

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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IN FOCUS PART 1



Our cover subject, Pennsylvania's first **White-winged Tern**, captured beautifully in flight at Nessmuk Lake, *Tioga* 10 August. (*Ian Davies*)



Black Terns are regular but uncommon and a welcome sight. Storms during migration may put them down; this was one of 20 following rain at Bald Eagle SP, *Centre* 8-22 (here 21). (*Eric Zawatski*)



If one is ever to see a **Pink-footed Goose** in Pennsylvania, it may well be in *Bucks*, one of a few counties with multiple records. This Pink-footed Goose at Pine Run Dam 30 Nov was the first well-documented in the county since the winter of 2012-2013. (*August Mirabella*)



Green-winged Teal at Brodhead Creek Park, *Monroe* 22 November. (*Nancy Tully*)



Only three **Cattle Egrets** were reported for the season, all in northwestern counties during the first week of November. This egret, with a very late amphibian still out during the mild 2017 mid-autumn, was at Distant, *Armstrong* 2-6 (here 5) November; probably a first county record. (*Jeff McDonald*)



Single **Parasitic Jaegers** were found in *Bucks* and *Cambria*, both on 17 September. Coincidence? Storm related? See Summary of the Season for speculation. This oft-photographed jaeger lingered until 22 September at Prince Gallitzin SP, *Cambria*, allowing dozens of birders to view, and is probably a first county record. (*Dave DeReamus*)



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Cover Photo: The "Bird of the Season", Pennsylvania's first **White-winged Tern** was found by Rich Hanlon at Nessmuk Lake, Tioga August 10, the date of the cover photo by Andrew Spencer. This cooperative tern stayed until 13 August, seen by hundreds, often at close quarters. See the Tioga report for more details. White-winged Terns were reported later in Philadelphia and York. Same bird?

Red-tailed Hawks

One might argue that the most conspicuous and familiar raptor in Pennsylvania is the adult Bald Eagle. Certainly that would be the contention of most non-birders. But birders are likely to cite the Red-tailed Hawk. Even an hour or so in the field is likely to result in a Red-tail on the day's list. Birders, consciously or not, probably consider Red-tails as one of the invariant avian features in Pennsylvania: stable, reliable, never-changing, rock-solid.

However, something significant is happening with Red-tails in Pennsylvania, as hawk-watchers already realize. Red-tail numbers during the fall migration have been declining for the past decade, even allowing for the ups-and-downs of numbers from one year to the next, thanks mostly to the vagaries of weather systems in any given fall season.

Last fall saw very low numbers of Red-tails at hawk watches, as noted in Laurie Goodrich's summary of the fall 2017 raptor migration. Yes, several other species had low years, and the lack of well-timed cold fronts, bringing northwest winds, played a role in the low counts. But, in the lead article in this issue, read Nick Bolgiano's analysis of Red-tail population dynamics to see evidence of the long-term, downward trend in Red-tails at the fall watches.

The most obvious conclusion from that information is that Red-tail populations are shrinking. However, happily, that seems not to be the case, at least not nearly to the degree the fall numbers would suggest, if at all. Eastern continental numbers of Red-tails are probably stable, not too surprising for a generalist species, one that has shown great adaptability to human presence and changes on the land.

That is good news, but underlying it is something not-so-good. If we grant that Red-tails are not declining in number, then the obvious hypothesis is that some northern Red-tails are not migrating south as they formerly did. Why should that be? Well, of course, everyone reading this probably knows the most frequently proposed answer lies in climate change. The logic is hard to dispute – on average, winters are warming and therefore, presumably, various species have less inclination to undertake the demanding and sometimes dangerous biannual journey south and back north, especially short-distance migrants for which migration is less solidly

hard-wired into their genes. In the case of Red-tails and other raptors, adult birds almost certainly prefer to stay on their breeding territories, which they can then defend from intruders and of course, which, for hunting purposes, they know in great detail. In Pennsylvania, it seems likely that most adult Red-tails do, in fact, winter on their breeding territories, and that the birds we count passing by fall hawk watches are coming from farther north. With warming winters, those northern birds now seem less likely to make the journey south.

It's a changing world, and that includes our climate, an assertion that virtually no one disputes. What's particularly alarming is that climate is changing at a pace that far exceeds previous global changes through the four billion years of Earth's existence.

Nothing in nature remains static for long, and birders are among those best-prepared to witness and document certain of the changes. In this case, unfortunately, climate change may mean fewer Red-tails for us hawk watchers to witness in the fall. They have been the reliable bread-and-butter species to which we look forward when the true cold of late autumn finally arrives, but barring an unlikely reversal of the warming trend, I doubt we will soon see the numbers of migrant Red-tails to which we were accustomed in past decades.

The 2018 annual PSO meeting will again be held in September.

Last year's September meeting in Carlisle was possibly the best-attended ever. Based on feedback from members, the early fall timing seems a popular choice – birders are awfully busy in mid-May, some being reluctant to leave their favorite home-patches at the peak of spring songbird migration.

For 2018 (and at least 2019, if not longer), we will meet again in the fall, specifically September 14-16. The location will be in the northwest, where for the first time *Crawford* will be the host county with the meeting centered in Meadville. *Crawford*, of course, is known for its vast marshes, and they will surely be a feature of field trips. As of this writing, details are being finalized and will be presented in the next *PSO Pileated* and on the PSO website.

Compiler news

Five counties have new compilers beginning in this issue: Mark Johnson in

Cameron, Joshua Markel in *Fulton*, Glenn Koppel in *Mercer*, Holger Pflücke in *Philadelphia*, and Joe Gyekis in *Snyder*. In *Cameron*, Mark will take over for Brendyn Baptiste, who will continue as *Elk* compiler. In *Fulton*, Joshua Markel (who lives in *York*) takes over for Amy Evans. Neil Troyer has been compiling for *Mercer* since 2011 – he is moving onto other projects. In *Philadelphia*, one of our real veterans, Doris McGovern, has stepped down after compiling since 1999. Finally, Joe Gyekis, who already does neighboring *Snyder* will take over *Union* which has had no compiler recently. We thank Doris, Neil, and Amy for their contributions – and will continue to hear from Brendyn and Joe. The following counties have no compiler: *Bradford*, *Carbon*, *Lucerne*, and *Tioga*. Please contact the editor if interested.

County compilers: Phil Keener (Adams, York), Mike Fialkovich (Allegheny, Fayette), Marjorie Van Tassel (Armstrong), Geoff Malosh (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), Tom Dick (Bedford), Rudy Keller and Matt Wlasniewski (Berks), John Carter (Blair), August Mirabella (Bucks), Oscar Miller (Butler), Dave Gobert (Cambria), Mark Johnson (Cameron), Nan Butkovich (Centre), Holly Merker (Chester), Carole Winslow (Clarion), Diane Bierly (Clearfield), Wayne Laubscher (Clinton), Andy Kiester (Columbia, Northumberland), Rob Hodgson (Crawford), Vern Gauthier (Cumberland), Sandy Lockerman (Dauphin), Sheryl Johnson (Delaware), Brendyn Baptiste (Elk), Jerry McWilliams (Erie), Flo McGuire (Forest), Bill Oylar (Franklin), Joshua Markel (Fulton), Marjorie Howard (Greene), Greg Grove (Huntingdon, Juniata), Margaret Higbee (Indiana), Thomas Glover (Jefferson), Chad Kauffman (Juniata), Jim Ridolfi (Lackawanna), Zack Millen (Lancaster), Tim Becker (Lebanon), Bill Etter (Lehigh), Bobby Brown (Lycoming), Gigi Gerben (McKean), Glenn Koppel (Mercer), Jon Kauffman (Mifflin), Brian Hardiman (Monroe), Brian Henderson (Montgomery), Evan Houston (Montour), Michael Schall (Northampton, Pike), Holger Pflücke (Philadelphia), Dan Hinnebusch (Perry), Dave Rieger (Schuylkill), Jeff Payne (Somerset), Rob Megraw (Sullivan), Evan Mann (Susquehanna), Joe Gyekis (Snyder, Union), Gary Edwards and Russ States (Venango), Scott Stoleson (Warren), Josh Jones (Wayne), Tom Kuehl (Westmoreland), Joe DeMarco (Wyoming).

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Distribution Changes of Red-tailed Hawks in Pennsylvania and Regionally

Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove

If you observe Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) in your area, you may see about the same number from year to year. However, if you frequent a Pennsylvania or regional hawk watch or follow their reports, you know that something dramatic has been happening. About one-third as many red-tailed hawks are being tallied at many Pennsylvania hawk watches today compared to just a decade ago.

While hawk watch counts of red-tailed hawks have declined, counts of red-tailed hawks have increased in many regions of the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) (Farmer et al. 2008; Bolgiano 2013). Understanding this apparent paradox is a priority of red-tailed hawk research (Preston and Beane 2009).

The initial detection of a decline in regional red-tailed hawk migration, at Hawk Mountain, PA, nearly three decades ago, was thought to reflect a population decline (Bednarz et al. 1990). However, BBS data indicate red-tailed hawk breeding densities increased across most eastern states, as populations of this highly-adaptable raptor have steadily grown after a long period of persecution (Bolgiano 2013). These increases are corroborated by increased block detections of red-tailed hawks between first and second breeding bird atlases in Ontario (Szuba 2007), New York (Crocoll 2008), Maryland (Ellison 2010), Pennsylvania (Goodrich 2012), and Ohio (Shumar 2016).

Evidence has been accruing in support of red-tailed hawk migration having changed, with many red-tailed hawks increasingly wintering farther north or not migrating at all. Using CBC data, a northward shift was found in the wintering ranges of 177 of 305 North American bird species, including the red-tailed hawk, thought in large part to be caused by warmer winters (Niven and Butcher 2009; Niven et al. 2009). One of us showed that CBC counts of red-tailed hawks were increasingly concentrated within migration corridors north of many eastern hawk watch sites. This, together with declining red-tailed hawk migration counts, was interpreted as support for a change in migration (Bolgiano 2013; 2016). Using red-tailed hawk banding data, it was found that the average distance between breeding season bandings and fall-winter encounters moved northward by about four degrees of latitude between 1930 and 2010 (Morrison and Baird 2016).

More recently, a sophisticated regression modeling with red-tailed hawk watch and CBC trends as response variables and latitude and season as predictors showed that, in eastern North America, CBC counts increased in more northern

latitudes and decreased in more southern latitudes, while migration counts declines were highest at higher latitudes, particularly at the Tadoussac, QC, and Holiday Beach, ON, watch sites. These results were interpreted as further support for a northerly shift in wintering distributions and tentative support for declines in the low-density red-tailed hawk population that breeds across the vast boreal forest. In the west, there appeared to be a northward distribution shift according to both hawk watch and CBC data. This modeling approach was thought to be applicable in evaluating many North American raptor populations (Paprocki et al. 2017). Western region results were consistent with a previous analysis of CBC data that showed a northward shift in the winter distribution of six western raptor species, including the red-tailed hawk, during 1975-2011 (Paprocki et al. 2014).

This article updates the 2013 article with more recent data, Pennsylvania's Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), and a focus on Pennsylvania. Using various data sources, we show the region's main red-tailed hawk migration corridors and distributions and trends in state and regional hawk watch, BBS, CBC, and WRS red-tailed hawk indices. Using WRS and CBC data, we discern where in Pennsylvania the shifts in wintering distributions are occurring.

Method Band Returns. To determine the predominant eastern migration corridors for red-tailed hawks, 1959-2012 band encounter data for red-tailed hawks were obtained from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Bird Banding Laboratory. It was determined that the majority of the encounters of banded red-tailed hawks in the east were of birds banded at one of five sites or site clusters; those encounters from the five site clusters were selected for further study. Maps were drawn of the encounter locations (Figure 1) and another map was drawn to summarize the predominant migration corridors (Figure 2).

Hawk Watches. Density maps of fall and spring red-tailed hawk migration counts were created, using the most recent ten years (2008-2017) of migratory counts (Hawkcount 2018), except that summary data were used for the Tadoussac, Québec, site (Bildstein et al. 2008a). Symbols represent the mean annual number of red-tailed hawks/hour from the middle 95% passage period calculated from all sites (Figure 3). Included sites were those that averaged 200 or more observation hours/year and spanned at least half of the ten years, totaling 52 fall and 15 spring watches.

We summarize trend analyses of red-tailed hawk migration counts at major eastern hawk watch sites, performed by Crewe et al. (2016). Emphasis here is on long-running sites with higher counts of red-tailed hawks.

Breeding Bird Survey. BBS data and trend analyses were obtained from Sauer et al. (2017) and density maps of the mean number of red-tailed hawks/route in eastern North American states and provinces were created for each of four consecutive twelve-year periods within 1968-2015 (Figure 4).

Christmas Bird Count. CBC data were obtained from National Audubon Society (2016). Each red-tailed hawk count was standardized as the count per 10 party-hours, and a record was omitted if the party-hours were missing or less than 20 hours or if the red-tailed hawk count was determined to be missing. The year referred to is the year in which Christmas occurs for the count period.

Density maps of the mean number of red-tailed hawks/10 party-hours were created for each of four consecutive twelve-year periods within 1968-2015 (same as the BBS maps), using data from sites with four or more reports in a period (Figure 5).

Trends were evaluated for 1970-2015 data from twelve eastern regions: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, the combined area of Connecticut and Rhode Island, the combined area of Maryland and District of Columbia, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Trends were also evaluated for data from eleven regions to the west: Ontario south of 44.8 degrees of latitude (i.e. the southern peninsula); Michigan south of 44 degrees latitude; Wisconsin south of 45.5 degrees latitude; and each of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Mississippi, and Alabama. Effort-adjusted counts in each region were averaged for each year, equally weighting the sites, and smoothing regression fits are shown (1970 was omitted as an outlier for Ontario) (Figure 6).

Winter Raptor Survey. Since 2001, vehicle-based winter raptor surveys have been conducted in Pennsylvania (Grove 2010; Grove and Bolgiano 2012). Most routes are 20-80 miles long, each contained within a single county, and designed to pass primarily through open country.

Two sets of contiguous Pennsylvania counties were identified as having both a high WRS red-tailed hawk density level and a common dynamic: 21 counties in the Susquehanna Valley and southeast and 15

counties in the west. These regions were selected for trend analysis.

Average daily Dec 11-Feb 11 temperature data were obtained from nine airports for each region: Allentown, Doylestown, Lancaster, Middletown, Pottstown, Reading, Selinsgrove, Williamsport, and York for the Susquehanna Valley and southeast; and Beaver Falls, Butler, Erie, Franklin, Indiana, Latrobe, Meadville, Pittsburgh, and Washington in the west (The Pennsylvania State Climatologist 2018). The Dec 11-Feb 11 period was chosen to include the primary WRS period and one month prior. Snow data were omitted because of regional inconsistencies (NOAA Regional Climate Center 2018). Each region's annual average red-tailed hawk count/hour was calculated as the red-tailed hawk sum divided by the sum of hours, thus equally weighting observation hours. For each region, regression analysis was performed examining the effect of year and the average Dec 11-Feb 11 temperature upon the average red-tailed hawk count/hr, 2001-2018.

To place the WRS data within a longer time context, CBC sites within each region were identified and those red-tailed hawk counts per 10 party-hours were averaged for those regional sites recording at least 20 party-hours, thus equally-weighting each site. For each region, regression analysis was performed examining the effect of year upon the regional average red-tailed hawk count/10 party-hr, 2004-2017. WRS density maps and WRS, temperature, and CBC data are graphically displayed (Figure 7).

Results Band Returns. Five clusters of sites banded the majority of red-tailed hawks for which there were subsequent band returns: 1) a cluster along the north shore of Lake Erie, including at the Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach hawk watch sites in Ontario; 2) a cluster near the Kittatinny Ridge in eastern Pennsylvania and northwestern New Jersey; 3) a cluster near the Potomac River at the juncture of Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia; 4) Braddock Bay, NY; and 5) Cape May, NJ (Figure 1A, Table 1). Bandings were predominantly in the fall, except at Braddock Bay, where bandings were predominantly in the summer of reverse-migrant juveniles (Wheeler 2003).

Figure 1B-D shows the band recovery distributions from red-tailed hawks banded at one of the banding site clusters and subsequently recovered: 1) birds banded along the north shore of Lake Erie were predominantly recovered in an arc from southern Ontario north of Lake Erie, around the west end of Lake Erie, and south into Ohio; 2) birds banded near the Kittatinny Ridge were predominately recovered from the Lake Champlain Valley and the Mohawk River Valley south of the Adirondacks south through the Hudson

River Valley, northern New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; 3) birds banded near the Potomac River were predominantly recovered from central New York, southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; 4) birds banded near the Potomac River were predominantly recovered from central New York, southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; 4) birds banded at Braddock Bay were primarily recovered from western New York, western Pennsylvania, and Ohio; and 5) birds banded at Cape May were primarily coastal migrants (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows eye-drawn centers of these band recovery corridors.

Hawk Watches. Density maps show eastern hawk watch locations (Figure 3), with symbols representing the ten-year average (2008-2017) of red-tailed hawks/hour observed during the 95% passage period (Sep 13-Nov 23 in fall, Mar 6-May 14 in spring) and summary data for the Tadoussac, QC, site. In both fall and spring, the highest numbers of migrating red-tailed hawks were observed along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, where water edges concentrate raptor flights, while intermediate numbers of red-tailed hawks were tallied in the fall at Appalachian ridge sites. Lower densities were observed at sites to the east and south and at Appalachian ridge sites in the spring (Figure 3).

The fall hawk watch sites that reported the highest concentrations of red-tailed hawks were along the north shores of the St. Lawrence River and Lakes Ontario and Erie: Tadoussac, QC; Iroquois Shoreline, Hawk Cliff, and Holiday Beach, ON; and Detroit River, MI. Intermediate densities were observed at Lake Ontario sites Cranberry Marsh and High Park, ON; at Franklin Mountain in eastern NY; at Kittatinny Ridge sites Raccoon Ridge, NJ, and Little Gap, Bake Oven Knob, Hawk Mountain, and Waggoner's Gap, PA; at Allegheny Front in south-central Pennsylvania; and at Snicker's Gap in northern VA (Figure 3).

Presque Isle, PA; Ripley and Hamburg, NY; and Grimsby, ON (Figure 3).

Trend analyses of red-tailed hawk migration counts performed by Crewe et al. (2016) are summarized here for twelve fall and five spring watch sites. For each site, the annual percent change and its 95% credible interval (analogous to confidence interval) are estimated for 2006-2016 and a longer span. Thirty-two of the 34 estimates of annual percent change are negative. Slightly less than half of the intervals are negative, indicating significant statistical evidence for a decline.

Among the fall Great Lakes sites, there was significant statistical evidence for migration count declines at the two sites at the western end of Lake Erie: in the long term at Holiday Beach, ON, and in the short term at Detroit River, MI. Paprocki et al. (2017) also found significant evidence for a long-term decline at Tadoussac, QC, along the St. Lawrence River. Among the fall Mid-Atlantic sites, there was significant evidence for migration count declines at five sites, including the four Pennsylvania sites: in the long term at Hawk Mt; in the short term at Waggoner's Gap; over 2002-2016 at Allegheny Front; in both time spans at Stone Mt, PA, and Washington Monument, MD. There is insufficient evidence for a decline at Cape May, NJ, the coastal site with the highest red-tailed hawk count (Crewe et al. 2016, Table 2). Trend data can be seen at RPI (2016).

Observations at two well-known Pennsylvania watch sites illustrate the drastic drop-offs in red-tailed hawk counts at many regional watch sites. At Hawk Mountain, annual fall hours have been 794 or higher each year since 1980, indicating full-time status. During that time, the annual red-tailed hawk count averaged 3306, with a high of 5715 in 1980. The red-tailed hawk count fell below 2360 nine times during this period, all within the most recent eleven years, 2007-2017, with the 2017 count of 1111 red-tailed hawks being the lowest tally. The decline at Hawk Mountain began around the mid-1980s and has continued at about the same rate over thirty years.

Similarly, at Waggoner's Gap, annual

Table 1. Banding site clusters and band recovery concentrations.

Banding cluster	Band recovery concentrations
N. shore L. Erie	ON n. of L. Ontario and L. Erie and s. into OH (Fig. 2B)
Kittatinny Ridge	L. Champlain, Mohawk R., and Hudson R. Valleys in NY into se. PA, n. NJ, MD, cen. VA (Fig. 2B)
Potomac River	East of L. Ontario s. into cen. PA, MD, and cen. VA (Fig. 2C)
Braddock Bay	S. shore of L. Ontario and sw. into w. NY, nw. PA, and OH (Fig. 2D)
Cape May	Coastal from MA to VA (Fig. 2D)

The spring hawk watch sites that report the highest numbers of red-tailed hawks were along the south shore of Lake Ontario: Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, NY. Intermediate densities were observed along the south shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario:

fall hours have been 788 or higher each year since 1990, indicating full-time status. During that time, the annual red-tailed hawk count averaged 3575, with a high of 5731 in 1999. The red-tailed hawk count fell below

Table 2. Trend statistics for red-tailed hawks at eastern fall hawk watch sites.

Site	Years	Annual %Change Estimate	95% Credible Interval	
Great Lakes sites				
Tadoussac, QC	1994-2016	-6.08	(-13.19, 2.57)	
	2006-2016	3.48	(-5.64, 13.71)	
High Park, ON	2000-2016	-3.8	(-13.13, 7.76)	
	2006-2016	0.89	(-19.28, 23.45)	
Hawk Cliff, ON	2002-2016	-4.81	(-11.76, 2.97)	
	2006-2016	-3.53	(-13.09, 4.64)	
Holiday Beach, ON	1979-2016	-1.37	(-2.16, -0.52)	*
	2006-2016	-3.84	(-8.02, 0.93)	
Detroit River, MI	1991-2016	-0.08	(-3.72, 3.82)	
	2006-2016	-7.03	(-13.77, -0.43)	*
Mid-Atlantic sites				
Hawk Mt, PA	1991-2016	-5.17	(-7.82, -2.64)	*
	2006-2016	-5.21	(-12.39, 1.75)	
Waggoner's Gap, PA	1985-2016	-0.99	(-2.61, 0.59)	
	2006-2016	-4.83	(-6.66, -2.98)	*
Allegheny Front, PA	2002-2016	-2.71	(-4.76, -0.7)	*
	2006-2016	-2.67	(-6.33, 1.46)	
Stone Mt, PA	1995-2016	-5.08	(-7.6, -2.53)	*
	2006-2016	-11.05	(-14.79, -6.89)	*
Snickers Gap, VA	1992-2016	-0.61	(-3.25, 2.05)	
	2006-2016	-2.78	(-11.72, 5.75)	
Washington Monument, MD	2005-2016	-5.73	(-9.54, -2.01)	*
	2006-2016	-5.9	(-10.81, -1.33)	*
Cape May, NJ	1976-2016	-1.17	(-3.72, 1.38)	
	2006-2016	-1.54	(-8.91, 5.59)	

* - significant statistical evidence for a trend

2800 six times during this period, all within the most recent ten years, 2008-2017, with the 2017 count of 1364 red-tailed hawks being the lowest tally. There appear to have been two periods of decline at Waggoner's Gap: during the late 1980s to early 1990s and during the last ten years (Crewe et al. 2016; Hawkcount 2016).

Trend analyses of spring red-tailed hawk migration counts are summarized for five sites located along the southern shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. There is sufficient statistical evidence for declining trends in red-tailed hawk counts at four sites: in both time spans at Hamburg, NY, and Grimsby, ON; and over the short term at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, NY (Crewe et al. 2016, Table 3).

Breeding Bird Survey. Figure 4 shows the mean annual number of red-tailed hawks per BBS route by eastern state or province in each of four periods, 1968-2015. The highest estimated red-tailed hawk densities were from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania south to Mississippi and Alabama, and especially in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Delaware. The estimated total increases over the 50-year period 1966-2015 were 4-fold or higher in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Québec,

West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, and Mississippi, with estimated annual increases of 2.97-5.07% (3.42% in Pennsylvania). There was statistically significant evidence for increases in breeding red-tailed hawk populations in all states and provinces shown in Figure 4 except for Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island in the north, and South Carolina and Florida in the south (Sauer et al. 2017, Figure 4).

Christmas Bird Count. Density maps show effort-adjusted red-tailed hawk counts during the CBC (Figure 5). The number of CBC sites increased over time, from 363 in the first period to 573 in the last period, a 58% increase. The maps show how red-tailed hawks have become increasingly concentrated over time in three migration corridors identified by band return data: 1) along the north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie down into Ohio; 2) in the Great Valley, from the Lake Champlain Valley between New York and Vermont south into New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; and 3) around the east end of Lake Ontario south through central New York into central Pennsylvania (Figure 5).

Red-tailed hawk trends from eastern-most states are shown in the right half of Figure 6. The trends share a common

progression of increase, plateau, and then slow decline, with the progression occurring sooner in the south and plateaus now appearing in New England. The highest red-tailed hawk densities were attained in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, with at least three-fold increases over the period, although densities in those states have fallen slightly during the last several years (Figure 6). Trends from states and provinces to the west are shown in the left half of Figure 6. Similar progressions as observed in the east also occurred to the west, though slight declines have appeared so far only in the southern-most states, Mississippi and Alabama. Plateaus in red-tailed hawk densities are appearing in northern-most states and provinces. The highest red-tailed hawk densities were attained in southern Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana, where increases were at least three-fold over the period (Figure 6).

Winter Raptor Survey. The Pennsylvania WRS red-tailed hawk count/hr was highest in the lower elevations of the Susquehanna Valley, southeast, and west, and lowest in the well-forested high-elevation counties in the north-central. Over time, red-tailed hawk concentrations gradually declined in the Susquehanna Valley and southeast, particularly in a swath from Perry, Cumberland, and York counties just west of the Susquehanna River to Northampton county in the east (Figure 7A).

The assignments of counties to regions are shown in Figure 7B. Fifty-three percent of all red-tailed detected in the WRS were from the 21 counties in the Susquehanna Valley and southeast; 21 percent of all red-tails were detected from the 15 western counties.

In the Susquehanna Valley-Southeast region, there was significant evidence for both year and temperature variables in explaining the variation in average red-tailed hawks/hr (p -value = 0.001, $R^2=60.1$). The year effect was negative, indicating a declining trend in red-tailed hawks/hr, while the temperature effect was positive, largely related to lower counts being observed during colder winters. The fitted model indicated a 35.1% decline in red-tailed hawks/hr over 2001-2018, which corresponds to a 2.51% annual decline. In the West region, there was no significant evidence for either a trend or relationship to temperature, although the two lowest red-tailed hawk count/hr values occurred during colder winters. The seasonal average temperatures in the two regions were highly correlated (correlation coefficient = 0.98), with the Susquehanna Valley-Southeast region temperature averaging 1 degree Celsius warmer than the West region temperature (Figure 7C). The CBC red-tailed hawk data shows a gradually increasing trend from 1970-2000, then a leveling off, followed by a decline in

Table 3. Trend statistics for red-tailed hawks at eastern spring hawk watch sites.

Site	Years	Annual %Change Estimate	95% Credible Interval	
Ripley, NY	2004-2016	-2.86	(-6.82, 0.49)	
	2006-2016	-0.46	(-3.35, 2.32)	
Hamburg, NY	2003-2016	-5.48	(-7.51, -3.58)	*
	2006-2016	-5.95	(-8.52, -3.08)	*
Grimsby, ON	1977-2016	-2.05	(-3.11, -0.85)	*
	2006-2016	-7.53	(-10.31, -4.47)	*
Braddock Bay, NY	1984-2016	-1.29	(-3.55, 1.07)	
	2006-2016	-9.95	(-17.63, -3.32)	*
Derby Hill, NY	1979-2016	-1.34	(-3.97, 0.9)	
	2006-2016	-5.9	(-8.76, -3.54)	*

* - significant statistical evidence for a trend

the Susquehanna Valley-Southeast region over 2004-2017 (p-value = 0.001). No trend was observed in the West region. Thus, there was a consistency of results between surveys, although the CBC data didn't show the same variations with respect to severe winters, whose effects were presumably concentrated after the CBC period (Figure 7D).

Discussion

When two or more data sources seemingly give different messages, but you trust the data, then the logical explanation is that they tell multiple sides of a common story. That appears to be what is happening with the eastern red-tailed hawk data. Each of the five data sources (band returns, hawk watch, BBS, CBC and WRS) provides information about a unique aspect of red-tailed hawk dynamics. The most likely explanation is a common story of increase, a trend toward milder winters, and dynamic changes in migration behavior and distribution. However, several mysteries remain.

The red-tailed hawk band encounters concentrated in and near well-known migration corridors along the St. Lawrence River, Lakes Ontario and Erie, and the Appalachian ridges of Pennsylvania and neighboring states, as well as where red-tailed hawks fanned out into wintering areas, especially in Ohio, southeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. Declines in red-tailed hawk fall migration counts were observed at long-established hawk watches at the western end of the north-shores-of-Lakes-Ontario-and-Erie corridor (Holiday Beach, ON, and Detroit River, MI), and at the southern end of the Great Valley and Lake Ontario-to-central Pennsylvania corridors (Hawk Mountain, Waggoner's Gap, Allegheny Front, Stone Mountain, PA, and Washington Monument, MD). Spring declines were also observed at four sites along the south shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario (Grimsby, ON, and Hamburg, Braddock Bay, Derby Hill, NY).

The BBS and breeding bird atlases indicate large and steady increases in red-tailed hawk breeding populations over much of their eastern range during the last six decades, attributable to a favorable habitat mosaic of forest and open areas, a decline in shooting and trapping, and the raptor's adaptability (Newton 1979; Holt and Frock 1980; Johnsgard 1990; Preston and Beane 2009).

CBC densities of red-tailed hawks increased north of or near many eastern hawk watches, while leveling off or declining to their south. This northward shift in wintering densities can be seen in the right half of Figure 6, as peak densities gradually occur later from south to north, beginning around the mid-1990s. The WRS and CBC declines in the Susquehanna Valley and southeastern Pennsylvania coincided with the steep migration count declines at nearby hawk watch sites. This appears to be local evidence of a northward wintering range shift for migrants that used to winter in Pennsylvania.

Because breeding red-tailed hawk populations have been increasing in most of the southern states shown in the right half of Figure 6, CBC declines there must reflect fewer migrants from the north. Together with the migration count declines observed at hawk watches, this is evidence, albeit indirect, that some red-tailed hawks are not migrating as far south as their ancestors did, commonly termed short-stopping, or perhaps not migrating at all.

We don't yet have a clear understanding of the status and dynamics of the low-density red-tailed hawk population spread across Canada's vast boreal forest, nor do we know the source of the higher red-tailed hawk migration counts at Pennsylvania and regional hawk watches in past decades. Data for American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) illustrate how a low-density northern population of obligate migrants can influence migration counts (Bolgiano et al. 2015). Understanding such connectivity is an important red-tailed hawk research need (Paprocki et al. 2017).

The Pennsylvania wintering declines occurred near where red-tailed hawks funnel out of two migration corridors revealed by the banding data: the Great Valley and Lake Ontario-to-central Pennsylvania corridors. That declines have occurred longer at Hawk Mountain may be unique to its corridor; the recent sharp decline has been more widespread, occurring in both corridors. Red-tailed hawks migrating into western Pennsylvania use different migration corridors, which may explain the different dynamic observed there.

The tendency has been for winters to be increasingly milder over time (Vose et al. 2005). This should presumably help wintering red-tailed hawks obtain sufficient prey, a key requirement for winter sustenance (Bart 1977; Preston and Beane 2009). Wintering red-tailed hawks tend to be territorial, but will commonly leave an area if there is insufficient prey or an extended period of snow cover (Palmer 1988; Preston 2000). Such conditional shifting is indicated by the WRS data from the Susquehanna Valley-Southeast region showing a positive response in wintering numbers to temperature. When winters were severe, some red-tailed hawks that normally would have wintered in Pennsylvania apparently moved farther south.

Many red-tailed hawks of high mid-latitudes remain on and defend their breeding territories year-round if winter conditions are tolerable (Palmer 1988; Preston and Beane 2009). Northern red-tailed hawks commonly move south in a leap-frog manner, bypassing northern sedentary birds (Preston and Beane 2009). However, the hawk watch and CBC data suggest that many red-tailed hawks have been staying north within their migration corridors rather than flying farther south past the hawk watches. It is conceivable that an increase in sedentary residents could limit the availability of wintering territories, increase the risk of longer migrations, and contribute to short-stopping. More study is needed to show if such "traffic jamming" is affecting red-tailed hawk migration, or if they are simply responding to weather conditions and food availability, or if habitat changes are involved, such as the diminishment of pastures and hayfields that are affecting American kestrels (Bolgiano et al. 2015).

Change has characterized red-tailed hawk dynamics in eastern North America during recent decades. Red-tailed hawk breeding numbers in Pennsylvania and neighboring states may be near the highest they have been in our lifetimes. The numbers of red-tailed hawks migrating past regional hawk watches are substantially fewer than in past years, with the area from the eastern Great Lakes through the central Appalachians being a focus of migration changes. In the future, it is likely that the

number of red-tailed hawks migrating past hawk watches and wintering in the Susquehanna Valley and southeastern counties will continue to decline.

When migratory raptors shift their distributions northward, as apparently has occurred for red-tailed hawks, and with hawk watch sites fixed in place, the interpretation of hawk watch indices may change. Population monitoring must adjust to include breeding, migration, and wintering components (Bildstein et al. 2008b; Bolgiano 2013; Paprocki et al. 2017), providing a monitoring challenge as the climate continues to change.

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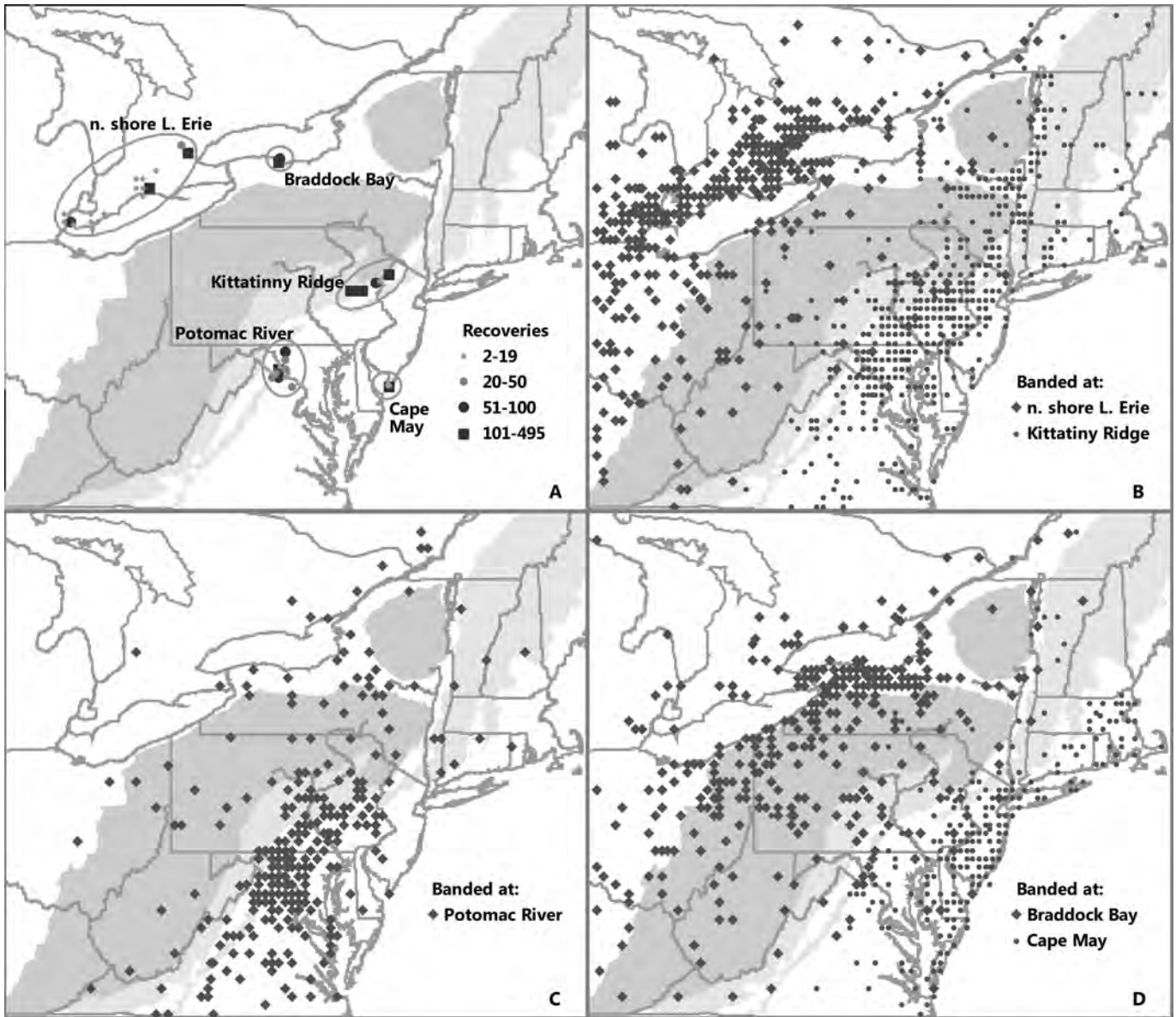


Figure 1. A. Banding site clusters for red-tailed hawks. B-D. Band encounter locations of red-tailed hawks banded at one of the banding site clusters. Shaded areas represent mountainous or upland physiographic provinces.

