A few **Gray Catbirds** held on at IND to 10/9 (MV), but **Brown Thrasher** did not stay past 9/24 there (MV). Six **American Pipits** were at BBW 10/1 (MV), one was at IND 10/3 (MV), and 7 were at IND 11/6 (SC), comprising all reports.

No rare warblers were reported this season, but good coverage of county hotspots in late Sep and early Oct resulted in some solid last dates for several species, rather than the bogus, too-early last dates often brought on by poor coverage that is too common in this under-birded county. Some of these last dates included: **Tennessee Warbler** at IND 10/4 (BS), **Nashville Warbler** at IND 10/4 (BS), **Magnolia Warbler** 9/28 at AR (BS), **Cape May Warbler** at ECON 10/1 (KD), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Hereford Manor Lake 10/22 (SD) and a flock of 30 at AR 11/9 (BS), **Black-throated Green Warbler** at IND 10/4 (BS), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Beaver Falls 8/27 (MV) (normally an early departing migrant and often not reported after Jul), **Prairie Warbler** at BBW 9/11 (MV), **Palm Warbler** at IND 10/4 (BS), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at IND 10/4 (BS), **Blackpoll Warbler** at AR 10/4 (BS), **Common Yellowthroat** at IND 10/3 (MV), and **Hooded Warbler** at IND 10/9 (MV). A **Wilson's Warbler** at IND 8/30 (MV) was the only report for the species and the only moderately unusual warbler reported for the season.

A female **Summer Tanager** was reported in ECON 9/20 (KD, no doc). **Scarlet Tanagers** persisted at RCSP to 9/20 (KSJ).

A well described towhee sp. with plenty of white spotting was reported at IND around noon on 11/1 (BS). Unfortunately the description fell just short of confirmation, but if not a Spotted Towhee, it was almost certainly at least an Eastern x Spotted hybrid, which would be just as significant a sighting in Pennsylvania as a pure Spotted. The bird was not seen later in the day or the next. First **American Tree Sparrows**

appeared at IND 11/4 (JM). **Chipping Sparrows** were still being seen at IND up to 10/3 (MV). The last **Field Sparrow** reported was at Hereford Manor Lake 10/22 (SD). **Fox Sparrows** were first reported at IND 11/1 (BS), and a great tally of 8 or more was made there 11/2 (GM). Smaller numbers persisted until 11/12. At least 25 **Song Sparrows** were counted during a sparrow search at IND 9/28 (GM). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported sparingly at IND 9/26-11/8 (m.ob.), and one was at Hereford Manor Lake 10/22 (SD). **Swamp Sparrows** were still hanging on at IND 11/6 (SC). Thirteen **White-crowned Sparrows** at IND 10/3 (MV) led off their migration this season. Smaller numbers were seen there through 11/6.

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was still in ECON 10/1 (KD). A nice flock of 120 **Common Grackles** were in ECON 8/1 (KD), but the larger, sometimes four-digit flocks that are found later in the season some years were not reported in the county this fall. Last **Baltimore Oriole** was in ECON 9/25 (KD).

**Pine Siskins** appeared in early Nov but would not end up staging an invasion as they did in the epic winter of 2008-09. First were two heard over IND 11/2 (GM), 2 were at a feeder in Beaver Falls 11/7 (SB), and 2 were located at AR 11/9 (BS).

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### **Bedford County**

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Dunning Creek Wetlands, (DCW, including White-tail Wetlands (WTW)), Shaffer Mountain (SH), Shawnee State Park (SSP).

Any sightings without initials are those of the author. A few early December counts of significance are included in this summary since the author will be out of state during that period. Some of the more unusual and/or uncommon birds of the period were **Cackling Geese**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Black Scoter**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Willet**, **Sanderlings**, and **Wilson's Phalarope**.

Weather for the period was dry and warm until late Nov when flooding rains were followed by dropping temperatures and snow in early Dec. On 11/26, 275 **Canada Geese** were counted at DCW which including a large number of "lesser" Canada Geese (AL, CR, AF). Two **Cackling Geese** among hundreds of Canada Geese were observed at SSP 12/3 (AL, AF). A **Trumpeter Swan** without a neckband stayed for approximately a week starting 10/24 at DCW; however, this individual had odd neck movements and was underweight. It could be suffering from chronic lead poisoning, which is not an unusual problem with Trumpeter Swans. Unfortunately, lead pellets are hidden in sediments in the marshes and lakes throughout the country waiting to be consumed by waterfowl. Although lead shot is now banned for waterfowl hunting, it is still allowed for small game hunting where it creates a particular problem with its accumulation within agricultural fields. Movement of **Tundra Swans** picked up at the end of October with flocks of 35 on 10/29, 55 on 10/31, and 126 on 11/24, all reported at the AFHW. Counts for other waterfowl were as follows: 8 **Wood Duck** at DCW 9/29, 29 **Gadwall** at SSP 11/26, 4 **American Widgeon** at DCW 10/29 (AL, CR), 18 **American Black Ducks** at DCW 10/19, one **Black Duck x Mallard** at DCW 10/19, 103 **Mallards** at DCW 11/4, 5 **Blue-winged Teal** at DCW 9/19, 2 **Northern Shoveler** at DCW 9/24, 20 **Northern Pintail** at DCW 10/6, 19 **Green-winged Teal** at DCW 11/19, one **Canvasback** at SSP 11/25, one **Common Goldeneye** at DCW 11/4, 74 **Hooded Mergansers** at SSP 11/26 (AL), 11 **Common Merganser** at SSP 10/26, 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** at SSP 10/19 (AL), and 8 **Ruddy Ducks** at DCW 10/31.

**Ring-necked Pheasants** are doing well within the county, which in part may be due to the plummeting population of red foxes, itself possibly due to coywolf predation. Thirty-eight **Wild Turkeys** were seen along Hillegas Rd. 9/24. **Ruffed Grouse** were flushed on 9/15, 10/12, and 10/30 on SH.

Although **Common Loons** had not yet settled in waterways, they were migrating in small numbers, crossing the AF from 10/3 (22) to the last report 11/20 (flocks of 13 and 21). Four **Pied-billed Grebes** floating over emergent vegetation were observed at SSP 11/26 (AL). Four **Horned Grebes** were seen at SSP 12/6 (AL).

The following were seen at DCW: one **American Bittern** flying over Teal Pool 9/19, 7 **Great Blue Herons** 8/27, 2 **Great Egrets** 8/29, one **Snowy Egret** 8/29, one **Green Heron** 9/19, and one **Black-crowned Night Heron** 8/30.

The nine-year average for the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch is 9200, but this year we etched out 6651. The make-or-break wind is east and this year was relentlessly west, however we did reasonably well with Golden Eagles and also received our first **Swainson's Hawk** thanks to Joe Sabo and Bob Steward. Although the hawk count was still in progress at the time of this writing, the preliminary results are as follows: **Black Vulture** 23, **Turkey Vulture** 280, **Osprey** 116, **Bald Eagle** 84, **Northern Harrier** 77, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 774, **Cooper's Hawk** 233, **Northern Goshawk** 11, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 91, **Broad-winged Hawk** 2886, **Swainson's Hawk** one, **Red-tailed Hawk** 1554, **Rough-legged Hawk** one, **Golden Eagle** 150, **American Kestrel** 78, **Merlin** 38, **Peregrine Falcon** 20, unidentified Accipiter 28, unidentified Buteo 33, unidentified falcon 9, unidentified eagle one, unidentified raptor 158. *A note on Goshawks: although Northern Goshawks are a consumer of Ring-necked Pheasants, they do so generally after, not during, the hunting season. Stocking of pheasants takes place in early Oct and Nov, whereas Goshawks arrive generally in Dec. They take pheasants which are unlikely to survive winter and only compete with other predators.*

All of the following birds were spotted by the author at DCW: one **Virginia Rail** on 9/3 within a marsh between impoundments, two **Sora** were heard and seen as they worked onto a mudflat on 9/19, 14 **American Coot** lingered at Bittern Pool from 10/14-19.

The following shorebirds were observed at DCW unless noted otherwise: 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** 9/20, 2 adult **American Golden-Plovers** were observed along a grassy edge of a pool 9/24, 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** 8/21, 21 **Killdeer** 9/21, 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/28, 6 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/16, one **Willet** was a flyover 9/8, three **Spotted Sandpipers** 9/5, one **Sanderling** at DCW 9/24 and one at SSP 9/8, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/13, one **Least Sandpiper** 8/13, 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** 9/28, one **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/19, 3 **Dunlin** 10/1, 10 **Wilson Snipe** were flushed 9/24, and 5 **American Woodcock** were flushed out of a hawthorn thicket 9/3. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was seen spin feeding within Grebe Pool 9/19 at DCW.

A **Barn Owl** was seen flying over a field at WTW 9/19 (CH). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard on 8/15 along AF. A **Great Horned Owl** was spotted at SSP 10/7. A total of 164 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at AFHW. On 11/1 banders Kim Van Fleet and Dave Darney spent a very busy night banding 59 saw-whets. I was there that night and saw at least two bounce off the net and others sitting in trees and shrubs. I think the potential for that night could have been as many as 70.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen sitting on snags at the AFHW 9/13 and 8/30 (JR). An **Eastern Wood-Pee-wee** was at DCW 8/29 (TD), and the generally hard to find **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen 10/6 at DCW (CP). The following flycatchers were seen by the author at DCW 8/29: one **Acadian Flycatcher**, 2 **Willow Flycatchers**, 2 **Least Flycatchers**, one **Great Crested Flycatcher**, and 3 **Eastern Kingbirds**. At DCW the following vireo singletons were seen: **White-eyed Vireo** 8/20, **Yellow-throated Vireo** 9/25, and **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/10.

Warbler reports are from the AF unless noted otherwise. Many species nest and fly along the escarpment. 3 **Tennessee Warbler** 9/12 (EH), 2 **Nashville Warbler** 10/9, 2 **Yellow Warbler** 9/10, 6 **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 8/18, 3 **Magnolia Warbler** 8/27, 7 **Cape May Warbler** 9/26, 2 **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 9/10 (EH), 7 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 10/23 (AB), 5 **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/7, 2 **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/12, 4 **Pine Warbler** 9/25, 2 **Palm Warbler** (25), one **Black-and-white Warbler** 8/10, 3 **American Redstart** 9/6, 4 **Northern Waterthrush** 10/12, one **Kentucky Warbler** 9/15 (EH), 3 **Common Yellowthroats** 9/26, and 2 **Canada Warbler** 9/26. Six **Scarlet Tanagers** were seen 9/26 (SD).

The following sparrows were seen in the fields of DCW: 10 **American Tree Sparrow** 10/7, 6 **Chipping Sparrows** 10/6, 5 **Field Sparrows** 9/18, one **Vesper Sparrow** 8/18, 2 **Savannah Sparrow** 9/19, one **Grasshopper Sparrow** 10/1, one **Henslow Sparrow** 10/4, 3 **Fox Sparrow** 10/15, 4 **Song Sparrow** 10/4, 2 **Lincoln's Sparrow** 9/18,

15 **Swamp Sparrows** 10/15, 8 **White-throated Sparrows** 10/6, and 4 **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/6. Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen 9/24 at DCW.

DCW has always had **Rusty Blackbirds**. Somehow the impoundments appeared to be designed with this bird in mind. The pools were extensively planted with alder, which when mature, would be close to emulating the beaver ponds of the boreal forest—the environment of the Rusty Blackbird. Those habitats have thickets of alder and ponds ideal for invertebrate foraging by Rusty Blackbirds. RR visited DCW 10/20 during a foggy day and saw 20. On 10/27, 10 were counted (CH), 4 were seen 10/31 (AL, AF), and on 11/4 over 150 were counted (AL, AF, CR).

Five **Purple Finch** 10/7 and 7 **Pine Siskins** 10/15 were counted at a feeder on Lambert Mt. Rd.

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### **Berks County**

Locations: Blue Marsh L., (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands # 110 (SGL).

The official count season at HMS, often cited below, is 8/15-12/15 daily.

The warm, dry period that started in March continued through September, with temperatures well above and rainfall well below average. Summer was the second warmest on record, during much of which Berks Co. was under a drought warning. A deluge 9/30 started to change this pattern, and October and November had normal temperatures and rainfall. A period of clear days with northwesterly winds 8/23-31 apparently stimulated large scale migration because the seasonal high counts of many birds, especially passerines, were recorded during the last few days of August.

Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** (photos; second county record) were in the Wyomissing Cr. at S. Church St., Mohnton 8/3-8 (Larry Koch, Barbara Murse, m.obs.). They joined a local Mallard flock fed by Murse and Koch, who reported the birds on Jack Holcomb's call-in radio nature show the day before they flew away. The birds wore no bands. A few **Snow Geese** lingered from spring well into fall. The first large migrant flock appeared in late Oct (417 at HMS 10/29 - LG), but most moved through in Dec as in other recent years. A **Cackling Goose** flew over HMS in a **Canada Goose** flock 12/14 (RK). The **Mute Swan** flock at LO peaked at 25 on 9/13 (RK). **Tundra Swans**, never as common here as further west in Pennsylvania, peaked at 60 over Leesport (DK) and 40 over HMS (LG) 11/23. Birders reported 22 duck species, most appearing at the end of the period. A **Mallard X American Black Duck** drake was at LO 12/7 and later (RK). Three **Northern Shovelers** were at Peters Cr., LO 9/6 (MSP). The **Ring-necked Duck** that summered at Peters Cr. was last seen 10/7 (MSP). All three scoter species were reported, with five **Surf Scoters** at LO 10/4 (MSP) and four there 12/7 (RK), two **Black Scoters** at LO 12/7 (RK), and single **White-winged Scoters** at LO 10/5 and 11/4 (RK, MW). Since scoters are usually seen briefly on lakes, the report of 18 **White-winged Scoters** flying over HMS 12/6 (LG) was unusual. The only large rain induced fallout of ducks was 11/6, when 140 **Buffleheads** and 563 **Ruddy Ducks**, among other species, were on LO (RK). The only reported **Red-throated Loon** flew over HMS 11/6 (LG). Nov saw the main movement of **Common Loons** as usual, with 110 of the HMS seasonal total of 235 seen 11/19 (LG). Very few loons came down on lakes. The only reported **Horned Grebe** was at LO 11/6 (RK). The main passage month for **Double-crested Cormorants** was Oct, when HMS tallied 453 of the 460 cormorants recorded this fall (LG). A juv. **Little Blue Heron** was near Topton 8/24 (MW).

The record setting seasonal total of 406 **Bald Eagles** at HMS eclipsed the previous seasonal high of 245 (LG). **Osprey, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon**, and **Merlin** continued their recent trend of increasing numbers at HMS (LG). Even **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **American Kestrel**, which had shown long term declines, were recorded in numbers above the ten-year averages this season (LG). An adult **Northern Goshawk** at BML 12/8 (JS) was a rare sight away from the

Kittatinny Ridge. A **Swainson's Hawk**, apparently a dark morph bird, was seen migrating with **Broad-winged Hawks** at HMS 9/16 (DB, JJ, RK). A female **Merlin** returned to BML 10/15 for her sixth winter (JS). The Reading **Peregrine Falcon** pair was in residence all period (*fide* BU).

Two **Common Moorhens** were among Am. Coots at Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp. 11/8 (MSP), the latest fall record and the first moorhens reported since 4/30/2006. This quarry has become the most reliable place to see wintering **American Coots**, of which 63 were there 11/5 and 12/7 (RK). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** appeared at Gotwals pond, Oley 9/2 and were seen there or in a wet meadow at nearby Oley Valley Middle School until 9/25 (RK, m.obs.). A flock of eight **Sandhill Cranes** flew south over HMS 9/17 (LG).

Aug shorebirds were found in small numbers but interesting variety at a water retention basin in an undeveloped industrial park just off Rt. 222 between Topton and Kutztown. Seen there among more common shorebirds were 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/7 (SFo), a **Western Sandpiper** 8/8 (MW), a **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/30 (RK), a **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/30 (RK, MW) and a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 8/30 (MW). As dry weather continued, BML was required to release water to help prevent salinization of the lower Delaware River. This produced extensive mudflats along Rt. 183 in late Sep, attracting some later migrating shorebirds. This habitat was inundated by the 9/30 deluge, ending the shorebird watching. On the flats among more common species were two **Black-bellied Plovers** 9/28 and 9/29 (RK, KL, JS), a **Sanderling** 9/29 (KL), two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/28 and 9/29 (RK, KL, JS), and 3-4 **Stilt Sandpipers** 9/23-29 (RK, KL, JS). Three vocal **Willetts** first heard and then seen by the observer were at the beach at the BML Dry Brooks Day Use Area among gulls 10/28 (JS). This is the sixth county record since the first in 1933, of which five occurred in fall, 8/24-10/28. Single **American Woodcocks**, seldom reported in fall, were at SGL 110 on 10/11 (KG) and near Leesport 11/8 (DK).

**Bonaparte's Gull** is typically seen singly or in small numbers in Berks. On 11/27, a flock of about 125 Bonaparte's Gulls (AM) appeared above BML near the beach, where the observer thought they would land among the many **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls**. Instead, the flock slowly continued on its way. This is the largest number seen in Berks in many years. An adult **Iceland Gull** was at BML 11/29 (JH). The first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (adult) of the winter was at BML 12/7, along with the first three **Great Black-backed Gulls** (RK). The only reported tern was **Caspian Tern**, of which four were at LO 8/26 (MSP) and one was migrating over HMS 9/4 (LG).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found by the observer because it was being mobbed by **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Tufted Titmice** at SGL 110 on 10/18 (KG). Two more were heard at SGL 110 on 11/12 (KG). An adult male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a feeder near Oley on the late dates of 10/16-17 (JU). The seasonal swarm of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at HMS totaled 574, with 80 on 8/27 alone (LG). An adult female **Anna's Hummingbird**, the first Pennsylvania record, was banded by Scott Weidensaul 11/21 at the home of Renee Gery on Mountain Rd., Shartlesville. Gery first noticed the bird around the end of Oct as it lingered after the Ruby-throats had left and thought it looked different. She contacted Jack Holcomb, who reported the bird to Weidensaul. The bird was still visiting feeders, which homeowners kept from freezing, in mid-January 2011, having survived many cold nights in the teens and lower. Seven **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were counted migrating past HMS 9/8-10/7 (LG), a normal number for recent years.

The high count of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** was 7 at HMS 8/30 (LG). Of the 10 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** reported, four were at HMS 8/30 and 8/31 (LG). As last year, there was a large pulse of **Blue-headed Vireos** in early Oct, with a high count of 86 at HMS 10/2 and a total of 199 for the month (LG). **Red-eyed Vireos** peaked in Aug, when 309 of the seasonal total of 492 at HMS were counted, with 65 on 8/30 (LG). Our window of time for seeing **Philadelphia Vireo** is open for about a month in fall, this year from 8/26-10/2, during which 33 were reported, most from HMS. **Common Ravens** were seen or heard at a few new locations in summer and fall and might now be found as fly-by's almost anywhere at any season. At peak migration, 23 were counted at HMS 10/30 (LG).

This fall's **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption was smaller than that in 2007-08. Black-caps were first noticed at feeders among smaller, duller resident chickadees in early Oct, with up to 12 per day at some feeders through November (RK, DK, JS) as waves of birds moved through. At SGL 110, 46 were counted 10/8 (KG). At HMS, the largest

movement occurred 10/3-19, when 123 of the seasonal total of 153 were tallied (LG). In 2007, the HMS fall total was 423 (LG). This fall's **Red-breasted Nuthatch** movement was larger than 2009's, but smaller than that in 2007. Forerunners had already appeared in July, and the highest daily counts at HMS were 26 on 8/30 and 15 on 8/31, with most birds moving through 8/19-10/13 (LG). One or two settled in at some feeders and were present through the period. **Winter Wrens** were right on time, with peak counts of 15 at SGL 110 on 10/24 and 12 there 10/31 (KG).

Monitoring thrush migration by listening for nocturnal flight calls in the hour before dawn detected fairly small flights in District Twp. this fall. **Veery** peaked at 130 calls 8/28 (RK). A strong cold front 10/2 produced seasonal high counts of three **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls, one call of **Bicknell's Thrush** and 200 calls of **Swainson's Thrush** (RK). Another **Bicknell's Thrush** call was heard at Green Hills L. 9/26 (KL). A few **American Pipits** were heard flying over HMS this fall as usual (LG), but the biggest flock was of 30 birds near Hamburg 10/30 (MW). Thousands of **Cedar Waxwings** passed HMS at the height of their migration 8/20-9/2, with a seasonal high of 1840 on 8/31 (LG).

Birders reported 32 warbler species this period. A large number and variety of warblers migrated through at the end of Aug. On 8/23 following passage of a cold front, 400 warblers flew by North Lookout, HMS unidentified shortly after sunrise (LG). The following seasonal high counts were recorded at HMS at the end of August: nine **Tennessee** 8/31; seven **Nashville** 8/31; 19 **Chestnut-sided** 8/20; 11 **Magnolia** 8/31; 20 **Cape May** 8/30 and 8/31; 16 **Black-throated Blue** 8/30; 65 **Blackburnian** 8/30; 12 **Bay-breasted** 8/31 and 20 **Black-and-white** 8/29 (LG). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was again the most abundant warbler migrant at HMS, with 126 on 10/2 and 983 for the season, most of which migrated in Aug and Sep (LG). **Blackburnian Warbler** was also common, with 401 for the season, most of which passed through in August (LG). **Yellow-throated Warbler** is rare in *Berks*; as a rule we are lucky to see one a year, usually in spring. Four were reported this season, three in September (9/11 - CRE; 9/17 - KH; 9/24 - NP), and one bird of the albilora form at BML Dry Brooks Day Use Area starting 11/24 (JS). The latter bird was still present in mid-Jan 2011, providing the latest fall and only winter record in *Berks*. It was seen by dozens of birders as it visited a suet/peanut butter feeder beside a parking lot, often in company with a **Pine Warbler** first seen there 11/25 (JS). A late lingering **Yellow-breasted Chat** visited a feeder in Reading 10/20 (MSP).

HMS recorded 688 **Scarlet Tanagers** this fall (up from 2009's 436), with most passing through 8/15-9/18 (LG). An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at HMS 8/27 (RK). A molting male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (photo) visited a feeder in Exeter Twp. 11/6-13 (KS), the fourth Nov record. HMS recorded 182 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** this fall, most 8/26-9/19 (LG). A good summer for finding **Blue Grosbeaks** continued through Aug, with a singing adult male near Leesport 8/15 and 8/16 and a female type bird there 8/30 (DK). Up to 60 **Bobolinks** roosted in tall weeds at Gotwals pond, Oley 9/2-15 (RK). The only reported **Eastern Meadowlark** were 18 in Windsor Twp. 9/26 (KG). A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at LO in Oct and Nov (MSP). At HMS, 20 of the 21 Rusties recorded this fall passed on 10/31 (LG). Most of the 105 **Baltimore Orioles** seen at HMS this fall went by 8/15-30 with a high count of 30 on 8/20 (LG).

**Purple Finch** numbers were up from 2009's low counts, but far below those seen during the winter finch year of 2007. Most migrated during Oct, which saw the highest feeder counts (10-15 at some feeders on the best days) and the peak day counts at HMS (62 on 10/11; 59 on 10/28 - LG). The tap closed to a trickle in Nov and few birds remained at CBC time. A small movement of **Pine Siskins** began with one bird at a Brecknock Twp. feeder 7/29-8/5 (MS) and peaked in October (22 Dryville 10/28 - Sfo; 33 HMS 10/28 - LG), with a few birds appearing here and there in Nov and Dec. A few lucky birders at HMS saw a flock of 18 **Evening Grosbeaks** fly by 11/27 (LG).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Dan Altif, David Barber, Ed Barrell, Catherine Elwell, Scott Fisher, Steve Fordyce, Renee Gery, Laurie Goodrich and HMS volunteers/staff, Kerry Grim, Ken Haas, Jack Holcomb, Jeff Hook, Jason Horn, Joe Jehl, Dean Kendall, Larry Koch, Amy Langman, Ken Lebo, August Mirabella, Barbara Murse, Nick Pulcinella, Peter Saenger, Joan Silagy, Ken Silagy, Mike Slater, Matt Spence, Bill Uhrich, John Ulrick, Scott Weidensaul, Bruce Williams, Matt Wasniewski.

## Blair County

No compiler.

## Bradford County

Locations: Echo Beach Road, on the Susquehanna River south of Wysox (EBR), Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Troy area (TRO), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE).

On 9/23, an astonishing 249 **Wood Ducks** flew in for the night in small flocks to the brushy area at the back of one of my beaver ponds at TNE, a record number (TG). **Double-crested Cormorants** have been seen much more frequently in the county during migration: on 9/5 four immatures were seen sitting in a dead tree by the SUR at the Athens bridge (MZ), and on 8/25 five were roosting by the East Athens SUR bridge for about three weeks (DA). Four **Great Egrets** were observed 8/19 near the SUR at EBR (DN, KN). **Green Herons** were present at a large beaver pond (the Ice Pond) at TNE 8/6, 8/13, 8/26, and 2 on 8/27 (TG), a location where they have bred for the past several years.

Infrequently seen, there was an **Osprey** at Lake Ondawa (Big Pond) 9/4 (DS), and one was seen numerous times visiting and fishing at a productive pond at PEH: 9/13-14, 10/1, 10/9, and 10/13 (AV, GV). The same area at PEH also attracted a **Northern Harrier** 10/21 (AV, GV). Doing well after their recovery some years ago, **Bald Eagles** were all over the place: 2 at Wysox 8/6 (CM, GM), 2 immatures and 4 adults at EBR/SUR (DN, KN), 2 immatures along the Chemung River near Wilawana 8/21 (TL), 3 immatures just north of Durell on the weekends of 8/7 and 8/14 (RG), one fishing in the SUR in Towanda (CM, GM), one flying down Towanda Creek near Woodside 8/25 (BF), and two adults on the SUR behind the court house in Towanda 11/30 (MBe). A **Rough-legged Hawk** made an appearance 11/13 at Woods Rd (CM, GM). A **Merlin** was seen 9/12 at TRO (RY).

**Sandhill Cranes** have continued to breed in the county and are seen with increasing frequency. There were two near Evergreen, and also just north of New Albany 8/18-19 (RG), 2 adults and one young were just east of Overton 8/31 (SH); and 4 were seen 10/1 not far north of Colley (RW).

**Eastern Screech-Owls** are not observed often so it's a pleasure to have reports from three locations: one 8/17, 8/27-28, 9/12, 9/18, and 9/23 at PEH (AV, GV), one heard 9/6-7 and 9/18 at Edinger Hill near Laceyville (EW), and a red-morph in the Canton vicinity 10/8 (LF).

A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was in TRO 10/8 (RY). Also in TRO a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen 9/12, and a **Bank Swallow** 8/25 (both RY). As in other parts of the state, there were more sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** than usual: at PEH 8/31 (AV, GV), two at Spring Lake 11/2-16 (JN); two at a feeder on Woods Rd 11/15 (CM, GM), at a feeder in Sugar Run 11/30 (DB, MBu), and one present throughout Dec at a feeder in the Wilawana area (MZ). A **Northern Mockingbird** was observed at PEH 11/19 (AV, GV).

Only a few unusual warblers were reported. A **Tennessee Warbler** 9/29, an immature **Magnolia Warbler** 10/6, and a **Blackpoll Warbler** 9/16, were all at that most bird-attractive location at PEH (AV, GV). Four **Purple Finches** were at a feeder on Woods Rd 10/12 (CM, GM), and a few were at PEH 10/14 (AV, GV). Only a few sightings were made of winter finches. One **Pine Siskin** appeared at a feeder on Woods Rd 11/16, then more arrived 11/24-11/31 (CM, GM). Most unusual were one male and three female **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder in Herrickville Township 11/9 (MBe).

**NOTE: New mailing address for compiler.**

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**746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Marilyn Behrend (MBe), David Buck, Melody Buck (MBu), Bob Fowles, Lewis Frederick, Trudy Gerlach, Rich Gulyas, Sam Harvey, Tony Liguori, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, Jane Newton, Don Paul, Skip Paul, Dave Spier, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Randy Walker, Ellen Whipple, Ron Young, Marsha Zwiernlein.

## Bucks County

Locations: Churchville Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP),

Peace Valley Park (PVP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm & Haas-Bristol (RHS).

Temperatures were 3° to 4° F above normal for Aug and Sep, with a rain deficit of 3 inches in Aug and net deficit for both months of 2.6 inches. Temperatures were slightly above normal for Oct and Nov. Rainfall recovered with 2.6 inches above normal in Oct, but 0.7 inches below in Nov. The net result was continued very dry conditions and low water levels. Detection of shorebirds was excellent providing the primary highlight of the season. The annual local Broad-winged Hawk count was conducted at only two sites again. The Buckingham Twp. site at Forest Grove was moved to Warwick Township near Rushland. It had an off year, possibly due in part to the location change. Nockamixon State Park counters also missed any large movements. Waterfowl counts were probably consistent with recent years, with some small fallouts caused by rain. Irruptive species were more apparent than last year but generally in low to moderate numbers. Many appeared to pass through leaving few in place. The heat and drought impacted the food supply, causing a reduced quality and quantity of fruit that may have contributed to the lack of these species remaining here. In fact, many wintering species appeared to be in short supply at the end of the period. Lingering half-hardy species were hardly mentioned as well. After two years of a significant decline in reported fall species, the jump to 242 species for the four month period was welcome. There were nine new fall early arrival dates and twelve new fall late departure dates.

As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998, and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey, with climate normal values based on 1961 through 1990 per the NOAA website. Please note that all reports without credits are by Devich Farbotnik. If he was credited, it was to provide clarity where necessary. This report includes data reported to eBird.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at PVP 11/7 (KR *vide* DFa) was the first report for the season and was seen again 11/12 (AM). There were a few single **Snow Goose** reports 9/2-11/22 from four sites (BK, RS, MHo, DFa), with the first and only reported migrant flocks being 200 at Quakertown 11/22 (BB) and 300 at Warrington Twp. 11/25 (KS). The early reports of singles are always difficult to categorize, as they may not be true long distance migrants. Seven **Brant** found at PWT 10/3 (SG) provided a new fall early arrival date and were the only report. **Cackling Goose** was first reported 10/10 at PVP, followed by the usual reports of one or two birds mixed in with large goose flocks (m.ob.). A group of up to 9 birds at PVP 10/30-11/18 (AM, RH) was believed to be this species. A flock of 35-40 **Tundra Swans** was seen flying into *Bucks* 11/17 from *Northampton* (AK). Twenty-two duck species were reported for the four month period. A possible new county single site high report of 226 **Wood Ducks** was tallied 10/29 at Quakertown Swamp. Some could be heard hidden in the swamp before the arrival of the above count, so the actual number present was even larger. Three duck species provided new fall early arrival dates: **Gadwall** 10/17 at PRN (KR), **Northern Shoveler** at RHS 8/14 (DFa), and **Northern Pintail** 8/19 at CVP (SG). **Blue-winged Teal** are usually in the single digits here, so a high report of 15 at RHS 9/26 is noteworthy. The rare summer **Lesser Scaup** found in Jul at RHS continued there through 8/19. The first probable migrant was at PRN 10/9 (DFa, KR). It was a relatively good year for scoter reports. Two **Surf Scoters** stopped at NSP 11/28 for our only report. A total of 7 **White-winged Scoters** were reported from CVP, NSP, and PVP between 11/1 and 11/16 (DFa, KR *vide* DFa). Nineteen **Black Scoters** were reported at NSP and PVP between 10/25 and 11/6 (DFa, SG, KR *vide* DFa). A rather low total of 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** from four sites was reported between 11/2 and 11/28 (DFa, DZ).

A likely released **Northern Bobwhite** continued from last season at MKF through 8/29 (RS, VS). Another survived until early Aug at Plumstead Twp. (LD). Most if not all **Ring-necked Pheasants** reported are presumed to be released birds. A bird walking down the stairs of a second story apartment at Pine Run Community 11/6 was a rare sight and site (KK). Three eBird entries, all near NSP (ED, RW, PW, AM) and one in Solebury (MR), likely represented releases as well.

**Red-throated Loon** stopped at NSP 11/1, and 2 were there 11/16. One was at PVP 11/5 (DFa), with another there 11/16-19 (DFa, AM). One appeared at CVP the next day 11/20 (MC). The fall's first **Common Loon** was at PVP 10/22. There were no large fallouts, with all reports in the single digits. Four adult and five juv. **Pied-billed Grebes** provided proof of breeding at the former US Steel, Falls Twp. property again this year. A total of only 10 **Horned Grebes** were reported between 10/18

and 11/16 at NSP, PVP, and PWT (DFa, RFe, AM, JMi). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were a very good find at PVP 11/17 (RFe), with one continuing until 11/20 (AM).

**Great Cormorant** was first noted on 11/16, with one at Falls Township Community Park and 3 at Mud Island. Although well documented as a spring migrant at Quakertown Swamp, 2 **American Bitterns** leaving there on 10/28 were believed to be the observer's first fall migrant observation there. This is likely due more to a lack of time spent there than lack of migrants. One was reported at PVP 9/6 (CP). **Great Egret** was reported from at least 20 sites (m.ob.). The highest single site counts of **Great Egret** were 23 at RHS 8/21 (DFa), 11 at CCP 9/13 (BK), and 8 at Washington Crossing Park 9/6 (SW). Other sites had one to 4 as the peak counts (m.ob.). The last report was one at CVP 11/13 (MC). **Snowy Egret** continued from Jul until 9/11 at RHS, with 8 the high count 8/15-29. **Little Blue Heron** reports came from Bradford Dam, CCP, PRN, RHS, and Washington Crossing Park, with a conservative estimate of 11 individuals total (m.ob.). Unusual in fall, an adult was at RHS 8/11. The single site high count was 3 at RHS 8/15-8/21, with the last report there on 8/29. Normally, one rare **Cattle Egret** is seen at a time here, so 6 at RHS 8/21 were unusual. By far the highest site count of **Green Heron** was 14 at Bradford Dam 8/7 (ST, DW). About 20 individual **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported from six sites between 8/3 and 11/28 (m.ob.). Two presumed **Glossy Ibis** were seen at RHS on multiple dates 8/7-19, with one adult positively identified as Glossy Ibis on 8/15. One remained until 8/21.

Rarely reported here, an adult **Northern Goshawk** was at NSP 11/19 (RFe). The Warwick Twp. hawk count was conducted on eight days between 9/15-21, with 33 hours of observation. The peak day of 471 **Broad-winged Hawks** occurred on 9/20 (MHa, et al.). The count at NSP between 9/13-23 totaled 84.5 hours of observation, with the peak **Broad-winged Hawk** count of 235 on 9/16 (BF, et al.). In two hours of observation at PVP 9/18, 726 **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted as a very conservative count (MG, JN). An adult **Swainson's Hawk** was reported at CVP 10/23 (BL, no. doc.). This species has been reported a couple of times in the county before but never accepted by PORC, and no unequivocal documentation has been provided. The all white but not albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was first reported 11/4 at the usual Milford Twp. location (*vide* RFo). Another partially white **Red-tailed Hawk** at CVP 10/10 (MC) was possibly the same one seen there last year. Migrant **Golden Eagles** were reported at Lake Towhee 10/31 and 11/24. One was seen flying into *Bucks* from *Northampton* 11/6 (AK).

