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Cover Photo: Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*). Breeding throughout Pennsylvania, Green Herons are conspicuous components of wetlands well into the fall. This handsome heron was photographed at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster County 8 August. (Alex Lamoreaux)

Compiler news

Two new compilers join the line-up beginning with this issue. McKean County has not had a compiler in recent years, but does now in the person of Gigi Gerben. In Lycoming, Dan Brauning, compiler since 2012, has turned the reins over to Bobby Brown. Dan continues in his role of summer season editor, which he has been doing since Volume 15, 2001. We thank Bobby and Gigi for their willingness to contribute to the production of our state journal.

In the next issue, several more new compilers will debut – for *Blair*, *Columbia*, *Montour*, *Northumberland*, and *Union*. The following counties have no compiler: *Carbon*, *Lackawanna*, *Potter*, and *Tioga*. Please contact the editor if interested.

The Return of Pennsylvania Birdlists, plus commentary on how lists are kept

As mentioned in the last issue, the recent survey of PSO membership affirmed (again) the popularity of lists and perhaps some gentle, friendly competition. There are some who disapprove of listing for various reasons, usually either philosophic or related to environmental issues (needless use of gasoline). The latter view has some merit in my humble opinion, but there are positives to listing as well; however, it is not my intention to delve into that whole topic in this space at this time. The lists are there for your enjoyment or amusement or even scorn, or you may skip those pages entirely.

I will remind readers that an important reason we are bringing the lists back into print after putting only on-line last year is that there are people who do not use computers much or at all. Perhaps the day will come when *Pennsylvania Birds* is exclusively on-line, but that day is not in the near future.

Beyond the lists themselves, we have the always interesting comments by members on their choices for the best birds of the year.

Just a bit more about listing, specifically the rules of listing. In recent years, a complication has arisen involving the still expanding popularity of eBird, which many birders use as their

primary listing tool. For birders who are concerned with the integrity and accuracy of their various county (or state or township etc.) lists, there is an important difference between how eBird assigns location of a bird from an entered checklist - relative to political (and therefore birding) boundaries - compared to the traditional rules spelled out by the American Birding Association, used by most “serious” listers. This dilemma is explained and discussed, with possible remedies, in two essays by Vern Gauthier and Holly Merker in this issue.

The 2017 annual PSO meeting will be held in September

That’s right – for only the second time ever, we will meet during the fall season instead of spring. The meeting will be in Carlisle, with field trips, speakers, and the Saturday evening banquet. The speaker for the banquet will be Pennsylvania native and editor of *Birding*, Ted Floyd, who always has something interesting to say and ways of looking at birds and birding and birders that are “outside the box”. Carlisle, of course, is near the famed Waggoner’s Gap hawk watch – and the meeting will coincide with the peak of the Broad-winged Hawk migration. For details, see the next issue of our newsletter, *The PSO Pileated*.

County compilers as of December 2016:

Phil Keener (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Tom Dick** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **Trudy Gerlach** (Bradford), **August Mirabella** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Dave Gobert** (Cambria), **Brendyn Baptiste** (Cameron, Elk), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland, Perry), **Annette Mathes** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Amy Evans** (Fulton), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon), **Margaret**

Higbee (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman**, **Aden Troyer** (Juniata), **Pamela Fisher** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Jonathan DeBalko** (Luzerne), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Gigi Gerben** (McKean), **Neil Troyer** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Dooris McGovern** (Philadelphia), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jason Weller** (Snyder), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

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ABUNDANCE AND TIMING OF RAPTORS DURING SPRING MIGRATION AT HAWK MOUNTAIN, PENNSYLVANIA, 1969 to 2016

By Patricia Kaye T. Dumandan, Laurie J. Goodrich, Jean-Francois Therrien, and Keith L. Bildstein

Introduction

Monitoring of raptors during spring migration can augment our understanding of migration geography and population trends when results are compared to autumn migration patterns and trends (Bildstein et al. 2008, Farmer and Smith 2010). Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, in Berks and Schuylkill counties of eastern Pennsylvania, records autumn and spring passage of sixteen species of raptors that nest in northeastern United States and eastern Canada and winter in southern United States and Central and South America (Bildstein et al. 2008).

Spring migration counts were conducted sporadically during 1969 to 1998 and observers used several different observation points for the counts. Consistent spring migration counts were initiated in 1999 and occur primarily from April 1 to May 15, and only from the North Lookout, the same lookout used for autumn monitoring (McCarty et al. 1999).

Here, we describe the species composition and magnitude of spring migration at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary from 1969 to 2016. We also discuss the timing and trends of three short to medium-distance migrants, the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and two long-distance migrants, the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) for 1969 through 2016.

Methods

Since 1999, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary spring migration counts have occurred at the North Lookout (40.6338° N, 75.9876° W). Daily counts were conducted from April 1 to May 15 primarily between 8:00-15:00 EST, weather permitting. A few days in late March also were covered in many years. From 1969 to 1998 the migration counts were sporadic and conducted from nine lookouts all of which were within one mile of North Lookout and within sight of the North Lookout. Moreover, the majority (89%) of the 1969 to 1998 counts were conducted at either the North Lookout or the Cobble, directly southwest of North Lookout in line with the northeast flight path of migrants (McCarty et al. 1999). Thus, we believe the data collected on the composition and magnitude of flights passing Hawk Mountain from 1969 to

1998 are comparable to the more recent data collected in 1999 to 2016.

Since 1999, spring counts were taken by one to four observers stationed at the northeast section of the North Lookout to allow greatest visibility to south. Observers scan the skies using binoculars to spot and identify migratory raptors that arrive from the south and fly to the north or northeast. For all years, hourly data was collected similarly to how data are collected during autumn usually by one or two observers (Bednarz et al. 1990, Therrien et al 2012)). If rain or dense fog occurred, counts were suspended. In early years, 1969 to 1998, the vultures were not consistently recorded so only vulture data from 1999 to 2016 are shown.

Analysis. We describe the magnitude and species composition of spring flights at Hawk Mountain from 1969 to 2016 only for counts conducted between April 1st and May 15th, the period with most consistent coverage in recent years. For each time period, 1969 to 1998 and 1999 to 2016, we calculated percent of flight represented by each species, the mean annual count, the mean birds per hour recorded by Julian date, and determined the median date of passage per year (e.g., the date when 50% of the annual flight had passed per year). Median dates of passage were averaged for years within each of the two periods, 1969-1998 and 1999-2016 to examine if shifts in the timing of migration have occurred. We evaluated trends in migration counts from, 1969 to 2016, using linear regression (R ver. 3.2.4 core Team 2016) and compared our results on trends to analyses conducted by the Raptor Population Index for Hawk Mountain for the time period 1999 to 2013 (www.rpi-project.org; Crewe et al 2013, Brandes et al. 2013).

Results and Discussion

Migration patterns at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Flight magnitude and composition. A total of 23,251 raptors were observed at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary during 5,348 observation hours during April and May, from 1969 through 2016, with an average of 4.35 birds per hour for all years (Table 1). From 1969 to 1998, 14 raptor species were recorded with an average of 388 migrants per year and 7.6 birds per hour (Table 1). For 1999 to 2016, an average of 925 raptors per year, or 3.7 birds per hour, were counted including Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) and Turkey Vultures

(*Cathartes aura*), which were not counted during earlier years. Mean hourly counts were higher in earlier years because observers tended to cover lookout only on better days for migration. Daily coverage was instituted in 1999.

Rarities observed in spring included seven Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), recorded on following dates: May 11, 1999, April 17 and 23, 2004, April 21, 2005, March 26, 2008, April 29, 2011, April 15, 2012 (Table 1). A Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was spotted gliding north along the ridge on April 28, 2013 by several trainees and visitors. No kites were recorded in earlier years of study (Table 1).

In all years, spring flights were primarily composed of four species, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. These four species represented 86.1% of the flights, from 1969 to 1998 and 76.5% of the spring flights in 1999 to 2016 (Table 1) (McCarty et al. 1999). The decrease in the proportion is partly a result of (1) addition of vultures to the count in recent years, along with (2) increased abundance of less abundant species such as Bald Eagles and Cooper's Hawks, and (3) an increase in sightings of unidentified raptors in recent years (Table 1).

Migration patterns

Broad-winged Hawks. Broad-winged Hawks are the most numerous migrant during both spring and autumn at Hawk Mountain (Bildstein 2006). They are long-distance, complete migrants that overwinter in forest from southern Mexico south through Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia. Small numbers of this species also winter in south Florida (Goodrich et al. 2014). Broad-winged Hawk represents 52.8 % of spring migrants during 1969 to 1998 and 40.5% of migrants in recent years (Table 1).

From 1969 to 1998, Broad-winged Hawks showed an average median passage date of April 23 (± 4.2 days) and for recent years, 1999 to 2016, they also had a median passage date of April 23 (± 3.0 days). When counts for all years are combined, the highest passage rate of Broad-winged Hawks (birds/hour) occurred on April 22 (Figure 1a). The record one-day spring count of Broad-winged Hawks was 501 counted on April 27, 1984 (Table 3). Although no shift to earlier timing for migrating Broad-winged Hawks was observed at Hawk Mountain,

Table 1. Comparison of spring migration flight composition at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (Berks and Schuylkill counties), for April 1 to May 15, 1969-1998 and 1999-2016¹

Species	1969-1998			1999-2016		
	Total # ¹	% Flight	Average Annual Count ¹	Total #	Total Flight %	Average Annual Count ¹
Black Vulture (<i>Coragyps atratus</i>) ²	-	-	-	422	2.7	26
Turkey Vulture(<i>Cathartes aura</i>) ²	-	-	-	469	2.8	26
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	694	10.5	41	1808	11.2	101
Bald Eagle(<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	17	0.3	1	367	2.4	22
Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	195	3.0	12	438	2.8	25
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	971	14.7	57	1966	12.6	113
Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	82	1.2	5	653	4.3	38
Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	15	0.2	1	12	0.1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)	48	0.7	3	136	1.0	9
Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus</i>)	3476	52.8	204	6489	40.5	363
Rough-legged Hawk (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)	4	0.1	0.2	1	0.0	<1
Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	533	8.1	31	1851	12.2	109
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	11	0.2	0.2	15	0.1	1
American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	260	4.0	15	474	3.1	28
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	7	0.1	<1	79	0.5	5
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	5	0.1	<1	27	0.2	2
Mississippi Kite(<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>)	0	-	-	6	0.04	<1
Swallow-tailed Kite (<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)	0	-	-	1	0.01	<1
Unidentified Raptors ³	247	3.8	8.7	1446	8.7	35
TOTAL	6,589		387.6	16,662		925.4

¹Data shown here excludes March or February counts.

²Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures not counted in 1969-1998.

³Unidentified Raptor includes, Unidentified accipiter, buteo, falcon, and raptor

Sullivan et al. (2016) has documented earlier timing at spring watchsites in the Great Lakes. Kim et al. (2015) linked earlier spring passage dates for Broad-winged Hawks at Hawk Mountain (for 1998 to 2013) to years with higher North Atlantic Oscillation Index (NAO) during April, although no annual trend in spring passage date was found. A higher NAO index has been correlated with higher temperatures in southern states which may enhance or accelerate northbound migration movement (Kim et al 2015).

Numbers of migrating Broad-winged Hawk in spring declined at Hawk Mountain across the period of this study, 1969 to 2016 ($F_{1,34}=10.19$, $R^2= 0.21$, $P= 0.003$, slope= -1.82; Figure 1b). The declining trend is consistent with a non-significant decline derived by the Raptor Population Index for 1999 to 2013 (a -2 % per year non-significant change) (www.rpi-project.org; Crewe et al. 2013, Brandes et al. 2013). The decline may represent regional population declines or changes in migration routes.

Sharp-shinned Hawks. Sharp-shinned Hawks are short-distance migrants that winter in mid-Atlantic and south-eastern United States and return to nesting areas in New England and Canada (Bildstein and Meyer 2000). Sharp-shinned Hawks are the second most numerous migrant at Hawk Mountain, comprising 12.6% of the total flight in recent years, 1999 to 2016 (Table 1). The historical peak flight of 58 Sharpshins in a day occurred on April 18 and again on April 27, 1984 (Table 3).

Sharp-shinned Hawks migrate past Hawk Mountain during most of the spring with peak daily flights greater than 0.5 birds per hour from April 11 to 30 (Figure 2a) (McCarty et al.1999). For 1969 to 1998, the Sharp-shinned Hawk median spring passage date (i.e. the date that 50% of birds had passed per year) occurred on April 21 (± 4.8 days) (Table 2a). For 1999 to 2016, the average annual median date of passage was 19 April (± 4.5 days), two days earlier than observed in early period of the study although the difference was not significant ($t=0.9$, $p=0.41$; Table 2, Figure 2a). Based

on analysis of migration patterns at Great Lakes watchsites (Sullivan et. al. 2016), Sharp-shinned Hawks in eastern regions appear to be shifting their spring passage timing earlier at some sites.

The mean annual spring count for Sharp-shinned Hawks at Hawk Mountain during the period April 1 to May 15 declined between 1969 and 2016 ($F_{1,34}=6.31$, $R^2= 0.13$, $P= 0.02$; slope -2.46; Figure 2b). This trend was confirmed by analysis of data from 1999 to 2013 by the Raptor Population Index project which showed a significant -3.82% per year decline at Hawk Mountain (Crewe et al. 2013, Brandes et al. 2013). Lower Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers could be due to a change in migration behavior, e.g. short-stopping, (Viverette et al. 1996), or be due to their shift in migration timing allowing more migrants to be missed at Hawk Mountain (Sullivan et al 2016), or both, or a decline in populations.

Table 2a. Average median date of spring passage for common raptor migrants at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (Berks and Schuylkill counties) from 1969-1998

Species	Average Median Date (Julian \pm SD) ²	Average Median Date (Calendar)
Osprey	113 \pm 4.6 days	April 23
Bald Eagle	114 \pm 4.5 days	April 24
Sharp-shinned Hawk	111 \pm 4.8 days	April 21
Broad-winged Hawk	113 \pm 4.2 days	April 23
Red-tailed Hawk	107 \pm 7.6 days	April 17

²standard deviation

Table 2b. Average median date of spring passage for common raptor migrants at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (Berks and Schuylkill counties) from 1999-2016.

Species	Average Median Dates (Julian \pm SD) ²	Average Median Date (Calendar)
Osprey	115 \pm 4.2 days	April 25
Bald Eagle	115 \pm 6.9 days	April 25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	109 \pm 4.5 days	April 19
Broad-winged Hawk	113 \pm 3.0 days	April 23
Red-tailed Hawk	105 \pm 5.1 days	April 15

²standard deviation.

Table 3. Single day peak records for spring migration at Hawk Mountain, PA (Berks and Schuylkill counties) from 1969-2016¹

Species Name	Single-day High Count	Date
Black Vulture	14	April 15, 2015
Turkey Vulture	40	May 9, 2001
Osprey	43	April 27, 1984
Bald Eagle	12	May 4, 2008
Northern Harrier	20	April 9, 2001
Sharp-shinned Hawk	58	April 18 and 27, 1984
Cooper's Hawk	13	May 17, 2010
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	March 20, 1984
Broad-winged Hawk	501	April 27, 1984
Red-tailed Hawk	44	March 20, 1984
Rough-legged Hawk	2	April 25, 2011
Golden Eagle	3	March 9, 2007
American Kestrel	70	April 14, 1983
Merlin	3	April 11, 2008
Peregrine Falcon	2	April 10, 2013; April 12, 1992
All raptors	633	April 27, 1984

¹ For calculating record flights, all data from March, April and May were used.

Red-tailed Hawks. Red-tailed Hawks are medium-distance migrants that exhibit a leap-frog migration pattern of migration (Morrison and Baird 2016). Southern New England and mid-Atlantic migrants winter in or near their breeding range while northern nesting birds "leap frog" over other populations to migrate farther south, into the southern United States (Morrison and Baird 2016, Preston and Beane 1993). Red-tailed Hawks are the third most numerous spring migrant recorded at Hawk Mountain, representing 12.2% of total migrants recorded in recent years (Table 1). The highest one-day spring count ever recorded at Hawk Mountain was 44 Red-tailed Hawks on March 20, 1984 (Table 3) while the peak passage rate for this species during the study period occurred on April 12 (Figure 3a).

For 1969 through 1998, the average median date of passage for Red-tailed Hawks at Hawk Mountain occurred on April 17 (± 7.6 days) (Figure 3a, Table 2a). The Red-tailed Hawk average median passage date for 1999-2016 was April 15 (± 5.1 days), two days earlier, although the difference was not significant ($t=0.899$, $p=0.28$; Table 2b). McCarty et al. (1999) reported that Red-tailed Hawks show a peak passage during late March for 1969 to 1998. In this study we did not include March data in our analysis as March was not consistently covered in more recent years.

Counts of migrating Red-tailed Hawks at Hawk Mountain declined significantly from 1969-2016 ($F_{1,16}=6.22$, $R^2=0.24$, $P=0.02$, slope = -15.76; Figure 3b) possibly due to earlier migration timing and short-stopping (Bolgiano 2013, Morrison and Baird 2016, Paprocki et al. *In press*). Red-tailed Hawks have been shown to be wintering farther north in recent years leading to widespread declines in migration counts at mid-latitude watchsites and increases in Christmas Bird Counts at northern latitudes (Bolgiano 2013, Paprocki et al. *in press*).

Ospreys. Ospreys are the fourth most numerous raptor observed at Hawk Mountain during spring migration, representing 11.2% of the migrants observed in recent years (Table 1). Osprey are long-distance migrants that pass through Pennsylvania during April and early May and winter primarily in Central and South America (Martell et al. 2001) (Figure 4a).

The Osprey median date of passage for 1969 to 1998, was April 23 (± 4.6 days) compared to April 25 (± 4.2 days) in recent years (Table 2a and 2b). The difference was not significantly different ($t=-0.773$, $p=0.44$). The peak daily passage rate occurred from April 23 to 28 across all years (Figure 4a) (McCarty et al. 1999). The one-day, spring record count for Osprey, 43, occurred on April 27, 1984 (Table 4).

We detected a decline of Ospreys from 1969 to 2016 ($F_{1,34}=5.08$, $R^2=0.10$, $P=0.031$; Figure 4b). The trend is consistent with the trend reported by Raptor Population Index for 1999 to 2013, a significant 2.2% per year decline (www.rpi-project.org, Crewe et al. 2013). Similar declines have been noted during autumn (Crewe et al. 2015).

Bald Eagle. Bald Eagles are short-distance to medium-distance migrants that have shown widespread increases in recent years (Buehler 2000, Brandes et al. 2013). Bald Eagles represent 2.4% of the total spring flight at Hawk Mountain with mean counts of 22 birds per season in recent years (Table 1). The record one-day count for this species, 12, was recorded on May 4, 2008.

Bald Eagles occur consistently throughout April and May, with average daily counts greater than 0.6 birds per hour recorded from April 11 through April 30 (Figure 5a). The average median date of spring passage for the Bald Eagle was April 24 (± 4.5 days), for 1969 to 1998 and April 25 (± 6.9 days) for 1999 to 2016 (Table 2a, 2b). The difference was not significant ($t=0.54$, $p=0.6$).

Bald Eagle counts showed a marginally significant increase for the period between 1969 and 2016 ($F_{1,34}=3.48$, $R^2=0.07$, $P=0.07$, slope = 46.92; Figure 5b). In the more recent period, 1999-2016, a significant increase in their population was observed ($F_{1,16}=46.86$, $R^2=0.73$, $P=3.934e-06$, slope = 69.59; Figure 5c). The Raptor Population Index also found a significant increase of 14.8% per year from 1999 to 2013 (www.rpi-project.org; Brandes et al. 2013). These trends coincide with a known population increase throughout north-eastern states and Canada (Brandes et al. 2013).

Conclusions

The magnitude of spring flights of the most common raptors observed at Hawk Mountain (Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Osprey) has decreased whereas rarer species, such as the Bald Eagle, have increased. Short-stopping or changes in migration timing or behavior may explain declines in observations of migrating Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks while changes in counts of Broad-winged Hawks and Osprey bear further investigation. Despite the observed change, the four raptor species comprised the bulk of spring flights at Hawk Mountain in all years, 1969 through present. Because the spring counts at Hawk Mountain do not include March, some early-migrating species, e.g., Golden Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, are underrepresented in our counts.

Shifts in spring and autumn migration phenology for migratory birds, including raptors, have been described by several

authors in recent years (e.g., Gordo 2007, van Buskirk 2012, Sullivan et al 2016, Paprocki et al. *In press*). At Hawk Mountain, no significant changes were observed in spring migration dates in contrast to what has been reported by other researchers (Butler 2003, Sullivan et al. 2016). Median passage dates at Hawk Mountain showed high variability among years which suggests local weather likely affects annual timing as well (see Table 2a, 2b).

Long-term monitoring of raptors during spring season, particularly when paired with autumn counts from the same site, can greatly enhance our understanding of raptor population dynamics, migration behavior, and trends (Farmer and Smith 2010). We encourage other Pennsylvania autumn watchsites to consider launching a spring count to augment understanding of migration patterns in their region.

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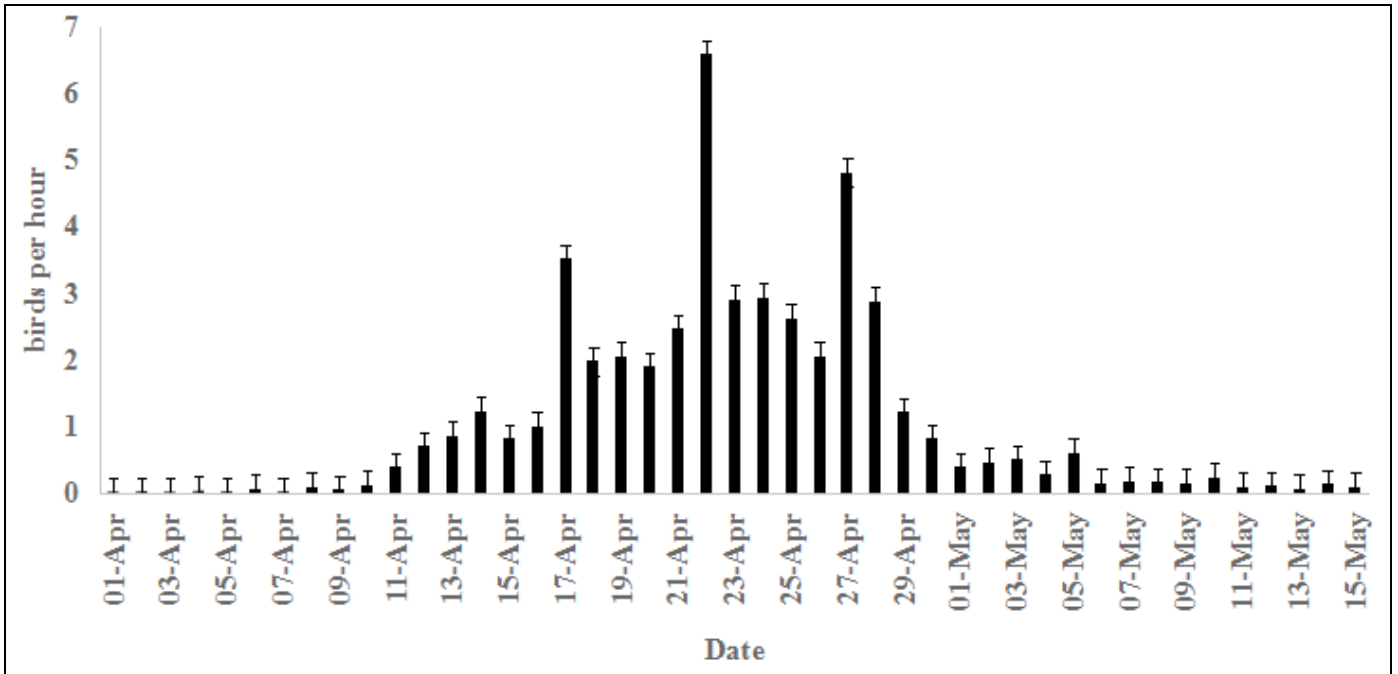


Fig1a. Seasonal timing (birds per hour) of migrating Broad-winged Hawks at Hawk Mountain, April 1 to May 15, 1969-2016.

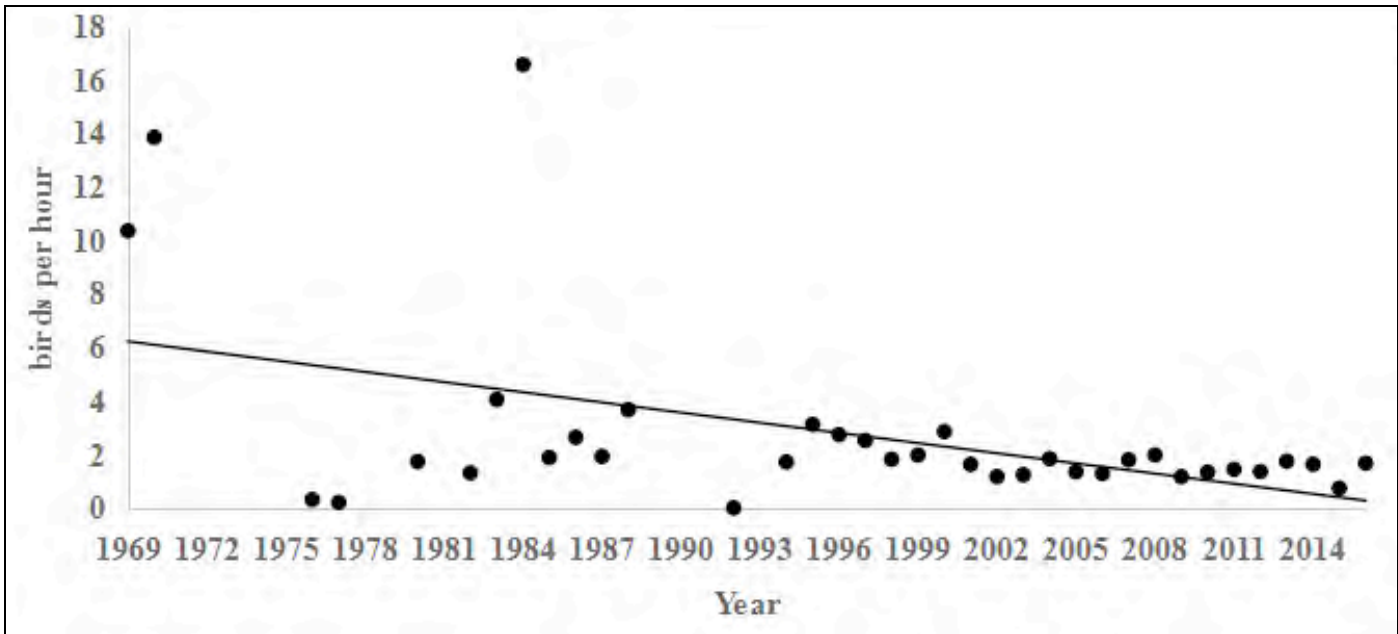


Fig.1b. Mean annual passage rate (birds per hour) of migrating of Broad-winged Hawks at Hawk Mountain from 1969-2016.

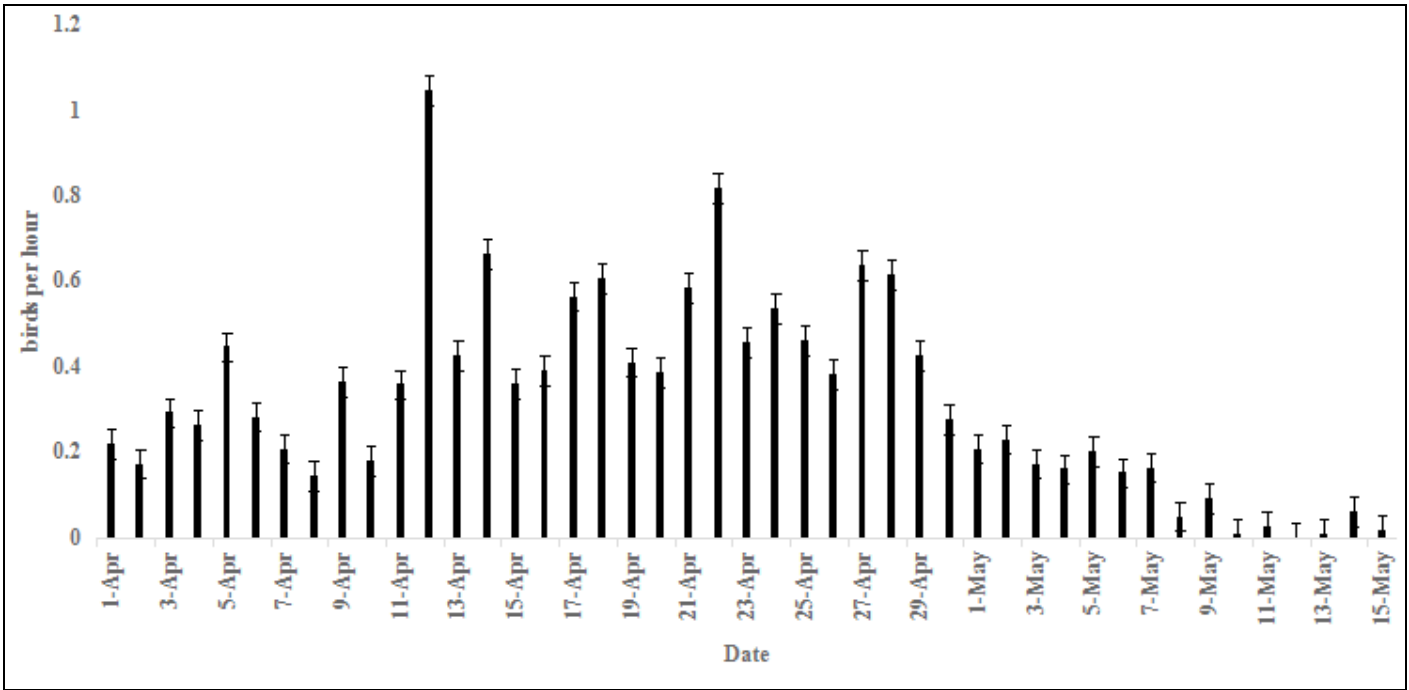


Fig.2a. Seasonal timing (birds per hour) of migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks at Hawk Mountain for April 1 to May 15, 1969-2016.

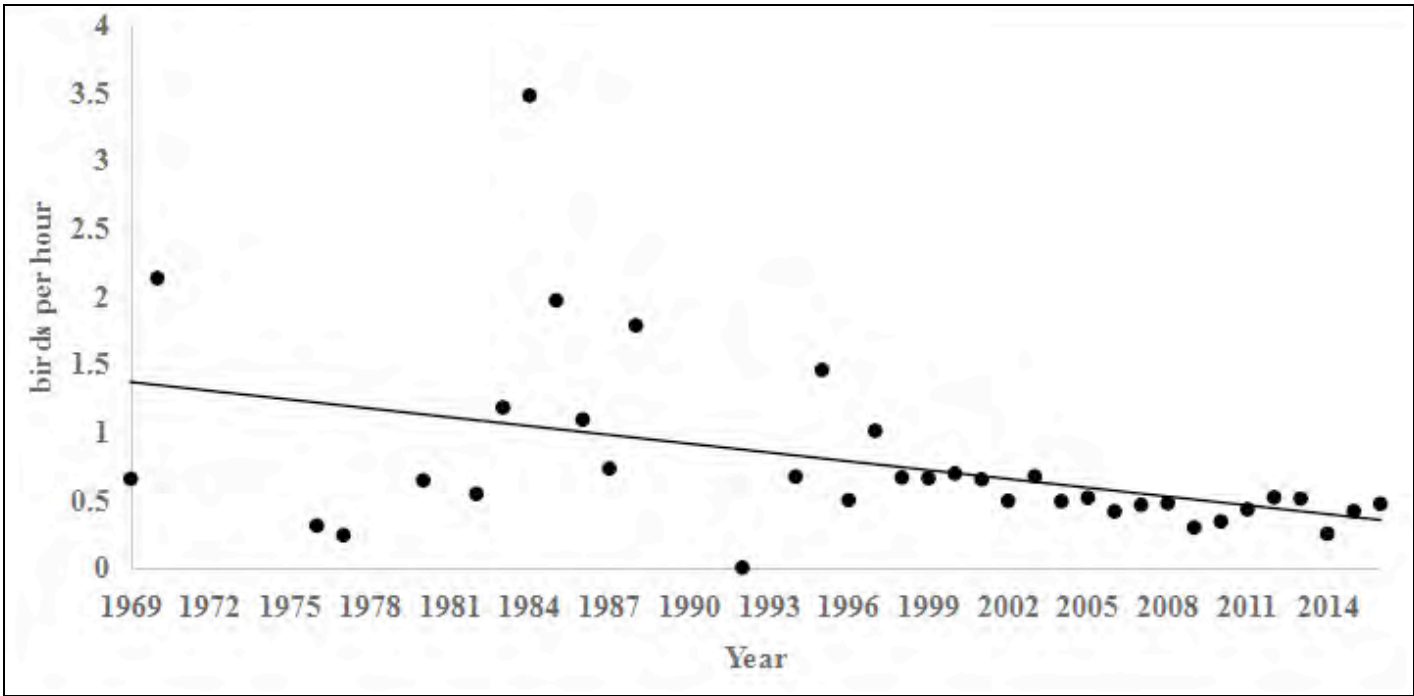


Fig.2b. Mean annual passage rate (birds per hour) of migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks at Hawk Mountain from 1969-2016.

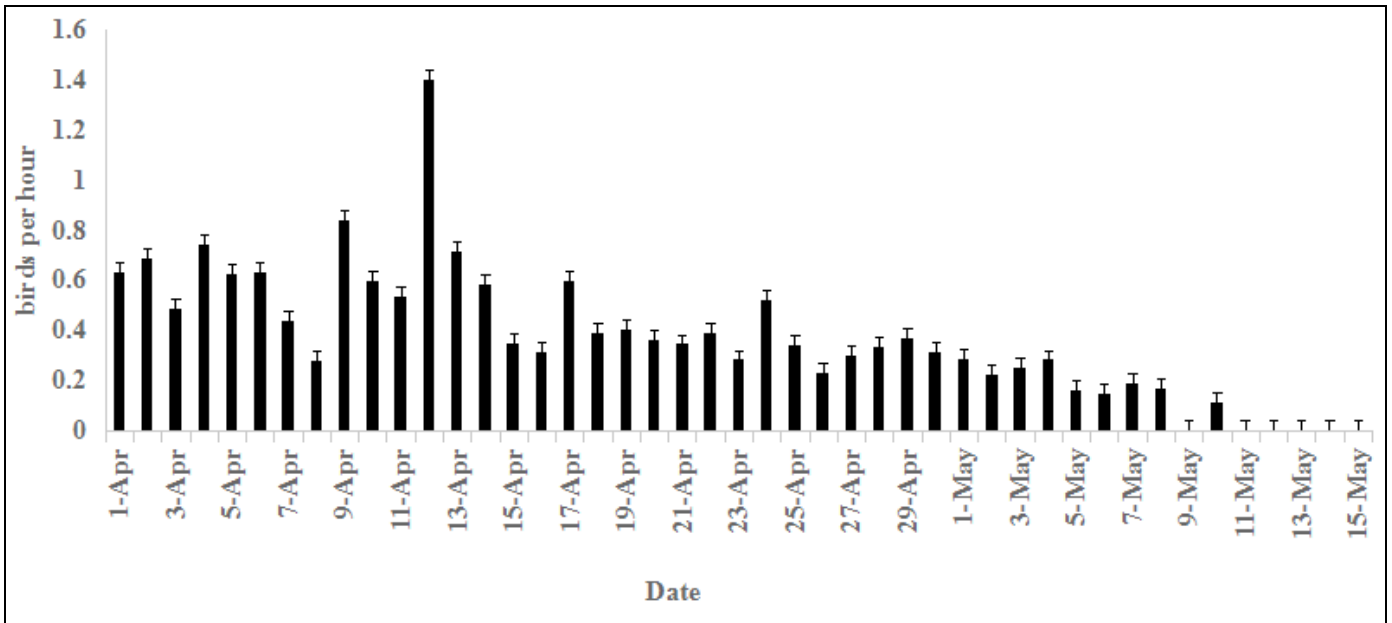


Fig.3a. Seasonal timing (birds per hour) of migrating Red-tailed Hawks at Hawk Mountain for April 1 through May 15, 1969-2016.

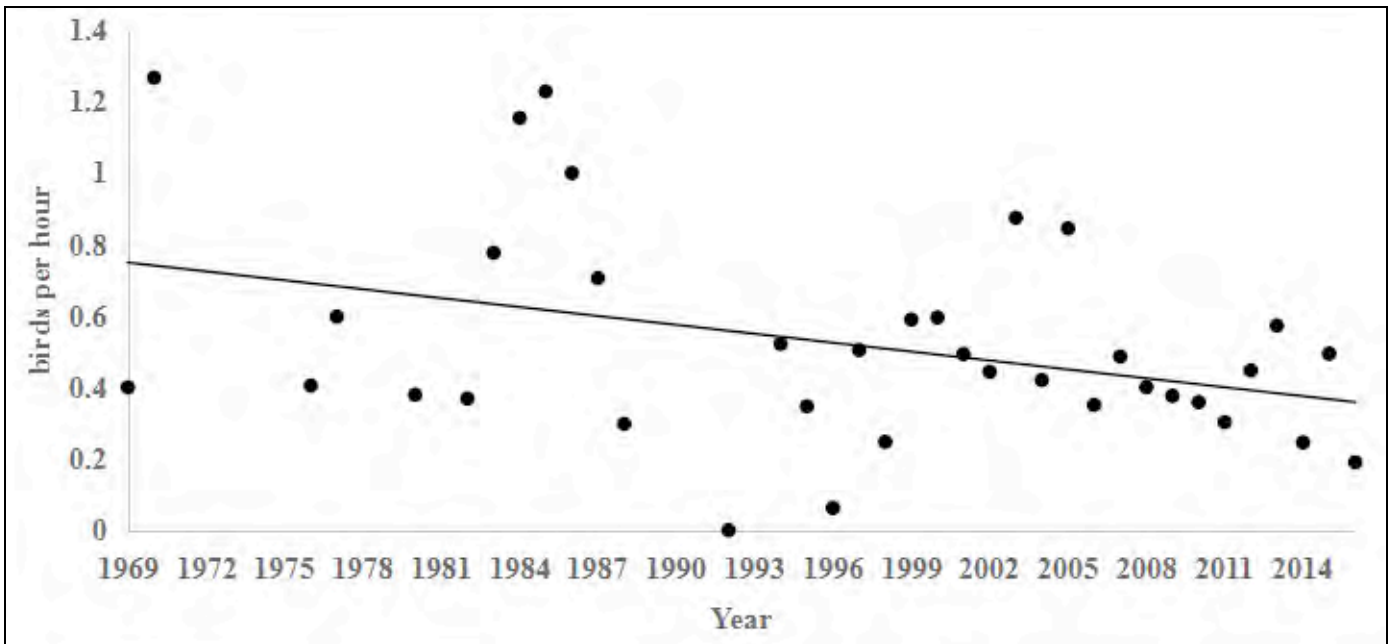


Fig.3b. Mean annual passage rate (birds per hour) of migrating Red-tailed Hawks at Hawk Mountain from 1969-2016.

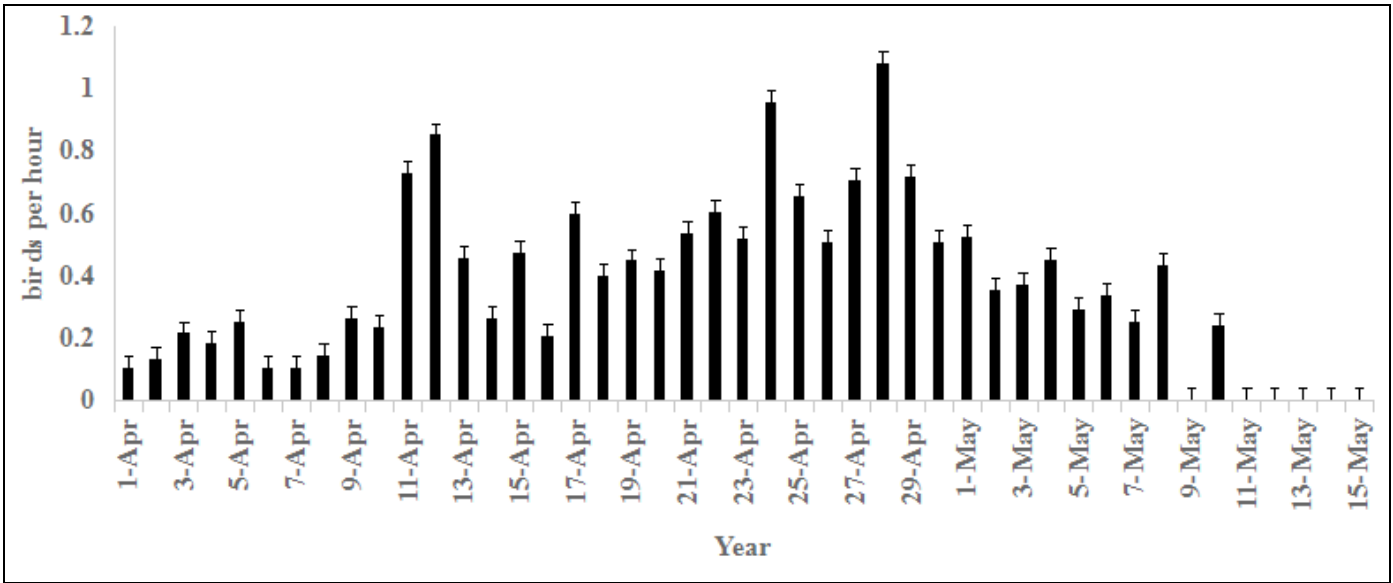


Fig.4a. Seasonal timing (birds per hour) of migrating Ospreys at Hawk Mountain, April 1 to May 15, 1969-2016.

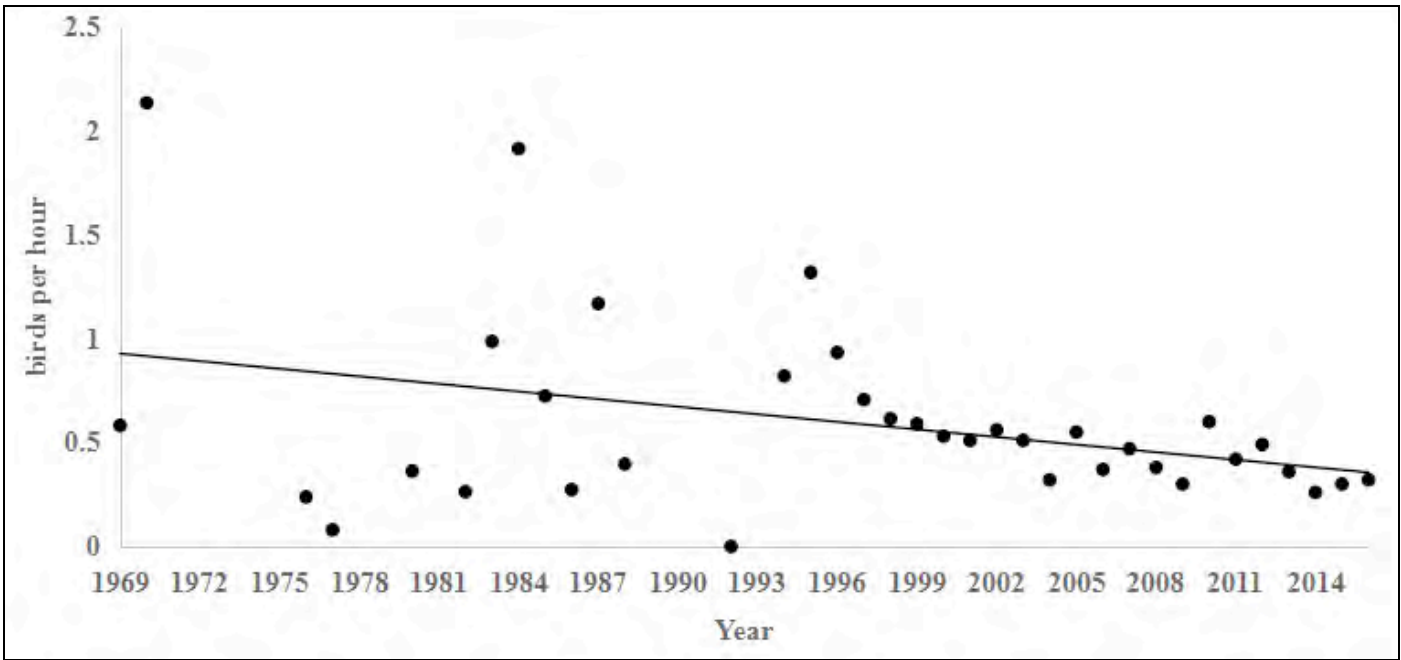


Fig.4b. Mean annual passage rate (birds per hour) of migrating Ospreys at Hawk Mountain from 1969-2016.

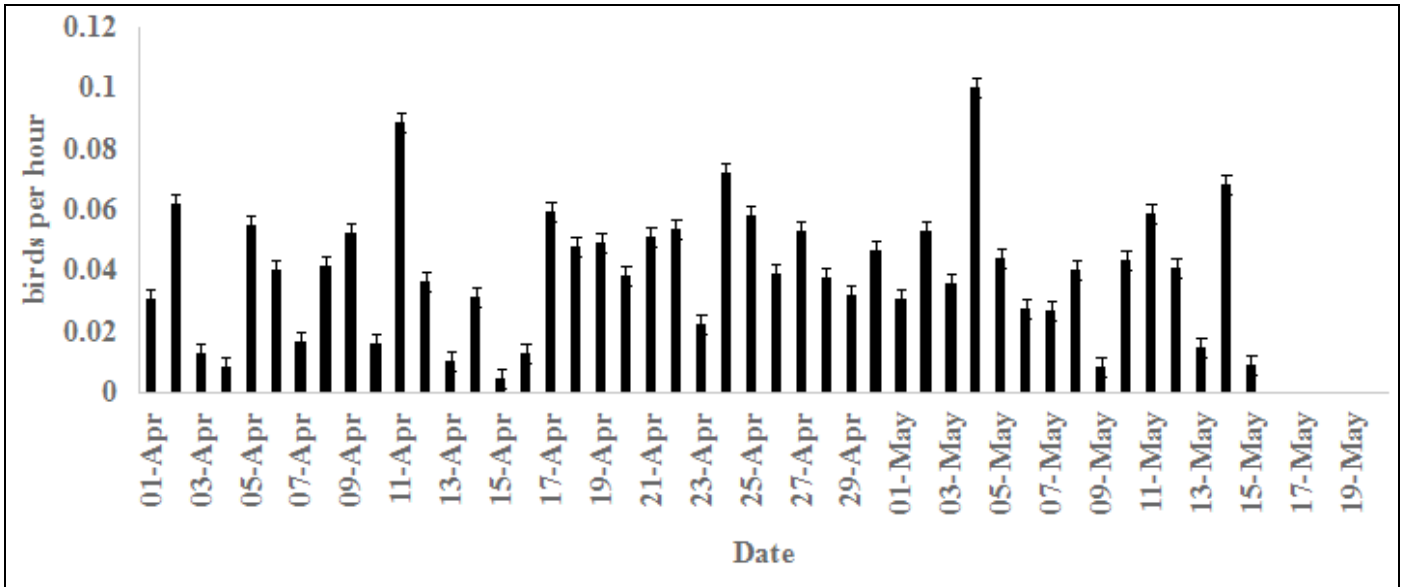


Fig.5a. Seasonal timing (birds per hour) of migrating Bald Eagles at Hawk Mountain, April 1 to May 15, 1969-2016.

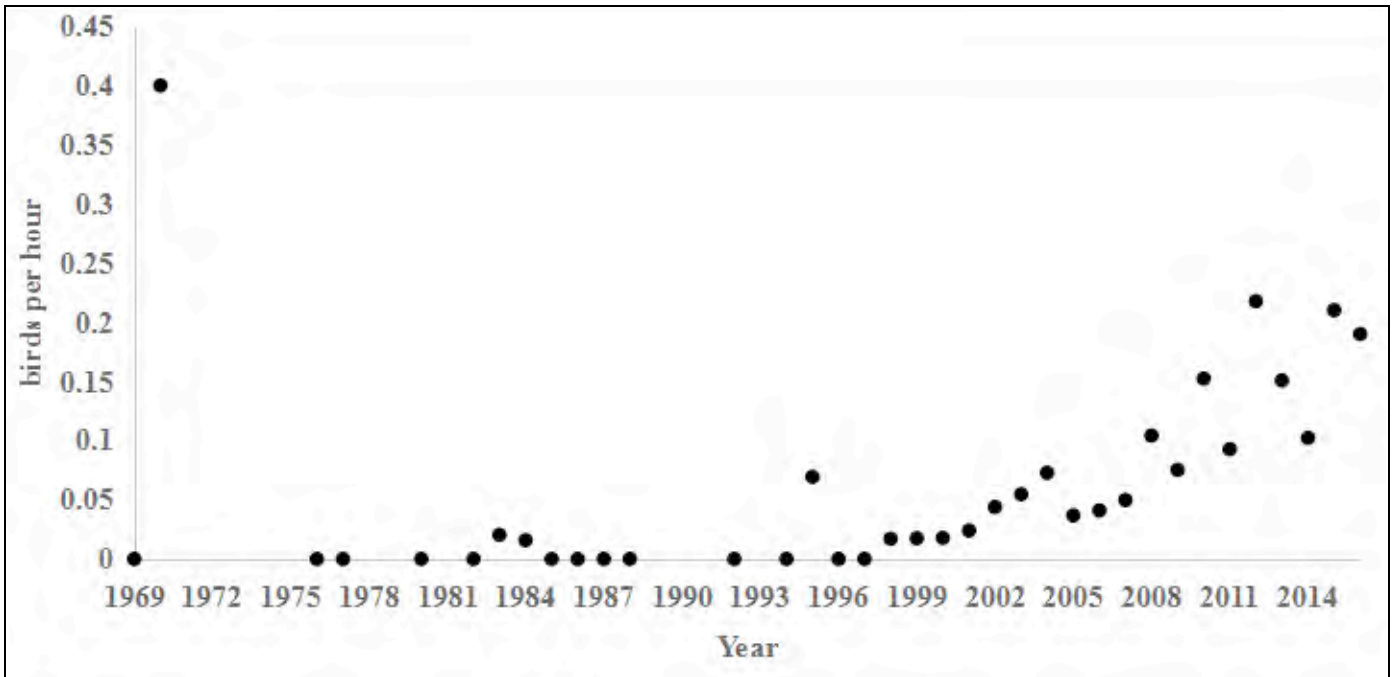


Fig.5b. Mean annual passage rate (birds per hour) of migrating of Bald Eagles at Hawk Mountain from 1969-2016.

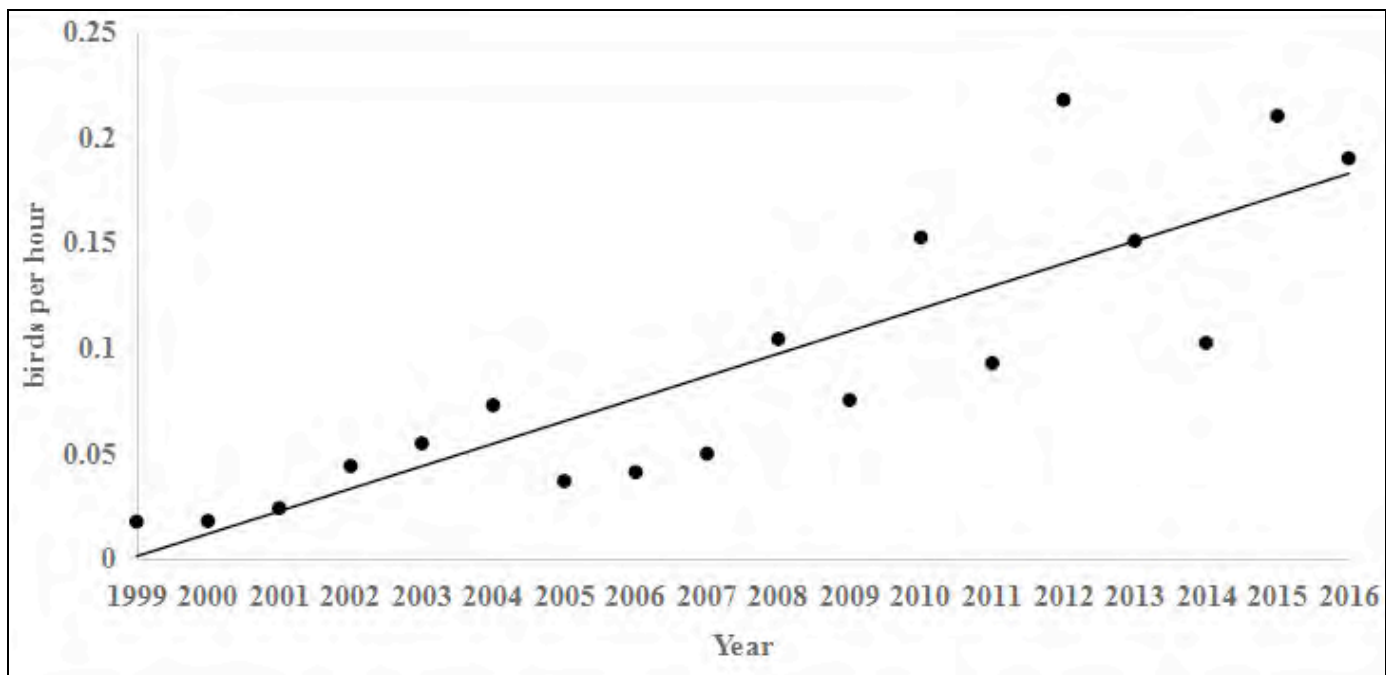


Fig.5c. Mean annual passage rate (birds per hour) of migrating of Bald Eagles at Hawk Mountain from 1999-2016.



Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). Stone Mt. Hawk Watch, Huntingdon, 13 September. (Nick Bolgiano)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Tarentum Bridge, Allegheny, 6 November. (Anthony Bruno)

2016 Autumn Raptor Migration Summary

Laurie Goodrich

Easterly winds in September 2016 funneled Broad-winged Hawks to the Appalachians, leaving several southeastern Pennsylvania watchsites wanting more. A dearth of strong cold fronts reduced October's usual parade of migrants at most sites and may have contributed to below-average statewide counts for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Osprey, and American Kestrel. Despite the lackluster winds and the warmer-than-normal temperatures through October and November, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawk counts were near average statewide.

Pennsylvania's 13 watchsites recorded 112,222 raptors in 1170 days and 8104 hours of counting between 1 August and January 2017, a rate of 13.9 hawks per hour statewide. Total raptors were 22% higher than in 2015 but 9% below the ten-year average for the state (Table 1). Count effort was 8% above-average and included the return of Bucktoe Creek Preserve of Chester County to the watch-site line-up, but there was no report from the Pipersville Broad-winged Hawk watch and the Tuscarora Summit watch was again not conducted.

Several kites were sighted during September, including 3 Mississippi Kites: an immature at Bake Oven Knob on 16 August, an adult at Militia Hill on 24 September, and a probable adult at Rose Tree Park on 7 September. A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen by several observers at Allegheny Front on 6 September.

Four species showed above-average counts statewide. Bald and Golden Eagles, were up 45% and 6% respectively, with 3028 Bald Eagles and 1101 Golden Eagles counted. The Red-shouldered Hawk count was 1179 and Merlins totaled 713, both up 7% statewide (Table 1). The Bald Eagle total represented a new record and their abundance brings a new challenge for watchsites, separating migrants from residents.

Below-average counts were tallied for 10 of 16 regularly recorded species. Two open-habitat species that have shown widespread declines in the region were recorded in low numbers in 2016 - Northern Harrier, with 709 counted statewide, and American Kestrel, with 1410 counted (Table 1, Figure 1). The statewide counts were 31% and 25% below the 10-year averages respectively, and for harriers the total was the lowest ever recorded in the state (Table 1). The Osprey tally was 1987, down 24% compared to the 10-year average and the second-lowest count ever. All three accipiters were low: Sharp-shinned Hawk (18,149), down 31%; Cooper's Hawk (2154), down 26%; and Northern Goshawk (145), down 13% (Table 1). Decreases in Osprey sightings correspond to patterns shown at most eastern flyway watchsites where

significant declines were documented during the last decade (see www.rpi-project.org). This decline in migrants is in contrast to a growing nesting population within the state.

An interesting Osprey observation occurred this autumn, giving a clue to nesting locations of Ospreys counted during the autumn season Pennsylvania's watches. Dr. Rob Bierregaard reported the pathway of a satellite-tagged adult male from a nest in northern New Hampshire in summer 2016. "Wausau" left his nest territory on 4 September and the next day entered eastern Pennsylvania, flying south along the Delaware River to the Kittatinny Ridge near Delaware Water Gap and then turning to follow the Ridge southwest. He went to roost that evening on the Kittatinny Ridge near Route 309 in Lehigh County, just west of Bake Oven Knob and east of Hawk Mountain. (R. Bierregaard, pers. Comm.). Although the transmitter was not on in early morning, Dr. Bierregaard reports Wausau was aloft early on the 6th and may have passed by Hawk Mountain where a lone Osprey was recorded just before 7 am that morning on steady northwest winds. His transmitter indicates he flew southwest off the Ridge possibly just west of Hawk Mountain between 8 am and 9 am as his location was north of Lancaster at 9 am and he soon exited Pennsylvania to fly south past Baltimore. To see his entire journey and other eastern Osprey tracks for 2016 visit *Ospreytrax* website (<http://www.ospreytrax.com>).

Allegheny Front (*Somerset and Bedford Counties*) - Watchers at Allegheny Front tallied an above-average 8764 hawks in 813 hours and 105 days of counting between mid-August and mid-December 2016 (Table 1). Mid-September brought several days of over 1000 Broad-winged Hawks, with the largest one-day count of 1079 on 17 September

(Table 2). Moderate northeast winds on 6 September brought the rarest migrant for the fall when a Swallow-tailed Kite approached the site from the northwest and circled overhead three times before continuing south. What a cooperative bird!

The highest one-day count of Bald Eagles, 13, soared past on 25 September, helping bring the season's total of Bald Eagles to 136, the highest autumn count in recent history. In contrast, the Golden Eagle count of 138 was 30% below-average (Table 1). The largest one-day count of Golden Eagles for the autumn, 20, flew past on 1 November along with 44 Red-tailed Hawks, 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks, a single Bald Eagle, and 8 other raptors.

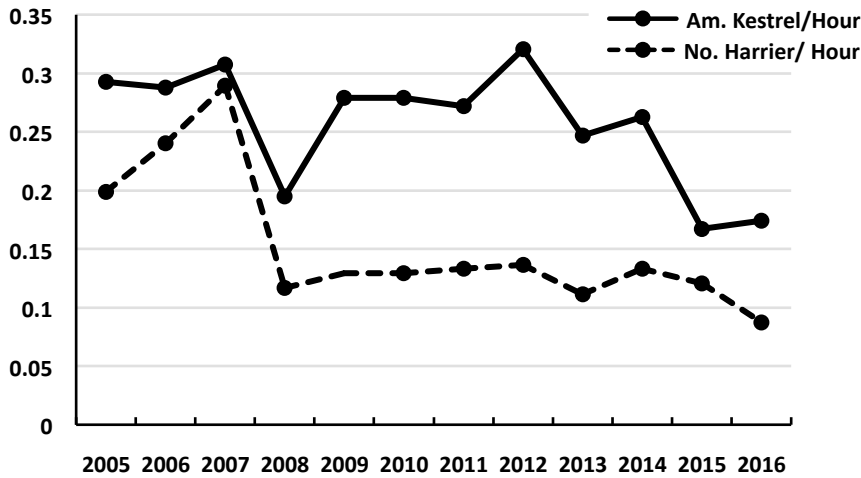
Above-average counts also were tallied for Broad-winged Hawk (5058), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1251), and Peregrine Falcon (39) (Table 1). A particularly great day for Peregrines occurred 5 October when 9 Peregrines and 3 Merlins zipped past. Below-average counts were observed for seven species, including Cooper's Hawk (118), 43% below the 10-year average and Red-shouldered Hawk (31), and 43% below average (Table 1).

Bake Oven Knob (*Lehigh County*) - Bake Oven Knob started the season with a flourish by recording one of the few Mississippi Kites to be spotted in 2016, an immature bird that hovered above the rocks giving watchers an excellent look on 16 August. A week later the Bake Oven counters tallied a peak Bald Eagle number of 23 on 22 August. The total raptors for autumn, 13,734, was slightly above the ten-year average of 13,371. Coverage hours (814) and days (105) were slightly above-average as well. Observers recorded the first large flight of Broad-wings, 1303, on 16 September and a peak flight of 1801 on 20 September (Table 2). Seven

Table 2. Peak one-day migration counts for selected species.

Site	Broad-winged Hawk		Bald Eagle	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	1,079	9/17	13	9/25
Bake Oven Knob	1,801	9/20	23	8/22
Bucktail Creek Pres	675	9/25	15	11/26
Council Cup	361	9/16	-	
Hawk Mountain	3,018	9/20	22	12/3
Jack's Mountain	910	9/21	9	9/11
Little Gap	3,389	9/20	22	8/25
Militia Hill	2,694	9/24	15	9/24
Rocky Ridge Park	1,181	9/21	4	10/22
Rose Tree Park	399	9/24	12	9/25
Second Mountain	2,665	9/16	12	Several
Stone Mountain	312	9/16	12	10/22
Waggoner's Gap	1,973	9/21	35	9/24

Figure 1 Number of Autumn Migrants per Hour at Pennsylvania Watchsites



species were above-average, with the count of 352 Bald Eagles 41% above the ten-year average. Broad-winged Hawk (6477) and Red-tailed Hawk (2144) were 20% and 26% above-average, respectively (Table 1). Six species were below-average (Table 1), including Osprey (280), 34% below-average; Sharp-shinned Hawk (2111), 32% below-average; and American Kestrel (75), 50% below-average (Table 1).

Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester County) - Bucktoe Creek Preserve relaunched their autumn count in 2016, tallying 4266 hawks in 678 hours over 91 days from 1 September through 30 November. Their highest one-day count occurred 25 September with 625 Broad-wings (Table 2), 6 Bald Eagles, and 8 American Kestrels among 724 total raptors. The highest eagle days were 26 November with 15 Bald Eagles and 14 October with 2 Golden Eagles. Average counts for this site are based on three years of data in the last decade. Higher counts of Broad-wings were recorded in 2010 than 2016, but winds were not favorable for Broad-wings at southeastern watch-sites in 2016. Welcome back Bucktoe Creek Preserve! We are excited to have this site active again and look forward to reports in years to come.

Council Cup (Luzerne County) - The Council Cup site was covered for three days in September totaling 14 hours, a decline in coverage by more than 50% compared to prior years; not surprisingly, the total count of 369 raptors was also well below average (Table 1). The best day occurred on 16 September when compiler Donald Kapral recorded 361 Broad-winged Hawks, one Osprey, and one American Kestrel along with 8 non-migrating Bald Eagles. This northeast site near the Susquehanna River can have some interesting flights and is not a far drive for northeastern birdwatchers. If you have time to contribute, contact details for compiler can be found at

www.hawkcount.org in the site profile section.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks and Schuylkill counties) - Hawk Mountain recorded 17,587 raptors between 15 August and 25 January, with 127 days and 1127 hours of counting. The total count was 7% below the ten-year average (Table 1). A new record was set for Bald Eagle with 489 tallied for the official season of 15 August to 15 December and 508 for entire season (Table 1). Above-average counts also were recorded for Turkey Vulture (595), 5% above average; Merlin (193) up 8%; and Broad-winged Hawk (9361), 19% above average (Table 1). Sharp-shinned Hawk (2958) and Cooper's Hawk (370) were 34% and 36% below average, respectively. The Osprey count (343) was down 29% and Northern Harrier (118) down 30%. Hawk Mountain's peak one-day count occurred on 20 September when 3018 Broad-winged Hawks were recorded along with 8 other species including 20 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Bald Eagles, and 4 Ospreys. The highest one-day count for Bald Eagle came late in the year, when 22 Bald Eagles soared past on 3 December, along with 17 Red-tailed Hawks and one Golden Eagle. The highest count of Golden Eagles occurred 28 October, with 15, accompanied by 14 Bald Eagles and 146 Red-tailed Hawks.

Jack's Mountain (Mifflin County) - Jack's Mountain counters recorded 5029 raptors during 97 days and 600 hours of counting. The total raptor count was 18% above average, possibly because coverage has increased at the site in recent years; effort in 2016 was the highest since 2001. Most species were above-average, excepting the American Kestrel (35), which was 25% below the ten-year average (Table 1). Bald Eagles were seen regularly through the fall with a peak one-day count of 9 on 11 September and a season-record tally of 148. The Golden Eagle count of 144 was the

second-highest on record for the site, reaffirming the importance of this ridge for eagle migration. Northwest winds on 6 November brought the season's one-day peak for Golden Eagle, 17, including 16 adults and one immature.

Little Gap (Northampton County) - Counters at Little Gap recorded an above-average 14,322 hawks with 104 days and 696 hours of counting. The count was 5% above the ten-year average of 13,693 hawks (Table 1). Little Gap set a new season-record for Bald Eagle, 335, with a one-day peak count of 22 on 22 August (Table 1, 2). Seven other species showed above-average counts including Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, The American Kestrel upswing counted at this site, 209 compared to the average of 181, was in contrast to below-average counts observed at many sites (Table 1). Below-average counts were recorded for Osprey (211), down 37%; Sharp-shinned Hawk (2271), down 28%; and Cooper's Hawk, (268), down 21% (Table 1). September 20 brought the highest one-day count for the season and the highest one-day total for Broad-winged Hawks statewide, 3389 (Table 2). Counters were kept busy after the morning fog lifted, sighting many close kettles. The next day, 21 September, 1606 Broad-winged Hawks were counted plus 62 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 17 American Kestrels, 3 Merlins, and 3 Peregrine Falcons, for the second-highest one-day count for the site.

Militia Hill (Montgomery County) - Watchers at Militia Hill counted 7553 raptors in 61 days and 446 hours of watching (Table 1). The total count was 44% below-average with most species below-average. One exception was Bald Eagle (114), which was 9% above average. The Broad-winged Hawk count of 5649 was 48% below the average of 10,765 (Table 1). The highest one-day count of Broad-winged Hawks was 2694, on 24 September, along with an impressive 42 Ospreys, 64 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 29 American Kestrels, and the season's one-day peak of 15 Bald Eagles (Table 2). One of the rarest migrants of the season also came on the 24th, an adult Mississippi Kite, observed gliding overhead through telescope and binoculars. The next day, 1492 Broad-wings and 10 Bald Eagles were sighted, contributing to the second-highest one-day count of the season, a total of 1543 raptors. The highest one-day count of Sharp-shinned Hawk, 50, was tallied on 9 October along with 7 Cooper's Hawks, 10 American Kestrels, 3 Red-shouldered Hawks, 3 Merlins, 3 Ospreys, 2 Bald Eagles, and one Peregrine Falcon.

Rocky Ridge (York County) - Counters at the part-time watch in Rocky Ridge Park tallied 3945 hawks in 98 hours on 21 days from 24 August to 26 October. The total count was 86% above-average - primarily

due to above-average numbers of Broad-winged Hawks (3496), 71% above-average. Rocky Ridge tallied 2 days of Broad-winged Hawk counts above 1000 with 1041 on the 20th and 1181 on the 21st, the highest one-day count for the season (Table 2). Counters also recorded 3 Ospreys, 2 Northern Harriers, 45 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 10 American Kestrels on the 21st, bringing the one-day count to 1241. Above-average counts were observed for most species, except Bald Eagle (12), which was 75% below the ten-year average (Table 1).

Rose Tree Park (Delaware County) – Rose Tree Park recorded a below-average 2990 raptors during 79 days and 496 hours in autumn 2016 (Table 1). Total raptors were 51% below the ten-year average partly due to the low Broad-winged Hawk count (825), 76% below average. Rose Tree Park reported below-average counts for most raptors, except Black Vulture (75), 36% above-average (Table 1). The rarest migrant of the autumn, a Mississippi Kite, was observed for several minutes in late morning on 7 September, before it glided south.

Counters recorded a one-day peak count for Broad-winged Hawks (399) on 24 September along with 17 Ospreys, 5 American Kestrels, 5 Merlins, and 2 Peregrine Falcons. The following day brought the site's one-day peak count for Bald Eagle, 12, and another 287 Broadwings (Table 2). North to northeast winds on 3 October brought an exciting mid-autumn flight to Rose Tree Park including 113 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 75 Broad-winged Hawks, 37 American Kestrels, 19 Ospreys, 19 Cooper's Hawks, 8 Peregrine Falcons, and 7 Merlins, mostly during the afternoon. October 26 brought the highest count of Red-shouldered Hawks, 21; mostly adult birds and some appearing in small kettles with other raptors.

