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Cover: **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*). This 2nd year bird present in Morrisville, Bucks, 4-5 June 2006 was thought to be of the Mexican subspecies *T.s. monachus*. Photographed here on 4 June (John Freiberg).

from the Editor...

Breeding Bird Tables

A reminder that the 2006 Breeding Bird Tables for this issue are available on the PSO website <http://www.pabirds.org/>. For those who do not have internet access and wish to have copies of the Tables, please contact the Chief Editor.

Compiler News

Please welcome our newest county compilers, Jim Hoyson (Luzerne County) and Christy Bowersox (Union County). Their respective contact information is listed in the local notes. If you are birding in either of these counties please consider submitting your observations to them.

Once again if you have bird sightings from counties that do not have an official County Compiler,

they may be sent directly to the Chief Editor for inclusion. If you are a birder from a county that has no Compiler and you wish to volunteer your services, please contact the Chief Editor. These counties currently do not have an official County Compiler: **Blair, Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Northumberland, Wayne and Wyoming.**

Correction

We apologize to Lindsay Zemba for the misaligned data tables in her Spring Raptor Migration Summary 2006 published in the Spring issue (PB 20: 72-73). Data tables for the Allegheny Front, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Tussey Mountain, and Total for all watch sites were affected. The numbers, themselves, reading from left to right, are

correct, but many appear in the wrong columns. Please take care when looking at the date and adjust the counts (again, reading left-to-right) to correct the species counts for these sites.

Nick Pulcinella
Editor-in-Chief

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Reproductive Success of American Kestrels Using Nest Boxes in Eastern Pennsylvania, 1992-2005

Joshua J. Rusbuldt¹, James R. Klucsarits¹, Sue Robertson², and Bob Robertson²

Abstract

Since 1987, scientists and volunteers of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary have monitored the reproductive success of American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) nesting in boxes near the mountain. Data has been gathered from 1987 onward recording the use and success of nest boxes, as well as assessing the status of the local kestrel population. While kestrel numbers and success rates were somewhat stable between 1992 and 1999, since 2000 box use has declined. For example, in 1995 nest box use was over 50% (N=199 boxes) and fledgling success was over 75%. A decade later, in 2005, nest box use was down to only 23% (N=144 boxes), though success rates remained above 60%. Despite lower nest box use and nestling output, fledgling success in occupied boxes has remained relatively stable throughout the study period (1992-2005).

Introduction

Over the past 50 years the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and its collaborators have annually collected data pertaining to the nest box use of American Kestrels inhabiting the surrounding area (Nagy 1963; Heintzelman and Nagy 1968; Rohrbaugh and Yahner 1997). This nest-box program has been sustained in part due to the successful growth of kestrel populations in other similar study areas that have shown an increase in breeding pairs (Smallwood and Collopy 1991, 1993; Varland and Loughin 1993; Bortolotti 1994; Dawson and Bortolotti 2000).

The goal of this paper is to update a previous publication (Klucsarits et al. 1997) with our recent data on kestrel productivity from 1995 through 2005, and to compare trends with our past observations of nest-box use and other kestrel population studies. Nest-box use and breeding success are presented, along with records on kestrel egg laying periods. Previous studies have been performed on this site in years past (Rohrbaugh and Yahner 1997, Valdez et al. 2000).

Study Area and Methods

The study area includes 1500 square kilometers of mostly open, slightly wooded farmland in eastern Pennsylvania. The site is located 30 kilometers north of Reading, and 30 kilometers west of Allentown. The study area includes parts of Berks, Lehigh, and Schuylkill counties.

Spread across vast acres of farmland in eastern Pennsylvania surrounding the Mountain, at one time over 200 nest boxes were actively checked as part of the study. Sanctuary volunteers routinely check the remaining

boxes in mid-April for signs of kestrel nesting. Collected data include numbers of eggs and nestlings, hatch dates, and counts of banded young (assumed to fledge), as well as observations of non-target species using the boxes.

Nest boxes are mounted mainly on trees and utility poles, with a few on barns and other outbuildings. With few exceptions nest boxes are within 50 meters from an accessible road, and most are within half a kilometer apart. Boxes are mounted between 3 to 6 meters above the ground.

The boxes are constructed of rough-cut, untreated lumber (cedar or pine) and measure internally 26 centimeters deep by 24 centimeters wide by 33 centimeters high. Box openings are 7.6 centimeters in diameter and are centered 26 centimeters from the base of the nest box. All boxes are lined with 2 to 5 centimeters of large woodchips (not sawdust) to cushion the eggs and nestlings.

After the breeding season has ended, boxes are checked before winter sets in. Damaged boxes may be replaced or moved, and all boxes are cleaned of old nesting matter and refreshed with clean woodchips. A second check is performed in early to mid-March to prepare the boxes for the coming season and to expel unwanted species, such as Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*), that may deter nesting kestrels.

During the breeding season, boxes are checked at scheduled periods between May and July for evidence of kestrel nesting. When a nest is discovered, the number of eggs or nestlings is recorded, and an estimate of laying and hatching dates can be extrapolated by counting back the nestling's age. Once nestlings have reached approximately 14-17 days, gender can be determined (Griggs and Steenhof 1993) and the nestlings banded. On some occasions, it was possible to trap and band adult kestrels near the nest boxes (typically females) using bal chatri traps or by physically catching them within the box.

Boxes were considered used if eggs were found inside. Additionally, record was made of successful egg boxes, nest boxes that produced nestlings that survived to banding age. Note was also taken to boxes where entire clutches or broods disappeared, as well as to boxes with unhatched eggs after observed adult kestrel activity had ceased around the box location.

Kestrel reproductive success percentages were calculated by dividing the number of boxes with banded nestlings by the number of boxes in which eggs were laid. Percentages for egg boxes and nestling boxes were determined by dividing the sample size

for a given year by the respective data set (Figure 1).

Results and Discussion

Over the course of the study (1992-2005), kestrel nest box occupancy (boxes with eggs) has ranged from 24% (2005) to 53% (1998). From 1998 onward, box use has begun to decline (Figure 1). Occupancy rates of greater than 50% have been recorded for only four study years during the Mountain's observations: 1987, 1991, 1995, and 1998. In 1998, we observed 101 successful breeding pairs (Figure 2), whereas only five years later in 2003 the number had dropped to approximately half of that total (56 pairs). Continuing declines the past two years have yielded the lowest recorded number of breeding pairs, 34, in 2005. This has resulted in a lower fledgling output of approximately 100 nestlings per season over the past three years (Figure 2).

Reproductive success, the percentage of successful fledglings per boxes with eggs, has varied slightly more, from only 52% (1992) to an 82% success rate in 1994 (Figure 1). Since 1994, success rates declined only to increase again in 1999. A second decline in overall reproductive success, beginning in 2002, continues up to the 2005 breeding season.

The mean clutch size (range: 4.38 to 4.71) over our study interval was 4.57 eggs per kestrel pair (Table 1). Brood size seemed to fluctuate much more than clutch size, with a range of 2.1 nestlings per box (1992) to 3.5 (2000), and a mean brood size of 2.9 nestlings. Referencing the data of our previous publication (1992-1994), the mean brood size has dropped 22%, from a mean of 3.7 nestlings per year during that period. During both intervals, the sex ratio of kestrel nestlings approached unity, despite minor differences in numbers between sexes over a particular year (Table 2, Figure 3).

Kestrel hatch dates vary widely from season to season, from an earliest recorded hatch date of 30 April 1995 to the latest, 1 August 2000. The mean hatch date over all thirteen years was 2 June (Table 3). As Table 3 illustrates, in addition to hatch dates, the kestrel breeding season has varied in length between 1992 and 2005, with a mean season length of 72 days. Hatch dates between first and last clutches in 1996 spanned only 49 days, while in 2000, 94 days separated the earliest from the final hatched clutch.

Perhaps more striking than the variations in hatch date were the overall percentages of clutches hatched in each part of the season. We divided the time between first and last clutches over all the study years into three breeding

periods, and tabulated the total number of clutches for each Early (day 120-150; 30 April-30 May), Middle (day 151-183; 31 May-2 July), and Late (day 184-214; 3 July-2 August) nesting period.

Very few of the overall clutches (and therefore nestlings) resulted from the late nesting period (Figure 4 & 5). It has been documented that female kestrels breeding later yield smaller clutches than those that breed early in the season (Sockman and Schwabl 2001), which supports the lower fledgling counts that we have observed in the Late nesting period. The Early and Middle nesting periods, however, produce over 90% of all clutches and nestlings, with mean percentages of 52% and 42% for the Early and Middle nesting periods, respectively. Figure 4 shows a cyclic pattern of nesting period and fledgling output. Two seasons (1995 and 2002), seven years apart, are dominated by early season nesters. The following season, however, early nesters are replaced by a higher volume of mid-season breeders, which then steadily decline, continuing the cycle. Continued annual observations will be helpful in determining if this behavior is cyclic or simply random variation.

The major potential nest site competitor in our study area has been the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), inhabiting up to 30% of potential nest boxes in a given year (1992, Figure 6) and comprising over 70% of non-target box users (Valdez et al. 2000). Positioning direction of nest boxes, interior color, and the diameter of the box opening are all factors that may determine which species will inhabit which boxes (Balgooyen 1990, Wilmers 1987, Valdez et al. 2000). At most, starlings occupied 29% (1992) of all available kestrel boxes on our study site, observed approximately in 1 of every 5 boxes. While a distinct link between kestrel success and starling abundance is lacking, years with higher numbers of starlings reflect to lower percent success among kestrels (Figure 6). Koenig (2003) showed a definite impact of starling density on kestrel success. Between 2000 and 2005, starling box use within our study site has begun to decline (Figure 6). More observations of the starlings' effects on kestrel success will be needed to determine if a greater link among these two species is present or not.

Summary

Despite the relative breeding success of kestrel populations in some years of the study period (1992-2005), the past three years (2003-2005) have shown reduction in overall kestrel numbers. Despite conservation efforts, the population of northeastern kestrels has begun to decline within the past decade (Bildstein 1996, Illif 1999, National Audubon Society 2005). The underlying mechanisms of this decline may be due to many factors (Sullivan 2005), from habitat loss and prey availability, to an increase in predatory

hawks, adverse weather conditions, or perhaps the West Nile virus.

Regardless of the causes, the culminating effect is that the once abundant kestrel in the northeast United States has declined to an alarming level. Though the causes are likely too interrelated to be accurately identified, the reduction may well be dictated by natural forces. The earlier years of our study showed kestrel population numbers in higher density. There are important efforts toward the conservation of American Kestrels living in our ecological community. Continued monitoring and study will certainly be a boon to the kestrels both now and into the future.

Acknowledgements

We offer our thanks to the staff at Hawk Mountain, and to Keith Bildstein for his editing and technical support. This paper is a Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution.

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Table 1. Annual Mean Kestrel Reproductive Output, 1992-2005

Year	Eggs	Nestlings	Fledglings	Year	Eggs	Nestlings	Fledglings
1992	4.48	2.12	1.91	1999	4.60	3.17	3.02
1993	4.71	3.32	3.21	2000	4.63	3.49	3.21
1994	4.57	3.57	3.35	2001	4.68	3.43	3.34
1995	4.68	3.23	3.12	2002	4.38	2.78	2.63
1996	4.44	2.75	2.57	2003	4.58	2.84	2.36
1997	4.56	2.66	2.35	2004	4.43	2.59	2.41
1998	4.69	2.22	2.04	2005	4.47	3.82	3.65
				Mean All	4.57	2.94	2.73

Table 2. Sex Ratio of American Kestrel Nestlings per Year, 1992-2005

Year	Male	Female	Year	Male	Female
1992	74	90	1999	147	125
1993	148	141	2000	141	103
1994	121	120	2001	122	152
1995	149	166	2002	111	97
1996	123	116	2003	56	76
1997	93	102	2004	60	58
1998	97	109	2005	65	59
			Total	1507	1514

Table 3. American Kestrel Breeding Season Lengths with Respect to Hatching Dates, 1992-2005

Year	Early Hatch	Late Hatch	Season	Mean
1992	133	206	74	153
1993	122	203	82	153
1994	129	199	71	151
1995	120	188	69	154
1996	137	185	49	158
1997	130	208	79	155
1998	124	206	83	148
1999	129	209	81	153
2000	121	214	94	153
2001	131	205	75	154
2002	125	191	67	148
2003	133	199	67	157
2004	135	188	54	155
2005	133	199	67	156
Mean All	128.71	200.00	72.29	153.43

Figure 1. Nestbox Percent Success of American Kestrels at Hawk Mountain Study Sites, 1992-2005

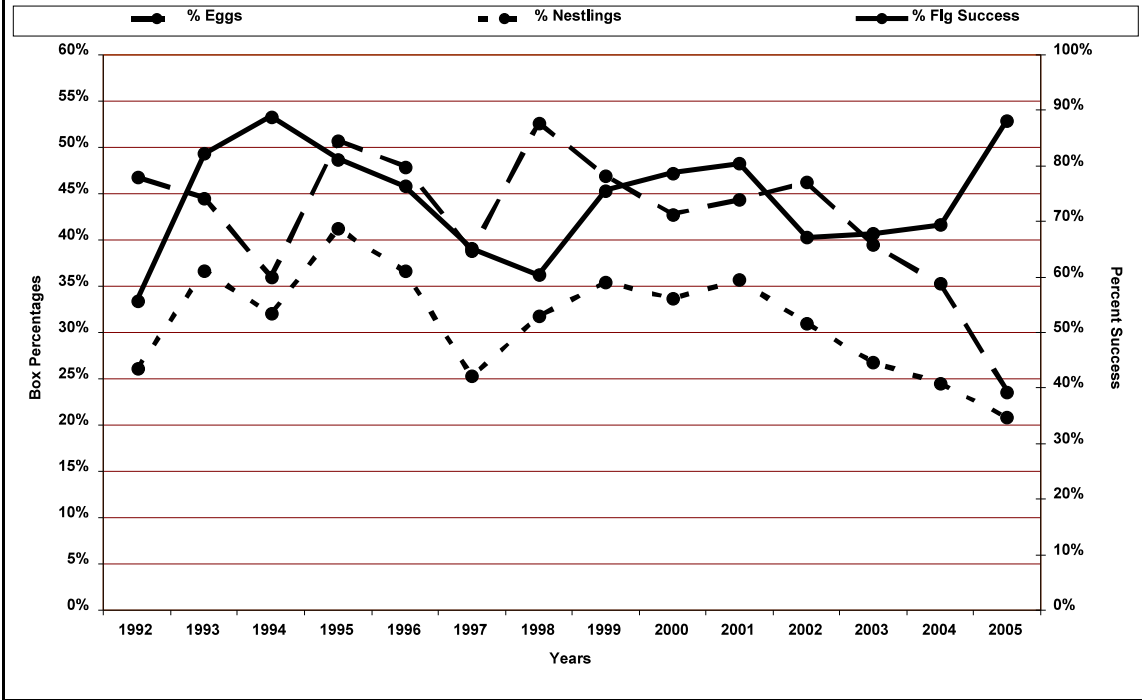


Figure 2. Number of Breeding Pairs and Total Fledgling Output from Hawk Mountain Study Sites, 1992-2005

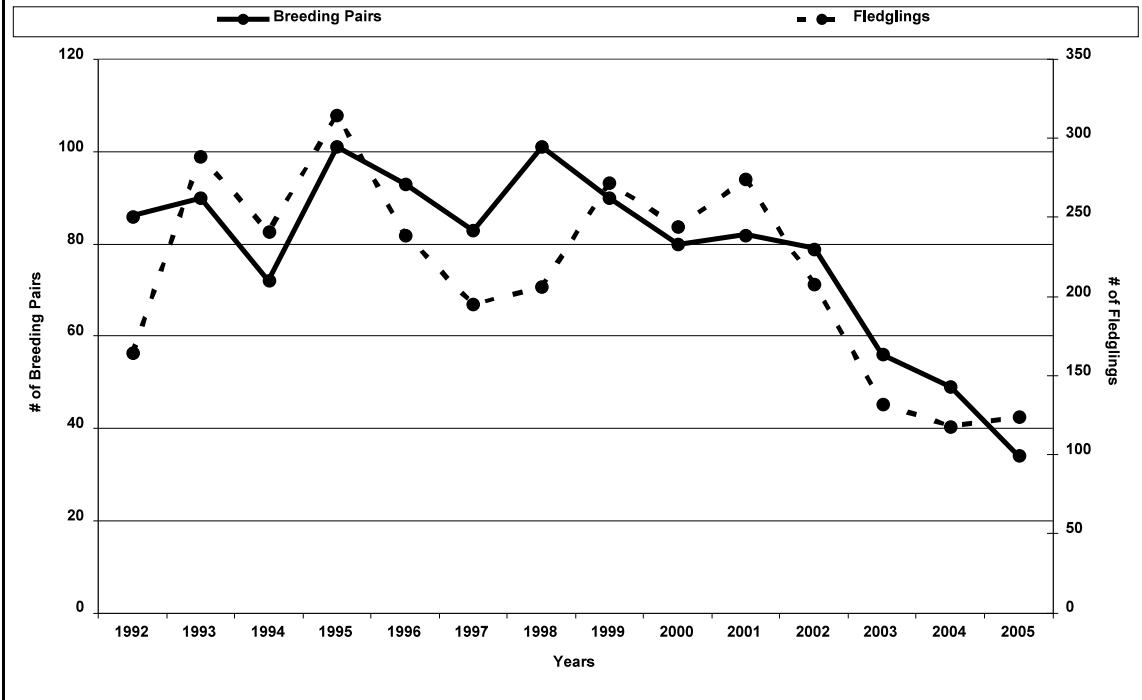


Figure 3. Sex Ratio of American Kestrel Nestlings, 1992-2005

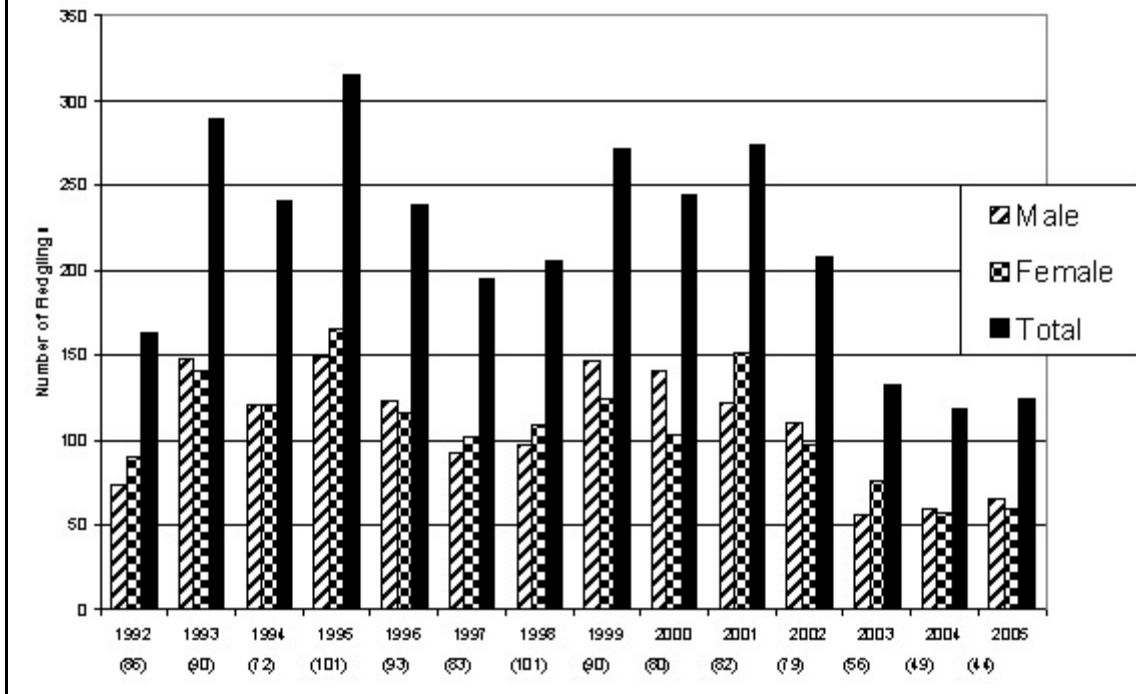


Figure 4. Clutch Percentages per Early, Mid, and Late Nesting Periods, 1992-2005

[Early-Day 120 to 150; Mid-Day 151 to 183; Late-Day 184 to 214]

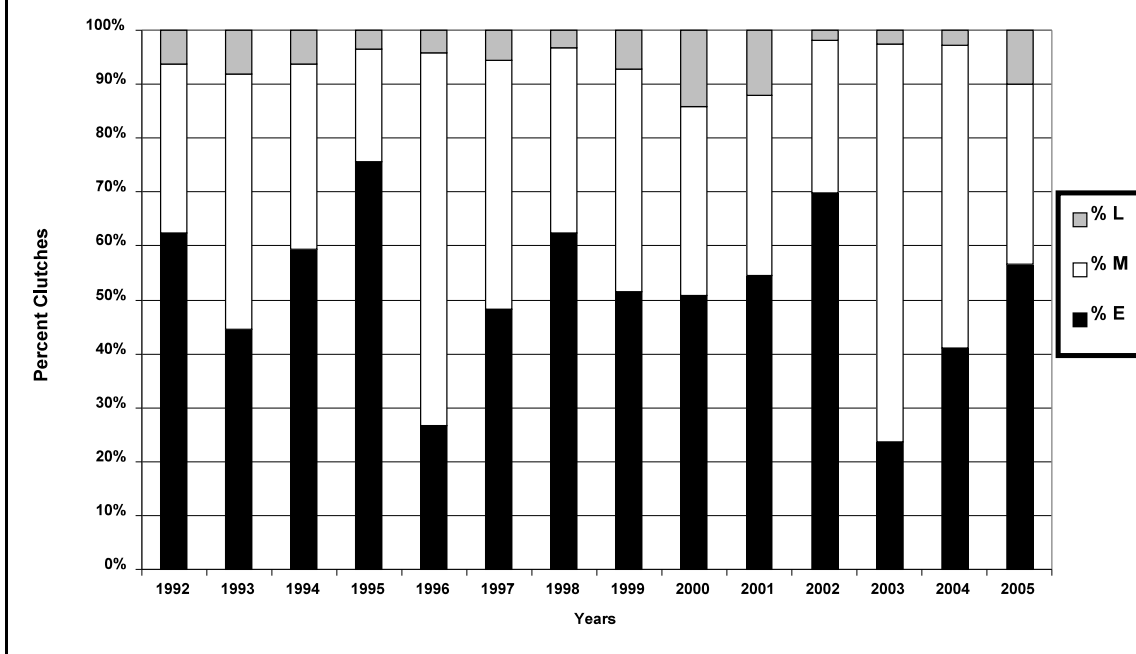


Figure 5. Fledglings per Early, Mid, and Late Nesting Periods, 1992-2005
 [Early-Day 120 to 150; Mid-Day 151 to 183; Late-Day 184 to 214]

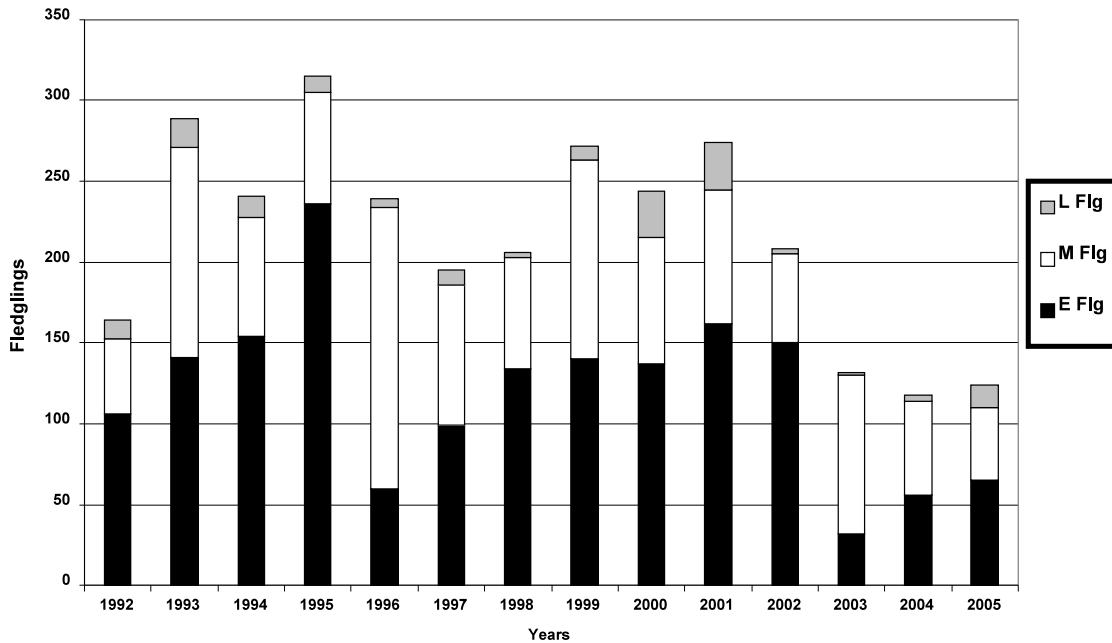
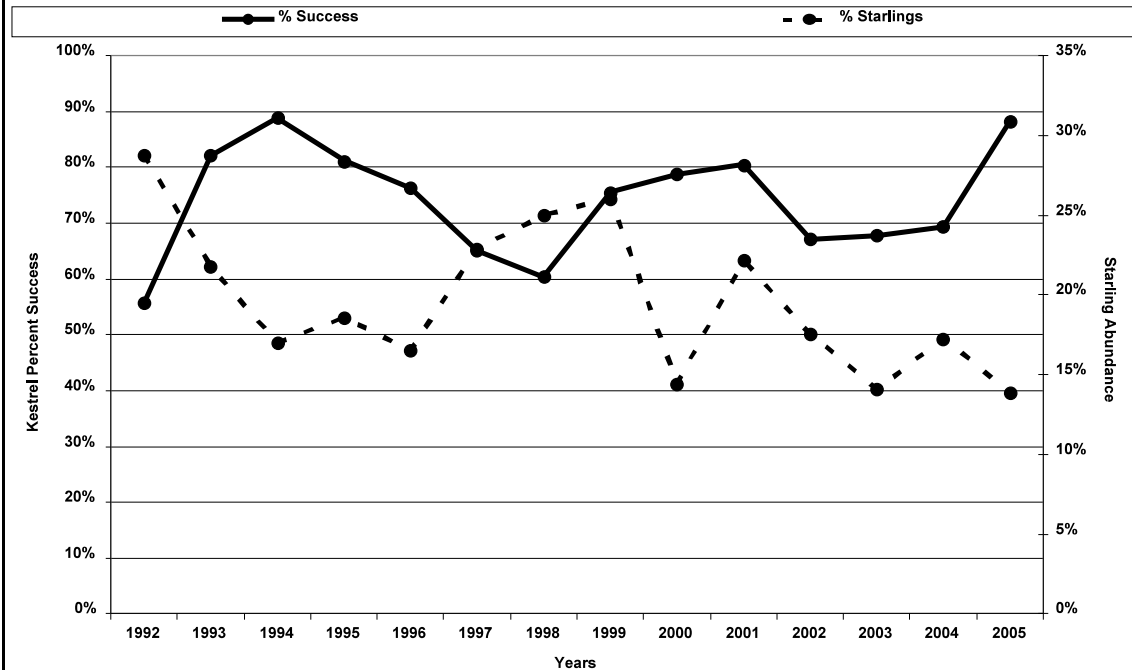


Figure 6. Kestrel Success Compared to Starling Nestbox Use, 1992-2005



Changes in Pennsylvania's Breeding Birds Since the First Atlas, According to the Breeding Bird Survey

Nicholas C. Bolgiano

It is worthwhile to periodically review results from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), the most extensive large-scale survey of breeding birds in North America. It is especially informative now that we are focusing on breeding birds in the current atlas project, as BBS data can add context to atlas findings, as was done for the first atlas (Brauning 1992). In the nearly two decades since Pennsylvania's first breeding bird atlas, the hands of nature and of man have modified the landscape and bird population numbers have changed. The current atlas project will pass judgment upon those avifaunal changes, but let's see what the BBS has to say about Pennsylvania trends since the first atlas.

The Breeding Bird Survey

The Breeding Bird Survey has operated since 1966, with about 3000 routes in the United States and Canada currently run every year. Each BBS route consists of 50 stops on a driving route, with consecutive stops a half-mile apart and at the same location each year. At each stop, all birds encountered within a 3-minute period are tallied. Each route is run once a year, typically in early June and starting a half-hour before sunrise. Preferably, the same person runs a route for a span of years, so that observer differences are minimized. Scientists at U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center use the data to assess bird populations across the continent, by state, province, or physiographic region (Robbins et al. 1986).

A statistical method called route regression is used to estimate the population trend for a species over a designated time period. The intent is to measure the overall trend signal from all routes while minimizing the effects of extraneous variability. First, trends for individual routes are calculated. If the observer has changed, a variable is included to account for observer differences. To attain a single trend estimate, the individual route trends are weighted to compensate for the route density within physiographic regions, coverage consistency, and relative abundance, with routes having higher counts for that species given greater emphasis. A technique called bootstrapping is used to estimate the variance, which then allows a statistical test of whether or not there is a non-zero trend over the time period (Robbins et al. 1986; Sauer et al. 2005).

An outcome of route regression is an estimate of the annual population change for a species. This has meaning to biologists. For example, sustained

annual increases (or decreases) of 2.5%, 5%, and 10% translate into a doubling (or halving) in 29, 15, and 8 years, respectively.

Trend estimates are more precise for common species. For species with very low counts or observed on a small number of routes, results can be unreliable, so for this review, I omitted species with mean counts lower than 0.1 birds per route or those observed on fewer than 14 routes, benchmarks commonly used in BBS analyses. One should further be cautious of trend estimates for species with mean counts between 0.1 and 1 (Sauer et al. 2005). A year-to-year change of a few individuals on a handful of routes makes little difference for a common species. However, it can make a bigger difference for an uncommon species, adding uncertainty to trend estimates. (Here, means are calculated only from those routes where that species was detected at least once.)

The BBS in Pennsylvania

I compared BBS trends for the periods 1966-1985 and 1986-2005. These 20-year spans meet in the middle of the first atlas period of 1983-1989 and can roughly be considered as before and after the first atlas. Between 1966 and 1973, the number of routes expanded from 33 to 83, but gradually declined to 52 in 1984-1986. The number of routes subsequently expanded to 79-98 during 1988-2005, with better coverage of some of the state's more remote forests.

A total of 117 species met the requirement of being observed on at least 14 routes with a mean of at least 0.1 birds per route during one or both of the time periods. This species number was slightly fewer than two-thirds of Pennsylvania's 187 confirmed breeding species from the first atlas. (Trend data were not available for Alder and Willow Flycatchers, as they were classified as Traill's Flycatcher during the early years of the BBS.)

I categorized those 117 species into one of four groups: 1) forest birds that are either year-round residents or temperate-zone migrants; 2) forest birds that are Neotropical migrants; 3) birds of open or scrub habitats, which are mainly farmlands, grasslands, and early successional habitats; and 4) all others, primarily birds of water or urban/suburban habitats, or habitat generalists. I chose those combinations of habitat and migration characteristic because Neotropical migrants and birds of open/scrub have been the subject of research and debate, including in this journal twelve years ago (Robbins et al.

1989; Terborgh 1989; Hagan and Johnston 1992; Brauning 1994; Hess and Floyd 1994; Mellon 1994). As noted by Hess and Floyd (1994), categorizing species isn't cut-and-dried and classifications by another observer might differ. I discuss here those species for which there was a 95% confidence of a non-zero trend in at least one of the two periods. See Table 1 for trend and significance level (P-value) of all 117 species. (The P-value is the probability of judging that a trend occurred when there really was no trend. A value less than 0.05 usually indicates a trend.)

Forest Birds, Residents and Temperate-zone Migrants

Of the 20 species in this category, 13 exhibited an apparent trend in one of the two time periods. Further, all the trends in the recent period were positive (Figure 1). Figure 1 symbols depicting increasing trends are above the horizontal zero line, while those depicting decreasing trends are below. During the first period, the apparently increasing species were, ordered right-to-left by their mean counts, **Tufted Titmouse** (TUTI), **Black-capped Chickadee** (BCCH), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (RBWO), and **Common Raven** (CORA), while the apparently decreasing species were **Northern Flicker** (NOFL) and **Hairy Woodpecker** (HAWO). During the second period, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Common Raven continued to show apparent increases, joined by **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (YBSA), **Hermit Thrush** (HETH), **White-breasted Nuthatch** (WBNU), **Carolina Chickadee** (CACH), **Pileated Woodpecker** (PIWO), **Wild Turkey** (WITU), and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (YRWA). (Carolina Chickadee and Yellow-rumped Warbler didn't meet the sufficient data criteria until period two.) During the second period, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Flicker, and Hairy Woodpecker numbers leveled off; the chickadee after an increasing trend, the two woodpeckers after decreasing trends (Figure 1).

If a species substantially increased or decreased in abundance between the two periods, its mean count tended to shift right or left, respectively. Species are only roughly ordered from right-to-left by decreasing abundance. Be aware that when comparing species, mean counts reflect both abundance along the route and detectability. An observer is more likely to detect a higher percentage of the louder and more conspicuous birds. Forest birds may be detected at a lower rate than birds in the open.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Pileated Woodpecker data may illustrate how trend judgments can be affected by detection frequency. In the first period, their trends could not be judged as different from zero, even though the estimates of their annual trend were 5-7%. During the second period, they were observed more often, probably from a combination of population increase and more BBS routes being run within their habitat. That allowed the determination that a non-zero trend occurred in period two (Figure 1).

Forest Birds, Neotropical Migrants

There were 33 species in this category, with a more mixed result than for the forest residents and temperate-zone migrants. Seven species were judged to increase in the first period; this jumped to ten in the second period. Four were judged to decrease in the first period; this doubled to eight in the subsequent period. Thus, it appears that the trends of forest Neotropical migrants became more extreme over time. However, the additional forest routes in the second period may have contributed to this pattern, by allowing a better assessment of the uncommon birds that live there.

