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Photo-Quiz #27. Inside back cover

Cover: **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). Pennsylvania's fourth of this species delighted dozens of birders during its nine-day late November stay near Mt. Gretna, *Lebanon*, where it feasted on grasshoppers, crickets, and sundry flies and bugs, often just a few feet from onlookers. (*Geoff Malosh*)

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... from the Editor

PAMC News

After several years of coordinating the statewide effort, Bill Etter has made the decision to move on to other things, and has resigned from his post as PAMC Coordinator. Many thanks to Bill for all of the hours and energy he put into this effort. Pennsylvania is one of a dwindling group of states and provinces that has carried on with the now-defunct North American Migration Count at the state level. PAMC is enormously popular here, often attracting the participation of over 1,000 observers each May. (If only we could get them all to join PSO!) The PAMC lives on, and is as popular as ever, due in no small part to Bill's dedication to the count.

In Bill's place come Frank Haas and John Fedak. Bill often commented that the volume of data—the sheer enormousness of the task—took its toll over the years. Based on his advice, it was determined that PSO would split the Coordinator duties between two people, one to coordinate the data collection with the county-level coordinators (Frank), and one to write the yearly summary and maintain the historical record of PAMC (John). So, beginning now, Frank Haas (fchaas@pabirds.org) is the go-to guy for PAMC related questions. Frank will get you in touch with your county coordinator, will accept sightings from counties with no coordinator, and can answer any other general questions.

Speaking of county coordinators, we are currently seeking volunteers to handle the duties for *Allegheny* and *Lancaster*, two of the most active PAMC counties historically. Not having regular reports from these two counties would surely be a blow to the PAMC effort and record. If you are interested, please contact Frank Haas.

Finally, as I mentioned in a previous editorial, many of you have noticed that the PAMC summaries from 2008 and 2009 have not appeared in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Bill is currently busy turning over all materials from 2008 and 2009 to Frank and John, and when these reports are complete, they

will be posted on the PSO website. Beginning with 2010, the PAMC summary will return to V3 of *Pennsylvania Birds* each season.

Boreal Birding Weekend at Ricketts Glen – May 21-23, 2010

On behalf of our esteemed photo quiz editor and six-year veteran *Pennsylvania Birds* contributor Rick Wiltraut, I'm happy to announce an event sponsored by DCNR/Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center and the Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center: a Boreal Birding Weekend at Ricketts Glenn State Park, May 21-23, 2010. Rick's announcement is as follows:

Join us for this 3 day birding weekend as we study the boreal birdlife of beautiful Ricketts Glen State Park. Learn how to identify these beautiful birds by sight and sound with experienced leaders. Also learn about songbird and old-growth associations, threats facing boreal bird species, and backyard bird conservation. We'll also visit Worlds End State Park, the countryside of Dushore, and the town of Eagles Mere. Limit 20 participants. Cost \$25.00 goes toward environmental education. Transportation, meals and lodging on your own. The Fishing Creek Angler Bed and Breakfast is available on a first come, first serve basis, \$75.00 per night (double occupancy). Campsites at Ricketts Glen State Park are also available.

Contact Linda Ingram at (610) 796-3687, <liingram@state.pa.us> or Rick Wiltraut at (610) 746-2810, <rwiltraut@state.pa.us>.

Compiler News

Tom Clauser has resigned from his compiling duties for *Schuylkill*, leaving this county, unfortunately, vacant once again. Many thanks are due to Tom for taking this county on over the past few years, while he was able to dedicate the necessary time.

After many years of dedicated

service, **Randy Miller** has decided to retire from compiling for *Lebanon*. Over the years, even before I became editor, Randy's was always one of the reports I made a point to read, not only for the quality and depth of the sightings, but because of the context Randy was able to evoke in each report. Fortunately for us, **Chuck Berthoud** has stepped in and will immediately begin reporting where Randy is leaving off, and I, for one, look forward to continued quality reports from *Lebanon*. Randy is well known out there in central and eastern Pennsylvania, and he is often found out and about in the field. If you happen to run into him, be sure to stop and say thanks for his years of volunteered time and dedication.

With the (temporary, I hope) loss of *Schuylkill*, the number of counties without a compiler now stands at eleven: *Blair, Cameron, Elk, McKean, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill, Warren, Wayne, and Westmoreland*. It goes without saying that this is eleven counties too many, but even acknowledging that there will always be a number of vacancies, surely even ten is a number I thought, or at least hoped, we'd never see, and now we're already at eleven.

I hold out hope that the *Westmoreland* vacancy will not last much longer, since that's a county with plenty of birders and plenty of history, but the others are counties that definitely suffer from a lack of coverage, comparatively. To those of you who bird these counties regularly, please consider submitting a formal report as a county compiler. Though you may well be the only birder you ever hear from, having your sightings added to the record is still better than the eleven blanks we have now. I cannot deny that compiling can be a lot of work, but if you're only reporting the sightings of yourself and maybe one or two other birders, I can say that it won't be as hard as you think. If you're interested, please contact me.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2009

Laurie Goodrich

Weather can make or break a hawk watch season. In autumn 2009 a strengthening El Nino disrupted autumn weather, particularly during November. Precipitation and temperatures were above-average (Northeast Regional Climate Center, <www.nrcc.cornell.edu>), with October unusually wet and November turning out to be one of the warmest on record across the northeast, as well as the fifth warmest for Pennsylvania since 1895. Snowfall was nonexistent through most of New England until mid-December and this, along with the warmth, may have prompted late-season migrants—for example Red-tailed Hawks and Rough-legged Hawks—to linger farther north than usual. November also included periods of strong easterly winds that appear to have pushed some migrants farther west than usual.

Despite the weather, Pennsylvania's fourteen autumn hawk-watches recorded an impressive 117,824 hawks of 19 species between 1 Aug and 31 Dec (Table 2). Rarities included one Swallow-tailed Kite (Militia Hill, adult), four Mississippi Kites (one immature, one adult, 2 unknown age), and one Swainson's Hawk (Rose Tree Park, juvenile, light morph). The four Mississippi Kites were seen on different days across the state and likely represent different birds. Autumn sightings of this species have increased due to the expanding eastern populations (now breeding in Connecticut and New Hampshire). McWilliams and Brauning (2000) report only one autumn sighting prior to 2000, that in October 1989, whereas

autumn hawkwatches have tallied one to four per year since 2000. Pennsylvania watch-sites may soon need to add this species as a regular migrant!

Counters covered a combined total of 7370 hours and 1132 days, with individual site coverage ranging from 48 to 1136 hours and 9 to 140 days per site. The average passage rate was 16 birds per hour statewide, a slight increase compared with 2008's 14.5 birds per hour, although effort was slightly lower as well (Table 2).

Species showing an increase in 2009 compared with 2008 included Northern Goshawk (36%), Sharp-shinned Hawk (28%), Cooper's Hawk (23.7%), Bald Eagle (10.6%), Broad-winged Hawk (5%), American Kestrel (39%), Merlin (12%), and Peregrine Falcon (30%). Decreases were seen for Rough-legged Hawk (63%), Golden Eagle (24%), and Black Vulture (16%). Other species' totals showed less than 5% change between years.

Bald Eagles continued their upswing with four watch-sites (Allegheny Front, Militia Hill, Stone Mountain, and Waggoner's Gap) setting new season records, and most remaining sites showing above-average counts (Table 2). Two sites, Hawk Mountain and Militia Hill, set new season records for Peregrine Falcon, and most sites showed noteworthy one-day counts as well (Table 1, 2). 10 October was "Peregrine Falcon day" for the Kittatinny Ridge, when Bake Oven Knob, Little Gap, and Hawk Mountain saw 8, 9, and 11 Peregrines respectively. Stone Mountain also set a new season record (325) for Turkey

Vultures.

Broad-winged Hawks moved in large numbers through the southeastern Piedmont and along the northern ridges. Higher than average counts were recorded at Militia Hill, Buckingham, and Rose Tree Park in the southeast, and at Stone and Second Mountains north of the Kittatinny (Table 2). Waggoner's Gap reported that a low fog-bank blanketed the ridge and may have kept them from spotting broad-wings on their peak day when birders in the valley were seeing many flocks nearby (Table 1). Southeastern sites observe their largest flight on the 19 and 20 September, with 7525 at Militia Hill on 19 September and 2577 at Buckingham on 20 September, together representing the state's highest one-day counts for 2009 (Table 1). The ridge-migrating birds moved slightly earlier, with 1396 at Stone Mountain on 16 September and 1477 at Second Mountain on 17 September. Most other Kittatinny sites reported their peak Broad-winged Hawk flight on 17 September as well, suggesting that a widespread pulse of migrants moved though Pennsylvania on that date (Table 1).

Despite the frequent rain, October included several days of strong northwest winds, which brought respectable accipiter flights to the ridges. Route 183 and Waggoner's Gap recorded the state's highest one-day count of Sharp-shinned Hawks with 665 and 742 respectively, both on 10 October. Little Gap was a close third with 571 on 8 October (Table 1). Overall Sharp-shinned Hawk counts were higher than in 2008, but average

compared to long-term totals.

November's brisk east winds appear to have pushed Golden Eagles to the west central region. Both Allegheny Front and Tuscarora Summit tallied above-average season counts. Allegheny Front recorded 59 eagles in a two-day period, including the state one-day high count of 30 on 12

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

Site	Peregrine Falcon		Golden Eagle		Br.-winged Hawk		Sharp-shn. Hawk	
	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	6	10/12	30	11/12	710	9/18	93	10/12
Blue Mtn./Rte. 183	4	10/10	4	11/6	426	9/21	665	10/10
Bake Oven Knob	8	10/10	6	10/25	940	9/17	340	10/11
Buckingham	1	several	-	-	2577	9/20	32	9/19
Council Cup	-	-	-	-	38	9/24	33	9/24
Hawk Mountain	11	10/10	7	11/1	1613	9/17	461	10/8
Jack's Mountain	2	10/4	5	11/4	423	9/20	75	10/11
Little Gap	9	10/10	4	10/18	927	9/17	571	10/8
Militia Hill	5	10/11	1	10/16	7525	9/19	74	10/11
Rose Tree Park	3	10/9	1	11/1,18	1448	9/19	103	10/11
Second Mountain	6	10/7	4	11/1	1477	9/17	169	10/6
Stone Mountain	5	10/4,5	22	11/3	1396	9/16	129	10/4
Tuscarora Summit	2	10/8	5	11/5	466	9/20	168	10/9
Waggoner's Gap	6	9/24	17	11/1	1445	9/18	742	10/10

November. Stone Mountain tallied 22 Golden Eagles on 3 November and was the only other watch site not to record below-average counts for this species (Table 1, 2).

Allegheny Front (*Somerset/Bedford*) – Allegheny Front recorded 6237 hawks in 113 days of coverage from 15 August to 18 December, averaging 8.5 birds per hour (Table 1). The total count was 30% below-average primarily due to low counts of Broad-winged, Sharp-shinned, and Red-tailed hawks. Record counts were made for Bald Eagle (103), and above-average counts were tallied for Golden Eagles (204). The latter tally was the highest of any watch site in the eastern United States. The site's highest one-day tally occurred 18 September with 763 total hawks including 710 Broad-winged Hawks.

Bake Oven Knob (*Lehigh*) – Bake Oven Knob recorded a below-average total (down 27%) of 11,066 hawks in 106 days of coverage from 14 August through 29 November (Table 2). Highlights included above-average tallies for Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon, and two sightings of Mississippi Kite on 23 August and 9 September. Both Turkey Vulture and Peregrine Falcon totals were the second highest ever recorded at this long-running site (Table 2).

Blue Mountain/Route 183 (*Berks/Schuylkill*) – Blue Mountain tallied 4415 hawks with increased coverage in 2009 spanning from 15 August to 28 November. Visitation also increased in 2009 providing more spotting assistance than in past years. One of the highlights of the season was 10 October when counters tallied 12 species including 665 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 44 Cooper's Hawks, 29 American Kestrels, 27 Red-tailed Hawks, 4 Bald Eagles, and 4 Peregrine Falcons.

Buckingham-BWSEPT (*Bucks*) – Two BroadwingSEPT sites, Buckingham and Pipersville, conducted counts in 2009, although Pipersville counted only 15 September totaling 20 hawks. Buckingham tallied the state's second highest one-day count of Broad-winged Hawks (2577) 20 September. The total count, 5827, was 49% above average, recorded primarily in two days, 19 and 20 September. During the nine days of

counts, watchers also tallied 18 Bald Eagles, 48 Osprey, and one Mississippi Kite.

Council Cup (*Luzerne*) – Council Cup sighted 626 hawks in 22 days of coverage from 18 August to 4 November, during a lower than average 22 days of effort (Table 2). Totals included 226 Red-tailed Hawks and 105 Broad-winged Hawks. The peak flight occurred on 24 September with 38 Broad-winged Hawks, 33 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 7 Bald Eagles, for a total of 95 migrants. In another encouraging sign, the Bald Eagle season total of 37 was well above the season average despite lower hours of coverage (Table 2).

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (*Berks/Schuylkill*) – Hawk Mountain registered 15,600 hawks in 126 days of counts, 14% below the recent 10-year average. Eight species showed below-average counts. Turkey Vulture and Merlin counts were above average (Table 2). The site set new season records for Black Vulture (154) and Peregrine Falcon (68). The falcon count included 11 on 10 October, the highest one-day count for the state. Late-season migrants were particularly low in 2009. For the first time since 1955, Hawk Mountain recorded no Rough-legged Hawks. The Golden Eagle count was 35% below-average and the Red-tailed Hawks were 46% below average. Several observers watched an adult Mississippi Kite hawking for insects in the air along the ridge top 15 August.

Jack's Mountain (*Mifflin*) – Jack's Mountain recorded 2642 hawks in 60 days of coverage from 18 August to 29 November (Table 2). Counts were lower than average for all but Bald Eagle, despite slightly increased coverage. The site tallied 44 Bald Eagles with a peak of nine on 21 September. The highest one-day count for the season was made on 20 September, with 423 Broad-winged Hawks, 21 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Bald Eagles, and 6 Osprey.

Little Gap (*Northampton*) – Little Gap tallied 9091 hawks in 90 days of counts in 2009, 39% below the 10-year average (Table 2). Merlin and Peregrine Falcons were above-average, with 82 and 38 respectively. Broad-winged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk were 42% and 60% below average due to inclement weather during peak flight periods. October brought some

excitement with the second highest state-wide count of Peregrine Falcons, 9, that on 10 October (Table 1).

Militia Hill (*Montgomery*) – Militia Hill tallied an above-average count of 16,130 hawks in 61 days of coverage (Table 2). An adult Swallow-tailed Kite was observed from late August to 5 September and allowed many birders excellent looks at this rarity. 19 September brought the third highest Broad-winged Hawk flight in the history of the site (7525), pushing the total Broad-winged Hawk for 2009 to an above-average 13,436. New season records were set for Bald Eagle (86) and Peregrine Falcon (41). A new one-day record was set for Turkey Vulture (134) on 17 October.

Rose Tree Park (*Delaware*) – Rose Tree Park counted 6877 hawks in 530 hours of coverage for a rate of 13 migrants per hour. Broad-winged Hawks represented the majority of the migrants with 4514 recorded equaling 66% of the flight. Bald Eagles soared past in above-average numbers (177), following an increasing trend seen across the state. A juvenile light-morph Swainson's Hawk passed over the site 25 September, the second year in a row for this rarity at Rose Tree. Most other species totals were below-average, possibly due to a drop in hours or the weather.

Second Mountain (*Lebanon*) – Second Mountain tallied 8588 hawks in 843 hours and 140 days of counts. Species totals were above-average for Bald Eagle (118) and Broad-winged Hawk (4386), but were below-average for most other species (Table 2). Watchers counted the highest one-day count 17 September when 1477 Broad-winged Hawks swirled overhead. A one-day high count of 169 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 6 October and 6 Peregrine Falcons on 7 October were the mid-season highlights (Table 1).

Stone Mountain (*Huntington*) – Stone Mountain, in its 15th season, counted an above-average 5163 migrants in 322 hours of coverage. A new season record was set for Bald Eagle (69), and Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon showed above-average season totals (Table 2). A one-day count of 1396 Broad-winged Hawks 16 September set a new record for the species and brought the season total to 2873. The site recorded 22

Golden Eagles 3 November, for the second highest state one-day total. In contrast, the season count of Red-tailed Hawks was one of the lowest on record, 522.

Tuscarora Summit (Fulton) – Tuscarora Summit increased their coverage 10% to tally 4346 hawks in 419 hours from 1 September to 22 November (Table 2). Counters were rewarded with above-average counts of Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Golden Eagle. The peak one-day count of Broad-winged Hawks, 466, swirled past 20 September for a total of 535 hawks. Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s hawks peaked 9 October with 168 and 10 counted respectively. A peak one-day count of 5 Golden Eagles was seen 4 November.

Waggoner’s Gap (Cumberland) – Waggoner’s Gap counted 21,216 hawks in 1136 hours of coverage from 1 August through 31 December. Watchers set a new site record for Bald Eagles (405), a notable increase over the prior record count of 332. Above-average counts were tallied for Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Merlin as well. Accipiter flights peaked 10 October with an impressive 726

Sharp-shinned and 106 Cooper’s hawks, followed by 657 Sharp-shinned and 85 Cooper’s on 11 October. 4 November brought the best Red-tailed Hawk daily counts for the state (526) among a total of 591 migrants. Golden Eagles were below-average with 182 total migrants and a peak count of 17 on 1 November (Table 2).

References

McWilliams, J. and D. Brauning. 2000. *Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.

Acknowledgments

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

This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 187.

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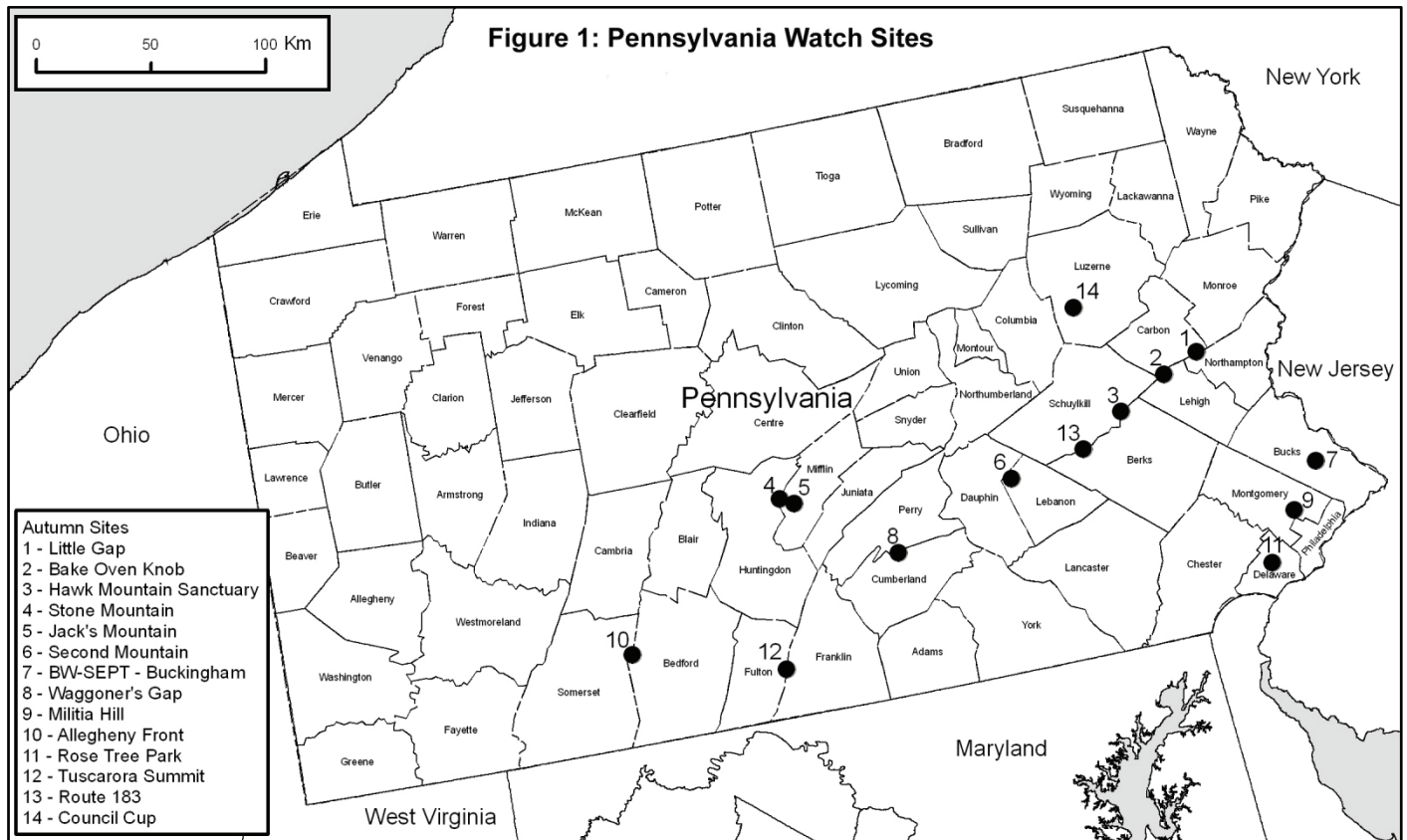


Figure 1: Pennsylvania Watch Sites

Table 2. Autumn 2009 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total
August	16	113	1	14	6	9	2	15	9	0	1	104	44	0	0	6	0	2	0	8	221
September	30	195	6	11	74	57	11	194	52	0	1	2849	104	0	1	21	4	5	0	83	3473
October	28	189	2	167	4	21	8	381	85	1	16	1	663	0	27	14	18	14	0	56	1478
November	28	187.5	0	105	0	12	17	27	17	3	35	0	642	0	166	2	0	1	0	12	1039
December	11	50.5	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	1	0	0	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	26
Total	113	735	9	297	84	103	38	620	164	5	53	2954	1460	0	204	43	22	22	0	159	6237
Total per hr			0.01	0.40	0.11	0.14	0.05	0.84	0.22	0.01	0.07	4.02	1.99	0.00	0.28	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.22	8.49
% of flight			0.1	4.8	1.3	1.7	0.6	9.9	2.6	0.1	0.8	47.4	23.4	0.0	3.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.0	2.5	100.0
Average last 10yrs	109	779	22	608	115	60	72	1,160	253	14	94	3,958	2,069	4	157	77	37	35	0.0	237	8972.4

BAKE OVEN KNOB (Lehigh) - Dan Kunkle, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total
August	18	122.75	58	158	51	45	9	20	8	1	2	75	52	0	0	12	1	0	1	18	511
September	28	218.92	84	239	286	75	20	616	60	0	8	3873	100	0	1	81	44	24	1	111	5623
October	31	189	82	351	83	52	47	2029	285	7	31	5	526	0	22	103	46	37	0	107	3813
November	29	190.42	82	261	1	14	22	59	16	13	33	0	569	0	17	0	0	1	0	31	1119
Total	106	721.09	306	1,009	421	186	98	2,724	369	21	74	3,953	1,247	0	40	196	91	62	2	267	11066
Total per hr			0.42	1.40	0.58	0.26	0.14	3.78	0.51	0.03	0.10	5.48	1.73	0.00	0.06	0.27	0.13	0.09	0.00	0.37	15.35
% of flight			2.8	9.1	3.8	1.7	0.9	24.6	3.3	0.2	0.7	35.7	11.3	0.0	0.4	1.8	0.8	0.6	0.0	2.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	101.818	788.8318	260.182	821.2	616.0	178.2	164.6	3224	382.2	41.2	145.3	5982	2618	2.3	91.2	206.7	84.8	52.1	0.0	312.0	15151

*two Mississippi Kites.

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total
August	9	34	14	36	8	5	2	13	1	0	0	34	5	0	0	12	0	0	0	3	133
September	12	69	49	43	65	25	4	484	27	1	5	915	55	0	1	56	6	5	0	15	1756
October	13	60	16	65	16	16	8	1727	131	6	6	2	153	0	10	43	24	7	0	12	2242
November	7	36	23	18	0	2	3	22	10	1	6	0	187	0	8	2	1	0	0	1	284
Total	41	199	102	162	89	48	17	2246	169	8	17	951	400	0	19	113	31	12	0	31	4415
Total per hr			0.51	0.81	0.45	0.24	0.09	11.29	0.85	0.04	0.09	4.78	2.01	0.00	0.10	0.57	0.16	0.06	0.00	0.16	22.19
% of flight			2.3	3.7	2.0	1.1	0.4	50.9	3.8	0.2	0.4	21.5	9.1	0.0	0.4	2.6	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 2 yrs	36	200.25	74	142.5	64.5	39.5	15.5	1518	123.5	5.5	24	927	363	0	27.5	75	20	8	0	29	3456.5

BUCKINGHAM-BWSEPT (Bucks), Kirk Moulton, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other*	Unid	Total
September	9	48.25	0	7	48	18	10	77	26	0	1	5583	9	0	0	40	2	3	1	2	5827
Total	9	48.25	0	7	48	18	10	77	26	0	1	5583	9	0	0	40	2	3	1	2	5827
Total per hr			0.00	0.15	0.99	0.37	0.21	1.60	0.54	0.00	0.02	115.71	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.04	120.77
% of flight			0.0	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	95.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average last 8 yrs		60.21875	3.4	2.9	52.8	13.8	9.9	73.5	19.9	0.0	1.4	3650.5	10.1	0.3	0.0	39.5	2.1	1.9	0.1	6.0	3888.8

*one Mississippi Kite.

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	Other	Unid	Total
August	3	12.5	0	8	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	37
September	9	39.5	0	6	13	14	1	51	3	0	0	98	3	0	0	10	0	0	0	7	206
October	7	29.5	0	46	12	11	4	45	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	134
November	3	14.5	0	12	0	4	2	9	0	0	2	0	216	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	249
Total	22	96	0	72	28	37	7	106	6	0	2	105	226	0	0	20	0	0	0	17	626
Total per hr			0.00	0.75	0.29	0.39	0.07	1.10	0.06	0.00	0.02	1.09	2.35	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	6.52
% of flight			0.0	11.5	4.5	5.9	1.1	16.9	1.0	0.0	0.3	16.8	36.1	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	100.0
Average for 4yrs	39.1	135.2	2.9	204.2	50.7	28.2	16.0	207.5	24.5	2.4	6.7	978.3	746.0	0.5	2.7	42.0	2.9	3.5	0.0	36.3	2336.1

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other*	Unid.	Total
August	18	164.75	0	2	56	32	9	37	16	1	1	131	35	0	0	70	8	6	1	3	408
September	30	295.75	9	22	319	90	45	1015	112	0	2	6293	99	0	1	218	63	20	0	36	8344
October	31	249	11	303	78	56	55	3185	452	9	55	16	631	0	29	171	87	41	0	46	5225
November	29	231	61	133	2	24	35	60	30	11	79	0	919	0	40	2	2	1	0	29	1428
December	18	107.75	73	1	0	16	4	2	2	4	4	0	81	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	195
Total	126	1048.25	154	461	455	218	148	4299	612	25	141	6440	1765	0	77	461	161	68	1	114	15600
Total per hr			0.15	0.44	0.43	0.21	0.14	4.10	0.58	0.02	0.13	6.14	1.68	0.00	0.07	0.44	0.15	0.06	0.00	0.11	14.88
% of flight			1.0	3.0	2.9	1.4	0.9	27.6	3.9	0.2	0.9	41.3	11.3	0.0	0.5	3.0	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs		1087.8	73.0	360.4	600.5	215.2	217.4	4214.3	759.2	58.3	236.4	7179.0	3262.7	7.5	118.9	473.3	155.8	52.3	0.5	161.3	18145.8

*one Mississippi Kite

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid.	Total
August	4	22	0	0	1	3	1	5	1	0	0	5	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	29
September	22	139.75	7	0	45	31	8	101	12	0	1	1378	32	0	0	34	2	1	0	0	1652
October	20	115.5	9	39	7	7	10	402	24	3	3	3	149	0	6	15	7	5	0	4	693
November	14	64.25	0	54	0	3	8	10	4	0	2	0	169	0	14	2	1	0	0	1	268
Total	60	341.5	16	93	53	44	27	518	41	3	6	1386	360	0	20	52	10	6	0	7	2642
Total per hr			0.05	0.27	0.16	0.13	0.08	1.52	0.12	0.01	0.02	4.06	1.05	0.00	0.06	0.15	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.02	7.74
% of flight			0.6	3.5	2.0	1.7	1.0	19.6	1.6	0.1	0.2	52.5	13.6	0.0	0.8	2.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs*	52.1	330.0	54.1	183.1	112.4	41.0	62.5	855.9	105.5	10.2	18.1	2966.4	744.5	0.5	27.9	92.3	16.5	11.8	0.0	29.6	4847.7

*No data for 2000

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	Other	Unid	Total*
August	4	20.25	0	0	10	7	0	16	1	0	0	33	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	75
September	27	172.5	1	8	218	67	19	681	89	0	2	3958	84	0	1	141	20	5	0	47	5351
October	31	146	15	58	54	34	20	1836	204	10	10	3	259	0	21	48	58	31	0	22	2683
November	28	149.75	34	69	2	18	27	97	38	14	46	0	602	2	15	3	2	2	0	11	982
Total	90	488.5	50	135	284	126	66	2640	332	24	58	3994	946	2	37	195	82	38	0	82	9091
Total per hr			0.10	0.28	0.58	0.26	0.14	5.40	0.68	0.05	0.12	8.18	1.94	0.00	0.07	0.40	0.17	0.08	0.00	0.17	18.61
% of flight			0.5	1.5	3.1	1.4	0.7	29.0	3.7	0.3	0.6	43.9	10.4	0.0	0.4	2.1	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.9	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	98.5	620.8	58.8	348.8	465.3	131.5	148.3	3199.0	456.9	41.1	116.5	6916.7	2398.2	2.4	67.3	265.3	66.0	34.4	0.0	140.0	14857.0

MILITIA HILL (Montgomery) - Andy Fayer, Jamie Stewart, and Rich Conroy, co-compilers

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other*	Unid	Total
September	30	233	4	13	206	49	15	396	33	0	2	13398	7	0	0	138	10	10	1	22	14304
October	31	209	8	422	57	37	62	773	103	1	40	38	53	0	2	136	16	31	0	47	1826
Total	61	442	12	435	263	86	77	1169	136	1	42	13436	60	0	2	274	26	41	1	69	16130
Total per hr			0.03	0.98	0.60	0.19	0.17	2.64	0.31	0.00	0.10	30.40	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.06	0.09	0.00	0.16	36.49
% of flight			0.1	2.7	1.6	0.5	0.5	7.2	0.8	0.0	0.3	83.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	59.5	452.5	37.2	303.9	266.0	56.1	62.8	966.0	141.5	1.7	38.7	7384.9	200.5	0.2	2.3	260.2	21.7	15.6	0.0	72.0	9832.0

*One Swallow-tailed Kite

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware) - Chris Pugliese, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	TUVU	BLVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other*	Unid	Total
August	2	14	0	0	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	21
September	30	208.25	1	2	133	103	14	287	43	0	14	4490	22	0	0	74	11	4	1	18	5217
October	31	165.5	11	3	16	47	24	562	77	2	59	20	119	0	0	63	7	9	0	13	1132
November	30	142.25	82	8	3	23	10	90	21	0	102	0	155	0	2	1	5	1	0	4	507
Total	93	530	194	13	158	177	48	939	145	2	175	4514	296	0	2	140	24	14	1	35	6877
Total per hr			0.37	0.02	0.30	0.33	0.09	1.77	0.27	0.00	0.33	8.52	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.07	12.98
% of flight			2.8	0.2	2.3	2.6	0.7	13.7	2.1	0.0	2.5	65.6	4.3	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	96.1	659.3	452.4	96.3	272.5	144.455	87.0909	1493.6	234.5	7.5	170.8	4377.8	501.1	0.4	4.9	289.6	46.8	18.5	0.0	82.8	8281.9

*One Swainson's Hawk.

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	Other	Unid	Total
August	20	92.5	0	0	19	12	7	12	4	0	9	46	18	0	0	18	4	0	0	0	149
September	30	242	0	0	135	48	51	388	67	5	7	4326	81	0	9	38	9	15	0	24	5203
October	31	216.5	89	165	25	28	26	1308	132	6	33	11	218	0	14	29	16	12	0	20	2132
November	30	186	168	146	0	20	24	49	17	9	75	3	457	0	22	0	2	1	0	12	1005
December	29	106	52	8	0	10	0	1	0	2	4	0	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	99
Total	140	843	309	319	179	118	108	1758	220	22	128	4386	795	1	45	85	31	28	0	56	8588
Total per hr			0.37	0.38	0.21	0.14	0.13	2.09	0.26	0.03	0.15	5.20	0.94	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.07	10.19
% of flight			3.6	3.7	2.1	1.4	1.3	20.5	2.6	0.3	1.5	51.1	9.3	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	140.3	1021.2	325.5	601.1	214.4	95.4	147.6	2147.2	288.7	57.6	147.4	3713.5	1446.5	3.1	78.3	132.2	47.0	29.0	1	76.364	9552.0

STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon) - Greg Grove, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total
August	1	8.5	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	13
September	13	82	0	0	58	24	6	108	28	0	5	2870	26	0	1	24	1	0	0	6	3157
October	19	103	10	294	18	24	14	601	130	10	20	1	179	0	21	56	30	28	0	19	1455
November	19	99.75	12	31	1	13	22	25	6	2	12	0	298	1	73	0	1	0	0	2	499
December	5	28.75	6	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	19	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	39
Total	57	322	28	325	79	69	42	734	165	12	38	2873	522	1	105	83	32	28	0	27	5163
Total per hr			0.09	1.01	0.25	0.21	0.13	2.28	0.51	0.04	0.12	8.92	1.62	0.00	0.33	0.26	0.10	0.09	0.00	0.08	16.03
% of flight			0.5	6.3	1.5	1.3	0.8	14.2	3.2	0.2	0.7	55.6	10.1	0.0	2.0	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	62.1	354.3	16.3	62.9	98.2	43.6	81.4	921.5	223.3	14.8	66.9	1650.0	1312.7	2.5	107.5	110.3	36.3	26.2	0.0	67.0	4841.7

TUSCARORA SUMMIT (Fulton) - Dale Gearhart, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total
September	27	160	0	0	57	22	21	250	41	0	3	1719	5	0	5	14	4	4	0	18	2163
October	27	160.5	0	292	14	24	25	850	61	3	12	2	140	0	14	26	6	9	0	33	1511
November	20	98.5	4	180	1	8	15	28	8	1	22	0	367	0	28	1	1	1	0	7	672
Total	74	419	4	472	72	54	61	1128	110	4	37	1721	512	0	47	41	11	14	0	58	4346
Total per hr			0.01	1.13	0.17	0.13	0.15	2.69	0.26	0.01	0.09	4.11	1.22	0.00	0.11	0.10	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.14	10.37
% of flight			0.1	10.9	1.7	1.2	1.4	26.0	2.5	0.1	0.9	39.6	11.8	0.0	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	68.2	373.7	24.1	341.0	102.5	34.8	71.7	916.6	92.4	3.8	29.7	1842.5	661.3	0.5	37.9	39.1	9.0	14.9	0.0	75.7	4297.6

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total
August	31	216.25	0	0	61	87	13	82	20	0	4	124	67	0	1	55	1	1	0	4	520
September	30	270.5	0	0	327	160	40	1694	163	1	3	5726	127	0	0	149	25	20	0	46	8481
October	27	232	33	1084	53	85	67	5305	639	17	92	16	1021	0	48	108	76	29	0	50	8723
November	27	240.5	49	363	1	39	77	107	32	28	144	0	2185	4	101	1	2	1	0	24	3158
December	25	176.75	22	9	0	34	8	6	2	9	3	0	202	1	32	0	0	0	0	6	334
Total	140	1136	104	1456	442	405	205	7194	856	55	246	5866	3602	5	182	313	104	51	0	130	21216
Total per hr			0.09	1.28	0.39	0.36	0.18	6.33	0.75	0.05	0.22	5.16	3.17	0.00	0.16	0.28	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.11	18.68
% of flight			0.5	6.9	2.1	1.9	1.0	33.9	4.0	0.3	1.2	27.6	17.0	0.0	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	141.9	1125.0	105.2	1283.1	486.5	239.9	308.1	6434.6	864.5	90.1	304.5	6196.5	4270.5	8.8	219.9	349.5	97.2	57.5	0.0	183.0	21499.0

2009 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Other	Unid	Total*
August	126	821	73	218	223	218	43	201	64	2	17	565	235	0	1	184	17	9	2	45	2,117
September	327	2,374	161	351	1,984	783	265	6,352	756	7	54	57,476	764	0	20	1,038	201	116	4	435	70,757
October	327	2,065	386	3,289	437	442	370	19,004	2,326	75	377	118	4,115	0	214	818	391	253	0	432	33,047
November	264	1,640	515	1,380	11	180	282	583	199	82	558	3	6,766	7	486	16	17	9	0	136	11,210
December	88	470	153	18	0	66	12	12	6	16	12	0	330	2	59	0	0	0	0	6	693
Total	1132	7369.59	1288	5256	2655	1689	952	26152	3351	182	1018	58162	12200	9	780	2056	627	387	6	1054	117,824
Total per hr			0.17	0.71	0.36	0.23	0.13	3.55	0.45	0.02	0.14	7.89	1.66	0.00	0.11	0.28	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.14	15.99
% of flight			1.1	4.5	2.3	1.4	0.8	22.2	2.8	0.2	0.9	49.4	10.4	0.0	0.7	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.9	100.0
2008 totals	1049	7617.4	1528	5436	2628	1527	888	20427	2708	134	983	55258	11896	24	1028	1484	558	298	0	1337	108146
% change from 2008	8%	-3%	-16%	-3%	1%	11%	7%	28%	24%	36%	4%	5%	3%	-63%	-24%	39%	12%	30%		-21%	9%

KEY TO TABLE HEADERS

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

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

JOHN KIRK TOWNSEND: COLLECTOR OF AUDUBON'S WESTERN BIRDS AND MAMMALS

by Barbara and Richard Mearns, design by Julian Gillespie, including J.K. Townsend's "A Narrative of a Journey Across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River, and a Visit to the Sandwich Islands, Chili, &c." (1839), 350 illustrations (300 in color), 11 maps, 18 appendices, bibliography, index of birds and mammals and general index; 9 x 11 in., hardback, x + 389 pp., published by Barbara and Richard Mearns, Dumfries, UK, printed by Print 2000 Ltd., Glasgow, Scotland, 2007. Order directly at <www.mearnsbooks.com>.

One of the privileges being volunteer Hawk Watch Station Master at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge near Alamo, Texas, every spring is meeting scores of outstanding ornithologists and naturalists from around the world. An average of fifteen countries are represented during the official month-long hawk watch period each year with the United Kingdom having consistently the greatest number of representatives.

It was under such circumstances in the spring of 2008 that I met Barbara and Richard Mearns, British naturalists, who continue pursuing their life-long fascination with North American natural history. Currently Barbara manages the international office of A. Rocha, a Christian conservation organization. Richard has studied Peregrine Falcons in southwestern Scotland and Greenland and Corn Crakes in the Outer Hebrides.

After many years as a countryside ranger, he is now working as a freelance ecologist, writer and photographer from their home near Dumfries, United Kingdom. However, over twenty years they have written and illustrated via paintings and photographs the history of ornithology and the lives of hundreds of naturalists in *Biographies for Birdwatchers: the Lives of Those Commemorated in Western Palearctic Bird Names* (1988), *Audubon to Xantus: The Lives of Those Commemorated in North American Bird Names* (1992) and *The Bird Collectors* (1998). With such previous

research on both sides of the Atlantic, it gave the couple a unique perspective from which to assess John Kirk Townsend (1809-1851) and his major contribution to the development of ornithology and mammalogy in North America, and simultaneously to uncover the personal relationships that Townsend had with eminent contemporaries such as John James Audubon, John Bachman, and Thomas Nuttall. Of course, these gentlemen played an important role in the establishment of ornithology in Pennsylvania and the United States. Because of the magnitude of geography covered in the book, this review will concentrate mostly upon the Pennsylvania connection.

The authors decided before writing their work to follow in the footsteps of Townsend, tracing his westward route from Philadelphia to the Pacific and beyond to Hawaii. In 1993, they journeyed along the Platte River westward to the Snake River, then in 2002 continued to Fort Walla Walla and down the Columbia River to the Pacific. In 2005, they terminated their journey by visiting the Hawaiian Islands.

Although the Mearns took many photographs along their long trek to help illustrate their book, they noted that on Townsend's journey there was not even an artist to record natural things and so his *Narrative of a Journey Across the Rocky Mountains* (1839) appeared without any etchings of the scenery or wildlife whatsoever. Yet, by coincidence, almost all the new birds and mammals discovered, collected and delivered to Philadelphia by Townsend were superbly painted in watercolors by the best wildlife artist of the day—John James Audubon—appearing in *The Birds of America* and *The Viviparous Quadrupeds*, the two publications that illustrate the majority of Townsend's western discoveries.

Fortunately for us, the authors were surprised that no one had combined Audubon's beautiful artwork with Townsend's informative expedition narrative to form a fully illustrated zoological expedition journal, until now.

The book starts with a succinct chronology of Townsend (pp. 1-7) and compares other important events that

happened in the 19th century. John Kirk Townsend was born on August 10, 1809 in Philadelphia, and from 1812-1823 grew up there and started his passion for collecting birds. By 1829, he got to know Tom Nuttall and probably met Audubon for the first time. In the spring of 1833, he collected the Townsend's Bunting at New Garden in Chester County but did not write a description of the bird until September 27.

In 1834, Nuttall invited Townsend to join him on the second overland Wyeth Expedition from Independence, Missouri, to the Columbia River that they reached in September and by early December set sail for the Hawaiian Islands. In April 1835, Townsend and Nuttall returned to the Columbia River. Townsend was employed as a surgeon by the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Vancouver. In 1836, he gave up his surgeon job, returned to Hawaii and in 1837 sailed to Tahiti and then Chile where he took a brig on a non-stop passage to Philadelphia. He died on February 6, 1851, in Washington, DC at 41 ½ years of age.

As the Mearns state in Part 1 of the book (p. 13): "Townsend was fortunate that throughout his lifetime... Philadelphia remained the great cultural heart of the country, the center for both arts and science. In terms of natural history, Philadelphia could boast of Peale's Museum, the best and most scientifically arranged of the early emporia, as well as the Academy of Natural Sciences that by 1850 possessed a collection of birds that was larger than any other in North America—and most of those in Europe... It is also relevant to our story that Philadelphia had a motley assortment of medical schools and the most active and successful printing, engraving and publishing industry."

It also should be recalled that the 19th century was the peak for the so-called "shotgun school of ornithology", a time of senseless over-hunting that resulted in the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet and Labrador Duck, and the great reduction in numbers of land and water birds that never totally recovered.

Townsend, even as a schoolboy, was hooked on shooting birds and as a teenager was collecting birds and

learning the skills that eventually made him one of the best taxidermists of the day. Such a pastime was frowned upon by his mother who remarked: "He seems to have an innate propensity to go gunning for birds that cannot be conquered by advice." Even when Townsend was in the far west his mother wrote to him: "thousands_of times have I wish'd thou should never again hold a gun, but thou knows well my mother's fears" (p. 17).

Philadelphia too was the home of the Academy of Natural Sciences where Townsend over the years met the distinguished men of science, many of whom would become lifelong friends. In time, Townsend became a first-rate collector of birds because of his accurate crack gunmanship and his meticulous preparation of bird and mammal specimens. Fellow naturalists repeatedly commented on his speed and agility in preparing study skins and his innovative preparatory techniques. William Baird wrote: "Townsend can skin, stuff, and sew up a bird, so as to make it look far superior to any that I have ever seen, in five minutes" (p. 294). In fact, his specimens survive to this day in excellent shape in museums in the United States and Europe. More than that, by the time he returned to Philadelphia from his western journeys, he knew the avifauna of North America better than anyone of his generation. Further, he described his new discoveries, although sometimes later than sooner, in a careful, scientific and lucid style and was justly praised by succeeding American zoologists.

In the spring of 1833, at the age of twenty-three, even Audubon noted that "His zeal for the study of ornithology was unrelented. I saw this in his fine eye whilst he with enthusiastic glee spoke to me of a new bird lately procured by himself" (p. 10). Witmer Stone, Curator of Birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, felt that as an ornithologist Townsend "was equal to any this country has produced, a painstaking and reliable observer, and a fluent, scholarly writer" (p. 10).

The "new bird" mentioned by Audubon is noteworthy because it is probably the most intriguing bird ever shot by Townsend. It was collected in May 1833 near New Garden, Chester County, and given to Audubon by Townsend who called it Audubon's Bunting. Audubon did a fine watercolor

of the single specimen from three different angles (p. 21) but could not call it after himself and thus named the bird after its discoverer. The mounted specimen eventually found its way into Ezra Michener's avian collection where it remained for twenty-four years. In 1857, the specimen was deposited at the Smithsonian Institution where it still exists (USNM 10282) in surprisingly good shape. The Mearns indicate that "there are different theories about its identity. It could be a Dickcissel that lacked the normal yellow carotenoid pigments in its feathers, having only the browns, blacks and grays produced by melanin pigments (Parks 1985). But if it is just an abnormally plumaged Dickcissel why didn't Townsend recognize the song? Perhaps it is simply a hybrid, one of its parents being a Dickcissel" (p. 22).

The bulk of this beautiful book includes all of Part 2 (pp. 33-265) with its vivid written and illustrative descriptions of the natural and human history of Missouri, Kansas, the Rocky Mountains, Blue Mountains (Oregon), Columbia River, Hawaii, Tahiti, and Chile. Each chapter opens with an excellent color map that details the route taken by Townsend and Nuttall with zoological highlights shown in green tags at specific sites along the way. Of course, being a native Missourian, I was intrigued by Townsend's narrative depicting the "pedestrian tour" from Saint Louis to Independence with observations of "great numbers of the brown, or sandhill crane... flying over us, large flocks of wild pigeons [Passenger Pigeons] passing over... and on the bare prairie were thousands of golden plovers; the ground was often literally covered with them for acres. I killed a considerable number. They were very fat, and we made an excellent meal of them in the evening. The prairie hen, or pinnated grouse [prairie-chicken sp.] is also very numerous" (p. 38).

The authors note on p. 46 that Townsend's accurate descriptions prove that both the Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens were observed in Missouri. Farther west, near Fulton, the explorers "observed several flocks of Carolina Parrots [Carolina Parakeets] & I killed seven of them in a few minutes" (p. 41).

