

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Geoff Malosh, Editor-in-chief  
450 Amherst Avenue  
Moon Township, PA 15108-2654  
(412) 735-3128 pomarine@earthlink.net  
<http://www.pabirds.org>

## Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning  
Michael Fialkovich  
Greg Grove  
Geoff Malosh

## Department Editors

### Book Reviews

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.  
513 Kelly Blvd.  
Slippery Rock, PA  
16057-1145  
(724) 794-2434  
GeneWilhelm@aol.com

### CBC Report

Nick Bolgiano  
711 W. Foster Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 234-2746  
NBolgiano@minitab.com

### Hawk Watch Reports

Laurie Goodrich  
Keith Bildstein  
410 Summer Valley Rd.  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
(570) 943-3411  
goodrich@hawkmtn.org  
bildstein@hawkmtn.org

### PAMC

Franklin Haas  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555  
fchaas@pabirds.org

John Fedak  
26 Race Street  
Bradford, PA 16701  
jlfedak@atlanticbb.net

### Pennsylvania Birdlists

Peter Robinson  
P. O. Box 482  
Hanover, PA 17331  
pabirder@hotmail.com

### Data Technician

Wendy Jo Shemansky  
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.  
Daisytown, PA 15427  
pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

### Publication Manager

Franklin Haas  
2469 Hammertown Rd.  
Narvon, PA 17555  
fchaas@pabirds.org

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Cover: **Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**. Certainly one of Pennsylvania's most memorable rare birds in recent times was this wheatear in Lickdale, *Lebanon* 6 to 10 October 2011 (here 8 October). Found by a visiting birder from Maryland behind the Days Inn in Lickdale where he was staying, this remarkably confiding rarity thrilled the hundreds of birders who came to see it. (*Geoff Malosh*)

## ... from the Editor

### Compiler News

There have been several changes among the ranks of the compilers since the last update in Volume 25 No. 2.

In *Schuylkill*, **Mike Ward** has moved has turned the job over to **Dave Rieger**. *Schuylkill* has had a number of interruptions in its coverage in this journal over the years, but Mike stepped up and volunteered to fill this gap over the past two years, and now Dave continues in his place. Thanks to Mike and Dave for their contributions (past and future!) to *Pennsylvania Birds*. Dave's first report will be in the next issue (Volume 26, No. 1, Winter 2011-12).

In *Lawrence*, **Stephen Tirone** has turned the reins over to **Cory DeStein**. *Lawrence* is another county that has at times had long gaps in reporting over the years, so I was delighted when Steve volunteered for the job in 2009. I was immediately impressed with the quality of his reports. Now Cory takes his place, and I'm sure he will continue right where Steve leaves off. Cory's first report appears in this issue, and is early evidence that the county is in good hands.

Contact information for both Dave and Cory can be found in the Local Notes in this issue.

Two long time compilers have recently resigned, and at this time no replacement has been found. The first is *Montgomery's* **Kevin Crilley**. Kevin began compiling for *Montgomery* in the late 1990s, and always produced a timely, complete, and thoughtful report for his county. Indeed *Montgomery* is among the more storied counties in the annals of Pennsylvania birding, and it would be a shame if this county remains without a report for very long.

In a note to the entire editorial staff in which he made his announcement, Kevin wrote, "It has been 14 (mostly) enjoyable years for me, but I have to re-establish my priorities... Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to a wonderful journal. Your efforts are quite obvious to readers of

*Pennsylvania Birds*. You should all be commended, and also be very proud of your work." Well, thank you for that, Kevin, and the same can and should be said to you and all the rest of the compilers, without whom, as it's been said before, there is no such thing as *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Kevin's last report appears in this issue, so if any readers, particularly those of you who contribute regularly to the *Montgomery* report, are interested in picking up where Kevin left off, please contact me directly.

The other veteran compiler moving on is *Butler's* **Gene Wilhelm**. Gene wrote the very first *Butler* report in Volume 1, No. 1 all the way back in 1987, and of course many, many more in the years since. Along with Paul Hess, who also served as *Butler* compiler for a time, Gene has ensured that *Butler* received consistent reporting in these pages from the very beginning. Like *Montgomery*, *Butler* enjoys a long and storied history in Pennsylvania birding, and no wonder: its famous Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park is the largest body of water

within 50 miles of downtown Pittsburgh, and has long been a primary destination for Pittsburgh's many birders. Also like *Montgomery*, it is my sincere hope that *Butler* does not remain long without a compiler. Gene's final report will appear in the next issue. If there are any western Pennsylvania birders who frequent Lake Arthur and *Butler's* many other wonderful birding destinations, please consider carrying on the tradition of coverage for this important county.

Gene will remain on board as Book Review Editor for the foreseeable future. On behalf of PSO, I'd like to say thanks very much to Gene, for his continuing dedication to this journal from its very beginnings. Gene is one of a very few who holds the distinction of being a both a founding contributor, and a continuing contributor to this day.

*Geoff Malosh*  
Editor-in-Chief

The PA birding community was saddened by the September 11, 2011 passing of Bob Moul, birder and nature photographer, and long time resident of Adams County. His professional background in office equipment electronics helped him to in develop outstanding digital photography skills. His interest in birds and nature is best captured by the profile he published on his webpage, which can be found at <<http://www.pbases.com/rcm1840>>.

*"For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by nature, whether it be a spring thunderstorm, the sheer beauty of a wildflower or the graceful flight of an egret. As we hastily march through life attending to daily responsibilities, the wonders of Nature too often go unnoticed. When I retired several years ago, I decided to fulfill a long time desire to observe and document as many of Mother Nature's children as I could, and to share these special moments with those who are like minded. It is my hope that a visit to these web pages by a young child will stir their curiosity and incite them to search for, respect and conserve our natural heritage. Possibly others, too busy with the chores of the day, will take a few moments to browse these galleries and find solace in a butterfly."*

With over five million hits on his webpage, Bob succeeded in his mission. He is missed, but his legacy is secure.

*-Phil Keener, compiler, Adams and York*

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# Leucism: White, or “Washed-Out”?

Paul Hess

What is “leucism”? Its definition has taken controversial twists and turns for nearly 90 years, and the inconsistencies persist.

It has been defined in two different ways: an abnormal absence of melanin pigment resulting in white feathers, or an abnormally reduced concentration of melanin resulting in “washed-out” colors.

Melanin produces blacks and grays in the chemical compound eumelanin. It produces hues including brown, auburn, chestnut, rusty, buff, and even gold in the compound pheomelanin. Either or both types of melanin can be absent or reduced in a bird.

Note that leucism does not refer to an albino, which is a creature with a particular genetic abnormality. An albino bird lacks melanin not only in all of its plumage, but also in its bill, feet, and eyes. The question today is whether leucism means pure white feathers, pale feathers with some coloration, or maybe both.

The December 2011 issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* had a firm answer in a letter from Hein van Grouw, Curator of the Bird Group at the National History Museum at Tring in England, an important center of ornithological knowledge. His message was clear: Leucism should refer to feathers that lack melanin completely and, thus, are pure white. Feathers with washed-out colors retain some pigment and are therefore not leucistic.

A bit of history about the term’s diverse usages may shed light on this classic case of etymological inconsistency.

## Originally, all-white plumage

The term leucism originated in a pioneering paper titled “Color Aberrations of Birds” by Bernhard Rensch in Germany’s prestigious *Journal für Ornithologie* in 1925. Soon after young Rensch became a curatorial assistant at the Berlin Zoological Museum, he catalogued color abnormalities in the bird specimens.

He found “eine geradezu chaotische Verwirrung”—“virtually chaotic confusion”—in terminology assigned to aberrantly white specimens. Different color abnormalities were named with the same terms, and in other cases terminology was completely lacking.

Rensch proposed a comprehensive set of terms for all avian color abnormalities, and one new term was leucism. He defined it as total absence of melanin in all of a bird’s feathers—thus, entirely white plumage—but with normal pigmentation in the skin and eyes. Leucism is a logical name because it stems from the Greek *leukos*, meaning white.

## What about partly white?

In a 2006 paper titled “Not every white bird is an albino: sense and nonsense about colour aberrations in birds,” van Grouw expanded the term leucistic to mean not only absence of melanin in the entire plumage but also in parts of the plumage.

In his letter to *Pennsylvania Birds*, van Grouw emphasized this broad usage: “Leucism can be partial, with a piebald effect, or complete, with a totally white bird as a result.” A piebald bird would be irregularly blotched with white. He explains that the lack of melanin in plumage arises from a congenital and inheritable absence of pigment cells in the skin where the cells would normally provide the growing feathers with melanin. Depending on where the pigment cells are missing, a partially leucistic bird may or may not have a normally colored bill and feet—but the eyes are always normally colored.

I have found only a few authors who similarly broadened the term leucism to include wholly or partly white plumage. Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. (1985) broadened it when describing variations in the amount of white in Eared Grebes’ plumage: “Leucism . . . may be as slight as a single white feather or as pervasive as an all-white bird with normal eyes, bill, and legs.” Peter A. Hosner and Daniel J. Lebbin at Cornell University (2006) stated that “leucism, *incorrectly known as partial albinism*, is the complete loss of particular pigments in some or all feathers, resulting in pure white feathers.”

## Is “partial albinism” acceptable?

The italics in that last sentence are mine, pointing to the controversial concept of a “partial albino”—a bird with some but not all of its feathers

abnormally white. Rensch himself suggested partial albinism for partly white plumage simply to distinguish it from leucism, by which he meant entirely white plumage.

But “partial albino” is unsatisfactory because a creature is either an albino, or it is not. There is nothing in-between. In 2010, van Grouw pointed out that “an albino is unable to produce melanin pigments at all. A mostly white bird which nevertheless shows some form of melanin pigmentation is never an albino, by definition. Therefore, ‘partial albino’ does not exist and is a contradiction in terms.”

Similarly, David Allen Sibley says on his *Sibley Guides* website that it makes sense to use the term leucistic (not partial albino) to distinguish partly-white birds from the narrowly-defined true albino. However, Sibley inconsistently accepts use of partial albino “as a general category for any bird showing any form of reduced melanin” when birders want to call attention quickly to an abnormal bird in the field.

That is unsatisfactory, too. If a bird should not be called a partial albino in one context, why should the same bird be called a partial albino in a different context. This perpetuates the chaos. In the field, why not simply say “partly white” or “partly pale”?

## Chaos persists for pale colors

I cannot pin down exactly when the transition began, but the definition of leucism has gradually drifted from white feathers to include pale, washed-out coloration.

In some publications, the definition of leucism does not even mention pure white. Two examples: It means “partial loss of pigment affecting all the colours present and reducing them” (Harrison 1985). It means “abnormal paleness in the plumage of a bird resulting from the dilution of normal pigmentation” (Leahy 2004).

In other publications, both white and washed-out colorations are combined into the single term leucism. Two examples: Brinkley (2007) used leucism both for birds with “reduced pigment in feathers” and for birds that “vary from having a few stray whitish feathers to being nearly all white with

just a trace of normal pigmentation (the latter resembling albino birds but with normally pigmented eyes)." Floyd (2008) termed leucism as "abnormally white or pale feathers."

Leucism is regularly used in mammalogy and herpetology for a pure white condition, and it is hard to know why in ornithology the term grew to describe washed-out colors. After all, ornithological taxonomists have routinely used "leuc-" as prefixes and suffixes in scientific names referring to birds with normal white plumage.

Birders regularly see these "leuc-" names for white in books, journal papers, and field guides. The American Birding Association Checklist includes two dozen such birds. Here are three of them: *leucocephalus* (white-headed) for the Bald Eagle, *cryptoleucus* (hidden white) for the Chihuahuan Raven, and *leucoptera* (white-winged) for the White-winged Crossbill.

Leucism, to put it simply, should mean white. We ought to find another term for "washed-out."

### How about "diluted"?

What about feathers which are not white but merely "washed-out"? Rensch recommended "chlorochroism" for abnormally pale but not white plumage. The term referred to the bleaching power of chlorine, and he defined the condition as "verdünntfarbigen" meaning "diluted" colors.

Chlorochroism never caught on, but what's important is not that word but how Rensch used the concept of "diluted" for washed-out. "Diluted pigmentation" is exactly the term van Grouw advised for washed-out plumage in his letter to *Pennsylvania Birds*.

However, "dilute," "diluted," and "dilution" appear only irregularly in ornithological writings. Two examples: In a 1954 paper, Robert W. Nero used dilution for birds "showing a pale version of the normal appearance." C. J. O. Harrison defined dilution in 1963 as "a reduction in quantity of all the pigments present." (Although as noted above, Harrison later called such diluted plumage leucistic in 1985. No wonder we are confused!)

From a birder's viewpoint, Sibley offers notable advice in explaining a three-stage transition from leucism to dilution as his term for aberrantly washed-out coloration:

(1) In the classic *Sibley Guide to Birds* in 2000, he wrote, "In leucism

(also referred to as dilute plumage) normal patterns are visible, but all plumage is paler than normal, usually pale, creamy brown."

(2) Next, in *Sibley's Birding Basics* in 2002, he abandoned leucism and replaced it with "dilute" plumage, defining it as "normally patterned with the overall color reduced to a pale gray or fawn color."

(3) Now, on his *Sibley Guides* website, he affirms his intention to call washed-out melanin "dilute plumage," in which a bird "shows a faint 'ghost' of the normal pattern." To this, I must say, "Bravo!"

### A nice try, and a final thought

In a 2007 article in *Birding* magazine, Jeff N. Davis made a valiant but likely doomed attempt to coax birders into changing the whole terminology of abnormal coloration. He recommended "amelanism" for an absence of melanin, which leaves feathers white. He recommended "hypomelanism" (the prefix "hypo-" meaning "less than normal") for dilution of pigment, leaving feathers pale but not white. There is precision in those terms, but do you know any birders who use them?

I have one last suggestion. Faced with the inconsistent definitions of leucism, even in the scientific literature, there is an alternative to using the term at all. Just carefully describe and, if possible, photograph every abnormally white or pale bird without attempting to name the aberration. That way the visible information will be on record, no matter what the abnormality is called.

### Acknowledgments

I thank Hein van Grouw for his informative letter to *Pennsylvania Birds*, for providing several references, and for reviewing an earlier draft of this article. My thanks also to Jocelyn Hudon, Curator of Birds at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, and to Alan Brush, Professor Emeritus in Ornithology at the University of Connecticut, for information, advice, and encouragement 12 years ago when I began building a file on color abnormalities.

1412 Hawthorne Street  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065  
phess@salsgiver.com

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# Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2011

Laurie Goodrich

Unsettled weather stirred by persistent tropical storms challenged early autumn migrants. September was Pennsylvania's wettest in more than a century (<www.nrrc.cornell.edu>) and fog and rain clouded migration prospects through October at most sites. Rains finally subsided for most the state on Columbus Day weekend. Despite the clear skies, accipiter flights were lackluster for many sites throughout the month. The unusual weather returned with an early snowstorm on 29 October that ushered a banner Golden Eagle parade across the state 30-31 October. Despite these early eagles, balmy conditions in November and December kept late season flights lower than usual.

A silver lining of September's storms was that they brought the Broad-winged Hawks back to the ridges in 2011 and boosted the state's autumn raptor total (163,957) to an 18% increase over 2010. Pennsylvania's Broad-winged Hawk 2011 total (89,774) surpassed 2010 by 30,000 birds. In contrast, mild October and November days kept many hawk-watchers waiting, and a majority of species showed below-average statewide counts. Turkey Vulture and Peregrine Falcon also were an exception to the rule, showing increased counts compared to 2010, but most others showed dips of 10 to 50%. Statewide hours of effort were similar from 2010 to 2011, with only a slight drop. A York site known for its' Broad-winged Hawk flights, Rocky Ridge

Park, rejoined the Pennsylvania watch-site line-up, contributing a welcome 5831 off-ridge migrants in 12 days.

In 2011, Turkey Vulture sightings increased by 49% compared to 2010, Broad-winged Hawk by 51% , Golden Eagles by 19%, and Peregrine Falcons by 16%. Strongest declines compared to 2010 were seen for the most hardy migrants such as Northern Harrier (down 24%), Northern Goshawk (down 52%), Red-shouldered Hawk (down 31%), and Red-tailed Hawk (down 27%) (Table 2). Another notable drop was observed for the American Kestrel, down 16%. Weather was the likely cause of most of these disparities, although the kestrel has shown widespread declines in the east.

Rare migrants in 2011 included two Mississippi Kites, both sighted at Second Mountain. Both kites were adults that flew past separately on 14 and 28 September. Three Swainson's Hawks also provided excitement to watchers. Hawk Mountain observed a dark-morph on 26 September, Militia Hill a light-morph also on 26 September, and Second Mountain a dark-morph 31 December. The number of both species sighted in the state was average, compared to past autumns.

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** – Allegheny Front counters tallied a 15% increase in migrants over 2010: 13,219 hawks in 857 hours, for a rate of 15.4 birds/hr. New season records were set for both eagles, 119 Bald Eagles and 279 Golden Eagles. A single day

site record of 61 Golden Eagles was recorded 1 November, several days after following the 29 October snowstorm (Table 1). When combined with the 25 recorded 31 October and the 17 eagles counted 2 November, hawk-watchers counted 103 Golden Eagles in four days, and the one-day count of 61 represents the second-highest one-day total ever recorded for the state. (A one-day count of 62 was made at Tussey Mountain during a spring season.) Eagles continued to migrate past the Front through mid-December. In contrast to many other sites, Allegheny Front counters recorded higher than usual Red-tailed Hawk numbers, with a notable 409 passing 1 November.

**Bake Oven Knob (Lehigh)** – Bake Oven also recorded an above-average count of 15,686 hawks at 22 birds/hr. in 105 days of coverage. Hours were slightly lower than average at 712, due to inclement weather (Table 2). Below-average numbers were tallied for most species, although not for the Sharp-shinned Hawk, as 3354 were counted compared to an average of 3219. Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Peregrine Falcon also showed above-average tallies. Counters enjoyed one of the highest one-day counts of Peregrine Falcon anywhere in the state, 28 on 27 September (Table 1). An exceptional flight of Golden Eagles (22) passed 30 October, following the snowstorm. Twenty-four Bald Eagles sighted 13 September, was

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

	Br.-winged Hawk		Am. Kestrel		Peregrine Falcon		Bald Eagle		Golden Eagle	
Site	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count	Date
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	2400	9/16	9	9/25	0	-	7	several	<b>61*</b>	11/1
<b>Bake Oven Knob</b>	1405	9/19	11	9/12	<b>28</b>	9/27	<b>24</b>	9/13	<b>22</b>	10/30
<b>Blue Mtn./Rte. 183</b>	1336	9/17	22	10/5	2	10/21	10	9/10	6	10/22
<b>Pipersville (BW)</b>	341	9/16	1	9/16	0	-	3	9/16	0	-
<b>Council Cup</b>	186	9/16	12	9/30	1	several	11	9/30	0	-
<b>Hawk Mountain</b>	<b>2813</b>	9/17	<b>54</b>	10/5	10	9/29	<b>26</b>	9/13	21	10/30
<b>Jack's Mountain</b>	556	9/19	7	10/4	4	10/4	15	9/13	10	10/31
<b>Little Gap</b>	1651	9/16	22	10/5	<b>16</b>	9/27	<b>24</b>	9/13	13	10/30
<b>Militia Hill</b>	<b>2609</b>	9/17	<b>33</b>	10/4	5	9/27	10	9/18	1	several
<b>Rocky Ridge Park</b>	2457	9/18	7	10/16	1	several	9	9/18	0	-
<b>Rose Tree Park</b>	2266	9/16	17	9/30	1	several	11	9/17	1	10/6
<b>Second Mountain</b>	1769	9/17	12	9/13	3	10/4	19	9/13	16	10/30
<b>Stone Mountain</b>	696	9/17	18	10/4	4	10/5	10	9/13	21	11/17
<b>Tuscarora Summit</b>	1657	9/13	6	10/20	3	several	9	9/24	11	10/31
<b>Tussey Mountain</b>	527	9/16	14	10/5	6	10/2	10	9/16	9	11/23
<b>Waggoner's Gap</b>	<b>2688</b>	9/16	<b>27</b>	10/4	<b>14</b>	9/30	19	9/16	<b>25</b>	10/30

Bolded count numbers indicate the top three counts for each species

\* second highest one-day count in Pennsylvania

one of the second-highest one-day counts for 2011. Bake Oven counters also set a new site record for Turkey Vulture with 1050 sightings in the autumn.

**Blue Mountain/Route 183** (*Berks/Schuylkill*) - Blue Mountain counters tallied an above-average 5635 hawks in 139 hours of counting over 28 days (Table 2). Tallies of both Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged hawks were higher than average, contributing to the strong season total. Highlights included 1336 Broad-winged Hawks 17 September and 10 Bald Eagles 10 September. Blue Mountain also tallied 598 Sharp-shinned Hawks in a two-day flight 21-22 October. Despite the below-average coverage, this easily accessible site had consistently good flights, perhaps encouraging greater birders to visit in 2012.

**Broadwing SEPT - Pipersville** (*Bucks*) - At one of the still-reporting count sites for Broad-winged Hawk flights through *Bucks*, a single day of counting produced a productive 118.7 birds/hr with a total of 356 hawks 16 September. Both effort and totals were lower than some previous years. Three Bald Eagles, 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks, an Osprey, and an American Kestrel joined the Broad-winged Hawks (Table 2). As this site has been a consistent Broad-winged Hawk hotspot, we hope coverage may increase again in 2012.

**Council Cup** (*Luzerne*) - Pennsylvania's most northern autumn hawk count was covered for 21 days and 108 hours, tallying 695 hawks, or 6.4 hawks/hr. Normally a strong Red-tailed site, Council Cup tallied 27 Red-tailed Hawks in 44 hours, reflecting the dearth of late season birds in 2011. Highlights included 11 Bald Eagles and 12 American Kestrels 30 September. Both effort and bird tallies were below-average for the site, likely due to weather challenges.

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** (*Berks/Schuylkill*) - Hawk Mountain tallied 22,907 hawks in 1087 hours, for 21.1 hawks/hr, 25% higher than the 10-year average. Higher totals were largely due to the near doubling of the Broad-winged Hawk numbers compared to the 10-year average (Table 2). Higher numbers of both vulture and eagle species contrasted with below-average counts of most other hawks. A late flight of eagles kept December and

January interesting with the last day, 18 January, recording a single Golden Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk flying south. Highlights included a juvenile dark-morph Swainson's Hawk spotted 26 September swirling along the south slope amid a Broad-winged Hawk kettle, and the state's highest Bald Eagle one-day count of 26 on 13 September. New season records were set for both Black and Turkey vultures, as both species continue their upswing in the region (Table 2). A new one-day record for Black Vulture, 85, was set 15 October. The second highest one-day site tally for Golden Eagle, 21, was recorded 30 October, the day following the October snow.

**Jack's Mountain** (*Mifflin*) - Counters at Jack's Mountain recorded 4538 hawks in 336 hours across 60 days, for 13.5 hawks/hr. Above-average counts of Turkey Vultures (207), Bald Eagles (79), and Golden Eagles (44) were tallied, although below-average counts were found for the more common migrants, namely Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged hawks. Highlights included 15 Bald Eagles passing 13 September and 556 Broad-wings 19 September. Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles stormed past Jack's 31 October with season-high count of 258 Red-tails and 10 Golden Eagles.

**Little Gap** (*Northampton*) - Little Gap had an exciting season despite the challenging weather. September's Broad-winged Hawk flight hugged the ridge amid the breaks in rain, and five count days exceeded 1000 hawks. The total Broad-winged Hawk count set a new site record with 12,827, nearly double the site's 10-year average. New records were also set for Bald Eagle (237), Merlin (114), and Peregrine Falcon (51). Above-average counts were recorded for Turkey and Black vultures, 577 and 102 respectively, and for Osprey, with 541 (Table 1, 2). Little Gap counters recorded the second-highest one-day count statewide for Peregrines, 16 on 27 September. The 24 Bald Eagles tallied 13 September tied with Bake Oven Knob for second-highest one-day count for season. Bake Oven and Hawk Mountain recorded similar counts of Bald Eagles 13 September (Table 1), making one speculate how many of the eagles might have been the same birds sighted at the three ridgetop sites, which span only 26 miles as the eagle flies.

**Militia Hill** (*Montgomery*) - Militia Hill counters tallied 8959 hawks in 61 days and 431 hours, for 20.8 hawks/hr. This usual Broad-winged Hawk hotspot recorded a below-average 4712 Broad-wings but set new records for Turkey Vulture (1213), Osprey (431), Bald Eagle (116), Cooper's Hawk (197), and Merlin (63), and tallied above-average counts for most other species. New one-day records were set for Osprey, with 61 on 30 September, and for Red-shouldered Hawk, with 27 on 30 October. Despite a lower total count, Militia Hill tallied the third highest one-day count for the state with 2609 Broad-wings 17 September. Thirty-three American Kestrels counted 4 October was the second-highest one-day count statewide as well, and helped raise their season total to an above-average 300 birds. One rarity was sighted, an adult light-morph Swainson's Hawk 26 September.

**Rocky Ridge Park** (*York*) - We were pleased to welcome autumn reports from Rocky Ridge Park, a *York* site that last reported in 2005. Counters tallied 5831 hawks in 53 hours of coverage during September and October. Although coverage was limited, a notable Broad-winged Hawk flight was observed from 16 to 20 September with a peak one-day count of 2457 on 18 September (Table 1, 2). The season's Broad-winged Hawk count of 5566 was the second-highest ever for the site, with only the 1998 count of 6052 surpassing it. We look forward to future reports from Rocky Ridge.

**Rose Tree Park** (*Delaware*) - Rose Tree Park hawkwatchers tallied 6385 hawks in 512 hours and 90 days, for 12.5 hawks/hr. Total counts were below average, but hawks per hour of effort were higher than 2010. A new season record was set for Turkey Vulture at 1025. New one-day site records were set for Osprey with 47 on 30 September, and Turkey Vulture with 436 passing on 28 October. The peak Broad-winged Hawk flight of 2266 swirled past on 16 September (Table 1), but overall sightings of Broad-wings were low at this valley site. Unsettled weather was the main culprit for the low numbers.

**Second Mountain** (*Lebanon*) - Second Mountain set a new season total record in 2011, with 14,063 hawks tallied in 152 days and 888 hours (Table 2). The

prior record of 13,102 was set in 1998. New site records also were set for Bald Eagle (226) and Turkey Vulture (1347) and three other species showed above-average counts (Table 2). Special highlights included two sightings of Mississippi Kites 14 and 28 September, and a juvenile dark-morph Swainson's Hawk 31 December. Second Mountain set a new one-day record for Bald Eagle, with 19 on 13 September, and recorded 16 Golden Eagles 30 October, a peak count of this species.

**Stone Mountain (Huntingdon)** – Stone Mountain observers tallied 4094 hawks in 73 days and 372 hours. Effort was above-average but as found in many sites, many species totals were below-average. Stone Mountain recorded the fourth-highest one-day count of Golden Eagles for the state, 21 on 12 November. The flight consisted of 19 adults and 2 immature birds and was one of the latest peak counts of this species for the state. Coincidentally, Stone reported other notable flights 17 September and 17 October. Broad-winged Hawks hit their season peak of 696 on 17 September, and Stone counted a season peak count of 206 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 17 October.

**Tuscarora Summit (Fulton)** – Tuscarora Summit watchers counted 7090 hawks in 59 days and 287 hours for 24.7 hawks/hr. (Table 2). Broad-winged Hawk numbers were above-average; 4562 compared to an average of 1801 hawks in the most recent decade. The push to the Appalachians, due to the rainy September weather, appears to have benefited this south-central ridge watchsite. Migrating Bald Eagles also were observed regularly through the autumn, resulting in a new site record of 85. Other highlights included 1657 Broad-winged Hawks soaring past 13 September, followed by 1245 on 17 September. Eleven Golden Eagles 31 October were followed by seven more 3 November.

**Tussey Mountain (Centre)** – Tussey Mountain, a leading spring watchsite for the state, is now reporting partial coverage for autumn. In 2011, watchers counted 2726 hawks in 37 days and 146 hours. Broad-winged Hawks were the most numerous migrant at 1806. Bald and Golden eagles were recorded in high numbers considering the incomplete coverage, totaling 88 and 42 respectively. Nine Golden Eagles were spotted 23 November for the one-day

peak count, and 10 Bald Eagles were counted 16 September. Seven goldens were counted 22 November, and 8 more were seen 10 December. Such sightings suggest daily autumn coverage may result in future eagle records for the site.

**Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland)** – In 2011, Waggoner's Gap once again led the state in hawk totals and set a new site record of 31,119 hawks in 136 days and 1058 hours of coverage. Migrants passed at a rate of 29.4 hawks/hr, with Broad-winged Hawks leading the way with 13,263 tallied. Counters set a one-day site record for Turkey Vulture, 458 on 23 October, and a new season record for the species, with 2159. Waggoner's recorded the second-highest one-day count for Broad-winged Hawk, 2688 on 16 September, and the second-highest one-day flight of Golden Eagles, 25 on 30 October. Waggoner's continued their spectacular Sharp-shinned Hawk flight in 2011, tallying an above-average 9822 sharpies, while many watch-sites reported below-average counts. A one-day high of 998 Sharp-shinned Hawks 17 October highlighted the steady stream of birds past the watch-site (Table 2).

**Conclusion**

Pennsylvania watchers regularly contribute one of the highest numbers of migration-watching hours of any state. The numbers of birds observed, the closeness of the sightings, and the camaraderie shared are just some of the reasons for this dedication. Despite the spectacular effort, some sites still struggle for coverage. If you have time to contribute to a count site, please contact a site compiler in your area. A map of sites and contact details can be obtained at <www.hawkcount.org> or by contacting the author. Happy hawk watching!

**Acknowledgments**

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*Acopian Ctr. for Conservation Learning  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association  
410 Summer Valley Road  
Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania 17961*



**Key to Table 1 headers**

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



Table 2. Autumn 2011 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

**ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford/Somerset) - Bob Stewart, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	137	11	0	10	25	9	40	23	0	1	227	110	0	0	7	3	0	0	41	507
September	30	182	9	15	56	65	7	283	85	1	0	7333	232	0	2	25	7	19	0	47	8186
October	30	182	14	301	10	20	18	1199	109	3	5	42	1042	1	49	21	14	10	0	34	2892
November	30	203	0	227	0	8	11	82	26	5	64	0	899	4	187	0	2	1	0	13	1529
December/January	31	153	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	5	0	44	0	41	1	0	0	0	7	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1605</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>7602</b>	<b>2327</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>13219</b>
Total per hr			0.04	0.63	0.09	0.14	0.05	1.87	0.28	0.01	0.09	8.87	2.72	0.01	0.33	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.17	15.42
% of flight			0.3	4.1	0.6	0.9	0.4	12.1	1.8	0.1	0.6	57.5	17.6	0.0	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	111.4	804.8	23.6	543.3	117.7	68.2	70.7	1145.2	250.9	10.7	97.5	4270.8	1997.7	4.2	160.9	78.2	34.1	33.4	0.0	246.0	8972.4

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	136	45	174	43	70	5	37	9	0	5	173	43	0	0	30	1	4	0	21	660
September	30	188	74	247	241	92	15	644	48	1	2	8317	72	0	1	43	28	40	0	51	9916
October	31	214	65	364	82	53	15	2658	129	10	43	77	577	0	56	45	49	17	0	80	4320
November	27	175	62	287	0	5	17	15	4	3	12	0	364	0	17	2	1	1	0	20	790
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3354</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>8567</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>15686</b>
Total per hr			0.35	1.48	0.51	0.31	0.07	4.71	0.27	0.02	0.09	12.03	1.48	0.00	0.10	0.17	0.11	0.09	0.00	0.24	22.03
% of flight			1.6	6.7	2.3	1.4	0.3	21.4	1.2	0.1	0.4	54.6	6.7	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.0	1.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	101.1	798.7	269.2	884.2	599.3	171.9	160.6	3218.8	378.2	33.6	143.2	5561.2	2479.0	2.2	91.7	203.9	91.6	51.4	0.1	291.1	14638.9

**BLUE MOUNTAIN Rt. 183 (Schuylkill and Berks) - Scott Fisher, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	6	24	8	0	9	2	1	5	1	0	0	59	14	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	107
September	10	42	25	37	38	23	5	155	10	3	2	2796	16	0	1	37	5	2	0	16	3171
October	12	74	50	120	5	15	12	1647	103	2	16	20	270	0	18	39	12	4	0	24	2357
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2875</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5635</b>
Total per hr			0.60	1.13	0.37	0.29	0.13	13.00	0.82	0.04	0.13	20.68	2.16	0.00	0.14	0.58	0.12	0.04	0.00	0.31	40.54
% of flight			1.5	2.8	0.9	0.7	0.3	32.1	2.0	0.1	0.3	51.0	5.3	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 3 yrs	35.0	208.1	87.0	150.3	81.0	49.7	24.7	1728.3	144.0	8.0	29.0	1213.0	571.0	0.3	28.0	80.3	18.7	9.0	0.0	34.3	4256.7

**BW SEPT - Pipersville (Bucks) - Kirk Moulton, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	1	3	0	0	1	3	0	10	0	0	0	341	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	356
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>356</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.33	1.00	0.00	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	113.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118.67
% of flight			0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	6.0	30.9	6.0	9.0	10.6	4.4	2.4	50.4	2.1	0.0	0.1	1319.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	5.1	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1413.6

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	3	10	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
September	2	13	0	0	15	15	1	45	3	0	0	219	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	6	318
October	7	41	0	150	1	2	2	132	8	0	0	13	16	0	0	19	0	1	0	4	348
November	9	44	0	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>695</b>
Total per hr			0.00	1.39	0.15	0.23	0.05	1.67	0.10	0.00	0.00	2.19	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.10	6.44
% of flight			0.0	21.6	2.3	3.6	0.7	25.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	34.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	42.6	164.6	2.8	231.7	59.2	43.9	18.9	227.3	27.0	2.6	8.1	1156.0	853.2	0.6	3.1	49.8	2.9	3.0	0.0	39.9	2730.0

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
July	2	10	6	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	18
August	20	171	2	9	50	53	7	32	15	0	5	398	42	0	1	68	2	2	0	0	686
September	26	264	3	11	317	129	43	770	127	0	6	12761	76	0	1	143	55	26	1	31	14500
October	30	249	154	379	96	70	67	3547	385	6	47	161	810	0	61	176	83	27	0	56	6125
November	29	237	95	256	1	31	32	92	29	9	50	1	628	0	36	1	1	1	0	13	1276
December/January	23	157	45	14	0	36	4	5	2	14	8	0	139	0	33	0	0	0	0	2	302
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>4447</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>13323</b>	<b>1696</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>22907</b>
Total per hr			0.28	0.62	0.43	0.30	0.14	4.09	0.51	0.03	0.11	12.26	1.56	0.00	0.12	0.36	0.13	0.05	0.00	0.09	21.07
% of flight			1.3	2.9	2.0	1.4	0.7	19.4	2.4	0.1	0.5	58.2	7.4	0.0	0.6	1.7	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	124.0	1097.9	85.0	409.1	586.0	235.3	211.1	4386.0	743.0	47.0	225.0	7092.8	3112.1	4.7	117.5	453.2	164.4	54.8	<1	171.0	18387.0

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
September	15	99	0	0	40	43	13	90	8	0	1	2483	36	0	0	19	2	1	0	3	2739
October	22	129	0	135	8	31	13	695	42	1	2	3	467	0	27	25	14	7	0	6	1476
November	20	101	19	72	0	4	3	16	5	3	4	0	166	0	16	1	0	0	0	2	311
December	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2495</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4538</b>
Total per hr			0.06	0.62	0.15	0.24	0.09	2.38	0.16	0.01	0.02	7.43	1.99	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.03	13.51
% of flight			0.4	4.6	1.1	1.7	0.6	17.7	1.2	0.1	0.2	55.0	14.7	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	52.1	324.3	23.8	174.6	115.8	46.0	55.0	837.4	105.0	9.1	18.0	2946.7	659.6	0.5	25.2	87.2	17.2	10.7	0.1	30.8	5162.7

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	10	42	11	3	7	13	0	12	1	0	1	40	23	0	0	16	3	0	0	1	131
September	24	187	0	12	356	127	34	1066	96	1	8	12714	95	0	0	134	48	25	0	47	14763
October	28	193	62	424	177	70	52	2942	276	1	33	73	593	0	38	63	60	24	0	33	4921
November	30	136	25	138	1	23	25	80	25	6	23	0	444	0	25	2	3	2	0	9	831
December	3	16	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>4101</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>12827</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>20661</b>
Total per hr			0.18	1.01	0.94	0.41	0.19	7.14	0.69	0.01	0.11	22.35	2.02	0.00	0.11	0.37	0.20	0.09	0.00	0.16	35.99
% of flight			0.5	2.8	2.6	1.1	0.5	19.8	1.9	0.0	0.3	62.1	5.6	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	92.6	580.4	63.9	419.9	427.4	137.2	135.0	3163.0	433.1	32.1	114.6	6611.1	2260.0	2.2	64.4	229.7	69.0	36.9	0.3	131.3	14331.5

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	30	210	0	0	298	67	37	385	48	1	16	4270	0	0	0	125	33	21	1	29	5331
October	31	221	60	1213	133	49	54	1011	149	1	55	442	194	0	4	175	30	15	0	43	3628
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>4712</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>8959</b>
Total per hr			0.14	2.81	1.00	0.27	0.21	3.24	0.46	0.00	0.16	10.93	0.45	0.00	0.01	0.70	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.16	20.79
% of flight			0.7	13.5	4.8	1.3	1.0	15.6	2.2	0.0	0.8	52.6	2.2	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	59.8	450.3	37.5	380.7	265.1	64.7	69.9	1010.9	143.9	1.7	45.6	7841.4	189.3	0.1	2.4	244.6	20.4	18.7	0.1	71.3	10408.5

**ROCKY RIDGE PARK (York) - Randy Phillips, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	9	39	0	0	22	18	6	98	4	0	0	5666	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	0	5728
October	3	14	0	0	7	3	1	59	4	0	1	5	12	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5571</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5831</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.55	0.40	0.13	2.96	0.15	0.00	0.02	105.11	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	110.02
% of flight			0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	95.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	46.6	148.8	18.4	90.4	40.6	45.6	23.6	345.2	44.4	1.4	13.2	1244.6	256.0	0.0	3.0	61.0	2.0	4.0	0.0	14.0	2208.0

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	29	184	0	0	207	56	21	469	42	0	5	2596	2	0	0	104	10	7	0	15	3534
October	31	185	8	731	71	52	23	785	93	0	41	222	78	0	2	115	14	5	0	16	2256
November	30	142	57	294	1	12	5	68	15	2	20	0	106	0	1	3	3	2	0	6	595
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2818</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6385</b>
Total per hr			0.13	2.00	0.54	0.23	0.10	2.58	0.29	0.00	0.13	5.50	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.43	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.07	12.47
% of flight			1.0	16.1	4.4	1.9	0.8	20.7	2.3	0.0	1.0	44.1	2.9	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	95.6	642.0	104.8	446.4	259.2	158.9	88.9	1504.8	240.5	5.8	180.1	3183.9	477.4	0.2	4.6	251.5	46.1	18.9	0.7	67.9	7038.6

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	31	81	0	0	11	5	1	9	8	0	2	45	22	0	1	6	0	2	0	2	114
September	30	186	0	60	117	64	23	543	55	4	3	7107	67	0	10	53	14	11	0	18	8151
October	30	227	105	870	36	90	56	2131	187	6	56	39	543	0	55	35	27	12	0	36	4284
November	30	212	65	341	0	32	14	60	11	5	50	1	535	0	36	0	0	0	0	10	1161
December	31	183	45	76	0	35	2	4	3	1	18	0	137	2	21	0	0	0	1	8	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>2747</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>7192</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>14063</b>
Total per hr			0.24	1.52	0.18	0.25	0.11	3.09	0.30	0.02	0.15	8.10	1.47	0.00	0.14	0.11	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.08	15.84
% of flight			1.5	9.6	1.2	1.6	0.7	19.5	1.9	0.1	0.9	51.1	9.3	0.0	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	139.6	1022.8	339.0	606.8	212.7	105.6	145.5	2200.4	287.7	56.2	142.8	3611.5	1417.9	3.1	81.5	129.9	46.5	28.5	0.7	74.3	9491.0

Total includes two Mississippi Kites observed in September.

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	5	14	0	0	5	7	1	2	2	1	0	15	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	42
September	16	90	0	0	41	29	12	128	37	0	1	1531	23	0	0	37	5	6	0	6	1856
October	23	121	0	258	20	31	30	826	85	4	15	38	298	0	25	55	25	11	0	22	1743
November	19	97	0	34	0	15	7	18	2	1	22	0	195	0	51	0	1	0	0	3	349
December	10	51	0	2	0	10	1	1	2	0	6	0	45	2	34	0	0	0	0	1	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4094</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.79	0.18	0.25	0.14	2.62	0.34	0.02	0.12	4.26	1.51	0.01	0.30	0.27	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.09	11.01
% of flight			0.0	7.2	1.6	2.2	1.2	23.8	3.1	0.1	1.1	38.7	13.7	0.0	2.7	2.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	62.8	358.2	18.5	87.0	95.4	54.1	77.6	866.2	213.4	13.9	63.7	1580.6	1246.2	2.2	111.0	96.2	33.7	24.7	0.2	63.3	4648.1

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	20	108	6	0	66	51	18	469	22	1	5	4559	6	0	0	21	4	8	0	29	5265
October	29	133	25	269	16	31	40	827	67	0	12	3	199	0	36	29	6	14	0	45	1619
November	10	47	4	24	0	3	6	30	4	1	6	0	110	0	11	0	0	0	0	7	206
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1326</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4562</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>7090</b>
Total per hr			0.12	1.02	0.29	0.30	0.22	4.62	0.32	0.01	0.08	15.90	1.10	0.00	0.16	0.17	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.28	24.70
% of flight			0.5	4.1	1.2	1.2	0.9	18.7	1.3	0.0	0.3	64.3	4.4	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	66.5	368.4	30.1	352.1	99.9	39.3	70.3	890.4	88.7	3.3	28.6	1800.9	615.6	0.6	36.5	37.7	8.9	15.5	0.0	73.9	4192.3

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	8	30	0	4	5	20	1	8	3	0	0	34	21	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	100
September	13	52	0	0	29	37	5	46	8	0	0	1730	5	0	0	21	2	2	0	3	1888
October	8	29	7	135	30	14	2	136	16	0	0	42	81	0	2	30	4	9	0	10	518
November	5	23	3	5	0	7	0	1	3	0	0	0	126	0	23	1	0	0	0	2	171
December	3	13	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1806</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2726</b>
Total per hr			0.07	0.99	0.44	0.60	0.05	1.31	0.21	0.00	0.00	12.37	1.75	0.00	0.29	0.38	0.04	0.08	0.00	0.11	18.67
% of flight			0.4	5.3	2.3	3.2	0.3	7.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	66.3	9.4	0.0	1.5	2.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs		26.6	2.9	24.2	3.4	8.7	2.5	47.1	7.4	0.3	1.7	73.0	229.8	0.1	9.9	10.4	0.4	1.4	0.0	9.5	432.6

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	28	177	0	0	44	101	7	34	13	0	3	225	44	0	1	30	1	0	0	8	511
September	24	188	0	0	292	167	50	2156	227	0	12	12773	91	0	1	138	45	36	0	41	16029
October	28	245	43	1841	101	106	101	7450	599	7	78	265	939	0	68	104	68	24	0	66	11860
November	28	244	35	282	2	42	65	176	20	7	107	0	1413	0	114	1	3	2	0	18	2287
December	28	204	6	36	0	54	2	6	3	14	20	0	239	3	46	1	0	0	0	2	432
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1058</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2159</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>9822</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>13263</b>	<b>2726</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>31119</b>
Total per hr			0.08	2.04	0.41	0.44	0.21	9.28	0.81	0.03	0.21	12.54	2.58	0.00	0.22	0.26	0.11	0.06	0.00	0.13	29.41
% of flight			0.3	6.9	1.4	1.5	0.7	31.6	2.8	0.1	0.7	42.6	8.8	0.0	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	141.9	1134.0	105.2	1366.0	500.0	287.0	302.0	6896.0	878.0	79.0	290.0	6227.0	4088.0	7.0	226.0	341.0	104.0	59.0	0.0	184.0	21937.0

**2011 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
July/August	149	836	83	190	186	304	32	180	75	1	17	1,231	321	0	3	175	10	9	0	77	2,894
September	309	2032	117	382	2,136	986	290	7,357	820	12	61	87,096	721	0	16	927	258	206	2	342	101,736
October	343	2255	593	7,190	793	637	486	26,045	2,252	41	404	1,445	6,119	1	441	941	406	181	0	475	48,450
November	267	1651	365	1,940	5	186	187	641	144	42	358	2	4,997	4	517	11	14	10	0	104	9,527
December/January	130	778	100	128	0	151	11	18	11	31	57	0	632	7	193	2	0	0	1	20	1,362
<b>Total</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>7562</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>9830</b>	<b>3120</b>	<b>2263</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>34241</b>	<b>3302</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>89774</b>	<b>12790</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>2056</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1018</b>	<b>163,964</b>
Total per hr			1.05	8.21	2.60	1.89	0.84	28.58	2.76	0.11	0.75	74.94	10.68	0.01	0.98	1.72	0.57	0.34	0.00	0.85	136.86
% of flight			0.8	6.0	1.9	1.4	0.6	20.9	2.0	0.1	0.5	54.8	7.8	0.0	0.7	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.6	100.0
2011 Totals	1209	8409	1289	6588	3126	2510	1317	35008	3719	267	1304	59353	17617	13	982	2461	780	350	4	1779	138,467
% change from 2010	-1.0%	-10.0%	-2.4%	49.2%	-0.2%	-9.8%	-23.6%	-2.2%	-11.2%	-52.4%	-31.2%	51.3%	-27.4%	-7.7%	19.1%	-16.5%	-11.8%	16.0%	-25.0%	-42.8%	18.4%

Total includes 2 Mississippi Kites.

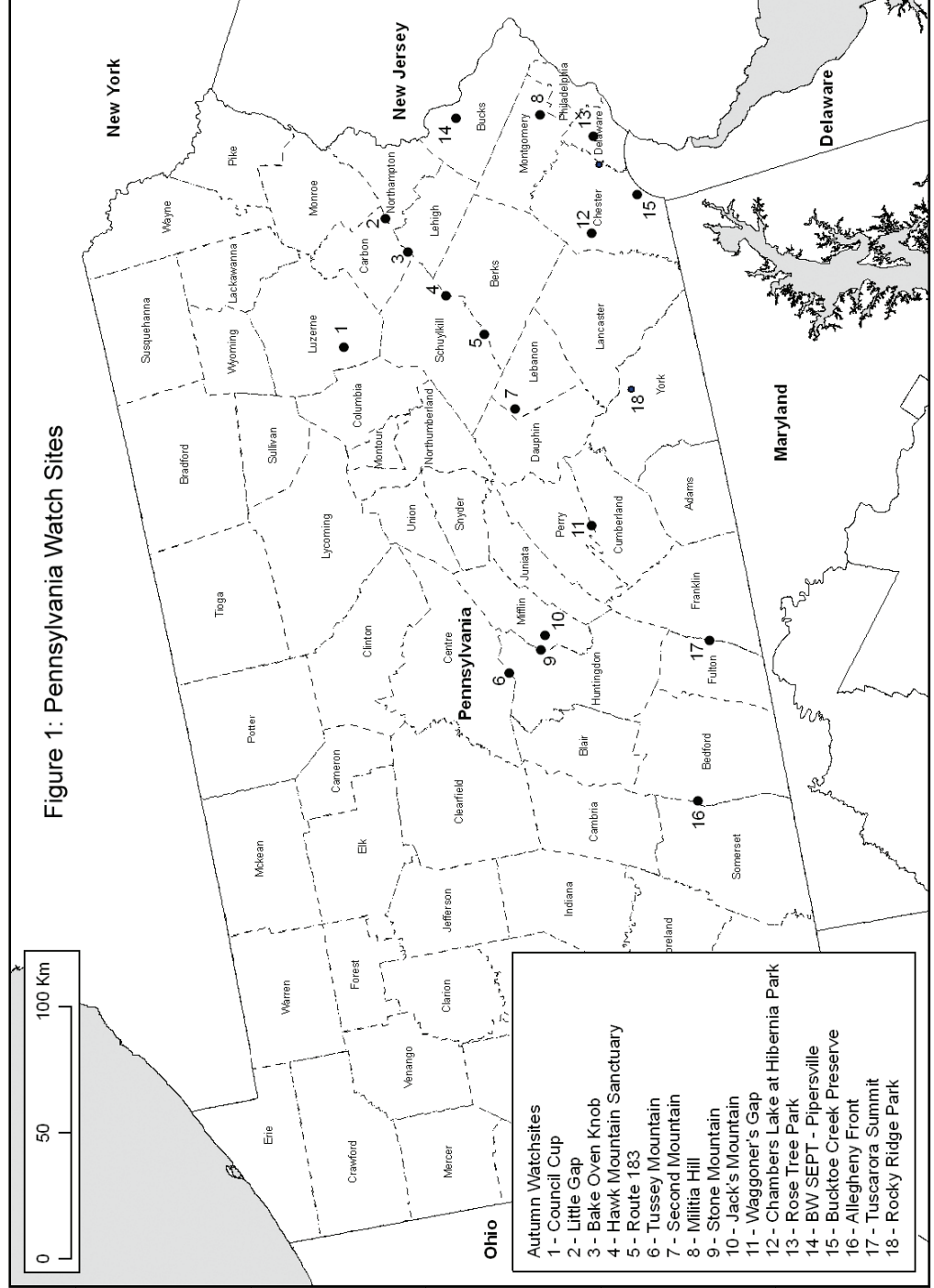


Figure 1: Pennsylvania Watch Sites



## BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

**PARROTS OF THE WORLD** by Joseph M. Forshaw, illustrated by Frank Knight with 146 color plates of all 356 world species and well-differentiated subspecies, 3 illustrations, 391 color distribution maps, 2 indices, 6 x 9 in., 336 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2010, paper, \$29.00.

How, the reader may ask, does this book title connect with Pennsylvania? Unfortunately, in a sad way. The Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*), now extinct, was the only native representative of the parrot family that lived and bred within the eastern part of the United States, from the Great Lakes to Florida and the Gulf States, and from the wooded river bottoms of the Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast. Never abundant in the Commonwealth, like the Passenger Pigeon, the first birds were described near Philadelphia and in Shareman's Valley about twenty miles from Carlisle in the mid-1700s. The species was never officially recorded (i.e., shot) in western Pennsylvania. Highly gregarious, the causes that led to the "paroquet's" demise are easy to define. It was not only in great demand as a cage bird by European immigrants because of its brilliant red, yellow, bright green, and soft blue feathers, but also its gorgeous plumage was sought by the flourishing 18th and 19th century millinery trade. The parakeet was horrendously trapped by "professional bird catchers" and shot in great numbers by general hunters for target practice. However, the species was literally slaughtered by landowners because of the bird's obnoxious habit of flocking by the hundreds to apple and other fruit orchards, tearing the fruit apart just to get to the seeds. As a personal side note, I vividly recall as a teenager when an Illinois farmer showed me nine mounted Carolina Parakeets on tree limbs under glass. The birds were shot by the farmer's grandfather in his apple orchard at the turn of the 20th century. I often wondered what ever happened to those mounted specimens.

So, the Carolina Parakeet was a nuisance, a pest to be eradicated. In April 1904, a flock of thirteen parakeets in Florida is believed to be

the last wild birds, although Roger Tory Peterson shows a color image of the bird in his 2008 Field Guide (p. 229) with the comment "extinct 1920s." Forshaw even suggests that wild populations probably survived until the early 1930s (Plate 146, p. 312). Regardless, the last captive bird died in February 1918.

"Few groups of birds are more easily recognized by even the most casual observer than the parrots," comments Forshaw (p. 15). Also, we might add, few avian groups have held such a wide popularity as household pets and simultaneously such a tremendously negative impact on fruit and grain agriculture. This love/hate dichotomy between humans and parrots is an ancient one, going back at least as far as the Egyptians and Greeks. In fact, talking parrots were status symbols among the Roman noble classes. Alexander the Great probably introduced tame parrots from the Far East to Europe. Later, the expansive voyages of discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries resulted in new parrot species being brought to Europe and domesticated (e.g., the Budgerigar and Cockatiel from Australia).

Currently, "parrot-watching" eco-tours are commonplace in Australia, East Africa, and Latin America. Likewise, field research and experimental human-induced nesting techniques conducted by Birdlife International and the American Bird Conservancy already have made a positive difference for endangered species. Of the 356 extant parrots in the world, 123 species (34.6 percent) are listed as near threatened to endangered. Added to the pressures affecting all world wildlife (loss of habitat, air-water-land pollution, direct over-killing), parrots face a well organized, illegal, international live caged bird trade, and indiscriminate killing for their prized feathers. Parrots with specialized habitat requirements are particularly vulnerable to environmental changes of any kind. The especially high vulnerability of parrots confined to small, isolated islands is well demonstrated by the fact that 16 of the 18 species listed as extinct in 1981 had been endemic to world islands where, unfortunately, many currently endangered parrots are restricted. Nevertheless, present field

surveys and monitoring programs in Australia, Indonesia, the Philippine Islands, and Latin America are stressing preservation of natural habitats and educating local cultures about the value of "live" endangered parrot species. By introducing eco-tourism as an economic alternative to the live caged parrot trade, local people benefit from their own lodges and parrot tours.

In 2006, Princeton University Press (PUP) published an oversized volume titled *Parrots of the World: An Identification Guide* by Joseph M. Forshaw and illustrated by Frank Knight. However, because of the book's broad and lengthy scope targeted for an audience of researchers and other professionals, the volume was designated a primary "handbook" reference. Meanwhile, the upsurge of world interest in parrots continued unabated. Thankfully, the same author/artist team decided to produce a true field guide that could be used by the broad spectrum of parrot enthusiasts from amateur birders to field ornithologists. The field guide likewise met the urgent needs of researchers, museum and zoo curators, aviculturists, and officials administering national and international conservation programs. The PUP graciously agreed to publish the tome.

Because this book is intended primarily for use in the field, species are arranged biogeographically instead of taxonomically, thus bringing together some species which are likely to be encountered in the same area. Parrots occur mostly in tropical regions of the Southern Hemisphere. Following the extinction of the Carolina Parakeet from the eastern United States in the early 20th century, the Slaty-headed Parakeet is the most northerly occurring species, occurring at 34 degrees north latitude in eastern Afghanistan. In contrast, the Austral Conure ranges to 55 degrees south latitude in Tierra del Fuego of South America. I have fond memories of watching large flocks of this mid-sized green parakeet with long, graduated rusty tail and dark feather margins that produced an overall barred appearance. Flocks constantly uttered a shrill *grie grie!* as they flew by active glaciers into the green Valdivian rain forest of south Argentina and Chile.

For convenience, the author, one of Australia's foremost ornithologists and a world-renowned expert on parrots, divided the worldwide range of all parrots into three biogeographical components: Afro-Asian, Australasian, and Neotropical, with the modified Wallace's Line being the arbitrary boundary between the first and second adjoining distributions. Parrots are well represented in the South Pacific and show marked endemism and uniformity centered in Australia, commonly referred to as the "land of parrots." Most parrots, however, occur in Africa and the sub-continent of India, with the Rose-ringed Parakeet being the most widely distributed of all parrots.

The author comments (p. 11) that although characterized by a lack of diversity, parrots are very well represented in the Neotropical Distribution by the spectacular Ara macaws, the short-tailed, stolid Amazona parrots, and the slim, narrow-tailed Aratinga conures. Further, there is no biological basis for distinguishing parrots from parakeets or lorries from lorikeets. In general terms, parrots and lorries are larger birds with short, square tails while parakeets and lorikeets are smaller parrots with long, graduated tails. But these general characteristics do not hold true everywhere. Forshaw uses "conure" as a collective name for species in Aratuiga, Pyrrhura, and allied genera. He concludes (p. 11): "Conure has a long history of almost universal usage in avicultural literature, and identifies a distinctive assemblage of neotropical parrots." In other words, cultural tradition rules.

Most parrots occur in South America, influenced strongly by two major topographical features: the Andes, and the Amazon River basin. The influence of three forested altitudinal zones in the Andes (tropical, subtropical, and temperate) is reflected in the association of some parrots with one or more of these life zones up to tree line. Of course, biogeographically, the highest life zone is anything but temperate. On the other hand, the Amazon River basin is frequented by many parrot species, some of which are endemic and even restricted to particular types of forest.

There are no longer any native parrots in the United States but 27 imported species have established feral populations, especially in California, Florida, and Texas. The Thick-billed

Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) formerly was a rare native visitor from Mexico to the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona, last recorded in appreciable numbers in 1938. Reintroduction attempts in the 1980s failed even though many birders observed the large parrots in the wild.

The beautiful 146 color plates by Frank Knight, an illustrator for three decades of scientific papers and books, including *The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, are accompanied by descriptive texts and distribution maps. Knight has the keen ability to combine scientific scrutiny with skillful craftsmanship and displays a sensuous and precise talent for rendering texture in his subjects. One can almost feel the feathers and the life force beneath his parrots. The paintings alone make the guide a collector's item that will be admired and appreciated for decades. The plates illustrate all extant species and the more divergent subspecies, including significant sex or age differences. Further, where relevant and helpful, upper-body and under-body flight images are included, though not to scale. All parrots on the color plates not identified as juveniles or sub-adults are adults and the sex is indicated only if the species is sexually dimorphic. Finally, the Plan of the Book section ends with descriptive features of a parrot with terms used in the text (Fig. 2, p. 12), a brief paragraph on Distribution Maps, and References (p. 13).

This essential, reliable, stunningly beautiful, long overdue field guide will help field ornithologist researchers and birders alike. It is the only guide that features 146 superb color plates of all 356 world species of parrots, as well as detailed, facing-page species accounts that describe key identification features, distribution, subspeciation, habitat, and status. Color distribution maps show ranges of all subspecies. The book also shows where to observe each species in the wild, helping to make this the most comprehensive and user-friendly guide to the parrots of the world. Remember, parrot conservation is not about birds alone. The American Bird Conservancy <abc@abcbirds.org> stresses that by protecting wild birds, we're preserving the wider biodiversity of habitats in which they, and we, occur.

513 Kelly Blvd.  
Slippery Rock, PA 6057-1145  
genewihelm@aol.com

# Pennsylvania 2011 Bird Lists Report

## Compiled by Peter Robinson

There are now 77 birders whose Pennsylvania Life Lists are 300 or more. Twenty-two now have PA Life Lists of 350 species or more, an increase of one from last year. Five are at 375 or more, the same as last year. There are nine birders at the 300 mark or more in the PA Life List-Unassisted category.

Last year Shannon Thompson's 275 was the second highest yearly list. This year, her 305 was the highest—a lot of species for Pennsylvania in a year, especially with a full-time, day-time job. Devich Farbotnik also had a very nice yearly list of 290 for second place, and he now has the highest County Life List of all with 330 for Bucks.

There were several County Life Lists lead changes in 2011: Ken Lebo's 308 for Berks, Chuck Chalfant's 272 for Chester (tie), Dan Richard's 224 for Clearfield, Carl Garner's 270 for Franklin, Greg Grove's 253 for Huntingdon, and Geoff Malosh's 212 for Lawrence. There now are seventeen County Life Lists of 300 or greater, one more than last year. Ten of these top seventeen County Life Lists are for Lancaster county, and another three are from Berks.

There also were several new high County Annual Lists in 2011: Joseph Verica's 241 and Drew Weber's 239 for Centre, Dan Richard's 203 for Clearfield, Andy Markel's 263 for Cumberland, Dave Kyler's 218 for Huntingdon, Billy Weber's 227 for Lehigh, Nathan Fronk's 178 for Lycoming, and Billy Weber's 181 for Monroe.

### Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	386	Deuane Hoffman	2009	63	308	Mike Weible	2007	130	265	Marjorie Howard	2008
2	380	Barbara Haas	2010	63	308	Roger Higbee	2008	131	262	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
3	379	Franklin Haas	2010	63	308	Greg Grove	2011	131	262	Jeff Payne	2008
4	378	Dave DeReamus	2011	67	307	Ernest Schiefer	2000	131	262	Joseph Verica	2011
5	377	Devich Farbotnik	2011	68	306	Ronald Leberman	2003	134	260	Dennis Miller	1999
6	373	Peter Robinson	2011	69	305	Gene Wilhelm	1992	134	260	Retta Payne	2008
7	371	Jason Horn	2002	69	305	Mark Vass	2006	136	259	Linda McWilliams	1992
8	370	Rick Wiltraut	2006	71	304	Chad Kauffman	2011	136	259	Eugene Zielinski	2000
8	370	Eric Witmer	2011	71	304	Trudy Kyler	2011	138	258	Steve Graff	2000
10	367	Tom Garner	2011	73	302	Sam Stull	1985	138	258	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
11	363	Al Guarente	2011	73	302	Edward Pederson	1998	138	258	Brian Byrnes	2011
11	363	Arlene Koch	2011	73	302	Rick Koval	2004	141	257	Russell Ryan	1993
13	362	Randy C. Miller	2011	73	302	Carl Garner	2011	142	256	Ted Grisez	1996
14	361	Jonathan Heller	2011	77	300	Larry Lewis	1988	142	256	Gerry Boltz	2010
14	361	Ken Lebo	2011	78	299	Keith Richards	1982	144	255	Nick Kerlin	2010
14	361	Robert Schutsky	2011	79	298	George Malosh	2003	144	255	Martin Page	2010
17	360	Bernard Morris	2011	79	298	Mark McConaughy	2011	146	254	Carol Hildebrand	2011
18	358	Steve Farbotnik	2006	81	297	Allan Keith	1998	147	253	Scott Bastian	1999
19	357	Harold Lebo	2011	82	296	Ed Kwater	1996	147	253	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006
20	356	Nick Pulcinella	2011	82	296	Allen Schweinsberg	2008	147	253	Kevin Fryberger	2010
21	354	John Fedak	2006	84	295	Frank Windfelder	1998	147	253	Nathan Fronk	2011
22	353	Geoff Malosh	2011	84	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	151	250	Stanley Glowacki	2002
23	346	Jerry Book	2000	86	294	James Baxter	1986	152	247	Ian Gardner	2011
23	346	Joyce Hoffmann	2004	86	294	Terence Schiefer	1999	153	245	Bill Reddinger	1999
23	346	Fritz Brock	2010	86	294	William Reid	2001	153	245	Robert Frantz	2000
26	345	Michael Schall	2011	86	294	Deborah Grove	2011	153	245	Grant Stevenson	2008
27	343	Bruce Carl	2011	90	293	John Peplinski	1994	156	244	Harvey Troyer	1999
28	341	Chuck Chalfant	2011	91	292	Dave Rieger	2003	157	242	Walter Fye	1997
29	340	Richard Timm	2011	92	291	Russ States	2002	157	242	Jerry Troyer	1999
30	338	Jan Witmer	1997	93	290	David Abbott	1998	157	242	Marvin Byler	2005
30	338	Richard Colyer	2000	93	290	Chuck Tague	1999	160	241	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
32	337	John Miller	1997	93	290	Thomas Reeves	2011	161	240	Dale Gearhart	2000
32	337	Mike Fialkovich	2011	96	289	Kevin Crilley	1998	162	239	Adam Miller	2000
34	336	William Stocku	1997	96	289	Ronald Leberman	2011	163	238	Roy Ickes	1999
35	334	Jerry McWilliams	2009	98	288	Ross Gallardy	2006	164	237	Jerry Skinner	2007
36	333	Matt Wlasniewski	2011	99	287	Dustin Welch	2011	165	235	Glenn Czulada	2005
37	332	William Murphy	2000	100	286	Timothy Becker	2011	166	234	Christopher Payne	2008
38	330	Billy Weber	2011	101	285	Armas Hill	1996	167	232	Joe Strasser	1994
39	329	Paul Schwalbe	1998	101	285	Neal Thorpe	1997	167	232	Voni Strasser	1994
40	327	Glenna Schwalbe	1998	101	285	Jim Dunn	2011	169	231	Larry Brown	1998
40	327	Steve Santner	1999	101	285	David Hawk	2011	169	231	Jim Mountjoy	2000
42	325	Margaret Higbee	2008	105	284	James Gray	1983	169	231	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2006
43	324	Harry Franzen	1996	106	283	Kerry Grim	1998	172	227	Mike Ward	2010
44	321	Bill Etter	2011	107	282	John Billings	1998	173	226	Eli Troyer	1999
44	321	Shannon Thompson	2011	107	282	Dick Byers	2002	173	226	Stan Kotala	2001
46	319	John Ginaven	1998	109	281	Dan Richards	2009	173	226	Leonard Hess	2003
46	319	Aden Troyer	2010	110	279	Bill Keim	2011	176	225	Paul Mauss	2011
48	318	Phillips Street	1999	111	278	James Baird	1981	177	224	Arlene Brown	1998
48	318	Ronald Leberman	2009	111	278	Merrill Wood	1991	178	223	Pamela Woodman	1993
50	316	Tom Clauser	2007	113	277	Bonnie Baird	1981	178	223	Jim McVoy	2007
51	315	Evelyn Kopf	1995	114	276	Randi Gerrish	2009	180	222	Linda Hess	2003
51	315	David Kyler	2011	115	274	Gloria Lamar	1992	180	222	Joseph Greco	2008
51	315	Drew Weber	2011	115	274	Sarah Gerrish	2009	182	220	Jon Dunn	2004
51	315	Drew Weber	2011	117	273	Katrina Knight	1999	183	219	Ann Pettigrew	1996
54	314	Walter Shaffer	1999	118	272	Scott Kinzey	1999	183	219	Daniel Snell	2000
55	313	Harold Morrin	1996	118	272	Bob Machesney	2005	185	218	Helena Kotala	2007
55	313	Chuck Berthoud	2011	118	272	Pamela Fisher	2009	186	213	Richard Murphy	1999
57	312	Skip Conant	2010	121	271	James Flynn	1997	187	210	Gregg Gorton	2001
57	312	John Salvetti	2011	122	270	Gary Edwards	2003	187	210	Ryan Tomazin	2009
59	311	Dana Shaffer	1999	122	270	Barry Reed	2010	187	210	Brian Henderson	2011
59	311	Don Henise	2000	124	268	Sam Sinderson	2005	190	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
59	311	Wayne Laubscher	2011	124	268	Neil Troyer	2011	190	206	Dennis Weaver	2000
62	310	Dick Cleary	2011	126	267	Harry Henderson	1991	192	205	Jeff Michaels	2005
63	308	Robyn Henise	2000	126	267	Scott Bills	2003	193	200	Fred Crowley	1995
				128	266	Joe Meloney	1994	194	199	Candy Krenzer	1999
				128	266	Lewis Grove	2010	195	197	Patrick O'Donnell	2008

196	180	Thomas Mason	1999
197	168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
198	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
199	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

**PA Life Lists – Unassisted**

("Chase" birds not included)

1	326	Deuane Hoffman	2009
2	322	John Fedak	2006
3	321	Jason Horn	2002
4	319	Robert Schutsky	2009
5	315	Jerry McWilliams	2009
6	312	Skip Conant	2010
7	311	Devich Farbotnik	2011
8	309	Eric Witmer	2011
9	300	Jonathan Heller	2010
10	295	Geoff Malosh	2011
11	292	Peter Robinson	2004
12	291	Al Guarente	2011
13	290	Chuck Chalfant	2011
14	289	Franklin Haas	2000
15	282	Nick Pulcinella	2005
15	282	Ken Lebo	2011
17	279	David Hawk	2011
18	276	Mark Vass	2011
19	275	Ronald Leberman	2011
20	273	Don Henise	2000
20	273	Michael Schall	2008
22	271	Bill Etter	2010
23	268	Barry Reed	2010
24	263	Steve Farbotnik	2000
25	260	Dave DeReamus	2009
26	258	Greg Grove	2011
27	254	Jeff Payne	2004
28	253	Neil Troyer	2004
28	253	Dustin Welch	2011
30	250	Retta Payne	2004
31	249	Pamela Fisher	2009
32	248	Mark McConaughy	2003
33	236	Bill Keim	2009
34	235	Ian Gardner	2011
35	233	Ross Gallardy	2003
36	226	Stan Kotala	2001
36	226	Leonard Hess	2003
38	222	Linda Hess	2003
39	221	Jim McVoy	2007
40	217	Martin Page	2010
41	216	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2005
42	212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
42	212	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2005
42	212	Grant Stevenson	2005
45	207	Gregg Gorton	2001
46	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
47	205	Dennis Weaver	2000
48	197	Brian Henderson	2011
49	192	Paul Mauss	2011
50	186	John Salvetti	2003
50	186	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
52	171	Helena Kotala	2007
53	165	Elmer Brenneman	2010
54	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
55	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

**PA Annual Lists 2011**

305	Shannon Thompson
290	Devich Farbotnik
270	Timothy Becker
263	Drew Weber
246	Joseph Verica
242	Nathan Fronk
240	Al Guarente
240	Jerry McWilliams
236	Ian Gardner
235	Matt Wlasniewski
234	Greg Grove
230	Chad Kauffman
223	Ronald Leberman
222	Neil Troyer
209	Brian Henderson
202	Bill Keim
182	Carl Garner
165	Skip Conant
159	Dave DeReamus
148	Paul Mauss
82	Rachael Shapiro

**PA Annual List > Personal Best**

313	Deuane Hoffman	1998
306	Robert Schutsky	1992
305	Shannon Thompson	2011
297	Jason Horn	2000
296	Devich Farbotnik	2002
294	John Fedak	1998
292	Mike Weible	2007
290	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
289	Geoff Malosh	2007
288	Barbara Haas	1986
288	Franklin Haas	1986
284	Peter Robinson	2002
279	Tom Johnson	2005
279	Michael Schall	2010
278	Sam Stull	1979
278	Gene Wilhelm	1983
276	Chuck Chalfant	2009
272	Randy C. Miller	1992
270	Timothy Becker	2011
268	Terence Schiefer	1985
267	Jonathan Heller	1992
263	Jerry McWilliams	1983
263	Drew Weber	2011
262	Ken Lebo	1995
262	Walt Shaffer	1999
260	Dana Shaffer	1999
260	Mark Vass	2004
259	Mike Fialkovich	1998
258	Steve Santner	1992
257	Mike Weible	2006
248	Dave Rieger	2001
247	Al Guarente	2010
246	Joseph Verica	2011
245	Holly Merker	2010
242	Nathan Fronk	2011
239	Bill Etter	2001
239	Rick Koval	2002
238	Ross Gallardy	2005
237	Chad Kauffman	2010
236	Ian Gardner	2011
235	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
234	Greg Grove	2011
233	Russ States	2002
231	Dave DeReamus	1990
231	Tom Clauser	2007
230	Gary Edwards	2000
229	Mark McConaughy	1998
227	Pamela Fisher	2009
226	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
225	David Hawk	2009
223	John Salvetti	1996
222	Neil Troyer	2011
220	Aden Troyer	2010
218	Jim Dunn	2003
215	Bill Keim	2010
210	Carl Garner	1997
209	Brian Henderson	2011
208	Sam Sinderson	1974
208	Gerry Boltz	2003
204	Marvin Byler	2004
200	Scott Bills	1996
199	Pamela Fisher	2008
198	Barry Reed	2010
192	Marjorie Howard	2004
186	John Salvetti	1999
177	Jeff Michaels	2005
174	Carol Hildebrand	2005
174	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
170	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
163	Paul Mauss	2008
161	Martin Page	2004
147	Elmer Brenneman	2008
142	Jim McVoy	2007
136	Marjorie Howard	2008
82	Rachael Shapiro	2011

**Total Ticks**

(Total of All County Life Lists)

13,731	Deuane Hoffman	2009
10,122	John Fedak	2006
5,051	Deborah Grove	2011
4,876	Greg Grove	2011
4,851	Randy Miller	2011
4,525	Drew Weber	2011

4,405	Al Guarente	2011
3,522	Jim Dunn	2011
3,421	Geoff Malosh	2009
3,388	Nick Pulcinella	2011
3,274	Devich Farbotnik	2010
2,948	Chad Kauffman	2011
2,676	Michael Schall	2011
2,101	Russ States	2002
2,076	Brian Byrnes	2011
1,732	Sam Sinderson	2005
1,400	Bill Keim	2011
1,030	Pamela Fisher	2009
1,002	Ian Gardner	2011
912	Brian Henderson	2011
528	Nathan Fronk	2011
106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

**County Life Lists (100 or More)**

**ADAMS**

213	Arthur Kennel	1995
213	Deuane Hoffman	2007
207	Carl Garner	2006
193	Nonie Kennel	1995
182	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
163	Paul Mauss	2011
150	Steve Santner	1995
144	Russell Ryan	1993
124	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
108	John Fedak	1998
104	Don Henise	2000

**ALLEGHENY**

271	Geoff Malosh	2011
267	Mike Fialkovich	2011
264	Mark Vass	2011
255	Joyce Hoffmann	2004
230	Shannon Thompson	2011
224	Bob Machesney	2006
208	Ed Kwater	1996
203	Sam Sinderson	2005
200	Ross Gallardy	2006
200	Deuane Hoffman	2007
189	Randi Gerrish	2009
188	Scott Kinzey	1999
180	Sarah Gerrish	2009
176	Dave Rieger	2003
173	Margaret Higbee	2008
168	George Malosh	1989
141	Greg Malosh	1991
139	John Fedak	2001
138	Roger Higbee	1993
122	Dick Byers	1999
102	Steve Santner	1995

**ARMSTRONG**

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

**BEAVER**

254	Geoff Malosh	2011
247	Mark Vass	2011
199	Bill Hintze	2000
171	Deuane Hoffman	1999
168	Nick Kerlin	1996
152	George Malosh	1998
138	Scott Kinzey	1998
124	John Cruzan	1994
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Greg Malosh	1991
108	John Snarey	1997
102	Steve Santner	1995

**BEDFORD**

230	Deuane Hoffman	2007
219	Ross Gallardy	2006
152	John Fedak	2000
151	Chad Kauffman	2011
148	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002

131 Margaret Higbee 2008  
 129 Deb Grove 2011  
 127 Greg Grove 2011  
 122 Steve Santner 1995  
 122 Drew Weber 2011  
 121 Richard Murphy 1999  
 111 Dick Byers 2003  
 102 Randi Gerrish 1999  
 102 Sarah Gerrish 1999

BERKS

308 Ken Lebo 2011  
 306 Matthew Spence 2007  
 305 Harold Lebo 2011  
 298 Matt Wlasniewski 2011  
 287 Jason Horn 2002  
 276 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 275 Kerry Grim 1998  
 258 Tom Clauser 2007  
 253 Ernest Schiefer 1999  
 227 Bernard Morris 2011  
 219 Drew Weber 2011  
 208 Terence Schiefer 2006  
 207 Barbara Haas 1999  
 200 Chuck Chalfant 2011  
 194 Nick Pulcinella 2011  
 192 Larry Lewis 1988  
 189 Al Guarente 2011  
 174 Steve Santner 1995  
 173 Devich Farbotnik 2011  
 170 Randy C. Miller 2002  
 164 Patrick O'Donnell 2008  
 164 Jonathan Heller 2011  
 164 Michael Schall 2011  
 157 Bruce Carl 2011  
 149 Kevin Crilley 1998  
 145 Steve Farbotnik 2001  
 139 Scott Bills 1992  
 135 John Fedak 1999  
 131 Brian Byrnes 2011  
 111 Deb Grove 2011  
 104 Greg Grove 2010

BLAIR

221 Stan Kotala 2001  
 180 David Kyler 1996  
 160 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 134 Greg Grove 2011  
 127 Jim Dunn 2011  
 126 Deb Grove 2011  
 123 Helena Kotala 2002  
 104 John Fedak 1998  
 103 Steve Santner 1995

BRADFORD

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

BUCKS

330 Devich Farbotnik 2011  
 316 Steve Farbotnik 2006  
 298 Bill Etter 2010  
 290 Jason Horn 2002  
 265 Billy Weber 2011  
 259 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 251 William Murphy 2000  
 250 Bill Keim 2011  
 239 Thomas Ford-Hutch. 2006  
 228 Stanley Glowacki 2002  
 216 Anthony Ford-Hutch. 2006  
 215 Harry Franzen 1996  
 202 Stan Glowacki 1991  
 192 Michael Schall 2011  
 182 Al Guarente 2011  
 180 Bernard Morris 2007  
 169 Nick Pulcinella 2007  
 157 Kevin Crilley 1998  
 151 John Fedak 2005  
 129 Barbara Haas 2000

121 Steve Santner 1995  
 114 Jonathan Heller 2006  
 111 Thomas Mason 1999  
 110 Brian Byrnes 2011  
 103 Rick Koval 2004

BUTLER

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

CAMBRIA

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

CAMERON

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

CARBON

267 Barry Reed 2010  
 267 David Hawk 2011  
 245 Rick Wiltraut 1998  
 227 Jason Horn 2002  
 223 Dustin Welch 2011  
 212 Michael Schall 2011  
 208 Bernard Morris 2007  
 205 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 202 Robert Frantz 2000  
 158 Nick Kerlin 2003  
 128 John Fedak 2005  
 115 Steve Santner 1995  
 110 Randy C. Miller 2007  
 105 Devich Farbotnik 2009  
 104 Rick Koval 2004  
 102 Al Guarente 2002

CENTRE

272 Merrill Wood 1991  
 263 Harry Henderson 1991  
 261 Jim Dunn 2011  
 257 Greg Grove 2011  
 249 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 249 Joseph Verica 2011  
 245 Rick Wiltraut 1998  
 244 Terence Schiefer 1998  
 242 Drew Weber 2011  
 232 Eugene Zielinski 2000  
 226 Nathan Fronk 2011  
 221 Deb Grove 2011  
 218 Scott Bills 1992  
 203 Jeff Michaels 2005  
 184 Paul Schwalbe 1998  
 184 John Fedak 2005  
 180 Alex Lamoreaux 2010  
 176 Ian Gardner 2011  
 162 Russ Ruffing 1991  
 155 Chad Kauffman 2011  
 150 Nick Kerlin 2004  
 145 Steve Santner 1995  
 145 Kevin Crilley 1998  
 127 Barbara Haas 1999  
 125 Jonathan Heller 2003  
 123 Randy C. Miller 2006

CHESTER

272 Chuck Chalfant 2011  
 272 Nick Pulcinella 2011

268 Larry Lewis 1988  
 253 Al Guarente 2011  
 252 Barbara Haas 1996  
 252 Phillips Street 1996  
 246 John Ginaven 1998  
 246 Kevin Fryberger 2010  
 245 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 235 Theodore Drozdowski 2005  
 231 Joe Meloney 1994  
 212 Martin Page 2010  
 209 Jason Horn 2002  
 193 Neal Thorpe 1995  
 190 Brian Byrnes 2011  
 188 Pamela Fisher 2009  
 179 Devich Farbotnik 2011  
 174 Brian Henderson 2011  
 167 Steve Santner 1995  
 166 Thomas Reeves 2011  
 150 Bruce Carl 2011  
 139 Bill Keim 2011  
 137 Drew Weber 2011  
 126 Jonathan Heller 2002  
 121 Randy C. Miller 2006  
 115 John Fedak 2004  
 111 Terence Schiefer 1998

CLARION

255 John Fedak 2001  
 229 Walter Fye 1997  
 210 Deuane Hoffman 2004  
 200 Margaret Buckwalter 1996  
 181 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 163 Bill Reddinger 1999  
 154 Russ States 2002  
 152 Mark McConaughy 2003  
 150 Fred Crowley 1995  
 104 Steve Santner 1995

CLEARFIELD

224 Dan Richards 2011  
 202 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 186 John Fedak 2005  
 154 Eugene Zielinski 2000  
 114 Paul Schwalbe 1998  
 108 Jim Dunn 2010  
 101 Deb Grove 2011  
 100 Steve Santner 1995

CLINTON

248 Paul Schwalbe 2004  
 221 Wayne Laubscher 2011  
 215 Carol Hildebrand 2011  
 200 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 155 Greg Grove 2008  
 146 Jim Dunn 2011  
 141 Deborah Grove 2008  
 130 John Fedak 2000  
 120 Steve Santner 1995  
 101 Barbara Haas 1994

COLUMBIA

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

CRAWFORD

287 Ronald Leberman 2008  
 249 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 227 Margaret Higbee 2008  
 219 Marvin Byler 2005  
 218 John Fedak 2005  
 212 Geoff Malosh 2009  
 211 Sam Sinderson 2002  
 211 Roger Higbee 2008  
 201 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 193 Russ States 2002  
 164 Ed Kwater 1996  
 150 Greg Malosh 1991  
 148 Marjorie Howard 2007  
 146 Randi Garrish 2003  
 146 Sarah Garrish 2003  
 125 Michael Schall 2010  
 124 George Malosh 1989  
 123 James Flynn 1997  
 117 Randy C. Miller 1998



116	Dick Byers	2003	263	Ronald Leberman	2001	241	Deb Grove	2011
112	Steve Santner	1995	257	Jason Horn	2002	217	Jim Dunn	2011
107	Jonathan Heller	1998	257	Russ States	2002	216	Ian Gardner	2011
103	Don Henise	2000	253	Linda McWilliams	1992	196	Deuane Hoffman	2006
102	Terence Schiefer	1998	253	Margaret Higbee	2004	181	Merrill Wood	1991
100	Bill Reddinger	1999	249	Barbara Haas	1996	178	John Salvetti	2003
CUMBERLAND			237	Roger Higbee	1999	171	Lewis Grove	2000
278	Deuane Hoffman	2009	236	George Malosh	1989	155	Eugene Zielinski	1998
261	Don Henise	2000	235	Sam Sinderson	2005	136	Chad Kauffman	2011
259	Robyn Henise	2000	233	Gene Wilhelm	1992	127	Drew Weber	2011
247	Richard Colyer	1999	231	Dave Rieger	2003	122	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
220	Carl Garner	2011	225	Shannon Thompson	2011	108	Joseph Verica	2011
197	Steve Santner	1995	224	Randy C. Miller	2002	106	John Fedak	1998
176	George Wertz, Jr.	1986	223	Bob Machesney	2003	104	Steve Santner	1995
176	Chad Kauffman	2011	221	Richard Colyer	2000	INDIANA		
170	Mark McConaughy	2002	217	Greg Malosh	1991	281	Margaret Higbee	2008
165	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	208	Steve Santner	1995	262	Roger Higbee	2008
154	John Fedak	1998	204	Jonathan Heller	2002	233	Gloria Lamer	1992
144	Jonathan Heller	2010	197	Terence Schiefer	1998	232	Steve Graff	2000
144	Timothy Becker	2011	180	Don Henise	2000	212	Deuane Hoffman	2007
142	Devich Farbotnik	2011	180	Randi Gerrish	2003	195	Anne Hedgpeth	1986
139	Drew Weber	2011	179	Sarah Gerrish	2003	193	Leonard Hess	2003
124	Randy C. Miller	2007	178	Bernard Morris	1998	185	Linda Hess	2003
114	Deb Grove	2011	178	Marjorie Howard	2008	184	John Fedak	2001
111	Greg Grove	2011	169	Devich Farbotnik	2011	177	Mark McConaughy	2004
106	Jim Dunn	2011	164	Greg Grove	2010	173	Randi Gerrish	2003
101	Al Guarente	2011	146	J. Kenneth Gabler	1999	173	Sarah Gerrish	2003
DAUPHIN			144	Steve Graff	2000	137	Ross Gallardy	2003
289	Deuane Hoffman	2009	142	Michael Schall	2010	118	Steve Santner	1995
243	Scott Bills	2003	139	Rick Koval	2004	104	Bill Reddinger	1999
238	Mark McConaughy	1998	135	Deb Grove	2010	JEFFERSON		
235	Grace Randolph	1996	110	Bill Reddinger	1999	225	John Fedak	2000
234	George Wertz, Jr.	1986	108	Chad Kauffman	2010	181	Margaret Higbee	2008
219	Steve Santner	1995	100	Ross Gallardy	2004	172	Deuane Hoffman	1998
214	Chuck Berthoud	2010	FAYETTE			105	Bill Reddinger	1999
211	Richard Colyer	1999	170	Mark McConaughy	2004	104	Steve Santner	1995
194	Drew Weber	2011	153	Deuane Hoffman	2000	JUNIATA		
175	Don Henise	2000	126	John Fedak	2005	258	Aden Troyer	2010
172	Timothy Becker	2011	125	Randi Gerrish	2003	237	Deuane Hoffman	2007
160	Chad Kauffman	2011	120	Sarah Gerrish	2003	218	Chad Kauffman	2011
156	John Fedak	2002	119	Steve Santner	1995	143	John Fedak	2006
148	Ian Gardner	2011	111	Ed Kwater	1996	126	Greg Grove	2011
147	Randy C. Miller	2007	FOREST			125	Jim Dunn	2011
140	Jonathan Heller	2003	188	John Fedak	2005	123	Deb Grove	2011
128	William Reid	2001	183	Deuane Hoffman	2006	118	Jonathan Heller	2002
127	Merrill Wood	1991	141	Ted Grisez	1996	108	Steve Santner	1995
124	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	108	Steve Santner	1995	LACKAWANNA		
114	Greg Grove	2010	FRANKLIN			200	Glenn Czulada	2007
112	Deb Grove	2011	270	Carl Garner	2011	172	Deuane Hoffman	2003
110	Jim Dunn	2011	269	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	169	Rick Koval	2004
100	Nick Pulcinella	2010	216	Deuane Hoffman	2009	158	William Reid	2001
DELAWARE			215	Dale Gearhart	2000	136	John Fedak	2002
289	John Miller	1985	213	Jeffrey Walck	1989	103	Steve Santner	1995
285	Al Guarente	2011	146	Alex Lamoreaux	2010	LANCASTER		
276	Nick Pulcinella	2009	141	Don Henise	1997	328	Eric Witmer	2010
262	Skip Conant	2010	130	Steve Santner	1995	328	Tom Garner	2011
256	Barbara Haas	2000	114	John Fedak	1998	324	Deuane Hoffman	2009
251	Thomas Reeves	2011	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011	324	Randy C. Miller	2011
226	Paul Schwalbe	1998	FULTON			324	Robert Schutsky	2011
224	John Ginaven	1999	205	J. Kenneth Gabler	2000	316	Bruce Carl	2011
219	Deuane Hoffman	2009	200	Daniel Snell	2000	316	Jonathan Heller	2011
163	Brian Byrnes	2011	195	Deuane Hoffman	2007	306	Jerry Book	2000
151	Jason Horn	1995	152	Jeffrey Walck	1989	304	Chuck Chalfant	2011
145	Martin Page	2010	144	Carl Garner	2010	300	Barbara Haas	2009
130	Steve Santner	1995	119	Steve Santner	1995	292	Jan Witmer	1997
119	John Fedak	2001	118	Robert Walker	1989	291	Harold Morrin	1996
ELK			115	Dale Gearhart	2000	288	Jason Horn	2002
198	John Fedak	2006	108	John Fedak	2001	274	Steve Santner	1995
183	Linda Christenson	1997	GREENE			265	Drew Weber	2011
165	Deuane Hoffman	2005	195	Marjorie Howard	2009	251	Al Guarente	2011
105	Steve Santner	1995	194	Ralph Bell	1993	244	Nick Pulcinella	2011
ERIE			162	Deuane Hoffman	2001	243	Pamela Fisher	2009
324	Jerry McWilliams	2009	134	Roy Ickes	1996	240	Larry Lewis	1988
305	Donald Snyder	2002	109	Steve Santner	1995	224	Richard Colyer	2000
291	Sam Stull	1985	109	John Fedak	2001	213	Geoff Malosh	2009
291	Joyce Hoffmann	2002	103	Sam Sinderson	2000	212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
290	Deuane Hoffman	2007	101	Mark McConaughy	2003	209	Ernest Schiefer	2000
282	Geoff Malosh	2011	HUNTINGDON			201	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
277	John Fedak	2005	260	David Kyler	2011	198	Pamela Woodman	1993
274	Ed Kwater	1996	253	Greg Grove	2011	196	Dennis Weaver	2000
268	James Flynn	1997	248	Trudy Kyler	2011	187	Terence Schiefer	2009
268	Mike Fialkovich	2008				186	Timothy Becker	2011

184	Don Henise	1997
174	Chad Kauffman	2011
172	John Fedak	2006
164	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
160	Kevin Crilley	1998
155	Bernard Morris	2008
150	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
150	Devich Farbotnik	2011
150	Michael Schall	2011
148	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
147	Douglas Anderson	2003
146	Steve Farbotnik	2001
133	Martin Page	2009
132	J. Kenneth Gabler	2001
129	Mark McConaughy	2001
121	Brian Byrnes	2011
118	Margaret Higbee	1993
109	Marjorie Howard	2008
108	Roger Higbee	1993
107	Deb Grove	2007
106	Greg Grove	2009

LAWRENCE

212	Geoff Malosh	2011
210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
194	Margaret Higbee	2008
160	Deuane Hoffman	2006
158	John Fedak	2000
102	Steve Santner	1995

LEBANON

293	Randy C. Miller	2011
259	Deuane Hoffman	2009
251	Jonathan Heller	2011
236	Steve Santner	1995
234	Timothy Becker	2011
230	Chuck Chalfant	2011
217	Bruce Carl	2011
208	Stephen Mallanson	1996
206	Gerry Boltz	2010
202	Bruce Weaver	2000
201	John Fedak	2006
197	Chuck Berthoud	2011
181	Jason Horn	1995
155	Drew Weber	2011
152	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
132	Al Guarente	2010
130	Don Henise	1997
130	Pamela Fisher	2009
123	Nick Pulcinella	2011
122	Barbara Haas	1996
111	Chad Kauffman	2011

LEHIGH

272	Fritz Brock	2010
271	Jason Horn	2002
270	Bernard Morris	2011
260	Rick Wiltraut	1998
243	Billy Weber	2011
223	Michael Schall	2011
210	Dustin Welch	2011
208	Deuane Hoffman	2009
197	Bill Etter	2011
172	Devich Farbotnik	2011
136	Robert Frantz	2000
132	John Fedak	2005
110	Al Guarente	2010
104	Nick Pulcinella	2010
103	Steve Santner	1995
102	Matt Wlasniewski	2011

LUZERNE

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

LYCOMING

230	Paul Schwalbe	1998
223	Deuane Hoffman	2009
191	Nathan Fronk	2011

124	Steve Santner	1995
124	Carol Hildebrand	2008
119	John Fedak	1999
107	Jim Dunn	2011
104	Deb Grove	2011
103	Don Henise	2000
103	Greg Grove	2009
100	Randy Miller	2009

McKEAN

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

MERCER

248	Neil Troyer	2011
232	Harvey Troyer	1999
231	Jerry Troyer	1999
216	Eli Troyer	1999
213	Deuane Hoffman	1998
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
205	Margaret Higbee	2006
191	John Fedak	2000
190	Neal Troyer	1998
187	Geoff Malosh	2011
171	Russ States	2002
166	Marvin Byler	2002
124	Steve Santner	1995
102	Randi Garrish	1999

MIFFLIN

208	Greg Grove	2011
204	Deuane Hoffman	2005
162	Jim Dunn	2011
149	Deb Grove	2011
127	John Fedak	2006
109	Chad Kauffman	2011
108	Steve Santner	1995

MONROE

222	Phillips Street	1996
178	Michael Schall	2010
176	Jason Horn	1995
162	Deuane Hoffman	2003
138	Bernard Morris	2008
111	John Fedak	2001
111	Devich Farbotnik	2009
110	Steve Santner	1995
101	Rick Koval	2004

MONTGOMERY

275	Jason Horn	2002
260	William Murphy	1999
255	Kevin Crilley	1998
241	Harry Franzen	1996
238	Deuane Hoffman	2009
232	Bernard Morris	2010
223	Neal Thorpe	1997
211	Devich Farbotnik	2011
203	Joseph Greco	2008
197	Michael Schall	2011
184	Steve Farbotnik	2001
175	Al Guarente	2011
174	Nick Pulcinella	2011
172	Brian Henderson	2011
170	John Fedak	2005
154	Brian Byrnes	2010
141	Gregg Gorton	2001
137	Steve Santner	1995
134	Bill Keim	2011
133	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
129	Thomas Mason	1999
125	Thomas Reeves	2010
112	Martin Page	2009
107	Robert Walker	1989
105	Rick Koval	2004
100	Barbara Haas	1996

MONTOUR

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

NORTHAMPTON

294	Arlene Koch	2010
286	Dave DeReamus	2010
279	Michael Schall	2010
269	Rick Wiltraut	1998
264	Billy Weber	2011
251	Dustin Welch	2011
248	Jason Horn	2002
239	Bernard Morris	2009
232	Deuane Hoffman	2006
229	Steve Boyce	1990
220	Brad Silfies	1990
220	Dennis Miller	1998
219	Adam Miller	2000
181	Devich Farbotnik	2011
130	John Fedak	2005
125	Thomas Reeves	2011
118	Al Guarente	2011
117	Steve Farbotnik	2003
106	Steve Santner	1995
105	Matt Wlasniewski	2010
102	Randy C. Miller	2002

NORTHUMBERLAND

241	Deuane Hoffman	2004
228	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
166	Barbara Haas	1993
138	John Fedak	1999
112	Steve Santner	1995
106	Drew Weber	2011

PERRY

242	Deuane Hoffman	2009
235	Richard Colyer	2000
159	Don Henise	2000
157	Steve Santner	1995
141	Walter Shelly, Jr.	1992
139	Dallas Dowhower	1992
133	Chad Kauffman	2011
129	Randy C. Miller	2009
126	John Fedak	1998
119	Mark McConaughy	2001
117	Jonathan Heller	2001
111	Deb Grove	2011
107	Drew Weber	2011
101	Greg Grove	2011

PHILADELPHIA

290	John Miller	1985
256	Al Guarente	2011
245	Frank Windfelder	1992
244	Nick Pulcinella	2010
243	Harry Franzen	1996
241	Barbara Haas	1996
236	Skip Conant	2011
219	John Ginaven	1998
218	Thomas Reeves	2010
214	Deuane Hoffman	2009
184	Jim McKinney	1992
179	Brian Byrnes	2011
167	Jason Horn	1995
167	Gregg Gorton	2001
163	Stephen Lawrence	1990
155	Steve Farbotnik	2001
154	Steve Santner	1995
154	Bill Keim	2011
139	Brian Henderson	2011
129	Thomas Mason	1999
123	Devich Farbotnik	2011
120	Terence Schiefer	1998
113	John Fedak	1998
107	Kevin Crilley	1998
106	Martin Page	2008
101	Randy C. Miller	1998

PIKE

201	Joe Strasser	1994
201	Voni Strasser	1994
175	Michael Schall	2011
174	Deuane Hoffman	2003
144	Phillips Street	1996
138	John Fedak	2001
101	Steve Santner	1995
101	Barbara Haas	2001

POTTER

218	David Hauber	1999
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189	Chuck Chalfant	2011
173	Deuane Hoffman	2004
171	John Fedak	2003
106	Drew Weber	2011
104	Steve Santner	1995
104	Paul Schwalbe	1998

**SCHUYLKILL**

266	Tom Clauser	2005
223	Deuane Hoffman	2007
218	Mike Ward	2010
177	Jason Horn	1995
168	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
165	Bruce Carl	2011
155	Drew Weber	2011
152	Bernard Morris	2007
151	Dave Rieger	2003
133	Steve Santner	1995
127	Barbara Haas	2000
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Randy C. Miller	2009
104	Al Guarente	2002

**SNYDER**

215	Deuane Hoffman	2004
202	Allen Schweinsberg	2008
142	Chad Kauffman	2011
132	Steve Santner	1995
127	John Fedak	2006
119	Deb Grove	2011
111	Greg Grove	2011

**SOMERSET**

254	Jeff Payne	2008
251	Retta Payne	2008
238	Scott Bastian	1999
231	Christopher Payne	2008
185	Deuane Hoffman	2004
177	Richard Murphy	1998
170	Ross Gallardy	2003
168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
149	John Fedak	2000
126	Steve Santner	1995
109	Mark McConaughy	2004
108	Randi Gerrish	1999
107	Sarah Gerrish	1999
101	Greg Grove	2011

**SULLIVAN**

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

**SUSQUEHANNA**

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

**TIOGA**

223	Larry Brown	1998
215	Arlene Brown	1998
205	Benjamin Israel	2000
198	Deuane Hoffman	2006
179	Bruce Carl	2007
168	Drew Weber	2011
163	Chuck Chalfant	2011
153	John Fedak	2002
120	Steve Santner	1995
111	Nathan Fronk	2011
101	Matt Wlasniewski	2011

**UNION**

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

**VENANGO**

252	Russ States	2002
249	Gary Edwards	2003
220	John Fedak	2005
209	Deuane Hoffman	2006
175	Gene Wilhelm	1992
153	Nick Kerlin	1997
103	Steve Santner	1995

**WARREN**

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

**WASHINGTON**

231	Ross Gallardy	2009
231	Geoff Malosh	2011
210	Margaret Higbee	1993
209	Roger Higbee	1993
197	Roy Ickes	1996
161	Russ Ruffing	1991
158	Deuane Hoffman	2006
141	George Malosh	1989
115	Sam Sinderson	2002
106	John Fedak	1998
100	Steve Santner	1995

**WAYNE**

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

**WESTMORELAND**

247	Dick Byers	2008
232	Mark McConaughy	2008
208	Linda Christenson	1996
201	Margaret Higbee	2008
200	Randi Gerrish	2003
193	Sarah Gerrish	2003
193	Deuane Hoffman	2006
188	Linda Hess	2003
186	Roger Higbee	2008
185	Leonard Hess	2003
161	John Fedak	2006
137	Steve Santner	1995
129	Richard Murphy	1999
123	Sam Sinderson	2005
120	James Flynn	1997
116	Drew Weber	2011
114	Deb Grove	2008
112	Greg Grove	2008

**WYOMING**

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

**YORK**

274	Deuane Hoffman	2009
242	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
229	Russell Ryan	1993
227	Dick Cleary	2011
194	Steve Santner	1995
185	Ann Pettigrew	1996
172	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
169	Carl Garner	2007
166	Jeff Pheasant	1995
160	Jason Horn	1995
160	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
159	Paul Mauss	2011
158	Jonathan Heller	2003
154	Don Henise	2000
153	Candy Krenzer	1999
153	Randy C. Miller	2008
140	Drew Weber	2011
138	Don Henise	1997
121	John Fedak	2004
119	Nick Pulcinella	2010

113	Pamela Fisher	2009
113	Deb Grove	2011
111	Barbara Haas	1996
109	Greg Grove	2011

**County Life Lists Top 50**

1	330	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2011
2	328	Lancaster	Eric Witmer	2010
2	328	Lancaster	Tom Garner	2011
4	324	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2009
4	324	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2009
4	324	Lancaster	Randy Miller	2011
4	324	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	2011
8	316	Bucks	Steve Farbotnik	2006
8	316	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2011
8	316	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	2011
11	308	Berks	Ken Lebo	2011
12	306	Lancaster	Jerry Book	2000
12	306	Berks	Mathew Spence	2007
14	305	Erie	Donald Snyder	2002
14	305	Berks	Harold Lebo	2011
16	304	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2011
17	300	Lancaster	Barbara Haas	2009
18	298	Bucks	Bill Etter	2010
18	298	Berks	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
20	294	Northampton	Arlene Koch	2010
21	293	Lebanon	Randy Miller	2011
22	292	Lancaster	Jan Witmer	1997
23	291	Erie	Sam Stull	1985
23	291	Lancaster	Harold Morrin	1996
23	291	Erie	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
26	290	Philadelphia	John Miller	1985
26	290	Bucks	Jason Horn	2002
26	290	Erie	Deuane Hoffman	2007
29	289	Delaware	John Miller	1985
29	289	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2009
31	288	Lancaster	Jason Horn	2002
32	287	Berks	Jason Horn	2002
32	287	Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2008
34	286	Northampton	Dave DeReamus	2010
35	285	Delaware	Al Guarente	2011
36	282	Erie	Geoff Malosh	2011
37	281	Indiana	Margaret Higbee	2008
38	280	Luzerne	William Reid	2001
39	279	Northampton	Michael Schall	2010
40	278	Cumberland	Deuane Hoffman	2009
41	277	Erie	John Fedak	2005
42	276	Berks	Deuane Hoffman	2006
42	276	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	2009
44	275	Berks	Kerry Grim	1998
44	275	Montgomery	Jason Horn	2002
46	274	Lancaster	Steve Santner	1995
46	274	Erie	Ed Kwater	1996
46	274	York	Deuane Hoffman	2009
49	272	Centre	Merrill Wood	1991
49	272	Lehigh	Fritz Brock	2010
49	272	Chester	Chuck Chalfant	2011
49	272	Chester	Nick Pulcinella	2011

**County Annual Lists**

(Top 10 of 100 or More)

**ADAMS**

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

**ALLEGHENY**

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

<b>ARMSTRONG</b>			217	David Hawk	2010	217	Deuane Hoffman	2001
201	John Fedak	1997	215	David Hawk	2008	210	Deuane Hoffman	2005
177	Scott Bastian	1996	208	David Hawk	2011	148	Carl Garner	1997
152	Margaret Higbee	1993	204	David Hawk	2002	<b>DAUPHIN</b>		
149	Margaret Higbee	2008	201	David Hawk	2003	251	Deuane Hoffman	2005
141	Steve Graff	2000	198	Barry Reed	2010	246	Deuane Hoffman	2003
139	Roger Higbee	2008	194	Barry Reed	2009	242	Deuane Hoffman	2006
133	Bill Reddinger	1998	192	Michael Schall	2005	234	Deuane Hoffman	1997
116	Bill Reddinger	1999	<b>CENTRE</b>			231	Deuane Hoffman	1998
113	Mark McConaughy	1998	241	Joseph Verica	2011	230	Deuane Hoffman	2000
113	Mark McConaughy	2004	239	Drew Weber	2011	229	Deuane Hoffman	1996
<b>BEAVER</b>			224	Terence Schiefer	1985	226	Deuane Hoffman	2001
225	Geoff Malosh	2006	221	Molly Heath	2003	224	Deuane Hoffman	1999
202	Mark Vass	2005	221	Nathan Fronk	2011	210	Grace Randolph	1998
202	Mark Vass	2006	214	Terence Schiefer	1986	<b>DELAWARE</b>		
192	Geoff Malosh	2007	212	Drew Weber	2010	241	John Miller	1969
186	Bill Hintze	1999	211	Terence Schiefer	1984	211	Al Guarente	1996
168	Geoff Malosh	2005	203	Greg Grove	2006	209	Al Guarente	1998
161	Bill Hintze	2000	201	Jim Dunn	2003	206	Al Guarente	1997
124	John Cruzan	1994	<b>CHESTER</b>			205	Al Guarente	1995
117	Deuane Hoffman	1999	232	Kevin Fryberger	2009	203	Al Guarente	2005
110	George Malosh	1974	227	Holly Merker	2010	200	Sheryl Johnson	1997
<b>BEDFORD</b>			225	Larry Lewis	1988	200	Al Guarente	2010
223	Sally Dick	1997	225	Kevin Fryberger	2010	197	Al Guarente	2011
221	Tom Dick	1997	221	Larry Lewis	1983	194	Al Guarente	2007
155	Deuane Hoffman	1998	219	Larry Lewis	1986	<b>ELK</b>		
143	Chad Kauffman	2011	217	Chuck Chalfant	2006	116	John Fedak	1997
<b>BERKS</b>			200	Theodore Drozdowski	2005	113	Deuane Hoffman	1996
252	Ken Lebo	1995	197	Nick Pulcinella	2004	<b>ERIE</b>		
240	Ken Lebo	1999	197	Nick Pulcinella	2008	264	Sam Stull	1979
236	Ken Lebo	1997	<b>CLARION</b>			256	Jerry McWilliams	1992
235	Ken Lebo	2011	231	John Fedak	1998	252	Jerry McWilliams	1991
231	Matt Wlasniewski	2011	223	John Fedak	2000	251	Jerry McWilliams	1983
229	Ken Lebo	1996	219	John Fedak	1996	251	Jerry McWilliams	1988
219	Ken Lebo	1998	213	John Fedak	1997	251	Jerry McWilliams	2004
217	Matt Wlasniewski	2003	208	John Fedak	1999	248	Jerry McWilliams	1989
217	Matt Wlasniewski	2010	188	John Fedak	2001	246	Jerry McWilliams	1993
215	Matt Wlasniewski	1999	152	Deuane Hoffman	1998	245	Jerry McWilliams	1996
<b>BLAIR</b>			119	Mark McConaughy	1999	244	Jerry McWilliams	1985
143	Beryl Sternagle	1995	115	Bill Reddinger	1999	<b>FAYETTE</b>		
141	Beryl Sternagle	2000	<b>CLEARFIELD</b>			145	Mark McConaughy	2000
126	Beryl Sternagle	1990	203	Dan Richards	2011	112	Mark McConaughy	1998
121	Beryl Sternagle	1989	155	John Fedak	1997	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
<b>BRADFORD</b>			102	Deuane Hoffman	1997	<b>FOREST</b>		
147	Ronald Young	1993	<b>CLINTON</b>			144	April Walters	1993
146	Ronald Young	1992	159	Carol Hildebrand	2008	143	Richard Walters	1993
141	William Reid	1999	157	Carol Hildebrand	2005	138	Deuane Hoffman	2005
128	William Reid	2001	155	Carol Hildebrand	2011	132	John Fedak	1997
102	Deuane Hoffman	1996	153	Carol Hildebrand	2007	<b>FRANKLIN</b>		
<b>BUCKS</b>			143	Carol Hildebrand	2004	215	Dale Gearhart	1999
277	Devich Farbotnik	2002	142	Carol Hildebrand	2006	185	Carl Garner	1997
267	Devich Farbotnik	2011	133	Deuane Hoffman	2005	182	Carl Garner	2004
258	Devich Farbotnik	2007	125	Greg Grove	2005	180	Carl Garner	1993
253	Devich Farbotnik	2001	117	Deuane Hoffman	2000	180	Carl Garner	1994
253	Devich Farbotnik	2008	115	Deuane Hoffman	1999	180	Carl Garner	2007
248	Devich Farbotnik	2004	<b>COLUMBIA</b>			178	Carl Garner	1999
247	Devich Farbotnik	2000	117	Deuane Hoffman	1997	176	Carl Garner	2008
247	Devich Farbotnik	2009	112	John Fedak	1997	174	Carl Garner	1998
246	Devich Farbotnik	2006	111	Deuane Hoffman	1998	174	Carl Garner	2009
245	Devich Farbotnik	2003	<b>CRAWFORD</b>			<b>FULTON</b>		
<b>BUTLER</b>			230	Ronald Leberman	2009	173	Daniel Snell	1997
245	Gene Wilhelm	1983	223	Ronald Leberman	2011	128	Deuane Hoffman	1996
229	Gene Wilhelm	1985	222	Ronald Leberman	2007	120	Deuane Hoffman	2001
225	Gene Wilhelm	1982	222	Ronald Leberman	2008	115	Kenneth Gabler	1988
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998	208	Ronald Leberman	1994	112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
<b>CAMBRIA</b>			202	Ronald Leberman	1989	108	Kenneth Gabler	2000
177	John Salvetti	1992	201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	<b>GREENE</b>		
175	John Salvetti	1997	196	Ronald Leberman	2000	137	Ralph Bell	1985
174	John Salvetti	1995	188	Ronald Leberman	2003	134	Ralph Bell	1986
171	John Salvetti	1999	180	Marvin Byler	2000	130	Ralph Bell	1990
165	John Salvetti	1998	<b>CUMBERLAND</b>			122	Deuane Hoffman	2000
161	John Salvetti	2002	263	Andy Markel	2011	115	Marjorie Howard	2007
<b>CAMERON</b>			244	Andy Markel	2008	109	Marjorie Howard	2005
119	Deuane Hoffman	1998	227	Deuane Hoffman	1989	107	Deuane Hoffman	1998
<b>CARBON</b>			227	Andy Markel	2007	<b>HUNTINGDON</b>		
222	David Hawk	2009	226	Deuane Hoffman	1998	218	David Kyler	2011
218	David Hawk	2007	225	Deuane Hoffman	1992	214	Jon Kauffman	2011
			221	Deuane Hoffman	2000			
			219	Deuane Hoffman	1999			

213 Ian Gardner 2011  
 205 David Kyler 1996  
 201 Greg Grove 2003  
 195 Greg Grove 2008  
 194 Greg Grove 1994  
 191 Greg Grove 1992  
 191 Greg Grove 2000  
 191 Greg Grove 2004

INDIANA

206 Margaret Higbee 1993  
 203 Margaret Higbee 1991  
 203 Margaret Higbee 2008  
 195 Steve Graff 1998  
 186 Steve Graff 2000  
 173 Roger Higbee 2008  
 131 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 115 Mark McConaughy 2003  
 114 Mark McConaughy 1998  
 107 Mark McConaughy 2001

JEFFERSON

198 John Fedak 1997  
 143 Deuane Hoffman 1996  
 121 Deuane Hoffman 1998

JUNIATA

188 Aden Troyer 1996  
 176 Aden Troyer 1997  
 174 Chad Kauffman 2008  
 172 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 170 Deuane Hoffman 1996  
 167 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 167 Aden Troyer 2000  
 166 Aden Troyer 1995  
 166 Aden Troyer 1999  
 164 Chad Kauffman 2007

LACKAWANNA

169 Glenn Czulada 1996  
 161 Glenn Czulada 1995  
 117 Richard Koval 1995  
 103 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 103 William Reid 2001

LANCASTER

277 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 270 Chuck Chalfant 2009  
 268 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 268 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 258 Deuane Hoffman 2005  
 255 Robert Schutsky 1992  
 249 Jonathan Heller 1992  
 242 Deuane Hoffman 2001  
 239 Jonathan Heller 1993  
 236 Randy Miller 1991

LAWRENCE

210 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 118 John Fedak 1997  
 110 Deuane Hoffman 1996

LEBANON

222 Randy C. Miller 1999  
 220 Timothy Becker 2011  
 215 Randy C. Miller 1993  
 213 Randy C. Miller 2002  
 211 Randy C. Miller 2000  
 210 Randy C. Miller 2003  
 210 Randy C. Miller 2008  
 207 Randy C. Miller 2011  
 205 Randy C. Miller 1996  
 204 Randy C. Miller 1998

LEHIGH

227 Billy Weber 2011  
 200 Bernard Morris 1984  
 192 Michael Schall 2009  
 189 Michael Schall 2006  
 132 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 128 Michael Schall 2003  
 119 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 110 Michael Schall 2001

LUZERNE

224 Rick Koval 2001  
 220 Rick Koval 1996

220 Rick Koval 2002  
 219 Rick Koval 1995  
 219 Rick Koval 1997  
 206 Rick Koval 1994  
 153 William Reid 1999  
 132 William Reid 2001  
 121 Deuane Hoffman 1998

LYCOMING

178 Nathan Fronk 2011  
 158 Deuane Hoffman 2005  
 126 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 120 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 112 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 103 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 100 Don Henise 2000

McKEAN

222 John Fedak 2003  
 221 John Fedak 2005  
 219 John Fedak 2002  
 217 John Fedak 2004  
 151 John Fedak 2001  
 119 Deuane Hoffman 1996

MERCER

213 Harvey Troyer 1999  
 212 Jerry Troyer 1999  
 211 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 210 Neil Troyer 1999  
 208 Neil Troyer 2011  
 192 Neil Troyer 1997  
 192 Eli Troyer 1999  
 190 Neil Troyer 2001  
 190 Neil Troyer 2002  
 187 Neil Troyer 2009

MIFFLIN

164 Greg Grove 2005  
 160 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 155 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 139 Greg Grove 2011  
 128 Greg Grove 2003  
 127 Jim Dunn 2007  
 126 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 113 Deuane Hoffman 1996  
 100 Jim Dunn 2005

MONROE

181 Billy Weber 2008  
 160 Michael Schall 2003  
 145 Corey Husic 2009  
 103 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 101 Deuane Hoffman 1998

MONTGOMERY

194 Steve Kacir 2008  
 167 Joseph Greco 2002  
 153 Michael Schall 2004  
 151 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 150 Joseph Greco 2007  
 140 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 132 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 126 John Fedak 1997  
 113 Michael Schall 2002

MONTOUR

143 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 133 Deuane Hoffman 2005  
 126 John Fedak 1997  
 115 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 112 Deuane Hoffman 1998

NORTHAMPTON

236 Michael Schall 2003  
 231 Michael Schall 2004  
 226 Michael Schall 2008  
 220 Billy Weber 2004  
 212 Michael Schall 2007  
 210 Adam Miller 2000  
 209 Michael Schall 2006  
 209 Michael Schall 2010  
 206 Michael Schall 2002  
 206 Billy Weber 2003

NORTHUMBERLAND

227 Deuane Hoffman 2005

224 Deuane Hoffman 2003  
 157 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 147 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 144 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 128 John Fedak 1997

PERRY

202 Richard Colyer 1997  
 199 Deuane Hoffman 1995  
 193 Deuane Hoffman 1996  
 188 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 185 Deuane Hoffman 2005  
 184 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 179 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 171 Deuane Hoffman 2001

PHILADELPHIA

225 John Miller 1965  
 208 Edward Fingerhood 1996  
 162 Al Guarente 1992  
 135 Skip Conant 1999  
 133 Skip Conant 1998  
 132 Skip Conant 2000  
 127 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 127 Skip Conant 2007  
 123 Skip Conant 2008  
 120 Skip Conant 2001

PIKE

123 Michael Schall 2002  
 112 Deuane Hoffman 1999  
 109 Deuane Hoffman 2000

POTTER

169 Chuck Chalfant 2004  
 160 David Hauber 1992  
 160 David Hauber 1995  
 160 David Hauber 1999  
 157 David Hauber 1993

SCHUYLKILL

225 Tom Clauser 2005  
 217 Tom Clauser 2007  
 215 Tom Clauser 2004  
 212 Tom Clauser 1999  
 210 Tom Clauser 2001  
 210 Tom Clauser 2002  
 209 Tom Clauser 1996  
 208 Tom Clauser 1997  
 203 Tom Clauser 2000  
 203 Tom Clauser 2003

SNYDER

177 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 175 Deuane Hoffman 1996  
 172 Deuane Hoffman 1997  
 158 Deuane Hoffman 2000

SOMERSET

222 Scott Bastian 1999  
 219 Jeff Payne 2002  
 218 Jeff Payne 2003  
 216 Jeff Payne 1996  
 216 Retta Payne 1996  
 208 Scott Bastian 1994  
 206 Jeff Payne 1999  
 204 Christopher Payne 2008  
 202 Jeff Payne 2004  
 199 Christopher Payne 2006

SULLIVAN

140 Nick Kerlin 1999  
 130 Nick Kerlin 1995  
 125 Skip Conant 1995  
 124 Nick Kerlin 1997  
 123 Skip Conant 1999  
 121 Skip Conant 2000  
 118 Skip Conant 1998  
 114 Skip Conant 2001  
 114 Skip Conant 2002  
 114 Skip Conant 2008

SUSQUEHANNA

173 Jerry Skinner 2007  
 170 Jerry Skinner 2003  
 157 Jerry Skinner 2004  
 153 Jerry Skinner 2005



145	Jerry Skinner	1999
109	Deuane Hoffman	1997
109	William Reid	2001
107	William Reid	1999
105	Deuane Hoffman	1996
103	John Fedak	1997
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
TIOGA		
197	Benjamin Israel	2000
174	Larry Brown	1998
167	Larry Brown	1992
163	Benjamin Israel	1999
160	Arlene Brown	1992
142	Arlene Brown	1998
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998
110	Drew Weber	2010
108	Nathan Fronk	2011
UNION		
171	Deuane Hoffman	2004
121	Deuane Hoffman	1999
102	Deuane Hoffman	1998
VENANGO		
221	Gary Edwards	2000
207	Gary Edwards	1995
207	Russ States	2000
203	Russ States	2002
194	Gary Edwards	1991
192	Russ States	1991
113	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WARREN		
204	John Fedak	2003
201	John Fedak	2002
165	Ted Grisez	1992
152	Ted Grisez	1985
141	John Fedak	2001
117	John Fedak	1997
WASHINGTON		
192	Ross Gallardy	2006
134	Russ Ruffing	1985
132	Roy Ickes	1984
100	George Malosh	1975
100	Geoff Malosh	1999

WAYNE		
127	Deuane Hoffman	1997
121	John Fedak	1997
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WESTMORELAND		
190	Mark McConaughy	1999
179	Mark McConaughy	2000
175	Mark McConaughy	2002
167	Mark McConaughy	2003
163	Mark McConaughy	1998
163	Mark McConaughy	2001
138	Mark McConaughy	2004
WYOMING		
196	William Reid	1999
193	William Reid	1993
188	William Reid	2001
181	William Reid	1994
134	Richard Koval	1994
122	Richard Koval	1999
105	Skip Conant	2000
102	Skip Conant	1998
101	Skip Conant	2001
YORK		
219	Bruce Fortman	1999
214	Deuane Hoffman	1999
202	Deuane Hoffman	2001
196	Russell Ryan	1992
191	Randy Phillips	1999
190	Deuane Hoffman	2005
189	Deuane Hoffman	2000
182	Deuane Hoffman	1998
178	Russell Ryan	1991
153	Candy Krenzer	1999

8	263 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2011
9	258 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2005
9	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2007
11	256 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
12	255 Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
13	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
13	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2008
15	252 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
15	252 Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
17	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
17	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
17	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
17	251 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2005
21	249 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
22	248 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
22	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
24	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
24	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
26	246 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
26	246 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2003
26	246 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
29	245 Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
29	245 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
29	245 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
32	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985
32	244 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2008
34	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
34	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
36	242 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
36	242 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2001
36	242 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2006
39	241 Delaware	John Miller	1969
39	241 Centre	Joseph Verica	2011
41	240 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
41	240 Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
41	240 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
44	239 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1993
44	239 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1994
44	239 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2001
44	239 Centre	Drew Weber	2011
48	238 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1990
48	238 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1999
50	237 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1995
50	237 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2000

### County Annual Lists Top 50

1	277 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
1	277 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2009
3	270 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2009
4	268 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2000
4	268 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2006
6	267 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2011
7	264 Erie	Sam Stull	1979

## Summary of the Season Geoff Malosh

Heavy rain was a common theme in county reports, especially in eastern Pennsylvania, where no rain event this season had more impact (bird-wise) than the passage of Hurricane Irene 8/28. Irene was Pennsylvania's most productive tropical system since Isabel in 2003, bringing with it tropical storm force winds and an unprecedented fallout of rare terns all across the southeastern corner of the state. The impact of Irene is detailed in a separate article in this issue, and in the Birds of Note. The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, a Gulf of Mexico storm which made landfall in Louisiana, reached Pennsylvania less than two weeks later and caused historic flooding in areas already hard hit by Irene, particularly along the Susquehanna River. Rainfall totals in some areas were enormous; for example *Berks* was 12" above normal for the season, *Cumberland* had 10" in September alone, and Harrisburg set a

new record with 72" for the year. All of these abnormal totals were made possible by the two tropical systems, but unlike Irene, Lee did not bring very much in the way of unusual birds.

Most compilers reported a warmer than average season, especially in November. An unusual October snowstorm 10/29 particularly affected the southern half of Pennsylvania, where it dumped in excess of a foot of snow (and some unusual birds) in some areas, but no significant snow was seen anywhere in Pennsylvania thereafter, not even in *Erie* which experienced its third snowless November in a row. Many compilers lamented a poor shorebirding season due to the excessively wet conditions, yet there were still many significant sightings for this family anyway (more on this in a bit). Those who commented on the passerine migration generally gave positive reviews.

Even aside from the fallout from Irene, it was a memorable season for rarities, including such notables as **Pink-footed Goose**, **Purple Gallinule**, **Black Rail**, **Piping Plover**, **Black-necked Stilt**, all three **jaegers**, **White-winged Dove**, **Northern Wheatear**, **Green-tailed Towhee**, and **Harris's Sparrow**. There was even an earthquake 8/23 that was felt in most areas in Pennsylvania, particularly the south-central counties. Indeed, it was certainly a memorable autumn.

A **Pink-footed Goose** was found in *Bucks* 11/28 and remained to 12/1 to be seen by many. **Greater White-fronted Goose** appeared in three eastern counties by season's end, but November records in *Bedford* and *Westmoreland* were unusual. Injured **Snow Geese** continued from the summer season in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, and *Northampton*, and seven western

and central Pennsylvania counties tallied southbound individuals, mostly in November, including a total of 44 (with 17 "blue geese") in *Erie*. **Ross's Geese** were found in mid-November in *Delaware/Philadelphia* (one bird seen on both sides at Tincum) and *Fayette*. Unusual western Pennsylvania **Cackling Geese** were scored in *Clearfield* 10/18 and *Lawrence* 10/28. **Brant** set a new early date in *Bucks* 10/2 but otherwise their flight was fairly unremarkable.

There were few large waterfowl events in November, likely owing to the mild weather, but a storm 11/22-23 did have an effect across the state. A representative sampling from this storm: In *Berks* 103 **Gadwall** and 700 **Ring-necked Ducks** (the latter a record) were found among other species, *Huntingdon* saw 15 **Long-tailed Ducks** and 125 **Bufflehead**, *Somerset* birders recorded 600 **Bufflehead**, 420 **Horned Grebes**, 7 **Surf Scoters**, 12 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and 75 **Ruddy Ducks**, and the aforementioned **Ross's Goose** first appeared at Tincum at this time.

Impressive triple-digit counts of **Wood Duck** were made in *Adams*, *Bedford*, *Bucks*, and *Philadelphia*, but these paled in comparison to the 1419 counted in *Crawford* 9/17. An early **Gadwall** showed up in *Chester* 8/15. A well studied female wigeon in *Bedford* 11/26 was thought to be a **Eurasian Wigeon**. **Blue-winged Teal** had an exceptional season; they were reported in 17 counties, headed by an "astounding" 560 that passed Sunset Point in *Erie* 9/30. The next day (10/1) at Sunset Point, an equally impressive 745 **Northern Pintail** were tallied. In *Lancaster*, an early pintail was found 9/6, and in *Bucks* **Green-winged Teal** was present 7/31 and 8/9.

A probable juvenile **Ring-necked Duck** provided *Bucks* with its first ever August record. **Surf Scoter** was evenly distributed statewide across 11 counties, and **Black Scoter** and **White-winged Scoter** each appeared in six. All scoters seemed to arrive in two pulses centered around 10/22 and 11/22 (the latter being previously mentioned storm). In these same two windows, the majority of **Long-tailed Ducks** also occurred, in nine counties. *Indiana* carried the top **Bufflehead** count, with 1406 on 11/21, one day before hundreds more dropped onto reservoirs across the state. Two **Harlequin Ducks** in *Erie* were the only reported.

**Red-throated Loons** made their characteristic late November appearances, this season in nine counties, many of which were associated with the 11/22 storm. Summering **Common Loons** continued into the fall in *Berks* and *York*; best count was 229 in *Crawford* 11/28. Jerry McWilliams called it a "banner year" for **Red-necked Grebe** at the Sunset Point waterbird count, where 24 were counted mostly in November, but the species was found in only four other counties.

**Ruffed Grouse** was reported in a mere seven counties, a disappointing total; however it is a secretive species that birders do not often specifically look for. The only reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Northern Bobwhite** referred to obvious releases, including one crossing PA-51 in *Beaver* in a section that is a divided highway.

A **frigatebird sp.** was photographed over *Montgomery* during the passage of Irene 8/28. A sometimes-cooperative **American White Pelican** in *Crawford* entertained observers for nearly three weeks beginning 10/17, and was the only one reported for the season. **American Bittern** was reported in nine counties, with four of those reporting the species into November. A total of 66 **Great Egrets** in *Bucks* 8/7 was probably a new record; late Great Egrets persisted to the last half of November in *Berks*, *Lebanon*, and *Philadelphia*. **Little Blue Heron** probably no longer warrants the details shown in the fall season Birds of Note, but the species is shown there at least once more this time, with many reports in eight southeastern counties. Conversely, **Snowy Egret** was reported only from *Bucks*, an unusually poor showing, and **Cattle Egret** was not reported at all, in contrast to their strong showing in 2010. After a general absence through most of the 2000s, **White Ibis** have returned to Pennsylvania with a vengeance in recent years. There were reports from four counties, all of juveniles and mostly in August as expected, but one appeared in *Berks* 11/10 and remained well into the winter season, a first for the state. **Glossy Ibis** was seen in *Bucks* and *Lancaster*, and dark ibises not identified to species were also seen in *Chester* and *Erie*.

Reports of raptors were unremarkable, save the outstanding flight of **Broad-winged Hawks**. Several established hawk watches set

or nearly missed new daily or seasonal records (see Laurie Goodrich's annual summary elsewhere in this issue), but the species was also seen in impressive numbers away from hawk watches as well, such as the 4756 counted 9/18 in a *Lancaster* back yard, and many hundreds at the Blue Mountain Ski resort in *Carbon* in mid-Sep. One late Broad-wing was reported in *Allegheny* 10/19. The 10/29 snowstorm was thought to be the catalyst for an amazing showing of **Golden Eagles** at hawkwatches around the state over the next three days. This included 61 goldens at Allegheny Front 11/1, just one shy of the all-time one-day/one-site high count in Pennsylvania history. August **Merlins** were found in *Beaver*, *Lancaster*, *Indiana*, and *Lebanon*, and the famous and enigmatic **Prairie Falcon** returned to *Cumberland* for a sixth consecutive winter.

Reports of **Virginia Rail** were received from six counties, including an exhausted bird found on a Delaware patio. **Soras** were easier to come by, with markers in 10 counties. A **Black Rail** in *Cumberland* in mid-October was an outstanding find. Also unexpected was a **Purple Gallinule** in *Erie*, the second for that county this year and third overall. **Common Gallinule** were reported from only four counties this season with none after August. **Sandhill Cranes** continued to be widely reported this season, including birds seen away from nesting areas in *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Northampton*, and 2 in a *Washington* suburb of Pittsburgh that were enjoyed by many birders 9/23-25.

Many compilers felt that shorebirding was off, especially in the east where excessive rainfall flooded traditional shorebird sites during much of the peak shorebird season in August and September. Still, a larger view of the migration across the state reveals a season not so bleak, which featured unprecedented showings two species, namely **Sanderling** and **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and what were probably unprecedented showings for **Red-necked** and **Red Phalarope**.

A banded **Piping Plover** was present at Gull Point in *Erie* 8/14-15, and was later found to have been banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan. These days it's probably harder to find an unbanded Piping Plover in the Great Lakes region than it is to find a banded one. **Black-bellied Plover** was found in an impressive 13 counties and **American**

**Golden-Plover** in 18, including an amazing count of 150 goldens in *Lebanon* 10/4.

**Black-necked Stilt** was a one-day wonder in *Lancaster* 9/7. **American Avocets** made up for their poor showing in 2010 by appearing in nine counties this season, all but one in August (one bird in *Dauphin* in October was the exception). *Beaver* was the epicenter for **Solitary Sandpipers**; peak count reached 57 on 8/5, and one was still in the county as late as 10/4. **Willet** was found in four counties, including a rare appearance in *Delaware* 8/28 during Hurricane Irene, and an equally rare appearance in *Washington* 9/15. High counts of **Yellowlegs** were limited; best was 126 in *Lebanon* in October. Five **Whimbrels** were found in three counties, including one bird during Irene in *Bucks*. **Hudsonian Godwit** made a first-ever appearance in *Beaver* in October, one in *Berks* was likely done in by a snapping turtle in August, and up to 5 were recorded in *Lancaster* including up to three at a sod farm. It was a great year for **Ruddy Turnstone**, recorded in nine counties including four in the west (*Butler*, *Cambria*, *Clearfield*, and *Crawford*), and with only one individual attributable to Irene. **Sanderling** was found in 20 counties; very likely it was a season for this species unlike any in the past. Sightings of Sanderling, along with **White-rumped Sandpiper** (seen in 21 counties) are detailed in a separate article in this issue. **Western Sandpiper** was found in six counties, all before 9/14. The top **Semipalmated Sandpiper** count of 2600 was made at Tinicum in *Philadelphia* as usual, but **Least Sandpipers** were below average there with only 330 max. **Baird's Sandpiper** made another great showing in 2011 (appearing in 15 counties) but was well short of their historic showing of 2010. **Purple Sandpiper** hung around the breakwaters at Sunset Point in *Erie* in late November, giving several birders a chance at this hard-to-find species. **Stilt Sandpipers** (11 counties) and **Dunlin** (15 counties) were both widespread, with *Lancaster* (243) and *Cambria* (300) each yielding triple-digit counts of Dunlin 10/27. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was located in eight counties and **Long-billed Dowitcher** in four, impressive displays for both species which always make headlines wherever they are. **Short-billed Dowitchers** can occasionally be hard

to come by, so reports from 14 counties was impressive, with all but three of those exclusively in August.

All three phalaropes were recorded. **Wilson's Phalarope** was limited to one bird in *Crawford*, but **Red-necked Phalarope** was found in nine counties and **Red Phalarope**, a PORC review species, in five—amazing showings for both species. Several of the Red-necked Phalaropes were associated with Irene, including an amazing flock of 20 in *Lancaster*, but none of the Red Phalaropes were hurricane birds. *Clinton's* Red Phalarope was found injured; it was taken to a rehabilitator who saved the bird but determined it could not be released, so it was ultimately transferred into captivity at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

Hurricane Irene flung **Laughing Gulls** to unusual locations in *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Dauphin*, and out-of-range birds were also found in *Berks* and *Carbon* in September. Away from the east, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported in *Erie* and *Somerset*. **Franklin's Gull** appeared in *Bucks*, *Butler*, and *Erie* in October, and in *Philadelphia* and again in *Erie* in November. *Philadelphia's* potential first **Thayer's Gull** was photographed 11/29 and is currently under review.