One main theme was of apparent increases during period two for a set of uncommon to locally common species with northern geographical distributions that extend down the Appalachians: **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (CSWA), **Black-throated Green Warbler** (BTNW), **Blackburnian Warbler** (BLBW), **Blue-headed Vireo** (BHVI), **Magnolia Warbler** (MAWA), and **Canada Warbler** (CAWA). Among these, Canada Warbler switched from an apparent decline during the first period (Figure 2).

An offsetting theme was of apparent declines during period two for some species common at many locations: **Wood Thrush** (WOTH), **Scarlet Tanager** (SCTA), **Eastern Wood-Pewee** (EAWP), **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (RBGR), **Least Flycatcher** (LEFL), and **Acadian Flycatcher** (ACFL). Among these, Wood Thrush was the only one to also show a significant decline in period one, while Acadian Flycatcher flipped from increasing to decreasing (Figure 2).

Several species exhibited consistent trends between the two periods. **Red-eyed Vireo** (REVI) and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (RTHU) exhibited significant increasing trends during both periods. **Whip-poor-will** (WPWI), with a negative 12.7% annual trend in the first period, failed to reach the 0.1 birds per route threshold during the second period, possibly because of a population decline (Figure 2).

Other species appeared to modify their trend direction from up or down to no trend, or vice-versa. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (YBCU), **Yellow-throated Vireo** (YTVI), **Louisiana Waterthrush**

(LOWA), and **Northern Parula** (NOPA) apparently increased, then leveled off, while **Black-and-white Warbler** (BAWW) apparently decreased before leveling off. Conversely, **Ovenbird** (OVEN) and **Warbling Vireo** (WAVI) were apparently stable, then increased, while **Black-billed Cuckoo** (BBCU) and **Kentucky Warbler** (KEWA) were apparently stable, then decreased. Kentucky Warbler may actually have been declining in period one, but there was insufficient evidence to detect this (Figure 2).

Birds of Open and Scrub Habitats

Among the 30 species of open and scrub habitats, the main theme was of continued declines for eight species, though several others leveled off and one even increased after several decades of decline.

The species that declined over both periods included four ground-nesting birds of farmlands and grasslands: **Eastern Meadowlark** (EAME), **Ring-necked Pheasant** (RNPH), **Grasshopper Sparrow** (GRSP), and **Vesper Sparrow** (VESP); and four species of early succession scrub: **Song Sparrow** (SOSP), **Field Sparrow** (FISP), **Yellow-breasted Chat** (YBCH), and **Golden-winged Warbler** (GWWA) (Figure 3).

The trend for several other species was downward. **Barn Swallow** (BARS) appeared to show a decline in the recent period, while **Indigo Bunting** (INBU) apparently declined after initially increasing. **Northern Bobwhite** (NOBO) exhibited a decreasing trend in period one, but a non-significant trend in period two (Figure 3). BBS data indicate that bobwhites had mostly disappeared by period two on Pennsylvania routes where they were once common. Small numbers continued to be detected around the state, consistent with releases of pen-reared birds.

Red-winged Blackbird (RWBL), **Eastern Towhee** (EATO), **Savannah Sparrow** (SAVS), and **Brown Thrasher** (BRTH) apparently declined in period one, but then leveled off, although there was almost enough evidence to say that the sparrow decline continued. After several decades of steep decline, **Horned Lark** (HOLA) numbers showed a modest recovery in period two (Figure 3).

Common Yellowthroat (COYE), **Yellow Warbler** (YWAR), **Bobolink** (BOBO), and **Blue-winged Warbler** (BWWA) appeared to initially increase before leveling off (Figure 3).

Birds of Other Habitats

The remaining 34 species were from predominantly water or urban/suburban habitats, or were habitat generalists. Their trends were likewise mixed.

One theme was the apparent decline of nine common species: **European Starling** (EUST), **Common**

Grackle (COGR), **House Sparrow** (HOSP), **Chipping Sparrow** (CHSP), **Rock Pigeon** (RODO), **House Finch** (HOFI), **House Wren** (HOWR), **Brown-headed Cowbird** (BHCO), and **Eastern Phoebe** (EAPH). These declines occurred over both periods for the starling, the grackle, House Sparrow, the cowbird, and the phoebe, but occurred only in the second period for the others. The phoebe declines appeared to be of short duration and possibly were weather-related; no trend was apparent over the entire forty years.

The roll-coaster ride of House Finch was unique. Their period one increase of 47.5% was by far the largest in magnitude of any trend (Figure 4). Their period two decline actually began after the winter of 1993-1994, when house finch conjunctivitis was first observed affecting this species.

Three species may have been increasing during both periods. However, **Canada Goose** (CAGO) and **Common Merganser** (COME) were not common enough during period one for a trend to be judged significant. Their period two trends are calculated as 10.1% and 9.1%, respectively. There was sufficient evidence to say that the **Mourning Dove** (MODO) trends were positive during both periods (Figure 4).

The trends for eight other species appeared to vary: **Cedar Waxwing** (CEDW), **Mallard** (MALL), **Bank Swallow** (BANS), and **Great Blue Heron** (GBHE) from an initial increase to stability; **Carolina Wren** (CARW), **Turkey Vulture** (TUVU), and **Orchard Oriole** (OROR) from stability to an increasing trend; and **American Goldfinch** (AMGO) from a decreasing trend to an increasing one (Figure 3).

Discussion

The BBS trends reflect changes in the landscape and life histories of the birds. Under favorable conditions, many species are able to expand their populations or even reverse declines within a relatively short period of time. Conversely, if habitat requirements are not met, the short life span of many birds and the precariousness of reproduction can soon lead to population losses. Therefore, it isn't surprising that the BBS results are a mix of good news and bad news. Since the first atlas, it can be concluded that about half of the 117 species have experienced population size changes. Of those judged to have changed, about half of the trends were increasing and half were decreasing. But, as we have seen, those changes were not equally distributed among species of different habitats or migration characteristics.

The healthy increases of so many forest birds constitute good news. A century after the cutting of most of the state's forests, it seems logical that forest re-growth and the increase in forest birds are related. Pennsylvania's forests host some of the highest densities of

forest birds in the northeastern United States, from common species such as Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager, to species of northern affinity such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, and Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers (Bolgiano 2006). This reflects the value to birds of the large portion the state's land area covered by forests.

Around the time of Pennsylvania's first atlas, ornithologists became very concerned about the state of North America's birds, especially of Neotropical migrant songbirds affected by forest fragmentation, cowbird parasitism, and loss of wintering habitat (Brittingham and Temple 1983; Robbins et al. 1989; Terborgh 1989; Hagan and Johnston 1992). These processes don't appear to be causing across-the-board declines in Pennsylvania's Neotropical migrants, a point previously made by Hess and Floyd (1994). However, as Robbins et al. (1989) observed from eastern North American BBS data, declines in Pennsylvania's forest breeding birds appeared to be concentrated among the Neotropical migrants. Meanwhile, the resident and temperate-zone migrants may have benefited from the comparatively mild winters of the last several decades.

For at least one apparently declining Neotropical migrants, a cause of the decline may be a breeding-grounds phenomenon. Wood Thrush has been found to breed less frequently where there is high acid deposition from air pollution, with some of the highest depositions in New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia (Hames et al. 2002). BBS maps appear to show similar geographic patterns among the declines of Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Least Flycatcher, being most pronounced in a swath of Pennsylvania and New York south and east of Lakes Erie and Ontario (Bolgiano 2006). More research is needed to understand the reasons for these declines.

As some species benefit from forest re-growth, others can be expected to lose out as forest openings close. This could be happening to Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Least Flycatcher, and Kentucky Warbler, as Mellon (1994) suggested may be happening for the flycatcher in the Poconos. For Kentucky Warbler at some western Pennsylvania locations, a more important problem is not closure of forest openings, but deer's destruction of essential shrub nesting habitat at openings and forest edges (P. Hess, pers. comm.).

The cowbird threat may be diminishing in many parts of Pennsylvania, as their annual BBS Pennsylvania trends were -5.7% and -3.5% during the two periods. Cowbirds numbers appeared to drop sharply in the mid-1970s and may be undergoing another contraction. Cowbird parasitism may be a bigger problem in states with much less forest cover.

Declines in birds of farmlands and grasslands and of early-succession scrub

have been well documented. Loss of habitat and lower reproduction and survival have resulted from increased development, the abandonment of farmland and forest re-growth, and more intensive farming on the remaining farms, particularly earlier and more frequent mowing of hayfields (Peterjohn and Sauer 1999; Bolgiano 1999, 2000; Askins 2000). That several species were able to stabilize their numbers after decades of declines suggests either that some landscape factors moderated to be less unfavorable or that there is sufficient habitat for a sustainable population. This was not true for Golden-winged Warbler, however. If their decline is anywhere near the 10% annual loss calculated for the BBS, this species is in serious trouble in Pennsylvania.

It is not clear if there is a common cause to the declines of eight common species from urban/suburban habitats or that are habitat generalists. Several are so well adapted to humans that they have become pests in many places. Some readers may conclude that lower numbers of those species is a benefit.

A statistical principle of BBS data is the comparative difficulty of finding trend evidence for uncommon species compared to more common ones. Insufficiency of trend evidence does not dismiss the possibility of an important trend occurring. For **American Kestrel**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Worm-eating Warbler**, decreasing, though non-significant, trends in both periods warn of possible declines (Table 1). For those species, it would make sense to examine the trend from a wider area or over a longer time.

With three breeding seasons of data already collected for the second atlas, some atlas trends seem to be corroborating the BBS trends. Viewing the block presence-absence data, increases between the two atlases will probably be evident for species that have expanded their range or moved into additional locales, including Canada Goose, Common Merganser, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven, Carolina Chickadee, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Declines between the two atlases will likely be evident for uncommon species with relatively large rates of population decline. Among these are the ground-nesting birds of farmlands, as well as Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Kentucky Warbler.

Population changes for common birds will be more difficult to detect using atlas data. For example, if a thousand Red-eyed Vireos were breeding in a block during the first atlas, the likelihood of detecting at least one is not appreciably increased if two thousand vireos are present during the second atlas. However, population changes for some relatively common species, such as Wood Thrush and Least Flycatcher, will probably become apparent in certain regions of the state. Trends of common

species will be much easier to detect during the third atlas, when the plan is to replicate the point counts being initiated during the current atlas.

This review of BBS results illustrates both the continuity and the dynamism of Pennsylvania bird populations. The current atlas will provide a snapshot of Pennsylvania's birds, but the BBS helps to inform us on how they arrived at their present levels of distribution and abundance.

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Table 1. BBS trends (% annual change) and trend P-values from 1966-1985 and 1986-2005, for birds grouped by habitat and migration characteristic if a forest bird.

Species	Trend (1966-1985)	P (1966-1985)	Trend (1986-2005)	P (1986-2005)	Group
Canada Goose (CAGO)	13.36	0.179	10.08	<0.00001	Other
Wood Duck			4.94	0.077	Other
Mallard (MALL)	6.53	0.0095	-0.43	0.827	Other
Common Merganser (COME)			9.13	0.011	Other
Ring-necked Pheasant (RNPH)	-2.72	0.025	-7.08	0.00003	Open/Scrub
Wild Turkey (WITU)	-9.98	0.191	7.11	0.0019	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Northern Bobwhite (NOBO)	-14.04	0.0001	-5.76	0.071	Open/Scrub
Great Blue Heron (GBHE)	7.59	0.00099	-0.18	0.879	Other
Green Heron	-0.06	0.972	-2.57	0.092	Other
Turkey Vulture (TUVU)	2.64	0.257	3.63	0.0037	Other
Broad-winged Hawk	4.54	0.360	2.08	0.213	Forest-Neotropical
Red-tailed Hawk	13.70	0.178	2.50	0.096	Open/Scrub
American Kestrel	-2.86	0.171	-2.12	0.218	Open/Scrub
Killdeer	0.51	0.589	-0.81	0.193	Open/Scrub
Rock Pigeon (RODO)	-0.57	0.668	-1.78	0.043	Other
Mourning Dove (MODO)	4.54	<0.00001	0.89	0.026	Other
Black-billed Cuckoo (BBCU)	-3.89	0.311	-5.41	0.0023	Forest-Neotropical
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU)	6.58	0.0097	1.36	0.188	Forest-Neotropical
Whip-poor-will (WPWI)	-12.74	0.0011			Forest-Neotropical
Chimney Swift	-1.21	0.243	-0.42	0.470	Other
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (RTHU)	6.95	0.032	2.49	0.0081	Forest-Neotropical
Belted Kingfisher	-1.15	0.349	1.38	0.305	Other
Red-bellied Woodpecker (RBWO)	10.47	0.001	6.67	<0.00001	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (YBSA)	6.90	0.358	9.84	0.00001	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Downy Woodpecker	-2.02	0.130	-0.62	0.262	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Hairy Woodpecker (HAWO)	-6.01	0.0185	1.14	0.350	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Northern Flicker (NOFL)	-8.32	<0.00001	1.08	0.061	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO)	5.12	0.155	2.95	0.00083	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Eastern Wood-Pewee (EAWP)	-1.72	0.164	-3.87	<0.00001	Forest-Neotropical
Acadian Flycatcher (ACFL)	3.46	0.0097	-1.72	0.027	Forest-Neotropical
Least Flycatcher (LEFL)	-2.30	0.077	-2.56	0.00003	Forest-Neotropical
Eastern Phoebe (EAPH)	-2.93	0.0012	-1.86	<0.00001	Other
Great Crested Flycatcher	1.10	0.176	-1.10	0.085	Forest-Neotropical
Eastern Kingbird	-0.68	0.573	-0.84	0.373	Open/Scrub
White-eyed Vireo	4.04	0.536	0.19	0.883	Open/Scrub
Yellow-throated Vireo (YTVI)	3.43	0.032	-1.19	0.329	Forest-Neotropical
Blue-headed Vireo (BHVI)	6.44	0.060	1.97	0.0048	Forest-Neotropical
Warbling Vireo (WAVI)	3.20	0.051	3.08	0.0007	Forest-Neotropical
Red-eyed Vireo (REVI)	1.58	0.0028	0.72	0.0177	Forest-Neotropical
Blue Jay (BLJA)	-1.24	0.095	-0.46	0.349	Forest-Resident/Temporal
American Crow	0.90	0.100	0.27	0.268	Other
Fish Crow	-0.01	0.999	2.49	0.518	Other
Common Raven (CORA)	11.33	0.0203	8.99	<0.00001	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Horned Lark (HOLA)	-12.26	<0.00001	5.58	0.035	Open/Scrub
Purple Martin	0.21	0.921	2.42	0.663	Other
Tree Swallow	5.48	0.085	1.58	0.331	Open/Scrub
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-4.62	0.440	0.11	0.938	Other
Bank Swallow (BANS)	12.10	0.0122	-2.10	0.654	Other
Cliff Swallow	4.02	0.407	0.17	0.929	Other
Barn Swallow (BARS)	1.39	0.064	-2.28	0.00075	Open/Scrub

Carolina Chickadee (CACH)			4.56	0.0085	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Black-capped Chickadee (BCCH)	2.63	0.00064	-0.34	0.472	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Tufted Titmouse (TUTI)	3.23	0.00008	1.62	0.00001	Forest-Resident/Temporal
White-breasted Nuthatch (WBNU)	0.78	0.570	2.33	0.0121	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Brown Creeper			-0.72	0.533	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Carolina Wren (CARW)	0.60	0.832	3.74	0.00022	Other
House Wren (HOWR)	-0.16	0.681	-2.81	<0.00001	Other
Winter Wren			-0.72	0.569	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2.64	0.316	-1.90	0.116	Forest-Neotropical
Eastern Bluebird	2.53	0.370	-0.32	0.659	Open/Scrub
Veery	0.62	0.468	-0.85	0.235	Forest-Neotropical
Hermit Thrush (HETH)	-0.91	0.727	1.78	0.020	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Wood Thrush (WOTH)	-1.84	0.0013	-2.58	<0.00001	Forest-Neotropical
American Robin	-0.88	0.105	0.27	0.183	Other
Gray Catbird	0.06	0.919	0.40	0.406	Open/Scrub
Northern Mockingbird	1.41	0.318	-0.49	0.533	Other
Brown Thrasher (BRTH)	-5.54	<0.00001	0.86	0.303	Open/Scrub
European Starling (EUST)	-3.27	<0.00001	-0.90	0.016	Other
Cedar Waxwing (CEDW)	4.99	0.0044	-0.39	0.478	Other
Blue-winged Warbler (BWWA)	7.19	0.0096	-1.14	0.474	Open/Scrub
Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA)	-5.29	0.027	-10.03	0.00051	Open/Scrub
Northern Parula (NOPA)	6.72	0.0076	0.08	0.970	Forest-Neotropical
Yellow Warbler (YWAR)	2.98	0.0028	-0.74	0.187	Open/Scrub
Chestnut-sided Warbler (CSWA)	-2.04	0.324	2.36	0.0128	Forest-Neotropical
Magnolia Warbler (MAWA)	-0.22	0.959	5.58	0.0040	Forest-Neotropical
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1.00	0.812	1.88	0.152	Forest-Neotropical
Yellow-rumped Warbler (YRWA)			4.91	0.00016	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Black-throated Green Warbler (BTNW)	0.27	0.915	3.93	<0.00001	Forest-Neotropical
Blackburnian Warbler (BLBW)	-0.67	0.709	2.68	0.038	Forest-Neotropical
Pine Warbler			9.33	0.056	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Prairie Warbler	3.12	0.280	-2.48	0.108	Open/Scrub
Cerulean Warbler	-3.57	0.371	-1.93	0.105	Forest-Neotropical
Black-and-white Warbler (BAWW)	-3.78	0.048	-0.98	0.237	Forest-Neotropical
American Redstart	0.10	0.933	0.17	0.811	Forest-Neotropical
Worm-eating Warbler	-6.32	0.115	-2.41	0.182	Forest-Neotropical
Ovenbird (OVEN)	1.16	0.187	1.66	0.00001	Forest-Neotropical
Louisiana Waterthrush (LOWA)	6.39	0.021	-1.51	0.099	Forest-Neotropical
Kentucky Warbler (KEWA)	-6.93	0.450	-5.18	0.00196	Forest-Neotropical
Mourning Warbler			4.61	0.332	Open/Scrub
Common Yellowthroat (COYE)	1.61	0.021	-0.04	0.903	Open/Scrub
Hooded Warbler	-0.10	0.963	2.18	0.059	Forest-Neotropical
Canada Warbler (CAWA)	-8.37	0.0094	5.59	0.0131	Forest-Neotropical
Yellow-breasted Chat (YBCH)	-7.61	<0.00001	-5.77	0.00032	Open/Scrub
Scarlet Tanager (SCTA)	0.60	0.479	-0.97	0.0155	Forest-Neotropical
Eastern Towhee (EATO)	-6.28	<0.00001	-0.46	0.322	Open/Scrub
Chipping Sparrow (CHSP)	-0.71	0.080	-1.54	0.0026	Other
Field Sparrow (FISP)	-4.53	<0.00001	-3.97	<0.00001	Open/Scrub
Vesper Sparrow (VESP)	-7.67	<0.00001	-3.86	0.0045	Open/Scrub
Savannah Sparrow (SAVS)	-5.39	0.0015	-1.80	0.055	Open/Scrub
Grasshopper Sparrow (GRSP)	-6.45	0.035	-6.06	<0.00001	Open/Scrub
Song Sparrow (SOSP)	-2.08	0.0024	-1.21	<0.00001	Open/Scrub
Swamp Sparrow	1.76	0.579	1.22	0.460	Other
Dark-eyed Junco	2.14	0.313	-0.11	0.875	Forest-Resident/Temporal
Northern Cardinal	0.63	0.132	0.21	0.575	Other
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (RBGR)	1.63	0.468	-1.36	0.041	Forest-Neotropical
Indigo Bunting (INBU)	1.50	0.028	-1.14	0.00022	Open/Scrub

Bobolink (BOBO)	3.55	0.033	0.84	0.439	Open/Scrub
Red-winged Blackbird (RWBL)	-2.76	<0.00001	-0.20	0.634	Open/Scrub
Eastern Meadowlark (EAME)	-7.04	<0.00001	-2.92	<0.00001	Open/Scrub
Common Grackle (COGR)	-3.09	<0.00001	-1.07	0.026	Other
Brown-headed Cowbird (BRCO)	-5.67	<0.00001	-3.49	<0.00001	Other
Orchard Oriole (OROR)	0.96	0.846	7.01	0.027	Other
Baltimore Oriole	1.67	0.078	0.45	0.422	Other
Purple Finch	0.65	0.794	2.23	0.120	Forest-Resident/Temporal
House Finch (HOFl)	47.54	<0.00001	-2.82	0.00054	Other
American Goldfinch (AMGO)	-3.92	<0.00001	1.83	0.0031	Other
House Sparrow (HOSP)	-1.79	0.0047	-1.64	0.00094	Other

Answer to Photo Quiz #13

Rick Wiltraut



This bird is very light colored overall and has a very light gray mantle. Note the small, dove-like head with a distinct peak at the top and the very small dark bill. Also notice the dark crescent in front of the eye or “black eye” look and very little evidence of an ear spot. This bird has a long tail and long wings (indicated by the folded wingtips that extend well beyond the end of the tail). These two features combine to attenuate the rear end of the bird. Winter adult Little Gulls are similar but have a more noticeable ear spot and a dark cap. They also have shorter wings, giving them a stockier appearance when resting on the water.

Winter adult Black-headed Gulls have darker mantles, dark wingtips and a more noticeable ear spot. They also have larger bills, which are mostly red, not black. Winter adult Bonaparte’s Gull (bird in background) has a darker mantle, dark wingtips, longer bill, and a more pronounced ear spot. Winter adult Black-legged Kittiwake has a light colored (yellow) bill and can be easily eliminated.

This winter adult **Ross’s Gull** was present at Back River Sewage Treatment Facility in Baltimore, Maryland from March 3-April 24, 1990 and was seen by literally hundreds of birders during its stay. Ross’s Gull is still considered the “crème de la crème” among gulls in the U.S. with only a handful of records in the eastern states.

The only record for PA was a first-winter bird observed and videotaped at Lake Marburg, Codorus State Park, York County October 10-13, 1991. Two other records very close to the PA border were a winter adult at Conneaut Harbor, Ohio December 14, 1997 and a recent sighting of an adult at Lapidum, MD on March 31, 2005. It should be looked for in fall through spring in large flocks of Bonaparte’s Gulls, especially at Presque Isle and on the Susquehanna River.

Thoughts on the Modern Approach to Field Identification of Dowitchers

Geoff R. Malosh

Considerable literature has been published regarding the field identification of the Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) and Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). Recently, there has been a movement toward viewing structural “jizz” as a method for differentiating the two species, and is considered by some to be useful enough for field identification. (The word “jizz” is jargon, widely accepted and used in the birding community, referring to an overall impression of a bird’s structure and “feel”. The term itself is probably a variation of the military acronym GISS, which stands for “general impression of size and shape.”)

There are two recently published references that act as the primary sources for this new approach to dowitchers: *The Shorebird Guide* by Michael O’Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson (2006), and an article published in *Birding* magazine entitled “Advances in the Field Identification of North American Dowitchers” by Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch (2006). Each offers a somewhat different approach to describing the structural jizz of the two species, but both assert that structural jizz is useful for sorting out even the most confusing *Limnodromus* individuals in nearly all cases.

Proposed Advances in Dowitcher Identification

Lee and Birch expend considerable effort to detail how a difference in the placement of the eye relative to the bill and forehead on Short-billed Dowitcher leads to a noticeably different appearance for that species. They coined a new term “loral angle” to describe the effect, which is defined as the angle between two lines: one line drawn along the mandibles, through the gape and extending out the back of the neck, and another line drawn between the bird’s gape and the center of its eye. So, if the eye were placed directly behind the gape, the loral angle would be zero, whereas the higher-placed the eye is relative

to the gape, the larger the loral angle.

They examined dozens of photographs of dowitchers in direct profile view and measured their loral angles. Their results show that Long-billed Dowitchers average lower values for the loral angle (5 to 26 degrees, with most individuals between approximately 13 and 23 degrees), whereas Short-billed Dowitchers average larger loral angles (12 to 32 degrees, with most between 18 and 26 degrees).

Therefore, compared to Long-billed, they argue that Short-billed have a more arched supercilium and a steeper forehead as a consequence to their larger loral angle, which itself is a consequence of an actual physical difference in the placement of the eye on the side of the head. Obviously, considering the data published, there is considerable overlap, and each species exhibits a very wide range of values for loral angle. Lee and Birch attribute this difficulty mainly to the problems associated with measuring loral angle from photographs—i.e., varying camera angles and varying postures of the subjects—and not to the inherent unreliability of the feature. See Lee and Birch (2006) for the full treatment and graphs of the raw data.

In addition to defining the loral angle, Lee and Birch describe other jizz characters. The mention that the tarsi (lower leg bones) are longer on Long-billed Dowitcher than they are on Short-billed Dowitcher, making Long-billed appear taller overall when in direct comparison. They also describe the lower back of the Long-billed as appearing to have an indentation when the bird is relaxed and viewed in profile, whereas the Short-billed’s lower back appears flattened when viewed under the same circumstances.

In *The Shorebird Guide*, O’Brien et al. focus on describing Long-billed Dowitchers as thicker-necked and heavier-bodied than Short-billed Dowitchers. The shorthand they use to describe the bulkier neck of the Long-billed is to say that a Long-billed looks to have “swallowed a grapefruit”. They also describe the indented back, the shallower

forehead, and the longer legs of the Long-billed Dowitcher, in agreement with Lee and Birch.

Both sources point out that the bill of the Short-billed Dowitcher shows a very subtle droop about one-third of the way from the tip, whereas a Long-billed Dowitcher’s bill appears straight along its length.

Practical Matters

I contend that these “new” characters are either so variable and so overlapping (e.g., loral angle, indented back), or so subtle (e.g., loral angle, bill shape, tarsi length), that they become almost entirely subjective, and are therefore rendered effectively useless in the field except in the extremes. Further, if a given dowitcher is at one extreme in terms of structural jizz, chances are that it will also be at the extremes of the “classic” field marks, and therefore these “new” field marks do not add significantly to the identification. Considering jizz as an absolute character without recognizing the high degree of variability involved may actually muddle the identification of a given individual more than clarify it.

The point is well illustrated by browsing the dowitcher section of any of the modern photographic guides to the shorebirds of North America, even the much-heralded *The Shorebird Guide*. Readily visible — in multiple photographs — are contradictions to these new jizz-based field marks. For instance: Long-billed Dowitchers with no indentation in the lower back¹, Short-billed Dowitchers with an apparently straight supercilium and a low loral angle², and Long-billed Dowitchers without a bulge in the neck.³

An important note: The evidence does indeed suggest, for instance, that Short-billed Dowitchers have a higher-placed eye on average, and that Long-billed Dowitchers are bulkier on average. Many Long-billed Dowitchers do appear to have a bulge in their lower neck and upper back that is generally absent in Short-billed Dowitcher. I am not asserting that the research published by Lee and

Birch and in *The Shorebird Guide* is incorrect, but I am contending that these features are not generally useful for field identification, except in the extreme.

For example, even if one accepts the premise that the measured overlap in loral angle published by Lee and Birch is an artifact of the photos studied (which is arguable), from a practical standpoint, one cannot hope to recognize the difference of three or four degrees of loral angle on a confusing, intermediate bird in the field, or whether the same bird's lower back is indented significantly enough to clarify ID. Even Lee and Birch themselves, throughout their recent paper, constantly qualify their descriptions of these jizz field marks with the terms "tends to" or "usually". I believe that when confronted with a confusing individual in the field, "tends to" translates into "unreliable" and therefore "unusable".

Invariably, for truly intermediate individuals, identification is not the clear-cut "yes or no" proposition that the modern references imply. In my experience, the relative uselessness of structural jizz in the identification of a given confusing dowitcher is not the exception — if anything it is more the rule.

Looking Forward

These new references speak from a position of authority, and tend to arm birders, particularly beginners, with information that makes the task of dowitcher identification seem simpler than it really is. Unfortunately, the result of this drive for simplification of a complex problem may be that more superficial and off-handed (and incorrect) identifications are made by the unwary, due entirely to over-reliance on these variable and overlapping jizz characters.

Sometimes, structural jizz should — indeed, must — be disregarded if it is too intermediate to be of use for identification. Sometimes, reliance on the tried-and-true, "classic" dowitcher field marks is the only way to make a confident identification, and when even those characters fail the observer, a dowitcher is best left as just a "dowitcher sp.", however unfulfilling that outcome may be.

Yet, as is the case anytime birders are willing to push the envelope and explore new avenues in

old identification problems, I think there is merit to the jizz approach to dowitcher identification. Just as these new ideas should not be viewed as dogma quite yet, neither should they be dismissed out of hand. I think there is a long way to go before we can regard these new ideas as breakthroughs in dowitcher identification, but in the meantime I continue to practice seeing dowitchers in this new way. Perhaps with time and experience, I will change my mind and accept these new ideas as valid. Perhaps I will not. Similarly, it will be a challenge for all shorebird enthusiasts in the coming years to assimilate this new information into their approach to dowitchers in the field. Ultimately, only repeated field-testing and subsequent discussion can tell whether the jizz-based approach to dowitcher identification can stand the test of time.

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Footnotes:

- ¹ For examples of Long-billed Dowitchers without an indented back, see: Lee and Birch (2006) p. 35 lower right; O'Brien et al. (2006) Long-billed Dowitcher account (p. 201–206), plates 6, 7, 9, 12; Paulson (2005) plates 83.1, 83.5, 83.6, 83.7, 83.8.
- ² For examples of Short-billed Dowitchers with apparently low loral angles, see: Lee and Birch (2006) p 34 lower left; O'Brien et al. (2006) Short-billed Dowitcher account (p. 194–200), plates 4, 8, 10 (far right bird), 11, 18, 19; Paulson (1993) p. 336 (lower left); Paulson (2005) plates 82.6, 82.8, 82.9, 82.13.
- ³ For examples of Long-billed Dowitchers without an obvious bulge in the neck, see: Lee and Birch (2006) p. 35 lower right; O'Brien et al. (2006) Long-billed Dowitcher account (p. 201–206), plates 3 (several birds), 7 (far right bird), 9 (far right bird), 11; Paulson (2005) plates 83.4, 83.5.

Note: Obviously, the content of this article is best considered alongside *The Shorebird Guide* and Lee and Birch's article in *Birding*. Unfortunately, hard copies of those sources may not be readily available to all readers. Although *The*

Shorebird Guide must be in hand in order to be referenced, the staff at *Birding* archives all articles appearing in their publication online. The paper by Lee and Birch can be found at

<<http://www.americanbirding.org/pubs/birding/archives/vol38no5p34to42.pdf>> (last visited 31-Oct-2006).

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Book Review

Gene Wilhelm

THE GRAIL BIRD by Tim Gallagher. xv + 286 pp., including a map titled The Former Realm of the Ivory-bill, a color illustration of Ivory-billed and Pileated Woodpeckers by Roger Tory Peterson, an Ivory-billed Woodpecker pair at their nest hole by William Zimmerman, 16 photos, epilogue, afterword, acknowledgments and sources, and index. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts. Paperback, \$25.

I'm certain that every birder in Pennsylvania, the United States and throughout the world was as stunned as I was on April 28, 2005 that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker had been rediscovered after sixty years of presumed extinction. The news, in fact, spread like wild fire via various media and electronic sources. We quickly learned that a single bird was discovered in the Bayou de View swamp of eastern Arkansas (and kept secret) over a year earlier. A sighting of the woodpecker and video footage of it led to the largest search ever mounted to find a rare bird. Even the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service committed ten million dollars for ivory-bill conservation. Today the iconic creature is still in the news. The scientific process is still at work with skeptics doubting the evidence and supporters holding fast to it.

This book, with the revised sub-title "The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker," actually started when news about David Kulivan's sighting in Louisiana's Pearl River Wildlife Management Area in 1999 confirmed Gallagher's faith in the species' existence. "According to his report, he saw not one but two of these birds, a male and a female," Gallagher said. "It was like a dream come true. Anything seemed possible." Gallagher didn't want to give up that dream, so he started interviewing people across the Deep South who had reportedly seen ivory-bills.

Gallagher, by the way, is an award-winning writer and photographer and a lifelong bird fanatic. In fact, Gallagher admits that he always has been the kind of person who gets caught up in obsessive quests, most of which seem to involve birds. He says: "The Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been lurking in my mind since the early 1970's when I read about some possible sightings of the bird in east Texas. Although many scientists discounted these reports, they piqued my interest and got me started learning more about the bird. . . . I thought if someone could just locate an ivory-bill, could prove that this remarkable species still exists, it would be the most hopeful event imaginable. We would have one final chance to save this bird and the bottomland swamp forests it needs to survive." Gallagher continues: "The idea for a book began several years ago when

I realized that many of the people who had seen ivory-bills in the 1930s and '40s were passing away without having their recollections recorded in detail. I set out to visit as many people as possible, interviewing them and recording what they'd seen. I had no idea that I would actually find an ivory-bill in the course of this research."

The book opens with a fantastic quotation from John James Audubon about the Grail Bird (p. ix): "I wish, kind reader, it were in my power to present to your mind's eye the favorite resort of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Would that I could describe the extent of deep morasses, overshadowed by dark cypresses, spreading their sturdy, moss-covered branches, as if to admonish intruding man to pause and reflect on the many difficulties which he must encounter. . . . Would that I could represent to the dangerous nature of the ground, its oozing, spongy, and miry disposition. . . . Would that I could give you an idea of the sultry pestiferous atmosphere that nearly suffocates the intruder. . . . But the attempt to picture these scenes would be in vain. Nothing short of ocular demonstration can impress any adequate idea of them."

Gallagher quickly moves from such an anecdote of this and other early ornithologist to the 1990s and describes some of the most recent reports through a series of adventures and interviews by focusing on the personal aspects of the stories, including the habits and preferences of the woodpecker, the people who live in the Arkansas bayou region, and the history of land use in the Deep South. This is a well written and interesting segment of the book.