The species was even more abundant near Boonville. Before leaving Independence, Townsend sent his first consignment of eight avian

species to his father with instructions for him to present the specimens to the Academy of Natural Sciences. Map 3 – Independence to Laramie's Fork, includes red tags of two new avian species collected by Townsend: Lark Bunting and Chestnut-collared Longspur; Map 4 – Laramie's Fork to South Pass, another two new bird species: Brewer's Sparrow and Mountain Plover; Map 5 – South Pass to Fort Hall, three new zoological species: Sage Thrasher, Least Chipmunk and Green-tailed Towhee; Map 6 – Across the Sawtooth Mountains, two new mammal species: Townsend's Pocket Gopher and Mountain Cottontail plus a co-type of the Swainson's Hawk. Interestingly, although all professional zoologists are trained to place vital identification data on specimen labels, Townsend was shockingly sloppy in not recording specific dates for many of his new avian and mammalian species.

Part 3 of the book (pp. 267-318) deals with the last fourteen years of Townsend's life and the problems he had with the American Philosophical Society, the Academy and especially Audubon.

He returned to Philadelphia in mid-November 1837 to learn that his first small consignment of birds, sent from Independence in April 1834, had been virtually ignored. Then he discovered that the much larger and more precious collection sent from the Columbia River a year and a half earlier, had arrived intact. Nevertheless, some of his new species had been already described in his absence without his permission, and worse, Audubon had made off with many of his birds, denying Townsend the right of scientific protocol of naming, describing and publishing about his own collections.

On July 12, 1836 *Waldie's Circulating Library* announced that "last week the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia received safely from them [Townsend and Nuttall] many large boxes; among Mr. Townsend's collection alone are three hundred birds and fifty quadrupeds, many of which are unknown to naturalists" (p. 269). Audubon was especially excited about this news and asked the Academy for permission to examine the birds. Permission was denied until Nuttall was present. So, Audubon went to Boston, saw Nuttall personally and persuaded him and other members of the Academy to help

him. It was agreed that Audubon would purchase duplicate specimens, provided the specific names agreed upon by Nuttall and Audubon were published in Dr. Townsend's name. Audubon paid \$184.00 for 93 Townsend bird skins. In fact, Audubon used 12 Townsend avian species from the Columbia River, the 93 bird skins bought from the Academy and 29 bird skins in the McEuen list.

Thus, Townsend provided at least 134 bird skins to Audubon's *The Birds of America*, more than any other person other than Audubon himself. "It seems to us that Audubon was not so much thinking about the advancement of science, nor the absent Townsend from whom he so unashamedly stole all the glory, but was rather more thinking of himself. For years he had belittled those who sought to win priority in the naming of new species but now he was sucked into doing so himself," said the Mearns (p. 271).

Audubon, however, continued belittling Townsend's field efforts and called him lazy and careless in the extreme. Yet, how exactly had Audubon befriended and helped Townsend? There is no evidence that Audubon gave Townsend any generous help at all. "The reality was that Audubon had sucked Townsend completely dry," the authors suggest. "He had acquired Townsend's bird specimens cheaply, indeed he had been pumping Townsend for specimens and data ever since Townsend had returned from the West, first for birds, nests and eggs and then for his mammals, always expecting help for nothing."

However, the careless charge could well be turned around towards Audubon because of his own many errors in references and quotations in his *Ornithological Biography* that George Ord called "the biggest hodgepodge of stupidity and lies that I have ever seen" (p. 287).

When Audubon and friends went up the Missouri River in 1843 and spent so much time bison hunting that he neglected a primary aim of the journey—catching small mammals—he earned a scathing rebuke from John Bachman who said: "I am afraid the broad shadows of the elk, buffalo and big-horn hid all the little marmot squirrels, jumping mice, rats and shrews. Why man, what poor trappers you proved yourselves to be" (in Ford 1965:411).

Audubon even erroneously included the Rufous-collared Sparrow, that he called Morton Finch, from

Latin America in the octavo edition of *The Birds of America*. The specimen probably was collected by Townsend near Valpariso, Chile. The reader should consult Appendix 15 (p. 371) for six other Latin American land birds incorrectly included in the *Birds of America*.

"The majority of commentators examine Audubon through rose-tinted glasses considering him to be a sort of patron saint of bird art who could do no wrong," say the authors. "Audubon was a great showman-cum-salesman and his propaganda is evidently still working today... The 'great backwoodsman' discovered comparatively few birds for himself, and as far as we can tell, no mammals whatsoever [and] the number discovered personally by Audubon diminishes to half a dozen or so" (p.11).

Reverend John Bachman described about 14 new species of North American mammals in scientific journals and all the scientific analysis and descriptions in *The Viviparous Quadrupeds* were by Bachman not Audubon. "Very few commentators ever acknowledge that Audubon was proud, vain, self-conceited, devious, arrogant, egocentric, highly critical of other ornithologists, and reluctant to share the glory or financial reward in ornithological matters. One of Audubon's most unattractive habits was his constant cruel criticism, directed at his contemporaries, often for failings that were so obviously his own... There is no doubt in our minds that Audubon was an artistic genius—a man of enormous talent, charm and energy, who achieved his great ambition partly because of these virtues, but also because of those character traits that are often possessed by successful entrepreneurs: a ruthless determination to succeed, with scant regard for the needs, hopes and ambitions of those that are used along the way" (p. 12).

In 1841, Townsend obtained a job as a taxidermist at the National Institute for the Promotion of Science in Washington, DC that was replaced four years later by the Smithsonian Institution. Thus Townsend abandoned DC before the end of 1845 and returned to Philadelphia with his family. Here he attended the Pennsylvania College medical school and graduated with a M.D. degree in late 1848. But bouts of illness overcame him and he died on February 6, 1851.

Two days later he was buried in

the Congressional Cemetery just off Pennsylvania Avenue. Townsend's early death has long been attributed to the effects of arsenic poisoning but was never proven. His mother believed that he had died of heart failure.

Let it be stressed here that Townsend provided about a tenth of the bird specimens and a similar proportion of the mammals that Audubon and his son portrayed, as well as much of the information about them. In fact, Townsend's record of discovery is rather more commendable than Audubon's though difficult to summarize because some of his birds were described and named in his absence, through no fault of his own. He discovered 11 bird species and collected another 8 avian species and 10 new mammal species that were worked by other naturalists (Appendix 2, pp. 325-326) some specimens of which dispersed to various institutions in the United States and Europe (see Fig. 1-3, pp. 320-322).

Today, the name of Townsend is recognized by amateur and professional zoologists alike: Townsend's Warbler, Townsend's Solitaire, Townsend's Ground Squirrel, Townsend's Chipmunk, Townsend's Mole, Townsend's Vole and Townsend's White-tailed Jackrabbit.

After reviewing this extraordinary tome, I am convinced that this project could easily qualify as a doctoral dissertation in historical zoology as well as a meticulous detailed biographical treatise of a good but far less known 19th century naturalist. But its copious text and brilliant illustrations also depict the beginning of "paradise lost" in America, a process that continues unabated today.

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Notes from the Field

Ash-throated Flycatcher in Lebanon County Randy Miller

On 20 November 2009, Sid Hostetter led a nature walk with Mandy Pennypacker, Bob Snyder, and me at State Gamlands 145, along Glen Biddle Road. Around 09:45, and approximately 100 yards from the parking area, we spotted some movement 30 yards ahead along the trail, about three feet off the ground. It was the same area where Mandy saw an unknown bird about a week earlier, which eluded her by hiding out in some thick vegetation. Fortunately for us, on this day the bird flew out into the open. Immediately, Mandy and I noticed how pale the bird appeared. When it flew we saw rufous in the primaries and in the spread tail, and we knew we had a very good bird—a *Myiarchus* flycatcher in November.

Bob is a beginning birder but he would save the day on this morning. My camera card was completely full, but Bob had a 500mm Nikon back in his car. Sid and Mandy kept an eye on the bird while Bob and I went back to his car to retrieve the camera. I took notes while we headed up to the car and while Bob was taking pictures later on. While we were at the car, Mandy heard the bird call and told us she did not think it was a Great-crested Flycatcher.

We could see two whitish wing bars, a brownish-gray head, back, rump, and tail (when the bird was facing away), a white throat, a pail gray chest, and a pale yellow belly and undertail. The bird had black eyes and black legs, the bill was somewhat thin, and the lower mandible had flesh color at the base. The tertials were white-tipped, and there was rufous visible in the folded wing at the primaries. The secondaries seemed to be whitish-tipped. All good for Ash-throated Flycatcher, but the identification was clinched when we saw the diagnostic pattern on the underside of the bird's tail—rufous interior, with dark brown outer retrices and a bark brown band across the bottom of the tail, forming a complete border around the rufous on the tail's interior. About 45 minutes after we first found it, a Cooper's Hawk flew over the area and drove the bird into hiding.

The bird was found again around

14:00 and was watched over the course of the next two hours by Chuck Berthoud, Jarrod Derr, and myself. It was in a small field with goldenrod and some other dead vegetation, and we were able to study it closely with a scope. At this time, we heard it giving a single call note, a soft "prrt". That call was not available on the recordings I had on hand. Drew Weber would later send me a recording of that particular call, and I could tell it was very close to what I heard in the field.

The bird was seen by a great number of birders during its stay 20 to 28 November, more often than not in the company of a small flock of Dark-eyed Juncos. If accepted by PORC, it will represent the fourth record for Pennsylvania, and the first for Lebanon County. It was seen eating grasshoppers, field crickets, moths, a walking stick (per Jason Horn), and various berries.

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Black-throated Gray Warbler in Cumberland County Vernon Gauthier

After a three-day period of rain, I decided to go look for migrating sparrows in the Green Ridge Village fields. It was a sunny afternoon in October. To access the fields I drove to one of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission parking lots along the Big Spring, just south of Newville.

I had walked south from the lot a few hundred feet and was ready to enter the field just on the other side of the road when I heard some chickadees calling. Thinking to myself that you just never know what can be with a flock of chickadees, I turned and looked into the brush from where I heard them calling and started to pish.

Immediately both chickadees and Tufted Titmice responded, flying in next to me along with a Downy Woodpecker and Brown Creeper. Nothing unusual here. Then I heard a Yellow-rumped Warbler chip, followed by the appearance of one, two, and then three Yellow-rumps. Then, something very different popped up out of the brush and onto the trunk of a small tree about four feet off the ground and

no more than ten feet away.

My first impression was a late-season Black-and-white Warbler, as it was mostly black and white and had the general shape and movements of a warbler that was leaf-gleaning insects. But something wasn't quite right. I noticed that its crown was black with no white streaks, that it had a black throat, and that the black streaking extended down the flanks but did not extend down on the belly. I knew it wasn't a Black-and-White, but didn't know what it could be. Then I saw that it had yellow lore spots and knew I for sure that didn't know what this bird was. Time to look at Sibley. When I saw the picture of the male Black-throated Gray Warbler I knew I had my bird. I observed it for the fifteen minutes or so that the flock was foraging near me. It stayed down fairly low, never more than maybe eight feet from the ground and at closest approach it came within five feet of me. Beautiful looks at a beautiful bird!

I called a few other local birders to let them know and so they could get the word out. The next morning there was a group of eight birders and the bird was refound. Over the next several days, 75 to 100 birders from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia came to see the bird.

The Black-throated Gray stayed at the location for six days, 20 to 25 October. It was noted by Rick Wiltraut on the PABirds listserv that the habitat with the many cedars and large chestnut oaks in and around the Big Spring reminded him of the juniper-oak habitat where he had seen the species out west. Devin Bosler also commented on the listserv on the juniper-cedar connection noting that, "cedars are very close relatives of the native junipers they use for nesting in the interior west." If accepted, this would be the ninth record Pennsylvania, with the most recent recorded in Erie County in 2001. On 4 November a male Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen 60 miles due south of the Big Spring, at Little Bennett Regional Park in Montgomery City, Maryland. I wonder if it was the same bird. By the way, I never did get back to looking for sparrows.

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17	275	Skip Conant	2001
17	275	David Hawk	2008
19	273	Don Henise	2000
19	273	Michael Schall	2008
19	273	Mark Vass	2009
22	267	Bill Etter	2009
23	263	Steve Farbotnik	2000
24	260	Dave DeReamus	2009
25	255	Greg Grove	2009
26	254	Jeff Payne	2004
27	253	Neil Troyer	2004
28	250	Retta Payne	2004
29	249	Barry Reed	2008
29	249	Pamela Fisher	2009
31	248	Mark McConaughy	2003
32	236	Bill Keim	2009
33	233	Ross Gallardy	2003
34	226	Stan Kotala	2001
34	226	Leonard Hess	2003
36	222	Linda Hess	2003
37	221	Jim McVoy	2007
38	216	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2005
39	215	Martin Page	2009
40	212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
40	212	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2005
40	212	Grant Stevenson	2005
43	207	Gregg Gorton	2001
44	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
45	205	Dennis Weaver	2000
46	186	John Salvetti	2003
46	186	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
48	184	Paul Mauss	2009
49	171	Helena Kotala	2007
50	153	Douglas Anderson	2003

PA Annual Lists 2009

294	Deuane Hoffman
276	Chuck Chalfant
260	Devich Farbotnik
257	Dan Richards
257	Mike Weible
249	Shannon Thompson
245	Mike Fialkovich
236	Kevin Fryberger
230	Ronald Leberman
227	Pamela Fisher
222	Jerry McWilliams
219	Michael Schall
218	Chad Kauffman
217	Matt Wlasniewski
216	Al Guarente
210	Bill Keim
195	Carl Garner
194	Neil Troyer
184	Skip Conant
181	Peter Robinson
156	Paul Mauss
151	Dave DeReamus
151	Ryan Tomazin
142	Martin Page

PA Annual List > Personal Best

313	Deuane Hoffman	1998
306	Robert Schutsky	1992
297	Jason Horn	2000
296	Devich Farbotnik	2002
294	John Fedak	1998
292	Mike Weible	2007
290	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
289	Geoff Malosh	2007
288	Barbara Haas	1986
288	Franklin Haas	1986
284	Peter Robinson	2002
279	Tom Johnson	2005
278	Sam Stull	1979
278	Gene Wilhelm	1983
276	Chuck Chalfant	2009
272	Randy C. Miller	1992
268	Terence Schiefer	1985
267	Jonathan Heller	1992
267	Michael Schall	2002
263	Jerry McWilliams	1983
262	Ken Lebo	1995
262	Walt Shaffer	1999
260	Dana Shaffer	1999
260	Mark Vass	2004
259	Mike Fialkovich	1998

258	Steve Santner	1992
256	Drew Weber	2008
249	Shannon Thompson	2009
248	Dave Rieger	2001
239	Bill Etter	2001
239	Rick Koval	2002
238	Ross Gallardy	2005
237	Al Guarente	2007
233	Greg Grove	2007
231	Dave DeReamus	1990
231	Tom Clauser	2007
230	Gary Edwards	2000
229	Mark McConaughy	1998
227	Pamela Fisher	2009
226	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
223	John Salvetti	1996
222	Matt Wlasniewski	1995
221	Chad Kauffman	2006
221	David Hawk	2007
218	Jim Dunn	2003
214	Bill Keim	2008
210	Carl Garner	1997
209	Neil Troyer	1999
208	Sam Sinderson	1974
208	Gerry Boltz	2003
204	Aden Troyer	1998
204	Marvin Byler	2004
200	Scott Bills	1996
199	Pamela Fisher	2008
192	Marjorie Howard	2004
186	John Salvetti	1999
186	Barry Reed	2007
177	Jeff Michaels	2005
174	Carol Hildebrand	2005
174	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
170	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
163	Paul Mauss	2008
161	Martin Page	2004
142	Jim McVoy	2007
136	Marjorie Howard	2008

Total Ticks

(Total of All County Life Lists)

13,731	Deuane Hoffman	2009
10,122	John Fedak	2006
4,723	Randy Miller	2009
4,223	Deborah Grove	2009
4,169	Greg Grove	2009
3,775	Al Guarente	2009
3,421	Geoff Malosh	2009
3,317	Nick Pulcinella	2009
3,157	Jim Dunn	2009
3,091	Devich Farbotnik	2009
2,335	Drew Weber	2009
2,088	Chad Kauffman	2009
1,838	Brian Byrnes	2009
1,732	Sam Sinderson	2005
1,147	Bill Keim	2009
1,030	Pamela Fisher	2009

County Life Lists (100 or More)

ADAMS		
213	Arthur Kennel	1995
213	Deuane Hoffman	2007
207	Carl Garner	2006
193	Nonie Kennell	1995
182	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
150	Steve Santner	1995
146	Paul Mauss	2009
144	Russell Ryan	1993
124	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
108	John Fedak	1998
104	Don Henise	2000
ALLEGHENY		
267	Geoff Malosh	2009
262	Mike Fialkovich	2009
260	Mark Vass	2009
255	Joyce Hoffmann	2004
224	Bob Machesney	2006
208	Ed Kwater	1996
203	Sam Sinderson	2005
200	Ross Gallardy	2006
200	Deuane Hoffman	2007
189	Randi Gerrish	2009
188	Scott Kinzey	1999

180	Sarah Gerrish	2009
176	Dave Rieger	2003
173	Margaret Higbee	2008
168	George Malosh	1989
156	Shannon Thompson	2008
141	Greg Malosh	1991
139	John Fedak	2001
138	Roger Higbee	1993
122	Dick Byers	1999
102	Steve Santner	1995

ARMSTRONG

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

BEAVER

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

BEDFORD

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

BERKS

306	Matthew Spence	2007
299	Ken Lebo	2009
294	Harold Lebo	2009
288	Matt Wlasniewski	2009
287	Jason Horn	2002
276	Deuane Hoffman	2006
275	Kerry Grim	1998
258	Tom Clauser	2007
253	Ernest Schiefer	1999
224	Bernard Morris	2007
212	Drew Weber	2007
208	Terence Schiefer	2006
207	Barbara Haas	1999
192	Larry Lewis	1988
189	Chuck Chalfant	2009
189	Nick Pulcinella	2009
183	Al Guarente	2009
174	Steve Santner	1995
170	Randy C. Miller	2002
164	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
162	Jonathan Heller	2001
157	Devich Farbotnik	2009
151	Bruce Carl	2005
150	Michael Schall	2009
149	Kevin Crilley	1998
145	Steve Farbotnik	2001
139	Scott Bills	1992
135	John Fedak	1999
119	Brian Byrnes	2009
109	Deb Grove	2009
101	Greg Grove	2009

BLAIR

221	Stan Kotala	2001
180	David Kyler	1996
160	Deuane Hoffman	2000
123	Helena Kotala	2002
112	Greg Grove	2009

107 Deb Grove 2009
 104 John Fedak 1998
 104 Jim Dunn 2009
 103 Steve Santner 1995

BRADFORD

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

BUCKS

327 Devich Farbotnik 2009
 316 Steve Farbotnik 2006
 296 Bill Etter 2007
 290 Jason Horn 2002
 259 Deuane Hoffman 2007
 251 William Murphy 2000
 240 Bill Keim 2009
 239 Thomas Ford-Hutch. 2006
 228 Stanley Glowacki 2002
 216 Anthony Ford-Hutch. 2006
 215 Harry Franzen 1996
 202 Stan Glowacki 1991
 182 Michael Schall 2008
 180 Bernard Morris 2007
 171 Al Guarente 2009
 169 Nick Pulcinella 2007
 157 Kevin Crilley 1998
 151 John Fedak 2005
 129 Barbara Haas 2000
 121 Steve Santner 1995
 114 Jonathan Heller 2006
 111 Thomas Mason 1999
 103 Rick Koval 2004

BUTLER

267 Gene Wilhelm 1992
 205 Margaret Higbee 2008
 202 Deuane Hoffman 2000
 199 Dick Byers 2005
 191 Bob Machesney 2005
 169 John Fedak 2000
 166 Ed Kwater 1996
 165 George Malosh 1989
 155 Randi Gerrish 2003
 154 Geoff Malosh 2008
 146 Sarah Gerrish 2003
 144 Sam Sinderson 2002
 119 Greg Malosh 1991
 119 Roger Higbee 1993
 100 Steve Santner 1995

CAMBRIA

231 John Salvetti 2009
 180 Margaret Higbee 2008
 177 Deuane Hoffman 2003
 161 Gloria Lamer 1992
 161 Ross Gallardy 2006
 131 John Fedak 1998
 103 Steve Santner 1995

CAMERON

151 Deuane Hoffman 2000
 128 John Fedak 2005
 105 Steve Santner 1995

CARBON

263 David Hawk 2009
 248 Barry Reed 2008
 245 Rick Wiltraut 1998
 227 Jason Horn 2002
 208 Bernard Morris 2007
 207 Michael Schall 2009
 205 Deuane Hoffman 1999
 202 Robert Frantz 2000
 158 Nick Kerlin 2003
 128 John Fedak 2005
 115 Steve Santner 1995
 110 Randy C. Miller 2007
 105 Devich Farbotnik 2009
 104 Rick Koval 2004
 102 Al Guarente 2002

CENTRE

272 Merrill Wood 1991
 263 Harry Henderson 1991
 254 Jim Dunn 2009
 251 Greg Grove 2009
 249 Deuane Hoffman 2009
 245 Rick Wiltraut 1998
 244 Terence Schiefer 1998
 232 Eugene Zielinski 2000
 218 Scott Bills 1992
 212 Deb Grove 2009
 203 Jeff Michaels 2005
 184 Paul Schwalbe 1998
 184 John Fedak 2005
 162 Russ Ruffing 1991
 150 Nick Kerlin 2004
 145 Steve Santner 1995
 145 Kevin Crilley 1998
 132 Chad Kauffman 2009
 127 Barbara Haas 1999
 125 Jonathan Heller 2003
 123 Randy C. Miller 2006

CHESTER

268 Larry Lewis 1988
 267 Nick Pulcinella 2009
 263 Chuck Chalfant 2009
 252 Barbara Haas 1996
 252 Phillips Street 1996
 247 Al Guarente 2009
 246 John Ginaven 1998
 245 Deuane Hoffman 2007
 235 Theodore Drozdowski 2005
 231 Joe Meloney 1994
 211 Martin Page 2009
 209 Jason Horn 2002
 193 Neal Thorpe 1995
 188 Pamela Fisher 2009
 183 Brian Byrnes 2009
 167 Steve Santner 1995
 150 Thomas Reeves 2007
 131 Bruce Carl 2007
 126 Jonathan Heller 2002
 125 Bill Keim 2007
 121 Randy C. Miller 2006
 115 John Fedak 2004
 111 Terence Schiefer 1998

CLARION

255 John Fedak 2001
 229 Walter Fye 1997
 210 Deuane Hoffman 2004
 200 Margaret Buckwalter 1996
 181 Gene Wilhelm 1992
 163 Bill Reddinger 1999
 152 Mark McConaughy 2003
 150 Fred Crowley 1995
 104 Steve Santner 1995

CLEARFIELD

202 Deuane Hoffman 2009
 186 John Fedak 2005
 154 Eugene Zielinski 2000
 114 Paul Schwalbe 1998
 106 Jim Dunn 2009
 100 Steve Santner 1995
 100 Deb Grove 2009

CLINTON

248 Paul Schwalbe 2004
 216 Wayne Laubscher 2009
 209 Carol Hildebrand 2009
 200 Deuane Hoffman 2007
 155 Greg Grove 2008
 141 Deborah Grove 2008
 141 Jim Dunn 2009
 130 John Fedak 2000
 120 Steve Santner 1995
 101 Barbara Haas 1994

COLUMBIA

180 Deuane Hoffman 2006
 133 John Fedak 2005
 115 Richard Koval 1999
 104 Rick Koval 2004
 100 Steve Santner 1995

CRAWFORD

287 Ronald Leberman 2008

249 Deuane Hoffman 2007
 227 Margaret Higbee 2008
 219 Marvin Byler 2005
 218 John Fedak 2005
 212 Geoff Malosh 2009
 211 Sam Sinderson 2002
 211 Roger Higbee 2008
 201 Gene Wilhelm 1992
 164 Ed Kwater 1996
 150 Greg Malosh 1991
 148 Marjorie Howard 2007
 146 Randi Garrish 2003
 146 Sarah Garrish 2003
 124 George Malosh 1989
 123 James Flynn 1997
 120 Michael Schall 2007
 117 Randy C. Miller 1998
 116 Dick Byers 2003
 112 Steve Santner 1995
 107 Jonathan Heller 1998
 103 Don Henise 2000
 102 Terence Schiefer 1998
 100 Bill Reddinger 1999

CUMBERLAND

278 Deuane Hoffman 2009
 261 Don Henise 2000
 259 Robyn Henise 2000
 247 Richard Colyer 1999
 216 Carl Garner 2009
 197 Steve Santner 1995
 176 George Wertz, Jr. 1986
 170 Mark McConaughy 2002
 166 Chad Kauffman 2009
 165 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002
 154 John Fedak 1998
 143 Jonathan Heller 2009
 124 Randy C. Miller 2007
 119 Devich Farbotnik 2009
 106 Greg Grove 2009
 103 Deb Grove 2009

DAUPHIN

289 Deuane Hoffman 2009
 243 Scott Bills 2003
 238 Mark McConaughy 1998
 235 Grace Randolph 1996
 234 George Wertz, Jr. 1986
 219 Steve Santner 1995
 213 Chuck Berthoud 2009
 211 Richard Colyer 1999
 175 Don Henise 2000
 156 John Fedak 2002
 147 Randy C. Miller 2007
 140 Jonathan Heller 2003
 128 William Reid 2001
 127 Merrill Wood 1991
 124 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002
 124 Chad Kauffman 2009
 113 Greg Grove 2009
 108 Deb Grove 2009
 100 Jim Dunn 2009

DELAWARE

289 John Miller 1985
 280 Al Guarente 2009
 276 Nick Pulcinella 2009
 260 Skip Conant 2009
 256 Barbara Haas 2000
 249 Thomas Reeves 2003
 226 Paul Schwalbe 1998
 224 John Ginaven 1999
 219 Deuane Hoffman 2009
 157 Brian Byrnes 2009
 151 Jason Horn 1995
 144 Martin Page 2009
 130 Steve Santner 1995
 119 John Fedak 2001

ELK

198 John Fedak 2006
 183 Linda Christenson 1997
 165 Deuane Hoffman 2005
 105 Steve Santner 1995

ERIE

324 Jerry McWilliams 2009
 305 Donald Snyder 2002
 291 Sam Stull 1985

291 Joyce Hoffmann 2002
290 Deuane Hoffman 2007
277 John Fedak 2005
274 Ed Kwater 1996
273 Geoff Malosh 2006
268 James Flynn 1997
268 Mike Fialkovich 2008
263 Ronald Leberman 2001
257 Jason Horn 2002
253 Linda McWilliams 1992
253 Margaret Higbee 2004
249 Barbara Haas 1996
237 Roger Higbee 1999
236 George Malosh 1989
235 Sam Sinderson 2005
233 Gene Wilhelm 1992
231 Dave Rieger 2003
224 Randy C. Miller 2002
223 Bob Machesney 2003
221 Richard Colyer 2000
217 Greg Malosh 1991
208 Steve Santner 1995
204 Jonathan Heller 2002
197 Terence Schiefer 1998
180 Don Henise 2000
180 Randi Gerrish 2003
179 Sarah Gerrish 2003
178 Bernard Morris 1998
178 Marjorie Howard 2008
156 Greg Grove 2007
146 J. Kenneth Gabler 1999
144 Steve Graff 2000
139 Rick Koval 2004
138 Devich Farbotnik 2007
117 Michael Schall 2007
111 Deb Grove 2007
110 Bill Reddinger 1999
100 Ross Gallardy 2004

FAYETTE

170 Mark McConaughy 2004
153 Deuane Hoffman 2000
126 John Fedak 2005
125 Randi Gerrish 2003
120 Sarah Gerrish 2003
119 Steve Santner 1995
111 Ed Kwater 1996

FOREST

188 John Fedak 2005
183 Deuane Hoffman 2006
141 Ted Grisez 1996
108 Steve Santner 1995

FRANKLIN

269 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002
268 Carl Garner 2008
216 Deuane Hoffman 2009
215 Dale Gearhart 2000
213 Jeffrey Walck 1989
141 Don Henise 1997
130 Steve Santner 1995
114 John Fedak 1998

FULTON

205 J. Kenneth Gabler 2000
200 Daniel Snell 2000
195 Deuane Hoffman 2007
194 Daniel Snell 1997
152 Jeffrey Walck 1989
142 Carl Garner 2008
119 Steve Santner 1995
118 Robert Walker 1989
115 Dale Gearhart 2000
108 John Fedak 2001

GREENE

195 Marjorie Howard 2009
194 Ralph Bell 1993
162 Deuane Hoffman 2001
134 Roy Ickes 1996
109 Steve Santner 1995
109 John Fedak 2001
103 Sam Sinderson 2000
101 Mark McConaughy 2003

HUNTINGDON

246 David Kyler 2007
244 Greg Grove 2009

236 Trudy Kyler 2007
234 Deb Grove 2009
211 Jim Dunn 2009
196 Deuane Hoffman 2006
181 Merrill Wood 1991
178 John Salvetti 2003
171 Lewis Grove 2000
155 Eugene Zielinski 1998
122 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002
118 Chad Kauffman 2009
106 John Fedak 1998
104 Steve Santner 1995

INDIANA

281 Margaret Higbee 2008
262 Roger Higbee 2008
233 Gloria Lamer 1992
232 Steve Graff 2000
212 Deuane Hoffman 2007
195 Anne Hedgpeth 1986
193 Leonard Hess 2003
185 Linda Hess 2003
184 John Fedak 2001
177 Mark McConaughy 2004
173 Randi Gerrish 2003
173 Sarah Gerrish 2003
137 Ross Gallardy 2003
118 Steve Santner 1995
104 Bill Reddinger 1999

JEFFERSON

225 John Fedak 2000
181 Margaret Higbee 2008
172 Deuane Hoffman 1998
105 Bill Reddinger 1999
104 Steve Santner 1995

JUNIATA

256 Aden Troyer 2009
237 Deuane Hoffman 2007
206 Chad Kauffman 2009
143 John Fedak 2006
118 Jonathan Heller 2002
113 Greg Grove 2009
108 Steve Santner 1995
108 Deb Grove 2007
107 Jim Dunn 2009

LACKAWANNA

200 Glenn Czulada 2007
172 Deuane Hoffman 2003
169 Rick Koval 2004
158 William Reid 2001
136 John Fedak 2002
103 Steve Santner 1995

LANCASTER

327 Eric Witmer 2009
326 Tom Garner 2009
324 Deuane Hoffman 2009
323 Randy C. Miller 2009
318 Robert Schutsky 2009
313 Jonathan Heller 2009
311 Bruce Carl 2009
306 Jerry Book 2000
300 Chuck Chalfant 2009
300 Barbara Haas 2009
292 Jan Witmer 1997
291 Harold Morrin 1996
288 Jason Horn 2002
274 Steve Santner 1995
244 Al Guarente 2009
243 Pamela Fisher 2009
243 Nick Pulcinella 2009
240 Larry Lewis 1988
224 Richard Colyer 2000
213 Geoff Malosh 2009
212 Jim Mountjoy 2000
209 Ernest Schiefer 2000
206 Drew Weber 2007
201 George Wertz, Jr. 1986
198 Pamela Woodman 1993
196 Dennis Weaver 2000
187 Terence Schiefer 2009
184 Don Henise 1997
172 John Fedak 2006
161 Chad Kauffman 2009
160 Kevin Crilley 1998
159 Matt Wlasniewski 2009

155 Bernard Morris 2008
150 Theodore Drozdowski 2005
148 Jeffrey Wentz 2002
147 Douglas Anderson 2003
146 Steve Farbotnik 2001
133 Devich Farbotnik 2009
133 Martin Page 2009
132 J. Kenneth Gabler 2001
129 Mark McConaughy 2001
118 Margaret Higbee 1993
109 Marjorie Howard 2008
109 Brian Byrnes 2009
108 Roger Higbee 1993
107 Deb Grove 2007
106 Greg Grove 2009

LAWRENCE

210 Gene Wilhelm 1992
194 Margaret Higbee 2008
171 Geoff Malosh 2009
160 Deuane Hoffman 2006
158 John Fedak 2000
102 Steve Santner 1995

LEBANON

288 Randy C. Miller 2009
259 Deuane Hoffman 2009
237 Jonathan Heller 2009
236 Steve Santner 1995
213 Chuck Chalfant 2009
208 Stephen Mallanson 1996
206 Bruce Carl 2009
202 Bruce Weaver 2000
202 Gerry Boltz 2008
201 John Fedak 2006
181 Jason Horn 1995
181 Chuck Berthoud 2009
152 George Wertz, Jr. 1986
130 Don Henise 1997
130 Pamela Fisher 2009
122 Barbara Haas 1996
119 Al Guarente 2009
117 Nick Pulcinella 2009

LEHIGH

271 Jason Horn 2002
269 Fritz Brock 2006
269 Bernard Morris 2007
260 Rick Wiltraut 1998
217 Michael Schall 2009
208 Deuane Hoffman 2009
161 Bill Etter 2009
136 Robert Frantz 2000
132 John Fedak 2005
123 Devich Farbotnik 2009
107 Al Guarente 2007
103 Steve Santner 1995
101 Nick Pulcinella 2009

LUZERNE

280 William Reid 2001
265 Rick Koval 2004
216 Mark Blauer 1985
212 John Fedak 2005
194 Deuane Hoffman 1999
149 Kevin Crilley 1998
131 Jim Ridolfi 2009
121 Glenn Czulada 2003
115 Bernard Morris 1998
104 Steve Santner 1995

LYCOMING

230 Paul Schwalbe 1998
223 Deuane Hoffman 2009
124 Steve Santner 1995
124 Carol Hildebrand 2008
119 John Fedak 1999
106 Jim Dunn 2009
103 Don Henise 2000
103 Greg Grove 2009
101 Deb Grove 2004
100 Randy Miller 2009

McKEAN

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

MERCER

246	Neil Troyer	2004
232	Harvey Troyer	1999
231	Jerry Troyer	1999
216	Eli Troyer	1999
213	Deuane Hoffman	1998
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
205	Margaret Higbee	2006
191	John Fedak	2000
190	Neal Troyer	1998
183	Geoff Malosh	2009
166	Marvin Byler	2002
124	Steve Santner	1995
102	Randi Garrish	1999

MIFFLIN

204	Deuane Hoffman	2005
201	Greg Grove	2008
156	Jim Dunn	2009
138	Deb Grove	2008
127	John Fedak	2006
108	Steve Santner	1995

MONROE

222	Phillips Street	1996
176	Jason Horn	1995
176	Michael Schall	2009
162	Deuane Hoffman	2003
138	Bernard Morris	2008
111	John Fedak	2001
111	Devich Farbotnik	2009
110	Steve Santner	1995
101	Rick Koval	2004

MONTGOMERY

275	Jason Horn	2002
260	William Murphy	1999
255	Kevin Crilley	1998
241	Harry Franzen	1996
238	Deuane Hoffman	2009
231	Bernard Morris	2009
223	Neal Thorpe	1997
203	Joseph Greco	2008
203	Devich Farbotnik	2009
188	Michael Schall	2007
184	Steve Farbotnik	2001
170	John Fedak	2005
166	Nick Pulcinella	2009
156	Al Guarente	2009
150	Brian Byrnes	2009
141	Gregg Gorton	2001
137	Steve Santner	1995
133	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
129	Thomas Mason	1999
121	Thomas Reeves	2008
115	Bill Keim	2009
112	Martin Page	2009
107	Robert Walker	1989
105	Rick Koval	2004
100	Barbara Haas	1996

MONTOUR

236	Deuane Hoffman	2006
222	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
212	Barbara Haas	1996
140	John Fedak	1999
119	Steve Santner	1995
104	Kevin Crilley	1998

NORTHAMPTON

291	Arlene Koch	2008
284	Dave DeReamus	2009
277	Michael Schall	2009
269	Rick Wiltraut	1998
248	Jason Horn	2002
239	Bernard Morris	2009
232	Deuane Hoffman	2006
229	Steve Boyce	1990
220	Brad Silfies	1990
220	Dennis Miller	1998
219	Adam Miller	2000
164	Devich Farbotnik	2009
130	John Fedak	2005
117	Steve Farbotnik	2003
106	Steve Santner	1995
105	Al Guarente	2008
102	Randy C. Miller	2002
102	Matt Wlasniewski	2009

NORTHUMBERLAND

241	Deuane Hoffman	2004
228	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
166	Barbara Haas	1993
138	John Fedak	1999
112	Steve Santner	1995

PERRY

242	Deuane Hoffman	2009
235	Richard Colyer	2000
159	Don Henise	2000
157	Steve Santner	1995
141	Walter Shelly, Jr.	1992
139	Dallas Dowhower	1992
129	Randy C. Miller	2009
126	John Fedak	1998
119	Mark McConaughy	2001
117	Jonathan Heller	2001
103	Chad Kauffman	2009

PHILADELPHIA

290	John Miller	1985
251	Al Guarente	2009
245	Frank Windfelder	1992
243	Harry Franzen	1996
241	Barbara Haas	1996
241	Nick Pulcinella	2008
235	Skip Conant	2006
219	John Ginaven	1998
214	Thomas Reeves	2004
214	Deuane Hoffman	2009
184	Jim McKinney	1992
175	Brian Byrnes	2008
167	Jason Horn	1995
167	Gregg Gorton	2001
163	Stephen Lawrence	1990
155	Steve Farbotnik	2001
154	Steve Santner	1995
146	Bill Keim	2009
129	Thomas Mason	1999
120	Terence Schiefer	1998
120	Devich Farbotnik	2009
113	John Fedak	1998
107	Kevin Crilley	1998
106	Martin Page	2008
101	Randy C. Miller	1998

PIKE

201	Joe Strasser	1994
201	Voni Strasser	1994
174	Deuane Hoffman	2003
144	Phillips Street	1996
138	John Fedak	2001
136	Michael Schall	2009
101	Steve Santner	1995
101	Barbara Haas	2001

POTTER

218	David Hauber	1999
188	Chuck Chalfant	2007
173	Deuane Hoffman	2004
171	John Fedak	2003
104	Steve Santner	1995
104	Paul Schwalbe	1998
102	Drew Weber	2007

SCHUYLKILL

266	Tom Clauser	2005
223	Deuane Hoffman	2007
217	Mike Ward	2009
177	Jason Horn	1995
164	Bruce Carl	2003
162	Matt Wlasniewski	2009
152	Bernard Morris	2007
151	Dave Rieger	2003
137	Drew Weber	2007
133	Steve Santner	1995
127	Barbara Haas	2000
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Randy C. Miller	2009
104	Al Guarente	2002

SNYDER

215	Deuane Hoffman	2004
202	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
132	Steve Santner	1995
127	John Fedak	2006
127	Chad Kauffman	2009

SOMERSET

254	Jeff Payne	2008
251	Retta Payne	2008
238	Scott Bastian	1999
231	Christopher Payne	2008
185	Deuane Hoffman	2004
177	Richard Murphy	1998
170	Ross Gallardy	2003
149	John Fedak	2000
126	Steve Santner	1995
109	Mark McConaughy	2004
108	Randi Gerrish	1999
107	Sarah Gerrish	1999

SULLIVAN

172	Nick Kerlin	2000
168	Skip Conant	2009
161	Deuane Hoffman	2004
129	John Fedak	2005
115	Randy Miller	2002
105	Al Guarente	2008
104	Steve Santner	1995
102	Rick Koval	2004
102	Thomas Reeves	2006

SUSQUEHANNA

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

TIOGA

223	Larry Brown	1998
215	Arlene Brown	1998
205	Benjamin Israel	2000
198	Deuane Hoffman	2006
179	Bruce Carl	2007
157	Chuck Chalfant	2008
153	John Fedak	2002
136	Drew Weber	2007
120	Steve Santner	1995

UNION

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

VENANGO

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

WARREN

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

WASHINGTON

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

WAYNE

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

CLINTON			138	Deuane Hoffman	2005	239	Jonathan Heller	1993
159	Carol Hildebrand	2008	132	John Fedak	1997	236	Randy Miller	1991
157	Carol Hildebrand	2005	FRANKLIN			LAWRENCE		
153	Carol Hildebrand	2007	215	Dale Gearhart	1999	210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
143	Carol Hildebrand	2004	185	Carl Garner	1997	118	John Fedak	1997
142	Carol Hildebrand	2006	182	Carl Garner	2004	110	Deuane Hoffman	1996
133	Deuane Hoffman	2005	180	Carl Garner	1993	LEBANON		
125	Greg Grove	2005	180	Carl Garner	1994	222	Randy C. Miller	1999
117	Deuane Hoffman	2000	180	Carl Garner	2007	215	Randy C. Miller	1993
115	Deuane Hoffman	1999	178	Carl Garner	1999	213	Randy C. Miller	2002
111	Jim Dunn	2009	176	Carl Garner	2008	211	Randy C. Miller	2000
COLUMBIA			174	Carl Garner	1998	210	Randy C. Miller	2003
117	Deuane Hoffman	1997	174	Carl Garner	2009	210	Randy C. Miller	2008
112	John Fedak	1997	FULTON			205	Randy C. Miller	1996
111	Deuane Hoffman	1998	173	Daniel Snell	1997	204	Randy C. Miller	1998
CRAWFORD			128	Deuane Hoffman	1996	179	Deuane Hoffman	1998
230	Ronald Leberman	2009	115	Kenneth Gabler	1988	171	Bruce Weaver	1999
222	Ronald Leberman	2007	112	Deuane Hoffman	1998	LEHIGH		
222	Ronald Leberman	2008	108	Kenneth Gabler	2000	200	Bernard Morris	1984
208	Ronald Leberman	1994	GREENE			192	Michael Schall	2009
202	Ronald Leberman	1989	137	Ralph Bell	1985	189	Michael Schall	2006
201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	134	Ralph Bell	1986	132	Deuane Hoffman	1998
196	Ronald Leberman	2000	130	Ralph Bell	1990	128	Michael Schall	2003
188	Ronald Leberman	2003	122	Deuane Hoffman	2000	119	Deuane Hoffman	1997
180	Marvin Byler	2000	115	Marjorie Howard	2007	110	Michael Schall	2001
180	Marvin Byler	2004	109	Marjorie Howard	2005	LUZERNE		
CUMBERLAND			107	Deuane Hoffman	1998	224	Rick Koval	2001
244	Andy Markel	2008	HUNTINGDON			220	Rick Koval	1996
227	Deuane Hoffman	1989	205	David Kyler	1996	220	Rick Koval	2002
227	Andy Markel	2007	201	Greg Grove	2003	219	Rick Koval	1995
226	Deuane Hoffman	1998	195	Greg Grove	2008	219	Rick Koval	1997
225	Deuane Hoffman	1992	194	Greg Grove	1994	206	Rick Koval	1994
221	Deuane Hoffman	2000	191	Greg Grove	1992	153	William Reid	1999
219	Deuane Hoffman	1999	191	Greg Grove	2000	132	William Reid	2001
217	Deuane Hoffman	2001	191	Greg Grove	2004	121	Deuane Hoffman	1998
210	Deuane Hoffman	2005	190	Greg Grove	2002	LYCOMING		
148	Carl Garner	1997	188	Greg Grove	2001	158	Deuane Hoffman	2005
DAUPHIN			180	Greg Grove	1998	126	Deuane Hoffman	2000
251	Deuane Hoffman	2005	INDIANA			120	Deuane Hoffman	1999
246	Deuane Hoffman	2003	206	Margaret Higbee	1993	112	Deuane Hoffman	1997
242	Deuane Hoffman	2006	203	Margaret Higbee	1991	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
234	Deuane Hoffman	1997	203	Margaret Higbee	2008	100	Don Henise	2000
231	Deuane Hoffman	1998	195	Steve Graff	1998	McKEAN		
230	Deuane Hoffman	2000	186	Steve Graff	2000	222	John Fedak	2003
229	Deuane Hoffman	1996	173	Roger Higbee	2008	221	John Fedak	2005
226	Deuane Hoffman	2001	131	Deuane Hoffman	1998	219	John Fedak	2002
224	Deuane Hoffman	1999	115	Mark McConaughy	2003	217	John Fedak	2004
210	Grace Randolph	1998	114	Mark McConaughy	1998	151	John Fedak	2001
DELAWARE			107	Mark McConaughy	2001	119	Deuane Hoffman	1996
241	John Miller	1969	JEFFERSON			MERCER		
211	Al Guarente	1996	198	John Fedak	1997	213	Harvey Troyer	1999
209	Al Guarente	1998	143	Deuane Hoffman	1996	212	Jerry Troyer	1999
206	Al Guraente	1997	121	Deuane Hoffman	1998	211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
205	Al Guraente	1995	JUNIATA			210	Neil Troyer	1999
203	Al Guarente	2005	188	Aden Troyer	1996	192	Neil Troyer	1997
200	Sheryl Johnson	1997	176	Aden Troyer	1997	192	Eli Troyer	1999
194	Al Guarente	2007	174	Chad Kauffman	2008	190	Neil Troyer	2001
189	Al Guarente	2009	172	Deuane Hoffman	2000	190	Neil Troyer	2002
184	Al Guarente	1999	170	Deuane Hoffman	1996	187	Neil Troyer	2009
ELK			167	Deuane Hoffman	1998	186	Neil Troyer	1998
116	John Fedak	1997	167	Aden Troyer	2000	MIFFLIN		
113	Deuane Hoffman	1996	166	Aden Troyer	1995	164	Greg Grove	2005
ERIE			166	Aden Troyer	1999	160	Deuane Hoffman	1998
264	Sam Stull	1979	164	Chad Kauffman	2007	155	Deuane Hoffman	2000
256	Jerry McWilliams	1992	LACKAWANNA			128	Greg Grove	2003
252	Jerry McWilliams	1991	169	Glenn Czulada	1996	127	Jim Dunn	2007
251	Jerry McWilliams	1983	161	Glenn Czulada	1995	126	Deuane Hoffman	1997
251	Jerry McWilliams	1988	117	Richard Koval	1995	113	Deuane Hoffman	1996
251	Jerry McWilliams	2004	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	100	Jim Dunn	2005
248	Jerry McWilliams	1989	103	William Reid	2001	MONROE		
246	Jerry McWilliams	1993	LANCASTER			160	Michael Schall	2003
245	Jerry McWilliams	1996	277	Deuane Hoffman	2009	145	Corey Husic	2009
244	Jerry McWilliams	1985	270	Chuck Chalfant	2009	103	Deuane Hoffman	1999
FAYETTE			268	Deuane Hoffman	2000	101	Deuane Hoffman	1998
145	Mark McConaughy	2000	268	Deuane Hoffman	2006	MONTGOMERY		
112	Mark McConaughy	1998	258	Deuane Hoffman	2005	194	Steve Kacir	2008
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	255	Robert Schutsky	1992	167	Joseph Greco	2002
FOREST			249	Jonathan Heller	1992	153	Michael Schall	2004
144	April Walters	1993	242	Deuane Hoffman	2001			
143	Richard Walters	1993						

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

218	Jeff Payne	2003
216	Jeff Payne	1996
216	Retta Payne	1996
208	Scott Bastian	1994
206	Jeff Payne	1999
204	Christopher Payne	2008
202	Jeff Payne	2004
199	Christopher Payne	2006
SULLIVAN		
140	Nick Kerlin	1999
130	Nick Kerlin	1995
125	Skip Conant	1995
124	Nick Kerlin	1997
123	Skip Conant	1999
121	Skip Conant	2000
118	Skip Conant	1998
114	Skip Conant	2001
114	Skip Conant	2002
114	Skip Conant	2008
SUSQUEHANNA		
173	Jerry Skinner	2007
170	Jerry Skinner	2003
157	Jerry Skinner	2004
153	Jerry Skinner	2005
145	Jerry Skinner	1999
109	Deuane Hoffman	1997
109	William Reid	2001
107	William Reid	1999
105	Deuane Hoffman	1996
103	John Fedak	1997
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
TIOGA		
197	Benjamin Israel	2000
174	Larry Brown	1998
167	Larry Brown	1992
163	Benjamin Israel	1999
160	Arlene Brown	1992
142	Arlene Brown	1998
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998
UNION		
171	Deuane Hoffman	2004
121	Deuane Hoffman	1999
102	Deuane Hoffman	1998
VENANGO		
221	Gary Edwards	2000
207	Gary Edwards	1995
194	Gary Edwards	1991
192	Russ States	1991
113	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WARREN		
204	John Fedak	2003
201	John Fedak	2002
165	Ted Grisez	1992
152	Ted Grisez	1985
141	John Fedak	2001
117	John Fedak	1997
WASHINGTON		
192	Ross Gallardy	2006
134	Russ Ruffing	1985
132	Roy Ickes	1984
100	George Malosh	1975
100	Geoff Malosh	1999
WAYNE		
127	Deuane Hoffman	1997
121	John Fedak	1997
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WESTMORELAND		
190	Mark McConaughy	1999
179	Mark McConaughy	2000
175	Mark McConaughy	2002
167	Mark McConaughy	2003
163	Mark McConaughy	1998
163	Mark McConaughy	2001
138	Mark McConaughy	2004
WYOMING		
196	William Reid	1999
193	William Reid	1993
188	William Reid	2001
181	William Reid	1994

134	Richard Koval	1994
122	Richard Koval	1999
105	Skip Conant	2000
102	Skip Conant	1998
101	Skip Conant	2001
YORK		
219	Bruce Fortman	1999
214	Deuane Hoffman	1999
202	Deuane Hoffman	2001
196	Russell Ryan	1992
191	Randy Phillips	1999
190	Deuane Hoffman	2005
189	Deuane Hoffman	2000
182	Deuane Hoffman	1998
178	Russell Ryan	1991
153	Candy Krenzer	1999

County Annual Lists (Top 50)

1	277	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
1	277	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2009
3	270	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2009
4	268	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2000
4	268	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2006
6	264	Erie	Sam Stull	1979
7	258	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2005
7	258	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2007
9	256	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
10	255	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
11	253	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
11	253	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2008
13	252	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
13	252	Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
15	251	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
15	251	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
15	251	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
15	251	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2005
19	249	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
20	248	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
20	248	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
22	247	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
22	247	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
24	246	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
24	246	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2003
24	246	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
27	245	Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
27	245	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
27	245	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
30	244	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985
30	244	Cumberland	Andy Markel	2008
32	243	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
32	243	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
34	242	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
34	242	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2001
34	242	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2006
37	241	Delaware	John Miller	1969
38	240	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
38	240	Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
38	240	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
41	239	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1993
41	239	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1994
41	239	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2001
44	238	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1990
44	238	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1999
46	237	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1995
46	237	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2000
48	236	Lancaster	Randy Miller	1991
48	236	Berks	Ken Lebo	1997
48	236	Northampton	Michael Schall	2003

Summary of the Season

Geoff Malosh

What will be remembered by many as a summer that hardly happened continued in the early fall season. The cool temperatures which dominated much of Pennsylvania in June and July 2009 became a cool and rainy September and October, as an El Niño winter gathered on the horizon. Several county compilers reported heavy rains in the first half of the season, along with resulting high water and poor shorebirding. A few hawk watches similarly reported an off year due to heavy rains, particularly in October.