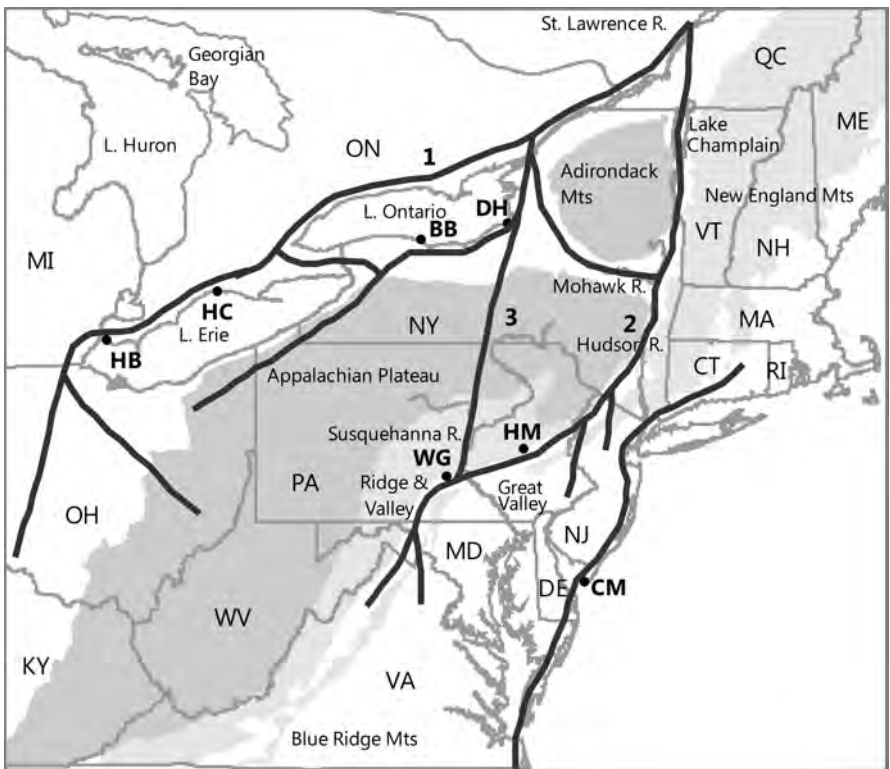


Figure 2. Map of migration corridors for red-tailed hawks in eastern North America as indicated by banding data, with emphasis on: 1) north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie and south into Ohio; 2) Great Valley from southern Québec to Virginia; 3) around the eastern end of Lake Ontario into central Pennsylvania. Also shown are hawk watch locations: BB=Braddock Bay; CM=Cape May; DH=Derby Hill; HB=Holiday Beach; HC=Hawk Cliff; HM=Hawk Mt; and WG=Waggoner's Gap.

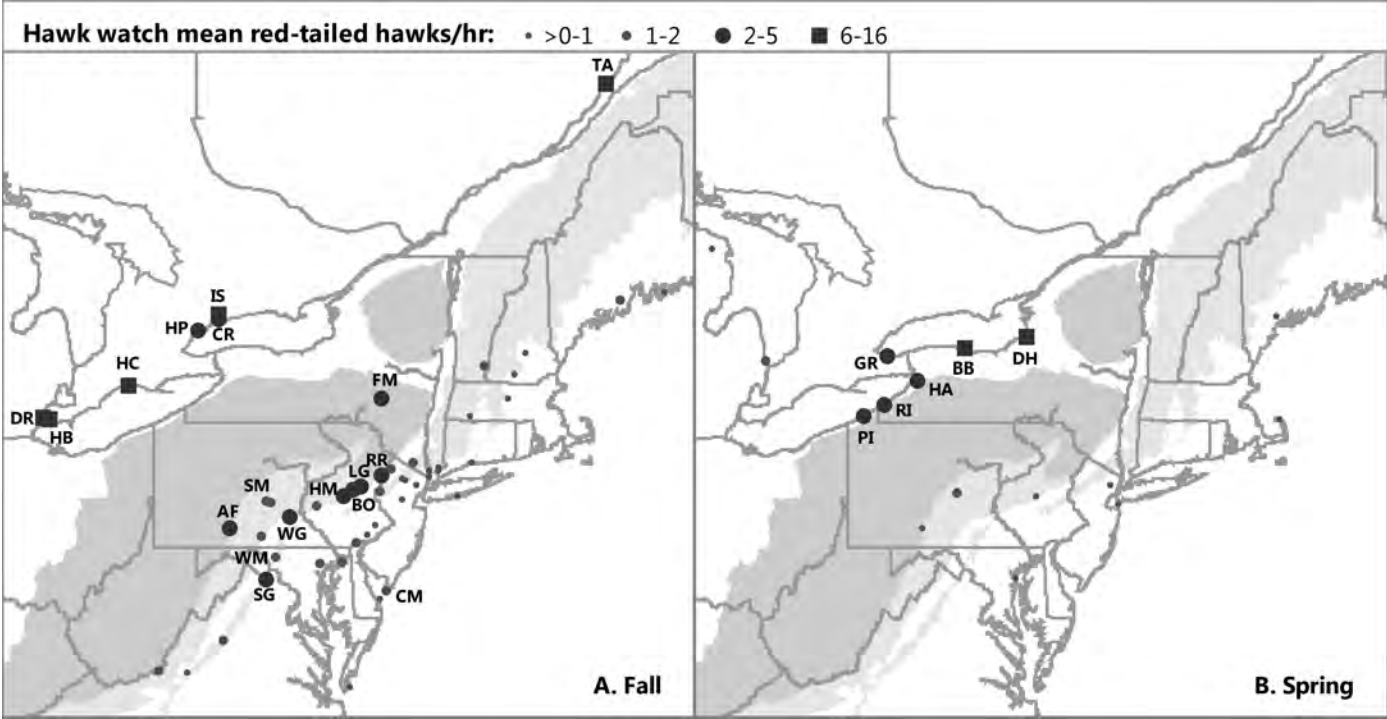


Figure 3. Map of eastern hawk watches, with symbols representing the average number of red-tailed hawk/hour tallied in fall (left) and spring (right). Shaded areas represent mountainous or upland physiographic provinces. Labeled sites are **Maryland**: WM=Washington Monument; **Michigan**: DR=Detroit River; **New Jersey**: RR=Raccoon Ridge, CM=Cape May; **New York**: BB=Braddock Bay, DH=Derby Hill, FM=Franklin Mt, HA=Hamburg, RI=Ripley; **Ontario**: CR=Cranberry Marsh, GR=Grimsby, HB=Holiday Beach, HC=Hawk Cliff, HP=High Park, IS=Iroquois Shoreline; **Pennsylvania**: AF=Allegheny Front, BO=Bake Oven Knob, HM=Hawk Mt, LG=Little Gap, PI=Presque Isle, SM=Stone Mt, WG=Waggoner's Gap; **Québec**: TA=Tadoussac; **Virginia**: SG=Snickers Gap.

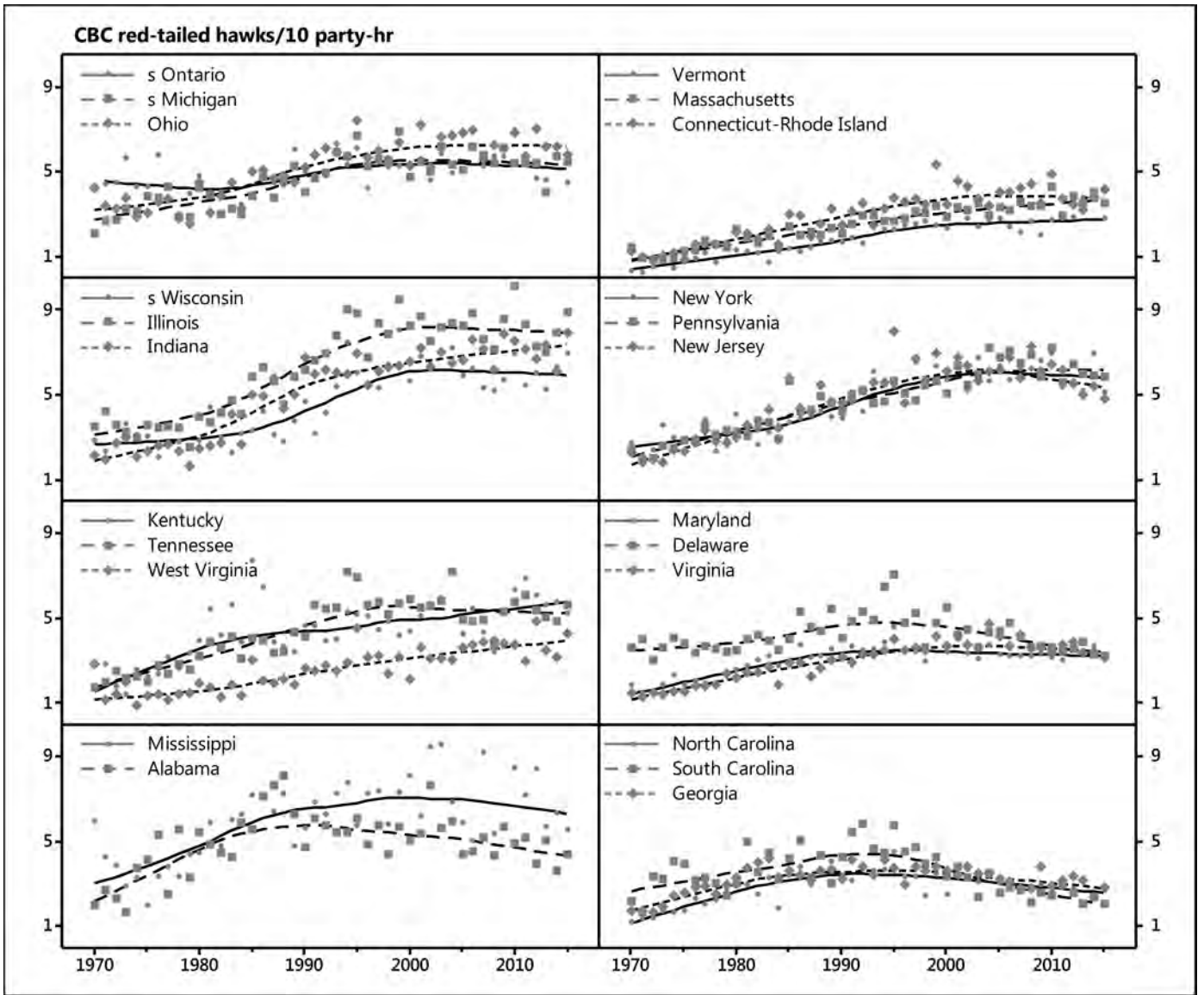


Figure 6. Mean CBC counts of red-tailed hawks per 10 party-hours, from twenty-three regions, for sites with 20 or more party-hours, 1970-2015. Lines are regression smoothing fits.

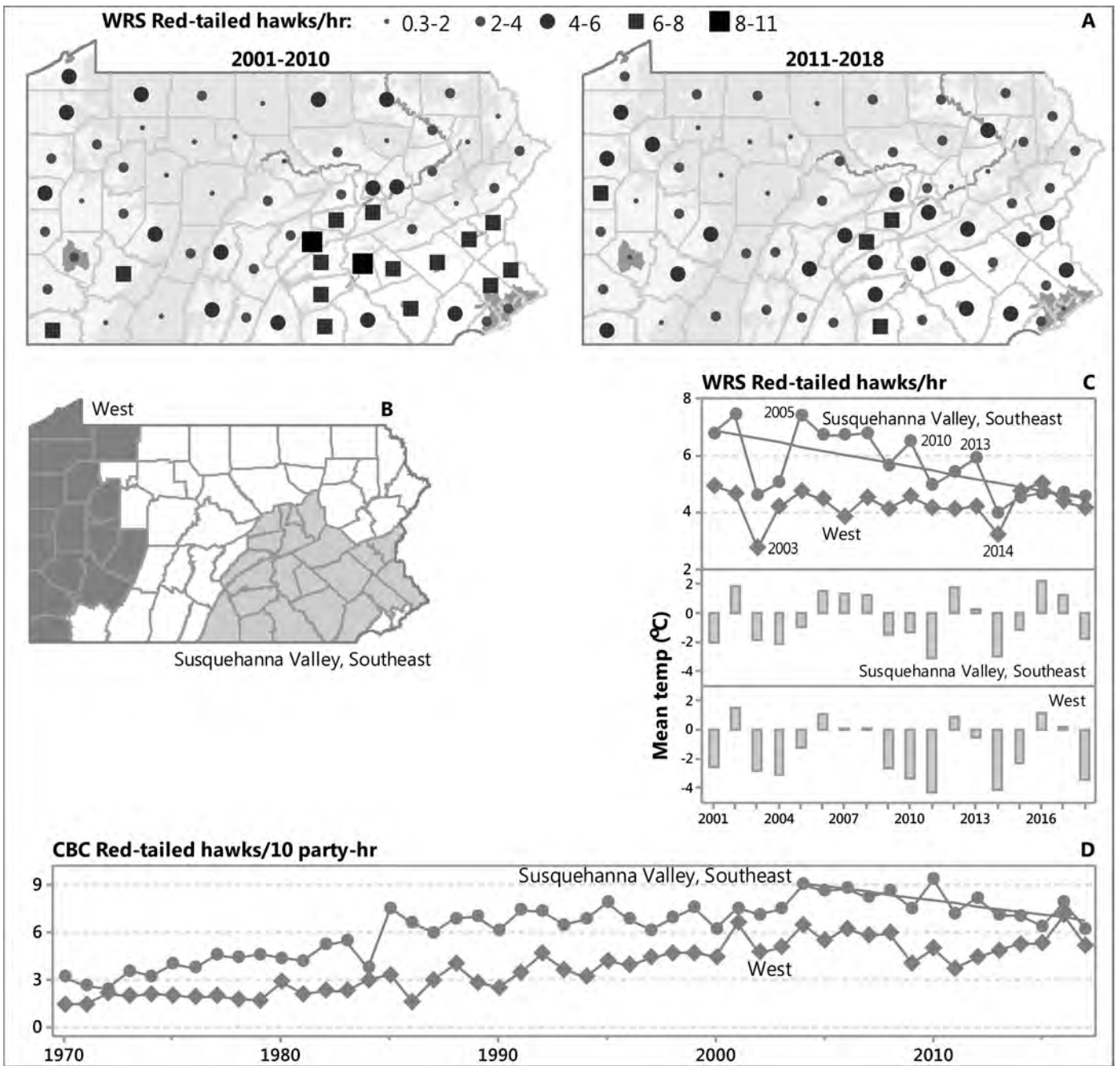


Figure 7. Map of mean WRS red-tailed hawks/hour, by county, 2001-2010 and 2011-2018. Map background shows elevations (<1000, 1000-2000, >2000 ft) and main cities (A); two regions.

Pennsylvania Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2017

Laurie Goodrich

Hawk-watching is alive and well in Pennsylvania with 15 watch sites reporting in autumn 2017. These included two educational institutions, Freedom Area High School in Butler County and Millersville University in Lancaster County, where watchers were largely students. In September 2017, coastal storms with east winds pushed broad-winged hawk flights to ridges and mild October and November weather delayed short-distance migrants, elongating the migration for some sites and likely allowing some birds to remain north of Pennsylvania altogether. December storms challenged both migrants and watchers and monthly tallies did not compensate for November deficits. Despite the mercurial autumn weather in 2017, total hawks equaled the long-term average, partly due to concentrations of broad-winged hawks at sites in the Appalachian ridges during September.

Migration Summary

Fifteen autumn raptor migration watch sites recorded a near-average 122,734 hawks statewide in 1221 days and 8052 hours of effort between August 1 and January 5 (Table 1). Total counts were the highest since 2013 when 124,465 hawks were tallied for Pennsylvania sites statewide and hawk counting effort was 5% above the statewide average of 7985 site hours.

As seen in Table 3, season totals statewide in 2017 were above average for turkey vulture, bald eagle, broad-winged hawk, and peregrine falcon. Black vulture statewide totals were below-average along with osprey, northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, northern goshawk, red-tailed hawk, golden eagle, American kestrel, and Merlin. For eight species the 2017 totals represent the lowest statewide totals since 2005. Osprey continued a decline statewide heightening concern for their populations in the northeast (Figure 1). Changes may be partly due to increases in regional populations of bald eagles although further investigation seems warranted. Despite declines,

some mid-September days brought banner flights, particularly along the Kittatinny Ridge with Little Gap counting 47 ospreys and Bake Oven Knob 33 in one day for the two highest one-day counts for the state (Table 2).

Rarities in autumn migration 2017 included two Mississippi kites, one each at Militia Hill and Rose Tree Park, and one swallow-tailed kite at Allegheny Front (Table 1). No Swainson's hawks were sighted in 2017.

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford) – Allegheny Front watchers tallied 6625 hawks in 119 days and 772 hours of coverage between August 15 and December 24. The season total was 15% below the 10-year average of 7768. All species showed average to below-average counts. The largest dip was seen for several October migrants including sharp-shinned hawk (757; 30% below the 10-year average), Cooper's hawk (76; 54% below-average), and red-shouldered hawk (32; 35% below average.) In contrast the site set a new record for bald eagle (181) and tallied back-to-back days with 25 bald eagles on August 27th and 28th. Golden eagles were slightly below average (194, compared to a ten-year average of 201) (Table 1). Peak flights of golden eagles included 33 on November 11 and 50 on November 15 with most eagles being adults. September 18 brought the highest one-day count of the season with 1109 broad-winged hawks soaring south along with nine other species (Table 2). Allegheny Front recorded one of the rarest of fall migrants, a swallow-tailed kite that flew 40 feet over the watchers at 10:30 am on August 28 (details in site report on hawkcount.org).

Bake Oven Knob (Lehigh) - Bake Oven recorded 14,490 raptors, 9% above the ten-year average of 13,251 hawks, in 104 days and 794 hours of counting between August 15 and November 28. Seasonal totals in 2017 were above-average for bald

eagle and broad-winged hawk but average to below-average for most other species (Table 1). The broad-winged hawk total was 8893, which is 55% above the ten-year average of 5717 birds and the highest season count since 2002. Counters set a new record for bald eagles, the 411 tallied breaking the record of 388 set in 2013. The bald eagle one-day peak count occurred on August 31 with 21 recorded, including 13 adult birds; most days included eagles flying south. Large dips in numbers were seen for both October and November migrants including northern goshawk (8; 65 % below the ten-year average), red-tailed hawk (970; 39% below average), osprey (268; 27% below average), and sharp-shinned hawk (1837; 36% below average). Bake Oven counters recorded three back to back days exceeding 1000 birds from September 17 through 19, with a one-day season peak flight on September 17 of 2678 total hawks, dominated by 2604 broad-wings. Amid the broad-wing rush, Bake Oven watchers recorded the third highest one-day count for Osprey, with 26 on September 18 (Table 2).

Chester County Hawkwatch at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester) – Southern Chester County Hawkwatch at Bucktoe counted 14,456 hawks in 100 days and 742 hours setting a new record for the site. Counts of broad-winged hawks totaled 10,649, compared to the average of 3522, partly due to increased seasonal coverage. Broad-wings concentrated at the site later than those on the Kittatinny Ridge, peaking September 22 and 23 when 4423 and 4522 broad-wings were recorded, respectively, along with 19 ospreys, 15 bald eagles, 36 American kestrels, and five Merlins for the two days (Table 2). In a late season highlight, counters tallied 3 golden eagles along with 36 red-tails, 25 red-shoulders and 50 turkey vultures among 134 raptors on November 11.

Council Cup (Luzerne) – Council Cup tallied an above-average 1705 migrating hawks in 23 days and 85 hours from early September through early November (Table 1). The count of 1389 broad-winged hawks, compared to a ten-year average of 436, was largely responsible for the overall above-average total count (Table 1). Season totals were the highest recorded since 1998 and the one-day count of 707 hawks on September 15, which included 691 broad-wings, was one of the highest one-day counts in more than 15 years (Table 2). Two days later, another 472 broad-wings soared overhead for the second-highest count of the season. Halloween brought 8 bald eagles, 46 turkey vultures, and 14 sharp-shinned hawks with one almost hitting the counter. A north wind on November 4 brought 53 hawks including 15 red-tailed hawks and 18 turkey vultures. Further coverage of this site could prove intriguing given the 2017 tallies, and I encourage Luzerne birders to consider assisting with coverage of this watch site in 2018.

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

Site Name	Broad-winged Hawk		Osprey		Northern Goshawk	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	1109	Sep 18	6	Sep 10	2	Nov 4
Bake Oven Knob	2604	Sep 17	26	Sep 18	1	several
Bucktoe Preserve	4522	Sep 23	14	Sep 22	-	-
Council Cup	691	Sep 15	3	Sep 28	-	-
Freedom Area	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawk Mountain	4019	Sep 17	33	Sep 22	1	several
Jack's Mountain	1209	Sep 17	9	Sep 19	1	several
Little Gap	5414	Sep 17	47	Sep 18	1	several
Militia Hill	2028	Sep 22	14	Sep 16	1	Oct 12
Millersville	93	Sep 18	1	several	-	-
Rocky Ridge	971	Sep 19	8	Sep 19	-	-
Rose Tree Park	1351	Sep 22	12	Sep 22	-	-
Second Mountain	2178	Sep 18	5	Sep 16	1	several
Stone Mountain	913	Sep 17	8	Sep 7	1	Oct 16
Waggoner's Gap	3859	Sep 18	22	Sep 18	3	Oct 16

Peak one-day count statewide shown in bold type

Table 3. 2017 Totals

	Total	10 Year Ave	% of Ave
Days	1,222	1,155	5.8
Hours	8,055	7,639	5.4
BLVU	933	1,242	-24.9
TUVU	7,767	6,839	13.6
OSPR	1,635	2,402	-32.0
BAEA	2,941	2,256	30.4
NOHA	662	898	-26.3
SSHA	15,846	24,762	-36.0
COHA	2,270	2,748	-17.4
NOGO	40	142	-72.0
RSHA	1,084	1,090	-0.6
BWHA	77,997	64,718	20.5
RTHA	7,133	12,017	-40.6
RLHA	11	11	-0.9
GOEA	979	1,074	-8.9
AMKE	1,617	1,829	-11.6
MERL	520	643.8	-19.2
PEFA	383	371	3.0
SWHA	0	3	-100.0
Unid	918	1,097	-16.3
Total	122,737	12,4150	-1.1

Freedom Area Hawk Watch (Butler) - Pennsylvania welcomed a new hawkwatch to the line-up in the west. Students from Freedom Area High School in Butler County and their professor, Brian Wargo, launched a new hawkwatch in 2017 with coverage spanning mid-October to early November and including 15 days and 15 hours of counting, with daily coverage ranging from half to full hours. Seventy-eight total raptors were tallied, with daily counts ranging from zero to 12 hawks. The most abundant species counted was turkey vulture with 43 followed by red-tailed hawk at 19 (Table 1). Students enjoyed spotting an adult bald eagle on November 20. We hope to see more reports from this and other high school hawkwatches in the future (see www.hmana.org for student and youth educational materials).

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill)

- Hawk Mountain recorded a near-average 17,051 hawks in 124 days and 1015 hours of counting (Table 1). Hours were 7% below average. The broad-winged hawk count of 10,726 was 38% above-average, carrying the season total of all raptors to near-average despite low totals for some common migrants including sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawk, 40% and 44% below the 10-year average, respectively (Table 1). Above-average counts were observed for turkey vulture (701) bald eagle (430) and peregrine falcon (68) (Table 1). Like nearby Kittatinny sites, September 17 brought the peak broad-winged hawk flight at Hawk Mountain with 4019 counted, many passing in a single hour in the afternoon (Table 2). Nearly 9000 broad-wings were tallied in the four days from September 16-19. The highest one-day count for osprey was 33, on September 22. October and November counts were lower than expected although November 10 brought 30 eagles including 16 goldens, along with 302 red-tailed hawks and 14 red-shouldered hawks. The paltry season total of 3 northern goshawks

was the lowest ever in the 80-plus year history of Hawk Mountain, reinforcing questions about the status of this species throughout the northeast.

Jacks Mountain (Mifflin) - Jacks counters tallied an above-average 8017 hawks with an above-average effort of 100 days and 625.5 hours of coverage (Table 1). The Broad-winged hawk count was nearly double the 10-year average, with September 17 bringing 1209 broad-wings (Table 2). Above-average counts were tallied for most species excepting osprey (47) and red-tailed hawks (309). A new record was set for bald eagle (153) reflecting both the increase in regional populations and the increase in effort (Table 1). The golden eagle total of 151 nearly tied the record of 152 in 2015. Peak golden eagle numbers came in mid-November with a one-day high of 26 on November 19. Golden eagles flew past nearly daily through December with a late peak of 6 on December 20. Four of the state's 11 rough-legged hawks were spotted by Jack's counters, 2 in November and 2 in December, suggesting this site may be a place to look for this species in late fall.

Little Gap (Northampton) - Little Gap recorded an above average 16,420 hawks in 83 days and 548 hours of counts. September was busy for this eastern Kittatinny Ridge site as broad-winged hawks clustered along the ridge using south to southeast wind updrafts. Counters tallied 5414 broad-wings, mostly afternoon birds, on September 17 for the highest one-day peak count statewide (Table 2) followed by another big day September 18 with 4501 broad wings passing, again mostly in afternoon. The same day Little Gap sighted a one-day peak count of osprey (47) leading the state in one-day counts for this species (Table 2). In contrast, the northern goshawk total of 4 was the

lowest on record, as was also the case with red-tails at 674, the lowest total since the 1990s. November 10 brought the best late season day, with counters recording 95 red-tails, 7 golden eagles, 6 bald eagles, a lone goshawk, and an immature rough-legged hawk, one of the few counted in the state in 2017.

Militia Hill (Montgomery)- Militia watchers often experience boom or bust in September with broad-winged hawk counts. In 2017, a partial "bust" was experienced with a below-average 3934 tallied compared to the ten-year average of 10,680 for this September/October watch site. Most species were below-average excepting Merlin, of which 40 were tallied, 14% above-average. Broad-winged hawks were 63% below the average, reflecting the poor weather in September. The highest one-day broad-wing count occurred later than the ridge sites, with 2028 swirling past on September 22, among 2090 raptors in total (Table 2). The following day, another 560 broad-wings were counted. On September 16 counters recorded a peak one-day count of osprey (14), and one of the rarest migrants of the season, a Mississippi kite. October raptor totals were lower than average with peak daily numbers occurring in mid-month when 186 and 164 were recorded on October 16 and 17, respectively, dominated by counts of 114 and 111 turkey vultures each day.

Millersville University (Lancaster) - Millersville University hawkwatchers, primarily students, counted 286 hawks in 32 days and 118 hours. This watch site is based on top of a science center building and organized by professor Dr. Aaron Haines for his biology students. Students began the counting September 13 and continued through October 27. The highest one-day count occurred on September 18 with 93 broad-winged hawks, 3 Merlins, one osprey, one Cooper's hawk, and one turkey vulture. A high of two bald eagles occurred September 15 and again on October 2. Highest totals recorded were broad-wings, turkey vultures and American kestrels (Table 1). We hope this

Number of Osprey per Hour at Pennsylvania Watchsites in Autumn Migration

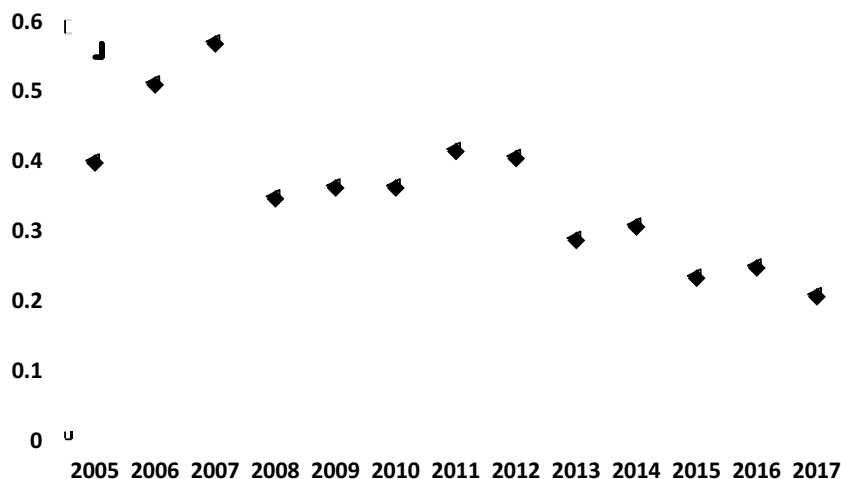


Figure 1. Declines in sightings of Osprey at PA watch sites reflect regional patterns observed in other states and suggest northeastern population declines (see rpi-project.org).

southern Pennsylvania site will continue and expand in the future, and that student watchers will visit other Pennsylvania sites to assist with spotting!

Rocky Ridge (York) - Rocky Ridge counters recorded an above-average count 3382 raptors in 84.8 hours among 17 days, mostly in September (Table 1). The peak flight for the site occurred on September 19 with 971 broad-winged hawks, 120 sharp-shinned hawks, 8 ospreys, and 20 American kestrels (Table 2). A rarity was seen near but not at the site, a Mississippi kite on September 16, not included in the total but still notable. The same day brought the second highest count for the season, 834 raptors, which included 799 broad wings. A one-day peak count of 11 bald eagles soared past on September 9, along with 57 other raptors. Counts in October were low although coverage was less consistent than in September (Table 1).

Rose Tree Park (Delaware) - Rose Tree Park in Media recorded 4737 raptors in 78 days and 495 hours from September 1 to November 19. Counts were 23% below the ten-year average of 6191 hawks largely because of the broad-wing count of 2343, which was 31% below average (Table 1). Sharp-shinned hawks also were low, 373 compared to ten-year average of 955. Despite lower total counts, several species were above-average including turkey vulture, with 1039 counted compared to the average of 504, and peregrine falcon, with 24 compared to the ten-year average of 18 (Table 1). Bald eagles and American kestrel totals were slightly above-average as well. The one-day peak count for the site was September 22 when 1351 broad-wings, 93 sharp-shins, 37 American kestrels, 12 ospreys, 7 northern harriers, and 4 bald eagles were spotted among a total of 1515 hawks (Table 2). An exceptional late season day occurred November 8 when 194 turkey vultures, 43 red-shouldered hawks, 62 red-tailed hawks, 4 bald eagles, and one peregrine falcon sailed past among 328 raptor migrants. The rarest migrant for the season was sighted on September 20, when an immature Mississippi kite sailed overhead and was photographed before it disappeared to the south.

Second Mountain (Lebanon) - Second Mountain watchers tallied 7610 hawks in 739 hours over 127 days of counts. Hawk totals were 19% below average while hours dropped by 15%. The Broad-winged hawk total of 4654 was 3% above-average, partly due to mid-September peak flights. In contrast, late season migrants, including both sharp-shins and red-tails were low, down 42% and 55% compared to the ten-year average (Table 1). Northern goshawk counts were notably low, only 2 in contrast to the average of 17 (Table 1). Some of these deficits are likely due to birds remaining north of central Pennsylvania. Counters tallied 4 rough-legged hawk, ompared to an average of 2 in past years.

Broad-winged hawk peak days began on September 16 when 1085 sailed overhead along with a season peak of 5 ospreys. Two days later, on September 18, a one-day season peak count of 2178 broad-wings was recorded (Table 2). A particularly notable flight in late season occurred November 20 when 12 bald and 4 golden eagles and 2 rough-legged hawks were counted among 31 raptors for the day. A late peregrine falcon was observed December 3.

Stone Mountain (Huntingdon/Mifflin) - Stone Mountain counted 4627 hawks in 88 days and 514 hours for an above-average season count (Table 1). Effort was the second-highest for the site in the 23 years of counting. Season counts were above-average for bald eagle (158; up 42% compared to ten-year average), and golden eagle (138; up 15% compared to the ten-year average). Other above-average counts included broad-winged hawk (2445), the highest total since 2009 and 43% above the ten-year average. Both vultures, northern harrier, and merlin all showed above-average counts (Table 1) while osprey, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, goshawk, red-tailed hawk, and American kestrel counts were below-average. Stone Mountain watchers note that the lack of cold fronts and strong winds may have diminished numbers in 2017 (Table 1) along with the short-stopping migration patterns for red-tailed hawk and possibly Cooper's hawk and sharp-shinned hawk. A single goshawk represented the lowest count on record for the site, 83% below average (Table 1).

The highest one-day count occurred on September 17 when 913 broad-wings among 933 total raptors sailed overhead (Table 2). Two notable November flights included 28 golden eagles and 77 red-tails on November 10, the second-best day for golden eagles on record, and 20 golden eagles on the November 22, helping to boost the November total to 107 goldens. Seven golden eagles were sighted on the last day of the count, December 13 along with a lone bald eagle bringing the site's final eagle tally to 138 golden and 158 bald eagles.

Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland)- Waggoner's Gap tallied a below-average total of 17,568 hawks during 1042 hours and 141 days of counts, 22%

below the ten-year average (Table 1). Donations in 2017 allowed the Pennsylvania Audubon-led site to hire a counter to assist volunteers with coverage for the peak three months of the season. Despite renewed energies, a dearth of late-season migrants and notably lower accipiter counts led to lower raptor totals overall, as was observed at many other watch sites. The total of 545 bald eagles was 12% above the ten-year average. Peregrine falcon, with 75 counted, was up 29%. Although many October and November migrating raptors were lower than average, the low counts of northern goshawk (12; 70% lower than average), and rough-legged hawk (one; 66% lower than average), were most notable. The Osprey total of 238 was 35% below average.

The peak one-day count for the site occurred on September 18 when 3967 hawks migrated past the site including a peak one-day count of osprey (22) and broad-wings (3859). Waggoner's Gap also counted one of the best October flights for the state on October 16, when northwest winds brought 761 migrating raptors to the site for the day including 22 bald eagles, 466 sharp-shins, 53 Cooper's hawks, and 3 northern goshawks, a one-day peak statewide (Table 2). Falcons also concentrated at the site that day with 36 American kestrels, 9 Merlins, and 5 peregrines tallied. Northwest winds on November 10 brought a banner eagle day with 45 golden eagles accompanied by 229 red-tails and 8 bald eagles. The one-day count of 45 golden eagles was the second highest one-day count on record for the site and the second highest one-day count for the state in 2017. Hawks continued to be tallied through December with the season ending with 4 red-tails and 2 golden eagles on New Year's Eve.

Conclusions

Warmer than average autumn weather in 2017 along with infrequent cold fronts may have dampened hawk migration for most Pennsylvania sites, particularly in October and November. Local weather patterns favored the broad-winged hawk migration along ridges in September with Kittatinny hawk watch sites observing banner broad-winged migration. Many Pennsylvania sites continued to record very strong bald and golden eagle flights in 2017 with some near record one-day counts and a

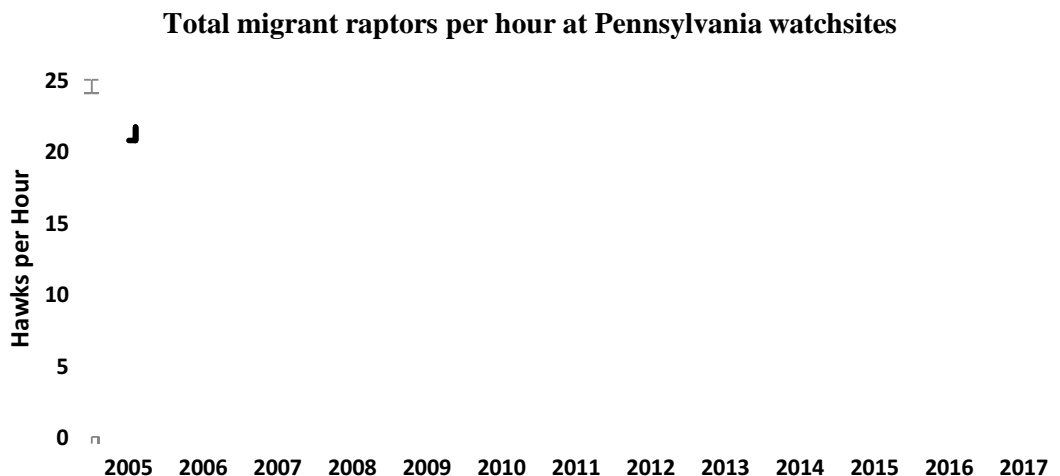


Figure 2. Total migrant raptors per hour sighted in autumn migration at Pennsylvania watchsites, 2005 to 2017.

few new site records set for these species. Southeastern Pennsylvania sites were disappointed by the broad-wing shift to the ridges, but the pendulum will undoubtedly back in the near future.

Despite the widespread disappointment in the lack of fronts and cold weather in 2017, the late autumn migration period did produce some amazing days including 761 hawks on October 16 at Waggoner's Gap and the second-highest golden eagle tally ever recorded at the site on November 10. The following day, Allegheny Front tallied 33 golden eagles and another 50 on November 15. Little Gap led the broad-wing one-day totals with 5414 September 17 and many sites had phenomenal broad-wing one day totals the same day or soon thereafter.

If we examine the season totals for autumn migration statewide and their patterns over time (Figure 2), it is clear that hawk-watching and hawk migration is still alive and well in Pennsylvania. With 15 sites reporting, the active site list is the second highest on record. Moreover, it has only been six years since counters recorded the highest number of hawks in one season ever recorded in Pennsylvania, 171,925, a rate of 21.6 birds per hour statewide (Figure 2). And although many watchers long for more mid- and late season excitement, it is important to note that in 2016 Pennsylvania watchers tallied an above-average 12,316 red-tails migrating past the lookouts, so late season migration thrills are not over and we may expect a return of several hundred red-tails and sharp-shins at a site near you in the future.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the site compilers for providing expertise and access to data: Rich Conroy, Janet Crawford, Andy Fayer, Greg Grove, Dave Grove, Aaron Haines, Bob Hoopes, Lynne Jackson, Donald Kapral, Dan Kunkle, Larry Lewis, Jerry Lahr, Holly Merker, Randy Phillips, Chris Pugliese, Mike Schall, David Schwenk, Bob Stewart, Brian Wargo, and autumn hawkwatchers statewide. David Barber created the site map, table data compiled in part by HM volunteer Katerina Ramos and all count data were taken from www.hawkcount.org (accessed January 2018) a site managed by Jason Sodergren, HMANA database manager and Hawk Migration Association of North America. This is Hawk Mountain conservation science contribution number 292.