#### Broad-winged Hawk Watch Totals

SPECIES	WARWICK	NSP	TOTAL
Osprey	40	25	65
Bald Eagle	22	25	47
N. Harrier	5	9	14
Sharp-shinned	56	39	95
Cooper's	11	31	42
Broad-winged	1357	935	2292
Red-shouldered	1	0	1
Red-tailed	9	3	12
Amer. Kestrel	21	8	29
Merlin	0	6	6
Peregrine	0	6	6
Unidentified	0	19	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1522</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>2628</b>

**Sora** was reported at Quakertown Swamp 9/19 and 10/3. They were also found on four dates between 9/25-10/17 at PWT, with a high count of 4 on 10/10. A good total of 23 shorebird species was reported for the four-month period, with Jul reports of **Upland Sandpiper** and **Wilson's Phalarope** adding two more. The most noteworthy reports, due to being rare to one degree or another in occurrence, date, or numbers are included below. Consistently rare here, even in this unusual year, a **Black-bellied Plover** at RHS 9/25 was the only report. Similarly, an **American Golden-Plover** stopped briefly at Plumstead Twp. 9/25 (DFa), and 2 each were seen at PRN on 9/13 (KR *vide* DFa) and 9/30 (DFa). Accidental here, an **American Avocet** was at RHS 8/18 (DFa), and two stopped at PVP 9/3 for the second ever report there (GC, MC, ph. AM). These represented our ninth and tenth reports in the last 61 years, eight of which have occurred since 1998. Late **Spotted Sandpipers** were at PVP 10/24 (AM, JMi) and 11/12 (RH). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at CCP 11/28 established a new fall late date. The rain of 9/12 brought a single site high report of 79 **Lesser Yellowlegs** to

PRN (AM, JMi, VS, RS). One lingered through the end of the period at CVP (m.ob.). Also, accidental here, one **Hudsonian Godwit** at CCP 9/28-30, provided only our seventh report in 55 years. It had an injured foot. Another very lucky find was a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Mud Island 8/15, for the only report. Considered rare here, a **Sanderling** stopped at PRN 8/23 (MHo), and 2 were at CCP 9/28-29 (DFa, MHo). As usual, RHS provided the single site high count of approximately 250 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** on 8/11. No other site exceeded 30 at a time. After one in Jul, the only other **Western Sandpiper** report was at RHS 8/15. More expected but still relatively rare, an estimated 10 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported from four sites between 8/12 and 9/19 (m.ob.). An eleventh bird at PVP 11/25-29 (DFa, KR), surpassed our previous fall late date of 11/25 and was late for anywhere in the state. It appeared healthy, but a wound on its back was noted 11/29 (AM-ph.). Considered accidental due to only 12 reports in 61 years up through 2009, **Baird's Sandpiper** reports were unprecedented, with an estimated 8 individuals from three locations. The first was found at CVP 8/18 (SG), one was in Plumstead Twp. 8/27 (DFa), and the remaining 6 were found at PRN between 8/19 and 9/26 (KR, Dfa, SW, AM). In all, this species was present on at least 20 days, partially due to one at PRN dragging monofilament line with a 5" long stick from 9/4-9/13. **Pectoral Sandpiper** is considered lucky to see here, but was reported this year at eight sites, with a conservative estimate of 69 individuals (m.ob.). The highest single site count was 21 at RHS 9/18. **Dunlin** are regular in small numbers as indicated this fall by 2 at CCP 10/31 (DFa), one at NSP 11/1-2 (AM, JMi), and one at PVP 11/3 (VM, AM). **Stilt Sandpiper** reports were probably unprecedented. The first report was at CCP 8/15 (DFa), and the last was at PRN 9/30 (AM). The highest counts were 20 at CVP 8/22 (SG) and 27 at PRN 9/12 (AM, JMi, VS, RS). In total, this species normally considered rare here, was reported from four locations, with a total of an estimated 58 individuals (m.ob.). Consistent with their normal rare status here, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found at Buckingham Twp. 9/6-8, and another stopped at RHS 9/18-19. After 2 in Jul, only 2 more **Short-billed Dowitchers** were mustered 8/11 at RHS. Incredibly for this banner year for shorebirds, only 15 **Wilson's Snipe** were reported from seven sites between 9/18 and 10/29 (DFa, GJ, KR). **American Woodcock** often is missed after the spring season. Twelve were reported this season from seven sites 9/12 (GJ), 10/29 and 11/24-26 (RFR), and multiple dates through 11/28 (DFa).

A juv. **Bonaparte's Gull** was early 8/15 at Mud Island. The high count was 41 at NSP 11/16. Only 10 others were reported through 11/28 (DFa, AM, KR). Our first summer report and fifth ever **Black-headed Gull** occurred 8/1 at Bristol (Dfa, HMe-ph.). Up to 2 **Laughing Gulls** at PVP 9/3-13 were unusual for lingering so long away from their normal southern *Bucks* sites. The first reports of **Iceland Gull** came on 11/16, with one at Falls Township Community Park (DFa) and one at PVP (AM). The only significant single site counts of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** came from NSP 11/28, with 136 (AM, JMi), and Shady Brook Farm in Lower Makefield Twp., where 120 were tallied 9/17 and 123 were found 10/19 (both BK). A probably hybrid **Lesser Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull** was at NSP 11/28 (ph. AM, JMi). Hybrids have been reported occasionally here based more on a process of elimination of other species than on any real proof (*fide* MS, CR). After only one in Jul, 26 **Caspian Terns** from four sites were reported through 9/25 (m.ob.). The highest single site count was 8 at PVP 8/31 (AM). Reports of 25 **Forster's Terns** came from five sites between 8/1-10/14 (DFa, BHo, BK, AM).

Post Jul eBird reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were of 5 or fewer total individuals at three sites (EB, BHi, AM). Even more scarce, the only post Jul **Black-billed Cuckoo** reported to eBird was at PVP 9/13 (AM). The two **Barn Owls** in Bedminster Twp. were last seen 10/8. The hoped for breeding was not detected. **Barred Owl** was found at Quakertown Swamp as usual 10/3. A **Short-eared Owl** was at PRN 10/6 (HE), and one was reported on three dates at MKF 10/18-11/17 (DFa, RS, VS). The fall previous early arrival date was 11/2. Another was at Warminster Community Park 11/5 (GJ). Although proven as a rare local breeder a few times, **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was not noted this summer but detected at probable wintering sites at Haycock Twp. starting 10/28 and Tinicum Twp. starting 11/10. **Common Nighthawk** entries in eBird came from five sites, with only 67 individuals reported. The high report was 29 at MKF 8/28 (RS, VS). **Chimney Swifts** were reported in the hundreds at New Hope in mid-Sep (ABr), and an estimated 500 were at Morrisville 9/19 (DFa). Late high counts were 120 at MKF on 10/8 (RS), and 200+ at PWT 10/10. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at Plumstead Twp. 10/13 (CS, JS) took over second

place in the latest ever fall reports. A juv. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported 8/19 at our only known nest site in Tinicum Twp. (KF). A very early **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at PVP 8/28 (MHo, GJ) established a new fall early date.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen as usual at State Game Land #157 8/21-28 (BS, Dfa, AM, JMi). Individuals were also found at PVP 9/2 (SB) and 9/7 (RH). Only 4 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported between 8/22 and 9/15 (DFa, RFR, KI, BK, VM). An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at Washington Crossing Park 9/23 based on the call note (BK). All previously reported **Alder Flycatchers** reported were based on the song, thus we have no historical reports after early Jul. A **Least Flycatcher** 10/7 at Morrisville Levee (BK) provided a new fall late, as did an **Eastern Kingbird** there 9/29 (BK). A **Northern Shrike** at Tinicum Twp. 11/26 was our first since 2007.

**Philadelphia Vireo** reports are always few, with 5 reported from four sites between 8/21 and 9/19 (DFa, MHo, BK, RS). The 8/21 report from State Game Land #157 (BS) was early by one day. **American Crow** migration was more noticeable than normal this year. A count of 700+ at Durham Twp. 11/10 was noted for being a high count not seen in many years (BF). **Common Raven** reports were spread throughout the period from eight sites totaling 13 individuals (m.ob.). It is likely fewer than 13 birds were actually involved. Sightings were widespread ranging from Warwick Twp. in the south (MHa) to Nockamixon Twp. in the north (HMc) and Warrington Twp. in the west (RFR) to New Hope in the east (BHo). Repeated sightings at one site for an extended period came from Nockamixon Twp. 8/20-11/3 (HM). **Horned Lark** is not known to breed here any longer, so one at PWT 10/2 provided a new fall early date. An estimated 1500 **Tree Swallows** gathered at Giving Pond 8/3 (EB), for the highest single site report. The third county report of **Cave Swallow** came from NSP 11/4 (JH, no doc.). **Black-capped Chickadee** was first reported 10/3 at Langhorne (BK) and State Game Land #157, marking the beginning of an apparent moderate appearance of this species. Many invading chickadees appeared to be intermediate in appearance in both size and plumage and were probably best classified as **Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee**. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made a better showing after two poor years, but most reports were of only one or 2 birds. The first migrant was one at PVP 8/29 (KI).

Formerly considered accidental, a cooperative **Sedge Wren** was at PVP 10/2 (AM ph.), providing the seventh county report since 2002. Up to 2 **Marsh Wrens** were reported on four dates between 9/26-10/25 at PRN (DFa, AM), one was at Bradford Dam 10/23 (GJ), and one stopped at PVP 10/28 (AM). Highest counts of migrating **Eastern Bluebirds** were 33 at PVP 10/28 (AM) and 27 at MKF 11/2 (RS). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was on the late side at PVP 10/16 (MHo). Except for **Wood Thrush** and **Hermit Thrush**, very few individuals of the other *Catharus* species are reported each fall. Without reports, one must assume there is a significant relative abundance difference here. Surprising was the lack of **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** reports in Nov. Only one **Gray Catbird** 11/28 at NSP was reported in eBird (AM, JMi). **American Pipit** was reported from seven sites (m.ob.) starting 9/26 in Buckingham Twp. The peak counts were at MKF as usual, with the high estimated at 140 10/24 (RS, VS).

A total of 34 warbler species was reported. **Cerulean Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **Kentucky Warbler** were not reported during the four-month period. **Tennessee Warbler** was reported in much higher numbers this fall, with a peak single site count of 12 at State Game Land #157 9/6, plus several other reports (m.ob.). Always sought but seldom found, **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported at PRN 10/2 (ST, DW), PVP 10/22 (JMi, AM), and MKF 10/31 (RS, VS). A **Nashville Warbler** 11/6 at PVP (MHo) provided a new fall late date, although there are two rare Dec 2008 out of season reports. A good fallout day was had at Silver Lake Park 10/2, as indicated by an unusual count of 15 **Northern Parulas** (DFi). Somehow always having star power here due to the very few reports, 5 **Cape May Warblers** were reported between 8/31 and 10/2 at PVP (KA, RFe, AM), 3 were at New Hope 9/25 (BHo), and one was at Silver Lake 10/2 (DFi). A new fall early arrival date was provided by a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at State Game Land #157 8/15. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** 9/22 at Giving Pond (EB) provided a rare fall report and new fall late date. A possible wintering **Pine Warbler** was first noted at New Hope 11/9 and continued through the period (BHo). This was probably the return of one there last year. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** at PVP 8/19 (MHo) provided a new fall early date. A **Blackpoll Warbler** at Langhorne 10/31 (BK) provided a new fall late date, as did a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Warwick Twp. 9/25 (CW). Amazing was the complete lack of **Ovenbird** reports in eBird, and only five other reports received for the period. A

**Northern Waterthrush** at RHS 8/1 was on the early path (DFa, HMe). **Connecticut Warbler** reports were light, with one each at MKF 9/10 and 10/5 (RS), and one at PWT 9/18. **Mourning Warbler** was under reported, with only 5 individuals from three sites between 8/27 and 9/29 (SW, RFe, RFr). Except for regular reports through Aug of the State Game Land #157 summer resident **Hooded Warblers** (DFa), the only migrants reported were one each at PWT 9/18 (DFa) and PVP 9/20 (SB). A **Wilson's Warbler** at MKF 10/21 (RS) provided a new fall late date. A **Canada Warbler** at PVP 8/8 (AM, JMi) provided a new fall early arrival date. After no summer reports, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Langhorne 9/6 (BK), and one established a new fall late date 10/24 at Maple Knoll Farms (RS, VS). There have been a couple of winter sightings in the past.

Regular but scarce, **Vesper Sparrow** was at PRN 10/2 (ST, DW), PVP 10/15 (MHo), and up to two were reported on nine days at MKF 10/14-11/6 (RS, VS). A rarely reported fall **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted at MKF 10/23 (DFa, RS). Representing the second county report of **Le Conte's Sparrow**, one stopped at PVP 10/10 (AM, ph. Dfa) and was last reported 10/12 (Rfr). There are only nine previously accepted reports by PORC for this secretive species in Pennsylvania as of this writing. A **Nelson's Sparrow** was found at PRN 10/2 (DW), and the same or another was noted there 10/9 (DFa) and 10/10 (AM). One there 10/17 was believed to be of the Atlantic subspecies. Another was at PWT 10/17. A **White-crowned Sparrow** at PWT 9/25 provided a new fall early arrival date. **Snow Bunting** made its annual appearance at NSP right on schedule 10/29 (DFa), with a high report of 3 on 11/1 (AM, JMi). They were reported there a total of six days 10/29-11/16 (m.ob.). One stopped at Morrisville Levee 11/8 (BK).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was at MKF on 8/18 and 9/6 (RS, VS), and the last one was at PWT 9/25. **Eastern Meadowlarks** continue to be scarce here as indicated by reports from only two sites. The high site count was a migrating flock of 8 at PRN 10/25 (AM). A **Rusty Blackbird** flock was first noted at their normal Quakertown Swamp stopover and sometimes wintering site 10/3. Other reports totaling 30+ individuals came from only five sites between 10/8 and 11/29 (HD, DFi, GJ, BK, AM). Reports of **Orchard Oriole** on 10/2, one at Silver Lake Park (DFi, et al.) and the other at CVP (HD, VD, BL), would normally be discounted due to the very late date. However, when two reports are received by multiple long time observers at two sites, and ample time was available to study the bird and review field guides, one must take note. Some details were available from Silver Lake to support the report (DFi). Thus, assuming the reports are correct, tropical storm Nicole passed our area a couple of days earlier and may have been a factor. Unexpected was the return on 11/4 for the seventh year in a row of the male **Baltimore Oriole** that winters in New Hope (SM). Otherwise, there were no late migrant reports this year.

**Purple Finch** was widespread in low numbers starting 8/29 (BK), with most reports in the low single digits (m.ob.). The highest report was 12 at PVP 10/18 (AM). They all but vanished after mid-Nov. A **White-winged Crossbill** made a brief stop at a feeder in Doylestown 11/14 (Kl) for our only report. The last reports here were from the large winter invasion of 2008-2009. **Pine Siskin** was also widespread starting 10/16 (BK), with most reports in the low single digits (m.ob.). Five peak counts in the teens occurred between 10/25 and 11/1 (DA, BHo, RS, VS, BWo, NZ). They remained through the period in very small numbers (m.ob.).

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## Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Tamarack Lake (TL), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA), Wolf Creek (WC).

The autumn season is the longest period of the calendar year, thus it is perhaps to be expected to have the most extreme meteorological phenomena. For example, August maximum temperatures for the county were normal (mid-80's F) but downright hot and humid in early September. The thermometer touched 90°F 9/2, the first and only time of the season in Slippery Rock, but the fifteenth day of 90°+ in Pittsburgh. Fortunately, temperatures and humidity moderated considerably in late September, and by 10/2 the minimum temperature was 38°F. followed by the first killing frost 10/10. November followed with only a -0.2°F departure from normal, and concluded with a year to date departure of +1.6° F. On the other hand, precipitation for the period started with just 2 inches rain in August, 3 inches in September, 4 inches in October, and 5.02 inches in November which was +2.30 inches departure from normal for the month and 0.95 inches departure from normal for the year to date. Four inches of rain 11/29-30 was equivalent to 40 inches snow. However, no snow was reported during the period.

An unbanded adult **Trumpeter Swan** at LA 10/1 lingered long enough to be identified (MV). The normal migration pattern of the **Tundra Swan** was later and shifted considerably farther north this season resulting in few reports for the county. Staging areas for the **Canada Goose**, however, were evident earlier than usual at LO with 28 individuals 9/4, then 124 geese 9/25, 143 birds 11/21, and 86 left 11/27 (MV). LA, another traditional staging area for the species, attracted 280 individuals 10/1 and 340 on 11/7, with 49 still there 11/27 (MV). The 98 **Wood Ducks** at LA 10/1 was the only report (MV), yet 60 **Gadwall** were there 11/7, dwindling to 49 birds 11/27 while 2 at LO were noteworthy (MV). The 2 **American Wigeons** at WOA 10/1 and one left there 11/7 (MV) continues its downward trend in population. The 2 **American Black Ducks** at LA 10/1 were apparently the same pair again 11/7 (MV). Another 2 **American Black Ducks** were recorded at LO 1/21 and 4 were there 11/27 (MV). The 34 **Mallards** at LA 10/1 increased to 64 birds 11/7 before all but 2 ducks moved elsewhere with a cold front 11/27 (MV). However, 8 others found their way to LO 11/21 and stayed until 11/30 (GW). The only other dabblers were few in number with 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at LO 9/4, one **Northern Pintail** at the WOA 10/1 and still present 11/7, and 2 **Green-winged Teal** at WOA 10/1, increasing to 10 individuals 11/7 (MV). Where were the Northern Shovelers this season? Diving duck species included 6 adult **Canvasbacks**, 18 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 7 **Lesser Scaup**, 7 **Buffleheads**, and 63 **Ruddy Ducks** at LA 11/7. One **Ring-necked Duck** and 10 **Buffleheads** were there 11/27 (MV). The 57 **Hooded Mergansers** at LO was a pleasant surprise with 37 still present 11/27 (MV). Only one **Common Merganser** was recorded the entire season at LO (MV) and no Red-breasted Mergansers at all. An early, single, female **White-winged Scoter** visited LA 10/31 (DeD).

Gallinaceous species were rare this season with massive development in SRB-SRT destroying traditional habitat for **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Wild Turkey**, and **Northern Bobwhite**. In fact, the flock of 25-30 turkeys that annually visited our PF property is gone, probably forever. Surprisingly, no **Common Loon** was reported this season but 2 **Red-throated Loons** at LA 11/9-10 were observed (DD, DeD), yet had moved elsewhere before other birders could see them. At least 14 **Pied-billed Grebes** at LA 10/1 (MV) increased to 24 birds 11/7 when a lone **Horned Grebe** joined them. Only one **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at LO 9/25, but a flock of 37 individuals flew over SRB 9/28 (GW), a first record for the borough. The 9 **Great Blue Herons** at LO 9/4 (MV) dwindled to 6 there 9/25, and one 11/27. On the other hand, the 6 Great Blues at LA 10/1 (MV) were still present 11/30 (GW). A single **Great Egret** discovered at the WOA in late summer was seemingly content staying mostly hidden from view 9/4 (MV) until 10/1. One **Green Heron** remained at LO until

9/25 (MV) but even more surprising were 3 individuals still at TL10/5 (BS) where a colony breeds annually.

Thanks to the dedicated fieldwork of DW, 5 active nest sites of **Osprey** were documented this season in and around MSP, 4 nests of which are at the top of telecommunication towers. The **Bald Eagle** has done exceptionally well in breeding in the county with pairs now nesting along major streams like the Connoquenessing, Slippery Rock, and Wolf Creeks. It has become common and expected to tally 2 or more eagles on any field trip year round. A pair of breeding **Sharp-shinned Hawk** competed successfully in PF with resident **Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks** (GW). The Red-shoulder parents had a trying time feeding 4 fledglings (most in 30 years) but wisely specialized in amphibians and reptiles for their prey while the other raptors concentrated on birds and mammals. The **Broad-winged Hawk** and **American Kestrel** no longer breed in PF, one of two remaining hardwood forests in SRB (GW).

An **American Coot** arrived at LA 10/1, increased to 240 by 11/7, and tapered off to 110 individuals 11/27 (MV), far fewer than in previous years. Many people reported 39 **Sandhill Cranes** staying in the tri-county area throughout Oct-Nov gleaned fields of left over corn and soy beans (m.ob.). If last year is any indication, many more cranes will gradually add numbers to the over-wintering flock. The highest number was 89 in 2009. Shorebird reports were scarce and restricted with LO providing the best mudflat habitat anywhere in the county with one **Semipalmated Plover**, 12 **Killdeer**, 11 **Solitary** and 14 **Least Sandpipers** 9/4 (MV). A good find there was a **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/20 (DeD). Other sightings there included 23 **Killdeer** with 16 staying until 11/21, and one **Greater Yellowlegs**, 4 **Solitary**, and 3 **Least Sandpipers** all 9/25 (MV). LO was also the setting for 4 **Wilson's Snipe** 11/27 at the same time an adult black bear swam across the lake (MV). Fields of manure are a major attraction for migrating birds, thus a repeat annual visit to such fields in SRT 11/29 (GW) produced dividends with 250+ **Killdeer**, approximately 450 **American Pipits**, and a score of **Horned Larks** feeding together (GW). An **American Pipit** also occurred on the mudflat of LO 9/25 (MV).

At least 17 **Bonaparte's Gulls** flew over LA 11/7 in proximity to 95 **Ring-billed** and one **Herring Gull** (MV). Two Ring-bills were still at LA 11/27 (MV). Finally a late **Forester's Tern** appeared with 5 Ring-bills at LA 10/1 (MV).

It is pleasing to report that the **Eastern Screech-, Great Horned, and Barred Owls** are still residents of PF with all three species calling the night of 9/19 (GW). The last male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** left SRB 9/1 and the last female left 9/15 (JW). A customer visiting the BS divulged that an unusual hummingbird had been visiting bird feeders in Muddy Creek Twp. one-half mile from Portersville and took two photographs to prove it (CS). After examining the poor photographs, the bird is a *Selasphorus* species and is still there as of this writing (12/15). Only one **Belted Kingfisher** was recorded at LO 11/21 for the entire season. Where have the kingfishers gone from LA?

The last **Eastern Wood-Pewee** left PF 10/1 and the last **Eastern Phoebe** not until 11/1 (GW, JW). The **Common Raven** is truly becoming "common" in and around SRB with a vocal individual chasing other birds throughout PF from 8/24-31. It was still present at season's end (GW). The resident **Red-breasted Nuthatches** that vacated PF last October, returned in August. Two males and a female visit feeders on a daily basis as of this writing. Other individuals have been reported elsewhere in SRB, SRT, MSP, MW, and the Narrows of WC (GW).

The **Carolina Wren** still has not recovered from the brutal 2009-2010 winter. No **Winter, Sedge, or Marsh Wrens** were reported this season (GW). A mass movement of **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** inundated PF 10/10-14 with an accompanying late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 10/10 (GW). Nocturnal flight calls of thrushes were detected on several dates during migration over PF: **Veery** and **Swainson's Thrush** were heard 9/1, 9/10 and 9/13; **Gray-cheeked** and **Hermit Thrushes** on 9/15, and an extraordinary number of **Wood Thrushes** 9/28-30 (GW). A dozen **Eastern Bluebirds**, about 100 **American Robins**, 197 **European Starlings** and 59 **Cedar Waxwings** fed daily 9/5-30 on the bumper crop of mock pear fruits along the length of Kelly Boulevard in SRB (GW). Diurnal warbler waves were rare with most birds flying over the north part of the county at night in late Aug and early Sep.

A male **Scarlet Tanager** and **Eastern Towhee** were still singing 10/31 in PF while the local **Chipping Sparrow** staging flock grew to 88 individuals 11/1. The last 3 **Field Sparrows** were tabulated in SRB 10/31 (GW, JW), and the last 4 in adjoining SRT occurred 11/1 (AW, KW). Nine **White-throated Sparrows** and 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos** in PF

10/10 were the first of the season, the latter species gradually increasing to 15 by 10/31. A first winter **White-crowned Sparrow** lingered in PF 11/1-8 and an exceptionally late male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** finally migrated from PF 11/15 (GW).

**Eastern Meadowlarks** vacated their breeding fields as soon as farmers gathered their bales of hay in late Aug. Thousands of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds** invaded local cornfields in Aug-Sep before farmers started harvesting the grain. Later, an independent flock of 12 **Rusty Blackbirds** flew so low over SRB 10/11 that the dark eye patch contrasting with the pale eye of 3 females was easily discernable by the observers (GW, JW). But even more important were the 260+ **Rusty Blackbirds** seen 11/6 near the Glades, a favorite migration site for the species in the county (OM). As of this writing, no irruption of northern finches has occurred in the county as winter approaches.

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### Cambria County

Locations: Duman's Dam (DD), Patton Area (PA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Waterfowl migration at PG was late, but had some noteworthy species. **Tundra Swans, Northern Pintails, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Black Scoter** were some of the highlights during November (DB). A **Red-throated Loon** was present 11/16-18 at PG (DB, DG). On 11/8, 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were present (DG). Last **Osprey** was a late bird 11/5 at PG (DB). Last **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PA 9/18 (DG).

Shorebird migration was sparse with just 3 **Least Sandpipers** 8/21 representing the only species of note (DG). Up to 3 **Caspian Terns** were seen 8/3-16 at PG (DG).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PG 9/16 (DG). Warbler migration was excellent with many large groups of mixed warblers seen (DG, JS). Large flocks of 50 to 100 **Rusty Blackbirds** were present at DD 10/6-28 (DG).

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### Cameron County

No Compiler.

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### Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville State Park (BSP), Blue Mountain Ski Resort (BMS), Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Little Gap (LG), Mauch Chunk Lake (MCL).

Drought conditions and the drawing down of BSP to feed the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers produced a rare commodity for *Carbon* this season: shorebird habitat. Waterfowl in general were scarce for the period, except for a few storm fallout days. The passerine flights along the ridge in southern *Carbon* were excellent however, making up for the lack of waterfowl and raptor numbers reported for the region.

**Snow Geese** first migrated through the area 10/6, with a flock of 31 passing over BSP (DW). A rain event on 9/28 produced the highest tally of **Green-winged Teal** for the period, over 40 birds at BSP (DW). **Blue-winged Teal** 3 (9/28), **Northern Pintail** (one 9/28 and 10/11, and 15 on 10/19), and **American Wigeon** 3 (10/6) rounded out the few dabbling ducks of note for the season at BSP (DW). A single storm 11/16 provided the most interesting fallout day for waterfowl in the county. Diving ducks appeared 11/16 in numbers at BSP with a high count of 96 **Ruddy Ducks** and well over 20 **Buffleheads** (DW, DA). The lone scoter was an adult male **White-winged Scoter** accompanied by 3 **Lesser Scaup** (DW). The storm event also produced 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** (3 drakes, one hen) and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** (DW).

The lone **Red-throated Loon** of the period spent a few hours at BSP 11/16 before taking flight (DW). **Common Loons** were sparse with one sighting 10/6 (DW), 2 birds calling to each other at BSP, a single bird at BSP 10/30 (WK), and 2 migrating over BMS 10/16 (JN, DW). An early **Red-necked Grebe** in basic plumage was found 10/6 at BSP (DW), followed by a nearly alternate-plumaged bird 10/18 at MCL (RW). **Horned Grebes** were sighted only twice at BSP: one 10/11 and 2 on 11/16. A total of 154 **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over BMS 10/16 (JN, DW). A high count of 9 **American Coots** was tallied at BSP on 10/29 (DH).

The lone wader of note was a **Great Egret** flying by the ridge in the early morning at BMS on 9/1 (DW).

**Bald Eagles** have become permanent fixtures at MCL and BSP and can be seen in any season. A total of 8 **Bald Eagles** were seen migrating over BMS 10/16 (JN, DW). That morning 83 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 44 **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen migrating in just over two hours at BMS. Three **Merlins** were seen hunting the flocks of Black-capped Chickadees near the boat launch at BSP 10/11 (DW).

Without a doubt, the best find of the fall was a **Hudsonian Godwit**, possibly representing the first county record, that was forced down by a storm 9/16 (DW) near the boat launch at BSP. The godwit took flight with a small flock of Green-winged Teal before rising high into the air and heading east along the lake. Single **Black-bellied Plovers** were discovered at BSP 10/4 (DH) and an injured bird 10/6-10/12 (DW). A juvenile **White-rumped Sandpiper** at BSP 10/6 (DW) rounded out the most notable shorebirds for the period. Other shorebird species found throughout fall migration at BSP included **Semipalmated Plover**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Pectoral Sandpiper**.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** (2) first made an appearance at BSP 8/2 (DA). One was also seen 11/15 (DA) and 7 were found 11/16 (DW), all at BSP. A **Forster's Tern** was found 8/1 (DA), the only tern found during the period.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was found along the Lehigh River at LGNC 10/25 (DW), fairly late for the county. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen 9/1 amongst migrating warbler flocks at BMS (DW). Three **Philadelphia Vireos** were found throughout early fall around the parking area of BMS. The first **Philadelphia Vireo**, a bright adult, was found 8/31 (DW) and 2 were located 9/6 (AS, EB, DW, RW). Becoming an annual sighting, an adult **Northern Shrike** was first found along Pohopoco Drive near BSP 11/15 (DA) and continued through the rest of the period.

The irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees** was noted in many places in the state this fall, with birds seen far south of their normal range. The magnitude of this irruption was best illustrated on 10/11 when over 700 **Black-capped Chickadees** were counted congregating, then flying from the north shore of Beltzville Lake across to the south shore at the Pine Run boat launch (DW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were migrating early along the ridge at BMS, and were noted around BSP throughout the fall. The first migrating **Winter Wren** was not reported until 11/9 at BSP (DW).

**Eastern Bluebirds** formed large feeding flocks by the end of the period at BSP, with flocks ranging from 20-30 birds all around the park. Three **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were heard amongst **Swainson's Thrush** nocturnal flight calls at BMS 9/21 (DW). A **Brown Thrasher** lingered until 10/17 at LG (JN, DW) while a lone **Gray Catbird** stayed until 11/18 at BSP (DW). **American Pipits** were frequently found at BSP through the end of September foraging on the expansive shoreline.

Twenty-eight warbler species were reported this fall from the county, highlighted by at least seven **Connecticut Warblers**. **Tennessee Warblers** were found from 8/29-9/26 along the ridge at BMS (AS, EB, DW, RW). **Cape May Warblers** were found 8/29 (DW), 9/9 (AS), and 9/26 (AS, DW) at BMS. Large numbers of **Black-throated Green Warblers** and **Blackburnian Warblers** passed through this location throughout the fall. At least 10 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were present at BMS 9/6 (AS, EB, DW, RW). The last reported **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen 10/25 at LGNC (DW). The first **Connecticut Warbler** was found 9/5 at LG with a flock of sparrows (DW). Another was found chipping loudly in a tree at dawn 9/23 at BMS (DW). Three **Connecticut Warblers** were found 9/21: 2 at LG, and one near the head of the Appalachian Trail west of BMS (DW). An immature was presumably the same bird seen 9/19 (MS) and 9/21 (AS, DW) at LG. On 9/21 this bird briefly sang while accompanied by a male **Mourning Warbler** in a greenbrier thicket at LG (AS, DW). The last **Connecticut Warbler** was found 10/11 at the same location (DW). Four separate **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found, one at Hickory Run State Park

9/26 (DL), one at BSP 10/11 (DW), one at LG 10/13 (DW), and one at LG 10/17 (JN, DW). **Hooded Warblers** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were still being heard singing 9/7 along Hell Hollow Road, Penn Forest Township (MB). **Wilson's Warblers** were also reported several times throughout the fall at BMS and LG.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was found at LGNC 8/3 (CF). An **Indigo Bunting** was seen as late as 10/19 at BSP with masses of sparrows (DW). Another nice find for the county was a calling fly-over **Dickcissel** at the point overlooking the dam of BSP 10/6 (DH, DW). **American Tree Sparrows** first arrived 11/9 and persisted through the period in high numbers, especially around BSP. **Vesper Sparrows** were found at BSP near the beach area 10/18 (RW) and near the Pine Run boat launch 10/19 (DW). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found as late as 10/17 at LG, perched in trees and greenbrier (JN, DW). The arrival of **Fox Sparrows** occurred 11/2, and good numbers of species could be found in the State Game plantings around BSP for several weeks. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were an easy find around LG, first arriving 9/13 (DW), and around the fields of the boat launch at BSP were the last reported individual was found 11/9. Two **Snow Buntings** were found at the beach area of BSP 11/16 (DW), and were relocated at the boat launch 11/17.

**Rusty Blackbirds** were around in small numbers this fall with 4 seen at LG 10/17 (JN, DW), 4 at BSP on 11/9 (DW), and 2 at MCL 11/19 (RB). **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** were also moving south this fall, being reported early this fall and suddenly disappearing towards the end of October. The highest count of **Pine Siskins** was of 9 birds at MCL 10/18 (RW). The only **Evening Grosbeak** found was a fly-over along the Wild Creek Trail at BSP 11/27 (JN).

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### Centre County

Locations abbreviated: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DUC), Colyer Lake (COL), Jo Hayes Vista on Tussey Mt. (JHV), Millbrook Marsh (MIL), Penn State (PSU), Penn State Newsletter (PSN), Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens (SCB), State College (STC), Toftrees (TOF).

More information about some of these locations is available at <www.scbirdcl.org>, the new PSO Site Guide at <www.pabirds.org>, and from the recently published *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* 2010 (BCP) by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove. SCB and JHV are parts of IBAs (see Important Bird Areas at <pa.audubon.org>). Almost all information for this report and the fall 2010 migration report comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv, <scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu>.

Twenty-three people participated in the third Big Sit at BESP 10/10 and counted 53 species during a 12 hour period. Sightings included **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Merlins**, 4 **Bald Eagles**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, and **Barred Owl**. (For details on a Big Sit, click the "The Big Sit!" link at <birdwatchersdigest.com>).

Notable birds this quarter: **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Sanderling**, and **Baird's Sandpiper**.

A regatta of 31 **Tundra Swans** flew in and landed on the lake COL 11/22 (DW), 66 were seen at BESP 11/16 (NT) and 25 11/23 (NBu). A spring of 15 **Blue-winged Teal** was frightened away by an **Osprey** at COL 9/13 (MH). Three **Green-winged Teal** were found at COL 10/19 (AL). Two **White-winged Scoters** were seen at various locations around BESP 11/6 (DW), and two were seen at COL 11/16 (AL). Nine **Black Scoters** were found at BESP 11/1 (DW, AL), 11/2 (JV), and 4 females 11/16 (AL). A fleet of 133 **American Coots** was seen near the eagles nest viewing area at BESP 10/28; one eagle dived at the raft but didn't catch anything (AL, TS). Fourteen species of waterfowl including **Horned Grebe**, **Canvasback**, **Black Scoter**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and a strange **Canada Goose** with "spectacles" on its eyes and a white patch above its bill were seen at BESP 11/16 (AL, AF).

A **Red-throated Loon** was seen at COL 11/20 (DPW), 11/22 (PB, NBu, DW), 11/23 (MH, RC), 11/24 (MJ, CK), and 11/26 (JV). An **Eared Grebe** was seen and photographed at the west launch at BESP 11/6 (JV). Three **Red-necked Grebes** were found at BESP 11/1 (DW) and the next day (JV). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over calling

before dawn 9/15 at SCB (AL, DW, TS, JK).

The 15 migrating raptors and vultures: **Black Vulture**, **Turkey Vulture**, **Osprey**, **Bald Eagle** (28), **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (221), **Cooper's Hawk**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Broad-winged Hawk** (69), **Red-tailed Hawk** (682), **Golden Eagle** (8), **American Kestrel**, **Merlin** (3), and **Peregrine Falcon** (4) were observed from the JHV parking lot on Tussey Mt. from 9/9 to 11/27 (CW, AL, CG, DW, BL, TS), but the representative numbers are cumulative only through 11/11. The total was 1201 for 18 days of watching. The site is accessed by pulling off Rte. 26 into the parking lot on the top of Tussey Ridge. Data for this and other hawkwatches are available on <www.hmana.org>.

The two adult **Bald Eagles** that have been nesting in the same tree at BESP for the past seven years were seen bringing nesting material to the tree 10/6 (BZ *vide* NT). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed sitting in a tree next to Rte. 220 near STC 11/14 (DW). The first reported **Merlin** of the quarter was at TOF 8/17 (NK, CG), and an adult female was perched in the top of a dead tree at COL 8/24 (AL). A **Merlin** perched for several minutes at TOF 9/12 (DW), one was seen near the edge of the lake COL 10/18 (MH), one grabbed a bat out of the air while being photographed at COL 11/22 (DW), and an adult female flew in front of the observer's car at BESP 10/5 (AL). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen perched on a tall pole at JUL 9/26 (NBu), a juvenile was seen at two different locations at BESP 10/5 (AL), and an adult was observed flying across campus at PSU 9/29 (DW).

A **Sora** was found picking through the duckweed in the swampy area off the first landing at MIL 9/12 (AW).