One of the many personalities mentioned here is Dr. George W. Lowery, at that time Director of the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science in Baton Rouge. Lowery came forth with two fuzzy photographs of what resembled an ivory-bill taken by a local man who trained his dogs in the swamp. The reaction from the birding community was disbelief and everlasting scorn. In fact, the photos severely damaged Lowery's excellent professional career and reputation to such a degree that he never was able to regain his former status in the ornithological fraternity. Nonetheless, he refused to divulge who had taken the photographs or where they were taken. "You know what would happen," he told a colleague. "There would be 200 amateur bird watchers on planes from all corners of the United States and abroad descending on the area tomorrow. And I think that would be the worst possible development so far as the birds themselves are concerned." Lowery went to his death standing by his mysterious friend and the fuzzy pictures. As a former graduate

student of Dr. Lowery, undertaking a year and a half of ecology research in the Valdivian Rain Forest of Argentina and Chile, I personally can attest to the field ornithological and ethical integrity embraced by this kind southern gentleman and strictly followed by his colleagues and many graduate students. These chapters are well written and enlightening but this section of the book ends too abruptly and leaves many ivory-bill questions unanswered.

The reason for the abrupt pause, of course, was Gallagher's reading a posting on a canoe club listserv about a strange large woodpecker that a kayaker named Gene Sparling had seen on a float trip down a remote bayou in eastern Arkansas. Less than two weeks later, Gallagher and his friend Bobby Ray Harrison – art history professor, photographer, Southerner, and dyed-in-the-wool ivory-bill chaser – scoured the swamp with Sparling by canoe in search of the mystery bird. Soon Tim and Bobby had their first ivory-bill. Gallagher was "absolutely stunned" when the bird flew right in front of them: "We saw the characteristic wing pattern, with brilliant white going all the way to the trailing edge of the secondaries and inner primaries. I never thought for an instant that I didn't believe my eyes. It was all too real."

The story shifts after this sighting in the last third of the book to the urgent and secret mission to find the bird again, get better proof that it exists, learn more about it, and preserve the habitat that it needs. These chapters are about days in the swamp, the few sudden and always unexpected flashes of the woodpecker flying past, and the serious questioning after these quick sightings. As David Allen Sibley states in another book review: "One of the consequences of Gallagher's telling of the human side of the story is to remind us how tenuous eyewitness accounts can be. The searchers, including Gallagher and Harrison, were so wrapped up in anticipation and emotion that it must have been very difficult for them to judge the sightings objectively." I immediately thought about the cautious words that Sibley uses in his *Sibley's Birding Basics* book (p. 52) paraphrased from the *Annals of Improbable Research*: "If you think that you, of all people, have found a rare bird, ask yourself the following questions: Is this identification correct? Can you think of even one explanation that works as well or better to explain what you have seen? Do the marks you have seen really unquestionably lead to the identification as a rare species? Are you being ruthlessly honest with yourself, or could you be suffering from wishful thinking?" Reporting a rare bird carries great responsibility. Other birders are likely to invest time and

money coming to look for it as illustrated by the Grail Bird in Arkansas. Gallagher's bias is clear in this book. He is a self-described "believer," and his emotional approach, powered more by faith than evidence, is the essential counterpart to science.

Nevertheless, overnight, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker became a generally accepted scientific fact.

But not for long. Within weeks, both professional ornithologists and amateur birders were starting to have serious doubts. One ivory-bill expert, Jerome Jackson, wrote: "Observations can become more and more 'real' with the passing of time, as we forget the minor details and focus inwardly on the 'important' memory." He characterized Cornell's science as "faith-based ornithology."

The video has always been held by Cornell as the most solid proof for the Grail Bird. But earlier in 2006 David Allen Sibley issued a frame-by-frame analysis of the video in which he offered a completely different interpretation of it. As Sibley saw it, the bird pushed back from the tree and rotated its wings furiously, scooping the air to gain initial flight. In other words, the 'topside trailing feathers' you could see were actually the underside feathers of a wing strenuously wrenched backward in the act of getting airborne. To Sibley the bird looked like a Pileated Woodpecker flying away. He and other ornithologists believe that the expanding pool of people being let in on a secret sighting may well have fed a kind of 'groupthink,' leading to wishful sightings. "There is a long list of well-studied effects," says Sibley. "There is peer pressure, the expectation of what they were there to do, as well as the authority effect of finding what the boss wants you to find."

So two opposing views in birding now exist side by side. Each month more birders join the Sibley group because no authentic proof of the Grail Bird has been uncovered in two years. But the Gallagher-Cornell group is not yielding any ground and intends to continue looking for the ivory-bill far into the future. Regardless which group is correct, the overall outcome of this great story is that nature wins, not the human, for the tens of thousands of bottomland swamp forest habitat that has been preserved forever.

As long as readers are aware of Gallagher's bias and take his statements as those of an impassioned birder on a quest, I recommend this book that, by the way, had a change to its original subtitle in 2005 (*Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*) to its present form. It is a unique and personal perspective, an introduction to the ecology of the ivory-bill, a plea for conservation and an exciting birding adventure.

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Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Nesting in Lebanon County

Nathan J. McKelvie
Benjamin E. Leese

On 9 June 2003, we discovered an active Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) nest north of Colebrook, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. The nest was in a large rock niche at the base of a formation of large boulders in the middle of a second growth wooded area with a typical hardwood mix of oaks, tulip poplar, and beech. A tunnel of 3.5 meters in length separated the mouth of the cave from the nest. When we found the nest, a chick was already present. It was approximately 30 days old (McHargue 1981). We continued to visit the nests over successive weeks and observed it multiple times. By the middle of July, the young vulture fledged but still remained in the trees around the rocks, receiving occasional feedings from the parent vultures. The boulder formation within which the nest was found is known locally as Buzzards' Rocks, probably for past Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) activity in the area (i.e. sunning or nesting). Past records of Turkey Vulture nesting or sunning in the area are not known. Both species of vultures are known to use rock fields as sunning areas (Clark and Ohmart 1985; Butler 1935). The selected nesting area was similar to other Black Vulture nests recorded in Pennsylvania (Buckley 1999).

Buzzards' Rocks is a popular hiking trip for nearby Camp Kirchenwald, and the cave in which the vultures nested was often explored by campers in previous years. Upon discovering the nest, we instructed the camp counselors to continue visiting the rocks, but to make sure that the campers avoided the cave and the surrounding area. The smell and aggressive hissing of the young vulture also helped to keep campers away from the area. Campers and counselors looked forward to visiting the rocks and observing the parent vultures flying in to feed the young vulture.

In subsequent years, Black Vultures have not nested at Buzzards' Rocks, although the species is still observed during the spring, summer, and fall at the south edge of the Lebanon County. It is

observed most often in the company of Turkey Vultures (pers. obs. NJM). There are a variety of other rock formations in the hills surrounding Colebrook, and it is very likely that the species continues to nest in the area, but prefers the more secluded location (Buckley 1999).

While the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (Brauning 1992) notes possible nests of this species in Lebanon County, the nest in Colebrook appears to be the first confirmed breeding effort by Black Vultures in Lebanon County. McWilliams and Brauning (2000) record the species in Huntingdon County to the west, as well as Berks and Northampton counties to the east of Lebanon County. This record continues to document the northern expansion of this species' breeding range over the past century (Greider and Wagner 1960; Robbins 1950; Grube 1953; Lyle 1931; Handley 1931; Worth 1929; Court 1924). The range expansion continues up to the present, with a nesting record from Connecticut in 2002 (Connecticut Ornithological Association 2005).

The continuing expansion of the species seems to indicate a preference for areas relatively nearer the seaboard, but this phenomenon merits further study. To the best of our knowledge, the northerly breeding records have all been for individual nests. The species is also known to nest colonially (Richardson 1989; Hoxie 1886), and future research might undertake to chart if colonial nesting will also expand northward as the species continues to become more established.

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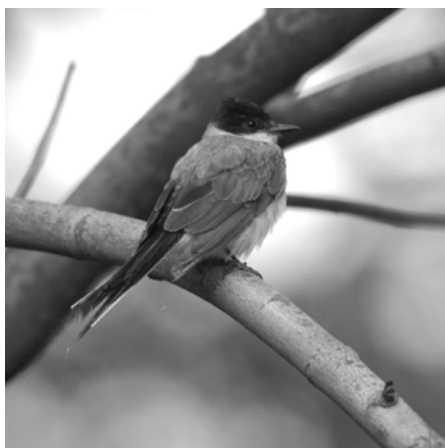


Plate 1. A close inspection shows new body and back feathers along with a few new lesser and median coverts. 5 June 2006 (Geoff Malosh).



Plate 2. This photo clearly shows the worn and broken tail and at least one new dark tertial indicative of a 2nd year bird. 4 June 2006 (John Freiberg).

A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Pennsylvania

Bill Keim

I was having a very good day for a birder. Earlier I had made my first visit to a banding station, which had been fascinating. Then I took friends to see a regional rarity--a Brown Creeper nest, which had been found by Devich Farbotnik in a Washington Crossing swamp. It was Sunday, June 4, 2006, overcast but getting lighter, in the upper 60's. I had a quick sandwich and thought maybe I could squeeze in one more stop before heading home to work on my "To Do" list. The Morrisville levee is a nearby locality that is both readily accessible and yields interesting birds most any time of the year—that seemed like a nice choice to top off my day. Little did I know what lay in store...!

The town of Morrisville in Bucks County lies along the Delaware River, directly across from Trenton, NJ. A 4,000 foot long earthen levee was constructed in 1940 to control flooding. A footpath runs the length of the levee, which is 10-12 feet above the land it protects, and about 20 feet higher than the water when the river is not flooding. The river at this point has several small islands in the middle, numerous exposed rocks, and a narrow strip of shoreline at the base of the levee. Here a thin line of sycamore, silver maple, willow and birch protect a few small pools and shelter many ducks and at least one beaver.

It was about 1:30 PM, and I had just begun walking along the levee, identifying and counting all birds I saw. When I noticed a small bird perched on a branch just off the path about 100 feet ahead, I initially noted that it had a dark cap and white belly—probably a Tree Swallow or Eastern Kingbird, both quite common here. As soon as I lifted my binoculars to my eyes, the Tree Swallow was eliminated based upon structure and size. It looked generally like a kingbird, so I looked for the white terminal tail band for confirmation... Something was wrong—I didn't see the band. Just then, the bird made a short flycatcher-type flight and returned to the same perch, this time with its back to me. As it landed, it fanned its tail briefly. I noticed that the tail not only didn't have a terminal band, but also was actually forked! From this vantage, I also noted the lighter gray mantle, which didn't seem right for a kingbird either. I caught my breath—if this wasn't an Eastern Kingbird, then it was something that is not normally found in this part of Pennsylvania. But what? I fumbled for my pocket Sibley, and managed to lose the bird in the process. But I was able to eliminate most of the flycatchers fairly quickly. What I remembered seeing was closest to Sibley's Fork-tailed Flycatcher—but the gray on the back seemed lighter. I thought the wings were

a little more brownish, and the tail was too short. I needed to get a better look, and then call for some help. After a couple of minutes the bird reappeared in the same area, and I was able to confirm the general structure, dark cap, white collar and belly, light gray mantle, and thin white outer stripe on a longish, forked tail. I also noted a barely visible hint of yellow under the dark cap feathers, although Sibley did not illustrate that. But the tail was too short—I didn't know what to make of it, but it was time to make a call.

The call was not easy to make. First of all, I didn't have any numbers with me, nor had I learned how to program them into my cell phone. All I could do was call my wife Sue, who found some numbers for me on my computer. As I wrote them on my bird list, the bird disappeared again. This was not good, because if I called and people started coming, I needed to be able to produce a correctly identified bird or my name would be "Mud"! So Sue volunteered to drive over quickly with her camera and help me search. She doesn't have a telephoto lens, but anything would be better than nothing at all. My first call was to August Mirabella, the compiler for Bucks County, but I only had his home phone and he wasn't home. I left a message, then wished I had hadn't because I still wanted someone with experience to help me eliminate a misidentification before the word got out. Next I called Nick Zahn, an experienced friend who lives nearby, but he didn't answer and this time I didn't leave a message. Then I called Sandra Keller, who doesn't live nearby, but has lots of experience and hopefully some other phone numbers. She turned out to be in North Carolina for a pelagic trip, but, after asking a few diagnostic questions, she volunteered to call some people who could come to my assistance. Then I tried Nick Zahn again, and, feeling more confident, started to leave a message and he picked up. He promised to make a few calls and to hurry over.

Finally Sue arrived, and she helped find the bird again, and got several non-magnified photos. Soon Bob Shaffer arrived, with a good lens, and we were safe—documentation! We also noted that the white outer stripes on the tail were of different lengths—the tail had been longer and was broken off! No more questions of identity!

We struggled for a while to keep the bird in sight, but eventually, as a crowd of birders began to form, it was not a problem. I'm not sure if it was because there were so many eyes keeping track, or that the bird itself sensed that it was show time! It was almost continuously in sight until we lost it in darkness at the end of the day. Perching on branches very near the path, often at eye level, sometimes flying toward the dozens of scope and cameras, now in full sunlight, you couldn't have asked for a more cooperative rare bird!

Many observers saw the flycatcher all day on the next day, June 5. At dusk it flew west over some houses toward the canal. Although it was reported in early morning on June 7, that was a single, unconfirmed report, and no more sightings were made. The only previous report in Pennsylvania was in Philadelphia in 1873, but the specimen has not been found and the species was listed as hypothetical (McWilliams & Brauning 2000).

Two questions that I kept getting from both birders and non-birders was, "Where did this bird come from and what is it doing here?" As with any vagrant, I wish we knew the story. According to what I have found in the literature (Alderfer 2006), this bird may be a migratory subspecies (*Tyrannus savana savana*), which has overshot on its flight from southern South America to Northern South America. On the other hand, several comments by local experts based upon this bird's plumage suggest that it is a second year bird of subspecies *monachus*. Alderfer says this is locally migratory or nomadic subspecies in southeastern Mexico to Panama, and has been documented at least twice in southern Texas in early winter. So whatever subspecies this bird belongs to, it has made an amazing journey!

Literature Cited

- Alderfer, J. 2006. *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America*. National Geographic Society, Washington D.C.
- McWilliams, G. M. and D.W. Brauning. 2000. *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N.Y.

214 Watergate Drive
Upper Holland, PA 19053

This is the first confirmed record for Pennsylvania. Mike Lanzone from the Powdermill Avian Research Center suggested in a message to the PABIRDS Listserve June 5th that the combination of molt, pale gray back, white collar and yellow in the crown suggest that it is the Mexican subspecies *Tyrannus savana monachus*. There is one previous report of a bird having been collected near Philadelphia in the autumn of 1873. The specimen was placed in the Princeton Museum but cannot be found. – Ed.

First Pennsylvania Breeding Record for Great Black-backed Gull - Tinicum Township, Delaware County

Nick Pulcinella

On 26 May 2006, Ray Miller, a birder and employee of the Sunoco Fuel Terminal in Tinicum Twp., Delaware County discovered a nesting Great Black-backed Gull on the grounds of this highly secured facility. The well-documented nest built of grasses was placed on a concrete and steel pier. When found, the nest contained three eggs. The chicks hatched on 16 June, but one chick disappeared. The two surviving chicks were monitored closely and banded on 30 June and fledged thereafter. Great Black-backed Gulls occur in small numbers throughout the summer months in Delaware County. Numbers increase in late fall and early winter and then decrease again in mid April.

Great Black-backed Gull numbers have been increasing steadily southward along the east coast in summer with some expansion inland through the mid-Atlantic. This is the first breeding record for Pennsylvania.

613 Howard Road
West Chester, PA 19380



Plate 1. A wide-angle view of the nesting site. The nest, not visible in this photo, is located just beyond the large white horizontal piece of pier equipment. One of the adult birds is standing guard atop the light standard. (Ray Miller).



Plate 2. A photo of the plain dirt and grass nest placed directly on the pier (*Ray Miller*).



Plate 3. A photo of the two chicks. One standing and the other huddles underneath the large piece of docking equipment (*Ray Miller*).



Plate 4. One of the chicks post banding (*Ray Miller*).

Fourteenth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

September 2006

Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

This report covers 192 records of 85 species submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter PORC or the Committee). The 156 records accepted, of 77 species, represent an acceptance rate of 80%. Highlights include the first records for Band-rumped Storm-petrel, Calliope Hummingbird, Gray Kingbird, and MacGillivray's Warbler; first and second records of Curlew Sandpiper; second records for California Gull and Lazuli Bunting; second and third records for American Oystercatcher and Long-tailed Jaeger; second through fourth records for Cave Swallow; and third record for Pink-footed Goose. The addition of the five new records brings the state total to 403 species (Pulcinella 2000).

The Committee received reports from 40 counties. The top five counties reporting were Bucks (50), Erie (19), Centre (12), Berks (9) and Lancaster (9). PORC requests reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Pennsylvania. The Committee encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible. The recent advent of digital photography has greatly increased the number of definitive photographs the Committee receives. Unfortunately, these very sharp, clear images are not always accompanied by written documentation.

The Committee emphasizes that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. Supporting written documentation may add details such as missing field marks or behavior notes. On the other hand, the Committee has also received written descriptions, apparently made up to a month after the sighting. While we recognize that busy lives do not always provide the spare-time for such luxuries as writing descriptions of reviewed species, in cases where there is a significant time-lapse between observation and description, anything more than several hours, it is important to include notes or sketches made in the field at the time of the observation. Otherwise, there will be no objective material for the Committee to evaluate, and properly identified birds will be rejected on nothing more than a technicality.

For tips and guidelines on documenting rare birds, observers are encouraged to consult the Committee's web pages at <http://www.pabirds.org>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

Documentation can be submitted to Nick Pulcinella, PORC Secretary, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380.

Committee News:

The current members of the Committee (2006) include Eric Witmer

(chair), Al Guarente, Jonathan Heller, Tom Johnson, Geoff Malosh, Jerry Stanley and Rick Wiltraut. Nick Pulcinella is the non-voting secretary. Recent members who voted on some records in this report include Dan Heathcote, Paul Hess, Paul Guris, Bob Leberman and George Armistead.

Since the last Committee report in September 2005, several changes were made to the Review List. Removed from the list were: Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Red Knot, Laughing Gull, Rufous Hummingbird and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Changes in county exemptions; Great Cormorant – add Northampton, Little Gull – add Dauphin.

The Committee has a presence on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology web site at www.pabirds.org where PORC's pages include the Official State List, the Review List of species requiring documentation, tips for improving documentation of rarities, and a documentation form that can be downloaded. The site also contains information about the functions of the Committee as well as a photo gallery of rarities found in Pennsylvania.

Classification of Records:

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic

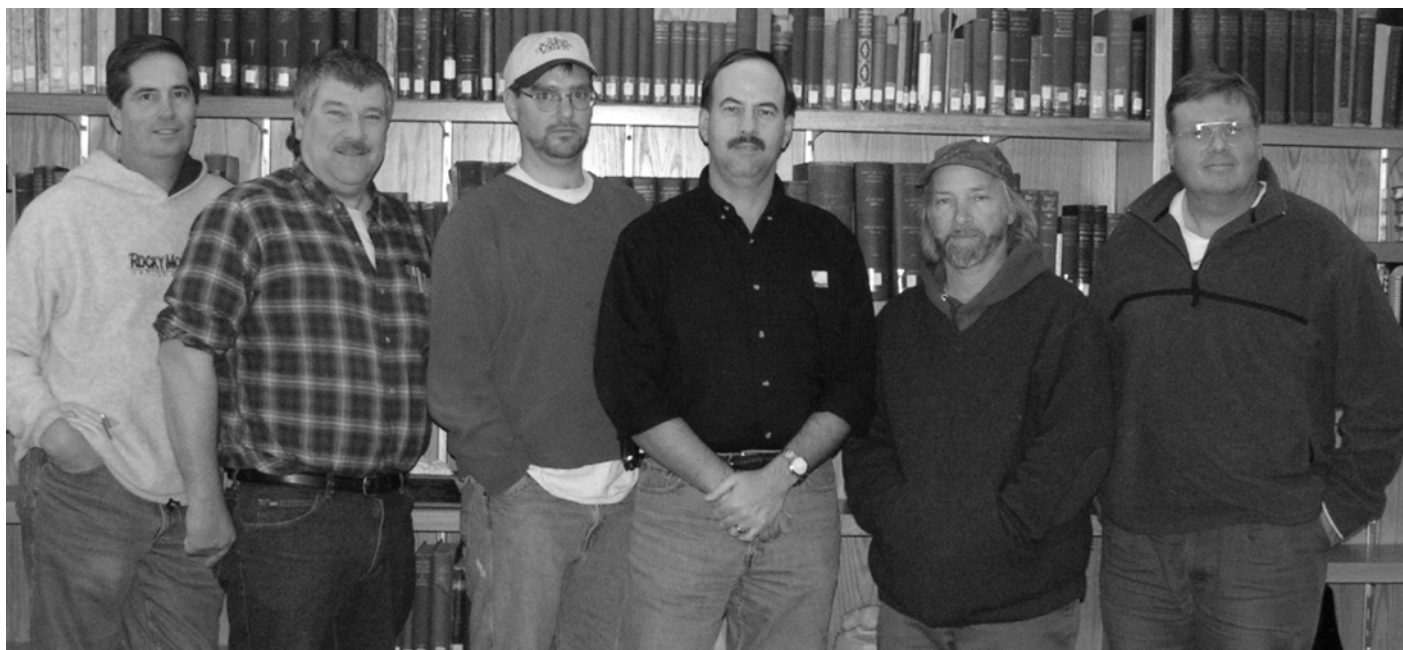


Plate 1. Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee 5 December 2005. Left to right: Al Guarente, Eric Witmer, Matt Sharp, Paul Guris, Rick Wiltraut and Jerry Stanley (not pictured — Bob Leberman). Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, PA (Nick Pulcinella).

recording. Abbreviations are (p) photograph, (r) sound recording, (a) audiotape, (v) videotape, (s) specimen.

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

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

Format of this Report:

The records are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998) and supplements. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies that there are accepted records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the quarterly reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the initials of the finder(s), if known, names of known observers and those who submitted documentation (in alphabetical order). Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee's vote tally for each record. All photographs, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary until a permanent location is established. An (*) after a species name indicates that the species is no longer on the PORC review list.

Abbreviations: CBC= Christmas Bird Count, et al = and others, m.obs.= multiple observers, Mt.= Mountain, NAB = North American Birds, PB = Pennsylvania Birds, R. = River, Res. = Reservoir, S.P. = State Park, Twp.= Township

ACCEPTED SPECIES

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (3)

One at Chamber's Lake, *Chester*, 9-17 January 2004. (JC(p), NH; m.obs.; Class I; 108-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:31 and NAB 58:223. This obliging individual moved between Chamber's Lake and nearby Coatesville Res. during its stay allowing long-studies by many.



Plate 2 . Drawing of Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and other geese at Coatesville Res, *Chester*. (Nikolas Haas).

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) (5+) *

One noted in the company of a large flock of Canada Geese at Yellow Creek SP, *Indiana*, 26 November 2003. (RG; Class III; 110-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:113. Two at Colyer Lake, *Centre*, 12-19 March 2004. (MH (p); Class I; 110-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:113. Two adults in Conemaugh Twp. and L o y a l h a n n a T w p . *Indiana/Westmoreland*. (DD, MAD, MHi, SK, DL, MM (p), DL, et al.; Class I; 110-02-2004). 7/0. P.O.R.C. will no longer review reports after 2005.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). (21+)

Thirteen (9 adult, 4 juvenile) observed off the East Avenue boat launch, *Erie*, 12 November 2003. (JM; BC (p,v); Class II; 112-01-2003). 6/0. One adult at Shippensburg, *Cumberland*, 4 January 2004. (TJ, RK, AMc, JR; Class I; 112-01-2004). 6/1. One at Stoney Creek Twp., *Somerset*, 4-11 January 2004. (LP, JP; RG, et al.; Class I; 112-02-2004). 6/0. The *Erie* birds were videoed under very strong windy and cloudy conditions resulting in distant, dark, shaky images that prevented Class I acceptance. The excellent written documentation supported the identification establishing a first county record. The *Cumberland* bird was observed in the company of Canada Geese during the Newville CBC. P.O.R.C. will no longer review reports of this species after 2005.

Canada Goose (small race) (*Branta canadensis*) (2+) *

One at Peace valley Park, *Bucks*, 14-24 October 2002 and 24 October 2004. (AM (v); Class I; 116a-01-2002). 6/0. Originally submitted as Richardson's Goose, the Committee did not feel confident with the subspecific identification, though it was probably correct, but agreed to accept the report as small race Canada Goose. Small race Canada Goose is no longer reviewed.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) (5+)

One male in Belleville, *Mifflin*, 27 February-19 March 2004. (JZ; BF (p), JD, et al.; Class I; 119a-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:114. This bird was seen and photographed in direct comparison with Green-winged Teal.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*) (16+) *

One male at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, 15 March 2003. (RG (p); Class I; 135-01-2003). 7/0. Another male at Churchville Res. *Bucks*, 18 October 2003. (MC; Class III; 135-02-2003). 6/1. One male at Lake Somerset, *Somerset*, 20 March 2004. (DBY, WG, LeH, LiH, CK, GS; Class III; 135-01-2004). 7/0. P.O.R.C. will no longer review reports of this species after 2005.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (2+)

One female at SGL 56, *Bucks*, 22-28 March 2004. (AM(v); DF (v),TFH (p), m.ob; Class I; 141-01-2004). 6/0. This bird was loosely associating with a large flock of Ring-necked Ducks and the videos submitted showed the small tuft and solid dark head, back and breast. This was a first county record as well as a third state record. Photograph published in PB 18:114 and NAB 58:365.



Plate 3 . Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). This female was present at SGL 56, *Bucks*, 22-28 March 2004. Photographed here 26 March (Thomas Ford-Hutchinson).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) (6+)

One female at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks*, 30-31 October 2002. (DF(v), BE (p), JH, AM (v) et al; Class I; 145-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:184. Another female in West Chester, *Chester*, 31 October-6 November. (LL: AB (p), PE (p), AG, AM(v), JMi, NP (p), et al.; Class I; 145-02-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16 #3&4, PB 16:184 and NAB 57:55. This species is extremely rare away from Presque Isle SP so having two appear in the southeast part of the state within days of each other is astounding.

King/Common Eider (*Somateria spectabilis/mollissima*) (1)

One female eider within a flock of Red-breasted Mergansers observed flying past Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 10 December 2002. (JM; Class III; 145a-01-2002). 6/0. The observer felt the bird was probably a King Eider but because of the great distance with which it was observed, and the fact that a Common Eider had been confirmed in OH a month before, he felt that specific identification could not be made. The Committee agreed with this conclusion.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (10+)

A female at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks*, 31 October 2002. (BC, DF (v), AM (v), DW, et al.; Class I; 149-02-2002). 7/0. A female in Juniata Twp., *Huntingdon*, 26 January 2003. (GG, DK, TK (p); Class I; 149-01-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:107. The Nockamixon bird was found within a small flock of Surf and White-winged Scoters discovered by birders chasing the before mentioned King Eider. The Juniata Twp. bird was remarkable for its inland location and established a first county record (Grove 2003).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). (6+)

A female seen in direct comparison with Common Goldeneyes on the Delaware River near Portland, *Northampton*, 22 December 2003. (MS, BW, JW; Class III; 155-01-2003). 6/1.

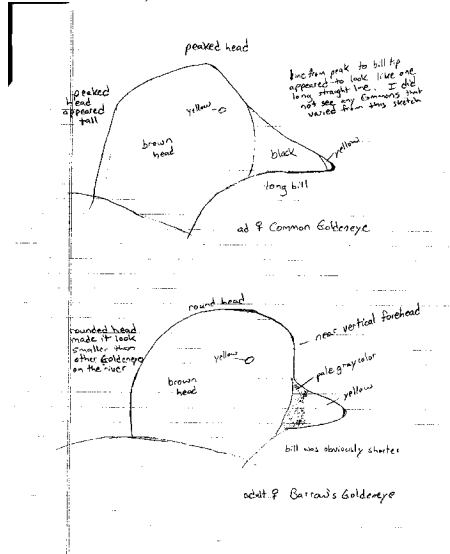


Plate 4. Drawing of Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) near Portland, *Northampton*, 22 December 2003 (Michael Schall).

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) (3)

Benner Twp., *Centre* 19 September 2003 (DH, LG, ML, JMh, Kmi, JY; Class III; 032-02-2003). 6/0. McClure, *Snyder*, 20 September 2003. (Photographer unknown submitted by FH; Class I; 032-01-2003). 6/1. Photograph published PB 17 #4 cover. The *Centre* bird was observed at close range flying low over Rt. 220 during the passage of *Hurricane Isabel*. The *Snyder* bird was picked up alive along a highway the following day. It was transported to a Rehab facility in State College and eventually transferred to Tri-State Bird Rescue in Newark DE for release. It is quite possible that the two birds are one in the same. The Committee has decided to treat the records separately. It is difficult to determine the number of pelagic species blown in-shore from this storm and also the *Centre* bird was last viewed flying in the opposite direction from where the *Snyder* bird was retrieved.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (2+)

One at Yellow Creek SP, *Indiana*, 19 September 2003. (MF, MHi, PH, RH, JV, et al; Class III; 050-01-2003). 6/0. Found by birders who originally traveled to Yellow Creek S.P. to view a Sabine's Gull brought there by *Hurricane Isabel*. Several people observed this bird as it rested on the water.

Band-rumped Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (1)

One at Bald Eagle S. P., *Centre*, 19-20 September 2003. (GG, DG; JH, RWi, et al.; Class I, 052-01-2003). 5/1/1. 6/0.

Found in the early evening, after the passing of *Hurricane Isabel*, by the Groves, the bird was seen again the following day by Horn and Wiltraut who had not known of the previous day's sighting. Horn was able to obtain identifiable video to establish a first state record. (Wiltraut 2003)

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). (2)

One at Lake Carey, *Wyoming*, 25 September 2003. (JK; Class III; 067-01-2003). 5/2, 6/1. This bird spent about 20 minutes on the lake easily viewed from the observer's home. Shocked to see a pelican at her inland location she was able to get her neighbor, also a birder, who lives in Florida, to confirm the sighting. He also was understandably shocked. This sighting is likely related to the passing of *Hurricane Isabel* six days earlier. A Brown Pelican was observed 19 September at DeRuyter Res., *Madison*, NY during *Hurricane Isabel*. This location is about 100 miles due north of Lake Carey.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) (5)

One, probably a female, soaring over Reading, *Berks*, 28 April 2003. (PS; Class III; 074-02-2003). 6/1. Two birds soaring over Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks*, 23 September 2003. (DB; Class III; 074-03-2003). 7/0. The Reading report falls nicely within the 18 April-25 May window of previous spring sightings. The Hawk Mt. report is the first accepted fall occurrence.

"Great White" Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*) (2+)

One at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 11 August-24 September 2002. (GF; DF (v), AM, NP (p), ER (p), m.obs.; Class I; 080a-01-2002). 7/0. One at Linesville Fish Hatchery, *Erie*, 7-30 November 2004. (SK; MF, GM (p); Class I; 080a-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:237 and NAB 59:70. There are three previous reports, between 1938-1961, all from the Pymatuning area, of this white-form of the Great Blue Heron normally found in the Florida Keys (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (4+)

One on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, 31 July-18 August 2002 (DF (v), m.obs.; Class I; 087-01-2002). 7/0.

Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcus ibis*) (6+).

One at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 7 August 2002 (DF (v), AM (v), et al.; Class I; 089-02-2002). 7/0. One at Bradford Dam, *Bucks*, 15-16 August 2002 (DF (v), AM (v); Class I; 089-03-2002). 7/0. One at Miller's Pond, Pymatuning SP, *Crawford*, 23 September 2003 (SK (p); Class I; 089-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:296. One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 23 July 2004 (BH; Class III; 089-01-2004). 6/0. Formerly, a common breeding species along the lower Susquehanna R. between 1975-1988, it is

now a rare and irregular late summer and fall visitor. These records fall nicely within that period.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) (1+)

One adult at Walker Lake, *Snyder*, 19 April 2004. (RW (p); Class I, 092-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:115.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (14+)

An adult photographed at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin*, 21-25 April 2003. (KK (p); Class I; 095-01-2003). 6/1. Photograph published in PB 17:120.

Plegadis species (*Plegadis sp*) (5+)

One juvenile at the Penn Warner Club, *Bucks*, 4-5 August 2002. (DF (v), AM (v), et al.; Class I; 095a-01-2002). 7/0. One juvenile at the Penn Warner Club, *Bucks*, 7-8 August 2004. (CR; DF; Class III; 095a-01-2004. Videos of the 2002 sighting show a juvenile dark ibis most likely a Glossy but White-faced Ibis, a species not yet recorded in Pennsylvania, could not be completely ruled out.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (6+)

One soaring over Sunneytown, *Montgomery*, 27 April 2003. (TW; Class III; 168-01-2003). 6/0. One observed in flight over Bedford, *Somerset*, 14 May 2004. (BZ (p); Class I; 168-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:116.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (15+)

One passed the Rocky Ridge Hawkwatch, *York*, 6 October 2002. (MMu, CO, KO, RP; Class III; 171-03-2002). 6/0. One photographed in New Britain, *Bucks*, 7 June 2003. (DZ (p); Class I; 171-02-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:209. One at Fort Everett Rd., *Lehigh*, 11 May 2004. (RL, KM; Class II; 171-02-2004). 7/0. Two at Lumberville, *Bucks*, 20-23 June 2004. (DF(v), TFH(p), AM(v), ER(p), m.obs.; Class I; 171-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:177 and NAB 58:523.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (2+)

One in Hempfield Twp., *Westmoreland*, 8 February 2004. (LeH, LiH; Class III; 184-01-2004). 6/0. Extremely rare in North America outside of south FL, the excellent written description eliminated the similar and expected Red-shouldered Hawk.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (3+)

One flushed several times in Tullytown, *Bucks*, 2-4 October 2002. (DF; CC, RF, ER, DW, RWi, et al.; Class II; 231-02-2002). 6/0. This species is probably more regular than has been demonstrated but because of its small size and secretive behavior, it can be frustratingly difficult to locate. Early October seems to be the best time to search for it.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) (2+) One in Bristol, *Bucks*, 4 October 2002 (BC, DW; DF, JH, BS; Class III; 234-01-2002). 5/1. This bird was originally flushed from a grassy field adjacent to the Delaware River. It was later observed feeding in a spatterdock marsh and vegetated hillsides nearby.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) (3+) One at Quakertown Swamp, *Bucks*, 24-25 April 2004. (DF (v), AM, JM, RWi; Class I; 235-01-2004). 6/0. The audio tape submitted contains the steady "kicking" call of this species.