Things turned around in November, a month which would become one of the warmest Novembers on record, and this weather likely contributed to a bevy of late-staying migrants. But the balmy days did not last long. December turned very cold and snowy in most regions, and February was utterly brutal with multiple feet of snow all across the state, but more on that in the next issue.

Like last year, compilers who made mention of waterfowl migration reported that it was off once again this year. The Atlantic was eerily calm, despite the usual breathless predictions to the contrary by the talking heads. Only three storms achieved hurricane status, and none made even a sniff of the mid-Atlantic coast. Those storms which came onshore from the Gulf of Mexico petered out quickly and were not factors in the Ohio Valley or northeast.

A small number of dedicated listeners across the state continue to document and report the extent of nocturnal migrations over their areas in September and October. This season reports came from *Allegheny*, *Clarion*, and *Berks*; the most interesting report was of a **Caspian Tern** over *Berks* in late August.

This author has long believed that **Snow Geese** are more common in western Pennsylvania during fall migration than during spring, contrary to much of the published literature on the subject. This season was more evidence of that, with reports from six western counties from mid-October to the end of November; most interesting were 300 birds over *Bedford* 11/30, which were accompanied by 600 **Tundra Swans**. There was also a good count of 36 Snow Geese (including one

Blue Goose) in *Erie* in the second week of November. A **Ross's Goose** at Shenango Reservoir in *Mercer* 11/29 added to the white goose total in western Pennsylvania this season. **Cackling Goose** reports continue to increase unabated. This season saw 11 counties reporting, all in the south, east, and southeast; this will likely be the last time that the species is detailed in the Birds of Note fall summary. There was a very strong pulse of **Brant** moving across the state in the last week of October and the first two weeks of November. There were 17 reports from 13 counties in total, with only three of these outside this three-week window. Perhaps the best studied Brant this year was a juvenile that stayed at Conneaut Lake in *Crawford* 10/25-11/19, where it fed on the lawn of a public boat launch and allowed many birders to admire it from as close as 10 feet. Two early **Greater White-fronted Geese** were sighted, one in *Lebanon* in mid-September, and one in *Lancaster* in early October.

A record high count of 31 **Mute Swans** at Lake Ontelaunee in *Berks* was not really welcome news. A **Tundra Swan** which summered at and near Gull Point in *Erie* stayed to late August; the best count of these whistling swans (such a better name than the prosaic "Tundra") during migration in western Pennsylvania was 723 in *Fayette* on the last day of the reporting period, 11/30.

As already mentioned, waterfowl reports were below average and generally pedestrian. Most interesting among them was a mixed flock of 872 **Blue-winged** and **Green-winged teal** which passed Sunset Point in *Erie* 9/28, the largest such flock in that county's history. Scoters put on a bit of a good showing. Rare in the west away from Lake Erie, **Black Scoter** appeared in an impressive five western counties: *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Erie* (at Edinboro Lake), *Indiana*, and *Washington*; by season's end they had been found in nine counties statewide. **White-winged** and **Surf scoters** were scattered across the state as well, with reports from six and five counties respectively.

Red-throated Loon had another good year away from Lake Erie, with at least 22 reports from 12 counties. All but two of these reports made in a one-

week window from 11/22-29, and seven counties reported the species specifically on 11/22. **Common Loons** appeared in their greatest numbers in this week as well, with the best counts had in *Crawford* (160 on 11/22) and *Venango* (300 on 11/27). An **Eared Grebe** appeared in *Lancaster* in early October. **Red-necked Grebes** were barely heard from; just three counties contributed reports, all in November.

Great Cormorants were reported away from the Delaware River in *Berks* (fourth county record) and *Lancaster*, and one was seen usually early *Bucks* 8/7 at Mud Island. An unexpected adult **Brown Pelican** in *Lancaster* 8/3 was among the top rarities for the season and the fifth for the state. It had been seen the previous day in Maryland on the Susquehanna just five miles south of Pennsylvania, and birders who took the chance to search Pennsylvania's southernmost stretch of the river 8/3 were well rewarded.

Great Egrets held on into late November in both *Chester* and *Lancaster*. **Snowy Egrets** and **Little Blue Herons** were reported in southeastern counties, as usual, primarily in August and September. Very unusual was a Snowy Egret in *Butler* 10/30. **Cattle Egrets** were found in *Bedford*, *Crawford* (where they are surprisingly regular), and *Bucks*.

A **Wood Stork** was photographed over Militia Hill in *Montgomery* 10/25. **Glossy Ibis** were found in *Lancaster* and *Berks*. Immature **White Ibis** were found and photographed in *Lycoming* 8/7 and *Mercer* 9/1, continuing an uninterrupted trend of late summer and early fall sightings for this species in the state over the past few years.

Three **Mississippi Kites** were reported between 8/15 and 9/18. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** which frequented a golf course near the Militia Hill hawk watch in *Montgomery* 8/27-9/5 was one of the more cooperative in the state's history. Another Swallow-tailed Kite was reported in *Lebanon* 9/20. Late raptors included an **Osprey** in *Indiana* 11/23 and three **Broad-winged Hawks** in *Lebanon* 11/3.

Sandhill Cranes are obviously on the increase and, like Cackling Goose, have outgrown detailed listing in the Birds of Note. Reports were received

from 10 counties this season.

Shorebird reports were few, as mentioned, but there were a few goodies here and there. **American Golden-Plovers** were found in 10 counties from late August through the end of October. **American Avocets** were an exception to the poor showing of shorebirds this season with seven reports from seven counties, the most interesting of which was a late bird at Kahle Lake in both *Venango* and *Clarion* 11/22-30. A **Willet** was seen flying into Pennsylvania from New Jersey at Palmyra Cove, *Philadelphia*, for the only report. A very late **Spotted Sandpiper** was in *Crawford* 11/21. **Whimbrels** were found in *Erie* and *Philadelphia*, but not *Lancaster*, a county that usually produces at least one. Rarer every year is **Red Knot**, so reports from two counties this season may actually be above average. Two were in *Lancaster* 8/23, and a juvenile that appeared at Shenango Reservoir in *Mercer* 9/20-22 garnered much attention from western Pennsylvania birders. Once again **Sanderlings** were found in western counties away from Lake Erie, another continuing trend. This season reports came from *Indiana*, *Lawrence*, and *Washington*. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** in *Lancaster* 10/22 was late. Nine reports of **Western Sandpiper** from three counties (*Erie*, *Lancaster*, *Philadelphia*) was a good total. **White-rumped** and **Baird's sandpipers** generally mirror each other in timing and abundance in fall and that was the case this season; the former was reported in six counties and the latter in eight, with most before the second week of September. A late White-rumped Sandpiper was photographed in *Bucks* 11/15. **Stilt Sandpipers** were turned up in six counties mostly in late August. **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in *Lancaster* 9/9 and 9/22 bookended two other September sightings in the state: one in *Bucks* 9/12 and one in *Luzerne* 9/10. A flock of 50 shorebirds that winged past Bake Oven Knob in *Lehigh* 8/23 were thought to be **Short-billed Dowitchers**, which were otherwise noticeably underreported this fall. **Long-billed Dowitchers** were confined to *Crawford*, where two reports were received in mid-October. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found in four counties, including 3 birds on the Delaware River in *Delaware* 9/11. **Red Phalaropes** were twice found in *Lancaster* in October, but nowhere else.

Single **Parasitic Jaegers** were

found at Presque Isle, *Erie*, in late September and in late October. A jaeger at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, 8/22 was thought to be a Parasitic but was not confirmed.

Laughing Gulls were found in *Erie* and *Crawford*, where rare. A memorable juvenile **Franklin's Gull** appeared at the Pymatuning Spillway in *Crawford* in late August, where it remained for four days aggressively competing with Mallards, Ring-billed Gulls, and the piles of carp that live at the spillway for the bits of bread tossed into the water by gawking tourists and their children. The bird often approached the platform at the spillway to within just a few feet, giving several birders their closest looks ever at this species in Pennsylvania. The presence of an adult **Black-headed Gull** in New Jersey in mid-November, very close to the Forks of the Delaware in *Northampton*, prompted a search for it on the Pennsylvania side. The adult was never found, but serendipitously, a first winter Black-headed was found at the Forks anyway! It was the first for *Northampton*. An adult **Sabine's Gull** was a total shock at the small reservoir at Laurel Hill State Park, *Somerset*, the morning of 8/18. Unfortunately it was gone within a few hours after the original sighting (under review).

A total of 129 **Common Terns** passed Sunset Point, *Erie*, 9/29. As already mentioned a **Caspian Tern** heard on nocturnal migration in *Berks* in late August was a nice surprise. **Black Terns** appeared in six counties 8/22-30, with many apparently assisted by a cold front that passed through the state 8/22; on that day and the next, 6 were found in *Bucks*, 30 were in *Lancaster*, and one was in *Washington*.

An amazing total of 25 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** was reported in *Franklin* 11/3. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was observed feeding a fledgling in *Allegheny* 9/3.

By 10/31, over 100 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** had been banded at the Allegheny Front in *Bedford*. **Common Nighthawks** were noted by 17 county compilers, a good total for recent times. Some reported the usual meager numbers, but a few reported excellent counts, for example, season totals of 1246 in *Venango* and 2826 in *Delaware* at Haverford College, and a good one-day count of 390 in *Allegheny* 8/27. Four compilers mentioned late-singing **Whip-poor-wills** in September: *Allegheny*, *Bedford*,

Cumberland, and *Greene*.

Hawk watches do not often report high numbers of migrating **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, so the season total of 210 at Allegheny Front though 9/20 and the record-setting single day count of 71 at Hawk Mountain 8/25 were both surprising. A late rubythroat stayed in *Northampton* until 11/10. **Rufous Hummingbird** is yet another species that is probably past the need for detailed annotation in the Birds of Note, yet we're not quite yet ready to let this species pass into the realm of the commonplace. This season 10 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were located, nine of which were confirmed as Rufous, in seven counties. As usual most reports were from the east and southeast, but they were also reported in *Allegheny*, *Somerset*, and *Erie* this season.

Olive-sided Flycatcher had a great flight this year, with reports from 15 counties. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were even more impressive with 16 counties reporting, including a remarkable season total of 25 birds in *Berks*. One can't help wonder, however, if this species is perhaps a bit over-reported in the fall, when confusingly bright juveniles of all species are present and not calling. As per usual, a smattering of **Eastern Phoebes** was still scattered across the state in late November. Simply outstanding was a remarkably cooperative **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in *Lebanon* 11/20-28, the county's first and Pennsylvania's fourth. The bird fed handsomely on crickets and grasshoppers along a trail on SGL 145 and was generally fearless in the presence of its many human admirers. An **Eastern Kingbird** in *Dauphin* 10/2 was at the very tail-end of its normal migration window. A **Western Kingbird** was reported in *Crawford* in mid-September.

Five **Northern Shrikes** appeared in November in five different counties: *Allegheny*, *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Lawrence*, and *Tioga*. Like last year, **Philadelphia Vireos** were very widely reported. Fifteen counties mentioned them; *Allegheny* had eight separate reports, and *Cumberland* birders commented that this was the best season for them in awhile. **Blue-headed Vireos** passed Hawk Mountain in *Berks* in great numbers in early October: 62 on 10/1, 83 and 10/6, and 70 on 10/11. One was seen in *Delaware* in the last week of November. A **Red-eyed Vireo** in

Indiana 10/18 was late.

Common Ravens appear to be continuing an obvious expansion in Pennsylvania. Four sightings were mentioned in *Adams*. Three were in *Allegheny*, all in areas where they had not been seen before in recent years. One was at Peace Valley Park in *Bucks* for the first time since 1977. Two were in *Crawford* and they are now considered "regular" in southern *Erie*. One was in western *Montgomery*. One was photographed at the Walt Whitman Bridge in *Philadelphia*, likely the first ever documented for the county...

A nor'easter 10/15 brought some interesting reports of swallows to the southeast. Thousands of swallows moved through the Delaware Valley in *Bucks* during the event, which included a very late **Cliff Swallow** 10/16. The storm was also responsible for a large fallout of swallows (and a **Red Phalarope**) at the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster*. *Bucks* wasn't the only county with a late Cliff Swallow: one was in *Chester* 10/18 and 2 were in *Crawford* 10/17. *Crawford* also hosted two late **Barn Swallows** until 10/22.

Twenty-two counties reported **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. A **House Wren** stayed in *Montgomery* to the end of October. The only **Sedge Wren** of the season was found in *Bucks*. Hundreds of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at Bake Oven Knob in *Lehigh* 11/9 was the most notable of the reports of this species.

November **Gray Catbirds** were found in *Allegheny*, *Bucks* (8 were reported up to 11/29!), and *Lehigh*. A **Northern Wheatear** was convincingly described in *Bucks* at Lake Caroline 10/4, the third for the county; unfortunately documentation for PORC was not submitted. A **Townsend's Solitaire** at Hawk Mountain in *Berks* 9/20 would become the earliest record for the state should it be accepted by PORC. Another bird that may well be the earliest fall migrant of its kind in the state's history was an **American Pipit** in *Bucks* 8/3. The bird was seen in an area that regularly hosts pipits in winter, prompting speculation that it was not an early migrant but instead may have actually summered there.

County compilers who made general comments on the warbler migration reported a good year. Several species had notable late dates, likely due to the mild weather in November. **Orange-crowned Warblers** had a good flight, including a great total of 11

reports in *Allegheny*. Orange-crowns were found on 11/22 in both *Chester* and *Philadelphia*. One each of **Brewster's Warbler** (*Dauphin*) and **Lawrence's Warbler** (*Northampton*) made their way onto the list of fall migrants for the state this season. The now-notable **Golden-winged Warbler** showed up in six counties, though only four of these reports were of obvious migrants. A **Nashville Warbler** stayed in *Clarion* to the first week of November. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** that was photographed in *Fayette* 11/15 was quite tardy in its travels. Fifty-five **Black-throated Green Warblers** on Shaffer Mountain in Bedford 9/14 was the most impressive report of this species. Vying with the Brown Pelican and the Ash-throated Flycatcher for bird of the season honors was an outstanding adult male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** that was present at Big Spring in *Cumberland* 10/20-25, where it was seen by as many as a hundred birders. The last **Yellow-throated Warbler** reported was one in *Cumberland* 10/24, coincidentally during the Black-throated Gray's stay. An **Eastern "Yellow" Palm Warbler** was located in *Allegheny*, the second autumn in a row at least one was found in southwestern Pennsylvania. **Black-and-white Warbler** was both early (in *Erie* 8/1) and late (in *Chester* 10/26) this season. An **American Redstart** in *Clinton* in the first week of November was notable. *Bucks* had a trio of notable late sightings: its latest-ever **Prothonotary Warbler** was found 9/5, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was still singing in the first week of August (quite late for one of these to still be in song), and a **Kentucky Warbler** was extraordinarily late 10/8. A very late (but sadly unconfirmed) **Northern Waterthrush** was found in *Delaware* 11/21. The notoriously furtive **Connecticut Warbler** was found in an impressive 13 counties, including a one-day peak of 6 in *Bucks* 9/26; *Cumberland* had six separate reports.

An adult male **Summer Tanager** was noted in *Philadelphia* in mid-October and a **Western Tanager** in *Cumberland* in September.

Chipping Sparrows held on into November in both *Armstrong* and *Greene*. Only one report of **Clay-colored Sparrow** was made, that of a bird in *Juniata* in mid-August. Following a lackluster showing last fall, **Nelson's Sparrows** were back in numbers this year, particularly in

Bucks where more than 10 individuals were reported in October. They were also located in *Lancaster*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*. A **White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco** appeared in Buckingham, *Bucks*, for the third year in a row. Pre-December **Snow Buntings** were very few this year, following a well-above average season last year. Similarly, **Lapland Longspurs** were noteworthy by their absence; the only report was of one in *Crawford* in late November. Perhaps the mild close to the season delayed both species' southward movements somewhat this season.

Very odd was a female **Indigo Bunting** seen gathering nesting material in *Indiana* 9/29. **Rusty Blackbirds** usually warrant special mention by compilers. They were noted in several reports, but only *Dauphin* classified this as a good season for them. Late **Baltimore Orioles** made news again this fall. Amazing was a singing (!) male at Penn Hills in *Allegheny* 11/5, doubly notable since most November orioles appear in southeastern Pennsylvania. *Bucks* had one in late November at the Penn-Warner Tract. *Bucks* also saw the return of a male Baltimore to a yard in New Hope for a staggering sixth year in a row, where it settled in to winter yet again. Finally, *Northampton* contributed a November oriole by way of one that lingered to 11/7.

Following the historic crossbill bonanza in the winter of 2008-09, reports of **White-winged Crossbills** in Pennsylvania dwindled over the summer, with none reported after mid-June. The drought continued in the fall, and ultimately only one was reported: at Second Mountain in *Lebanon* in the first week of October. Given that this was obviously not an invasion year, and the early October date of the *Lebanon* sighting, one must wonder if this bird summered somewhere in the state. The other star of last winter, **Pine Siskin**, was more evident this fall their cross-billed cousins. In fact there were reports in 13 counties, mostly from late September through October, though there were sightings in August in *Juniata* and *Northampton* and a juvenile was found in *Monroe* in early September. One **Evening Grosbeak** at Hawk Mountain in *Berks* was the only report. The grosbeak flight in the fall of 2007 seems a distant memory these days.

Forty-five counties submitted reports this season.

Birds of Note – August through November 2009

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

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.

Trumpeter Swan – *Dauphin*: one adult near Hershey 11/25-26 (Tom Johnson, Jan Getgood, Carolyn Sedgwick); *Lawrence*: 2 at the Three Rivers gravel pond 11/13 (Mark Vass).

Ross's Goose – *Mercer*: one at Shenango Reservoir 11/29 (Mark Vass).

Cackling Goose – *Berks*: one at Gotwals Pond 11/24 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: first of the season noted 9/26 at Peace Valley Park (Margie Rutbell); *Bucks*: first noted at the Penn-Warner Tract 10/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Coatesville 11/13 (Kevin Fryberger); *Dauphin*: one at Hershey 11/26 (Tom Johnson, et al.); *Delaware*: one over Darlington Tract 10/25 (Al Guarente, et al.); *Franklin*: one at Kriner Road Pond in Oct; *Lancaster*: three reports 10/20-11/14 (Devin Bosler, Chuck Chalfant); *Lebanon*: one over Second Mountain 10/14 (Randy Miller, Brian Weaver); *Lehigh*: one 10/26 at Upper Macungie (Mike Schall); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 11/3 (Kevin Crilley); *York*: one at Long Arm Reservoir 11/19 (Dan Richards).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Lancaster*: one near Bird-in-Hand 10/7 (Stanley Stahl) was early; *Lebanon*: two at Ramona Road 9/18 (Morris Cox).

Eared Grebe – *Lebanon*: one at Mt. Pleasant Road 10/3 (Jonathan Heller).

Great Cormorant – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 9/14 (Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski) was the fourth county record; *Bucks*: one at Mud Island on the unusual date of 8/7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom 11/3 (Chuck Chalfant).

Brown Pelican* - *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom 8/3 (Bob Schutzky, *doc submitted*).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: present from August at Rohm & Haas-Bristol with 3 counted 8/23 and 2 still present 10/4 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur 10/30 (Dorothy Weisberg); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/9-12.

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: three continuing from the summer at Core Creek Park (Bill Keim) were joined by a fourth on 9/11 (Devich Farbotnik), additionally there were four additional reports including one at Rohm & Haas-Bristol 11/1 which set a new late date for the county (all Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: present at the Conejohela Flats until 9/13, a high count of 3 was made 8/30 (Justin Bosler); *Montgomery*: one at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 8/1-5 (Ron Grubb); *York*: one to two imms. at Codorus State Park 8/9-28 (Steve Collins,

Dick Cleary, Dan Richards).

Cattle Egret – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 10/25 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Buckingham Twp. 8/7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Hartstown Marsh 11/2 (Marvin Byler, et al.).

Wood Stork* - *Montgomery*: one at Militia Hill Hawk Watch 10/25 (Andy Fayer, Jamie Stewart, *doc submitted*).

Glossy Ibis – *Berks*: one in Spring Twp. from early Aug to 8/10 (ph. Chris Stewart); *Lancaster*: present at the Conejohela Flats 8/20-26 and 9/13 (Justin Bosler, Chuck Chalfant, Bob Schutzky, et al.).

White Ibis* – *Lycoming*: one imm. at Picture Rocks 8/7 (Wes Egli, ph. Christine Maneval, m.ob., *doc submitted*); *Mercer*: one imm. at Shenango Reservoir 9/1 (ph. Tom Moeller, *doc submitted*) was not relocated.

Mississippi Kite* - *Berks*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 8/15 (Laurie Goodrich, HMS, *doc submitted*); *Lehigh*: one imm. at Bake Oven Knob 8/23, and one there 9/9 (*fide* Steve Ritt and Bob Hoopes, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one 9/18 at Lansdale (Ken Reiker, *doc submitted*).

Swallow-tailed Kite* - *Lebanon*: one over Cornwall 9/20 (Willis Hartman, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one near the Militia Hill Hawk Watch 8/27-9/5 (Naomi Murphy, ph. Devich Farbotnik, ph. Todd Fellenbaum, *doc submitted*).

Swainson's Hawk* - *Delaware*: one light morph juvenile at the Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch 9/25 (*no doc*).

Sandhill Crane – *Bradford*; *Bucks*; *Butler*; *Centre*; *Crawford*; *Lawrence*; *Lebanon*; *Luzerne*; *Somerset*; *Sullivan*.

American Avocet – *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 8/18-19 (Matt O'Donnell, ph. Janet Alley, ph. Larry Ramsey); *Clarion/Venango*: one at Kahle Lake 11/22-30 (Gary Edwards) was the third for *Venango*; *Huntingdon*: one in Smithfield Twp. 9/9-12 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler) was a county first; *Indiana*: 2 at Yellowcreek State Park 10/8 (ph. Margaret Higbee, John Salvetti); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/13 (Tom Amico, et al.) and one near Bird-in-Hand 9/14-17 (Drew Weber, et al.); *York*: one at Lake Redman 8/28 (Dick Cleary).

Willet – *Philadelphia*: one seen from Palmyra Cove, New Jersey, crossing the Delaware River from the Pennsylvania side 8/2 (Tom Bailey).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/23 (Tom Johnson) and one at Gull Point 8/28 (Mike Weible); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/22 (Frank Windfelder).

Red Knot – *Lancaster*: 2 juveniles at the Conejohela Flats

8/23 (Jerry Book, et al.); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Reservoir 9/20-22 (Mark Vass).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Bucks*: two at Hilltown Twp. 9/12 (August Mirabella); *Lancaster*: found at the Conejohela Flats 9/9 and 9/22 (Tom Amico, Bob Schutzky, Chuck Chalfant); *Luzerne*: one at the Luzerne County Recreation Fields 9/8-10 (Kevin Ripka, Jim Hoyson).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Crawford*: 2 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 10/10 (Ron Leberman), and one at the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 10/23 (Clare Nicolls).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Cumberland*: one juvenile at Stoughstown Pond 9/1-3 (Vern Gauthier, Andrew Markel, Bill Oyler, Matt Sabatine, Herb Weigl); *Delaware*: 3 on the Delaware River at the Philadelphia International Airport 9/11 (Al Guarente); *Lehigh*: one at Lake Mullenberg 9/14-15 (Peter Saenger); *Northampton*: one at Bath 10/12 (Michael Schall).

Red Phalarope – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 10/2 (Chuck Chalfant, Bob Schutzky) and one there 10/16 (Jonathan Heller).

Parasitic Jaeger – *Erie*: two imm. passing Sunset Point, Presque Isle 9/29 (Jerry McWilliams) and one off Beach 9 at Presque Isle 10/31 (Rich Eakin).

Jaeger sp. – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/22 was thought to be a Parasitic but was seen too briefly for confirmation (Andrew Markel, Mike Wieble).

Franklin's Gull – *Crawford*: one very confiding first winter bird at the Pymatuning Spillway 8/31-9/3 (ph. Scott Kinzey, m.ob.).

Little Gull – *Erie*: one adult passing Sunset Point, Presque Isle 9/29 (Jerry McWilliams).

Black-headed Gull* – *Northampton*: one on the Delaware R. at Easton 11/18-21 (ph. Dave DeReamus).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/23 (Bill Keim, Devich Farbotnik).

Glaucous Gull – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/15 (Devich Farbotnik).

Sabine's Gull* – *Somerset*: one at Laurel Hill State Park 8/18 (Steve Tucker, *doc submitted*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Franklin*: an amazing report of 25 at Greencastle Reservoir 11/3 (Dale Gearhart); *Lebanon*: one 9/25 at Second Mountain (Rob Blouch) and one on Mt. Pleasant Road 11/11 (Randy Miller).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: returned to Peace Valley Park 11/7 (August Mirabella, et al.).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Allegheny*: one in Mt. Lebanon continuing from the summer season was reported again 8/14 (*fide* Rob Protz); *Berks*: one imm. male near Plowville 9/16-12/18 (Harold Lebo) was banded 9/27, one imm. female near Eckville 10/10-10/12 (Tom Leckey, Lee Simpson) was banded 10/12, and one adult female at Hamburg from late Sep to mid-Dec was banded 12/8 (no observer cited); *Chester*: one imm. female at Avondale 10/18-11/9 was banded 10/30 (Nick Pulcinella, Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one imm. female banded in East Earl Twp. 10/22 (Scott Weidensaul), and one banded at Ephrata 12/8 (Eric Witmer) was present from 11/21 and may have been different than another seen there 10/24-11/3; *Lehigh*: one hatch-year female was present at Zionsville from mid-Oct through the season and was banded 11/16 (Scott Weidensaul); *Somerset*: one adult female at Berlin 9/30-10/11 (Jeff Payne, Chris Payne, Laretta Payne) was banded during its stay.

Selasphorus sp. – *Erie*: one Rufous/Allen's type in

Harborcreek 11/15 through the period (Sharon Brandt).

Western Kingbird* – *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh 9/16 (Ron Leberman, *no doc*).

Ash-throated Flycatcher* – *Lebanon*: one on SGL 145 from 11/20-28 (Sid Hostetter, Randy Miller, Mandy Pennypacker, Bob Snyder, *doc submitted*) would be the fourth state record if accepted.

Northern Shrike – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 11/22 (Mike Fialkovich); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 11/8 (Chad Kauffman) stayed to at least 11/24; *Crawford*: one at Erie NWR 11/18 (Richard Eakin); *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 11/16 (Dan Yagusic); *Tioga*: one near Millerton 11/9 (Larry Brown).

Sedge Wren – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 9/12 (Devich Farbotnik, Ken Rieker).

Northern Wheatear* – *Bucks*: one at Lake Caroline 10/4 (Dan Pevar, *no doc*).

Townsend's Solitaire* – *Berks*: one at Hawk Mountain 9/20 (David Barber, Jeff Vinsoky, *doc submitted*).

Brewster's Warbler – *Dauphin*: one on Blue Mountain 9/16 (Mary and Randy Brenner).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Northampton*: one at Monacacy Nature Center 8/23 (Linda Freedman);

Golden-winged Warbler – *Allegheny*: one female in a Moon Twp. backyard 9/4 (Geoff Malosh); *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 9/15 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one near Leesport 8/11 (Dave Krue); *Bucks*: one at Playwicki Park 9/14 (Bill Keim); *Centre*: reported from Scotia Barrens; *Lancaster*: one on Pumping Station Road 8/30 (Bruce Carl, et al.).

Black-throated Gray Warbler* – *Cumberland*: one male at Big Spring just south of Newville 10/20-25 (Vern Gauthier, *doc submitted*).

Connecticut Warbler – *Allegheny*; *Berks*; *Bucks*; *Centre*; *Cumberland*; *Dauphin*; *Lancaster*; *Lancaster*; *Luzerne*; *Mercer*; *Northampton*; *Philadelphia*; *Somerset*.

Summer Tanager* – *Philadelphia*: one adult male at John Heinz N.W.R 10/14 (Doris McGovern, *no doc*).

Western Tanager* – *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 9/23 (Andrew Markel, *no doc*).

Nelson's Sparrow – *Bucks*: two at Bradford Dam 10/11 (Henry D'Allesandro, Vince DeAntonii), as many as six at the Penn-Warner Tract 10/11 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Pine Run Dam 10/4 (Ken Rieker), and 4 at Pine Run Dam 10/25 (Ken Rieker); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 10/2 (Chuck Chalfant, Bob Schutzky); *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecologic Restoration Trust 10/10 (Paul Driver); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/25 (Frank Windfelder).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Juniata*: one continuing from May at a farm in Van Wert was last seen 8/16 (Amos Renno).

Blue Grosbeak – *Bucks*; *Chester*; *Cumberland*; *Lebanon*; *Lehigh*; *Northampton*; *Philadelphia*.

Dickcissel – *Northampton*: one at Williams Twp. 9/27 (Arlene Koch); *Philadelphia*: one at Benjamin Rush State Park 10/6-9 (m.ob.).

White-winged Crossbill – *Lebanon*: one at Second Mountain 10/6 (Fred Habegger).

Evening Grosbeak – *Berks*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 10/2 (Matt Wlasniewski).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*). This Tundra Swan in *Erie* provided a rare summer record by staying around Gull Point for several weeks in July and August. Photographed here 23 August 2009. (Tom Johnson)



Brant (*Branta bernicla*). Another view of the juvenile at Conneaut Lake, *Crawford*, 9 November 2009. (Scott Kinzey)



Brant (*Branta bernicla*). This accommodating juvenile appeared at Conneaut Lake, *Crawford* 25 October 2009, where it stayed to 19 November (here 8 November) feeding on the lawn on a public boat launch and allowing extraordinarily close scrutiny. (Ross Gallardy)



Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*). Western Pennsylvania saw an above average flight of this species, headed by this group of 12 (11 shown here) at Washington Reservoir #4, *Washington*, 8 November 2009. (Ross Gallardy)



Black Scoter (*Melanitta niger*). *Allegheny* birders were also afforded a rare encounter with this species in late November, when this first winter (probably female) bird attended the riverbank at Dashields Dam 20 (here) to 28 November 2009. (Geoff Malosh)



Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). A fallout of Red-throated Loons in several western counties happened 22 November 2009, which included this bird at Crooked Creek, *Armstrong*, where the species is very unusual. (*Marge Van Tassel*)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Spring Township, *Berks*, 16 August 2009. (*Chris Stewart*)



Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). This bird appeared on the Susquehanna River at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster*, 3 August 2009 after it had been seen the previous day just five miles south of the border in Maryland. (*Dave DeReamus*)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). Continuing a streak of late summer sightings in Pennsylvania was this juvenile near Picture Rocks, *Lycoming*, 7 August 2009. (*Chris and Tessa Maneval*)



Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Possibly on the increase in *Allegheny* is Black-crowned Night-Heron; this bird was one of at least two present through much of the summer at North Park, here 15 August 2009. (*Geoff Malosh*)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). Though the state has had a few good years in a row for White Ibis, the appearance of one away from the southeast is always unexpected, so this juvenile was very surprising at Shenango Reservoir, *Mercer*, 1 September 2009. (*Tom Moeller*)



Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). A few lucky observers caught a glimpse of this bird as it passed over the Militia Hill hawk watch in *Montgomery* 25 October 2009. (*Jamie Stewart*)



Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). This bird, present near the Militia Hill hawk watch, *Montgomery*, 27 August to 5 September (here 31 August), was certainly one of the most easily chased of its kind in the state's history; it spent most of its time hawking dragonflies over a nearby golf course and was seen by dozens. (*Todd Fellenbaum*)



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). This partially leucistic vulture was photographed near Carlisle, *Cumberland*, 7 November 2009. (*Meredith Lombard*)



Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). Near Militia Hill hawk watch, *Montgomery*, 1 September 2009. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Bucktoe Preserve, *Chester*, 18 November 2009. (*Derek Stoner*)



Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). A species which certainly does not need any more adversity is Ruffed Grouse; this bird died shortly after striking a window in Warren 21 November 2009. (Kirk Johnson)



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). This female provided a late-November surprise at Kahle Lake in both Clarion and Venango; it was present 23 to (here) 30 November 2009. (Gary Edwards)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This long-staying bird at Lake Duffy, Lebanon, has become accustomed to human presence and thus has become one of the most viewed Sandhills in the state's history. Photographed here 29 November 2009. (Tom Johnson)



Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). One of a flock of up to 16 which stayed at Independence Marsh, Beaver, through the last two weeks of October, photographed here 18 October 2009. (Geoff Malosh)



American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). Present at Independence Marsh, Beaver, 22 to 25 September 2009, it was also found a few miles away in Hanover Twp., where this photo was made 23 September. (Geoff Malosh)



Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*). Green Pond, Northampton, can always be counted upon for some nice shorebirds; this Stilt was photographed there 6 September 2009. (Dave DeReamus)



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). One of a very few found in the state this fall was this Whimbrel at Gull Point, *Erie*, 23 August 2009. (Tom Johnson)



Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). An action shot of the Franklin's Gull at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford*, 31 August 2009, as it asserted itself among a flock of Ring-billed Gulls and mallards. (Geoff Malosh)



Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). This first winter bird was a coincidental find at the Forks of the Delaware in *Northampton* during a search for an adult of the same species which had been seen recently in nearby New Jersey. It was present 18 to (here) 21 November 2009. (Dave DeReamus)



Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). Another surprise at the Pymatuning Spillway in *Crawford* was this first year Laughing Gull, photographed there 14 September 2009. The spillway is obviously a place with great potential for stray gulls and waterfowl and deserves more recognition as such. (Scott Kinzey)



Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). This fearless juvenile Franklin's was present at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford*, 31 August (here) to 3 September 2009, where it squabbled with the resident mallards and carp for scraps of bread thrown by the spillway's many human visitors. (Geoff Malosh)



Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). A nicely-captured juvenile in *Bucks* 24 August 2009. (Howard B. Eskin)



Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Chimney Swift is a species not often well-photographed while in flight; this fine image was made in Houston, Washington, 17 August 2009. (Cris Hamilton)



Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). One of the more memorable rarities in recent years was this confiding Ash-throated Flycatcher near Mt. Gretna, Lebanon, 20 (here 21) to 28 November 2009. (Drew Weber)



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). This outstanding image was made in a backyard in Bath, Northampton, 18 November 2009. (Dustin Welch)



Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 22 November 2009 near Mt. Gretna, Lebanon. The bird would represent the state's fourth record if accepted. (Larry Usselman)



Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 26 November 2009 near Mt. Gretna, Lebanon. (Tom Johnson)



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). One of 10 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds found in Pennsylvania this season, nine of which were confirmed as Rufous, this bird was photographed at Ephrata, Lancaster, 3 November 2009. (Eric Witmer)



Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). West York, York, 23 November 2009. (Bob Moul)



Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*). Another exciting rarity for the season was this male Black-throated Gray Warbler at Big Spring in Cumberland. It was present 20 (here 21) to 25 October 2009, long enough to be seen by nearly 100 birders. (Andrew Markel)



Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Even in years when the species is late arriving, as they were in 2009, the Lake Erie shore can be counted upon for Snow Buntings in November. This bird was photographed at Presque Isle State Park 8 November 2009. (Ross Gallardy)



Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). Normally secretive, this Connecticut nonetheless took a moment to pose for a camera in Bath, Northampton, 22 September 2009. It was a very good season for the species with reports from 13 counties. (Dustin Welch)



Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). A second-brood fledgling photographed 14 August 2009 in a Moon Township (Allegheny) yard. (Geoff Malosh)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Benjamin Rush State Park, Philadelphia, 6 October 2009. (Frank Windfelder)



Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*). A first fall male at Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge, Carbon, 18 August 2009. (Dustin Welch)

Answer to Photo Quiz #26

Rick Wiltraut



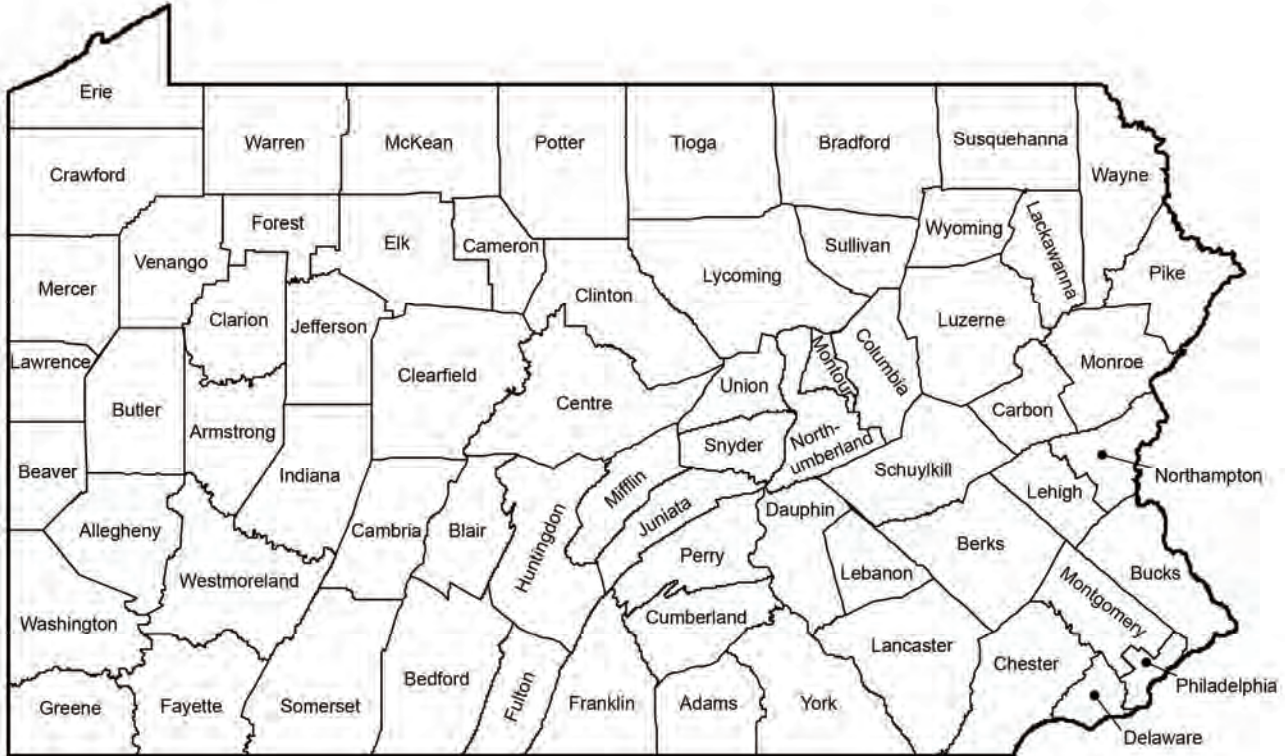
At first glance this bird appears to be a sparrow of the genus *Spizella*. Species in this group include Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Brewer's, and Field. Note the clear gray underparts on this bird as well as the pink legs and bill. Also note that the bird is singing, probably indicating that the bird is on territory and is in breeding plumage. Tree Sparrow has a yellowish mandible and dark maxilla, as well as a dark central breast spot and thus can be eliminated. Field Sparrow has pink bill and legs, but has a buffy-brown wash across the upper breast. Breeding adult Chipping Sparrow has clear gray underparts and pinkish legs, but adult in breeding plumage has a dark bill. That leaves Clay-colored and Brewer's, which are extremely similar. Brewer's Sparrow in breeding plumage has a rather grayish supercilium, which gives the Brewer's a rather plain facial pattern with little contrast. Note that this bird has a bright white supercilium. Also note the buffy-brown or "clay" coloration on the sides of the upper breast.

This Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed at the Piney Tract, Clarion County in June 2007 by Geoff Malosh. The Piney Tract, a reclaimed strip mine, is one of the most unique birding areas in the state and is designated an Important Bird Area (IBA). The grassland habitat with scattered shrubs is very attractive to Henslow's Sparrows; Piney Tract probably holds the largest concentration of this species in the state. The Piney Tract is part of a physiographic area known as the "Ohio Hills" which is one of the few strongholds in the breeding range of Henslow's Sparrow, and the only physiographic area in the Northeast where the species is not declining. See <http://www.blm.gov/wildlife/pl_22sum.htm>.

Not only are the grasslands at the Piney Tract valuable to Henslow's Sparrows, but also for Short-eared Owls, Upland Sandpipers, Northern Harriers, and other grassland species. It is also the best area in the state to look for breeding Clay-colored Sparrows. Formerly a rare straggler from the west in spring and fall, a few territorial Clay-colored are usually recorded every year during the breeding season in west/central Pennsylvania, as far east as Juniata County. Under the account of Clay-colored Sparrow in *The Birds of Pennsylvania* (McWilliams and Brauning, 2000), it states that "a nest has not yet been discovered in Pennsylvania." However, a nest in the collection at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center was found by John Fedak at the Piney Tract in May 1999. It closely resembles that of a Chipping Sparrow, but bulkier.

Brewer's Sparrow is a very rare vagrant to the eastern US but should be looked for. In May 1997, a Brewer's Sparrow was present at Whitefish Point, which I and several other Pennsylvania birders were able to study and photograph. It was a first record for Michigan. There are at least two hypothetical sight records from Long Island, New York. In the future, the Brewer's Sparrow may be split into two separate species, which now includes the subspecies *S. breweri taverneri* (Timberline Sparrow). Timberline Sparrow is larger, with a more slender and darker bill, darker overall plumage, and a supercilium that is intermediate between Brewer's and Clay-colored (*Western Birds* 28:1-12, 1997). Brewer's Sparrow's are found in sagebrush, or, in the case of *S. b. taverneri*, sub-alpine fir or dwarf birch, or montane pinyon-juniper woodlands.

Local Notes – August to November 2009



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), State Game Lands 249 (SGL).

Very few sightings were reported, but some of them were noteworthy. From 11/1 to 11/15, a pair of adult **Bald Eagles** was seen along Pumping Station Rd. (NL, MOB). They were reportedly feeding on a deer carcass. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found 8/23 at SGL and a **Least Flycatcher** was there 9/24 (DJG).

Common Raven sightings have increased slowly but surely over the past several years. There were four reports this season: one 8/23 at SGL (DJG), one 9/16 along the Mines Rd. near Hanover (DR), one 9/23 near Ortanna (DR), and three 11/13 at LPRR. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at LPRR 10/25 and 11/13 (BK). A **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL 9/24 was unexpected (DR).