As mentioned, Hurricane Irene brought rare terns to southeastern Pennsylvania in unimaginable numbers. These are detailed in a separate article in this issue, and in the *Birds of Note*, so here is presented merely the list of species: **Bridled Tern** (no doc), **Sooty Tern**, **Least Tern**, **Gull-billed Tern** (no doc), **Arctic Tern** (no doc), **Royal Tern**, and **Sandwich Tern**—all major rarities—were each recorded, as were the four regular terns (**Caspian**, **Black**, **Common**, and **Forster's**), each of these in impressive numbers.

Aside from Irene, tern reports were still impressive. **Caspian Tern** was found in 19 counties and **Black Tern** in 22 (including Irene birds for both species), leading several compilers to classify their flights as better than average. Not to be outdone, **Common Tern**, the least common of the four “common” terns, was found in 11 counties, with only three of these (*Berks*, *Chester*, and *Philadelphia*) scoring a Common Tern only during Irene. *Center* had multiple sightings up to 11/1, and *Washington* had just its second record. A weed bed developed again on the *Susquehanna* in

*Lancaster*, where top count of **Forster's Tern** was 565 on 8/25.

All three **Jaegers** were found this season. A single **Long-tailed** in *Bucks* was the only jaeger associated with Irene. An unidentified jaeger seen in *Lancaster* during the passage of Tropical Storm Lee was thought to be a Pomarine. All other jaegers were in *Erie*, where two each of **Parasitic** and **Pomarine Jaegers** were identified to species, and Parasitic/Pomarine-types were recorded three additional times.

A thrilling surprise was a **White-winged Dove** flushed from Gull Point Trail in *Erie* on the afternoon of 10/16. It remained for the rest of the day and was seen by a few other lucky chasers. Late **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found in *Allegheny* 10/31, *Chester* 11/3, and *Lehigh* 10/18. *Washington* had its first **Barn Owl** in over two decades. The bird was found in a barn near the city of Washington; its bands indicated it was released into the wild in northeastern Ohio. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding stations reported a relatively poor season. **Common Nighthawk** is a species of concern, so compilers usually make a point of listing all occurrences in their reports. This year they were listed in 25 counties with several of those praising a good season; organized counts in *Delaware* (4078) and *Venango* (588) produced top counts. October nighthawks were found in *Berks*, *Bucks*, and *Huntingdon*. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found in four counties, and the *Lebanon* **Chuck-will's-widow** continued from the summer season to at least 8/7.

It was another banner year for **Rufous Hummingbird** in the state. No less than 12 Rufous were definitively identified, to go along with 3 more *Selasphorus sp.* for the season. Amazingly, 5 of these birds were in *Northampton* alone, and *Allegheny* and *Dauphin* each contributed 2. One of the *Northampton* birds, an adult male at Jacobsburg State Park, was captured and found to have already been banded at River Ridge, Louisiana in January 2011. It was the second foreign recapture of a Rufous Hummingbird in Pennsylvania; the other was an adult female that was banded in Alabama and appeared in *Washington* in consecutive autumns 2006-07. The latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** stayed in *Chester* to 11/14.

Reports of flycatchers and vireos were generally unremarkable, except for two reports of **Western Kingbird**,

one each in *Philadelphia* and *Chester*. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, probably the rarest of the *Empidonax*, was found in 14 counties, but one must always wonder how many of these were silent and thus subject to careless identification. A **Least Flycatcher** was in *Chester* 11/25, continuing a small string of late fall sightings of this species in recent years. An unidentified *Empidonax* was also in *Chester* 11/4. **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported in 18 counties, with all but three of these reporting all sightings exclusively between 9/10 and 9/28. **Northern Shrike** got off to a good start this year with reports from 14 counties by season's end; one in *Philadelphia* was the first for that county since 1966. **Common Ravens** continued their rampant expansion throughout most regions of the state. This season reports of "out of range" ravens came from 16 counties, and included a pair successfully nesting in *Washington*. In the interesting anecdote department, one raven was spotted in *Centre* carrying a golf ball!

A **Cave Swallow** flew past the Allegheny Front hawk watch 11/1, the same day 61 Golden Eagles were also parading by. Late swallows included a **Purple Martin** in *Erie* 10/1, **Tree Swallows** in November in *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Philadelphia*, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** in *Chester* 11/14, and a **Barn Swallow** in *Philadelphia* 11/3 at the same site where Rough-wings now winter.

It was not a good year for either **Black-capped Chickadees** (south of their normal range) or **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. Late **House Wrens** were located in *Bucks* (11/20), *Centre* (11/5), and *Philadelphia* (11/26). A late **Marsh Wren** was also in *Bucks* 11/25. **Sedge Wren** was surprisingly not reported.

In a season overflowing with rare birds, surely none was as memorable as the **Northern Wheatear** that spent a week behind a Days Inn in Lickdale, *Lebanon* in early October. A characteristically fearless species, this bird was no exception, and it delighted birders from around the state as it foraged for insects in the hotel parking lot and surrounding area, often right at the feet of observers. Appearances of wheatears are often fleeting and have been a source of frustration for bird chasers in the past, but this bird more than made up for it. The flight calls of a potential **Bicknell's Thrush** were recorded in *Montgomery* 10/3 and were submitted for review. Good nocturnal

migrations were also observed in *Allegheny*, *Berks*, and *Lehigh*. (The *Allegheny* event 9/16 included all five spot-breasted thrushes, and both **Semipalmated Plover** and **Solitary Sandpiper**.) The only **Varied Thrush** for the season was spotted in *Huntingdon* 11/26. November **Gray Catbirds** were located in *Bucks*, *Centre*, and *Crawford*. **Brown Thrasher** was also found in the eleventh month in *Berks* and *Bucks*.

**Snow Buntings** sometimes do not appear before the end of November, so sightings of the species in 13 counties—as far south as *Cumberland* and as early as 10/24 in *Fulton*—was a bit surprising considering the mild November. **Lapland Longspurs** were scored in *Allegheny* (10/28) and *Erie* (10/29-11/18).

Warbler migration was generally considered good but without major fallouts. Most of the significant reports for this family came in the form of late staying birds taking advantage of the very mild November weather. An injured **Ovenbird** came to a feeder in *Lehigh* from 11/7 into December, where it fed on cracked corn. Late (mid-Sep) **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found in *Cumberland* and *Huntingdon*. **Lawrence's Warbler** was found in two counties (*Bucks* and *Centre*), while one of its two parent species, **Golden-winged Warbler**, was found in just four (*Bedford*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, and *Perry*). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** returned to a *Bucks* yard for the fourth time in five years; reports were also made in 14 other counties including one in *Philadelphia* 11/29. A late **Nashville Warbler** was in *Clearfield* 10/30. It was about an average season for **Connecticut Warbler**, with reports from 11 counties; all but one sighting occurred in September. A season total of 29 Connecticut Warblers were banded at Powdermill in *Westmoreland*. A late **Common Yellowthroat** was still in *Bucks* 11/27, as was a late **Northern Parula** 11/2. Five counties reported **Blackpoll Warblers** in November, including *Philadelphia* where one hung out with the wintering Northern Rough-winged Swallows at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant from 11/3 to at least 1/3/2012. A **Magnolia Warbler** that lingered in *Bucks* to 11/30 set a new county late date by seven weeks. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were recorded in November in *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Northampton*. **Prairie Warblers** in *Allegheny* 10/4

and in *Clarion* 10/10 were both late. **Wilson's Warbler** was found in 11 counties, including one late bird in *Lebanon* to 11/28. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was spotted in *Delaware* 11/26.

Pennsylvania's fourth **Green-tailed Towhee** was discovered at Blue Marsh Lake in *Berks* 11/20 and stayed into the winter, by which time it had been seen by hundreds of birders. It was often accompanied by an **Eastern Towhee**, giving Pennsylvania birders a rare two-towhee show. A **Chipping Sparrow** in *Adams* 11/26 was late. **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in an above-average seven counties, mainly in late September and October. **Henslow's Sparrow** was still singing in *Clarion* 9/28. **Nelson's Sparrow** was reported in *Bucks*, *Cumberland*, and *Philadelphia*, all precisely on time in mid-October. Two **Harris's Sparrows** were located, one in *Cumberland* 11/24-25, and one in *Berks* 11/26 which stayed well into the winter. This is another out-of-range species that has been found more often in recent years.

The only **Summer Tanager** was in *Philadelphia* in early October. Late **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were in *Montgomery* and *Philadelphia* both on 10/23. An **Indigo Bunting** in *Allegheny* 11/16 was the last for the state by two weeks. **Dickcissels** were in five counties, including one in *Susquehanna* reported via eBird.

**Rusty Blackbird** is another species that usually garners a full treatment in county reports. This season they were mentioned in 17 counties, but almost always in modest numbers. In *Bucks*, the **Baltimore Oriole** that had wintered in New Hope for seven consecutive years did not return in 2011. November orioles were nevertheless found in *Centre*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*.

Flyover **Red Crossbills** were snagged in *Centre*, *Chester*, and *Huntingdon*, all between 11/12 and 11/20. The only **White-winged Crossbills** were 2 in *Indiana* in late November. **Purple Finch** (17 counties) and **Pine Siskin** (18 counties) were the only winter finches reported in any appreciable volume, but neither appeared in large numbers. Hawk Mountain in *Berks*, for example, recorded only 73 siskins for the entire season. Most siskin reports were from late October through November, but one in *Allegheny* 9/16 was an outlier.

# Terns of Hurricane Irene, and other fallout

## Geoff Malosh

Hurricane Irene was first declared a tropical cyclone 20 August 2011, just east of the Lesser Antilles. Over the next few days it made landfalls at St. Croix, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas, reaching peak strength as a Category-3 storm with sustained winds of 120 mph near the Bahamas. As it approached the United States coast it turned north and then north-northeast, grazing the Outer Banks of North Carolina in the morning 8/27. By midnight 8/28 it had weakened to tropical storm status but still carried great destructive power with sustained winds in excess 70 mph at the storm center, along with torrential rainfall. The center of the storm passed to the east of Pennsylvania in the overnight and early daylight hours 8/28, barely grazing the coast of New Jersey before finally making landfall in the heart of the New York City metropolitan area late in the morning 8/28.

In Pennsylvania, tropical storm force winds (>39 mph sustained) were felt throughout eastern Pennsylvania—essentially everywhere east of a line extending from *York* northeast to *Wayne*—as the storm moved north through our latitudes 8/28. There was significant wind damage and flooding throughout this region of Pennsylvania. The far southeastern corner of the state was particularly hard hit, where flooding, extensive power outages, and fallen trees all caused disruptions for days afterward.

Irene was surely felt here in Pennsylvania, but the worst of it passed well to our east, making Irene unlike several of Pennsylvania's other ornithologically memorable storms of the past. The storms that cause the greatest fallout of rare birds in Pennsylvania are those that come ashore in the Carolinas and continue due north or even northwest, directly through Pennsylvania. Irene's track to our east put the typically most productive northeastern quadrant of the storm well outside of Pennsylvania, and thus we did not see any of the true "hurricane birds" such as petrels, storm-petrels, and the like.

Yet birders here in Pennsylvania will nevertheless remember Irene for the epic fallout of terns it brought to the southeastern counties. The action was centered on the lower Delaware River in *Bucks*, *Philadelphia*, and

*Delaware*, and at nearby bodies of water in those and adjacent counties, but rare birds attributable to the storm were found as far west as the Susquehanna River.

The fallout of **Royal Terns** in particular was staggering. Max count at any one location in *Bucks* was 6, but they were found in four different locations in that county, and the real total was likely higher. Five Royals were found on the Delaware River in *Delaware*, and one was also spotted in *Philadelphia*. Four Royals were spotted at Lake Ontelaunee in *Berks*, the first for that county since a hypothetical sighting in 1955. Single Royals were also found in *Lancaster* and *Chester*, which along with one possible bird in *Carbon* brought the total to six or seven counties reporting Royal Tern!

A number of other "mega rarities" were associated with Irene. The most unusual bird spotted during the storm was a single **Sandwich Tern** in *Philadelphia*, apparently seen in two different locations. No photos were obtained but documentation was submitted to PORC, which if accepted would add the species to the state's Provisional List. A **Bridled Tern** reported in *Philadelphia* would also make for a first state record, but at this time no documentation has been submitted. Similarly, a **Gull-billed Tern** reported in *Bucks* sadly lacked documentation. **Sooty Tern** was reported in *Bucks*, *Berks*, and *Philadelphia*, all of which were documented. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** reported in two locations in *Bucks* was also thought to be the same bird both times. A **frigatebird sp.** (of course almost certainly a Magnificent) was serendipitously photographed with a mobile phone over *Montgomery*. **Arctic Terns** were reported in *Philadelphia* and *Delaware*. **Least Terns** were found in four locations in *Bucks*, but these were far outdone by the reported 26 Least in *Philadelphia*!

The four "common" terns were also reported in great numbers. Black Terns were found in eight counties, with the peak of 60 (and possibly up to 100) in *Lancaster*. **Caspian Tern** was reported in five counties, with the peak count (among four locations) in *Bucks* topping out at 25, and a great tally of 37 was made in *Delaware*. The total of 55 **Forster's Terns** in *Philadelphia* was

tops, as was the ~150 **Common Terns** reported in *Philadelphia*, but the 50 in *Bucks* were also impressive. Hurricane-related Common Terns were reported in five counties.

Shorebirds also appeared in the southeastern counties during the storm. Reports of **Black-bellied Plover**, **American Golden-Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Sanderling**, and **Red-necked Phalarope** in *Bucks* were all attributable to Irene. *Carbon* had a rare encounter with **Sanderling** during the storm, as did *Delaware*. Unusual shorebirds noted on the Delaware River in *Philadelphia* included **Willet**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, and, again, **Sanderling**. Finally, the image of 20 **Red-necked Phalaropes** at the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster* after the storm had passed much have been quite memorable.

All of these sightings and more are detailed in full in the Birds of Note in this issue, and in the county reports (which see for complete details).

Considering the storm's track to our east, as discussed before it is not surprising that Pennsylvania did not see a "classic" fallout from Irene, complete with petrels and tropicbirds. However the truly stunning showing among terns was certainly unprecedented in Pennsylvania, and brought with it questions as to why exactly so many terns were associated with the storm. It seems logical to consider the fact that the storm hugged the coast of the United States for so long (where these species are in abundance) in conjunction with the fact that the storm passed southeastern Pennsylvania primarily in darkness. Terns displaced by tropical storms tend to reorient themselves quickly. This was in evidence even during Irene; there were literally dozens of rare terns found in Pennsylvania on 8/28, but not a single one on 8/29 or thereafter. But terns blown inland by a coastally-tracking storm *and in darkness* would certainly have a harder time navigating, and thus become even more likely to continue very far off course and turn up inland the next morning.

Of course the answer is unknowable, and it will likely take decades before the precise scenario of Hurricane Irene repeats and the results can be evaluated. Until then... good birding! -Ed.



# The White-rumped Sandpiper and Sanderling flights of 2011

## Geoff Malosh

In 2010, Baird's Sandpiper staged an unprecedented flight into Pennsylvania, when they were recorded in an amazing 26 counties (see *Pennsylvania Birds* 24:4, page 190). In 2011, two more shorebird species made what were likely unprecedented appearances in our state: White-rumped Sandpiper and Sanderling.

White-rumped Sandpiper was recorded in 21 counties and in some truly impressive numbers, with the largest flocks primarily in the eastern half of the state. Most notable of all was the sighting of over 100 White-rumps in *Northumberland* 9/13, a report gleaned from the PABIRDS email list for this compiler-less county.

Sanderling was found in 20 counties (including *Erie* and *Lancaster*, perhaps the only counties where Sanderlings are guaranteed to occur annually), providing many birders across the state a rare chance to see a Sanderling close to home. With the exception of *Erie*, the only double-digit count came from *Centre*. Overall, Sanderlings were a bit more evenly distributed around the state than were White-rumps. Additionally, the passage of Hurricane Irene 8/28 was

responsible for sightings of Sanderling in five counties (*Bucks*, *Carbon*, *Centre*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia*) and accounted for the only sightings of Sanderling for three of those (*Carbon*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia*).

Table 1 summarizes all sightings of White-rumped Sandpiper for the season, and Table 2 all sightings of Sanderling. Data were primarily collected from reports submitted by compilers, and were augmented with searches of the PABIRDS archives and eBird. Encouragingly, very few reports were found on PABIRDS or eBird that were not already accounted for in the county reports.

Incidentally, Baird's Sandpiper was recorded in 15 counties in 2011, very impressive again but well short of their historic showing in 2010. As I did for Baird's 2010, I made a quick check of the historical record, and again found that, like Baird's in 2010, the flights of both White-rumped Sandpiper and Sanderling in 2011 were likely unprecedented in Pennsylvania. This leaves one rightly wondering, which species is going to make history in 2012?

-Ed.

**Table 1. Reports of White-rumped Sandpiper in Pennsylvania, Fall 2011**

County	Date(s)	Location(s)	Peak Count	Comment
Beaver	9/6-7	Independence Marsh	2	
Bedford	8/3	Dunnings Creek Wetlands	3	
Berks	9/11-10/6	Gotwals pond; Longswamp Twp.	2	Up to 6 individuals for the season
Bucks	7/30-10/8	seven locations	33	Peak 9/7; also 12-14 from 9/8-12 at a different spot
Cambria	9/8-10/2	Prince Gallitzin State Park	15	Peak 9/10 from eBird
Centre	9/8-10/13	Fairbrook Wetlands; N. Nixon Rd.	3	Considered casual in <i>Centre</i>
Chester	8/9-9/8	Chambers Lake; Fallowfield Twp.	11	Peak 8/19 at Chambers L. was "remarkable"
Clarion/Venango	9/10-12	Kahle Lake	1	First known county record for Clarion
Crawford	9/26	Woodcock Lake	1	
Cumberland	9/7-20	Pine Road; High Mountain Road	40	Peak 9/7 on Pine Road
Erie	9/9-10/3	Presque Isle; SGL 314	2	Total of 9 for the season with 7 at PISP
Franklin	9/8	eBird report	1	
Huntingdon	9/8	Pennsylvania Furnace	several	First county record
Lancaster	9/12-Oct	Conejohela Flats; Manheim	5	Peak 9/18 with regular sightings thereafter
Lawrence	9/10-11	Three Rivers Gravel Pond	1	
Lebanon	9/24-10/27	Reistville/Prescott Rd.; Kreider Farm	16	Peak 9/25 at Reistville/Prescott Rds.
Lehigh	9/1-8	Fogelsville	45	Peak of 45 during storms 9/7-8
McKean	8/20	Redbridge	n/a	
Northumberland	9/13	Turbotville (PABIRDS report)	100	In a pond on Paradise Road (see Photo Highlights)
Washington	9/13-15	Bentleyville	2	

**Table 2. Reports of Sanderling in Pennsylvania, Fall 2011**

County	Date(s)	Location(s)	Peak Count	Comment
Bedford	8/3	Dunnings Creek	2	
Bucks	8/6-28	Three locations	1	Considered rare in Bucks
Cambria	9/8-10/6	Prince Gallitzin State Park	8	Peak 9/8 from eBird
Carbon	8/28-9/1	Beltzville State Park	2	3 total for the season
Centre	8/28-9/9	Bald Eagle State Park	13	Peak 9/5-9
Clinton	9/6-10	South Avis; Lockport	n/a	Multiple birds at South Avis following heavy rain
Crawford	8/14-9/9	Woodcock Lake; Pymatuning Res.	4	
Cumberland	9/9-10/2	High Mountain Rd.; Wertzville Road	2	4 total birds equaled the county total for past 30 yrs.
Delaware	8/28	Delaware River	1	
Erie	8/14-11/18	Presque Isle State Park	54	Peak 8/14
Franklin	9/7	Greencastle Reservoir	2	
Huntingdon	9/10	Huntingdon	2	First county record; birds were seen at a WalMart
Indiana	9/6	Yellow Creek State Park	1	
Juniata	9/8	Juniata River	1	Possibly the county's first
Lancaster	8/29-9/30	Conejohela Flats; Lugalaw Road	7	Peak 8/29 and regular thereafter
Lebanon	9/11-29	Kreider Farm	2	3 sightings, compared to 4 total prev. county records
Lehigh	9/7-8	Fogelsville	1	
Northampton	9/15	Bethlehem Twp.	1	
Philadelphia	8/28	Pennypack on the Delaware	1	
Tioga	9/8	Hills Creek State Park	6	eBird report



## Birds of Note – August through November 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Pink-footed Goose\**** - *Bucks*: one initially at Peace Valley Park and later Pine Run Dam 11/28-12/1 (ph. August Mirabella, *doc submitted*).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Bedford*: one over Shawnee State Park 11/6 (Tom Dick); *Chester*: one at Somerset Lake 11/27 (W. Brian Henderson, Jane-Marie Gauthier, Larry Lewis); *Lehigh*: one at Egypt 11/12 (Billy Weber) was the first of several through the end of the season; *Westmoreland*: one at Trout Run Reservoir 11/23 (Robert C. Leberman).

**Ross's Goose** – *Delaware/Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 11/22 (Todd Fellenbaum); *Fayette*: one at Greenlick Run Lake 11/16 (Mike Fialkovich).

**Cackling Goose** – *Bucks*: present beginning 10/31 through the period, with a high of 9 on 11/24 (m.ob.); *Chester*: multiple birds; *Clearfield*: one at Dubois 10/18 (Dan Richards); *Delaware*: 4 at Middletown 10/3 (Al Guarente), and 4 at Darlington Tract 10/22 (Al Guarente); *Lawrence*: one at Three Rivers Gravel Pond 10/28 (Mark Vass); *Montgomery*: at Green Lane Res. 11/16 to the end of the period (Kevin Crilley); *Northampton*: 8 at Green Pond 11/27 (Dave DeReamus), followed by 12 there 11/30 (Tom Johnson, Andy McGann).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Bedford*: 5 (apparent family of 2 adults and 3 young) at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 11/12 (Tom Dick).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Bedford*: one female at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 11/26 was suspected to be this species (Tom Dick).

**Harlequin Duck\*** - *Erie*: two females flew past Sunset Point 11/4 (Shannon Thompson, Jerry McWilliams, Richard Nugent).

**Eared Grebe** – *Cambria*: multiple birds at Prince Gallitzin State Park first seen 9/17 (Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamar, Dave Gobert, John Salvetti, Lee Carnahan); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning State Park 10/9-13 (Ronald F. Leberman, Clare Nicolls).

**Frigatebird sp.\*** - *Montgomery*: one photographed over Plymouth Meeting 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Chris Dooley, *doc submitted*);

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: one at Giving Pond 11/12 (Paul Cooper).

**Anhinga\*** – *Chester*: one over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/24 (Larry Lewis, Hank Davis, *doc submitted*); *Huntingdon*: one at Stone Mountain Hawk Watch 10/25 (David Kyler,

Ron Crandel, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one over the Pennsylvania Turnpike 9/17 (Dan Snell, *no doc*).

***American White Pelican*** – *Crawford*: one near Ford Island 10/17-11/5 (Scott Kinzey).

**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: continued from summer at Rohm and Haas, with 4 on 8/7 and 3 on 8/27 (Devich Farbotnik).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Adams*: one juv. at SGL 249 8/20-9/5 (Phil Keener, et al.); *Berks*: one juv. at Lake Ontelaunee 8/12 (Matt Spence); *Bucks*: high of 3 on 8/7 and one remaining to 8/27 at Rohm and Haas (Devich Farbotnik), one at LaSalle College 8/1-3 (Mark Gallagher, Bill Keim, August Mirabella), one at Washington Crossing (Mark Gallagher), one at Bradford Dam 8/16 (Ken Rieker), and one imm. at Falls Twp. Community Park 11/6 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Octoraro Reservoir (Holly Merker, Kevin Fryberger), one at Exton Park 8/18, and one at Chambers Lake 8/17-29 (Holly Merker, Larry Lewis); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/12 (Tim Becker); *Montgomery*: one at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 8/5 (Ron Grubb), and one at Evansburg State Park 8/20 (W.B. Henderson); *Philadelphia*: up to 8 at Tinicum (m.ob.), and up to 2 at Morris Arboretum to 8/10 (Ken Januski); *York*: one each at Lake Redman and Codorus State Park 8/15-9/15 (m.ob.).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Dauphin*: 4 juvs. in the Bellevue section of Harrisburg 8/16 (Ian Gardner, Alex Lamoreaux), and 2 adults in Highspire 9/10 (Karl Kugle).

**White Ibis\*** – *Berks*: one juv. at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg 11/10 stayed through the season and at least into Jan 2012 (Ken Haas); *Bucks*: one imm. at Core Creek Park 8/3 (ph. Bill Keim, *doc submitted*); *Cumberland*: one juv. at West Fairview for much of Aug (Andrew Markel, Ramsay Koury, *no doc*); *Dauphin*: one juv. at Marysville 8/11-12 (Bill Clifton, Larry Usselman) was probably the same as a bird which reappeared there 8/20-28 (*doc submitted*); *Franklin*: one near Chambersburg 8/29 (Larry Lehman, Joan Bowen, *no doc*).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/9 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Falls Twp. Community Park 8/14 (Devich Farbotnik), and 16 at Penn-Warner Tract 9/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 9/14 (Bob Schutsky).

**Plegadis sp.** – *Chester*: one over W. Brandywine Twp. 8/15

(Laura Wagner); *Erie*: one over Lake Erie at Sunset Point 10/24 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Mississippi Kite\*** - *Bucks*: one over Tyler State Park 8/19 (Bob Shaffer, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Second Mountain 9/14 (Dave Schwenk, *no doc*) and one there 9/28 (Dave Schwenk, Morris Cox, *no doc*).

**Swainson's Hawk\*** - *Berks*: one dark morph juv. at Hawk Mountain 9/27 (Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, *no doc*).

**Prairie Falcon\*** - *Cumberland*: one returned to the Mudlevel Road area for the sixth consecutive winter beginning 11/29 (Dan Snell, Vern Gauthier) (*doc submitted previously*).

**Black Rail\*** - *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 10/16 (Vern Gauthier) and 10/18 (Matt Sabatine) (*doc submitted*).

**Purple Gallinule\*** - *Erie*: one immature at Long Pond on Presque Isle 10/9 (Brian Morse, Brian Berchtold, ph., *doc submitted*).

**Piping Plover\*** - *Erie*: one banded bird at Gull Point 8/14-15 (Brian Berchtold, ph. Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*) was banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan.

**Black-necked Stilt\*** - *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/7 (Tim Becker, *doc submitted*).

**American Avocet** - *Carbon*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 8/14 (Dave Hawk, m.ob.); *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 8/6 (Greg Grove, et al.); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 8/10 (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi); *Crawford*: one at Millers Ponds 8/31-9/3 (Ronald F. Leberman, m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna River near Royalton 10/18 (Patricia and Richard Williams); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 8/5 (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: at the Conejohela Flats, one 8/6-7 (Bruce Carl, Tom Garner, Eric Witmer), 7 on 8/10 (Jerry Book), and one 9/10 (Bob Schutsky), and one at Octoraro Lake 8/7-8 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton); *York*: 2 at Long Arm Reservoir 8/12 (Barry and Jen Horton, Richard Cleary), and one there 8/27 (Richard Cleary).

**Willet** - *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/13-14 (Brian Berchtold, Shannon Thompson); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Frank Windfelder, Todd Fellenbaum); *Washington*: one at Bentleyville 9/15 (Andy Berchin); *York*: one at Lake Redman 8/27 (Richard Cleary).

**Upland Sandpiper** - *Bedford*: 2 near Buffalo Farm 8/16 (Tom Dick); *Crawford*: one at Sugar Lake 9/5-6 (Richard Eakin); *Cumberland*: one on High Mountain Road 9/11 (Andrew Markel); *Lancaster*: present again in August along Millport Road (Bruce Carl, Jonathan Heller); *York*: one at Althouse School Road 8/12 (Randy Phillips, Richard Cleary).

**Whimbrel** - *Bucks*: one at Mud Island 8/14 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at the Wrightstown Sod Farms 8/27 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin SP 9/16 (Dave Gobert); *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 8/14 (Jerry McWilliams) and one at Gull Point 8/20 (Dave Wilton).

**Hudsonian Godwit** - *Beaver*: 2 juvs. at Independence Marsh 10/4 (Becky Smith, ph. Geoff Malosh) represented a county first, one remained 10/5; *Berks*: one juv. at Oley 9/11 (Rudy Keller) was likely wounded by a snapping turtle 9/12 and later died at a rehabilitation center; *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/6 (Bob Schutsky) and 2 there 9/7 (Matt Sabatine), and 3 at a sod farm near Manheim 9/7 (Chuck Chalfont) with one also there 9/10 (Bruce Carl).

**Marbled Godwit** - *Philadelphia*: 2 at Tinicum 8/9 (Al Guarente).

**Ruddy Turnstone** - *Bucks*: one at Mud Island 8/7 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at the Wrightstown Sod Farms 9/7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: one at Lake Oneida 8/28-8/29 (Mark Vass); *Cambria*: 3-7 present at Price Gallitzin State Park 9/16-10/6 (m.ob.); *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 8/6 (Gretchen Lasser, Delia Guzman), and one at Bald Eagle State Park 9/8-9 (Nick Thomas, et al.); *Clearfield*: one near Luthersburg 9/15 (Dan Richards); *Crawford*: one to 3 on the Pymatuning Causeway 8/29-9/9 (Clare Nicolls, Scott Kinzey, Shawn Collins, Steve Sanford); *Lancaster*: 5 at the Conejohela Flats 9/6 (Jerry Book, Bob Schutsky) and one there 9/18; *Lebanon*: one at Reistville/Prescott Roads 9/24-25 (Jonathan Heller) and one north of Reistville 10/14 (Tim Becker, Randy Miller); *Philadelphia*: one on the Pennypack on the Delaware 8/28 (Todd Fellenbaum, Frank Windfelder).

**Red Knot** - *Erie*: 7 at Gull Point 9/5 (Don Snyder), and one at Gull Point 10/2-3 (Mike Weible).

**Western Sandpiper** - *Chester*: 2 at Chambers Lake 8/25-26 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/20 (Mike Weible); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 11/12 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); *Huntingdon*: 2 at Pennsylvania Furnace 9/8 (Jon Kauffman, Ian Gardner, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler); *Lancaster*: one at a sod farm near Manheim 9/1 (Bruce Carl); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 9/14 (Frank Windfelder).

**Purple Sandpiper** - *Erie*: one at Sunset Point 11/6 (Jerry McWilliams), and another at Sunset Point 11/28 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, Jerry McWilliams).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** - *Bucks*: one at Plumstead Twp. 8/28 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at Buckingham Twp. 9/12-13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 9/18-26 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Cumberland*: 2 juv. on Pine Road 9/5-7 (Vern Gauthier, Matt Sabatine, Andrew Markel); *Huntingdon*: one at Pennsylvania Furnace 9/8 (Jon Kauffman, Ian Gardner, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler); *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 9/3-4 (Bob Schutsky), one at a sod farm near Manheim 9/1 (Bruce Carl), and one at a flooded field on Ligalaw Road 9/8 (Barb and Frank Haas); *Lebanon*: one at Reistville/Prescott Roads 9/24 (Jonathan Heller); *Lehigh*: one at Breinigsville 9/15 (Billy Weber); *Mercer*: up to 4 at Haas, Hamburg, and Heckman Roads 9/6-11 (Steve Sanford, Neil Troyer); *Washington*: 3 at Bentleyville 9/15 (Andy Berchin).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** - *Centre*: one at Fairbrook Wetlands/Tadpole Road 10/15 (Mike Dreibelbis, Alex Lamoreaux, Drew Weber, Tim Schreckengost, Josh Lefever, Nate Fronk, Bill Oyer) was a first for the county; *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning 9/21 (Ronald F. Leberman), one at Pymatuning 11/20 (Karen Jackson), and one at Millers Pond 11/20 to the end of the season (Shawn Collins, Mark Vass); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 10/23 (Mike Weible); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider Farm Pond 10/9-14 (Stan Stahl), one or 2 at Reistville/Prescott Roads 10/12-24 (Jonathan Heller, Stan Stahl).

**Wilson's Phalarope** - *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 9/4-5 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, Shawn Collins).

**Red-necked Phalarope** - *Bucks*: singles at Nockamixon State Park (Devich Farbotnik, Matt Sabatine), Plumstead Twp. (Matt Sabatine), and the Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik) all 8/28 during Hurricane Irene; *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 8/28 (Scott Lewis, Jim Dunn); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 8/11 (Larry

Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi, Chuch Chalfant); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 9/6 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer); *Lancaster*: an amazing 20 at the Conejohela Flats 8/28 after Hurricane Irene (Jerry Book, Jonathan Heller, Randy Miller) and one there 8/29 (Eric Witmer); *Lawrence*: 4 at the Three Rivers Gravel Pond 9/10-11 (Mark Vass, ph. Geoff Malosh); *Lebanon*: one adult at Kreider Farm Pond 8/31 (Chuck Chalfont, et al.), and one juv. there 9/2-4 (Anne Hurst, Pat & Richard Williams); *Somerset*: one downed in bad weather 11/23 at Summit Mills (Nancy Yoder); *Venango*: one at Kahle Lake 9/10 (Jerry Stanley).

**Red Phalarope\*** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 11/16-17 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *doc submitted*); *Clinton*: one disabled bird in a cow pasture near Salona 10/8 unable to fly (David Stoltzfus, Wayne Laubscher, *doc submitted*) was deemed by a rehabilitator as unable to survive in the wild, and was ultimately transferred into captivity at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California; *Erie*: one at Gull Point 10/2 (Mike Weible, *no doc*), and one at Sunset Point 11/28 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*); *Luzerne*: one at Harveys Lake 10/6 (ph. Rick Koval, *no doc*); *Warren*: one on the Allegheny River at Tidioute 9/22 (Kenneth Nicholson, *doc submitted*).

**Black-headed Gull\*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/6 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*).

**Little Gull** – *Erie*: 4 adults for the season 10/25-11/7 (Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Ben Coulter).

**Franklin's Gull** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 10/20 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at Falls Twp. Community Park 10/22 (Devich Farbotnik, Matt Sabatine); *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur 10/21 (Mark Vass, ph. Ben Coulter); *Erie*: one at Sunset Point 10/16 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Jerry McWilliams), and one in the channel at Presque Isle 11/10 (Mike Weible); *Philadelphia*: one crossing the Delaware River 11/22 (Tom Bailey).

**Thayer's Gull\*** – *Erie*: one adult at the Lake View Landfill 11/11 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one at Pleasant Hill Park 11/29 (Frank Windfelder, *no doc*).

**Iceland Gull** – *Bucks*: first reports of the season were at Newtown 11/23 (Bill Keim) and Peace valley Park 11/24 (August Mirabella).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/22 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one imm. at Sunset Point 11/30 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Sooty Tern\*** – *Berks*: one juv. at Lake Ontelaunee 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Rudy Keller, Katrina Knight, Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski, et al., *doc submitted*); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract (Jeff Vinosky, Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*), and 2 at Peace Valley Park (Ken Reiker, *doc submitted*) were likely the same as 2 at Nockamixon State Park (Don Freiday, Beth Ciuzio, Ray Hendrick, Matt Sabatine, *doc submitted*), all 8/28 during Hurricane Irene; *Philadelphia*: 2 adults at Race Street 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (George Armistead, *doc submitted*).

**Bridled Tern\*** – *Philadelphia*: one seen well in New Jersey crossed into Pennsylvania at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Tom Bailey, *no doc*).

**Least Tern** – *Berks*: one imm. at Blue Marsh Lake 9/22-25 (Joan Silagy, Ken Lebo); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley

Park 8/27 (August Mirabella), and 3 at the Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik), one at Core Creek Park (Devich Farbotnik, Bill Keim, Matt Sabatine), 2 at Bristol (Gerry Dewaghe, Chris Dewaghe), all 8/28 during Hurricane Irene; *Philadelphia*: 26 at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Frank Windfelder).

**Gull-billed Tern\*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Jeff Vinosky, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one at the Naval Business Center 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Debbie Beer, *no doc*).

**Common Tern** – *Berks*: 4 at Lake Ontelaunee 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (m.ob.); *Bucks*: up to 50 at several locations 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (m.ob.), and one at Bristol 9/29 (Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella); *Cambria*: 3 at Prince Gallitzin State Park 9/20-23 (Dave Gobert, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Centre*: 2 at Bald Eagle State Park 9/8-9 (Joe Verica), 3 at Bald Eagle State Park 10/30-31 (Joe Verica), and one at Bald Eagle State Park 11/1 (Bob Snyder); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek State Park 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (m.ob.); *Crawford*: 6 at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 9/5 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson), and one near Ford Island 10/22 (Clare Nicolls); *Huntingdon*: 2 at Lake Raystown 9/27 (David Kyler); *Lancaster*: present in small numbers to 10/16 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: at least 60 and perhaps as many as 150 on the Delaware River 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (m.ob.); *Somerset*: 3 at Somerset Lake 10/13 (Anthony Marich); *Washington*: one at Cross Creek County Park 9/7 (John Boback).

**Arctic Tern\*** – *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Al Guarente, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: 3 at Pennypack on the Delaware (Frank Windfelder, Todd Fellenbaum, *no doc*).

**Royal Tern\*** – *Berks*: 4 at Lake Ontelaunee 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Rudy Keller, Katrina Knight, Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski, et al.); *Bucks*: 6 at the Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik), one at Nockamixon State Park (Geoff Malosh), one at Core Creek Park (Devich Farbotnik, Bill Keim, Matt Sabatine), and one at Bristol (Gerry Dewaghe, Chris Dewaghe) all 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (all *doc submitted*); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Frank and Barb Haas, *no doc*); *Delaware*: 5 on the Delaware River 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Al Guarente, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one imm. at the Conejohela Flats 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Jerry Book, *doc submitted*) and one at Middlecreek W.M.A. 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Bruce Carl, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one on the Delaware River 8/28 during Hurricane Irene (Todd Fellenbaum, George Armistead, *doc submitted*).

**Sandwich Tern\*** – *Philadelphia*: one at Race Street (George Armistead) and later at the Delaware River Trail (Matt Sharp, Todd Fellenbaum, *doc submitted*) were likely the same bird.

**Parasitic Jaeger\*** – *Erie*: single imms. passed Sunset Point 11/10 and 11/18 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

**Pomarine Jaeger\*** – *Erie*: single imms. passed Sunset Point 11/6 and 11/7 (Rich Rehrig, Jerry McWilliams, Mike Weible, *doc submitted*).

**Jaeger sp.** – *Erie*: one Parasitic/Pomarine passed the bluffs at SGL 341 on 10/1 (Geoff Malosh), and single unidentified jaegers passed Sunset Point 10/2 and 10/7 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one probable Pomarine at the Conejohela Flats 9/6 during Tropical Storm Lee

(Jerry Book, Bob Schutsky).

**Long-tailed Jaeger\*** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park (Matt Sabatine, *no doc*) and one at Peace Valley Park (Devich Farbotnik, Matt Sabatine, *no doc*) were likely the same individual.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Cumberland*: one bird shot by a hunter at SGL 169 on 10/5 (*fide* Andrew Markel); *Dauphin*: one in Middletown 8/15 (Ian Gardner, Alex Lamoreaux).

**White-winged Dove\*** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 10/16 (ph. Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, *doc submitted*).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon Twp. 10/28 (Devich Farbotnik).

**Chuck-wills-widow\*** – *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap continued from the summer to 8/7 (Matt Sabatine).

**Rufous Hummingbird** – *Allegheny*: one ad. female in Carnegie 11/1 though the season (Scott Kinzey), banded 11/5, and one ad. female in Squirrel Hill 11/9 through the season (Peter Keyel), banded 11/10; *Chester*: one at flowers in West Goshen Twp. 10/10-15 (Nick Pulcinella), and one at Devon 11/24 (ph. Joe Flood); *Dauphin*: one imm. female in Highspire 10/1 to the end of the season (Sandy Lockerman), banded 10/2, and another imm. female in South Hanover Twp. 10/13-16 (Jan Getgood, Scott Weidensaul, et al.); *Lebanon*: one first year male at Grantville 11/11 through the season (Kathy and Tim Becker), banded 11/12; *Lehigh*: one first year female near Cedar Creek Park from early Nov (Scott Burnet, Barbara Malt), banded 11/16; *Northampton*: an amazing five reports as follows: one ad. female at Walnutport (David and Rhonda Wagner) was banded 11/25, one ad. female at Delabole 10/29 (Tom and Mona Swope) was banded 11/11, one likely Rufous at Jacobsburg State Park 11/4-5 (Rick Wiltraut) was not captured, one ad. male at Jacobsburg State Park 11/13 (Pat Houck) was captured 11/14 and found to have already been banded 1/9/2011 at River Ridge, Louisiana, and one in Oct near Wind Gap (Tom and Sylvia Harrington) was banded in Dec; *York*: one present at South Hanover beginning early Oct (Karla Aramcost) was banded 12/15.

**Selasphorus sp.** – *Bucks*: one Rufous/Allen's at Peace Valley Park 11/8 (ph. Harris Brown) was not associated with a feeder; *Lycoming*: one in Unityville 10/5-6, and one in Warrensville 10/22-30 (Wayne Laubscher).

**Western Kingbird\*** – *Chester*: one at Exton Park 10/25 (ph. Jeff Loomis, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/29 (ph. Frank Windfelder, *no doc*).

**Northern Shrike** – *Butler*; *Clarion*; *Clearfield*; *Crawford*; *Delaware/Philadelphia*; *Erie*; *Huntingdon*; *Jefferson*; *Lawrence*; *Luzerne*; *Northampton*; *Wyoming*.

**Cave Swallow\*** – *Bedford*: one at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch 11/1 (Mike Lanzone, m.ob., *no doc*).

**Northern Wheatear\*** – *Lebanon*: one juv. at Lickdale 10/6-10/10 (Steve Patterson, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Bicknell's Thrush\*** – *Montgomery*: one recorded on nocturnal migration at Elkins Park 10/3 (Paul Driver, *recordings submitted*).

**Varied Thrush\*** – *Huntingdon*: one near Masseyburg 11/26 (Jon Kauffman, *doc submitted*).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 9/10 (Harry McGarrity, Dave Zamos, Lori Gladulich); *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 8/29 (ph. Alex Lamoreaux).

**Golden-winged Warbler** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 8/5 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Tyler State Park

8/22 (Bill Keim), and one at Peace Valley Park (Jean Burch, Tena Kellogg); *Centre*: singles at Scotia Barrens 8/26-30 (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.); *Perry*: one at Miller's Gap 9/9 (Ramsay Koury).

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Bucks*; *Carbon*; *Cantre*; *Chester*; *Cumberland*; *Dauphin*; *Indiana*; *Lehigh*; *Philadelphia*; *Westmoreland*.

**Green-tailed Towhee\*** – *Berks*: one at the Stilling Basin at Blue Marsh Lake 11/20 stayed into the winter season (Jody Hey, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Berks*: one at SGL 110 on 10/16 (Kerry Grim); *Centre*: one at Panther strip mine 9/25 (Joe Verica); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/25 (Larry Lewis, Hank Davis); *Clarion*: one near Curllsville 10/10 (Carole Winslow); *Juniata*: one at Lost Creek Shoe Shop 9/28 (Aden Troyer); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 9/28 (Jarrod Derr, David McNaughton); *Philadelphia*: at Pennypack on the Delaware and the Delaware River Trail 10/27-11/12 (ph. Frank Windfelder, Tony Croasdale, Matt Sharp).

**Nelson's Sparrow** – *Bucks*: reported on four dates from 10/6-25 at Pine Run Dam (Devich Farbotnik, Matt Sabatine); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 10/16 (Matt Sabatine), and 5 there 10/18 (Andrew Markel); *Delaware*: one at Barrett's Meadow 10/7 (Al Guarente); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/18 (Frank Windfelder, Todd Fellenbaum).

**Harris's Sparrow\*** – *Berks*: one first winter bird near Kempton 11/26 (Peter Schienberger, Susan Rogers, m.ob., *doc submitted*) stayed into the winter season; *Cumberland*: one juv. on the Cumberland County Rail Trail 11/24-25 (ph. Vern Gauthier, *doc submitted*).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Philadelphia*: one at Fairmount Park 10/3 (Matthias Feuerensanger, *doc submitted*).

**Dickcissel** – *Allegheny*: one at Boyce-Mayview Park 10/3 (ph. Jeff McDonald); *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 8/14 (Ken Reiker *fide* Devich Farbotnik), and one at Maple Knoll Farms 10/14 (Richard and Vicky Smith); *Centre*: one on North Nixon Rd. 9/9 (Alex Lamoreaux, Anna Fasoli, Tim Schreckengost, Nate Fronk), and one at Circleville Farm (Joe Verica); *Chester*: one at Londonderry Twp. 8/14 (Ed Sigda), one at Chambers Lake 10/17 (Rick Robinson), and one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/30 (Larry Lewis); *Susquehanna*: one at Potter Hill Farm 10/21 (ph. Doug Shelton, eBird).

**Red Crossbill** – *Centre*: one at David's Vista 11/20 (Joe Verica) was identified as type-1; *Chester*: one flyover at Longwood Gardens 11/12 (Larry Lewis); *Huntingdon*: one at Tussey Mountain 11/20 (Joe Verica).

**White-winged Crossbill** – *Indiana*: 2 near Indiana 11/25 (Gary Ferrence).

**Evening Grosbeak** – *Berks*: one flew past Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 10/23 (Laurie Goodrich/HMS).



## PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



**American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*).** This bird was present near Ford Island, *Crawford* 17 October to 5 November 2011 (here 23 October) where it was usually visible but often very distant, yet at least a few observers were lucky enough to be afforded a close encounter. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*).** An unexpected surprise on Long Pond at Presque Isle, *Erie* 9 October 2011 was this juvenile, *Erie's* third of this species but second in 2011. (*Brian Morse*)



**White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*).** Taken at Kaercher Creek Park in Hamburg, *Berks* 11 November 2011, this image of was the first of many hundreds of this ibis, as the bird remained deep into the winter season and became Pennsylvania's first-ever wintering White Ibis. (*Ken Haas*)



**Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*).** This exhausted bird was found and photographed on a patio in Glen Mills, *Delaware* 9 August 2011. (*Haris Hadzic*)



**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).** This bird was one of two present in August 2011 at a potential new nesting location in downtown Scranton, *Lackawanna*. (*Jason Farmer*)



**Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*).** These two birds were present in Peters Township, *Washington* (a suburb of the greater Pittsburgh area) 23 to 25 September 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)





**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*).** It was a great season for avocets in Pennsylvania, recorded in eight counties. One of Lancaster's several contributions to the total was this bird at the Conejohela Flats 6-7 August 2011. (Eric Witmer)



**Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).** Another species with a fine showing across Pennsylvania this season was Ruddy Turnstone; these three were photographed on the causeway at Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford 29 August 2011. (Scott Kinzey)



**Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*).** Beaver's first godwits of any sort came unexpectedly when these two juvenile Hudwits appeared at Independence Marsh 4 October 2011. One remained the next morning but was gone by midday. (Geoff Malosh)



**Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).** Sanderlings were found in an amazing 20 counties, quite possibly a record total for the state. This bird was present at in a busy boat launch parking area in Lockport, Clinton 6 (here) to 8 September 2011. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*).** Pennsylvania's only Marbled Godwits this season were these two at Tinicum, Philadelphia 9 August 2011. (Frank Windfelder)



**White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*).** Another species found in what were perhaps unprecedented numbers this season was White-rumped Sandpiper; this flock of 100+ was photographed at Turbotville, Northumberland 13 September 2011. (Lauri Shaffer)





**Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*).** Baird's Sandpiper was present at Imperial, *Allegheny* for the second year in a row, after a five-year hiatus. This juvenile was photographed there 18 September 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).** Centre's first Long-billed Dowitcher, shown here 15 October 2011, was present at Fairbrook Wetlands/Tadpole Road. (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



**Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*).** This beautiful juvenile was one of two at Independence Marsh from 5 (here 7) to at least 8 August 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).** One of six found this season, this injured bird was found in a cow pasture 8 October 2011 in Salona, *Clinton*. The bird was rehabilitated but could not be rereleased; it was ultimately transferred into captivity at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



**Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*).** This bird present near Fredonia, *Mercer* was one of at least three Buff-breasted present in a plowed field that also held up to 4 golden-plovers, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper in early Sept. Photographed here 12 September 2011. (*Scott Kinzey*)



**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).** A close look at the lobed feet of the injured individual captured at Salona, *Clinton* 8 October 2011. (*Wayne Laubscher*)





**Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*).** This species was recorded in nine counties this season. Shown here is one of four wonderfully cooperative individuals at a gravel pond near New Beaver, Lawrence, 11 September 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*).** Hurricane Irene, which passed to the east of Pennsylvania 28 August 2011, will long be remembered for the fallout of terns it brought to the state. These two Sooties were photographed at Lake Nockamixon, Bucks. The species was reported in three counties that day. (*Don Freiday*)



**Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*).** This first winter bird was present for one evening only at Moraine State Park, Butler 21 October 2011; fortunately it was nicely photographed. (*Ben Coulter*)



**Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*).** No rare tern put on better show during Hurricane Irene than did Royal Tern; these 3 birds, incidentally all of which were banded) were photographed at Van Sciver Lake, Bucks. Royal Tern was reported in at least six counties during the storm. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



**Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).** This first winter bird at Pleasant Hill Park, Philadelphia 29 November 2011 would represent a first for Philadelphia if accepted. The record is currently under review (*Frank Windfelder*)



**Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*).** Often difficult to photograph, this bird was one of at least 30 that were cooperatively foraging fairly low and in the lights over a tennis court in Moon Township, Allegheny 22 August 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)





**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).** This previously banded male was recaptured at Jacobsburg State Park, *Northampton* 14 November 2011; it was originally banded in its first winter 9 January 2011 at River Ridge, Louisiana. It represented only the second recapture in Pennsylvania of a Rufous that was banded outside of the state. (*Ed Norman*)



**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*).** This surprising bird at Pennypack on the Delaware 9 October 2011 represented *Philadelphia's* eighth record for the species. (*Frank Windfelder*)



***Selasphorus* sp.** This outstanding image was made at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 8 November 2011. It was an outstanding season for Rufous Hummingbirds in Pennsylvania, with 12 positively identified statewide, along with an additional three *Selasphorus* reported for the season. (*Harris Brown*)



**Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*).** This very late bird was found and photographed at Exton Park at Church Farm School 25 November 2011. (*Holly Merker*)





**Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*).** Pennsylvania's fourth Green-tailed Towhee appeared 20 November 2011 at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks* (here 27 November). It quickly gained fame as it stayed deep into the winter season and was viewed by hundreds of birders. (*Ed Norman*)



**Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).** This outstanding portrait of a memorably cooperative bird was made at Circleville Farm, *Centre* 5 October 2011. (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



**Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*).** This dull Nelson's photographed at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* 18 October 2011 was thought to be of the *subvirgatus* population. (*Todd Fellenbaum*)

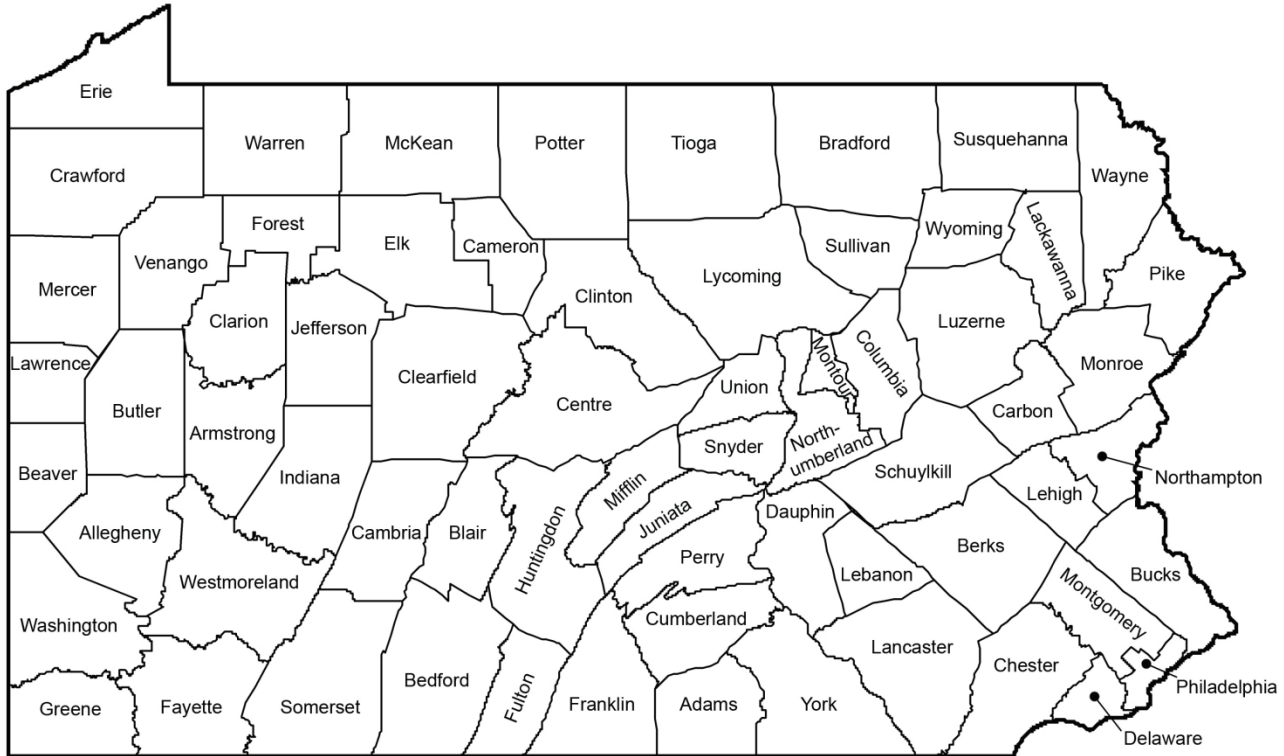


**Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*).** This bird at Boyce-Mayview Park, *Allegheny* in the afternoon of 3 October 2011 proved to be a 10-minute wonder, as searches by several birders beginning just an hour later were all unsuccessful. (*Jeff McDonald*)



**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).** This fine portrait was made at South Avis, *Clinton* 8 September 2011. (*Wayne Laubscher*)

# Local Notes – August to November 2011



## ABBREVIATIONS

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

## Adams County

Locations: East Berlin (EB), Freedom Township IBA (FRDM), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg College Quarry (GCQ), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Huntingdon Township (HUNT), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Rd (MTN), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

Reporting was down somewhat this period, and reports of shorebirds were scarce. The reported birds took a back seat to the rather amazing progression of events Mother Nature presented: an 8/23 earthquake, the remnants of Hurricane Irene in late August, the torrential rains from Tropical Storm Lee in early September, and 5 inches of wet snowfall 10/29 which caused extreme damage, as the bulk of *Adams'* deciduous trees had not dropped their leaves.

Waterfowl highlights included 10 **Snow Geese** at GBG 10/22 (JPe), 44 **American Black Ducks** at the Rte. 94 Quarry 11/23 (PK), and the ongoing presence of a **Northern Shoveler** at GCQ through at least 9/6 (AW). A serendipitous 9/27 sighting of **Wood Ducks** going to roost occurred as a result of the observer hanging around past dusk at the SGL wetland pond along Gun Club Rd. to watch a small number of bats (PK). With darkness fast approaching, woodies came into roost

with a final count of 105. This event was repeated the following night with a count of 90. Four **Horned Grebes** were found at the Rte. 94 Quarry 11/23 (PK).

**Wild Turkey** sightings were limited to two reports from MTN of 3 birds 9/18 and 8 on 9/30 (RDS). **Great Egrets** were at two locations, LAR and SGL, from 8/20-9/5. A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** was at SGL 8/20-9/5 (PK, et al.). **Bald Eagles** were seen on three occasions and **Peregrine Falcon** was reported twice, 9/24 at FRDM (CK) and 11/6 at GNMP (DW).

Reports of **Common Gallinule** at SGL from 8/22-28 (DJG) were highlighted by an 8/26 sighting of one adult and three juveniles (KH). These followed sightings of single birds in June and suggest successful breeding at this location. **American Coot** put in an extended stay at SGL from 10/11-11/23, with a high count of 20 on 11/23 (PK). Of the very few shorebird reports, the most noteworthy was a 9/5 report of up to 12 **American Golden Plover** on both the *Adams* and *York* side of LAR (RP, PJR). A nice total of 47 **Killdeer** was made at GCQ 8/31 (AW). A saturated field of stubble along Weirmans Mill Rd. held 12 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/27 (PK).

There were three reports of **Common Nighthawk** 9/1-3; the high count of 50 at MTN 9/3 (RDS) was encouraging. The last report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 10/1 at EB (PK). **Yellow-bellied**



**Sapsucker** was at HUNT 9/25-26 (DJG) and at MTN 11/30 (RDS).

Four **Willow/Alder Flycatchers** at GNMP 9/23 (NLU) were on the late side. The trend of **Common Raven** sightings outside of MICH continued, with 3 seen 9/4 at Taneytown Road (AW) and 2 at GNMP 11/2 (NLU). It wasn't an irruption year, but two **Black-capped Chickadees** were found at GBG on 10/22 (JPe). There were four reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 10/11-11/2. A **Hermit Thrush** was at HUNT 11/25-26 (DJG). **American Pipit** was seen at GNMP 11/2 (DF). The feeding habits of **Cedar Waxwings** are most typically associated with berry crops, but 18 of them were demonstrating their insect hawking abilities at SGL 8/20 (PJR). Good waxwing counts also included 55 at GNMP 10/28 (ZC) and 45 at SGL 11/23 (PK). The latter group was in the company of ~100 **American Robins**.

Warbler sightings were limited to 12 species with reports coming from GNMP, MTN, and SGL at the expected times. Best of the sightings were 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** at GNMP 8/11 (JP). A GNMP sighting of four **Scarlet Tanagers** 9/23 (NLU) was a nice fall count.

Sparrow reports were on the light side. A **Chipping Sparrow** at HUNT 11/25-26 (DJG) was late. The last report of **Field Sparrow** was of 10 at GNMP 11/2 (NLU). **Swamp Sparrow** was found at SGL and GNMP. **White-crowned Sparrow** reports came from EB 10/29 (PK) and HUNT 11/12-13 and 11/25-26 (DJG).

There was a single report of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at GNMP 9/17 (KC). **Eastern Meadowlark** reports spanned 8/7-10/22 with a high count of 15 at GNMP 9/20 (AW). The sole **Purple Finch** sighting came from HUNT 11/25-26 (DJG). Pine Siskin was not reported.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Ken Chalsson, Zeke Corwell, Donald Freiday, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Kevin Hall, Britt Isenberg, Chad Kauffman, Nick Lund, Joe Pescatore (JPe), Jason Pietrzak, Randy Phillips, Peter Robinson (PJR), Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Diann Williams, Andy Wilson.

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### **Allegheny County**

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Dashields Dam (DASH), Imperial (IMP).

August weather was fairly normal with some hot days as usual. Thunderstorms were regular however these did not drop shorebirds into the county as in previous years. September brought the first cooler weather by mid-month. October storms and wind stripped leaves from the trees and we had our first snowfall of the season with one to two inches of wet snow in *Allegheny*. By contrast, the first half of November featured unseasonably warm days.

The first **Tundra Swan** flock was reported 10/30 flying over Shaler Twp. (JH). A flock of 100 was spotted flying over Harmar Twp. 11/10 (JV) and 26 flew over Franklin Park 11/11 (OM). Other flocks were noted after dark in Squirrel Hill (TM, NM) and Forest Hills 11/16 (TBI), and 8 flew over Pine Twp. 11/17 (PL, SL). Flocks were heard over Tarentum 11/21 (RP) and Pine Twp. 11/22 (PL, SL). **Wood Duck** numbers peaked at 53 at Boyce-Mayview Park 10/28 (DW, ST). An **American Black Duck** was at IMP 10/20 (MV) and a **Blue-winged Teal** was at North Park 9/21 (RM). A **Northern Shoveler** was a nice find at BMP 11/5 (JM). Single **Northern Pintails** were at IMP 10/20 (MV) and BMP 11/5 (JM). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were at IMP 11/11 (MV). An early **Surf Scoter** was on the Ohio R. at Leetsdale 10/3 (BS). A single **Bufflehead** was at IMP 11/10 (GG) followed by small numbers in the following weeks. A flock of 14 was at Duck Hollow 11/21 (JS, SS). An early **Common Merganser** was at DASH 8/12 (MV). A female was at Duck Hollow from late Sep through the season (m.ob.). A **Ruddy Duck** was at IMP 10/9 (MV).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at BMP 10/29 (DW, ST) and one was at North Park 11/9 (PL) and 11/21 (PL, SL). A **Ruffed Grouse** was at North Park 9/15 (SC). There have been a few reports this year at the park which is encouraging because grouse have been difficult to find in the county in recent years. A **Northern Bobwhite** was at North Park 9/2 (DN). A few years ago bobwhites were regularly seen at the park for a period of time so someone must be releasing them.

Four **Common Loons** were spotted flying over Fall Run Park in Shaler Twp. 11/24 (JH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at IMP 8/31 (MV); two were present in Sep (MV). This species was reported through Nov at various locations (m.ob.). Four **Horned Grebes** at Duck Hollow 11/22 (JS, SS) and one at North Park 11/23 (PL, SL) were the only reports.

There were surprisingly few reports of **Double-crested Cormorants**. Seven were at DASH 8/12 (MV), 6 were at Emsworth 11/2 and 9 were there 11/25 (PB). Two were at DASH 11/19 (MV). A **Great Egret** spent some time at North Park. It was first discovered 8/24 (SL) and was still present up to 9/23 (m.ob.); two were there 9/26 (PL, SL).

**Turkey Vulture** reports continued into late Nov. **Osprey** were reported along area rivers from mid-Aug through Sep with the last report 10/3 at Duck Hollow (TM, NM). Two adult **Bald Eagles** were at DASH 8/12 (MV) and one was there 11/19 (MV). One was at North Park 9/9 (BG). **Broad-winged Hawk** was in Pine Twp. 8/11-9/16 and a late bird was still there 10/19 (PL, SL). The only other report was from Knob Hill Park 9/16 (KD). What was believed to be a **Golden Eagle** was observed in flight near Oakdale 10/4 (RT). The observer was driving and unable to stop to get better views. A **Merlin** was in Oakland 10/16 (CD). A **Virginia Rail** was a nice find at Wingfield Pines 8/30 (DW) and a **Sora** was at IMP 8/31 (MV).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was heard flying over Moon Twp. after dark 9/16 (GM) during a heavy nocturnal migration. I only received single reports of both yellowlegs. Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were at IMP 8/18 (MV) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was in Etna 8/30 (DY). **Solitary Sandpipers** were at BMP 8/23 (GG) and IMP 8/6-9/17 (m.ob.). Two were at BMP 10/1 (SC) and one was at IMP 10/14 (MV). One was heard after dark migrating over Moon Twp. 9/16 (GM). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at IMP 8/18 (MV) and one was in Etna 8/29-30 (DY). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at IMP 8/31 (MV) and one was present 9/17-19 (MV). Four were in Etna 8/29-30 (DY). One was still at IMP 10/14 (MV). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at IMP 9/17-22 (MV, et al.); always a welcome sight in the county. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in Etna 8/30 and two were at IMP 8/31 (MV) and again 10/20 (MV). A flock of 16 **Dunlin** flew over the main pond at IMP 10/29 (MV). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at IMP 8/18 (MV) and one was at North Park 10/19 (DN). Three **American Woodcock** were seen near IMP 10/20 (MV).

A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was observed at length in Knob Hill Park 10/31 (KD). I don't receive many reports of the resident owls so I was glad to see some reports this season. Single **Eastern Screech-Owls** were in Frick Park 8/30 (DWe) and Pine Twp. 10/25 (PL, SL). **Great Horned Owl** reports include single birds in Pine Twp. 8/15 (PL, SL), Hampton Twp. 10/24 (DN) and Shaler Twp. 10/29 (JH). Two were calling in Shaler Twp. 10/9 (JH) and Harmar Twp. 11/16 (JV).

The high count of **Common Nighthawks** was 250+ migrating over Aspinwall 8/20 (STh, SuT). Other good tallies include 32 over Moon Twp. 8/22 (GM), 52 over Hartwood Acres 8/26 (TA), 30 over McCandellless Twp. 8/27 (MK), 42 over Squirrel Hill 8/27 (CD), 178 over Pine Twp. 9/2 (PL, SL) and 84 over Greenfield 9/9 (KSJ). High counts of **Chimney Swifts** include 84 at Pine Twp. 8/27 (PL, SL) and hundreds in Oakland 9/19 (KSJ).

Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** were present in the county this fall! Both were tentatively identified as *Selasphorus* sp. because they were females or immatures. Fortunately both were trapped and banded by Bob Mulvihill. The first was noted visiting Pineapple Sage plants and a feeder in Carnegie 11/1 (SK). It was banded 11/5. The second was noted at a feeder in Squirrel Hill 11/9 (PK) and was banded 11/10. Both birds continued to visit the feeders through the end of Nov.

There were only two **Great Crested Flycatcher** reports: one at Plum Borough 9/11 (AH, PM) and one at Harrison Hills Park 9/24 (MF). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Harrison Hills Park 8/27 (SG) and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Harrison Hills Park 9/24 (MF). One thousand **American Crows** were counted flying over Forest Hills en route to the Pittsburgh roost 10/19 (TBI). Large numbers were observed perched on Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and in the surrounding trees in Oakland 11/11 (JS, SS) and 11/14 (PB). Interestingly, none were present 11/30 (PB). An estimated total of 1000 were observed flying over near the Herron Hill Section of Pittsburgh 11/17 (OM). On 11/21 they were noted near the Heinz Plant on the North Side and were counted. The careful count of birds flying over totaled 3500 (OM). Two **Fish Crows** were in Greenfield 8/6 (KSJ) and one was in Natrona Heights 10/6 (PH). Two **Common Ravens** were at IMP 10/29 (MV) and one was at Duck Hollow 10/30 (KSJ).

**Horned Larks** continue to stay at IMP in the midst of construction. Indeed, the clearing of the grassland is perhaps a temporary benefit to the birds because it creates open foraging habitat. Up to 18 were seen in the cleared area near the main pond from Aug through Nov (m.ob.). A good total of 5 **Winter Wrens** were in Pine Twp. 10/6 (PL, SL).

Single **Veeries** were reported in Pine Twp. 9/19-29 (PL, SL) as well as a single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/22-23 (PL, SL). Thrushes



were heard flying over Moon Twp. during the heavy migration event 9/16 mentioned above. Over 1000 call notes representing all five species were heard during several hours of listening; the majority **Swainson's Thrushes** (GM). A well known **American Robin** roost in Ross Twp. became active in September; hundreds were seen at the site (MK). **Brown Thrashers** were at Harrison Hills Park 9/17 (MF, et al.) and North Park 9/21 (RM). Two were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/22 (SD, BVN, DW, ST), two were at Harrison Hills Park 9/24 (MF) and one was at Frick Park 10/1 (MF) and 10/5 (JS, SS).

A total of 27 species of warbler were reported this fall. Highlights include an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Beechwood Farms 9/23 (BSh), two at BMP 9/27 and 10/18 (ST), two at North Park 10/10 (POB) and one at Harrison Hills Park 10/22 (AH, PM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Frick Park 9/23 (JS, SS) was a rare find for the fall in the park. This species is rarely reported anywhere during the fall migration. A bird at North Park 8/30 (SC) was probably a local breeder. Another rare find for Frick Park was a **Prairie Warbler** 10/4 (JS, SS), rarely seen during migration. A **Northern Waterthrush** was a nice find at Frick Park 9/24 (JS, SS). **Canada Warblers** included two at North Park 9/11 (POB), one in Pine Twp. 9/11 (PL, SL) and one at North Park 9/21 (RM).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at IMP 10/29 (MV) and one was at Duck Hollow 10/30 (KSJ); a first for that location. The habitat is a grassy slope behind a newer housing plan planted with various small trees. A **Savannah Sparrow** was found at the same location 10/30 (KSJ). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at the expected IMP grasslands location 9/24 (SC) and 7 were there 10/29 (MV). **Fox Sparrow** reports include one at Frick Park 10/28 (MD), 4 at BMP 10/29 (DW, ST), 3 at Harrison Hills Park 10/30 (SG), single birds at Pine Twp. (PL, SL) and Duck Hollow 10/30 (KSJ), one at BMP 11/6 (DWe) and one at Knob Hill Park 11/7 (KD). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported at five locations from mid-Sep through late Oct.

A rather late **Indigo Bunting** was at Schenley Park 11/16 (KSJ). A **Dickcissel** was a great find at BMP 10/3 (JM) but could not be relocated. Fortunately, quality photographs were made of this rare visitor. This was the second record for that location. The previous record at BMP was in May 2007 which was also the last in *Allegheny*. A **Lapland Longspur** was found near the main pond at IMP 10/29 (MV). The most recent sightings have been at a nearby farm, but it's been years since one was found at the IMP strip mines.

A few **Purple Finch** reports are always submitted in the fall. One was in Hampton Twp. 9/27 (DN) and a female plumaged bird visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 11/11 and 11/16 (JV). One was in Pine Twp. 11/18 (PL, SL). A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 9/16 (JV).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Tim Andrie, Tony Bledsoe (TBI), Paul Brown, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daugherty, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Cory DeStein, Donna Foyle, Gigi Gerben, Steve Gosser, Betty Guidish, Amy Henrici, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Maureen Hobma, Joyce Hoffmann, Marj Howard, Jay Kadane, Margie Kern, Peter Keyel, Scott Kinzey, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Ryan McDermott, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Bob Machesney, Geoff Malosh, Oscar Miller, Tom Moeller, Nancy Moeller, Bob Mulvihill (BMu), Dick Nugent, Philo O'Brien (POB), Rob Protz, Geralyn, Punkzak, Theo Rickert, Kate St. John, Kathy Saunders, Brian Shema (BSh), Sam Sinderson (SSn), Becky Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Mark Vass, Dan Weeks (DWe), Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

### Armstrong County

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

Top **Canada Goose** counts were 104 at KR 10/8 (NB, KB) and 175 at CC 11/5 (TR, MVT). A **Mute Swan** was found on Redbank Creek at New Bethlehem 9/6 (AK). One **Tundra Swan** appeared at RT 11/29 (DV, JV). **Wood Ducks** reported included only singletons at KR 8/18 (NB, KB) and at RT 9/18 (TR) and 5 at CC 9/26 (MH, JV). Manorville yielded 30 **Mallards** 11/23 (DV, JV) and 35 on 11/29 (DV, JV). Three **Buffleheads** at CC 11/17 (MVT) were the only ones noted. Seventeen **Common Mergansers** were counted at CC 11/2 (MVT), but by 11/24 (TR) only one remained. CC hosted 12 **Red-breasted Mergansers**

11/23 (DV, JV). Thirteen was the count of **Ruddy Ducks** at CC both 10/29 (TR) and 11/17 (MVT).

KR harbored 5 **Common Loons** 10/8 (NB, KB), one stopped at CC 11/17 (MVT), and 2 visited RT 11/23 (DV, JV). Single **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were noted at CC 11/17 (MVT), and 2 Pied-billed Grebes were at RT 11/28 (DV, JV). **Double-crested Cormorant** reports detailed 2 at CC 9/26 (MH, JV), one at CC 10/7 (MS), and one at KR 10/23 (MH, RH).

A **Turkey Vulture** 10/23 (MH, RH) near Elderton was last. An **Osprey** 10/22 (TR) at CC was the lone report. **Bald Eagles** included 2 along Buffalo Creek 10/22 (ZG), one at CC and 2 at RT 11/23 (DV, JV), and 2 adults at CC 11/25 (SG).

KR harbored 12 **American Coots** 10/23 (MH, RH). Twenty-five was a good count of **Killdeer** at CC 11/5 (TR, MVT). Last **Spotted Sandpipers** were 3 at KR 10/8 (NB, KB). Single **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported at CC 11/17 (MVT) and 11/23 (DV, JV).

**Eastern Screech-Owl** was listed at two locations (m.ob.) and **Barred Owl** only at CC 11/25 (SG). Twenty-three **Chimney Swifts** at CC 9/15 (MH) were the last noted. Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at CC 10/22 (TR) and 11/5 (TR, MVT).

Last dates included 11/2 (MVT) for **Eastern Phoebe**, 9/18 (TR) for **Yellow-throated Vireo**, and 9/3 (TR) for **Red-eyed Vireo**, all at CC. A **Common Raven** was found at CC 9/26-11/17 (m.ob.). Last **Barn Swallow** was sighted 8/23 (TR) at CC. CC yielded 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 11/2 (MVT) and 3 on 11/5 (TR, MVT). A **Hermit Thrush** was at CC 10/29 (TR). CC had the last **Gray Catbird** 9/26 (MH, JV).

Last **Ovenbird** was one at CC 9/18 (TR). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** at KR 8/18 (NB, KB) were the only ones reported. CC yielded the last **Black-and-white Warbler** and the last **Common Yellowthroat** 9/26 (MH, JV). **Hooded Warbler** was last sighted at SGL 247 on 9/25 (TR). **Cape May Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, and **Bay-breasted Warbler** were listed only 9/26 (MH, JV) at CC. KR produced the last **Yellow Warbler** 8/21 (TR). A **Palm Warbler** stopped at CC 10/2 (TR). Single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were listed only at CC 11/5 (TR) and 11/25 (SG). Five was a good count for the last **Black-throated Green Warblers** 10/23 (TR).

**Scarlet Tanager** was last found at SGL 247 on 9/25 (TR) and **Eastern Towhee**, at CC 11/12 (TR). First **American Tree Sparrow** was recorded 11/25 (SG) at CC. Twenty-four **Chipping Sparrows** were tallied at CC 9/26 (MH, JV) and were last noted (2) near Sistersville 10/29 (TR). A **Vesper Sparrow** and a **Fox Sparrow** were nice finds at CC 10/29 (TR). Two Fox Sparrows and one **Swamp Sparrow** were last listed at CC 11/5 (TR). **White-throated Sparrows** were first noted at CC 11/2 (MVT) when 7 were counted. One to 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported at CC between 10/23 (TR) and 11/5 (TR). Eighteen **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared at CC 11/2 (MVT). SGL 247 yielded the last **Indigo Bunting** and last 8 **Red-winged Blackbirds** 9/25 (TR). A single **Pine Siskin** visited CC 11/25 (SG).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Norman Bond, Ken Byerly, Steve Gosser, Zane Grafton, Roger Higbee, Avis Keener, Theo Rickert, Melissa Salsgiver, David Valasek, Josie Valasek, Marjorie Van Tassel.

### Beaver County

Locations: Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Economy Borough (ECON), Hereford Manor Lake (HML), Independence Marsh (IND).

The fall season passed without major weather events in *Beaver*. August was quite dry but only slightly (1.1°F) above normal in temperature. Rains returned in late September, and October averaged noticeably colder and wetter than recent years, but this was followed by yet another warmer than normal November, particularly the last half of the month. The dry conditions in late summer proved to be *too* dry, however, as the marsh at IND—the county's reigning top shorebird spot—was nearly bone dry by the first week of September. Several good shorebird species, including the county's first **Hudsonian Godwit**, stopped at IND nonetheless, but the shorebirding conditions were significantly inferior to those seen at the marsh during the outstanding 2010 season. Landbirds barely registered in this season's reporting, as *Beaver* birders apparently skipped the woodlands this fall. Even a scouring of eBird data revealed precious little data on the passerine migration for the season.

In other news, the dam at Hereford Manor Lake was recently

declared unstable, and plans were made to drain the lake and demolish the dam, which will not be rebuilt. As of this writing the lake still exists but the site has been posted off limits. Portions of the lake are still visible from the road but it is unknown how much longer this will last.

Top **Canada Goose** counts at IND were 104 on 10/12 (MV) and 112 on 11/28 (MV). A very nice count of 24 **Wood Ducks** was made at IND 8/19 (MV). Smaller numbers persisted at the marsh to mid-Nov. The season's only **Gadwall** were 4 at IND 11/4 (MV). **American Black Ducks** continue to be irregular and relatively uncommon in the county; three reports were received, all from IND 8/14-11/4 (m.ob.). A flock of 19 **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at IND 9/6 alongside a small pulse of shorebirds (GM), but they were quickly gone as the water had receded to not much more than a muddy puddle by that time. The only other report was of 4 there 9/28 (MV), after heavy rains had refilled a portion of the main pool. A **Northern Pintail** was present at IND 11/2-4, and 6 were there 11/28 (both MV). The first **Green-winged Teal** of the season appeared at IND 9/11 (MV). Another appeared 10/2 and remained for a few weeks (m.ob.); by 11/4, at least 4 were being seen. Four **Bufflehead** were a good find at IND 11/4 (MV). The season's only **Ruddy Duck** was seen at New Brighton 10/6 (RS, eBird).

A lost and probably doomed **Northern Bobwhite** was seen crossing busy PA-51 near Monaca 9/25 (MV). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at IND 11/28 (MV). Eight **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at New Brighton 10/16 (TJ, KG). A good total of 13 **Great Blue Herons** were seen prowling the shrinking flats at IND 8/19 (MV). That same day 19 **Green Herons** were present (MV). A single **Great Egret** put down at IND 9/27 (MV).

A single **Osprey** was seen at HML 9/3 (SC), and another was still at Beaver Falls 9/30 (TJ). An immature **Bald Eagle** appeared at IND 9/28 (MV). By 10/24, two adult **Bald Eagles** returned to a wintering area near New Brighton where they have been seen for at least the past five years (SG, TJ). Season's peak of eagles on the Beaver River was 3 (m.ob.). A very early juvenile **Merlin** was seen in Bridgewater 8/11 (TJ, KG). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in the area of Rochester and Monaca to at least 9/30 (m.ob.).

As mentioned, shorebirding at IND was good but not great, owing to the excessively dry conditions at the peak of the season in late Aug and early Sep. All shorebird reports that follow are from IND unless noted otherwise. **Semipalmated Plovers** were represented by 2 on 8/10 (MV) and one 9/3-11 (MV, GM). Peak **Killdeer** count was 66 on 8/12 (MV). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were recorded 8/23 (JM) and 10/2 (MV). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen sporadically in Aug and Sep (m. ob.). **Solitary Sandpipers** showed extremely well, especially in early Aug, with peak counts of 42 on 8/2 and 57 on 8/5 (both MV). Two Solitaires were still hanging around to 10/4 (m.ob.). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** was likewise reported 10/4 (MV). Easily the birds of the season, two juvenile **Hudsonian Godwits** were found 10/4 by BS and photographed by GM, a first county record. They remained at the marsh into the late afternoon and were seen by a few additional birders, but they unexpectedly picked up and left at least an hour before sunset, much to the chagrin of several birders who were just arriving. It was therefore a surprise when one of the two was found to be present again the next morning, 10/5 (BC, DW, ST), but this bird left again by midday and this time did not return. Small numbers of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were present 8/2-13 (m.ob.), and four were seen at BBW 9/2 (MV). **Least Sandpipers** were a fixture at IND 8/2-9/27, with a peak of 10 on 8/19 (MV). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were present 9/6-7 (GM, ph. JM). Three **Baird's Sandpipers** were at BBW 9/2 (MV), and one was still present 9/11 (GM), providing the county's only report this season. **Pectoral Sandpipers** made bookends to the shorebird season, with one present 8/4 (MV) and one present again 10/4-5 (GM, m.ob.). Two beautiful juvenile **Stilt Sandpipers** dropped in 8/5 (MV) and remained for at least a few days. A duo of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at IND 10/2 (MV) were highly unusual for the location.

The only report of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was from Raccoon Creek State Park 9/14 (JF, eBird). A total of 7 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were heard at Brady's Run Park 8/13 (SG, KG, TJ). A **Common Nighthawk** over Beaver Falls 8/13 (TJ) was the only one reported. Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** appeared in both Beaver Falls (SB) and ECON (KD) on 9/25. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in ECON 10/9 (KD).

As mentioned, the passerine migration was very poorly reported. A scant few highlights follow. A late **House Wren** was at IND 10/29 (ST, DW). **Tennessee Warblers** were reported at HML 9/29 (SD) and IND 10/5 (BC, ST, DW). **Nashville Warblers** were also present at both of those locations 9/24-10/9 (m.ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still

in evidence at IND 10/29 (ST, DW). A **Wilson's Warbler** was a bit of a surprise at IND 10/12 (MV), and a **Canada Warbler** was present at Raccoon Creek State Park 9/14 (JF, eBird). Other transient warbler species reported included **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, **Palm**, **Blackpoll**, and **Black-and-white**. Two **Eastern Towhees** were found in ECON 10/24 (KD). **Fox Sparrows** included 2 at IND 10/29 (ST, DW) and 2 in ECON 11/2 (KD). IND held the season's only **Lincoln's Sparrows**, with one 10/29 (ST, DW) and 2 on 10/16 (MV). **White-crowned Sparrow** first appeared at IND 10/5 (BC, ST, DW).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Simone Bennett, Shawn Collins, Ben Coulter, Sheree Daugherty, Karyn Delaney, James Fletcher, Karena Gregg, Scott Gregg, Timothy Johnson, Jeff McDonald, Becky Smith, Rosemary Stewart, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

### **Bedford County**

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Dunning's Creek Wetlands (DCW), Shaffer Mountain (SM), Shawnee State Park (SSP) Bedford-at-Large (BL).

Unusual birds for the season were **Trumpeter Swans**, probable **Eurasian Widgeon**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Sandhill Cranes** and **Cave Swallow**. Rainy weather was the norm for this period. Any sightings without initials are those of the author.

A flyover of one **Greater White-fronted Goose** was sighted 11/6 at SSP. The waterfowl flight was slightly weak and some species, such as Snow Goose, either bypassed *Bedford* or arrived late. The high for **Canada Geese** was 205 at DCW 11/8. Five **Trumpeter Swans** were present at DCW 11/12. They appeared to be a family unit with 2 adults and 3 cygnets. The Trumpeters have been irregular visitors to DCW since 2000. From 10/12-11/8, **Tundra Swans** passed over the AFHW in flocks of 20 to over 600. A suspected sighting of an adult female **Eurasian Wigeon** was made at DCW 11/26. This would be very unusual for the county and as a late date, however, this wigeon was carefully studied from a blind to be reasonably certain it was not a female American Wigeon. The following counts of ducks at DCW were slightly higher than usual: 70 **Wood Ducks** 10/30 and 32 **Gadwall** 11/12. Other notable duck tallies included 16 **American Wigeons** 9/19, 160 **American Black Ducks** 10/30, 223 **Mallards** 11/16, 41 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/7, 32 **Northern Shoveler** 9/15, 60 **Northern Pintail** 11/18, 43 **Green-winged Teal** 11/12, 2 **Redhead** 11/26, 45 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/12 (at SSP), 16 **Bufflehead** 11/18, 2 **Common Goldeneye** 11/5, 12 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/18, 2 **Common Mergansers** 11/4 (at SSP) and 28 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/12 (at SSP).

This was, again, a great reproduction year for both **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey**. **Ruffed Grouse** were seen abundantly throughout the county via flushing and, unfortunately, as road kills. Along the road to the AFHW, grouse families frequently stopped cars while crossing the road this fall. They were also found in fields of autumn olive feeding on berries, helping to spread this invasive plant. Most **Wild Turkey** flocks numbered 50-100 and were seen almost daily along back roads.

**Common Loon** migration started 11/5 at the AFHW with 40, and continued with small numbers throughout Nov; however the big flocks occurred in Dec. The high for **Pied-billed Grebe** was 5 for SSP 11/18, but only one **Horned Grebe** was seen at SSP 11/10. A nice surprise was 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at DCW 10/30. Red-necked Grebes have not been seen in this county since the invasion year of 2003. Seventeen **Doubled-crested Cormorants** at SSP on 9/12 was the lowest number in years (though I'm not complaining). The following herons were seen at DCW. One **American Bittern** was flushed 10/17 and a **Least Bittern** 8/2. Thirty **Great Blue Herons** were counted 9/12. One **Great Egret** was seen 9/20, and 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were there 9/1.

The following raptors were counted at the AFHW through 11/30, though remember that the count continues into Dec: **Black Vulture** 34, **Turkey Vulture** 543, **Osprey** 76, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1605, **Cooper's Hawk** 244, **Northern Goshawk** 10, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 74, **Broad-winged Hawk** 7602, **Red-tailed Hawk** 2304, **Rough-legged Hawk** 5, **Golden Eagle** 279, **American Kestrel** 54, **Merlin** 26, and **Peregrine** 30. The highlight of the season was 61 Golden Eagles 11/1, an extremely busy day when eagles came from all directions that set a

new one-day record for fall Golden Eagles in Pennsylvania. The seasonal Golden Eagle total is a new record, not just for the east but also extending to the western Rockies.

One **Virginia Rail** and one **Sora** were seen 8/15 at a small pothole at DCW. Forty-five **American Coots** were counted in Grebe Pool 10/30 at DCW. A **Sandhill Crane** was first observed at Bittern Pool at DCW 10/8 where it lingered for 10 days

Heavy rain made shorebirds hard to find at DCW, but water levels were lowered frequently and the following shorebirds were observed: 14 **Black-bellied Plovers** 9/19, 8 **Semipalmated Plovers** 9/19, 60 **Killdeer** 9/24 (SSP), 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/19, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/19, one **Solitary Sandpiper** 9/5, 3 **Spotted Sandpiper** 8/4, 2 **Upland Sandpiper** near Buffalo Farm off Rte. 30 on 8/16, 2 **Sanderling** 8/3, 6 **Least Sandpipers** 9/19, 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 8/3, 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** 9/19, 6 **Dunlin** 10/15, and 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 10/3. Seven **American Woodcock** were flushed from hawthorn fields at DCW 9/18. Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed 9/3 at SSP along with 28 **Ring-billed Gulls**. A **Caspian Tern** was seen at SSP 10/15, a **Forster's Tern** on 9/3, and 10 **Black Terns** on 8/10 at DCW.

ML heard a **Barn Owl** while sleeping out at DCW during the PSO Meeting in May. I was surprised at the time since I hadn't noticed Barn Owls, however, on 8/20 I saw a fledgling sitting on floor of the silo. AL conducted a "Big Sit" at the AFHW and heard the following owls: **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred Owls**. Two **Short-eared Owls** were observed combing fields at DCW 11/20. Around the end of Oct, twenty **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at the AFHW (DD). This low number of Saw-whets was attributed to a poor reproduction year in the boreal forests of Canada (DD).

A total of 120 **Common Nighthawks** were heard and seen migrating 10/6 along the AF. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was flushed at the AFHW 8/15. On 8/20, a flock of **Chimney Swifts** was seen flying above the town of Bedford. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed near the Buffalo Farm off Rt. 30 on 9/12. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen 10/1.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found 8/17 and 9/12 at the AFHW (RM, BG). Over 20 **Empidonax** flycatchers were seen 9/5 at DCW which were probably mostly Willow Flycatchers, but Alder, which breeds occasionally at these wetlands, was also possible. Three **Great Crested Flycatchers** were seen at the AFHW (EG). The following vireo singletons were seen 9/17 at DCW: **White-eyed**, **Blue-headed**, **Warbling**, and **Red-eyed**. Three to four hundred swallows were seen at SSP 8/20 with the most abundant being **Tree Swallow**, followed by **Barn**, **Bank**, and **Northern Rough-winged**. The swallow of the season was a **Cave Swallow** 11/1 seen flying around the AFHW during a flight of 708 raptors. It was spotted by ML and seen by counters and guests of the AFHW. This is the second sighting of Cave Swallow in this area in the last few years.

A **Carolina Chickadee** was seen 9/5 at DCW. A **Brown Creeper** was seen at AFHW 11/2. I can't help but mention that 7 Red Bats (a migratory species) flew past the AFHW 11/3. Wrens included a **Carolina Wren** at AFHW 10/8 (AL), 2 **Winter Wrens** 11/10 (AF), and a **Marsh Wren** 8/2 DCW. Fifteen **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen at DCW 9/23 and over 100 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found 9/25 in old fields and woodland edges. An early morning fallout of thrushes resulted in a good showing of **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Hermit Thrush** and **Wood Thrush** 9/15 along Shaffer Mt. Rd.

The following few warblers were observed by the author at AFHW unless stated otherwise: **Golden-winged Warbler** at DCW 8/5, **Northern Parula** 8/5, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 9/1 (AF), **Magnolia Warbler** 9/19, **Cape May Warbler** 8/8, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 10/ 10 (NF), **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/8 (AL), **Cerulean Warbler** 8/8, **Worm-eating Warbler** 8/10, **Ovenbird** 8/15 (AF), **Kentucky Warbler** 8/8 (AF), **Canada Warbler** 8/12, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** in Aug at DCW.

The following **sparrows** were mostly reported at DCW by the author: **American Tree** 11/10, **Chipping** 8/1, **Field** 8/1, **Sparrow** 8/5, **Grasshopper** 8/10, **Henslow's** 8/5 at Shaffer Mt. Rd., **Fox** 10/15, **Song** 8/1, **Lincoln's** 10/10, **Swamp** 8/5, **White-throated** 10/3, and **White-crowned** 10/15. Nine **Pine Siskins** were on Lambert Mt. Road 10/18.

Observers: **Tom Dick**, **Hidden Acres Farm**, **123 Hummer Lane**, **Cairnbrook, PA 15924**, (814) 754-5727, **Thomasd102.d@gmail.com**, Tim Anderson, Dave Darney, Tom Dick, Sally Dick, Nancy and Gene Flament, Bob Gorsuch, Ed Gowarty, Connie Hunt, Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, Alex Lamoreaux, Mike Lanzone, Rosemary McGlynn, Trish Miller, Jim Rocco and Bob Stewart.

## Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Breneman's Quarry (BQ), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), SGL 110—Kittatinny Ridge (SGL). The official counting season at HMS is 8/15-12/15.

Rainfall for the year was more than 12 inches above average as *Berks* was drenched during the fall season by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and other storms. A freak snowstorm 10/29 dumped more than a foot of wet snow on many areas, breaking trees and causing power loss. It proved to be the only winter storm for the rest of 2011, which was unusually mild.

Most waterfowl did not appear in significant numbers until late in the period. Only a few small flocks of **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** were reported by the end of Nov. A flock of 11 **Brant** was at LO 10/2 (MS), and the only Brant report from HMS was of five birds 10/19 (LG). A Brant appeared at BML 10/31 (JS), where this shy little goose ate grass on the lawn in company with a bossy, portly domestic goose until 11/23 (JS), an odd couple enjoyed by many birders. LO's large **Mute Swan** flock continued in residence, with 26 seen there 10/2 (RK) pulling up large helpings of aquatic salad.

Birders who visited local ponds and lakes in the rain 11/22 recorded the season's only notable waterfowl fallout. Combined totals from BML, BQ, LO, Adams Hotel Rd., and Moselem Springs were: 103 **Gadwall** (RK), 6 **American Wigeon** (RK), 30 **American Black Duck** (RK, KL), 106 **Green-winged Teal** (RK, KL), 700 **Ring-necked Ducks** (RK at LO; apparently the largest flock on record), 100 **Scaup sp.** (MW), 70+ **Bufflehead** (RK, KL, MW), 24 **Hooded Mergansers** (RK), 26 **Ruddy Ducks** (RK, KL), and 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (JS, MW). An unusually large flock of 51 **Blue-winged Teal** was in the Peters Creek cove at LO 10/2 (MW). More normal numbers of Blue-winged Teal were 8-10 birds in flooded fields in Longswamp Twp. 9/11-24 (SF, RK, KL) and 7-9 birds in the retention basin of Wilson Green Valley School, Spring Twp. 9/27-10/4 (PM). One to three **Northern Shovelers** joined the teal in Longswamp Twp. 9/19-10/3 (RK), and five were at Shartlesville 11/3 (R & BR). Two **White-winged Scoters** were at LO 10/2 (MS) and 11/16 (KL). Two **Black Scoters** atypically lingered at BML 11/19-22 (JS). Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LO 11/18 (MS) and 11/30 (KL), and at BML 11/23 and 11/25 (KA).

A **Red-throated Loon** flying with **Common Loons** passed over HMS 11/17 (LG), and single birds were at BQ 11/22-23 (KL, PM) and BML 11/25 (SK). Two imm. **Common Loons** summering at LO were last reported 8/29 (m.ob.). The fall high count of 60 **Common Loons** came from HMS 11/11, where 130 were tallied for the season (LG). The high count of 17 **Pied-billed Grebes** came from LO 11/4 (MS). HMS recorded 441 **Double-crested Cormorants**, mostly in Oct as usual.

The only reported **Little Blue Heron** was a white bird at LO 8/12 (MS). A **Green Heron** at LO 11/27 (MS) was very late. The 17 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at BML 8/2 (PM) had probably dispersed from the rookery in nearby Wyomissing Hills. A juv. **White Ibis** was discovered at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg 11/10 (KH). It was still there in mid-Jan 2012, providing the first winter record in Pennsylvania and the first record of the species on a Pennsylvania CBC (Hamburg, 12/30). Many birders watched and photographed the bird, often at very close range, as it foraged along the lake edge for crayfish, frogs, snails and other food. It represented the fourth county record and the first since 1979. The only adult among the four was one that flew over HMS 9/16/1967.

Seasonal totals of **Black Vultures**, **Turkey Vultures**, **Bald Eagles**, and **Broad-winged Hawks** at HMS were above their 10-year averages (LG). Numbers of other raptors were average or below. The seasonal total of 13,323 **Broad-winged Hawks** was the highest since 1986 (LG), thanks to favorable winds in Sep. A dark morph juv. **Swainson's Hawk** was seen kettling with Broad-winged Hawks at HMS 9/27 (AK, RK). The tally of 21 **Golden Eagles** at HMS 10/30 on the tail of the destructive snowstorm was their second highest daily count ever (LG). A female **American Kestrel** with a white patagial tag (number could not be read) that was seen in Longswamp Twp. 10/3 (RK) had probably been banded by John Smallwood in New Jersey. Plucked remains of two **Merlins** found at BML in Nov (JS) raised fears that the wintering birds had been eaten by a predator, but two live Merlins were regularly seen later, highlighting the attractiveness of the lake to this species. **Peregrine Falcons**, recently a Kittatinny Ridge specialty on a good day, were reported too widely for individual notation.

A **Sora** was at Dorney Rd., Longswamp Twp. 9/21 (PM). BQ's **American Coot** flock had increased to 70 by 11/27 (RK). A **Sandhill**



**Crane** seen in the retention basin at Wilson Green Valley School 9/18 (PM) is probably the same bird regularly seen at nearby BQ through the period (m.ob.). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were seen and heard at BML11/23 (RK, PM).

Fields in Longswamp Twp. flooded by tropical rains and the recently drained Gotwals pond, Oley provided good shorebird habitat in Sep and Oct. The 15 reported shorebird species were mostly common, including high counts of 115 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 12 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Dorney Rd. 9/22 (RK). Rarest of the lot was a juv. **Hudsonian Godwit** found at Gotwals pond, Oley 9/11 (RK), the third county record and the first since 1989. Unfortunately, this bird was found struggling in the mud, one foot perhaps caught in the jaws of a snapping turtle, 9/12 (JS, KK, KL, et al.). It was rescued with much muddy effort by Summer Gotwals, but the leg had to be amputated and the bird was later euthanized at Red Creek wildlife rehabilitation center in *Schuylkill* (fide KK). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were long and well represented, with four at Gotwals pond, Oley 9/11-10/3 (RK) and one or two in Longswamp Twp. 9/20-10/6 (RK). Single juv. **Baird's Sandpipers** were at Gotwals pond 9/5 and in Longswamp Twp. 9/20-24 (RK). At least three **Stilt Sandpipers** were in Longswamp Twp. 9/24-25 (KL). The only **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Shartlesville 8/12 (MS).

A **Laughing Gull**, a casual visitor to *Berks*, was at BML 9/26 (BW), and two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were there 11/22-23 (KL). Fall's first three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at BML 11/21 (BK) and the first **Great Black-backed Gull** was there 11/27 (MJ). Hurricane Irene blew rare terns into *Berks* 8/28. A juv. **Sooty Tern**, the first since Hurricane Isabel deposited one at BML in 2003, was seen 8/28 from the dam at LO (RK, KK, KL, MW, et al.). Usually, displaced Sooties leave immediately after storm passage, but this one stayed most of the day, giving many birders a chance to see it. Often hard to see against the dark background of woods as it flew low over the lake, it was seen to pick up and discard a fish. Four **Royal Terns** were also seen by the above observers, two of them giving especially good views directly overhead, but these birds quickly moved on. While common coastally, Royal Terns are so rare inland that this was the first *Berks* report since Earl Poole saw what he thought was a Royal Tern at LO after Hurricane Connie 8/13/1955, an identification he considered hypothetical because strong wind prevented a definitive view. A specimen reportedly taken in *Berks* in 1879 is the only other record. At least one **Caspian Tern** (RK), four **Common Terns** (m. ob.) and four **Black Terns** (RK) were also at LO 8/28. Rain on 9/6 brought 14 **Forster's Terns** to BML (PM). An imm. **Least Tern** was at the beach at BML 9/22-25 (JS, KL), where it was seen flying and perched on an orange buoy. The only other record this century was of an ad. at BML 9/29/2005 (JS).

There were no summer reports of **Common Nighthawk**, but one to four migrants were reported at various places 9/1-10/26 (PM), the latter late. The large chimney at Reading High School, a seasonal roost for **Chimney Swifts**, attracted an astonishing 10,160 swifts 9/13 (KK). HMS tallied 427 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** this fall, with high counts of 80 on 8/30 and 43 on 8/31 (LG). Of the 10 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (a normal number) counted at HMS this fall, six passed in September (LG). A pronounced movement of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** was noted at HMS in late Sep and early Oct, with birds flying sw. past North Lookout along the Kittatinny Ridge. High counts were 13 on 9/30, 14 on 10/5, and 6 and 11 on 10/9; season total was 97 (LG), probably not all migrants.

**Philadelphia Vireos** are best seen locally at HMS, where the high count of six was made 9/16 and 14 were seen for the season, all but one in Sep (LG). The only report of a Philly off ridge was of one near Leesport 10/1 (DK). **Common Ravens** were reported at six locations in the county away from their Kittatinny Ridge stronghold. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at rock-bottom numbers, with a seasonal total of only four at HMS (LG) and two reported from a reliable VA pine grove at SGL11/19 (TC). **Winter Wrens** peaked at 10 in timely fashion at SGL 10/23 (KG). The high count of nocturnal flight calls of **Veery** was 170 in District Twp. 8/20 (RK). Shortly before dawn at South Lookout, HMS 9/26, 24 nocturnal flight calls of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, 1200 calls of **Swainson's Thrush**, and 200 calls of **Wood Thrush** were heard from birds descending through fog into the forest (RK). A late **Brown Thrasher** was seen at BML 11/25 (TJ), part of the Patagonia picnic table effect caused by the Green-tailed Towhee (see below). **American Pipit**, an under-reported mud colored bird, was seen and more often heard in low single digit numbers 9/22 through Nov by a few observers. As usual in fall, many fast flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** passing North Lookout kept HMS counters alert as they tallied 9638 for the season, mostly in late August and September (LG). The only reported **Snow**

**Buntings** were migrants passing HMS; high was 25 on 11/23 (LG).

Birders reported 27 warbler species, which seemed to slip by in small numbers between the rainstorms that probably reduced birding effort. As usual, see the seasonal occurrence tables at <www.pabirds.org> for date ranges. At HMS, seasonal totals of the most common species were generally lower than last year. These included 688 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (always the most numerous), 243 **Blackburnian Warblers** (206 in Aug), 227 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (most in Oct), 194 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 151 **Black-and-white Warblers** (126 in Aug), 134 **Cape May Warblers** and 98 **Magnolia Warblers** (most late Aug and Sep). As usual, **Mourning Warblers** visited the Kendall farm near Leesport, with single birds 9/11 and 9/25 (DK).

*Berks* first **Green-tailed Towhee** was discovered near the Stilling Basin at BML 11/20 by Jody Hey, a New Jersey birder visiting his family. The towhee, a skulker, became easier to see when birders began scattering seeds under a red-cedar to attract it. Dozens of birders from several states came to see the bird during its long stay, which continued at least into January 2012. It was recorded on the Bernville CBC 12/31. An **Eastern Towhee** and a **Fox Sparrow** 11/30 (JS), and a singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** 11/26 (KG) were among many species reported in late Nov and Dec because they were seen by birders looking for the rarity. An ad. **Clay-colored Sparrow**, the first in several years, was at SGL 10/16 (KG). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Wilson Green Valley School 9/15 (PM) provided a fall record of a species rarely reported after males stop singing. A first winter **Harris's Sparrow** was discovered and photographed in a sparse hedgerow along Old Philly Pike near Kempton 11/26 by Peter Schoenberger and Susan Rogers from Woodstock, New York. While some lucky birders saw the sparrow quickly, most found that much time and patience were required to see it, and that views were usually short and unsatisfying. The bird was still present in January 2012 and was recorded on the Hamburg CBC 12/30.

Sadly, the only reported **Eastern Meadowlark** was at BML 10/25 and a flyover at HMS 10/30 (LG). A **Rusty Blackbird** seen near Hamburg 11/2 (KG), five birds at BML11/4 (JS) and one at LO 11/11 (MS) were the only ones reported. Predictions of low winter finch numbers proved accurate. HMS recorded only 80 **Purple Finches** all season (LG), and a handful were scattered among a few feeders elsewhere in the county. Ditto for **Pine Siskins**, of which only 73 were recorded this fall at HMS (LG). A single **Evening Grosbeak** flew by North Lookout, HMS 10/23 (LG).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, 610-845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Kyle Aldinger, Justin Bosler, Jim Brighton, Tom Clauser, Amy Davis, Catherine Elwell, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich and HMS volunteers/staff, Kerry Grim, Ken Haas, Jody Hey, Jack Holcomb, John Hubbell, Tom Johnson, Bill Keim, Dean Kendall, Steven Kloiber, Katrina Knight, Arlene Koch, Alex Lamoreaux, Ken Lebo, Kevin Lutz, Peter Montgomery, R & B Rehrig, Susan Rogers, Peter Saenger, Peter Schoenberger, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater, Matt Spence, George Tallman, Jaime Thomas, John Traynor, Lisa Tull, Billy Weber, Eric Witmer, Matt Wlasniewski.

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**Blair County**  
No compiler.

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#### **Bradford County**

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

*Bradford* experienced an amazingly wet summer and fall, with a major flood in early September. Possibly because of this, sightings for this report are rather sparse.

A nice total of 22 **Common Mergansers** were on the SUR at EBR 8/27 (DN, KN). A **Common Loon** was seen on 10/17 at Mt. Pisgah State Park (RY). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was present at Laurel Lake 10/5 and for a few days thereafter (RY). On 8/3 two **Great Egrets** were observed by the SUR at EBR (DN, KN). There were a number of **Green Heron** sightings: 8/6 on the Towanda Creek at Woodside (SR); 2 were at TNE, one at a beaver pond, the other over an adjacent field, 8/8 (TG); one 8/22, 8/26, 8/31, and 10/18 sitting in a tree near a beaver pond at TNE (TG); and 2 by the SUR at EBR 8/27 (DN, KN).

On 10/21 there were 100 **Turkey Vultures** in a loose flock wheeling around Campdown, the largest number this compiler has seen congregating in *Bradford* (TG). **Bald Eagles** continue to be present in good numbers: six adults and two immatures at EBR 8/20 (DN, KN); two immatures flying with two adults in late summer up to and including 9/1 in northern Bradford at a possible new breeding site (BB); a second year bird eating what was probably roadkill near Hollenback 9/29 (MB, NB); and an adult flying over Lone Mary Rd 11/30, which is adjacent to a branch of the Sugar Run Creek (JM). Seldom seen in the county, a **Northern Harrier** was at Peck Hill 11/1 (AV, GV).

Despite the wet summer, and major natural gas drilling activity, **Sandhill Cranes** were seen relatively frequently: 2 adults and an imm. were observed consistently every night near Hollenback up to at least 8/8 (JaW); a pair was present at Coyles Corners throughout the summer (observed about two dozen times) and there were 4 seen at this same location 8/19 (TM); 2 adults and one immature were again near Hollenback 8/31 (CM, GM); 11 were at the same location near Hollenback, congregating in the fall as they have been doing the past few years 11/19 (JeW, RW). An **American Woodcock** was startled into flight 11/9 at TNE (TG). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was calling 9/26 near Hollenback (MB, NB).

Very rarely seen, six **Common Nighthawks** were at EBR on 8/30 and for the previous month (DN, KN). A rather late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen 10/18 in Towanda (SR). An **Acadian Flycatcher**, which had been present at TNE for much of the spring and all summer, was last heard singing 8/9 (TG). A somewhat unusual sighting 8/16 was of 5 **Barn Swallows** chasing a hawk high in the sky at TNE (TG). A **Nashville Warbler** was seen 10/17 at PEH (AV, GV). The only sighting of a **Northern Waterthrush** was 8/6 on the Towanda Creek at Woodside (SR). A **Canada Warbler** was present 9/30 at PEH (AV, GV).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd., Wyalusing, PA 18853, 570 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Marvin Baker, Nancy Baker, Bruce Boselli, Trudy Gerlach, Tom Mears, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Jason Minier, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, Sharon Richards, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Jenny Walker (JeW), Randy Walker, Janice Fisk Walker (JaW), Ron Young.

## **Bucks County**

Locations: Core Creek Park (CCP), Falls Twp. Community Park (FTP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Wrightstown Sod Farms (WSF).

Temperatures were above normal each month ranging from 1.5° F in August to 4.7° F in November, with the average being 3.05° F above. Rainfall was about 15 inches above normal, with much of that in August. Hurricane Irene was the key weather event of the season that impacted birds, bringing a large number of terns into our area, with several rarities included. The day after, they were essentially all gone. However, other rain events were frequent including the major rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. In general, these conditions apparently caused a nice variety and quantity of migrants to wait for better weather before moving on. The snow storm of 10/29 added to the extreme weather. Waterfowl stopped at area lakes due to the stormy weather in numbers that were sufficient to keep birders happy. With regular scattered heavy showers relieving the breeding season's dry conditions by early August, shorebird habitat at normal sites vanished. However, resulting muddy farm fields contributed to a nice assortment of shorebird reports. Irruptive winter finch reports were nearly nonexistent. Berry and cone supply was much improved compared to last year contributing to good numbers of lingering migrants. The species count for the period was 244 plus one identified only to genus. There were three new fall early arrival dates and twelve new fall late departure dates, five of which were warblers.

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

A **Pink-footed Goose** was found at PVP 11/28, flew toward PRN

while being watched, and then was relocated there (both AM, doc., ph.). It was then seen through 12/1 at PRN (m.ob.). There were at least five previous reports in the county between 1998 and 2002. Only three were documented, with one accepted by PORC. The 2 injured **Snow Geese** present since spring at PVP survived the period (m. ob.). A single bird was seen at multiple locations in the southern part of the county 8/28 through the period (BK, MG, RS). Three at PRN 10/10 (AM) including one adult blue form may have been the first and only true long distance migrants reported. A flock of 14 **Brant** flew over PWT 10/2, providing a new fall early date by one day. Two flew over FTP 10/22 (MS, DFa). Rain on 10/27 resulted in unusual counts of about 50 passing over PVP and 67 on the ground at a nearby Hilltown Twp. farm (both AM). Five stopped at NSP 11/4 (BE), and one was at PVP 11/12-11/19 (AM). The first report of **Cackling Goose** was of 4 at PVP 10/31 (AM ph., RH), with reports through the end of Nov. The highest report was 9 there 11/24 (AM). Three were at PRN 11/6 (AR), with continuing reports there through the end of the period (m.ob.).

Twenty duck species were reported for the period. **Wood Duck** counts of 98 at Quakertown Swamp and hundreds at PWT both 10/9 are noteworthy. **Mallard** found CCP inviting, with several high counts including a peak of 265 on 9/27 (BK). An unusual count of 30 **Blue-winged Teal** at PWT 9/17 was believed to be the observer's highest ever here. This flock was spotted due to being flushed by hunters. Other locally good high counts were 18 at Bradford Dam 9/15 (GJ) and 14 at Washington Crossing 9/21 (BK). Most counts here are in the single digits. After 2 early **Green-winged Teal** were reported last season at PWT 7/31, one **Green-winged Teal** was there 8/9. These are rare summer reports. A **Ring-necked Duck** was identified as a probable juv. at CCP 8/3 (JH, AM). This is the only Aug report ever for our county records. NSP provided the only reports for all three scoter species. Two **Surf Scoters** 11/17 was the only report. A total of 5 **White-winged Scoters** were reported on three dates between 10/27 and 11/5. A flock of 16 with all black wings 11/3 were not identified to species (BE). Four **Black Scoters** were noted 10/23, with 10 more on 11/17. High counts were reported for **Bufflehead** 11/4, with 61 at PVP (GC, MC) and 63 at NSP (BE). The high report for **Ruddy Duck** was 144 at FTP 11/18 (BK). About 6 presumed released **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported in eBird from the NSP area (PC, PM, AM). There were no other reports. Individual **Red-throated Loons** stopped at NSP 10/30 (DFa) and 11/21-23 (DFa, BK), with one at PVP 11/5 (AM). Three were at PWT 11/22. The fall's first **Common Loon** was at PVP 10/14 (AM), and rain 11/23 provided the highest count of 22 at NSP (BK). A good total of ~29 **Horned Grebes** were reported between 10/1 and 11/23 from PVP, NSP, and FTP area (m.ob.), with the highest counts being 7 at PVP 11/14 (AM) and 9 at NSP 11/22 (DFa).

The first and only **Great Cormorant** report of the period was at Giving Pond 11/12 (PC). One **Anhinga** would be unexpected here, so 4 reported 9/18 flying over Southampton Twp. would definitely require documentation to be categorized other than being possible (JV, CM, no doc.). An **American Bittern** was at PRN 10/1 (KR *fide* DFa). One at PWT 11/27 provided a new fall late date. **Great Egret** was reported from at least 14 sites, with one individual per report being the norm (m.ob.). The highest single site count of 66 **Great Egrets** 8/7 at the former Rohm and Haas, Bristol was a new record for the observer and possibly for the county. An unusual count of 9 was tallied at PVP 8/3 (KA, GC, MC, RH,), and 9 were at Churchville Park the same day (AM). The last report was one at FTP 11/14 (DFa). **Snowy Egrets** continued at Rohm and Haas from Jul, with 4 there 8/7 and 3 still there 8/27. One each was at Churchville Park 8/3 (AM) and CCP 9/9 (MG ph.). **Little Blue Heron** also continued from July at Rohm and Haas, with the high report being 3 on 8/7 and one remaining until at least 8/27. One each was at LaSalle College, Newtown 8/1-3 (MG, BK, AM), Washington Crossing 8/8 (MG), and Bradford Dam 8/16 (KR). A new fall late date was provided by an immature bird at FTP 11/6 (DFa). A **Green Heron** provided a new fall late date 11/29 at PRN (SK), although I think there was at least one historical Christmas Bird Count report. An estimated total of only 10 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was reported from four sites between 8/2 and 10/31 (m.ob.). Four at Silver Lake Park 8/13-25 (MG) provided the highest count for a single site, with 3 at PVP 8/23 taking second place (MRu). A juv. **White Ibis** at CCP 8/3 was only the second confirmed report for the county (BK, doc, ph.). Single **Glossy Ibis** were at PWT 8/9 and FTP 8/14. Unusual anytime for the number, a passing flock of 16 flew by at PWT 9/17.

A three hour hawk watch at Lake Towhee Park 10/30 produced 63 hawks of five species and 2 **Bald Eagles**. The count of 17 **Red-shouldered Hawks** was the most noteworthy. Rare anytime but

particularly in fall, a juv. **Mississippi Kite** was reported passing over Tyler State Park 8/19 (BS, no doc). The highest **Broad-winged Hawk** counts were 341 at Pipersville 9/16 (DA), ~1200 at PVP 9/17 (AM, JM, MGr, JN, HE), and 456 at SGL 157 on 9/18 (DFa). The only remnant of the discontinued Broadwing SEPT hawk count project was at NSP 9/13-23, with a total of 935 **Broad-winged Hawks** out of 1102 total raptors recorded (BF). The Milford Twp. wintering all white but not albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was not detected this year after returning for many years (BL). A **Golden Eagle** at MKF 11/24 (RS, VS) was the only report for a species rarely reported here. A **Virginia Rail** was heard at PWT 10/9 (DFa) and one was seen at PVP 10/18 (AM). **Sora** made good use of the flooded weedy impoundments at PWT where a conservative estimate of 35 was heard 9/25 and about 15 remained 10/9. This was the observer's highest county total ever by far. One was also detected at PRN 10/1, and 2 were at Quakertown Swamp 10/2. The high count for **American Coot** was 154 at FTP 11/18 (BK).

A very good total of 25 shorebird species was reported for the four-month period, with one more if Jul is included. The highest single site count of **Killdeer** was 143 on 8/25 at Plumstead Twp. The two *Pluvialis* plover species rarely reported here were reported in above average numbers and birds lingered longer. **Black-bellied Plover** reports were of 3 at WSF 8/28 (DFa), and one at Buckingham Twp. 8/29 (CR, AM), both probably grounded by Irene. One was at WSF 9/23-26. Two **American Golden-Plover** stopped at Plumstead Twp. 8/28 (KR), 2 were in Bedminster Twp. 9/7, 3 were at WSF 9/7, one was at Buckingham Twp. 9/12, 3 were at WSF 9/23-27, with 5 there 9/28-10/4 (all DFa). A new fall late date was provided by one at PWT 11/14. A **Whimbrel** at Mud Is. 8/14 provided our seventh ever county report, followed by the eighth grounded by Irene at WSF 8/27. Note that a report in 2004, previously reported in this journal as our seventh, has been retracted by the observer. Rare fall reports were provided by a banded **Ruddy Turnstone** at Mud Is. 8/7 followed by another at WSF 9/7. **Sanderling**, generally rare here, was reported at CCP 8/6 (DFi), one was at Mud Is. 8/14 (DFa), and an Irene bird was at PVP 8/28 (DFa, MS). **White-rumped Sandpiper** made an unusual showing in both numbers and duration mainly due to the very wet plowed sod and farm fields. Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at CCP 8/9-8/12 (DFa, DFi, BK), and 4 were at WSF 9/7 (DFa). There were 33 at Bedminster Twp. 9/7, for the observer's highest ever county tally. There were 12 to 14 at WSF 9/8-12. Washington Crossing had one 9/26 (MG), FTP had one to 2 on 10/2-8, and PWT had one 10/2. Baird's Sandpiper surprisingly was not reported. Nine **Dunlin** at PWT 10/31 provided a good fall count for here. There were 2 at FTP on 10/2-8, one at NSP 10/19 (both DFa), and 2 flew by PVP 10/20 (AM). As many as 18 **Stilt Sandpipers** were reported from five sites on eight dates between 8/6 and 10/15, with a high count of 6 at Rohm and Haas 8/7. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** singles stopped at Plumstead Twp. 8/28 and Buckingham Twp. 9/12-13. Eight **Short-billed Dowitchers** were tallied at three sites on three days between 8/7-9/7, with the high count being 4 at WSF 8/14. **American Woodcock** was reported on 11/7 at both Solebury Twp. (MRu) and Revere (DFa), with one at Warminster 11/24 (GJ). Another result of the hurricane, a **Red-necked Phalarope** was at NSP (DFa, MS), Plumstead Twp. (MS), and PWT 8/28 (DFa). A **Red Phalarope** grounded by a storm at NSP 11/16-17 provided the second report this year and ninth ever for the county (DFa, doc, vt., ph.).

The high count for **Bonaparte's Gull** was only 6 at PWT 11/6. Our second report for the year and seventh ever, a first year **Black-headed Gull** was at PWT 11/6 (no doc). A juv. **Laughing Gull** 8/14 at NSP provided an unusual report for the upper county, as did 2 each Irene related birds there (DFr, et al.) and at PVP (KR) 8/28. The storm also brought 17 to New Britain Twp. near PVP 8/28 (AM), the highest count in my memory for this far north in the county. Also, that day where somewhat more expected, 40 were at CCP (BK, MG) and 200 were at Lower Makefield Twp. (MG). Thousands were at Falls Twp. as usual in Oct (DFa), with 3500 reported at FTP 10/22 (MS) and 1100 still there 11/18 (BK). Numbers declined through Nov. One adult at PVP 11/28 (AM) was very late away from the lower county. The eighth county report of **Franklin's Gull** occurred 10/20 at PWT after a few days of searching through the thousands of Laughing Gulls present in Falls Twp. A probably different individual was at FTP 10/22 (DFa, MS) for our tenth report. The first reports of **Iceland Gull** came from Newtown 11/23 (BK) and PVP 11/24 (AM). The highest single site report of 189 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** came from PVP 11/19 (KR). The season's first **Glaucous Gull** was at PWT 11/22.

The tern counts reported 8/28 during the end of Irene varied greatly from observer to observer even though present at the same time

at a site. So, from that variation in reports, the exact numbers are unknown. The excitement of the event focusing on finding rarities, the interpretation of whether the birds were repeats or new arrivals as time passed, and the rough viewing conditions due to rain, wind, and poor lighting, all could contribute to the varying reports. Some observers reported that their counts were the maximum seen at one time at a site, while others used cumulative counts based on multiple vantage points or presumed passage of birds at a site. The bottom line is there were a lot of terns. High counts are reported in the table for a crude order of magnitude. It was suggested that both the 2 **Sooty Terns** and **Long-tailed Jaeger** shown in the table moved from PVP to NSP, which is probably a good assumption. As of this writing the Sooty Terns at PVP and NSP and the Royal Terns at NSP, Bristol, PWT, and CCP have been documented to PORC. The county status of Review List species in the table follows:

- **Sooty Tern**-There was only one previous report in Sep 2003, which was accepted by PORC.
- **Least Tern**- There were only three previous reports from May 1978, Apr 1980, and Jun 1992, all considered reliable in *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998.
- **Gull-billed Tern**-This is considered as possible on the county list due to there being five unconfirmed reports from 1954 through 1993 all coming from the records of one observer. Some of these reports were of long staying birds. Without documentation for this current report, although probably correct, the status will likely remain the same.
- **Royal Tern**-This species was considered possible on the county list based on four unconfirmed reports between 1958 and 1973, all from the records of the same observer. It was recently upgraded in status by two reports from Sep 2004 and Jul 2008, both accepted by PORC.
- **Long-tailed Jaeger**-There have been two previous reports from Aug/Sep 2003 and Sep 2008, both accepted by PORC.

#### HURRICANE IRENE HIGH COUNTS BY SITE (8/28 except as noted)

SPECIES	PWT	NSP	CCP	BRS	PVP
Sooty	1 (JV, DFa)	2 (DFr,BC, RH,MS)			2 (KR)
Least	3 (DFa)		1 (DFa, BK,MS)	2 (GD, CD)	1 (AM, 8/27)
Gull-billed	2 (JV)				
Caspian	25 (DFa)	20 (DFr, BC, RH)	2 (DFa, BK,MS)		5 (AM) 8/27
Black	~20 (DFa)	25 (DFr, BC, RH)		2 (GD, CD)	10 (MS)
Common		50 (DFr, BC, RH)	2 (MS)	3 (GD, CD)	10 (DFa)
Com/Arctic		1 (DFa, MS)			
Forster's		10 (MS)	6 (MS)	7+ (GD, CD)	5 (KR)
Royal	6 (DFa)	1 (GM)	1 (DFa, BK,MS)	1 (GD, CD)	
Sterna	100+ DFa				
L-t. Jaeger		1 (MS)			1 (DFa, MS)

The following are other tern reports this fall not listed in the table above. It was a good year even without the storm. Before Irene, **Caspian Tern** was reported on at least six days at PVP between 8/6 and 8/22, with an estimated total of 11 birds (AM, RH, BHi, HD). One was at Neshaminy State Park 8/20 (MG). After Irene on 8/29, 6 remained at NSP (CR, AM) and 2 were at PVP (HE). Then 6 were at PVP 9/6 (DFa), 2 stopped at NSP 9/24 (PC), and one was at PWT 10/2 (DFa). Before Irene, a **Black Tern** was at Mud Is. 8/14, 3 were at NSP 8/25, and 2 were at PWT 8/27. Post Irene on 8/29, only one could be found at PWT (CR, AM). One was at PVP 9/9 (AM, BHi). The only other **Common Tern** report was one at Bristol 9/29 (CR, AM). A **Forster's Tern** at PWT 8/14 and 4 at CCP 8/27 (BK) were the only reports before Irene. After Irene, one was at Bristol 8/29 (CR, AM), 5 were at PWT 9/17 (DFa), one was at PVP 9/26 (AM), and 3 were at PWT 10/9 (DFa). They were reported at FTP on five dates between 10/2 and 10/23, with a total of about 6 individuals.



A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at PVP 8/8 (RH) was the only post Jul report. Barn Owl went unreported. **Barred Owl** was reported in Sep 2009 at PVP for the first time in almost 50 years of serious birder coverage there. So, one first found 11/8-9 (MH, JB, TK ph.) provided the second. Of course it may be the same bird. A **Long-eared Owl** at Nockamixon Twp. 10/28 was the only confirmed report. Two **Short-eared Owls** were first noted 10/24 at Newtown Twp. (ME). Northern Saw-whet Owl was not reported. Somewhat late **Common Nighthawk** reports were one each at Newtown Twp. 10/8 (HMe) and West Rockhill Twp. 10/27 (TB). The highest count reported was about 25 at Trevoise 9/8 (TM), a small fraction of expected numbers of years ago. A **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** was a surprise at PVP 11/8 (HB ph., SW reviewed photos), as there were no flowers or feeders to attract it. This was the eighth *Selasphorus* hummingbird in the county starting in 1994, of which at least five earlier ones were confirmed as Rufous Hummingbirds. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at State Game Land #56 on 9/10 (PC) and another passed through PRN 10/2 for the only reports. A **Pileated Woodpecker** still feeding a presumed juv. at PVP 8/11 (VM) was interesting for the date. Two at Bradford Dam 8/31 (RfR) added to the reports of pairs at new locations.

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at State Game Land #157 on 8/19, 8/30, and 9/3. Another was a PVP 9/5 (RH). Five **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported between 8/31 and 9/11 (HD, DFa, RFr, BK). **Philadelphia Vireo** reports were light. There was one at PVP 9/12 (CC) and 9/16 (DFa). One at Giving Pond at Uhlertown 10/8 (PC) provided a new fall late date by one day. **Common Raven** reports continued to increase with 10 observers reporting from ten sites on at least 21 dates between 8/12 and 11/21 (m.ob.). Most reports are of one or two birds. A Warrington Twp. site is near a quarry and may suggest a possible future nest site (RfR). Sites ranged from MKF and Pineville in the south to Kintnersville in the north. **Horned Lark** was first reported 10/16 at MKF (RS). **Black-capped Chickadee** was reported only twice indicating no significant movement south this year (PC, BHi). Many were reported as **Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee**, particularly in the far upper part of the county, where some Black-capped Chickadee characteristics persist probably mostly in hybrids, making clear identification difficult. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was near absent. The first report was one at PVP 9/9 (CC). One was also reported there 9/29 (HE ph.) and 11/5-9 (AM), with 2 there 11/25 (PC). One was also noted at NSP 11/1 (AM, JM). A late **House Wren** was at Quakertown Swamp 11/20 (SSm). **Marsh Wrens** were reported at PRN on seven dates between 10/1 and 10/25 (DFa, KR), with the high count being 5 on 10/2 (DFa). One each was noted 10/3 at PVP (AM) and CCP (MG). One at PWT 11/25 provided a new fall late date, but there have been at least four later wintering reports in the past. **Gray Catbird** was reported at only three sites in Nov in eBird despite the warm weather (m.ob.). Only one **Brown Thrasher** found at PVP 11/14 was reported after Oct (AM). Starting 10/6, **American Pipit** was regular at MKF, with approximate high counts being 120 10/25, 150 11/14, and 100 11/22 (RS, VS). A single **Snow Bunting** at PVP 11/8 was surprisingly the only report (AM).

S.A.

Diane Allison investigated and provided the following information about a **Wood Thrush** that hit a window in May 2011 in Erwinna, Bucks. The bird was banded with both metal and two color bands as an adult at the Reserva El Jaguar, a shade grown coffee farm in Jinotega, Nicaragua on February 14, 2011. On 10/25/2011, a post to a blog by Curtis Smalling of North Carolina Audubon, a supporter of the banding at Jinotega, provided some fascinating facts as follows: "Just how rare is it for a songbird to be relocated? In the history of the Bird Banding Laboratory Electronic Records (some 50+ years), 346,359 individual songbirds (including woodpeckers as well) have been banded initially south of the U.S. (Central and South America or the Caribbean). Of those birds, only 81 have been recaptured in the U.S. during the breeding season (April-August). Of those 81 records, only three birds were Wood Thrushes, including the bird recovered this year. The other two Wood Thrush had been banded originally in April, meaning they were probably already on their way north when banded. So the Pennsylvania bird is likely the first Wood Thrush banded where it wintered and recovered where it was breeding!" You can read more about this at <http://ncadubonblog.org/2011/10/a-rare-bird-indeed/>.

A total of 33 warbler species was reported. The many low pressure systems with unfavorable wind may have caused warblers to linger in better numbers than recent years, with some surprising late dates. Ten species were recorded in Nov, and five set new fall late dates. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** of course winters annually but is included in the count. **Golden-winged Warbler** was noted at Tyler State Park 8/22 (BK) and PVP 8/24 (JB, TK) for the only reports of this rarely reported species. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was well described at PVP 9/10 (HMc, DZ, LG). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was early 9/16 in Tinicum Twp. (DA). Another was seen in Langhorne 10/10 (BK). One first noted 11/18 at suet in a Langhorne yard marks the fourth time in five years one has spent varying amounts of time there (GD, CD). **Connecticut Warbler** was under reported, with one each at MKF 9/16 (RS, VS), PWT 9/25 and 10/2 (DFa), and PVP 9/30 (AM). Also, under reported, **Mourning Warbler** was noted only 3 times between 8/23 and 9/4 (DFa, CC). A late **Common Yellowthroat** was at Silver Lake Park 11/27 (MG). **Hooded Warbler** continued until 9/10 at their breeding site at State Game Land #157, which was the only site reporting this species for the period. A **Cape May Warbler** at PVP 10/15 provided a new fall late date by a week (AM, et al.). A **Cerulean Warbler** at Solebury Twp. 10/8 (DW, doc.) provided the only report and a new fall late date. A **Northern Parula** at Yardley 11/2 (MG) established a new fall late date. A **Magnolia Warbler** at Churchville Park 8/6 provided a new fall early arrival date by a week (HD). One at MKF 11/14-11/30 provided a new fall late date, surpassing our previous record by almost seven weeks (RS, VS, HS ph.). A **Blackpoll Warbler** at Giving Pond 11/8-9 (EN ph., PC) established a new fall late date by a week. A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 11/1 (MR) was late but two days short of our previous late date. A **Palm Warbler** was at MKF 11/21 (RS). A **Pine Warbler** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** were at NSP 11/1 (AM, JM), adding to the Nov warbler list. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports were 2 at Bowman's Hill 8/3 (DFa), and one each at PVP 9/5-9/9 (CC) and MKF 9/10 (RS).

There were reports of 16 **Eastern Towhees** in Nov (m.ob.), with high reports being 4 at PWT 11/20 (DFa) and 5 at MKF 11/24 (RS). This may indicate a good lingering number into winter for this half-hardy species. **American Tree Sparrow** was barely mentioned, with approximately only 4 individuals from two sites starting 11/19 at PVP (RW). The only **Vesper Sparrow** reports came from MKF, with single birds on several dates between 10/9 and 11/4 (RS, VS). A rarely reported fall **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted at MKF 10/16 (DFa ph., RS). **Nelson's Sparrow** was reported at PRN on four dates between 10/6 and 10/25 (DFa, MS), with a high count of 3 on 10/6 (DFa). A **Blue Grosbeak** was still at PWT 8/29 for the last report. A dull plumaged **Dickcissel** at PRN 8/14 (KR, *vide* DFa) provided the only Aug record for the county. One was at MKF on the more expected date of 10/14 (RS, VS). **Eastern Meadowlark** did not appear on any reports in eBird or otherwise. The lack of reports is indicative of its drastic decline here, although it certainly was here at least as a migrant. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from five sites between 10/8 and 11/28 (DFa, DFf, MG, BHi). The highest count was 10 at Silver Lake Park 11/1 (MG). The **Baltimore Oriole** that wintered in New Hope seven years failed to return (SM). There were only about 5 **Purple Finches** reported including one at PVP 11/2-3 and 11/12 (AM, JM), one at Bridgeton Twp. 11/4 (DFa), 2 at Giving Pond 11/12 (PC), and one at NSP 11/27 (KR). A **Pine Siskin** was heard 10/9 at PWT (DFa) and seen at PVP 11/4 (HE ph.) for the only reports.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Diane Allison, Kris Alquist, Alana Balogh (ABa), Anne Bekker (ABe), Erich Boenzli, Tim Bradley (TBr), Alan Brady (ABr), Terry Bronson (TBo), Harris Brown, Jean Burch, Beth Ciuzio, Gene Constantine, Margaret Constantine, Sally Conyne, Paul Cooper, Marlin Corn (MCo), Chuck Crunkleton, Henry D'Allesandro, Gerry Dewaghe, Chris Dewaghe, Vince DeAntoniis, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Mark Eveland, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Doug Filler (DFi), Don Freiday (DFr), Ron French (RfR), Bob Friedemann, Roy Frock (RFo), Mark Gallagher (MG), Frank Gill, Lori Gladulich, Bill Graham, Mary Anne Graham (MGr), Al Guarente, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Ray Hendrick, Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel, Jason Horn, Kathleen Horn, Roger Horn, Corey Husic, Karen Isett, Mick Jeitner, Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Bill Keim, Sandra Keller, Tena Kellogg, Ken Kitson, Butch Lishman, Vicky Mahmoud, Geoff Malosh, Patrick March, Tim McFadden, Harry McGarrity (HMc), Rick Mellon, Holly Merker (HMe), Suzanne Meyers, Judy Mirabella, Craig Mortensen, Julie Nevin, Ed Norman, Don Parlee, Michael Rehman

(MRe), Ann Rhoads, Ken Rieker, Linda Rowan, Margie Rutbell (MRu), Cameron Rutt, Matt Sabatine, Casey Setash, Bob Shaffer, Steve Shreiner (SSh), Hannah Smith, Richard Smith, Steve Smith (SSm), Vicky Smith, Jeff Vinosky, Dan Watkins, Scott Weidensaul, Lesley Weissman-Cook (LW), Dave Wilbur, Mike Wilson, Rebecca Wilson, Dave Zamos.