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) (3) One at Dunnings Creek Wetlands, *Bedford*, 19 September 2003. (TD; Class III; 266-01-2003). 7/0. One at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks*, 19 September 2003 (BE; Class III; 266-02-2003). 7/0. Both sightings were the result of the passing of *Hurricane Isabel* the same day. The *Bedford* bird was observed perched while the *Bucks* sighting was a calling bird in flight approximately 50 yards from the observer.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (6+) One at Dunnings Creek Wetlands, *Bedford*, 10 May 2004. (SD; DM; Class III; 268-01-2004). 7/0. An outstanding find for this location, the observer was identifying dragonflies when she came upon this bird within a small mixed flock of shorebirds,

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) (4+) One in Holland, *Bucks*, 26 May 2004, (ABi (p); Class I; 286-01-2004). 7/0. One in South Avis, *Clinton*, 9 September 2004. (WL(p), et al.; Class I; 286-03-2004). 6/0. The *Bucks* bird appeared briefly, but long enough to be photographed, at a retention basin on high school property during a rainstorm. Photograph published in PB 18:116 and NAB 58:366. The *Clinton* bird was also present for a short time and also photographed.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (16+) One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 19 September 2003 (BC (p); Class I; 293-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:250. One at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 19 September 2003. (JHe, JH, RM, EW; Class III; 293-02-2003). 7/0. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 29 August 2004. (BC (p); Class I; 293-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:238 and NAB 59:70. Both 2003 sightings were probably related to the passing of *Hurricane Isabel* the same day.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) (14+) One adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 2 August 2003. (BC (p), GM, DW, MV; Class I; 295-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:297. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 17 August 2004. (BC (p); Class I; 295-01-2004). 7/0. One at

Moraine S.P., *Butler*, 15 September 2004. (GM (p); Class I; 295-02-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18 #4 cover and NAB 59:70.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) (3+) One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 16 November 2002. (CR; DF (v), BG (p), AM (v), JM, NP, et al; Class I; 313-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:155. An astounding find, observed during a cold, gusty rainstorm. This is one of the few records away from Presque Isle S.P.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (2) One adult at Tullytown, *Bucks*, 25 July 2002. (DW; DDe, DF(v), SF, JH, AM(v), NP, RWi, m.ob; Class I; 316-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:185. One adult male at Martin's Creek PPL, *Northampton*, 13 May 2004. (RWi(p); BE(p), et al.; Class I; 316-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in NAB 58:367 and PB 18:74. (Wiltraut 2004). These two reports constitute the first and second documented state records respectively.



Plate 5. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). This bird at Martin's Creek PPL, *Northampton*, 13 May 2004 (Bill Etter), represented the 2nd documented record for Pennsylvania.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) (9+) * One at Tullytown, *Bucks*, 29 August 2002. (DF(v); Class I; 320-01-2002). 7/0. One at Wycombe, *Bucks*, 29 August 2002. (DF(v); Class I; 320-02-2002). 7/0. This species is no longer reviewed.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (3+) One at Bristol, *Bucks*, 27 September-5 October 2002. (DF(v); AM(v), m.obs.; Class I; 321-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:186. Many observed this cooperative individual during its stay. Video submitted displayed nearly full-frame images.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) (17+) * One at Bristol, *Bucks*, 29 August 2002. (DF(v); Class I; 330-03-2002). 7/0. At least twelve at Colyer Lake, *Centre*, 19 September 2003. (MH; Class III; 330-02-2003). 7/0. As many as twenty-one at Pymatuning Res., *Crawford*, 19 September 2003 (JM; Class III; 330-03-2003). 6/1. The latter two reports were

during the passage of *Hurricane Isabel*. This species is no longer reviewed.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (11+) One at Martin's Creek Fly Ash Basin, *Northampton*, 25-26 May 2003. (MS(p); DF, DDe, RWi, et al.; Class I; 331-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:110. One adult in basic plumage at Washingtonville, *Montour*, 27 September 2003. (MH; Class III; 331-02-2003). 6/1. One at Bald Eagle S.P., *Centre*, 20 September 2003. (DF(v), m.ob; Class I; 331-04-2003). 6/1. The *Northampton* report was a first county record. The *Centre* bird was the result of *Hurricane Isabel*.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (10+) One at Lake Somerset, *Somerset* 19 September 2003. (RG; SB, SK(p), MM(p), JP, LP; Class I; 332-01-2003). 6/0. Photographs published in PB 17:251 (erroneously noted at Yellow Creek S.P.). One adult at Kahle Lake, *Clarion/Venango*, 19 September 2003. (MF, PH, JV, et al.; Class III; 332-02-2003). 5/2, 6/0. One light-morph adult in Drumore Twp., *Lancaster*, 19 September 2003. (FH, BH; Class III; 332-03-2003). 7/0. All three reports resulted from the passing of *Hurricane Isabel*. The *Somerset* bird was admirably photographed under rainy windy conditions, the Kahle Lake bird was watched in flight for about thirty minutes and the *Lancaster* bird was seen flying south along the Susquehanna River as it passed the observers.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (3) One intermediate juvenile at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks*, 31 August-1 September 2003 (BE; ER(p) m.obs.; Class I; 334-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:267 and NAB 58:72. One non-breeding adult at Willow Bay, *Warren/McKean*, 19 September 2003. (JF; Class III; 334-02-2003). 6/1. The Lake Nockamixon bird was very obliging allowing views within ten feet as it walked along a road in search of earthworms which it was reported to have eaten (Etter 2003). The Willow Bay bird was observed only in flight during the passage of *Hurricane Isabel*.

Jaeger species (*Stercorarius species*) (12+) One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 9 September 2004. (BC, CG, JM, DW; Class III; 332a-01-2004). 6/0. One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 1 November 2004. (BC, JM; Class III; 332a-02-2004). 6/0. The September bird was observed in flight at a distance of about one-half mile offshore. The November bird, though closer, was observed for only a short period and only from behind. Both birds were suspected to be Parasitic Jaegers but the observers did not feel that under the viewing conditions, they could confidently make that identification.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) (7+) *
One in first-winter plumage at Quenahoning Res., *Somerset*, 19 September 2003. (RG; JP; Class III; 337-01-2003). 7/0. One basic adult at Bald Eagle S.P., *Centre*, 19 September 2003. (MH; Class III; 337-02-2003). 6/1. One adult at Bald Eagle S.P., *Centre*, 21 May 2004. (WL(p), RWi (p), et al.; Class I; 337-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:118. Both September birds were the result of the passing of *Hurricane Isabel*. PORC will no longer review reports of this species after 2005.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) (12+)
One first-winter in Newtown, *Bucks*, 16 October 2002. (DF(v); Class I; 338-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:186. One first-winter at Pymatuning Lake, *Crawford*, 20 October 2003. (DY, CKn; CB, JF, MF(p), TH, BK, SK(p), SL, WM, JRe, WR, JS, SS, ET, SY, CW, RWi(p), et al.; Class I; 338-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:296 and NAB 58:73. One adult at Struble Lake and Honeybrook, *Chester*, 24 May 2004. (LL; NP, RWi(p); Class I; 338-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:118. One adult at Falls Twp. Park, *Bucks*, 16-17 October 2004. (DF(v); et al.; Class I; 338-02-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:239 and NAB 59:72.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (14+)
One alternate adult at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks*, 11 April 2003. (AB(p), BE, AM; Class I; 339-01-2003). 7/0. PORC no longer requests documentation of this species from *Dauphin*, *Erie*, or *Lancaster*.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (15+)
One adult in basic plumage in Tullytown, *Bucks*, 11 November – 4 December 2004. (CR; BE(p), DF(v), BL, AM(v); Class I; 340-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 19:56 and NAB 59:262. This report falls nicely into the fall peak of occurrence.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (2)
One adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 26-29 November 2004. (BC(p); GM, RWi, m.ob; Class I; 346-02-2004). 6/1. This is the second state record. Both records from the same location.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (16+)
One immature at McVeytown, *Mifflin*, 6 September 2003. (RGr; DBr; Class I; 360-05-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:297. One immature at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, 19 September 2003. (SB, MF, CGu, MHi, PH, RH, DL, MM(p), JV; m.obs.; Class I; 360-01-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:252. Two-three immatures at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 19 September 2003. (JH; TG, EW, RWi; et al.; Class III; 360-04-2003). 7/0. One immature at Willow Bay, *Warren/McKean*, 19 September 2003. (JF; Class III; 360-06-2003). 7/0. One adult at Bald Eagle S.P., *Centre*, 20 September 2003. (GG, DG, LG, DH, PR,

DW; Class III; 360-03-2003). 7/0. An adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 21-22 December 2004. (CKe, NZ (p); Class I; 360-01-2004). 7/0. Photographed published in PB 19:56 and NAB 59:262. The *Mifflin*, bird was found in the middle of highway 522 and taken to a rehabber. It was later transported to a rehab facility in *Centre* where the photograph was taken. The bird succumbed on 11 September. This bird was not storm-related. The Presque Isle bird was highly unusual for both date and location. The remaining reports were all part of the fallout from *Hurricane Isabel*. There apparently is a mid-September overland component to their migration.

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) (4)
Three adults in Troxelville, *Snyder*, 7 June 2003. (PW(p), RW; Class I; 362-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:209. This is the fourth state record.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) (3+)
One perched on rocks in the Susquehanna River near Columbia, *Lancaster*, after the passing of *Hurricane Isabel*, 20-21 September 2003. (JHe, DF (v); FH, BH, m.ob; Class I; 364-02-2003). 6/0. One immature at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 29 September 2004. (AM(v); CC(p), BE(p), DF(v), SF, TFH(p), m.obs.; Class I; 364-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:220 (Mirabella 2004) and NAB 59:72. This is a first county record and most likely related to the passing of *Hurricane Jean* the previous day. The bird was also wearing a band and a partial reading of the band number through a spotting scope was obtained. Information supplied by the Bird Banding Laboratory reported that the bird was banded as a hatchling near Kure beach, NC 25 June 2004.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (5+)
One at Van Siver Marsh, *Bucks*, 26 May 2003. (DF (v); Class I; 369-04-2003). 6/0. One at Bald Eagle S.P., *Centre*, 20 September 2003. (DF (v); m.ob; Class I; 369-05-2003). 6/0. One basic adult at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks*, 23 September 2003. (JH; AB(p), AM, et al.; Class I; 369-02-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:253 and NAB 58:51. One alternate adult at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 28 September 2003. (TG; JB, EW(p); Class I; 369-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:253. The latter three sightings are most likely related to the passing of *Hurricane Isabel* several days earlier.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) (7+)
One juvenile at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks*, 19 September 2003. (BE; DBi, EH, BL; Class III; 375-02-2003). 7/0. Two adults at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 19 September 2003. (JB, TG, JH, DHe, DHo, EW; Class III; 375-03-2003). 7/0. Both reports can be attributed to *Hurricane Isabel*. The *Bucks* bird was seen as it flew approximately fifty yards from the observers. The bird offered nice

views as it banked and turned several times and was observed to pick at the water's surface a few times as it made its way across the lake. The *Lancaster* birds were noted flying south along the Susquehanna River probably attempting to return to the open sea. The birds were noted to fly effortlessly directly into the strong southeast winds that persisted after the passing of the storm.

Sooty/Bridled Tern (*Sterna fuscata/anaethetus*) (1)
One adult seen in flight at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, 19 September 2003. (RKe; Class III; 375a-01-2003). 7/0. The observer did a commendable job under adverse weather conditions to try and identify this bird as it flew over the lake. After being blown back a step by the strong southeast winds following the passing of *Hurricane Isabel*, the observer was able to find a sheltered area to view the lake. The viewing time was only about a minute and the distance roughly 1/4 mile away, but the observer was able to identify the bird as one of the tropical terns but not to specific species. The Committee agreed it was best to accept this report as Sooty/Bridled Tern.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) (6+)
One adult at Shawnee S.P., *Bedford*, 19 September 2003. (LP(p), CP; Class I; 382-02-2003). 7/0. One adult at Long Arm Res., *York*, 20 September 2003. (BP(p); Class I; 382-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:255. One immature in Tinicum Twp., *Delaware*, 25 November 2004. (AG (p); Class I; 382-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:219. The *Bedford* bird was observed sitting on the lakeshore while the *York* bird was watched for about thirty minutes as it flew and skimmed over the reservoir. Both birds were associated with the passing of *Hurricane Isabel*. There is a possibility both reports may pertain to the same bird. Long Arm Res. is approximately 90 miles southeast of Shawnee S.P., a direction the bird might have taken to return to the coast. The *Delaware* bird was most unusual because unlike most previous reports of this species, the sighting was not storm related. The bird was noted with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls along the Delaware River just south of the Philadelphia Airport (Guarente 2004).

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (6)
A pair in Lebanon, *Lebanon*, 15 May – 20 August 2004. (JHe, WL, RM, et al; Class I, 409a-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:2004. This pair was frequenting a backyard feeder when first noticed. Word reached local birders in mid-July when sighting confirmation was obtained. During their stay, the birds were observed carrying nesting material and a nest was eventually found about one block from the original location. The nest was blown down during a thunder storm and no further nesting was discovered. This species

continues to expand north to Pennsylvania from its stronghold in the southern states and more reports are expected.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) (1)

One immature at Narberth, *Montgomery*, 26-28 November 2002. (DF(v), JH; m.obs.; Class I; 492-01-2002). 6/0/1. This report adds to the growing list of sightings of this species in the east. There are confirmed records from GA (7), MA, NC (4), NJ (2), NY (3), OH, SC, TN (3), and VA. The homeowner reported the bird was present from about 2 November but she was unsure of the identification and birders who visited the yard prior to 26 November failed to find any hummingbird. Farbotnik was persistent in tracking down unusual hummingbirds in southeast Pennsylvania and along with Horn decided to give this unidentified bird a look and the rest as they say is history. They should be commended on getting the word out to the birding community quickly. The next morning there were about 70-80 birders present to view this first state record. The bird fed that morning near daybreak and was not seen again (Farbotnik 2002).



Plate 6. Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*). This immature was videoed in Narberth, *Montgomery*, 26 November 2002 (Devich Farbotnik) for a 1st state record..

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) (23+) *

One immature female in Robesonia, *Berks*, 25 September-24 November 2002. (RWe; SW(p); Class I; 495-07-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:187. One adult female in Stroudsburg, *Monroe*, 15 October-24 November 2002. (BHa(p), SW(p) et al.; Class I; 495-05-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:186. One adult male in Exeter Twp., *Berks*, 26 October-3 December 2002. (SSc; BU (p), SW, et al.; Class I; 495-06-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:186. One immature male in Plumstead Twp., *Bucks*, 12-21 November 2002. (BW; AB(p), DF(v), AM, SW(p), et al.; Class I; 495-04-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:186. One immature female in Media, *Delaware*, 16 November-13 December 2002. (PF; AG, DF(v), NP, SW(p); Class I; 495-03-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:35. One

adult female in East Petersberg, *Lancaster*, 24-28 November 2002. (JFo; SW(p), m.obs.; Class I; 495-02-2002). 6/1. Photograph published in PB 16:187. One immature female Hilltown Twp. *Bucks*, 25 October 2003-11 January 2004. (AM, DF (v), NP (p), et al.; Class I; 495-01-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:35. One adult female in Williamsport, *Lycoming*, 19 October – 14 December 2003. (DFe (p), WL (p), SW; Class I; 495-02-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:298 and PB 18:34. One immature male in New Freedom, *York*, 10 October 2003 – 23 January 2004. (RHu (p); PR (p), SW (p); Class I; 495-03-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:298 and PB 18:35. One immature male in Ashfield, *Carbon*, 23-24 October 2003. (SW, m.obs.; Class I; 495-04-2003). 6/0. One adult female in Waterford, *Erie*, 30 September-9 November 2003. (CT; SW (p); Class I; 495-05-2003). 6/0. One adult female in Middletown, *Dauphin*, 16 December 2003-10 January 2004. (TJ (p); SW (p), et al.; Class I; 495-06-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:34. One immature female in Port Matilda, *Centre*, 15-29 December 2003. (NP, m.obs.; Class III; 495-07-2003). 6/0. One immature female found dead on the grounds of Williams Valley High School, Tower City, *Schuylkill* 14 January 2004. (SW; Class I; 495-01-2004). 6/0. One immature female in Bristol, *Bucks*, 9-19 December 2004. (DF (v), AM, NP (p), LR, m.ob; Class I; 495-02-2004). 6/0. All these birds except the Hilltown bird were confirmed to species through in-hand measurements while being processed for banding. Interestingly, the Tower City bird had been previously banded on the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., 4 December 2003. This reports lends some weight to the thinking within the hummingbird banding community that some of these birds begin their return flight north in December (B. Sargent pers com.). The number of reports of this species in Pennsylvania increases yearly and they can be expected to occur throughout the state (Koch 2003). P.O.R.C. will no longer reviews records of this species.

Rufous/Allens Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*) (6+) *

One immature/female in Unionville, *Chester*, 24 September- 2 November 2002. (CH; DF(v), NP, et al.; Class I; 495a-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:187. One immature at South Connelville, *Fayette*, 21 October 2003-17 January 2004. (JA; MF (v); GM (p); Class 1; 495a-01-2003). 6/1. Photograph published in PB 17:298. Both birds were suspected Rufous Hummingbirds. Attempts at trapping the Unionville bird for identification were unsuccessful. P.O.R.C. will no longer reviews records of this species group.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (1)

One immature in Pomeroy, *Chester*, 13-18 December 2004. (JMe; DF (v), AG, NH, LL, AM (v), GM (p), NP (p), m.obs.; Class I; 559-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 19 #1 cover and NAB 59:262. This long-overdue southern rarity was found on a Christmas Tree Farm where Meloney was searching for a holiday tree. The identification was confirmed the following day and well over a hundred birders saw the bird during its five-day stay. This is a first state record (Pulcinella 2005).



Plate 7. Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). This immature was seen by many during a five day stay in Pomeroy, *Chester*, 13-18 December 2004 (Geoff Malosh).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (4+)

One adult at Loyalsock Creek, *Lycoming*, 8-9 May 2003. (DFe, BE, WE, WL (p), m.obs.; Class I; 561-01-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:122. One adult in Washington, *Washington*, 9-22 November 2003. (SG (p); et al.; Class I; 561-02-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 17:297. One immature in Bellgrove, *Lebanon*, 9-10 June 2004. (CBe (p); DF (v), JH, TJ (p), et al.; Class I; 561-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in NAB 58:524 and PB 18:172 (Berthoud 2004).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) (2+)

One in Redstone Twp. *Fayette*, 10 May 2003. (SKa; Class III; 699-01-2003). 4/2, 6/1. Extirpated as a breeder, this species has become extremely rare anywhere in the state.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (4)

Two at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks*, 22 November 2002. (DF (v), SF; Class III; 576-02-2002). 7/0. One at Chamber's Lake, *Chester*, 24-25 October 2004. (LL; JH, DHo, JH, NP, RR; Class III; 576-01-2004. One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 3 November 2004. (BC; Class III; 576-02-2004). 6/1. The *Bucks* birds were videoed but the tape was too blurry and shaky to make a positive identification, thus the Class III designation. The *Chester* bird was first discovered near dusk with a small flock of Tree Swallows. It was relocated early the next morning, watched for about an hour and then disappeared (Pulcinella 2004). All three sightings fall within the late October -

late November time frame for this species in the northeast U.S.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) (13+)

One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 6 October 2003. (BC (p); Class I; 625-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:299. A pair nesting in Hopewell Twp., *York*, 31 May-22 July 2004. (RP; et al; Class I; 625-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph of nest published in PB 18:179.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (3+)

One in Tincum Twp., *Bucks*, 7 October 2004. (DF (v); BE (p), GD (p), AM (v), et al.; Class I; 646-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:241 and NAB 59:189. This individual landed at a construction site where an attentive Farbotnik was working. He was able to quickly alert a few others who were able to observe the bird.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (15+)

One adult in McKean, *Erie*, 4-8 February 2003. (SSt (p); Class I; 666-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:34 and NAB 57:199. One adult in Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 6-13 December 2003. (JWe (p), WW; CBe, TJ (p), SLo, et al.; Class I; 666-02-2003). 7/0. Photograph published PB 18 # 1 cover. One adult male in Tionesta, *Forest*, 21 February 2004. (RT; Class III; 666-01-2004). 7/0. One at Caledonia S.P., *Franklin*, 11 December 2004-2 April 2005. (MF, NH, BM (p), GM (p), SP (p), m.ob; Class I; 666-02-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 19:58.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulous*) (10+)

One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 26 November 2002. (RS; JM (p); Class I; 694-01-2002). 5/2, 7/0. One in a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Lake City, *Erie*, 31 January-6 February 2003. (BC (p), PR, DW; Class I; 694-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:33. The *Erie* bird was identified from a secondary feather found by McWilliams in the area where the remains of the dead Bohemian Waxwing was originally located.

Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*) (4+)

An adult male at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 19 April 2004. (BC (p), CG, DW; Class I; 736a-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:119 and NAB 58:368.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) (7+)

One at SGL 273, *Indiana*, 18 May 2003. (CGu, MHi, TL, JT; Class III; 746-01-2003). 6/1. This is the fourth accepted spring record (Higbee 2003).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) (9+)

One at Sewickley Heights Park, *Allegheny*, 8-16 May 2003. (MF, CKn, SK (p), et al.; Class I; 756-01-2003). 7/0.

Photograph published in PB 17:120. Of the eight spring records, five of the birds have arrival dates within 7-9 May.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) (1)

One immature male on the grounds of the Rodale Institute, *Berks*, 18-20 December 2004. (AJ; DF (v), BMo, PR (p), TW, et al.; Class I; 763-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in NAB 59:371. Initially found on the Allentown CBC, the bird was relocated and observed by several birders over the next two days. It disappeared following the incursion of cold, wet weather. This is a first state record (Morris 2005).



Plate 8. MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). This immature male videoed here 19 December 2004 (*Devich Farbotnik*) was present on the grounds of the Rodale Institute, *Berks*, 18-20 December 2004 for a 1st state record.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). (15+)

An immature at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny*, 2 September 2004. (PH; Class III; 780-01-2004). 6/0. One adult female at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 13 July 2004. (CC, ER; Class III; 780-02-2004). 6/0.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). (8+)

One adult in Lemon Twp., *Wyoming*, 13 September 2003. (BR; Class III; 820-01-2003). 7/0. One first-winter at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 29 October 2003. (BE; Class III; 820-02-2003). 6/1. Both of these birds were initially found feeding within flocks of mixed sparrow species.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (3+)

One adult at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 25 May 2003. (BC, JM (p); Class I; 824-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17-109. This bird landed near the observers while they were conducting a shorebird survey, they were lucky enough to obtain a photo before the bird flew off and out of sight.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (12) *

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 8 October 2003. (AM; Class III; 830a-01-2003). 7/0. One at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 21 October 2004. (CR; Class III; 830a-01-

2004). 6/0. Both records fall within the expected fall window for this species. P.O.R.C. will no longer review reports after 2005.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) (2+)

One in Tullytown, *Bucks*, 9 October 2002. (DF (v), JH, DW; Class I; 830b-01-2002). 6/1.

The video shows the bold, black streaking down the flanks, pale buff across the chest and white throat aiding in separating this species from the similar Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The bird was found during an intensive search for sparrows at this weedy, wetland location.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (8+)

One adult at Sugar Cove, *Warren*, 7 December 2003 - 4 May 2004. (BC (p), GM, SSo, MV, DW, et al.; Class I; 839-01-2003). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:36. One adult at Stone Church, *Northampton*, 31 January -11 April 2004. (RWi (p); NH, ER (p), MS (p), m.obs.; Class I; 839-01-2004). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 18:36 and NAB 58:309.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) (3+)

A male and two females in Slippery Rock Boro, *Butler*, 3 December 2003. (GW, JW; Class III; 840a-01-2003). 6/1. An unusual record of multiple birds, most reports of this subspecies consist of single individuals (Wilhelm 2004).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) (10+)

One male in Jackson Twp., *Greene*, 18 May 2004. (TR; Class III; 790-03-2004). 7/0. One male in Lynn Twp., *Lehigh*, 5 July 2004. (JHo; Class III; 790-01-2004). 5/2, 5/1. The *Greene* bird was observed in direct comparison with Indigo Buntings. This species continues to expand its range within the state and more extralimital reports are expected.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) (2)

One male in Oakland Mills, *Juniata*, 27-29 April 2004. (AT; BF (p), GM (p), m.obs; Class I; 791-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18 #2 cover and NAB 58:461. This outstanding individual was easily observed during its visit, as it frequented a backyard feeder. This is the second state record.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (10+)

One adult male in Lower Makefield Twp., *Bucks*, 16 February-22 April 2003. (FC (p), MCo, SH, FN, IP; Class I; 794-01-2003). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 17:33 and NAB 57:285. An adult male in Saginaw, *York*, 7 February-22 April 2004. (PR, GM, m.ob; Class I; 794-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:120 and NAB 58:369. Both of these long standing birds visited backyard feeders. The *Bucks* bird frequented a few different yards and was

seen by only a few while the *York* bird remained at one location and was seen by many.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) (4+)
One male at Tobyhanna, *Monroe*, 13 May 2003. (BH; Class III; 859-01-2003). 7/0. One male in Bethel, *Lancaster*, 21 February 2004. (GM (p); Class I; 859-01-2004). 6/0. Photograph published in PB 18:37. The *Monroe* bird was observed with a small flock of blackbirds at a backyard feeder, while the *Lancaster* bird was found within a large mixed flock of blackbirds.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) (19+)*
One male at a feeder in Adams Twp., *Cambria*, 31 January 2003. (RG; Class III; 861-01-2003). 5/1. P.O.R.C. will no longer review this species after 2005.

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

A report may be rejected for a number of reasons. By far, the most common is the result of insufficient documentation or the documentation is unclear or vague. The importance of taking field notes at the time of the observation or immediately afterwards cannot be overstated, as descriptions written days later from memory or after perusing field guides are often not reliable. When the Committee is unsure about a specific report it tends to err on the conservative side, preferring not to accept a good record rather than authenticate a bad one.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)
One at Core Creek Park, *Bucks*, 16 November 2002. Class IV-A, 108-02-2002. 2/4. The video documentation was of poor quality that a determination of species could not be made. There was no accompanying written description.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma oceanicus*)
One at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming*, 19 September 2003. Class IV-A; 046-01-2003. 1/5. One along the Susquehanna River at Fort Hunter, *Dauphin*, 19 September 2003. Class IV-A; 046-02-2003. 2/5. Both birds were observed after the passage of *Hurricane Isabel*. In both instances the observers should be commended on their attempts to document this species under adverse weather conditions. The committee felt that the written documentation and in the case of the *Lycoming* report, the video, could not support this identification, but did support the identification of a storm-petrel species 7/0.

Storm-Petrel species (*Oceanodroma species*)

One at Bald Eagle SP, *Centre*, 19 September 2003, Class IV-A; 052a-01-2003. 1/6. This bird was seen flying over a lake at a distance of about 300 yards. The bird's description was of a "dark bird somewhat larger than a Tree Swallow with an erratic flight. Because of the distance, no other field marks could be discerned. The committee felt the minimal description did not rule out a non storm-petrel species.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)
One over Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks*, 27 April 2003 IV-A; 074-01-2003). 4/3, 3/4. Reports of soaring, circling Anhingas at high altitudes can be notoriously difficult to assess, thus the two rounds of circulation. Though probably correct, the Committee felt that because of the great distance, the description relied more on relative distinctions of size or proportion rather than on field marks.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
One in first-winter plumage at Pine Creek Twp., *Clinton*, 1 November 2004. IV-A; 095-01-2004. 4/3. The plumage description for this date did not rule out White-faced Ibis. All committee members voted to accept as plegadis species.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)
One at Revere, *Bucks*, 3 March 2003 Class IV-B; 093-01-2003. 0/7. The description did not contain enough detail to confidently assess the report. Some members also were concerned regarding the date of the sighting.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)
One at Second Mt. Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 9 October 2003. Class IV-A; 171-01-2004. 4/3, 3/4. Probably correct, but the documentation did not completely rule out similar species. One in Haycock Twp. *Bucks*, 23 April 2002. Class IV-A; 171-02-2002. 1/5. Probably correct, but the observation was brief and partial and did not completely rule out similar species. One at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 29 September 2004. Class IV-A; 171-03-2004. 4/3, 4/3. This report went two rounds and was probably correct. The dissenting members remarked on the lack of detail regarding plumage description.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
One at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, *Berks*, 7 September 2004. Class IV-A; 186-01-2004. 1/5. The description did not contain enough detail to confidently assess the report.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)
One at Bullis Mill Swamp, *McKean*, 5 October 2003 Class IV-A; 231-01-2003. 4/3, 4/3. A species that can be very difficult document, the Committee felt the report was probably correct but the

brief naked eye view of a flushed bird did not convincingly rule out other small rail species.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)
One at Bradford Sewage Treatment Pond, *McKean*, 19 August 2003 Class IV-A; 321-01-2003). 5/2, 4/3. This report went two rounds and the dissenting members were concerned that the documentation was written several days after the sighting and after a good amount of uncertainty on the part of the observer.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*)
One at the Allegheny River, *Warren*, 7 October 2003. Class IV-A; 331-03-2003. 0/7. Description did not rule out Red-necked Phalarope.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)
One in flight along the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 19 September 2003. Class IV-A; 332-04-2003. 1/6. Observed after the passage of *Hurricane Isabel*, the committee felt the written documentation did not rule out other jaeger species but agreed the description did support the identification of a jaeger species 7/0.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)
One 2nd-winter at Core Creek Park, *Bucks*, 27 October 2002. Class IV-A; 346-02-2002. 2/4/1. Video was suggestive, but there was not enough information to completely rule out other species.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)
An immature at Tullytown, *Bucks*, 14 December 2002. Class IV-B; 348-03-2002. 2/1/4. The Committee continues to defer judgment on non-adult Thayer's until a better understanding of where the plumage, morphological, and taxonomic limits between Kumlien's and Thayer's Gulls differ.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)
One adult in definitive basic plumage at Tullytown, *Bucks*, 1 March 2003, Class IV-A; 354-01-2003. 3/2/1, 3/2/1. A very tough decision going two rounds. The written documentation, including field sketches was highly suggestive of this species. The fact that the identification of large "white-headed" gulls can be problematic in regards to hybrids and backcrosses, and because of the extreme rarity of the sighting, the Committee decided to err on the conservative side.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)
One at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 11 October 2003 Class IV-A; 364-01-2003. 2/4. The description did not rule out Caspian Tern.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
One at Kinzua Dam, *Warren*, 23 September 2003 Class IV-A; 369-03-2003. 0/7. The written description of this

non-breeding adult did not rule out other similar species.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

One at SGL 242, York, 10 May 2003. Class IV-B; 543-01-2003. 0/6. The written description of a brief and partial observation of this extreme rarity did not provide enough information to afford an adequate assessment.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). One male in Indiana, Indiana, 10 May 2003. Class IV-A; 780-01-2003. 4/3, 1/6. The written description was suggestive, but brief and did not explain how similar species were eliminated.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

One at Tullytown, Bucks, 9 October 2002. Class IV-A; 830a-02-2002. 2/5. The video submitted was inconclusive, but the Committee accepts the report as Sharp-tailed Sparrow species.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)

One in Morris Twp., Greene, 8 May 2004. Class IV-A; 790-02-2004. 2/5. The written description was suggestive, but did not eliminate similar species.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

One at Little Gap Hawkwatch, Northampton, 23 October 2003. Class IV-A; 859-02-2003. 4/3, 4/3. This report went two rounds and was probably correct. The dissenters did not feel comfortable with the brief observation and that an aberrant Red-winged Blackbird was not ruled out.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*).

One in Upper Milford Twp., Lehigh, 14 December 2003. Class IV-A; 887-01-2003. 2/5. Identification of this species can be quite difficult and the observers did a commendable job in attempting to describe the bird including a small field sketch. The Committee felt that certain id marks regarding the rump color and bill size and shape were not entirely clear and convincing to rule out a Common Redpoll.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED because they represent or may represent an escapee or an introduced species not yet established in Pennsylvania. IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

A wing-tagged individual present in Wedgewood Pond, Chester, 1 February – 1 March 2004. (LL; NH, et al; Class V; 105-01-2004). 3/4. With on-going re-introduction programs as close as Ohio and Ontario, Trumpeter Swans in Pennsylvania will be assumed to have originated from one of these programs in the absence of direct evidence of natural origin such as a band. Regardless, the species is an increasingly regular visitor.

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Summary of the Season - June through July 2006

Dan Brauning

As in previous summer quarters, bird observations gleaned from the PABIRDS Listserve have been incorporated into the Birds of Note and the Summary of the Season. These complement records for which there are not county comments or in which reports were not sent to compilers. The 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas spurred nesting bird information, but data submitted to that project beyond those records submitted to County Compilers were not systematically incorporated herein as they will be summarized in the future.

Weather patterns in the summer of 2006 were highly variable, with excessive rainfall in late June in the east bringing flooding to the Delaware River basin. Shorebird reports were generally lack-luster, in part due to higher water levels in some areas reducing the shorelines. While many compilers comments on the heat, particularly in July, weather conditions for much of the state provided favorable conditions for breeding bird atlas work, resulting in a very productive field season and many noteworthy discoveries.

The summer occurrence of 4 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks**, first found in *Berks* 6/4 and later an individual remaining in *Lancaster* into July follows a similar period in 1993 when this species was last reported in Pennsylvania. This expanding species should be looked for in the future as its range expands in the deep South. Providing the first summer record is a **Cinnamon Teal** in *Philadelphia*, shortly after a banded individual was spotted in *Bucks*. The complication of releases continues to raise doubts about waterfowl records.