Second Mountain (Lebanon County) – Second Mountain recorded 9688 hawks in 137 days and 818 hours between 15 August and 31 December. The site set a new season record for Bald Eagle, 269, compared to the ten-year average of 182 (Table 1). Three other species were above-average including Black Vulture (520), up 46%; Broad-winged Hawk (5966), up 39%; and Golden Eagle (103), up 13% (Table 1). All other species except Turkey Vulture were below-average. The largest dip was seen for Sharp-shinned Hawk (1020), 53% below the ten-year average (Table 1). Second Mountain observers tallied their highest one-day Broad-winged Hawk count, 2665, on 16 September along with 10 Ospreys (Table 2). The peak one-day count of 12 Bald Eagles occurred on several different days in September and October including 20 September when the Bald Eagles were accompanied by an early adult Golden Eagle and 31 American Kestrels (Table 2). On 10 October, another 12 Bald Eagles were recorded, accompanied by 2 immature Golden Eagles and an impressive parade of 257 Turkey Vultures.

Stone Mountain (Huntingdon County) – Stone Mountain observers tallied 3608 migrating raptors during 88 days and 518 hours of counting (Table 1). Count effort for the site was the highest on record although the total number of migrating raptors was 11% below-average. The 166 Bald Eagles set a new record, with a one-day peak count of 12 on 22 October (Table 2). Broad-winged Hawk numbers were slightly low at 1519, compared to 1568 on average (Table 1). The highest one-day count for the site and highest count of Broad-winged Hawks occurred on 16 September when Stone Mountain counters tallied 312 Broad-winged Hawks, 6 Ospreys, 4 Bald Eagles, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, one Northern Harrier, and one Red-shouldered Hawk (Table 2). In contrast to some sites, watchers counted above-average numbers of Osprey, 84, compared to 74 on average (Table 1). Only 51 American Kestrels were recorded, 39% below the ten-year average. The count of 80 Cooper's Hawks was also low, 38% below average (Table 1). November 5 and 6 brought the best Golden Eagle days, with 15 and 10 recorded, respectively. The last significant flight of Golden Eagles, 11, sailed south on 22 November. The Golden Eagle total of 116 was near the ten-year average of 117.

Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland County) - Waggoner's Gap recorded 20,367 raptors in 138 days and 1023 hours from 1 August to 31 December. The total was 12% below the ten-year average of 23,272. Counters set a new season record for Bald Eagle, recording 576 compared to the prior record of 535. Counts of most species were lower than average, including American Kestrel (219), 28% below-average (Table 1). Season totals were buoyed by a great Broad-winged Hawk flight in September. With 9436 counted, Broad-winged Hawks were 18% above the ten-year average of 7971 (Table 1) and counters saw eight September days with greater than 500 birds. The highest one-day total occurred on 21 September, when 1973 Broad-wings moved through. The day before, 1740 sailed past the lookout, helping boost the season tally.

Waggoner's Gap watchers recorded the highest statewide one-day count of Bald Eagles on Sept 24 when 35 were tallied. A lone sub-adult Golden Eagle also was sighted that day. Accipiters were well below average with the lowest counts in more than 14 years (Table 1). Northwest winds on 10 October brought the highest one-day count of Sharp-shinned Hawks, 550, along with 27 Cooper's Hawks and 5 Golden Eagles. A Golden Eagle parade was enjoyed November 4, 5, and 6 when 28, 20, and 27 were tallied, respectively. Two Rough-legged Hawks, dark morphs, were sighted, one on 2 December and one on 10 December; however, the total was slightly below the ten-year average of 3.5 (Table 1).

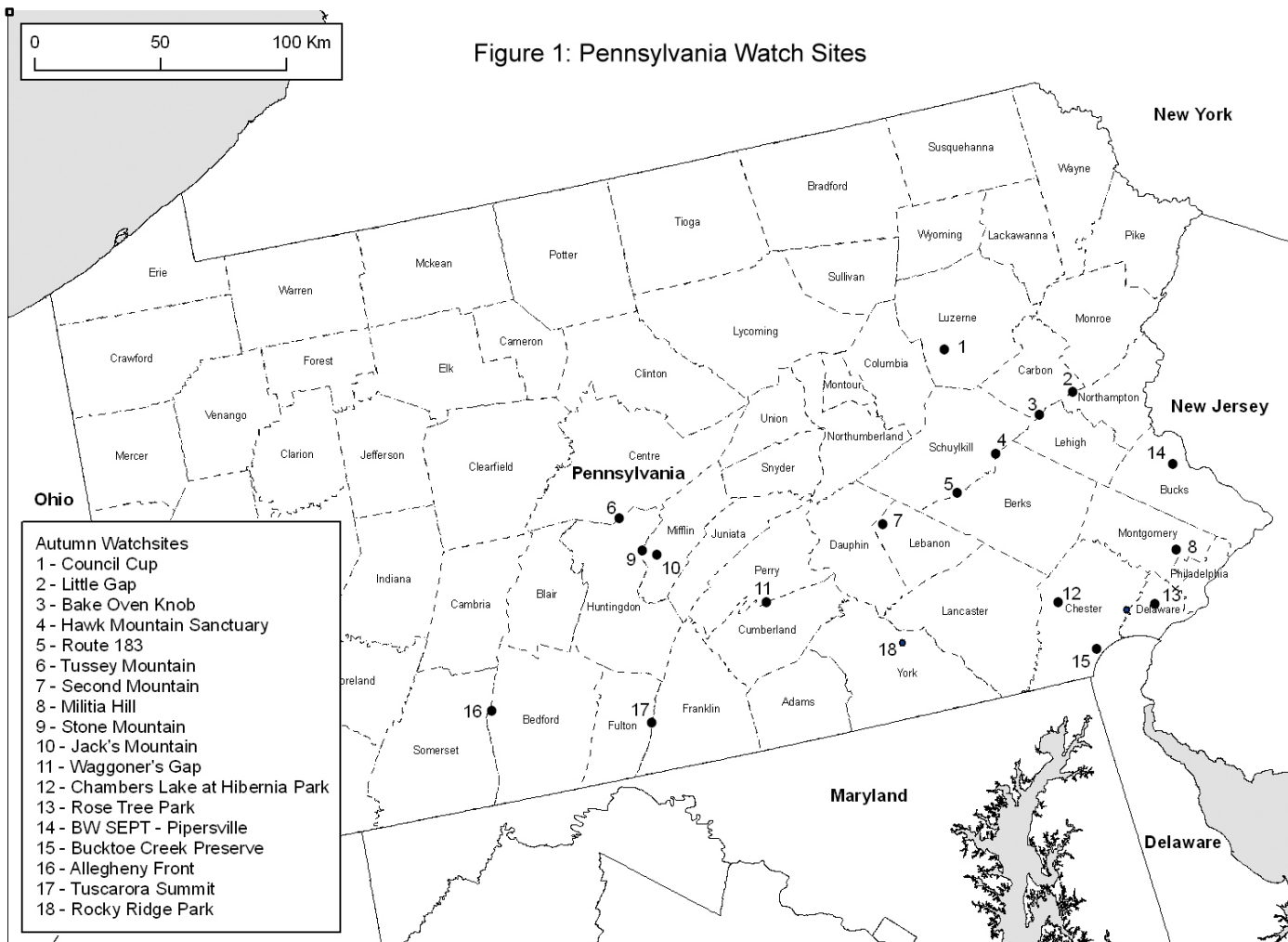
Conclusions

In 2106 we salute the element of change and flux in hawk migration counts. Pennsylvania may host more watch sites than most (all?) states or provinces in North America and therein fills a useful role in regional monitoring. The data collected from Pennsylvania watchsites, both where they coincide and where they differ, provide an index to the breadth of change in raptor populations across the continent. New records or above-average counts of Bald Eagles contrast with continued declines in field-nesting raptors, e.g. American Kestrel and Northern Harrier, and may also directly intersect with dips in Osprey numbers. The lower counts of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks (except note Waggoner's Gap) could signal changes in migration behavior or timing, as has been documented for Red-tailed Hawk in recent years. Further monitoring and research will clarify the pattern and its' possible source - having the data collected and archived by Pennsylvania hawkwatchers is essential to our understanding.

Acknowledgements

I thank Pennsylvania's hawk counters for their many hours of counting, as well as the site compilers for organizing the data and sharing their results. Data was provided by www.hawkcount.org with permission of site compilers, a website maintained by the Hawk Migration Association of North America and managed by Jason Sodergren, database manager. Locations of sites and daily counts can be viewed at HMANA's www.hawkcount.org site. I thank David Barber for the site map and Grace Auld for her assistance with tables. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 272.

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We must sadly report that the hawk watch community has lost two long-time hawk watchers from the Jacks Mt. site in Mifflin County. Ron Singer was the compiler for decades, watching and counting raptors at Jacks since 1975. Ron passed away March 5 of complications following surgery. Gloria Bickel began joining Ron and the other Jacks counters around 1992, becoming one of the leading reporters from the site. Gloria died this past November 19. The work of Ron and Gloria at Jack's added substantially to our knowledge of raptor migration through Appalachians and they will be greatly missed by Pennsylvania birders. Our condolences to his family, friends, and fellow Jack's Mountain watchers.

---- Laurie Goodrich and Greg Grove

Table 1. Autumn 2016 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford/Somerset) - Bob Stewart, 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	106.3	16	26	12	11	1	18	5	0	0	231	47	0	0	8	1	0	0	14	390
September	30	236.5	8	6	76	65	10	182	42	0	7	4823	200	0	6	20	8	7	0	37	5498
October	31	221.0	9	312	18	47	19	1007	52	2	17	4	814	0	41	13	16	31	0	21	2423
November	30	185.8	0	43	0	11	2	44	17	2	7	0	199	1	90	0	1	1	0	24	442
December	11	28.3	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Total	119	777.8	33	387	106	136	32	1251	118	4	31	5058	1266	1	138	41	26	39	0	96	8764
Total per hr			0.04	0.50	0.14	0.17	0.04	1.61	0.15	0.01	0.04	6.50	1.63	0.00	0.18	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.12	11.27
% of flight			0.4	4.4	1.2	1.6	0.4	14.3	1.3	0.0	0.4	57.7	14.4	0.0	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	1.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	111.6	797.2	33.4	418.3	96.2	104.8	50.1	1177.8	209.9	6.8	55.6	3903.0	1513.1	2.5	195.9	64.0	30.0	27.5	0.1	152.1	8041.1

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BAKE OVEN KNOB (Lehigh) - Bob Hoopes, Dan Kunkle, co-compilers

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	136.5	45	196	72	59	4	39	10	0	2	168	56	0	2	11	8	0	0	32	705
September	30	239.0	76	289	191	140	26	442	61	0	9	6288	134	0	2	37	55	29	0	106	7885
October	31	238.3	91	327	17	93	42	1518	128	15	79	21	1144	0	58	26	51	22	0	92	3724
November	27	199.8	75	169	0	60	18	112	23	17	62	0	810	0	51	1	4	5	0	13	1420
Total	105	813.5	287	981	280	352	90	2111	222	32	152	6477	2144	0	113	75	118	56	0	243	13734
Total per hr			0.35	1.21	0.34	0.43	0.11	2.59	0.27	0.04	0.19	7.96	2.64	0.00	0.14	0.09	0.15	0.07	0.00	0.30	16.88
% of flight			2.1	7.1	2.0	2.6	0.7	15.4	1.6	0.2	1.1	47.2	15.6	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	102.9	807.1	284.3	957.3	422.2	248.8	111.1	3118.2	277.2	26.7	120.7	5399.5	1697.1	0.5	100.3	151.8	97.2	54.5	0.0	283.0	13371.0

*Includes Mississippi Kite on 08/16/2016

Bucktoe Creek 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
September	30	224.5	0	0	103	50	9	147	49	0	8	1127	2	0	0	64	4	1	0	0	1564
October	31	247.5	0	183	24	124	14	582	170	1	74	53	273	0	6	39	17	2	0	6	1568
November	30	206.0	0	221	0	107	16	204	85	0	136	0	355	0	3	1	2	4	0	0	1134
Total	91	678.0	0	404	127	281	39	933	304	1	218	1180	630	0	9	104	23	7	0	6	4266
Total per hr			0.00	0.60	0.19	0.41	0.06	1.38	0.45	0.00	0.32	1.74	0.93	0.00	0.01	0.15	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01	6.29
% of flight			0.0	9.5	3.0	6.6	0.9	21.9	7.1	0.0	5.1	27.7	14.8	0.0	0.2	2.4	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	50.3	336.1	0.0	166.7	71.3	137.0	25.0	484.3	159.3	0.7	92.3	1146.7	317.3	0.0	3.7	85.0	15.0	4.3	0.0	3.0	1727.7

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
September	3	13.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	366	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	369
Total	3	13.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	366	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	369
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.33
% of flight			0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	19.6	91.1	1.2	134.1	16.9	35.2	6.0	93.9	9.6	0.0	0.7	330.2	200.4	0.0	0.7	22.8	0.1	1.0	0.0	23.7	877.7

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks and 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	17	168.3	6	8	62	54	6	36	9	0	2	171	50	0	2	31	4	1	0	17	459
September	30	298.0	10	45	242	140	40	559	62	0	11	9136	123	0	3	133	82	15	0	84	10685
October	31	289.0	44	450	36	127	49	2243	262	13	87	54	1004	0	52	53	93	30	0	130	4727
November	30	237.3	31	91	3	83	17	115	36	18	47	0	926	1	57	0	11	2	0	20	1458
December/January	19	134.5	22	1	0	104	6	15	1	4	2	0	78	0	17	0	3	0	0	5	258
Total	127	1127.0	113	595	343	508	118	2968	370	35	149	9361	2181	1	131	217	193	48	0	256	17587
Total per hr			0.10	0.53	0.30	0.45	0.10	2.63	0.33	0.03	0.13	8.31	1.94	0.00	0.12	0.19	0.17	0.04	0.00	0.23	15.61
% of flight			0.6	3.4	2.0	2.9	0.7	16.9	2.1	0.2	0.8	53.2	12.4	0.0	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.0	1.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	125.2	1100.5	136.8	562.1	483.5	325.5	169.7	4515.5	585.1	32.9	171.3	7871.7	2313.0	1.2	132.0	391.7	177.8	58.9	0.5	198.3	18969.7

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	30	182.8	4	0	57	77	10	103	26	0	2	3090	36	0	0	17	5	3	0	3	3433
October	31	187.0	14	145	13	54	19	468	85	4	25	9	325	0	51	17	9	14	0	11	1263
November	27	173.0	5	2	1	10	4	20	10	1	6	0	143	0	78	1	5	1	0	0	287
December	9	57.3	13	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	1	0	8	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	46
Total	97	600	36	148	71	148	33	592	121	5	34	3099	512	0	144	35	19	18	0	14	5029
Total per hr			0.06	0.25	0.12	0.25	0.06	0.99	0.20	0.01	0.06	5.17	0.85	0.00	0.24	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.02	8.38
% of flight			0.7	2.9	1.4	2.9	0.7	11.8	2.4	0.1	0.7	61.6	10.2	0.0	2.9	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	62.0	352.7	28.2	129.3	57.2	76.6	30.6	572.7	65.3	2.1	14.5	2667.5	450.5	0.0	62.8	47.3	12.4	11.8	0.0	14.6	4242.1

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	11	65.3	0	5	28	32	2	17	4	0	2	50	22	0	0	17	4	3	0	2	188
September	30	225.8	13	19	156	111	17	533	49	0	5	7971	116	0	3	137	55	17	0	38	9240
October	29	212.3	43	330	27	115	37	1606	171	7	48	20	856	1	47	55	60	22	0	50	3495
November	29	165.8	87	123	0	53	13	115	44	15	36	0	781	1	39	0	8	3	0	10	1328
December	5	27.0	5	0	0	24	0	0	0	1	1	0	28	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	71
Total	104	696.0	148	477	211	335	69	2271	268	23	92	8041	1803	2	100	209	127	45	0	101	14322
Total per hr			0.21	0.69	0.30	0.48	0.10	3.26	0.39	0.03	0.13	11.55	2.59	0.00	0.14	0.30	0.18	0.06	0.00	0.15	20.58
% of flight			1.0	3.3	1.5	2.3	0.5	15.9	1.9	0.2	0.6	56.1	12.6	0.0	0.7	1.5	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	90.9	582.5	96.4	462.9	334.8	224.2	102.6	3148.0	338.7	22.4	93.9	6792.6	1578.8	0.7	76.7	181.1	98.5	41.3	0.0	99.5	13693.3

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

*Total includes one Mississippi Kite on September 18

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	*Total
September	30	213.0	0	0	137	80	15	195	17	0	7	5453	2	0	0	117	9	10	0	24	6067
October	31	233.3	4	575	13	34	7	360	69	0	48	196	54	0	3	53	17	13	0	40	1486
Total	61	446.3	4	575	150	114	22	555	86	0	55	5649	56	0	3	170	26	23	0	64	7553
Total per hr			0.01	1.29	0.34	0.26	0.05	1.24	0.19	0.00	0.12	12.66	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.38	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.14	16.93
% of flight			0.1	7.6	2.0	1.5	0.3	7.3	1.1	0.0	0.7	74.8	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	59.8	448.5	27.1	664.5	256.0	105.3	74.4	1056.0	137.5	1.4	63.2	10765.0	113.2	0.2	3.7	261.8	33.2	29.4	0.4	67.7	13659.8

*Including Mississippi Kite on 09/24/2016

ROCKY RIDGE (York) - Randy Phillips, 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	4.5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
September	11	62.3	0	0	41	6	9	209	3	0	0	3496	1	0	0	35	0	0	0	3	3803
October	9	31.3	0	18	4	5	2	78	4	0	1	0	10	0	1	12	2	1	0	1	139
Total	21	98.0	0	18	46	12	11	287	7	0	1	3496	11	0	1	48	2	1	0	4	3945
Total per hr			0.00	0.18	0.47	0.12	0.11	2.93	0.07	0.00	0.01	35.67	0.11	0.00	0.01	0.49	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.04	40.26
% of flight			0.0	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.3	7.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	88.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	13.7	66.8	0.7	19.7	27.0	59.7	7.7	213.7	6.7	0.0	0.7	2037.7	10.3	0.0	0.5	42.3	2.0	1.5	0.0	2.0	2112.0

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware) - Holly Merker, 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	188.8	0	0	102	61	15	147	31	0	3	743	3	0	0	65	12	7	0	7	1197
October	31	190.3	8	319	38	43	29	425	71	0	64	82	99	0	0	81	20	23	0	30	1332
November	19	116.5	67	90	1	27	4	57	12	0	60	0	131	0	1	1	2	0	0	8	461
Total	79	495.5	75	409	141	131	48	629	114	0	127	825	233	0	1	147	34	30	0	45	2990
Total per hr			0.15	0.83	0.28	0.26	0.10	1.27	0.23	0.00	0.26	1.66	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.09	6.03
% of flight			2.5	13.7	4.7	4.4	1.6	21.0	3.8	0.0	4.2	27.6	7.8	0.0	0.0	4.9	1.1	1.0	0.0	1.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	86.2	552.3	54.8	431.2	185.7	133.0	64.1	1052.7	156.7	1.2	167.6	3379.7	322.4	0.2	3.2	158.8	32.2	18.1	0.2	49.8	6211.7

*Includes Mississippi Kite on 09/07/2016

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	17	67.0	0	0	11	11	1	0	2	0	3	25	15	0	0	7	0	1	0	1	77
September	30	226.8	71	9	70	58	15	233	32	2	13	5930	51	0	5	63	12	6	0	10	6580
October	30	225.5	298	516	6	94	29	737	70	0	43	11	245	0	35	21	16	7	0	28	2156
November	30	187.3	94	167	1	66	9	47	19	3	15	0	216	0	46	2	1	1	0	11	698
December	30	111.5	57	11	0	40	2	3	0	3	3	0	39	0	17	0	2	0	0	0	177
Total	137	818.0	520	703	88	269	56	1020	123	8	77	5966	566	0	103	93	31	15	0	50	9688
Total per hr			0.64	0.86	0.11	0.33	0.07	1.25	0.15	0.01	0.09	7.29	0.69	0.00	0.13	0.11	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.06	11.84
% of flight			5.4	7.3	0.9	2.8	0.6	10.5	1.3	0.1	0.8	61.6	5.8	0.0	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	130.0	900.5	357.4	703.7	149.9	182.0	102.6	2180.4	236.9	20.8	113.5	4303.7	945.7	2.4	90.5	103.6	37.8	26.1	0.7	57.8	9617

STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon) - Greg Grove, compiler

*Total includes one Mississippi Kite on September 22

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	*Total
August	3	15.5	0	0	4	5	0	4	1	0	0	30	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	51
September	27	160.3	0	0	60	60	11	117	18	0	1	1484	33	0	0	29	2	3	0	9	1827
October	26	156.0	20	130	20	64	27	552	51	2	43	5	332	1	17	17	31	16	0	9	1337
November	25	139.8	3	29	0	32	5	39	10	3	6	0	132	1	76	2	1	1	0	1	341
December	7	46.5	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	23	0	0	0	0	0	52
Total	88	518.0	23	160	84	166	44	712	80	5	50	1519	522	3	116	51	34	20	0	19	3608
Total per hr			0.04	0.31	0.16	0.32	0.08	1.37	0.15	0.01	0.10	2.93	1.01	0.01	0.22	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.00	0.04	6.97
% of flight			0.6	4.4	2.3	4.6	1.2	19.7	2.2	0.1	1.4	42.1	14.5	0.1	3.2	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	68.8	390.4	24.8	231.1	73.7	101.1	48.4	822.3	127.6	7.1	48.4	1568.3	758.9	0.8	117.4	82.5	30.6	19.1	0.1	33.3	4035.8

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	153.5	0	0	34	72	5	23	5	0	6	201	83	0	0	27	2	4	0	8	470
September	28	233.5	0	0	274	192	32	1023	62	0	13	9207	131	0	1	133	16	17	0	40	11141
October	28	267.0	18	1058	28	184	85	3597	222	13	111	27	1175	0	75	56	54	28	0	72	6803
November	27	228.0	21	244	2	56	22	172	45	13	58	0	909	0	145	3	7	4	0	18	1719
December	25	140.8	8	3	0	72	3	5	7	6	5	0	94	2	21	0	1	2	0	5	234
Total	138	1022.8	47	1305	338	576	147	4820	341	32	193	9435	2392	2	242	219	80	55	0	143	20367
Total per hr			0.05	1.28	0.33	0.56	0.14	4.71	0.33	0.03	0.19	9.23	2.34	0.00	0.24	0.21	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.14	19.91
% of flight			0.2	6.4	1.7	2.8	0.7	23.7	1.7	0.2	0.9	46.3	11.7	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	139.2	1112.6	77.9	1600.3	409.6	466.6	223.3	7748.5	696.4	47.3	231.9	7970.8	4042.5	4.3	335.0	431.5	150.8	81.9	0.1	148.8	23271.7

2014 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

*Total includes two Mississippi Kites

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	113	717	67	235	224	245	19	137	36	0	15	876	277	0	4	105	19	9	0	74	2,343
September	338	2,505	182	368	1,511	1,040	209	3,890	452	2	79	59,114	832	0	20	851	260	115	0	361	69,289
October	339	2,498	549	4,363	244	984	359	13,173	1,355	57	640	482	6,331	2	386	443	386	209	0	490	30,453
November	274	1,839	383	1,179	8	505	110	925	301	72	433	0	4,602	4	586	11	42	22	0	105	9,288
December	106	546	105	17	0	254	12	24	10	14	12	0	274	3	105	0	6	2	0	11	849
Total	1,170	8,104	1,286	6,162	1,987	3,028	709	18,149	2,154	145	1,179	60,472	12,316	9	1,101	1,410	713	357	0	1,041	112,222
Total per hr			0.16	0.76	0.25	0.37	0.09	2.24	0.27	0.02	0.15	7.46	1.52	0.00	0.14	0.17	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.13	13.85
% of flight			1.1	5.5	1.8	2.7	0.6	16.2	1.9	0.1	1.1	53.9	11.0	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.9	100.0
Average of last 10 yrs	1125.6	7492.5	1275.4	6513.2	2608.1	2093.6	1021.1	26267.8	2923.3	167.3	1101.1	60922.0	12736.8	11.9	1041.8	1868.3	667.5	367.9	4.0	1133.6	122724.3
% compared to average	3.9	8.2	0.8	-5.4	-23.8	44.6	-30.6	-30.9	-26.3	-13.3	7.1	-0.7	-3.3	-24.4	5.7	-24.5	6.8	-3.0	-100.0	-8.2	-8.6

1Includes three Mississippi Kites & one Swallow-tailed Kite

WHERE IS THAT BIRD ANYWAY?

Vern Gauthier

In the age of GPS and mapping apps, answering the question of “Where is that bird?” should not be that difficult - but it may be trickier than one might think along geopolitical borders (i.e. country, state, and county lines). There is a long history of a bird’s location being determined by geopolitical borders. The American Birding Association’s (ABA) recording rules read in part, “*The bird must have been within the prescribed area when encountered...Within means that the bird must be within the prescribed area when observed, although the observer need not be. For example, if an observer on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande identifies a bird across the river on the Mexican side, the bird may be counted on his/her Mexican list but not on his/her ABA Area list.*”¹

As a County Compiler for the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) the local example that I deal with all the time is along the Susquehanna River which forms the geopolitical border (i.e. the county line) between Cumberland and Dauphin counties with the county line being the shoreline of the western bank of the river. So, if I am standing at West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL) in Cumberland County and see a bird anywhere on or over the river, I am actually viewing a Dauphin County bird even though the observer (me) is located in Cumberland County.

Simple enough, right? That is until eBird enters the picture. As birders well know eBird has and continues to make a huge impact on the birding world. Included in this impact is how to determine the location of a bird. For eBird the location of any bird is not where the bird is located but where the observer is located, which is opposite of the ABA standard. In part the eBird rules read as follows: “*This means that if you are standing at Salineño, Texas, and you see a Lineated Woodpecker flying over the trees on the opposite side (thus in Mexico), this “counts” in eBird for your U.S. and Texas list. Our reviewers should also validate the record.*”²

For a vast majority of reports the difference between how the ABA and eBird determine a birds location makes little difference. Where the difference comes into play is when the location of a rarity or vagrant needs to be determined. A case in point is a Cinnamon Teal that was reported on the Susquehanna River in April of 2014. eBird has reports of the bird in both Cumberland and Dauphin counties. Remember the whole of the river is actually Dauphin County but since two eBird reports were submitted from WFBL, which is Cumberland County, eBird includes Cinnamon Teal on the

Cumberland County list even though the bird was never actually in Cumberland County. The comments in the 2 checklists themselves make it clear with one stating, “*continuing male; with 1 male Blue-winged Teal; mid-river*” and the other, “*mega; continuing male floating downriver with three Blue-winged Teal; I lost it behind down islands as it neared the Taylor Bridge, perhaps a bit east of mid-river; distant views from here.*” Fortunately the birder in question included comments for if he had not one might wonder if the bird was actually seen in the confluence of the Susquehanna and Conodoguinet Creek (in Cumberland County) and hence a first county recorded.

Fortunately, eBird itself recognizes that how it accounts for a birds location might cause some problems in the face of long standing birding practices and provides some suggestions on how to treat situations about vagrants and rarities along geopolitical borders. In the cited document eBird goes on to say, “*However, in cases like this where you are seeing a very rare bird in another country, state, or county, please do make it clear in your checklist comments where you saw the bird. Lineated Woodpecker still does not have a confirmed record for the United States, so having these notes would be important for those using the data.*”

eBird also provides for duplicate checklists to get around the problem, “*In eBird it is also OK to report birds seen on the opposite side of a border. If you go back and check your woodpecker photos and realize it was in fact a Pileated Woodpecker, you'd want to get that in the official record as a first country record for Mexico. In this case, it is OK to use this hotspot for La Gloria, across from Salineño, to report your bird which will then show up on your Mexico and Tamaulipas list. However, these should always be reported as Incidental checklists (and thus, not reporting all species) since you were not on foot in the area and could not do a complete survey of the birds seen at the site.*”³ For the Cinnamon Teal example, 2 checklists would have been submitted, both including the teal - a complete checklist for Cumberland (where the observer was standing) and an incomplete checklist for Dauphin (where the bird was located). I understand why they suggest this as it ensures that Dauphin County records show that the teal was actually present in Dauphin. If the only report of the bird came from observers standing in Cumberland then the species would not show up on eBird bar lists etc. as ever having been in Dauphin. Yet this does not solve the problem of the

Cinnamon Teal showing up in Cumberland County records.

Fortunately, eBird provides yet a third way to report a vagrant or rarity on a geopolitical border, and to me as a County Compiler this is the best way to report it in the options they provide. “*Some birders care deeply about their state and local lists. If reporting a bird on the complete checklist from where you are standing is not something you wish to do, then we recommend considering your checklist “incomplete” (not reporting all species) since you are intentionally excluding a bird that you saw on your survey. This is OK, and in this case you would report one checklist using a Traveling or Stationary protocol (with distance, duration, and start time) but indicating that not all species were reported; the bird of interest would be left off this list. For the second list, plotted on the other side of the border, you would report as Incidental.*”

Of course, I would have no qualms (this is me speaking here and not eBird) if standing on the edge of a river (like the Susquehanna) that forms a geopolitical border to enter a complete checklist for the river (you can do this by placing your location on eBird in the river itself - there is actually a hot spot at WFBL) for though I am standing in Cumberland my view of the river and Dauphin County is not impeded in any way because I am standing on Cumberland soil. Again, this is my position and not that of eBird.

I don’t think for a moment that this article addresses all questions on how to report vagrants and rarities along geopolitical boundaries but I hope those who read it gain a better appreciation of some of the issues with reporting along county lines, and the options that are available in reporting on eBird that will help PSO County Compilers preserve the integrity of county bird lists.

If you have questions about these issues, email or call the county compiler(s). The compilers name and contact information is included in each of the county reports in PA Birds.

¹ ABA Recording Rules and Interpretations (version 2014b)
<http://listing.aba.org/aba-recording-rules/>

² eBirding along County, State, and Country borders
<http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/2238491>

³ ibid
⁴ ibid

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WHERE THE BIRD FLIES...

THE REASON FOR DIFFERENT COUNTING PROTOCOLS

Holly Merker

In our current era of birding, there are differing trains of thought on how to count a bird on one's list. Two of the most popular guides, and tools, birder have and use today are Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird and the American Birding Association's *Recording Rules and Interpretations*¹. However, the two depart in their rules of interpreting how to list these birds on a county, state, or even a national life list, for differing objectives.

The American Birding Association (ABA) was founded in 1969, and was in part created to provide objective standards for birding as a competitive hobby (think, "The Big Year") or noncompetitively in standardizing county and state lists (think, PSO Annual Lists) not only by maintaining a checklist of countable species, but in how to determine where a bird is located. The ABA's *Recording Standards and Ethics Committee* (RSEC)¹ is tasked with interpreting these rules and standards for the birding community, while also providing the *ABA Code of Birding Ethics*², principles by which to abide by while birding. The first of the five ABA Recording Rules states, "*The bird must have been within the prescribed area when encountered.*"³ Translated, this means that when making county lists only birds actually located in or over the county when identified can be counted regardless of where the observer was standing. The same would be true for state and national lists as well. In large part this rule has been adopted by state Ornithological Committees (including Pennsylvania) in determining first and all following county and state records. The bird itself needs to be in the county or state, not just the observer.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird was launched in 2002⁴, in partnership with the National Audubon Society. eBird was designed as a checklist program to capture bird observations, from anywhere on the globe, at any time: a 24/7 CBC type census, enlisting anyone who would sign-up for an account. Fifteen years later, eBird is one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources on the globe. The goal is to give a global community access to real-time snapshots of where birds are being observed. In return for their observation submissions,

eBird provides tools like: personal list keeping, online checklist record management, easy exploration of observations within regions, all along with a wealth of other educational resources. The objective of eBird is to gather information on avian observations (observations include sight and sound records), which then produces the capability to examine patterns of detection, and distributions, rather than to provide rules for competitive birding or standardizing national, state, or county lists. Therefore, it is important to understand that the primary focus of eBird is on geographical coordinates (i.e. longitude / latitude) rather than geopolitical boundaries⁵. What that means is that while we humans recognize those geopolitical boundaries of counties, states, or nations, the birds do not. eBird is concerned with where the birds are positioned within a landscape or habitat, and not which state or county boundary it enters into. eBird does offer guidelines on entrance of observations for the conscientious eBirder when geopolitical boundaries come into play.

Here in Pennsylvania we can also look to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC)⁶ to keep historical record of rare species that have occurred in the Commonwealth, listed by individual record. A record of a species determined to be rare, and therefore listed on the *State Review List*⁷, is submitted to the committee, to be voted upon by its members, who determine if the record is sufficiently substantiated to be added into the state's historical archives of occurrence for that species. Some birders will use a rare birds committee's acceptance of an individual record, especially when the origins are in question, as a guide for what they count on their own life list. Overall, we can look to PORC, and other Rare Bird Committees (RBCs), to keep track of individual occurrences in a region, over time.

As birders, we are all focused on observing birds. How we decide to count species on our own lists is up to us as individuals. It's our own prerogative. We are fortunate that there are guides to follow, if we chose. Both eBird, and the ABA, play different roles in our birding community. In the end, both are designed

to cater to birders, but the birds and documentation thereof are their first priorities.

¹ABA Recording Rules and Interpretations (version 2014b)
<http://listing.aba.org/aba-recording-rules/>

²ABA Recording Standards and Ethics Committee
<http://listing.aba.org/rsec/>

³ ABA Birding Code of Ethics
<http://listing.aba.org/ethics/>

⁴ ibid 1

⁵ Cornell Lab of Ornithology: About eBird <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about/>

⁶ eBirding along County, State, and Country borders
<http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/2238491>

⁷ Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
<http://www.pabirds.org/records/>

⁸ Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee State Review List
<http://www.pabirds.org/records/index.php/rev-iew-list/>

Special thanks to Vern Gauthier for his editing, and thoughtful insight on this discussion.

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BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA:

Passerines written and illustrated by Ber van Perlo, featuring 197 color plates with all passerine species found south of Panama, 1,952 species distribution maps, acknowledgements, glossary, bibliography, index, 5 x 7.5 in., 465 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2015, paper, \$29.95.

This book reviewer previously indicated that the Princeton University Press (PUP) Illustrated Avian Checklists' series is an appealing gift for birders and a clever business concept (*Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 27, No. 4: Aug-Nov 2013, p. 198). The whole idea was explained by Ber van Perlo, award winning author and illustrator of *Birds of Hawaii*, *New Zealand*, and *the Central and West Pacific*; *Birds of Eastern Africa*; *Birds of Southern Africa*; *Birds of Western and Central Africa*; and *Birds of Mexico and Central America*, all volumes in the series. The books should be regarded and treated as true "field guides" in which the basic, necessary, yet condensed information needed to identify a bird is instantaneously available to the birder. Of course, the low weight and small size make the guides easy to carry and consult in the field. In this age of ever more field identification details, avian guides emphasizing smaller groups of birds, and speciation, the series fills a growing need for the millions of new birders worldwide.

Many hard-core birders in our country want to expand their geographical boundaries beyond the United States, even North America, without having to take the cumbersome number of new generation bird guides with them. The South American passerine book covers all 1,952 species to be found south of Panama, including those offshore islands that have obvious zoogeographical connections with the mainland like Trinidad, Galapagos, Falklands, and islands of the Scotia Arc leading to the Antarctic mainland. The book features 197 stunning color plates and detailed species accounts that describe key identification features, habitats, and songs. All plumages for each species are illustrated, including males, females, and juveniles, with a distribution map included for each species. The book is an ideal companion volume to *Birds of South America: Non-Passerines* by Jorge R. Rodriguez Mata, Francisco Erize, and Maurice Rumboll (HarperCollins, 2006). The scientific and common English names, systematic status, and sequence of species follow *A Classification of the Bird Species of South America* (2011), published by the South American Classification Committee

(SACC) of the American Ornithological Union. The planning and execution of the book are based on the SACC list published in 2011, yet since then there have been new species discovered in the area. Thus, those new species that have been accepted or are under study by the SACC as of August 2014 are shown on Plates 196 and 197 in this book.

FORMAT OF THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

In general, the birds on any given plate (a maximum 10 birds per plate) are printed to the same scale except subspecies and details, such as flight features and tails which are normally illustrated smaller. If male and female have different visual features, such as coloring or dimensions of body parts (e.g., tail length), both sexes are illustrated. Many species have two or more subspecies of which the more significant and clearly different are depicted. Juvenile, immature and/or first-winter birds are shown only if they are seen in these plumages in the region. Non-breeding plumages are shown if these birds may be observed in this plumage in South America.

The text opposite the plates describes the main features of the birds illustrated, features that are not visible in the illustration (e.g., the color pattern of opened wings), or features that are most important for separation from similar species. Notes on behavior are added when important for identification. Generally, the descriptions of voice are kept simple and short; in fact, most information about voice stresses only songs. The author states that the voices of northern migrants are not described because these species do not sing or give only incomplete songs in their winter quarters. Too bad, because any North American birder who has spent time in the tropics and subtropics of Latin America only needs bits of voice (both calls and songs) to help with other identification characteristics to accurately identify such birds (see below). It is true, however, that some species of birds, especially ovenbirds and tanagers, have yet to be identified thoroughly by voice.

Maps used for identification purposes are on opposite pages from species illustrations. The range of a resident species is indicated in green. The range of a "boreal" migrant is shown in blue, indicating the main distribution area of northern migrants. Of course, vagrants can be expected anywhere in the continent of South America. The winter range of an "austral" or southern species is illustrated in ochre. An arrow shown on a map indicates a small population or a small

range for a species and a black cross on a map shows a vagrant locality and/or a limited distribution area. Sources used for the maps include *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, Volumes 1-16, by del Hoyo et al. (1992-2011), the most recent reference plus many other older works (see Bibliography section p. 421).

THE BIRDS IN THIS BOOK

Currently there are more than 1,952 passerines in 32 families in South America compared to 1,273 non-passerines in 65 families. One of the major differences between passerines and non-passerines birds is the build of their syrinx, a voice organ deep in their chest where the trachea splits into two bronchi., nicely illustrated on p. 12. The author states: "In the syrinx there are labia whose form and tension are regulated by an inflatable air sac and a system of paired muscles. Songbirds (passerines) have a system of four to seven muscles, whereas non-passerines have either none or one to three pairs of muscles" (p.12). Even much more fascinating is that many birds can produce sound in both bronchi, creating different notes simultaneously.

The enormous difference between the birdlife of the Old World and the New World is amazing. There are only five native South American passerine species that also occur in the Old World: Bank and Barn Swallows, both common in North America but migrating in the boreal winter to South America; the Horned Lark, which breeds as far south as central Colombia; and Red-throated Pipit and White Wagtail, both breeding in extreme northwest Alaska and seldom recorded in South America. Therefore, visiting any North or South American country is a genuine treat for a European birder because almost every avian species will be a 'lifer.' A quick personal comment here. Scores of European birders helped me identify, count, and record raptors in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas for ten years and everyone of them (majority were from the UK and Scandinavia) already was well trained to identify our New World raptors. Most spent three consecutive days at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge guaranteeing that they would identify at close range the maximum 17 raptor and 36 other restricted valley avian species nearby as lifers.

This reviewer personally appreciates the succinct section **Family Descriptions** in the book (pp. 14-24) and only wished that I had the book years ago when I was researching the synecology of the Valdivian rain forest in South Chile and Argentina for the Museum of Natural

Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Perhaps my greatest single scientific challenge was collecting avian specimens of the *Rhinocryptidae* family called Tapaculos. These birds look so similar and hide so extremely well in the shadowy darkness of the bamboo understory level of the forest that they can be distinguished only by precise geographical range, microhabitat, voice (call notes and songs), and nest size and shape, which differ considerably. Some nests are deep cups, others globular

constructions with entrance at the top or side, but all made of fine vegetable material. Ber van Perlo accurately states: "The *Scytalopus* Tapaculos look and move like grey mice through open 'tunnels' in litter and mud on the ground." Since my former field research endeavor in Patagonia years ago, the Magellanic Tapaculo (*Scytalopus magellanicus*), in this ornithological period of species expansion, has been split into 12 subspecies, separable on the basis of voice (both calls and songs) and microhabitats

from sea level to higher life zones of the Andes mountains.

In summary, this easy to carry, handsomely illustrated, and reasonably-priced bird guide is the essential travel companion for experienced birders and novice birdwatchers visiting South America.

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

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

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

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

Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

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Send all other materials (articles, artwork, advertising, etc. to: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Rd, Huntingdon PA, 16652. gwg2@psu.edu**

Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report – 2016

Compiled by Peter Robinson

There are now 91 birders whose PA Life Lists are 300 or more, four more than for 2015. Twenty-five have PA Life Lists of 350 species or more, two more than for 2015. Seven are at 375 or more. Barb Haas regained the PA Life List lead with a 387 total. There are eleven birders at the 300 mark or more in the PA Life List-Unassisted category, an increase of two. The year's high PA Annual Lists were the 268 shared by Mike Epler and Ted Nichols II.

The following people submitted list information for 2016: Brendyn Baptiste, Tim Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, Fritz Brock, Bobby Brown, Brian Byrnes, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Dick Cleary, Michael David, Dave DeReamus, Mike Epler, Bill Etter, Mike Fialkovich, Carl Garner, Tom Garner, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, David Hawk, Al Guarente, Barb & Frank Haas, Carol Hildebrand, Roy Ickes, Chad Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Wayne Laubscher, Ken Lebo, Randy C. Miller, Zachary Millen, Ted Nichols II, Richard Nugent, Bill Oyler, Thomas Reeves, Richard Rehrig, Jim Ridolfi, Michael Schall, Kurt Schwarz, John Snarey, Russ States, Mark Vass, Eric Witmer, David Yeany II.

BIRD OF THE YEAR – Tropical Kingbird

There were votes for a total of 28 species – an interesting mix that shows how many species of “good birds” were seen. Four of the 28 were Hummingbirds, and that does not include Ruby-throated! With three points for a first place vote, two for second, and one for third, the **Tropical Kingbird's** 53 points was tops by far. A second place tie was shared by Corn Crake and Anna's Hummingbird with eight points each. In third place with seven points were Red-breasted Nuthatch and Black-headed Grosbeak. Six points were earned by Cedar Waxwing, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black-necked Stilt, and Bullock's Oriole got five points. At four points was Western Tanager, King Eider, American Avocet, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Dove each got three points. At two points were Piping Plover, Black-headed Gull, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Le Conte's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Eastern Towhee, and Indigo Bunting. There was one point for Long-billed Dowitcher, Rufous Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, and Common Raven.

Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	388	Barbara Haas	2016	46	327	Glenna Schwalbe	1998	95	297	Allan Keith	1998
2	387	Devich Farbotnik	2015	46	327	Steve Santner	1999	95	297	Jim Dunn	2014
2	387	Franklin Haas	2016	48	326	Dick Cleary	2016	97	296	Ed Kwater	1996
4	383	Dave DeReamus	2016	49	325	Chuck Berthoud	2016	97	296	Bill Keim	2013
5	382	Peter Robinson	2016	50	324	Harry Franzen	1996	97	296	Dan Richards	2014
6	379	Eric Witmer	2016	50	324	Aden Troyer	2013	97	296	David Hawk	2016
7	375	Tom Garner	2016	50	324	Chad Kauffman	2016	101	295	Frank Windfelder	1998
8	372	Al Guarente	2016	53	322	Tom Clauser	2012	101	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
8	372	Ken Lebo	2016	54	321	Timothy Becker	2015	103	294	James Baxter	1986
10	371	Jason Horn	2002	54	321	Greg Grove	2015	103	294	Terence Schiefer	1999
11	370	Rick Wiltraut	2006	54	321	Mark Vass	2016	103	294	William Reid	2001
12	369	Randy C. Miller	2016	57	319	John Ginaven	1998	103	294	Gary Edwards	2014
13	367	Arlene Koch	2015	57	319	Trudy Kyler	2016	107	293	John Peplinski	1994
13	367	Geoff Malosh	2015	59	318	Phillips Street	1999	108	290	David Abbott	1998
15	364	Jonathan Heller	2013	60	317	Matthew Spence	2013	108	290	Chuck Tague	1999
16	362	Nick Pulcinella	2013	60	317	Ian Gardner	2015	108	290	Thomas Reeves	2011
17	361	Robert Schutsky	2011	60	317	Bill Oyler	2016	111	289	Kevin Crilley	1998
17	361	Harold Lebo	2012	63	316	Alex Lamoreaux	2014	111	289	Richard Nugent	2016
19	360	Bernard Morris	2011	63	316	Mike Epler	2016	113	288	Ross Gallardy	2006
19	360	Chuck Chalfant	2016	65	315	Evelyn Kopf	1995	114	287	Dustin Welch	2011
21	358	Steve Farbotnik	2006	65	315	Drew Weber	2011	115	285	Armas Hill	1996
22	354	John Fedak	2006	67	314	Walter Shaffer	1999	115	285	Neal Thorpe	1997
23	351	Bruce Carl	2016	68	313	Harold Morrin	1996	117	284	James Gray	1983
24	350	Ronald Leberman	2014	68	313	David McNaughton	2013	118	283	Kerry Grim	1998
24	350	Michael Schall	2016	70	312	John Salvetti	2011	119	282	John Billings	1998
26	349	Fritz Brock	2013	70	312	Skip Conant	2013	119	282	Dick Byers	2002
27	347	Mike Fialkovich	2015	72	311	Dana Shaffer	1999	121	281	Joseph Verica	2014
28	346	Jerry Book	2000	72	311	Don Henise	2000	121	281	Brian Byrnes	2016
28	346	Joyce Hoffmann	2004	74	310	Russ States	2011	123	278	James Baird	1981
28	346	Shannon Thompson	2015	74	310	Deborah Grove	2015	123	278	Merrill Wood	1991
31	341	Bill Etter	2016	76	309	Richard Rehrig	2016	125	277	Bonnie Baird	1981
32	340	Richard Timm	2011	77	308	Robyn Henise	2000	126	276	Randi Gerrish	2009
32	340	Michael David	2016	77	308	Mike Weible	2007	127	275	Gerry Boltz	2016
34	339	Jerry McWilliams	2015	77	308	Roger Higbee	2008	128	274	Gloria Lamar	1992
35	338	Jan Witmer	1997	80	307	Ernest Schiefer	2000	128	274	Sarah Gerrish	2009
35	338	Richard Colyer	2000	81	306	Carl Garner	2013	128	274	Neil Troyer	2013
37	337	John Miller	1997	81	306	David Yeany II	2016	131	273	Katrina Knight	1999
38	336	William Stocku	1997	83	305	Gene Wilhelm	1992	132	272	Scott Kinzey	1999
39	335	Matt Wlasniewski	2012	84	304	Andy Keister	2015	132	272	Bob Machesney	2005
40	333	David Kyler	2016	84	304	Ted Nichols II	2016	132	272	Pamela Fisher	2009
41	332	William Murphy	2000	86	302	Sam Stull	1985	132	272	Nathan Fronk	2012
42	330	Billy Weber	2011	86	302	Edward Pederson	1998	132	272	Zachary Millen	2016
43	329	Paul Schwalbe	1998	86	302	Rick Koval	2004	137	271	James Flynn	1997
43	329	Wayne Laubscher	2016	89	301	Mark McConaughy	2015	138	270	Barry Reed	2010
45	328	Margaret Higbee	2013	90	300	Larry Lewis	1988	139	268	Sam Sinderson	2005
				90	300	Dave Rieger	2012	140	267	Harry Henderson	1991
				92	299	Keith Richards	1982	140	267	Scott Bills	2003
				93	298	George Malosh	2003	140	267	Brian Quindlen	2015
				93	298	Allen Schweinsberg	2014	143	266	Joe Meloney	1994

143	266	Lewis Grove	2010
145	265	Marjorie Howard	2008
146	262	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
146	262	Jeff Payne	2008
148	260	Dennis Miller	1999
148	260	Retta Payne	2008
148	260	Martin Page	2014
151	259	Linda McWilliams	1992
151	259	Eugene Zielinski	2000
153	258	Steve Graff	2000
153	258	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
153	258	Carol Hildebrand	2015
156	257	Russell Ryan	1993
157	256	Ted Grisez	1996
158	255	Nick Kerlin	2010
158	255	Sandy Lockerman	2014
158	255	Flo McGuire	2014
161	253	Scott Bastian	1999
161	253	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006
161	253	Kevin Fryberger	2010
164	250	Stanley Glowacki	2002
165	247	Andy Wilson	2014
165	247	Roy Ickes	2016
167	245	Bill Reddinger	1999
167	245	Robert Frantz	2000
169	244	Harvey Troyer	1999
169	244	Bobby Brown	2016
171	243	Grant Stevenson	2012
171	243	Paul Mauss	2015
173	242	Walter Fye	1997
173	242	Jerry Troyer	1999
173	242	Marvin Byler	2005
173	242	Gordon Dimmig	2012
177	241	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2012
177	241	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
179	240	Dale Gearhart	2000
180	239	Adam Miller	2000
181	237	Jerry Skinner	2007
181	237	Michael Defina	2015
183	235	Glenn Czulada	2005
184	234	Christopher Payne	2008
185	232	Joe Strasser	1994
185	232	Voni Strasser	1994
187	231	Larry Brown	1998
187	231	Jim Mountjoy	2000
189	230	Brian Raicich	2013
190	228	Bruce Johnson	2014
191	227	Mike Ward	2010
191	227	David Trently	2013
193	226	Eli Troyer	1999
193	226	Stan Kotala	2001
193	226	Leonard Hess	2003
196	224	Arlene Brown	1998
197	223	Pamela Woodman	1993
197	223	Jim McVoy	2007
199	222	Linda Hess	2003
199	222	Joseph Greco	2008
201	220	Jon Dunn	2004
202	219	Ann Pettigrew	1996
202	219	Daniel Snell	2000
204	218	Helena Kotala	2007
205	213	Richard Murphy	1999
206	211	Frank Izaguirre	2013
207	210	Gregg Gorton	2001
207	210	Ryan Tomazin	2009
207	210	Chad Hutchinson	2015
210	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
210	206	Dennis Weaver	2000
212	205	Jeff Michaels	2005
213	203	Kurt Schwarz	2016
214	200	Fred Crowley	1995
215	199	Candy Krenzer	1999
216	197	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
217	184	John Snarey	2016
218	180	Thomas Mason	1999
219	170	Jim Ridolfi	2016
220	168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
221	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
222	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011
223	89	Michael Hartshorne	2014

PA Life Lists – Unassisted

("Chase" birds not included)

1	322	John Fedak	2006
2	321	Jason Horn	2002

3	319	Robert Schutsky	2009
3	319	Devich Farbotnik	2015
5	317	Jerry McWilliams	2015
6	314	Eric Witmer	2016
7	303	Chuck Chalfant	2016
8	302	Tom Garner	2016
9	301	Jonathan Heller	2012
10	300	Margaret Higbee	2013
10	300	Geoff Malosh	2015
12	299	Al Guarente	2016
13	292	Peter Robinson	2004
14	289	Franklin Haas	2000
14	289	Ken Lebo	2013
16	285	David Hawk	2015
16	285	Mark Vass	2016
18	283	Mike Epler	2016
19	282	Nick Pulcinella	2005
20	281	Alex Lamoreaux	2014
21	278	Bill Etter	2016
22	277	Ian Gardner	2015
23	275	Ronald Leberman	2011
24	273	Don Henise	2000
24	273	Michael Schall	2008
26	268	Barry Reed	2010
27	267	Greg Grove	2016
28	266	Ted Nichols II	2016
29	263	Steve Farbotnik	2000
30	262	Dave DeReamus	2013
31	255	Michael David	2016
32	254	Jeff Payne	2004
33	253	Neil Troyer	2004
33	253	Dustin Welch	2011
35	250	Retta Payne	2004
35	250	Mark McConaughy	2015
35	250	Richard Rehrig	2016
38	249	Pamela Fisher	2009
39	245	Roy Ickes	2016
40	244	Zachary Millen	2016
41	239	Andy Wilson	2014
42	238	Flo McGuire	2014
43	237	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
44	236	Bill Keim	2009
45	233	Ross Gallardy	2003
46	230	Bobby Brown	2016
47	226	Stan Kotala	2001
47	226	Leonard Hess	2003
49	222	Linda Hess	2003
50	221	Jim McVoy	2007
51	220	Martin Page	2014
52	216	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2005
53	212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
53	212	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2005
53	212	Grant Stevenson	2005
56	207	Gregg Gorton	2001
57	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
58	205	Dennis Weaver	2000
59	198	Paul Mauss	2015
60	186	John Salvetti	2003
60	186	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
62	171	Helena Kotala	2007
63	165	Elmer Brenneman	2010
64	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
65	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

PA Annual Lists 2016

268	Mike Epler
268	Ted Nichols II
260	Mark Vass
257	Zachary Millen
257	Richard Nugent
241	Bruce Carl
240	Michael Schall
233	Brendyn Baptiste
231	Richard Rehrig
230	Bobby Brown
230	Bill Oyler
228	Al Guarente
220	Michael David
220	David Yeany II
217	Chad Kauffman
214	Timothy Becker
194	Roy Ickes
176	Carl Garner
168	Carol Hildebrand
151	Dave DeReamus

122 Kurt Schwarz

PA Annual List > Personal Best

315	Chuck Chalfant	2012
307	Shannon Thompson	2012
306	Robert Schutsky	1992
303	Geoff Malosh	2012
297	Jason Horn	2000
296	Devich Farbotnik	2002
294	John Fedak	1998
292	Mike Weible	2007
292	Alex Lamoreaux	2012
290	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
288	Barbara Haas	1986
288	Franklin Haas	1986
286	Timothy Becker	2012
285	Ted Nichols II	2015
284	Peter Robinson	2002
279	Tom Johnson	2005
279	Michael Schall	2010
278	Sam Stull	1979
278	Gene Wilhelm	1983
272	Randy C. Miller	1992
271	Ian Gardner	2012
268	Terence Schiefer	1985
268	Mike Epler	2016
267	Jonathan Heller	1992
265	Al Guarente	2012
263	Jerry McWilliams	1983
263	Drew Weber	2011
262	Ken Lebo	1995
262	Walt Shaffer	1999
260	Dana Shaffer	1999
260	Mark Vass	2004
259	Mike Fialkovich	1998
258	Steve Santner	1992
258	Michael David	2013
258	Andy Keister	2014
257	Dan Richards	2009
257	Richard Nugent	2016
255	Bill Oyler	2012
248	Dave Rieger	2001
247	Joseph Verica	2012
245	Holly Merker	2010
244	Richard Rehrig	2011
244	Nathan Fronk	2012
241	Ronald Leberman	2013
239	Bill Etter	2001
239	Rick Koval	2002
238	Ross Gallardy	2005
237	Chad Kauffman	2010
237	Greg Grove	2012
235	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
235	Gordon Dimmig	2012
234	Tom Clauser	2010
234	Neil Troyer	2012
233	Russ States	2003
233	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
231	Dave DeReamus	1990
230	Gary Edwards	2000
230	Jim Dunn	2014
230	Bobby Brown	2016
229	Mark McConaughy	1998
228	Bill Keim	2012
227	Pamela Fisher	2009
227	Brian Quindlen	2015
226	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
225	David Hawk	2009
223	John Salvetti	1996
220	Aden Troyer	2010
220	David Yeany II	2012
214	Skip Conant	2009
212	Michael Defina	2015
210	Carl Garner	1997
208	Sam Sinderson	1974
208	Gerry Boltz	2003
207	Chad Hutchinson	2015
204	Marvin Byler	2004
202	Bruce Johnson	2014
200	Scott Bills	1996
199	Pamela Fisher	2008
198	Barry Reed	2010
197	Roy Ickes	2015
192	Marjorie Howard	2004
185	Flo McGuire	2006

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 Brenneeman	2008
142	Jim McVoy	2007
136	Marjorie Howard	2008
122	Kurt Schwarz	2016
82	Rachael Shapiro	2011

Total Ticks

(Total of All County Life Lists)

10,122	John Fedak	2006
6,515	Deborah Grove	2016
6,270	Greg Grove	2016
5,492	Al Guarente	2016
4,927	Chad Kauffman	2016
4,909	Randy C. Miller	2016
4,611	Michael David	2016
4,525	Drew Weber	2011
4,444	Richard Nugent	2016
4,381	Jim Dunn	2014
4,317	Ian Gardner	2015
3,947	Alex Lamoreaux	2014
3,785	Devich Farbotnik	2015
3,548	Andy Wilson	2014
3,504	Nick Pulcinella	2013
3,421	Geoff Malosh	2009
3,352	Andy Keister	2015
3,280	Russ States	2011
3,138	Ted Nichols II	2016
3,093	Michael Schall	2016
2,749	Brian Byrnes	2016
2,518	David McNaughton	2013
2,505	David Yeany II	2016
2,008	Timothy Becker	2016
2,005	Nathan Fronk	2012
1,879	Richard Rehrig	2016
1,786	Bill Keim	2014
1,732	Sam Sinderson	2005
1,469	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
1,272	Joseph Verica	2014
1,084	Zachary Millen	2016
1,030	Pamela Fisher	2009
889	Thomas Reeves	2012
867	Bobby Brown	2016
834	Jim Ridolfi	2013
437	Michael Defina	2014
376	Chad Hutchinson	2015
257	Brian Raicich	2013
106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

County Life Lists (100 Or More)

ADAMS

213	Arthur Kennel	1995
207	Carl Garner	2006
197	Andy Wilson	2014
193	Nonie Kennell	1995
185	Paul Mauss	2015
182	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
161	Bill Oylar	2016
150	Steve Santner	1995
144	Russell Ryan	1993
124	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
124	Ted Nichols II	2016
108	John Fedak	1998
104	Don Henise	2000
104	Chuck Berthoud	2016

ALLEGHENY

280	Geoff Malosh	2015
271	Mike Fialkovich	2016
270	Mark Vass	2016
255	Joyce Hoffmann	2004
235	Shannon Thompson	2012
229	Richard Nugent	2016
224	Bob Machesney	2006
224	David Yeany II	2016
221	Michael David	2016
208	Ed Kwater	1996

203	Sam Sinderson	2005
200	Ross Gallardy	2006
189	Randi Gerrish	2009
188	Scott Kinzey	1999
180	Sarah Gerrish	2009
177	Dave Rieger	2012
176	Margaret Higbee	2013
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
237	Margaret Higbee	2013
221	Roger Higbee	2008
188	Scott Bastian	1997
185	Steve Graff	2000
175	Bill Reddinger	1999
149	Mark McConaughy	2012
115	Flo McGuire	2014
100	Steve Santner	1995

BEAVER

261	Geoff Malosh	2015
254	Mark Vass	2016
199	Bill Hintze	2000
168	Nick Kerlin	1996
152	George Malosh	1998
148	Richard Nugent	2016
138	Scott Kinzey	1998
124	John Cruzan	1994
118	John Snarey	2016
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Greg Malosh	1991
105	Margaret Higbee	2013
104	Michael David	2016
102	Steve Santner	1995

BEDFORD

219	Ross Gallardy	2006
177	Chad Kauffman	2016
159	Margaret Higbee	2013
152	John Fedak	2000
148	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
147	Chuck Berthoud	2016
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
131	Greg Grove	2016
130	Deb Grove	2016
125	Andy Wilson	2014
122	Steve Santner	1995
122	Drew Weber	2011
121	Richard Murphy	1999
111	Dick Byers	2003
110	Jim Dunn	2014
110	Richard Nugent	2016
105	Marjorie Howard	2014
102	Randi Gerrish	1999
102	Sarah Gerrish	1999
100	Michael David	2015

BERKS

316	Ken Lebo	2015
312	Matthew Spence	2013
309	Harold Lebo	2012
301	Matt Wlasniewski	2013
287	Jason Horn	2002
275	Kerry Grim	1998
268	Tom Clauser	2012
253	Ernest Schiefer	1999
227	Bernard Morris	2011
219	Drew Weber	2011
209	Al Guarente	2015
208	Terence Schiefer	2006
207	Barbara Haas	1999
206	Chuck Chalfant	2012
206	Michael Schall	2016
198	Nick Pulcinella	2013
192	Larry Lewis	1988
186	Devich Farbotnik	2015
174	Steve Santner	1995
171	Randy C. Miller	2012
164	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
164	Jonathan Heller	2011
157	Bruce Carl	2011

149	Kevin Crilley	1998
145	Steve Farbotnik	2001
139	Scott Bills	1992
135	John Fedak	1999
134	Brian Byrnes	2016
128	Chad Kauffman	2016
118	Margaret Higbee	2013
113	Ted Nichols II	2016
111	Deb Grove	2011
109	Ian Gardner	2015
104	Greg Grove	2010
103	Tim Becker	2015

BLAIR

221	Stan Kotala	2001
209	Michael David	2014
180	David Kyler	1996
148	Jim Dunn	2014
139	Deb Grove	2016
139	Greg Grove	2016
123	Helena Kotala	2002
119	Ian Gardner	2015
111	Andy Wilson	2014
104	John Fedak	1998
103	Steve Santner	1995

BRADFORD

230	William Reid	2001
194	Ronald Young	1993
168	Frances Biles	1985
153	Randy C. Miller	2007
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2003
129	Rick Koval	2004
111	John Fedak	2002
105	Barbara Haas	1993
102	Steve Santner	1995

BUCKS

338	Devich Farbotnik	2015
316	Steve Farbotnik	2006
305	Bill Etter	2016
290	Jason Horn	2002
265	Billy Weber	2011
265	Bill Keim	2014
251	William Murphy	2000
239	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006
230	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2012
228	Stanley Glowacki	2002
218	Al Guarente	2016
215	Harry Franzen	1996
207	Michael Schall	2016
202	Stan Glowacki	1991
180	Bernard Morris	2007
175	Nick Pulcinella	2012
172	Kurt Schwarz	2016
157	Kevin Crilley	1998
151	John Fedak	2005
129	Barbara Haas	2000
121	Steve Santner	1995
117	Brian Byrnes	2016
114	Jonathan Heller	2006
111	Thomas Mason	1999
103	Rick Koval	2004

BUTLER

267	Gene Wilhelm	1992
229	Richard Nugent	2016
210	Margaret Higbee	2013
210	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
199	Dick Byers	2005
191	Bob Machesney	2005
180	Russ States	2011
169	John Fedak	2000
166	Ed Kwater	1996
165	George Malosh	1989
155	Randi Gerrish	2003
154	Geoff Malosh	2008
146	Sarah Gerrish	2003
144	Sam Sinderson	2002
119	Greg Malosh	1991
119	Roger Higbee	1993
105	Michael David	2016
100	Steve Santner	1995

CAMBRIA

231	John Salvetti	2009
201	Margaret Higbee	2013

161	Gloria Lamer	1992	137	Drew Weber	2011	100	Bill Reddinger	1999
161	Ross Gallardy	2006	126	Jonathan Heller	2002	100	Deb Grove	2015
137	Michael David	2014	122	Randy C. Miller	2012	CUMBERLAND		
131	John Fedak	1998	120	Deb Grove	2015	261	Don Henise	2000
103	Steve Santner	1995	115	John Fedak	2004	259	Robyn Henise	2000
103	Deb Grove	2014	113	Greg Grove	2015	247	Richard Colyer	1999
100	Greg Grove	2014	112	Ian Gardner	2015	240	Bill Oyler	2016
CAMERON			111	Terence Schiefer	1998	225	Carl Garner	2014
128	John Fedak	2005	105	Chad Kauffman	2016	206	Chad Kauffman	2016
105	Steve Santner	1995	CLARION			197	Steve Santner	1995
CARBON			255	John Fedak	2001	176	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
274	David Hawk	2016	229	Walter Fye	1997	170	Mark McConaughy	2002
267	Barry Reed	2010	200	Margaret Buckwalter	1996	168	Timothy Becker	2014
259	Ruchard Rehrig	2016	199	Russ States	2011	165	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
245	Rick Wiltraut	1998	181	Gene Wilhelm	1992	165	Ted Nichols II	2016
227	Jason Horn	2002	163	Bill Reddinger	1999	154	John Fedak	1998
223	Dustin Welch	2011	161	Richard Nugent	2016	152	Devich Farbotnik	2014
219	Michael Schall	2015	152	Mark McConaughy	2003	144	Jonathan Heller	2010
208	Bernard Morris	2007	150	Fred Crowley	1995	139	Drew Weber	2011
202	Robert Frantz	2000	113	Margaret Higbee	2013	137	Ian Gardner	2015
158	Nick Kerlin	2003	104	Steve Santner	1995	132	Chuck Berthoud	2016
128	John Fedak	2005	CLEARFIELD			131	Randy C. Miller	2012
120	Al Guarente	2015	241	Dan Richards	2014	131	Andy Wilson	2014
115	Steve Santner	1995	186	John Fedak	2005	125	Jim Dunn	2014
110	Randy C. Miller	2007	154	Eugene Zielinski	2000	119	Deb Grove	2014
105	Devich Farbotnik	2009	126	Jim Dunn	2014	117	Al Guarente	2013
104	Rick Koval	2004	122	Nathan Fronk	2012	116	Greg Grove	2014
CENTRE			114	Paul Schwalbe	1998	103	Michael David	2015
272	Merrill Wood	1991	112	Andy Wilson	2014	DAUPHIN		
268	Jim Dunn	2014	106	Deb Grove	2013	245	Ian Gardner	2015
266	Joseph Verica	2014	100	Steve Santner	1995	243	Scott Bills	2003
264	Greg Grove	2016	100	Greg Grove	2015	239	Mark McConaughy	2013
263	Harry Henderson	1991	CLINTON			235	Grace Randolph	1996
255	Alex Lamoreaux	2014	248	Paul Schwalbe	2004	234	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
250	Ian Gardner	2015	232	Wayne Laubscher	2016	219	Steve Santner	1995
245	Rick Wiltraut	1998	228	Carol Hildebrand	2016	213	David McNaughton	2013
244	Terence Schiefer	1998	165	Jim Dunn	2014	211	Richard Colyer	1999
242	Drew Weber	2011	162	Greg Grove	2015	201	Timothy Becker	2016
237	Nathan Fronk	2012	150	Deborah Grove	2015	199	Chuck Berthoud	2016
232	Eugene Zielinski	2000	146	Nathan Fronk	2012	194	Drew Weber	2011
229	Deborah Grove	2016	130	John Fedak	2000	196	Ted Nichols II	2016
218	Scott Bills	1992	120	Steve Santner	1995	176	Chad Kauffman	2015
212	Chad Kauffman	2016	111	Chad Kauffman	2012	175	Don Henise	2000
203	Jeff Michaels	2005	108	Margaret Higbee	2013	156	John Fedak	2002
198	Andy Wilson	2014	105	Andy Wilson	2014	156	Mike Epler	2016
184	Paul Schwalbe	1998	101	Barbara Haas	1994	154	Sandy Lockerman	2014
184	John Fedak	2005	100	Ian Gardner	2013	152	Randy C. Miller	2015
182	Andy Keister	2015	COLUMBIA			140	Jonathan Heller	2003
162	Russ Ruffing	1991	205	Andy Keister	2015	128	William Reid	2001
150	Nick Kerlin	2004	133	John Fedak	2005	127	Merrill Wood	1991
145	Steve Santner	1995	115	Richard Koval	1999	126	Jim Dunn	2014
145	Kevin Crilley	1998	104	Rick Koval	2004	124	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
139	Margaret Higbee	2013	100	Steve Santner	1995	121	Greg Grove	2015
135	Michael David	2015	CRAWFORD			116	Deb Grove	2015
127	Barbara Haas	1999	287	Ronald Leberman	2008	111	Devich Farbotnik	2013
125	Jonathan Heller	2003	227	Margaret Higbee	2008	110	Michael David	2015
123	Randy C. Miller	2006	219	Marvin Byler	2005	105	Andy Keister	2015
117	Chuck Berthoud	2016	218	John Fedak	2005	104	Nick Pulcinella	2012
CHESTER			218	Geoff Malosh	2015	102	Andy Wilson	2014
281	Nick Pulcinella	2013	212	Russ States	2011	DELAWARE		
279	Chuck Chalfant	2016	211	Sam Sinderson	2002	294	Al Guarente	2016
272	Al Guarente	2016	211	Roger Higbee	2008	289	John Miller	1985
268	Larry Lewis	1988	206	Richard Nugent	2016	278	Nick Pulcinella	2013
252	Barbara Haas	1996	201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	262	Skip Conant	2010
252	Phillips Street	1996	164	Ed Kwater	1996	256	Barbara Haas	2000
252	Brian Quindlen	2015	150	Greg Malosh	1991	253	Thomas Reeves	2012
246	John Ginaven	1998	148	Marjorie Howard	2007	226	Paul Schwalbe	1998
246	Kevin Fryberger	2010	146	Randi Garrish	2003	224	John Ginaven	1999
235	Theodore Drozdowski	2005	146	Sarah Garrish	2003	192	Brian Byrnes	2016
231	Joe Meloney	1994	142	Chad Kauffman	2016	153	Martin Page	2013
229	Brian Raicich	2013	138	Brendyn Baptiste	2016	152	Brian Quindlen	2015
220	Michael Defina	2014	125	Michael Schall	2010	151	Jason Horn	1995
217	Martin Page	2014	124	George Malosh	1989	130	Steve Santner	1995
209	Jason Horn	2002	123	James Flynn	1997	119	John Fedak	2001
209	Chad Hutchinson	2015	117	Randy C. Miller	1998	ELK		
208	Devich Farbotnik	2015	117	Michael David	2013	198	John Fedak	2006
205	Brian Byrnes	2015	116	Dick Byers	2003	183	Linda Christenson	1997
193	Neal Thorpe	1995	112	Steve Santner	1995	179	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
188	Pamela Fisher	2009	107	Jonathan Heller	1998	105	Steve Santner	1995
169	Thomas Reeves	2012	105	David Yeany II	2016	102	Richard Nugent	2016
167	Steve Santner	1995	103	Don Henise	2000	ERIE		
164	Bill Keim	2014	102	Terence Schiefer	1998	329	Jerry McWilliams	2015
150	Bruce Carl	2011						