### Butler County

Locations: The Birdwatchers Store (BS), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), South Shore (SS), South Shore Day Use Area (SSDA), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA), Watts Bay Marina (WBM), and Wolf Creek Narrows (WCN).

*Butler* represents a meteorological transition zone between warmer, drier *Allegheny* to its south and cooler, wetter County to its north. Slippery Rock Borough is approximately 50 air miles north of Pittsburgh and 60 air miles south of Erie. Although geographically distant, the counties are so in weather. The notorious I-80 corridor separates the northern tier of the "snow belt" from *Butler* and *Allegheny*, and I-76 more or less separates the latter two counties from each other in amount of precipitation. For example, SRB measured 5" rain in August (Pittsburgh 2.69"), 7" in Sept (Pittsburgh 2.81"), 5.5" in Oct (Pittsburgh 4.32"), and 3.5" in Nov (Pittsburgh 2.81") with a total 21" for SRB and 12.23" for Pittsburgh. Likewise, SRB escaped any 90F days during the period, yet Pittsburgh had several 90F+ days and was warmer than SRB by +1.2F. No measurable snow occurred in the period, although a trace of snow covered lawns 10/31 but quickly melted with temperature reaching 47F in the afternoon.

The ubiquitous **Canada Goose** did well this season, even with more pressure from human management pressure. The species uses the WOA and LO as early staging areas before and during hunting season with 56 birds at the former and 156 at the latter site 8/13, then 57 and 82 individuals respectively 8/21, increasing to 206 at WOA 10/11 (MV). A peak count of 287 geese occurred at WOA along with another 73 at the SSDA 10/21, then gradually dwindled to 156 and 53 individuals 10/30, and 77 individuals at WOA and 13 others at WBM 11/13 (MV). **Tundra Swans** were first reported with 109 over WOA 11/11 (MV); they were also over SRB-SRC-SRT 11/20-30 (GW, JW). What a relief in receiving many reports of the **Wood Duck** this year compared to just one record in 2010. Some records included as many as 10 at WOA and 19 at LO 8/7, peaking with 88 ducks at WOA 10/11, and decreasing to just 3 birds there 10/30 (MV). Nine **Gadwalls** were first recorded at WOA 10/21, increased to 19 individuals 10/30, with 12 there 11/11, peaking with 85 birds 11/13, finally declining to 62 birds at WOA 11/30 (MV). The 3 **American Wigeons** at WOA 10/11 added another of its kind 10/21 (MV). Two **American Black Ducks** at WOA 10/11 were 10 days later than last year, increased to 3 birds 11/11, then back to 2 individuals 11/13 (MV). A lone **American Black Duck** was observed at LO 11/6 while 7 individuals closed the period at the SSDA 11/30 (MV). The **Mallard** was well represented this period: 8 seen at WOA 8/7 and another 3 the same day at LO, increased to 22 birds at WOA and 10 at LO 8/13, peaking with 34 individuals at WOA 10/11, with 32 birds still there and 12 more at WBM 11/13 until 11/30 (GW, JW). A single male **Blue-winged Teal** was a pleasant surprise at WOA 9/4 as were 2 **Northern Shovelers** and 5 **Green-winged Teal** there 10/11 (MV). Both species were still present 10/21 with the addition of another teal. However, 11 shovelers were counted at WOA 10/30, 12 on 11/13, and 2 still there 11/30 with 19 teal the highest count 11/11 (MV). Diving ducks included 8 **Buffleheads** at WOA 11/11, 9 birds 11/13 plus one **Surf Scoter**, one **Common Goldeneye**, one **Hooded Merganser**, and 117 **Ruddy Ducks** at WBM and 58 at SSDA 11/13 (MV); 23 **Buffleheads** appeared at WBM 11/30 (MV). Seven **Hooded** and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were together with 68 **Ruddy Ducks** near the SSDA and 11 were still at WBM 11/30 (MV). No Common Mergansers were reported for the season.

Gallinaceous species were again rare this period with only 2 **Wild Turkey** gobblers observed in PF 11/30 (TS). On the other hand, one **Red-throated Loon** in the company of 2 **Common Loons** along the SS 11/11-13 allowed many birders to see them at close range. Time and again birders find unusual birds in bad weather, thus MV was amazed by at least 55 **Common Loons** literally falling out of a storm over LA 11/30. The first **Pied-billed Grebe** of the season appeared at WOA

8/21, followed by 4 birds there 9/4, and 5 individuals 10/11-21, peaking with 12 birds and 2 others along SS 10/30 (MV). Last **Pied-billed** was at WOA and 3 at WBM 11/30 (MV). Four **Horned Grebes** were originally discovered along the SS 11/8 (DeD), increasing to 6 there 11/11 with one bird left at WOA, another along the SS, and 3 at WBM 11/30 (MV). No **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported this period but the **Great Blue Heron** was common with reports at WOA and LO 8/7-11/13 (MV). Three **Green Herons** at were present at WOA and LO 8/7-9/4 (MV). One to 2 **Bald Eagles** were seen at both LA and LO during the entire period. The only unusual raptor of the period was a lone **Merlin** on the SS 11/8 (DeD).

Four **American Coots** returned to WOA 10/11 about 10 days later than last year and peaked with 330 birds 11/11, compared to 240 coots 11/17 in 2010. Coots then declined to 138 individuals at SSDA 11/30 vs. 110 birds 11/27 in 2010 (MV, GW). The local **Sandhill Crane** population continues to expand with six known breeding sites in the tri-county area this year.

Like last year, shorebird reports were scarce and mostly restricted to LO with the lake providing the best mudflat habitat anywhere in the county. Flats were also present at the WOA. Three **Semipalmated Plovers**, 13 **Killdeer**, 3 **Solitary**, 3 **Spotted**, 9 **Least**, and one **Pectoral Sandpiper** were recorded 8/7 at LO, with one **Killdeer** and an unusual 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** spotted at WOA the same day (MV). Three **Semipalmated Plovers**, 34 **Killdeer**, one **Solitary**, 4 **Spotted**, one **Semipalmated**, 12 **Least**, and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** visited the LO mudflats 8/13, while 2 **Killdeer**, one **Solitary**, 3 **Least**, and an uncommon **Stilt Sandpiper** were at WOA the same day (MV). One **Semipalmated Plover**, 27 **Killdeer**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Solitary**, 4 **Spotted**, 19 **Least**, and 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** occupied the LO mudflats 8/21 and the same day one **Solitary**, a lone **Semipalmated**, and 5 **Least Sandpipers** visited WOA. Days later, 3 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 26 **Killdeer**, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, a colorful, casual **Ruddy Turnstone**, and 6 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** joined the LO medley 8/28 (MV). A beautiful, diagnostic photograph of the turnstone was taken by JM 8/29. Unusually late were 6 **Greater Yellowlegs** at the SSDA 10/21 (MV), while scores of migrating **Killdeer** in SRT 11/30 were feeding on spread manure (GW).

A **Franklin's Gull**, casual in *Butler*, was in company with a **Bonaparte's Gull** and 56 **Ring-billed Gulls** at WBM 10/21 (MV). A fine, diagnostic photograph of the gull was taken by BC that proved the correct identification. **Bonaparte's Gull** was first seen earlier along the SS 9/1, built in number to 14 individuals 11/8-11, then declined to a few birds at the end of the period (GW). The **Ring-billed Gull**, however, went from one individual 8/7, to 24 at SSDA and 56 birds at WBM 10/21, down to 30 at SSDA in the presence of a single **Herring Gull** on 11/11 and 11/30 (MV). A lone **Black Tern** was observed at the Sand Pits west of SRT 9/9 (OM), the only tern reported this season.

The last male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** left SRB 9/10, 5 days later than in 2010, and the last female left 9/19, 4 days later than in 2010 (GW, JW). Three **Belted Kingfishers** were at LO 8/13-21 but just one remained 8/28; also 2 at WOA 8/21, 2 there 9/4, and one bird 9/11-30, contrasted greatly with only the one kingfisher at LO 11/21 for the entire season last year. The last singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** vacated PF, MW, and SRB 10/5, four days later than in 2010 (GW, JW). One irregular **Northern Shrike** surprised members of the Three Rivers Birding Club at the SSDA 11/13 and intrigued all birders with its tameness and agility in capturing shrews, voles, and birds to the end of the period. The shrike marked the fourth recent county record (1996, 1998, 2006). In contrast with 2010, no **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited MW, PF, SRB, SRT, WCN or our condo this season. The **Carolina Wren** still has not recovered from the high mortality rate of the severe 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 winters (GW). A score of **Eastern Bluebirds**, a maximum of 150 **American Robins**, and 49 **Cedar Waxwings** fed throughout Oct and Nov on the bumper crop of mock pear fruits in SRB-SRT. A few important avian indicators of the lack of early, severe seasonal weather in SRB-SRT included the huge flock of **European Starling**, estimated at 1500 individuals, that roamed two cemeteries, the SRB community park, hundreds of private home lawns, and the SRU campus for weeks to the end of the season and beyond. A second indicator is the lack of robins over-wintering in the local apple orchards. A third indicator is the large roaming flocks of mixed species of blackbirds that were still poised north and west of the county at season's end. The last avian indicator is the lack of northern boreal species not only not over-wintering thus far, but also not even flying over the county. The latest arrival ever of a single **Dark-eyed Junco** in PF was 11/3 and no **American Tree Sparrows** appeared whatsoever



the entire season in MW, PF, SRB, SRT, and WCN. Perhaps avian winter is still coming in the New Year, but, if so, the birds will know it before we do (GW).

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com**, Birdwatchers Store Personnel, Ben Coulter, Debbie Darney, Jeff McDonald, Oscar Miller, Poplar Forest Wetlands Initiative, Cathy Setzer, Terry Steele, Shannon Thompson, Three Rivers Birding Club, Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm, Dave Wilton.

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### Cambria County

Locations: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Due to the lowering of the water level at PG we experienced the best birding that we can remember.

Waterfowl at PG included **Wood Duck, Gadwall, Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Duck**, along with **Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, and Eared Grebes**. The **Eared Grebes** were first seen 9/17 (MH, GL, DG, JS, LC).

On 9/20 an immature **Peregrine Falcon** was seen diving at a **Lesser Yellowlegs** that it had forced onto the surface of the water. After about seven attempts it gave up. The yellowlegs then swam to shore, shook itself off, and called a few times before it flew off (DG). Shorebirding was fantastic with thousands of birds seen at PG. Species seen were **Black-Bellied, American Golden, and Semipalmated Plovers, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped, Baird's, and Pectoral Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Wilson's Snipe** (MH, GL, DG, JS, LC, TG, MVT, ST, DW). A lone **Whimbrel** was present 9/16 (DG). A flock of ~300 **Dunlin** was seen 10/27 (DG). Terns included **Caspian, Black, Common, and Forster's**.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PG 9/1 (DG). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at PG 9/18 (ST, DW). The warbler migration was very good. A very late **Yellow Warbler** was at PG 10/8 (DG, MH, TG, LC, JS). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at PG 10/6 (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, John Salvetti, Marge Van Tassel, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton.

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### Cameron County

No compiler.

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### Carbon County

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

An extremely wet fall led to a report of unusual water birds but very little in the way of passerines. Breaks in the weather led to large movements of raptors when the skies were favorable.

Strangely, there was little to report in the way of waterfowl during this extremely wet season. Six female **Black Scoters** were present 11/22 at BSP (RB). **Lesser and Greater Scaup** were present along with 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** at BSP 11/23 (DH). Up to 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were present 11/22 and 11/23 at BSP (DH, RB). A single **Common Loon** was at BSP 9/7 (RR, BR). **Common Loons** were seen migrating over BMS with 2 on 10/28, 7 on 11/11, and 17 on 11/17 (RR, BR). A total of 6 **Horned Grebes** were present 11/23 at BSP (DH). A single **Ruffed Grouse** was flushed along the Appalachian Trail near LG 10/6 (RR, BR). A single **Great Egret** was 9/6 and 9/8 at BSP (RR, BR).

**Broad-winged Hawks** moved past BMS in good numbers for five days in Sep. The counts for these days included 447 on 9/14, 753 on 9/16, 496 on 9/18, 508 on 9/19, and 204 on 9/30 (RR, BR). A nice **Red-tailed Hawk** flight was recorded 10/30 with 216 individuals at BMS (RR, BR). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** had some very large flights as well with the following numbers recorded at BMS: 119 on 10/4, 146 on 10/6, 197

on 10/22, and 342 on 10/25 (RR, BR). A single **Northern Goshawk** was observed 10/22 at BMS (RR, BR). The highest count of migrating **Bald Eagles** was reported 10/4 with 17 flying past the ridge (RR, BR). **Golden Eagles** were reported eight days from BMS: one 10/4, 3 on 10/22, 8 on 10/25, one 10/28, 2 on 11/4, 2 on 11/18, 3 on 11/17, and 2 on 11/11 (RR, BR). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at WCR 8/28 (CH). The high count for migrating Peregrines was 3 birds at BMS 10/4 (RR, BR). Single **Merlins** were over BMS 10/4 and 11/18 (RR, BR).

A single **Black-bellied Plover** was heard calling near the boat launch of BSP 8/28 (CH). An **American Golden-Plover** was photographed on the beach of BSP 9/24 (RR, BR). Possibly the best find of the fall season was an **American Avocet** at the Pine Run boat launch at BSP 8/14 (DH, m.ob.). Hurricane Irene grounded 2 **Sanderlings** at the beach of BSP 8/28 (DA, DW, RW). Another **Sanderling** was found at BSP 9/1 (RR, BR).

A very good bird for **Carbon** was an immature **Laughing Gull** photographed at BSP 9/7 (RR, BR). **Black Terns** were recorded twice at BSP: 7 on 8/14 (RW) and 2 9/8 (RR, BR). A single **Forster's Tern** was observed 9/7 at BSP (RR, BR). A large tern was recorded 8/28 at BSP, possibly a Royal Tern, but it could not be confirmed in the pouring rain (DA, DW, CH, RW). **Caspian Terns** were observed twice at BSP, 2 were seen 8/15 (DA), and at least one was present 8/28 (DA, DW, RW).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were conspicuous at the Christman Trail area of BSP with 3 individuals calling and flying from tree to tree 8/9 (DW). **Purple Martins** were grounded amongst a large flock of swallows during Hurricane Irene 8/28 (RR, BR, DH, DW). The only report of an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** came from MCL 9/10 (WK). Warblers of note were very under-reported for the period. A **Tennessee Warbler** was noted 9/10 from Hill Home Forge near Jim Thorpe (WK). A migrant male **Hooded Warbler** was found at LG 8/23 (DW). Two **Connecticut Warblers** were found 9/29 at LG (DW), the only report of this species for the fall. A very low total of **Lincoln's Sparrows** was also recorded for the season. One was found at LG 9/29 (DW), 2 at BSP 9/29 (DA), and 2 at BMS 10/4 (RR, BR). Juvenile **Grasshopper Sparrows** (4) were found near Christman Trail at BSP 8/9 (DW). A single **Eastern Towhee** lingered until 10/15 near the Little Gap Hawk Watch (LS, DR). Approximately 20 **Bobolinks** were present at the Christman Trail fields at BSP 8/9 (DW).

Observers: **Dustin Welch, 7122 Arrowhead Road, Bath, PA 18014, (484) 538-7486, DWelch5951@aol.com**, Dan Altif, Rob Bergstresser, Dave Hawk, Corey Husic, William Keim, Barbara Rehrig, Richard Rehrig, Derek Richardson, Lauriane Streit, Rick Wiltraut.

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### Centre County

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

This was an excellent season for shorebirds, including a county first: **Long-billed Dowitcher**. COL experienced a major fallout 8/6 that included an **American Avocet** still in breeding plumage. In September heavy rains produced by slow moving fronts and tropical systems yielded many nice shorebirds. An early season snowstorm 10/29 resulted in a wide variety of ducks on local lakes. Information for this report was obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv, the State College R.B.A. and eBird, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A single large flock of 60 **Snow Geese** passed JHV 11/4 (AL), and 50 were spotted 11/19 BESP (GL). Two blue phase Snow Geese in were present 11/24 at Linden Hall (DiB). Two **Brant** made rare appearances—one 10/27 COL (JV, et al.), and another 10/29 BESP (DW, AL). Several uncommon ducks, including **Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser** were noted during their peak migration times (JoL, et al.), although the lack of bad weather resulted in fewer duck sightings than usual. Notable observations included an early **Gadwall** 9/6 JUL (MD), 6 early **Blue-winged Teal** 8/9-11 Tadpole Rd. (DW), 7 **Surf Scoters** 10/22-31 BESP (JV, DW, AL, MM), and 3 **White-winged Scoters** 11/23 BESP (NT). DW, AL, JV reported a maximum of 6 **Black Scoters**

10/29-31 BESP; they were also reported in Howard 11/5 (LS). Two common species appeared in large numbers: 300 **Bufflehead** 11/22-23 BESP (NT, BS) and 110 **Ruddy Ducks** 10/29 BESP (DW, AL).

Although an introduced species, **Ring-necked Pheasants** are uncommon. Reports included an adult male 10/13 BESP (AL, JoL), one at TOF 10/14 (JV), 2 on 11/8 former Rockview Penitentiary fields (JV, DW, MB), and 5 near Clarence 11/13 (TS). One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported 11/2 Unionville (AnF) and another 11/8 BESP (NT). A few were seen near State College 11/28-29 (MD).

Two rare **Red-throated Loons**, a juvenile and an adult, were present 11/14-19 BESP (AL, et al.). Two were also spotted there 11/26 (MW). A few **Common Loons** made unexpected early appearances: 8/6-7 COL (JV, GL, DW), and 8/25-29 BESP (JV, et al.). Four **Horned Grebes** were spotted at COL 10/27 (NF, et al.), and three were noted 11/22-23 COL (JD, GG). Two were seen 10/29-30 BESP (DiB, et al.), and up to 57 were identified at BESP 11/8-14 (NT, AL, JV, TS, BS). **Red-necked Grebes** are very rare fall migrants. Two were seen at BESP—one 10/30 (JD, et al.) and a second 11/7 (CK). Single rare **Great Egrets** were reported in Aug and Sep at COL (GL, et al.), Nittany Farms (NF, AL, DW, JoL), Linden Hall Rd. (JV, IG), and TOF (DW, CG, MD, JV). Two were spotted on Old Gatesburg Rd. 10/20 (JoL, AL, JT). **Green Herons** were widely reported in Aug and Sep (MH, et al.). A late bird was spotted 10/23 BESP (JD). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, casual migrants here, were spotted 9/9 State College (JK).

An unprecedented number of **Black Vultures** were observed, beginning 8/1 BESP (BB). There were four Sep reports (MD, AnF, AL), and three of the four of the Oc reports (JD, MM, AnF, AL, JoL) were of multiple birds including a high of 7 at JHV 10/5 (AL, DW). There were 10 reports in Nov (AnF, et al.). This increase is interesting; eBird data shows 10 fall reports in 2010 and three in 2009. NB spotted a late **Turkey Vulture** 11/26 Duck Pond. **Ospreys** were widely reported through the first week in Oct (DW, et al.). A few continued at BESP, including two adults 10/13 (AL, JoL), one or two 10/30-11/16 (AL, et al.). **Bald Eagles** of various ages were reported frequently and widely (MH, et al.), with most sightings at BESP (JV, et al.) and JHV (DW, et al.). An adult and a juvenile were at the University Park Airport 9/8 (DB). **Northern Harriers** were also widely noted, peaking in Oct and Nov (AL, et al.). Rare **Northern Goshawks** were spotted 9/18 SCO (GG) and 9/24 Old Mingle Rd. (MM). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were spotted 8/21-22 COL (JoL, AL, IG), JHV 9/16 (JV), 9/26 ARBOR (JoL, PSU, AL, NF), 10/27-28 COL (JoL, NaB, AL, StB) and 11/2-7 Unionville (AnF). The latter half of Sep produced high **Broad-winged Hawk** counts at JHV, including 453 on 9/14 (AL, et al.), 527 on 9/16 (DW, et al.), over 300 on 9/16 (DW, et al.), and 340 on 9/24 (AL). **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed 11/21 and 11/25 (BS) at locations off I-99 between Bellefonte and State College. **Golden Eagles** were reported in Unionville 11/2-9 and 11/19-25 (AnF). They were also spotted at JHV: 11/4 (AL, StB, NaB, DW), 7 on 11/17 (CG, CW, GG), and 9 on 11/23 (CW). A dozen were spotted 11/23 at Skytop (HB). A migrating **Merlin** attempted to chase down one of the **Killdeer** 9/8 North Nixon Rd. (GL, AnF, AL). Up to 3 were observed at JHV 9/15-16 (AnF, et al.) and 10/4-5 (DW, et al.). JV spotted one 9/23 Circleville Farm and another 10/16 MMNC. A few **Peregrine Falcons** flew by JHV, including 2 on 9/15 (AnF, et al.), one on 9/26 (AL), and up to 6 on 10/2-4 (IG, et al.). Individuals were also noted 9/18 Governors Rd. (AL, AnF), 10/2 Musser Gap (JV), and 10/20 Fairbrook Wetlands/Tadpole Rd. (MD, NF, AL, MM, JV).

"Some subtle chatter" in the cattails announced a group of 2-3 juvenile **Soras** 8/21-24 TOF (JV, et al.). Several rare plovers were reported including up to 10 **Black-bellied Plovers** on North Nixon Rd. 9/13 and 9/23 (JV, AnF, AL). BB also located 2 at BESP 10/30. Up to 11 **American Golden-Plovers** were found on North and South Nixon Rds. 9/7-14 (MD, et al.) and 9/23-28 (JoL, AL, MM, JV, JD). One was spotted 9/25 BESP (JV) and another at Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands 10/14-15 (AL, et al.). Two were noted 10/29 BESP (JV). Eight **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported 8/1-10 COL (DW, et al.); most sightings were 9/5-13 at BESP (NF, et al.), COL (GG), North Nixon Rd. (GL, et al.), and Rock Springs (DW). The season's last report of one at Fairbrook wetland 10/5 (AL, DW). The county's first **American Avocet** since 2009 was an adult in breeding plumage admired by many 8/6 COL (GG, et al.). **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Snipe** and were regularly reported within their respective peak migration times (DW, et al.). High numbers included 20 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/12 Fairbrook wetlands/Tadpole Rd. (JV) and 60 **Lesser Yellowlegs** COL 8/6 (JV, et

al.). Up to 40 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were noted 9/7-12 on North and South Nixon Rds. (MD, et al.). Seven **Least Sandpipers** were at SCO 9/4 (AL). GG, et al. reported 18 **Pectoral Sandpipers** as part of a large fallout 8/6 COL, and up to 10 **Wilson's Snipe** were noted at Fairbrook wetlands/Tadpole Rd. 10/13-21 (DW, et al.).

Many rare species were also reported. A **Ruddy Turnstone** made a brief appearance 8/6 COL (GL, DeG); a second was observed 9/8-9 BESP (NT, et al.). All **Sanderling** reports were from BESP, including 2 on 8/28 (JV, et al.) and up to 13 on 9/5-9 (NF, et al.). Up to 22 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, casual in the region, were located 9/8-13 North Nixon Rd. (AL, et al.), a maximum of 3 were present 9/9-11 Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands (TS, et al.). JV spotted the last one of the season 10/13 at the same location. DW found a single **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/9 Tadpole Rd., and up to 4 were noted 9/9-12 North Nixon Rd. (DW, TS, JV). Several **Dunlin** were reported, including 9 on 10/19-27 Tadpole Rd./Fairbrook wetlands (AnF, AL, JoL, JV), 2 on 11/5 Tadpole Rd. (JV, MD), and one 11/16 BESP (AL, et al.). Three **Stilt Sandpipers** were recognized 8/6 COL "by eye-stripe, dull yellow-green legs, moderately long down-turned bill (but not as long as dowitchers), feeding with dowitcher motion, feeding with rear-ends tipped way up" (GG, CK, JV). The 8/6 COL shorebird fallout also yielded two dozen **Short-billed Dowitchers** (CK, et al.). A Red-necked Phalarope was found 8/28 SCO (SL, JD).

S.A.

A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was discovered at Fairbrook wetlands/Tadpole Rd. 10/15 (MD, AL, DW, TS, JoL, NF, BO). Initially reported as a Short-billed Dowitcher, a more careful examination of photographs indicated that it was actually a Long-billed Dowitcher. According to B&G 2010, this is the first time that the species has been identified in the six-county region that includes Centre.

**Bonaparte's Gull** was spotted at BESP 8/26-9/9 (NF, et al.), 11/6-7 (JD, et al.) and 11/23-28 (NT, TS). **Herring Gull** was observed more frequently, primarily in Oct and Nov (JA, et al.). An earlier series of sightings occurred at BESP 8/28-9/9 (AnF, et al.). Four tern species were observed, including up to 8 **Caspian Terns** 8/28-9/11 BESP (JV, et al.). A rare Black Tern was spotted 9/5-8 BESP (IG, et al.) DW noted that it was "nice seeing the Black Tern flying around with the larger terns to get a perspective on how small it actually is." Two rare **Common Terns** were noted 9/8-9 BESP (JV, et al.). Three late migrants passed through 10/30-31 BESP (JV, et al.), and BS spotted a non-breeding adult 11/1 BESP. **Forster's Terns** were first observed 8/3-14 COL (DW, DR, MH), and 8/7 Nittany Farms (DW). As many as 4 were sighted at BESP 8/25-9/9 (AL, et al.).

**Barn Owls** were reported 8/29-9/17 SCO (TS, AL, DW, NF, JV), BESP 10/9 (DiB, DGr), Musser Gap 10/23 (JV), and 10/28 SCO (JW, NaB, DW, JoL, AL, IG). The situation is similar for **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. Two were reported 10/6 Bear Meadows (JV), and Big Sit! participants at BESP 10/9 (DiB, DGr) heard one. Both uncommon species are resident year-round. Small numbers of uncommon **Common Nighthawks** were reported widely throughout the county 8/22-10/4 (IG, et al.), however, about 20 were reported in State College 8/26 (RC), and 22 were observed at Scotia 8/24 (JV, NW, DW, AnF, AL). Another uncommon species is the **Eastern Whip-poor-will**. A few intrepid birders located one singing at SCO 8/22 (NF, TS, GG, AL). Other reports, each of two birds, were also at SCO 8/29-9/16 (TS, et al.). Although uncommon, **Belted Kingfishers** were regularly reported (MH, et al.). **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** are also uncommon. A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was ph. 8/2-3 Williams Rd. (DW), and two recently fledged birds visited a peanut feeder with their parents 8/11-30 Sinking Creek (LR). Single birds were spotted 8/11 TOF (JM, CrM), 9/24 JHV (AL), and 10/16 Tadpole Rd. (JV). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were regularly reported from late Sep through the end of Nov (DW, et al.).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed 8/27-9/10 SCO (GG, et al.), 9/9 Rock Springs (DW) and 9/15 TOF (JV). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted 9/10 SCO (JV, GG, GL, DeG, LT), 9/14 ARBOR (AL, et al.), 9/22 TOF (MD) and ARBOR 9/22 (NF, PSU). Most reports of **Acadian Flycatchers** were from SCO, with 1-2 birds observed 8/27-9/10 (GG, GL, DeG, LT). The last report was 9/21 ARBOR (StB, et al.). DW found one **Alder Flycatcher** 9/9 Rock Springs; **Willow Flycatchers** were observed at several locations 8/6-



9/11 (NB, DW, PSU, AL, JoL). Reports of a "Traill's" Flycatcher came from SCO 8/29-9/2 (DW, AnF, AL) and up to 5 Rock Springs 9/9-10 (DW). **Least Flycatchers, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Eastern Kingbirds** were regularly reported throughout the county during migration (DW, et al.), including 23 kingbirds hawking insects over the lake 8/28 at BESP (JV).

Early Nov often brings reports of **Northern Shrikes** at BESP. This year was no exception, with reports 11/4-29 BESP (JF, et al.) and one spotted near Clarence 11/13-19 (TS). NK reported a **Yellow-throated Vireo** 9/16 TOF. **Warbling Vireos** were noted 8/29-9/17 SCO (DW, AnF, AL, MD), and one was foraging with a mixed flock of **Red-eyed Vireos** and assorted warblers 9/6 BESP (JoL, NF, MM, AL, IG, DW). Uncommon **Philadelphia Vireos** were noted 9/10-17 SCO (JD, et al.) and 9/11 North Nixon Rd. (AL, JoL). **Common Ravens**, uncommon year-round residents, were regularly and widely observed (DW, et al.), including one ph. at JHV flying by with a golf ball in its bill 11/17 (CG, CW, GG). No golf clubs were seen. Seventeen **Purple Martins** were ph. 8/7 BESP (NB). Most were first-year birds, probably from nearby Howard. A few **Tree Swallows** lingered; 8 were spotted 10/22 JUL (JV), and one was seen 10/30-31 BESP (DiB, NB, AL, MM). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were observed at several locations 8/6-9/1 (CK, et al.), with 30 noted 8/28 COL (IG, JoL, AnF, AL). All **Bank Swallow** observations were between 8/24-29 at TOF, BESP, COL, and SCO (NF, et al.). Fifty individuals were reported 8/28 COL (IG, AnF, AL, JoL). **Cliff Swallows** were seen at several locations throughout Aug (DW, et al.). Two large flocks of **Barn Swallows** were noted: 85 on 8/6 JUL (NB) and 60 on 8/26 BESP (AL).

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** is an uncommon irruptive species. Four were observed during the fall migration: 8/28 BESP/Howard (JL), 8/30 SCO (NF), 10/4 Thompson's Woods Preserve (TA), and 10/26 Circleville Farm (JV). One Brown Creeper was seen 10/13 SCO (GG), and 2 were observed 10/25 Circleville Farm (JV). Single birds were noted 10/30 BESP (JV, AL, DW, NaB, JoL) and SCO 11/29 (MD). A lingering **House Wren** was spotted 11/5 MMNC (NB). A rare migrating **Marsh Wren** was ph. 9/17-19 JUL (NB, DW, JV, TS, NF).

Large flocks of migrating thrushes were heard. "It was downright loud with the calls of **Veery, Swainson's Thrush, and many warblers,**" reported AL at State College 9/8. An hour of early morning listening 9/23 at ARBOR yielded 1880 **Swainson's Thrush, 176 Veery, 8 Wood Thrush, 10 Gray-cheeked Thrush, and 2 Hermit Thrush** (DW). Approximately 1000 **American Robins** flew over BESP 10/31 at dawn (NB, DiB). **Veery** were seen regularly 8/20-10/4 (GG, et al.), and **Swainson's Thrush** were widely reported 9/8-10/7 (AL, et al.). Up to 8 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were noted 9/11-24 SCO (AL, NF, DW, JV, TS), one 9/23 ARBOR (StB, et al.), 2 on 9/24-25 Pleasant Gap (MM, JoL, AL), 3 on 9/25 BESP (JV), 12 on 9/26 Panther Strip Mine (DW), and one each 10/1 JUL (DW) and 10/2 JHV (IG, AL).

A few late **Gray Catbirds** were noted 11/1 TOF (NF) and 11/4 State College (MH). Five **Brown Thrashers** were spotted 11/7 ARBOR (AL). Uncommon **American Pipits** first appeared 10/3 BESP (JA) and were intermittently observed throughout the rest of the season (DW, et al.). Most sightings of the eagerly anticipated **Snow Bunting** occurred 10/30-11/16 BESP, where up to 20 were noted (AL, et al.). Five were spotted 11/1-2 Unionville (AnF), and 3 on 11/4 JHV (ph. AL). TS noted 4 on Devils Elbow Rd. 11/5.

County birders spotted 31 warbler species and one hybrid, with SCO being the primary hotspot. A few **Yellow Warblers** lingered at SCO 8/27 (GG), BESP 8/28 (DW), MMNC 9/13 (JV), and Circleville farm 9/23 (JoL, StB, MM, AnF, AL). Most warblers are uncommon during autumn with **Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler** reported fairly regularly during their appropriate migration period (SJ, et al.) Notable observations included three **Worm-eating Warbler** reports from SCO: one 8/24 (GG), 2 on 9/1 (GG), and one 9/23 (AL, JoL). Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were seen at SCO 8/26-30 (AL, et al.), **Blue-winged Warblers** were spotted 8/30-9/10 SCO (GG, TS, AL, JoL, AnF), and a female **Lawrence's Warbler** 8/29 SCO (ph. AL). Up to 7 **Cape May Warblers** were reported in one visit SCO 8/25-9/26 (IG, et al.). A few **Prairie Warblers** were also identified, including one on State Rt. 4009 on 8/27 (AL, JoL), 3 at Rock Springs 9/9 (DW), and one ARBOR 9/30 (NF, AL, DW, PSU). The gems are the rarities. Many **Louisiana Waterthrushes** depart in July, but one was reported 8/7 COL (DW), and another 8/21 MMNC (AL). Single

**Northern Waterthrushes** were noted 8/30-9/10 SCO (DW, et al.), 9/5-6 JUL (NB, MD), and 9/25 BESP (JV). **Orange-crowned Warblers** are not observed every year. Single birds were reported at Circleville Farm 9/23 (JV), 10/2 Tadpole Rd. (JV), and a third was banded at ARBOR 10/18 (StB, et al.) A first fall or female **Connecticut Warbler** was seen at Scotia 9/10 (JV), and one was captured and banded 9/21 ARBOR (StB, et al.). Single **Mourning Warblers** were spotted at BMSP 8/5 (SJ); Rock Springs 9/9 (DW), and 9/25 near ARBOR (GL, DeG). Banders at ARBOR banded a fourth bird 10/18 (StB, et al.).

Several uncommon sparrows were reported during their typical migration periods, including **Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow** (DW, et al.). Notable observations included 6 **Vesper Sparrows** 9/9 North Nixon Rd. (AnF, et al.) and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** 10/4 Circleville Farm (GL). A rare **Clay-colored Sparrow** was identified 9/25 Panther Strip Mine (JV). All reports of rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were from Circleville farm on 9/22-24 (JV, MD) and 10/4-8 (JV, et al.). Single **Dickcissels** were reported 9/9 North Nixon Rd. (AL, AnF, TS, NF) and 10/3 Circleville farm (JV).

**Bobolinks** were reported 9/2-10 from SCO (AL, TS, DW, AnF), BESP (DW), North Nixon Rd. (DW), Tadpole Rd. (DW), and ARBOR (DW, PSU). A season high 75 birds were observed 9/9 North Nixon Rd. (AL, AnF, TS, NF). Over 1200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were seen 8/8 MMNC (JV). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported at several locations 9/16-10/30 (IG, et al.), with high numbers of 10 each 10/19 Tadpole Rd. (AnF, AL, JoL) and 10/30 Rock Springs (JD). **Rusty Blackbirds** are also uncommon. Three were noted 10/6 Circleville Farm (IG), and one or two at JUL 10/22-23 (JV, NB). One was identified ARBOR 11/9 (StB, AL, NaB, PSU), and single birds were reported at BESP 11/12 (JV) and 11/20 (MD). Half a dozen were ph. 11/26 MMNC (CrM, JM, NB). DeG observed "a long ribbon" of over 3000 **Common Grackles** that "took almost a minute" to fly over Stormstown 11/4. A very late adult male **Baltimore Oriole** was found 11/6 TOF (DW, StB).

A **Purple Finch** was spotted 8/26 SCO (AL, DW, NF, TS), and 2 were noted 9/23 Circleville Farm (JV) and at ARBOR 9/25 (MD). A single bird was noted at BESP 10/13 (AL). BESP had the record with 20 observed 10/31 (AL, MM). NB found a single male 11/13 Duck Pond, and WV observed one in State College 11/22. A rare type-1 **Red Crossbill** was identified near David's Vista 11/20 (JV). **Pine Siskin** was reported 11/8 Unionville (AnF).

Observers: **N.J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Jan Allen, Cindy Alley, Tom Auer, Nadia Barkawi (NaB), Barry Bermudez, Diane Bierly (DiB), Hillel Brandes, Steve Brenner (StB), Margaret Brittingham, Don Bryant, Ken Burdick, Ron Crandall, Mike Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Darlene Emers, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Anna Fasoli (AnF), John Fedak, Steven Feldstein, Bob Frederick (BoF), Nate Fronk, Rodney Gallie (RoG), Ian Gardner, Chett Gottfried, Sue Gottfried, Debra Grim (DGr), Greg Grove, Delia Guzman (DeG), Molly Heath, Jason Hill, Steve Johnson, Jennifer Kagel (JeK), Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Alex Lamoreaux, Gretchen Lasser, Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, Josh Lefever (JoL), Scott Lewis, Alan MacEachren, David McNaughton, Craig Miller (CrM), Jean Miller, Mark Mizak, Meghan Oberkircher (MeO), Bill Oyler, PSU Avian Outreach Techniques class (PSU), Larry Ragan (LaR), Larry Ramsey, Dave Ryan, Tim Schreckengost, Lauren Shaffer, Stephanie Shields, Bob Snyder, Eunice Son, Edmond Spaeth (EdS), Todd Stawser (ToS), James Thies, Emily Hope Thomas (EHT), Nick Thomas, Laura Tremontana, Matthew Truesdale, Joe Verica, LeeAnn Verica (LAV), William Voigt, Drew Weber, Justine Weber, Nelson Weber, Sandra Welch, Chuck Widmann, Martin Wilson.

### **Chester County**

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Bucktoe Creek Preserve Hawkwatch (BCPHW), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park at Church Farm School (CFS), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Struble Lake (SL), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMP).

After earth-parching summer heat and drought, rains arriving at the start of the season were a harbinger of things to come. Fall 2011 saw record levels of rain, with two tropical systems contributing significantly to the total. Hurricane Irene was the most notable, arriving in the early

morning hours of 8/28. A few dozen stalwart *Chester* birders stood watch in anticipation of storm-displaced species at MCSP and SL as the storm moved through the eastern part of the state. This effort produced *Chester's* first record of a **Royal Tern**. Other hurricane assisted birds included **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Laughing Gull**, **Common Tern**, and **Black Terns**. A long-awaited modern record of **Common Raven** occurred in the northern part of the county this fall, giving hope to continued encounters with this expanding species. Additional highlights included **Rufous Hummingbirds** and a **Western Kingbird**.

Some notable waterfowl species were found, but overall waterfowl numbers seemed to be low. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** detected among scores of Canada Geese on Somerset Lake in Landenberg was a nice find 11/27 (WBH, JMG, LL), the only record of this species in *Chester* in 2011. An imm. **Brant** was a good find at CL 10/22-11/4 (RR, JW). Additionally, a flock of 30 Brant were seen passing over the BCPHW 10/22 (TR, LL). Observations of **Cackling Geese** were made in multiple locations as **Canada Geese** populations abounded during Oct-Nov (m.ob.).

An early **Gadwall** was found on a small private res. in Guthriesville 8/15 (LL, KP). **Blue-winged Teal** were seen sporadically in Oct, with reports of 2 at CL 10/2 and 10/6 (RR), a high count of 4 at CFS 10/15 (HM), and 2 there 10/25 (JL). An interesting duck was what appeared to be a **Mallard x Northern Pintail** seen and photographed 10/31-11/1 at CFS (AD, JD). The observers noted this to be a drake, and exhibiting plumage traits of both species. The discovery of a single **Surf Scoter** at CL 10/23 was happenstance when found by a birder who stopped in to look for the continuing Brant (AL). The scoter continued through 10/27. A male **White-winged Scoter** appeared at MCSP during a storm 11/21 (HM, NP). A solo female **Common Goldeneye** was at CL 11/25-26 (RR), and 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at CL 11/22 (HM).

Single **Red-throated Loons** were found 11/21 at SL (HM, NP), and at MCSP 11/22-23 (HM, KF). **Common Loons** were spotted in Oct and Nov at various locations, including flyovers at BCPHW (m.ob.). An early **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared on the lake at MCSP during Hurricane Irene 8/28, presumably a result of the storm (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** could be found most reliably at MCSP in mid to late Nov., with a high count of 13 there 11/23 (KF). One was also seen at CL 10/24 (TB).

A rather slow day at BCPHW became thrilling the instant an **Anhinga** was spotted flying over the site 10/24 (LL, HD). The observation marked a first fall record of this rare visitor to *Chester*. Immature **Little Blue Herons** were found in multiple locations this fall. Reports came from OCTRES (HM, KF), CFS 8/18 (GT, et. al), and one lingering at CL 8/17-8/29 (HM, LL, m.ob.). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are not easy to find in *Chester* during any season, but SL seemed to be the best place for finding one. Two were seen at dusk at SL 8/7 (HM), and an immature was spotted there 8/16 (HM, LL, KP). A **Plegadis ibis** was seen in flight over Rte. 322 in W. Brandywine Twp. 8/15 (LW). A second hand report of an unidentified ibis sp. leaving Kurtz's Fish Hatchery in Aug gave false hope to local birders that further ibis sightings might follow (RK *vide* LL).

The BCPHW counted migrant raptors daily 9/1-11/30 (LL). Some of the raptor highlights included at least 3 **Northern Goshawks** and 3 **Golden Eagles**, but further details were not reported.

A single **Virginia Rail** was discovered at CL 10/27 (NP). Reports of **Sora** came from the wetland areas of CFS/EP 10/21 (JL) and 10/27 (GT). A **Common Gallinule** discovered within *Chester* waters at OCTRES at the end of July was again spotted in the same location for the final time 8/1 (CC).

While Aug rains filled many of the water bodies and retention areas throughout the county, an island of sand and gravel remained exposed at CL, inviting a wide variety of shorebirds to drop in to refuel. Flyover shorebirds at BCPHW were also noted, and a flooded field along Scarlet Rd in Kennett Square provided good habitat when conditions at other locations were no longer conducive. A **Black-bellied Plover** was heard but not seen at CL 8/25 (LL). An exciting flyover at BCPHW 9/11 was a calling **American Golden Plover** (LL). **Semipalmated Plovers** were found regularly at CL through Aug, and peaked with a high count of 9 counted 8/10 (LL). Good numbers of **Killdeer** in migration are attracted to the manicured polo fields at the Brandywine Polo Club in New Garden, where 123 were counted 8/21 (HM). Certainly the highlight of the fall shorebird spectacle was a single **American Avocet** found at CL 8/10 (LL, KP, m.ob.) spent time resting and feeding that day, offering views to many appreciative birders. **Greater Yellowlegs** were present, but not in big numbers, at CL through Aug (m.ob.). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at CL and along Scarlet Rd, with 32 present there 9/8 (HM, HD, LL). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen

at CL and Scarlet Rd, with a high count of 20 noted at CL 8/21 (JW). **Western Sandpiper** is an irregular fall migrant, but two were detected among the peep species at CL 8/25-8/26 (LL, m.ob.). **Least Sandpipers** were readily found during Aug and continued their presence through 10/24 (WBH, m.ob.). A remarkable high count of 11 **White-rumped Sandpipers** was made 8/19 at CL (LL). This species was continuously found at CL until flooding from Irene caused the habitat to disappear. Four were found in a flooded farm field in West Fallowfield Twp 9/8 just after the passing of a storm (HM). A single **Baird's Sandpiper** was only a brief stopping visitor at CL 8/18 (RR). Another "grass piper" found in multiple locations Aug-Sept were **Pectoral Sandpipers** (m.ob). This species was also encountered several times among throngs of Killdeer at the polo fields in New Garden. A surprise flyover at BCPHW was a flock of **Dunlin** 10/26 (LL). A highlight of the shorebird scene along Scarlet Rd was the appearance of **Stilt Sandpiper**, which first debuted there 9/4 (HM, WBH, LL), and continued through 9/11 (m.ob). Two individuals were photographed together at this spot 9/6 (HM). A single **Red-necked Phalarope** was found the morning of 8/11 at CL, but only touched down briefly enough for birders to identify (LL, KP, CC). A well-described **Phalarope sp.** was reported from a S.T.P. in Kennett Square in Aug (*vide* LL).

Late fall reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** are uncommon in *Chester*, so 6 found at MCSP 11/18 was unexpected. An imm. **Laughing Gull** was seen flying over MCSP during the hurricane 8/28. This species is irregularly found in *Chester*, so this individual was presumed assisted into the county courtesy of Irene. A single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** stood out among 500 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 2 **Herring Gulls** found on a farm field in the Honeybrook area 11/21 (NP). **Caspian Terns** were found in multiple locations during Aug. (m.ob.). A several-hour watch for this species at SL 8/16 produced a high count of 16 moving SW (HM). One was also seen at MCSP during Irene. An uncommon visitor to *Chester* is the **Common Tern**. One was present at MCSP during the peak of Irene (LL, KP, HM, KF, JW). **Black Terns** made multiple appearances in the county 8/25-28. A high count of 6 were found at CL on the evening of 8/25 (RR), a single Black Tern was found at the Coatesville Res. 8/27 (LL). During Irene, 7 were at MCSP (LL, KP, HM, KF, JW, AD, JD), and 4 were at SL (FH, BH). A single Black Tern was reported from Hershey's Mill 8/28 (JFo *vide* GT). The two birders standing watch at SL during Irene were rewarded with the best bird of the storm when a single **Royal Tern** was spotted moving over the lake (FH, BH). This established a first county record of this species.

Reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** in *Chester* are scarce at all times, and none were reported this season. A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen and photographed during a birdwalk at CFS 11/3 (EP, BE, GT). RFBS opened nets for banding of passerines and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** again this fall. Thirty-four saw-whets were banded by Master Bander DM. Nets were open 10/6-11/25, and owls were captured 28 of those nights. Though 34 is far less than last year's 92, other banding sites across the country also reported a low catch of these tiny owls. Recoveries of Northern Saw-whets previously banded at RFBS in 2010 occurred when single owls were recaptured in Nov at stations in Quebec and Maine. Meanwhile, Scott Weidensaul's banding station, 80 miles north of RFBS, caught one of the owls banded in 2011 at RFBS! This is the second year in a row that a Northern Saw-whet was recaptured by a site north of *Chester* during the same season. BCP hosted a **Common Nighthawk** watch 9/2-5, and produced a final tally of 125 counted during that period (LL, et al.).

Once an uncommon sight in Oct, reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** trickled in after the first of the month again this year, and included one seen 10/28 in the same Devon yard that last year hosted the late record of a 12/1 male (JF). **Rufous Hummingbirds** continued their trend of showing up at feeders or in gardens in *Pennsylvania* again this fall. Two *Chester* birders were delighted to host young birds in their yard. An immature was seen and photographed visiting flowers 10/10-10/15 in West Goshen Twp (NP). An immature male in the aforementioned yard in Devon was only a one-day-wonder 11/24 (JF), but the lucky birder was able to snap a few identifying photos which confirmed age and identity. The typically unreliable **Red-headed Woodpecker** was consistently reported from BCP this fall. Most individuals reported were imm. but a few reports were of an adult (m.ob.). At least one imm. was present through the reporting period, and seen by many. Another imm. Red-headed Woodpecker was a surprise discovery at the Laurels Preserve 11/29 (KF).

Flycatchers provided birders with some excitement this fall. The highlight of a 9/5 birdwalk at BCP was two observations of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (LL, et al). While seen in separate locations, the possibility

of a single bird moving within the preserve could not be ruled out. An unidentified but well described *Empidonax* flycatcher was seen briefly at East Goshen Park 11/4 (NL). A vocalizing **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at BCP 8/8, was a surprising early migrant (LL). A very late **Least Flycatcher** found at CFS 11/25, was photographed and well scrutinized to rule out a possible vagrant from the west (HM, TBJ). One of the most exciting discoveries of the season was a **Western Kingbird** discovered hawking insects above the pond at CFS 10/25 (JL). The observer was lucky enough to capture good photos of this rare visitor to the county. **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported sporadically: one at LWG 9/17 (CM), and another 10/7 in Westtown (TS).

In the avian records kept for *Chester*, **Common Raven** is noted as being found in published documents prior to 1948. This species has been expanding its prevalence on the piedmont, and has been found, in recent years, in all surrounding counties of *Chester*. It was but a matter of time before a record was made, and this occurred 10/22 (RK), when two were heard vocalizing within the county line adjacent to French Creek State Park. A visual confirmation was also made as the observer watched a single bird fly out of the woods and into the state park.

CL hosted at least two late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, with one seen during a birdwalk 11/6 (HM, AG, TR, m.ob), and another seen there 11/14 (RR). With good numbers of swallows staging through Aug, **Cliff Swallows** were picked out of swirling swallows at BCP 8/16 and 8/28 (JS), and at CL 8/21 (JW). RFBS captured several *Catharus* in their nets, including both **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** 9/27-10/18, and a single **Hermit Thrush** 10/6 (DM).

Thirty-one species of warbler were recorded during fall migration, including a few late stragglers being found in Nov. **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from multiple locations, with a high count of 5 at BCP during a birdwalk 10/3. One was banded at RFBS 10/4 (DM), and two were found at Hibernia Park 10/18 (RR). Two reports of **Orange-crowned Warbler** came from the Kennett Square area, one in a yard 10/7 (GT), and another at BCP 11/1 (HD). **Nashville Warblers** were reported through fall in multiple locations (m.ob.), but a high count of 7 at BCP 10/3 was very good (LL et al). As is typical, very few reports of **Connecticut Warbler** came in, with one being banded at RFBS 9/16 (DM) and another seen at WMP 10/7 (KF). A single **Mourning Warbler** was found 9/30 at WMP (KF). A singing **Kentucky Warbler** was a good find during a birdwalk 8/14 at BCP (WBH, LL). Few birders reported **Cape May Warblers** this fall. A high count was 3 at BCP during a birdwalk 10/3 (LL et al). Single birds were found in W. Goshen Twp 9/18 (NP), and Springton Manor Farm 10/23 (AD). A late departing **Northern Parula** was banded 10/18 at RFBS (DM). Following a spring with no reports, there was only one fall observation of a **Bay-breasted Warbler**, which was found in Downingtown 9/2 (LL). **Blackpoll Warblers** lingered late into fall with single birds seen at Hibernia Park 10/18 and 11/13 (RR). Another was photographed at CFS 11/4 (KCA). A surprising late high count of 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** was made as a birding photographer captured these individuals in the lens 11/14-15 on the *Chester* side of Valley Forge National Park. **Wilson's Warblers** were only reported from BCP 9/4 and 9/23 (LL).

Known to occasionally linger in small numbers into winter, **Chipping Sparrows** were seen sporadically through the reporting period, and especially from BCP (m.ob). Careful scrutiny of groups of Chipping Sparrows paid off when a single **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found among them at BCP 10/25 (LL, HD). A sparrow that once bred in *Chester*, but now can only be found in migration, is the **Vesper Sparrow**. Nice numbers of this species were reported in multiple locations (m.ob). Noteworthy observations included 3 at BCP 10/16 (LL, et al), 5 on a private farm in Downingtown 10/28 (KF, HM), and up to 2 at CFS 10/31-11/2 (JMcN, AD, HM). A single bird was seen at CL 11/5 (RR). A last of season report of **Grasshopper Sparrow** came 8/3 from the Doe Run area where they are known to breed (BB). An orange-faced sparrow was seen at CFS 10/11 (AB), and was thought to be a **Nelson's Sparrow**. **Lincoln's Sparrows** typically are found after the first good cold front in October, and this year that again proved the case in *Chester*. Observations were made throughout the county, including birds banded at RFBS 10/6-10/11 (DM), a high count of 3 at CL 10/6 (RR), and a late lingering bird found 11/25 at LWG (TS, JS, FS).

The last report of **Blue Grosbeak** was 10/9 at Hibernia Park (RR). An **Indigo Bunting** was banded 10/18 at RFBS (DM), and marked the last reported in the county this season. **Dickcissel** reports came from scattered locations, including a singing male found on a wire in Londonderry Twp 8/14 (ES *vide* BB). This is near an area where breeding is suspected. An imm. was spotted at CL 10/17 (RR), a single bird was at BCP 10/30 (LL, m.ob). Due to the continued population

decline of **Rusty Blackbird**, all reports are of interest. Observations were made in several locations, including 2 at CL 11/8 and one 11/13 and 11/20 (RR). At WMP, 3 were found 10/26 (KF). BCP had the most observations of this species, with 2 spotted 11/25 (JS), 3 found 10/24 (HD), 21 was the high count 10/26 (LL).

The Winter Finch Forecast predicted fall/winter 2011 to be low for most irruptive finch species, and this proved true in *Chester*. Only a smattering of reports of **Purple Finch** came in. Single birds were noted 10/25 from BCP (LL), 11/17 from West Chester (JA), one in Coatesville 11/17 (KF), and another 11/25 in Pennsbury Twp (TS). Two was the highest number of this species found in one survey, 11/3 at CFS (GT), and 11/4 at Springton Manor Farm (NP). A calling flyover **Red Crossbill** was reported from LWG 11/12 during a birdwalk there (LL). This was one of few known reports of this species in the state this fall. **Pine Siskins** were scarce; there was a solo flyover at BCP 10/26 (LL), and a small group feeding in a hemlock at WMP in Oct (KF).

Observers: **Holly Merker**, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, **HCybele@aol.com**, J. Atkins, Kelly Colgan-Azar, Alison Barnes, Tim Becker, Barry Blust, Brian Byrnes, Chuck Chalfant, Amy Davis, Hank Davis, Jeff Davis, Barbara Elliot, Joe Flood, Jado Foot (JFo), Kevin Fryberger Al Guarente, Barbara Haas, Frank Haas, W. Brian Henderson, Jean-Marie Gauthier, Thomas B. Johnson, Rudy Keller, Richard Kurtz, Alex Lamoreaux, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, Nick Lund, Doris McGovern, Edie Parnum, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Raub, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Ed Sigda, Frank Sterrett, Janny Sterrett, Tim Sterrett, George Tallman, Gerry Teig, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl.

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#### Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Zion (Piney Tract/SGL 330) (MZ), State Game Lands 63 (SGL63), Strattanville (ST).

The fall of 2011 brought very little in the way of cold weather, and plenty of rain. **Tundra Swans** were not noted in migration as much as usual this year, with the first report from Limestone 11/11 (FW), in ST 11/19 (RM), and the last report for the county 11/30. The only significant waterfowl report for the season was that of a flock of 10 **Blue-winged Teal** at KL 9/13, not always a regular migrant (DF, PC). At this same location and date, an immature **Bald Eagle** was present (DF, PC), and an adult bird was also seen there one day earlier, 9/12 (CW). Along the Clarion R. near Gravel Lick a second year bird was reported 8/8-10 (RS), and also along the river near Sligo, an adult was seen in mid-Nov next to a nesting area (CW). These birds continue to have a regular presence in the county now, except during the coldest period of winter when waterways are frozen. Another irregular raptor, **Peregrine Falcon** was noted twice this season. One was seen for several days through 8/31 on the Allegheny River in Foxburg, making use of a 200 foot rock quarry along the river there (KC). A second report was from SGL 63 on 9/17, a flyover during their normal migration period (LC).

One unusual shorebird sighting for the fall was that of a **White-rumped Sandpiper** seen at KL 9/10-12 (JS, CW), a first for the county for this compiler. Also at KL 9/12 was **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and one **Solitary Sandpiper** (DF, PC). The lake has been drawn down below its normal levels the past two years, creating more shorebird habitat than is normally present. Another excellent sighting for this location was **Black Tern**, with singles reported 8/8 (RS) and 9/10 (JS).

In a yard in ST, a juvenile **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen 8/9 and captured in photos, not an easy task with these secretive birds (RM). The bird was seen for only one day and no adults were present, so its fate was uncertain. The last report for this species was from SGL 63 on 9/24 (LC), a bit late. **Short-eared Owls** were first noted for the season on Rankin Rd. near CV, with a single bird 11/3 and then 3-4 birds from mid-Nov to the end of the month (CW). The only report for **Common Nighthawk** was of a single bird during migration over Knox 8/31 (ML). There was a very late adult female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** found at the Rhoads home near Lamartine where a Rufous Hummingbird was seen 3 years ago. This bird was first noted on 10/25, banded by Bob Mulvihill 11/6, and was last seen 11/14 (ML).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** near CV 9/21 was in a location where they have been found previously in fall migration (CW). Interestingly, a **Least Flycatcher** 9/17 near CV, the season's last, was utilizing gray dogwood berries for food as well as its usual diet of insects (CW). The first **Northern Shrike** was found at MZ 11/30, in its typical



habitat of open areas with some small trees and pines (MW). A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted 9/21 near CV, another migrant not always reported (CW). Near Limestone, **Common Ravens** were heard and seen several times through Oct and Nov (FW), with this species continuing to make advancements in numbers and types of habitat used. Some good nocturnal migration flights were heard near CV both 9/17 and 9/28 at dawn, with **Wood**, **Swainson's** and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** all heard along with some unidentified calls. The first report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was 9/16, seen eating honeysuckle berries near CV (CW). The last report on 10/22 was from the same property but the bird was in a large pokeberry patch with a flock of **American Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings** (CW). A **Swainson's Thrush** was noted last 9/28 in this same area, and was seen feeding on wild grapes and dogwood berries (CW).

Warbler migration for the fall was spread over much of Sep into Oct and as in past years, was often more productive and enjoyable than spring migration. **Northern Waterthrush**, which is not a regularly reported migrant for *Clarion*, became even more notable this season when two birds were found in an overgrown hillside next to a small stream in a yard near CV 9/14 (CW). **Tennessee Warblers** made a rather strong showing this year, first reported at SGL 63 on 9/17 (LC), and then also seen in small groups of 2-4 in the first two weeks of Oct in mixed flocks near CV, with last date 10/10 (CW). Once again **Cape May Warblers** are a more common fall migrant than many other warblers, especially at a property with abundant spruce and pine near CV, where they were seen daily in numbers up to 4 between 9/12-10/10 (CW). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen in the excellent habitat present at SGL 63 both 9/17 and 9/24, along with a good mix of other warblers including **Black-and-white**, **Nashville**, **Blackburnian**, **Hooded**, **Pine**, **Magnolia**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Tennessee**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Blackpoll**, the last being in excellent numbers 9/24 with a count of 25+ (LC). The rather late last date for **Blackpoll Warbler** was 10/16 near CV, where one was seen down in low shrubs or even weeds, as is more common in fall (CW). A late **Prairie Warbler** was also seen 10/10 at the same location, feeding on gray dogwood berries, along with several **Palm Warblers** feeding on grass seeds in the nearby field (CW). Rounding out warbler reports was a **Wilson's Warbler**, another migrant that is not seen every year here. A single bird was noted 10/5 along an overgrown hillside/stream area near CV, an adult male (CW).

**American Tree Sparrows** were first noted 11/4 in overgrown fields near CV, as usual being spotted there before feeders, which they do use later in the season and in winter (CW). **Chipping Sparrows** had already departed shortly before, with the last reported date for them 10/31 near CV (CW). Though they do breed in the county, **Clay-colored Sparrows** are not typically seen in migration here, so a report of a single bird 10/10 with a mixed sparrow flock during migration was unusual, although it was seen in a reclaimed strip mine area near CV similar to their nesting habitat (CW). Of the regular grassland species for *Clarion*, **Henslow's Sparrows** typically are not found after mid-Aug, but this year two birds were heard singing weakly at dusk 9/28 along Rankin Rd near CV where they are known to nest, a late date for the county (CW). **Lincoln's Sparrows** made their usual appearance in overgrown fields and roadside shrubs near CV, with the first date 9/28 when 3 birds were seen, and then a last date of 10/5 in this same location. With so much great sparrow habitat in the county, it is likely that they would be found in more areas and greater numbers if more observers were present and familiar with these beautiful sparrows.

As it continues to apparently decline, **Rusty Blackbird** reports are typically hard to come by. This fall the only sighting was of a single bird heard calling and seen in flight with a flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** coming in to roost at dusk near CV 10/22 (CW). A single adult male **Orchard Oriole** was seen near CV 8/12, rather late for males of this species. Small groups of females and young were seen in the same area sporadically through mid-Aug feeding often at weedy field edges and also on invasive honeysuckle berries; last date was 8/17 (CW). **Purple Finches** made their first showing since breeding season with 3 birds appearing at a feeder near CV 9/24, and continuing sporadically through 10/5 (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, [cjal@windstream.net](mailto:cjal@windstream.net), Pat Conway, Kurt Crosby, Lewis Crowell, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Mike Leahy, Ron Montgomery, Sally Mortimer, Richard Nugent, Ruth Schurr, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Mark Vass, Mike Weible, Fran Williams.

## Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BL).

Singe **Snow Goose** and **Cackling Goose** were at Dubois 10/18 (DR). **Surf Scoter** and **Long-tailed Duck** were seen at BL 10/22 (DR). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was at Home Camp 9/2 (DR). A single **Ruddy Turnstone** was seen near Luthersburg 9/15 (DR). A **Black Tern** was at BL 8/15 (DR). **Northern Shrike** was seen at several locations during Nov (DR). Warbler migration was good with a late **Nashville Warbler** seen 10/30 near Dubois (DR). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in the La Jose area 8/2 (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert**, 287 Beech Road, Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, [djgobert@verizon.net](mailto:djgobert@verizon.net), Dan Richards.

## Clinton County

Locations: Salona (SL).

A **Great Egret** was observed near SL 10/1-2 (MA).

A period of heavy rain resulted in a significant shorebird fallout at S. Avis 9/6-10, bringing **Black-bellied Plovers**, **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Sanderlings**, **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (WL, DR). A lone **Sanderling** was seen wandering seemingly unconcerned in a busy boat launch parking lot in Lockport 9/6-8 (CCH, WL). A **Red Phalarope** was discovered in a cow pasture near SL on 10/8, unable to fly. It was taken to Centre Wildlife Care in Centre Co. where it was found to be in an emaciated condition with a wing injury. After being fed and gaining weight, the bird was later transferred to Tristate Bird Rescue in Delaware where it was determined that it could not be released. It found a new home when the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California agreed to accept the phalarope for its shorebird exhibit and was flown out there in early Nov. It represented a first *Clinton* record (DS, WL).

On 10/30, 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were caught and banded at the banding station in Swisssdale (WL). An early **American Tree Sparrow** was reported 7/28 near Avis (BZ). On 12/18 during the local CBC, a late **Chipping Sparrow** was observed coming to a feeder near Lock Haven (RH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher**, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, [wlaubsch@kcnet.org](mailto:wlaubsch@kcnet.org), Mervin Allgyer, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Rick Houseknecht, David Stoltzfus, David Rockey, Beth Zbeger.

## Columbia County

No report.

Compiler: **Doug Gross**, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA, 17859, (570) 458-4568, [dougross@sunlink.net](mailto:dougross@sunlink.net).

## Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CUS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Meadville (MEAD), McMichael Road (MCM), Pymatuning Area (PYM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro, (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Two **Snow Geese** were on the CL 10/22, a rather unlikely spot (RFL), and one was located at ENWR 11/10 (RE). A total of 7561 **Canada Geese** were in the PA 9/14 (RFL). A **Mute Swan** was seen at SL 11/2 (RE). Six **Tundra Swan** were seen at PS area 11/5, and 13 at PGMA 11/13 was the high count (SC).