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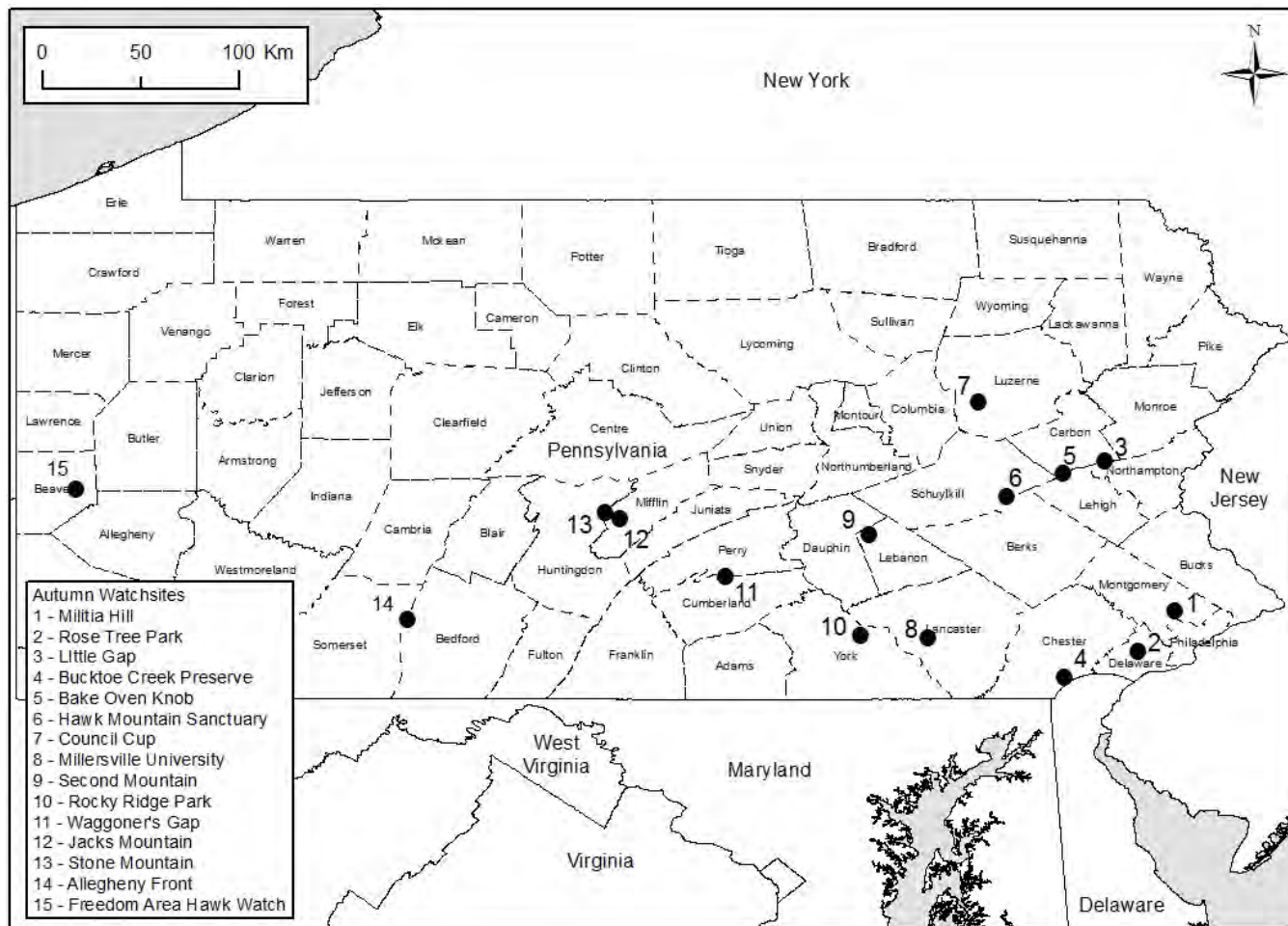


Table 1. Autumn 2017 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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	123.5	0	1	23	57	3	17	6	0	0	228	68	0	0	2	2	2	0	11	421
September	30	213.5	15	9	43	77	11	128	25	2	16	3348	154	0	0	14	7	9	0	26	3884
October	31	211.3	8	214	5	31	8	576	37	0	8	0	505	0	31	10	17	16	0	7	1473
November	30	167.3	9	198	0	12	3	33	7	3	4	0	372	0	142	0	1	1	0	6	791
December	11	56.0	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	1	4	0	22	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	56
Total	119	771.5	32	422	71	181	25	757	76	6	32	3576	1121	0	194	26	27	28	0	50	6625
Total per hr			0.04	0.55	0.09	0.23	0.03	0.98	0.10	0.01	0.04	4.64	1.45	0.00	0.25	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.06	8.59
% of flight			0.5	6.4	1.1	2.7	0.4	11.4	1.1	0.1	0.5	54.0	16.9	0.0	2.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	113.6	797.0	34.2	418.9	91.5	115.3	44.1	1080.3	167.0	7.1	49.5	3938.9	1382.3	1.9	201.4	56.7	28.8	27.1	0.0	122.9	7768.0

*Includes (1) Swallow-Tailed Kite 8/28/17

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	134.8	48	152	56	65	4	8	4	0	6	226	46	0	0	7	3	1		39	665
September	30	239.0	91	207	173	144	17	350	52	2	7	8664	71	0	0	72	12	12	0	102	9976
October	31	235.3	91	371	36	131	42	1392	169	4	39	3	274	0	22	32	40	35	0	101	2782
November	26	184.8	61	112	3	71	6	87	13	2	46	0	579	0	40	0	3	0	0	44	1067
Total	104	793.8	291	842	268	411	69	1837	238	8	98	8893	970	0	62	111	58	48	0	286	14490
Total per hr			0.37	1.06	0.34	0.52	0.09	2.31	0.30	0.01	0.12	11.20	1.22	0.00	0.08	0.14	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.36	18.26
% of flight			2.0	5.8	1.8	2.8	0.5	12.7	1.6	0.1	0.7	61.4	6.7	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.0	2.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	103.2	807.7	293.5	962.3	365.1	269.5	91.3	2887.3	252.0	22.6	116.2	5717.7	1592.7	0.4	99.5	146.7	88.5	51.7	0.0	273.9	13251.3

BUCKTOE CREEK PRESERVE(Chester) - Larry Lewis, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	9	67.0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	9
September	30	238.5	0	0	111	98	20	291	105	0	8	10635	7	0	0	111	18	1	0	8	11413
October	31	232.0	0	268	12	153	13	497	167	0	38	14	128	0	1	74	5	5	0	3	1378
November	30	204.0	0	651	1	91	20	295	72	0	225	0	287	0	5	7	1	1	0		1656
Total	100	741.5	0	919	124	346	53	1083	344	0	271	10649	422	0	6	195	26	7	0	11	14456
Total per hr			0.00	1.24	0.17	0.47	0.07	1.46	0.46	0.00	0.37	14.36	0.57	0.00	0.01	0.26	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.01	19.50
% of flight			0.0	6.4	0.9	2.4	0.4	7.5	2.4	0.0	1.9	73.7	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average for 4 yrs	60.5	420.7	0.0	354.8	84.5	188.3	32.0	634.0	205.5	0.5	137.0	3522.3	343.5	0	4.3	112.3	17.8	5.0	0.0	5.7	4910.0

COUNCIL CUP (Luzerne) - Donald Kapral, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	12	48.5	0	0	4	16	6	26	0	0	0	1389	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	2	1461
October	6	18.0	0	102	0	12	2	39	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	170
November	5	18.5	0	20	0	3	4	19	4	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74
Total	23	85	0	122	4	31	12	84	7	0	0	1,389	29	0	0	25	0	0	0	2	1,705
Total per hr			0.00	1.44	0.05	0.36	0.14	0.99	0.08	0.00	0.00	16.34	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	20.06
% of flight			0.0	7.2	0.2	1.8	0.7	4.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	81.5	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	20.0	90.5	1.1	132.9	15.6	34.8	6.6	92.9	9.3	0.0	0.6	436.1	183.3	0.0	0.6	23.0	0.1	0.9	0.0	21.5	960.4

FREEDOM AREA (Butler) Brian Wargo, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
October	7	6.8	0	36	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	46
November	6	5.0	0	7	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	24
December	2	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
Total	15	15	0	43	0	1	0	3	2	0	2	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	78
Total per hr			0.00	2.92	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.20	0.14	0.00	0.14	0.00	1.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	5.29
% of flight			0.0	55.1	0.0	1.3	0.0	3.8	2.6	0.0	2.6	0.0	24.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	100.0
Average for 10 yrs																					

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	18	144.4	0	10	55	44	6	19	5	0	0	316	25	0	0	13	3	2	0	10	508
September	29	279.8	1	5	188	109	18	550	52	0	9	10394	50	0	0	146	40	14	0	33	11609
October	29	261.6	18	579	33	107	30	1763	252	0	44	16	228	0	20	71	65	47	0	102	3375
November	29	214.4	24	105	1	108	22	121	44	3	107	0	745	1	70	4	11	3	0	24	1393
December/January	19	115.0	1	2	0	62	3	0	5	0	2	0	74	0	14	0	1	2	0	0	166
Total	124	1015.2	44	701	277	430	79	2453	358	3	162	10726	1122	1	104	234	120	68	0	169	17051
Total per hr			0.04	0.69	0.27	0.42	0.08	2.42	0.35	0.00	0.16	10.57	1.11	0.00	0.10	0.23	0.12	0.07	0.00	0.17	16.80
% of flight			0.3	4.1	1.6	2.5	0.5	14.4	2.1	0.0	1.0	62.9	6.6	0.0	0.6	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	1.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	124.0	1093.8	133.2	581.9	421.4	362.5	139.4	4154.6	510.7	30.8	156.9	7768.2	2028.3	1.1	133.6	360.1	164.2	61.7	0.3	192.0	17495.4

JACK'S MOUNTAIN (Mifflin) - Darrell Smith, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	30	191.8	9	0	41	76	17	95	27	1	6	6088	23	0	0	34	5	2	0	4	6428
October	31	179.5	10	128	5	39	29	693	63	1	5	0	164	0	19	19	8	20	0	1	1204
November	26	171.0	9	5	1	34	9	25	3	1	16	0	112	2	109	0	0	0	0	2	328
December	13	83.3	13	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	3	0	10	2	23	0	0	0	0	0	57
Total	100	625.5	41	133	47	153	57	813	93	3	30	6088	309	4	151	53	13	22	0	7	8017
Total per hr			0.07	0.21	0.08	0.24	0.09	1.30	0.15	0.00	0.05	9.73	0.49	0.01	0.24	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.01	12.82
% of flight			0.5	1.7	0.6	1.9	0.7	10.1	1.2	0.0	0.4	75.9	3.9	0.0	1.9	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	69.9	396.3	31.6	132.3	57.4	89.3	33.5	589.0	68.8	2.3	16.6	3088.5	444.0	0.4	77.2	48.9	12.6	13.3	0.0	14.8	4719.2

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	7	37.5	0	0	12	13	0	9	3	0	0	40	6	0	0	6	1	0	0	4	94
September	28	175.8	0	15	200	112	14	335	29	0	6	12234	28	0	0	92	29	10	0	38	13142
October	29	208.3	10	401	17	80	36	1058	202	1	32	0	218	0	26	28	28	29	0	28	2194
November	19	126.8	5	146	0	62	13	168	49	3	38	0	422	1	53	0	6	3	0	21	990
December	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	83	548.3	15	562	229	267	63	1570	283	4	76	12274	674	1	79	126	64	42	0	91	16420
Total per hr			0.03	1.03	0.42	0.49	0.11	2.86	0.52	0.01	0.14	22.39	1.23	0.00	0.14	0.23	0.12	0.08	0.00	0.17	29.95
% of flight			0.1	3.4	1.4	1.6	0.4	9.6	1.7	0.0	0.5	74.8	4.1	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	89.6	582.1	89.1	461.2	309.9	236.8	91.1	2941.4	319.5	18.7	92.9	7296.9	1504.0	0.8	79.4	173.9	97.3	42.2	0.0	94.3	13849.6

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

*Total includes one Mississippi Kite on September 18

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	*Total
September	30	233.2	0	0	120	51	20	152	29	0	8	3907	0	0	0	114	17	8	0	20	4447
October	31	222.8	15	519	17	32	12	313	68	1	17	27	15	0	0	53	23	19	0	38	1168
Total	61	455.9	15	519	137	83	32	465	97	1	25	3934	15	0	0	167	40	27	0	58	5615
Total per hr			0.03	1.14	0.30	0.18	0.07	1.02	0.21	0.00	0.05	8.63	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.09	0.06	0.00	0.13	12.32
% of flight			0.3	9.2	2.4	1.5	0.6	8.3	1.7	0.0	0.4	70.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.7	0.5	0.0	1.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	59.8	448.7	22.2	695.0	243.5	107.3	68.8	998.2	132.2	1.3	61.0	10679.7	101.3	0.3	3.2	253.2	34.5	29.7	0.4	64.2	13496.5

*Including Mississippi Kite on 09/24/2016

MILLERSVILLE (Lancaster) - Aaron Haines, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	13	44.0	9	22	4	6	0	1	2	0	0	110	5	0	0	43	5	0	0	5	212
October	19	73.8	17	22	1	4	1	5	7	0	1	1	9	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	74
Total	32	117.8	26	44	5	10	1	6	9	0	1	111	14	0	0	44	7	0	0	8	286
Total per hr			0.22	0.37	0.04	0.08	0.01	0.05	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.94	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.07	2.43
% of flight			9.1	15.4	1.7	3.5	0.3	2.1	3.1	0.0	0.3	38.8	4.9	0.0	0.0	15.4	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.8	100.0
Average for 10 yrs																					

ROCKY RIDGE (York) - Randy Phillips, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	9	71.0	0	0	32	14	3	354	5	0	1	2862	0	0	0	66	1	0	0	1	3339
October	4	13.8	0	0	0	2	3	32	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	43
Total	13	84.8	0	0	32	16	6	386	5	0	1	2862	1	0	0	71	1	0	0	1	3382
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.38	0.19	0.07	4.55	0.06	0.00	0.01	33.77	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	39.91
% of flight			0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.2	11.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	84.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	13.5	71.3	0.5	14.8	28.3	48.8	7.3	256.8	6.3	0.0	0.8	2243.8	8.0	0.0	0.5	49.5	2.0	1.5	0.0	2.0	2635.8

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware) - Holly Merker, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	30	199.5	0	0	77	61	16	160	26	0	7	2336	1	0	0	99	14	13	0	10	2820
October	30	190.0	3	465	18	39	11	153	81	0	21	7	24	0	0	58	9	9	0	11	909
November	18	105.3	5	574	1	25	12	60	21	0	101	0	181	0	1	1	3	2	0	21	1008
Total	78	494.8	8	1039	96	125	39	373	128	0	129	2343	206	0	1	158	26	24	0	42	4737
Total per hr			0.02	2.10	0.19	0.25	0.08	0.75	0.26	0.00	0.26	4.74	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.08	9.57
% of flight			0.2	21.9	2.0	2.6	0.8	7.9	2.7	0.0	2.7	49.5	4.3	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.9	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	83.3	504.1	49.1	504.1	172.3	123.1	60.7	954.6	144.8	0.9	163.9	3463.6	300.2	0.1	3.0	154.7	30.8	18.2	0.2	46.6	6191

*Includes (1) Mississippi Kite on 09/20/2017

SECOND MOUNTAIN (Lebanon) - David Schwenk, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	64.5	15	0	5	9	1	2	2	0	0	27	16	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	80
September	30	213.8	0	0	46	51	17	181	28	0	2	4624	25	0	2	38	4	5	0	7	5030
October	31	203.0	198	241	3	48	19	874	153	2	31	3	136	1	13	40	13	18	0	9	1802
November	30	185.3	116	88	1	64	7	62	9	0	48	0	186	3	34	5	5	0	0	2	630
December	19	72.5	28	4	0	11	1	3	0	0	1	0	12	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	68
Total	127	739.0	357	333	55	183	45	1122	192	2	82	4654	375	4	56	85	22	25	0	18	7610
Total per hr			0.48	0.45	0.07	0.25	0.06	1.52	0.26	0.00	0.11	6.30	0.51	0.01	0.08	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.02	10.30
% of flight			4.7	4.4	0.7	2.4	0.6	14.7	2.5	0.0	1.1	61.2	4.9	0.1	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	127.6	870.6	363.7	695.1	128.1	184.2	85.7	1964.0	212.8	16.8	105.6	4526.7	849.8	2.2	88.7	98.6	34.8	24.7	0.3	53	9436.1

STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon) - Greg Grove, compiler

*Total includes one Mississippi Kite on September 22

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	*Total
August	5	20.0	0	0	6	16	2	4	1	0	1	33	3	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	74
September	24	151.8	0	0	42	30	10	92	17	0	5	2410	19	0	0	35	5	3	0	8	2676
October	27	159.5	18	331	4	59	22	486	52	1	18	2	232	0	16	22	31	14	0	8	1316
November	24	141.3	19	35	0	46	17	32	10	0	29	0	215	0	107	2	2	0	0	4	518
December	8	41.5	0	9	0	7	3	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	43
Total	88	514.0	37	375	52	158	54	614	80	1	54	2445	477	0	138	66	39	17	0	20	4627
Total per hr			0.07	0.73	0.10	0.31	0.11	1.19	0.16	0.00	0.11	4.76	0.93	0.00	0.27	0.13	0.08	0.03	0.00	0.04	9.00
% of flight			0.8	8.1	1.1	3.4	1.2	13.3	1.7	0.0	1.2	52.8	10.3	0.0	3.0	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	72.3	408.0	26.6	259.3	69.2	111.2	45.9	789.4	114.5	6.1	47.2	1714.2	644.2	0.8	120.5	81.7	31.8	19.2	0	26.7	4048.8

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	29	150.5	0	0	37	46	6	6	6	0	3	137	68	0	0	15	0	2	0	5	331
September	28	261.3	0	0	162	211	15	1000	54	0	2	7909	111	0	3	177	17	12	0	68	9741
October	29	254.8	52	1397	38	137	68	3097	255	7	36	7	355	0	26	64	52	56	0	54	5701
November	28	225.5	9	268	0	112	33	172	36	4	76	0	756	0	141	0	7	5	0	14	1633
December	28	150.0	6	5	1	39	5	3	5	1	3	0	74	1	18	0	1	0	0	0	162
Total	142	1042.0	67	1670	238	545	127	4278	356	12	120	8053	1364	1	188	256	77	75	0	141	17568
Total per hr			0.06	1.60	0.23	0.52	0.12	4.11	0.34	0.01	0.12	7.73	1.31	0.00	0.18	0.25	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.14	16.86
% of flight			0.4	9.5	1.4	3.1	0.7	24.4	2.0	0.1	0.7	45.8	7.8	0.0	1.1	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	139.4	1100.8	70.2	1626.9	367.6	488.3	191.4	7203.7	620.7	39.4	217.5	8080.4	2678.8	2.9	234.5	290.0	103.0	58.3	0.1	142.2	22415.9

2017 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

*Total includes two Mississippi Kites

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	119	742	63	163	194	254	22	65	27	0	10	1,007	232	0	0	55	12	8	0	69	2,182
September	353	2,561	125	258	1,243	1,056	184	3,715	451	5	77	76,910	494	1	5	1,059	174	89	0	332	86,178
October	366	2,470	440	5,074	189	874	296	10,979	1,509	17	291	80	2,301	0	174	484	293	268	0	365	23,635
November	271	1,749	257	2,209	8	629	146	1,075	270	16	690	0	3,887	7	702	19	39	15	0	143	10,112
December	113	533	48	63	1	128	14	12	13	2	16	0	219	3	98	0	2	3	0	8	630
Total	1,222	8,055	933	7,767	1,635	2,941	662	15,846	2,270	40	1,084	77,997	7,133	11	979	1,617	520	383	0	918	122,737
Total per hr			0.12	0.96	0.20	0.37	0.08	1.97	0.28	0.00	0.13	9.68	0.89	0.00	0.12	0.20	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.11	15.24
% of flight			0.8	6.3	1.3	2.4	0.5	12.9	1.8	0.0	0.9	63.5	5.8	0.0	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average of last 10 yrs	1155.1	7639.5	1242	6839.9	2402.7	2256	898.6	24762.4	2748.8	142.7	1090.7	64718.4	12017.8	11.1	1074.8	1829.5	643.8	371.7	3.5	1097	124150.6
% compared to average	5.8	5.4	-24.9	13.6	-32.0	30.4	-26.3	-36.0	-17.4	-72.0	-0.6	20.5	-40.6	-0.9	-8.9	-11.6	-19.2	3.0	-100.0	-16.3	-1.1

¹Includes two Mississippi Kites & one Swallow-tailed Kite

KEY TO TABLE HEADERS

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

**Twenty-second Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
Covering 2015 Records
January 2018
Mike Fialkovich for the Committee**

**2015 Records
Mike Fialkovich**

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter "PORC" or "the committee") evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2015 that includes 32 records of 29 species and two subspecies. The 25 accepted records represented a 78% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 20 counties.

Highlights include the first state records of Brown Booby and Kelp Gull bringing the state total to 438. Other highlights include a long staying Anhinga, three records of White Ibis, King Eider, the first Wilson's Plover since 1976, Ruff, Cave Swallow and the seventh record of Mountain Bluebird.

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

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

The Committee

Committee Membership in 2015 included Andy McGann (Chair), Ian Gardner (non-voting secretary), Dave DeReamus, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, Holly Merker, Billy Weber and Mike Weible. Mike Lanzone left the committee and was replaced by Billy Weber. In 2015, Mike Fialkovich, Andy McGann, Dave DeReamus and Devich Farbotnik were serving their second terms.

Classification of Records

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Format of This Report

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. The number in parentheses after the species

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

2015 Accepted Records

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (14)

One in breeding plumage at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks*, 24 July 2015 (Carl Engstrom (p); 002a-01-2015; Class I-P). 5/1. This is the second summer record in the state.

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, 26 December 2015 (Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Jerry McWilliams (p); 002a-02-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V30:N1.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (92+)

One on the Susquehanna River near the West Fairview Boat Launch in Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, 21 April 2015 (Ian Gardner (V), Ed Bernot; 009-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (1)

One at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 18 November 2015 (Devich Farbotnik (p), Bill Keim, Nick Pulcinella, Chuck Berthoud (p); 063-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. An amazing find at a small lake where it remained for a few days, providing the first state record. Photo published on the cover of PB V29:N4.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) (41)

One at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, *Philadelphia*, on various dates from 23 August – 21 October 2014 (Ann Reeves, Michael David (p), Mike Fialkovich (p) Holly Merker (p), Devich Farbotnik; 074-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. This may be the same bird that was originally discovered during the PSO Meeting in May during a field trip to the refuge. It was then reported in August and regularly into October as observers visited the refuge to see it due to its regular appearances. The bird was on a daily schedule where it took flight mid-morning from an apparent roost site outside of the refuge, soaring over the impoundment for a few minutes, then returning to the roost site. It was occasionally reported at other times in the day but was most reliable in the morning. This was the most reliable and long staying Anhinga recorded in the state and one of the few that was not a flyover at a hawkwatch. In addition to Image 1, a photograph of the bird in flight was published in PB V29:N4.



Image 1. Anhinga, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware, 29 September 2015. One of the few observations of the bird perched. Photo by Michael David.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (41)

Two at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, Philadelphia, 30 July – 7 August 2015 (Paul Bernhardt, Al Guarente, Deuane Hoffman, Todd Fellenbaum, George Armistead, Damon Orsetti, Brian Henderson, Frank Windfelder, Ann Reeves, Carl Engstrom, Michael David; 087-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V29:N4.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (142)

One at Lake Caroline, Bucks, 1 May 2015 (Jessica Pellien, Dan Graffius; 089-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (44)

An immature at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Philadelphia, 1 August 2015 (Todd Fellenbaum; 093-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0.

An adult at Green Lane Park, Montgomery, 17 October 2015 (Kevin Crilley; 093-02-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V29:N4. One of the few adults ever recorded; most records are immature birds.

An immature at Wildwood Lake Park in Harrisburg, Dauphin, 8 July 2015 (Ian Gardner (p,v); 093-03-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. There were ebird entries of this individual from 8-26 July. Photo published in PB V29:3.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) (8)

An immature male at the mouth of Walnut Creek, Erie, 6 December 2015 (Jerry McWilliams (p); 145-01-2015; Class III). 6/0. Observed in flight with a flock of Red-breasted Mergansers during McWilliams' fall waterfowl survey. Six of the eight state records have been from Erie.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (31)

One on the Allegheny River in the city of Warren, Warren, 14 March 2015 (Stephen Dowlan (p); 149-01-2015; Class I-P). 6/0. An immature bird well photographed.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) (15)

A female on the Delaware River, Northampton, 20 January 2015 (Matthew Sabatine (p); 155-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. The photographs submitted show the stubby yellow bill and more importantly the difference in head shape compared to the female Common Goldeneyes it associated with. This species has been regular at this location in recent years.



Image 2. Barrow's Goldeneye (right), Delaware River, Northampton, 20 January 2015. Fortunately, the bird turned its head to illustrate the steep forehead and elongated rear of the head. Photo by Matthew Sabatine.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (106)

One at Eagleville, Montgomery, 21 September 2015 (Kim Gruener, Anthony Uhrich (p); 171-02-2015; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at the Militia Hill Hawkwatch, Fort Washington State Park, Rich Conroy; 171-03-2015; Class III). 6/1.

One at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Berks, 25 September 2015 (Laurie Goodrich; 171-04-2015; Class III). 6/0.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (6+)

One at Hawk Mountain, Schuylkill, 4 October 2015 (Pablo Santoja, David Barber; 186-01-2015; Class III). 7/0.

One at Militia Hill Hawkwatch, Fort Washington State Park, Montgomery, 23 October 2015 (Peter Burns, Andy Fayer; 186-02-2015; Class III). 7/0.

While there are many sight records of this species, thorough documentation is important for acceptance. This is a species that is rarely photographed in the state because they are always seen flying over, the majority at hawkwatches.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) (2+)

One at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, 26 May 2015 (Mary Birdsong (p), Jerry McWilliams; 258-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V29:2. This was the second record from Presque Isle; the first was in 1976.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (14)

One at Lake Redman, York, 26 March 2015 (Chuck Kling (p), Robin Smith (p), Carolyn Mathur (p), Mike Yerger; 268-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V29:2.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (8+)

One at Greencastle Reservoir, Franklin, 26 September 2015 (Ian Gardner (p), Michael David (p), Mark Vass, 321-01-2015a; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V29:N4.



Image 3. Black-necked Stilt, Lake Redman, York, 26 March 2015. Photo by Richard Cleary.

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) (1)

One at The Point and Duck Hollow in Pittsburgh, Allegheny, 17-18 January 2015 (Ben Coulter (p) (v), Mark VanderVen, Tom Moeller, Dan Weeks, Jeffrey Cohen; 352-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was first observed at The Point 17 January and a provisional identification was made, documented with photographs and video. This was followed up by additional observers the following day. An extraordinary first state record with a thorough description accompanying photographs. Photo published in PB V29:N1.

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) (12)

Five at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Philadelphia, 8-9 August 2015 (Andy McGann (v); 362-01-2015; Class III). 5/1. First heard calling, then observed flying over the refuge at treetop level 8 August and recorded on video. Despite the video submission, this record is a Class III because identification details cannot be seen in the video, however the written description provided the information leading to acceptance. The following day a single bird was photographed at that location; however, that record was not submitted to PORC. A photo of that individual is published in PB V29:4. Out of all records in the state since 1992, only one was not observed during late summer/early fall. The timing of this record falls perfectly in the window for migrant and vagrant terns.

Chuck-wills-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (31+)

One at Michaux State Forest, Cumberland, 21 June 2015 (Ted Nichols II (r), Vern Gauthier, Bill Oyler; 463-01-2015; Class I-R). 7/0. Loud and clear audio of the bird calling left no doubt to the identification.

One at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon, 17 June 2015 (Ian Gardner, Paul Dennehy; 463-02-2015; Class III). 7/0. One heard calling in June and July at this location, the same general location a bird has been spending the summer annually since 2005.

Pacific Slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) (5)

One at Berks County Heritage Center, Berks, 24 December 2015 (Michael David (p), David Yeany II, Alex Lamoreaux, Sarah Hungerford, Tom Johnson (r); 538-01-2015; Class I-R). 7/0. While the photographs of this bird are excellent, they don't completely eliminate all other possibilities. The bird's distinctive call note was recorded aiding in identification. Photo published in PB V30:N1.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (29+)

One at Palmerton, Carbon, 11 October 2015 (Richard Rehrig (p), Barbara Rehrig, Billy Weber, Michael David (p), Rick Wiltraut; 557-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V29:N4.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (11)

One at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre, 15 December 2015 (John Kauffman, Doug Wentzel, Jerod Skebo, Josh Potter, Brian Sedgwick, Jason Beale; 576-01-2015; Class III). 7/0.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) (7)

A male at Pipersville, Bucks, 27 December 2015 and 7 January 2016 (Diane Allison (p), Ben Vizzachero, Michael David (p), Ann Rhoads, Zack Moyer, Andy McGann; 649-01-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V30:N1.

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) (1)

One visited a feeder in Yardley, Bucks, 21-22 February 2015 (Pam Newitt (p), August Mirabella, many observers; 658-01-2015, Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was a surprise visitor to a feeder during a snowy day. The committee decided since there is no evidence of this bird arriving to Bucks County by unnatural means along with some evidence of vagrancy or at least unusual dispersal in Europe and Iceland during the same winter, this bird should be accepted as a Class I and first state record for Pennsylvania. There is one piece of evidence that supports natural vagrancy during the winter of 2014-15. The European Robin exhibits a short-distance migration or dispersal every winter from breeding territories throughout Europe and regularly flies as far away as the Azores Islands, Northern Africa, and Iceland, but only in low numbers. In the winter of 2014-15, Iceland experienced a larger influx of birds than normal. In an average winter season 1 to 8 birds are recorded on the island nation from November to March. Between November 2014 and March 2015 at least 31 birds were reported in Iceland, increasing the possibility of vagrancy to the U.S. by means of a storm or favorable winds. Photographs published in PB V29:N1.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (11+)

A male visiting a feeder in State College, Centre, 21 November 2015 (Dick Snyder (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), David Yeany (p), many observers; 782-01-2015, Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was photographed at a feeder by the homeowner and was observed and photographed by many observers during its prolonged stay into spring. Photos and an article published in PB: V29:N4.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) (30)

One at the Philadelphia Naval Business Center, Philadelphia, 17 January 2015 (George Armistead (p), Anne Reeves, Martin Dellwo; 887-01-2015, Class I-P). 7/0. The excellent photographs show the overall pale plumage, white rump, and small bill.



Image 4. Hoary Redpoll, Philadelphia Naval Business Center, Philadelphia, 17 January 2015. Photo by George Armistead.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

One in Glen Mills, *Delaware*, 29 July 2015. (067-01-2015; Class IV-B). 0/7. This bird was observed in flight only while observer was driving. The bird itself was never described and the observer was not 100% certain of the identification. The committee did not have the details necessary to make a determination regarding this record.

Double-crested Cormorant (white crested subspecies) (*Phalacrocorax auritus* ssp. *cincinatus* or *albociliatus*)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 14 April 2015; 069a-01-2015; Class I-P). 0/7. The *cincinatus* subspecies breeds in Alaska and the *albociliatus* subspecies breeds along the west coast of North America. The submitter provided excellent details regarding subspecies, the ranges, identification and vagrancy. After the submitter consulted several experts for further opinions, the committee concluded subspecific identification in the field is not reliable based on that supplemental information. This is an excellent example of researching and discussing the identification of a subspecies that potentially may occur in the state. A photo of the bird was published in PB V29:2.

Willet (Eastern) (*Catoptrophorus semipalmata*, ssp. *semipalmata*)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 21 April 2015 (278a-01-2015; Class IV-B). 0/7. This record went through two rounds of voting due to the difficulty separating Willet subspecies. The bird may very well have been an eastern subspecies of Willet, but there was not enough evidence to draw that conclusion with confidence. The bill was a little longer than expected for eastern, but not out of range. The extensive barring and stocky build is consistent with eastern. A few other characters that were not available include details of the spread wing and a recording of the call which led the committee not to accept the record as an eastern subspecies. There are instances such as this where despite the observer's best efforts to document a rare bird, some important details just are not attainable because a bird does not do what we want it to do. A photo of this individual was published in PB V29:2. For information regarding Willets in Pennsylvania, see *Status on field identification problems of the Willet subspecies in Pennsylvania*, PB V12:N2.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

One at Lyon's Lake Park, *Lebanon*, 31 December 2014 (348-01-2014; Class IV-A). 3/3. This is another difficult identification that requires plumage details that were not visible in the many good photos submitted. This record went through two rounds of voting. Some members of the committee thought the photos showed a Thayer's Gull but others preferred to see details in the spread primaries and tail to completely eliminate Iceland Gull. Due to the lack of those details (because through no fault of the observer the bird was not observed or photographed in flight) the committee was divided on accepting this record.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at Loyd Roland Memorial Park, *Lancaster*, 25 April 2015 (171-01-2015; Class IV-B). 2/4. Most committee members felt the description was simply not detailed enough to warrant acceptance.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

One at Factory, *Lehigh* 18 June 1992 (780-01-2015; Class IV). 1/6. The description looked fine however points that were cause for concern regarding this record include the length of time between the observation and the submission of the report, the bird singing from a rooftop, the loss of the original notes and the confirmation of the

song by another party but no evidence of an actual recording or confirmation.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) ()

One visited a feeder in Rush Twp., *Susquehanna*, 26 January 2013 (887-05-2013, Class IV-B). 0/7. There were characteristics of this bird that fit both Common and Hoary Redpoll. Very limited streaking on the undertail coverts and pale feathers on the rump supports Hoary Redpoll, while the facial structure and overall lack of frostiness on the bird was a better fit for Common Redpoll. The facial structure was also similar to other Common Redpolls in the photos submitted.

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

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Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report – 2017

Compiled by Peter Robinson

The number of birders whose PA Life List is 300 or more stands at 91, the same as 2016. Also the same as 2016, 25 have PA Life Lists of 350 species or more, and 7 are at 375 or more. Barb Haas retained the PA Life List lead with at 391. It will not be too many more years before someone gets to 400 species. Birders at the 300 mark or more in the PA Life List-Unassisted category remains at 11. The year's high PA Annual List was Andy Keister's 299. For county life lists, Andy Keister's 231 for Montour replaces Allan Schweinberg's 224 from 2014. There were several new highs for county yearly lists. For Clinton county Carol Hildebrand found 179 species, 11 more than her 168 in 2016. Andy Keister established a new high for Columbia county of 175, surpassing his own 170 for 2015. Evan Houston and Andy Keister tied at 205 for Montour, eclipsing Andy's 170 for 2015. Andy Keister also established a new high for Northumberland – 169 versus his 137 for 2014. Sam Green found 173 species in Potter county, where the previous high was Chuck Chalfant's 169 in 2004. In Venango county Roy Ickes tallied 199 to edge out his 197 in 2015.

A number of people mentioned that they have removed Thayer's Gull from their lists because it is no longer considered to be a separate species. PA birders who have not yet removed Thayer's Gull from their lists should do so.

Michael Schall did a big photo year and finished with 269 + 2 (White-winged Tern and Black-backed Oriole) which is not far from the top PA list of species seen for 2017 and will be difficult to match or beat. Are others interested in a species photographed category? Email me at pabirder@hotmail.com.

The following people submitted list information for 2017: Brendyn Baptiste, Timothy Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, Bobby Brown, Brian Byrnes, Bruce Carl, John Carter, Dick Cleary, Michael David, Dave DeReamus, Mike Epler, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Ian Gardner, Carl Garner, Sam Greene, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Al Guarente, Barb & Frank Haas, David Hawk, Carol Hildebrand, Evan Houston, Roy Ickes, Ryan Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Dave Kerr, Arlene Koch, Wayne Laubscher, Ron Leberman, Ken Lebo, Geogg Malosh, Zachary Millen, Ted Nichols II, Richard Nugent, Bill Oyler, Thomas Reeves, Dan Richards, Jim Ridolfi, Peter Robinson, Michael Schall, John Snarey, Russ States, Mark Vass, Eric Witmer.

The Bird of the Year

There were votes for a total of 23 species – including three new state records if the PORC accepts the records. With three points for a first place vote, two for second, and one for third, there was a tie for first place. **Roseate Spoonbill** and **White-winged Tern** both received 42 points. In third place with 16 points was the Black-backed Oriole, the endemic from central Mexico that was seen by more than 1000 birders. The Oriole would undoubtedly have received a lot more votes if the ABA had previously accepted a record for that species. There were 6 points for Slaty-backed Gull; 5 points for Swallow-tailed Kite; 4 points for Rufous Hummingbird; 3 points for Tricolored Heron, Cedar Waxwing, Piping Plover, Dickcissel, Willet, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Parasitic Jaeger; 2 points for Silt Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull, and Bay-breasted Warbler; 1 point for Ross's Goose, Black Vulture, Northern Pintail, White Ibis, Black-headed Gull, Snowy Owl, and Bullock's Oriole.

Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	391	Barbara Haas	2017	42	332	William Murphy	2000	86	302	Sam Stull	1985
2	390	Devich Farbotnik	2017	42	332	Wayne Laubscher	2017	86	302	Edward Pederson	1998
2	390	Franklin Haas	2017	44	330	Billy Weber	2011	86	302	Rick Koval	2004
4	385	Dave DeReamus	2017	45	329	Paul Schwalbe	1998	89	301	Mark McConaughy	2015
5	383	Peter Robinson	2017	45	329	Ian Gardner	2017	90	300	Larry Lewis	1988
6	379	Eric Witmer	2016	48	328	Chad Kauffman	2017	90	300	Dave Rieger	2012
7	375	Tom Garner	2016	48	328	Margaret Higbee	2013	92	299	Keith Richards	1982
8	374	Al Guarente	2017	48	328	Greg Grove	2017	92	299	David Hawk	2017
8	374	Ken Lebo	2017	48	328	Mark Vass	2017	94	298	George Malosh	2003
10	371	Jason Horn	2002	51	327	Glenna Schwalbe	1998	94	298	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
11	370	Rick Wiltraut	2006	51	327	Steve Santner	1999	94	298	Richard Nugent	2017
11	370	Arlene Koch	2017	53	326	Mike Epler	2017	97	297	Allan Keith	1998
11	370	Geoff Malosh	2017	54	325	Chuck Berthoud	2016	97	297	Jim Dunn	2014
14	369	Randy C. Miller	2016	54	325	Andy Keister	2017	97	297	Dan Richards	2017
15	364	Jonathan Heller	2013	56	324	Harry Franzen	1996	100	296	Ed Kwater	1996
16	362	Nick Pulcinella	2013	56	324	Aden Troyer	2013	100	296	Bill Keim	2013
17	361	Robert Schutsky	2011	56	324	Timothy Becker	2017	100	296	Joseph Verica	2017
17	361	Harold Lebo	2012	59	322	Tom Clauser	2012	103	295	Frank Windfelder	1998
19	360	Bernard Morris	2011	59	322	Russ States	2013	103	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
19	360	Chuck Chalfant	2016	61	321	Bill Oyler	2017	105	294	James Baxter	1986
21	358	Steve Farbotnik	2006	62	319	John Ginaven	1998	105	294	Terence Schiefer	1999
22	355	Bruce Carl	2017	62	319	Trudy Kycler	2016	105	294	William Reid	2001
22	355	Michael Schall	2017	64	318	Phillips Street	1999	105	294	Gary Edwards	2014
24	354	John Fedak	2006	65	317	Matthew Spence	2013	109	293	John Peplinski	1994
25	350	Ronald Leberman	2014	65	317	Deborah Grove	2017	110	291	Zachary Millen	2017
26	349	Fritz Brock	2013	67	316	Alex Lamoreaux	2014	110	291	Thomas Reeves	2017
27	347	Mike Fialkovich	2015	68	315	Evelyn Kopf	1995	112	290	David Abbott	1998
27	347	Michael David	2017	68	315	Drew Weber	2011	112	290	Chuck Tague	1999
29	346	Jerry Book	2000	70	314	Walter Shaffer	1999	114	289	Kevin Crilley	1998
29	346	Joyce Hoffmann	2004	71	313	Harold Morrin	1996	115	288	Ross Gallardy	2006
29	346	Shannon Thompson	2015	71	313	David McNaughton	2013	116	287	Dustin Welch	2011
32	345	Bill Etter	2017	71	313	Ted Nichols II	2017	117	285	Armas Hill	1996
33	340	Richard Timm	2011	74	312	John Salvetti	2011	117	285	Neal Thorpe	1997
34	339	Jerry McWilliams	2015	74	312	Skip Conant	2013	117	285	Brian Byrnes	2017
35	338	Jan Witmer	1997	76	311	Dana Shaffer	1999	120	284	James Gray	1983
35	338	Richard Colyer	2000	76	311	Don Henise	2000	121	283	Kerry Grim	1998
37	337	John Miller	1997	78	309	Richard Rehrig	2016	122	282	John Billings	1998
38	336	William Stocku	1997	78	309	Carl Garner	2017	122	282	Dick Byers	2002
39	335	Matt Wlasniewski	2012	80	308	Robyn Henise	2000	124	278	James Baird	1981
40	333	David Kycler	2016	80	308	Mike Weible	2007	124	278	Merrill Wood	1991
40	333	Dick Cleary	2017	80	308	Roger Higbee	2008	126	277	Bonnie Baird	1981
				83	307	Ernest Schiefer	2000	126	277	Gerry Boltz	2017
				84	306	David Yeany II	2016	128	276	Randi Gerrish	2009
				85	305	Gene Wilhelm	1992	129	274	Gloria Lamar	1992

129	274	Sarah Gerrish	2009
129	274	Neil Troyer	2013
132	273	Katrina Knight	1999
133	272	Scott Kinzey	1999
133	272	Bob Machesney	2005
133	272	Pamela Fisher	2009
133	272	Nathan Fronk	2012
137	271	James Flynn	1997
138	270	Barry Reed	2010
139	268	Sam Sinderson	2005
140	267	Harry Henderson	1991
140	267	Scott Bills	2003
140	267	Brian Quindlen	2015
143	266	Joe Meloney	1994
143	266	Lewis Grove	2010
145	265	Marjorie Howard	2008
145	265	John Carter	2017
147	262	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
147	262	Jeff Payne	2008
149	261	Carol Hildebrand	2017
150	260	Dennis Miller	1999
150	260	Retta Payne	2008
150	260	Martin Page	2014
153	259	Linda McWilliams	1992
153	259	Eugene Zielinski	2000
155	258	Steve Graff	2000
155	258	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
155	258	Bobby Brown	2017
158	257	Russell Ryan	1993
159	256	Ted Grisez	1996
160	255	Nick Kerlin	2010
160	255	Sandy Lockerman	2014
160	255	Flo McGuire	2014
163	253	Scott Bastian	1999
163	253	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006
163	253	Kevin Fryberger	2010
166	252	Evan Houston	2017
166	252	Roy Ickes	2017
168	251	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
169	250	Stanley Glowacki	2002
170	247	Andy Wilson	2014
171	245	Bill Reddinger	1999
171	245	Robert Frantz	2000
173	244	Harvey Troyer	1999
174	243	Grant Stevenson	2012
174	243	Paul Mauss	2015
176	242	Walter Fye	1997
176	242	Jerry Troyer	1999
176	242	Marvin Byler	2005
176	242	Gordon Dimmig	2012
180	241	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2012
181	240	Dale Gearhart	2000
182	239	Adam Miller	2000
183	237	Jerry Skinner	2007
183	237	Michael Defina	2015
183	237	John Flannigan	2017
186	235	Glenn Czulada	2005
187	234	Christopher Payne	2008
188	232	Joe Strasser	1994
188	232	Voni Strasser	1994
190	231	Larry Brown	1998
190	231	Jim Mountjoy	2000
192	230	Brian Raicich	2013
193	228	Bruce Johnson	2014
194	227	Mike Ward	2010
194	227	David Trently	2013
196	226	Eli Troyer	1999
196	226	Stan Kotala	2001
196	226	Leonard Hess	2003
199	224	Arlene Brown	1998
200	223	Pamela Woodman	1993
200	223	Jim McVoy	2007
202	222	Linda Hess	2003
202	222	Joseph Greco	2008
204	220	Jon Dunn	2004
205	219	Ann Pettigrew	1996
205	219	Daniel Snell	2000
207	218	Helena Kotala	2007
208	213	Richard Murphy	1999
209	211	Frank Izaguirre	2013
210	210	Gregg Gorton	2001
210	210	Ryan Tomazin	2009
210	210	Chad Hutchinson	2015
213	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
213	206	Dennis Weaver	2000
215	205	Jeff Michaels	2005
216	203	Kurt Schwarz	2016

217	200	Fred Crowley	1995
218	199	Candy Krenzer	1999
219	197	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
220	185	John Snarey	2017
221	180	Thomas Mason	1999
222	170	Jim Ridolfi	2016
223	168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
224	162	Ryan Johnson	2017
225	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
226	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011
227	89	Michael Hartshorne	2014

PA Life Lists – Unassisted

("Chase" birds not included)

1	322	John Fedak	2006
2	321	Jason Horn	2002
3	319	Robert Schutsky	2009
3	319	Devich Farbotnik	2015
5	317	Jerry McWilliams	2015
6	314	Eric Witmer	2016
7	303	Chuck Chalfant	2016
8	302	Tom Garner	2016
9	301	Jonathan Heller	2012
10	300	Margaret Higbee	2013
10	300	Geoff Malosh	2017
12	299	Al Guarente	2016
13	292	Peter Robinson	2004
14	289	Franklin Haas	2000
14	289	Ken Lebo	2013
14	289	Mike Epler	2017
17	288	David Hawk	2017
18	286	Mark Vass	2017
19	282	Nick Pulcinella	2005
20	281	Alex Lamoreaux	2014
21	280	Ian Gardner	2017
22	278	Bill Etter	2016
23	275	Ronald Leberman	2011
24	273	Don Henise	2000
24	273	Michael Schall	2008
26	269	Greg Grove	2017
27	268	Barry Reed	2010
28	266	Ted Nichols II	2016
29	263	Steve Farbotnik	2000
30	262	Dave DeReamus	2013
31	256	Michael David	2017
32	255	John Carter	2017
33	254	Jeff Payne	2004
33	254	Zachary Millen	2017
35	253	Neil Troyer	2004
35	253	Dustin Welch	2011
37	250	Retta Payne	2004
37	250	Mark McConaughy	2015
37	250	Richard Rehrig	2016
40	249	Pamela Fisher	2009
41	248	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
41	248	Roy Ickes	2017
43	241	Bobby Brown	2017
44	239	Andy Wilson	2014
45	238	Flo McGuire	2014
46	236	Bill Keim	2009
47	233	Ross Gallardy	2003
48	226	Stan Kotala	2001
48	226	Leonard Hess	2003
50	222	Linda Hess	2003
51	221	Jim McVoy	2007
52	220	Martin Page	2014
53	216	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2005
54	212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
54	212	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2005
54	212	Grant Stevenson	2005
57	207	Gregg Gorton	2001
58	206	Benjamin Israel	2000
59	205	Dennis Weaver	2000
60	198	Paul Mauss	2015
61	186	John Salvetti	2003
61	186	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
63	185	John Snarey	2017
64	171	Helena Kotala	2007
65	165	Elmer Brenneman	2010
66	154	Ryan Johnson	2017
67	153	Douglas Anderson	2003
68	106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

PA Annual Lists 2017

299	Andy Keister
283	Ron Leberman
283	Michael Schall

277	Ted Nichols II
271	Mike Epler
263	Bruce Carl
262	Zachary Millen
261	John Carter
254	Richard Nugent
246	Joseph Verica
240	Bill Oyler
237	Ian Gardner
236	Al Guarente
235	Evan Houston
232	John Flannigan
230	Brendyn Baptiste
229	Bobby Brown
229	Michael David
223	Chad Kauffman
199	Roy Ickes
182	Carol Hildebrand
180	Carl Garner
154	Ryan Johnson
145	Dave DeReamus

PA Annual List > Personal Best

315	Chuck Chalfant	2012
307	Shannon Thompson	2012
306	Robert Schutsky	1992
302	Geoff Malosh	2012
297	Jason Horn	2000
296	Devich Farbotnik	2002
294	John Fedak	1998
292	Mike Weible	2007
292	Alex Lamoreaux	2012
290	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
288	Barbara Haas	1986
288	Franklin Haas	1986
286	Timothy Becker	2012
285	Ted Nichols II	2015
284	Peter Robinson	2002
283	Ronald Leberman	2017
283	Michael Schall	2017
279	Tom Johnson	2005
278	Sam Stull	1979
278	Gene Wilhelm	1983
272	Randy C. Miller	1992
271	Ian Gardner	2012
271	Mike Epler	2017
268	Terence Schiefer	1985
267	Jonathan Heller	1992
265	Al Guarente	2012
263	Jerry McWilliams	1983
263	Draw Weber	2011
262	Ken Lebo	1995
262	Walt Shaffer	1999
262	Zachary Millen	2017
261	John Carter	2017
260	Dana Shaffer	1999
260	Mark Vass	2004
259	Mike Fialkovich	1998
258	Steve Santner	1992
258	Michael David	2013
258	Andy Keister	2014
257	Dan Richards	2009
257	Richard Nugent	2016
255	Bill Oyler	2012
248	Dave Rieger	2001
247	Joseph Verica	2012
245	Holly Merker	2010
244	Richard Rehrig	2011
244	Nathan Fronk	2012
239	Bill Etter	2001
239	Rick Koval	2002
238	Ross Gallardy	2005
237	Chad Kauffman	2010
237	Greg Grove	2012
235	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
235	Gordon Dimmig	2012
234	Tom Clauser	2010
234	Neil Troyer	2012
233	Russ States	2003
233	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
231	Dave DeReamus	1990
230	Gary Edwards	2000
230	Jim Dunn	2014
230	Bobby Brown	2016
229	Mark McConaughy	1998
228	Bill Keim	2012
227	Pamela Fisher	2009

227	Brian Quindlen	2015
226	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
225	David Hawk	2009
223	John Salvetti	1996
220	Aden Troyer	2010
220	David Yeany II	2012
214	Skip Conant	2009
212	Michael Defina	2015
210	Carl Garner	1997
208	Sam Sinderson	1974
208	Gerry Boltz	2003
207	Chad Hutchinson	2015
204	Marvin Byler	2004
202	Bruce Johnson	2014
200	Scott Bills	1996
199	Pamela Fisher	2008
199	Roy Ickes	2017
198	Barry Reed	2010
192	Marjorie Howard	2004
186	John Salvetti	1999
185	Flo McGuire	2006
182	Carol Hildebrand	2017
177	Jeff Michaels	2005
174	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
170	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
163	Paul Mauss	2008
161	Martin Page	2004
154	Ryan Johnson	2017
147	Elmer Brennehan	2008
142	Jim McVoy	2007
136	Marjorie Howard	2008
122	Kurt Schwarz	2016
82	Rachael Shapiro	2011

Total Ticks

(Total of All County Life Lists)

10,122	John Fedak	2006
6,736	Deborah Grove	2017
6,488	Greg Grove	2017
5,510	Al Guarente	2017
5,148	Chad Kauffman	2017
5,127	Ian Gardner	2017
5,115	Michael David	2017
4,969	Andy Keister	2017
4,909	Randy C. Miller	2016
4,840	Richard Nugent	2017
4,525	Drew Weber	2011
4,381	Jim Dunn	2014
4,010	Devich Farbotnik	2017
3,947	Alex Lamoreaux	2014
3,589	Ted Nichols II	2017
3,548	Andy Wilson	2014
3,537	Russ States	2013
3,504	Nick Pulcinella	2013
3,421	Geoff Malosh	2009
3,093	Michael Schall	2016
2,929	Brian Byrnes	2017
2,518	David McNaughton	2013
2,505	David Yeany II	2016
2,008	Timothy Becker	2016
2,005	Nathan Fronk	2012
1,879	Richard Rehrig	2016
1,786	Bill Keim	2014
1,732	Sam Sinderson	2005
1,691	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
1,570	Zachary Millen	2017
1,272	Joseph Verica	2014
1,050	Jim Ridolfi	2017
1,030	Pamela Fisher	2009
973	Bobby Brown	2017
889	Thomas Reeves	2012
520	Ryan Johnson	2017
437	Michael Defina	2014
376	Chad Hutchinson	2015
257	Brian Raicich	2013
106	Rachael Shapiro	2011

County Life Lists (100 Or More)

ADAMS

213	Arthur Kennel	1995
212	Carl Garner	2017
197	Andy Wilson	2014
193	Nonie Kennell	1995
185	Paul Mauss	2015
182	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002

169	Bill Oyler	2017
150	Steve Santner	1995
144	Russell Ryan	1993
133	Ted Nichols II	2017
124	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
108	John Fedak	1998
106	Chuck Berthoud	2017
104	Don Henise	2000

ALLEGHENY

280	Geoff Malosh	2017
271	Mike Fialkovich	2016
271	Mark Vass	2017
255	Joyce Hoffmann	2004
235	Shannon Thompson	2012
231	Richard Nugent	2017
227	Michael David	2017
224	Bob Machesney	2006
224	David Yeany II	2016
208	Ed Kwatis	1996
203	Sam Sinderson	2005
200	Ross Gallardy	2006
189	Randi Gerrish	2009
188	Scott Kinzey	1999
180	Sarah Gerrish	2009
177	Dave Rieger	2012
176	Margaret Higbee	2013
168	George Malosh	1989
141	Greg Malosh	1991
139	John Fedak	2001
138	Roger Higbee	1993
122	Dick Byers	1999
102	Steve Santner	1995
100	Deborah Grove	2017

ARMSTRONG

239	John Fedak	2000
237	Margaret Higbee	2013
221	Roger Higbee	2008
188	Scott Bastian	1997
185	Steve Graff	2000
175	Bill Redding	1999
149	Mark McConaughy	2012
117	Michael David	2017
115	Flo McGuire	2014
100	Steve Santner	1995

BEAVER

262	Geoff Malosh	2017
254	Mark Vass	2016
199	Bill Hintze	2000
168	Nick Kerlin	1996
152	George Malosh	1998
148	Richard Nugent	2016
138	Scott Kinzey	1998
124	John Cruzan	1994
123	John Snarey	2017
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Greg Malosh	1991
106	Michael David	2017
105	Margaret Higbee	2013
102	Steve Santner	1995

BEDFORD

219	Ross Gallardy	2006
181	Chad Kauffman	2017
159	Margaret Higbee	2013
152	John Fedak	2000
148	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
147	Chuck Berthoud	2016
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
131	Grove	2016
130	Deborah Grove	2016
125	Andy Wilson	2014
122	Steve Santner	1995
122	Drew Weber	2011
121	Richard Murphy	1999
111	Dick Byers	2003
110	Jim Dunn	2014
110	Richard Nugent	2016
105	Marjorie Howard	2014
102	Randi Gerrish	1999
102	Sarah Gerrish	1999

100	Michael David	2015
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BERKS

318	Ken Lebo	2017
312	Matthew Spence	2013
309	Harold Lebo	2012
301	Matt Wlasniewski	2013
287	Jason Horn	2002
275	Kerry Grim	1998
268	Tom Clauser	2012
253	Ernest Schiefer	1999
227	Bernard Morris	2011
219	Drew Weber	2011
209	Al Guarente	2015
208	Terence Schiefer	2006
207	Barbara Haas	1999
207	Michael Schall	2017
206	Chuck Chalfant	2012
198	Nick Pulcinella	2013
192	Larry Lewis	1988
186	Devich Farbotnik	2015
174	Steve Santner	1995
171	Randy C. Miller	2012
164	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
164	Jonathan Heller	2011
158	Bruce Carl	2017
149	Kevin Crilley	1998
145	Steve Farbotnik	2001
139	Scott Bills	1992
136	Brian Byrnes	2017
135	John Fedak	1999
129	Chad Kauffman	2017
118	Margaret Higbee	2013
118	Ted Nichols II	2017
113	Andy Keister	2017
112	Deborah Grove	2017
109	Ian Gardner	2015
105	Tim Becker	2017
104	Greg Grove	2010

BLAIR

221	Stan Kotala	2001
212	Michael David	2017
180	David Kyler	1996
164	John Carter	2017
148	Jim Dunn	2014
143	Deborah Grove	2017
139	Greg Grove	2016
123	Helena Kotala	2002
119	Ian Gardner	2015
111	Andy Wilson	2014
104	John Fedak	1998
103	Steve Santner	1995

BRADFORD

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

BUCKS

340	Devich Farbotnik	2017
316	Steve Farbotnik	2006
307	Bill Etter	2017
290	Jason Horn	2002
265	Billy Weber	2011
265	Bill Keim	2014
251	William Murphy	2000
239	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006
230	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2012
228	Stanley Glowacki	2002
218	Al Guarente	2016
215	Harry Franzen	1996
214	Michael Schall	2017
202	Stan Glowacki	1991
180	Bernard Morris	2007
175	Nick Pulcinella	2012
172	Kurt Schwarz	2016

243	Scott Bills	2003
239	Mark McConaughy	2013
235	Grace Randolph	1996
234	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
219	Steve Santner	1995
214	Timothy Becker	2017
213	David McNaughton	2013
211	Richard Colyer	1999
202	Ted Nichols II	2017
199	Chuck Berthoud	2016
194	Drew Weber	2011
178	Chad Kauffman	2017
175	Don Henise	2000
167	Mike Epler	2017
156	John Fedak	2002
154	Sandy Lockerman	2014
152	Randy C. Miller	2015
140	Jonathan Heller	2003
135	Andy Keister	2017
128	William Reid	2001
127	Merrill Wood	1991
126	Jim Dunn	2014
124	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
121	Greg Grove	2015
116	Deborah Grove	2015
111	Devich Farbotnik	2013
111	Michael David	2017
104	Nick Pulcinella	2012
102	Andy Wilson	2014

DELAWARE

298	Al Guarente	2017
289	John Miller	1985
278	Nick Pulcinella	2013
262	Skip Conant	2010
256	Barbara Haas	2000
254	Thomas Reeves	2017
226	Paul Schwalbe	1998
224	John Ginaven	1999
196	Brian Byrnes	2017
153	Martin Page	2013
152	Brian Quindlen	2015
151	Jason Horn	1995
130	Steve Santner	1995
119	John Fedak	2001

ELK

198	John Fedak	2006
186	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
183	Linda Christenson	1997
106	Deborah Grove	2017
105	Steve Santner	1995
102	Richard Nugent	2016

ERIE

329	Jerry McWilliams	2015
305	Donald Snyder	2002
291	Sam Stull	1985
291	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
289	Geoff Malosh	2017
277	John Fedak	2005
274	Ed Kwater	1996
271	Russ States	2013
271	Mike Fialkovich	2017
268	James Flynn	1997
263	Ronald Leberman	2001
257	Jason Horn	2002
253	Linda McWilliams	1992
253	Margaret Higbee	2004
249	Barbara Haas	1996
240	Shannon Thompson	2012
239	Richard Nugent	2017
237	Roger Higbee	1999
236	George Malosh	1989
235	Sam Sinderson	2005
234	Dave Rieger	2012
233	Gene Wilhelm	1992
224	Randy C. Miller	2002
223	Bob Machesney	2003
221	Richard Colyer	2000
217	Greg Malosh	1991
208	Steve Santner	1995
204	Jonathan Heller	2002
202	Michael David	2017

197	Terence Schiefer	1998
190	Chad Kauffman	2017
181	Devich Farbotnik	2015
180	Don Henise	2000
180	Randi Gerrish	2003
179	Sarah Gerrish	2003
178	Bernard Morris	1998
178	Marjorie Howard	2008
171	Greg Grove	2017
165	Andy Keister	2017
159	David Yeany II	2016
152	Ted Nichols II	2017
146	J. Kenneth Gabler	1999
144	Steve Graff	2000
144	Deborah Grove	2017
142	Michael Schall	2010
139	Rick Koval	2004
120	Chuck Berthoud	2016
120	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
110	Bill Reddinger	1999
100	Ross Gallardy	2004

FAYETTE

170	Mark McConaughy	2004
126	John Fedak	2005
125	Randi Gerrish	2003
121	Richard Nugent	2016
120	Sarah Gerrish	2003
119	Steve Santner	1995
111	Ed Kwater	1996
108	Michael David	2017

FOREST

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

FRANKLIN

277	Carl Garner	2017
270	Bill Oyler	2017
269	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
215	Dale Gearhart	2000
213	Jeffrey Walck	1989
146	Alex Lamoreaux	2010
141	Don Henise	1997
130	Steve Santner	1995
124	Andy Wilson	2014
115	Deborah Grove	2017
115	Chad Kauffman	2017
114	John Fedak	1998
106	Rachael Shapiro	2011
104	Greg Grove	2015

FULTON

205	J. Kenneth Gabler	2000
200	Daniel Snell	2000
152	Jeffrey Walck	1989
148	Carl Garner	2014
119	Steve Santner	1995
119	Greg Grove	2016
119	Deborah Grove	2017
118	Robert Walker	1989
115	Dale Gearhart	2000
108	John Fedak	2001
101	Andy Wilson	2014

GREENE

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

HUNTINGDON

273	David Kyler	2016
268	Greg Grove	2017
263	Deborah Grove	2017
260	Trudy Kyler	2016
247	Jon Kauffman	2014
236	Ian Gardner	2014
227	Jim Dunn	2014
195	Joseph Verica	2017
181	Merrill Wood	1991
178	John Salvetti	2003
172	Andy Wilson	2014
171	Lewis Grove	2000
155	Eugene Zielinski	1998
147	Chad Kauffman	2017
127	Drew Weber	2011
122	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
117	Nathan Fronk	2012
106	John Fedak	1998
104	Steve Santner	1995

INDIANA

285	Margaret Higbee	2013
262	Roger Higbee	2008
233	Gloria Lamer	1992
232	Steve Graff	2000
195	Anne Hedgpeth	1986
193	Leonard Hess	2003
185	Linda Hess	2003
184	John Fedak	2001
184	Richard Nugent	2015
177	Mark McConaughy	2004
173	Randi Gerrish	2003
173	Sarah Gerrish	2003
137	Ross Gallardy	2003
123	Michael David	2017
118	Steve Santner	1995
108	Deborah Grove	2016
104	Bill Reddinger	1999
100	Greg Grove	2015

JEFFERSON

225	John Fedak	2000
158	Margaret Higbee	2012
105	Bill Reddinger	1999
105	Russ States	2013
104	Steve Santner	1995

JUNIATA

263	Aden Troyer	2013
236	Chad Kauffman	2017
146	Greg Grove	2015
143	John Fedak	2006
143	Jim Dunn	2014
139	Deborah Grove	2017
118	Jonathan Heller	2002
108	Steve Santner	1995

LACKAWANNA

200	Glenn Czulada	2007
169	Rick Koval	2004
158	William Reid	2001
136	John Fedak	2002
103	Steve Santner	1995
103	Jim Ridolfi	2017

LANCASTER

335	Eric Witmer	2016
334	Tom Garner	2016
330	Randy C. Miller	2016
330	Bruce Carl	2017
324	Robert Schutsky	2011
320	Chuck Chalfant	2016
318	Jonathan Heller	2012
306	Jerry Book	2000
300	Barbara Haas	2009
298	Mike Epler	2017
292	Jan Witmer	1997
291	Harold Morrin	1996
288	Jason Horn	2002
274	Steve Santner	1995

274	Al Guarente	2017
272	Zachary Millen	2017
268	Ted Nichols II	2017
265	Drew Weber	2011
251	Nick Pulcinella	2013
243	Pamela Fisher	2009
240	Larry Lewis	1988
224	Richard Colyer	2000
223	Timothy Becker	2017
213	Geoff Malosh	2009
212	Jim Mountjoy	2000
212	Ian Gardner	2017
209	Ernest Schiefer	2000
201	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
201	Chad Kauffman	2017
198	Pamela Woodman	1993
196	Dennis Weaver	2000
193	Michael Schall	2017
187	Terence Schiefer	2009
184	Don Henise	1997
181	Devich Farbotnik	2017
179	Chuck Berthoud	2017
172	John Fedak	2006
171	Andy Keister	2017
165	Matt Wlasniewski	2012
160	Kevin Crilley	1998
155	Bernard Morris	2008
150	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
149	Margaret Higbee	2013
148	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
148	Brian Byrnes	2017
147	Douglas Anderson	2003
146	Steve Farbotnik	2001
136	Martin Page	2013
132	J. Kenneth Gabler	2001
130	Mark McConaughy	2015
119	Michael David	2017
111	Jim Dunn	2014
111	Deborah Grove	2016
110	Nathan Fronk	2012
109	Marjorie Howard	2008
108	Roger Higbee	1993
106	Greg Grove	2009

LAWRENCE

220	Geoff Malosh	2017
210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
206	Margaret Higbee	2013
185	Richard Nugent	2017
166	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
158	John Fedak	2000
117	Michael David	2017
102	Steve Santner	1995

LEBANON

300	Randy C. Miller	2015
282	Timothy Becker	2017
267	Jonathan Heller	2014
260	David McNaughton	2013
238	Chuck Chalfant	2012
236	Steve Santner	1995
236	Chuck Berthoud	2015
234	Gerry Boltz	2017
234	Ted Nichols II	2017
233	Bruce Carl	2017
208	Stephen Mallanson	1996
203	Ian Gardner	2015
202	Bruce Weaver	2000
201	John Fedak	2006
197	Andy Keister	2017
195	Mike Epler	2017
181	Jason Horn	1995
174	Chad Kauffman	2017
169	Michael Schall	2017
155	Drew Weber	2011
152	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
151	Al Guarente	2016
130	Don Henise	1997
130	Pamela Fisher	2009
129	Nick Pulcinella	2012
125	Devich Farbotnik	2017
122	Barbara Haas	1996
119	Brian Byrnes	2017
115	Jim Dunn	2014
115	David Yeany II	2016

104	Deborah Grove	2017
LEHIGH		
278	Fritz Brock	2016
271	Jason Horn	2002
270	Bernard Morris	2011
260	Rick Wiltraut	1998
243	Billy Weber	2011
230	Michael Schall	2017
227	Bill Etter	2017
210	Dustin Welch	2011
176	Devich Farbotnik	2017
153	Al Guarente	2014
136	Robert Frantz	2000
132	John Fedak	2005
115	Bill Keim	2012
105	Nick Pulcinella	2012
103	Steve Santner	1995
102	Matt Wlasniewski	2011

LUZERNE

280	William Reid	2001
265	Rick Koval	2004
216	Mark Blauer	1985
212	John Fedak	2005
151	Jim Ridolfi	2016
149	Kevin Crilley	1998
137	Andy Keister	2017
121	Glenn Czulada	2003
115	Bernard Morris	1998
111	Chad Kauffman	2014
101	Margaret Higbee	2013
100	Chuck Berthoud	2016

LYCOMING

245	Bobby Brown	2017
231	Andy Keister	2017
230	Paul Schwalbe	1998
211	Nathan Fronk	2012
124	Steve Santner	1995
124	Carol Hildebrand	2008
121	Ted Nichols II	2017
119	John Fedak	1999
115	Jim Dunn	2014
107	Greg Grove	2015
106	Deborah Grove	2015
105	Randy Miller	2012
103	Don Henise	2000

McKEAN

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

MERCER

255	Neil Troyer	2013
232	Harvey Troyer	1999
231	Jerry Troyer	1999
216	Eli Troyer	1999
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
210	Richard Nugent	2017
208	Margaret Higbee	2013
201	Geoff Malosh	2017
193	Russ States	2013
191	John Fedak	2000
190	Neal Troyer	1998
169	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
166	Marvin Byler	2002
124	Steve Santner	1995
118	David Yeany II	2016
114	Michael David	2017
102	Randi Garrish	1999

MIFFLIN

213	Greg Grove	2017
176	Chad Kauffman	2017
167	Jim Dunn	2014
160	Deborah Grove	2017
134	Ted Nichols II	2017
127	John Fedak	2006

120	Ian Gardner	2015
111	Ian Gardner	2013
108	Steve Santner	1995

MONROE

225	Michael Schall	2015
222	Phillips Street	1996
215	Bruce Johnson	2014
176	Jason Horn	1995
138	Bernard Morris	2008
119	Ryan Johnson	2017
111	John Fedak	2001
111	Devich Farbotnik	2009
110	Steve Santner	1995
106	Jim Dunn	2014
103	Al Guarente	2013
101	Rick Koval	2004

MONTGOMERY

275	Jason Horn	2002
260	William Murphy	1999
255	Kevin Crilley	1998
241	Harry Franzen	1996
232	Bernard Morris	2010
228	Devich Farbotnik	2017
224	Al Guarente	2017
223	Neal Thorpe	1997
208	Michael Schall	2017
203	Joseph Greco	2008
184	Steve Farbotnik	2001
182	Nick Pulcinella	2012
170	John Fedak	2005
157	Brian Byrnes	2016
152	Bill Keim	2014
141	Gregg Gorton	2001
137	Steve Santner	1995
133	Patrick O'Donnell	2008
129	Thomas Mason	1999
125	Thomas Reeves	2010
120	Martin Page	2014
107	Robert Walker	1989
106	Andy Keister	2017
105	Rick Koval	2004
100	Barbara Haas	1996

MONTOUR

231	Andy Keister	2017
224	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
213	Evan Houston	2017
212	Barbara Haas	1996
140	John Fedak	1999
119	Steve Santner	1995
108	Deborah Grove	2017
104	Kevin Crilley	1998
102	Greg Grove	2017

NORTHAMPTON

298	Arlene Koch	2017
292	Dave DeReamus	2017
290	Michael Schall	2017
269	Rick Wiltraut	1998
264	Billy Weber	2011
251	Dustin Welch	2011
248	Jason Horn	2002
239	Bernard Morris	2009
229	Steve Boyce	1990
229	Bill Etter	2017
220	Brad Silfies	1990
220	Dennis Miller	1998
219	Adam Miller	2000
187	Devich Farbotnik	2015
134	Ian Gardner	2015
130	John Fedak	2005
125	Thomas Reeves	2011
123	Al Guarente	2015
117	Steve Farbotnik	2003
106	Steve Santner	1995
106	Matt Wlasniewski	2012
102	Randy C. Miller	2002

NORTHUMBERLAND

235	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
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221 Andy Keister 2017
 166 Barbara Haas 1993
 138 John Fedak 1999
 112 Steve Santner 1995
 106 Drew Weber 2011
 104 Deborah Grove 2017
 102 Greg Grove 2017

PERRY

235 Richard Colyer 2000
 182 Chad Kauffman 2017
 159 Don Henise 2000
 159 Ted Nichols II 2017
 157 Steve Santner 1995
 141 Walter Shelly, Jr. 1992
 139 Dallas Dowhower 1992
 135 Randy C. Miller 2012
 126 John Fedak 1998
 119 Mark McConaughy 2001
 117 Jonathan Heller 2001
 117 Chuck Berthoud 2016
 116 Andy Keister 2017
 112 Jim Dunn 2014
 112 Deborah Grove 2017
 108 Greg Grove 2017
 107 Drew Weber 2011

PHILADELPHIA

290 John Miller 1985
 278 Al Guarente 2017
 247 Nick Pulcinella 2013
 245 Frank Windfelder 1992
 243 Harry Franzen 1996
 241 Barbara Haas 1996
 236 Skip Conant 2011
 221 Thomas Reeves 2012
 219 John Ginaven 1998
 209 Brian Byrnes 2017
 184 Jim McKinney 1992
 175 Bill Keim 2014
 167 Jason Horn 1995
 167 Gregg Gorton 2001
 163 Stephen Lawrence 1990
 155 Steve Farbotnik 2001
 154 Steve Santner 1995
 154 Devich Farbotnik 2017
 139 Brian Henderson 2011
 138 Andy Keister 2017
 136 Michael David 2015
 132 Ted Nichols II 2017
 129 Thomas Mason 1999
 120 Terence Schiefer 1998
 117 Ian Gardner 2015
 113 John Fedak 1998
 113 Martin Page 2012
 107 Kevin Crilley 1998
 101 Randy C. Miller 1998
 100 Timothy Becker 2016
 100 Chuck Berthoud 2016

PIKE

201 Joe Strasser 1994
 201 Voni Strasser 1994
 198 Michael Schall 2017
 144 Phillips Street 1996
 138 John Fedak 2001
 126 Ryan Johnson 2017
 102 Al Guarente 2013
 101 Steve Santner 1995
 101 Barbara Haas 2001

POTTER

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

SCHUYLKILL

267 Tom Clauser 2012

218 Mike Ward 2010
 178 Bruce Carl 2017
 177 Jason Horn 1995
 177 Dave Rieger 2012
 168 Matt Wlasniewski 2011
 155 Drew Weber 2011
 152 Bernard Morris 2007
 133 Steve Santner 1995
 127 Barbara Haas 2000
 113 John Fedak 1998
 112 Randy C. Miller 2009
 109 Nick Pulcinella 2012
 109 Al Guarente 2015
 104 Timothy Becker 2017

SNYDER

203 Allen Schweinsberg 2014
 156 Chad Kauffman 2017
 132 Steve Santner 1995
 129 Deborah Grove 2017
 127 John Fedak 2006
 127 Greg Grove 2017
 111 Jim Dunn 2014
 111 Andy Keister 2017

SOMERSET

254 Jeff Payne 2008
 251 Retta Payne 2008
 238 Scott Bastian 1999
 231 Christopher Payne 2008
 190 Michael David 2017
 177 Richard Murphy 1998
 170 Ross Gallardy 2003
 168 Elmer Brennehan 2010
 149 John Fedak 2000
 133 Ted Nichols II 2016
 132 Chad Kauffman 2017
 126 Steve Santner 1995
 121 Deborah Grove 2016
 120 Margaret Higbee 2013
 116 Greg Grove 2016
 109 Mark McConaughy 2004
 108 Randi Gerrish 1999
 107 Sarah Gerrish 1999

SULLIVAN

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

SUSQUEHANNA

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

TIOGA

223 Larry Brown 1998
 215 Arlene Brown 1998
 205 Benjamin Israel 2000
 194 Bruce Carl 2017
 173 Chuck Chalfant 2016
 168 Drew Weber 2011
 153 John Fedak 2002
 141 Nathan Fronk 2012
 120 Steve Santner 1995
 110 Andy Wilson 2014
 105 Deborah Grove 2017
 102 Greg Grove 2017
 101 Matt Wlasniewski 2011

UNION

235 Allen Schweinsberg 2014

206 Andy Keister 2017
 132 Barbara Haas 1996
 117 Steve Santner 1995
 110 John Fedak 2001
 105 Jim Dunn 2014
 104 Deborah Grove 2017
 102 Greg Grove 2017

VENANGO

266 Russ States 2013
 261 Gary Edwards 2014
 220 John Fedak 2005
 175 Gene Wilhelm 1992
 158 Flo McGuire 2014
 153 Nick Kerlin 1997
 149 Richard Nugent 2017
 120 Brendyn Baptiste 2017
 103 Steve Santner 1995

WARREN

256 John Fedak 2006
 227 Harris Johnson 1986
 227 Ted Grisez 1996
 114 Steve Santner 1995

WASHINGTON

238 Geoff Malosh 2015
 233 Roy Ickes 2017
 231 Ross Gallardy 2009
 210 Margaret Higbee 1993
 209 Roger Higbee 1993
 161 Russ Ruffing 1991
 141 George Malosh 1989
 131 Richard Nugent 2016
 115 Sam Sinderson 2002
 111 Michael David 2017
 106 John Fedak 1998
 100 Steve Santner 1995

WAYNE

221 Joe Strasser 1994
 221 Voni Strasser 1994
 129 John Fedak 1998
 126 William Reid 1999
 109 Ryan Johnson 2017
 102 Steve Santner 1995

WESTMORELAND

251 Dick Byers 2015
 234 Mark McConaughy 2015
 208 Linda Christenson 1996
 202 Margaret Higbee 2013
 200 Randi Gerrish 2003
 193 Sarah Gerrish 2003
 188 Linda Hess 2003
 186 Roger Higbee 2008
 185 Leonard Hess 2003
 161 John Fedak 2006
 145 Michael David 2017
 142 Richard Nugent 2016
 137 Steve Santner 1995
 129 Richard Murphy 1999
 123 Sam Sinderson 2005
 120 James Flynn 1997
 116 Drew Weber 2011
 116 Deborah Grove 2016
 112 Greg Grove 2008
 106 Chad Kauffman 2014