The 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas has again provided considerable incentive for fieldwork apparent in the county comments this quarter. Nesting activity of **Least Bittern** was exceptional in 2006, with records in more than five counties including several at historic sites in which they are intermittent (e.g., *Cumberland*), breeding confirmation in historical strongholds (e.g. *Crawford*), but continued concern for decline at Tinicum Refuge in *Philadelphia* where habitat is being eroded and high water due to heavy rainfall may have affected nest sites. In several cases with the **Least Bittern**, special efforts sponsored by the Atlas Project to search for rare breeders provided rewards (e.g. *Montgomery* and *Tioga*). This and other secretive wetland birds may be found in unexpected places with the right effort.

If authenticated, the **Wood Stork** in *Bucks* represents a first summer

record in many years and stands as a great find. While reported annually, **Mississippi Kite** was reported for the first time in *Allegheny*, while the *Pike* sighting is closer to most recent summer records.

The most obvious highlights of the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas include two species confirmed nesting within Pennsylvania for the first time: the **Merlin** and **Great Black-backed Gull**. In the case of the **Merlin**, this summer's two confirmed nesting events are part of a phenomenal expansion in breeding range for this northerly species. New York State's 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas confirmed **Merlins** at several locations along their 'southern tier', including one site north of Pennsylvania's new outpost and throughout the Adirondack region, none of which were found in the 1980s during their first Atlas. Pennsylvania's summer sightings in the past 25 years were not attributed to nesting. Although older references (e.g. Sutton 1928 and Todd 1940) allude to unsubstantiated breeding reports in *Pike*, *Crawford*, and *Erie*, these would have been extralimital and were generally discounted. So, 2006 marks the first year of breeding by this small falcon in conditions which suggest it is tolerant of human activity. The future may be quite interesting for this falcon. Similarly the **Great Black-backed Gull** has been expanding from coastal regions for some time, and is now fairly common along the Delaware River and at Lake Erie year-round. The first nesting in the state of Delaware was in 1986, and this summer's nest, discovered by Ray Miller and mentioned in the previous *Delaware* quarter, adds the world's largest gull to Pennsylvania's tenuous list of breeding gulls. Breeding **Herring Gull** reports from *Allegheny* are included as the only regular location since they were eliminated from *Erie*.

As mentioned above, high water may have impeded some shorebird reports. *Berks* produced its first **Piping Plover**, highlighting the absence of this species on Presque Isle this season. This is the most notable shorebird sighting of the season. The very conspicuous **American Avocet** made an unexpected showing in *Pike* and the **Red Knot** on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, was a good find away from Presque Isle. Although a **Ruff** has been reported each of the previous two summers on the Conejohela Flats, the juvenile seen there on 7/23 again made for a good sighting of an otherwise rare bird on the East coast.

The expansion of the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues erratically,

with reports this season scattered across the Commonwealth including in *Butler*, *Erie*, and *Lebanon* as they continued in *Franklin* and *Chester*. The future of this species is hard to see, but with persistent expansion in small towns and cities across Pennsylvania, it appears to be finding its place without much negative repercussions.

The most remarkable vagrant of the season was the well-documented **Forked-tailed Flycatcher** in *Bucks* that provides the first confirmed record in Pennsylvania since an 1873 specimen reportedly in the Princeton Museum was lost. This Central and South American bird has been spotted infrequently along the East Coast, and now is finally added to Pennsylvania's list upon formal review by PORC.

The state-endangered **Sedge Wren** was reported by one person in three neighboring counties during the season, *Crawford*, *Erie* and *Venango*. Several other encounters were reported to the Atlas Project, including nest building at Middle Creek, *Lancaster*. Many previous sightings of this species have not been widely reported, so it is likely that this species, in particular, is not only overlooked but under-reported here. Similarly, the enigmatic but nearly annual **Swainson's Warbler** was seen in *Dauphin* on 6/18 but not relocated. An unusually late record of **White-crowned Sparrow** on 6/7 in *Erie* represents the second summer report in succession for this species that nests far from our boundaries.

Interesting are species that were reported frequently enough during this summer season to be ineligible for the "Birds of Note" section (more than 5 counties), but for which considerable interest exists in their distribution. **Prothonotary Warblers** appear to be expanding (with some help) along the lower Susquehanna River in *York* and *Lancaster*, and were reported in *Crawford*, where they are well-established, and in *Monroe*. Another notable example is **Dickcissel**, listed by the Game Commission as "Endangered" and not believed to have experienced an 'invasion' this year. Summer reports came from at least 6 counties, including an unprecedented 39 males in *Cumberland* fields where **Dickcissels** breed regularly, but also scattered across southern counties including *Bedford*, *Somerset*, and *Westmoreland* where they are decided sporadic.

61 Windy Lane
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Birds of Note - June through July 2006

This report summarizes unexpected species and species reported in fewer than five counties during the reporting period.

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 term "No Doc" refers to a Review List species for which no supporting documentation was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <http://www.pabirds.org>

Birds in *Italics* are uncommon, but occur during this time period in most years.

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

Italics Underlined occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks * - *Berks*: Four were discovered at a small farm pond on Kauffman Rd., Oley Twp. 6/4 (Patrick O'Donnell). None was banded (Rudy Keller). Starting 6/5, only one duck was seen at the original site or at nearby Gotwals Pond, with the last report 6/18 (Art Schiavo); *Lancaster*: One was found 6/24 at the Alcoa Marsh (Leon Schreffler, m.ob.) and remained at least through 7/6 (John Fedak).

Trumpeter Swan * - *Lawrence*: Two residents seen through the season at Three Rivers gravel pond, including 7/23 (Mark Vass, PABIRDS Listserve).

Cinnamon Teal * - *Philadelphia*: One molting into eclipse plumage when it was discovered at Tinicum 6/25. It was last seen 7/24 (Denis Brennan, Emma Chou, Edie Parnum, m.obs). Unlike the bird reported in *Bucks*, this had no leg bands.

Greater Scaup - *Erie*: Summering hen seen at Presque Isle State Park 7/8 and 7/15 (Mark Vass, PABIRDS Listserve).

Lesser Scaup - *Crawford*: A drake was noted at the Pymatuning Spillway 6/10-6/25 (Mark Vass).

Red-breasted Merganser - *Indiana*: One was photographed at Yellow Creek S.P. 7/29 (Tom Simmons); *Montgomery*: Two were reported at Evansburg S.P. 6/3; *Philadelphia*: a pair on Darby Creek 6/7 (Rick Wiltraut).

American Bittern - *Snyder*: One seen flying over Middle Creek Twp. 6/6 (Mick Brown); *Washington*: One reported flying north over US-22 in northwestern *Washington* 7/13 (Wes Fritz *vide* Mark Vass).

Least Bittern - *Bedford*: An adult and chick were observed on a small mudflat 7/16 at Dunning Creek Wetland (Tom Dick); *Crawford*: Located at Geneva 6/17 (Robert C. Leberman), 6/4 at Hartstown (Mark Vass), and 2 (1 ad., 1 young) were seen at Custards 6/30 (Bob Van Newkirk); *Cumberland*: Nest with 2 young in State Game Lands # 169 on 8/10 (Andy Markel, John Dunn); *Montgomery*: Apparently nested at a pond in eastern *Montgomery*, where at least 3 birds (including juveniles) were present in July; *Washington*: A juvenile was at Greencove Wetlands 8/10 (Ross Gallardy).

Snowy Egret - *Dauphin*: One on 7/13 approximately 100 yards down Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter Boat Launch (Chris Rebert) and 3 at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary on 7/28 (Chris Rebert); *Lancaster*: One at the Conejohela Flats on the Susquehanna River 7/27 (Duane Hoffman).

Little Blue Heron - *Bucks*: One at Morrisville 6/5 was unexpected (Devich Farbotnik). A juvenile was more expected at Peace Valley Park 7/22 (Chuck Crunkleton); *Crawford*: An immature 7/27 at Pymatuning Goose Management Area (Dave Wilton, Wes Fritz); *Lancaster*: An adult observed in a stream along Strickler Rd. just north of Back Run Rd. near Milton Grove 6/13 (Tom Johnson); *Northampton*: A juvenile was at Green Pond 7/31 (Michael Schall); *Wyoming*: An adult seen in flight at S. Eaton 6/27 (William Reid).

Cattle Egret * - *Lancaster*: Two were on the eastern shore of Rookery Island 6/7 (Deuane Hoffman, PABIRDS Listserve). (No Doc).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron * - *Cumberland*: A total of 5 nests were found along the Conodoquinet Ck. with at least one nest containing two small young 7/21 (Terry Master); *Dauphin*: Five newly fledged and three adults were reported at their Harrisburg nest site 6/26 (Tom

Johnson); *Huntingdon*: An adult was spotted 6/3 far from known breeding sites at Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (Chuck Yohn, m.obs.).

Glossy Ibis * - *Bucks*: A juvenile was at the Penn-Warner Tract 7/20 (Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella), adding to the now regular reports along the southern Del. R., understanding that a juvenile can be only identified definitively as a *Plegadis* species. This is the third report this year; *Dauphin*: Near Wade Island 6/13 (Terry Master) (No Doc). and another was found at a West Hannover Twp. pond in mid-June (Beth Carricato) (No Doc); *Northampton*: A juvenile were found searching for food in the flooded field that sits across the road from Green Pond 7/31 (Michael Schall).

Wood Stork * - *Bucks*: Probable sighting of a fly-by at Bedminster Twp. 6/28 (Devich Farbotnik). (No Doc).

Mississippi Kite * - *Allegheny*: One was seen very briefly in flight over Scott Twp. 6/8 (Dave Wilton), a first for the county (No Doc); *Pike*: First seen flying at Pocono Environmental Education Center on 7/13 around the swamp hunting dragonflies at 11:40 A.M. (Ethan Huner) seen again at 2:00 P.M. (Mike Brubaker) and the last sighting that evening was around 7:00 P.M. (Jeremy Phillips, Shannon Queen).

Merlin - *Bradford*: One seen near Terrytown was quite late 6/12 (Marilyn Behrend); *Crawford*: Conneaut Marsh near the Old Duck Farm, possibly breeding (Robert C. Leberman); *Dauphin*: One observed near 3Bs Ice Cream along Rt. 225 north of Dauphin 6/14 (Tom Johnson); *McKean*: Pair that fledged 2 young 7/25, originally found by Lynn Ostrander represents first nesting confirmation in the state. Another family group with 3 fledged young showed up in a yard about 3 miles from the original nest; *Warren*: Confirmed nesting with 2 young produced in August (Don Watts).

American Coot - *Beaver*: One on 6/2 at the New Brighton boat launch and at the Big Beaver Wetlands (Mark Vass); *Crawford*: Six chicks at Custards 6/24 was a rare find here (Bob Van Newkirk); *Washington*: Solitary individual seemed to have taken up a permanent residence at AMD Pond in North Strabane Twp. was present throughout the winter and spring and was still present to at least 7/31 (Mark Vass).

Piping Plover * - *Berks*: One at a farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 6/4, was a first county record (Joan Silagy). (No Doc).

American Avocet - *Beaver*: One at at Little Blue Lake 7/16 was a second county record (Mark Vass); *Pike*: One seen sleeping next to a large pool of water on the left side of the golf course past the hundred yard marker at the Best Western hotel at Hunt's Landing along route 6 and 209 in Matamoras 6/25 and was again spotted on 6/26 (Pat and Sherron Lynch).

Willet - *Erie*: One 7/8 and 7/15 at Gull Point on Presque Isle (Mark Vass, PABIRDS Listserve); *Lancaster*: Two on the Conejohela Flats 7/22 (Deaune Hoffman).

Upland Sandpiper - *Adams*: Three or 4 just beyond the Arentz Farm on Bigham Rd. 6/22 (Deb Seifken and Carole Simon); *Crawford*: One at Miller's Pond 6/3, 6/10, 7/29 (Mark Vass).

Red Knot - *Lancaster*: One on the Conejohela Flats 7/23 (Tom Johnson).

Sanderling - *Erie*: Fifteen seen on Presque Isle on following storms 7/15 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: First noted on the Conejohela Flats 7/29 (Deuane Hoffman).

Baird's Sandpiper - *Beaver*: An adult at Little Blue Lake 7/21 which was perhaps a shade early (Mark Vass); *Erie*: One at Gull Point, Presque Isle 7/15 (Mark Vass) and 8 there 7/19 (Bob Van Newkirk); *Philadelphia*: One stopped over at Tinicum Refuge 7/15-7/17 (Todd Fellenbaum).

Stilt Sandpiper - *Beaver*: One at Little Blue Lake 7/26 (Geoff Malosh) and two there 7/28 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: Three at Gull Point, Presque Isle 7/15 (Mark Vass, PABIRDS Listserve); *Philadelphia*: One was found 7/16 at the Tinicum Impoundments.

Ruff* - *Lancaster*: A juvenile seen at the Conejohela Flats 7/23 (Tom Johnson). (No Doc).

Wilson's Snipe - *Crawford*: Three found at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/27 (Dave Wilton) and subsequent dates; *Indiana*: One near Indiana 7/22 (Gary Ferrence).

Laughing Gull - *Bucks*: Not unusual here, a rough count of 850 on 7/20 was made up of nearly 100% adults (August Mirabella); *Erie*: One adult on Gull Point, Presque Isle S.P. 7/8 (Mark Vass, PABIRDS Listserve); *Lancaster*: One adult on the Conejohela Flats 6/7 (Deuane Hoffman, PABIRDS Listserve).

(breeding) Herring Gulls - *Allegheny*: Continue to nest at the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny River (Mike Fialkovich) and at Dashields Dam where up to 3 nests were noted 6/11 (Mark Vass).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - *Bucks*: A count of 11 consisted of 9 first-summer, 1 second-summer, and 1 third-summer at Tullytown Landfill 7/20 (CR) and 1 to 3 lingered into the first week of June at Nockamixon S.P.; *Erie*: One at Gull Point 6/9 (Jerry McWilliams, PABIRDS Listserve).

(breeding) Great Black-backed Gull - *Delaware*: Chicks mentioned last season fledged, i.e. left the concrete and steel platform, where the nest was built, for the muddy shores of the river below. They were banded 6/30 and continued to be seen daily.

Least Tern - *Chester*: three on a pond in Cochranville/Fallowfield area 2 miles from Glenville Rd & Rt 10 on 7/8 (Doris McGovern, PABIRDS Listserve); *Philadelphia*: One feeding in the Tinicum impoundment 7/1 (Sheryl Johnson).

Eurasian Collared-Dove * - *Butler*: A kale visited bird feeders 7/7 on the north side of Butler City (Marcie Brown, Larry Brown); *Erie*: One sitting on a utility wire 6/13 along Rt. 89 about 2/10 mile south of Kimball Rd. in Venango Twp. (Cameron Rutt); *Franklin*: At least 4 were present in "downtown" Shady Grove around Kline's Store, and at least one was singing (Tom Johnson); *Lebanon*: Heard singing at Spring Street for a 3rd county record (Tom Johnson).

Long-eared Owl - *Somerset*: Answered to tapes on the Allegheny Front (Jeff Payne).

Short-eared Owl - *Laurence*: One seen in flight over Volant Strips 6/3 and again 7/1 (Mark Vass).

Chuck-will's-widow * - *Centre*: One again this year through most of July on the Bald Eagle Ridge where one was heard last year 7/28 (Greg Grove, Dennis Thomson). (No Doc).

Forked-tailed Flycatcher * - *Bucks*: An immature at Morrisville 6/4-6/5 (Bill Keim, m.obs) and subsequent report from early morning 6/6 was unconfirmed. This is apparently the first confirmed state record, since a reported specimen from 1873 has been lost.

Sedge Wren * - *Crawford*: One present in 26 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt); *Venango*: One discovered near Clintonville 7/9 (Cameron Rutt).

Brewster's Warbler - *Bedford*: One found on Mechanics Hollow Road 6/8 (Dan Snell).

Lawrence's Warbler - *Monroe*: At Bushkill Creek in Delaware Water Gap Natural Recreation Area, found in early May by Darryl Speicher, continued on territory into June. On 6/8 it was photographed and appeared to be paired with a Blue-winged Warbler (BH), and another female was seen associating with a male Golden-winged

Warbler 7/9 in Meisertown just northeast of Tannersville (PABIRDS Listserve).

Swainson's Warbler * - *Dauphin*: Discovered 6/18 along White Oak Rd. in the Weiser State Forest north of Carsonville (Tom Johnson). (No Doc.)

Clay-colored Sparrow - *Centre*: Seen at Mid-State Airport 5/27 was and still there 6/5, 6/10, and 6/24 but no sign of breeding (Nick Bolgiano); *Clarion*: Three separate territories with at least 2 singing males in each territory and a female carrying food and a separate nest in Mt Airy/Piney Tract 6/11 (Michael Leahy), and 7/1 Rimersburg (Carole Willenpart); *Forest*: Found singing on 7/26 in an overgrown field near East Hickory (Mike Fialkovich).

White-crowned Sparrow - *Erie*: One seen on Gull Point Trail 6/7 (Anthony Bledsoe and PLE ornithology class).

Dickcissel - *Adams*: A singing male on Cunningham Rd. in southwestern Adams (Deb Siefken, PABIRDS Listserve); *Bedford*: Singing on Barnes Rd. near the Maryland Line 6/3 (Dan Snell); *Cumberland*: One seen 6/21 (Tom Johnson, PABIRDS Listserve), increasing to 4 on 7/9 along 997 just south of McCrea yielding the following birds, 2 males on Short Lane and 2 males on Mountain Rd., to an unprecedented report of 39 males scattered through area 7/17 (Andrew Markel, PABIRDS Listserve); *Northampton*: One in Williams Twp, 6/29 (David Koch); *Westmoreland*: Singing male just west of New Alexandria 6/11 (Andy Wilson).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). This species staged a "minor invasion" into the northeast and mid-west this summer including two reports from Pennsylvania. This individual was photographed 12 June 2006 near Oley, *Berks* (Tom Amico). This location originally held four birds when they were discovered 5 June. At least one bird remained in the area until 18 June. Dashield's Dam, *Allegheny*, 14 April 2006 (Geoff Malosh).



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). This female at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana* 29 July 2006 (Tom Simmons) established a first county summer record.



Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). This female, thought to be a Lesser, was at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, 7 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). This immature was photographed at Miller's Pond, *Crawford*, 27 July 2006 (Wes Fritz).



Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). This species apparently nested near Norristown, *Montgomery*, where at least three birds were found including this juvenile 12 July 2006 (*Howard Eskin*).



Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). One of five juveniles in Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 7 July 2006 (*Wes Fritz*).



Dark Ibis (*Plegadis* species). This immature, probably a Glossy, was at the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, 20 July 2006 (*Cameron Rutt*).



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). These two juveniles were part of a family group found on the Haverford College Campus, Haverford, *Delaware*, photographed here 11 June 2006 (*Sheryl Johnson*).



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Two juveniles photographed in *McKean* (*John Fedak*), confirmed Pennsylvania's first breeding record.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). This adult was part of a pair that nested near Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, 15 June 2006 (*Brian Hardiman*)



Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). Geneva Marsh, *Crawford*, 26 June 2006 (*Cameron Rutt*).



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 21 June 2006, *Crawford* (*Cameron Rutt*).



Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). 19 June 2006, Crawford (Cameron Rutt).



Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). This probable northbound migrant was at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 7 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). This apparent 2nd year bird was at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 9 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). This species was found in at least four counties this season and should be looked for anywhere in the state. This individual was located Venango Twp., Erie 13 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). This additional photograph of the Erie bird shows the distinctive undertail pattern. The dark outer web to the tail helps to distinguish this species from the similar domestic Ringed Turtle-Dove which shows a white outer web. 13 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*). One present in Crawford 26 June 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*). This individual near Clintonville, Venango 8 July 2006 (*Wes Fritz*), established a first county record.



Lawrence's Warbler. This bird was seen associating with a Blue-winged Warbler near Bushkill, Monroe, but nesting was never confirmed. Photographed 8 June 2006 (*Brian Hardiman*).

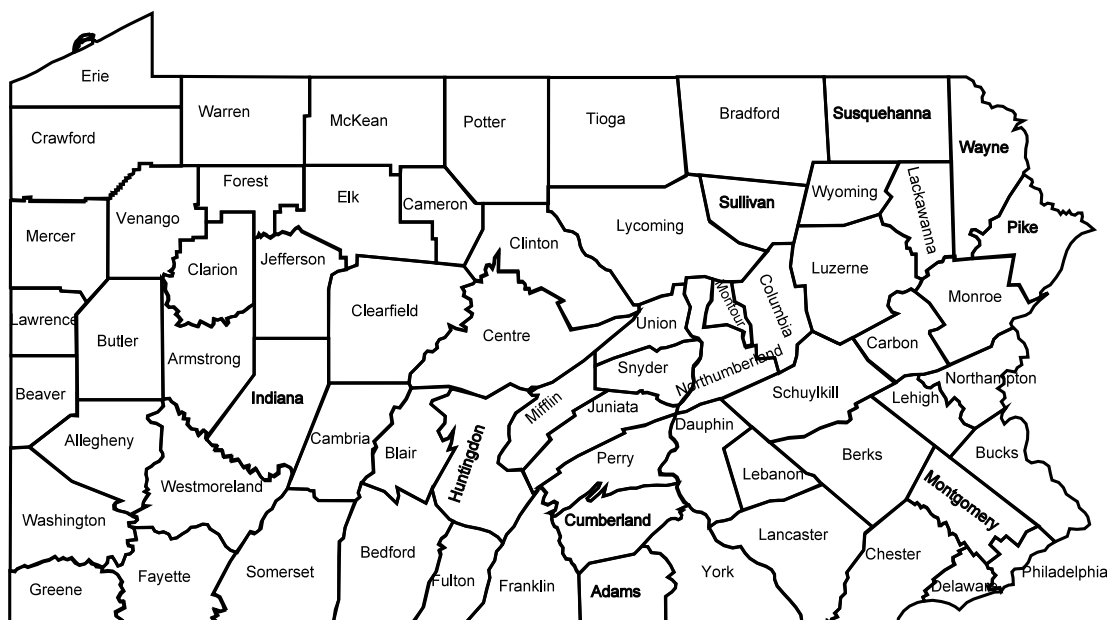


Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). 8 July 2006, Bullion, Venango (*Cameron Rutt*).



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This male was one of many in Fairfield, Adams, 6 July 2006 (*Wes Fritz*).

Local Notes - June through July 2006



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

No Report

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Allegheny County

Location: Imperial (IMP).

A **Hooded Merganser** was at IMP 6/4 and 6/11 (MV), but breeding was not confirmed this year. A male **Ruddy Duck** in breeding plumage was an unexpected find on the Ohio R. 6/22 (FM, CM). A few **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Dashields Dam on the Ohio R. from mid-Jul to the end of the month (MV, MF). This species is now present nearly all year in the county.

A late **Great Egret** flew past Dashields Dam 6/11 (MV). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was an out of season surprise at North Park 6/29 (EA, SM). The bird was still present at dusk 6/30.

Late northbound shorebirds at IMP included 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 6/3-6/4 (MV), 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 6/4-6/11 (MV), 11 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 6/1, with one remaining to 6/4 (MV). Four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found in Fox Chapel 6/1 (DY). Shorebirds in late Jun and early Jul may have been returning fall migrants, failed breeders or non-breeders. A **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared at IMP 7/2 (MV), a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 6/27-7/7 (MV), a **Solitary Sandpiper** was present 7/7 (MV), and 2 **Least Sandpipers** were there 6/27 followed by nice counts of 10 on 7/5 and 12 on 7/11 (MV). Southbound migrants started to move through by mid-July. The following species were found in small numbers at IMP from mid-Jul to the end of the month: **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**,

Semipalmated Sandpiper, **Least Sandpiper** and **Pectoral Sandpiper**. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** were there 7/30-7/31 (MV).

Herring Gulls continue to nest at the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny R. (MF) and at Dashields Dam where up to 3 nests were noted 6/11 (MV). An **Osprey** flew over Dashields Dam 6/16 (MV). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen very briefly in flight over Scott Twp. 6/8 (DW); a first for the county.

A **Common Raven** was seen in McKees Rocks 6/27 (CT, SV). This was probably the same bird reported last winter and spring. Two **Fish Crows** were at All Souls Cemetery in North Braddock 7/8 (MF); the same location they were found the past two years.

A colony of **Bank Swallows** was found in Stowe Twp. 6/25 (MV). This species is uncommon during migration and not thought to breed in the area; however a few birds were seen regularly last summer not far from this location. There are several breeding records from the first breeding bird atlas, but this was the first report of a colony (that I am aware of) since that project ended. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were also nesting at this location (MF). A **Cliff Swallow** was at IMP 7/22 (DY).

An albino **Northern Mockingbird** was reported 7/30 at Fox Chapel (WG). A **Veery** was in Pine Twp. 7/1 (PL, SL). **Prairie Warblers** can still be found in the construction area at IMP where one was found 7/7-7/16 (MV). Two **Ovenbirds** at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. were noteworthy because this species is not a common breeder in the county.

A flock of over 200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at a large wetland in the IMP area 7/22, a sign of a waning summer (MF). A **Blue Grosbeak** at IMP 7/29 (NN) in the same area of where they formally bred raised hopes this species may breed in the county again. Despite regular searches over the years, this was the first report since 1997. A **Purple Finch** was in Pine Twp. 6/2 and 6/29 (PL, SL).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Cochran's Mills (CM), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Margaret (MG).

An **Osprey** was sighted along Mahoning Creek near McCrea Furnace 7/6 (DF). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** near KR 7/5 (MH) was the lone report. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was spotted near Mateer 6/11 (MH,RH). Two **Ring-billed Gulls** stopped at KR 7/5 (MH).

Black-billed Cuckoos included 3 on the MG BBS 6/11 (MH,RH) and one at KR 7/5 (MH). Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found near Brick Church 6/3 (MH,RH) and near Dayton 6/10 (MH,RH). One **Common Nighthawk** flew over Kittanning pre-dawn 6/10 (MH,RH).

The *Armstrong* portion of the Shelocta BBS 6/3 (MH,RH) and the MG BBS 6/11 (MH,RH) each yielded 10 singing **Acadian Flycatchers**. **Willow Flycatchers** were widely noted with a high of 7 on the MG BBS 6/11 (MH,RH). Two **Least Flycatchers** near KR 6/22 (MH) comprised the entire report for this species.

White-eyed Vireo was listed only near CM 6/3 (MH,RH). **Yellow-throated Vireo** records included an individual near CM 6/3 (MH,RH), 2 near Brick Church 6/11 (MH,RH), and 2 north of Bryan 6/22 (MH). **Warbling Vireo** was found near Spaces Corners 6/10 (MH,RH) and near CM 6/11 (MH,RH).

The **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton contained 31 pairs and fledged 115 young (DS). Supplemental feeding of crickets and scrambled eggs helped the birds survive the cold, wet weather in spring. High winds bent one of the gourd poles to the ground in early Jul, but the pole was stabilized and the birds fledged successfully. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was still present near Worthington 7/30 (CGI).

A **Hermit Thrush** was observed northeast of Leechburg 6/3 (MH,RH). The KR area yielded 11 **Wood Thrushes** 7/5 (MH). **Northern Mockingbirds** were listed at 7 locations.

The MG BBS yielded 4 **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/11 (MH,RH) while 5 were found near KR 7/5 (MH), but no **Golden-winged Warblers** or hybrids were noted this period. A **Northern Parula** was singing at CM 6/3 (MH,RH). **Yellow Warbler** BBS counts included 17 on the *Armstrong* section of the Shelocta route 6/3 (MH,RH) and 20 on the MG route 6/11 (MH,RH). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were widespread with 11 reports (m.obs). A **Pine Warbler** was singing on territory at KR 6/22, 7/5 (MH). The *Armstrong* portion of the Shelocta BBS yielded 3 **Cerulean Warblers** 6/3 (MH,RH); one was sighted near Echo 6/10 (MH,RH). **Black-and-white Warblers** included 2 on the Kittanning BBS 6/10 (MH,RH) and 4 the next day on the MG route (MH,RH). **Worm-eating Warbler** was listed only near Girty 6/3 (MH,RH). **Kentucky Warbler** reports included singletons near Echo 6/22 (MH), near Smeltzer 7/5 (MH), and near KR 7/10 (MH). Three **Hooded Warblers** were listed near KR 6/22 (MH).

High **Scarlet Tanager** tally was 8 near KR 7/5 (MH). A **Vesper Sparrow** near West Valley 6/10 (MH,RH) was the lone report. **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports included 2 near Elderton and 2 near KR 7/5 (MH). One **Bobolink** was found near Mateer 6/11 (MH,RH), and one was near Worthington the following day (CGI).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701, (724) 354-3493 bcoriole@alltel.net**, Don Frew, Carolyn Glendening, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Duke Snyder.

Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

The summer season passed mainly without event. I noted no unusual breeding species during atlasing, though results for many somewhat uncommon but expected breeders such as **Cerulean, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers**, and **Wood Thrush** were encouraging. The most excitement came in the form of some rare southbound shorebirds at Little Blue Lake in July. These are noted below; however, a comprehensive shorebird review will be reserved for the Fall Seasonal Report, which will include these July sightings. All observations in this report were by GM, unless noted otherwise.

A female **Hooded Merganser** was found with 15 chicks near Big Beaver Wetlands 5/27, which was the only report of breeding evidence (MV). Very interesting was a **Pied-billed Grebe** on the Beaver R. 6/24 (MV). This bird was not found in suitable breeding habitat, though **Pied-billed Grebe** is a possible rare nester in the marshes of the northern tier of the county. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was loafing on the Ohio R. 6/11 (MV), another species for which breeding evidence is eagerly sought along the major rivers of southwestern Pennsylvania. **Green Herons** were conspicuous at IND, where they are an annual nester.

There was a second-hand report of a **Black Vulture** in Chippewa Twp. 7/24 (*fide* MF), but this bird was never confirmed. Verification of this

species is highly desirable as it is very rare anywhere in southwestern region of Pennsylvania. The two **Osprey** nests were both active during the summer, with two juveniles noted at the Industry site in Jul (MV, GM), but the newly discovered Midland site appeared abandoned by mid-Jun (SG, GM). **Northern Harriers** were conspicuously absent from the county, despite the excellent potential of the grasslands in the northwestern corner of the county. By late Jul, groups of **American Kestrels** were very apparent in the area surrounding LBL. Very intriguing was a report of an adult **Peregrine Falcon** at LBL 7/7 (MV), which was followed up by another sighting of an adult there 8/6 (GM). Though these two were not classified even as "possible" breeding evidence by the atlas block owner (GM), there are abundant potential nesting locations along the Ohio R. in western *Beaver*.

The **Virginia Rails** reported last quarter at Madden Run Marsh were still present in Jul, though no juveniles or other confirmed breeding evidence was noted, so the record remains "probable"; however, breeding almost certainly occurred. There were a few **American Coots** lingering in early Jun on the Beaver R. and, more interestingly, at Big Beaver Wetlands (MV). Though no breeding evidence was reported, **American Coots** are known to inhabit wetlands just to the north in *Lawrence* and *Mercer*, and the possibility that they may be discovered nesting in *Beaver* is not unreasonable.

There were a few exciting reports of returning shorebirds at LBL beginning in Jul, highlighted by an **American Avocet** 7/16 (MV), which was the second county record, an adult **Stilt Sandpiper** 7/26 (GM) and two adults there 7/28 (MV), and an adult **Baird's Sandpiper** 7/21 (MV), which was perhaps a shade early. A full shorebird report including these Jul records will be made next quarter.

Both **Cuckoo** species thrived in the area surrounding LBL this summer, and **Yellow-billed** were also found in several other blocks in the vicinity of AR. Despite some deliberate searching, rare owl species eluded detection, with the only confirmed species being **Eastern Screech and Barred**, and **Great Horned** last quarter. **Common Nighthawks** were not so common; the only reports were of reliable birds in Ambridge (MV), and in the vicinity of Beaver and Rochester (GM), and a few in the area of SGL 285. **Whip-poor-wills**, on the other hand, continued a strong presence on SGL 285 into Jun. This population, though small and local, seems to be very solid.

It was hoped that the presence of **Alder Flycatchers** at SGL 285, which was reported last quarter, would persist into the summer, but GM found that was not to be. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were more numerous than expected while surveying the west-central portion of the county. The morning of 6/15 witnessed at least 13 singing males in various locations. Very interesting was the presence of approximately 50 **Bank Swallows** in Greene Twp. near LBL throughout Jun and early Jul. The only currently known, confirmed colony of this species in *Beaver* is along the Ohio R. at Montgomery Dam (which was active again this season, according to MV), so while a nest site was not located in the LBL area, their presence there is still intriguing and their breeding status was classified as "probable" by GM. **Veeries** were found on territory only at SGL 285 and one other location near AR, which was disappointing.

Among the more unusual and interesting finds among breeding warblers were the following reports. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** nest was confirmed on SGL 285 in Jun, which is a new location for this species and one of the few locations known in the county. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was singing near AR 6/7, but it did not remain in the area. **Prairie Warblers** thrive on SGL 285, by far the strongest known group in the county. Likewise, **Black-and-white Warblers** proved conspicuous on SGL 285, though no birds could be classified beyond "probable." However, the habitat of SGL 285 features many sections of extensive unbroken wooded areas, and as such is prime territory for Black-and-whites. **Cerulean Warblers** had a very strong summer in west-central *Beaver*, and were recorded in multiple locations in which they were not found during the first PBBA. Ditto for **Kentucky Warblers**, whose frequent occurrence in the west-central area and on SGL 285 was a delightful surprise. No less than six **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found on territory near LBL during the first half of Jun. The old abandoned farm fields around the lake there house a veritable treasure trove of grassland, shrubland, and second growth specialist breeders.