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341, pabirdr@hotmail.com**, Don & Jennifer Gilbert, Bob Keener (BK), Nancy Locher (NL), Mike O'Brien (MOB), Dan Richards (DR).

Allegheny County

Locations: Beechwood Farms (BF), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP), Pine Township (PT).

Waterfowl numbers were low and shorebird reports were poor this fall, perhaps due to calm weather. We had a nice variety of warblers and good numbers of thrushes, most detected by flight calls at dawn.

A **Snow Goose** flew over PT 11/3 (PL, SL). A **Mute Swan** was on the Ohio R. near the Leetsdale Boat Ramp 11/23 (GM). November brought the arrival of **Tundra Swans**. Flocks were heard over Plum Borough (AH, PM) and Greenfield (KSJ) 11/1, and a flock flew over Plum Borough 11/10 after dark (AH). A flock of 62 was spotted over Natrona Heights 11/21 (PH, DH), a flock was heard flying over PT 11/27 (PL, SL), four flocks totaling 340 flew over Plum Borough 11/28 (PM), and 20 flew over DASH that day (GM).

Several **Northern Pintail** were reported this season. One was at NP 9/15 (MV) and 3 visited the pond at BF 10/3 (BSh). Up to 6 **Blue-winged Teal** were at NP 9/15-10/17 (MV). Four **Green-winged Teal** were at NP 9/27, 5 were there 10/24-30, and two 11/1 (MV). The apparently resident bird at a marsh in Harmar Twp. was still present

10/18 (MF). A **Ring-necked Duck** was at NP 10/10 (BM) and one was in Findlay Twp. 11/8 (SC). A **Greater Scaup** was at DASH 11/28 (GM). An immature **Black Scoter** was a good find at DASH 11/20 (MV), remaining until 11/28 (ph. GM, m.ob.). This may only be the third county record, and the second at this location. A group of 5 **Bufflehead** were on the Allegheny R. at the Highland Park Dam 11/1 (TM, NM) and 2 were on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow 11/3 (TM, NM). Six were present at DASH 11/30 (MV). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at DASH 11/28 (GM) and one was at Duck Hollow 11/30 (JS, SS). Single **Ruddy Ducks** were at NP 11/13 (MV) and DASH 11/28 (GM).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Sewickley Heights Park 8/28 (GM) and a **Ruffed Grouse** was a nice find at NP 11/12 (DN). Both species are rarely reported these days.

A county rarity, 2 **Red-throated Loons** were at DASH 11/22 (MV). One was near the dam and the other flew upriver and circled back downriver. Later that day, a **Common Loon** was observed at the same location (GM). A **Common Loon** flew over DASH 11/28 (GM), one flew over Moon Twp. 11/29 (GM) and 2 were on the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks 11/29 (SC). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted on the Allegheny R. in Harmar Twp. 10/11 (AH, PM), 2 were on the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks 11/6 (MV) and one was there 11/29 (SC). A **Horned Grebe** was at Woods Run on the Ohio R. 11/6 (MV).

High counts of **Double-crested Cormorants** include 63 near the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny R. 9/30 (DY), 34 flying over Riverview Park in Penn Hills 10/17 (DY), and 97 flying over Boyce-Mayview Park 10/17 (DW, ST).

A **Great Egret** was at NP 9/19 (RT), one was flying along the Monongahela R. near the South Side in Pittsburgh 10/2 (GM) and one was in Bridgeville 10/15 (SC). The **Black-crowned Night-Herons** remained at NP from the spring and summer seasons. An immature bird was there 8/7 (MV) and 2 immatures were present 8/15 (GM). Up to this time an immature and adult were present, so at least 3 individuals were at the park. One was still there 9/22 (DN) and 9/27 (MV).

Osprey reports include one at Boyce Mayview Park 8/15 (RT), one along the Allegheny R. at Tarentum 9/3 (RP), one near DASH 9/4 (BVN), one at NP 9/3-22 (DN, RT), 2 there 9/19 (RT), one along the Ohio R. near Pittsburgh 9/9 (MF), and one along the Allegheny R. in Harmar Twp. 9/20 (AH, PM). A late bird was perched in a tree at the ponds on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 11/22 (BS, KS). A **Bald Eagle** was at Point State Park in Pittsburgh 10/1 (CS) and another was a surprise flyover in Squirrel Hill 10/3 (BR). One at DASH 11/22 made a pass at the Black Scoter that was there at the time but missed. The scoter flew to the center of the river and the eagle perched in a tree (AH, PM). Two adults were at DASH 11/30 (MV). We don't see large numbers of migrant **Broad-winged Hawks** in *Allegheny*, but singles were reported at HHP 9/13 (JV) and 9/21 (MF, JV), and one was seen in East Liberty 9/24 (DY). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** at IMP 11/30 (MV) was the first report of the fall. A **Merlin** was spotted at NP 9/8 (BM) and what might have been the same bird visited a yard in nearby PT 9/10 (PL, SL). A **Peregrine Falcon** at NP 9/9 (LM) was unusual for that location. Sadly, a male **Peregrine Falcon** born at the Monaca Bridge in *Beaver* was found dead at Pittsburgh International Airport 8/31 (*fide* KSJ).

Surprisingly there were only two reports of **American Coot**. Single birds were at IMP 10/9 (MV) and McKees Rocks 11/29 (SC).

Shorebird reports were the lowest in years and even reports of common species were few. The county began a restoration project of the lake at North Park in late Sep. It will be drained and dredged to restore the original depth. Unfortunately, the draining began after the peak of the shorebird migration however birders checked the increasing mud flats in the hopes of finding something interesting.

A **Black-bellied Plover** flew over the Bald Knob pond at IMP 8/31 but didn't land (GM).

There were only two reports of **Greater Yellowlegs**: 2 at IMP 8/8 (MF) and 2 at NP 10/17-11/1 (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported in low numbers as well. Up to 2 were at IMP in August (MV, GM), and 2 were at NP 10/17-30 (MV). Surprisingly there were no reports of either yellowlegs in September which has to represent the largest gap in reports of these common migrants. **Solitary Sandpipers** were recorded in expected numbers this season and 2 lingered at NP to at least 11/1 (m.ob.). **Spotted Sandpipers** remained into mid-Oct with the last report 10/24 at NP (MV). Two **Least Sandpipers** at IMP 8/1 (MV) was the only report this season. Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at IMP 8/8 (MV) and NP 9/8 (BM) and 10/4 (SK). Four were there 10/17 (MV) and 2 were still present 10/24 (MV). Two **Dunlin** at IMP 11/25 (GM) provided the only report and perhaps a record late date in the county. A **Wilson's**

Snipe was found at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/7 (DW, ST), the only report for the season.

Migrating **Common Nighthawks** were observed in good numbers in late August and early September. Larger flocks included 390 in Findlay Township 8/27 (GM), 82 in Moon Twp. 8/28 (GM), 60-70 in Wexford 8/28 (JH), 110 in Ross Twp. 9/3 (BM) and 243 at that location 9/4 (BM). A late bird was seen in Ross Twp. 10/30 (BM). Very unusual was a calling **Whip-poor-will** in Mount Oliver 9/8 (MZ). This is very close to downtown Pittsburgh, but migrants can appear anywhere.

A late nesting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was observed on a nest and feeding a fledgling at Wagner's Hollow Park in Sewickley 9/3 (MV).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained into early Oct. One lingered in McCandless Twp. 9/27-30 (MK) and the last report was in Etna 10/4-6 (DY). An adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** reported last season visiting a feeder in Mount Lebanon was seen again 8/14 (*fide* RP), however a follow up visit 8/15 and a discussion with the homeowner led the searchers to believe the bird was not an adult male because it did not have a gorget (GM, DW). Hopefully the bird can be photographed to confirm its identity.

Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were calling along a stream in Findlay Twp. 8/8 (MF) and 2 were singing at Sewickley Heights Park 9/14 (GM). After a lack of sightings in spring, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports were good this fall. Single birds were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/11 (BVN), 9/12 (MF), 9/14 (GM) and 9/15 (LM). One was at HHP 9/13 (JV) and one remained at Sewickley Heights Park 9/14-15 (GM, LM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in East Liberty 9/10 (DY) and another was at Homewood Cemetery 9/12-13 (MF). Interestingly, the bird at the cemetery was in the same dead tree both days, successfully catching insects including bumblebees.

A **Northern Shrike** was at IMP 11/22 (MF), providing the fifth record at that location. Hopefully this bird will be more cooperative that last year's bird which was only seen a few times over the course of the winter. **Blue-headed Vireos** were still passing through into mid-Oct. One was at Frick Park and another was singing softly at Homewood Cemetery 10/17 (MF). One was at HHP 10/18 (PH) and a surprising count of 12 were there 9/27 (SG). Fall seems to be the best time to find migrant **Philadelphia Vireos**. One was at HHP 9/13 (JV) and 2 were there 9/20 (PH, JS, SS). Two were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/14 and 9/20 (GM), four were at HHP 9/21 (JV, MF), one was in PT 9/21 (PL, SL), one was in East Liberty 9/24 (DY), one was at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/24 (DW, ST) and one was seen again at HHP 10/4 (PH).

Common Ravens continue to move into new areas. Two were at NP 9/12 (RT) and one was at BF 9/25 (BC). One was seen flying along the Allegheny R. in the Barking Slopes section of Plum Borough 11/29 (PM). The last **Tree Swallow** was seen along the Allegheny R. near the Highland Park Bridge 9/30 (DY). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was visiting a feeder in Penn Hills around 9/23 (JS, SS) and another stopped by a feeder in Hampton Twp. 11/21 (DN). A **Marsh Wren** was a rare find at East Liberty 9/24 (DY), the second record for that location. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were in Shaler Twp. 8/8 (JH), Frick Park 8/15 (MF, MVV), and HHP 9/21 (JV, MF).

Flight calls of thrushes were detected on several days during migration. **Veery** and **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard 8/31, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were heard 9/10, 9/14 and 10/11, **Swainson's Thrushes** 9/10, 13 and 14 and 10/11, **Hermit Thrushes** 9/14 and 10/11 and **Wood Thrushes** 9/10 and 9/14, all over Moon Twp. (GM). A large fallout of **Swainson's Thrushes** was noted at Sewickley Heights Park 9/20 when over 50 were detected calling in the woods that morning (GM). Single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were found at PT 9/12 (PL, SL), Sewickley Heights Park 9/20 (GM), Boyce-Mayview Park 9/25 (DWI), and HHP 10/4 (PH). Three were at BF 9/25 (BC). All thrush species were found in small numbers in Sep and Oct in various locations.

A late **Gray Catbird** was at HHP 11/8 (JS, SS, PH). Single **Brown Thrashers** were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/11 (BVN) and 9/20 (GM), Frick Park 9/18 and 9/25 (SS), and NP 10/2 (MV). Numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** become evident following the breeding season. Some of the larger flocks included over 100 at HHP 9/7 (SG), 120 in Natrona Heights 10/2 (PH), 70 in Penn Hills 11/5 (DY) and 90 at IMP 11/27 (MF).

A total of 31 species of warblers were reported this season. Highlights include a female **Golden-winged Warbler** in a Moon Twp. backyard 9/4 (GM); now a rare find in the county. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 9/10 (GM), NP 9/15 (MV), Sewickley Heights Park 9/20 (GM), PT 9/21 (PL, SL), HHP 10/4 (PH), East Liberty 10/15, Penn Hills 10/17 (DY), HHP 10/18 (MF), 2 at BF 10/19 (BSh) and one at Frick Park that day (SS). **Northern Parula** reports include single birds at HHP 9/13 and 9/21 (JV). The bird

on 9/13 was singing. One was at Boyce Mayview Park 9/24 (DW, ST) and another was at Frick Park 9/25 (SS). A **Yellow Warbler** was heard singing in North Braddock 8/1 (MF) and an extremely late bird was in PT 9/21 (PL, SL). **Cape May Warblers** were reported from 9/7-23 in seven locations, a good showing for this species. Single birds were at HHP (SG) and Sewickley Heights Park (BS, MV) 9/7, PT 9/7-10 (PL, SL), SGL 203 on 9/10 (GM), Sewickley Heights Park 9/11-12 (BVN, MF), HHP 9/13 (PH), BF 9/14 (BSh), Sewickley Heights Park 9/14 (GM), HHP 9/20 (PH, JS, SS), and PT 9/21 (PL, SL). Four were in a single birch tree in Natrona Heights 9/23, 3 were there 9/27 and two 10/3 (PH). Something must have attracted them to that particular tree! Two were in Ross Twp. 10/5 (BM). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were particularly numerous at Sewickley Heights Park this fall. The highest tally occurred 9/20 when at least 20 birds were present (GM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in Sewickley 9/4 (BVN). **Pine Warblers** were reported in PT 9/5 (PL, SL), HHP 9/13 (PH), Natrona Heights 9/23 (PH) and Imperial 10/7 (MV). Rarely reported during migration, a **Prairie Warbler** was in PT 8/23 (PL, SL). Single **Palm Warblers** were at Natrona Heights 9/23 (PH) and East Liberty 9/24 (DY). At least 20 were tallied at Boyce Mayview Park 9/25 (DW, ST), 2 were at IMP 9/27 (GM), one was there 10/7 (MV) and a "Yellow" race was at Boyce Mayview Park 10/27 (DWi). Another species rarely reported during fall migration, a **Cerulean Warbler** was in PT 9/5 (PL, SL) and another was at BF 9/14 (BSh). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was calling along a stream in Findlay Twp. 8/8 (MF). After only one spring report, **Mourning Warblers** were reported from three locations this fall. Single birds were at BF 9/14 (BSh), Knob Hill Park 9/24 (KD) and Sewickley Heights Park 9/27 (GM). A **Connecticut Warbler** at BF 10/9 (BSh) spurred follow-up searches by several birders, but it was never relocated. **Wilson's Warbler** reports were good with single birds reported at Boyce Mayview Park 9/5 (DWi), Sewickley Heights Park 9/10-11 (BVN), East Liberty 9/10 (DY), Knob Hill Park 9/15 (KD) and Frick Park 9/23 (SS). A **Canada Warbler** at Sewickley Heights Park 8/28 (GM) was the only report of this species.

Chipping Sparrows remained into mid-Oct. A flock of at least 50 were at NP 10/17 (BM) and one was at Frick Park that day (MF). The last **Vesper Sparrow** report was 9/27 at IMP (GM); five **Savannah Sparrows** were there 10/9 (MV). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing at IMP 8/8 (MF). **Fox Sparrow** reports include one at East Liberty 10/26 (DY), one in Upper St. Clair 11/7-11 (ST), 2 at HHP 11/8 (JS, SS, PH) and one at Frick Park 11/28 (SS). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports were good with 3 in East Liberty 9/24 (DY), one at BF (BC) and Boyce-Mayview Park 9/25 (DWi), 2 at Sewickley Heights Park 9/27 (GM), one at IMP 9/27 (GM), one at HHP 10/4 (PH), BF 10/10 (GM), HHP 10/11 (JS, SS, PH), and BF 10/19 (BSh). **Swamp Sparrow** reports include single birds at NP 9/15 (MV), East Liberty 9/24, and 10/15-17 (DY), BF 9/25 (BC), several at IMP 9/27 (GM), one in Penn Hills 10/17 (DY) and one at BF 10/19 (BSh). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at HHP 10/4 was the first of the fall. A nice count of 18 was made at Boyce-Mayview Gardens 10/21 (DW). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were first reported at IMP 10/9 (MV).

Eastern Meadowlarks were still being seen at IMP 10/1 (JB). This species can linger well into the fall. A **Rusty Blackbird** was in PT 11/6 (PL, SL). Normally I receive reports of large **Common Grackle** flocks but the only reports included a flock of 600-700 in Greenfield 8/18 (KSJ), 90 in East Liberty 10/15 (DY), and 500 or more at Sewickley Heights 10/19 (GM). An extremely late **Baltimore Oriole** was found at a cemetery in Penn Hills 11/5 (DY). Interestingly, it was singing.

Purple Finches were at BF 10/9 and 10/19 (BSh) and one was at HHP 10/11 (SS, JS, PH) and 10/18 (PH). Up to 3 were in PT during Oct and Nov (PL, SL). A **Pine Siskin** visited the feeders at BF 10/9 (BSh), and one visited feeders in PT 11/11 (PL, SL). These reports stirred memories of last winter's invasion.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR).

High **Canada Goose** count was 248 at CC 10/29 (MVT). A flock of 252 **Tundra Swans** flew over KR 11/28 (LC). Five **Wood Ducks** were at Mahoning Lake 9/18 (MVT). **American Black Ducks** at CC included 2 on 11/9 (MVT), 5 on 11/27 (JB), and 32 by 11/30 (MVT). **Mallard** counts included 11 at KR 9/5 (KB), 20 near Worthington 9/12 (LC, MH, RH), 10 at KR 10/31 (MH, RH), and 2 at CC 11/18 (MVT). KR hosted 5 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/5 (KB) and 17 **Lesser Scaup** 11/28 (LC). Four **Buffleheads** stopped at CC 11/2 (MVT). Their peak number was 131 at KR 11/28 (LC); the same day (LC) one **Common Goldeneye** was sighted also at KR. Two **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted at CC 11/9 (MVT); 3 was the count 11/27 (JB). A **Common Merganser** appeared at CC 10/2 (MVT); top count was 43 at Robb's Fording 11/18 (MVT). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** visited CC 11/30 (MVT). Seven **Ruddy Ducks** landed at KR 11/28 (LC).

A **Red-throated Loon** was a great find at CC 11/22 (ph. MVT). KR harbored a single **Common Loon** 11/13 (MH) while 16 was the high count there 11/28 (LC); a singleton stopped at CC 11/30 (MVT). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at CC 11/30 (MVT) was the only one reported. Last **Green Herons** were sighted at KR 9/5 (KB) and 9/18 (MVT).

Osprey reports included one at Idaho 8/13 (MH), single birds at CC 8/31 through 10/21 (MVT), and one at KR 9/5 (KB). One **Bald Eagle** was noted at KR 9/5 (KB) and again 9/18 (MVT); 3 were observed at Robb's Fording 10/12 (MVT). Last **Broad-winged Hawk** was listed 9/14 (MVT) at CC.

Top **Killdeer** tallies were 31 at KR 9/5 (JB) and 23 at CC 9/21 (MVT). Last **Spotted Sandpipers** were found 8/31 (MVT) at CC and 9/5 (KB) at KR. Two **Least Sandpipers** visited KR 9/18 (MVT). **Great Horned Owls** were listed at two locations; **Barred Owl**, at only one. Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** occurred 9/21 (MVT) near Leechburg. Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at CC 11/18 (MVT) and 11/27 (JB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee was still present at CC 9/14 (MVT). Last dates included 10/1 (MVT) for 2 **Eastern Phoebes**, 9/14 (MVT) for **Great Crested Flycatcher**, 10/21 (MVT) for **Blue-headed Vireo**, all at CC; and 9/18 (MVT) for **Red-eyed Vireo** at KR. Four **Common Ravens** were found at CC 8/14 (MVT); one was still present 11/18 (MVT). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at CC 10/1 (MVT) was the lone report. Two **House Wrens** lingered at Mahoning Lake 9/18 (MVT). Single **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted 10/12 (MVT) at Robb's Fording and 10/21 (MVT) at CC. A **Swainson's Thrush** stopped at CC 9/14 (MVT) and at KR four days later (MVT). Last **Wood Thrushes** were listed at KR 9/18 (MVT). CC hosted the last **Gray Catbird** 10/29 (MVT) and the last **Brown Thrasher** 9/14 (MVT).

KR yielded one **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** 9/18 (MVT); 7 was the best Yellow-rumped count at CC 10/21 (MVT). Last **Pine Warblers** were listed 10/12 (MVT) at CC. Other last dates included 9/14 (MVT) for **Black-and-white Warbler** and **American Redstart**. **Ovenbird** and **Hooded Warbler** remained at KR 9/18 (MVT). **Scarlet Tanager** was last found near Leechburg 9/30 (MVT).

A **Chipping Sparrow** lingered at CC 11/18 (MVT). Three **White-throated Sparrows** arrived at CC 10/9 (MVT). CC hosted single **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/21, 29 and 11/9 (MVT). First **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared at KR 10/31 (MH, RH). Last were a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at KR 9/18 (MVT) and 2 **Indigo Buntings** near Leechburg 9/16 (MVT).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Independence Marsh (IND), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

Canada Goose numbers peaked at IND 10/2 when 200 were

counted (MV). The only **Tundra Swan** was one at AR 11/1 (MV). Reports of **Wood Duck** persisted at BBW though 10/14 (MV) and at IND to at least 11/9 (GM). A **Gadwall** was at IND 10/19 (GM), and 6 were counted at AR 11/1 (MV). A flock of **American Black Ducks** at IND grew from a single 10/11 (MV) to 7 on 11/9 (GM). Additionally 14 were at AR 11/28 (MV). A single **Blue-winged Teal** was at BBW 9/4-11 (MV). A flock of 8 **Northern Pintail** were at IND 10/16-19 (MV, GM). Small numbers of **Green-winged Teal** were found at IND from 9/22-11/1 (m.ob.) with a peak of 6 on 10/18 (MV).

Four **Ring-necked Ducks** at IND 10/13 were surprisingly the only report (MV). **Lesser Scaup** reports were similarly limited to 5 at gravel ponds north of BBW 11/16 (GM) and one at RCH 11/18 (MV). Scoters made news in very late Nov this season. One **Surf Scoter** was at RCH 11/28 (MV), and was joined by three **Black Scoters** later that day (MV). The next morning, 11/29, a first-winter **Black Scoter** was still present (ST), but close observation of this bird by this author led me to believe that it was the same bird as had been present at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny*, 11/20-28, meaning that there were probably a total of four **Black Scoters** present in *Beaver* in late Nov. The bird which appeared 11/29 was present through at least 12/1. These observations were coincident with an impressive late Nov showing by this rare species in several western Pennsylvania counties. The only **Bufflehead** were 2 at AR 11/1 (MV). Quite a surprise given the location was a female **Common Goldeneye** at IND 11/28 (MV). The peak count of **Hooded Merganser** came that same day also at IND, when MV counted 17 birds. The male **Common Merganser** that apparently summered again on the BR was seen at New Brighton through 8/20 (MV). Additionally 4 were at IND 11/8 (MV), where they are rare. The only **Ruddy Duck** of the season was alongside the Surf Scoter at RCH 11/28 (MV).

Ring-necked Pheasant reports were one at IND 10/1 (GM, BS, MV), and one in Independence Twp. 11/4 (MF). **Ruffed Grouse** are probably underreported in the county with most sightings coming from SGL 285, so reports of one at IND 11/8 (SC) and one at AR 11/20 (BS) were welcome. Six **Wild Turkeys** were found at AR 9/12 (MV).

Seventeen **Common Loons** at AR 11/27 (ST) were part of a region-wide push of loons in late Nov, and were the only report for the season. One or two **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at IND from 9/29-10/25 (m.ob.), and one was seen at AR on 11/1 and 11/28 (MV). Five **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Beaver Falls 8/20 (MV) and one was on a gravel pond north of BBW 11/28 (MV). Two **Great Egrets** were on the Beaver R., where rare, at New Brighton 8/20-23 (MV), and two were at BBW 8/28-9/11 (MV, BS, GM).

Osprey reports were one at IND 8/7 (MV) (probably foraging from one of the nests on the Ohio R.), one at RCSP 8/29 (GM) (ditto on probable origin), one at MLD 9/19 (MV), and one at IND 10/16 (MV). Young birds were still on the nest at Potter Twp. through 8/23 (MV). Two adult **Bald Eagles** flew over IND 10/1 (MV, BS, GM), and one was at AR 10/5. One **Northern Harrier** found near Darlington 10/11 (MV) represented the only report. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was quite vociferous at RCSP 8/29 (GM), suggesting the possibility of a new nesting location for the species. Last **Broad-winged Hawk** was at RCSP 9/14 (KSJ). An early **Merlin** was reported chasing shorebirds at BBW 9/11 (MV). One of the **Peregrine Falcons** fledged this season at Monaca was found dead at the Pittsburgh International Airport in *Allegheny* 9/1, apparently a victim of a collision with an airplane (*vide* AM).

An **American Golden-Plover** was a good find at IND 9/22 (BS). The bird was successfully relocated foraging on the grass lawn of a house adjacent to farm fields 2.3 miles away in Hanover Twp. 9/23 (ph. GM). It was last seen at IND 9/25. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at BBW 8/21. **Killdeer** numbers at IND were impressive in Oct, headed by 88 on 10/5 and 98 on 10/9 (MV). Last report from IND was 11/16 (GM), but 12 were at AR 11/28 (MV). Up to 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at BBW 8/16-23 (MV). One Greater Yellowlegs appeared at IND 9/22 and remained to 10/14 (m.ob.), but on 10/16, a total of 16 were counted (MV), making the original bird indistinguishable. The flock remained until 11/1. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported four times from 8/23-10/11 from three locations. As usual **Solitary Sandpipers** were widely and fairly frequently reported, this year from four locations 8/13-10/20 (m.ob.). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** was at IND 9/26 (MF). The only **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at BBW 8/23-9/4 (MV). **Least Sandpipers** were present at BBW 8/13-9/11 (MV), including a peak of 17 on 9/11. Last were three at IND 9/22 (MV). One was oddly on the Beaver R. at Beaver Falls 8/20 (MV). A juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** was a good find at BBW 8/28 (MV). One or two **Pectoral Sandpipers** frequented IND 9/22-10/9. IND surprisingly held a few **Dunlin** this

season; one was there 9/30 (BS), and two appeared 10/18 (MV) with at least one staying to 10/21 (GM). One **Dunlin** was also at BBW 9/27 (BS). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Little Blue Lake 8/23 (MV).

The season's only **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 15 at RCH 11/23 (GM). The first **Ring-billed Gull** was one at New Brighton 8/23 (MV). Two **Caspian Terns**, one adult and one juvenile, put down at IND 10/2 (MV), the second record for this location.

The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was one at AR 9/27 (BS), but **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were frequently reported, particularly from RCSP, in late Aug and early Sep (GM, LC, KSJ); also one yellow-billed was at Economy Boro 9/27 (KD). Good numbers of migrants were noted this year in nearby *Allegheny*, but in *Beaver Common Nighthawk* reports were limited to 5 over Ambridge 8/28 (MV) and one in Beaver Falls 9/5 (AT). Last **Chimney Swift** was at AR 10/5 (BW). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** persisted in RCSP to at least 9/14 (KSJ). The only **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at IND 11/8 (SC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee was still singing in RCSP 9/21 (GM); four were at MLD 9/19 (MV). A **Trail's Flycatcher** at IND 9/6 was the only report of either of the species lumped under that moniker when their identify remains undetermined. **Least Flycatcher** persisted at IND to 9/30 (MF). Last **Eastern Phoebe** was at RCH 11/3 (GM). An impressive congregation of 48 **Eastern Kingbirds** was tallied at the gravel ponds north of BBW 8/13 (MV). **White-eyed Vireos** were represented by singles at IND 8/8 (MF) and AR 9/12 (MV). Last **Warbling Vireo** was at RCSP 8/29 (GM). The first and only **Philadelphia Vireo** was located at AR 9/12 (MV). **Red-eyed Vireo** stayed at MLD to 9/19 (MV). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were in evidence at AR 9/25 (MV) and 10/5 (BW).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were frequently reported beginning 9/25 and ending with a somewhat late bird at IND 11/8 (SC). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was late leaving RCSP 10/9 (MV). *Catharus* thrushes were scarcely reported; only **Swainson's Thrush** made the list this season, with birds recorded at AR, MLD, and Economy Boro 9/12-27. The last **Wood Thrush** was at Economy Boro 9/12 (KD). **Gray Catbirds** held on at IND to 10/5 (MV).

Blue-winged Warblers tend to leave early so one still at AR 9/12 (MV) was notable. The only **Tennessee Warbler** was at IND 9/26 (MF). **Nashville Warblers** were late at AR 10/5 (BW) and IND 10/9 (MV). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were frequently reported in Sep., with the last 9/27 at IND (GM). **Magnolia Warblers** had one of their best showings in memory, with nearly every field report in Sep including at least one. Last was one at IND 10/1 (MV, BS, GM). **Cape May Warblers** were one at RCSP 8/29 (GM) and one at AR 9/12 (MV). A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at IND 10/17 (MV). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** did not appear until 10/5. **Black-throated Green Warblers** showed almost as well as *Magnolias*, with many reports through 9/26. One late bird was in Independence Twp. 10/21 (GM). **Blackburnian Warblers** were at AR 9/12 (MV), RCSP 9/12 (MV), and MD 9/19 (MV). A few **Palm Warblers** were at IND 9/27-10/17 (m.ob.). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were reported in a tight window in mid-Sep; one at AR 9/12 (MV), one at RCSP 9/14 (KSJ), and one at MLD 9/19. Surprisingly only one report of **Blackpoll Warbler** was made, at MLD 9/19 (MV). Last **Black-and-white Warbler** was at AR 9/25 (MV), and last **American Redstart** was at AR 10/5 (BW). Surprising was a **Northern Waterthrush** at IND 9/26 (MF). **Common Yellowthroat** stayed at IND to 10/1.

At least 20 **Scarlet Tanagers** were at RCSP 8/29 (GM); RCSP is one of the best locations for large concentrations of this species in late summer in southwestern Pennsylvania. Last tanager was one at MLD 9/19.

First **American Tree Sparrow** was at IND 11/8 (MV), and last **Chipping Sparrow** was at Economy Boro 10/17 (KD). Field Sparrows stayed at IND through at least 10/17. One or two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were noted at IND 9/26-10/21. Good numbers of **Swamp Sparrows** were at IND, including 8 on 10/1 (GM, BS, MV). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported only from IND, from 9/27-10/20. A good count of 15 was made at IND 10/20 (DW, ST).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was still at IND 9/27 (MF). A lingering **Indigo Bunting** was at IND 10/1 (GM, MV, BS). Up to fifteen **Rusty Blackbirds** were at IND 10/17-18 (MV).

CORRIGENDUM: The sighting of a possible juvenile Pine Siskin in Daugherty Twp. 6/6 was not credited to an observer; it was reported by Bruce and Barb Kiester.

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF) Cumberland Dam Area (CDA), Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW), Shaffer Mountain (SM), Shawnee State Park (DCW)

Three hundred or more **Snow Geese** and 600 **Tundra Swans** were counted flying over the AF 11/30 (TD). Four-hundred twenty **Canada Geese** crossed the AF 11/1 (TD). The following peak numbers of waterfowl were counted at DCW: 30 **Wood Ducks** 10/20, 7 **American Widgeon** 10/17, 30 **American Black Duck** 11/21, 183 **Mallards** 11/1, 10 **Blue-winged Teal** 10/17, 4 **Northern Shoveler** 10/17, 8 **Northern Pintail** 10/17, 55 **Green-winged Teal** 10/27, 7 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/13, 4 **Bufflehead** 10/7, and 4 **Common Mergansers** (11/13); the last is unusual for this marsh (TD). Twenty-Four **Hooded Mergansers** and 10 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were counted at SSP on 11/30 (TD).

Ring-necked Pheasants are on SM year round, and along with **Ruffed Grouse** are fairly abundant. Four Ruffed Grouse were flushed on 9/14 SM, and 50 **Wild Turkey** were present at DCW on 9/8. All of these birds enjoy the berries of the introduced invasive autumn olive, which is common on fallow fields (TD).

At SSP, a good find was a **Red-throated Loon** on 11/26. Also there were six **Common Loons** 10/14 and 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** 11/26. Forty-Five **Double-crested Cormorants** crossed the AFHW on their way to SSP 10/11 (GF, NF). **Great Blue Herons** persisted at DCW until the latter part of Nov when the impoundments froze over. Two **Great Egrets** lingered at DCW until 10/17. The big surprise was a very late **Cattle Egret** 10/25 (TD). Usually, it's the spring when **Cattle Egrets** may occasionally visit for a few days. An immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** was found sitting in a tree at SSP on 11/26. Throughout summer adults are common, and nesting is suspected. It is possible that in the backwaters, where only kayaks can reach, nesting may have occurred (TD).

The AFHW, a predominantly east wind site, was dominated by west winds and wet east winds this year, thus decreasing the count. Here are some of the results as of this writing: **Black Vulture** 9, **Turkey Vulture** 297, **Osprey** 84, **Bald Eagle** 100, **Northern Harrier** 38, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 618, **Cooper's Hawk** 164, **Northern Goshawk** 5, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 53, **Broad-winged Hawk** 2954, **Red-tailed Hawk** 1458, **Rough-legged Hawk** 0, **Golden Eagle** 204, **American Kestrel** 43, **Merlin** 22, **Peregrine Falcon** 22, and 159 unidentified (TD,GF,NF,BG,TB,EG,RM,TB,EH,BS). Bald Eagles are becoming more common in *Bedford*. On 10/25 an immature was observed sitting in a tree off SR3013, and the same day an adult and immature were at Koon Lake; a pair had successfully nested and had three young. While looking for the nest, an Osprey was spotted on a tree at Cumberland Dam holding a large trout (TD).

A yearly event on SM is the stocking of Ring-necked Pheasants by sportsman in local fields, which coincides each year with the arrival of **Northern Goshawks**. This year a juvenile arrived 11/29, followed by an adult 11/30. Both killed pheasants, and I checked the kill sites daily and discovered the time it took to finish eating a pheasant was 3 days (TD).

At DCW, six **American Coots** were counted 11/13, 115 **Killdeer** 9/5, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/7, 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/7, one **Solitary Sandpipers** 8/5, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** 8/10, 6 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/22, 4 **Least Sandpipers** 8/7, 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** 8/15, and 4 **Wilson's Snipe** 8/23. **American Woodcock** were flushed 10/15, 10/18 and 10/28 on SM (TD). Six **Bonaparte Gulls**, one **Herring Gull**, and 22 **Ring-billed Gulls** were observed at SSP (TD). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** (9/15) and one **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (8/5) were observed at DCW (TD).

The Barn Owls in the silos at DCW have been usurped by **Great Horned Owls** (CH). At the AFHW, over one hundred **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded in a few days around 10/31 (DD). Data from Saw-whet banding in Pennsylvania suggests that the AF is the major migratory corridor within the state. An Eastern Screech-Owl was seen at DCW on 9/5 (TD). Thirty **Common Night Hawks** were seen migrating on 9/13 along the AF (TD). **Whip-poor-Will** were heard 8/12, 9/13, and 9/16 at various locations along SM including Hidden Acres Farm (TD). Thirteen **Chimney Swifts** were seen migrating 9/17 at AFHW (TD). A

total of 210 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** migrated past the AFHW 8/15-9/20 (TD). **Belted Kingfishers** successfully nested and were last seen at DCW 11/26 (TD).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen over AFHW 9/20. Five Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at the Buffalo Farm in *Bedford* 9/20 (TD). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** continue their move up the Allegheny Front escarpment and breeding on the high plateau. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen near New Paris (10/7) and two flyovers at the AFHW were reported on 9/21 (TD).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were sighted 8/25 on Shaffer Mt. Rd., and on 9/21 and 9/20 at AFHW (TD). An **Eastern Wood-Pee-wee** was seen 9/4 at AFHW (EH). **Willow Flycatchers** were last seen at DCW 9/15 (TD). **Least Flycatcher** was last seen at DCW on 9/1 (TD), **Eastern Phoebe** at SM 9/22, **White-eyed Vireo** SM 9/8, **Blue-headed Vireo** 9/20 AFHW, **Philadelphia Vireo** AFHW 9/20 (ML), **Red-Eyed Vireo** on both 9/8 at SM and 9/20 AFHW (TD). Both the **Barn Swallow** and **Cliff Swallow** fledgling success appeared to be down this season due to cold wet weather (TD). The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at SM 9/20 (TD). The only **Winter Wren** was at SSP on 10/24. Seven **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at SSP 9/20 (TD, SD) and 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen at SM 10/6 (SD). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared on Lambert Mt. Road below the AFHW 8/24.

A **Wood Thrush** was observed 9/11 on a forested slope of the AF (TD). **American Robin** flocks migrating on the front were noticeably not as abundant as previous years (TD). Of **Gray Catbirds**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, and **Brown Thrashers**—16 active nests were counted this fall, of which nine appeared to be mockingbirds and the rest evenly between catbirds and thrashers. **Cedar Waxwings** appeared abundant in each location, with flocks seen on almost every outing throughout the county.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was spotted at DCW 9/15 (TD), A **Tennessee Warbler** was at AFHW 9/20 (ML), a **Nashville Warbler** was on SM 9/8 (SD), and a **Northern Parula** was at SSP 8/20 (TD). **Yellow Warblers** were seen 9/9, 9/15, and 9/20 at SM, AF and AFHW respectively (TD). Five **Magnolia Warblers** were seen 9/15 on SM (SD). Fifteen **Cape May Warblers** were counted 8/30 at SM (TD, SD). Five **Black-throated Blue Warblers** appeared 9/8 on SM (TD). Eight **Black-throated Green Warblers** were observed at SM 9/8, and reached a peak of 55 on 9/14 (TD). Four **Pine Warblers** were observed 9/22, and 6 on 8/11, on SM (TD). Several **Bay-breasted Warblers** were flyovers at the AFHW (ML). **American Redstarts** were seen 9/8, 9/11, and 9/23 on SM (TD). Three **Ovenbirds** were seen in the forested stream at DCW 8/12. A **Mourning Warbler** was a good find 9/22 at SM (TD). An unusual number of 22 **Common Yellowthroats** were found at DCW feeding on a hatch of insects 9/8 (TD). **Scarlet Tanagers** were included in a flock of migrants at the AFHW 9/20 (ML).

The following sparrows were reported from DCW: 6 **American Tree Sparrow** 11/14, 36 **Chipping Sparrows** 9/20, 15 **Field Sparrows** 9/23, **Vesper Sparrow** 9/22, 3 **Savannah Sparrows** 10/19, one **Henslow's Sparrow** 9/28, 4 **Fox Sparrows** 10/11, 42 **Song Sparrows** 10/12, 4 **Lincoln's Sparrows** and 7 **Swamp Sparrows** 9/22, 16 **White-throated Sparrows** 9/16, and 110 **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/6. Large numbers of **Dark-eyed Juncos** arrived 10/10 (TD).

A pair of **Bobolinks** had a successful nesting at DCW, and were last seen 9/18. Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at DCW 11/2. One **Baltimore Oriole** was seen 9/20 as a flyover at AFHW. **Purple Finches** nest on Shaffer Mountain, but the feeders fill up with migrants around the latter part of Oct. Ten **Pine Siskins** arrived at a feeder on SM on 9/10, although Pine Siskins are also local nesters.

Observers: **Tom Dick**, **Hidden Acres Farm**, **123 Hummer Lane**, **Cairnbrook, PA 15924**, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102.d@gmail.com, **Tony Barley**, **Dave Darney**, **Tom Dick**, **Sally Dick**, **Gene** and **Nancy Flament**, **Bob Gorsuch**, **Ed Gowarty**, **Eric Hall**, **Connie Hunt**, **Mike Lanzone**, **Rosemary McGlynn**, **Jim Rocco**, **Bob Steward**.

Berks County

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

Wet weather continued through August, which recorded twice the average amount of rainfall. Precipitation during the rest of the period was nearer normal. Mild weather lasted through November.

The largest reported **Brant** flocks were of 60 birds over SGL 11/3

(KG) and 80 over HMS 12/16 (LG). The only grounded Brant were three at BML during the first week of Nov, with a juv. lingering there until 11/16 (JS, MS). A **Cackling Goose** was at Gotwals pond, Oley 11/24 (RK). A female **Canada Goose** wearing a red collar with the white characters H5H9 was seen at LO 10/29 (RK, MW) had been banded in 2005 at Varennes, Quebec, about 30 miles west of Montreal (Jean Rodrigue). A record high count of 31 **Mute Swans**, including three hatch year birds, lingered for weeks at LO in Nov (RK). Birders reported 18 duck spp., mostly in low numbers. All three scoters appeared, with two **Surf Scoters** and several **White-winged Scoters** at BML11/4 (KK, JS) and a **Black Scoter** at LO 11/1 (RK). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at LO 11/30-12/3 (RK).

There were two **Red-throated Loons** at LO and two at BML 11/14 (RK), and a single bird was at LO 11/24-29 (RK, MS). An imm. **Great Cormorant**, the fourth county record, was at LO 9/14 (KL, MW). About six **Black-crowned Night-Herons** continued to fish at the base of the LO spillway through Sep; the last was there 10/18 (MS). A **Glossy Ibis** foraged in a water retention basin at Springside Manor Apts., Spring Twp., starting a few days before 8/4 until 8/10 (ph. Chris Stewart).

Numbers of **Black Vultures**, **Turkey Vultures**, **Bald Eagles**, **Merlins**, and **Peregrine Falcons** counted during the fall season at HMS were above the 10-year averages, with the 68 Peregrines setting a new record. **American Kestrels** continued their long decline. In the case of **Red-tailed Hawks** (~50% below the 10-year average, as last year), shortstopping may be at work, with northern birds not migrating as far or not at all. A **Mississippi Kite** was reported at HMS 8/15 (LG). A female **Merlin** returned to BML in early Nov for its fourth winter (JS).

High water levels in rainy Aug covered shorebird habitat. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** at Blue Mt. Academy pond near Hamburg 10/23, and two more flying over HMS 10/24 (MW), were the only non-breeding shorebirds reported. Single **Caspian Terns** were at LO 8/3 (MW) and BML 8/11 (JS), and another was identified by its nocturnal flight call in District Twp. 8/23 (RK). A **Common Tern** was at BML 8/11 (JS). Raptor counters (DK, SS) at HMS 11/7 were treated to a very unusual sighting when a **Short-eared Owl** soared along the ridge to North Lookout, then dived into the escarpment forest.

The few **Common Nighthawk** reports all came from HMS, where the high count was 12 on 9/1 (LG). The peak flight of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at HMS brought 41 on 8/24 and 71 (new single day high count) on 8/25 (LG). Three **Rufous Hummingbirds** were banded in Berks by Scott Weidensaul this fall. An imm. male that mostly visited feeders in a garden near Plowville 9/16-12/18 was banded 9/27 (HL). An imm. female discovered visiting salvias in a garden near Eckville 10/10 was banded 10/12 and left that day (TL, LS). An adult female that had been visiting a feeder near Hamburg since about late September was banded 12/8 and left soon after.

Fourteen migrating **Red-headed Woodpeckers** passed HMS 8/23-11/7 (LG); singles were at BML 9/21 (MS) and at the Rt. 183 Hawkwatch 10/11 (SFi). A pair with two juvs. was still in Bethel Twp. 10/22 feeding on abundant acorns (SB). The fall **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** migration was remarkable, with at least 25 different birds reported 8/15-9/17, mostly from locations on the Kittatinny Ridge (LG, KG, DK). Also impressive was the large pulse of **Blue-headed Vireo** migration in early October. Counters at HMS tallied 62 on 10/1, 83 on 10/6 and 70 on 10/11, with more than 20 birds sometimes in view at one time (LG). HMS is the most reliable place to see **Philadelphia Vireo**, which peaked at 10 there on 9/14, with a seasonal total of 26 (LG). A flock of 18 **Common Ravens** slowly and playfully flying northeast on the ridge was an interesting sight at HMS 8/24 (LG). Off-ridge sightings continued, with two at LO 10/25 (MS, MW) and one in District Twp. 11/6 (RK). As predicted by the winter finch forecast, very few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was briefly seen perched at North Lookout, HMS 9/20 (DB, JV, et al.) before flying off down the ridge; a poor quality photo was taken. This is the third seen at HMS, the two previous records being from 10/15/1989 and 11/13/1999. Dawn counts of nocturnal flight calls of migrating thrushes in District Twp. revealed the following peak flight days: about 250 calls of **Veery** 8/15, about 10 calls of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/20, about 800 calls of **Swainson's Thrush** 9/23 and about 200 calls of **Wood Thrush** 9/3 (RK). Calls presumed to be of **Bicknell's Thrush** were heard 9/14, 20 (RK). A very late **Wood Thrush** was in District Twp. 11/1-4 (RK).

Birders reported 33 warbler spp. this fall. As usual, many arrival and departure dates that could not be included here can be gleaned from the seasonal occurrence tables at <www.pabirds.org>. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was near Leesport 8/11 (DK). Single **Orange-**

crowned Warblers were at HMS 9/21 (RK) and in Bern Twp. 10/18 (JS). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** in District Twp. 8/21 (RK) was at the late end of its occurrence period. Single **Connecticut Warblers** were near Leesport 9/17 (DK), at SGL 9/28 (KG) and in District Twp. 10/13 (RK). The Kendall farm near Leesport, a consistent **Mourning Warbler** magnet, attracted six of these birds 8/6-9/4 (DK). HMS, where daily counts of all passing birds are made 8/15-12/15, is a notable fall warbler site. A list of their 10 most abundant warblers from North Lookout in 2009 (with seasonal totals) follows: **Black-throated Green** (698), **Black-throated Blue** (174), **Blackburnian** (157), **Magnolia** (88), **Yellow-rumped** (87), **Black-and-White** (73), **Cape May** (70), **Blackpoll** (70), **Chestnut-sided** (46) and **Northern Parula** (35).

Scarlet Tanagers can also be common in fall at HMS. This year's peak one-day count was 105 on 9/15, and the seasonal total was 436 (LG).

Ten **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at the rain pool on Evansville Rd. near LO 10/11 (MS), the only report this fall. A flock of 18 **Rusty Blackbirds** was at BML 11/11 (JS) and a single bird was there 11/16 (JS), the only reports of this sp. Predictions of winter finch scarcity proved accurate. None of the few reported **Purple Finches** stayed long at feeders. HMS reported the only **Pine Siskins**, just 35 for the season compared to 13,165 in 2008 (LG). An **Evening Grosbeak** at HMS 10/2 (MW) was a pleasant surprise to the observer.

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Blair County

No compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE).

Four female **Hooded Mergansers** were at Zern's Pond on 10/9 (TG). Rather late in the season for this county, 10 **Ring-necked Ducks**, mostly male, were on a pond just south of Ackla's Pond, Marshview 11/25 (TG). Nine **Great Egrets** were roosting in two dead trees overlooking a pond just north of Wyalusing 10/15 (LK, MK). Just before dusk 8/3, 5 **Green Herons** flew off from a dead tree in a beaver pond at TNE, an area where they probably have been nesting the past few years (TG); additionally one was at PEH 8/16 (AV, GV), one was at a beaver pond just west of TNE (TG), and 2 were at a third pond at TNE on 9/4 (TG).