WYOMING

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

YORK

256 Dick Cleary 2017

242	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
229	Russell Ryan	1993
218	Chuck Berthoud	2017
194	Steve Santner	1995
185	Ann Pettigrew	1996
176	Paul Mauss	2015
173	Carl Garner	2017
172	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
166	Jeff Pheasant	1995
160	Jason Horn	1995
160	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
158	Jonathan Heller	2003
154	Don Henise	2000
153	Candy Krenzer	1999
153	Randy C. Miller	2008
140	Drew Weber	2011
138	Don Henise	1997
123	Nick Pulcinella	2013
123	Andy Wilson	2014
123	Al Guarente	2015
121	John Fedak	2004
120	Ted Nichols II	2017
113	Pamela Fisher	2009
113	Deborah Grove	2011
113	Ted Nichols II	2016
112	Greg Grove	2016
111	Barbara Haas	1996
109	Ian Gardner	2015
103	Chad Kauffman	2017

County Life Lists Top 50

1	340	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2017
2	335	Lancaster	Eric Witmer	2016
3	334	Lancaster	Tom Garner	2016
4	330	Lancaster	Randy Miller	2016
4	330	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2017
6	329	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2015
7	324	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	2011
8	320	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2016
9	318	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	2012
9	318	Berks	Ken Lebo	2017
11	316	Bucks	Steve Farbotnik	2006
12	312	Berks	Mathew Spence	2013
13	309	Berks	Harold Lebo	2012
14	307	Bucks	Bill Etter	2017
15	306	Lancaster	Jerry Book	2000
16	305	Erie	Donald Snyder	2002
17	301	Berks	Matt Wlasniewski	2013
18	300	Lancaster	Barbara Haas	2009
18	300	Lebanon	Randy Miller	2015
20	298	Lancaster	Mike Epler	2017
20	298	Delaware	Al Guarente	2017
20	298	Northampton	Arlene Koch	2017
23	292	Lancaster	Jan Witmer	1997
23	292	Northampton	Dave DeReamus	2017
25	291	Erie	Sam Stull	1985
25	291	Lancaster	Harold Morrin	1996
25	291	Erie	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
28	290	Philadelphia	John Miller	1985
28	290	Bucks	Jason Horn	2002
28	290	Northampton	Michael Schall	2017
31	289	Delaware	John Miller	1985
31	289	Erie	Geoff Malosh	2017
33	288	Lancaster	Jason Horn	2002
34	287	Berks	Jason Horn	2002
34	287	Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2008
36	285	Indiana	Margaret Higbee	2013
37	282	Lebanon	Tim Becker	2017
38	281	Chester	Nick Pulcinella	2013
39	280	Luzerne	William Reid	2001
39	280	Allegheny	Geoff Malosh	2017
41	279	Chester	Chuck Chalfant	2016
42	278	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	2013
42	278	Lehigh	Fritz Brock	2016
42	278	Philadelphia	Al Guarente	2017
45	277	Erie	John Fedak	2005
45	277	Franklin	Carl Garner	2017
45	277	Carbon	David Hawk	2017
48	275	Berks	Kerry Grim	1998
48	275	Montgomery	Jason Horn	2002
50	274	Lancaster	Steve Santner	1995
50	274	Erie	Ed Kwater	1996
50	274	Chester	Al Guarente	2017
50	274	Lancaster	Al Guarente	2017
52	273	Huntingdon	David Kyler	2016

County Annual Lists

(Top 10 of 100 Or More)

ADAMS

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

ALLEGHENY

233	Geoff Malosh	2005
230	Geoff Malosh	2014
227	Geoff Malosh	2004
224	Geoff Malosh	2009
221	Mark Vass	2005
218	Geoff Malosh	2015
214	Geoff Malosh	2016
211	Geoff Malosh	2013
210	Mark Vass	2004
205	Geoff Malosh	2007

ARMSTRONG

201	John Fedak	1997
177	Scott Bastian	1996
152	Margaret Higbee	1993
149	Margaret Higbee	2008
141	Steve Graff	2000
139	Roger Higbee	2008
133	Bill Reddinger	1998
116	Bill Reddinger	1999
113	Mark McConaughy	1998
113	Mark McConaughy	2004

BEAVER

225	Geoff Malosh	2006
202	Mark Vass	2005
202	Mark Vass	2006
192	Geoff Malosh	2007
186	Bill Hintze	1999
168	Geoff Malosh	2005
161	Bill Hintze	2000
141	Geoff Malosh	2015
133	Geoff Malosh	2016
130	Geoff Malosh	2013

BEDFORD

223	Sally Dick	1997
221	Tom Dick	1997
143	Chad Kauffman	2011

BERKS

252	Ken Lebo	1995
240	Ken Lebo	1999
236	Ken Lebo	1997
235	Ken Lebo	2011
234	Ken Lebo	2013
231	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
229	Ken Lebo	1996
222	Matt Wlasniewski	2013
219	Ken Lebo	1998
218	Matt Wlasniewski	2012

BLAIR

204	Michael David	2014
177	Michael David	2013
143	Beryl Sternagle	1995
141	Beryl Sternagle	2000
126	Beryl Sternagle	1990
121	Beryl Sternagle	1989
108	Michael David	2012

BRADFORD

147	Ronald Young	1993
146	Ronald Young	1992
141	William Reid	1999
128	William Reid	2001

BUCKS

277	Devich Farbotnik	2002
267	Devich Farbotnik	2011
259	Devich Farbotnik	2012
258	Devich Farbotnik	2007

258	Devich Farbotnik	2010
255	Devich Farbotnik	2013
253	Devich Farbotnik	2001
253	Devich Farbotnik	2008
250	Devich Farbotnik	2017
249	Devich Farbotnik	2016

BUTLER

245	Gene Wilhelm	1983
229	Gene Wilhelm	1985
225	Gene Wilhelm	1982
210	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
200	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
168	Richard Nugent	2015
167	Richard Nugent	2016
155	Richard Nugent	2014
152	Richard Nugent	2010
151	Richard Nugent	2013
150	Richard Nugent	2011

CAMBRIA

177	John Salvetti	1992
175	John Salvetti	1997
174	John Salvetti	1995
171	John Salvetti	1999
165	John Salvetti	1998
161	John Salvetti	2002
124	Michael David	2012

CAMERON

None above 100

CARBON

222	David Hawk	2009
218	David Hawk	2007
217	David Hawk	2010
215	David Hawk	2008
208	David Hawk	2011
208	David Hawk	2014
207	Richard Rehrig	2016
206	David Hawk	2012
204	David Hawk	2002
202	David Hawk	2015

CENTRE

241	Joseph Verica	2014
239	Joseph Verica	2011
239	Drew Weber	2011
234	Joseph Verica	2012
230	Joseph Verica	2017
227	Joseph Verica	2013
224	Terence Schiefer	1985
221	Molly Heath	2003
221	Nathan Fronk	2011
214	Terence Schiefer	1986

CHESTER

232	Kevin Fryberger	2009
227	Holly Merker	2010
225	Larry Lewis	1988
225	Kevin Fryberger	2010
221	Larry Lewis	1983
220	Brian Quindlen	2015
219	Larry Lewis	1986
217	Chuck Chalfant	2006
212	Brian Raich	2013
211	Brian Quindlen	2012

CLARION

231	John Fedak	1998
223	John Fedak	2000
219	John Fedak	1996
213	John Fedak	1997
208	John Fedak	1999
188	John Fedak	2001
131	Russ States	2004
119	Mark McConaughy	1999
115	Bill Reddinger	1999
115	Richard Nugent	2015

CLEARFIELD

203	Dan Richards	2011
155	John Fedak	1997

CLINTON

179	Carol Hildebrand	2017
168	Carol Hildebrand	2016

159	Carol Hildebrand	2008	143	Richard Walters	1993	LAWRENCE		
157	Carol Hildebrand	2005	142	Flo McGuire	2005	210	Gene Wilhelm	1992
155	Carol Hildebrand	2011	132	John Fedak	1997	142	Brendyn Baptiste	2017
153	Carol Hildebrand	2007	130	Gary Edwards	2014	131	Shannon Thompson	2012
143	Carol Hildebrand	2004				129	Brendyn Baptiste	2016
142	Carol Hildebrand	2006	FRANKLIN			118	John Fedak	1997
125	Greg Grove	2005	228	Bill Oyler	2013	116	Richard Nugent	2010
119	Nathan Fronk	2012	221	Bill Oyler	2014	114	Richard Nugent	2014
			218	Bill Oyler	2016	108	Richard Nugent	2015
COLUMBIA			217	Bill Oyler	2015	100	Richard Nugent	2016
175	Andy Keister	2017	215	Dale Gearhart	1999			
170	Andy Keister	2015	213	Bill Oyler	2017	LEBANON		
165	Andy Keister	2014	197	Carl Garner	2013	249	Timothy Becker	2014
147	Andy Keister	2013	185	Carl Garner	1997	244	Timothy Becker	2013
112	John Fedak	1997	185	Carl Garner	2014	241	David McNaughton	2013
			182	Carl Garner	2004	237	Timothy Becker	2012
CRAWFORD						222	Randy C. Miller	1999
240	Ronald Leberman	2013	FULTON			222	Randy C. Miller	2012
240	Ronald Leberman	2014	173	Daniel Snell	1997	222	Timothy Becker	2015
230	Ronald Leberman	2009	115	Kenneth Gabler	1988	220	Timothy Becker	2011
223	Ronald Leberman	2011	108	Kenneth Gabler	2000	215	Randy C. Miller	1993
222	Ronald Leberman	2007				213	Randy C. Miller	2002
222	Ronald Leberman	2008	GREENE					
208	Ronald Leberman	1994	137	Ralph Bell	1985	LEHIGH		
202	Ronald Leberman	1989	134	Ralph Bell	1986	227	Billy Weber	2011
201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	130	Ralph Bell	1990	200	Bernard Morris	1984
196	Ronald Leberman	2000	115	Marjorie Howard	2007	192	Michael Schall	2009
			109	Marjorie Howard	2005	189	Michael Schall	2006
CUMBERLAND			107	Marjorie Howard	2014	128	Michael Schall	2003
263	Andy Markel	2011				110	Michael Schall	2001
244	Andy Markel	2008	HUNTINGDON			LUZERNE		
227	Andy Markel	2007	221	Jon Kauffman	2014	224	Rick Koval	2001
150	Ted Nichols II	2015	218	David Kyler	2011	220	Rick Koval	1996
148	Carl Garner	1997	214	Jon Kauffman	2011	220	Rick Koval	2002
145	Bill Oyler	2016	214	Greg Grove	2012	219	Rick Koval	1995
124	Tim Becker	2011	213	Ian Gardner	2011	219	Rick Koval	1997
111	Tim Becker	2012	211	Jon Kauffman	2012	219	Rick Koval	1994
108	Chad Kauffman	2011	209	Greg Grove	2014	206	Rick Koval	1999
107	Chad Kauffman	2014	207	Greg Grove	2017	153	William Reid	2001
			205	David Kyler	1996	132	William Reid	2001
DAUPHIN			201	Greg Grove	2003	102	Jim Ridolfi	2013
221	Ian Gardner	2015	201	Greg Grove	2013	102	Jim Ridolfi	2017
210	Grace Randolph	1998				LYCOMING		
187	Ted Nichols II	2015	INDIANA			223	Bobby Brown	2016
169	David McNaughton	2013	206	Margaret Higbee	1993	218	Bobby Brown	2017
164	Tim Becker	2011	203	Margaret Higbee	1991	190	Nathan Fronk	2012
138	Tim Becker	2012	203	Margaret Higbee	2008	178	Nathan Fronk	2011
129	Ian Gardner	2011	195	Steve Graff	1998	175	Andy Keister	2017
125	Chad Kauffman	2006	186	Steve Graff	2000	173	Andy Keister	2015
			173	Roger Higbee	2008	169	Andy Keister	2014
DELAWARE			156	Richard Nugent	2012	100	Don Henise	2000
241	John Miller	1969	139	Richard Nugent	2015			
216	Al Guarente	2017	130	Richard Nugent	2011	McKEAN		
211	Al Guarente	1996	126	Richard Nugent	2010	222	John Fedak	2003
209	Al Guarente	1998				221	John Fedak	2005
206	Al Guarente	1997	JEFFERSON			219	John Fedak	2002
205	Al Guarente	1995	198	John Fedak	1997	217	John Fedak	2004
205	Al Guarente	2014				151	John Fedak	2001
203	Al Guarente	2005	JUNIATA			MERCER		
202	Al Guarente	2012	188	Aden Troyer	1996	222	Neil Troyer	2012
200	Sheryl Johnson	1997	177	Chad Kauffman	2014	213	Harvey Troyer	1999
200	Al Guarente	2010	176	Aden Troyer	1997	212	Jerry Troyer	1999
			174	Chad Kauffman	2008	211	Gene Wilhelm	1992
ELK			170	Chad Kauffman	2017	210	Neil Troyer	1999
164	Brendyn Baptiste	2016	167	Aden Troyer	2000	209	Neil Troyer	2013
157	Brendyn Baptiste	2017	166	Aden Troyer	1995	208	Neil Troyer	2011
116	John Fedak	1997	166	Aden Troyer	1999	192	Neil Troyer	1997
			164	Chad Kauffman	2007	192	Eli Troyer	1999
ERIE			163	Chad Kauffman	2009	190	Neil Troyer	2001
264	Sam Stull	1979				MIFFLIN		
256	Jerry McWilliams	1992	LACKAWANNA			164	Greg Grove	2005
252	Jerry McWilliams	1991	169	Glenn Czulada	1996	139	Greg Grove	2011
251	Jerry McWilliams	1983	161	Glenn Czulada	1995	132	Chad Kauffman	2017
251	Jerry McWilliams	1988	117	Richard Koval	1995	128	Greg Grove	2003
251	Jerry McWilliams	2004	103	William Reid	2001	127	Jim Dunn	2007
248	Jerry McWilliams	1989				114	Greg Grove	2014
246	Jerry McWilliams	1993	LANCASTER			112	Greg Grove	2013
245	Jerry McWilliams	1996	270	Chuck Chalfant	2009	110	Greg Grove	2016
244	Jerry McWilliams	1985	257	Mike Epler	2012	108	Greg Grove	2012
244	Jerry McWilliams	2012	257	Bruce Carl	2017	100	Jim Dunn	2005
FAYETTE			255	Robert Schutsky	1992			
145	Mark McConaughy	2000	249	Jonathan Heller	1992	MONROE		
112	Mark McConaughy	1998	249	Chuck Chalfant	2012	210	Michael Schall	2013
			248	Ted Nichols II	2016	194	Bruce Johnson	2014
FOREST			247	Zachary Millen	2016			
146	Gary Edwards	2015	240	Chuck Chalfant	2005			
144	April Walters	1993	240	Zachary Millen	2017			

181	Billy Weber	2008
160	Michael Schall	2003
145	Corey Husic	2009
108	Ryan Johnson	2017
MONTGOMERY		
194	Steve Kacir	2008
167	Joseph Greco	2002
153	Michael Schall	2004
150	Joseph Greco	2007
126	John Fedak	1997
114	Al Guarente	2015
113	Michael Schall	2002
MONTOUR		
205	Evan Houston	2017
205	Andy Keister	2017
170	Andy Keister	2015
147	Andy Keister	2013
126	John Fedak	1997
NORTHAMPTON		
239	Michael Schall	2014
236	Michael Schall	2003
231	Michael Schall	2004
226	Michael Schall	2008
225	Michael Schall	2017
220	Billy Weber	2004
215	Michael Schall	2012
212	Michael Schall	2007
212	Michael Schall	2013
210	Adam Miller	2000
NORTHUMBERLAND		
169	Andy Keister	2017
137	Andy Keister	2014
135	Andy Keister	2015
128	John Fedak	1997
103	Andy Keister	2013
PERRY		
202	Richard Colyer	1997
139	Ted Nichols II	2015
121	Chad Kauffman	2017
111	Andy Keister	2017
PHILADELPHIA		
225	John Miller	1965
208	Edward Fingerhood	1996
162	Al Guarente	1992
150	Al Guarente	2015
135	Skip Conant	1999
133	Skip Conant	1998
132	Skip Conant	2000
127	Skip Conant	2007
127	Bill Keim	2012
123	Skip Conant	2008
PIKE		
182	Michael Schall	2014
166	Michael Schall	2011
123	Michael Schall	2002
104	Ryan Johnson	2017
POTTER		
173	Sam Greene	2017
169	Chuck Chalfant	2004
160	David Hauber	1992
160	David Hauber	1995
160	David Hauber	1999
157	David Hauber	1993
SCHUYLKILL		
228	Tom Clauser	2011
225	Tom Clauser	2005
220	Tom Clauser	2012
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
SNYDER		
None above 100		

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	William Reid	2001
107	William Reid	1999
103	John Fedak	1997
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
135	Nathan Fronk	2012
110	Drew Weber	2010
108	Nathan Fronk	2011
UNION		
169	Andy Keister	2014
146	Andy Keister	2015
127	Andy Keister	2017
118	Andy Keister	2013
VENANGO		
221	Gary Edwards	2000
207	Gary Edwards	1995
207	Russ States	2000
203	Russ States	2002
195	Russ States	2006
194	Gary Edwards	1991
193	Russ States	2007
192	Russ States	1991
191	Russ States	2008
190	Russ States	2004
WARREN		
204	John Fedak	2003
201	John Fedak	2002
165	Ted Grisez	1992
152	Ted Grisez	1985
141	John Fedak	2001
117	John Fedak	1997
WASHINGTON		
199	Roy Ickes	2017
197	Roy Ickes	2015
194	Roy Ickes	2016
192	Ross Gallardy	2006
182	Roy Ickes	2014
135	Shannon Thompson	2012
134	Russ Ruffing	1985
132	Roy Ickes	1984
100	George Malosh	1975
100	Geoff Malosh	1999
WAYNE		
121	John Fedak	1997

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	Dick Cleary	2017	
208	Dick Cleary	2015	
203	Dick Cleary	2013	
196	Russell Ryan	1992	
191	Randy Phillips	1999	
178	Russell Ryan	1991	
153	Candy Krenzer	1999	
County Annual Lists Top 50			
1	277 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
2	270 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2009
3	267 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2011
4	264 Erie	Sam Stull	1979
5	263 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2011
6	259 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2012
7	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2007
7	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2010
9	257 Lancaster	Mike Epler	2012
9	257 Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2017
11	256 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
12	255 Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
12	255 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2013
14	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
14	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2008
16	252 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
16	252 Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
18	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
18	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
18	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
21	250 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2017
22	249 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
22	249 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2012
22	249 Lebanon	Timothy Becker	2014
22	249 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2016
26	248 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
26	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
26	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2015
26	248 Lancaster	Ted Nichols II	2016
30	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
30	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
30	247 Lancaster	Zachary Milen	2016
33	246 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
33	246 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
35	245 Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
35	245 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
35	245 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
38	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985
38	244 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2008
38	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2012
38	244 Lebanon	Timothy Becker	2013
42	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
42	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
44	242 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
45	241 Delaware	John Miller	1969
45	241 Lebanon	David McNaughton	2013
45	241 Centre	Joseph Verica	2014
48	240 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
48	240 Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
48	240 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
48	240 Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2013
48	240 Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2014
48	240 Lancaster	Zachary Millen	2017
54	239 Centre	Joseph Verica	2011
54	239 Centre	Drew Weber	2011

Comments on 2017 Birding in PA

Peter Robinson

(New PA life list species, Bird of the Year (BOY), and other comments)

Timothy Becker

BOY: Black-backed Oriole, Roseate Spoonbill

Gerry Boltz

BOY: Black-backed Oriole

Bobby Brown

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole

Bruce Carl

BOY: Black-backed Oriole, White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill

John Carter

BOY: Parasitic Jaeger, Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern

It was a thrilling birding year across PA. My most memorable bird was discovering the Parasitic Jaeger at Prince Gallitzin SP for a Life Bird.

Dick Cleary

BOY: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-backed Oriole

New PA Life List species: Black-backed Oriole, Least Bittern, Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron, White-winged Tern, Sedge Wren, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk

Michael David

BOY: White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole, Roseate Spoonbill

New PA state species: Slaty-backed Gull, Black-backed Oriole, White-winged Dove, Swallow-tailed Kite, King Rail, Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, California Gull

Dave DeReamus

New PA state species: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Parasitic Jaeger
Removed Thayer's Gull from PA Life List because the AOU now says it is not a separate species.

Mike Epler

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Slaty-backed Gull

The craziest addition to my lists for 2017 is the Roseate Spoonbill on my PA self-found list. It was not something that I ever expected to see in PA. I certainly never dreamed of finding one.

Bill Etter

BOY: White-winged Tern, Swallow-tailed Kite, Roseate Spoonbill

The Swallow-tailed Kite was a long-awaited personal new state bird. The icing on the cake was that it was at Lake Nockamixon, which is my favorite birding location in the state. Perfect!

Devich Farbotnik

BOY: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-backed Oriole

New PA state species: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill My numbers don't include Thayer's Gull or the European Robin, even though it was accepted by PORC. I'm waiting to see how the ABA votes on it.

Mike Fialkovich

BOY: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, Dickcissel The White-winged Tern and Roseate Spoonbill are included in my PA life list, but the Black-backed Oriole is not. Bullock's Oriole was new

for Allegheny County. Common Raven and Cackling Goose were new for Erie County.

John Flannigan

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, Sabine's Gull, Bullock's Oriole

New PA state species: Snowy Owl, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bullock's Oriole, Roseate Spoonbill, Sabine's Gull, Clay-colored Sparrow

Ian Gardner

BOY: Slaty-backed Gull, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite

New PA state species: Slaty-backed Gull, Black-backed Oriole, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Barnacle Goose

Carl Garner

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron, Ross's Goose

Al Guarente

BOY: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-headed Gull

It was a great year in Delaware County for me. I established a new personal best with 216 species recorded in Delaware County. I also added 4 new birds to my Delaware County life list, Black-headed Gull, Mississippi Kite, Whimbrel, and Wilson's Phalarope.

Barb & Frank Haas

New PA state species: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole.

We have never counted Thayer's Gull, so did not need to delete it since it is no longer a separate species according to the AOU.

Carol Hildebrand

BOY: White-winged Tern

David Hawk

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, Black-backed Oriole

Roy Ickes

BOY: Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Black Vulture
All 3 of my birds of the year are part of the 8 new for Washington County. Although I had seen Willets in 9 other states, I had never seen 14 at one time anywhere!

Ryan Johnson

BOY: Red-headed Woodpecker, Bay-breasted Warbler, Northern Pintail

Chad Kauffman

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite, Snowy Owl

Dave Kerr

BOY: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis

Andy Keister

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole

Ron Leberman

BOY: Rufous Hummingbird

Ken Lebo

New PA state species: Black-backed Oriole, Roseate Spoonbill

Geoff Malosh

BOY: White-winged Tern, Slaty-backed Gull, Roseate Spoonbill

Removed Thayer's Gull from all Life List totals (state, unassisted, counties) and from Annual Personal Best.

Zachary Millen

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole

Ted Nichols II

BOY: Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole

New PA state species: Red Crossbill, Townsend's Warbler, Slaty-backed Gull, Black-backed Oriole*, Swallow-tailed Kite, Roseate Spoonbill, Sedge Wren, White-winged Tern, Ruddy Turnstone

The Roseate Spoonbill takes the cake as the Cumberland County bird delighted birders by hanging around for so long, and the chance of seeing another species of a big pink bird in Pennsylvania in the wild is incredibly unlikely! The White-winged Tern was a state first, in Tioga county of all places, that delighted birders for several days followed by a state second that was found later in the year in Philadelphia! The Black-backed Oriole was an incredible and forever debatable bird that delighted hoards of birders and could not have had a better group of neighbors to host this long-staying rarity.

Bill Oyler

BOY: White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron

New PA state species: Tricolored Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, White-winged Tern, Black-backed Oriole (?)

Thomas Reeves

BOY: Cedar Waxwing

Dan Richards

I don't really have an opinion concerning the top three birds for the state, but my top three Clearfield County birds this year were Western Kingbird (unassisted), Dickcissel, and a flock of 15 Greater White-fronted Geese.

Peter Robinson

BOY: Black-backed Oriole, White-winged Tern, Roseate Spoonbill

New PA state species: Black-backed Oriole, Roseate Spoonbill

I removed Thayer's Gull from my PA Life List since it is no longer considered to be a separate species. I managed to miss seeing a White-winged Tern – twice! I was out of town when one was at Lake Nessmuk, Tioga county, then missed the Tincum tern by 45 minutes the morning after it was found there.

Joseph Verica

BOY: White-winged Tern

Eric Witmer

BOY: White-winged Tern

My numbers for 2017 at the moment are the same as last year. I gained the Roseate Spoonbill but lost Thayer's Gull. I saw the Black-backed Oriole and the White-winged Tern. I will wait until PORC decides countability, especially with the Oriole. My BOY vote goes to White-winged Tern. I missed the Tioga County bird as I was out of town, tried for it and missed it the first day that it disappeared. I was fortunate enough to see it at John Heinz in the last hour of daylight. I never thought I would get a second chance seeing this one any time soon. It was a bird I have been dreaming for years of finding along the Susquehanna mixed in with the Black Tern migration.

Following two fall seasons that were overwhelmed by the strong El Niño of 2014-16, the warm Pacific conditions finally subsided in 2017 and indeed a La Niña pattern was starting to take hold by the end of the summer. This brought the cool and wet late-summer conditions that often occur in the mid-Atlantic during a La Niña. October was the outlier month, with unseasonably warm temperatures across the state and the monthly average soaring to anywhere from 5°F to 7°F above normal in various places. However, temperatures plunged in November beginning with a series of cold fronts around Halloween and the first week of November. These fronts brought snowfall to parts of the state, as well as waterfowl migrants and a chill that would not abate until January. August was a bit cooler than usual and wetter too, particularly in the southeast. The relatively cool August and September probably contributed to a better than average passerine migration, and the warm temperatures in October allowed many migrants to linger beyond their usual departure dates. Those that tried to stay into November, though, were quickly motivated to move on as the real cold set in.

Shorebird migration was spotty as it often is, given how particular this family is to very specific conditions and water levels at their stopover sites—conditions that naturally vary from year to year. But where shorebirds showed well, they showed very well. Waterfowl migration was extremely slow until the first of the strong November fronts, but despite strong pushes by some species in November, by season's end the waterfowl flight still could not be considered any better than below average.

It was an extraordinarily active Atlantic hurricane season, with 17 named storms, and two in particular (Irma and Maria) wrecked several islands in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. However, none of them made landfall in the mid-Atlantic or affected Pennsylvania in any notable way, not even as major inland low pressure systems after making landfall somewhere to the south and losing their tropical features.

Without a doubt, the bird of the season was the state's first **White-winged Tern** that put down for a few days in *Tioga*, followed by another (or perhaps the same) **White-winged Tern** that appeared two months later in *Philadelphia*. The other first for the state was a subspecies: "**Atlantic**" **Nelson's Sparrow** in *Bucks*. Both the tern and the sparrow were submitted for PORC review. As usual there were several other nice rarities seen, including the extraordinarily cooperative **Roseate Spoonbill** that remained from the summer in *Cumberland*, but aside from these highlights, it was more or less a typical season for vagrants.

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** appeared in *Adams* 9/22 and remained in to Dec. Unfortunately, it was not submitted for PORC review. The identity of the bird was

never in doubt, of course, but the question of provenance is always a concern for this species, especially for a single bird like this that appeared in a year that did not see much of a northward post-breeding dispersal into the mid-Atlantic. **Snow Geese** as usual appeared in a number of western counties in Nov including five counties west of the Allegheny Front, and an injured bird remained from the summer and throughout the fall in *Montour*. **Ross's Goose**, formerly a PORC review species, was found in a whopping 12 counties in all regions of the state except the forested northern tier. All were seen in Nov except one in *Montgomery* that first appeared 10/26. **Greater White-fronted Goose** showed even better, noted in 13 counties statewide (again excluding the forested north), and these included a few large flocks that appeared on the heels of a strong front that passed through 11/18-20. These flocks included 8 in *Franklin*, 6 in *Juniata*, 28 in *Lancaster*, 32 in *Lawrence*, and 5 in *Westmoreland*. This wave certainly consisted of "interior" (i.e. North American-breeding) birds. A **Pink-footed Goose** was noted in *Bucks* 11/6 and 11/30. **Brant** were noted in eight counties but most sightings consisted of single birds. There were almost no large flocks as are often seen following Nov fronts. In fact, the largest and only flock of significance was a group of 56 in *Bucks* 10/11. A **Barnacle Goose** drew attention in *Lehigh* and *Northampton* 11/21-27 but again, like the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, no documentation was submitted to PORC of this frequently captive, and therefore problematic, species.

The first vanguards of the southbound **Tundra Swan** migration were noted in the last week of Oct in *Crawford* and *Huntingdon*, but then the hordes descended following a cold front 11/4-5. A second weather system around 11/18-20 brought a second large wave, with flocks exceeding 100 birds noted in five western counties. A **Trumpeter Swan** returned to Lake Towhee Park in *Bucks* for the fifth year 9/28, but did not linger. One wing-tagged bird in *Lancaster* was found to have hatched in Ontario in 2016 and was also seen in *Chester* in Apr 2017. Others were noted in *Dauphin*, *Jefferson*, and *Somerset*.

As mentioned, waterfowl migration was quite slow, especially for dabblers which generally appear earlier in the season, when excessively warm and settled conditions were dominant this year in late Sep and throughout Oct. **Blue-winged Teal** was noted in 15 counties, which was not a bad showing, but this species' presence is probably the least dependent on fallout conditions among all the dabblers. **Northern Shoveler** was also reported better than expected, including sightings in Aug in a total of seven counties across the state. This may well have been driven by the cool and wet conditions in late summer. A very nice count of 129 **Gadwall** was made in *Butler* 10/7. A few early **American Wigeons** appeared in mid-Sep

in *Allegheny* and *Cameron*. A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** returned to FDR Park in *Philadelphia* for the third consecutive season 11/11-20. I've often commented in this space about the enigmatic habits of **American Black Duck** in the fall season, and this year they were, for whatever reason, very widespread and frequently reported. Among reports in 22 counties, 69 in *Bucks* in early Nov and 33 in *Butler* in late Nov were the top counts. **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** were noted only in very small numbers, though a pintail in *Indiana* 9/23 was quite early.

Reports of bay ducks are frequently thin prior to the end of Nov, but they were even more so this season. **Canvasback** is not common anywhere in the state away from *Erie* in the fall, and this season they were noted in just five non-*Erie* counties, all in small numbers following Nov cold fronts. A few early returners included **Ring-necked Duck** in *Crawford* 9/8 and **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** in *Lancaster* 8/15.

A **Harlequin Duck** flew past Sunset Point, *Erie* 11/29. **Surf Scoter** was an exception to the slow season for ducks, reported in 21 counties, far above average. The best count as usual came from Sunset Point, *Erie* where 47 passed by the morning of 10/26. These proved to be the front-end of a wave that would pass over the rest of Pennsylvania in the first week of Nov. **Black Scoter** was noted in nine counties, perhaps just a little below average, but there were no large fallouts in the east as sometimes happen in Nov. **White-winged Scoter** was the least reported of the three, which is often the case. Reports were from eight counties in all corners of the state, all after 10/25 except the first few to appear at Sunset Point in mid-Oct. **Long-tailed Duck** was found in 16 counties, with many sightings closely associated with a frontal system in early Nov. The high count from Sunset Point occurred at this time, when 52 passed the lakewatch 11/3. **Common Goldeneye** appeared in eight counties by season's end, which is a few more than usual, all in Nov.

An amazing collection of 8045 **Common Mergansers** was spread across the Pymatuning area and Woodcock Lake in *Crawford* 11/15. Another 206 were in *Armstrong* 11/18, less impressive than the *Crawford* total by an order of magnitude, but still quite notable for that county. An injured **Red-breasted Merganser** in *Allegheny* 8/12-9/1 provided a rare late summer record for the southwest. They appeared in 12 other counties by the end of the season, a fair showing. Top count of **Ruddy Duck** was just 336 in *Indiana* 11/7.

Listing **Northern Bobwhites** in Pennsylvania these days more or less comes down to lucking into recently released game birds. They were noted in just six counties, all in the central or southeast regions. **Ruffed Grouse**, on the other hand, was quietly reported in no fewer than 34 counties, an excellent tally.

This included birds in *Allegheny*, *Crawford*, and *Butler* in the west where they are decidedly uncommon.

Small numbers of **Red-throated Loons** appeared in 13 counties in two general intervals, in the last week of Oct and following the early Nov fronts. Observers gathered at Lake Wilhelm, *Mercer* 11/27 searching for two reported Western Grebes were instead rewarded with a **Pacific Loon**, which remained to 11/29 and provided a first for the county. Early **Common Loons** were in *Butler* 9/18, *Montgomery* 9/22-29, and *Luzerne* 8/2-24. Aside from the lakewatch in *Erie*, large counts were confined to the central and west following fronts, with 20 in *Indiana* and 18 in *Fayette* 11/4-7, 33 in *Butler* 11/16,] 63 in *Crawford* 11/17, and an excellent count of 53 that passed Stone Mountain in *Huntingdon* 11/19. A **Pied-billed Grebe** remained from the summer in *Montgomery* into Sep. **Red-necked Grebe** was noted in seven counties, almost exclusively during the last week of Oct and the first week of Nov, but one did appear early in *Berks* 10/11. An **Eared Grebe** entertained many observers at Presque Isle, *Erie* 11/11-26, and another was reported in *Westmoreland* 11/23.

There were no reports of **Great Cormorant** away from the lower Delaware River, where they had returned this year by 10/28. A superb tally of 6501 **Double-crested Cormorants** was made around the Pymatuning area, *Crawford* 11/7. Around this same time, flocks of a few hundred birds on the move were also noted at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon* and in *Lycoming*. A female **Anhinga** was reported over Rocky Ridge County Park, *York* 9/22 but like the other rarities noted at this location still to be mentioned later in this report, the Anhinga was not submitted to PORC for review. An **American White Pelican** at Codorus State Park, *York* remained from the summer to 8/3, the only one reported this season.

Least Bittern was reported in *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Huntingdon*, and *Philadelphia*; in the latter two counties, breeding was confirmed. The **Great White Heron** from the summer season in *Susquehanna* reappeared 8/23-9/25. A happy story involved a **Great Blue Heron** in *Berks* that had its bill entangled in a fishing line for nearly two weeks before it was caught and the line removed. The bird flew off on its own and seemed to be no worse for the wear. **Great Egrets** were widespread with reports in 33 counties and into Nov in seven of those. Among the Nov birds, the farthest from the southeast was one that stayed in *Cambria* to mid-Nov. Reports of **Snowy Egret** were off for some reason, with singles or a few birds noted in just four southeastern counties, and consistently only at John Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia*. **Little Blue Heron**, on the other hand, was noted in 12 counties, including *Crawford*, *Juniata*, and *Mercer* away from the east. Birds in *Crawford* and *Philadelphia* made it to Oct before departing. **Tricolored Herons** were noted in *Montour*, *Philadelphia/Delaware*, and *York* in Aug. It was a poor season for **Cattle Egret**, which was found only in *Armstrong*, *Forest*, and *Venango* and all in the first week of

Nov. A **Green Heron** lingered in *Chester* to 11/25, quite late for this species especially considering the adverse conditions after Oct, although conditions in the southeast weren't nearly as rough as elsewhere in late Nov.

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** appeared in *Lycoming* 10/29-11/2, rare for both the location and the late date. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** has been increasing in recent years, and was noted in an impressive nine counties this season, including a late bird in *Bucks* 11/11. One was photographed perched on a car in *York* 9/10. **White Ibis** was noted at Middle Creek W.M.A. in *Lebanon/Lancaster* and at the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster* in early Aug. **Glossy Ibis** was noted in 12 counties, all in the east except one in *Indiana* 9/3-4. Curiously only one report of *plegadis* sp. was made (in *Northampton*), which implies that birders are probably making some assumptions about the dark ibises that appear in the state during post-breeding dispersal, especially among juveniles, which frequently can't easily be identified to species. The **Roseate Spoonbill** on the Conodoguinet Creek in *Cumberland* remained to 9/30.

As has been noted in this space in recent years, **Black Vultures** appear to be on the increase in sw. Pennsylvania west of the Laurel Ridge. A total of 44 in *Westmoreland* 10/11 feasting on a road-killed deer were quite close to the ridge, but still an unprecedented total anywhere around there in recent years, and yet another indication of expansion into this region. **Ospreys** made it into Nov in two western counties: *Jefferson* to 11/3 and *Washington* to 11/18. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** that hung around farmland along the *Juniata/Snyder* border 8/24-9/4 drew much attention from birders around the state. Perhaps the same bird was seen near Lewistown, *Mifflin* 9/28. The vagaries of modern avian taxonomy demand that **Golden Eagle** be discussed next before the rest of the kites; most notable sighting of this species was a rare "Barthelemy" variant Golden that was photographed at Second Mountain, *Lebanon* 10/22. Also notable was a very early bird in *Susquehanna* 8/8, and birds seen away from hawkwatches in *Butler*, *Chester*, *Dauphin*, *Montgomery*, *Tioga*, and *Westmoreland*, all in Nov except one in *Chester* in mid-Oct. **Mississippi Kites** were found only at hawkwatches in a tight window in mid-Sep: the Allegheny Front 9/16 (doc submitted), Rose Tree Park 9/20 (no doc), and Rocky Ridge County Park 9/16 (no doc). **Broad-winged Hawks** showed well at hawkwatches, including a wonderful season total of 10,649 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester*, which was the highest season total ever for that watch. A **Swainson's Hawk** was reported in *Philadelphia* 10/25. There was a fair push of **Rough-legged Hawks** before the end of Nov, with reports in 10 counties, a better than average total. No sighting was earlier than 11/3.

Virginia Rails were found in 12 counties, and some in unusual circumstances. One bird on private property in *Lancaster* 10/12 was flushed by a dog and landed 20 feet up in a tree, where it was photographed. Another bird was

seen walking around the entrance of a bank in Center City, *Philadelphia* 10/20, likely the victim of a window collision, and yet another probable window-strike victim was at Temple University Hospital in *Philadelphia* 10/23. They were found in Nov in *Mercer* 11/14 and *Bucks* 11/12. **Sora** was reported in 12 counties but not at any unusual locations or dates. **Common Gallinule** was noted in four counties: *Crawford* and *Lawrence* as usual, but also in *Lehigh* 8/6 which was a first there since the late 1980s, and in *Philadelphia*, where they successfully bred at John Heinz N.W.R. for the first time in many years. They lingered in *Philadelphia* to the second half of Nov. **Sandhill Cranes** were once again widespread, with reports from 20 counties in all regions. Most notable was a count of 181 in the Miller Ponds area of *Crawford* the evening of 11/24, possibly the highest single flock total in Pennsylvania history. Most reports from other counties where they do not summer were made in late Oct or Nov.