305	Donald Snyder	2002
291	Sam Stull	1985
291	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
289	Geoff Malosh	2015
277	John Fedak	2005
274	Ed Kwater	1996
270	Mike Fialkovich	2014
268	James Flynn	1997
263	Ronald Leberman	2001
263	Russ States	2009
257	Jason Horn	2002
253	Linda McWilliams	1992
253	Margaret Higbee	2004
249	Barbara Haas	1996
240	Shannon Thompson	2012
237	Roger Higbee	1999
236	George Malosh	1989
235	Sam Sinderson	2005
234	Dave Rieger	2012
234	Richard Nugent	2016
233	Gene Wilhelm	1992
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
184	Chad Kauffman	2015
181	Devich Farbotnik	2015
180	Don Henise	2000
180	Randi Gerrish	2003
179	Sarah Gerrish	2003
178	Bernard Morris	1998
178	Marjorie Howard	2008
166	Greg Grove	2014
195	Michael David	2016
159	David Yeany II	2016
148	Ted Nichols II	2015
146	J. Kenneth Gabler	1999
144	Steve Graff	2000
142	Michael Schall	2010
139	Rick Koval	2004
135	Deb Grove	2010
120	Chuck Berthoud	2016
110	Bill Reddinger	1999
105	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
100	Ross Gallardy	2004

FAYETTE

170	Mark McConaughy	2004
126	John Fedak	2005
125	Randi Gerrish	2003
121	Richard Nugent	2016
120	Sarah Gerrish	2003
119	Steve Santner	1995
111	Ed Kwater	1996

FOREST

210	Flo McGuire	2014
188	John Fedak	2005
164	Gary Edwards	2015
144	David Yeany II	2016
141	Ted Grisez	1996
113	Russ States	2009
108	Steve Santner	1995
106	Richard Nugent	2015
104	Margaret Higbee	2013

FRANKLIN

275	Carl Garner	2014
269	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
269	Bill Oyler	2016
215	Dale Gearhart	2000
213	Jeffrey Walck	1989
146	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
141	Don Henise	1997
130	Steve Santner	1995
124	Andy Wilson	2014
114	John Fedak	1998
114	Chad Kauffman	2015
109	Deb Grove	2015
106	Rachael Shapiro	2011
104	Greg Grove	2015

FULTON

205	J. Kenneth Gabler	2000
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200	Daniel Snell	2000
152	Jeffrey Walck	1989
148	Carl Garner	2014
119	Steve Santner	1995
119	Greg Grove	2016
118	Robert Walker	1989
117	Deborah Grove	2016
115	Dale Gearhart	2000
108	John Fedak	2001
101	Andy Wilson	2014

GREENE

196	Marjorie Howard	2014
194	Ralph Bell	1993
134	Roy Ickes	1996
113	Margaret Higbee	2013
109	Steve Santner	1995
109	John Fedak	2001
103	Sam Sinderson	2000
101	Mark McConaughy	2003

HUNTINGDON

273	David Kyler	2016
264	Greg Grove	2016
260	Trudy Kyler	2016
256	Deb Grove	2016
247	Jon Kauffman	2014
236	Ian Gardner	2014
227	Jim Dunn	2014
181	Merrill Wood	1991
178	John Salvetti	2003
172	Andy Wilson	2014
171	Lewis Grove	2000
168	Joseph Verica	2012
155	Eugene Zielinski	1998
145	Chad Kauffman	2015
127	Drew Weber	2011
122	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
117	Nathan Fronk	2012
106	John Fedak	1998
104	Steve Santner	1995

INDIANA

285	Margaret Higbee	2013
262	Roger Higbee	2008
233	Gloria Lamer	1992
232	Steve Graff	2000
195	Anne Hedgpath	1986
193	Leonard Hess	2003
185	Linda Hess	2003
184	John Fedak	2001
184	Richard Nugent	2015
177	Mark McConaughy	2004
173	Randi Gerrish	2003
173	Sarah Gerrish	2003
137	Ross Gallardy	2003
118	Steve Santner	1995
108	Deborah Grove	2016
106	Michael David	2015
104	Bill Reddinger	1999
100	Greg Grove	2015

JEFFERSON

225	John Fedak	2000
158	Margaret Higbee	2012
105	Bill Reddinger	1999
104	Steve Santner	1995
100	Russ States	2009

JUNIATA

263	Aden Troyer	2013
233	Chad Kauffman	2016
146	Greg Grove	2015
143	John Fedak	2006
143	Jim Dunn	2014
137	Deb Grove	2015
118	Jonathan Heller	2002
108	Steve Santner	1995

LACKAWANNA

200	Glenn Czulada	2007
169	Rick Koval	2004
158	William Reid	2001
136	John Fedak	2002
103	Steve Santner	1995
102	Jim Ridolfi	2016

LANCASTER

335	Eric Witmer	2016
334	Tom Garner	2016
330	Randy C. Miller	2016
328	Bruce Carl	2016
324	Robert Schutsky	2011
320	Chuck Chalfant	2016
318	Jonathan Heller	2012
306	Jerry Book	2000
300	Barbara Haas	2009
294	Mike Epler	2016
292	Jan Witmer	1997
291	Harold Morrin	1996
288	Jason Horn	2002
274	Steve Santner	1995
269	Al Guarente	2016
265	Drew Weber	2011
263	Zachary Millen	2016
261	Ted Nichols II	2016
251	Nick Pulcinella	2013
243	Pamela Fisher	2009
240	Larry Lewis	1988
224	Richard Colyer	2000
222	Timothy Becker	2016
213	Geoff Malosh	2009
212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
209	Ernest Schiefer	2000
201	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
198	Pamela Woodman	1993
198	Chad Kauffman	2016
196	Dennis Weaver	2000
187	Terence Schiefer	2009
184	Don Henise	1997
174	Devich Farbotnik	2014
174	Ian Gardner	2015
174	Chuck Berthoud	2016
174	Michael Schall	2016
172	John Fedak	2006
165	Matt Wlasniewski	2012
160	Kevin Criley	1998
155	Bernard Morris	2008
150	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
149	Margaret Higbee	2013
148	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
147	Douglas Anderson	2003
146	Steve Farbotnik	2001
145	Brian Byrnes	2016
136	Martin Page	2013
132	J. Kenneth Gabler	2001
130	Mark McConaughy	2015
117	Michael David	2016
111	Jim Dunn	2014
111	Deb Grove	2016
110	Nathan Fronk	2012
109	Marjorie Howard	2008
108	Roger Higbee	1993
106	Greg Grove	2009
105	Andy Keister	2015

LAWRENCE

219	Geoff Malosh	2014
210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
206	Margaret Higbee	2013
181	Richard Nugent	2016
158	John Fedak	2000
138	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
102	Steve Santner	1995

LEBANON

300	Randy C. Miller	2015
283	Timothy Becker	2015
267	Jonathan Heller	2014
260	David McNaughton	2013
238	Chuck Chalfant	2012
236	Steve Santner	1995
236	Chuck Berthoud	2015
229	Gerry Boltz	2016
226	Bruce Carl	2016
225	Ted Nichols II	2016
208	Stephen Mallanson	1996
203	Ian Gardner	2015
202	Bruce Weaver	2000
201	John Fedak	2006
189	Mike Epler	2016
181	Jason Horn	1995
171	Chad Kauffman	2016

164	Andy Keister	2015
155	Drew Weber	2011
155	Michael Schall	2014
152	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
151	Al Guarente	2016
130	Don Henise	1997
130	Pamela Fisher	2009
129	Nick Pulcinella	2012
122	Barbara Haas	1996
115	Jim Dunn	2014
115	David Yeany II	2016
114	Brian Byrnes	2016
103	Deb Grove	2013

LEHIGH

278	Fritz Brock	2016
271	Jason Horn	2002
270	Bernard Morris	2011
260	Rick Wiltraut	1998
243	Billy Weber	2011
226	Michael Schall	2015
225	Bill Etter	2016
210	Dustin Welch	2011
175	Devich Farbotnik	2014
153	Al Guarente	2014
136	Robert Frantz	2000
132	John Fedak	2005
115	Bill Keim	2012
105	Nick Pulcinella	2012
103	Steve Santner	1995
102	Matt Wlasniewski	2011

LUZERNE

280	William Reid	2001
265	Rick Koval	2004
216	Mark Blauer	1985
212	John Fedak	2005
151	Jim Ridolfi	1916
149	Kevin Crilley	1998
121	Glenn Czulada	2003
115	Bernard Morris	1998
111	Chad Kauffman	2014
101	Margaret Higbee	2013
100	Chuck Berthoud	2016

LYCOMING

236	Bobby Brown	2016
230	Paul Schwalbe	1998
211	Nathan Fronk	2012
211	Andy Keister	2015
124	Steve Santner	1995
124	Carol Hildebrand	2008
119	John Fedak	1999
115	Jim Dunn	2014
107	Greg Grove	2015
106	Deb Grove	2015
105	Randy Miller	2012
103	Don Henise	2000

McKEAN

265	John Fedak	2005
117	Steve Graff	2000
103	Steve Santner	1995
103	Ted Grisez	1996

MERCER

255	Neil Troyer	2013
232	Harvey Troyer	1999
231	Jerry Troyer	1999
216	Eli Troyer	1999
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
208	Margaret Higbee	2013
206	Richard Nugent	2016
195	Geoff Malosh	2015
192	Russ States	2011
191	John Fedak	2000
190	Neal Troyer	1998
166	Marvin Byler	2002
156	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
124	Steve Santner	1995
118	David Yeany II	2016
105	Michael David	2016
102	Randi Garrish	1999

MIFFLIN

212	Greg Grove	2016
167	Jim Dunn	2014

158	Deb Grove	2016
152	Chad Kauffman	2016
127	John Fedak	2006
120	Ian Gardner	2015
108	Steve Santner	1995

MONROE

225	Michael Schall	2015
222	Phillips Street	1996
215	Bruce Johnson	2014
176	Jason Horn	1995
138	Bernard Morris	2008
111	John Fedak	2001
111	Devich Farbotnik	2009
110	Steve Santner	1995
106	Jim Dunn	2014
103	Al Guarente	2013
101	Rick Koval	2004

MONTGOMERY

275	Jason Horn	2002
260	William Murphy	1999
255	Kevin Crilley	1998
241	Harry Franzen	1996
232	Bernard Morris	2010
223	Neal Thorpe	1997
223	Al Guarente	2016
217	Devich Farbotnik	2015
204	Michael Schall	2016
203	Joseph Greco	2008
184	Steve Farbotnik	2001
182	Nick Pulcinella	2012
170	John Fedak	2005
157	Brian Byrnes	2016
152	Bill Keim	2014
141	Gregg Gorton	2001
137	Steve Santner	1995
133	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
129	Thomas Mason	1999
125	Thomas Reeves	2010
120	Martin Page	2014
107	Robert Walker	1989
105	Rick Koval	2004
100	Barbara Haas	1996

MONTOUR

224	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
216	Andy Keister	2015
212	Barbara Haas	1996
140	John Fedak	1999
119	Steve Santner	1995
105	Deb Grove	2016
104	Kevin Crilley	1998

NORTHAMPTON

296	Arlene Koch	2013
293	Dave DeReamus	2016
288	Michael Schall	2016
269	Rick Wiltraut	1998
264	Billy Weber	2011
251	Dustin Welch	2011
248	Jason Horn	2002
239	Bernard Morris	2009
229	Steve Boyce	1990
220	Brad Silfies	1990
220	Dennis Miller	1998
219	Adam Miller	2000
218	Bill Etter	2016
187	Devich Farbotnik	2015
134	Ian Gardner	2015
130	John Fedak	2005
125	Thomas Reeves	2011
123	Al Guarente	2015
117	Steve Farbotnik	2003
106	Steve Santner	1995
106	Matt Wlasniewski	2012
102	Randy C. Miller	2002

NORTHUMBERLAND

235	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
177	Andy Keister	2015
166	Barbara Haas	1993
138	John Fedak	1999
112	Steve Santner	1995
106	Drew Weber	2011
101	Deborah Grove	2016

PERRY

235	Richard Colyer	2000
170	Chad Kauffman	2016
159	Don Henise	2000
157	Steve Santner	1995
154	Ted Nichols II	2016
141	Walter Shelly, Jr.	1992
139	Dallas Dowhower	1992
135	Randy C. Miller	2012
126	John Fedak	1998
119	Mark McConaughy	2001
117	Jonathan Heller	2001
117	Chuck Berthoud	2016
112	Jim Dunn	2014
111	Deb Grove	2011
107	Drew Weber	2011
105	Greg Grove	2014

PHILADELPHIA

290	John Miller	1985
276	Al Guarente	2016
247	Nick Pulcinella	2013
245	Frank Windfelder	1992
243	Harry Franzen	1996
241	Barbara Haas	1996
236	Skip Conant	2011
221	Thomas Reeves	2012
219	John Ginaven	1998
207	Brian Byrnes	2016
184	Jim McKinney	1992
175	Bill Keim	2014
167	Jason Horn	1995
167	Gregg Gorton	2001
163	Stephen Lawrence	1990
155	Steve Farbotnik	2001
154	Steve Santner	1995
152	Devich Farbotnik	2015
139	Brian Henderson	2011
136	Michael David	2015
129	Thomas Mason	1999
120	Terence Schiefer	1998
117	Ian Gardner	2015
113	John Fedak	1998
113	Martin Page	2012
112	Ted Nichols II	2016
107	Kevin Crilley	1998
107	Andy Keister	2015
101	Randy C. Miller	1998
100	Timothy Becker	2016
100	Chuck Berthoud	2016

PIKE

201	Joe Strasser	1994
201	Voni Strasser	1994
196	Michael Schall	2016
144	Phillips Street	1996
138	John Fedak	2001
102	Al Guarente	2013
101	Steve Santner	1995
101	Barbara Haas	2001

POTTER

218	David Hauber	1999
191	Chuck Chalfant	2016
171	John Fedak	2003
106	Drew Weber	2011
104	Steve Santner	1995
104	Paul Schwalbe	1998
101	Deborah Grove	2016

SCHUYLKILL

267	Tom Clauser	2012
218	Mike Ward	2010
177	Jason Horn	1995
177	Dave Rieger	2012
176	Bruce Carl	2016
168	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
155	Drew Weber	2011
152	Bernard Morris	2007
133	Steve Santner	1995
127	Barbara Haas	2000
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Randy C. Miller	2009
109	Nick Pulcinella	2012
109	Al Guarente	2015
102	Timothy Becker	2016

SNYDER		
203	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
153	Chad Kauffman	2014
132	Steve Santner	1995
127	John Fedak	2006
126	Deborah Grove	2016
124	Greg Grove	2016
111	Jim Dunn	2014

SOMERSET		
254	Jeff Payne	2008
251	Retta Payne	2008
238	Scott Bastian	1999
231	Christopher Payne	2008
186	Michael David	2016
177	Richard Murphy	1998
170	Ross Gallardy	2003
168	Elmer Brenneeman	2010
149	John Fedak	2000
133	Ted Nichols II	2016
128	Chad Kauffman	2016
126	Steve Santner	1995
121	Deborah Grove	2016
120	Margaret Higbee	2013
116	Greg Grove	2016
109	Mark McConaughy	2004
108	Randi Gerrish	1999
107	Sarah Gerrish	1999

SULLIVAN		
172	Nick Kerlin	2000
170	Skip Conant	2010
131	Al Guarente	2016
129	John Fedak	2005
121	Thomas Reeves	2010
115	Randy Miller	2002
104	Steve Santner	1995
102	Rick Koval	2004

SUSQUEHANNA		
212	Jerry Skinner	2007
183	William Reid	2001
182	Jerry Skinner	1999
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
189	Bruce Carl	2016
173	Chuck Chalfant	2016
168	Drew Weber	2011
153	John Fedak	2002
141	Nathan Fronk	2012
120	Steve Santner	1995
110	Andy Wilson	2014
103	Deb Grove	2015
101	Matt Wlasniewski	2011

UNION		
235	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
200	Andy Keister	2015
132	Barbara Haas	1996
117	Steve Santner	1995
110	John Fedak	2001
105	Jim Dunn	2014
101	Deb Grove	2013
100	Greg Grove	2014

VENANGO		
267	Russ States	2009
261	Gary Edwards	2014
220	John Fedak	2005
175	Gene Wilhelm	1992
158	Flo McGuire	2014
153	Nick Kerlin	1997
129	Richard Nugent	2016
103	Steve Santner	1995
100	Brendyn Baptiste	2016

WARREN		
256	John Fedak	2006
227	Harris Johnson	1986
227	Ted Grisez	1996

114	Steve Santner	1995
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WASHINGTON		
238	Geoff Malosh	2015
231	Ross Gallardy	2009
225	Roy Ickes	2016
210	Margaret Higbee	1993
209	Roger Higbee	1993
161	Sam Sinderson	1991
141	George Malosh	1989
131	Richard Nugent	2016
115	Sam Sinderson	2002
106	John Fedak	1998
106	Michael David	2016
100	Steve Santner	1995

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

WESTMORELAND		
251	Dick Byers	2015
234	Mark McConaughy	2015
208	Linda Christenson	1996
202	Margaret Higbee	2013
200	Randi Gerrish	2003
193	Sarah Gerrish	2003
188	Linda Hess	2003
186	Roger Higbee	2008
185	Leonard Hess	2003
161	John Fedak	2006
142	Richard Nugent	2016
137	Steve Santner	1995
129	Richard Murphy	1999
123	Sam Sinderson	2005
121	Michael David	2016
120	James Flynn	1997
116	Drew Weber	2011
116	Deborah Grove	2016
112	Greg Grove	2008
106	Chad Kauffman	2014

WYOMING		
251	William Reid	2001
191	Rick Koval	2004
144	Skip Conant	2011
118	John Fedak	2000
111	Steve Santner	1995
102	Thomas Reeves	2010

YORK		
247	Dick Cleary	2016
242	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
229	Russell Ryan	1993
202	Chuck Berthoud	2016
194	Steve Santner	1995
185	Ann Pettigrew	1996
176	Paul Mauss	2015
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
154	Don Henise	2000
153	Candy Krenzer	1999
153	Randy C. Miller	2008
140	Drew Weber	2011
138	Don Henise	1997
123	Nick Pulcinella	2013
123	Andy Wilson	2014
123	Al Guarente	2015
121	John Fedak	2004
113	Pamela Fisher	2009
113	Deb Grove	2011
113	Ted Nichols II	2016
112	Greg Grove	2016
111	Barbara Haas	1996
109	Ian Gardner	2015
102	Chad Kauffman	2016

County Life Lists Top 50

1	338	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2015
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2	335	Lancaster	Eric Witmer	2016
3	334	Lancaster	Tom Garner	2016
4	330	Lancaster	Randy Miller	2016
5	329	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2015
6	328	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2016
7	324	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	2011
8	320	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2016
9	318	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	2012
10	316	Bucks	Steve Farbotnik	2006
10	316	Berks	Ken Lebo	2015
12	312	Berks	Mathew Spence	2013
13	309	Berks	Harold Lebo	2012
14	306	Lancaster	Jerry Book	2000
15	305	Erie	Donald Snyder	2002
16	301	Bucks	Bill Etter	2012
16	301	Berks	Matt Wlasniewski	2013
18	300	Lancaster	Barbara Haas	2009
18	300	Lebanon	Randy Miller	2015
20	296	Northampton	Arlene Koch	2013
21	294	Lancaster	Mike Epler	2016
21	294	Delaware	Al Guarente	2016
23	293	Northampton	Dave DeReamus	2016
24	292	Lancaster	Jan Witmer	1997
25	291	Erie	Sam Stull	1985
25	291	Lancaster	Harold Morrin	1996
25	291	Erie	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
28	290	Philadelphia	John Miller	1985
28	290	Bucks	Jason Horn	2002
30	289	Delaware	John Miller	1985
30	289	Erie	Geoff Malosh	2015
32	288	Lancaster	Jason Horn	2002
32	288	Northampton	Michael Schall	2016
34	287	Berks	Jason Horn	2002
34	287	Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2008
36	285	Indiana	Margaret Higbee	2013
37	283	Lebanon	Tim Becker	2015
38	281	Chester	Nick Pulcinella	2013
39	280	Luzerne	William Reid	2001
39	280	Allegheny	Geoff Malosh	2015
41	279	Chester	Chuck Chalfant	2016
42	278	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	2013
42	278	Lehigh	Fritz Brock	2016
44	277	Erie	John Fedak	2005
45	276	Philadelphia	Al Guarente	2016
46	275	Berks	Kerry Grim	1998
46	275	Montgomery	Jason Horn	2002
46	275	Franklin	Carl Garner	2014
49	274	Lancaster	Steve Santner	1995
49	274	Erie	Ed Kwater	1996
49	274	Carbon	David Hawk	2016
52	273	Huntingdon	David Kyler	2016

County Annual Lists

(Top 10 of 100 Or More)

ADAMS			
201	Arthur Kennell		1992
157	Andy Wilson		2014
140	Carl Garner		1991
137	Carl Garner		1998
126	Carl Garner		1999
123	Ted Nichols II		2015
119	Bill Oyler		2016
114	Carl Garner		2006
109	Carl Garner		2005
105	J. Kenneth Gabler		2000

ALLEGHENY			
233	Geoff Malosh		2005
230	Geoff Malosh		2014
227	Geoff Malosh		2004
224	Geoff Malosh		2009
221	Mark Vass		2005
218	Geoff Malosh		2015
211	Geoff Malosh		2013
210	Mark Vass		2004
205	Geoff Malosh		2007
190	Geoff Malosh		2003
190	Mark Vass		2006
190	Geoff Malosh		2012

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
141	Geoff Malosh	2015
130	Geoff Malosh	2013
126	Geoff Malosh	2014
BEDFORD		
223	Sally Dick	1997
221	Tom Dick	1997
143	Chad Kauffman	2011
BERKS		
252	Ken Lebo	1995
240	Ken Lebo	1999
236	Ken Lebo	1997
235	Ken Lebo	2011
234	Ken Lebo	2013
231	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
229	Ken Lebo	1996
222	Matt Wlasniewski	2013
219	Ken Lebo	1998
218	Matt Wlasniewski	2012
BLAIR		
204	Michael David	2014
177	Michael David	2013
143	Beryl Sternagle	1995
141	Beryl Sternagle	2000
126	Beryl Sternagle	1990
121	Beryl Sternagle	1989
108	Michael David	2012
BRADFORD		
147	Ronald Young	1993
146	Ronald Young	1992
141	William Reid	1999
128	William Reid	2001
BUCKS		
277	Devich Farbotnik	2002
267	Devich Farbotnik	2011
259	Devich Farbotnik	2012
258	Devich Farbotnik	2007
258	Devich Farbotnik	2010
255	Devich Farbotnik	2013
253	Devich Farbotnik	2001
253	Devich Farbotnik	2008
248	Devich Farbotnik	2004
248	Devich Farbotnik	2015
BUTLER		
245	Gene Wilhelm	1983
229	Gene Wilhelm	1985
225	Gene Wilhelm	1982
200	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
168	Richard Nugent	2015
167	Richard Nugent	2016
155	Richard Nugent	2014
152	Richard Nugent	2010
151	Richard Nugent	2013
150	Richard Nugent	2011
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
124	Michael David	2012

CAMERON		
None above 100		
CARBON		
222	David Hawk	2009
218	David Hawk	2007
217	David Hawk	2010
215	David Hawk	2008
208	David Hawk	2011
208	David Hawk	2014
207	Richard Rehrig	2016
206	David Hawk	2012
204	David Hawk	2002
202	David Hawk	2015
CENTRE		
241	Joseph Verica	2014
239	Joseph Verica	2011
239	Drew Weber	2011
234	Joseph Verica	2012
227	Joseph Verica	2013
224	Terence Schiefer	1985
221	Molly Heath	2003
221	Nathan Fronk	2011
214	Terence Schiefer	1986
212	Drew Weber	2010
CHESTER		
232	Kevin Fryberger	2009
227	Holly Merker	2010
225	Larry Lewis	1988
225	Kevin Fryberger	2010
221	Larry Lewis	1983
220	Brian Quindlen	2015
219	Larry Lewis	1986
217	Chuck Chalfant	2006
212	Brian Raicich	2013
211	Brian Quindlen	2012
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
131	Russ States	2004
119	Mark McConaughy	1999
115	Bill Reddinger	1999
115	Richard Nugent	2015
CLEARFIELD		
203	Dan Richards	2011
155	John Fedak	1997
CLINTON		
168	Carol Hildebrand	2016
159	Carol Hildebrand	2008
157	Carol Hildebrand	2005
155	Carol Hildebrand	2011
153	Carol Hildebrand	2007
143	Carol Hildebrand	2004
142	Carol Hildebrand	2006
125	Greg Grove	2005
119	Nathan Fronk	2012
111	James Dunn	2009
COLUMBIA		
170	Andy Keister	2015
165	Andy Keister	2014
147	Andy Keister	2013
112	John Fedak	1997
CRAWFORD		
240	Ronald Leberman	2013
240	Ronald Leberman	2014
230	Ronald Leberman	2009
223	Ronald Leberman	2011
222	Ronald Leberman	2007
222	Ronald Leberman	2008
208	Ronald Leberman	1994
202	Ronald Leberman	1989
201	Gene Wilhelm	1992
196	Ronald Leberman	2000
CUMBERLAND		
263	Andy Markel	2011

244	Andy Markel	2008
227	Andy Markel	2007
150	Ted Nichols II	2015
148	Carl Garner	1997
145	Bill Oyler	2016
124	Tim Becker	2011
111	Tim Becker	2012
108	Chad Kauffman	2011
107	Chad Kauffman	2014
DAUPHIN		
221	Ian Gardner	2015
210	Grace Randolph	1998
187	Ted Nichols II	2015
169	David McNaughton	2013
164	Tim Becker	2011
138	Tim Becker	2012
129	Ian Gardner	2011
125	Chad Kauffman	2006
DELAWARE		
241	John Miller	1969
211	Al Guarente	1996
209	Al Guarente	1998
206	Al Guarente	1997
205	Al Guarente	1995
205	Al Guarente	2014
203	Al Guarente	2005
202	Al Guarente	2012
200	Sheryl Johnson	1997
200	Al Guarente	2010
ELK		
164	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
116	John Fedak	1997
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
244	Jerry McWilliams	2012
FAYETTE		
145	Mark McConaughy	2000
112	Mark McConaughy	1998
FOREST		
146	Gary Edwards	2015
144	April Walters	1993
143	Richard Walters	1993
142	Flo McGuire	2005
132	John Fedak	1997
130	Gary Edwards	2014
FRANKLIN		
228	Bill Oyler	2013
221	Bill Oyler	2014
218	Bill Oyler	2016
217	Bill Oyler	2015
215	Dale Gearhart	1999
197	Carl Garner	2013
185	Carl Garner	1997
185	Carl Garner	2014
182	Carl Garner	2004
180	Carl Garner	1993
180	Carl Garner	1994
180	Carl Garner	2007
FULTON		
173	Daniel Snell	1997
115	Kenneth Gabler	1988
108	Kenneth Gabler	2000
GREENE		
137	Ralph Bell	1985
134	Ralph Bell	1986
130	Ralph Bell	1990
115	Marjorie Howard	2007
109	Marjorie Howard	2005
107	Marjorie Howard	2014

HUNTINGDON			110 Michael Schall	2001	135 Andy Keister	2015
221 Jon Kauffman	2014		LUZERNE		128 John Fedak	1997
218 David Kyle	2011		224 Rick Koval	2001	103 Andy Keister	2013
214 Jon Kauffman	2011		220 Rick Koval	1996		
214 Greg Grove	2012		220 Rick Koval	2002	PERRY	
213 Ian Gardner	2011		219 Rick Koval	1995	202 Richard Colyer	1997
211 Jon Kauffman	2012		219 Rick Koval	1997	139 Ted Nichols II	2015
209 Greg Grove	2014		206 Rick Koval	1994		
205 David Kyle	1996		153 William Reid	1999	PHILADELPHIA	
201 Greg Grove	2003		132 William Reid	2001	225 John Miller	1965
201 Greg Grove	2013		102 Jim Ridolfi	2013	208 Edward Fingerhood	1996
200 Greg Grove	2015				162 Al Guarente	1992
			LYCOMING		150 Al Guarente	2015
INDIANA			223 Bobby Brown	2016	135 Skip Conant	1999
206 Margaret Higbee	1993		190 Nathan Fronk	2012	133 Skip Conant	1998
203 Margaret Higbee	1991		178 Nathan Fronk	2011	132 Skip Conant	2000
203 Margaret Higbee	2008		173 Andy Keister	2015	127 Skip Conant	2007
195 Steve Graff	1998		169 Andy Keister	2014	127 Bill Keim	2012
186 Steve Graff	2000		100 Don Henise	2000	123 Skip Conant	2008
173 Roger Higbee	2008				PIKE	
156 Richard Nugent	2012		McKEAN		182 Michael Schall	2014
139 Richard Nugent	2015		222 John Fedak	2003	166 Michael Schall	2011
130 Richard Nugent	2011		221 John Fedak	2005	123 Michael Schall	2002
126 Richard Nugent	2010		219 John Fedak	2002		
			217 John Fedak	2004	POTTER	
			151 John Fedak	2001	169 Chuck Chalfant	2004
JEFFERSON					160 David Hauber	1992
198 John Fedak	1997		MERCER		160 David Hauber	1995
			222 Neil Troyer	2012	160 David Hauber	1999
JUNIATA			213 Harvey Troyer	1999	157 David Hauber	1993
188 Aden Troyer	1996		212 Jerry Troyer	1999		
177 Chad Kauffman	2014		211 Gene Wilhelm	1992	SCHUYLKILL	
176 Aden Troyer	1997		210 Neil Troyer	1999	228 Tom Clauser	2011
174 Chad Kauffman	2008		209 Neil Troyer	2013	225 Tom Clauser	2005
167 Aden Troyer	2000		208 Neil Troyer	2011	220 Tom Clauser	2012
166 Aden Troyer	1995		192 Neil Troyer	1997	217 Tom Clauser	2007
166 Aden Troyer	1999		192 Eli Troyer	1999	215 Tom Clauser	2004
164 Chad Kauffman	2007		190 Neil Troyer	2001	212 Tom Clauser	1999
163 Chad Kauffman	2009				210 Tom Clauser	2001
156 Chad Kauffman	2013		MIFFLIN		210 Tom Clauser	2002
			164 Greg Grove	2005	209 Tom Clauser	1996
LACKAWANNA			139 Greg Grove	2011	208 Tom Clauser	1997
169 Glenn Czulada	1996		128 Greg Grove	2003		
161 Glenn Czulada	1995		127 Jim Dunn	2007	SNYDER	
117 Richard Koval	1995		114 Greg Grove	2014	None above 100	
103 William Reid	2001		112 Greg Grove	2013	SOMERSET	
			110 Greg Grove	2016	222 Scott Bastian	1999
LANCASTER			108 Greg Grove	2012	219 Jeff Payne	2002
270 Chuck Chalfant	2009		100 Jim Dunn	2005	218 Jeff Payne	2003
257 Mike Epler	2012				216 Jeff Payne	1996
255 Robert Schutsky	1992		MONROE		216 Retta Payne	1996
249 Jonathan Heller	1992		210 Michael Schall	2013	208 Scott Bastian	1994
249 Chuck Chalfant	2012		194 Bruce Johnson	2014	206 Jeff Payne	1999
248 Ted Nichols II	2016		181 Billy Weber	2008	204 Christopher Payne	2008
247 Zachary Millen	2016		160 Michael Schall	2003	202 Jeff Payne	2004
240 Chuck Chalfant	2005		145 Corey Husic	2009	199 Christopher Payne	2006
237 Bruce Carl	2015				SULLIVAN	
236 Randy Miller	1991		MONTGOMERY		140 Nick Kerlin	1999
			194 Steve Kacir	2008	130 Nick Kerlin	1995
LAWRENCE			167 Joseph Greco	2002	125 Skip Conant	1995
210 Gene Wilhelm	1992		153 Michael Schall	2004	124 Nick Kerlin	1997
131 Shannon Thompson	2012		150 Joseph Greco	2007	123 Skip Conant	1999
129 Brendyn Baptiste	2016		126 John Fedak	1997	121 Skip Conant	2000
118 John Fedak	1997		114 Al Guarente	2015	118 Skip Conant	1998
116 Richard Nugent	2010		113 Michael Schall	2002	114 Skip Conant	2001
114 Richard Nugent	2014				114 Skip Conant	2002
108 Richard Nugent	2015		MONTOUR		114 Skip Conant	2008
100 Richard Nugent	2016		182 Andy Keister	2014		
			170 Andy Keister	2015	SUSQUEHANNA	
LEBANON			147 Andy Keister	2013	173 Jerry Skinner	2007
249 Timothy Becker	2014		126 John Fedak	1997	170 Jerry Skinner	2003
244 Timothy Becker	2013				157 Jerry Skinner	2004
241 David McNaughton	2013		NORTHAMPTON		153 Jerry Skinner	2005
237 Timothy Becker	2012		239 Michael Schall	2014	145 Jerry Skinner	1999
222 Randy C. Miller	1999		236 Michael Schall	2003	109 William Reid	2001
222 Randy C. Miller	2012		231 Michael Schall	2004	107 William Reid	1999
222 Timothy Becker	2015		226 Michael Schall	2008	103 John Fedak	1997
220 Timothy Becker	2011		220 Billy Weber	2004		
215 Randy C. Miller	1993		215 Michael Schall	2012	TIOGA	
213 Randy C. Miller	2002		212 Michael Schall	2007	197 Benjamin Israel	2000
			212 Michael Schall	2013	174 Larry Brown	1998
LEHIGH			210 Adam Miller	2000	167 Larry Brown	1992
227 Billy Weber	2011		209 Michael Schall	2006	163 Benjamin Israel	1999
200 Bernard Morris	1984		209 Michael Schall	2010	160 Arlene Brown	1992
192 Michael Schall	2009					
189 Michael Schall	2006		NORTHUMBERLAND			
128 Michael Schall	2003		137 Andy Keister	2014		

142	Arlene Brown	1998
135	Nathan Fronk	2012
110	Drew Weber	2010
108	Nathan Fronk	2011

UNION

169	Andy Keister	2014
146	Andy Keister	2015
118	Andy Keister	2013

VENANGO

221	Gary Edwards	2000
207	Gary Edwards	1995
207	Russ States	2000
203	Russ States	2002
195	Russ States	2006
194	Gary Edwards	1991
193	Russ States	2007
192	Russ States	1991
191	Russ States	2008
190	Russ States	2004

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

197	Roy Ickes	2015
194	Roy Ickes	2016
192	Ross Gallardy	2006
182	Roy Ickes	2014
135	Shannon Thompson	2012
134	Russ Ruffing	1985
132	Roy Ickes	1984
100	George Malosh	1975
100	Geoff Malosh	1999

WAYNE

121	John Fedak	1997
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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
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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
208	Dick Cleary	2015
203	Dick Cleary	2013
196	Russell Ryan	1992
191	Randy Phillips	1999
178	Russell Ryan	1991
153	Candy Krenzer	1999

County Annual Lists Top 50

1	277 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
2	270 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2009
3	267 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2011
4	264 Erie	Sam Stull	1979
5	263 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2011
6	259 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2012
7	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2007
7	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2010
9	257 Lancaster	Mike Epler	2012
10	256 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
11	255 Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
11	255 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2013
13	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
13	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2008
15	252 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
15	252 Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
17	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
17	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
17	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
20	249 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
20	249 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2012
20	249 Lebanon	Timothy Becker	2014
23	248 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
23	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
23	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2015
23	248 Lancaster	Ted Nichols II	2016
27	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
27	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
27	247 Lancaster	Zachary Milen	2016
30	246 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
30	246 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
32	245 Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
32	245 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
32	245 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
35	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985

35	244 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2008
35	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2012
35	244 Lebanon	Timothy Becker	2013
39	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
39	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
41	242 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
42	241 Delaware	John Miller	1969
42	241 Lebanon	David McNaughton	2013
42	241 Centre	Joseph Verica	2014
45	240 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
45	240 Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
45	240 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
45	240 Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2013
45	240 Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2014
50	239 Centre	Joseph Verica	2011
50	239 Centre	Drew Weber	2011
50	239 N'ampton	Michael Schall	2014

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Comments on 2016 Birding in PA

Peter Robinson

Comments (Bird of the Year–BOY)

Brendyn Baptiste

BOY: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black-headed Gull

Gerry Boltz

BOY: Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Rufous Hummingbird

Fritz Brock

BOY: Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Indigo Bunting

Bobby Brown

New PA state species: 21

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, King Eider, Black-chinned Hummingbird

After a slow start, it was a great year for rarities in Lycoming county.

Bruce Carl

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, King Eider

Michael David

New PA state species: Mountain Bluebird, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Black-necked Stilt, Anna's Hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Anna's Hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Black-necked Stilt

I had a very enjoyable birding day on November 8, when I followed up a successful chase of the Anna's Hummingbird with discovery of a Cackling Goose in York County, then a Say's Phoebe in Lancaster.

Dave DeReamus

New PA state species: Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Corn Crane, Tropical Kingbird, Calliope Hummingbird

There was a CORN CRAKE that was injured by a cat, and eventually died, in Honesdale back in January 2016. I didn't see it, but it is an amazing record.

Mike Epler

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Le Conte's Sparrow, Red Crossbill

Bill Etter

BOY: The Black-headed Grosbeak that wintered in Northampton County, the Mountain Bluebird that stayed in Bucks, Common Raven that are becoming common in south eastern PA.

Mike Fialkovich

BOY: Greater White-fronted Goose (With the amazing invasion in the winter of 2016 I think this deserves the honor. The numbers and distribution were beyond anything we've seen in the state with this species.) Tropical Kingbird (Only the second record of this mega rarity.) Black-chinned Hummingbird (Another second state record of a mega rarity.)

I added one species to my Allegheny life list this year, and it was a good one, Least Bittern. Fortunately it remained all day in one small area.

Carl Garner

BOY: American Avocet, Anna's Hummingbird, Bullock's Oriole

Tom Garner

New state species since 2012 were Brown Booby, White-winged Dove, Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Tropical Kingbird

Al Guarente

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Black-necked Stilt, Black-headed Gull

It was a tough choice for #1 bird. I picked Tropical Kingbird because I missed the one in Philadelphia by a few minutes so I was thrilled to see this guy, but I was going to pick Black-necked Stilt. I have seen it in the state before but this year I saw the one at Green Lane in Montgomery Co. in November. That was a good sighting but then a week later I found another (or the same one) at Springton Reservoir in Delaware Co. This was a new county bird (my home county) so I just had to choose this as my #2 pick of the year. The Black-headed Gull in Philadelphia County was a great way to finish out the year.

Barb & Frank Haas

New PA state species: Tropical Kingbird

Chad Kauffman

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Western Tanager, Piping Plover

Ken Lebo

New PA state species: White-winged Dove, Tropical Kingbird

Zachary Millen

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Corn Crane, Bullock's Oriole

Ted Nichols II

New PA state species: Mountain Bluebird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, White-winged Dove, Clay-colored Sparrow, Mississippi Kite, Western Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Le Conte's Sparrow, Black-necked Stilt, Anna's Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Corn Crane

One of my memorable birding highlights in 2016 was seeing all three Phalarope species in PA in a nine-day period – two of them being lifers!

Bill Oyler

New PA state species: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Tropical Kingbird, Summer Tanager

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Summer Tanager (in home county of Franklin), Long-billed Dowitcher (in home county of Franklin)

Thomas Reeves

BOY: Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Indigo Bunting

Richard Rehrig

New PA state species: Bullock's Oriole, Red Crossbill, Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Piping Plover, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

BOY: Bullock's Oriole, Black-necked Stilt, Piping Plover

Peter Robinson

New PA state species: White-winged Dove, Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager

It was nice to finally get to see a White-winged Dove in PA, after having chased after two or three, including one in York County found by Randy Phillips. He called me right away, but we could not relocate it in spite of searching for about two hours.

Michael Schall

New PA state species: Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager

The tropical Kingbird seen November 19 at Peach Bottom, Lancaster County, was state bird number 350 for me. It was a wonderful, slightly chilly Saturday morning with many friends from across PA in attendance. It was like an organized birding event where you get to enjoy listening to the many birding stories from friends old and new. The Black-headed Grosbeak was a rare bird in my home county.

Kurt Schwarz

BOY: Tropical Kingbird

Eric Witmer

New PA state species: White-winged Dove, Connecticut Warbler, Tropical Kingbird

New Lancaster County species: Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Tropical Kingbird

BOY: Tropical Kingbird, Corn Crane, Anna's Hummingbird

If it weren't for "look at what the cat drug in" the Corn Crane would have never been known to the birding community. If it had been seen by birders I would have made it number 1! After the Tropical Kingbird one afternoon wonder several years ago near Philadelphia, I doubted this record would be duplicated anytime soon in PA!

For the second year in a row the operative words this season were “warm” and “dry”. Compilers across the state commented particularly on the warm weather, especially in August and September. Temperatures in these two months at Allentown, for example, were 4.8°F and 5.3°F above normal, respectively. The lack of rain in the first half of the season also meant generally poor shorebirding in most areas, and in the second half of the season, a lack of fallout-inducing storms and cold fronts. In the first part of October, Hurricane Matthew wobbled its way north toward the Atlantic coast and threatened to cross into North Carolina and possibly on to Pennsylvania before it veered off to the east and moved through Pennsylvania’s latitudes well offshore of New Jersey, ultimately having little impact on Pennsylvania from an ornithological standpoint. (Although see below under Eastern Phoebe, of all species, for more on this storm.)

Certainly, then, most of the news this season came in the form of migrants lingering deep into the season and generating new late date records. Yet there were a number of eyebrow-raising *early* records too, perhaps unexpectedly considering the oppressively stifling August that dampened bird activity and birder activity alike, as our *Butler* compiler so aptly put it. It was also a pretty good season for rarities—no state firsts (at least at the species level), but two seconds and a third appeared, along with plenty of long-staying individuals that kept birders entertained.

For the second time in as many years, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** appeared in September, this time in *Bucks* 9/28. They were reported in five other eastern counties from mid-October to the end of the season. A few **Snow Geese**, some injured and some merely stubborn, continued from the summer in *Delaware*, *Luzerne*, and *Lehigh*, and early birds returned by mid- to late October in *Crawford*, *Franklin*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*, in the latter by 10/1. The only **Ross’s Goose** appeared in *Chester* 11/27, but this species is much more common in late winter and spring. Representative of the poor showing for waterfowl were the paltry numbers of **Brant**; they were found in 11 counties (all in the east except singles in *Crawford* and *Erie*), but the only large flocks of migrants

were 40 in *Columbia* 10/31 and 34 at Hawk Mountain, *Berks/Schuylkill* 10/22. **Cackling Goose** was identified in 14 counties but only in *Crawford*, *Erie*, and *Franklin* away from the southeast. Surely increased birder knowledge and awareness is the primary cause of the steady increase in reports of Cacklers since their split from Canada Goose in 2004, but birders may also be too cavalier with this species pair at times, due to the difficulties presented by the still quite unknown status of *parvipes* (Lesser) Canada Goose in the east, not to mention the overlapping breeding ranges of certain of the Canada and Cackling taxa, which surely sends some genetically ambiguous birds our way too.

Trumpeter Swans continued with their scattered but annual occurrence in the state, with two wing-tagged birds in *Schuylkill* continuing from the spring, and one which returned in October to Lake Towhee Park, *Bucks* for the fourth year in a row. Another showed up in *Bucks* 11/6. The mild weather was also evidenced by the rather late migration of **Tundra Swan**; the only significantly large migrant flock reported by the end of November was a group of 82 over *Allegheny* 11/21. Despite the weather, a few early whistling swans (such a superior name for this species) were nevertheless noted in the first week of November in *Chester* and *Erie* and another was in *Mercer* 11/9.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Northampton* from 10/3 to early December and in *Lancaster* 10/24-11/5 both drew the attention of many chasers. The only other rare waterfowl reported were a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** that returned to *Chester* for the fourth consecutive year 11/27, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** that spent November at FDR Park, *Philadelphia*, where one was seen last November too. As might be expected in an exceedingly warm and calm season like this, puddle ducks were a bit better reported than bay and sea ducks. **Gadwall** in particular put on a pretty good show considering the circumstances, with reports in at least 17 counties and triple digits noted in *Butler* and *Montgomery*. **American Wigeon** also showed well, including early birds in *Crawford* 9/10 and in *Montgomery* 9/3-5. *Philadelphia* birders once again found a “Storm Wigeon” (the peach-faced morph of American Wigeon) with the Eurasian Wigeon in November. The enigmatic **American Black Duck** was reported in 19

counties with dates spanning the season. A hen **Mallard** with ducklings 9/21 probably set a new late nesting date for *Adams*. **Blue-winged Teal** was also widespread in small numbers, with late birds still hanging on into November in *Lebanon* and *Wayne*, and **Northern Shoveler** was also reported a little better than might be expected, including a very early bird in *Crawford* 8/3. Shovelers also showed up in four other western counties and in *Northumberland* before the end of August. **Northern Pintail** was perhaps the most poorly reported dabbler, with scattered sightings (mostly in central and eastern counties) from mid-October through the season.

The “bay ducks” (**Redhead**, **Canvasback**, **Greater and Lesser Scaup**, and **Ring-necked Duck**) were all reported very thinly, including in just four counties for Canvasback, all in November. A Ring-necked Duck in *Philadelphia* 9/24 was considered almost a month early, and in *Somerset* a male Ring-necked that spent the summer at Somerset Lake remained until at least 9/11. Inexplicably early was a Greater Scaup in *Crawford* 8/6. Nowhere, however, was the poor season for waterfowl better evidenced than in the lack of reports of scoters. Aside from Jerry McWilliams’ annual lakewatch at Sunset Point, Presque Isle, where all three scoters are inevitable, **Surf Scoter** was seen in just seven counties, **White-winged Scoter** in just *Center*, *Lancaster*, and *Tioga*, and **Black Scoter** only in *Beaver*, *Bucks*, and *Indiana*. The “showing” of Black Scoter in particular was emblematic of the season—just scattered singles in the west and a complete lack of storm-driven fallouts in the east, other than a measly flock of 12 in *Bucks* 11/4. All three species managed to appear on notably early dates, however: an adult male Surf was described in *Tioga* 9/8, a White-winged appeared at Presque Isle, *Erie* 9/10, and a *Bucks* record-early Black was sighted 10/10. **Long-tailed Duck** tends to mirror the scoters in terms of fall occurrence, but this year fared better than their black football-shaped cousins, with sightings in 14 counties from late October and throughout November. The highest single count reported, though, was just 5 in *Lycoming* 11/6. **Buffleheads** frequently have a major showing following a November cold front, but unsurprisingly that did not happen this year. Probably the closest thing to a statewide “fallout” for this species occurred 11/21, when about

150 put down in *Bucks*, 200 in *Berks*, and mid-double-digit counts in six other counties in all parts of the state. Bucking the waterfowl trend slightly was **Common Goldeneye**, a species that is much more frequently missed (away from *Erie*) than found during the fall season. This year it was reported in nine counties, a fairly respectable total, which included one in *Bucks* 9/26 and 10/16 that was presumably the same bird that summered in the area.

Good flocks of **Common Mergansers** were noted in late November including 196 in *Armstrong* 11/24, 1924 in *Crawford* 11/18, up to 300 in *Montour* in the last half of the month, and 150 in *Tioga* in the last week of the month. **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted in 10 counties, like goldeneye, a better than expected showing. One female that summered in *Lycoming* stayed to mid-August. A few summering **Ruddy Ducks** stayed into September in *Crawford*. Again the very large flocks of this species that often appear with November storms were not in evidence this year, but fair enough were 236 in *Bucks* and 144 in *Butler* 11/13, and the max of 438 in *Montgomery* 11/25, following a month-long buildup to that number, was unusual for that county.

It was quite encouraging to see reports of **Ruffed Grouse** in 39 counties, with much of the data coming from eBird, but the same could not be said for **Northern Bobwhite**, which had exactly one report in each of just six counties. Bobwhite is all but extirpated as a self-sustaining breeder in Pennsylvania, though, and one must wonder if any of these birds really “count” anymore, in the traditional listing sense. Ditto for **Ring-necked Pheasant** although pheasants are still much more widespread than bobwhites.

Aside from a remarkable total of 101 **Red-throated Loons** that passed Hawk Mountain 11/4, reports of this species were also indicative of the mild and settled weather. They were seen in nine counties, at least, which was only a little below average as a raw total. Early birds showed up in *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia* 10/22, and the first of the season passed Hawk Mountain 10/23; otherwise all sightings were in November including at the Presque Isle waterbird count. A few summering or early immature **Common Loons** were noted in August in *Adams*, *Berks*, *Northumberland*, and *Tioga*. **Horned Grebes** were low-key, with sightings of small numbers in 10 counties. **Red-necked Grebe**, too, was well off even its normally uncommon occurrence; just three were seen for the season at the Presque Isle waterbird count in *Erie*, and singles were

seen in five other counties. Quite surprising, however, were reports of **Eared Grebe** in *Montour* 9/10 and *Lycoming* 9/11-12, probably both referring to the same bird, and a very early one at that. Excellent photos of this wayward grebe were obtained. And in another case of the same individual rare bird(s) being found in multiple locations, a flock of 35-40 **American White Pelicans** flew over private property in *Indiana* 9/21, and 35 then flew over Rocky Ridge Park, *York* 9/22, leading to speculation that this was very likely the same flock in both cases. Another white pelican was found moribund at an Interstate 90 junction in *Erie* 10/11. Completely out of the blue, and in keeping with their habit of totally random appearances in Pennsylvania, was a juvenile **Brown Pelican** present for a few hours at Lake Chrisann, *Susquehanna* 8/21.

A late **American Bittern** was found by Eurasian Wigeon chasers in *Philadelphia* 10/30-11/1 in an example of the “Patagonia Picnic Table Effect”. Another tarrying bittern was noted in *Centre* 11/5—these were among reports in eight counties. **Least Bitterns** were limited to a continuing summering bird in *Lawrence* and one recorded on nocturnal migration in *Montgomery* 9/12. **Great Egret** seemed to be more widely reported that usual, probably a consequence of an extended post-breeding dispersal season. A flock of 62 headed down the Susquehanna viewed from *York* must have been quite a sight, and an aggregation of 17 at Shenango River Reservoir, *Mercer* 9/10 was impressive for the west. Great Egrets lingered into November in *Chester*, *Delaware*, *Philadelphia*, and *York*. It was an exceptional year for **Snowy Egret** in the southeastern counties, headed up by a season total of 100 at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, but the only one that strayed afield from that region was one in *Northumberland* 8/14. It’s probably well past time to stop annotating all **Little Blue Heron** sightings in the Birds of Note, but they remain summarized there for at least one more season, where readers can review sightings from a whopping 10 counties, including far-flung birds in *Franklin* 8/7, *Tioga* 8/14-18, and *Westmoreland* 9/2. **Cattle Egrets** had a great flight, with sightings in six counties including one in *Mercer* on the property of a very gracious farm owner that was visited by many western Pennsylvania birders. Aside from one in *Lancaster* 8/1-14, all sightings were from the last two weeks of October and the first week of November.

A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** in *Clearfield* 8/4-5 was quite a

surprise for that county, and recalled the one that stayed for a few weeks incongruently on the Clarion River in the heart of Cook Forest in the fall of 2012. Otherwise the species was noted only around Harrisburg and in *Montgomery*. Aside from a single in *Mercer* and sightings in *Erie*, reports of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were limited to the eastern half of the state. **Glossy Ibis** was reported only in *Lancaster*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*, and the only **White Ibis** was a one-day bird in *Philadelphia* 8/15.

Continued sightings of **Black Vultures** in the general area of the Monongahela Valley and occasionally further west into *Allegheny*, *Washington*, and *Greene* in recent years suggest a possible range expansion; this season they were noted in *Greene* 10/8 and *Washington* 11/3. A wing-tagged Black Vulture in *Bucks* 11/1 was found to have been tagged as a juvenile in *Chester* 7/22/2015. **Mississippi Kites** were reported from *Berks*, *Bucks*, and *Delaware* but none were documented for PORC, as usual. Same for a **Swallow-tailed Kite** reported at the Allegheny Front, *Somerset/Bedford* 9/6. One very surprising rarity that was documented quite well by photograph was an apparent **Swainson’s Hawk** that sat on a rooftop in residential Malvern, *Chester* 10/25. **Ospreys** took advantage of the mild conditions and lingered into November in no fewer than 12 counties, and to 10/24 in *Washington*. Another interesting tagged bird seen in *Bucks* 9/3-21 was an Osprey found to have been banded earlier in the summer at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey 7/13. **Northern Harriers** were well reported from all corners of the state. There was the usual smattering of sightings of the two grand prizes of fall hawk watches, **Northern Goshawk** and **Golden Eagle**, away from the ridges but only the Golden Eagle spotted in *Mercer* was truly out of place, although early sightings of Golden Eagles at Bake Oven Knob, *Lehigh* 8/16 and 8/19 were certainly also surprising. Sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk** in 12 counties before the end of November was a bit of a surprise, since areas to the north were not even close to being locked in with snow by season’s end.

Reports of **Virginia Rail** in 11 counties this season finished up with one that tarried in *Chester* to 11/8. **Sora** isn’t quite as shy as Virginia Rail, but is still shy, and was noted in 13 counties. Both were good seasons for these secretive species. **Common Gallinule** was noted in the usual northwestern counties and also in *Franklin* 8/13, *Luzerne* 10/7-8, and in *Philadelphia* 10/30-11/17, the latter again

by Eurasian Wigeon chasers and another example of the picnic table effect. The highlight of the season in southwestern Pennsylvania was certainly the juvenile **Purple Gallinule** that fed in the open on mudflats at Ambridge Reservoir, *Beaver* 10/7-10. It represented the first of its kind anywhere west of the Allegheny Front away from *Erie*. *Indiana* usually boasts the top count of **American Coot** statewide in the fall, but this season they maxed out at just 375 compared to the regular four-digit counts over the past decade. Perhaps coots lingered at breeding and staging areas to the west and north of Pennsylvania much later this balmy autumn. Scattered reports of **Sandhill Crane** were mostly around established areas, but 6 that passed the Rose Tree hawk watch, *Delaware* 11/10 were notable. In *Lawrence*, where the species has been established longer than anywhere else in the state, the wintering flock had already reached at least 81 birds by the end of November, and record-setting triple-digit flocks were reported there heading into the winter season.

Except for the usual hotspots (Gull Point, John Heinz N.W.R., and the lower Susquehanna), the very dry conditions brought generally poor shorebirding to most counties, except where the weather led to early drawdowns of reservoirs, as at Shenango Reservoir in *Mercer*. After nearly being missed altogether in 2015, **American Avocet** was above average this year, with reports in six counties—*Allegheny*, *Bucks*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Northumberland*. A **Black-necked Stilt** showed up out of place and season at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 11/2-28, and then perhaps the same bird was found at Springton Reservoir, *Delaware* 11/29. Records of **Black-bellied Plover** in eight counties was a better than average showing, but although **American Golden-Plover** was seen in 15 counties, most records were of singles or 2 or 3 birds that stayed for only one or two days. Notable among the Black-bellieds was one late bird in *Westmoreland* 11/6. **Semipalmated Plover** was likewise fairly widely reported but not in overwhelming numbers, and all were gone by 10/1 except one that stalled in *Montgomery* until 10/23. Sightings of **Piping Plover** continued to increase at Gull Point, *Erie*, where at least four different color banded birds appeared 8/6-24. Quite exciting was *Mercer's* first Piping Plover, a banded juvenile that stopped over at Shenango Reservoir 9/1-10. Despite fairly decent photos of the *Mercer* bird's bands, its point of origin could not be narrowed down any further than somewhere either in Michigan or

Ontario. Another sign of the season, an adult **Killdeer** was seen in *Indiana* 11/14 with three chicks estimated to be about two weeks old.

A **Spotted Sandpiper** used the mudflats at the Purple Gallinule spot in *Beaver* until 11/5 and established a new late date for that county. They also lingered into late October in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*. Reports of **Solitary Sandpiper** were way off, likely a consequence of the excessively dry conditions. Similarly, both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** seemed to be in below average numbers, with many traditional shorebird sites reporting only a few or none at all. An exception was John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, where top count of Greater was 74 on 9/10 and of Lesser 110 on 9/11. Both species hung around in scattered places to late October, and one Lesser held on in *Montgomery* to 11/19.

The only **Upland Sandpipers** reported were 2 or 3 at the Lancaster airport 8/2-11. As usual, *Erie's* Gull Point hosted the season's only records of various rarities: **Willet** 8/4-9/5, **Whimbrel** 8/21 and 9/11-13, **Hudsonian Godwit** 10/11, a few **Marbled Godwits** including one that stayed from 8/13-9/2, and a handful of **Red Knots** 8/21-9/9. **Ruddy Turnstone** had a pretty good showing away from Gull Point, with sightings in *Crawford*, *Lancaster*, *Mercer*, and *Northumberland*, the latter at the "Fabridam" in Sunbury, where a number of the *Northumberland* rarities this year were found. The *Calidris* sandpipers that might be thought of as mid-level rarities—**Stilt Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, and **White-rumped Sandpiper**—were, in keeping with the pattern, all reported more or less widely around the state but in unimpressive numbers. Stilt was the most frequently reported of the group, with sightings in 14 counties mostly from mid-August to the end of September, but Sanderling, with reports in 10 counties away from *Erie*, had the best season relative to its usual status, and included a late bird still in *Crawford* 11/13. Baird's and White-rumped were reported in eight and 14 counties, respectively, but the only truly notable sighting among either species was a late White-rumped in *Carbon* until 11/1. A bird eventually identified as a White-rumped in *Westmoreland* had unusual features that made more than a few shorebird experts consider the possibility that it was actually a White-rumped x Baird's hybrid, but final consensus was mostly in the pure White-rumped camp. **Dunlin** was reported in nine counties and made it to November in *Erie*, *Franklin*, and *Montgomery*. Even **Least**

and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were down in number, although high counts of Least topping out at 420 in *Lancaster* and Semipalmated at 400 in *Philadelphia* were at least respectable. Late Least Sandpipers were in *Crawford* 11/13 and *Montgomery* 11/28. **Western Sandpiper** was found in five counties, the most unusual of which were 2 in *Washington* which provided that county with just its second record of the species.

Sightings of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in six counties were led by an amazing flock of 6 at Shenango Reservoir, *Mercer* 9/1, which doubled the previous single-day high count in that lake's storied history. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** in *Cumberland* 11/24 set a new late date for that county. **Purple Sandpipers** flew past Sunset Point, *Erie* 11/6 and 11/20. Sightings of **Short-billed Dowitchers** in nine counties were heavily biased toward August as usual, though they were reported in early October in both *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia*. **Long-billed Dowitcher** was exceptionally well-reported, mostly in October; see the Birds of Note for the full accounting. It's always interesting to see how many counties can score an **American Woodcock** in November, and this mild season was a good year for it: they were kicked up in no fewer than 15 counties in the eleventh month of 2016. Phalaropes are always a delight, and all three species were found this fall, though the only **Red-necked Phalarope** was in *Lancaster* 8/23-30; fortunately it stayed long enough to be seen by many birders. In such a mild season it was surprising to see **Red Phalarope** reported in three counties, none of which was *Erie*. Most interesting was a juvenile in its rarely seen (at this latitude) transitional plumage at Marsh Creek, *Chester* 8/21. Excellent photos of the bird showed enough detail to separate it from Red-necked, which it could have easily been confused with in its particular state of molt. **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported in five counties including early birds at Gull Point, *Erie* 8/1 and at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia* 8/7.

Little Gull was noted only at the Presque Isle waterbird count 10/19 and 10/23, and at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, where an adult among a few Bonaparte's Gulls was a nice surprise, also on 10/23. The **Black-headed Gull** returned to the south shore of Moraine State Park, *Butler* 11/27, appearing at that location now for the seventh time since 1998 and in six of the past nine years. **Laughing Gulls** away from the Delaware River counties were noted in *Berks*, *Lancaster*, and a juvenile in *Northumberland* at the Fabridam 8/26. A

tagged **Ring-billed Gull** at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford* 10/5 was banded at Varennes, Quebec 7/15/2013. **Iceland Gulls** in *Berks* 11/9 and *Bucks* 11/24 were the only white-winged gulls of note, but that is not unusual for the fall season. *Philadelphia* birders mourned the probable loss of “Shrimpy”, the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that had wintered at Pleasant Hill Park for 11 years running, but did not return this year.

Caspian Terns had a great season, including late birds in *Tioga* 10/20 and *Erie* 10/22, both of which were photographed. A major fallout of **Black Terns** occurred across the eastern half of the state during heavy storms 8/21. Sightings on this date included 22 in *Centre*, 10 in *Chester*, 79 in *Lancaster*, 11 in *Luzerne*, 30 across two sites in *Lycoming*, 2 in *Montgomery*, and 38 in *Northumberland*. Based in no small part on this storm and a small continuance of reports a few days thereafter, Black Terns were seen in 12 counties overall, continuing a string of great showings in recent autumns. A late bird was noted in *Montgomery* 10/2. **Common Tern** was reported in just five counties, but like so many other species this year, included an abnormally late bird in *Erie* 11/20. The post-breeding gathering of **Forster’s Terns** at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* that has been noted in recent years topped out at 100 on 9/30 this time around. A late bird was in *Venango* 10/29.

Last date for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** coincidentally fell on 10/8 in five different counties (*Armstrong*, *Beaver*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, and *Delaware*). That day was a Saturday, which meant more birders were in the field than other days of the week, yet it was still notable that so many cuckoos were still around to be found on that date. They were seen beyond 10/8 in five other counties, including the latest of them in *Indiana* 11/6, which set a new late date there. These days compilers make special mention of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which was seen in 17 counties but in far fewer numbers than Yellow-billed, as usual. A fledgling Black-billed was noted in *Somerset* 9/20 and was probably the same bird seen again 10/2.

A **Barn Owl** at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 11/14-17 was the first at the park since 1997; they were reported in four other counties this fall. **Snowy Owls** appeared before season’s end at Gull Point, *Erie* 11/22 and in *York* 11/14, and the only **Long-eared Owl** of the season appeared in *Bucks*. **Short-eared Owl** was seen in just five counties, at least two of which were at traditional wintering areas. It was a peak

year in the cyclic migrations of **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, but they did not reach the lofty heights of 2012. Still, banding stations saw good numbers, including season totals of 95 in *Chester*, 182 in *Dauphin*, 100 in *Monroe*, and 175 in *Schuylkill*. Among those caught in *Monroe* was a bird originally banded in Estes Park, Colorado in October 2012—a distance of 1700 miles from the recapture site in *Monroe*. See the *Chester* and *Dauphin* reports for more details on other recaptures this season.

Common Nighthawk is another species to which compilers pay special attention. Including eBird data, they were reported in an impressive 51 counties, mostly around their usual late August/early September peak. A number of counties made the list on the strength of a single sighting, though, but locations with dedicated surveys did see average or at worst slightly below average numbers. The most notable of these surveys has been running for 17 years at Haverford College, *Delaware*, and it tallied 2754 for the season, with its three biggest nights coming in early September. A few one-off, high double-digit or triple-digit evening flights were seen variously around the state as well. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were noted in nine counties, an above-average count for fall.

Hummingbirds made news, as they always do in the fall these days. The headlining rarities this season were the state’s second **Anna’s Hummingbird** in *York*, the third (confirmed) **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in *Montoursville*, *Lycoming*, and the fourth **Calliope Hummingbird** in *West Norriton*, *Montgomery*. Of these only the Black-chinned was captured and banded. Nine **Rufous Hummingbirds** were confirmed in eight counties (*Lancaster* had two), and probable but unconfirmed Rufous were seen in *Juniata* and *Montgomery*. The *Juniata* bird was seen on the early date of 8/18. Surprisingly, no significantly late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported, but a few hung on into mid-October.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted in 31 counties, with a southern bias as usual, but something of a mystery developed in *Adams* and *York*, where they apparently vacated traditional strongholds after September. No explanation was immediately apparent to birders there. **Merlins** were heavily reported statewide with sightings away from breeding areas beginning as early as mid-August. The **Peregrine Falcon** pair in *York Haven*, *York*, was amusingly described by their

compiler as taking exception to their reflection in office window glass, a behavior that in retrospect is not as commonly reported as one might think it would be, given this species new preference for urban settings.

Olive-sided and **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** are the two representatives of this family that birders tend to key on in their areas, and so they are both quite well detailed in fall county reports. Olive-sided was noted in 28 counties and Yellow-bellied in 27, both exceptionally strong showings, but the usual caveat about Yellow-bellied that frequently appears in this space is worth repeating yet again—*Empidonax* identification is extremely complex, and any reports of silent Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the fall should be supported by observation of the whole suite of features, not just the yellow belly and throat.

A handful of **Eastern Wood-Pewees** made it into mid-October in *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*, and one in *Bucks* was still feeding young 8/30. Increasingly frequent in November, a **Least Flycatcher** tarried in *Huntingdon* to 11/10. **Eastern Phoebes** lingered into late November in at least five counties. Quite notable was a “phoebe fallout” of 22 birds at Lemon Hill, *Philadelphia* that was apparently associated with the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Matthew, which moved through offshore of New Jersey 10/10. Rare flycatchers made big news this year too. **Western Kingbirds** were noted in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*, the latter 9/15-16 which is an early date for this species compared to sightings over the past 10-15 years. Even better was a **Say’s Phoebe** in *Lancaster* 11/8-9, found by a birder who was in the area looking for the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck that had last been seen a few days before. Lastly, topping even the Says’ was perhaps the bird of the season for Pennsylvania—a remarkably cooperative **Tropical Kingbird** at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* 11/16-24. It represented the second record for the state, but the first was a one-day wonder in June 2013 that was seen only by a handful of birders, so this long-staying bird drew attention from all across the region.

Blue-headed Vireos stayed into November in *Bucks*, *Dauphin*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*, and a very late **Red-eyed Vireo** was still in *Philadelphia* 11/8. **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted in 36 counties, but again, like Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, birders may sometimes be a little too quick to call a *Philadelphia* when a critical look at the

target bird may well reveal a Warbling or Red-eyed. **Northern Shrike** appeared in five counties by season's end, a few of which were at repeat wintering areas from the previous year or years. Meanwhile the conquest of Pennsylvania by **Common Ravens** is nearly complete. This season they were reported in 62 counties, missed only in the glaciated counties of *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, and *Erie*, and in *McKean* (lack of birder coverage?) and, inexplicably, *Somerset*, where they were surely present, somewhere. As usual most compilers that mentioned ravens included some note about their continued expansion into formerly unoccupied areas, or a general increase in numbers.

Perhaps a bit surprisingly there wasn't much news with respect to late swallows, although **Tree Swallow** was still present in November in four southeastern counties, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was noted in *Philadelphia* though the season as usual, and in *Cumberland* 11/9, which was not usual. **Cave Swallows**, when they appear, normally do so in November, so birds in *Lancaster* 10/23 and *Lycoming* 10/27 were a shade early. More timely was one in *Bucks* 11/27.

A small irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees** along the eastern hybrid line in *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Montgomery* was underway by mid-October. The identity of a leucistic chickadee photographed in *Montgomery* 10/25-11/9 was confounded by the movement of Black-caps into the area, and it was never pinned down. After their historic showing in 2012 and rather poor echo peak in 2014, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were back again in 2016 with a strong showing in an even-numbered year. The invasion started early in many locations, particularly in eastern and central counties where August sightings were widespread. Peak movement statewide was in September and October, and although sightings tapered off a bit in November, that was likely due to birds settling down in wintering areas instead of being on the move though the state generally. They were reported in 65 counties through the end of November, missed only in *Blair* and *Snyder*, both underbirded counties where it's safe to assume the species passed through too. The highest single-site count appeared to be 20 at Hillman State Park, *Washington* 10/1, a location where a small, isolated breeding population is also resident.

With so many other species lingering into November, **House Wren** would not be left out; they remained in *Dauphin* and *Chester* into the first week of November

and in *Philadelphia* to 11/24. **Marsh Wren** seems to be reported more often in recent fall seasons, and this season was not an exception to this possible trend, as they were reported in 19 counties. *Allegheny* was a good example of its recent status, where five total records for the season were easily a county record. Of course they lingered in to November in a number of areas. The only **Sedge Wren** for the season was a bird in *Montgomery* 9/18-22. **Carolina Wrens** in *Westmoreland* fledged young on the late date of 8/22. Late **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were noted in *Bucks* 11/6 and *Lancaster* 11/2. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in *Beaver* 9/17 provided an unusual *early* record in this mild season, as did a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** in *Lebanon* 8/30.