Migrating shorebirds were observed in various places. A single **Semipalmated Plover** was on the beach at BESP 8/15 (BS), and two were there 8/22 (GG, DG). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed at JUL 8/17 (JV), 6 were at COL 9/3 (JV), and 4 were at COL 9/3 (TS, AL, AF). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen at COL 8/13 (MH), one at JUL 8/16 (NAB), 2 at JUL 8/17 (JV), one at COL 8/23 (JV), one at COL 9/3 (TS, AL, AF), and 2 at COL 9/3 (JV). Five **Solitary Sandpipers** were found at COL 8/1 and 4 on 8/9 (GG); one at DUC 8/5 (RC), one feeding at JUL 8/16 (NAB), 3 at COL 8/23 (JV), 4 at COL 9/3 (TS, AL, AF), and 6 at COL 9/5 (NBu). A notable find was a **Sanderling** at the BESP beach 9/18 (CH, WL, JV), 9/19 (NBu), with a group of **Killdeer** 9/19 (JM), 9/20 (WL), and 9/21 (AL). Several **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen at various times 8/4-9/6 at COL (JV, AL, MH, NBu, AL, AF, ZK). The most notable migrating sandpiper was a **Baird's Sandpiper**, discovered on the beach at Bald Eagle State Park 8/22 (DW). It got very close to people as it worked the shoreline 8/22 (CK, WL), and was also seen that day by (MHe, DR, JV, NBu, SB). It stayed through 8/24 and was observed by (NT, KE, DG, TS, DGu, AL, BS) sometimes in the company of other sandpipers. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was later spotted at COL 9/3 (JV, TS, AL, AF), 9/4 (AL, AF), and 9/6 (AL, AF, ZK). The last Baird's Sandpiper reported was by (PAR) who saw a juvenile through a scope at COL 10/10/1999. Several **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported at COL 8/9-10/5 (GG, NBu, AL, AF, ZK, DW). The only **Dunlin** to be reported was found at BESP 11/18 (TS, DW, JV) and photographed by (AL).

Three **Caspian Terns** were seen at BESP 9/26 (BS), and six were present at BESP after a storm 9/30 (DW, AL).

A State College resident photographed two very late-season young **Mourning Doves** that fledged a few days later from a nest on his porch 10/12 (NB). **Common Nighthawks** were reported migrating at several locations: 7 flew south over Boalsburg 8/15 (KO), one was at TOF 8/19 (JV), 2 were at SCB 8/21 (JV), a small flock of 12 were circling overhead at SCB 8/29 (JV), 3 were over TOF 8/29 (NBu), several were near Grange Fair 8/27 (JV), one was on Brush Valley Rd 8/30 (SW), about 6 were flying fairly high over State College 9/1 (RC), one was at SCB 9/1 (AL), one was over JUL 9/3 (AL, AF, TS), and one was at SCB 9/15 (AL).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was discovered in SCB where the species is rarely seen 8/26 (TS, NF, AL). A flyover was seen at SCB 9/25 (JV). JD reports that 10 years, ago the species used to be seen regularly just outside SCB.

A singing **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was heard on a morning filled with warbler activity SCB 8/25 (DW). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found on a morning of very high warbler activity 9/12 SCB (DW, GG, JV); 2 were seen there 9/14 (DW), one by (WL, JG), and one by (JK). A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was observed on the bike trail between TOF and Sunset Park STC 8/27 (DW). **American Crows** have again begun to roost on Penn State's University Park campus, creating unsanitary and unpleasant conditions similar to a year ago. The Office of Physical

Plant began its crow relocation program 11/24 to move the crows away from central campus by using pyrotechnic bangers and screamers as in past years (PSN). A **Marsh Wren**, an infrequent visitor to this area, was observed at MIL 11/5 (JV).

Migrating thrushes were reported in great detail over 15 days, as follows: one **Swainson's Thrush** at SCB 9/11 and 9/12 (JV), four 9/14 (DW), 20 flyovers calling before dawn 9/15 (AL, DW, TS, JK), 2 on 9/18 (JV); one at TOF 9/19 (JV); a mixed flyover flock of early morning thrushes contained three **Veery**, six **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, about 300 **Swainson's Thrush**, and three **Wood Thrush** at SCB 9/20 (DW); more flyover thrushes were heard 9/23 giving flight calls at SCB: three **Veery**, two **Gray-cheeked**, and about 150 **Swainson's Thrush** (AL, MM, JL, IG); eight **Swainson's Thrush** at SCB 9/25 and 34 on 9/26 (JV). An **American Pipit** was seen on the beach at BESP 9/18 (WL), one was at the SCB pond 9/24 (JV) and 9/26 (TS, NF), one was at BESP 10/5 (DW), 4 were at SCB 10/25, and 6 were at BESP 11/18 (TS, NF).

SCB is an IBA which is a pass-through area for a large number of migrating warblers every fall and spring. The most active areas this fall as in past years were SCB Pond and the SCB weather station entrance and areas close to it. These areas can become extremely active and attract many warbler species under the right conditions. For example, on 9/9/2005, 21 warbler species were seen (RS). The migrating warblers reported at these areas this year, from 8/14 through 9/22, were the following 29 species: **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Tennessee**, **Orange-crowned**, **Nashville**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Cape May**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, **Pine**, **Prairie**, **Palm**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Black-and-White**, **American Redstart**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Mourning**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Wilson's**, and **Canada** (JV, DW, AL, TS, AF, NF, MM, GG, DPW, JD, DGu). Several hundred warblers were observed 9/12, which was estimated to be the biggest warbler fallout of the quarter at SCB (JV, GG, DW). A **Yellow-Breasted Chat** was caught at a banding station behind the arboretum at PSU 9/3 (MM, ET), the only one reported this quarter.

Two **Snow Buntings** were found in the rain at BESP 11/4 (NBu); 11 were seen there 11/7 (NBu); three were photographed 11/7 (DGu); one was seen 11/20 (JV); and 6 were there 11/17 (MH). A flock of about 50 **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed near Sinking Creek 10/24 (LR), and at least 10 were mixed in with about 75 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, and a few starlings and grackles at STC 11/21 (RC). A stream of about 10,000 **Common Grackles**, many of which appeared to have partially molted their long tail feathers, was observed stretching the length of the valley from the northeast to the southwest from horizon to horizon, moving southwest at JUL 9/19 (NBu). On 10/28, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was harassing a mixed cloud of 25,000 birds, mostly **Common Grackles** and **European Starlings**, at High Tech Rd STC. As the Sharpie approached, the birds would fly together and move in unison; on a few occasions, the hawk dived through the flock and separated out an individual, which it then pursued (JV).

A **White-winged Crossbill** was discovered at a feeder in Stormstown 11/27 (LS). **Pine Siskins** appeared in a back yard in Lemont 10/18 (JM), 10 in Unionville 10/23 (DO), and 12 at feeders in STC 10/25 (NK).

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#### **Chester County**

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BTPR), Bucktoe Creek Hawkwatch (BCPHW), Chambers Lake (CHLA), Chambers Lake Hawkwatch (CHLAHW), Church Farm School (CFS), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Longwood Gardens (LWGA), Marsh Creek State Park

(MCSP), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Struble Lake (STLA), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMPPR).

Avian record keeping in *Chester* benefited this fall from the contributions of several good and consistent migration studies held around the county.

The newly established banding station at Rushton Farm in Willistown Township provided good records of songbirds, and also established excellent data for the only continuously active Northern Saw-whet Owl banding station in southeast Pennsylvania. Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS) now holds a record high count for the Delaware Valley of 92 Saw-whets captured in their nets. Nets were open 21 nights 10/9-11/28. Two foreign recoveries were made, including one owl banded in 2009 in Massachusetts, and another previously banded in Quebec.

More interesting was a recovery of a RFBS-banded Saw-whet made at the Small Valley Banding Station, more than 80 miles northwest of RFBS. Master bander Doris McGovern states, "Owl # 0494-81914 was released from a Rushton bander's grip at 9:45pm 11/9. By 11/14, it had traveled 60 miles northwest, rather than south, to be captured at Small Valley. We know that Saw-whets wander as they migrate, but why was our first recovered owl not traveling in the usual southward direction as winter approaches?" Another recapture of a RFBS Saw-whet was made in Bentonville, Virginia 11/14, approximately 165 miles south of RFBS. That female had been captured and banded at RFBS 10/28.

The new records for both passerine migrants and N. Saw-whet Owls reflect the fantastic work day and night by DM and her banding crew.

Chambers Lake Hawkwatch (CHLAHW) was designated an official hawk count site (LL) this fall, with very good raptor migration noted during its part-time coverage. More significantly, this site provided an excellent vantage point for birders to monitor shorebird and other avian activity. CHLA was created as a backup water reservoir for the city of Coatesville, so the drought conditions in the region during late August through September mandated this reservoir be tapped, which in turn created excellent shorebird habitat through the end of September. The bird of the season for *Chester* was most definitely a **Mountain Bluebird** which flew over CHLA 10/30, but unfortunately was not relocated after brief glimpses.

The Bucktoe Creek Preserve Hawkwatch (BCPHW) was also established this fall, and tallied migrant raptors and a good diversity of other birds from the hawkwatch area.

Two sites in *Chester* participated in the Annual Big Sit for Birdwatchers Digest 10/11. BTPR recorded 65 species and had 25 participants. Best birds were two flyover **Bobolinks**. All three **falcons** made a showing, with a **Peregrine** offering fantastic low altitude views for the onlookers (JS). CHLAHW also hosted a Big Sit Circle, recording 86 species, best of which were some late migrants, including **Barn** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and **Bobolink**. This circle reported the highest count in the state yet again this year, and was the eighth highest count tallied in the United States!

A single **Snow Goose** was seen among **Canada Geese** at CORES 10/17 (HM), providing the first report of this species. An intriguing goose, which had some convincing features of a Ross's Goose, visited a small pond in Downingtown 11/25 (J&AD). After much scrutiny of photos, it was decided, with input from birders around the state, that it was a probable **hybrid Snow Goose x Ross's Goose**—still an interesting find. Multiple reports of **Cackling Geese** came in throughout the season from around the county. Included in these reports was a Cackling Goose found among a large skein of Canada Geese 11/24, which marked the 200th bird species identified at the BTPR in Kennett Square (LL). Multiple reports of **Cackling Geese** came in from the CORES, and a photo of one was made at CFS in Exton 11/9 (GT). An imm. **Brant** (Atlantic race) was discovered walking tamely along the shoreline at MCSP 11/5 (HM), and continued its visit there through 11/6 (MS). Fifteen **Tundra Swans** were the first observed for the season flying over the CHLAHW 11/15 (LL). A high count of 50 Tundra Swans was made 11/23 from Somerset Lake (AL). **Blue-winged Teal** were reported with regularity from various locations in the county, starting 9/3 from CHLA. A pair of **Redheads** was seen at the CORES after a rain storm 11/15 (LL, NP). On the following day, a surprise find on CORES was pair of **Surf Scoters** resting among a large group of Canada Geese (SKo, m.ob.). Two **Black Scoters** were reported from MCSP on 11/6 (MS), marking the only report of this species in the county for the season. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were

observed at Somerset Lake during a rain storm 11/16 (AL, LL). A high count of 3 Long-tailed Ducks was made at MCSP 11/18 (HM, NP).

**Common Loons** were seen in migration over the hawkwatches, and a few individuals stopped into the lakes around the county for refueling. On 10/31, a record number of 312 **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed in multiple lines migrating high over CHLAHW (HM, LL).

An **American Bittern** at the CORES was an unexpected find on a bird walk for the Birding Club of Delaware County 11/21 (HM, AG, TR, m.ob.). Presumably the same individual was relocated 11/23 (LL, KP). **Great Egrets** continued late into the season with the last report at LWGA 11/16 (KF). STLA seemed to be a roosting location for this species during early Aug, with a record high count of 39 egrets roosting in a tree along the shoreline 8/9 (HM). A weekend of heavy rain starting 8/21 brought some notable species into the county, including a **Snowy Egret** found aside a small pond in the Phoenixville area (LL, KP). This species hadn't been reported in the county in several years. Equally exciting was a find of five **Cattle Egret** at the King Ranch cattle farm in the Doe Run region on 8/17 (SP *fide* NP). This species had not been recorded in the county in nearly ten years, so these five birds satisfied the long-awaited return.

Migrant raptors were recorded in good numbers this fall. **Bald Eagles** are now regularly observed in the county, especially during migration. **Northern Goshawk**, a species not regularly observed, was reported from two locations in the county this fall, including one 11/10 from the BCPHW (LL, et al.) and the Kirkwood Preserve 11/20 (WS). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were tallied in migration from both sites, with a single day high count of 24 on 10/31 from CHLAHW (HM). **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted in nice numbers during September at the two hawkwatches; 9/17 brought 1366 (LL) and 9/26 saw 1172 (HM) over CHLAHW, with a final season tally of 2894. BTPHW recorded 1729 by the season's end, with the best count on 9/21 of 869. A mostly albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen in the Unionville area during Nov (KF). **Golden Eagles**, uncommon migrants, were seen in several locations this fall, including 2 from BCPHW (LL), one from Kirkwood Preserve (WS *fide* DM), one from WMPPR (KF), and another from Uwchlan Twp. (JC). All three falcons were seen in migration this fall, including a nice final total of 116 **American Kestrels** from BCPHW. Thirty-two **Merlin** were tallied Aug-Oct during coverage at CHLAHW, and **Peregrine Falcons** reached a final total of 6 from that site.

A report of a **Sandhill Crane** flying over a backyard in Uwchlan Twp. was received 11/3 (JC). Attempts to relocate this bird were made, but were not successful.

The shorebird show was one not to be missed in *Chester* this fall. The drawdown of Chambers Lake provided perfect habitat for hosting a wide variety and good numbers. **American Golden-Plover**, an irregular fall migrant and a shorebird not recorded in the county in several years, was discovered during a brief storm 9/27 at CHLA (LL, et al.). This imm. bird continued there through 9/28 (HM, KF). Remarkably, a calling American Golden-Plover was noted in flight over the BTPHW 10/4 (LL). **Semipalmated Plover** were present through September at CHLA, with a high count of 2 on multiple days (LL, m.ob.). The Brandywine Polo Club in New Garden Twp. continues to be a favored location for **Killdeer**. High counts of this species were noted by several observers in Aug, including 94 on 8/18 (NP). Both yellowlegs had a good showing from a variety of locations in the county during fall. A high count of 20 **Greater Yellowlegs** was noted 9/15 at CHLA (NP). This species continued to be reported in small numbers from various locations in the county, including a report 10/17 in the Unionville area (NP), and up to three observed in Nov at MCSP, Little Conestoga Road bridge area. At this same spot, a late county record was established for this species with a lingering individual seen through 11/30 (HM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in very good numbers at CHLA, with a high count of 37 on 9/12 (LL). This species also continued with sporadic reports in Oct, including one near Unionville 10/17 (NP), and two heard flying over the BTPHW 10/19 (LL). The star of the fall shorebird spectacle was a **Willet** discovered at CHLA 9/17 (RR, m.ob.). This bird continued through the day, offering good looks to birders. **Semipalmated** and **Least Sandpipers** also had a strong presence at CHLA during fall, with a high count for semi-sand of 24 on 9/12 (LL, et al.). Least remained present through the end of Sep when a big rain event flooded the lake on 9/30. High count for Least Sandpiper was 80 at CHLA 9/16 (LL, et al.). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** dropped into CHLA for a brief visit 9/17 (LL, multiple obs.). The following day, 9/18, an immature **Baird's Sandpiper** touched down at CHLA for a few minutes and was well photographed, only to be chased off by a Merlin, which continued to

buzz the shorebirds through the month of Sep. A late immature Baird's was seen at a rain pond in the Unionville 10/17 (NP), providing a very nice late date for this species. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were regularly seen at CHLA through the end of Sep, with a high count of 17 noted 9/22 (LL, et al.). A **Stilt Sandpiper** seen at CHLA 9/19 was the first report of this species (LL, et al.) which continued to make sporadic appearances at CHLA through the end of the month. A high of 3 Stilt Sandpipers were documented with photos 9/29 (FH). A flyby **Short-billed Dowitcher** at CHLA was reported 8/24 (LL), and was the only record through the fall period for this species. A previously reported observation by NP for 2010 was 7/10 in West Goshen. **Wilson's Snipe** made its fall debut at CHLA 9/19 (HM, TR, NP). On 8/22, during a heavy rainstorm, a **Wilson's Phalarope** did a "touch and go" at the Brandywine Polo fields in New Garden (LL, KP). This was the only report of that species for 2010. An imm. **Red-necked Phalarope** at CHLA was a terrific find on the evening of 9/15 (CC).

A juv. **Laughing Gull** was seen in flight from the CHLAHW 9/6 (LL, JF). This gull has only a handful of records in *Chester*, and most are from spring. A juv. **Bonaparte's Gull** that first made an appearance at MCSP 7/28 continued to be seen through 8/4 (HM). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was noted at STLA 11/22 (LL). A first winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen from CHLAHW 11/14 (LL); imm. Lesser Black-backs are not often observed in *Chester*. An adult was noted 11/28 among a mixed raft of **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** at STLA (HM). Nine **Caspian Tern** was a high count noted 9/4 at CHLA (LL, MOB); 3 of this species were also reported from BTPR 9/13 (m.ob.). Two **Black Terns**, uncommon migrants, were seen briefly at CHLA on the morning of 8/15 (RR) during a weather event.

On the evening of 11/13, a **Short-eared Owl** was seen hunting in the Doe Run area (LL, KP). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** made a fantastic showing at RFBS during their migration as noted earlier. Other reports of this species in the county did not come in. **Common Nighthawks** were first noted 8/17 from Wilson Farm Park (DH). A high count of 19 was recorded at Westtown School 9/3 (LT).

One of the most interesting records established this season was provided by an immature female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visiting a feeder in Devon, which was banded 11/29 (NP, JFI). This record provides a late date for this species in the county, and is more intriguing than western vagrants such as Rufous, since Ruby-throated is less likely to be found during late fall in Pennsylvania. This hummingbird continued to frequent the feeder in Devon through the end of the reporting period. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are regularly reported in fall but in very small numbers. This fall was no different with only two reports, one from CHLA of an imm. 9/13 (RR), and one from Willisbrook Preserve 10/14 (NP).

A surprise observation was of an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** seen from a kayak on CHLA 8/30 (RR). Well observed by many at BTPR 9/19, an Olive-sided was an excellent find (JS, CM, SK, HD). BTPR seems to be a good place to find this species during migration, as one was found there in spring, and previous falls. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen at BTPR 8/29 (DF) and WMPR 9/3 (KF). The only report for **Least Flycatcher** came from LWGA 9/14 (CM).

Multiple reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were received this fall, with a high count of two noted from a yard in West Goshen Twpon 9/11 (NP). A **Northern Shrike** was spotted in flight carrying a sparrow, then perched atop several trees at STLA 11/21 (AG, HM, TR, m.ob.). This bird was seen well by participants on a birdwalk for the Birding Club of Delaware County. The only other report of this shrike at Struble Lake came in the following morning (LL).

Two late **Tree Swallows** were present through 11/7 at MCSP (HM, NP, SK). An outstanding observation of a **Cave Swallow** flying over the BCPHW was made 11/17 (ph. LL, KP). This is a species with only two other previous reports in the county.

**Black-capped Chickadees**, irregular visitors, began moving into the county in decent numbers in October, with the first report coming from West Goshen 10/6 (NP). This species continued to be noted throughout the county in small numbers through the end of the reporting period. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared early in the season, with the first report from WMPR 8/2 (KF). This species was widely reported visiting feeders. Observations continued in small numbers through the end of the season. Two **Marsh Wrens**, uncommon fall migrants, were found in a wetland area at Rustin High School 10/3. This location was suspected as a probable breeding spot for Marsh Wren this past breeding season (NP, AG, LT, m.ob.).

The bird of the season was a male **Mountain Bluebird** that was briefly heard and seen from the CHLAHW 10/30 (LL). The observer

reported later that day: "The male Mountain Bluebird at Chambers Lake was not relocated this afternoon after the initial calling flyby (including a fairly distant visual) from the hawk watch at 11:15am and the subsequent brief but very close encounter in the field several hundred yards to the west (beyond the tree line). Rick Robinson, myself, and others searched but with no further sightings made as of 3pm when I had to leave. I nearly got a photo, but just as I moved from a nearby Blue-headed Vireo (which I did photograph) to the suddenly-present-at-20-foot Mountain Bluebird, it and the bluebird flock it was associating with instantly flew off back towards the hawk watch area, as if we had startled each other. I do have a fine picture of the twig on which it was perched."

The RFBS provided some nice migrant reports from fall, including those for the only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reported in the county, which were banded there 9/15 and 9/21 (DMcG). Other migrants, especially warblers, were seen in good numbers this fall. A nice diversity of warblers was observed, including **Tennessee** and **Nashville**. A late banding of a **Magnolia Warbler** occurred 10/28 at the RFBS (DM). A handful of **Cape May Warblers** were seen around the county, with three found at LWGA 10/9 (LL, AM). **Blackpoll Warblers** pushed through readily, with a late date of 10/26 at MCSP (HM). The stars of fall warbler reports were undoubtedly the two elusive *Oporornis* warblers, who seemed more obliging in presenting themselves to birders in *Chester*. **Connecticut Warbler** was seen earlier than expected this year; the first report coming in 8/29 from Westtown School (LT). Another Connecticut was first heard singing then seen at BTPR during a birdwalk 9/5 (LL, KP, m.ob.). The following day, another Connecticut was seen and photographed at WMPR (KF, HM). The RFBS captured and banded five Connecticut Warblers in Sep, including two 9/4 (DM). Another report came from BTPR, part of a fallout of passerines during a rain event 10/4 (LL). On 9/5, a **Mourning Warbler** was found at BTPR just hours after the singing Connecticut was seen on a birdwalk. This offered lucky birders the coveted "Oporornis Double-play" (LL). Other reports of Mourning Warbler came from CHLA 8/30 (RR), WMPR 9/7 (KF, HM,) and a report later in the month from CHLA 9/24 (AH).

**Vesper Sparrows** seemed to be around in better numbers this fall, with the first report from a private farm in Downingtown 9/27 (KF). Subsequent reports were made from this same location, as well as a good showing at BTPR and a high count of three there 10/31. The capture of a **Fox Sparrow** in the mist net at RFBS 10/26 marked the start of this sparrow's migration through the county (DM). Reports continued through the end of the season, with a high count of eight visiting a feeder simultaneously in N. Coventry Twp (SKI). **Lincoln's Sparrows** seemed to be in good numbers this fall, with multiple reports from around the county. A high count of six was noted at the Laurels Preserve 10/25 (KF).

**Rusty Blackbirds**, a species of continuing concern due to the decline in population, were noticed in a few places in *Chester* this fall, including a high count of twenty-seven birds picking through the mud and leaf litter along the shoreline of MCSP 11/5 (HM). Another report came from BTPR 11/11 (LL).

**Purple Finch** moved through the county in force, with the first report of a flyover at CHLAHW on 9/6 (LL, JFo). Numerous reports of this species poured in during the fall period. A good high count of 45 at WMPR was made on 10/20 (KF). **White-winged Crossbills**, irregular winter visitors, had a weak showing in the county with one heard and then seen very briefly in mature spruce 11/14 at WMPR (KF). Another report of a four calling in flight was made from the Laurels Preserve 11/24 (KF). **Pine Siskins**, which were absent in the previous fall and winter, were back in the county once again in Oct and Nov, reported first from LWGA 10/9 (LL, AM). Many reports were of flyover siskins, and others visiting feeders. A high count of thirteen attending a feeder in the Phoenixville area was noted 10/31 (VS). Reports continued through the end of the reporting period.

ADDENDUM: In early January 2011, photographic documentation was received of a single **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** at McPherson Lake in the Nottingham County Park 6/27/2010. Park Ranger RB happened upon the duck early that morning, and enjoyed watching and photographing it for about thirty minutes. The duck was flushed by a dog walker eventually, and did not return. Documentation has been sent to PORC for review. If accepted, it will be the first record of this species for *Chester*.

Observers: **Holly Merker**, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335 (610) 733-4392, **HCybelle@aol.com**, Rachel Bishop, Chuck

Chalfant, Joshua Clapper, Harold Davis, Jeff and Amy Davis (J&AD), Devich Farbotnik, Joe Flood (JFI), Judy Ford (JFo), Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, Frank Haas, Doug Hughes, Anne Hurst, Susan Killeen (SKi), Steve Kopf (SKo), Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Doris McGovern, August Mirabella, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Tom Raub, Rick Robinson, Win Schafer, Mike Schall, Joe Sebastiani, Vincent Smith, George Tallman, Lance Tanino.

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### Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA) (MZ).

Once again, county reporting for the fall season was sparse for other than a few locations, so there were no sightings of Tundra Swans but another more unusual species did make a showing this season. Four **Snow Geese** showed up for a day 10/5 at CV on a small farm pond, after several days of heavy eastern storms and rain, which may have contributed to the appearance (CW). Waterfowl reports as usual came only from KL, and included small numbers of **Green-winged Teal**, **Ruddy Ducks**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **scaup sp.**, and **Pied-billed Grebe** from 10/13-10/26 (GE, RS, MV).

The last **Turkey Vulture** was from Clarion 11/16 (JH), still a little bit earlier than some years when they can be found into Dec. In what is becoming the norm, an adult **Bald Eagle** was seen 8/29 over MZ, and two adults were perched side by side in the rain 10/6 next to the Clarion River nearby (MW, CW). A report included not for the rarity of the species but rather for behavior, is that of an adult **Cooper's Hawk**. At CV 10/11, this bird appeared after about 5 minutes of a group of crows and jays mobbing an apparent young **Great Horned Owl**, flew in from across the road and proceeded to issue its *kek kek* calls for several minutes, then flew back off across the road (CW).

More shorebird reports were received for the fall than usual, partly because of improved habitat available at KL due to lower water levels. An **American Golden-Plover** was seen there 10/13 (MV). A notable 120+ **Killdeer** were present 10/26 as well as 3 **Dunlin** and one **Wilson's Snipe** (GE, RS). On Stockdill Rd. at the edge of MZ, at least 2, possibly 4, **American Woodcock** were seen at dusk 8/11 on the open road there, possibly local birds since this is a breeding area. A single bird was also seen at a backyard in CV 8/18 during mid-day and within 30-40 ft of the house though at the edge of some pine woods, allowing for great close-up views through a scope, and some nice photos (CW).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard and seen moving through the CV area in start of migration between 8/8 and 8/27 (CW). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** continued to be a regular sight roosting in a barn in CV through the end of the fall season (CW). Two **Barred Owls** were heard calling at the edge of Clarion 11/18, not a usual occurrence for this area, though the town does have surrounding forest next to the Clarion River which provides some good habitat (JH). **Short-eared Owls** made their first fall appearance 11/12 on Rankin Rd. near CV, where they have become more common over the past two years at this reclaimed strip mine site (CW).

In a rather late date for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, a single bird was seen at a feeder near Sligo 10/2 (GW). Though **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** nest in the northern part of the county, they are not known breeders in the south, so their fall arrival in migration was first noted 10/11 present, as is typical, on maples and larches in a CV yard (CW). In an unusual sighting for the county, two **Olive-Sided Flycatchers** were seen at MZ 8/29, as well as the increasingly visible **Common Raven** (MW). At least one report of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was had for the fall season, with one to 2 birds regularly present from Aug through the fall at a pine planting in CV (CW). On 8/30 in CV, small numbers of flight calls were heard at dawn, both of **Veery** and the first few **Swainson's Thrushes** (CV). On 9/23 at the same area, both **Wood Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** were heard in good numbers moving over at dawn, as well as increasing numbers of **Gray-Cheeked** (CW). Flight calls were noted in a more unusual time frame, with steady numbers heard of thrushes going over during a misty and calm night 9/26 between midnight and 12:30am (CW). **American Pipits** are not always reported for the county, so nice to see small numbers seen at KL both 10/13 and 10/26 (GE, RS, MV).

Warbler migration for the area was first noted 8/8 with a **Blackburnian Warbler** near CV, out of its usual breeding area, as well as small numbers of **Hooded**, **Chestnut-sided**, and **American**

**Redstarts** (CW). Between 8/15-8/16 also near CV, several **Prairie Warblers** were visible moving through, although these birds do breed in the area as well (CW). They are not usually as easy to spot during breeding season, more often heard than seen. **Blue-winged Warblers** were also noted in the same location and dates starting to pass through the area. Sep was an unfortunate missed month for warbler migrants, other than a single **Cape May Warbler** as well as one **Nashville Warbler** 9/20 near CV (CW). Some more mixed flocks were noted 10/8 starting to close out the migration season, with one **Nashville**, 3 **Black-throated Green**, and 3 **Blackpoll Warblers** seen along the roadside near CV feeding on gray dogwood berries amongst other items (CW). The last warbler report for the season included several small flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 10/11, as usual one of the last species to come through, along with a single late **Cape May Warbler**, both near CV (CW).

**Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** both made a late showing 10/25 on Stockdill Rd. at the edge of MZ (MW). The last noted **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard calling as usual at dusk also along Stockdill Rd. 8/11 (CW). On 9/20 a rather early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found along a weedy, marshy area near CV where they are commonly found in fall. The last sighting in the same vicinity was 10/11 (CW). At this same productive site, 10/8 proved to be a good morning for sparrows with 6+ **Field Sparrows**, 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 7 **Swamp Sparrows**, many **White-throated Sparrows**, and 15-20 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, many immature. In one single small dogwood shrub, four species were seen in beautiful contrast simultaneously: **Field**, **Song**, **Lincoln's**, and **White-Crowned** (CW).

Lastly for the season, small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were noted through just the second half of November at nyjer feeders both near Sligo and CV (GW, CW).

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### Clearfield County

No report.

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### Clinton County

Locations: Loganton (LN), Susquehanna River (SR), Swisssdale (SW).

Waterfowl reports during the season were few except for the local CBC count day when **Gadwall**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Hooded Merganser** were found in Mill Hall 12/19 (BSB). **Northern Pintail**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Goldeneye** were reported on the SR near Lock Haven 12/19 (DSR).

On 8/2 and 8/3, up to 4 **Great Egrets** were observed along Pine Creek near Avis on the *Clinton* and *Lycoming* county line, with birds being seen at times in both counties (m.ob.). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near LN 12/19 (PF, NF). Two rather late **Turkey Vultures** were seen flying over the Rauchtown area 12/19 (DK, DR). The local pair of breeding **Peregrine Falcons** was seen regularly along the SR at McElhatten through the period (m.ob.).

The only noteworthy shorebird report came from a reservoir near LN, where a **Black-bellied Plover** was observed 10/3 (CCH).

A total of 21 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were caught and banded during Oct and Nov at the banding station in SW (WL).

A very late **Gray Catbird** was found on the local CBC in Mill Hall 12/19 (SLF). **Snow Buntings** were found in South Avis on 12/7 after the season's first major snowfall (WL). Regarding finches, a few **Pine Siskins** were being reported in Woolrich and SW throughout the period (CCH, WL).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA. 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnnet.org**, Bryce and Steve Bason, Pat Farrell, Nate Fronk, Skip and Linda Frye, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, David Krempasky, David and Samuel Rockey, David Rothrock.

**Columbia County**  
No report.

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**Crawford County**

Locations: Atlantic Lake Road (ALR), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (C), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), McMichael Road (McM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A good report of 16 **Snow Goose** were seen 11/6 at CM (AM). A **Mute Swan** was located at JSP 11/12 (RCL). Two early **Tundra Swans** were seen at PGMA 10/13 (AM), and at SPR, 203 were counted (TCN).

**Gadwalls** were found all period with 200 at PA 10/23 (MB) representing the best report. **American Wigeons** were reported from PA 9/4 (RFL) to 11/7 with 49 a high report on 10/19 (AM). **Green-winged Teal** seemed to be in better than usual numbers at PA and WL. Twenty-nine was the best total 11/12 (RFL, RCL). From one to 12 **Blue-winged Teal** were recorded up to 10/24 mostly at PA (LM, CD, ST, DW, RFL). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** was seen at PGM 9/4 (RFL). A count of 38 at PGMA 10/30 was a high total (m.ob.). There were 15 reports of **Northern Pintails** at PA and ENWR for this period, with one at PGMA 9/5 the earliest (ST, DW). Six birds the best total at PGMA 10/31 (MV). A good total of 53 **Wood Duck** was made at FH 10/17 (RFL). The 589 recorded at PGMA at the Blain's Bridge fly over count 9/18 (AM) was about 600 less birds than last year's count.

The only report of **Redhead** was of 2 on CL 11/30 (MV). A good find of a **Canvasback** was made 10/29 at SL (RE), and a top count of 16 birds was at PA 11/7 (SC). A **Lesser Scaup** was at WL 8/27; 230 at PC 11/21 was the best total (RFL). Reports of **Ring-necked Ducks** were few, with just 23 at FI the highest total (RFL). There were 9 at ENWR 11/6 (RE). The only report for this season of **Common Goldeneye** was one 11/12 at PC (RFL, RCL). RFL found 3 **Buffleheads** at WL 10/30, and there were 28 on CL 11/7 (AM). A **White-winged Scoter** was seen at PL (RFL) 11/28. A **Smew** was watched at close range (40 feet) on WL 10/9 but was not there the next day (RFL). A single **Common Merganser** was recorded at PS 9/12 with 418 at WL and PL 11/12 the highest total reported (RFL, RCL). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were first reported 10/23 with 800 noted at FH (MB). I found 320 at FH and 1400 at FI 11/21 for a total of 1720 (RFL). Some 356 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at PA 11/28 (RFL). **Ruddy Ducks** were reported from 10/13 to end of period with 78 at PA 11/7 (RFL).

Fewer **Common Loons** than usual were found this period. Six at PC 11/21 the best count (RFL). The first one was seen at WL 10/16 (RFL). A lone **Red-throated Loon** was noted at PC 11/21 and 11/28 (RFL). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was seen on WL 11/28 (RFL). The lone report for a **Horned Grebe** was noted at WL 10/23 (RFL). There were several reports of single **Pied-billed Grebe** from CM, WL, TL, SL, and PL (RFL, RCL, RE, RCN). A total of 4 on CL 11/10 was the best count (AM).

One to 9 **Great Egrets** were seen at PA and many at FH (m.ob.). The last report was of 3 there 11/7. A **Little Blue Heron** was seen at FH 8/17 (RFL). A real surprise was the finding of 4 **Cattle Egrets** at PGMA 10/29 (TCN) and 3 there 10/30 (MV, ST, DW, RN). Their usual occurrence in this area has been just one bird every few years. A late **Green Heron** was at a small farm pond at Wayland, east of Meadville 11/20 (RFL). **Double-crested Cormorants** were present at PA and TL 8/1 to 11/28 with a top count of 404 at PA 10/13 (RFL, MO).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was recorded near Westford (RFL) 10/2. One was seen 10/8 near SL and one was heard drumming at SL 11/20 (RE).

**Turkey Vultures** were common most of this period, with a high count of 27 at SPR 9/27 (CN). **Northern Harriers** were reported at SM, SL, and PA (m.ob.). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were well reported this period (above average numbers; all were single birds) (m.ob.). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen near Westford 11/12 (RFL). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen near SPR 10/15 (TCN). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen at PGMA 11/7-28, and one was noted near

SL 11/28 (RE). Good finds were single **Golden Eagles** at PGMA 10/31 (MV) and 11/6 (BG). **Bald Eagles** were well reported all period, with counts ranging from one to twelve from Meadville, SPR, TL, SL, CL, CM and PA. An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at close range 11/7 at PGMA (RFL). A **Merlin** was found near SPR 9/9 (TCN), one was near CL 10/30 (RFL), and one was at FH 11/7 (SC). One **Osprey** was seen at both CM and PC 8/8, one was at WL 9/4 (RFL), and one was near SL 9/29 (RE).

**Sandhill Cranes** were noted at PGMA, CM, and HM with a high count of 15 on 10/31 (MV, m.ob.). A **Sora** was noted at MMR, CM 9/5 (ST, DW). Two **Common Moorhens** were seen 9/1 CM (RFL). About 200 **American Coots** were seen at CL 10/30 (RFL); 25 at ENWR 11/9 was a good find (RE).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at WL 11/12 (RFL, RCL) and an **American Golden-Plover** was found there 9/11 (RFL). Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen at WL 9/4 and 9/25 (RFL). **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported through the period to 11/13 at PA and WL with a high total of 9 birds 10/24 (RFL, MV). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were found 8/20 near SL (RE) and one at PGMA 9/5 (ST, DW). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at French Creek south of Meadville 8/20, and 2 were there 8/29 (RFL). At WL there were 8 **Least Sandpipers** 8/20, 8 there 9/4, and a last sighting on 10/30 (RFL). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen at FH 8/17 (RFL) but there were no other reports. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was spotted at WL 9/6 (RFL). One to 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at WL 8/20-9/29 (RFL), 2 were near the FH 10/23 (MB), and one was at the FH 11/13 (MV, SS). Seven **Dunlin** were found at PGMA 10/10 (ST, DW), 10 were at WL 11/12 (RFL, RCL), and one was at PGMA 11/13 (MV). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was recorded at PGMA 8/20 with 3 at WL 8/25 and 3 at FH 9/11 (RFL). A single **Long-billed Dowitcher** was seen at PGMA 9/5 (ST, DW). From 1 to 11 **Wilson's Snipe** were reported from 9/5 to 11/27 (MO).