The grassland sparrows had an excellent season at SGL 285, where populations of **Field, Savannah, Henslow's, and Grasshopper Sparrows** abound throughout the summer. A small cache of **Henslow's** was also found - including a nest - in the fields surrounding LBL, a new site for this species. **Vesper Sparrows** were also present in small numbers at SGL 285 and juvs were noted in late Jul there. **Swamp Sparrows** spent the summer at IND and Madden Run Marsh, but were not reported elsewhere. **Bobolinks** were noted in late May and early Jun in several locations especially in the west-central section of the county, but unfortunately almost all locations were subjected to early mowing. Only in three areas: sections of SGL 285, fallow farm fields in nearby Darlington Twp., and near LBL, were the breeding activities of this species allowed to proceed unfettered. An interesting aggregation of 27 **Orchard Orioles**, many of which were young birds, was at SGL 285 on 8/5.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Twp., PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net;** Mike Fialkovich, Scott Gregg, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

Locations: Dunning Creek Wetlands (DCW), Shawnee State Park (SSP).

The weather for the period was a wet June and hot July. High water levels eliminated mudflats during the relatively dry months of July and August. The observations are those of the compiler unless noted otherwise.

American Black Ducks and **Green-winged Teals** lingered well into Jul without evidence of breeding (DCW). I did not see any **Pied-billed Grebes** in Jun, but on 7/18 while removing Yellow Iris, I startled a hen and 3 juv **Pied-billed Grebes**. They had nested under Button Bush where the canopy provided secrecy and the roots a holdfast for their floating nest (DCW). **Double-crested Cormorants** lingered at SSP through Jun and Jul. A **Least Bittern** adult and chick were observed on a small mudflat 7/16 at DCW. The thick vegetation prevented noticing whether other chicks were present. In most breeding years there are two to three chicks. Five **Great Egrets** were seen 7/10 at DCW with others seen near New Centerville marsh 7/9 and Lake Kuhn (DS).

An adult **Green Heron** was spotted on a platform nest at Bob's Creek 6/14. **Sora** with young were seen scrambling along a ditch at DCW 7/2. A **Spotted Sandpiper** with young was seen on mudflats at DCW 6/20. **Killdeer** were abundant breeders this year with 4 nests discovered on gravel roads and old barn foundations at DCW. **American Woodcock** with young were seen on several occasions on the mowed nature Trails at DCW. **Wilson's Snipe** and a **Barn Owl** were confirmed in May at DCW.

Four **Black Vultures** were seen circling over Will's Creek Rd. 6/26 (DS). An **Osprey** was sighted near Lake Kuhn on Evetts Creek 7/9 (DS). Several **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Red-shouldered Hawks** within safe dates were observed near Creek Rd. and Bearcap Rd. respectively (DS).

A new location for **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in a Walnut Grove on Harrieta Dr. near Rainsburg adding to the list of 10 locations known within the county (DS). Dan Snell found the following vireos within "safe dates": **Blue-headed Vireo** on Martin Hill Rd. near Sweet Root Picnic area and numerous **White-eyed Vireos** near Mechanics Hollow Rd. **Yellow-throated Vireos** and **Warbling Vireos** were found on most streams assessed.

A good find was a **Brown Creeper** singing along a Pine Plantation trail in the Sweet Root Natural Area 7/3 (DS). A pair of **Blue-winged Warblers**, within safe dates, was found along the *Bedford/Fulton* border and 2 pairs of **Golden-winged Warbler** were found off SR 2009 South of Buffalo Run (DS). Dan's big find was a "**Brewster's Warbler**" discovered 6/8 on Mechanics Hollow Rd. This hybrid is new to *Bedford's* avifauna since it was not discovered on the first atlas project. A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen on 7/26 on Robinson Rd. This brings to 20 the number of probable/confirmed nesting warblers in the county.

A **Swamp Sparrow** was found singing on in a marsh off the Lake Gordon Rd. 7/9 (DS). Additional **Swamp Sparrow** nests were confirmed at DCW. A **Blue Grosbeak** was found 6/27 near Will's Creek Rd. **Blue Grosbeaks** have been spotted historically within the county in 3 to 4 locations, but appear to lack the site fidelity to return the following year. The last intriguing bird Dan found was a **Dickcissel** singing on Barnes Rd. near the Maryland Line (6/3).

Observers: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA. 15924, (814) 754-5727, Thomasd102@aol.com,** Sally Dick, Connie Hunt, Dan Snell.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Land #110 on Kittatinny Ridge (SGL110).

Four **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** (first county record) were discovered at a small farm pond on Kauffman Rd., Oley Twp. 6/4 (PO). The farm owners said they had already been there a few days before. None was banded (RK). Starting 6/5, only one duck was seen at the original site or at nearby Gotwals pond (m.obs), with the last report 6/18 (AS). The birds were part of a widespread movement of the species into at least seven eastern and south central states in late May and early Jun 2006 (fide Paul O'Brien, MDSprey Listserve).

A few **Snow Geese**, mostly the walking wounded, lingered at LO and a few ponds through summer. About a dozen non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at LO as usual. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at a nest in Wyomissing in May (JC) indicates that the species may be recolonizing this residential area, where the birds previously nested for many years. Adults, presumably from the West Lawn heronry, were seen at LO and BML during the period (JS, MW).

Two **Black Vulture** chicks fledged from a nest at FCSP (RB). Non-breeding **Ospreys** and nesting **Bald Eagles** were reported a few times in both months. An adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, a rare Piedmont breeder, was calling and performing territorial flights over a mature conifer plantation in FCSP 6/4 (RK). **Sharpies** that fledged young from a similar

site in Pike Twp. in 2005 returned in 2006, but there was no evidence of successful nesting (RK). A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** fledged young from another conifer plantation in District Twp. about a half mile from the latter Sharpie site (RK). **American Kestrel** pairs fledged 4-5 young from each of two boxes near Barto (RB).

A **Piping Plover** was seen 6/4 (JS) at the shorebird magnet farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville. It was described as being lighter brown on the back and head than **Semipalmated Plover** (also present), and as having the single black breast band, orange legs and orange bill base typical of the species. The observer is long familiar with both species. Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were also present. There is no previous county record of **Piping Plover**. A **Black Tern** was at the Blue Mt. Academy pond near Hamburg 6/9 (DW). A dove with a collar frequenting a feeder in Reading was thought to be an **African Collared-Dove** or **Ringed Turtle Dove**, as it appeared too slim and light colored to be a Eurasian Collared-Dove (KK). Since many such doves are kept in captivity and sometimes escape, caution in identification is appropriate.

Barn Owls nesting in boxes fledged 2 young in Rehrersburg, 5 in Lenhartsville and 6 in Barto this season (RB). A **Whip-poor-will**, now rarely reported in *Berks*, called in a regenerating clearcut at SGL110, Northkill Gap 6/13 (KG). There was no report of **Common Nighthawk**. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** again nested in the black locust grove on Kauffman Rd., Oley Twp., the first fledgling reported 8/26 (RK). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** near LO 7/22 (MW) furnished an unusual summer record. **Horned Larks**, seldom looked for in summer except in atlas years, were found in several blocks in northern *Berks* (KG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** called in Virginia pines at SGL110, Stony Creek 7/30 (TC). A **Brown Creeper** pair, the male frequently singing, was probably nesting in an old conifer plantation in FCSP in late May and early Jun (RK). This species surely defines the term, "elusive breeder."

Veeries usually nest, often at high densities, in the dense understory of wet mature woods, but a count of 17 on 6/13 (KG) in and around a regenerating clearcut at SGL110 shows that they also colonize dense second growth in a forest setting. "Mockers Adopt Junkfood" might be the caption describing the behavior of an adult **Northern Mockingbird** seen stuffing a french fry into the gape of a begging fledgling in a convenience store parking lot in Leesport 7/10 (MW). Or was it just exasperation? A backcross adult male **Brewster's Warbler**, probably an early migrant, was at SGL110, Stony Creek 7/30 (TC). A **Prothonotary Warbler** sang 6/8 and 6/11 (SS, MS) along the Maiden Creek above LO as last summer, but again nesting was unconfirmed. A **Blackpoll Warbler** with a broken wing sang and foraged along Pine Creek near Albany 6/22 (DW). All three grassland sparrows were reported by atlas volunteers, mostly in the extensive farmlands of northern *Berks* (SF, KG). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was in Greenwich Twp. 7/1 (KG), and 3 birds were near LO 7/22,23 (MS, MW).

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Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Armenia Mountain (AMt), Barclay Mountain (BMt).

Although there have been possible sightings, the first observation of an immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** was made 6/21 in the Herrickville area (MB).

A single **Osprey** was seen 7/22 on Stevenson Hill Rd. (BF). There was a single report also of a **Bald Eagle** (juv) 6/22 at French Asylum (TD). A **Northern Harrier** was reported as a possible breeder on Marcy Hill Rd. 7/9 (BF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed on Morgan Rd. 7/18 (BF). Although a non-breeder here, a **Merlin** seen near Terrytown was quite late 6/12 (MB).

A **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were seen once again (having been observed here often in the past) 6/12 at a pond near Standing Stone (BF, BR). *Bradford* continues to be graced by **Sandhill Cranes**, which although not confirmed breeders yet, certainly have been present in numbers: 3 on 5/16, 5 on 5/29, 2 on 6/15 and 4 on 7/14, all at or near a swamp in the Oak Hill area (CM, GM).

Barred Owls have been fairly vocal this summer, as evidenced by two energetically dueting 6/14 on BMt (TG). One of the most exciting events of the summer was hearing **Northern Saw-whet Owls** respond to the BBA owl protocol CD in two locations on BMt 6/14 (TG).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was observed 6/11 near Woodside (BF). The **Yellow-throated Vireo**, seen only occasionally in the county, was present 6/9 near Woodside, and 7/14 in the Wysox area (BF). **Bank Swallows**, and a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were in the Wyalusing area 6/12 (BR).

Due to work on the BBA, there were more warblers reported than normal. A **Nashville Warbler** was in the Wyalusing area 6/12 (BR), and

6/15 one was confirmed breeding (carrying food for young) on AMt. (RY). A **Northern Parula** was in the Herrickville area 6/1 (MB, BL). There were a number of **Magnolia Warbler** sightings: 6/12 in the Wyalusing area (BR), 6/15 at Shepherd's Pond (TG), one singing on Carbon Run, BMT 6/16, and 7/5 confirmed breeding (adult with several young) at Mt. Pisgah SP (RY). **Black throated Blue Warblers** were counter-singing 6/6 on Hatch Mt. (YG), and were confirmed breeding (carrying food for young) 7/7 on AMt. (RY). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were confirmed breeding (carrying food for young) 6/15 on AMt. (RY). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were counter-singing in spruces on BMT 6/16 (TG), and observed singing 6/18 in the Crane Swamp vicinity (CM). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was observed 6/11 on Tip Top Rd. (BF). There were an excitingly large number of **Louisiana Waterthrush** observations during the spring, continuing into the summer (although most had stopped singing by Jun), such as one singing 6/6 on a stream on Kellogg Mt. (TG), one observed near Woodside 6/9 (BF), and one singing in the Merryall area 6/12 (BR). A **Hooded Warbler** was observed 7/11 on Tip Top Mt. (BF).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Delaware River (DeIR), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Tincum Township (TNT)

A total of 114 species was reported on the breeding bird chart submitted with this report. Of these, 91 were confirmed, 17 were tagged as probable, and 6 were indicated as possible. The temperature averaged above normal for both months, with July the hottest at 2° F above. Rainfall was also above average for both months, with June bringing the third major flood on the Delaware River in 18 months. This flood, there and along other streams, undoubtedly wiped out many nests on islands and along floodplains. Water levels in lakes remained high preventing good early shorebird habitat. Breeding Bird Atlas work continued but reports to this compiler were presumably only a small fraction of the work done. As usual, historical references are from "Birds of Bucks Co." by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates. Weather statistics are from NOAA at Trenton, NJ.

The escaped male **Cinnamon Teal**, reported last season, was last reported at BRD 6/21 (AM, GJ). Is it just coincidental that the bird reported at John Heinz Refuge in Philadelphia was found immediately after on 6/25? A male **Bufflehead** 6/2 at Nockamixon S.P.(DFa) furnished a new spring late date. A family of **Common Mergansers** with young on Cook's Creek in Durham Twp. was of interest (SR) since this site is about a mile away from the DeIR, which is the normal breeding location in the county. For the first time, a pair remained at PVP, but breeding could not be confirmed (m.obs). A **Ruddy Duck** at Warminster Community Park area 7/23 and through the period provided only our 2nd Jul report (NZ). A late **Common Loon** was at PVP 6/3 (CC). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was also late at Pine Run Dam 6/3 (DFa). A pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** nested at US Steel, Falls Twp., with 5 young first noted 6/20 (ABi, NB). This was the first confirmed nesting in over two decades.

A large snapping turtle at PVP killed a **Double-crested Cormorant** 7/29 (BL). A **Great Blue Heron** met the same fate there 7/4 (RFO). The East Rockhill Twp. **Great Blue Heron** colony, not reported in the spring report, had at least 25 nests (LB). Thus, adding this last report to the spring reports, the known total nests in the county were at least 106. A count of 18 **Great Blue Herons** at Churchville Res. 7/11 (NZ) is interesting for this site but not surprising considering the large number of nests now in the county. The reports of **Great Egrets** from various sites throughout Jun were unusual before the normal post-breeding wanderers normally arrive. Consistent with county high-count reports in recent years, 24 were at Core Creek Park 7/27 (BD). An adult **Little Blue Heron** at Morrisville 6/5 was unexpected for that date (DFa). More expected was a juv at PVP 7/22 (CC). Interesting was an adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Morrisville 6/9 and possibly the same bird 6/28 (BK). Two juveniles were at Churchville Res. 7/22 (NZ). A juv **Glossy Ibis** was at the Penn-Warner Tract 7/20 (CR, AM), adding to the now regular reports along the southern DeIR. Technically a juv can be only identified as a *Plegadis* species. This is the third report this year. A probable **Wood Stork** was a fly-by at Bedminster Twp. 6/28 (DFa). Unfortunately, it could not be confirmed, as the observer did not have binoculars and the height and lighting conditions prevented seeing details.

The **Bald Eagle** nestlings at Core Creek Park fledged 6/26-6/29 (GD), four months after the first egg laying date of 2/25 or 2/26. A resident adult at PVP (AM) and multiples at Nockamixon S.P.(BE) all season may indicate more nests can be expected next year. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was possibly missing from the usual sites and went unreported (BE). **American Kestrels** used boxes at PVP and a new box at nearby New Britain Twp.(AM). **Virginia Rails** were the only species of note believed to be nesting at Quakertown Swamp this year (BE). A pair of **Common**

Moorhens nested at US Steel, Falls Twp., with 2 young first noted 6/15 (ABi, NB). This was the first confirmed nesting here in 50 years. A late **American Coot** lingered at BRD to 6/3 (DFa), for a new spring late departure date. Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were still at BRD 6/1 (AM). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at PVP 6/12-6/13 (FG) is best classified as a spring straggler and thus provided a new spring late date. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/1 at BRD officially started fall migration accompanied by one **Least Sandpiper** (GJ). Both set new fall early arrival dates. The first **Semipalmated Sandpiper** for the season was reported 7/22 at Plumstead Twp. (BE). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** at BRD 7/11 were the first fall migrants of this species (GJ). The first **Pectoral Sandpipers** were spotted 7/22, with one at BRD (CR, AM) and another at Plumstead Twp.(BE).

Winter gull counts at the Tullytown landfill are received each year, but normally summer numbers are unreported. Although not comprehensive, some counts were reported this year. A rough count of 850 **Laughing Gulls** 7/20 was made up of nearly 100% adults (AM). There were approximately 200 **Ring-billed Gulls** 7/1 (BK) and approximately 20 young of the year 7/20 (CR). Since they are not known to nest anywhere nearby, they must wander great distances immediately after fledging. There were also 200 each of **Herring Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull** 7/1 (BK). A 7/20 count of 11 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** consisted of 9 first-summer, 1 second-summer, and 1 third-summer (CR). Elsewhere, up to 8 **Ring-billed Gulls** were regular at Nockamixon S.P. all season, which was felt to be unusual there (BE). Also there, one to 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** lingered into the first week of Jun. An immature **Greater Black-backed Gull** was also noted as unusual there 7/1-7/4 (BE). The first returning **Caspian Tern** was reported 7/28 at Core Creek Park (GD).

Morrisville had two **Common Nighthawks** 6/5 (DFa) and one 6/28 (BK), indicating possible breeding there. There have been no breeding reports since the first Breeding Bird Atlas and that was from only one block and indicated as a possible only. Often hard to confirm as breeders, a pair of **Belted Kingfishers** was feeding 3 young 6/14 at Bowman's Hill (BK). Our only reported **Red-headed Woodpecker** nest was successful at State Game Land #157 (BL). **Downy Woodpeckers** frequenting hummingbird feeders all season at PVP (AM) and TNT (KW) apparently had developed an addiction to sugar water. Certainly the find of the season was the **Forked-tailed Flycatcher** 6/4-6/5 at Morrisville (BK). A report from early morning 6/6 was unconfirmed. This is apparently the first confirmed state record, since a reported specimen from 1873 has been lost. The bird was believed to be a second year bird of the Mexican subspecies *T.s. monachus* (ML) based on molt status and plumage.

Bank Swallows were nesting as usual in the quarry at TNT 6/19 (DA) but were probably flooded out in late Jun by the DeIR. My spring report said the last **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported 4/30, but new information proved that incorrect. The following report from TNT apparently represents our first known breeding in the county. "**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were very active here all winter and into spring. I saw what I thought was one male and one female. Near the end of April we found a dead male in the driveway. A few days later we saw that there was another male coming to the feeders. The birds were here all the time all through May. A few days before 6/4, I remarked that there were a lot of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** calling in the brush and trees nearby. On the morning of 6/4, I went out to refill the feeders with sunflower seed and that's when the group came down within just a few feet of me. There was the pair of adults, but the others, and those that came closest, I'm sure were juveniles. They were duller colored and looked a little scruffy" (BS). The observer left the next day for an extended vacation and no follow-up was done. A **Swainson's Thrush** at PVP 6/3 provided a new spring late departure date by one day (AM). **Yellow-throated Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** were not reported despite some attempts at historic sites.

Both **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were confirmed breeders near the Warminster Community Park (CR). There were at least 6 **Savannah Sparrows** and 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** there 7/22 (CR). The site is part of the large redevelopment of the former Naval Air Research Station and has already been bulldozed as I write this. **Savannah Sparrows** were probable breeders in Buckingham Twp. (RS,VS). The latter species is rarely reported breeding here. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were probable breeders in TNT again this year (DA, DFa). A **White-throated Sparrow** at Warrington Twp. 6/11 (RFR) adds to the list of rare summer reports for this species. A female **Blue Grosbeak** was seen north of Upper Black Eddy, but nesting could not be confirmed. A **Blue Grosbeak** family including 3 juv was at Blooming Glen 7/23 (CR), where they have nested before.

The Milford Twp. **Bobolink** colony had at least 24 birds including young 7/8 (GF). **Bobolinks** were also reported from multiple locations in TNT as usual (DA), and a probable nesting site was in Bedminster Twp. (BE). **Eastern Meadowlark** was possibly breeding at the Warminster Community Park along the former Naval Air Research Station runway (GJ). The highest count reported from there was 12 in late July (GJ). They were at several sites in TNT as usual (DA) as well as probable nesters at Pine Run Dam and Tyler State Park (BK). A juv was at PVP 7/9 where they do not nest (AM). Interesting was a flock of 11 female and juvenile **Orchard Orioles** at the Penn-Warner Tract 7/20 (CR, AM). An adult male was also seen separately there that day (CR, AM).

Conservation Note: The US Steel property in Falls Twp. where rare breeding species were discovered this year is slated for industrial redevelopment in the future. In addition to the species mentioned above, **Least Bittern** was also noted there in late May. The future of this area as a refuge for these species is in jeopardy.

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Butler County

Locations: Butler City (BC), Poplar Forest (PF), Poplar Manor (PM), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB) and Slippery Rock Township (SRT).

The weather in June and July for northern *Butler* was above average for precipitation (7 ¼ inches in June and 6 ¾ inches in July) and maximum temperatures never reached 90 degrees F. in SRB like they did on four days in Pittsburgh 50 air miles to the south.

The **Wild Turkey** had a good breeding season with 3 hens and 18 fledglings checking backyards and wood lots in PF and PM almost on a daily basis just yards from traffic busy Kelly Boulevard. A pleasant surprise were 3 male **Northern Bobwhites** singing early most mornings on the boundary of SRB-SRT throughout Jun and Jul. Fortunately, PF and PM still retain dense mixed forest that has been a last holdout for eight species of raptors this year: one pair of **Cooper's Hawk** produced one juv as did a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Two **Broad-winged Hawk** juv were vocal and aerially active until the end of Jul as was one juv **Red-tailed Hawk** that continuously visited the surroundings of a number of bird feeders in PF and PM seeking chipmunks.

A handsome male **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, in full breeding plumage, visited bird feeders 7/7 on the north side of BC (MB, LB). The bird repeatedly tried to court and mate female **Mourning Doves** but to no avail. The dove was still present on a daily basis to 7/30 and sporadically thereafter. The species constitutes a new county record.

Four species of owls were recorded in PF this season: **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Barred Owl** and a vocal male **Northern Saw-whet Owl** between 6/1-6/5. Two **Common Nighthawks** were heard and seen 7/11 flying over PM.

Although absent as a breeder for two years, a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** bred in the dense PF spruce plantation and was noted 6/1 carrying food to the nest. Also, a pair of **Winter Wrens** were seen 7/5 feeding 4 fledglings on White Oak Drive in PF. A male **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was repeatedly tape-recorded singing his breeding song in Jun and Jul but no mate or nest could be found. The **Eastern Meadowlark** did well this breeding season after convincing a landowner in PF not to mow his large field covered with tall grass until after Aug, one-two pairs produced 7 fledglings, the best nesting record in the past three years in SRB. Finally, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Bobolink** and **Purple Finch** failed to nest in PF or PM this year.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 794-2434, genewilhelm@aol.com**, Marcie Brown, Larry Brown and Joanne Wilhelm.

Cambria County

Locations: Dunlo Area (DL), Dysart Area (DY), Lilly Mountain (LMT), Loretto Area (LO), Patton Area (PA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Great Blue Herons again had 3 nests in the same location in northern *Cambria*. A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen several times at PG (RB) 6/26-6/30. **Ospreys** were seen daily, but no nesting was observed from early Jun till mid Jul in the PT area (DG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were present with probable breeding at DL (JJ) and confirmed nesting at PT (DG). **Cliff Swallows** have expanded their breeding sites to inside and outside of barns and concrete structures at or near water. Two **Winter Wrens** singing on territory were at DY (RB). This marks a first time we have recorded **Winter Wrens** as a breeding species in *Cambria*.

Northern Parula seem to be increasing in the area around PG. Several nests were found (RB, JS). A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen and heard at DY 6/30 (RB). This is an uncommon breeding species in our area. **Canada Warblers** were very common in the mountain stream thickets above DY (DG). A lone male **Blue Grosbeak** was observed singing at LO 7/21 (RB, JS). This is only a second county record on the breeding survey. Several locations along the Allegheny Front had nesting **Dark-eyed**

Juncos at DL, DY, and LMT (JJ, DG, JS). **Orchard Orioles** were seen visiting nests at PG (RB, JS).

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Cameron County

No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

David Hawk, 521 Walnut Street, Lehighton, PA, 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net

Centre County

Locations: I-99 just north of Port Matilda and east of Rte. 322 (PM99), Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Colyer Lake (COL), Mid State Airport (MSA), Wetlands west of Julian adjacent to Rte. 220 (JWET).

More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. Almost all of the species information during this period comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv list scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu. This is also true for the Migration and Breeding tables. Reports of avian happenings were in comparatively short supply this period.

Two young **Hooded Mergansers** about four weeks old were observed diving in a beaver pond in the upper part of Black Moshannon Creek just south of MSA 6/24 (NB). A **Ruffed Grouse** chased a slow moving vehicle while in the Alan Seeger Natural Area 7/8 (DG); according to other reports, this grouse behavior is not unusual (NB, TP). Four **Common Loons** in non-breeding plumage were seen on the lake at BESP 7/9, and three were seen 7/15 (BS). Five **Green Herons** were found at JWET and one at COL 7/31 (LG). At least six **Great Egrets** were observed at JWET 7/31 (LG).

Two juv **Bald Eagles** were seen several times at BESP during the week of 7/3 and were most likely the ones that fledged from the nest reported in the Spring Season. A **Sora** responded to an Atlas Marsh Bird Protocol CD and a **Great Egret** continues to be present at JWET 6/4 (NK).

Two **Eastern Screech Owls** were heard actively calling at COL 7/31 (LG). An Atlas owl survey in Sprout S.F. in Region 48 yielded a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and **Barred Owl** along with **Whip-poor-wills**, **Black-billed Cuckoos**, and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** 6/8 (DG, GG). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard again this year through most of Jul on the Bald Eagle Ridge in western *Centre* where one was heard last year 7/28 (GG, DT).

A colony of at least 50 nests of **Cliff Swallows** were under the bridge of the closed portion of I-99 just north of Port Matilda and east of Rt. 322; over 50 adults were counted in flight at the site 6/3 (NK). A scolding **Winter Wren** landed on the edge of an open car window and quickly flew away when it saw the Atlaser inside 7/18 (MH).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen in the median strip at PM99 6/3 (NK). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** that was seen at MSA 5/27 was still there 6/5, 6/10, and 6/24 but no sign of breeding was evident (NB).

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Chester County

Locations: Chambers Lake (CL), Church Farm School (CFS), Coatesville (CO), Dowingtown (DO), Honey Brook Twp. (HBT), Kurtz Fish Farm (KFF), London Britain Twp. (LBT), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Phoenixville (PHX), Runnymede Farm (RF), Sadsbury Woods (SaW), Struble Trail (ST), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF), West Chester (WC), West Chester Breeding Bird Count (WCBBC), West Goshen Township (WGT), White Clay Creek (WCC).

Many sightings of breeding bird behavior happened before the June-July period and have been included herein.

Canada Geese continue to successfully produce large families of goslings. The adults, with young birds beside them, are seen all over the county. Two **Mute Swans** with 2 cygnets were found on CL 6/29 (RR). RR also reported seeing a **Hooded Merganser**, presuming it to be a 1st spring male, but added, "It's not spring any more," and asked when adult plumage would develop. He stated, "There was no sign of mature birds." Earlier in the report period, a juvenile **Hooded Merganser** was discovered at Waterloo Mills Preserve 6/12 (KF).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at KFF 7/16 (NP, SP). An immature **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on CL 7/30 (RR).

Probably indicating movement of a group of egrets, 7 **Great Egrets** were seen flying over CL 7/30 (RR). Then 7/31, JMa had a group of 7

Great Egrets at OR. A territorial pair of **Green Herons** were at CL 6/29 (RR).

Turkey Vultures are present in the county, but nesting is very hard to confirm. A nest, containing three eggs, was found in an abandoned garage in WGT (NP, SP). A **Bald Eagle** was found during their WCBBC 6/11 (MAK, et al). It was the first **Bald Eagle** ever reported on the WCBBC which has been done yearly since 1981. While kayaking on OR 7/31, JM saw 2 **Bald Eagles**, an adult and immature.

A **Red-tailed Hawk** in western *Chester* exhibiting territorial behavior was reported 7/7 (PF). Three immature **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen at CFS 7/24 (JL). Two **American Kestrels** were found 6/11 (DD). These were the only kestrels seen and the lowest number of this species reported since the WCBBC began in 1981. Only 3 **Killdeer** were seen on the WCBBC this year. Up until last year, numbers through the teens into the twenties had been reported on this yearly count.

Eurasian Collared-Doves may be establishing themselves in *Chester*. A pair attempting to copulate were observed in CO 4/7 (NP).

A count of 66 **Chimney Swifts** on WCBBC was much lower than all but one of the previous years of the count. Nearly always, the number seen each year was over 100 birds. Other species whose numbers were lowest in 2005 and 2006 are **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **White-eyed Vireo**, and **Red-eyed Vireo**. No **Yellow-breasted Chats** or **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in the count circle this year. Sites where they have been found previously are mostly developed.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are confirmed nesters. A female on a nest was found on the ST 5/11 (HM); another was on a nest at CL 6/29 (RR). A territorial **Belted Kingfisher** female was in VF 6/11 (LT, MH).

Fledgling **Downy Woodpeckers** were at CFS 6/11 (NP). Two **Downy Woodpeckers** were seen copulating 5/11 on the ST (HM); also seen was a **Hairy Woodpecker** carrying food and entering a tree cavity (HM). Fledglings were at CFS 6/11 (NP). A pair of **Northern Flickers** was observed in western *Chester* 7/7 (PF). A pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** feeding one young in West *Chester* 6/11 (PE). He said that the homeowner he talked with has had the woodpeckers breeding in his yard for several years.

A pair of **Acadian Flycatchers** and their nest was discovered on a branch of a young beech tree in Penn Twp. 6/7 (MD). An **Eastern Phoebe** nest full of fledglings was at the park headquarters of WCC 5/10 (CC) and one seen on a nest on the ST 5/11 (HM). A **Willow Flycatcher** was seen carrying food during a birding trip in western *Chester* 7/7 (PF). An **Eastern Kingbird** was found on a nest 7/7 (PF).

Horned Larks, carrying food, were found in HBT 5/24 (CC). Two pairs of **Horned Larks** exhibiting breeding behavior were found during a Grassland Survey at RF 6/2 (KF, BrB).

A large colony of **Purple Martins** at Glen Mills School for Boys had both adults and juveniles at the nests or in flight. The total number was difficult to ascertain because of the constant movement of the birds. They were seen 6/11 during the WCBBC (RW, EW).

A nesting program and Bluebird Trail that has 102 bluebird boxes in the Embreeville area is monitored every two weeks included 52 pairs of **Tree Swallows** and 40 fledglings in residence (LM). An impressive number of **Tree Swallows**, estimated 2000+ adults and juveniles, gathering for their southward migration was seen lining electric wires in central *Chester* 7/29 (EW). Nest activity by a pair of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was observed at VF 6/11 (MH, LT).

ST is a good place to find nesting **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** with one bird on a nest and two more exhibiting courtship behavior 4/27 (HM, et al). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** on a nest was found at WCC 5/10 (CC).

A **Tufted Titmouse** was active at a nest cavity at WCC 5/10 (CC) and fledglings were in DO 6/11 (BB, TD). An adult **House Wren** carrying food at CFS 6/11 (NP).

As well as the **Tree Swallow** 'squatters' mentioned above, LM had 26 pairs and 65 fledgling **Eastern Bluebirds** using some of his 102 bluebird boxes. He also has 30 **Eastern Bluebirds** in boxes away from the Bluebird Trail. **American Robins** continue to prosper in the suburban environment that is continually being created and enlarged in *Chester*. Numbers in the hundreds have been reported for Valley Forge Breeding Bird Count and WCBBC. HM found many carrying food or nesting materials, and one feeding young on her walk along the ST 5/11.

A **Yellow Warbler** was on a nest at SL 5/24 (CC). A singing male **Cerulean Warbler** was heard on the ST 6/18 (RW, WCBBC). Unfortunately, breeding was not confirmed. An **Ovenbird** was seen carrying nesting material in SaW 5/11 (CC, PF). An adult **Prairie Warbler** was observed carrying food in DO 6/11 (BB, TD).

KF and BrB found A single **Vesper Sparrow** was at RF 6/2 (KF, BrB); they also observed pairs of **Savannah Sparrows**. PF saw a pair of **Savannah Sparrows** 7/7 in western *Chester*. There has been concern that **Grasshopper Sparrows** have disappeared from the county. However, several reports have placed at least 2 birds on Given Road in HBT. Also, during a Grassland Bird Survey 6/2 at RF, approximately 25 were heard/seen (BrB, KF).

No confirmed breeding has been sent to me, but a pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** 5/11 in SaW (CC, PF). A singing male at CFS 6/11 (NP). Just one **Blue Grosbeak** was reported, a male in LBT 7/4 (NP). **Indigo Buntings** were seen carrying food 6/2 at RF (KF, BrB) and PF saw an adult carrying food 7/7.

A good count of **Bobolinks** at RF 6/2 included 20 males, 4 females (KF, BrB). A total of 5 **Bobolinks** were seen in the WCBCC 6/11.

Juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported, being fed by a **Northern Cardinal** 6/11 in DO (BB, TD) and by a **Song Sparrow** at backyard feeders in PHX during May (EW). A **Song Sparrow** was being pursued by 3 juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on the ST 6/18 (RW, WCBBC).

A **Baltimore Oriole** was seen inside a nest on the ST 5/11 (HM) and two **Baltimore Oriole** hatchlings were in a nest on the ST 6/11 (GL, ML).

Observers: **Eleanor Wolf, 148 Harvest Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460, (610) 933-6414 RandEWolf@verizon.net**. Barry Blust, Brian Byrnes (BrB), Breeding Bird Count (B.B.C.), Chuck Chalfant, Elaine Chalfant, Bruce Christman, Gloria Christman, Molly Daly, David Davis, Theodore Drozdowski, Paul Earley, Bob Elmer, Jen Elmer, Eric Fernandes, Tony Fernandes, Pamela Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Mike Harvell, Ken Knobloch, Mary Alice Knox, Dave Krueel, Grant Lashbrook, Margie Lashbrook, Doug Logan, Jeff Loomis, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, Carol Majors, Holly Merker, Lou Molnar, Martin Page, Bruce Piecukonis, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Marita Richards, Rick Robinson, Jim Russell, Nancy Trout, Bill Tucker, Lisa Tull, Valley Forge Audubon Society (VFAS), West Chester Bird Club (WCBC), Dan and Hoy White, Judy White, Rick Wolf, Betsy Wood.

Clarion County

Instead of the usual narrative, I want to quote, in some fashion, a post to PABIRDS by Carole Willenpart because it is indicative of the way atlasing has led to the exploration of *Clarion's* less familiar locations by one of our hard-working birders.

"I returned to the Armstrong Trail area at the end of Sarah Furnace Rd. near East Brady 6/5. I was able to upgrade several warblers that continue there. I was able to easily refine the **Lawrence's Warbler** hybrid in the same area, very vocal and active. I only pished a couple of times and he shot right in about four inches over my head and then flitted around the trees and shrubs. He continued to sing in that area the whole time I was there, over an hour. Excellent views again." She went on to tell about the other birds continuing in this area: "lots of **Acadian Flycatchers**, a **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, singing but not seen today, **Kentucky Warbler** – new area found today up the road, one still present further up in the same territory. This makes two territories on Sarah Furnace Rd. and then two on Rider Rd. that branches off it. **Worm-Eating Warbler** – nice laurel understory where he is." (Most of these species were never recorded in the first Atlas for which I was the co-compiler.)