Pre-dawn monitoring of flight calls was conducted again by a small cadre of dedicated birders in *Montgomery*, *Berks*, *Clarion*, and *Allegheny*. The season was more or less unremarkable, but some good mornings included nearly 1500 **Wood** and **Swainson's Thrush** calls in *Clarion* 9/20 and a total of 1356 Swainson's and 113 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls confirmed by automated recording in *Allegheny* 9/21. Five Swainson's Thrush flight calls (presumed to all be from the same bird) were caught by the same rooftop microphone in *Allegheny* on the very early date of 8/7. A **Bicknell's Thrush** call was recorded in *Montgomery* 10/4 and 10/5. Otherwise the thrush migration was unremarkable, with birders unable to scare up big numbers of any species by day, which is not unusual, but the thrushes *are* there in the fall. Powdermill Nature Reserve in *Westmoreland*, for example, netted 71 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** and 503 **Swainson's Thrushes** for the season. Totally unexpected even in a season like this was a **Wood Thrush** photographed in the company of a **Tennessee Warbler** (also photographed) on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh 11/28.

Gray Catbirds were found in an amazing 22 counties in November. It was a good season overall for **American Pipit** with widespread reports across the state beginning mid-September, including double-digit flocks in many counties. Despite the warm weather, **Snow Buntings** pushed through on schedule anyway, and in fact were in above average numbers, with reports in 23 counties. The earliest vanguards appeared in *Erie* 10/28 and *Montour* 10/28. **Lapland Longspurs** appeared only in *Erie*, *Bucks*, and *Huntingdon*, however, though in *Erie* they showed up early on 10/14.

Of course the news among warblers was almost exclusively in the form of late dates. Compilers did not make much mention of big days, although a few were had here and there. Season totals at Hawk Mountain were off as well. **Ovenbirds** made it to mid-October in several counties and once again stayed in *Philadelphia* to November (11/7 this year). It seemed to be a good season for **Northern Waterthrush**, which had widespread reports mostly in September, and a late bird hung around the mist nets at Powdermill Nature Reserve, *Westmoreland* until at least 11/1. **Golden-winged Warbler** was noted in five counties, though one of those (*Centre*) were seen in early August at a known breeding site. **Brewster's** and **Lawrence's Warbler** were noted once each. Aside from the extremely wayward **Tennessee Warbler** on the CMU campus already mentioned, late Tennessees were also noted in *Philadelphia* 10/22 and *Chester* 10/26. A few **Nashville Warblers** were noted in the second half of October as well, and one remained in *Bucks* to 11/5. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were noted in 15 counties, and once again, while most of these records are certainly good, this species is a little more uncommon in Pennsylvania than many birders realize. Certainly any Orange-crowned before the middle of September should be examined with an especially critical eye. Birders are getting very good at finding **Connecticut** and **Mourning Warblers** in the fall, with reports in 20 and 19 counties, respectively. Powdermill netted 10 and 7 of each for the season, also respectively. Unsurprisingly **Common Yellowthroat** was noted into November in several southeastern counties, but one in *Warren* 11/25 was unexpected even this year.

Tropical Kingbird chasers in Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* found and photographed an **American Redstart** there 11/25-26. Reports of **Cape May Warblers** were mixed, with some areas reporting a fair to good season, but that was not true everywhere. A banding station in the Allegheny National Forest, *Warren* netted no Cape May Warblers at all, and only small numbers of Blackpoll and Tennessee. One might have assumed it was a bad year for the "budworm" birds but the same station nevertheless netted a record number of **Bay-breasted Warblers**, and indeed it was a good season in many areas of the state for this species. Latest Cape May and Bay-breasted were both in *Lancaster* 11/8 and 10/19, respectively, and a very early Bay-breasted was noted in *Chester* 8/22. October **Northern Parulas** were found in eight counties. **Yellow**

Warblers cross over into the “very late” category after the middle of September, but they were found in eight counties in the second half this September, and extraordinarily late **Yellows** were also noted in *Montgomery* 11/3 and *Philadelphia* 11/7. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was captured at Powdermill, *Westmoreland* 11/1, and others were found in early November in *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia*.

Palm Warblers were found on or after Thanksgiving in six southeastern counties. **Pine Warbler** had a better than average season, including one that returned to a feeder in *Clinton* for the second year in a row and stayed deep into December. Early **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found in August in the southeast in *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Montgomery*. Perhaps a bit surprising was the fact that only one **Black-throated Green Warbler** was noted in November, that in *Philadelphia* 11/1. Both **Canada Warbler** and **Wilson’s Warbler** were well reported but neither on any particularly unusual dates. Several **Yellow-breasted Chats** were still around in October but only the one in *Lancaster* 10/24 made it past the first week of the month.

It turned out to be a good season for rare sparrows, headlined by what would be Pennsylvania’s first record of **Ipswich Savannah Sparrow**—which was photographed at the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks* 11/27—should documentation be sent to PORC. There were also three records of **Lark Sparrow**, two within a day of each other in *Bucks* 8/21 and in *Lancaster* 8/22; the third was a bird wonderfully photographed in *Philadelphia* 10/23. A **Gambel’s White-crowned Sparrow** was located in *Lycoming* 11/27. Birders are much more dialed into the **Nelson’s Sparrow** migration through Pennsylvania in the fall these days, though this year they were found in only two locations away from well-established sites which produce them annually. A **Le Conte’s Sparrow** found by Nelson’s Sparrow searchers in *Lancaster* 10/16 was the only one for the season. Just three reports of **Clay-colored Sparrow** were fewer than in recent years. Aside from the rarities, there wasn’t much else noteworthy with the sparrow family. **Fox Sparrow** and **Lincoln’s Sparrow** both stuck to their normal windows of occurrence, but were both perhaps a little better reported than usual. A **Henslow’s Sparrow** in *Bedford* 10/2 was late but the true departure dates of this secretive species from Pennsylvania are not well known. A **Vesper Sparrow** in *Bucks* 11/28 was certainly late, however.

Scarlet Tanager carried into October in at least eight counties. Three **Summer Tanagers** were reported including one continuing again from the summer at Neversink Mountain, *Berks* to at least 9/21. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in *Warren* 11/15 was the latest of four or five grosbeaks that hit “snooze” on southbound migration this year. **Blue Grosbeaks** were frequently reported mainly around breeding areas, but one in *Montgomery* 10/29 was record late there. An **Indigo Bunting** in *Bucks* 11/12 was also late but not record-setting. Seven **Dickcissels** in seven different counties, including *Mercer* and *Washington* in the west, was a very good season for this rare migrant. The imperiled **Rusty Blackbird** was found in 39 counties, more or less on time but not in high numbers; best counts by far were 200 in *Bucks* in late October and about 175 a few days later in *Dauphin*. Please see the *Bucks* report for the latest update on that county’s wintering **Baltimore Orioles**, where at least five birds remained at feeders at the end of November. Other late November Baltimore Orioles were noted in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*.

Winter finches did not move in great numbers, but except for White-winged Crossbill they were all reported at least once. **Purple Finches** were plentiful with several compilers mentioning the many sightings in their counties this fall. **Red Crossbills** were found in five counties but none of them settled down into any location until later in the winter. One in *Chester* 10/6 was very early, but all the others were in November. **Common Redpolls** were noted in *Carbon* and *Tioga*. Autumn reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** have been on the rise for a few years now, and that continued with reports in 10 counties this fall, but once again none of these seemed to settle down in one place, and the only somewhat reliable location for them in the winter still seems to be one particular feeding station in Marienville, *Forest*. Quite remarkable was an Evening Grosbeak photographed at a feeder in *Wayne* 8/3-4, representing one of the earliest fall records in decades. **Pine Siskins** were found in 40 counties but very thinly; the vast majority of these counties saw only one or a handful of siskin reports for the season, mostly in October and early November. In fact the top counts for the season were just 24 at Wolf Rocks, *Monroe* 11/5 and 24 at Waggoner’s Gap the same day.

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

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. Undocumented reports of review species are included in this listing but are generally excluded from most analyses of the historical record; for this reason, documentation is highly desirable for these species. 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 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.

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Bucks*: one early bird at Pine Run Dam 9/28 (ph. August Mirabella) followed by many more reports 10/15 through Nov; *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 10/24-27 (Ana Garcia, Rich Rehrig, eBird); *Chester*: 2 of the *flavirostris* population at Coatesville Res. 10/11-22 (Rick Robinson); *Clearfield*: one at the DuBois Res. 10/18 (Dan Richards); *Monroe*: one at Weir Lake 11/6 (Kathy Weiss); *Montour*: 8 at the Montour Preserve and vicinity 11/20-22 (Evan Houston, et al., eBird).

Ross's Goose – *Chester*: one at Coatesville Res. 11/27 through the period (Rick Robinson).

Brant – *Berks, Bucks, Columbia, Crawford, Erie, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Tioga, Wayne*.

Trumpeter Swan – *Bucks*: one seen at Nockamixon SP and Lake Towhee Park every year since 2013 returned to Lake Towhee again 10/8-30 (John Finch, Paul Teese, August Mirabella, Edward Komito), and one juv. at Nockamixon SP 11/6 (ph. Mark Gallagher, Holly Merker, et al.); *Schuylkill*: 2 wing-tagged birds (Z603 and Z675) continued from the spring at Sweet Arrow Lake (Denise Donmoyer).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* – *Lancaster*: one at Hurst Rd and Frysville Rd 10/24-11/5 (Fern Bauman, m.ob. *doc submitted*); *Northampton*: one at Walnutport Canal 10/3 to early Dec (Pam Pryor, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Green-winged (Common) Teal* – *Chester*: one at the Eagleview Pond 11/27 (Rick Robinson) where presumably the same individual has been seen annually since Feb 2013 (*doc previously submitted*).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Philadelphia*: one at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 10/29-11/25 (Frank Windfelder, Holger Pflücke).

Eared Grebe* – *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 9/11-12 (Steve Pinkerton, *doc submitted*); *Montour*: one at the Montour Preserve 9/10 (ph. Evan Houston, eBird, *doc submitted*).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 10/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 11/10-23 (Kenneth Rieker).

American White Pelican – *Erie*: one found moribund near the Harborcreek-Interstate 90 junction 10/11 later died at a rehabilitation (*fide* Gina Kron); *Indiana*: a flock of 35-40 over Lewisville 9/21 (Marcy Cunkleman); *York*: 35 over Rocky Ridge County Park 9/22 (Ken Orvis, Fred Paley, Randy Phillips).

Brown Pelican* – *Susquehanna*: a juv. discovered by a non-birder at Lake Chrisann 8/21 stayed long enough to be seen by a few birders (ph. Tom Norville, *no doc*);

Least Bittern – *Lawrence*: one continuing from summer at Black Swamp 8/25 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Montgomery*: one recorded on nocturnal migration over Elkins Park 9/12 (Paul Driver).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: up to 7 at Rohm and Haas, Bristol to 8/27, one at Bradford Dam through 8/23 (August Mirabella, m.ob.), and one at New Hope 8/28 (Bill Hoehne); *Chester*: one at Octorara Res. 8/15-9/5 (Patrick Millar); *Delaware*: up to 3 at John Heinz NWR 9/3-24 (Debbie Beer, Al Guarente, et al.); *Lancaster*: one at Riverfront Park 8/5-7 (Mike Epler, et al.), and 4 at Octorara Res. 8/15-16

(Patrick Millar) with one remaining to 9/24 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park through 9/22 with 2 there occasionally through 9/5 (m.ob.); *Northumberland*: one at the Fabridam in Sunbury 8/14 (ph. Karol Pasquinelli, eBird); *Philadelphia*: season total of up to 100 at John Heinz NWR through 10/9, with a single day high of 28 on 9/11 (George Armistead, Frank Windfelder).

Tricolored Heron* – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 11/7 (Joan Silagy, *no doc*).

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: 7 total at five sites with the last one at Churchville Park 9/16 (Kris Koch, m.ob.); *Chester*: multiple sightings of up to 4 through 8/24 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: at John Heinz NWR 9/10 and 9/14 (Al Guarente); *Franklin*: one at Bender's Farm 8/7 (Bill Oyler, Carl Garner, Joan Bowen); *Huntingdon*: one continuing from the summer at Old Crow wetland to 8/6 (Renee Lubert, Greg Grove, Julia Plummer); *Lancaster*: 3 at the Conejohela Flats 8/5-6 (Mike Epler, et al.) and 8/24 (Zachary Millen), and 3 at Fishing Creek 9/11 (Tom Amico); *Lebanon*: one imm. at Middle Creek WMA 8/1-19 (Randy Miller, Barry Bell), and one continuing from the summer at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority property to 8/29 (Dave McNaughton); *Montgomery*: up to 4 at Green Lane Park though 8/22 and one or 2 through 8/30 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: up to 8 at John Heinz NWR 8/5 (Lynn Roman) and 9/14 (Al Guarente); *Tioga*: one juv. at Hammond Lakes 8/14-18 (ph. Ken Cooper, John Cocoran, eBird); *Westmoreland*: one imm. at Latrobe Reservoir 9/2 (Dennis Smeltzer); *York*: 3 juvs. at York Haven 8/5 (Mike Epler).

Cattle Egret* – *Berks*: one at Gotwal's Pond 10/16 (Matt Spence, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 10/28 (ph. Lynne Falterbauer, Arnold Rush, *doc submitted*); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 11/4 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman, Clare Nicolls, Mark Vass, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one at the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 8/1-14 (Larry Bernhardt, *doc submitted*) and 2 at Safe Harbor 10/21 (Mike Epler, *no doc*); *Mercer*: one at a farm near Sharpsville 10/29-11/21 (Michael Kovach, m.ob., *no doc*) was joined by a second bird 11/5; *Northumberland*: 5 at the Fabridam in Sunbury 10/20 (ph. Evan Houston, eBird, *doc submitted*).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Clearfield*: one juv at Curwensville Dam 8/4-5 (ph. Chris Grecco); *Dauphin*: up to 6 on the Susquehanna R. at Harrisburg 8/4 and 8/13 (Ed Bernot, Alex Lamoreaux, Ian Gardner, eBird); *Montgomery*: 4 juvs. and an adult 8/15 (Michael Rosengarten), 2 adults and 2 juveniles 8/16 (Michael Rosengarten), and 3 adults and a juv. 8/28 (Paul Driver) all at Norristown Dam.

Glossy Ibis – *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 8/9 (Alex Lamoreaux, Ramona Sahni) and one there 8/18-9/1 (Ted Nichols II, Zachary Millen, Mike Epler, Joe Yoder, et al.); *Montgomery*: max of 8 at Green Lane Park 8/8-9/1 (Joe Greco, et al.); *Philadelphia*: several at John Heinz NWR 8/24 and 9/24 (Frank Windfelder, et al.).

White Ibis* – *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 8/15 (Holger Pflücke, *no doc*).

Mississippi Kite* – *Berks*: one in Longswamp Twp. 9/22 (Peggy Spence, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 8/23 (Richard Smith, *no doc*); *Delaware*: one at the Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch 9/7 (Bill Roache, *no doc*).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Bedford*: one over the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch 9/6 (Jim Rocco, *no doc*).

Swainson's Hawk* – *Chester*: one photographed perched on a rooftop in Malvern 10/25 (Scott Reynolds, *no doc*).

Purple Gallinule* – *Beaver*: one juv. at Ambridge Res 10/7-10 (Mark Vass, *doc submitted*) represented a county first and a first for western Pennsylvania away from *Erie*.

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: one at Duck Hollow 8/26 (Betty Roland); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 8/6 (August Mirabella); *Crawford*: 3 at the Pymatuning Spillway 8/6 (Michelle Kienholz); *Erie*: 5 at Gull Point 8/14 (Steve Dowlan); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/23 (Gordon Dimmig) and 3 there 9/27 (Mike Epler); *Northumberland*: 2 at the Fabridam in Sunbury 8/26 (ph. Andy Keister, eBird).

Black-necked Stilt* – *Delaware*: one at Springton Res. 11/29 (Al Guarente, ph. Nick Pulcinella, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 11/2-28 (Scott Godshall, *doc submitted*).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: one at Barracks Beach and four different banded birds at Gull Point 8/6-24 (Geoff Malosh, Mary Birdsong, et al., *no doc*); *Mercer*: one banded juv. (origin undetermined) at Shenango River Reservoir 9/1-10 (Neil Troyer, ph. Geoff Malosh, m.ob., *no doc*) provided a first county record.

Willet – *Erie*: season total of 6 at Gull Point 8/4-9/5 (Ruth Swaney, Don Snyder, Roger Donn).

Upland Sandpiper – *Lancaster*: 2 or 3 at Lancaster Airport 8/2-11 (Zachary Millen, Barry Blust, et al.).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: 5 at Gull Point 8/21 (Mary Birdsong) and one there 9/11-13 (Shannon Thompson).

Hudsonian Godwit – *Erie*: one seen at Gull Point and Sunset Point 10/11 (Roger Donn).

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: singles including one long-staying bird at Gull Point 8/13-9/2 (Tim Lenz, Ruth Swaney, John Levin, et al.).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Crawford*: one at Woodcock L. 8/15 (Rob Hodgson, Clare Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow) and one there 8/24 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: present in small numbers at Gull Point through 9/11 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 9/1 (Mike Epler); *Mercer*: 2 juvs. at Shenango R. Res. 8/27 (Geoff Malosh); *Northumberland*: 2 at the Fabridam in Sunbury 8/31-9/3 (Andy Keister, eBird).

Red Knot – *Erie*: season total of 5 from 8/21-9/9 at Gull Point (Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Bucks*: 2 at Penn-Warner Tract 8/27 (Devich Farbotnik) and one at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 8/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Woodcock L. 8/12 (Ron Leberman) and one at Pymatuning goose management area 9/2 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: up to 3 at Gull Point 8/23-9/9 (Jerry McWilliams, Roger Donn, Don Snyder); *Lancaster*: singles at Becker Rd. 8/25 (Stan Stahl), Graystone Rd. 8/25-30 (Ted Nichols II, et al.), and Conejohela Flats 9/18 (Mike Epler); *Luzerne*: one at Forty Fort Rec Fields 9/5 (Jonathan DeBalko, eBird); *Mercer*: up to 6 at Shenango R. Res. 9/1 (Geoff Malosh, Neil Troyer).

Western Sandpiper – *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 9/15 (Ron Leberman); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 8/8 (ph. Patricia and Richard Williams); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/6 (ph. Geoff Malosh); *Lancaster*: 3 at the Conejohela Flats 8/11 (Alex Lamoreaux) and one there 8/13 (Zachary Millen, Mike Epler, Ted Nichols II); *Washington*: 2 at Bentleyville 9/11 (Roy Ickes).

Purple Sandpiper – *Erie*: one near Sunset Point 11/6 (Steve Denninger) and 2 flew past Sunset Point 11/20 (Aidan Place, Sameer Apte).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 11/3 (Rick Robinson); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 9/28 (Ron Leberman); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 10/20 (Lisa Black, Mary Coomer, Ian Gardner, Ed Bernot); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/10 (Brad Walker, Tim Lenz); *Franklin*: one at the Kriner Road

retention ponds 10/30-11/3 (Bill Oyler, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Joan Bowen); *Indiana*: 2 at Yellow Creek SP 10/2-7 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, et al.); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/18 (Mike Epler), 2 at the Alcoa Marsh 10/10-16 (Mike Epler, m.ob.), and one at Middle Creek WMA 10/15 (Stan Stahl); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 10/8-13 (Stan Stahl, Zachary Millen, Ted Nichols II, Steve Walthius) was joined by a second bird 10/15 (Randy Miller); *Philadelphia*: 3 at John Heinz NWR 9/28-10/9 (Jim McConnell).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 9/6 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/1 (ph. Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one at the Alcoa Marsh 9/8-11 (Mike Epler, m.ob.); *Mercer*: one at Shenango River Res. 9/1 (Geoff Malosh) and 9/9 (Randy Stringer); *Philadelphia*: present at John Heinz NWR 8/7-9/10 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 8/30-9/7 (Jim McConnell).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Lancaster*: one at the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 8/23-30 (Peggy Price, Rick Price, Pamela Fisher, m.ob.).

Red Phalarope* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 9/24-25 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Chester*: one juv. at Marsh Creek SP during a storm 8/21 (ph. Holly Merker, ph. Chad Hutchinson, Mike Defina, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one juv. at Green Lane Park 9/3-4 (Scott Godshall, *no doc*).

Jaeger sp. – *Erie*: one probable Parasitic Jaeger at the waterbird count at Sunset Point 10/13 and another distant jaeger sp. 10/25 (both Jerry McWilliams).

Little Gull – *Bucks*: one adult with 6 Bonaparte's Gulls at Peace Valley Park 10/23 (August Mirabella); *Erie*: singles at the waterbird count at Sunset Point 10/19 and 10/23 (Jerry McWilliams).

Black-headed Gull* – *Butler*: one at Moraine SP South Shore 11/27 into Dec (Shirley Mutz, Kathy Saunders, Becky Smith, *doc previously submitted*) providing seventh *Butler* record, all from this location.

Iceland Gull – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 11/9 (Daniel Hinnebusch); *Bucks*: 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/24 (Devich Farbotnik).

Black Tern – *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, *Luzerne*, *Lycomin*, *Montgomery*, *Northumberland*.

Common Tern – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 8/4 and 8/13 (Ron Leberman) and 3 there 9/7 (David Poortinga); *Erie*: at Gull Point through early Sep (m.ob.), with scattered reports in late Oct at Sunset Point (Jerry McWilliams) and one late bird at Presque Isle 11/20 (Aidan Place, Sameer Apte); *Lancaster*: one 8/17 (Elora Grahame, Alex Lamoreaux), one 8/27 (Meredith Lombard), and 4 on 9/1 (Ian Gardner, Zachary Millen, Mike Epler) all at the Conejohela Flats; *Mercer*: up to 12 at Shenango River Res. 9/11-17 (Steve Sanford, Neil Troyer, Geoff Malosh); *Tioga*: singles at Hammond Lakes 8/22 (Ken Cooper, eBird) and 9/11 (Rich Hanlon, eBird).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: persisted in Shartlesville with top count of 8 (Matt Wlasniewski, m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one along Rte. 11 east of Koser and Hammond Rds. 9/5 (Ed Bernot); *Franklin*: present again at Greencastle Res. where resident, but the max count this season was just 6 (Carl Garner).

Snowy Owl – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 11/22 (Roger Donn) and another there 11/27-30 (Ruth Swaney, Roger Donn); *York*: one at Biesecker Rd. 11/14 (ph. Josh Markel).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: one at an undisclosed location in November (Damian Fallon).

Anna's Hummingbird* – *York*: one female (probably juv.) at a York residence 11/4-14 (Greg Smith, *doc submitted*) attended only blooming salvia and was not captured.

Black-chinned Hummingbird* – *Lycoming*: adult female at feeder in Montoursville 11/1-15 (Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Bobby Brown), banded 11/12 (Wayne Laubscher, *doc submitted*).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Allegheny*: adult female at Brookline 11/23 through the season (Diane Walkowski), banded 11/29; *Berks*: imm. male in Knauers from at least 11/11 through season (Mike Slater, Georgia Garbini), banded 11/11; *Delaware*: one in Newtown

Square 11/13 was photographed (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: adult female returned to a Quarryville residence 10/8-11/30 for the second year in a row (Terri and Doug Elvey, Scott Weidensaul, m.ob.) and imm. male at a yard in Stevens 10/5-22 (Ruth Witmer), banded 10/12 (Sandy Lockerman); *Lycoming*: adult female near SGL 252 from 10/26 to end of the season, banded 11/25 (Wayne Laubscher); *Northumberland*: adult female near Seven Points, banded 11/27 (Sandy Lockerman, eBird); *Schuylkill*: one at Orwigsburg for much of the fall, banded 12/2 (Scott Weidensaul); *Union*: one in Lewisburg identified by photo 10/26 (Steve and Cyndi Routledge, eBird); *York*: one in Dover Twp., banded 11/5 (Gary and Sandy Lockerman), stayed into winter.

Selasphorus sp. – *Juniata*: one seen briefly at a feeder in Oakland Mills 8/18 (Aden Troyer); *Lebanon*: one probable female Rufous present for one day at residence in Cornwall 10/29 (Pat and Richard Williams); *Montgomery*: one at Bryn Mawr yard 11/28 through the season where homeowners did not allow banding attempt (*fide* Paul Bernhardt), likely a Rufous based on photos (Scott Weidensaul).

Calliope Hummingbird* – *Montgomery*: one photographed in West Norriton 10/31-11/1 (Anthony Uhrich, Kim Gruener, *doc submitted*) departed before banding attempt could be made.

Say's Phoebe* – *Lancaster*: one at Frysville Rd. 11/8-9 (Michael David, m.ob. *doc submitted*).

Western Kingbird* – *Lancaster*: one at the Chestnut Grove Natural Area 10/21 (Mike Epler, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 9/15-16 (Anna Mindel, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Tropical Kingbird* – *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom 11/16-24 (Bob Schutsky, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Northern Shrike – *Centre*: 2 at Bald Eagle SP 11/12-27 (Joe Verica, et al.); *Crawford*: one at Swamp Rd, Erie NWR 11/4 and thereafter (Robert Scribner); *Erie*: one at Franklin Center beginning 11/12 where one has wintered several years in a row (Julie Dell); *Jefferson*: one at Harvery's Run Rd. 11/10 (Dan Richards); *Lawrence*: one returned to Shaner Rd. again this winter beginning 11/14 (Steve Gosser, Randy Stringer).

Cave Swallow* – *Bucks*: 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/27 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one at Holtwood 10/23 (Tom Raub, *no doc*); *Lycoming*: one photographed at Williamsport Dam 10/27 (Bobby Brown, David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, *doc submitted*).

Sedge Wren – *Montgomery*: at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 9/18-22 (Paul Driver, m.ob.).

Bicknell's Thrush* – *Lancaster*: one or 2 heard on nocturnal migration at SGL 220 on 10/2 (Bruce Carl, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: 2 flight calls each on nights of 10/4 and 10/5 at Elkins Park (vr. Paul Driver, *no doc*).

Golden-winged Warbler – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 9/13 (Ron French, Bob Shaffer); *Chester*: one in yard near Bucktoe Creek Preserve 9/28 (Joe Sebastiani); *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 8/11 (Joseph Verica, eBird) and 8/22 (Julia Plummer, eBird); *Indiana*: one at Blue Spruce County Park 9/3 (Margaret Higbee, John Taylor); *Philadelphia*: one at Independence National Historical Park 9/12 (Jason Waanders, eBird).

Brewster's Warbler – *Venango*: one in an Oil City yard (Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Montgomery*: one at Fort Washington SP 9/4 (Dave Belford).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 10/11 (*fide* August Mirabella), and one at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 10/20 (Richard Smith); *Centre*: one at the Hough Family Preserve 10/15 (Joe Verica); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/18 (Andy Urquhart, Ellen Bacino); *Philadelphia*: one at the Delaware River Trail 10/23 (Kate Somerville).

Nelson's Sparrow – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 10/6 (Stan Glowacki) and 10/26 (August Mirabella), one at Bradford Dam 10/13-16 (August Mirabella, Michael Hartshorne, Mark Gallagher, Bill Keim, Toby Levin), and one at Penn-Warner Tract 10/15-16 (Devich Farbotnik, Paul Cooper); *Clinton*: one or 2 at Central

Mountain High School 10/6 (Jack Cochran); *Lancaster*: up to 6 at Bainbridge Islands 10/1-8 (Mike Epler, Ted Nichols II, Vince Pantanella, Zachary Millen, Meredith Lombard, Eric Witmer) and 2 there 10/16 (Ian Gardner); *Tioga*: one at Nessmuk Lake 10/4-7 (Bruce Carl, Ken Cooper, eBird).

Le Conte's Sparrow* – *Lancaster*: 2 at Bainbridge Islands 10/16 (Eric Witmer, Mike Epler, Ted Nichols II, Zachary Millen, Bruce Carl, *doc submitted*).

Lark Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 8/21 (Richard Smith, August Mirabella, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one at Conewago Rec. Trail and Wetlands 8/22 (Meredith Lombard, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/23 (ph. Frank Windfelder, *no doc*).

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow* – *Lycoming*: one at SGL 252 on 11/27 (Bobby Brown, David Brown, *no doc*).

Ipswich Savannah Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 11/27 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*) would represent a state first if accepted.

Summer Tanager* – *Berks*: one continued from summer at Neversink Mt. from summer to 9/21 (Jay Drasher, *doc previously submitted*); *Bucks*: a female at Tinicum Twp. 9/16-20 (ph. Paul Cooper, *doc submitted*); *Schuylkill*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 9/12 (Rudy Keller, *no doc*).

Dickcissel – *Adams*: one continuing from the summer at Possum Hollow Rd. 8/1-8 (Phil Keener); *Bucks*: singles at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 8/23, 10/1, and 10/21 (Richard Smith); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 230 on 9/24 (Troy Corman); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 10/13 (Randy Miller); *Mercer*: one at Skunk Run Rd. 10/23 (Neil Troyer); *Philadelphia*: 2 at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/2 (Frank Windfelder, Ann Reeves) and one at Houston Meadow 10/2 (Martin Seltzer); *Washington*: one at Hillman SP grasslands 8/20 (ph. Fred Kachmarik).

Bullock's Oriole* – *Lancaster*: first year male at feeder in Lititz 11/25 (Jane Yutzy, LaVern Yutzy, *doc submitted*).

Red Crossbill – *Berks*: 2 passed Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for season (Laurie Goodrich); *Chester*: one in yard in West Chester 10/6 (Nick Pulcinella); *Huntingdon*: 2 flew over Shaver's Creek Environmental Center 11/29 (Jon Kauffman); *Lycoming*: at least 5-6 at Williamsport Water Authority 11/17 (David Brown) with call recordings of the flock identified as Type 2, Type 10, and likely Type 1; *Montgomery*: one at Elkins Park 11/29 (Paul Driver); *Schuylkill*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/17 (Hawk Mountain data).

Evening Grosbeak – *Bradford*: up to 6 at Stevensville 11/4-11 (Kevin Raymond); *Carbon*: one at Hickory Run SP feeders 10/28 (ph. John Slotterback, eBird) and 2 at Mauch Chunk Lake Park 11/25 (Dustin Welch, eBird); *Centre*: one at yard in State College 11/1 (Nancy Ellen Kiernan); *Franklin*: one at private residence near Waynesboro 11/22 (ph. Dixie Rook); *Juniata*: one at feeder in Licking Creek Valley 11/25 (Deb Brackbill); *Lycoming*: one at Ralston 11/12 (ph. Norwood Frederick); *Potter*: 2 photographed near SGL 204 on 11/21 (anonymous eBird); *Schuylkill*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/12 (Ken Walsh, Sharyn Magee); *Tioga*: one at Hammond Lakes 11/4 (Rich Hanlon, eBird) and one at Roseville 11/5 (ph. Barbara Silverstein, eBird); *Wayne*: adult male photographed at feeder near Honesdale 8/3-4 (Mrs. Southerton).

ADDENDA

American Avocet – *Mercer*: one photographed at the Chestnut Run swim beach, Shenango River Res. 7/19/2016 (Summer 2016) (John Kolodzieski, Steve Sanford).

Upland Sandpiper – *Berks*: one at Rodale Experimental Farm 7/61/2016 (Summer 2016) (Michael Schall).

Photographic Highlights



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). This Black-bellied Whistling Duck was present at Walnutport, *Northampton* 3 October until early December (here 5 October), providing potentially a county first, though origin is suspect; also found this fall in *Lancaster*. (Ted Nichols)



Redhead (*Athya americana*). This Redhead was very early on the Susquehanna River, *Lancaster* 20 August, staying into early September. (Mike Epler)



Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). This juvenile Brown Pelican was present only a few hours at Lake Chrisann, *Susquehanna* 21 September, providing a county first record and one of less than ten for Pennsylvania. (Tom Norville)



Snowy Egret and Great Egret (*Egretta thula* and *Ardea alba*). This Snowy Egret posed with its larger cousin Great Egret at Riverfront Park, *Lancaster* 6 August; it was a good year for Snowies in the southeast, with a season total of 100 at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia*. (Dave Kerr)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Americans Bitterns lingered into November in *Centre* and *Philadelphia*, as did this bird, photographed 6 November at Lackawanna SP, *Lackawanna*. (Jakub Jasinski)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). A good summer season Little Blue Herons continued into the fall, when Little Blues were reported in ten counties, including this young bird at Green Lane, *Montgomery* 6 August. (*Amanda Kavitt*)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulicus ibis*). One Cattle Egret was present at a farm pond near Sharpsville, *Mercer* 29 October until 21 (here 2) November; a second was present briefly 5 November. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Dark elegance in flight – Glossy Ibis at Conejohela Flats on the Susquehanna River, *Lancaster* 9 August. (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis*). The gathering of the winter flock of Sandhill Cranes at Volant, *Lawrence*, here 2 October; 81 were present by season's end, the eventually increasing into triple digits. (*Don Andruth*)



American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). American Golden Plovers were found in 15 counties, mostly in the west and the lower Susquehanna valley; numbers were very low – this loner was at Janoski's Farm, *Allegheny* 2 September. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Providing a first for *Mercer*, this juvenile Piping Plover was at Shenango River Reservoir 1-9 (here 2) September; it's bands, not entirely readable, indicated origin in Michigan or Ontario. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). *Montgomery's* first ever Black-necked Stilt came late in the season, staying at Green Lane Park 2-28 (here 7) Nov possibly the same bird at Springton Reservoir, *Delaware* a day later, 29 Nov, providing a third county record (*Amanda Kavitt*)



Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*). This Spotted Sandpiper was photographed 9 August at Marshall Lake, *Allegheny*. (*Alan Buriak*)



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). This Whimbrel was photographed at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 11 September, staying for three days; earlier five were there 21 August. (*David Yeany*)



Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). One of six Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Shenango River Reservoir, *Mercer* 1 September – providing the high count ever for the county. (*Geoff Malsoh*)



Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). This Red Phalarope was at Green Lane, *Montgomery* 4 Sept; others were in *Tioga* and *Chester*. (*Ted Nicholls*)



Black Tern (*Chilonias niger*). This Black Tern was at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 17 August; a major fallout occurred during heavy storms in eastern Pennsylvania 21 August. (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). This Common Tern posed at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 17 August. (Alex Lamoreaux)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This Ruby-throat was photographed at the Community Garden at Lake Naomi, Monroe 12 August. (Maya Shikhman)



Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). This Anna's Hummingbird represents the second state record of the species; it was present 4-14 (here 11) November in York, York, where it fed at stands of salvia, eluding efforts to capture and band. (First Pennsylvania record was in Berks during winter 2011-12). (Geoff Malosh)



Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). Providing a second Pennsylvania record, this Tropical Kingbird was seen by many birders during its extended stay at Peach Bottom, Lancaster 16-24 (here 23) November. (John McNamara)



Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*). Yet another of many "good" hummers this fall, this Black-chinned Hummingbird at Montoursville, Lycoming represents Pennsylvania's third confirmed record. (Ted Nichols)



Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). This Say's Phoebe at Frysville Road, Lancaster 8 November was the second ever for the county; it stayed one more day. (Michael David)



Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). Lycoming's first Cave Swallow was at Williamsport Dam 27 October, an early date for this rare, but annual late-fall visitor. (David Brown)



LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). Two LeConte's Sparrows were found by birders searching for Nelson's Sparrow on Bainbridge Island in the Susquehanna River, Lancaster 16 October. (Eric Witmer)



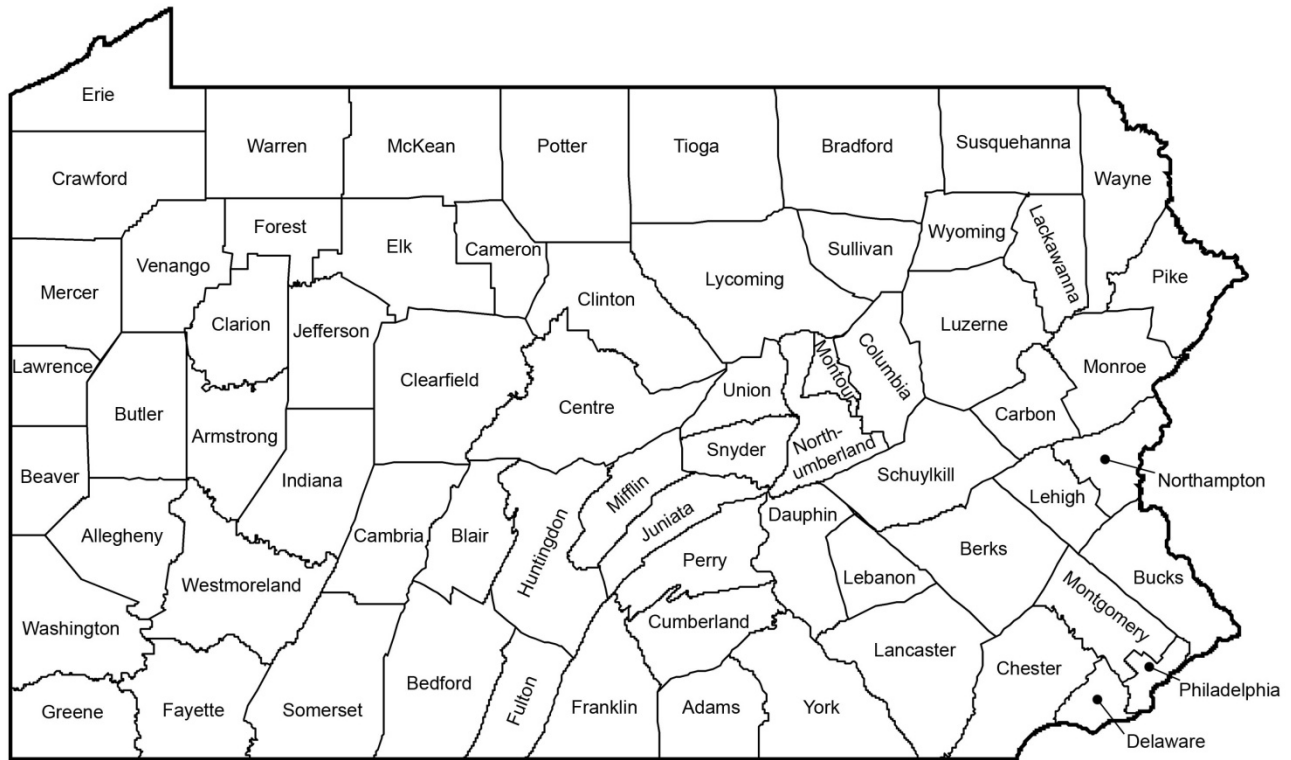
Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Lark Sparrows were found in Bucks, Philadelphia, and Lancaster, where this bird at Chestnut Grove Grove Natural Area was photographed 22 August. (Meredith Lombard)



Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*). This handsome Fox Sparrow was at Chambers Lake, Chester 5 November. (Arthur Steinberger)



Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). One of at least six Evening Grosbeaks at Stevensville, Bradford, seen 4 and (here) 11 November; these big winter finches were reported in ten counties, a good number in comparison with most years of the last couple decades. (Kevin Raymond)



ABBREVIATION

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

eBird Usage: Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>. Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 March 2014)

Editors Note: Fall reports were received from 54 counties (pus a late summer report from Lehigh). The following counties have new compilers, with first reports anticipated for the upcoming winter issue: Blair, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union.

The following counties have no compiler- contact the editor if interested: Carbon, Lackawanna, Potter, Tioga.

Adams County

Locations: Crooked Creek Wetlands (CCW), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Possum Hollow Rd (POSS), Ridge Rd., Cumberland Twp (RRCT), State Game Lands 249 (SGL), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP).

Note: Prior reports for Ridge Rd. were in Huntingdon Twp. Moving forward those sightings will be noted as RRHT.

An exceedingly warm season produced very mixed results with respect to departures, arrivals, and even breeding records. August was the hottest on record at Harrisburg averaging 79.2°F, which was 5.1°F above normal.

September, October, and November continued that trend, with average temperatures above historical averages by 5.5°F, 4.0°F, and 2.7°F, respectively. Rainfall for the four-month period was 2.0" below normal. The species total of 160 was a repeat of last year, but 19 species each of waterfowl and warblers were somewhat lower.

A pair of blue morph **Snow Geese** were at Lake Kay 11/24-28 (IC, CM, JW), and GC held six **Cackling Geese** 11/11 (PM). **Mute Swan** remains resident in the county with 3 reports (m.ob.), all in the Gettysburg area. A nice count of 30 **American Wigeons** came from LPRR 11/9 (BO). A single **American Black Duck** at Waynesboro Res. 10/19 (CM, JW) was the only report. A hen **Mallard** with 8 down feathered ducklings in tow was crossing Hunterstown-Hampton Rd. 9/21 (LM). This probably represented the latest date for fledglings for the county. By comparison, during the second PBBA years, the latest report of fledged young anywhere in the state was 8/25. Six **Northern Shovelers** were at LPRR 11/9 (BO). CCW held 3 **Green-winged Teal** 11/28 (AW) and a **Redhead** was found at Lake Kay 11/21 (AW). An immature **Common Loon** put in an extended stay at LH 8/26-10/28 (m.ob.). The only **American Coot** report was of 2 birds at Lake Meade 11/13 (JV).

A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at East Berlin Community Park 10/23 (JV), and 7 males were along Fickes School Rd 11/30 (PK). The location is about 0.4 mile from SGL property, the likely stocking location. Aug

produced 4 reports of **Wild Turkey** (m.ob.), but they were not reported again until two sightings in November (DK, JW). High count was 17 (2 adults, 15 juveniles) at SHNP 11/3 (JW). The 9 reports of **Great Egret**, compared to a more typical count of 3 or 4, suggested their dispersal from lower Susquehanna rookeries was wider than normal. SGL continues to produce the high count of **Green Heron**, this year with 10 birds 8/19 (PK). Reports of **Northern Harrier** in Aug are uncommon; POSS produced a sub-adult male 8/19 (PK) and an adult female 8/25 (PK). Of the six species of shorebird found, a **Semipalmated Plover** at GC 8/13 (IG, JL, AL) was the highlight. GC also held up to 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/10-18 (CM, JW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported 11 times but its black-billed counterpart went unreported. After very weak reporting in the spring and summer periods for **Eastern Screech Owl** and **Great Horned Owl**, reports in the fall returned to more normal levels. There were 2 reports of screech (JB, JW) and 6 of great horned (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawks** were down, with only 2 reports: 7 over GC 9/1 (AW) and a single at GNMP 9/27 (CM, JW). A very late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was found probing cardinal vine at a Huntingdon Twp. home 10/20 (DJG). A real mystery for the period was the absence of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** after 10/1. This species has been a year round resident in the county, and an explanation for their absence was not readily apparent, especially since the 10 reports of the species in Aug and Sep was typical. Four reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** spanned 10/20-11/21 (EB, CM, BO, RDS, JW), all from the western part of the county. **American Kestrel** was well-reported with 19 sightings (m.ob.). Two **Merlins** were at LPRR 9/14 (MB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen along Rte. 15 in Cumberland Twp. 10/1 (AP).

Up to 9 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were along B&F Rd. 8/21 (DS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at LPRR 8/30 (JF). Single reports of **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, and **Warbling Vireo** came from B&R Rd. 8/21 (DS), Gordon Rd. 8/12 (TC), and Red Rock Rd. 9/9 (BP, JW), respectively. **Blue-throated Vireo** was reported 5 times, a typical showing. Sixteen reports of **Common Raven** gave ongoing witness to their rapid range expansion. The only report of **Horned Lark** was of 2 at GNMP 11/17 (AW). Last **Purple Martin** was a single at CCW 8/16 (PM). The only report of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** came from LH 8/24 (IG, JW); likewise, just one report of **Bank Swallow**, at LH 9/4 (MS). The higher elevations of Michaux S.F. continue to provide *Adams* with reports of **Black-capped Chickadees**. Of the 6 sightings, the high count was 7 at SHNP 9/15 (JW). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption produced 9 reports beginning 9/7 (m.ob.). The 7 reports of **Brown Creeper** continued last year's positive trend. One at SHNP 8/7 (EG, IG, AL, JW) suggested the possibility of a summering individual. Never a common breeder in the county, *Adams* experienced an 83% decrease in block occupancy for Brown Creeper (from 12 to 2 blocks) between the first to second atlases. Four reports of **Winter Wren** were more than normal. Two were at SHNP 10/11 (JW), RRCT held a single 10/12 and 11/15 (both CM), and Lake Mae produced a single 10/28 (CM, JW).

There were 7 reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and 15 of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** with none exceeding 4 birds. A **Veery** was a bit late at RRCT 9/22 (CM). **Swainson's Thrush** and **Hermit Thrush** were each found 3 times. Of note among the Swainson's was the very narrow and somewhat late dates: 10/16-20 (JB, JV, JW). Latest **Gray Catbird** report was from Lake Mae 11/7 (CM, JW). A single **American Pipit** flew over GC 11/2 (AW), the only one reported. Rare for the period, a **Snow Bunting** was at GC 11/24 (m.ob.).

The 19 species of warblers were right at the five year average for the season. Better finds included a **Nashville Warbler** at Shippensburg Rd. 9/6 (MB), **Cape May Warbler** at SHNP 10/6 (JW) and at RRCT 10/13 (CM), and a **Prairie Warbler** at SHNP 9/21-26 (JW). Latest **Chipping Sparrow** report was 11/7 (CM, JW) at LPRR.

American Tree Sparrow went unreported as their arrival was likely delayed by the mild temperatures. A **Vesper Sparrow** was a good find at Shippensburg Rd. 9/5 (MB). **Savannah Sparrow** was at GNMP 10/10-22 (JB, DD) and up to 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at POSS 8/1-16 (PK). **Fox Sparrow** was at SHNP 11/7 (CM, JW) and RRCT 11/13 (CM). SHNP also produced a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 10/20-29 (JW). Five reports of **Swamp Sparrow** (m.ob.) was about normal.

A **Dickcissel** at POSS 8/1-8 (PK) carried over from the prior period. POSS also held **Bobolink** on the same dates 8/1-8 (PK) with a high of 11 on 8/4. Six reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** (m.ob.) were paced by a high count

of 9 at POSS 9/22 (PK). **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were not reported after 8/7 and 8/21, respectively. Eleven reports of **Purple Finch** spanning 10/13-11/30 (m. ob.) was better than usual. High count was 5 birds at LH 11/1 (JW). Pine Siskin went unreported.

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Allegheny County

Shorebirds are never abundant in *Allegheny* but there were highlights this season. The fall was extremely mild with above normal temperatures well into November. Whether due to the mild conditions or not, an extremely late **Wood Thrush** and a **Tennessee Warbler** were found and photographed at the same location and time at Carnegie Mellon University 11/28 (SA), in an area that lacks any significant vegetation.

There was only a single report of **Tundra Swans** in Nov, probably due to the mild weather. A flock of 82 was over Indiana Twp. 11/21 (DYE). A small retention pond at Imperial hosted a good variety of waterfowl this period. A **Gadwall** was there 10/9 (MV), an **American Black Duck** 10/8-9 (MV), a **Green-winged Teal** 10/9 (MV), and 2 **Blue-winged Teal** 10/8-9 (JHa, BMu). Two male **Northern Pintails** were at a small pond at Janoski's Farm 11/26 (MV). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were at the Moody Road ponds in Findlay Twp. 10/21 (MV). A **Lesser Scaup** and 10 **Buffleheads** were at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 11/9 (JS, SS). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at Duck Hollow 11/21 (JS, SS) and 5 were on the Allegheny R. at Sharsburg 11/22 (JH). A **Common Merganser** was at Dashiels Dam 9/20 (MV). An early **Common Loon** was at Dashiels Dam 9/29 (MJ).

Four **Black Vultures** were seen soaring over Jefferson Borough 8/27 (JHa). Very unusual for here, a kettle of 53 **Broad-winged Hawks** was observed over Verona 9/20 (SK). Perhaps the Allegheny River Valley was being used as a navigation route. The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** that has been present (and irregularly reported) for a few years in Findlay Twp. was seen 8/9 (CB). A **Virginia Rail** at Wingfield Pines 8/24 (FK) was likely one of the birds that bred there this past summer. A **Sora** was there 10/19 (DW).

An **American Golden-Plover** was a good find at a small pond at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 9/2-3 (MV, et al.). **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Imperial 8/6 (MV) and Duck Hollow 9/6 (DK). *Allegheny's* sixth **American Avocet** was a great find at Duck Hollow 8/26 (BR). The bird was found around noon and remained until dusk allowing many birders to see it. It was gone the next day, following the typical schedule of migrant Avocets. The only report of **Greater Yellowlegs** was a flock that flew over Imperial 8/28 (MV). Reports of **Solitary Sandpiper** included 2 at Imperial 8/6 and one there 9/11 (MV). One was at Beechwood Farms 9/11 (JC, AP). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Imperial 8/13 (MV) provided the only report for the period. Up to 3 **Least Sandpipers** were at Imperial for most of August (MV). None were reported in Sept but one was there again 10/1 followed by 2 on 10/6 (MV) and 3 on 10/8 (MF, MV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was there 8/25 and 3 were there the following day (MV). Two were present 9/11 and one 10/6 (MV). A **Wilson's Snipe** was in that area 11/12 (MV). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Duck Hollow 11/21 (JS, SS). A **Forster's Tern** was at Dashiels Dam 9/17 (MV) and a late bird was at Imperial 10/8 (MV).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding station was operated at Sewickley Heights Park again this fall, and was quite successful, banding over a dozen birds (BMu). An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** appeared at a feeder in Brookline 11/23 (DWa). It was banded and confirmed 11/29 (BMu) and remained through the end of the season. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were very scarce all summer so a report at Deer Lakes Park 9/10 (TH) was welcomed. High counts of **Common Nighthawks** included 56 in Upper St. Clair (ST) and 67 in Aspinwall 8/27 (STh, SuT), 138 in Moon Township 8/28 (GM), and 22 in Squirrel Hill 9/9 (MVV). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed in

North Fayette Twp. 9/25 (TC). Two **Merlins** were at Schenley Park 11/10 through the end of the reporting period (JK, KSJ).

There were a number of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reported this fall. One was photographed at Beechwood Farms 8/27 (fide CK), one was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/9 (BVN, et al.), one at Deer Lakes Park 9/10 (TH), one at Beechwood Farms 9/11 (DP), and one at Frick Park 9/11 (TM, NM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports included single birds at Barking Slopes 8/20 (TH), Sewickley Heights Park 8/26 (GM), and Beechwood Farms 9/4 (AH) and 9/10 (TH). There are normally few reports of **Great Crested Flycatchers**; single birds were at Harrison Hills Park 9/2 (DN) and Frick Park 9/18 (JS, SS).

A **Common Raven** was in Bridgeville 9/24-26 (RT); one flying over Pine Township 10/20 (PL, SL) was new for that location. They were at various locations around Frick Park and Squirrel Hill in Oct (m.ob.). One was in Jefferson Borough 10/25-26 (JHa). A **Purple Martin** was perched with Barn Swallows at Janoski's Farm 8/5 (MV) and one was nearby at Imperial 8/28 (MV). A **Fish Crow** was at All Souls Cemetery in North Braddock 8/20 (MF) where they were first confirmed breeding in the county in 2004. Five were in Homewood Cemetery in Squirrel Hill 8/30 (JC).

Red-breasted Nuthatches moved through the state in good numbers this fall and were reported in various locations through the period. This fall saw the most reports of **Marsh Wren** in the county we've ever had. One was at Harrison Hills Park 9/10 (DYE, MD) where it remained at least to 10/13 (m.ob.), one was at Peter's Creek in Jefferson Borough 9/24-10/26 (JHa), one was near Duck Hollow in Frick Park 10/1 (MF, MVV), 2 were at Wingfield Pines 10/2-19 (TH, MJ, DW), and one was nearby at the PennDot Wetlands 10/26 (JM). A rather late **Gray Catbird** was in Pine Twp. 11/1 (PL, SL). The only **American Pipits** were singles at Imperial 9/19 and 10/21 (GM).

Twenty-eight species of warblers were reported in Sept. Rarely found in fall, a **Northern Waterthrush** was at Dead Man's Hollow 9/10 (DYE). A **Worm-eating Warbler** at Harrison Hills Park 9/6 (SG) represented a good find too. Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Beechwood Farms 9/20 (DN), Sewickley Heights Park 10/2 (GM), Harrison Hills Park 10/3 (SG), and Homewood Cemetery 10/10 (MVV). **Connecticut Warblers** were reported at Harrison Hills Park 9/16 (DN), Marshall Township 9/18 (JHz), Beechwood Farms 9/23 (BSh), and Sewickley Heights Park 9/23 (AK, FK). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Beechwood Farms 8/26 (AP) and 9/11 (JHa), 2 were heard calling after dark migrating over Moon Twp. 9/12 (GM), one was photographed at Harrison Hills Park 9/16 (SG), one was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/23 (GM), and one was at Frick Park 9/29 (SS). Single **Kentucky Warblers** were found at Harrison Hills Park 9/6 (SG) and Frick Park 9/18 (JS, SS). A rare fall find, a **Cerulean Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 8/26 (GM). **Pine Warbler** reports include singles at Sewickley Heights Park 9/16 and 10/2 (both GM), Boyce-Mayview Park 9/20 (ST), and in Pine Township 9/21 (PL, SL). A late **Canada Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 10/2 (GM).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at Imperial 9/19 (GM) and single **Savannah Sparrows** were seen there 8/26 (MV) and 9/24 (GM). Both species continue to breed there as development continues. **Lincoln's Sparrows** arrived in late Sept: single birds were at Harrison Hills Park 9/24 (SG, MF, JV, PH), Beechwood Farms 9/25 (AP) and Frick Park 9/25 (JHa). Quite a surprise was an **Eastern Meadowlark** found in a large meadow at Harrison Hills Park 11/5 (PH, JV, MF), the first in many years at that location where they formally breed (fide PH).

Up to 3 **Purple Finches** were present in Pine Township the entire period (PL, SL). One or 2 **Pine Siskins** were at Homewood Cemetery 10/15 (MF, MVV) followed by 12 at Jefferson Borough (JHa), one in Franklin Park 10/3-11/3 (OM) and one in Pine Twp. 11/6 (PL, SL).

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Solomon, Sue Solomon, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Mark VanderVen (MVV), Mark Vass, Diane Walkowski (DWa), Dave Wilton, Matt Webb, Dan Weeks (DWe), David Yeaney (DYe).

Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Cherry Run (CRUN), Cochran's Mill (CM), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek (CC), Elderton (ELD), Iron Bridge Road (IB), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Murphy's Bottom (MB), New Bethlehem (NB) Nicholson Run Road (NR), Northpointe (NP), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Polka Hollow Road (PH), Roaring Run (RR), Robbs Fording Road (RF) Rosston (RT), SGL 137, SGL 247, Worthington (WT).

Waterfowl reports were few. The only **Wood Ducks** were 6 at PBF 8/8 (MVT), 2 in NB 8/14 (AK, JK), 6 on CR 11/1 (MVT, ph.), and 9 on 11/4 at the AT north of dam 8 (MH, RH). Five **American Black Ducks** arrived on schedule at CC 11/23 (MVT). A single **Green-winged Teal** was in NB 10/25 (AK, JK). First **Buffleheads** to return were 4 at the AT north of Dam 8 on 11/4 (MH, RH) and 3 at CC 11/5 (TR). **Common Merganser** reports included 8 on the Kiski River near LB 8/8 (MVT), 28 at CR 10/6 (JC, KK, RM, MVT), and a high count of 196 at CC 11/24 (JB). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MCL 9/3 (AD), 2 were at KR 9/11 (MH, RH), and 3 were at CC 11/23 (JB). **Green Herons** included 4 at PBF 8/3 (MVT) and 3 at CC 9/3 (TR).

First migrant **Osprey** was at CC 8/3 (MVT); other reports included 2 at CC 9/3-10/3 (MVT). *Armstrong* has quite a few **Bald Eagle** nests, so there were also quite a few reports this season from the Kiski River (BVT, MVT, ph.) up to NB (AK, JK). Two **Northern Harriers** were noted at WT 10/28-11/27 (TR, MVT, ph.) and one was at CC 11/5 (TR). An immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted at CC (where they nest) 8/1-11/15 (AK, JK, KK, TR, MVT, ph.).

Semipalmated Plovers at KR included 6 on 8/12 (MH, SGo) and 4 on 9/5 (MD). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** provided a great find at KR 9/5 (MD) and 9/10 (SGo). Five **Least Sandpipers** were observed at CC 8/6 (AB) and a high count of 18 was made at KR (MH); 11 remained there to 9/5 (MD). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted at CC 8/6-7 (AB) and 2 were at KR 8/12 and 8/20 (SG, MH, RH). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at KR 8/12 (MH, SGo) and 3 were there 8/20 (MH, RH, SGo). **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found at KR 8/12 (SGo, MH) and 9/5 (MD). Four **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived at CC 8/6 (AB), 4 were at KR 8/12 (SGo), and one was at WT 8/28 (TR). Seven **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at CC 8/7 (TR).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at CC 8/1-9/3 (AB, MVT, TR), and one late bird was at SGL 137 on 10/8 (TR). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at KR 8/9 (MVT) and one at CC 8/20 (TR). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** appeared near KT 9/25 (TR) and one was at CC 10/4 (MVT, ph.). Good finds were one or 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at CC from 10/19-11/19 (AK, JK, ph., KK, TR, MVT, ph.). **American Kestrels** were widespread with at least 6 sightings through the season (m.ob.). A **Merlin** was found at CC 9/15 (KK, MVT, ph.) and again 9/19 (MVT).

Four **Eastern Wood Pewees** were at CC 9/3 (TR). The only **Least Flycatcher** reported was a single 8/3 (MVT), and the only **Great Crested Flycatcher** at CC 8/9 (MVT). Four **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen at Northpointe 8/5 (MVT) and 2 were at PBF 8/8 (MVT). First **White-eyed Vireo** appeared at CC 9/3 and one was at CR 9/5 (MVT). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at WT 8/28 (TR), and singles were at CC 9/3 (TR) and KR 9/5 (MD). Three **Horned Larks** were in WT 11/27 (TR). **Common Raven** reports at CC, where they nest, included singles 8/14 and 9/3 (AK, JK), 2 on 11/1 (MVT), and one 11/25 (JB).

A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at KR 9/5 (MD), at least 3 were at CC 10/19 (AK, JK), and one was at ELD 11/8 (SGr). **Brown Creepers** included singles at SGL 136 on 10/8 (TR), at CM 10/14 (MVT), at CC 10/19 (AK, JK), and at a yard near LB 11/20 (MVT). First 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** to return were at SGL 137 on 10/8 (TR), and 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also reported from SGL 137 on 10/8 (TR). Two more ruby-crowns were at CC 10/11 (MVT). A **Wood Thrush** was near KT 9/25 (TR). The only **Swainson's Thrushes** noted were at IB 9/25 (TR) and SGL 247 on 9/27 (TR). A **Northern Mockingbird** showed up at a feeder in LB 11/6 (MVT,

ph.). Reports of **American Pipit** included one at the beach area at CC (TB, MVT, ph.) and 28 at WT 10/16 (TR, ph.). Flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** included 62 at CC 8/31 (DF, MVT), and a high count of 288 at CC 11/1 (MVT).

A single **Blue-winged Warbler** was at KR 9/5 (MD). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at CC 8/14 (MVT). **American Redstarts** were at CC 8/31 (MVT) and KR 9/5 (MD), and a late bird was noted at SGL 137 on 10/8 (TR). A lone **Cape May Warbler** appeared at CC 9/3 (MVT) and a **Northern Parula** was observed at CC 8/3 (MVT). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were at CC 8/31 (DF, MVT), one was at WT (TR), and one was at KR 9/5 (MD). Single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at WT 8/28 (TR), at CC 8/31 (MVT), and at KR 9/5 (MD). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was noted at SGL 10/8 (TR), 2 were at CM 10/14 (MVT), one was in WT 10/16 (TR), and 2 were at CC 10/19 (AK, JK). The only **Pine Warbler** reported was at CC 9/24 (TR). A high count of 10 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were made at RF 10/6 (KK); 3 were in WT 10/16 (TR) and one was at CC 11/24 (KP). A single **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at CC 8/28 (MVT) and one at KR 9/5 (MD).

First **American Tree Sparrows** to return were 3 near LB (JR) and one at CC 11/24 (KP). One **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted on Green Acres Rd in WT 10/16 (TR, ph.). A **Field Sparrow** was at WT 8/28 (TR) and 3 at CC 9/3 (MVT). First **Dark-eyed Juncos** to return were 8 at CC 10/19 (AK, JK). First **White-throated Sparrows** reported were 12 at SGL 136 on 10/8 (TR). A high count of 34 was made at MB 11/6 (BP, KS). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted there on the same day (BP, KS). Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported from WT 10/16 (TR) and 4 were at RF 10/17 (TM). An **Indigo Bunting** was observed at CC through 9/3 (MVT), and 2 were in WT 8/28 (TR). Two **Orchard Orioles** were observed at NP (MVT) and 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were noted at SGL 247 on 8/10 (TR) and at CC 8/14 (MVT).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

Waterfowl reports were light, as has often been the case in recent autumn seasons. All of the following dabblers were reported only once: one **Gadwall** at AR 11/6 (MV), 3 **American Black Ducks** at a farm in Independence Twp. 9/30 (MV), one **Blue-winged Teal** at AR 10/8 (MF), and one **Northern Pintail** at RCH 11/24-27 (MV). **Green-winged Teal** was the only migrant waterfowl that was well-reported, with up to 8 at IND 9/16-30 (MV, GR, DR), up to 10 at AR 10/30-11/6 (MV), and one at RCH 11/18 (MV). A **Black Scoter** was a nice find at RCH 11/18-19 (MV); probably the same bird was seen there again 11/24-26 (MV). The only report of **Hooded Merganser** was of 3 at RCH 11/27 (MV, TH, LN). Up to 18 **Common Mergansers** collected on the Beaver R. at New Brighton in Aug and early Sep (MV), and 9 were at RCH 11/18-21 (GR, DR). Rare for the fall season were 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at RCH 11/22 (AB, GR). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** was made at AR 10/30 (MV).

First report of **Pied-billed Grebe** was a fairly early bird at RCSP 8/23 (DC). Less than annual in the fall season is **Horned Grebe**; 2 were at RCH 11/21 (GR). A **Great Egret** hung out at IND 9/13-10/8 (MV, GR, et al.).

Last report of **Osprey**, which now nests in at least four locations in the county, was made at IND 9/30 (MV), which is not a nesting site. A **Bald Eagle** was also seen at IND 10/7-9 (MV, ST), a location they are rarely reported. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was frequently reported at RCSP in Sep (KSJ, GM, et al.), and one was at IND 9/30 (MV).

With Little Blue Lake all but finished as a shorebird destination, and a poor showing at IND despite decent habitat, it was a bad season for shorebirds in *Beaver*. Top count of **Killdeer** at IND was just 63 on 8/7 (AB). Just 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported at IND 9/23-30 (MV), and Greater

Yellowlegs was not reported at all. Similarly, **Solitary Sandpiper** topped out at a paltry 3 birds among several reports at IND 8/6-10/3. Two were also at AR 10/7 in the company of the Purple Gallinule. A late **Spotted Sandpiper** lingered at AR to at least 11/5 (MV), also using the same mudflats that the gallinule had used a few weeks earlier. This was probably the latest staying spotty on record for *Beaver*. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported at IND 9/23-30 (MV), and a **Least Sandpiper** was there 9/13 (MV). Another Least was at RCSP 8/23 (DC). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at IND 9/16-27 (MV). The only report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was one at Monaca 11/21 (JM), and

One of the most unexpected birds to appear in *Beaver* in recent years was a juvenile **Purple Gallinule** at AR 10/7-10 (MV). The bird took advantage of mudflats and marshy habitat in one of the reservoir's many coves, which were a result of a lower than typical reservoir level in early fall. It represented the first record for western Pennsylvania away from *Erie*, and one of about 10 total confirmed records for the state. It was quite cooperative; despite occasionally hiding out in denser vegetation, most of the time it paraded around in the open and allowed exceptional views. It was seen by at least 20 birders during its short stay.

Herring Gulls were seen off and on all season around RCH and New Brighton (MV, JF, et al.).

A late **Yellow-bellied Cuckoo** was found at RCSP 10/8 (TH, LN). A **Barred Owl** called a few hours before sunset at AR 10/10 (GM). A stream of at least 250 migrating **Chimney Swifts** passed over Vanport 9/18 (GR). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was a shade early at RCSP 9/16 (DC). Reports of **American Kestrel** included one in Fombell 8/11 (DK), an area where they nest but which is rarely visited by birders, one at Monaca 9/30 (MV), and one near Freedom 11/22 (AB). A **Merlin** returned to RCH for the winter again this year, and was seen at its usual lookout atop the Grace Lutheran Church 11/18 (MV). A Merlin was also reported at that location 9/18 (CA).

A nice wave of migrants at RCSP 9/4 included at least 10 *Empidonax* flycatchers, among which **Least** and **Acadian** were identified (GM). The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was one at RCSP 9/4 (GM); at least 10 **Red-eyed Vireos** were also noted at the park that day (GM). Aside from sightings at RCH, which in the past two years have included nesting attempts there, **Common Ravens** are still not often reported in *Beaver*. This fall away from RCH, there were reports at the RCSP wildflower reserve 9/10 and 11/26 (eBird), and one was in Independence Twp. 10/29. Neither of these locations is far from *Allegheny's* Imperial Grasslands or the Pittsburgh International Airport, where ravens have nested in recent years. It was a good season for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** all around southwest Pennsylvania; reports in *Beaver* commenced with 2 at the RCSP park office feeder station 9/17 (MV). A fairly early **Golden-crowned Kinglet** also joined the nuthatches at the feeder that day (MV). There were at least 8 more reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch from various locations through the season. First **Brown Creepers** appeared at RCSP 9/16 (DC) and 10/1 (RT). The only report of **Winter Wren** was one at IND 11/17 (GR).

Reports of spot-breasted thrushes were sparse. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted at ECON 9/23 and 10/3 (KD), and up to 4 **Swainson's Thrush** were at RCSP 9/23-10/3 (m.ob.). Last was one at ECON 10/3 (KD). An **American Pipit** was found at IND 9/27 (GR, DR).

A few nice waves of warblers were noted at RCSP this fall, headed up by the aforementioned *Empidonax* morning of 9/4, which also included 16 species of warblers and at least another 25 individual warblers that had to be left unidentified (GM). Lingered **Ovenbirds** were at IND 10/3 (MV) and ECON 10/12 (KD). A **Northern Waterthrush** was a nice find at RCSP 9/16 (DC). A **Blue-winged Warbler** passed through RCSP 9/13 (KSJ), certainly a migrant and not a lingering local breeder; locally breeding blue-wings usually clear out by the second half of Aug. **Tennessee Warbler** was reported frequently but not in great numbers at RCSP 9/4-20 (GM, KSJ, et al.), and one was seen by gallinule watchers at AR 10/8-9 (GR, DR, MF). **Nashville Warbler** was noted only at RCSP in the same 9/4-20 window as the Tennessees. Reports of **Cape May Warbler** included 2 at RCSP 9/4 (GM), one at RCSP 9/6 (DC), and one at AR 10/8 (GR, DR, MF). As usual **Magnolia Warbler** was probably the most frequently reported passage migrant, including up to 6 at RCSP 9/20 (DC). **Bay-breasted Warbler** had an above average season, with 6 or 7 reports at RCSP 9/4-20 (m.ob.). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was still at ECON

10/2 (KD). Reports of **Blackpoll Warbler** at RCSP spanned from 9/4 (GM) to 10/9 (JF, LF). A **Pine Warbler** at RCSP 9/4 (GM) was a nice find for the fall season. Last **Yellow-throated Warbler**, typically one of the first local breeders to depart, was at RCSP 9/4 (GM). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was the only passage migrant that could pace the Magnolias this fall, with many reports at several locations up to the last 2 at IND 10/8 (ST). Single **Canada Warblers** were noted at RCSP 9/6 (DC) and 9/13 (KSJ).

A count of 14 **Scarlet Tanagers** at RCSP 9/4 was a typical showing for the park in early fall (GM). An **Eastern Towhee** was still hanging around RCSP 11/26 (MV). **Fox Sparrow** was reported at IND 11/11-28 (GR, DR), and the only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was also at IND 10/3 (MV). **White-crowned Sparrows** were present there 11/4-27 (GR, DR). Last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** tarried at RCSP 10/1 (RT). Just two reports of **Rusty Blackbird** included one at IND 10/9 (ST) and 2 there 11/11 (GR, DR). A gathering of 150 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at a farm in Independence Twp. 9/30 (MV) was notable. The only report of **Purple Finch** was one at RCSP 11/26 (MV), and the only **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Beaver Falls 10/22 (SB).

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW) 170 acres of wetlands created by USFWS, Shaffer Mountain (SM), Shawnee State Park (SSP), and White-tail Wetlands (WTW).

The weather for August through October was somewhat dry and it created lower water levels in impoundments at DCW and SSP. There was still some sufficient deep water for diving ducks. The more interesting birds this season were **Little Blue Heron**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Snow Bunting**, and a stunning **Swallow-tailed Kite**.

