

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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Cover: Pennsylvania's first record of **Snail Kite**, obviously, seemingly totally unlikely, was found by Jennifer Ferrick mid-day 22 October at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, re-found and photographed later that afternoon, but never seen thereafter; the closest reports are from over 500 miles to the south – South Carolina 2016 and southeastern North Carolina 2009. (*Conner Vara*)

In the early months of 2020, the Pennsylvania birding community lost two prominent members. Barb Haas and Bob Leberman are remembered in this issue with words from the people who knew them best, Frank Haas and Bob Mulvihill, respectively, on this page and the next two.

Sponsoring of color photos

A major improvement in *Pennsylvania Birds* the last two years is the printing of photos and other figures in color. Of course, color does not come free. It adds roughly \$1000 per year (four issues) to the cost of printing. This cost has so far been borne by sponsors – Frank and Barb Haas, Bob Snyder, Tom and Janet Kuehl, and in this issue the Bartramian Audubon Society in honor of the services and accomplishments of long-time member Gene Wilhelm, who has also been a faithful contributor to the journal with his book reviews.

As we head into the 34th year of *Pennsylvania Birds*, we seek more sponsors. We suggest a donation of \$200 for exclusive sponsorship for a given issue, or some fraction for a partial sponsorship (for example, \$100 for half). Sponsors will be acknowledged on the first page of the main photo section. Contact the editor at gwg2@psu.edu.

In Memoriam

Robert Charles Leberman
(April 3, 1937 – March 10, 2020)
by Robert S. Mulvihill

After a courageous battle with a rare cancer (leiomyosarcoma) that cost him his left leg and, ultimately, his life, Robert Charles (Bob) Leberman, passed away peacefully at his Powdermill home in the woods on March 10, 2020 at the age of 82. In his professional lifetime, Bob was a life-changing mentor to a lucky few and a beloved friend and esteemed colleague to countless others.

Born in Meadville on April 3, 1937, Bob was the second child of Charles and Mary (Nodine) Leberman. His surviving brother, Ronald F. Leberman, is a year and a half older. The Lebermans were a nature-loving family, and Bob grew up exploring the rich hemlock woods, glacial lakes, swamps, and bogs around his home. In 1958, Bob obtained a federal bird-banding permit, and soon after initiated a seasonal migration-banding project at Presque Isle State Park, an effort that continues to this day under the auspices



of the Erie Bird Observatory. In June 1961, he moved to the newly created Powdermill Nature Reserve of Carnegie Museum, where, using the relatively new technique of mist netting, he banded some 1500 birds that summer and fall—and with that effort, the world-famous Powdermill bird-banding station was born, one of the premiere banding research stations in North America. During his early years there, Bob raised the practice of “skulling” birds-in-hand (not as bad as it sounds!) to an art and published a seminal paper on the subject of skull pneumatization rates in the Ruby-crowned Kinglet in 1971.

Because Bob was among the most skilled at accurately determining the ages of birds-in-hand, he pioneered studies of “differential migration,” the temporally separated passage of immature and adult birds of a species within migration seasons. Bob was among the first banders to routinely collect data on the body condition of birds caught for banding, including measures of visible fat deposits and body mass. With Mary Clench, Bob summarized that data in 1978 in a research monograph of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. In 2004, with far more data available, I, along with Bob, and Adrienne Leopold, re-analyzed Powdermill’s body mass and other data and published the first-ever research monograph of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

As important as Bob’s contributions to bird banding and ornithology were and are, it was his energy and commitment to field birding that endeared him to the local birding community. He was a long-time,

very active member of the Meadville Bird and Tree Club. In 1958 (the year *this* younger Bob was born!) he became the Editor-in-Chief of *The Sandpiper*, a joint quarterly publication of the Meadville Bird and Tree Club, the Presque Isle Nature Club, and the Sam Wharram Nature Club.

At Powdermill, Bob was a regular contributor to the Bulletin of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, and to seasonal summaries in *American Birds*, of which Bob eventually took over as regional editor. Bob was a member of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee and served as a county compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* for many years. Among more than one hundred publications written by Bob, two were of particular interest to birders: *Birds of the Ligonier Valley* published in 1976; and in 1988 a revised *Birds of the Pittsburgh Region*, an updating of Ken Parkes’s classic 1956 work. Bob was one of the organizers for the first BBA in Pennsylvania, served as a regional coordinator for the seven-year project, was on the verification and other committees, and authored more than twenty species accounts for the book. Bob also contributed block coverage and species accounts for the second BBA in 2004-2010.

In addition to Bob’s contributions to ornithology in Pennsylvania, he was an expert on the birds of Belize. He participated in expeditions to Belize in the 1970’s and 1980’s, resulting in an avian distribution paper in the *Annals of Carnegie Museum* and a new *Checklist of the Birds of Belize*, co-authored with D. Scott Wood and Dora Weyer.

Bob Leberman truly may be among the last of the era of largely self-taught ornithologists. His knowledge and influence shapes our understanding of birds, their migrations, their ecological importance, and our efforts to conserve them through the collective dedicated works of the dozens of students whom he mentored in his unfailingly genial and humble manner. Many of us owe him a debt of gratitude for that, but not only that: Bob didn’t just offer experience and knowledge; he frequently fed his charges, too—I wouldn’t even want to hazard a guess as to how many volunteers, visitors, and interns he nourished from his own kitchen and cupboards during his tenure at Powdermill!

Bob Leberman was an unassuming but uniquely talented man who made a large and indelible mark on Pennsylvania birding, and on many Pennsylvania birders, too.

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Barbara McClure Haas (1939-2020)

On January 8, 2020, Pennsylvania lost a birding icon when Barb Haas passed away. Along with husband Frank, Barb was a founding Editor of *Pennsylvania Birds* and played a central role in the formation of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. She was also instrumental in planning and implementation of the first *Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas*. She was active for decades in birding and ornithology in the state as described in the remembrance below from Frank.

My own introduction to Barb came, I believe from her writing, rather than in person. In Volume 2 of *Pennsylvania Birds*, Barb wrote a four-part account of the Big Year she and Frank did in 1986, setting what was then a new record for species (288) in the state. Her lively account of their adventures is one of my favorite pieces from *Pennsylvania Birds*—an excerpt is below, as are some thoughts from others who knew Barb. [Editor].

Barbara McClure Haas
June 12, 1939 - January 8, 2020
by Franklin Haas

Note: This essay is about Barb, but so many of the things she did were done with me. However, she was often the driving force behind many of these things – not a dutiful wife following her husband's lead. We were a co-equal team.

She was born Barbara McClure (no middle name) on June 12, 1939 in Philadelphia. She graduated from Sharon Hill High School in 1956 (skipping first grade!)

In 1957, she had a waterskiing accident that crushed several disks in her back. Over the next ten years, she underwent five surgeries – the first one to fix the disks, the other four to remove scar tissue that kept building up at the surgical site.

It was during her recuperation from one of these surgeries that friends of her family put up a bird feeder outside her bedroom window and gave her a field guide (Robbins) and binoculars. She studied the field guide (and the few birds that came to the feeder) and read other bird books (most notably the National Geographic Society two-volume set – *Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America* and *Song and Garden Birds of North America*). She made copious notes in the margins of her field guide. After recovery, those same friends took her out on a couple of birding field trips to nearby spots. This was her extant of birding – she didn't really pursue it. So she was book-smart about birds, but had no field experience to speak of.

She graduated from Ursinus College in 1960, then traveled to Europe from September 1962 to December 1964, living and working in Luxembourg, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria (she worked at the Innsbruck Winter Olympics in January - February 1964). Unfortunately, she was not birding at that time...

After working other jobs, she returned to college and got a Masters Degree in Audiology from Kent State University in 1971. She was at Kent State during the student massacre and knew one of the students who got killed.

After getting her degree, she accepted a job at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and moved into half of a duplex in Riverside (just across the river from Danville). The other half of that duplex was occupied by me. We met and, after a couple of weeks, she asked me where I disappeared to every weekend. I told her Hawk Mountain (HMS). She said "I'm interested in birds..."

Our first date was to Hawk Mountain the following weekend. She was hooked (and I on her) and we started going out birding together every chance we got. Not just locally, but up and down the east coast and a memorable trip to northern California in November 1972 (her first western trip). She rapidly became as avid a birder as I was.

After attending the founding conference of the Hawk Migration Association of North America in 1974, we purchased 20 acres on Little Mountain (Northumberland County) and built a 35-



foot tall hawk watching tower to record the hawk migration there. We manned that location for 15 years. It never was a prime location, but it was fun.

We married in November 1974 and moved to Ridley Creek State Park in Delaware County. Having been regulars (and official counters) at Hawk Mountain for years, we were missed when we started hawk watching at Little Mountain. One

weekend, our friends at HMS concocted a scheme to send us letters applying for membership in the Ha-Ba Hawk Watching Association, including twenty-five cents annual dues! We received around thirty of them (including one from James Bond – no, not the spy, but the ornithologist who lived next door to Ian Fleming and whose name was used for the fictional character!).

In 1975, Barb suggested that we hold a picnic for them as a thank-you for their friendship and to keep in touch. We also invited other birders that we knew. This became an annual event and the invitee list grew as we met new birders from near and far. The attendance approached 100 with birders coming from as far away as Texas. We hosted that picnic until 1989 when we moved to Narvon and no longer had the room for such a gathering.

In November 1982, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC) voted to permit women to join their organization. We had not joined because of the male-only rule. However, once the rule was changed, we both joined in 1983 and became very active members.

In 1984, a fellow DVOCer, Ed Fingerhood, suggested to us (knowing our interest in all things Pennsylvania ornithological) that Pennsylvania should do a Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA). We subsequently met with Frank Gill of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and the Pennsylvania BBA was begun.

In 1985 we decided to do a Big Year in Pennsylvania in 1986, basing it on the model that Jim Vardaman had used in 1979 to do a North American Big Year (see *Call Collect, ask for BIRDMAN*, St. Martin's Press, 1980). He sent out a monthly newsletter to birders all around the country keeping them apprised of what he had seen so far and encouraging them to call if they found something he hadn't yet seen. So we started sending out a one-page newsletter to birders all across the state. We ended up with 288 species, which was a record at the time. This was all pre-internet!

But, more importantly, we established a mailing list of Pennsylvania birders and discovered how easy it was to create a publication (albeit just one page) on a computer. Barb suggested that we create a state-wide birding publication. We contacted the birders on the list and asked if they would subscribe to such a thing. The overwhelming response was positive, so *Pennsylvania Birds* was born. The first issue was mailed in June 1987. The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) was formed in 1989 and adopted *Pennsylvania Birds* as their official journal. We edited and published it until 2000 and then turned it over to the PSO.

In 1987, Barb was elected Treasurer of the DVOC (the first female to hold that position) and continued until 1996. We were awarded the Witmer Stone Award from the DVOC in 1988, elected a Fellows of the DVOC in 1989, and awarded the DEVOC in 1996. In April, 1989 she was a founding member and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee and served several years.

In October 1989 we moved to Narvon where she opened her own hearing aid business. She was often approached by fellow

birders asking about help with hearing loss. The most common hearing loss is high frequencies – critical for birding. At an audiologists' convention, she was introduced to a new piece of hearing aid technology called the K-Amp. Unlike most hearing aids, this receiver emphasized higher frequencies. Most hearing aids are aimed at speech recognition – the moderate frequencies. So, she got one of the hearing aid manufacturers that she worked with to create a custom hearing aid using that technology. She called it The Birder. She sold this to many birders all across the country until they stopped making the K-amp and switched to digital technology in the mid-2010s.

In 1991, we co-edited the second edition of *A Guide to the Birds of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* (Lancaster County Bird Club, 1991). And in 2005, co-edited the second edition of *Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania* (Pennsylvania Biological Survey, Ornithological Technical Committee, 2005).

When a Hoary Redpoll visited our feeders in March 1994 and birders flocked to our house to see it, Barb suggested putting out a box for donations for bird conservation. We raised over \$300 which we donated to the Nature Conservancy. Likewise, when the Black-backed Oriole showed up in 2017 (about 20 minutes from where we live), Barb suggested to the homeowners Tom and Linda Binder that they also put out a donation box. They raised over \$1500 which was also donated to conservation organizations.

We were awarded the Earl Poole Award from the PSO in 2001. We conducted numerous Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, Migration Counts, Big Days, Big Years, Roundups, and BBA blocks over the years.

We traveled extensively around the country and Barb had a life list of 724 and a Pennsylvania list of 393. Since 2005, we have traveled annually to Adak, Alaska, adding many new records for the island, including the first North American record of Eurasian Sparrowhawk.

Barb was very gregarious and could strike up a conversation with anyone. In addition to birding, she loved playing golf, following the Phillies and Eagles, and doing the New York Times crossword puzzle.

She was diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer in early November and died two months later.

The Pennsylvania birding community owes much to her efforts. She will be missed.

Some thoughts from others:

I looked back at Vol. 1, No. 1, in 1987 and I see the first sentence of Frank's and Barb's inaugural message from the editors: "Welcome to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS! With this issue we hope to begin to fill a void in Pennsylvania ornithology."

Those of us who were "present at the creation" of *Pennsylvania Birds* viewed that hope of success with enthusiasm, and we joined them in their hope. I don't think any of us from "the old days" could have predicted how significant Barb's and Frank's achievements would become. Barb's work on the journal was more intensive than most of us can imagine, and we owe her a memorial honor for that remarkably committed effort.

Her extraordinary efforts helped to make PSO a nationally respected organization, and this praise for her is not an exaggeration. I wonder who among us could have accomplished her eventual result. I'll summarize everything in three words: She inspired us. *Paul Hess*

Frank and Barb have been friends since the inception of *Pennsylvania Birds* magazine, without which no one would be reading this. Pennsylvania birders will always owe them big time for opening up the state's birding world. Barb was a great teacher, smart, giving, straight forward but always fair, and, at least for me, lots of fun. I won't put my personal memories of her in print except

to say that some of the peripheral occurrences of a few warbler chases were unforgettable. I will never forget her and hope that wherever she is a warbler is flying around there with her.

Arlene Koch

I met Frank and Barb Haas back in 1979. Sam Stull was doing a state big year and the two of us drove to southeastern Pa. to try and get the Black-tailed Godwit. This is when Frank Haas was the manager of Ridley Creek S.P. Barb graciously offered their house to Sam and me to spend the nights while birding in the area. For several years following that big year, Frank and Barb made frequent trips chasing birds in Erie County. Barb was always so friendly and honest. She was careful about making proper IDs and made sure to document rare sightings with photos, long before anyone else was doing that. She was a top notch birder, and in my opinion the best in the state. She will always be remembered; I will miss her. *Jerry McWilliams*

Going to miss Barb when a rare bird shows up. She always greeted me with a good hug. *Rick Wiltraut*

From Pennsylvania Bird, Volume 2, issue 4 "Our Pennsylvania Big Year – 1986 (Part 4).

November. The excitement continued. We began the month with a N. Goshawk at Bake Oven Knob on the first. We went to the PBBAP [first Pa. BBA] Coordinators' Meeting in Lock Haven the next Friday and Saturday and left from there for Presque Isle.

There is little more that can be said about birding at Presque Isle. It is just one of the most exciting places in Pennsylvania to bird. Too bad there are not more birders in the area to cover it on a daily basis. We were out on Gull Point early, but, as usual, not early enough to beat Bill Stocku. We passed Ramsay Koury who told us Bill was standing guard by Purple Sandpiper, a bird he also had needed for Pennsylvania. We later found out it was the only sighting for the year. How lucky we were.

Later that day we saw the forces of nature at work. The lake breached the dunes and met the beach at the neck of the peninsula. Leaving the Park, we could see the waves crashing above the dunes and the road was flooded for at least three tenths of a mile. Thank heavens for a vehicle with good clearance. Presque Isle was closed the next morning, so we went to East Avenue in Erie to check the birds there and at the south jetty. Jerry arrived there soon after and we teamed with him for most of the rest of the day. The Park road was opened a bit later and while checking birds from Gull Point we noticed quite a bit of activity in the channel. So, off to the Coast Guard Station.

While we were in the restrooms, Jerry called out, "Little Gull!". An adult in winter plumage. Frank was able to get a photograph of the bird as it flew in close by the jetty. It was feeding with the many Bonaparte's Gulls in the channel. Frank suddenly yelled, "Snowy Owl on the south jetty. It was either a female or immature and was just sitting on the rocks. The photographs taken through the Questar demonstrate the remarkable capabilities of this piece of equipment. It was right where we had been earlier in the day. By now it was too late in the day to be able to drive over for even closer shots. Two good birds this late in the year. We were ecstatic..... We drove home Veterans' Day in snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain. But the trip, albeit hazardous, had been worth it.

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

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

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

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

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

The Committee

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

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

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

Classification of Records

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Format of This Report

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

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

2018 Accepted Records

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) (26)

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

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) (11)

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

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

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

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

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

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) (10+)

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



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

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (62)

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

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (38)

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) (27)



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

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

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (21)

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



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

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (16)

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

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) (8)

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

Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) (10)

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



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

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

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (44)

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

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (150)

One on Smith Station Road, Hanover Twp., *York* 10 April 2018 (Caroline Boose (p); 089-01-2018; Class I-P). 6/0.

One in Lower Nazareth Twp., *Northampton* 7 May 2018 (Todd Watkins (p); 089-02-2018; Class I-P). 7/0.



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

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

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (50)

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

Roseate Spoonbill (*Plata ajaja*) (7)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (111)

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

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

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

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

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

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) (1)

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (24)

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*) (1)

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

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (24)

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



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

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

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

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

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

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

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

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

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

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

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

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

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

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

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

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

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American Kestrel nest box numbers from 2019

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

2019 counts of Kestrel nestlings reaching banding age in Pennsylvania

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Identification of the Burket Triple Hybrid — A Brewster's/Chestnut-sided Warbler

Deborah S. Grove

Lowell Burket had no idea on May 7, 2018 when spending the weekend at his farm near Roaring Spring, Blair County, Pennsylvania that his birdwatching list would result in an amazing addition to the ornithological world. "Besides the usual local birds, i.e., titmice, chickadees, tanagers, orioles, buntings, bluebirds, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, I saw the less usual Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, American Redstart, and a Yellowthroat and I was fortunate enough to see the following warblers: Worm-eating, Black-and-white, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Blue-winged."

Then on his eBird list of May 7, he reported a bird that he observed as a Golden-wing Warbler with the comment that "I believe this is a Brewster's type though I can't find any pictures that match it." On May 8, it showed up again at the "birdhole" (a watering hole on the property) and he took as many photos as he could from every available angle to get plenty of details (Image 1).

When he returned to Pittsburgh to work, he asked his brother, Brian, to take videos of the bird at the birdhole over the next couple of weeks to get a better idea of its behavior and whether any other birds typically accompanied it. When he returned to the farm on May 24, he was lucky to hear it singing, and surprisingly, it sang a Chestnut-sided Warbler song. At that point he decided it had to be a hybrid or a mutation. He organized the evidence, did some research on warbler hybrids, and sent an email with photos and his theory to Dr. Irby Lovette at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Unfortunately, he received an automated response that he was in Alaska doing research and would not return until mid-July. Worried that the bird might no longer be around by then, he sent an email to another administrator in the lab and was promptly contacted by Dr. David Toews.

Toews arrived at the farm June 26 and was taken to the site of the mysterious bird. He noted that it was unusual and they netted it using a Chestnut-sided Warbler playback to coax the bird closer. He measured the bill and wing length, took a blood sample, and banded the bird. He took his collected data, samples, and photographs back to Cornell to begin the challenge of putting an identity to the individual.

Identification Methodology

Bird identification and classification can be traced back to the 1600s to Willughby and Ray. They based their system on morphology and other observations. Carl Linnaeus followed by setting up a natural system of classification for all organisms in 1735 and defined genus and species. Methods for classification continued through Darwin, Mayr, Stresemann, and Lack to name a few from the 19th into the 20th centuries (Birkhead, 1). With the advent of new molecular techniques in the 1980s and 90s, scientists were able to look at specific differences using both mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and nuclear DNA.

Toews' research has focused on genotyping or determining how birds differ from each other based on differences in their genetic code. Each organism's genetic code or genome is made up of combinations of 4 molecules or bases, denoted as A, G, C, and T. The sequence of these bases in the DNA provides the blueprint for the cell to manufacture all of the proteins in an organism. The differences in the proteins produced make the organism what it is and within a species, individuals have a similar—but not identical—genetic makeup. The differences in the genetic code, for example an A may be replaced by a G or a C by a T, are called polymorphisms, which account for differences among individuals of a species. One example is eye color differences in humans.

One early method for determining which species utilizes mtDNA in a cell's mitochondria. mtDNA identifies the maternal line because mitochondria are passed along from mother to children



Image 1 Burket Warbler, Lowell Burket, July 2018

in egg cells. Only egg cells contain them, sperm do not. The Cytochrome c Oxidase subunit I gene or the COI region of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is a gene of choice across many taxonomic groups used to differentiate species (Hebert, 2). Genes that are selected to determine species differences are ones that evolved rapidly, such as COI, so that the changes result in differences between species and reveal divergences between closely related species. The mitochondrial gene sequence of birds of the same species are quite similar.

More recently, the advent of a new type of DNA sequencing, called high-throughput sequencing, has enabled scientists to obtain even more information about the differences between species. Previously, Sanger DNA sequencing which was available in the 1990s and into the 21st century produced 700 to 800 bases per one sample run on the sequencer. Second and now Third generation sequencing can generate nearly 1 billion bases per run. This makes sequencing of complete genomes of organisms possible. For birds the genome size is about 1 billion bases. In comparison, humans have 3.2 billion.

Back at the Lab

Once he returned to the lab Toews extracted DNA from the blood sample and then prepared the DNA for amplification and sequencing. The COI gene in mtDNA was used to determine the maternal line. The result was that the maternal parent was 99% identical to Golden-winged Warbler mtDNA and 97% identical to Blue-winged Warblers (these species differ from each other by 3–4%.) (Gill, 3).

The DNA was also sequenced using Sanger sequencing and the data was compared to all bird sequences in the database. These results showed that the bird was indeed was indeed partly a Chestnut-sided Warbler and which is consistent with it singing a Chestnut-sided Warbler territorial song.

In other studies Toews has demonstrated that only 6 loci or sites in the whole genomes of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers differ between the two species (Toews, 4). Birders know that one big morphological difference seen through binocs are the colors of the birds. The loci that are different occur in proximity to genes known to be involved in feather development or pigmentation: agouti signaling protein (ASIP), follistatin (FST),

ecodysplasin (EDA), wingless-related integration site (Wnt), and beta-carotene oxygenase 2 (BCO2) (Toews, 5) (Figure 1)

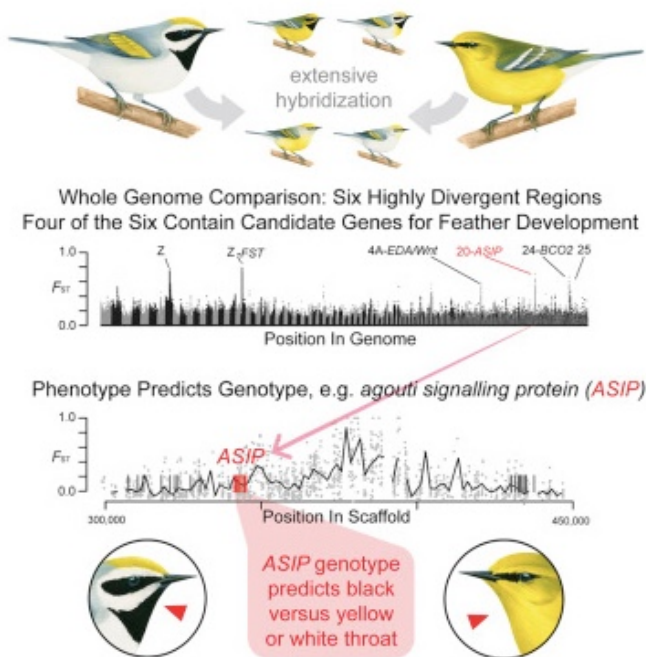


Figure 1 The six highly divergent areas in the whole genomes (Toews, 4)

To determine whether this hybrid was Golden-winged Warbler or Blue-winged Warbler, further experiments were done to probe these loci. DNA from birds with the typical Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler plumage patterns was obtained to use as references to compare to the mystery bird. When the sequence of the hybrid was compared to these reference sequences, it was found that the bird was heterozygous at these sites meaning that some of the sequence at the loci were the same as Golden-winged Warbler and some were the same as Blue-winged Warbler. This led to defining one of the bird's parents as a Brewster's warbler (Image 2), one of the named hybrids between the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers. Because the father had been determined as a Chestnut-sided Warbler, this meant that a Brewster's was the maternal bird. Thus, the most likely scenario, female Brewster's mated with a male Chestnut-sided Warbler and the result was a triple hybrid (Figure 2).

Reflections

Although this is a rare hybrid, hybridization between "species" is fairly common. David Toews comments that "I usually lump these into two categories: 1) species pairs where there is a defined hybrid zone, where hybrids are produced constantly (i.e. very little reproductive isolation between the groups) and 2) "one off" odd hybrids, which still happen quite regularly, but it is not clear if it is regular enough to allow genes to move between these distantly related groups."

These results start to beg the question "what is a species". In fact, there is an even more obvious question: are Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler actually separate species? Their distinction as separate species is based on only 6 genomic regions, some of which have many fixed differences. However in the overall context of the genome, these distinct regions make up only a very small amount of the genome. It may be that in the future the results from molecular biology research will seize another bird from our bird lists and thus shrink it by one.

Burket's discovery was reported world-wide and published on

over 1100 print media, television, science and birding/wildlife organizations, blogs, and other commercial websites in over 100



Image 2 Brewster's Warbler, Lowell Burket, 2017

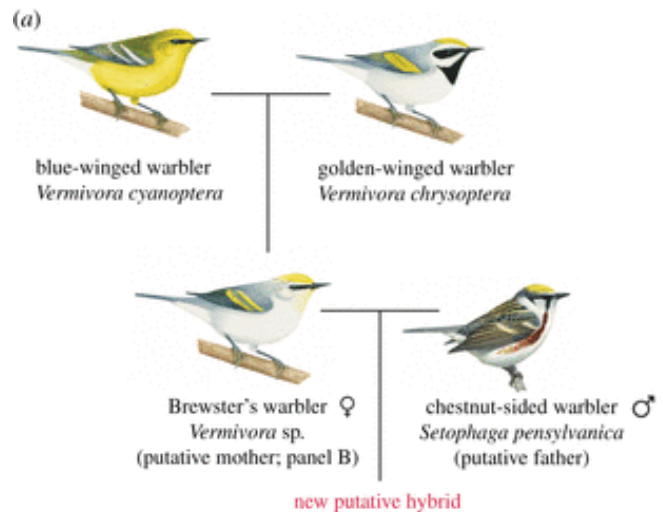


Figure 2 The predicted formation of this new hybrid. *Vermivora* illustrations by Liz Clayton Fuller, chestnut-sided warbler from Toews (5).

countries. A link to his interview on the CBC radio appears below. He says that it still seems surreal when I take time to think about it, and says "I got goosebumps when I read in the Fall 2019 issue of Living Bird Magazine that my discovery 'stirred the imagination of birders around the world.'" Even now, he routinely has non-birders come to him at the courthouse and ask about the discovery, and one of them recently joined the Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC) to which he and his wife belong. He tells people "I am a prime example that you don't have to be an expert or experienced birder to make a scientific discovery; just get to the woods, be patient, and pay attention to the details of the birds you observe, and you never know when you might make the next noteworthy discovery."

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Appendix:

Radio Interview: <https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.4901896>

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Additional Photos by Lowell Burket



This photo from behind best shows the remnants of the golden wing in its face (white supercilium, gray mask).



This photo taken in August shows the changes (albeit rather subtle) that occurred from breeding to non-breeding due to the chestnut-sided component.

Merlin: Expansion of Breeding Range into Pennsylvania

Robert Snyder

Identification

The Taiga subspecies of Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), present in Pennsylvania, is a small, dark falcon, heavier in build and slightly larger than the American Kestrel. Length is 9-12 inches with a wingspan of 21-27 inches. The adult males have slate blue upper parts and bold tail banding (Crossley, 2013). They are pale below with rufous-brownish streaks and a yellow-orange wash on leg feathers and the wrists (Image 1).



Image 1. Adult male Merlin perched on a high vantage point near the Central Mountain High School, Clinton, 13 October 2019 (Bob Snyder).



Image 2. Female/immature Merlin 25 March 2017, Bullit Run, Bald Eagle SP, Centre (Bob Snyder).

Females are dark slate brown above, with heavy streaking below, multiple tail bands and checkered underwings (Image 2). Females are difficult to tell apart from immatures in the field, as shown by the photo of a first summer juvenile in flight (Image 3).

Nesting and migration habitat, timing and behavior

Merlin breeding habitat includes forested openings, forest edges, and areas around water, including lakes, rivers, or streams.



Image 3. Juvenile Merlin, one of two seen at the Mill Hall golf course, Clinton, 5 August 2018 (Bob Snyder).

Pair formation, in Saskatoon, Canada, begins one to two months prior to egg-laying (March/early April). Both male and females visit potential nest sites, though the male does most of the scouting. The Merlin does not build a nest but uses abandoned nests of corvids and hawks that are situated in pine or spruce trees found on the edge of a clearing in the woods. When they nest in towns or urban areas, they will use stands of conifers (spruce preferred) that are adjacent to a city park, golf course, or cemetery, offering an open area similar to a forest clearing. The nest is rarely used in two consecutive years (Warkentin 2005).

Merlins are monogamous and raise one brood per year. Egg-laying occurs from late April to late May with clutches completed by the third week of May (Warkentin 2005). Clutch size is four to five eggs, with a white field that is thinly spotted, or heavily blotched with chestnut brown (Pearson 1936). Incubation begins when the second egg is laid and continues uninterrupted prior to laying the last egg (Warkentin 2005). Incubation then continues for 28-32 days (Wilson 2012). Male and female falcons both take part in incubation, though the female is on the nest 90% of the time during the day and 100% overnight. Males do most of the hunting during incubation and development of the nestlings. The male either brings food to the nest, or meets the female and exchanges the food, which the female then brings back to the nest. The male brings an average of three prey birds to the nest per day during incubation. If the female is off the nest and is ready to return, she will circle above the nest and call to the male. Nestlings will remain in the nest for 25-30 days and begin making short flights from the nest at the end of that period. After the young fledge, the female then participates in hunting. Fledged birds remain in the nest vicinity for about five weeks and can be seen together flying or perched with or without the adults. Dispersion from the nest site begins around mid-August (Warkentin 2005).

During migration, the Merlin utilizes grasslands, open forests, and coastal areas with small songbirds and shorebirds. Merlins prefer perching on top of snags while watching for prey. Hunting is usually initiated from a perch, and the flight is a quick and direct chase after the intended prey. Merlins are capable of taking down birds their size such as Mourning Doves or waxwings (Warkentin 2005). Merlin pairs hunt cooperatively. One example given in *Birds of North America* online, describes one bird flushing a flock of Cedar Waxwings while the second pursues for the kill (Warkentin 2005). They also attack prey flushed by other predators, or by cars, which can prove fatal for the pursuing Merlin.

Expansion of Breeding Boundaries into Pennsylvania from Canada

The subspecies of Merlin nesting in Pennsylvania is the Taiga or Boreal Merlin that typically breeds at high latitudes (> 50° N); slightly north of the North Dakota border with Canada, above the Great Lakes (Warkentin 2005). Since 1960 and over a thirty-year period through 1990, the Merlin expanded its winter range into the northern Great Plains (American Ornithologist Union, 1983, cited in Warkentin 2005) - a move that was thought to have been influenced by an increase in Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*) (James et al. 1987, in Warkentin 2005). Breeding birds moved into northern New York and northern New England between 1995 and 2004 (e.g. American Birds 46 (15) 1120, 1124, cited in Warkentin 2005). Merlins became established and were breeding statewide in Maine by 2005 (P. Garrityu, wwwmainebirding.net, cited in Warkentin 2005).

The Merlin has also expanded its traditional breeding range into Pennsylvania, moving across the northern-tier counties and expanding southward into central and northeastern Pennsylvania. Evidence of breeding in Pennsylvania has increased since the Second Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA), 2004-2009, when six successful nestings were confirmed, with six possible sightings and one probable sighting in addition.

Prior to that survey, including during the first BBA twenty years earlier (1983-1989), there had been no records of confirmed nesting in Pennsylvania. Two historical accounts from Todd (1940) cited birds seen, but no nests were found. Late-date sightings reported by G.M. Sutton in 1925 that suggested possible nesting: a single bird was seen perched in a dead tree in SGL 17 on 18 May 1925 near Sizerville (Cameron) and one was seen flying over a Northern Goshawk nest on 19 May 1925 near Conrad (Potter). A summer report by L. E. Hicks was of a Merlin observed in the ravine of Walnut Creek, eight miles west of the city of Erie on 1 July 1928 (Todd 1940).

Safe dates for Merlin breeding in Pennsylvania appear to be mid-April through mid-August. Courtship behavior begins in April. Fledglings and family groups of Merlins may be seen from mid-July through mid-August, when adults and fledglings may be perched together as a family unit or flying together. Their loud call (Kek-Kek-Kek or Ki-Ki-Kee) resembles the call of the Killdeer and is often the first clue to the observer that adults and/or fledglings are nearby (Warkentin 2005).

Data presentation and discussion

The map feature of eBird.org was used to locate sites of confirmed, probable, and possible nesting. First eBird was searched by limiting the months to June and July for 2010-2019 (after the 2nd BBA). As a check, a second search was done, including April and May, to search for observations of pair-forming activities, mating, or birds actively sitting on a nest. A third test, during August, was done to include sightings of fledglings, or of adults perched together with fledglings, or adults hunting with fledglings near the

nest site. Data collected from the map searches included: county, date of observation, number of birds seen, observer name(s), city/location, and any field notes that confirmed nesting or activity related to mating, or if fledglings were observed etc., and were logged into a spreadsheet.

Confirmed nesting was determined using the following observations: two adult birds present at a nest, passing food between adults, nestlings, or fledglings and adults together, based on the safe dates. **Confirmed** status did not necessarily mean successful nesting had been observed or entered into eBird for the current year, 2019 but, had historically occurred and reported in eBird at least once since 2010. **Probable** nesting was assumed when two adult birds were seen together, once or over several times during the safe dates. **Possible** nesting was assumed if one bird was observed a single time or was reported over multiple dates during the safe date period. These three categories were then color-coded as follows: Confirmed = Yellow, Probable = Blue and Possible = Green and plotted onto a map of Pennsylvania counties (Figure 1). Data plots of 2nd BBA sightings were obtained from the chapter on Merlin (Wiltraut, R. pp. 158-159 in Wilson, 2012) and are used to show historic sightings of Merlin during the breeding season. Data

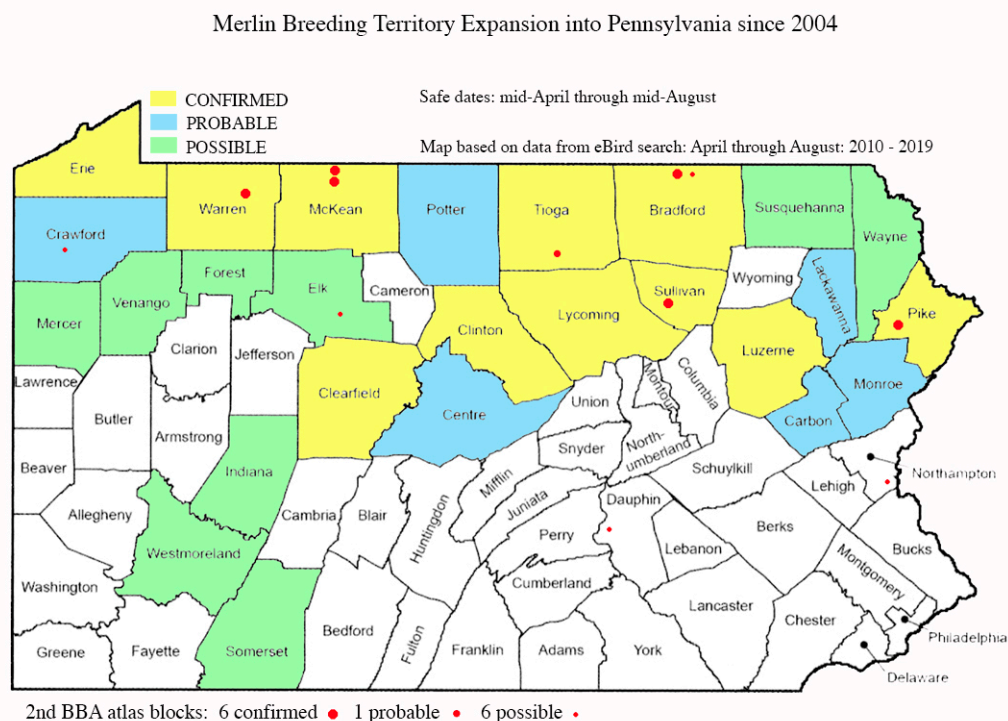


Figure 1 Breeding status of Merlin in Pennsylvania since 2004 (data from eBird).

from the 2nd BBA are shown as red dots of different sizes.

Atlas blocks with confirmed nesting were in Bradford (McKean) by John Fedak on 18 May 2006, after the report of a food transfer between two birds by Lynn Ostrander. Nests or recent fledged young were observed in Eagles Mere (Sullivan), Promised Land SP (Pike), Sayre (Bradford) and in Warren (Warren). One probable sighting was in southern Tioga county, while six possible sightings were recorded for blocks in the following counties; central Crawford, southern Elk, Bradford, southeastern Lackawanna, western Dauphin and southeastern Northampton (Wiltraut, in Wilson 2012).

Confirming nesting data since the 2nd BBA were obtained from eBird for Erie, Lycoming, Luzerne, Clearfield, Tioga, and Clinton and ranged over time from 2014 to 2019. Data confirming successful nesting are of low frequency, perhaps due to the quiet and secretive nature of the birds during mating and egg-laying and incubation. In addition, some sightings probably are not reported on eBird. Most observations of confirmed nesting occurred from

mid-June through early August, and included sightings of fledglings, or adults with fledglings. Merlins are usually noticed by ear first, as they tend to be very vocal after the young have fledged. Birds seen after mid-August in the southern tier or southeastern counties were assumed to be fall migrants if no other data were available during the safe dates.

The first record of Merlin in Clinton occurred on 5 Aug 2018. Two fledglings were seen and photographed in the vicinity of or on the golf course at Mill Hall by Bob Snyder (Image 4).

The second record of Merlin breeding in Clinton was obtained from the same golf course on 23 July 2019, when two fledglings were seen by Bob Snyder perched in a dead tree near a line of



Image 4. Fledglings flying together above the Clinton Country Club golf course, Mill Hall, Clinton. 5 Aug 2018 (Bob Snyder).



Image 5. Two fledglings perched in the same tree at the Mill Hall golf course (Clinton) 7 July 2019 (Bob Snyder).

spruce trees on the course (Image 5). Later in July and in August other reports of fledglings and adults were posted on eBird, or seen in email reports from the State College Bird Club listserv.

Recent nesting was confirmed in Tioga by John Fedak on 27 July 2019, with a sighting of two adults and two fledglings seen together on the Mansfield University campus. Another successful nesting in Tioga was reported by Rich Hanlon from Wellsboro on 29 July 2019 (three Merlins flying together), and again on 5 August, reporting two adults and two fledglings seen together. Sightings of successful breeding were made in Erie on 18 July 2016 and again on 18 June 2019 by James R. Hill, III and Susan Winterberger, two adults with two young birds on the nest. Other sightings of one or two birds in Erie were made between 2013 and 2019 for Waterford and Allegheny College, but were not confirming for nesting. Nesting was confirmed for Lycoming on 14 July 2017 by Bobby

Brown in Williamsport with a sighting of two adults and three fledglings seen together. Also in Lycoming, single bird sightings around Montoursville were reported in mid-August 2018 and 3 July 2019 but no confirming sightings were posted on eBird for either year. Two confirming reports from Clearfield were found on eBird: 14 July 2014, of one adult and one nestling in a spruce near Evergreen Farm Rd, in the northeastern part of the county; and on 14 July 2017 by Don Nixon in Dubois, for two adults with three nestlings. Two observations were noted for Luzerne at the Forty Fort recreation fields: Chris Fischer, 10 July 2010 of four birds, probably a family unit perched together; and by Bill Chambers on 28 July 2014 of two birds seen near a previous nesting area. Though historically, sightings of single birds were reported from all confirmed breeding counties, those were of single birds and no evidence of mating or nesting was given in the eBird data.

Probable nesting status was determined if two adults or lone juveniles were sighted near suitable nesting habitat, within the safe dates. Referring to the map in Figure 1 (counties color-coded blue), Monroe had a single entry on 20 Aug 2013 by Bruce Johnson, of two birds seen chasing each other and assumed to be fledglings. Other sightings between 2014 and 2019 were of single birds only. Carbon had one sighting, of a lone juvenile at the Lehigh Nature Center on 7 June 2015 by Rich Rehrig. A probable nesting in Centre was indicated by a sighting from Carl Engstrom who reported that two adult Merlins were seen mobbing a Red-tailed Hawk in State College on 12 July 2019, but there were no reports of mating or nesting activity from the location for 2019. During the winter of 2019 and 2020 reports of female and male Merlins have come from the Penn State University golf course in State College, so there may be nesting at that location in 2020. Crawford had a probable status with a sighting of two birds by Colin Danch on 28 Jul 2019 at Allegheny College. One probable entry was made for Lackawanna by Dave Altmiller on 27 April 2016, where courtship/copulation was witnessed at Elmhurst. No other data or sightings of nestlings or fledglings had been entered for Lackawanna as confirming nesting. Potter had two sightings that would fit the probable category: two birds were seen in Coudersport on 25 June 2018, where one had been observed in an area suitable for nesting on 16 June 2017.

Possible nesting, where one or rarely two birds were seen once are presented in the Table 1. Refer to the county map in Figure 1 for these counties, color-coded in green.

Since Merlin breeding was first observed during the 2nd BBA, nesting status has been confirmed in eleven counties as recently as 2017-2019, probable breeding status has been noted for six counties from 2015 to 2019 and in ten additional counties, there is potential for the Merlin to expand its breeding territory even further throughout northern, northeastern and central Pennsylvania. These are exciting times. We are watching a change in breeding behavior of a species, as it expands into a region south of its original breeding range. In moving from the northern forests and towns of Canada, the Merlin is adapting to the human altered environments in towns spread throughout Pennsylvania's forested and mountainous regions that offer an abundance of the falcon's prey species.

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Table 1. Possible Merlin breeding status: Pennsylvania Counties

County	date	# birds	observer	Location
Elk	6/29/2017	1	Amanda Ryden	U of Pittsburg, Bradford
Elk	7/19/2016	1	Brendyn Baptiste	East Branch Lake
Elk	7/11/2014	1	Bill Chambers	RR tacks near sr1001
Forest	7/29/2017	1	Todd Hooe	Buzzard Swamp
Huntingdon	5/5/2012	1	Doug Wentzel	Davis/Barr Loop Roads
Huntingdon	4/19/2014	1	Dale and Karen Plumley	Huntingdon
Huntingdon	4/15/2015	1	Lewis Grove	Huntingdon
Huntingdon	4/13/2014	1	Jerod Skebo	Harper Hill Road
Huntingdon	4/23/2016	1	Jim Dunn	Lake Perez
Huntingdon	8/31/2017	1	Greg Grove	Stone Mtn. Hawkwatch
Huntingdon	8/10/2013	1	Greg Grove	Stone Mtn. Hawkwatch
Indiana	7/7/2015	1	Roger Higbee	Yellow Creek SP
Indiana	7/24/2019	1	Roger Higbee	Oakland Cemetery
Indiana	7/21/2019	1	Roger Higbee	Oakland Cemetery
Indiana	6/8/2019	1	Penny Rose	Creekside
Lawrence	6/10/2017	1	Rich Rehrig	
Mercer	6/14/2019	1	Bill Winkler	Greenville
Somerset	6/2/2012	1	Michael Lanzone	Lake Somerset (IBA)
Sullivan	8/26/2019	1	Douglas Gross	Rickett's Glen SP
Susquehanna	8/31/2018	2	Evan Mann	Kirchmeier Farm
Susquehanna	8/2/2018	1	Bruce McNaught	Fisher's (private)
Susquehanna	6/28/2017	1	Susan Gruver	Montrose-Griffis Hill Road
Susquehanna	8/10/2013	1	Anonymous eBirder	The Haft
Venango	7/18/2019	1	Gary Edwards	Samuel Justus Recreation trail
Wayne	7/9/2017	1	Jacob Myers	White Tail Lane
Westmoreland	6/20/2012	1	Lauren Morgens	Leon's Farm
Westmoreland	6/20/2012	1	Lauren Morgens	Leon's Farm

Pennsylvania Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2019

David R. Barber

Autumn 2019 was frustrating for some hawk watchers- whether it was light winds, winds in the wrong direction, or a lack of sustained winds, some watch sites struggled while others enjoyed record flights. When the conditions did cooperate, they produced some exciting days of hawkwatching, unfortunately those days were few and far between for many watchers this year.

Migration Summary

In autumn 2019, 15 Pennsylvania watch sites counted 123,370 raptors in 8262 hours and 1272 days, for an average of 14.9 hawks per hour (Table 1). Statewide counts were 10% above the average effort of 7493 hours. Pennsylvania welcomed a new autumn site, Bald Eagle Mountain – Eagle Field in Centre County. Bald Eagle Mountain is the northernmost/westernmost ridge in the Ridge and Valley Province. The primary goal of the new count was to better understand the autumn migration of Golden Eagles through Pennsylvania and in their first year they set a new eastern flyway season record for Golden Eagles. We hope this watch site continues, to see if they consistently count the highest number of Golden Eagles in the east.

The total raptor count was similar to the 10-year average of 122,724 (Table 2). Above average counts were observed for Black Vulture, 2156, up 69% from the 10-year average of 1275 and Turkey Vulture, 12,069, up 85% from the average of 6513. Both species of eagles also saw above average counts: Bald Eagle, 3715, was 77% above average and Golden Eagle, 1224, was 18% above average. The total count of Pennsylvania's most abundant migrant raptor, the Broad-winged Hawk, was 79,093 - 20% above the 10-year average (Table 2).

Eleven of 16 species had counts below their 10-year averages. The largest dips were seen in Northern Goshawks, 40 (76% below the average of 168) and Rough-legged Hawks, 3 (75% below the average of 12). Two of Pennsylvania's most common raptor migrants were below average: 13,986 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted, down 47% from the average of 26,258; and 8790 Red-tailed Hawks were counted, 31% below the average of 12,737. Osprey and Northern Harrier, which have shown long-term declines in the eastern U.S., continued that trend with counts 35% and 47% below their 10-year averages respectively. Other species below average include Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon (Table 2).

Table 1. Pennsylvania watch sites counting in autumn 2019

Site	Hours	Total Raptors	Raptors/Hour
Allegheny Front	755.3	20,362	26.96
Bake Oven Knob	823.5	8,546	10.38
Bald Eagle Mountain	600.2	7,968	13.28
Council Cup	20.5	168	8.20
Hawk Mountain	1,080.0	12,986	12.02
Jack's Mountain	577.8	8,138	14.09
Little Gap	288.0	9,126	31.69
Militia Hill	423.5	4,078	9.63
Rocky Ridge	361.5	10,911	30.18
Rose Tree Park	442.5	1,779	4.02
Second Mountain	641.0	8,161	12.73
Stone Mountain	533.3	6,273	11.76
Summit Mountain	40.0	823	20.58
TLC's Bucktoe Creek Preserve	725.5	8,872	12.23
Waggoner's Gap	949.5	15,179	15.99
State Total	8,262.1	123,370	14.93

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (*Somerset/Bedford*) – Allegheny counters recorded 20,362 hawks in 755.3 hours on 109 days for an average of 27.0 hawks per hour from 8/15 to 12/13. Effort was slightly below average, likely due to reduced effort in December. Total number of raptors counted was 112% above the 10-year average, fueled largely by the record Broad-winged Hawk count of 16,208, which was 185% above the 10-year average. A record high was also set for Bald Eagle, 246, which was 70% above average. The Sharp-shinned Hawk count of 1688 was the highest in 12 years and 40% above average. The Osprey count of 112 was the highest in 9 years and 23% above average. The American Kestrel total of 83 was 32% above the 10-year average of 63 (Table 2).

Counts of Northern Harrier continued to decline; the 29 counted this season was 31% below the 10-year average of 50 (Table 2). The Red-tailed Hawk total of 1055 was 20% below the 10-year average of 1320.

Counters tallied a season high 7176 raptors on 9/16 that included 7154 Broad-winged Hawks. Another 5617 Broad-wings were recorded on 9/17 along with a season high 36 Bald Eagles and 10 American Kestrels. Strong easterly winds produced a season high 59 Golden Eagles on 11/16, the fourth highest one-day total (Table 3).

Bake Oven Knob (*Lehigh/Carbon*) – Bake Oven Knob counters tallied 8546 hawks in 823.5 hours in 108 days for an average of 10.4 hawks per hour from 8/9 to 11/29. Effort was slightly above the 10-year average of 792 hours, however the overall count of 8546 was 35% below average. Bald Eagles were the only species above average; the total of 365 was 20% above the

10-year average. Counts of several species were more than 50% below average including Northern Harrier (38), 53% below average, Sharp-shinned Hawk (1223), 56% below average, Northern Goshawk (7), 68% below average, and Merlin (38), 54% below average (Table 2).

The high Broad-winged Hawk (1651) count occurred 9/15 followed by an additional 1147 Broad-wings 9/16. Strong northwest winds 10/4 produced season highs for Bald Eagle (37) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (181). The highest November count occurred 11/8 with 17 Bald Eagles, 147 Red-tailed Hawks, and 18 Golden Eagles (Table 3).

Bald Eagle Mountain – Eagle Field (*Centre*) – Bald Eagle Mountain watchers counted 7968 hawks in 600 hours on 89 days for an average of 13.3 hawks per hour from 8/29 to 12/15. This was the first year for this watch site. For most species, numbers were similar to those at Stone Mountain 19 miles to the south (Table 2). However, four species had higher counts at Bald Eagle: Turkey Vulture (173% higher), Bald Eagle (51%), Red-tailed Hawk (40%), and Golden Eagle (113%). The Golden Eagle count of 343 set a new season record for the eastern flyway.

Similar to other sites, 9/15 saw the highest count with 1808 raptors including 1781 Broad-winged Hawks, 12 Ospreys, and 9 Bald Eagles. Turkey Vultures peaked on 9/21 with 246. Strong northwest winds on 11/12 produced the high Golden Eagle count of the season with 52 (Table 3). Good tallies of Golden Eagles also occurred 11/20 and 11/2, with 46 and 45 Golden Eagles, respectively.

Table 3. Peak One-day counts at watchsites in Autumn 2019

Site Name	Sharp-shinned Hawk		Golden Eagle	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	231	10/15	59	11/16
Bake Oven Knob	181	10/4	18	11/8
Bald Eagle Mountain	83	10/24	52	11/12
Council Cup	4	10/24	2	11/1
Hawk Mountain	358	10/4	12	11/8
Jack's Mountain	87	10/24	11	11/20
Little Gap	140	10/4	8	11/8
Militia Hill	26	10/11	2	10/19
Rocky Ridge	28	10/5	1	11/13, 11/26
Rose Tree Park	20	10/4	-	-
Second Mountain	77	10/4	5	11/13
Stone Mountain	80	10/23	16	11/15, 11/20
Summit Mountain	6	9/21	-	-
TLC's Bucktoe Creek Preserve	24	10/26	1	11/9
Waggoner's Gap	483	10/4	15	11/13

Council Cup (*Luzerne*) – Council Cup watchers tallied 168 hawks in 20.5 hours on 9 days for an average of 8.2 hawks per hour. The total count and hours spent watching were well below the 10-year average.

The high count of 107 hawks was tallied on 11/12 and included 2 Northern Harriers, 8 Bald Eagles, one Sharp-shinned Hawk, one Cooper's Hawk, 97 Red-tailed Hawks, and one Golden Eagle.

Hawk Mountain (*Berks/Schuylkill*) – Hawk Mountain counters recorded 12,986 hawks in 1080 hours on 115 days for an average of 12.0 hawk per hour from 8/15 to 12/15. Effort was slightly below average and the total count was 26% below average (Table 2). Counts for most species were below average with counts of accipiters notably low; Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Goshawk were 49%, 42% and 82% below average, respectively. The Golden Eagle count was 35% below average and the lowest since 2009. Above average counts were recorded for Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagle (Table 2).

Hawk Mountain recorded its peak count 9/16 with 2166 Broad-winged Hawks, 12 Ospreys, and 6 Bald Eagles. However, 10/4 was the day to be on the lookout with season highs of 30 Bald Eagles, 358 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 35 Cooper's Hawks, 59 American Kestrels, 13 Merlins, and 11 Peregrine Falcons (Table 3). A one-day high of 12 Golden Eagles was recorded 11/8 and a one-day high 198 Red-tailed Hawks passed 11/12. On 11/14, counters recorded a dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk, one of only 3 counted at watch sites this autumn.

Jacks Mountain (*Mifflin*) – Jacks Mountain watchers counted 8138 hawks in 577.8 on 84 days for an average of 14.1 hawks per hour from 9/1 to 12/11. Effort was 27% higher than the average of 454

hours. Total number of raptors counted was 41% above the 10-year average of 5755 and the second highest count total at Jacks Mountain. Counts for most species were above their 10-year average. A record high 259 Bald Eagles were counted, 101% above the average of 129, and included 14 Bald Eagles on 11/1, the second highest single day count at Jacks. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were 58% above the average of 3810 and was the third highest season long count. Other above average counts included Black Vulture, 37; Turkey Vulture, 293; Osprey, 79; Northern Harrier, 45; Cooper's Hawk, 107; Northern Goshawk, 7; Red-shouldered Hawk, 24; and Golden Eagle, 136. Several species were below average, including all three falcons; American Kestrels, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons were 4%, 29%, and 46% below average, respectively. The Sharp-shinned Hawk count of 514 was 24% below the 10-year average of 677 (Table 2).

Jacks Mountain counters recorded a season high 2529 raptors on 9/16 that included 2518 Broad-wings, the second highest single-day count, and a record high single-hour count of 2227 Broad-wings. A record high 255 Turkey Vultures were tallied 10/21. The accipiter flight peaked 10/24 when counters recorded 87 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 13 Cooper's Hawks (Table 3).

Little Gap (*Northampton*) – Little Gap counters tallied 9126 hawks in 288 hours in 40 days for an average of 31.7 hawks per hour from 9/7 to 11/19. Effort was well below the 10-year average of 545 hours in 80 days. Overall counts were well below average due in part to the below average effort, but lower counts were also a trend among other Kittatinny watch sites. The overall count was 33% below the 10-year average of 13,536, despite having a passage rate that was 25% higher than the average of 25.4 hawk per hour. Notable below average counts were Northern Harrier

(78%), Sharp-shinned Hawk (66%), Red-tailed Hawk (71%), and Golden Eagle (69%). Counts of both Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagles were record lows (Table 2).

Little Gap counters tallied 5126 Broad-winged Hawks between 9/15 and 9/17 with a high of 1902 Broad-wings counted 9/15. A memorable day occurred 10/8 when northwest winds produced season high counts for Bald Eagle (19), Sharp-shinned Hawk (140), and Peregrine Falcon (5) (Table 3). Osprey flights peaked 9/28 with 17 counted.

Militia Hill (*Montgomery*) – Militia Hill counters recorded 4078 hawks in 423.5 hours in 57 days for an average of 9.6 hawks per hour from 9/1 to 10/15. Effort was slightly below the 10-year average of 446 hours. The total count was 66% below the 10-year average of 11,836. The magnitude of this drop was due in large part to the record low count of 1878 Broad-winged Hawks, which was 79% below the average of 9022. Similar to most watch sites in eastern Pennsylvania, most species had lower than average counts with Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and American Kestrel having largest dips of 66%, 47% and 44%, respectively. Counts of Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, and Bald Eagle all were above their 10-year averages. The count of 155 Bald Eagles was 29% above the 10-year average of 120 and was the second highest season count at Militia Hill (Table 2).

September 17 brought the highest count of the season with 1401 raptors including a season high 1354 Broad-winged Hawks, 6 Bald Eagles, 21 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 10 American Kestrels, 3 Merlins, and 2 Peregrine Falcons. The highest count for October was 10/21 with 192 hawks tallied including 105 Turkey Vultures, a late Osprey, 10 Bald Eagles, 7 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 5 American Kestrels.

Rocky Ridge Park (*York*) – Rocky Ridge watchers counted 10,911 hawks in 362 hours in 70 days for an average of 30.2 birds per hour from 8/18 to 11/20. Effort was much greater than the average of 115 hours over the last nine years, an increase of over 200%. The increased effort also led to a large increase in the total hawks counted, 162% above the average of 4176 and many record count, including Osprey (58), Bald Eagle (71), Sharp-shinned Hawk (523), Broad-winged Hawk (9571), Merlin (17), and Peregrine Falcon (14) (Table 2).

Favorable E/NE winds between 9/15 and 9/19 brought a steady stream of Broad-winged Hawks, which peaked 9/17 with 4871 tallied, including 3500 Broad-wings from 1:00-1:30 pm! November can be a good month for eagles; 8 Bald Eagles were recorded 11/13, the third highest single day count, along with first Golden Eagle of the season. October's count peaked on the 28th with 107 raptors that included season highs

for Black Vulture (29) and Turkey Vulture (41) along with 3 Bald Eagles, 11 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 14 Red-tailed Hawks, and one of each falcon.

Rose Tree Park (Delaware) – Rose Tree Park counters tallied 1779 hawks in 442.5 hours on 84 days for an average of 4.0 hawks per hour from 8/25 to 11/23. Effort was slightly below the 10-year average of 475 hours. Total number of hawks was 67% below the average of 5344. With the exception of Northern Goshawk, which averages only one per year, counts of all species were below average. The largest dip was for Broad-winged Hawks, 314, which was 89% below average and a record low count. Several other species had record low counts including Northern Harrier, 19 (57% below average); Cooper's Hawk, 94 (34% below); American Kestrel, 100 (35% below); and Merlin, 8 (77% below) (Table 2).

The high count of the season occurred 9/29 with 116 raptors tallied including season highs of Osprey (23), Bald Eagle (13), and American Kestrel (14). Turkey Vultures peaked 10/25 with 69. A late Osprey also was recorded 10/25. November 3 brought a one-day peak of 16 Red-shouldered Hawks and the only Northern Goshawk of the season.

Second Mountain (Lebanon) – Second Mountain counters recorded 8161 hawks in 641 hours in 100 days for an average of 12.7 hawks per hour from 8/15 to 12/15. Effort was 22% below the 10-year average of 821 hours. The total raptor count was 12% below the 10-year average of 9292. Counts for Bald Eagle (230) and Broad-winged Hawk (5442) were 12% and 18% above average, respectively. The remaining species were all below average. Northern Harrier (32), American Kestrel (78), and Merlin (17) counts all set record lows, with totals 58%, 24% and 50% below average, respectively. The total of 790 Sharp-shinned Hawks was 58% below the average of 1898 (Table 2).

A season high 18 Bald Eagles were recorded 9/15, the second highest one-day total. Cloudless skies on 9/17 made the counting difficult, but counters tallied 3371 Broad-winged Hawks streaming over the site, the second highest single-day count at Second Mountain. Counters also recorded a season high 7 American Kestrels that day. October's high count of 171 raptors on 10/18 included season highs of 53 Black Vultures and 55 Turkey Vultures along with 12 Bald Eagles, 20 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 18 Red-tailed Hawks, and all 3 falcons. The only Rough-legged Hawk of the season was spotted 11/14, a dark-morph at 12:30 pm.

The Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County's Hawk Watch at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester) –

Bucktoe Creek counters tallied 8872 hawks in 725.5 hour in 100 days for an average of 12.2 hawks per hour from 8/23 to 11/30. Total effort was slightly below the average of 736.5 hours and the total count was also slightly below the 10-year average of 9026. This was the first year of counting Black Vultures and this year's count of 1332 was the highest of any watch site in Pennsylvania. Turkey Vultures also enjoyed a banner year with 4273 counted, 131% above the 4-year average of 1844 and a new season total count record. Bald Eagle also had a record high season with 424 counted. The largest drop Broad-winged Hawk, with a total of 743, 83% below average, likely due to predominantly northeast winds during the peak of Broad-wing migration. Northern Harrier (28) and American Kestrel (109) were 27% and 42% below average, respectively (Table 2).

September ended on a high note with season highs of 56 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 14 Cooper's Hawks, and 18 American Kestrels on 9/30. The first migrant vultures were recorded 10/14 with 9 Turkey Vultures. Vulture flights peaked 11/4 with 185 Black Vultures and 385 Turkey Vultures. A season high 19 Bald Eagles also were counted 11/4, the third highest single day count.

Stone Mountain (Huntingdon/Mifflin) – Stone Mountain watchers counted 6273 hawks in 533.3 in 97 days for an average of 11.8 hawks per hour from 8/29 to 12/12. Effort was 36% above the 10-year average. The total count was the highest since 2006, 50% above the 10-year average of 4169 hawks. Record high counts of Turkey Vulture (602), Broad-winged Hawk (3806), and Bald Eagle (178) bolstered the total high count. Golden Eagles had the third highest season-long count with 161, 29% above the 10-year average. Season totals for Osprey (58), Northern Harrier (29), Sharp-shinned Hawk (642), Cooper's Hawk (86), Red-tailed Hawk (504), and American Kestrel (49), all ranked in the four lowest seasonal counts in Stone Mountain's 25 years of counting (Table 2). These low numbers, to some degree, reflect unfavorable winds at what should have been peak migration times.