A **Glaucous Gull** was seen at PGMA 10/30 (RFL). An early migrant **Bonaparte's Gull** was recorded at the PS 8/14 (RFL) and a high count at PA 11/28 of 2660 birds (RFL). Some 2000 were reported there 11/25 (SK). One to 6 **Caspian Terns** were noted at PS 8/2-9/12 (LM, CD, MV, ST, DW, RFL). Two **Common Terns** were located at WL 9/12 (RFL).

**Barred Owls** were seen or heard at Meadville, SL, and HM (RCL, RFL, RE, MB). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted at SPR 11/13 and 11/20 (TCN). A pair of **Great Horned Owls** was reported at HM 11/19 (MB). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen near HM 8/3 (MB). A nice find were single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at SPR 9/29 and north of Meadville 10/27 (TCN). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen at CM 8/8 (RFL) and 2 were seen near SL 8/14 (RE).

**Eastern Kingbirds** were reported at WL 8/20, CL 8/29 (RFL), and near SL 9/6 (RE). A good find was 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** near SL 9/6 (RE). There was one report of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at SM 9/25 (RFL, BG, LM, JG). A **Least Flycatcher** was seen near SL 9/6 (RE). A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was found near HM 9/19 (MB) and the lone **Philadelphia Vireo** report was of one near SL 9/6 (RE). A **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at PA 8/14 (RFL). The only report of a **Northern Shrike** was one at SPR 10/26 (TCN). Most of the **Swallow** migration started early this year and fewer birds remained in the area past mid Oct (m.ob.). **Horned Larks** were seen near SL 8/27, 6 at PGMA 9/25 (m.ob.), one near SM 10/23 (RFL), and 2 near HM 10/11 (MB). Single **Common Ravens** were found near SL 8/9-9/12 (RE). A **Northern Mockingbird** was found at ENWR 10/10 (RE). A **Hermit Thrush** was present near SL 10/7 (RE). A good count of 13 **Eastern Bluebirds** was seen near SPR 10/30 on the observer's farm (TCN). There were 4 **American Pipits** along the PC 10/2 and 3 at WL 10/10 (RFL), a nice group of 25 were seen on Lippert Road east of TL 10/18 and 10/21 (RE), and 3 were at FH 10/23 (MB).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen near SH 8/7 (RE) and single **Nashville Warblers** were noted 9/25 at FI (RFL) and near SL 10/1 (RE). One **Tennessee Warbler** was found near CM 9/15 (RFL). Single **Cape May Warblers** were located at SL 9/6 (RE), 9/22 at TL (RFL), and 10/1 at SPR (TCN). At least 12 **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen near SL 10/8 (RE), and one **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/8 near SL (RE). A good find was a **Connecticut Warbler** east of HM along ALR 9/19, well seen and described by a reliable birder (MB and his wife).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were present up to the end of Aug (m.ob.), and the last report of an **Indigo Bunting** was at SM 9/1 (RFL). A very late **Summer Tanager** was found just west of WL at a feeder 11/17 (CL) and was verified 11/22 (TCN, AT). It was feeding at a suet feeder and seen by the property owner and others until 12/8 (CL,

m.ob.).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found 8/1 near HM (MB), and one there 10/13 (MB). An **American Tree Sparrow** first showed up near SL 10/22 (RE), and 10 were recorded near SPR 11/13 (TCN). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were noted near SPR 9/14 (TCN), and one was found near SL 10/8 (RE). Three **Fox Sparrows** were seen at a feeder near SPR 11/9 (TCN). A group of 13 **Snow Buntings** were seen near SL 10/15 (RE). There were 38 at PC 11/7 (RFL).

Six **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found at PA 9/6 (RFL), and one was seen near SL 10/22 (RE). A flock of **Rusty Blackbirds** was seen near Geneva 10/10 (RFL), and 2 were at HM 10/23 (MB). The last **Common Grackles** were found at WL 11/21 (RFL).

Five **Evening Grosbeaks** were watched at a Meadville feeder 11/2, and 2 were found at ENWR 11/8 (RE). These were the first sightings in Crawford County in several years. Four **Pine Siskins** were noted at a feeder near SL 10/29 (RE), 12 were on Pine Road, HM 10/30 (RB), 6 were at WL 10/20, and 12 at a Meadville feeder 11/30 (RFL).

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### Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Deerfield Commons Retention Ponds (DCRP), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGFSP), State Game Lands 169 (SGL169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL230), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

The 2010 fall season in *Cumberland* was about comings and goings. The "goings" included a Loon that had been around for about a year and a half, and a Shrike that spent the summer. The "comings" included a shorebird that used to breed in the county but now is a rarely reported migrant, and a falcon that could be considered out of place in where it chooses to make its winter home.

Per usual it seems that migrating fall waterfowl were hard to find in *Cumberland*. Six **American Black Ducks** were found at the PENNSY Quarry on Rte. 533 on 9/5 (VG), 2 were on the Children's Pond in Boiling Springs 11/3 (HW), and one on the pond at Creek Road 11/17 (VG). The 35-40 **American Wigeon** that winter on the Children's Pond in Boiling Spring were first reported 10/28 (HW), and the few that winter on the BS were first reported 11/24 (VG). In addition, 2 **Bufflehead** were reported on Fuller Lake PGFSP 11/26 (BF, LF). There were reports of migrating **Tundra Swan** flocks 11/17-28, most of which came from observations at the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch.

The **Common Loon** that was first reported at the start of 2009 at the Children's Pond in Boiling Springs was not reported during the period. The story I received is that someone in a boat harassed the bird and that it left the pond and entered the Yellow Breeches creek. The last report of the bird on the pond was 7/24 (HW). **Pied-billed Grebes** made two appearances, the first at Colonel Denning State Park 10/22-23 (VG, MJS, GM), and one Laurel Lake PGFSP 11/27 (VG). One **American Coot** was reported at Cabin Road SGL169 11/3-14 (VG).

Reports of game birds included one **Ruffed Grouse** on Elk Hill Road TSF 8/7 (VG, DL), and 2 on Creek Lane Newville 10/24 (ML). One male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported in a Carlisle yard 11/28 (HW).

Migrating **Ospreys** were reported from several locations 8/16-10/1, as were **Bald Eagles** 8/29-11/27. One juv. **Northern Goshawk** was reported at SGL169 on 10/22 (MS), and one **Merlin** was reported at the Lower Allen Twp. administration building 10/18 (BH), at Rte. 233 north of Newville 10/23 (VG), and at the power substation on MLR 11/28 (DD). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported at Cabin Road SGL169 9/13-10/21 (VG), one was on Milesburn Road MSF 9/25 (VG, AnM), 2 were on the BS 10/23 (VG), and one was on the BS 11/24 (VG). Not too surprisingly, the **Prairie Falcon** that has come to call *Cumberland* its winter home returned for a fifth straight year to the MLR area, first reported 11/20 (MS) and seen by several other birders through the end of the month. It is interesting to note that according to Anderson and Squires "The Prairie Falcon," (University of Texas Press), these beautiful birds on average live four to five years in the wild, so

one has to wonder how long this particular bird will be returning to winter in Pennsylvania.

Shorebirds in the fall period included one juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** at DCRP 9/5 (MS, AM, MW), one **Sanderling** at DCRP 9/6-7 (DB, VG, RK, AM, MS), 2 **American Golden-Plover**, and 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** at Stoughstown Pond 9/9 (RK), one **Wilson's Snipe** at MLR 9/16 (AM), and a small flock of **Ruddy Turnstones** MLR 9/18 (AM). The Sanderling was only the fourth record for *Cumberland* in the last thirty years, and the Ruddy Turnstones was the first fall record for the county that I am aware of. Yet even these great finds were outdone by the arrival of one to 2 **Upland Sandpipers** on MLR just east of Briton Road 8/29-9/5 (MS, VG, AM, BO) and another on Bullshead Road just south of Rte. 533 9/2 (VG). Though this species once bred in the county, they now are a rare find, with only one other confirmed report in *Cumberland* since 1999.

There was one **Short-eared Owl** reported at the intersection of MLR and Duncan Roads 11/24 (AM). Noticeable by their absence were **Barn Owls** at the SGL169 barn. Evidence would seem to indicate that the birds did not breed there this year. One **Common Nighthawk** was reported at PGFSP 8/10 (RC), Ridge Road MSF 8/28 (BF, LF, VG, KK, RK, LN, BO), and 11 on Chestnut Grove Road Shippensburg, north of Alleman Road 8/30 (BFe).

Though there were fewer reports than the fall of 2009, **Philadelphia Vireos** were still found in good numbers with one on Big Pond Hollow Road MSF 9/6 (VG), 2 at Bridgewater Road SGL169 9/8 (VG), one at Ridge Road MSF 9/11 (RK, MS, MW), one at Ridge Road MSF 9/15 (RK), one at Milesburn Road MSF 9/17 (TC, VG, RK, JR), and 3 at SGL 230 on 9/19 (TC, RK). Only one report of **Yellow-throated Vireo** was received when 4 were discovered on SGL 230 9/19 (TC, RK), while an unusually high 15 **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported from South Mountain MSF 10/12 (AM, MS).

This seemed like a good year for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in *Cumberland* including a report of 5 including one juvenile on the BS 8/7 (BF, LF, VG, DL).

One **Least Flycatcher** was reported from the Green Ridge Village fields 9/18 (VG). One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen on Milesburn Road MSF 10/28 (BF, LF, VG, KK, RK, LN, BO), and another was on Ridge Road MSF 10/28 (RK, AM, MS), with yet a third on Ridge Road MSF 9/1 (RK). Six **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found on Ridge Road MSF 9/11 (RK, MS, MW), and 3 were at SGL 230 (TC, RK) 9/19.

The **Loggerhead Shrike** originally found 5/26 at the corner of Pine and Station Roads south of Newville finally said good bye to *Cumberland*; it was last reported 8/13 (VG). This bird and the other Loggerhead Shrike that was present at Gobbler Knob Road 6/1-6/5 were the first confirmed in the county since 2003.

Per usual, **Cliff Swallows** made a brief appearance as they migrated through, with 80 of them showing up in fields off Briton Road north of MLR 9/1 (VG, AM, BO), and 30 (probably part of the same flock) reported the same day and not very far away on MLR (MS). Mixed in with the larger flock of Cliff Swallows were 5 **Bank Swallows** (VG, AM, BO). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were numerous, especially in the MSF. It will be interesting to see how many stay for the winter.

Three reports of single **Swainson's Thrushes** included Big Pond Road MSF 9/17 (VG), West Fairview Boat Ramp 10/6 (RK), and Mountain Road SGL 169 on 10/12 (AM, MS).

It was yet another banner year for reports on the fall warbler migration, as it seems that more area birders set out to find them on the roads of MSF. For example, there were numerous double digit reports of the less common **Tennessee Warbler**, topped by the amazing 22 counted in a day of birding on South Mountain MSF (RK). It was such a good year for them that one was even found in the middle of the valley on the BS 10/2 (VG, BF, BP). There were also numerous double digit reports of **Bay-breasted Warblers**, **Cape May Warblers**, and **Blackburnian Warblers**, mostly from MSF. Single **Wilson's Warblers** were reported on Milesburn Road MSF 8/21 (VG), Strome's Hollow MSF 8/21 (VG), Ridge Road MSF 8/28 (RK), Ridge Road MSF 9/1 (RK), Milesburn Road MSF 9/17 (TC, VG, RK, JR), and Cabin Road SGL169 9/23 (VG). Two Wilson's were reported at MSF 9/11 (RK, MS, MW), and another 2 were on Ridge Road SGL169 on 9/13 (VG). Of the less reported warblers, there was one **Mourning Warbler** reported on Bridgewater Road SGL 169 on 8/23 (VG), 2 **Connecticut Warblers** one Ridge Road, MSF 9/11 (RK, MS, MW), one 9/11 on the Appalachian Trail MSF, still another 9/15 Ridge Road MSF (RK), and one more on Ridge Road MSF 9/20 (RK, TC). There was also one **Northern Waterthrush** found on Bridgewater Road SGL169 9/13 (VG), and for a second consecutive year a late October **Yellow-throated Warbler** on

the woodland trail at the West Fairview Boat Launch 10/30 (RK). Also found at West Fairview was one **Orange-crowned Warbler** 10/6 (RK), and another on Mountain Road SGL169 10/23 (MW). No **Kentucky Warblers** were reported.

One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from Cabin Road SGL 169 on 10/2 (VG), another was on Mountain Road SGL 169 on 10/12 (AM, MS), and 2 were on West Hatchery Road 10/25 (VG). One **Fox Sparrow** was reported on Cabin Road SGL 169 on 11/14 (VG), another was at a Newville feeding station 11/21 (BF), and 2 were on the BS 11/24 (VG) and at PGFSP 11/27 (VG). Also, one early arriving **Lapland Longspur** was reported on MLR 11/1 (AM).

With the rapid decline of its numbers sightings of Rusty Blackbirds are always of interest. During the past season there were the following sightings of **Rusty Blackbirds** in *Cumberland*: one at Ridge Road MSF 9/20 (RK, TC), 2 Cabin Road SGL 169 (VG), one BS 10/2 (BF, LF, VG, BO, BP, KS), 21 Cabin Road SGL169 (VG), 2 Cabin Road SGL 169 (AM, MS), 10-12 mixed in with a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds Cabin Road SGL 169 on 10/21 (VG), 12 SGL 169 on 10/24 (AM, MS), and 12 Cabin Road SGL 169 on 11/3 (VG).

Reports of finches included up to 11 **Pine Siskins** reported at a Newville Feeding station 11/13 and 11/25 (BF, LF), a flock of 11 at Wagoner's Gap Hawk Watch 11/14 (DG, RF), and up to 14 were seen at a Carlisle feeder between 11/8-18 (HW). Two **White-winged Crossbills** were reported from the Wagoner's Gap Hawk Watch 11/10 (BL), and 25 **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from the Wagoner's Gap Hawk Watch 11/13 (DG).

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## Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMt), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Ft. Indiantown Gap, Dauphin Co. portion (FIG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Haldeman Island SGL 290 (HI), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A lone **Tundra Swan** was found on the SR south of Duncannon 8/20 (AL) and a flight of 25 Tundras were observed at Highspire Reservoir 11/26, as well as the only **Snow Goose** reported this season. One was with **Canada Geese** in the shallow water of the reservoir (P&RW).

**Blue-winged Teal** was first noted 8/18 at SRWF and were observed at this location through 10/6 (RK). The single **Ring-necked Duck** first reported in July at SRWF was still present to 8/4 (RK). A total of 93 were counted at Lake Tobias near Halifax 10/12 (SB). A single drake **Bufflehead** showed up SRWF 8/8 and remained into Sep (RK, et al.). By late Oct migrating Bufflehead were observed from various locations along the SR and continued through the quarter (m.ob.).

Waterfowl counts on the SR were disappointing this fall with no "big days" reported. A few of the more interesting SR sightings included: five **Common Goldeneye**, the first of the season, at SRWF 11/12 (RK); one **Long-tailed Duck** with a raft of about 75 **Bufflehead** 11/19 at SRMV (P&RW), and a single male **Redhead** at SRMV 11/28 (P&RW). The first **Ruddy Duck** was reported SRWF 10/6 (RK)

A **Common Loon** was observed on the SR at Wormleysburg 11/22 (P&RW). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** first noted on the Swatara Creek at the Derry Twp. park on Boathouse Rd. 8/22 remained through Nov (P&RW). It appeared to be injured because it was unable to lift off the water when it attempted to fly. Since it remained for three months it obviously is able to obtain enough food and was still present into mid-Dec.

A **Snowy Egret** was reported at SRWF 8/23 (HW). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was found at SRWF 8/26 (RK); another, or the same, was observed at this location 9/6 (P&RW) and again 9/7 (RK). The last **Great Egret** reported this season was observed at WL 11/8 (*fide* CR). A single **Cattle Egret** was reported along Sandbeach Rd. in EHT 11/17

(S&RZ). On 11/19 two were found at this location with a herd of Angus cattle (P&RW), and one or two were reported through 11/24 (m.ob.). A **Least Bittern** was found along the river shoreline at Fort Hunter 9/23 (MW), and an **American Bittern** was observed at WL 11/2 (*fide* CR). With both **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** nesting within the HBG city limits a good location to observe both species in Aug and Sep was SRWF. Yellow-crowned was reported regularly through 9/12 while Black-crowned were found there to 9/15 (m.ob.). On 8/19, 8 immature Yellow-crowns were found near the West Fairview boat ramp, either along the river or just up the Conodoguin Creek in *Cumberland* (RK).

Arguably the best observation of the season was the six immature **White Ibises** that were photographed flying in at WL the morning of 8/23 (LI). This was the third county record and the photos can be viewed on the PSO's website <www.pabirds.org> within PORC's gallery of rare bird photos.

A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed in WHT 11/19 (BCa) and another was reported near the Stony Mt. fire tower 11/17 (SB). **Merlin** reports included one at WL 9/3 (*fide* CR), another from atop BMT 10/9 (M&RB), one from near Grantville 10/28 (TB), and one from along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 11/19 (P&RW). **Peregrine Falcon** reports away from the immediate HBG area included one near Millersburg 9/4 (BBk) and two in the Hershey area, the first along Canal Rd. in SHT 10/25 and the second on Sandbeach Rd. in EHT 11/25 (P&RW). A **Golden Eagle** was observed flying over BMT 11/7 (M&RB).

**American Coot** was first reported at WL 10/12 and a high count of 13 was recorded 11/15 (*fide* CR). Six American Coots were also found SRHB 11/7 (P&RW).

The SR was especially low during much of Aug providing opportunity for shorebirds. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found at SRWF 8/8-9/8 (RK). A **Semipalmated Plover** 8/21 and 9/7 and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/21 were found at SRWF (RK). Some small retention ponds along Canal Rd. in SHT have been a reliable location to find some of the more common migrating shorebirds. **Least Sandpipers**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Solitary Sandpipers** have been regular from 8/20 through the first week of Oct. One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed there 8/20 (P&RW). The Deer Valley Golf Course pond had three **Wilson's Snipe** 9/30 (P&RW).

The only **Bonaparte's Gull** report this quarter was from SRWF where 14 were counted 11/15 (RK). **Caspian Tern** was reported from various locations along the SR 8/9-9/22 (m.ob.). A single **Forster's Tern** was observed at SRWF 9/12 (RK).

Very late nesting **Mourning Doves** were noted 9/28 near Linglestown with the hatching of eggs. At least one fledged in early Oct (PL). The lateness of this can be corroborated with data from both the first and second BBA projects. A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was observed along Linglestown Rd. near the Colonial Golf Club 11/18 (RB).

A **Long-eared Owl** was heard calling from an encampment on Milton S. Hershey School grounds within the HIBA in early August (NM). The observer is experienced with owl banding in Hidden Valley in *Schuylkill* where he was exposed to Long-eared Owl tapes, among other owl species. There were 174 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** banded at the Small Valley banding station during the Oct-Nov season (SL). Compared to the past 10 seasons this number is just slightly above average. A flight of 13 **Common Nighthawks** was enjoyed along Elmerton Ave., HBG the evening of 8/26 (SL). Other **Common Nighthawk** reports came from FIG the last week of August through the first week of Sep (DM) and from SHT where five were observed 9/12 (JG). Eight **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from FIG 9/8 (DM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was still visiting a yard in Hershey 10/6 (AS). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was present in August and early Sept. at FIG.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed at FIG 8/24 (DM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from SCV 8/29 (AM, SS); and a **Least Flycatcher** was found at SGL 246 on 9/5 (P&RW). **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from SHT 9/12-13 (JG). More than 800 **Bank Swallows** were counted as they lined up on the wires across the mouth of the Swatara Creek at Middletown 8/7 (P&RW). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** returned by the end of Aug: two were observed in SCV 8/29 (AM, SS), and one arrived at yard feeders in SHT 8/30 (P&RW). Reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, especially from feeder watchers, continued through the season (m.ob.). More than 100 **American Pipits** were found in the farm fields near the Milton S. Hershey School Horticulture Center 11/3 (TB, NM).

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was one of the species found atop

Bmt 8/9 (DM). In SCV an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found 9/15 (TS), and a **Mourning Warbler** was among the species reported there 9/23 (TC, JR). New late dates were recorded for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** found in SCV 10/17 (AM) (this excludes the one observed during the Curtin CBC 12/29/2004), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** observed 10/26 on Bmt (M&RB).

The first **Fox Sparrow** of the season was reported from Bmt 10/26 (M&RB). Two **Lincoln Sparrows** were found in the HIBA 9/15 (P&RW). **Blue Grosbeak** continued at the Canal Rd. location in SHT through Aug and was last noted at this location when four were observed 9/1 (TB, P&RW, et al.). **Blue Grosbeak** reports also continued from FIG with one pair displaying probable breeding behavior 8/23 with the observation of an adult male and two or three females or juveniles (DM, JD).

A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed in the HIBA 11/19 (P&RW). **Rusty Blackbird** was found at WL with one reported 10/1 (GK) and a high count of 40 on 10/24 (RK, JR). Another good count of about 40 **Rusty Blackbirds** was submitted 11/22, also from WL (EB).

The first report of **Purple Finch** came 8/18 on Brnt (M&RB). Most **Purple Finch** feeder visits did not occur until late Sept. and continued, from various locations in the southern half of the county, through 11/6 (m.obs.). **Pine Siskin** reports from SHT began on 10/18 and continued through 10/26 (JG, P&RW). A fly over or four **Evening Grosbeaks** were observed in Weiser State Forest 11/11 (DH).

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## Delaware County

Locations: Brinton Lake, Crum Creek Reservoir (CR), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch (RTPHW), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills-DelCo (WM).

Two weather events of interest affected *Delaware* this fall. Tropical Storm Nicole brought 4.5" of rain to PHL and locally heavier rain and flooding to other parts of the county 9/30, but did not bring any hoped for "storm birds". A system near the Great Lakes blew strong NW winds for 2 days and lit up the radar screens overnight into 10/29. It brought a decent number of migrants but that weekday, coverage was light. Nevertheless there are a good number of local rarities to report including **Least Bittern**, **Common Moorhen**, **Rufous Hummingbird**, **Common Raven**, **Townsend's Warbler**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and **Dickcissel**.

A flock of 139 **Snow Geese** at RTPHW 11/28 (DM, AF) was the only report of this species for the season. The **Canada Geese** started flying in early Oct with "thousands" reported 10/2 at RTPHW (BR, CP). **Tundra Swans** are an uncommon flyover at the hawk watch so 8 individuals 11/17 at RTPHW (HM, JC) is noteworthy. Another noteworthy flyover was 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at RTPHW 11/28 (DM, AF). Other ducks of note were a somewhat early **Green-winged Teal** at TI 8/7 (AG), 2 **Greater Scaup** at BL 11/23 and a pair of **Lesser Scaup** at SR 11/14 (AG).

An interesting sight was 2 **Common Loons** mixed in with a flock of **Canada Geese** at RTPHW 10/31 (LT, DE). The size comparison was quite dramatic. The hawk watch experienced a decent flight of **Common Loons** with 23 individuals at RTPHW 11/10 (HM, JC) and a season high of 35 on 11/22 (BR).

Rarely seen in the *Delaware* portion of Tinicum, a **Least Bittern** 8/6 (AG) was a great find. A **Green Heron** was noted to have a run-in with a **Red-tailed Hawk** at TI 8/8 (DE). The heron won! A **Turkey Vulture** with a blue wing tag was spotted over RTPHW 11/3 (AG). This

turned out to be a bird tagged at Hawk Mountain by Bracken Brown. The Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch operated from 9/1 to 11/30 with nearly every day covered. Total raptor count was about average. As always **Broad-winged Hawks** represented the majority of the total migrants with 3990 individuals recorded. This is about equal to the average count of 3094 over the previous 9 years. The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight was a little more spread out than last year. The great majority still passed on the expected week of 9/14-21. The high count was 1939 on 9/20. This was a classic flight day with a large high pressure area over the Great Lakes having pushed a cold front over us the previous day. Most other species totals were near or somewhat below average. For the first time since 2001, zero **Northern Goshawks** were counted. The average is about 6 per year. The tally of 148 **American Kestrels** was similar to the counts of 140 in 2009 and 143 in 2008 but way below the seasonal average for the seven years prior to that (298). This reflects a general decline in this species in *Delaware*. A count of 5 **Golden Eagles** was the highest in a few years. The 10-year average for this species is 4.6. The **Bald Eagle** count of 117 was the lowest since 113 were recorded in 2001. This low number reflects the decision by the counters to try and separate "local" from "migrant" birds, a difficult task but a nice one to have.

A **Common Moorhen** at TI 8/22 (DE) was a nice surprise. This once common species in the TI/PHL area has become rare. There were a number of sightings in 2006 from *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* portions of Tinicum but few in the several years before this date and none since, until this year. A **Dunlin** at DR 11/6 (AG) was a nice find as this species appears to be getting harder to find, especially in fall. The usual shorebirds—**Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**—were found in groups of 10 or fewer at TI, DR 8/1-22 (AG, DE). The maximum count of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was 25 and maximum count of **Least Sandpiper** 200-300 within the same dates and at the same locations (AG, DE).

Tropical Storm Nicole did not bring any rarities but a high number of 47 **Caspian Terns** were counted the morning after on the DR 10/1 (AG). Three **Caspian Terns** were a somewhat unusual sighting RTPHW 9/8 (HM)

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported from four different locations, primarily RCSP 9/3-10/18 (GB, DM, AL, DE). A memorable sight was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** sitting atop a tree at SC 9/25, catching some early morning rays with a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Scarlet Tanager**, and a **Brown Thrasher**; all were visible in the same binocular field at the same time.

The annual **Common Nighthawk** count was conducted at HC 8/19-9/11 (SJ); a total of 2731 individuals were tallied; big days were 8/22 (411), 8/26 (242); 8/28 (585) and 8/30 (251). The latest **Chimney Swift** report was at RTPHW 10/28 (GB, DE); a fairly late date. The latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** reported was Radnor Twp 10/3 (MP), an average departure date. An imm. male **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Swarthmore 10/14-10/20 (DE, et al.). It was photographed by several and banded by Nick Pulcinella 10/20. An imm female **Rufous Hummingbird** visited this same feeder in November 2007 (DE). This represented the fifth *Delaware* record for this species. An uncommon sighting in *Delaware* was an imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** which flew into a tree allowing participants of a birding club field trip to get a good look before it took off again, at DT 10/23 (DE, et al.).

A rare but regular **Olive-sided Flycatcher** flew by RTPHW 9/20 (DM). A real rarity for *Delaware* was a **Common Raven** at RTPHW 11/2 (AG, et al.); this was Al's county bird #282. Two **Tree Swallows** at RTPHW 11/6 (SJ, CP) were late. The state-wide **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption did not escape *Delaware*. The earliest report was from Lima 10/11 (AL). After that reports were regular and widespread. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** moved through; earliest report was from Springfield 9/17 (LR).

*Delaware* birders found 23 species of warblers this fall. Highlights were a late **Cape May Warbler** at TY 11/3 (AG) (extreme late date 12/17) and a rare **Connecticut Warbler** RCSP 9/9 (GB).

An accidental fall rarity **Clay-colored Sparrow** was smart enough to stop by the back yard of an exceptional bird photographer in Springfield 10/16 (DB, AB) to have its photo taken before it disappeared. This represented the fourth *Delaware* record of this species. There were five reports of **Lincoln's Sparrows** at several locations 10/2-10/23 (AG, SJ, DE).

A **Dickcissel** was found in the corn field at RCSP 10/29 (AG). This was on the day of a massive migrant fall out that followed 2 days of

strong W and NW winds. People monitoring radar predicted a good day and NP had notified us that he heard many flight calls the previous evening as he left work. Unfortunately the day was a weekday (Friday) and reports were received only from RTPHW, LR, and AG. Among the species reported that day were a **Common Loon**, 2 **Merlins**, both **Kinglets**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Brown Thrasher**, 55 **Cedar Waxwings**, **Vesper Sparrow**, **Rusty Blackbird**, and a group of 9 **Purple Finches** seen at a feeder Springfield (LR).

S.A.

The special bird of the season was a **Townsend's Warbler** at Cobb's Creek Environmental Center 11/20 identified by Tony Croasdale. The bird was seen and photographed by many observers that day and again 11/21. I do not believe it was seen after that date. The consensus among birders I spoke to was that it was a first fall male although there was some discussion about the sex of the bird. This appears to be the third confirmed state record. Birds of Pennsylvania (McWilliams & Brauning 2000, p.363) report only two valid records: a male in Luzerne Co 12/15/1997 and a male collected near Brandywine (Coatesville) 5/12/1868. They report this specimen is in the Academy of Natural Sciences collection. Interestingly Nick Pulcinella reports a record of an individual observed at Tyler Arboretum, 11/17/1973 (Birds of Delaware County, p.63). The report was by a reliable birder. Both Nick and Al Guarente recall chasing the bird but not finding it so it remains an unconfirmed report.

A probable very late **Bobolink** was observed in a blackbird flock at RTPHW 11/10 (HM). A typical late date for this species is early Oct. The observer is a superb and conscientious birder and only the lateness of the date keeps her from saying this was a definite sighting. In support of her sighting were 2 (also late) **Bobolinks** at RTPHW 10/23 (BR, SJ). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found in small numbers: 2 at RCSP 10/29 (AG); 5 at his home in Springfield 11/10 (SC) and 2 at CR 11/18 (DE).

There were a decent number of reports of **Purple Finch** starting in Swarthmore 9/26 (DE) and then by many observers into early November. **Pine Siskins** were around as well starting with 37 individuals RTPHW 10/17 (AG, CL). Reports of this species continued through November.

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#### **Elk County**

No compiler.

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#### **Erie County**

Locations: Sunset Point Waterbird Count (WC).

The season was basically uneventful. However, Pine Siskins moving through the region in early October through much of November, as well as appearances of Evening Grosbeaks and single White-winged Crossbills, made the outlook of some finch activity through the winter season seem promising.

The following birds of note were reported for the season from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

A flock of 15 **Snow Geese** flying over Gull Point was reported by a duck hunter 11/23 (RH). The flock consisted of 12 whites and 3 blues. The only **Brant** reported this fall was the single immature found sitting on breakwater #49 on 11/28 (MS). A total of six **Red-necked Grebes** were observed this season periodically 10/9-11/28, mostly during the waterbird count (WC) at Sunset Point (JM). The **Eared Grebe** discovered off Gull Point 11/28 was not seen after that date (MS).

Even though **Least Bitterns** are always present on Presque Isle

during the nesting season, very few are reported during the post breeding season, so one at the head of Presque Isle Bay on 8/14 was noteworthy (MF). The two **Great Egrets** at a small lake west of Edinboro that were reported last season were still present until at least 8/5 (TW). The four **Black-crowned Night-Herons** reported were the norm for late summer which included 2 at the head of Presque Isle Bay 8/14 (MF) and 2 at the Erie Wastewater treatment Plant in Erie 10/24 (JD).

Four **American Golden-Plovers** made a brief appearance at Gull Point 9/5 (ST), and one was there 9/18 (RS). The only **Willet** reported was of a group of seven spotted along the beach near breakwater #2 on 8/14 (JH). **Red Knots** have been becoming increasingly rarer over the past several years, so it was exciting to see a juvenile 9/4-5 at Gull Point (JM). A group of five **White-rumped Sandpipers** touched down during a storm at Gull Point 9/4 (JM). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was a good find at Gull Point 9/5 (ST). The only **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** report was one studied at Gull Point 8/22 (ST). A **Red-necked Phalarope** touched down at Gull Point following a storm 9/5 (ST), and what may have been a different individual was photographed from a canoe at the head of Presque Isle Bay on the same date (KA). An **unidentified phalarope** was seen spinning on the water off beach 11 on 9/20 (BO). A **Red Phalarope** was spotted while the observer was looking at the Brant 11/28 at breakwater #49 (MS). The phalarope approached the observer to within a few feet and was subsequently photographed by JM shortly after it was reported.

A distant **jaeger sp.** was spotted pursuing gulls well off the mouth of Elk Creek on 10/31 while the observer was watching for Cave Swallows (BC). The distance was too great to identify the jaeger to species, though it was very likely a Pomarine or a Parasitic. A total of five **Little Gulls** were tallied over the course of two days during the WC 10/10-11 off Sunset Point. Much later, another **Little Gull** was spotted in the marina 11/27 (MS). A very dark first cycle **Iceland Gull**, or perhaps it was a Thayer's Gull, flew in and landed on breakwater #57 a minute or two before flying off during the WC (JM). At least four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found at Presque Isle S.P. and the Lake View Landfill 9/4, 10/31, and 11/27 (m.ob.). Always a great find, an adult **California Gull** was located in the casino parking lot near the Lake View Landfill 11/27 (MW). Eight **Black Terns** flew past Gull Point 9/4 for the only report this season (JM).

A **Long-eared Owl** was spotted perched in a tree along the Erie side of Presque Isle Bay on 10/18 (RSw). A **Short-eared Owl** was tallied on the WC as it flew across Lake Erie from Canada 10/15 (JM). Another **Short-eared Owl** was flushed from Gull Point Trail 10/31 (ST). A leucistic **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** had the observer stumped as to what species it was when it came to his feeder during the second week of September (RF).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were spotted on Presque Isle S.P. 9/18 (RS). The **Northern Shrike** returned to a residence in Franklin Center where it has been attacking birds there for the last several years (JD). It first appeared on 11/2 and was seen periodically to the end of the month. Another Northern Shrike was spotted in McKean on 11/14 (SS). Cave Swallow hunters on Presque Isle S.P. were a bit disappointed to have an approaching swallow turn out to be a rather late **Barn Swallow** rather than an anticipated Cave Swallow 10/31 (ST).

A **White-winged Crossbill** visited a feeder in McKean 11/28 (SS). **Pine Siskins** became commonplace sightings at feeding stations throughout the county after their arrival in early Oct. Not reported annually in the county anymore were three **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder in Edinboro 11/4 (RK).

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Observers: **Jerry McWilliams**, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com, Ken Andersen, Ben Coulter, Julie Dell, John DePaul, Richard Farver, Michele Franz, James Hill III, Ross Hollenbeck, Rick Kreider, Bernie O'Connor, Mike Schall, Randy Stringer, Sam Stull, Ruth Swaney (RSw), Shannon Thompson, Tom Wasilewski, Mike Weible.

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#### **Fayette County**

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Friendship Hill National Historic Site (FH).

This was one of the best fall seasons in terms of the number of reports received. I can report on late summer warblers that breed here as well as a few fall migrants, something I rarely get to do for this

county. A few nice raptor reports were also submitted. The first fall rains in November produced a fallout of waterfowl.

GRL hosted 35 **Tundra Swans** 11/4 (EC). A total of 20 **Common Mergansers** were counted on the Youghiogheny River at Ohio State Park 8/29 (GG). GRL held a good variety of waterbirds 11/5, the first rainy and windy day in the fall. Ducks included a **Wood Duck**, 14 **Gadwall**, 8 **American Wigeon**, 6 **Green-winged Teal**, 11 **Canvasback**, 4 **Ring-necked Duck**, 11 **Lesser Scaup**, 5 **Surf Scoters**, 54 **Bufflehead** and 270 **Ruddy Ducks**. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** and 21 **American Coots** were also present that day (MF). It's amazing what a difference a day makes at these mountain lakes when the weather clears. The following day (11/6) at GRL waterfowl included 3 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 8 **Ruddy Ducks** and 6 **American Coots** (ST).

**Osprey** were seen along the Youghiogheny River 8/14 and 9/3 from Connellsville to Dawson (TK, JK). A **Bald Eagle** was at Mill Run Reservoir 11/11 (MFo). A **Northern Goshawk** first reported in spring continued to be seen at SGL 51 during the summer (JF, *fide* CD) and was last reported 8/8 (CD). Three **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at FH 9/25 (TB).

Five **Killdeer** were still at GRL 11/5 (MF).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found along the Youghiogheny Bike Trail 8/14 (TK, JK). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling in SGL 51 from 8/23-25 (CD). Four were heard in that location 8/30 (DW, ST). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at SGL 51 on 8/25 (CD) and 8/30 (DW, ST). It's been years since I received a report of this species. **Chimney Swifts** were numerous along the Youghiogheny River from Dawson to Layton 8/14 (TK, JK).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was present at SGL 51 on 8/17 (CD). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at SGL 51 on 8/31 (DW, ST). A **White-eyed Vireo** was at FH 9/25 (TB), a **Blue-headed Vireo** and a **Philadelphia Vireo** were at SGL 51 on 8/17 (CD). **Common Ravens** were at SGL 51 in Aug (CD) and one was at FH 9/25 (TB). Five **Veeries** and a **Wood Thrush** were at SGL 51 on 8/8 (CD) and one was there 8/31 (DW, ST). Two **Swainson's Thrushes**, a **Hermit Thrush** and a **Wood Thrush** were at FH 9/25 (TB). A **Hermit Thrush** was also at SGL 51 9/25 (CD). Two **Brown Thrashers** were at SGL 51 on 8/25 (CD). **Cedar Waxwing** reports included 50 tallied along the Youghiogheny River from Dawson to Layton 8/14 (TK, JK), 28 at SGL 51 on 8/17 (CD) and 16 at FH on 9/25 (TB).