The ducks and geese were as follows: 180 **Canada Geese** at DCW 11/10, 8 **Wood Ducks** 11/10, 4 **Gadwall** 11/10, 3 **American Wigeon** 9/25, 8 **American Black Ducks** 11/10, 15 **Mallards** 11/10, 3 **Blue-winged Teal** 11/10, 2 **Northern Shovelers** 11/10 at SSP, 3 **Northern Pintails** 11/10, 2 **Green-winged Teal** 10/16 at SSP, 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** 10/13 at SSP, 7 **Buffleheads** 11/10 at DCW, 2 **Common Goldeneyes** 11/10 at SSP, 5 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/10 at DCW, 3 **Common Mergansers** 11/10 at DCW, 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/10 at DCW, and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at DCW 11/10.

Two **Common Loons** were at SSP 11/10. Twenty **Pied-billed Grebes** were at DCW 11/10, appropriately the impoundment named "Grebe Pool". Two **Horned Grebes** were mixed in with the 20 Pied-billed Grebes. The unpredictable **Red-necked Grebe** was also sighted at DCW 11/10 in Grebe Pool. The bitterns, egrets and herons are as follows: one **American Bittern** at DCW 9/25, 2 **Great Egrets** at DCW 8/16, one **Little Blue Heron** at DCW 8/16, and 3 **Green Heron** at SSP 8/16.

Totals from AFHW as of 11/14 were: 33 **Black Vultures**, 3867 **Turkey Vultures**, 106 **Ospreys**, one **Swallow-tailed Kite** 9/6 (JR), 133 **Bald Eagles**, 31 **Northern Harriers**, 1248 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 116 **Cooper's Hawks**, 4 **Northern Goshawks**, 30 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 5058 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 1251 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, 134 **Golden Eagles**, 41 **American Kestrels**, 26 **Merlins**, 9 **Peregrine Falcons**, and 94 unidentified raptors. The Swallow-tailed Kite was just the second kite for the AFHW, the first was a Mississippi Kite 9/15/2014.

Drawdowns of DCW pools and lakes created additional mud habitat for the following rails, cranes and sandpipers: one **Virginia Rail** 8/28, one **Sora** 8/29, one **Clapper Rail** 8/16, one **Sandhill Crane** 8/14, 6 **Killdeer** 8/16, 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/16, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/16, one **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/20, one **Willet** 9/25, 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** 8/16, 2 **Ruddy Turnstones** 8/16, 2 **Sanderlings** 8/16, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/16, one **Western Sandpiper** 8/16, 5 **Least Sandpiper** 8/16, 3 **White-rumped**

Sandpipers 8/16, 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** 8/16, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 5 **Dunlins** 8/16, 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 8/16, one **Wilson's Snipe** 8/16, and 2 **American Woodcocks** 8/16. Gulls and terns were few and those sighted were as follows: 2 **Laughing Gulls**, 3 **Ring-billed Gulls**, one **Herring Gull**, and 3 **Black Terns** at SSP 9/13.

Two **Short-eared Owls** were hunting fields at WTW 9/10. Twenty **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at the AFHW by the time of this report, season totals pending (DD). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is the hardest woodpecker to find, but it was easily seen this season on sugar maples on the AF (TD).

The following flycatchers were observed at DCW: 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** 8/14, one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/8, 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** 9/18, one **Alder Flycatcher** 8/18, 3 **Willow Flycatchers**, 2 **Least Flycatchers** 8/18, 3 **Eastern Phoebe**s, 2 **Great Crested Flycatchers** 9/3, and one **Eastern Kingbird** 8/2. The few vireos were as follows: one **Blue-headed Vireo** 8/2, one **Philadelphia Vireo** 8/28, and 2 **Red-eyed Vireos** 8/28. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at WTW 9/4. The thrushes were as follows: one **Swainson's Thrush** 9/8, 2 **Hermit Thrushes** 9/3, and 3 **Wood Thrushes** 8/28 on the AF. Sixty **Cedar Waxwings** at WTW 9/4 represented an unusually high count. Quite exciting was the sighting of 4 **Snow Buntings** feeding along the road at SM.

Numbers of warblers were a little low, but diversity was good. The following warblers were seen on the AF: 2 **Tennessee Warblers** 9/4, 2 **Nashville Warblers** 9/4, 3 **Yellow Warblers** 8/28, 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** 8/28, 4 **Magnolia Warblers** 8/28, 3 **Cape May Warblers** 9/4, 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 8/28, one **Black-throated Green Warbler**, one **Prairie Warbler** 9/14, 3 **Palm Warblers** 9/8, one **Bay-Breasted Warbler**, one **Cerulean Warbler** 9/3, one **American Redstart** 9/3, one **Louisiana Waterthrush** 9/5, 2 **Connecticut Warblers** 9/8, one **Mourning Warbler** 9/1, and 6 **Common Yellowthroats** 9/4.

A single **Scarlet Tanager** was at SSP 9/8. The following sparrows were seen at DCW unless noted otherwise: 8 **Field Sparrows** 9/4, one **Savannah Sparrow** 9/3, one **Grasshopper Sparrow** at WTW 9/5, one **Henslow's Sparrow** at WTW 9/5, one **Lincoln Sparrow** at the AF 9/1, 3 **Swamp Sparrows** 9/1, 2 **White-throated Sparrow** 9/5, and 7 **Dark-eyed Juncos** 9/8.

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH), Brenneman's Quarry (BQ), Gotwal's Pond (GP), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS), Peter's Creek (PC), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), State Game Lands 52 (SGL52), State Game Lands 106 (SGL106), State Game Lands 110 North Kill Gap (SGL110). The official fall migration season at HMS is 8/15-12/15.

Weather for this period was warmer by an average of 3 degrees and dryer than the average rainfall by 8.5 inches. Fall migration was late and irregular as migrating birds delayed departure from their northern breeding grounds. The result was lower numbers of migrants and fewer 'big' days in the usually busy sites including the ridges and bodies of water in the county.

Straggler **Snow Geese**, possibly injured, remained at LO 10/29 (RK) and GP 8/24 (JW, PW). A lone **Brant** spent three days at GP 10/28-30 (KL, MS, PS, MW). A single **Cackling Goose** in a flock of **Canada Geese** was seen flying along Rte. 222 near Wyomissing 10/11 (KG). On 11/18, 1000 migrant **Canada Geese** rested on LO (KG) and another 1000 were on BQ 11/22 (CC, RH, MSI, AZ). Puddle ducks appeared in no significant numbers on local lakes. Six **Redheads** and 5 **American Black Ducks** flew past HMS 10/24 and 11/4, respectively (LG).

Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at BML 11/5 (DA) and LO 11/12 (KK, MW). Twenty-seven **Buffleheads** joined the Long-tailed Duck on LO

11/12 (MW). An unusually high number of **Common Mergansers**, 44 females and/or imms., spent the day in the Schuylkill R. at Berne Bridge 9/2 (MW). A single **Red-throated Loon** was at BMLSH 11/6-27 (MSI, m.ob.). HMS reported 101 Red-throated Loons in migration at North Lookout 11/4 (LG). A lone **Common Loon** was reported at LO 8/4 (MS) and 8/6 (RK). Peak **Common Loon** numbers at HMS were 10 on 9/10 and 11/4 (LG). A total of 239 **Double-crested Cormorant** were counted at HMS this fall (LG).

The annual dispersal of herons and egrets resulted in the following reports: 9 **Great Blue Herons** at HMS 9/9 (LG); 16 **Great Egrets** at PC 9/11 (MS), 12 at LO 8/28 and 10 at LO 9/5 (RK). A rare sighting of a **Tricolored Heron** was made at BML 11/7 (JS). Just as rare, a lone **Cattle Egret** spent the day at GP 10/16 (MS, JW, PW). Seldom does that egret linger more than one day in *Berks*. The last reported **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were 3 at BML 9/7 (TK).

The annual HMS fall raptor migration report is included elsewhere in this issue. A notable highlight was a new seasonal record for **Bald Eagles**, breaking the record of 407. Raptor reports off-ridge were sparse. A **Mississippi Kite** was found soaring with Turkey Vultures in Longswamp Twp. at the new Chimney Swift Tower 9/22 (PS). **Broad-winged Hawk** migration peaked 9/13-24 with a total of 8555 tallied at HMS (LG). The highest daily count, 3018, passed the north lookout 9/20. At a home in Bernville, 1072 Broad-winged Hawks were counted in the 13:30 to 14:30 hour 9/21 (EB). A lone **Rough-legged Hawk** flew past BML 11/23 (JS). **Golden Eagle** sightings off-ridge are rare, but an immature was photographed in Green Hills 11/5 (JSe).

A single report of **Sandhill Crane** came from BML 11/23 (KA, ME). With the ever-decreasing shorebird habitat and lack of timely rainstorms this season, shorebird migration was not significant. Notable sightings included: 20 **Killdeer** at BMA (MW), a rare **Upland Sandpiper** at Rodale Experimental Farm for one day only 7/16 (MSc), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Wesner Rd Pond 9/7 (DA) and single **Baird's Sandpipers** at BMA 8/17 (MW) and 9/7 Wesner Rd Pond (DA). In what would be a new record for *Berks*, a probable **Marbled Godwit** was heard at KDRA 10/7 (KG). The bird's call was immediately compared with a bird call app for identification. The bird was not seen despite a thorough search of the marsh.

Most often seen in spring migration, **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found twice this fall: 6 at BML 10/27 (RK) and one at LO 11/21 (DA). A lone **Laughing Gull** was on the rocky LO shore line 11/9 (JH). Three gulls that usually winter in *Berks* were reported: a first-winter **Iceland Gull** at BML 11/9 (DH), **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at BML 11/25 (ME), and **Great Black-backed Gull** at BML 11/13 (TN). **Caspian Terns** appeared on 3 occasions: 3 at BML 8/15 (RH), 2 at LO 8/17 (MS), and 2 at BML 8/22 (JS). The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** colony continued in Shartlesville with a high count of 8. No further expansion east along Old Rte. 22 has been found (MW).

A single **Common Nighthawk** was reported from BML 9/21 (RH). The season total for **Common Nighthawks** at HMS was 10 (LG). The **Chimney Swift** season total at HMS was 711 with a high count of 102 on 8/27 (LG). In what is becoming an annual occurrence, a **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded on 11/11 (MSI). This cooperative and often-photographed immature male, nick named "Spot", split its feeding time between two homes in Knauers (GG, MSI). The bird was still feeding regularly 11/30. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were not reported from the few breeding sites in *Berks* and only 7 were counted at HMS this migration period (LG).

For the eighth year in a row, **Merlins** returned to BML to winter. This year, 2 Merlins were seen, but not every day. **Eastern Bluebirds**, one of their favorite meals, were numerous this year at BML (JS). The high daily Merlin count at HMS was 11 on 10/19 (LG). The **Peregrine Falcons** fledged 4 this year at the Reading nest site. They were observed daily as they exercised their wings while racing between the buildings. The French Creek Park nesting site apparently failed this season as reported by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (*vide* FAM). An immature Peregrine Falcon was spotted harassing **Ring-billed Gulls** at LO 11/12 (MW).

The notable flycatchers from this migration were: **Olive-sided Flycatcher** along the Kittatinny Ridge 8/30, 9/6, and 9/12 (KG); **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at the HMS south lookout 8/28 (DA) and at KDRA 8/31 (KG); and **Least Flycatcher** at KDRA 8/31 and 9/25. The elusive **Philadelphia Vireo** was even more so than usual with only 2 reported from HMS (LG). Single birds were found off-ridge at KDRA 10/4 (KG) and Union Meadows Park 9/17 (JT).

Swallows were not as numerous as in prior seasons. HMS season totals were as follows: **Purple Martin** 2, **Tree Swallow** 360, **Cliff Swallow** 80, **Barn Swallow** 1001, **Bank Swallow** 19, **Rough-winged Swallow** 136, and swallow sp. 938. There appeared to have been a small irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees** with small groups reported. They were twice reported from LO, 10/29 and 11/26 (RK). As many as 3 Black-capped Chickadees were reported daily in Knauers with the Rufous Hummingbird 11/4-30 (MSI, m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** rebounded from their poor showing last season with reports of singles throughout *Berks*. The HMS season total was 219 with a high count of 28 on 9/2 (LG).

Marsh Wrens, rare fall migrants, were found at Green Hills Lake 9/17-18 (KL), LO Water Street 9/24 (DA), and 10/7 KDRA (KG). Pre-dawn migrating thrush counts near Lutz Rd, Boyertown conducted 8/9-10/12 totaled: **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 20; **Swainson's Thrush** 153 with 100 on 10/6; and **Wood Thrush** 36 (RK). **American Robins** are a common Oct migrant at HMS. The Oct count this year was 7644 with 1193 on 10/20. The season total was 9333. Two **Snow Buntings** appeared at BML 11/18 (JS). The 20 Snow Buntings reported at HMS was low (LG).

Warbler migration along the ridges was late to commence, and then not as heavy as usual. Most of the migrants at HMS, a favorite spot for passerine migration, were reported 8/23-9/25. Season totals of more common species were: **Cape May Warbler** 45, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 38, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 62, **Black-throated Green Warbler** 171, **Blackburnian Warbler** 26, **Blackpoll Warbler** 33, **Black and White Warbler** 36, and **American Redstart** 13. The uncommon **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found in 2 locations – 2 each at BML 10/21 (JS) and Five Locks Road 11/14 (KG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was feeding with a group of **White-breasted Nuthatches** and **Carolina Chickadees** in the Sycamore Trees along the Tulpehocken Towpath 8/27 (JW, PW). This warbler was seen earlier in May along the Exeter River Trail. Three **Wilson's Warblers** were found along the Maiden Creek below LO Dam 9/19 (JW, PW). A nice late push of warblers was witnessed at BML 10/3: **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Palm Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** (JS).

Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found in the underbrush at SGL 106 on 9/17 (DA). Four **Dark-eyed Juncos** arrived in Rehersburg 9/23 (SW). The last sighting of the **Summer Tanager** at Neversink Mt was 9/21 (JD). The last report for **Blue Grosbeak** was from Mountain Rd, Windsor Twp 8/31 (DB). Seven **Rusty Blackbirds**, not a common fall migrant, were found in marshy habitat at the Blue Marsh Stilling Basin 10/26 (RH).

The weak winter finch migration was in step with the other families. **Purple Finches** began to pass HMS in Sep and continued in small numbers through Nov; total for the season was 214. Purple Finches were reported at feeders throughout *Berks*. A total of 2 **Red Crossbills** flew past HMS north lookout along with a total of 52 **Pine Siskins**. **American Goldfinches** were seen in greater numbers with 3599 counted (LG).

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Bradford County

Locations: Browning Pond, Wyalusing (BRP), Echo Beach Rd (EBR), Peck Hill (PEH), Stevensville (STE), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Woods Rd (WRD), Wysox Fish and Boat Access (at south end of Craftmaster Rd. south of Wysox) WFB), Wysox River Access (North side Susquehanna River adjacent to bridge) (WRA).

Temperatures during the fall were warmer than average, although there was some snowfall late in the season. Notable birds for the season were Red-

breasted Merganser, Northern Goshawk, numerous migrating Golden Eagles, Common Nighthawks, Peregrine Falcons, White-eyed Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, and Evening Grosbeaks.

There were limited sightings of waterbirds. A **Green-winged Teal** was at PEH 10/18 (AV, GV). Nine **Buffleheads** were at BRP 11/21 (KR). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at BRP 11/21 (KR). **Ruddy Ducks** were sighted 3 times: 16 on 10/28, 8 on 11/11, and 11 on 11/21, all at BRP (KR).

Becoming more unusual, a pair of **Ruffed Grouse** was observed in a tree at PEH 11/14 (AV, GV). Nine **Great Egrets** were on the SUR at EBR 8/26 (DN), a good count. Although **Bald Eagles** are becoming quite common, there were only 3 reports: 4 imm. soaring together at WRA 8/5 (KR), 2 adults on Tent City Rd. 10/25 (MM, SM), and 2 at STE 11/13 (KR). Unusual was a **Northern Goshawk** on Stevensville Mt. Rd, 11/11 (KR). There were a number of sightings of **Broad-winged Hawk** 9/1-22 (m.ob.). As last year, Stevensville was an ideal area to observe migrating **Golden Eagles**. Reports this season included one 10/20, one 10/29, 3 on 10/29, 6 in an hour 11/1, 2 on 11/7, one 11/10, one 11/11 and 2 on 11/18 (all KR). Two were also seen at TNE 11/5 (TG), and one was on Mountain Rd. above Franklindale 11/18 (DN).

The growing **Sandhill Crane** population was very much in evidence, reported frequently throughout Sep (m.ob.). As in previous years the cranes gathered in larger groups as the season wore on: near Ross Rd., 15 were seen 10/28 and 9 on 11/2 (JR, RR). Reports of smaller numbers continued in several areas to the end of the season. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was singing in the vicinity WNA and Iron Bridge Rd. 8/16 (TG). Growing much more unusual, 4 **Common Nighthawks** were seen on Teel Rd, Terrytown 9/22 (KR). A pair of **American Kestrels** was a little north of PEH 8/12 (AV, GV). Delightful were 3 sightings of **Peregrine Falcon**: 2 at EBR 8/25 (DN), one at EBR 9/25 (TD), and one at STE 9/26 (KR).

A late **White-eyed Vireo** was at STE 10/12 (KR). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at PEH 10/16 (AV, GV). As in much of the state, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen frequently, beginning at PEH 9/5 (AV, GV). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at PEH 8/25 (AV, GV). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Round Top 8/27 (DL). A **Cedar Waxwing** with a bright red-orange tail tip was on WNA near TNE 8/16 (TG).

There were a number of nice warbler sightings. A **Tennessee Warbler** was at PEH 9/8 (AV, GV). A **Nashville Warbler** was at PEH 8/27 (AV, GV) and one was at WFB 9/15 (SR). A **Cape May Warbler** was at PEH 9/9 (AV, GV). A **Northern Parula** was at Round Top 8/27 (DL). **Magnolia Warbler** was in Troy 10/1 (AM). Two **Palm Warblers** flitted about in the bushes near a little creek at TNE 10/13 (TG). A male **Wilson's Warbler** was at PEH 8/30 (AV, GV).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was present at PEH 9/20 (AV, GV). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at a feeder in STE 11/24 (KR). There were only 2 **Pine Siskins** reported: one at PEH 8/31 (AV, GV) and one at STE 10/20 (KR). Marvelous were **Evening Grosbeaks** at STE - 6 in trees 11/4 and 3 at a feeder 11/11 (KR).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Lake Towhee Park (LTP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm and Haas, Bristol (RHS).

Temperatures were above normal for all four months: August (+4.1°F); September (+4.4°F); October (+2.6°F); and November (+1.7°F). All four months had below normal rainfall: August (-2.9"); September (-1.9"); October (-2.1"); November (-0.4"). The four-month total was 54% of the sum of the four month's averages. Conditions became very dry. Most birders noted a poor migration season pretty much across the board. Despite increasing eBird entries that would be expected to result in more records of even less common

species, many species were represented by only one or a handful of reports. Waterfowl movement was light probably due to the warm temperatures. Almost all Neotropical migrants were in low numbers. Despite the dry conditions resulting in good shorebird habitat at lakes, numbers were disappointing. Some northern irruptive species and a few rarities were highlights. The rarest report was a new state record of a **Ipswich Savannah Sparrow**, if accepted by PORC. The reported species totaled 236 compared to the previous 10-year average of 235. There were four new fall early arrival dates and two new late 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 the recent three decades 1981-2010 per the NOAA website.

The first of many **Greater White-fronted Goose** reports through Nov (m.ob.) came from PRN 9/28 (AM ph.), a new fall early date; followed by multiple reports at PVP starting 10/15 (AM ph.). Evidence was pretty conclusive that there were two different birds in these reports due to timing of sightings, and this was likely proven when 2 were at PVP 10/28-29 (AM ph.). Others were at Taylorsville 10/24 (MHo) and Bradshaw Reservoir 10/30 and 11/27 (BHe ph.). A Greater White-fronted Goose probably of the interior North America population was at PVP 11/10-12 (RD ph., AM, AR). One **Snow Goose** was at LTP 10/28 (PTE) and stayed through the period (m.ob.). The only other report was one at PVP starting 11/18 (SL ph.). A single **Brant** at BRD 10/20 (AM ph.) provided the only report. **Cackling Goose** was reported at four sites starting in mid-Oct (m.ob.). The now annual **Trumpeter Swan** first detected at NSP in Dec 2013 as a juv. and seen sporadically there and LTP, returned again to LTP 10/8-30 (JFI, PTE, AM, EK). A juv. was carefully identified at NSP 11/6 (MG ph., HM, et al.). Two **Tundra Swans** at PVP 11/30 (AM) provided the only report. The **Mute Swan** high count was unusually low, just 12 near Falls Twp. Community Park 9/17 (JG).

Nine dabbling duck and 12 diving duck species were reported, in generally low numbers. Some higher counts included 57 **Wood Ducks** at Upper Makefield Firehouse 10/8 (BB), 48 **American Black Ducks** at LTP 11/7 (BK), and 120 **Mallards** at PVP 11/19 (AM, JM). A **Canvasback** near Falls Twp. Community Park 11/13 (MG) provided the only report. **Scoters** are always prized locally. A total of 15 **Surf Scoters** were reported from NSP on three days between 10/10 and 10/31 (PC, AM, DF), with the high count 9 on 10/10 (DFa). Twenty-two **Black Scoters** were at NSP on three days between 10/10 and 11/6 (PC, MG, JB, TF). The high count was 12 on 11/4 (JB, TF ph.). One more was at CVP 11/12 (MF). The 10/10 report (PC) provided a new fall early arrival date. Mostly single **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported from NSP and PVP starting 10/31, with a total of 12 birds on six dates (m.ob.). The high count was 6 at PVP 11/9 (DFa). The **Bufflehead** high report was 158 at NSP 11/21 (DFa). A **Common Goldeneye** reported at Morrisville Levee 9/26 (BB) and 10/16 (JP ph.) was likely the same bird reported there since spring. Singles near Fairless Hills 11/26 (SA) and at NSP 11/27 (PC) were likely the first migrants and only other reports. The **Ruddy Duck** high report was 236 near Falls Twp. Community Park 11/13 (MG). A new fall early date was provided by one at PVP 8/27 (AM).

Always limited to a handful of reports, a **Red-throated Loon** was at PVP 10/27 (TF ph., BK) and 11/23 (AM). NSP had one on 11/7 (PC, EB, AG) and 11/12 (DFa). Also 11/12, one was on the Delaware River north of Taylorsville (MG). **Common Loon** reports were very low, with only 5 individuals from three sites (DFa, BE, PC). A **Great Cormorant** at PWT-Franklin Cove 10/28 (DFa) provided the only report. The only **American Bittern** was at LTP 10/28-29 (AM, SGo ph.). Large wading birds continued their good showing from the previous season. **Great Egret** was as usual the most common, with 18 sites reporting (m.ob.). The highest counts were about 20 at RHS 8/6 (DFa) and 17 at CVP 8/31 (SGo). The last report was 10/29 at Silver Lake Park (DFi). The **Snowy Egret** high count was 7 at RHS 8/27, which was also the last date reported there, and one lingered through 8/23 at BRD (AM, m.ob.). One stopped at New Hope 8/28 (BHo). **Little Blue Heron** was reported more this fall, from five sites and lingered for long periods at three of those. Seven total were reported (m.ob.). The latest lingered to 9/10 at BRD (PTa) and to 9/16 at CVP (KKo, m.ob.). A **Cattle Egret** at PVP 10/28 was the only one reported (LF ph. doc., ARu). The rather poor showing of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** this year continued, with only three sites reporting a total of as few as 7 birds 9/11-11/3 (m.ob.). The high count was 5 at Morrisville Levee 10/11 (JP).

A gathering of 80 **Black Vultures** roosting on an ACE Hardware store at

Newtown (MN ph.) must have been a strange sight 11/9. One sitting on a roof near Chalfont 11/1 (HH) had yellow wing tag #296. It had been banded as a preflight juv. 7/22/2015 near Edgemont, Chester. An **Osprey** at PVP 9/3-21 with a red leg band 38D based on a photo 9/6 (ARu ph.) was determined to have been banded in the nest at Island Beach SP, New Jersey 7/13/2016 (*vide* LF). Tracking of young birds has shown that they take a couple of years to learn the most efficient route to their wintering areas, so this bird west of its birth site instead of south is not surprising. **Golden Eagle** was sighted more than usual, with one at PVP 10/8 (MHo, RP, et al.) and 11/5 (MN, SA), one at MKF 10/9 (RS), and one at Durham Twp. 11/6 (AK). The third report this year of **Mississippi Kite** was from MKF 8/23 (RS, eBird doc.). Records show only 15 previous reports. A **Northern Harrier** at PWT 8/6 (DFa) provided a new fall early arrival date by one day (DFa). PWT had 19 **Bald Eagles** at the roost 11/26 (DFa). The former **Broad-winged Hawk** count sites were apparently inactive this year. Two **Soras** were at BRD 9/10 (JBa), providing only the second report all year.

Twenty shorebird species were reported. An **American Avocet** at PVP 8/6 (AM) seen only in flight provided the fifth report at this site since 2002 and thirteenth for the county. An **American Golden-Plover** at MKF and adjacent Crooke Farm 9/27-28 (RS) provided the only report. Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were at CCP 8/7, one was at RHS 8/28-9/3, and PWT had one 9/3 and 3 9/5 (all DFa). Three were at PRN 9/19 (AM). **Sanderling** is normally scarce here, so only one report at PRN 9/19 fit the pattern (AM). Four **Dunlins** were at PRN 9/28, and one was at PVP 10/15-17 (both AM). **Least Sandpiper** is usually numerous. High reports were about 200 at RHS 8/27 (DFa), about 50 at PWT 8/27 (DFa), 87 at CCP 8/30 (BK), 64 at BRD 9/1 (AM), and 93 at PRN 9/17 (PC). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at PWT 8/27 (DFa) was the only one reported. Not reported last year, 2 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** flew over PWT 8/27, and one was at RHS 8/28 (DFa). Of six sites reporting **Pectoral Sandpiper**, only RHS had a noteworthy high count - 30 on 9/10 (DFa). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at PWT 8/13 (DFa) provided the only report. Four reports of **American Woodcock** were more than normal for this secretive species (DFa, MF, RS). The eleventh known occurrence here of **Red Phalarope** was at PWT 9/24-25 (DFa ph.). **Lesser Yellowlegs** is among the very few species that had high counts above single digits. The highest report was about 30 at RHS 8/18 (DFa).

Eight gull species were reported. A small group of 6 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 10/23 represented a low high count at PVP (AM), but was noteworthy for bringing a tag-along adult **Little Gull** (AM), which provided the second known report for PVP and eighth for the county. **Laughing Gulls** lingered on the lower Delaware River as usual, with about 40 at PWT 11/26 (DFa). After no reports last year from the upper county, one was at PVP 8/27 (AM). Two **Iceland Gulls** at PWT 11/24 (DFa) provided the fall's first and only report. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at PVP 8/6 (AM) was the first reported this fall. The monthly high counts, all at PVP, were 4 on 8/21, 81 on 9/21, 261 on 10/23, and 128 on 11/17 (all AM). **Caspian Tern** was well reported, being found at eight sites 8/1-10/1 and totaling 39 birds (m.ob.). The highest counts were 7 at CVP 8/13 (SF, et al.) and 6 at PVP 8/23 (AM) and 9/1 (VM). Three **Black Terns** at PVP 8/23 (AM) and one at PWT 9/3 (DFa) provided good finds for this now rarely reported species. A **Forster's Tern** was at PWT 8/6 (DFa), and 2 were at PVP 9/16 (AM, vt.) for the only other tern reports.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at CVP 10/8 (VD, et al.) provided a new fall late date by one day. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from only two sites. One was at PVP 8/30 (AM) and 9/14 (RD), and another was at MKF 8/31 (RS). A **Barn Owl** at PVP 11/14-17 (AM) was the first reported there since Sep 1997 and the only report this year in the county. It was regular at PVP in the 1970s and reported in eight years in the 1980s but only accidental since. Two resident **Barred Owls** near Morrisville (RFe, BK) added to the occasional but more frequent reports of this species away from the upper county. There were 2 reports in Tinicum Twp. (PC, HD) and one from Quakertown Swamp (DFa), where expected. A **Long-eared Owl** was in *Bucks* at an unreported location in Nov (DFI). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at PVP starting 11/5 (KI). The SGL 157 breeding site for **Red-headed Woodpecker** had 3 juvs. 8/19 (PC). A migrant juv. was at PVP 9/15 (AM), and an adult migrant was there 10/18 (VM). A juv. was a presumed migrant at NSP 9/25 (AM). **Peregrine Falcon** now is expected more frequently at non-breeding sites in fall. There were nine of those sites, some of which had sightings on multiple dates (m.ob.).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported at CVP 9/5 (MG) and Tinicum Twp. 9/24 (PC), the only reports. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** has been

reported previously feeding young at PVP as late as Sep. One feeding young 8/30 again documents this time frame (AM). Only 3 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported, with one at PVP 8/24 (TF) and 8/27 (AM), and one at MKF 9/3 (RS). With **Philadelphia Vireo** being a rare spring migrant here, the expected fall migrants were a good addition to the year's list. However, there were reports from only five sites, starting 9/3 and totaling probably only 7 birds (m.ob.). The last was well documented at CVP 10/2 (DM ph.). Now expected, **Common Raven** was reported from at least 16 sites (m.ob.), with about 24 individuals (m.ob.).

A late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at PWT 11/27 (DFa). Some **Tree Swallows** were still near Morrisville 11/28 (PL). Two **Cave Swallows** at PWT 11/27 (DFa ph.) provided our fifth reported occurrence. The first major irruption of **Black-capped Chickadee** since 2012-2013 was first recorded starting 10/23 at PVP in eBird (AM, m.ob.). Also, the first serious signs of a major irruption since 2012-2013 of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** started 8/23 at CVP (TM). However, previously reported breeding season sightings 6/30 and 7/30 may have been scouts.

Besides the normal hotspots for **Marsh Wren** at BRD, PRN, and PWT (m.ob.), 2 were early at MKF 8/17 (RS), one was there on the more expected date of 9/26 (RS), and one late at PVP 11/1 (BK). A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at PVP 11/6 (TF ph.). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at PVP 9/17 (AM) provided the only report. **American Pipit** was reported at seven sites (m.ob.), with estimated high counts of 40 at Holicong 10/27 (RS), 50 at PRN 10/27 (TF), and 50 in Lower Makefield Twp. 11/27 (DFa, PL). Three **Lapland Longspurs** and 4 **Snow Buntings** were at the Patterson Farm, Lower Makefield Twp. 11/27 (DFa, PL) for a rare fall treat. A single **Snow Bunting** at NSP 10/27-11/7 (PC ph.) was right on schedule there and was followed by 2 there 11/23-25 (PC).

A total of 31 warbler species was tallied. Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler were not reported. Hotspot MKF produced the only report of **Orange-crowned Warbler** 11/2 (RS). **Connecticut Warblers** were at PWT 9/18-10/16, with the high count 6 on 10/2 (DFa). One was also at Rohm & Haas 9/19 (DFa) and LTP 10/6 (PTE). A **Mourning Warbler** at CVP 9/14 (JS ph.) was the only one reported, as was a **Golden-winged Warbler** at PVP 9/13 (RFR, BS). **Nashville Warbler** again was detected in Nov, with one at CCP 11/5 (MG ph.). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at PVP 11/9 (SL ph.) provided a new fall late date. Single **Palm Warblers** were on the late side at PWT 11/26 (DFa) and Giving Pond 11/28 (EB). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted at CVP 9/20-27 (SF, et al.), and one was at PWT 10/2 (DFa), for the only reports all year.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was still at the Van Sant Airport breeding site 8/7 (PC) for the only report. Two or three sites now are reliable for fall **Nelson's Sparrow**. One was at PRN 10/6 (SGI) and 10/26 (AM). Another was at BRD 10/13-16 (AM, MHa, MG, BK, TL). The PWT had one 10/15-16 (DFa, PC). Always rarely reported, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at PVP 10/11 (anonymous, *vide* AM), and another was at MKF 10/20 (RS). A **Lark Sparrow** at MKF 8/21 apparently was a one-day wonder (RS, AM doc.) and provided only our fifth known occurrence. A Lark Sparrow wintered at MKF in 2006-2007. An unexpected early **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Tyler SP 8/27 (CM). The county records have only one other historical Aug record (8/23) from before 1998. **Vesper Sparrow** was reported as usual at MKF 10/19-11/3. Although only 2 were ever seen at one spot at a time, multiple spots on each outing at the farm suggested more were actually present (RS). One was a surprise at NSP 11/28 (SGO ph.). An apparent **Ipswich Savannah Sparrow** at PWT 11/27 (DFa ph.) was not only a first county report but likely a first for the state if accepted by PORC. MKF continues as the hotspot for **Lincoln's Sparrow**. It provided the county's first and last reports 9/12-10/23, with reports on 22 days often of multiple birds (RS). The high count was 7 on 10/1 (RS).

A female **Summer Tanager** at Tinicum Twp. 9/16-20 (PC ph.) was the first fall record here since 1997. There have been only 7 other reports since, but all were in May. **Blue Grosbeak** continued at the MKF breeding area until 10/2, with 5 on 9/22 being the highest eBird entry (RS). The PWT breeding site had reports until 10/16, with the high report of 6 on 8/13 (DFa). A late but not unprecedented **Indigo Bunting** was at CVP 10/30-11/12 (DM, CS). Single **Dickcissels** at MKF 8/23, 10/1, and 10/21 provided other excellent finds at this site (RS) and the only reports of that species. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from 11 sites (m.ob.), with a roost at Quakertown Swamp producing the highest report of an estimated 200 birds 10/29 (TF). For the fifth year in a row,

Baltimore Orioles returned to the same feeders in Middletown Twp., and the trend is for earlier arrival there each fall. The first adult male was noted 10/23. By the end of Oct there were 5, including 3 adult males, and at the end of Nov there still were at least 5, with 2 adult males (DP). Other late or wintering birds were noted 11/19 at PVP (JFI, ML, AM), 11/20 through the month at Solebury Twp. (JD), 11/22 at Warminster Community Park (PS), and 11/24 at Nockamixon Twp. (PC). **Purple Finch** was widespread starting 9/17 at Ralph Stover State Park (BHe). Reports had mostly single digit counts (m.ob.) except at PVP where double digit counts were recorded for about a month starting 10/11 (KI, VM). The high report was 38 at PVP 10/28 (AM). NSP had 4 **Pine Siskins** 11/6 (DFa) and 6 on 11/16 (EB) providing the only reports.

EXOTICS: Not among the regularly occurring exotics, a **Black Swan** was at Morrisville Levee 9/13 (JP ph.).

CORRIGENDUM: The Breeding Season 2016 Summary (Volume 30, Number 3) listed a **Pied-billed Grebe** at PVP 7/6. The correct date was 7/26. This error was worth noting since no breeding sites are known, so the earlier date could have been interpreted as a likely breeding bird rather than the more likely a post breeding wanderer on the later date.

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Butler County

Locations: Branchton Road (BR), 528 Boat Launch (528BL), Clay Township (CT), Lake Arthur (LA), North Shore (NS), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), South Shore (SS), Squaw Valley Woodlands (SVT), Upper Boat Launch (UBL), Watts Bay (WB), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA). All locations except BR, CT, SRB, SVW are in Moraine State Park (MSP).

August arrived with typical hot humid days with occasional afternoon thunderstorms. The middle of the month featured temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s with oppressive humidity that dampened the activities of birds and birders alike. Shorebird migration started out early featuring **Semipalmated Plover** and **Least Sandpiper**, both uncommon in *Butler*. But storms in September filled Thorn Reservoir and Lake Oneida, flooding mudflats and limiting sightings from these under-birded areas. Surprises of the season included an **American Golden-Plover** which touched down in a field, but did not stay around, the return of the **Black-headed Gull** for its seventh *Butler* record, and a late **Northern Parula** in MSP.

The resident **Canada Goose** population remained high with regular sightings of flocks of 25-75 birds. In Oct, migrants increased the numbers dramatically with sightings of 280 at the WOA 10/5 (GK, MAK), and 310 at SVT 10/16 and 280 there 11/13 (DW). **Tundra Swans** were a bit late arriving this season, beginning with a nice flock of 40 at SS 11/20 (SA, AP) and nocturnal waves of swans heard almost nightly over SRB 11/21-1/30 (GW).

Wood Duck was seen in low numbers through the season but migrants arrived in early October with nice tallies of 121 at WOA 10/5 (GK, MAK) and 102 there 10/13 (KD). Although there were a few early **Gadwall** sightings including one at WOA 9/10 (BB, et al), several cold fronts the third week of Oct brought lots of rain and the first real push of ducks including 45 **Gadwall** at WOA 10/22 (MD) as well as **Green-winged Teal**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked**

Duck, **Ruddy Duck** and the first **Bonaparte's Gulls** of the season. The same weather brought 75 **Double-crested Cormorant** to SS (MD). **Gadwall** numbers remained high through Nov with 9 sightings of over 30 birds including three counts of well over 100 birds towards the end of the month (m.ob.). **American Wigeon** were reported 7 times with a very nice count of 22 at NS 10/28 (MVT). **American Black Duck** made three appearances, 2 at WOA 11/20 (SA, AP), 5 at SS 11/23 (ME) and 2 at WOA 11/27 (TR). A notable count for **Mallard** was 94 at WOA 11/11 (DK, DF, KD). Only 4 **Blue-winged Teal** were seen all season, at WOA 8/21 (MV). Single **Northern Shovelers** were at WOA 10/22 (MD), 10/25 (SD) and 11/6 (BB), and 5 stopped at WOA 11/27 (TR). Foursomes of **Green-winged Teal** were spotted 5 times.

Single **Redheads** were reported only 3 times, all at LA (m.ob.). More frequently seen, **Ring-necked Ducks** showed up 12 times starting 10/22, with a high count of 28 at WOA 10/28 (MVT). The only **Greater Scaup** was a loner at Watts Bay 11/5 (GK, MAK), and **Lesser Scaup** was also found only once, at WOA 10/30 (RN). **Buffleheads** were seen 10 times, the high count being 25 at NS 11/11 (DK, KD). **Hooded Mergansers** were the only mergs reported, 9 times, most from LA (m.ob.). **Ruddy Ducks** were plentiful with 18 sightings starting with low numbers in early Oct, building to 63 at Watts Bay 11/5 (GK, MAK) and 48 at NS 11/11 (DK, KD). Outstanding rafts of spiketails included 144 at WB 11/13 (BB), 156 at Barber Point 11/20 (SA, AP) and 141 at WB 11/25 (MV). Overall it was a decent season for ducks with 17 species reported, compared to 18 last fall.

Ring-necked Pheasants included one at SGL 95 on 9/26 (SG) and 2 there 11/23 (OM). **Ruffed Grouse** were observed three times: one at Pleasant Valley Trail during a Three Rivers Bird Club outing 9/20 (JC), one at Lancaster Twp. 10/12 (RN), and one at Branchton Rd 11/5 (BB). **Common Loons** were a bit late arriving with 6 at SS 11/18 (BB) and 3 there 11/19 (RN). One was seen at Hull Lake 11/20 (JC), a relatively new and probably under-reported location. A nice tally of 20 loons was made at SS 11/20 (SA, AP) and an amazing count of 53 flew over SRB 11/30 (GW). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported continually through the season with a high of 20 at NS 11/11 (RS). **Horned Grebes** arrived in early Nov, with singles and pairs seen through the month, all at LA (m.ob.).

Red-necked Grebe was reported twice at SS - 2 on 11/18 (BB) and one 11/19 (RN). **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen in single digits through the season (m.ob.) but a cold front brought a very nice flight of 75 to SS 10/22 (MD). A single **Great Blue Heron** nest was found at a pond on Kiester Road 8/8 (OM). It will be interesting to see if more nests appear in the spring. A **Great Egret** was at WOA for several days in late Aug, probably the same bird; other singles were seen in various locations around LA through Sep into early Oct (m.ob.).

Osprey was seen through the season at LA; the high count was 6 at WOA 8/2 (eBird). The Pennsylvania Game Commission Osprey Survey confirmed that 5 of the 148 Osprey nests in the state are located in *Butler*. **Bald Eagles** were reported through the season (m.ob.) with one confirmed successful nest at LA. The status of another known nest site at LA was not reported. There are regular reports of Bald Eagle from Lake Oneida but nesting there has not been confirmed. A **Northern Harrier** was at SS 9/10 (BB), an unusual location. **American Coots** arrived at LA in small numbers in late Sep with flocks increasing steadily to highs at SS of 71 on 11/11 (DK, KD) and 78 on 11/30 (JF).

After a few early Aug migrants moved through, shorebird sightings seemed to grind to a halt due to very hot humid weather and rain storms which filled Thorn Reservoir and Lake Oneida. Shorebird sightings included **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe** and **American Woodcock** (m.ob.). The real surprise was an **American Golden-Plover** seen in a field near Brownsdale Rd 10/12 (BB), representing probably the sixth *Butler* record. The cold front that started the influx of ducks to *Butler* also brought a nice flock of 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls** to SS 10/22 (MD). Bonies were seen at LA through 11/15 (m.ob). The **Black-headed Gull** returned to the same spot at SS 11/27 for the seventh *Butler* record (SM, KS, BS *vide* MV). It was reported into Dec (m.ob.). **Ring-billed Gulls** are fixtures at LA, normally occurring in double digit counts but numbers swelled to 150 at SS 11/29-30 (JM, PL, RN). A lone **Caspian Tern** stopped at SS 8/17 (BB).

The two **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were far outnumbered by 14 sightings of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. The high counts for Yellow-bills included 4 at JEEC 8/6 (DK, KD) and 5 at Burton Road 8/17 (BB). **Common Nighthawk**

moved through 8/19-9/12 (m.ob.) with the high count being 12 at Clay Twp. 8/24 (BB). Uncommon in *Butler*, a **Peregrine Falcon** was at 528BL 10/12 (RN) and was reported feeding on the **Rock Pigeons** nesting at both large bridges over LA.

Both uncommon in *Butler*, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and 2 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at UBL 9/16 (GK, MAK) and a lone Yellow-bellied was at 528BL the same day (GK, MAK). **Philadelphia Vireos** were spotted at Burton Road 9/18 (BB) and 2 were at 528BL 9/25 (GK, MAK). With nine sightings of **Common Raven** (m.ob.), it is hoped that breeding will be confirmed. Twenty-four reports showed that **Red-breasted Nuthatch** delighted birders all across *Butler* (m.ob.). A singing male **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SRB 9/18-19 (GW), singles were at CT 9/24 (BB) and 528BL 9/25 (GK, MAK), and 2 at CT 9/25 (BB). A total of 52 **Swainson's Thrush** flight calls were heard nocturnally at CT 9/25 (BB). All five spot breasted thrushes were recorded at SRB 9/25 (GW). A late **Gray Catbird** was noted near Callery 11/6 (CT). Four **Snow Buntings** flew over SRB 11/18 (GW).

The first 10 days of Sept were hot, but cooler weather by the middle of the month brought waves of warblers of 25 species, including two sightings of the not often seen **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one at 528BL 10/5 (GK, MAK), and one at Upper Boat Launch 10/12 (RN). Another migrant very uncommon for *Butler* is **Connecticut Warbler**; one was at Muddy Creek Wetland 9/12 (SG) and one at Burton Rd 9/18 (BB). The high count for **Black-and-white Warbler** was 4 at 528BL 9/11 (KSJ). The previously mentioned weather related fallout featured 10 **Tennessee Warblers**, 9 **Common Yellowthroats**, 7 **Magnolia Warblers** and 8 **Blackpoll Warblers** in a trip around Jennings Environmental Education Center 9/25 (BB). Other high counts included 8 **Hooded Warblers** at SGT 9/20 (KSJ), 4 **Cape May Warblers** at UBL 9/16 (GK, MAK), and 12 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at 528BL 9/25 and 12 there 10/5 (GK, MAK). Most unusual was a very late Northern Parula at 528BL 10/24 (SDa); there are no other known Oct records in *Butler*.

Fox Sparrow moved through 10/29-11/19 with a startling total of 17 at Branchton Rd 11/10 (BB). Two reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** included one nicely photographed at SGL 95 on 9/26 (SG) and one at SVW 10/9 (DW). A nice flock of 27 **White-throated Sparrows** was found at BR 11/5 (BB). **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed 8 times 9/26-10/30 (m.ob.). The only **Bobolink** was in unlikely habitat at 528BL 8/17 (BB). A mixed flock of 159 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 19 **Rusty Blackbirds**, and 139 **Common Grackle** appeared in SRB 11/23 (GW, JW). There were also 2 rusties at BR 11/10 (BB) and 10 at SGT 11/13 (BB). **Purple Finch** was seen 23 times at 10 locations through the season (m.ob.). Very unusual for *Butler* in the fall season, 9 **Common Redpolls** flew over SRB in the company of the aforementioned Snow Buntings 11/18 (GW). **Pine Siskin** was reported twice: 5 at CT 9/23 (BB) and again 10/7 (BB).

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Cambria County

Locations: Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin S.P. (PG).

Waterfowl numbers were again low, probably due to the very warm fall. Small flocks of **Wood Ducks**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Mallards**, **Buffleheads**, and **Ruddy Ducks** made up the majority of the birds at PG. A lone **Great Egret** at a farm pond at PA in late Aug provided the only sighting (DG).

Reports of **Northern Harriers** were up this fall.

Shorebirds were present in low numbers at Colver Reservoir and PG. Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Colver 7/27 (RL); single reports of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** were made at PG. Single reports of **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** along with 2 **Black Terns** at PG represented the only sightings of these species. Up to 6 **Common Nighthawks** flew over PA the last week of Aug (DG). A **Least Flycatcher** was at PA 9/27 (DG).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and a **Winter Wren** were at PA 10/25 (DG). New late dates were set for **Swainson's** and **Wood Thrush** at PG 10/15 (JS). The warbler migration was protracted. Good numbers were seen from early Sep into mid-Oct, but no unusual species were seen. The season's first **Snow Bunting** was at PG 11/2 (PT). One of the nicest finds was a flock of about 50 **Rusty Blackbirds** at PG 11/12 (DG). This was the largest flock of these birds seen around here in about ten years. Two **Pine Siskins** at PG 11/2 provided the season's only report (TA).

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Cameron County

Locations: Camp Metro (CM), Elk S.F.—Hicks Run (HR), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Sinnamahoning S.P.—George B. Stevenson Dam (SGSD), Sinnamahoning S.P.—Red Spruce Trail (SRST), Sizerville S.P. (SSP).

No notable waterfowl species were reported this fall, most likely due to a lack of reports. The only **Wild Turkey** was one heard gobbling at CM 11/28 (AB). **Double-crested Cormorant** was at SGSD 9/18 (LD). Single **Bald Eagles** were reported multiple times during the season at and near their stronghold near SGSD (m.ob.). The only 2 locations producing **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were CM and HR, on 9/3, 9/4, 10/3, 11/27, and 11/29 (AB, RN), and the only **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at SSP 9/18 (LD).

Perhaps the best report of the season was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** seen and photographed at CM 9/3 (AB). Another uncommon migrant, a 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** were at QWA 9/7 (MG). **Common Ravens** were seen through the season at CM, HR, and SGSD (AB, SG, RN, DP). Despite the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption that occurred in most parts of the state, only one was reported in *Cameron*, at HR 10/3 (RN). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at Sinnamahoning 8/8 (DP), and singles were at CM 9/3 and 9/4 (AB). **Swainson's Thrush** was present at SRST 9/6 (MG), 4 were along the Fred Woods Trail in Elk SF 10/1 (JA), and one was at HR 10/3 (RN). Surprisingly, the only report of **Hermit Thrush** was of one at QWA 9/7 (MG).

A **Tennessee Warbler** was at HR 10/3 (RN) and a **Mourning Warbler** at CM 9/3 (AB). A nice count of 5 **Palm Warblers** was made at HR 10/3 including one with a missing tail (RN). **Pine Warbler** was at QWA 9/7 (MG). The first report of **American Tree Sparrow** was of 3 at HR 11/27 (AB). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were at HR 10/3, which also represented the only report of the species (RN). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was also seen at HR 10/3 (RN). No winter finches were reported.

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Centre County

Locations: Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Colyer L. Recreation Area (COL), Jo Hayes Vista (JHV), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO).

Twenty-one rare species were reported in *Centre*, most regularly reported species, but a surprise was an **Evening Grosbeak** that appeared in State College. Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv, with background and status information

from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

Several area birders were lucky to find a rare **Red-necked Grebe** swimming off Lower Greens Run in BESP 11/27 (BS, et al.). This casually occurring species is a very rare fall migrant (B&G, 2010). Although rare, **Great Egrets** are regulars in the region, and this year was no exception, with many reports throughout *Centre* during the fall migration. A single juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was spotted flying very close to the ridge at JHV 10/22 (JV, et al.). Another young bird with a distended crop was observed at Rock Springs 11/7 (BC).

A juvenile **Sanderling** was observed feeding at BESP 8/28-9/26 (CE, et al.). This species is rarely seen here during the fall migration. Another rare shorebird, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was accidentally flushed from a patch of cattails at COL 8/30 (L&JC). Although uncommon in the spring, **Caspian Terns** are rarely encountered during fall migration; however, a few were at BESP 10/1-8 (BS, JP, JV). As many as 22 **Black Terns**, all juveniles, were also spotted at BESP flying around with swallows 8/21 (L&JC, CE).

The rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported widely throughout the area. **Northern Shrikes** may be rare, but one or two are regular winter residents at BESP, and this year was no exception. Two were reported in different parts of the park 11/12-27. Based on photographs in eBird, at least one appeared to be an adult (JV, et al.). The last **Warbling Vireos** were spotted in Sep. According to B&G (2010), the fall migration of this species is difficult to assess but apparently most depart by mid-Sep. This was the case this year, with a few reported 8/7-8 at JUL (JG, JP, L&JC), and single birds observed 8/4-5 at SCO (JV, et al.) and 9/23 at ARBOR (MaB, JuS, RD).

Marsh Wrens aren't found every year and usually don't linger, so two birders were fortunate to find one 10/2-3 at JUL (BS, JV). On the other hand, A rare migrant, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, was widely observed throughout *Centre*. Warblers may be the stars of migration, but **Snow Buntings** are the rare, quiet gems of late fall and winter. Up to 5 of these beautiful little birds showed up at BESP 11/19-27 and were admired by many (JP, et al.).

Of the 32 warbler species reported during fall migration, only six were considered rare migrants, and of those, **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Orange-crowned Warbler** were widely reported. A rare fall **Northern Waterthrush** was banded at ARBOR 9/12 (NK), and a second was spotted at SCO 9/24 (JV). Two lucky birders observed a **Connecticut Warbler** at SCO 9/8-23 (JP, IG). One managed to photograph the bird in low vegetation along the trail (IG). Another bird ran afoul of the mist nets at the ARBOR 9/12 and came away with a shiny new leg band (NK), and one was spotted in Unionville 10/1 (DO). At least 3 rare fall migrant **Mourning Warblers** also passed through *Centre*. MMNC had one and possibly two 9/3-10/2 (JV, CE, KE). The earlier one appeared to be an adult female (JV), and the other did not (CE, KE). One was present at BESP 9/24 (SJ), and another was spotted in Port Matilda 10/8, feasting in a cherry tree and some raspberry bushes (PW). Lastly, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted in SCO 8/22 (JP), and another one was observed foraging on goldenrod in Pine Grove Mills 10/2 (JoD).

Clay-colored Sparrows are rare in this region throughout the year, so the one spotted 10/15 at Hough Family Preserve was quite a find (JV). And for the first time in nearly 25 years, an area birder discovered a young male Evening Grosbeak visiting the family's State College yard 11/1. The bird twice flew to the feeders but chose not to indulge in the treats provided there (NEK).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh

Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Struble Lake (SL).

The fall of 2016 was relatively uneventful, weather-wise. There were no hurricanes impacting the region, and the remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine, which swept the edge of the Atlantic coast in early September, produced no "storm birds". Moderate drought conditions persisted, and the season was pretty typical for autumn in southeast Pennsylvania.

Some intriguing birds were noted, nonetheless. Stand-out species included an obliging **Snowy Egret** at OCTRES, an adult **Swainson's Hawk** photographed in Malvern, and a juvenile **Red Phalarope** at MCSP. There were two exciting yard birds surely worthy the seasonal highlight list: a beautiful male **Golden-winged Warbler** discovered in a Kennett Square yard, and a **Red Crossbill** in West Chester.

Chester is a good place to find the *flavirostris* (Greenland) **Greater White-fronted Geese** during fall; this season 2 adult white-fronted geese were discovered among the large congregations of **Canada Geese** at CORES 10/11 (RR). These sought after rarities continued to be spotted through 10/22 (m.ob.). A single **Ross's Goose** was discovered among the throngs of **Canada Geese** at CORES 11/27 (RR). The diminutive goose lingered through the reporting period, offering good study for birders. This species is irregularly reported in *Chester*, and more often spotted during the spring migration. The other "mini" goose species we see here in eastern North America is the **Richardson's Cackling Goose**, which we expect in tiny numbers in fall, typically found in large groups of **Canada Geese**. The first report of a **Cackling Goose** was 10/9 in West Whiteland Twp. (MH). A skein of **Tundra Swans** flying over Cochranville 11/3 (MG) provided the only report of this species. **Tundra Swans** are more commonly encountered during their spring migration.

There were fewer reports of **Blue-winged Teal** this year than in recent autumns. Three were at MCSP 10/9 (MH), and they were also noted at EP 10/2 (WS) and 10/16 (LT). Presumably the same drake **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** that has been wintering annually in Eagle, made its seasonal debut at the Eagleview pond 11/27 (RR). If it is the same individual, it has been returning to this location since at least Feb 2013. A hen-type **Canvasback** was a welcomed Thanksgiving guest at MCSP 11/24 (MH, CH, m.ob.), where it remained through 11/30. A single report of a hen-type **Redhead** came from the Honey Brook WTP 10/16 (MH). No scoters were reported; scoters are irregular visitors, but they occasionally appear during weather-related events. The best time of year to find a **Black Scoter** in *Chester* is late Oct into Nov, but they were not found this year. Irregular in fall, a single **Long-tailed Duck** was a good find at MCSP 11/23 (MH, SS, NF).

Birders are always happy to see a **Red-throated Loon** on our lakes, since they are uncommon and not always found in fall. One was at SL 11/13-23 (JW, PW). During fall, one looking to the skies can often find migrating **Common Loons**. Only one was picked out of the sky migrating this fall, at the Hawkwatch at BCP 11/16 (LL, KP, et al.). Another **Common Loon** was found on the lake at MCSP 11/30 (CH, MH). **Horned Grebes** are typically only found in small numbers in fall, and this fall just 2 were seen: one at MCSP 10/28 (SS, NF) and one at CORES 10/31 (RR).

Quite a surprise was an **American Bittern** out in the open on the edge of the pond at Coventry Woods Park 10/3 (SS, NF). **Little Blue Herons** occur most commonly post-breeding as they disperse far from nesting sites. Sightings often begin in the summer period and continue into mid-fall. There were multiple reports from around the county this season, but the best place to look was OCTRES (m.ob.). Along with the **Little Blues**, a lone **Snowy Egret**, far less common, joined the wading bird party at OCTRES 8/15-9/5 (PM). The conditions being so favorable for wading birds, OCTRES was also the best bet for finding **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in Aug (m.ob.). Additional reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** came from CL 8/17-19 (RR) and a farm pond in Cochranville 9/19, where one was found (MG).

The BCP hosted a fall hawkwatch again this year beginning 9/1, staffed daily (LL). Highlights of the season included 9 **Golden Eagles** 10/14-11/23 and an adult **Northern Goshawk** 10/28. **Goshawks** are scarce in *Chester*, and only irregularly reported; adults are even less likely than juvs. The stand-out raptor, and arguably the most notable rarity of the season, had to be an apparent adult **Swainson's Hawk** that was photographed perched atop a roof in Malvern 10/25 (ph. SR). This appears to be *Chester's* first of the species, and one of only a few recorded this fall in *Pennsylvania*. What's more astonishing was the fact that it was an adult, far less often encountered in the

east. It was not seen again after the photographer snapped a single photo to record its presence.

A **Virginia Rail** lingered through 11/8 at a wetland at ChesLen Preserve (JMcn), providing the only report of this hard to detect marsh bird. Virginia Rails have been known to over-winter in *Chester*. There were no reports of Sora, though not for lack of birder effort.

Drought conditions began at the start of the fall season, and water levels began to drop in ponds and reservoirs around the county. This produced some nice habitat for shorebirds, especially later in the season as shorelines became more exposed. A good find for fall was a **Black-bellied Plover** at CL 9/26-10/8 (MH). Finding a grounded *Pluvialis* sp. is always significant in this piedmont county, and both of the expected species for the Commonwealth are irregularly reported here in fall. More expected is **Semipalmated Plover**, which was observed on multiple occasions at CL and MCSP (m.ob.). CL was site of the single report of **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/19 (RR). This species is irregularly reported, but chances are better for them during fall. There are only a handful of records of **Long-billed Dowitcher** for *Chester*, so one discovered at CL 11/3 (RR) was exciting. It remained only through the following day, but was seen by several lucky birders (m.ob.). One of the most intriguing shorebirds for the season was a single juvenile **Red Phalarope** on the lake at MCSP during a significant storm 8/21 (HM, MD, CH). The timing of this bird was quite early, based on other records in the Commonwealth. Its identification presented challenges, as there are over-lapping traits between transitional plumaged Red Phalarope and Red-necked Phalarope juveniles. The photos were circulated among experts around the country, with the final verdict being juv. Red.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** on a sewage lagoon in West Vincent 11/2 (PW, JW, NF, SS) represented the only report of the species. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was spotted flying over BCP during a birdwalk there 11/27, the only report of this large gull species. **Caspian Terns** are irregular migrants, typically seen as they peruse the waters of lakes in the county while passing through. This large tern was seen several times, from both MCSP and CL (m.ob.). A sighting of 4 together at MCSP 9/19 (SS, NF) was the highest count made. **Black Tern** is an uncommon migrant, and most years they are not detected. A fierce Aug storm that ripped through the state 8/21 brought up to 10 Black Terns into MCSP (HM, m.ob.), allowing great studies of their different flight style and feeding behaviors.

The RFBS captured 95 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** for the season (DM). This number reflects a steady flow of Saw-whets into the nets, which was welcomed after a slow flight in 2015. In addition to the Saw-whets, two **Eastern Screech Owls** were caught. Highlights of the banding operation this fall included some recaptures. One was from Ulster, New York, a site with which RFBS has traded owls in years past. Another was a bird that was at least three years old, from Bobcaygeon in northern Ontario. Another recapture had no information returned on band origins at the time of this writing. RFBS had 4 of their owls recaptured: 2 in Maryland and another 2 at a Pennsylvania banding station (SW). The two recaptured in Pennsylvania were originally banded at RFBS in 2013 and 2014. Exciting news from RFBS was that a Motus tracking tower was established in Nov on the property. This is one of the first of its kind in the Commonwealth, but many more are waiting to be installed. Motus technology will enable the radio tracking of birds and other wildlife that are wearing tiny, light-weight, specially coded tags that can register with the tower as they migrate within its range. The data obtained from these towers will give a clearer picture of migration on a far larger scale.

The more rarely encountered cuckoo is **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which was only found 3 times. One was recorded singing at MCSP 8/11 (HM), another was at BCP 8/21 (LL, et. al), and one was at Hibernia CP 8/23 (RR). BCP held its annual Nighthawk Watch 8/23-9/3. This nightly watch had its highest single day count 8/30, totaling 98 **Common Nighthawks** (LL, KP, et. al). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** have been trending towards later "last seen" dates in the county over the past several years, and this year was no exception. Two were last reported 10/19: one in Chadds Ford (HD), and another in Glenmore (DH). Both were photographed, and photos were scrutinized by hummingbird experts to be certain of the identity. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was confirmed as nesting during summer, but still remains irregularly seen in migration. A report of a flyover at BCP was made 9/15 (LL, et. al). The Honey Brook Golf Club played host to a family group thought to breed locally, and an encounter was made there 10/14 (RR, DL). Another was seen on a fence post in Honey Brook, not far from the golf club 11/2 (LG).

Olive-sided Flycatchers included one in Uwchlan Twp. 8/27 (HM),

another in the *Chester* section of Valley Forge NHP 9/10 (AM), one photographed at the Gordon Natural Area 9/16 (JA, et al), and another on that date in St. Peter's (PW, JW). The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is tough to detect as it passes through, especially due to its preference of dense wooded areas with lots of understorey. Only one was noted this season, at BCP 8/21 (IS). There were multiple reports of **Least Flycatcher**, a migrant in our region. Most reports came from BCP 9/1-27 (IS, m.ob.). Reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were slim compared to recent years, with just 3, all in Sep: one at Rushton Farm 9/16 (CH), another in East Bradford Twp. 9/25 (ZB), and one at Coventry Woods 9/30 (SS, NF).

Common Ravens are now being found throughout the county (m.ob.). Though still uncommon, these days they are always a possibility on any birding foray in *Chester*, particularly around Downingtown and Phoenixville, where there are established nesting sites. A single report of a migrant **Cliff Swallow** came from MCSP 9/6 (BB).

This fall saw a moderate irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees**, with the first detected at BCP 10/19 (LL) and continuing through the reporting period. In conjunction with the Black-caps, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also appeared in very good numbers, with detection as early as 8/7 (PW, JW) through the period (m.ob.). **Marsh Wrens** are irregularly reported in fall in *Chester*, but this fall held a few sightings, including reports at CL 9/20 (CH) to 10/16 (RR, MH). A late bird was at ChesLen Preserve 11/8 (JMcn) and 11/9 (AG). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported just twice this fall. This is a less-encountered spot-breasted thrush, which surely wings its way over *Chester* during migration, but is not easy to detect by day. Observations were made at StateLine Woods Preserve 9/22 (GT) and in E. Bradford Twp. 9/25 (ZB).

The warbler showing was fairly typical, with no outstanding fall-outs reported. Local birders especially enjoy trying their luck at finding newly arrived migrants after watching the Doppler radar for signs of heavy migration at dusk the night prior, or at dawn. This technology is now right at our fingertips, and a good tool to aide in predicting whether or not the mornings will hold freshly arrived migrants. Potentially one of the little blips on the radar, a highly notable find was a male **Golden-winged Warbler** in a yard at BCP 9/23 (JS). A single report of **Orange-crowned Warbler** was made from Laurels Preserve 9/28 (KF). This species is most commonly found in fall and winter, with reports starting around that time. The skulking **Connecticut Warbler**, a species known for playing hardball with birders, was spotted at BCP 9/27 (LL). A lone report of **Kentucky Warbler** came from Hibernia CP 8/24 (RR). This species is less regularly encountered in fall. Only one record of a **Hooded Warbler** was made, at Gordon Natural Area 9/2 (JA). An early sighting of a young **Bay-breasted Warbler** was made at MCSP 8/22 (HM). There were scattered reports of this boreal nesting bird from around the county (m.ob.). Four **Wilson's Warblers** were seen: 9/9 at Phoenixville (VS) and Mill Race Trail (WBH), 9/26 at East Pikeland (MH), and 10/2 at BCP (LL, et al). **Yellow-breasted Chats** are harder to find in fall, but a few were banded at local stations - at BCP 8/17 and 9/28 (IS), and at Rushton Farm Banding Station 9/10 (DM). Another was detected at BCP 10/2 (LL, et al).

The most notable sparrow of the season was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at BCP 10/18 (AU, EB). The species is uncommon in *Chester*, and most often found in fall. Numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were above the norm at CL. The lake's edge is to known to be good for them when there is a moderate shoreline in season. A high count there of 125 on 11/13 (RR) provided a great count for *Chester*. Another very nice high count was 86 at CL 11/5 (JS).

A **Purple Finch** attending a feeder in Phoenixville 9/1 was early (VS), and reports of singles or a few birds were steady through the period thereafter (m.ob.). A thrilling yard bird was a **Red Crossbill** in West Chester 10/6 (NP). This marked the only report of this species here in a season where a mild irruption was noted in other regions. **Pine Siskins** were steadily reported this fall, but only in small numbers. All reports were of single birds, except a count of 2 at BCP 11/1 (LL, et al).

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MacLellan, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Doris McGovern, Michael McGraw, Rand McLivaine, John McNamara (JMcN), Rob Megraw, Patrick Millar, Kelley Nunn, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Brian Raicich, Scott Reynolds, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Win Shafer, Vince Smith, Kim Steininger, Arthur Steinberger, Tim Sterrett, Ian Stewart, Scott Stollery, Wendy Sykora, George Tallman, Jaime Thomas, Linda Thomas, Gerry Tieg, Andy Urquhart, Laura Wagner, Scott Weidensaul, John Werth, Patty Werth, Judy White, Ann Williams.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest (CF), Curtsville (CV), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ).

For the second year, a pair of **Turkey Vultures** was found nesting in a small cave in the forested hillside outside of Clarion above the Clarion River (DF). Two fledgling birds were seen and photographed 8/11 at the nesting site, showing their first signs of initial flight. **Northern Harriers** continued to show a steady presence this year with 4 seen 11/21 (ML). Three of these included an adult male with 2 juveniles still at MZ where they nested this past summer, as well as a female at MA. **Northern Goshawk** is a species not regularly reported, but this season there were two sightings: a single adult near CF 11/4 (RN), and 2 adults flying together 11/28 at a different location, but also near CF (BB).

An exceptional effort was made towards studying owl populations in Clarion this season (MH, GE). Between 10/2 and 11/6, on 22 separate nights, various habitats in each township of the county were investigated for the presence of owls, using passive listening as well as playback. Owls of at least one species were found on 20 out of 22 nights, with approximately 25% seen for visual confirmation, as well as calls heard. Most of the visits were done at dusk between 21:30 and 22:00, with one week of visits done from midnight to 02:30. Time of night, temperature, moonlight, moon phase, and wind were not noted. **Eastern Screech-Owls** (42 individuals) were found in all 22 townships. They were most commonly found in mixed second growth forest, often near homes, without conifers typically. Out of this total, 27 were found south of I-80, and 15 were north of I-80 where mature forest is more predominant. Unusually, for the amount of habitat present, no Great Horned Owls were located during this period. This was likely due to the time of year that the effort occurred. **Barred Owls** were found in just 10 out of 22 townships, with 14 total individuals. They were most typically found in mixed, more mature forest without much understory and few conifers. Just 3 were found south of I-80 and 11 were north, where there is more available habitat. Only 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were located and responded only to their single note vocalization, and not the toot or whine calls. They were both located northeast of Clarion in mixed second growth with more understory present. Both Barred and screech-owls were found responding to the calls of the other species at times.

Short-eared Owls were found back at their traditional wintering ground at MZ 11/23, with 3 birds seen at dusk at the main site (DD, CW). Two birds were also noted at MA at dusk 11/27 (MH). An effort was made this year to count migrating **Common Nighthawks** from a location outside of Strattanville over a week in August in the evening (MH). Seven birds were counted 8/9, 5 birds 8/15, and 14 birds 8/17. Unfortunately, no past data is available for comparison; however, this year will provide a valuable baseline for future results. A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was seen at the main site at MZ 8/18, unusual for this season and at this location (SG).

Of all the woodpecker species, **Red-headed Woodpecker** is the only one not regularly reported, so a sighting this season was notable. A single bird was outside of Clarion 10/9 (MM), but not reported again and was a likely migrant. Some suitable habitat does exist in the county, and it's possible the species breeds here undetected. A **Merlin** was seen along the Redbank Valley Trail outside of New Bethlehem 9/14, where good habitat is available (J&AK). **Philadelphia Vireo** is not reported every year, but this season 2 were seen together outside of CV 9/22, feeding on Virginia creeper berries (CW).

The last week of Sep found a marked increase in reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** across the state; here they were noted at feeders in Rimersburg and outside of CV with up to 5 birds seen (MM, CW). Migrating **Swainson's Thrush** were detected in good numbers near CV 9/20-25 with a high of 5 on 9/20 (CW). During the predawn hours of 9/20, at this same

location, a good number of at least 1500 flight calls were detected, mostly **Wood Thrush** and Swainson's Thrush calls, with a few **Gray-cheeked Thrush** as well (CW). At the same location 10/3, another flight call survey was done over 30 minutes predawn in excellent calm and foggy conditions. Thrush calls were broken down into approximately 200 Swainson's, 40 **Hermit**, 30 Gray-cheeked and 10 Wood (CW). These numbers represent calls heard and not actual numbers of individuals.

A single **Snow Bunting** was found in the fields near Kahle Lake 11/20 (GE). Along a rural road near CV, in scrubby field edge habitat, a single **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen 10/12 (CW). This species is typically a late migrant, and is one of the least reported warbler species for the county.