A surprising find was a **Black Vulture** in the road eating with two Turkey Vultures in New Era on 9/16. There have only been a few sightings of this species in the county (LD). **Ospreys**, seen during the summer, continued to be reported: one on 8/3 at Tamarack Lake at the north end of Armenia Mt. (RY); one was seen on the SUR at Terrytown on 8/16 (SC, LD); one above the Wysox access to the SUR by the Towanda Creek 9/17, being harassed by a mature **Bald Eagle**, and one by the Old Bradford County Boat Club on the SUR near Wysox (LD). Two **Bald Eagles** were observed on the SUR 8/16, one at Terrytown and one below the Wyalusing river bridge (SC, LD). On 9/17 a adult was harassing an Osprey as noted above (LD); and on 11/2 an immature was west of Athens (MB, JP, MP). On 9/30 a **Merlin** was hovering around the barnyard chickens at a farm on Woodside Rd (BF).

First breeding in the area at Dushore, *Sullivan* about 7 years ago, **Sandhill Cranes** have been expanding into *Bradford*, which now has two confirmed nesting sites. The birds were seen sometimes in large numbers during the fall. One was in a wet swale east of Overton on 9/14 (SW). On 8/29 a single juvenile late this afternoon (TG). A large group of up to 15 were seen until 11/16, for instance, 13 on 10/26, at a farm near Hollenback. Three birds, consisting of 2 adults and their chick, were seen all summer; in the fall when birds in larger groups would fly off, these three would remain. A similarly sized group was seen near Dushore after this time, last seen 12/7, presumably having migrated

from the area (RW).

A flock of **Horned Larks** were observed west of Athens on 11/3 (MB, JP, MP). A flock of 30 **Tree Swallows** readying for migration were observed on 10/3 at a farm on Woodside Rd (BF). On 8/4 a **Winter Wren** was singing near a small creek near TNE. The song was possibly by a young wren, in a location where wrens had been singing earlier in the summer (TG). A single **Winter Wren** was seen along a stream on Woods Rd. 11/8 (CM). A **Palm Warbler** was photographed 10/23 at a Peck Hill feeder (AV, GV).

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Bucks County

Locations: Churchville Park (CVP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm & Haas-Bristol (RHS), Washington Crossing Park (WAC).

Temperatures were below normal for Sept and Oct but above in Aug and Nov, with Nov deviating the most at 3 °F above normal. Rainfall was far above average. The surplus in Aug was over 6", and the total surplus for the period was over 8". Thus, shorebird habitat was scarce at area lakes due to high water. Some lake draw-downs for maintenance were too late for any major shorebird activity. The annual local **Broad-winged Hawk** count was conducted at only two sites. The Buckingham Twp. site at Forest Grove produced the second highest **Broad-winged Hawk** count of the past eight years. Nockamixon State Park counters also worked to produce a nice count. Neotropical passerine migration again required a lot of effort by birders to eke out a small number of migrants. Fortunately, the later migrants were more numerous as usual. No significant waterfowl fallouts were reported and numbers apparently were lower than average. Irruptive species were in very small numbers. Lingering summer species were helped by the mild weather late in the period. The period again showed a decline in diversity for the second year in a row. Overall, a total of 217 species was reported for the four-month period. There were two new fall early arrival dates and seven new fall late departure dates.

As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998, and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). Please note that all reports from PWT and RHS are from Devich Farbotnik.

The family group of up to four **Snow Geese** that summered at NSP was still present 8/15 (AM), but decreased to 2 by 10/8 (HD), which continued through the period (ABr, EN, EB, DFa). One frequented the CVP area 8/29-9/2 (VD, CG, LW), and possibly the same bird made occasional appearances at PVP 9/8 -10/3 (MR, AM, HM). Seven that flew over Tyler State Park 10/8 (MC) were probably the first real migrants reported. The first **Brant** was noted 10/17 at PWT, with 105 more passing over that site 11/1. The first **Cackling Goose** of the season was found at PVP 9/26 (MR).

Eighteen duck species were reported for the four month period. Approximately 250 **Green-winged Teal** at PWT 10/31 was the highest report. A **Surf Scoter** was at PWT 10/24 (DFa), and two stopped at NSP 11/11 (MHo, ML). A **White-winged Scoter** stopped at NSP 10/18 (DFa). The first of fall **Red-throated Loon** met an untimely death due to a power line collision at PWT 10/17 (DFa). The high power lines between the large lakes there kill many birds each year. More fortunate individuals stopped at PWT 11/23 (DFa) and NSP 11/23-26 (DFa, RFe), and 2 were at PVP 11/29-30 (KA, CR). After no reports of **Common Loon** after late Jun, 2 were at PWT 10/10. A **Great Cormorant** was at Mud Island 8/7 and again later, probably indicating an unusual summer visitor rather than a migrant (DFa). The first normal fall arrival was noted at Bristol 10/17 (DFa). One to 2 were at Giving Pond near Ulerstown from 10/29 through the period (ph. EN, EB). They have been found there before, but most winter near Bristol, where 18 were tallied 11/14 (BK).

An **American Bittern** at PVP 8/29 (MHo) and one at PRN 10/4 (KR) were the only reports. The former was a new early fall date, although they may nest in the county. A number of **Great Egrets**

continued from Jul into Aug at RHS, with the high of 14 this season on 8/1. Multiple birds continued there until 11/15 when 2 were still present. Another high count was 12 at PWT 10/4. Otherwise one or two were reported widely as usual through Oct (m.ob.), dwindling to about 5 reports in Nov up to at least 11/15 (DFa, BK). One was found dead at PWT 11/1, another victim of the high power lines there. **Snowy Egret** was at RHS in August, increasing to 3 on 8/23. Two were still present 10/4. Three **Little Blue Herons** continued from Jul at Core Creek Park (BK), with a peak count there of 4 on 9/11 (DFa). Two were at PWT 10/4, one was at RHS 10/4, and one was at Falls Twp. Community Park 10/17 (DFa). The latter was a short lived new fall late date replaced by a report at RHS 11/1. A rare **Cattle Egret** was at Buckingham Twp. 8/7 (DFa). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was scarce through Aug and Sep, with reports of only one or two birds at Churchville Park (BK, et al.), PVP (AM, et al.), PRN (KR), and WAC (BK). Oct and Nov saw a better result, with multiple birds at PWT 10/17 through the period, with a surprising 15 immature birds there 11/1.

The Buckingham hawk count at Forest Grove was conducted on eight days between 9/13-21, with 42.5 hours of observation. The peak day of 2577 **Broad-winged Hawks** occurred 9/20 (GR, et al.). The count at NSP between 9/13-23 totaled 74.5 hours of observation (BF, et al.). A **Mississippi Kite** included in the Buckingham count 9/13 was not seen well enough to be confirmed by the single observer, and thus must be treated as the one that got away (GR). Four hours at Lake Towhee Park 10/31 produced a nice count of 60 hawks of 6 species, including an excellent tally of 28 **Red-shouldered Hawks** (DFa). The all white but not albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was excitedly reported 10/21 from Milford Twp. (CD), where it has wintered for several years. Surprisingly, another partial albino was reported at CVP on the same day (MF) and apparently remained in the area, although not seen again until Dec. This bird was mostly white but had a red tail and a few dark feathers on its back.

Broad-winged Hawk Watch Totals

SPECIES	BUCKINGHAM	NOCKAMIXON	TOTAL
Osprey	48	16	64
Bald Eagle	18	30	48
N. Harrier	10	7	17
Sharp-shinned	77	14	91
Cooper's	26	10	36
Broad-winged	5583	1077	6660
Red-shouldered	1	4	5
Amer. Kestrel	40	3	43
Merlin	2	4	6
Peregrine	3	8	11
TOTAL	5809	1173	6982

The only **Virginia Rail** report came from PRN 10/3 (DFa), but they are regular through the season at Quakertown Swamp (DFa). **Sora** was reported on seven dates between 8/8 and 10/10 at PRN (KR, DFa) and on 10/4 at Quakertown Swamp (BB). Only the ninth county report, a well described **Sandhill Crane** was at Doylestown 9/10 (DS, KS). The bird was on the lawn of the Doyle Elementary School and flushed onto the roof when approached! A rather low total of 15 shorebird species was reported for the four-month period. The most noteworthy reports, due to being rare to one degree or another in occurrence, date, or numbers are included below. One of the most rare shorebirds to occur here, a juvenile **Golden Plover** at Plumstead Twp. 9/17, was our only report (AM). With very few reports here normally, a heavy rain grounded a **Black-bellied Plover** on a NSP parking lot 8/13 (RFe), and another was at PWT 10/4. **Killdeer** were grounded by rain 9/12, producing 103 at Blooming Glen and 90 at Plumstead Twp. (AM). The only **White-rumped Sandpiper** report was on the late side 11/15 at PWT (ph.). Also, rarely reported here, two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** found a muddy farm field to their liking 9/12 at Hilltown Twp. (AM) for our only report.

Several thousand **Laughing Gulls** were at PWT 10/10. Approximately 2000 were at Falls Twp. Community Park on 10/31 (DFa) and the last fall report came from there 12/2 (BC). Observers noted more of this species at lakes away from the Delaware R. this year (DM, BK). Possibly the wet conditions attracted them to food in nearby muddy fields. A **Bonaparte's Gull** at RHS 11/15 was the only one reported. The first **Iceland Gull** report came from PWT 11/23 (BK, DFa). A count of 60 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** of various ages at Morrisville 8/7 (BK) was unprecedented for such a large number so early in the

season. It will be interesting in future years to see if higher early fall counts become the new norm. The first **Glaucous Gull** arrival was noted 11/15 at PWT. It was a good year for **Caspian Terns**, with 8 in Jul followed by at least 12 more reported between 8/12-9/27 (DFa, MHo, BK, RH, AM). After two years with only one **Black Tern** reported each year, a front with heavy rain 8/22 produced 6 at PVP (KA), and possibly the same 6 later in the day at a Buckingham Twp. sewage treatment facility (ABr). Three were at PWT 8/23. Two **Forster's Terns** at NSP 8/12 (DFa), was the only confirmed report.

Barn Owl and **Short-eared Owl** went unreported. A **Barred Owl** was seen at PVP 9/16 (JB, WH) for the first ever recorded there. Nearby, the previously reported bird continued at Doylestown Twp. (MHo). The fall's first **Long-eared Owl** was at PVP 11/7 (AM, et al.). **Common Nighthawk** was again barely reported. They were at MKF on five days 8/17-9/13, with the high count of 16 on 9/6 (RS). There was also a report from CVP 10/10 (VD). Although last year's report 10/27 was our latest ever, a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at East Rockhill Twp. 10/12 this year (JR, HR) came in second. More indications of **Pileated Woodpecker** expansion were an observer's first at Bradford Dam 11/16 (RFR) and the first sighting of more than one at CVP 11/21 (HD).

Olive-sided Flycatcher made its annual stop at State Game Land 157, with one 9/6-7 (AM, JM, Dfa). Two **Eastern Wood Pewee** downy youngsters were still in a nest at PVP on the late date of 8/25 (AM, JM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, considered a rare migrant here, was reported 9/1, and again three times between 9/8 and 9/18 at PVP (AM, JM, BK). Another was at MKF 9/17 (RS). A recording of a flycatcher 8/26 at Tyler State Park was determined by the observer to be an **Acadian Flycatcher**, providing a new fall late date (EB). The last reported migrant **Eastern Phoebe** was late at Giving Pond 11/16 (EB), but undoubtedly winter stragglers will appear as usual. An **Eastern Kingbird** at PVP 9/25 (BVo) set a new fall late date. **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Bowman's Hill 8/29 (BK) and PVP 9/15 (DP, LW) were the only reports. **Philadelphia Vireo** reports were light, with one at Warrington Twp. 8/26 (RFR), one at WAC 9/14 (BK), one at PVP 9/17 (AM), and another there 9/22 (TK-ph.).

Common Ravens continued near MKF with six sightings of up to 3 birds from 8/1 through 11/29 (RS, ABr ph.). There were several sightings at nearby Rushland near a possible quarry nesting site from 9/21 (MHa) through 11/1 (SC, FG). Multiple sightings also came from New Hope (BHo). Two soared over PVP 9/15 (AM, JM) for the second report there this year, after no reports since 1977. PRN had one 11/15 (KR). A rather surprising high report of 1200 to 1300 **Rough-winged Swallows** 9/18-10/1 at Lower Makefield Memorial Park is certainly noteworthy (BK). About 800 **Tree Swallows** were there 10/6 (BK). The observer has documented a pattern of staging swallows at this site. The nor'easter on 10/15 and aftermath through 10/17 brought what was assumed to total thousands of swallows to the Delaware R. valley. Although consisting of mostly **Tree Swallows**, many **Rough-winged Swallows** and one **Cliff Swallow** 10/16 were also detected (DFa).

Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared for the second year in a row in small numbers. Most reports came from CVP (m.ob.). A handful of **House Wrens** dribbled through in Oct (DFi, Dfa, BK, RS, KR), with the last on 11/29 at PWT. A **Sedge Wren** was at PRN 9/12 (Dfa, KR), adding to the more frequent reports in recent years. **Marsh Wren** was detected 19 times on eleven visits to PRN between 9/13-11/1 (KR), for an unusual report year but probably regular occurrence there. The peak day was 10/4, when 5 were found. Another was at Bradford Dam 10/11 (Dfa) and one was at MKF 10/29 (RS). A **Northern Wheatear** was convincingly described 10/4 at Lake Caroline near Fairless Hills (DPe-no doc.). This was the third ever reported in the county. With a warm Nov, 8 **Gray Catbirds** lingered at PWT 11/29 (Dfa), and one was at Falls of the Delaware Park 11/25 (BK). A **Brown Thrasher** was also at Falls of the Delaware Park 11/25 (BK) and PWT 11/29. An **American Pipit** was a total surprise at MKF on the incredibly early date of 8/3 (RS, AM, ABr-ph.). Since they winter there, it is possible this was not a fall migrant but rather a bird that failed to migrate this spring.

A total of 33 warbler species was reported. **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Worm-eating Warbler** were not reported during the four-month period. Unfortunately most of the species listed below are due to a low number of reports, rather than abundance. The only **Golden-winged Warbler** reported stopped at Playwick Park 9/14 (BK). **Tennessee Warbler** continues to be rarely reported here as indicated by only one report at PWT 9/26. The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** reported was at PRN 10/25 (KR). Two **Bay-breasted Warblers** at WAC 9/16 (BK) and one at PWT 9/26 were the

only reports. A **Prothonotary Warbler** at CVP 9/5 (HD) established a new fall late departure date. **Northern Waterthrush** was incredibly scarce with one at WAC 9/24 (BK) being the only report. The last **Louisiana Waterthrush** for the year was noteworthy for still singing on a late day of 8/4 at Nockamixon Twp. (Dfa). **Kentucky Warbler**, a tough species to find anytime here and often missed in fall, was very late at Tyler State Park 10/8 (MC). This far surpassed our previous late fall date of 9/11. Between 9/17-26, only 4 **Cape May Warblers** were reported (AM, BK, GJ, Dfa). A single site count of 110 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 10/23 at WAC took the high count honors (BK). **Connecticut Warbler** reports came from PVP 9/24 (LW) and 9/26 (JB). The PWT was attractive to this species 9/26-10/4, with a peak of 6 on 9/26. RHS had one 10/4 as well. **Mourning Warbler** at PVP 8/31 and 9/20 (CC), and Solebury 9/27 (MR) adds this species to the scarce list. A **Common Yellowthroat** lingered at PVP to 11/8 (KA). Barely making the radar, **Hooded Warbler** was at PVP 8/31 and 9/18 (AM, JM), and one stopped at Warrington Twp. 9/23 (RFR), the latter two dates both surpassing the previous fall late date. A **Wilson's Warbler** at Langhorne 8/29 (BK) was the only report. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Nockamixon Twp. 8/4 (Dfa). A **Scarlet Tanager** at MKF 10/12 established a new fall late date.

Vesper Sparrow was under reported, with one at MKF 10/21 (RS) and one at LaSalle Pond, Newtown 10/22 (BK). **Nelson's Sparrow**, only in recent years determined to be a regular fall migrant, made an unusual showing this year. On 10/11, 2 were detected at Bradford Dam (HD, VD) and as many as 6 were at PWT the same day. One was at PRN 10/4, with 4 there 10/25 (KR). A **White-throated Sparrow X Dark-eyed Junco** hybrid was at MKF 11/13 (RS) for the third year in a row. A **White-crowned Sparrow** at MKF 9/26 (RS) provided a new fall early arrival date. The first and only **Snow Bunting** report came 10/14 in Solebury Twp. (Dfa). A **Blue Grosbeak** at MKF on 8/3 (AM, RS) was the only one mentioned. A count of 110 **Bobolinks** at PRN 8/29 was the highest report (KR). Rare late season **Baltimore Orioles** were reported at Core Creek Park 10/27 (BK) and PWT 11/23-29. Amazingly, the male that winters in New Hope returned 11/18 for the sixth year in a row (SM). The hostess sets her alarm clock so she insures she gets up before sunrise to provide grape jelly and mealworms as a reward for its fidelity to her yard. **Purple Finch** was apparently very scarce. The first report was on 9/13 at PVP (AM), but only a handful of additional reports were received, all from after 10/19 (Dfa, BVo, BWe, RFo, LT). A **Pine Siskin** at MKF 8/1 (RS,VS) was the last of the sporadic summer reports. Two that appeared at a feeder in Rushland 10/9 (MHa) were possibly fall migrants, as was another at PVP 11/4 (MW).

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Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Slippery Rock University (SRU), Wolf Creek (WC).

Overall, the period had above average temperatures, climaxed by a +4.7 degrees F. departure from normal in November and far less (-5.7 inches) precipitation than normal year to date. The normal year to date

precipitation is 34.79 inches but the year to date (end of November) was just 29.06 inches. The only appreciable monthly rain was 4 inches in September. No snow was recorded. Because of scarce precipitation, springs, streams, lakes and ponds were extremely low, discouraging migrating water birds from tarrying locally. Indeed, even passerines vacated breeding and staging sites exceptionally early in August. Apparently this slack of bird life even soured birders from checking their favorite avian haunts: this season saw by the fewest number of autumn observations reported in a decade.

Only two **Tundra Swans** were recorded at LA 10/30 (DW), unusual because regular migration occurs the last few days of October and the first ten days of November.

Peak numbers of other waterfowl were low at LA: 27 **Wood Ducks**, 2 **American Wigeon**, 5 **American Black Ducks**, 29 **Mallards**, 3 **Blue-winged Teal**, 2 **Northern Shovelers**, 11 **Redheads**, 55 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 79 **Lesser Scaup** and 17 **Hooded Mergansers** between 10/25-30 (DW). The last waterfowl recorded for the period at LA included hundreds of **Canada Geese**, 3 **Wood Ducks**, 19 **Mallards**, 20 **Buffleheads** and 59 **Ruddy Ducks** (DW). The 3 **Common Loons** and the single **Red-necked Grebe** at LA 11/29 were low in number for the time frame (DW). Unusual for being so late in the season were a single **Snowy Egret**, **Green Heron** and 3 **Black-crowned Night Herons** traveling together in front of a cold front at LA 10/30 (DW). Only 55 **American Coots**, a low number, were seen at LA 11/29 (DW). At least 25 **Sandhill Cranes** gathered in SRT 11/28 while approximately 200 **Killdeer** and 350 **American Pipits** were observed feeding together in SRT fields freshly covered with manure 11/27 (GW).

The first time in many years all three accipiter species were recorded in November with one adult female and two immature **Northern Goshawks** roaming in the area of BS, MSP, PF, SRU and WC (m.ob.). All three individuals are still present at this writing. No other boreal avian species were reported in the period. Pleased to report that the **Barred Owl** was heard 'barking' at JEEC, MSP, PF, SRC, and WC (m.ob.). Two **Eastern Phoebes** and a single **Blue-headed Vireo** were still in PF 10/5 (GW). The resident **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in PF vacated their home of thirty-six consecutive months in October due to an over-development project in SRB that destroyed their breeding site.

Three migrating **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** in PF 10/5 were the only report. The same day 2 male and one female **Eastern Towhee** and 11 **Chipping Sparrows** constituted the last records of the year (GW). Finally, the **White-throated Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** made their initial simultaneous appearance of the season at BS, MSP, PF, SRB, SRC and WC 10/5 (m.ob.).

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Cambria County

Locations: Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG)

Waterfowl migration at PG was later than normal. Notables were **Gadwall** 11/12 and 12/14, and **Canvasback** 12/14 (JS). An **American Bittern** was at PG on 8/14 (DG). The last **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at PA on 9/15 (DG). High water levels limited the shorebird migration at PG to just a single **Solitary** and **Least Sandpiper** seen during the first week of August (DG).

Unusual was the sighting of a single **Common Nighthawk** at PG on 8/4 (DG) during the day. It apparently was an early migrant. An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was flycatching at PA 9/29 (DG). The last of the young **Purple Martins** left PG on 8/9 (DG).

Warbler migration was better than average with the following highlights: **Cape May Warbler** at PG 9/14 (JS), **Prairie** and **Blackpoll warblers** at PA 9/26 (DG), and a lone **Northern Waterthrush** at PG 9/14 (JS). The first **American Tree Sparrow** was at PA on 10/23 (DG). **Rusty Blackbirds** were at PG on 10/20 and 11/6 (DG, JS).

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Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

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Centre County

Location Abbreviations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Colyer Lake (COL), Jo Hayes Vista on Tussey Mt. (JHV), Lederer Park (LED), Penn State Campus (PSU), Scotia Barrrens (SCB), Toftrees (TOF).

Fifteen people participated in the third Big Sit at BESP 10/11 and counted 39 species during a 12 hour period that included **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Osprey**, **Bald Eagle**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (for details about a Big Sit, see pull-down list "Birding Fun" at <birdwatchersdigest.com>).

Opposite Tait Farm off Rt. 322, a **Great Egret** was wading in the Farm Pond on Nittany Farms 8/8 (MH); one was seen at TOF 8/10 (RC) and again at 8/22 (NK). A few flocks of **Tundra Swans** were heard after a heavy rain, and later a flock of 12 **Sandhill Cranes** flew over heading southwest at SCB 11/30 (KE). Three **Red-throated Loons** were at Hunter Run Cut at BESP and another one was spotted at Lower Greens Run at BESP 11/24 (NT); five were seen at BESP 11/26 (JV).

A kettle of six imm. **Bald Eagles** were observed climbing quite high and then moving southward during the evening at BESP 8/7 (GSY). An adult Bald Eagle was found hunting at the pond at TOF 8/10 (RC), and a subadult was perched on a dead tree in the middle of the pond at TOF 8/14 (CG). An adult Bald Eagle was seen chasing an **Osprey** from its fishing spot with the Bald Eagle right on the Osprey's tail near Fisherman's Paradise 9/8 (MM). A female **Merlin** was perched in a tree to the right of the lower parking lot at COL 9/10 (JV). Other Merlin sightings: TOF 9/14 (NK); SCB 9/18 (GG); SCB 9/19 (WL, JS, JV); one perched in a tree at COL 9/22 (JV); flyover at SCB 9/26 (JV); and one at TOF 9/28 (NK). A **Merlin** was repeatedly chasing American Crows, Northern Flickers and even a monarch butterfly at TOF; it made 12 close passes at the various targets, but didn't seem interested in capturing anything, not even the butterfly. It flew directly to it, extended its talons, but then veered away while the butterfly continued its flight 10/3 (NK). A Merlin was photographed 10/4 at TOF (CG). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed perched high in a snag at Lower Green's Run at BESP 9/27 (NBu).

The migrating raptors and vultures: **Black Vulture**, **Turkey Vulture**, imm. and adult **Bald Eagle**, **Northern Harrier**, **Osprey**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Golden Eagle (4)**, **Kestrel**, **Peregrine Falcon** were observed from the JHV parking lot on Tussey Mt. from 10/1 to 11/27 (CV, CG, BL, TS). On the Bald Eagle Ridge to the north, many of the same species were seen 11/21 and 11/28 including 19 **Golden Eagles** (DO).

A very rare sighting of an **American Avocet** occurred at COL on the evening of 8/18 (MO, ph. JA), it was seen 8/19 (ph. LR). Two **Caspian Terns** were found at COL 9/11 (MH).

Seven **Common Nighthawks** were seen flying north towards PSU on the evening of 8/23 (KE); about eight were above the parking area at Grange Fair near Centre Hall 8/31 (JV); four were seen flying low in the early morning eastern sky over State College 9/8 (MH); and a late migrant in the evening sky over PSU 10/3 (NB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near the intersection of Geary and Airport Rds. 8/16, and two adults and one imm. were in a woodlot on Williams Rd. in Tusseyville 8/17 (RM *vide* MH); three adults were in the trees around a farmhouse on Airport Rd., and across the road there were another three adults in the trees adjacent to the corn field 8/18 (JV); and two adults and two imm. with "dark chocolate" heads were in a woodlot on Williams Rd. 8/19 (MH). Three adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were near the Airport Road/Williams Road/Geary Road intersection and two adults were feeding on corn stalks along Williams Road 9/2 (MO).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was in the corner of LED just off the arboretum trail 8/19, and also seen in SCB 8/29 (JD, SL), SCB 9/4 (SL), SCB 9/16 (GG), LED 9/25 and 9/26 (JV). An **Olive-sided flycatcher** was found in SCB 8/29 (SL). A Late season **Eastern Phoebe** was seen in TOF 11/29 (NK).

The first reported **Northern Shrike** of the quarter was seen near the BESP Visitors Center 11/8 (CK) and then photographed (NBu) the same day; the next and last sighting was 11/24 (NT). A **Philadelphia**

Vireo was found at SCB 9/14 (RS); three were seen there 9/18 (GG); and two there 9/19 (JV). A **Marsh Wren** was photographed at Millbrook Marsh 9/13 (NB). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at SCB 9/18 (GG); at LED 9/25 (JV); two were along the canal behind the lower parking lot at COL 9/27 (JD); and one at SCB 10/9 (GG). Two **American Pipits** were present along the lake shore at COL 10/18 (GG).

SCB is a designated IBA (see Important Bird Areas at <pa.audubon.org> for more information) which is a pass-through area for a large number of migrating warblers every fall and spring. The most active areas this fall as in past years were SCB Pond and the SCB Weather station entrance and areas nearby. These areas can become extremely active and attract many warbler species under the right conditions. For example, on 9/9/2005, 21 warbler species were seen (RS). The migrating warblers reported at these areas from 8/8 through 9/28 were the following 29 species: **Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee, Nashville, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's, Canada, and Yellow-breasted Chat** (RS, GG, JV, JD, MO, TA).

A **Cerulean Warbler** found at TOF 8/22 (JV) was the first sighting there in at least 12 years. A late migrating **Nashville Warbler** fatally hit the glass atrium at Forest Resources Building at PSU 11/6 (MB). A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was found at BESP 8/24 (DB). A lingering adult male **Baltimore Oriole** with snow on the ground was discovered near Sinking Creek 10/17 (LR).

More information about some of these locations is available at <scbirdcl.org> and the new PSO Site Guide at <www.pabirds.org>. SCB and JHV are parts of IBAs. Almost all of the species information for this report and the Fall 2009 Migration report comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv <scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu>.

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Chester County

Locations: Binky Lee Preserve (BLPR), Bucktoe Preserve (BTPR), Chambers Lake (CHLA), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMPR).

An early **Snow Goose** was at CHLA 10/11 (LL), others soon followed with a high of 30 also at CHLA 11/2 (LL). There was only one report of **Cackling Goose** and that was a single bird near Coatesville 11/13 (KF). Two **Tundra Swans** were observed over BTPR 11/16 (JS), the only report. **Wood Ducks** were present until at least 11/26 with one near Phoenixville (RK). A high of 18 were at CHLA 10/11 (LL, et al). The only report of **Gadwall** was 5 at CHLA 11/12 (RR). A single **Blue-winged Teal** was late at Black Rock Preserve 11/4 (RK). Up to three **Northern Pintail** were present at CHLA 11/9 (NP). **Ring-necked Ducks** began arriving in force in early Nov and had a high of 47 at Longwood 11/22 (TS). A single **Greater Scaup** was at MCSP 11/19 (NP), and a single **Lesser Scaup** visited CHLA 11/9 (NP). Single **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters** were found at MCSP during a rainstorm 11/25 (KF, HM). A lone **Long-tailed Duck** was at CHLA 11/18 (RR). Two **Common Goldeneyes** at CHLA 11/30 (RR) was the only report for this uncommon visitor. Chambers Lake also hosted two **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/12 (RR).

A single **Red-throated Loon** was at MCSP 11/22-26 (HM, NP). There were two reports of **Common Loons**: a fly-over at BTPR 11/2 (LL) and a single at MCSP 11/15 (NP). A high of 13 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at CHLA 10/11 (KF). One was still present at Westtown Lake 11/29 (TS). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was observed at MCSP 11/4 (NP). **Double-crested Cormorants** were present until 11/4 with a high of 140 at CHLA 10/11 (KF). An **American Bittern** was also at CHLA 10/11 (KF). There were sporadic reports of single **Great Egrets**

throughout the season and one was extremely late at Kurtz Fish Hatchery 11/27 (LL). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Brandywine Picnic Park 9/26 was the only report for this uncommon visitor (DH).

There was a good count of migrant **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/20 with 350 over BTPR (HM). **Golden Eagle** is a rare but regular migrant in *Chester* so it was nice to have single birds over Lincoln University 10/25 (SJ) and BTPR 11/18 (DS). There were multiple reports of **Merlin** throughout the county 8/21-11/30 (m.ob.), and single **Peregrine Falcons** were noted 10/11 at CHLA (LL, KF) and BTPR (JS).

There was an impressive migration of **Killdeer** with high counts at the Brandywine Polo Club grounds in New Garden Twp. of 154 on 8/9 and 213 on 8/21 (NP, SP, et al.). Other than this grasspiper habitat, shorebird habitat was at a premium with a scarcity of mudflats, rain pools and lakeshore. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was along Brandywine Rd. 9/12 (KF). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were recorded at Longwood 9/7 (JF) and five were near Parkesburg 9/11 (KF). **Least Sandpipers** visited the Polo Fields in New Garden Twp. with 4-6 there 8/22-9/12 (NP, AG). A single **Baird's Sandpiper** along Brandywine Creek Rd. 8/21 was a good find (KF). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed at the Brandywine Polo Fields 8/9-9/12 with a high of 5 on 9/12 (NP, SP). Single **Wilson's Snipe** were noted at New Garden Twp. 9/12 (NP, SP) and CHLA 10/13 (RR). Single **American Woodcock** were noted during Big Sits at BTPR (JS) and CHLA (LL) 10/11.

Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were noted over Waterloo Preserve 9/21 (KF). Migrant terns were scarce this fall with only two reports received. Four **Caspian Terns** were at STLA 9/4 (HM) and a **Black Tern** was at Longwood 8/29 (LL).

A late-ish **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at CHLA 10/11 (LL, KF). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was banded at Rushton Farm 11/21 as part of the on-going banding program conducted there (DM). The high count for migrant **Common Nighthawks** was 11 at BTPR 9/7 (JS). An imm. female **Rufous Hummingbird** was present in Avondale 10/18-11/9. It was trapped and banded 10/30 (NP, AG). Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found in Sadsbury Twp. 10/3 (NP, SP) and BTPR 11/2 (LL).

Always a good find, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at BTPR 8/29 (JS). A high count of 12 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were at BTPR 8/31 (JS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were observed in West Goshen Twp. 8/23 (NP) and at Waterloo Preserve 9/10 (KF). A good count of 16 **Eastern Phoebe**s was made at BTPR 10/11 (CM, JS). A **Great-crested Flycatcher** at Hibernia Park 10/12 (RR) was getting toward the late side. A **White-eyed Vireo** at Hibernia Park 11/2 was definitely late (RR). **Blue-headed Vireos** were widely scattered through *Chester* this fall (m.ob.) with a single-observer high of 6 at Hibernia Park 10/8 (RR). There was a smattering **Philadelphia Vireo** reports with single birds at Waterloo Preserve 9/1 (KF), BLPR 9/20 (NP, AG, et al.), Hibernia Park 9/20 (RR) and 2 at Waterloo Preserve 9/21 (KF). Tree Swallows staged in good numbers at CHLA 10/8-11 with 400-500 estimated (RR, LL).

Bank Swallows were reported 8/14-9/12 (m.ob.) with an exceptionally late individual at CHLA 10/11 (LL, KF). A late **Cliff Swallow** was noted at MCSP 10/18 (NP). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** arrived 9/19 (NP) and few individuals could be found through the remainder of the season mostly at Longwood (m.ob.). A lingering **House Wren** was found at BTPR 11/22 (LL) and 11/30 (JS). **Marsh Wren**, a regular but scarce migrant, was found at three locations this fall. Three were found together at a retention pond on the Rustin High School campus 9/20 (NP) and single birds were observed at Okehocking Preserve 9/23 (HM) and WMPR 9/23-24 (KF, HM). There was a good flight of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** through the county beginning 9/13. There was a single-observer high count of 20 at Hibernia Park 10/13 (RR). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was in Upper Uwchlan Twp. 9/27 (HM) and two were at CHLA 10/11 (LL, KF). A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** was observed at WMPR 9/17 (KF). **Swainson's Thrush** was widely reported beginning 9/7-10/11 (m.ob.).

There was a respectable showing of migrant warblers this fall with single **Tennessee Warblers** at BLPR 9/7 (NP, AG, et al) and WMPR 10/14 (KF, AG, NP), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at STLA 11/22 (HM, AG, et al), and several reports of **Nashville Warblers** including singles at WMPR 10/14 (KF, AG, NP) and 10/22 (KF). **Magnolia Warblers** were found in good numbers with 5 at BTPR 9/7 (LL, et al) and 5 at BLPR 9/20 (NP, AG, et al). Four **Cape May Warblers** were at BLPR 9/20 (NP, AG, et al) and singles were at Longwood 9/25 (TS) and 10/10 (LL) and in West Goshen Twp. 10/5 (NP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were in good numbers with a single-observer high of 40 at Lorimer Preserve 10/12 (NP). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were reported

throughout the county with a high of 6 at BLPR 9/20 (NP, et al). Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were found at Waterloo Mill Preserve 9/1 (KF), BTPR 9/7 (LL) and 9/15 (JS) and 2 were at Longwood 9/25 (TS). There were several good counts of **Palm Warblers** with 28 at CHLA 10/11 (LL) and 40 at WMPPR 10/14 (KF, AG, NP). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were found at BTPR 9/15 (JS), BLPR 9/20 (NP, AG), Longwood 9/25 (TS) and West Goshen Twp. 10/11 (NP). A late **Black-and-white Warbler** was in Willistown Twp. 10/26 (WS). A **Worm-eating Warbler** at BTPR 9/2 (JS) was a good find as was a **Northern Waterthrush** at Okehocking Preserve 9/19 (HM). A single **Mourning Warbler** at WMPPR 9/23 (KF) was the only report of this stealthy migrant. Another species that sometimes goes through undetected is **Wilson's Warbler**. The only report was of a single bird at Black Rock Park Sanctuary 9/25 (RK). Single **Canada Warblers** were present in West Goshen Twp 8/26-30 (NP) and WMPPR 9/9 (KF).

Wintering **American Tree Sparrows** arrived 11/5 with 2 at Longwood (TS). **Savannah Sparrows** were reported in higher than normal numbers with high counts of 15 at CHLA 10/11 (LL) and 9 at BTPR 10/25 (HM). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted at the Polo Fields in New Garden Twp. 8/21 (KF). The continuing **Henslow's Sparrow** at Runnymede Farm was seen again 8/26 (HM). Mid-Oct is the peak migration period for **Lincoln's Sparrow** and during that time 5 were noted at CHLA 10/11 (LL) and 5 were also found at WMPPR 10/14 (KF, AG, NP). A late individual was at CHLA 11/2 (RR). The first **White-throated Sparrows** were noted at BTPR 9/28 (JS) but the bulk of their flight seemed late with a high of 150 at Lorimer Preserve 10/12 (NP). **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted throughout *Chester* beginning 10/11 (NP, LL) and there was a high of 8 at STLA 11/22 (HM, et al). The **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** flight was extensive with numerous reports. Ten were counted at BTPR 9/15 (JS) and a late individual was also noted there 10/20 (JS). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were noted at BTPR 9/6-7 (HM, LL) and BLPR 9/20 (NP, AG, et al.) and 3 were at Rustin High School campus 9/20 (NP) were they have been suspected of breeding in the past.

Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at the Rustin High School campus 10/4 (NP, AG, et al.), Miller Park 10/14 (CK), and WMPPR 10/14 (KF, AG, NP). Twelve were seen at CHLA 10/11 (LL, KF). A somewhat late **Baltimore Oriole** was at Stroud Preserve 10/25 (DH).

The only "northern finches" reported were a dash of **Purple Finches** beginning 10/12 with a max of 6 at BTPR 10/25 (HM).

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Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (MZ), Strattanville (ST).

Waterfowl reports for the county were limited this fall with perhaps the most unusual being a small flock of 15 **Blue-winged Teal** present at a holding pond located on a reclaimed strip mine site near ST (CW). At KL, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Ducks** were present from 11/23-11/29, with **Hooded Mergansers** also present 11/29. A **Horned Grebe** was present there 11/23 (GE, ML, SS, JS, RS, CW).

The last **Broad-winged Hawk** report was noted 8/31 near ST (RM), and the first **Rough-legged Hawk**, a light morph bird, was sighted in the northern part of the county 11/29 in agricultural areas near Newmansville (T&JK). At MZ, 3 **Northern Bobwhites** were seen along the field edges 11/5, with the usual difficulty being determination of the origin of the birds (JV).

An unusually large number of **Killdeer** were present at KL 11/26, on the late side for this northern part of the state (ML). The most unusual shorebird report for the season came from KL: an **American Avocet** was found there 11/23 and was last seen 11/29 (GE, MF, ML, SS, JS, RS). The bird may have lingered due to a reported slight leg injury, but was observed to be flying and feeding without difficulty. Lake levels were down at the time the bird was present, allowing for suitably more shallow areas along the lake edges. Near ST at the reclaimed strip mine site, several shorebirds were present on the shallow waters there through the fall. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** showed up 8/2-8/3 and

Solitary Sandpipers made a nice showing, being there regularly from 8/2-10/4 with numbers varying from a single bird to a high of 13 on 8/3 (MW,CW, RM). **Least Sandpipers** were also noted at the site with one bird there 8/7 and 2 birds present 9/9 (CW). A single **American Woodcock** was noted on SGL 63 10/20, flushed while hunting (TB), and flight sounds of the birds, similar to the ascending sound made during courtship, were also noted at dawn as birds descended at CV 9/16, 10/8, and 10/13 (CW).

Short-eared Owls were first seen back over their typical fall/winter habitat at MZ with up to 3 birds hunting over the fields at dusk 11/4-11/5 (JW).

A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen in old apple trees early morning 9/16 in CV, not always a yearly find for fall migration (CW). **Swainson's Thrush** were first noted from nocturnal flight calls at dawn 9/2 and continued through 10/8 when just a few calls were heard at CV (CW). The last reported **Wood Thrush** was seen at the same location 9/29 (CW). A rather late **Brown Thrasher** found in the yard at this location 11/12 was keeping to the overgrown brush, feeding along the ground and also on pokeberries (CW). A single **Nashville Warbler** was noted feeding among old apple trees and cherry trees in an overgrown hillside area in CV 11/7, a late date for the county (CW). **Cape May Warblers** put in a good fall showing this year with 5+ seen in Norway and blue spruce stands in CV on many days from 9/6-9/30 (CW). A possible late nesting **Hooded Warbler** pair was found 8/25 in a nesting area used in past years in CV, with both adults and a young bird seen together with the adults agitated and chipping (CW).

For sparrow reports this year, an early note of an **American Tree Sparrow** was made this year reported from SGL 63 near Shippenville (TB). The grassland sparrows of the county made their last reported showings in mid-Aug at MZ with **Clay-colored Sparrows** last noted 8/14, **Grasshopper Sparrows** 8/12, and **Henslow's Sparrows** 8/17 (CW). The exceptions were **Vesper Sparrows** which were found continuing at their newly confirmed breeding site in ST through 10/13 (CW). **Fox Sparrows** were conspicuously absent for the fall migration this year, unusual for the county. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were noted in their usual marshy/swamp habitat near CV, first seen 9/27 and also 10/10, their usual migration period (CW). Two **Orchard Orioles**, both a female and young male, were noted in their typical nesting habitat 8/13 along a CV roadside area, the last reported date for this season (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Gary Edwards, Mike Fialkovich, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Mike Leahy, Ron Montgomery, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Mike Weible, Jack Williams.

Clearfield County

No report.

Compiler: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA, 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**.

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), Susquehanna River (SR), and Swissdale (SW).

A single **Brant** was seen on the SR at LH on 10/29 (JS). A **White-winged Scoter** was observed on the SR at LH on 12/9 (JS).

On 9/27, a total of 3 **Merlins** were reported near LH (JS) and one individual lingered along the SR at LH through the period (m.ob.). The resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at McElhatten fledged 4 chicks from a late nesting in mid-Aug (m.ob.). A total of 20 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at SW during Oct and Nov (WL).

A rather late **American Redstart** was observed foraging for insects on 11/7 at SW (WL). Also on 11/7 a lone **Snow Bunting** was seen near Renovo (DF). On 10/16 and 10/18, single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were observed at the wetlands in Mill Hall (JS).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlausch@kcnnet.org**, Dave Ferry, and Jeff Schaffer.

Columbia County

No report.

Observers: **Doug Gross, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA, 17859, (570) 458-4568, douggross@sunlink.net.**

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (C), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva (GEN), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), McMichael Road (McM), Meadville (MEAD), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Some 300 **Tundra Swans** were found in western *Crawford* 11/28 (RFL). That same day 30 were near SL (RE), and 26 were at Springboro 11/30 (TCN). A **Snow Goose** was at Springboro 11/15 (TCN) and two were at PGMA 11/16 (DY). There were 3 records of a "**Blue**" **Snow Goose** (all likely of the same bird) at PGMA: 10/12 (AM), 10/17 (RFL), and 10/25 (RFL). A **Brant** was found at Fireman's Beach at CL 10/25 (RFL). The bird remained to 11/19 eating grass and obliging several birders and photographers. There are at least 10 records for the species in *Crawford*.

The high count of **Northern Shovelers** at FH was 22 on 11/7 (RFL). An immature male **Northern Pintail** was noted at PGMA 9/11 (m.ob.) and 3 were seen there 11/28 (AM) AM conducted his annual **Wood Duck** count at Blaisbridge this fall: he counted 1407 passing overhead headed toward HM 9/19. **Gadwall** numbers were down: all reports were of less than 50 birds. A good total of 18 **Green-winged Teal** were at PGMA 9/19 (m.ob.). Twelve **Blue-winged Teal** were at PGMA 8/26 (m.ob.). A **Canvasback** was reported at PGMA 10/30-31 (RE), and 2 were seen at CL 11/28 (RFL). The first **Lesser Scaup** was found at FH 10/3. Additionally 150 were noted east of PS 11/28 and 50 were seen 11/30 at PA (SK, ShK). A **Ring-necked Duck** was found at PGMA 9/19 (PLOC). There were 6 **Common Goldeneyes** at CL 11/28 (RFL). **Buffleheads** don't usually show up in large groups but there were 110 at CC 11/28 (RFL). The only **Long-tailed Duck** reported was one at SL on 11/28 (RE). MV reported the first 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at PS 10/4 and the top count was 130 at PA 11/28 (CH). Close to 700 **Common Mergansers** were seen 11/2 (SK) and 805 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted at the FH area 11/11 (RFL). From 1000 to 1150 **Hooded Mergansers** were noted this season (m.ob.).

An early **Common Loon** was seen near the PS 9/11. Notable counts included 47 off PC 11/1 and 160 at PC 11/22. A **Red-throated Loon** was seen South of PC 11/1 and 11/21, and 4 were there 11/28 (RFL). A **Red-necked Grebe** was located south of PC 11/21. Three were there 11/22, and one was last seen there 11/28 (RFL). A pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** was found at GEN 8/3 (CL). Three were at FH 11/22 (RFL). **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to expand in this area with 755 counted at PA 10/21 and 613 at PA 11/1 (m.ob.).

One to 3 **Great Egrets** were found at FH and PA (m.ob.) 8/9-10/17. A **Cattle Egret** was found at Leech Road near HM 11/2. It was found by MB, a teacher, and several of his students close to the school yard. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was near JSP 8/9 (SC) and 3 were near the PS 9/14 (SK). One also was seen flying over PGMA 10/17 (RFL). There were 19 reports of **Sandhill Crane**, from one to 15 birds at many locations (m.ob.). Single **Common Moorehens** were noted 8/12-9/27 from CM and HM (m.ob.). Some 20 **American Coots** were located 10/12 at ENWR (RE) and RFL had 110 at CL 11/7.

A good find was a female **Ruffed Grouse** and 4 young near SL 8/25 (RE). **Turkey Vultures** were seen in good numbers, up to 22 at once (m.ob.). A **Black Vulture** was well studied on Wilson Road at PGMA as it passed within 30 feet 8/23 (RFL). This is the second year in a row one has been seen at PA. Two **Northern Harriers** were seen PGMA 10/14 (AM). A pair was located at ENWR 10/28 (RE). Two **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at SM 11/1 (MB). A number of **Cooper's Hawks** were seen PA (m.ob.). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was at PGMA 11/28 (RFL). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen PGMA 11/1 (RFL) and one was at ENWR 11/16 (RE). Up to 13 **Bald Eagles** were seen 11/19 (BVN, MVN). A **Peregrine Falcon** was found at PGMA 9/26 and 11/28 (RFL). One **Merlin** was seen PGMA 9/13 (RFL, BG) and one was at Springboro 9/27 and 10/18 (TCN). A pair of **Osprey** were seen at PGMA 8/5 (RFL).

Only one **American Golden-Plover** was reported, at PGMA 9/19 (LM). Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen PGMA 9/27 (RFL), and 2 were there 10/25 (AM). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at PA ponds in small numbers (m.ob.). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen 8/9 FH (SC) and a late bird was at WL 11/21 (RFL). Ten **Dunlin** were noted at FH 10/18 (PLOC), and 55 were in PA 10/21 (RFL). Eighteen were last reported there 11/19 (BVN, AVN). Five **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen PGMA 10/25 (AM). Lone **Short-billed Dowitchers** were noted at PGMA 8/9 (SC) and 10/20 (SS). Two **Long-billed Dowitchers** were seen at PGMA 10/10 (RFL) and one was at FH 10/23 (TCN). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found 10/20 at FH (SS).

Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were near the PC 9/24. An estimated 7000 **Red-billed Gulls** were at PA 11/11. SK found two of the rarer gulls in this area. First was a first winter **Franklin Gull** at PS 8/31-9/3 (SK), followed by and a **Laughing Gull** also at PS 9/13-10/20 (SK). Photos were taken and many observers were able to see them both at close range. On 10/12 a second **Laughing Gull** was found at PS; it was darker than the one first seen 9/13 (RFL). The first report of a **Bonaparte's Gull** was at PS 9/2 (TCN), rather early. Some 1200 were seen PA 11/1 (RFL) and SK and ShK had about 3000 on 11/30. One **Caspian Tern** was seen 8/8 at FH (RFL). Also, 10 were found at PS 8/23 (RFL) and one was at PS 9/13 (LM, BGr). A **Forster's Tern** was noted at PS 8/31 (SK). Two **Common Terns** were recorded at PS 9/28 (SK) and 10/1 (RFL).

A good find was a **Barn Owl**, seen around 4pm north of MEAD 11/26 (LJ). A **Short-eared Owl** was reported near SL 10/8 (RE). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at Towpath Road, CM 9/13 (LM, BG, RFL). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at McM 8/8 (RFL), and one was near Springboro 10/20 (TCN). The **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen at PGMA 9/19 (PLOC) was the lone report. Eighty-five **Chimney Swifts** seen leaving a church chimney in MEAD at daybreak 10/1 was a nice surprise (RFL). This year, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nested rather late, including one nest with 2 young near SL that fledged 8/28, likely a new late date (RE). Up to 12 were at a feeder on Atlantic Lake Road 8/1, with one lingering there to 9/26 (MB).

For the second year a **Western Kingbird** was seen near CM on Brown Hill Road, this time on 9/16 (RFL). At PGMA a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was perched on a sign at the parking lot 9/2 (RFL). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported near HM 9/13 (MB). Two **Willow Flycatchers** were seen at ENWR 8/25 (RFL, RCL). A **Horned Lark** was found at PGMA 8/23 (RFL), 22 were recorded near SL 10/28 (RE), 22 near Atlantic 11/9 (MB), and 19 at PGMA 11/17 (LM).

A **Northern Shrike** was present at ENWR 11/18 (RE). Three **Red-eyed Vireos** were found at HM 9/13 (MB). The **Philadelphia Vireo** was recorded at SL 9/9 (RE). There were 2 **White-eyed Vireos** at Towline Road 9/13 (RFL). RE saw a **Common Raven** near SL 8/26, 9/3 and 9/9; 2 were there 11/20. At least 70 **Purple Martins** were recorded at PA 8/5, with one at the FH 9/2 (RFL). About 80 **Cliff Swallows** were at the FH 8/8, and 2 were noted at PS 10/17 (RFL). Two **Barn Swallows** lingered to 10/22 at PS (RS). About 600 **Tree Swallows** were seen at PS 10/10, and was there 10/22 (RS). Some 200 **Bank Swallows** were seen at TL 8/29 (RFL). Six **Rough-winged Swallows** were found at PS 10/2 (RFL). There were several reports of **Horned Larks** at many areas; the 50 at SL 10/26 (RE) was the best count. A **Winter Wren** was seen near SL 9/14 (RE). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found near SL 10/3 (RE).

A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen at SL 10/12 (RE), and 3 were at Springboro 12/4 (TCN). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at WL 9/22 (RFL), one was at SL 9/27 (RE), and 4 were at PC 10/17 (CW). A later than usual **Wood Thrush** was seen near SL 9/22 (RE). Two **Veery** were found 9/5 at McM, and one was east of Linesville 9/13 (RFL). RE had a **Swainson's Thrush** at SL 9/16. A **Hermit Thrush** was seen at CM on Towpath Road 11/1 (RFL). There were several sightings of **Eastern Bluebirds** with a top total of 15 birds (m.ob.). Sixty-one **Cedar Waxwings** were seen near SL 11/21 (RE). A **Northern Mockingbird** was noted near HM (MB) 10/10, one was seen near Venango 10/27, and one was at Springboro 11/21 (TCN). A **Gray Catbird** was last recorded at CL 10/21 (RFL). A late **Brown Thrasher** was noted from Springboro 10/20 (TCN).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen near SL 10/12 (RE). A **Nashville Warbler** was found on Saegar Hill, MEAD 10/1 (RFL). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** near SL 10/8 was a good find (RE). Four **Cape May Warblers** were near SL 10/3 (RE). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was noted at TL 9/19 (RFL), and one was near SL 9/27 (RE). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were located near SL 9/15 and 9/27 (RE), and 2 were seen at FI 10/3 (RFL). A **Black-throated Green Warbler**

was found 9/13 at Saegar Hill, MEAD (RFL), and one was at SL 10/12 (RE). A **Pine Warbler** was reported near Springboro 10/15 (TCN). A **Palm Warbler** was seen near HM 10/2 (MB). A **Kentucky Warbler** at TL 9/16 was unexpected (RFL). An **American Redstart** was recorded at FI 9/4 (MF).

An immature male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen at a MEAD feeder up to 10/1 (RFL). A **Scarlet Tanager** was seen at the FH parking lot 9/19 (RFL). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at ENWR 10/12 (RE) and 8 were seen at Pine Road HM 10/21 (MB). A **Chipping Sparrow** stayed at a MEAD feeder through 11/18 (RFL). Up to 12 **Swamp Sparrows** were seen at McM 8/16, with 3 seen there 11/8 (RFL) and one seen near SL 10/17 (RE). Three **Fox Sparrows** were found at JSP 11/1 (RFL), one was at SL 11/1 (RE), and one was near Springboro 11/17 (TCN). A **Vesper Sparrow** was recorded at SL 8/8 and 8/14 (RFL), and one was at HM 9/6 (MB). A **Lapland Longspur** was found at PGMA 11/9 (SS).

One **Eastern Meadowlark** was spotted 10/12 on Brown Hill at CM, also one was there 10/25 (RFL) and 3 were seen near SL 10/14 (RE). A flock of 110 **Rusty Blackbirds** was at GEN 10/29 (RFL), 5 were near CL 11/15 (RFL), 12 were at FH 10/21 (SS), and 3 were at FH 10/22 (RS).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Conifer Road Tree Farm (CRTF) Deerfield Commons Retention Pond (DCRP), Duncan Road (DR), Mud Level Road (MLR), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGFSP), State Gamelands 169 (SGL169), West Fairview Boat Ramp (WFBR)

The 2009 fall season was an interesting one in *Cumberland*. Early on, some less common shorebirds showed up, followed by a plentiful warbler migration. The season was capped off with the appearance of two wayward western birds.

The **Common Loon** that has been reported since 1/1 on the Boiling Springs Children's Pond was last reported on 11/22 (MOB). The approximately 40 **American Wigeon** that usually winter on Boiling Springs Children's Pond were first reported on 9/25 (VG) and the few that over winter on the BS on 11/29 (VG). One **American Black Duck** was reported with a group of **Mallards** on the BS 9/25 (VG). Forty-one **Tundra Swans** were seen flying over Newville 11/22 (BF).

Three **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported through 10/4 at SGL169 (AM, BO, MA, VG), and 2 **Sandhill Cranes** were reported at the SGL169 marsh 10/3 (BO, MO). One **Sora** was reported at SGL169 Marsh 10/16 (VG), and one **Virginia Rail** at SGL169 Marsh 9/12 (AM, MS), Hunter Road 9/12 (GH), and SGL169 Marsh 10/4 (AM, MS). One **American Bittern** was reported at the SGL169 Marsh 10/17 (AM, VG).

As for raptors, **Osprey** was reported at several locations in *Cumberland* 8/8-10/17. **Bald Eagle** is becoming noteworthy not because of its scarcity but because of the increasing sightings at WFBR, SGL169, Conodoguinet Creek, the BS, and other locations in *Cumberland*. One **Merlin** was reported on three occasions at, DCRP 9/3 (AM), a Newville yard 10/4 (BF), and MLR 10/4 (AM, MS). One **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in East Pennsboro Township 10/5 (LU), and another at WFBR 10/17 (AM, RK, VG). One large unidentified falcon was also seen late November in the MLR area where the **Prairie Falcon** has been seen over the past few winters (AM).

One **Barn Owl** was found dead 9/10 just east of the intersection of DR and MLR (VG), and one (live) bird was at SGL169 Marsh 9/12 (AM, MS).

Although shorebirds were not present in quantity, they were present in quality as a few of the less common species made an appearance in the county. One **Semipalmated Plover** was at DCRP 8/13 (RK, AM), 2 **American Golden-Plovers** were on DR 9/20-21 (AM, MS), 3 **American Golden-Plovers** were at Britton Road 10/2 (VG), and one **Black-bellied Plover** was on DR 9/20 (AM). One to 2 **Baird's**

Sandpipers were reported at DCRP 8/28-9/1 (AM, MS, VG). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** and one juv. **Red-necked Phalarope** were reported at Stoughstown Pond 9/1-9/3 (VG, AM, BO, MS, HW). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found on DR 9/20 (AM), 9/21 (MS).

Common Nighthawks were seen in small numbers (3 to 14) at PGFSP 8/26-9/10, and SGL 169 on 9/23 (BO, VG). A **Whip-poor-will** decided to sound off near the intersection of Booz Road and East Creek Road near Newburg 9/12 (AM, MS). Forty **Cliff Swallows** were reported on MLR west of DR 8/18 (VG)

There were numerous sightings of **Philadelphia Vireo** through early Oct. Several birders noted that it was the most of the species they had seen for awhile. Three **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported on Ridge Road 9/16 (RK). Three **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported from Ridge Road on 9/6 (RK), one at PGFSP 9/18 (BO), one at SGL169 9/19 (AM), and one at PGFSP 9/21 (BO). One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported on 8/25 at Miller's Gap (RK), 8/26 Ridge Road (RK), Ridge Road 9/20 (AM, MS), and 9/25 Ridge Road (RK). One **Least Flycatcher** was reported from Ridge Road on 9/6 (RK). Finally, one late **Eastern Phoebe** was reported at the BS on 11/29. Often one to three Phoebes do over winter on the spring.

Some early fall migrants included one **Brown Creeper** at Green Ridge Village on 8/29 (CH), one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Waggoner's Gap on 8/20-8/21 (RF), and one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at a Carlisle yard 8/20 (HW)

One **Western Tanager** was reported at SGL169 on 9/23 (AM). Unfortunately, attempts to relocate the bird over the next few days were unsuccessful.

This was a great season for migrating warblers in *Cumberland* with high numbers of many species being reported. Included in these sightings were numerous reports of **Cape May Warblers**. **Connecticut Warbler** seemed downright common, reported at SGL169 Bridgewater Road and the CRTF 9/19 (AM), SGL169 Bridgewater Road 9/20 (AM, MS), 2 at SGL230 9/28 (RK), one at RRSB, (AM, MS), one at the edge of the Green Ridge Village fields 10/3 (VG), and one at the SGL169 Marsh 10/11 (AM). In addition, 2 **Northern Waterthrushes** were seen on South Mountain 9/20 (AM, MS) along with one **Orange-crowned Warbler** on South Mountain 9/20 and 9/27 (AM, MS). Add to these reported sightings one **Mourning Warbler** at Milesburn Road 8/31 (RK) and another at CRTF 9/19 (AM, MS), one **Wilson's Warbler** at Milesburn Road 8/26 (RK) and one at CRTF 9/19 (AM, MS), and one **Yellow-throated Warbler** WFBR 10/24 (RK) and it is easy to see why this was such an outstanding season for warblers.

To top this memorable warbler migration off was the discovery late in the season of a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** that was found on the BS just south of Newville on 10/20 (VG), which stayed through 10/25 (m.ob.). Many came from all over Pennsylvania, and some even from Maryland and West Virginia, to view this western vagrant. If accepted by PORC, this would be the ninth record of this species for Pennsylvania.

There were numerous reports of **Fox Sparrow** during the period. One **Rusty Blackbird** was reported on the BS 10/3 (BF, LF, BP, VG), the BS 10/24 (VG), SGL169 Marsh 10/24 (AM, VG), and the BS 11/7 (BF).

Finally, Four **Pine Siskins** were reported on the BS 10/21 (AM) and one **Blue Grosbeak** was near the intersection of MLR and DR (8/27) (MS).

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Delaware County

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

There appeared to be very little impact from the weather on *Delaware* this season. A fairly hot August may have kept some birders home. There was no significant impact on the area from any hurricanes. A nor'easter type storm did hit the area on 9/11 which sent at least one

observer to the DR where he managed to find some interesting shorebirds. October and November seemed pretty unremarkable weather-wise.

Cackling Goose is not often identified in *Delaware* so when an individual was picked out of a small skein of **Canada Geese** flying low over a group of birders on a field trip 10/25 at DT, it was yet another example that close attention to even the ordinary can have its rewards (AG, et al.). Rarely reported away from the Tinicum area, a **Wild Turkey** was spotted on two occasions at the entrance to the Bridle Path in RCSP 8/17 and 8/24 (AG). Could this be a sign of the long awaited incursion of this species into the interior of the county?

Sixteen **Common Loons** provided the high count for this species 11/4 RTPHW. Always on duty, AG conducted a mini census and counted 272 **Double-crested Cormorants** between Tinicum Island and Marcus Hook as he sailed down river on a cruise to Canada 9/23 DR.

Despite the loss of the major leadership of Jim Lockyer to a move to California, RTPHW rallied itself and counted 6,877 raptors, an average total. However **Broad-winged Hawks** represented the majority of the total migrants with 4514 (average around 3000) recorded. Most other species totals were below-average, presumably due to a drop in hours attributable to some rainy weather. Right on time, 3775 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 84% of the season total for this species, passed 9/13-9/19. Interestingly after 1449 were tallied on 9/19, and despite counts being conducted every day, only 6 **Broad-winged Hawks** (all on the same day) were seen until 9/25, when 688 soared over. Why? Weather. There was rain to the north during those quiet days, presumably keeping the birds down, and 9/25 was a classic counting day: an area of high pressure sat in eastern Canada and a cold front from the NW had passed the previous day. The final count of **Bald Eagles** was 177, third highest total. Counters struggled with the happy dilemma of sorting "local" from migrant eagles. A juvenile light-morph **Swainson's Hawk** passed over the site on 9/25, the second year in a row for this rarity at Rose Tree.

Perhaps helped by the mini nor'easter, among the shorebirds along the DR at PHL were 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and a **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/11 (AG). Sixteen **Laughing Gulls** DR 11/3 (AG) were present on the fourth latest date for this observer for this species. His latest date is 12/1/2008. **Caspian Terns** were in good numbers along the DR. Thirty-four were tallied 9/11 and 30 on 9/23 (AG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been hard to come by in recent years so a sighting 8/17 RCSP (AG) was reassuring. The **Common Nighthawk** count at HC recorded 2826 individuals from 8/21 to 9/14. The high count was 718 on 8/23 (SJ). The latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** report was from SC 9/19 (DE). When are these birds on the move? Twenty were reported flying by at RTPHW 9/14 (AG). An uncommon non-raptor at RTPHW was an unaged **Red-headed Woodpecker** 9/16 (HM).

A rare but regular **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported twice RCSP 8/30 and 9/12 (AG). A **Least Flycatcher** was a good find RCSP 9/14 (GB). An **Eastern Kingbird** in Glen Mills 10/12 (JP) is a late date. A late fall **Blue-headed Vireo** was at TY 11/21 (TR) and the rare regular fall migrant **Philadelphia Vireo** was found RCSP 9/14 (AG). Another late bird was a **Purple Martin** RTPHW 9/14 (AG). **Marsh Wrens** are regular at TI and were duly reported but an individual at DT 11/8 (AG) was both an uncommon location and a late date for this observer.

For those fortunate enough to be out on the right days the warbler migration was fairly exciting this season with an above average 24 species reported. Big days were six species RCSP 8/17 (AG), eleven species RCSP 9/3 (AG) and nine species RCSP 9/14 (GB). Highlights of the migration included **Tennessee Warbler** TY 9/2 (TR) and 10/14 WM (AG), **Bay-breasted Warbler** and **Wilson's Warbler** RCSP 9/14 (GB). An interesting possibility was a report of a very late **Northern Waterthrush** TI 11/21 (NK). This sighting could not be confirmed.

Sparrows of interest were **Vesper Sparrow** in a cornfield RCSP 10/20, 11/15 (AG) and an early **Fox Sparrow** DT 10/22 (AG).

A whopping 200 **Bobolinks**, all in basic plumage, were reported at PHL 8/29 (AG). The other reports of this species were 2 at TI and 20 at PHL 8/31 (BB). An **Eastern Meadowlark** or perhaps two were an unexpected surprise for the participants in the Big Sit RTPHW 10/11 (HM et al). The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was of two WM 10/15 (AG).

Purple Finches were sparse. Reports received of individuals at RCSP 10/20 (AG), DT 10/22 and 10/25 (AG), and Swarthmore 10/24 and 10/25 (DE), portended a dismal winter season for those hoping for

winter visitors from the north.

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Elk County

No compiler.

Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fishing Creek Valley (FCV), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Dauphin Borough (SRDB), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Liverpool (SRLP), SR from Millersburg (SRMB), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

An adult **Trumpeter Swan**, with about 2000 Canada Geese, was observed 11/25 on Lingle Ave. east of HER (TJ, JG, CS) and again on 11/26 (RC). On 11/26 there were also 12 **Tundra Swans**, 21 **Snow Geese**, and one **Cackling Goose** in this area (TJ, et al.). An early flight of **Snow Geese** was noted from two locations 9/26. One report of about a dozen came from the top of BMT near Linglestown (M&RB) and the second sighting was of a flock of about 50 flying over Zoo America in HER (TB).

Green-winged Teal returned to WL by 9/25 (GK), and on 11/2, 6 **Northern Shoveler**, 5 **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, and 2 **American Coot** were among the species reported (CR). There were few waterfowl reports from the SR this fall. The high count for **Common Mergansers** was 19 observed 9/19 SRLP (BS). **Bufflehead** was first noted 11/2 when 6 were found at SRMB, and 12 were at SRDU (CT).

The last **Double-crested Cormorant** observation was 10/30 at HIBA (PW, RW), and the last report of **Great Egret** came from FCV 11/6 (BB). Both **Turkey** and **Black Vultures** returned to their "winter" roost in the Lural Woods area south of HER (GB). **Black Vultures** are reported regularly in the HER and SHT areas (RW).

On 9/4 two immature **Bald Eagles** were observed along Rt. 743 near where it crosses the Swatara Creek and on 9/10 one adult and one immature was found here (GK). Two adult **Bald Eagles** were noted along the Swatara Creek 11/2 between Derry Twp and SHT (PW&RW). There have been many observations of single **Bald Eagles** in this area this fall including a first year bird at the Boathouse Rd. Derry Twp. park 10/5 (PW, RW). This continues to raise the question of a possible next in or near the HIBA. Two **Golden Eagles** were observed flying along the Kittatinny Ridge near the *Dauphin/Lebanon* line 11/6 (BW). The first **Merlin** of the season was reported from SGL 246 on 10/12 (CB). A **Merlin** returned to its "usual perch" atop BMT 10/24 and again in early Nov. (M&RB), and another was observed 11/25-26 along Lingle Ave. east of HER (TJ, JG, CS). On 9/9 a **Peregrine Falcon** was noted along Rt. 743 (GK) and another was reported flying over the Rt. 81 bridge in HBG 9/13 (AM). Another **Peregrine Falcon** sighting occurred 10/10 at Fort Hunter (TJ, TL).

An injured **Common Moorhen**, probably from a window strike, was picked up in Bressler (near Steelton) 9/26 by Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue. It recovered and was released 9/27 (BC). Beth and John Carricato have operated Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue for the past 30 years and serve a multi-county area in south central Pennsylvania. An **American Woodcock** was observed on the mudflats off SRWF 9/27 (J&BH).

One **Caspian** and two **Forster's Tern** along with all three expected gull species (**Ring-billed**, **Herring**, and **Great Black-backed**), were observed at SMV 9/13 (AMk). There was also a report of two **Great Black-backed Gulls** in HBG sitting on lampposts on the Harvey Taylor Bridge 9/4 (BHi).

Three **Common Nighthawks** were observed flying over the Greenbriar development in SHT on both 9/4 and 9/6 (PW&RW), and 35 were counted in SCV the first week of Sept. (BHf). The last **Common Nighthawk** report was of one in SHT 9/21 (JG). The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding station in Small Valley banded 140 Saw-whets during the Oct-Nov season (SL). This is part of a tri-county banding program, also

including *Cumberland* and *Schuylkill*, sponsored by the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Millersburg, *Dauphin*.

The last reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** this season was 10/5 SHT (JG). The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports came in 9/27 from both BMT (M&RB) and from EHT (S&RZ). The first **Olive-sided Flycatcher** of the season was observed near the top of BMT 8/15 (M&RB), and the last **Eastern Kingbird** of the season was reported from the HIBA 10/2 (RW).

The report of a **Common Raven** south of Hershey 11/2 (GB) was noteworthy and another was observed 11/4 in SCV (BH). On 11/22 a "couple dozen" **Horned Larks** were found in the farm fields along Rt. 322 in HER (N&CJ). On 9/19 a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported along Early's Mill Rd. in EHT (GK) and two were found in the HIBA 10/2 (RW). A **Marsh Wren** was observed in the HIBA 10/30 (RW&PW). The only **American Pipits** noted this season were two found in SHT 11/29 (TJ, EJ, JG).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** 9/10, a **Brewster's Warbler** on 9/16 and a **Connecticut Warbler** 10/1 were the highlights from a property atop BMT (M&RB). **Nashville** and **Magnolia Warbler** were among the species reported at WL 9/19 (JP), and a nice "warbler day" was enjoyed at WL on 9/25 when **Orange-crowned, Yellow, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green** and **Blue-throated Blue Warblers** were all observed (GK). A **Palm Warbler** was found in Robert's Valley 10/25 (BHU) and one in the HIBA 10/30 (RW).

Eastern Towhee was still being reported in early Nov. from along Nyes Rd. in Lower Paxton Twp. (CI) and from the HIBA (RW). **Indigo Bunting, Lincoln Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow**, and the first **White-crowned Sparrow** of the season were observed in HIBA 10/2. **Lincoln's** and **Swamp Sparrows** were seen again on 10/14 (RW). The first report of **Fox Sparrow** was noted 10/30 HIBA (RW) and 20+ were found in SCV 11/8 by (AMa, SS).

There were 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** at WL 10/22 (KR) and 14+ were found at the south end of the Towpath Trail 10/23 (JR). More than 30 were tallied along the same trail 10/26 (LU). A many as 50 Rusty Blackbirds were reported at WL during the week of 10/30 to 11/2 (WS). One Rusty Blackbird was still present in SHT 11/29 (TJ, et al.) On 10/10 three **Purple Finches** were observed in SCV (BHU) and other reports of Purple Finches came from SHT 10/15 (PW & RW) and from BMT 11/5 (M&RB). The only **Pine Siskin** report came from HGB 10/15 (GW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Tim Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, Brian Byrnes, Mary & Randy Brenner, Beth Carricato, Richard Cleary, Jan Getgood, Bill Hintze (BHi), Jenni & Barry Horton, Barb Huffman (BHU), Chris Inch, Ernie Johnson, Tom Johnson, Nancy & Carl Juris, Gary Kinkley, Tim Lenz, Sandy Lockerman, Andrew Markel (AMk), Annette Mathes (AMa), Joshua Potter, Chris Rebert, Joan Renninger, Kristi Rowland, Carolyn Sedgwick, Becky Shaw, Sue Strausser, Clifford Tooker, Larry Usselman, Brian Weaver, Patricia Williams, Grace Wozniak, Sally & Rich Zaino, Wildwood Trail and Bird Sightings (WS).

Erie County

If there was ever a season when a birder could stay home without missing much, this was the season. Passerine movement basically went unnoticed by birders with no fallout days reported. Apparently the El Nino effect produced a rather mild fall with few freeze-producing cold fronts, therefore waterfowl numbers were quite low. However, a locally unprecedented movement of teal occurred 9/28 when hundreds passed by Sunset Point on the waterbird count (WC) in just a couple of hours. Another large movement of ducks was reported by duck hunters for a few days in early November when thousands of scaup were seen in Presque Isle Bay and on Lake Erie. Despite the relatively mild fall, loon movement off Sunset Point during the WC was generally good compared to last year. By the end of this reporting period 1436 **Common Loons** were tallied compared to only 97 last year at this time and 123 Red-throated Loons this reporting period compared to 31 last year at this time.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

The flock of 36 **Snow Geese** flying past Sunset Point was a large flock for the late date of 11/9 (LMu). All birds but one were of the white morph. Two **Brant** were at the east slip at the foot of State Street in Erie 10/8-10 (*vide* LM), and perhaps two different Brant were at Sunset Point

on 10/31 (JB). Up to two **Mute Swans** were present around Gull Point 8/19-31 (AT, JM). A single **Tundra Swan** summered at Presque Isle and was last reported in late August (m.ob.). Mixed flocks of **Blue-winged** and **Green-winged teal** staged a major flight past Sunset Point during the WC on 9/28 when 872 were tallied in less than a couple of hours (JM). This was the highest number of teal ever recorded in *Erie*. **Scoters** are generally not reportable birds from Lake Erie, but an early one flying past Sunset Point on 9/30 was notable (BC). Very rare away from Lake Erie was a single **Black Scoter** found on Edinboro Lake 11/7 and remained for several days (MV).

Two **Red-throated Loons** made the list of reportable birds when they were spotted on Edinboro Lake on 11/22; a species which is very rarely observed away from Lake Erie (CG). Becoming rarer in the county in recent years are **Black-crowned Night-Herons**; 2 were at the wastewater treatment plant in Erie 8/25 (JD) and another was captured in a waterfowl trap at Gull Point 9/14 (ST). The only **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season reported was one observed south of Union City 11/25 (RS). **Peregrine Falcons** have become more frequently observed in recent years, so it was no surprise that at least eight different birds were reported 8/28-11/29 (m.ob.). Interestingly, an adult pair was reported perched on high buildings of downtown Erie periodically throughout the period by at least three different observers.

A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen along the outer beach near the lighthouse on 11/8 (JB). MW took a walk out to Gull Point 8/28 and found single **White-rumped, Baird's**, and **Western sandpipers**. A **Whimbrel** touched down at Gull Point on 8/23 (TJ) and another made landfall at Gull Point on 8/28 (MW). The WC turned up two immature **Parasitic Jaegers** 9/29 off Sunset Point (JM) and RE found an immature off beach 9 on 10/31. Very rare in the fall was a first cycle **Laughing Gull** that flew past Sunset Point on the WC 10/13 (JM). An adult **Little Gull** was among some **Bonaparte's Gulls** that flew past Sunset Point on the WC 9/29 (JM). The 129 **Common Terns** counted flying past Sunset Point on the WC on 9/29 was a good number (JM).

A rather late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was still visiting a feeder on 10/3 in Harborcreek (JL). A **Rufous/Allen's hummingbird** appeared at a feeder in Harborcreek on 11/15 and remained to at least the end of the period (SB). **Common Ravens** have become regular in southern *Erie* where one made a periodic visit over a farm the first half of Oct (DP). Rarely reported as a fall migrant were two **Prairie Warblers** that were captured in mist nets and banded on 8/29 at Fry's landing (AR). A rather early **Black-and-white Warbler** was found on Presque Isle on 8/1 (MF).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, John Babcock, Sharon Brandt, Ben Coulter, John DePaul, Rich Eakin, Michele Franz, Chuck Gehringer, Julie Leonard, Larry Massey, Lucas Musher (LMu), Donna Peters, Andrea Reinhardt, Russ States, Andy Troyer, Steve Tucker, Mark Vass, Mike Weible.

Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Mill Run Reservoir (MRR), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP).

The first arrival of **Tundra Swans** was noted 10/30 when 4 settled on GRL (RG, SG). A flock of 40 were there 11/5 (WS). Rain grounded an astounding 723 at GRL 11/30 (MF). An immature **Mute Swan** was noted at GRL 10/15 (MF) and it was joined by another 11/5 (WS). Neither was present 11/25 so they must have moved on (MF).

During a period of statewide sightings of **Brant**, one was found at GRL 10/24 (RG, SG) where it remained until 10/26 (MF). This was the second sighting at this location since I've been compiler.

Perhaps due to a mild and calm fall, duck numbers were extremely low and we didn't see any fallouts during the few rainy days during the period. A **Hooded Merganser** was at MRR 9/19 (MF) and 7 **Common Mergansers** were seen on the Youghiogheny River 8/23 (TV). Four **Hooded Mergansers** were at GRL 11/30 (MF).

The first **Common Loon** of the fall was at GRL 10/26 (MF) where it remained 10/30 (RG, SG). Two were at GRL 11/30 (MF). Up to 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** stayed at GRL the month of Oct (MF); 2 were there 11/13 (RG, SG). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen along the Youghiogheny River 8/23 (TV) and 14 were at GRL 10/15 (MF). Two **Green Herons** were at MRR 8/14 (MF).

An **Osprey** was seen along the Youghiogheny River 8/22 (TV).

Six **American Coots** at GRL 10/15 (MF) comprised the only report.

Post breeding gatherings of **Killdeer** were evident at Mill Run Reservoir where 40-50 were noted 8/14 (MF). Other shorebirds at the reservoir included 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** 8/14 and one 9/19, a **Spotted Sandpiper** 8/21, and 2 **Least Sandpipers** 8/14 (MF). A tardy **Spotted Sandpiper** remained at GRL 10/23 (MF).

Two **Forster's Terns** were at GRL 8/29 (MF) following a brief rain shower.

A visit to Mill Run Reservoir 8/14 yielded 7 **Wood Ducks**, a calling **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Red-eyed Vireos**, a **Cliff Swallow**, **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** and a **Hooded Warbler** (MF). Another trip to that location 9/19 produced singing **White-eyed** and **Yellow-throated Vireos**, **Gray Catbirds**, 20 **Cedar Waxwings**, 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, an **American Redstart**, 3 **Hooded Warblers**, **Eastern Towhees**, a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, a singing **Indigo Bunting** and several flyover **Bobolinks** (MF).

An extremely late male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was observed and photographed in Champion 11/15 (YC).

Two **Bobolinks** were noted flying over GRL 8/28 (MF). The season's first **White-throated Sparrow** was at Mill Run Reservoir 9/19 (MF).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Yale Cohen, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Walt Shaffer, Tim Vechter.

Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), Marienville (MA), Tionesta (TI)

A Merlin and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher share star billing for this report; our small crew of observers also reported a nice variety of warblers and a few waterfowl.

A flock of **Tundra Swans** was observed 11/28 flying over TI (FM, JM). A pair of **Wood Ducks** was seen 10/6 in the Clarion River near Cook Forest (MB, TB). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were seen 10/17 in the snow-drizzle-rain at BS (TB).

Last report for **Turkey Vulture** was 10/24, when one was seen at Whig Hill (FM, JM). There were **Bald Eagle** sightings from various locations. A **Merlin** was seen 9/21 flying over a banding station near MA (LO, DW). A report of 4 **American Coots** 10/17 at BS was the last report (TB). The last report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 9/22 at TI (FM, JM).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was spotted 8/26 near MA (LO, DW, FM, JM). Late date for **Eastern Phoebe** was 10/7 at BS (TB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported from 9/19 through 10/17, when 10 were seen at BS (TB). Rain and strong winds at BS on 10/7 did not deter the 13 **Eastern Bluebirds**, which were reported to be singing (TB).

Tennessee Warblers were seen between 8/26 and 9/21, when the last migrant was spotted near MA (LO, DW). The last reports for **Nashville Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Cape May**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler** and **Common Yellowthroat** were 9/22 from SS's banding station near Marienville (SS, LO, DW, FM, JM). A **Pine Warbler** and a **Black-and-white Warbler** were seen 9/13 near TI. The final **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (3) were seen 10/24 at Kellettsville (FM, JM).

The only report of **American Tree Sparrow** was 10/17 at BS (TB). A **Fox Sparrow** was first seen 11/4 near TI. **White-throated Sparrows** were reported between 10/16 and 11/12 near TI. **Purple Finches** were predictably unpredictable; 2 were seen at feeders near TI on 10/19 and again on 11/12 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672 fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Jim McGuire, Linda Ordway, Scott Stoleson, Don Watts.

Franklin County

Locations: Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner Road Pond (KR), Menno Haven Nature Trail (MH), Stillhouse Hollow Road (SH), Shady Grove (SG)

The dry season caused the wetland areas to be unattractive for any large numbers of shorebirds or waterfowl throughout the season in *Franklin*. A **Cackling Goose** was sighted at KR for one day in Oct. A few **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** made their appearance at some farm ponds, and some large groups were observed flying over the county. Ducks were hard to find as only **Northern Shovelers**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Reheads**, **Buffleheads**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Ducks** were reported and the numbers were low.

There has been an increase in the sightings of **Bald Eagles** in the county. Numerous reports were received from at least ten individuals regarding Bald Eagles along creeks and in various farm fields. It is great to hear about them in our county, which lacks any good sources of food for the species.

Shorebirds (15 species) were sighted at KR and GR. The most interesting ones were **American Golden-Plover**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, and **Stilt Sandpiper**. Fortunately these areas were rather easy to reach sites and many birders got to see them. Kriner Road Pond (a holding industrial pond) had 26 species of waterfowl and shorebirds.

The **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to be seen daily in SG. An interesting sighting of these doves occurred on the road at GR, which is about one mile from SG. On 11/3, I counted at least 25 of them, and as I got my camera to photograph them, they were flushed by an oncoming car and never relocated them (DG). Only 9 have been counted in SG at one time since their arrival in 1998.

BO and BK got some good warblers in the SH and MH areas, identifying at least 25 species in these two locations. The numbers were not large but the variety was very good, thanks to their many hours in the woods.

The arrivals of the **Fox Sparrow**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** are always welcome sight to be on winter. This year several **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported at SH and MH, which was a real treat for some lucky birders.

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Fulton County

No report.

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Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road/Center Township (CLR), East View (EV), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph K. Bell Farm (RBF), Rogersville (RGV), Sycamore (SY), Waynesburg Sportsman Club (WSC).

Once again the noise of the **Canada Geese**, which to some observers is the "call of the wild", was abundant as small flocks, presumably family groups, flew over KF each day as they moved between roosting ponds and feeding grounds (KK). A very rare sighting anymore, a **Ruffed Grouse** was spotted at WSC 10/4. This species has not been reported regularly for at least the last several years. Also extremely rare was a **Northern Bobwhite** noted in EV 8/11. Both birds found by the same fortunate observer (JH). The feeders at CLR hosted a nice flock of 12 **Wild Turkeys** from late September through October which grew to 28 in November (LA).

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was found 10/4 at WSC, but that was the only sighting (JH). With the weather vacillating between warm and cold, local ponds have been sometimes open and sometimes frozen, but the flowing streams and creeks have remained open, and the **Great Blue Herons** are occasionally seen throughout the period. With leaves off the trees, SS was able to locate the other half of one heronry that had split off from the original site in Greene Township. She had searched in the spring and summer but could not find the new site until October. While the original heronry was not large (11 nests), we have not been able to determine the reason for the split as both sites nested successfully this year. Must have been an internal dispute!

Although not the only spot for great numbers of the species, RGV area has always supported large groups of **Turkey Vultures** (KK), with the last sighting this fall 11/16 (MG). A flock of 25 **Turkey Vultures** was seen circling above the pasture 10/22, and 15 in a tree in the early morning 10/23 at LCR (MLP). Still being reported every season are **Bald Eagles**. MT saw one bird 8/21 between Pitt Gas and Clarksville about a mile and one-half or so (as the Bald Eagle flies) from the Monongahela River. Though not often reported, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** started visiting the feeder 10/28 at SY. He was dubbed "Henry" and has been a successful hunter. A **Downy Woodpecker** succumbed to Henry 11/25 (JC). Our first reported **Northern Harrier** was spotted in the huge open fields along Rte. 21 in Cumberland Township 11/4 (JH). This stretch of farmland is known to support harriers and **Rough-legged Hawks** most every winter. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at LCR 9/13 being harassed by **American Crows** (MLP). She states, "I heard loud crow calls, looked up and observed 3 crows harassing a Broad-winged Hawk. They circled and cackled until the hawk flew so high up that I couldn't tell who was who and I finally lost sight of them." On 10/11 she reported, "I watched a **Red-tailed Hawk** and a Broad-winged Hawk have a close encounter, nearly flying into each other, and heard their different screeches as they circled apart and off into the distance." A young **Red-tailed Hawk** begging for food at RBF was heard from 7/15 until 9/12 (RKB).

A species probably under reported for many reasons including great camouflage and its preferred and underexplored habitat of tangles and underbrush, is the **American Woodcock**, one of which showed up at EV 9/22 (MH). Also hard to come by in *Greene* anymore are **Common Nighthawks**; however, 21 were seen 9/6 near Jefferson (KB). She reported migrating nighthawks on the same date 2008. A one-night wonder in EV was a **Whip-poor-will** heard in the area behind the Throckmorton Church at the end of Sep (JB). From 9/28 through 10/18 a group of 50 **Mourning Doves** descended on the feeders at CLR (LA). The last sighting of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 10/4 at RGV (MG).

At EV a **Yellow Bellied Sapsucker** was cooperative and allowed a sighting 11/2 (JH), and at SY a pair visited 10/29-11/17 (JC). Sapsuckers tend to leave evidence of their visits, as noted in an old apple tree at KF (KK). When the feeders were put out this fall, several nice straight rows of healed dots were found, indicating a sapsucker had been at work previously.

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was last noted 9/4 by two observers separated by several miles. They were RBK at RBF in the northeastern part of the county and MLP at LCR in the southeast. The last **Eastern Phoebe** reported was 10/31 at CLR (LA). **Eastern Kingbirds** are apparently the first to leave as they were seen until 9/3 at RBF (RBK). The Vireo family has varied dates for leaving. A **White Eyed Vireo** was last noted at EV 8/23, **Yellow Throated Vireos** 9/13, and **Red Eyed Vireos** 8/30 (MH). Continuing to be present year-round are **Common Ravens** with birds being heard throughout the period at RBF (RKB). Also one raven was at KF being harassed by three **American Crows**. When the two species are together the size difference between the two is amazing, with the raven so much larger and heavier-bodied than noticeable when observing one of the species alone (KK).

The huge **Purple Martin** flock that gathered at Rohanna's Pond and spent nights at SCI *Greene* support the fact that a large number of this species nest locally. The last reported date of the flock was 9/3 (*fide* MH). Also not lacking in numbers are **Barn Swallows**, with 100+ on the electric wires 8/12 at RBF (RKB). He notes 9/8 that the last 4 young left their nest in the barn, but came back to roost in it the next 4 nights and were not seen after 9/12.

Another probably under reported fall/winter species is the **Brown Creeper**, one of which showed up at EV 11/2 (JH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived in the yard 10/22 at RBF (RKB). The latest **Gray Catbird** date reported was 10/4 at EV (MH). **Cedar Waxwings** seem to have their own agenda, with very few reported this season. A flock of 20+ gathered in the yard at RBF 10/29 (RKB).

Our only wintering warbler, the **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, showed up 10/22 at EV (MH). Other notable warbler dates at EV (MH) were: **Nashville Warbler** arriving 9/13, **Magnolia Warbler** arriving 10/4, and **Common Yellowthroat** leaving 9/13.

The latest report of **Chipping Sparrows** was 11/8 with one at the feeder at RBF (RKB). Multiple observers have commented about having a **Fox Sparrow** at their feeders. The earliest reported was at RBF 11/18, 11/19, and 11/25 (RKB). Also one was found 12/8 at the SY feeder of JC, and another showed up sporadically in Franklin Township at the feeder of RB. An interesting find was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at EV

10/12 (MH). The winter sparrows arrived mid-Oct this year, with **White-throated Sparrows** noted 10/11 and **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/12 at RBF (RKB). These are within one day of their arrivals last year. **Dark-eyed Juncos** showed up a week earlier this year, on 10/8 at KF (KK).

The last report of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 10/2 at RBF, a full two months later than last year's 8/2 (RKB). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were noted at the feeder 10/30 at LCR but not after that (MLP). The last **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted 10/22 at RBF (RKB). Found at the feeder at EV was a **Rusty Blackbird** 11/3 (JH). Also noted at that feeder were **Purple Finches** 10/4 and 11/19 (MH). When the thistle feeder was set out 9/14 at LCR, the first to arrive was a **House Finch**. MLP states there are more of this species at LCR this year than last year. **American Goldfinches** flocked "by the dozens" to the thistle feeders at LCR 9/15 (MLP). One **Pine Siskin** arrived at RBF 10/26 (RKB), in contrast to the large flocks that were present last year.

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Old Crow wetland (OC), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC).

Annual in fall here, a **Great Egret** was in the Juniata River at HU 9/22 (DK). Four **Green Herons** at OC 8/15 included two young birds (DK).

Results from the Stone Mt. Hawk Watch were mostly dismal. An exception was the record high count of 69 **Bald Eagles**, more than double the 15-year average. Another highlight was a one-day record count of 1396 **Broad-winged Hawks** on 9/16; the season total of 2873 was second best. However, the 522 **Red-tailed Hawks** represented the lowest total ever, less than 50% of the 15-year average. **Northern Harrier** and **Red-shouldered Hawk** totals were also well below average. The high **Golden Eagle** count for the season was 22 on 11/3; the season total was 105. The **American Kestrel** count was 83, a significant improvement over the record low 45 in 2008, but still far below the long-term average of 113 (NB, DB, GG, DK, TK, CW, staff of SCEC).

Providing a first record for the county, an **American Avocet** was at a construction site retention pond 9/9-12 along Rte. 26 in Smithfield Twp. (DK, TK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at SCEC 11/10 (DW). Weekly fall bird walks at SCEC produced 2 **Wilson's Warblers** 9/2 and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 9/30 (DW). A late **Savannah Sparrow** was at OC 11/9 (DK).

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Lewisville (LV), Marion Center (MC), Sheloceta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Most waterfowl numbers at YC were down this year from previous years. Reports, unless otherwise noted, are from YC. Top counts of **Canada Geese** included 196 at YC 10/10 (LC, MH) and an estimated 200 at the VFW 10/18 (MH, RH). A single **Tundra Swan** at the Ernest treatment ponds 9/19 (MH, RH) was unusually early; flocks began moving through our area 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT) when 216 were counted at YC; other top reports included 50 over Brush Valley 11/21 (TF) and 100 over Penn Run 11/28 (TF). High **Wood Duck** tally of 68 occurred 10/9 (LC); last sighted were 4 on 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT). First 2 **Gadwalls** arrived 10/27 (MJA, MH, JL) while top count of a mere 4 was reached 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT); 4 also visited Two Lick Reservoir 11/24 (LC). Four **American Wigeons** were first arrivals 10/20 (LC, MH, MVT) and the high count of 10 was achieved 11/28 (LC). A single **American Black Duck** found at BS 8/31 (MH) was still present 9/25 (MH); highest counts were 9 at YC 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT) and 18 at Two Lick Reservoir 11/24 (LC). **Mallard** maxima were 31 at YC 9/22 (LC, MH, MVT) and 34 at BS

9/25 (MH). **Blue-winged Teal** moved through our region between 9/7 (SC) and 10/27 (MJA, MH, JL) with counts ranging from 2-18. One to 2 **Northern Shovelers** were noted between 9/1 (MH, MVT) and 10/13 (LC, MH, MVT). A single **Northern Pintail** stopped on the lake 11/19 (LC), the lone report. Nine **Green-winged Teal** arrived 9/22 (LC, MH, MVT); BS hosted 2 on 9/25 (MH); top count was 14 at YC 9/26 (MH, RH). **Canvasback** reports included 4 on 11/16 (LC), 6 on 11/28 (LC), and one 11/29 (LC, SC). Two **Redheads** were first arrivals 11/7 (3RBC, TBC); high count was 10 on 11/28 (LC). Seven **Ring-necked Ducks** were first listed 10/9 (LC); Margus Lake yielded 30 on 10/18 (MH, RH) while YC's best count was a mere 9 on 11/7 (3RBC, TBC). First **Lesser Scaup** were 2 on 10/20 (LC, MH, MVT); this was one of only three species to reach triple digits with a count of 274 on 11/28 (LC). A female **Black Scoter** accompanied by one male **Long-tailed Duck** 11/17 (LC, MH, MJS) was a nice find; the only other Long-tailed Duck was noted a week earlier 11/10 (MJA, MH, JL). **Buffleheads** began arriving 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT) when the first 18 appeared and peaked on 11/28 (LC) with a tally of 162. One to 2 **Common Goldeneyes** were listed between 11/7 (3RBC, TBC) and 11/22 (LC). First **Hooded Mergansers** included 6 on a pond near YC and one at Margus Lake 11/7 (NM, TM); LC tallied the high of 17 on 11/27. Best **Red-breasted Merganser** counts were 19 on 11/17 (LC, MH, MJS) and 34 on 11/27 (MVT). Twenty-one **Ruddy Ducks** arrived 10/18 (MH, RH) at Margus Lake; YC's first were 80 on 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT), and the top count of 115 occurred 11/24 (LC, MH, MVT).

Ruffed Grouse continue on the low side but with a few more reports this season—a family group of 8 at YC 9/5 (LC), 2 drumming along the Ghost Town Trail 10/18 (MH, RH), one near YC 11/22 (TF Jr.), and one at YC 11/28 (LC). Unusual were the reports of late young **Wild Turkeys**; 14 about 2-3 weeks old accompanied a hen near Brush Valley 9/15 (AJ); ten days later at another location near Brush Valley, AJ sighted another brood including 10 young which were also roughly 2-3 weeks old; the best turkey count was 26 n. of MC 9/22 (SB). A single **Red-throated Loon** which visited YC 11/24 (LC, MH, MVT) was still present 11/27 (MVT). First **Common Loon** was one at YC 9/22 (LC, MH, MVT); a fallout of 87 occurred at YC 11/27 (LC). **Pied-billed Grebes** peaked at 65 on 10/6 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC. YC yielded the first 2 **Horned Grebes** 10/20 (LC, MH, MVT); best count was 3 on 10/28 (LC). The season's first **Double-crested Cormorant** was spotted at YC 8/25 (TF, MH, JS); 8 were present for the MC fourth graders' field trip 10/8 (MH, JS); a singleton was last listed at YC 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT). Last **Green Herons** were 2 at YC 9/22 (LC, MH, MVT).