Counts peaked 9/16 with 1456 raptors, including a record high daily count of 1441 Broad-winged Hawks, over 1400 of which streamed past between 12:30 and 1:30 pm. The first Golden Eagle of the season was tallied 10/14 along with 25 Turkey Vultures, a season high 13 Bald Eagles, 66 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 8 Cooper's Hawks, 9 Red-tailed Hawks, and 7 Merlins. A season high 16 Golden Eagles was recorded 11/15 and 11/20 (Table 3). Late season counts are all about quality not quantity and northwest winds 12/3 produced quality birds - 25 raptors were counted including 3 Bald Eagles, 7 Red-tailed Hawks, a light

morph Rough-legged Hawk, and 15 Golden Eagles.

Summit Mountain (Fayette) – Summit Mountain counters recorded 823 hawks in 40 hours on 8 days for an average of 20.6 hawks per hour. Effort was lower than 2018's effort of 185 hours and counts in 2019 were only conducted in September. Despite the reduced effort, the season total of 732 Broad-winged Hawks was much higher than the 265 Broad-wings counted in 2018. As with other counts across the state, the high day was 9/16 with 365 raptors counted, including 3 Bald Eagles, one Sharp-shinned Hawk, 353 Broad-winged Hawks, and 3 Red-tailed Hawks.

Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland) – Waggoner's Gap watchers tallied 15,179 hawks in 949.5 hours in 131 days for an average of 16.0 hawks per hour from 8/1 to 12/31. Effort was below the 10-year average of 1113 hours. The total hawk count was 30% below the 10-year average and the lowest since 1997. Most notable was the dip in counts of accipiters: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Goshawk were 53%, 41%, and 79% below average, respectively. The Golden Eagle count of 119 was 48% below average, perhaps due to the warmer than average October that was dominated by light winds. Only 9 Golden Eagles were recorded in October, far less than last year's 187. Bald Eagles were the only species above average; the total of 695 was 28% above average and set a new seasonal record.

The highest count day was 9/16 with 3109 hawks recorded including 3070 Broad-winged Hawks. The following day saw a season high 22 American Kestrels. Fueled by strong northwest winds 10/4, both Turkey Vulture and Sharp-shinned Hawk had peak flights with 297 and 483, respectively (Table 3). Seven days produced Bald Eagle counts above 20, with a high of 27 on 11/1.

Conclusions

In Autumn 2019, hawkwatchers expanded their efforts at eastern and central sites, and added a new watch site; however, the increased effort did not result in greater numbers of birds overall. Primarily easterly/northeasterly winds during Broad-wing season and lack of cold fronts with sustained winds seemed to doom the ridgetop watch sites in the east, with most species having below average counts. Those same conditions seemed to be a boom for central and western watch sites with many sites setting new count records. Numbers of Northern Harriers and American Kestrels continued their decline over most of the state and even common species such as Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk had below average numbers at most sites. Perhaps the warmer than average October

and lack of snow cover later in the season did little to entice birds to migrate. However, on a positive note, counts of Turkey Vulture were up at most sites and a statewide record was set for Bald Eagle.

Acknowledgements

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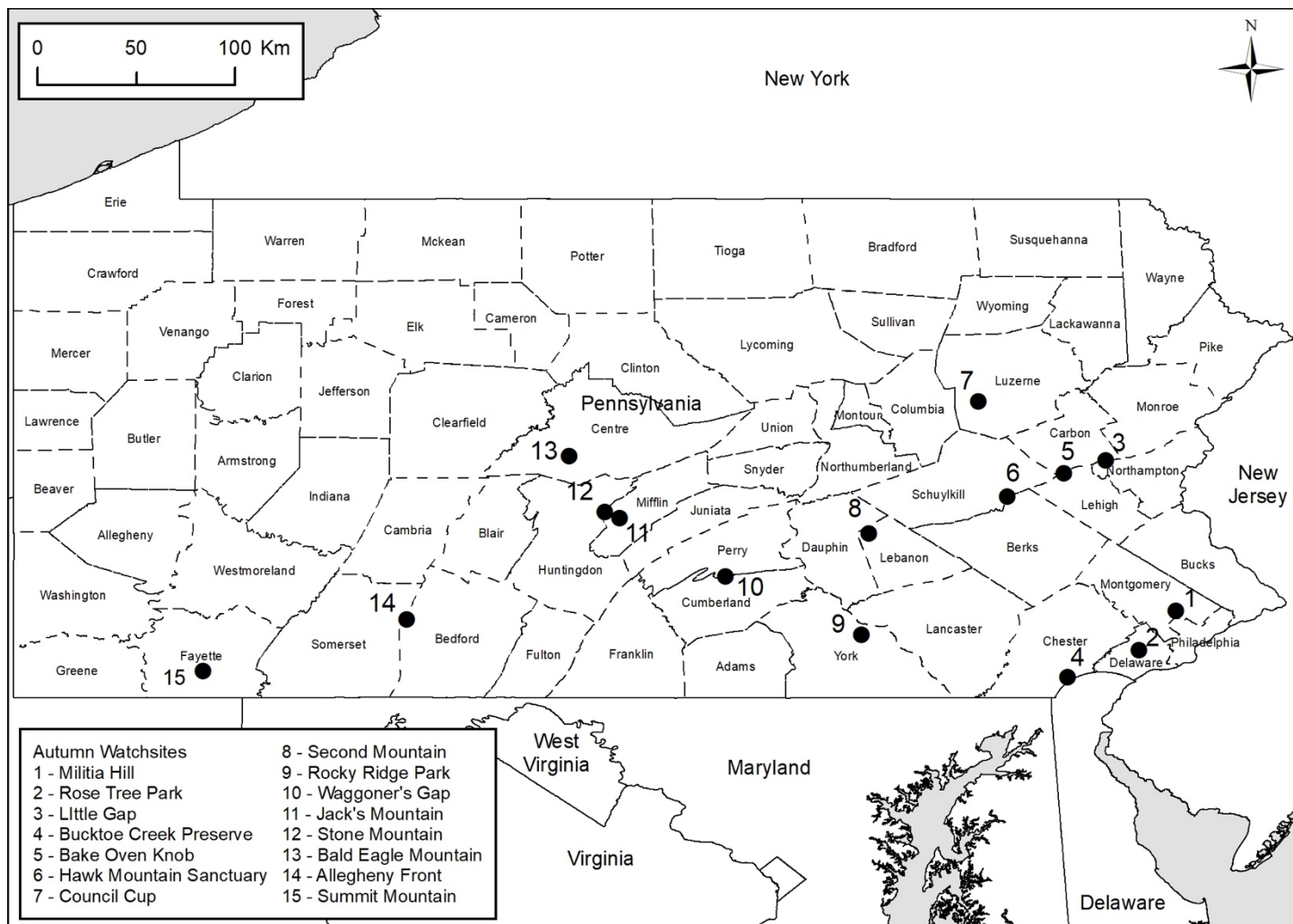


Table 2. Autumn 2019 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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	116.3	3	0	23	36	4	11	10	0	4	489	58	0	0	10	0	1	0	13	662
September	29	223.5	5	0	77	137	7	165	45	1	12	15698	124	0	0	29	14	9	0	58	16381
October	27	198.0	1	250	12	62	15	1495	119	3	19	21	610	0	36	43	16	18	0	29	2749
November	28	185.3	4	52	0	10	3	17	12	0	13	0	258	0	179	1	1	1	0	12	563
December	9	32.3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Total	110	755.3	13	302	112	246	29	1688	186	4	48	16208	1055	0	215	83	31	29	0	113	20362
Total per hr			0.02	0.40	0.15	0.33	0.04	2.24	0.25	0.01	0.06	21.46	1.40	0.00	0.28	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.15	26.96
% of flight			0.1	1.5	0.6	1.2	0.1	8.3	0.9	0.0	0.2	79.6	5.2	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.6	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

BAKE OVEN KNOB (Lehigh) - Bob Hoopes 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	135.8	40	138	24	41	0	16	6	0	0	98	60	0	0	7	5	3	0	26	464
September	30	248.0	94	304	133	110	17	504	45	0	5	4055	72	0	1	63	10	11	0	32	5456
October	31	225.0	65	317	25	85	11	624	84	1	12	8	84	0	14	21	15	16	0	11	1393
November	29	214.8	48	169	1	129	10	79	13	6	64	0	631	0	58	1	8	5	0	11	1233
Total	107	823.5	247	928	183	365	38	1223	148	7	81	4161	847	0	73	92	38	35	0	80	8546
Total per hr			0.30	1.13	0.22	0.44	0.05	1.49	0.18	0.01	0.10	5.05	1.03	0.00	0.09	0.11	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.10	10.38
% of flight			2.9	10.9	2.1	4.3	0.4	14.3	1.7	0.1	0.9	48.7	9.9	0.0	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.9	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

BALD EAGLE MOUNTAIN - EAGLE FIELD (Centre) - Nick Bolgiano and Jon Kauffman, 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	1	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	25	173.9	0	0	46	73	8	85	14	0	0	4013	31	0	0	27	1	3	0	17	4318
October	27	196.8	0	1417	23	75	12	491	54	1	6	15	186	0	8	39	14	9	0	27	2377
November	28	195.5	0	223	0	105	13	27	17	1	10	0	459	0	315	3	1	1	0	15	1190
December	6	32.0	0	1	0	20	3	0	3	0	0	0	27	0	23	1	0	0	0	5	83
Total	87	600.2	0	1641	69	273	36	603	88	2	16	4028	703	0	346	70	16	13	0	64	7968
Total per hr			0.00	2.73	0.11	0.45	0.06	1.00	0.15	0.00	0.03	6.71	1.17	0.00	0.58	0.12	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.11	13.28
% of flight			0.0	20.6	0.9	3.4	0.5	7.6	1.1	0.0	0.2	50.6	8.8	0.0	4.3	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.8	100.0

COUNCIL CUP (Luzerne) - Donald Kapral, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
October	4	10.0	0	26	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
November	5	10.5	0	9	0	11	3	4	1	0	0	0	97	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	128
Total	9	20.5	0	35	0	11	3	10	3	0	0	0	103	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	168
Total per hr			0.00	1.71	0.00	0.54	0.15	0.49	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.02	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.20
% of flight			0.0	20.8	0.0	6.5	1.8	6.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.3	0.0	1.8	0.0	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) - David Barber, 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	164.9	0	0	30	21	4	20	4	0	3	172	44	0	1	25	7	1	0	4	336
September	30	317.7	5	11	220	107	22	597	60	0	5	6529	59	0	0	132	65	19	0	42	7873
October	29	260.3	25	559	40	128	28	1326	160	0	40	22	159	0	13	101	62	28	0	43	2734
November	30	253.9	28	154	1	195	38	152	56	3	88	0	1033	1	61	4	15	8	0	10	1847
December	11	83.3	4	3	0	57	3	2	2	2	1	0	108	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	196
Total	117	1080.0	62	727	291	508	95	2097	282	5	137	6723	1403	1	88	262	149	56	0	100	12986
Total per hr			0.06	0.67	0.27	0.47	0.09	1.94	0.26	0.00	0.13	6.22	1.30	0.00	0.08	0.24	0.14	0.05	0.00	0.09	12.02
% of flight			0.5	5.6	2.2	3.9	0.7	16.1	2.2	0.0	1.1	51.8	10.8	0.0	0.7	2.0	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	124.9	1023.7	127.4	262.4	414.2	419.7	227.3	4111.0	484.7	27.6	164.0	8164.9	1980.9	0.8	135.9	354.2	174.6	60.5	0.3	177.3	17603.6

JACK'S MOUNTAIN (Mifflin) - Darrell Smith, 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	196.5	0	0	73	108	12	101	38	2	2	5996	27	0	0	22	5	6	0	3	6395
October	26	171.5	32	282	5	67	22	392	52	3	6	8	192	0	17	29	3	1	0	11	1122
November	26	182.8	0	11	1	79	10	20	17	2	16	0	322	0	106	2	2	1	0	0	589
December	4	27.0	5	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	32
Total	85	577.8	37	293	79	259	45	514	107	7	24	6004	548	0	136	53	10	8	0	14	8138
Total per hr			0.06	0.51	0.14	0.45	0.08	0.89	0.19	0.01	0.04	10.39	0.95	0.00	0.24	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	14.09
% of flight			0.5	3.6	1.0	3.2	0.6	6.3	1.3	0.1	0.3	73.8	6.7	0.0	1.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	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
September	16	128.0	20	25	107	89	6	284	17	0	4	6881	33	0	0	63	17	17	0	17	7580
October	14	98.0	7	102	21	58	2	601	79	0	8	8	91	0	3	24	14	14	0	11	1043
November	10	62.0	5	14	2	28	11	78	21	1	27	0	280	0	21	1	6	2	0	6	503
Total	40	288.0	32	141	130	175	19	963	117	1	39	6889	404	0	24	88	37	33	0	34	9126
Total per hr			0.11	0.49	0.45	0.61	0.07	3.34	0.41	0.00	0.14	23.92	1.40	0.00	0.08	0.31	0.13	0.11	0.00	0.12	31.69
% of flight			0.4	1.5	1.4	1.9	0.2	10.6	1.3	0.0	0.4	75.5	4.4	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	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) - Rich Conroy and Jamie Stewart, co-compilers

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	30	233.0	0	7	149	90	12	174	25	0	14	1875	0	0	0	99	26	10	0	25	2506
October	27	190.5	60	796	12	65	11	318	95	0	50	3	80	0	3	42	10	8	0	19	1572
Total	57	423.5	60	803	161	155	23	492	120	0	64	1878	80	0	3	141	36	18	0	44	4078
Total per hr			0.14	1.90	0.38	0.37	0.05	1.16	0.28	0.00	0.15	4.43	0.19	0.00	0.01	0.33	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.10	9.63
% of flight			1.5	19.7	3.9	3.8	0.6	12.1	2.9	0.0	1.6	46.1	2.0	0.0	0.1	3.5	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.1	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

ROCKY RIDGE (York) - Randy Phillips and Andrew Wolfgang, 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	4	17.5	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	18
September	30	179.6	0	3	44	27	16	275	19	0	8	9565	31	0	0	58	8	9	0	27	10090
October	21	104.4	57	85	7	17	9	224	18	0	9	5	48	0	0	32	7	2	0	13	533
November	17	60.0	24	95	3	25	5	22	3	0	19	0	62	0	2	3	2	3	0	2	270
Total	72	361.5	81	183	58	71	30	523	40	0	37	9571	145	0	2	96	17	14	0	43	10911
Total per hr			0.22	0.51	0.16	0.20	0.08	1.45	0.11	0.00	0.10	26.47	0.40	0.00	0.01	0.27	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.12	30.18
% of flight			0.7	1.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	4.8	0.4	0.0	0.3	87.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	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 and Janet Crawford, 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	1	1.0	0	0	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
September	30	193.3	0	0	93	61	10	211	27	0	8	300	4	0	0	64	4	5	0	19	806
October	30	147.5	0	245	21	34	4	183	56	0	28	13	35	0	0	32	2	2	0	10	665
November	23	100.8	10	75	0	14	5	22	11	1	73	0	79	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	298
Total	84	442.5	10	320	118	111	19	419	94	1	109	314	118	0	0	100	8	7	0	31	1779
Total per hr			0.02	0.72	0.27	0.25	0.04	0.95	0.21	0.00	0.25	0.71	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.07	4.02
% of flight			0.6	18.0	6.6	6.2	1.1	23.6	5.3	0.1	6.1	17.7	6.6	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.7	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

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	9	40.0	0	0	6	10	1	1	1	0	1	34	13	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	69
September	30	201.8	21	0	55	69	14	222	46	1	13	5395	73	0	1	43	6	7	0	12	5978
October	23	158.8	136	231	10	73	7	516	81	1	6	13	83	0	7	30	8	9	0	10	1221
November	28	183.0	75	140	0	66	9	51	18	2	47	0	362	1	38	4	3	3	0	8	827
December	10	57.5	14	2	0	12	1	0	1	0	0	0	27	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	66
Total	100	641.0	246	373	71	230	32	790	147	4	67	5442	558	1	53	78	17	20	0	32	8161
Total per hr			0.38	0.58	0.11	0.36	0.05	1.23	0.23	0.01	0.10	8.49	0.87	0.00	0.08	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.05	12.73
% of flight			3.0	4.6	0.9	2.8	0.4	9.7	1.8	0.0	0.8	66.7	6.8	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4	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	1	4.0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
September	26	155.0	0	0	51	59	8	100	21	0	4	3795	25	0	1	19	6	7	0	6	4102	
October	25	160.2	6	509	7	73	15	516	54	0	14	1	153	0	11	30	22	22	0	20	1453	
November	26	172.8	0	93	0	35	6	25	10	2	34	0	305	0	124	0	2	3	0	8	647	
December	7	41.3	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	18	1	25	0	0	1	0	0	50	
Total	85	533.3	6	602	58	178	29	642	86	2	52	3806	504	1	161	49	30	33	0	34	6273	
Total per hr			0.01	1.13	0.11	0.33	0.05	1.20	0.16	0.00	0.10	7.14	0.95	0.00	0.30	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.06	11.76	
% of flight			0.1	9.6	0.9	2.8	0.5	10.2	1.4	0.0	0.8	60.7	8.0	0.0	2.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	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	

SUMMIT MOUNTAIN (Fayette) - Peter Levengood, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	*Total
September	8	40.0	4	0	7	14	3	15	2	0	1	732	21	0	0	2	1	2	0	19	823
Total	8	40.0	4	0	7	14	3	15	2	0	1	732	21	0	0	2	1	2	0	19	823
Total per hr			0.10	0.00	0.18	0.35	0.08	0.38	0.05	0.00	0.03	18.30	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.48	20.58
% of flight			0.5	0.0	0.9	1.7	0.4	1.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	88.9	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	2.3	100.0

TLC's S. CHESTER COUNTY HAWKWATCH AT 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
August	9	56.5	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
September	30	226.0	0	0	113	132	13	245	74	0	10	680	4	0	0	79	16	3	0	0	1369
October	31	226.0	45	921	22	132	7	328	142	0	30	21	65	0	0	28	9	1	0	1	1752
November	30	217.0	1287	3352	0	158	8	183	102	0	197	0	444	0	1	1	9	2	0	0	5744
Total	100	725.5	1332	4273	136	424	28	758	319	0	237	701	513	0	1	109	34	6	0	1	8872
Total per hr			1.84	5.89	0.19	0.58	0.04	1.04	0.44	0.00	0.33	0.97	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	12.23
% of flight			15.0	48.2	1.5	4.8	0.3	8.5	3.6	0.0	2.7	7.9	5.8	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average for 4 yrs	93.3	719.7	333.0	1844.0	146.3	344.3	38.3	937.8	343.5	0.5	233.8	4073.5	495.0	0.0	5.0	186.5	30.5	7.0	0.0	5.0	9023.5

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	28	135.5	0	0	17	43	3	6	5	0	2	102	56	0	0	8	0	1	0	3	246
September	30	242.3	0	0	160	176	23	797	63	0	3	6500	181	0	1	94	29	21	0	42	8090
October	25	209.0	10	1300	33	177	38	2341	220	1	43	34	353	0	9	63	31	18	0	51	4722
November	28	237.5	12	123	1	233	44	105	43	5	86	0	1093	0	98	3	5	7	0	40	1898
December	20	125.3	4	25	0	66	2	0	1	1	2	0	105	0	11	0	0	1	0	5	223
Total	131	949.5	26	1448	211	695	110	3249	332	7	136	6636	1788	0	119	168	65	48	0	141	15179
Total per hr			0.03	1.53	0.22	0.73	0.12	3.42	0.35	0.01	0.14	6.99	1.88	0.00	0.13	0.18	0.07	0.05	0.00	0.15	15.99
% of flight			0.2	9.5	1.4	4.6	0.7	21.4	2.2	0.0	0.9	43.7	11.8	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.9	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

2019 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	104	673	43	138	109	164	12	62	27	0	11	907	238	0	1	55	12	7	0	47	1,833
September	373	2,758	149	350	1,328	1,252	171	3,775	496	4	89	72,014	685	0	4	794	208	129	0	319	81,767
October	340	2,356	444	7,040	238	1,046	181	9,361	1,216	10	271	172	2,145	0	121	514	213	148	0	256	23,376
November	308	2,076	1,493	4,510	9	1,088	165	785	324	23	674	0	5,425	2	1,006	27	56	36	0	114	15,737
December	67	399	27	31	0	165	10	3	8	3	3	0	297	1	92	1	0	2	0	14	657
Total	1,192	8,262	2,156	12,069	1,684	3,715	539	13,986	2,071	40	1,048	73,093	8,790	3	1,224	1,391	489	322	0	750	123,370
Total per hr			0.26	1.46	0.20	0.45	0.07	1.69	0.25	0.00	0.13	8.85	1.06	0.00	0.15	0.17	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.09	14.93
% of flight			1.7	9.8	1.4	3.0	0.4	11.3	1.7	0.0	0.8	59.2	7.1	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.6	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	12736.8	11.9	1041.8	1868.3	667.5	367.9	4	1133.6	122724.3
% compared to average	5.9	10.3	69.0	85.3	-35.4	77.4	-47.2	-46.8	-29.2	-76.1	-4.8	20.0	-31.0	-74.8	17.5	-25.5	-26.7	-12.5	-100.0	-33.8	0.5

KEY TO TABLE HEADERS

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

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

FAR FROM LAND: The Mysterious Lives of Seabirds by Michael Brooke, jacket design by Pamela Lewis Schnitter, excellent illustrations by Bruce Pearson, 10 chapters, acknowledgements, list of bird species with scientific names, notes, index, 6 x 9 ½ in., xi + 249 pp., by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2018, hard cover, \$29.95.

Let me introduce a personal prelude to this fantastic book because it depicts perhaps the greatest experience of my entire ornithological career. The geographical setting was 25 km off the shores of Ulva Island west of South Island, New Zealand. The quietness of the predawn darkness was intensified by the dense fog surrounding seven gentlemen waiting in a small dingy. Our local guide assured us that the stillness would soon be shattered. "You just must be patient." Indeed, sunlight beams penetrated the fog and simultaneously a crescendo of noise intensified, growing louder by the minute. Lo and behold, thousands of screaming birds, mostly mid-sized shearwaters, gadfly petrels, fulmars, and prions, (the latter quite small with flattened bills containing combs that sieve plankton from the surface water), were visible in the air and on the water. It took more than three hours of fierce birding identification to count 49 species of seabirds (all lifers for me) when the avian mass gradually dispersed with more sunlight and they finally disappeared. My unbelievable lifetime exaltation was over.

Michael Brook is the Strickland Curator of Ornithology at the University Museum of Zoology, the author of *Albatrosses and Petrels across the World*, the co-editor of *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology*, and has written widely on science and travel for outlets such as the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Guardian*. Brooke has visited every corner of the vast sea-world in his lifelong pursuit of seabirds. He draws upon his own experience, insight, and the latest cutting edge science to shed light on the elusive seafaring lives of albatrosses, frigate birds, cormorants, and other ocean wanderers. Likewise, he answers many unknown questions about some seabirds, such as: Where do puffins go in the winter? Where do seabirds actually go when they roam the sea? What tactics are employed to traverse vast tracts of ocean? What strategies are used to evade threats? How deep do penguins dive? How far can an albatross spot a fishing vessel worth following its next meal? Brooke addresses these and other questions in this delightful book. He reveals along the way that seabirds are not the aimless wind tossed creatures they may appear to be and explains the observational

innovations that are driving this exciting area of ornithological research.

Seabirds evoke the spirit of the earth's dwindling wildest and most distant places. They spend most of their lives at sea, occasionally breeding on lovely but remote islands rarely visited by humans. In the past twenty years, however, development of increasingly sophisticated and miniaturized devices now track their every movement and behavior, making it possible to observe the mysterious lives of these remarkable creatures as never before. Until recently, only the availability of new evidence on timing of breeding, DNA, and fined-grained plumage features allowed the description of new species. Intriguing information emerged when seabirds were banded and given a long time individual identity. The great majority of seabirds, for example, remain faithful to the same partner year after year, the pair bond being broken only by death or rare occasional divorce.

Among the approximately global total of 10,000 avian species, seabirds constitute nearly 350 species, ranging as small as the 1.2 kg Little Penguin to the large 40 kg Emperor Penguin, representing 18 flightless species that breed from the Galapagos Islands on the Equator in the north to Antarctica in the far south. Most penguin colonies occupy remote islands; however, there are exceptions: some breed on the mainland of South America, South Africa, New Zealand's South Island, and, of course, on Antarctica. The largest seabird group comprises the tube-nosed birds in the Procellariiformes order divided into four families: 22 albatross species, 90 species including shearwaters, gadfly petrels, fulmars, and the prions, a group where the several species look similar. Likewise, conspicuously tube-nosed are the tiny 25 storm petrel species. Finally, among the tube-nosed birds, the 4 diving petrel species are restricted to the Southern Hemisphere (p. 8). Other seabirds include 3 gannets, 7 boobies, 3 tropicbirds, 5 frigatebirds, 35 cormorants or shags, one Brown Pelican, 100 species of gulls and terns, 7 species of skuas, and 24 auk species confined to the Northern Hemisphere.

Brooke's introductory pages raise questions about daily seabird activities and stresses how far modern mostly electronic gadgetry has enabled researchers to answer many of those questions. Nonetheless, surprises still occur when supposedly extinct species are found to persist and wholly new species are discovered. The most recent, more dramatic, announcement happened in 2011 when Peter Harrison discovered a new species, the Pincoya Storm Petrel that flits over the fjords of southern Chile. Yet surprising gaps have persisted. Atlantic Puffins all but disappear

in the winter despite being one of the most numerous seabirds of the North Atlantic. On the other hand, in April 2017 while this book was in press, an active breeding colony of Hornby's Storm Petrels, a common bird of the cold waters of the Humboldt Current, was discovered 70 km away in the Atacama Desert.

Having established the whereabouts of a seabird, the next obvious question is: What is it doing at sea? Flying or swimming? Obviously a flightless penguin will have wet feet for as long as it remains at sea. There may be differences in the amount of time spent swimming on the water by night and by day and there may be differences by season. Many smaller petrels are mostly on the wing while at sea during the breeding season but spend their time on the water when not breeding. The route towards documenting such behaviors involves immersion loggers attached to the legs of birds that sprout two tiny electrodes. The impedance between the electrodes diminishes when they are in water with a recorder registering the time of transitions from wet to dry and vice versa. Today immersion loggers are routinely incorporated within the GLS (global location sensing) devices fixed to seabirds, the whole package weighing less than 5g.

The overall impacts of VHF radio-telemetry and radar have been slight compared to satellite telemetry for seabird research. PTTS (platform transmitter terminals) have been deployed on countless seabird species. GPS light sensitive devices are even better with 30 active satellites in the GPS constellation with superb accuracy. For example, juvenile frigatebirds go to sea by day but return to land to be fed. Then the satellite-tracked young birds move north, alternate periods of soaring in circles, attaining heights up to 3000 m, and periods of slow descent. While soaring, the birds do not flap their wings but rely on differences in air speed between different blocks of air to gain height, so-called dynamic soaring. Using this tactic, the youngsters remain in flight to 41 days at a stretch. Finally, positional data can be gathered from GLS (global location sensing) light-weight sensitive devices that when attached to a seabird, record the time of local sunrise and sunset. Next, if the species is bobbing on the sea, it might dive for food. How deep does it dive? Capillary tubes are attached to birds to find out. Because the capillary is sealed at one end, the air within becomes compressed when a bird dives and water under pressure enters from the other end. The deeper the dive, the further up the capillary moves, recorded by an indicator powder dusted onto the inside of the capillary that changes as it gets wet. When the device is later retrieved from the bird,

the capillary gives an indication of the maximum depth reached by the bird and device during the period of attachment. Since the device is not providing a continuous read-out, the longer it is deployed, the greater the maximum depth it is likely to be. A King Penguin, for example, can dive below 100 m (p. 23).

Brooke makes it clear that the book delves into the ecology of seabirds rather than their physiology but the latter cannot be completely ignored. For example, an implant heart-rate monitor and depth recorder reveal how King Penguins show remarkable fluctuations in heart rate during the course of a dive. Not only does heart rate fluctuate with activity, it is also probably a good indication of the amount of energy being expended in whatever activity the

monitored bird is performing. The bird's energy needs translate into its food requirements and hence impacts on the entire marine ecosystem. Find details of this and other physiology examples in pp. 23-27

Do yourself a reading favor by examining the minute revelations about seabirds from first journey, meandering years of immaturity, adult migration and movement during the breeding season, interplay of winds and waves, where to find food and how to catch it, and the clash between seabird interaction with people – past, present, and future. Indeed, this book superbly evokes all the science, mystery, and romance of these most alluring sea creatures. It's a guarantee that you will become a seabird conciliator by doing so.

As Brooke concludes: "There is no conflict between the thrilling discoveries of the past 20 years and continuing to marvel at the ability of seabirds to cope with a salty medium so different to land. That ability will be compromised if seabirds' nesting places are rendered less secure, often by introduced alien species, and if life at sea becomes more dangerous. That will happen if the seas are over-fished, if fishing practices create perils for seabirds, and if pollution is not controlled. It is not in the interests of seabirds or humanity for these changes to happen. They need not (p. 264)".

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Centre County Rarities



Most Laughing Gulls are found in the far southeast, but this immature bird was at Bald Eagle SP, Centre, for one day only, 27 October. (Bob Snyder)



Quite unexpected was this Great Cormorant at Colyer Lake, Centre, present 18-26 (here 20) October; few are found away from the southeast, this being only the second eBird report in central Pennsylvania. (Debra Rittlemann)

Summary of the Season: Fall 2019

Geoff Malosh

In terms of temperatures, the fall of 2019 followed much the same pattern as the fall of 2018: generally, a few degrees above normal across the state through mid-to late October, then much colder and below normal in November. But this fall was significantly drier this year than last, much to the relief of most everyone, following what had been an extremely wet summer. Compilers remarked on what was generally regarded as an unremarkable passerine migration, and waterfowl too did not show particularly well. Despite the sharply colder November, the month was not punctuated by many distinct, strong frontal systems, which further suppressed waterfowl counts. The wet summer kept several traditional shorebird spots flooded through the early fall, but a few locations had excellent seasons anyway, especially at the drawn-down lakebeds at Somerset Lake and Yellow Creek State Park.

Hurricane Dorian, one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes ever recorded, flirted for a time with making landfall in the Carolinas and proceeding into Pennsylvania, but as it finally moved north past the Bahamas after wreaking massive devastation on that country, it veered northeast, clipping the Outer Banks on 9/6 and staying fairly well offshore as it moved through our latitudes 9/7. The only storm birds associated with it were seen on the lower Delaware River, all of which were displaced coastal species rather than pelagics. *Delaware* was also affected by another rare weather event: an EF2 tornado that struck on 10/31 and caused extensive damage to portions of Ridley Creek State Park. The first frost of the season in that county quickly followed on 11/1—quite a bumpy ride to close out the month.

A flock of 6 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** on the Susquehanna River in *York* 8/7 unfortunately proved to be a one-day wonder. These were the last of a remarkable flight of the species into Pennsylvania that commenced in the summer months. These Pennsylvania sightings themselves were but a relatively small part of an invasion of whistling-ducks throughout the mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes in 2019. Beginning in June they were also reported in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. One bird even overwintered in *Oakland*, Michigan (near Detroit), and was still present there as of early March 2020.

Flocks of **Snow Geese** were seen in the western counties of *Greene*, *Butler*, and *Erie*; typically, in fall, Snow Geese appear in the west in counts of one or two, not flocks. Quite notable was the total recorded over *Butler* 11/15, a flock which held a

whopping 666 birds. The only **Ross's Goose** found before the end of November was one in *Northampton* 11/27, not surprising, as this species is much more common in early spring than late fall in our state. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found in five eastern counties beginning with an early bird in *Bucks* 10/10. It was a relatively poor year for **Brant**, a species that is most often associated with strong fronts in late October and November, which were decidedly lacking this year. The only flocks were noted in *Erie* 11/17 and at Hawk Mountain 11/2, and singles were seen in three other locations. **Cackling Geese** are regularly and widely reported nowadays, but this season all reports were made from 14 eastern counties, with none in the central or western counties.

Trumpeter Swans continue to increase somewhat in Pennsylvania, but they still remain decidedly rare here compared to their downright abundance as close as western Lake Erie. One bird that appeared variously in *Clarion*, *Forest*, and *Jefferson* was tagged in January 2018 in Burlington, Ontario. They were also recorded in *Crawford*, *Monroe*, and *Pike*, and two more were noted in *Jefferson*. Despite the lack of frontal systems, migrating flocks of **Tundra Swans** were widely reported anyway, with the biggest flocks of 50 or more birds mostly seen in western counties, as is often the case. Most impressive was a day total of 1111 over *Butler* 11/10.

Reports of ducks, as mentioned, were unremarkable, and that was probably most true for the dabblers. Quite remarkable for *Allegheny* was a fallout of 90 **Blue-winged Teal** on the Ohio River a few minutes from downtown Pittsburgh 9/23, quite probably the highest ever count for that county. Two days later on 9/25, another nice count of 50 was made in *Indiana*, and two days before on 9/21, some 78 were tallied across three locations in *Washington*. Two late birds were in *York* 11/10. A very early **Northern Shoveler** was in *Delaware* 8/29, and equally surprising was a **Gadwall** in *Bucks* 8/4, which set a new early date there. Reports of **American Black Duck** seemed to be slightly off but were reported statewide through the season. Early **Northern Pintails** were noted in *Allegheny* 9/21 and in *Crawford* 9/6 and 9/27. A **Green-winged Teal** in *Bucks* 8/3 represented another record early date there.

Canvasbacks are relatively rare prior to the end of November; this season they were found in five counties scattered around the state, none earlier than 10/31. **Redhead** is typically a little more common, and indeed was found a few more times in eight counties. One early bird was in

Crawford 8/29. A **Ring-necked Duck** that summered in *Blair* remained only to 8/4. A **Greater Scaup** in *Adams* 9/23 was the first of a few scattered reports.

Quite unexpected for the fall season were no fewer than three **Harlequin Ducks** beginning with one in *Lycoming* 11/13, followed by a one-day wonder in *Allegheny* 11/16 and one in *Luzerne* 11/26. Both the *Lycoming* and *Luzerne* birds remained into December. **Surf Scoter** was the most widely reported of the scoter trio, noted in 9 counties, one better than **White-winged Black Scoter** was seen in just four counties, including *Allegheny* in the west where it is quite rare. Like with Brant, the lack of strong fronts led to a dearth of reports across eastern counties where Black Scoter is more commonly noted in fall. As usual, the annual waterbird count at Presque Isle State Park produced the most of each of the three species, including nice counts of 32 and 35 **White-winged Scoters** 11/14 and 11/23, respectively.

The most amazing report of the season among waterfowl was the record-shattering tally of 6500 **Long-tailed Ducks** that passed the mount of Walnut Creek, *Erie* 11/21—a count that came up just shy of doubling the prior *Erie* waterbird count record of 3295. One long-staying (presumed sick or injured) female Long-tailed was still present in *Northampton* to 9/14, which provided a very unusual opportunity to observe the species in summer plumage away from their Arctic breeding grounds. Although there were not many strong frontal systems, a statewide fallout of **Buffleheads** occurred 11/6 nevertheless. High counts included 209 in *Adams*, 256 in *Bucks*, 140 in *Huntingdon*, 302 in *Montgomery*, 30 in *Schuylkill*, 52 in *Somerset*, and 20 in *Luzerne*. Single digit counts were made in at least 5 other counties that day as well. **Common Goldeneye** is another species not particularly common before the end of November, so reports in 14 counties represented a better than average showing. The same is true for **Red-breasted Merganser**, which appeared in 11 counties.

Ruffed Grouse, encouragingly, was reported in at least 37 counties, including one that was seen crossing the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in *Carbon* 11/27. Readers can fill in their own jokes about why a grouse crossed the road. An early **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared in *Monroe* 8/4. **Red-necked Grebe** was noted only in *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Erie* (where annual), and *Huntingdon*. One in *Bucks* set a new record early date of 10/6.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen in traditional locations in *Berks* and *Franklin*, and one was in *Dauphin* 9/12.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered well past typical departure dates in *Montgomery* to 10/25, *Dauphin* to 10/26, *Northampton* to 10/30, and *Susquehanna* to 11/19. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was as usual much more thinly reported than Yellow-billed, but perhaps slightly more widely reported than in most recent years.

Birders once again paid close attention to the migration of **Common Nighthawk** in late August and early September, and overall it was an above-average season for them. Reports were made in 40 counties. Those counties with annual dedicated nightly watches reported lower than average season totals, but several one-off counts away from nightly watches exceeded 100 birds in a single afternoon, including 161 in *Allegheny* 9/1, 132 in *Butler* 9/12, 129 in *Columbia* 8/31, 108 in *Philadelphia* 9/9, and 111 in *Luzerne* 8/28. Very intriguing was a report of a possible Lesser Nighthawk among a group of about a dozen Common Nighthawks near Emmaus, *Lehigh* 8/24. The bird was seen well but not photographed, and unfortunately a report had not been submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) as of this writing. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was noted in eight counties, about average for the fall season.

Motus towers in *Chester* continued to provide intriguing insights into the migration of some species through our region. For example: a **Chimney Swift** tagged in Quebec 7/23 passed through *Chester* and was logged at the Motus tower near Welkinwier 8/3. It's easy to see a Chimney Swift in Pennsylvania in early August and assume it's one of our local summering birds, but in fact even by 8/3 some of the swifts around here may well have summered quite far away. Latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were one in *Bucks* 10/26 and one that lingered in *Westmoreland* to 11/2. The state's third **Anna's Hummingbird** was an immature male in *Chester* that appeared in mid-October and stayed through the season, to the delight of several dozen birders who made the trip to see it. Seven **Rufous Hummingbirds** were noted in five counties. One of them was an adult female in *Somerset* that appeared in late July and stayed to 8/1; later, two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were seen at that same feeder 9/23-25, but by 9/26 when a banding attempt was made, only one remained, which proved to be the same adult female from the summer that had been absent since 8/1. This mid-summer departure-then-reappearance act added yet another wrinkle to the ever-evolving status and history of Rufous Hummingbird in eastern North America.

A **King Rail** in *Montgomery* briefly became a celebrity 8/30-9/2 and provided a first for that county. **Virginia Rail** was noted in 14 counties; the most interesting

sightings were one very late bird in *Bucks* 11/14 that was ultimately taken to a rehab facility, and one that passed a Motus tower in *Chester* at Green Valley 10/19. This bird had been tagged near Sandusky Bay, Ohio 6/27. **Sora** was seen in 14 counties, at least three of which stayed into October. **Common Gallinules** were seen in five counties, all at or near traditional breeding sites. An immature **Purple Gallinule** was at John Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia* from 9/16-24. A flock of 21 **Sandhill Cranes** in *Butler* 9/24 was somewhat early for a count of this size, perhaps just another indication of this species' continued expansion in the state.

With the heavy rains of summer not abating until mid-August in many locations, it was not the best year for shorebirds. Aside from Gull Point, *Erie*, which produced shorebirds at its typical rate (more or less), drained reservoirs at Somerset Lake, *Somerset* and Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana* and a sandbar in the Delaware River in *Delaware* were the only sites with consistently good production.

As usual, Gull Point produced the only records for several species; this year those were **Piping Plover**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Red Knot**, **Purple Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Phalarope**. See the Birds of Note for details on all of these. The phalarope, incidentally, was probably the most surprising of that lot, since the beaches at Gull Point have never been particularly attractive to phalaropes, and all three species of phalarope are far less than annual there. Gull Point also was one of two sites for the following species that were seen at only two sites total: **Whimbrel** (also in *Lancaster*), **Marbled Godwit** (also in *Lancaster*), and **Willet** (also in *Somerset*). The Whimbrel in *Lancaster* interestingly was not at the Conejohela Flats as one might expect, but a flyby at the Chestnut Grove Natural Area. Admittedly, it was probably headed to or coming from the flats. **American Avocet** was seen in three counties, the most unusual of which was the flock of 10 found swimming in the Ohio River at Brunots Island 9/23. These birds were first found by a non-birder riverboat captain who reported them to the National Aviary; subsequently they were seen by several birders later in the day. There were also at least 28 for the season at Gull Point, the latest of which were a rather tardy 3 birds 10/31-11/1, and a single flock of 28 was at Somerset Lake 8/18. Incidentally, that same day (8/18), 14 avocets were at Gull Point too.

Black-bellied Plover tends to be rather rare in fall away from Presque Isle; this year besides *Erie* they were recorded only in *Delaware*, *Lancaster*, *Northumberland*, and *Somerset*. **American Golden-Plover** was much more widespread, as usual, and was recorded in 14 counties but not in large numbers anywhere. A late **Semipalmated**

Plover was noted in *Beaver* 10/10, and two birds that had been tagged in Churchill, Manitoba on 6/22 and 6/24 flew past a Motus tower in *Chester* 8/7.

Upland Sandpipers were noted in *Franklin*, *Lancaster* (where annual), *Lebanon*, *Mifflin*, and *Somerset*. All of these other than the *Franklin* bird (9/3-4) were seen in August. **Hudsonian Godwits** were seen briefly in *Delaware* and *Lancaster*; the *Delaware* bird was quite early on 8/8. Conversely, a **Stilt Sandpiper** in *Delaware* 11/11 was quite late. **Sanderling** made a fairly decent flight, recorded in nine counties, including one bird detected by a Motus tower in *Philadelphia* 8/3, having been detected at another Motus tower at Amherst Island, Ontario earlier that same day. A nice count of 136 **Dunlins** flew past Sunset Point, *Erie* 11/1, and one was still at Somerset Lake 11/11.

Baird's Sandpiper was noted in 14 counties, quite in line with the "new normal" for this species compared to a few decades ago. **White-rumped Sandpiper** was noted in only seven counties, somewhat below average nowadays, and many of these sightings were in August. Often this species is still among the later-arriving shorebird migrants in late September and even October. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was seen only in *Lancaster* (three records) and *Somerset* (but not at Somerset Lake). Early November **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found in *Northampton* and *Philadelphia*. It was an excellent season for **Western Sandpiper**, with at least nine records in seven counties, all in August and the first week of September.

Short-billed Dowitchers made scattered appearances, mainly in August as usual, whereas **Long-billed Dowitcher** did not have a good season at all, noted only in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Montour*. Late-ish **Spotted Sandpipers** were in *Greene* 10/8 and *Monroe* 10/11, and **Solitary Sandpipers** lingered in western counties of *Washington* to 10/19 and *Beaver* to 10/20. **Greater Yellowlegs** also stuck around longest in the west: 11/18 in *Bedford*, 11/28 in *Crawford*, 11/5 in *Indiana*, and 11/8 in *Washington*. One also remained in *Delaware* to 11/11. Five **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen in four counties, clustered in a tight window from 8/23-9/5. **Red Phalaropes** were seen in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia* in the same late August window as the Red-necks, which was early for them in the absence of a tropical storm. Another phalarope was seen off Sunset Point, *Erie* 11/13, a date that points squarely to Red, though the bird was too far away for certain identification.

Two **Parasitic Jaegers** off Gull Point 9/2 were the only jaegers identified to species in the state this season. Another bird far off Gull Point 9/2 was suspected to be Long-tailed, and two other unidentified

jaegers were seen during the *Erie* waterbird count. Most interesting among the sightings of **Bonaparte's Gull** characteristically spread across the state and throughout the season was the aggregation of nearly 2000 of them at Pymatuning in *Crawford* in early November. Very nice was a **Sabine's Gull** at the Conejohela Flats 9/2 and 9/5, representing the 26th record for the state if accepted. The **Black-headed Gull** did not appear at *Butler's* Lake Arthur by the end of November again this year, but one was seen in *Bucks* 11/24. A **Laughing Gull** in *Centre* 10/27 was the only one noted out of range away from the southeastern counties. An amazing, random sighting was of a **Franklin's Gull** flyby in *Lycoming*, the first for that county. Also very rare for the fall season away from *Erie* was a **Little Gull** in *Montgomery* 11/10. Despite all these rarities, perhaps the most unexpected gull of the season was a **Glaucous Gull** that appeared in *Beaver* 11/21 and remained to the end of the season. It was just the fourth for *Beaver*, but the first three all occurred within a few days of each other during the extreme cold of January 2015. This represented the first Glaucous Gull seen in southwestern Pennsylvania in the month of November.

Two rare terns were found, one of which was probably associated with Hurricane Dorian well after the fact: a juvenile **Royal Tern** was rescued from the dam at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon* 9/13, five days after Dorian's offshore passage. The bird was taken to a rehabilitator but it eventually succumbed. Also notable was a **Gull-billed Tern** seen at Fort Mifflin, *Delaware* 8/18, but unfortunately documentation of this significant rarity was not submitted to PORC. A staggering 257 **Caspian Terns** were seen moving upriver along the Delaware in *Delaware* 9/6, while Dorian was still rather close to the North Carolina coast. It was another good season for **Black Tern**, with reports in 10 counties, the latest of which was one at Gull Point, *Erie* 9/23. Similarly, **Common Tern** was widespread. *Erie* was of course the hotspot, where a count of 243 was made off Gull Point 9/2 and smaller numbers continued to be seen all the way into November. It wasn't a particularly good season for **Forster's Tern**, though, for whatever reason. They were seen more widely than both Common and Black terns, of course, but not in significant numbers. One late bird was noted in *Delaware* 11/2.

Away from *Erie* (where the daily max during the Sunset Point waterbird count was 47 on 11/24), **Red-throated Loon** was noted in eight other counties, including a serendipitous flyover in *Washington* 11/16 and a bird in *Fayette* 11/30, counties where the species is accidental. At least 200 **Common Loons** gathered near the Pymatuning Causeway, *Crawford* in early November. Around that same time, a high

count of 91 flew past Hawk Mountain 11/8, and another 71 flew past Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon* 11/1, about a week before numbers peaked in *Crawford* and at Hawk Mountain. Surprisingly, **Great Cormorant** was not seen in *Bucks* prior to the end of November, but one unexpectedly showed up in *Centre* 10/18-26, and another passed Sunset Point in *Erie* 10/11. They were present on the Delaware River in *Philadelphia* beginning in early October, so it's a mystery why they skipped *Bucks* this season. **American White Pelican**, recently removed from the PORC review list, was seen in *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Somerset*, and *Tioga*.

Rare herons and waders were almost exclusively confined to the southeastern counties, but were quite well reported in that region. Leading the way as always were **Little Blue Herons** in 11 counties, with records furthest afield occurring in *Lycoming* and *Pike*, and **Snowy Egrets** in five counties all in the far southeast. Even **Cattle Egret**, a species apt to show up anywhere in the state in the fall, appeared only in *Adams*, *Franklin*, and *Lebanon*. **Least Bittern** was found in six more widespread counties, including *Erie* and *Mercer* in the west and *Centre* (via nocturnal flight call) in central Pennsylvania. Quite impressive were reports of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** in nine counties, one of the best showings in recent years. Among them were a long-staying bird in *Allegheny* 8/5-21 that allowed Pittsburgh area birders their first-ever opportunity to chase this species at their leisure; the only other *Allegheny* record was one bird seen briefly by one observer in the spring of 2014. Another Yellow-crowned was found in *Westmoreland* 9/26.

Glossy Ibis was noted in five counties, again all in the southeast except one in *Centre* 8/1-3. Two **White Ibises** were reported: one in *Delaware* and one in *York*, but neither were submitted to PORC. Among the more common waders, **American Bitterns** were found in November in *Bucks*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*, and a late **Green Heron** was in *Erie* 11/5. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen in 13 counties, nearly all in the southeast. A **Wood Stork** was apparently in *Luzerne* for several days before it became known to the birding community 9/24-25, but was seen by several people in those two days.

In the southwest, two **Black Vultures** in *Beaver* continued from the spring, and were seen three times up to 11/23. They were also seen out of normal range in *Fayette* and *Indiana*. In the east there is no scarcity of this species, in fact they are sometimes seen as a nuisance—see the *Berks* report. An **Osprey** in *Lawrence* 11/1 was quite late for that part of the state. **Northern Goshawks** were seen away from hawkwatches in seven counties, much better than average, though this is a species

that is not too infrequently misidentified. An interesting interaction between a **Bald Eagle** and two **Common Ravens** was witnessed in *Adams* and readers are directed to that report as well for the details. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** in *Lehigh* was present for the second half of August and drew attention from far and wide; by the time it departed it had been included on 130 eBird checklists and seen by untold numbers of others.

By far the bird of the season, and certainly one that is among the most unexpected birds ever found in Pennsylvania, was the juvenile **Snail Kite** that appeared on the east end of Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* late in the day 10/22. It was beautifully photographed, but much to the consternation of the dozens of hopeful birders on the park the next day, it was not seen again. Not only did it represent the first record for the state (if accepted), it marked the northernmost record of this species known, by nearly 500 miles—topping the old record set by a bird seen near Greenville, South Carolina in late November and early December 2016. It wasn't the only Snail Kite seen well out of range to the north in 2019 either: another bird (or, by some tiny chance, the same?) was seen at Lake Marion, South Carolina, 600 miles south of Presque Isle, nine days later 10/31-11/7. This species is quite range-restricted due to its specialized food requirements, and is not known much for wandering far. There are a few scattered records in Texas, birds that almost certainly originated in Mexico, and a few more in Georgia, South Carolina, and one in southern North Carolina, all of which, again, almost certainly, were of birds coming out of Florida. The Pennsylvania bird was so far out of range, though, that it's up for debate where it might have originated. Florida is the most likely possibility, of course, but not necessarily a guarantee.

Mississippi Kite was not reported at a hawkwatch this year but two were reported elsewhere: one in *Allegheny* and one in *Wyoming*. Unfortunately, only the *Wyoming* bird was submitted for PORC review. Hawk watch results are summarized elsewhere in this issue, but the phenomenal season for **Broad-winged Hawks** at Allegheny Front, *Bedford* is worth mentioning here: more than 15,000 were tallied there in September, and just over 16,000 for the season. A morning liftoff of about 1500 birds was noted at Rose Valley Lake in *Lycoming* 9/17, a superb count for any location away from a hawkwatch. Quite interesting was a **Red-tailed x Red-shouldered Hawk** in *Lancaster* for much of the period. A few scattered **Rough-legged Hawks** were noted by the end of November, mostly in the northern half of the state.

An out of range and injured **Barn Owl**, immature but not recently fledged,

was found in *Erie* in late September. It was taken to a rehabilitator but did not survive. Another was in *Warren* 10/19. This species is in apparent decline across Pennsylvania as a breeder, and has long been absent from far western and northwestern Pennsylvania, but they do occur here rarely, with these two being the latest of what are seemingly random records of the species west of the Allegheny Front. The winter of 2019-20 would not prove to be an invasion year for **Snowy Owl**, but one was seen in *Erie* 11/20 nevertheless. **Short-eared Owl** was noted in at least eight counties, despite being absent (or not looked for) at a few traditional locations in the west. The highly secretive **Long-eared Owl** was found in four counties, including one in *Bedford* that was trapped in the nets of the Saw-whet Owl banding station at the Allegheny Front. Speaking of which, it was a down year in the cyclic occurrence of **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, with the various banding stations around the state reporting a not-unexpected poor year. Still, the most interesting data from these banding efforts is the recapture data. See the *Chester* and *Dauphin* reports for some details of Pennsylvania-related recaptures this year.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were widespread, including, as usual, a few records from unexpected areas, among which was the continuance into the fall of a rare breeding pair in *Washington*. An **American Kestrel** tagged in New Jersey 10/8 flew over a Motus tower in *Chester* three days later. **Merlins** were found frequently across the state, including birds already in the far southern counties by mid-August. The word "peregrine" is an adjective meaning "traveling", or "wandering", and the **Peregrine Falcon's** name is not a coincidence. Today, Motus data confirms the appropriateness of the name. Two Peregrine Falcons that were originally tagged in Harrisburg were detected by out of state Motus towers this season: one in Maryland near the mouth of the Potomac River, and the other near the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick, Canada. A wandering species, indeed.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in *Lehigh* drew much attention from 11/17 to the end of the season, and a **Western Kingbird**, a species somewhat shy of annual occurrence in the state, was in *Lancaster* for a few days in early November. As usual among the regular flycatchers, compilers focused on mentioning **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, both of which were well reported across the state. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** made it into early October in *Crawford* and *Indiana*, and an exceptionally late bird was in *Philadelphia* 11/9.

First **Northern Shrike** appeared in *Susquehanna* 11/6 and was followed by five more around the state by month's end. Vireos are a group for which there is

usually little to report other than late dates and that was the case again this year. Most notable were a few November **White-eyed Vireos**, one in *Berks* 11/3 and one exceptionally late in *Philadelphia* 11/23-27. A few **Blue-headed Vireos** made it to late November in *Montgomery* and *Philadelphia* too. Although not in November, a **Red-eyed Vireo** in *Erie* 10/19 set a new record late date there by two weeks.

Fish Crows continue to make some inroads into western counties. A few birds in *Cambria* seem to be resident now, and they were also seen a few times in *Indiana* which has had an increase in sightings in recent years, and in *Somerset*. **Common Ravens** are also now making a push into the far northwest, the last area of the state where they are still irregular; *Crawford* and *Erie* had two and three sightings, respectively. These days, and away from the known wintering area at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant in *Philadelphia*, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** is increasingly often the last swallow to be reported in fall; this year the last **Tree Swallow** was in *Philadelphia* 11/17, but **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** made it to the end of the month in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*, and of course in *Philadelphia*. A few rough-wings were even still in the northwest in *Crawford* as late as 11/4. Very unexpected was a **Bank Swallow** among the rough-wings at the water treatment plant in *Philadelphia* 11/9-27.

After last year's boom, this year was bust for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, as expected. Reports were highly scattered, most counties had just a handful of reports, and quite a few had none at all. What peak of migration there was came in mid- to late October, also as usual, but a few were around as early as late August. Late **House Wrens** were in *Montgomery* and *Luzerne* on 11/1 and 11/2, respectively. Four **Sedge Wrens** were found this season, three migrants from late September to early October in *Mercer*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*, but in *Somerset*, a late report from 7/22 at the Flight 93 Memorial site prompted follow-up visits in early August that found a probable breeding pair there. A **Marsh Wren** lingered in *Allegheny* to 11/17 at a site where one unexpectedly wintered a few years ago. Extremely late **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were located in *Bucks* 11/19, *Delaware* 11/13, and *Erie* 11/19; the *Erie* bird set a new county record by seven weeks.

Reports of spot-breasted thrushes were relatively few, as usual, and aside from some monitoring in *Clarion* and *Berks*, not much was reported among them on nocturnal migration. See especially the *Clarion* report for some details on the nocturnal data. A late **Veery** was in *Berks* 10/12. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was caught and banded in *Warren* 9/5, and another early bird was found in

Cumberland 9/6. These were indeed early birds by typical wisdom, but closer monitoring of nocturnal migration in recent years, especially in locations using automated recording equipment, has shown that the very first Gray-cheeks probably show up by the end of the first week of September more often than not. Another record-late bird in *Erie* was a **Swainson's Thrush** 11/8. Most records of **Varied Thrush** in Pennsylvania are from the winter months. One in *McKean* 11/10-23 was just the fourth seen in the month of November since 2005.

November mimics included **Gray Catbird** in *Montgomery*, *Lehigh*, and *Washington*, and **Brown Thrasher** in *Dauphin*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*. **American Pipits** were widely distributed during their protracted migration, and included a pretty fair count of double-digit flocks from many areas. Here too Motus data from *Chester* supplied some intriguing insight: one pipit tagged in Quebec 9/17 was detected in *Chester* 11/13. Another interesting and quite random pipit sighting was of four birds in a vacant lot in the city of Pittsburgh 11/14, noticed incidentally by a birder nearby who was waiting for a bus.

It was a poor year for winter finches that was correctly anticipated as such by Ron Pittaway in his annual winter finch forecast. Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll were unreported. In good years, **Pine Siskin** might be seen in most or even every county by the end of November, but this year they were noted in only 12, most of which were brief visits to feeders. Even **Purple Finch** was much reduced, with scattered reports from around the state, primarily after mid-October. It was not so for **Snow Bunting**, though, which had been reported already in 17 counties by season's end, likely ushered into the state by the sudden and very cold November weather. **Lapland Longspur** was much more difficult to find. A handful of rather early birds were in *Erie* 9/30-10/7, and one was at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/16.

Nelson's Sparrows were noted in seven counties, but all of them were at locations where they are annually found in fall, or nearly so, except for one at Gull Point, *Erie* 10/4. Of course, they are almost certainly annual at Gull Point too, but aren't found there due to both difficulty of access and perhaps a lack of specific effort to find them. One bird at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 10/28 was identified as the Atlantic subspecies, which is of course quite rare for the state. **Chipping Sparrows** once again lingered in decent numbers to the end of November in the southeast, despite the harsh November, and continued to 11/11 even in *Butler*. Migrant **Clay-colored Sparrows** were noted in seven counties, mostly in October, but one was still in *Montgomery* 11/30. **Vesper Sparrow** gets hard to find in the fall, so although this

year's haul in 16 counties doesn't seem like a lot, it was probably a little better than average. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was still in *Lebanon* (record late), *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia* during the last week of October.

Compilers consider both **Fox Sparrow** and **Lincoln's Sparrow** usually worth mention, and both were very well represented in county reports this season. Quite interesting and certainly unusual was a leucistic **White-throated Sparrow** in *Allegheny* in early November that was completely white except for its brown tail and yellow lores. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was in *Montgomery* 10/13. This subspecies is identified often enough to establish that passes through Pennsylvania with some regularity, and therefore it's not unreasonable to think that it probably does so more than known, but simply isn't noticed. A **Lark Sparrow** was in *Philadelphia* on the extraordinarily early date of 8/17. Another western subspecies, **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco**, appeared in *Crawford* 11/7 and 11/14. Another avian celebrity that drew much attention this season was a **Green-tailed Towhee** in *Montgomery* from 11/11 through the period, the fifth for the state.

A **Western Meadowlark** continued from the summer to 8/2 in *Mifflin*. A very late **Bobolink** was in *Montgomery* 10/26. Only a few **Baltimore Orioles** made it to November this year, in contrast to some recent years when multiple birds lingered not only to the end of the season but overwintered too. This year they were noted in early November in *Bucks* and *Chester*. **Rusty Blackbird** continues to receive close attention from birders and compilers alike. Reports came from at least 33 counties, widespread to be sure, but not many large flocks were reported. In fact, a count of 150 in *Crawford* 11/4 was the only triple-digit count for the season. Here again Motus data from *Chester* is worth mentioning: a number of birds tagged in northern New Hampshire in June and July this year were detected in *Chester* in November, including one bird that remained in the vicinity of the Motus tower for four days.

Among rare warblers, the only true vagrant was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found on private property in *Lebanon*. The bird was first seen 9/26, and, quite remarkably, was still there as of at least 11/17, clearly intent on settling in for the winter. The only other warbler annotated in the Birds of Note is **Golden-winged Warbler** and its hybrids; this year Golden-winged was noted in 10 widespread counties, Brewster's in

Montgomery and *Philadelphia*, and Lawrence's in *Delaware*. Otherwise warbler migration was not remarkable. Summarizing notable late dates: **Ovenbird** in *Armstrong* 11/1 and in *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* in late November, **Northern Waterthrush** in *Philadelphia* 10/20, **Louisiana Waterthrush** in *Huntington* 9/2, **Black-and-white Warbler** in *Northampton* 11/27, **Tennessee Warbler** in *Bucks* 11/2, **Nashville Warbler** in *Montgomery* from 11/9 through the period, **Kentucky Warbler** in *Lycoming* 9/19 and *Warren* 9/21 (both in the northern tier of the state, interestingly), **American Redstart** in *Dauphin* 11/1, **Magnolia Warbler** in *Butler* 11/6, **Yellow Warbler** in *Lancaster* 10/19-20 and in *Philadelphia* 11/17-20, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in *Huntingdon* 11/2 and in *Delaware* 11/7, **Yellow-throated Warbler** in *Juniata* 10/4, and **Prairie Warbler** in *Philadelphia* 10/18.

Worm-eating Warbler was much more widespread than usual for some reason, although the majority of reports were in the southeast nevertheless. It was another excellent year for budworm specialist **Tennessee Warbler**, which was reported in good numbers in many areas. Readers are referred to the excellent write-up of this species in the *Warren* report, which, among other things, details banding captures of no less than six Tennessee Warblers there in late July and early August—much earlier than is usually thought for this species. **Orange-crowned Warbler** was also widely reported, perhaps somewhat distressingly this year alongside a great Tennessee Warbler flight, a species with which Orange-crowned is easily confused. A few Orange-crowns lingered into November in the southeast including at least eight different birds in *Philadelphia*.

As happens as often as not, **Connecticut Warbler** was reported slightly more often to eBird than **Mourning Warbler** this season in terms of raw number of reports. This could mean one of a few things: closer examination of Connecticut records may reveal the same individual bird being reported by many observers (not really the case this year but possibly true in general), some Mourning Warblers are misidentified as Connecticut by overeager birders, especially beginners, or Connecticut really is more common in fall than Mourning. A fourth explanation may be that Mourning tends to migrate earlier, even in mid-August, when birders are not necessarily tuned into the passerine migration yet. It will be interesting to see whether this becomes a noticeable trend in coming years, now that eBird is able to reveal the

full extent to which both species are reported.