With a high lake level on Lake Erie and a broken water control structure at John Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia*, shorebirding at these two typically high-producing sites was off. At Shenango Res. in *Mercer* too, the water level was not drawn down until mid-Oct, making the peak of shorebird season there a bust (although there were some good sightings late in the season there). But the Conejohela Flats were in fine form, netting 22 species, and excellent showings were also had in *Franklin*, *Lebanon*, and *Somerset*, where in the latter case, the level of Somerset Lake was kept low during ongoing repairs to the dam, which greatly enhanced the shorebirding there this fall, and plans are being considered to manage some areas of the lake specifically for shorebird habitat going forward.

Occurrence of **American Avocets** tends to fluctuate noticeably from year to year in the fall, with this year back to an average or perhaps a little better than average year featuring reports in five counties, all in Aug. **Black-bellied Plover** was noted in 10 counties, which was a little better than usual, including a number of reports in Oct. The high count was 17 at Sunset Point in *Erie* 10/7, where the last and latest of the season for the state also was noted 11/22. Reports of **American Golden-Plovers** were off, with just small numbers reported in 12 counties; reports of the top count of 11 bookended the season in *Cumberland* 9/6 and *Somerset* 10/29-11/5. **Semipalmated Plover** was also reported widely but thinly. Best count was a mere 36 in *Philadelphia* in late Aug, and one late bird lingered in *York* to 10/26. Two juvenile **Piping Plovers** remained at Gull Point, *Erie* to 8/28, and one late bird flew past Sunset Point 9/28. It's quite remarkable that this species has become more or less annual in *Erie* again, a testament to the recent extraordinary efforts to make Gull Point attractive to them again, which has incidentally benefited many other species that use Gull Point as a breeding or stopover site as well.

Upland Sandpipers were noted in Aug in *Franklin* and *Lancaster*. As usual, Gull Point in *Erie* was the only site reporting **Whimbrel**, this

season from 8/12-13. The only **Marbled Godwit** of the season was at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 8/12. **Ruddy Turnstone** was noted in *Crawford* 9/20, in *Erie* throughout Aug, and occasionally at the Conejohela Flats 8/23-10/1. Quite remarkable was one at Harborcreek, *Erie* on the very late date of 11/20. **Red Knot** is normally restricted to Gull Point, and they were noted there in small numbers 8/26-10/2, but one was also at Woodcock Lake in *Crawford* 9/3-8. It was an extraordinary season for **Stilt Sandpipers** with reports from 20 counties, mostly in Aug and Sep but with a few to mid-Oct. The top count was 15 in *Lebanon*, but most reports were of one or two birds. **Sanderling** also showed very well away from *Erie* (where the season high was 50 on 8/15). Most unusual among them was a single bird that put down in a Walmart parking lot in *Jefferson* 9/18. Late birds were seen in *Indiana* 10/29 and in *Erie* to 11/18. The *Indiana* bird on 10/29 was put down by the first very strong cold front of the fall, the one that finally broke the mild weather of Oct for good, and with it also came a remarkable statewide push of **Dunlin**. They were reported in 34 counties for the season, a remarkable total in its own right, and in 26 of those counties specifically during the passage of cold fronts the week of 10/29-11/5. They lingered into late Nov in many places.

Table 1. Notable top counts of Dunlin, 10/29-11/5

Location	County	Date	Count
Tadpole Road	Centre	10/29	16
Woodcock Lake	Crawford	11/5	102
Fort Mifflin	Delaware	11/5	10
Sunset Point	Erie	11/1	320
Sunset Point	Erie	11/4	79
Stone Mountain	Huntingdon/Mifflin	11/4	9
Yellow Creek S.P.	Indiana	10/29	23
Fox and Prescott Rd.	Lebanon	11/5	17
Rose Valley Lake	Lycoming	11/1	60
Shenango Res.	Mercer	11/5	68
Somerset Lake	Somerset	11/5	136

A **Purple Sandpiper** at Sunset Point, *Erie* 11/13 undertook the unusual move of flying north over Lake Erie and apparently on toward the far shoreline in Canada. Another passed Sunset Point the traditional east-west way 11/22. **Baird's Sandpiper** was found in a respectable 10 counties but in small numbers, with a number of those counties scoring only a single bird for the season. **Least Sandpiper** did not show up in great numbers at John Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia* owing to the water control issues there, and so were not noted in high numbers really anywhere this season, except at the Conejohela Flats, where triple-digit counts of up to 240 were regularly made in the second half of Aug. **White-rumped Sandpipers** appeared in an impressive 17 counties, and like Dunlin many came during the late Oct/early Nov push of cold fronts. They were seen in seven counties around that time, including a top count of 12 in *Centre*. Four total **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** for the season were found as singles in *Erie* (twice), *Lancaster*, and *Lebanon*. **Pectoral Sandpipers** passed through more or less unremarkably, but were noted in

seven counties into Nov, again some of these arriving with the cold fronts that marked the end of the false summer of Oct. Like Least Sandpiper, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was not noted in huge numbers, but counts reached as high as 203 on the *Delaware* side of John Heinz N.W.R. in early Aug. **Western Sandpipers** were found in *Delaware* 8/18 and *Lancaster* 8/27.

Pennsylvania was short on **Short-billed Dowitchers** as it often is in fall, with reports of very small numbers scattered across 10 counties, mostly in the southeast and northwest. As usual only three reports were made after the end of Sep. One early **Long-billed Dowitcher** was in *Lancaster* 8/29-30 and a more timely bird was in *Crawford* 10/7. The cryptic **American Woodcock** was found in an impressive 33 counties, a difficult task after they stop displaying in spring. It was a good season for **Wilson's** and **Red-necked Phalarope**, with reports in four and seven counties, respectively. Most extraordinary was a late Red-necked off the Niagara Boat Launch at Presque Isle, *Erie* 11/11-22, which represented one of the latest records ever for the state. A **Red Phalarope** put down at Somerset Lake, *Somerset* during the foul weather 10/30-31. Stubborn **Spotted Sandpipers** enjoying the warm Oct weather held on until 11/4 in *Armstrong* and *Berks*, and to 10/31 in *Montgomery*. **Solitary Sandpiper** was not well-reported at all, but one stayed in *Chester* to 11/25. **Greater Yellowlegs** was another species that appeared in good numbers with the early Nov weather systems, and many then tarried well into the second half of Nov before departing for good. A **Willet** was at Gull Point 8/2. **Lesser Yellowlegs** was also not reported very well, but a few did appear with the early Nov storms too, all of which were somewhat late for their kind. Up to 30 at Somerset Lake, *Somerset* 9/4 and 57 at the Conejohela Flats 8/15 were the top counts.

Parasitic Jaegers appeared in *Bucks* and *Cambria* both on 9/17. The *Cambria* bird, at Prince Gallitzin State Park, remained until 9/22 and was seen by dozens of birders, a rare treat in Pennsylvania absent a hurricane. Or was it? As mentioned, no hurricanes had anything close to a direct impact on the state this season, but mid-Sep saw a series of storms move through the Atlantic in close succession. Hurricane Lee probably came closest to a mid-Atlantic landfall, but it turned north and ultimately northeast while still a few hundred miles off South Carolina. It passed through Pennsylvania's latitudes 9/18-19, and maybe did influence these jaegers to seek refuge inland in *Bucks* and *Cambria*. Perhaps not coincidentally, the season's only **Little Gull** also appeared in *Bucks* 9/17. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** unexpectedly flew over Williamsport Dam, *Lycoming* 8/26, continuing a trend of

(literally) out-of-the-blue sightings of this species in random places in late Aug.

Pennsylvania's 24th **Sabine's Gull** was a cooperative first cycle bird at Kahle Lake 9/5-8. The bird was seen on both sides of the *Clarion/Venango* line which bisects the lake, and thus provided the first record for both counties. As usual, sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** spanned nearly the entire season, but this time around very few were seen before the end of Oct before they then became quite frequent after the early Nov fronts, including counts of 50 or better in various areas away from *Erie*. The **Black-headed Gull** returned once again to the lawn at the South Shore day use area at Lake Arthur, *Butler* for the seventh time in the past 10 years. Its arrival this year on 11/12 was its earliest yet, and it stayed into mid-Dec. Another Black-headed appeared in *Philadelphia* 11/17 and also stayed to the end of the season. **Laughing Gulls** away from the Delaware River included birds in *Crawford* 9/5, singles in *Tioga* 10/12 and 11/16, and 17 at Somerset Lake, *Chester* 8/13 which was a remarkable total for that location. Additionally, triple-digit counts remained in *Bucks* and *Delaware* into early Nov, and the season high was an outstanding 630 in *Philadelphia* 9/3.

A **Least Tern** was a great find at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 8/23, but another Least Tern that passed Sunset Point, *Erie* on the late date of 10/19 was totally unexpected both for the location and the date. A **Caspian Tern** that hung on in *Philadelphia* to 11/6 probably represented the latest-ever Caspian for the state. After a lull in sightings in the early 2010s, **Black Terns** have been quite well-reported in the fall season in recent years. This year they were noted in 12 counties, with the bulk of sightings in the second half of Aug. A bit of a Black Tern fallout occurred with rain systems 8/18-22, during which time reports included 20 in *Centre*, 81 in *Lancaster*, and singles or small groups in four other counties. A late bird was in *Berks* 10/12. **Common Tern** was noted in only eight counties, the latest of which was a single bird that passed Sunset Point, *Erie* 10/26. **Forster's Terns** remained into Oct in six counties, and 6 birds were last seen in *Delaware* 11/9.

The bird of the season was certainly the molting adult **White-winged Tern** at Nessmuk Lake, *Tioga* 8/10-13, which drew attention from birders all around the region. A total of 241 distinct observers entered checklists to eBird listing the tern, and untold dozens (hundreds?) more also saw the bird who do not use eBird. It represented a first for Pennsylvania that was a long time coming, considering records of the species in at least five neighboring states and provinces. But most records of the species in North America occurred in the 1990s and earlier, so this bird represented the first crack that many birders of the newest generation had at the species for their ABA lists. Remarkably, another—or perhaps the same—molting adult White-winged Tern appeared at John Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia* nearly two months later 10/8-9. A third White-winged Tern was reported at the Rocky Ridge County Park

hawkwatch 9/21 but unfortunately this sighting was not submitted for PORC review.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported only at their Greencastle Reservoir stronghold in *Franklin*, and their numbers there were lower than in recent years. A **White-winged Dove** at a residence in *Erie* 11/13 provided the third record for that county. Late **Yellow-bellied Cuckoos** were noted in mid-Oct in *Franklin*, *Berks*, and *Blair*. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was generally scarce again, but was reported perhaps a bit better than in recent fall seasons. A recently fledged juvenile was noted again on private property in *Somerset* on 8/25, following a similar sighting there on 9/20 last year.

A **Barn Owl** was detected by nocturnal recording device in Moon Township, *Allegheny* 10/20, which followed another nocturnal call there in late May of this year. **Snowy Owls** staged a minor invasion in the second half of Nov, appearing in 10 counties across the state beginning 11/10. It did not develop into a major invasion winter like that of 2013-14, however. **Short-eared Owls** returned to wintering grounds in seven counties, and were also noted in *Juniata* 8/22 and in *Indiana* 11/29, the first in the latter county since 2009. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding stations had a poor season in this down year of their four-year population cycle, but the dip was perhaps a bit more severe than anticipated. Despite this, birders turned up saw-whets away from these banding stations in at least 10 other counties.

Common Nighthawks continue to be a species of special concern, and specially noted by nearly all of this journal's county compilers. Indeed, most birders go out of their way to report the species at least to eBird when they are seen. The net result was reports in 48 counties, an impressive total. Additionally, there was a strong statewide push of nighthawks in the last two days of Aug. Top counts on 8/30 included separate counts of 100, 140, and 204 in *Allegheny*, 200 in *Beaver*, 100 in *Butler*, and 230 in *Clarion* (at a dedicated watch site that totaled 567 for the season). On 8/31 they reached the southeast where 630 were seen in *Delaware* and 480 were in *Montgomery*. A few other triple-digit counts were made here and there, and a late bird at Frazier, *Chester* 11/12 was so late that its identification as Common was far from a safe assumption, and it was left unidentified. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were noted in 15 counties, the last of which was one in *Schuykill* 9/15.

It was a poor season for hummingbirds, with no western vagrants other than **Rufous Hummingbirds** in *Crawford* (seen away from a feeder), *Lancaster*, *Lehigh*, and *Montgomery*. The *Lancaster* bird returned to a yard in Quarryville for the third consecutive season. There were no particularly late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** either, despite the warm Oct weather. Just a few hung on here and there to the middle of that month. The strange absence of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** from their usual haunts in *Adams* and *York* in the fall of 2016 did not repeat this year, when they were not only back but perhaps even more numerous than usual, especially in *York*. **Merlins** were quite

widespread throughout the season, beginning with the first migrants as early as the first week of Aug.

Last fall was a great one for rare and late-staying flycatchers, but this year the only vagrant was a **Western Kingbird** (unfortunately not submitted to PORC) at Lake Ontelaunee 10/26. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported in an impressive 35 counties, better by seven counties than last year's excellent season, with multiple sightings in many of those counties. Most were seen from mid-Aug to mid-Sep; the latest was one still in *Lebanon* 10/7. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted in 34 counties, a total that was also several above average, but the standard caveat will be repeated here: this species is probably over-reported in the fall by over-eager or beginner birders putting too much emphasis on identifying this species by the presence of a strong yellow wash in the underparts, which can appear on any fresh juvenile *Empidonax* that passes through Pennsylvania. **Eastern Phoebe** was reported to eBird in Nov in no fewer than 22 counties, surely owing to the balmy Oct. A young **Eastern Kingbird** was being fed by adults in *Lycoming* on the late date of 9/9.

Northern Shrike was noted in 12 counties by season's end, the earliest of which were in *Crawford* 10/20 and *Lawrence* 10/29. Despite the favorable conditions, there were no reports of abnormally late-staying vireos, aside from a few **White-eyed Vireos** and **Red-eyed Vireos** that remained into Oct, and a **Blue-headed Vireo** that was still in *Chester* to 11/27. **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported in 36 counties, yet another above-average total for another species that frequently and easily causes confusion in fall. **Common Ravens** continued their assault on the state's lowlands, with increasing reports in all corners of the state, even in the extreme northwest, where *Crawford* had a record-setting season for this species.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows lingered into the last week of Nov in *Lancaster*, *Lehigh*, and *Philadelphia/Delaware*, and **Tree Swallows** made it into Nov in eight counties. Interesting were the counts of Tree Swallows at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon* in Oct, where hawkwatchers tallied an amazing 4337 during the week of 10/3-10, and 1491 on 10/7 alone. A late **Bank Swallow** was in *Lancaster* 10/6. In *Bucks*, a leucistic **Barn Swallow** was present at the Penn-Warner Tract 8/26-10/1, which was also a late departure date for the species. However, the latest birds were singles in *Montgomery* 10/12 and one in *Centre* 11/5. The only **Cave Swallow** this season was found in *Bucks* 11/7.

It was an expected down year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, reported in about 37 counties, far down from last year's clean sweep of the entire state, and many of these 37 saw just one or two reports for the entire season. A late **House Wren** lingered in *Lebanon* to 11/2 but it surely hustled quickly south upon the arrival of the deep chill thereafter. A breeding pair of **Sedge Wrens** and their young continued from the summer to 10/15 in *Montgomery*, the only of their kind reported this fall. **Marsh Wrens**

were well-reported in 21 counties and included *Schuykill's* first in 20 years.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher made it into Nov in *Lancaster* to 11/26, *Montgomery* to 11/18, *Philadelphia* to 11/17, and *Northampton* 11/1. Monitoring of nocturnal flight calls, which in fall are always dominated by thrushes, was conducted again by long-standing dedicated listeners in *Allegheny*, *Berks*, and *Clarion*. The biggest nights on the western side of the state occurred around 9/8-10 and 9/16-17, when thousands of calls (mostly **Swainson's Thrushes**) were heard. In *Allegheny* early and late Swainson's Thrushes were detected on 8/24 and 11/4, respectively, and a major flight consisting of 277 **Wood Thrush** calls was detected 9/1. This year a new wrinkle was added to our understanding of the nocturnal movements of thrushes in the fall, with the installation of a MOTUS tower in *Chester*. This device detects the nearby presence of nanotags outfitted on the bodies of migrating birds, pinpointing the exact location of individual tagged birds. This year, a handful of tagged **Gray-checked Thrushes** that were outfitted with nanotags in Quebec in Sep appeared in range of the *Chester* MOTUS tower between 8 and 15 days after being released in Quebec. Aside from these nocturnal data, reports of spot-breasted thrushes by day were thin in most areas of the state as usual. **Gray-checked Thrush** was reported perhaps a little better than normal but still not in great numbers. A **Bicknell's Thrush** was detected by nocturnal recorder in *Montgomery* 10/2 and another possible one was heard at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks* that same morning. A **Wood Thrush** was still in *Montgomery* 10/13.

Gray Catbird lingered into Nov in 17 counties, including *Erie* in the far northwest, and **Brown Thrasher** made it to Nov in eight counties, all in the southeast except *Lycoming*. A true albino **Northern Mockingbird** was in *Bucks* 8/26. **American Pipit** was noted in an impressive 33 counties, and many large flocks were ushered in by the early Nov cold fronts. Notable reports associated with those weather systems included several dozen in *Butler* 10/29, 60 in *Centre* 10/30-11/6, 156 in *Somerset* 10/29, and 85 in *Huntingdon* 11/5. Smaller numbers were noted in several other counties that week, and one was even detected by nocturnal flight call 10/31 at the dedicated NFC station in *Allegheny*, a first for the location. The only **Lapland Longspur** for the entire season was a bird in *Northampton* 10/29. **Snow Bunting** was much more frequent, with reports in 16 counties but none (away from *Erie*) before 11/8, a late first arrival date.

Once again an **Ovenbird** was located in urban *Philadelphia* very late in the season, this time at Logan Square 11/27. **Worm-eating Warbler** was found in a surprising 22 counties; many years this species sneaks out of the state early on in Aug and ends up missing from most fall county lists. **Louisiana Waterthrush** is a species that doesn't linger even hidden away—this fall they were seen in only four counties and none later than 8/13. Late **Northern Waterthrushes** were found in downtown

Pittsburgh 10/8 and one in *Chester* 10/7. It was as good a season for **Golden-winged Warbler** as can ever be expected anymore, with reports in 12 counties through the third week of Sep, and several of those counties netting more than one sighting. **Brewster's Warblers** were also noted in *Delaware* and *Indiana*.

Four nocturnal flight calls of **Black-and-white Warbler** were detected in *Allegheny* on the late date of 10/11. **Prothonotary Warbler** was noted in five counties, all in the southeast and none later than 9/3; this was actually a little better than average showing. The "spruce budworm" warblers—**Tennessee Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Bay-breasted Warbler**—all appeared in excellent numbers. Tennessee especially seemed to come in waves at times. Quite notable was a report of perhaps as many as 20 Tennessees at Walker Park, *Allegheny* 9/16 including some feeding on the ground right at the observer's feet, and this was following sightings of 12 at Sewickley Park nearby earlier that morning. A number of other reports of 10 or more Tennessee Warblers were made from around the state mostly in mid-Sep. Cape May was not as numerous but just as widely reported, including late birds in *York* 11/2, *Chester* 11/6, and *Montgomery* 11/14. Reports of Bay-breasted Warbler were the least notable of the three, but they were reported to eBird a total of 861 times for the season. All three species were abundant at a banding station in *Warren*, which trapped and banded a site-record number of Bay-breasted this fall.

Orange-crowned Warbler was reported in 19 counties, but the usual caveat about this species and potential confusion with bright Tennessee Warblers in fall was even more appropriate this season, which saw excellent numbers of Tennessee Warblers. Birders have gotten quite good at finding **Connecticut Warblers** in fall, with reports in 26 counties this fall, none later than 10/9. **Mourning Warbler** was noted in four fewer counties (22), however, which raises the same concern as for Orange-crowned Warbler—some of these Connecticut may well have been misidentified Mournings. **Common Yellowthroat** was noted in Nov in *Chester* to 11/17 and *Philadelphia* 11/24. Extremely rare for fall was a **Kirtland's Warbler** described at Fairmount Park, *Philadelphia* 9/8, with documentation waiting PORC review.

A late **Magnolia Warbler** was caught and banded at Powdermill, *Westmoreland* 10/25. A few late **Yellow Warblers** usually make it to the second week of Sep but a bird in *Lehigh* 10/7 was very late, as was a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in *York* 10/14. A total of 56 **Blackpoll Warblers** moved over Hawk Mountain, *Berks* 10/6, fairly late for such a nice total. In *Lycoming*, a male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was photographed at a feeder during poor weather 10/29, and one was caught and banded at Powdermill 11/5. Both of these sightings were associated with the strong fronts that were also bringing species like Dunlin and Tundra Swan to the state. **Eastern Palm Warblers** were found in the west in *Allegheny* 10/4 and *Mercer* 10/15. A late bird was at Stone

Mountain, *Huntingdon* 11/2-3. **Pine Warblers** also stuck around long past their regularly scheduled departures, in *Bucks* to 11/26 and *Montgomery* to 11/29. Yet another late warbler was a **Prairie Warbler** in *Philadelphia* 11/2, and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** was found 11/11, also in *Philadelphia*. **Wilson's Warbler** was found in remarkable 41 counties, including, again, one in *Philadelphia* in Nov on 11/6.

A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was a great find at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, *Montgomery* 11/4-5. Observers searching for it also turned up a **Grasshopper Sparrow**, a species seldom seen after the breeding season, let alone in Nov. **Nelson's Sparrows** aren't really news in the fall season anymore, and again they were well-reported in six counties including at several places where now found annually. Quite exciting if accepted, however, were reports of Nelson's Sparrows of the **Atlantic** subspecies at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks*, where up to 2 were present 11/1-4. Another remarkable bird in *Bucks*, this one at Bradford Dam, was a **Saltmarsh Sparrow** 9/28, the first for the state since Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and just the fourth overall, if accepted.

Chipping Sparrows lingered into Nov in *Allegheny* in the west where Nov chippers are still rare, but in the east, up to 30 were still in *Montgomery* to the end of Nov. **Clay-colored Sparrow** was noted in five eastern counties and *Centre* and *Mifflin*, with dates spanning from Sep to Nov. This species seems to be one that may show up anywhere, anytime in the fall. Three reports of **Lark Sparrow** from three different parts of the state were made within four days of each other: *Westmoreland* 9/7-8, *Bucks* 9/8, and *Lancaster* 9/10. A **Dark-eyed Junco** returned to *Bucks* 9/10 and provided the third earliest date ever for juncos there. A juvenile was begging from an adult in *Lebanon* 8/24. Another early bird in *Bucks*, a **White-throated Sparrow** attended the feeders at Peace Valley Park 8/4-9/16. **Vesper Sparrow** and **Lincoln's Sparrow** both usually warrant mention by county compilers, and both were well-reported this season, especially Vesper, which was even found in a few counties (e.g., *Dauphin*) where they are decidedly rare. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was still in *Montgomery* to 11/25.

Yellow-breasted Chat, now wedged between the sparrows and the tanagers, was reported in just six counties, but this is not unusual for the fall season. A **Summer Tanager** attended a feeder in Meadville 11/24-27, the third of its kind to appear in *Crawford* in late Nov since 2008. A late **Scarlet Tanager** was in *Mifflin* 11/12. A lingering **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in *Jefferson* 10/22 set a new late date for that county. **Blue Grosbeak** was found in an impressive 15 counties, all in the southeast except one in *Bedford*, but many of those reports were of birds still on or near breeding grounds. It was another superb fall for **Dickcissel** as well, with sightings in 14 counties, again many of which were birds continuing from the summer at breeding areas; however,

plenty of migrants were also noted in Oct in the southeast.

Quite shocking was a beautiful adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** photographed at a residence in *Tioga* 8/3, one of the earliest fall records ever for this species in the state, although there are at least two previous Jul records and two other Aug records. **Bobolink** was widely reported but not in great numbers, except for the 400-500 at Pine Run Dam in *Bucks* 9/12. An adult male **Baltimore Oriole** returned to a feeder in Middletown Twp., *Bucks* 11/8, now for the sixth winter in a row. Another young Baltimore showed up there 11/25-26 but did not stay. Yet another was in *Montgomery* 11/10-13. An annual evening count of **Red-winged Blackbirds** in *Crawford* 9/11 turned up 16,714 birds, a wonderful total for western Pennsylvania. **Rusty Blackbird**, like Common Nighthawk, is a species that birders and compilers go out of their way to mention when they can. They were reported in 32 counties, but in generally small numbers. Notable were a count of 127 in *Dauphin* 11/5 and an extraordinarily early, well-described bird in *Lehigh* 8/31, quite probably the earliest fall record for Pennsylvania ever.

Winter finches were quite scarce this fall, and into the winter as well. **Purple Finch** was reported in all areas of the state, as usual, but not in numbers, with many counties having only one or two sightings. Likewise for **Pine Siskin**, which was noted in mostly extremely low numbers in 31 counties, with at least half of those counties seeing only one report this season, and none were seen before Oct. The only large flocks were 100 in *Elk* 11/26 and 80 in *Lycoming* 11/25. Four **Common Redpolls** in *Berks* 11/18 and one in *Butler* 11/11 were the only sightings for them, and the only crossbills were 14 **Red Crossbills** in *Potter* 11/28 and 6 **White-winged Crossbills** in *Susquehanna* 11/23. For the first time since 2013, and just the second time since 2008, not a single Evening Grosbeak was reported at any time during the fall season.

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Birds of Note – August through November 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* – *Adams*: one at Lake Heritage 9/22 (Callan Murphy) remained the through at least 12/19 (*no doc*).

Ross's Goose – *Allegheny*: one at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville 11/18-19 (Amy Henrici, Pat McShea); *Bedford*: one at Shawnee SP 11/15 (ph. Tom Dick); *Blair*: one at Sinking Valley Golf Course 11/30 (ph. Laura Palmer); *Bucks*: one immature at Washington Crossing Park 11/24-26 (Seth Ausubel, Mary Normandia), and one adult at Pine Run Dam beginning 11/29 (Bob McGarry); *Chester*: one at a water treatment plant in Exton 11/24-30 (John Daniel, m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at Hartstown Marsh and the Miller Ponds area 11/26-30 (Roger Higbee, Tomas Nonnenmacher, et al.); *Erie*: one at the Fairview Business Park 11/22-30 (Joe Susi, et al.); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow wetland and Smithfield 11/25-27 (Greg Grove, Ron George, Debra Grim); *Lancaster*: 3 at Beechdale Rd. 11/22 and 2 there 11/23 (Todd Fellenbaum); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 10/24-11/3 and again 11/26 (Kenneth Rieker, m.ob.); *Montour*: one at the Montour Preserve 11/21-22 (Wayne Stahl, Andy Keister); *Northampton*: one on High Point Boulevard and nearby 11/23-24 (Michael Schall).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Bucks*: first reported at Peace Valley Park 9/30 (August Mirabella) and then sporadically there and at Pine Run Dam through the season; *Centre*: 2 at Bald Eagle SP 11/23-25 (Julia Plummer, Bob Snyder); *Chester*: 3 at Coatesville Reservoir 11/19-22 (Joey Della Penna); *Erie*: 2 at Waterford 11/6-7 (Jamie Hill) and one at the Fairview Business Park and nearby 11/9-25 (Bob Scribner, et al.); *Franklin*: 8 at Keefer Rd. 11/20-30 (Chris Blazo, Carl Garner, Bill Oyler); *Juniata*: 6 at Oakland Mills 11/25 and into Dec (Leroy Troyer, Chad Kauffman, Deb Brackbill); *Lancaster*: 28 at Beechdale Rd. and later Alcoa Marsh from 11/20 to the end of the period (Derek Stoner); *Lawrence*: 32 at Vosler Rd. 11/19-20 (Mark Vass); *Lycoming*: one over Indian Park in Montoursville 11/22 (Bobby Brown, Bob Brown, Deb Brown); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 10/20 (ph. Kenneth Rieker); *Montour*: 16 at the Montour Preserve 11/22-28 (Andy Keister, Eric Hartshaw, eBird); *Northampton*: 5 on High Point Boulevard 11/26 (Adam Miller); *Somerset*: one at Quemahoning Reservoir 11/21-23 (Linda Greble); *Westmoreland*: 5 at St. Vincent Lake 11/23-26 (Nathan Weyandt, et al.).

Pink-footed Goose* – *Bucks*: one flyover at Maple Knoll Farms 11/8 (Richard Smith, *no doc*), and one at Pine Run Dam 11/30 (ph. Jochen Baurmeister, *doc submitted*).

Brant – *Bucks*: 56 at Peace Valley Park 10/11 (Zack Moyer, August Mirabella) and one at Bradford Dam 11/27 (Christopher Mortensen); *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 10/28 and 3 there 10/29-30 (Rich Rehrig, eBird); *Centre*: one-three at Bald Eagle SP 11/5-14 (m.ob., eBird, ph); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 11/4 (Zach Baer, eBird); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 10/18 (Sherri Hendricks, Eric Willet); *Erie*: one passed Sunset Point 10/28 (Jerry McWilliams) and one on Presque Isle Bay 11/17-30 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Birdsong); *Luzerne*: one at the Beech Mountain Lakes 11/1 (Jonathan DeBalko, eBird); *Northampton*: one at Valley Center Parkway 11/27 (Adam Miller); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 11/4-14 (Michael Walter).

Barnacle Goose* – *Lehigh*: one near Catasauqua 11/21 (Michael Cox, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one along Valley Center Parkway in Hanover Twp. 11/22 (Steve Schmit) was relocated at Silver Crest Rd. outside of Bath 11/27 (Adam Miller, *no doc*).

Trumpeter Swan – *Bucks*: one arrived at Lake Towhee Park 9/28 (Paul Teese) for the fifth year in a row, but it was not reported thereafter; *Dauphin*: 2 seen from West Fairview 11/17-19 (ph. Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens); *Jefferson*: 2 on Five Bridges Trail 9/28 (Jud Glover, Thomas Glover); *Lancaster*: one wing-tagged bird near Kinzers 11/26 (Zachary Millen) hatched in Ontario in 2016 and was the same bird seen in *Chester* in Apr 2017; *Somerset*: 2 banded birds (Z603 and Z675) at Somerset Lake 11/4-5 (m.ob.).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Philadelphia*: a drake returned to Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 11/11-20 (Patrick McGill) for the third consecutive fall season.

Harlequin Duck* – *Erie*: one female passed Sunset Point 11/29 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Pacific Loon* – *Mercer*: one at Lake Wilhelm 11/27-29 (Gary Edwards, Jerry Stanley, et al., *doc submitted*).

Eared Grebe* – *Erie*: one off Niagara Boat Launch, Presque Isle SP 11/11-26 (Jeffrey Bjoc, et al., *no doc*); *Westmoreland*: one at the Bridgeport Dam 11/23 (Jim Pemberton, *no doc*).

Western Grebe* – *Mercer*: 2 at Lake Wilhelm 11/27 (Gary Edwards, *no doc*).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: 3 at Bristol 11/12 (Thomas Ford-Hutchinson); *Philadelphia*: returned to locations on the Delaware River by 10/28 (m.ob.).

Anhinga* – *York*: one female over the Rocky Ridge County Park hawkwatch 9/22 (Randy Phillips, Fred Paley, *no doc*).

American White Pelican – *York*: one continued from summer at Corderus SP to 8/3 (m.ob.).

Least Bittern – *Crawford*: one at McMichael Road 8/7 (Anthony Bruno, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/31 (Jim McConnell); *Erie*: one at Leo's Landing 8/16-9/24 (Brendyn Baptiste, et al., eBird); *Huntingdon*: at least one adult and 2 juveniles at the Cornpropst Mills wetland 8/8-31 (Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Deb Grove); *Philadelphia*: 4 juveniles at John Heinz N.W.R. fledged from a nest at the refuge from summer with reports through early Sep (m.ob.), and one there 9/17 (George Armistead, eBird) and 9/24 (Debbie Beer, eBird).

Great White Heron – *Susquehanna*: one from the summer reappeared at East Great Bend Swamp 8/23-9/25 (m.ob.).

Snowy Egret – *Berks*: one at Gotwal's Pond 8/13 (Dan Altif); *Chester*: one at Kennett Square 8/22 (Michael Gardner) and one at Exton Park 8/23 (John Daniel); *Lancaster* one juv. at the Conejohela Flats 8/20-9/25 (Meredith Lombard, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: up to 3 at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/4-10/9 (m.ob.).

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 8/5 and 4 there 8/20 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: juveniles at Exton Park 8/4 (Brian Quindlen) and Octorara Reservoir 8/10 (Patrick Millar); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 10/1 (Ron Leberman); *Delaware*: at John Heinz N.W.R. 9/13 and 9/21 (Jim McConnell); *Juniata*: one on the Juniata River at Port Royal 9/11 (*fide* Aden Troyer); *Lancaster*: one continuing from summer at Middle Creek W.M.A. to 9/1 (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one continuing from summer at Middle Creek W.M.A. to 8/16 (m.ob.), and 2 were there 8/17 (Randy Miller); *Lehigh*: one immature at Krock's Rd. in Macungie 8/6 (Kevin Dougherty); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango propagation ponds 8/10 (ph. Kevin Parsons); *Montgomery*: 3 imm. continuing from summer to 8/4 and 2 continuing to 9/4 at Green Lane Park (m.ob.), and one 9/9 at Green Lane Pond (Paul Krepto, Paige Menton); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. from summer to 10/15 (m.ob.); *York*: reported at Corderus SP 8/14-9/5 (m.ob.) including an adult and a juvenile there 8/24 (Dick Cleary).

Tricolored Heron* – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/18 and 8/23 (Jim McConnell, *no doc*); *Montour*: one at the Route 54 Wetlands near Arrowhead Road 8/1-7 (Evan Houston, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/21-31 (Dan Ellerbroek, *no doc*); *York*: one from the summer continued at Lake Williams 8/1 (Dick Cleary, Chuck Kling, *doc submitted*) and presumably the same bird was relocated at Corderus SP 8/3-16 (Karen Lippy, *no doc*).

Cattle Egret* – *Armstrong*: one near Distant 11/2-6 (Avis Keener, John Keener, *no doc*); *Forest*: one in the Redbush area 11/3

(Todd Allio, *no doc*); *Venango*: one at a farm on Foster Road 11/1-6 (Lorie Blyler, *no doc*).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Berks*: one on the Manatawny Creek near Oley 8/15 (Steve Boyer) was present to 8/17; *Bucks*: one immature at Peace Valley Park 8/15-20 (ph. Lynne Falterbauer, Andrew Harrington, Scott Godshall, Karen Isett), and one at Peace Valley Park again 11/11 (ph. Lynne Falterbauer); *Cumberland*: up to 3 on the Conodoguinet Creek at Camp Hill 8/1-12 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: continuing at Harrisburg to 9/29 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one adult at the Greenfield Ponds to 8/16 (Kim Gainer Morelock, Zachary Millen); *Lebanon*: one juvenile at the Lebanon YMCA 9/10 (Brad Rhen); *Montgomery*: one adult and one juv. continuing from summer to 8/1 at Norristown Dam (Michael Rosengarten); *Schuylkill*: one at Sweet Arrow Lake 8/24 (Ann Marie Liebner, Pat Santee); *York*: one photographed perched on a car at the Pleasant Acres senior facility 9/10 (*fide* Ann Pettigrew).

Glossy Ibis – *Adams*: one juvenile near Fairfield 8/4-8 (Ian Clarke, et al.); *Bucks*: 3 immatures at the Penn-Warner Tract 9/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Frazer 8/17 (Chad Hutchinson); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/9 and again 8/15 (Jim McConnell); *Indiana*: one near Elders Ridge 9/3-4 (Anthony Bruno); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/30 (ph. Marvin Stauffer, Eric Zawatski) and 2 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 9/14 (Bruce Carl); *Lebanon*: up to 10 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/3-18 (Steve Ferreri, Timothy Becker, Randy Miller, Josh Lefever, Liz Jenson), one at Fredericksburg 8/5 (Mike Dale), one at Fox and Prescott Rd. 8/27-28 (David Yeany II, Gary Robson, Timothy Becker, Randy Miller), and 3 at Reistville flooded fields 9/28-10/4 (Randy Miller, Don Billett, Ted Nichols II); *Lehigh*: one at Nestle Way 8/5-8 (Mike Schall); *Luzerne*: one at the Plymouth Flats 8/15-24 (Eric Zawatski, Jonathan DeBalko, eBird) and up to 6 there 8/31-9/8 (Jonathan DeBalko, et al., eBird); *Montgomery*: 2 at Fort Washington 8/18 (Jack Robbins) with one remaining to 8/21 (m.ob.); *Montour*: one near the Danville Soccer Park 8/4 (Jesse Babonis); *Philadelphia*: up to 2 at John Heinz N.W.R. through early Sep (m.ob.) and 7 over the Pennypack Environmental Center 10/7 (Peter Kurtz).

Plegadis sp. – *Northampton*: one over the Madison Farms Shopping Center 8/10 (Bill Etter).

White Ibis* – *Lancaster*: one juv. at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/3 (*no doc*), same bird as in *Lebanon*, and one at the Conejohela Flats 8/17 (Jerry Book, ph. Marvin Stauffer, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/2-12 (Steve Ferreri, Ted Nichols II, Meredith Lombard, Randy Miller, Pat and Richard Williams, *no doc*), same bird as in *Lancaster*.

Roseate Spoonbill* – *Cumberland*: one continued from the summer on the Conodoguinet Creek at Camp Hill to 9/30 (Jonathan Gere, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Juniata*: one near Oriental Rd. 8/26 (Chad Kauffman, *no doc*) was the same bird as listed for *Snyder*; *Mifflin*: One near Lewistown 9/29 was likely the same as the *Snyder* individual (Henry Petersheim); *Snyder*: one at the Showalter farm in the southeastern part of the county 8/24-9/4 (Aden Troyer, Kay Cramer, *no doc*) was the same bird as listed for *Juniata*.