Top **Turkey Vulture** count was 16 near LV 9/16 (MC); last reported was one 11/7 (3RBC, TBC) at YC. First **Osprey** arrived at YC 8/30 (MS); one 11/23 (JW) was rather late. An amazing 11 **Bald Eagle** reports were received of which six were at YC (m.ob.), three near LV (MC), and 2 at Indiana (TF); last noted was an adult near Indiana 11/30 (TF). The only **Northern Harriers** reported were one n. of MC 9/21-25 (SB), at YC 10/27 (MJA, MH, JL) through 11/17 (LC, MH, MJS), and one migrating over SH 11/4 (MH). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at 6 locations (m.ob.) and **Cooper's Hawks** at 5 (m.ob.). Last **Broad-winged Hawks** were 14 over LV 9/21 (MC). A **Merlin** was a nice find at YC 10/13 (LC, MH, MVT).

A **Sora**, first spotted in Little Yellow Cove at YC 8/25 (MH, JS), continued through 9/8 (MH, MVT). The first 146 **American Coots** arrived at YC 10/6 (LC, MH, MVT); by 11/7 (3RBC, TBC) 443 were present; this peak number, however, was less than half the usual high.

High water levels did not contribute to the shorebird migration at YC. Unless otherwise noted, all shorebird reports are at YC. **Semipalmated Plovers** noted included 2 on 8/2 (LC), one 9/8 (MH, MVT), and 3 on 9/26 (MH, RH). The high **Killdeer** tally was 71 on 9/5 (LC); a single Killdeer was still present near Homer City 11/27 (LC).

Two **American Avocets** (ph. MH) appeared at YC 10/8 (MH, JS) and were also seen by the MC fourth graders and BJ. Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at YC 9/8 (MH, MVT) and 9/22 (LC, MH, MVT). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted on five dates between 8/18 (MH, DM) and 9/7 (SC). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at BS 9/19 (MH, RH, JT). A **Sanderling** stopped at YC 9/26 (MH, RH), the lone report. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** visited YC 8/25 (MH, JS), 8/26 (LC), and 9/7 (SC). Two to 6 **Least Sandpipers** were observed in Little Yellow Cove on 10 dates between 8/23 (LC) and 9/26 (MH, RH).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** 11/28 (LC) at YC comprised the entire report for this species. A **Ring-billed Gull** arrived at YC 10/13 (LC, MH, MVT) where best count of 7 occurred 11/17 (LC, MH, MJS). One **Common Tern** appeared at YC 10/24 (MH, RH).

Last **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were singletons at BS 9/17 (MH) and

near Thomas Bridge 9/19 (MH, RH). **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted at 4 locations (m.ob.); **Great Horned Owls**, at 3 (m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** n. of Indiana 8/29 (SB) and a **Short-eared Owl** near West Lebanon 11/27 (MVT) were the only ones reported (SB). Six **Common Nighthawks** flew over a yard near LV 8/25 (MC). Last **Chimney Swifts** were 21 at YC 9/29 (MH). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered near LV 10/3 (MC). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived 9/25 (MH) at BS where 4 were sighted 10/3 (MH, RH).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** lingered at BS 10/3 (MH, RH). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found 9/8 (MH, MVT) at YC, 9/9 (MH) near SH, and 9/11 (MH) at BS. Last dates include: 9/4 (MH) for **Acadian Flycatcher** at Saylor Park; 9/9 (MH) for **Willow Flycatcher** near SH (MH); 11/7 (3RBC, TBC) for **Eastern Phoebe** at YC; 9/8 (MH) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** near SH; and 8/11 (MH, MVT) for **Eastern Kingbird** at YC. A very late **White-eyed Vireo** stopped near SH 11/4 (MH); dates of departure included 10/10 (LC, MH) for **White-eyed** at YC; 10/20 for **Blue-headed** at YC (LC, MH, MVT); and 9/19 (MH, RH, JT) for **Yellow-throated** at BS. **Philadelphia Vireos** included single birds on 9/17 (MH) and 9/18 (EF, MF), both at BS. A **Red-eyed Vireo** foraging in a viburnum at eye level along the Ghost Town Trail 10/18 (MH, RH) seemed rather late. **Common Ravens** were found at six locations this period (m.ob.). Two **Horned Larks** 11/4 (MC) near LV were the only ones listed.

Last dates included 10/20 (LC, MH) for **Tree Swallows** and 9/29 (MH) for 3 **Cliff Swallows** and one **Barn Swallow**, all at YC.

One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present near SH throughout the period (MH, RH); singleton were found at BS 9/17 (MH) and at LV 10/2 (MC). Top count of **Brown Creepers** was 3 at YC 9/8 (MH, MVT). Last **House Wrens** were 2 near LV 9/30 (MC). The only **Winter Wrens** were 2 found at BS 10/6 (MH, RH) and one near Dilltown 10/18 (MH, RH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found between 9/19 (MH, RH, JT) and 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT) with 12 reports of 1-5 birds. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** lingered at YC 9/8 (MH, MVT). This was the year for **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at BS with reports of 2 on 9/17 (MH), 9/18 (EF, MF, MH), and 9/19 (MH, RH, JT); one was still present 9/25 (MH). A **Swainson's Thrush** was window-killed near LV 9/9 (MC); best counts were 7 on 9/17 (MH) and 5 on 9/18 (EF, MF, MH), with both reports from BS; last noted was one near SH 10/2 (MH). BS harbored the last **Wood Thrush** 9/18 (EF, MF, MH). A **Gray Catbird** lingered at YC 10/18 (LC, MH, MVT). Last **Brown Thrasher** was found at YC 9/29 (MH).

This fall's warbler migration was much better than last year's, but there were no major fallouts. Last 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted at BS 9/11 (MH). **Tennessee Warblers** moved through *Indiana* between 9/8 (MH, MVT) and 10/10 (LC, MH). Two **Nashville Warblers** at BS 9/11, 17, 25 (MH) and one at YC 10/10 (LC, MH) were the only ones reported. Last dates included 10/2 (MH) for **Northern Parula** near SH, 8/29 (AL, TL, LC, MH, RH, DM) for **Yellow Warbler** at Saylor Park, 9/29 (MH) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at YC, and 10/3 (MH, RH) for **Magnolia Warbler** at BS. **Cape May Warblers** migrated through the county between 9/1 (MH, MVT) and 9/29 (MH) with best counts of 10 on 9/8 (MH, MVT) at YC and 7 on 9/17 (MH) at BS. One to 5 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were noted on nine dates with last 5 at BS 9/25 (MH). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** arrived 9/8 (MH, MVT) at YC where maxima included 20 on 9/29 (MH) and 15 on 10/13 (LC, MH, MVT). BS yielded the last **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/3 (MH, RH) and the last **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/19 (MH, RH, JT). A yard near SH produced last dates for both **Pine Warbler** 10/2 (MH) and **Prairie Warbler** 8/14 (MH). A **Palm Warbler** was sighted 10/13 (LC, MH, MVT), the lone record. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were listed between 9/8 (MH, MVT) and 9/27 (MH) with high count of 4 at BS 9/11, 17 (MH). **Blackpoll Warblers** passed through our county between 8/21-9/26 (MH) with best count of 2 at BS 9/18 (EF, MF, MH). The only **Cerulean Warbler** noted stopped near LV 8/28 (MC). Last were a **Black-and-white Warbler** and an **American Redstart** at BS 9/25 (MH). A **Worm-eating Warbler** at eye level was an unexpected find at BS 9/17 (MH). BS also produced the last **Ovenbird** 9/25 (MH). **Northern Waterthrush** reports included singletons at YC 9/8 (MH, MVT) and at BS 9/18 (EF, MF, MH) and 9/19 (MH, RH, JT). A **Common Yellowthroat** near SH 10/25 (MH, RH) and a **Hooded Warbler** at BS 9/25 (MH) were last. Single **Wilson's Warblers** were listed 9/11 (MH) at BS and 9/20 (MH) near SH. The only **Canada Warbler** stopped 9/24 (MH) near SH where a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was spotted 9/9 (MH).

Scarlet Tanagers were last found near LV 10/2 (MC). An **Eastern Towhee** continued at YC through 11/2 (LC, MH, MVT). Arrival date for **American Tree Sparrow** was 11/24 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC. A

Chipping Sparrow was last observed at YC 11/7 (NM, TM). **Fox Sparrows** moved through *Indiana* 10/27 (MJA, MH, JL) -11/10 (MC) with high tally of 7 on 11/8 (MC) near LV. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** near LV 9/20 (MC) and another at YC 9/22 (LC, MH, MVT) were the only ones reported. **Swamp Sparrow** remained at YC through the end of the period (MH). First **White-throated Sparrow** appeared 9/25 (MH) at BS; 22 were counted at YC 10/20 (LC, MH). Only **White-crowned Sparrow** mentioned was near SH 10/22 (MH). YC produced the first **Dark-eyed Junco** 9/19 (LC).

Last date for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 10/3 (MH, RH) at BS. A female **Indigo Bunting** was gathering nesting material in Little Yellow Cove at YC 9/29 (MH) but not seen thereafter; last reported Indigo was near LV the following day (MC). An **Eastern Meadowlark** flew over YC 10/27 (MJA, MH, JL), the season's last. **Rusty Blackbirds** noted at YC included 2 on 10/20 (LC, MH), 25 on 10/27 (MJA, MH, JL), 7 on 11/3 (LC, MH, MVT), and 5 on 11/10 (MJA, LC, JL). Two hundred was the estimate of a flock of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** n. of MC 10/5 (SB); last was listed 10/21 (MH, RH) at Saylor Park. A **Baltimore Oriole** at BS 9/17 (MH) was last.

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Jefferson County

No report.

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Juniata County

Locations: Cuba Mills Road (CMR), Juniata Saddle Club (JSC), Juniata Forest (JF), Licking Creek (LC), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Mifflintown River Access (MRA).

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was on the Juniata R. at MRA 10/6 (CK). A juvenile **Bald Eagle** was near Arch Rock in Mifflintown 7/2, likely one of the hatched birds from the nest nearby (CK). Several **Osprey** were seen during a float trip on the Juniata R. 9/7 (AT, LT, MT), and one was seen near Richfield 9/29 (CK). An **American Woodcock** surprised some hunters 11/18 in the JF north of McAlisterville (AT, ST).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in a tree near LCSS 10/10 (AT). On 11/1, 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found near Oakland Mills. In the weeks later, up to 7 adults and sub-adults were counted in the same area, and some were seen storing food (CK, HP, AT, DT, et al.). A **Gray Catbird** at LC 11/16 was late (DB). On 9/9, a **Wilson's Warbler** visited a feeder at LCSS (AT).

The **Clay-colored Sparrow** that was seen off-and-on at a farm in Van Wert since May was last seen 8/16 (AR). This was the second year in a row one was seen in this location. An early **White-throated Sparrow** visited the LCSS 7/23 (AT). **White-crowned Sparrows** were sighted at feeders 10/15 (DB) and 10/17 (CK). A single **Snow Bunting** was found on a logging road on Tuscarora Mt. 11/28 (SP).

A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder on CMR for two weeks in late Aug (ES, HS). On 10/21, several siskins were heard flying over Mifflintown (CK).

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Lackawanna County

Locations: Lake Scranton (LS), Dunmore Reservoir (DR).

There were very few sightings to report for the fall period.

On 10/24, 80 **Ruddy Ducks** were on LS along with 50 **Black Scoters** and 6 **White-winged Scoters** (KR).

On 11/14, LS held 4 **American Black Ducks**, 2 **American Wigeons**, 88 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 6 **Common Loons** (KR). Also present that day was a **Common Raven** (KR). Four **Herring Gulls** and 250 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at DR 11/14 (KR).

Observers: **Joe Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd., East Greenville, PA 18041, (610) 457-1812 joe@grecofamily.org**, Kevin Ripka.

Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Octoraro Lake (OL), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP).

The highlight of the fall was a **Brown Pelican** found by BS 8/3 in the Susquehanna River upriver from the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and as far north as the area around Mount Johnson Island. That same evening the bird was still present just below the mouth of Fishing Creek. It was well photographed and seen by a number of birders who were able to visit that day. Unfortunately it was not seen after that.

An early **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at an oxbow pond along Mill Creek opposite Beechdale Woodworks near Bird-in-Hand 10/7 (SS). Another was seen near the Greenfield Estates 10/9-10 and 10/20 (DB, CC). **Cackling Goose** was reported from a quarry outside of Lancaster 10/26 (CC) as well as from a quarry in Quarryville 11/14 (CC) and as many as five were present at Greenfield Estates 10/20 (DB). A **Brant** was found at SRCF 10/31 (JB, CC). An early **Tundra Swan** was at MC 9/9.

There were few reports of scoters this fall, but 2 **White-winged Scoters** and 2 **Black Scoters** at the Muddy Run Pumped Storage Reservoir 11/18 (CC) were notable. Both **Common** and **Red-throated Loon** were seen off of Long Level 10/25 (CC), and 6 **Horned Grebes**, 6 **Common Loons**, and 2 **Red-throated Loons** were near the same location 11/14 (CC). Another 15 **Common Loons** were noted migrating over Lancaster County Central Park 11/4 (CC et al).

Great Cormorant is a very difficult bird to find in the county. They are often brief sightings and an adult Great Cormorant flying downriver past the Peach Bottom boat ramp 11/3 (CC) was no exception. A **Great Egret** at OL 11/18 (CC, et al.) was late and another at Stauffer's Run off of Willow Road near Lancaster was even later (DB). The only **Snowy Egret** of the year was at SRCF 9/9-12. **Little Blue Herons** were present until 9/13 at SRCF this fall with a high count of 3 on 8/30 (JBo).

A **Golden Eagle** was reported from MC 10/31 (BH, JHo). An early **Merlin** was at MC 8/15 (CC, JH) and they were seen frequently at many locations (especially SRCF) throughout the season (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcon** was first reported at SRCF 8/8 and seen on many occasions throughout the season (m.ob.). **Glossy Ibis** was present at SRCF over an extended period 8/20-26 and another on 9/13 (JBo, CC, BS et al).

This fall, the shorebird variety at SRCF seemed a little low given the large amount of coverage. Most of the merely rare species that are usually annual were seen, but no reports were received of Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, or Red-necked Phalarope.

Highlights of the season at SRCF included **American Golden-Plover** 8/26 and 4 on 9/22 (TA, CC), **American Avocet** 9/13 (TA, et al.), **Ruddy Turnstone** 8/18-30 (high count of 11 on 8/22 by AM, MW), 2 juv. **Red Knots** 8/23 (JBo, et al), 2 very late **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 10/22 (DB, BS), **Western Sandpiper** 8/7, 8/12, 8/26, 9/2 and 10/7, **Baird's Sandpiper** on multiple occasions from 8/18 to 10/18, **Stilt Sandpiper** on several occasions with a late date of 10/8, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/9 and 9/22 (TA, BS,CC), **Red Phalarope** 10/2 (CC, BS) and 10/16 (JH). The Red Phalarope on 10/16 was present during a weather front moving through which brought rain and unusually cool weather for this time of year. There were good numbers of **Dunlin** present as well as 4 **Black-bellied Plover**, 5 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and one **Sanderling**. These birds seemed to be somewhat restless and were milling around throughout the afternoon. In addition, this weather brought down large numbers of swallows especially on the Susquehanna River around the Columbia/Wrightsville area. Conservatively there were at least 500 **Tree Swallows** and 50 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** although the actual numbers may have been a good bit higher (JH).

Away from the river up to 7 **American Golden-Plover** were reported at a pond along Mill Creek opposite Beechdale Woodworks 10/5-6 (SS). Another **American Avocet** was seen from 9/14-17 at the Beechdale Woodworks near Bird-in-Hand (DW, et al). **Stilt Sandpiper** is more unusual away from SRCF, but 2 were at OL 9/20 (CC) and another at the Beechdale Woodworks 9/17 (PF, et al). **Upland Sandpiper** is always a rare sight in Lancaster these days, but this year there were several reports from the Lancaster Airport where there are large tracts of grassy areas. Three were reported 8/8 (CC) and were still there the following day (ZM, AO). An **American Woodcock** at the Speedwell County Park 11/29 (BC) was noteworthy for the late date.

There was a quick flyby of a **jaeger sp.** at SRCF 8/22. It was thought to be a Parasitic Jaeger, but given the quick view, a conclusive identification to species was not made (AM, MW). **Black Terns** were present at SRCF 8/22-9/12 with a high count of over 30 on 8/23 (JBo, et al.).

At least two and probably three different **Rufous Hummingbirds** were seen in Lancaster this fall. An immature female was banded 10/22 by SW at a home in East Earl Township. Another was banded at EW's home in Ephrata 12/8. This bird was likely first seen 11/21. This bird is likely different from one at the same location that was present 10/24-11/3. Both birds were photographed and the throat stippling was significantly different suggesting different birds.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was along Pumping Station Road 8/30 (BC, et al.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen along Pumping Station Road 8/30 (BC, et al.), along the powerline off of Pinch Road in Rapho Township 8/31 (RM), and along Fire Tower Road 9/2 (CC). A **Marsh Wren** was seen in a small marshy area in Strasburg Boro 9/27 (TR). This is a regular species on the Susquehanna River, but much scarcer away from the river. The only sighting from SRCF was 10/3 (CC, et al.). An **American Pipit** at SRCF 8/26 (CC) was very early.

Many observers indicated that they felt the warbler migration was fairly poor this year. I did not receive many reports of good days for migrants, but whether this is a result of weather, people not looking when the birds were migrating, or something else is hard to say. Some of the highlights included a rare **Golden-winged Warbler** along Pumping Station Road 8/30 (BC, et al.), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** along the upper road at near the Cornwall Fire Tower 9/24 (CC), and a **Connecticut Warbler** along the lower road near the Cornwall Fire 9/25 (CC).

The only **Nelson's Sparrow** was at SRCF 10/2 (CC, BS). The high water levels on the Susquehanna River this year prevented the grassy habitat from developing at the usual spot near Bainbridge. An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was along Simmontown Road 9/15 (CC) and 2 more were seen in Sadsbury Township 9/21 (CC). They were also seen several times on SRCF, at MC 10/11, and in Sadsbury Township again 10/14. At least 14 **Fox Sparrows** were at OL 11/18 (CC et al).

After last winter's amazing numbers of crossbills and siskins there were no reports of winter finches other than a few **Purple Finches**.

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Three Rivers gravel pond (TR), Wampum-New Gallilee Road marsh (NG), Copper Road marsh (CR), Glacier Sand gravel pond (GS).

After a fairly wet summer, fall provided practically no end to dry days, and therefore few rain-induced fallouts during the bulk of shorebird migration. Despite the challenging birding conditions for this season (sunny days, clear skies, warm weather), a rare for the county **Sanderling** was found in two different locations, as was an **American Golden-Plover**, a **Stilt Sandpiper**, and a **Baird's Sandpiper**. Other highlights of the season were **Trumpeter Swan**, **Northern Shrike**, and **Black Tern**.

A nice sighting of two unbanded adult **Trumpeter Swans** was had

11/13 at TR (MV). A flyover of the Plain Grove area 11/16 by 28 **Tundra Swans** was the only other *Lawrence* swan report received this season (DY). A whopping 38 **Wood Ducks** seen at NG 8/28 were down to 12 seen in the same area 10/8 (both MV). **Blue-winged Teal** were reported at BS in good numbers 8/22-10/18, but clearly skewed towards the early part of the season with a high count of 22 on 9/6 (MV), and only one or two individuals after that. **Green-winged Teal** numbers ramped up in late Oct, with a high count of 29 individuals 10/30 at NG (MV). A nice find of four **Northern Shovelers** 10/8 at CR was followed by another nice find of five **Northern Pintail** at NG 10/16 (both MV). A high count of 219 **Ring-necked Ducks** were spotted 11/21 (MV), with a count of 181 just a week earlier 11/15 (GM), and 170 on 11/13 (MV), all at TR. A pair of **Gadwall** were seen 11/21 at CR, and **American Black Duck** and **American Wigeon** were seen on several occasions 10/16-11/21 at CR and TR (all MV). A single **Redhead** was spotted 9/11, 10/16, and 10/18 at TR (MV). **Lesser Scaup** were seen in small numbers at TR beginning 9/16 (MV). **Bufflehead** made their way to TR as early as 11/6 (MV), with four reported 11/21 from that same area (MV). **Hooded Merganser** appeared at TR 10/18, and a nice tally of 18 was registered there 11/12 (MV). **Ruddy Ducks** were seen singly at TR 10/8, 10/24, and 10/30 (MV).

An immature **Bald Eagle** was seen at BS on 8/26 (MF, JV, PH), and an **Osprey** was there 8/16 (MV). At least six **American Kestrels** posed on various power lines 11/4 in the Plain Grove area (MVT), and **Northern Harrier** was also seen in the area on multiple dates throughout the season (m. ob.), with three reported 11/19 in the VSM area (BV). A first year **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in the Plain Grove area 11/16 (DY). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** was seen in New Castle 9/28 (LW).

Early in the fall season, **Pied-billed Grebe** were seen singly or in pairs at the locations listed above on multiple dates 8/9-10/24 (CH, MV, ST), with a gaggle of four seen 10/30 (MV), and the last reported sighting 11/21 (MV). **Common Moorhen** enjoyed their summer residence at NG as evidenced by five still present 8/28, three present 9/11, and one seen 10/8 (all MV). **American Coots** were seen throughout the region 9/11-10/30, with a high count of 31 on 10/8 at CR (MV). A **Sora** was heard at BS 8/30 (MV), and was seen feeding there 9/1 (SC). The **Sandhill Crane** family of three (two adults and one juvenile) made several appearances in usual locations a Plain Grove Twp. 8/9-11/17 (m.ob.). Six individuals were seen 10/31 (MV), and nine were found flying out of a field 11/16 (DY).

As highlighted above, a **Sanderling** was seen at GS 8/30 (MV), and at BS 9/2 (RN). GS also sported an **American Golden-Plover** 8/30 (MV), as well as a rare **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/6 (MV). The Baird's Sandpiper was first reported 9/3 at BS (DW), and another **American Golden-Plover** sighting was made at the Vossler Road farm pond 9/6 (MV). A **Black-bellied Plover** was spotted at GS 9/6 (MV). Pairs of **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen 8/9 (MV), 8/22 (MF), and 9/18 (TR) at BS, and 9/6 at GS (MV). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was spotted 8/16 at BS, and a group of four 10/24 at TR (both MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at BS and the Vossler Road farm pond 8/9-9/6 (MF, MV), and **Least Sandpiper** made their appearance at all locations 8/9-9/6 (MV, MF, DW, JV, PH), with a high count of 19 at BS 9/14 (MV). A high count of 91 **Killdeer** were reported 10/30 (MV). Three **Dunlin** were seen at TR 10/18 (MV). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen 8/14 at BS, a single individual was spotted 8/16, and a pair was found 9/6 in the VSM area (all MV). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** appeared to make their way through 8/9-9/6 at BS and GS (MF, MV, JV, PH), peaking at 4 on 8/14 (MV), and 5 on 8/22 (MF). **Solitary Sandpipers** also made appearances in the same locations 8/9-9/3 (m.ob.), with a high count of five reported at BS 8/16 (MV). **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen singly at BS 8/16 and 8/26 (MF, MV, JV, PH). A juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** was first reported 8/16 at BS (MV), and subsequently also seen 8/22 and 9/16 (MF). **Wilson's Snipe** were reported at BS 8/30 (MV), in early Sept (MF, DW), and as late as 11/13 at TR and NG (MV).

A **Black Tern** was notable at TR 8/28 (MV). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling in New Castle on multiple dates 8/28-9/21 (LW). Perhaps enjoying the pleasant fall weather, six **Chimney Swifts** were observed 10/6 over TR (MV). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** made its last known appearance for the year at a New Castle residence 9/12 (LW). A **Pileated Woodpecker** and a **Downy Woodpecker** were reported 11/4 at BS (MVT). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was a nice find in New Castle 10/24 (LW).

A **Northern Shrike** was spotted 11/16 in the BS area (DY) and was successfully acquired again the next day in the same area (LM). **Eastern Bluebirds** were reported as of 11/16 in the VSM area (CH).

Several **Horned Larks** were seen 11/16 in the Plain Grove area (DY). An **American Tree Sparrow** was spotted 11/16 at BS (CH). **White-throated Sparrows** were reported 10/19 in New Castle (LW), and 11/4 at BS (MVT). **Bobolinks** were reported through 8/26 in the Plain Grove area (MF, JV, PH). A **Dark-eyed Junco** showed up at a New Castle residence 10/16 (LW).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), Reistville Ponds (RV), SGL #80, #145, #156 and #211, Second Mountain Hawk Watch (2nd Mtn.)

The highlight of the quarter was the first county record and fourth state record of **Ash-throated Flycatcher** 11/20-28 on SGL 145. This bird was found by everybody who looked for it. Many good close photos were taken (SH, RCM, MP, BS, m.ob.). Another highlight was the second county record of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** that flew south over Cornwall 9/20 (WH). The last record was 9/30/1875 of one shot in Lebanon (Earl L. Poole, unpublished ca. 1960).

Two adult Greenland **Greater White-fronted** of the "Greenland" race were seen 9/18 with one **Canada Goose** at Rte. 422 and Ramona Road, providing a first fall record. There were gone two hours later and were looked for on other dates to no avail (MC). **Snow Geese** were at MC all quarter with migrants seen in mid-Oct (m.ob.). A **Cackling Goose** flew over 2nd Mtn. 10/14 with about 50 **Canada Geese** for a new early date. They were flying south (RCM, BV). **Tundra Swans** were at MC beginning 11/11 (RCM). Ducks were in very low numbers for the fall migration. Five **Ring-necked Ducks** at MLSP set a new early date 10/17 (BC). There were 192 **Common Loons** for the season at 2nd Mtn. (m.ob.).

An **Eared Grebe** found on 10/3 at MPR (JH) was a fourth county record. It was seen until 10/5 (D&PW). There were 244 **Double-crested Cormorants** over 2nd Mtn. for the season, with 110 coming in one group 11/4 (DS, m.ob.).

Raptor numbers were low at 2nd Mtn. for the season. Three **Broad-winged Hawks** on 11/5 set a new late date (FW). The best day for **Peregrine Falcon** was 10/7 when 6 were at 2nd Mtn. (MC, m.ob.). An **Osprey** was reported at Rt. 422 and Prescott Road near Tulpehocken Creek 11/24, a new late date (JB, DD).

The adult **Sandhill Crane** was still at Lake Duffy SGL 145. It made for both the first August and first October record for the county. There were 14 reports in Aug, 10 reports in Sep, 6 reports in Oct, and 11 reports in Nov (m.ob.). There were people looking almost every day.

Shorebird migration was very poor due to excessive rain which resulted in no mudflats at RV or MPR, where only six species were reported. **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen from 8/26 at RV (RCM) to 10/5 at MPR (D&PW). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found until 10/14 at MPR (RCM). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at MLSP 10/22 was extraordinary for late Oct (MC). A Single **Solitary Sandpiper** at Lake Duffy, SGL 145, 8/24-27 was the only one reported (RCM).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on 10/4 at 2nd Mtn. set a new late date (TM, m.ob.). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen twice: on 9/25 a single flew past 2nd Mtn. flying east (RB), and one 11/11 at MPR near the pond (RCM). A second **Barn Owl** nest was found at the Lebanon Refuse 11/18 when an eight week old **Barn Owl** young was found (RL). Unfortunately, 2 unbanded **Barn Owls** were found electrocuted by a power line outside the barn. One was found inside the barn (RL).

The last **Common Nighthawk** was a pair flying over 2nd Mtn. 9/10 (FW). The last **Chimney Swift** was 10/6 also at 2nd Mtn. (MC, RCM). Only one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found, at 2nd Mtn. 8/23 (DS, m.ob.). One **Yellow-billed Flycatcher** was found 8/31 on the powerline cut near SGL 145. A singing **Least Flycatcher** was at MC 8/1 along Chapel Road in a small patch of trees (RCM). The last **Great-crested Flycatcher** was found 8/30 at SGL 145 (RCM). The last **Blue-headed Vireo** was at SGL 80 10/24 (GK). **Red-eyed Vireos** were in low numbers this season (m.ob.).

The last **Tree Swallows** were a group of 7 at MLSP 10/17 (BC). The last **Barn Swallow** was at 2nd Mtn. 8/30 (DS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found on SGL 80 on 9/21 (GK); singles were found throughout the county later in the season (m.ob.). **Brown Creepers** were found singing 8/10 (GB) in Mt. Gretna and 8/19 on SGL 145 (RCM). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at the powerline cut off Pinch Road 9/9, somewhat early (MC, RCM).

Swainson's Thrushes were beginning 9/18 when 3 were at Gov. Dick Center (SH, RCM, m.ob.); last was 9/24 when one was found near SGL 145 (RCM). The last **Wood Thrush** was found 10/15 in Mt. Gretna (SH). The last **Brown Thrasher** was at SGL 145 on 8/26 (RCM). An **American Pipit** on 10/4 at MPR was a bit early (K, MC).

Warblers were in low numbers this season, with 20 species reported. The last **Tennessee Warbler** was at SGL 145 on 10/2 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). The last **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was found 10/4 at MLSP (RS, m.ob.). A **Palm Warbler** set a new late date of 11/1 when one appeared at 2nd Mtn. (RP, DS, m.ob.). The last **Worm-eating Warbler** was on SGL 145 on 8/19 (RCM). The last **Ovenbirds** (3) were found 9/21 at SGL 80 (GK). Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were singing until 8/5 at SGL 145 (RCM). The last **Canada Warbler** was seen in Mt. Gretna 8/26 (SH).

A **Scarlet Tanager** tied the late date of 10/14 at 2nd Mtn. (MC, RCM). Sparrow migration was good in the county. On 10/17 at MLSP there were 2 **Fox Sparrows**, one **Lincoln's Sparrow**, and 4 **White-crowned Sparrows** (BC). A male **Blue Grosbeak** on the powerline cut at the Lancaster and Lebanon county border on 8/30 was the first late Aug record for the location (RCM). This is west of Pinch Road. A **Rusty Blackbird** at SGL 145 on 10/30 was the first of the year (LM, RCM). Two **Purple Finches** were at 2nd Mtn. 10/6 (MC, RCM). A **White-winged Crossbill** on 10/6 at 2nd Mtn. set a new early date and was the only reported (FHa). **Pine Siskins** were in low numbers but 2 on 9/24 at 2nd Mtn tied the early date (FW).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**. Chuck Berthoud, Jim Binder, Terri Brown, Gerry Boltz, Dale Bicksler, Don Billet, Bob Blouch, Sam Black, Ann Bodling, Marie Bongiovanna, Keith and Mickey Cashman, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, John and Sue Cooper, Bruce Coulter, Morris Cox, Derek Daly, Jeff and Amy Davis, Jarrod Derr, Mike Fialkovich, Pam Fisher, Jan Getgood, Deb Grove, Fred Habegger, Willis Hartman, Fritz Heilman, Sid Hostetter, Jonathan Heller, Jason Horn, Tom Johnson, Evelyn Koppel, Gary Kinkley, Gary Koppenhaver, Tom Kurtz, Nancy Klupper, Gayle Lawrence, Richard Light, Geoff Malosh, Audrey Manspeaker, Linda McKinne, Mike McKinne, Tom McKinne, Eric Martin, Joe Maloney, Kate Miller, Herb and Sara Myers, John Nicholas, Mike O'Brian, Mandy Pennypacker, Richard Pohner, Joan Renninger, Dave Schwenk, Art Schiavo, Carolyn Sedgwick, Dennis Small, Bob Snyder, Thyra Sperry, Rosemary Spreha, Larry Usselman, Karen Wagner, Brian Weaver, Lee Wells, Larry Westhaver, Susan Wheeler, Dick and Pat Williams, Drew Weber, Dale Zimmerman.

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Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK).

The fall period saw mean temperatures 5.2° F above the 30 year norm in the Lehigh Valley, driven by a comparatively balmy November that was 4.7° above mean. Total precipitation for the period was 0.52 inches below norm; the most rain occurred in October (source: NOAA / National Weather Service data for Allentown, archived at <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>). Water levels were average to high throughout the season, with the exception of Leaser Lake, which remained drawn down. A total of 168 species were reported in Lehigh this season, bolstered by a list of at least 100 species from the BOK hawk watch crew. Reports for BOK were gleaned from the BirdHawk – HMANA Hawk Watching Exchange listserv, as reported by official counters Steve Ritt and Bob Hoopes, as well as from individual observers. BOK totals are unofficial, and will be detailed in a future issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*. Any uncredited sightings below are from Bake Oven Knob.

Up to 4 summering **Snow Geese** lingered at Lake Muhlenberg

throughout the period, but the first true migrants were noted 10/10 (BOK). Other first of season migrant waterfowl were 18 **Brant** at BOK, one **Cackling Goose** 10/26 at Nestle Way in Upper Macungie (MS), and 8 **Tundra Swan** 11/1 at BOK. Duck reports were few. A **Blue-winged Teal** was in Trexlertown 8/21 (BE), and 3 **Northern Shovelers** were at Nestle Way 10/26 (MS). The first **Common Loon** migrated past BOK 9/13, and a lone bird was at Lehigh Canal Park in Allentown 11/13 (MB). A migrant flock of 18 **Double-crested Cormorants** went over BOK 9/15.

Northern Bobwhite were noted over the spring and summer at Leaser Lake, and at least 2 birds continued to call as late as 8/18 (DW). **Great Egrets** visited Lynn Twp. 8/2 (JH), Heidelberg Twp. 8/4 (ES), and Allentown 8/14-8/24 (BE). A late season **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flapped its way over Main Street at the south end of Slatington 10/28 (BE).

Two **Mississippi Kite** reports were among the many highlights from BOK. The first, an immature, was noted 8/23, and a second bird passed the North Lookout 9/9. An exciting report of a possible **Swallow-tailed Kite** came from South Whitehall 8/31 (DA). Unfortunately, this well-described bird was glimpsed only briefly at high speed along Rte. 22. The presence of this species elsewhere in southeastern PA at the time lends additional credence to the report, but the finder favored caution and could not be 100% certain of the ID due to the conditions under which he observed the bird.

Here are some tentative seasonal totals from Bake Oven Knob: **Bald Eagle** (186), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (2724), **Northern Goshawk** (21), **Broad-winged Hawk** (3953), **Red-tailed Hawk** (1247), **Golden Eagle** (40), and **Peregrine Falcon** (62). A kettle of 104 **Turkey Vultures** was noted late on 11/6 over Slatington and Walnutport. A single day total of 30 **Osprey** was recorded 9/19 and again 9/19. FD noted 7 **Bald Eagles** over BOK in a pre-season count 8/11, and an "official" high count of 12 came from the watch 8/30. Away from BOK, **Bald Eagles** were at Upper Milford 10/14 (B&PM), at Lehigh Canal 11/17 (MB), and two at Lake Muhlenberg 11/27. An early juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was certainly the first-day-of-the-season highlight at BOK 8/15. The first good push of **Broad-winged Hawks** (429) occurred 9/10 following a few days of northeasterly breeze; 2009's peak count of 940 came 9/17. The sole **Rough-legged Hawk** was noted 10/26. An early **Golden Eagle** graced the North Lookout 9/9. A "pre-season" **Merlin** was noted at BOK 8/11 (FD); 91 others had followed by 11/29, the last official day of the 2009 BOK hawk watch. A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported 10/14 from Upper Milford (BM, PM). Allentown's resident peregrines were noted around the PPL building in late Sep (Bob Hoopes), and a single adult was seen perched near the 2009 nesting site at the 8th Street bridge 10/2 (BH).

There were a few notable shorebird reports this fall. On 10/27, MS found an **American Golden-Plover**, along with over 40 **Killdeer** and 3 **Greater Yellowlegs**, in the flooded field at Schantz Rd. and Rte. 100, Upper Macungie. He returned 10/29 to discover an even more impressive group of 18 Golden. On 8/23, a total of six migrant shorebird flocks were noted from BOK. The first appeared to be comprised of at least 50 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, but five other flocks (100-200 each) seemed to be made up of smaller sandpipers. Migrant fall shorebirds are quite uncommon for BOK, and it was speculated that a tropical storm off the eastern seaboard of the mid-Atlantic may have been responsible for this unusual flight. Elsewhere, a **Wilson's Snipe** was at Leaser Lake 10/31 (BH), and an **American Woodcock** was noted there 11/14. Finally, a **Red-necked Phalarope** found by PS at Lake Muhlenberg 9/14 remained for two days (PS, MS). In gull news, **Herring** and **Ring-billed gulls** were reported in small numbers from various locations. The only tern report was of a **Caspian Tern** 8/1 at Sand Island in Bethlehem (BE).

Lehigh's third **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded by SW in Zionsville 11/16. Present since Oct, this hatch-year female remained throughout the period, taking advantage of a feeder as well as pineapple sage that bloomed well into November (SW).

Red-headed Woodpecker was at BOK 9/14 and 9/24, the latter an immature bird. The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was noted 10/20. As many as 6 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted at Trexler Nature Preserve's central range 9/14 (FD). **Least Flycatcher** was at Trexler Park in Allentown 9/1 (BE), and 3 somewhat late **Eastern Phoebes** were noted at Salisbury's Walking Purchase Park 10/18 (ES). **Common Raven** was tallied seemingly daily at BOK, with notable high counts on 8/24 (11), 9/25 (18), and 10/25 (10). Far south of Blue Mountain, a lone raven was seen soaring over Bethlehem's Musikfest 8/3 (BE). The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard at Trexler Park 8/22 (BE), and the

first **Brown Creeper** was in Upper Milford 9/27 (BM, PM). **Marsh Wren** was notable at the Allentown waste water treatment plant 10/6. 11/9 brought a wave of "hundreds" of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** to BOK; the first Ruby of the season was in Allentown 9/1. Flight calls of several **Swainson's Thrush** were heard over Slatington late in the evening 10/11 (BE), slightly beyond the species' expected fall migratory peak. **Gray Catbird** was in Salisbury as late as 11/27 (ES), and **Brown Thrasher** was noted there 11/10 (MB).

Twenty-six warbler species were reported for the period, highlighted by a **Connecticut Warbler** in Lynn Twp 9/27 (RW, DA). **Mourning Warbler** was seen near Macungie 8/17 (BM, PM). The first **Fox Sparrow** was noted at BOK 10/20. A pair of **Lincoln's Sparrows** was a nice find in Lynn Twp. 9/28 (RW, DA). A lone **Dark-eyed Junco** returned to Slatington 9/18. A singing adult male **Blue Grosbeak** was discovered 8/18 (Dustin Welch) along Spring House Rd in Lynn Twp. Though no breeding activity was noted this year, Blue Grosbeaks bred at this location in 2008. The first **Purple Finches** (5) were noted at BOK 10/5, and **Pine Siskin** was first noted there 9/19.

A local conservation note concerns a celebrated Lehigh Valley birding location in Lower Macungie Township. An influential local land owner has recently proposed a quarry for the tract along Smith Lane, Mertztown, Spring Creek and Ruth Roads in Alburtis. Smith Lane has been a particularly productive Lehigh Valley birding landmark for many years, famous for species such as Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Short-eared Owl, and numerous other field birds. As of early December 2009, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission opposes the quarry and has stated so in letters to the township's Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission. If approved, the quarry would result in the loss of approximately 600 acres of farm land. Public hearings on this matter are scheduled to begin in January 2010. (Lester, P. Dec 6 2009. Valley planners oppose Jandl Quarry. *The Morning Call*. Retrieved from <<http://www.mcall.com>>).

Observers: **Bill Etter, 209 E South St., Slatington PA, 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Altif, Mark Boyd, Frank Dickman, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Steve Ritt, Peter Saenger, Mike Schall, Ed Sinkler, Scott Weidensaul, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut.

Luzerne County

Locations: Council Cup (CC), Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River at Luzerne County Recreation Fields (SRLCR).

The fall migration season started out with above normal water levels that made for some difficult shorebirding along the SR. Nonetheless, with KR's perseverance, some nice shorebirds were discovered as the season progressed.

Always a difficult bird to find in *Luzerne*, there were 24 **Brant** 10/24 at HL (KR, RK, JH). Seven **Surf Scoters** briefly touched down 11/2 at HL (KR, RK, JH) and 4 **Black Scoters** were seen 11/28 at HL (KR, RK, JH). Also 11/28 at HL a **Long-tailed Duck** was seen later in the afternoon (RK). **Red-breasted Merganser** was observed 11/2 when 4 were seen on HL (KR). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were first seen 11/3 at HL (KR) and continued to at least 11/12 (JH).

Great Egrets were again found in good numbers after the breeding season. At least 12 were present 10/1 at PF (KR, RK, JH). On 9/28 at FSSP there were 3 (and possibly up to 5) **American Bitterns** (KR).

The raptor migration started with good numbers of **Bald Eagles** seen from the CC hawk watch site, including 12 on 8/26 (DK). A **Golden Eagle** was seen at CC 11/1 and was a life bird for BT (BT, RK, JH). **Merlin** continues to be seen in every season and one was reported on 9/10 diving on shorebirds at SRLCR (KR, JH).

A **Sandhill Crane** was first observed at SRLCR on 8/16 (KR) and continued until 8/21 (JS).

Up to 13 species of shorebirds were recorded this season at SRLCR. Some of the highlights included one **Sanderling** 9/9 (JH), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/11 (KR), and a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/8 (KR, JH) that continued until at least 9/10 (KR, JH).

Every autumn I see **Common Nighthawks** migrating over my home in Shavertown and this year there were 24 on 8/19 (JH). Records of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were received from several observers

from as 9/8 (KR) to 9/23 (RK). There were 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** found at NSP on 9/6 (DKr), and one was still present 9/13 (KR). Reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** appeared to be above average with one 9/5 at Plains (RK), one 9/8 at SRLCR (KR), one at FSSP 9/13 (JH), another 9/15 at my home (JH). There were several records of **American Pipit** at SRLCR and PF (KR, SGa, RK). The only reports of **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrushes** were of nocturnal migrants 9/5 (RK). On 9/13 a **Connecticut Warbler** was seen at FSSP (JH) and another was found on 9/14 at SRLCR (KR). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen 10/23 at SRLCR (KR). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were again found throughout Sep by several observers.

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Don Kapral, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Dave Krueel (DKr), Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

No report.

Compiler: **Dan Brauning, (570) 547-6938, dbrauning@state.pa.us.**

McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

The big news from *Mercer* was the discovery of an immature **White Ibis** 9/1 on the north side of SRR by TM. It was well photographed, but not relocated the next day. The photo was submitted to PORC and is available on the PSO website.

SRR hosted many unusual birds this season. A **Ross's Goose** was discovered 11/29 mixed in with a flock of Canada Geese (MV). MV found one adult **White-winged Scoter** with **Ruddy Ducks** 10/18, 3 **Red-throated Loons** 11/24 and one 11/29, one **Peregrine Falcon** 10/6, a **Black-bellied Plover** 10/3, and a **Red Knot** 9/20-22. An impressive list indeed.

Tundra Swans passed through 11/3-12/16, but did not stop at SRR to rest.

As mentioned in the previous issue, **Osprey** fledged 2 young from a nest (with discouraging metal barriers) on a utility pole along the Rte. 18 causeway. In mid-Oct. the power company removed this nest, but, to my delight, erected a wooden platform 4 feet directly above the old nest site. Maybe this will be a "welcome home" present for the pair in March.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted 9/29. **Purple Martin** left 8/30 (NT). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came to a feeder in Grove City 11/15 (LD). NT reports that warblers were fairly common during migration, with highlights being one **Northern Parula** 9/25 and one **Cape May Warbler** 9/26, both at Skunk Run Rd., and a male **Connecticut Warbler** 9/13 on Nicklin Lane.

First dates for sparrow were: **American Tree Sparrow** 11/8, **Fox Sparrow** 10/27, **Lincoln's Sparrow** 9/26, and **Dark-eyed Junco** 10/1 (late arriving). **Snow Buntings** were heard at several locations beginning 11/6 (HT, NT). A new late date (by one day) for **Orchard Oriole** was 8/18 along Williamson Rd. (NT).

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, PA 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, Lynne Doolan, Mike Fialkovich, Tom Moeller, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, David Troyer, Mark Vass.

Mifflin County

Highlights for the season came in the form of raptors observed migrating from the Jacks Mountain Hawkwatch. Highlights for September were 220 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/10, 247 on 9/18, and 423 on 9/20. October highlights were 74 **Sharp-Shinned Hawks** 10/5 and 75 on 10/11. Five **Golden Eagles** were seen 11/4, with 16 total for the season (RS).

Observers: **Greg and Deb Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg PA 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu,**

dsg4@psu.edu, Ron Singer, Jacks Mountain Compiler.

Monroe County

Locations: Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The fall season was dry following a wet summer. Temperatures were somewhat typical except for a mild November. Pocono Avian Research Center conducted its tenth season of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding at Skytop (DS, JS). Twenty days of banding between 10/5 and 11/10 resulted in 13 owls captured, their second lowest total. There were no recaptures or foreign recoveries.

An apparent female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at MCEEC's feeders on the late date of 10/7 (DS, PQ). A hummingbird of an unknown species was at a Kresgeville feeder through the end of the period (*fide* RW); news of this bird was received after the bird departed later in December. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from Big Pocono State Park 9/6 (*fide* PABIRDS listserv).

Several **Purple Finches** and a single juvenile **Pine Siskin** were seen at a Saylorburg feeder 9/7 (RW). No other northern finch reports were received, in contrast to last year's invasion year.

ADDENDUM: The following sightings all came from JS at Skytop and were received too late for the summer breeding report. Two **Ruffed Grouse** families, consisting of 8-10 individuals each, were discovered 7/6 and 7/25, and **Chimney Swifts** seen 6/30 at the ruins of an old house with a chimney were likely breeders. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a notable find 6/30.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Peggy Quigley, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Jackie Speicher, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecologic Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek (UCV), Upper Fredrick Township (UFT), Upper Gwynedd Twp (UGT), Upper Hanover Twp (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The autumn season brought below average temperatures and above average precipitation. Rainfall total for the four-month period was 19.9", well above our 20-year average of 17.51.

Waterfowl variety was about average with 22 species reported, but overall the number of individuals was low. Single **Snow Geese** were reported from various GLR locations (m.ob.), and a **Cackling Goose** was first reported at Church Road, GLR 11/3 (KC). Three **Tundra Swans** (rare here in fall) were at Church Road 11/18 (KC). All expected dabbling ducks were reported, and included an early **American Wigeon** at Walt Road, GLR 9/9 (GAF), a high of 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 9/3 (RG), and a high of 22 **Wood Ducks** at UPVP 10/1 (KC). Diving ducks of note included 67 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 21 **Lesser Scaup** at Walt Road 11/2 and 28 **Buffleheads** there 11/1 (all GAF). A **Surf/Black Scoter** was at Walt Road 11/2 (GAF), and single **White-winged Scoter** and **Red-breasted Merganser** were there 11/11 (KC).