Cape May Warbler is another of the three budworm warblers, and like Tennessee had an excellent season. No fewer than 43 were tallied at Hawk Mountain in 9/23 alone, for instance, and a few days later, 20 were at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon*. **Cerulean Warbler** was gone from the state by the end of August, except for one in *Centre* 9/23. The third budworm bird, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, did not have nearly the year that Tennessee and Cape May did, for whatever reason, but it's worth noting that banding stations in *Warren* reported a banner year for the species, so perhaps it was just missed a little more often elsewhere than the other two. After all, Bay-breasted is indeed one of the "confusing fall warblers". Although not a budworm specialist, reports of **Blackpoll Warbler** seemed to be off as well, again for reasons hard to discern. "Western" **Palm Warbler** was noted in *Lackawanna*, and a great count of 60 of them (presumably Easterns) was made in *Philadelphia* 10/12. **Pine Warblers** seemed to be content to stay for the winter in *Bucks* and *Montgomery* where they were present at the end of season. Both **Canada Warbler** and **Wilson's Warbler** were fairly well reported.

A fine count of 61 **Scarlet Tanagers** passed the lookout at Hawk Mountain 9/16, the same day that large numbers of warblers were also seen. An amazing four different **Summer Tanagers** crammed into *Chester* during the single week 9/23-30. Two others appeared in *Philadelphia* before (9/14) and after (10/4) the wave in *Chester*. One of the more amazing random finds in recent years was a female **Black-headed Grosbeak** expertly pinned down by call and photographed in *Chester* 10/20. The bird unfortunately proved to be a one-day wonder. It was a great season for **Blue Grosbeaks**. Many reports were of birds continuing in breeding areas, which were many, but post-breeding migrants were seen in at least nine counties otherwise, with October records in seven, and a remarkably late bird in *Philadelphia* 11/19. A late **Indigo Bunting** was in *Bucks* 11/17. A great total of 13 **Dickcissels** were noted in nine counties; like Blue Grosbeak, some of these were from early August and probably local breeders, but a good number were obviously migrants in September and October.

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Birds of Note – August through November 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* – *York*: 6 on Susquehanna River at Native Lands Heritage Trail 8/7 (Chuck Berthoud, Dick Cleary, Dean Newhouse, Donald Weidemann, *doc submitted*).

Ross's Goose – *Northampton*: one at Seiple's Farm Pond 11/27 (Michael Schall).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Berks*: one at Gotwals Pond 11/13 (Rudy Keller) was there again 11/18-19 (Derek Price); *Bucks*: present at Pine Run Dam and Peace Valley Park from 10/10 through the season (Richard Smith, m.ob.); *Chester*: one at New Garden Twp. WTP 11/23 and 11/28 (Larry Lewis); *Lancaster*: one at Greenfield Ponds 11/25 (Zach Millen, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one at a pond on Silver Crest Road 10/18-22 (Adam Miller).

Brant – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/4 (August Mirabella); *Erie*: 10 passed Sunset Point 11/17 (Nancy Anderson) and one was at Fairview Industrial Park 11/27-30 (Drew Mortensen, et al.); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 11/2-3 (Mike Epler, m.ob.); *Schuylkill*: 45 at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/2 (Hawk Mountain volunteers).

Trumpeter Swan – *Clarion*: one on Clarion River near Leeper 9/29 (Daria Sockey) was tagged in January 2018 at Burlington, Ontario; *Crawford*: one continuing from summer at Geneva Marsh 8/23-24 (Ron Leberman, et al.) and one at Erie N.W.R. 9/29 (Bill Wilkinson); *Forest*: one with wing tag T77 near Cooksburg on the Clarion River 9/12 (S Kaye) was later seen near Clarington 10/6 (Tom and Janet Kuehl); *Jefferson*: 3, including two tagged birds, at a farm outside of Reynoldsville for Aug and most of Sep (m.ob.); *Monroe*: one from the summer continued to 8/11 (Edie Parnum); *Pike*: 2 at Lake of the Clouds 9/8 (Jan Olsommer, Yvonne LeBlanc). Note, the birds listed here in *Clarion*, *Jefferson*, and *Forest* all refer to the same individuals.

Harlequin Duck* – *Allegheny*: a female or immature on Allegheny River at Blawnox 11/16 (Oliver Lindhiem, Todd Hooe, John Vassallo, *doc submitted*); *Luzerne*: one on Susquehanna River at Pittston 11/26 through the period (Rick Koval, m.ob. eBird, *doc submitted*); *Lycoming*: one imm. male on Lycoming Creek near Elm Park 11/13-30 (Bill Gehron, Bobby Brown, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: one in Shartlesville, a known location, 8/3 (Jeff Hopkins); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 9/12 (Eric Hartshaw); *Franklin*: up to 25 at Greencastle Reservoir in Sep and Oct (Carl Garner).

Anna's Hummingbird* – *Chester*: one immature male near Birmingham from mid-Oct through the period (Lois Bryman) was banded 11/5 (*doc submitted*).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Allegheny*: one female in Monroeville from early October to 11/29 was banded 11/21 (Bob Mulvihill); *Berks*: one imm. female in Exeter Township 10/14-11/30 was banded (Sandy Lockerman), and one imm.

female in Wyomissing 11/10-12 was also banded (Sandy Lockerman); *Bucks*: one imm. female in Yardley 11/2-26 (Susan Harrison) was banded, and one imm. female at Doylestown from 10/6 through the period (ph. Wayne Lattuca, Karen Lattuca) was also banded; *Lackawanna*: one imm. male near Jermyn in Scott Twp. from October was banded 11/2 (Sandy Lockerman) and its departure date was unknown; *Somerset*: one from late July near Berlin remained to 8/1, then seen again 9/16-26 (John and Elaine Landis).

Selasphorus sp. – *Somerset*: one at the same property near Berlin where a previously banded adult female was simultaneously present 9/23-25 (John and Elaine Landis) was never captured.

King Rail* – *Montgomery*: one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 8/30-9/2 (Kenneth Rieker, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Purple Gallinule* – *Philadelphia*: one imm. at John Heinz N.W.R. 9/14-26 (Richard Horwitz, *doc submitted*).

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: 10 on Ohio River at Brunot's Island 9/23 (*fide* Bob Mulvihill, m.ob.); *Erie*: month-long total of 28 at Gull Point in Aug (m.ob.) including a high count of 14 on 8/18 (Jamie Hill), and 3 there 10/31-11/1 (Michael Williams, Jennifer Ferrick, Justin Berkheimer); *Somerset*: 28 at Somerset Lake 8/18 (Chris Payne, Jeff Payne, Linda Greble).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: up to 5 continued from summer at Gull Point to 8/30 (Justin Berkheimer, Jennifer Ferrick, et al., *doc previously submitted*).

Upland Sandpiper – *Franklin*: one at Bender's Farm 9/3-4 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz, Vern Gauthier, Doris Brookens, Bob Kochert, Terri Kochert); *Lancaster*: up to 6 at Lancaster Airport 8/1-31 (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at Fox and Prescott Road ponds 8/25 (Stan Stahl); *Mifflin*: one near Belleville 8/1-3 (Jay Zook, Rob Dickerson); *Somerset*: one at Summit Mills 8/5 (Elmer Brenemann).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: season total of about 8 at Gull Point 8/15-9/12 (Mark Johnson, Kendall Zook, Justin Berkheimer); *Lancaster*: one at the Chestnut Grove Natural Area 8/17 (ph. Josh Houck).

Hudsonian Godwit – *Delaware*: one at Fort Mifflin 8/8 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 9/12 (Jason Horn).

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 8/19 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 8/28 (Jason Horn, Zach Millen).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie*: recorded on eight dates at Gull Point 8/2-9/10 (m.ob.).

Red Knot – *Erie*: up to 4 at Gull Point 8/9-31 (Justin Berkheimer, et al.) and one at Beach 11 on 9/13 (Robert Scribner).

Purple Sandpiper – *Erie*: one or 2 at Gull Point 11/24-25 (Justin Berkheimer, Jennifer Ferrick)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Lancaster*: one at Manheim sod farms 8/28-30 (Josh Houck, m.ob.), one at Lancaster Airport 9/4 (Bruce Carl, Jason Horn), and one at Conejohela Flats 10/6 (Bruce Carl, Zach Millen, Eric Witmer); *Somerset*: one at Summit Mills 9/12-13 (Elmer Brenemann).

Western Sandpiper – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/10 and 9/2 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 3 at Octorara Reservoir 8/5-7 (Larry Lewis); *Franklin*: one at Antrim Commons Ponds 9/2 (Bill Oyler); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 9/7 (Michael David); *Lancaster*: 2 juveniles at Conejohela Flats 8/28-9/4 (Jason Horn, m.ob.) and one there 9/25 (Zach Millen); *Lebanon*: 2 at Fox and Prescott Road ponds 8/11-9/2 (Frank Haas, Mike Epler, Ted Nichols, Eric Zawatski, David Chaffin, Jonathan Heller, m.ob.); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 8/27, 8/30, and 9/1 (Jeff Payne, et al.) and 4 there 8/28 (Jeff Payne).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 10/4 (Kerry Loux, Mark Gallagher, ph. Kris Koch); *Lancaster*: 2 juveniles at Conejohela Flats 9/25 (ph. ZM), and one there 10/20 (Jason Horn, Zach Millen); *Lebanon*: up to 3 at Fox and Prescott Road ponds 10/26-11/2 (Cory Clawser, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown, Joe Wolf, Pat and Richard Williams, Fred Zimmerman, m.ob.); *Montour*: one at Fry Wetlands 10/26 (Evan Houston).

Willet – *Erie*: season total of at least 11 birds at Gull Point 8/6-9/13 (Sarah Sargent, Robert Scribner, Justin Berkheimer); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 9/23 (Steve Manns).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Erie*: one juv. at Gull Point 9/4 (Jerry McWilliams).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 9/1-2 (Jim Hartley, Devich Farbotnik); *Carbon*: one at Penn Forest Reservoir 9/1 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig, David Hawk); *Lancaster*: one juv. at Conejohela Flats 8/23-9/5 was joined by 2 more 9/5 (Jason Horn, Chuck Berthoud, m.ob.), and one in Narvon 9/3 (Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Holly Hartshorne); *Northampton*: 2 at Green Pond 8/23 (Dave DeReamus).

Red Phalarope* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 8/26-28 (August Mirabella, m.ob., *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/24 (George Armistead, et al., *no doc*).

Phalarope sp. – *Erie*: one Red or Red-necked off Sunset Point 11/13 was too distant to identify to species but the late date suggested Red (Jerry McWilliams).

Parasitic Jaeger* – *Erie*: 2 immatures off Gull Point 9/2 (Tim Lenz, Logan Kahle, Sarah Toner, *doc submitted*).

Jaeger sp. – *Erie*: one immature far off Gull Point 9/2 was thought to be a Long-tailed (Tim Lenz, Logan Kahle, Sarah Toner), one unidentified jaeger was off Beach 11 on 10/17 (Robert Scribner), and another unidentified jaeger was off the mouth of Walnut Creek 11/2 (Jerry McWilliams, Justin Berkheimer, Jennifer Ferrick).

Sabine's Gull* – *Lancaster*: one juv. on Susquehanna River, Lake Clark 9/2 (Jason Horn, Zach Millen, *doc submitted*) was probably the same bird reported there again 9/5 (Jerry Book, Mike Hartshorne).

Black-headed Gull* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/24 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*).

Franklin's Gull* – *Lycoming*: one at Rte. 15 Overlook 10/4 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, *doc submitted*).

Little Gull – *Montgomery*: one adult at Green Lane Park 11/10 (George Franchois, m.ob.).

Glaucous Gull – *Beaver*: one at mouth of the Beaver River and nearby 11/21-30 (Mark Vass).

Royal Tern* – *Carbon*: one juvenile was rescued from the Beltzville SP dam 9/13 but rehabilitation was unsuccessful (*fide* Franklin Klock, *no doc*).

Gull-billed Tern* – *Delaware*: one at Fort Mifflin 8/18 (Jason Horn, *no doc*).

Black Tern – *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur's North Shore 8/10 (ph. Martin Carlin); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 8/15 (Evan Houston, eBird); *Delaware*: 3 at Fort Mifflin 8/18 (Jason Horn); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/23 (Don Snyder); *Franklin*: one at Antrim Commons Ponds 8/21 (Bill Oyler, et al.) and 2 there 8/22 (Bob Koontz); *Lancaster*: top count for the season was 12 on Susquehanna River, Lake Clark 8/28 (Jason Horn, Chuck Berthoud); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 8/28 (Bobby Brown, David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Philadelphia* one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/2 (Rich Ziegler); *Pike*: 4 at Lake Wallenpaupack 9/2-3 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall), same birds as in *Wayne*; *Wayne*: 4 at Lake Wallenpaupack 9/2 (Michael Schall), same birds as in *Pike*.

Common Tern – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 10/7 (Eric Zawatski); *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur's North Shore 9/2-6 (m.ob.); *Cameron*: one at Sinnemahoning SP 9/8 (Mark Johnson); *Crawford*: 3 at Pymatuning fish hatchery 9/3 (Ron Leberman) and one at Pymatuning spillway 9/29 (Ron Leberman); *Delaware*: one at Fort Mifflin 9/6 (Jason Horn); *Erie*: present at Gull Point from summer to late Oct, including a superb count of 243 there 9/2 (Tim Lenz, Logan Kahle, Sarah Toner), and scattered records at Presque Isle to late Nov (eBird); *Indiana*: 10 at Yellow Creek SP 9/7 (Michael David); *Lancaster*: reported at Conejohela Flats to 9/30 (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 9/7 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Dan Brauning); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 9/14 (Paul Lehman).

Great Cormorant – *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 10/18-26 (Debra Rittelmann, et al.); *Erie*: one passed Sunset Point 10/11 (Jennifer Ferrick, Jerry McWilliams, Justin Berkheimer); *Philadelphia*: present on Delaware River beginning in early Oct (m.ob.).

American White Pelican – *Crawford*: one or 2 at Pymatuning spillway 9/19-27 (RL, et al.) and 5 there 9/28-29 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, et al.); *Erie*: one at Harborcreek 8/25 (Andrea Lucarotti *fide* Michele Franz), was likely the same bird seen again at Gull Point 8/28 (Logan Kahle), and one at the Presque Isle channel 10/23-24 (Shannon Thompson); *Somerset*: 2 at the Meyersdale Sewage Treatment Ponds 10/29-30 (*fide* Elmer Brenemann); *Tioga*: one at Husted Pond in Roseville 8/17 (Kyle Loughner).

Least Bittern – *Centre*: 2 detected by nocturnal flight call at Bellefonte 9/1 (Julia Plummer); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/9 (Rich Ziegler); *Erie*: one or 2 at Gull Point 8/9-9/20 (Justin Berkheimer, m.ob., eBird); *Mercer*: one at Greenville 9/10 (Michael Williams); *Montgomery*: 2 at Plymouth Meeting 8/1-23 (Dave Belford, Paul Driver, m.ob.) and one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 9/4 (Jack McBrearty); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/3-11 (m.ob., eBird).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: one at Lower Makefield Twp. 8/8 (Connie Fairchild), one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/16-17 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at Core Creek Park 9/13 (ph. Dawn Denner); *Dauphin*: up to 4 at Wildwood Lake in Aug (m.ob.); *Delaware*: present at John Heinz N.W.R. in Aug and Sep (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: 2 at Speedwell Forge Lake 8/5-9/5 (Holly Hartshorne, Bruce Carl, m.ob.), one at Octorara Reservoir 8/14-20 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.), one at the Conejohela Flats

8/22-29 (Jason Horn, Zach Millen), and one at Wood's Edge Park 9/5 (Seth McComsey); *Lebanon*: one at the Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands 8/2-19 (Steve Walthius, Ted Nichols, Elaine Hendricks, Thomas Buehl Jr., Pat and Richard Williams, Jim Fiorentino), and one also at Balmer Farm Ponds 8/3 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 8/2 (Scott Angus); *Philadelphia*: up to 6 at John Heinz N.W.R. (m.ob.) and one at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/19-21 (George Armistead, Michael Walter).

Little Blue Heron – *Adams*: one at Peach Glen/Gardners 8/5 (Bill Oyler) and one at Huntingdon Twp. 8/3 (Don & Jennifer Gilbert); *Berks*: one at Lowland Road retention pond 8/11-30 (Mary-Therese Grob, Kerry Grim); *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/1 (Devich Farbotnik) and one at Core Creek Park 8/23 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: multiple sightings 8/10-9/5 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: present at Wildwood Lake in Aug including 7 on 8/8 (Michael David); *Delaware*: reported at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/8 (Rich Ziegler), 8/11 (Al Guarente, Damon Orsetti) and 8/24 (Al Guarente) and through Sep; *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Reservoir 8/16-18 (Larry Bernhardt, Al Guarante), 2 at Speedwell Forge Lake 8/17-9/5 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.), and one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/14-9/29 (Lisa Peters, Sara Romero, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A 8/2-3 (Timothy Becker, et al.), up to 2 there 9/1-21 (Jonathan Heller, Zach Millen), and 2 at Balmer Farm Ponds 8/3-8 (Andy Keister, Pat and Richard Williams); *Lycoming*: one or 2 at Little Pine SP 8/5-22 (John Green, David Brown, m.ob.); *Northampton*: up to 2 continued from summer at Green Pond to 8/12 (m.ob.); *Perry*: one on Juniata River at Rte. 322 on 9/2 (ph. Steve Schmidt, eBird); *Philadelphia*: present at John Heinz N.W.R. (m.ob.) and one on Schuylkill River at Bartram's Garden 8/24 (Patrick McGill); *Pike*: 2 at Pecks Pond 7/29 (Bradley White), of which one continued to 8/7 (Dennis Miranda, Ryan Johnson); *Snyder*: one at Faylor Lake 9/10-24 (Deuane Hoffman).

Cattle Egret – *Adams*: 4 at Chapel Hill Road 10/6 (ph. Callan Murphy, Melanie Murphy); *Erie*: one in McKean Twp. 11/3 (Sam Stull); *Franklin*: one at farm along Mount Rock Road near Shippensburg 8/10 (Jason Schultz); *Lebanon*: 5 along Richland Road near Myerstown 10/15 (Jonathan Heller).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Allegheny*: one juvenile at a business park in Duquesne 8/5-21 (*fide* Bob Mulvihill, m.ob.); *Berks*: one imm. at Lake Ontelaunee 8/13 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at Silver Lake Park 8/23 (ph. Dawn Denner); *Chester*: one near Phoenixville from late Jul to 8/5 (Tim Ludwick); *Dauphin*: one or 2 present at Front Street, Harrisburg to at least 9/18 (Ian Gardner, et al., eBird); *Lancaster*: one juv. at Alcoa Marsh 8/5-21 (Josh Houck), and an adult and a juv. at Conejohela Flats 8/19, with the juv. remaining to 9/2 (Jason Horn, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one adult at Norristown Dam 8/20-9/6 (Scott Godshall, m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: one at St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands 9/26 (ph. Richard Chirichiello); *York*: one at the Gateway Hanover retention ponds 8/3 (Keith Eric Costley).

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: 10 at Penn-Warner Tract 8/1 (Jim Hartley); *Centre*: one at Tadpole Road 8/1-3 (Julia Plummer, et al.); *Lancaster*: at Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 8/20-23 (Darla Shank, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 8/18 (Bill Etter); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 9/22 (Holly Merker, eBird).

White Ibis* – *Delaware*: one juv. photographed at Taylor Memorial Arboretum 8/10 was unknown to the birding community until a photo of it was anonymously posted to

iNaturalist (*no doc*); *York*: one over Spring Grove 9/1 (John Frain, *no doc*).

Wood Stork* – *Luzerne*: one apparently present for several days before it was photographed at Chase Road, Shavertown 9/24-25 (ph. Alan and Bonnie Yuscavage, eBird, *doc submitted*).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Lehigh*: one at Trexler Nature Preserve 8/15-9/1 (Bonnie McMahan, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Snail Kite* – *Erie*: one juvenile at Horseshoe Pond 10/22 (Jennifer Ferrick) was photographed at Thompson Bay later that day (ph. Conner Vara) and would represent the first record for Pennsylvania if accepted (*doc submitted*).

Mississippi Kite* – *Allegheny*: one over an Upper St. Clair yard 8/25 (Shannon Thompson, *no doc*); *Wyoming*: one above Mehoopany Creek near Forkston 9/7 (David Trently, David LaVerne, *doc submitted*).

Swainson's Hawk* – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 11/29 (Joan Silagy, *no doc*).

Snowy Owl – *Erie*: one in Summit Twp. 11/20 (ph. Sandy Surovec).

Long-eared Owl – *Bedford*: one caught at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch's Northern Saw-whet Owl banding site 11/15 (Dave Darney); *Berks*: one in Bern Township 11/18-28 (Joan Silagy); *Crawford*: one off Wayland Road 8/28 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle SP 11/10 (Roger Donn).

Ash-throated Flycatcher* – *Lehigh*: one at Breinigsville 11/17 through the period (James Funk, *doc submitted*).

Western Kingbird* – *Lancaster*: one at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 11/4 found by an anonymous birder remained to 11/7 (ph. Dennis Weaver, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Northern Shrike – *Allegheny*: one near Pittsburgh International Airport 11/24 (Michael Williams); *Erie*: one at McKean Twp. 11/14 (Sam Stull) and one in Franklin Twp. 11/15 (Julie Dell); *Jefferson*: one on Smithtown Road west of Falls Creek 11/28 (Mike Weible); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Propagation Area beginning 11/10 (Michael Williams, Mimi Hoffmaster, Jim McConnor); *Susquehanna*: one at residence in Bridgewater Twp. 11/6 (ph. Linda Truman).

Sedge Wren – *Mercer*: one at Clark's Mills 9/28 (Michael Williams); *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 10/20 (vr. Paul Driver); *Philadelphia*: one at abandoned Island Green Country Club and Golf Course 10/6 (George Armistead, Patrick McGill); *Somerset*: one reported at the Flight 93 Memorial 7/22 (Warren Wicks) prompted a follow-up visit 8/19 that netted a probable breeding pair (ph. Jeff Payne, Chris Payne), one of which was reported to at least 8/22.

Varied Thrush* – *McKean*: one at a private residence in Kane beginning 11/10 (*fide* John Fedak) to at least 11/23 (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Nelson's Sparrow – *Bucks*: present at Pine Run Dam and Bradford Dam 9/30-11/3, with a high of 3 at Pine Run 10/12 (August Mirabella, m.ob.) and one at Peace Valley Park 10/18 (Brian Henderson); *Clinton*: one at McElhatten Reservoir 10/5 (Brian Schmoke); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 10/4 (Michael Williams); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 10/30 (Desmond O'Donovan, Luke Fultz); *Lancaster*: 2 at Conejohela Flats 10/16-20 (Jason Horn, Zach Millen); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 10/7-8 (Eric Zawatski, eBird); *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 10/20-30 (Paul Driver, m.ob.), and another at Green Lane Park 10/18 (Jason Horn, Kenneth Rieker).

Atlantic Nelson's Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 10/28 (August Mirabella, *doc submitted*).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Centre*: one at Curtin Wetland 9/29 (Julia Plummer); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/1 (Larry Lewis) and one at Wolf’s Hollow County Park 10/7 (Michael Gardner); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 10/29 (Trudy Kyler, Dale Kyler); *Lebanon*: one at Shuey Lake 10/26 (Jonathan Heller); *Lehigh*: one at DeSales University 10/25 (Paul Heveran); *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 11/30 (Jeff Vinosky, et al.); *Philadelphia*: recorded at abandoned Island Green Country Club and Golf Course 9/15 (George Armistead, Holger Pflücke), 10/12 (George Armistead) and 10/20 (Patrick McGill).

Gambel’s White-crowned Sparrow – *Montgomery*: one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 10/13 (ph. Andrew Harrington).

Lark Sparrow* – *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/17 (Holger Pflücke, *doc submitted*).

Oregon Dark-eyed Junco – *Crawford*: one at feeders in the Townville area 11/7 and 11/14 (Alejandra Lewandowski).

Green-tailed Towhee* – *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 11/11 through the period (ph. Bill Reaume, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Western Meadowlark* – *Mifflin*: one continued from summer near Belleville to 8/2 (m.ob.) and was seen there again 10/11 (Eli Peachey) (*doc submitted*).

Golden-winged Warbler – *Bucks*: recorded three times at Peace Valley Park 8/23-9/13 (August Mirabella); *Centre*: present at Scotia Barrens to 9/2 (m.ob., eBird); *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 9/5 (Carol Majors, Ron Majors) and one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 9/10 (Larry Lewis); *Crawford*: one at Meadville Greendale Cemetery 9/1 (Joshua Heiser); *Cumberland*: one on Pine Road in Penn Township 9/27 (Rodney Martinez); *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge Lake 9/10 (Bruce Carl); *Pike*: 2 at Delaware State Forest 8/1 (Patrick McGill, Joe McGill, eBird); *Schuylkill*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 9/3 (Hawk Mountain volunteers); *Somerset*: one at Payne property near Berlin 8/6 (Jeff Payne); *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve this season.

Brewster’s Warbler – *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 9/12 (Mike Grubb); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack Park 9/8 (Holger Pflücke).

Lawrence’s Warbler – *Delaware*: one at The Willows 8/28 (Jim McConnell).

Black-throated Gray Warbler* – *Lebanon*: one seen irregularly at a private residence on Clear Springs Road 9/26-11/17 (Emily Felty, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Summer Tanager* – *Chester*: one at a feeder near Wayne 9/23-24 (ph. Bonnie Witmer, *no doc*), one at a residence near Coventry Woods Preserve 9/28 (Patty Werth, John Werth, *no doc*), one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 9/29 (Larry Lewis, et al., *no doc*), and one at Marsh Creek SP 9/30 (Wendy Sykora, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one at Bartram’s Garden 9/14 (George Armistead, m.ob., *doc submitted*) and one at Wissahickon Valley Park 10/4 (Sara Busch, *no doc*).

Black-headed Grosbeak* – *Chester*: one female in West Chester 10/20 (ph. Ross Gallardy, Melissa Gallardy, *doc submitted*).

Dickcissel – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 9/9 (Richard Smith) and one at Bradford Dam 10/11 (Mike Fournier); *Chester*: one at Exton Park 8/26 (John Daniel) and one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/2 (Larry Lewis); *Cumberland*: one at Clover Hill Road 8/2 (Bob Koontz); *Elk*: one at SGL 311 Winslow Hill Viewing Area 8/24-85 (Mark Johnson, m.ob.); *Lehigh*: 2 at Trexler Nature Preserve 8/22-28 (Johnathan DeBalko); *Mercer*: one at Valley Road 10/9-10 (ph. Michael Williams); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Farm Park 9/29 (Steve Grunwald), one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 10/6-12 (Steve Grunwald, m.ob), and one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 10/19 (vr. Paul Driver); *Northampton*: one at Ballas Park 9/7-9 (Jim Figlar); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/17 (Holger Pflücke) and 10/18-19 (Holger Pflücke, Patrick McGill).

Photographic Highlights



Continuing the summer incursion, six handsome **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** stayed only one day, 7 August, at Long Level, York, providing a first county record. (*Dean Newhouse*)

*Color printing sponsored by
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in honor of founding
BAS member and PSO stalwart
Gene Wilhelm*



One of at least two **Greater White-fronted Geese** seen in various locations (here Peace Valley Park) in Bucks beginning 10 October through the season (here 21 November). (*Patricia Rieker*)



Wood Ducks transitioning from eclipse plumage on Sinking Creek at Spring Mills, Centre 11 August. (*Larry Ramsey*)



This immature **Harlequin Duck** was on Lycoming Creek, near Williamsport, Lycoming 13 (here 28) - 30 November and presumably the same individual was re-found nearby in December; second county record. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Rare in Washington, **Surf Scoters** at Peters Lake represented only the third report in the last ten years. (*John Flannigan*)



Long-tailed Ducks passing the mouth of Walnut Creek, *Erie* 28 November, when a record-high 6500 were recorded during the water bird count. (Jerry McWilliams)



Ruffed Grouse in SGL 35, Great Bend Twp., *Susquehanna* 1 October. (Barb Stone)



Pied-billed Grebe in SGL 176 (Scotia Barrens), *Centre* 18 September. (Ron Crandall)



Often heard (in some parts of the state), but not often seen, this **Eastern Whip-poor-will** posed obligingly in the Quehanna Wild Area, *Elk* 25 August. (Kazumi Ohira)



This **Rufous Hummingbird**, apparently present at a private residence through most of the season in Scott Twp., *Lackawanna* was caught and banded 2 November. (Sandy Lockerman)



American Golden-Plovers were widely but sparsely distributed, with eBird reports from 14 counties; this plover was at Cross Creek County Park, *Washington* 2-7 (here 2) September. (Matthew Juskovich)



Compared to Semipalmated, the bills of **Western Sandpipers** are relatively long and often droop slightly; this sandpiper was one of at least two found frequently at Fox-Prescott Rd, ponds, *Lebanon* 8 August – 2 (here 1) September. (*Michael Schall*)



American Woodcock migration in Pennsylvania peaks in October, but some linger into early winter (or longer); this woodcock was found crossing a road at Lake Williams, *York* 13 November. (*Bob Reiter*)



Sporting a heavier bill than the other two phalarope species, this **Red Phalarope** was at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 26-28 (here 26) August, one of only two eBird reports in Pennsylvania for the year. (*August Mirabella*)



Caspian Tern fall migration peaks in the state in late August and early September; this tern was at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford* 26 August. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



This **Great Blue Heron** in East Donegal Twp., *Lancaster* 24 September was about to feast on catfish. (*Bill Libhart*)



One of eight **Great Egrets** at Green Pond, *Northampton* 1 August, accompanied by a dragonfly. (*Nancy Tully*)



Green Heron and **Belted Kingfisher** perhaps eyeing the same potential meal along Beagle Club Rd., *Washington* 27 August. (*William Berteotti*)



Representing the second county record, this immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** stayed in Duquesne, *Allegheny* 5-21 (here 16) August. (*Mark Vass*)



Osprey at Keystone SP, *Westmoreland* 23 August. (*Mark McConaughy*)



Bald Eagles at North Park, *Allegheny* 18 November; the first recorded pair nesting in any park in the county. (*Howard Kepple*)



On 11 November, this **Bald Eagle** at Long Arm Reservoir, *York* was apparently already working on gathering nest material for the breeding season, which starts very early for this species. (*Linette Mansberger*)



This raptor, which spent the fall at Chestnut Grove Nature Preserve, *Lancaster*, was believed to be a **Red-tailed Hawk x Red-shouldered Hawk**, showing a Red-tail belly-band but a Red-shoulder tail pattern. (*Ann Pettigrew*)



Eastern Screech-Owl in *Indiana* 8 November. (Anthony Bruno)



Northern Saw-whet Owl posing during banding in Allegheny National Forest, *McKean* 24 October. (John Fedak)



Peregrine Falcon winging south while keeping an eye on the beings on the ground at the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford* 15 October. (David Poder)



Found at a migrant hotspot in the Cooper's Gap area of Rothrock SF, *Mifflin* 5 September, this **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was one of four there for the season, providing the third through sixth county records. (Rob Dickerson)



A late **White-eyed Vireo** at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Schuylkill* 3 November. (Scott Godshall)



This **Blue-headed Vireo** appears to be examining a spider web, barely visible in the early morning light at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks* 26 September. (Liz Brensinger)



First seen in 2016 at both the Stone Mt. and Jacks Mt. hawkwatches, a brown **Common Raven** was seen a few times (here 9 November) at Stone Mt., *Mifflin* in fall 2019; on one occasion, there were two brown ravens. (*Nick Bolgiano*)



Marsh Wren in *Philadelphia* 13 September. (*George Armistead*)



Swainson's Thrush at Ole Bull SP, *Potter* 5 October. (*Sarah Lindgren*)



Hermit Thrush at the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford* 13 November. (*Tom Kuehl*)



White-crowned Sparrow on a snowy day in Seneca, *Venango* 13 November. (*Meg Kolodick*)



Lincoln's Sparrow, showing its delicate breast streaks on a buffy background in New Milford, *Susquehanna* 19 October. (*Nancy VanCott*)



Rusty Blackbirds were widely reported, though in small numbers, including several detected electronically in *Chester* in November that had been tagged in New Hampshire during summer; this Rusty was at Kettle Creek SP, *Clinton* 15 November. (Sarah Lindgren)



Predatory **Black-and-White Warbler** about to reap the rewards of its hunt in SGL 35, *Susquehanna* 5 September. (Gary Stone)



A rare migrant, seen mostly in fall, this **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Churchville Nature Center, *Bucks* 7 November. (Kerry Loux)



Often sought during fall, but not often found, this **Connecticut Warbler** was at Swatara SP, *Lebanon* 20 September. (Rick Carlson)



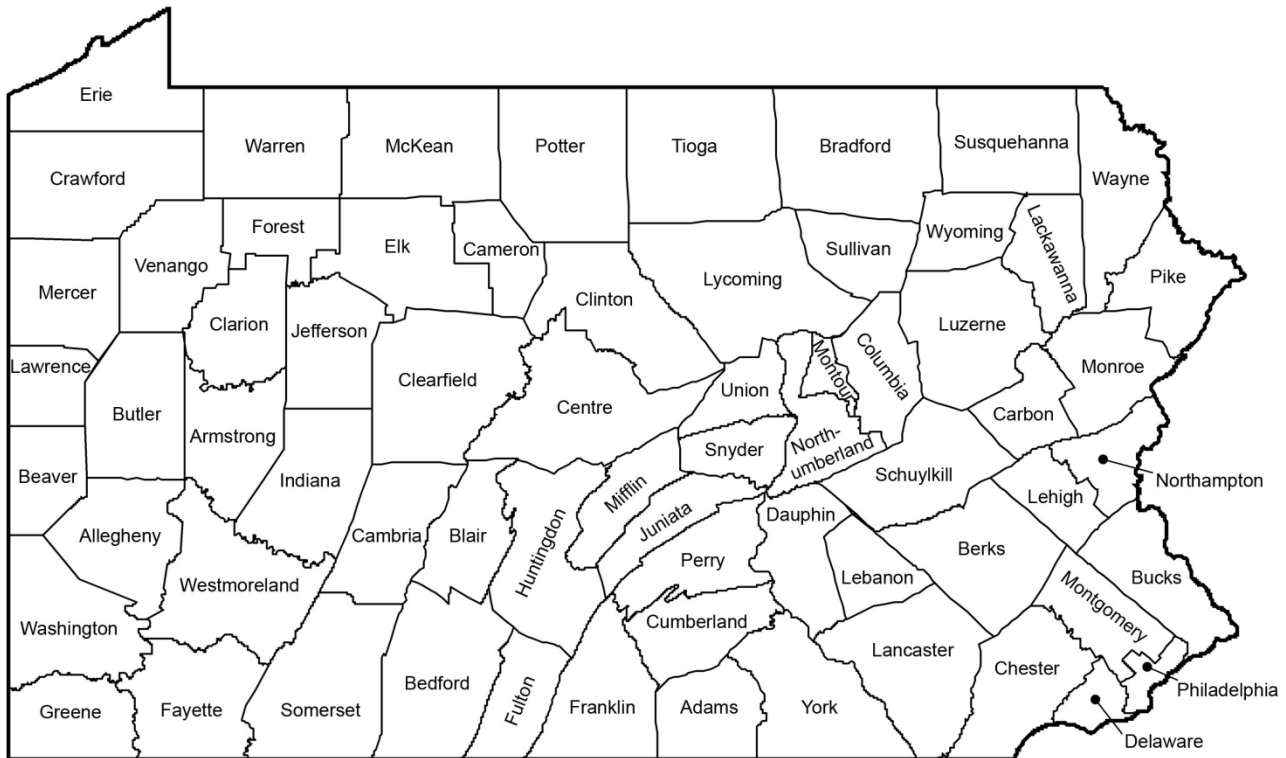
Magnolia Warbler on the Heritage Trail, *Westmoreland* 18 September. (Mark McConaughy)

Find more photos on the IN FOCUS page – inside back cover

Statement on Photo Plagiarism

If we discover that a submitted photo has been plagiarized, we will print a correction and properly identify the actual photographer. We will no longer accept photos from someone who knowingly takes credit for the efforts of others.

Local Notes – August through November 2019



ABBREVIATION

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

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

The following counties need a compiler: Bradford, Fulton, Luzerne, McKean. The following counties had no report submitted: Perry, Union.

Adams County

Locations: Freedom Twp (FREE), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

The period's total of 159 species was on the low end of the recent five year trend. Lack of waterfowl species was the main driver. Temperatures in southcentral Pennsylvania followed last year's pattern: August to October was above normal but November was 3°F below normal. Precipitation for the period was slightly above average, mostly due to a wet October.

A pair of **Snow Goose** was at Lake Kay 11/11 (CM) and a single visited GC 11/20 (AW). The only report of **Tundra Swan** was a flock of 14 at LPRR 11/15 (BO). A nice count of 34 **Wood Ducks** was made at a Chapel Hill Rd pond 8/27 (AW) and 3 lingered at Lake Heritage 11/26 (LB, JW). A FREE pond held 8 **American Black Ducks** 11/3 (MS), the

only report. A **Greater Scaup** was at LPRR 9/23 (RGTS). A record high county count (based on eBird data) for **Buffleheads** was established by 209 birds at LPRR 11/6 (BO).

A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was along Rte. 30 on 11/24 (MH). High count among the four reports of **Wild Turkey** was 10 in Kuhn's Woods at East Berlin 11/18 (PK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued its positive trend with birds found at nine sites (m.ob.). Seven reports of **Common Nighthawk** from 8/29-10/5 (MB, CM, WR, RDS) were paced by a total of 33 at Mountain Rd. and Bendersville 9/9 (RDS). Along with the nighthawks at Bendersville that dat were "thousands of dragonflies" according to the observer. A pair of **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Mason-Dixon Farms 10/1 (AW). A single **American Woodcock** was at GNMP 11/3 (ML, NL). A pair of **Wilson's Snipe** was at Long Arm Reservoir 10/19 (DN) and a single was at GC 11/5 (AW). Singles of **Common Loon** were at Long Arm Reservoir 10/8 (RDS) and LPRR 11/12 (BO). Good finds in the wader group included singles of **Little Blue Heron** at Peach Glen/Gardners 8/5 (BO) and over Huntington Twp 8/3 (DJG). A group of 4 **Cattle Egrets** were at a Chapel Hill Rd. pond 10/6 (ph. CM, MM).

A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was spotted at LPRR 11/10 (RGTS). An interesting interaction between an adult **Bald Eagle** and a pair of

Common Ravens occurred at Brough Hill Rd. 11/22 (PK). The three birds were engaged in what was described as "low altitude wind surfing" when first seen. They then perched in very close proximity to each other in a tree line for about 15 seconds before resuming the "wind surfing" behavior. At no time was there any sign of harassment or chasing; it was seemingly a completely amicable encounter. The county sees a nice-sized kettle of **Broad-winged Hawks**, so a count of 52 over Natural Dam Rd 9/17 (CM) was noteworthy. After expressing concern for getting just a single report of **Belted Kingfisher** during the June-July period, the nine reports from this period was seemingly a positive sign. However, this count of 9 compares to 13 during the fall period in 2018, 18 in 2017, and 20 in 2016. The 15 or more reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were centered in the Gettysburg area. High count was 6 at GNMP 10/12 (CM). Up to 6 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were detected in the Ortanna area 10/26-11/16 (MS). **American Kestrel** families were out and about the first week of Aug. Eight were at FREE 8/4 (CA), 5 were at Possum Hollow Rd. 8/4 (PK), and 6 were along Fickes School Rd. 8/6 (PK). A **Merlin** was spotted along Rte. 15 on 10/3 (AW) and **Peregrine Falcon** was found along Jackson Rd. 8/5 (JA), at LPRR 9/10 (VG), and at Gettysburg Airfield 9/28 (DC).

After having not been reported in the fall for the past three years, three reports of **Least Flycatcher** were welcomed. Singles were at Michaux SF 8/25 (RGTS), White Orchard Rd. 9/9 (GDM), and Ridge Rd/Cumberland Twp. 9/14 (CM). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** at SGL 9/28 (DJG) was a bit late. It was one of the better fall flights for vireos. **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Warbling Vireo** were reported four, three, four, and twice, respectively. Typically, all but Blue-headed are only reported one or two times, and Warbling Vireo is frequently missed. A trio of **Horned Larks** along Solomon Rd. 11/26 (LB, JW) represented the only report. **Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch** retained their "common, but less frequently reported" status in *Adams*. The single report of **Black-capped Chickadee** was of a bird at Ortanna 11/16 (eBird). **Purple Finches** included a single at Bendersville 10/14 (SM) and a pair at GNMP 11/17 (JS). Pine Siskin went unreported.

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Possum Hollow Rd 8/4 (PK) were the only ones reported. Four reports of **Chipping Sparrow** were made in Nov (ANON, JWo, RDS), with latest a single at GNMP 11/28 (JWo). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at GNMP 11/3 (ML, NL), a very good find for the county. GNMP produced the only reports of **Savannah Sparrow**, from 10/9-11/1 (CM, AWG) which included a nice count of 15 on 10/12 (CM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at GNMP 10/15 (CM). Five sites produced **Swamp Sparrows** including an 8 count at GNMP 11/27 (CM). The only report of **Bobolink** was a noteworthy flock of 35 over Cunningham Rd. 8/25 (CM). The trend of fewer reports and lower numbers of **Eastern Meadowlark** continued. Three were at Possum Hollow Rd. 8/4 (PK), 2 were at FREE 8/4 (CA), and GNMP saw reports of up to 4 made from 8/1-11/13 (JS, AW). A **Baltimore Oriole** at Bendersville 10/14 (SM) was definitely late. In contrast, **Red-winged Blackbird** was not reported after 11/4 and the last report for **Brown-headed Cowbird** was 10/1.

The total of 22 warbler species was a reasonable tally for *Adams*. Some better finds included a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Shippensburg Rd. 9/1 (MB), a **Tennessee Warbler** at LPRR 9/10 (VG, BO), and a **Nashville Warbler** at Natural Dam Rd. 9/5 (CM). Four reports of **Cape May Warbler** were paced by a 3 count at LPRR 9/10 (VG, BO). Single reports of **Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Blackpoll Warbler** spanned 9/10-10/1 (VG, DJG, CM). Five sites reporting **Palm Warbler** 9/28-11/2 (CM, WP, RDS) was a better than average showing, as was the three sites reporting **Canada Warbler** 8/26-9/9 (CM, DJG). A **Wilson's Warbler** put in an appearance at GC 9/27 (AW). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were found along Natural Dam Rd. 8/8 (CM) and Cunningham Rd 8/21 (CM). No reports of Blue Grosbeak were recorded at the typically reliable Wensville/Shippensburg Rd area this period.

EXOTICS: Four **Chukar** were seen at SGL 9/29 (DJG). Over the years, local sporting clubs have released them in various SGL tracts in the county.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316,**

(717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Anonymous (ANON), Chas Argent, Josh Auld, Chuck Berthoud, Mike Bertram, Leanna Bonds, Bryan Byrnes, David Cooney, Jr, Colleen Corballis, Cy Dietz, Josh & Sue Donaldson (JSD), Quinn Emmering, Vern Gauthier, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Deuane Hoffman, Aaron Van Houtte, Matt Hunter, Bob Koontz, Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Sydney McCleaf, Heather McKinzey, Dean Mahlstedt, G. Dwight Mueller (GDM), Callan Murphy, Melanie Murphy, David Myles, Dean Newhouse, Bill Oyler, Wendy Pepin, Bonita Portzline, Doug Powless, William Richards, Jason Schultz, Ralph & Deb Sifeken (RDS), Ron George & Tracy Snyder (RGTS), Mark Sopko (MSo), Joel Wagner, Andy Wilson, Andrew Wolfgang (AWG), Jenny Wood (JWo).

Allegheny County

Tundra Swans were noted flying over in November. Thirty flew over the northern part of the county 11/8 (LC), 70 were over Gibsonia 11/12 and 36 on 11/13 (KP), 20 were over nearby Hampton Twp. 11/13 (LS). A flock flew over Boyce-Mayview Park after dark 11/15 (DW, GG, AN, JP) and again 11/26 (JP).

A flock of 90 **Blue-winged Teal** were on the Allegheny River at Brunots Island 9/23 (m.ob.). This has to be one of the highest counts, or perhaps the highest, for the county. Two **Northern Shovelers** were at Peter's Creek in Jefferson Borough 9/21 (JHa) and a **Northern Pintail** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 9/21 (MV). An **American Wigeon** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/8 (JHa, MV). Three **Lesser Scaup** were at Wood's Run 10/17 (JF) and three **Bufflehead** were at Duck Hollow 11/24 (AH, RT, TRh, AP). A female/immature **Harlequin Duck** was quite a surprise on the Allegheny River at Blawnox 11/16 (OL, TH, JVa, m.ob.) providing only the second county record. It was only observed one day, fortunately by many observers and it was documented with photographs. The first record was on the Ohio River in the spring of 1987. A female/immature **Black Scoter** was at Duck Hollow 11/24 (MJ, m.ob.). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the Allegheny River at Sharpsburg 11/16 (OL, TH, JVa). Four **Ruddy Ducks** were at Duck Hollow 11/24 (MJ, AH, RT, TRh, AP).

There was an effort to observe and count migrating **Common Nighthawks** this fall. A few observers focused their efforts and the following high counts were tallied: 43 in Aspinwall 8/30 (STh, SuT), 76 at Heidelberg 8/30 (RT), 42 in Verona 8/21 (SK), 51 in Heidelberg 8/31 (RT), 161 there 9/1 (RT), 43 in Pine Twp. 9/22 (PL, SL) and 90 in Heidelberg 9/11 (RT). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered in Brentwood to 10/15 (DF). A female **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded in Monroeville 11/21 (BMu) providing the 17th county record. It was discovered in early October and the last ebird report was 11/29.

Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were found at Dashields Dam 8/9 (MV) and Duck Hollow 8/10 (MV). Two were at Chapel Harbor 8/14-19 (MD, JP, AH). **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported most of August at various locations. Three **Least Sandpipers** were at North Park 8/2 (MV) with a single bird remaining until 8/9 (MV). One was at Chapel Harbor 8/27 (MD). A flock of ten **American Avocets** were discovered on the Ohio River at Brunots Island 9/23 (*fide* BMu) providing the ninth county record. Interestingly the birds were swimming in the middle of the river where they remained until dusk. A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Imperial 10/20 (MV). An **American Woodcock** was a nice find for the season at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/9 (ST). An uncommon sight in fall, two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Duck Hollow 11/1 (TM, NM).

A **Great Egret** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 8/23 (FK) and two were there 9/9 (ST). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was discovered roosting in a tree next to a business in Duquesne 8/5 by an employee (*fide* BMu). The bird was last reported 8/21. It fed on the lawn of the business in the evening and even walked along the sidewalk. It was observed capturing cicadas and other insects on the lawn. This provided the second county record and the first documented with photographs.

A kettle of 60 **Broad-winged Hawks** was observed over the Allegheny River Valley in Verona 8/31 (SK). We normally don't see large numbers in this area because this species follows the mountain ridges

during migration. A **Mississippi Kite** was observed flying over a backyard in Upper St. Clair 8/25 (ST) providing only the second county record. There were two reports of early **Merlins** Aug: one in Pine Twp. 8/5 (PL, SL) and one at Schenley Park 8/21 (KSJ).

Olive-sided Flycatcher reports were numerous with single birds reported at Schenley Park 8/21 (KSJ), South Park 8/31 (JF), Pine Twp. 9/2-3 (PL, SL), Boyce-Mayview Park 9/7 (ST), Beechwood Farms 9/7 (AP) and 9/18 (BSh) and Harrison Hills Park 9/22 (AH). Five **Acadian Flycatchers** at Tom's Run 9/8 (DYe) was a nice count for fall. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported through September. There was a concentration of reports 9/6-9 that included single birds at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/6 (LN), Deer Lakes Park 9/6 (DB), South Park (JF), North Park (DN) and Round Hill Park (JHa), all 9/8 and Boyce-Mayview Park 9/9 (ST). **Great Crested Flycatcher** is not reported in fall often so two reports of single birds at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/2 (ST) and Pine Twp. 9/8 (PL, SL) were notable.

A **Northern Shrike** was found near the Pittsburgh International Airport 11/24 (MW).

Five **Bank Swallows** were at Chapel Harbor 8/2 (JVa), the location of a breeding colony discovered this past spring. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a nice surprise at a feeder in Pleasant Hills 9/20 (HF). One was at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve 10/18 (BSh). A **Marsh Wren** was found once again in the wetlands at Wingfield Pines 10/8 (JMc) where it remained through the season. One was also found at Harrison Hills Park 11/17 (AH, PM).

Four **American Pipits** were at Boyce-Mayview Park 11/13 (ST) and four were at an unusual location in the city of Pittsburgh 11/14 (OL). They were in an empty lot and the observer noticed them and recorded their calls while he was waiting for a bus. Single **Veery** were reported 9/1 and 9/6 in Pine Twp. (PL, SL). A **Hermit Thrush** at Pine Twp. 9/30 was a bit early (PL, SL). A great count of 3 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** was made at Beechwood Farms 10/5 (AP) and one was at Boyce Park 10/5 (AH, PM).

A female **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in O'hara Twp. 10/7-8 (BSh). Uncommon for fall, a **Vesper Sparrow** was found at Imperial 9/28 (MV). A late **Savannah Sparrow** was a nice find at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/2 (JF, JP, MM). A late **Fox Sparrow** was at Harrison Hills Park 11/16 (MF). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported through October and a late bird was at Harrison Hills Park 11/14 (DB). Several **Swamp Sparrows** remained through November at Wingfield Pines (m.ob.). An interesting leucistic **White-throated Sparrow** visited a feeder in a backyard in Pleasant Hills 11/4 (MH). The bird was completely white with the exception of a brown tail and yellow lores. It was present for about a week.

Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Frick Park 10/9 (JS, SS). One was at the Penn Dot Wetlands in Boyce-Mayview Park 11/1 (LN) and two were photographed in Marshall Twp. 11/16 (JHz).

Twenty-three species of warblers were reported during the period. Some highlights follow. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Peter's Creek in Jefferson Borough 10/8 (JHa) and 10/10 (JP), and another was photographed at Harrison Hills Park 11/10 (DB). **Cape May Warblers** are always nice to see and there were numerous reports. One was at North Park 9/8 (DN), one in Penn Hills 9/21 (MF), one at Deer Lakes Park 9/21 (JVa, OL, TH), two were at Frick Park 9/24 (DWE), one was in Natrona Heights 9/26 and two were there 9/30 (PH). **Northern Parula** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/9 (ST) and at Frick Park 9/27 (DWe). A late **Yellow Warbler** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/6 (LN). **Palm Warbler** reports include one at Schenley Park 9/27 (KSJ) and one in Pine Twp. 9/27 (PL, SL). A **Pine Warbler** was in Pine Twp. 9/30 (PL, SL). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Frick Park 9/24 (DWe) was a bit early. A **Canada Warbler** was at South Park 9/8 (JF) and another was at Schenley Park 9/27 (KSJ). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at Round Hill Park 9/15 (JHa, AR, BMu).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail no. of dam 8 (AT), Brady's Bend (BB), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Cochran Mills Rd. (CMR), Dayton (DT), Ford City (FC), Keystone Lake (KL), Kittanning (KT), Laneville (LV), Leechburg (LB), Logansport (LP), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Manorville (MV), Mayport (MP), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Valley Township, KT (VTKT).

The most notable birds this season were a lone **Orchard Oriole** near KL 8/19 (MH, RH), a late **Ovenbird** on Rock Furnace Trail in Apollo 11/1 (MD, et al.), and 30 **Rusty Blackbirds** at CCL 11/2 (JB).

First **Tundra Swans** reported were 2 immatures on the KR 11/6 (MV, ph.). Then on 11/9, 70 were overhead at SGL 247 (DB), 82 were at VTKT (AB, ph.), and a group was above BB (RB). **Wood Ducks** were observed in several areas including the AT, CCL, KL, and PBF, and 2 were reported from MB 9/1 (MAS). Three **Blue-winged Teal** were a nice find at KL 8/19 (MH, RH); the only **Green-winged Teal** for the season was at CCL 10/1 (TR). Four **Redheads** were at KL 11/6 (MH, RH). Eight **Buffleheads** at KL 11/6 (MH, RH) were first for the season, and a nice count of 22 was reported from CCL (TR) and 2 showed up on the river near LB also same day (MV). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were listed at KL 11/18 (TR). The only **Ruddy Duck** was noted from KL 11/6 (MH, RH).

Single **Common Loons** were reported from KL 11/6 (MH, RH) and CCL 11/14 (MV) and **Double-crested Cormorants** were at CCL, KL, and MB (MAS). A lone **Great Egret** was in WT 9/3 (RM). The only report of **Wilson's Snipe** was 9/11 at CCL (TR).

A **Northern Harrier** was observed in VTKT 9/14-10/26; two were seen 11/13 (AB). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported in several locations including a new pair at PBF 11/28, where one had been seen several times previously. Last **Broad-winged Hawk** was at MB 9/30 (MV). A single **Merlin** was at CCL 11/29 (ph. MV), single **Peregrine Falcons** were spotted at LV near the Freeport Bridge 8/15 (DB) and at Manorville 9/13 (AB) and 11/11 (MH, RH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find near Mayport 8/18 (AK, JK); the species was also noted in WT 9/16 (MV, ph.) and 9/19 (SG) and at CCL 9/25 (MV, ph.). A few **Winter Wrens** found, both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** put in appearances several locations, and single **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported from CCL 10/1 and from SGL 247 on 10/5 (TR). Most of the expected warblers came through the county. One **Rose breasted Grosbeak** was reported from CCL 9/5 (TR) and 10/7 (MV), and 2 were near WT 9/12 (TR).

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Beaver County

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

Forty **Tundra Swans** at RCH 11/28 (TJ) represented the only report.

Reports of ducks were more or less poor, which is typical for *Beaver* in the fall season. A very nice count of 63 **Wood Ducks** was made at IND 10/6 (MV). The only **Blue-winged Teal** was at AR 9/28 (MV) and the only **Gadwalls** were found 11/8, when 10 were at AR and one was at IND (both MV). Up to 5 **American Black Ducks** hung around IND from 9/30 through the season (MV, et al.). A **Northern Pintail** at IND 10/18 was a bit of a surprise (MV); another was at RCH 11/8 (MV). The latter is typically the only reliable location for pintails in the fall. A small number of **Common Mergansers** continued from late summer through Nov at NB (m.ob.).

Good tallies of **Common Nighthawks** included 15 at Ambridge 9/1 (MV) and 20 at HAN 9/10 (JM).

With Little Blue Lake long gone and the habitat at IND in active jeopardy due to pipeline construction, *Beaver* is on the brink of losing the last of the little shorebird habitat of any reasonable quality it ever had (or at least, since the beginning of the 20th century). Perhaps the best place left in the county is the spillway ramp at RCSP, sad as that is. This year at that location the following were "highlights": a somewhat late **Semipalmated Plover** 10/10 (JM), up to 5 **Least Sandpipers** 8/22-9/1 (MV, JM), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/1 (MV), and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/23-28 (MV) and again 10/5 (JM). **Killdeer** at least were not done with the IND area quite yet; a high count of 61 was made there 10/20 (MV). A late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at AR 10/18-20 (MV), and the only **Greater Yellowlegs** of the season was at IND 9/22 (MV).

Reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** included one at NB 10/19 (MV) and 2 at RCH 11/10 (MV). The highlight of the season was a first cycle **Glaucous Gull** at RCH 11/21-30 (MV), which represented just the fourth record for *Beaver* and at a very unexpectedly early date too. All three of the previous records were also at RCH, and clustered together in late January 2015 during extreme cold and a major gull invasion to sw. Pennsylvania.

A late **Great Egret** was at Big Beaver Wetlands 10/16 (TD). The two **Black Vultures** on private property near RCSP that were seen sporadically since early spring were sighted three times this fall as well, from 9/2-11/23 (JM, MV). A great count of at least 7 **Northern Harriers** was made at the grasslands around the former Little Blue Lake site in Greene Twp. 11/29 (TJ, KJ).

Rarely reported in *Beaver* despite extensive suitable habitat (probably owing to lack of effort), a **Barred Owl** was found at RCSP 8/24 (JM). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** frequented a HAN yard in late Nov (JM), a species that is not often found in very late fall or winter in the county. A **Merlin** was sighted in Ambridge for the third fall season in a row, this year from 10/21-26 (MV). One or two **Peregrine Falcons** were seen throughout spring and summer, and now the fall too, at the Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge (MV). Unfortunately it could not be determined even whether they attempted to nest there this year, let alone whether any attempt that may have been made was successful.

Common Ravens are not a notable species really anywhere in Pennsylvania outside of the Glaciated Northwest any longer, but a count of 4 at IND 9/13 (FK, AK) was still a highlight for the number. One was at NB 11/28 as well (TJ). Two **Purple Martins** were at HAN 8/17 (JM). In a non-invasion year, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at a HAN yard beginning 10/17 (JM) were notable.

Passerine migration was almost completely unmonitored in the county this fall. Only four (unremarkable) morning outings at RCSP were logged to eBird or reported to this compiler for the months of Aug and Sep. Evidence of the near total absence of birder effort in woodlots: only one report of any spot-breasted thrush was made for the entire season, and that of a late **Wood Thrush** in an ECON yard 10/3 (KD). A **Field Sparrow** was still hanging at the Greene Twp. grasslands 11/29 (TJ, KJ). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a nice find at IND 10/20 (JM). A yard in ECON saw a small wave of late-moving warblers 10/3: **American Redstart**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** (KD). This also comprised nearly the entire seasonal report for these species. A late **Palm Warbler** was at IND 11/15 (MV), and a **Pine Warbler** was at RCSP 8/24 (JM).

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Buck Run II (BR), Henry's Farm (HF), Hopewell (HOPE), Rte. 96 north of Hyndman (HN), 4150-4398 Hyndman Road (HR), Kay Farm Road (KFR), Locust Grove-Winegardner Road (LG), Jackson Property (Mountain Meadows) near Everett (MM), Mountain Rose Beach Road (MRBR), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Sollenberger Road (SR), Teaberry Road (TR), Union Memorial Church UMC), Walmart Parking Lot (WPL), Whitetail Wetlands (WW), Will's Mountain-SGL 48 (WM).

Precipitation for this period was about 12" and was dramatically different from last year's 28". The month of September was especially dry with less than 2" of rain, compared to almost 14" in September last year.

Mid-Nov brought reports of **Tundra Swans**. Three were heard at BR 11/13 (TJK), and 34 were seen at AFHW 12/12 (DP). Two **American Black Ducks** were at SSP 11/23 (LG). Eleven **Ring-necked Ducks**, 11 **Buffleheads**, and 22 **Hooded Mergansers** were at SSP 11/13 (TJK). Nine **Ruddy ducks** were at SSP 10/27 (RBo), and a high of 45 was there 11/18 (TJK).

Of the seven sites reporting flocks of **Wild Turkey**, the high of 25 was counted 9/12 (EB). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at SSP 9/22 (m.ob.), and the season high of 14 was reported 11/8 (TJK). A single **Horned Grebe** was at SSP 11/29 (MH).

Black-billed Cuckoo went unreported, but **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were commonly heard this period, up to the last one at AFHW 10/19 (EB); high was 2 at SSP 9/22 (m.ob.). Sightings of **Common Nighthawk** were scarce, but 4 were seen at UMC 9/8 (EB). One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at HN 9/14 (ND). A high count of 10 **Chimney Swifts** was made at AFHW 9/23 (RH, SM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were regular visitors at feeders throughout *Bedford*; 15 were counted along AFHW 9/15 (EB).

Shorebirds at SSP included a single **American Golden-Plover** 9/28 (PI), a high of 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** 9/21 (JSD), and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 11/18 (TJK). Ten **Common Loons** were at AFHW 11/16 (MD). **Double-crested Cormorants** were frequently reported, including a high count of 26 at SSP 10/27 (RBo).

The 23rd season at AFHW ended abruptly 12/14 due to treacherous ice and snow, but the season started with record-breaking numbers of **Broad-winged Hawks**: a record 489 in August and another record in September of 15,698, for a season total of 16,208. Other totals were 13 **Black Vultures**, 302 **Turkey Vultures**, 112 **Osprey**, 246 **Bald Eagles** (season record), 4 **Northern Goshawks**, 1688 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 1055 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 215 **Golden Eagles**, and 29 **Peregrine Falcons**. The 54 **Golden Eagles** 11/16 (TJK) were a record one-day count for the season, and the season total of 20,362 total birds was almost double that of 2018.

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported at HN 9/15 (ND), and **Short-eared Owl** was at HOPE 11/18 (LJG) and KFR 11/30 (NW). One **Long-eared Owl** made a surprise appearance at the AFHW banding station 11/15 shortly after the Saw-whet Owl call was played (DD). It hit the nets before they were even lowered! A **Barred Owl** was heard calling at MM 8/14 (MLJ). **Great Horned Owls** called 8/24 and 8/26 at MM (MLJ). Twelve **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at AFHW this period.

The earliest **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported 10/8 at MM (MLJ). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (two adults and one imm.) were at LG 8/19 (MLJ), and 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were at TR 9/18. Infrequent sightings of single **American Kestrels** occurred during the period, but two were seen at SR 9/23 and 10/6 (EB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at AFHW 9/16 (EB), which represented the only record for *Bedford* in 2019. One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported at HN 8/25 (ND). Three **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at AFHW 9/19 (EB). A high count of 4 **Blue-headed**

Vireos were at AFHW 10/29, and one was observed at MM 10/11-21 (MLJ). A common nester in *Bedford*, the last **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen at SSP 9/22 (AC). The only **Fish Crow** for this period was identified by call at WPL 9/3 (MLJ). Numerous sightings of **Common Ravens** were made; the highest counts of 6 were made at AFHW 9/27-11/17 (m.ob.).