Migrant warbler reports include a **Nashville Warbler** at FH 9/25 (TB), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at SGL 51 on 8/31 (DW, ST) and FH 9/25 (TB), 5 **Blackpoll Warblers** at FH 9/25 (TB) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at SGL 51 on 8/31 (DW, ST). Other warblers reported breed in the county, so they may have been local breeders or migrants. Several people banded SGL 51 near Chalkhill in August. On 8/8 a **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 3 **Prairie Warblers**, and 2 **Black-and-white Warblers** were reported (CD). The **Prairie Warbler** reports are particularly welcomed because this species has disappeared from a few areas near Ohio State Park. At SGL 51 on 8/31, species included **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart** and **Hooded Warbler** (DW, ST). A report from FH 9/25 included 6 **Magnolia Warblers**, 6 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 6 **American Redstarts** and a **Hooded Warbler** (TB). Rounding out the reports 4 **Black-and-white Warblers** were at SGL 51 on 8/17 (CD) and an **Ovenbird** was at Ohio State Park 8/29 (GG).

Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at SGL 51 on 8/8 (CD).

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### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Tionesta (TI).

A nice variety of warblers was observed this quarter. A flock of **Rusty Blackbirds** and a single **Pine Siskin** are also somewhat noteworthy. Ninety-four species were tallied in the county this period.

The only **Tundra Swan** reports were 11/23 and 11/27 at BS, where 24 were seen (TB). Four **Canvasbacks** were reported 11/3 (RN) and a single **Bufflehead** 12/2 (TB), also at BS. A **Great Egret** was

noted 8/23 standing near the shore of the Allegheny River near TI (FM, JM).

The last **Turkey Vulture** was spotted 10/13 over TI. Two **Osprey** were seen 9/11 along Tionesta Creek (FM, JM). An adult **Bald Eagle** was observed 11/7 near the river; it caught a fish and dropped it to a spot where a juvenile promptly retrieved it (DM). There were several **Bald Eagle** reports throughout the period. An immature **Cooper's Hawk** came into a yard 9/20 and made a futile attempt to pick up a gray squirrel beneath a feeder near TI (FM, JM). A **Northern Goshawk** was spotted 8/27 flying over one of Scott Stoleson's banding stations in the ANF near Marienville, where the last **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted 10/1 (SS, LO). Two **American Coots** were found 11/3 at BS (RN).

A red-phase **Eastern Screech-Owl** was perched in a snowball bush 11/29 and 11/30 feet from a suburban back door, and, surprisingly, was seen but not heard (EB, TB, JM). The last report of **Chimney Swifts** (2) was 9/14 in the ANF near Marienville (LO). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted 9/20 near TI (FM, JM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** perched in a snag 8/27 and lingered for a while at a banding station in the ANF (SS, FM, JM). Late date for **Blue-headed Vireo** was 10/1; for **Red-eyed Vireo**, 9/15, both in the ANF near Marienville. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported from 9/29 through 10/15 throughout the county. **Swainson's Thrush** was last observed 9/29 in the ANF (LO).

**Tennessee Warblers** were found 8/26-9/15 in the ANF, where the last **Nashville Warbler** was seen 10/1 (SS, LO, DW, FM, JM). The last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was spotted 10/20 near TI (FM). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a nice catch 8/26 at a banding station in the ANF (SS, FM, JM), where the last **Blackpoll Warblers** (4) were observed 10/1 (LO, FM, JM), and **Wilson's Warblers** were seen 8/26 and 9/14 (SS, LO, DW, FM, JM).

The first **American Tree Sparrows** were found 11/26 near TI (FM, JM). Two **Fox Sparrows** were reported 11/3 at BS (RN), along with 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows**. The first **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted 10/13 near TI (FM). A flock of 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** 11/3 at BS was a nice find, and the only report (RN). A single **Pine Siskin** came to feeders near TI 11/16 through 12/13 with a flock of **American Goldfinch** (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire**, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, [fmcguire1@verizon.net](mailto:fmcguire1@verizon.net), Elaine Bean, Terry Bean, Ted Buckwalter, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Jim McGuire, Richard Nugent, Linda Ordiway, Theo Rickert, Scott Stoleson, Don Watts.

### Franklin County

Locations: Benders Pond (KP), Caledonia Park (CP), Creekside Nature Trail (CNT), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Long Lane Pond (LL), Shady Grove (SG), Stillhouse Hollow (SH).

A **Cackling Goose** was a rare sighting at LL for a brief time 9/14 (CG). Few **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** were reported. Snow Geese on LL (VB) and several flights of Tundras were the only reports. Ducks were at a premium again this fall. A first for our county was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** on a small pond adjacent to Falling Spring stream near Chambersburg. Many birders had a good look at this duck for the first time. A few **Green-winged Teal**, **American Black Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded** and **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Duck** were reported but numbers were very low. Only a few **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen (BO, CG, DG).

Hawks, especially the **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's**, were active around feeders to the point of causing dislike of their presence. **Bald Eagles** are becoming a more regular sight throughout the county with as many as 15 sightings during Nov and Dec. A **Merlin** (DG) was at GR in Nov eyeing some **Rock Pigeons**.

Shorebirds were very good at KP, LL, and GR (BO, BK, CG, DC, DG, VB), but the numbers were a little low. Species seen were **American Golden-Plover**, and **Semipalmated Plover**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Sanderling**, **Semipalmated**, **Western**, **Least**, **Baird's**, **Pectoral**, **Dunlin**, and **Stilt Sandpipers**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and **Wilson Snipe**. Several **American Woodcock** in an old orchard along SH were observed by BK various times in mid-Nov. A total of 29 **American Golden-Plovers** were counted at GR 9/18.

**Black Terns** made their appearance at KP 8/15-16 (BK, DC, DG,

CG).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to reside and are expanding from Shady Grove to Zullinger, Greencastle, Waynesboro, and surrounding areas. A total of 42 were counted at GR 10/12 at one time. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were noted at three different locations, and **Great Horned Owls** were at least six locations or more. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and **Red-headed** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** were being reported as regular visitors to feeders near SG and SH (DG, BK).

Vireos were hard to locate but a **Philadelphia Vireo** at CNT was a very good find.

Large numbers of **Tree** and **Barn Swallows** with fewer **Northern Rough-winged**, **Bank**, and **Cliff Swallows** were reported (CG, DG) particularly in Oct at GR.

The usual good numbers of **White-breasted Nuthatches** were reported, but more than usual numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present at various feeders (BK, VB, CG, DG). **Brown Creepers** (VB) were also at feeders in CD.

Good numbers of warblers were sighted at CNT, CP, and SH during Sep and Oct. Some noteworthy warblers were **Tennessee**, **Orange-crowned**, **Nashville**, **Northern Parula**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, **Bay-breasted**, **Cerulean**, **Connecticut**, and **Hooded**. CNT was a very productive area along the Conococheague Creek near Menno Haven Retirement facility.

**Fox**, **White-throated**, **White-crowned**, and a few **Chipping Sparrows** (CG, DG, BK, JS) were visiting feeders particularly in the early morning and late evening hours at various locations. **Snow Buntings** were few but large numbers of **Horned Larks** were found at several farming locations. As many as 50 **Pine Siskins** were counted at one sitting (VB) in CP at a feeder during one of their many visits.

Observers: Dale L. Gearhart, 1872 Burkholder Rd. POB 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net, Valerie Barnes, David Cooney, Carl Garner, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Eric Martin, Bill Oyler, Joyce Schaff.

### Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap State Park (CGSP), Forbes Trail Road Pond (FTRP), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Tuscarora Mountain "The Pulpit" Hawkwatch (TM).

Fall season brought dry conditions to the county, as evidenced by the low water levels of MGL.

There were few waterbird migrants observed in the county. This could be due to the presence of duck hunters frequenting MGL and FTRP. Modest numbers of **Teal**, **Buffleheads**, and **Mergansers** were detected at MGL and local farm ponds. Noteworthy were 6 **American Wigeon** and 22 **Ring-necked Ducks** at MGL 11/6 (DS).

It was a modest fall season for raptor numbers at TM. A few interesting high counts were made. Vulture high counts at TM included 11 **Black Vultures** 11/13 (EB, RB) and 61 **Turkey Vultures** 10/15 (DLG). The season's daily high count of **Osprey** (11) and **Bald Eagle** (7) occurred 9/13 (AF, DLG, AL). The month of Oct saw daily high counts of **Northern Harriers** (7) on 10/23 (DP, DJ) and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (61) on 10/10 (HT, RC, RB). Nov brought TM the daily high count of **Golden Eagle** (4) on 11/03 (J&JC). Three single records of **Northern Goshawks** were recorded for the fall season: 9/23 (RB, EB, HT), 10/27 (J&JC), and 11/13 (EB, RB, DS).

Several Buteo species were detected at TM. Within a day of each other, **Red-tailed** (84) on 10/30 (DP, DJ) and **Red-shouldered** (3) on 10/31 (RC) were the site's high counts. A soaring **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/3 provided TM's only fall record (J&JC). This year, no large **Broad-winged Hawk** movement was detected. The high count for this neotropical buteo at TM was 147 on 9/18 (DP). The last fall record of **Broad-winged Hawk** in the county was also at TM 10/16 (DP, DJ, RB).

If a **Peregrine Falcon** or **Merlin** was detected at TM, they were only found singly during a day's outing. Three single records of **Merlins** were recorded for the fall season: 9/29 (JC), 10/12 (DL, KL, DLG), and 10/15 (DLG). The **Peregrine Falcon** had a late date of 10/27 (J&JC).

The scarcity of passerine records for the quarter could be attributed to the lack of field work in Aug, Sep, and Oct. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were more common than in previous years. RM noted a nice assortment of fall migrants at CGSP: 3 **Swainson's Thrushes** 9/4, one **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/5, a singing **Louisiana Waterthrush** near the lake outlet 9/5, and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/6.

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### Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Franklin Township (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph K. Bell Farm (RBF), Rogersville (RGV), Sycamore (SY).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found dead on a porch roof in Jefferson. Ralph K. Bell speculates it possibly became drunk eating fermented berries and crashed into the house. The usual crowd of 40 **Wild Turkeys** came into the yard every day at LCR and race to the shelled corn thrown out for them (MLP). A **Ringed-necked Pheasant** showed up at the feeders at EV 11/28 (MH).

Groups of **Turkey Vultures** were reported frequently throughout Oct in RGV, with the last sighting of 5 on 10/26 (MG). Still being reported every season are **Bald Eagles**. TC saw an adult eagle 10/20 in Brave and another adult was found flying east on Hopewell Ridge 9/26 (KK). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** descended into the grass at the entrance ramp onto Interstate 79 in FT right in front of KK 12/17. A young **Red-tailed Hawk** was still begging for food at RBF until 9/1 (RKB).

While they can be found nearly year round, the last **Killdeer** reported was a group of 5 in FT 8/25 (MH). A species probably under reported for many reasons is the **Spotted Sandpiper** especially in the Fall, however one was found in EV 6/24 (MH). **Eastern Screech-Owls** reported being heard 9/23 at LCR (MLP) and sitting on an electric line near RGV 12/10 (MG). RKB reports thousands of **Chimney Swifts** were seen flying out of the Jefferson-Morgan High School chimney before daylight 10/7 after the furnaces were started that cool morning. Many landed on the walls of the schooling building. After daylight when the furnaces were turned off, many went back into the chimney as it was raining and no insects would be flying. It is believed most left that day, if not all. He adds historically many of the swifts' last dates have been in the first week of Oct, and in checking his notes found that 10/7 was the last date in 1997 and 2007. Occupying her favorite bird-watching perch, the porch, MG reported the last sighting of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 9/26 at RGV. At EV a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was cooperative 10/18 at SY and remained through the season (JC).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was last noted 8/30 in EV (MH). **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen until 9/11 at RBF which is eight days later than last year (RKB). The last of the vireos was seen 9/11 (MH) when a **White-eyed Vireo** and a **Red-eyed Vireo** were noted in EV. Although very quiet and secretive while nesting, **Blue Jays** become boisterous come fall. MLP reports 15 noisy Jays at the feeders at LCR as part of the regular visitors. Known for being opportunistic eaters, more than 10 **American Crows** were seen eating apples in the yard at EV 8/21 (MH).

The last date 3 **Purple Martin** young were still in their box was 8/3 at RBF but 45 returned for a visit 8/12. The last reported date the large flock that gathers yearly in FT was seen was 8/24 (MH). This was somewhat earlier than last year's date of 9/3. The last of the young **Barn Swallows** left their nest 8/22 at RBF (RKB) and the last Barn Swallows left LCR 8/23 (MLP). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived in the yard 10/8 at RBF (RKB) which is two weeks earlier than last year. The latest **Gray Catbird** date reported was 9/24 and the last **Brown Thrasher** was 8/21 in EV (MH).

**Magnolia Warblers** were noted 8/28 in SY (JH) and 9/12 at LCR (MLP). Our only wintering warbler, the **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, showed up 9/30 at EV (MH). By 10/17 at least 10 had gathered at RBF (RKB).

The latest report of **Chipping Sparrows** was 11/12 with one at the feeder at RBF (RKB). The winter sparrows arrived within a week of each other with **White-crowned Sparrows** seen 10/6 in RGV (MG) and **White-throated Sparrows** were found 10/19 at EV (MH). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were noted first in RGV 9/28 (MG). A nest of **Northern Cardinals** was found 8/21 in a Blue Spruce at RBF. The eggs hatched before 8/30 and the young left the nest 9/8 (RKB).

The last **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were in a mixed group at RGV 10/29 (MG). Found at the feeder at EV again this

year was a **Rusty Blackbird** 12/9 (JH). The first **Pine Siskins** arrived at LCR 10/28 in a group of 4 at the feeders (MLP). On 11/6 there was a flock of 75 birds swarming the sunflower feeders. The majority was Pine Siskins and looked like a cloud of gnats flying around! The next day she counted 35+ siskins, with 40 **American Goldfinches**. They did not stay long; on 11/8 only 10 were still coming to the feeders. By 12/11 she only noted an occasional siskin.

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### Huntingdon County

Locations: Old Crow wetland (OC), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Stone Valley (SV).

The fall season in *Huntingdon* was highlighted by two new county records. The county's first **Glossy Ibis** was found at OC on 8/8, staying only until the next day (DK). And in a fall season with an unusual number of **Baird's Sandpipers** across the state, *Huntingdon's* first was at a drainage pool along Rt. 26 in Smithfield Twp 9/12 (DK, TK).

An unusual record for the county was a flock of 100 **Snow Geese** that flew over SMHW 11/6 (NB). On 11/23, the **Tundra Swan** count at SMHW was 497 (DK). At least 212 **Common Loons** were tallied during hawk watch season, with a high of 44 on 10/31.

The total of 413 hours of coverage at SMHW was above the long-term average. **Bald Eagle** was the only raptor above its long-term average, far surpassing the season record of 69 set just last year with a total of 112. A total of 715 **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted with a high of 157 on 9/13; both of these numbers are well below average. After a record-low count in 2009, **Red-tailed Hawks** rebounded with a near-average total of 1038 and a one-day high of 179 on 10/29. **Golden Eagles** were below average with a total of 83. Away from the watch, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near Spruce Creek 11/5 (IG).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in SV 11/9 (JK). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at OC 11/7 and a late **Common Yellowthroat** was there 11/12 and 11/20 (IG). **American Pipit** flocks included 70 near Spruce Creek 10/5 (IG) and 20 near Allensville 11/6 (GG).

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### Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Water bird reports, unless otherwise noted, are from YC. After several bleak years of low numbers, counts picked up a tad this year. In addition, arrival dates were generally earlier for most migrant duck species, and the lake remained open through the end of the period.

An adult **Snow Goose** appeared on the lake 11/16 (LC, TG, DM, MH) and was still present two days later (JB). Top count of **Canada Geese** was 245 on 11/07 (3RBC, TBC). First **Tundra Swans** were 7 on the lake and 93 overhead 11/5 (LC, MH, GL) for a exact total of 100; other high tallies included 125 over LV (MC) and 242 over SH (MH), both 11/20. YC yielded 220 on 11/23 (LC, MH, MVT) and 183 the next day (RN). High **Wood Duck** tally of 120 occurred 9/30 (JB); last sighted was a singleton 11/16 (LC, TG, MH, DM). First **Gadwall** arrived 9/28 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). The top count of 52 was reached 11/5 (LC, MH, GL); last noted were 4 on 11/28 (AL). Two **American Wigeons** were first arrivals 9/30 (JB), high count of 15 was achieved 11/16 (LC, TG, MH, DM), a singleton 11/23 (LC, MH, MVT) was last. Six **American Black Ducks** were first found 9/4 (LC); highest count was only 14 on 11/5 (LC, MH, GL). Best **Mallard** tally was 89 on 11/2 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, MVT). **Blue-winged Teal** moved through our region between 8/10 (LC, TG) with the arrival of the first 4, and 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT) when the last 9 were sighted; 9/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) produced the high of 44. One to 5 **Northern Shovelers** were noted on five dates between 8/28 (TB, LC, MH, RH) and 11/16 (LC, TG, MH,

DM). First **Northern Pintail** stopped on the lake 9/28 (LC, MH, GL, MVT); peak number was 12 on 10/3 (LC). Unusual was the sighting of a pintail as the lead bird in a flock of 19 **Tundra Swans** (ph. MVT) flying over YC 11/23 (MH, MVT). A **Green-winged Teal** arrived 8/24 (LC, SD, MH, ML, DM, RN); top count was 32 on both 9/24 (LC) and 10/6 (JB). Last sighted were 8 on 11/24 (RN).

Eight **Canvasbacks** appeared 10/30 (LC, SD, TG, DM, MVT) and were still present 11/5 (LC, MH, GL); 5 remained on the lake 11/28 (AL). Two **Redheads** were first arrivals 11/16 (LC, TG, MH, DM); high count and the last to depart were 9 on 11/28 (AL). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were first listed 9/30 (JB); numbers peaked at 135 on 11/6 (3RBC, TBC), up from the high of a mere 9 last fall. Nov. 28 (AL) produced the last 13 before freeze-up. **Greater Scaup** reports included 7 on 11/18 (JB) and 8 on 11/24 (RN). First **Lesser Scaup** were 2 on 11/2 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, MVT); numbers peaked at 135 on 11/6 (3RBC, TBC). Five **Surf Scoters** were nice finds 10/21 (JB); 2 remained on the lake 10/23 (TS). A **Black Scoter** appeared at YC 11/18 (JB) and was still present 11/24 (RN). **Buffleheads** began arriving 10/21 (JB) when the first 2 were sighted and peaked on 11/5 (LC, MH, GL) with a tally of 66. A female **Common Goldeneye** was listed 11/23 (LC, MH, MVT) and 11/24 (LC). First **Hooded Mergansers** included 4 on 11/5 (LC, MH, GL); AL tallied the high of 101 on 11/28. Two **Common Mergansers** comprised the lone report 11/25 (TS). Single **Red-breasted Mergansers**, which are usually in higher numbers at YC, appeared only 10/19 (LC, SD, TG, DM) and 11/18 (JB). One **Ruddy Duck** arrived 9/28 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) with numbers peaking at 418 on 11/5 (LC, MH, GL); by 11/28 (AL) the count had decreased to 197.

**Ruffed Grouse** continue on the low side but with a few more reports this season at five locations (m.ob.).

Twenty-three **Common Loons** arrived at YC 11/5 (LC, MH, GL); 6 occurred at Hemlock Lake 11/19 (TG); last were 12 at YC 11/21 (LC). **Pied-billed Grebes** peaked at 75 on 11/18 (JB) at YC. YC yielded the first 8 **Horned Grebes** 11/5 (LC, MH, GL); best count was 9 on 11/18 (JB); last individual lingered 11/28 (AL). A **Red-necked Grebe** visited YC 11/18 (JB). The season's first **Double-crested Cormorant** was spotted at YC 9/21 (TG, MH, ML, RN, MVT); 3 was the high count 10/5 (LC, SD, TG); 2 were last listed at YC 10/19 (LC, SD, TG, DM). A **Great Egret** flew over YC 10/1 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). Last **Green Herons** were 2 at YC 9/30 (JB).

Top **Turkey Vulture** count was 47 at Two Lick Reservoir 10/21 (PJ); last reported was one 10/30 (LC, SD, TG, DM, MVT) at YC. First **Osprey** passed over SH 9/6 (MH) and the last occurred at YC 10/5 (LC, SD, TG). An amazing 12 **Bald Eagle** reports were received of which ten were at YC (m.ob.), one near LV (MC), and one near Homer City (*vide* JD); last noted was one at YC 11/24 (RN). The only **Northern Harriers** reported were an earlier arrival near HC 8/4 (LC), one at YC 10/26 (ML, DM, MVT), one near Rossmoyne 10/30 (SB), another at YC 11/9 (MH, MVT, KV, LW), and one over SH 11/20 (MH). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at 3 locations (m.ob.) and **Cooper's Hawks** at 4 (m.ob.). Last **Broad-winged Hawk** was one at Camerons Bottom 9/21 (AB). Two **Rough-legged Hawks**, one light and one dark morph, flew across YC Lake 11/9 (MH, MVT, KV, LW). An unusual number of **Merlin** reports were received including individuals at YC on 9/12 (JB), 9/14 (LC, MH, ML, MVT), 9/28 (LC, MH, GL, MVT), and 10/1 (LC, MH, GL, MVT, + United Kindergarteners). Last report was one over SH 10/7 (MH). The 10/1 sighting created quite a stir among the Kindergarten group as they watched the Merlin chase a Barn Swallow, both birds twisting and turning at high speeds in flight. One of the kids questioned, "Why is he doing that?" When we explained that the Merlin was hungry, the kids started cheering for the swallow. The Merlin finally gave up and flew directly away.

A **Sora**, first spotted in Little Yellow Cove at YC 8/28 (LC, TB, MH, RH), continued through 9/18 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM); 2 were present at the same location 10/9 (LC, MH, DM, MVT). The first 6 **American Coots** arrived at YC 9/21 (LC, TG, MH, ML, RN, MVT); by 11/6 (3RBC, TBC) 1738 were counted; numbers, however, continued to peak until more than 2000 were present 11/21 (LC).

Receding water levels produced a better than average shorebird migration at YC. Unless otherwise noted, all shorebird reports are at YC. First **Black-bellied Plover** arrived 9/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) and was present through 10/6 (JB); 4 was a nice count 11/5 (LC, MH, GL). Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were noted on 13 dates between 8/12 (LC) and 9/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) with reports of 2-3 on 4 additional days in that range. High **Killdeer** tallies included 48 on 9/24 (LC) and 51 on 10/21 (JB). **Greater Yellowlegs** passed through YC between 8/22 (LC) and 11/16 (LC, TG, MH, DM) with the best count of 13 on 11/5

(LC, MH, GL). Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** was the top number 8/31 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) at YC while a singleton at BS 10/11 and 10/15 (MA) was late. **Solitary Sandpipers** continued into the period with reports of one to 4 on 19 dates between 8/10 (LC, TG) and 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** were 2 on 8/31 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** visited YC 8/9 (LC) while an individual was sighted 10/23 (TS) and 10/26 (ML, DM, MVT). **Least Sandpipers** were observed on 27 dates between 8/3 (LC, SD, TG, DM, MVT) and 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). An injured **Baird's Sandpiper** was found 10/14 (JB) and remained through 10/21 (JB). One to 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were listed on 16 trips between 8/22 (LC) and 11/11 (JB). First 2 **Dunlins** were spotted 10/6 (JB); a flock of 36 was a good count 11/5 (LC, MH, GL) and last reported were 11 on 11/18 (LC). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** made its appearance 8/22 (LC), the lone report. **Wilson's Snipe**, noted between 8/10 (LC, TG) and 11/11 (JB) included as many as 8 on 11/9 (MH, KV, MVT, LW). An **American Woodcock** was at Nolo 10/16 and 10/18 (DB); YC yielded one 11/10 (JB).

A single **Bonaparte's Gull**, listed 11/4 (JB) and 11/5 (LC, MH, GL) at YC, comprised the entire report for this species. **Ring-billed Gulls** were once again in short supply at YC with reports of only one or two birds between 10/1 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) and 11/18 (AL). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** on 11/4 (JB) was a first county record. Three **Common Terns** appeared at YC 9/12 (JB) and one was also found 9/14 (LC, MH, ML, MVT), the only reports. A **Forster's Tern** arrived 9/18 (TB, LC, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM); another appeared 9/25 (LC).

Last **Black-billed Cuckoos** were singletons at BS 9/8 (EF, MF, MH) and at Smicksburg Park 9/17 (MH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, continuing to be scarce this year, was last sighted at Blacklick Valley Natural 8/21 (LC, TG, DM). **Eastern Screech-Owls** and **Barred Owl** were each noted at 3 locations (m.ob.); **Great Horned**, at 4. Eight **Common Nighthawks** flew over a yard near LV 9/3 (MC); one over SH 9/12 (MH, RH) was the only other one reported. Last **Chimney Swifts** were 3 at YC 10/9 (LC, MH, DM, MVT). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered near LV 9/28 (MC). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived 9/18 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM) at YC where one was observed through 10/9 (MH, RH); 2 visited a yard near SH 10/5 (MH) and 2 were at BS 10/8 (MH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a great find at the joint TBC-Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club picnic at the home of Dan and Marcy Cunkelman 8/22; it was viewed through a scope by all 25 participants. An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** lingered n. of IN through 10/5 (SB). A single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found 9/18 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM) at YC. Last dates include: 9/14 (LC, MH, ML, MVT) for **Acadian Flycatcher** at YC; 8/3 (LC, SD, TG, DM, MVT) for **Willow Flycatcher** at YC; 8/25 (MH) for **Least Flycatcher** near SH; 10/19 (LC, SD, TG, DM) for **Eastern Phoebe** at YC; 8/12 (LC) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** at YC; and 8/31 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) for **Eastern Kingbird** at YC.

Last vireo dates included 9/21 (LC, TG, MH, ML, RN, MVT) for **White-eyed** at YC; 10/12 for **Blue-headed** at YC (LC, TG, MH, MVT); 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT) for **Yellow-throated** at BS; and 8/31 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) for **Warbling** at YC. Two very early **Philadelphia Vireos** stopped at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 8/21 (LC, TG, DM); BS yielded single birds 9/3 (MH) and 9/8 (EF, MF, MH) and 2 on 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT); one stopped at YC 9/12 (JB). A **Red-eyed Vireo** at YC 9/30 (JB) was last. Two **Fish Crows** were calling in IN 8/28 (LC, TB, MH, RH). **Common Ravens** were found only at YC and LV this period (m.ob.).

Last dates included 11/6 (3RBC, TBC) for **Tree Swallow**, 9/21 (MH) for 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, and 10/21 (JB) for 2 **Barn Swallows**, all at YC.

One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present near SH throughout the period (MH, RH); singleton were found at YC 9/18 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM) through 11/2 (RN) and at LV 9/26 (MC). Top count of **Brown Creepers** was 4 at YC 11/27 (EFu,TFu,TG). Last **House Wrens** was one at YC 9/30 (JB). The only **Winter Wrens** were 2 found at BS 10/8 (MH) and singletons at YC 10/9 (LC, MH, DM, MVT), 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT), and 11/18 (JB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found in the county between 9/28 (MH, RH, JT) and 11/10 (MH) with 9 reports of up to 8 birds. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** lingered at BS 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT). A **Swainson's Thrush** was noted only at YC 9/14 (LC, MH, ML, MVT). **Hermit Thrush** was listed at Smicksburg Park 9/17 (MH), at BS 10/8 (MH), and at YC 10/9 (LC, TG, MH, DM) and 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). Smicksburg Park harbored the last **Wood Thrush** 9/17 (MH). A **Gray Catbird** lingered at YC 11/6 (ST).

Last **Brown Thrasher** was found on IN's Reservoir Hill 10/15 (PJ).

BS yielded 10 **American Pipits** 9/3 (MH); YC, one to 6 on 4 dates between 9/21 (LC, TG, MH, ML, RN, MVT) and 9/28 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). A **Snow Bunting** at YC 11/4 (JB) was a nice find; one was also listed there 11/6 (3RBC, TBC).

This fall's warbler migration was not as good as last year's, and there were no major fallouts. Last **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at BS 9/8 (EF, MF, MH). **Tennessee Warblers** moved through *Indiana* between 8/17 (LC, TG, MH, MVT) and 9/30 (JB). Single **Nashville Warblers** were listed on 6 dates between 8/15 (PJ) and 9/29 (MC). Last dates included 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT) for **Northern Parula** at BS, 8/10 (LC, TG) for **Yellow Warbler** at YC, 9/18 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at YC, and 10/1 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) for **Magnolia Warbler** at YC. **Cape May Warblers** migrated through the county between 8/28 (LC, TB, MH, RH) and 9/30 (JB) with best count of 4 on 9/14 (LC, MH, ML, MVT) at YC. One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was noted on six dates with last at BS 10/8 (MH). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** arrived 8/3 (LC, SD, TG, DM, MVT) at YC where maxima included 42 on 10/5 (LC, SD, TG) and 39 on 10/9 (LC, MH, DM, MVT). YC yielded the last **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/2 (MH, RH, GL, DM, GS) and Smicksburg Park, the last **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/17 (MH). YC produced last dates for 2 **Pine Warblers** 10/9 (LC, MH, DM, MVT). **Prairie Warbler** lingered near SH 9/8 (MH). The only **Palm Warblers** found were one 9/12 (JB), 3 on 9/30 (JB) and one 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT), all at YC. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were listed between 8/31 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) and 9/30 (JB) with high count of 4 at BS 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT). **Blackpoll Warblers** passed through our county between 9/3 (MH) and 10/9 (LC, MH, DM, MVT) with best count of 20 at YC 9/30 (JB). Last were a **Black-and-white Warbler** 9/28 (LC) and 2 **American Redstarts** 9/18 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JM, LM, TM, DM), both species at YC. YC produced the last **Ovenbird** 9/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM). A **Kentucky Warbler** 8/21 (MH) near SH was last. A **Common Yellowthroat** at BS 10/8 (MH) and a **Hooded Warbler** at YC 9/28 (LC, MH, GL, MVT) were last.

**Scarlet Tanager** was last found at YC 10/1 (LC, MH, GL, MVT). An **Eastern Towhee** continued at LV through the end of the period (MC). Arrival date for **American Tree Sparrow** was 10/19 (LC, SD, TG, DM) at YC; by 11/24 RN counted 23 at YC. A **Chipping Sparrow** was last observed at a feeder n. of IN 10/27 (SB). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** (ph. MH, MVT) was only the second YC record 9/14 (LC, MH, ML, MVT). **Fox Sparrows** arrived at YC 10/21 (JB) and were still present in *Indiana* into the winter season; high tally was 6 on 11/10 (MH) near SH. Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** at YC 10/6 (JB) and one near SH 10/7 (MH) were the only ones reported. **Swamp Sparrow** remained at YC through at least 11/18 (JB). First **White-throated Sparrow** appeared 9/30 (JB) at YC; 23 were counted at BS 10/8 (MH). BS yielded the first 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/8 (MH) while last was near LV 11/8 (MC). First **Dark-eyed Junco** arrived near SH 10/5 (MH).

Last date for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** was 9/30 (JB) at YC. **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted at YC between 10/2 (LC, MH, RH, GL, DM, GS) and 11/18 (JB) with the high count of 150 on 10/21 (JB). Two **Common Grackles** still lingered at YC 11/13 (MH, RH) while the last **Brown-headed Cowbirds** mentioned were 2 near LV 9/29 (MC). n. of MC 10/5 (SB); last was listed 10/21 (MH, RH) at Saylor Park. A **Baltimore Oriole** at YC 9/7 (LC, MH, ML, MVT) was last. Best count of 15 **Purple Finches** was achieved 10/12 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). **Pine Siskins** began appearing 10/19 (PJ) with the first report of 7 on Reservoir Hill; n. of IN 15 visited SB's feeder 11/1; one to 6 were noted near SH between 11/2-20 (MH, RH), and 1-2 visited LV between 11/8-10 (MC).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@altel.net**, Mary Assenat, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Sid Blair, Justin Bosler, Tommy Byrnes, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Susan Dickson, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Elyse Fuller (EFu), Tom Fuller (TFu), Tom Glover, Roger Higbee, Bob Jackman, Pat Johner, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Alex Lamoreaux, Melissa Little, John McCann, Lorie McCann, Trevor McCann, Donna Meyer, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Richard Nugent, John Salvetti, Tim Schreckengost, Mike Shaffer, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Shannon Thompson, Marge Van Tassel, Kay Voyovitch, Linda Wagner, John Walker, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

**Jefferson County**  
No compiler.

**Juniata County**

Locations: Juniata Saddle Club (JSC), Licking Creek (LC), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Parsons Pond (PP).

Waterfowl found 11/24 at PP included **Canvasback**, **Bufflehead**, **Mallards**, **American Black Duck**, and many **Canada Geese** (CK, AT). A family river float down the Juniata River 9/6 offered 4 **Osprey**, 6 **Bald Eagle**, 28 **Great Egret**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** (AT, MT). A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was also seen on the Juniata River at Thompsontown (DT).

A **Ruffed Grouse** and 4 young were seen at LC 7/5 (LW). An **American Woodcock** and young were also seen there (KT). A **Barn Owl** was seen flying over the road in early morning 7/9 near Thompsontown (JS). On 8/6 a high count of 15 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at the location we have been seeing them regularly for the past year or so. Both young and adults are found year round, so we know they are staying there full time now, to the delight of our locals (JSC).

**Mourning Warbler** and **Least Flycatcher** were found near Oakland Mills 9/12 (HT). **Orange-crowned Warbler** made a visit to Oakland Mills (LCSS) 9/14 (AT, ST). On 9/23 a **Connecticut Warbler** was found while hunting behind Oakland Mills (AT). Feeders at LCSS 9/16 attracted **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 5 **Purple Finch**, and a recurring **Pine Siskin** (AT).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman**, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 994-6715 (m), (717) 436-8257 (h), (717) 436-5488 (f), chadkauffman@earthlink.net, Henry Petersheim, Jim Schwartz, Karen Taylor, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Mary Troyer, Steven Troyer and Linda Whitesel.

**Lackawanna County**

The only report I received from *Lackawanna* was of a very late **Northern Parula** at Lackawanna State Park 11/13 (BP). This observation came in through eBird and was verified by photograph and forwarded to me by Holly Merker, the statewide eBird coordinator. This is not the latest date for Pennsylvania. One was seen in State College 12/7/1998 according to *The Birds of Pennsylvania* (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). In the Lehigh Valley region, the late date is 10/17/1992. (Reference: Saenger P, Malt B and Crilley K. 2002. *Birds of the Lehigh Valley and Vicinity*. Lehigh Valley Audubon Society.)

Observers: **Joe Greco**, 3116 Township Woods Rd., East Greenville, PA 18041, (610) 457-1812, certhid@gmail.com, Brent Pennington.

**Lancaster County**

Locations: Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Middlecreek WMA, (MC), Wood's Edge Pond (WE).

This fall was highlighted by *Lancaster's* (and Pennsylvania's) second **Allen's Hummingbird**. Another highlight was a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** which stayed in the same area at Greenfield Industrial Park for several days. This species has been seen on a number of occasions, but the sightings are usually quite fleeting.

Greenfield Industrial Park is often good for an unusual goose species at some point during the season, so 3 **Cackling Geese** 11/13 (JBo) were not a total surprise. A female **Black Scoter** was at MC 11/2 (JBo). This is a rare species at this location.

A stop at the Falmouth Boat Access 8/18 produced **Great** and **Snowy Egret** as well as **Little Blue Heron** (ME). A lone **Cattle Egret** was on a pond along Millcross Road by Stauffer Run 8/29 (JBo). Two **Glossy Ibis** were reported from SRCF 8/18 (DH). A very late **Green Heron** was at WE 12/3 (DHe). Both **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were still present at the pond off Umbeltown Road east of Gap 8/24 (CC), and a late **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at WE 11/13 (JBo). The **Yellow-crowned** was still present 8/28 marking nearly 3 weeks at this location. Another juvenile **Yellow-**

**crowned Night-Heron** was at Octoraro Lake on the late date of 10/6 (CC).

An early August boat trip on the Conowingo Pond 8/8 (BS et al) tallied an impressive count of 40 **Osprey** and 30 **Bald Eagles**. This year **Bald Eagles** congregated around the Esbenshade Turkey Farm in Paradise Township. The high count was 22 on 11/20 (TR). It is fairly typical to see good counts of both **Bald Eagles** and **Red-tailed Hawks** at this time of the year as birds gather to feed on turkey scraps. A large **Broad-winged Hawk** flight over occurred over a yard in Strasburg 9/26 when over 3000 were seen in a single day (TR).