There were 3 singing **Henslow's Sparrows** at MZ 8/18, the last date they were noted this season (SG). **American Tree Sparrows** were late on return to their typical winter range near CV, with the first birds not seen until 11/14 (CW). Just two reports of **Lincoln's Sparrows** included 2 in weedy field edges near CV 9/28 and a single bird nearby 10/3 (CW). **Pine Siskins** made a showing in Oct with one present at a feeder in Clarion 10/14 (TS), and another bird present at a feeder in Rimersburg sporadically from 10/14-11/22 (MM).

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Clearfield County

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen amongst a large flock of **Canada Geese** on the DuBois Reservoir 10/18 (DR). An imm. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was nicely photographed at Curwensville Dam 8/4-5, providing a likely first county record (CG). Three **Black Vultures**, infrequent visitors to the high plateau region, were observed in Clear Run 11/28 (DR). A **Forster's Tern** was at Curwensville Dam Recreation Area 9/11 (DG).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801, (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net**, Chris Greco, Doug Graham, Dan Richards.

Clinton County

Locations: Central Mountain High School (CMHS).

At least thirty **Common Nighthawks** put on an aerial show hawking insects in the late afternoon of 8/21, some observed at the local airport and others nearby in fields just east of Lock Haven (WL). In a repeat of last fall, a **Pine Warbler** showed up in Woolrich on 10/2, visiting feeders at several residences. The bird continued through at least 12/25 (CCH, SLF). One **Nashville Warbler** and at least 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** were at CMHS 10/8 (m.ob.). A flock of about a dozen **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was observed foraging in wild plum trees and conifers in Swisssdale 10/10 (WL). At least four **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found on a Lycoming Audubon field trip to the CMHS wetlands 10/8 (m.ob.). One or possibly 2 **Nelson's Sparrows** were observed at CMHS 10/16 (JC). A flock of at least six **Purple Finches** was at CMHS 10/8 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlubscher@comcast.net**, Jack Cochran, Skip and Linda Frye, Charles and Carol Hildebrand.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Ernst Bike Trail (EBT); Pymatuning Fish Hatchery (FH); Hartstown Project ponds (HP); Miller Ponds (MP); Pymatuning Nature Center (NC); Pymatuning Spillway (PS); Pymatuning State Park (PYM), Sugar Lake, Erie NWR (SL); Woodcock Lake (WL); Woodcock Lake, Abandoned Road Trail (WART); Woodcock Lake, Schultz Road Causeway

(WSRC).

Snow Goose is a reliable but notable bird in the fall in *Crawford*. Sightings at MP included one 10/28 (IF), one 11/12 (LF, JF), and a single blue morph 11/18 (RL). A juvenile **Brant** was observed at Fireman's Beach, CL 11/3-18 (m.ob.). The bird was very approachable and spent much of its time eating grass immediately adjacent to the parking area. Interestingly, another juvenile Brant was in this exact location 10/25-11/19/2009. Two **Brant** were seen at Fireman's Beach (one of them presumably the continuing bird) 11/5 (MK, JS), but only one was seen thereafter.

A good count of 49 **Wood Ducks** was made at Geneva Marsh 9/2 (RL), but this was topped by an excellent count of 820 Wood Ducks during the Blair Bridge Duck Count at PYM 9/16 (AM). Early observations of **American Wigeon** included one at MP 9/10 (DW) and 4 at HP 9/22 (DK, RN). There were several somewhat early sightings of **Blue-winged Teal**, including one at MP 8/13 (KZ), 3 at MP 8/14 (PF), and 4 at WSRC 8/15 (RH, TN, KP). There were also a few early **Northern Shovelers**, including one at MP 8/31 (AB, MH, RH), 5 at MP 9/3 (DaK, DoK), and 3 at the FH 9/10 (MV). Four or 5 early **Green-winged Teal** were at MP 8/6 (MV) to 8/13 (KZ).

A very early **Greater Scaup** was seen at the PS 8/6 (CN). Sightings of early **Lesser Scaup** included one at the PS 8/15 (SG) and one there again 8/31 (CN). A nice count of 33 **Hooded Mergansers** was made at the FH 11/12 (BB). An excellent count of 1924 **Common Mergansers** was tallied in the PYM area 11/18 (RL). There were several early reports of **Ruddy Duck** from the PS this season. At least some of these reports were likely of continuing birds from the summer season. Sightings included 3 on 8/3 (RH, KP), one 8/17 (AK), one 8/18 (TN, KP), and 2 on 8/27 (SC). A single at MP 9/22 (DK, RN) was also a slightly early bird. A nice count of 55 was made at the NC 11/12 (BB).

Although **Ruffed Grouse** is an expected species in *Crawford*, sightings are infrequent, so 2 at a private residence near SL 10/31 (RE) were notable. A single **Red-necked Grebe**, a great bird for *Crawford*, was at the PYM causeway 11/18 (RL). The only **Common Loons** sighted were singles at WL 10/28 (TN) and at the PS 11/6 (RH, TN, KP). **American Bittern** is an often missed in fall, so one at Geneva Marsh 8/17 (RL) was notable. **Great Egrets** were abundant this season, particularly at the FH where a high count of 11 was made 9/21 (IF, RL). Rare for the county was a **Cattle Egret** at MP 11/4 (IF, RL, CN, MV).

The only report of **Rough-legged Hawk** was of a female light morph near SL 11/11, a somewhat early date (RE). **Golden Eagles** are very infrequent in *Crawford*, so 2 flying south in the MP area 11/17 (SD) was especially notable. Good counts of **Common Gallinule** included 5 at Geneva Marsh 8/2 (PC) and 8 at Geneva Marsh 9/2 (RL). **Sandhill Cranes** were observed throughout the season in their expected locations, primarily around PYM and Conneaut Marsh (m.ob.). A high count of 41 was made at MP 11/12 (JF, LF). A family group of up to 4 were at MP 8/6 until at least 8/27 (m.ob.). A single at Tamarack 8/12-11/26 occupied a pigpen with the resident pigs at an active farm.

Observations of **Black-bellied Plover**, expected but infrequently seen in *Crawford*, included one at WSRC 8/12 (TN) and one in a recently harvested soybean field 10/11 (AT, KZ). **American Golden-Plovers** included 2 at WSRC 9/5 (KP) and 2 at WART 9/5 (TN), both of which were unexpected locations for the species. A good count of 55 **Killdeer** was made near SL 10/25 (RE). Three **American Avocets** provided an excellent sighting at the PS 8/6 (MK). **Ruddy Turnstones** are rare here, particularly away from the PYM causeway, so one at WSRC 8/15 (RH, CN, TN, KP) and another at WL 8/24 (RL) were noteworthy. A single **Sanderling** was at WL 11/13 (IF). A good count, 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at MP 8/8 (RL). A **Western Sandpiper** was at MP 9/15 (RL), very rare for *Crawford*. A late **Least Sandpiper** was at WL 11/13 (IF). There was just one **Baird's Sandpiper** reported this fall, at WSRC 9/10 (RH, KP, ST). **Stilt Sandpipers** included one MP 8/8 (RL), one at MP 8/14 (PF), and 3 at the FH 9/10 (MV, DW). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at WL 8/12 (RL) and another at the PYM goose management area 9/2 (RL) were excellent sightings for the county. The only observations of **Short-billed Dowitcher** this season were at MP: 6 on 8/13 (KZ), 3 on 8/14 (PF), 3 on 8/17 (AK), 2 on 8/18 (TN, KP), and 4 on 8/19 (MV). Notable was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at MP 9/28 (RL). Sightings of **Wilson's Phalarope** have increased in recent years but the species is still certainly notable. A single was at WL 9/6 (RL).

A **Ring-billed Gull** banded at NR Varennes, Quebec 7/15/2013 was sighted at the PS 10/5 (MV). **Caspian Terns** were observed in their expected locations around PYM 8/3-9/22 (m.ob.) with high counts of 15 at the PS 8/13 (KZ) and 20 there 8/17 (AK). Sightings of **Black Tern** have declined; the only one found this season was at the PS 8/15 (SG). A **Common Tern** was at the PS 8/4 and 8/13 (RL) and 3 were there 9/7 (DP). Seven **Forster's Terns** were at the PS 9/7 as well (DP).

The only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were of singles on private property in the Meadville and French Creek area 8/31 and 9/25 (SC). The only **Common Nighthawk** was a single at the NC 9/9 (TN, KP). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in their expected locations around PYM and Conneaut Marsh, McMichael Road. An adult and an immature were at McMichael Rd 8/26 (MVT). Seven **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen along Teakettle Rd and McMichael Rd 9/24 (RS).

Sightings of **Merlin** are increasingly frequent. Observations this fall included one at a private residence in the Meadville area 9/12 and 11/12 (KP), one on the campus of Allegheny College 9/11 (TN), and one at MP 9/29 (MV). **Peregrine Falcons** are relatively rare in *Crawford*. There were 2 sighted this fall: one at MP 9/10 (DW) and one on the EBT 10/12 (IF) seen first chasing a **Red-Tailed Hawk** and then being chased by an **American Kestrel**.

A great find for the county, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Tuttle Beach/Manning Boat Launch 9/22 (DK, RN). A single **Northern Shrike**, expected but still notable, was at Swamp Rd, Erie NWR 11/4, 11/17, and 11/27 (RS). The only observations of **White-eyed Vireo** this fall season were of 2 at W. Vernon Rd 8/2 (PC) and one in the Titusville area 8/8 (RL). There were only 3 reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo**, one at Geneva Marsh 8/1 (PC), one near SL 9/12 (RE), and one at McMichael Rd. 9/22 (DK, RN), a somewhat late date. A single **Blue-headed Vireo** near SL 10/13 (RE) was somewhat late for *Crawford*.

Common Raven is still a good bird for the county; 2 were at MP 8/6 (OM) and 2 at SL 11/3 (RE). The only **Horned Larks** were 7 near SL 11/18 and approximately 30 there 11/25 and 11/29 (RE). Expected numbers of **Bank Swallows** were found in in the PYM area 8/6-9/3 (m.ob.) with a high count of 20 at HP and nearby on 8/31 (AB, MH, RH).

The irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** across the state reached *Crawford* as well. First was a single bird seen at a private residence in Meadville 9/4 (KP). It was followed by several reports through the last week of Nov and probably included birds that intended to overwinter (m.ob.). **Carolina Wrens** were observed sporadically throughout the county, including 3 at a private residence in the Meadville area 8/28 (KP). Observations of **Winter Wren** included one at SL 10/4 and one at a private residence near SL 10/10 (RE).

Notable sightings of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** included one near SL 9/25 (RE) and one at a private residence in the Meadville and French Creek area 9/25 (SC). Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** were low, with up to 3 at a private property in the Meadville and French Creek area 8/31, 9/1, and 9/25 (SC), one at WSRC 9/10 (ST), and one at Dickson Road Trail at WL 9/23 (TN). **Hermit Thrush** reports were also few, with singles at Erie NWR 9/26 (RL), at WART 10/2 (TN), and near SL 10/17 (RE). A **Northern Mockingbird**, infrequently found in *Crawford*, was near Wayland Rd, near Meadville, 10/15 (RL). The only report of **American Pipit** was 12 near a private residence on Tower Rd 11/29 (CN). A single **Snow Bunting** was observed at PYM causeway 10/1 (RL), a very early date for this species. The only other reports were of one near SL 11/17 (RE) and 4 at the PYM causeway 11/26 (IF).

A late **Ovenbird** came to a feeder in the Townville area 10/10-21 (TL). A single **Worm-eating Warbler**, an excellent bird for the county, was at SL 9/12 (RE). Sightings of **Black-and-white Warbler** were down, with just one at the NC 9/9 (TN, KP) and one at a private residence on N. Richmond Rd. 9/12 (RS). Notable **Orange-crowned Warblers** included one near SL 10/4 (RE) and one at EBT 10/12 (IF). **Nashville Warblers** at EBT 10/12 (IF) and near SL 10/23 (RE) were late. A **Mourning Warbler** was near Saeger Hill 8/8 (RL). There were several reports of **Cape May Warbler** (m.ob.), including a nice count of 4 on the Dickson Road Trail at WL 9/23 (TN). **Bay-breasted Warblers** included one at Towpath Rd. 9/5 (RL), one at the NC 9/9 (TN, KP), and 3 at WART 9/22 (TN, KP).

A single **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at Geneva Marsh 9/8 (RL). The few **Fox Sparrow** reports this season included one at WART 10/23 (TN, KP) and 2 near SL 10/23 (RE). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was sighted at least 8 times 10/6-11/13 (m.ob.) in various locations. A somewhat early **White-crowned**

Sparrow was at a private residence near Meadville and French Creek 9/30 (SC).

A great count of 300 **Bobolinks** was made at MP 8/29 (PF). Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** were off this season and included one at a private residence near Meadville and French Creek 10/2 (SC), several with a flock of blackbirds near Cambridge Springs 10/21 (KB), several at a private residence near SL 10/23 (RE), 3 near SL 10/28 (RE), and one near SL 10/31 (RE). The only sighting of a large group of Rusty Blackbirds was of 100 birds at the EBT 10/12 (IF).

Purple Finches were found throughout the county in small numbers, with a high count of 5 at a private residence in the Meadville and French Creek area 10/19 (SC). Up to 2 **Pine Siskins** were reported throughout the season at the same residence in the Meadville and French Creek area (SC). High counts were 6 there 10/8 and 5 on 11/19 (SC). Other observations included one at a private residence in the Meadville area 10/28 (TN) and a nice count of 15 at the EBT 10/12 (IF).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Land 230 (SGL 230), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF), Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch (WGHW), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

Data for this report was gathered from eBird, with background and status information from the Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds (Gauthier 2016) published in this volume of *Pennsylvania Birds*. Waterfowl of interest for this period were vagrants found at Opossum Lake. There was one male **Greater Scaup** 11/9 (DK, VG) and one female **Red-breasted Merganser** 11/6 (DK). The latter represented the first known fall record in *Cumberland*. A female **Redhead** reported on eBird 10/4 and 10/11 at the WFBL was actually in *Dauphin* as that county includes the whole of the river and the bird was seen in the river. The only exception is any bird located in the mouth of the Conodoguinet Creek which flows into the Susquehanna River at this location. In general birds viewed from the west bank of the Susquehanna that are in the river should be reported on eBird as in *Dauphin* not *Cumberland*.

A **Common Loon** in basic plumage was at Opossum Lake 9/8-19 (DK, DB, SB, PY). Fall reports for this species are mostly from WGHW. This represented just the third eBird record of this species for the season in *Cumberland* and the first eBird record at Opossum Lake for the fall season. Of note was a **Golden Eagle** on Bridgewater Rd., SGL 169 10/11 (JM). Although they are common enough later in the season at WGHW, they are rarely reported in the county away from WGHW. This bird represented just the second fall eBird record of the species away from the hawk watch; interestingly the other report was at nearly the same location exactly one year ago on 10/11/2015 (BF, LF). What is really interesting is that the 2015 bird was a juvenile and the 2016 bird was an adult. The same bird, or a coincidence?

Considering how dry it was, it was surprising that there were any shorebirds worthy of mention at all. Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at the Key Logistics retention ponds off Rte. 233 on 10/13 (VG). This species is a rare fall migrant, unreported more years than not, and usually in very small numbers. It was a good season for **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, which shows up about once every three years in small to moderate numbers. This year one or 2 were reported at Huntsdale, Key Logistics Ponds, and Toigo Organic Farm. There was also one **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Key the Logistics Ponds 11/24 (VG), which represented a new late date for this species in *Cumberland*.

Up to 3 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were reported from WFBL on a

number different occasions 8/13-11/27. All accompanying notes in eBird reports located the birds on rocks in the river or on the east shore and therefore these are assumed to have been in *Dauphin*. As with the gulls, the 2 **Caspian Tern** reports on eBird 9/4 and 9/10 were actually of birds in *Dauphin*.

While there may be a very small resident population of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** north of the turnpike and west of Rte. 233 in *Cumberland*, they are only occasionally reported other places in the county. The one report for this period was of one along Rte. 11 east of the intersection with Koser and Hammond Rds. 9/5 (EB). Three **Merlins** were found: one at the propagation area of SGL 169 on 9/3 (VG) and the other 2 on the Big Spring 10/25 (VG) and 10/29 (BO, CC, BF, BP, VG). There were also 2 reports of **Peregrine Falcon** in eastern *Cumberland* away from WGHW, but per eBird notes it seems they were in *Dauphin*.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Canada Hollow of Milesburn Rd. 9/3 (VG). Only one or 2 of this species are reported each fall and some years none at all. Similarly, there were 3 reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one at Cabin Rd. SGL 169 from 8/24-26 (VG, AM), one on Ridge Rd., MSF 8/26 (VG, AM), and one at Camp Michaux MSF (VG, IG, CK). **Least Flycatcher** is usually a bit easier to find than the two aforementioned species, but there were still only 3 reports this season: one at Pine Grove Furnace State Park 9/17 (TN, VG) and one at SGL 230 on 9/4 (AM, RK) and 9/10 (VG, AM, SS). It was a good season for **Philadelphia Vireos** with reports from four different areas across the county: Elk Hill Road in the TSF to the north, on the Big Spring in the middle of the valley, and at Camp Michaux and Milesburn Rd in the southern MSF.

A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Opossum Lake 11/9 (DK, BF) set a new late date for *Cumberland*. There were 3 reports of **Cliff Swallow**, the least common swallow species here: 6 at Cabin Rd., SGL 169 on 8/28 (VG), one at the Children's Pond Boiling Springs 9/27 (DB, SB) and one at WFBL 9/29 (TC). One **Bank Swallow** was at Cabin Rd., SGL 169 on 8/22 (VG). Two more were at WFBL 9/13 (EH), although it is possible that any WFBL swallows were actually in *Dauphin*. Of the less common warblers there were no reports of Connecticut Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler. All three species are rare fall migrants sometimes missed in a particular season. One rare species found was a single **Mourning Warbler** at Cabin Rd., SGL 169 on 8/28 (VG).

A **Fox Sparrow** was seen in the Propagation Area of SGL 169 on 11/13 (VG) and another was on the Big Spring 11/24 (VG). A **Dickcissel** at SGL 230 on 9/24 (TC) represented a very good find. Most years this species is not reported in *Cumberland* in the fall. There were 2 reports of **Blue Grosbeak**, another rare species in fall, both away from the northwest corner of the county were most reports for this species are made. One was near the intersection of Rte. 233 and Rte. 174 on 8/5 (SK), and 3 were near the intersection of Trindle Rd. and Sporting Hill 9/1-9/13 (BH, JH). Two **Pine Siskins** were found on the Big Spring 10/29 (BO, CC, BP, VG).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Former Harrisburg State Hospital (HSH), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

It may be debatable whether the above-average temperatures from August to November helped or hindered the overall fall migration in *Dauphin*, the below-average rainfall exposed large flats of mud that attracted uncommon and rare shorebirds, salvaging a lackluster season.

A **Sora** was at SRWF 10/10 (IG). This was just the second fall report of Sora in the past ten years—two were observed on 10/6/2015 (IG) in the same place, indicating this year's bird was possibly a returning visitor. An **American Golden Plover** was photographed foraging along exposed rocks, mud, and vegetation mats in the river about a quarter of a mile south of the SRWF 9/11

(SK, IG). It was again at SRWF 9/12 (ph. HW). Another, or perhaps the same, bird was on Haldeman Island 9/19 (ph. S&SB). The only other American Golden-Plover sighted in the past ten years in fall was at the Susquehanna River at Marysville 10/30/2012, when Hurricane Sandy brought a stream of birds to central Pennsylvania that was unprecedented in variety and number.

A **Western Sandpiper** was at WL 8/8 (ph. P&RW). Given that this was the third year in a row that a single Western Sandpiper was seen at WL, and there are no other reports of a fall Western Sandpiper at least as far back as 2006, it's possible that this could be the same bird. Observations in the past two years occurred 9/2-4/2015 and 9/6/2014. A **Long-billed Dowitcher**, the first fall in at least the past ten years, was discovered at WL 10/20, foraging with 5 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 11 **Killdeer** (LB, MC, IG, EB). Outside of Harrisburg, 2 **American Woodcocks** were observed at FIG 10/31 (DM) and one was at ZooAmerica 10/20 (TB), where they have made occasional appearances over the years.

From 10/1-11/15 banders at the Ned Smith Center in Small Valley in upper *Dauphin* caught and banded 182 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, along with 2 red morph **Eastern Screech-Owls**, for the best season since 2012. An additional eight saw-whets had been previously banded in Virginia and other sites in central and eastern Pennsylvania (SL). For comparison, 88 saw-whets were banded at Ned Smith in 2015; 81 in 2014; 52 in 2013; 279 in 2012; and a dismal 46 in 2011. The average is 150, and the high of 284 occurred in 2007.

The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported 10/2, with one at the HSH (IG), one at a feeder in West Hanover TWP (PP, RP), and one at a feeder in Swatara Township (AM). No selasporous birds were reported this season, but a feeder in Hummelstown enjoyed repeated visits in mid-Aug from a Ruby-throated Hummingbird that displayed a spectacular coppery orange throat, no matter the angle, with hints of ruby just at the sides (S&RZ).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at WL 9/27 (TC). Three bright **Philadelphia Vireos** were photographed at the HSH 9/22, one was there again 10/2 (IG), and one was at Stony Creek Valley 9/28 (TC). *Dauphin* enjoyed its share of the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption, with nearly 50 separate reports in eBird (m.ob.), although some of these reports are from the same places several days in a row and surely could represent repeat visitors. By comparison, no birds were seen in 2015, 9 were reported in 2014, and 3 in 2013. *Dauphin* eBird data shows that Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers peaked the first week of Sep, when they first appeared, and again in the first week of Nov.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at the HSH 10/2 (IG). Migrant warblers were scarce, and included a single **Cape May Warbler** seen as the observer was kayaking around the river islands near the SRWF 10/10 (IG), and one **Bay-breasted Warbler** reported at Middletown Reservoir 10/14 (DH). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at the Highspire Reservoir 10/7 (ph. KK). The prime spot for **Rusty Blackbirds** was at WL, with small, double-digits flocks there 11/10-28 (m.ob.). A high of 36 was reported 11/17 (RP). Three were at FIG 10/31 (DM) and 4 briefly appeared at a home in Swatara Twp 11/16 (AM). **Purple Finches** came in strong during the first week of Oct, with reports scattered throughout the county (m.ob.), but their stay was brief and sightings ended before the month was over.

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Delaware County

Locations: Crum Creek Reservoir, Crum Woods, Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Earles Lake, Fort Mifflin, Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm Preserve, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook, Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Ridley Park, Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch (RTPHW), Springton Reservoir (SR), Thornbury Township Trail, Wawa Preserve, The Willows (WILL).

August maximum temperatures averaged 89.7°F with a high of 98F

reached 8/13 and 17 days of temperatures 90°F and above. The mean minimum temperature for the month was 72.4°F. Only 1.7 inches of rain fell during the month. September averaged a maximum of 82.2°F with five days of 90°F or above and 3.52 inches of precipitation. October's average high was 69°F; November's, 58.8°F. An additional 4.2 inches of rain were added over those two months. A low of 32°F was reached 11/28. Overall, these months could be characterized as warmer than average by two to four degrees, and dry with a rain deficit of approximately 4.8" for the period (source: NOAA Climate Data Online). There were few fronts to move migrants in a southerly direction. One clear exception was radar after sunset 10/31 that showed a large push of migrants. A total of 178 species were recorded in *Delaware* during the fall period.

A **Snow Goose** that showed up in a flock of **Canada Geese** at the Ellis Preserve 8/30 (PT) remained off and on through at least 11/23. A **Cackling Goose** fly-by in a flock of five Canada Geese over RTPHW 10/3 delighted the counters (AG, HM). The only migrant **Common Loons** were also reported over RTPHW: a single bird 9/24 (SJ) and 3 on 10/12 (JM). A **Horned Grebe** was photographed near the dam at Ridley Park 10/3 (NC, SR), and one was noted from a river watch from Fort Mifflin 10/9 (AG). **Little Blue Heron** was found among **Snowy Egrets** at JHNWR on 9/10 and 9/14 (AG).

RTPHW ran from 9/1-11/20. The low total of 825 **Broad-winged Hawks**, perhaps due to the fact that those birds passed by more to the west this year, contributed to a season total of all raptors of just 2990. Counters, however, were rewarded with a **Mississippi Kite** 9/7 (BR) and a **Golden Eagle** 11/4. The "best" day of the season was judged to be 10/3 with 6 **Northern Harriers**, 19 **Cooper's Hawks**, 37 **American Kestrels**, 7 **Merlins**, and 8 **Peregrine Falcons**, the latter setting a new daily high. Peregrines reached a new seasonal high of 30 (HM). The 21 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 10/26 also represented a notable count. One other raptor worthy of note was a late **Osprey** at WILL 11/23 (KG). RTPHW also produced some other interesting fly-overs, including six **Sandhill Cranes** photographed 11/10 (DE) and a **Red-headed Woodpecker** 10/4 (NP).

The best bird of the season was a **Black-necked Stilt** discovered at SR 11/29 (AG, ph. NP), which represented only the third county record; the last was 7/13/1961. Two **Black-bellied Plovers** at JHNWR wetlands 9/13 (DO) and a single **Wilson's Snipe** at the same location 9/3 (DO) provided the only reports of these species. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** along the DR at Marcus Hook 11/17 (NP) likewise represented the only record this season.

Somewhat late were 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at NGM 10/8 (JS). The 17th annual Haverford College Nighthawk Watch tallied 2754 **Common Nighthawks** for the season, which ran from 8/15-9/11 (SJ, KJ) - nighthawks were seen every night and not a single night was missed due to rain. No counts of over 200 were recorded until Sep, with 228 on 9/2, 248 on 9/7, and 309 on 9/1 representing the biggest nights, which were lower high counts than usual. The season total, however, was within the normal range of 2500-3000 birds. Other species new to the watch were **Wood Duck** 9/4, **Purple Martin** 8/17 and 8/25, **Bank Swallow** 8/29, and **Pine Warbler** 8/27. Two **Cape-May Warblers** photographed 9/10 (KJ) and 29 **Chipping Sparrows** also on 9/10 represented new watch high counts. All three expected **falcons**, **Northern Harrier**, and multiple **Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** were also recorded. The last nighthawks were 4 at the Garnet Valley Middle School 9/21 (BQ).

Chimney Swifts were on their way in Oct, last reported 10/15 at JHNWR (JD). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** hung around through the first week of Oct, with the last feeding on pineapple sage in a Swarthmore yard 10/8 (DE). Even better was a **Rufous Hummingbird** photographed visiting a feeder on Greenvalley Rd in Newtown Square 11/13 (AG). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** of the season was reported from RTPHW 9/25 (AG).

Olive-sided Flycatchers put in a few appearances: Thornbury Twp Trail 8/18 (JM), Hildacy 8/24 (SW), and DCCC 9/12 (BB). A high count of 118 **Fish Crows** was made at Media 10/7 (AG). **Common Ravens** continued to be reported sporadically from various sites (m.ob.). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at JHNWR 9/4 (GK). The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from Concord Woods 8/29 (BB), and then the species exploded across the map in Sep and continued through Oct, but diminished somewhat in Nov. The last **House Wren** was reported in the Crum Woods 10/21 (TR). **American Pipit** was sighted 3 times in a cornfield at RCSP 10/11-25 (AG).

Warblers were few in number though 25 species were reported. The only report of **Worm-eating Warbler** came from the BT 8/25 (m.ob.) as did the only **Bay-breasted Warbler** 9/26 (AG). The Willows produced the last dates for

Tennessee Warbler 10/12 (KG) and **Northern Parula** 10/13 (DO). A **Common Yellowthroat** lingered at DCCC until 11/2 (BB). The only **Blackburnian Warbler** was reported from the Thornbury Twp Trail 9/23 (JM). A **Yellow Warbler** was at RTP 9/15 (JM), at the late end of its usual dates. A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at RCSP 10/20 (AG). **Pine Warblers** must have been moving 10/5-7 because they were reported from at least four different locations during that time period.

The first **American Tree Sparrow** was reported from the DT 11/26 (DE) and the first **Fox Sparrow**, from the same location and observer, was 11/6. **Dark-eyed Junco** is clearly a signature seasonal species because many observers noted its arrival at their home or even on their way to work, but the actual first *Delaware* date was from a Havertown backyard 10/10 (MM). **White-throated Sparrow** arrived 9/25 HC (SJ). Uncommon in these parts, **White-crowned Sparrow** and 2 **Vesper Sparrows** were in the same cornfield at RCSP 10/25 (AG). Three late **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found at the Chadd's Ford Marsh 10/7 (KS, BS).

Bobolinks stopped over in the wetlands at JHNWR 9/3-16 (m.ob.), with the largest estimate of 200 on 9/6 (MD, DB). Always welcomed, 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also reported from JHNWR 9/5 (CS). The same location produced **Rusty Blackbird** 10/17 (JD) and 10/28 (JSe). A **Baltimore Oriole** at WILL 9/14 was about customary for a last date (KG). The first **Purple Finch** was reported from RTPHW 9/20 (NP) with occasional individuals noted thereafter at various locations, including 9 that flew over RTPHW 10/25 (AG) and 14 at the RCSP cornfield on the same morning (AG). A single **Pine Siskin** was also reported as a flyover at RTPHW 10/25 (AG).

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Elk County

Locations: Clarion-Little Toby Trail (CLTT), Elk Country Visitor Center (ECVC), Jones Twp. (JT), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), SGL 311—Porcupine Hollow (PH), SGL 311—Winslow Hill (WH).

With the dry summer and warmer than average temperatures, East Branch Lake was drawn down to its minimum pool level by mid-August. This created a good amount of mudflats which hosted a few species of shorebirds.

The only notable waterfowl was **Common Merganser**, which was reported at four locations along the Clarion River and all of which were females. The reports included 5 at the Dam Inn 8/12 (BB), 14 at CLTT 10/7 (MH, RH, FM), 17 at CLTT 10/10 (MH, RH, FM), and 2 at EBL 11/26 (BB). The only **Ruffed Grouse** reports came from the regular location of JT (BB). **Wild Turkey** was reported from multiple locations across the southern half of the county with a high count 18 at QWA 9/24 (AM).

A **Common Loon** was at EBL 11/26, as was its relative, the **Horned Grebe**, 10/29 (BB). Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were at EBL 8/9 and 8/13 (BB). A bird not usually seen in *Elk*, a **Great Egret** was at BRI 8/6 (JD). The only **Green Heron** was one along Mountain Church Rd. in Horton Twp. (TJ). The **Ospreys** at EBL remained at least until 9/5 (BB), and one was at BS 9/3 (JK, TK). **Northern Harriers** were reported from their two most reliable locations, BS 9/3 (JK, TK) and RM 11/27 (BB). Seven species of shorebirds were seen this season which was up one from the fall of 2015. Most of the shorebirds seen were at EBL 8/8, and included 2 **Least Sandpipers**, 5 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 4 **Solitary Sandpipers**, one **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (BB). Other shorebirds included one **American Woodcock** at JT 8/19 (HB) and 8/20, multiple sightings of **Spotted Sandpiper** at EBL in Aug, and 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** at EBL 8/3 (BB).

One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** hung around JT 8/9-14, constituting the only report (BB). Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were also at JT 8/8 and 8/14 (BB). Two **Eastern Screech-Owls** and 2 **Barred Owls** were along Belltown Rd in Millstone Twp. 9/21 (SG). A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at JT

10/28 (BB). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were surprisingly well-reported across the southern half of the county with 5 reports in all (m.ob.). **American Kestrels** were seen frequently in the Winslow Hill area in Sep and Oct (m.ob.), and one was also seen in St. Marys 9/4 (BB). A nice surprise was a **Merlin** seen chasing after **European Starlings** in Benezette 10/8 (m.ob.).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was mixed with a flock of warblers at JT 9/3 (BB). **Common Ravens** continue to expand their range and were at multiple locations across the county (m.ob.). Two **Horned Larks**, a species seldom seen in *Elk*, were reported at ECVC 9/18 (ND). Two **Bank Swallows** noted at JT 8/3 were the only ones reported (BB). **Tufted Titmice** were noted in a few locations in the southern half of the county throughout the period (m.ob.). The notable statewide irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was not so noticeable in *Elk*. The number of Red-breasted Nuthatches dropped drastically with only two pairs remaining through the winter compared to at least six pairs last year during a non-irruption year (BB). Other locations that reported Red-breasted Nuthatches included GH 10/2 and ECVC 10/3 (RN). Uncommon in the county, **Carolina Wren** was along CLTT 10/7 and 10/10 (RH, MH, FM). The only **Swainson's Thrush** for the period was at ECVC 10/3 (RN). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, a species not recorded every year were at PH 10/8 (m.ob.).

Warbler numbers seemed to be up with good numbers of the boreal breeders noted. Not necessarily a boreal warbler, one **Northern Waterthrush** was at Benezette 9/24 (FL). Two **Tennessee Warblers** were at JT 9/5 (BB), and **Cape May Warblers** were at JT 9/3-5 (BB) and CLTT 10/7 (MH, RH, FM). The least abundant of the boreal warblers, the **Bay-breasted Warbler**, was at JT 9/3 for the only report (BB). On the other hand, **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen in good numbers at multiple locations throughout the county during Sep and Oct including CLTT, JT, PH, and WH; the high was 4 at WH 10/8 (m.ob.). Four **Palm Warblers** were reported at WH 10/4 as were 2 **Pine Warblers** (KSJ). A **Canada Warbler** was at PH 9/4 (BB).

Single **Fox Sparrows** were at CLTT 10/7 and at JT 10/29 (m.ob.). Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were at WH 10/4 (KSJ) and at PH 10/8 (m.ob.). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PH 10/8 (m.ob.). Single **Swamp Sparrows** were at PH 10/8 (m.ob.) and at RM 11/27 (BB). Two **Bobolinks** flew over JT 8/14 (BB), and 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at WH 10/10 (JM). **Purple Finches** were reported from various locations in the eastern half of the county throughout the season (m.ob.). The only report of **Pine Siskin** was of 2 flyovers at JT 10/29 (BB).

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Erie County

The following birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PI) or Gull Point at Presque Isle (GP) unless noted otherwise.

A **Snow Goose** was at Fairview 11/28 (DM). The only **Brant** was one inadvertently captured in a photo with a flock of teal 10/24 (SG). A **Cackling Goose** was found in the usual ponds at the Fairview Industrial Park 10/4 (MV). An early **White-winged Scoter** was at PI 9/10 (TL). The total of three **Red-necked Grebes** observed on the waterbird count at Sunset Point 10/24-28 was a low count for the fall season (JM). There were seven **Great Egrets** at PI 8/15 (DS). An **American White Pelican** was found moribund on 10/11 around Harborcreek-Interstate 90 junction, apparently suffering from an eye injury. It was taken to Tamarack rehab where it later died (*vide* GK). This represents the first fall record for *Erie*.

A total of 4 **Piping Plovers** were documented at GP, and another bird at Barracks Beach was a first for that site. All plovers had leg bands and were observed 8/6-24 (GM, MB, et al.). Five **American Avocets** were at GP 8/14 (SD). A season total of six **Willetts** were at GP 8/4-9/5 (RS, DS, RD). Five **Whimbrels** were at GP 8/21 (MB) and a single was there 9/11-13 (ST). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was observed working its way from GP to Sunset Point 10/11 (RD). Single **Marbled Godwits** were reported at GP 8/13-9/2 (TL, RS, JL, et al.). A total of five **Red Knots** were spotted 8/21-9/9 at GP (MB, RD).

The **Western Sandpiper** at GP 8/6 (GM) provided a rare find. A **Purple Sandpiper** was on the breakwaters near Sunset Point 11/6 (SDe), and 2 flew past Sunset Point 11/20 (AP, SA). A total of four **Stilt Sandpipers** were at GP 8/13-9/9 (TL, RD, DS). Up to 3 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were present at GP 8/23-9/9 (JM, RD, DS). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** made a rare visit to GP 9/10 (MW). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was photographed at GP 8/21 (MB).

Little Gulls were noted on waterbird count 10/19 and 10/23 (JM). A **Black Tern** was observed at GP 8/31 (RN). A distant **Jaeger sp.**, likely a Parasitic, was observed chasing gulls off Sunset Point during the waterbird count 10/13, and another was there during the waterbird count 10/25 (JM).

Two **Snowy Owls** were reported at GP, one 11/22 (RD) and the other 11/27-30 (RS, RD). A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed at GP 11/15 (LS). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Albion until 10/27 (M&WL). A **Northern Shrike** returned 11/12 to the same site it has been for the past several years in Franklin Center (JD). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** at PI on 10/23 were record late by about a week (MD). Small groups of **Lapland Longspurs** were reported from GP to Sunset Point 10/14-11/1 (TL, GM, JM). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at GP 10/14 (TL). The **Prairie Warbler** found along Pine Tree Trail on 9/28 provided a rare fall sighting (MD).

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Fayette County

Waterfowl reports from 10/8 included 10 **Blue-winged Teal** at Dunlap Creek Lake, 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at Greenlick Run Lake, and 11 Ruddy Ducks at Dunlap Creek Lake (MJ). A hen **Wild Turkey** was filmed strolling through a yard in Connellsville in Aug with several young, including 2 that were leucistic (JS). A **Great Egret** and a **Merlin** were at Filbert Lake 9/24 (MJ). A **Northern Goshawk** was observed in Connellsville Twp. 10/27 (MA).

An **American Coot** was at Dunlap Creek Lake 10/8 (MJ). A late **Least Sandpiper**, 3 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and a **Spotted Sandpiper** were at Virgin Run Lake 10/1, and another **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Greenlick Run Lake 10/8 (MJ). Rarely reported in fall, an **American Woodcock** was at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 9/16 (AK, FK). A **Forster's Tern** was at Dunlap Creek Lake 10/8 (MJ). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 10/3 (TB).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found near Hopwood 9/5 (DP) and 4 were at Dunlap Creek Park 11/27 (MJ). An **American Pipit** was at Virgin Run Lake 10/1 (MJ). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported at Ohio Pyle SP 8/2 (eBird). Four **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 10/3 (TB). Two **Pine Siskins** were reported from Farmington 11/12 (KW).

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Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), Tionesta (TI).

Fall migration here was not spectacular, but significant sightings include a **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a **Merlin**, and thanks to the efforts of owlers, several owl reports. There were 103 species reported for the season.

Northern Harriers are uncommon in *Forest* and have been seen only in the fall. This year there was a single report, a female at BS 10/16 (FM, JM). A **Ring-billed Gull**, not previously reported here in fall, was seen flying over Lighthouse Island 11/25 (FM, JM). Reports of owls in *Forest* have been scarce in the fall season. This year, however, there were an unprecedented nine reports of **Eastern Screech-owl** (m.ob.), a **Great-Horned Owl** near Nebraska

10/9 (GE, JW), **Barred Owls** 9/26, 10/17, and 11/1 (GE, JW), and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at Yellow Hammer 10/17 and at Jack's Hollow 11/1 (GE, JW, RS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** on Hemlock Rd. 10/4 represented one of the few records for *Forest*, and the first fall record (GE, RS). **American Kestrel**, very uncommon in these parts, especially in fall, was seen at Lighthouse Island 11/25 and 11/28 (FM, JM). A **Merlin** photographed at BS 9/3 represented just the third record of this species in *Forest* (TK, JK).

Reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports are rare in *Forest*, so a sighting on the Minister Creek Trail 9/5 was noteworthy (BS). Another uncommon migrant, a **Philadelphia Vireo** was spotted near Mayburg 9/8 (JS). The only fall sighting of **Swainson's Thrush** occurred near TI 9/20 (FM, JM). Migrating warblers not often reported in the county included **Blue-winged Warbler** near Kellettsville 9/6 (JS), **Blackpoll Warblers** at West Hickory 10/11 (KS) and near TI 9/15 (FM, JM), and **Wilson's Warblers** near Mayburg 9/9 and 9/15 (JS). Most years **Pine Siskins** are seen in the fall, but the only report this year was of a singleton near TI 11/6 (FM, JM).

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Fulton County

No report

Compiler: **Amy Evans, needmore.pa@gmail.com**

Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Heisey Orchard-Stillhouse Hollow (HOSH), Keefer Road Pond (KRP), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRRP), Michaux State Forest (MSF).

The season was highlighted by good amounts of exposed mud due to the dry late summer and fall, and also by increasingly frequent sightings of **Peregrine Falcon**.

Although shorebird activity was good, good numbers and variety of waterfowl didn't materialize in late fall, probably due to in part to lack of stormy days. There were a few early sightings like **Pied-billed Grebe** 9/12 and **Ruddy Duck** 9/15 at GRRE (CG). Later sightings of interest were a **Snow Goose** at GRRE 10/13 (CG) and at KRP 11/16 (CG), and a **Cackling Goose** at KRRP 10/19-20 (CG).

There were many notable sightings of shorebirds and other birds that frequent wet areas. A first year **Little Blue Heron** was found at BEFA 8/7 (BO, CG, JB) during a period of time when there were a number of sightings elsewhere in Pennsylvania. A high count of 16 **Great Egrets** was reported at the Mountain Rd ponds of Mt Parnell Fisheries 8/20 (CG). A **Common Gallinule** was observed in a wetland area of a private residence near Old Forge 8/13 (DR). Notable was a **Golden Eagle** seen in Horse Valley 10/15 (BO).

There were many highlight among shorebirds. Frequent sightings of **Semipalmated Plover** were made at BEFA 8/11-10/7 with a high count of 10 on 9/11 (BO, DK, CG, VG). There was also a sighting at GRRE 8/14 (CG). An **American Golden-Plover** was at GRRE 10/16 (CG, BO, VB). Both dowitcher species were found: **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at BEFA 8/10-11 (BO, VG, CG) and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at KRP 10/30-11/3 (BO, CG, DG, JB). A **Dunlin** was at KRP 10/27 (BO), and another long staying bird was at the same location 11/8-24 (CG, DC, BO). **Stilt Sandpipers** were at BEFA 8/10 (BO, VG) and 10/14-18 (BO, CG, DG, VB). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were at BEFA 8/20-21 (BO, VG, CG) and 2 more were at KRRP 9/6 (CG). Southbound **American Woodcocks** began showing up at HOSH 11/8 (BK). A **Black Tern** was found at GRRE 8/11 and 9/29 (CG).

Large numbers of swirling **Chimney Swifts** were observed in mid-town Chambersburg at dusk 8/15-19, with 300 or more doing laps and diving into a chimney along South Second Street (BO, JB). Five **Common Nighthawks** hawked insects at close range over the north end of Chambersburg 8/17 (RG). A group of 78 **Cliff Swallows** was feeding at the Long Lane pond 8/19 (CG). The high count of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** reported at GRRE was 6, which differed significantly from the last few late summer seasons, when high

numbers counted on occasion ranged from 50 to 125 birds (CG). The origin of these large flocks in recent years has been a puzzle, but this year was different.

Sightings of **Peregrine Falcon** began during the summer with a first year bird at BEFA 7/30 and continued with additional records 8/6, 8/23, 9/11, 10/19, and 10/30 (BO). There were also sightings at GRRE 9/17 and 9/29 (CG). Late fall sightings in and around the borough of Chambersburg that began two years ago continued this year with sightings of an adult downtown 11/21 (JB), 11/23 (BK, TK), 11/24 (BO), 11/29 (BO), and one at the south end of the borough at KRRP 11/30 (BO). **Merlins** were at Renfrew Park Waynesboro 9/5 (GA), MSF 9/13 (BO), Upper Strasburg area 9/24 (BO), and GRRE 11/3 (CG).

Migrant passerines were not found in big numbers, again probably due to lack of bad weather to bring them down. **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported at Caledonia SP 8/18 (BO, VB) and in MSF 9/5 (BF). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at HOSH 9/17 (BO, CAS). **Philadelphia Vireos** were found in MSF 9/10 (BO), at Creekside NT behind Menno Haven 9/12 (DC), and 2 were at HOSH 9/17 (BO, CAS).

Like elsewhere throughout Pennsylvania, there were multiple reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** beginning in early Sep through the remainder of the reporting season. Reports of **Snow Buntings** were 6 at KRRP 11/9 (CG), 4 at BEFA 11/19 and 8 there 11/20 (BO). Quite notable was a male **Evening Grosbeak** photographed 11/22 at the deck of a homeowner on Old Forge Road near Waynesboro (DR). The bird appeared following a period of high winds and only stayed one day. Three **Pine Siskins** were observed at the feeders at Caledonia SP 10/24 (CG). The species had become a year-round visitor at the feeders at a residence in the general area (VB), but that changed mid-summer and they disappeared this season. After the past two winters of regular sightings of good numbers of siskins, this year appeared to be significantly different.

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Greene County

Locations: Bell Farm (BF), Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Franklin Twp. (FT), Jackson Twp. (JT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY).

Wood Ducks were present almost daily since Apr with a high count of 78 at EV 9/30 and the last reported 11/4 (MH). **Lesser Scaup** was at EF 10/1 (LL). **Wild Turkeys** were found at several locations throughout the period with a high count of over 50 in JT 11/2 (CH, MiH). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was at EF 10/1 (LL). A **Green Heron** was at RSP 9/25 (TB). Two **Black Vultures** were seen soaring with **Turkey Vultures** at LCR 10/8, the differing flight patterns apparent (MLP). **Bald Eagle** was reported in FT 8/23 (PD) and one was seen standing in the middle of the road in Washington Twp. 10/26 (*vide* LA). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks**, one loudly calling, were watched at LCR 8/12 (MLP).

At Rohanna's pond in FT, 13 **Killdeer** were present 10/3 (JH, MH). **Solitary Sandpiper** was at RSP 9/25 (TB). **American Woodcock** was still present at SY 11/29 (JC). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was last reported 9/25 at RSP (TB). An **Eastern Screech Owl** was reported at EF 10/1 (AL). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard calling at CL 11/5 (LA), and a **Barred Owl** was at RSP 9/27 (AL). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at LCR was reported 9/25 (MLP).

Last **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was in JT 9/13 and at same location the last **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported 9/7 (BD, RL). An **Eastern Phoebe** was still at LCR 10/22 (MLP). RSP was site of the last **White-eyed Vireo** 9/25 (TB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** (9/21) and **Warbling Vireo** (9/23) were last reported at EV (MH). **Purple Martins** were gathering in FT 8/6 (AD). The first sighting of the season for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at EV 10/21 (JH). **Brown Creeper** was at SY 10/11; at same location the last **House Wren** fledglings left the nest 8/1 (AC, JC). A flock of 25 **Cedar Waxwings** flew over EV 10/24 (MH).

Blue-winged Warbler was last heard 9/21 and **Common Yellowthroat** 9/26 at EV (MH). **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were all last sighted in JT 9/4 (RL, BD). Five **Nashville Warblers** were seen in a lilac bush at SY 8/30 (JC, AC). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were noted in EV 10/17 (MH).

The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at JT 9/13 (BD, RL). **Indigo Bunting** was last reported 9/21 at EV (MH). A flock of 225 **Red-winged Blackbirds** had gathered at RSP 9/25 (TB). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** visited the feeders at EV 11/14 (MH); the same location saw the last **Common Grackle** reported 11/3 (MH). A pair of **Purple Finches** was spotted on the feeder at LCR 10/28 (MLP).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Compropst Mills (CM), Huntingdon (HU), Lake Perez (LP), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Smithfield (SF), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Tussey Mt. (TM).

Continuing the trend, all four months of the fall season averaged 2-3°F above normal. Overall precipitation was somewhat below normal. The most notable birds were the **Little Blue Heron**, which continued from July, and a couple flyover **Red Crossbills** in late November.

Tundra Swans flew later than normal—at SMHW (on the *Huntingdon/Mifflin* border) the high tally was actually in the winter season, when 152 flew over 12/9 (NB). Only 10 species of ducks were reported - but the fall duck migration is usually poor. As has been their trend recently, there were few reports of **American Black Duck**, with only 3 reported to eBird (GG, RL, DW). **Wood Ducks** are one of the few widely distributed fall ducks, presumably many the product of local nesting; the high count was a modest 20 at MAR 9/11 (GG).

The high count of **Common Loons** over SMHW 10/10-11/21 was 104 on 11/21 (NB, BM), accompanied by 2 **Red-throated Loons**. Fifty-four **Double-crested Cormorants** passed the watch 10/22 (NB, DK). A good tally of 13 **Pied-billed Grebes** was made at LP 10/9 (DW, BS, JP, JK). There was more than the usual number of northward-dispersing **Great Egrets** on the Juniata R. at HU. During mid-summer and early fall, at least 5 individuals were present for an extended period through 9/26 (m.ob.). Also lingering from July, am imm. **Little Blue Heron** was last seen at OC 8/6 (RL, GG, JP).

SMHW results are summarized elsewhere in this issue. Notable were the record high 166 **Bald Eagles**, a number which does not include numerous reports of local residents. Some hung out at a chicken farm in the valley below SMHW, greatly complicating the count. The count of 116 **Golden Eagles** was above average, but well short of the record 171 in 2015. On the negative side, **Red-tailed Hawk** and **American Kestrel** were low again. Red-tails are presumably straying north but the poor kestrel showing probably reflects the continuing decline in the northeastern U.S. Three **Rough-legged Hawks** were tallied at SMHW; the average is 2. Elsewhere, one was seen from TM 10/28 (BC) and one was at Blair's Mills 11/26 (Mason Hart).

Shorebirds were hard to find, as usual, with 10 species reported. A slight draw-down of RL helped attract a few, especially at BA. High counts of 8 **Least Sandpipers** (GG) and 7 **Pectoral Sandpipers** (DK, TK) were made there 9/11 and 9/14, respectively. A **Semipalmated Plover** was there 8/31 (GD). Elsewhere, 40 **Killdeer** in the Wal-Mart parking at Smithfield provided a good count 8/31 (DK, TK).

At least a dozen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were entered into eBird, but there were only 2 of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, including a fairly late bird at SMHW 10/5 (NB). **Common Nighthawk** sightings were few and low in number—the best counts were 11 at MF 8/26 (JK) and 8 at OC 9/19 (MD).

Red-headed Woodpecker reports were few and scattered, as usual. Two passed SMHW 9/28 and 10/23 (NB), one was at CM 11/15 (GG), and one was at HU 11/12 (CY). **Merlins** away from SMHW were at OC 9/19 (MD) and HU (TK, DK).

Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at OC 8/15 (RL), SCEC 9/11 (JK), and in Hill Valley 9/17 (GD), more than reported most years. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at SMHW 9/14 (GG) and at least one was at SCEC 9/11-19 (JK, DW). As elsewhere in the state, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** arrived in good numbers through the season. Two **Marsh Wrens**, a typical fall number, were found: one at MAR 10/1 and one at OC 10/3 (both GD, ZA). A **Lapland Longspur**, not quite an annual species, was at PF 11/25 (JK). Easier to find, but still quite uncommon, 2 **Snow Buntings** flew over SMHW 11/16 (GG) and 3 were at Blair's Mills 11/26 (MH).

Twenty-eight warbler species were recorded. Among less common species, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at MAR 9/30 (GD, ZA) and a **Mourning Warbler** was at SCEC 9/9 (JK). As happens every few years, it was a good year for **Cape May Warblers**, with many reports and high counts of 5 at HU 9/20 and 9/22 (GD, ZA). **Yellow-breasted Chat** is rarely reported in fall; one was found this year at BA 9/30 (DK, TK).

Late were 5 well-described **Chipping Sparrows** at AA 11/22 (LG). A good count of 9 **Fox Sparrows** came from MAR 10/26 (JV). The high count of 23 **Swamp Sparrows** was made at OC 10/12 (GD), a good number but within the expected range.

There were 6 reports of **Rusty Blackbird**, with a high of 21 at MAR 11/2 (ZA, GD). Of over a dozen reports of **Purple Finch**, the best was 16 at SCEC 11/25 (JK). **Red Crossbills** are not annual, so it was nice to get a report of 2 flying over SCEC 11/29 (JK). (More crossbills to come in winter report). **Pine Siskins** were scarce; the high count was 29 at SMHW 11/22 (NB, BC).

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

The highlight of the season was a flock of 35 to 40 **American White Pelicans** seen over LV 9/21 (MC). The only other *Indiana* record was one at YC 4/28/1992 (TN).

A lone **Mute Swan** was present at YC 8/30-11/30 (m.ob.). This species is not commonly seen in the county; the most recent report was on from Mar to May 2012 (m.ob.). Unusual were only 2 reports of **Tundra Swans**: 8 were sighted over BS 11/11 (MH, RH) and 14 were at YC 11/25 (AS). In past years, Tundra Swans were much more numerous during the fall migration. Nineteen species of ducks were noted at YC this fall. A high of 85 **Wood Ducks** was tallied 9/25 (TG). This count represented the fifth highest for the period during the past twenty years. Other migrating ducks were in low numbers. The reduced numbers of migrating waterfowl may be attributed to an increase in the number of duck hunters at YC.

Only one **Redhead** was reported at YC 11/20 (JJ). A male **Lesser Scaup** was present on Dragonfly Pond at YC starting in the spring through Nov. (m.ob.). A **Black Scoter** at YC provided a nice find 11/15 (TA, LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, JS); it or another was there again 11/25 (TR). A single **Long-tailed Duck** was found 11/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, JS) and again 11/19 (MH, RH). Only one **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted at YC 10/11 (LC, RC, ED, PF, MH, RH) and the only observation of **Common Mergansers** was of 2 along Curry Run near SH 10/22 (MH, RH).

A lone **Northern Bobwhite** of undetermined origin was listed near Marion Center 8/5 (SS). The only **Great Egret** noted was at YC 8/16 (LC, ED, MH, RH, DK). The **American Coot** high of 373 at YC 11/15 (LC, TG, et al.) did not begin to approach the four-digit numbers seen in Nov from 2006-2014.

Fifteen shorebird species were recorded during the period. The first week in Aug. saw **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** migrating

through YC (m.ob.). A nice find was an **American Golden-Plover** at West Lebanon 9/29 (MH, RH). A **Killdeer** with 3 chicks, estimated to be about two weeks old, were viewed at a storm water pond near Seward 11/14 (TRo); this represented the latest recorded nesting in *Indiana*. A **Sanderling** represented a good find at YC 9/15 (SG); the last one there was 9/6/2011 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). Two **Long-billed Dowitchers**, representing *Indiana's* sixth record, were observed at YC 10/2 (LC, MH, RH), 10/4 (LC, RC, TG, DK, GL, KT) and 10/7 (AK, JK). A rather late **American Woodcock** was flushed at YC 11/22 (LC, ED, MH, RH, DK).

Three **Black Terns** were noted at YC 8/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, KT), and 11 **Forster's Terns** were there 10/8 (SG). Setting an all-time late date, a juvenile **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was well observed at YC 11/6 (AK, JK). More reports of **Common Nighthawks** were received this year. Ten flew over LV 8/23 (MC), 2 were over SH 8/28 (MH, RH), and another 4 were over LV 9/7 (MC). Downtown *Indiana* continues to be a haven for migrating **Chimney Swifts**; an estimated 100 swifts were observed entering the chimney of the U.S. Post Office building 8/22 (DF, JF).

One to 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were present near LV throughout the period (MC); another red morph took up residence in an owl box near SH 11/19 (MH, RH) where it remained into the winter season. This owl box has been unoccupied since 2011. **Great Horned Owls**, which continue to go mostly unreported, were noted on four dates between 8/7 and 11/29 (MC, DC) near LV. **Barred Owls** were heard consistently at Nolo this fall, and just twice near SH 11/1 and 11/5 (MH, RH). Reports of **Merlin** included one at YC 9/13 (TAc, WA, LC, RC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DM, JT), one at IUP 8/31, 9/15 (JT), and 2 at YC 10/9 (TA).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** visited a yard near LV 9/9-10 (MC) and YC 9/13 (RC, MH, JT) and 9/14, (DR). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was reported at YC 10/9 (TA), *Indiana's* latest Oct record. Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were listed at BS 8/29 (MH, RH) and one was there 9/10 (SG). A **Least Flycatcher** at YC 9/27 (DK) was the latest on record for *Indiana*. Blue Spruce was once again the hotspot for **Philadelphia Vireo** where one was seen 9/3 (ED, MH, RH, FM, JM, SS, JT) and again 9/5 (MH, RH, RW); IUP's south campus yielded one 9/12 (JT).

Red-breasted Nuthatches moved into the state this fall and were widespread across *Indiana* (m.ob.). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** near SH 10/1 (MH, RH) was the only one reported. Single **American Pipits** were found at YC 10/11 (LC, RC, ED, PF, MH, RH) and 10/15 (LC, TG, DK, MH, RH, GL). Twenty-four species of warbler were recorded. A lone **Golden-winged Warbler** was a welcome find at BS 9/3 (MH, JT). A **Connecticut Warbler** was well observed and described at IUP's south campus 9/12 (JT).

Increasingly more difficult to find in our area, **Savannah Sparrows** included one near LV 9/28 (MC) and 2 at West Lebanon 9/29 (MH, RH). Single **Lincoln Sparrows** were found at IUP 10/3 (JT) and 10/4-5 (DJM) and at YC 10/11 (LC, DC, ED, PF, MH, RH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were recorded only at YC, where the high of 67 occurred 10/25 (LC, RC, ED, PF, MH, RH, DK, GL), and near LV where 24 were counted 11/6 (MC). **Pine Siskins** were noted sporadically only near LV where 5 was the top count 8/15 (MC); singletons were listed 8/31, 10/6, and 3 were noted 11/19.

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Jefferson County

Locations: Ames Road (AM), Clear Creek State Forest (CF), Clarion Little Toby Trail (CT), Five Bridges Trail (FB), Fordham Lake (FL), Harvery's Run Road (HR), Mohny Road (MR), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Punxsutawney (PX), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Skyline Road (SK), Sandy Ridge Road (SR).

Jefferson is certainly an underreported county. Species commonly reported in other counties prove to be rare in *Jefferson*. Examples include species like Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Coot, and Lesser Yellowlegs, to name a few species with only one recent record for the county. Fortunately, over the past year birding activity seemed to be on the increase.

The only waterfowl species reported were **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Common Merganser**, and **Pied-billed Grebe**. The last reported **Turkey Vulture** was in PX 10/22 (MH, RH). The only **Osprey** was noted on the MS 9/27 (AK, JK), and the only **Northern Harrier** was on SR 11/6 (JG, TG). **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted twice: one on SR 8/2 (JG, TG) and another on FB 9/11 (JG, TG). One of the MS resident **Bald Eagles** was perched in its nest tree 11/4 (AK, JK).

Great Blue Heron and **Green Heron** were the only herons reported. Among shorebirds, **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper** were found, as was a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at FL 8/8 (AK, JK), the first in recent years. Another recent first was a **Wilson's Snipe** on the MS 8/7 (JG, TG). **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted in RG 8/13 and 10/18 (both AK, JK). The only **Merlin** discovered was on MR 8/21 (AK, JK).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed on FB 9/14 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and the only **Acadian Flycatcher** was in CF 8/3 (DP). Ten **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were on AR 10/14 (AK, JK), and a high count of 32 **Barn Swallows** was made on the RB 8/14 (AK, JK). A **Northern Shrike** was recorded on HR 11/10 (DR), the third time this species has been recorded at HR in winter, possibly all the same bird. This is also the only location where the species has been seen in *Jefferson*. Multiple sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** beginning 9/16 and through the end of the period were in line with the statewide invasion this year (m.ob.). A **Swainson's Thrush** on the MS 10/5 (AK, JK) was the only one reported, and 2 reports of **Hermit Thrush** included one in CF 8/9 (DP) and one on the MS 10/22 (TB, TG, MH, RH, DK).

Eighteen species of warbler were reported. Highlights included a **Cape May Warbler** on FB 9/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM), a **Bay-breasted Warbler** on FB 9/14 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and a **Pine Warbler** on the MS 9/16 (AK, JK). The first **American Tree Sparrow** was on SK 11/4 (AK, JK). First **Dark-eyed Junco** found in the southern part of the county was on the MS 10/11 (KD). This species is reported year round in the forests of northern *Jefferson*. The first **Pine Siskin** for the season was in RG 11/17 (AK, JK).

Observers: **Thomas Glover 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767-2416**, Tony Bruno, Kathy Dinsmore, Jud Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Avis Keener, John Keener, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, David Poortinga, Dan Richards.

Juniata County

A total of 105 species were reported in eBird for the season. A **Selasphorus** hummingbird was observed by an experienced birder at a feeder in Oakland Mills 8/18. It was chased off by the resident **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** and not seen again (AT). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Oakland Mills 8/20 (AT), likely an early arrival ahead of this fall's statewide irruption. An early **Wilson's Warbler** was found along the Juniata R. near Mifflintown 8/21 (CK).

Providing a possible first county record, a **Blue Grosbeak** was seen on a farm near Van Wert 7/1 to at least 8/3 (MT). No mate was noted. At the other end of the season, a female **Evening Grosbeak** was a one-day wonder at a feeder in Licking Creek Valley 11/25 (DB); that same feeding station hosted a female Evening Grosbeak for several weeks in 2013.

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Lancaster County

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Noel Dorwart Park

(NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Safe Harbor (SH), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Bainbridge Islands (SRBI), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clark (SRLC), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Wood's Edge (WE).

A **Snow Goose** was at MCMWA 10/10 (LCBC), and 3 were at MR 11/9 (WBG). A **Brant** was on the SRLC 10/29 (ME, ZM). A **Cackling Goose** was at WE 10/30 (BM). A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was at a pond on Hurst Rd and also on Frysville Rd 10/24-11/5 (FB, m.ob.). A **Gadwall** was at MR 11/9 (WBG). Three **American Black Ducks** were at Riverfront Park 9/28 (WBG), and 5 were at MR 11/9 (WBG). A female **Northern Shoveler** was on the SR 9/22 (BS), and 2 were at MR 11/9 (WBG). Three **Northern Pintails** were at the OR 8/16 (BHe, HM). Two **Greater Scaup** were at MCMWA 10/15 (TNII, ME). Thirty-one **Lesser Scaup** were at MR 11/9 (WBG). A **Ring-necked Duck** was at MCMWA 10/28 (BC), and 8 were at OR 11/16 (WBG). A male **Redhead** was on the SRCF 8/20-9/11 (TNII, ME, & ZM, LCBC). A **White-winged Scoter** was on the SR 10/23 (ME, ML, EHe), and one was on the SRLC 10/24-27 (TNII, ML, ZM). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MCWMA 11/27 (FH, GR, ME, PF), and one was on the SRCF 11/6 (ME). There were 58 **Ruddy Ducks** at MCWMA 10/10 (LCBC). Twenty-seven **Common Mergansers** were at SRCF 8/6 (ML), 14 were at Riverfront Park 9/23 (TNII), and 12 were at MCWMA 10/23 (ME).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at MCWMA 10/22-28 (ZM, BC), and one was on the SRPB 11/17-18 (LB, NG, m.ob.). Thirty **Pied-billed Grebes** were on the SRCF 10/1 (ZM, ME). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were the SR 10/23 (ME). There were 150 **Double-crested Cormorants** at SH 10/5 (WBG). A total of 64 **Great Egrets** were at the SRCF 9/18 (ME). Five were still at SH 10/5 (WBG). A **Snowy Egret** was at Riverfront Park 8/5-7 (ME, m.ob.), 4 were at OR 8/15-16 (PM), and one remained 8/24-9/24 (ZM, LB, TA, CG). The previously reported **Cattle Egret** was at the CRTW 8/1-14 (LB, m.ob.). Another 2 appeared at SH 10/21 (ME). **Little Blue Herons** included 3 at the SR at Falmouth 8/5-6 (ME, m.ob.) and 8/24 (ZM), and 3 at Fishing Creek 9/11 (TA). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at the SRCF 8/11 (AL), 3 were at the OR 8/17 (PF, JL), and one was at the Alcoa Marsh 10/17 (DHi). Two **Glossy Ibises** were on the SRCF 8/9 (AL, RS) and one remained 8/18-9/1 (TNII, ZM, ME, JY, ML).

Two **Golden Eagles** were near Kirkwood 10/10 (CG) and one was at MCWMA 10/11 (RM) and 10/28 (BC). An **Osprey** was at SH 10/3 (WBG). Two **Northern Harriers** were at CGNA 9/8 (KL), 2 were at MCWMA 9/29 (SS), and one was MCWMA 10/28 (BC). Thirty-five **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen at SGL 156 on 9/21 (WBG), and a late bird was reported at MCMWA 10/10 (BC). A **Sora** was at the Alcoa Marsh 8/8 (DHi), one was at CGNA 8/23-30 (BC, DK, DN), and 2 were there 8/30 (ML). A **Virginia Rail** was at CGNA 10/2 (KL).

An **American Avocet** was at the SRCF 8/23 (GD, m. ob.), and 3 were there 9/27 (ME). **Black-bellied Plovers** included 2 on the SRCF 9/1 (ME), 11 at the SRCF 9/18 (ME), and 3 on the SRCF 10/2 (TNII, ME). An **American Golden-Plover** was on Colebrook Rd. 8/25 (SS), 7 were at the SRCF 9/18 (ME), and 3 were there 10/1 (ZM, ME). There were 100 **Killdeer** at OR 11/16 (WBG). Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were at the OR 8/17 (PF, JL). High count was 8 on the SRCF 9/18 (ME), and one remained there to 10/1 (ZM, ME). Three **Upland Sandpipers** were at the Lancaster Airport 8/2 (ZM, ZA, BB) and 2 were there 8/11 (PB, LB). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at MCWMA 10/26-28 (AH, BC). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at the Alcoa Marsh 8/25-27 (ZM, RW). Stilt Sandpiper was also reported at CGNA 9/10 (KL) and 10/7-9 (SS). Three **Western Sandpipers** were on the SRCF 8/11 (AL) and one was still there 8/13 (ZM, ME, TNII). A **Sanderling** was at the SRCF 8/27 (ZM, ME, TNII). A good count of 19 was made on the SRCF 9/1 (ME), and 2 were there 9/18 (ME).

Baird's Sandpipers at the SRCF included one 8/19 (ME), 2 on 9/4 (ME), and one 9/24 (ME). First **Least Sandpipers** were at Riverfront Park 8/10 (PF). High count was an impressive 420 at the SRCF 9/18 (ME), and last was one at CGNA 10/15-16 (ZM, AW). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was on the SRCF 9/24 (ME), and 2 were there 10/1 (ZM, ME). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at the OR 8/17 (PF, JL). Notable were 19 at the SRCF 10/1 (ME). A juv. **Ruddy Turnstone** was on the SRCF 9/1 (ME), and a **Dunlin** at CGNA 10/29 (BS, DHe). Single **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Becker

Rd. 8/25 (SS), Graystone Rd. 8/25-30 (TNII, m.ob.), and the SRCF 9/18 (ME). Small numbers of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported 8/17-9/24 (m.ob.). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was on the SRCF 9/18 (ME), 2 were at the Alcoa Marsh 10/10-16 (ME, m. ob.), and one was at MCMWA 10/15 (SS). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was on the SRCF 9/24 (EW), and 2 were at CGNA 10/9 (AE). Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** were at the OR 8/17 (PF, JL). Twelve were on the SRCF 9/18-24 (ME) and 4 still there 10/1 (ZM, ME). First **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 2 at the Alcoa Marsh 8/8 (DHi). Top count was 15 at the SRCF 9/18 (ME), and last were 2 at CGNA 10/6 (SS). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at the SRBI 10/2 (ME, TNII), and one was at CGNA 10/6 (SS). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at CGNA 8/23-30 (RP, PP, MM, PF, m.ob.). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at the Alcoa Marsh 9/8-11 (ME, m.ob.).

A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported on the SRCF periodically 8/4-9/11 (ML, m. obs.), and 2 were at MCWMA 10/28 (BC). **Laughing Gulls** were reported as follows: at Holtwood 8/19 (TA), a juvenile at the SRCF 10/1-8 (ZM, ME, ML, EW), 2 there 10/2 (ME, TNII), a juvenile at the SR near Wrightsville 10/21 (ME), and one on the SRPB 11/17-19 (TA, LB, NG, m.ob.). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at MCWMA 10/10 (JF, LCBC) and one was on the SR 10/25 (ZM). A **Caspian Tern** was on the SRCF 8/10 (PF), and a late one was there 10/1 (ZM, ME). **Common Terns** reported on the SRCF were one 8/17 (EG, AL), one 8/27 (ML), and 4 on 9/1 (IG, ZM, ME). At least 100 **Forster's Terns** were on the SRPB 9/30 (BS). Impressive reports of **Black Terns** included 20 at the SRCF 8/21 (JY, ML), 79 on the SR 8/21 (JY, ML, TNII), and 10 at the SRCF 9/18 (ME).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was lingering at CGNA 10/16 (AW). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at CGNA 10/2 (ME, TNII), and 2 were at SH 10/3 (WBG). A **Barn Owl** was at MCWMA 8/21 (ZA). About 12 **Common Nighthawks** were in Lancaster 9/9 (SS). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a home in Peach Bottom 10/8 (BS). An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** returned for the second year in a row to a Quarryville home 10/9-11/30 (SW, ME, m. ob.). An immature male was at a Stevens home 10/5-22 and was banded 10/12 (SL, m.ob.). Three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at SGL 220 10/12 (WBG), 4 were at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG), and 3 were at OR 11/16 (WBG). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Hickory and Sportsman Rds. 10/19 (BC). A **Merlin** was at the CRTW 8/2 (CG), one was at CGNA 9/8 (KL), and one was in Peach Bottom 11/20 (SS). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were at SH 10/16 (TW), and one was in Peach Bottom 11/20 (SS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RSNP 8/19 (ME, TNII), one was at SGL 220 9/12 (BC, EW), and one was at MCWMA 9/16 (BC). The **Alder Flycatcher** continued at MCWMA 8/2-8 (BC, DK). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at a Lancaster farm 8/27 (DS), one was at SGL 156 from 9/2-7 (ME, ZM, LCBC), and one was at NDP 9/28 (SM). A late **Least Flycatcher** was at SRCF 10/30 (ME), and a late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at CGNA 10/13 (CB). An **Eastern Phoebe** was at OR 11/16 (WBG). The first of two extremely rare flycatchers for the season was a **Say's Phoebe** on Frysville Rd. 11/8-9 (MD, m.ob.). An **Eastern Kingbird** was still at Riverfront Park 9/23 (TNII). A **Western Kingbird** was at CGNA 10/21 (ME), itself a major find, but it was outdone by what was certainly the bird of the season for Lancaster and just the second ever for Pennsylvania, a **Tropical Kingbird** that delighted many birders at Peach Bottom 11/16-24 (BS, m.ob.).