The last sighting of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was 9/21 at SSP (JSD). A late **Tree Swallow** was at SSP 9/20 (SG). The last 6 **Barn Swallows** were reported at SSP 9/22 (m.ob.). A high count of 6 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was made at BR 10/21, and high count of 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at HF 10/16 (AS). Two ruby-crowns were frequently seen at MM 10/13-11/1 (MLJ). **Brown Creepers** were only reported at AFHW, perhaps due to its higher elevation; sightings included just one each on 10/14 (m.ob.) and 11/18 (RBu). The only **Winter Wren** this period was at WW 11/14 (TJK).

A high count of 8 **Gray Catbirds** was reported at MM 8/1 (MB), and the last was at AFHW 9/22 (m.ob.). The last **Brown Thrasher** was at HN 10/15 (ND). The only sighting of a **Swainson's Thrush** was at AFHW 9/17 (MG). A high count of 6 **Wood Thrushes** was made at MM 8/1 (MB). At SSP, 25 **American Pipits** were reported 11/8 and 20 more were found 11/13 (TJK); these were the only sightings for the period. **Purple Finches** were reported from two locations: 4 at HN 11/4 (ND) and 2 at MM 11/9 (MLJ).

One **Snow Bunting** was observed on WM 11/6 (JZ). The high count for **Chipping Sparrows** was 20 at SSP 9/22 (m.ob.), which was also the last report. A **Field Sparrow** was noted at MM 11/5 (MLJ), also the last sighting. A high of 3 **Fox Sparrows** were recorded at MM 11/8 (MLJ), with the last observed 11/22. The first **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen at MM 10/30 (MLJ). Only 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen at WW 11/5 (TJK). A high count of 4 **White-throated Sparrows** was made at MM 11/30 (MLJ). The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MM 10/21 (MLJ). A high count of 10 **Eastern Towhees** were at MM 8/1 (MB), and one was still at AFHW 11/2 (m.ob.).

The only sighting of **Eastern Meadowlarks** was 3 at UMC 8/17 (EB). The last recorded sighting of a **Baltimore Oriole** was at WW 8/15 (JJ), a location which also yielded a high count of 39 **Red-winged Blackbirds** 11/5 (TJK). The only 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at HN 11/13 (ND). A high count of 10 **Common Grackles** occurred at WW 8/15 (JJ).

Twenty-three species of warblers were reported. The last **Ovenbird** was at HN 8/25 (ND). Three **Worm-eating Warblers** were at MM 8/1 (MB). A **Northern Waterthrush** and a **Black-and-white Warbler** were both at SSP 9/22 (m.ob.). The last **Tennessee Warbler** for this period was seen 10/1 at MM (MLJ). A high count of 4 **Common Yellowthroats** was made at BR 10/4 (TJK), the latest report for this period. The only sighting of **Hooded Warblers** was 3 at MM 8/1 (MB), and a late **American Redstart** was sighted at MM 10/1 (MLJ). A late **Cape May Warbler** lingered until 10/13 at MM (MLJ). The last **Cerulean Warbler** sighting was at HN 8/31 (ND). A late **Magnolia Warbler** tarried at HN to 10/5 (ND). The last **Bay-breasted Warbler** was spotted at HR 9/20 (TA), and the last **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen at AFHW 9/23 (m.ob.). Just one **Yellow Warbler** was found, at MRBR 8/3 (EB). The last **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen at AFHW 9/23 (m.ob.). One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported 10/8, and 3 **Back-throated Green Warblers** were seen 10/13 at MM (MLJ). The only **Canada Warbler** for the period was at MM 9/1 (MLJ).

A count high of 4 **Scarlet Tanagers** was made at HR 9/20 (TA), and the last sighting was 10/8 at MM (MLJ). The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at TR 9/18. A high count of 7 **Indigo Buntings** was reported at MM (MB); the last was seen at MM 9/29 (MLJ).

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Berks County

Locations: Bartrum Trail (BAT), Berne Township, (BT), Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH), Blue Marsh Lake Sheidy Boat Launch (BMLSBL), Christman Lake (CL), EJ Breneman's Quarry (BQ), Exeter Township (ET), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Gotwal's Pond (GP), Hamburg Commerce Park (HCP), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Hawk Mountain North Lookout Data (HMNL), Hawk Mountain South Lookout (HMSL), Keim Road (KR), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Kutztown University (KU), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee Blue Falls (LOBF), Lake Ontelaunee Water Street (LOWA), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS), Lowland Road Retention Pond (LRRP), Monacacy Hill Recreation Area (MHRC), Mount Penn (MP), Old Topton Road (OTP), Peter's Creek (PC), Pine Swamp Road (PSR), Sacony Trail (ST), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), State Game Lands 52 (SGL52), State Game Lands 106 (SGL106), State Game Lands 110 North Kill Gap (SGL110), Wyomissing (WYO).

2019 entered the record books as the 13th wettest year in *Berks'* recorded history. The years of 2018 and 2019 combined to be the wettest back-to-back years, with a total of 121.83 inches. In apparent contradiction with these rain totals, there were few cold fronts to push migrants along. Weekend rainstorms had a negative impact on raptor counts, as well as on hours spent in the field by *Berks* birders.

Snow Goose migration at HMNL totaled 52, with the first two counted 11/2 (RK) and 50 on 11/8 (SG). A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** first seen at GP 11/13 (RK) later spent two days there 11/18-19 (DP). A **Cackling Goose** was found in a flock of **Canada Geese** at GP 11/18-11/23 (S&F, EH). An unusually low count of 5226 **Canada Geese** at HMNL was evidence of the lack of beneficial cold fronts. The only report of **Tundra Swan** was of an unspecified number at BML 11/27 (JS). The three main *Berks* lakes, BML, BQ, and LO, did not have any significant fallouts of migrant waterfowl. Twelve **American Wigeon** were at LO 11/8 (DH). The single **Redhead** at BQ 11/9 (DH, RK) was a small number compared with spring migration for this species. The same is said for the two **Ring-necked Ducks** at LO 11/3 (RK). The expected rafts of **Bufflehead** were missed due to lack of proper conditions. Three **Bufflehead** were found at LO 11/9 (RK) and at LOWS 11/19 (JSp).

The first **Common Loons** at HMNL were two birds 9/24 and the total number was 91 for the period. The highest single day count was 47 on 11/8. Single birds were found off-ridge at BML 11/25 (DP) and LO 11/23 (EH). The weak cold front 11/8 that resulted in small numbers of waterfowl also put 11 **Pied-billed Grebes** down on LO (CH), as well as one **Horned Grebe** (DH).

The seven **Great Egrets** at LOBF 9/6 (JSp) was the high for this species. Single **Great Egrets** were found throughout *Berks*. One egret lingered at HCP 8/16-11/2 (MW) although whether it was the same bird cannot be confirmed, of course. The lone immature **Little Blue Heron** at LRRP 8/11-30 (MTG, KG) was more likely to be the same bird. The late summer dispersal of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** resulted in 11 at BMLSBL 8/27 (EB) and 4 at LOBF 9/6 (JSp). An uncommon immature **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** fished in the spillway at LO 8/13 (MW).

A change of roosting sites seemed to take place for **Black Vultures** recently at BML 10/24 (JS). Due to their tendency to be destructive and the negative press in local newspapers, Black Vultures were encouraged to leave the Wernersville School and have, at the moment, moved on to the dam and beach at BML. Hundreds of them now perch on beach buildings and furniture when not probing the beach for food. The vulture flocks at the dam breast are now comprised of both **Black and Turkey Vultures**.

The lack of significant cold fronts resulted in lower than usual raptor movement along the ridge at HMNL. The final numbers will be reported in next season's report. As of the end of Nov, these were high counts of some species: 36 **Osprey** 9/13, 30 **Bald Eagle** 10/4, 6 **Northern Harrier** 9/15, and 12 **Golden Eagle** 11/8. Two **Golden Eagles** were tallied at the Rte. 183 Hawk Watch 11/1 (EB). The first **Northern Goshawk** passed HMNL 11/9. An adult **Swainson's Hawk**, a rare ridge migrant, made an even more rare appearance off-ridge at BML 11/29 (JS) where it was

observed several minutes before it flew off.

The last occurrence of **Virginia Rail** at KDRA was 8/11 (KG), where it first appeared 4/30 (KG). Despite the high rainfall this season, the continuing loss of suitable habitat proves to decrease shorebird presence in *Berks*. A new retention pond at HCP resulted in small shorebird numbers stopping there briefly until heavy rains covered the shoreline. These shorebirds were all observed at HCP: 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/11 (MW), 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/24 (MW), 5 **Least Sandpipers** 8/16 (MW), one **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/16 (MW), and one **Wilson's Snipe** 9/30 (MW). The only **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found at KDRA 8/29 (KG). An **American Woodcock** surprised some homeowners in Shoemakersville when it dropped in to their back yard 11/7 (SM).

A small rain storm resulted in **Bonaparte Gulls** being found 11/15. Five were at both BML (DP) and LO (AC, ES). **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls** commenced their winter roost at BML in early Nov when 80 **Ring-billed Gulls** arrived 11/1 (JSp). High numbers were later found at BML: 800 on 11/20, 1600 on 11/25, and 850 on 11/26 (all DP). A total of 39 **Herring Gulls** spent the night at BML 11/10 (RK). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are annual visitors to BML, and 2 were there 11/25 (DP). Three uncommon **Great Black-backed Gulls** made their first visit to BML 11/26 (DP). **Caspian Terns** make scattered showings at LO and BML. Two appeared at LO 8/29 (MTG) and 6 flew around BML 9/3 (DP). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** have yet to be confirmed breeders in Shartlesville. A single dove was reported 8/3 (JH).

A **Long-eared Owl's** harassment by crows alerted a BT resident to the owl's presence in the woods behind her house. It arrived 11/18 and departed 11/28 (JS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** called from the kettle below Hemlock Heights shortly after the counter's morning arrival at HMNL 11/10 (MW).

Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** were banded in *Berks*. A first-year female arrived 10/14 at a home in ET and departed 11/30. The second hummingbird, also a young female, was in WYO 11/10-12 (SL).

A total of fifteen migrating **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at HMNL. A recently active nesting pair at Allendale Road was consistently seen 8/19-11/23 (MTG, MW, SM). An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at the nesting cavity 8/2 (MW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** are common fall migrants, but usually occurring only in singles. Three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were observed 10/13 LOBF (JSp).

A single **Merlin** returned to BML, its winter residence, 10/27 (JS). It was joined by a female **Merlin** 11/12 (JS). BML has been a wintering area for **Merlin** annually for several years. Fifty-six migrant **Peregrine Falcons** were tallied at HMNL by the end of Nov, with a high count of 11 on 11/12.

The ridges have consistently been good places to spot flycatchers in fall migration. Totals at HMNL included 7 **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 3 **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, 5 **Least Flycatcher**. Vireos also follow the ridges and descend on HMNL in the early morning hours. **White-eyed Vireo** is rarely seen and one passed the lookout 11/3. Six **Yellow-throated Vireos** were seen as were 76 **Blue-headed Vireos**, with the last one documented 10/28. HMNL is a favorite site to find **Philadelphia Vireos**; this season, 21 were found from 9/3-10/2. **Red-eyed Vireo**, the most common of the vireo species, numbered 336.

Common Ravens continued to make their presence known off-ridge. One pair appeared often along Rte. 183 in Bernville's commercial area. High counts in migration along the ridge at HMNL were 17 on 11/20 and 13 on 11/21. The most common swallow along the ridge is **Tree Swallow**. High numbers at HMNL were: 623 on 9/14, 520 on 9/19, and 350 on 10/23. A total of 52 **Bank Swallows** are spotted at HMNL during the period, including a high count of 18 on 9/7.

Tufted Titmouse appears to be slowly recovering from its "crash"; single numbers were reported throughout *Berks*. On 11/23, 6 were spotted at HMNL. The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared 9/22 on the ridge HMNL. A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** fed a home feeder in BT 10/6 (JS). Spring migration is the more common period for **Marsh Wren** to appear in KDRA reeds, but a single was heard and seen there 10/12 (KG).

On the morning 10/12, an overnight thrush migration ended in the woods of a BT resident. Competing for a spot at the water bath were

Swainson's Thrush, **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Hermit Thrush**. The number of birds was not reported. **Snow Buntings** appeared at HMNL 11/15-30. On 11/23, 13 flew past with a number landing on the lookout rocks.

There were no large fallouts of warblers reported this season along any of the *Berks* ridges, although 9/16 saw the the best counts for several species. High counts at HMNL reported were: 4 **Tennessee Warbler** 9/16, 3 **Nashville Warbler** 9/16, 43 **Cape May Warbler** 9/23, 17 **Magnolia Warbler** 9/16, 20 **Bay-breasted Warbler** 9/16, 22 **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/16 and 64 **Black-throated Green Warbler** 9/16.

The first report of **American Tree Sparrow** came from Kempton 11/13 (HW). Migrating **Fox Sparrows** were seen in single numbers by many birders. Five along the BT 11/26 (KG) was the highest number reported. A prized fall **Lincoln's Sparrow** found at the Acopian Center 9/19 (DS) was the only one reported. First **White-crowned Sparrow** was a single at BML 10/30 (JS).

Scarlet Tanagers and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** often are often reported in the same flocks at HMNL as warblers and vireos. High count of **Scarlet Tanagers** was 61 on 9/16 and of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, 43. A sighting of two **Blue Grosbeaks** at HMNL 9/7 took the counters and visitors at HMNL by surprise, perhaps a first for the location.

The winter finch forecast predicted few if any migrants from the far north, and this held true through Nov. From 10/19-11/14, only 8 **Purple Finches** flew past HMNL.

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Blair County

Locations: Albemarle trail (AT), Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS--6 to 10 Trail (APR), Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery (BESCN) Canoe Creek S.P. (CC), Frosty Hollow (FH), Lower Trail-Mount Etna (LTE), Lower Trail Ganister (LTG), Reese Pond (RP) State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN), Yellow Spring Pond (YSP).

The fall migration brought moderate temperatures and below average of precipitation. The species count for the season was 141. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data.

Eight duck species were reported, including 2 **Gadwalls** at CC 11/29 (LP) and 12 **Green-winged Teal** nested at the Army National Guard Readiness Center Pond 11/24 (PI). A single **Ring-necked Duck** was at YSP 8/4 (JC, LC), and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** showed up at RP 11/18 (MN). Five **American Coots** were scoped at CC 11/29 (LP).

A group of 8 **Common Nighthawks** were spotted at CC 8/31 (PI), and a high count of 25 **Chimney Swifts** were viewed at PH 8/12 (MB). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was documented on the LTE 9/29 (JC, LC).

A total of 7 **Spotted Sandpipers** were found along the banks on the Little Juniata near Williamsburg as 3 **Wild Turkeys** crossed the river 8/9 (LC, MN). Single **Great Egrets** noted at the Tipton Wetlands 8/6 (MN), and Duncansville 9/11 (DK).

Ospreys appeared throughout the area, with 5 single reports documented, and **Bald Eagles** and **Red-tailed Hawks** continued to be commonly noted by observers. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** cruised near FH 8/17 (LB). A **Merlin** was perched on an oak tree at SGLN 9/1 (JC, LC), and another **Merlin** was viewed in Altoona 9/1 (TL).

There were 4 juvenile **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at GH 10/11

(LB). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** showed up in FH 8/25 (LB), another was viewed at SGLN 9/1 (JC, LC), and a one was along the LTG 10/2 (DG).

Two uncommon **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were spotted on top of dead tree snags SGLN 9/1 (JC, LC). An uncommon **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed in FH 9/3 (LB). Two **White-eyed Vireos** were at FH 8/11 (ph. LB), and another one was at LTG 9/25 (DG). A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was along the SGLN trail 9/15 (JC, LC), one was found at LTG 9/25 (DG), and 2 were at FH 9/28 (LB). Two **Purple Martins** flitted around PH 8/7 (MB). A great sighting of an uncommon **Marsh Wren** was made at SGL 166 near the beaver ponds 10/15 (DG). The only **Swainson's Thrush** reported was in FH 9/23 (BB, LB)

A strong showing of for warblers this season included 27 species. A single **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported at FH 8/25 (BB, LB). An uncommon **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a spotted at SGLN 9/23 (JC, LC). Two **Wilson's Warblers** were at FH 9/8 (LB, BB). A lone **Bay-breasted Warbler** was viewed along the LRG, and a single **Cerulean Warbler** was observed at the PH 8/6. Three more **Cerulean Warblers** were at FH 8/22 along with a single **Prairie Warbler** (LB). Another **Prairie Warbler** called at SGLN 9/1 (JC, LC).

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Bradford County – no compiler

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Silver Lake Park (SLP).

The month of August was not much warmer (+0.6°F) but certainly drier (-1.56") than normal. September was both hotter (+2.8°F) and drier (-2.1") than usual. October was warmer (+3.6°F) but somewhat wetter (+1.06") than usual, while November was quite cold (-5°F) and a bit dry (-1.9"). It felt like there were multiple cold fronts through the fall, but the coveted northwesterly winds only lasted a day at most after each front. Although there were no outstanding rarities, interesting birds were still to be found in *Bucks*. These included **Rufous Hummingbirds**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, **Red Phalarope**, **Black-headed Gull**, and "**Atlantic Coast**" **Nelson's Sparrow**. *Bucks* unfortunately did not partake in the feast of western rarities enjoyed by other counties and eastern states this fall. On top of that, winter finches stayed up north this year. The total species count of 228 was below the 10-year average of about 235. There were three new fall early dates and two new late dates as per eBird, this journal, and *The Birds of Bucks County* (Ken Kitson, 1998). All weather data was taken from NOAA's Trenton, New Jersey archives.

One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at PRN and stayed both there and at PVP from 10/10 through the end of the period (RS, m.ob. ph.). Although **Brant** is a scarce migrant in *Bucks*, a single was observed among other waterfowl at PVP 11/4 (AM). At least 14 **Cackling Geese** were seen at six locations during the period, with a high of 5 at PVP 11/23 (AM, m.ob. ph.). **Mute Swans** were at five locations, with a high of 16 on 11/17 at the usual PWT location (JHr, m.ob.). As with last year, only one flock of **Tundra Swans** was reported during the period, this time a group of 6 over BRD 11/17 (ST). A total of 22 duck species were observed, mostly in low numbers. Believed to be the first August report of **Gadwall** in the county, one was at PWT 8/4 (DF). One notable count was 91 **Green-winged Teals** at PWT 10/6 (AM). Although this was a new eBird high count, historical counts have probably been higher. A single of this species at PWT 8/3 was a record early autumn arrival (DF). **Canvasbacks** were thin on the ground, with 3 at PVP 11/15 (DA, JHu ph.) and one at Franklin Cove 11/23 (DD ph.). The lone report of **Redhead** was of a male at PVP 11/7 (AH, MH). **Greater Scaup** were

found only at PVP, with singles on 10/19 and 11/16 (KF ph., AH, DT). This fall season only produced one scoter of any kind, a tame and photogenic **White-winged Scoter** that stayed at PVP from 10/13-11/4 (m.ob. ph.). In that same vein, a male **Long-tailed Duck** at PVP 11/21 was the sole report (AG ph., RC, BD). A new eBird high count was set on 11/6 at PVP when at least 256 **Buffleheads** were counted (AM, KR ph.). Although expected as a low-density fall migrant, 13 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at NSP 11/2 were a good count (DF).

Only 4 or 5 **Horned Grebes** were observed between two locations (m.ob.). Three **Red-necked Grebes** were photographed. One was at PWT on the record early date of 10/6 (DF, AH ph.), one was at NSP 10/18 (RS ph.), and one was at PVP 11/7 (m.ob. ph.). For our two cuckoo species, the number of locations and individuals was far greater (14 and 24, respectively) in **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** than in **Black-billed Cuckoo** (4 and 5, respectively) (m.ob.). Numbers of **Common Nighthawks** were even lower than last year, with a fairly isolated high count of 18 over PRN 9/14 (BM). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at PVP 10/26 tarried to the later end of the species' typical departure time (BE, AM ph.). Two imm. female **Rufous Hummingbirds** appeared this autumn and were trapped and banded. One stayed at a Yardley feeder 11/2 to at least 11/26 (SH ph.). Although not photographed for confirmation until 10/15, another present from 10/6 is presumed to be the same bird at a Doylestown feeder that stayed through the period (WL ph., KLa, m.ob.). Two observers found the often-elusive **Sora** at BRD 9/27 (GJ) and at a Solebury Twp. farm field 10/2 (DF). Single **Virginia Rails** were detected at SLP 9/14 and 10/19 (m.ob.). Another was likely cold and very out of place at a farm market near PVP 11/14 (SS ph.) and was taken to the AARK wildlife rehab facility. Another was at an undisclosed location 10/18 (AM). Now almost expected but not in summer, a **Sandhill Crane** continued from the summer season in Buckingham until 8/6 (m.ob. ph.).

Eighteen shorebird species were observed during the period, including several rarities. A single **Stilt Sandpiper** was at PWT 8/24 (DF), and one stayed at BRD from 9/27-10/2 (m.ob. ph.). One **Western Sandpiper** was at PWT 8/10 and 9/2 (DF). The two reports of **White-rumped Sandpiper** came from PWT 8/3-4 and BRD 9/2 (DF, KR ph., PW, RW). Chance encounters with nonbreeding **American Woodcocks** were surprisingly frequent: the species was seen at 5 locations (m.ob.). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at PWT 8/1 (JHa), and 7 stopped there 8/24 (DF). The sixth known *Bucks* occurrence of **Long-billed Dowitcher** came in the form of a bird at CVP 10/4 (KLo, MGa, KK ph.). The bird was originally reported as Short-billed Dowitcher, but confirmed after referring pictures to Dave Sibley, Kevin Karlson, and Cameron Rutt. PWT produced a **Red-necked Phalarope** 9/1-2 (JHa, DF). A **Red Phalarope** spent three days showing off to observers at PVP from 8/26-28 (AM, m.ob. ph.). This was the 11th known *Bucks* report of this the rarest of the three phalarope species in these parts.

Seven gull and three tern species were found during the period. An immature **Black-headed Gull** stopped at PWT 11/24 (DF), providing the 13th *Bucks* record. **Iceland Gulls** were reported from three locations, all during the month of November (m.ob. ph.). A count upwards of 488 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at PVP 11/25 demonstrated the species' ever-growing numbers in this county (AH). At least 31 **Caspian Terns** at five sites provided a decent showing, with a high count of 7 at PVP 8/23 (AM, VM). A **Common Tern** surprised an observer at PVP 10/7 but was well-described (EZ). **Forster's Tern** had a weak showing, with one bird at PVP 8/11 (JF ph.) and 2 at PWT 10/27 (DF).

One **Red-throated Loon** at NSP 11/30 managed to squeeze the species into this fall report (BE). Somewhat surprisingly, Great Cormorant went unreported through November along the Delaware R. Single **American Bitterns** were at PWT 9/29 and 11/2 for the only reports (DF). **Great Egrets** were well-reported from at least 30 sites (m.ob.), with a high count of 16 at Core Creek Park 8/23 (DD). Three reports of **Snowy Egret** were received, one from Lower Makefield Twp. 8/8 (CF), one at PWT 8/16-17 (DF), and one at Core Creek Park 9/13 (DD ph.). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at PWT 8/1 (DF) and Core Creek Park 8/11 (DF). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** scene was fairly interesting. About 10 birds were reported from five sites. SLP is the most dependable site, with a high report of 2 adults and 2 juveniles 8/3 (DD ph.). Also at SLP, an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed high on a

dead snag 8/23 (DD). **Glossy Ibis** is often unpredictably observed, but PWT can be a good place to find them. Such was the case with a flock of 10 there on 8/1 (JHa).

In recent years, **Broad-winged Hawks** have shown signs of breeding at NSP. This year, a nest was found and on 8/6 at least one fledgling was seen begging for food (EB). A known leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was spotted again in Solebury Twp. 9/26 (DF). On 11/9, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was a nice surprise at PWT (DF ph.). Six locations had **Red-headed Woodpecker** this fall, including reports from at least two known breeding sites (m.ob.). The Haycock Twp. site had the high count of 7 adults and immatures 9/1 (PC).

Olive-sided Flycatcher is always hoped for as a low-density migrant in the lowlands. This fall, one was found at MKF 8/21 (RS) and at PVP 9/6 (VM). The situation is similar for **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. At least 5 were seen at three sites, including 2-3 at PVP between 9/5-9/22 (HD, AM, KI) and 3 at State Game Lands 157 between 8/25 and 9/25 (DF). Approximately 13 **Philadelphia Vireos** were identified from nine sites, a solid showing from this species (m.ob.). Continuing their recent trend, **Common Ravens** were distributed throughout *Bucks* at 30 sites, save for the extreme southeastern corner near the Delaware R. (m.ob.). The period's high count of 47 **Horned Larks** came from the preserved Patterson Farm in Lower Makefield Twp. 11/17 (DD ph.). In general, swallow species and numbers were unremarkable, but 2 late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** persisted at PWT 11/2 (DF). Only two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found this fall, both at CVP from 8/31-9/7 and 11/2 (HD, m.ob. ph.). This has been a breeding site in the past. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Tyler SP 11/19 was quite late (MGr). **Marsh Wrens** were discovered at five sites from late September through October. All reports were of singles except for two at PRN 10/28 (AM, m.ob. ph.). Although few **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported on the ground, at least one was detected in predawn migration in Buckingham Twp. 10/5 (EZ). CVP had at least one bird from 9/28-10/8 (m.ob. ph.). A **Wood Thrush** at Tamanend Community Park 10/13 was on the late side (MGr). **American Pipits** were found at 11 sites, with modest high counts of about 40 at two separate locations (RS, ST, m.ob.).

None of our winter finches came south in numbers this year after a decent irruption last year. This was certainly true for **Purple Finches**, with only one report of 3 at Washington Crossing Historic Park 11/29 (JA). Zero Pine Siskins could be found anywhere this fall. Every year, a few **Snow Buntings** can be found at the NSP fishing pier. This fall was no different, with 3 there 11/8 and one 11/30 (AH ph., BE). Large numbers of **Chipping Sparrows** were widespread through the end of the period, which is slightly unusual (m.ob.). The only site with any **Vesper Sparrows** was MKF, where singles were present 10/18-11/12 (RS, AM ph., AH ph.). **Nelson's Sparrow** reports were as usual from PRN and BRD 9/30-11/3, with a high of 3 at PRN 10/12 (AM, m.ob.). Of note was a single at PVP 10/18, only the third park record (BH). The most outstanding note on this species was the discovery of an individual from the "Atlantic Coast" subspecies at PRN 10/28 (AM doc.). This was only the second time that this subspecies has been documented in the county. Often hard to find in *Bucks*, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at NSP 9/21 was the only one of its kind seen this fall (MGa). An **Orchard Oriole** at NSP 9/8 represented a new fall late date (JBH). Sadly, there were no counts of **Rusty Blackbird** above single digits reported (m.ob.).

Thirty-two warbler species were found in the whirlwind of fall migration, including several of the "expected unexpected" species. Three distinct **Golden-winged Warblers** were at PVP between 8/23-9/13 (AM). **Prothonotary Warblers** are an early fall migrant and can be missed in the fall season. One was seen along the Neshaminy Cr. 8/1 (NG). A **Tennessee Warbler** at SLP 11/2 set a new late date (DS). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at CVP 11/7 (KLo ph.). As is often the case, **Connecticut Warbler** was found only at the classic PWT location, where one or 2 were present 9/11-10/13 (JHa, DF). A **Kentucky Warbler** was picked out by keen observers at PVP 8/25 for the sole report (KI, BI). Late **Common Yellowthroats** lingered at PWT 11/17 and at PVP to 11/30 (DF, AM, PH ph.). Three stunning **Hooded Warblers** were found during the period (AH ph., AK, DD). A female **Cape May Warbler** at SLP 10/27 was two days shy of the previous fall departure date (DD ph.). A female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in Upper Makefield Twp. 10/23 was also

fairly late (SA, MN). Single **Pine Warblers** stayed as late as 11/30 at PVP and CVP, which is not too unusual (PH, AM, BS). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found, one in the upper Unami Creek area 8/20 and one at Core Creek Park 9/22 (RH, MGa ph.). Although **Canada Warbler** is an early migrant, one seen on 8/3 was a new fall arrival date (RS).

Six sites hosted at least one **Blue Grosbeak** this fall, with a high of 3 at Neshaminy SP 8/4 and late birds at SLP 10/13 and Core Creek park 10/19 (AH, DD ph.). An **Indigo Bunting** at PWT 11/17 approached the late date of 11/22 (DF). Single **Dickcissels** were seen at MKF 9/9 (RS) and BRD 10/11 (MF).

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Butler County

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), North Shore (NS), Slippery Rock Twp. (SRT), Thorn Reservoir (TR).

August finally brought relief from the seemingly continuous rain and wet weather of June and July. The third full week of August brought less humidity and cooler nights that hinted of fall, triggering the first movement of songbirds and shorebirds. A few surprises included a **Short-billed Dowitcher** that visited Thorn Reservoir, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that stopped at Lake Arthur, and a **Northern Goshawk** at a residence near Butler (details below).

A startling total (by western Pennsylvania standards) of 666 **Snow Goose** flew over Slippery Rock Twp. 11/15 (GW, JW). A lone **Mute Swan** was noted at Lake Oneida 9/3 (KB) and 2 were at Hall Road 11/24 (BB). Two were reported as "resident pond dwellers" in Cranberry Twp. 11/29. A flock of **Tundra Swans** was heard over Zelenople 11/7 (DK) and whistlers were reported seven times at Moraine State Park 11/8-20 (m.ob.). Multiple flocks of Tundra Swan flew over SRT 11/10 totaling 1111 birds (GW, JW). Nineteen species of duck were seen with the highest number of reports for **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser**. Wood Ducks were numerous with most flocks in single or double digits; high count was 103 woodies at WOA 10/4 (KD). Resident Mallards were widespread in low numbers until migration kicked in with 54 at Thorn Reservoir at Wildlife Observation Area 9/23 (KB). Other high counts included 40 Hooded Merganser at Barkley Road 11/10 (KB), 64 Common Merganser at Lake Oneida 11/29 (KB) and 54 **Ruddy Duck** at South Shore 11/17 (DK). Four of five reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** were from areas where they are stocked, but one was seen at Shanor-Northview 10/26, at least 10 miles from the nearest stocking. The **Wild Turkey** population remains robust. **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted from widespread locations 9/17 through the end of the fall season and all reports of **Horned Grebe** came from Lake Arthur 10/27-11/25 (m.ob.). As usual, reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** outnumbered **Black-billed Cuckoo**, this season eight to one. **Common Nighthawk** migration was spectacular compared to many years. There were at least seven sightings of over 30 birds including 132 near Mars 9/12 (CT).

Ten shorebird species were noted this fall: **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, uncommon **Short-billed Dowitcher**, **Wilson's Snipe** and **American Woodcock**. Interesting details included a very nice flock of 61 Killdeer seen at Brownsdale Road 9/14 (MV) and up to seven Least Sandpiper at (TR)

8/25 -9/15 (KB et al). The shorebird highlight was a **Short-billed Dowitcher**, uncommon in *Butler*, which appeared at TR 8/29 and remained until at least 9/7 (LC et al). **American Coot** arrived 10/19 in small numbers and increased to double digits in early November with a high count of 60 at SS 11/9 (MD, et al.).

An early **Bonaparte's Gull** was spotted at LA 9/5 (MC) where they were regular in November. **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** are regular at LA with Ring-bills greatly outnumbering Herring Gulls. High count for Ring-billed Gull was an estimated 700 at Bear Run Boat Launch 11/14 (MC). One of several surprises of the season was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at South Shore 11/24 (JF). This is probably the third or fourth record for *Butler* and the second for 2019 (three were found in Dec 2018 of which at least 2 remained into Jan 2019). Perhaps this fall's bird could have been one of the same birds returning because of excellent forage fish populations in LA. All four tern species most likely to visit LA made appearances in Aug and Sep at NS: **Caspian Tern** 8/26-9/1 (m.ob.), a **Black Tern** 8/10 (ph. MC), **Common Tern** 9/2-6 (m.ob.) and a **Forster's Tern** with a band that could not be read 8/9 (MC).

Moraine State Park's crown jewel, Lake Arthur, continues to host gulls and terns, some rare, and some uncommon at best away from *Erie* and *Crawford*. In addition to the regular Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull, Lake Arthur has recently hosted California Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Black-headed Gull has visited Lake Arthur 9 times in the last twelve years. Four Tern species appear occasionally with Caspian Tern and Forster's Tern annual. Black Tern and Common Tern are showing up more frequently. Freezing over in December or early January, Lake Arthur is not frequently visited by birders after January until the spring thaw. Hopefully with increased coverage, birders will discover exciting new rarities.

Two **Red-throated Loons** visited NS 11/17 (MC) and one was seen at other parts of LA the same day (m.ob). Neither was found later. **Common Loon** was seen at LA 10/28-11/29 (m.ob.) with a high count of 15 at NS 11/26 (KD). One **Great Egret** was seen at Glade Run Lake 8/5 and another, possibly the same bird, evidently liked the menu there and hung around from 8/21-9/17 (m.ob). Another was seen at WOA 9/1-23 (m.ob.), and yet another lingered at LO 9/28-10/14 (KB). A **Green Heron** was a bit late at LO 10/8 (KB). Notable were 85 **Turkey Vulture** at Waste Management, West Sunbury 8/22 (KB). **Northern Harrier** hunted fields in various locations 9/8-11/25 (m.ob.). The highlight of the season was a **Northern Goshawk** nicely photographed at a residence near Butler city 9/26 (GK, MAK). **Sandhill Crane** was scarce this season: 2 were at Reichert Road four times in Aug (MC) and 2 were heard at Muddy Creek Wetland 10/19 (MD, et al.).

Five owl species were found by birders this season. In addition to the resident **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl**, **Short-eared Owl** and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** were a treat. The first **Short-eared Owl** appeared at Johnson Road 11/1 (MC) and up to 4 were seen there through the end of the fall season. Seldom seen **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were at Todd Nature Reserve 11/9 (MC) and at Moraine State Park 11/18 (RN). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Clay Twp. 8/22 included a juvenile bird (BB). **Merlin**, much more common in *Butler* in the fall, was seen regularly at various locations around MSP 9/8-11/29 (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcon** was found at Muddy Creek Wetland 9/5 (GK, MAK) and one was at NS 9/7 (MC). These were possibly the same bird as these locations are not far from each other, as the falcon flies.

Muddy Creek Wetland also hosted not often seen **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 9/5 (GK, MAK) and one was found at 528 Boat Launch 9/14 (OM). Five of six reports of **Common Raven** were made in October from widespread locations. Single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared at SGL 95, Parker 10/13 (KB) and one was at SRT 11/19 but did not stay (GW, JW). Only one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported this season, at Jennings Environmental Education Center 9/27 (RN), but **Swainson's Thrush** was seen eight times from widespread locations (m.ob.). Six **Snow Buntings** were photographed at NS 11/30 (MC). Late **Chipping Sparrow** were spotted five times in November until 11/11 (m.ob.) and one **Henslow's Sparrow** was at the Johnson Road grasslands 8/6 (MC).

Red-winged Blackbirds lingered until late November, and 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at MSP 11/5 (MC).

Twenty seven warbler species were reported with five flagged as late in eBird: **Blue-winged Warbler** at NS 9/20 (MC) and 9/22 (GK MAK), **Magnolia Warbler** at SGL 95, Hilliards 10/13 (GK, MAK) and at Nealeys Point 11/6 (KD et.al), **Yellow Warbler** at North Country Trail 9/24 (KD), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Barber Point 10/10 (GK, MAK), and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at NS 9/20 (GK, MAK). The most frequently reported warblers this fall were (of course) **Common Yellowthroat**, as well as **Hooded Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. A very nice high count of 50 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was tallied at Barber Point 10/10 (GK, MAK).

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Cambria County

Locations: Lake Rowena (LR), Patton (PA) , Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl sightings at PG were good, even as hunting season drew lots of hunters. The birds seem to have learned to go to the protected areas once the shooting starts. Large flocks of **Canada Geese** made up the bulk of the sightings. Small flocks of **Tundra Swans** were present at PG late the period. Ducks included **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, unusually high numbers of **Mallards**, **American Black Ducks**, and a few **Common Goldeneye**. Six **Common Nighthawks** flew over PA 9/6 (DG). The only reports of shorebird were a few **Spotted Sandpipers** and single **Greater Yellowlegs**. Numbers of gulls and terns were very low with only a few small flocks of gulls and two **Caspian Terns** 9/2 and one **Forster's Tern** 9/5 at PG (TD).

Two **Fish Crows** were at LR 10/2 (AM). These birds appear to be residents as they have been reported for several seasons now. A single **Marsh Wren** was at PG 9/21 (TD). From mid-Sep until early Oct, **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Wood Thrushes** were daily visitors to the several cucumber magnolia trees in a PA backyard (DG). Single **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush** were also present 9/20 (DG). The berries of this tree seem to be relished by many birds, especially thrushes and robins. Seven **American Pipits** were at PG 11/23 (TD). A flock of about 40 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at PA 10/25 (DG). Warbler migration was good. September seemed to bring small waves of migrants daily, and on 9/21 a rather large wave brought ten different species through. A late **Yellow Warbler** was present along with **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Canada Warbler**, and other species at PA (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert**, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668, davidgobert@gmail.com, Tony DeSantis, Andrew Mack.

Cameron County (Summer report omitted from summer issue)

Locations: Beechwood (BW), Jericho (JE), Lick Island (LI), Lower Ridge Road (LRR), North Creek (NC), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sterling Run (SR), Sterling Run Strip Mines (SRSM), West Creek (WC).

After a rainy June, July brought hot and somewhat drier weather. Eleven **Wood Ducks** were at WC 6/14 (BB). Six **Ruffed Grouse** were at SR 6/9 (BH). Three **Killdeer** were at SRSM 7/1 (MJ). A **Common Loon** and a **Green Heron** were found at SSP 6/8 (BG) and an **Osprey** was seen there 7/12 (DB).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at North Creek 6/14 (BB) and 3 **Eastern Kingbirds** were at LI 7/20 (MPB). Three **Blue-headed Vireos** were at LRR 6/18 (MJ). Fifteen **Red-eyed Vireos** were found at BW 6/14 (BB). Six **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and 20 **Cliff Swallows** were seen at SSP 7/7 (MB). One **Brown Creeper** was at BW 6/14 (BB). A **Winter Wren** was at NC 6/14 (BB).

Four **Veeries** and 4 **Hermit Thrushes** were at LRR 6/13 (MJ). Ten **Cedar Waxwings** were at JE 7/1 (LW). Three **Purple Finches** were at SR 6/15 (MJ). Three **Grasshopper Sparrows**, a **Bobolink**, and 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at SRSM 7/1 (MJ). Four **Ovenbirds**, one **Worm-eating Warbler**, one **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 2 **Black-and-White Warblers**, one **Common Yellowthroat**, one **Hooded Warbler**, 3 **American Redstarts**, one **Cerulean Warbler**, one **Northern Parula**, 2 **Blackburnian Warblers**, one **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found at JE 7/1 (LW). A **Canada Warbler** was at NC 6/14 (BB). Eleven **Northern Cardinals** were at WC 6/14 (BB).

Observers: **Mark Johnson, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, Pa 15832, 814-546-288**, Brendyn Baptiste, Mike Bergin, David Brooke, Mary and Phil Burkhouse, Barb Gee, Bill Hendrickson, Linda Widdop.

Cameron County

Locations: Sterling Run (SR), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Bucktail Overlook (BO) Bucktail Rod and Gun Club (BRGC), West Creek Trail (WCT), Brooks Run (BR), Hicks Run Viewing Area (HRVA).

The weather this season was uneventful with average temperatures and water levels. A total of 116 species were reported, exclusively via ebird. Thirty-three **Mallards** and an **American Black Duck** were at SSP 11/9 (MJ), and a single **Common Goldeneye** accompanied a **Ruddy Duck** at SSP 11/16 (MJ). Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at SR 9/5 (MJ). Four **American Coots** were at SSP 11/23 (AB). A rare **Common Tern** was found at SSP 9/8 (MJ). Four **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BRGC 9/10 (MPB). A **Northern Harrier** passed over BR 10/13 (MJ). Five **American Kestrels** were at BO 9/29 (MJ).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SR 9/2 (MJ). A **Northern Mockingbird** was at WCT 9/25 (MJ). Seventeen **Cedar Waxwings** were found at SR 11/4 (BH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at HRVA 9/25 (MM). Five **Swamp Sparrows** were at SSP 10/11 (MJ). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SR 11/2 (MJ). A rare **Connecticut Warbler** was at WCT 9/27 (MJ).

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Carbon County

Locations: Bear Cr. L. (BCL), Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Blue Mt. Ski Resort (BMSR), Hell Hollow Rd. (HHR), Mauch Chunk L. (MCL), Penn Forest Res. (PFR), Pine Run Boat Launch (PRBL).

A juv. **Royal Tern** rescued from the BSP dam 9/13 and delivered to the Carbon County Environmental Education Center represented the first confirmed county record, albeit one unappreciable by local enthusiasts. Unfortunately, its rehabilitation was unsuccessful (FK, personal comment). The period's other highlight was a **Red-necked Phalarope** on PFR 9/1 (RR, BR, DH). That bird, part of a modest regional influx, spent most of its several-hour stay around the corner of the dam from the only viewing area, before apparently being flushed by a **Bald Eagle**. Fall was not kind to *Carbon* observers!

The season was poor for dabbling ducks, with only a **Northern Shoveler** at BSP 11/13 (RR, BR) and 5 **American Wigeon** at BCL 10/31 (DF) deserving mention. Two **Redhead** discovered at BSP 11/16 remained through the period (RR et al.). Up to 8 **Common Goldeneye**

were present at BSP from 11/13 on (RR, BR et al.), and single **Red-breasted Mergansers** appeared there 10/27 (RR) and 11/14 (RR, BR). Also at BSP, around mid-October, **Ring-necked Pheasants** staged an impressive irruption out of their cages and onto the road shoulders. A count of 13 at PRBL 10/27 (RR) was particularly inspiring. Ironically, the lone encounter with our elusive state bird occurred at (presumably) 70 mph or more, when a keen ornithophile and/or distracted driver noticed a gray **Ruffed Grouse** as it crossed the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike near Lake Harmony 11/27 (JG). (The hypothesized speed pertains to the observer, not the grouse.) A photograph of our other native gamebird, from BSP 11/27 (RR), was accompanied by the caption, "This single **Wild Turkey** has been seen for several weeks in the picnic areas of the park. Perhaps it knows it's not wise to leave the safety of this NO HUNTING area right now."

Pied-billed Grebe was noted at BSP 10/24 (RR, BR) and at BCL 11/16 (DF); the only **Horned Grebe** was at BSP 11/14-18 (RR, BR, RB). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were detected along HHR 8/5 (RR, BR). It feels unintuitive moving directly from grebes to cuckoos in the current taxonomical order, but here we are! A respectable count of 12 **American Coot** at PFR 10/24 (RR, BR) preceded a less respectable count of one at BSP 11/16 (RR). A **Killdeer** was reported from Penn Forest Twp. R.P. 11/29 (AW). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, hardly guaranteed in *Carbon*, passed through BSP 8/13 (RR, BR). Besides the aforementioned phalarope, no other shorebirds of consequence were recognized. One would never fault the county for its paucity of new housing developments and industrial parks, but the occasional retention basin would go a long way toward pushing the average annual shorebird list into the double digits. The Little Gap hawk watch tallied 35 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 11/3 (MS, CCS, ZM), exceeding the total **Bonaparte's** recorded elsewhere during the period—one at BSP 11/14 (RR, BR)—by a factor of thirty-five, approximately. **Caspian Tern**, nearly M.I.A. in the spring, deigned to visit BSP twice, with 2 seen 8/31 (RR, BR) and one 9/10 (BE). Rounding out the waterbirds was a **Red-throated Loon** at BSP 11/18-23 (RR et al.).

County-specific numbers from the official hawk watch sites (Bake Oven Knob, Little Gap) are beyond the scope of this summary; regardless, all the expected raptors were apprehended in *Carbon* airspace over BMSR. These included a late **Osprey** 11/12 (RR), 2 **Golden Eagles** on both 10/18 and 11/12 (RR), one **Northern Goshawk** on both 10/4 and 11/12 (RR), 28 **Bald Eagles** 10/4 (RR), and 4 **Peregrine Falcons** 10/4 (RR). A young goshawk in the BSP spillway 8/16 (RR, BR) suggested local breeding. Adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** graced the valley area of BMSR 9/15 (BW, JW) and BSP 10/29 (RR).

Oddly, after a sighting of an individual along HHR 8/3 (PM, JM), **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported vocalizing there on other occasions through 8/13. Visual confirmation is advised in future years, since **Eastern Wood-Pewee** commonly utters only the rising segment of its song at that time and location. Additional **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at the Hatchery Rd. power-line cut 9/1 (JeG, JoG, JB) and at BSP 9/15 (BW, JW, WW). Uncommon vireos included **Yellow-throated** at HHR 8/3 (PM) and in Franklin Twp. 8/27 (RB) and **Philadelphia** at BSP 9/22 (WW, BW, JW) and 9/28 (RR). The **Philadelphia Vireo** mother lode, however, was the Lehigh Carbon Community College Grassland and Artificial Wetland, whose pond attracted two 9/19 (JB) and another 10/4 (JB) and whose name never fails to roll off the tongue. We have yet to arrive at the wood-warblers, but it is worth indicating now, to avoid having to name it again later, that the above site also hosted a high of 5 **Cape May Warblers** 9/19 (JB) and seven warbler species including **Tennessee Warbler** and **Cape May** 10/4 (JB).

Exactly one visitor to BSP this period was greeted by a **Horned Lark**, on 10/15 (RR). Surprisingly, swallows were eBirded only three times after the first week of September, with the latest encounter involving 7 **Tree Swallows** at BSP 10/21 (JA). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at a private yard in Mahoning Valley 10/12 (MY) was a lonely outlier in another dismal season for its species. **Purple Finch**, represented by two at BSP 10/6 (RR), fared little better. **White-crowned Sparrow**, conversely, was a fixture at BSP throughout October, as was **Lincoln's Sparrow** to a lesser degree. The first two **Lincoln's** of autumn were located at BMSR 9/22 (CH). Other sparrows included 2 **Fox Sparrows** at BSP 11/27 (TS) and one or 2 **Vesper Sparrows** along N. Harry Rd. near Parryville

10/20 (BW, JW, WW). The previous period's **Yellow-breasted Chat** maintained its territory near PRBL through at least 8/14 (TS). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** enlivened Tippets Pond west of Nesquehoning 10/11 (RR), and 6 were listed at BSP 10/19 (JA). **Cape May** and **Tennessee warblers** were hard to miss in the birches around the BSP interpretive center 9/22-28, in contrast with the other spruce budworm specialist, Bay-breasted, which went unreported in the park and was limited to three individuals elsewhere. **Pine Warbler** was numerous at BSP at the same time. Other interesting warblers included **Worm-eating Warbler** at BSP 8/31 (RR, BR) and at Hatchery Rd. 9/1 (JeG, JoG, JB), **Mourning Warbler** (imm.) at BMSR 9/29 (BW), and 2 **Wilson's Warblers** at BMSR 9/29 (CH, BW, JW, WW). Three **Tennessee Warblers** at BSP 10/6 (BW, JW, WW) and a **Nashville Warbler** there 10/13 (RR, BR) were relatively late.

Coverage deficits, in the areas of both geography and observers afield, came into stark relief in *Carbon* this quarter. Since most eBird checklists were submitted from BSP, where **House Sparrow** is not prevalent, the species went unreported in the county in September and October. Similarly, certain summer inhabitants of the northern tier that appear at BSP mostly as migrants and winter residents were not recorded before October: **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, and **White-throated, Savannah, and Swamp sparrows**. More difficult to justify, and perhaps indicative of overall observer scarcity as opposed to BSP bias, were the ostensible absences of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** after 8/1 and definitive **Fish Crows** after September. To be fair, these birds become quieter post-breeding—much like humans, who after mating often prefer a cigarette to conversation. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Connecticut Warbler**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** traversed *Carbon* undetected, thanks likewise to a lack of birders but also to an overwhelming abundance of ash snags, the untimely mowing of a particular ragweed field at BMSR, and how unpleasant it is to get up early for flight calls, respectively.

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Centre County

Locations: ARBOR (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (GTRWP), Jo Hayes Vista (JHV), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees pond and gamelands (TOF).

Bald Eagle Mtn. was the site of an official "one time" hawk watch this fall. Its purpose was "to gain a better understanding of the movement of migrant raptors, particularly Golden Eagles, through our region. Through the partnership of the State College Bird Club, Juniata Valley Audubon Society, and Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, a full-time counter was funded to cover the watch" (Jon Kauffman, 9/9 email to the State College Bird Club).

Two extremely rare species made unexpected appearances, one of which was a first report. The following six rare fall migrants were reported in five or more locations. These widely reported species will not be discussed further in this report: **Great Egret**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and **Mourning Warbler**.

Information for this report were obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club email distribution list, with background and status now from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg

Grove, 2010 (*B&G, 2010*).

Single **Snow Geese** were observed near Warriors Mark 10/8 (NW) and near Millheim 10/21 (SH). One or 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were present at BESP 11/28-29 (BS, JP). A single **Virginia Rail** was noted at the JUL 8/11 (JC). **Sandhill Cranes** made appearances; one made an extended stay on Tadpole Rd. 8/2-9/2 (JP, et al.) and another was spotted on Johnson Rd. 8/26 (JB).

A few rare shorebirds were also noted. On 9/2, a **Sanderling** was observed at BESP (JP), and a **Dunlin** was reported on S. Nixon Rd. 11/8 (JK). A bird observed at BESP 9/8 (CC *fide* JG) was initially thought to be a White-rumped Sandpiper, but the consensus of members of the PA Birders Facebook group was that it was a **Baird's Sandpiper**. A first summer **Laughing Gull** was spotted 10/27 at Howard Park (BoS). One **Red-throated Loon** flew past JHV 11/8 (JV).

Nocturnal flight call counts in Bellefonte yielded two rarities: 2 **Least**

Between 10/18-26, an immature **Great Cormorant** was present at COL. This unexpected rarity was admired and described by many area birders, with many photographs attached to checklists in eBird (DR, et al.). This represented the first record for *Centre*, according to eBird and Bolgiano & Grove (2010).

Bitterns 9/1 and a **Black-crowned Night-heron** 9/25 (JP). Prior to this fall, only five **Glossy Ibises** had been reported in *Centre*—the first in 1983 in TOF, and the most recent in 1995 at the Penn State Bathgate Retention Pond, according to Bolgiano & Grove (2010) and eBird. A sixth record was added to the list, when one was spotted at Tadpole Rd. 8/1-3 (JP, et al.).

Hawk watchers spotted a **Northern Goshawk** as it winged its way past the north lookout on Bald Eagle Mtn. 11/29 (NiB, KS). A continuing **Barn Owl** was present 9/20 on a farm near Spring Mills (JC), and a **Short-eared Owl** was observed "flying over the water – low – then perch[ing] briefly in a tree" at BMSP 11/26 (JP).

A one-season hawk watch was conducted on Bald Eagle Mountain northwest of State College to understand the fall raptor flight there, particularly of Golden Eagles, as this ridge had been named an Audubon Important Bird Area because of the historical Golden Eagle flights there. An eastern flyway record of 346 Golden Eagles were tallied, establishing Bald Eagle Mt and the adjacent Allegheny Front as the core of an important fall migration corridor through Pennsylvania. Other notable numbers were 1641 Turkey Vultures, 273 Bald Eagles, and 703 Red-tailed Hawks (Kaitlin McGee, NB, JK, KS).

White-eyed Vireos were observed in two locations. One was seen actively foraging at MMNC 9/26-10/10 (BS, et al.), and another one was reported at Hemlock Hideaway 10/6 (MN). Several **Marsh Wrens** were reported. One or two were present at Curtin Wetland 9/28-10/5 (AM, et al.). Another was spotted three times at the Muddy Paws Marsh: 9/28 (JG), 10/13 (LS), and 11/9 (DR), and a single bird was identified at GTRWP 9/30 (RR). Finally, one was found 10/23 at ARBOR (JG). A single **Clay-colored Sparrow** was reported at Curtin Wetland 9/29 (JP). Three **Henslow's Sparrows** were present at SGL 100 German Settlement Grasslands 8/5, and 2 were seen there 9/10 (EH). One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found 9/26 "with [a] nice little flock at the edge of the goldenrod and milkweed field" at ARBOR (JG).

Louisiana Waterthrushes were reported four locations. One or 2 were observed 8/2-21 at Hemlock Hideaway (JC, LC, MN). A single bird was noted 8/4 at the Tunnel Rd. extension near Coburn, and 3 were present 8/5 in the Bald Eagle SF-Penns Cr. Wild Area (both JG). The final sighting was of one bird at Laurel Haven 8/11 (MB). **Orange-crowned Warblers** are casual rarities, although three were noted: one each at SGL 278 on 9/29 (JC, LC), 9/29-10/1 at Curtin Wetland (JP), and BESP 10/3 (EZ). The last rare migrant was **Connecticut Warbler**, of which two were reported. One was present 9/20 at TOFT (JV), and another was identified 9/30 at Hemlock Hideaway (JC).

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Chris Crecco, Rob Dickerson, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Roana Fuller, Luke Fultz, Doug Graham, Debra Grim (DeG), Deborah Grove (DGr), Greg Grove, Joe Gyekis, Eric Hartshaw, Sean Herrmann, Robert Hosler, Bonnie & Galen Ingram (B&GI), Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Andy Keister, Matt Kello, Nick Kerlin, Dave Kerr, Bob Koontz, Trudy Kyler, Jen Lee, Scott Lewis, Alan MacEachren, Mark Nale, Julia Plummer, Madisen Plunkert, Debra Rittelmann, Matthew Rockmore, Ron Rovansek, Alexa Sarussi, Brian Schmoke, Loanne Snavely, Bob Snyder (BoS), K. Striedieck, Joe Verica, Doug Wentzel, Nathan Weyandt, Patricia & Richard Williams (P&RW), Eric Zawatski.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP) Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS).

This was yet again another fall season without significant cold fronts to usher large numbers of migrants into the region. Instead the arrivals were less pronounced in the way of fallouts, but still apparent, as birders always crave. This did not stop the birders, who remained afoot scouring the landscape in pursuit of evidence of migrants and new arrivals. No remarkable weather events took place, and in general the season was relatively typical weather-wise. Standout species for the season included an immature male Anna's Hummingbird in West Chester, whose visit marked the third state record, and the first county record. Eleven Sandhill Cranes soaring together over Bucktoe Creek Preserve were a county high count. A Black-headed Grosbeak in West Chester was the first known observation of this western species in nearly two decades.

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** found at New Garden Twp. WTP 11/23 seen again 11/28 (LL) represented the only observation of this irregular fall visitor. This species is sought-after among large groups of Canada Geese in fall, and can be the lucky find in the goose grab-bag. A single **Canvasback** discovered at Westtown Lake 11/30 (CH, MD) was similarly the only observation of this species during fall.

Black-billed Cuckoos are scarce in migration, and hard to detect in daytime birding. Observations spanned 8/25-9/10. All but one of four encounters occurred at BCP, likely due to birder coverage of the property (m.ob.). The other observation was in West Pikeland 9/8 (MH). Despite a concerted effort to watch for **Common Nighthawks** during their peak in late Aug and early Sep, the highest nighthawk count was made 10/2 from Chadds Ford (HD). Motus tower data proves an excellent resource for understanding migratory patterns, and can bring insight into the length of travel time during these periods. *Chester* currently has five towers capturing data from nanotagged birds that fly into their sphere of observation. A **Chimney Swift** tagged in a study of this species in Quebec 7/23 passed over Welkinweir south of Pottstown 8/3. Other birds from this same study passed by this tower and at RFBS in late July.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are lingering into Oct, with the latest migrants, typically hatch year birds, last seen within the first 2 weeks. The last report of this species was 10/12 (PM). Without question, the bird of the season was an immature male **Anna's Hummingbird** that seemed to begin his regular appearances at a feeder near Birmingham around the third week of Oct. A diagnostic photo was obtained by the homeowner 11/4 (LB), and from there the excitement began. This young male was banded 11/5 (SL), and determined to be in molt by plumage details. A first county record, this Anna's also marked the third documented record for *Pennsylvania*. The gracious homeowner allowed birders to come share the joy of this feisty hummingbird, and he continued his attendance through the end of the reporting period.

Virginia Rails are present and considered probable nesting birds in the county. All reports are in very small numbers from large wetlands. One fascinating occurrence was of a Virginia Rail nanotagged in northwestern Ohio along the edge of Sandusky Bay 6/27, which then passed by the Green Valley Motus tower south of Pottstown, 10/19. A county high count of 11 **Sandhill Cranes** was a big surprise when they were spotted soaring and vocalizing about the BCP hawkwatch 11/18 (LL).

A drawdown of OCTRES for engineering work exposed shallow edges and productive shorebird habitat timed perfectly with southbound migration. Expected in small numbers with favorable conditions, **Semipalmated Plovers** were spotted there 8/5-19 (LL). Another Semiplover was discovered at the Glenmoore WTP 9/21 (PW, JW, SS, NF). Two Semipalmated Plovers tagged in Churchill, Manitoba 6/22 and 6/24 were detected as flyover migrants at the BCP Motus tower 8/7. A single **Sanderling** was photographed at Struble Lake 8/28 (JM). Sanderlings tend to be an irregular migrant over the region during fall migration, and birds are rarely found grounded. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was spotted on the scene at OCTRES 8/5 and again 8/7 (LL). During that same influx of peeps, 3 **Western Sandpipers** were picked out (LL). This species is not found each year, and typically occurs later in fall, so this was lucky observation.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** seen at MCSP 11/15 was the only report of this irregular fall migrant (RR, DL). A good find of another hooded gull was that of a **Laughing Gull** at MCSP 11/14 (BD). This was on the later side of migration for this species, which is rare away from the coastal plain. Typically, this species is more likely found during significant weather events with an easterly component, but that was not the case this time. Three **Great Black-backed Gulls** that flew over BCP were noteworthy, since this species is uncommon here. Likely these gulls seen 11/10, a Sunday, were commuting between larger bodies of water, since area landfills were closed (LL, m.ob.). **Caspian Terns** were found on four occasions, but within a single week: 8/18-25. This large tern is usually found around larger bodies of water, and this was true for this season's two observations from SL (JM, SS, NF), OCTRES (LL), and MCSP (PN, TN). Only one **Forster's Tern** was noted, which is typical for this season, if not very lucky. This bird was photographed at MCSP 8/14 (BD).

The elusive **American Bittern** was observed from EP 9/13 (LM) and Ashbridge Preserve 9/17 (RG). These birds likely represented migrants, since nesting was not suspected in the county this past breeding season. **Little Blue Herons** are known to wander in post-breeding dispersal, and hatch year birds tend to start from summer through early fall. Encounters were documented 8/10-9/5 (m.ob.). Night-Herons are never dependable in the county, but **Black-crowned Night-Heron** is the more likely encountered of the two species. One was seen 8/14-16 at MCSP (BD), CL 10/2-3 (RR), and 10/15 at EP (CK). Exciting was an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** found in a stream near Phoenixville at the end of Jul (TL) which remained through 8/5 (m.ob.).

An immature **Golden Eagle** passed over BCP 11/7 (LL, m.ob.) and certainly made hawkwatchers at the site that day happy. Although this was during the peak of their fall migration in Pennsylvania, encounters in the piedmont are not nearly as frequent as along the ridges.

Migratory influx of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** is cyclical and linked to the abundance of both rodents and spruce cone crops in the far north. This intertwining of ecology translates into nesting productivity for many species, including the Saw-whet. Based on evaluation of these ecological links, researchers predicted it would be a slow year at banding stations across Pennsylvania, and final banding results proved that accurate. In 2018, RFBS caught 152 Saw-whets: their second-best total of their history. In contrast, the 2019 season yielded just 22 (MM). This severe decline in captures is not alarming, just illustrative of the species' movements as they relate to food source availability and populations. Recapture of banded birds is the ultimate goal, as this provides valuable information on the travel path a bird takes. At least two Saw-whets banded at RFBS were recaptured in other states in 2019, as of this writing. One banded at RFBS 10/2016 was recaptured this fall in Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Another owl, which was in its second year when banded at RFBS in 2018, was captured west of Poughkeepsie, New York, in Feb of this year. We are lucky to have a banding station in the county that provides such excellent data for conservation science, and give kudos to the banding team that devotes enormous time to these projects.

An **American Kestrel** that was banded in northern New Jersey 10/8 flew over BCP 10/11 according to the Motus data. This timing correlated with the peak of kestrel migration through the region.

One of the flycatchers well-sought after in fall is **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. Strategies in finding them are not difficult, since these birds

prefer to sit prominently at the top of exposed snags. Observations of Olive-sides spanned 8/18-9/29 (m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**, another low-density migrant, are the opposite in their habitat preferences, and tend to be located within dense vegetation, often in understorey of dense areas of woodland. This makes them tough to find. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found at Ashbridge Preserve 9/19 (RG), in suitable habitat. Birders enjoy finding **Philadelphia Vireos**, likely in part due to the fact they are an uncommon vireo, and unlike spring migration, their migratory flyway in autumn includes *Chester*. Reports are never numerous, but birders who put the time in usually can find a few. Reports of Philly Vireo this year spanned the dates of 9/5-10/1 (m.ob.). A single **Cliff Swallow** was spotted at EP 8/27 (RG), and another was found at Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 9/8 (NF, SS). This species is an historic nester in the county, but now is only found passing through in small numbers during migration.

It was not an irruptive year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, due to the magnificent abundance of the spruce cone crop in the northern part of North America. Reports of this species were few, and far between, regionally. **Marsh Wrens** are always fun for birders to seek out as they visit our wetlands along their southerly journey. Single birds were found at Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 9/15 (NF, SS), and in West Chester 10/20 (JH, ZM). A nice number of 4 were teased out of the wetland at Chesen Preserve 9/22 (JM), one of the larger tracts of wetland habitats in the county.