Late in July, two young **Peregrine Falcons** fell from their nest and were rescued from the Susquehanna River after spending the weekend on one of the small islands that surround the old Rte. 462 bridge piers. Both birds were back on the arches of their home bridge 8/3. The adults were seen bringing food for the youngsters with the female doing the delivery. The young female was seen taking a short flight from the bridge and back, but the young male seemed more tentative (ML). All four Peregrines were seen again 8/6 and 8/9 around the Rte. 462 bridge over the Susquehanna River and the youngsters were taking more frequent flights (ML, CA, JL). The whole family was observed at least into Sep. There were many detailed reports of the Peregrines this season and many people obviously had a great time watching these amazing raptors.

**Sora** was seen and photographed at the East Donegal Riverfront Park 9/29 (ML). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** flying over a yard in Strasburg 9/26 was a great yard bird for TR.

This fall the Conejohela Flats may have received a little less coverage than last year, but there were still plenty of birders visiting the flats and a good variety of shorebirds. Highlights included: **White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/14 and 10/9, **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/7, 8/29 (3), 9/6, and 10/9, **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/21, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 8/21-31 with 3 on 8/31 (DB, JBo, BS), and **Wilson's Phalarope** 8/13 (DB, JBo, ME).

Seven **Upland Sandpipers** were seen 8/2 at the Lancaster Airport (BC). They were viewed from the intersection of Rte. 501 and Millport Road at the gravel parking area located on the northwestern corner of the intersection (BC). This species is nearly annual and this is the best spot in the county for them, but this is also a very good count of this increasingly rare species.

Away from the Conejohela Flats, a **Spotted Sandpiper** at MC 10/25 was quite late (JB). Three **Stilt Sandpipers** were at MC 9/18. An **American Woodcock** was noteworthy 11/3 because it was number 155 for the yard list for CC in Gap. The Beechdale Road farm pond has produced some good birds in the past, but there wasn't any good habitat this year until Oct. There were seven species present 10/10 (JBo) including every species of peep except for Western and Dunlin.

S.A.

In Sep a massive weed bed developed offshore from Peach Bottom Village and began to produce some interesting birds. It began in late August with 100-200 **Forster's Terns** plus a few **Great Blue Herons**. **Forster's Tern** numbers grew to 700 by 9/19 (JBo, BS). On 9/15, there were approximately 200 **Double-crested Cormorants** fishing the outer edge of the weed. This weed bed was about a mile long, stretching from the mouth of Peter's Creek to the very last house in Peach Bottom. It was approximately 200 yards wide. All four species of **terns** were reported here in mid-Sep, but there were also a variety of shorebirds reported which included not only common species such as **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Least Sandpiper**, but also **Red Knot** 9/20 and **Baird's Sandpiper**.

A first winter **Franklin's Gull** was seen flying around WE 11/29 (DHe), but unfortunately it did not stick around. One **Common**, 55 **Forster's**, and 2 **Black Terns** were seen on the boat trip on the Conowingo Pond 8/8 (BS, et al.). **Black Tern** showed up at SRCF 8/14 with 5 on 8/18. An adult **Gull-billed Tern** was reported from SRCF 8/18 (DH). This much sought after bird has been reported a number of times over the years, but the sightings are usually fleeting. This time was no exception and the bird was seen twice in two hours before departing.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** finally stayed around long enough for many people to see it. Initially what was thought to be two collared doves were spotted 9/18 (RS) in the Greenfield Industrial Park. A number of people were able to see both birds over the next few days

until at least 9/22. Both doves were well seen. The large bird was clearly a Eurasian Collared-Dove, but the second, smaller, bird was likely a **Ringed Turtle-Dove**.

The bird of the season was *Lancaster's* second **Allen's Hummingbird**. It was an immature male that was caught and banded 11/7 at the Landis Homes retirement community southeast of Lititz (SW). It had been visiting sage and a hummingbird feeder for the previous week and a half. It continued to visit the sage and feeder maintained by Edith Bailey and was last seen 11/13 (m.ob.). We are all grateful to Mrs. Bailey and her neighbors for being so gracious in welcoming the many people who came to see this rare hummingbird.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** at SRCF 10/9 was a real rarity for that location (BS). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported near the Millport Conservancy 8/31 (BC). **Common Raven** was reported moving along the ridge in northern *Lancaster* in SGL 156 on 8/20 (DB). Interestingly enough two birds were seen and heard regularly over a span of several weeks about a half mile north of this location in southern *Lebanon* a bit later in the fall. A pair was seen at MC 9/8 (CC et al). Even more unusual was a sighting of one and possibly two **Common Ravens** flying high over the Lancaster County Central Park 11/3 (CC, et al.). Five **Philadelphia Vireos** at SGL 156 on 9/14 was a good count and on the same day 17 species of warblers were sighted including **Connecticut Warbler** (BC). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen 8/9 in SGL 15, near the former Cornwall Fire Tower site (JB, DB). This is a regular fall migrant in the county, but this is the earliest date that I am aware of. Another **Mourning Warbler** was seen 8/14 just off the parking area in State Game Lands 156 (BC). Perhaps mid-Aug is a better time than realized for this secretive migrant. A **Canada Warbler** sighted in a yard in Lititz 7/31 was also very early (DK). Most of the time it seems like the numbers of migrant songbirds continues to shrink compared to what many remember from years past. This year several observers reported better numbers than usual and the following comments from Bruce Carl are a typical example. "This morning I lead a group of 13 birders from the Lancaster County Bird Club on a field trip visiting Pumping Station Road and Speedwell County Park in northern Lancaster County. We identified a total of 56 species which included 16 species of warblers. There were small groups of birds to look through most of the morning. Many from our group had commented on that this was as birdy a morning that they have seen in some time at any location, especially during fall migration. I would have to agree as the numbers of birds and species of warblers today were very out of the ordinary for a fall walk at these locations."

A **Nelson's Sparrow** was at SRCF 10/3 (BS, EW). A first winter **Dickcissel** along the Willow Point Trail at MCWMA 11/14 was a good find (MF, WK). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in a large blackbird flock in southern *Lancaster* near the town of Wakefield 11/28 (DW). This fall **Purple Finches** were in good numbers at many feeders, but **Pine Siskins** were quite scarce with only a few scattered sightings.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Jim Binder (JBi), Jerry Book, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Mike Epler, Pamela Fisher, Mark Fruman, Tom Garner, Frank Haas, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, William Keim, David Kubitsky, Meredith Lombard, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Roger Stoner, Drew Weber, Scott Weidensaul, Dave Wilton, Eric Witmer.

## Lawrence County

Locations: Three Rivers Gravel Pond (TR), Wampum - New Galilee Road Marsh (NG), Black Swamp (BS), Plain Grove (PG), Glacial Sand Gravel Pond (GS), Copper Road Mash (CR), Mason Road pond (MR), Edwards Road trees (ER).

Significant this season were reports of **Baird's Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **Northern Shrike**.

No swan reports were received this season, however, **Canada Goose** counts were consistently around 100 between 10/8 and 11/26 at TR (MV). A high count of 19 **Blue-winged Teal** was reported 8/29 at BS (MV), with appearances between that date and 10/2, when a nice count of 12 was had at BS (MV). **Green-winged Teal** appeared later in the season, of course, beginning with two individuals 9/19 at BS (MV), and continuing on through 11/26 with four individuals at TR (MV). The most seen was 13 on 11/26 at TR (MV), but typical reports were less than

half a dozen individuals. The **Wood Duck** population remained robust, with a large group of 61 reported 8/15 at NG (MV), and one lingering until 11/20 at TR (MV). **Ring-necked Duck** began to show up 10/8, with a reported 14 at TR (MV). Their numbers swelled to 102 there 11/20 (MV). Four **Ruddy Duck** were spotted 10/15 at TR (MV), and one was reported 11/20 at Edinburg Lake (MV). Only three reports of **Northern Shoveler** were made this season, singles 11/5, 11/14, and 11/20 at NG (all MV). The lone report of **Bufflehead** was 11/26 at TR (MV), and **Hooded Mergansers** were reported in small numbers from 9/15 through 11/26 at TR (MV).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was cause for excitement the mornings of 9/25 at TR (MV), and 9/26 at BS (STh). Those locations are clear across the county, but just a hop, skip and a flap (to borrow a phrase) for a Peregrine, perhaps a juvenile in its wandering phase. Kate St. John has some very interesting information on how far these birds travel in her blog "Outside My Window" (Google it), under the FAQ "Where do young peregrines go when they leave home?" Another good raptor report was a **Merlin** 11/11 at PG (RN, ML), a bit south of the northern parts of the county where they have been seen in the recent past. An **Osprey** was seen fishing 8/15 and 8/27 at MR (STi), 9/12 at GS (MV), and 10/2 at BS (MV).

The **Common Moorhen** family continues to thrive at NG, with 15 individuals reported 9/15 and five spotted as late as 10/8, and two seen on 10/22, among other reports from there this fall (all MV). **American Coot** began their appearance at NG with a pair beginning 10/8 and continuing through the reporting period. A high count of 13 was had 11/14 at CR.

The **Sandhill Crane** population in *Lawrence* remains stable, according to reports received, with generally three seen together on several occasions at BS, but a nice count of four was had 11/10 on Tower Road, with three also on 11/10 at the Golf Course Road swamp (both DY). It will be interesting to see if their numbers swell in Jan and Feb, as they have in the past.

A juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** was found at MR on 8/14, and another individual was reported down the road at BS on 9/12, in the company of seven **Least Sandpipers**, two **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and three **Wilson's Snipe** (all MV). This was one of several seen in this and nearby counties this season. The shorebird season began with reports of a single **Lesser Yellowlegs**, several **Least Sandpiper**, and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/8 at TR (MV), and extended through 11/13 with two **Dunlin**, one **Least Sandpiper**, and six **Wilson's Snipe** reported at BS (MV). Along the way, most species were seen in small numbers, with the exception of the seven **Least** noted above, and four **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/25 at BS (STh). The variety of shorebirds was down this season compared to the last, with only **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and the normally present **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper** reported this season, in addition to those mentioned above. An **American Woodcock** was heard as late as 11/11 at BS (RN).

The early birder gets the rarity, as a **Red-necked Phalarope** was spotted the morning of 9/26 at BS (STh). This represents only the second record for this species in *Lawrence*, the first in September of 1996, believed to have been fallout from Hurricane Fran. The digiscoped images clearly show the diagnostic all black needle-like bill, separating it from the similar Red Phalarope. Nice work, Shannon!

**Short-eared Owls** made their return to *Lawrence* this fall, with a consistent group of about four reported beginning 10/24 in PG (STh) through 11/13 (CD). They gave a nice show that last evening to a standing room only crowd; that is, at least a good dozen people standing on the side of Coopertown Road, scopes and binoculars at the ready, awaiting their appearance. They swooped around together at quite a distance (good spotting by CD), but then one individual had the courtesy to work its way over the crowd, affording a nice view for all, with no glass needed. No other owl reports were received this season. For the record, other sightings of the **Short-eared Owls** were had in the same area 11/7 (AH, PM), 11/10 (RN, ML), and 11/11 (SS). Five **Common Nighthawk** circled silently over BS 8/28 (STi) on their way south.

A juvenile **Northern Shrike** was spotted 11/10 at BS (DY), the same area which sported an adult last winter and into the spring -- possible genetic link? It's nice to think the area might get passed on as a favored winter hunting ground, and we'll certainly keep an eye out for them in the future.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find 9/25 at ER (MV). Twelve **Purple Martins** were a nice find at MR 8/14 (MV). A **Barn Swallow** passed over TR 10/8 (MV), and good counts were had of 35 and 33

**Chimney Swifts** cruising over TR and BS, on 9/25 and 10/2, respectively.

**American Pipit** reports started 10/2 at BS (MV) with a report of two, and were rounded out by a nice count of 21 on 10/24 at BS (Sth), with a last report of three 10/28 at BS (Sth).

A nice spotting of a **Cape May Warbler** was had 9/25 at ER (MV). A dozen **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and two **Blackpoll Warblers** rounded out the very sparse warbler reports this season, both species seen 10/2 at BS (MV).

**Savannah Sparrow** was reported as late as 10/24 at BS (Sth). A report of a **Field Sparrow** and **Swamp Sparrow** 10/22 at TR marked the late dates for these birds, while **American Tree Sparrow** moved in starting 11/7 at BS (AH, PM). **White-crowned Sparrow** moved through the area at least as early as 10/22, with eight reported at TR (MV).

**Bobolinks** were not reported after 8/28 at BS (STI), and a single **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported hanging on 11/11 at PG (RN, ML).

Observers: **Stephen Tirone, 135 Isolda Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15209, (724) 719-8643, stephen.tirone@gmail.com**, Cory DeStein, Amy Henrici, Melissa Little, Pat McShea, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Shannon Thompson (Sth), Mark Vass, Dan Yagusic.

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### Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road (KP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Lebanon (QPR) and Second Mountain Hawk watch (2nd Mtn).

Highlights this fall were the quantity and quality of shorebirds that were first seen 9/1 at KP. This pond attracted unusual birds during the spring migration but was not visible in August due to the high corn between the road and the pond. Fortunately the corn was cut early by the land owner. This attracted the attention of local birders and overall coverage was excellent during the first nine days of the month.

Two **Cackling Geese** 10/14 at 2nd Mtn ties an early date set last year (FW). **Brant** are rare in *Lebanon* in the fall so it was nice to find one at MLSP on the morning of 11/19 (TB, PW, RW, and CB). By the time ME went to look for the bird in the afternoon, it was gone. Apparently a **Bald Eagle** dispersed all the birds on the lake (RCM). When they returned the **Brant** was not with them. An adult female **Long-tailed Duck** was at MLSP on 11/7 for a new early date (JD). There are very few **Long-tailed Duck** fall sightings so it was a pleasant surprise that a male bird was seen on 11/16 at MLSP (DM, JD). This bird set a new late date. Fifty three **Ruddy Ducks** on 11/16 at MLSP (DM, JD) were a new fall high count. The only report of **Red-throated Loon** this quarter was on 2nd Mtn 11/6 (DS).

The Second Mountain Hawk watch started 8/12. A high flying **Anhinga** was observed at 2nd Mtn moving to the south on 8/19, for a seventh county record (MC). On 10/30 2nd Mtn tied the record high of 161 for **Bald Eagle**. As of 11/30, 202 **Bald Eagles** were counted. On 9/14 and 9/15 daily high counts of 11 each tied the old daily record. A **Northern Goshawk** 10/15 at KP was a nice find away from 2nd Mtn (RCM). A **Merlin** 8/14 set a new 2nd Mtn early date (MC, DS). **Swainson's Hawk** seen at 2nd Mtn on 9/18 was only the 19th sighting of this species. An immature **Golden Eagle** 10/31 in Mt. Gretna was a nice find away from 2nd Mtn (SH, EK). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over the Campbelltown Fire Hall 8/3 (SH) also a new early date. Five **Sandhill Cranes** flew due south over 2nd Mtn 10/1 (RB) tying the previous high count.

Six **Black-bellied Plovers** reported by ME at KP 10/8 is a first Oct record and is a county record high. **American Golden Plover** was first found at KP 9/1 (JH, RCM, and m. obs.). A record high count of 38 **American Golden Plover** was reported by ME 10/8. A **Solitary Sandpiper** on 10/15 at KP was a new late date (RCM). Two **Sanderlings** found at KP 9/5 were a fourth county record (CB, CK). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were found 9/2 at the under-birded Quittapahilla Wetland Preserve in Lebanon City (TB). Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were found 9/1 in the grass at the southeast corner of the KP pond for a first county record (RCM, m.ob.). Three individuals were noted on 9/2 and 9/4 and two birds were found on 9/5 and 9/8. Unfortunately, the pond dried up for the first time since it was constructed in 2003. By 9/9 only a few **Killdeer** and **Least Sandpipers** remained. Between KP and Quittapahilla Wetland Preserve there were a total of 14 shorebird species recorded in the county during the first

nine days of Sep. Forty-five **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at MLSP 11/19 (ME).

A pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen 8/13 (TB), one on 8/17 (BC), and was seen regularly by PW and RW when they went to KP. A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at FIG 11/8 despite high winds (DM and survey team). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Swatara Watershed Park 10/8 (DD) was a new late date. Interestingly, a second cuckoo on the same day was seen first by EK and others on the Friday morning field trip led by SH on General Biddle Road, SGL 145.

The continuing **Chuck-wills-widow** that was found in June at FIG was reported throughout the summer (CB, TB, DD, DM). Several observers reported a pair 7/14 (DD, BJ), 8/20 (TB, NM) and 9/3 (JB). It was last observed 9/20 (TB). **Chuck-wills-widow** is a rare bird in Pennsylvania with suspected breeding records in southeastern *Armstrong* in the mid-1980s. There is one accidental *Lebanon* record for 4/25/1999 (RS) and one for 5/19/2007 (KM, RCM).

A **Selasphorus Hummingbird** was at the home of K&TB, in the *Lebanon* portion of Grantville 10/10-15. The bird did not show up on 10/16 for an audience of people in TB's living room when hummingbird banders Wayne Laubscher, Sandy Lockerman and Scott Weidensaul hoped to capture the first western species of hummingbird for the fall. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a good find for the Friday morning group 8/13 on General Biddle Road, SGL 145 (JC, SH, RCM).

On 8/28 an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at 2nd Mtn is a new early date (MC). A **Nashville Warbler** found on 2nd Mtn (MC) 10/26 set a new late date by 5 days. A very late **Northern Parula** 11/21 was seen along the rail to trail south of Lebanon City (FH). Also on 8/28, **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed at 2nd Mtn for a fifth county record (MC).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** reported at 2nd Mtn 11/20 for a fourth county record. Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** near MC Tour Stop #3 on 8/16 were a new late date (RCM). On 8/16 a new high count was made of 72 **Bobolink** along Chapel Road near Tour Stop #3 at MC (RCM). **Purple Finch** started showing up at feeders in Oct in Cornwall 10/8 (GB) and 10/17 in Grantville (TB). A high count of 50 **Pine Siskins** was made 11/27 at feeders in Mount Gretna (SH).

**CORRIGENDA:** The Spring 2010 report (Volume 24, No. 2) for **Mississippi Kite** was incorrectly reported as the eighth *Lebanon* sighting. It was the ninth sighting. The Spring 2010 report for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 4/30 was a not new early date, but **Black-billed Cuckoo** was.

Observers: **Chuck Berthoud, 47 Brookside Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, (717) 533-7136, cberthoud@verizon.net**, Kathy and Tim Becker, Randy Brenner, Gerry Boltz, Justin Bosler, Jeff Campbell, Bruce Carl, Morris Cox, Jarrod Derr, Denise Donmoyer, Mike Epler, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Barb Jucker, Chad Kauffman, Evelyn Koppel, Nate McKelvie, David McNaughton, Sid Hosetter, Kate Miller, Randy C. Miller, Richard Pohner, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Fred Wilcox, Pat Williams, Richard Williams.

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### Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Dorney Pond (DP), Fogelsville Quarry (FQ), Lehigh Canal Park (LCP), Walking Purchase Park (WPP).

A total of 152 species was reported in *Lehigh* this season. Notes and totals for the 50th hawk watching season at Bake Oven Knob were gleaned from the BirdHawk / HMANA Hawk Watching Exchange listserv, as reported by the official BOK counters (MM, BH), as well as from reports from individual watchers. BOK totals are unofficial, and will be detailed in the official fall hawk migration summary appearing in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Following extensive rains in July, precipitation was 2.65 inches below the 40 year norm in August, while mean temperatures for the month were 2.1°F above norm; the region was quite dry by early September (NOAA / National Weather Service data for Allentown, <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>). Many of the berry, seed and cone crops that often attract and hold wintering birds to the region seemed to be lacking by late fall, hence low numbers of certain species. Leaser Lake in Lynn Township remained drawn down through the period due to continuing repairs to the dam there, resulting in few if any significant reports.

No **Snow Goose** flocks were reported, but a few individuals were mixed in with **Canada Goose** flocks at Lake Muhlenberg, Dorney Pond, and Fogelsville Quarry; the first was a blue-phase bird at DP 11/11

(BE). The first large flocks of southbound **Canada Geese** passed BOK 10/2, when thousands were recorded. Several observers reported two hybrid **American Black Duck x Mallard hybrids** at DP beginning 11/11, presumably the same birds that were present at this location last winter. There were few waterfowl reports. **Bufflehead** arrived 11/6 at FQ (JH) and Lehigh Canal Park (9) 11/16 (MB). **Ruddy Duck** arrived at LCP 11/19 (MB). Small numbers of **Common Loons** migrated past BOK beginning 10/30, with a peak of 10 on 11/6. An immature **Great Cormorant** was at LCP 9/18-10/9 (MB), and was seen along with a lingering **Double-crested Cormorant** by many birders on the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society's "Local Allentown Parks" field trip 10/9. **Great Egrets** were reported from various Allentown locations 8/2-9/28, all single birds (DA, MB, BCM, ES). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Clear Spring Pond in Upper Whitehall 10/16 (BE).

Some tentative 2010 seasonal totals from BOK include: **Bald Eagle** (226), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (3282), **Northern Goshawk** (20), **Red-shouldered Hawk** (103), **Broad-winged Hawk** (3653), **Red-tailed Hawk** (1823), and **Golden Eagle** (75). The last of 338 **Osprey** passed BOK 10/20, but a late season bird was at Heidelberg Twp 10/22 (BH). BOK single day peak counts for **Bald Eagle** occurred 8/26 (15) and 9/15 (17). Away from the hawk watch, an adult **Bald Eagle** was in Schnecksville 8/21 (ML). A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** was seen soaring over the Lehigh River at Slatington several times 9/15-9/21 (BE). Adults were also seen along the Lehigh in Allentown at least five times 9/11-11/28 (MB, ES). An early **Northern Harrier** was in Upper Milford 8/3 (BM, PM). A single day total of 359 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** passed BOK 10/7. The first **Northern Goshawk** appeared 10/22; three were reported 11/7. The first migrant **Broad-winged Hawk** passed BOK 8/15 at the start of the rain-shortened 90 minute first day of the season. The last Broad-wing passed by 10/17, but in between, the peak BOK count was 1127 on 9/16. The high **Golden Eagle** count occurred 11/6 (9). The only **Golden Eagle** report away from the Knob was a lone adult soaring low over Slatington 10/11 (BE). There were 6 Allentown reports of **Merlin** 9/1-11/29 (MB, ES, PS); at BOK, the first of 75 was tallied 8/17. The only **Peregrine Falcon** report from Allentown was an adult 10/6 near the waste water treatment plant.

Shorebird reports were nearly non-existent, the only "flock" being 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** near Fogelsville 8/1 (JH). This species was last seen 9/26 at Sand Island (ES). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was first reported at DP 11/18 (BE), but an amazing total of 80 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at LCP 11/28 (MB), a new county high count for the species! **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at BOK 9/5. The peak count for **Chimney Swift** was 300 at LCP 9/27; only one remained there by 10/17 (MB). An observer who has monitored Chimney Swift populations in the Allentown/Bethlehem area over time felt that numbers for this species were low this summer and fall, possibly due to unfavorable conditions resulting from excessive early summer rain followed by hot, dry conditions (GS).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** fed on pineapple sage in Slatington 10/14-17, a new county late date. Photos were shared and the bird was closely studied, but a Ruby-throat it remained. In Fountain Hill, *Lehigh's* second **Selasphorus hummingbird** in two years was a definite highlight of the period (ES, AS). Early on the morning of 10/10, the homeowner noted a hummingbird that he suspected to be a western species, though a solid identification was initially impossible in the dim light of dawn. He quickly forwarded the news via the PABIRDS listserv, extending an open invitation for birders to come look for it at the backyard feeder. Several people took advantage of the offer (over 40 within just a few days), and the bird was quickly confirmed to be of the *Selasphorus* genus, either a Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird, but most likely an adult female of the former species. Allen's could not be ruled out conclusively despite many excellent photographs (HE, et al.) and a fruitless attempt to capture and band the bird 10/12 (SW). It was last seen feeding early on the morning of 10/14. This is the third solid record of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird species in *Lehigh*.

An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at BOK 9/6-11. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Trexler Pines 9/23 (AS). A total of 232 **Blue Jays** was counted at BOK 10/3 following the passage of Tropical Storm Nicole. As in other areas of Pennsylvania, **Common Raven** sightings seem to be increasing in *Lehigh*. They are expected at the top of the county along the Blue Mountain, of course (BOK had a peak count of 23 on 10/18), but there were several records from elsewhere this period. On 9/7, a raven was seen moving south over Slatington (BE). One was at Lower Macungie 10/25 (BM, PM), and another at Cementon 11/5 (ML). The peak **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** report was 600 at LCP 9/23 (MB); the latest was a single bird at BOK 10/30 (BK). An influx

of **chickadees** was reported from BOK 10/6, and the first true northern **Black-capped Chickadees** were at Slatington 10/10 (BE). BOK reported **Red-breasted Nuthatch** as early as 8/17, the first of many reports. Several reports were from west Allentown, where they probably breed. **Brown Creeper** was first reported at BOK 9/19. An early **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at Grandview Cemetery in South Whitehall 8/24 suggests the possibility of local breeding; a more typical early migrant date occurred 9/22 at BOK. A **Gray Catbird** remained in Upper Milford through at least 11/13 (BM, PM).

Twenty-two warbler species were reported. **Cape May Warbler** was at BOK 9/19 (ES), and Upper Milford 10/10 (BM, PM). An interesting feeder bird was a female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Upper Milford beginning 10/9. She was attracted to a peanut butter log feeder, and was soon joined by a male 10/11! The pair continued to visit through 10/15 (BM, PM). The only **Pine Warbler** report was 10/11 at Slatington (BE). A late "western" **Palm Warbler** was at Dorney Pond 11/11 (BE). The only reports of **Bay-breasted Warbler** were at Lower Macungie (JL) and BOK (ES), both 9/11. An **Ovenbird** visited an Allentown backyard feeding area 10/17 (BCM). Often scarce by late summer, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was notable at WPP 8/9 (MB, BE). A **Mourning Warbler** was a nice find at Franko Farm 8/18 (RO, PO). At BOK, a **Common Yellowthroat** was heard singing at the very late date of 11/23. 2010's only report of **Wilson's Warbler** was at Lower Macungie 9/5 (JL).

A lone **Scarlet Tanager** at WPP 10/10 was noted just a day short of the regional late date (MB). A lingering flock of **Chipping Sparrows** persisted at Fairview Cemetery in Slatington through early Nov. The peak count was 71 on 10/15; just one bird was noted by 11/8 (BE). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at Allentown 10/9 (MB); the only other reports were 10/30 at both North Whitehall (JH) and Upper Milford (BM, PM). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Franko Farm 10/2, and at Trexler Pines 10/24 (JL), and a **Swamp Sparrow** was at Trexler Park in Allentown 11/11 (BE). The first reports for **White-throated Sparrow** and **Dark-eyed Junco** were 9/21 and 10/12, respectively, both in Slatington (BE). **White-crowned Sparrows** were present at WPP 10/12 (one - ES), and Trexler Pines 10/17 (6 - JL). Our only **Rusty Blackbird** was a lone bird at WPP 10/17 (ES).

There were reports of several winter finches this period. **Purple Finch** was seen almost daily at Slatington 9/21-10/18 (max 6), then disappeared for the remainder of the period (BE). They were also noted at WPP 10/12-30 (max 3 - ES), and at Upper Milford 10/17-11/9 (max 8 - BM, PM). The last report of the period was 11/14 (JH). **Pine Siskin** was recorded sporadically from four locations (BM, PM, ML, MB, JL), but only consistently from Lower Macungie 10/23-11/7 (max 4 - JL). The Macungie dates encompass the first and last dates for siskin in *Lehigh* this period. Finally, a rare report of three **Evening Grosbeaks** at BOK 10/22 was the first in several years for the county.

Observers: **Bill Etter, 209 E. South Street, Slatington, PA 18080, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Alif, Mark Boyd, Howard Eskin, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Bill Keim, Jon Levin, Barbara Malt (BCM), Bernie and Pauline Morris, Max Mutter, Rett and Priscilla Oren, Peter Saenger, Ed and Angie Sinkler, Adam Smith, Grant Stevenson, Scott Weidensaul.

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### Luzerne County

Locations: Harveys Lake (HL), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River @ Luzerne County Recreation Fields (SRLCR).

The fall migration season started out with drought conditions but rains in September and October ended the water shortage in *Luzerne*.

A **Blue-winged Teal** was found at PF 8/29 (KR) and continued until at least 9/4 (JH). Eleven **Black Scoters** were seen 11/2 at HL (KR, RK). On 11/16 at HL 5 male **Long-tailed Ducks** and a **Red-necked Grebe** were observed (KR). On 11/10 at Beech Mountain Lake, Drums there were at least 184 **Ruddy Ducks** (JDB). A very nicely marked **Red-throated Loon** was found 11/17 at HL (KR, JH).

**Great Egrets** were again reported in good numbers after the breeding season mainly along the SR corridor (JH, et al.). **American Bittern** went unreported this season, the first time in recent memory that it was missed.

There were 18 **Black Vultures** seen 11/19, and their numbers increased until the end of the period at a roost site near the Northwest

Area High School (BW). **Bald Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **Merlin** are now reported in every season and perhaps shouldn't continue to be noted, but since they're so majestic it seems necessary to mention them. The population for all three species appears to be doing very well both locally and throughout the state. As noted in the breeding season report **Merlin** has been documented breeding in *Luzerne*.

A very nice find was an **American Golden-Plover** 10/17, found by KR and observed by JH and RK. Other notable shorebirds during the period were a **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/6 (KR) which continued until at least 9/10 (JH). On 8/16 several flocks of **Black-bellied Plover** as well as **Short-billed Dowitcher** were reported along the SR in Harding (JS). Also seen that day were many **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and scores of unidentified shorebirds at the same location (JS). A juvenile **Sanderling** was observed at SRLCR 9/8 (KR). **Pectoral Sandpipers** appeared 9/6 and continued for at least a week at the SRLCR (KR, JH). Others were reported from the PF as late as 10/17 (KR, JH).

**Caspian Tern** is a species that used to be seen on a regular basis during both the spring and fall migration seasons but for the past decade has been mostly absent. Therefore 3 seen 9/4 at the SRLCR were very welcome (KR). The only gull species of note reported this season was a **Bonaparte's Gull** 9/15 at SRLCR (JH, KR).

A huge movement of **Common Nighthawks** was noted on 8/29 when hundreds were seen migrating in the Back Mountain area of northern *Luzerne* (KR), and at least 50 were seen while driving over the Cross Valley bridge on the same evening (JH). A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was found at NSP 9/11 (DKr, JDB). There were several records of **American Pipit** with 60+ on 10/30 at PF (KR) and 11 at SRLCR (JS). At least 2000 and perhaps as many as 5000 **American Robins** were counted as they flew to roost on the evening of 10/23 in Sweet Valley (RM, RMo). On 9/8 an immature **Connecticut Warbler** was seen at SRLCR (KR). A rather early **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found 9/12 at SRLCR (JH) and relocated later in the morning by KR. Another was seen at NSP 10/18 by JDB.

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were seen 10/30 at the PF (KR). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were again found throughout Sep by several observers. A very good find and a second county record was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** 9/16 (KR). A single **Snow Bunting** was seen along the dike in Wyoming 10/25 (SGa).

An even dozen **Evening Grosbeak** came to a feeder in Sweet Valley 10/23, and a single came to the same feeder 10/30 where it was joined by several **Pine Siskins** (RM, RMo). A juvenile male **White-winged Crossbill** came to a feeder in West Wyoming 11/25-26 (SGa).

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Don Kapral, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Dave Kruel (DKr), Robert Moase (RM), Ruth Moase (RMo), Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

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#### **Lycoming County**

No report.

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#### **McKean County**

No compiler.

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#### **Mercer County**

Locations: Coolspring Church Rd. (CCR), Grove City (GC), Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Williamson Rd. (WR).

A flock of **Snow Geese** were seen flying over SGL 130 on 11/5 (MT). The first skein of **Tundra Swan** were noted 11/14. Many more flights continued through the middle of Dec, all headed southeast, with only one flock resting on SRR.

A great variety of ducks stopped at SRR (all reported by MV, unless otherwise noted): **Gadwall** 8/23 (HB, LD) and 11/26, **American Wigeon** 11/26, **American Black Duck** 8/16 (HB,LD) and 11/26, **Blue-winged Teal** 8/6, **Northern Shoveler** 8/6-10/29, **Northern Pintail** 8/26 (HB,LD), **Green-winged Teal** 11/26, **Redhead** 10/29, **Ring-necked**

**Duck** 11/29, **Lesser Scaup** 11/26, **Bufflehead** 11/26, **Hooded Merganser** 11/26, **Common Merganser** 10/29, and **Ruddy Duck** 10/16 and 11/26.

Three grebe species were found: **Pied-billed** 10/29 and **Horned** 10/8 both at SRR (MV), and **Red-necked Grebe** 10/22 at the #2 mine swamp (HB, LD). **Great Egret** at SRR peaked at 9 on 8/26 (GM). **Osprey** was last seen 10/10. No longer scarce, 2 **Sandhill Crane** were in the GC area 11/17 (HB, LD).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at SRR 10/24 (MV), who says his "best bird" of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** 8/22, also at SRR. **Killdeer** began congregating on SRR's mud flats in late Aug. Numbers peaked at 128 on 10/16 (MV).

An **American Golden-Plover** was at SRR 9/9 (GM). The following sandpipers and shorebirds were listed from SRR: **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/6-9/23, **Spotted Sandpiper** 8/22, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/6-9/9, **Least Sandpiper** 8/6-10/8, **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/9 (GM), **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/3-9 with a whopping 16 present 9/9 (GM), **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/5-10/29, 7 **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/3 (GM), 4 on 9/9 (GM), and 7 on 10/8, **Dunlin** 10/8-29, and **Wilson's Snipe** 9/9. One **Short-billed Dowitcher** was there 8/6 (MV), and 2 juvenile *hendersoni* **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present 8/28 and 9/9 (GM). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SRR 9/9 (GM). Last date for **American Woodcock** was 10/16

A major movement of **Common Nighthawk** occurred over WR 8/31 (HT, NT). Last date for **Chimney Swift** was 10/10, and for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 9/22.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SRR 9/9 at SRR (GM), and NT saw a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/12, but Alder was missed. At GC, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared 9/14 (HB). A late fledging **Purple Martin** left a colony on WR 9/3 (NT). **Winter Wren** moved through 9/25-10/16. An early **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen 9/12, and a late date for **Gray Catbird** was 10/23, both at WR (NT).

NT lists **Cape May Warbler** as fairly common 9/5-10/14. **Bay-breasted Warbler**, not common, was seen 9/12, **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/10, **Mourning Warbler** 9/20-25 along WR, and **Wilson's Warbler**, a good find, 9/4-5 (NT). Grand total for warbler spp. was 21.

**American Tree Sparrow** arrived 11/13; **Lincoln's Sparrow**, always seen by NT, was found 9/12 and 9/23. **Dark-eyed Junco** wasn't reported until 10/3. Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SRR 10/16 (MV), and they were also seen 10/30 (NT). **Pine Siskins** were heard in flight over CCR 11/7 (HT).

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E, Lake Rd., Transfer, Pa. (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Lynne Doolan, Geoff Malosh, Harvey Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass.

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#### **Mifflin County**

Counters at Jack's Mt. hawk watch logged 207 hours for the fall season. Species totals included 30 **Bald Eagles**, 447 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 775 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 246 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and 16 **Golden Eagles**. The one-day high of **Broad-wings** was 436 on 9/18 (RS).

**Great Egrets** are quite uncommon in the county. Singles were noted at Belleville 8/1 (JZ) and 9/6 (GG, DG). A flock of 40 **Horned Larks** was found along School House Rd near Allensville 11/14 (GG).

Observers: **Greg and Deb Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Ron Singer, Jay Zook.