"To reach this area take Rt. 68 from East Brady towards Rimersburg and watch for Sarah Furnace Rd. on the left, about 4 miles or so. It is marked as a dead end. Turn left and continue down through the forest until you reach the [Allegheny] river (can see through the trees), the road swings to the right but you can turn left into a large cindered parking spot (rough) and walk back through the gate and to sign for the Armstrong Trail. Birds can be found in the first quarter mile of the trail. There were no ATV's today but it's always a possibility especially on the weekends."

Observers: **Margaret Buckwalter, 249 Maple Dr., Shippenville, PA 16254, (814) 782-3925, buckwalter01@attel.net**, Hendrika Bohlen, Walter Fye, Janice Horn, Mike Leahy, Ron Montgomery, Margie Rutbell, Carole Willenpart.

Clearfield County

No Report.

Jeff Michaels, 808 Torrey Lane, Boalsberg, PA, 16827, (814) 466-3494, gwenjeffmarie@lazerlink.com

Clinton County

No Report

Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org

Columbia County

No Report.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Linesville Fish Hatchery (FH), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Shellito's Pond (SP), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A **Blue-winged Teal** was flushed at Geneva 7/23 (RFL); perhaps a nesting bird or early migrant. A single **Lesser Scaup** was noted at PS 6/10-6/25 (MV) and one **Ruddy Duck** was seen at PS 6/10 (MV).

One **Least Bittern** was located at Geneva 6/17 (RCL), and 2 (ad., young) were seen at Custards 6/30 (BVN), both at CM. A good find was an imm. **Little Blue Heron** at PGMA 7/27 (DW, WF). One to 2 **Sandhill Cranes** were noted in HM near Atlantic most of Jun and Jul (MB, RCL).

Five adult and 8 young **Bald Eagles** were spotted at Pymatuning 6/12 (BVN), and a pair raised one young at CM (RFL). An **Osprey** started a nest at WL but soon left, perhaps it was too small a lake, too many fishermen, or the Fish Commission's fish trap nets too close to the nest site (RFL). A **Merlin** was a good find at CM, Geneva near the Old Duck Farm, possibly breeding (RCL).

Virginia Rails were calling at Custards 6/8, and Geneva 7/9 (RFL). A **Sora** was calling at Geneva 6/17 (RFL, RCL). **Common Moorhens** were present at CM all period, but due to high water in the marsh, they were further back from the roads than usual. Six **American Coot** chicks at Custards 6/24 was a rare find here (BVN).

A fair flight of early returning shorebirds were found mainly at PGMA's Miller Ponds. **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen 7/9-7/31 (m.obs). A pair of **Upland Sandpipers** were at PGMA 6/12 (BVN) and one was noted 6/29 (RCL, RFL) and 7/29 (MV). MV had 7 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at PGMA and 9 at FH 6/10. He also reported a **White-rumped Sandpiper** there 7/27 and 7/29. A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was first noted 7/27 at PGMA (DW). A pair of **Short-billed Dowitchers** were counted at PGMA 7/29 and 7/31 (MV, RFL). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were at PGMA 7/27 (DW) and 2 were there 7/29 (RFL).

A single **Caspian Tern** was found near PC 6/10, 6/24-6/25 (MV). A **Forster's Tern** was at PC 6/10 (MV). The lone report of a **Black Tern** was at the FH where 2 were seen 6/10 (MV).

One imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** near Custards 7/7 was a good sign of localized breeding at CM (RFL). About 175 **Cliff Swallow** nests were in use at the FH main building this summer. A **Northern Mockingbird** was found near Diamond in eastern Crawford 6/24 (RCL, RFL).

Blue-winged Warblers were seen at Adamsville 6/18 and 7/16 (RCL, RFL), and a **Nashville Warbler** was southwest of Hartstown 7/16 (RCL, RFL). Three **Prothonotary Warblers** were noted at CM 6/12 (BVN), and there was a reported nesting at Tuttle Point, Pymatuning Lake. A family of 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at Hatch Hill Road, Wayland (in Meadville) 7/8 (RFL, KM).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler, Wes Fritz, Robert C. Leberman, Gordon Marsh, Karlin Marsh, Bob VanNewkirk, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Cumberland County

No Report.

Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA, 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net

Dauphin County

Locations: Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hummelstown (HUM), Millersburg (MBG), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter (SFH), Weiser State Forest (WSF), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A drake **Green-winged Teal** stopped for a visit at the Hershey Lodge pond 6/24 (TJ). Both **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were found along the MBG shoreline 7/5 (PW, RW). One **Snowy Egret** was observed SFH 7/13 (CRb) but by the end of the month as many a six were found at WL (EC, CRb). Five newly fledged **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** and three adults were reported at their HBG nest site 6/26 (TJ). A **Glossy Ibis** was noted near Wade Island 6/13 (TM) and another was found at a WHT pond in mid-Jun (BC).

A **Merlin** was observed near 3Bs Ice Cream along Rt. 225 north of Dauphin 6/14 (TJ). An **Osprey** was seen over the SR from Wormleysburg 7/14 (LU), while both an **Osprey** and a **Peregrine Falcon** were sighted during the Ned Smith Center Festival at Mio Park, MBG 7/28 (DY). Among the many **Bald Eagle** sightings were: two at MBG 6/4 (PW & RW), near the Rockville Bridge 6/10 (DKr), at Linglestown 6/15 (PH), and outside Halifax 7/1 (TJ). It is likely that some sightings go unreported since **Bald Eagles** are being regularly observed, especially along the SR.

There were two reports of **Common Moorhen** this quarter. The first was at WL 6/5 (GL) and the second at a water treatment holding pond near Loyaltown 7/1 (TJ). On 6/10 a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed along Greenland Rd. in the extreme eastern corner of the county (DH).

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard singing along the Swatara Creek near the HUM Nature Trail 6/17 (PF), and a day later a **Swainson's Warbler** was discovered along White Oak Rd. in the WSF north of Carsonville (TJ). In this same area of WSF both **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Dark-eyed Junco** were confirmed breeding for the PA Atlas (DH). These two species had not been confirmed county breeders for the 1st PA Atlas in the 1980s. The **Blue Grosbeak** that arrived in SCV 5/31 remained through 6/4 (BH), while another was observed near HUM 6/4 (TJ). One of the more unusual "summer" reports was that of six **Pine Siskins** that paid a visit to feeders in a Steelton yard 6/4-6/6 (JM).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Ed Chubb, Beth Carricato, Pete Fox, Jan Getgood, Paula Heiman, Deaune Hoffman, Barb Huffman, Tom Johnson, Dave Kerr (DKr), Dave Kruel (DKI), Gary LaBelle, Sandy Lockerman, Jenine Marcus, Terry Masters, Chris Rebert (CRb), Cameron Rutt (CRt), Larry Usselman, Patricia Williams, Dave Yeany II, Sally & Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

Locations: Crum Creek (CC), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

There was extensive flooding along the county's four major creeks in June. A hot spell in July produced almost two weeks of a heat index above 100. Otherwise, the summer was normal, warm and a bit drier than usual. The heat and \$3/gallon gas prices certainly contributed to the dearth of reports. However, the Breeding Bird Summary includes 90 species of which 76 were confirmed breeders, 5 were probable and 9 were possible breeders--giving a better overview of the summer than sightings reported here.

Wood Duck nested successfully along Ridley Creek (DE). A **Red-tailed Hawk** pair successfully raised 2 chicks on the HC campus (SJ).

The two **Great Black-backed Gull** chicks mentioned last season fledged, i.e. left the concrete and steel platform, where the nest was built, for the muddy shores of the river below. They were banded 6/30 and continue to be seen daily.

Willow Flycatcher were very vocal along Darby Creek where I heard 8 males singing in June. Jim Lockyer received a call from a neighbor who found a **Brown Creeper** in a Media parking lot 7/12. Unfortunately, the creeper died and was discarded before I could determine its age. The most recent county nest record was 1984 during the 1st PBBA when AG found a creeper nest under the bark of a Shag Bark Hickory tree at TY in an area that was being lumbered. The extreme early fall date for this migrant species is 9/9, which suggests a local and young bird.

After several years of declining productivity at the Glen Mills Schools **Purple Martin** colony, we banded over 310 **Purple Martin** chicks. We observed low nest mortality, few unhatched eggs and fewer runt chicks, and the mite infestation was very low. What a welcome change this was. The **Purple Martin** colonies at the Aston Municipal Building and retention pond produced only 44 chicks compared to nearly 100 chicks in past years. But, there were two nests with young at the Neumann College site on Red Hill Rd., so there's still hope. **Cliff Swallows** apparently nested twice at RCSP. Over 15 pair of **Marsh Wrens** were on breeding territory at TI by 6/12 (JM).

A **Pine Warbler** was singing at TY throughout the season (TR) and another male was at the horse stable pine trees in RCSP (AG). No nest was located. Restricted access at the Folcroft Landfill prevents regular reports, but a visit on 6/12 turned up a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** and 8 singing male **Orchard Orioles**.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Dave Eberly, Al Guarente, Sheryl Johnson, Jim Lockyer, John Miller, Tom Reeves.

Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

Erie County

No Report

Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com

Fayette County

The only report I received was from a trip to Quebec Run Wild Area 7/7 where the following were found: **Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee and Field Sparrow** (DB).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net**, Douglas Bauman.

Forest County

Locations: Kellettsville (KL); Marienville (MA); Mayburg (MB); Neiltown (NE); Tionesta (TI); Tionesta Lake (TL); West Hickory (WH).

Breeding data for *Forest* this summer shows 17 species Possible, 48 Probable, and 44 Confirmed, for a total of 109 species. Most notable were a new **Bald Eagle** nest, and possibly the first county breeding season records for **Northern Harrier** and **Clay-colored Sparrow**. Some of the highlights follow.

A new **Bald Eagle** nest was found 6/30, apparently just after the young had fledged. The adults were observed feeding two young near the nest (TH). A female **Northern Harrier** was a nice find 8/1 near NE, as it dropped a snake to a juv, and continued to hunt over the field. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from 2 different locations. **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported from several locations, and confirmed when a juvenile was seen near WH (FM, JM).

Acadian Flycatcher was on territory 7/1 near WH (FM, JM). **Alder Flycatchers** were reported from 3 different locations, and confirmed 7/17 near MB (SS et al). **Least Flycatcher** was found near KL and WH (FM, JM).

Yellow-throated Vireo was noted 6/19 at TL, and on territory 7/26 at WH. A colony of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** nested at their traditional site at TL; likewise the colony of **Cliff Swallows** returned to KL. **Winter Wrens** were found at 3 different locations (FM, JM).

Forty-eight nest boxes monitored at TL and KL for the Army Corps of Engineers fledged 34 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 33 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 40 **Tree Swallows**, and 31 **House Wrens**. The **Tree Swallows** seemed to claim the birdhouses from the middle of Jun to the middle of Jul, while all of the **Eastern Bluebirds** fledged either before Jun 9 or after Jul 17. Twenty-seven nests were abandoned during the summer – a high number possibly because of a very wet season, but total birds fledged (138) was not significantly different from previous years (FM, JM).

Veery was reported from 4 different locations, and confirmed 7/19 at MB (SS et al). A **Northern Mockingbird** (unusual for *Forest*) was seen and heard 6/20 at TL. **Blue-winged Warbler** was on territory 7/17 near NE. **Northern Parula** was reported from 4 different locations, and listed as "Probable" 6/8 near KE. A **Prairie Warbler** (unusual for *Forest*) was singing on territory 6/19 in a small spruce plantation near MA (FM, JM).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a nice surprise in an overgrown field with scattered brush and pines 7/26 near WH. It remained for a week and was coded as "Probable." **Purple Finch** was confirmed 7/2, and 2 **Pine Siskins** were spotted 7/15 at a bird feeder near TI after an absence of several months (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Tim Hudspath, Jim McGuire, Linda Ordiway, Briana Smerkar, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas.

Franklin County

No Report.

Dale L. Gearhart, PO Box 155, Shady Grove, PA, 17256, (717) 597-3979, dgearhart01@comcast.net

Fulton County

Locations: Bark Road, James Buchanan State Forest (BR), Buck Valley (BV), Crystal Spring (CS), Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (HSWRA), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL).

Several singing **Northern Bobwhites** were noted during the quarter: east of Crystal Spring 6/12, one along North Foster Rd 6/12, and one along Tollgate Rd 7/28. Some years this species is not recorded in *Fulton*. It is not clear if these records are just recently introduced stock or a viable "wild" population.

A pair of aerial battling **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were above Johnson Rd. on 7/28. After the two birds started flying away from each other, I noticed a "pendulum flight style" hummingbird diving at the female *accipiter*.

In BV, two unique **Red-shouldered Hawk** sightings were observed 7/30: a begging juv and adult were found along Hendershot Rd. (BV), and a beautiful plumaged adult was perched on a hay bale near Amaranth.

In recent years very few records of summer **Spotted Sandpipers** were found. Probably the best location, the MGL dam spillway area hosted one 6/4.

During atlasing, vireo records were sparse. The lone **White-eyed Vireo** sighting occurred in a fallow shrubland along Tonoloway Creek 7/15. **White-eyed** populations in *Fulton* are erratic- some years present, others not. The **Blue-headed Vireo**, a large hemlock stand specialist here, was once noted at a location with hemlock bordering a large creek. On this 7/28 day, the observer wanted to get a closer look for the **Blue-headed Vireo**, and amazingly flushed a creekside adult **Bald Eagle**! One **Warbling Vireo** observation was a new location for the species at Emmaville 6/12. The second **Warbling Vireo** sighting came along a Licking Creek sycamore corridor 6/12.

Fish Crows seem to have established themselves in the southern riparian portions of the county. South of Stoneybreak, a pair was heard 7/15, a small group was in the Harrisonville area 6/30, and a small group flew over Licking Creek in BV 6/7.

Warblers were definitely the quarter highlight. A rare summer bird, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was singing along BR 6/17. An uncommon and

localized breeder, a small colony of **Black-throated Green Warblers** were counter-singing in a mature stand of hemlock east of CS 6/12. Good numbers of **Black and white Warblers** and **Cerulean Warblers** were found along the mountain ridgetop of BR 6/17. An outstanding find was a small colony of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** discovered from Sideling Hill Picnic area and Buchanan Fire Tower of BR. At least four distinct singing males were present and the observer confirmed breeding for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at the picnic area. This *Fulton* summer record was the first this century and no summer *Fulton* records were found during the first Breeding Bird Atlas.

Both grosbeak species are occasional to rare breeders in the county. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was detected near Dickey's Mountain 7/28, and west of BV 7/30. Only two **Blue Grosbeak** sightings were noted. One singing male was found along the Warfordsburg/Licking Creek area 7/15, and a BV area singing male 7/30.

Observers: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**

Greene County

Locations: Cumberland Township (CUM), Hunting Hills Road in Dunkard Township (HHR), Last Chance Ranch in Perry Township (LCR), Ralph K. Bell Farm in Morgan Township (RBF).

Once again the most numerous waterfowl noted by observers were **Canada Geese**. If the pond is a good sized with some cattails or overgrown banks to hide a nest in, **Canada Geese** were present. One unusual sighting was made by KK. One **Canada Goose** was noted with a group of **Greylag** and domestic geese at a farm pond and appeared to be mated to a **Greylag** goose. No offspring were seen, but the two adults were getting along well. **Mallards** also apparently mate with domestic and **Muscovy** ducks producing some odd color combinations, such as a dark green **Mallard** head and neck but a very white chest and belly with dark backs.

A hen **Wild Turkey** and seven youngsters about the size of half-grown chickens were observed by MLP at LCR flying into a very large oak tree. The fledglings then proceeded to walk along the branches much like tight-rope walkers. SS reports her neighbors have noticed **Northern Bobwhite** pairs on their farms, due to Sally's and husband Roy's successful efforts to establish a population of nesting **Northern Bobwhites** on their farm at HHR.

Great Blue Herons continue to populate the county. One growing heronry in Greene Twp. had at least 10 nests occupied with very noisy chicks. KR watched through her living room window while a **Mourning Dove** build its nest in a catalpa tree in her yard on N. Market Street in CUM. SS had the pleasure of watching a **Black-billed Cuckoo** sing his song at HHR. While doing Atlas work LO and KK watched a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** with a fledgling collecting breakfast in a locust tree infested with leaf miners. Apparently these trees make good dining locations as several other species with fledglings were also working in the grove of locust trees.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seem to spend more time defending "their" feeders from other hummingbirds than another activity. KK reports at least 5 hummers that wage constant battle with each other over two feeders. However, they do not bother the much larger **House Finch** when it sits on the feeder and has a sip of sugar water. KR watched a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** work on nest-building on Hill Rd. in CUM. A rare sight in *Greene* was a fledgling **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen with its parents along Rudolph Run near Brock in Perry Twp. (KK, LO). Also present were a pair of **Belted Kingfishers** and two young. A **Pileated Woodpecker** fledgling foraging with its parents on Wahula Rd. in CUM (KR). **Pileated Woodpeckers** are being observed more frequently the last few years than previously. KR also found **Northern Flicker** young foraging with adults on Hill Rd. in CUM. MLP watched a young **Red-bellied Woodpecker** eat peaches and apples from her trees at LCR.

Working on the Atlas project is always a learning experience. Since trying to locate and identify used nests, KK and LO are finding **Acadian Flycatcher** nests are rather easy to find. MLP noted an **Eastern Kingbird** aggressively chasing a **European Starling**, twice, from the same area at LCR. She wonders if the kingbird was defending a nest. At the intersection of Kennel Rd. and route 221 in Morgan Twp. is a covered bridge with a huge old Sycamore tree at the bridge and several other large trees along creek and the fence line adjacent. This summer KK noted at least 3 singing **Warbling Vireos** every time she traveled through the bridge.

A **Common Raven** family of four (two adults and two young) was found at RBF this summer (RKB). RKB reports a good population of **Purple Martins** in the county. Ken Kosta who is associated with the Purple Martin Conservation Association banded young martins at the colony in the Mason Dixon Park near Mt. Morris on Creek Rd. 7/1. RKB's martin house and gourds at RBF had "No Vacancies" as did Jack Snyder's in Morgan Twp. Jack reports 20 pairs of **Purple Martins** and he is not particularly happy with the **Red-tailed Hawk** that occasionally takes one. RKB also had 8 pairs of **Tree Swallows** this summer. He notes that while usually this specie has only one brood, one pair had two broods. He also had one pair last year that produced two broods which he finds unusual as **Tree Swallow** usually leave the area as soon as the young fledge.

MLP again reports a good population of **Barn Swallows** at LCR. She states by 7/7 there were young **Barn Swallows** flying everywhere! Unfortunately, she found the **Carolina Wren** nest in the same barn had been abandoned with the eggs un-hatched. As for mixing species, MLP watched a **House Wren** throwing out old nesting material from a **Tree Swallow** nest in a bluebird house in her yard at LCR.

When their young are fledging and trying to "find" their voices, do **Northern Mockingbirds** ever sleep?! KK reports that for a couple weeks in Jul nobody slept, as the mocker had several "favorite" singing spots all around the house on Kennel Rd. in Morgan Twp. She reports the mocker sang most of the night and all day. On 6/15 MLP enjoyed a concert by a **Brown Thrasher** who was trying his best to impress his mate nearby at LCR. MLP states she "enjoyed his lovely melody-one of life's simple pleasures."

RKB had a **Louisiana Waterthrush** chipping in his yard at RBF 7/15. He states this is actually a late time for this species to be leaving for the wintering grounds.

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net** Ralph K. Bell, Mary LaPlante, Linda Olczak, Kathy Reeves, Sally Sisler.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (OC).

For the 15th consecutive year, three BBS routes were conducted within Rothrock SF in *Huntingdon, Mifflin* and *Centre*. Each route consists of fifty, three-minute stops with the majority of the stops found in *Huntingdon* (NB, GG). The ten most frequently recorded species this year from the combined routes are noted along with their fifteen-year averages in parenthesis.

Red-eyed Vireo, 211 (186); **Ovenbird**, 112 (154); **Scarlet Tanager**, 82 (71); **Eastern Towhee**, 63 (76); **Eastern Wood Pewee**, 47 (37); **Chipping Sparrow**, 38 (33); **Wood Thrush**, 37 (48); **Common Yellowthroat**, 33 (46); **American Redstart**, 32 (25) and **Hooded Warbler**, 30 (22). **Ovenbird** and **American Crow** were observed at record low numbers while **Eastern Wood Pewee**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **American Robin**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **American Redstart** were recorded well above their fifteen-year average.

Two **Ospreys** were first sighted 6/9 and remained throughout the count period at LR, however no nesting birds were found as the next phase of the Osprey Introduction Program began this summer (CY). This program is a joint effort between the Juniata College Raystown Field Station and the US Army Corps of Engineers to re-establish an inland breeding population of **Osprey** in the Juniata River Basin.

An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** provided an unexpected treat for a field trip at OC 6/3 (CY, m.ob.). A pair of **Fish Crows** was reported near LR 6/7 (DK) and also at LP 6/13 (DW).

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg PA, 16669, (814) 863-2000, djw105@psu.edu**, Nick Bolgiano, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, David Kyler, Chuck Yohn.

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Penn Run (PR), Red Mill (RM), White's Woods (WW), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A **Red-breasted Merganser** was photographed at YC 7/29 (TS); this is the first summer record for this species. A **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at Margus Lake 6/20 (AG,MH). Two Lick Res. yielded an imm **Bald Eagle** 6/30 (DF). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at 6 locations; **Cooper's Hawks**, at 4 (v.o.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found only at SGL 79 and 262 (MH). Eight **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were received (v.o.).

Water levels remained high at YC so no shorebirds besides **Killdeer** were noted. A **Wilson's Snipe** was a nice find near IN 7/22 (GF). The only **American Woodcock** reported was found near Dixonville 6/22 (GL).

Both cuckoos were noted rather widely with 5 **Black-billed** and 8 **Yellow-billed** reports. One to 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were heard near IN 7/22 & 7/29 (GF), the lone report. **Barred Owls** were noted at four locations (v.o.). A **Whip-poor-will** was still calling in Dark Hollow 7/8 (EF,MF,MH,RH).

Atlasing yielded 7 **Acadian Flycatchers** at SGL 262 on 6/16 (MH) and 8 in WW 6/24 (MH); the WW birds included 2 females sitting on nests. An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing near Parkwood 6/4 (MH,RH), the same territory one occupied last year. Single **Least Flycatchers** were found near Blairsville 6/4 (MH,RH), near Chambersville 6/13 (CG,MH), and near PR 6/21 (MH). **White-eyed Vireo** reports included 2 near Blairsville 6/4 (MH,RH) and one near Creekside 6/9 (MH). SGL 262 yielded 7 **Blue-headed Vireos** 6/6 & 6/16 (MH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were noted at 8 locations this summer (v.o.). Single **Warbling Vireos** were found near Shelocta 6/3 (MH,RH) and near Chambersville 6/13 (CG,MH) and 7/4

(MH,RH). A **Fish Crow** in Memorial Park in IN 6/13 (RW) was the lone report. Four **Common Ravens** were still present within a quarter mile of the nest near PR 6/12 (MH).

A young pair of **Purple Martins** nested near Trade City, raising one young (*fide* DS). The subadult female was banded last year in *Armstrong* at the colony near Elderton; the subadult male appeared unbanded.

At least one pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was present near Shelocta throughout the summer. SGL 262 yielded 6 singing **Hermit Thrushes** 6/16 (MH); other reports included one at SGL 79 on 6/20 (AG,MH), 2 at SGL 174 on 7/4 (MH,RH), one to 2 near RM 7/11 (MH) and 7/20 (CG,MH), and 2 near Locust and one near Rochester Mills, the latter two both 7/17 (MH,RH). WW yielded a good count of 10 **Wood Thrushes** 6/24 (MH).

Six **Blue-winged Warblers** (v.o.), but no Golden-winged Warblers or hybrids, were noted this period. **Northern Parulas** were reported near Creekside 6/7 (MH,CJ) and at 7 other locations (v.o.). The *Indiana* section of the Parkwood BBS yielded 15 **Yellow Warblers** 6/4 (MH,RH). Among many reports, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 3 near Purchase Line 6/6 (MH) and 4 at SGL 79 on 6/20 (AG,MH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were noted 6/6,6/16 and 6/29 (MH) at SGL 262 and 6/21 (MH) near Littleton while 2 each were listed 7/4 (MH,RH) at SGL 174 and 7/11 (MH) near RM. An agitated female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was observed carrying food at SGL 79 on 6/20 (AG,MH) while a singing male was found near RM 7/11 (MH). Top **Black-throated Green Warbler** counts included 15 at SGL 262 on 6/6 (MH) and 7 at SGL 174 on 7/4 (MH,RH). Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were noted 6/16 (MH) at SGL 262, 6/21 (MH) near PR, 6/24 at WW, and 7/20 (CG,MH) near RM. A **Pine Warbler** was still singing at YC 7/10 (MH). **Prairie Warblers** included 2 near Grove Chapel 6/27 (MH) and 3 near IN 6/28 (GF,MH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing along Ferrier Run 6/12 & 6/21 (MH). Eleven **Black-and-white Warblers** and 45 **American Redstarts** were noted (v.o.). **Worm-eating Warbler** was listed only at Two Lick Res. 6/20 (PJ). A family group of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** was seen along Ferrier Run 6/21 (MH). **Kentucky Warbler** reports included 6 at Two Lick Res. and 2 along Ferrier Run on 7/6 (MH,PJ). Top Hooded Warbler counts included 8 near Brush Valley 6/8 (MH) and an equal number at SGL 79 on 6/20 (AG,MH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** near Shelocta 6/19 (MH,RH) was the lone report.

Fourteen **Scarlet Tanagers** were found in WW 6/24 (MH). A **Vesper Sparrow** near Grove Chapel 6/27 (MH) was the lone report. Best **Grasshopper Sparrow** count was 6 near Locust 7/15 (MH,RH). **Swamp Sparrows** were observed at 6 locations this period (v.o.). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were confirmed breeding in IN for the first time 6/21 (RG) when an adult was seen with young near RM; at the opposite end of the county, a pair plus a singing male were on territory at SGL 262 on 6/16 & 6/29 (MH). A **Bobolink** was spotted near Blairsville 6/4 (MH,RH), and 4 were near PR 6/21 (MH).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Gary Ferrence, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Don Frew, Ross Gallardy, Ann Gilmore, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Pat Johnston, Connie Johnston, Tom Simmons, Duke Snyder, Ray Winstead.

Jefferson County

No Report. No Compiler.

Juniata County

Locations: Hammer Hollow in Licking Creek Valley (HH), Spruce Hill (SH), Mountain Road in McAlisterville (MR).

Common Loon made a mistake landing 7/5 on a small ponding area near SH after heavy rains, had to be assisted to the nearest creek so it could fly again (HS).

While running an evening of the marshland and owl surveys 6/1, **Barn Owls** were seen flying and heard feeding over fields between Oakland Mills and MR (CK, TP). **Barred Owls** were heard frequently until 6/3 (LW). Young **Wild Turkeys** were seen 6/11 in a meadow at HH (LW). Female **Hooded Merganser** with 9 young 6/12 were reported on Tuscarora Creek (AT).

Bald Eagle was seen flying 7/30 on the Juniata R. south of the Port Royal Bridge (JS). At least 2 **Ospreys** have been seen flying from Clearwater Res. in Licking Creek and the Juniata R. in various locations all summer (CK, et al). Up to 4 **Bald Eagles** have been seen this summer as well in the same areas that the **Osprey** has been located. Two have been adults and 2 were imm. Numerous people in the county have sighted both of these raptors. (CK, et al). We marked them as possible breeders on our county report. They had been seen carrying nesting materials and food, so it's just a matter of time.

Several pairs of nesting **Cliff Swallows** were located 6/16 under the Academia Bridge at SH (AT). Two **Wood Thrushes** were found to be agitated with young 7/14 probably nearby in HH (LW). Young **Gray Catbirds** and **Baltimore Orioles** were seen 6/12 at HH (LW).

Two **Kentucky Warblers** and **White-eyed Vireo** highlighted a field trip 6/10 at (MR). (CK, PR, etc).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6465, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Toby H. Petersheim, Paul Renno, Jim Stoner, Henry Swarey, Aden Troyer, Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

No Report. No Compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Middlecreek WMA (MCWMA).

This summer was seasonably hot with above average precipitation in June & July. The rarest sighting this summer was **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**.

Mute Swan was reported 6/28 at SRCF (BS). **American Black Duck** and **Snow Geese** were still at MCWMA 6/20. As mentioned in the spring report a female **Hooded Merganser** was seen with young at Stop #3 at MC on 5/20 (RM et al). This was the most unusual breeding bird reported this season. The rarest bird of the summer was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** which was found 6/24 at the Alcoa Marsh (LS, m.ob.) and remained at least through 7/6 (JF). During its stay the bird was notoriously difficult to locate. This sighting coincided with multiple sightings of whistling ducks in the northeastern US. **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from SRCF 7/23.

This summer, **Great Egret** at SRCF were much fewer than last year. A **Snowy Egret** was seen at SRCF 7/27 (DH). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was observed in a stream along Strickler Rd. just north of Back Run Rd. near Milton Grove 6/13 (TJ). There are no known breeding areas in Pennsylvania so what it was doing here at this time of the year is anybody's guess.

Osprey and **Bald Eagle** were confirmed breeding again this year and continue to successfully raise young at well known locations along the Susquehanna R. near Holtwood as well as at a number of other less publicized locations in the county. An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near Strasburg in central Lancaster 6/10 (TR).

Shorebirds at SRCF 6/11 included **Greater Yellowlegs**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers**. In Jul, southbound shorebirds started to come back through the county and the highlights from SCRF included **Black-bellied Plover** - first reported 7/27, **Semipalmated Plover** - first reported 7/17, **Greater Yellowlegs** - first reported 7/17, **Lesser Yellowlegs** - first reported 7/17, 2 **Willetts** 7/22 (DH), **Red Knot** 7/23 (TJ), **Sanderling** - first reported 7/29, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - first reported 7/17, **Least Sandpiper** - first reported 7/17, **Pectoral Sandpiper** - first reported 7/27, juv. **Ruff** 7/23 (TJ), **Short-billed Dowitcher** - first reported 7/22. A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SRCF most of the season. **Caspian**, **Common**, and **Forster's Terns** were all at SRCF 6/22 (BS). **Forster's Terns** began to build a little towards the end of Jul with 15 on 7/22. One **Black Tern** was at SRCF 6/28 (BS). This summer **Barn Owls** nested at MCWMA. There were two nests although only one was in Lancaster. This created a lot of excitement because **Barn Owls** are quite scarce in Lancaster and populations have declined significantly. The owls nested in the large bat house to the north of the visitor center. As the story goes, they were discovered by accident just after a talk on **Barn Owls** in the visitor center had concluded. All attendees were able to actually see **Barn Owls** that evening. Varying numbers of birds were seen into Aug and reports indicated that a total of four young came from this nest (TH, m.ob.).

An atlas block produced **Prothonotary Warblers** again this year 6/10 (TR). They were also confirmed in blocks nearby blocks. All of these areas include river islands on Lake Aldred between Safe Harbor and Holtwood Dams. **Prothonotary Warblers** have been a success story over the past few years and, in addition to their presence in Holtwood, are still breeding at SRCF and in the Bainbridge area. **Hooded Warbler** was seen near Milton Grove 6/13 (TJ). The ongoing breeding bird atlas continues to provide more information about bird distribution in the county and in some cases lead to unusual sightings. I did not receive as many reports this year as last, but it will be interesting to see what turns up over the next few years.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, (717) 228-2161, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Jerry Book (JB), Jim Binder (JBi), Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter (LCa), Larry Coble (LC), John Fedak, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman (DH), Tom Hopson, Tom Johnson, Randy Miller, Peter Robinson, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Leon Schreffler, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

No Report.

Randy Stringer, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA, 16127, rcstringer@gcc.edu

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Middlecreek WMA (MC), N Mt Pleasant Rd (MPR), Reistville Ponds (RV), Memorial Lake SP (MLSP), SGL 145

A **Peregrine Falcon** at FIG 6/27 was a first record for Jun. It passes overhead and was not relocated (RC, JD, MM).

Two **Greater Yellowlegs** south of Myerstown in a flooded field 7/22 set a new early date (RCM). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** stayed at MPR until 6/3 (RCM). A total of 59 **Least Sandpipers** were found at RV and Myerstown 7/22 for a high fall count (RCM). There were also 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers** near Myerstown 7/22 (RCM). On 6/30 on MPR there was a "peep" species at the far end of the pond. It was being bombed by **Tree Swallows** and flew east.

Ruffed Grouse are had to find in the southern part of Lebanon so it was nice to see a family group near Mt. Gretna 7/4. Also at the Rexmont dam area 7/19 when the temperature was 90° and humid there was a drumming **Ruffed Grouse**. Both sightings were found doing the BBA.

On 6/27 along MPR a **Black Tern** was found (CB). Then at 1 P.M. it was joined by a **Common Tern** which did not stay long (TJ). Both of are 5th county records. The **Black Tern** stayed until dark, but not the next day.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was heard singing at Spring Street in Lebanon for a 3rd county record (TJ).

Barn Owls are doing very well thanks to the extra effort to find them and to put up boxes. They were reported from the Lawn area where there are two sights. Some new sights were at MC 5/25 when a nest box with young was reported (BH). There were 3 different sights around Annville when 5/28 a total of 7 were found. Only one sight had 3 young (JF). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling at FIG 6/19 (DY). They have been found breeding in the area in 1980.

A **Common Nighthawk** was seen at FIG 6/19 (MM). There were 15 **Whip-poor-wills** reported from FIG 6/15 for a new county high (DY).

On 6/24 on the Swatara Creek up to 40 **Belted Kingfishers** were counted for a new high count. They were mostly family groups (FH). Three days later we had major flooding in the area. I hope they could fly. There were a few reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**. There was a female found on SGL 145 on 6/7 (TJ). Then 6/12 at the Rexmont Dam area a single **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found in good habitat. The area was checked again 6/13 when there was a very noisy immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** with an adult for a first Lebanon breeding record (RCM).