The **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is more likely detected as a nocturnal migrant as it passes through the region in fall, but birders did report this uncommon spot-breasted thrush 9/14-10/12 (m.ob.). **Swainson's Thrush** tends to hold a longer window of passage due to their migratory patterns. This species made its mark on the dataset 9/3-10/26 (m.ob.). A study of **American Pipit** and **Horned Lark** migration is underway in Quebec, and Pennsylvania participated when a pipit with a nanotag was logged in at RFBS 11/13. It had been tagged 9/17.

Purple Finches and Pine Siskins, both irruptive species, were in low supply this fall. This lack of presence in the region is attributed to the same phenomena of abundance of food supply in the great north, especially the aforementioned cone crops. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** made a visit to the feeding station at BCP 10/1 (LL), and another was spotted at Wolf's Hollow CP 10/7 (MG). This is an irregularly reported migrant in fall, or any season. **Vesper Sparrows**, like other grassland nesting birds, are in sharp decline, so observations are always appreciated by birders who enjoy finding the more scarcely distributed sparrows. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was found at BCP 11/3, and presumably the same bird continued through 11/8, but a second Vesper seemed to join it and found the feeders at BCP 11/7 (LL, IS, m.ob.).

Rusty Blackbirds are being carefully monitored due to their significant population decline. Sporadic reports began 10/20 and continued through the end of the reporting period, with a high count of 28 from Great Marsh 10/20 (MC). Researchers in New England launched a project nanotagging Rusty Blackbirds in northern New Hampshire, and some of the blackbirds that were tagged in late May or Jun were logged at Motus towers in Nov. One of these Rusties was detectable by the tower at BCP for 4 days straight.

Finding warblers in fall is motivational for many birders, and gets them out searching. Warbler migration becomes apparent by the last week of Aug though certainly begins weeks earlier. There were no unexpected finds, but there were some notable highlights. One such highlight was two separate encounters with a **Golden-winged Warbler**. This species has become harder to find in areas where they nest, and populations continue to be challenged to survive due to loss of habitat, the dangers of migration, and the hybridization with **Blue-winged Warblers**. Every Golden-winged is noteworthy, most anywhere in the southeastern part of the state. Birders covering Longwood Gardens 9/5 (CM, RM), were happy to pick one out of a low shrub, and the other was found at BCP 9/10 (LL). Success of the boreal nesting species has benefited birders who hope to see birds like the **Tennessee Warbler**. This species was noted 9/5-10/13. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** is known to be a scarce fall migrant, and rarely found in spring. Two orange-crowns were located this season: 10/13 (RG, MG) and 10/24 at CL (RR, DL). **Connecticut Warblers** are the bonus bird found during the fall warbler season, and birders always hope to get lucky and find one while

putting in the time in the field. These large, thrush-like warblers prove hard for birders to find, but evidence of their presence can be measured at banding stations like RFBS. Each autumn multiple Connecticut warblers are caught in nets there, typically in Sep. This fall, the first was noted from there 9/5 and another was banded 9/24 (WS, DM). There was one report of **Mourning Warbler**, at Black Rock Sanctuary 9/16 (RK, KJ). **Cape May Warblers** are always fun for birders to pick out, and like a few other northern nesters, have benefitted from the spruce budworm population boom in recent years. This species was found by birders 9/7-10/5 (m.ob.). **Bay-breasted Warblers** are another that reap these same budworm rewards, and offer birders satisfaction when they are spotted as they are not common. Observations this year were within a similar time-table as Cape Mays: 9/7-10/5 (m.ob.).

A remarkable wave of **Summer Tanagers** hit the county in the last week of Sep, when no less than four were reported: one was photographed at a feeder near Wayne 9/23-24 (BW), one was at a residence near Coventry Woods Preserve 9/28 (PW, JW), one was at BCP 9/29 (LL, et al.), and one was at MCSP 9/30 (WS). A spectacular find was a **Black-headed Grosbeak**, a species that has had an absence in the county since 1999. A keen birder in West Chester picked this bird out by ear, and quickly pinpointed it for photographs 10/20 (RG, MG). Unfortunately, the bird didn't linger, and flew off, sadly not to be relocated despite attempts by many. A **Dickcissel** photographed at EP 8/26 (JD) was a nice surprise, as they are not reliably found anywhere during migration in *Chester*. Another was reported from the feeding station at BCP 10/2 (LL).

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Clarion County

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Cook Forest (CF), Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt. Zion (SGL330/Piney Tract) (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT).

The first species for this season was one not often reported, a **Trumpeter Swan**, and this particular bird was first noted in *Jefferson and Forest* on the Clarion River 9/7. It was then reported near Leeper in *Clarion*, further down the river 9/29 (DS). The bird had a yellow wing tag, was reported to the Trumpeter Swan Society, and found to be a young female from 2017 that was first tagged at LaSalle Park, Burlington, Ontario in January 2018. At this same location on that date, a significant number of **Common Mergansers** was also found, with 70 birds reported together (DS). A large group of this same species was also noted on Redbank Creek near NB, with 34 found together there 9/19 (J&AK). They have been found successfully breeding at this section of the southern border of the county previously. There was just a single report of **Ruffed Grouse**, a lone bird recorded near Lucinda 11/30 (ES).

Once again this year, a **Common Nighthawk** watch was done along the Clarion River at Millcreek Boat Launch (MH, LT, TS, PC, FM, et al.). The watch was completed from 8/15-9/8 during the last two hours

before dark, and totaled 560 birds for the season. The peak of migration was during the week of 8/28-9/3, during which a total of 378 birds were counted. This was the lowest season total for the past two years, down from a high of 710 in 2018. At this same location along the Clarion River, **Spotted Sandpipers** were found along the shore, with 7 birds present 8/22 (MH, FM, LT). One was also reported along Redbank Creek from 8/1-8/7 (MD, J&AK, MM).

Ospreys were reported in higher numbers than usual, starting with the first along the RVT at St. Charles 8/10 (J&AK). One was seen at Millcreek on the Clarion River 8/23 (MH, TS, LT, CW), and further up the river at Gravel Lick 9/6 (FM). One was also seen late in the season near CV 10/10 (CW). **Northern Harriers** were only reported from various areas in southern Clarion. A male was present near CV on Rankin Rd. and nearby Over Rd. 9/19, 10/17, and 11/20 (DD, CW). One was also seen in CV 10/17-10/18 and 11/15 (DD, CW). A male was noted near Frogtown in open farmfields 11/7 (T&JK). The first **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season, a light morph, was found in open field areas near Marianne 11/23 (MC). Another winter visitor that frequents the open fields, **Short-eared Owl** was first reported on Rankin Rd. near CV, where 2 birds were found at dusk 11/20 (DD, CW). A dedicated observer made efforts to survey for owls at multiple sites throughout the county over ten separate nights between 10/7-11/30 (MH). This resulted in a total of 39 **Eastern Screech Owls**, 4 **Barred Owls**, and one **Great Horned Owl**, a very nice total that provided additional knowledge about owl numbers in Clarion. Reports of falcons were rather few and far between, but this year a **Merlin** was found near Frogtown 10/4 (DR), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was reported near CV 9/16 (CW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are always a good find here, and this year there were three reports which was unusual. A rather early bird was seen near Rimersburg on the RVT 8/30 (MHi, RH, FM), and another one was also on the RVT near Redbank 9/9 (TR). The last was found near CV 9/16 (CW). Along the same trail near Lawsonham, a late **Acadian Flycatcher** was found still singing 8/20 (CW). **Yellow-throated Vireo** is a species not frequently found during migration, so 3 at CF 8/30-8/31 (LB) may have been late breeders. Another vireo always worth a mention is **Philadelphia Vireo**; one was reported near CV 9/9 (CW).

Gray-cheeked Thrush is the least reported thrush in migration but this year they were found on two occasions calling clearly on the ground at dawn near CV 9/27 and 10/1 (CW). **Swainson's Thrushes** were found in good numbers near CV with 4 birds 9/9 (CW), and near Clarion on the North Country Trail with 5 seen 9/21 (TS). Over the course of several weeks in late September and early October, nocturnal flight call surveys were done near CV, documenting the passage of thrushes in migration (CW). Starting on 9/17, Swainson's Thrushes were heard in just moderate numbers. On 9/27 numbers of Swainson's increased to approx 600 calls in calm conditions, along with increasing numbers of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, with 20-30 calls heard, and **Wood Thrush** numbering around 80 calls. Wood Thrushes were still moving through 10/1, with a few flight calls and 2 heard calling on the ground after the flight finished. Four or five Gray-cheeked Thrushes were still heard on this date as well as several Swainson's. The last flight call survey was done 10/5; 24 Swainson's and 4 Gray-cheeked calls were heard.

American Pipit is often missing from the seasonal reports, but this year one was seen during a snow squall in town in Clarion 11/12 (TS). A small flock of 25 was also reported in the fields around KL 11/14 (RN, CW). In fall **Savannah Sparrows** are possibly missed by birders as they often occur in mixed flocks in fields. This year though, 9 were found near Clarion 10/5 (DR), and one rather late bird was in a mixed flock in weedy fields near CV 10/20 (CW). Also this year several good migration days for **Lincoln's Sparrow** were noted, with a single bird reported on five separate days in shrubby field habitat near CV 10/2-18 (CW). **Bobolinks** in fall are sometimes hard to identify for beginning birders and often missed as they fly over during migration. Just one was reported at the MZ grasslands 8/18 (ML), and 2 were present in fields near CV 8/24 (CW).

Several warblers were worthy of mention. **Orange-crowned Warbler** is regularly missed in migration, but this season one was found in shrubby field edges near CV 10/18 (CW), during their typical migration period as they are one of the latest warblers to pass through. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found more frequently with up to 4 birds

at SGL 63 from 9/15-29 (DP, TS). At this same location another difficult fall warbler was noted, a **Pine Warbler** 9/29 (TS). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still singing at a breeding site near East Brady on the AT early in migration season 8/2 (CW). Also very interesting to find was **Black-throated Green Warbler** along the RVT near Rimersburg still feeding young ones 8/23 (MHi, RH). At this same location and date, a single **Canada Warbler** was also reported (MHi, RH). The last warbler of note is listed due to its sporadic showing from year to year: a single **Wilson's Warbler** found in Clarion 9/29 (TS).

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Clearfield County

Two **Common Nighthawks** were seen flying over downtown DuBois 8/30 (DR). A **Black Vulture**, a rare visitor to the high plateau, was observed at Bear Hill 8/11 (DG). A migrating **Golden Eagle** was observed at Parker Dam State Park 11/23 (JY). **Merlins** are being seen with increasing frequency in Clearfield; this season individuals were at the DuBois Country Club 9/7 (DR), at S. B. Elliott State Park 9/13 (RH, MH, LW), and near Tractor Supply in DuBois 9/16 (DR). A migrating **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed along Clover Run Road 9/29 (BV, NV).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801, (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net**, Doug Graham, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Dan Richards, Bill Voris, Nick Voris, Linda Wagner, Joe Yuhas.

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH).

An **American Golden-Plover** was observed in a large farm field puddle near LH 8/22-26 (m.ob.). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present at this same location 8/8-10 (CCH, WL), as was a **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/23-24 (LB, BS, BZ, JP). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were present at a farm pasture puddle near Mackeyville 9/11 (TS). A **Merlin** was observed perched and pursuing prey in Lockport 10/25 (WL).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed at Woolrich 8/19 (CCH). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was seen at the McElhatten Reservoir near Loganton 10/5 (BS). At SGL 255 near Mill Hall, a **Connecticut Warbler** was discovered 8/21 (BS).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Lisa Blazure, Charles and Carol Hildebrand, Julia Plummer, Brian Schmoke, Tom Shervinski, Beth Zbegner.

Columbia County

Locations: Bloomsburg University (BU), Driving Range in Scott Township (FDR), Montour Township (MONT), Rhodomoyer Road (RR), Town of Bloomsburg (TOBL).

Fall brought seasonal weather conditions for the county that included a departure from the wet weather that had been experienced for the past 18 months. Overall, birder effort was down, which resulted in fewer notable sightings than normal.

One of the highlights of the season was the **Common Nighthawk** migration. Reports began 8/24 and the last sighting was reported 9/24. The three days of 8/29, 8/30, and 8/31 were exceptionally good with 27,

52 and 129 reported, respectively, in MONT (AK). On 9/8, 24 were reported from MONT (AK), 2 from TOBL (RF) and one from RR (KJ). Reports of shorebirds were down this season. Notable sightings included a single **American Woodcock** calling and displaying in MONT 9/26 (AK) and 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** at the FDR 8/27 (EH).

The season's only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a single bird observed at BU 10/24 (NL). Probably the highlight of the fall was the observation of a **Blue Grosbeak** on BU's upper campus 10/23 (EH). The observer was able to obtain good photo documentation of this bird before it flew off and was not seen again. This appears to represent just the second record for *Columbia* and one of only a few fall reports for this portion of the state.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Richard Fritsky, Evan Houston, Kirk Jeffreys, Nehemiah Laudermitch.

Crawford County

Locations: Meadville Greendale Cemetery (MGC), Pymatuning State Park (PSP), Pymatuning State Park Causeway (PC), Pymatuning State Park Fish Hatchery (FH), Miller Ponds (MP), Woodcock Lake (WL).

The only observation of **Snow Goose** was one at MP 10/21 (MW). **Mute Swan** is rarely found in *Crawford*, so the sighting of 2 near Harmonserg Road 11/10 (DF, BG, DK, KSJ) was notable. A single **Trumpeter Swan** continued from the summer in the Geneva Marsh area 8/23 (RL) and 8/24 (MHi, RHi, DK, LWa). Another was at Deer Run Tail, Erie NWR 9/29 (BW). A notable count of 100 **Tundra Swans** was made at PSP's Espyville Marina 11/16 (AM).

Early counts of **Gadwall** included 21 at FH 9/27 (MV) and 25 there 9/29 (MHu). Up to 12 early **American Wigeon** were around the Pymatuning area 9/29 (m.ob.). One was at FH 10/6 (CG). **American Black Ducks** were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). There were multiple observations of early **Northern Pintails**, including one at MP 9/6 (JM, MW) and 3 at FH 9/27 (MV). A high count of 94 **Green-winged Teal** was made at FH 10/5 (MV). Early **Redhead** included one at Espyville Marina 8/29 (MV) and 9/3 (MHa), one at MP 9/27 (JM, MW), and one at the Pymatuning spillway 10/13 (AJ, SJ). An early **Ring-necked Duck** was at Conneaut Lake 9/2 (JM, MW). **White-winged Scoter** is notable for *Crawford*; one was at Conneaut Lake 10/31 (MW). A good count of 280 **Common Mergansers** was tallied at Teakettle Road, PSP 11/10 (CG).

The only fall reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** one vocalizing off of Greene Road in the Springboro area 8/11 (CN) and one near Conneaut Lake 8/22 (RL). The only observations of **Common Nighthawk** this season were one on the Allegheny College campus 8/27 (JHe), 2 at SGL 269 on 8/31 (JF), and one at Abandoned Road Trail at WL 9/9 (KP, TN). The high count of **Chimney Swift** was down considerably this season; just 100 on the Allegheny Campus 9/17 (MMc) was the highest.

Fall observations of **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**, both breeders in *Crawford*, occurred in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Late observations of **Virginia Rail** included 2 at McMichael Road 9/27 (JM, MW) and one at MP 9/30 (JM, MW). A single **Sora** at McMichael Road 9/27 (JM, MW) was late for this species. **Common Gallinules**, another notable but expected marsh bird in *Crawford*, were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Two at Custards Marsh 10/2 (CD) were somewhat late. Observations of **Sandhill Crane**, increasingly common in *Crawford*, continued around Pymatuning, Conneaut Marsh, and Erie NWR. (m.ob.). A high count of 60 was tallied at FH 11/17 (KSa).

The number and frequency of shorebird observations were, for the second year in a row, considerably low this season. The biggest factor was once again excessive rain, and almost all of the traditional mudflats were covered in water from Aug through at least mid-Oct. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was MP 9/30 (JM, MW). The frequency and number of **Dunlin** were quite low this season. **Baird's Sandpipers** included up to 2 at MP 9/29-30 (JF, JM, MW). The only reports of **Short-billed Dowitcher** this season were 2 at MP 8/3 (RL) and one at FH 8/18 (TN). **American**

Woodcock is not often seen during the fall season, so observations of one at the Abandoned Road Trail at WL 10/11 and 10/21 (TN) were notable. A notably late **Greater Yellowlegs** was heard and seen off of Pinney Road near Cambridge Springs 11/28 (KZ).

At least 2000 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at PC 11/7 (IF). A good count of 2589 **Ring-billed Gulls** was made in the Pymatuning area 11/10 (RL). **Great Black-backed Gull** is scarce in *Crawford*, so reports at PC of one 11/10 (RL) and 2 on 11/23 (RL) were significant. Observations of **Common Tern** included 3 at FH 9/3 (RL) and one at the Pymatuning spillway 9/29 (RL). The only observation of **Forster's Tern** was of 2 at WL 8/29 (BW).

There were two notable early **Common Loons** this season: one at PC 8/18 (MHa) and one at the PSP dam 8/29 (MVT). Good counts of **Common Loon** included 96 at PC 11/4 (MW), at least 200 at PC 11/7 (IF), and 119 around the Pymatuning area 11/11 (SK). A high count of 586 **Double-crested Cormorants** was made at PC 10/24 (RL). **American White Pelicans** are rarely observed in *Crawford*, multiple sightings this fall were especially notable. Two birds were initially seen at the Pymatuning spillway 9/19 (RL), one (or another) was there again 9/27 (m.ob.), and finally 5 birds appeared there 9/28-29 (m.ob.).

Great Egrets were seen in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A high count of 8 was made at FH 10/12 (MHa), and late Great Egrets included one at the spillway 10/22 and 10/25 (MW), one at the Hartstown Project 10/22 (MW), one at WL 10/24 (BW), and one FH 10/25 and 11/3 (CG). Two late **Green Herons** were at Custards Marsh 10/5 (CJ).

Single **Northern Goshawks** at FH 10/12 (MHa), in the Cochran area 9/3 (RL), and at MP 10/21 (RL) were especially notable. Two **Broad-winged Hawks** observed throughout the summer season at a private location in the Meadville were still calling frequently 8/4 (TN). First **Rough-legged Hawk** was one near PSP 11/10 (m.ob.). A single **Long-eared Owl**, a notable and scarce bird in *Crawford*, was observed off of Wayland Road 8/28 (RL).

Fall reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** are usually made from the Pymatuning area, where the birds overwinter annually. This season there were 2 in the expected area of Tuttle Beach/Manning Boat Launch at PSP 11/25 (JM) and 11/30 (CW), and one was near Conneaut Lake 11/2 (RL). **Merlins** continue to increase in *Crawford*. There were a number of reports this fall in the expected locations, primarily around the Meadville area (m.ob.). Remarkably, there were a remarkable 13 different observations of **Peregrine Falcon** this fall, a significantly higher than normal. They were found throughout the county, but predominantly around Pymatuning and WL (m.ob.).

A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at WL 9/26 (BW). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** near Seiler Road in the Townville area 10/11 (AL) was very late. Similar to last fall, there were a higher than average number of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** found throughout the county, primarily in the MGC and WL areas (m.ob.). Late **Eastern Phoebes** included one at the Hartstown Marsh Towpath 10/29 (JF, MW) and another at SGL 277 on 11/17 (CG). A late **Warbling Vireo** was heard singing at MP 9/27 (JM, MW). **Philadelphia Vireo** was well-reported in their expected locations (m.ob.), with a notable count of 4 at MGC 9/15 (JHe).

Reports of **Common Raven**, an increasingly common bird in *Crawford*, included one east of Cambridge Springs 9/19 (KZ) and 2 near Roger Ferry Road 9/30 (JHi). The only **Horned Larks** found were 5 in the Centerville area 11/8 (AL). The season's high count of 30 **Bank Swallows** FH 8/7 (CV) represented a lower than expected max for this species during the early fall season. A single late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was found at the PSP dam 11/3 and 11/4 (MW).

Reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were few. One was at WL 11/3 (TN), 2 were at a private residence off of N. Richmond Road 11/23 (RS), one was at the same location 11/28 (RS), 2 were at a private location on Pettis Road 11/23 (RL), and up to 2 birds were near Seiler Road from 9/17-11/29 (AL). Observations of **Winter Wren**, an expected but scarce bird in *Crawford*, included one near Seiler Road in the Townville area 10/14 (DH, AL) and 11/26 (AL), and one at McMichael Road 11/15 (AL). **Marsh Wrens** occurred in the expected locations and numbers (m.ob.), carrying over from the summer. A single late bird was at McMichael Road 11/27 (CB). For the second year in a row, **Carolina Wrens** were more

frequently reported than usual (m.ob.) A single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Custards Marsh 11/30 (CW), a late date for this species.

Gray-cheeked Thrush is often missed in fall; reports included one at WL 9/21 (JHe) and a great count of 4 at Allegheny College 10/4 (JHe). The only observations of **Swainson's Thrush** this fall were of 12 birds seen flying over the Allegheny College campus 10/4 (JHe) and one there 10/5 (JHe). The only **Northern Mockingbirds** were singles near S. Creek Road and West Branch Conneaut Creek 10/29 (CN). There were a higher than average number of **American Pipit** sightings (m.ob.), including a high count of 15 at WL 11/10 (JHe).

The only observations of **Purple Finch** were one at SGL 213 on 8/24 (MHi, RHi, DK, LWa), and one off of Seiler Road in the Townville area 8/31 and 10/9 (AL). After several years of having a good numbers of **Pine Siskins**, the only observation this year was a single bird at Canadohta Lake 10/19 (DA).

Observations of **Snow Bunting** included 2 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 11/2 (RL), 6 at the Pymatuning spillway 11/16 (AM), and one at the PSP dam 11/23 (RL). Late observations of **Eastern Towhee** included a single bird at a private location in the Townville area 11/7 (AL), another at a private residence in the Meadville area 11/12 and 11/13 (KP), and one heard at SGL 199 on 11/25 (AL). A single **Vesper Sparrow**, scarce in *Crawford*, was at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 10/26 (RL). **Henslow's Sparrow** is a notable and very scarce bird for *Crawford*, so the sighting of one at the intersection of Dunn and Kelley Roads in the Cochran area 9/3 (RL) was quite notable. **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **Fox Sparrow** occurred in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A single **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was seen at feeders at a private location in the Townville area 11/7 and 11/14 (AL). **Yellow-breasted Chats** are very scarce in *Crawford*, so one in the Pymatuning area 8/16 (RL) was notable. A high and notable count of 150 **Rusty Blackbirds** was made at PC 11/4 (MW).

A single **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in the MGC area 9/1 (JHe). A somewhat late **Blue-winged Warbler** was near Seiler Road in the Townville area 9/18 (AL). Late **Nashville Warblers** included one at a private residence in the Meadville area 10/8 (KP) and one near Seiler Road in the Townville area 10/14 (AL). **Mourning Warblers** are relatively scarce in fall here, so the total of four reports this year was notable: one at MGC 9/5 (JHe), one at WL 9/6, one in the WL area 9/22 (RHo, TN), and one at a private residence in the Townville area 9/24 (AL). Two late **American Redstarts** were at Lincoln Avenue Park near French Creek in the Meadville area 10/7 (BW). For the past several years, reports of **Cape May Warbler** have steadily increased, and this year saw an even higher number of sightings in the expected locations (m.ob.). A high count of 10 was made at MGC 9/17 (JHe). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were abundant this season (m.ob.), topping out with a high count of 12 at MGC 9/5 (JHe). A single **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen near Seiler Road in the Townville area 10/11, a notably late date for this species (AL). The observation of a single **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at WL 10/11 (TN) also represented a late date for this species. A single **Palm Warbler** observed off of Seiler Road in the Townville area 8/25 (AL) was significantly early. Observations of **Pine Warbler**, an expected but scarce bird in *Crawford*, included one in the Meadville area 8/30 (BW), 2 at WL 9/18 and one there again 9/21 (BW), one off of N. Richmond Road 9/29 (RS), and one off of Seiler Road near Townville 9/29 (AL). **Canada Warbler** is expected but scarce in fall, and was reported in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). There was a higher than average number of **Wilson's Warbler** sightings, primarily in the WL and Seiler Road areas (m.ob.).

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Deborah Kalbfleisch, Luke Kellett, Scott Kinzey, Gustino Lanese, Ron Leberman, Alejandra Lewandowski, Andrew M, Michelle Mannella, Steve Manns, Maura McCampbell, Jim McConnor, Erin McNamara, Liam Michel, Claire Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, C Parnell, Mark Parnell, Ken Pinnow, Steve Sanford, Kathy Saunders, Robert Scribner, Ben Slack-Foust, Eli Smith, Daria Sockey, Shawn Sowers, Emily Stelman, Kate St John, Stephen Thomas, Andrew Troyer, Marjorie Van Tassel, Mark Vass, Caleb Villar, Linda Wagner, Mary Ann Wagner, Willie Walker, Daniel Weeks, Tim Weighart, Laurie White, Bill Wilkinson, Chris Williams, Michael Williams, Suzanne Winterberger, Andrew Wood, Christina Yuan, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL 230), State Game Lands 305 (SGL 305), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

After a year of greater than average precipitation, the fall period was drier than normal. Fields which had been flooded dried out and as a result *Cumberland* had very few shorebirds stopping over. Please note that unless otherwise stated, occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and "Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds" (*Pennsylvania Birds* 30:138-147, Gauthier 2016). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River that may be possible to list on this report, but without clear documentation otherwise, they are considered to have occurred in *Dauphin* since the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

In what might be considered a lackluster fall migration, there were no waterfowl of note found during the period. Also, there were no American Golden-Plovers or Semipalmated Plovers reported either. Both species are rare fall migrants but show up most years in small numbers. There was however one **Dunlin** reported on MLR 11/2 (CP, RP). This species is only occasional in the fall in *Cumberland*, being reported less than half the years in the fall.

There was one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported at Pine Grove Furnace State Park 8/28 (VG), one seen at SGL 305 on 9/5 (DB, SB), 2 on Ridge Road MSF 9/9 (DK, VG), and one at the Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve 9/28 (JR). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was of 2 at SGL 230 on 8/25 (RK, AM). There was one **Least Flycatcher** at SGL 230 on 9/2 (RK, AM), one on the Big Spring 9/7 (VG, BF, LF, KK, BP), one at SGL 169 from 9/9-12 (VG, CP, RP), and 2 at Burd Run Nature trail in Shippensburg 9/12 (VG). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen on Elk Hill Road (TSF) 9/10 (VG), one near SGL 230 on 9/10 (PL), 2 on Milesburn Road (MSF) 9/21 (VG, AM), 2 at SGL 230 on 9/29 (TC, RK, AM), and one on Ridge Road MSF 10/1 (BK). There was only one report of **Bank Swallow**: one at the Propagation Pond Area of SGL 169 on 9/28 (VG).

There was only one report of one **Gray-checked Thrush**, on Milesburn Road MSF 9/6 (VG), but the number of 12 **Swainson's Thrushes** seen at the same location 9/21 (VG, AM) was unusually high. Based on the quantity of nocturnal flight calls there is no doubt that this species is a common migrant on the ridges, but stays mostly concealed during the day.

In what was predicted to be a non-invasion year, there was only one **Purple Finch** reported in two locations nearby to each other in Mechanicsburg 11/3 (KA) and 11/24 (AZ). There were 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Cabin Road at SGL 169 on 10/22 (BK) and 4 at the same location 10/26 (BP); also 3 were reported from Huntsdale 11/20 (DB, SB). Usually there are some flocks of at least 30-40 Rusty Blackbirds reported at these locations, but not this season.

Of the less common fall warblers, there was no Mourning Warblers reported, one **Golden-winged Warbler** was on Pine Road in Penn Township 9/27 (RM), one **Connecticut Warbler** was at SGL 169 from 9/8-9 (AnM, VG), and **Wilson's Warblers** included one at Ridge Road MSF 8/28 (BF, m.ob.), one near SGL 230 (PL), 2 at Camp Michaux, MSF

9/8 (VG) and one at SGL 169 on 9/28 (BM). Lastly, one **Dickcissel** was reported from Clover Hill Road 8/2 (BK). This species is a rare but regular in western *Cumberland* from May through Aug.

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Dauphin County

Locations: Big Boyd Tree Preserve (BBTP), Blue Mountain Parkway (BMP), Capital Area Greenbelt-Paxtang (CAG-P), Fort Hunter Park (FHP), Harrisburg-Heritage Park Area (HHP), Hummel Trail-Hummelstown (HT), Linglestown (LIN), Rachel Carson State Office Building-Harrisburg (RCSOB), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A **Cackling Goose** was reported at WL 11/24 (S&SB). More waterfowl began to show up along the Susquehanna River in the Harrisburg area during Oct and Nov. **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Greater Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and **Hooded Mergansers** were all reported at SRWF and SRFS (m.ob.). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at WL 9/26 (MB) and again 11/6 (EB).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was spotted at WL 9/12 (EH). A late migrating **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at SGL 211 on 10/26 (ZR). **Common Nighthawks** were reported migrating through the Harrisburg area during the month of Sep, including 8 on 9/14 (EC), 12 on 9/14 (RS) on the other side of the city at the same time, and 12 on 9/15 (S&GL). A late migrating **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported from BMP 10/2 (MB).

Increasing its range westward, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was spotted and photographed on the Susquehanna River near HHP on 10/9 (SS) and was later seen on 10/12 (IG) and 10/19 (S&SB). Seen occasionally in migration, a **Caspian Tern** was reported at FHP 8/12 (IG). **Snowy Egrets** were present again at WL during Aug (m.ob.) with a high count of 4. Joining them were **Little Blue Herons**, with a high count of 7 on 8/8 (MD). This was an increase from last year when only one of each species was reported.

The Ned Smith Center's owl banding site in upper *Dauphin* caught and banded 38 migrating **Northern Saw-whet Owls** 10/6-11/22 (S&GL). Foreign recoveries came from Montreal, Canada, Carlisle, and West Cape May and Pennington, New Jersey. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were spotted at SRFS 11/17 (EC). Two sightings of juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were made at WL 10/19 (BM) and near LIN 11/19 (PL). Two of the RCSOB **Peregrine Falcons** were detected this fall via Motus tower/nanotag technology now being used to track birds. One falcon's signal was picked up in Maryland near the mouth of the Potomac River and the other near the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick, Canada (AM).

Two sightings of late migrating **Eastern Phoebe**s were made in Nov: one was on the HT 11/21 (HP) and the other was at WL 11/22 (ME, RH). A late lingering **Brown Thrasher** was still being seen at the end of this reporting period at a Harrisburg home (RS). A **Purple Finch** was reported from a home in eastern Harrisburg 11/16 (R&PP). An early report of **Fox Sparrows** was made at WL 11/6 (EB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was spotted at SGL 211 on 10/5. The place to observe **Rusty Blackbirds** this fall was WL during Oct and Nov; high of 71 was tallied there 11/13 (BM, m.ob.). Late migrating warblers included **Tennessee Warbler** at HT 10/25 (RS), a **Nashville Warbler** at BBTP 10/24 (SS), and an **American Redstart** on the CAG-P 11/1 (IG).

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Rick and Peg Price, Zach Richard, Steve Schmit, Rosemary Spreha.

Delaware County

Locations: Bethel Springs Elementary School (BSES), Brinton Lake (BL), Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Fort Mifflin (FM), Governor Printz Park (GPP), Harvey Run Trail (HRT), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA), Tyler Arboretum (TY), The Willows (WILL).

August was warmer and drier than normal. The first two weeks of September brought continued above normal temperatures (comparable to August in the 1960's) and slight impacts from Hurricane Dorian off the coast. The first lows in the 40s came early on 9/19. Then the temperature bounced up into the 90s on 10/2, one of only four years on record where the 90°F barrier was broken in October. An EF2 tornado in Delaware later that month (10/31) wreaked havoc on a small swath of the county, including a portion of RCSP and its Bridle Trail. The devastation to that forested area will most certainly affect which species can continue to call it home and will likely impact the birdlife in the area for years to come. The first frost was recorded 11/1.

There were no notable movements of geese over the county, and only a single report of a **Cackling Goose** and 4 **Tundra Swans**, both from GPP 11/16 (RK). **Blue-winged Teal** were found only at JHNWR 9/6 (JMc), 9/8 (PS), and 9/30 (ME). An early **Northern Shoveler** on the DR at FM was reported 8/29 (RF), the occasional bird was reported at JHNWR on four dates in Nov (RZ, JMc), and a single individual was at CCR 10/15 (AG). **Gadwalls** were plentiful at JHNWR during Nov (m.ob.) but **American Wigeon** was reported only once, 11/28 (JMc). **Green-winged Teal** high count was 61 at JHNWR 10/4 (JMc) and **Northern Pintail** high was 45 at the same location 11/8 (JMc). The only **Ring-necked Ducks** were 2 at BL 11/12 (KB). Four or 5 **Lesser Scaup** were at JHNWR 11/15 and 11/22 (JMc). Four **Common Mergansers** were noted at CCR 11/24 (DO). **Ruddy Duck** was reported on four dates from JHNWR including 9 on 11/2 (SW). **Pied-billed Grebe** reports were up, with birds seen on seven dates at either JHNWR or CCR (m.ob.).

Six reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** during this period were almost on par with last year's seven (m.ob.); there was also a plausible report of 2 **Black-billed Cuckoos** from the Brandywine River Museum Trail 9/10 (PK). **Common Nighthawks** were widely reported during their annual passage. The daily watch at HC 8/16-9/17 (SJ, KJ) tallied a low 1907, with few high-count days. The largest single night was 282 on 9/4, and 272 on 8/28 was a close second, but only half the expected total on a big night. The last two nighthawks in the county were reported over HC 10/2 (SJ), the last **Chimney Swift**, over RTP 10/25 (JM), and the last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** from a Swarthmore yard 10/2 (DE).

Up to 3 **Black-bellied Plovers** were seen on a sandbar in the DR at FM on five dates 8/18-9/21 (m.ob.). A single **American Golden-Plover** appeared there 8/23 and 8/24 (RF). **Semipalmated Plover** were also frequently noted there from Aug through Sep (m.ob.), but the best find was **Hudsonian Godwit** 8/8 (AG). A consolation prize for an observer that missed the godwit that day was 6 **Stilt Sandpipers** (RF). That species was also a surprise find 11/1 at JHNWR, feeding near **Greater Yellowlegs** at the new boardwalk (JMc). The mudflats at JHNWR held as many as 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/8 (JMc) and single **Wilson's Snipe** 9/12 (JMc), 10/26 (AG), and 11/30 (RZ). Back at the DR at FM, **Sanderling** showed up four times 8/23-9/15 (m.ob.), 2 **Dunlin** were present 9/8 (ZM, BQ), 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** were discovered 8/24 (JH), **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 8/23, 9/8, and 9/12 (m.ob.), and 6 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were a nice find 8/23 (RF).

Gulls and terns reported from the DR at FM included single **Bonaparte's Gulls** 9/2 (AG, RF), 9/6 (JH), and 9/8 (ZM, BQ). A **Gull-billed Tern** was found 8/18 (JH), along with 11 **Caspian Terns**, 3 **Black Terns**, and 6 **Forster's Terns**, a nice list for *Delaware*. **Caspian Terns** are regulars at this location from Aug through Oct; the last report was of

8 on 10/17 (RF). One was also photographed as it flew over RTP 9/18 (JM). A high count of 257 were noted moving upriver 9/6 (JH) along with a single **Common Tern**, prior to the passage of Hurricane Dorian the next day. A late **Forster's Tern** also was sighted there 11/2 (AG).

Only one **Common Loon** flyover was reported from *Delaware* during this period, from RTP 10/11 (JM). The lack of loons this season was a mystery. JHNWR produced a single **Least Bittern** 8/9 (RZ) and three reports of **Little Blue Heron** 8/8 (RZ), 8/11 (AG, DO) and 8/24 (AG). Reports of both egret species were numerous there this year from Aug-Sept (m.ob.), with many reports from the nearby DR at FM during that time frame as well (m.ob.) and multiple reports of flyover **Great Egrets** from across the county. A late **Great Egret** was photographed in Chadds Ford 11/20 (AS). The biggest surprise among wading birds, however, was a juvenile **White Ibis** that was well-photographed by a non-birder going by "Celeste S." at TMA 8/10. It wasn't until Oct that a photo was posted to iNaturalist and was discovered by a local birder who, ironically, lives within a mile of the location of the wandering juvenile!

The RTP hawkwatch, staffed daily from 9/1 to 11/23, tallied 448.25 hours of coverage. Unfortunately, hawk migration through *Delaware* was dismal this year with a total raptor count of just 1779, more than 1200 birds below the previous low total of 2990 in 2016. The **Osprey** total count was 118, the second lowest count on record, but that low was eclipsed by just 19 **Northern Harriers**, the lowest total on record. There was not a single day when **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers broke even 100, leaving a season total of a meager 314, another all-time low. All falcon species set new record lows. **American Kestrels** finished at 100. The 8 **Merlins** and 7 **Peregrine Falcons** were each one-half to one-third their usual numbers. Glimmers of light: at 118, **Red-tailed Hawks** almost doubled last year's lowest ever count of 61, and a **Northern Goshawk** was recorded 11/3 (AG). See hawkcount.org for additional data. There was a single chance encounter with a **Barred Owl** at Swarthmore College 11/20 (DO) and one report of a calling **Northern Saw-whet Owl** from a Chadds Ford neighborhood 10/30 (LF, AS).

Least Flycatcher was heard calling in that same Chadds Ford yard 9/18 (LF, AS). Two were also seen in a Swarthmore yard 9/7 (DE) and another was at TMA on the same date (AG), the same day that TMA also produced the only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (DO). **Yellow-throated Vireo** is never common, but there was only a single report 9/15 TMA (DO). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was detected at RCSP 9/6 (DE, AG, RF) and the last **Red-eyed Vireo** visited a Springfield yard 10/11 (DB).

Uncommon this season were 3 **Horned Larks** at PHL 11/30 (BB), migrant **Cliff Swallows** at Folsom 8/17 (JD), RCSP 8/30 (JMc), and the DR at FM 9/6 (JH), and 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at RCSP (JR, KR) and at TMA (DO), both 9/15. A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at TY 11/13 (SBN). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported from RCSP 9/6 (RF) and 9/26 (JMc), and at WILL 10/25 (BH). Unfortunately, there were fewer than a half-dozen reports of **Swainson's Thrush** during the entire migration period. American Pipit and Purple Finch were also non-existent.

There were about 15 **Fox Sparrow**, 10 **White-crowned Sparrow**, and 7 **Savannah Sparrow** reports during Oct and Nov this year. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was photographed at JHNWR 11/3 (SW), and HRT produced a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 10/16 (AG). A few **Bobolinks** utilized JHNWR during the first two weeks of Sep (m.ob.), and there were three reports of individual birds DR at FM 8/13 (JMc), 8/29 (RF), and 9/7 (RF). A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was at JHNWR 10/18 (JMc, RF). A lone **Rusty Blackbird** was at DT 11/14 (DE) and two were at JHNWR 11/8 (JMc) and 11/19 (RZ) and at RCSP 11/25 (RG).

Twenty-eight species of warbler were reported this period, the same number of species as last year, although the number of individuals was low. There were no good fronts to push migrants through the area. **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported only from RCSP 8/22 (JMc). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was seen at WILL 8/28 (JMc); there was a **Hooded Warbler** 9/20 (JMc). **Hooded Warblers** were also at RCSP 8/9 (JMc) and 9/26 (JMc). **Cape May Warblers** were seen at HC 9/8 (SJ, RF), TMA 9/15 (DO), RTP 10/6 (SJ), and HRT 10/16 (AG). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at BM 9/13 (AG, SB). There were only three reports of **Blackburnian Warbler**, two on 9/7 from Swarthmore (DE) and nearby TMA (DO, RF), and one at BM 9/13 (AG). **Canada Warblers** were reported only five times (m.ob.) and **Wilson's Warbler** just twice: 9/10 at

RCSP (KW) and 9/16 at BSES (BQ). Lingering into Nov were a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in a Media yard 11/7 (CM), **Common Yellowthroats** at CFM (LF, AS) and RCSP (CS) both 11/10, and an **Ovenbird** in a Springfield yard 11/22-24 (DB). A **Blue Grosbeak** was a nice surprise at DR at FM 8/19 (RF).

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Elk County

Locations: Moshannon S.F. Beaver Run (BR), Benezette Twp. (BT), East Branch Lake (EBL), Elk S.F. Elk Country Visitor Center (ECVC), SGL 311 Porcupine Hollow (PH), Rasselas Marsh (RM), SGL 311 Winslow Hill Viewing Area (WH), SGL 311 Woodring Farm (WF).

Single **Ruffed Grouse** were seen near EBL 8/2 and 8/17 (BB), in PH 8/17 (MD), and 3 in BT 9/21 (KK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard singing repeatedly at dawn and dusk in BT 9/21 (KK). For the second time this year and the second time recorded for *Elk*, **Sandhill Cranes**—five starting to make a v-formation—were seen over a BT neighborhood 10/26 (CL). Six **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Spring Creek Twp. 8/4 (CB) and were seen multiple times in Aug at EBL (BB). A juv. **Bonaparte's Gull** was at EBL 8/9 (BB). Three **Forster's Terns** were at EBL 8/11 and again 8/19 (BB), now having appeared at this location in four of the past five years. An **American Bittern** was seen in RM 8/17 (BB) and a **Green Heron** was near EBL 8/5 (BB). Several sightings of **Osprey** were made at EBL in Aug, with a high count of 5 on 8/6 (BB); one was at BT 10/13 (PI). A **Northern Harrier** was observed at WH 9/9 (CB) and in BT 9/11 (CL). The only **Bald Eagles** reported were at EBL 8/13 and 8/19 (BB). A **Merlin** was seen in BT 9/2 (CL) and at WF 10/2 (CW).

Two **Alder Flycatchers** were seen on Rasselas Road 8/1 and one was in RM 8/17 (BB). A **Willow Flycatcher** was in RM 8/17 (BB). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen near EBL 8/1 (BB), 2 were in BT 10/29 (KR), and one was in Weedville 11/19 (KH). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was observed at BR 10/30 (KR). A **Northern Mockingbird** was noted at ECVC 9/28 (RK), and also at WH 10/10 (BK). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were located at WH 8/24 (MJ, m.ob.). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen in Kersey 9/10 (CB). Multiple sightings of **Bobolinks** were made at EBL in August (BB), with a high count of 6 on 8/17, and 7 **Bobolinks** were seen at WH 8/24 (MJ, m.ob.). Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at WF 8/16 (DS), and 5 were at WH 8/24 (MJ, m.ob.). Fourteen **Baltimore Orioles** were at WF 8/16 (DS), and one was at EBL 8/17 (BB). A **Hooded Warbler** was in Millstone Twp. 9/6 (KM). Two **Blackpoll Warblers** were at ECVC 9/25 mid-morning, and two were found later that same morning at WF (MM). A pair of **Pine Warblers** was seen near the observation deck at WF Trail 10/1, and one was at the same location 10/2 (CW). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at ECVC 9/28 (KC). A **Dickcissel** was found at WH 8/24 (MJ, m.ob.), where they have been reported regularly since 2015. One was also seen at WH 8/25 (DC).

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Erie County

It was a relatively mild fall with just one major snowstorm that dropped eight inches or more of snow in some locations of the county. A whopping 6500 **Long-tailed Ducks** passed the mouth of Walnut Creek on the waterbird count (hereafter-WC) Thanksgiving Day. This broke the previous all-time high single-day count of 3295 set back in 2006. Some of the western shorebirds, like **American Avocet**, **Willet**, and **Whimbrel**, were well represented from early August through about mid-September at Presque Isle S.P. As is typical now, several Passerines remained into the fall later than usual. A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** stayed at least seven weeks longer than ever before in the county. A **Great Cormorant** that passed Sunset Point with a flock of **Double-crested Cormorants** during the WC made for a first for western Pennsylvania. Quite remarkable and unexpected was a **Snail Kite** that was fortunately photographed in Thompson Bay at Presque Isle S.P.

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

Four **Snow Geese** (three blue and one white) were at Gull Point 11/8 (JB) and a single white morph flew past the mouth of Walnut Creek during the WC 11/28 (JM, JF). Ten **Brant** passed Sunset Point 11/17 (NA) and a single bird was at the Fairview Industrial Park 11/27-30 (DM, et al.) The **Cackling Goose** seen in Waterford during the "Big Sit" 10/13 was the only one reported this season (JM, JH). An amazing flight of 6500 **Long-tailed Ducks** were recorded during the WC off the mouth of Walnut Creek 11/28 (JM, JF, RSt). There were two flocks of long-tails that contained an estimated 800 birds each!

One or two **Common Loons** that were reported during the summer at Eaton Reservoir remained to at least 8/2 (JH). A total of eight different **Red-necked Grebes** passed Sunset Point during the WC 10/9-11/29 and a single one was present off Beach 11 from 11/18-19 (CV). Quite the surprise was an adult **Great Cormorant** that passed Sunset Point with a flock of **Double-crested Cormorants** 10/11 during the WC, furnishing western Pennsylvania with its first record of the species (JF, JM, JB). The rare **American White Pelican** reported in Harborcreek 8/25 (AL *fide* MF), which provided the county with its first August record, was likely the same bird observed on Gull Point 8/28 (LK). Another **American White Pelican** showed up at the channel 10/23-24 (ST). The **American Bittern** flushed at Gull Point 11/5 was rather late (MW). A **Cattle Egret** seen by many as it fed in a McKean Twp. pasture with black angus cattle 11/3 was rare for the county (SSt).

Who would have guessed that the next Pennsylvania state record was going to be a **Snail Kite**? Indeed it was, and it was well photographed 10/22 (CV). It was first seen earlier in the day 10/22 over horseshoe pond (JF), but despite being familiar with the species and sure of the sighting the observer didn't think anyone would believe her, so she kept it to herself. Later in the afternoon during a waterfowl survey at Thompson Bay, the kite was spotted again and excellent photos were made of the bird in flight and perched (CV). Despite the effort of many birders later in the day as well as the next day, the kite was not seen again.

One or two **American Golden-Plovers** were at Gull Point 8/18 (RD), 9/4 (JM), 9/23 (DS), and 10/12 (RD). It was a banner year for **American Avocets** with over 28 reported in Aug at Gull Point (m.ob.), with a single high day count of 14 birds 8/18 (JH). Avocets were not reported again until up to 3 appeared at Gull Point 10/31-11/11 (MW, JF, JB). It was a good season for **Willetts** as well with a season total of at least 11 birds at Gull Point 8/6-9/13 (SS, RS, JB). About eight **Whimbrels** were reported for the season from Gull Point from 8/15-9/12 (MJ, KZ, JB). Two **Marbled Godwits** were at Gull Point 8/19 (MB). A total of four **Red Knots** were at Gull Point 8/9-31 (JB, et al.) and a single bird was at Beach 11 on 9/13 (RS). The two **Purple Sandpipers** at Gull Point 11/24 were a good find (JB); one or another was still there the next day (JF). The only **Stilt Sandpiper** spotted this season was at Gull Point 9/30 (JB). A juvenile **Wilson's Phalarope** was studied at Gull Point 9/4 (JM). A distant phalarope was spotted circling and dropping down on the lake off Sunset Point during the WC 11/13, but it was uncertain as to whether it was a Red or a Red-necked Phalarope (JM). Only one **Black Tern** report was made this season, a single at Gull Point 9/23 (DS). Two immature **Parasitic Jaegers** were spotted off Gull Point 9/2 (TL, LK, STo). On the

same day a possible immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen far offshore from Gull Point (TL, LK, STo). An unidentified jaeger was seen off Beach 11 on 10/17 (RS) and another was seen off the mouth of Walnut Creek during the WC 11/2 (JM, JB, JF).

A young **Barn Owl**, but not recently fledged, was found in Fairview 9/26 with a fractured humerus and was taken to Tamarack where it died from its injuries (*fide* SS). The only **Snowy Owl** of the season was one photographed sitting on a roof top in Summit Twp. 11/20 (SSu). Two **Long-eared Owls** were spotted sitting side-by-side in the pines 11/10 (RD). A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed at Gull Point 11/3 (RD) and 2 were there 11/10 (AM). A single **Short-eared Owl** photographed flying over Edinboro Lake 11/15 (JH) represented the first record for that location. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was in the pines 11/10-11 (RD).

A **Northern Shrike** was seen for a single day in McKean Twp. 11/14 (SSt) and another was chasing birds at a feeder in Franklin Twp. 11/15 (JD). The latter site has hosted a shrike for the past several years and it always frequents the feeding station. **Common Ravens** continue to be reported in the county: one or 2 were northeast of Edinboro 8/26 and 8/28 (JF), one was in North East 11/16 (JH), and one was in Union City 11/27 (RSt). A **White-eyed Vireo** at Gull Point 10/19 was rather late, as was a **Red-eyed Vireo** on the same day (TL); the latter was record late for the county by two weeks (TL). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** found at boat launch #4 on 11/19 set a new latest fall for *Erie* by seven weeks (CV). A **Swainson's Thrush** observed in an Erie backyard 11/8 also set a county record late date, this one by about eight days (NA). Seven **Lapland Longspurs** were at Gull Point 9/30 and 4 were there 10/7 (DS). There were also one or two longspurs at Sunset Point on 10/6 (JS). The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** reported this season was one at Gull Point 9/17 (MW), even though there were others found but not reported. A **Connecticut Warbler** was banded at the Fry's Landing banding station 9/21 (*fide* NA). A **Nelson's Sparrow** described at Gull Point 10/4 (MW) was a good find.

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Fayette County

There were quite a few interesting reports this season including a good count of Common Nighthawks during migration, a Black Vulture, and a good number of Merlins reported.

A good count of 35 **Killdeer** was made at Namacolin Woodlands Resort 9/22 (DB). Six **Solitary Sandpipers** were in New Salem 9/22 (JF, JP, MJ). There were two reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant**: one near Dunlap Creek Park 10/25 (KB) and one near Confluence 11/15 (LG). It is unknown whether there is a sustaining population in the county these days. There were two reports of **Ruffed Grouse**: one in Spring Valley 10/5 (DB) and one at Ohiopyle State Park 10/20 (ST). A total of 60 **Common Nighthawks** were noted near Farmington 8/30 (DB) and one was there 9/9 (DB). Three were in nearby Spring Valley 9/2 (MD) and four were there 9/16 (DBI). Two were at the Uniontown Mall 8/29 (DB) and another was reported to eBird at a farm 9/25. Another nice find was a **Black Vulture** well photographed on the ground feeding near Cardale 11/30 (MJ). Black Vulture was confirmed nesting in the county a few years ago but they are still rare. Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Greenlick Run Lake 10/26 (KB). A **Red-throated Loon** was a nice find at Greenlick Run Lake 11/30 (MJ). Two **Common Loons** were there 11/28 (KB). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen and photographed at Namacolin Woodlands Resort 8/11 (DB, MD). A **Merlin** was photographed in Connellsville 9/18, 9/28, and 11/16 (KB). One was also photographed at Greenlick Run Lake 11/28 (KB). Other reports included one at the Summit Mt. Hawkwatch 9/29 (DB) and one near Farmington

11/3 (DB). A **Fox Sparrow** was at Ohiopyle State Park 10/20 (ST).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, mpfial@verizon.net, Kerry Bell, Dwight Blough (DBI), David Bureson, Matthew Domer, John Flannigan, Linda Greble, Mathew Juskowich, Joe Papp, Shannon Thompson.

Forest County

Locations: Birchfield Banding Site (BIR), Allegheny NF – Hall Barn WA (HB), Hemlock Creek Bridge (HCB), Kellettsville (KE), Tank Hill Road Wetlands (TH), Tionesta (TIO), Tionesta Twp. (TT).

A **Trumpeter Swan** with a yellow wing tag "T77" was spotted near Cooksburg on the Clarion River 9/12 (SK), then "T77" was also photographed near Clarington 10/16 (TJK). A **Bufflehead** was at the same Cooksburg location 11/6 (SK). **Ruffed Grouse** were seen several times in TT, with a high count of 4 on 8/11 (FM). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at BIR 8/14-15 (SS).

Sixteen **Common Nighthawks** were seen at HCB near West Hickory 8/30 (KS). The next evening 41, including a kettle of 31, were observed at the same bridge. Common Nighthawks have been reported in *Forest* during fall migration in only two other years: 2015 and 2018. One **Osprey** was at KE 9/4 (EN, KN). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted at TH 8/31 (KS), and 2 were at KE 9/29 (AA, EA). Three **Cooper's Hawks** were at KE 9/4 (EN, KN). Multiple sightings of **Bald Eagles** continued throughout the county this period (m.ob.).

A **Least Flycatcher** was noted at BIR 8/14 (SS). One **Warbling Vireo** was in TIO 8/7 (CW) and 9/2 (KS). Late visitors included 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at BIR 10/26 and one there 10/28 (SS), and a **Winter Wren** in TT last observed in excellent habitat 11/24 (FM). A **Brown Thrasher** was one of 18 species observed at HB in seven minutes 9/6 (RC). A **Fox Sparrow** was at BIR 10/26 (SS).

Of 18 species of warblers, these were notable: A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at TH 9/1 (KS). At TIO, highlights were a **Black-and-white Warbler** 8/11 (FM), three sightings of **Tennessee Warbler** which included 3 on 10/6 (FM), and 2 **Nashville Warblers** 9/21 (FM). At BIR, a **Mourning Warbler** appeared 8/14 (SS). Three Sep sightings of **Bay-breasted Warblers** in TIO included 3 on 9/21 (FM). A **Pine Warbler** was spotted at Tionesta Lake Dam 9/19 (HW). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was noted in TIO 10/6 (FM), and a **Canada Warbler** was observed at BIR 8/14 (SS).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Bender's Farm (BEFA), Caledonia State Park (CSP), Creekside Trail Menno Haven (CTMH), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Keefer Road Pond (KERP), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRRRP), Old Heisey Orchard (OHO).

It was a disappointing season regarding waterfowl, but a good one for shorebirds. Of note is the continuing trend of more birders spending time in *Franklin* and reporting their sightings to eBird. Thank you to all contributors!

As with the summer reporting season, out of season **Tundra Swans** continued to be reported in the beginning of fall as well. Singles were reported from KRRP 8/1-6 (CG), BEFA 8/3 (BO), and Rowe Run Road 9/16-10/18 (BKtz). An unusually high number of **Green-winged Teal** were at KRRP 11/17 (CG). A **Redhead** was at BEFA 11/3 (BO). Otherwise, it was a very slow season for waterfowl.

Highest counts of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** at GRRE, a traditional late summer gathering place, were 18 on 9/4 and 28 on 10/25 (CG).

Common Nighthawks were infrequent and in only small numbers compared to some other fall seasons. There were reports of 8 at SGL 235 Horse Valley 8/28 (BKtz), 2 at CSP 8/29 (BO), 4 at CSP 9/1 (BO, KS), 11 at CSP 9/2 (DP, HS), 15 at OHO 9/8 (BKner, BB, BO), and one in Greencastle 9/9 (DE). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a Chambersburg yard 10/6 (RG, TSG).

Shorebirding picked up after a normal summer lull. Up to 6 **American Golden-Plovers** were reported from BEFA 9/3-5 (BO, BKtz, VG, DB, SB, DE) and 3 were at ACP 9/28 (BO, DC, CG, DG, BC, MC). Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported from KRRP 8/4-7 and CTMH 9/2, 9/12, and 9/14 (BO, BKner, BKtz). An **Upland Sandpiper** was found at BEFA 9/3-4 (BO, BKtz, VG, DB, SB, BKrt, TKrt). **Baird's Sandpipers** included 2 at ACP 9/2 (BO) and a one at ACP 10/1-2 (BO, BKtz, CG, GA). A late **Least Sandpiper** was at ACP 11/3 (BO). **Pectoral Sandpipers** reports were of one at KRRP 9/4 (DC), one at ACP 9/7 (BO), and up to 6 at ACP 9/11-10/2 (BO, BKtz, DH, GA, CG). A **Western Sandpiper** was observed at length after a heavy thunderstorm brought it down at ACP 9/2 (BO). The bird took flight and was not relocated.

A **Herring Gull** was found at GRRE 11/14 (CG). A **Black Tern** was seen at length at ACP 8/21 (BO, CG, BKrt, TKrt, DG, VB, DH, JD, SD) and 2 were there the next day 8/22 (BKtz). An **American Bittern** was at BEFA 10/10 (BO). A late and long staying **Great Egret** was at Long Lane pond 9/27-10/11 (CG). Two **Cattle Egrets** were reported from a farm along Mount Rock Road near Shippensburg 8/10 (JStz). A **Golden Eagle** was reported from Little Cove 9/19 (SK) and from the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Path Valley 10/3 (ED). A juvenile **Northern Goshawk** made a low flyover at CTMH 10/30 (BO). A **Merlin** was seen along KERP 10/19 (BO), and **Peregrine Falcons** were reported from McClay's Mill Road 9/10 (BKtz), from 5th Street in Chambersburg 9/28 (DC), from Olde Scotland Road 10/5 (JS), and from downtown Chambersburg 10/31 and 11/12 (BO).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found 8/28 at SGL 235 Horse Valley (BKtz), 9/2 at OHO (BO), 9/2 in Stillhouse Hollow-Michaux SF (BO), and 9/2 at CSP (DP, HS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at OHO 9/22 (BO). **Least Flycatchers** were reported at CTMH 8/24 and 9/1-2 (BO), at OHO 9/1 and 9/7 (BO, DB, LL, BL), and at Antietam Meadow Park 9/3 (TF). **Philadelphia Vireos** were found in Stillhouse Hollow-Michaux SF 9/7 (BO, DB, LL, BL) and at OHO 9/22 (BO). A late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at GRRE 10/17 (BO) and 2 late **Tree Swallows** were at KRRP 11/9 (BO). A high count of 327 Tree Swallows was made at GRRE 9/21 (CG). A **Bank Swallow** was at GRRE 8/3 (BO) and **Cliff Swallows** were at Wilson Run along Wenger Road 8/4 and at Parnell Fisheries-Mountain Road 8/5 (BO). The last **Purple Martin** observed at GRRE was 8/2 (CG).

An early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found at CTMH 9/2 (BO), and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from Renfrew Park 10/18 (CC). A **Marsh Wren** was singing at BEFA 9/28 (BO). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found on Milesburn Road in Michaux SF 9/30 (RK, TC). Single **Purple Finches** were reported at OHO 10/1 (BO) and in a Penn National yard 11/14 (DH). A **Pine Siskin** was reported at feeders in a Greene Knolls yard from 8/8-10/11 (VB) and three were seen at BEFA 10/12 (BO). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported 9/22 and 9/25 at OHO (BO), 9/28 and 10/12 at BEFA (BO), 10/9 at CTMH (BKtz), and 10/22 at Izaak Walton Meadows (BKtz). A late **Ovenbird** was found at CTMH 10/9 (BKtz), a late **Northern Waterthrush** was along the Conococheague at Dump Road 10/12 (BO), and a late **American Redstart** was at CTMH 10/20 (BO). **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen at CTMH 9/5 (BO) and 9/8 (BKtz). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at BEFA 8/7 (BO) and 2 were found around Shimpstown near Mercersburg 8/24 (SK).

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Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap SP (CG), McConnellsburg (McC).

Fulton County needs a compiler – contact the editor if interested.

Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were at CG 10/12-13 (JY) and 4 were there 10/24 (EH). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Meadow Grounds Lake 8/3 (JS) and 2 **Great Horned Owls** were at CG 10/12 (JY). Six **Sharp-shinned Hawks** passed the inactive Tuscarora hawk watch off Rte. 30, east of McC 9/27 (DC).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at a rest stop along I-70 on 9/2 (DG). First **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 3 at CG 10/24 (EH) and earliest **White-throated Sparrows** were 2 at CG 10/24 (EH) and 4 at Waterfall 10/26 (JC). Only four warbler species were reported for the fall in lightly-birded and underappreciated *Fulton*.

Observers: **Greg Grove**, gwg2@psu.edu, John Carter, Davis Cooney Jr. (DC), Doug Graham, Elaine Hendricks, Joel Springer, Joe Yuhas.

Greene County

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

A flock of **Snow Geese** were sighted at SY 11/6 (AC, JC). **Wood Ducks** were last seen at EV 10/8 (MH). **Hooded Merganser** was seen in SY 8/3 (AC, JC), **Common Merganser** was at SGL 223 on 10/8 (MJ), and **Red-breasted Merganser** was in FT 11/3 (JH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at RSP 11/30 (MD). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was last heard in MT 8/16 (KK). A **Common Nighthawk** was in MT 9/4 (KK). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported in JT 9/26 (RL). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at RSP 10/8 (MJ), and **Solitary Sandpiper** was at SGL 223 on 9/1 (MJ). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was in Wayne Twp. 9/12 (TC). Last **Osprey** was at late bird in JT 11/6 (AC). **Bald Eagles** were at LCR 11/5 (MLP) and at SY 11/12 (AC, JC). A **Rough-legged Hawk** in Cumberland Twp. 10/29 (DB) was early especially this far south in the state. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard in EV 11/28 (MH), and a **Barred Owl** called at LCR 10/1 (MLP). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at EV 11/3 (MH).