An early **Gadwall** was noted at PGMA 9/5 (RFL), and 127 were counted at PGMA 10/27 (AM). A pair of **American Wigeon** were detected at PGMA 9/2 (ST, DW), and top count was 69 there 10/13 (AM). Thirty **Green-winged Teal** were at FH and PGMA 10/17 (RFL). A good count of 81 **Blue-winged Teal** was made at PGMA 9/5 (ST, DW). An estimated 50 **Northern Shovelers** were at FH 11/13 (BG, JG, LM,



RFL), and AM recorded 95 on 11/29 for the best count in several years. **Northern Pintails** were in better than usual numbers, ranging from 3 at PGMA 10/2 (RFL) to 52 PGMA 11/10 (AM). The best count of **Wood Ducks** was 1419 flying over Rte. 285 at PGMA 9/17 (AM). Two **Redheads** were found at PGMA 10/21 (SS) and 5 were seen there 11/13 (SC). A male **Canvasback** was recorded at PS 8/14 (CN) and a pair at PGMA 10/23. The top count of **Greater Scaup** was 6 off the PC 11/5 (RFL). Five were seen at WL 10/18 (SC). **Lesser Scaup** were seen on 11 dates 9/9-11/26 in smaller than usual numbers. The top count of **Ring-necked Ducks** was 55 at PA 10/23 (RFL). The first **Common Goldeneye** was found at PGMA 10/17 and 32 south of the PC 11/26 was the high count (RFL). A female **Bufflehead** was noted 11/5 at PGMA, and one at FH and 24 at WL was the best one day total 11/26 (RFL). Eight **Long-tailed Ducks** showed up at WL 10/22 (RFL). Two **Black Scoters** were at PC 11/26 and 2 **White-winged Scoters** were there 11/12 (RFL). A **Surf Scoter** was present PC 10/4 (SC). Thirteen **Common Mergansers** were noted at WL 8/10 (ST, DW). Some 182 was the top count reported at PA 11/24 (RFL). The high count of **Red-breasted Mergansers** was 57 at WL and 253 at PS 11/16 (RFL). A good total of 104 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen 11/26 (RFL). There were numerous reports of **Ruddy Ducks** from several locations, but 149 was the top count at WL and PA 11/16 (RFL).

**Ruffed Grouse** reports were at Wayland 10/30 (RFL), one at ENWR 10/13 (SC), and one at PA 10/13 (SD, BVN). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were found at TL 11/8 (RFL) and PC 11/16 (RFL). Five birds were seen 11/12 PC (RFL) and 11/13 (RFL, BG, JG, LM) at the PC. Three were last recorded at PC 11/24 (RFL). MV recorded the first migrating **Horned Grebe** at PGMA 10/8; high count was of 43 at PC 11/16 (RFL). An **Eared Grebe** showed up at PGMA in winter plumage 10/9-13 (RFL, CN). **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted in western *Crawford* 28 different days (m.ob.). The best total of 11 birds was made at WL 10/25 (SC). A **Red-throated Loon** was well studied at CL 11/26, and one south of PC (RFL) was present the same day. One was noted 11/4 near the PS (SD, BVN). Two **Common Loons** were first counted at PC 10/13 (SD, BUN). An amazing 229 were seen at PC 11/28 (SK).

**Double-crested Cormorants** were seen all period; top count was 586 at PA 9/11 (RFL). An **American White Pelican** was found 10/17 near FI (SK) and it remained in the area between the FH and PS to 11/5. A total of 44 **Great blue Herons** were at the FH 10/23 (RFL), and a bird showing characteristics of **Wurdeemann's Heron** was at PGMA 11/8 (RFL). There were 25 sightings of **Great Egrets** in the PA with 6 the high count 9/11 (m.ob.). **Green Herons** were well reported at WL, PYM and SL, with 11 the high total at WL 8/21 (ST, DW). **Black-crowned Night Herons** was found at PA with one at FH 10/17-31 and an adult and immature seen on many occasions (RFL, SL, SS, SC).

Twenty-five **Turley Vultures** were noted near Meadville 10/9 (RE) and 20 were near CUS 10/29 (CN). The last reported **Osprey** were 3 at WL 9/4 (ST, DW). **Northern Harrier** was found near CL, PYM, SL, and SPR 9/5-11/19 (m.ob.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was found near SL 9/21 (RE) and ENWR 9/6 (RN). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen PGMA 11/4 (SD, BVN), and 7 there 11/7 (SC). An adult **Golden Eagle** was feeding on a dead goose at PGMA 10/30 (RFL) and 11/5 (likely a different bird). A **Peregrine Falcon** was found at TL 8/26, and one was at WL 9/17 (RFL). Single **Merlins** were seen 9/14-10/10 at PC, CL, SPR, and PGMA (RFL, CN, SC).

There were 40 reports of **Sandhill Cranes** at PYM 8/26-11/8 (m.ob.), with 24 the top count 11/8 (AM). SC was able to get photos of 2 banded young cranes at Teakettle Rd PGMA; both had been banded near Cambridge Springs. As usual CL was the place to see **American Coots** with 550 in front of CLP near the boardwalk. An additional 116 were at PYM all on 11/26 (RFL).

A **Black-billed Plover** was noted at WL 8/13 (RFL, RCL), 3 there 9/14 (RFL) and an amazing 22 at PGMA 10/21 (SS). Single **American Golden-Plovers** were at WL 9/17 and 9/21 (RF), 2 at PGMA (SC, RS), and 10 at PGMA 10/24 (LG). An **American Avocet** was at MP PGMA 8/31 (RFL) and also seen 9/1 (BVN, CN). A new location for **Upland Sandpiper** was found at SL, with a single noted 9/5-6 (RE). Eight **Greater Yellowlegs** at PGMA 10/10 was the best total (MV). The last report was 2 at PGMA 11/8 (AM). Six **Lesser Yellowlegs** at WL and 4 at PGMA on 8/4 were reported (RFL). One to 3 **Ruddy Turnstones** were recorded on and near the PC 8/29-9/9 (CN, SK, SC, SS). Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted at WL and 6 at PGMA 8/4 (RFL). The best total was 30 PA 9/27 (SK). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was located at WL 9/26 (RFL). A good total of 4 **Baird's Sandpipers** were found near PC 8/29 (SK). A total of 21 **Least Sandpiper** were noted at WL 8/21 and 9/4 (ST, DW). SS had 28 **Dunlin** across the road from the

FH gates 10/21, and up to 25 were noted at WL and PYM up to 11/7 (m.ob.). The top count for **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was 15 at PA 9/5 (ST, DW). **Sanderlings** were noted twice: one at PC marina 9/8 (CN) and 4 PC 9/9 (SS). The first **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** reported in *Crawford* in several years was one found at WL 9/18 (DW, ST); it remained there through 9/26 (RFL). There were 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at WL 8/7, 2 at WL 8/13 (ST, DW), and one at PYM FH 9/17 (RFL). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were one at PGMA Millers Pond 9/21 (RFL), one at PYM 11/20 (KJ), and one at Millers Pond 11/20 (SC, MV) which remained into Dec. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were at ENWR and WL 11/2-9 (SC). Four **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen at PGMA 7/30 (SC), and one was there 9/4-5 (SC, ST, DW).

**Herring Gulls** were present all period with a high count of 22 on 11/19 at PA. The best total of **Ring-necked Gulls** was 2421 at PA 10/23. An early **Bonaparte's Gull** was off the PC 9/6 (CN); 4513 were noted 11/26 (RFL) at PA. A **Caspian Tern** showed up at PS 8/4 (RFL); 29 on 9/9 was the best total (SS). Six **Common Terns** were seen 9/5 PGMA (ST, DW), and one was found near FI 10/22 (CN). A pair of **Forster's Terns** were recorded near PC Marina 9/6 (CN) and 9/8. One was noted there 9/9 (SS).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was called in at ENWR 11/20 (SC), as was a **Screech Owl** the same date. A **Great-horned Owl** was found near SL (RE), and 2 were near SPR 10/14 (CN). A rather late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted near SL 9/27 (RE).

A single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen 8/21 (RFL). The last recorded **Red-eyed Vireo** was one at FI 9/27 (SC). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen near SL 9/26 (RE). Four **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at FI 9/27 (SC) and one at WL 10/4 (SC). A **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at SPR 8/22 (SC). A **Northern Shrike** was seen at FH 10/19 (RFL), one was at PGMA 10/26-28 (SC, CH, BG). The 25 **Horned Larks** noted at PGMA 9/27 was the best total reported (SK). There were 9 reports of **Common Ravens**, mostly from the SL area (RFL). A **Fish Crow** was found 8/10 at FH (RCL). The following are the best total of the **Swallows** reported at PYM: 54 **Cliff** 9/17 (RFL), 280 **Barn** 8/27 (RFL), 623 **Tree** 9/17 (RFL), 212 **Bank** 8/27 (RFL), 200 **Northern Rough-winged** 8/14 (CN), and 30 **Purple Martin** 8/14 (CN). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at WL 10/20 and 2 at ENWR 11/2 (SC).

Single **Carolina Wrens** were sighted at FI 8/27 (RFL), FH 10/10, ENWR 10/13, and FI 10/31 (SC). Lone **Winter Wrens** were seen near SL 10/25-31 (RE) and FH 10/10, and 2 were at ENWR 11/2 (SC). There were 10 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at McM 10/23 (RFL), 10 at ENWR, and 3 at WL 11/2 (SC). Five **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were recorded at WL 10/4, 6 were there 10/25, and one was at ENWR 11/2 (SC). Lone **Northern Mockingbirds** were seen at CL 10/5, at Geneva 10/23 (RFL), and SPR 11/6 (CN). The last **Gray Catbird** was seen at Geneva 11/24 (RFL). A **Wood Thrush** was seen 8/19 at SPR (CN). A **Veery** was at McM 8/7 (RFL). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at FI 10/5 (RFL). **Swainson's Thrush** was located PA 9/27 (SK), 2 at TL 9/28 (RFL), one at PGMA 10/4 (SC), and one near SL 10/21 (RE). Three **Hermit Thrush** were seen 10/20 WL (CS), 5 were near CUS 10/23 (RFL), and 2 at ENWR 11/2 (SC). A nice total of 25 **Eastern Bluebirds** were near SPR 10/29 (CN).

An **American Pipit** was noted at SL 10/30, and 6 were present through 11/26 (RE). Twelve **Snow Buntings** were found at FH 11/13 (SC), 10 at PGMA 11/16 (SC), and 4 at PA 11/28 (SK). A **Lapland Longspur** was a good find at PGMA near Wilson Road 11/16 (SC).

Lone **Black-and-white Warblers** were noted SL 9/27-28 (RE), and one was at ENWR 9/6 (RN). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen near SPR 10/5 (CN). Lone **Tennessee Warblers** were noted near SL 9/27 and 10/5 (RE), and PA 10/5 (RN). A **Cape May Warbler** was located in a small crab apple tree in the parking lot of a busy McDonald's Restaurant in Meadville 9/24 (LM, JG, BG, RFL). Last was one 10/8 (RE). Seven **Yellow Warblers** were reported near WL 10/4 (SC). This is a very late date for that many birds although they have been recorded into Dec here. Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were noted 9/27 FI and 10/10 FH (SC). A total of 6 **Blackpoll Warblers** were located near PS 9/28 (CN), and one was at SL 10/26 (RE). BM had a **Black-throated green Warbler** 9/17 near GEN 9/17, 2 were at FI 9/27, and 1 was at WL 10/4 (SC). **Pine Warblers** were at FI 10/14 (CN) and 2 at McM 10/23 (RFL). There were 7 reports of **Palm Warblers** from 9/12-10/4 (m.ob.). **Wilson's Warblers**, often missed in the fall, were found at Geneva 9/17 (RFL) and near SL 9/20 (RE).

The last report of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was a female at a feeder near Meadville 9/11 (RFL). A late **Indigo Bunting** was at SL 10/10 (RE), and a late **Scarlet Tanager** was noted near SL 9/27 (RE). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was located at ENWR 10/13 (SC). **White-**

**crowned Sparrows** included 8 at SPR 10/8 (TCN) and 2 at ENWR 11/2. Six **American Tree Sparrows** were first seen at WL 10/17 (RFL). **Fox Sparrows** were well reported with up to 6 birds on 11 dates 10/25-11/21 at SL, WL, ENWR, PYM and CL (m.ob.). Twelve **Bobolinks** were last noted at PGMA 8/18 (RFL, RCL). A good total of 7 **Purple Finches** were near SL 11/20 (RE). Five **Pine Siskins** were located at FI 10/31 (SC).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daughery, Richard Eakin, Bonnie Ginader, Luke Gigi, Bobby Green, Janice Grindle, Karen Jackson, Scott Kinzey, Craig Holt, Robert C. Leberman, Anthony Marich, Larry Massey, Bill Moore, Clare Nicolls, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Shannon Thompson, Bob VanNewkirk, Mary VanNewkirk, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

### **Cumberland County**

Locations: High Mountain Road (HMR), Michaux State Forest (MSF), State Game Lands 169 (SGL169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL230), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

Overall this period saw a good shorebird migration in September into October but not a very good season for warblers and other songbird migrants. The period also saw a county first record for a species of diminutive rail in October, and then for a larger sparrow in November. November also saw the return of a unique Pennsylvania winter resident for the sixth consecutive year!

**August:** Hurricane Irene made her appearance and grazed *Cumberland*; unfortunately there were no storm birds to be found. It was not a very good month for shorebirds, warblers or other migrants, but three notable juvenile birds were reported.

Unusual for the month of Aug, 2 **Northern Shovelers** (one male and one juv.) were reported at Stoughstown Pond 8/27 (VG, KK, AnM). A juv. **White Ibis** that was present at WFBL much of the month, and was seen flying over *Cumberland* and on the *Cumberland* shoreline on several occasions (AM, RK). A juv. **Peregrine Falcon** reported in the burn area of Ridge Road MSF 8/22 (BO). Other birds of interest included one **Black Tern** in transitional plumage, which gave it a pied appearance, at Stoughstown Pond 8/14 (VG, CC, BF, LF, HW, KW). Five **Common Nighthawks** were reported in New Cumberland 8/20 (BH), and another 8/29 (BH). Additionally, there was one at Neville 8/24 (VG), one at Carlisle 8/30 (HW), and 2 at PGFSP 8/30 (BO). One **Least Flycatcher** was found at Pine Grove Furnace MSF 8/28 (BO). A total of 75 **Cliff Swallows** were seen at Beacon Hill, New Cumberland 8/12 (PM), and 2 more were at Stoughstown Pond 8/14 (VG, CC, BF, LF, HW, KW).

**September:** With 10 inches of rain the first 10 days of the month and regular periods of rain continuing through Sep came three migrant species of waterfowl and eighteen species of shorebirds, though not at the usual location, as Mudlevel Road area was still covered with crops. Instead the shorebird hotspots were flooded fields south of Rte. 174 on Pine and High Mountain Roads. Songbird migration never picked up. This fall was certainly a far cry from the previous two years, which produced large numbers of warblers and other songbird migrants.

The only waterfowl of note were **Northern Shovelers** HMR 9/20-23 (m. ob.) and up to 10 **Blue-winged Teal** at HMR 9/20-25 (m. ob.), 13 on Britton Road 9/18 (MS), and 15 at the Mountain Road marsh SGL169 along with 2 **Green-winged Teal** 9/30 (VG, TB). There was also a **Pied-billed Grebe** at SGL169 on 9/30 (VG, TB).

Shorebirds of note were 2 juv. **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** reported on Pine Road in a field 2 miles west of Route 233 9/5 (VG) and another one at the same location 9/7 (VG, MS, AM). One **Stilt Sandpiper** was reported on Pine Road 9/5 (VG) and 9/10 (RK, AM, AnM, KK, SS), and 2 to 4 on HMR 9/7-9/14 (m. ob.). Three **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported on Pine Road 9/7 (VG, MS, AM), and then a large flock of approximately 40 on Pine Road 9/9-9/11 (m. ob.). There were also 4 to 9 White-rumps at HMR 9/7-9/20 (m. ob.) which turned out to be a very good season for this species. One to 2 juv. **Baird's Sandpiper** was reported on HMR 9/7-9/14 (m. ob.). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were also reported at HMR 9/12-14 (VG, AM). Two **phalarope sp.**, which could not be identified due to poor lighting, were present there 8/13 (BO). There were 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** reported at Pine Road 9/7-9 (m. ob.), and 4 at HMR 9/23-24 (m. ob.), and 21 **American Golden Plovers** were in a field off of Firehouse Road

just north of the I-81 overpass 9/8 (VG, AM), 5 at HMR 9/14 (AM, JB), 3 at Oakville Road 9/23 (VG), and one at Britton Road 9/23 (MS). Additionally, one **Upland Sandpiper** was reported in a field near the train crossing on HMR 9/11 (AM). Finally, one **Sanderling** was present at the Giant parking lot near the intersection of Wertzville and Center roads 9/9 (BF), and at HMR 9/24-25 (RK, AnM, KK, VG, TC, JR)

One **Common Nighthawk** was reported on Ridge Road MSF 9/5 (RK), and 2-6 at New Cumberland 9/1-9 (BH). The only 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found at Pine Grove Furnace State Park MSF (RK, AM, AnM, KK, SS). There were 2 **Least Flycatchers**: one on 9/5 at Ridge Road MSF (RK, MS), and one at the same location on 9/17 (RK). No **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported in Sep. One **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at Strome's Hollow MSF 9/4 (VG), one at MSF 9/9 (BF), one on Ridge Road MSF (RK), one at SGL169 on 9/23 (MS), 2 at SGL230 (RK, CK), and one at Huntsdale Hidden Pond 9/27 (VG). Four **Cliff Swallows** were at Stoughstown Pond 9/2 (MS). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** and 3 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were on Ridge Road MSF 9/24 (RK, TC, JR, AnM, KK, VG).

Although there were 29 warblers reported in Sep, there were no double digit reports of **Cape May Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, or **Blackburnian Warbler** as there had been in the previous two years. The least common warblers included one **Mourning Warbler** at SGL230 on 9/11 (RK), one at Cabin Road SGL169 9/12-13 (VG, MS), and one later in the month at the Conifer Road pine tree farm (AM). One **Wilson's Warbler** was reported at Pine Grove Furnace MSF 9/1 (VG), and another 9/14 (MS), with one at MSF 9/11 (BF), and 2 at Cabin Road SGL169 on 9/12 (VG). Only one **Connecticut Warbler** was found, and that was at Pine Grove Furnace MSF 9/10 (VG). One **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen in a Carlisle yard near the Letort Creek in 9/9 (HW). One **Canada Warbler** was reported at Camp Michaux (VG), and 2 were at Pine Grove Furnace MSF 9/10 (VG). Two late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were reported from Pine Grove Furnace MSF 9/14 (MS).

Finally, there were 2-6 **Lincoln's Sparrows** at Mountain Road Marsh SGL169 from 9/20-30 (VG, MS, KK, AnM, TB), and 3 **Purple Finches** reported in a yard near Mechanicsburg 9/3 (PZ).

**October:** The first full month of fall had seasonal temperatures, though it was still fairly wet, and ended with an unusually early winter storm that produced 6 inches of snow 10/29. Birding action centered on one of the county's traditional birding hotspots, SGL169.

Notable waterfowl for the month included 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at Cabin Road SGL169 on 10/4 (MS) and 10/29 (AM), 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at Tichy Park Ponds Mount Holly Springs 10/21 (CM, MM, PB), one **American Black Duck** at SGL169 on 10/29 (AM), and the return of the 30+ overwintering **American Wigeon** to the Children's Pond in Boiling Springs 10/30 (MS). There were 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Stoughstown Pond 10/13-31 (VG, AM), one at SGL169 on 10/17 (TB), with another 2 the same location 10/29 (AM), and one at Boiling Springs 10/30 (MS).

Though there were no reports of Common Gallinule, rails and waders made a good showing in *Cumberland* during the month. One **Least Bittern** was seen at Cabin Road SGL169 10/4 (MS), and one **American Bittern** was at the Mountain Road Marsh SGL169 on 10/12 (MS). There were 9 **American Coots** at Tichy Park Ponds Mount Holly Springs 10/21 (CM, MM, PB), with another at Stoughstown Pond 10/30 (G), and one **Sora** at SGL169 Mountain Road Marsh 10/18-19 (VG, BO). Certainly the bird of the period for *Cumberland*, a county record **Black Rail** was reported from the SGL169 Mountain Road marsh. The bird was first briefly seen in flight after being flushed 10/16 (VG), and then two days later it was spotted in wet grassy area 10/18 (MS).

The only raptor of note during the month was one **Merlin** on the Big Spring 10/1 (VG, BF, LF, GB, CC, BP), and then at Cabin Road SGL169 10/4-5 (MS, VG).

Shorebirds of note included 8 **American Golden Plovers** at the corner of Cramer Road and Rte. 11 on 10/13 (MS), 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** at HMR 10/13 (MS), and three more at the same location 10/31 (VG), and 2 **Sanderlings** at HMR 10/2 (VG, AM). This made for 4 individual Sanderlings for the season, which to my knowledge equals the total number reported in total for *Cumberland* in the previous 30 years. Finally, there were 3 **Dunlin** at HMR 10/31 (VG).

Other birds of note in the month were one mortis **Eurasian-collared Dove** that was identified by a local birder as one of three doves shot by a hunter at SGL169 on 10/5 (AM), one late **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** Bridgewater on Road SGL169 on 10/4 (MS), one **Marsh Wren** at Cabin Road SGL169 on 10/18 (AM), one **Mourning Warbler** at South Middleton Municipal Park 10/1 (BH, JH), one **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Cabin Road SGL169 on 10/14 (VG) and then

again on 10/18 (AM). There were one to 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** which continued from 9/20 at the Mountain Road Marsh SGL169 through 10/4 (AM, MS), and then one at the same location on 10/20 (MS); one **Nelson's Sparrow** at SGL169 Mountain Road Marsh 10/16 (MS), and then 5 on 10/18 (AM). Finally, there were blackbirds: 12 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Cabin Road SGL169 on 10/7 (VG), one on Bridgewater Road SGL169 on 10/8 (VG), and one reported from the Big Spring 10/10 (VG), along with 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks** reported on HMR in the snow 10/30 (VG).

**November.** Though there were a few days of rain, the month was relatively mild, with crisp cold mornings, and cool sunny days. It made for nice if rather mostly unremarkable birding, until the discovery of a county first sparrow on Thanksgiving Day, followed by the return of *Cumberland's* unusual over-wintering falcon.

There was not a great deal of waterfowl reported. Species included one **Lesser Scaup** on Cabin Road SGL169 on 11/4 (VG) and 5 **American Black Ducks** found on Pine Road 11/8 (MS). There were 10 **Snow Geese** and one **Bufflehead** among the regularly present waterfowl at Boiling Spring's Children's Pond 11/18 (PB, MM), and one Rudy Duck at Stoughstown pond the same date (PB, MM). There were 18 **Hooded Mergansers** at Enk's Mill Road 11/22 (VG), and 4 more on the Big Spring at the Laughlin Mill 11/22 (VG). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** remained at Stoughstown Pond from 10/13 through 11/30 (VG, CM, MM), and one on the Big Spring 11/5-11/25 (BF, VG). There was also one **American Coot** on Stoughstown Pond 11/4-11/5 (VG, CM, MM), and one **American Bittern** at Stoughstown Pond 11/3 (DS, HW), with another at Hidden Pond Huntsdale 11/6 (PB).

The one raptor of note was the return for the sixth consecutive winter of the **Cumberland Prairie Falcon** at the Mudlevel Road area. The bird was first reported 11/29 (DS, VG).

The only shorebirds reported in the month were 3 **Dunlin** remaining at HMR from 10/31 through 11/4 (VG).

Five **Snow Buntings** were reported from the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch 11/5-11/6 (RF, DG). The one warbler of note was one **Magnolia Warbler** from Cabin Road SGL on 11/4 (VG). There was also only one sparrow species of note, but it was a county first! One **Harris's Sparrow** was found among a flock of **White-throated Sparrows** on the section of the Cumberland County Rail Trail located between Big Spring Road and Rte. 233. It was a first year bird which unfortunately only stayed two days, during which about 14 people got to see it. Photos were taken 11/24-25 (VG, m.ob.). Finally, 8 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Cabin Road SGL169 on 11/4 (VG).

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Paul Banks, Tim Becker, Joan Bowen, Greg Burgdorf, Carol Cash, Troy Cornman, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Dave Grove, Bill Hintze, Barry Horton, Jennifer Horton, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Kathy Kuchwara, Andrew Markel, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Annette Matthes (anM), Paige Morabito, Bill Oyler, Bob Peda, Joan Rennigner, Matt Sabatine, Dan Snell, Sue Strassner, Herb Weigl, Kathy Weigl, Paul Zeph.

### Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), west corridor, Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

For many birding took a back seat this fall to Mother Nature, especially the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee during the first week of September. After an already overly saturated spring and summer, HBG set a yearly record with more than 72"; this proved too much for the Swatara Creek and its tributaries in southern *Dauphin* and *Lebanon* where flood levels exceeded those from the June, 1972 Agnes deluge.

The only report of **Snow Goose** came from near HER 11/22 (KA). Three **Brant** were found on the SR near the Turnpike bridge at Highspire 11/5 (MSH). The first report of **Blue-winged Teal** this season were of four 8/28 at SRWF (RKO). By mid-Oct. all the expected dabblers, including **American Black Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Northern Shoveler** had returned to WL and all of these species, along with **Northern Pintail**, were still present at the end of the

quarter (EB, LC, RKO, MM, et al.). The first report of **Bufflehead** was from SRWF 10/17 (TB, P&RW) and the first **Common Goldeneye** was noted from the same location 11/12 (RKO). The only **Common Loon** was one from SRMV 10/17 (TB).

A single juvenile **White Ibis** was observed SRWF 8/11-12 (BC, LU, et al.). After a week's hiatus probably the same bird was again found at SRWF 8/20 and remained through 8/28 (m. ob.). An **American Bittern** was reported at WL 9/12 (DB) and another was observed 11/14 WL (staff). Four juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed in the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG 8/16 (IG, AL), and 2 adults were found in a wet field in Highspire 9/10 (KK).

**Merlin** reports included one at SRWF 9/3 (RKO), another at FIG 9/13 (DM), and one was along Park Blvd. in Hershey 11/10 and again, on the same tree, 11/20 (P&RW). A **Golden Eagle** was reported flying over HER 11/8 (HW).

**American Coot** returned to WL 10/30 and remained through end of period with a high count of 34 on 11/8 (m. ob.). A single **American Avocet** was observed from the Canal Lock Boat Launch on the SR rocks south of Royalton 10/18 (P&RW). This represented only the third record for *Dauphin*. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and five **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed MSH fields 9/18 (TB).

A **Laughing Gull**, rare anytime in the county, was observed at SRWF 8/28 (RKO). **Great Black-backed Gull** continued to be reported through the late summer and fall at HBG (LU, et al.), where they frequent the light standards along the Harvey Taylor Bridge connecting HBG and Wormleysburg. Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported at SRFH 9/19 (EB). **Caspian Tern** was present through much of Aug from SRRT north to SRMV (m. obs.). **Forster's Tern** was observed at SRRT 8/18 and 8/24 (P&RW, LC) and at SRWF 9/19 (EC), but the only report of **Black Tern** was from SRRT where four were observed 8/29 (P&RW).

A **Eurasian-collared Dove** was observed near the square in Middletown 8/15 (IG, AL). Flights of **Common Nighthawks** were reported 8/30 and 9/13 in Susquehanna Twp. (EB), and over EHT 9/2 (S&RZ). A high count of 16 was noted in HER 9/9 (TB). The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** numbers were low this Oct through Nov at the Small Valley station, where only 46 were banded (SL).

The first *Selasphorus* hummingbird of the season was reported in Highspire 10/1, after banding on 10/2 it was determined to be an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird**. This bird continued visiting this and a neighbor's feeder through the end of the period (SL). A second *Selasphorus* arrived in SHT 10/11 and was identified as another immature female **Rufous** 10/13 and remained through at least 10/16 (JG, SW, et al.). Also noteworthy was a new late date established for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** when one came to SHT feeders from 10/13-18 (P&RW) and another continued at a second SHT location through 10/25 (JG). Nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were confirmed at two locations, one at Cummings Swamp north of Millersburg where an adult was observed feeding a fledged young 8/4 (RKL), and the second was on FIG property where recently fledged young were also observed 8/19 (JD, DM). Another **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted 9/26 in HER (AS).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was among the species found in SCV 9/21 (SK). **Common Raven** was noted 9/17 and again 10/11 flying over Susquehanna Twp. this fall (EC). A single **Purple Martin** was among the swallows reported 8/16 SRWF (IG, AL) and 30 were part of a flight of swallows over Susquehanna Twp. 9/13 (EB). With no nesting population in the county since the early 1990s, **Purple Martins** are now only observed in spring and fall migration. **Bank Swallows** continue to use the mouth of the Swatara Creek at Royalton as a migration staging area, with impressive counts in the hundreds from mid- to late Aug (AL, IG, P&RW). An **American Pipit** was reported at SRWF 10/30 (MSA), and 20 were found in the MSH farm fields 11/10 (TB). A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported 9/21 SCV (SK) and a **Mourning Warbler** paid a visit to a property atop BMT 10/2 (M&RB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported in SCV 9/21 (SK) and one was observed at WL 10/15 (RKO). The first report of **Fox Sparrow** this season came from SHT 10/29 (P&RW). Nesting was confirmed with the observation of a female **Blue Grosbeak** feeding two fledglings 8/19 on FIG property (DM, JD); also, a female/juvenile was observed at feeders on BMT 9/20 (M&RB). The first **Rusty Blackbird** sighting of the season was at WL where ten were found 10/15 (EB); reports continued at this location to at least 11/23 (staff). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were also noted at nearby feeders in Susquehanna Twp. 11/21 (EB). **Purple Finch** was first noted 9/24 SHT (JG), and a single **Pine Siskin** was observed at WL feeders 11/9 (EB).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA**



17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Kyle Adlinger, Tim Becker, Ed Bernot, Dick Bicksler, Mary & Randy Brenner, Lou Carpenter, Ed Chubb, Bill Clifton, Mary Coomer, Jarod Derr, Gordon Dimmig, Ian Gardner, Jan Getgood, Stefan Karkuff, Rudy Keller (RKI), Ramsay Koury (RKO), Karl Kugle, Alex Lamoreaux, Sandy Lockerman, Mark Markiewicz, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Art Schiavo, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Mark Shartle (MSh), Larry Usselman, Andrew Weber, Scott Weidensaul, Howard West, Patricia Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino.

### Delaware County

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

Rain was the operative word this season. With the help of Hurricane Irene, August was Philadelphia's rainiest month ever recorded, with greater than 19". Irene came through 8/27-28, dumping 5.8" in Philadelphia but 13" in nearby Sewell, New Jersey and 6.8" in Aston Twp. in Delaware. Irene did not deliver any hoped-for seabirds, but did bring 6 tern species to the Delaware River. Sharp-eyed DelCo birders found 25 species of warblers during migration. These plus a nice assortment of county rarities brought the season record to 169 species. County rarities included **Ross's Goose**, **Cackling Goose**, **Virginia Rail**, **Arctic Tern**, **Royal Tern**, **Northern Shrike**, and **Nelson's Sparrow**.

Two flocks of **Snow Geese** were reported and each held added interest. A flock of 80 at RTPHW 11/13 (AG, DF) was remarkable for containing only 6 adults. The remaining 74 individuals were immature birds. Another flock of 400 **Snow Geese** held one **Ross's Goose** at TI 11/22 (TF). Four **Cackling Geese** Middletown 10/3 (AG) and another 4 **Cackling Geese** DT 10/22 (AG) were counted among large flocks of migrating **Canada Geese**.

Recorded arrival dates for migrant ducks were **Northern Pintail** TI 11/24 (AG), **Ring-necked Duck** BL 11/20 (AG), **Bufflehead** SR 11/18 (AG), and **Hooded Merganser** BL 11/20 (AG). Notable for its increasing scarcity, 7 **Ruddy Ducks** SR 10/25 (AG) was the only report of this once common species.

This summer, 2 **Black Vulture** and 2 **Turkey Vulture** chicks were wing-tagged in Delaware by a team from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Wing-tagged individuals of both species were sighted on various dates throughout the hawk watch season at RTPHW. The birds were identified by tag color and left/right wing but no one was able to read the numbers on the tags. The Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch operated 9/1-11/30 with nearly every watchable day at least partially covered, although total hours were low. Total count was 6385 raptors just below the expected average of 6700. A single day record of 47 **Osprey** was recorded RTPHW 9/30 (BK AG). The season total of 279 **Osprey** was about average. Last year, zero **Northern Goshawks** were counted so two individuals this year RTPHW 11/2 (HM JM AG) and 11/3 (DE) were welcome sightings. The long term average for this species is about 6 per year but a total of only 8 individuals have been counted in the past five seasons. The big day for **Broad-winged Hawks** was 9/16 when 2266 were counted. The next-best tally was 9/17 when only 237 were counted. The season total for **Broad-winged Hawks** of 2818 was slightly below the previous 10 year average of just over 3000. The total of 222 **American Kestrels** was welcome for species of concern in southeast Pennsylvania. This was the highest tally since 2006. A count of 3 **Golden Eagles** was about average. The **Bald Eagle** count of 120 was below average but only because of the decision by the counters to try and separate local from migrant birds. The RTPHW total count of 186 migrating **Red-tailed Hawks** was well below the previous 10-year average of 437. This in part may also be due to the problem counters have separating local from migrant birds, but CP reports this is a trend seen at other hawk watches and may reflect the beginning of changes in the migratory pattern of this species.

In Aug, a relative of BB sent him a photo of a "strange looking bird" that was sitting on a back yard patio in Glen Mills. The bird turned out to be a **Virginia Rail**, presumed to be an exhausted migrant 8/9 (*vide* BB).

The usual shorebirds—**Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**—were found in single digits TI, DR 8/12-8/28 (AG). A **Sanderling** was an uncommon find DR 8/28

(AG). The maximum count of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was 50 TI 8/12 (AG) and max count of 300+ **Least Sandpiper** TI 8/12-13 (AG, DE).

Heavy rains grounded a total of 71 **Caspian Terns** DR 8/14 (AG). This was a prelude to Hurricane Irene which roared through the area 8/27 carrying six species of terns. AG staked out the river 8/28 and managed to find 37 **Caspian Terns**, 19 **Black Terns**, 18 **Common Terns**, one **Arctic Tern**, 32 **Forster's Terns**, and 5 **Royal Terns**.

The annual **Common Nighthawk** count was conducted HC 8/20-9/11(SJ); a total of 4078 individuals were tallied; an annual record for the count! Big days were 8/25 (297), 8/26 (830), 8/29 (242), 8/30 (201), 9/9 (352), and 9/10 (238). **Chimney Swifts** were in good numbers and were last reported RTPHW 10/26 (HM). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were 10/8 at Swarthmore (DE) and Middletown (AG). These are about a week later than the average departure date for Delaware. We seem to get one **Red-headed Woodpecker** per year. This year an adult was found RTPHW 10/21 (AG).

More rightfully claimed by Philadelphia, a **Northern Shrike** was seen to fly into the Delaware side of the refuge on a regular basis at TI 11/24 (AB, et al.). It was seen daily afterward into the winter season. This represented the sixth county record for the species, last at DT in 2007. **Horned Larks** are scarce in Delaware so an individual RTPHW 11/18 (AG) and 3 PHL 11/27 (AG) were notable. There was only one report of **Swainson's Thrush** SC 10/8 (DE).

Delaware birders found a nice variety (25 species) of warblers this fall. Highlights included a **Tennessee Warbler** RCSP 10/6 (AG) and 5 **Tennessee Warblers** TI 10/7 (TF), a yard bird **Cape May Warbler** Middletown 9/9 (AG), **Bay-breasted Warbler** RCSP 8/27 (AG), **Worm-eating Warbler** RCSP 9/1 (AG), **Connecticut Warbler** TI 10/7 (TF), and a late **Yellow-breasted Chat** DT 11/26 (RH) plus another chat RCSP 9/10 (CL).

An exceptional find was a **Nelson's Sparrow** at BM 10/7 (AG). This species is accidental in Delaware and this appears to be only the third record for the county. **Lincoln's Sparrow** 10/7 (AG), 10/8, and 10/16 (DE) and **White-crowned Sparrow** 10/7 and 10/15 (AG) were also present at this location. Barrett's Meadow is a new marshy area turned conservation area in Thornbury Twp. and holds promise for great sightings in the future. There were a few scattered reports of **Purple Finch** starting RTPHW 11/17 (AG) and only two **Pine Siskins**, Glen Mills 10/25 (AG), SC 11/27 (DE).

Observers: **Dave Eberly**, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081 (610) 543-3499, david.eberly@gmail.com, Gary Becker, Adrian Binns, Brian Byrnes, Devitch Farbotnik, Andy Fayer, Todd Fellenbaum, Stephanie Gaboriault, Skip Conant, Andrew Eberly, Al Guarente, Rich Horwitz, Sheryl Johnson, Bob Kelly, Chris Langman, Doris McGovern, John Mercer, Holly Merker, Mariana Pesthy, Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Leonard Rooney.

### Elk County

No compiler.

### Erie County

Weather was about normal for the latter part of the summer, with warm weather continuing through the period. This was the third November in a row where there were no significant snow falls. Along the south shore of Lake Erie only one storm produced a paltry dusting of snow between early October and late November. Despite the warmer than usual fall, there were significant flights of puddle ducks, especially **Blue-winged Teal** and **Northern Pintail**. There was also a respectable showing of **Red-necked Grebes** and **jaegers** at the Sunset Point Waterbird Count (WC). Some exceptional rarities reported during the season were **Harlequin Duck**, **Piping Plover**, a dark **Plegadis Ibis**, **Purple Gallinule**, and **White-winged Dove**. The only northern finches reported for the season were a few **Pine Siskins**. All reports were from Presque Isle State Park unless noted other otherwise.

A total of 44 **Snow Geese** were recorded in the county which included 17 blues and 27 whites between 11/11 and 11/20 (m.ob.). Seven of these were on a small lake in Fairview and the others were seen flying past Sunset Point on the WC. Twenty-three **Brant** flew past Sunset Point on the WC at Sunset Point 10/1 and 10/2 (JM); the season total was 123 on the WC (JM) and the mouth of Walnut Creek from 10/27-11/1 (DS). An astounding flight of 560 **Blue-winged Teal** was recorded on the WC at Sunset Point 9/30 (JM), and an amazing flight of



745 **Northern Pintail** was recorded on the WC 10/1 (JM). The two female **Harlequin Ducks** that flew past Sunset Point along the shoreline on the WC was very exciting for the three observers lucky enough to be there to see them 11/4 (ST, JM, RN).

It was a banner season for **Red-necked Grebes** on the WC, with most of the 24 recorded at Sunset Point from 10/30-11/25 (JM). An Eared Grebe was a rare, but annual, find off Beach 11 from 10/23 to 10/31 (JM). While conducting the waterbird count at Sunset Point 10/24, JM observed a dark **Plegadis ibis** flying out over the lake before it circled back towards Gull Point. The imm. **Purple Gallinule** that was photographed as it climbed around a buttonbush along Long Pond 10/9 was only the third county record, but the second this year (BM, BG).

A total of three **American Golden-Plovers** flew past Sunset Point on the WC 10/20-21 (JM). A flock of 28 flew over the wetlands restoration area at SGL 314 on 10/21 (MW). A banded **Piping Plover** was an exciting find on 8/14 at Gull Point (BB). It remained until the next day and was photographed (JM). The plover had been banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan. A **Willet** was found at Gull Point 8/13 and it stayed to the next day (BB, ST). Two **Whimbrel** flew over Gull Point 8/14 (JM) and a single bird was there 8/20 (DW). The only **Western Sandpiper** was one at Gull Point 8/20 (MW). The increasingly rare **Red Knot** was found at Gull Point 9/5 when seven were observed (DS). A single knot was at Gull Point 10/2-3 (MW). A total of seven **White-rumped Sandpipers**, most of which were at Sunset Point on the WC, were tallied from 9/9-10/3 (JM, MW, MF). There were two flying below the bluffs at SGL #314 on 10/1 (GM). A single **Purple Sandpiper** was on the WC at Sunset Point 11/6 (JM, MW) and another was on the breakwaters off Sunset Point 11/28 (DW, JM, ST). No longer annual in the county, was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Gull Point on 10/23 (MW). A Red Phalarope came in and landed during a storm at Gull Point on 10/2 (MW) while another showed up along the beach during the WC at Sunset Point on 11/28 (ST, JM, DW).

It was certainly the fall for jaegers with a total of seven immatures recorded, and all but one of these was during the WC at Sunset Point. There were single **Pomarine Jaegers** 11/6 and 11/7 (RR, JM, MW). A **Parasitic Jaeger** zoomed past Sunset Point on 11/10 (JM) and another was there on 11/18 (JM). There was an unidentified jaeger observed on 10/1 at a distance from shore off the bluffs at SGL 341 (GM). Single unidentified **jaegers** were also recorded 10/2 and 10/7 off Sunset Point (JM). A **Franklin's Gull** was an exciting find as it flew past Sunset Point on the WC 10/16 (ST, DW, JM), and another was at the channel 11/10 (MW). An adult **Thayer's Gull** was at the Lake View Landfill on 11/11 (DW, ST). Just before dark a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** came in and landed on the south pier on 11/4 (MW). The first **Glaucous Gull** of the year was an immature that past Sunset Point on the WC on 11/30 (JM). A total of four adult **Little Gulls** was found, with two of those recorded at the WC at Sunset Point from 10/25 to 11/7 (JM, ST, BC).

The real surprise of the season was the **White-winged Dove** that flushed from Gull Point Trail 10/16 (ph. ST, DW). It flew up into a birch where it was easily photographed, and it remained there until dark. The next day it was not found. A **Short-eared Owl** flew up from the beach grass at Gull Point 11/12 (ST).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was one 9/15 (MW). A shrike, which was undoubtedly a **Northern Shrike**, spent a few days at the Fairview industrial park 11/10-11 (DN). There was a rather late **Purple Martin** circling around with some **Tree Swallows** in Lake City 10/1, which was about two weeks past any previous records (ST). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was identified 10/3 (MW), and two more were found 10/23 (MW). A **Yellow Warbler**, which was likely of the *amnicola* race, was seen 10/2 (MW). A season total of six **Lapland Longspurs**, often with **Snow Buntings**, were recorded on the WC at Sunset Point and Gull Point 10/28-11/18.

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Brian Berchtold, Ben Coulter, Mike Fialkovich, Brooke Genter, Geoff Malosh, Brian Morse, Don Nixon, Richard Nugent, Rich Rehrig, Don Snyder, Shannon Thompson, Mike Weible, Dave Wilton.

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### Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

Rain brings waterfowl, but a trip to GRL 11/16 during a rainy day did not result in any ducks, however a flock of 23 **Tundra Swans** were

resting on the lake (MF). A pleasant surprise was a **Ross's Goose** in the flock of Tundra Swans at GRL 11/16 (MF)! The bird did not stay long following the discovery; about 30 minutes after it was found, it apparently had moved on. This is very likely a first for *Fayette*. A **Ruddy Duck** was at the lake 9/30 (MF).

A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** ran across the road at GRL 11/16 (MF). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was there that same day (MF). A flock of 30 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Wisett 10/2 (KSJ). Three **Caspian Terns** were at GRL 9/6 (MF). Like many birds that visit the lake, their appearance was tied to heavy rain. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Ohiopyle State Park 8/13 (KSJ), probably a local breeder.

Up to 50 **Chimney Swifts** were tallied along the Youghiogheny River at Wisett 10/2 (KSJ). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was singing at Ohiopyle State Park 8/13 (KSJ). A total of 50 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were tallied along the Youghiogheny River at Wisett 10/2 (KSJ). **Cliff Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were at Ohiopyle 8/13 (KSJ) where they breed. A few warblers were reported 10/2 at Wisett that included **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Palm Warbler** and **Wilson's Warbler** (KSJ). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in Markleysburg 10/30 (LD) and a **White-crowned Sparrow** was in Wisett 10/2 (KSJ). Four **Pine Siskins** were in Farmington 10/30 (LD).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Larry Durgin, Kate St. John.

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### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Outflow (TO).

A flock of **Tundra Swans** was heard in flight 11/18 near TI (FM, JM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported 9/29 and 10/8 from BS (TR), and 10/13 at BM (FM, JM). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen 10/8 at BS (TR).

**Osprey** are being reported more often in the western half of the county; one or two were present at TO several between 10/7-11/3 (FM, JM). There were also several reports of **Bald Eagles** at various locations. A female **Northern Harrier** was spotted 9/29 at BS, and a male was near TI 11/4 (FM, JM).

Seven **Least Sandpipers** were at BS 8/7 (TR). Several dozen **Common Nighthawks** were seen circling over a rural yard near TI in the early evening of 8/26 and again 9/3, apparently catching insects and working their way to the Allegheny River (FM, JM).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported 8/7 at BS (TR). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were netted and banded 9/21 in the ANF near Marienville (SS, FM, JM). A **Black-and-white Warbler** foraging in a pin oak 8/10 was observed from a living room window near TI (FM, JM). **Tennessee Warblers** were found 8/26-10/5 in the ANF, where the last **Nashville Warbler** was noted 9/21, and the last **Mourning Warbler** 8/29 (ET, SS, FM, JM). Three **Blackpoll Warblers** were netted and banded 9/21 in the ANF near Marienville (SS, FM, JM). Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were observed flitting around a deck at a home near TI 9/17 (FM, JM). Two **Palm Warblers** were a nice find 10/22 along Salmon Creek Road, where three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were also observed (T&JK). A **Pine Warbler** was spotted 8/7 foraging around a feeder area by a large hemlock near TI (FM, JM). Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted 10/7 at BS (TR).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Peggy Blair, Avis Keener, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Jim McGuire, Theo Rickert, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas.

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### Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Pond (BP), Caledonia Area (CA), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner's Holding Pond (KP), Long Lane Road (LL), Menno Haven Creekside Trail (MH), Mountain Brook Road (MB), Mont Alto Area (MA), Shady Grove Area (SG), Stillhouse Hollow Road (SH).

**Canada Geese** are beginning to be a problem in some areas of the county, particularly at GR with more than 300 at times during migration. Since it is a very small manmade reservoir, concerns for water pollution are an issue. Limited numbers of ducks were reported

this year with KP, BM, LL, and GR the primary area for **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Ducks**. Several **Common Goldeneyes** made a two day stop at LL.

A **Red-Throated Loon** visited MB for three days (CG), providing a good sighting for many birders. **Great Egrets** and **Green Herons** were reported at BP and LL (CG, BO). A lone Immature **White Ibis** was observed briefly along a private pond south of Chambersburg 8/29 (LL, JB), providing a rare appearance for *Franklin*. Fledglings (and the parents) from the county's first **Bald Eagle** nest were reported at various locations.

A good variety of shorebirds were observed at KP, GR, and LL including **American Golden-Plover**, **Semipalmated Plover**, a single **American Avocet** at GR 8/5 (CG), **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Sanderling** 9/7 at GR (CG, DG), **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Western Sandpiper** 11/12 at GC (CG, DG), **Least Sandpiper**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, and **Pectoral Sandpiper** (BO, CG, VB). There were very active **American Woodcocks** 9/1-9/10 along SH (BK).

**Black Terns** were observed on two days at GR and KP in Sep. A **Caspian Tern** (uncommon) was at LL also in Sep.

A **Swainson's Thrush** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were observed for several days in CA (VB). CA, SH, and MH produced a good variety of **flycatchers**, **vireos**, and **warblers** throughout Sep under the watchful eyes of BK, BO, DH, and VB. At least 28 species were reported which are listed in the fall migrant tables. **Fox Sparrows** and a **Purple Finch** appeared 9/20 at CA (VB). Four more **Fox Sparrows** arrived at SG 10/2.

Observers: Dale L. Gearhart, 1872 Burkholder Rd., P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net, Valerie Barnes, Joan Bowen, Carl Garner, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Larry Lehman, Bill Oyler, Rachael Shapiro.

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### Fulton County

Locations: Forbes Trail Road Pond (FTRP), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Tuscarora Mountain "The Pulpit" Hawkwatch (TM).

The fall season brought unusual weather conditions to *Fulton*, including an earthquake that registered over 3.0 on the Richter scale, an October snow storm, and the after effects of a tropical storm.

A rare migrant in the county, a **Red-throated Loon** was found at MGL 11/23 (DS) after multiple days of heavy rain. Incidentally, one of the largest Red-throated Loon waterbird counts in Cape May, New Jersey history was noted a day earlier, and lakes to the west in *Somerset* also held large numbers of waterbirds. Other waterbirds present at MGL included 7 **Bufflehead**, 3 **Pied-billed** and 4 **Horned Grebes**, and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** (DS). FTRP held 15 **Hooded Mergansers** and one **Herring Gull** 11/23 (DS).

This year, two large **Broad-winged Hawk** days were detected at TM. Typically, each fall migration season has only one 1000+ hawk day at TM. Not only was 9/13 the high count for Broad-wings with 1657, but also for Osprey (11) (DG, D&KL). The other big Broad-wing day of 1245 occurred 9/17 (DG, DJ, DP, J&JC). The last fall record of Broad-winged Hawk in the county was also at TM 10/10 (EB, AL, DG, KL, RB). The high **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Golden Eagle** days, with 72 and 11 respectively, both occurred 10/31 (DG). The high count for accipiters was 10/18 (DG), which included 93 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 14 **Cooper's Hawks**. Two records of **Northern Goshawk** were made: 9/13 (DG, D&KL) and 11/2 (DG, J&JC). Lucky observers on 10/20 saw the season's high count for all 3 regularly occurring falcons (DG, RB): 6 **American Kestrel**, 3 **Peregrine Falcon**, and one **Merlin**. Single Merlins were detected for eight of ten consecutive late Oct days at TM, with the last 10/26. A high count of 3 Peregrine Falcons was also noted 9/30 (DG, CG) and 10/14 (DG).

Two sightings of **Snow Buntings** were documented at TM: one 10/24 and a flock of 5 on 11/4 (DG).

Observers: Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan\_snell@hotmail.com, Ronda Barnett, Erika Bowman, Robert & Marion Carmack, John & Joan Carpenter, James Dunn, Carl Garner, Dale L. Gearhart, Diane Jones, Alex Lamoreaux, Dick & Kathy Lauver, Al Nelson, Delores Purnell.

### Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sycamore (SY), Waynesburg Sportsman Club (WSC).

**Wood Ducks** were last reported 12/3 at EV (MH) while during an extremely wet spell. Fifteen **Bufflehead** were reported 11/22 on a small pond in Wayne Twp, (TC) and 10 were reported at WSC 11/23 (JH).

On 11/23, 5 **Ring-necked Pheasant** were spotted near Claylick Road/Jacobs Run intersection and were probably a result of Game Commission stocking (RA). **Ruffed Grouse** was last seen at SY 12/3 (JC). At LCR, 24 **Wild Turkey** were seen walking across the wet pasture in the early morning of 11/21 (MLP).

**Turkey Vulture** was last seen 11/7 at RBF (JW) and also at CL the same day (LA). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen sitting on a hay bale at a farm near Jefferson 8/20 (RKB). On 10/5 an adult was seen at LCR (MLP). A **Northern Harrier** was over WSC 9/22 (JH). On 8/7 at RBF, 2 **Red-tailed Hawk** young were heard calling for food (RKB).

**American Coot** was at WSC 10/10 (JH). **Killdeer** were last noted 11/8 at EV (MH). Last **American Woodcock** was at SY 12/3 (JC).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported 9/29 in Jackson Twp. (JB). A **Barred Owl** was sitting in driveway at EV 11/23 (JH). On 9/3, 11 **Common Nighthawk** were noted over Jefferson (JW). A few **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** lingered in the Waynesburg area until the first week of Oct, last seen 10/10 at LCR (MLP). A juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker**, rare for *Greene*, was found 9/6 in Morgan Twp. (LB). In Morris Twp. 11/20 a juvenile **Red-bellied Woodpecker** lit above the door at the local store, when a second flew in to chase the first one off and caused it to crash into the Laundromat window. It was rescued and a few minutes later it flew off (C&CA). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported 10/20 at EV (MH) and 11/7 at RBF (RKB). Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were reported in Morris Twp. 11/7 (C&CA).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at EV 9/3 (MH) was the last for the season. The last sighting of **Acadian Flycatcher** was at EV 8/6; this was also the site of the last **Eastern Phoebe** 10/16 (MH). **White-eyed Vireo** was last seen at SY 10/24 (JC), and 8/26 was the last sighting of **Red-eyed Vireo** at EV (MH). In Aleppo Twp. 11/14, 28 **Common Ravens** were reported (EG). About 90 **Barn Swallows** were on the electric wires at RBF 8/19, and the last one left the nest 8/29 (RKB).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were first noted at CL 11/23 (LA). **Brown Creepers** were first reported at EV 10/7 and last 11/8 (MH). At EV, 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were seen 11/8 (MH). A flock of at least 20 **American Robins** were noted in the yard at EV 11/11 (MH). A **Gray Catbird** hung around EV until 10/5 (MH). Over 100 **Cedar Waxwings** were lounging in the trees at EV 11/11 (MH).

**Yellow Warbler** and **Common Yellowthroat** were last seen at EV 8/6 (MH). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, and a juvenile **Scarlet Tanager** were noted 10/8 on Hopewell Ridge (KK, KR).

A **Chipping Sparrow** visited a feeder at RBF 11/26. At the same location the first **White-throated Sparrows** (on 10/18) and **White-crowned Sparrows** (10/19) were noted (RKB). The first **Dark-eyed Junco** was found at RBF 10/14 (RKB). The last report of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 8/14 at EV (JH). Center Twp. was the site of the last **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackles** 11/13 (MG). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported 10/28 at RBF (RKB). EV had the first sighting of **Purple Finch** 10/16 (MH).

Observers: Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net, Chuck & Carol Andrew (C&CA), Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, Leah Bell, Ralph K. Bell, Jane Bonner, Roberta Boyd, Jan Churney, Terry Cole, Myra Gibson, Edward Guthrie, Jerry Howard, Kathy Kern, Mary LaPlante (MLP), Kathy Reeves, Jerry Wolfe.

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### Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Raystown (LR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace (PF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Stone Valley (SV), Whipple Dam SP (WD).

Six first county records were established during an eventful fall season, including **Anhinga**, **Varied Thrush**, and, thanks to the wet weather, four species of shorebirds.



An early **Northern Pintail** was at HU 9/26 (DK). During a rainstorm 11/22-23, waterfowl down at LR and OC included 12 **Redheads**, 125 **Buffleheads**, 15 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 5 **Common Goldeneyes**, 55 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 25 **Horned Grebes** (DK).

Uncommon but annual, a **Great Egret** was in the Little Juniata R. near Alexandria 9/9 (DK). Rare here, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** spent a week at a small drainage pond near a construction area at HU 9/20-26 (DK, TK). DK found two **Soras** at OC 9/25.

The results from the Stone Mt. Hawk Watch were mixed. Nov was disappointing with a lack of the cold fronts and northwest winds that bring the best flights here. One highlight occurred 10/4 when 13 raptor species and both vultures were observed (GG). On the positive side, the 975 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 100 **American Kestrels** were the highest since 2002 and 2003, respectively, although the kestrel number was still below the long-term average of 109 (since 1995). One-day record highs were set for **Bald Eagle** (10 on 9/13) and **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (206 on 10/17). The highest **Broad-winged Hawk** count was 696 on 9/17. The **Bald Eagle** total of 92 was second highest ever, following last year's record of 112. **Golden Eagles** were above average with a season total of 110 and high counts of 21 on 11/17, 13 on 11/30, and 11 on 12/16. The only two **Rough-legged Hawks** occurred 12/10. On the down side, the 66 **Ospreys** and 562 **Red-tailed Hawks** represented the second lowest counts ever for those species. The bird of the season at SMHW and the first occurrence in the county was an **Anhinga** seen well flying down the ridge 10/25 (DK, RC; documentation submitted).

Away from the hawk watch, a late **Osprey** was at HU 11/22 (DK). DW noted several kettles of about 15-30 of **Broad-winged Hawks** over SCEC 9/14, containing about 100 total birds. A raptor seldom seen away from SMHW was a **Peregrine Falcon** at PF 10/4, drawn there perhaps by the shorebird congregation (IG).

Rainy weather contributed to several good shorebird finds, including first county records for **American Golden-Plover**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**. Beginning 9/8 and continuing into early Oct, wet fields at PF hosted many shorebirds, with maxima of two **Black-bellied Plovers** (9/8), two **Western Sandpipers** (9/8), up to 9 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, several **White-rumped Sandpipers**, **Pectoral Sandpipers** and one **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (JK, IG, DK, TK). At that same site, at least 25 **American Golden-Plovers** were present 10/2-4. Elsewhere, another first record was provided by two **Sanderlings** at the Wal-Mart at HU 9/10 (DK, TK). Not often seen in fall, two **Common Terns** were at LR 9/27 (DK).

Along with the shorebirds, 6 **Common Nighthawks** were at PF 9/8 (JK); two more were very late at Mt. Union 10/11 (DK). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was a bit unusual at WD in the heavily forested northeast, where large owls predominate. DK heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on Tussey Mt. near Marklesburg 11/1. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Seven Stars 8/20 (NB) and one flew by SMHW 10/23 (NB, GG).

An early **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found near Marklesburg 8/29 (DK). Another early bird was a **Northern Shrike** seen one day only at OC 10/28; a **Marsh Wren** was also a brief visitor there 9/27 (DK). Migration walks at SCEC produced a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/9, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 9/13 and an early **Philadelphia Vireo** 8/30 (DW). Yet another first county report was that of a **Varied Thrush** found near Masseyburg in SV 11/26 (JK), in an area of apparently good "Varied Thrush habitat" (if such exists in eastern North America). Searches on the next day were unsuccessful except for a possible brief hearing of its song.

**Yellow-throated Warblers** are rarely reported in the county away from spring nesting sites along the JR, so a fall report in SV 10/2 was unusual (DW). During an unsuccessful shrike search 10/29 at OC, the consolation prize was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** (AL). A late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at OC 9/13 (DK). Five **Bobolinks** were found at OC 9/27 (DK). A **Red Crossbill** was heard on ridge of Tussey Mt on the northern edge of the county 11/20 (JV).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu, Nick Bolgiano, Ron Crandel, Ian Gardner, Alex Lamoreaux, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Joe Verica, Drew Weber, Doug Wentzel.

#### Indiana County

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

All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise indicated. First 12 **Tundra Swans** were sighted 11/1 (JW) at YC; 450 over LV was the high count 11/10 (MC) and 54 at YC 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM) were last. Best **Wood Duck** count was 72 on 8/23 (LC, TG, MH, ML). First 2 **Gadwalls** arrived 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) but top count was a mere 6 on 11/23 (LC). Three **American Wigeons** were first arrivals 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) and 7 were counted from the pontoon 10/18 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MS, MVT). Two Lick Reservoir boasted the high **American Black Duck** tally of 8 on 11/22 (LC). **Mallards**, which were hard to find at YC this past summer, continued to remain in low numbers with best count of only 11 on 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT); last year's high count was 89. Musser's Pond yielded 15 **Mallards** 10/15 (TS). The first **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 8/23 at YC where numbers reached 17 on 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT); one still lingered at YC 10/25 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT). Three **Northern Shovelers** 8/23 (LC, TG, MH, ML) comprised the entire report for this species. A farm pond near Penn Run yielded the season's only 2 **Northern Pintails** 11/23 (GL). Two **Green-winged Teal** arrived 8/31 (LC); top count of 10 occurred 11/23 (LC). Two **Canvasbacks** appeared 11/27 (LC) and a single **Redhead** arrived 11/15 (LC, TG, MH). First 16 **Ring-necked Ducks** landed at YC 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) with the peak number of 187 on 11/23 (LC). **Lesser Scaup** were seen in single digits on only four dates this season beginning 11/5 (3RBC, TBC). A **Surf Scoter** 11/21 (LC) and a **White-winged Scoter** 11/25 (GF) were great finds; the White-winged was still present 11/27 (LC). YC yielded 14 **Long-tailed Ducks** 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM). Four **Buffleheads** 11/8 (LC, TG, MH, MVT) were first, but several high Bufflehead tallies occurred including 1406 on 11/21 (LC), 400 the following day (LC, TG, MH, DM), and 453 on 11/23 (LC). **Common Goldeneye** reports included 2 on 11/21 (LC) and 5 the following day (LC, TG, MH, DM). High **Hooded Merganser** count was 43 on 11/23 (LC). Two **Common Mergansers** were listed at BS 9/6 (MH, RH). **Red-breasted Mergansers**, present on only two days, numbered 26 on 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM) and 67 the next day (LC). First **Ruddy Duck** arrived 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT); high counts of 109 and 131 respectively occurred 11/8 (LC, TG, MH, MVT) and 11/23 (LC).

First **Common Loon** appeared 10/15 (TS) at YC where top count of 55 was reached 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM). The season's first **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared 8/9 (LC, TG, MH, DM, MVT); by 10/25 (LC, MH) 63 were present. YC yielded the first **Horned Grebe** 10/18 (GL, GS); best counts included 22 at TL 11/22 (LC) and 51 at YC 11/23 (LC). Twenty-nine was the top **Double-crested Cormorant** tally at YC 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT). **Green Heron** could not be found at YC after 9/27 (LC, MH, DM).

**Turkey Vulture** maxima included 64 at TL 9/19 (PJ) and 18 passing over SH 10/19 (MH); last was one 11/17 (GL) over Penn Run. **Ospreys** migrated through the county between 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MVT) and 11/4 (CG). **Bald Eagle** reports were numerous with one at Strongstown 8/25 (DS, GS), one over IN 9/16 (MC), and at least 3 individuals at YC 11/4 (CG). The only **Northern Harriers** reported, all singletons, occurred 8/24 (CL) at Nolo, 10/11 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML) at YC, 10/31 (MC) at Clarksburg, and 11/5 (IH) at YC. Migrating over YC 9/17 (MC) were 150 **Broad-winged Hawks**; 25 were also spotted near LV 9/25 (MC), the last report. A **Merlin** was a nice find at YC 8/23 (LC, TG, MH, ML). October 4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) yielded both a **Merlin** and a **Peregrine** at YC. A **Sora** was found in Little Yellow Cove 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MVT). **American Coots** arrived at YC 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT); by 11/8 (LC, TG, MH, MVT) at least 1681 were present.

High water levels yielded few shorebirds at YC this season. Shorebird reports are at YC unless otherwise indicated. Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were listed 9/6 (LC, TG, MH, GL). **Killdeer** had peaked by 8/31 (LC) at 33; last Killdeer noted were 3 at Musser's Pond 10/15 (TS) and one near SH 10/19 (MH). Ten **Greater Yellowlegs** flew over YC 9/6 (LC, TG, MH, GL), apparently looking for a suitable place to land; last noted were 9 on 11/8 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). The only **Lesser Yellowlegs** reported appeared 8/31 (LC). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were spotted 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MVT). Last 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** were found 9/8 (GL). A **Sanderling** flew past the beach 9/6 (LC, TG, MH, GL), the same day 6 **Least Sandpipers** were on the limited mud in Little Yellow Cove. The pontoon ride 10/18 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MS, MVT) flushed 7 **Wilson's Snipe** from Little Yellow Cove; a single snipe was located 11/5 (IH), the only other report this season. The shorebird highlight this fall was a **Red-necked Phalarope** feeding on a small area of exposed mud below the maintenance building 9/6 (LC, TG, MH, GL).

**Bonaparte's Gull** reports listed only 2 on 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM) and 9 the following day (LC) at YC. First **Ring-billed Gull** arrived at YC



8/16 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) with best count of 25 on 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM). The fall's only **Herring Gulls** were singletons 11/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM) and 11/27 (LC). A **Caspian Tern** stopped at YC 9/6 (LC, TG, MH, GL); on 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) 2 were present. A **Black Tern** 8/18 (TS) was a great find at YC.

**Eastern Screech-Owls** were noted at five locations, **Great Horned** at 2, and **Barred Owl** at 3 (m.ob.). Last **Chimney Swifts** were 6 at Creekside and near SH 10/5 (MH). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered n. of IN 10/1 (SB). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) at YC where one was observed sporadically through 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM); single birds visited yards near SH 11/6 (MH, RH) and near McIntyre 11/20 (MC).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** stopped at BS 9/12 (MH). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** lingered at the Waterworks Conservation Area through 10/18 (SD). Last dates include: 9/12 (MH) for **Acadian Flycatcher** at BS; 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MVT) for **Willow Flycatcher** at YC; 10/7 (SB) for **Least Flycatcher** near IN; 10/15 (MH) for **Eastern Phoebe** near SH; 8/24 (TR) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** at YC; and 8/23 (LC, TG, MH, ML) for **Eastern Kingbird** at YC.