A **Least Flycatcher** was found at FIG at Beaver pond 6/27 (DY). They are rare breeders in the county. There was an **Alder Flycatcher** calling from MC 6/9 at stop #3. On 7/12 the **Alder Flycatchers** at CS were doing well with 6-7 seen. One was seen carrying a small insect and a recent fledgling was seen with an adult. This is only the 2nd breeding record for the county.

A **Common Raven** was a FIG 6/23 when it was seen flying over McLean Rd. (DY).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** female and a "**Brewster's**" warbler were seen feeding young at FIG (TJ, MM). They are making a small comeback in the area. The last **Blackpoll** was 6/3 at SGL 145 (RCM). A **Mourning Warbler** singing on SGL 145 on 6/1 was the first Jun record (TJ). It sang in the open for 15 minutes.

There were a pair of **Purple Finch** at the Thousand Trails Campsite 5/28 & 5/29. No breeding confirmed yet but they were there in Jul 2004 (JF).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Chuck Berthoud, Jim Binder, Stephanie Butler, Ray Charmick, Joshua Day, John Fedak, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Barbara Hunsberger, Tom Johnson, Kate Miller, Matthew Miller, Art Schivo, Susan Wheeler, David Yeany.

Lehigh County

As usual the June and July report for *Lehigh* is pretty slim. Everybody must be out Atasing. At least I hope they were. There was some heavy rain towards the end of July that created a temporary wetland near Trexlertown. This turned out to be an excellent spot for shorebirds but all of the interesting sightings were in August except for some **Great Egrets**. The sightings from this spot will be included in the fall report for *Lehigh*. On 7/26, 2 **Least Sandpipers** were seen near Macungie.

The following observations all were observed by Bernie and Pauline Morris. On 6/2 and 6/14 an **Alder Flycatcher** was calling in a brushy area near Stine's Corner, very close to a calling **Willow Flycatcher**. There was nice contrast in the calls. The **Alder Flycatcher** was not seen or heard after 6/14. On 6/14 a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at it's usual location on Kunkle's Mill Rd. near Stine's Corner. A somewhat unusual summer sighting of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** near Macungie 6/21. On 6/28 **Horned Larks**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Savannah Sparrow** were sighted in Weisenberg Twp. In Lynn Twp. 6/26 **Great Egret**, **Purple Martin**, **American Redstart** and a **Cliff Swallow** colony were seen. On 7/2 a **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Horned Larks** were observed near Stine's Corner. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, 5-6 **Vesper Sparrows**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow** were sighted near

Germansville 7/4. Also a **Red-eyed Vireo**, which was seen repeatedly attacking a recently fledged **Brown-headed Cowbird**.

Jon Levin while out Atlasing saw a **Louisiana Waterthrush** 7/9 on SGL 205.

Observer: **John Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinj1@yahoo.com**, Bernie and Pauline Morris.

Luzerne County

No Report.

New Compiler: Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge Street, Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com

McKean County

Over 100 species of birds were confirmed breeding in the county with another 35 or so listed as possible or probable breeders. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** are being found everywhere. **Orchard Oriole** and **Pied-billed Grebe** were confirmed breeding. **Sora, Virginia Rail, and Prairie Warbler** were listed as possible or probable breeders.

By far, the best breeding confirmation was a pair of **Merlins** that fledged 2 young. The birds were originally found by Lynn Ostrander who kept track of them for the summer. The birds were confirmed both by video and audio and the young were photographed many times. A surprise was another family group with 3 fledged young that showed up in a yard about 3 miles from the original nest. Two pairs of breeding **Merlins** found in one county!

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 275-4086, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Bailey Fedak, Danny Fedak, Lisa Fedak, Holly Dzemyan, John Dzemyan, Janet Heinz, Emily Housler and family, Jeannette Hunkins, Len Groshek, Bob James, Thomas McKenrick, Allen McLaughlin, Madelaine Miles, Lynn Ostrander, Dr. Jay Pitocchelli, Tom Raught Jr., Tom Raught Sr., Scott Stoleson, Janet Stuckey.

Mercer County

Eighty species were confirmed as county nesters, 22 as probable, and 4 as possible. Since the abandonment of the Brucker heronry, the location of another colony or colonies of **Great Blue Herons** remains a mystery. **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** continue to increase at Shenango River Res. and other sites. **Black-billed Cuckoo** probably nested as it was heard well into Aug in suitable habitat, and **Yellow-billed** was listed as confirmed. Two weeks of constant rain in May was responsible for poor nesting success of **Tree Swallow**, as well as ground nesting species. Large numbers of swallows, mostly **Barn**, were beginning to congregate on utility wires by the end of Jul. **Wood Thrush** was plentiful at SRR. The following warblers were confirmed: **Yellow, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat** and **Hooded**. The following were probable: **Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided Black-throated Green, Blackburnian Warblers** and **American Redstart**.

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E-Lake Rd. Transfer, Pa. 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Suzanne Butcher, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer.

Mifflin County

No Report.

J. Irvin Zook, 132 Beech Tree Lane, Belleville, PA, 17004, knjzook@pa.net

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

Hot and humid weather prevailed much of the period, and late June rains resulted in major flooding of the Delaware River and its tributaries. One has to wonder regarding the impact this flooding had on nesting birds in riparian areas. This was the third major flood in the region in less than two years. Another possible impact this nesting season was the heavy defoliation from gypsy moth caterpillars in pockets of the Poconos and the resulting lack of cover for canopy nesters.

A **Hooded Merganser** was reported 7/9 near Brodheadsville (BW) - this is a rare county breeder. **Monroe's** only known **Bald Eagle** nest was not active this year, however, both adult eagles were seen in the area and possibly nested elsewhere (DS). **Ruffed Grouse** is a declining species so any reports of this bird are welcomed - one was seen 6/17 at Buck Hill Falls and 3 fledglings were at Tobyhanna S.P. 7/24 (JS). A farm in the Saylorburg area 6/20 had both **Cliff** and **Barn Swallows** nesting in the same barn - about 10 active **Cliff Swallow** nests were located near the barn entrance while the **Barn Swallows** nested deeper in the barn (BH, RW).

A choice find during some breeding bird atlas fieldwork was a singing **Prothonotary Warbler** 6/3 along the Aquashicola Creek just west of Saylorburg (SB). The bird was found in a flooded red maple swamp created by recent beaver activity along the creek, and remained at least through Jun (RW). The **Lawrence's Warbler** at Bushkill Creek in

DWGNRA, found in early May (DS), continued on territory into Jun. On 6/8 it was photographed and appeared to be paired with a **Blue-winged Warbler** (BH). Another **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported on the PABIRDS Listserve - a female was seen associating with a male **Golden-winged Warbler** 7/9 in Meisertown just northeast of Tannersville (BW).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, MCEEC, 8050 Running Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Steve Boyce, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Billy Weber, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The breeding season brought below average temperatures and well above average precipitation. Nearly 18 inches of rain, measured in Green Lane, was nearly double our June-July average of 9.19 inches.

Waterfowl reports included a few birds of somewhat mysterious origins. A Tundra Swan first reported at Church Rd., GLR 6/11 later moved to Upper Perkiomen Valley Park and remained through the period (BK, mobs). This bird "arrived" a full 7 weeks after the extreme late date for spring, which makes its origin questionable. Similarly, a Ruddy Duck at Norristown Farm Park 7/11 was of unknown origin. While some observers saw a bird molting, others felt it may have been pinioned (BH, m.obs). One welcome waterfowl report was of 8 Common Mergansers at Walt Rd., GLR where they have bred for the last three years (GF). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were reported at ESP on the unusual date of 6/3 (LR).

A Pied-billed Grebe was at NFP 7/23 (AJM), and a Double-crested Cormorant was at Walt Rd., GLR throughout the period (GAF). Great Egret made their fall debut at Church Rd., GLR 7/16, and reached a high of 5 on 7/28 (GN). Another was at NFP 7/23, (AJM). Least Bittern apparently nested at a pond in eastern Montgomery, where at least 3-birds, including juv, were present in Jul. Up to 4 Green Herons were at UPVP 7/21 (GAF).

As mentioned in the last issue, GLR's Bald Eagle nest collapsed over the Memorial Day weekend with 2 young in the nest. In late May, PA Game Commission and County officials went in to attempt a rescue, if needed. While one nestling was healthy and very feisty, the younger sibling sustained head and body trauma and was dehydrated. The injured bird was taken to the AARK wildlife rehabilitation center in Bucks, treated for 13 days, and successfully returned to the nest site. The young bird's maiden flight from the ground was impressive, to say the least! After about a minute on the ground, the bird flew over 100 feet, arched up-wards, and made a perfect landing about 25 feet above the ground! Both adults and the older sibling were present at this time. Thanks to monitors George Franchois and Steve Rothenberger, John Morgan and Jack

Gilbert of PGC, and especially Leah Stallings and everyone else at the AARK- what a team of "eagle rescuers" we had there! (KC).

Other noteworthy raptors included single Osprey at GLR 7/8+, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Walt Rd., GLR 6/2 (GAF). A pair of Broad-winged Hawks in the Unami Creek Valley 7/17 added to the mystery surrounding their breeding status here (KC). Given the extremely high rainfall totals mentioned above, it was little surprise that Jul shorebirds were in short supply. A Greater Yellowlegs 7/7 was the only shorebird reported. Ironically, this sighting tied the record-early fall date for this species. Three Ring-billed Gulls at Walt Rd., GLR were unusual for the season, as were 3 Black Terns there 6/2 (GAF).

A Red-headed Woodpecker was a good find near Palm 6/13 (GAF). Willow Flycatcher were found at NFP and GLR throughout the period (AJM, GAF). Seven Fish Crows near Walt Rd., GLR 6/6 were followed by 19 at the GLR Nature Center 6/9 (GAF, KC). At least a pair was in Ambler throughout the period (RK). Purple Martin movement was first noted at GLR 7/23, and reached a high of 12 the next day (GAF). Small numbers continued through the end of Jul (GAF, KC). Bank Swallow was first reported at NFP 7/16 (AJM). Golden-crowned Kinglets were again noted near Knight Rd., GLR 7/31 (GLF). Given the early date and the habitat, white pine plantation surrounded by red-cedar stands, could local breeding be imminent? A pair of Brown Thrashers was near Church Rd., GLF 7/7 (GAF). Blackpoll Warbler seemed very late this year, with one lingering until the extreme date 6/15 at Haverford College (SJ). Kentucky Warbler was noted in the UCV 7/9 (GAF).

A White-throated Sparrow seen in Upper Hanover Twp. 6/9 seemed very "late" (JG), and another in Ambler 7/31 appeared to be "early" (AJ). (Then again, how do we know they ever left?). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Fort Washington S.P. 7/17 was yet another surprising find. (SL).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Joe Greco, Barbara Hiebsch, Amy Johns, Sheryl Johnson, Bill Keirl, Rudy Keller, Steve Lawrence, August and Judy Mirabella, Steve Rothenberger.

Montour County

No Report.

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

Northampton County

Locations: Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Williams Township (WT)

It was a relatively slow period until the last day of the period when 2 wandering waders showed up at Green Pond. A juv **Little Blue Heron** and juv **Glossy Ibis** were found searching for food in the flooded field that sits across the road from the main pond 7/31 (MS). There were 3 **Great Egrets** at a retention pond in Palmer Twp. 7/9 (DD). There was a female **Common Merganser** with 26 young in tow in Forks Twp. 6/23 that needed to be counted twice to make sure the observer wasn't seeing double (DD). Both adult **Peregrine Falcons** were perched near the nest site at the Martins Creek Preserve 6/25 but no sign of any young. No recent updates have been received.

Late Spring migrant shorebirds included 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Green Pond 6/9 (DD) while a **Greater Yellowlegs** showed in a flooded field in WT following heavy rains 6/28 (AK). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Hanoverville Rd 7/16 was an early Fall migrant. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at JSP 6/12 (RW). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at the Bethlehem Boat Club 6/10 (RW). **Kentucky Warblers** are difficult to find in the county, so a bird seen and heard at JSP 6/2-6/8 was an excellent find (KS). Another probable nesting site for **Kentucky Warbler** was found as a result of the BBA project. A singing male was heard singing 6/8 & 6/23 along Little Creek Rd. near Martins Creek (MS). The atlas project gets birders to seek out new areas that normally wouldn't be covered and this **Kentucky Warbler** find is a direct result.

A **White-throated Sparrow** was found in Seemsville 6/12 (BM). While this bird was late to leave, a **Dark-eyed Junco** at Lehigh Gap 7/1 might be a nesting bird. There have been several records in recent years of juncos at Lehigh Gap that may indicate possible nesting.

Blue Grosbeak showed up at two locations. The first was found along RT191 near Ackermansville during early Jun (RW). In WT, an imm male was seen 6/22-6/29 (AK). The latter location also produced a **Dickcissel** 6/29 (DK). It could not be relocated on subsequent searches.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 1149 Mickley Ave, Whitehall, 18052, (610) 435-2781, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, David Koch, Betsy Mescavage, Kathy Sieminski, Rick Wiltraut.

Northumberland County

No Report. No Compiler

Perry County

No Report.

Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA, 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net

Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Darby Dreek (DC), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA).

In June flooding on the DR, SR and smaller creeks and streams was extensive following days of heavy rain. Other than a July heat wave with ten consecutive days above 90°, temperatures were warm but normal. The Breeding Bird Form shows 92 potential breeders of which 62 were confirmed breeders, 9 were probable and 14 were possible breeders.

As usual, a **Mute Swan** pair raised a brood in the sludge ponds under Girard Point Bridge. Snapping turtles and fox limit the productivity of that pair. Although the USFWS removed all **Wood Duck** boxes from TI, several pair managed to nest successfully, although they may have used DC to bring their broods to the TI impoundment which had 25 on 6/25 (JM). A **Cinnamon Teal** drew a lot of attention when it was discovered on the 6/25 guided bird walk at TI (EC, DB, EP). As it molted into eclipse plumage, its head was cinnamon and the body was a lighter orange. Unlike the escaped teal seen in *Bucks*, this bird had no leg bands. As the impoundment draw-down for a shorebird migration study began, the teal moved to find deeper water. I last saw the **Cinnamon Teal** 7/24 near the old heron rookery and it had molted significantly. While Rick Wiltraut was looking for the teal 6/27, he spotted a pair of **Red-breasted Merganser** on DC. Earlier, 6/9 TR found a female **Hooded Merganser** on the TI impoundment. There is one **Hooded Merganser** nesting attempt recorded at TI.

This is the first year we have not seen or heard a **Least Bittern** (DB, DM, JM) at TI. As early as 6/25 there were 75 **Great Blue Heron**, 128 **Great Egret** and 4 **Snowy Egret** attracted to the easy fishing at the TI impoundment. Vegetation on the island where **Black-crowned Night-Heron** had nested has died so we don't expect any future nesting there,

but as many as 8 night-herons are seen routinely even though the atlas effort has not discovered a nesting place (JM).

Three years of intensive atlas along the rivers and waterways of south Philadelphia are documenting the tremendous loss and degradation of habitat since the 1st PBBA. We see the extirpation of 18 breeding species in the six atlas blocks that border the DR and SR in south Philadelphia. The following breeders from the 1983 atlas project do not breed and most can no longer be found: **American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, American Bittern, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Ring-necked Pheasant** (possible in one block), **Northern Bobwhite, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Black-necked Stilt, American Woodcock, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Common Nighthawk, Horned Lark, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak**. We still hope to discover a few of these species during the final two years of the Atlas.

Staff at Awbury Arboretum retrieved two **Black Vulture** flight feathers from the 2nd floor of the abandoned house were 2 vultures were seen for months this spring. I'm not optimistic but I'm asking experts if at least one is a juv feather which could confirm a first nest record in *Philadelphia*. The **Osprey** pair at the mouth of the Poquessing Creek succeeded this year. CH monitored the progress at the nest and the eventual fledging of the two birds 7/18. A **Northern Bobwhite** called briefly at TI 7/10 (ML) and again 7/20 (NC). Numerous attempts to reintroduce the species at TI have failed.

Two broods of **Common Moorhen** were seen on the tiny buttonbush island at TI which makes one ask if two males living cheek by jowl would tolerate each other, or is one male servicing two hens? The broods were separated by more than a week.

The last northbound shorebirds were 8 **Least Sandpiper** 6/1 (JM). Southbound migrant shorebirds began to arrive in late Jun on the exposed muddy edges created by the draw-down of TI's impoundment, previously mentioned as part of a 3-year USFWS regional study. **Greater Yellowlegs** were the first to appear, followed by **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/11. Small groups of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** arrived 7/9 followed by a **Western Sandpiper** 7/15. A **Baird's Sandpiper**, always a good bird, stopped over 7/15-7/17 (TF). The first **Stilt Sandpiper** was found 7/16.

A **Least Tern** was found feeding in the TI impoundment 7/1 (SJ). **Caspian Tern** and **Forster's Tern** were first reported in the second week of Jul.

Notable reports of passerine activity are few. More than 300 **Bank Swallow** began staging at TI 7/28. This is a large number for the county, even greater than when Philadelphia had a healthy nesting colony of about 35 pair. During the first week of Jun, **Cedar Waxwings** appeared in unusually high numbers. Many birders commented on this fact, noting that the mulberry crop seemed normal, but waxwings were everywhere. A scheduled walk at BRSP 6/17 led by Roland Williams found riparian, woodland and field birds in this northern corner of the city. **Brown Thrasher, Eastern Wood Peewee, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting** and good numbers of **Orchard Oriole** were reported (DS). Lists of birds such as this snapshot from BRSP make this account more balanced and accurate. The predominance of sightings I make and receive come from Tinicum. I welcome information about all other areas of the county.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Denis Brennan, Emma Chou, Ned Connolly, Todd Fellenbaum, Doug Filler, Sheryl Johnson, Mike Logan, Chuck Lyman, John Miller, Edie Parnum, Donna Smith-Remick, Tom Reeves, Keith Russell, Matt Sharp, Rick Wiltraut, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

Location: Briscoe Mountain Road (BMR), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Thurber Road beaver swamp (TRBS).

This report is based on the data compiled from PEEC's staff notes, PEEC led bird walks, and the bird registry in PEEC's visitor center.

Summer waterfowl for PEEC and surrounding areas in *Pike* included an **American Black Duck** female with 7 young at the TRBS 7/13 (EH). Some great **Wood Duck** sightings were in 3 main areas in and around PEEC campus this summer. A male **Wood Duck**, as well as a **Green Heron**, were seen on the Delaware R. just off of the first access road SE of PEEC 7/11 (EH). Four **Wood Ducks** were spotted at TRBS 7/13 (EH), and 5 young **Wood Ducks** were seen in the BMR swamp just south west of PEEC campus 7/28 (SQ). There were a couple sightings of a **Great Egret** and 3 **Green Herons** at the TRBS 7/13 (JP, SQ), and 7/25 (EH).

A bird highlight and *Pike* rarity was reported to PEEC 6/30 via an email. An **American Avocet** was seen sleeping next to a large pool of water on the left side of the golf course past the hundred yard marker at the Best Western hotel at Hunt's Landing along route 6 and 209 in Matamoras 6/25, and was again spotted 6/26 (P&SL).

There have been almost daily **Wild Turkey** sightings this summer around PEEC. Of note were 3 females and 19 fledglings crossing Thurber Rd. 7/1 (EH).

A raptor rarity for this area was spotted 7/13 at TRBS near PEEC. A **Mississippi Kite** was seen flying around the swamp hunting dragonflies and also spotted perched on a snag in the swamp. The first sighting by PEEC's Naturalist was at 11:40 A.M.(EH); again the kite was seen at 2:00 P.M.(MB, EH), and the last sighting that evening was around 7:00 P.M.(JP, SQ). This was truly the highlight for PEEC staff birders this season!

A noticeably agitated pair of **Cooper's Hawks** was spotted by PEEC's naturalist at BMR swamp 6/24 (EH). Two juv **Red-tailed Hawks** were spotted over Milford Rd., about a half mile from BMR 7/25 (EH). PEEC's resident **Red-shouldered Hawk** fledglings are occasionally seen and heard flying over campus and area. A pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** is thought to have nested in the area around the old schoolhouse near PEEC up BMR. Several sightings have been afforded to PEEC staff members this past spring and over the summer. The most recent summer sighting was 7/28 (SQ).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard 7/12 calling from hemlocks where a small spring enters Spackman's Creek (EH). An unexpected visitor was a **Cliff Swallow** sighted around PEEC's main building, mingling with the numerous nesting **Tree Swallows**. The bird was seen 6/17 and 6/18 (EH, SQ).

A **Warbling Vireo** was heard in a pine plantation near the Delaware R., river access point, just south of BMR 7/11 (EH), as well as **Veery** and **Hooded Warbler** (EH). This summer there were numerous **Yellow-throated Vireo** spots in and around PEEC. Of note were 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos** located on campus 7/10 and 7/12 (EH).

Black-throated Green Warbler sightings included PEEC's Two Ponds Trail 6/16 (EH), and on Scenic Gorge Trail several were heard 7/7 (EH), and 7/20. A lone **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard on PEEC's Ridgeline Trail (EH). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was heard on PEEC's Two Ponds Trail 6/16 (EH), and one was singing near PEEC's new Visitor Activity Center 6/28, 7/2, 7/7, and 7/12 (EH). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard on PEEC's Two Ponds Trail 6/16 (EH), and again one was heard on Scenic Gorge Trail 7/12 (EH).

Observers: **Mike Brubaker, RR2 Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA, 18328, mikebru@ptd.net**, Ethan Huner, Pat and Sherron Lynch, Jeremy Phillips, and Shannon Queen. A special thank-you to Shannon Queen for compiling 2006's Summer Bird Report.

Potter County

No Report.

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Schuylkill County

No Report.

Dave Kruel, 540 Pine Street, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 622-3704, accip@infoonline.net

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Jack's Mt. (JM), Middle Creek Twp. (MCT), Selinsgrove (SEL), Shade Mt. (SM), Susquehanna River (SR), Walker Lake (WL).

After observing **Great Blue Herons** "carrying nest material" a few times this spring we were led to the nest site in a white pine along the north slope of SM 6/19 by a local resident. If the raucous behavior of the three juvs still occupying the two nests was not enough confirmation there were broken egg shells and blue-gray feathers strewn around the base of the tree (PW, RW). An **American Bittern** was seen flying over MCT 6/6 (MB). A **Black Tern**, possibly the same one reported 5/27, was found at FL 6/5 (PW, RW). This is quite late for one to linger in this area. Nearly as unusual was a very early **Semipalmated Plover** observed on the submerged bridge at the west end of FL 7/25 (PW, RW).

Three **Whip-poor-wills** were heard the evening of 6/8 along the SM Road and another in the Tall Timbers area of Bald Eagle S. F.(MB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard singing from an island in the SR near SEL 6/18 (MB). This is technically *Northumberland* but since no one reports for that county, I felt it noteworthy enough to include (RW). While Atlasing two blocks atop JM in mid-Jul, on each side of Rt. 235, the following species were among those tallied: **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Pine Warblers**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** 7/13-7/14 (PW, RW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Mick Brown, Chad Kauffman, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Confluence Area (CA), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR)

Another busy atlasing season passed with a few dedicated birders turning up some nice surprises among about 132 breeding species found. One-day atlas counts exceeded 80 species in areas of the county with mountaintops and farmland. There are many unowned blocks in the county waiting for the adventurous birder!

The **Ospreys** at SL fledged three young - the nesting tower is in danger of falling over if not soon straightened. **Ring-necked Pheasants**, **Ruffed Grouse**, and **Wild Turkey** broods were seen widely with modest clutches. **Upland Sandpipers** were present in BA but not spotted in Garrett or Flight 93 where they have been present in recent years. Another nesting area and overall exemplary grassland bird nesting site has been turned into a 4-wheeler park with a reported goal of 200 miles of trails.

Owls were well represented with **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at PP and a **Long-eared Owl** answered tapes on the Allegheny front. **Whip-poor-wills** were found at five sites including two new ones. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** seen at four locations, was encouraging. A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at an active nest hole was a nice find in Forbes S.F. 7/1 (JP,CP, MM, JM); they were re-found and photographed 7/4.

Willow Flycatchers were once again abundant at BC as well as other shrub/scrub swamps with boisterous calling heard at dusk. **Alder Flycatchers** were not detected for the first time in years. Both **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireos** were found in New Baltimore, one of the lower elevation areas in the county. A **Purple Martin** house at an Amish farm in extreme southern *Somerset* had at least three birds in Jun. **Cliff Swallows** were again found widely.

Three singing **Winter Wrens** 7/1 in Forbes SF (JP, CP, MM, JM) was a great number for a bird that is usually uncommon. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were in the spruces at PP throughout the season. **Hermit Thrushes** and **Veeries** were common on the higher ridgetops.

Twenty-three species of warblers were found for the season. Five **Golden-winged Warbler** singing males and one **Blue-winged Warbler** were at QR. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** is common in the county and **Canada Warbler** is less common. Both are closely allied with mountain laurel and rhododendron. There were some areas of spotty die-off of these evergreens shrubs hopefully not a precursor of more wide spread problems. **Pine Warblers** were at QR in early Jun (JP,LP). **Cerulean Warblers** were found along Allegheny front and at New Baltimore. Many of the best "northern" warbler breeding sites along the Allegheny front, Laurel Mountain, and Mount Davis are being targeted for industrial wind turbine development. The fragmenting effects on the largely contiguous woods from roads and clearings may prove deleterious to those birds on their narrow southern outposts.

Grassland sparrows were well represented in old strip mines and CRP fields. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found nesting at Mount Davis. An intriguing report of a pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** came from near QR (TR), perhaps pioneers in this area of brushy, overgrown fields. After no reports last year, **Orchard Orioles** were found in four locations. **Pine Siskin** was sporadic in early Jun at PP with no evidence of nesting.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Gladespike, Berlin, PA, 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne, Tom Roberts.

Sullivan County

This is not a heavily birded area except by a few individuals and then only from the breeding season through early fall migration. Most of the birding occurs at an elevation near 2000 feet on North Mountain.

The breeding season focused primarily on working three new blocks in *Sullivan* for the 2nd PBBA. The accompanying breeding data is based mostly on the work done within these three blocks ignoring historical records. Several of the species listed have received a higher breeding status in other blocks during past years.

2006 found 15 species confirmed, an additional 53 probable nesters and 37 possible nesters.

The following species were confirmed in one of the three blocks near Lopez - **Canada Goose**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Wild Turkey**, **American Woodcock**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Tree Swallow**, **Barn Swallow**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **American Robin**, **European Starling** and **House Sparrow**.

The following species were confirmed within the county outside of the focus blocks - **Swamp Sparrow**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Bald Eagle** and **Sandhill Crane**. Other highlights include 18 species of warblers as confirmed, probable or possible nesters, 8 species of sparrows, 5 waterfowl, 7 raptors, 5 woodpeckers and 3 owls. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were confirmed breeding in a new location.

Notable finds include **Northern Cardinal**, **Carolina Wren** and **Northern Parula** at the upper limits of their range by elevation and/or geographically.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Dr., Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, Robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Skip Conant (did the bulk of the atlasing), Doug Gross.

Susquehanna County

No Report.

Rob Blye, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA, 19465, rblye@audubon.org

Tioga County

No Report.

Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, East Corning, NY, 14830, (607) 936-5059, mycteria@stny.rr.com

Union County

No Report.

New Compiler: Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnance Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, cabowersox@yahoo.com

Venango County

The summer birding season started with a fairly dry June and ended with a very wet (almost 10" of rain) July. Birding was fairly normal, with the Breeding Bird Atlas taking up most of the birding activity. The usual four duck species bred (**Mallard**, **Wood Duck**, **Common** and **Hooded Merganser**). Our **Great Blue Heron** colony had at least 34 active nests, up from 22 last year. **Bald Eagle** nests were up to 5 for the county, with activity at a 6th site.

Virginia Rail and **Sora** were observed near Cooperstown, but breeding could not be confirmed. For the first time in many years, there was no evidence of **Upland Sandpipers** breeding at Barkeyville. Much of the area has been plowed and planted, and the number of buildings is increasing every year. Our other possible site near Clintonville is now posted (and half of it is being strip mined). **Cuckoos** were in fair numbers this year, with **Yellow-billed** being the more common. **Whip-poor-wills** were calling again at the Van Gamelands, after an absence last year. Again no breeding **Purple Martins**. **Cliff Swallow** nests at Franklin were down in numbers this year. The first county record of **Sedge Wren** was discovered near Clintonville 7/9 (CR). **Yellow Warbler** numbers are finally starting to rebound here. There were no records of breeding for **Worm-eating Warbler** or **Mourning Warbler**. **Grasshopper Sparrow** numbers were down at Barkeyville.

Observers: **Gary Edwards**, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.com, Nancy Baker, Dave Edwards, Kathie Goodblood, Cameron Rutt, Scott Stoleson, Jerry Stanley, Russ States.

Warren County

No Report.

Ted Grisez, 10 Belmont Dr. Warren, PA, 16365, (814) 723-9464,

Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL).

Reports were sparse this season, but some interesting birds were found nonetheless, particularly among the Ardeidae.

An **American Bittern** was reported flying north over US-22 in northwestern *Washington* 7/13 (WF *fide* MV). This species has been known to breed in *Washington* in recent years and two reports were made nearby to this sighting at Bavington in the spring season. On 8/10 RG was surprised by a juv **Least Bittern** at Greencove Wetlands, which provided perhaps the most exciting report among confirmed nesting species this season. **Least Bitterns** have a history of breeding in *Washington* (W. E. C. Todd, *The Birds of Western Pennsylvania*, 1940) but this is the first report in many years. The putative **Great Blue Heron** x **Great Egret** hybrid, becoming colloquially known as the "Hegret," remained at CL throughout this season (m.obs), and a pure **Great Egret** appeared there 7/31 (MV). **Great Blue Heron** rookeries in the Daisytown area were active this year (WJS).

Broad-winged Hawks probably bred at CL; two were harassing a **Red-tailed Hawk** there 7/24 (MV). An **American Coot** at the AMD Pond in North Strabane Twp. seems to have taken up a solitary permanent residence; it was present throughout the winter and spring and was still present to at least 7/31 (MV). The first southbound **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted at CL 7/24 (MV).

A **Barred Owl** was at the Pitch Pine Trail at Bavington 7/12 (WF *fide* MV). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** sang into Jul at the Buffalo Creek IBA #80 (LC). **Willow Flycatchers** were noted in a few locations throughout the county (MF, AT), while **Eastern Wood - Pewees** were universally reported by all observers singing well into Aug. **Yellow-throated Vireos** and **Wood Thrushes** were active at West Pike Run into Jul as well (AT).

A trip to the Bavington area 6/10 was very productive for MF. On the Pitch Pine Trail, he reported one **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 2 **Hermit Thrushes**, and 3 **Pine Warblers**. Evidence of all three species nesting in that area within the last three years has been reported to the Second PBBA website. None of these species were confirmed anywhere in *Washington* or nearby during the first PBBA (save a lone confirmation of Red-breasted Nuthatch in *Beaver*), making the presence of each in summer here significant for the entire southwestern corner of PA. Elsewhere at Bavington 6/10, MF found **Prairie Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted**

Chat, and **Grasshopper Sparrow** to be in evidence. Further to this 6/10 report from Bavington, **Yellow-breasted Chats** also bred in West Pike Run (AT).

There was a very intriguing report of a **Nashville Warbler** frequenting a man-made waterfall in West Pike Run through at least 7/15 (WJS, NS, J&EZ). **Nashville Warblers** are not known in the summer in *Washington* but are widely (yet thinly) distributed in the state at this season, and the possibility of a breeding attempt in *Washington* is not totally unreasonable. **Henslow's Sparrows** were at a traditional location in Robinson Twp. 7/21 (MF).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Twp. PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, Wes Fritz, Ross Gallardy, Nancy Shemansky, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Amy Taracido, Jarred Taracido, Mark Vass, John and Ellen Zelina.

Wayne County

No Report. No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

No Report

Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021 rcleberm@winbeam.com

Wyoming County

Some of 2005's specialties, such as **Dickcissel**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Blue-winged Teal**, and **Henslow's Sparrow** were not found this summer, but 2006 had its own good records.

Jim Shoemaker found 2 female **Hooded Mergansers** with young on the river, just north off the *Luzerne-Wyoming* line. To my knowledge, this is the first confirmed breeding record for *Wyoming*.

Very unusual was an adult **Little Blue Heron** seen in flight at S. Eaton 6/27 (WR).

An adult **Northern Goshawk** was seen in the 2nd half of Jun at an undisclosed site in the county (WR). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in Eaton Twp. 6/6. The bird was seen perched at short distance. When it took off, a **Red-winged Blackbird** chased it. Fortunately for the **Red-wing**, the **Peregrine** kept going instead of stopping for dinner. Possible nesting sites can be found about 4-5 miles away. The bird could not be found again (WR).

A **Sora** was found in Meshoppen Twp. 5/25, and one was still present and calling 6/30. A **Common Moorhen** was found at Phelps Swamp 7/26. It nested there during the 1st Atlas, but has been very scarce since then. It could not be re-located after 7/26 (WR).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found in song along Thurston Hollow Rd in Eaton Twp. 6/21. The bird is not often found in this county, and this was the 1st time for this site (WR).

Two **Purple Martins** were seen in a flock of **Barn Swallows** in Eaton Twp. 6/21 (WR). **Golden-winged Warblers** were not reported at all in the county this year. **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Worm-eating**, **Nashville**, and **Hooded Warblers** were found more frequently than usual this summer. Are their numbers up, or does this reflect more birding because of the Atlas? The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** reported this year was found near Creamery Rd. and Keelersburg Rd 6/17 (WR).

Observers: Joe DeMarco, Sandy Goodwin, Jim Hoysen, Edwin Johnson, Rick Koval, William Reid, Jim Showmaker.

York County

No Report.

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PHOTO QUIZ #14

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Dec-Feb	Mar 31	May
Mar-May	Jun 30	August
Jun-Jul	Aug 31	October
Aug-Nov	Dec 31	February

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