Last dates for vireos and flycatchers included **Eastern Wood-pewee** in EV 9/25 (MH), **White-eyed Vireo** in JT 9/12 (RL), **Warbling Vireo** in EV 9/20, and **Red-eyed Vireo** in EV 8/17 (MH). A **Brown Creeper** was found at RSP 11/30 (MD), and a **Winter Wren** was seen in Richhill Twp. 11/30 (MD). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Hermit Thrush** were both at RSP 11/30 (MD). Over 80 **Cedar Waxwing** were reported at SY 11/13 (AC). A **Pine Siskin** was at CL 11/21 (LA), unexpected in this non-invasion year. **Fox Sparrow** and **Swamp Sparrow** were reported at RSP 11/30 (MD). First **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported at CL 10/20 (LA). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed in Richhill Twp. 11/30 (MD). An **Ovenbird** was in JT 9/29 (RL, BD), last **Common Yellowthroat** was in Morgan Twp. 9/20 (KK), a **Palm Warbler** was at SGL 223 on 10/8 (MJ), and first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at SGL 223 on 10/8 (MJ). **Scarlet Tanager** was last reported in JT 9/17 (BD, RL), and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** were both last reported in JT 8/30 (RL).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Baker-Henry Peace Chapel at Juniata College (BH), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata College campus (JC), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail (LT), Mothersbaugh Swamp in Stone Valley (MOS), Murray Run Rd. (MRR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Seven Points Rec Area at Raystown Lake (SP), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Whipple Dam SP (WD).

For the fall season in *Huntingdon*, 182 species were entered into eBird, about matching the average for the previous autumns. Weather was unremarkable. Sept and Oct were 4-5°F above average, Nov was 3°F below average, and overall for the four months, the temperature was about 2°F above average. Oct saw above average rainfall, but the other three months were dry, and for the period, rainfall was about three inches below normal.

As usual for the fall season, reports of waterfowl were relatively few. There were no big **Tundra Swan** days at SMHW; the high day was only 50 on 11/5 (GG). Top counts of **Wood Duck** were 41 at Grazier's Pond 9/26 (MN) and 25 at CM 8/26 (GG). **American Black Duck** reports continue to be well below numbers of a few years ago. Six eBird reports were all of just one or two birds, mostly at LP. A good count of 140 **Buffleheads** was made at RL 11/6 (TK, DK). Challenging **Mallard** as the most widespread duck here, **Common Mergansers** were reported 11 times in eBird, with a high of 18 in Standing Stone Creek at Martin's Gap 9/29 (TK, DK). Six reports of **Ruddy Duck** were topped by 6 at RL 11/18 (TK, DK). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at the RL dam 11/17 and 11/21 (LF ph, DO, AG, DK, TK).

There were a couple dozen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and 6 of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, about the normal ratio. **Common Nighthawks** were limited to a count of 8 at OC 8/29 (AG, JH), one at SCEC 9/8 (DW), and 4 at JC 9/9 (PM).

Shorebird reports and numbers were low, with only seven species noted. An exception was a good count of 125 **Killdeer** at PF 9/14 (JK), a location where good numbers occur each fall. Single **American Woodcocks** were at Shade Gap 8/17 (AS) and SCEC 10/13 (JK), and single **Wilson's Snipe** at OC 11/6 and 11/30 (TK, DK). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at LP 8/24 (SI) and one each at Little Juniata NA 9/5 (MN) and LT 9/26 (NB). Three **Caspian Terns** were found at SP 8/19 (DO). At SMHW, high counts for non-raptors included 71 **Common Loons** 11/1 and 130 **Double-crested Cormorants** 11/12.

Stone Mt. hawk watch results are summarized elsewhere. Of note were three species with high counts: 178 **Bald Eagles** (record high), 3806 **Broad-winged Hawks** (record high), and 161 **Golden Eagles** (third highest). By contrast, most other species were well below the 24-year average (ZG, GG et al). Away from the watch, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported near HU 11/9 (DO).

Reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were typical, with single reports of one or 2 birds each at HU, CM, SMHW, and ENN. **Merlins** were recorded six times away from the hawkwatch, as reports continue to increase. Likewise, **Peregrine Falcons** were found around HU outside of the main migration time frame, with singles seen 11/14 (DO) and 11/25 (TK, DK).

Reports of the uncommon flycatchers were normal. **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at CM 9/9 (GG) and near SCEC 9/13 (JK). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at BH 8/31 (PM), MRR 9/1 (GG, DG), and SMHW 9/16 (NB). **Philadelphia Vireos** were recorded at SCEC 9/11 (DW, et al), SMHW 9/16 (NB), and BH 9/26 and 10/5 (GG, AG, JH, Devin Griffiths).

A distinctly brown **Common Raven** was seen several times at SMHW, presumably the same one seen occasionally in recent years. Annual but rare, the only **Marsh Wren** was at OC 9/27 (DO). Night flight calls of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were heard 9/24 and 9/27 on SCR (JK). At that same location, calls of migrating **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard on six nights 9/21-10/1, with a high estimate of 12 on 9/27 (JK). In

a season mostly lacking in northern finches, 5 **Pine Siskins** at OC 10/25 were notable (LF). Even **Purple Finch** barely registered, with reports only of 2-3 at HU 11/12-13 (LF) and 2 on SCR 11/14 (AP).

Two sparrow rarities were recorded. A **Nelson's Sparrow** was photographed at OC 10/30 (DO, LF) and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was well-described at OC 10/29 (TK, DK). As has been the trend in recent years, **American Tree Sparrow** reports were few. Up to 3 were at OC four times 11/19-11/30 (MN, TK, DK) and 2 were at RL 11/17 (AG, LF, DO). **Fox Sparrows** were few: one was along JR near HU 11/17 (AG, DO, LF), singles were at SVEC 11/6 and 11/13 (JK, RF), and up to 3 were at MOS on four occasions 11/5-15 (JK). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were at Water Street 10/30 (JK) and OC 10/30-31 (JK, AG, TK, DK). The only location for **Savannah Sparrow** was OC, where they were reported five times 9/17-10/25, with a max of 5 on 10/25 (m.ob.). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was well reported, noted on at least 16 eBird checklists from a total of seven locations 9/19-10/25 (m.ob.). **Swamp Sparrows**, probably rare nesters here, were recorded dozens of times from late Sep through the end of the season, mostly from OC and various locations in Stone Valley.

Only four reports of **Bobolink** were entered into eBird, but with some good numbers. At OC, 48 and 62 were counted 9/17 and 9/18, respectively (JK), and 6 were there 8/29 (AG, JH). A flock of 20 flew over SCR 8/28 (GG). The only reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** were of 5 in two locations in TCV 8/4 (GG) and, quite unusual, one flew past SMHW 10/18 (JK). The only report of **Rusty Blackbird** was of 6 at BA 11/26 (TK, DK).

Twenty-eight warbler species were reported, compared to an average of 26 over the past four fall seasons. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported 4 times; latest was at WD 9/2 (SL). Another miss, though not unusual in fall, no Golden-winged Warblers were found; the only **Blue-winged Warbler** was on SCR 9/7 (JK). As has been the case in recent years, **Tennessee Warblers** were widely reported, noted in eBird at minimally 9 locations. **Connecticut Warbler** often goes unreported, but this year singles were found at BA 9/19 (AG) and SMHW 10/3 (GG). The only **Mourning Warbler**, another less-than-annual, was at BH 8/27 (AG, JH). **Cape May Warblers** were abundant; a high count of 20 was made at SMHW 9/26 (JK), a location where they are quite reliably seen by hawk-watchers. A very late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at SMHW 11/2 (AG, JH) and a slightly late **Palm Warbler** was there 10/30 (GG).

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Indiana County

Locations: Blacklick (BL), Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

First **Tundra Swans** were 6 over the West Penn Trail near Blairsville 10/29 (DL); largest flock mentioned held 135 individuals over a yard near SH 11/1 (MH, RH). This was the largest flock reported since 11/9/2013 (LC, MH, RH) when 137 were counted at YC.

All waterfowl reports were at YC unless otherwise noted. Last **Wood Ducks** were 3 on 11/9 (BF, MH, RH). Top YC counts included 66 **Wood Ducks** 9/17 (LC, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH), the highest count on record since 8/23/2011 (LC, TG, MH, ML) when 72 were tallied, and 50 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/25 (MD), which was the top tally since 9/11/2014 (LC, MH, RH) when 97 was the count. First **Northern Shoveler** arrived 9/14 (AW) and the last 5, the maximum tally, were noted 10/8 (LC, SD, TG, BH, PH). **Gadwalls** moved through the county between 10/29 (LC, RC, PF, BF, TG, BH, PH) and 11/19 (TR) with the high of just 11 on 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL). **American Wigeons**, too, were almost absent with a singleton on two dates: 10/1 (LC, RC, PF, BF, TG, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK) and 11/13 (DR). Five was the top tally for **American Black Duck** 11/19 (TR). A lone

Northern Pintail 11/19 (LC, TG, DK, JS, TR) comprised the entire report for this species. **Green-winged Teal** first arrived 9/17 (LC, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH); top count was 32 on 10/1 (LC, RC, et al.). **Canvasback** peaked at 9 on 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL) and **Redheads** at 7 on 11/2 (3RBC, TBC). **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) and had peaked at 23 by 11/19 (TG, DK, TR). A single **Greater Scaup** appeared 11/15 (MH, RH) and was still present 11/19 (TG, DK, TR). Two **Lesser Scaup**, photographed 11/13 (DR), and 8 **Surf Scoters** 11/19 (TG, DK, TR) were the only ones reported. Twenty was the best count of **Buffleheads** 11/19 (TR). Top count of **Hooded Mergansers** was 7 on 11/19. One **Common Merganser** was noted on three dates: 10/5 (TG, MH, RH, PH, DK, KL), 11/13 (DR), and 11/30 (HH). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were counted 11/19 (TG, DK). **Ruddy Ducks** peaked at 73 on 11/26 (LC, PF, BF, TG, MH, RH).

A **Ruffed Grouse**, photographed near WCA 11/16 (SD) represented the lone report. The first **Pied-billed Grebe** of the season appeared at YC 8/16 (AH) and the first 5 **Horned Grebes** were sighted there 10/13 (MK).

Lingering cuckoos included single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at Nolo 9/20 (GL) and at YC 10/8 (LC, SD, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK) and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at YC 9/10 (LC, RC, PF, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK, GL). Reports of **Common Nighthawk** included 3 along the West Penn Trail 8/30 (DL), 2 at BL 9/2 (DL), 21 near BL 9/12 (DL), and one 9/15 (DL) in IN. At least 28 **Chimney Swifts** still fed over the water at YC 10/8 (LC, SD, et al.). Last date for **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** was 9/27, when they were noted both at Nolo (AB) and near IN (SD).

YC hosted 44 **American Coots**, the high count, 11/2 (3RBC, TBC). As recently as 2017 the normal highs were in the triple digits. Because of construction on the YC swimming beach, the water level at the lake had been greatly reduced, yielding nice mudflats during shorebird migration. This fall produced the best shorebirding at YC since 2005 when the water was drawn down to support downstream fisheries because of the drought. All shorebird, gull, tern, and egret reports were made at YC unless otherwise noted. An **American Golden-Plover** visited the mud 9/24 (LC, SD, PF, TG, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK) and remained through 9/25 (MD); three on the mud near the south shore boat launch 10/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, PH, DK, KL) represented the all-time high count for this species. These were the first sightings since 9/17/2013 (MH, RH) when one was present on the beach. Eighteen was a new highest count on record for **Semipalmated Plovers** 9/1 (MH, RH). **Killdeer** maxima included 85 on both 8/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 8/20 (EB, JB, LC, BF, CH, JH, MH, RH, GL) and 67 on 9/1 (MH, RH); last lingering Killdeer was present 11/19 (TR). First 10 **Dunlin** arrived 9/17 (LC, BF, MH, RH, BH, PH); the next and only report occurred 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) when 3 were found. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was a nice find 9/1 (MD). It was still present 9/3 for the Tuesday YC group (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, RN, TR, MAZ) and remained through 9/7 (MD). First 2 **Least Sandpipers** were at IUP 8/5 (JT); they moved through the park between 8/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 10/29 (LC, RC, PF, BF, TG, BH, PH) with the highest tally on record of 28 on 8/27 (LC, TG, MH, RH, BH, PH, DK); previous high occurred 8/9/1999 (MH, DJ, LW). Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found on three dates: 8/10 (LC, MH, RH), 8/13 (LC, BF, MH, RH, DK), and 9/7 (MD). Thirteen **Pectoral Sandpipers** 10/8 (LC, SD, et al.) and 43 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/1 (MH, RH) were amazing counts for YC; the previous fall high for Semipalmated Sandpipers was 23 on 8/21/2005 (CG, MH). *Indiana's* third **Western Sandpiper** was a great find 9/7 (MD). First **Short-billed Dowitcher** stopped near the waterfowl observatory early morning 8/16 (SM); 2 were present later the same day (AH) and again on 8/20 (EB, JB, LC *et al*) when one of them was photographed (JaP, JP); last bird was noted 8/27 (LC, TG, et al.). The only **American Woodcocks** reported were at Josephine 8/19 (DL) and at BS 9/23 (MH, RH). **Wilson's Snipe** reports included 2 on 9/10 (LC, RC *et al*) and singletons 9/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, PH, KL, JaP, JP) and 9/25 (MD), all at YC. Last **Spotted Sandpiper** lingered to 9/24 (PF, TG). Seven was the top tally of **Solitary Sandpipers**, on 8/17 (MH, RH) and 8/22 (MV); last Solitary was listed 10/8 (LC, SD, et al.). Eleven **Greater Yellowlegs** visited YC 9/24 (LC, SD, et al.) where 2 remained through 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL). Six was the top **Lesser Yellowlegs** count 9/1 (MD); a single bird was last observed 10/1 (LC, RC *et al*).

A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** 11/19 (LC, DK) and single **Ring-billed Gulls** 10/5 (LC, TG *et al*) and 11/5 (LC, MH, RH, GL) were the only ones noted this fall. Six **Caspian Terns** 9/14 (AG, JeH, AH), 10 **Common Terns** 9/7 (MD), and 2 **Forster's Terns** 9/1 (LC, MH, RH) were noted at YC. The season's first **Common Loon** arrived at YC 11/2 (3RBC, TBC).

Great Egrets showed well with as many as 6 individuals present on multiple Aug dates (m.ob.) and 5 lingering through 9/24 (LC, RC, et al.); six is also the highest count of egrets at YC. As **Black Vultures** continue to expand their range into our county, 4 were near Jacksonville 11/18 (MC) and one was at Lewis Natural Area (MS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered near LV 11/8 (MC) and near SH 11/9 (MH, RH). IUP yielded a **Merlin** 8/12 (JT), a migrant flew over a yard near SH 8/30 (MH), and YC had hosted one between 9/7 (MD) and 11/2 (3RBC, TBC).

Last **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was found at BS 10/3 (MH, RH, RW). BS yielded the season's only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/7 (LC, MD, TG, MH, RH, DK, DL, JaP, JP, VS, JT, RW). Last **White-eyed Vireo** was near LV 9/15 (MC). **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Blue-headed Vireo** lingered at BS 9/24 (DK) and near LV 10/27 (MC), respectively. Single **Philadelphia Vireos** stopped at BS 9/18, 9/23, and 9/25 (MH, RH) and along the GTT near BL 9/28 (LC, TG, BH, PH, DL, KL). Reports of **Fish Crows** included 7 over Regency Mall in IN 8/4 (MH, RH), 2 at IUP 8/6 (JT), 2 at WCA 9/20 (SD), and one near LV 10/1 (MC). Swallow last dates were 8/22 (MV) at YC for one **Purple Martin**, 11/2 (3RBC, TBC) at YC for 2 **Tree Swallows**, 9/16 (MC) near LV for one **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 8/27 (LC, TG, et al.) at YC for 2 **Bank Swallows**, 8/7 (MH, RH) near SH for 2 **Cliff Swallows**, and 9/26 (TD) at YC for one **Barn Swallow**.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets moved through the county between 9/22 (MH, RH) and 11/7 (MC). **Brown Creepers** were found only at YC (m.ob.) and near Homer City (LC) this fall. Last **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was sighted at YC 9/3 (LC, SD, et al.). A late **House Wren** was near LV 10/1 (MC). **Winter Wren** had arrived at BS by 9/25 (MH, RH) and remained through 10/19 at both WCA (SD) and Smicksburg Park (MVT).

Last **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** were noted near LV 10/20 (MC) and 10/15 (MC), respectively. BS yielded the only reported **Veery** 9/23 (MH, RH) and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** 9/19, 10/3, 10/4 (MH, RH) and 9/24 (DK). **Swainson's Thrushes** were more numerous with reports of one to 4 at BS between 9/18 (MH, RH) and 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM), at YC 10/1 (LC, RC *et al*), and one near SH 10/2 (MH, RH). Two **Hermit Thrushes** appeared at BS 10/13 (MD), one was at Indiana Regional Medical Center Walking Trail 10/19 (SD), and another was in IN 11/13 (JP). A **Wood Thrush** was still present at BS 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM). **American Pipits** were noted only at YC with best count of 20 on 9/24 (TR).

After a plethora of August sightings, **Purple Finches** practically disappeared from our area until 10/2 (MH, RH) when 2 appeared near SH and singletons were noted 10/3, 10/4, and 10/11 (MH, RH) at BS. Next reports were single birds 11/10 and 11/12 (MC) near LV and 2 (BF) near Homer City 11/24.

A feeder near SH yielded a late **Chipping Sparrow** 11/23 and 11/25 (MH, RH), the only **American Tree Sparrow** 11/16 (MH, RH), the only **Fox Sparrow** 11/13-29 (MH, RH), and the first **White-throated Sparrow** 9/29 (MH, RH). Last **Eastern Towhee** was listed near LV 11/2 (MC). A **Bobolink** flew over BS 9/7 (LC, MD, et al.). Last **Baltimore Oriole** stopped near LV 9/16 (MC).

Warbler last dates included 9/18 (MD) at YC for **Ovenbird**, 8/13 (LC, BF, et al.) at YC for **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 9/7 (LC, MD, et al.) at BS for **Blue-winged Warbler**, and 9/28 (LC, TG, BH, et al.) along the GTT near BL for **Black-and-white Warbler**. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through the county between 8/27 (LC, TG *et al*) and 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM) at five locations, but all reports were of singletons. BS harbored the only **Nashville Warblers** between 9/18 (MD) and 10/3 (MH, RH). A **Connecticut Warbler** at BS 9/18 (MD) was the season's lone report. BS yielded the last **Common Yellowthroat** 10/13 (MD) and the last **Hooded Warbler** 10/3 (MH, RH). The last **American Redstart** was at IUP 9/29 (JT). **Cape May Warblers** migrated through between 9/7 (LC, MD *et al*) and 10/4 (MH, RH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was a nice surprise at BS 8/29 (MH, RH). Last dates, all at BS, included 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM) for **Northern Parula** and **Bay-breasted Warbler**, 10/13 (MD) for **Magnolia**

Warbler, 9/27 (DK) for **Blackburnian Warbler**, and 10/1 (DK) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. The only **Yellow Warblers** noted were near LV 8/1 (MC) and at IUP 8/4, 8/12, and 8/23 (JT). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were found between 9/7 (LC, MD, et al.) and 9/23 (MH, RH) at BS; the only outlier was along the GTT near BL 9/28 (LC, TG, BH, et al.). BS produced the first 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 9/7 (LC, MD, et al.) and the last 2 on 10/4 (MH, RH, FM, JM). YC yielded the first **Palm Warbler** 9/24 (LC, RC *et al*) and the last 2 on 10/14 (MH, RH). Last **Pine Warbler** was both seen and heard singing near SH 10/1-2 (MH, RH). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** arrived 9/24 (LC, RC, et al.) at YC and the following day (MH, RH) at BS, high count was 30 along the West Penn Trail 10/18 (DL), and last were a singleton near SH 11/1 (MH, RH) and 2 on 11/5 (MC) near LV. YC yielded the season's only **Yellow-throated Warbler** 8/13 (LC, BF, et al.) and a yard near SH produced the only **Prairie Warbler** 9/2 (MH, RH). Last **Black-throated Green Warbler** stopped at BS 10/13 (MD). **Canada Warbler** sightings included one near SH 8/20 (MH, RH) and singletons at BS 9/3 (DK) through 9/7 (LC, MD, et al.). A **Wilson's Warbler** near Blairsville 9/19 (DL) was the only one noted.

Last dates included 10/7 (MC) near LV for **Scarlet Tanager**, 10/3 for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** both near LV (MC) and at BS (MH, RH), and 10/15 (MC) near LV for **Indigo Bunting**.

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Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Ecelberger Road (ER), Five Bridges Trail (FB), Fordham Lake (FL), Interstate 80 near Brookville (I80), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), PA Rt. 28 south of Brookville (Rt28), Pine Run, Clear Creek State Forest (PR), Red Bank Valley Trail (RB), Richardsville (RV), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), St James Cemetery (SJ), Skyline Road (SK), Smithtown Road, west of Falls Creek (ST), Trap Run, Clear Creek State Forest (TR).

Highlights included a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** netted in PR 9/25 (SS) and a **Connecticut Warbler** found on the MS 9/22 (JG, TG), both extremely rare for the county. Exceptionally high counts included 210 **Canada Geese** on FL 11/12 (AK, JK), 40 **Chimney Swift** on CL 9/21 (AK, JK), and 120 **Barn Swallows** in SJ 8/7 (AK, JK). Other observations of note were a **Great Horned Owl** on Rte. 28 on 8/22 (TR), and a **Northern Shrike** found on ST just west of Fall Creek 11/28 (MW).

The **Trumpeter Swan** family comprised of tagged birds Z603, Z675, and an adult, frequented a farm pond outside of Reynoldsville through Aug and most of Sep. The swans took advantage of feed put out for domesticated ducks and chickens. The swans were also found on the beaver pond outside of RV 9/29 (LC).

A shout-out goes to Scott Stoleson, Research Wildlife Biologist for the USDA Forest Service of Irvine, Pennsylvania. Scott and his team netted, banded, and documented birds on two different sites (PR, TR) in Clear Creek State Forest. They set up their nets on 7 different days during the months of Aug, Sep, and Oct. Their efforts yielded 65 species and a total 470 individual birds to this season's report. It should be noted that Scott is also the *Pennsylvania Birds* compiler for Warren.

Waterfowl were lightly reported for the period. **Buffleheads** were noted on three occasions: 2 at FL 11/7 (AK, JK), one at CL 11/2 (AK, JK),

and 2 at CL 11/12 (AK, JK). **Common Mergansers** were observed twice: 15 at MS 10/13 (JG, TG) and 8 at MS 10/20 (JG, TG). A lone **Ruddy Duck** showed up at SK 8/4 (AK, JK).

Three **Ruffed Grouse** at CC 11/16 (LM) represented the only report for the season. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at RG 8/6 (AK, JK) was also the only one recorded. Only shorebirds were one **Killdeer** at MS 9/22 (JG, TG) and one **Solitary Sandpiper** at MS 9/29 (MD). **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted twice: one at SK 9/7 (AK, JK) and 2 at CL 9/21 (AK, JK).

Ospreys included one at FB 8/21 (TF, TG), one there again 9/6 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and one at CL 9/29 (MD). The resident MS **Bald Eagles**, a juvenile and an adult, were found in the nest tree 8/3 (MH, RH). Only one **Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported, that at RG 9/30 (AK, JK). Two sightings of **American Kestrel** were of one along I-80 8/7 (ZC) and one on SR 8/10 (JG, TG). **Merlins** were found twice: one at SR 8/10 (JG, TG) and one at TR 9/23 (SS).

The following represented the only reports of these flycatchers: one **Alder Flycatcher** at TR 8/20 (SS), one **Least Flycatcher** at PR 9/24 (SS), 2 **Great Crested Flycatchers** at FB 8/21 (TF, TG), and one **Eastern Kingbird** at FB 8/16 (MH, RH, FM, JM). Notable among vireos were a **Philadelphia Vireo** at PR 9/24 (SS) and 3 at PR 9/25 (SS), and just one **Warbling Vireo** at RB 8/9 (MH, RH, FM, JM). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at MS 10/15 (AK, JK) was also the only one noted, but **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found numerous times. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at RB 8/5 (MH, RH, FM, JM) were the last and only ones found, as was a **Northern Mockingbird** at RG 11/10 (AK, JK). Thrushes were represented by 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** at TR 9/25 (SS) and 2 more at PR 9/25 (SS), and two sightings of **Hermit Thrushes**: one at TR 8/22 (SS) and one at PR 10/29 (SS). Two **Wood Thrushes** at RB 8/2 (TS) were the only ones reported.

The fall's first **White-throated Sparrow** was a single on the MS 9/24 (AK, JK). Three sightings of **Lincoln's Sparrows** were welcome: one at PR 9/24 (SS), one there again 9/25 (SS), and one at TR 9/25 (SS). Last **Swamp Sparrows** were 2 on FB 8/16 (MH, RH, FM, JM). The season's only **Eastern Meadowlark** was found at ER 9/29 (MD).

There were 22 species of warbler recorded for the season, the majority of which were reported from the banding efforts mentioned earlier (SS, et al.). Their efforts accounted for 15 species and a total of 150 individual birds. Their list included **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Bay-breasted/Blackpoll Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Notably, 11 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were and banded at PR 9/25. Others included a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at MS 8/21 (EF, PF, TF), the last **Ovenbird** of the season at MS 8/3 (MH, RH), the last **Yellow Warbler** of the season at RB 8/9 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and the last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** of the season at MS 10/15 (AK, JK).

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Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Juniata River (JR), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Oakland Mills (OM), Port Royal (PR), Thompsontown (TT).

Forty-three **Tundra Swans** were seen near Oriental 11/2 (CF). The only **American Black Duck** reported was a single in the company of what was also the only **Northern Pintail** of the period, at Nimen's Pond near MIF 11/20 (CK).

Ruffed Grouse was not reported. There were over 10 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** but none of Black-billed. Of four eBird entries of

Common Nighthawk, high counts were 13 at PR Speedway during racing 9/6 and 15 near PR 9/16 (both CK). Single **American Woodcocks** were at MA 8/7 (JP) and TT 10/30 (MS). A good count of 5 **Spotted Sandpipers** was made at Clearwater Res. in LCV 8/24 (AK).

There were 11 reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** on the JR at CC, with a high of 4 on 10/12 (CK, TW). One or 2 **Great Egrets** were noted at CC on at least four occasions during Aug (m.ob.). Not reported annually in *Juniata*, a **Golden Eagle** was near OM 11/9 (CK). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from the established location at the Juniata Saddle Club near MA on six dates 8/27-11/15, with a high of 6 on 11/15 (DS, m.ob.). Single **Merlins** were noted at CC 9/28 and 10/13, both dates during the peak migration period (CK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was near MA 9/21 (JL), only the second eBird record in the county. Uncommon here, a **White-eyed Vireo** was in LCV 9/22 (DB). A good count of 50 **Bank Swallows** was made at CC 8/23 (CK). Up to 2 **Purple Finches** were in LCV 10/22, 11/13, and 11/29 (DB), the only reports of the period. The only **Fox Sparrow** reported was one near Academia 11/11 (NY). Only one **Eastern Meadowlark** was recorded, near PR 8/17 (CK, TW, VG, AM). Warblers were highlighted by a **Yellow-throated Warbler** photographed near MA 10/4 (CK). The only likely non-breeder among 12 warbler species recorded for the period was a **Magnolia Warbler** in LCV 10/3 (DB).

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Lackawanna County

Locations: Chapman Lake (CL).

Although **Snow Geese** have been observed frequently in *Lackawanna* during recent years as result of the species' rising population, locating them in northeastern Pennsylvania can still be a challenge. Perhaps this is due to the region's close proximity to the species' southeastern Pennsylvania wintering grounds in the Lehigh Valley creating little need for these geese to stop over. This season, 3 were found near Aylesworth Cr. in Jermyn 11/5 (CK). Migrant dabbling ducks were sparse this period; the most unexpected sighting was the seasonal high of 8 **Green-winged Teal** at a swamp in Madison Twp. 11/1 (RJ). **Pied-billed Grebes** made a good showing, producing ten sightings of at least 7 different individuals (m.ob.). **Ruffed Grouse** are holding their own, but are declining nonetheless, thus the 3 individuals located at Eales Preserve 8/31 (DT) was noteworthy.

The highlight of the season was the discovery of an imm. male **Rufous Hummingbird** at a private residence west of Jermyn in Scott Twp. The bird was first spotted in October, but was believed to have arrived by mid-September. It was caught, photographed, and banded 11/2 (SL). The homeowner who first located the bird wished to remain anonymous to protect the bird from excessive disturbance. The amount of time the bird remained after the banding is unknown.

Lake Scranton's close proximity to the Keystone Sanitary Landfill makes it a good location to find gulls. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at the lake 11/25 (EZ). **Merlins**, although frequently observed, are still a great find. A single bird was found along Creamery Rd. in Greenfield Twp. 11/26 (DS).

Lackawanna's first ebird report of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** occurred at CL 8/24 (MM). Birders remain hopeful that this individual belonged to a regional breeding population. Also rare were 3 **Philadelphia Vireos** along Snyder Rd. 8/13 (RA). A single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at Aylesworth Park 10/5 (MM).

American Pipits were fairly common this season across the region. The fields beside Pump House Rd. produced a minimum of 60 birds: 20 were there 10/23, followed by 40 on 11/6 (RJ). A lone **Rusty Blackbird** was observed on Marywood University Campus in Dunmore 10/29 (MC,

EO). A visit to Archbald Pothole SP produced seven warbler species, with highlights of 3 **Tennessee Warbler**, 3 **Bay-breasted Warbler**, and a single western **Palm Warbler** 10/2 (MM).

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Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd Farm Pond (BRFP), Brenner Quarry (BQ), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Millport Conservancy (MC), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Overlook Park (OP), Prescot Rd (PR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Sporting Valley Turf Farm (SVTF), Susquehanna River Bainbridge Islands (SRBI), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRL), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Susquehannock SP (SSP), SGL 52, SGL 156, SGL 220, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Any notes on distribution (i.e., species were "more abundant", "less common", etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. A total of 162 species were recorded during the period.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** hung around with goose flocks at GP 11/25 (ZM, m.ob.), and a **Brant** paddled at the SRCF 11/2-3 (ME, m.ob.). **Cackling Goose** reports began at MCWMA 11/16 (m.ob.). Out-of-season **Ring-necked Ducks** were at SRCF 8/23 (JHr) and CGNA 8/25-9/1 (m.ob.); both occurrences could easily have been the same bird. Four **Black Scoters** rested near the SRCF 11/2 (ME, m.ob.). A **Sandhill Crane** arrived at CGNA 11/5 (JM, m.ob.), and was still present as of this writing.

Unless otherwise noted, the following shorebirds were observed at SRCF. **Black-bellied Plover** were counted up to 4 at once 8/23-10/5. Up to 3 **American Golden-Plovers** were present 9/12-10/16, and 3 were at the LA 9/2-6 (ZM, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plover** counts peaked at 20 during the second week of Aug. Up to 6 **Upland Sandpipers** were at LA 8/1-31. A **Whimbrel** was serendipitously photographed in flight at CGNA 8/17 (JHu). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was heard in flight 9/12 (JHr), and a **Marbled Godwit** dropped out of a thunderstorm 8/28 (JHr, ZM). Groups of up to 3 **Stilt Sandpipers** were recorded 8/23-10/20. The highest count of **Sanderling** was 15 on 8/28 (JHr, ZM), and at least 7 **Dunlin** were recorded 9/30-10/26. Single juv. **Baird's Sandpipers** were present 8/23-9/19, and 2 were there 9/4 (JHr, m.ob.). **Least Sandpiper** numbers peaked at an estimate of 150 in the first week of Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper** reports were down, with one at OR 8/5-9 (MH, m.ob.), and at SRCF one bird 10/6, a pair 10/16, and a final bird 11/2 (BC, JHr, ZM, EW). A juv. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** stayed on Manheim sod farms 8/28-30 (JHu, m.ob.), another was at LA 9/4 (BC, JHr), and one other was at SRCF 10/6 (BC, ZM, EW). The final observation apparently represented just the fifth state record in Oct, and the third latest overall. One of these prior Oct records was 10/11/1959 at the same location. Thirty-four **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 10/5 (AW). At OR, **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were accurately counted at 300 multiple times during the third week of Aug (LL, m.ob.). In contrast, counts at SRCF never exceed 38 birds; that total was reached 8/28 (JHr, ZM). **Western Sandpipers** numerous: likely the same pair of juveniles stayed from 8/28-9/4 (JHr, m.ob.), then another 9/25 (ZM). At least 8 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were logged from 8/8-18 (m.ob.). Two juv. **Long-billed Dowitchers** were photographed 9/25 (ZM), and another was seen and heard in flight 10/20 (JHr, ZM). An early migrant **Wilson's Snipe** was seen along a Manheim road 8/2 (JHu). A juv. **Red-necked Phalarope**

showed up 8/23 and was seen through 9/5 when 2 more joined (JHr, CB, m.ob.). Another was found on a Narvon farm pond 9/3 (BH, FH, HH).

Possibly the bird of the season was a juv. **Sabine's Gull** on SRLC 9/2 (JHr, ZM *doc. submitted*), the fifth for the county. As I ventured out to photograph gulls on the sandbars by kayak, this unmistakable bird carved out of the sky to land just a few dozen yards away! It would be reported here again 9/5 (JB, MH), and so spent at least four days on the river. Two or 3 juv. and one adult **Laughing Gull** pushed into SRLC from the Chesapeake Bay per usual 8/14-9/14 (m.ob.). Two juv. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** also floated in to SRLC 9/2-14 (m.ob.). It has been several years since a good count of **Black Tern** was made, and this year the best number was only 12 on SRLC 8/28 (JHr, CB). During 2016 and 2017 the high counts were around 80 in the third week of Aug, but perhaps the big push day has been missed since then. **Common Terns** persisted to 9/30, but **Forster's Tern** sightings stalled out after 9/5 (m.ob.).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at OR 11/20 (m.ob.). An **American Bittern** was picked out at SFL 8/22 (BC) and a lingering bird was at WEP 11/30 (Anon). **Snowy Egrets** were numerous: 2 at SFL 8/5-9/5 (HH, BC, m.ob.), one at OR 8/14-20 (LL, m.ob.), one at SRCF 8/22-29 (JHr, ZM), and one at WEP 9/5 (SM). The **Little Blue Heron** show was similar: one at OR 8/16-18 (LB, AG), 2 at SFL 8/17-9/5 (BC, m.ob.), and one at MCWMA 8/14-9/29 (LP, SR, m.ob.). There was a juv. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at AM 8/5-21 (JHu), and an adult and a juv. at SRCF 8/19, with the juv. hanging to at least 9/2 (JHr, m.ob.). A juv. **Glossy Ibis** foraged at CRTW 8/20-23 (DSh, m.ob.).

A subadult **Golden Eagle** was seen in flight near Columbia 10/13 (ML). Fascinatingly, a juv. Red-tailed x Red-shouldered hawk was photographed at CGNA 8/25 and continued as of this writing.

At least 7 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** and 8 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were recorded (m.ob.). A continuing **Alder Flycatcher** was heard singing at MCWMA 8/2 (ME). The other candidate for bird of the season was *Lancaster's* fifth **Western Kingbird** discovered at CGNA 11/4 by an anonymous eBirder, and photographed the next day (DW). The bird continued in the area until 11/7, giving many observers their first state or county "ticks" of the species. A late **White-eyed Vireo** was fantastically photographed 10/25 in East Petersburg (JHu). Five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** lingered around the tanks at SWTPWB 11/30 (EW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were down severely with only 3 recorded: 9/23-25 in Elizabethtown (GB), 10/28 near Nottingham (SB), and 11/23 near New Providence (TD). Six **Marsh Wrens** were found for the fall (m.ob.). Around 10 **Purple Finches** were seen throughout the fall mostly at homes, but otherwise this species didn't move through the county nearly to the extent they did last year. A **Vesper Sparrow** was reported at SRCF 10/16 (JHr), another was at CGNA 10/27 (JHu) and 3 were there 10/30 (DT). Two **Nelson's Sparrows** hung out in wet, weedy habitat at SRCF 10/16-20 (JHr, ZM). About 8-10 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen, the lowest total in the past five years. Hopefully this was only a matter of lack of detection than a reflection of migratory numbers.

A moderately late **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen at MCWMA 9/22 (EW). Always a treat, a female **Golden-winged Warbler** showed at SFL 9/10 (BC). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were noted at SFCP 10/5 (ME), near Penryn 10/23 (BC), and at NDP 10/19 and 11/8 (SM). Two **Connecticut Warblers** were found at MCWMA 9/21 (BC), one was at NDP 10/2 and 10/12 (SM), and one was at a Lancaster farm 10/4 (ZM, DSt, HS, RS). The only **Mourning Warbler** of fall was at MCWMA 9/30 (BC). A **Yellow Warbler** was seen out on SRCF 10/19-20 (BSm, JC, SH, JHr, ZM), which now represents the latest eBird migrant record in Pennsylvania notwithstanding a few wintering birds on the Delaware R. A male **Wilson's Warbler** joined the gleaner flock at SWTPWB 11/30 (EW), providing one of only a handful of records post-Oct in eBird. A notably late **Indigo Bunting** was photographed at NDP 11/5 (SM).

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Daniel Hennesbusch, Jason Horn (JHr), Josh Houck (JHu), Rudy Keller, Larry Lewis, Meredith Lombard, Ervin Martin, Seth McComsey, Brent Musser, Ted Nichols II, Lisa Peters, Sara Romero, Brian Schmoke (BSm), Bob Schutsky (BSu), Darla Shank (DSh), Derek Stoner, Hillary Stoner, Roger Stoner, Stan Stahl, David Taylor, Dennis Weaver, Eric Witmer, Andrew Wolfgang.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), McConnell's Mill State Park (MMSP), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (WNGM).

Highlights among waterfowl were few and far between. The only **Tundra Swans** were 3 at BS 11/17 (MV). A few **Blue-winged Teal** hung around SR 8/31-9/29 (MV, GK, MAK). A **Northern Shoveler** was at SR 11/27 (MV) and another was at Copper Rd. 11/29 (MV). Eight **Gadwall** were at McConahy Rd. 11/9 (MV). The only **American Wigeon** was at Copper Rd. 11/23-29 (MV). Small numbers of **American Black Duck** at SR from 10/5 peaked at 9 birds 11/27 (MV). **Canvasback** is irregular in the county, so three reports was an unusual showing, especially for the fall season: one at SR 10/31, one at Mason Rd. 11/21, and one at the former Three Rivers gravel pond on Larchwood Dr. 11/21-29 (all MV). The Three Rivers gravel pond also held respectable numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** (34) and **Lesser Scaup** (28) on 11/21 (MV). A female **Common Goldeneye** at VSM 11/30 (MV) was unexpected; like Canvasback, the species is rare enough in the county as it is, especially in fall.

A random and notably late sighting was of a **Black-billed Cuckoo** sitting in the open on a telephone wire along Wilson Road outside of MMSP 10/10 (RT). Six **Common Nighthawks** were counted at Grove City 9/10 (RS). The only report of **Common Gallinule** was of 3 at WNGM 9/21 (MV), where they are an annual breeder. First large flock of **Sandhill Cranes** was 21 at SR 9/24 (GK), somewhat early; largest flock before the end of Nov held 48 birds at BS 10/30 (DK, RN).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at SR 9/8-9 (MJ), and a **Baird's Sandpiper** was reported there 9/9 (RS). Five **Least Sandpipers** were still at SR 10/6 (KD). Up to 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at SR from 8/31-10/9 (m.ob.). A juvenile dowitcher identified as a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at SR 10/6 (KD), on a date by which Long-billed might actually be the more likely species. One **Greater Yellowlegs** stayed at SR to 10/27 (MC).

A **Great Egret** lingered at SR to 10/6 (KD), and an **Osprey** near MMSP 11/1 was certainly tardy (MC). **Rough-legged Hawk** arrived just barely in time to make the fall report; one was spotted at VSM 11/29 (MC).

As usual, passerines were hardly reported. An **Eastern Phoebe** was still hanging around BS 11/2 (AH), and a **Blue-headed Vireo** was there 10/9 (MJ). The Glaciated Northwest is the last remaining region of the state where **Common Ravens** are still uncommon, but they were found even in *Lawrence* this fall. Two were at VSM 8/23 (GK, MAK), and one was at nearby BS 10/9 (MJ). A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at VSM 11/30 (MV), and 39 **American Pipits** were there 10/19 (MV). A mixed flock of blackbirds at Wampum-Mt. Air Rd. 11/27 included **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Common Grackle**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and **European Starling** and totaled at least 5000 birds (MV). An **Ovenbird** was still at MMSP 10/10 (RT).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Balmer Farm Ponds (BFP), Clear Springs Rd (CLSP), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd Ponds (FXP), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Gretna (MG),

Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Reistville Flooded Fields (RFF), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), Shuey Lake (SL), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), State Drive (SD), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Cackling Goose** was seen in the Lebanon area 11/14-15 (TK). Two **Mute Swans** were at the Millardsville Quarry 11/16 (JH). Two **Surf Scoters** were a nice find at SDP 10/31 (TN, JH, ME, JHn, P&RW, TBu, JE). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MLSP 11/2 (RK). A **Ruddy Duck** was fairly early at FXP 8/8 (P&RW).

Three **Ruffed Grouse** were found at SSP 10/11 (JE) and one was at 2Mtn 10/19 (EF). There were seven reports of **Common Nighthawks** from six locations from 8/24-9/30 (m.ob.). Some of the more notable counts were 11 at CLSP 9/1 (NF, JF); 12 over Bellgrove 9/28 (TB, KB); and 12 at CLSP 9/30 (JF, EF, NF, BB, BBr).

A **Virginia Rail** was at SR 8/27-9/1 (JH). **Soras** were well-reported this fall, with multiple sightings from four locations. Singles were at BFP 8/3-10 (P&RW, AK), QEW 8/18 (SR), and FXP 9/21 (ZM). One was at SD 8/27 (JH) and 9/14 (JH), and an adult with two chicks was seen and photographed at FXP 8/29-9/4 (P&RW, JH, RSt, PH, JFi). Accidental in Aug was an **American Coot** at BFP 8/11-15 (TN, ME, JHo, JF, EF).

Up to 17 **American Golden-Plovers** were at FXP 8/31-9/3 (JH, MH, MD, EF, NF, JF, m.ob.). Several continued there through 9/7 (ZM, DHi, TB, KB, FZ). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at FXP 9/1-2 (MH, MD, PH), and 2 were at RFF 9/14 (JH). An **Upland Sandpiper** was notable at FXP 8/25 (SS). Once a rare county breeder, the most recent Upland Sandpiper reported to eBird from *Lebanon* was in 2001. Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found at FXP 8/13 (DC) and 9/4 (BH), and one was at SD 9/3 (JFi). Two **Western Sandpipers** were at FXP 8/11-9/2 (FH, ME, TN, EZ, DC, JH, m.ob.). Up to two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at FXP 8/10-24 (JHo, SW, EC, ME, PH, TB, KB). Up to 3 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at FXP 10/26-11/2 (CC, BB, BBr, JWo, P&RW, FZ, m.ob.) provided the 12th county record. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at MLSP 10/31 and 11/16 (both JH).

A **Snowy Egret** was at QEW 8/2-19 (SW, TN, EH, TBu, P&RW, JFi), and one also at BFP 8/3 (TB, KB). A **Little Blue Heron** was at MC 8/2-3 (TB, KB, ML, JE, DK, JW), and up to 2 were there 9/1-21 (JH, ZM). Another 2 were at BFP 8/3-8 (AK, P&RW). Five **Cattle Egrets** were a nice find along Richland Rd near Myerstown 10/15 (JH). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was at BFP 8/11-12 (DC, TN, EZ, ME) and 9/1 (JH), and one was at MG 9/10 (P&RW).

Northern Goshawks were reported at SGL 145 on 11/8 (PB), and along Gravel Hill Rd north of Palmyra 11/14 (TB). A **Barn Owl** was seen flying near Grantville 10/8 (GH). A **Barred Owl** was noted on the north side of Lebanon 8/29 (TBu).

Red-headed Woodpeckers are being found in an increasing number of *Lebanon* locations. Up to 4 were at FIG 8/24-31 (JH, ST, RE, MC). Two were at ML, within FIG, on 10/11 (MC). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted at seven other county locations 8/12-11/13 (m.ob.). There were 11 reports of **Merlins** from six county locations 9/21-11/23 (m.ob.). Two were at MLSP 9/21 (BM), and singles were there 9/29 (MC), 10/10-13 (P&RW, TB), and 11/23 (JH). Merlins were also at SSP 9/21-26 (ZM, TB) and 10/5 (BM). **Peregrine Falcons** were observed at six county locations 9/1-11/28 (m.ob.).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at SGL 145 on 8/24 (JHo) and 9/1 (P&RW). They were also seen at 2Mtn 8/25 (RS) and 9/16 (JWo). Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at SSP 9/2 (JH), and singles were found at SSP several times between 9/15-24 (CB, DT, ZM, JH), and at SGL 211 on 9/13 (JF, NF). **Philadelphia Vireos** were found at SGL 145 on 9/21 (JHo) and 9/26 (JWo). One was at SGL 156 on 9/28 (JH) and at CLSP 9/30 (JF), and up to 3 were at SSP 9/21-22 (ZM, MC, JH). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** of the season was at SSP 10/5 (BM).

There was a weak finch turnout this fall. Single **Purple Finches** were reported at six county locations 9/20-11/23 (m.ob.). A **Pine Siskin**

The most exciting find of the fall was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at a private home along CLSP 9/26-11/17 (EF, JF, NF, BB, BBR, SB, ME, CC, JM, JH). It represented a first county record, and was photographed by multiple observers.

was at ML 10/23 (SW). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** provided a new county late date at SL 10/26 (JH). On the same outing a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was outstanding find at SL 10/26 (JH). Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at MLSP 10/12 (JH) and 11/23 (JH).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at SGL 211 off of Goldmine Rd 9/29 (SRa). SSP was once again a hotspot for those seeking **Connecticut Warblers**. One was nicely photographed there 9/8 (BM), earlier than usual, and up 3 were there during the more typical timeframe 9/14-26 (JH, P&RW, R&PP, ZM, DT, MC, RG, TB). A **Mourning Warbler** was at SSP 9/21 (ZM, RG, JH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was a nice fall find at SSP 8/24 (JH). The only **Wilson's Warbler** of the fall was at SGL 145 on 9/20 (PB, SH).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was found along Iron Valley Dr. in the CA 8/1 (JFi), and 2 were at SGL 145 on 9/1 (P&RW).

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Lehigh County

Locations: Trexler Nature Preserve (TNP).

Thirteen duck species were found in the county this season, with no particular highlights except, perhaps, a **Ruddy Duck** at Leaser Lake 11/24. This species tends to be scarce in the county, surprisingly. There were only two reports of **Wild Turkey** submitted to eBird for the period, continuing the recent alarming downward trend. **Common Nighthawk** reports seemed to be a bit more frequent than in recent years, with max counts at DeSales University of 18 on 9/9 and 23 on 9/16 (PH), and 20 at TNP 9/1 (MD). A bird that remains conservatively identified as "nighthawk species" was reported over South Mountain near Emmaus 8/24 (JH). Key details such as a more rounded wing and a buffy bar across the outer wingtips were described, indicating a possible Lesser Nighthawk. The observer has extensive experience with the species throughout its range, but remains cautious due to lack of photographic evidence in light of the facts that this would be the first state record and one of only a few for the northeastern United States. This bird was seen in the company of a dozen or more Common Nighthawks for direct comparison. Hopefully a PORC review is pending. There were a few notable **Chimney Swift** roosts in Allentown during fall migration, but the season's high count came from Raub Middle School, where a total of 2112 swifts were counted entering the chimney over a twenty minute period just before dusk (SB). This count was made in mid-Aug, several weeks prior to the typical peak of migration here. It was also recorded on video so the number of birds entering the chimney could be verified. Great work has been done recently on behalf of Chimney Swifts in the Lehigh Valley, thanks to the efforts of Lehigh Valley Audubon Society's habitat committee. Scott Burnet and his LVAS habitat volunteers, in conjunction with some of our local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, have installed eighteen Chimney Swift towers around the Lehigh Valley so far, as well as several others within the surrounding region. The towers provide breeding season nest sites as well as fall communal roost sites

for these poorly understood and often under-appreciated birds. Furthermore, the towers help compensate for loss of traditional nest and roost sites as our older structures with suitable chimneys are taken down, and other chimneys are capped to prevent birds from entering. Admirable work by all involved!

Nine species of shorebirds were reported with no unexpected species or dates. Near Slatington, **Virginia Rail** was a confirmed breeder at a small maintained wetland, with at least three birds present 8/28 (BE). **Sora** also remained at the same site to at least 8/28, continuing since early summer, but without observable breeding evidence. An **American Bittern** was a surprise flyover across Rte. 309 near Orefield 8/16 (BE). The small wetland at the Nestle-Purina facility may support this species in summer. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Leaser Lake 8/22 (FD). This species has been noted at Leaser annually for several years, but without breeding evidence thus far.

The most exciting records of the season came from the recently created grasslands at the North Range of TNP, where a long-staying **Swallow-tailed Kite** brought throngs of birders and photographers from near and far. This highly cooperative kite remained faithful to the area around a particular valley for over two weeks, where it demonstrated its keen hunting skills for all who cared to come observe. It was seen and photographed extensively cruising the valley and hillsides, grabbing all manner of prey from mantises to cicadas to spotted lantern flies, and was often seen devouring prey on the wing. First reported 8/15 (BMc), it was seen daily through 9/1, and was included on at least 130 eBird lists at last count. The habitat here has benefited greatly from active grassland restoration over the past five years. Invasive autumn olive, which recently choked the entire landscape here, was removed from over one hundred acres via bulldozer and brushhog, and native grasses were planted. The rolling hills of the North Range, completely barren and a bit moon-like just a few years ago, have yielded to lush meadow and grassland. Wildlands Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission will continue to expand these grasslands over the next few years, so stay tuned for future reports as birds benefit from these efforts. This habitat is unique to the Lehigh Valley, and has quickly become one of the best birding locations in the county. A few other notable birds here this season were worthy of a good "chase" upon their own merit (read on...), but ended up as honorable mentions compared to the Swallow-tailed Kite. As mentioned, the kite was noted, and even photographed hunting spotted lantern flies. The invasive lantern fly has run rampant over parts of *Lehigh* over the past two or three seasons as it expands out of *Berks*. It was particularly prolific at TNP in Aug 2019. Sheer numbers were a shock to many visiting birders, and probably to a number of local birders as well. The kite's consumption of these bugs is yet another piece of evidence that spotted lantern flies actually do have avian predators, contrary to popular belief. It is of interest that the observer who discovered the kite (BMc) was monitoring lantern fly study patches along the North Range at the time.

In other raptor news, Bake Oven Knob's 59th hawkwatch season concluded at the end of Nov (Chi, lead counter). The **Broad-winged Hawk** total of 4161 was notably low this year. The 365 **Bald Eagles** were a highlight, with 21 tallied 11/29, the final day of the count. Other notable seasonal tallies included 1223 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 847 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 73 **Golden Eagles**, and 35 **Peregrine Falcons**. A **Northern Goshawk** was reported at TNP 11/23 (CH). A **Short-eared Owl** was a notable flyby near Whitehall 10/25 (JS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers have been known to nest at TNP North Range for several years. Visitors to the Swallow-tailed Kite reported as many as five at a time, including at least two juveniles. Another long-staying rarity was an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** found and photographed at Breinigsville 11/17 (JF). A county first, it remained through the report period, with eBird reports from at least 65 different observers. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported was one at Macungie 11/15 (JS). Like most winter irruptives, this species remained nearly absent across the region this fall. A late **Gray Catbird** was found 11/27 at Ontelaunee Park (DA). A well-described **Clay-colored Sparrow** at DeSales University was a one-day wonder 10/25 (PH). This represented at least the fourth *Lehigh* record. Of 26 warbler species reported in the county, the only real standouts were two **Yellow-throated Warblers**. One was found 8/3 at Springhouse Road (DA), and another 9/24 near Fogelsville (MC).

Rounding out the report are two more notable species from the grasslands at TNP North Range: At least one pair of **Blue Grosbeak** bred successfully here, with many "kite chasers" reporting juveniles and adults to at least 9/5. A pair of **Dickcissels** was well documented in the exact same spot as the grosbeaks 8/22-28, often seen side by side. It is unknown if they spent the breeding season here, and will be worth keeping watch for in 2020.

Observers: Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd., Northampton, PA 18067, billetter01@gmail.com, Dan Altif, Scott Burnet, Michael Cox, Martin Dellwo, Frank Dickman, James Funk, Paul Heveran, Caleb Hinojos, Jason Horn, Chris Hugosson, Bonnie McMahon, Jeff Sitko. This report benefits greatly from the contributions of many regular eBird users in Lehigh, and from member posts to the Facebook page of Lehigh Valley Audubon Society.

Luzerne County – no compiler

Lycoming County

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

The fall season provided quite a few notable records, including two firsts for the county. A total of 187 species were reported. *Lycoming* hosted the PSO annual meeting in mid-September, which brought a nice influx of birders during the event.

An imm. male **Harlequin Duck** was on Lycoming Cr. near Elm Park 11/13-30 (BG, BB, m.ob.), which provided *Lycoming's* second record of that species. The bird was not seen at the original location after 11/30, but was relocated a few miles away in Dec. A **Surf Scoter** was found at RVL 10/26 (BB, DeB), and another was at WD 11/16 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.). A **White-winged Scoter** dropped in on RVL 10/19 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP, et al.).

A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was found in a field in Elimsport 11/28 (MH, BB, DeB, BoB). Two **American Golden-Plovers** were at WD 9/22 (MD, JD, BB, AK, et al.), which represented the first known *Lycoming* record of that species. A **Sanderling** was at WD 8/21-22 (DB, BB, et al.), the second for *Lycoming*. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at SGL 252 on 8/4 (BB, DB, AK).

A first-cycle **Franklin's Gull** flew past the Rte. 15 Overlook 10/4 (BB, DeB), another first for *Lycoming*. A **Black Tern** was at RVL 8/28 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). A **Common Tern** was seen at RVL 9/7 (BB, DeB, BoB, DanB). Three **Forster's Terns** were at WD 8/28 (DB, et al.).

An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at Little Pine S.P. 8/5 through at least 8/22 (JG, DB, m.ob.). Photos were also posted on Facebook that showed two individuals together at that location, but the date range for the second one was unclear.

Over 1500 **Broad-winged Hawks** lifted off from the RVL area in about an hour on 9/17 (BB, DeB, BoB). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from Slate Run 9/5 (TF). Two flybys of that species were also seen during the PSO annual meeting field trips 9/15: an adult at MS (BB, et al.) and an imm. at the Rte. 15 Overlook (m.ob.).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found during the PSO annual meeting field trip at SGL 252 on 9/14 (DanB, et al.). One was also seen at Canfield Island 9/15 (BB, DeB, et al.). A late **Eastern Phoebe** was at MS 11/22 (BB). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at MS 10/6 (BB, DeB). A late **Cliff Swallow** was mixed into a flock of Tree Swallows at RVL 9/21 (BB, et al.). **Marsh Wrens** were found at RVL 9/16 (BB, AK) and 9/20 (BB, DeB).

It was a good season for **Connecticut Warblers**, with reports from three locations. The first was at SGL 298 on 9/25 (DanB). One was also at MS 9/25-26 (BB, et al.). Finally, one was at RVL 10/6 (BB, DeB). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen at MS with the Connecticut Warbler 9/26 (AK). A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported from the Williamsport Water Authority 9/19 (GM, FS). A late **Pine Warbler** visited a suet feeder on Log Run Rd. 11/10 (SP). In total, 29 warbler species were recorded during the fall.

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Brauning (DanB), Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Tom Forwood Jr., Norwood Frederick, Bill Gehron, John Green, Eric Hartshaw, Melissa Holland, Andy Keister, Gary Metzger, Steve Pinkerton, Fred Stiner.

McKean County – no compiler

Mercer County

Locations: Artman Road (AT), Beaver Pond Road (BPR), Buhl Park (BP), Clark's Mills (CM), Chestnut Run (CR), East Zahnizer Road (EZ), Fredonia (FR), Greenville (GN), Grove City (GC), Hadley (HD), Hermitage (HE), Hidden Fields (Shenango Reservoir) (HF), Jamestown (JA), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Millidgeville Road (MDR), Old Fredonia Road (OF), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), Sandy Lake (SL), Sharpsville (SV), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Triple Link (TL), Trout Island (TI), Transfer (TF), Valley Road (VR), Volant (VO), West Lake Road (WL), Williamson Road (WR).

Migration was very slow this year. Birds seemed to be late starting to move, yet lingered well towards the end of the period. Numbers were not impressive at all; only 22 species of warbler and 14 species of shorebirds were reported.

Waterfowl barely registered. Two **American Wigeon** at PR 10/4 (MW) and one **Ruddy Duck** at BP 10/14 (MHO) were the only interesting sightings. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were seen throughout the county with up to 6 at SGL 270 on 10/22 (SM). Both cuckoos were well-reported, with sightings from 8/8 through 10/7, but never in big numbers. Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at BPR 8/9 (SS, MHO) and 2 **Black-billed Cuckoos** at GN 8/11 (MW) were the most seen at one time. Surprisingly, **Common Nighthawks** were hardly reported; one at SH 8/12 (MHO) and 2 at VO 9/2 (ST) were all that were noted.

Single **Virginia Rails** were at TL 8/8 (GK, MAK, NT) and JA 8/31 (MW). **Common Gallinule** was seen at PS, a traditional location, on 8/28 (RN), and 2 were there 8/30 (MW). Shorebirds were observed mostly in Aug and Sep. An **American Golden-Plover** was at PR 9/26 (MW, JMC). **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at PR 8/28 (RN) and 9/30 (MW, JMC), and one was at PS 9/18 (MW). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found at HD 9/22 (MW) and 2 **American Woodcock** at were GN 10/13 (MW). An **American Bittern** was at TL 10/8 (MW) and a **Least Bittern** was at GN 9/10 (MW).

Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to be found in good numbers and various locations throughout the county. Highest count was 5 at TI 8/31 (JMC). A **Merlin** at MDR 9/16 (MW, JMC) was the only one reported.

An **Olive sided Flycatcher** was at HD 10/1 (MW) and good numbers of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found throughout the county during September (m.ob.). One of the best finds for the season was a **Northern Shrike** at PR 11/10 (MW, MHO, JMC) and seen regularly over the next two weeks. **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported three times from GN and TL 9/5-22 (MW). Quite notable was a **Sedge Wren** at CM 9/28 (MW). **Winter Wren** was reported from TL 8/8 (GK, MAK, NT) where it is a breeder. Two were also found at SL 9/29 (MW).

Thrushes were scarce. Two **Swainson's Thrushes** at GN 9/1 (MW) and one **Veery** also at GN 9/16 and 10/8 (MW) were they only ones reported. A nice group of 32 **American Pipits** showed up at JA 11/5 (MW). Three **Snow Buntings** were at PR 11/23 (BW). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen throughout Oct; highest count was 87 at HR 10/30 (MW).

Warbler migration seemed late and very prolonged. Some species lingered well into Oct. Some sighting early in the season included **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Cerulean Warbler** at TL 8/8 (GK, MAK, NT). Other notable sightings included **Blue-winged Warbler** at GN 8/26 (MW), 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** at TL 9/28 (MW), and a single **Mourning Warbler** at CM 9/29 (MW). A **Nashville Warbler** in Hermitage 10/24 (MW) was quite late, and a few **Magnolia Warblers** lingered around Lake Wilhelm as late as 10/8 (MW).

One of the best birds of the period was a single **Dickcissel** at VR 10/9-10 (MW).

Observers: Glenn Koppel, macatilly@gmail.com, Martin Carlin, Mimi

Hoffmaster (MHO), Debbie Kalbfleisch Mary Alice Koeneke (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Ian Lynch, Jim McConnor (JMC), Jim Mondok, Alexander Morgan, Sam Mouck, Richard Nugent, Bill Reddinger, Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Shannon Thompson, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass, Michael Williams, Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County

Locations: Bunker Hill Road (BHR) Cooper's Gap Rd (CGR) Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW) Standing Stone Trail (SST) Victory Park (VP).

The fall season concluded with 144 species, slightly above the 2018 fall total of 141 species. The 117 "complete" checklists submitted to eBird for fall 2019 was well below the previous season's 141 checklists. Total number of species for the year through November 2019 was 204, only 5 more than 2018.

Nine species of waterfowl were noted. Highlights included 8 **Gadwall** at VP 11/17 (RD), 3 **American Wigeon** on BHR 11/8 and VP 11/17 (RD), and one **Green-winged Teal** at BHR 11/1 and 11/3 (RD, JK). Shorebirds were scarce with just one plover and two sandpiper species reported. The highlight was an **Upland Sandpiper** outside of Belleville 8/1-3 (JZ, RD).

At JMHW, 577.75 hours of observation were logged, well above the 5-year average of 544.45 and significantly increased from the 2018 season's 469.5 hours. The overall raptor count was above the 5-year average of 5893, with 8138 total migrants counted this season. This was mostly due to the large **Broad-winged Hawk** flight observed in Sep; season count was 6004, and the high one-day count was 2518 on 9/16. Other high day counts of broad-wings included 1667 on 9/17, 316 on 9/10 and 9/15, and 250 on 9/19. **Golden Eagle** counts on Jack's were not as good with 136 in total, short of the four previous years when counts of 152, 144, 151 and 137 were achieved. The **Bald Eagle** total of 259 set a new season high (DS, et al).

Two active **Barn Owl** nests at separate undisclosed locations were observed 10/21 (JK). These nests were monitored throughout the season and no adults were observed at either location. At one nest, 2 nestlings were banded at 40 days old 11/10 but were discovered deceased 11/19. The second nest hosted 5 nestlings. Two of these were found deceased below the nest while the remaining 3 nestlings were banded at 48-51 days old 11/10 (JK, NM).

The **Western Meadowlark** first discovered outside Belleville 6/22 continued through 8/2 and was reported there again 10/11 (EP).