A **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Muddy Run 10/12 (WBG). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at SGL 156 on 9/21 (WBG) and 2 were at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG). A **Warbling Vireo** was at SFCP 9/26 (ME). Two **Common Ravens** were at SH 10/3 (WBG). Last **Purple Martin** was at CGNA 9/20 (EH). A total of 4000 **Tree Swallows** were at the SRCF 9/18 (ME), and one was still at MCWMA 10/28 (BC). Last **Barn Swallows** included 3 at the SRBI 10/1 (EW) and one at the SRCF 10/1-2 (ME, ZM, TNII, EW). A **Cliff Swallow** was on the SRCF 8/7-11 (ME, AL), 7 were at Peach Bottom 8/30 (CG), and one was at the SRCF 9/1 (ME). Four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at SRBI 10/16 (ME, TNII, BC, & EW). Four **Bank Swallows** were at the SRBI 10/1 (EW) and one was on the SRCF on the same day (EW). A **Cave Swallow** was reported at Holtwood 10/23 (TR).

Three **Black-capped Chickadees** were at SFL 11/8 (BC), one was in Martindale 11/10 (NG), and one was in Akron 11/13 (ZM). First **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in an Akron yard 8/24-27 (BC). A good count of 8 was made at SGL 156 on 9/3 (LCBC). **Brown Creeper** was reported 10/19-11/16 (m.ob.). A **Marsh Wren** was at CGNA 8/23-9/8 (BC, m.ob.), 7 were on the SRBI 10/1 (ME, TNII, EW), and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (CG). Last **House Wren** was at MCWMA 10/15 (ME). A **Winter Wren** was in a Gap yard 10/18

(PF), one was at LCCP 10/26 (WBG), and one was at MR 11/9 (WBG). First **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were 2 at SGL 220 on 10/12 (WBG). Six **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at SGL 220 on 10/12 (WBG), 5 were at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG), and 2 were at OR 11/16 (WBG). A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Peach Bottom 10/28 (BC), and an even later one was at LCCP 11/2 (RC).

Two **Veeries** were at SGL 156 on 9/8 (WBG), and 2 were at SGL 220 (BC). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was reported at SGL 220 on 10/2 (BC). Three **Gray Catbirds** were at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG). An **American Pipit** was at MCWMA 10/10 (LCBC) and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG). A **Snow Bunting** was on the SRBI 11/6 (EW, BC).

A **Tennessee Warbler** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG), and a **Nashville Warbler** was there 10/16-19 (RK, BH, WBG). October **Common Yellowthroats** included 2 at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG) and one at the Alcoa Marsh 10/28 (DHi). A **Northern Parula** was at SH 10/3 (WBG). An **American Redstart** was at Silvermine Park 10/12 (AW) and one very late bird was in Peach Bottom 11/25-26 (FB, DO, DS). A **Cape May Warbler** was at SGL 156 on 9/21 (WBG) and a first winter bird was at SFL 11/8 (BC). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at SGL 156 on 9/7 (BC), an adult female was there 9/22 (ME, TNII), and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/14 (ZM, SM, DHi). **Orange-crowned Warblers** included singles at SFCP 9/27 (PBr), at Peach Bottom 10/15-16 (BS), at MCWMA 11/1 (SS), and at LCCP 11/19 (BM). **Magnolia Warbler** was still at MCWMA 10/15 (TNII, ME). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at SH 10/3 (WBG). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at SGL 220 on 10/12 (WBG) and 2 were at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG). Late was one at Noel Dorwart Park 11/4-7 (SM). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG). A **Palm Warbler** was lingering near Christiana 11/27 (FH). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was in Lancaster 10/21 (CG). An early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at a Peach Bottom home 8/15 (BS). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at MCWMA 8/8 (BC). A **Canada Warbler** was at RSNP 8/19 (TNII, ME) and one was at SFCP 10/3 (PBr). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at LCCP 9/17 (BM). A **Mourning Warbler** was at a Lancaster farm 8/29 (DS), one was at SFCP 9/6 (BC), one was at the Turkey Hill Trail Nature Preserve 9/24 (KF), and one was at SGL 220 9/28 (BC). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Preston Road 10/24 (DHi).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was in Gap 11/26 (PF). Three **Fox Sparrows** were at OR 11/16 (WBG). Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at SGL 156 on 10/3 (ZM). Five **White-crowned Sparrows** were at SGL 220 on 10/12 (WBG) and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at OR 11/16 (WBG). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at CGNA 10/29 (ME). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MCWMA 11/26 (AH). A **Lark Sparrow** was an excellent find at CGNA 8/22 (ML, m.ob.). Six **Nelson's Sparrows** were on the SRBI 10/1-8 (ME, TNII, VP, ZM, ML, EW) and 2 were there 10/16 (IG). Two **Le Conte's Sparrows** were on the SRBI 10/16 (EW, ME, TNII, ZM, BC, TG).

A **Scarlet Tanager** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/17 (SM). About 45 **Bobolinks** were at MCWMA 8/1 (RM) and about 24 were at CGNA 8/31 (DN). A very late one was at CGNA 10/29 (BS, DHe). A **Baltimore Oriole** was in Peach Bottom 11/23-28 (EH, SSt, TB, BS). A first year male **Bullock's Oriole** appeared at a Manheim home 11/25 (JYu, LY, ZM). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were at MCWMA 8/1 (RM). At least 20 were at CGNA 9/8 (KL), and 2 were still at CGNA 10/2 (Me, TNII). An **Indigo Bunting** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/15 (BH). A **Purple Finch** was at MCMWA 10/10 (LCBC), 10 were at Noel Dorwart Park 10/19 (WBG), and 4 were at LCCP 10/26 (WBG).

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Webster, Wednesday Birding Group (WBG), Scott Weidensaul, Andrew Weitzel, Eric Witmer, Rich Wood, David Yeany II (DYII), Joe Yoder, Jane Yutzy (JYu), LaVern Yutzy.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Volant Strips (VSM), Vosler Road, Washington Twp. (VR), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (WNGM).

Reports of waterfowl were next to zero. A post-breeding gathering of 36 **Wood Ducks** was at WNGM 9/25 (MV). **Gadwalls** at BS included 9 on 11/6 and 2 from 11/23-27 (BB). The only report of **American Black Duck** was one at WNGM 11/27 (MV). Three **Blue-winged Teal** were at BS 9/5 (MJ) and 32 were with the Wood Ducks at WNGM 9/25 (MV). Fourteen **Green-winged Teal** at WNGM 11/27 (MV) were the only ones reported. A **Hooded Merganser** was also at WNGM 9/25 (MV). Up to 6 **Ruddy Ducks** were noted at VSM 10/22-26 (BB) and one was at BS 11/14 (SG).

Following a report from the summer season, a **Least Bittern** was again noted at BS 8/25 (BB). **Northern Harrier** continued to be a staple of fall birding in Lawrence, with reports throughout the northern half of the county (m.ob.). A **Virginia Rail** was still hanging on at BS 10/14 (ST). Three **Common Gallinules** continued from the summer at BS to at least 8/25 (BB). The first flock of wintering **Sandhill Cranes** reported was 23 at VSM 9/24 (MV). Very high numbers of cranes began to appear in Nov, headed by 81 around the Plain Grove Twp. area 11/9 (RN, DK). Flocks reached triple digits heading into the winter season, with more details to come in the next report.

A few notable shorebirds were reported despite generally sparse coverage by birders. An **American Golden-Plover** appeared at VR 9/5 (MV) and 5 were seen off Carter Rd., Washington Twp. 9/24 (MV). Four **Semipalmated Plovers** at BS 9/5 (MJ) represented the only report. A few **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at Shaner Rd and BS 8/21-9/5 (AB, MJ, et al.). The only peeps were 4 each of **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at BS 9/5 (MJ). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at VR 9/1 (MV) and one was at BS 9/5 (MJ). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was a nice find at VR 9/1 (MV). Always present but rarely reported in fall, an **American Woodcock** was found at BS 9/7 (DP).

Fifteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** put down at the former Glacial Sands gravel pond on Rte.108 on 10/22 (MV). First **Short-eared Owl** was reported at VSM 10/14 (ST), a bit earlier than the usual first report of short-ears in fall. A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in Plain Grove Twp. 8/24 (DY). A **Merlin** was noted at VR 10/23 (BB). A **Northern Shrike** returned to Shaner Rd, Plain Grove Twp. this fall, beginning 11/14 (SG, RS).

Eight late **Tree Swallows** were at VR 10/23 (BB), and a late **Barn Swallow** was at BS 10/14 (ST). In a season of many reports around the region, the only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported here was a single at BS 10/2 (BB). **Winter Wren** and **Hermit Thrush** were both at BS 10/23 (BB). A good season for **American Pipit** included 2 at Carter Rd 9/24-29 (MV), 2 at VR 10/23 (BB), and 15 at Shaner Rd 11/16 (RS). A somewhat late **Nashville Warbler** was at VR 10/3 (BB). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were a good find for late Oct at Shaner Rd 10/23 (BB). Single **Fox Sparrows** were noted in three locations around Plain Grove and VR 11/6 (BB) but no others were reported. Top count of **Red-winged Blackbird** was 600 at VSM 10/14 (ST). The only report of **Rusty Blackbird** was one at BS 11/6 (BS).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA),

Kreider's Pond (KP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 80, SGL 145, SGL 211, Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Blue-winged Teal** was nicely photographed at MLSP 9/16 (MC), and another was at MC 10/13 (RCM). A late Blue-winged Teal at MLSP 11/14 (SW) provided a new county late date. Two **Ruffed Grouse** were found at SSP 11/12 (ED). A very long-staying imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at MC 8/1-19 (RCM, BB, m.ob.). Another imm. Little Blue was seen intermittently at GLRA from 6/6 (m.ob.) through at least 8/29 (DM), a stay of 85 days. The bird established a new county record for the longest staying Little Blue Heron, which previously was just seven days.

A late **Osprey** migrated past 2Mtn 11/20 (LC). The former season record at 2Mtn of 226 **Bald Eagles**, set in 2011, was broken 11/28, with 229 and counting (RCM, m.ob.). **Northern Goshawks** were reported at SGL 145 on 10/14 (RCM, DBr, m.ob.) and 10/21 (SH). An adult **Golden Eagle** was a nice find at SGL 145 on 11/4 (RCM, KH).

A **Virginia Rail** provided a nice find at QEW 9/2-3 (RCM, DB). Up to 4 **American Golden-Plovers** were at KP 9/10-12 (TN, TB, IG, SW). Up to 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported at MC 9/16-17 (RCM, EHa). A **Stilt Sandpiper**, in three-quarters breeding plumage, was at MC 9/15-17 (RCM, DB, BC, EHa, m.ob.). A molting imm. **Long-billed Dowitcher**, providing the tenth *Lebanon* record was at MC 10/8-13 (SS, ZM, TN, SW, m.ob.). It was joined by a second Long-bill 10/15 (RCM), providing the eleventh county record.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** provided a new county late date at SGL 145 on 10/14 (PB, SB). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen at HM Levitz Park just two days ahead of the county late date, 10/7 (R&PP). **Common Nighthawks** were traveling in pairs, with 2 in the Harpers area 8/23 (IG), 2 at MLSP 8/26 (SW), and 2 over 2Mtn 9/14 (EC). Thirty-one **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at 2Mtn 9/2 (SC, m.ob.) provided a new county high count. A *Selasphorus* sp., probably a female Rufous Hummingbird, was seen for one day at a Cornwall residence 10/29 (P&RW).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in the Flintville area 8/1-23 (DB). Two adults and 2 juv. were in the Flintville area 8/24 (DB). A juv. was at SGL 145 on 8/30 (TB), and an adult was there 9/9 (TB). Red-headed Woodpeckers were also seen from 2Mtn 8/30 (EC, MC), 9/28 (EC, RCM, m.ob.), and 10/20 (FW). Lastly there were several reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers from FIG, with the most notable being 12 that were caching acorns in snags 11/10 (IG). This tied the county high count for the species. Away from 2Mtn there were 10 sightings of **Merlin** from 7 different locations 8/31-11/10 (m.ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was chasing starlings by a farm at Gravel Hill Rd. and Dairy Ln. 9/30 (TB). Another peregrine flew over Rte. 322 between Quentin and Fontana 10/24 (TB).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at GDP 8/12 (RCM, AW), at Camp Kirchenwald 9/2 (PB, RCM), and Mt Gretna 9/9 (SH, PB, m.ob.). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at five locations: SGL 145 on 8/19 (PB, RCM), SGL 80 on 8/24 (TB), CSP 8/30 (TB), SSP 9/8 (TB), and FIG 9/12 (IG). Four **Least Flycatchers** were seen along the CSP 8/30 (TB). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at SSP 9/25 (EH). A **Common Raven** was at GDP 10/11 (RCM), and a pair was at Pine Rd 10/19 (TB). Although ravens are common in small numbers at 2Mtn, 12 were seen in one group there 11/28 (RCM). A nice count of 18 **Bank Swallows** was made at KP 9/17 (ME). Three **Bank Swallows** (TN), and 5 **Cliff Swallows** (TN, IG) were at KP 9/10.

During this statewide invasion year, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were plentiful, reported in small numbers from multiple county locations throughout the period (m.ob.). Six **Winter Wrens** provided a good count at the CSP 10/15 (JH). A **Marsh Wren** established both a new county early date and the 13th *Lebanon* record at QEW 8/27-9/3 (TN, RCM, DB, TB). Perhaps the same individual was again seen at QEW 9/19 (TK). Two birds there 9/27 (TN) provided the county's 14th county record. A record early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was reported at 2Mtn 8/30 (EC, MC). Six **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** represented a new county high count at SSP 9/25 (EW, TG, BC), and another Gray-cheeked Thrush was in a Grantville yard 10/1 (TB).

Swatara State Park was once again one of the state's best locations for **Connecticut Warblers**, where they were found along a tree line bordering a goldenrod field for the fourth consecutive year. The first was an adult sighted 9/9 (SW). At least two different individuals, an adult female and a first-year bird, were seen 9/16-18 (IG, JD, HW, EW, TG), and 5 there 9/25 (EH, EW, BC, TG) provided a new county high count. A first year **Mourning Warbler** was in the same field at SSP 9/14 (TB).

An **Ovenbird** provided a new county late date at GDP 10/11 (RCM). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was fairly early at 2Mtn 8/19 (SC, IG). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at SSP 9/2 (TB, SW) 9/16-18 (JD, TB, SW, EW, TG) and again 9/25 (EW, TG, BC). They were also seen at 2Mtn 9/23 (TN, SR, BW) and QEW 9/27 (TN).

Three **Scarlet Tanagers** were reported fairly late at 2Mtn 10/10 (LC, m.ob.). **Fox Sparrows** were found at 2Mtn 10/26 (EC, GL) and again 11/25-26 (SC, DS, m.ob.). Three were at SSP 11/7-10 (TK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SSP on a new county early date 9/14 (TB). Up to 5 were seen there between 9/16-25 (TB, SW, EW, TG, BC, EH), and 4 were at SGL 145 on 10/1 (JH). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was near Sunnyside Rd. at MC 8/1 (RCM). A nice male **Dickcissel** provided an outstanding fall find at MC 10/13 (RCM). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at SGL 145 on 10/28 (RCM, PB, CL, m.ob.) and an **Orchard Oriole** was at 2Mtn 8/19 (SC, IG).

It was a good fall for **Purple Finches**, beginning with first report at 2Mtn 9/13 (MC). Up to 4 were at SSP 9/16-21 (JD, SW, EH) and up to 11 at SGL 145 from 10/1-14 (JH, PB, m.ob.). Eleven were at CSP 10/15 (JH). Five **Pine Siskins** were at 2Mtn 10/10 (LC, m.ob.) and 8 were there 11/6 (LC, m.ob.). Single siskins were at MLSP 10/15 (RK) and 11/2 (SW), and another at Mt Gretna 10/26 (DBo).

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Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK).

Total species reported in *Lehigh* this season was 170. This report includes information posted to the PABIRDS listserv and to eBird. Average mean temperatures from Allentown were well above the 30-year norm across the season (+4.8° F in August and +5.3° F in September). Precipitation was below norm in every month of the reporting period, resulting in another warm and dry fall season devoid of unusual weather events, other than all-time record high temperatures for the region, of course. Shorebird habitat was not particularly good anywhere. A few significant cold fronts resulted in nice hawk watching opportunities on Blue Mountain. Notes and totals from the 56th hawk watching season at Bake Oven Knob were gleaned, in part, from the HMANA Hawk Watching Exchange listserv, as reported by the official BOK counter and compiler (EV, BH respectively). Additional BOK reports came from individual observers. BOK totals are unofficial, and will be detailed in a future issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Snow Geese did not arrive until after Nov, so the only reports this season were of a year round pair at New Tripoli. A pair of **Cackling Geese** was found at Dorney Pond 11/26 (KD). A few interesting ducks were reported from Dorney Pond, including up to 3 **Gadwall** beginning 11/6. The perennial **American Wigeon** drake that winters at the small dam there returned 10/11. The only **Northern Pintails** were 3 at Lower Macungie 10/6 (JF). A nice max count for **Bufflehead** was 22 at Leaser Lake 11/5 (JHi).

Heron were a highlight at Leaser Lake in late Aug, where up to a dozen

Great Egrets were joined by 2 immature **Black-crowned Night Herons** (FD). The Night Herons remained through at least 9/2. The max of 23 at the **Black Vulture** roost at Bridge Street in Whitehall occurred 9/17 (JH). A very early **Golden Eagle** report came from BOK 8/16 and again 8/19, a well-described immature bird (EW, m.ob.). There were too many reports of **Bald Eagles** away from the top of Blue Mountain to list here, with at least 55 eBird reports for the period. One highlight was that Bald Eagles continued to be noted consistently from the west side of Allentown, particularly the area around Dorney Pond and Trexler Park. The max count for **Broad-winged Hawk** at BOK was 1901 on 9/20.

As noted above, there were few shorebird highlights. Max count for **Least Sandpiper** was 31 at Macungie 9/4 (JF). Other reports were of one each **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Greater Yellowlegs**, and up to 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/7-9/11, also at Macungie (JF, JH, NL, m.ob.). Land development is eating up former bird habitat in the southeast corner of *Lehigh*, just west of Allentown, particularly traditional field bird and shorebird hotspots. A very narrow silver lining to this ominous funnel cloud of over-development this year was the creation of a water mitigation area along Krock Rd near Trexlerturn. Designed to accommodate the needs of recently developed lands across the highway that now host Costco, Target, Whole Foods, several other big box stores, plus many acres of parking lots, this particular mitigation spot is adjacent to a cemetery (which will hopefully remain a cemetery for quite some time...), as well as to agricultural tracts. The spot has already shown promise in attracting various water birds, including some shorebirds starting in the summer of 2016. Shorebirds are traditionally attracted to this particular area and probably have been for centuries, but they are running out of places to stop around here, so this spot should be watched going forward. There were a few gulls in *Lehigh* this fall: 3 **Lesser Back-backed Gulls** arrived at Dorney Pond 10/3 (KD) and the species was seen in small numbers almost daily through the remainder of the period. **Great Black-backed Gull** is a good bird for the county, so a report of one at Lake Muhlenberg 11/25 was of interest (MC).

Common Nighthawk isn't so common recently, so reports from Allentown 8/23-9/4 were nice. The max count was 5 birds (EK). The county has two new **Chimney Swift** towers as of this year, at Lake Muhlenberg and Lehigh Gap Nature Center, this thanks to the efforts of Scott Burnet and several other volunteers. The last report of the period was 10/9. Hopefully these man-made structures will continue to attract and assist our swifts as they gather and prepare for migration, and also serve as practical, visible tools for environmental educators. The seven-year streak of fall Rufous Hummingbird sightings for *Lehigh* was broken this season.

BOK had a great **Merlin** day 9/11 when at least 29 passed the lookout (BH). There were 11 reports away from the mountain. BOK's max count for **Peregrine Falcon** was 9 on 9/26. **Common Raven** continued to be found at unexpected spots in the Lehigh Valley. Notable records were 9/16 at Zionsville (BS), 10/3 at Bethlehem (BE), 10/11 at Lake Muhlenberg (KD), and a pair 10/24 at Fogelsville Quarry (KD). Signs of a nice **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption began at BOK as early as 8/28; many, many more were noted here throughout the season, and they became fairly regular across the region by late fall. A max count of 50 **Bank Swallows** was quite good at Leaser Lake 8/28 (PS). **Marsh Wren** is a good bird for the county; one was recorded at Trexler Nature Preserve 10/3 (LF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** arrived 9/21 at BOK (SK), followed by **Golden-crowned Kinglet** 9/30 at Haafsville (DN). **Snow Bunting** was unusually scarce in the county, with just one bird reported, from North Whitehall 11/20 (JH).

One of the less common warblers, a **Connecticut Warbler** was at Trexler Nature Preserve 10/3-5 (TK). There were 10 eBird records of **Cape May Warbler**, and 3 of **Bay-breasted Warbler**. **American Tree Sparrow** arrived 11/18 at Leaser Lake (MF), and **Fox Sparrow** was first seen at the same place 10/29 (KD). There were just 2 reports of **Vesper Sparrow**, 9/30 at Haafsville (DN) and 10/30 at SGL205 (KD). **Lincoln's Sparrow** arrived a bit early, at Lehigh Gap 9/16 (BE). **Purple Finch** was found in moderate numbers beginning 9/30 at Emmaus (BS), with a max count of 13 on 10/16 at SGL 205 (JL). They disappeared by mid-Nov, with the latest eBird report 11/19. There were just 3 **Pine Siskin** reports, 10/14-11/19 (FD, DE). The max count of 9 was made along the Appalachian Trail 10/31 (DE).

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Lehigh County (Summer 2016)

The resident Mute Swan pair at Dorney Pond reared four cygnets this summer, first noted 6/9 (mobs). An American Black Duck was noted several times through the end of June at Dorney Pond (KD, MW), where American Black Duck x Mallard hybrids have been regular residents for many years. An example of the latter hybrid was last noted here 6/9 (KD). Common Mergansers nested successfully at Lake Muhlenberg this year, unusual for such a small, active urban-ish lake. Leaser Lake hosted Northern Bobwhite (7) 6/15 (KD), and Pied-billed Grebe 7/31 (FD). Bobwhites are presumed to be released birds at this location, and the grebe was likely an early fall migrant.

American Bittern was an interesting summer find at a retention pond within the ever expanding "warehouse district" of Upper Macungie 7/5 (NL). American Bittern isn't known to nest in the area, but one never knows for sure. The Great Blue Heron rookery on the North Whitehall/South Whitehall Twp. line was very active this season, with over 20 pairs present (BE). There were well over 30 large nests visible here this past winter, but once the trees leaf out, it can't be known how many are actually occupied. Great Egrets were the big birding news in the county 7/25 through the end of the month. One Great Egret was at Lake Muhlenberg beginning 7/25 (JW), then two days later, numbers at this location grew throughout the morning from 2, to 6 (BCM), to as many as 10 birds (RF, PO). By the morning of 7/28, the total was back to just one egret (SB). As mentioned above regarding mergansers, this event is especially notable given the setting of this small lake on the west side of Allentown. A few days later, 7/31, a group of 9 Great Egrets was photographed over Leaser Lake (FD). Earlier in the month, 2 Great Egrets had been present here 7/11 (FD, JHI). Also at Leaser Lake, a well-described adult Snowy Egret was reported 7/10 (JHI). This is the second Snowy reported here in recent years and about the seventh known county record. A juvenile Little Blue Heron was another nice find at a small pond in Lynn Township 7/21 (FD).

Other than the breeding pair reported in the spring issue, Bald Eagle was reported 4 times in June, mostly from Leaser Lake. In July, there were 3 reports, including 2 at South Whitehall 7/10 (JF). A pair of Broad-winged Hawks was presumed to be on territory near Bake Oven Knob 6/10 (KD). There were several reports of early fall shorebirds from a few locations, beginning 7/9 with a pair of Solitary Sandpipers and 3 Short-billed Dowitchers at Upper Macungie (JF). The following day, the same location held a pair of Least Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs (JF). Semipalmated Plover returned to Leaser Lake 7/22, and was seen there again 7/31 (FD).

This summer there were 3 reports of Common Nighthawk, including one over Allentown 7/12 (KD) that holds some chance to be a resident and potential breeder. The Red-headed Woodpeckers that have been along a roadside near Stine's Corner for many years seem to be expanding their territory a bit. This summer, the species was noted from other locations in this rural area; one homeowner about a mile away has apparently been hosting Red-headed at his feeding area for several years (MM). In Allentown, Peregrine Falcons nested on the Tilghman Street Bridge for the second year in a row. The PGC was unable to band the chicks at this site this year, but 2 young fledged about the third week of June (AM).

Acadian Flycatcher is not always found in the county in summer, but was reported via eBird from South Mountain Preserve 7/3 (JV). This season's award for most seemingly out of place Common Raven goes to one found at Smith Lane in Alburtis 7/31, perched on construction debris in the former fields here, fairly far away from any mountains, quarries, or other reasonable raven attractants (JH). There were 16 warbler species. Kentucky Warblers were at SGL 217 in early June and at South Mountain Preserve 7/3 (JH, JV). A pair of Pine Warblers was observed feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird at Trexler Pines 6/29 (KD). The season was promising for Yellow-breasted Chat within breeding safe dates near Leaser Lake. Single chats were noted 6/3 and 6/4, and photographed 6/25 on the west side of the lake (CH, JH, KD); it is unknown if these reports represent different birds for sure, but this was not a "stake-out" bird, so it is likely there were multiple chats in the area. About a mile further west, another bird appeared to be on territory and was heard chattering

through at least 6/7 along Blue Mountain Road (BE).

A Vesper Sparrow was noted at appropriate breeding habitat at North Whitehall 6/28, as were 3 Vespers at Heidelberg 7/30 (BE, JH). The only Blue Grosbeak was a well described adult male at SGL 205 6/25 (JL). The species has not been noted here in the past, but the habitat is certainly appropriate.

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Luzerne County

No report

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Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Cogan House (CH), Commerce Park Drive (CPD), County Conservation District (CCD), Indian Park-Montoursville (IPM), Market Street Bridge (MSB), Mill Street (MS), Pine Creek (PC), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Route 15 Overlook (R15), State Game Lands 252 (SGL 252), Stoltz Cemetery, Hepburn Township (SC), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), White Deer Hawk Watch (WDHW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Dam (WD), Williamsport Water Authority (WWA).

The only major weather event during the fall occurred 10/21 when localized heavy rain, over 8 inches in some places, caused serious flooding in some areas of the county. Road closures prevented access to RVL that day, so it is unknown if there was fallout from the system. The flooding caused some habitat changes at MS, which will have to be assessed for impacts to what is one of the best birding spots in *Lycoming*.

A **Snow Goose** in a field along Rose Valley Rd 11/30 (DB) provided the first Nov eBird record for that species in *Lycoming*. The only **Gadwall** was at RVL 11/3-4 (EvH, et al.). **American Black Duck** reports were scattered throughout the fall, with a high of 13 at a pond in the Montgomery area 11/24 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). A **Northern Shoveler** was observed from MS 9/16-19 (BB, et al.) and at Indian Park 11/29 (DB), along with a flock of 9 at the WD 11/9 (BB). The only **Northern Pintail** sighting was a flyby at CI 10/4 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, EvH). **Green-winged Teal** were seen early, on 9/4 and 9/13 at SGL 252 (BB, DB, AK). There were also sightings at MS 10/22 (BB, SP, EH) and RVL 11/4 (DanB) and a few Nov sightings at the WD, including 5 on 11/26 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). There were several reports of **Ring-necked Duck** at RVL throughout late Oct and Nov. Two **Lesser Scaup** were at RVL 8/22 (EH) and 9/12 (DeB, EH, AK) after possibly summering at that location. The species also was noted a few times at RVL in Nov (EH, BB, DeB, BoB, SP). A **Surf Scoter** and a **Long-tailed Duck** were at RVL 11/3-4 (EvH, et al.), and a group of up to 5 Long-tailed Ducks was seen on the lake 11/6 (NF, SP). A female-type **Red-breasted Merganser** that summered near the WD continued to be seen through mid-Aug (DB). The species was also seen at RVL 10/23 (SP) and 11/4 (DanB), and at CI 11/5 (DanB).

Much like last year, **Great Egrets** were seen with regularity in Aug and Sep along the river and at SGL 252, and a high count of 6 was made at SGL 252 on 8/7 (BB, DB, DeB). Last Great Egret was at SGL 252 on 9/25 (BB, DB, AK), and the last **Green Heron** was at MS 10/9 (BB). The only **American Coot** of the season was at SGL 252 on 9/13 (AK). One of the highlights of the fall was an **Eared Grebe** at RVL 9/11 (SP), where it continued 9/12 and was seen many other observers. It was possibly the same bird seen at Montour Preserve, *Montour* 9/10. The only prior record of the species in *Lycoming* was 4/29/1988, also at RVL. **Double-crested Cormorant** reports were common and widely scattered as is typical, but one report that stood out was the 140 or more that migrated over the R15 in multiple groups 11/4 (DB, et al.).

Black Vultures continued to be seen regularly, with numerous sightings throughout the fall, including a notable count of 34 in a field along Warrenton Rd. 11/26 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Turkey Vultures** continued in the landfill area up through the end of Nov, so they may end up wintering in that area like last

year. A very late **Osprey** was observed along CPD 11/17 (AK). At least 53 **Golden Eagles** were observed throughout the fall, including 27 migrating over the R15 on 11/6 (BB, DB, et al.). The fall's only **Rough-legged Hawk**, a dark morph, was also seen there that day (BB, DeB). The only **Northern Goshawk** sighting for the year through Nov was an immature migrating past North White Deer Ridge 11/12 (JY). The big **Broad-winged Hawk** days at the R15 were 580 on 9/16 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB) and 525 on 9/21 (DB).

Fall shorebird migration was not terribly productive, with relatively few birds and no rarities. Perhaps the best shorebird report of the season was 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (county first-of-year) at MS 8/8 (BB, DB, HB). **Killdeer** were seen through the third week of Oct, and one was at the River Walk along CPD 11/8 (DB). **Least Sandpipers** were seen a few times: 8/15, 9/1, 9/3, 9/6, and 9/19 (BB, DB, EH), all of which were along the river. The only **Wilson's Snipe** was at MS 10/10 (BB). At least 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at SGL 252 on 9/2 (BB).

The only observation of **Bonaparte's Gull** was a flock of 10 at Rose Valley 11/3 (BB, et al.). Terns were fairly scarce. A **Forster's Tern** flew past the MS Boat Launch after a thunderstorm 8/10 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). A fallout of county first-of-year **Black Terns** occurred on a very rainy 8/21, with 7 seen flying by the WD (BB, DeB, SP) and a group of 23 foraging over the river along CPD (BB, DeB); the count of 23 appears to be an all-time high for *Lycoming*.

Normally an elusive species, cooperative **Black-billed Cuckoos** were photographed at the R15 on 8/18 (DB) and 9/3 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). Notable owl observations included a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at MS 8/30 (BB, SP) and **Short-eared Owls** at Mill Hill Rd 11/18 (DB, SP) and 11/25 (BB, DeB, BB, SP). **Common Nighthawks** were regularly seen during the end of Aug and beginning of Sep, including a high count of over 150 at the WD 8/21 (BB, DeB, SP).

The Winter Hummingbird Contest <<http://www.lycobirds.com/hummingbirds>> produced a few reports this year. On 10/20, hummingbirds were reported both in Unityville and outside of Montoursville, which had both been seen in prior days. Neither bird was photographed or seen after, so they were of unknown species. On 10/25, a hummingbird was reported not far from SGL 252. This bird was photographed and confirmed as either a Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird 10/26 (DB). The bird was seen off and on for a few weeks, but was difficult to capture and band. Finally the identity was confirmed as an adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** 11/25 (WL). It continued to be seen through the end of Nov. The most surprising bird of the fall was a very cooperative adult female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** seen in Montoursville 11/11-15 (DeB, BoB, BB, et al.). The bird regularly visited feeders and was seen by many observers from all over the state. It was banded 11/12 (WL) and was last seen around 08:30 on 11/15 (DB). It represented the first *Lycoming* record of the species and just the third Pennsylvania record, with the previous records in 2012 and 2013.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at SGL 252 on 8/28 (DB, BB) for the only report. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL 252 on 9/2 (AK). The 7 or more **Eastern Wood-Pewees** observed at SGL 252 on 8/28 represented the all-time high count for *Lycoming* on eBird. A late **Eastern Phoebe** was observed along CPD 11/17 (AK) and another was at RVL 11/30 (DB). **Philadelphia Vireos**, uncommon migrants and primarily recorded in fall, were seen on 3 occasions: at SGL 252 on 9/4 (BB, DB, AK); at MS 9/25 (BB), which was a first record for that eBird hotspot; and at the WWA 9/26 (DB). **Horned Larks** were found mostly in the usual locations, with all sightings in Nov. Flocks of over 300 were seen in CH, and small groups were at RVL and near Salladasburg.

There were a few reports of late swallows. At MS, a **Cliff Swallow** was seen 9/30 (BB, DeB, BoB) and **Barn** and **Bank** swallows were mixed into a large flock of (not late) **Tree Swallows** were noted during a rainstorm 10/1 (BB). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at RVL 10/15 (Browns, SP). *Lycoming's* first **Cave Swallow** was photographed near the WD 10/27 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). Documentation was submitted to PORC.

One of the big stories of the fall throughout Pennsylvania was the invasion of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. *Lycoming* had an elevated number of reports throughout most of the fall. Notably, 2 were seen at MS 9/11 (BB, DB), a new species for that eBird hotspot, which does not contain typical habitat for that species. Very good was a **Marsh Wren** at RVL 10/29 (SP, et al.).

American Pipits were seen on several occasions. First was a single at the WD 9/14 (DB). Small groups were seen on MS 10/4 (EvH, BB, DB) and 10/22 (BB, SP, EH) as well as at RVL 11/3, and a single bird was at Rose

Valley 11/8 (EvH). There were also several sightings of the species in CH in Nov, including a count of 65 on 11/6 (SP). **Snow Buntings** were seen mixed in with the lark flock in CH 11/20 (SP, Browns) and also at RVL 11/6 (NF, SP) and 11/8 (EvH).

Overall it was a fairly quiet fall for warblers, although 26 species were recorded. **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, which had no prior fall eBird records in *Lycoming*, were observed on MS on 5 dates 8/1-14 (BB, et al.). **Northern Waterthrushes** were recorded at RVL 9/18 (NF), CI 9/20 (DB), and MS 9/30 (DB). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at MS 8/29 (BB, DeB, BoB) and at SGL 252 on 9/13 (AK). A probable Connecticut Warbler was observed at MS 9/29 (BB), but the sighting was too brief for certainty. **Northern Parulas** were seen at the WD 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/8 (DB) as well as at SGL 252 on 9/4 (DB, BB, AK). As usual, **Bay-breasted Warblers** were fairly scarce, but were observed at the R15 on 9/15 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB), CI on 9/28 (BB, SP), and the WWA 9/9 (DB), 9/11 (JB), and 9/26 (DB). **Blackburnian Warblers** were recorded on just 3 occasions: MS 8/1 (BB), Algerine Swamp 8/23 (EH) and the WD 10/1-2 (DB, DeB). Late **Yellow Warblers** were recorded at the WD 9/21 (DB) and 10/2 (DB, DeB) and at MS 10/2 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **Blackpoll Warblers** seemed particularly numerous throughout Sep and Oct, with 20 or more observed in one place on some occasions. **Pine Warblers** were seen at White Deer Golf Course 9/2 (AK), RVL 9/18 (NF), and along the Pine Creek Rail Trail 10/7 (RO). The 90 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at MS 10/16 (BB, SP) represented an all-time *Lycoming* high count on eBird. **Prairie Warblers**, which were somewhat hard to come by this year in general, were only observed at Lime Bluff Recreation Area 8/19 (LS) and the R15 9/9 (AK). **Canada Warblers** were reported along the Pine Creek Rail Trail 8/3 (JH) and at the WWA 9/11 (JB). An early **Wilson's Warbler** was photographed at Lime Bluff Recreation Area 8/19 (LS), and additional sightings were made at CI 9/25 (BB, DeB) and on the river walk along CPD during a *Lycoming* Audubon Society walk 10/1 (EH, et al.).

There were not many surprises among sparrows. The initial push for both **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **White-crowned Sparrows** was around the first week of Oct. The first **White-throated Sparrow** was reported 9/24 (BB, DB), but a member of the *Lycoming* Audubon Society Facebook group indicated that they summered in South Williamsport and were seen visiting feeders. **Swamp Sparrows** were seen consistently throughout the fall. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found regularly during their expected window between late Sep and early Oct. **American Tree Sparrows** started arriving the first week of Nov, with only a small overlap with **Chipping Sparrows**, as is typical, and **Fox Sparrows** preceded them by about a week. **Savannah Sparrows** were found only at MS. Notable was an *Ammodramus* sp., possibly a Nelson's Sparrow, very briefly seen at MS 9/30 (BB, DeB). Another notable sighting was a **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** at SGL 252 on 11/27 (BB, DB).

Rusty Blackbirds were spotted at RVL 10/15 (Browns, SP) and 11/3 (EvH), and at a private residence outside of Williamsport 10/9. MS continues to be the hotspot for **Eastern Meadowlarks**, with a high count of 22 there 9/27 (BB, DeB, BoB). A somewhat late **Brown-headed Cowbird** was in CH among a flock of Horned Larks 11/20 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). The high count of 6400 or more **Common Grackles** was made in Montoursville 9/6 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB).

Purple Finches were seen regularly, including a high count of 25 at SGL 252 on 9/25 (BB, DB, AK). **Pine Siskins** were observed in Ralston 10/7 (NF). There were a few sightings of the rarer winter finches, not reported in *Lycoming* for several years. An **Evening Grosbeak** was photographed in Ralston 11/12 (NF). Several **Red Crossbills** were observed at the WWA 11/17 (DB), including Type 2s, eastern Type 10s, and a Type 1.

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McKean County

Locations: Allegheny NF Red Bridge (RB), Allegheny National Forest (ANF),

Akeley Swamp IBA (AS), Allegheny NF Bradford Ranger District Office (RDO), State Game Lands 204 (SGL204), West Eldred Swamp (WES), Allegheny NF Sugar Bay Boat Launch (SBBL), Hamlin Lake (HL), Mead Run Ponds (MRP), Willowdale Cemetery Ponds (WCP), Loveland Home (LH), Loveland Trails (LT), Whitney Creek Fields (WCF), Hoffman Farm ANF (HF), Allegheny NF Timberdoodle Flats (TF), E. Kinzua KOA (KOA).

There were 3 reports of **Wood Duck**: 2 at RB 8/16 (SD); 8 at MRP 9/24 (JH), and 2 at WCP 10/15 (MM). SBBL had 8 **Common Mergansers**, 5 **Hooded Mergansers**, 6 **Common Goldeneyes** and 3 **Buffleheads** 11/23 (SD); these were the only reports for Hooded Mergansers and Buffleheads. Four Common Mergansers were at RB 10/31 (SD), and another 4 were at HL 11/27 (LC). The only report of a **Pied-billed Grebe** was 9/24 at MRP (JH).

Sadly, there were just 2 reports of **Ruffed Grouse**, the first between Ludlow and Kane 8/10 (JG), and one at LT 10/18 (MM). A lone **Double-crested Cormorant** was at HL 9/15 (AC). Several reports of **Green Heron** were scattered throughout the county in Aug (SD, TR). **Ospreys** were reported at 3 locations: SBBL 8/17 (SD), and 2 at RB 8/12 and 8/16 (SD). Only one report of a **Bald Eagle**, at WES 8/7 (TR). Reports of **American Woodcock** were made on consecutive nights at RDO 10/25-26 (SD).

There were 3 separate reports over a three-day span of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (non-banding) at ANF (TR) beginning 10/8. A nice sighting of a lone **Common Nighthawk** was made at WCF 8/24 (S&SG). There were 3 reports of **Merlin** at AS: 8/12, 10/16, and 10/26 (SD). A **Great-crested Flycatcher** was at WCF 8/24 (S&SG). Unusual for the county, a flock of 40 **American Pipits** was at RB 10/31 (SD). Nice photos of several birds were obtained.

Warbler diversity was good with 19 species reported, though for some species with only a single bird. Most reports were from the eastern part of the county. A single **Cerulean Warbler** was at HF 9/5 (BS). High counts of 8 **Tennessee Warblers** and 6 **Blackpoll Warblers** were noted at TF 9/23 (SD). Three separate reports of **Cape May Warblers** were made at TF: 3 on 9/23, 4 on 9/27, and 3 on 9/28 (SD). The high for **Yellow-rumped warblers** was 5 at WES 10/11 (TR). Two **Chestnut-sided warblers** were at the KOA 8/12 (NS). A perhaps persistent **Palm Warbler** was reported on 4 separate dates at the RDO 9/21-10/5 (SD). The only report of a **Black-and-white Warbler** was 8/12 at the KOA (NS). Eight **Black-throated Green Warblers** were also noted at the same location 8/12 (SD). A single **Savannah Sparrow** was at RDO 10/5 and 10/11 (SD). A possible **Purple Finch** was reported at SGL 204 on 9/7 (S&SG).

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Mercer County

Locations: Airport Road (AR), East Zahnizer RD (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Skunk Run Road (SRRD), Williamson Rd (WR).

A total of 195 species were reported for the fall season and included multiple noteworthy sightings. Moderate drought conditions and an early draw down of SRR exposed large mudflats where 23 species of shorebirds were found. This was the highest number of species reported from this location since 2012. No notable nocturnal flights were detected in September, but were heard late evening 10/1 and 10/3.

The number of waterfowl species was about average compared to recent years. **Tundra Swans** were heard at WR 11/19, but the major movement was delayed until 11/21 (NT). Two **Gadwalls** were at a pond at EZR 10/23 (NT) and 2 were at SRR 11/16 (SS). The only report of **American Wigeon** was of one at SRR 11/21 (NT). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at SRR 9/1 (NT) and a high of 10 were there 9/9 (BB). Four **Green-winged Teal** were at SRR 9/10 (NT, CK, MAK). LW is usually the best area to find waterfowl in fall and the following species were reported there: **Lesser Scaup** 10/21 (NT), 30 **Buffleheads** and one **Common Goldeneye** 11/21 (NT); 8 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/21 (NT), 2 **Common Mergansers** 11/16 (SS), and one **Red-**

breasted Merganser 10/25 (NT). Twelve **Ruddy Ducks** were at Sandy Lake 11/21 (NT) and 15 at LW 11/22 (SS).

A **Common Loon** was seen in flight at WR 10/22 (NT) and up to 5 were at LW 11/21-22 (NT, SS). **Pied-billed Grebe** possibly nested at PS; 2 were there 9/21 (NT). The only report of **Horned Grebe** was of 5 at LW 11/21 (NT). **Great Egrets** are somewhat uncommon in fall but with the low lake levels at SRR, they congregated there in good numbers 8/10-9/17 (m.ob.). High counts were 19 on 9/3 (GM) and 17 on 9/10 (NT, GK, MAK). A Snowy Egret was reported in company with Great Egrets 9/9 (GW, BB). The details were insufficient, but this sighting would represent a first county record. A **Cattle Egret** was found at Walnut Hill Farm near SRR 10/29 (MK). It was joined by a second bird 11/5, seen for only one day; the remaining bird was last noted 11/21 (MK, GM, m.ob.).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** at WR 9/1 was possibly a migrant (NT). This species is seldom seen in the county after mid-Aug. Unexpected was a **Golden Eagle** at WR 10/9 on the day following a strong cold front (NT). **Virginia Rails** were heard at PS 8/25 (BB) and 9/21 (NT), and a **Sora** was also reported from there 9/21 (NT). The first reported in several years, a **Common Gallinule** represented an excellent find at PS 9/16 (RS). **Sandhill Cranes** were present through late Oct at McKean Farms at AR (NT).

All the following shorebird species were reported from SRR. **Black-billed Plovers** were found 8/19-10/13 and **American Golden Plovers** were reported 9/1-10 with a high of 4 on 9/10 (NT, GK, MAK). A juvenile **Piping Plover** was found 9/1 at the Willow Tree area and continued to 9/10 (NT, ST, GM, m.ob.), providing *Mercer* with its first record for this species. It was banded with a yellow band on each leg but its origin was not determined. Three juvenile **Sanderlings** were found 9/1 (ph. GM) and 2 were there 9/11 (GM). Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were briefly seen at the Willow Tree area 8/27 (GM, SS). **Stilt Sandpipers** were present 8/21-9/17 (GM, SS, RS, NT). **Dunlins** were reported 10/13-18 at the Golden Run area of SSR (SS). **Baird's Sandpipers** were present 8/6-9/10 (GK, MAK, NT); the bird on 8/6 was an adult and represented a new earliest date for SSR (GM). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found 9/1-10/17, with a high of 5 on 10/17 (GM, RS, SS). **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were reported 9/1 with 2 in the West R. area in the early afternoon (NT) and a high count of 6 there later that day (GM), the highest count ever at that location. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were found 8/10-9/9 (GM, NT, BB). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported 9/1 (GM) and 9/9 (RS) at the Willow Tree area.

Caspian Terns were present at SRR 8/8-9/9 (SS, RT, RS). A good find anytime during migration, up to 12 **Common Terns** were at SRR 9/11-17 (SS, NT, GM). One or 2 **Forster's Terns** were found at the same location 9/9-17 (NT, GM). A total of 8 **Common Nighthawks** moved through at WR 8/25-9/5 (NT). A high count of over 400 **Chimney Swifts** was made at SRR 9/27 (NT). **Merlins** were present in above normal numbers 8/29-10/22 at several locations (NT, SS).

For the first time in the fall period, all 5 expected *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SRRD 9/8 (NT), and an **Alder Flycatcher** was located at PS 8/25 (BB). An **Eastern Phoebe** was reported at the Pine Grove Golf Course 11/1 (BB). Not often reported after July, a **Great-crested Flycatcher** was a nice find at SRR 8/17 (GK, MAK, NT). A **White-eyed Vireo** was heard at SRR 8/8 (BB) and **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported 9/6-10/15 (NT, SS). **Philadelphia Vireos** were at SRRD 9/12-18 (NT). The nesting **Purple Martins** at WR left 8/10. Three were heard with the large flocks of swallows flying northward ahead of strong storms on the evening of 9/10 (NT). An albino **Barn Swallow** was found with a swallow flock at AR 8/2-8 (JT). Not often found after Aug, a high count of 20 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was reported at SRR 9/14 (SS).

A major movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was detected 9/4-20 at SRRD, and one was at Barry Rd 10/9 (SS). **Winter Wrens** were present 10/4-11/3 (BB). Rarely detected in migration, a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was a nice find at SRRD 8/30 (NT). The five spot-breasted thrushes were reported, though not many were heard during the nocturnal migration. **Gray-checked Thrush** was present 9/11-18 at WR and **Swainson's Thrush** were there 9/5-10/2 (NT). **Hermit Thrushes** were reported in low numbers from three locations 10/10-23 (SS, NT, BB). A **Snow Bunting** was heard at SGL 130 on 11/17 (NT).

A nice total of 28 species of warblers was reported, though in lower numbers than last fall. The peak of migration was 9/18 when 20 species were found at WR (NT). **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at the Golden Run area

at SRR 8/8 (BB). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found 10/2-9 at WR (NT) and one was at PS 10/2 (BB). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at SRRD 9/18 and 9/20 (NT). A juvenile **Mourning Warbler** was also at SRRD 9/18-20 (NT). **Cape May Warblers** were found 9/2-10/3 and a **Cerulean Warbler** was a nice find at SRR 8/8 (BB). **Northern Parulas** were found 9/5-21, **Bay-breasted Warbler** 9/4-25, and **Blackpoll Warbler** 9/5-10/3 (NT, SS). A **Yellow Warbler** remained at WR to 9/22 (NT). The only report of **Pine Warbler** was one at SRR 9/10 (GK, MAK). A **Canada Warbler** was at SRRD 8/29 (NT).

American Tree Sparrows were at WR 10/22 (NT) and 10/23 at PS (BB). A **Field Sparrow** was at WR 11/19 (NT). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were present in a meadow at AR through 8/8 (JT). **Fox Sparrows** were reported 11/2-30 at EZR (NT). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were present 9/16-10/16 at WR (NT). High numbers of both **White-crowned** and **White-throated Sparrows** were present at WR 10/23 (NT). A late **Scarlet Tanager** was at Poole Road 10/20 (NT). A first year **Dickcissel** was found in a wet field with a flock of migrant sparrows at SRRD 10/23 (NT), representing possibly just the third record for the county.

Rusty Blackbirds were well represented, first reported 10/5 at WR (NT). Thirty were at the Pine Grove Golf Course 11/1 and 14 were at Celery Swamp 10/23 (BB). **Purple Finches** were reported 8/29-11/17 at WR (NT).

ADDENDUM: An **American Avocet** was found and photographed at the Chestnut Run Swim Beach at SRR 7/19 (JK, SS).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**. Brendyn Baptiste, Mary Alice Koeneke, John Kolodzieski, Glenn Koppel, Michael Kovach, Geoff Malosh, Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Randy Stringer, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Gene Wilhelm.

Mifflin County

Locations: Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW).

Reports of **Great Egret** were more frequent than usual. First were 2 on Knepp Rd. 8/20 (JZ), followed by one in Belleville 8/28 (JZ), 4 on Knepp Rd. 8/31 (AS), and 2 on Bunker Hill Rd. and 3 on Knepp Rd. 9/3 (JK). At JMHW, 573 hours of observation were logged, surpassing the previous high of 530 hours in 2015. **Bald Eagles** were once again above average with a season count of 144. The first **Golden Eagle** of the season was observed 10/9, and the high one-day count was 17 on 11/6. For the third straight season, **Golden Eagles** were above average, with a season count of 141 this year. The total **Broad-winged Hawk** count was 3099, with a high of 910 on 9/21 (DS, et al.).

One female **Barn Owl** was found during a Farmland Raptor Program through Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Milroy 11/1 (JK, TW). Landowners had observed multiple individuals in the past, but only one was present in an abandoned silo. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed in multiple locations throughout the fall, including Lower Creek Rd. outside Milroy 8/4 (GS) and at Reedsville 10/16 (RD). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in Lewistown 11/3 (RH), possibly a wintering individual. Multiple reports were made from there in Feb 2016.

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted on Front Mountain Rd. 9/5 (JZ). Numerous sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were made throughout the region, part of an early southward movement due to poor cone crops in the northeast; the first sighting was at JMHW 9/1 (JK). A high count of 3 **Hermit Thrushes** made at JMHW 10/20 (JK). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at an undisclosed location 9/29 (IB). A **Snow Bunting** was reported in the JMHW parking lot 11/10 (JK).

Warbler highlights included a **Northern Waterthrush** near the observer's residence 9/25 (JZ), a **Prairie Warbler** at JMHW 9/10 (RD), and a **Mourning Warbler** at an undisclosed location 9/29 (IB). The first **Pine Siskin** was seen on Kanagy Rd. 11/2 (RD).

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Monroe County

Locations: Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center (KCEEC).

In short, the season could best be described as warm and dry. Weir Lake continues to attract its share of "goodies" with a **Greater White-fronted Goose** found there 11/6 (KW). The 40 **Wood Ducks** and 81 **Ruddy Ducks** on Mountain Spring Lake 10/22 both represented high counts (BJ). Draw-downs at two lakes attracted a variety of shorebirds: single **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at Pocono Lake 10/18 (BJ) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 11 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 5 **Least Sandpipers** were all found at Hunter's Lake 8/29 (BJ).

Project OwlNet, a continent-wide banding project, completed its second season at KCEEC, with a total of 100 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** captured 10/10-11/14 (DS). Eleven were already banded including one that was originally banded in Oct 2012 at Estes Park, Colorado—over 1700 miles away! According to the banding laboratory, this is among the greatest eastward movements documented for this species. Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, a rare county species at any season, were reported from the Marshalls Creek area 8/29 (BS), and another was a 'one-day wonder' at a Blakeslee feeder 11/2 (BC).

A movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** into the region was reflected in their presence at KCEEC feeders through the season (BH). During a banding demonstration 9/25 at KCEEC, 3 **Gray-cheeked** and 4 **Swainson's Thrushes** were captured (DS). A flock of 35 **Rusty Blackbirds**, a declining species, provided a nice find at Pocono Lake 10/17 (BJ). **Purple Finches** made a noticeable movement in Oct with birds visiting KCEEC feeders (BH) and a high count of 10 reported from a Mt. Pocono yard 10/11 (BJ). There were regional sightings of Evening Grosbeaks in Nov, including from just outside the county across the Delaware R. in New Jersey (BH), but none reported in *Monroe*.

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Montgomery County

Locations: Ashbourne Country Club (ACC), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

A minimum of 218 species of birds, plus a couple of interesting hybrids, were located in *Montgomery* during autumn 2016, twenty more than were reported during spring migration. A primary factor was the primarily dry and warm weather conditions that allowed the GLP mudflats to continue through much of the season.

In addition to a continuing good shorebird and wader show at GLP, the season introduced two new species to the record books for *Montgomery*. A **Black-necked Stilt** appeared at GLP 11/2 and remained there through at least 11/28 (SG, m.ob., doc. sub.), switching locations from Knight Lake to Walt Rd. 11/12 for reasons known only to it. The other county-first, an immature male **Calliope Hummingbird** in West Norriton, was far less cooperative. Good photographs were taken of the hummingbird nectaring from assorted salvia varieties 10/31 (AU, KG), and the identification was quickly corroborated (SW). Unfortunately for eager birders, the Calliope was on the move, and departed early 11/1, after a hearty breakfast, never to be seen again (AU, KG, doc. submitted).

Although not a county-first, another vagrant highlight of the season was a **Western Kingbird** at DMP 9/15, and very briefly 9/16 (AMi, m.ob., doc. sub.). As if the preceding birds weren't enough, a fourth PORC review list species was also found - a juv. **Red Phalarope** observed by many at GLP 9/3-4 (SG, m.ob., ph.).

A flock of 151 **Snow Geese** flew over Lower Merion 10/23 (GG), notable

only for being the sole above-single-digit group of this species spotted in autumn 2016. One to 3 **Cackling Geese** were at GLP on three occasions 10/31-11/10 (m.ob.). As many as 4 Cackling Geese were at WWP 11/17-18 (RC, PD). A **Snow Goose x Canada Goose** hybrid was noted 4 times at GLP 11/13-27 (ST, AM, SG).

Large numbers of **Gadwalls** were observed at GLP through Nov, including at least 118 (possibly as many as 193) on 11/30 (RK). An early **American Wigeon** was at GLP 9/3-5 (SG, m.ob.). Twenty **Blue-winged Teal** were at GLP 10/3 (ML), the season's high count occurring on a surprisingly late date. Sixty-five **Northern Shovelers** were noted at GLP 11/30 (RK), another high count. Eleven early **Lesser Scaup** were observed at GLP 10/10 (KC). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was at GLP 10/22 (KR, m.ob.). Fairly early for the area, a **Common Goldeneye** was noted diving in the Schuylkill R. at Oaks 11/16 (WBH). A goldeneye hen was at GLP 11/23 through the end of the period (KS, m.ob.). The summering **Hooded Merganser** pair at GLP continued through Aug and Sep (m.ob.). A third Hoodie joined them 9/4 (AM). Although it's possible this third duck was also present for the duration, all other reports in the timeframe were of just one or 2 individuals. Huge numbers of **Ruddy Ducks** were present at GLP in Nov, with many counts above 300 and some exceeding 400 (m.ob.), well beyond typical numbers for the location. The high was 438 on 11/25 (GF).

Wild Turkeys noted away from their typical haunts included a group of 14 strolling onto a Horsham golf course 8/26 (JR), as well as a handful of sightings in the greater GLP area (m.ob.). An imm. **Great Cormorant** was present at GLP for a few weeks 11/10-23 (KR, m.ob.), *Montgomery's* first since 2012.

Two different **American Bitterns** were flushed from thick cover in the Elkins Park area 9/12 and 9/16 (both PD). Another two bitterns were detected as nocturnal migrants, also from Elkins Park, 10/5 (PD). A **Least Bittern** was recorded passing over Elkins Park 9/12 (PD). A group of at least 21 **Great Egrets** roosted at GLP on 6 nights between 8/5-9/5 (LH, DR), down from the lofty highs of Jul, but still a nice count. With them was a continuing **Snowy Egret**, present at GLP through 9/22 (m.ob.). Two Snowies were detected on multiple days through 9/5 (m.ob.). Persistent members of the GLP wader show as well, 3-4 young **Little Blue Herons** were at GLP until 8/22 (m.ob.), after which numbers dropped to one or 2 through 8/30 (m.ob.). **Green Herons** were thick at GLP's Knight Lake in late Aug/early Sep (m.ob.), including a high of 13 on 9/3 (PB). Single immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were spotted at GLP 8/11 (AM), 8/14 (JT), and 9/19 (WBH). More exciting was the proliferation of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at Norristown Dam in Aug. Highlights included 4 juvs. and an adult 8/15 (MR), 2 adults and 2 juvs. 8/16 (MR) and, the final report of the season, 3 adults and a juv. 8/28 (PD). Combining those sightings leads to a total of at least 7 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (3 adults and 4 juveniles) present at the dam in summer/fall 2016, and seems to lend further support to the notion that this species is breeding locally. **Glossy Ibis** was observed at GLP 8/8-9/1 (JG, m.ob.) in quantities of 4-5 until a one-day high of 8 occurred 8/16 (KR, PB). After this burst, only a single ibis remained.

A large flock of 70 **Black Vultures** was noted over GLP 10/3 (LH, LC). An even larger collection of **Turkey Vultures**, 161, was counted streaming past the Militia Hill Hawk Watch platform at FWSP 10/30 (AF). Naturally, the FWSP hawk watch racked up all of the season's raptor high counts, including 42 **Osprey** 9/24 (MM, SGr) on what was probably the best raptor day of 2016 in terms of numbers. Other season highs at FWSP 9/24 included 5 **Northern Harriers**, 64 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 15 **Bald Eagles**, and 2694 **Broad-winged Hawks** (all MM, SGr). A late Osprey lingered at GLP until 11/19 (JT). Two **Golden Eagles** were reported from FWSP 10/31 (RC), the final day of the hawk watch. **Broad-winged Hawk** migration past Militia Hill seemed subdued overall, with only three days above 300 (m.ob.): beyond the previously-mentioned 2694 on 9/24, 853 were counted 9/15 (HB, MM) and 1492 on 9/25 (AF, MM).

A **Virginia Rail** was found in Lower Moreland Twp. 10/1-2 (PD, m.ob.). **Soras**, in what seems to be an annual occurrence, were again kicked up from a dry grassland area at PERT 9/3 and 9/18 (both PD).

At least 2 **American Golden-Plovers** were observed on the expansive GLP mudflats 9/4-19 (AM, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plovers** were a consistent presence at GLP thru 9/30 (m.ob.), including a high of 12 on 8/10 (PD). A late individual showed up at GLP 10/23 (PB). A single Semipalmated Plover was also noted at the WWP 9/22 (MaR, KM). **Killdeer** numbers at GLP topped out at 88 on 9/11 (JF). Thirty-three Killdeer at GLP 11/30 (RK) was rather high for

the date. Seven **Stilt Sandpipers** appeared at GLP 8/10 (SGr, m.ob.). Smaller numbers of Stilt Sandpipers were later present at GLP on many days 8/27-9/21 (m.ob.). The GLP mudflats proved attractive to **Sanderling** as well, with 5 counted there 8/21 (JF, RK) and then one or 2 off and on 9/1-30 (KC, m.ob.). A **Dunlin** made a late appearance at GLP 11/19 through the end of the period (GF, m.ob.). During the same time, a late **Least Sandpiper** persisted, staying at GLP until 11/28 (m.ob.). Earlier in the season, they were abundant on the flats, with 232 counted 9/4 (SG, AM). There were many reports of **White-rumped Sandpiper** at GLP 8/16-11/4 (m.ob.), including 4 on 9/11 (PD). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was even more common, maxing out at 28 at GLP 9/19 (PD). A dozen **Semipalmated Sandpipers** represented the season's high count of that species at GLP 8/12 (RK). An early **American Woodcock** was reported at PERT 5 times between 8/12-9/10 (AMi, MG). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at GLP 10/23-24 (PB) was notably late. The period's high count for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 18 at GLP on 10/2 (KR), while **Lesser Yellowlegs**, always more abundant at GLP, hit 79 on 9/29 (RK). A tardy Lesser Yellowlegs remained at GLP until 11/19 (MS, SK).

Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noted at GLP 10/23 (PB). Singles were seen at this location on a couple later dates (m.ob.). Normally tough to find in *Montgomery*, despite the eastern portion being not terribly far from the Delaware R., 2 different **Laughing Gulls** were found at GLP. A first winter **Laughing** was observed 9/30 (RK). A second bird, a second year gull, was found 10/2 (GF, m.ob.), only a few days later. Two early gulls were noted at GLP 8/28: a **Herring Gull** (PB) and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (KC, RK). The latter gull hung around GLP until at least 9/12 (m.ob.). Pairs of **Great Black-backed Gulls** were reported on the Schuylkill R. at Bala Cynwyd 10/16 (GG) and at GLP 11/21 (SG). **Caspian Terns** were present at GLP daily through 9/11 (m.ob.), with a bonus flyover 9/15 (MW) and a fairly late one-off 10/1 (KC). Peak GLP Caspian Tern counts included 20 on 8/6 (PD) and 15 on 8/12 (KC). A pair of **Black Terns** was observed feeding over the Schuylkill near VFNHP 8/21 after a summer storm (VS, DS). A single Black Tern was also seen at GLP 10/2 (GF, et al.). A pair of **Forster's Terns** was reported at GLP 8/18 (SGr), succeeded by a solo GLP Forster's 9/1 (JF, RK).

A total of 121 **Rock Pigeons** hung out on the wires over Norristown Dam 10/20 (WBH). Much more surprising was the count of 163 **Mourning Doves** at GLP 8/11 (AM), not a spot where this species is typically found in bulk. **Barred Owls** were reported 8 times from Pottstown (JT), once from Schwenksville 9/22 (MC), and once from Green Lane (PG, AG), a location where they are either scarce or quiet, normally. A late **Common Nighthawk** was noted over Lorimer Park 10/18 (PD). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was seen at PERT 9/21 (PD). An estimated 650 **Chimney Swifts** were recorded at a Bryn Athyn roost site 9/15 (PD). Later in swift migration, within the span of a few minutes, 379 were counted as they winged southbound over East Norriton 10/1 (WBH).

Although the Calliope Hummingbird obviously stole the thunder from any other hummingbirds that might have been found this season, there were a few other notable reports. The latest of a few mildly late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** made a final appearance in East Norriton 10/10 (WBH). A **Selasphorus sp.**, most likely a Rufous Hummingbird, appeared at a Bryn Mawr residence 11/28 and remained through the end of the period (anonymous *fide* PB). The homeowners did not want the bird banded. Per SW, photographs taken in Dec were supportive of the Rufous, but did not completely rule out Allen's.

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed in the Gilbertsville area 10/10 (MA, PA). Another raptor high for the heavy volume 9/24 count at FWSP's Militia Hill Hawk Watch was 29 **American Kestrels** (MM, SGr). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was photographed at King of Prussia's McKaig Nature Education Center 9/11 (MR, m.ob.). Curiously, one of the observers who saw the McKaig flycatcher, a life bird for her, returned home to her residence near ESP and, the same day, found and photographed another Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (EF). There were at least 10 reports of **Least Flycatchers** from 5 different locations (m.ob.). As many as 21 **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen massing at GLP 8/21 before their long journey south (RK). A late Eastern Kingbird reported from GLP 9/17 evidently missed that meeting (KC). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were located in East Norriton 9/14 (WBH) and ESP 9/16 (EF).

Blue Jay migration was heavy this season, as predicted by Ron Pittaway in his annual "Winter Finch Forecast". The highest jay count reported from *Montgomery* was of 221 individuals flying over Pensburg 10/5 (PH). A

raucous flock of 180 **American Crows** was at NFP 11/10 (WBH). There were 10 or more reports of singles and pairs of **Common Ravens** scattered around the county (m.ob.). Seventeen **Horned Larks** were photographed at NFP 11/27 (SF). This was a high number for the location. A late **Tree Swallow** was noted flying over DMP 11/19 (MD). One hundred **Barn Swallows** were reported in Perkiomenville 9/5 (DW), a high number for the date. A single **Cliff Swallow** was at GLP 9/1 (JF, RK) and 5 were at the same location 9/5 (DW).

The first widespread **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption in several years began during fall 2016, with the initial bird detected at GLP 10/16 (KC). Many others followed it (m.ob.). A leucistic chickadee appeared at a Collegeville feeder 10/25 and remained until 11/9 (KC). Pale all-over, with just faint, washed-out indications of typical plumage, the look it sported was very distinctive. The observer assumed **Carolina Chickadee**, but its sudden appearance in the middle of a Black-cap irruption cast some doubt over that ID. Photos of the leucistic chickadee appear to be inadequate to pin the individual down to one species or the other. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** experienced an even larger, or at least more obvious, irruption. What had begun slowly in Jul kicked into high gear by early Sep. As many as 10 Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted at PERT 9/18 (PD), and just about every feeder setup in the county seemed to have attracted at least one regular by the end of the period (m.ob.).

A late **House Wren** was found at PERT 10/29 (PD). **Sedge Wren** was again conjured from the grass at PERT 9/18-22 (PD, m.ob), though there was no sign of any late nesting activity this year. A **Marsh Wren** was reported at NFP 9/12 (PB), a bit early for this species. Marsh Wrens were also noted at both PERT and Lower Moreland Twp. 10/1-2 (PD), as well as the wetlands at Germantown Academy 11/2 (BR). By strange coincidence, late **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found on the same day, 10/15, at both Loch Alsh Reservoir in Ambler (MR) and FWSP (AA).

The **Eastern Bluebird** high count, 42, came from VFNHP 10/23 (MEH). An estimated 35 **Veeries** were counted flying over Elkins Park 9/12 (PD). The Elkins Park nocturnal flight monitoring system also recorded 2 **Bicknell's Thrushes** during each of the nights of 10/4 and 10/5 (PD). A new eBird county-high count for **Hermit Thrushes**, 13, was set at the defunct ACC 10/25 (PD). Five hundred **American Robins** were estimated in a group heading in to roost somewhere near PERT 9/18 (PB), a rather high count for the date. There were a few late **Gray Catbirds**, as usual, the latest of which included singles at GLP 11/13 (ST) and Elkins Park 11/17 (PD).

A sizable pack of **American Pipits** gathered on the mud at GLP in late Oct and early Nov (m.ob.). This group was counted as 75-76 individuals on three days between 10/29-11/2 (m.ob.). Farther south, 45 pipits were found on the harvested fields of NFP 11/1 (WBH). A single **Snow Bunting** was found at GLP 10/23 (PB), followed by a pair of buntings 11/25 (SG, ME).

Thirty species of warbler, plus one sought-after hybrid, were found by the intrepid birders of *Montgomery* in autumn 2016. A late **Ovenbird**, probably slowed by an injured leg, was seen in Pottstown 10/17-19 (JT). There were several late **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, most notably one photographed at Germantown Academy 8/24 (BR). A **Lawrence's Warbler**, the F2 backcross hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, was described at FWSP 9/4 (DB). Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported from Lower Gwynedd Twp. 10/22 (SS) and ACC 10/25 (PD). Single **Connecticut Warblers** were found at McKaig Nature Education Center 9/11-13 (SGr, m.ob.) and PERT 9/11 (PD). ACC accommodated single **Mourning Warblers** 9/2 and 9/25 (both PD). A remarkable 56 **Common Yellowthroats** were reported at PERT 10/1 (PD). A **Hooded Warbler** was noted at PERT 8/11-12 (AMi, MG). A **Cape May Warbler** at PERT 8/23 (PD) was about a week earlier than expected. An extremely late **Northern Parula** was spotted at GLP 10/31-11/8 (GF). A **Yellow Warbler** at GLP 9/30 was late (SG). A Yellow Warbler photographed at the new Dodsworth Run Preserve in North Wales 11/3 (FS) was considerably later than that, and probably represents a record late date for the county. A couple of other late warblers include a **Palm Warbler** at PERT 11/26 (AMi, MG) and a **Pine Warbler** at NFP 11/10 (WBH). Two early **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at GLP 8/28 (SG, TR). A bizarrely-early **Black-throated Green Warbler**, first noted 7/31 at FWSP, continued on through 8/14 (RC, m.ob.). The only **Wilson's Warbler** for the season was located at ACC 9/25 (PD).