Last vireo dates included 9/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) for **White-eyed**; 10/11 for **Blue-headed** (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML); and 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) for **Warbling**, all at YC.; Blacklick Valley Natural Area yielded the last **Red-eyed Vireo** 9/24 (LC, MH, RH). A **Fish Crow** flew over a yard near IN 10/18 (DM). Ten **Common Raven** reports were received from four locations this period (m.ob.). YC hosted a single **Purple Martin** 8/18 (TS) and 2 on 9/5 (LC, TG, MH, GL). Last dates included 10/18 (GL, GS) for **Tree Swallow**, 8/16 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 9/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) for **Bank**; and 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) for **Barn Swallows**, all at YC.

One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was present near SH throughout the period (MH, RH); another was found n. of IN 11/20 (SB). Top count of **Brown Creepers** was 4 at YC 11/8 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). Last **House Wren** was one at YC 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT). The only **Winter Wren** was one at YC 10/25 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found in the county between 9/24 (MH, RH) and 11/25 (TS) with 13 reports of up to 5 birds. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** lingered at YC 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MVT). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a nice find at YC 10/11 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML). **Swainson's Thrushes** noted included 2 at BS 9/17 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DW, RW) and 2 at YC 10/11 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML). **Hermit Thrush** was listed only at YC 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM). YC harbored the last **Wood Thrush** 9/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM), the last **Gray Catbird** 10/11 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML), and the last **Brown Thrasher** 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT).

This fall's warbler migration was better than last year's, but there were no major fallouts. BS produced the last **Ovenbird** 9/12 (MH) and YC the last **Black-and-white Warbler** 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT). **Tennessee Warblers** moved through *Indiana* between 9/17 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DW, RW) and 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT). Single **Nashville Warblers** were listed on 5 dates between 9/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, RW) and 10/24 (MH). A skulking **Connecticut Warbler** was a good find at BS 9/17 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DW, RW). A **Common Yellowthroat** 10/11 (MH) and both a **Hooded Warbler** and **American Redstart** 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT), all at YC, were last. Eight **Cape May Warbler** reports with counts of up to 7 spanned the period 8/23 (LC, TG, MH, ML) through 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT), the same day the last **Northern Parula** was sighted at YC. Blacklick Valley Natural Area harbored the last **Magnolia Warbler** 9/24 (LC, MH, RH). One to 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were listed between 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL) and 9/17 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DW, RW). The last **Blackburnian Warbler** visited a yard near SH 9/21 (MH). A **Yellow Warbler** still lingered 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL) at YC, where the last **Chestnut-sided** was found 9/27 (LC, MH, DM). **Blackpoll Warblers** passed through our county between 9/10 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, RW) and 10/5 (MH) with all reports detailing only 1-2 individuals. Single **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were noted 9/12 (MH) at BS and 9/24 (LC, MH, RH) at Blacklick Valley Natural Area. The only **Palm Warblers** were 3 on 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) at YC. **Pine Warblers** were last found 9/27 (LC, MH, DM) at YC and 10/5 (MH) near SH. Two very early **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were listed 8/2 (LC, TG) at YC, where numbers peaked at 88 on 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT); a singleton 11/15 (LC, TG, MH) at YC was last. Four **Black-throated Green Warblers** were last sighted at YC 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) while a single bird was near SH the following day (MH). YC yielded the season's only **Canada Warbler** 8/30 (LC, TG, MH, GL, MVT) and Reservoir Hill produced the season's only **Wilson's Warbler** 9/11 (PJ).

**Scarlet Tanager** was last found at YC 9/27 (LC, MH, DM). An

**Eastern Towhee** continued at LV through the end of the period (MC). Arrival date for **American Tree Sparrow** was 11/5 (3RBC, TBC) at YC, but numbers remained low through the end of the fall. The last date for **Chipping Sparrow** at YC was 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM), which was also the arrival date for **Fox Sparrows**; Fox Sparrows were last sighted at Nolo 11/23 (CL, GL). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** at YC 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) and near SH 10/5 (MH) were the only ones reported. **Swamp Sparrow** remained at YC into the winter season (m.ob.). First **White-throated Sparrow** appeared 10/5 (MH) near SH. Rochester Mills yielded the first 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/6 (TS) and one was near LV 10/16 (MC). First migrant **Dark-eyed Junco** arrived at Nolo 10/13 (GL).

Last dates for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** were 10/5 (MH) near Creekside and 10/15 (MH) near SH, respectively. **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted at YC between 10/4 (LC, MH, DM, RN, MVT) and 11/27 (LC) with the high count of 28 on 10/25 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN). Thirty **Common Grackles** still lingered near Strongstown 10/22 (MH, RH, GL) and the last **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at YC 8/9 (LC, TG, MH, DM, MVT). A **Baltimore Oriole** at YC 9/13 (RN) was last. Two **White-winged Crossbills** stopped to feed on hemlocks near IN 11/25 (GF). A single **Pine Siskin** in a flock of goldfinches at YC 10/4 (MH) was the lone report.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Sid Blair, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Susan Dickson, Gary Ferrence, Tom Glover, Chris Gregory, Ian Haigh, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Melissa Little, Donna Meyer, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Tim Schreckengost, Mike Shaffer, Dan Syster, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Marge Van Tassel, John Walker, Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

#### Jefferson County

Locations: Big Run (BR), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Fordham Lake (FL), Kramer Road (KR), Londondale Farm (LF), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MT), Punxsutawney (PX), Ringgold (RG), Stump Creek Sewage Treatment Plant (ST).

A lone **Canada Goose** was found at FL 8/5 (TG), 10 were on KR 10/6 (TS), and 5 were on the MT 11/27 (TG). Three **Wood Ducks** were at ST 9/8 (TS). **Wild Turkeys** were represented by 11 at KR 8/12 (TS). One Great Blue Heron was in RG 9/22 (AK).

PX had one high flying **Turkey Vulture** 8/5 (TG), and one was on KR 10/18 (TS). An immature **Bald Eagle** was observed on the MT 8/5 (TG). Other reports included 2 at CC 8/7 (TR) and the resident nesting pair were seen on the MT 11/27 (TG). A **Northern Harrier** was seen at KR 10/23 (TS). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found on KR 10/24 (TS). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at CC 8/7 (TR), and one **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed on KR 9/24 (TS). A single **American Kestrel** was found in RG 9/22 (AK).

KR yielded 2 Killdeer 9/21 (TS). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found on MT 8/2 (TG). KR produced 2 **Barred Owls** 8/21 (TS). Six **Chimney Swifts** were on MT 8/5 (TG), and one was at KR 9/27 (TS). One **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in PX 8/27 (TG), and one was in RG 9/11 (AK). CL produced a **Belted Kingfisher** 8/23 (TS). **Woodpeckers** were common this season: **Red-bellied** were 2 on MT 8/5 (TG), one at KR 10/18 (TS), and one on the MT 11/27 (TG); **Downy** were one on the MT 8/5 (TG), one at ST 8/23 (TS), and 4 on MT 11/27 (TG); **Hairy** were one on MT 8/5 (TG), 2 at KR 10/5 (TS), and 4 on MT 11/27 (TG); **Northern Flicker** were 3 on MT 8/5 (TG), one at ST 9/8 (TS); **Pileated** were one at CL 8/23 (TS) and 4 on MT 11/27 (TG).

The MT produced an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 8/5 (TG), and 3 were found at CL 8/23 (TS). A single **Willow Flycatcher** was at ST 8/23 (TS). Single **Northern Shrikes** were located in BR and Reynoldsville 11/22 (both MW). The MT also produced a **Blue-headed Vireo** 8/5 (TG); another was at LF 8/23 (TS). Four **Red-eyed Vireos** on the MT 8/5 (TS), and 2 were seen on KR 9/27 (TS). A lone **Fish Crow** was found on KR 10/18 (TS). The MT yielded one **Common Raven** 8/5 (TG). **Swallows** were as follows: **Tree** one on MT 8/5 (TG) and one on KR 9/8 (TS); **Northern Rough-winged** one on KR 8/18 (TS); **Bank** one on KR 8/25 (TS); **Barn** one on KR 8/26 (TS).

One **Carolina Wren** was located in RG 9/11 (AK). One **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at KR 10/25 (TS) and 4 were on MT 11/27 (TG). The MT produced 4 **Gray Catbirds** 8/5 (TG) and one was found on KR

9/18 (TS). CL held one **Brown Thrasher** 8/23 (TS). An **American Pipit** was at KR 10/11 (TS).

Warblers were represented by one **Common Yellowthroat** on KR 10/18 (TS), 2 **American Redstart** on MT 8/5 (TG), one **Yellow Warbler** on MT 8/5 (TG), one **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on MT 8/5 (TG), and one **Yellow-rumped Warbler** on KR 10/18 (TS).

Nine **Eastern Towhees** were found on MT 8/5 (TG), and one was on KR 10/6 (TS). Two **Field Sparrows** were found on MT 8/5 (TG), and one was at KR 9/25 (TS). KR produced one **Lincoln's Sparrow** 10/18 (TS), and one **White-throated Sparrow** was also found in KR 10/6 (TS). A lone **Scarlet Tanager** was found on MT 8/5 (TG). KR produced one **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 9/27 (TS). Three **Indigo Buntings** were discovered on MT 8/5 (TG). One **Eastern Meadowlark** was found on KR 10/6 (TS), and one **Baltimore Oriole** was on MT 8/5 (TG).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Avis Keener, Theo Rickert, Tim Schreckengost, Mike Weible.

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### **Juniata County**

Locations: Conservation Wetlands (CW), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Parsons Pond (PP), Port Royal River bridge (PRR).

A **Green-winged Teal** was found in Port Royal at PP 11/26; also, 6 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found in Mifflintown at CW (CK, HP). A **Sanderling** was found during high waters and storms at the new boat access for the Juniata River near the *Mifflin/Juniata* line 9/8 (DO, MO). This bird possibly represented a county first.

Thirty species were found during the Big Sit 10/9 at PRR, with highlights including a "Baypoll" warbler and a **Palm Warbler** (CK, CM, MM, JS). High numbers of sparrows were seen in the Oakland Mill area, highlights 9/28 included a **Lincoln's Sparrow** for several days, and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at LCSS (AT).

A total of 65 species were entered into eBird for the season.

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 994-6715 mobile, (717) 436-8257 home/work, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Clara McCahren, Mike McCahren, Dawn Osborne, Mackenzie Osborne, Henry Petersheim, Jim Stoner, Aden Troyer.

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### **Lackawanna County**

At Mid-County High School, 2 **Black Vultures** were spotted 10/24 (DT). Also on this date, a **Merlin** was seen flying over I-81 in Lackawanna at the edge of the County line with Luzerne (DT). A resident **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at the courthouse building in downtown Scranton beginning in early Sep. A **Red Phalarope** was at Lake Scranton 10/12.

Observers: **Jeff Greco, 3116 Township Woods Road, East Greenville, PA 18041, (484) 941-2667, jeef20@grecofamily.org**, David Trently.

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### **Lancaster County**

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

This year there was a good deal of contrasting weather, with record droughts in the west and record rainfall in the east. Late August brought hurricane Irene and two **Royal Terns** to Lancaster. A few weeks later, Tropical Storm Lee brought up to 15 inches of rain over three days. At the end of October, some parts of the county received up to 10 inches of snowfall in a very unusual storm.

A **Mute Swan** was at SRCF 8/6. The Conewago wetlands held some apparently injured waterfowl this summer which were still being seen in Aug. **Snow Goose** and **Canvasback** were still present 8/17 (AL), and the Canvasback was still there 11/6 (ME). An early **Northern Pintail** was at SRCF 9/6 and an early **Greater Scaup** was there 9/3.

Three **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared at SRCF 8/25. An **Anhinga**

was reported early in the afternoon of 9/17 by DS while traveling eastward on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He noted a large bird was noted flying along the turnpike corridor heading westward. It was a very brief sighting (less than 10 seconds), and unfortunately it was not relocated. If accepted, this would be the first record for *Lancaster*. **Little Blue Heron** was at SRCF 8/12 (TB). Twenty-four **Great Egrets** were at SRCF 8/29 (EW); their number grew to 50 on 9/4. A late **Great Egret** was at MC 11/6. Two **Glossy Ibis** were at SRCF 9/14 (BS).

Once again the Esbenshade Turkey Farm near Strasburg was a major attraction for **Bald Eagles**. They find plenty of food in the fields on the turkey farm, where the highest count noted this fall was 26 on 11/20 (TR). That is quite a count for a farm field well away from any major body of water. For the second year in a row, a good **Broad-winged Hawk** flight was reported from the Strasburg area (TR). The flight occurred 9/18 when 4765 were reported from a backyard in Strasburg, all but ~500 before noon! A **Merlin** was seen west of Ephrata along Durlach Road (BC) 8/20. This is definitely on the early side, but there have been other sightings in recent years around this time. Another **Merlin** along Umbletown Road near Gap 10/3 (CC) was a nice sighting for that area. This summer **Peregrine Falcons** nested again in Lancaster under the Rte. 462 bridge near Columbia. Two female chicks were banded at their nest in mid-Jul, and on 7/30 patient volunteers were finally rewarded by seeing the older chick successfully flying and landing back on the bridge or the nearby piers. Unfortunately the younger chick went missing when nobody was watching the nest, its fate is unknown (ML, et al.).

A **Common Gallinule** was reported from Mount Eden Road at OL 8/1 (LL, et al.) and a juvenile **Sora** was at SRCF 9/3 and 9/25 (BS).

This fall the Conejohela Flats produced some good shorebirds with good numbers on some days, but it did not seem that there were consistently high numbers as there are some years. This could easily be attributed to the high numbers and variety of species seen at many locations away from the river (in Lancaster and elsewhere) due to the many flooded fields that formed during the heavy fall rains. For the calendar year of 2011, 27 species of shorebirds were seen at SRCF which equals the yearly total for the previous three years, but is slightly below average for the past 10 years. Annual totals for some species like **American Golden-Plover** (17), **Greater Yellowlegs** (87), **Lesser Yellowlegs** (166), **Baird's Sandpiper** (4), **Stilt Sandpiper** (2), and **Short-billed Dowitcher** (8) were far below average. Some of these species were noted in larger numbers away from the river at sod farms or flooded fields. It definitely appears that the unusual weather had an effect on the migratory patterns of shorebirds in the area. Individual highlights from this fall at the flats include: 15 **American Golden-Plover** 9/3 (BS), **American Avocet** 8/6-7 (BC, TG, EW), 7 on 8/10 (JB), and one 9/10 (BS), **Black-necked Stilt** 9/7 (TB), **Hudsonian Godwit** 9/6 (BS) and 2 on 9/7 (MS), 5 **Ruddy Turnstone** 9/6 (JB, BS) and one 9/18, 7 **Sanderling** 8/29 (EW) and 6 on 9/3 (BS) and regular through September, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 9/4, 5 on 9/18, and regular sightings of one or 2 into early Oct, **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/29, 2 on 9/3 (BS), and one 9/16, 243 **Dunlin** 10/27 (BS), **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/6 and 9/14, 2 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** 9/3 (BS) and one 9/4, 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 8/28 and 9/3-6, and an amazing 20 **Red-necked Phalarope** all in one group in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene 8/28 (JB, JH, RM), with one also 8/29 (EW).

Away from the Conejohela Flats, an **American Avocet** was at OL 8/7 (ST, DWi) and still present 8/8 (CC). This fall a sod farms along S. Colebrook Road and Junction Road a few miles from Manheim proved to be productive locations for shorebirds. Sightings included 4 **American Golden-Plover** 9/1 (BC), 7 on 9/4, and 86 on 9/7 with lesser numbers after, 3 **Black-bellied Plover** 9/7 growing to 12 on 9/10, 3 **Hudsonian Godwits** 9/7 (CC) and another 9/10 (BC), **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/2 (LC), 9/4 (BC) and 9/7-9/10, 3 **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/1 (BC) and 2 on 9/4 (BC), **Western Sandpiper** 9/1, and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/1 (BC).

Another location in a flooded field along Ligalaw Road between Pool Forge Road and Bridgeville Road held two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** 9/8 (BH, FH). In addition, there were numerous **Killdeer** and several **Semipalmated, Least, and Baird's Sandpipers**. The next day another location along Ligalaw Road in eastern Lancaster held **American Golden-Plovers** and **Baird's, Pectoral, Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers**. On Schoolhouse Road (south of Rte 23), BH & FH saw all of the above and several **Sanderlings** and both **Yellowlegs**. Late season sightings were 6 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Speedwell Forge Lake 11/6 (ME). At the Conewago Wetlands the same day another **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Dunlin** were present.

Up to 5 **Upland Sandpipers** were seen again in early Aug (BC, et al.). They were viewed from the intersection of Rte. 501 and Millport Road at the gravel parking area northwest of the intersection (BC), and also along Millport Road on the east side of the airport. The last report was of 2 along Millport Road on the east side of the airport 8/4 (JH).

Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Lee brought a **Jaeger sp.** to SRCF 9/6 that was thought most likely a Pomarine (JB, BS). A **Laughing Gull** was at SRCF 8/6 and there were very regular sightings of one or 2 Aug-Oct. The first **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SRCF 8/17.

Once again a large weed bed developed offshore from Peach Bottom Village and produced good numbers of terns. The best count was 8/25 with 565 **Forster's Terns** and 2 **Common Terns** (BS). At SRCF, **Forster's Terns** (peak count 100 on 9/6) and **Caspian Terns** (peak count 15 on 8/28) were regular in Aug and Sep, with **Common Terns** seen more sporadically and in smaller numbers (high count of 5 on 8/29 and last date of 10/16). **Black Terns** started to show up at SRCF later in Aug; 31 were reported 8/25 (JB) and 53 were there 8/27 leading up to Hurricane Irene.

Hurricane Irene reached its maximum strength in the area overnight 8/27 and in the morning 8/28. There were at least 60 **Black Terns** at SRCF 8/28 (m.ob.). There easily could have been 100 birds, but 59 was the maximum count at one time. Black Terns were seen in smaller numbers into Sep, with 4 on 9/6. On 8/28 during Hurricane Irene there were also 15 **Caspian Terns**, one imm. **Royal Tern** seen briefly (JB), **Common Tern**, and 4 **Forster's Terns**. Five **Common Terns** were still around 8/29 along with over 20 **Black Terns**. Hurricane Irene also brought a **Royal Tern** to MC 8/28 (BC) along with 6 **Caspian Terns**. This represented the first record for the MC area.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were present to 10/16 near Peach Bottom (BS). An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen along Newport Road near Rte. 72 on 11/18 (RM). Six **Tree Swallows** at Riverfront Park near Marietta 11/25 were late (ML).

This year good days for warblers and other songbirds were few and far between. Many birders reported lower numbers and variety than usual, and some observers reported seeing almost no warblers in Sep at locations they visit every year. Last year there were many reports of great numbers of migratory songbirds, so hopefully this year the weather is the culprit rather than something worse. There weren't a lot of unusual vireos or warblers, but a **Blue-headed Vireo** near Denver (LG) 10/30 was late, and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Woods Edge Ponds 11/8 (BC) was nice. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in the same backyard near Denver 11/20 (LG) was very late.

This year reports from a few of birding groups are included, which give a bit of detail on the reduced diversity and numbers this fall. Last year BC led a group from the Lancaster County Bird Club to Pumping Station Road and Speedwell County Park and commented that it was one of best mornings in memory for migrant songbirds. This year he led the same trip with a different result. Numbers and variety were reduced to a total of 46 species, 11 of which were warblers. Definite migrants included **Nashville**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Canada Warblers**. Another group 8/31 saw 12 species of warblers in the same location including migrants such as **Blackburnian** and **Nashville Warblers** among more common species, as well as a late **Yellow-throated Warbler** (CC). Another group 9/21 visited the Dean End Road area. They reported small numbers of warblers, but decent variety with 11 recorded including one **Black-and-White Warbler**, one **American Redstart**, one **Cape May Warbler**, one **Northern Parula**, one **Magnolia Warbler**, one **Blackburnian Warbler**, 3 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, one **Blackpoll Warbler**, one **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, one **Pine Warbler**, and 3 **Black-throated Green Warblers**. A report from SGL 220 on 10/9 listed **Cape May**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Blackburnian**, **Palm**, and **Blackpoll Warblers**, and a **Common Yellowthroat** (BC).

**Blue Grosbeak** was still at SRCF 8/6. A visit to SGL 220 in northern Lancaster produced **Lincoln's** and **White-crowned Sparrow** 10/9 (BC, et al.). Other than a few scattered reports of **Purple Finches**, there were no reports of any winter finches.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Tim Becker, Jim Binder (JB), Jerry Book, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfont, Mike Epler, Pamela Fisher, Mark Fruman, Tom Garner, Loretta Gehman, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Tom Johnson, Alex Lamoreaux, Larry Lewis, Meredith Lombard, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Matt Sabatine, Dan Snell, Bob Schutsky, Roger Stoner, Shannon Thompson, Drew Weber, Dave Wilton (DWi), Eric Witmer.

## Lawrence County

Locations: Three Rivers Gravel Pond (TR), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (NG), Black Swamp (BS), Plain Grove (PG), Cooper Road Marsh (CR), Volant Strips (VS).

Significant this season were reports of **Cackling Goose**, **American Golden-Plover**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, and **Northern Shrike**.

The only one report of **Tundra Swans** in Lawrence this fall was of 9 at BS 11/5 (MV). A lone **Mute Swan** was also located at BS 11/13 (SC). **Canada Goose** numbers were strong throughout the season. A **Cackling Goose** at TR 10/28 was a nice find (MV). **Blue Winged Teal** were first reported at BS 9/17 (CD), but the only other report was one at TR 10/15 (MV). **Green-Winged Teal** were reported consistently beginning 9/2 at TR (MV), through 11/28 at CR with a high count of 14 (MV). The **Wood Duck** population remained healthy with multiple counts of over 40 birds; the high was 46 at CR 8/7 (MV). A lone female **Ring-Necked Duck** that summered at TR remained this fall (MV), numbers were strong later in the season, including a high count of 297 at TR 11/12 (MV). **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted consistently beginning 10/7 at TR (MV), and peaked at 18 on 10/28 at TR (MV). The sole report for **Canvasback** came from TR 11/20 (MV). **Bufflehead** arrived at TR 11/4 (MV). Only two reports of small numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were made 11/20 and 11/28 at TR and CR (both MV).

A **Peregrine Falcon** caused some action as it hunted shorebirds at BS 9/26 (ST). **Northern Harrier**, **American Kestrel**, and **Red-Tailed Hawk** all made multiple appearances throughout the county. Northern Harrier showed up on nearly every report from VS.

**Pied-billed Grebe** was a steady fixture throughout the season, with a nice high count of 11 at TR 9/16. Lawrence's summering **Common Gallinules** continued at TR and at their usual place at NG where an impressive high count of 26 was made 9/2 (MV)! **American Coot** returned throughout the area beginning 10/10 at TR (MV); high count of 75 was at TR on 10/28 (MV). It seemed to be impossible to head to the BS area this fall without sighting one of the Lawrence's **Sandhill Crane** population. Generally a group of 3 was reported from BS, but there were also sightings from VS. A nice find was 2 cranes observed at CR 8/7 (MV), which is outside of their traditional Plain Grove area.

A highlight of the shorebird season was 3 **American Golden-Plovers** along Old Ash Road near BS 8/29 (RN), with up to 4 remaining to 9/11 (SS). Another was observed at TR 10/7 and 10/15 (MV). **Wilson's Snipe** were observed in good numbers at BS, including 25 on 11/8 (RN) and 24 on 11/18 (MV). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed 9/10 at TR (MV). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported at CR 8/7; also seen that day was a **Solitary Sandpiper** and one **Semipalmated Plover** (MV). The only other report of Semipalmated Plovers came from BS 9/17, when 3 were observed along with two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (CD). **Least Sandpipers** were observed at TR 9/2 (MV), 9/10 (TJ), and 9/16 (MV). The only report of a **White-rumped Sandpiper** came from TR 9/10 (TJ). The ever-present **Killdeer** hit a high count of 96 near BS 9/4 (SS). One **Dunlin** at BS 11/5 (MV) closed out the shorebird season. Another great find this fall were 4 **Red-necked Phalaropes** at TR 9/10 (MV). They were still present the next day (ph. GM). They represented the third record for Lawrence, and the second since Sep 2010 when ST located one at BS. A **Black Tern** was a nice find at the gravel pits along Rte. 108 near I-79 on 9/9 (OM).

**Short-Eared Owls** made their debut back in Lawrence 10/29 at VS (RN), and a high count of 5 was made in the same area 11/7 (CD). The owls and harriers continued to put on their spectacular evening show to excited audiences each evening in Volant through the season.

Lawrence's only Northern Shrike (so far!) was spotted on McConahy Road near Golf Course Road 11/24 (RS), and again 11/25 (MVT). An **American Pipit** was reported from TR 9/16 and 11/4 (MV). No reports of warblers were received this season. The last date for **Swamp Sparrow** was 11/2 at CR (SD), and the first sighting for **American Tree Sparrow** was of 10 on 11/8 at BS (RN). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported at BS 9/19 (RS), and 7 **White-Throated Sparrows** were located at BS 10/7 (MVT).

Observers: **Cory DeStein, 419 Edison Street, West Mifflin PA 15122, (412) 953-2667, cdestein@gmail.com**, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daugherty, Timothy Johnson, Geoff Malosh, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Randy Stringer, Marjorie Van Tassel, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.



## Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road (KP), Marquette Lake (ML), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Pine Road Wetlands (PR), Quittaphilla Educational Wetland Preserve (QEW), Second Mountain hawkwatch (2Mtn), Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds (RPP), Shuey Lake (SL), SGL 80, SGL 145, SGL 211.

A flock of 11 **Brant** over 2Mtn was a nice surprise 11/28 (MC, RB). **Blue-winged Teal** were plentiful and lingering this year. A new county high of 37 **Blue-winged Teal** were found at KP 9/17 (RCM). The record stood for one day, as 47 were there 9/18 (P&RW). A **Blue-winged Teal** found at QEW 10/21 set a new county late date (TB). Rainy weather sent a **Long-tailed Duck** into MLSP 11/16, and two males 11/23 for a new late date (TB). The front of 11/23 also brought 3 **Common Goldeneyes** to MLSP (TB, DM). Conewago Lake hosted 5 **Common Goldeneyes** 11/25 (SH).

An **American Bittern** was a good find at QEW 9/23, a new early date (JF). Unusual in late November, a **Great Egret** was at MC from 11/26 through the end of the quarter (JSw, SSw, RCM, AH).

Second Mountain Hawkwatch had a good season through Nov. A new record for total individuals of 13,710 eclipsed the previous record of 13,102 birds tallied in 1998, with the entire month of December remaining to add to the record. One contributing factor was a high number of days with southwest winds, which are favorable for this location. There were also record counts of two species. A new record count of 1271 **Turkey Vultures** beat the previous high of 1050 set in 2004 (DS). The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight was also very strong, with a third best season total of 7192, compared to an average yearly count of 3444. Three days with **Broad-winged Hawk** counts over 1000 contributed to an outstanding year for the species (DS). Two adult **Mississippi Kites** were tallied at 2Mtn; one 9/14 (DS) and another 9/28 (DS, MC). **Northern Goshawk** totals were down at 2Mtn with only 15 through the period, as compared to an average yearly count of 52 (DS). New one day high counts for 2Mtn were set for **Bald Eagles** with 19 on 9/13 (MC, m.ob.) and **Golden Eagles** with 16 on 10/30 (DS, BW, m.ob.).

Of note away from 2Mtn was a **Merlin** at SGL 145 on 8/12, a new early date (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Falcons were enjoying the shorebird bonanza at RPP and KP. Single **Merlins** were hunting at KPP 10/9 (MDa) and 10/15 (CK). A **Peregrine Falcon** took a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at KP 9/19 (ME). Two were seen at RPP 10/14, with one taking a **Killdeer** in flight (BC).

The annual **American Coot** congregation at MLSP reached a new county high of 132 on 11/23 (ME).

The flooded fields, and resulting shorebird bonanza, brought many birders to KP and RPP this fall. A total of 22 species were reported. A juvenile **Black-bellied Plover** at KP from 10/22-27 set a new late date (KB, TB, RCM). **American Golden Plovers** put in a strong showing. Up to 90 were present at RPP from 9/24-25 (JH). A new county high of 150 were at the same location 10/4 (SS). New late dates were set at KP for an **American Golden Plover** 11/6 (SS) and a **Semipalmated Plover** 10/11 (RCM).

A combined count of 126 **Lesser Yellowlegs** from RPP and KP set a new county high 10/12 (JH). A juvenile **Ruddy Turnstone** was at RPP on 9/24-25 representing a fifth county record (JH). A juvenile **Ruddy Turnstone** was among the shorebirds seen in a flooded field along route 501 north of Reistville 10/14, providing a sixth county record (BC). A juvenile **Sanderling** was found in the shorebird mix at KP 9/11-12 providing a fifth county record (TB, RCM). Two were there 9/19 representing a sixth record (ME). A single **Sanderling** was reported at KP 9/25-29 providing a seventh county record (JH, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were plentiful at KP, with a new county high of 62 on 9/12 (RCM). A **Least Sandpiper** was at RPP 11/7 for a new late date (JF). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were well reported, with 16 found at RPP 9/25 (JH) and 6 at KP 10/16 (SB, AL, JL, DW). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at KP 8/29 (P&RW), with 3 at the same location 9/3 (RE). A single **Baird's Sandpiper** was at RPP 9/25 (JH). Three **Dunlin** were at RPP 11/19 for a new late date (JDu). It was an amazing year for **Stilt Sandpipers** at both KP and RPP. A new county high of 31 were found at RPP 10/15 (JH). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at RPP 9/24 provided a second county record (JH). Five **Short-billed Dowitchers** dropped in at KP 10/3 for a new county high (TB). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were another rarity enjoyed by many visiting birders. The first appeared at KP 10/9-14 providing a fifth county record (SS,

m.ob.). Another **Long-billed Dowitcher** was located at RPP 10/12, and was joined by a second one on 10/15. Both Dowitchers remained at RPP through 10/24 providing sixth and seventh county records (JH, SS, m.ob.). A new early date for **Wilson's Snipe** was set 8/31 at KP (CC, m.ob.). Along Cold Springs Road, at FIG, five **American Woodcock** were taking flights over the regenerating clearcut at dawn 10/6 (TB). An adult **Red-necked Phalarope** provided a good find, and a fifth county record, for a group of birders at KP 8/31 (CC, m.ob.). A juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** arrived at KP 9/2 (BR), and continued through 9/4, representing a sixth record (AH, MM, P&RW).

A rare October **Bonaparte's Gull** was relaxing with the shorebirds at RPP 10/3 (JF). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** sightings are increasing in the county. A large flock of gulls coming to roost for the evening on MLSP contained a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 8 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 11/25 (ME). A **Black Tern** was deposited by Hurricane Irene at MLSP, representing a sixth county record 8/28 (MC, KB, TB, P&RW).

The Pennsylvania Game Commission reported **Barn Owls** nesting at eight sites in the county, with 16 adults and 31 nestlings (DMu). One was flushed from its roost by a dog walker on SGL 145, inadvertently providing good views to the participants of a bird walk 8/12 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). The only **Common Nighthawks** were two reported from the spillway of MLSP 9/24 (TB). The **Chuck-will's-widow** was reliable through most of the summer along Tomstown Road at FIG, and was last heard on the evening of 8/7, along with three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** (MS). A final **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was distantly heard from 2Mtn at dusk 9/1 (TB). The final **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season was at the home of KB and TB, in the Lebanon portion of Grantville 10/6. On 11/11 a **Selasphorus hummingbird** was observed at the same location. The bird was successfully captured and banded by Sandy Lockerman 11/12, who identified it as a hatch year male **Rufous Hummingbird**. It visited feeders at the residence through the end of the quarter (m.ob.) and was enjoyed and photographed by many visiting birders. It represented the fourth county record for *Selasphorus* sp., and the second confirmed **Rufous Hummingbird**. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued to be seen at PR through Aug, with two adults and a juvenile observed 8/22 (P&RW).

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** made a good showing in SGL 145, with one observed 8/12 (SH, RCM, m.ob.), and two 8/26 (SH, RCM). One of these remained 8/27 (TB). A final sighting from the Governor Dick parking area 9/16 concluded a good season for this species (RCM). A singing **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was a good find 9/1 at SGL 145 (RCM).

**Tree Swallows** were catching lady bugs at 2Mtn 11/7 (RB, m.ob.). Good counts of some less common swallows were made at KP. An estimated 500 **Bank Swallows**, a new county high, were there 9/12 (P&RW). At least 400 **Cliff Swallows** were at KP 8/30 (TB, RCM). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made an appearance at a home in Cleona 11/24 (MN).

S.A.

Perhaps the most exciting bird of the season was a juvenile **Northern Wheatear**, discovered on the morning of 10/6 by Steve Patterson of South Carolina, who was staying at the Days Inn in Lickdale. He managed to get the word out via JS, who was not able to find the bird on an attempt later that day. The bird was located in the same area early on 10/7 by P&RW, then viewed and very well documented through 10/10 (m.ob.). A local resident, John McDaniel, had been observing the bird as early as 9/19, but did not know its identity. This bird represented a second county record; the first was a juvenile at MLSP 10/19/1997 (RCM). Many thanks go to SP for finding this terrific bird, and to those who spread the word and posted many great photos of this rarity.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was heard giving flight calls at dawn in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 on 10/7 (TB). Sixty five **American Pipits** were found at KP 10/3 (SS). The season's first **Snow Bunting** was observed off of Birch Rd 11/6 (SS).

Four **Cape May Warblers** were at FIG 9/15 (JD, DM). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers**, rare in the county, were found at FIG 9/2 (JD, DM) and near Cornwall 9/5 (JF), providing sixth and seventh county records. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** found near Annville 10/8 set a new late date (MD). A first fall **Mourning Warbler** cooperated for

photos at SL 10/13, a new late date (JD, DM). Two West Virginia birders, visiting the home of KB and TB to see the Rufous Hummingbird, also located a male **Wilson's Warbler** frequenting some apple trees in the yard 11/13 (BM, BMc). The colorful visitor was observed sporadically through 11/28 for a new late date (P&RW, KB, TB, m.ob.).

**Clay-colored Sparrows** are rare in the county, but one was found at FIG 9/28 (JD, DM). A **Vesper Sparrow** was in the Lebanon area 10/10 (CK). The first **Fox Sparrow** of the season was reported from 2Mtn 10/28 (RB, MC). Three **Fox Sparrows** were at SGL 80 on 10/31 (TB). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at FIG 9/28 (DM, JD), and two were at SGL 145 on 10/13 (TB). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** with juveniles was found in a restricted area of FIG 8/4 (JD, DM). A second pair was at SL, with possible juveniles heard begging, 8/19 (JD, DM). A single **Blue Grosbeak** remained at SL on 9/2 (JD, DM). Ten **Bobolinks** were found at KP 8/30 (MS).

Observers: **Tim Becker, 10283 Jonestown Road, Grantville, PA 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Randy Brenner, Steve Brenner, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfont, Shawn Collins, Morris Cox, Mike Dale, Michael Davis (MDa), Jarrod Derr, Gordon Dimming, James Dunn (JDu), Mike Epler, Robert Essick, Jim Fiorentino, Carlton Groff, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Crystal Henning, Sid Hostetter, Anne Hurst, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever, Sandy Lockerman, Barry Marts, Michael Mayer, Beverly McDonald (BMc), David McNaughton, Randy C. Miller, Peter Montgomery, Dan Mummert (DMu), Michael Newhouse, Steve Patterson, Joan Renninger, Barbara Ritzheimer, Michael Rosengarten, Joan Silagy, Joseph Swift (JSw), Shirley Sword (SSw), Matthew Sabatine, Dave Schwenk, Stan Stahl, Shannon Thompson, Brian Weaver, Drew Weber, Pat Williams, Richard Williams, Dave Wilton (DWi).

### Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob Hawk Watch (BOK), Dorney Pond (DP), Fogelsville Quarry (FQ), Lehigh Furnace Gap (LFG), Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Trexler Game Preserve (TGP), Walking Purchase Park (WPP).

The total number of species reported from *Lehigh* this season was 184. Notes and totals from the 51st hawk watching season at Bake Oven Knob were gleaned, in part, from the HMANA Hawk Watching Exchange listserv, as reported by the official BOK counters (GN, BH). Additional BOK reports came from individual observers. BOK totals are unofficial, and will be detailed in a future issue of Pennsylvania Birds.

Several straight months of uncharacteristically wet weather (particularly following the passage of Hurricane Irene 8/27-28) caused high water levels and wet or flooded fields across the county. Conditions were marginally favorable for shorebirds this season. Oddly, the most productive actual "mudflat" proved to be a bulldozed construction site in Fogelsville, which hosted a 2-day fallout of shorebirds in early September. Leaser Lake in Lynn Township remained drawn down through the period for continued repairs to the dam, resulting in few reports of shorebirds or waterfowl from that location. Drained over two years ago, the lake bottom has transitioned into an extensive lush meadow with a narrow creek running through the heart of it, and now generally attracts far more passerines than water birds. Repairs to the dam are nearly complete, so Leaser "Meadow" will once again be the county's largest non-riparian body of water by 2013.

The first **Greater White-fronted Goose** arrived 11/12 at Egypt (BW), followed by single individuals reported from several locations throughout the month, most often from DP (m. ob.). Migrating **Brant** were observed from LFG 11/17 (BW), but the only report on the ground was an individual that stayed at Breinigsville for several days beginning 11/23 (MB). Single **Snow Geese** were found with **Canada Geese** beginning 10/24, with the only flock of **Snow Geese** (20+) at South Whitehall 11/13. The first significant flocks of south-bound **Canada Geese** passed over BOK 10/4 (537). Migrating **Tundra Swan** flocks passed over BOK (25) 11/11, and LFG (45) 11/17 (BW). **Blue-winged Teal** was first reported 8/30 from Fogelsville, with a max count of 10 there 9/15 (BW). The latest report was 4 at Haafsville 10/11 (DN). **Green-winged Teal** arrived 11/18 at Haafsville (DN), with a max count (10) from FQ 11/28 (JH). **Ring-necked Duck** did not arrive until 10/30 at FQ (BW), and seemed to be largely missing from the county

throughout the season. Other waterfowl reports from FQ were **Lesser Scaup** 11/23 (TW), a female **Surf Scoter** 11/22-11/23 (BW), **Common Goldeneye** 11/21 (BW), and **Ruddy Duck** (3) 11/23 (TW). The **Surf Scoter** was the fifth known county record.

The only report of **Ruffed Grouse** came from BOK 11/14. Migrating waterfowl reported from there included **Red-throated Loon** 11/5, and **Common Loon** sporadically 10/1-11/21. At LFG, good numbers of **Common Loon** (137) passed over 11/17 (BW). Lone **Pied-billed Grebes** were present at several locations 9/25-11/20 (m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorant** was first seen from BOK 10/10, with a max count of 270 passing over 10/28. A single bird spent all of Nov at Clear Spring Pond in North Whitehall (BW). **Horned Grebe** was at Heidelberg 10/31 (BW) and FQ 11/23 (TW). **American Bittern** was a very nice find at a farm pond in Heidelberg 9/26 (BR, RR). **Great Egret** was last reported 9/30 from Trexlertown (TW), and **Green Heron** lingered until at least 10/10 at LL (BW).

Some notable 2011 seasonal totals from the hawk watch at BOK (official weekday counter GN, reports daily by BH) include: **Turkey Vulture** (1036), **Bald Eagle** (220), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (3354), **Northern Goshawk** (14), **Broad-winged Hawk** (8567), **Golden Eagle** (74), and **Merlin** (79). The count for **Turkey Vulture** was a new seasonal high count for the site. A total of 366 **Osprey** passed by BOK for the season, including a high count 10/1 (39), and 3 at the late date of 10/25 (BR, RR). **Bald Eagle** had a banner day 9/13 (24), surely among the highest single-day counts from the site. Away from BOK, **Bald Eagle** was found at Milford 9/17 (SK), and at Little Lehigh Parkway in Allentown 11/16 and 11/20 (BM, PM). The peak BOK count for **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was 10/21 (512). The first of 14 **Northern Goshawks** was noted at BOK 9/19. Elsewhere, an immature goshawk passed by LFG 11/18. A dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen from LFG 10/22 (BW), then again from BOK 10/24. The first **Golden Eagle** of the season was at BOK 9/26, but the max count (22) came 10/30 following the passage of a cold front that also brought notable early heavy snowfall to the area. Road passage up the mountain to the hawk watch was difficult that day, but watchers were rewarded with a fantastic count of **Golden Eagles** as well as eleven other species of that day (BH)! Another great day to be at BOK was 9/27, when an exceptional **Peregrine Falcon** flight (28) passed by the watch. Away from BOK, **Peregrine Falcons** were seen near Fogelsville 9/5 (TW), and from the PPL building in Allentown 11/10 (BH).

A respectable total of fourteen shorebirds were recorded, compared to just five last year. A dedicated Big Year effort within the county (BW) was certainly a contributing factor to this total, as few flooded fields, mud patches, or pond edges seemed to go unmonitored in Sep, especially around the traditionally shorebird-rich areas along the Route 22/78 corridor. A notably productive area in early Sep was a recently bulldozed construction zone along Route 100 in Fogelsville, directly across the highway from FQ. Storms 9/7-8 produced some great birds: **Black-bellied Plover** (max 5), **American Golden-Plover** (max 8), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (1), **White-rumped Sandpiper** (max 45), **Pectoral Sandpiper** (1), and **Sanderling** (1) were all part of this (BW, et. al.). Elsewhere, **Killdeer** (2) remained at Lynn Twp until 11/3 (BW). **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Fogelsville 9/10 (2, ES) and Haafsville 10/3 (8, BW). **Lesser Yellowlegs** reports spanned the same dates, with 48 at Haafsville 10/3 (BW). Aside from the fallout mentioned above, **White-rumped Sandpiper** (max 2) was found elsewhere near Fogelsville 9/1-2 (BW, TW). **Pectoral Sandpiper** (10) was at a second spot near Fogelsville 10/3, and at a third (5) 10/9 (BW). **Stilt Sandpiper** was present almost daily near Fogelsville 9/18-25, from four different sites with a max count of 12 at Macungie 9/23 (BW, TW). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, a rare visitor to *Lehigh*, was at Breinigsville the morning of 9/15 (BW), the product of yet another September storm. A late **American Woodcock** was flushed from a reedy floodplain along the Lehigh River near LGNC 11/20 (BE). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** returned to the county 11/28 at DP (JH). The same storm that brought the shorebird fallout 9/7-8 also produced two tern species, always notable for *Lehigh*; a **Black Tern** was at LL 9/7, and a **Caspian Tern** flew by the Fogelsville construction zone 9/8 (BW).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** photographed at Haafsville 10/18 (DN) tied the county late-date established 29 years ago. A lone **Chimney Swift** lingered until 10/14 at Upper Saucon (ES). *Lehigh's* third confirmed **Rufous Hummingbird** (and fifth confirmed *Selasphorus* since 1995) occurred in Allentown this fall. On 11/11, a third-hand report was forwarded of a pair of hummingbirds visiting a feeder near Cedar Creek Park (SB, BCM). A single hummer was positively identified as *Selasphorus* 11/14 (AK), then was caught, banded and confirmed to be



a hatch-year female **Rufous Hummingbird** 11/16 (SL). The homeowner reported that two hummers had been present as late as 11/10 (SB); unfortunately, one of them moved on just a few days too early to be positively identified. Selasphorus hummers have now been found in Lehigh three years in a row. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** arrived at TGP 10/1 (BW).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Washington Twp 9/10, and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found at BOK the same day (BW). A migrant **Least Flycatcher** was a good find at WPP 8/22 (ES). Late reports of **Eastern Phoebe** came from Haafsville 10/29 (DN) and Schnecksville 11/19 (BW). All six expected species of **vireo** were found this fall, the highlights being **Philadelphia Vireo** at Lynn Twp 9/11, at BOK and LFG 9/16 (BW), and Trexler Pines 9/18 (JH). **Common Raven** is a resident along the Blue Mountain at the northern end of the county, but remains a curiosity where it has been found for the past few years near Egypt, North Whitehall Twp; a raven was noted there 10/28 (BW). The max count for **Horned Lark** (45) this fall came from North Whitehall Twp 10/31 (BE). **Bank Swallow** remained until 9/27 at the Dorney Landfill in Upper Macungie Twp (BW), a probable new county late date. Red-breasted Nuthatch was not reported this season. A calm night with low cloud cover 10/2 to 10/3 resulted in many nocturnal bird calls, including **Hermit Thrush**, **Swainson's Thrush**, and **Wood Thrush** (many dozens) as they passed over Slatinton (BE). The alarm call of a **Northern Mockingbird** was also heard from high overhead that night. **Gray Catbird** remained through 11/14 at Trexler Pines (BW). Farmland in North Whitehall Twp produced good numbers of **American Pipits** 10/15 through mid November, with a max count (127) occurring 10/27 (BE, BH). The same field held five **Snow Buntings** 11/1 (BE).

Twenty-six species of warbler were recorded in *Lehigh*. An **Ovenbird** with an injured wing was regular at a feeder near Macungie where it fed, in part, on cracked corn alongside sparrows; it was first noted 11/7 and remained into December (BM, PM). **Tennessee Warbler** was at Slatinton 9/23 (BE) and LL 10/8 (BW). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at LL the same day (BW). Two different **Connecticut Warblers** were found by the same birder 9/16; the first was an adult at SGL 217 in Washington Twp, the second an immature bird at TGP (BW). **Common Yellowthroat** was last reported 11/3 at LL (BW). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at BOK 9/16 (BW) and LFG 9/23 (BE). A late **Yellow Warbler** was found at LL 9/10 (BW). The only report of **Wilson's Warbler** was from Whitehall Parkway 9/10 (BW), and our only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at BOK 9/12 (ES).

**American Tree Sparrow** continues to be scarce, with the only report this season from Lynn Twp 11/13 (BW). Max counts for **Chipping Sparrow** (61) and **Savannah Sparrow** (19) came from Slatinton 10/10 and Heidelberg Twp 10/25, respectively (BE). **Vesper Sparrow** (2) was at Fogelsville 10/24, and **Fox Sparrow** arrived by 11/3 in Lynn Twp (BW). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at LL 9/12 (BW) and **Slatinton** 9/23 (BE). First-of-season **White-throated Sparrows** were found at WPP 9/19 (ES), and **Dark-eyed Juncos** first arrived 10/12 near Slatinton (BE). At WPP, a small **Rusty Blackbird** flock (12) was a nice find 11/19 (ES). The only report of **Purple Finch** (or any "winter finch") came from Heidelberg, a lone bird recorded 10/25 (PS).

Observers: **Bill Etter**, 209 E. South Street, Slatinton, PA 18080, [billetter01@gmail.com](mailto:billetter01@gmail.com), Dan Altif, Mark Boyd, Scott Burnet, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Stephen Kloiber, Arlene Koch, Jon Levin, Sandy Lockerman, Barbara Malt (BCM), Bernie and Pauline Morris, Glenn Nelson, Dave Neimeyer, Rich and Barbara Rehrig, Peter Saenger, Ed Sinkler, Todd Watkins, Billy Weber.

### Luzerne County

Locations: Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Kirby Park Natural Area (KPNA), Moon Lake State Park (MLSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Rickett's Glen State Park (RGSP), Sorbertown Hill Hunlock Creek (SHHC), Susquehanna River (SR).

This fall in *Luzerne*, similar to much of the northeast, had record-breaking rainfall and wide-spread flooding. When Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee hit in late August and early September, they produced the most devastating floods *Luzerne* has experienced since Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Persistent rains in early fall gave way to above average temperatures in October and November, providing lackluster bird-watching conditions during the peak of migration, as well as accounting for some lingering migrants. Despite the unfavorable

weather, there were a few exciting highlights.

Waterfowl reports were steady with a few early reports in Sep. **Wood Ducks** were first reported 9/2 at FS (JH). Altogether, 20 **Wood Ducks** were reported for the season with the last sighting consisting of 7 on a small pond in Loyalville 10/23 (DF). A nice find was a **Surf Scoter** at HL 10/15 (JH). Other ducks of note included a **Red-Breasted Merganser** at HL 11/22 (RK), a **Redhead** at Lake Silkworth 11/15 (EH, DB), and 4 **Common Goldeneyes** at RGSP 11/6 (JH). **Common Loons** were reported exclusively at HL beginning 10/15 (RK) and were last sighted 11/25 (PC, BrL). Grebes were also reported exclusively at HL. **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at HL 10/15-11/22 (m.ob.). On 10/19, an immature **Bald Eagle** was reported diving after a **Pied-billed Grebe** many times, unsuccessfully (DF). A **Red-necked Grebe** was sighted on 10/22 (JH) and a waterdance of 24 **Horned Grebes** was reported 11/22 (RK). A flight of 80 **Double-crested Cormorants** was observed over HL 10/20 while 2 were on the water below. Only one **Great Egret** was reported on the SR behind the Forty-Fort Cemetery 8/8 (DF). Although **Green Herons** were likely in the area, none were reported. American Bittern also went unreported again this fall; however, one was present at RGSP during breeding season.

**Black Vultures** were again in good numbers at the roost site near North West Area High School (BW). **Bald Eagles** were reported in numerous locations, with the most consistent sightings of 2 mature and one immature at HL. A great sighting of a **Northern Goshawk** occurred 10/16 in White Haven (EH, DB). **Northern Harriers** were spotted at the Wyoming Valley Airport 9/13 (SGo) and RGSP 10/29 (JH). Becoming more common in *Luzerne*, **Merlins** were reported in various locations throughout the season including an active nesting site along the SR (m.ob.), Pittston (BW), and Ross Twp. (RM, RMo). Nearly regular in reliable locations, **Peregrine Falcons** were reported 8/1-11/28 (BW). In line with the unfortunate downward trend in population, a single **American Kestrel** was reported in Lehman Twp. (JH).

High water levels throughout *Luzerne* covered most (if not all) mudflats, making the shorebird season dismal. Surprisingly, there were still a few sightings including a county first **Red Phalarope**. The Red Phalarope was photographed 10/6 at HL feeding along the Sandy Beach shoreline near the boat launch (RK); it stayed until 9 am the following day (m. ob.) The bird appeared to be an immature. This site at HL was also host to an earlier county first American Avocet in July (DF). A fairly late **American Woodcock** was reported 10/27 at a property in Sweet Valley (DF). Other shorebirds of note, all at PF 10/4, included one **Solitary Sandpiper**, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Plover**, 7 **Greater Yellowlegs**, and one **Short-billed Dowitcher** (JH). Another great find was a **Sora** heard at Lee's Swamp in Loyalville 10/23 (RK, JH). A **Caspian Tern** was sighted 9/5 at the retention ponds near the Cross Valley Expressway (RK), and another 2 were observed 9/6 at HL (JH, RK, TB). One **Bonaparte's Gull** was at HL 10/23 (JH), the only gull of note.

**Common Nighthawks** were reported in modest numbers from mid-Aug through mid-Sep. The peak occurred 9/1 when a kettle of 65 was observed migrating over Forty Fort (JS). Always nice to see, 2 **Barred Owls** were near Lee's Swamp in Loyalville 10/9 (JH)

**Winter Wrens** were reported from 8/8 at Sweet Valley (DF) to 10/30 at SGL 91 in Jenkins Twp. (PC). On 10/30, an ear-full of **Cedar Waxwings** was observed, covering two trees like leaves, just off a bike path near the Lehigh River (EH). There were 5 **Tree Swallows** still feeding at Lake Jean RGSP 10/2 (JH). A great find at MLSP 11/13 was a **Northern Shrike** near the entrance to the ball fields. It didn't seem bothered by the model airplanes people were flying nearby. Four species of **Thrush** were reported including **Swainson's Thrush**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Hermit Thrush**. One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at FSSP 10/16 (JH) and one **Wood Thrush** was sighted near a property in Shavertown 10/2 (JH). On that same property, one **Swainson's Thrush** was found dead on the house deck 9/21 (JH). A report of unusual **Hermit Thrush** behavior was sent in from a property in Sweet Valley. The bird acted very tame, coming within inches of people and accepting worms thrown to it. It didn't appear disturbed by the activity of the homeowner chopping firewood, but rather found the wood chips and new food source quite appealing. The **Hermit Thrush** showed up near the house 11/5, stayed through the night of 11/6 and was found dead the next morning near the home from no apparent causes (DF, HF, RM, RMo). A lone **Snow Bunting** was at the first boat launch area of RGSP 11/13 (JH).

Reports of warblers were spotty at best, yet 15 species were tallied. Highlights for the warblers include one **Canada Warbler** and one **Bay-Breasted Warbler** at FSSP 9/2 (JH), one **Nashville Warbler** at



SHHC 8/24 (BW), a very late **Blackpoll Warbler** 11/11 SR (JS), 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** photographed at FSSP 10/17 (RK), and two fairly late **Ovenbirds** at SHHC 10/9 (BW). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** migration was in full swing during the third and fourth week of Oct.

Sparrows were seen in good numbers throughout Oct into Nov with 10 species reported. First **White-throated Sparrow** was 10/4 in Shavertown (JH). **White-Crowned Sparrows** were first reported 10/6 when 4 were sighted on Bodle Road in Franklin Twp (BT). One **Fox Sparrow** showed up at a farm 10/30 (JH), 2 were sighted at FSSP 11/12 (DT), and one visited a feeder regularly at a property in Sweet Valley throughout Nov (RM, RMo). The last **Chipping Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, and **Field Sparrow** were seen 10/17 at FSSP (RK). Also at FSSP 10/17 was a nice **Vesper Sparrow** (ph. RK). The last **Swamp Sparrow** and first **American Tree Sparrow** were both at FSSP 11/12 (DT). **Song Sparrows** were last reported 11/27 at KPNA (RW). A fairly late nesting pair of **Dark-Eyed Juncos** was reported at HL 8/2, with 2 eggs in the nest (BL, BLo).

Lastly, one **Rusty Blackbird** was observed calling from a tree accompanied by a worm of **American Robins** on a property in Sweet Valley on 11/4. No winter finches were reported.

Observers: **David Fisher, 222 North Mountain Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656, (570) 362-8727, David.Fisher@prudential.com**, Helen Fisher, Sandy Goodwin (SGO), Jim Hoyson (JH) Rick Koval, Robert Moase (RM), Ruth Moase (RMo), Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski, Peter Carlen, Bill Loftus (BLo), Becky Loftus (BL), Terry Baltimore, Ellie Harding, Dave Birchler, Jon Thomas, David Trently, Ed Johnson, Bruce Lockard (BrL).

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### Lycoming County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Rose Valley Lake (RVL).

The following highlights were obtained from eBird, the Lycoming Audubon bird list serve, and reports directly from observers.

**Gadwall** lingered at RVL this fall, with a single bird 11/5 (NF) and three 11/25 (LC). **Ring-necked Ducks** were found at RVL from 10/29 when 4 were seen (NF), 12 were there on 11/5 (NF), and about 5 were found 11/28 (DF). Two **Bufflehead** were seen on RVL 11/5 (NF). **Ruddy Ducks** were at RVL for much of the season: 6 on 10/2 (NF), 49 on 10/29 (NF), 57 on 11/5 (DF), and 21 on 11/28 (DF).

Two **Common Loons** were noted at RVL 10/1. On 11/28, one adult and one juvenile were noted there (DF). Post-breeding waders were in reduced numbers here this year, possibly because of high water this fall. A single **Great Egret** was noted at RVL 9/18 (NF).

Although **Golden Eagles** pass over the county annually in spring and fall, they often go unnoticed. NF spotted one at the White Deer Hawk Watch 11/11. Because of the summer report this year, of keen interest in *Lycoming* are sightings of **Merlin**, but the 10/1 observation at RVL was at peak migration season and not linked to the summer's nesting event.

A lingering **Killdeer** was spotted 11/5 in Hughesville (WE). Two passing **Caspian Terns** were noted at RVL 8/28 (NF).

Two **Selasphorus** hummingbirds were found and photographed in *Lycoming* this fall, but neither was captured and measured. One was present on 10/5-6 in Unityville, and another in the town of Warrensville 10/22-30 (WL).

A high count of ~1000 **Tree Swallows** was noted on RVL 10/2 (NF). A mixed flock totaling 5 **Ruby-** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at the north launch area of RVL 11/28 (DF). Without snow, **Snow Buntings** are hard to spot, but NF picked up 12 on 11/5 at RVL.

A notable migration of warblers occurred 9/18 at the east launch area of RVL. Highlights included the following: one **Tennessee**, 2 **Nashville**, 2 **American Redstarts**, 2 **Cape May**, 4 **Blackpoll**, 2 **Palm**, **Blackburnian**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, and roughly 30 **Yellow-rumped** (NF). Also at RVL was a late **Yellow Warbler** 10/2 (NF). **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported in the Cogan Station area until 10/6 (LB), and **Nashville Warblers** remained until 10/5 in Cogan Station (LB), and 10/7 at Berriman Hollow (LS).

A singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen near RVL 10/2 and another at SGL 52 on 10/16 (NF). First of season, two **American Tree Sparrows** were reported in SGL 75 on 11/25 (NF). Another skittish fall migrant, two **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at SGL 52 on 10/16 (NF). Fall migrant **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared in the southern end of the county (where they do not breed) 10/7 (LS).

With ample habitat, SGL 52 is a good location to see **Rusty Blackbird**; two were reported 10/16 (NF). Particularly scarce this year, a single **Pine Siskin** at SGL 75 on 11/25 was notable (NF).

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dan@thebraunings.net**, Laurie Cressman, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Nate Fronk, Wayne Laubscher, Charlie Schwarz, Laurie Shaffer.

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### McKean County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Colombia Hill (COH), Hamlin Lake (HL), Klondike (KLON), Marilla Reservoir (MRES), Marshburg (MAR), Redbridge (RBR), Valley Crossroads (VAC).

It is with great pleasure that I am compiling again for *McKean* to let other birders know how great birding is in the county. The formation of the Allegheny Highlands Bird Club is spurring more birders not only to get out and bird, but to report their data. Also, the Forest Service is conducting research in ANF and the data has been shared. This will lead to a more comprehensive report. Thanks to all involved.

Waterfowl were very disappointing. A high count of 73 **Canada Geese** was observed on HL 9/10 (LC). The only sighting of **Tundra Swan** was 11/20 over KLON (JF). The only duck recorded was a **Wood Duck** at VAC 9/10 (LC). Other waterbirds were not exactly abundant either. **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at MRES 10/23 (JFu) and at VAC 10/29 (LC). **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed 9/10-28 on HL (LC and JF). The last **Green Heron** was 8/14 on VAC (LC).

Raptors were a little more exciting. A flock of 21 **Turkey Vultures** was observed on VAC 9/30 (LC). The last **Broad-winged Hawk** was sighted 10/7 at COH (LC). **Merlins**, now breeding in the county at various locations, were last reported 10/2 in Bradford (JF, LF).

Due to the weather, shorebirds were not in numbers as in years past, but enough shorebirds were recorded to give a tantalizing view of what migrates through the area, even with only 2 known shorebirding spots! At RBR in the ANF, water levels finally dropped to expose habitat. A lone **Semipalmated Plover** was sighted 8/2 (JF). On 8/20 at the Bradford Sewage Treatment Ponds, **Black-bellied Plover** and **Dunlin** were found (JF). The same day at RBR, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated**, **Least**, **White-rumped**, **Baird's**, and **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed (JF). The last **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen in the same location 9/10 (JF).

Owls were sporadically observed. Seven **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were captured 11/4-24 at a banding site near KLON (SS, JF, JFu, FM, JM, LC, DF, ET, EP). Alone **Barred Owl** was also observed there 11/24 (JF, LC).

Although the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** migrates through and has bred in the county in the past, it is rarely observed. They were captured and banded 8/16 and 9/10 (SS, ET) at ANF banding stations. Also from the ANF banding stations, the last **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Blue-headed Vireo** were banded 9/22 and 9/23, respectively (SS, ET). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was also reported 9/22 (SS, ET). LC reported the latest **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on 9/10 at VAC. A large and very vocal flock of 15+ **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was observed near KLON 10/22 (SS, JF). LC observed **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 10/16 and more were banded 10/22 in the ANF (AHBC, SS, JF, EP, ET, BF, WHS). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was also observed in the ANF 10/22 (JF). The last **Brown Thrasher** was seen 8/20 at VAC (LC). Common in more urban settings, 650+ **European Starlings** were observed at VAC (LC).

The ANF banding stations also reported migrating warblers through the county. **Canada Warbler** was observed 8/30 (SS, ET). **Blue-winged Warbler** was observed 9/6 (JF, DF, SS). The last **Mourning Warbler** was banded 9/8 (SS, ET). **Wilson's Warbler** was seen 9/10 (AHBC, MJ, KJ, SS, ET, EP, JF, BF). **American Redstart**, **Hooded**, **Cape May**, and **Palm Warblers** were caught 9/28 (SS, ET). On 9/29, **Tennessee**, **Nashville**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were banded (SS, ET). At VAC, the last **Yellow Warbler** was 8/4, and the last **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was 9/30 (LC). At ANF, the last **Blackpoll Warbler** and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were observed 10/22 (AHBC, WHS, SS, JF, JFu).

First **American Tree Sparrows** were at COH 10/7 (LC). At VAC, 30 **Chipping Sparrows** were observed (LC) with the last observation 9/23. A lone **Fox Sparrow** was observed near KLON 10/22 (SS, JF),

and 2 were observed in the same location 11/4 (SS, JFu, FM, JM). The first **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported at VAC 10/29 (LC). In the ANF, the last **Scarlet Tanager** (9/8), **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (9/8), **Indigo Bunting** (9/6), and **Baltimore Oriole** (8/16) were reported through banding. **Pine Siskins** were reported in Bradford 11/22 (JF).

With word of the new Allegheny Highlands Bird Club, more birding, more birders, and the research being conducted in ANF, here is hoping for more comprehensive reporting in future quarters in *McKean!*

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 366-2500, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Allegheny Highlands Bird Club (AHBC), Lisa Chapman, Lisa Fedak, Danny Fedak, Bailey Fedak, Jared Fuera (JFu), Kathy Johnson, Mark Johnson, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Eric Perlock, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas, Warren County School District students (WHS).

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### **Mercer County**

Locations: Shenango River Reservoir (SRR), Williamson Road (WR)

The season produced 162 species for *Mercer*. No exceptionally rare species were recorded although there were noteworthy sightings of shorebirds at locations away from SRR.

Only a small number of waterfowl species were recorded. A major movement of **Tundra Swan** was noted 11/10 throughout the county (MM, NT). One **Blue-winged Teal** and up to 3 **Green-winged Teal** were found at the propagation area at SRR 8/26 (SS, NT).

A single **Great Egret** found 8/19 at SRR was the only report for this season (SS). An adult and an immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** remained at the propagation area at SRR through 8/31 (SS, NT).

Recently planted wheat fields along Haas and Hamburg Road north of Fredonia produced noteworthy sightings of up to 4 **American Golden-Plovers** 9/6-11, 4 **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/6-11, one **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/8-9, 5 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/6-10, and 170+ **Killdeer** (SS, NT). Several **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were also found feeding in a harvested wheat field near the same location along Heckman Road.

Shorebird sightings at SRR were restricted to the propagation area at the PGC Headquarter building along West Lake Road. Noteworthy here was one **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/26 (SS, NT) and one **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/22 (JH, NT, ST). Other species found at this location were **Semipalmated Plover** 8/1-26, **Killdeer** 8/1-31, **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/31, **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/8-26, **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/1-31, **Spotted Sandpiper** 8/1-31, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/1-31, **Least Sandpiper** 8/1-26, **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/12, and **Wilson's Snipe** 8/26. A **Dunlin** was found in a small wetland in the middle of a short grassy field 11/13 along Skunk Run Road (NT).

A late **Yellow-bellied Cuckoo** was noted along Poole Road 10/25 (NT). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were noted 9/17 along WR and 9/28 along Poole Road (NT). The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard along Coalspring Church Road 11/2 (HT), and two more were noted at SRR on 11/12 (SS, NT). Two early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were found at SRR on 8/31 (RN) and remained at WR until 10/28 (NT). Warblers made a good showing with 23 species reported, but overall the numbers were down from past years. Noteworthy was **Orange-crowned** 9/25 and 10/9 (NT), **Cape May** 9/17-10/7 with up to 20 at Poole Road 9/25, **Blackpoll** 9/6-10/27 which was somewhat late, **Northern Waterthrush** 8/22 at SRR, and **Mourning Warbler** 9/11 (JH, NT, ST). Up to five **Vesper Sparrows** were found along Zahnier Road 10/23 (NT). This species is not found every year, and 5 at a single location were exceptional. Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbird** were noted 10/3-11/2 (NT). The first **Pine Siskin** appeared 10/7 and were heard through mid-Nov (HT, JT, NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Rd., Mercer, PA 16137-5334**. Joseph Hochsletler, Marty McKay, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Harry Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer.

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### **Mifflin County**

Locations: Big Valley (BV), Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW).