Twenty-seven species of warblers were noted, matching the 2018 fall season. Highlights included one **Connecticut Warbler** on SST 10/3 (GG), and one **Mourning Warbler** 9/6 and one **Prairie Warbler** 8/29 on CGR (RD).

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Monroe County

Locations: Big Pocono S.P. (BP), Lynchwood Lake (LL), Swiftwater Lake (SL)

The season had above average in temperatures and below average precipitation, with only a few inches of snow in November. Most of the information in this report was obtained from eBird.

The long-staying **Trumpeter Swan** at LL finally left in Aug, and was last seen 8/11 (EP). Five **Tundra Swans** made an appearance at Gouldsboro Lake 11/6 (RJ). Three **American Wigeons** were spotted in Cherry Valley 11/24 (SA), and one **Greater Scaup** put in at Weir Lake 11/24 (JM). A very early **Pied-billed Grebe** on SL 8/4 (BJ) was a surprise.

Two late **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at LL and Seven Pines Mountain on the same day 10/10 (BJ). A count of 45 **Common Nighthawks** at East Stroudsburg University 8/23 (SH) was a great

number.

Monroe's earliest-ever **Semipalmated Plover** was at LL 8/1 (BJ). Also at LL was a season high of 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 11/10 (BJ). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at SL at the late date of 10/11 (BJ). Three **Wilson's Snipe** 10/26 (BJ) were the only ones found this period. The high count for **Great Egrets** reached 13 on 8/29 (TG).

An uncommon **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at West End Park 9/1 (JM). Big Pocono State Park, a location that is both hard to get to and under-birded, did not disappoint this season. One might think of it as *Monroe's* little "sky island". Several good species were found there in Sep. A **Connecticut Warbler** 9/22 was among a total of 18 warblers for the morning. On the morning of 9/25, a **Mourning Warbler** and a **Merlin** were found and photographed, and on 9/29 a **Northern Goshawk** was photographed along the road around the lower loop (all BJ).

There were two sightings of **Snow Buntings**: 2 at Brady's Lake 11/11 (GDG) and one at Long Pond 11/12 (BJ). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Skytop Lodge 11/6 (EP) was both late and locally rare.

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Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Fall migration, particularly among passerines, was generally slow. For shorebirds, both diversity and numbers were poor, with little habitat available to them this season. Rainfall was not tremendous, but it occurred regularly enough to keep attractive mud at GLP and elsewhere mostly under water. Seed and berry crops were reportedly abundant in the north, leading to very little irruption of finches and other winter wanderers. Despite a low overall species haul for the period—only 202, well below a 7-year average of 213—individuals of three state review list species and one state review list subspecies were found in *Montgomery*. Two of the review list species, **King Rail** and **Little Gull**, represented first county records. The third, **Green-tailed Towhee**, nearly fell into the same category—although it was the second for the county, it was the first of its kind to be found here in 25 years.

Low single digit numbers of **Cackling Geese** were noted at GLP from 10/18 onward (m.ob.). This included a group of 6 on 11/20 (PH, ph.). An early **American Wigeon** made an appearance at GLP 9/17 (PH, LH, ph.), as did another early GLP pair 9/26 (WBH, vt.). A drake **Greater Scaup** was seen at GLP 10/17 (PH). Our most unusual diving duck of the period, a female-type **White-winged Scoter**, was first observed on Knight Lake at GLP, the south end of the park 10/20 (MC). It moved up to the north end of the reservoir later in the day (PD, vt.). A tally of 302 **Buffleheads** at GLP 11/6 (GF) fell short of setting a county high count by 99. It took the second place spot instead, by a generous margin of 108. (All 4 of *Montgomery's* 150+ Bufflehead days have occurred in Nov.) A female **Common Goldeneye** was reported on the Schuylkill River near VFNHP 11/28 (SGr). Now-resident **Hooded Mergansers**, in low quantities of one or 2, remained visible at GLP from the beginning of the period through early Sep (WBH, ph.). A **Horned Grebe** was observed at GLP 10/29 (GF, RK).

A couple-week-late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported at GLP 10/25 (JH). No huge counts of **Common Nighthawk** were submitted to eBird this period, unlike several recent falls. The highest count noted was 50 over FWSP 8/31 (RC), a number that did not even surpass spring 2019's (unusually high) high count. Of four **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** lingering into Oct (m.ob.), the latest-staying, in Abington Twp., was last seen 10/12 (BF, ph.). No western hummingbirds were reported.

A **King Rail** was found at rarity-magnet DMP 8/30 (KR, ph.), and

remained at the small preserve, relatively cooperative (for a rail) for throngs of admirers, through at least 9/2 (m.ob., ph.). This bird was the first of its species to ever be confirmed in *Montgomery*. It's possible that this rail stuck around for additional days—there was a small flurry of reports 9/14, for example—but not enough evidence was provided to confirm that this rail was indeed the King. A **Virginia Rail** was seen at the same location 8/18 (AB, MS), and a mystery rail there 8/3 (BG) was likely also a Virginia. Over in Plymouth Meeting, a Virginia Rail was reported 8/10 (SGr) at a wetland where they were heard vocalizing through much of May (m.ob.). Back at DMP, a final, unlucky Virginia Rail with an injured wing was seen 10/11-16 (EF, m.ob., ph.). It was an unusually good season for (visible) **Sora**. One was seen at a pond in Worcester Twp. 8/16-20 (CF, m.ob., ph.). As many as 4 were present at DMP 8/18-10/20 (AB, MS, m.ob., ph.), though most reports until Oct were of only one or 2 individuals. Later in the season, Soras were seen in field areas, away from water, on three dates 9/28-10/30 at PERT (PD, MG) and at GLP 10/14 (SG). Twenty-five **American Coots** were spotted at GLP 10/24 (RK, VM). This seemed to be an aberration, unfortunately, as there were just three other Coot reports, all from GLP 10/29-11/9, and all of only one or 2 individuals (m.ob.).

Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were noted occasionally at GLP 8/3-10 (m.ob.) at a water-collecting basin at VFNHP 8/9 (SGr), and WWP 9/18-19 (JM). As mentioned in this summary's introduction, several common shorebird species were observed in low quantities only. **Killdeer** was one of these: 35 in a Niantic-area farm field 11/2 (DM) represented the only Killdeer count above 15 (m.ob.). **Least Sandpipers**, our most abundant shorebird during seasons with when good habitat is present, were even scarcer. Top count for the period was just 15 at VFNHP 8/31-9/2 (PD, SGr). GLP's Least Sandpiper high count, set 8/16, was a pathetic 4 (PH)! One to two long-staying **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present at WWP 9/23-10/15 (PD, m.ob., vt.). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported at VFNHP 8/15 and 8/26 (SGr), at WWP 8/24 (CD) and at a King of Prussia supermarket pond 9/12 (SGr). Solitary **Wilson's Snipe** were viewed at DMP 10/13 (AMe) and 11/4 (SGr, MR). Decidedly non-solitary **Solitary Sandpipers** were present in good numbers at the VFNHP basin for much of the first half of the season, including a high of 12 on 9/5 (SGr). The period's **Lesser Yellowlegs** high count was only 3, observed at GLP 9/19 (GF), additional evidence of the lousy shorebird season for Montco.

An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was located at GLP 10/17 (JH). Other observations of this species occurred at GLP 11/6-10, numbering 2-4 individuals (GF, KR). The Bonaparte's on 11/10 brought a friend with them, a considerably more rare friend: *Montgomery's* first **Little Gull** (GF, m.ob., ph.). The Little Gull, an adult, hung around the reservoir for only a few hours, but offered a nice look to birders able to race over to GLP in time to see it. **Laughing Gulls** were found at GLP 10/22 (KR) and 11/14 (PH). An estimate 2500 **Ring-billed Gulls** were counted, primarily as flyovers, at GLP 11/17 (SGr). This number represented a fall period high count for *Montgomery*, roughly 3.5 times the previous autumn high count of 700, which was set in 2013 (GF). Similarly, a tally of 96 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at GLP 11/28 (PH) greatly topped a previous autumn period high count of 34 from 2016 (SB). It also offered a preview of much greater numbers to follow in the winter season, but that's content for another summary. There were sporadic sightings of up to 3 **Caspian Terns** at GLP 8/4-9/5 (m.ob.), as well as one report of 7 at GLP 8/29 (GF). A **Forster's Tern** was seen at GLP 9/2 (ML, m.ob., ph.).

All four sightings of **Common Loon**, ranging in number from one to 6, came in the form of flyovers 10/6-11/30 (m.ob.). None were observed on the water at GLP or elsewhere. A pair, at least, of **Least Bitterns** at a Plymouth Meeting wetland were the first of their kind to be "chaseable" in *Montgomery* since 2006. Quite vocal and occasionally seen perched on reeds or in flight, the bitterns were noted 8/1-23 (DB, PD, m.ob., ph., vr.). Their lengthy stay may imply some breeding attempt had been made. Another Least Bittern reported at WWP 9/4 (JM) was more of a typical encounter with the species: a quick look of a bird in flight into vegetation. There were no big gatherings of the larger waders this period, with the high count of 11 **Great Egrets** occurring as a flyover flock at WWP 8/3 (JM). Unlike many previous years, no Little Blue Herons were detected in 2019. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at ND 8/20-9/6

(SG, m.ob., ph.), likely continuing from the summer. A juvenile night-heron of undetermined species was noted at ND 8/26 (MR).

The Militia Hill crew at FWSP was once again watching the skies daily 9/1-10/31, diligently recording raptor migration. High counts for the period included 111 **Turkey Vultures** 10/23 (RC, CDo), 52 **Osprey** 9/13 (RC, MM), 55 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/13 (RC, SGr), 13 **Cooper's Hawks** 10/13 (CDo, JHe), 14 **Bald Eagles** 9/15 (RC, SGr), 14 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 10/19 (CDo, SGr), 14 **Red-tailed Hawks** 10/19 (CDo, SGr) and 1354 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/17 (RC, MM). The only other Broad-wing day above 100 individuals occurred 9/20, when 143 were counted (RC, JS). Single **Golden Eagles** were reported four times 10/15-11/14 at FWSP and elsewhere (m.ob.).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed six times 9/19-10/12 at assorted locations (m.ob.). Hopping back to FWSP's Militia Hill Hawk Watch, falcon high counts included 29 **American Kestrels** 9/29 (RC, SGr) and 6 **Merlin** 9/30 (RC, MM). An early Merlin was seen at GLP 8/5 (GF). The season's high count for **Peregrine Falcon**, 3, was not observed at FWSP, but rather over Pennsylvania 10/9 (PH).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at PERT 9/2-3 (PD, ph.). **Least Flycatchers** were somewhat more commonly reported, with at least 4 noted 8/24-9/8 (m.ob.). A final Least Flycatcher at SGL 234 on 9/29 (PD) was not our latest ever, but was only shy of the record by four days. A few **Eastern Phoebe**s lingered later than most, including one at GLP 11/17 (GF) and another at PERT 11/16 through the end of the period (AnM, m.ob.). Later-staying **Great Crested Flycatchers** were noted in Salford Twp. through 9/23 (WBH, ph., vr.) and Huntingdon Valley 9/24 (CA). **Eastern Kingbirds** did their usual migration-related convening at GLP in late Aug, with groups of 32 recorded 8/24 and 28 on 8/26 (both PH). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at PERT 11/23 (PM, ph.) during a search for the Green-tailed Towhee. This date was nearly a week later than the previous Blue-headed Vireo county late date. Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at four locations 9/7-26 (m.ob.). A flock of 32 vocal **Fish Crows** flew over Huntingdon Valley 10/28 (CA). **Common Ravens** reports, increasingly common, were widespread (m.ob.).

A late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was noted at PERT 11/1 (PD), and an even later one was reported at an Oaks water treatment plant 11/16 through the end of the period (SGr). A swarm of 40 **Bank Swallows** was observed at GLP 8/11 (PD). There were a handful of small-number **Cliff Swallow** reports 8/16-9/3 at various locations, including 3 over Pennsylvania 8/19 (PH).

This was not an irruptive season for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. One was heard at Saunders Woods Preserve 9/8 (AH), and another visited a Roslyn feeder 10/5 (PS). There were no other credible reports. Black-capped Chickadee was not reported at all. A pair of late **House Wrens** was at PERT 11/1 (PD). More unusual, a **Sedge Wren** was recorded at PERT 10/20 (PD, vr.). Single **Marsh Wrens** were found regularly at DMP 8/17-10/28 (JD, m.ob., ph.) and at four other locations during Sep and Oct (m.ob.). Several **Gray Catbirds** lingered deep into Nov, including at PERT 11/23-29 (PD, m.ob.). A late **Brown Thrasher** was reported at GLP 11/27 (JH).

A single female-type **Purple Finch** was described at PERT 10/14 (FB, HB). Solo calling flyovers were also noted at PERT 10/26 and 11/2 (both PD). That was essentially the full extent of winter finch activity observed this period. Very few were on the move. The fields of SGL 234's Linfield tract teemed with **American Goldfinches**, however, including counts of 120 on 9/9 (SS) and 9/21 (PD).

Some folks that missed out on seeing the Little Gull at GLP 11/10 got a nice consolation prize in a **Snow Bunting** found foraging along the shore of the reservoir the same day (m.ob., ph.).

Rivaling the King Rail for the most chased bird of the period was a **Green-tailed Towhee** that was found at PERT 11/11 (BR, ph.). Seen by scores of birders, the rockstar towhee stuck around through the end of the period. *Montgomery's* first and only other known Green-tailed Towhee was spotted near GLP in Nov 1994. A late **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at PERT 10/26 (PD). The period's largest **Chipping Sparrow** flocks were found, not too surprisingly, at locations that later hosted late chippers. One hundred Chipping Sparrows were reported at PERT 10/30 (PD), which held onto the species through the end of the period in

reduced numbers (m.ob.). Haverford College hosted a 60-count flock of Chipping Sparrows 11/1 (SJ), down to 3 by 11/30 (SJ, KJ). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at the PERT burn pile by towhee-hunters 11/30 (m.ob., ph.). An adult **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was photographed at DMP 10/13 (AH, ph.). One or 2 **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at six locations 10/12-11/2 (m.ob., ph.). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was present at PERT 10/20-30 (PD, m.ob., vt.), and another far less obliging Nelson's showed briefly at GLP 10/18 (JH, KR, ph.), representing a potential first record for the park. Late **Lincoln's Sparrows** were well-described at a retirement community in Lower Gwynedd Twp. 11/9 (EP) and at VFNHP 11/16 (PW, JW).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in a powerline cut in Salford Twp. 9/19 (WBH). Another turned up at GLP 10/20 (SG).

A **Bobolink** persisted at PERT until the rather late date of 10/26 (PD). A late **Orchard Oriole** was noted at VFNHP 8/30 (SGr). Beginning 10/15, there were eleven reports of one or 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** at five locations (m.ob.).

An **Ovenbird** showed up in Salford Twp. on the late date of 10/12 (WBH), and a later **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Lorimer Park 10/4 (LW, ph.). A **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid was documented at PERT 9/12 (MG). There were only 2 reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** this season (m.ob.), and no Golden-winged Warblers. A **Nashville Warbler** at PERT 11/9 remained through the end of the period (PD, m.ob., ph.), by which point it had entered the record books as *Montgomery's* second latest-staying Nashville. A small handful of **Connecticut Warblers** were found (m.ob.). A late **Common Yellowthroat** was reported at Haverford College 11/5 (BL). Other late warblers included a yellowstart **American Redstart** at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 10/20 (JG), a **Yellow Warbler** at SGL 234 on 9/21 (PD) and one or 2 **Pine Warblers** at VFNHP 11/15 through the period's end (MR, ph.). There were a half dozen reports of **Hooded Warbler** 9/4-13 (m.ob.), and nearly as many of **Wilson's Warbler** 9/11-30 (m.ob.). The 9/30 Wilson's (LW, ph.) represented another second place bird. Although it lost out to a 2018 warbler that lingered a week into Oct, it still took the silver medal for lateness.

The latest of several late **Scarlet Tanagers** this season was observed in Lederach 10/19 (MRa, ph.). On the front end of the season, 2 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found at Pottstown Landfill 8/4 (JT, ph.), a date that probably indicated localized breeding somewhere nearby. A singing **Blue Grosbeak** continued in Franconia Twp. until 8/16 (WBH, KH). Whether it ever found a mate is unknown. The Blue Grosbeak pair at DMP were evidently successful in reproducing, since up to 3 individuals including apparent juveniles were seen there regularly through 10/5 (m.ob., ph.). Other Blue Grosbeak sightings included 2 at VFNHP 9/20 (SGr), where they may have bred, and one at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 10/6 (DL, ph.), where they probably didn't. A late **Indigo Bunting** remained at PERT until 10/26 (SG, m.ob., ph.). **Dickcissels** were found at Norristown Farm Park 9/29 (SGr), DMP 10/6-12 (SGr, m.ob., ph.) and PERT 10/19 (PD, vr.).

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Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP), Fry Wetlands; formerly called the Route 54 Wetlands near Arrowhead Rd. (FW).

This season's highlight was the county's first **Long-billed Dowitcher** at FW 10/26 (EH). This species may have had a better-than-usual fall in the state, as the species was reported at three other locations across the state in October as well.

The MP hosted a **Cackling Goose** 11/23 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB) and a **Black Scoter** 10/1 (AK). The MP also had single **Forster's Terns** 8/28 (AK) and 9/14 (MD). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** have become less rare in the county in the past few years, and this fall individuals were reported at the MP 8/16 and 8/25 (AK) and at FW 9/17 (EH).

Perhaps the most notable passerine of the season was a **White-eyed Vireo** at the MP 9/15 (DY), which may have provided the first Sep record for the county. In other passerine news, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the MP 9/10 (EH). There were several reports of warblers that are difficult to find in migration; these included a **Mourning Warbler** 9/10 (AK), a **Blue-winged Warbler** 9/10 (AK), and **Worm-eating Warblers** 9/8 (SF, MK) and 9/14 (DI), all at the MP.

Observers: **Evan Houston, evanhouston@gmail.com**, Bobby Brown, David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Michael David, Steph Fullmer, Deepak Iyer, Matthew Karns, Andy Keister, David Yeany II.

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Little Gap Hawk Watch (LG), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

The birding in *Northampton* was very good with lots of highlights to report. Sadly, habitat loss is on the increase and warehouses are popping up farther away from the highways. Construction of a housing development around Green Pond has begun. The flooded fields at GP appear safe, though, as two retention ponds were built next to the aforementioned area. The new dam at Minsi Lake was finished, but refilling has not started.

Even with the county's largest lake empty, waterfowl could still be found. A **Ross's Goose** was at Seiple's farm pond 11/27 (MS). The pond on Silver Crest Rd. had a **Greater White-fronted Goose** 10/18-22 (AM). There were 25 **Tundra Swans** over LG 11/8 (ZM). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at GP 9/1-2 (AM). There were 6 **Northern Shovelers** and 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** at NQ 11/7 (SA). NQ held 2 **Redhead** 11/8 (AM). Another **Long-tailed Duck** was at Dutch Springs Quarry 9/14 (ND).

A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen on a powerline cut off Rabbit Rd. in Northampton 10/30 (BE).

All shorebird highlights that follow were at GP. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at the flooded field 8/11-25 (AM). A late **Pectoral Sandpiper** was present 11/4 (JH). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were present 8/23 (DD). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** used GP's flooded field as a day roost in Nov. The high count was 300 on 11/8 (BE, AM). Other good counts of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was 208 on 11/3 (BE) and 228 on 11/12 (BE).

There was a flyby **Red-throated Loon** at the LG 11/3 (MS, ZM), and another **Red-throated Loon** was at NQ 11/7 (SA).

Great Egrets also took a liking to the GP area. Numbers in Aug were regularly over 20 with high counts of 40 on 8/4 (BE) and 41 on 8/5 (BE, JeH). A **Snowy Egret** was reported at GP 8/2 (SA). Up to 2 immature **Little Blue Herons** were at GP from late Jul until 8/12. At Minsi Lake, there a late **Green Heron** was present 10/13 (MS, CCS). An immature **Black-crowned Night-heron** was at GP 8/24 (BE). Lastly, a **Glossy Ibis** was at GP 8/18 (BE). Hopefully the birding remains good in the GP area when the housing complex is complete.

The last report of the nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at E. Best Rd. was made 8/28 (BE) when 3 were seen. Another **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Housenick Memorial Park 9/4 (LF, JF).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported at LG 9/7 (MS) and at Housenick 9/8 (LF). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported from LG 9/19 (SC) and 9/22-28 (AM) and at Monacacy Nature Center Park 9/1 (LF). A **Marsh Wren** was seen at S. Cigar Rd, in Moore Twp. 9/20 (BE), and as many as 3 **Marsh Wrens** were at Minsi Lake 8/7-10/13 (m.ob.). There was a **Rusty Blackbird** at East Bangor Dam 10/13 (AM).

Late warblers seen at Housenick Memorial Park included a **Northern Waterthrush** 10/5 (PH, CH) and a **Black-and-white Warbler** on 11/27 (LF). There was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at LG 9/28 (AM) and at Woodland Hills Preserve 10/10 (YH). **Connecticut Warbler** was photographed at Ballas Park 9/9 (MS, JM) and seen at LG 9/15-21 (AM, YH). **Mourning Warbler** was reported from Monacacy Nature Center Park 9/8 (TF) and at Jacobsburg SP 9/27 (JM). The **Blue Grosbeak** which nested at Grand Central Landfill was last observed 8/3 (AM). At Ballas Park, a **Dickcissel** was seen in a group of **Bobolinks** 9/7-9 (JF).

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Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), River Road (RR), Shikellamy State Park (SSP), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

Fall weather was seasonable across the county. Drier conditions produced good habitat for southbound shorebirds at the Amish Pond, which dried out and produced a mud flat after being flooded for approximately 18 months.

Northern Shoveler was reported only once this fall: 2 at the ATBD 10/17 (KP). **Surf Scoter** was also reported just once, when a single individual was observed at SSP 11/14 (KP).

The season's only **Sora** was a single at the AP 8/28 (EH). **Common Gallinule** continued this season at the AP. As many as 4—two adults and two juveniles—were seen 8/7-28 (m.ob.). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were reported from RR 8/14 (EZ), possibly the same pair that was near the AP over the summer.

Shorebirds were again the highlight of the season. One **Black-bellied Plover** was at the AP 9/30-10/4 (m.ob.). A single juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** was at the AP 8/14 (EH, AK). It lingered until 8/15 (DB) and represented one of only a handful of records for *Northumberland*. A **Baird's Sandpiper** stopped over at the AP from 9/6-11 (AK, PW, RW). This bird appeared to be injured when it first appeared, but seemed much healthier just before it left. One **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the AP 8/14-15 (AK, EH, KP).

Black-crowned Night Herons have become regular in the fall and can be observed just below the ATBD prior to sunrise or after sunset. This season's observations included up to 2 there 8/23-25 (KP, AK).

Olive-sided Flycatcher has become regular at WSF; up to 3 were reported on multiple occasions 8/19-9/17 (KP, EH, AK). The lone report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was of 2 at WSF 9/19 (EH). Reports of warblers were numerous, but the most notable sighting was a **Mourning Warbler** at WSF 8/13 (EH), a rather early date.

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Perry County—no report

Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail - Reed Street (DRTR), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDR), Houston Meadow (HM), Independence National Historic Park (INHP), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Lemon Hill (LH), Morris Arboretum (MA), Navy Yard (NY), Northeast Water Treatment Plant (NEWTP), Pennypack Park (PP), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Sedgley Woods (SW), Southwest Water Treatment Plant

(SWWTP), West Fairmount Park (WFP), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

What would have represented the county's first record of Pink-footed Goose was a bird at POD 11/16 (JE). The bird was with **Canada Geese** on the tidal mud flats, but flushed before better optics arrived at the scene. Photos were unfortunately inconclusive. A **Cackling Goose** was photographed at JHNWR 11/14 (RZ). That location also held the usual high number of 200-300 **Wood Ducks** in Sep and Oct (m. ob.), the 36 birds at Centennial Lake in WFP 11/29 were an unusual high count for the site and the date (HP). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at POD 11/10 (ST). Up to 13 **Pied-billed Grebes** at JHNWR set a new high count for the fall (m.ob.).

Migrating **Common Nighthawks** were spotted mainly in northwest *Philadelphia* as usual, with a high count of 108 observed on 9/9 (AB). Once again an outstanding effort was made to count roosting **Chimney Swifts** in northwestern *Philadelphia* in Sep and Oct (JS). Following were the high counts for each location: 300 at Holy Innocents Church 9/9, 604 at Chestnut Hill Tower Apartments 10/2, 765 at Shawmont School 9/21, 3540 at Henry H. Houston School 9/17, and 3882 at James Dobson Elementary 9/16.

A **Virginia Rail** was seen at JHNWR 8/25 (MD) and another paid a visit to INHP 10/14 (GR). Up to 2 **Soras** were at JHNWR throughout the fall (m.ob.). One was heard at FDR 9/5 (RK) and another was photographed in a small wetland area east of PP 9/14 (FW). A deceased bird was found in front of the Starbucks at 34th and Lancaster 9/28. Five **Common Gallinules**, including 3 immatures, were still at SWWTP 8/23 (HP et al.). Two pairs successfully bred there this year. Two adults were seen at FDR until 10/5 (no evidence of breeding) and up to two immature birds were present at JHNWR until 11/30. Top highlight of the season was an immature **Purple Gallinule** at JHNWR. Initially observed 9/14 (RH), it was rediscovered on 9/16 (LZ, MB) and stayed until 9/26. It represented the fourth record for *Philadelphia*, after birds in 1982 and 2016 at JHNWR and one in January 2018 in a private backyard in the Morrell Park neighborhood.

With the continued absence of sufficient mudflats at JHNWR, shorebirds were hard to come by. Three **Dunlins** were startled by a **Northern Harrier** at JHNWR 10/29 (GV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was late at POD 11/16 (PM, et al.). Starting its journey at Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area on Bathurst Island beyond the Arctic Circle, a **Sanderling** equipped with a transmitter by Motus Wildlife Tracking System flew by the receiver at UPenn 8/3. In the same day, this little guy made the track from Amherst Island on the north shore of Lake Ontario via *Philadelphia* to the lower Chesapeake Bay, a distance of 450 miles! Eight **American Woodcocks** were found alive and well in various corners of the county, but an unfortunate 5 more were found as victims of window strikes. The season's second best highlight was a **Red Phalarope** that nearly became the lunch for a **Peregrine Falcon** at JHNWR on 8/24 (GA, et al.). It was able to evade getting snatched by diving into the impoundment. This was the first record after Hurricane Sandy brought two birds to JHNWR and one bird to POD in 2012.

A single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at POD 11/30 (GA, PM). A **Black Tern** was at JHNWR 8/2 (RZ). An **American Bittern** was irregularly seen at JHNWR from 9/29-11/4 (m.ob.) and once each at IGCC 9/22 (GA) and FDR 10/5 (HP). While the presence of up to six **Snowy Egrets** at JHNWR was nothing out of the ordinary, an individual at POD 8/19-21 was the first observation there in four years (GA, MW). Numbers of **Little Blue Herons** at JHNWR were down from the previous year and observations few and far between, but an individual on the mudflats of the Schuylkill River at BG 8/24 represented the first eBird record for the site (PM). Immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at IGCC 8/11 (HP) and 9/7 (PK) and at MA 9/14 (MP). Another individual was filmed during a video recording for an art installation at Penn's Landing 10/30.

The red morph **Eastern Screech-Owl** that has chosen POD as its winter retreat was back in its usual tree by 11/15 (DM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were discovered at FDR 9/26 (HP) and BRSP 9/29 (PM), but did not stick around.

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at HM 8/12 (KJ)

and at PEC 8/23 (PK). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was extremely late at BRSP 11/9 (PM). In the same location, a **White-eyed Vireo** was late 10/19 (PM, SB) and at BG another bird likely set a new record late date when it was recorded from 11/23-27 (IS, HP). **Blue-headed Vireos** were late at JHNWR 11/22 (JM) and at POD 11/29 (CB). Always challenging to distinguish from bright **Warbling Vireos** at this time of year, **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported in three different locations including 2 at WFP 9/16 (HP et al.). Uncommon, but regular for birders in the right place at the right time, **Horned Larks** were flybys at SWWTP 11/2 and at POD 11/9 (HP). A very late **Bank Swallow** was discovered at NEWTP 11/9 among up to 120 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** that regularly overwinter at this site (HP). The bird was last seen on 11/27 and hopes were high as of this writing that it will make it through the winter (JH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were numerous at HM, LH, and WFP 10/25-26, with some 13-22 birds counted (AB, HP, MS, MSo). A **Sedge Wren** at IGCC 10/6 (GA, PM) completed the trio of seasonal highlights. This species has always been rare in the county and last bred here at JHNWR in 1950. Aside from frequent observations of up to 8 **Marsh Wrens** at JHNWR, up to 2 were at FDR 9/21-10/20 (m.ob.), and one each was at BG 10/13 (GA) and POD 8/11 (PH). A late **Brown Thrasher** was discovered in the Somerton neighborhood 11/22 (JE).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a nice surprise at POD 10/29 (HP). **Chipping Sparrows** were numerous at meadows in PP with 40 birds 10/18 (HP) and 75 on 11/5 (PK), 57 at HM 10/25 (AB) and 73 at LH 10/26 (HP). Single **Clay-colored Sparrows** were seen only at IGCC 9/15 (GA, HP), 10/12 (GA) and 10/20 (PM). This location again held the most **Field Sparrows** in *Philadelphia* with a maximum of 23 on 9/1 (GA, HP). A **Lark Sparrow** was briefly encountered at POD 8/17 (HP). Singing **White-crowned Sparrows** were a special treat at IGCC 10/19 (HP). Individuals were seen at many locations, but this site held the most with a maximum of 5 from 10/19-11/2 (HP, PM). Across the DR at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, observers were delighted by up to six **Vesper Sparrows**, but *Philadelphia* birders had to be content with singles at BG 10/5 (GA), BRSP 10/23 (PM) and POD 10/23-24 (HP, PM, RK). **Savannah Sparrows** were most numerous at POD with around 30 counted 10/18-19 (HP, PM) and IGCC held the most **Song Sparrows** (83) and **Swamp Sparrows** (36) on 10/19 (HP).

One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at BG 9/11 (GA), and another one seemed to enjoy the display at one of the food vendor tents at the Christmas Market at City Hall 11/29 (JC). The best locations to encounter **Bobolinks** were BG with a maximum of 75 on 9/11 (GA) and POD with a maximum of 60 on 9/13 (BM). A **Baltimore Oriole** was late at POD 10/22 (PM). **Rusty Blackbirds** were numerous at JHNWR this fall, max was about 70 birds seen 11/22 (JM).

Ovenbirds at the city square on 18th and Cherry St. outnumbered all other locations again, with a maximum of 12 on 10/11 (LH). A late **Northern Waterthrush** was discovered at JHNWR 10/20 (AR). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were in the company of a **Brewster's Warbler** at PP 9/8 (HP). Apart from one bird at FDR in Sep, all observations of **Orange-crowned Warblers**, from eight different locations, were made in Nov (m.ob.). Records of this species were few and far between only a few years back, but one can now expect to see this species in late fall and winter at DRTR, FDR, IGCC, JHNWR, and POD. **Connecticut Warblers** were at WFP 9/16 (HP et al.) and IGCC 9/26 (GA). **Mourning Warblers** are typically scarce in fall, but one was discovered at PP 9/15 (PK). In contrast, the most **Common Yellowthroats** were seen at IGCC that same day when 27 were counted (GA, HP). Late **Yellow Warblers** were found at NEWTP 11/17 (JH) and DRTR 11/19-20 (RK, GA). Migration of **Blackpoll Warblers** was hardly noticeable. An extraordinary count of an estimated 60 **Palm Warblers** was made at IGCC 10/12 (GA). The next highest count was 25 at SW 10/13 (KR). Several **Pine Warblers** lingered into the last week of Nov at BG, FDR, NY and NEWTP (GA, HP). An immature **Prairie Warbler** at POD 10/18 (HP) was also late.

A **Summer Tanager** was at BG 9/14 (GA et al.) and at the north end of WVP 10/4 (SB). Up to 3 **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen at POD throughout fall (m.ob.). The singing male at IGCC was seen last on 8/11 after no trace of the female was found early in the summer (HP). Extraordinarily late was a bird at DRTR 11/19 (RK). **Dickcissel** was noted at POD 8/17 (HP) and 10/18-19 (HP, PM).

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Pike County

Locations: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Pecks Pond (PP).

It was an amazing fall season in *Pike* with ample highlights. This followed a slow, dull breeding season. Two **Trumpeter Swans** were photographed at Lake of the Clouds 9/8 (JO, YL). On 11/2, there were 3 **Northern Shovelers** at PP and 2 **White-winged Scoters** at Porter's Lake (BW). **Long-tailed Duck** was reported from LW 11/2 (BW) and 11/20 (RJ). A **Horned Grebe** was at LW 11/23 (RJ).

Several uncommon shorebirds were found, which does not happen often here. Dam repairs at Pecks are ongoing and the drained lakebed offered some quality habitat for shorebirds and herons in 2019. Overall, 11 species of shorebird were reported in *Pike* this fall. An **American Golden-Plover** was at the lower lake section of Promised Land SP 10/20 (BW). Up to 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at PP 8/17-18 (BW). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was another nice find at PP. At LW, 4 **Sanderlings** were seen at Tafton Dike 9/3 (BW).

Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LW 11/2 (BW, RJ). Another good find for the big lake was 4 **Black Terns** 9/2-3 (MS, CCS). An **American Bittern** was at PP 9/18 (KW). **Great Egrets** also took advantage of the ideal habitat at PP; they were present 8/5-9/24 and topped out at 6 on 8/10 (AM). Two immature **Little Blue Herons** were found at PP 7/29 (BW) and one continued until 8/7 (DM, RJ). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen near the swim beach at LW 7/29 (DM, RJ).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at Dingman's Ferry 8/25 (BW) and at PP 9/1-9 (BW), and a **Philadelphia Vireo** was at PP 9/14 (BW). **Snow Buntings** were sighted at Shohola WMA 11/11 (DG, GG) and at LW 11/2 (BW, RJ). Lastly, a **Vesper Sparrow**, which is a tough bird to find in *Pike*, was spotted at LW 11/20 (BW, RJ).

Observers; **Michael Schall, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Ryan Johnson, Yvonne LeBlanc, Adam Miller, Dennis Miranda, Jan Olsommer, Corinne Campbell Schall, Bradley White, Kenneth Williams.

Potter County

Locations: Cherry Springs State Park (CSSP), Coudersport (CO), Dry Run Road (DRR), First Fork Road (FFR), Galeton (GA), Joerg Road (JRD), Ole Bull State Park (OBSP), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Susquehannock State Forest (SSF), Trout Run Road (TRR).

Data submitted to eBird revealed low individual numbers, and a total of 77 species. Three **American Black Ducks** and 9 **Common Mergansers** were seen on Pine Creek at GA 8/2 (JM). One **Ruffed Grouse** and one **Wild Turkey** were seen at DRR at the Apache Trail 11/11, one mile north of Rte. 6 (TK). One each of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 8/14 (MD) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** 8/17 (BG) were observed at CSSP. A single **Chimney Swift** was observed at SSP 8/17 (MiD). Three **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen at a residence one mile south of Ole Bull SP on JRD 8/1 (SLi). Two **American Woodcocks** were reported from CSSP 9/21 (PR).

An **Osprey** was seen at Kettle Creek, one mile south of OBSP 8/1 (SLi), and a **Bald Eagle** was observed from a hunting camp on TRR 10/1 (SLm). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at CSSP 9/21 (PR) and a single

Red-tailed Hawk was reported from Baker Run, SSF 11/30 (MH). The only owl reported was a single **Barred Owl** at Cheswick Camp, TRR 10/1 (SLm). Interestingly, one **Merlin** was reported at CSSP 9/21 (PR).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at CSSP 9/21 (PR). Six **Cliff Swallows** were seen at a residence south of Ole Bull SP on JRD 8/20 (SLi). Two **Brown Creepers** were reported: one at JRD 8/1 (SLi) and the other at Baker Run, SSF 11/30 (MH). A **Veery** appeared at a residence on JRD 8/1 (SLi), and a **Hermit Thrush** was observed north of Rte. 6 off DRR 11/11 (TK). Five **White-throated Sparrows** were counted at SSP 10/12 (KN). Three **Bobolinks** were seen in CO 8/11 (BG).

A **Magnolia Warbler** and 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** were reported from a residence on JRD 8/1 (SLi). A migrating **Blackpoll Warbler** was found perched on the rear bumper of a parked work truck at FFR 9/13 (JB). It was photographed by the driver and then gently placed in a safe location off to the side of the road. Two **Palm Warblers** were observed at CSSP 9/21 (PR) and 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were seen at the residence on JRD 8/31 (SLi).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, John Baird (JB), Micheal David (MiD), Mike Defina (MD), Barbara Gee (BG), Marc Hanneman (MH), Ted Keen (TK), Sarah Lindgren (SLi), Sandy Lockerman (SLm), Jennifer Moore (JM), Kelley Nunn (KN) and Patty Rhen (PR).

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Deer Lake (DL), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Acopian Center (AC), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

eBird was used extensively to compile this report. Many people who posted *Schuylkill* sightings to eBird have been included as observers except for those posting exclusively from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The list of observers from Hawk Mountain in the fall is significant due to its popularity with birders who come to see the hawk migration. Although the Hawk Mountain Visitor Center and South Lookout are located in *Berks*, the North Lookout, where the counters are located, is in *Schuylkill*. Besides tallying raptors, the counters at HMS record data on non-raptors that are used extensively in this report. Sightings at the North Lookout not attributed to a single individual have been noted as Hawk Mountain Data (HMD). The non-raptor data generated by the many observers at HMS, led predominately by Rudy Keller, provide valuable insight into the migration season through *Schuylkill* of many songbirds.

With some exceptions, waterfowl species are generally limited in *Schuylkill* in diversity, abundance and frequency. A flock of 45 **Brant**, a species occasionally seen every two or three years, was spotted at HMS 11/2 (HMD). Although not agreed to by everyone seeing it, a presumed **Cackling Goose** was found 11/17 at SAL (P&RW), the second year in a row for a fall sighting. The only **Tundra Swans** reported this year in the county were fly-bys at HMS. Four were counted 10/18, five 11/13 and six more 11/29 (HMD). Two **Northern Shovelers** were found at SAL 10/29-30 (BR) and a single **Gadwall** was at DL 11/22 (DR). **American Black Ducks** have been pretty dependable at APWS over the years and this year was no exception. This species was seen 11/10-30 with a high day count of 16 (JoD). Three were also reported at SAL 11/21 (BR) and 2 more at LVD 11/17 (TB). **Green-winged Teal** were seen at three locations this fall: 3 fly-bys were seen at HMS 9/9 (HMD), a few more were at LVD 10/1 (JoD, JD), and three more were at SAL 10/30 (BR). For the fourth fall in a row, **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported, this year at three locations. Seven were at OC 10/19 (DK), a single bird was at APWS 10/25, and 4 were at Lake Wynonah 11/28 (TY). **Bufflehead** was also found at three locations this fall: a couple of birds were seen at LLSP 10/26 (TB, TD), an impressive flock of 30 were seen at DL 11/6 (TJ), and SAL hosted four birds 11/12 (DD) and a single bird 11/15 (MD). Small numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were found from early to mid-Nov at

SAL (P&RW, DD), LVD (TB), DL (TJ, DR), and LLSP (TB). Unusual here in fall, a **Ruddy Duck** visited SAL 11/5-12 (BR, DD, NF) and 3 were at OC 11/9 (PD). **Pied-billed Grebes** were also found at SAL 10/18 (BR) and again 11/15 (MD). Two were at LVD 10/1 (JoD, JD), 3 were there 10/12 (TB), and a single was at LLSP 10/26 (TD).

Common Nighthawks can be elusive in *Schuylkill*. This year in Frackville, sightings included one 8/12, 2 on 8/27, and one 9/10 (TB). AC provided sightings of numerous birds 8/30, 9/1, 9/9, and 9/12 (TY), and others passed by HMS between 8/24 and 9/21 with a high day count of 34 on 8/31 (HMD).

Although "peeps" are not at all common in the county, **Least Sandpipers** are the most expected. This year at LVD, the most likely place to see them, one was found 8/7 (DH), 6 more were noted 8/27 (P&RW) and 3 were there 8/31 (DR). Additionally one was at APWS 8/25 (JoD). For the first fall in at least nine years **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported: 2 at TSP 9/19 (JD). **Lesser Yellowlegs** are unusual in *Schuylkill* in the fall but there were several reported this season. Again, LVD is the most likely place to see them and this year 2 were there 8/31 (DR) and singles were present 9/8 (DH) and 9/13 (TB). Additionally another single was at TSP 9/14 (TB). LVD was also a stop-over location for **Greater Yellowlegs** with single birds reported 8/17 (TB) and 10/1 (JoD, JD), and another single was at TSP 9/14 (TB). Gulls can be unpredictable in the county but this fall three species were seen in *Schuylkill*, all at HMS. A single **Ring-billed Gull** was seen 10/7 and a flock of 20 was noted 11/8 (HMD). Two **Herring Gulls** were reported 11/10 (HMD), and an extremely rare **Lesser Black-backed Gull** passed by 10/12 (HMD). The Kittatinny Ridge was the only place to see **Common Loon** this fall, where they passed by HMS several days in Nov. There was a high day count of 47 on 11/8. Nine were seen flying by the ridge just east of HMS 10/26 (BC).

Since HMS data are published elsewhere, they will not be discussed here except to mention a notable sighting of a **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/14 (HMD). Aside from the hawk migration at HMS, an immature **Golden Eagle** was seen and photograph at LVD 10/20 (TB). **Northern Harriers** were seen at three additional locations: APWS 8/26 (JoD), Wayne Township 10/28 (TJ), and TSP 11/13 (JoD).

Schuylkill is home to one of the sites for ongoing research into **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. This was the 23rd year of the ongoing project headed by Scott Weidensaul to examine the saw-whet movement through eastern and central Pennsylvania. The survey is conducted at three locations including one in *Schuylkill* at Hidden Valley near Freidensburg. At Hidden Valley, it was the third-worst season since they started full operations in 1999. The fall count was 52, a low that was outdone only in 2017 when they had 51, and 2011, when they had 34. The resident population, however, has been present primarily along the two southern ridges. Single birds were found in Molleystown near the I-81 Ravine exit 11/30, at LR 11/30, and at TR 11/26 (DK). In addition, one was reported at HMS 11/10 (HMD).

Red-headed Woodpecker had two successful nests in Weiser State Forest this summer and adults with young were found there 8/31, 9/8, and 9/13 (DR, TB, TJ), and a single bird was seen at the Fairgrounds 9/22 (BW). At HMS, there were sightings on ten separate days between 9/4 and 10/4 (HMD).

Several species of flycatchers breed or pass through the county every year, but in low numbers. Acadian, Alder and Willow were all last seen prior to the beginning of Aug. Migrating **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen in small numbers on eight separate days at HMS 8/17-9/25 (HMD). In addition, single birds were seen on Weiser State Forest 9/8 (DR) and 9/13 (TB). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is uncommon in the fall but they have been seen consistently over the past seven or eight years. This year there were four sightings of individual birds at HMS 9/2-16 (HMD). Between 9/10 and 10/2 a handful of **Least Flycatchers** were reported all along the Kittatinny Ridge, with one exception. Individual birds were seen or heard at SAL (NF), Weiser State Forest (TB, TJ), AC (TY), and HMS (HMD), and the exception was LLSP (TB).

Aside from Red-eyed, vireos are another group of passerines that are sometimes hard to find in the fall. **White-eyed Vireos** stick pretty much along the Kittatinny Ridge on the southern border of the county. Individual birds were found at SSP 8/21 (BR), along the Stony Creek

portion of the Bartram Trail 9/18 (KG), and at HMS 11/3 (HMD). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found at four locations: one or 2 were at LLSP 9/7-22 (CF, DK, TB, TJ), singles were at AC 9/1 and 9/12 (TY), one was at the Fairgrounds (BW), and they were found on nine separate days at HMS, with a high day count of 6 on 8/29 (HMD). **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at four locations as well: singles at LLSP 9/20 and 9/28 (TB), one at AC 9/15 (DH), one east of HMS along the Kittatinny Ridge 9/20 (AK), and on twelve separate days at HMS 9/3-10/2 with a high count of 3 on 9/16 (HMD).

Not seen annually, individual **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported at LLSP 9/28 (TB) and HMS 10/25 (TD). **Swainson's Thrush**, a bird considered occasional in the county, was reported three times this season: 2 at LLSP 9/15 (CF), one at LVD 10/1 (JoD, JD), and at HMS 9/17, 9/18 and 9/25 (HMD). **American Pipits** are unusual in *Schuylkill*. Three were near Pitman 9/29 (TB) and 4 were at HMS 11/2 followed by 2 more 11/7 (HMD). A **Pine Siskin** was at HMS 10/3, and 6 were there 11/16 (HMD). Also at HMS, a single **Lapland Longspur** was noted 11/16 (PH) and **Snow Buntings** were reported on three separate days: one 11/15, 3 on 11/18, and 3 on 11/28 (HMD).

Vesper Sparrows breed in small numbers in the county but are not seen every year. One was near Pitman 9/29 and 3 were there 10/27 (TB). Although they also breed in the county, **Savannah Sparrows** are hard to find anytime of the year. One of the more dependable areas is the farmlands around Pitman; flocks of 9 on 9/29 and 10 on 10/27 were tallied there this fall (TB). One was also at AC 9/30 (TY). A skulking bird that is easily missed in the county is **Lincoln's Sparrow**. Singles in several locations: at AC 9/19 (DS) and again 9/23 (TY), at LLSP 10/5 (TB), 10/7 (TB), and 10/26 (TD), at SGL 227 on 10/20 (TJ), and at LVD 10/20 (TB). **Bobolink** are rare here in fall, but observers at HMS reported many birds passing through 8/24-9/16 (HMD) with a high day count of 17 on 8/24. There were also 17 at SGL 227 on 8/25 (TJ). Flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at SSP 10/27 (BR) and at LVD 10/1-11/4 (JD, TB, DK, TJ). The flock at LVD grew to 54 by 11/3. Up to 3 were noted at HMS 11/2, 11/4, and 11/25 (HMD).

Thirty species of warblers were tallied this season, including both breeders and migrants, which was four more than last year. Overall, the birds passed through with little deviation from averages. Very unusual for the county in recent years, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was spotted at HMS 9/3 (HMD). Also very unusual, two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were also at HMS 10/21 (HMD). Always notable, a single **Mourning Warbler** was reported at HMS 9/15 (SP). Lastly, there were two sightings of **Blue Grosbeak**, rare in the county. One was at SSP 8/7 (P&RW) and at HMS, 2 were seen 9/7 and another 9/19 (HMD).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Dan Brennan (DB), Thomas Buehl Jr., Brian Chitundu, Andrew Consler, Michael David, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko, Todd Deininger, Paul Dietz, Denise Donmoyer, Nate Felty, Charles Francis, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Hawk Mountain Data (HMD), Elaine Hendricks, Paul Heveran, Daniel Hinnbusch, Tonia Jordan, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Rudy Keller, Dave Krueel, Ann Marie Liebner, Holly Merker, Susan Petty, Barb Ritzheimer (BR), Beverly Rockovich, Danny Stoner, Esther Vallejo, Scott Weidensaul, Bradley White, Patricia and Richard Williams, Tsai Yi-Hua.

Snyder County

At Faylor Lake a **Little Blue Heron** was found at a far corner of the lake 9/10 (DH). Later, with some effort getting through the brush, the bird was well-photographed (AK) and lingered at least until 9/24 (DH). A detailed hand-written report was received describing a much cherished life bird sighting, found at home, with almost the whole family on hand to see—a **Short-eared Owl** was hunting at about 4 pm 11/25 over a sheep pasture near Port Trevorton (WM). He rushed to notify his avid birding children (BM, WnM, RM, SM, JM) who had extended opportunities to view the bird flying low over the grass, suddenly changing direction, and pouncing in the grass. The gorgeous brown plumage, dark wrist patches, owl face, overall pale color were all evident for all to see over about an

hour of viewing—a splendid first sighting for all observers! Faylor Lake also hosted some very nice passerines, including close observations of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/10 (DH) and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** 10/15 (DH).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, gyekis9@gmail.com**, Deuane Hoffman, Andy Keister, Brandon Martin, Jeanette Martin, Waylon Martin (WnM), Wayne Martin.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Bluebird Hill Farm (BHF), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (F93), Hidden Acres Farm (HAF), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Landis Property (LP), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Laurel Summit State Park (LSSP), Payne Property (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Wellersburg (WB).

The period started with the continuation into early August of the wet weather of the past 18 months, which limited exposed mud at SL, but drying conditions from mid-August onward made for good conditions and a very respectable 24 species of shorebirds for this high elevation, land-locked county. Passerine migration was generally good but waterfowl were spotty. Exciting was the continuation of the **Rufous Hummingbird** saga on Allegheny Mountain, **American White Pelicans** in Meyersdale, and a county-first pair of **Sedge Wrens** at F93.

Tundra Swans were first reported at QR 11/12 when 6 were present; larger flocks of over 100 in SM 11/14 (EB) and 80 in CA 11/15 (BO) were flyovers. Cranberry Glade Lake had a roost of 26 **Wood Ducks** 8/30 (C&CF); last report was 6 at QR 10/30 (DB). **Blue-winged Teal** enjoyed the muddy edges of SL 8/23-9/7 (m.ob.) and up to 3 **Northern Shovelers** were found at both SL (m.ob.) and QR (LG) 9/23-26. **Gadwalls** were first reported 9/4 at SL (PL) and up to 20 were at QR 11/2-20 (T&JK, LG). **American Wigeon** were only reported twice: one at F93 on 10/21 (JV) and 5 at QR 11/8 (LG). There were about 5 reports of **Green-winged Teal** from 8/23-11/12 at SL and QR. The only **Ringed-necked Ducks** reported were 3 at QR 11/8 (LG). **Buffleheads** were at QR 11/8-22 with a high of 15 (LG, T&JK). **Hooded Mergansers** were at QR from 11/2-22 with a high of 14 (LG). Five **Common Mergansers** were at QR 11/17 (LG) and a respectable 19 were at LHSP 11/23 (KB). **Ruddy Ducks** were at QR 11/8-28 with 24 the high count (LG, PL).

There was only one report of **Ruffed Grouse** this season, a single bird at Hidden Valley Golf Course 11/25 (AS). Hunters who still try to train grouse dogs (but most voluntarily do not shoot any), and bear hunters who push out large chunks of mountain ground, report seeing a "couple" or "few". With apparent West Nile Virus affecting a large percentage of grouse in wet years, it is the opinion of this former grouse hunter that perhaps hunting season for grouse should be suspended for a while, to allow naturally immune birds to build back up. **Wild Turkeys**, on the other hand, seem to be doing well with many reports of flocks up to 16 birds.

Pied-billed Grebes visited QR 9/17-11/24 with up to 20 there 11/8 (LG, T&JK). There were four reports of up to 4 **Horned Grebes** at QR 11/8-19 (LG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were sighted at PP up to 9/28 (CP, JP, RP). A late **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at WB 10/1 (PM). There were 5 reports of migrating **Common Nighthawks** 8/17-9/21; high count was 40 in CA 8/27 (BC). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports included one at PP 8/31 (CP) and one at Hidden Valley Golf Course 9/12 (SC). The last date for **Chimney Swifts** was 10/8 when 7 passed PP (JP).

The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at LP 9/28 (CP, JP, RP). The adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** at LP from last period persisted until 8/1 then disappeared. On 9/16, a **Selasphorus sp.** was seen again at LP, and was joined from 9/23-25 by a second **Selasphorus sp.** The birds were defending different feeders. One of them had one or 2 iridescent throat feathers and the other a larger patch. Bander Bob Mulvihill returned 9/26 by which time only the bird with the larger throat patch was present. It was captured and found to be the adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** previously banded in July. There have now been 8 **Selasphorus** hummingbirds within 1.5 miles of each other on top

of Allegheny Mountain; three of these were banded and found to be Rufous. A **Virginia Rail** was at SL 9/14 (PL). The only **American Coot** was one at QR 9/29-30 (LG).

The shorebird spectacle was centered on the mostly-drained SL, which had plenty of mud for much of the season. With dam repairs now starting, the lake bed will quickly vegetate. There are still possible plans to contour the lake bottom to create permanent habitat for shorebirds when the lake is refilled in 2021. Two groups of **American Avocets** set down on SL 8/18 with a remarkable 23 in one group and 5 at the other end of the lake (CP, JP, LG). A **Black-bellied Plover** was a one-day wonder 9/30, but there were at least 3 reports of **American Golden-Plovers**: one 9/18 (RM) and 10/1 (JP), and 2 on 10/2 (MD, SC). **Semipalmated Plovers** were at SL 8/8-9/22 with a high count of 9 on 8/18 (CP, JP, RP), and a single was at F93 on 8/19 (JP, CP). **Killdeer** numbers were impressive at SL through the period, with a maximum of 244 on 10/20 (JP). An **Upland Sandpiper** was heard several times at SM 8/5 (EB). A single **Stilt Sandpiper** was at SL 9/1 (MJ). **Sanderlings** were seen several times at SL from 8/30 (C&CF) to 9/22 with a high of three 9/1 (MD). A **Dunlin** at SL 11/11 (JP, AS) was surprisingly the only one reported. **Baird's Sandpipers** put in a great showing beginning with 2 on 8/23 (JP) and ending with one 9/22 (JP); high count was an excellent 5 on 9/1 (MD). **Least Sandpipers** were present 8/8-10/14 (m.ob.) with a high count of 60 on 8/28 (JP). A single Least was at F93 8/22 (EZ). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at SL 8/25-28 (JP, PL). A well-described **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** in a small, plowed field with **Killdeer** 9/12-13 in SM (EB) unfortunately was not present 9/14. **Pectoral Sandpipers** at SL 8/11-10/20 reached high counts of 7 on 8/23 and 9/22 (JP, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were present 8/8-10/2 with 20 on 9/11 (MD) the maximum. Single **Western Sandpipers** were present at SL 8/27 and 9/1, and a great count of 4 was made 8/28 (m.ob.). Up to two **American Woodcock** at PP regularly visited the moist mulch under bird feeders starting 8/15; another 2 were at HAF 8/22 (SD). A **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from a moist field at KRNA in late Oct (AP, JP). An email report of four Red-necked Phalaropes at SL 9/4 (*fide* MD) was not confirmed. The probable locally breeding **Spotted Sandpipers** at SL were present 8/8-9/12 (m.ob.) with up to 5 often reported. The species was also at QR 9/17-26. **Solitary Sandpipers** were more widespread, with SL hosting a high of 9 on 8/8 (JP) until the last single 9/23; PP had 2 from 9/28-29 (CP, JP), and Kooser SP had 7 on 9/5 (AnS). **Greater Yellowlegs** singles were at SL 8/30-10/31 (m.ob.), at F93 on 8/22 (EZ), and at QR 9/23-26 (LG), and 5 were at F93 on 10/21 (JV). A **Willet**, rare in fall, was reported at SL 9/23 (SM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were common migrants at SL 8/8-9/26 with a high 25 on 8/28 (JP); a late bird was at QR 10/30 (DB).

Gulls were rather sparse. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at QR 11/11 and 2 where there through 11/14. **Ring-billed Gulls**, similarly, had a single report at QR 9/7 (LG) and 2 were at SL 11/29 (KK). **Caspian Tern** showed up at SL 8/23 (JP) and 3 were there 8/28 (JP, PL). A **Common Tern** at SL 9/14 (PL) was a good find. **Common Loons** were at QR 10/25-11/24 with a high of 5 there 10/31 (LG). Up to 3 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at SL and QR 8/15-11/12 (m.ob.). Somewhat unexpected was an adult **Double-crested Cormorant** on a small pond at PP 9/20 (JP). An exciting find was 2 **American White Pelicans** on the Meyersdale Sewage Treatment Ponds 10/29-30 (*fide* EB), but unfortunately word did not get out time for many others to try for the birds.

Great Blue Herons were present through period, but the 19 at SL 9/30 was an impressive sight. **Great Egrets** favored BHF with 2 there 8/4-9/4 and one 10/15-30 (PL). The only **Black Vulture** reported was one near Davidsville 9/13 (LG). **Turkey Vultures** usually vacate the county for winter, but they were still passing PP 11/29 (JP). There were about nine reports of **Osprey** including 2 adults and 2 juveniles at Cranberry Glade Lake (DBI). A **Golden Eagle** made the yard year list at PP 10/15 (JP). A pair of **Northern Harriers** at F93 on 8/19 may have bred there (JP). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were widely reported. **Bald Eagles** were reported numerous times 8/3-11/25. Among many **Broad-winged Hawk** reports was a nice group of 50 or more over Bakersville 9/16 (SC). Very encouraging was a report from southern *Somerset* of the banding of a **Barn Owl** brood in nest (Pennsylvania Game Commission). There were about 3 reports each for **Eastern Screech-own**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl**.

There were many reports of one or 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, but the count of 4 at LHSP 8/1 may have been a family group. Counts of one or 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were frequently reported, and a high count of 3 was made at WB 10/19 (PL). There were four reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** including a family group of 4 at BHF (PL) and a migrant juvenile at PP 9/22 (JP). **American Kestrels**, although becoming noticeably less common, were still present in several areas. A **Merlin** was nicely perched at PP 9/18 (JP). There were four reports of **Peregrine Falcon**: at SL, F93 on 11/19 (BO, TO), SM 9/24 (EB), and one flying in downtown Somerset 11/18 (JM, MM).

There were 2 migrant **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reported; one at PP 8/18 (CP, JP) and one at WB 9/21 (PM). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were widely reported including up to 5 at PP 8/18 (CP, JP). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports came from the Great Allegheny Passage Trail 8/30 (LG) and Hidden Valley 9/2 (AS). **Acadian, Willow** and **Least Flycatchers** all had a few reports. **Eastern Phoebe**s were widely mentioned until 11/7, but **Great Crested Flycatcher** reports ended 8/31 at PP (CP) and **Eastern Kingbirds** were there until 8/22. **White-eyed Vireo** was a nice migrant at PP 9/17 (JP) but one at Laurel Summit SP 8/1 may have been a breeder (Jpp). The only mention of **Yellow-throated Vireo** was from WB 9/28 (PM). There were many reports of **Blue-headed Vireos** including a late singer 11/1 in SM (EB). It was a good year for **Philadelphia Vireos** at PP with seven reports 9/17-10/11; they were also reported at WB twice (PM). **Warbling Vireos** were only reported twice, 8/3 and 8/11 both at PP (JP). An interesting report of 2 calling **Fish Crows** on the mud at SL in Oct represented one of very few reports ever for the county (AM).

A mixed group of adult and juvenile **Horned Larks** in BA 8/19 were local breeders (CP, JP). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** hot spot this year was CA with up to 36 on 8/15 (BO, TO). No Purple Martins were found, but some may have remained at the Springs breeding spot at beginning of period. The last report of **Tree Swallow** was of 7 at F93 on 10/21 (JV). **Bank Swallows** were at CA 8/12 (LG) and 3 were at F93 on 8/19 (CP, JP). Both **Barn** and **Cliff Swallows** were widely reported. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at PP 8/17-31 (CP, JP). **Brown Creepers** were found at LHSP 10/11 (RT) and 11/23 (KB). **House Wrens** persisted at PP until 10/11, replaced by a **Winter Wren** 10/20.

Perhaps the most exciting find of the season was a pair of **Sedge Wrens** at F93 on 8/19 after an initial report from a visiting birder 7/22 (WW). A singing male was photographed and the chips of a second were voice recorded 8/19 in a large wet area of grasses and sedges (JP, CP). This was the first known report from the county and may well have represented breeding birds. It was hoped that large areas of this over 2000-acre site would be maintained as grasslands, but a huge reforesting effort that includes many non-native pine species is overtaking most of the site, which has become a locally important grassland bird nesting site.

Carolina Wrens were widely scattered in small numbers. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was reported about six times. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were common after 9/28. It was a very good year for migrating **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 9/20-10/30 with high counts of 12 at PP both 10/11 and 10/15 (JP).

Eastern Bluebirds were widely reported but the only **Veery** detected were by their nocturnal flight calls over PP 8/31 (CP) and 9/10 (JP). Up to 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were both seen and heard at PP 9/17-29 (JP) and in WB 9/28-29 (PM). A few **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen on the ground, and many nocturnal calls were heard 8/29-10/29 at both PP and WB. **Hermit Thrushes** were widely reported all period and the last **Wood Thrush** was in WB 10/2 (PM). **Gray Catbirds** were seen at PP up to 10/19 and **Brown Thrashers** until 9/27. The period saw five reports of single **Northern Mockingbirds**. **American Pipits** favored the mud at SL 10/14-11/27 with more than 100 there 11/12 (JP). **Cedar Waxwings** moved in force early as evidenced by the 225 that passed PP 8/18 (CP, JP). The only reports of **Purple Finch** were of up to 3 birds at PP 8/6-10/15 (JP).