Mississippi Kite* – *Bedford/Somerset*: one at the Allegheny Front hawk watch 9/16 (Brian Wargo, *doc submitted*); *Delaware*: one at the Rose Tree Park hawkwatch 9/20 (ph. John Mercer, *no doc*); *York*: one at the Rocky Ridge County Park hawkwatch 9/16 (Dick Cleary, Frank Blom, *no doc*).

Swainson's Hawk* – *Philadelphia*: one in northwest Philadelphia 10/25 (Tony Croasdale, Dan Efroymsen, *doc submitted*).

American Avocet – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 8/19 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Erie*: 3 at Gull Point 8/5 and one there 8/20 (both Roger Donn); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 8/24 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart) and one at the Kriner Road retention ponds 8/27-9/3 (Josh Danielson, Susan Donaldson, Josh Lefever, Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/29 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer, Tom Garner); *Mercer*: one at SGL 270 on 8/31 (Richard Nugent).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: 2 juvs. continued at Gull Point to 8/28 (Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn, *no doc*), and one flew past Sunset Point 9/28 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*).

Upland Sandpiper – *Franklin*: one at Portico Rd. 8/1 (ph. Dave Cooney) and one at Greencastle Reservoir 8/27 (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: up to 5 continuing from Jul to 8/5 at the Lancaster Airport (Michael Schall) and one at the Sporting Valley Turf Farm 8/25 (Ian Gardner).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/12 and 2 there 8/13 (Roger Donn).

Marbled Godwit – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/12 (ph. Steve Schmit).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Crawford*: 2 at Woodcock Lake 9/20 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: a few reports at Gull Point 8/5-9/2 (m.ob.) and one at Harborcreek 11/20 was very late (Bonnie Bowen *fide* Susan Smith); *Lancaster*: singles at the Conejohela Flats 8/23 and 10/1 (Mike Epler, m.ob.).

Red Knot – *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 9/3-8 (Nancy Anderson, et al.); *Erie*: about 8 total for the season at Gull Point 8/26-10/2 (Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams, Don Snyder).

Purple Sandpiper – *Erie*: one at Sunset Point 11/13 appeared to fly off north toward Canada (Jerry McWilliams, Roger Donn) and another passed Sunset Point 11/22 (Jerry McWilliams).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/19 (Don Snyder) and another there 8/26 (Roger Donn); *Lancaster*: one juv. at the Sporting Valley Turf Farm 8/22-9/7 (Zachary Millen); *Lebanon*: one at the Reistville flooded fields 8/30-31 (Steve Schmit, Rich Rehrig).

Western Sandpiper – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/18 (Jim McConnell); *Lancaster*: one adult at the Conejohela Flats 8/27 (Bruce Carl, Tom Garner, Eric Witmer).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning fish hatchery 10/7 (Randy Stringer); *Lancaster*: one adult at Alcoa Marsh 8/29-30 (Daniel Hinesbusch).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 9/10 (Al Guarente); *Franklin*: one at the Kriner Road

retention ponds 9/6 (Dave Cooney); *Lancaster*: one juv. at the Conejohela Flats 8/27 (Bruce Carl, Tom Garner, Eric Witmer); *Lebanon*: 2 at Fox and Prescott Rd. 8/26-27 (David Yeany II, Jonathan Heller, Gary Robson, Zach Millen, Ted Nichols II, Pat and Richard Williams) apparently relocated to the Reistville flooded fields 8/27-9/1 where they were joined by a third bird, and where one lingered to 9/12 (m.ob.).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 8/27 and 3 there 9/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin SP 9/13 (ph. Joseph Pumford, eBird); *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 8/25-31 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow); *Erie*: one late bird off Niagara Boat Launch at Presque Isle SP 11/11-22 (Jeffrey Bjoc, et al.); *Franklin*: one at the Kriner Road retention ponds 8/26-31 (Dave Kerr, Carl Garner); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 9/4-6 (Jeff Payne); *Westmoreland*: one at Donegal Lake 8/5 (ph. Michael David) and one there again 9/15 (ph. Lori Maggio).

Red Phalarope* – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 10/30-31 (Gigi Gerben, Jeff Payne, ph. Michael David, *doc submitted*).

Willet – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/2 (Mary Birdsong).

Parasitic Jaeger* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 9/17 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin SP 9/17-22 (John Carter, m.ob.).

Long-tailed Jaeger* – *Lycoming*: one bird flew over Williamsport Dam 8/26 (David Brown, Maddi Dunlap, *doc submitted*).

Sabine's Gull* – *Clarion/Venango*: one first cycle bird at Kahle Lake 9/5-8 (Gary Edwards, John and Avis Keener, Jerry Stanley, et al., *doc submitted*).

Little Gull – *Bucks*: one at Falls Twp. 9/17 (Devich Farbotnik).

Black-headed Gull* – *Bucks* one at the Morrisville Levee 11/4 (Armas Hill, *doc submitted*); *Butler*: one adult returned to the South Shore at Moraine SP 11/12 (Mark Vass) for the seventh time in the past ten years (*doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one adult at John Heinz N.W.R. 11/17 through the period (Bull Michalski, Elizabeth Porter, Geoff Veith, *no doc*).

Least Tern* – *Erie*: one passed Sunset Point 10/19 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/23 (Mike Epler, *no doc*).

Black Tern – *Armstrong*: one at Crooked Creek Lake 9/3-9/10 (Theo Rickert, et al.); *Berks*: singles at Lake Ontelaunee 9/3 (Dan Altif) and 10/12 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 8/19 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: as many as 20 at Bald Eagle SP 8/18-22 (Carl Engstrom, et al.); *Chester*: 2 at Marsh Creek SP 8/18 (Michael Hartshorne, Holly Merker); *Delaware*: one at Fort Mifflin 8/23 (Al Guarente); *Franklin*: at Greencastle Reservoir 8/13-16 (Carl Garner, Bill Oyler, Val Barnes, Nancy Magnusson) and 9/3 (Carl Garner); *Indiana*: 3 at Yellow Creek SP 8/22 (Lee Carnahan, et al.); *Lancaster*: 81 at the Conejohela Flats 8/18 (Meredithe Lombard) with smaller numbers there through 9/10 (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: 3 at Canfield Island 8/18 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown) and one at Rose Valley Lake 8/18 (Steve Pinkerton); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lake Park 9/16 (Joe Greco); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 8/11 (Jeff Payne); *Westmoreland*: one at Acme

Dam 9/5 (Josh Lefever); *York*: up to 3 at Codorus SP 8/6-20 (Karen Lippy, m.ob.).

White-winged Tern* – *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 10/8-9 (Adrian Binns, *no doc*) may have been the same bird seen in *Tioga* nearly two months earlier in Aug; *Tioga*: one molting adult at Nessmuk Lake 8/10-13 (Rich Hanlon, Kathy Riley, m.ob., *doc submitted*) represented the first Pennsylvania record if accepted; *York*: one at the Rocky Ridge County Park hawkwatch 9/21 (Randy Phillips, Frank Paley, *no doc*).

Common Tern – *Allegheny*: one at Dashields Dam 9/1 (Mark Vass, ph. Geoff Malosh); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 8/18 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cambria*: one or two at Prince Gallitzin SP 9/17-23 (m.ob.); *Centre*: up to 5 at Bald Eagle SP 8/7 (Julia Plummer, Joe Verica, Carl Engstrom), and one there 9/14 (Carl Engstrom); *Crawford*: one or 2 at Woodcock Lake 8/19-20 (Tomas Nonnenmacher), one at the Pymatuning Spillway 9/16 and 9/23 (m.ob.), and one at the Pymatuning Causeway 10/1 (Ron Leberman); *Dauphin*: one at Front Street, Harrisburg 9/14 (Ian Gardner, eBird); *Erie*: up to 6 around Presque Isle in the first half of Aug (m.ob.) and one passed Sunset Point 10/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/23 (Mike Epler).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Franklin*: local population at Greencastle Reservoir was fewer in number this season, with top count of just 27 (Carl Garner).

White-winged Dove* – *Erie*: one in Summit Twp. 11/13 (Sam Stull, *no doc*) provided a third county record.

Snowy Owl – *Butler*: one found while spotlighting deer at Lakeview Beach at Moraine SP 11/10 (Bartramian Audubon Society); *Clearfield*: one in Union Twp. 11/29 (Harold Webster); *Crawford*: one near Cambridge Springs 11/27 (Kendall Zook); *Dauphin*: one near Hummelstown 11/21 (Ted Nichols); *Erie*: one in Waterford 11/13 (Daniel Wolfe) and at least four on the east end of Presque Isle in the second half of Nov (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one near Annville 11/21 (Karen Bionde) was probably the same bird relocated near Campbelltown 11/27 (Becky Bollinger, Ted Nichols II, Pat and Richard Williams); *Lycoming*: one near the Lycoming Mall 11/15 (Brent and Su Bacon); *Montgomery*: one at Springfield Twp. Middle School in Oreland 11/22 (Caitlin Welsh) remained in the general area for a few days thereafter; *Susquehanna*: one on private property 11/29 (Nancy VanCott, Forrest VanCott, Barbara Stone, Evan Mann); *Union*: one at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lewisburg 11/30 (*fide* Brent Bacon); *Warren*: one at Eisenhower High School 11/13 (John Fedak).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Crawford*: one seen on West Vernon Rd. 10/6 (Ron Leberman); *Lancaster*: one adult female returned to Quarryville 8/14 for the third year in a row (*fide* Scott Weidensaul); *Lehigh*: one adult male near Slatington 11/9 (John Good) was banded 11/10 (Sandy Lockerman) and remained into the winter season; *Montgomery*: one imm. female near Collegeville 10/24-11/4 was banded 11/4 (Sandy Lockerman).

Western Kingbird* – *Berks*: one on Mine Rd. near Lake Ontelaunee 10/26 (Matt Spence, *no doc*).

Northern Shrike – *Adams*: one at Gettysburg National Military Park 11/23-12/4 (Scott Wood) was the first for the county since 2007; *Cambria*: one at Dumans Dam 11/26 (Ron Shearer); *Centre*: one or 2 at Bald Eagle SP 11/14-26 (Bill Chambers, et al.); *Clearfield*: one on Hartzfeld Rd. near Luthersburg 11/9 (Dan Richards); *Clinton*: one on Beech Creek Mountain near Cranberry Swamp 11/16 (William Chambers); *Crawford*: one at Sugar Lake 10/20 (Rich Eakin) and one at WL 11/20 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow); *Erie*: one at the Fairview Industrial Park 11/25-29 (James Hill, et al., eBird); *Elk*: one at Buzzard Swamp 11/9 (Josh Lefever, eBird); *Erie*: one at Fairview Industrial Park 11/25 to the end of the season (Shannon Thompson, et al.); *Lawrence*: one at Shaner Rd. beginning 10/29 (Randy Stringer); *Montour*: one on Stamm Road 11/19-22 (Rich Wood, Andy Keister, Karol Pasquinelli); *Somerset*: one at the Flight 93 Memorial 11/14 (ph. Jaimie Sunderland); *Sullivan*: one at Splashdam Pond 10/22 (Rob Megraw).

Cave Swallow* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/7 (Jochen Baurmeister, *doc submitted*).

Sedge Wren – *Montgomery*: breeding pair and young continuing from the summer to 10/15 at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (Matt Jewell, Kenneth Rieker, et al.).

Bicknell's Thrush* – *Montgomery*: one recorded by nocturnal flight call over Elkins Park 10/2 (vr. Paul Driver, *doc submitted*).

Golden-winged Warbler – *Allegheny*: one at North Park 9/6 (Steve Denninger) and one at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/21 (Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 8/23 (Andrew Harrington) and 9/8 (Karen Isett) and one at Nockamixon SP 8/27 (Bob McGarry); *Cameron*: one at Sinnemahoning SP 8/23 (Kathleen Wetzel); *Clinton*: one at State Game Lands 255 on 8/27 (Brian Schmoke, Allie Causey, eBird); *Delaware*: one on the Bridle Trail at Ridley Creek SP 8/27 (Al Guarente, David Eberly); *Indiana*: one at Blue Spruce County Park 9/15 (Robert Mulvihill); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/24 (Bruce Carl); *Luzerne*: one at Nescopeck SP 8/24 (Jonathan DeBalko, eBird); *Montgomery*: one at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 8/30 (Mike Grubb), one at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 9/7 (ph. Michael Lyman), one at Trewellyn Park 9/10 (Matt Jewell), and one at Haverford College 9/10 (ph. Kristen Johnson); *Northampton*: one at the Monacacy Nature Center 9/8 (Jim Figlar); *Philadelphia*: noted at the Pennypack Environmental Center 8/20, 9/1, and 9/4 (Peter Kurtz), at Southampton Woods 8/24 and 9/1 (Frank Windfelder), at Carpenter's Woods 9/4 (Dan Ellerbroek), and at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 9/21 (Robert Karchnyak); *Pike*: one at the Delaware State Forest 8/8 (Bradley White, eBird); *Westmoreland*: one at Powdermill Nature Reserve 8/16 (Josh Lefever); *York*: one at Rocky Ridge County Park 9/7 (Chuck Berthoud).

Brewster's Warbler – *Delaware*: one on the Bridle Trail at Ridley Creek SP 9/3 (Jim McConnell, Al Guarente); *Indiana*: one at Blue Spruce County Park 9/6 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Deb Kalbfleisch, eBird).

Kirtland's Warbler* – *Philadelphia*: one at Lemon Hill in Fairmount Park 9/8 (Holger Pflücke, *doc submitted*).

Le Conte's Sparrow* – *Montgomery*: one at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 11/4-5 (ph. Paul Driver, *doc submitted*).

Nelson's Sparrow – *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek SP 10/8 (Deborah Grove); *Bucks*: reported at Bradford Dam, Pine Run Dam, and the Penn-Warner Tract 9/24-11/14; at Pine Run Dam, reported on 27 separate days with a max. of 3 on 3 dates (m.ob.); *Clearfield*: one caught at the Penn State Dubois banding station 10/17 (*fide* Nick Voris, eBird); *Clinton*: one at the Mill Hall wetlands 10/8 (Brian Schmoke) and another at Central Mountain High School in Mill Hall 10/14 (Charles and Carol Hildebrand); *Lancaster*: present at the Bainbridge Islands 10/1-22 (m.ob.), with a high of 13 on 10/15 (Ian Gardner, Mike Epler, Zach Millen); *Northumberland*: one at Warrior Run Wetlands 10/12 (Andy Keister).

"Atlantic" Nelson's Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 11/1 (Ken Rieker, ph. Devich Farbotnik) and 2 there 11/4 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber), with sightings then continuing through 11/13 (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Saltmarsh Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 9/22 (Scott Godshall, August Mirabella, *doc submitted*).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Centre*: one detected by nocturnal flight call recorder in Bellefonte 8/31 (Julia Plummer); *Lehigh*: one at Trexlertown 11/6 (ph. Kevin Dougherty); *Mifflin*: one at a residence on Back Mountain Road and Roy Road 9/24 (Ivan Byler, Christopher Yoder); *Montgomery*: one at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 10/3 (Paul Driver, Matt Jewell) and one at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 10/13 (ph. Matt Jewell); *Philadelphia*: one at the abandoned Island Green Country Club and Golf Course 10/14 (Holger Pflicke), one at the Delaware River Trail 10/17 (Frank Windfelder), and one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/19 (Holger Pflicke); *Wayne*: one at a residence in Bethany 9/21 (Chris Fischer, John Harvey).

Lark Sparrow* – *Bucks*: one immature at Maple Knoll Farms 9/8 (Richard Smith, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/10 (Jerry Book, *no doc*); *Westmoreland*: one at Donegal Lake 9/7-8 (Josh Lefever, *no doc*).

Summer Tanager* – *Crawford*: one at a feeder in Meadville 11/14-27 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, *no doc*).

Dickcissel – *Adams*: up to 12 (including fledged young) at Gettysburg National Military Park through 8/13 (Eli DePaulis, Andy Wilson); *Berks*: one at the Green Hills Preserve 10/6 (Jaime Thomas); *Bucks*: one at the Maple Knoll Farms 10/6 (Richard Smith, ph. August Mirabella); *Centre*: one detected by nocturnal flight call recorder in Bellefonte 9/11 (Julia Plummer); *Clinton*: continued from summer at Mill Hall through Aug (m.ob.); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 10/13 (Ari Rice); *Elk*: up to 7, including juveniles, continued from the summer at Porcupine Hollow, SGL 311 to at 8/11 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Franklin*: sightings on Portico Rd. and Boundary Rd. (Dave Cooney) and in Lurgan Twp. (Stefan Karkuff) 8/1; *Lancaster*: one continued from summer to 8/1 at Ephrata (Bruce Carl) and one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 10/3 (Bruce Carl); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/4 (Randy Miller) and one at Shuey lake 9/22 (Ian Gardner, Jarrod Derr, Timothy Becker, Rebecca Picone); *Mifflin*: one on Renno Road 9/9 (vr. Joe Gyekis); *Montgomery*: one at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (ph. Paul Driver) and one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 10/18 (Peter Burns); *Northampton*: one on private property in Nazareth 10/22 (Dan Altif); *Northumberland*: one at Warrior Run Wetlands 10/14-15 (Evan Houston); *Philadelphia*: noted at Sedgley Woods at Fairmount Park 9/4 (Matt Halley), at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/1 (Tony Croasdale), and at John Heinz N.W.R. 10/13 (Ari Rice), and recorded on nocturnal migration in south Philadelphia 9/6 and 10/8 (vr. Holger Pflicke); *York*: up to 7 including fledged young at Hopewell Township Park 8/1-15 (Dick Cleary, David Farner, Randy Phillips).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Tioga*: adult male photographed at a residence near Stokesdale 8/3 (ph. Lori Redell, *no doc*).

Brewer's Blackbird* – *Cambria*: one at a feeder in Patton 11/23 (Dave Gobert, *no doc*).

Red Crossbill – *Potter*: 14 at Susquehannock State Forest 11/28 (Marc Hanneman, eBird).

Photographic Highlights



This **Brant** was the first ever at heavily birded Wildwood Park in Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, seen here 18 October. (Sherri Hendricks)



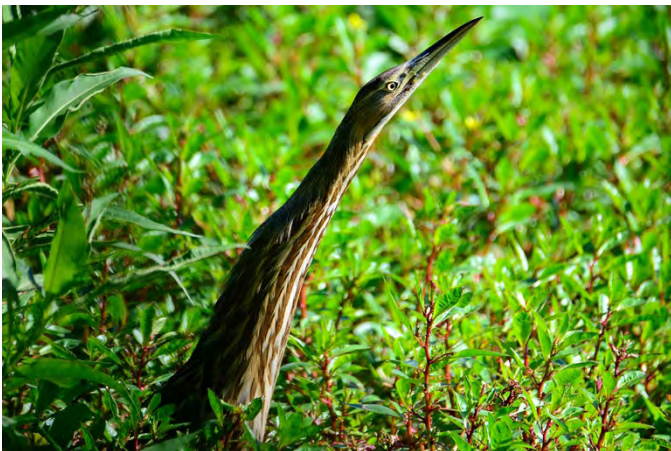
One of five reported in eBird for the fall, this wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** (P02/Sir Zircon) was at Kinzers Farm Pond, *Lancaster* 26 November. This bird was hatched and tagged in Ontario 2016 and previously recorded in *Chester* April 2017. (Ted Nichols II)



A good fall for **Ross's Goose**, found in 12 counties scattered across the state, excepting the forested north, and all after 25 October. This goose was at Allegheny Cemetery, *Allegheny* 20 November. (Geoff Malosh)



A first for *Mercer*, this **Pacific Loon** was at Lake Wilhelm 27-29 (here 29) November. (Geoff Malosh)



American Bittern at Wildwood Park, Harrisburg, *Dauphin* 4 September. (Sherri Hendricks)



One of three in the state during the early fall season, this **Tricolored Heron** at Codorus SP, *York* 7 August, moved among at least 3 locations through mid-August. (Dean Newhouse)



One of (apparently) two **Roseate Spoonbills** found in July; this bird, the second discovered and by far the most observed, staying on the Conodoguinet Creek, *Cumberland* through 30 September, here 13 August. (Ted Nichols II).



Indiana's fifth ever **Glossy Ibis** was at Elders Ridge, seen only on 3 September; 11 other counties, all eastern, had Glossy Ibis as well (Anthony Bruno)



Cooper's Hawk at Reservoir Park, Highspire, *Dauphin* 26 November. (Sherri Hendricks)



This **Swallow-tailed Kite** put on an aerial show in eastern *Snyder* 24 August (here 31) – 4 September. It briefly crossed into *Juniata*, and possibly the same bird was reported in *Mifflin* 28 September; not surprisingly, a first for all 3 counties. (Eric Zawatski)



This **Golden Eagle** displays a rare plumage feature – white patches on scapulars – known as a *Barthelemy* variant; seen at Second Mt. hawk watch, *Lebanon* 21 October. (Steve Rannels)



An above-average season for **Stilt Sandpiper** saw records from 20 counties, mostly southern and northwestern; this bird at Donegal Lake, *Westmoreland* was recorded only on 22 August. (Jeff McDonald)



This **Sanderling** at the beach at Bald Eagle SP, Centre 12 September allowed close approach for this nice shot. (Eric Zawatski)



Passage of cold fronts the week of 29 October – 5 November brought **Dunlins** to 26 counties. Some lingered for weeks, including, perhaps, this bird at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 15 November. (August Mirabella)



Presumably the same **Black-headed Gull** returned to Lake Arthur, Butler for the 7th time in the past ten years, arriving on 12 November, earlier than ever previously, and staying into December (seen here 26 November). (Geoff Malosh)



A minor invasion of **Snowy Owls** began 10 November, with reports from 10 widely scattered counties by the end of the season; five owls were at Presque Isle, Erie, including this bird photographed 14 November. (Anthony Bruno)



Representing Pennsylvania's 24th record, this **Sabine's Gull** was at Kahle Lake, Venango/Clarion 5 (here 6) - 8 September; first record for both counties. (Geoff Malosh)



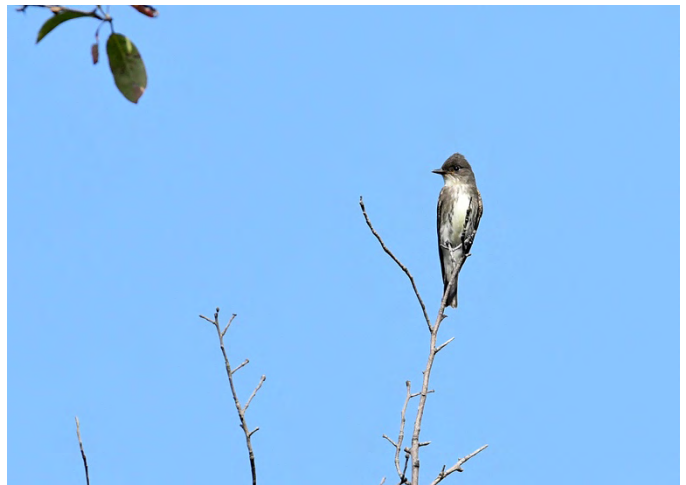
Belted Kingfisher at North Park, *Allegheny* 13 August. (Alan Buriak)



Woodpecker trifecta – **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers** at Evergreen Nature Preserve, Analomink Monroe 16 October. (Nancy Tully)



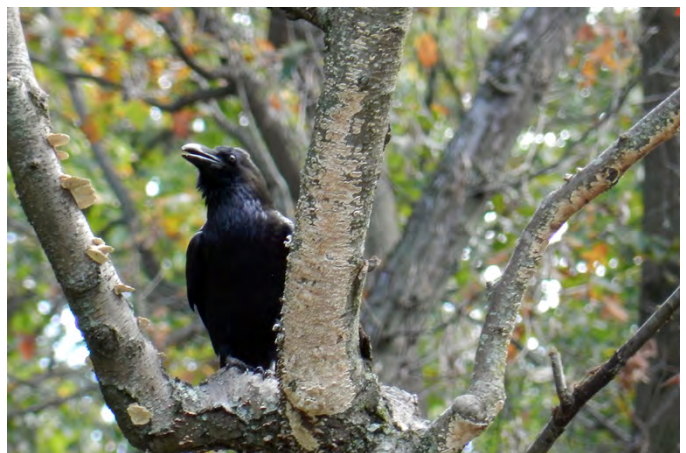
Red-headed Woodpeckers have been over-wintering at Gifford Pinchot SP, *York* for the past several years; this bird was photographed 28 November. (Dean Newhouse)



Found on a field trip during the fall PSO meeting, this was one of two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** in the same tree in Michaux SF, *Cumberland* 17 September. (Barry Blust)



A **Philadelphia Vireo** is a much-desired but not-easy-to-find species, the search complicated by similarity to abundant Red-eyed Vireo. More often found in fall, this Philadelphia was at North Park, *Allegheny* 15 September. (Alan Buriak)



Common Raven at Wrightsville, *York*, were unheard of not too many years ago; this raven had been feeding on road kill opossum 25 October. (Stan Stahl)



Savannah Sparrow in the Piney Tract, *Clarion* 6 June; with true grassland continually giving way to development and row crops, the Piney Tract remains a substantial refuge for grassland specialists. (Dave Brooke)



Female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny* 14 June; this species is an uncommon but widespread breeder in Pennsylvania. (Alan Buriak)



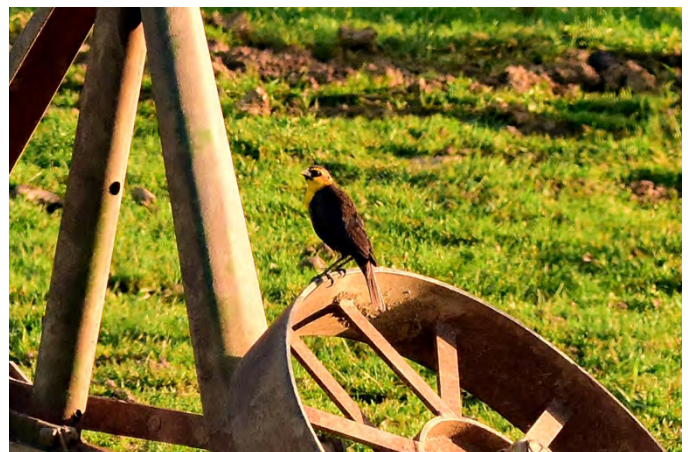
Paired **Dickcissels** were found in four locations in *Lancaster*, totaling at least 16 individuals; this female was on her way to deliver food to young at the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority landfill (restricted access), *Lancaster* 20 July. (Jeff Musser)



Dickcissels invaded from the west, found in at least 26 counties; successful nesting occurred on Fairgrounds Road, Lamar, *Clinton* where this female and fledgling on a mullein stalk were photographed 30 July (see *Clinton* report for details). (Bob Snyder)



Juvenile **Red-winged Blackbird** at Reedsville, *Mifflin* 18 June. (Gordon Parker)



This **Yellow-headed Blackbird** on an Amish farm at Spring Mills, *Centre* was present 31 May – 3 (here 1) June, providing the third county record. (Brian Schmoke)



Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in at least 19 counties; this warbler was in State College, Centre 6 October. (Ron Crandall)



Pine Warbler at Benezette, Elk 22 September. (Sherri Hendricks)



For the third time since 2008, a **Summer Tanager** was found in November in Crawford; this tanager was in Meadville 14-27 (here 24) November. (Jeff McDonald)



Lark Sparrow at Blue Rock Road Boat Launch, Lancaster 10 September - one of three (others in Bucks and Westmoreland) in the state last fall, all found 7-10 September; this bird represents the sixth Lancaster record. (Meredith Lombard)

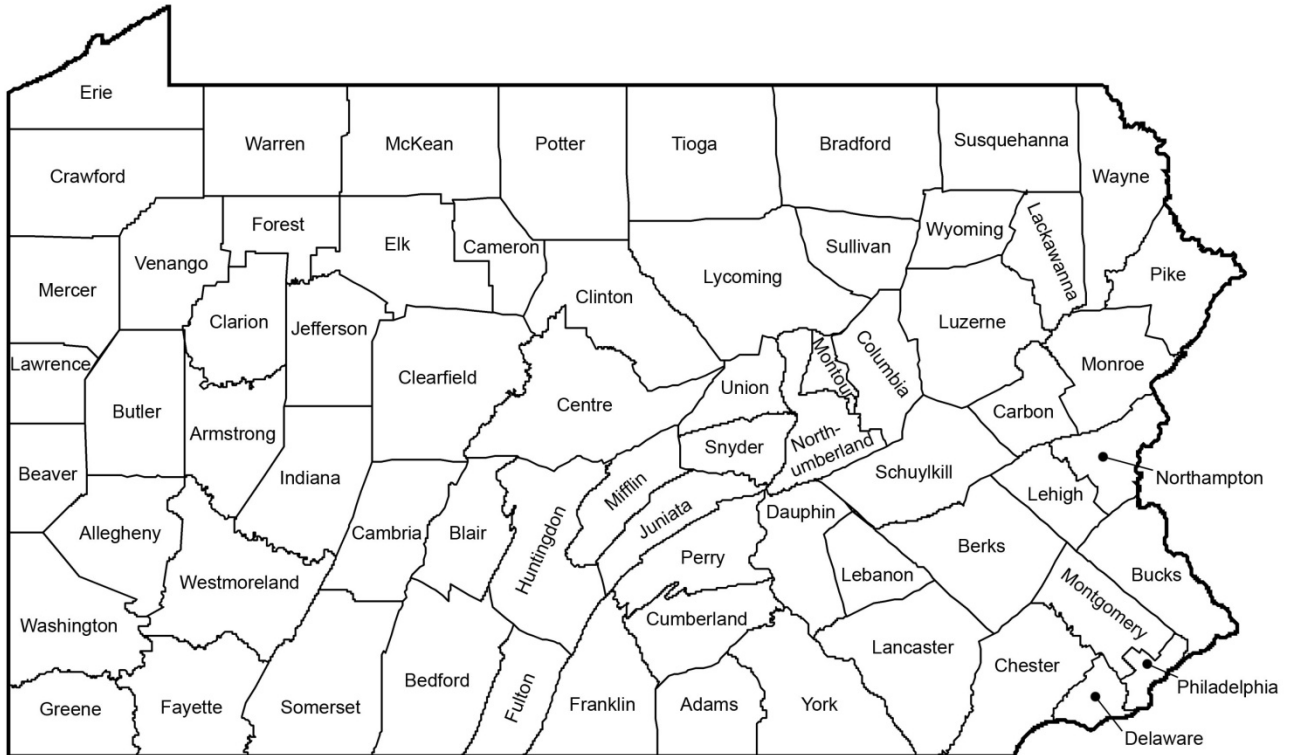


Lincoln's Sparrow at Boyce-Mayview park, Allegheny 6 October. (Jeff McDonald)



Purple Finch at Canonsburg Lake, Washington 8 September. (John Flannigan)

Local Notes – August to November 2017



ABBREVIATION

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

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

Editors Note: Fall reports were received from 60 counties. The following counties have no compiler- contact the editor if interested: **Bradford, Carbon, Luzerne, Tioga.**

Adams County

Locations: Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Road (MTN), Ridge Road—Cumberland Township (RRCT), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

A county first, **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, and two county rarities, **Glossy Ibis** and **Northern Shrike**, paced a record count 165 species for the fall season. Temperatures in southcentral Pennsylvania this season were mostly in line with historical averages. However, October averaged 61.2°F, which was 6.7°F above average. Rainfall, at 15 inches for the four month period, was normal.

The adult **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was first seen in flight at restricted access Lake Heritage 9/22 (CM). The bird was typically in the company of **Mallards** and afforded excellent photo opportunities. Remarkably, it was still being reported through 12/19 (m.ob.). This experience paralleled the **Lancaster** and **Northampton** reports of single whistling ducks from Oct to Dec 2016. In all cases, no band was evident. Although this species is known for some post-breeding vagrancy, one can always debate as to provenance of these birds. **Tundra Swan** flyovers were witnessed at GNMP 11/22 and 11/26 (CM, TN) and LPRR produced the high count of 104 birds 11/9 (VB). A nice count of 22 **Gadwall** came from LPRR 10/11 (BO). Up to 6 **American Black Ducks** were at LPRR 11/20-23 (BO) and a single was on a pond on Chapel Hill Rd 10/23 (CM). A **Greater Scaup** was at GC 11/29-30 (IC, EH). A **Lesser Scaup** was at the same site 11/20-29 (m.ob.) and a pair was at LPRR 11/9 (VB). A good find was a pair of **Surf Scoters** at LPRR 10/25-11/16 (VB, NM, et al.).

A **Common Loon** was at LPRR 11/2 (BK), the only one reported. The only **Ring-necked Pheasant** noted was a moribund bird at Freedom Twp. 11/21 (AW). Of the eight sites reporting **Wild Turkey**, the high count was 8 at RRCT 8/28 (CM). The aforementioned **Glossy Ibis** was a juvenile in a

cow pasture along Middle Creek near Fairfield 8/4-8 (IC, et al). This species was last reported in *Adams* in Apr 2005. Expected raptors were well reported, and an immature **Northern Goshawk** at MTN 9/23 (RDS) was a pleasant surprise. Of the six species of shorebirds reported, a juvenile **Short-billed Dowitcher** that visited the very limited *Adams* shoreline at Long Arm Reservoir 8/20 (DC) was the clear highlight. LPRR provided a 9 count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** 11/9 (VB) and a single **Herring Gull** 10/12 (BO).

An extremely large gathering of 300 **Mourning Doves** were feeding in a wet field on a rainy 9/12 at GNMP (AW). An immature **Black-billed Cuckoo** at MTN 8/10-12 (RDS) was the only one reported. Ten reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** attested to their relative abundance this year, and a single at SGL 9/28 (DJG) was getting a bit late. **Common Nighthawks** were reported seven times 8/26-9/14 (m.ob.). High count was 30 over MTN 9/14 (RDS). The latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** this season was at RRCT 10/11 (CM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** remained throughout the period and were most frequently reported at GNMP. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was first reported at GNMP 10/5 (CM); half of the 12 reports for the season were from the second half of November. Single **Merlins** were at GC 9/6 (AW) and MTN 9/27 (RDS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at GC 11/14 (AW).

A well photographed **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was along Pumping Station Rd 9/4 (BP). A nice count of 11 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** was made at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve 8/10 (DS). The two reports each of **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatcher** were made 8/4-6 (CM, DJG). The **Northern Shrike** (first winter plumage) at GNMP 11/23-12/4 (SW, m.ob.) was the first sighting in the county since 2007. The extensive battlefield fencing and fence rows provided many perches, and the bird remained in a fairly well-defined area allowing many to see it. Vireos were a bit of a disappointment, as **White-eyed**, **Warbling**, and **Philadelphia vireos** were all missed. The two reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** came from SGL 8/23 (PK) and Knox Rd. 8/26 (MAR). Pairs of **Blue-headed Vireo** were in Michaux SF 8/9 (TC) and RRCT 9/30-10/22 (CM), and a single was at Bugle Call Path (Anon). The three reports of **Horned Lark** were topped by up to 8 at GNMP 9/6-11/29 (DK, AW, AWO). **Black-capped Chickadee** was reported seven times with all sites at the higher elevations of Michaux SF. Single reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, and **Winter Wren** came from RRCT 10/26 (CM), LPRR 10/9 (RTG), and RRCT 10/17 and 11/30 (both CM), respectively. Both kinglets were frequently reported. High counts were 5 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** along Wenksville Rd. 10/20 (AM) and 10 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at RRCT 10/11 (CM). There were three reports of **Swainson's Thrush** (VB, CM, NM) and six reports of **Hermit Thrush** (SB, RGTS, DH, CM, JW), above average for these species. **Gray Catbird** just made it into November with one at GNMP 11/1 (MN). A flyover **American Pipit** at GC 11/4 (AW) was the only report. Better flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** included 30 at LPRR 10/26 (DK) and 45 at RRCT 11/1 (CM).

It was one of the better fall migrations recently for *Adams* for warbler variety, with 23 species found. Highlights were reports of: **Blue-winged Warbler** at RRCT 9/7 (CM), **Tennessee Warbler** at GNMP 9/11 (MB), **Nashville Warbler** at RRCT 10/11 (CM), **Cape May Warbler** at Bugle Call Path 9/26 and 10/13 (both Anon), **Wilson's Warbler** at RRCT 9/30 (CM), **Canada Warbler** at RRCT 9/3 (CM), and a juvenile **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 8/6 (DJG). A **Yellow Warbler** at Bugle Call Path 9/22 (Anon) was late. **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Shippensburg Rd 9/7 (MB) and SGL 9/9 (DJG).

American Tree Sparrow was first recorded at GNMP 11/9 (SB). The latest **Chipping Sparrows** were a lingering pair at GC 11/21 (AW). There were 5 **Savannah Sparrows** at Bigham Rd. 10/9 (BP) and a pair was at SGL 11/20 (DH, JW). GNMP produced the only **Grasshopper Sparrows**, up to 4 birds 8/5-13 (ED, CM, AW). Five sites held **Fox Sparrows** 10/23-11/25 (DF, DJG, PK, CM, RDS). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at SGL 9/24 (SS) and GNMP 10/5 (CM). Reports of **Swamp Sparrow** spanned 9/24-11/26 (CM, JSD, TN, SS); the high count was 6 at SGL 9/24 (SS). **Dickcissels** were found at GNMP through 8/13 (ED), including an impressive count of 12 on 8/9 (AW) which included fledged young. Six **Bobolinks**, also with fledged young, were also present 8/9 (AW). Three sites—GNMP, Freedom Twp., and Possum Hollow Rd.—reported **Eastern**

Meadowlark, led by 12 at Freedom Twp. 11/10 (AW). **Rusty Blackbird** and **Orchard Oriole** were missed. **Purple Finches** were limited to a pair at Gettysburg 10/27 (JP) and a single at SGL 11/20 (DH, JW). **Pine Siskin** was not reported.

EXOTICS: A **Chukar** was at SGL 9/24 (DJG). Over the years, sporting clubs have released this species on various tracts of SGL.