At JMHW, a total of 2495 **Broad-winged Hawks** passed, with counts exceeding 100 on 10 days 9/12-26 and a high of 556 on 9/19

(RS). Other high counts included 10 **Bald Eagles** 9/13, 258 **Red-tailed Hawks** 10/31, and 10 **Golden Eagles** 10/31 (RS).

A **Greater Yellowlegs** in BV 11/4 was late (JZ) as was a **Tree Swallow** that flew past JMHW 10/26 (LW). October warblers in BV included **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and a **Palm Warbler**, the latter 10/22 (JZ). First-of-fall reports in BV included **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 10/9, **Ruby-throated Kinglets** 10/15, and **White-throated Sparrow** 10/16 (JZ).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Ron Singer, Linda Whitesel, Jay Zook.

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### **Monroe County**

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

Extreme weather and rainfall was the theme for the period, with Hurricane Irene the region in late Aug followed by Tropical Depression Lee just over a week later. Not to be outdone, a nor'easter hit in late October dumping record snowfall in some areas. A MCEEC birding competition held 10/1 yielded a healthy total of 94 species (DS).

An immature **Golden Eagle** passing over MCEEC 10/15 represented a first site record (RS). From the summer season, the **Peregrine Falcons** on the Mt. Minsi cliffs in DWGNRA nested unsuccessfully. A ledge inspection 6/23 by PA Game Commission biologists revealed a single broken egg that was likely the result of a predator (AM). Project Owlnet enjoyed its 12th season at Skytop. The banding period was 10/9-11/14 and included 17 nights, however, poor weather and conditions hampered efforts. A total of 21 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were captured including one foreign recovery (DS).

**American Pipit** was reported from Skytop 11/16 and 11/19 (RK), and a nice collection of warblers including **Blackburnian**, **Pine**, **Palm**, and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were also noted at this location 10/12 (RK). A leucistic **Dark-eyed Junco** was found at MCEEC feeders 11/16 and continued into Dec (JR).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, MCEEC, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA, 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Rick Koval, Art McMorris, Jenifer Rituper, Darryl Speicher, Roger Spotts.

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### **Montgomery County**

Locations: Elkins Park (EP), East Norriton Twp. (ENT), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Restoration Trust (PERT), Prophecy Creek Park (PCP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Twp. (UFT), Upper Gwynedd Twp. (UGT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

The fall season saw average temperatures and precipitation. Rainfall for the period was 32.19" at Green Lane, nearly double our long-term average of 17.11". As can be expected, shorebirds were in short supply.

Waterfowl variety was only fair, with 17 species reported. **Snow Geese** are a near rarity in *Montgomery* in autumn, so a fly-over group of 400 birds at UPVP 11/15 was a surprise (KC). Our first **Cackling Goose** of the season was at Walt Road, GLR 11/16, and a single bird was intermittent at Church Road, GLR through the end of the period (KC). The 21 **Tundra Swans** at Walt Rd, GLR 11/16 were another nice find. (KC, GAF). Another group of 16 was seen at Church Road 11/23 (GAF). Dabbling ducks of note included a "high" of 7 **Wood Ducks** at NFP 9/22 (WBH). They were scarce at GLR and elsewhere. Other season highs included 40 **Gadwall** at Church Road 11/30, 4 **Northern Shovelers** at Church Road 11/19, and 25 **Green-winged Teal** there 11/22 (KC), and 10 **American Wigeon** at Walt Road 10/15 (GAF). Diving ducks of note (all from Walt Rd, GLR) included 115 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/22 (KC), 55 **Buffleheads** 11/4 (GAF), and 18 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/21 (KC).

Both **Horned** and **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported in low numbers (m.ob.). Undoubtedly the best bird of the period was a **frigatebird sp.** 8/28 over Plymouth Meeting (ph. CD). This was our only known storm bird on the heels of Hurricane Irene. A high of 4 **Great**



**Egret** was at Bridgeport Dam, Norristown 8/5 (WBH), and our last report was 10/2 at Church Rd. (KC). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** on Knight Rd, GLR 9/1 was a good find (JG). A **Little Blue Heron** was at UPVP 8/5 (RG) and another was at Evansburg State Park 8/20 (WBH). Nocturnal flight calls of **American Bittern** were reported from Elkins Park 9/9 and 10/6. (PD).

**Black Vultures** continue to increase in numbers with counts of 114 at NFP 9/4 (WBH), and 120+ in Upper Frederick Twp. through the end of the period (RG). The near future of GLR's resident **Bald Eagle** pair in uncertain after the nest tree fell in Aug (GAF, m.ob.). The pair was seen together on many occasions since that time, but no breeding behavior was noted. At least 4 immature birds of varying ages were seen at GLR and UPVP through the end of Nov (m.ob.). Elsewhere, **Bald Eagles** were observed from Norristown, ENT, and 4 were seen over FWSP 10/1 (all WBH). **Northern Harriers** were scarce with single birds at NFP 10/6 (WBH), and singles from Church Road near GLR 10/16 and 10/31 (KC). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed in ENT 10/3 (WBH), Gwynedd Preserve 10/11 (A&JM), and UFT 11/26 (RG). **Broad-winged Hawk** reports came from NFP (A&JM), ENT and VFNP (WBH), and a high of 72 were at FWSP 10/1 (WBH). **Merlins** were reported 9/9 at UPVP (KC), 9/19 at Church Rd, GLR (GAF), and 11/6 at Walt Rd, GLR (GAF). **Peregrine Falcons** were at PERT 10/15 (PD), NFP 10/17 (WBH), and ENT 10/18 (WBH).

For the second year in a row, **Virginia Rail** was reported from an upland meadow at PERT (PD). **American Coot** has never been common at GLR, but reports were widespread this quarter. A high of 35 were at Walt Rd 11/4 (GAF). Elsewhere 3 were at NFP 10/22 (WBH).

Given the monsoon-like conditions in Aug and Sep, the lack of shorebirds at GLR was no surprise. Eight species were reported, a far cry from 22 species observed in 2010. Highlights included a **Semipalmated Plover** 8/4 (JG) and 8/8 (GAF). High counts for sandpipers included 20 **Least Sandpipers** and 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/4 (JG), 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/8 (GAF), and a **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/12 (KC). Away from GLR, PERT held single **Wilson's Snipe** 10/22 and 11/12 (PD). Nine **Black Terns** at Church Road 8/28 represented our only tern for the period (JG).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen at GLR (JG), and ENT and VFNP (WBH). **Common Nighthawks** were few, and included a high of 6 over Church Rd, GLR 9/8 (KC). Smaller numbers were seen at ENT and NFP (WBH). Late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen in UGT 9/27 (A&JM), FWSP 10/1 (WBH), and Unami Creek Valley 10/3 (KC).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at HC 8/31 was a nice find (SJ), and an **Acadian Flycatcher** was at ESP 8/20 (WBH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were widespread, including an early bird 9/19 at PCP, and a late bird 10/22 at NFP (WBH). Others were reported from UFT (RG), GLR (KC), and ENT and FWSP (WBH). **White-eyed Vireos** were observed at ESP 8/6 (WBH), and a somewhat late bird was at HC 9/18 (SJ). Others were at NFP on several dates (WBH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at PCP 9/19 (WBH). **Common Ravens** continued their elusive ways in western *Montgomery*. Our only reports were in UFT 10/10 (RG), and nearby UPVP 11/10 (KC). More surprising were 2 at FWSP 10/8 (SJ). Late **Purple Martins** were at UPVP 8/23 (KC) and NFP 8/27 (WBH). Our only reports of **Bank Swallow** were from NFP 9/3, and our only **Cliff Swallow** report was from NFP 8/24 (WBH). **Winter Wren** was reported at ENT 10/3 (WBH), a full month before the next, 11/2 at HC (SJ).

Nocturnal flight calls of thrushes at Elkins Park were reported as follows: 31 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 10/4, a **Bicknell's Thrush** 10/3, 173 **Veery** 8/30, and 74 **Swainson's Thrush** 9/9 (all PD). Other thrush reports included an early **Hermit Thrush** and a **Swainson's Thrush** at HC 10/1 (SJ), **Veery** from ENT, ESP, NFP and PCP, **Gray-cheeked** at ESP 10/5, **Swainson's Thrush** at ENT and PCP, and a late **Hermit Thrush** 11/23 at ENT (all WBH). **Brown Thrashers** were reported from ENT, ESP, and NFP (WBH), and a very late bird was at FWSP 11/26 (PD). An **American Pipit** was at NFP 11/18 (WBH), and 4 overflew Walt Rd, GLR 11/24 (KC).

Warbler variety was very good at 26 species. Best finds from ENT were **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Tennessee, Nashville, Mourning, Cape May, Pine**, and **Wilson's Warbler** (all WBH). GLR held **Tennessee Warbler** on several dates (KC), HC had **Tennessee, Nashville**, and **Cape May Warblers** (SJ). NFP was visited by **Nashville** and **Pine Warblers** (WBH, A&JM), and PCP held **Tennessee, Nashville**, and **Wilson's Warbler** (WBH). UGT held **Tennessee, Magnolia**, and **Wilson's Warbler** (A&JM), and UPVP hosted a **Pine Warbler** (KC).

Sparrows also had a good showing at various locations. ESP had

**Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrow** (WBH). GLR hosted **Savannah, Fox, Lincoln's, Swamp**, and **White-crowned Sparrows** (KC, GAF, JG, m.ob.). GP had **Savannah, Swamp**, and **Fox Sparrows** (A&JM). HC held **White-crowned Sparrows** as early as 10/7 (SJ). Reprots from NFP included **Savannah, Fox, Lincoln's, Swamp**, and **White-crowned Sparrow** (WBH). Finally, PERT had a high of 3 **Vesper Sparrows** and a high of 50 **Savannah Sparrows**, both 10/30 (PD).

HC had a late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 10/23, and a very late **Indigo Bunting** 11/2 (SJ). A **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from NFP 10/18 (WBH). Church Rd, GLR had 2 on 10/30 (KC), a whopping 24 there 11/8 (GAF), and the last of the season 11/14 (KC). Not surprisingly, this was our best season for this declining species in years. An equally surprising discovery were late **Baltimore Orioles** at Walt Rd, GLR 11/25 (ph. KR), and one in Elkins Park 11/29 (PD).

Purple Finch reports from the region were few, so reports of one at ENT 11/15 and 4 at NFP 11/18 were a surprise (WBH).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Chris Dooley, Paul Driver, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, WB Henderson, Sheryl Johnson, August and Judy Mirabella, Ken Reiker.

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### Montour County

No compiler.

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### Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Koch Farm (KF), Little Gap (LG).

The county had nearly 36" of rain during the period, with 26.46" in Aug/Sep. Perhaps the rain affected the birds. There was too much water at traditional shorebird spots for migrants to rest and feed. Waterfowl reports were minimal. Aug was good for warblers but no fallouts were reported. It was a great year at the LG hawk watch where a record number of **Bald Eagles** were counted. The rain may not be what is remembered this period, but the 5 **Rufous Hummingbirds** that showed up were unprecedented and memorable.

By late Nov, **Canada Geese** and a few **Snow Geese** flocks passed over the county. More notable was a lone **Snow Goose** at Blossom Hill Rd., Bath in mid-Aug that spent the summer at the small farm pond (MS). There were 8 **Cackling Geese**, 50 **Green-winged Teal**, 3 **Hooded Mergansers** and a **Northern Pintail** at GP 11/27 (DD). On 11/30, a record 12 **Cackling Geese** were at GP (TJ, AM). At Minsi Lake, there were 2 **Surf Scoters** and a **Horned Grebe** 10/26 (AS). In a harvested wheat field in Williams Twp, 56 **Wood Ducks** fed 8/18 (AK).

At LG, there is a small population of **Ruffed Grouse** with a bird occasionally flushed on the trail to the lookout. A male was heard drumming daily the first week of Oct between the lookout and south banding station (MS, GY). An **American Bittern** was at E Bangor Dam 10/26 (AS). At GP, a **Great Egret** was seen by many in Aug/mid-Sep. The adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reported in late Jul at the Meyer Lane retention pond was present 8/1 (MS, CS).

The LG hawk watch site near Danielsville had a banner year with a total count of 20,661. New records were set for **Bald Eagle** (237), **Merlin** (114), and **Peregrine Falcon** (51). A one-day record of 24 **Bald Eagles** occurred 9/13. There were 12,827 **Broad-winged Hawks** (high count of 1651 on 9/16), 4101 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (high of 542 on 10/21), and 542 **Osprey** (high of 129 on 10/1) counted. **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers were below average and only 8 **Northern Goshawks** were seen. Off the ridge, 1000+ **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen over the KF 9/18 (AK). In addition to the hawk count at LG, the LG raptor banding station trapped 591 hawks (four foreign recaptures) and 80 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (seven foreign recaptures), with the highlight a juv. **Golden Eagle** 11/1 (data with permission from GL). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (349) and **Red-tailed Hawks** (135) were trapped most frequently.

No rails were reported. The **Sandhill Crane** found 7/15 continued at GP during the period. Early Aug was decent for shorebirds at the flooded fields next to GP, but it didn't last as the water became too high. On 8/7, a lone **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at GP (MS). Sinkholes at Meyer Lane, Bethlehem Twp. drained that pond creating habitat in mid-Sep. A **Sanderling** was reported 9/15 (DA). Other shorebirds at Meyer Lane included **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, a few



**Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**. Six **Wilson's Snipe** were at a flooded field on Silvercrest Rd., Bath 9/27.

Spending time at a hawk watch site is a great way to see mixed flocks of migrant passerines. In Aug there are both resident and migrant song birds moving along the ridge. At LG, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard and seen sporadically until mid-Sep. On 9/14, an adult **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** got caught in the mist nets meant for hawks (RL, MS). **Common Nighthawks** were seen 9/4 at the KF (AK) and 4 were over Bethlehem 9/3 (ES).

S.A.

A Selasphorus hummingbird with rufous color was seen at some flowers at a home near the LG hawk site 10/25. It was photographed and seen again on 10/27 (RW, BS) and briefly during the snowstorm a week later but did not stick around. The story is interesting since the same hummingbird (based on photographs) had been visiting another feeder in Walnutport since Sep (D&RW), and on 11/25, Scott Weidensaul trapped and banded this adult female **Rufous Hummingbird**. Meanwhile, **Rufous Hummingbird** #2 was trapped and banded by Weidensaul 11/11 in Delabole. It was an adult female that showed up during the snowstorm 10/29 (T&MS). At the JSP office, a Selasphorus hummingbird with rufous color was observed 11/4-5 but did not stick around (RW). This was likely a **Rufous hummingbird** based on observation details. A fourth **Rufous Hummingbird** was found the same feeder and flowers at the JSP office 11/13 (PH). Weidensaul captured the adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** 11/14. This bird was special; it already had a band. It was originally banded 1/9/2011 in River Ridge, Louisiana by Nancy Newfeld as an imm. bird, meaning this bird was hatched in the summer 2010. **Rufous Hummingbird** #4 also found a liking to a feeder at PH's home along nearby Jacobsburg Rd. and was still around in Dec. The hummingbird report doesn't end here, because a fifth **Rufous Hummingbird** that showed up in Oct at a home near Wind Gap was banded in Dec (T&SH).

On 9/3, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was perched at the LG lookout (MS). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was seen on a rainy 9/28 at the KF (AK). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was of a bird at the LG lookout 9/4 (MS). An adult **Northern Shrike** landed on a snag at the LG lookout just long enough for a few photographs 11/20 (MS, CS). Vireos seen at LG included **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/4 and 9/21, **Yellow-throated Vireo** 9/4, and the season's first **Blue-headed Vireo** 9/26 (MS).

A **Common Raven** pair was resident at LG during hawk season. A high of 11 **Common Ravens** passed the LG lookout 11/4 (MS, CS). Away from the ridge, a **Common Raven** was seen by the Northampton Quarry 11/11 (BM). Over 200 **Horned Larks** were near Arrowhead Rd., Bath 11/22 (EV). On 8/10, a **Purple Martin** was seen flying past the LG lookout (MS). The latest report of **House Wren** was from the KF 10/17 (AK). At LG, 3 **Winter Wrens** were found 9/26 (MS). A good find at the KF was a **Marsh Wren** 9/29 (AK). Some late season finds at the KF were a **Brown Thrasher** 10/8 and **Gray Catbird** 10/17 (AK).

Warblers seen at LG included **Canada** (2), **Chestnut-sided**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 8/17, **Wilson's Warbler** 8/22, and **Blackburnian Warbler** 8/24 (MS). In Sep, LG warblers observed included **Tennessee**, **Blackburnian**, **Magnolia**, and **Black-and-white Warbler** 9/4, and **Cape May**, **Blackpoll**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** 9/16 (MS). LG warbler highlights 9/21 were **Northern Parula**, **Blackpoll**, and **Tennessee Warbler** (MS). Two **Bay-breasted Warblers**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, and **Magnolia Warbler** were at the LG lookout 9/22 (MS). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was observed at E Bangor Dam 10/26 (AS). Another tough to find bird was a **Mourning Warbler** 10/7 at the KF (AK). In Bethlehem, a late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in a back yard 11/14 (EV). Other somewhat late warblers were 2 **Northern Parulas** and a **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/17 at the KF (AK). There was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the KF 9/4 (AK).

A late **Eastern Towhee** was at LG 10/20 (MS). A good sparrow locale is the KF; birds seen there between 10/8-17 include **Lincoln's**, **White-throated**, **White-crowned**, **Chipping**, **Field**, **Savannah**, and **Swamp Sparrow** (AK). Also 10/8, a **Bobolink** was located at the KF (AK). The first **Fox Sparrow** was at the KF 10/26 (AK). At LG, an early **Dark-eyed Junco** landed at the lookout 9/16 (MS, CS). At the Martins

Creek Environmental Preserve, up to 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen 8/6-10 (MSa). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at the KF 11/16 (AK) and 25 were at Bear Swamp 11/26 (AS).

Observers: **Michael Schall**, 126 N. Chestnut St, Bath, (610) 737-5275, [mdtjcschall@yahoo.com](mailto:mdtjcschall@yahoo.com), Dan Altif, Dave DeReamus, Tom and Sylvia Harrington, Pat Houck, Arlene Koch, Tom Johnson, Gerald Lahr, Robert Lahr, Andy McGann, Robert Lahr, Betsy Mescavage, Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall (CS), Brad Silfies, Ed Sinkler, Tom and Mona Swope, Ed Vermillion, David and Rhonda Wagner, Rick Wiltraut, Gordon Yoder.

#### **Northumberland County**

No compiler.

#### **Perry County**

Fall migration was very uneventful in *Perry*. A number of observers were looking for migrants but groups of warblers and other migrants were not easy to find. Interesting highlights include a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Little Buffalo State Park 11/26 (JT), 2 **Blue-headed Vireos** along Laurel Run 10/23 (HW, KW), and a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Miller's Gap 9/9 (RK).

Observers: **Ramsay Koury**, 123 Old Ford Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011, [rkoury123@aol.com](mailto:rkoury123@aol.com), Tim Becker, Vern Gauthier, Ramsay Koury, Jill Tengeres.

#### **Philadelphia County**

Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Northeast Water Treatment Plant (NEWTP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR).

Hurricane Irene brought a bonanza of 11 tern species 8/28, plus other rarities such as Willet, to the DR adding new species to the county list. Northern Shrike, Thayer's Gull, Franklin's Gull, Marbled Godwit, Western Kingbird, and Nelson's Sparrow were some of the other exceptional birds that made this the most exciting fall season in memory. The DRT is a new recreational trail which provides excellent birding in large weedy fields, in trees at river's edge, and also gives an excellent view of the DR. Park at the Tasker St. Walmart (Snyder Ave.) and walk to the DR, turning left at riverbank. The trail begins in back of the Walmart and is well signed. It is 10 miles due south of POD (a highly recommend and under-birded area) and seems to operate similarly as a migrant trap for birds following the DR. Clay-colored Sparrow, wintering Orange-crowned Warbler, Snow Bunting, and Black Scoter (our rarest scoter) are recent sightings!

Over 500 **Snow Geese** passed over Philly 11/22-12/24, and the first **Ross's Goose** in memory was found at TI 11/22 (TF). In late Aug **Wood Ducks** topped out at 175 at TI (MS), where **Blue-winged Teal** were present 8/9-11/2. All the expected dabblers were present at FDR and TI except for Canvasback and Redhead, which went unreported. The only divers arriving in late Nov were dozens of **Ring-necked Duck** and **Bufflehead**, and a few **Ruddy Duck**. Because there was no hard freeze, most open water held a nice assortment of waterfowl, including **Pied-billed Grebes** throughout the period.

An **American Bittern** was at POD 10/19 (FW). Two **American Bitterns** were seen together at TI with one remaining through Nov. It was not seen after heavy construction began near its patch of phragmites. The only **Least Bittern** was 8/6 at TI (MR). Two **Great Egrets** were late visitors 11/28 at TI (AG). Up to 8 **Little Blue Herons** enjoyed TI, and one showed up at MA 7/31 and was joined by a second 8/10 (KJ). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were on the SR at Boathouse Row, and at TI as usual.

In this mild Nov, an **Osprey** hung out over WC (KJ). Numbers of migrating **Northern Harriers** were reported in Oct, and for a change

more than 300 **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen in mid-Oct. A **Golden Eagle** over POD was a treat 10/22 (FW). The expected pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** arrived at TI for their winter stay.

The drawn down impoundment at TI and the low tides and grassy fields of POD are shorebird magnets. Although the variety of species was excellent this year, the numbers were not as high as anticipated. An **American Golden-Plover** was at POD 9/14 (FW) and 9/28 (TF). **Semipalmated Plover**, relatively scarce from 7/28-8/28, had a high count of 6 on 8/1. Three **Greater Yellowlegs** resting on the ball fields of POD were late 11/2 (FW). A paltry high of 77 **Lesser Yellowlegs** came from TI 8/1 (FW), and a late bird was seen from the DRT 10/17 (TF). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at MA 8/31 (KJ). A **Willet** seen from POD during Hurricane Irene 8/28 flew south on the DR (FW, TF). Two **Marbled Godwits** were found at TI on a steamy 8/9 (AG). The 2nd breeding bird atlas showed **Spotted Sandpiper** nesting in the Roxborough section of the city, but other than that we only ever have reports from POD and TI, where they nest and congregate in small groups before moving on. A **Ruddy Turnstone** and a **Sanderling** were carried northward on the DR on 8/28 and seen at POD (TF, FW). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** numbers were normal with a high of 2600 at POD 8/1 (FW). For two weeks after 7/19 one to two **Western Sandpipers** were at TI (MD, AG, TF) and a lone bird was at POD 9/14 (FW). **Least Sandpiper** numbers dropped from a high of 400 in Jul to only 5 on 10/9 (TF). Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at TI through 10/9, and FW had a high count of 5 at POD. Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were at TI 7/31 (AG). Fifteen **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at POD 8/14 (FW) and a lone bird was at TI 8/27 (MS). Eighty **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from the "first horseshoe" at TI 11/29 (MD). **American Woodcock** were at POD 11/5-17, and 3 were seen from DRT 11/22 (MJ).

**Laughing Gull** migration along the DR can reach tens of thousands of birds in a day, but FW saw only 900 passing POD 8/27 and 300 on 10/29. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at TI 8/27 (MS) and 20 were seen from POD 11/21 (MS). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** known as "Shrimpy" returned to the Linden Ave. boat ramp for the seventh winter (FW), but a different bird was seen from the DRT 11/22 (TF). My cell phone was smiling when FW called from Pleasant Hill Park as he photographed what we hope will be accepted by PORC as the first **Thayer's Gull** record in *Philadelphia* 11/29. An adult **Franklin's Gull** in winter plumage was watched from 75 feet as it flew along the DR, over the center of the Betsy Ross Bridge, and directly into *Philadelphia* 11/22 (TB). TB was in New Jersey at Palmyra Cove Nature Park where he also saw thousands of **Laughing Gulls** heading north, along with 16 **Osprey**, 6 **Pectoral Sandpiper** and many terns.

Birders anywhere along the DR 8/28 were treated to a sterna spectacle, from Glen Foerd Mansion in the north, at POD, at DRT, at the Race St. Pier, and at the NBC in the south. Throughout the day, birders moved up and down the DR seeking different vantage points. Considering the possibility of overlap between observers, reported here are only the highest count for each species. These totals will be true, but certainly not the whole truth which must be higher for each species. As many as 15 **Caspian Terns** were at TI 9/17 (MD) but 8/28 only 4 were reported. A distant large tern was determined to be a non-breeding adult **Royal Tern** (TF, GA). Seen with a scope from 300 feet, it was observed for a minute before it left the river to fly over the city. The orange-yellow bill was visible as was the moderately gray back and the heavy *thalasseus* body with moderately blackish primaries. This was the fifth record for the county, the last was at POD 6/12/2008. Three **Royal Terns** were counted from the NJ side of the DR (TB). The first **Sandwich Tern** in our county and the state was reported at 13:00 from the Race St., feeding with a small flock of 20 **Common** and **Forster's Terns** (GA). A second report came at 15:45 from the DRT two miles south of Race St. (MS, TF, doc submitted). This DRT bird was also feeding with a mixed flock of terns and was considered to be the same individual. It sat on a pier for study with a scope and was described in detail. Simultaneous reports of **Common Tern** at GF and POD totaled 65, but from the 15 lists reviewed where 30, 35, 40 terns were counted, it's probable that 150 **Common Terns** or more were swept up the DR by Irene. Three **Arctic Terns** were reported from POD (FW, TF) with two flying up river at 11:00 (TF). **Forster's Tern** is always the most numerous tern in Philly, but they weren't 8/28. In six hours at the Race St. Pier, GA counted 55 **Forster's Tern**. All other counts north of Race St. and one slightly to the south were smaller. **Least Tern** was seen from POD in record numbers—26 by FW's count! Later in the afternoon 4 **Least Terns** were seen from DRT (MS). A **Gull-billed Tern** was found off of the NBC (DB). The high count for **Black Tern** was 13 (GA). A **Bridled Tern** resting on a log was first observed from Burlington

County, New Jersey due east of POD (TB). It flew along in New Jersey waters until it veered westward and crossed to the Philly side heading toward the gazebo at POD. Its light back and white line extending over the eye were clearly visible. Two adult **Sooty Terns** were spotted from the Race St. Pier, one heading north at 12:30 and one heading south at 13:35 PM. (GA). Both were studied well through a scope. They were rather "sturdy looking terns, strong fliers, dark blackish above through the shortish tail, with small white forehead patches, and bright white below." The only other report is from Tinicum in 1890, but 2 flying north in *Delaware* during Ernesto in 2008 certainly flew into *Philadelphia*, but there were no witnesses.

POD's fields provide a great resting place for common birds, such as 140 **Mourning Dove** 9/24 (FW). **Northern Flicker** and **Killdeer** rest in numbers up to 100, and gulls can be found in the thousands when conditions are right. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at TI 10/3-12 (MD, TF) and also along the DRT 10/12 (TF). Late date for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on the DRT was 10/21 (CF). **Chimney Swifts** love Philly for its many brick chimneys. JS monitors their known roost sites and searches for new roost sites. Her report included 1800 at the Jenks School (8/31), 2100 at Barbelin Hall, St. Joe's Univ. (9/1), and 2200 at the Dobson School 9/21. A new roost with 500 swifts was found in a Salvation Army building, which is up for sale. A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed at BRSP 10/28, and one was seen at POD 11/21 (FW). A juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found on the WC 10/10 (KJ). This bird was still being reported in Feb 2012. Sixty **Northern Flickers** passed by POD 10/2 (FW).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at TI 8/31 (TF) and a **Least Flycatcher** lingered in the Southampton Woods from 9/2-9/26 (FW). On 10/5, SK witnessed what she called a "phoebe fallout" at TI when **Eastern Phoebes** were everywhere. **Western Kingbird**, Philly's eighth record, was a stunning find at POD 10/29 (ph. FW). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at TI 9/13 (MD). If AB had been putting a turkey in the oven on Thanksgiving morning 11/24 instead of birding at TI, the **Northern Shrike** he found might have eluded birders for days or weeks. The shrike stayed for at least two months and was seen by hundreds of birders who were appropriately thankful, since this was our first since 1966.

More than 2000 **Tree Swallows** congregated at the famous NEWTP 10/15, and three were a late find at TI 11/26 (TF). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, which over-winter at NEWTP, numbered around 150 at the close of the season, and a lone bird was seen at MA 11/1. Irene brought small numbers of **Cliff** (15), **Bank**, and **Barn Swallows** up the DR 8/28 (m.ob.). Three **Barn Swallows** were at the NWWTP 11/3 (TF). POD hosted two small groups of **Horned Larks** 11/13, 11/17 (FW). Many birders looking for the shrike were treated to a **House Wren** that hung out on the Darby Creek dike through at least 11/26 (AG). We had a nice showing of **American Pipit** at BRSP where five were seen 10/30 (TF) and at POD where small flocks fed for the month of Nov (FW, TF).

Even though we missed a few good warblers, there were many birds to see. The seasonal summary chart gives a better view than normal, due to increased reporting through eBird. The DRT hosted 3 **Tennessee Warblers** 10/18-22 and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** (TF). One of two **Orange-crowned** lingered at POD through 11/29 (TF, MD). There were nice sightings of **Cape May Warbler** with an early bird at TI 9/12 (TF), 10/2-3 (MD), and 10/22-26 (WS). **Blackpoll Warblers** arrived early 9/12 at TI and stayed late at the NEWTP to 11/3 (TF) and at POD 11/13 (MS). The bird at NEWTP was seen at least until 1/3/2012. **Connecticut Warbler** was a good find at TI (MD) and in the Southampton Woods and POD (FW). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in FW's northeast garden 9/9 and at TI several times to 10/26 (MD, TF).

A German visitor reported a **Summer Tanager** in Fairmount Park 10/3 (MF, doc submitted). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** wasn't expected in Washington Sq. 10/23 (GA). We had several **Blue Grosbeak** sightings in August at TI and POD, but FW also found one at the NE Airport 10/2.

Rare is **Clay-colored Sparrow**, but birds were seen at POD and DRT 10/27-11/12 (ph. FW, TC, MS). **Savannah Sparrows** gave a good show 9/22-11/25, including a flock of 50 seen at BRSP (TF). An eBird report of a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Temple University 10/22 was questionable until photos were submitted (JG). A review of recent records revealed that our **Grasshopper Sparrow** sightings have been only between 10/9-25. Then TF found one at BRSP 10/26. Three **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at TI 10/3 (MD), with the first seen 9/25 (TF). POD attracted a **Nelson's Sparrow** 10/18 (FW, TF) which was photographed and tentatively identified as *subvirgatus* (FW). Two

**Baltimore Orioles** were late at POD 11/27 (MDr).

Contributors: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484 mcgovern100@comcast.net**, George Armistead, Kate Atkins, Tom Bailey, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Denis Brennan, Tony Crossdale, Marty Dellwo, Michael Drake (MDr), Steve DuPont, Dan Efrogmson, Todd Fellenbaum, Matthias Feuerensanger, Cory Finger, John Grego, Al Guarente, Ken Januski, Matt Jewell, Bill Keim, Sandra Keller, Lynn Roman, Mike Rosengarten, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Win Shaefer, Matt Sharp, Judy Stepenaski, Gary Stolz, Frank Windfelder.

#### **Pike County**

Locations: McDade Trail (MT), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Lake Shohola (LS), Peck's Pond (PP), SGL 180 (SGL).

Three **Common Loons** were seen 11/16 at LW. PP held 3 **Gadwall** and 12 **Ring-necked Ducks**.

Interesting raptors 9/5 included a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** at SGL and a **Bald Eagle** at LW. A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** was seen at LS 11/16. An adult and a juv. **Bald Eagle** were seen at PP 11/16. On 10/2, 4 **American Kestrels** were seen on MT. A juv. **Northern Goshawk** flew by LW into *Wayne* 10/3. A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen at SGL 11/16. LW held three **Killdeer** 11/16.

Interesting vireos this fall included a **Philadelphia Vireo** at LW 9/5 and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at SGL. On 11/16, a **Snow Bunting** was seen and photographed at LS. Fall warblers seen 9/5 at SGL included **Magnolia**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Nashville**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Additionally on 9/5 at SGL, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen and heard singing. On 9/5 at LW, the following warblers were seen: **Bay-breasted**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Northern Parula**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Black-and-white**. A **Scarlet Tanager** was seen 9/5 at LW. A pair of **Lincoln's Sparrows** was seen 10/2 at MT.

Observers: **Joe Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville, PA 18041, (717) 571-2933, certhid@gmail.com**, Mike and Connie Schall.

#### **Potter County**

No report.

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

#### **Schuylkill County**

No report.

**NEW COMPILER BEGINNING WINTER 2011-12: Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, (570) 754-7127, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**.

#### **Snyder County**

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

Three **Northern Pintails** were observed at FL 10/2 (JD). Eight **Ruddy Ducks** were observed at FL 10/2 (JD); that same date WL also held 10 **Ruddy Ducks** (CK). A **Bald Eagle** was reported at FL 8/7 (P&RW), and one was also observed at WL 10/2 (CK and JD). A **Black Tern** showed up at FL 10/20 (P&RW). Four **Blackburnian Warblers** were observed in a backyard outside of Selingsgrove 10/2 (JW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, James Dunn, Chad Kauffman, Patricia and Richard Williams (P&RW), Jason Weller.

#### **Somerset County**

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP),

Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM).

The season was very wet with near record rainfall, accompanied by unseasonably temperatures which resulted in many lingering birds. Nine inches of snow in late October quickly melted and water was open well beyond the end of reporting period. Rainy conditions 11/21-23 resulted in good fallouts of waterbirds on the larger lakes.

Four **Snow Geese** were with **Canada Geese** in the Stoystown area 11/4 (PF). About 22 species of waterbirds fell out at SL and QR 11/22-23. Higher counts at SL were 7 **Gadwall**, 8 **American Black Ducks**, 20 **Redheads**, 60 **Scaup spp.** (mostly Lesser), 15 **Ring-neck Duck**, 7 **Surf Scoters**, one **Black Scoter**, 12 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 250 **Buffleheads** (with 350 at QR), 3 **Common Goldeneye**, 20 **Hooded Mergansers**, 20 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 75 **Ruddy Ducks**, one **Red-throated Loon** (at QR), 10 **Common Loons**, and an amazing 420+ **Horned Grebes** (JM, ML, CP, JP). Other reported waterfowl were 18 **Blue-winged Teal** 10/12 in SM (EB), 4 **Green-winged Teal** 10/17 (AM), one **Canvasback** 11/17, and 3 **White-winged Scoters** (2 harvested) at SL around 12/10 (AM).

**Great Egrets** were detected at SL 9/24 (RL) and 10/22 (AM). The **Osprey** at SL was last reported 10/22 (AM). A **Northern Goshawk** was at PP 11/22 (CP, JP) and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** migrated past same 11/4 (AP, JP). **Peregrine Falcon** migrants were at PP 9/17 (JP) and SM 10/24 (EB). The highest **American Coot** tally was 84 on 11/24 at SL (AM). The BC **Sandhill Cranes** were seen throughout the season. Successful nesting was not reported but at times 2 were present through 12/21. They were all adults and could possibly represent the pair plus last year's young (RC, et al.).

Shorebirds overall were scarce, probably due to the little exposed mud at pond edges. **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen 9/7 and 10/24 in SM and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was there 9/11 (EB). **American Woodcock** were present and actually displaying at PP up to at least 12/10 (JM, CP, JP). The shorebird of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** which was down in the nasty weather near SM 11/23. It was watched for the better part of the day on the dirt road and in ditches and was well described (NY). Ten **Bonaparte's Gulls** 11/22, 20 **Herring Gulls** 11/21, and a first winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** both days at SL were noteworthy (ML, CP, JP). **Caspian Terns** were present 9/9 at SL (RL) followed by 2 on 10/13 (AM). Three **Common Terns** were also reported 10/13 (AM).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling predawn 11/28 at PP (MM). **Chimney Swifts** were present until at least 9/20 at SM (EB). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PP 9/12 (JP). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was last at PP 11/19 (CP). **Warbling Vireo** was at PP 9/14 (JP) and **Philadelphia Vireos** were there 9/11 and 9/18. RL counted 450 **Barn Swallows**, 100 **Tree Swallows**, 60 **Cliff Swallows**, and 25 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at SL 9/9. Many **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** and **Swainson's Thrushes** were calling early AM 9/25 (JP), and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen 10/8 at PP (AP). A **Hermit Thrush** was under bird feeders 12/1 at PP (JP). Two **Brown Thrashers** were still present at PP 11/4.

Warblers trickled through PP throughout the season. **Cape May Warblers** started early and ended late, and included 8 on 9/11. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was again found 7/29, and considering earlier June sightings may have bred; it was not found during second breeding bird atlas in the county. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** 8/20 and a **Wilson's Warbler** at the early date of 7/14 in SM (NY) were noteworthy. **Rusty Blackbirds** were first seen 11/4 at BC (AP, JP). The only report of **Pine Siskin** was 11/15 at SM (EB).

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Elmer Brenneman, Robert Croner, WCO Patrick Ferko, Michael Lanzone, Anthony Marich, Jim and Meg Moses, Robert Leberman, Alan Peterson, Chris Payne, and Nancy Yoder.

#### **Sullivan County**

Locations: Dutch Mountain Property (DMP), Shady Nook (SN), Cherry Township (CT).

*Sullivan* does not receive consistent coverage at any time during the year. Most of the observations for this report occurred in August and over the Labor Day weekend (9/1-3). There are records for only one weekend in September after that time. Therefore, last date observed should be taken literally and not to mean that any individual did not



occur within the county beyond that date. Therefore there is very little data to help determine which species winter in the county. Data courtesy of the previous compiler, Nick Kerlin, contains information on first of year dates.

All observations for this report are from four separate visits to the county between 8/6 and 9/18. August weather was unseasonably cold and damp. Labor Day weekend was hot and humid amidst the tropical storm activity of late August and early September. A mid-September trip was cool but sunny. Species counts were somewhat low, most likely due more to a lack of time for birding than a lack of birds. Virtually all of the observations were made on my property or in the Shady Nook area.

Few waterfowl were observed during this period with a lone **Green-winged Teal** in CT 8/17, the most interesting find. A **Green Heron** was observed the same day. **Broad-winged Hawk** was last seen 9/3. **American Kestrels** were found 9/17, but more interesting were the 10 kestrels 9/3, which included seven different individuals in the same field. Shorebirds were scarce this year. **Killdeer** was the only species observed. A lone **Barred Owl** was heard calling 8/22; it was the only individual of the species observed for the year. **Chimney Swift** was last spotted in CT 8/22. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were still coming to feeders 9/17.

Four species of flycatcher were found. Surprisingly, the last species seen was **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 9/17. **Eastern Kingbird** was found 8/22. **Eastern Phoebe** and **Least Flycatcher** were observed Labor Day weekend. Both **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were found 9/17. **Barn Swallow** was last found 8/23. **Hermit Thrush** and **Gray Catbird** were still present 9/17, and the last observation of **Brown Thrasher** was 8/22.

Thirteen species of warbler were recorded, including two transient migrants. **Tennessee** and **Palm Warbler** were both found on my property 9/17. **Blackburnian Warbler** and **Ovenbird** were last recorded the week of 8/21. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was recorded during Labor Day weekend; surprisingly it was not seen thereafter. Notable finds on 9/17 included single **Nashville** and **Black-and-white Warblers**, and **Northern Parula**. More numerous on 9/17 were 4 each of **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, and **Blackpoll Warbler**, and 6 **Black-throated Green Warblers**.

Other birds still present 9/17 were **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping Field**, and **Song Sparrow**, as well as **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. **Song Sparrow** may be an interesting example of short migrations. The range maps indicate that the species should be present in winter, yet all of the records I have show first dates in March. Rounding out the list is **White-throated Sparrow**, which was last observed 8/23. This is an early date and surely was overlooked on later trips. **Bobolink** was found 8/6. The very last report of the season comes from Norm and Helen Taylor via Trudy Gerlach. They reported that **Sandhill Cranes** had been seen 11/20 in the Dushore area of CT. This is the same location where a pair has nested for the past decade.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, The Taylors.

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**Susquehanna County**  
No compiler.

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**Tioga County**  
No report.

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Compiler: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA, 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**.

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**Union County**  
No compiler.

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**Venango County**

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Strips (BS) Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Crawford Center, Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City Marina (OCM), Rails-to-Trails Drive (RTD), Two-Mile Run County Park (TWRCP)

The uninspiring birding summer continued unabated through the

fall season. Our season species total was 166, down significantly from 185 in 2010. Part of the reason may have been that most observers found less time to spend in the field. Waterfowl migration at KL and TMRCP was poor; if there were any significant fallouts, nobody was present to see them. The breeding population of **Broad-winged Hawk** appears to be at low ebb, with just two sightings during the season. The raptor highlights were two sightings of **Merlin** 8/20 (KG, JS) and 10/18 (GE).

Poor numbers of shorebirds were reported as mudflats at KL were significantly less extensive than last year. There were a few significant highlights, all from KL. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found 9/10 (JS) and was last reported 9/12 (GE). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at the lake 9/4 (KG, JS); their numbers through the region have been decreasing in recent years to the point now where they have been present only three of the past five years. The best bird of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** 9/10 (JS). It was a second county record; the first was found during Hurricane Isabel 9/19/2003.

Two additional bright spots were the Ninth Annual **Common Nighthawk** Migration Count at OCM from 8/14-9/11. While the final total of 588 was the second best result for the count, things looked much brighter the first two weeks. Historically, the counts start low, peak the end of August or first few days in September and then taper off again. This year the count stood at 476 on 8/26, a full 350 birds more than last year when the record of 588 was set. Then on 8/27-28, Hurricane Irene hit the east coast and we were in single digits for nine of the remaining 12 days. The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** report came from RTD 8/21 (WD, RL). The annual Swift Night Out at the CC in Emlenton 9/10 produced an estimated 2,000+ **Chimney Swifts** entering the chimney within 30 minutes (GE, JW).

There were no reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 9/20 near KL (GE, RS). An **Acadian Flycatcher** 8/2 (RS) and a **Great Crested Flycatcher** 8/4 (KG, JS) were at BHNS. Also at BHNS was a **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/10 (KG, JS).

Eight **Common Raven** reports were encouraging. The average number of sightings appears to be increasing slowly. RS reported a **Winter Wren** 10/4-5 in his yard. **Swainson's Thrush** made its way through the county from 9/19 (JS) to 10/16 (NB). **Northern Mockingbird** is beginning to be a regular at the BS, one was seen there 8/2 (RS). The only **American Pipit** report came from KL 11/11 (RS).

A **Pine Warbler** was photographed at a feeder 10/3 (MK), and a **Mourning Warbler** was at TMRCP 8/5 (GE). The last **Scarlet Tanager** was 10/1 (NB). The last **Chipping Sparrow** 10/24 (NB) was soon followed by the first **American Tree Sparrow** 10/28 (NB). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was present from 9/25 (KG, JS) to 10/1 (GE). The first **White-throated Sparrow** was 9/28 (MK), and the first **White-crowned Sparrow** showed up 10/13 and was not reported after 10/24. **Rusty Blackbirds** were present at KL from 10/24 (GE) through 11/11 (RS). KG and JS had the only **Pine Siskin** of the season at their BHNS feeder 10/25.

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Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net; Nancy Baker, William Deegan, Steffi Domike, Kathie Goodblood, Brett Haranin, Charlie Haupt, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Rosanna Lane, Michael Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Richard Nugent, Lee Ann Reiners, Carl Rowe, Joanne Rowe, Jerry Stanley, Andrew Weber, Jim Wilson.**

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**Warren County**  
No compiler.

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**Washington County**

Locations: Avella (AV), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Park (WP), Washington Park School (WPS).

There was fairly sparse coverage this season, yet *Washington* birders still managed to turn up some interesting birds. As usual AB's coverage of the BENT area provided some great shorebirds—**Willet** and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** highlighted this season—but a pair of

**Sandhill Cranes** in September stole the show for the lucky birders who were able to see them.

Waterfowl were nearly unreported. Last **Wood Ducks** (9) were at CL 10/18 (MV). Good flocks of **Blue-winged Teal** in the BENT area included 29 on 8/26, 11 on 8/29, and 53 on 9/24 (all AB). Four **Bufflehead** at CL 11/21 (JF, eBird) were unusual for the location.

Single **Double-crested Cormorants** at BENT 10/13 (AB) and CL 11/15 (GG) were the only reported. One or two **Osprey** were around CC from 9/7-10/2 (JB), and one was at BENT 10/13 (AB). As with everywhere else in southwestern Pennsylvania, **Bald Eagles** are increasing in *Washington*. This season's tallies were 2 at BENT 9/3 (AB), one over PET 9/4 (GG), one at CC 9/7 (JB), and one in Eighty Four 9/16 (AB). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was present throughout the season at AV (JB). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk**, likely the same as reported in previous years, was seen again in the Buffalo Creek IBA area 9/6 (SC, et al.). An **American Coot** was at CL through at least 10/18 (m.ob.) but there were no reports of the bird that keeps permanent residence at the AMD pond in North Strabane Twp. (However it did reappear after this season.) Two **Sandhill Cranes** in a farm field in PET 9/23 (KR) stayed until 9/25; their presence over a weekend allowed many birders to see and enjoy them during their stay.

All shorebird reports that follow are from BENT unless noted otherwise. Top **Killdeer** count was 103 on 10/13 (AB). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present in small numbers 9/24-10/13 (AB), and one Lesser Yellowlegs was at RBT 9/24 (SC). **Solitary Sandpipers** were hard to come by, with only two reports from BENT; last for the season was at CL 10/18 (MV). A **Willet** was a superb find at BENT 9/4 (AB). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** was 10/13 (AB). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** put on their best showing in recent memory at BENT; they were found 8/26-10/13, with peak counts of 27 on 8/26 and 35 on 9/15 (all AB). **Least Sandpipers** were also in evidence but not in such great numbers, however a one-day total of 27 on 9/15 was impressive (AB). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found 9/13, and another was seen 9/15 (AB). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen on the same dates (AB). Two **Dunlin** were found 10/13 (AB). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was present 8/26, and two were found 9/24 (AB). The top shorebirds of the season were 3 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** 9/15 (AB), just the second record for the county, with the first coming last year. **Short-billed Dowitchers** put in a characteristically early appearance, with one 8/26 and 2 on 8/29 (AB). Likely just the second record for *Washington*, a **Common Tern** was at CC 9/7 (JB).

The Game Commission issued a press release in mid-Nov announcing that a **Barn Owl** was found using a barn near *Washington* this season, the first record for the county in at least two decades. The bird was banded and found to have been released into the wild in northeastern Ohio. The species was formerly an uncommon but regular year-round resident in *Washington* and elsewhere in sw. Pennsylvania; we can only hope that this bird proves to be a vanguard of things to come. **Short-eared Owls** returned to RBT by 11/29, when 4 were present (MV). **Common Nighthawks** were seen in large flocks on migration this season. Best were flocks of 43 over Eighty Four 9/2 (AB) and 40 over CL 9/9 (GG). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in PET 11/11 (LGK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at BAV 8/6 (RN, BM).

Very nice was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at WPS 9/11 (LC, SG). **White-eyed Vireos** were still around Buffalo Creek IBA 9/6 (SC). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was still in PET 9/16 (GG) The only **Blue-headed Vireo** reported was one at East Findlay Twp. 9/25 (PH). **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at WPS 9/18 (LC, SG).

S.A.

Perhaps the most interesting report for the season, and an addendum to the summer 2011 report, was the successful nesting of a pair of **Common Ravens** at the Meadowcroft Museum near AV (JB), where four young fledged from a nest on a sandstone cliff. That same cliff had previously been used as a nest site by Turkey Vultures in 2009 and 2010. As has been noted frequently in this report and those of other sw. Pennsylvania counties, Common Ravens have been on a noticeable increase in this region, and this nesting record seems merely the next step in the process. Of all southwestern counties, *Washington* in particular seems to produce the most reports of this species, for reasons that are hard to guess. Ravens were present at AV throughout the fall season, and one was also noted in North Strabane Twp. 10/17 (MV).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Washington Cemetery 8/4 (PB). Several Red-breasted Nuthatches including juveniles were also seen at the cemetery in the summer of 2010, leading to the reasonable conclusion that the species may be breeding within the cemetery itself, and may have done so again this year. **Winter Wrens** were noted at AV 10/11-29 (JB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted in East Findlay Twp. (PH) and AV (JB) through much of Oct, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** returned to AV 10/4 and was present through the season (JB).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** were both found at AV 9/22 (JB). Swainson's was also found at WP 9/17 and 9/28 (LC). **Hermit Thrush** was noted periodically 10/3-11/10 at AV (JB).

Highlights among warblers were as follows. A **Nashville Warbler** was at East Findlay Twp. 9/25 (PH). **Cape May Warbler** was noted at WP and WPS 9/18 and 9/28 (LC, SG). Up to 8 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at CL on 10/18 (MV). A **Pine Warbler** was at AV 10/3 (JB), and a **Palm Warbler** was there 10/4. The only report of **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at WPS 9/18 (LC, SG). A late **Black-and-white Warbler** was at East Findlay Twp. 10/7 (PH). Other transient species included **Northern Parula**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, and **Blackpoll**. No unusual late dates were noted for the county's breeders.

A **Fox Sparrow** was at PET 11/10 (GG). **White-crowned Sparrow** returned to PET 10/6 (GG). At least 100 **Bobolinks** were seen in the Buffalo Creek IBA area 9/6 (SC), a welcome sign that there is at least one place in southwestern Pennsylvania where they are not hassled by excessive mowing during the breeding season. **Pine Siskins** appeared in a PET yard 11/17 (GG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Andy Berchin, John Boback, Paul Brown, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, James Fletcher, Gigi Gerben, Luke Gerben Kaspar, Sayre Greenfield, Pat Hutchinson, Bob Machesney, Richard Nugent, Kate Rodgers, Amy Taracido, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

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#### Wayne County

Locations: Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary (Dorflinger), Dyberry Township (DT).

Few reports were received. A **Great Egret** was spotted near Beach Lake 8/6 (MS), and another 3 were found in DT 8/21 (BM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed at Green Grove Cemetery 11/20 (TG). Two **Northern Bobwhites**, a male and a female, were found near Prompton State Park, along the side of Rt. 170 on 9/12 (CF). A **Mourning Warbler** was reported at Dorflinger 8/10 (AC). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in DT 10/8 (CF).

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, Anthony Ciancimino, Trudy Gerlach, Bill Maile, Mike Shanley.

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#### Wayne County – Summer 2011

*Editors note: the following report was submitted for the summer season (Vol. 25 No. 3) but was inadvertently omitted from the final publication. We apologize for this error.*

Few reports were received for the summer. Male and female **Northern Harriers** were spotted regularly in the vicinity of Red Shale Rd. (TG). Five **Common Ravens** were spotted high in the sky circling around each other for approx. 5 minutes, making a sort of shrieking call (not the usual raven call) on S. Preston Rd 6/18 (TG). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard calling in DT 7/14 (CF), and another was located during the northern Wayne BBS route (spanning from Poyntelle almost to Damascus) 6/16 (TG). A **Vesper Sparrow**, uncommon for Wayne, was heard singing at Caulkins Rd. 6/16 (CF).

Observers: **Chris Fischer**, Trudy Gerlach, Mike Shanley.

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#### Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Delmont Donegal Lake (DL),

Ethel Lake (EL), Kuehl Property Area (KP), New Stanton (NS), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Saint Vincent Lake (SVL), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

One **Greater White-fronted Goose**, a rather unusual find in *Westmoreland*, was observed at TRR 11/23 (RCL). A single early white morph **Snow Goose** was at TRR 10/4 (RCL). Later in the season another **Snow Goose** was at SVL 11/22 (TV). **Tundra Swans** were observed by several observers with high counts tallied over New Stanton (82 by MF) and at Donegal Lake (107 by RCL). Despite many reports covering a number of the county's best spots for waterfowl, diving ducks not reported were Redhead and Canvasback, and among the dabblers no teal were reported, nor were American Wigeon or Northern Shoveler. BRR was visited a number of times. Among the reports of the season: 2 **Common Loons** and 3 **Horned Grebes** 10/19 (MTV), 13 **American Coots** 10/23 (MVT), 7 **Horned Grebes** and 10 **Common Mergansers** 11/26 (MM). Fallout conditions 11/22 resulted in some good numbers by RCL: at Donegal Lake there were 100 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 35 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 250 **Hooded Mergansers**, 35 **Ruddy Ducks**, 500 **Buffleheads**, and 100 **Horned Grebe**; at Trout Run there were 75 **Hooded Mergansers**, 40 **Buffleheads**, 25 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 30 **Horned Grebes**. SVL and EL were also monitored 11/22 (TV) and held the only **Common Goldeneye** and **Scaup sp.** for the season. A high number of 45 **Pied-billed Grebes** were on DL 10/4 (RCL).

**Double-crested Cormorants** at DL included 9 on 9/9 and 2 on 10/4 (RCL). A single **Great Egret** was observed in Delmont 9/25 (SM). At PNR, an **American Bittern** was present 9/25 (FM) as was **Least Bittern** 8/31 and 10/5 (FM). An **American Bittern** was captured at the PNR Banding Station in Oct.

Single **Black Vultures** were observed in the Latrobe area 9/10 and 9/13 (TV). **Bald Eagles** are often observed at BRR. The likely breeding pair was observed together 9/10 (MM). **Merlins** were seen in Delmont 9/14 and 9/19 (KB). As usual, shorebird reports were limited. A good bird was a single **Dunlin** at BRR 10/29 (AH). Usually there is nothing to report on gulls, however for this report **Bonaparte's Gull** were found at EL 11/22 (TV) and at BRR 11/30 (KB). For the weeks of 10/30 and 11/6, 4 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were netted at the PNR banding station. **Common Nighthawks** were reported moving through the county at various dates in September (MF, KB, TK). There were 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at the KP 10/15.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen with the more common **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in Derry Township 10/9 (KL) and at a home in Stahlstown 10/25 (DB). A single **Cliff Swallow** was seen on a WBNC outing on the Westmoreland Heritage Bike trail 9/19. KB does almost daily walks in the fall at a favorite migrant hot spot along Pump Station Road just outside of Delmont. Better species seen during the season include **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, and a **Connecticut Warbler** (with MFo) 9/21. At the PNR banding station, 29 **Connecticut Warblers** were banded for the season. A good find for the county was 12 **American Pipits** and 5 **White-crowned Sparrows** near a home 10/26 (KD).

Observers: Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, [tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net), Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Karen DeSantis, Mike Fialkovich, Mike Fowles (MFo), Amy Henrici, Robert C. Leberman, Kevin Lutz, Steve Manns, Mark McConaughy, Fabian Meijer, Marjorie Van Tassel, Tim Vechter, Andrew Vitz (PNR), Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WBNC).

### Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF).

Where are the birds? It was a common and regular question this fall. Many reported that they saw fewer birds at their feeders than in past years. It will be interesting to hear their reports when (and if) the weather turns colder and winter sets in. Based on reports received, the season was fairly typical, though it was lightly reported.

Among the usual migrant waterfowl were **Ring-necked Duck** at several locations: 3 on 11/6 (PC, BL) and one 11/26 (JT) at SF, and 6 on 11/26 at OL (JD). Six **Lesser Scaup** were at LC 11/10 (JD). **Bufflehead** reports were of 9 on 11/10, 6 on 11/14, and 6 on 11/26 at LS (JD), and 14 on 11/22 at SF (JT). There were 39 **Common Loons**

and one **Pied-billed Grebe** at LC 11/23 (JD). Each of these species is normally seen in small numbers in the county. Records of less common species include: one **Common Goldeneye** at SF 11/26 (JT), a single **Red-breasted Merganser** at LC 11/23 (JD), and a single **Ruddy Duck** on two occasions at SF—10/23 (DF) and 11/6 (PC, BL). The uncommonly large flock (for *Wyoming*) of 39 **Common Loons** stayed for just a day, and was the largest gathering of Common Loon that I've ever seen on LC. Large flocks like this don't seem as unusual on nearby Harvey's Lake in *Luzerne*, which is a larger body of water than LC.

A lone **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported on the Susquehanna River near the borough of Meshoppen 8/14 (RL). This is the first county record received in more than ten years.

Reports of **Sandhill Crane** indicated they may have attempted to breed, although perhaps unsuccessfully. It was reported in the spring that two Sandhill Cranes were present on SL in northwestern *Wyoming*, but their status at the time was uncertain. However, this summer, a resident of the lake reported that two eggs were observed in a nest where the cranes were regularly seen. A few weeks later, he reported that the eggs were gone, but he could find no evidence of young. Several visits by me and others also turned up no signs of young, although we did observe what appeared to be the original pair of adults in the same area of the lake. Subsequently, reports of cranes were received from other county residents, both on the lake and at other locations. The last sighting reported was 11/3, when 3 cranes were sighted in the vicinity of SL. A single **Common Nighthawk** was seen flying over Tunkhannock 8/17 (JD), the only record of the species for the period. A **Northern Shrike** was recorded 11/28 at SF (RK).

Observers: Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, [jdemarco@epix.net](mailto:jdemarco@epix.net), Peter Carlen, Rick Koval, Rebecca Lesko, Bruce Lockhart, Jon Thomas, David Fisher.

### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Nixon County Park (NIX), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Sheppard Myers Reservoir (SMR), Silver Lake (SL), Ski Roundtop (SRTP), Spring Grove (SPGR).

It was a strong reporting period with 165 species recorded, including data from eBird. Waterfowl species numbered 21, shorebirds produced a count of 16, and 25 species of warbler were reported. This period's weather was dramatic; early August heat was followed by torrential rains and flooding in late August and early September. A late October snowfall wreaked havoc on countless trees. The moderate fall temperatures extended the observation dates on a number of species towards the "late" category, but none were dramatically late.

A **Tundra Swan** was at Gut Rd 8/6-7 (TGR, LC) and it proved a bit of an identification challenge as it had some characteristics, like lore width, more indicative of Trumpeter Swan. Both teal were found; two **Blue-winged Teal** at SMR 10/23 (AM) and six **Green-winged** at GPSP 10/19 (PK). Up to four subadult **Common Loons** summering at CSP continued throughout this period, with additional loon sightings at GPSP and LAR. **Pied-billed Grebe**, albeit in small numbers, were widespread with reports from seven locations. **Horned Grebe** reports were of 9 and 4 birds at GPSP 10/19 (PK) and 11/26 (RK), three at CSP 11/6 (RP), and seven at SL 11/22 (PK).

**Wild Turkey** reports were limited to 5 birds at Iron Stonehill Rd. 8/12 (BJH) and 4 in flight along Hobart Rd 11/22 (PK). **Great Egrets** were concentrated at LRED from 8/6-9/22 with a high count of 15 on 9/2 (MM). Single juvenile **Little Blue Heron** were at LRED and CSP 8/15-9/5 (m.ob.). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at LRED and LW in Aug (LC, BJH), and Oct sightings at SPGR produced 5 birds 10/6 and 2 on 10/21 (PK).

**Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** were numerous. The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight didn't disappoint at RRCP hawkwatch. Counts from 9/17-20 (RP) were 400, 2300, 710, and 425, respectively. Outside of the broadwing flight, reports from the hawkwatch were uneventful. A **Merlin** was reported from SRTP 9/24 (CH).

Shorebirding was good but mudflats essentially disappeared by 9/9 following Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Up to 12 **American Golden-Plovers** were in the fields around LAR 9/5-6 (RP, PJR, RC). A high count of 75 **Killdeer** came from LAR 9/5 (PJR). A pair of **American**



**Avocets** were at LRED 8/12 (BJH, RC) and a single was also there 8/27 (RC). A nice count of 22 **Lesser Yellowlegs** came from LW 8/26 (MS). An 11/2 report from GPSP of a single **Lesser** and two **Greater Yellowlegs** was on the late side (VG, CM, MM). A **Willet** was at LRED 8/27 (RC). The only spot where **Upland Sandpiper** can be realistically expected, ALT, came through with one 8/12 (RP, RC). As in 2010, **Baird's Sandpiper** was reported once, at LW 8/26 (MS). **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at LW 8/27 (RC) and 10/16 (RC), and at LAR 9/3 (PJR). Not typically found, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at LW 8/28 (RC). What would be the best shorebird sighting was of a probable Wilson's Phalarope 8/12 in the early morning hours at LRED (BJH). The observers offered no detail of the bird other than its being in the company of the aforementioned avocets which some literature indicates is a companion species on the wintering grounds. The last fall sighting in York was one at CSP 9/11/2006 (PJR).

A report of 450 **Ring-billed Gulls** at LRED 11/28 (CK) was the high count. **Great Black-backed Gull** was at CSP 8/15 (RC), RRCP 10/15 (RS), York Haven 11/3 (LC), and LRED 11/28 (CK). The 8/14 sighting of **Caspian Tern** at LW was typical (RC, RS), but a 10/2 sighting at LRED was late (LC). A **Black Tern** was at LRED 8/25 (RC).

A **Barn Owl** was seen flying over while driving south of Dillsburg on Rt. 15 on 9/10 (LC). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at Glen Rock 10/14 (RP) and nightly from 10/25-31. **Common Nighthawks** wnoted at five locations from 9/2-11, with a high count of 30 at York 9/9 (NZ). York birders received news of a **Rufous Hummingbird** at a South Hanover home (KA) upon its banding 12/15 (SL). The bird had been seen since the week of 10/10. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Pileated Woodpecker** were each reported at an above average eight locations.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at RRCP in 9/13 (RC) and 9/22 (NZ). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was photographed at BI 8/31 (JS). Also at BI was a **Least Flycatcher** 9/20 (RC). **White-eyed, Yellow-throated,** and **Warbling Vireo** were detected during normal migration periods, with LRED being the favored site. **Horned Larks** were limited with a high count of 25 at CSP 11/6 (RP). Some lingering swallows included 8 **Tree Swallow** at LAR 10/23 (AM) and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at SRTF up to 9/27 (CH) were reported. A pair of **Winter Wrens** was found at BI 11/18 (RC). Kinglet reports were above

average with high counts of 10 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and 35 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** from RRCP 10/22 (RP). A **Veery** was a little late with a 9/22 sighting at RRCP (RC). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported from White Rose Motorcycle Club 9/30 (IS). There were three reports of **Swainson's Thrush** 9/19-10/22, and the 5 on 10/22 (RP) at RRCP were somewhat later than expected.

RRCP remains the favored and most reliable site for warblers, but LRED and LW also provided a good many sightings. BI and GPSP produced the remainder of warblers. It was a good year for **Tennessee, Nashville,** and **Cape May Warbler** with 5, 3, and 3 sightings, respectively. A **Pine Warbler** was at GPSP 11/27 (TR). Nice counts of 15 **Palm Warblers** and 11 **American Redstarts** came from BI 9/18 (RC) and LW 9/11 (NZ), respectively. Good fall birds for York, **Bay-breasted** and **Wilson's Warbler** were found at LW 9/5 (NZ). **Prothonotary Warbler** was at LRED 8/13 (AM) which followed a July report from the same locale.

There were four reports of **Savannah Sparrow** 8/12-11/20 with a flock noted at Delta 10/13 (AP). The 2 **Fox Sparrow** reports were of 2 at BI 11/18 (RC) and one at GPSP 11/22 (PK). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at BI 9/18 and 10/28 (RC). **Swamp Sparrow** reports spanned 10/23-11/30 from SMR, GPSP, and BI. The sole **White-crowned Sparrow** report came from Monaghan Twp. 10/22 (JD).

**Eastern Meadowlarks** remain reliable at ALT with a high count of 8 on 10/17 (RS). A **Rusty Blackbird** was found at GPSP 11/2 (VG, CM, MM). There were three reports of **Purple Finch**: 2 at SMR 10/23 (AM), one at Nixon 11/22 (RS), and 5 at GPSP 11/26 (RK).

**EXOTICS:** A **Ringed Teal** was at BI 11/18-20 (RC).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com,** Karla Aramcost, Paul Banks, Jr., Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary, Kevin Costley, Jon Dale, Vern Gauthier, Carolyn Hoffman, Barry & Jen Horton(BJH), Dave Kerr, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Sandy Lockerman, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Andy McGann, Henry McLin, Tedi McManus, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Tom & Gail Randall, Tim Reichard, Peter Robinson(PJR), Matt Sabatine, Inga Schmidt, Bob Schutsky, Robin Smith, Joe Swift, Joseph Worley, Nathan Zalik.

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

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

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

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## IN FOCUS



*Pink-footed Goose, Pine Run Dam, Bucks County. See p. 230. (Photo by August Mirabella)*



*Red-necked Phalarope, New Beaver, Lawrence County. See p. 249. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Piping Plover, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. See p. 243. (Photo by Jerry McWilliams)*



*Royal Tern, Bristol, Bucks County. See pp. 212 and 230. (Photo by Gerard Dewaghe)*



*White-rumped Sandpiper, Independence Marsh, Beaver County. See pp. 213 and 226. (Photo by Jeff McDonald)*



*White-winged Dove, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. See p. 243. (Photo by Shannon Thompson)*