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#### **Monroe County**

Locations: Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The first half of the period was dry with much needed rains coming later in the fall. Rare in the northern portion of the county, 4 **Black Vultures** were observed in Mountainhome 9/18 (DS). Notable waterfowl at Saylor's Lake 11/17 included 2 **Canvasbacks** and 14 **Ruddy Ducks** (DA) and a **Merlin** in Cherry Valley 8/22 was likely an early migrant (DA). A Snyder'sville pond attracted one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 11 **Least Sandpipers**, and one **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/23 (DA).

Project Ownet was conducted at Skytop from 10/4 to 11/13 with 27 banding nights in that time and a total of 81 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** captured and banded (DS). The sex and age breakdown was as

follows: 50 (62%) of the birds were females, 7 (8%) were males, and 24 (30%) were unknown; 42 (52%) were hatch year birds, and 33 (41%) were second year birds. The high capture night was 11/2 with 25 Saw-whets. One Saw-whet was a foreign recovery, a female originally banded 250 kilometers northeast of Quebec City, Quebec, in 2008.

A flock of about 30 **Common Nighthawks** in Paradise Valley 8/29 was the high count for this species (BH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were moving early with the first one noted 8/27 at the MCEEC feeders (KB). Northern finch sightings included **Purple Finches** at a Saylorburg feeder 8/17 and 10/24 and a flock of about 40 **Pine Siskins** at the same Saylorburg feeder 10/24 (RW). Another flock of about 25 **Pine Siskins** appeared just one day at the MCEEC feeders 10/27 (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Dan Altif, Karen Boyle, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Rick Wiltraut.

## Montgomery County

Locations: Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Twp. (UFT), Upper Gwynedd Twp. (UGT), Upper Hanover Twp. (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The fall season brought average temperatures and above average precipitation in *Montgomery*. Rainfall at Green Lane was 21.90 in., well above our long term average of 17.11 in. In a bit of good birding fortune, the timing of the rainfall was nearly perfect for attracting and holding migrant birds. The drought conditions which began in April continued through most of September, providing extensive mudflats for shorebirds. The monsoon-like rains of 9/30-10/1 filled Green Lane Reservoir in time for dabbling ducks to arrive. Rainfall totals for the two-day event varied widely, but Green Lane recorded a whopping 9.52" for that particular storm.

Waterfowl variety was good, with some 24 species reported. An adult **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Church Road, Green Lane Reservoir 11/20-21 (KC, m.ob.). An immature blue morph **Snow Goose** was with migrant **Canada Geese** at Church Road as early as 10/2 (KC). Our season high for **Snow Goose** came 11/22 when a flock of 500 flew over Walt Road, GLR (KC). **Cackling Goose** was first observed at Church Rd. 10/26 (KC, MC), and reached a high of 2 there 11/26 (KC).

A **Gadwall** at Church Rd. 9/4 set a new *record early date* for fall (KC). **Blue-winged Teal** arrived at Church Rd. 8/21 (JG) and reached a season high of 12 there 9/4 (RG). **Northern Shoveler** reached a season high count of 23 at Walt Road, GLR 10/1 (GAF). Ten **Northern Pintails** were seen during the big rainfall 9/30 (KC), and smaller numbers were seen through the end of Nov (m.ob.). **Green-winged Teal** had their best showing in several years, with some 160+ at Church Road 11/2 (GAF, KC).

A good variety of diving ducks stopped at GLR, but most species were in modest numbers. A male **Canvasback** at Church Road 10/31 was a Halloween "trick", but the real "treat" were the 3 **Redheads** in its company (KC). **Ring-necked Ducks** began to arrive 10/2, but numbers topped out at a disappointing 12 birds 10/17 (m.ob.). A **Greater Scaup** was on a Perkiomenville pond 11/18 (RG), and **Lesser Scaup** were at Walt Rd, GLR in single digit numbers (m.ob.). A drake **Common Goldeneye** at Walt Rd 11/28 marked our only report (KC). **Ruddy Ducks** reached a *record high count* of 381 at Walt Road 11/3 (GAF), and some 200+ remained there through the end of the month (mob.).

A single **Horned Grebe** at Walt Road, GLR 11/3 was our only report (GAF). A **Double-crested Cormorant** remained at Haverford College through the end of Nov (SJ).

Wading birds included a **Great Egret** until 10/25 (m.ob.). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Church Rd., GLR 8/6 (GAF, m.ob.), and 2 were there 8/7 (KC, m.ob.). A **Little Blue Heron** was at Norristown Farm Park 8/15 (AJM). The **Glossy Ibis** first reported in July at Church Rd., GLR was joined by a second bird 8/1-4. (Peter Saenger, KC). One of these lingered until 8/14 (JG).

Militia Hill hawk watch at Fort Washington State Park had one of its best years on record. Highlights included a daily record high of 19 **Northern Harriers** 10/3, a **Swainson's Hawk** 10/22, and an early

**Rough-legged Hawk** 10/25 (Rich Conroy, Andy Fayer, m.ob.). Counters tallied an amazing 10,146 **Broad-winged Hawks** on the morning of 9/21 (RC, AF, m.ob.). Noteworthy raptors from other venues included a male **Northern Harrier** at NFP 10/30 (KC, DC), and a **Broad-winged Hawk** from Upper Gwynedd Township 9/15 (AJM). A **Merlin** at Church Rd., GLR 8/7 set another *record early date* (KC). **Merlins** were subsequently found at Pennsburg and GLR on multiple dates (GAF, RG, KC) and Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust as late as 10/30 (PD). A **Peregrine Falcon** returned to its favorite Norristown location 10/4 and remained through the end of the period (TC, m.ob.).

In the category of "birds out of place", top honors should go to a **Sandhill Crane** at the Willow Grove Mall 11/7. The bird was last seen flying off the roof at Bloomingdale's (MH). Small numbers (1-5) of **American Coot** were reported from GLR and NFP (m.ob.).

2010 could have been dubbed "year of the shorebird" at GLR and elsewhere. This was due in large part to below average precipitation from Apr through most of Sep. A respectable 20 species were recorded there (plus 2 additional species in Jul), making it our best year since 1998. All shorebird reports are from Church Rd., GLR unless noted otherwise. Highlights included a season-high 8 **Black-bellied Plover** 8/15 (KR, BK, DF), an **American Golden-Plover** 9/5 (GAF, JG), a season high 17 **Semipalmated Plovers** 8/25 (GAF), and a high of 124 **Killdeer** 9/1 (AJM). **Greater Yellowlegs** were present in single-digit numbers through Sep, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** topped the century mark 8/15 (m.ob.). Arguably the season's best sighting was of 4 **Red Knots** in the rains of 8/15 (KR, BK, DF). In a season of records broken, this marked another *record early fall date!* Two **Sanderlings** were at Walt Rd., GLR 9/14 (AJM, GAF), and a high of 4 **Western Sandpipers** were tallied 8/1 (PS, KC). Westerns were last reported there 9/6 (AJM). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were spotted 8/30 (JG), and last seen there 9/6 (RG). A season-high 8 **Baird's Sandpiper** came on 9/4 (AJM). **Pectoral Sandpiper** topped out at 21 birds 9/13 (KC), and **Stilt Sandpiper** set another *record high count* at 52 on 8/15 (DF, KR, BK). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found on the afternoon of 8/30 (KC). While chasing that bird, a second Buff-breasted was found later that evening (JG). Two more **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were seen at Walt Road, GLR 9/14 (GAF). Rounding out GLR's shorebird spectacle were single **Red-necked Phalarope** at Church Rd 8/27 (KC, DC, m.ob.) and at Walt Road 9/5-6 (DF, m.ob.). Elsewhere, 2 **American Woodcock** were at PERT 10/24 and 11/2. (PD).

Gulls of note included 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Church Rd 11/15 (KC), and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** beginning 10/28 (GAF). Caspian Tern set another *record high count* with 43 individuals counted at Church Rd 8/26 (KC). **Black Tern** appeared early at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 8/24-25 (RG), and late at Walt Rd, GLR 10/1 (GAF, m.ob.).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Gwynedd Preserve 11/6 was another unexpected find (AJM). **Common Nighthawk** numbers at FWSP were nothing short of astounding. Nightly counts were conducted 8/6-9/10, and several triple-digit tallies were made. On 8/28, a whopping 2400 birds were estimated (RC, AF)! Modest (single digit) nighthawk counts were made at GLR and presumably elsewhere.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was near Church Rd, GLR 9/18 (KC), and a late one was at PERT 10/5-7 (PD). Both **Philadelphia Vireo** and **Blue-headed Vireo** were at HC 10/2, and 2 Blue-headed were there until 10/24 (SJ). An even later Blue-headed was in Upper Frederick Township 11/5 (RG). Four **Purple Martins** were in the UCV 8/23 (AJM) and 3 were at Church Road 8/25 (JG). On 9/5 both **Bank** and **Cliff Swallows** were among 300+ swallows at GLR (GAF). **Black-capped Chickadees** appeared to have another good flight year, and were first reported from GLR 9/23 (KC, m.ob.). Migrant **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were right on schedule 8/28 in Upper Gwynedd Twp. (AJM) and GLR (GAF), but few lingered through the season. Our lone **Winter Wren** report came from HC 10/12 (SJ).

**Thrushes** identified by nocturnal flight calls in Elkins Park included 26 **Gray-cheeked** and 2 presumed **Bicknell's** 10/3 (PD). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at PERT 10/9, and a high of 20 **Hermit Thrush** were there 10/12 (PD). Both **Swainson's** and **Hermit Thrush** were at HC in early Oct (SJ). Given the expansive mudflats at Church Road, **American Pipit** were surprisingly hard to find. Single birds 9/17 and 9/20 were our only reports (KC, RG).

Warblers had only a fair showing, with 19 species reported. Highlights included **Orange-crowned Warbler** 9/3 in Upper Frederick Twp (RG), 9/18 at GLR (RG), and Upper Gwynedd Twp 10/19 (AJM). Other species at GLR included **Nashville**, **Black-and-white**, **American Redstart** and **Ovenbird** (GAF). **Palm Warbler** reached a high of 15

near Church Rd., GLR 10/3, and a very late one was at the GLR Nature Center 11/3 (KC). Other warblers observed in Upper Gwynedd Twp. included **Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler** (all AJM). Haverford College highlights included **Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue** until 10/17, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** (SJ). **Palm Warbler** numbers peaked at 8 birds there 10/2 (SJ). PERT hosted a **Connecticut Warbler** 9/2 (PD), and Elkins Park had **Mourning Warbler** 9/12-13 (PD).

Sparrows had a good showing, with 14 species reported. The best of the bunch was a **Lark Sparrow** at PERT 10/20 (ph. SM). Other reports from PERT included 30 **Savannah Sparrows** 10/12, 15 **White-crowned** and 10 **Lincoln's Sparrows** 10/10, and a **Vesper Sparrow** 10/29-31 (PD). Sparrow reports from UGT included a **Swamp Sparrow** and **White-crowned Sparrow**, both 10/17 (AJM). Five **Savannah Sparrows** were at Gwynedd Preserve 11/6 (AJM). GLR hosted a **Swamp Sparrow** beginning 9/24 (KC), **Lincoln's Sparrow** and the season's first **White-crowned Sparrow** 9/26, and our first of season **American Tree Sparrow** 11/14 (GAF). Two **Swamp Sparrows** were at HC 10/8 (SJ). **Fox Sparrow** arrived near Palm 11/2 (GAF), HC 11/7 (SJ), and at 3 were at GL Nature Center 11/12 (DC, m.ob.).

Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at PERT 10/30 (PD). **Bobolinks** were noted at GLR and NFP (AJM).

**Purple Finches** were present in UGT, GP, Unami Creek Valley, Upper Frederick Twp, GLR, and Upper Hanover Twp., and a high of 63 were at PERT 10/24 (PD). **Pine Siskins** were first noted at PERT 10/12 (PD), reached a high of 6 in UCV 10/18, and were last seen there 11/11 (KC). An **Evening Grosbeak** flew over Walt Road, GLR 11/3, marking our first record in several years (GAF).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Diane Cameron, Tom Canigiani, Rich Conroy, Michelle Crilley, Paul Driver, Devich Farbotnik, Andy Fayer, George Francois (GAF), Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Marya Halderman, Sheryl Johnson, Bill Keim, Susan Marshall, August and Judy Mirabella, Ken Reiker, Peter Saenger.

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#### **Montour County**

No compiler.

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#### **Northampton County**

Locations: Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Koch Farm (KF), Little Gap (LG), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

It appears that birders were out in force during the period based on the amount of data collected. That was nice to see. **Eurasian Collared-Dove** is no longer that overdue species that was expected to be found. Despite the lack of quality habitat, a few shorebirds turned up. Birders did well finding difficult warblers and flycatchers, a leucistic hummingbird, some waterfowl, lots of raptors, winter finches, and even an exotic cage bird.

This may not be something we like to hear about, but **Mute Swans** successfully nested this year and healthy young birds could be found at Minsi Lake and E. Bangor Dam (MS). At the KF in Williams Twp., there were 35 fly-by **Tundra Swans** 11/17 (AK). Another 3 **Tundra Swans** were at Echo Lake 11/20 (AS). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at Echo Lake 9/29 (AS). NQ had **Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck** (8), **Ring-necked Duck** (12), **Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser** (8) and **Common Mergansers** 11/18 (MS). Waterfowl found at Echo Lake included 26 **Ruddy Ducks** (11/20) and 8 **Lesser** and one **Greater Scaup** 11/22 (AS). On 10/22, a flock of 13 scoters passed the LG hawk lookout and at least 2 were **White-winged Scoters** (MS). A lone **Black Scoter** was at the MCEP flyash pond 10/24 (MS).

There were 11 **Common Loons** and one **Red-throated Loon** flying south by LG 10/31 (MS). A retention pond on Silvercrest Rd., Bath had a **Red-necked Grebe** in near breeding plumage 10/5-6 (MS, DW). On occasion, **Great Blue Herons** are seen migrating past hawk lookouts and at LG there was a high of 15 on 9/10 (MS). Up to 3 **Great Egrets** were at Minsi Lake 9/10-29 (AS). Seeing **Great Egret** is not unusual but finding a **Cattle Egret** is a great find. Thus it was quite a surprise to find a **Cattle Egret** perched on a snag at NQ 10/13 (MS, CCS). Either a second or the same bird was found in a field in Bath

10/23 (SB). There are few records in the last 10 years of **Cattle Egret** in *Northampton*, so 2 in one year is amazing.

The LG hawk count ran from 8/21-12/9 this year with 13,534 hawks and vultures tallied. **Broad-winged Hawks** (4573) and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (4138) were most common. Records were set for **Turkey Vultures** (755), **Bald Eagles** (180), and **Merlin** (89). Other numbers included 43 **Peregrine Falcons**, 51 **Golden Eagles**, and 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**. In addition to the hawk count, there were 3 **Sandhill Cranes** seen flying over the ridge 10/12 (CCS, DH).

The summer drought did not help create any quality shorebird habitat. The drought was so bad that most ponds dried up completely. By the time rain came, most shorebirds had already migrated south. There were a few exceptions and some shorebirds were located. A pond on Rte. 611, upper Mt. Bethel Twp. had a **Stilt Sandpiper** and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 8/22 and a lone **Baird's Sandpiper**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and a **Semipalmated Plover** 8/23-24 (MSa). More common **Lesser** and **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Least Sandpipers** were reported at multiple areas.

**Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were using the NQ to roost during the day mid-Oct to early Nov. An estimated 200 were there 10/13 (MS) and 250 on 11/1 (DD). A first winter **Iceland Gull** and 64 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at NQ 11/29 (DD). The only tern report was of a **Caspian Tern** at Green Pond 8/1 (MS).

It was only a matter of time before a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** found its way into Northampton Co. The species has been showing up in several nearby counties in recent years. On 8/2, two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** (first county record) were found at Freemansburg Ave. and Wagner Rd. in Bethlehem Twp. (BW, m.ob.). At least one continued until 9/12 (MS).

Tim Kita and Rick Wiltraut took on the task of banding **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at LG 10/7-11/22 and had impressive results. They banded 250 Saw-whets and had another 15 foreign recaptures. Their best night was 46 on 11/2. Several local people assisted (BS, SB, CCS, DW, DZ, and BW). At the Bear Swamp archery complex 9/10, a **Barred Owl** was heard (AS). There were no verified rare hummingbirds this fall but a leucistic hummingbird visited a feeder in Easton 9/3 (DD). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** passed the LG lookout 9/15 (MS).

Several **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found including one at the KF 8/25-27 (AK), a bird at Kirkridge 9/11 (AS, MT, MB), and at LG 8/26 and 9/18 (MS, CCS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded at LG 9/22 (BS, RW, MS) and another was seen at JSP 9/3 (RW). There was an adult **Northern Shrike** at the KF 10/29 (AK), then likely a different **Northern Shrike** was there 11/13-15 (AK). **Philadelphia Vireo** is a bird we seek out every fall and based on reports it was an easy year to find this vireo. **American Crows** also seemed to have rebounded this year as many larger flocks were around. I do not remember seeing as many crows in any recent years. **Common Ravens** in small to medium sized groups were regular along the ridge during this year's hawk count. One report was of 40 ravens at Kirkridge (AS). Might this be a sign of recovery from West Nile virus?

An early **Winter Wren** was at LG 9/18 (MS). On 10/17 there were 50 **American Pipits** in a field in Plainfield Twp (KS) and 10/30 there were 30 **American Pipits** in Hanover Twp (EV).

Warblers are the big draw for birders in late Aug and Sep. Variety was good in the county but there were no major fall-outs and numbers of individuals somewhat low. There was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Kirkridge 10/28 (AS). Warblers at JSP 8/17 included **Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and Canada Warbler** (DW). Warblers at LG 8/21 were **Blackburnian, Wilson's, Canada, Bay-breasted, Prairie, Chestnut-sided, and Worm-eating Warbler** (MS). Seldom seen as a fall migrant, a female **Cerulean Warbler** was at JSP 8/17 (RW). Always difficult to find is **Mourning Warbler** and one was in a cornfield edge habitat on 8/15 and 8/21 in Bath (DW). On 9/19 there was a small fall-out with **Northern Waterthrush, Connecticut, Wilson's, and Cape May Warbler** in Bath (DW) and **Blue-winged, Blackpoll, Prairie, Blackburnian, Northern Parula, Pine, Palm, Magnolia, Redstart, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Green Warbler** at JSP (RW). At LG 10/23, a western race **Palm Warbler** perched at the lookout (MS). A late **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the KF 10/18 (AK) and another **Chat** and a **Tennessee Warbler** were at JSP 10/7 (RW).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in corn stubble in Bath 9/19 (DW). That same area also held a **Vesper Sparrow** 11/3 (DW). The corn stubble was also productive 10/30 with 70 **American Pipits** and 2 **Lapland Longspurs** (DW). The **Blue Grosbeaks** that nested at Grand Central Landfill, Pen Argyl were doing well 8/23 (RW). One adult male

and 3 juvenile **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed. Two other **Blue Grosbeaks** were near Dutch Springs Quarry 8/25 (AS). During migration 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** (10/24) and 30-40 **Bobolinks** (8/27) were at the KF (AK). **Dickcissel** could be sporadically found at the KF 10/13-29 (AK).

A group of 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** were amongst cowbirds on Sickle Rd., Bath 11/7 (MS, CCS). Seeing an orange colored bird at a feeder on 10/30 got the owners hopes of a rarity up. The bird was a **Baltimore Oriole** that liked drinking nectar from a hummingbird feeder (AK).

There were **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** in the area in Oct/Nov visiting feeders and being seen at LG but never in very large numbers.

**EXOTICS:** From time to time exotic cage birds escape from (or are released by) their owners and turn up in other people's yards. A female **Orange Bishop** was at the KF 10/24-11/2 (AK).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Steve Boyce, Mark Boyd, Dave DeReamus, David Hughes, Arlene Koch, Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine, Corinne Campbell Schall, Kathy Sieminski, Brad Silfies, Mark Tolino, Ed Vermillion, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Doug Wiltraut, Rick Wiltraut, Bill Winkelman, Dan Zmoda.

### **Perry County**

An immature **White Ibis** was found on the Juniata River at Millerstown 8/14 (TJP). The bird remained until at least 8/17 and was seen by many observers. There were good numbers (for *Perry*) of other waders, including 30 **Great Egrets**, 14 **Great Blue Herons**, and 4 **Green Herons**.

Observers: **Ramsay Koury, 123 Old Ford Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011, rkoury123@aol.com**, Richard Cleary, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Dave McNaughton, Toby J. Petersheim, Dick and Pat Williams.

### **Philadelphia County**

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill River (SR).

A **Townsend's Warbler** was found 11/20 in the *Delaware* portion of Cobb's Creek Park. On 11/21 it thankfully flew across the creek into *Philadelphia* to secure Philly's first record (WW, TC, DE, m.ob., ph.). Two previous state records of *Townsend's Warbler* are a *Luzerne* male at a feeder in the winter of 1997-98 and a male specimen taken from the Brandywine in *Chester* 1868. Other notable species reported here are **Least Tern**, **Wilson's** and **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, and **Cave Swallow**.

Several hundred **Snow Goose** flew south over ne. and nw. Philly 11/26 (MS, CR, DWe) and 2 **Tundra Swan** were at TI 11/21 (DBr). A high count of 80 **Wood Duck** reported at TI in Sep suggests there were probably 80 more lurking in the vegetation. Several years ago USFWS removed **Wood Duck** nest boxes from TI. They were reinstalled last year and the results are apparent. At FDR, 9 **Gadwall** 11/2 (FW) grew to 58 **Gadwall** 11/26 (MS). The presence of **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, and **Mallard** was not exceptional. However, at TI **Blue-winged Teal**, present since Jul, numbered 45 on 8/1 and peaked at more than 100 teal 9/19 (FW). I credit the expanding stand of wild rice, but there were other factors drawing thousands of waterfowl to the area this season. More than 360 **Northern Shoveler**, 470 **Northern Pintail** and 430 **Green-winged Teal** were on the impoundment at TI 9/21-11/26. Six **Canvasbacks**, a fragment of the hundreds reported in past years, were at TI 11/21. On 11/26 4 **Greater Scaup**, 27 **Lesser Scaup** and 30 **Bufflehead** were there (MS). In addition to **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** in relatively small numbers, 500 **Ruddy Duck** at TI on 11/12 (FW) increased to 740 birds on 11/26 (CR, DWe). **Pied-billed Grebe** were present as usual and the only **Horned**

**Grebe** was seen at TI 10/3 (BH).

**Great Cormorant** arrived on or before 10/19 (FW). A single **Least Bittern** was finally spotted at TI 8/4. The TI impoundment was partially drawn down this fall, but egrets and shorebirds found ample habitat to rest and feed on the exposed mud. In addition to an unremarkable high count of 62 **Great Egret** 9/29 (BK), 6 **Snowy Egret** 8/7 (DWi, ST) and 3 **Little Blue Heron** were seen at TI (DM, FW). A late flyover of **Little Blue Heron** at POD 11/17 was remarkable (FW).

An **Osprey** circled WC as late as 11/15 (KJ). Small kettles of 100 or fewer **Broad-winged Hawk** were observed 9/15-10/17. The dependable **Red-shouldered Hawk** arrived at TI in Oct and some birds thought there might be a wintering pair. Philly is rich with breeding **Peregrine Falcon** and a new pair has been discovered at what will hopefully be reported in summer as an additional nest site.

Six **Wild Turkey** are seen often at TI, but **Ring-necked Pheasant** went unreported again this season. A **Virginia Rail**, possibly two, was on the small island at TI 9/11 (DBeer) and **Sora** was reported from MA 9/19 (KJ) and at TI 9/18-25 (PW, RW, FW).

Five **Black-bellied Plover** were at POD 8/4 and an **American Golden Plover** was at TI 9/24 and at POD 11/4 (FW). Eleven **Semipalmated Plover** were at TI 9/19 (PW, RW). At TI up to 150 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/29 and 250 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/24 were reported. Two **Solitary Sandpiper** were a good find at MA 9/21 (KJ). On the POD mudflats at low tide 75 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were a high count 8/13 and 75 **Least Sandpiper** were present through 10/1 (FW). Also seen were **White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/13 (FW) and at TI 9/14 (VN). **Pectoral Sandpiper** numbers increased from two at POD on 8/22 (FW) to 20 at TI 9/20 (AG). TI hosted as many as 10 **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/15-24 (MD). Four **Wilson's Phalarope** were found at TI 9/19 (DM) and two were still being reported 9/23 (GS). FW was checking the river at the Frankford Arsenal boat ramp when a **Red-necked Phalarope** flew right in front of him on 10/1.

For the sixth year, our resident **Lesser Black-backed Gull** continues at the Linden Ave. boat ramp (m.obs.). A **Least Tern** was found by a bird walk leader at TI 8/28-29 (LR, DBr, DE). Both adult and begging juvenile **Caspian Tern** were present in the first two weeks of Aug. Over 40 **Forster's Tern**, also with begging juveniles, were at TI 10/4. A single **Black Tern** was reported at TI 10/3 (BH)

In this "irruption year" **Northern Saw-whet Owl** should be abundant, but hours of searching did not turn up a single bird. At TI the poplar woods (invasive *populus alba*) and its honeysuckle vine understorey is dying at an alarming pace, limiting prospects of roost sites for future **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. Despite lots of searching this season, only the resident **Great Horned Owl** was present.

**Common Nighthawk** went unreported. Finding and watching the thousands of **Chimney Swift** come to roost in Philly's brick chimneys during migration is an annual fall activity for birders. On the 9/15 DVOC field trip only 800 **Chimney Swift** were found at the Shawmont School in Roxborough, not the thousands that were hoped for, but 4000 swifts were at the Dobson School 10/1 (JS). The Chestnut Hill Towers on Stenton Ave. also hosted up to 1200 swifts (JS).

We saw only one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at POD 9/19, but **Least Flycatcher** was numerous with six sightings including a pair on two occasions from 8/28-10/17 (FW). A pair of **Blue-headed Vireo** at TI 11/1 was much later than usual (LR, m.ob.). It was pure serendipity when Bob and Nancy Schutzky stopped for a light at Gray's Ferry and University Aves. and a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** flew across the road in front of them 9/1. This is the first report of this species that I'm aware of in Philly.

A secondary benefit of watching and counting the largest overwintering flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** in the US is that an observant birder might find a **Cave Swallow** among them, and FW did 10/31. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** continue as a resident species at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant with 110 present when the season ended (CR, DWe). A flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** conservatively numbered at 2000 at TI was a beautiful spectacle and is thought to be the largest group reported in Philly (FW, KR). Philly had its share of **Black-capped Chickadee** along with an unknowable number of hybrids.

The warbler migration seemed better to me than this report indicates. While compiling this I saw how many species were missed. The warblers we saw were limited to most of the more common and abundant species. Four reports of **Tennessee Warbler** are better than usual for a species which seems to be in decline. Two of these warblers hung out at POD10/6-9 (FW). **Orange-crowned Warbler** put in brief appearances at TI 10/24 (AB), at POD 10/11 and in Center City near

Jefferson Hospital 10/24 (JM). Four days shy of the late record, a **Northern Parula** was in CW 12/4 (EB). Other late sightings include an **American Redstart** at TI 11/26 (CR, DWe), **Common Yellowthroat** at the Franklin Institute Park 11/26, a **Blackpoll Warbler** at POD 11/17. An **Ovenbird** was on the Temple University campus 12/13 (PM). This area of Temple was attractive to late migrant **Ovenbird** in both 2008 and 2009 (plus **Yellow-breasted Chat**) though neither as late as 12/13. At BRSP FW found a **Cape May Warbler** 10/2. POD gave us an adult male **Connecticut Warbler** 9/19-20 followed by a juvenile on 9/30 (FW) and a **Mourning Warbler** 9/11 (FW). A **Canada Warbler** at CW 8/19 was an early arrival (KJ). A **Blue Grosbeak** family lingered at POD 8/13-10/3 (FW).

Thirteen *emberizid* species was average for fall. The overgrown and weedy community gardens of BRSP, POD and TI provide the best habitat. **Vesper Sparrow** was at BRSP 10/2-23 and 35 **Savannah Sparrow** were present 10/6. **Savannah Sparrow** was also found at MA and SCEE 10/18 (KJ). POD also hosted our only **Grasshopper Sparrow** 10/23 (FW). **White-crowned Sparrow** put in a good showing at TI in mid-Oct. (LR). **Bobolink** frequented SL as early as 8/29 and up to 25 birds were at POD in Sep. They fed as usual on the wild rice stands at TI.

**Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** were found in small numbers at a few feeders.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063; (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Adrian Binns, Erica Brendel, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Dan Efrogmson, Al Guarente, Bill Hohenstein, Ken Januski, Bill Keim, Joe Majdan, Penelope Myers, Vincent Nichnadowicz, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Cameron Rutt, Brian Schultz, Bob Schutzky, Matt Sharp, Judy Stepenaski, Gary Stolz, Kate Somerville, Shannon Thompson, Drew Weber, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams, Wendy Willis, Dave Wilton (DWi), Frank Windfelder.

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#### **Pike County**

No compiler.

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#### **Potter County**

No report.

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com.**

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#### **Schuylkill County**

Locations: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL). Forest Hills, Pottsville (FH).

Waterfowl were few and far between, but a **White-winged Scoter**, a rare find for our county, was reported from Lake Wynonah 10/18-19, in the company of 22 **Ruddy Ducks** (DoK, BC). **Hooded Mergansers** were found at SAL 11/06 (DD).

A tagged **Great Egret** was seen (and duly reported) at a farm pond near New Ringgold (SS). Both **Black** and **Turkey Vultures** were at their usual fall roost in FH 9/13-11/21 (MW). **Bald Eagles** were seen in the Tamaqua to New Ringgold area throughout the season, as they were during the summer (BB, LG, et al.). This raises the possibility of a nest in the area which, if confirmed, would be a first nesting record for the county. **Golden Eagles**, **Merlins**, and **Peregrine Falcons** were all recorded during an excellent fall migration season at HMS (LG, DB, KG, DK et al.).

Three young **Barn Owls** were banded at a farm in the Friendsburg area 9/14 (SW, DM). These most beautiful of owls continue to be a rare find in *Schuylkill*.

In late Aug, **Olive-sided Flycatchers** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported from SGL 110 along the county's southern border (KG). A very late **Least Flycatcher** was found at Tuscarora State Park at the end of Nov, still there at the end of this reporting season (JoD). A lone **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at SGL 110 (KG). **Winter Wrens** were reported from the same location 8/18-10/31 (KG). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** visited a backyard feeder near Clamtown 10/31 (BB).

Very few fall warblers were reported away from HMS, where 24

species were recorded. **Connecticut Warblers** made appearances at SGL110 on 9/18 and 10/13 (KG).

**Chipping Sparrows** remained in the area until the end of Oct (m.ob.). **Fox Sparrows** were seen in FH as late as 11/21 (MW). **Dark-eyed Juncos**, which breed at the higher elevations in the county, began moving through in greater numbers in Oct. On 11/3, a leucistic junco was reported from the Hidden Valley area (AML).

**Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** made their initial appearances by late Oct (m.ob.). A single **Evening Grosbeak** was at a feeder in the Summit Station area 11/18 (SS).

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Observers: **Mike Ward, 86 Sherwood Road, Pottsville, PA 17901 (570) 628-5571, PmSLenaol.com**, Roland Bergner, Barb Birocik, Brian Clauser, Tom Clauser, John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko (JoD), Denise Donmoyer, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Barb Jucker, Doris Klint (DoK), Dave Kruel, Ann-Marie Liebner, Dan Mummert, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz (DeS), Sandy Schwartz, Scott Weidensaul.

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#### **Snyder County**

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

The following were observed at FL 11/16: 32 **Tundra Swans**, 4 **American Wigeons**, one **Greater Scaup**, one **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **Bufflehead**, and 44 **Ruddy Ducks** (CK). **Bufflehead** were found on both FL and WL and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** were at FL 11/15 (P&RW).

A **Snowy Egret** was observed near the mouth of Penns Creek near the Hoover Island boat launch 8/14 (JW). A single **Black Vulture** was reported near Middleburg 10/9 (JW). One adult **Bald Eagle** was roosting in a tree along the north shore of FL and an immature Bald Eagle was observed flying at WL 11/15 (P&RW). A **Northern Goshawk** was observed near Summit Rd. just south of Middleburg 10/2 (JW).

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was noted at FL 8/10 (JW). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at FL 11/15 (P&RW) and four were counted a day later at this location (CK).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported from along Summit Rd. south of Middleburg 10/9 and again 11/20 (JW). Eight **Common Nighthawks** were noted near Oriental 8/31 (KC).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed along Creek Rd. in SGL 188 on 8/14 (P&RW), and an **Alder Flycatcher** was reported near Oriental 9/5 (KC). Two **Purple Martins** were observed near the Hoover Island Boat Launch 8/27 (JW). Although nesting in surrounding counties there were no records in *Snyder* during the second BBA. **Magnolia** and **Mourning Warbler** were among the species reported at SGL 212, south of Selingsgrove 8/20 (DW). A single **Purple Finch** was observed at WL 10/20 (P&RW).

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#### **Somerset County**

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM).

We experienced a warm, dry season with drought warnings from 9/20 to 12/13. Somerset Lake had a scheduled drawdown starting in early September to help kill weeds, and some later migrating shorebirds were enticed from the sky. Summit Mills had a nice showing of **American Golden-Plovers** and a cooperative **White-winged Crossbill**. Effort for migrating passerines was lower than normal and several species were missed.

**Tundra Swan** flocks were detected in late November with 60 over SM 11/25 (EB) and 7 at SL 11/24 (AM). A rainy 11/16 brought a mixed fallout of about 600 birds to SL including: 12 **Gadwall**, 20 **American Wigeon**, 8 **Northern Shoveler**, 10 **Canvasback**, 40 **Ring-neck Duck**, one **Long-tailed Duck**, 60 **Bufflehead**, 300 **Ruddy Duck**, and one **Pied-billed Grebe** amongst other species (JP). Seven **Lesser Scaup** 11/26 (AM), 9 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/23 (AM), one **Horned Grebe** 11/5 (AP, JP), and a high of 19 **Great Blue Herons** 9/30 (CP, JP) also graced SL.

Two **Black Vultures** drifted past SM 10/23 (EB) and the earliest **Northern Harrier** was 8/18 in Summit Township (AM). A **Golden**

**Eagle** 11/21 and **Merlin** 9/14 were hailed as they passed PP (JP). The **Sandhill Cranes** with one young were seen Aug through Oct with the last report in Nov being of just two birds.

**American Golden-Plover** were in farm fields in SM with Killdeer starting with one 9/18 and culminating with 5 on 9/27 (EB). **Killdeer** numbers peaked at 60 on 9/18 in SM (EB) and over 60 at SL 9/30 (JP). Somerset Lake mudflats had the following high numbers of shorebirds: 8 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/16, 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/30, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 9/19, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 9/13, 3 **Least Sandpiper** 9/14, 21 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 9/30, and one **Dunlin** 11/5 (JP). If we ever had a slightly earlier drawdown species composition would probably be better. A **Bonaparte's Gull** 11/16 at SL was late (AP, JP).

A **Short-eared Owl** at PP 11/10 was yard bird number 197 for the property (JP). The first migrating **Common Nighthawk** at PP was spotted 8/19. Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** adults were in Brotherton 8/3 (CP, JP). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was hawking large insects at PP 9/11 (CP, JP). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was migrating at SL 9/19 (JM, MM, JP). **Philadelphia Vireo** was at PP 9/14 (CP, JP). The latest **Cliff Swallow** 9/4 and **Barn Swallow** 9/11 left SM with good wishes from EB. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were first seen 9/16 at SM (EB) and last at PP 11/5 (AP, JP). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were heard over PP 9/19 and many **Swainson's Thrushes** including the first 9/8 (JP).

The first **American Pipits** were 5 seen at SM 11/1 and a good high of 50 were in BA 11/3 (AP, JP). About 15 warbler species were seen at PP with lower than normal effort through the season. Two **Wilson's Warblers** were at SL 9/19 (JM, MM, JP).

A late **Eastern Towhee** was at Markleton 11/21 (AM). **American Tree Sparrows** seemed late arriving with the first at PP feeders 12/3 (JP). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at PP from 9/19 to early Oct (CP, JP). The only **Lapland Longspur** was in BA 12/7 (JP). **Rusty Blackbirds** started with a single 10/9 and peaked at 30 in SM (EB). A very trusting female **White-winged Crossbill** allowed close approach at EB's feeders in SM 11/17. **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in good numbers both at PP and SM from 10/13 to 11/3 then disappeared.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin PA 15530 (814) 267-5718**, Elmer Brenneman, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Christopher Payne, Alan Peterson.