Grasshopper Sparrow only garnered one report from F93 on 8/9 (VP). **Chipping** and **Field Sparrows** were widely reported. A very early

American Tree Sparrow was at Hooversville 10/23 (D&AC); a more expected arrival was noted at SL 11/29 (KK). Reports of **Fox Sparrow** included PP 10/11 and 15 and Meyersdale 11/25 (LG). A breeding **Dark-eyed Junco** was at LHSP 8/1 (Jpp) and fall migrants arrived around 10/30. **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported about seven times, and **White-throated Sparrows** arrived 9/28 and stayed through the period; high count for the latter was 30 at PP 10/11 (JP). **Savannah Sparrows** were found about three times in BA and Meyersdale. **Henslow's Sparrows** were in same area of F93 as **Sedge Wrens**, with a high of 4 on 8/19 (CP, JP) and another there 8/22 (EZ). **Song Sparrows** maxed out at 30 at PP 10/11. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PP several days, at SL 9/20 (SG), and at WB 9/28 (PM). A sparrow bonanza occurred at PP 10/11 when 10 species were present, including 7 **Swamp Sparrows** (JP). **Eastern Towhees** were widely seen through mid-Oct. Many reports of migrating **Bobolinks** included 33 at SL 9/1 (CP) and reports at F93 from 8/20-22 (MD, EZ). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were most common at F93 until 10/16 (JS); additionally 4 were near QR 8/28 (LG). **Baltimore Orioles** were strangely sparse with only three reports, all at PP until 8/31. **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SL 11/4 (JP), 10 were near QR 11/8 (T&JK), and one was in CA 11/13 (TO).

Twenty-eight species of warblers were reported. Highlights were: **Worm-eating Warbler** PP 8/8 and 8/19 (CP, JP); **Louisiana Waterthrush** at LHSP 8/1 (Jpp) and at WB 8/10 (PM); **Golden-winged Warbler** at PP 8/6 (JP); 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** at LHSP 8/1 (Jpp); 19 **Tennessee Warblers** at PP 9/27; **Orange-crowned Warbler** in mid-Oct at WB (PM); 4 **Nashville Warblers** at PP 9/28 (CP, JP, RP); **Mourning Warbler** at WB 9/29 (PM); **Kentucky Warbler** at LSSP 8/1 (Jpp); 12 records of **Hooded Warbler** at WB to 10/3 (PM); **American Redstart** to 10/15 in Meyersdale (AD); high count of 26 **Cape May Warblers** at PP 9/28 (CP, JP, RP); 9 records of **Northern Parula**; 8 **Magnolia Warblers** at PP 9/29; 6 **Bay-breasted Warblers** and 6 **Blackburnian Warblers** at PP 9/15; **Yellow Warblers** through 8/22; **Chestnut-sided Warblers** through 9/28 with 8 at PP 8/3; only 4 reports of **Blackpoll Warblers** all at PP; many **Black-throated Blue Warbler** sightings including 7 at LHSP 8/3; 5 reports of **Palm Warbler**; many **Yellow-rumped Warblers**; 6 reports of **Canada Warblers** to 9/19 at SL (KW); and **Wilson's Warbler** at PP 9/16 and LSSP 9/29 (RN).

Scarlet Tanager was reported to 10/8, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** to 10/2, and **Indigo Bunting** to 10/8; the bunting count at PP reached a high of 26 on 8/18.

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Sullivan County

Locations: Deer Lake (DL), Dutch Mountain (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Hunters Lake (HL), Jamison City Rd. (JCR), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lietzelman Road, Dushore (LR), Muncy Valley (MV), Ricketts Glen State Park—Hayfields (RGSPH), Ricketts Glen State Park—Lake Jean (LJ), Rte. 487 beaver pond (BP), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL 66 Shady Nook Lake (SNL), SGL 66 Shady Nook Old Home Place (OHP), World's End State Park (WESP).

The weather for the fall period was mostly uneventful. There were no significant storms or patterns. The bulk of the reports were filed from RGSP at either the Lake Jean area or the Hayfields. At least two large groups made their way to the county to do some birding; these are referred to as G1 and G2 hereafter, and each group's participants are

listed at the end. It was nice to see some names from different parts of the state enjoying what *Sullivan* has to offer. Reports not specifically credited were by the author.

There were few waterfowl of significance. **Bufflehead** made a one day splash 11/6 when 4 put down on DL (WE) and 48 at were RGSP (DG). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was at RGSP 8/26 (DG). Both **Black-billed Cuckoo** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were recorded at RGSPH 8/6 (DG). The last report for **Sandhill Crane** was of the family group of 2 adults and 2 young of the year in the LR area 11/2. They were counted for the state wide survey. There are also two reports of 2 adult birds together at SNL 9/21 and at KC 10/19. Shorebird numbers are always low with and there were only five reports for the period. A **Spotted Sandpiper** and one **Greater Yellowlegs** were at SDP 8/22 (G1). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the same location 9/21. **American Woodcock** was found twice: one at RGSP 11/1 and 2 there 11/7 (RS). Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at RGSP 8/13 (DG) and SNL 9/21. A lone **Great Egret** was at BP 9/29. This was only the second time this author has observed this species in county in a 30 year period.

There were some very good raptors found. There were **Osprey** sightings from both sides of the county including birds at WESP 9/14 (G2) and RGSP 9/11 (DG). A **Bald Eagle** with a blue band on the right leg was at RGSP 9/9 (DG). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at SDP 9/21 being harassed by **Blue Jays**. **Cooper's Hawk** was reported at RGSPH 8/27 (JH). One of the best birds of the period was a **Northern Goshawk** seen at RGSP 8/30 (DG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in the same vicinity 8/26 (DG). Multiple kettles of **Broad-winged Hawk** totaling 50 or more birds were seen at RGSPH 9/15 (G2). There were two reports of **Merlin**: singles at RGSP 8/26 (DG) and WESP 9/14 (G2). A juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** chased a female **Wood Duck** at KC 10/19. **Barred Owls** were heard calling on numerous occasions on DM, last heard 9/21.

There were no large flights or irruptions among the passerines. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at RGSP as late as 9/20 (DG, JH). An **Alder Flycatcher** pair was at RGSPH 8/6 (DG). A late **Eastern Phoebe** was at RGSP 10/24 (DG). Two **Fish Crows** were a good find in MV 8/10 (JM). Forty **Tree Swallows** at WESP 9/14 (G2) was the high count for the period. A **Winter Wren** and two **Carolina Wrens** were in RGSP 9/20 (DG, JH). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 3 on DM 9/29. A **Swainson's Thrush** was well seen at OHP 10/19. A **Brown Thrasher** was at JCR 9/20 (JL). Fledged young of **Eastern Towhee**, **Song Sparrow**, **Swamp Sparrow**, and **White-throated Sparrow** were found at RGSPH 8/6 (DG). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at the same location 10/24 (DG). Two **American Tree Sparrows** were present in MV 11/17 (WE). Four **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at OHP 9/21. This has become a very reliable location for this species in the fall. Four flocks of **Common Grackles** totaling 890 birds were observed over RGSPH 11/6 (DG). Non-resident warblers were fairly well represented. A **Northern Waterthrush** seemed out of pace along JCR 9/6 (JL). **Nashville Warbler** is an uncommon breeder; one was at RGDPH 8/27 (JH). Three **Tennessee Warblers**, one **Hooded Warbler**, and 2 **Northern Parulas** were at RGSP 9/20 (DG, JH). Five **Cape May Warblers** were in WESP 9/14 (G2). A high count of 14 **Tennessee Warblers** was made at the OHP 9/21 along with five **Cape May Warblers**, 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, and one **Blackpoll Warbler**.

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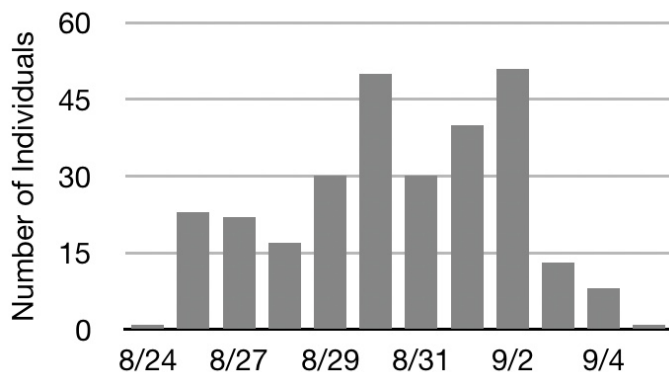
Susquehanna County

The fall of 2019 was a season in which the abnormal and unexpected seemed to be the new norm in this northeastern county. Shorebirds were almost completely absent, waterfowl demonstrated a

paucity of diversity, and passerines lingered beyond expected departure dates.

Two resident **Mute Swans** were the only members of *Cygnus* identified. They were photographed at Marcho Florist Center 9/29 (BS, GS). Sorting the rarer **American Black Duck** from basic plumage **Mallards** proved a substitute pastime for local birders. Two were present on Stump Pond 11/21 (NVC) and 2 were there 9/23 (DB). A pair were seen at Quaker Lake 11/3, 11/10, and 11/19 (EM), and Lord Pond hosted one 11/25 (KJ). Up to five **Ring-necked Ducks** were present on Stearns Lake 11/14-24 (EB), a single bird was on Lake Montrose 11/4 (TN), and a single bird was on Quaker Lake 11/18-24 (EM). They are an expected fall visitor and their numbers this year were low. One of the anticipated pleasures of inland fall migration is to spot one or two of the “sea ducks”. This year passed with a single report of 8 **Surf Scoters** on Quaker Lake 10/8 (EM). November was **Bufflehead** month, albeit later than expected. A dozen appeared on Quaker Lake 11/6 (EM, JSt), 5 on Stearns Lake 11/8 (EB), 4 on Page Lake 11/9 (DB, EM, NVC), and one on Lake Chrisann 11/29 (EM, WS, BS). A **Common Goldeneye** proved to be a worthwhile chase over its extended stay during the final two weeks of Nov at Quaker Lake (m.ob.).

An unusually late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was present in SGL 35 on 11/19 (EM). The only other report of this species in the second half of Nov occurred in 1999. **Common Nighthawks** have been an underreported species in *Susquehanna* until this year. A birding couple with access to a unique vantage point decided to record the passage of the species through the county. The location is at the center of an arc (with a radius of 1400-2000 ft.) in the flow of the Susquehanna River and is situated 165 feet above water level. Only a handful of records existed for this species in fall before this two week vigil was undertaken. The graph below depicts the results of their eBird data of the species’ passing through Susquehanna this season. Time of day and effort were about equal. Several days prior to and after these dates were also checked, but no nighthawks were seen. The results of their 2019 “sunset” records are as follows (BS, GS, m.ob.):



Number of Common Nighthawks passing through Susquehanna during the Fall Migration

Unusually late **American Woodcocks** were present on a private wetland 10/11-12 (NVC). *Susquehanna* offered very little in the way of suitable shoreline habitat for small waders this autumn. As a result, shorebirds were nearly impossible to find. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** found a bit of mud edge along the Susquehanna River 9/23-10/1 (BS, GS, EM). Ever mindful of the need to keep parking lots free of detritus, residents rely on stray gulls to maintain our presentability to visitors and to tic a seasonal checklist or two. A single **Ring-billed Gull** was present for a day on Laurel Lake 11/25 (EM) and one was on Page Lake 11/30 (NVC). A **Herring Gull** was spotted on Page Lake 11/10 (DB), one was on Laurel Lake 11/11-12 (EM), and one was on Quaker Lake 11/16 (TN). **Common Loons** are expected visitors every spring and autumn. This year only two locations had them: one was Stearns Lake on three occasions (EB), and a single yodeling vocalization was heard on the river 9/6 (GS). Locations around the county in Aug, Sep, and Oct served as

settings for the post-breeding dispersal of **Great Egrets** with multiple individuals seen at various spots (m.ob.). This delightful spectacle is a recent development in our northern tier and greatly enjoyed by the birding community.

Ospreys, absent during the summer season, returned for brief visits to area lakes in Sep (m.ob.). Three **Golden Eagles** graced the county: one over Elk Lake 8/10 (JH), one over Rush Twp 10/25 (RB), and one photographed in Great Bend Twp. 11/26 (BS). With the county falling directly in line with Bald Eagle Mountain (Pennsylvania) to our southwest and Franklin Mountain (New York) to our northeast, we always hope for more sightings of this beautiful species, in spite of our being topographically challenged (from an eagle’s perspective). A rarely seen **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted on the same walk in Rush Twp. in which the Golden Eagle was seen 10/25 (RB). The first sighting of **Short-eared Owls** occurred at our tried and true short-ear hotspot 11/18 (JS).

Three lucky birders enjoyed views of the only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported in the county for this season. True to the species’ reputation, it was perched on an over-towering snag in SGL 35 on 8/26 (EM, BS, GS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was first photographed in SGL 35 on 8/26 and relocated at the same spot 9/5 (EM, BS, GS). Another was at Salt Springs State Park the following day 9/6 (JSt). A **Northern Shrike** was fortuitously spotted and photographed through a kitchen window as it perched next to a bird feeder in a Bridgewater Twp. neighborhood 11/6 (LT). Subsequent attempts to relocate the bird proved unsuccessful. The new tradition of chasing Black Friday birds resulted in the discovery of a flock of 35 **Horned Larks** feeding in freshly manured corn stubble 11/29 (EM, WS, BS). Sure beats flocks of shoppers! A modest movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** occurred with a total of eight reports from across the county, the first of which was 8/16 (DB) and the last 11/2 (TD). Two **Snow Buntings** were photographed near Thompson 11/28 (SS).

Fox Sparrow numbers were down this fall with just three reports of single birds: one in Montrose 11/14 (TN), one in New Milford Twp. 11/2, and another at the same location 11/11 (NVC). The same can be said for **White-crowned Sparrows** with but two sightings for the season: one in Montrose 10/17 (TN) and one south of New Milford 10/26 (DL, DT). Although numbers were historically low for two other sparrows, **Vesper Sparrows** and **Lincoln’s Sparrows** were seen by a few more observers this season. Vespers were present 10/3-11/1 along a private, brush-lined driveway that is surrounded by expansive mowed fields (DA, BM, EM, JSt, NVC). The season’s first Lincoln’s sighting was in SGL 35 on 9/21 (DB), followed by one on private property in Dimock Twp. 11/24 (JSt), and another 2 photographed on private property in New Milford Twp. 10/2-10/19 (EM, BS, GS, NVC). Twenty-seven species of warblers were present in *Susquehanna* this fall. The spot for viewing this parade of beauty and for studying fall plumage is SGL 35. Eleven of those 27 species continued into Oct, and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** lingered into Nov.

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Union County – no report

Tioga County

Locations: Asaph (ASA), Buckwheat Hollow Road (BHR), Burg Road (BUR), Canyon Airport (CNA), Cowanesque Lake Recreation Area (CLRA), Gee Road (GER), Goodall Road (GDR), Hills Creek Estates (HCE), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hills Creek SP (HCSP), Leetonia (LET), Middlebury Centre (MIC), Middle Ridge Swamp at Rte. 660 (MRS), Morris (MOR), The Muck IBA (MUCK), Nessmuck Lake (NEL), Pine Creek Gorge-IBA (PCG), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), Roseville (ROS), Stony Fork (STF), Tioga (TIG), Tioga-Hammond Lakes (THL), Wellsboro (WEL), Wellsboro-Johnston Airport (WJA), Welsh Road (WELR).

Data for this report were obtained from eBird and includes sightings by 15 observers from 31 locations. A total of 168 species were reported during the fall, the most noteworthy of which was a single **American White Pelican** near Roseville.

Wood Ducks were reported from three locations: 7 at Tauscher Pond, HCSP 8/8 (LD), 4 at a residence along Marsh Creek one mile north of ASA 10/13 (JC), and 2 from the outfall channel at THL 11/24 (MC). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at a residence near ASA 10/13 (JC). Two **Gadwalls** were on Marsh Creek at the MUCK 11/11 (LD) and 3 **American Wigeons** were at HCSP 11/5 (LD). Twenty-eight **American Black Ducks** were at Webster Road and the PCRT 11/20 (LD). Two **Green-winged Teals** were on Marsh Creek at the MUCK 11/11 (LD) and 10 **Ring-necked Ducks** were on NEL 11/12 (LD). A single **Lesser Scaup** was at Marsh Creek at the MUCK 11/11 (LD). Three **Buffleheads** were seen at the Ives Run Recreation Area at THL 11/26 (GT). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at HCSP 10/19 (RH), and one **Ruddy Duck** was on NEL 11/1 (RH).

Ruffed Grouse were reported from two locations: one at the Ives Run Recreation Area, THL 10/31 (KC), and 2 at Hurley Hill Road, MOR 11/30 (NEY). Four **Wild Turkeys** were in fields near CNA 11/22 (LD) and one **Pied-billed Grebe** was at NEL 11/15 (LD). Three **Common Nighthawks** were reported from a residence on Rte. 414 near MOR 9/6 (JC). One **Virginia Rail** was at Marsh Creek at the MUCK 10/20 (RH), and one **Sora** was reported from Tauscher Pond HCSP 8/8 (LD). An **American Coot** was at the Ives Run Rec. Area (THL) 10/31 (KC). An **American Woodcock** was seen on game commission land along HCLR 11/2 (LD). One **Wilson's Snipe** was at the Railyard, near the MUCK 10/12 (DKP). Two **Caspian Terns** were at the Ives Run Rec. Area THL 9/25 (GT). A rare **American White Pelican** was photographed at Husted Pond, ROS 8/17 (KL). A **Great Egret** was at the Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 10/3 (KC).

Four **Ospreys** were at the Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 8/5 (DKP). A migrating **Golden Eagle** was observed from Lawton Road west of STF 11/22 (LD). Two sightings of **Northern Harriers** included one in the area adjacent to WELR 11/9 (RH) and one on BUR 11/15 (LD). Four **Bald Eagles** were seen at the Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 11/26 (GT). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen from the Pennsylvania Welcome Center off Rte. 15 at TIG 8/29 (anon.), and one migrating or overwintering **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen from BUR 11/22 (LD). A **Great Horned Owl** was reported at MRS 10/14 (KC). Falcons were represented by an **American Kestrel** at Herb Andrew Road north of MIC 10/2 (LD), a **Merlin** was in LET 11/5 (LIS) and one **Peregrine Falcon** was along BUR near the intersection with Rte. 6 on 10/19 (KC).

Two sightings of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** included one along HCLR 9/23 (LD) and one at the Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 9/6 (TFJ). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported from Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 9/6 (TFJ), and one **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at Lamb's Creek Rec. Area, THL 9/5 (KC). Only one **Horned Lark** was reported, from WELR 11/9 (RH). Two **Bank Swallows** were seen from GER 8/2 (LD). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at HCSP 10/19 (LIS), a **Winter Wren** was reported near Red Ledge Ridge, PCG 8/6 (JW), and a **Marsh Wren** was seen at Marsh Creek at the MUCK 9/30 (LD). Two migrant thrushes were reported; one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and 3 **Swainson's Thrushes** were observed at a residence along Marsh Creek near ASA 10/3 (JC). Ten **American Pipits** were seen along WELR 11/9 (RH). One **Purple Finch** was seen the HCE 11/12 (GT), and 4 **Pine Siskins** were reported from LET 11/5 (LIS). Six **Snow Buntings** were at WJA 11/9 (RH). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at the Fire Tower located at the end of GDR 9/21 (LD). A **Bobolink** was seen along Pine Hollow Road, southeast of ROS 8/20 (LD). One migrating and uncommon **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from a residence located along Rte. 287, six miles south of WEL 11/13 (DKP).

A **Tennessee Warbler** was at the Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 10/3 (KC), and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Lamb's Creek Rec. Area, THL 9/14 (LD). A **Cape May Warbler** and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** were spotted at a residence along Marsh Creek, approximately one mile north of ASA 10/3 (JC). A **Palm Warbler** was reported from a trail near the southwest corner of NEL 10/12 (LD), and a **Pine Warbler** was reported

from a residence near the intersection of Cross Road and BHR 10/15 (AC). A single **Prairie Warbler** was at CLRA 8/22 (RH), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at the Ives Run Rec. Area, THL 9/7 (KC).

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Venango County

Locations: Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Justus Lake (JL), Kahle Lake (KL), Kolodick's back yard, (KO), Oil City Marina (OCM), Rhoades Farm near KL (RF).

The species count for the season was 152, down from 165 last year. The decrease was slightly offset by one out of the ordinary sighting, but overall it was a below average reporting period.

For the fourth consecutive year, the scarcity of cold fronts during Oct and Nov apparently contributed to the low numbers and variety of waterfowl showing up on JL and KL. The only **Tundra Swan** flights were reported at KL 10/19 (DS) and at BHNS 11/3 and 11/7 (KG, JS). The following waterfowl reports were from KL unless otherwise noted. The only **Gadwall** sighting was 11/19 (GE) but **American Wigeon** was reported from 10/13 (JS) to 11/10 (GE). One **Canvasback** was present 11/5 (JS) and 2 **Redhead** were noted 10/19 (DS). **Ring-necked Duck** was present 11/8-17 (JS, GE). **Lesser Scaup** was reported after 11/10 (GE) and **Greater Scaup** was present 11/20 (JS). **Bufflehead** migration began 9/10 (RS) and continued through Nov. **Common Goldeneye** returned 11/7 (JS). **Ruddy Duck** was present beginning 9/16 (GE, JS, RS). **Pied-billed Grebe** began moving through 9/17 (RS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained through 8/17 (KG, JS) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** was last seen 8/18 (NB). It was another good year at the 15th annual **Common Nighthawk** migration count at the OCM 8/15-9/13 (m.ob.). The final tally was 997. No rails were seen during the season. **Chimney Swift** remained thru 9/26 (RS). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported at BHNS 9/23 (KG, JS).

The first **American Golden-Plover** in eight years was found at RF 10/27 (JS). **Solitary Sandpiper** moved through 8/3-11 (RS, GE). **Greater Yellowlegs** was at KL 9/1 (MK, NK).

Common Loon returned to KL 11/2 (JS). **Double-crested Cormorant** was last seen 10/31 (GE). The first **Great Egret** for the year was reported near Belmar 9/6 (JH) and **Green Heron** remained at JL through 9/27 (MK, NK).

The last **Turkey Vulture** was reported 11/7 (GE). **Osprey** moved through 8/2-9/4 (JH, GE). **Northern Harrier** was seen 10/11-11/17 (GE). The last **Broad-winged Hawk** sighting was 9/17 (RS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported 9/20-27 and 11/16 at BHNS (KG, JS) and 11/20 at OCSP (GE, JW). The last **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at KO 10/12 (MK, NK). The only **Merlin** was at OCM 9/29 (GE, MK, NK, RS).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was at BHNS 9/12 (KG, JS), and **Eastern Wood-Pewee** remained until 9/23 (MK, NK, RS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** moved through 8/29-10/1 (KG, JS). **Least Flycatcher** was last seen 9/16 (GE) and **Eastern Kingbird** on 9/15 (KG, JS). Last vireos were: **White eyed Vireo** 9/25 (JS), **Yellow-throated Vireo** 9/26 (MK, NK), **Blue-headed Vireo** 10/30 (NB), **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/28 (JS), **Warbling Vireo** 9/14 (RS), and **Red-eyed Vireo** 10/8 (NB).

Cliff Swallow nests continue to decline. Just 16 nests were counted during an annual survey (RS). The last **House Wren** was reported 9/28 (GE). The only **Winter Wren** was at BHNS 9/27 (JS). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** remained through 8/29 (MK, NK). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** returned 10/6 (NB) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** moved through from 9/24 (NB) to 11/2 (MK, NK). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at KO 8/15 and 8/26 (MK, NK). **Swainson's Thrushes** moved through from 9/1 (NB) to 11/2 (MK, NK). Other thrush/mimic late dates were **Hermit Thrush** 11/6 (KG, JS), **Gray Catbird** 10/13 (MK, NK), **Brown Thrasher**

10/8 (MK, NK), and **Northern Mockingbird** 11/17 (GE). Gray-cheeked Thrush was not reported.

The only **Snow Bunting** reported was at RF 11/1 (JS). A late **Eastern Towhee** was seen at a residence 11/16 (JR). The first **American Tree Sparrow** appeared at BHNS 11/12 (KG, JS). **Lincoln's Sparrow** moved through 9/27 (JS) to 10/13 (RS). **White-throated Sparrow** returned 10/6 (MK), and **White-crowned Sparrow** moved through 10/5 (RS) to 11/11 (NB). The last **Baltimore Oriole** was seen 9/25 (MK, NK).

Warbler migration was unspectacular with 24 species recorded. Warblers that historically have been recorded in fall but this season but were absent follow, along with the year each species was last found: Worm-eating Warbler 2015; Louisiana Waterthrush 2005; Northern Waterthrush 2004, Golden-winged Warbler 2018, Mourning Warbler 2015, Kentucky Warbler 2015, and Prairie Warbler 2006. The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** of the season was at TMCP 9/28 (RS).

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Allegheny Reservoir (AR); Bulldog Banding site, Allegheny National Forest (BB); Chapman Dam State Park (CD), Columbus (CO); Economite Road (ER); Farnsworth/Tionesta creeks confluence (FT); Ice Cream banding site, Allegheny National Forest (IC); Kinzua Dam (KD), Ludwick Road (LR); Mecca banding site, Allegheny National Forest (MB); Pittsfield (PF); Ravenclaw Banding site, Allegheny National Forest (RB); Sugar Grove (SG); Swede Road (SW); Tanbark Trail (TB); Tidioute Trail (TT), City of Warren (WC), Wenzel Road (WR).

A prolonged, warm summer rapidly changed to winter-like conditions in mid-October, which made for an interesting season bird-wise. A large flock of 62 **Tundra Swans** were spotted at SR 11/8 (EN), and 39 were over WC 11/9 (TS, BC). Scattered observations of **Wood Ducks** were made all season, with a maximum of 5 reported from AS 10/21 (AL). Of note were 4 **Northern Pintails** accompanying 8 **Hooded Mergansers** at CD 11/7 (BC, TS). Concentrations of **Common Mergansers** included 15 at KD 8/4 (CR), 12 at TT 10/25 (SI), and a flock of 9 flying northward at BB 10/25 (SS), far from any water source. Rare in *Warren* was a single **Ruddy Duck** at AS 10/25 (AL). **Wild Turkey** seemed rather sparse this fall, with a maximum of just 9 reported from RB 9/12 (JB). **Common Nighthawk** populations have declined drastically in recent decades, so a report of 9 in SG 8/27 (IR) was encouraging. Particularly noteworthy was a sighting of a single **Sora** at KD 8/4 (CR); this wetland species is virtually unknown in *Warren* outside of AS. **American Woodcock** seemed to be present in decent numbers; of note were 5 in PF 8/2 (JL). A group of 7 **Double-crested Cormorants** was spotted at KD 9/29 (AA, EA); their numbers seem to be increasing every year.

A maximum of 3 **Ospreys** were seen on the AR 8/20 (JH), although whether these were local breeders or early migrants was unknown. **Northern Harriers** tend to be sparse in this heavily-wooded county, so observations of single birds at WR 8/18 and 10/27 (BC, TS), at AS on 10/21 (AL), and at WC on 10/8 (TS) were noteworthy. A particularly exciting observation was of a single **Barn Owl** seen at close range on Old Rte. 77 east of SB 10/19 (AL); this species is seen sporadically in agricultural areas of *Warren*, but our hard winters may make it tough for them to maintain a permanent population. More typical of our area was a single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling at dawn at MB 8/24 (JF). The 3 **American Kestrels** on LR 8/19 (BC, TS) were likely local breeders and their offspring, as this road has several kestrel boxes. **Merlins** remain fairly common locally, with single birds seen in CO 8/25 (JH) and WC 9/12 (BC, TS), and 2 cavorting at MB 9/27 (JB, SS).

Disturbingly, no Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from *Warren*

this fall; perhaps the first fall in recent memory they have not been seen. This species has declined precipitously over the past few decades, as have many aerial insectivores. On a brighter note, 4 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were seen at HC 8/16 (BS, GS). Multiple **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** (the cutest of the *Empidonax*!) were reported from around the county; of note were 2 caught and banded at IC 9/12 (SS). Two **White-eyed Vireos** were seen along with 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos** and 3 **Warbling Vireos** at CD 8/22 (MD); White-eyes are a southeastern species rarely found as far north as *Warren*. A more northern vireo, the **Philadelphia Vireo**, occurs here only as a migrant, but is tough to distinguish from similar-looking **Warbling Vireos** without a good view. So single **Philadelphia Vireos** caught and banded at IC 9/10 and MB 9/27 were noteworthy. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** showed up by the second week in Oct, but were always outnumbered by their **Ruby-crowned** cousins; a high of 4 Golden-crowns were spotted at CD 11/24 (AM) and 7 **Ruby-crowned** at IC 10/8 (SS). Also of note was a high count of 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at ER 10/19 (CW). **Winter Wrens**, though common, are tough to see, especially when they're not singing, so a count of 3 at TB 8/6 was impressive (CW). Another *Warren* rarity, a **Marsh Wren**, was spotted at CD 8/22 (MD). A very early **Gray-cheeked Thrush** showed up and was banded at AB 9/5, and was measured and photographed extensively (m.ob.). Three **Gray-cheeks** were seen at ER 9/22 (CW). **Wood Thrushes** tend to be rather sparse in *Warren* and other High Plateau counties, so a total of 7 at DS 9/21 was quite unusual (CW). **Cedar Waxwings** seem to have declined greatly in this region since the arrival of the invasive fruit fly *Drosophila suzukii*, which destroys both wild and commercial berry crops, so a high count of 25 at IC 9/10 was, sadly, now unusual (SS).

Although our fall was relatively mild, sharp eyes spotted a rather early single **Snow Bunting** at SW 11/20 (EN, KN). Also early for *Warren* were single **American Tree Sparrows** at SW 11/13 (EN) and in WC 11/14 (TS). Otherwise it seemed to be a poor fall for sparrows generally. A single **Fox Sparrow** was reported from SG 11/13 (SS) and 2 were at WC 11/15 (BC, TS). Similarly, a few single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were spotted in various locations, starting 9/30 at MB (SS), and ending with 2 at FT 10/30 (TS). **Bobolinks** tend to migrate quite early in the fall, so 5 at ER 8/5 were noteworthy (CW). The sole report of **Rusty Blackbird** from *Warren* this fall was a flock of 7 at RB 10/19 (SS).

Most migratory songbirds remain on their breeding grounds well after fledging young to undergo molt prior to migration. However, increasingly it has been recognized that some species and even individuals within species exhibit some form of "molt-migration", in which molt and migration overlap. **Tennessee Warblers** are one such species in which a subset of breeders begin migration almost immediately after the breeding season and molt on their way south, presumably because they've either lost their nest or failed to find a mate. As a result, birders and bird-banders here and elsewhere begin to see a few individual Tennessees as early as late July and early August, well before their main migratory push in September. Bird-banding teams on the Allegheny National Forest typically catch one or occasionally two of these early Tennessees annually in mid-molt in early August. This year a total of six were caught and banded between late July and 8/10 at multiple sites. It is unknown whether this number represents a poor nesting season for Tennessees or abnormally high populations due to spruce budworm activity in boreal forests to our north.

Nashville Warblers seemed sparse this fall, with a few single birds seen around the county; of note were 5 caught and banded at RB 9/21 (SS). Unusual this far north was a **Kentucky Warbler** at SW 9/21 (KN). Concentrations of **Cape May Warblers** are unusual, so reports of 4 at SW 9/13 (KN) and 5 at RB 9/21 were noteworthy. Significant population declines of **Bay-breasted Warblers** have made them a species of high conservation concern in recent decades, but this year seemed to be another banner year for them, with high counts of 4 at SW 9/12 (KW) and 9 at RB 9/21 (SS). In fact, they seemed much more common than the usually more abundant **Blackpoll Warbler**, which was scarce this fall. A high count of just 3 was made at ER 9/21 (CW); in most years dozens can be seen on good days. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** also seemed

sparse this fall, or perhaps just late, with a high count of just 5 at AS 10/21 (AL); in some years a good day's count exceeds fifty. Highly unusual for *Warren* was a sighting of a **Prairie Warbler** at CD 8/22 (MD); this species rarely ventures this far north. It was a good year for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** migration, with a maximum of 8 banded (and sore fingers!!) at IC 9/10 (SS).

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Washington County

Locations: Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A flock of 58 **Tundra Swans** was over GCW 11/15 (RG), one was at CC 11/21 (RI), and 9 were near BENT 11/24 (JP, JF, MM, LN). A fallout of **Blue-winged Teals** was noted during heavy rain 9/23: 20 were at CC and 30 were at CL (MJ). Another 28 were counted near BENT 10/13 (JP, JF). Four **Northern Shovelers** were at R4 on 10/7 (MJ), and one was at CC 10/13 (FK). Two **American Black Ducks** were at R4 from 11/11-15 (RI) and one was near BENT 11/24 (JP, JF, MM, LN). An early **Green-winged Teal** was at CL 8/14 (MJ). **Redhead** is absent in fall as often as not; this season 3 were at R4 on 11/5 (RI). A good fall count of 31 **Ring-necked Ducks** was made at the ponds near Ginger Hill 11/12 (JP, JF) and 13 remained there to at least 11/24. Best Duck Award went to the **Surf Scoter** at PL 11/22 (JF); this species has been seen in the county in just three of the past 10 years. Fourteen **Common Mergansers** near BENT 11/24 (JP, JF) was a good count. **Horned Grebe** was at CC 11/6-21 (RI) and one was also at R4 on 11/8 (RI).

Common Nighthawk was reported from six locations 8/5-9/14 but in very small numbers (m.ob.). A **Sora** was at GCW 10/13 (AP, TR). Shorebirds were highlighted by two species found in *Washington* far less than annually: an **American Golden-Plover** appeared at CC 9/2 (MJ) and remained to 9/7, and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was a one-day wonder at Boone Reservoir 9/19 (ph. MJ). Four **Semipalmated Plovers** were at CC 9/18 (RI). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was noted at CC (MV) and CL (MJ, FK, JF) in mid-Sep. One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** hung out at CC 9/5-18 (MJ, RI). A **Solitary Sandpiper** tarried at CL to 10/19 (MJ). Surprisingly, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Timber Lake 8/11-12 (MJ, JF) was the only one reported for the entire season. Two late **Greater Yellowlegs** were at R4 on 10/30, and one stayed even later to 11/8 (RI).

The county's second **Red-throated Loon** was a serendipitous find at GCW, where it was observed passing overhead in migration 11/16 (RG). **Common Loons** included one at CC 11/6 (RI), one at R4 on 11/8 (RI), and 4 near BENT 11/24 (JP, JF, MM, LN). Three **Great Egrets** were still at CL 10/12 (GG), but even more notably late was a **Green Heron** at PL 10/21 (LF). The two **Bald Eagles** that fledged successfully at CL were not seen after the summer (*fide* LC). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued from the summer to 10/24 in WASH (JPo). A **Merlin** was at Washington Cemetery, a traditional wintering location, 9/29 (MJ), and it or another was seen elsewhere in WASH 11/5 (LC). **Peregrine Falcon** is still unusual for *Washington* so one near Eighty Four 10/13 was noteworthy (MJ).

Philadelphia Vireos included one at CC 9/18 (RI), one at the Washington Park School pond 9/20 (LC), and one at MC 10/13 (JP, JF). **Common Raven** was reported from 15 locations (m.ob.). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in a WASH yard 11/30 (JPo) but was not reported from their annual wintering grounds at Washington Cemetery, perhaps merely for lack of effort. Two **Veeries** were at SGL 232 on 9/6 (FK) and a **Swainson's Thrush** was at WP 9/25 (LC). A duo of procrastinating **Gray Catbirds** was at PL 11/11 (JF). An **American Pipit**

on Lynn Portal Rd. near CC 11/13 (RI) was the only one reported. A **Purple Finch** at WP 9/25 (LC) likewise represented the season total for its species. A **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find at GCW 8/21 (RI). Up to 5 **Fox Sparrows** were at GCW 11/15-16 (RG) and one was in a WASH yard 11/27 (JPo). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** near BENT 10/13 (JP, JF) were the only ones reported. A great tally of 40 **Swamp Sparrows** was made at GCW 10/13 (AP, TR), and equally impressive were 50 **Bobolinks** at CC 9/3 (JF, LF). The only **Rusty Blackbirds** were one at CC 10/24 (RI) and 2 at PL 11/12 (JF, LF). Late migrants included one **Cape May Warbler** at PL 10/21 (LF), one **Black-throated Green Warbler** at MC 10/13, and one **Indigo Bunting** near BENT 10/13 (JF).

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Wayne County

Locations: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

The **Sandhill Cranes** photographed at a farm near Lakeville in 2018 returned to the same location in 2019. Two adults were seen feeding two juveniles 8/3 (RJ). According to local residents, the cranes have been breeding at this location for some time. Four **Black Terns** were photographed flying over LW 9/2 (MS), which marked the second eBird sighting of this species in *Wayne*. A **Golden Eagle** was reported near Gouldsboro 11/19 (NF).

Twenty warbler species were recorded, with the highlight a **Wilson's Warbler** near SGL 159 on 9/15 (DM). Surprisingly, county breeders Canada Warbler and Mourning Warbler were not reported.

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclechu76@gmail.com**, Nate Fronk, Ryan Johnson, Denis Mora, Michael Schall.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir at the Rt. 380 Overlook (BRR-380), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Reservoir, a.k.a. Derry Lake (ESR), Kuehl Property, Murrysville (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir, a.k.a. Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Love Hollow (LH), Mammoth County Park, (MCP), Morosini Reserve (MR), Northmoreland Park (NMP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), Sewickley Wetlands (SW), St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands (SVL), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Westmoreland Heritage Trail locations: Delmont to Trees Mill (WHT-DEL), Municipal Authority Beaver Run Reservoir section (WHT-BR), Sarah Steele to Saltsburg (WHT-SS), Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve (WPNR).

Seven **Tundra Swans** were at LR 11/5 (AM) and 3 continued there to 11/15 (AM). Notable, but not unprecedented for the location, was a report of 42 **Wood Ducks** at WHT-BR 10/5 (KB). Also significant was a high count of 37 **Blue-winged Teal** that flushed from the pond at PNR 9/23 (JT). **Gadwall** and **American Wigeon** were reported only at LR this season; up to 9 **Gadwall** 10/27-11/15 (AM, et al.), and 3 **American Wigeon** 11/1 (JK). Limited reports for **American Black Duck** included the season-high count of 19 at LR 11/15 (AM). Consistent with the lack of reports for puddle ducks for the season was only one report for **Northern Shoveler**, 2 at WHT-BR 10/23 (KB). Northern Pintail was absent, and there was just one report of **Green-winged Teal**, one at DL 9/1 (MJ). Like the puddle ducks, reports for divers were also quite limited, with several species not reported. Season high counts for the species that were reported were 36 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Mannitto Golf Course 11/19 (RH, SM), one **Lesser Scaup** at TLP 10/19 (I&JK), and 8 **Bufflehead** at LR (TB). Many reports were made at several locations of **Hooded Mergansers** including 37 at LR 11/9 (AM). Same was true for

Common Mergansers, including a high count of 88 at WHT-BR 11/19 (KB). **Ruddy Ducks** were found at several locations, high count was 13 at LR 11/15 (AM).

Since the Pennsylvania Game Commission designated the **Northern Bobwhite** as extirpated in the commonwealth in 2014, it was unlikely that the male observed in Derry in early Aug was a wild bird (*vide* MF). Sadly, there were no reports of our state bird, the Ruffed Grouse, as species of growing concern. Several reports of single **Horned Grebes** were made at several locations, and 2 were at SVL 1/11 (RC). Typically hard to find, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported on the WHT-DEL 10/1 (KB). A total of 65 migrant **Common Nighthawks** were tallied at a home in Delmont 9/2-12 (KB), which included a count of 32 on 9/10. A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered at a feeder in Latrobe 10/30-11/2 (SF). BRR-380 was the most productive location for **American Coot** this season; counts included 36 on 10/23 (MM) and 33 on 10/31 (KB).

Shorebirds at DL 8/31 included one **Semipalmated Plover**, 4 **Least Sandpipers**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and one **Greater Yellowlegs** (AM). Others at MCP 9/11 included one **Semipalmated Plover**, a substantial count of 19 **Killdeer**, one **Pectoral Sandpiper** and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** (MM). These two outings accounted for most of the migrant shorebirds species observed for the season. Six **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at MCP 8/25 (RC).

What was described as a small, very white gull at BRR-380 on 9/18 was photographed (MM); unfortunately, the distance and quality of the photos were not adequate to identify this potentially interesting gull. Gulls were otherwise quite limited: just one **Bonaparte's Gull** was at BRR-380 on 9/20 (MM), and one **Ring-billed Gull** was at ESL 11/26 (AM). **Common Loons** included singles at LR 11/2 (AM) and 11/24 (AM), and one at the Rt. 286 crossing of Beaver Run Reservoir 11/11 (MM). Five reports of one or 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were made 9/2-11/19 at WHT-BR (KB). A rare **American Bittern** was reported at KSP 10/5 (MJ), and a **Great Egret** was at LR 8/31 (AM) and 9/2 (AM). Quite a find was a juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at SVL 9/26 (ph. RC).

At times high numbers of **Black Vultures** are found in the Ligonier Valley, however this season the few reports made never exceeded 2 birds. A locally-nesting **Bald Eagle** was found shot on the West Penn Trail 10/4 (CW). It was taken to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Verona where it was euthanized. The Game Commission investigated the incident, however as of this writing, there has been no further information on who was responsible for the shooting.

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found on the WHT-SS 11/10 (KB). Given the negative impact of West Nile virus on **Great Horned Owls** it was encouraging that several observations were made this season, including reports of 2 at the MR 9/9 and 11/29 (RH, SM). **Barred Owls** responded to day-time fire sirens at the KP 8/7 and continued to be heard periodically through 10/30 (JLK, TK). One **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was banded at PNR 10/25 (JT). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at PNR 9/20 (AS) and one was there 10/4 (KC). **Merlins** were reported four times: one at the WHT-BR 9/10 (KB), one at NMP 9/18 (MVT), 3 at PNR 10/4 (ED), and one at PNR 10/5 (KC). A **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed perched on the Freeport Bridge 11/9 (DB), nearby to a recent nesting area.

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was banded at PNR 9/8. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at WHT-SS 9/8 (KB). Several reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** included one at WHT-BR 9/10, and one at WHT-DEL 9/25 and 10/2 (KB). Although a breeding species in *Westmoreland*, **Warbling Vireo** is uncommonly reported nevertheless, so one at NMP 9/8 (MK) was noteworthy. The many reports for **Common Raven**, at both high and low elevations, continued to demonstrate its expanded range in *Westmoreland*. Unusually high counts for **Bank Swallow** were 26 at BRR-380 on 8/22 (MM) and 18 there 8/23 (MM). A **Cliff Swallow** at BRR-380 on 8/17 (MM) was the only one reported. It was not surprising that Red-breasted Nuthatch was absent, considering the food forecast to the north of Pennsylvania. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** are captured in big numbers at PNR (389 were netted this season), but they are typically difficult to find in the field; one flared its red-cap in response to its reflection in a front window at the KP 10/24 (JK), and several sightings were made at WHT locations 10/5-29 (KB) including a high tally of 8 at WHT-DEL 10/21 (KB). There were just a few reports of **Brown Creeper**,

including the highest tally of 2 WHT-BR 11/1 (KB). Same for **Winter Wren**, reports of which did include a late bird at WHT-BR 11/28 (KB). As is most often the case, the only report for **Marsh Wren** was of a captured bird at PNR 10/6. Prompted by the cold nights late in the season, a pair of **Carolina Wrens** stuffed themselves into a wicker basket on the side porch of the KP house. In addition to the capture of 59 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** at PNR, one was located at WHT-DEL 9/25 (MM). **Hermit Thrushes** were also observed in the field with 2 at WHT-SS 10/13 (KB) and one on Bow Ridge 11/10 (RCa).

Rare and migrant sparrows are, at best, lightly reported in the field in *Westmoreland*. Although 9 were banded at PNR for the season, the only field report of **Fox Sparrow** was one at WHT-DEL 11/19 (KB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported at the MR 9/27 (SM) and 2 were at the WPNR 10/18 (PC), a reliable feeder location for this species. Two **Savannah Sparrows** were a good find at DL 10/19 (AM), as were 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** LH 10/11 (AM); the latter species was reported but a few times this season.

The banding program at PNR, the almost daily effort on the WHT (KB), and significant effort in the field at several other migrant hot spots resulted in a fine batch of warbler reports this season. PNR staff banded 29 warbler species during the season including 3 species not reported by observers in the field; these species and their total counts at PNR were 129 **Northern Waterthrush**, one **Golden-winged Warbler** and 16 **Connecticut Warblers**. Twenty warbler species were tallied on the WHT (KB), including one **Pine Warbler** 9/16 and one **Prairie Warbler** 9/25; these two species were not captured at PNR during the season. The following passage migrants were both captured at PNR and tallied on the WHT (KB): **Tennessee Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warbler**. Raising the season's final tally to 32 species was a report of one **Orange-crowned Warbler** at MR 9/27 (SM). Notable observations at other locations included: a PVP eBird submission of 9/27 (MD) that included a **Mourning Warbler** 5 **Bay-breasted Warblers** at PVP 9/27 (MD), one **Blackpoll Warbler** and 2 **Palm Warblers** at PVP 9/28 (MD), and 2 **Palm Warblers** at SW 10/11 (MF).

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Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center, including Vosburg Neck (EMNC); Iroquois Trail, Tunkhannock (IT); Jennings Pond (JP); Lake Carey (LC); Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LRG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Nesbitt Road (NR), Oxbow Lake (OL), Phelps Swamp (PS); Riverside Park (RP); Russell Hill (RH); Scavazzo's Pond (SP); Scottsville Road (SR); Sharpe's Lake (SL); State Game Lands 57 (SGL).

It was a pretty typical fall in *Wyoming*, with the expected mix of regularly seen migrants and a few less common ones. The most significant rarity was **Mississippi Kite**. The most significant miss of the season was Common Loon.

American Wigeon, an uncommon migrant, was recorded very briefly at two locations: 6 at SP 11/7 (JD) and 8 at LC 11/12 (MC). **Green-winged Teal**, another uncommon species here, was reported three times: 6 at DC 10/29, 6 at SL 11/2, and one at DC 11/5 (all JD). In contrast, **Ring-necked Duck** is commonly present in *Wyoming* during fall migration. Four were at SP 11/7 (JD), 7 were at OL 11/10 (MC), and 5 were at OL 11/19 (MC). They were also recorded at LC 11/11-26, with a high of 15 on 11/13 (all MC). Another regular fall visitor is **Bufflehead**, and birds were recorded throughout the month of Nov at LC and OL, mostly in single digit numbers. However, 10-12 were observed at LC

11/7-10 (JD, MC). A rare record of **Common Goldeneye** was made 11/21 when a single bird appeared at OL (JD, MC). **Ruddy Duck** is another regular visitor to *Wyoming*, appearing in small numbers during fall migration. Three birds were observed at LC 10/20 (JD), one was at OL 11/7 (JD), and one to 8 were at LC 11/11-14 (MC).

Pied-billed Grebe, another regular visitor in very small numbers, was recorded throughout Nov at LC, usually one or 2 at a time, but 3 were there 11/16 (EM, JSk, and JSt). Small numbers of **Horned Grebes** visit LC each fall; the only record this year was of single bird there 11/11 (MC). **Common Nighthawk** has become an uncommon to rare sight in the county. This season, 5 were over Tunkhannock 9/15 (RL). We rarely see them outside of migration nowadays.

Sandhill Crane, on the other hand, continues its regular presence in *Wyoming*, particularly in the vicinity of SL. Two to 4 of them were recorded on and off throughout the summer and into the fall. The last record of the season there was 11/3-6 when 2 adults were observed during this fall's Sandhill Crane Survey (JD). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed at LC 8/25-11/1 (JD, MC, EM). They are still recorded here only outside of safe dates during migration, despite evidence that the species continues to expand its breeding range. As usual for the migration season, there were reports of **Great Egret** post-breeding dispersal. They were recorded on nine separate dates 8/4-10/20 at five locations (MC, JD, TB, and TS).

A single **Northern Harrier**, a possible breeder here, was recorded on five dates: 9/22 near Dalton (CL), 10/10 and 10/29 at DC (JD), 11/3 at Vosburg Road (RL), and 11/28 again near Dalton (CL). **Golden Eagle** was recorded over Tunkhannock 10/8, 11/3, and 11/13 (all BA). The highlight of the fall was a **Mississippi Kite** soaring above Mehoopany Creek near Forkston 9/7 (DT, DL), likely the first for *Wyoming*.

The only record of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was a single at DC 10/10 (JD). Fifty **American Pipits** were observed along Mason Road near Lake Carey 10/21 (JSk). A **Fox Sparrow** appeared, as it has in recent falls, at a backyard feeding station at LC: 2 birds were present 11/14-19 one was there 11/25 (both MC).

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Twp (FVTP), Gateway Hanover Retention Ponds (GATE), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Twp Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Shepperd Myers Reservoir (SMR).

The 197 species reported was on the high side for this period, while the 25 warbler species was on the low end compared to recent years. Highlights included **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, **White Ibis**, a banner **Broad-winged Hawk** count at the RRCP hawk watch, and **Marsh Wren**.

It was *York's* turn to host the seemingly increasingly vagrant **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**. A flock of 6 birds were spotted on the banks of the Susquehanna R. at Native Lands Heritage Trail 8/7 (CB, DC, DN, DW). They marked the county's first but they were only found that day. A **Cackling Goose** was photographed at LR 11/10 (BR). **Mute Swan** are typically confined to Spring Grove but singles were also found along the Rail Trail 10/25 (JB) and at LW 11/15 (CK). High count at Spring Grove was 5 birds 10/24 (DN). Rather early **Tundra Swan** movement of 6 birds was seen over RRCP 11/1 (PK, KO, FP) and a flock of 28 was detected over RRCP 11/13 (PK, FP). Four **Wood Duck** counts in excess of 30 birds (ranging from 31-45) were made at four sites 9/11-11/2 (m. ob.). A quartet of **Blue-winged Teal** were at LW 8/28 (BR) and 2 were at CSP

11/10 (DN). Five sites hosted **Northern Shoveler** 9/27-11/30 (m. ob.) with a high count of 11 at GPSP 10/13 (AWg). Up to 2 **American Black Ducks** were at GATE 10/12-30 (KC, DN), up to 9 were at LR 10/24-11/23 (m. ob.), and 2 were at New Cumberland ponds 11/2 (DN). Reports of single **Northern Pintail** 10/17 (KC), **Greater Scaup** 11/9 (RK), and **Lesser Scaup** 10/29 (MJ) came from GATE, GPSP, and LR, respectively. Good finds included a **Surf Scoter** at CSP 11/4 (CB, AM, HM, RS, AWg), a pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** at CSP 11/26 (CB), and a pair of **Common Goldeneye** at GPSP 11/13 (DN). A strong count of 15 **Pied-billed Grebes** was made at LW 11/19 (CK). A pair of **Horned Grebes** at LAR 11/7 (SH) was followed by a single 11/23 (MH, SH), and another was at GPSP 11/19 (DN).

Six sites reporting **Ring-necked Pheasant** suggested PGC stocking was at similar levels to last year. Ten sites reporting **Wild Turkey** were paced by a 19 count along Willis Rd. 10/2 (DN). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued its strong trend 16 sites yielding birds, led by a nice count of 5 at CSP 8/15 (CB, DN). Singles of **Black-bellied Cuckoo** were found at RRCP 8/29 (CB, DN) and at Nixon County Park 9/28 (AWg). **Common Nighthawk** was well reported 8/22-9/30 with a max of 31 at the RRCP hawkwatch 9/16 (m.ob.). Marsh Run continued to hold **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** from the summer. Three Virginia Rails and 2 Sora were present 8/25 (DN), and three Virginia Rails and one Sora were still there 9/29 (DN).

The shorebird species tally of 10 was a reflection of the high water levels at some traditional productive spots. Better finds despite these conditions were a **Semipalmated Plover** at GATE 8/3 (KC) and 3 at SMR 8/15-19 (CB, KC, DN, DW), a **Baird's Sandpiper** at SMR 8/15-19 (CB, DN), and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** at SMR 8/3 (KC). **American Woodcock** singles were found at LW 11/13 (BR) and HTP 11/22 (AWg). Singles of **Wilson's Snipe** were at SMR 10/19 (CB, DN, DW), at LAR 10/19 (DN), and in the Glen Rock area 11/19 (PM). **Bonaparte's Gull** showed 11/3-18 at CSP, GPSP, and LAR (m.ob.) with 3 at LAR 11/18 (SH) the high count. Up to 5 **Herring Gulls** were spotted over RRCP 11/10-13 (PK, AWg). Single **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen over RRCP 9/6 (CE, AWg), at the Codorus Creek Rte. 30 bridge 10/25 (JB), and at Goldsboro 11/3 (BS). The only **Caspian Tern** was one at CSP 8/14 (CB, DN, DW). A **Forster's Tern** was at LAR 8/29 (DN) and 3 were at CSP 9/8 (DB).

Small flocks of **Common Loons** of up to 5 birds were seen over RRCP 10/5, 10/12, and 11/18. A single was at CSP 9/21 (JF) and a pair was there 11/4 (AM, HM, DN, RS, AWg). GPSP also held a single 11/25-26 (DNN). A magnet for **Great Egret**, LR drew a 27 count of them 8/23 (RS). Four reports of **Black-crowned Night Heron** included late bird along the Rail Trail 10/14 (AWg). This was the first post-Sep sighting since 2013. A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** found its way to GATE 8/3 (KC). A **White Ibis** flew over Spring Grove 9/1 (JFr). This represented the first Sep record for *York*; all prior records were made in the months of Jul through Aug.

Summaries of the fall hawk watch sites are covered in detail elsewhere in this issue. A record 9571 **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted at RRCP, with peak movement 9/15-19 that saw daily counts of 1583, 967, 4871, 1267, and 967, respectively (KO, FP, RP, AWg, et al.). The 4871 on 9/17 included a conservative count of 3500 birds streaming high overhead in one 10 minute period around 13:00. Observers Ken Orvis and Randy Phillips witnessed the last massive kettle of 5500 birds at this site 9/18/1998, and were present again for this spectacle along with other fortunate hawkwatchers. Recruiting efforts by Andrew Wolfgang, York County Parks Naturalist, and others, produced hawk watch coverage for a portion of nearly all weather-permitting days in Sep and Oct, with some coverage extending into Nov. Away from the hawkwatch, an adult **Golden Eagle** was seen in Dover Twp. 11/13 (JCh). **Merlins** were seen at six sites and **Peregrine Falcon** at five. **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** had 8 and 14 reports, respectively, good showings for both. A single **Short-eared Owl** showed very early at HTP 10/21 (RP) and was thereafter reported 11/16-19 (m. ob.). There appear to be no prior records in Oct or Nov. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was in a FVTP neighborhood 10/10-29 (DN). A nice count of 9 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at HTP 8/1 (MJ) led the reporting from 10 sites.

Flycatchers included an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at RRCP 9/1 (DW),

10 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** at GPSP 8/20 (DN), and 20 **Eastern Kingbirds** at CSP 8/17 (JSD). Like last year, two sites reported **Philadelphia Vireo**: singles were at RRCP 8/24 (DN) and at GPSP 9/27 (TC, RK). A flock of 10 **Common Ravens** passed over GPSP 11/23 (DNN). Seven sites reporting **Horned Lark** was far more than normal, as were eight sites reporting **Bank Swallow** 8/3-9/14 (m.ob.). A **Black-capped Chickadee** was reported at GPSP 11/28-29 (MB, DG). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at FVTP 11/16 (DN) and along the Mason-Dixon Trail 11/26 (CG). **Brown Creepers** 10/12-11/28 and **Winter Wren** 10/5-11/19 were each found at seven sites. Very nice was a pair of **Marsh Wrens** at LR 9/29-10/15 (BR, et al.). This was the first report in the fall since 2015. Both kinglets were well reported including counts of 15 **Golden-crowned** and 10 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at RRCP during a Big Sit 10/12 (IG, DN, AWg). The total species count for the Big Sit was 55.

Interestingly, all three **Veery** reports 9/3-23 from three sites were made by the same observer (DN). Always a challenge in fall, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was on a Shaffer's Church Rd. property 10/20 (RP). A lone **American Pipit** at CSP 10/25 (AW) was the only one reported. Although not at 1980's levels, 39 **House Finches** at a Goldsboro backyard 11/7 (BS) was a strong count for current times. Three reports of **Purple Finch** spanned 10/6-18 (BE, BH, MO) with no more than 2 at any site. Pine Siskin went unreported. A nice count of 62 **American Goldfinches** was made at GPSP 11/23 (DNN).

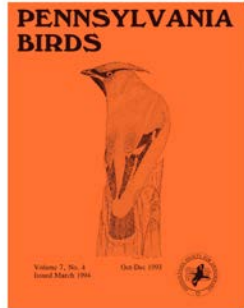
Grasshopper Sparrow singles were found at Native Lands Heritage Trail 8/7 (CB, DN, DW) and Glen Rock 8/26 (EH). HTP held them 8/1-10/11 (m.ob.) including a nice count of 11 on 8/1 (MJ). A strong count of 45 **Chipping Sparrows** was made at GPSP 9/27 (TC, RK). "Chippies" were reported 12 times in Nov, and five times in Dec. The extent of this trend of late-staying Chipping Sparrows is very unusual for York. As one might expect with this in mind, there was hardly any movement of **American Tree Sparrows** into the county; a single bird was at Dillsburg 11/2 (NL). Six sites reported **Fox Sparrow** 11/2-29 (m.ob.). **Savannah Sparrows** included 3 at Highpoint Scenic Vista Area 9/14 (AMg), a single at Sunnyside Rd 10/10 (CB, DN, DW), 7 at LAR 10/30 (DN), 2 in the Glen Rock area 11/19 (PM), and several reports at HTP 8/1-10/26 (m. ob.) with a remarkable high count of 33 birds there 10/19 (DF). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at HTP 9/29 (BR) and 10/19 (DW), at RRCP 10/10-12 (IG, AWg), and one or 2 were at Sunnyside Rd. 10/19-11/1 (CB). An impressive 10 sites produced **Swamp Sparrows** 9/22-11/1 (m.ob.). High count was 8 at Marsh Run 9/29 (DN) and LR 11/2 (BR). A good fall find, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Sunnyside Rd 9/30 (AWg). A pair of **Eastern Meadowlarks** was at Highpoint Scenic Vista Area 9/6 (DNN), a single was at York Haven 10/26 (JC), and HTP held them all period with a high of 20 on 8/4 (BRo, LuR). **Orchard Oriole** was not reported after 8/4 (DS, AWg). LR was the only site reporting **Rusty Blackbird**; they were there 10/14-11/18 (m.ob.) and reached a high of 8 on 10/15 (DNN).

Warbler movement was respectable and most of the expected species were detected. There were singles of **Worm-eating Warbler** at Airville 8/27 (JWH) and RRCP 9/2 (RS), and a **Northern Waterthrush** was at LR 10/1 (DNN). Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were at three sites in a tight window 9/1-9 (TA, CE, JWH, DK, DW). **Tennessee** and **Nashville Warbler** were each found four times. A **Common Yellowthroat** at LR 11/3 (BR) was running late. Up to 3 or 4 **Cape May Warblers** were noted 9/14-10/9 (BS, AWg, DW) and a nice count of 5 **Blackburnian Warblers** was made at RRCP 8/29 (CB, DN). Reports of **Palm Warblers** at 11 sites to 11/1 (m. ob.) was a very strong showing for them. A nice **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count of 24 came from GPSP 10/4 (DNN). A **Prairie Warbler** was at Goldsboro 8/24 (BS) and a pair was at LR 9/23 (DW). **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in 5 locations 8/7-9/9 (m.ob.), suggesting their spotty but regular distribution in York continues. Between the timing of their migration, and their habit of breeding later in the summer, they are generally found more frequently in Aug sightings in Jun or Jul. Confirmation of this was provided by 4 birds including a female photographed carrying food at West Manheim Twp. Recreation Park 8/24 (HM).

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25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



Volume 7, No. 4.

Dick Byers discussed how many birds actually come to a bird feeder and Paul Hess looked at assessing migrant numbers.

The second record of Pacific Loon for the state was reported from Lancaster County.

The first photographic record of Black-legged Kittiwake was reported from Montour County.

There was a small Bohemian Waxwing invasion with reports from Allegheny, Berks, and Erie counties.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

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).

Solicitations window for photos for each issue of Pennsylvania Birds are posted to statewide e-mail lists and Facebook groups by the Photo Editor when submissions are preferred to be received. Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration must be sent to radickerson@gmail.com in JPG format and submitted as attachments and not embedded in the e-mail. Horizontal images (preferred) MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 700px with a resolution of 300 px/in and vertical images MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 1313px at 300 px/in. Images will not be enlarged/upscaled. High-resolution images are requested during initial submission. Submissions must also include pertinent information for captioning to include species, location photographed, county photographed, date of photo and any other information of significance regarding the sighting. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

REPRINTS: Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

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Send previews of digital images for consideration to radickerson@gmail.com

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

IN FOCUS – Fall 2019 Rarities



This **Anna's Hummingbird**, an immature male, arrived in a yard in West Chester, *Chester* 4 November (here Nov 5, when banded) and stayed into December; a first county record and third documented for Pennsylvania. (*Barry Blust*)



Probably a first county record, this **King Rail** thrilled dozens of birders during its stay at the Dixon Meadow Preserve, *Montgomery* 30 August (here Aug 31) until at least 2 September. (*William Reaume*)



This juvenile **Sabine's Gull**, showing the M-pattern in the wings, was at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 2-5 November (here Nov 2); fifth county record. (*Zachary Millen*)



Highly cooperative and seen by many, this **Swallow-tailed Kite** hunted over restored grasslands at Trexler Nature Preserve, *Lehigh* 16 August (here Aug 24) – 1 September. (*Randy Richard*)



Ash-throated Flycatcher, showing its relatively pale front parts (compared to Great Crested) at Trexler Rd., *Lehigh* 17 November (here Nov 18) into December; seventh record for the state and first for the county. (*Michael David*)



This **Sedge Wren** was found at a private location in *Philadelphia* 6 October, providing a third county eBird record. (*George Armistead*)