Wild Turkeys have become scarce in *Montgomery*, so a report of 15 in Upper Hanover Township 10/24 was somewhat encouraging (JG). Another marked decline has been that of the **Common Loon**. Our only report was a single bird at Walt Road GLR 10/28 (KC). A **Great Egret** was at UPVP until 10/29 (RG), and a **Green Heron** was last seen there on the same day (GAF). The latter was unusually late, but not a record date. A **Little Blue Heron** was at UPVP 8/1-5 (RG).

Raptors of note included a **Northern Harrier** at Church Road GLR 10/19 (GAF) and 11/12 (KC), and another was at Norristown Farm Park 10/30 (KC). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were in the Unami Creek Valley 8/29 (RG) and 10/24 (KC). Others were observed at Walt Road, GLR 11/3 and Knight Road, GLR 11/18 (both GAF). **Merlin** sightings were also plentiful beginning at Walt Road 8/21 and ending 11/22 (GAF). Another was at Church Road, GLR 9/18 (KC, DC).

A **Virginia Rail** was at Pennypack Ecologic Restoration Trust (PERT) 10/10-18 (PD). An **American Coot** was at Walt Road, GLR 11/1, marking our only report for the period (KC). Given continuing high precipitation totals, the lack of shorebirds at GLR was not surprising. A

"high" of 10 **Killdeer** was counted at Church Road, GLR 10/21 (JG). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Church Road 9/8 (GAF) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 9/30 (KC). A **Least Sandpiper** was at Church Road 9/3 (RG). Arguably our best bird of the period was an **Upland Sandpiper** in a backyard near Church Road, GLR 8/29 (ph. CM). This same observer had our only **American Woodcock** of the season at Church Road 11/1 (CM).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Knight Road, GLR 10/23 (GAF), and the season's first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Church Road 9/20 (KC). Four **Caspian Terns** were at Walt Road 8/8, and a high count of 10 was had there 8/31 (both GAF). **Forster's Tern** arrived at Walt Road 8/2 and reached a maximum of 3 birds 8/22 (GAF).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Walt Road, GLR 8/3 made for our only report (GAF). Similarly, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at PERT 10/11 was a real surprise (PD). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were on the late side in Upper Gwynedd Township 10/1 (A&JM) and in the UCV 10/3 (KC). **Common Ravens** continue to be enigmatic in western *Montgomery*, with a single bird in Upper Frederick Township 9/25 (RG). A season-high 12 **Purple Martins** were in the UCV 8/7 (GAF). **Black-capped Chickadees** appear to have had another good flight year, as migrants began to appear 9/28 (KC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, on the other hand, were nearly non-existent. One in UGT 11/2 marked our only record for the fall season (AJM).

In another seasonal surprise, a **House Wren** at Walt Road 10/30 set a new record late date for the species (GAF). A **Winter Wren** was at UPVP 11/28 (RG). Rounding out the wren "hat-trick" was a **Marsh Wren** at Walt Road 10/29 (GAF). A **Brown Thrasher** at Church Road, GLR 11/2 set another record late date (KC). High counts for **American Pipits** were 3 birds at Church Road 10/20 (GAF), and 8 at PERT on the same date (PD). Warbler variety was poor with only 11 species reported. Highlights among them were a **Cape May Warbler** in the UCV 9/23 (KC), an early **Palm Warbler** at Church Road 9/20 (KC) and a **Mourning Warbler** at Elkins Park 8/24 (PD).

Sparrows fared much better, with a whopping 12 species (plus Dark-eyed Junco and Eastern Towhee) reported. The season's first **American Tree Sparrow** was at Church Road, GLR 11/26 (KC). **Savannah Sparrows** peaked at 4 birds at Church Road 10/20 (GAF), and 2 were at NFP 10/30 (KC). **Fox Sparrows** were scarce once again this autumn, with only single birds at Walt Road (GAF) and Lederach (RG), both on 11/10. **Lincoln's Sparrow** arrived at Church Road 9/25 (GAF), and was last reported there 10/12 (KC). **Swamp Sparrows** reached a maximum count of 25 at Church Road 11/1 (GAF). **White-crowned Sparrows** peaked at 3 birds at Church Road 10/20 (GAF). Sparrow reports from PERT included **Nelson's Sparrow** 10/10, **Grasshopper Sparrow** 10/11, and **Vesper Sparrow** 10/18-20 (PD). **Bobolink** reached a season's high of 60 at Church Road 8/31 (GAF), and a lone **Rusty Blackbird** was in the company of a dozen **Red-winged Blackbirds** at Church Road 11/11 (KC).

Once again, **Purple Finches** were scarce at best this season (m.ob.). A first-year male was in full song on Church Road 9/10 (KC). Other records, all of single birds, were from Upper Fredrick Township 11/7 (RG), UPVP 11/8, (GAF), and Upper Hanover Twp. 11/25 (JG). In sharp contrast with last year's record-breaking irruption, **Pine Siskins** were all but non-existent here this season. Single birds were at GLR Nature Center 11/13 (KC), and Walt Road, GLR 11/15 (GAF).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, greatgray@verizon.net**, Diane Cameron, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, August and Judy Mirabella, Chris Mullaney, Paul Driver.

Montour County

No report.

Compiler: **Jon Beam, Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Rd., Danville, PA 17821, (570) 437-3131, jdbeam@pplweb.com**.

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Little Gap (LG), Silvercrest Rd. retention pond (SC), Williams Township (WT).

Birders did well at finding shorebirds during fall migration. However, waterfowl numbers and variety were poor. The hawk watch at

LG had below average numbers for most raptors. There were quite a few uncommon birds found including **Black Tern**, **Dickcissel**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, and a late **Wood Thrush**. There was also a county-first **Black-headed Gull**.

At a retention pond on Silvercrest Rd. in Bath, 3 **Brant** were located 10/29 (MS). Though unconfirmed, possibly the same 3 **Brant** moved to a pond on Driftwood Rd. in East Allen Twp. 11/4-11 (SB, DW). Another retention pond in L. Nazareth Twp had 3 **Blue-winged Teal** 8/22. A very early **Great Cormorant** was seen flying along the Delaware R 9/5 amongst **Double-crested Cormorants**, north of the Martins Creek power plant (AS). At School Rd. near Bangor HS, an imm. **Black-crowned Night-heron** was seen near dusk 9/6 (AS). An adult **Black-crowned Night-heron** was a fly-by at E. Bangor Dam 8/4 (DW). The LG hawk watch site near Danielsville counted 9091 raptors and vultures this fall. **Broad-winged Hawks** made up 44% of the total but was well below average at 3994. Highlights include 126 **Bald Eagles**, 37 **Golden Eagles**, 38 **Peregrine Falcons**, and 82 **Merlin**. Away from the ridge, 584 **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen in WT near the Delaware R 9/16 (AK).

Perseverance by DD resulted in the county's first **Black-headed Gull** 11/18. With reports of an adult **Black-headed Gull** at nearby Merrill Creek in New Jersey, DD kept checking the Forks of the Delaware in Easton where gulls like to congregate and on 11/18 he found a **Black-headed Gull**. Later that day it was found again, and was noted to be a first winter gull (RW). It was a different individual from the New Jersey bird. On 11/21, the **Black-headed Gull** was seen and photographed (DD, MS). Nazareth Quarry held 24 **Lesser Black-headed Gulls** 10/26 (MS). The same area that produced a **Great Cormorant** on 9/5 was also good for 3 **Black Terns** heading downriver (AS).

There were 17 species of shorebirds around the county. Despite lots of tall grass, GP had good habitat. Another good spot was a new retention pond on Silvercrest Rd., Bath. Rainy and stormy days were key to locating uncommon shorebirds. A **Black-bellied Plover** was amongst **Killdeer** in a muddy, straw covered field on SC 8/30 (MS). The next day under steady rain, the field and retention pond held a **Baird's Sandpiper** and **White-rumped Sandpiper** (DW, MS, CCS). A **Dunlin** 10/27 was the result of a storm, as were 16 **American Golden Plovers** in a plowed field on SC 10/28 (MS). At GP, a juv. **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen 9/8 (AS). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at GP 10/7-20 with a high of 6 on 10/13 (DD). There was also a **Dunlin** on 10/13 at GP (DD) and 2 **Dunlin** were there 10/16 (MS). Maybe the rarest shorebird of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** amongst 27 **Greater Yellowlegs** at SC 10/12 (MS).

A lingering **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** continued to visit a feeder in Palmer Twp. until 11/10. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** fly-by was reported in WT 9/25 (AK). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen in WT 9/7 (AK). Observations of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** came from Jacobsburg SP 9/2 (RW) and in Bangor 9/4 (AS). **Philadelphia Vireos** tend to be found more often in autumn with several birders reporting them. A high of 3 were seen at LG 9/17 (MS). In WT, 2 **Marsh Wrens** were present 10/5 (AK) and another was at Minsi Lake 10/10 (AS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush is usually considered the unusual thrush, and there was one at LG 10/21 (MS). This autumn a **Wood Thrush** was still holding on at Jacobsburg SP 10/14 (RW). It was reported as looking ragged with a deformed bill which may explain why it wasn't in a warmer climate. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was found at Monacacy Nature Center 8/23 (LF), as was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** on 10/10. In L. Saucon Twp, a **Cape May Warbler** was observed 9/24 (JY). An imm/female type **Connecticut Warbler** 9/21-23 was photographed in Bath (DW). Another **Connecticut Warbler** was at Bear Swamp 10/10 (AS).

On 9/3 a pair of nearly full grown fledgling **Blue Grosbeaks** was found at Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl (RW). According to RW, this represents the northernmost breeding record for **Blue Grosbeak** in eastern Pennsylvania. On 8/1, 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed in E. Allen Twp with a female carrying food, and 2 more were at a future development on Hanoverville Rd. (DW). Another uncommon find was a **Dickcissel** in WT 9/27 (AK). Also in WT, a first fall male **Baltimore Oriole** was visiting a feeder through 11/7 (AK). A surprise feeder bird on 8/18 was a **Pine Siskin** (DW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N. Chestnut St., Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Linda Freedman, Arlene Koch, Adam Sabatine, Corinne Campbell Schall, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Yuhas.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

No compiler.

Philadelphia County

Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Rhawn St. at the Delaware River (R-DR), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

The fall tally was 189 species including **Western Willet**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Raven**, and **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**. Birders generally agreed that our neo-tropical migration began on time and with good numbers, but quickly fizzled. September saw days on end when quantity of migrants and species was poor. Waterfowl were also scarce. The seasonal summary is factually true, but not a complete picture of waterfowl occurrence. There was an impressive fallout of sparrows, kinglets and other passerines on 10/11. Philly continued to see below average temperatures and greater than average rainfall.

As usual, only two small flocks of **Snow Geese** flew over the city 9/27 and 12/12 (DM). Three **Brant** were at POD 10/28 (FW). **Wood Duck** left TI earlier than usual 11/7. The common dabblers arrived late in small numbers, and certainly no migrant duck was tallied above 100 and they left early. Two **Redhead** were at FDR from 11/15 (BB, FW), and only one **Canvasback** was found on the DR 11/6 (FW). The only grebe report was of four **Pied-billed Grebe** at FDR and TI. **Great Cormorant** were first observed on the DR from Pulaski Park 10/6 (FW). The TI impoundment held 250 **Double-crested Cormorant** 10/31 (DM) a large but not unexpected number, some of which could over-winter.

Great Egret departed from TI 10/25 which is early, and a **Green Heron** 10/21 was later than usual (TF). **Osprey** lingered on the DR at POD until 11/3 (FW). Migrating **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen at BRSP 9/21-10/8 (m.ob.) and arrived at TI for winter 10/11 (SD). The raptor of the season was a **Golden Eagle** seen by PK over the PEC 10/16. **Peregrine Falcon** are not often reported from Morris Arboretum 10/12 (KJ).

The flock of **Wild Turkey** at TI has grown to 17 and our only known **Ring-necked Pheasant** survives in the Eastwick redevelopment property adjacent to TI. A **Virginia Rail** was flushed from the ball fields at POD 9/26 (FW).

Sixteen species of shorebirds were found and all but three species were exclusively on POD's mud flats at low tide or on POD's grassy fields. All the expected plover were reported: three groups of up to 4 **Black-bellied Plover** 8/22-9/28 (FW), an **American Golden Plover** 8/10-11 (FW), and up to 8 **Semipalmated Plover** 9/4-21 (FW) with an individual at TI 10/1 (TF). In August up to 100 **Killdeer** rest and refuel at POD. On 8/2 at Palmyra Cove, Nature Park, New Jersey, TB "heard and then saw a **Willet** of the western race ...flying northeast from Philadelphia to the New Jersey side of the DR. I got excellent looks as it wasn't very high up." A **Whimbrel** at POD on 8/22 made county records for FW who found the bird and for DM who raced to see it. The TI impoundment held high water and produced only **Greater Yellowlegs** until 10/21 and **Lesser Yellowlegs** until 9/21 (TF). At POD up to 4 **Solitary Sandpiper** could be found 8/3-25 along with up to 50 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** 8/2-9/28 (FW). Three **Western Sandpiper** were seen 8/15-9/12 (FW). Two **Pectoral Sandpiper** spent 11 days in the long grass of the ball fields 8/23-10/17 (FW). A single **Dunlin** 10/17, a **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/22, and a **Wilson's Snipe** 10/16 were found (FW). **American Woodcock**, once sure to be reported from TI, were seen in a NE Philly backyard 10/15 (CA) and dead on a Center City street 12/1 (KS).

I have reported **Laughing Gull** as an almost year-round visitor particularly at the trash plant under the Walt Whitman Bridge in winter. That has not been the case for a few years and our last **Laughing Gull** report came on 11/2. Now in its fifth year, the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** has been resident at the Linden Ave. boat ramp (FW, DM) and a

second bird was seen on the DR 10/27. A flock of 100 **Caspian Tern** flying over Philly surprised the Militia Hill Hawkwatch 8/14. **Black Tern** were found only at TI with five reported on 8/23 (AG) and another 9/13 (NP).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found dead in Center City 10/30 (KR). At TI the poplar tree woods with its honeysuckle vine understory is dying and changing at a rapid pace, limiting prospects of roost sites for future **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. Despite lots of searching this season, only the resident **Great Horned Owl** was present.

Thirty migrating **Common Nighthawk** were over City Line Ave. 8/29 (LRom) and 200 migrants were over East Mt. Airy 9/4 (MS). Roost finding and swift watching are annual fall activities for birders in an old industrial city like Philly. Three grade schools (Dobson, Shawmont, Jenks) in the NW section of the city host varying portions of our migrating **Chimney Swifts** every year. This year there were 1500 **Chimney Swift** at the Dobson School in Manayunk 9/24 (JS). Judy found new roost sites at Chestnut Hill Towers, an 18-storey building on Stenton Ave. which hosted over 3000 **Chimney Swift**, in a seemingly small chimney visible from the apartment complex across the street 9/21 (JS). At Barbelin Hall, St. Joseph's University, 1100 swifts roosted 9/29 (JS). Over 200 **Chimney Swift** were over the 5200 block of Germantown Ave. on 10/3 (SK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were at Greenland Nursery in West FP 9/7 (DM) and at FDR 9/12 (FW). A rare and I assume never-before-documented **Common Raven** was photographed soaring over I-76 just west of the Walt Whitman Bridge (TJ). A healthy flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** continues to overwinter at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant where a **Barn Swallow** was also reported 11/27 (MS). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were first seen at FP (DM) and 10/12. **Brown Creeper** was found in vegetation around City Hall 10/20 (KS).

Only two reports of **Tennessee Warbler** came from Andorra Natural Area 10/10 (AA) and TI 10/19 (TF). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at POD 11/3-4 and two were at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 11/22 (FW). **Cape May Warbler** was found at TI 9/13 (NP) and at PEC near the Sandyford Run 10/11 (PK, BS). Two **Bay-breasted Warbler** were seen within a day of each other in FP 9/1 (DM) and at POD 9/2 (FW). An adult male **Connecticut Warbler** was at POD 9/19-20 followed by a juvenile 9/23, 30 (FW). A **Canada Warbler** on 8/4 was the first fall migrant for AA in the Upper WC.

Participants at the AOU annual meeting in Philly were on an early morning bird walk at TI on 10/14 when an adult male **Summer Tanager** was spotted and observed for a few seconds before it flew off over the impoundment (DM). **Blue Grosbeak** no longer nest along the DR, but they do stopover at BRSP 8/26 and POD 9/9-23 (FW).

Another **Dickcissel** (there have been eight recently!) was found at BRSP 10/6-9 (m.ob.). **American Tree Sparrow** arrived in the Tacony Creek area 10/14. In mid-October at total of 4 **Vesper Sparrow** were found at PEC, BRSP, and POD. **Savannah Sparrow** reports from 8/15-11/4 came from Morris Arboretum (KJ), POD, and BRSP where BK counted over 50 individuals 10/6. We have a great photo of a **Grasshopper Sparrow**, a rarity to be sure, thanks to FW at POD 10/9. There is no photo, but FW who has studied the races of this sparrow in great detail, provided a detailed description of the **Nelson's Sparrow** he found at POD 10/25. **Lincoln's Sparrow** were reported from POD 9/20 (FW), TI 9/19 (TF), and surprisingly from tiny Love Park in Center City along with 5 **Ovenbird** and 4 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on 10/16 (MS). Up to 8 **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported from BRSP (FW), POD (LRow), and TI (TF).

Bobolink were most numerous over TI, but they were also seen at BRSP 9/23 (BK) and at POD where FW saw 15 on 9/30. We missed **Purple Finch** and all the lovely winter finches.

This fall report is unusual and sad in that it does not cite John Miller. John's knowledge, birding skills, and powers of observation are legendary. John's daily bird records, meticulously kept since the 1940's, became the foundation of the argument to save Tinicum marsh, later called the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. His contributions to bird records in Philly are unsurpassed in modern times. He died in August and our birding community mourns his passing, and this report will be the poorer for it.

Observers: **Doris McGovern**, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media PA, 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net, Cindy Ahern, Andrew Albright, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Tom Bailey, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Al Guarente, Ken Januski, Tom Johnson, Steve Kacir, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Nick

Pulcinella, Lynn Roman (LRom), Linda Rowan, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Sandy Sorkin, Judy Stepanaski, Kate Summerville, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

No compiler

Potter County

No report.

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com.**

Schuylkill County

No compiler.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL).

On 11/19 one **Ring-necked Duck**, one **Long-tailed Duck**, and two **Buffleheads** were found on FL (CK, CB, AT). An **Osprey** was noted on 9/29 flying over Rt. 35 near Richfield (CK).

A rare observation occurred 11/5 as reported by DU. "I nearly ran over a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** sitting on the blacktop as I rounded a curve. This was about a half mile off of Route 204 on the road leading to Salem and Selinsgrove. It stayed put while I backed up to get a better look at it in the headlights. I thought it might have been injured and got out of the car to check it out. It simply turned its head, stared at me and took off."

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Chuck Berthoud, Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer, Don Ulrich.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM).

Overall observer effort was somewhat reduced for the reporting period. Highlights for the period were a persisting pair of **Sandhill Cranes** and a banded **Rufous Hummingbird**.

Three **Red-throated Loons** 11/22 at SL (AM) became 4 by 11/23 (JP, CP, JM, MM). A high count of 17 **Horned Grebes** was found at SL 11/23 (AM). An **American Bittern** was found at dusk 8/27 at BC circling up and eventually heading to the south. **Tundra Swan** flocks were seen between 11/20 and 12/10 (EB, AM, JP) with a maximum of 130 on 11/28 (EB). The high count for a **Wood Duck** roost was 80 at BC 8/29 (CP, JP). **Gadwall** were first reported 11/9 at SL (AM); other puddle ducks included **Blue-winged Teal** at SM 9/30 (EB), **Northern Shoveler** 10/7, 9 **American Black Ducks** 11/16, and **Green-winged Teal** 11/16 all at SL (AM). Diving ducks reported by AM included **Ring-necked Duck** 11/16, **Greater Scaup** 11/23, 300+ **Lesser Scaup** 11/28, and over 50 **Bufflehead** and 100 **Ruddy Ducks** 11/28, all at SL. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were present 11/19 and **Hooded Mergansers** up to 11/20 at SL (AM).

Away from the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Hawkwatch on the *Bedford/Somerset* line, 3 **Broad-winged Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and one **Golden Eagle** were noted at PP (AP, CP, JP, LP). A **Merlin** was seen in Berlin 11/25 (CP,JP). **American Coot** were present at SL from at least 11/3-21 at SL (AM).

Very intriguing were the persisting **Sandhill Cranes** at BC until at least 12/11. They have been observed "dancing" during the autumn and hopefully will winter or return in the spring for a breeding attempt. This would possibly make them the southernmost breeding pair in the state, approximately 12 miles north of the Maryland border. On 8/15, 52 **Killdeer** and one **Solitary Sandpiper** were present at GMF (CP, JP, LP). **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/30 and **Least Sandpiper** 8/8 (EB) were the only other reported shore birds. **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SL 11/27 (AM) and a **Forster's Tern** was found 9/30 at Deer Valley Lake (JT).

Common Nighthawks were migrating until 9/23 in BA (CP) and **Chimney Swifts** until 9/24 at PP (JP). Late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen 9/30 at PP (JP, LP) and SM (EB). The bird of the season was the adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** at PP from 9/30-10/11 (JP, CP, LP, et al.), banded by Robert Mulvihill. This was the second of this genus to visit the mountaintop property with the first being an immature male *Selasphorus* in October 1996.

Fifteen **Northern Flickers** were at PP 9/14. **Least Flycatcher** was there until 9/14 as were **Eastern Kingbirds**. Both **Warbling Vireo** and **Philadelphia Vireo** were present 9/19. Somewhat unusual was a flock of 14 **Common Ravens** 12/12 also at PP. Nocturnal migrating thrushes were well represented through the season with **Veery**, **Swainson's Thrush**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** all being heard 9/13. Away from PP were 30 **American Pipits** at SM 10/21 (EB).

The following warblers at PP are listed with the last dates seen (CP, LP, JP): **Tennessee** 9/19, **Nashville** 9/19, **Northern Parula** 9/19, **Magnolia** 9/19, **Cape May** 10/2, **Yellow-rumped** 10/2, **Black-throated Green** 9/19, **Bay-breasted** 9/19, **Blackpoll** 9/19, **American Redstart** 9/19, **Connecticut** 9/15, **Mourning** 9/15, and **Canada** 9/14.

Scarlet Tanager maximum was 8 on 9/14 at PP (JP). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were only seen at PP 9/19-24. Twelve **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at PP 9/14. AM observed hundreds of **Common Grackles** 9/7 feeding under oak trees on acorns at Markleton.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Elmer J. Breneman, Anthony Marich, Alan Peterson, Chris Payne, Loretta Payne, Joan Tague.

Sullivan County

Once again, the observations from *Sullivan* for the fall period are sporadic. Most of the reports from which the last date records are taken are from mid September or earlier. There are only two reports beyond that time with full coverage, plus a few additional species-specific reports. It is also difficult to pinpoint the last observed dates without extensive coverage in the county. Many locations checked in the spring are visited less frequently or not at all. Species that grow quiet after the breeding season may easily be getting overlooked. Therefore, the last date observed is simply that and likely does not accurately reflect last day present.

Many of the county nesters were last observed during the month of July. This includes **Chimney Swift**, **Tree** and **Barn Swallow**, **Scarlet Tanager**, and several warblers including **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-and-white**, and **Black-throated Blue**. This is fairly typical of summer observations, especially with most of the passerines. Mixed feeding flocks are the common way to find many of these species after the breeding season is concluded.

Observations of the following species that were last seen in August or early September are likely much closer to true last present dates. These include **Green Heron** 8/25, **Broad-winged Hawk** 8/27, and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 8/30. The following species not observed after Labor Day weekend: **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireo**, **House Wren**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Nashville**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Prairie Warblers**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Eastern Towhee**, and **Chipping, Field, and Swamp Sparrows**.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found Labor Day weekend. This completed a spring and fall migration sweep as this species was observed in both seasons in 2009.

A large group of **Eastern Bluebirds** was observed 9/9 followed by a large group of **Northern Flickers** 9/11. Other observations made between 9/9 and 9/15 include last of the season sightings for **Great Blue Heron**, **American Woodcock** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. A pair of **Great Horned Owls** was heard calling on several early mornings. **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen. **Purple Finch** came to a feeder sporadically. Both **Red-breasted** and **White-breasted Nuthatch** were observed. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen 9/12 and 9/13 (all SC).

A visit to Eagles Mere 9/19 found **Turkey Vulture**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Eastern Phoebe**, and **American Robin**. This was the last record of Turkey Vulture for 2009. An eagle species was also observed. An **Osprey** was a very good find (all WE).

Two more trips to the county were made by this observer. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at Shady Nook Lake 10/24. Single individuals of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Northern Harrier** were found. Four **Ring-necked Pheasant** were observed although I saw no hunters this year. **Eastern**

Phoebe was seen for the last time. And a dozen **Killdeer** were the last observed in 2009.

By far the best find of the weekend was an immature **Golden Eagle**. The bird was seen making a dive that went to or very near the ground and then fairly quickly rising from the unseen area and apparently catching a thermal at a low altitude and circling directly overhead for some time. The bird had not caught any prey. I was then able to move a short distance and view the area where the bird seemingly attacked. I found a small flock of **Canada Geese** that did not seem disturbed or alarmed in any way. The **Killdeer** I had been observing in an adjacent field had scattered like the wind as the eagle approached.

The last trip to the county this year was made on the first four days of Thanksgiving week. I was able to get into the field each day. There was limited activity with 347 individuals of 33 species observed. The highlights included two **American Black Duck** and a single **Common Merganser** at Shady Nook Lake. A total of four **Hooded Mergansers** and eight **Buffleheads** were seen on two separate days on Wild Fowl Pond. It should also be noted that Wild Fowl Pond is just off route 487 and is technically just inside *Wyoming*. A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** was observed.

On 11/23 a group of six **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen flying over the Dutch Mountain area. This is an uncommon species for the county. Also seen on the same day were five **Red-winged Blackbirds** and a single **Rough-legged Hawk** in a mostly open agricultural area near Dushore.

The **Sandhill Crane** population in *Sullivan* appears to be growing. Observations of seven birds were made in the Dushore vicinity throughout October and early November. I came across fifteen Sandhills in another field near Dushore 11/23 including three juveniles. Two days later there were four cranes in the same field this time including two juveniles. Several other observers witnessed this flock with varying numbers as high as fifteen during the same time period. The two fields are no more than two miles apart. There are now reports of additional breeding pairs in *Sullivan* and adjacent *Bradford*, and reports of another group of fifteen from *Bradford*. The area breeding birds may now also be staging together before their migration south.

A pair of **Northern Goshawks** and an adult **Bald Eagle** was reported recently by Loyalsock State Forest staff members. The report is from the latter half of December. No other details were included.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Skip Conant, Wesley Egli, Trudy Gerlach, David Engle, Doug Gross.

Susquehanna County

No report.

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner, Woodburn Preserve, RR 6 Box 6294, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 278-3384, jskinner@epix.net.**

Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake Recreation Area (CL), Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Tioga State Forest (TSF), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck), Pine Creek Gorge Important Bird Area #28 (PC).

Seven **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen 11/7 at HCSP (GT), which is rather late for them in our area. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was reported at 9/23 at Cowanesque Lake (KC). This would be an unusual sighting for *Tioga* and was not verified.

On the whole, waterfowl counts this fall were very low, often in the single digits. Four **Gadwalls** and 11 **American Wigeons** were seen 10/17 at Tauscher Pond near HCSP (JP). A raft of 15 **Hooded Mergansers** and one **Bufflehead** were reported at HCSP 11/13. Five **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared at HCSP 11/29. Exceptions to the small counts were a flock of approximately 85 **Brant** seen flying around Hammond Lake 10/10 (TJ) and relatively large numbers of **Common Mergansers**: 200 or more at Hammond 11/15 and 75 at HCSP 11/29 (GT). A small flock of **Greater Scaup** were seen 11/29 at HCSP (GT). Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported at HCSP 11/13 (JP).

A **Merlin** was reported at Cowanesque Lake 11/10 (TJ). **Bald Eagles** are resident in several locations in the county, and both adults

and juveniles were seen regularly at Hammond Lake and along Pine Creek, frequently at HCSP, and occasionally at the Muck (GT).

Only two shorebirds—a **Semipalmated Plover** 8/21 at HCSP (JP) and a **Killdeer** 9/24 along Marsh Creek—were reported for the entire fall migration this year. This is possibly because there was much more rain than normal during the summer, and most lakes and streams remained high well into the fall, putting the most reliable shorebird landing sites under water (GT).

Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** immediately responded vocally to the playing of a CD recording of their calls at Spoor Hollow (2100 feet elevation) in Tioga State Forest 10/3. They flew closely overhead to nearby trees and continued their calls in response until dark (RR, DF). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season was reported 9/28 near Millerton (LB).

A flock of 25 **Horned Larks** were reported 11/1 in the Millerton Area (LB). **Marsh Wrens** were reported 9/11 at the Muck (TB). A **Northern Shrike** was reported 11/9 near Millerton (LB).

Reports of migrating warblers start mid September and last through mid-October. Again, the numbers were small, but there was a fair variety: **Palm** and **Magnolia Warblers** 9/24 near Marsh Creek; a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 10/4 at Baldwin Run in TSF; a **Common Yellowthroat** 10/11 at the Muck; and a **Black-throated Green** 10/10 at Hammond Lake (TJ). A **Wilson's Warbler** was seen 9/6 on Hills Creek Park Road (TB). An exception was enormous numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, maybe 200-300, that were seen 9/11 at Hammond Lake (JH). Many species of wood warblers nest in *Tioga*, so fall is often more notable by their absence rather than their arrival compared to areas farther south.

A **Savannah Sparrow** was reported 9/5 on Hills Creek Park Road (TB). **White-throated Sparrows** (12) and **White-Crowned Sparrows** (6) were seen on the new section of the bike trail across from the Muck 11/21 (GT), and a flock of **Snow Buntings** were seen 11/2 at the Cowanesque Lake boat launch (GS).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Terry Bronson, Larry Brown, Kelly Close, Dianne Franco, Jeff Holbrook, Tom Johnson, Jason Patterson, Robert Ross, Gary Swarouth.

Union County

No report.

Compiler: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com.**

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR) Barkeyville (BV), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City Marina (OCM), Polk Wetlands (PW), Two-Mile Run Park (TMRP).

A total of 166 species were recorded during the season, three fewer than last year. The seasonal highlight was a basic plumage **American Avocet** at KL on 11/22 (GE). The bird had an injured right leg, but appeared able to feed well enough and was not hampered when landing. It remained thru 11/30, long enough to be seen by local birders and by a few visitors (MF, JS, RS, SS, JW). This was our third county record and the first since 2001. Other notable sightings include 4 **Red-throated Loon** at KL 11/22 (JS), our only **Snow Goose** flight 10/11 and a flight of at least 300 **Common Loon** on 11/27, both at BHNS (KG, JS).

With the exception of the avocet, fall shorebird migration, rarely exceptional here due to the scarcity of mudflats, was uneventful. The earliest **Solitary Sandpiper** passed through 7/26 (RS). The only **Greater Yellowlegs** (10/18-11/8), **Lesser Yellowlegs** (10/18-25), and **Dunlin** (10/25-11/3) of the season were at KL (RS).

Five **Merlin** sightings 8/25-9/10 was an uncommonly high number for this area. Four sightings were at OCM; one was at Emlenton (GE, JW). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen south of Franklin 10/6 (GE). Our sixth annual late afternoon **Common Nighthawk** migration count was the most successful to-date with a total of 1246 counted at OCM 8/15-9/10 (GE, RS, JW, et al). The highest daily count was 175 on 9/3.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at BHNS on 9/10 (KG, JS). A new **Purple Martin** colony occupied a martin house on Coast Road,

near BV (RS). This was the only known active colony in the county this year. The annual count of active **Cliff Swallow** nests under the 8th Street Bridge in Franklin was 36 (RS).

Marsh Wren was present at PW 8/27 (RS) and KL 9/27 (JS). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** sightings were at BHNS between 9/21 and 9/27 (KG, JS) and at TMRP 10/3 (RS). Likewise, the only **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at BHNS on 10/11 (KG, JS). **American Tree Sparrow** returned on 11/20 (NB, KG). A late **Pine Siskin** was at a rural feeder 7/11 (NB).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Seneca, PA 16346, gedwards@csonline.net; Russ States, 11 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, pabirder@verizon.net**, Nancy Baker, Mike Fialkovich, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Mike Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Joanne Rowe, Carl Rowe, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Jim Wilson.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Avella (AV), Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Park School Pond (WPSP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Forty-six **Tundra Swans** over Eighty Four 11/8 (AB) represented the top count for the season. **Wood Ducks** were well reported, including lingering birds at R4 and CL 11/8 (MV). Five **American Wigeon** at CC 10/25 (JB) was the only report. Two **American Black Ducks** were spotted at R4 on 11/8 and 11/28 (MV). **Blue-winged Teal** were limited to 2 at CL 9/9 (MV) and one at CL 9/21 (MV). Two **Green-winged Teal** in Peters Twp. on Bebout Road 10/26 (MV), and one was at R4 on 11/8 (MV).

The only report of **Ring-necked Duck** was one at R4 on 11/28. Probably a first county record, a great count of 12 **Black Scoters** (all female/first winter type) put down on R4 on 11/8 (MV, ph. RG). **Buffleheads** were reported three times in Nov (MV, DWs). **Hooded Mergansers** were found only on 11/28 at R4 and CL (MV).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were at CC 10/24 (JB). The species is not believed to self-sustain any longer in southwestern Pennsylvania, but if there are any remaining stable populations, *Washington* seems a likely place. Three **Common Loons** were on R4 on 11/28 (MV). A flock of four **Pied-billed Grebes** at R4 on 11/8 grew to 6 on 11/28 (MV). Additionally 3 were at CC 10/24-25 (JB). An early **Horned Grebe** at BENT 8/22 (AB) also proved to be the only report. The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** was last seen at CL 8/24. CL once again proved to be a good location for **Great Egret** when one or two were in evidence there 8/17-9/21 (m.ob.). Also, one was at a small pond on Donaldson Road in Robinson Twp. 10/17 (MV). **Green Heron** reports were finished with 4 at CC 9/11 (JB).

The **Turkey Vultures** that nest at AV produced young again this year (JB). **Osprey** reports included one at BENT 9/6 (AB), one at CL 9/21 (MV), and one at CC 10/9 (RG, BC). Five to 7 **Northern Harriers** were found at a traditional wintering site in Robinson Twp. in late Nov (MV, GM). The **Red-shouldered Hawks** that nest near Meadowcroft Museum in AV were seen through 11/14 (JB). An **American Kestrel** was probably on wintering grounds in Robinson Twp. 11/15 (MV). One **Merlin** appeared at Washington Cemetery 11/8 (LC) and remained through the season. The resident **American Coot** was spotted at AMD 8/31 (MV).

As has been the case for awhile, most of the interesting shorebirding happened at an undisclosed location near BENT. The impoundment at Greencove Wetlands was drawn down this year which allowed thick and lush grasses to grow up. Though good for sparrows, shorebirds and waterfowl were completely absent at this typically good location. However, the reservoir at CC was also drawn down which created mudflats there for the first time in years, and a few notable birds were found. The BENT location hosted both a **Black-bellied Plover** 9/19 (AB) and an **American Golden-Plover** 8/23-27 (AB). Peak **Killdeer** count was 20 at CC 10/9 (RG, BC). **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at BENT, CC, CL, and in Peters Twp. on Bebout Road. Notable was a late bird at CC 11/21 (RG). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were less off

reported; three records were comprised by one at BENT 8/23 (AB), 3 at BENT 9/19 (AB), and one at CC 10/24 (JB). **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported frequently 8/6-10/19; the former date (8/6) had the high count of 6 at CL (MV). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at CL 10/19 (MV). A **Sanderling** was a good find at CC 9/15 (JB). Numbers of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at BENT 8/22-29 fluctuated between 8 and 30, with the peak coming 8/23 (AB). One was at CL 8/24 (MV). Similarly the numbers of **Least Sandpipers** were highest at BENT from 8/22-29, with a high of 23 on 8/23 (AB). Four were at AMD, where rare, 9/9 (MV). A group of up to 6 was at CC 9/11-26 (JB), and the season's last was also at CC 10/10 (JB). **White-rumped Sandpipers** came in the form of singles at BENT 8/27 and 9/6 (both AB). A **Baird's Sandpiper** at CC 9/11 (JB) was very good for the location. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 2 at BENT 8/23 (AB) and one or two noted occasionally at CC 9/15-10/24 (JB). Three **Dunlin** were at CC 10/24 (JB), the only report. A single **Short-billed Dowitcher** at BENT 9/6 (AB) was also the only reported. Last **Wilson's Snipe** was 2 at CL 11/8 (MV).

The only gull or tern of note was one **Black Tern** at BENT 8/22 (AB).

Eastern Screech-Owls were found at AV and CC (JB). A **Great Horned Owl** was ramping up its vocalizations for the breeding season in West Pike Run Twp. 11/6 (AT). A **Barred Owl** was heard in AV 8/23 (JB). Six **Short-eared Owls** were counted on a traditional wintering site in Robinson Twp. 11/15 (MV). **Common Nighthawks** were reported reasonably well 8/16-9/4, including 6 at Houston 8/16 (CH) and 27 at AV 9/4 (JB). One hundred **Chimney Swifts** were at WPSP 9/21 (LC). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was feeding a juvenile in a BENT backyard 8/8 (AB), one of a very few breeding records known for the county. The only **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** of the season was one in East Findlay Twp. 9/27 (PH).

Last **Eastern Phoebe** was at CL 10/19 (MV). A very late **White-eyed Vireo** was reported at CCCP 10/10 (JB). **Blue-headed Vireos** were represented by singles at East Findlay Twp. 9/27 (PH) and AV 9/28 (JB). A **Common Raven** hung around AV 8/15-9/6 (JB), and two were there 11/14 (JB). Forty-eight **Barn Swallows** was a good count at AV 8/2 (JB), and a late bird was at CC 10/10 (JB). Five **Horned Larks** at BENT 11/7 (AB) were the only report. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at WASH 10/23 (LC). They took up their usual winter posts at Washington Cemetery by 11/8. **Brown Creepers** were at WPSP (LC) and Scenery Hill (AB). A **Marsh Wren** was at Greencove Wetlands 9/7 (LC). First **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at East Findlay Twp. 10/7 (PH), and, like Red-breasted Nuthatches, had settled in at Washington Cemetery by early Nov. Late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at AV 10/24 (JB) and CL 10/26 (SC). The last **Brown Thrasher** was at WPSP 9/11 (LC). A fine count of 20 **American Pipits** was tallied at CC 10/9 (RG, BC), and 3 were still there 10/24 (JB). *Catharus* thrushes were not reported, save one **Swainson's Thrush** at WPSP 9/11 (LC).

Last **Blue-winged Warbler** was at BC 9/7 (LC). **Nashville Warblers** were all singles this season; one at WASH 9/2 (LC), one at AV 9/28 (JB), and one at CL 10/19 (MV). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were reported from five different locations 8/27-9/11. As was the case in nearby *Beaver*, **Magnolia Warblers** frequented most day lists in Sep; best count was 7 at CC 9/11 (JB), and last were 3 at AV 9/28 (JB). A lingering **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at AV 10/1 (JB). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** first appeared at CL 9/21 (MV) and were seen there and elsewhere through Oct. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were thinly reported 9/7-28 (m.ob.). Three **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen in a week's span 9/3-10 at WASH (LC) and AV (JB). **Yellow-throated Warbler** persisted at AV to 9/6 (JB). Two **Pine Warblers** were found in WASH 9/4 (LC). The only report of **Palm Warbler** was one at CC 9/26 (JB). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were one at AV 9/6 (JB), one at BC 9/7 (LC), and one at WPSP 9/11 (LC). **Blackpoll Warbler** lasted until 10/9 when one was found at SGL 232 (RG, BC). Last **Black-and-white Warbler** was in East Findlay Twp. 10/4 (PH). A late **Ovenbird** was located in WASH 10/21 (LC). The season's only post-breeding **Kentucky Warbler** was one at BC 9/7 (LC). **Wilson's Warbler** was found three times, one in WASH 9/1 (LC), one at WPSP 9/11 (LC), and one at CL 9/21 (MV). **Canada Warbler** was located twice; one was at WASH 9/4 (LC), and one was at WPSP 9/11 (LC).

Scarlet Tanager was last noted 9/11. The first **American Tree Sparrow** was in Robinson Twp. 11/8 (SC). First **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at AV 9/28 (JB). Numbers of this species were good at Greencove Wetlands in Oct, including 5 on 10/9 (RG, BC) and 8 on 10/11 (GM). A good count of 60 **Swamp Sparrows** was made at Greencove 10/9 (RG, BC). **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted variously 10/9-25.

A late **Indigo Bunting** was found at Greencove Wetlands 10/9

(RG, BC). The only report of **Bobolink** was 3 birds at BENT 8/22 (AB). A flock of well over 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 100 **Common Grackles** was noted at CL 10/26 (SC). That flock also included 5 **Rusty Blackbirds**. Another rusty was at CL 11/8 (MV). A flock of 100 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at BC 10/9 was interesting (RG, BC).

Three **Purple Finches** at East Findlay Twp. 11/1 (PH) was the only report of finches other than House Finch and American Goldfinch.

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Wayne County

No complier.

Westmoreland County

No complier.

Wyoming County

Fall migration of waterbirds, shorebirds, and waders, at least as reported to me, has not been as exciting in *Wyoming* as it seems to be in some surrounding counties, particularly *Luzerne*. And this year seems to be similar to those of the recent past, with a few species in small numbers.

There were no reports of migrating geese or swans during the period, except my own observations of a number of flocks of **Canada Goose**. It's still exciting to see real live migrating Canada Geese, particularly as we seem to be overpopulated by the resident subspecies.

As for waterbirds, MC provided the only report of an **American Wigeon** in the county, from Lake Carey 10/18. I observed a lone **Green-winged Teal** on Oxbow Lake (11/2). Both birds were gone in a short time. **Ring-necked Duck**, one male and one female, were observed first 10/17 (JD) on Oxbow Lake, and often, in small numbers, throughout the period on Oxbow. **Bufflehead** were reported throughout the period as well, first 11/2, on Oxbow Lake (JD), and on Sordoni's Pond several times, in flocks of 20+ each time (KR). **Hooded Merganser** were reported first 11/14 on Sordoni's Pond (SG); on Oxbow and Lake Carey throughout the period. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were reported on Lake Carey 10/22 (MC), and that was the only report for the period. Finally, **Pied-billed Grebe** were observed 10/17 on Lake Carey (JD) and later, 11/12, on Oxbow Lake (JD), the last report for the period.

There was only one report of a **Great Egret** during the period, on the Susquehanna River near Laceyville 8/13 (EW). We seem to see only a very few of them during their normal after breeding dispersal. Among diurnal raptors, I had a great surprise on 10/3, when I observed a **Black Vulture** over the little league fields in Tunkhannock, while watching my grandson play baseball. This is the first I've seen in the county, although I can't reliably say whether there have been observations by others over the years.

Most warbler reports occurred in July or earlier. However, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported as late as 10/21 on Stanek Road, just west of Tunkhannock (JD), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** was reported 10/5 in Vosburgh (JD). The most exciting sparrow observation was a **Vesper Sparrow** near Phelps Swamp in West Nicholson 10/17 (JD).

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York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd. (ALT), Brunner's Island (BRUN), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hawk Lake York City (HAWK), Lake Redman (LRED), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR).

Twenty four species of waterfowl were reported, but quantities were small. Two **Snow Geese** were at SMR 11/25 (DR). Two **Brant** were found at LAR 11/4, three were there 11/10, and one was still there 11/25 (DR). A **Cackling Goose** was at LAR 11/19 (DR). A few **Tundra Swans** showed up: five at CSP 11/1 (KL), nine at LAR 11/4 (DR), and four at LAR 11/17 (DR). A **Wood Duck** was at SMR at the late date of 11/18 (DR). Also a little late were the three **Blue-winged Teal** that stayed at BRUN until at least 10/22 (LC). After some overnight rain, 15 **Black Scoters** were seen at CSP and two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LAR the morning of 11/1 (KL).

A **Wild Turkey** was seen 9/26 at RRCP (BJH). An **American Bittern** was at HAWK at the late date of 11/16 (LC), and a **Great Egret** stayed late until 11/15 at Marsh Run (LC). Immature **Little Blue Herons** spent some time at the Black Rock Flats section of CSP: two 8/9 (SC), one 8/12 (DC), three 8/25 (DR), and two 8/28 (DC, DR). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 9/28 at LRED (SW), then one was at BRUN 10/3 and 10/5 (LC).

There were several reports of **Osprey** 9/9-10/7, with high counts of four 9/18 at the RRCP hawk watch (DC), and three 10/7 at LAR (DR). Single **Bald Eagles** were seen at several locations. Also five were seen 9/13 (RP) and three 9/30 (PK) at the RRCP hawk watch. On 9/16 a total of 187 **Broad-winged Hawks** came through at the RRCP hawk watch (RP), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen there 9/30 (PK).

An **American Avocet** was found 8/28 at LRED (DC), but was not there the following day. On 10/25 there was an **American Woodcock** in DILL (CR). **Caspian Terns** visited CSP, as they do occasionally during migration, one 8/9 (SC) and two 8/11 (DC). Five **Common Nighthawks** flew past the RRCP hawk watch 9/15 (RP) and one was seen 9/21 at SGL 243 (CR). Twelve **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen from the hawk watch 9/13 (RP).

A late **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at GPSP 11/14 (BJH). There were several reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** from 9/26 to 11/10. A **Least Flycatcher** was at Spring Valley County Park 9/8 (DC) and another was at RRCP 9/9 (DC). Also at RRCP was a **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/5 (RP), and one 9/9 (DC). At BRUN four **Tree Swallows** 10/21 and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 10/5 were somewhat late (LC). A **Winter Wren** was found at ALT 10/24 (RP). A **Gray Catbird** was at DILL on the late date of 11/26 (CR). **Palm Warblers** were found at HAWK from 9/28 to 10/9, with a high of 12 on 10/5 (LC). A **Mourning Warbler** was a good sighting at RRCP 9/9 (DC).

Other reports of somewhat late birds were the 11/19 **Eastern Towhee** on Hoff Rd. (DR), another one 11/26 at DILL (CR), a **Chipping Sparrow** 11/1 at CSP (PJR), and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 10/30 at New Freedom (BF). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at CSP on the more normal date of 9/10 (DR). The ALT old landfill hosted 25 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 10/24 (RP). The only report of **Purple Finch** was the two at DILL 11/26 (CR).

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Photo Quiz #27

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



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

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