## Sullivan County

*Sullivan* is located in the Northeast portion of the state and is at the heart of the Endless Mountains. A large portion of the county has been set aside as State Park, Forest or Game Land. The county is very rural in nature. Primarily wooded, those areas that are open tend to be under agricultural use. Bodies of water dot the landscape and are comprised mostly of manmade farm ponds, beaver ponds or streams that were dammed long ago during the days of ice making and average on the smaller side. Wetland areas tend to be small and are normally found adjacent to one of the many ponds or lakes. The county does contain areas of boreal bog.

Against this backdrop one finds that the primary migrants are the neotropical passerines. Many of these migrants are nesters within the county. Waterfowl and shorebirds only migrate through in small numbers. Mixed flocks of migrants such as vireos and warblers are found together with residents such as Black-capped Chickadees. The observer is challenged at this time of year with young birds, fall warblers and *Empidonax* flycatchers that are not calling on territory any longer.

The county does not receive constant coverage at any time during the year. Most of the observations for this report occurred in August and over the Labor Day weekend. There are few records after that time. Therefore, last date observed should be taken literally and not to mean that any individual did not occur within the county beyond that date.

An early August weekend trip uncovered resident species only. The highlight was a **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which has nested in the area. **Tree Swallows** always seem to disappear early and were not found 8/7 or 8/8. I figured them to be gone so was surprised when I found a flock about a month later.

This observer managed a week's vacation on North Mountain 8/22-29. Over eighty species were observed during the week including a few non nesting migrants. **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were both found in pairs at separate small ponds. Two separate groups of **Common Nighthawks** were seen. Two birds were

seen flying fast and direct over the Dutch Mountain area at dusk and a group of ten were seen hawking insects over the town of Mildred during mid afternoon hours. Several small feeding flocks were encountered that held fifteen separate warbler species. These flocks included lone **Tennessee** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** in the Splashdam Pond area, and a lone **Bay-breasted Warbler** in the Dutch Mtn. area.

Some of the residents also provided some interesting behavior. A **Ruffed Grouse** was heard drumming 8/29. A lone **Sandhill Crane** was found trumpeting near the Birdsong Winery in Cherry Township. The bird had been heard from over a mile away.

Residents still present during the week included **Chimney Swift**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Barn Swallow**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Canada Warbler**, **Indigo Bunting**, and **Bobolink**. None of these birds were reported again.

Labor Day weekend began on the chilly side and eventually warmed to a comfortable range. All three days were breezy which may have been a contributing factor to the low numbers of both species and individual birds. A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at Shady Nook Lake. A trip to Briskey Mountain produced the best finds of the weekend. The best area was a stretch of the road less than a half a mile long toward the base of the mountain. A **Great-crested Flycatcher** called. This was followed by a flock of a dozen **Tree Swallows** circling quite high. Just a bit further along some movement in a low brushy area included a **Philadelphia Vireo**. The bird was a bright adult and was very cooperative staying in the open while my uncle walked back a hundred yards or so to see the bird. A second vireo then appeared. This bird was clearly duller than the first but was less cooperative providing a much briefer look. The two birds did not appear to be interacting in any way. The bird had some qualities of Philadelphia but in the end we left the identification as probable Philadelphia but possible **Warbling Vireo** (SC, RM).

Birds last reported over the Labor Day weekend included **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Scarlet Tanager**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

This observer returned to the county 9/18-19. The primary purpose of the trip was to check State Game Lands in the Dutch Mtn area for new **Bald Eagle** nests. No new nests were found, however, three juvenile eagles were observed. One of these birds was flying high overhead in a southerly direction. The other two were perched in adjacent trees overlooking a lake.

The weekend weather was gorgeous and very comfortable for hiking. Numbers actually increased compared to Labor Day. Thirty-five **Wood Duck** were counted in various locations. A shallow beaver pond along Rte. 487 contained three **Mallard**, two **American Black Duck**, six **Green-winged Teal** and three **Northern Pintail**. Several feeding flocks were found on private property and game lands that included three **Blackpoll Warblers** and two **Palm Warblers**. A lone **American Woodcock** flushed along a game land road. Species reported for the last time included 3 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, 9 **Eastern Phoebes**, 10 **Gray Catbirds**, 8 **Eastern Towhees**, and 4 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. Last reports for two or single individuals include **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Winter Wren**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Nashville**, **Magnolia**, and **Blackburnian Warblers**, and **Chipping**, **Field**, and **White-throated Sparrows**.

**Common Raven** was also noteworthy on this particular trip. Not for their presence or numbers, but for the behavior they displayed. All ten birds observed were seen as close flying pairs. I often see ravens in large groups or smaller family sized groups. I had never before seen them as just pairs.

Other county reports for Sep and Oct include a **Blue-headed Vireo** seen along the Loyalsock Creek in Lopez 8/22 (DK). A **Northern Harrier** was seen near the Birdsong Winery in Cherry Township 8/25 (WE). Also observed in Cherry Township 8/25 were **Killdeer** and **Northern Flicker** (WE). **Pine Siskins** appeared at a feeder in Nordmont during the month of Oct (RP *vide* WE). No specific date was provided. Three **Bufflehead** were seen on Eagles Mere Lake 11/3 (TG).

**Sandhill Cranes** gathered again in a small flock in the Dushore area. They came together late in Oct and early Nov. They were observed on several occasions flying in formation high above a large open area. The largest group seen was a dozen birds. The group was last observed the day before Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day (11/25) opened cold and overcast. Snow was in the forecast and by noon the back roads were coated and slippery. Ponds and lakes had not yet frozen, and single **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were found during the morning. A pair of **Ring-necked**

**Pheasant** was seen in Cherry Township. Two adult **Bald Eagles** were present at Shady Nook Lake. A **Barred Owl** flew across a wooded section of road in Cherry Township. The **Blue Jay** count was down to two birds having been as high as twenty earlier in the season. The most populous bird was **American Crow** with 75 individuals seen. A flock of sixteen **Cedar Waxwings** was found in the Shady Nook area and 30 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were seen together in an agricultural area of Cherry Township. One lone **American Robin** was observed. The season's first **American Tree Sparrows** (9) were seen.

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### **Susquehanna County**

No compiler.

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### **Tioga County**

Locations: Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP).

With the exception of **Canada Geese** and **Common Mergansers**, waterfowl counts for the reporting period were very low again this year, often in the single digits. Five **Ruddy Ducks** were seen 11/16 at HCSP (AP) and 2 **Buffleheads** were seen on the same date at Tauscher Pond adjacent to the lake at HCSP. Two **Redheads** were reported 11/29 at HCSP (JP), and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** and 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/16 in Tioga Lake (AG). Another 6 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen 11/19 at HCSP (GT). The last **Wood Ducks** (2) were reported 10/17 at HCSP (GT). Although **Common Mergansers** are present year round, their numbers started to increase dramatically at the end of Oct, with numbers in the hundreds at HCSP and Hammond Lake. There were no other waterfowl reports with the exception of a **Pied-billed Grebe** and an **American Coot** reported in Tauscher Pond 11/16 (AP).

The last **Great Blue Heron** for the reporting period was seen 11/29 at HCSP (JP). Most had left the area by this time. Not many **Green Herons** were seen this year—the last reported was 8/31 at Hamilton Lake (AP).

A **Black Vulture** was reported 10/10 near Mansfield, and the last **Turkey Vultures** of the season were seen 11/28, also flying near Mansfield (BS). Two **Ospreys** were seen 11/2 near Millerton (LB), but most had left the county by mid-Sep. A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near the intersection of Airport Road and Rte. 660 on the way to Leonard Harrison SP 11/27 (EC). Three **Northern Harriers** were reported 11/8 near Millerton, with additional sightings of individual birds on 11/11, 11/19, 11/26, 11/29, and 11/30 (LB). A **Northern Goshawk** was reported 9/13 near Mansfield (BS). There seemed to be fewer **Bald Eagle** reports this year. One pair, absent from HCSP for most of the summer, returned around 11/10 and were present for several weeks (GT). A juvenile was sighted 11/18 flying along Rte. 15 just north of Mansfield (GT). It created a good impression on visiting officials of Pennsylvania and National Audubon. A **Bald Eagle** was also seen 12/6 at Tioga Lake (AW).

Shorebird numbers and variety were also very disappointing this year despite adequate landing sites along county streams and lakes. Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen 8/31 at Hamilton Lake (AP), a **Killdeer** was seen 11/20 in Mansfield, and a very late **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 10/7 near Marsh Creek in Ansonia (GT).

A **Long-eared Owl** and 2 **Screech Owls** were reported 11/19 near Millerton (LB). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season was reported 11/28 in Mansfield (BS), although most had left by mid-Sep (GT). The last sighting of the year of a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, our only migratory woodpecker, was made 10/7 near Ansonia on the Pine Creek Rail Trail (GT).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 8/12 along Marsh Creek near the rail trail access off Butler Road (GT). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported 9/6 near Cowanesque Lake (AW), and a **Blue-headed Vireo** 10/7 was near Ansonia (BS).

Two **Veeries**, 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, and 21 **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported 9/16 near Cowanesque Lake (AW). Four **Eastern Bluebirds** were reported near HCSP 11/26 (AG). They will remain in the area throughout the winter in flocks of 6 to a dozen or more birds.

The fall warbler migration was not particularly strong this fall, but there were some good moments. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen 9/6 at HCSP (WE). One **Magnolia**, 5 **Tennessee**, 6 **Black-throated Green**, 6 **Blackpoll**, and 3 **Nashville Warblers**, and a **Northern Parula** were reported 9/26 at a cabin near Cowanesque Lake (AW). Three **Common Yellowthroats** were reported 11/1 near Millerton (LB), and a single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen near 10/7 Ansonia (GT).

Migrating **White-crowned sparrows** (a pair) were first reported in the county 10/19 near HCSP (GT). Four others were seen 11/1 near Millerton (LB).

A small group of six migrating, adult male **Baltimore Orioles** put on terrific display 8/19 at Hammond Lake (GT). The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported 9/26 and the last **Bobolink** 8/21, both near Cowanesque Lake (AW).

An early pair of **Pine Siskins** showed up 10/27 near HCSP, and another 6 were seen 11/2 at the same location. They remained in the area for several days (GT).

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### **Union County**

No compiler.

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### **Venango County**

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

The fall season produced 185 species for *Venango*. Kahle Lake, one of our prime birding spots, has a hole in the dam which won't be repaired for several years. Therefore, the lake level is being kept low, producing abundant shoreline, but lessening the water surface. Over the next few years we will see if this produces any changes, especially in waterfowl and shorebirds.

Our fall waterfowl numbers are usually low in numbers and this season was no different. Seventeen species were found during the period, with **Surf Scoter** 10/3-10 probably the highlight. There were only three records of **Common Loon** for the period, and only three records of **Horned Grebe**. **Double-crested Cormorant** had a high number of 42 on AR 11/9 (GE). Unusual for *Venango* was a **Great Egret** which remained at KL from 8/19-9/22. Very rarely do we have one stay for more than a day.

Ten **Merlin** records represented the most for the fall season. These were split between the Nighthawk Watch on the AR at Oil City and KL. Notable was a **Peregrine Falcon** record in each of months Aug, Sep, and Oct. Only report of a rail was of 2 **Sora** at TMRP 10/4 (GE).

Having high hopes for shorebirds because of the extensive (for us) shoreline at KL, the results were mixed. Much less than what was hoped for, but it was certainly better than a normal year in *Venango*. All shorebird records are at KL. **American Golden-Plover** (5) were seen 10/10-16. A **Western Sandpiper** was seen 8/27 (RS). Up to 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** were present 8/24-9/19. A **Stilt Sandpiper** remained from 8/30-9/9. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was present 8/23. Gulls seemed scarce. There were only two **Bonaparte's Gull** sightings which included one of 60 on 11/17 (RS). There were three sightings of **Ring-billed Gull** and one of **Herring Gull**. Fourteen **Common Terns** perched on branches sticking out of the lowered lake 9/12 (GE).

The **Common Nighthawk** watch at the Oil City Marina on the AR 8/15-9/11 produced 805 individuals, second only to last year's high of 1200. A check at the Crawford Center in Emlenton 9/12 had 2400 **Chimney Swifts** entering the chimney at dusk (GE, JW).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed twice: 8/29 (RS) and 9/16 (KG, JS). JS also had a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at BHNS, and a **White-eyed Vireo**—a hard to come by bird in *Venango*. **Common Raven** seems to be increasing, with 18 sightings this season. This season also saw good numbers of **Winter Wren**. Only one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was spotted this fall, 9/22 at TMRP (RS). **American Pipit** took advantage of the lowered lake at KL where they were seen along the shore; normally they are found in surrounding fields. Best warblers of the season were **Orange-crowned Warbler** at KL and

TMRP, and **Mourning Warbler** at BHNS. A single **Evening Grosbeak** was seen briefly at a feeder at BHNS (KG).

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#### Warren County

No compiler.

#### Washington County

Locations: Avella (AV), Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Waterfowl reports were few with many species (e.g., Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, either scaup, any merganser) not reported at all. The only report of **Tundra Swan** was of 3 on Bebout Road 11/16 (GG). Six **American Wigeon** were at R4 on 11/6 (MV). **American Black Ducks**, sometimes hard to find and sometimes not, were at BENT 10/1 (AB), and at RBT and R4 on 11/6 (MV). Odd was a large flock of 92 **Mallards** in RBT 11/6 (MV). **Northern Pintail** were reported from three locations 10/1-11/6 (MV, AB) but not from Washington Cemetery, which has hosted a female for many winters in a row. A good count of 55 **Green-winged Teal** were in BENT 9/5 (AB), and 10 were there 10/1 (AB). Small numbers were found at CL through 11/6 (MV), and one was at RBT 11/6 (MV). Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were at R4 on 11/6, and were accompanied by 2 **Ruddy Ducks** (MV), both representing the only reports of either species.

First **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at CL 9/20 (MV) and stayed to at least 10/4. Otherwise the only report was of 3 at R4 on 11/6 (MV). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was spotted in AV 8/28 (JB). **Osprey** are not often reported in *Washington*, so singles at CL 9/17 (GG) and at Peter's Lake 9/28 (DF) were notable, but might have each been the same bird. Even more unusually reported in the county is **Bald Eagle**, so two reports of this species were also notable: one over Peters Twp. 9/25 (GG), and one at CL 11/6 (MV). **Northern Harrier** was reported at Coal Center 9/5 (AT) and in RBT 11/14 (MV) at a traditional wintering locale. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were limited to one at AV 8/29 (JB), likely one of the locally breeding pair, and one at BENT 10/1 (AB). **American Kestrel** was at RBT 9/18 (MV).

A **Sora** at CL 9/9 (MV) was quite unusual for that location. **American Coot** was limited to a few reports at CL 10/25-11/6 (MV).

Shorebirds at BENT made up for a lackluster season among most other avian families. All reports that immediately follow are from BENT with a summary from other locations thereafter. A **Black-bellied Plover** was found 9/5 (AB), followed by an **American Golden-Plover** 9/6 (AB) and two goldens 9/19 (AB). Fourteen **Semipalmated Plovers** 9/5 (AB) was a good count for *Washington*. Two were still there 9/19 and one was seen 10/1 (AB). Five **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/30 (AB, RG) were joined by a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/1 (AB). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** held on until 9/30 (AB, RG). A nice count of 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was present 9/19 (AB), and one was counted 9/30 (RG, AB). Up to 8 **Least Sandpipers** were present through Sep (AB, RG). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** 9/19 (RG, AB) provided one of only a few records for the county. There were five separate records in the fall of 2007 but only one or two others outside of that remarkable year. Similarly, single **Baird's Sandpipers** 9/19 (AB) and 9/30 (RG) were rare for *Washington*, with these representing the latest of perhaps five or six records for the county. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 9/19 (AB) and 9/30 (AB, RG). Outstanding was a single **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/5 (AB), the first known record for the county. Similarly, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** 9/30 (ph. RG, AB) was also a first for the county.

Away from BENT, as usual, shorebird reports were unremarkable, exacerbated by extremely dry conditions at Greencove Wetlands and elsewhere in BC, an area that can sometimes produce some surprises when mudflats are present, which they were not this year. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at CC 10/10 (ST, DW, RN, DY). Small numbers of

**Solitary Sandpipers** frequented CL 8/2-10/18 (MV). The peak count of 9 came on the first day in that range (8/2), and the last day (10/18) represented a somewhat late departure date. **Least Sandpipers** were also located at CL 8/2 (MV) and at CC 10/10 (ST, DW, RN, DY). **Wilson's Snipe** was at RBT 9/18 (MV), 3 were at CL 10/18-21 (MV), and 2 were still at CL 11/6 (MV). An unusual late fall report of **American Woodcock** was made at RBT 11/14 (MV). This species often stays very late into the fall in sw. Pennsylvania but is very rarely actually found. As a result much is not known about their true movements in this season.

**Eastern Screech-Owl** was located in AV 8/29 (JB), and three **Short-eared Owls** were first noted at wintering grounds in RBT 11/14 (MV). Otherwise there were no reports of owls. **Common Nighthawks** were represented by one 8/12 over CC (JB) and 14 over AV 8/29 (JB). Eight **Chimney Swifts** were still at CL 10/4 (MV). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** appeared occasionally; one was at East Findlay Twp. 9/26 (PH), one was at CL 10/25 (MV), and one was also at CL 11/2 (GG).

Last **Eastern Phoebe** was at CL 9/20 (MV). A good count of 12 **Eastern Kingbirds** was at CC 8/15 (JB). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at WP at the interesting date of 7/26 (LC), probably too early to be on migration, but not necessarily proof of local breeding either. Last blue-headed were 2 at Bavington 10/17 (MV). The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was from WP 9/13 (LC).

Four reports of **Common Raven** now represent an average total for the fall season: one at BENT 7/31 (AB), one at California 9/6 (AT), one at BENT 10/1 (AB), and one at Scenery Hill 10/12 (AB). Five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at CL 10/4 (MV) were procrastinating on their departure. The Bavington area continues to be the premiere location in *Washington*—if not all of sw. Pennsylvania—to see numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**; this season the best total was a whopping 23 on 10/17 (MV). **Brown Creepers** were frequently reported from several locations 9/27-10/21 (m.ob.). A **Winter Wren** was at BENT 10/1 (AB) and a **Marsh Wren** was at Greencove Wetlands 10/10 (ST, DW, RN, DY), each representing the only report for their species. As with elsewhere in sw. Pennsylvania, *Washington* saw a great flight of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in Oct. They were reported from five locations 9/26-11/2 (m.ob.) with a peak of 13 at Bavington 10/17 (MV). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were still hanging on at Bavington 10/17 (MV) and at CL 10/21 (SC).

All five spot-breasted thrushes were reported this season, which included 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls, 45 **Swainson's Thrush** calls, and 10 **Wood Thrush** calls heard over Scenery Hill before dawn 9/18 (AB). Five **Hermit Thrushes** at Bavington 10/17 (MV) were the last of their kind found this fall. A **Gray Catbird** was still at CL 10/25 (MV).

Twenty-seven species of warbler were found, with the following highlights. A **Tennessee Warbler** in East Findlay Twp. 9/26 (PH) was the only report. **Northern Parula** singles were located at Washington Park School Pond 9/12 (SG *vide* LC) and at BC 9/13 (LC, MC). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was well-reported across *Washington* with the last represented by one at BENT 10/1 (AB). **Magnolia Warbler** also had a countywide good flight though 10/4, when the last was seen at CL (MV). **Cape May Warblers** were at WP 9/13 (LC) and East Findlay Twp. 9/26 (PH). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still at CL 11/2 (MV). As with Northern Parula, **Bay-breasted Warblers** were represented by singles at Washington Park School Pond 9/12 (SG *vide* LC) and at BC 9/13 (LC, MC). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at AV 8/8 (JB), an intriguing report but likely a migrant. **Kentucky Warbler** was not reported after 8/15 (one at CC by JB), but any report of this skulking species after they stop singing in Jul is notable. RG finally defeated one of his long-standing "nemeses birds" when he found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Burgettstown 9/26. Certainly one of the most difficult warblers to find, this species sometimes goes multiple years between sightings in *Washington*. A **Mourning Warbler** at Washington Park School Pond 9/12 (SG *vide* LC) was also a nice find, though not nearly so difficult as a Connecticut. The season's only **Wilson's Warbler** was with the Mourning found 9/12 (SG *vide* LC).

A **Scarlet Tanager** in Peters Twp. 10/2 (GG) was a bit late.

Last date for several sparrows was set during a sparrow search at Greencove Wetlands, BC, and CC 10/10 (ST, DW, RN, DY), including **Chipping Sparrow**, **Field Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Lincoln's Sparrow** (a nice count of 10), **Swamp Sparrow** (25), and **White-crowned Sparrow** (12). First **White-throated Sparrow** was seen in East Findlay Twp. 10/3 (PH) and first **Dark-eyed Junco** in BENT 10/1 (AB).

A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was photographed and at a feeder in Peters Twp. 11/12-18 (GG, ph. LGK). Careful study eliminated the possibility of Black-headed Grosbeak, though a Rose-breasted

Grosbeak in Pennsylvania in Nov is just about as unusual a record as a Black-headed would be at any time of year.

Up to 18 **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at CL among a larger flock of blackbirds, grackles, and starlings 10/18-11/6 (MV, SC, GG). Four Rusty Blackbirds were also found at CC 10/10 (ST, DW, RN, DY).

Two **Purple Finches** were at a feeder in East Findlay Twp. 10/11 (PH), and one was in Peters Twp. 11/1 (GG). As elsewhere, **Pine Siskins** appeared in small numbers in Oct and early Nov with the following reports: 2 at Scenery Hill 10/12 (AB), 3 in BENT 10/30 (AB), one in Peters Twp 11/1 and 4 in the same location 11/4 (GG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Andy Berchin, John Boback, Mike Campsey, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, Cory DeStein, Donna Foyle, Ross Gallardy, Gigi Gerben, Luke Gerben Kaspar, Sayre Greenfield, Pat Hutchinson, Richard Nugent, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

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**Wayne County**  
No compiler.

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### **Westmoreland County**

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Delmont (DEL), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Lake (EL), Hess Property (HP), Kuehl Property Area (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), New Stanton (NS), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

There were no extremely rare species to report, and no spectacular waterfowl numbers, yet there was still a substantial migration through *Westmoreland* with 113 species recorded. There were a total of 81 species reported on eBird for the same time period. Though probably not a factor on the waterfowl numbers, reservoir levels were quite low this year.

**Tundra Swans** were observed by BL, with 3 at AD on 11/12 and 125 on 11/23. Flyover observations included 125 on 11/20 (KD) and a flock at KP 11/23 (JK). Other waterfowl observations during the migration were at generally at the BRR, at EL in Derry, and at the TRR. The high count for **Common Loon** was at BRR 11/20 (AH). Among the best sightings: a female **Common Goldeneye** at TRR 11/12 (BL), and **Canvasbacks** at BRR 11/15 and 11/22 (MVT) and at TRR 11/20 (WBNC). Most unusual was that no scaup were reported. Also, no Long-tailed Ducks were recorded. A single **Double-Crested Cormorant** was found 10/27 at TRR (BL). The lone **Snow Goose** observation was at TRR from the WBNC outing of 11/20 (WBNC).

The wave of reports of **Great Egrets** that hit the state in late Aug didn't entirely miss *Westmoreland*; a single Great Egret was reported at MPL 8/28 (MM). A great find was a single **Cattle Egret** among horses in a field near Lower Burrell 10/21 (BS *fide* DW). It was not relocated the next day. A good wetland bird for the county, a **Sora**, was observed and photographed 10/8 at the MCP wetland (ph. DM).

The highlights on raptor migration were a **Merlin** in DEL 11/7 (KB) and a **Golden Eagle** flyover at the HP (LH). The last **Osprey** was reported at DL, a nesting site (BL). **Bald Eagles** nest at BRR and regular observations in the area to be expected. A high count of 3 (with 2 adults) was reported there 11/26 (MVT).

The county lacks good shorebird habitat, so minimal reports of this group were available. MM reported one **Semipalmated Plover** and one **Least Sandpiper** at BRR 8/28. Six **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at DL 10/10 and a late **Greater Yellowlegs** was at TRR 11/7 (both BL). As for gulls, the only report was of 40 **Ring-billed Gulls** at EL 11/26 (TK, JK, PK).

**Common Nighthawks** were reported in a tight timeframe 8/29-9/2, and were all flyovers of the observers' homes (KB, LH, JK, TK).

**Common Ravens**, nesting birds at higher elevations in the county, continue to be sighted at lower elevations. Reports this period included one in DEL 9/4 (KB), 2 in Jeannette 11/20 (TK), and a pair in NS 11/19 (MF).

KB and LH, and of course the PRN provided extensive reports on the fall songbird migration. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was in DEL 9/15 (KB), one was at HP 9/25 (LH), and PNR banded 42 for the season. As with the rest of the state the county had a number of **Connecticut**

**Warbler** sighting this year: one in DEL 9/15 (KB), one 10/2 on the WHT (TK, JK), and PNR banded 9 for the season. A **Brewster's Warbler** was an unusual capture at PNR 8/28, as was a **Worm-eating Warbler** 9/18. Other highlights of the migration were a **Marsh Wren** at KSP during the WBNC Big Sit 10/10 (KB), and an **American Pipit** at DL 11/3 (BL). Though nothing like the winter of 2000-09, **Pine Siskins** were reported this season. Two **Pine Siskins** visited the feeders at KP 11/20. KB also reported Pine Siskin, with high counts of 11 on 11/2 and 11/26 in DEL. Last but not least, and to the delight of this observer, a pair of **Carolina Wrens** has been stuffing themselves into a wicker pocket under the side porch at KP since early Nov.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, tjuehl@comcast.net**, Ken Byerly, Karen DeSantis, Mike Fialkovich, Amy Henrici, Len and/or Linda Hess, Peter Keyel, Janet Kuehl, Mike Lanzone, Bob Leberman, Dale Matuza, Mark McConaughy, Bob Shearer, Marjorie Van Tassel, Andrew Vitz (PNR), Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WBNC), Dave Wilton.

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### **Wyoming County**

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Susquehanna River (SR).

As usual, we had only a small number of reports of migrating waterbirds this season. It seems to me that at about the time we begin to see these birds on the small lakes and ponds in this county, they begin to ice over. After that, the Susquehanna River provides the best opportunities available, as it did this year.

Among the usual birds, a lone **Tundra Swan** was reported 11/26 at LC (AT). I observed it there on that day and the next, but did not see it after that. We usually report a few Tundra Swans each fall from LC. **Ring-necked Duck** was seen again this fall, but only once and in smaller numbers than usual. I observed three of them, the only observation reported, at OL 11/23. Four **Bufflehead** were observed at Sordoni's Pond 11/2 (EJ). They were also at LC, OL, and Phelps' Swamp, usually 2-3 at a time, except 12 at LC 11/15 (JD). Sordoni's, LC, and OL are usually good spots for observing Bufflehead throughout migration. There were a number of unconfirmed reports of **Common Loon** at LC before one was finally confirming 11/23 (JD). It seems that some local folks confuse Common Merganser with loon. I also noted another single bird diving near the Susquehanna River bridge in Tunkhannock 11/29. This is typical of recent years—one or two loons at a time. I can recall several years ago observing as many as 16 Common Loons at once at LC during migration. There is no obvious explanation as to why the lake has fallen out of favor with loons.

There were a number of more exciting reports this fall. For example, JS observed two male **Red-necked Phalaropes** on the SR while he was canoeing 9/19. This may be the first report of Red-necked Phalaropes in the county.

**Common Nighthawks** were reported on two occasions over Monroe Township: 8/28, and more than a dozen 8/29 (MaR). It seems that the only time we see nighthawks is during migration, and only occasionally then. This is certainly different from my youth, when the Common Nighthawk was truly a common sight above my hometown in northeastern Pennsylvania all summer long.

D&PB reported **Cerulean Warbler** in their backyard in Northmoreland Township 8/4, and sent a few photographs to confirm. Two birds stayed around for a few days.

A **Summer Tanager** was reported at a home at LC 7/4 (AT). I haven't heard of a Summer Tanager report in the county before this, and the bird left before I could confirm the identification, although the description seemed to fit.

Finally, an **Evening Grosbeak** was reported at Bowman's Creek 11/2 (LM). I can't remember the last time I saw an Evening Grosbeak in the county, nor have I had any reports in recent years. The formerly usual spring visits to my feeders are a thing of the past.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**, Dave and Phyllis Billings, Mark Catalano, Trudy Gerlach, Sandy Goodwin, Ed Johnson, Rebecca Lesko, Lynn Mowka, Kevin Ripka, Marie Rowland (MaR), Mitch Rowland, Jerry Skinner, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas.

## York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Brunner Island (BRUN), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), Fairview Township (FRVW), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hawk Lake York City (HAWK), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LWMS), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Ski Rountop (SRTP), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR), Spring Grove (SG), York Township (YT).

Waterfowl variety was average for the period with 17 species reported. Singles of **Snow Goose** and **Tundra Swan** were at LAR 11/5 (BM) and 11/21 (PJR), respectively. Higher count observations (all by PJR) include 85 **Mallard** at SMR 11/5, 38 **Hooded Mergansers** at LAR 11/25, and 30 **Ruddy Ducks** at LAR 11/16. There were 2 **Common Loon** at CSP 11/6 (RP) and one 11/17 (PJR). A single **Horned Grebe** was at LAR 11/16 (PJR).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** were found at SGL 242, SRTP, and CSP 10/12, 11/13, and 11/17, respectively. There was a nice quantity of **Wild Turkey** sightings (CH) with 2 on 8/2 along Lisburn Rd., 13 on 8/13 along S. Lewisberry Rd., and 9 on 8/18 on Mt. Airy Rd. Even BRUN provided a sighting with 5 on 11/29 (LC).

Among waders, three sightings of **Great Egret** were noted 8/9-24 with a high count of 6 at LRED 8/15 (AP). **Snowy Egret** graced the county and were present 8/9-18 (LC) at BRUN with a high count of 4. One was also found at LRED 8/15 (AP). There were two reports of an immature **Little Blue Heron** 8/24 at two locations, LRED (RP) and CSP (PJR), approximately 15 miles apart as the heron flies. It seems likely it was the same bird. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at LWMS 8/11 (AP) and LRED 8/24 (RP). BRUN produced the **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** sightings with one 8/9 (LC) and 2 on 8/24-25 (LC, RC).

**Osprey** sightings nearly spanned the full reporting period. There was one at SG 8/4 (PK) and a late bird at LRED 11/25 (AM) for the second Thanksgiving in a row. With the exception of RRCP Hawk Watch site, there were four reports of single **Bald Eagle** at various locations. The RRCP Hawk Watch did not garner a lot of coverage/reporting. The best day was 9/18 (RP) which saw 513 **Broad-winged Hawks**. The downtown York municipal/county buildings and church steeples provided suitable hunting perches for a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** throughout the period (AE). Could these be the same two birds that were seen from Oct 2009 to Mar 2010?

For York, CSP lake levels are a good indicator for a successful shorebird season. As the lake was only down approximately 5 feet during the peak migration period, it was not low enough to expose significant acreage of the Black Rock Rd. mudflats, a typically reliable shorebird stopover. As a result, only 11 species of shorebird were reported. A count of 60+ **Killdeer** were at ALT 8/20 (RP). A **Willet** was at BRUN 8/17-18 (SD) and one was at LAR 8/19-23 (RC). The distant between these two sightings is about 35 miles. **Baird's Sandpiper** put in an appearance at BRUN 9/14-16 (RC). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found at three locations from 8/12-9/21 with a high of 3 at BRUN 8/12 (LC). Two **Wilson Snipe** were found 9/14 (RC) at BRUN, a single at LRED from 9/21-28 (RC), and 2 at SG 10/29 (PK).

Up to 4 **Great Horned Owls** were calling in York 10/11 (AP). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was in the Glen Rock area 10/23 (RP). **Common Nighthawk** reports were mainly from SGL 243 on 9/6, 9/9, and 9/14 (CR). There were two at RRCP 9/18 (RP). As in prior years, 300+ **Chimney Swifts** were seen funneling into the large chimney of Glen Rock Fire Hall at dusk 9/11 (RP). An 11/18 (RK) sighting of a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at GPSP seems a bit late for the northern part of the county.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from DILL 9/24 (CR) and working a Hawthorne tree in York 10/16 (AP). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was heard at CSP 8/24 (PJR). **White-eyed**, **Yellow-throated**, **Blue-headed**, **Warbling**, and **Red-eyed Vireo** were all reported during established fall migration periods. A count of 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos** from GPSP 8/30 (RK) was the most noteworthy of the vireo sightings.

A **Common Raven** sighting came from DILL 10/18 (CR). Traditionally, York sightings of this species are either at RRCP or the Pigeon Hills. Five **Horned Larks** were at ALT 8/20 (RP). There were two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports; one at Cross Roads 9/2 (RP) and another at DILL 10/21 (CR). There were six reports of single **Brown Creeper** spanning 10/4-11/29. A **Winter Wren** was at Cannon Lane 10/4 (CB). A pair of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was at SGL 242 on 11/20 (CR).

**Swainson's**, **Hermit**, and **Wood Thrush** were found on migration

with the **Swainson's Thrush** at SGL 242 on 9/18 (RK). Twenty species of warbler were reported and some long-time observers indicated it was an overall lackluster fall migration for the county. No reports suggested any type of fallout event. Nevertheless, some sightings proved interesting. A **Blue-winged Warbler** 9/18 (RK) at SGL 242 was a bit tardy. A **Mourning Warbler** at RRCP 9/16 (FV) was a great find and RRCP also provided a **Wilson's Warbler** 9/18 (RP).

The latest **Eastern Towhee** was from SGL 243 on 11/20 (CR). Also late was a **Chipping Sparrow** at YT from 11/25 into Dec (AM). **Fox Sparrow** reports came from DILL 11/4 and 11/20 (CR) and from SGL 242 on 11/20 (CR). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a nice find 10/12 (RK) at SGL 242. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at LAR 11/5 (PJR). **White-crowned Sparrow** was first seen at Cannon Lane 10/4 (CB) and a pair was at HAWK 10/18 (LC).

Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at BRUN on both 8/28 (JD) and 9/4 (LC). **Bobolink** flyovers were witnessed at SGL 243 from 9/6-14 (CR) with 8-10 typically being seen. Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at ALT 8/20 (RP). **Common Grackle** seems only to get mentioned when mass numbers are involved. However, upon returning to her New Cumberland home on 9/23 and finding 100's on the roof, there was hope that they were feeding on an inundation of stinkbugs (KC). No confirmation was made as to whether this was their interest.

**Purple Finches** put in an appearance at DILL 10/11 and 10/20 (CR) and 10/9-10 and 10/15-16 (JD), with a high count of 5 males. **Pine Siskin** sightings were limited to a pair 11/12 and a single 11/14 (RK) in FRVW.

Observers: **Phil Keener**, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, 717-259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Carl Brudin, Lou Carpenter, Kathy Clark, Richard Cleary, Jon Dale, Steve Dale, Amy Evans, Carolyn Hoffman, Ramsay Koury, Andrew Markel, Bob Moul, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Chris Rebert, Peter Robinson (PJR), Francis Velasquez.

## 2010 PAMC Corrections Franklin Haas

Due to errors on my part, the Centre County data was inadvertently omitted from the 2010 PAMC report. This was completely my fault. Revised summary and tables can be viewed here:

<<http://www.pabirds.org/PAMC/PAMC2010.pdf>>

Changes to statewide totals include the following:

- 704 observers contributed
- 2248 field hours logged
- 153,429 birds tallied
- 219 species found
- 40 counties reporting

Regarding Center County:

- Centre County becomes number 10 in Field Hours
- Centre County becomes number 9 in number of participants.
- Centre County joined Lebanon as the only counties to record Barn Owl
- Seven of the 16 Golden-winged Warblers were reported from Centre.
- Nine Nashville Warblers were found in Centre and Westmoreland, about half of the 38 statewide.

I extend my sincerest apologies to all of the Centre County participants.

The 2011 PAMC will be held 14 May 2011. I am working on a new and simpler report form which will be available online shortly.

## IN FOCUS



*Cattle Egret with Scottish highland cattle, Marshall Township, Allegheny County. See p.208. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Purple Gallinule, Kane, McKean County. See p. 192. (Photo by Rocky Holland)*



*Golden Eagle, Allegheny Front, Bedford/Somerset counties. See pp. 168 and 212. (Photo by Malcolm Harter)*



*Stilt Sandpiper with Greater Yellowlegs, Independence Marsh, Beaver County. See p. 210. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Merlin with Black-capped Chickadee prey, Beltzville State Park, Carbon County. See p. 218. (Photo by Dustin Welch)*



*Red Phalarope, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. See p. 228. (Photo by Jerry McWilliams)*