An **American Tree Sparrow** at DMP 11/12 arrived several weeks ahead of other members of its kind (KR). There were 9 eBird reports of **Vesper Sparrow** 10/11-11/5 (m.ob.), including triples at NFP 10/25 (PBU, SB) and

Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 10/26 (SG). PERT, always thick with sparrows in the fall, played host to 8 **Lincoln's Sparrows** 10/1 (PD) and 35 **Swamp Sparrows** 10/12 (AMi, MG).

A **Scarlet Tanager** (or, potentially, two Scarlet Tanagers) reported at PERT 10/12 set a new eBird late date for *Montgomery* (AMi, MG). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen semi-regularly at PERT 9/21-10/12 (PD, m.ob). A Blue Grosbeak, potentially one of the birds seen earlier in the month, was found at PERT 10/29, setting a new county late date for this species as well (PD, vt.). A late **Indigo Bunting** was at NFP 10/18 (WBH).

A delinquent **Bobolink** remained at PERT 10/20-22 (PD). There were 8 eBird reports of **Rusty Blackbird** 11/1-27 (m.ob.), with a high of 5 at PERT 11/27 (PD). An estimated 3000 **Common Grackles** were at GLP 8/21 (RK), continuing in the tradition of some other surprisingly high late summer tallies from that location. A group of 300 mostly-immature **Brown-headed Cowbirds** terrorized DMP 8/25 (PB). Single **Orchard Orioles** were noted on the late date of 8/27 at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (VS) and VFNHP (PK). Months after their fellow orioles had winged their way to their winter whereabouts, a **Baltimore Oriole** was detected at a Jenkintown feeder 11/25 (JS).

Purple Finches, the main finch species predicted by the Winter Finch Forecast to be on the move, were noted doing just that. The many reports of this species started 9/3 at Green Lane (JG) and continued through the remainder of the period (m.ob.). A high of 13 was detected at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 10/26 (PB). A single female-type **Red Crossbill** was observed perched atop a spruce in Elkins Park 11/29 (PD). **Pine Siskins** were practically non-existent, found only in Collegeville 11/12 (JH) and Green Lane 11/18 (JeG), both singles.

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, 2408 Swede Rd, Norristown, PA 19401, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Andrew Albright, Hank Ballerstedt, Dave Belford, Paul Bernhardt, Scott Burnet, Peter Burns (PBU), Linda Chowns, Mary Ann Clayton, Marcia Clouser, Rich Conroy, Kevin Crilley, Michael Drake, Paul Driver, Mike Epler, Andrew Fayer, George Franchois, Eliza Fraser, Scott Fraser, James Funk, Scott Godshall, Gregg Gorton, Jeffrey Greco (JeG), Joe Greco, Mike Grubb, Kim Gruener, Steve Grunwald (SG), Anita Guris, Paul Guris, Mary Ellen Heisey, Paul Heveran, Len Hillegass, Joe Hudson, Rudolph Keller, Stephen Kloiber, Paul Krepto, Michael Lyman, Anna Mindel (AMi), August Mirabella, Marlene Morano, Kristy Morley, Bill Reaume, Trevor Redding, Kenneth Rieker, Jack Robbins, Margaret Rohde (MaR), Michael Rosengarten, Diana Rudloff, Steven Saffier, Michael Schall, Kurt Schwarz, Jennifer Sherwood, Vincent Smith, Frederic Strawbridge, Dan Sullivan, Jaime Thomas, Shannon Thompson, Anthony Uhrich, Marshall Walthew, Drew Weber, Scott Weidensaul.

Northampton County

Birders sought out a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** that was associating with **Mallards** at the Walnutport Canal. The identity of the bird was never in question, but the uncertain issue was its provenance. A potential new species for the county, it was first reported on eBird 10/3 (PP) and continued to be seen into early Dec when the canal froze. There were no signs of it having been kept in captivity. Local residents reported that the duck had been around a couple months.

The season total for the Little Gap Hawk Watch was 14,322. A new record for **Bald Eagle** was set at 335, which surpassed the previous high of 316 set in 2012. The highlight for the Little Gap banding station was a dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** caught 10/16 (BL). The banders also trapped and banded 2 **Golden Eagles** during the season. Notable passerines seen at the lookout were an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** 9/18 (MS), an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 9/2 (MS), and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/10 (MS). The latter species was also found at Mt Bethel Fens on Institute Rd. 9/20 (MSa).

Mourning and **Connecticut Warblers** are uncommon, sought after fall migrants. Three were located 3 this year, compared to 7 in 2015. A **Mourning Warbler** was found at Monacacy Nature Center Park 8/26-27 (LF) and **Connecticut Warbler** was seen at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 9/24 (MSa) and at Jacobsburg S.P. 10/2 (MSa, CH). The only **Rusty Blackbird**, a species of special concern, was a single at the Walnutport Canal 10/17 (AK).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Linda Freedman, Chris Hugosson, Andy Keister, Bob Lahr, Pam Pryor, Matt Sabatine (MSa).

Perry County

Any species of shorebird besides a Spotted Sandpiper is of note here, since there is no good shorebird habitat to be found in *Perry*. This is particularly true for the dry year experienced locally. There was one **Lesser Yellowlegs** seen at the Amity Hall River Access on the Juniata R. 8/7 (DH).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported on a farm at the intersection of Bucks Valley Rd. and Acker Rd. 10/4 (SJ). Although this species is undoubtedly present in fall, they are not often reported. A juv. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported in a tree overlooking a field along Waggoner's Gap Rd. 9/10 (TS). This would be significant if it could be shown that the bird was fledged in *Perry* and was not just a post breeding dispersal. This species was only confirmed as a breeder in one block in the western part of the county during the second Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas. (Of course, this bird may not even have been in *Perry*, since "along Waggoner's Gap Rd." could also refer to the road heading to Waggoner's Gap from *Cumberland*.)

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at the portion of SGL 170 north of the intersection of Rte. 850 and Miller's Gap Rd. 9/5 (AM, RK, VG), providing just the third fall record on eBird in the past ten years. There is also only one spring record on eBird over the same ten years. In what was shaping up to be an invasion year, up to 6 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported at Little Buffalo SP 10/15 (VG).

Of the less common warblers, a male **Connecticut Warbler** was at Miller's Gap 9/5 (VG, RK, AM), a first year female **Mourning Warbler** was photographed at SGL 170 north of the intersection of Rte. 850 and Miller's Gap Rd. 9/13 (EH), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at Little Buffalo SP 10/15 (VG, RD, CK, AT). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at the park 10/15 (VG, RD, CK, AT), seen in a large mixed sparrow flock at the wet field and brush area at the west end of the park. This was the first eBird record for this species at Little Buffalo. **Purple Finch** was reported at three locations, and seemed poised for some sort of winter invasion after being scarce for the last few years.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Rob Dickerson, Deuane Hoffman, Evan Huston, Steve Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes, Traci Sepkovic, Aden Troyer.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Successive heat waves combined with a lack of rain created extensive habitat for waders and shorebirds. There were excellent migrant flights in late Sep and on 10/2. Hurricane Matthew also brought an influx of migrants in its wake 10/8-9. For whatever reason conditions at TI 10/2 were so favorable that 94 species (TF) and 18 warbler species (JM) were seen. Shrimpy, the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that returned to the harbor at Pleasant Hill Park for eleven years, did not return this season (FW). R.I.P., Shrimpy. It should be noted that despite his nickname, he was never fed nor aided by the public.

Southbound **Snow Geese** were a bit early 10/1, but in very small numbers. Two **Brant** fed in the ball fields at POD 11/7-8 (FW, RI). A group of 17 **Mute Swans** at TI through most of Oct, and six at POD, made for an unusually high totals. A distinctive drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was at FDR 10/29-11/25 (FW, HP). This wigeon, now almost a yearly visitor, was joined by a "**Storm Wigeon**", the white-cheeked variant of **American Wigeon**, reminding

birders of fall 2015 when both species were also at FDR. Whether this was a coincidence or the result of the birds travelling together or merely the birds sharing a mutual fondness for FDR's ponds, we won't know. **Ring-necked Duck** arrived 9/24, approximately a month earlier than expected (RF). An early date for 3 **Common Mergansers** was 9/2 on the SR below Flat Rock Dam (KJ, ph.).

Philly birders experienced a minor "Patagonia Picnic table effect" as birders flocked to FDR in search of the Eurasian Wigeon. On a cement border of one pond, a preening **American Bittern** was photographed 10/30-11/1 (RK), and a **Common Gallinule** was also discovered 10/30 (DB). The gallinule stayed until at least 11/17 (RK). Although 11/17 is a late date there for this species, a much later record is on the books—one was observed 12/17/1967 by the late R. Dale Twining, whose records were digitized by Wyncote Audubon. A **Red-necked Grebe** seen and heard at DRT 11/13 was unexpected (BQ). Any talk of a decline in migrant **Snowy Egrets** was put to rest when large groups totaling close to 100 descended on TI, including a high count of 28 on 9/11 (GA, FW). Hurricane Matthew chased away the nine remaining Snowy Egrets. With the egrets were 8 **Little Blue Herons** 8/5 (LR) and 9/14 (AG). Several **Glossy Ibis**, now expected migrants, were spotted 8/24 and 9/24, but a juv. **White Ibis** flying around the TI impoundment 8/15 (HP) represented an exceptional sighting.

Again this fall we had a **Virginia Rail** and 2 **Sora** tarrying from summer, with the Sora seen daily until 9/10 (m.ob., ph.). After 8/27, presumably a second Virginia Rail was heard calling 10/16 (MD, JM). The **Red-shouldered Hawk** at the abandoned Island Green Country Club (IGCC) at least summered in Philly, since they were heard calling 8/28 and one bird was present 9/14 (AR). In northeast Philly three raptors provided excellent yard records for one observer. A **Rough-legged Hawk** made an early appearance 10/28 (FW). **Golden Eagle** was elsewhere in the Delaware Valley from 10/9-25, but 2 eagles made a fantastic addition to the yard list 10/26 (FW).

Given the exceptional conditions for waders, birders could find 10-12 species daily and occasionally up to 19, not including **American Woodcock** and **Wilson's Snipe**. Common waders such as **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** were at TI in the hundreds in early Aug, as were 74 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/10 (AG) and 110 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/11 (GA). An **American Golden-Plover** spent 9/16 at POD (FW, AR) and **Black-bellied Plovers** were at POD 9/17 (MD, FW) and at TI 9/13-19 (TC). Many groups of **Semipalmated Plovers**, numbering as high as 27, were seen daily at TI and at POD there were 30 on 8/2 (FW). Also until 10/3 at TI there were up to 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** 8/7 (AR, HM). Two **Sanderlings** lingered 9/7-19 (JM). A great find and a long-staying rarity at TI was a **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/26-9/11 (JM). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/6-10/14 increased to 3 by 9/14 (GA). **Western Sandpipers** were less common and intermittent 8/7-9/10. **Pectoral Sandpipers** enjoyed a long stay 8/5-10/22 with 29 Pectorals on 9/20 (SK) and 10/9 (NS). A lone **Dunlin** fattened up during Sep (FW) and the remaining 3 **Stilt Sandpipers** departed 10/9 after the hurricane. Five **Short-billed Dowitchers** stayed longer than usual 8/10-10/4, so 3 **Long-billed Dowitchers** 9/28-10/9 (JM) provided a close comparison. Last but not least, a **Wilson's Phalarope** first seen 8/30 (JM) remained until 9/7. On the mud flats of Philly, this was a very good season.

Although small migratory roosts of less than 100 **Chimney Swifts** were reported, the traditional brick grade school chimney roosts in Roxborough were not monitored this year. However, 3000 swifts were reported in the Chestnut Hill Towers Apartments on Stenton Ave. 9/14 (LJ). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in CW 10/6 (AB). At POD, a juv. **Red-headed Woodpecker** 9/24-28 (AR) provided the first record for that site which now boasts 244 species, and at TI a Red-headed Woodpecker briefly perched on a snag 10/2 (GA, ph.).

At Houston Meadow, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** stayed still long enough for a photo (KJ). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** departed later than usual - 3 were photographed at MA 10/15 (KJ) and at Woodland Cemetery 10/15 and 10/18 (DE, GA). After the hurricane, a "Phoebe fallout" was witnessed 10/10, with 23 **Eastern Phoebes** at Lemon Hill including one that was singing (HP). **Philadelphia Vireo** refueled at TI 9/30-10/2 (MD, ph.) and at POD where birders with the Bird Philly organization found another 10/8 (FW, NS). There are a number of Nov records for **Red-eyed Vireo** in the mid-Atlantic, but one in CW near Ellet St. was still a welcome surprise 11/8 (AB).

Common Ravens continued to be reported in the northwest of the city at MA 10/15 (KJ) and north of MA at the Andorra Natural Area 10/16 (KJ, ph.).

Along the DR ravens were at POD 11/11 and 11/26 (HP, FW), and at TI 9/6 (DO). It's only a matter of time until we have little ravens claiming Philly as their birthplace. A **Marsh Wren** at IGGC was a nice inland record 9/25 (TF). Eight reports of **American Pipit** from open areas along the DR represented an increase over previous years; 30 at POD 11/5 was the high count.

Red Square is a tiny green space at 18th and Cherry St. where 2 **Ovenbirds** lingered 8/18-10/14 (MSh), with one staying until 11/7 (JW, ph.). Sightings of only 5 **Blue-winged Warblers** total reflected their gradual decline here. Six **Tennessee Warblers** was the largest group 10/2 (JM) and a late individual at POD 10/22 represented a new late record (HP). The gradual increase in migrant and over-wintering **Orange-crowned Warblers** was documented at 6 locations, with at least 7 birds reported, beginning 10/2. A lovely male **Hooded Warbler**, the only one of the season, had an unusually long stay at TI 9/30-10/7 (AR, MD, ph.). "Warblers dripping from the trees" are five of the sweetest words bird lovers can hear. The cold front that passed through 10/2 brought 7 **Cape May Warblers** (JM), 18 **Northern Parulas** (AR), 28 **Palm Warblers** (AR), and over 150 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (m.ob.). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** didn't fill the trees as they used to. In the entire county, only 5 **Canada Warblers** and 4 **Wilson's Warblers** were reported.

The weedy fields along the DR are always attractive to a variety of sparrows, but 2 in particular were exceptional finds this season. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** stopped briefly at DRT 10/23 (KS), and several photos at POD 10/23 (FW) documented our first **Lark Sparrow** since 2009. Mt. Moriah Cemetery, a very worthy but under-birded location along Darby Creek, produced 45 species including a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 10/23 (GA). Finding a **Dickcissel** at POD 10/2 (FW) was a good thing, but documenting 2 sitting on the same branch was even more noteworthy 10/2 (AR, ph.). Possibly one of these birds was subsequently photographed 10/22 (HP) and last reported 10/28 (JM). POD has been a fairly dependable location for fall Dickcissel since 2011. Yet a third Dickcissel was at Houston Meadow in the far northwest of the city 10/3 (MSe). Undoubtedly these three rare birds arrived with the wave of migrants 10/2.

The predicted winter finch irruption had not reached Philly by Nov; however, there were multiple reports of single **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. No Pine Siskins or any of the rare northern finches were reported.

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Pike County

Birds that may be common at certain times of year in other counties are not so common in *Pike*. An example is **Great Egret**. On 8/18, there were 3 Great Egrets at Pecks Pond (CB). Other reports were of individuals observed at Milford Beach 9/14 (AW) and at Dingman's Ferry 8/23 (RI), all along the Delaware R. One explanation for these sightings might be as simple as an increase in birder coverage in *Pike*.

Golden Eagle is a good find anywhere off the ridge in fall. In Dingman Twp. east of Shohola WMA, one was found 11/6 (AK). A **Northern Harrier** cruised over Shohola WMA 9/17 (PS). Common migrant shorebirds are also tough to find in *Pike*. The **Semipalmated Plover** at Lake Wallenpaupack 9/5 was a superb find for the county (JC). Four **Common Nighthawks** flew over Marshalls Creek Rd. in Delaware SF 8/15 (JC) and a single nighthawk was at Pecks Pond 8/18 (CB). In Eagle Path, there was a report of 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at a feeder 9/4 (RG), an adult bird feeding a juvenile. The observer stated that the Red-heads were seen over a period of four weeks, strongly suggest nesting in the area.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher can be a tough migrant to find anywhere in the state. In *Pike*, it was recorded at Pocono Environmental Education Center 9/3 (MC) and at Grey Towers 9/14 (JD). A very late **Northern Waterthrush**

was photographed at Sunrise Lake 9/24 (TO). An **Ovenbird** was at Sunrise Lake 9/26 (TO). Another tough fall migrant, a **Mourning Warbler** was at Pecks Pond 9/11 (JC).

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville Desilting Basin (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

eBird data were used extensively to compile this report, and all birders who posted *Schuylkill* sightings to eBird have been listed as observers. That list is significantly longer in the fall compared to other seasons due to the popularity of Hawk Mountain, where many birders travel in the fall to see the hawk migration. Since North Lookout is in *Schuylkill*, the data obtained at this location were used in compiling this narrative even though the visitor center is in *Berks*. Sightings at that location not attributed to a single individual have been noted as Hawk Mountain Data (HMD).

Based on data submitted, it was apparent that *Schuylkill* continues to have excellent coverage along its southern border. Regular monitoring of Swatara State Park (BR), LVD (m.ob.), SAL (DD, BR), South Manheim Township (DR), and HMS (HMD, m.ob.) provides a fairly comprehensive picture of birds passing through the county. Combined with regular postings from more northerly sites such as APWS, TSP, KRM (JoD, JD) and LLSP (TB) to the north and various sites in-between (DK, SW), the data are fairly extensive. The non-raptor data generated by the many observers at HMS, led predominately by Rudy Keller, provides insight into the migration season through *Schuylkill* of many songbirds. At this location, daily observations are made of migrating birds, and these data define the early and late dates of many through-migrants both raptor and non-raptors quite well.

With some exceptions, waterfowl species are generally limited in *Schuylkill* in both abundance and frequency, which was true again this year. Very unusual was a flock of 34 **Brant** flying over the Acopian Center at Hawk Mountain 10/22 (DH). A pair of tagged **Trumpeter Swans** (Z603 and Z675) that appeared this spring continued in the area at Sweet Arrow Lake (DD). A single **Tundra Swan** was at TSP 11/7, the only report this season. For the first time in at least five years, **Blue-winged Teal** were reported in the fall; 2 were at LVD 9/9 (DH). Eight **Green-winged Teal** were at LVD 10/5 (JD), also the only ones reported this year. **Buffleheads** were spotted at two locations: at LLSP 11/4 and 11/17 (TB) and at SAL 11/4 (DD) and 11/15 (DR). The only **Hooded Mergansers** reported were at SAL 10/26 (BR). **Common Merganser**, either single or in pairs, were spotted at three locations: at LLSP 8/26-10/11 (TB), at SAL 11/15 (DR) and at HM 9/23 and 11/1 (HMD).

Single **Red-throated Loons** were seen migrating over HMS 10/23 (MA) and 11/11 (HMD). This species is occasional in the county. **Common Loons**, commonly seen migrating past HMS, are also normally spotted on the local reservoirs in the fall. After being absent from the local lakes last year, only a single bird was found this year, at SAL 11/24 (BR). Reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** consisted of 3 at LVD 10/5 (JD) and singles at LLSP 10/6, 10/11, and 10/21 (TB). **Great Egret**, uncommon in the fall, was reported at 8/21 at APWS (JoD) and a fly-by at HMS 9/24 (HMD). Since HM raptor data are published elsewhere, they will not be discussed here except to mention a notable sighting of a **Rough-legged Hawk** at HM 11/22 (HMD), the first in two years.

Shorebirds constitute another group that are not abundant in the county. Of note was the seasonal distribution of these birds this year. With one exception, all shorebirds were reported from the extreme northern portion of the county. Found only occasionally, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at KRM 9/16 (JoD, JD). Only 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported: one at Van Hoekelen Retention Ponds near McAdoo 9/7 (JD) and the other at LVD (DH) 11/6. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at KRM 8/13 and 9/17 (JD). **Least Sandpipers**, the only peep typically seen in Aug and early Sep, came through late. The earliest report was at Van Hoekelen Retention Pond where 3 were found 9/7 (JD).

Two more were at KRM 9/16 (JoD, JD) and a single was at APWS 10/10 (JD).

Schuykill is one of the sites for on-going research into of **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. This was the 20th year of a research project headed by Scott Weidensaul examining the saw-whet movement through Pennsylvania. The survey is conducted at a number of locations in the state, including one in *Schuykill* at Hidden Valley near Freidensburg. The movement of Saw-whets is cyclical across years, and 2016 was expected to be the peak year in a four year cycle. This year, 175 birds were captured and banded compared with 75 in 2015, 104 in 2014, and 65 in 2013. Although expectations were high, they were a good bit short of the 327 banded in 2012 (SW). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at TSP, the first in the county since 2010. A **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded in Orwigsburg 12/2, but the homeowners said it had come to their feeder most of the fall (SW). A total of 6 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** passed HMS 9/16-10/16 (HMD, JM, LI, MT). This species is normally hard to find here.

Also uncommon, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at HMS 8/27 (RK). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is another species considered rare in *Schuykill*, but was reported 3 times. A single was seen on consecutive days in Frackville 9/21-22 (TB), another was at LLSP 10/2 (TB), and a third was at HMS 10/19 (HMD, DR, JC). **American Pipits** are unusual in *Schuykill* but were seen 3 times at HMS: one 10/23 (AA, CC), 3 on 10/29 (MW), and 3 on 11/5 (SG). **Snow Bunting**, seen in low numbers most years, was reported 3 times at HMS: one 11/10 (HMD), 18 on 11/15 (HMD), and one 11/17 (HMD, DR).

Twenty-six species of warblers were observed this fall, one fewer than last year. Overall, they passed through with little deviation from the averages. Always notable, 2 single **Connecticut Warblers** were reported: one on the Bartram Trail outside Auburn 9/6 (KG) and one in Wayne Twp 9/26 (SW). For the second year in a row, a **Summer Tanager** was noted at HMS, this year 9/12 (RK). Although they've been documented breeding in the county, **Bobolinks** are seldom reported, so one at HMS 8/23 (RK) was notable. A single **Red Crossbill** was seen at HMS 11/17 (HMD) where **Pine Siskins** were seen fairly frequently 10/3-11/25 (m.ob.). Not seen in *Schuykill* since 2012, an **Evening Grosbeak** was at HMS 11/12 (KW, SM).

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Snyder County

No report

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Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Bluebird Hill Farm (BHF), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Monument (Flight 93 NM), Hidden Acres Farm (HAF), Laurel Hill (LH), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

No great rarities were found this season although noteworthy were a summering **Ring-necked Duck** and a late breeding **Black-billed Cuckoo**. Autumn was fairly mild and there were a few good migrant fallouts. Several birds had nice high count numbers.

All of the waterfowl reports were from SL. Four **Gadwalls** were reported 10/21 (AM), and the only **American Wigeon** was seen 10/11 (AM). **Blue-winged Teal** were present from 8/25 (AM) until 9/18 when 15 were tallied (LS). Three **Northern Shovelers** visited the lake 9/30 (AM), and up to 4 **Green-winged Teal** were present 10/11-19 (AM). Perhaps the most unusual waterfowl was the male **Ring-necked Duck** that summered and was present until at least 9/11 (JP). A single **Lesser Scaup** was seen 10/22 (AM). **Bufflehead** had a slightly better showing with 22 on 11/12 (AM). Mergansers included 7 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/12 and 6 **Common Mergansers** 11/12. Eight **Ruddy Ducks** 9/29 (ST) were earliest, 24 reported 10/22 (AM).

Up to 4 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at HAF 8/14-10/15 were possibly holdovers from the previous autumn's Game Commission stockings. **Ruffed Grouse** is becoming less common, so the 5 near Stoneycreek 9/20 (ED) and the 3 flushed at PP 11/16 were encouraging. Four **Common Loons** were at QR 10/11 (PL). A decent group of 8 **Pied-billed Grebes** was at SL 11/21 (AM). The only **Great Egret** was in BA 8/2 (JP), and the latest **Green Heron** was one at Glenmoor 8/29 (LG).

Black Vultures are still uncommon in the county but more likely at lower elevations like the Fairhope Area, where 3 were found 9/27 (RO). **Bald Eagles** were widely reported from all areas of the county. A juvenile **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed sparring with a flock of **Blue Jays** at PP 10/3. This behavior has been seen here before, in which the hawk swoops and then the jays mob making a unique guttural call, with interactions lasting over 30 minutes. Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** graced HAF 9/3 (SD).

A **Sora** was seen at north end of SL 9/24 (JP) and 9/28 (ST). The following shorebirds were at SL unless otherwise noted. SL's mudflats were greatly diminished due to encroaching vegetation. Twenty-eight **Killdeer** were at QR 10/12 (SD). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen 9/17 (JP), and 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted 9/11 (JP) and one 9/24 (K&KH). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** on 9/24 (JP) built up to 4 on 9/27 (AJ). Five **Lesser Yellowlegs** on 9/5 (LS) was down to one by 9/11 (JP). There were 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** on 9/1 and one 9/9 (JP). A **Dunlin** was present 9/24. Peeps were 3 **Least Sandpipers** 9/3 and 9/11, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/9, and a late **White-rumped Sandpiper** at QR 10/12 (SD). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at BHF 10/22 (PL). The largest group of **Ring-billed Gulls** at SL was 250 on 11/19; they were joined by a **Herring Gull** 11/21 (AM).

Quite unexpected was a recently fledged **Black-billed Cuckoo** at PP at the late date of 9/20. The bird had a very short tail, was calling, and allowed a close approach. A young bird with full length tail feathers was found nearby 10/2 (JP). HAF also had **Black-billed Cuckoo** 9/4 and 9/12 (SD). A nice flock of 30 **Common Nighthawks** was found along Rt. 31 at Stoneycreek crossing on the evening of 8/28 (JP). Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at HAF 9/4 (SD). A flock of 50 **Chimney Swifts** graced BHF 10/8 (PL). Two young **Red-headed Woodpeckers** visited a feeder near SL until Oct (*vide* JP). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at HAF 9/12 (SD) and LH Summit 9/15 (MS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was a nice sighting at SL 11/12 (BO).

An early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PP 8/14 (JP, NC). A nice count of 8 **Eastern Phoebes** were migrating at HAF 9/14 (SD, TD). **White-eyed Vireos** are uncommon in migration, so one at HAF 9/14 (SD, TD) and one at PP 10/3 (JP) were welcomed. **Philadelphia Vireos** were at SL 8/27 and PP 9/16 (JP). Two **Horned Larks** reported at Flight 93 on 8/9 (JV) were a reminder of the excellent grassland habitat at the site that is being rapidly lost due to rampant tree planting by the NPS.

It was a good and early flight for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** with birds first at PP 8/14, and at least 10 there 9/10 and 5 on 10/10. Other reports were from QR 10/12 (SD) and Fairhope 9/28 (RO). **Brown Creepers** were reported at LH summit 9/15 and PP 11/10 (AP, JP). Two pairs of **Carolina Wrens** at PP were quite unusual, with the mountaintop winters often causing mortality and their absence for extended periods. Both **Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were widely reported with the latter clearing out by late Oct, and some of the former wintering. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was on Crumb Rd. 8/28 (T&JK) and heard at PP 9/28 (JP). Although quite common, the 165 **American Robins** in a grassy area of about one acre at PP 10/29 was quite impressive. Ten **Gray Catbirds** 8/27 at SL (AJ) and 9/13 at PP were nice

counts; one at PP 11/16 was fairly late (JP). **Northern Mockingbird** is also uncommon in *Somerset*, so reports from SL 9/24 (AM) and CA 8/1-8/14 (BO) were appreciated. There were excellent numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** reported; some of the better numbers were 64 at HAF 9/4 (SD) and 80 or more at PP both 9/13 and 10/12.

Twenty-four species of warbler were reported. **Ovenbirds** were widely reported with a group of 5 at PP 9/13 providing the high count. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were early migrants at PP 8/14 (NC, JP). A **Northern Waterthrush** was a nice find at SL 8/27 (AJ). **Tennessee Warblers** beginning 9/4 at HAF (SD) and **Nashville Warblers** 9/13 at PP were present until mid-Oct. **Connecticut Warbler** was noted at HAF 9/4, 9/12, and 9/13 (all SD). A **Mourning Warbler** was also at HAF 9/4 and one was on Crumb Rd. 8/28 (T&JK). **Common Yellowthroats** were common with a maximum of 15 at PP 9/13 (JP). A **Hooded Warbler** was still on LH Summit 9/15 (MS). **American Redstarts** were sporadic with 3 at PP 8/14, which was a good overall migration day. **Cape May Warblers** were seen from 9/10-10/3 at PP, mainly in Norway spruce. **Magnolia Warblers** were widely seen and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at HAF and PP. **Yellow Warblers** are harder to detect after singing stops in the summer, so reports 8/1 at HAF (SD) and 9/17 at SL (K&KH) were good. Fifteen **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at PP 8/14, a big early push. Two **Blackpoll Warblers** were at PP 9/13 and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were present from Aug to mid-Oct. **Palm Warblers** were a bit early at HAF 9/11 (TD, SD) and PP 9/12, but the prize went to the 6 at SL 9/17 (K&KH). **Pine Warblers** were at SL 8/27 and 8/30 (AJ). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen in many locales from 9/3 to end of period, including a nice count of 10 at QR 10/11 (PL). Hard to find in the county, a **Prairie Warbler** was at HAF 9/4 (SD). **Black-throated Green Warbler**, one of the most common migrants at PP, was seen from mid-Aug through at least 10/10.

Henslow's Sparrows are another grassland bird at Flight 93 NM; 5 were counted 8/7 (SP). **Fox Sparrows** were at PP 11/9. **Lincoln's Sparrows** had a good showing at PP with 3 on 9/26, 6 on 10/2, 4 on 10/3, and 2 on 10/10. They were also at SL 9/25 (ST) and LH State Park 10/15 (KS). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were at PP 10/10, where big numbers of **White-throated Sparrows**, including 40 on 10/10, were reported. An early **Dark-eyed Junco** was at SL 8/30 (AJ). The last **Scarlet Tanagers** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at PP were 10/2. Numbers of **Indigo Bunting** were not impressive with a high of only 10 on 9/13. Two **Bobolinks** were at SL 9/9 and 5 were flybys at PP (JP). **Common Grackle** flocks were only reported to about 8/21. **Baltimore Oriole** was last seen in 3T Falls Area 9/20 (LG). A nice flock of 50 **American Goldfinches** was at Flight 93 NM 10/14 (EL).

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Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Cherry Township (CT), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Hunter's Lake (HL), Lake Makoma (LM), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Shady Nook SGL 66 (SN), Splashdam Pond (SDP), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), World's End State Park (WESP).

As usual, the reports for the county were sporadic. Most of the reports for the season cover Aug and Sep and only a single report (other than the author's) for Oct and Nov. The weather remained generally seasonable without any major events. Late Nov did see cold weather with a small amount of snow on the ground. All observations are the author's except where noted.

Wood Duck numbers peaked in Sep with 37 across the county 9/16-17. A **Gadwall** was a good find on Kast's Pond 11/13. Probably the same **Gadwall** was still present there over the Thanksgiving weekend. Two **American Black Ducks** were also present on both occasions. Two female-type **Blue-winged Teal** were on Shady Nook Lake at SN 10/23. Also present was a season high of 45 **Ring-necked Ducks**. A female **Common Merganser** was seen with an immature bird in WESP 8/26 (BB). The highlight of the season was a **Red-throated Loon** on EML 11/12.

Sep was the best month for raptors, as usual. A high of 16 **American Kestrels** were seen throughout the county 9/16-17. Two **Ospreys**, **Bald Eagle**, and **Northern Harrier** were among the 8 other raptors observed over that two-day period. **Rough-legged Hawk** was found twice; in CT 11/5 and again at SDP 11/13. The **Sandhill Crane** family nesting in CT was last seen 9/17. No cranes were reported during the state wide survey in Nov. A **Ring-billed Gull** represented an uncommon observation on EML 8/10. A high of 5 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported at LM 8/27 (SM). The same location had reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** 8/3 (CK) and 8/27 (SM).

A lone **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was on DM 9/3. An **Alder Flycatcher** was at LM 8/3 (CK). **Eastern Phoebe** was the most abundant flycatcher during the period with a high of 14 seen over the Labor Day weekend. **Blue Jay** numbers peaked 9/16-17 with 50 seen across the county. Five **Winter Wrens** present at SDP 10/10 made for a good count (DG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** moved through the county in early Oct, with 8 counted in the county 10/8-9. **Eastern Bluebird** was missed until 11 were found in CT 11/12. **Brown Thrasher** was last reported 9/10 and **Gray Catbird** 9/18. **Cedar Waxwing** continued a strong showing into Nov with 33 individuals reported in multiple flocks at multiple locations 11/12-13.

A **Northern Waterthrush** was found at LM 8/3 (CK). Migrant warblers began to appear over the Labor Day weekend. Four **Tennessee** and 7 **Cape May Warblers** were observed in the DM area. Two **Northern Parulas** were also good finds. Two **Pine Warblers** were reported at LM 9/20 (SM). Twelve **Palm Warblers** at SN 10/9 was a large number. Twelve **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were also present. Six species of sparrows were present as well at SN 10/8-9 including 4 **Field Sparrows** and 2 each of **Lincoln's**, **Swamp** and **White-crowned Sparrow**. The first **American Tree Sparrow** was spotted 11/5 at SN. Small flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** were still present in CT 11/12-13.

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Susquehanna County

Susquehanna experienced above average temperatures in each of the four months this season. Although comparison of monthly precipitation to historical averages was mixed, in aggregate the numbers were about normal. Winter teases residents early in this northern county. Our first flakes fell on 10/27, and an unusually strong lake effect storm dropped up to eighteen inches of snow in portions of the county 11/20-22. A total of 149 species were reported on eBird during the four-month period. Birding through this season seemed rather lackluster with two notable exceptions: the brief visit of a **Brown Pelican** and multiple reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**.

The tale of *Susquehanna's* first record of a **Brown Pelican** is a classic: jubilation for a few, tears in their beers for the rest. On Sunday 8/21, a late afternoon phone call was received by a local birder from a cottager reporting an unusual bird sitting on their dock at Lake Chrisann. Dropping everything, husband and wife raced to the scene, calling others with the news on their way. The bird was identified as a juv. **Brown Pelican**, which had likely put down on the lake to escape heavy wind and rain from earlier that afternoon. Thankfully, an eBirder with a camera was able to respond quickly to the news, arrived at the location, and photos were taken (TN). Shortly after posing for pictures, the bird took an aerial lap around the lake and then flew off. Only shortly thereafter did other birders arrive. They made a concerted effort to check all other nearby bodies of water for the bird before dusk, but the pelican was never relocated.

With the number of **Red-headed Woodpecker** observations reported in Pennsylvania south of I-80, and the generally warming temperatures, the species' arrival in this northern tier county has been anticipated ever since an imm. bird was spotted in 2012 (JS). This Aug, an adult visited a suet feeder at a private residence and was confirmed by the homeowner's photographs (*vide* DA). A second adult was seen and photographed near Williams Pond 8/26 (TN, DA). Lastly, an imm. was spotted at a nearby location 9/7 (BM). Hope is running high that *Susquehanna* has the beginnings of a resident population of these stunningly beautiful birds.

Numbers and variety of waterfowl were modest this fall, with reports of

scattered migrants mixed in with local breeders. **Hooded Mergansers**, **Buffleheads**, **Ruddy Ducks**, and **Pied-billed Grebes** were later in arriving and fewer in number than expected. A flock of **Ring-necked Ducks** grew from 4 to 28 on Sterns Lake 10/12-11/3 (EB), a high number for this relatively small body of water. The post-breeding dispersal of **Great Egrets** continued through the first half of Aug with 14 reports from five locations around the county. This was the second year of a strong showing of this species in this area.

A **Northern Goshawk** was seen and identified by a hunter 11/28 (BS *vide* DS). A **Golden Eagle** was observed feeding on a deer carcass near Montrose 11/20 (L&DG *vide* RB). Shorebirds were also thin this year with the county's muddiest location, Dump Pond, seeing the most visitors. A particularly large flock of 30 **Killdeer** spent a week in the fields surrounding Mountain View High School 8/22-31 (DS). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was an excellent find at Williams Pond 8/26 (DA). A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was present in a yard 10/3 (JSt). Three early **Horned Larks** were observed 11/26 (NB).

This year's irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was very noticeable with many sightings by multiple observers across the county. The season's fall warbler confusion had nothing to do with identification but everything to do with how few were seen. The consensus of birders was that migrating warblers seen were well below expected levels. Southbound sparrows did present themselves nicely, however. Visits to multiple backyard feeders were made by **Fox Sparrows**, **White-throated Sparrows**, and **White-crowned Sparrows**. Productive locations in recent years for **Vesper Sparrow** and **Lincoln's Sparrow** were active again in 2016, as these two handsome species trend toward annual checkmarks on many a year list.

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Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Fisherman's Cove Road (FCR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City Marina (OCM), Rhoades Farm near KL (RF).

The species count for the period was 155, down from 160 last year. The only **Tundra Swan** was at BHNS 11/27 (KG, JS). Similar to last year but more pronounced, both numbers and variety of ducks on KL and JL were off, as there was very little adverse weather to put them down. **Common Loon** was not recorded until 11/24 (JS, KG). The first **Double-crested Cormorant** was on the AR 8/7 (GE) and the only **Great Egret** of the year was along the AR south of Franklin 9/1 (JH).

The last **Turkey Vulture** was recorded 10/24 (GE) and the first **Northern Harrier** of the fall was at RF 8/25 (NK, MK). A **Forster's Tern** cruised around KL for about 30 minutes 10/29 (GE). A very late **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported 10/15 (NB). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** responded to a taped call 10/8 (GE, JW) and 3 responded in OCSP 11/3 (GE, JW). The OCM **Common Nighthawk** Migration Count was conducted 8/13-9/15 and recorded a total of 306, better than the 186 last year, but still below average. A **Merlin** was seen at the OCM 8/15 (GE, MK, NK, JW) and also at BHNS 10/2 (KG, JS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at BHNS 9/6-7 (KG, JS). The only **Acadian Flycatcher** was at FCR 8/1 (GE), the only **Willow Flycatcher** report was 8/20 (RS), and the only **Least Flycatcher** was at BHNS 9/9 (KG, JS). **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at BHNS 9/24 (KG, JS). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made its first appearance 9/1 and remained throughout the season. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports covered 9/21 (MK, NK) to 10/1 (KG, JS). A single **Snow Bunting** was at RF 11/20 (GE).

Except for a **Brewster's Warbler** photographed at a yard in Oil City (MK, NK), warbler migration was unspectacular. **American Tree Sparrow** returned 11/9 (KG, JS), and the last **Chipping Sparrow**, 10/29 (NB). A single **Vesper Sparrow**, *Venango's* first fall record since 2012, was seen in a corn stubble field at RF 10/29 (GE, RS). **Fox Sparrow** moved through 10/4-11/21 (NB) and **Lincoln's Sparrow** 9/27-11/12 (RS). The first **White-throated Sparrow** returned 9/24 (GE), and **White-crowned Sparrow** moved through 10/21 (MK, NK) to 11/30 (RS). The only **Pine Siskin** reported was 10/4 (MK, NK).

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Chapman Dam State Park (CD), Kinzua Dam (KD), Newbold Estate (NE).

This fall's weather was unusually warm and rainy, resulting in unusual timing for some migrants, such as 6 early **Ring-necked Ducks** 10/15 (SD). **Pied-billed Grebes** were present in numbers, with up to 10 at AS 10/22 (SD). Waterfowl were generally sparse, though, except for a flock of 85 **Hooded Mergansers** at CD 11/22 (SD).

Single **Northern Goshawks** were seen at AS 10/15 (SD) and on the ANF 7/24 (DW), away from known breeding sites. A **Sandhill Crane** pair with colt was seen into early Aug, between AS and adjacent marshy areas in New York (m.ob.). It's unclear on which side of the state line this pair nested; if in Pennsylvania, it would be a *Warren* first.

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a major invasion year and were found almost everywhere in the county. Otherwise, passerine migration seemed rather poor this fall. Forest Service banding stations on ANF caught many fewer warblers, thrushes, and vireos than in most years. Cape May Warblers were noticeably absent, and **Blackpoll** and **Tennessee** warblers noticeably sparse. Exceptions included record numbers of **Bay-breasted** and numerous **Black-throated Blue warblers** (m.ob.). Of note were a very early **Philadelphia Vireo** at AS 8/19 (SD) and another was very late on the ANF 10/2 (SS). The very unusual lack of Nov snow might have explained a very late **Gray Catbird** and a **Common Yellowthroat** at AS 11/25 (SD), and a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** accompanying 70 **Cedar Waxwings** at NE 11/15 (SD).

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Washington County

Locations: Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Peters Lake (PL), Peterswood Park (PP), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Counts of **Canada Goose** around the Glass Hill Rd area topped out at 400 on 11/30 (FK). A flock of 15 **Tundra Swans** over North Strabane Twp. 11/21 (GG) preceded the larger push of swans that came in Dec. The only report of **Gadwall** was a flock of 6 near BENT 11/27 (RI). An impressive tally of 141 **Mallards** was made at CL 11/20 (RG). Ten **Blue-winged Teal** were early at BENT 8/21 (RI) but the only other report was 3 at CL 10/8 (JF). A **Northern Shoveler** appeared at the AMD pond on Hahn Rd., North Strabane Twp. 11/9 (MV) and remained to at least 11/28. This species is rare in fall here. **Green-winged Teal** was reported only from BENT 9/25 (RI) and CL 9/2 (LF). Four **Ring-necked Ducks** at CL 10/24 (JF, LF) were a bit unexpected for the date. The only reports of both **Bufflehead** and **Hooded Merganser** came from Lake Joann 11/4 (GG). Two **Common Mergansers** put down on a pond near BENT 11/27 (RI), and a count of **Ruddy Duck** was 47 10/30 (FK).

Up to 3 **Great Egrets** were reported periodically at CL 8/1-9/26 (m.ob.), one of which might have been the same that showed up at nearby Boone Res. 9/21-23 (GG). Another apparently shuttled back and forth between Lake Joann and Timber Lake 9/29-10/8 (GG). One was also at Cherry Valley Res. 9/11 (MJ). Representing the second record for *Washington*, but perhaps increasing in sw. Pennsylvania around the Mon Valley and vicinity, a flock of 5 **Black Vultures** was noted over Peters Twp. 11/3 (GG). An **Osprey** held on at PL to at least 10/24 (GG). Many reports of **Bald Eagle** were made from Sep to

Nov, including one out of place over HSP 11/13 (FK), probably a migrant on the move. **Northern Harrier** was seen in the grasslands of Robinson Twp. on the late summer date of 8/25 (FK, LN), and another was seen in the farmlands around Muse 11/14 (FK).

A **Virginia Rail** was still at GCW as of 10/9 (AP). A **Sora** was nicely photographed at a small pond in the Beagle Club Rd grasslands of Robinson Twp. 8/6 (FK). Up to 120 **American Coots** staged at a pond near BENT in Nov (RI).

By far and away the best shorebirds of the season were 2 well-described juvenile **Western Sandpipers** at a pond near BENT 9/11 (RI), which represented just the second record for *Washington*; the previous record was a single bird at Boone Res 8/21-22/2005. Aside from these birds, however, shorebirds were hard to come by. Top count of **Killdeer** near BENT was 110 on 9/25 (RI). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at CL 10/24-27 (JF) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at BENT 8/7 (RI) were the only of their kind reported. **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted at three locations through 9/11 (m.ob.). A few **Least Sandpipers** were seen around BENT and CL through 9/17 (RI, JF, et al.).

Last of just 3 reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was made at HSP 9/20 (FK). **Barred Owl** was noted at Peters Twp. 8/14 (GG) and at CC 10/25 (JF). Reports of **Common Nighthawk** included 11 over North Strabane Twp. 8/29 (eBird), 70 over Houston 8/31 (RT), and 3 at BCIBA 9/19 (RI, LC). A **Merlin** was noted at R4 on 11/2 (RI); this location is not far from Washington Cemetery where Merlin is often a winter resident.

Late **Eastern Phoebe**s included singles near Muse 11/4 (FK) and at GCW 11/22 (RG). Three reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** included one at BCIBA 9/14-19 (LC, RI), one at WP 9/15 (LC), and one at PP 9/17 (JF). **Common Ravens** were noted in no fewer than eight locations throughout the season, including one at PL 10/12 (GG). Multiple birds were noted near California throughout late Oct and Nov (AT). A **Purple Martin** flew over the HSP grasslands 8/21 (GM). Many reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (away from HSP where they are year round residents) began with one along the Montour Trail in Cecil Twp. 9/4 (fide GG). At HSP the local population was greatly augmented by incoming wintering birds with as many as 10 reported there 10/1 (RT). A **Marsh Wren** was located at GCW 9/14 (LC). **Veery** was noted at WP 9/9 (LC) and at PP 9/17 (JF). Four reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were made 9/26-10/6 (m.ob.), primarily from WP and nearby. **Swainson's Thrush** was reported 11 times through 10/6, these mostly from WP and PP (m.ob.). One or 2 **Hermit Thrushes** were at WP 10/14-20 (LC).

Last **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen at Mingo Creek County Park 9/4 (FK). The budworm warblers were not well reported. **Tennessee** and **Bay-breasted Warbler** were both found only at WP 9/6 (LC) and at BCIBA 9/19 (LC, RI), and **Cape May Warbler** was reported twice, at HSP 9/10 and 9/10 (FK). **Magnolia Warbler**, on the other hand, was exceptionally well reported, with at least 26 found 8/30-9/29 (m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was a rare find for Sep at BCIBA 9/14 (LC). A late **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Cecil Twp. 10/5 (FK), and **Blackpoll Warbler** was still at GCW 10/9 (AP). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** also made it into Oct at WP 10/6 (LC). Two reports of **Palm Warbler** included one near Muse 9/17 (FK) and one at GCW 10/14 (GM). Last **Black-throated Green Warblers** were 2 at Cecil Twp. 10/5 (FK). A **Wilson's Warbler** at PP 9/17 (JF) was a nice find.

A sparrow quickly retreating through the reeds at GCW 10/14 was believed by the observer to be a Nelson's Sparrow, but it was not seen well enough to confirm and was not relocated (GM). Sparrows that were confirmed at GCW that day included 2 **Savannah Sparrows** and at least 40 **Swamp Sparrows** (GM). Last reports of both **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were made at HSP 8/21 (GM). Reports of **Fox Sparrow** included one at HSP 11/13 and 2 at GCW 11/22 (RG).

One each of **Indigo Bunting** and **Bobolink** tarried at GCW 10/9 (AP). Providing just the third record for *Washington*, a **Dickcissel** was an unexpected surprise at the HSP grasslands 8/20 (ph. FK). The bird could not be relocated the next day or thereafter despite attempts by a few observers. The count of **Red-winged Blackbirds** at GCW 10/14 was at least 300 (GM). Four **Rusty Blackbird** were at GCW 10/14 (GM) and one at PP 11/22-28 (JF). There were 5 reports of **Purple Finch** around the county 9/20-11/15 (m.ob.) but the only **Pine Siskin** was one at a Peters Twp. feeder 11/3 (GG).

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Pat Hutchinson, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Lauren Nagoda, Aidan Place, Kate St. John (KSJ), Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

Locations: Prompton State Park (PSP), White Oak Pond (WOP).

The waterfowl highlight of the season was a juv. **Brant** photographed at WOP 11/1 (CF, VG), which represented the county's first eBird record of the species. Other notable sightings include one **Blue-winged Teal** at WOP 11/1 and one **Ruddy Duck** at Lake Ariel 10/31 (CF, VG). Both were the year's first report of each. Two **Black Vultures**, not often seen in *Wayne*, were near Lake Wallenpaupack 10/31 (CF, VG). The last **Broad-winged Hawk** was soaring, southbound at Buckingham Landing 9/6 (RK). Shorebird sightings included 4 **Least Sandpipers**, 3 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Miller Pond 8/15 (BL). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported near Keen Lake 10/8 (BP) and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at WOP 11/1 (CF, VG).

Two **American Pipits** were at Cricket Hill Golf Club 11/8 (SG). Nineteen species of warblers were reported. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through the county, with one at PSP 9/13 (RN) and 2 at SGL 310 on 9/25 (NF). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at a private residence north of Honesdale 9/23 (CF) and 6 were at PSP 9/25 (JC). The year's only **Wilson's Warbler** was at a private residence near Honesdale 9/21 (BL). The season's only report of breeding **Mourning Warbler** was a first year individual photographed 8/12 near Alder Marsh Pond at SGL 159 (JJ).

American Tree Sparrows were first reported this season at a private residence north of Honesdale 11/1 (CF, VG, JH), marking the county's earliest fall arrival date in eBird for this species. A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was spotted at the same location 10/1 (CF). An adult male **Evening Grosbeak** was photographed at the feeders of a private residence near Honesdale 8/3-4 (MS). The last eBird report of this species in *Wayne* was Dec 2004.

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclchu76@gmail.com**, Jon Corcoran, Chris Fischer, Nate Fronk, Vern Gauthier, Scott Graber, John Harvey, Rick Keyser, Barbara Leo, Richard Nugent, Bud Poole, Mrs. Southerton.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Beaver Run Reservoir Rte. 380 overlook (BRR-380), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property, Murrysville (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Love Hollow (LH), Latrobe Reservoir a.k.a. Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Pump Station Road, Delmont (PSR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT), WHT Delmont parking to Trees Mill (WHT-D), WHT Trees Mill to Beaver Run Reservoir (WHT-BR), WHT Sara Steele parking to Loyalhanna Creek (WHT-S).

A shorebird found during the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club Big Sit held at KSP 10/9 generated excitement and required a quite a bit of leg work to track down its identification (DB). The bird was well photographed and first thought to be a Baird's Sandpiper, which would have been added as the 308th species on the *Westmoreland* list. With assistance from Paul Hess and Mike Fialkovich, photographs were shared with shorebird experts Jon Dunn, Ed Kwator, Geoff Malosh, and Jerry McWilliams, who all concluded it was a juv. **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and therefore not a new *Westmoreland* species; nevertheless, it was only the second white-rump for *Westmoreland* (DB).

Warm weather prevailed deep into the season and resulted in very modest reporting of waterfowl. The high count for **Canada Goose** was 290 at WHT-BR 9/27 (KB). The high count of several reports of **Wood Duck** was 10 at KSP 9/24 (MJ). Among limited reports, high counts included 15 **Gadwall** and 11 **American Wigeon** at LR 11/8 (AM), and 9 **American Black Ducks** at LR 11/25 (AM). High counts of 26 **Blue-winged Teal** and 4 **Northern Shovelers** were made at WHT-BR 10/8 (KB). There were 3 **Northern Pintails** at LR 11/25 (AM). Reports for diving ducks were even more limited than for puddle ducks. A **Redhead** at LR 11/8 (AM) and 12 **Ring-necked Ducks** at LR 11/25 (AM) provided the only reports of those species. Usually

numerous at BRR, there were just 2 reports of **Hooded Merganser** this year; high was 4 at LR 11/25 (AM). There were 27 **Common Mergansers** at WHT-BR 10/23 (KB) and 26 **Ruddy Ducks** at LR 11/25 (AM).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was flushed while checking the mist nests at PNR 11/11 (KBa). Twenty-five **Wild Turkeys** on Bethel Church Rd. on top of Chestnut Ridge 10/22 (KB) was quite a flock. There were 2 reports of **Double-crested Cormorants**, singles at LR 9/13 (AM) and 9/24 (MJ). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was found at LR 9/2 (DS). Two **Green Herons** were spotted on the WHT-BR 8/5 (KB).

A **Black Vulture** was seen near the intersection of Boone Rd and Rt. 22 west of New Alexandria 11/22 (DL), the only report. Black Vultures are regular in the Ligonier Valley but were not reported this season. Of the several reports of **Osprey**, one was of a fly-by 8/26 over the wooded KP toward BRR, which is about two miles to the east (JK). Two **Bald Eagles** were on the WHT-D 11/16 (KB). A male **Northern Harrier** was near New Stanton 8/12 (ST). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported numerous times at PNR. Often missed during migration, one **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen from PSR 10/1 (KB).

Consistent with the rather dismal season for waterfowl migration, there were no reports of more than one **American Coot**. A **Sora** was captured at PNR in Sep. A **Black-bellied Plover** was photographed at LR 11/8 (AM). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported at the WHT-BR 10/1 (KB). The season high-count for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 5 at DL 10/18 (AM). The only report of **Solitary Sandpiper** was 4 at Lowber Wetlands (near West Newton) 10/8 (MJ). Six **Forster's Terns** were also reported at Acme Dam 10/8 (MJ). Late participants of the Big Sit at KSP 10/9 were delighted when an **American Woodcock** flew over at dusk.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at the KP 8/24 (JK). Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were frequently reported during daily walks on various sections of the WHT during Aug and Sep (KB). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** called at the KP 8/22 and 8/23 (JK, TK). A total of 23 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were captured at PNR. A **Barred Owl** call was heard at the KP 8/30 (TK), and then again on several of the following days, including a day-time response to fire sirens 9/9 (JK), not the first time this behavior has been witnessed there. A **Great Horned Owl** hooted along the bike trail along the Youghiogheny R. near West Newton 10/2 (KSJ). A **Common Nighthawk** watch conducted from a home in Delmont 8/25-9/9 (KB), tallied 100 birds, with high counts of 44 on 8/26 and 42 on 9/9. A high count of 50 **Chimney Swifts** was made at the same Delmont home 8/26 (KB). The only **Peregrine Falcon** report was along the Wolf Rock Trail on Laurel Ridge 10/8 (AM).

Often missed, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at WHT-D 9/28 (KB). The only reports for **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were from PNR, both by Ken Byerly on the WHT, There were 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** at WHT-D 9/16 and one at WHT-BR 9/19 (both KB). Now routinely reported at lower elevations in *Westmoreland*, among several reports of **Common Raven** was a count of 2 at WHT-BR 11/14 (KB). Around 100 **Purple Martins** were counted at BRR-380 (SS), which were in the pull off area rather than at the martin house on the municipality property.

Westmoreland participated in the statewide early season rush of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, with 2 heard 9/2 at Cloverleaf Golf Course in Delmont (TK); the season high count was 5, at Twin Lakes Park 9/18 (MJ), a good location for this often hard-to-find species. The latest of several more reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches was 11/2 in the abundant conifers that line the fairways at Cloverleaf Golf Course (TK), and one at a feeder in Delmont 11/3 (KB). Two **Carolina Wrens** fledged from a nest in a porch gutter at the KP on the late date of 8/22 (JK). Reports of **Winter Wrens** on WHT were bookended by 2 on 9/26 and one 11/11 (KB). There were 3 **Marsh Wrens** captured at PNR in Sep and one in Oct. One Marsh Wren was reported in pond-edge habitat at LH 9/27 (AM), and one late bird was reported at the Little Sewickley Wetland 11/7 (JP). Both **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted several times during birding walks on various sections of the WHT (KB). PNR captured 500 Ruby-crowned Kinglets for the season.

A late **Gray Catbird** was at the WHT-D 11/7 (KB). The first of several **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** was noted on PSR 9/25 (KB). The high count of **Swainson's Thrush** was 6 on the WHT-D 10/3 (KB), and the earliest **Hermit Thrush** was one at the WHT-D 9/23 (KB). Thrush captures with substantial totals for the season at PNR: 71 **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, 503 **Swainson's Thrush**, and 69 **Hermit Thrush**. Two **American Pipits** at DL 10/25 (AM) represented the only report. Two large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** were tallied: 84 on the WHT-D 9/20 and 75 on PSR 10/16 (both KB).

It was another productive fall for migrants in the Delmont-Trees' Mills area and into the section of BRR that is bisected by the WHT, with 23 warbler species noted on nearly daily walks there (KB). Significant reports (all KB except as noted) included 3 **Tennessee Warblers** on PSR 9/3, one **Orange-crowned Warbler** on PSR 9/21, 2 **Nashville Warblers** on WHT-D 9/7, one **Worm-eating Warbler** on PSR 9/10, one **Cape May Warbler** on WHT-D 10/4, 8 **Bay-breasted Warblers** on WHT-D 9/14, 3 **Blackpoll Warblers** on WHT-D 9/26, and one **Connecticut Warbler** 9/11 (KB, JK, TK). One Connecticut was reported at LH 10/3 (AM). The only report for **Palm Warbler** away from PNR was of one in the Mamont area 10/9 (PF). There were 30 warbler species captured at the PNR during the season; notable were 10 Connecticut Warblers, 7 **Mourning Warblers**, 14 **Wilson Warblers** and one **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

A nice group of 4 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** fed on dogwood and poison ivy berries near the parking lot of the WHT-D 10/2 (JK, TK). All of the several reports of **Fox Sparrows** were in Oct at PNR. In addition to the several PNR captures of **Lincoln Sparrow**, was one at DL 10/10 (AM). A late **Swamp Sparrow** was reported at Little Sewickley Creek Wetlands 11/4 (MF).

Red-winged Blackbird sightings continued at the KP feeders to 11/5. A **Rusty Blackbird** was found at KSP by the participants of the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club Big Sit 10/9, and one was there also 10/14 (MJS). Another Rusty was present at the Little Sewickley Wetland 10/15 and 10/22 (JP), and one visited feeders in Delmont 11/12 (KB). Two male and one female **Purple Finch** at the KP feeders 10/13 were first for the season; sightings continued there through 11/5. The high-count for the season was 6 at LH 10/19 (AM) and later in the season 4 were at feeders in Delmont 11/6 (KB). The only **Pine Siskin** was well described at a feeder in Murrysville (DH).

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Wyoming County

No report

Compiler: Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock PA 18657

York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Shrewsbury Township (SHTWP), State Game Lands #242 (SGL).

There were a number of highlights this season. A flock of **American White Pelicans** was a York first, PA second **Anna's Hummingbird** appeared in York, and a **Snowy Owl** passed through in Nov. The total species count of 182, and the 25 warbler species, were about normal. Waterfowl were on the low side, likely impacted by the unseasonably warm fall.

A **Cackling Goose** was at LR 11/18 (MD). **Mute Swan** showed up in SHTWP and the Spring Grove resident population grew to 6 birds. The lone **American Black Duck** report was of a single bird at GPSP 11/3-6 (DN). A nice count of 68 **Mallards** was made at the Gateway Hanover retention ponds 10/23 (PK). A **Blue-winged Teal** was seen in Fairview Twp. 9/19 (WC). CSP held a single **Northern Shoveler** 9/13 (DN) and a pair 10/29 (JF). LAR produced the only reports of **Northern Pintail** and **Common Goldeneye**, singles on 11/30 (PK). A pair of **Lesser Scaup** was at GPSP 11/6 (DN). Best find among waterfowl was a well-studied juv. **Surf Scoter** at LR 11/4-5 (DN, CB). Up to 6 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at GPSP 10/3-11/26 (m.ob.). The 4 reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** were all of single birds. Nine reports of **Wild Turkey** included 5 flocks of 12-14 birds.

You never know what might come through at a hawk watch, and the 35 **American White Pelicans** at RRCP 9/22 (KO, FP, RP) was evidence of that. Remarkably, it was almost certainly the same flock that was spotted in *Indiana* the previous day, a distance of about 200 miles. The flock was leisurely in their movement, affording good observation. After the flyby, birders downriver were alerted, but the flock was not relocated. Records suggest the only prior county

sighting was in Aug 1992 at Brunner Island. Fifteen reports of **Great Egret** were paced by a flock of 62 flying downriver at Muddy Run (likely *Lancaster* airspace) 10/9 (DB, JE). In a rare multiple count, 3 juv. **Little Blue Herons** were at York Haven 8/5 (ME). Last report for **Black-crowned Night Heron** was unusually early 8/18 (CK). The RRCP hawkwatch enjoyed a good **Broad-winged Hawk** season (RP, m.ob.) with a count of about 3000 birds. Other highlights from the watch included single day site records of 21 **Osprey** and 91 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 9/24 (RP, m.ob.). A **Golden Eagle** was seen at the hawk watch 10/22 (PK) and another was over Shrewsbury 11/24 (KRu).

Considering that the county, with its limited shorebird habitat, continued to have good annual rainfall amounts, shorebirding was nevertheless reasonable with some good finds. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at CSP 9/13-21 (CB, DN, RP). A nice count of 34 **Killdeer** was made at LR 11/2 (KG, BH). Six sites reported **Greater Yellowlegs** and five reported **Lesser Yellowlegs**; these were paced by high counts of 6 at Brunner Island 9/27 (DN) and 11 at LR 10/24 (CK), respectively. Uncommon, 4 **Sanderlings** were at CSP 8/25 (DN). The only **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 2 at CSP 9/19 (RP). Trios of **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at CSP 9/19 (RP) and LR 10/24-28 (CK). A **Dunlin** was at LR 10/4 (CK) and 5 were at CSP 10/29 (JF). A convincing description indicated 2 **Short-billed Dowitcher** flew by LR 8/4 (DN, TN). A harvester flushed an **American Woodcock** along Mill Creek Rd 11/1 (TC).

A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was at CSP 10/28-29 (JF, TR) and 21 at GPSP 11/20 (AWg) was a good count. The only **Herring Gull** was at LR 11/12 (KG, BH). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were found at York Haven and Wrightsville 10/5-11/10 (RC, WC, DN, KR). The only **Caspian Terns** were a trio at CSP 9/19 (RP). A gray, very blustery day at RRCP 10/22 (PK) brought a pair of **Sterna sp.** being heavily buffeted as they flew by. Timing and location strongly points towards Forster's Tern but positive ID could not be made.

The ubiquitous **Mourning Dove** is normally reported in flock sizes quite a bit below triple digits, so a count of over 100 at HTP 11/24 (DF) was notable. Eleven reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were paced by a high count of 5 at Spring Valley County Park 8/18 (DC). Four reports of **Eastern Screech-Owl** and 11 of **Great-horned Owl** were above average, but the 2 reports of **Barred Owl** were below average. A **Snowy Owl** was well-photographed along Biesecker Rd. 11/14 (JM); unfortunately, it was apparently present only that one day. The observer's attention was initially drawn to a number of mobbing crows near ground level and upon scanning for their target, was rewarded with the owl. Limited searches in the days following were unsuccessful. The date of 11/14 tied the prior early record for York.

Seven reports of **Common Nighthawk** spanned 8/23-9/21 (m.ob.) with a high of 21 over Fairview Twp. 9/8 (DN). A **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded at a Dover Twp. home 11/5 (G&SL) and, finding the location comfortable, the bird stayed through the New Year. A female (likely juvenile) **Anna's Hummingbird** was first detected at a Crescent Rd. home in York 11/4 (GS), and had apparently chased off a Rufous/Allen's that had been there since 11/2. Identification was made 11/7 (SW). The bird regularly visited stands of salvia but a banding opportunity was not in the cards. The homeowner permitted visitors and many got the opportunity to see this rarity before its 11/14 departure. This bird represented the second Pennsylvania record, preceded by the first in *Berks* in the fall and winter of 2010-11.

As noted in the *Adams* report, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** seemed to completely vacate York, with no reports after 9/24. Reports up to early Sep were normal and a nice high count of 11 came from HTP 9/4 (DF). Possible explanations include: an inferior mast/acorn crop, possible non-replacement of migrating resident birds by non-migrating more northern populations, and, simply, just another example of the species reputation for random, unexplainable range shifts and movements. To add to this mystery, all other expected woodpecker species were reported at high levels throughout the period. The 19 reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were exceptionally high. A good count of 7 **American Kestrels** came from HTP 9/4 (DF). Besides the RRCP hawk watch, **Merlins** were spotted at LR 10/18 (DC), along Rte. 83 in Conewago Twp. 10/23 (SH), and on Crescent Rd. 11/14 (EH). The **Peregrine Falcons** at York Haven continued to take exception to their reflection in office glass, and that behavior carried over to at least 8/12 (DN). Other non-hawk watch Peregrine sightings included singles at the York Boat Basin 8/27-28 (AF), at Wrightsville 10/5 (RC), and at LR 11/25 (BM).

Expected flycatchers were reported at fairly typical levels. Vireos enjoyed increased reporting with the exception of Philadelphia Vireo, which was missed. Respective maxes for **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**,

Blue-headed Vireo, and **Warbling Vireo** of 12, 6, 7, and 5 were all above average. **Common Raven** was reported 9 times. **Horned Larks** were found only at HTP 8/26-11/26 (DF, KK, DN, DW) with a high count of 7 birds on three dates. Latest **Purple Martin** was at CSP 8/26 (RS). High count for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was 105 at York Haven 8/12 (DN). Small numbers (less than 7) of **Bank Swallow** were seen at four locations 8/12-24 (CK, DN, DW). A single **Cliff Swallow** seen at Highpoint Scenic Vista 8/23 (DN) and a pair were at Saginaw 9/15 (DW).

Four **Black-capped Chickadees** were at LR 11/12 (KG, BH) and a single was at GPSP 10/28-11/20 (DN). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption produced 24 reports with earliest from RRCP 8/23 (DW). **Brown Creeper**, **Carolina Wren**, **Winter Wren**, and both kinglets were well reported. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports spanned 10/20-11/27 (m.ob.) with a high count of 11 at GPSP 11/7 (DN, NN), and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found 9/28-11/23 (m.ob.) with a high of 7 at LW 10/18 (CK). Reports of **Veery** came from LW 8/23 (CK), RRCP 9/1 (DN), and Nixon County Park 9/11 (AW). **Swainson's Thrush** was found at LW 8/30 (CK) and RRCP 8/30 and 9/17 (both DW). A visit to SGL 9/21 (TCO) produced 40 or more **Gray Catbirds**. An abundance of wild grape and other berries were the attractants. A catbird at LR 11/25 (BM) was late. Three reports of **American Pipit** included a single at LR 10/24 (CK) and up to 6 at CSP 11/2-7 (HM, DN).

Quite surprisingly, Yellow Warbler went unreported, perhaps a result of record Aug heat that minimized birder coverage during this early migrant's peak movement. Up to 3 **Blackburnian Warblers** were detected at RRCP 8/23-27 (AW, DW). Four reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** spanned 8/31-9/22 (DF, JFr, DN) at SHTWP, HTP, and LR. A lingering **Palm Warbler** was at HTP 11/24 (DF). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** at RRCP 9/10 (AW) and a **Mourning Warbler** at SHTWP 9/22 (JFr) provided the only reports of those species. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at GPSP 9/28 (DN) and a trio was at LW 10/18 (CK). **Canada Warbler** was at RRCP 9/4 (DN), at Nixon County Park 9/5-11 (AW), and at SHTWP 8/18 and 9/13 (both JFr).

The sparrow flight was fairly typical. **American Tree Sparrow** barely made the report, with 3 at Sunnyside Rd. 11/27 (CB). Latest **Chipping Sparrow** reports were 11/15 (DN, DW) from Highpoint Scenic Vista and the Penn State York campus. **Savannah Sparrow** spanned the period at HTP (DF) with a conservative high count of 16 on 10/12. The only other report was a single at RRCP 9/19 (RP). Up to 7 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at HTP 8/15-26 (DF). The only report of **Fox Sparrow** was made at LR 11/25 (BM). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at RRCP 9/19 (RP) and at Sunnyside Rd. 10/10 (CB). The 7 reports of **Swamp Sparrow** were paced by a high of 6 at Sheppard-Myers Reservoir 10/12 (HM).

A late female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a feeder on Woods Rd. 10/30 (KC). **Blue Grosbeak** singles were at HTP 8/6 and 8/14 (both DF) and at Native Lands Heritage Trail 8/24 (DN). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were present all period at HTP (m.ob.) with a great high count of 41 birds 10/12 (DF). The only other site reporting was LAR, with 7 birds 11/4 (PK). Although the only report, 19 **Rusty Blackbirds** at GPSP 11/25 (AWg) was a rewarding number. A **Baltimore Oriole** at Saginaw 10/2 (DW) was pushing tardy status. Seventeen reports of **Purple Finch** suggested there was strong movement into or through the county. High count was 6 at SGL 9/21 (TCO). A single **Pine Siskin** at GPSP 11/25 (MB) was the only report.

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IN FOCUS



American Black Duck, Round Hill Park, Allegheny County, 15 November (photo by Melissa Petschauer)



Juvenile Purple Gallinule, Ambridge Reservoir, Beaver County, 10 October, (photo by Geoff Malosh)



Great Horned Owl, Canoe Creek SP, Blair County, 21 November (photo by Laura Palmer)



Rufous Hummingbird, Denver, Lancaster County, 3 November (photo by Ruth Witmer)



Snow Bunting, Prince Gallitzin SP, Cambria County, 2 November (photo by Phyllis Terchanik)



Cape May Warbler, Pittston, Luzerne County, 28 September (photo by Christopher Evans)