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Allegheny County

Early September was hot and dry with near record highs around 90°F for about ten days. The first half of October was unseasonably warm with highs in the 80s and clear skies. The local news reported it was the warmest October since 1947. By the end of the month we had our first real fall weather, with a weekend of cold rain. By mid-November the weather was typical for the season.

Tundra Swans arrived in early November. Two flocks were heard flying over Boyce Mayview Park 11/3 and 11/8 (GG), 10 flew over Plum Borough 11/8 (PM), a flock was heard over Moon Twp. 11/8 (GM), 100 flew over Natrona Heights (RP) and 42 over Pine Twp. (OM) 11/18. Nine were noted over Greenfield 11/10 (KSJ). Flocks flew over Plum Borough during a snow shower 11/18 (PM, AH). A single bird was on the Moody Road Ponds in Findlay Twp. 11/17-18 (MV). A flock of 200 flew over Hampton Twp. 11/19 (DN) and 12 were over Harmar Twp. 11/25 (SK). A **Ross's Goose** was a nice find at Allegheny Cemetery in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh 11/18-19 (AH, PM, m.ob.). One (and one believed to be a hybrid) was at this same location in 2014. Interesting for Sep were 4 **American Wigeons** on the Ohio River at Leetsdale 9/22, with two still there 9/23 (MV). American Wigeon are surprisingly uncommon migrants even during peak waterfowl migration, so this very early date was also unusual. One was at Janoski's Farm 11/17 and 2 were at the Moody Road ponds nearby 11/18 (MV). Four **Green-winged Teal** were at Imperial 10/8 (MV) and one was at Duck Hollow 11/14 (TM, NM). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at North Park 9/7 (OM). An injured **Red-breasted Merganser** was found along the Allegheny River at Chapel Harbor 8/12 (TH, OL) where it was regularly reported to at least 9/1 (m.ob.). Ten were at Duck Hollow 11/19 (JS, SS). Six **Ruddy Ducks** were at the Moody Road ponds in Findlay Twp. 10/26 (MV).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** at Sewickley 11/12 (SM) were reported to eBird. A **Great Egret** at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/3 (FK) was the only one reported. An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a nice find at North Park 8/2 (AB). Every few years one seems to show up at the park, so careful checking of the lake may reveal an annual occurrence of this species. **Turkey Vultures** were regularly reported well into November, perhaps due to the persistent warm weather. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed bathing in a backyard pond in Pine Twp. 9/27 (PL, SL), quite a treat for the observers! Unusual for here, a group of ten **Broad-winged Hawks** was observed migrating over North Park 9/16 (DYE). Two **Virginia Rails** were a nice find at Wingfield Pines 10/30 (JM).

Shorebirds were few. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Imperial 9/16 (MV), single **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Fox Chapel 8/12 (TH, OL) and 8/26 (TH), at North Park 9/7 (AB) and Beechwood Farms 9/23 (MF). Three **Least Sandpipers** were at Chapel Harbor 8/12-17 (TH, OL, AH) and one was at North Park 8/18 (OM). A **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Pectoral**

Sandpiper were at Imperial 10/8 (MV). A **Dunlin** and a **Wilson's Snipe** were at Imperial 10/20 (MV). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on the Ohio River downstream from Dashields Dam 10/28 (MV), one was at Duck Hollow 11/19 (MW) and 3 were there 11/20 (JS, SS). A **Common Tern** was at Dashields Dam 9/1 (MV).

A **Barn Owl** was detected by a recording device in Moon Twp. the night of 10/20 (GM). This was the second detection of Barn Owl at this location, following one in late May of this year. A **Barred Owl** was spotted at Sewickley Heights Park 8/26 (GM). This species is resident at the park, one of the few county locations where they are regularly reported. There were two other reports this season: 2 in Indiana Twp. 11/2 (DYE) and one in Franklin Park 11/21 (OM). The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding program was active again at Sewickley this fall (BM), with 11 captured as of 11/23. There were some great **Common Nighthawk** counts during the last two days of Aug. High counts for the season included 140 over Aspinwall 8/30 (STh, SuT), 204 over Boyce-Mayview Park 8/30 (ST), and more than 100 over Gibsonia 8/30 (BMu). Smaller flocks included 22 over Fox Chapel 8/31 (CK) and 50 over Tarentum 9/11 (RP). The largest flock of **Chimney Swifts** reported was at Greenfield, where 211 were counted 9/20 (KSJ). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** are a regular migrant and winter resident, usually seen singly. This fall, 3 were together in one tree (with a Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker and two Pileated Woodpeckers) at Frick Park 10/5 (TRBC, NS) and 3 were together near Dashields Dam 10/14 (MV). An early **Merlin** was photographed at Schenley Park 9/5 (JCo). One that could have been the same individual was there 10/6 (KSJ, JK) and 11/6 (SA).

Olive-sided Flycatchers passed through in late Aug and early Sep with reports from seven locations 8/25-9/10. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported from six locations 8/26-9/25. Most were submitted to eBird with good photographs confirming the identification. A **Willow Flycatcher** was at Chapel Harbor 8/12 (TH). **Great Crested Flycatcher** is uncommon in fall, so two reports were notable: one at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/3 (FK) and one at Sewickley Heights Park 9/4 (GM). A rather late **Blue-headed Vireo** was in Indiana Twp. 11/2 (DYE). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 9/10 (BMu). A **Marsh Wren** returned to Wingfield Pines 10/3 and was reported to 10/13 (JM, m.ob.). Two were reported 10/12 (MS) and one continued through Oct. A bird wintered at this location in 2014-2015.

Veery was only reported at four locations this fall. Overall **Gray-cheeked Thrush** remains the least reported thrush in the county. Reports include one in Sewickley 9/13 (DYE), 3 at North Park 9/16 (DYE), one at Sewickley Heights Park 9/24 (JM), one at Harrison Hills Park 10/1 (AH), one at Dead Man's Hollow 10/7 (DYE) and one recorded by a nocturnal flight call recorder at Moon Twp. 10/14 (GM). There were only two reports of **Hermit Thrush** with single birds at Frick Park 10/12 (JS, SS) and Indiana Twp. 11/4 (DYE). An **s** was detected by nocturnal flight calls at Moon Twp. 10/31 (GM).

Thirty-one species of warblers were reported this fall. A **Northern Waterthrush** was a surprising find in downtown Pittsburgh 10/8 (MVV). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find at Sewickley Heights Park 9/11 (BVN). This species has bred in the hills nearby the park and perhaps still does, however this could have easily been a migrant. The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** reports came from North Park 9/13 (BMu), Barking Slopes 10/13 (DYE) and Schenley Park 10/23 (KSJ). There were two reports of **Golden-winged Warbler**: singles at North Park 9/6 (SD) and Boyce-Mayview Park 9/21 (JM, LN). **Mourning Warblers** were reported at Moon Twp. 9/1 by a nocturnal flight call monitor (GM), North Park 9/16 (DYE), Forest Hills 9/17 (TBI) and Schenley Park 9/19 (KSJ). **Connecticut Warbler** is always tough to find but fall is the best time. One was at North Park 9/15 (AB) and one was at Boyce Park 9/18 (MD) and 9/19 (MH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was a great find at Harrison Hills Park 9/9 (AH). This species breeds at this location but is not often seen during migration. This fall **Cape May Warblers** appeared to be more numerous than normal or more people were out finding them. They were reported in eleven locations. Uncommonly reported in fall, **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in Pine Twp. 9/10 and 9/23 (PL, SL). **Cerulean Warbler** is rarely detected during migration, particularly in fall. One at Sewickley Heights Park 8/26 (GM) could have been a local breeder and one was in O'hara Twp. 9/18 (BSh).

Northern Parula was reported at Harrison Hills Park 9/1 (AH). Two were at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/16 (ST) and one was at North Park that day (DYE). One was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/30 (GM). **Palm Warblers** were fairly widespread. Although an uncommon migrant, they are regular in the proper habitat in the fall. Two "Yellow" Palm Warblers were found this fall, one at North Park 10/4 (JM) and one at Dead Man's Hollow 10/7 (DYE, MF). **Pine Warblers** are another uncommon but regular migrant; this season there were four reports. Single birds were at Sewickley 8/30 (DYE) and Harrison Hills Park 9/3 (JV, TRBC) and 2 were in Pine Twp. 9/7 with one still there 9/9 (PL, SL). Rarely found during migration, a **Prairie Warbler** was photographed at Beechwood Farms 8/26 (TH). **Canada Warbler** was first found at Homewood Cemetery 8/25 (JC) and reported fairly regularly in the county to 9/9. Single **Wilson's Warblers** were found at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/1 and 9/3 (ST), Harrison Hills Park 9/3 (JV, TRBC), North Park 9/6 (SD) and 9/9 (SD, TH) and 9/16 at Sewickley Heights Park (GM).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was observed at the feeders at Beechwood Farms 11/26 (STh, SuT) and two visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 11/22 (PL, SL), rather late for here. Up to 2 **Vesper Sparrows** were detected by a nocturnal flight call recorder at Moon Twp. 10/17-31 (GM) and a **Savannah Sparrow** was also detected 10/31 (GM). Single **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported from Boyce-Mayview Park 9/25 (ST) and 10/12 (JM). They were also present in Pine Twp. 10/30-31 (PL, SL). Perhaps due to the warm weather, **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **White-throated Sparrows** arrived a bit later than normal and in small numbers. By the middle of October they were still not widely reported.

Two **Bobolinks** were detected flying over at Harrison Hills Park 9/13 (AP). Some **Red-winged Blackbirds** lingered into Nov with a high count of 11 in Pine Twp. 11/13 (PL, SL). A nice count of 18 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Imperial 10/8 (MV). A large flock of over 100 **Common Grackles** were at Dead Man's Hollow 10/7 (DYE, TRBC). They were moving through the woods apparently searching for acorns and other mast. Their activities created a sound like a piece of machinery. A flock of several hundred flew over the Pennsylvania Turnpike just east of Monroeville 10/20 (MF). Late birds were in Pine Twp. to late Nov (PL, SL). A **Purple Finch** was at Pine Twp. 8/7 (PL, SL). A **Pine Siskin** was heard flying over the Troy Hill section of Pittsburgh 11/10 (MS) and one visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 11/18 (JV).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Cherry Run Road (CRR), Cochran's Mill (CM), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Roaring Run (RR).

The most noteworthy bird in *Armstrong* was a **Cattle Egret** on a farm near Distant, which was discovered 11/2 (AK, JK) and continued to 11/6 (MVT, JB, AB, MD, SGo, SGu, AnK, JM, LN, RN, CW).

A blue **Snow Goose** was with Canada Geese at CCL 11/29 (JB) and 11/30 (JLS, MVT). At CCL, over 240 **Tundra Swans** were heard calling as

they flew over the Visitor Center on their way to Crooked Creek Lake 11/7 (KK, MVT, et al.). Later the same day 257 were counted at close range there (JB, JLS). Best **Wood Duck** count was 38 on the AT 10/25 (JB); 20 were there 10/7 (TR). First **Blue-winged Teal** were reported at CCL 10/14 (TR), one **Northern Pintail** was reported from Manorville 11/15 (JB) and 5 were reported 11/23 at Logansport (TR). The first **Ring-necked Duck** to return appeared at CCL 11/24 (MVT). A **Surf Scoter** was observed at KR 11/5 (AB) and 11/6 (RN, MVT). A single **Black Scoter** visited CCL 11/8 (JB, AB, KK, JLS, MVT), and 3 **Black Scoters** were at KR 11/4 (MD, ph.) along with 40 **Buffleheads**, 9 **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Ruddy Ducks**, 25 **Common Mergansers**, 3 **Common Loons**, a **Horned Grebe**, and 4 **Pied-billed Grebes**. A lone **Long-tailed Duck** was on the Redbank Creek near NB 10/30 (AK, JK, ph.). The first 3 **Hooded Mergansers** arrived at NB 11/14 (AK, JK); 12 was a good count at KR (AB, SGU). Eighteen **Common Mergansers** at CR 9/15 (MVT, ph.) were the first for the season, and highest count was 204 at CCL 11/18 (JB).

A **Great Egret** graced the backwaters of CCL from 8/23-9/27 (TR, TL, JB, MVT, ph.). A late **Double-crested Cormorant** was at CCL 11/23 (JLS, MVT, ph.) and continued into December (MVT). A lone **Common Loon** was at CCL 11/18 (JB). A **Red-throated Loon** was at KR 11/8 (JL).

Bald Eagles were not as frequent as usual; however, most pairs appeared to show up together in late Oct and Nov. Four **Osprey** reports included 4 on 9/8 (BB, SB, CR, JLS), at CCL 8/25-10/7 (AK, JK, JB, SG, MVT), one on the Kiski River near LB 10/8 (MVT), and 2 in late Oct at MCL (AD). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported mostly from CCL where they nest. One **Broad-winged Hawk** was at CCL 9/15 (MVT) and 2 were at MCL 10/1 (AD).

The backwater mudflats at CCL were host to 5 **Wilson's Snipe** 10/21 (TR, ph.), a **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/19 (AB), one **Dunlin** 10/24 (JB), and a late **Solitary Sandpiper** along with **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Plover**, and **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/14 (TR). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** and 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** were at KR 11/4 (MD). Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at CCL 11/7 (JB, JLS), and 20 were at KR 11/4 (MD). A **Black Tern** was at CCL from 9/3 (TR) through 9/10 (JB, AK, JK, MVT, ph.).

Eastern Screech-Owls were reported from several areas (JB, TR, MVT) including a red morph bird which appeared to be roosting same tree as it had last year at Cherry Run (USACE property). A **Barred Owl** was noted several times at CCL and at KR, and **Great Horned Owls** were also noted along Cherry Run (CR) as well as many other spots in the county. One **Merlin** was sighted at CCL 8/13 (TR) and 9/16 (SGO), and 2 were observed getting harassed by Blue Jays 9/15 (KB, KK, MVT). A **Peregrine Falcon** was noted at the US-422 bridge over the Allegheny River 11/30 (MH, RH).

At CCL, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 9/3 (TR) and one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were good finds 9/13 (JB) and 9/16 (SG). **Eastern Wood-pewees** showed up in many locations including RR (TH, SM) through Oct. A lone **Warbling Vireo** was at CCL 9/23 (TR) and Kelly Station (JB). **Winter Wrens** graced CCL 10/7 (JB), 10/21 (TR), 11/2 (MVT), 11/22 (JB, ph.). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were numerous, including a good count of 11 at CCL 11/29 (AK, JK). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, on the other hand, were not frequently reported. Single **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported from several locations, as were **Wood Thrushes**.

Warblers included one **Louisiana Waterthrush** at RR (TH), one **Yellow-throated Warbler** at CCL (JB), one **Canada Warbler**, and one **Prairie Warbler** at LT (JB), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at CCL (MVT). First **American Tree Sparrow** was noted on the AT, one **Fox Sparrow** stopped at CCL, one **Savannah Sparrow** was observed in WT, and 2 **Swamp Sparrows** were at CCL. **Dark-eyed Juncos** returned to RR 10/21 (JA). Only one **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted at CCL, but **White-throated** were more numerous and at several locations.

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Beaver County

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

Twelve **Tundra Swans** over RCSP 11/8 (DC) represented *Beaver's* contribution to a nice early Nov flight of this species in sw. Pennsylvania. Reports of **American Black Duck** were 3 at IND 11/5 and one at RCH 11/23 (both MV). Top count of **Mallards** at RCH was 129 on 11/26 (MV). Rare for fall were 5 **Northern Shovelers** at Vanport 11/1 (GR, DR). The only report of **Northern Pintail** was one at RCH 11/10-23 (MV, et al.). Two **Green-winged Teal** were at Independence Twp. at the Siebel farm 10/14 (MV) and 10 late birds were at AR 11/25 (MV). Up to 9 **Common Mergansers** continued from the summer to late Aug at NB (TJ, OM), and were recorded there again 11/23. A **Red-breasted Merganser**, also relatively rare in fall, was at RCH 11/23-26 (MV).

Two **Common Loons** were at RCSP 10/24 (DC) and one was at Vanport 11/6 (GR). A relatively late **Osprey** was at RCSP 10/21 (MA). A **Bald Eagle** was at IND 10/15 (JM) where they are still unusual, and one or two were seen variously on the Ohio River throughout the season.

The flow of water into the ponds at IND was apparently disrupted over the summer, and shorebird habitat there was minimal after the larger pond significantly dried up and became quite overgrown. A **Semipalmated Plover** was on the spillway at RCSP 9/2-3 (MV). The only reports of both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 2 of each at IND 8/27 (JM, LN). Besides **Killdeer**, **Solitary Sandpiper** was the only other shorebird species reported with any regularity at IND, where up to 9 were tallied 8/10-9/2 (AK, et al.). Another **Solitary** was on the RCSP spillway 8/24 (MV), as was a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/24-30 (MV); the latter is very rare at RCSP. Up to 7 **Least Sandpipers** also made use of the RCSP spillway 8/13-9/12 (MV, et al.). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** at IND 8/27 (JM, LN) was the only one reported. A **Wilson's Snipe** was at the Siebel farm in Independence Twp. 10/14 (MV). Fifteen **Herring Gulls** at RCH 11/5 (MV) was a fair count for early Nov here.

Black-billed Cuckoo once again went unreported for the fall season. An impressive flight of at least 200 **Common Nighthawks** was noted over Vanport 8/30 (GR, DR). Other reports of nighthawks included one at NB 8/4 (TJ), 10 at Vanport 9/10 (GR, DR), and one at ECON 9/10 (KD). The first returning **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at RCSP 9/28 (KSJ). Late summer **American Kestrels** were noted at Monaca 8/6-20 (MV) and at Fombell 8/17 (DK). One was on winter territory at Little Blue Lake 11/24 (TJ). A **Merlin** was seen around Ambridge 10/13-11/5 (MV), a new location for this species.

A **Blue-headed Vireo** was still at RCSP 10/14 (LN) and a **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted there 9/28 (KSJ). Two **Common Ravens** were at Monaca 8/20 (MV) and 2 were seen along the Lake Trail at RCSP 9/17 (JM). A single **Horned Lark** was noted at Little Blue Lake 11/24 (TJ). Reports of *Catharus* thrushes were light and included a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/23 and a few **Swainson's Thrushes** 9/23-29, both at ECON (KD).

The only unusual warbler reported this fall was a **Mourning Warbler** at RCSP 9/12 (JM). As in other sw. Pennsylvania counties, **Tennessee Warbler** was very well reported, suggesting a good budworm year in the boreal forest. Top count was 12 at RCSP 9/18 (KSJ), and a late bird was still at ECON 10/13 (KD). A lingering **Nashville Warbler** was at IND 10/1 (JM, LN). Rarely reported after July, a **Kentucky Warbler** was found at RCSP 8/30 (JM). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was very well reported at RCSP primarily in the second half of Sep (m.ob.), but despite the good showings from Tennessee and Bay-breasted, the third "budworm warbler", **Cape May**, was reported only once, at RCSP 9/11 (DC). As usual **Magnolia Warbler** was the most abundant migrant, peaking at RCSP 9/11 (DC) and lingering to at least 10/1 at IND (JM, LN). A **Palm Warbler** was at IND 10/15 (JM, LN). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was also well reported

throughout the county 8/27-10/12 (m.ob.). A **Canada Warbler** at RCSP 9/4 (JM) and a **Wilson's Warbler** there 9/9 (JM) were both nice finds. One or two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at IND 10/1-15 (JM, LN).

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Bedford County

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

Interesting birds this season in *Bedford* were **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Mississippi Kite**, and a **Ross's Goose**. The numbers for waterfowl were low for both DCW and SSP, perhaps due to strong winds sending waterfowl south. The peaks for geese were as follows: 45 **Snow Geese** at SSP 11/18, 80 **Canada Geese** at DCW 11/8, and one **Ross's Goose** at SSP 11/15 (TD). The **Ross's Goose** was an amazing find, and images made at distance were confirmed to be of this species (ML). Another dilemma presented by 2 small geese among 60 **Canada Geese** that may have been **Cackling Geese**. Other ducks were as follows: 65 **Wood Ducks** at DCW 10/18, 9 **Gadwalls** at SSP 8/11, 10 **American Wigeon** at SSP 8/11, 46 **American Black Ducks** at DCW 10/9, 34 **Mallards** and 23 **Blue-winged Teal** at DCW 11/8, 8 **Northern Shovelers** 10/18, 5 **Northern Pintail** at SSP 8/11, 8 **Green-winged Teal** at DCW 11/8, 2 **Ringed-necked Ducks** at DCW 11/8, 2 **Greater Scaup** and 3 **Lesser Scaup** at DCW 9/15, 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** at SSP 11/6, 9 **Buffleheads** at SSP 11/9, 5 **Hooded Mergansers** and 2 **Common Mergansers** at DCW 11/8, and a nice group of 45 **Ruddy Ducks** at SSP 8/11.

Three **Ringed-necked Pheasants** were flushed at the AF 11/8, one of which was killed by a **Cooper's Hawk**. Two **Ruffed Grouse** were seen on the road below the AFHW 10/12. Three **Common Loons** were seen at SSP 11/6. Four **Pied-billed Grebes** were at SSP and one **Horned Grebe** was at DCW 10/18. A high count of 95 **Double-crested Cormorants** was made at SSP 11/6. DCW held the following waders 10/18: 2 **American Bitterns**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, 2 **Great Egrets**, and 2 **Green Herons**.

The numbers for the AFHW were as follows: **Black Vulture** 32, **Turkey Vulture** 422, **Osprey** 71, **Bald Eagle** 186, **Northern Harrier** 24, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 752, **Cooper's Hawk** 73, **Northern Goshawk** 5, **Red shouldered Hawk** 27, **Broad-winged Hawk** 3576, **Red-tailed Hawk** 1078, **Golden Eagle** 193, **American Kestrel** 26, **Merlin** 27, and **Peregrine Falcon** 28. One **Mississippi Kite** was seen at the AFHW 9/16 (BW).

The following water birds were recorded at DCW: one **Sora** 8/7, one **Sandhill Crane** 9/5, 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** 9/4, 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** 9/4, 6 **Killdeer** 9/4, 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/4, 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/5, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 9/5, one **Willet** 8/31, one **Western Sandpiper** 9/3, 3 **Least Sandpiper** 9/20, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 9/20, and 13 **Dunlin** 9/22. Two **Wilson's Snipe** and 3 **American Woodcocks** were at WTW 9/10. A visit to SSP produced 3 **Bonaparte Gulls**, 16 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and 4 **Herring Gulls**.

WTW **Barred Owls** calls were heard on the AF 8/18 near the AFHW. **Short-eared Owls** were seen in daylight hunting over old fields at WTW 9/25. An estimated 25 or more **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were caught in nets at the AFHW, banded, and carefully released (DD).

In Aug and Sep, the following flycatchers were seen at the AFHW: 3 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** 9/5, 3 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** 9/3, 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** 9/3, 2 **Alder Flycatchers** 9/6, 3 **Willow Flycatchers** 8/30, 2 **Least Flycatchers** 8/30, one **Great Crested Flycatcher** 8/16 and 2 **Eastern Kingbirds** 8/22. A **Marsh Wren** was at DCW 8/19.

Habitat for Golden-winged Warblers has been declining rapidly, and unfortunately, the species is no longer present in places like WTW where they thrived in the past. The following warblers were seen on the AF: 2

Tennessee Warblers 9/2, 3 **Nashville Warblers** 9/4, one **Northern Parula** 9/7, 2 **Yellow Warblers** 8/11, 5 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** 9/7, 5 **Magnolia Warblers** 9/9, 2 **Pine Warblers** 9/8, one **Palm Warbler** 8/12, 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** 10/1, 2 **Black-and-White Warblers** 9/6, 2 **American Redstarts** 8/15, 2 **Worm-eating Warblers** 8/3, 6 **Hooded Warblers** 9/8, and one **Orange-crowned Warbler** near the AFHW 10/11.

Shaffer Mountain Rd. was a good spot for sparrows: 4 **Chipping Sparrows**, 3 **Field Sparrows**, 3 **Savannah Sparrows**, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, one **Henslow's Sparrow**, 4 **Song Sparrows**, and one **Fox Sparrow**. Three **Swamp Sparrows** were at DCW. A **Blue Grosbeak** was at DCW 8/13, the third record for this site.

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH), EJ Breneman's Quarry (BQ), Gotwal's Pond (GP), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Hawk Mountain South Lookout (HMSL), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS), Peter's Creek (PC), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), State Game Lands 52 (SGL52), State Game Lands 106 (SGL106), State Game Lands 110 North Kill Gap (SGL110).

The lack of productive cold fronts dominated the migration this period, which seems to have become the norm over the past three years. The volume of species commonly seen at the popular sites was lower, and species that were thought to be arriving late never really made a good push.

Waterfowl numbers were lower overall, but some unexpected sightings were made. Two **Cackling Geese**, usually seen with large numbers of **Canada Geese**, spent the day at BQ 11/4 (RK), and a single **Cackling Goose** lingered at GP 10/15-11/13 (RK). A nice count for **Wood Duck** was 61 at LO 9/13 (RK). A late Nov storm persuaded the following species to take cover at LO 11/26-28: one **Canvasback**, 3 **Redheads**, 5 **Lesser Scaup**, and one **Long-tailed Duck** (RK, JW, PW). Two **Greater Scaup** sought shelter at LO 10/30 (JW, PW). A lone female **Common Goldeneye** was seen LO (MS, PS). **Bufflehead**, a more common migrant, was found throughout the county, including 42 at BMLSH (RH), 8 at BQ (RK), and 10 at LO (RK). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was LOWS 11/15 (EG), 3 **Common Loons** were at LO (RK), and 11 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at LOWS 11/4 (DH). **Red-necked Grebes** are eagerly anticipated but rarely seen on the county lakes, so one discovered at LO 10/11 (JW, PW) that remained at the lake until 12/1 (m.ob.) was a nice find. It was an unusually cooperative bird as it often fed near the dam spillway and shore line.

Although a common wading bird, one **Great Blue Heron**, named Mr. Blue by a local birder, unintentionally became a news item when it was seen for two weeks with a tangle of fishing gear tightly wrapped around its bill. Attempts to catch the heron were unsuccessful until 10/26 when Red Creek Wildlife Center personnel were able to lure the bird to a net and cut off the fishing line. The heron flew off seemingly no worse off for the ordeal. **Great Egrets**, usually single birds, visited several areas throughout the county. An unusual number of 4 **Great Egrets** kept a rare **Snowy Egret** company GP 8/13 (DA). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was spotted during a bike ride along the Manatawny Creek near Oley 8/15 (SB), where it remained 8/16-17 (KL, JW, PW). This was the eighth county record. **Black-crowned Night Herons** frequented their favorite lakes, with sightings at LO 8/3 (RK) and 8/11 (DA), and at BML 9/9 (NB).

Lone **Ospreys** were found at various ponds and lakes in the county this season as they strayed off the ridges to fish. One was a late visitor to LO 11/2 (RK). **Golden Eagles** are rare off-ridge but one was documented

11/2 at LO (RK). The complete report of the Hawk Mountain fall raptor migration will be prepared after the official season closes 12/15. Four **Sandhill Cranes** flew south at HMS 11/4 (HM, ZM, MW).

Shorebird migration was sparse this season due to lack of habitat and appropriate weather patterns. Forty **Killdeer** were gathering near Willow Creek Environmental Center 8/9 (MS). On 8/19, an **American Avocet** was found swimming with a dozen **Ring-billed Gulls** just outside the designated swimming area at BML (MW). The beach was empty when other observers (JS, MS) arrived but the bird became more restless as swimmers and boaters wandered closer to it. The bird flew north when disturbed and wasn't seen again. Two **Dunlin** fed along the shore of BML 10/27 (RH). The pond along School Rd. in Fleetwood with its tall vegetation made it difficult to see birds, but one **Least Sandpiper** 8/5 and one **Greater Yellowlegs** were found (RK). A rain pool on Topton Road was a stop-off for a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/2 (NL). Seven **Lesser Yellowlegs** enjoyed another rain pool on Mertztown Rd. 8/7 (RK). A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was reported in Lower Heidelberg Township 8/20 (PM). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** rested at LO 11/1 (MS) and another was also there 11/12 (MS). Two **Caspian Terns** were seen at two locations: LO 8/20 (MS, PS) and BML 8/8 (DH). Single **Black Terns** were at LO 9/3 (DA) and 10/12 (MW).

Bastian Rd. in Lyons has been known as a breeding area for **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. Four birds were found there 8/30 (DA). A **Peregrine Falcon**, unhindered by an injured talon that dangled as it flew, chased a petrified **Belted Kingfisher** over LO 10/11 (MW, JW, PW). The kingfisher escaped by dipping into the lake.

Rare migrants, the following were found in single numbers: **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SGL 106 on 9/10 and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** on Sterner Hill Rd. 9/11 (PM). An immature **Western Kingbird** was found and observed for a half hour on Mine Rd. near Lake Ontelaunee 10/26 (MS). The bird was seen in the company of Eastern Bluebirds and House Finch in the road side vine-covered trees. Unfortunately, the bird was not seen again the following day. The much desired **Philadelphia Vireo** continued to be found along the ridges this migration. At HMS, one or two birds were reported daily 9/9-25 (m.ob.). On 9/17, 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** worked the trees on Mount Penn in Reading (KL).

Swallow migration along the ridge at HMS was at times overwhelming as the birds seemed to boil down-ridge past the lookout. Counting the swallows proved to be a challenge but following are some of the highlights from those busy mornings at HMS: **Rough-winged Swallow** 39 on 8/16 and 30 on 8/26; **Purple Martin** 8 on 8/16; **Tree Swallow** 1234 on 9/26, 1311 on 9/29, and 838 on 9/30; **Bank Swallow** 202 on 8/16 and 71 on 8/26; **Barn Swallow** 202 on 8/16 and 76 on 8/31; **Cliff Swallow** 47 on 8/22 and 55 on 8/26 (LG, HMS). Eighty **Bank Swallows**, a high number of migrants, were found at LO 8/5 (RK).

The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared at HMS 9/29, but the winter finch forecast had warned not to expect an invasion of these spunky birds. This proved accurate as only single birds were seen on a handful of days. During a good front 10/19, the following migrants were tallied at KDRA: 14 **Winter Wrens**, 49 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 250 **American Robins**, and 111 **White-throated Sparrows** (KG). Pre-dawn flight call counting found these thrushes in migration: 30 **Veery** at HMS 8/27, 10 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at HMSL 10/7, and 20 **Swainson's Thrush** near Boyertown (RK). A **Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush** pre-dawn flight call was described at HMSL 10/2 (RK).

HMS continues to be the premiere site to catch the fall warbler migration. The migrating birds seemed to be later this year and not as heavy with one exception. This season, **Cape May Warblers** replaced **Blackburnian Warblers** as one of the most numerous migrants. On 9/23, 203 **Cape May Warblers** were tallied, perhaps more Cape May Warblers than most one would see in a life time. High counts for other warblers at HMS were: 13 **Northern Parula** 9/23, 7 **Bay-Breasted Warbler** 9/8, 53 **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/8, 56 **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/6, 16 **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 10/6, 89 **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and 26 **Tennessee Warbler** 9/23 (RK, m.ob.). Off ridge, a **Connecticut Warbler** was at KDRA 10/6 (KL).

The elusive **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at three different locations: one at KDRA 10/6 (KG), one at Virginville 10/1 (RF), and one at Green Hills

Preserve 10/14-24 (KL, MS, AZ). A nice count of 8 **Swamp Sparrows** was made at KDRA 10/18 (KG). A lingering **Dickcissel** was photographed in the company of **Song Sparrows** at the Green Hills Preserve 10/6 (JT).

Winter finch migration was slow to begin this season. On 8/19, the first **Purple Finch** flew by HMS 8/19, and "one" continued to be the highest daily count until 11/9 when 2 were tallied for the day. Four **Common Redpolls** flew past the HMS north lookout 11/18 (HM, MW). Seven **Pine Siskins** was the highest daily count at HMS 11/4 (HM, MW).

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Blair County

Locations: Albemarle trail (AT), Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery (BESCN) Canoe Creek S.P. (CC), Frosty Hollow (FH), Lower Trail-Mount Etna (LT), State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN).

The fall migration brought warm temperatures and minimal precipitation. The species count for the period was 153, with data primarily obtained from eBird.

For a county that continues to be under birded, the migration produced some excellent finds. A group of 3 **Blue Grosbeaks** was in the fields at CC 8/26 (JC, LC ph.), and the county's first record of **Nelson's Sparrow** was provided by a singing bird at CC 10/8 (DG). A lone **Red-throated Loon** was found preening at the Bellwood reservoir 11/14 (MN ph). Another rarity was a single **Ross's Goose** mixed in with a gaggle of **Canada Geese** at Sinking Valley G.C. 11/30 (LP, ph).

Ten duck species were reported. A decent fallout of ducks at CC at the beginning of November included an **American Wigeon**, a lone **Bufflehead**, and 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/1 (KS, LF). A group of 45 Buffleheads was viewed 11/7 (KS). A single **Ruddy Duck** was at RP 10/20 (MN), and reports of one and 5 were made at CC 11/1 and 11/26. Two **American Black Ducks** at RP 11/5 (JC, LC) were notable, and a single **Gadwall** was at CC 11/20 (PP). There were 4 **Hooded Mergansers** at CC 11/1 (KS, LF) and another 7 were at CC 11/26 along with large raft of 41 **Common Merganser** (TJ).

Pied-billed grebes were observed on several occasions; high count was 13 at CC (JC, LC, MN). Five **Horned Grebes** were at CC 11/7 (KS), and a group of 20 **American Coots** also found their way to CC 11/1 (LF). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at Lake Altoona 8/13 (MB), 2 were at Paper Mill Dam in Tyrone 8/31 (MN), and 3 more were at CC 11/17 (JK). A single **Great Egret** was at RP 8/13 (TA). Two **Green Herons** were at CC (m.ob.), and singles were along the Juniata River 8/17 and 9/16 (JC, LC, MN). A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** crept through the brush at CC 10/28 (JC, LC, MN), and a **Ruffed Grouse** was observed on the Bells Gap Trail 11/14 (MN).

The only **Black Vulture** was noted by an anonymous eBirder at Mansion Park 9/23. Single **Northern Harriers** were noted at FH 9/10 (LB) and at Altoona 11/10 (KW). A lone **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at BESCN 9/15 (MN). **Broad-winged Hawks**, **Red-tailed Hawks**, and **Bald Eagles** were reported from over 10 locations over the season (m.ob.). There were 3 **Ospreys** observed along the Juniata R., with one **Spotted Sandpiper** and 5 **Belted Kingfishers** 9/16 (JC, LC, MN). A lone **American Woodcock** was on the AT 10/17 (MN). A single **Common Nighthawk** was seen in Altoona 8/26 (JP). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was noted in FH 8/20 (LB).

Uncommon here, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were both on the LT 9/16 (JC, LC, MN), and another Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was on SGLN 9/29 (JC). Vireos were sparsely reported. Notable were 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos** in PH 9/9 (MB) and a single in FH 9/10 (LB). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were in PH 9/9 (MB), one was on the Bells gap trail 9/14 (MN), and a single was in FH 9/18 (LB). **Blue-gray**

Gnatcatchers were abundant and reported by several observers; last was at FH 9/10 (LB).

A mighty 29 warbler species were reported. Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were at FH 8/27 (LB, LS), and at PH 9/9 (MB). The county's third **Orange-crowned Warbler** at PH 9/30 (MB) and **Connecticut Warbler** at FH (LB) were documented during this period. Single **Mourning Warblers** were at FH 8/20 (LB) and LT 9/16 (JC). A rare **Kentucky Warbler** was at FH 8/6 (LB), and 2 uncommon **Wilson's Warbler** were at FH 9/10 (LB). A **Prairie Warbler** was at PH 9/9 (MB). There were 3 **Orchard Orioles** noted in FH 8/6 (LB) and 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were at CC 8/26 (JC, LC). As many as 6 Baltimore Orioles were at FH 8/13 (LB).

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Bucks County

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

Temperatures varied as follows: August (-1.3°F); September (+3°F); October (+7°F); and November (-0.6°F). Rainfall was mostly below normal: August (-1.0"); September (-2.4"); October (+1.0"); and November (-1.8"). The cooler temperatures in August and early September apparently resulted in early migrants being better reported this year, and the warmer October increased the number of stragglers. Waterfowl movement was light probably due to the warm temperatures and lack of storm-related fallouts. The dry conditions starting in the second half of September were too late to provide a lot of shorebird habitat during peak migration. Northern irruptive species were essentially non-existent. Rarities kept birders chasing. The rarest species reported were **Ross's Goose**, **Pink-footed Goose**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Little Gull**, **Parasitic Jaeger**, **Cave Swallow**, **Saltmarsh Sparrow**, **Nelson's Sparrow (Atlantic)**, and **Lark Sparrow**. Some of these require PORC review. The reported species totaled 230 compared to the previous 10-year average of 234. There was one new fall early arrival date and two new late dates. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998), and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey, with climate normal values based on the recent three decades 1981-2010 per the NOAA website.

A flock of 7 **Snow Geese** at Core Creek Park 10/28 (DD ph.) was interesting for having five dark morph birds. They were later seen at farms nearby (MG, BK). The only count higher than single digits was approximately 200 at Lower Makefield Twp. (RT). An imm. **Ross's Goose** was found at Washington Crossing Park 11/24 (SA, MN doc., ph.) and was reported through 11/26 (m.ob.). An adult was at PRN starting 11/29 (BM) and continued there (m.ob.). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was first detected 9/30 at PVP (AM) and then sporadically seen through the period there and PRN (m.ob.). This is likely the same bird that has been detected early each year but one since 2013. A flyover **Pink-footed Goose** at MKF 11/8 was confidently reported by the observer (RS, no doc.). However, the pink legs and partial pink bill could not be seen. One was discovered at PRN 11/30 (JB doc., ph.). These were the first reports for the county since the unusual multiple birds in the fall and winter of 2012-2013. An unusual high count of about 56 **Brant** stopped briefly at PVP 10/11 (ZM, AM). One stopped at BRD 11/27 (CM). **Cackling Goose** was reported at five sites starting 10/6, with multiple birds as high as 6 at some sites (m.ob.). Whether correctly identified or not is almost impossible to tell unless excellent pictures are available. Unfortunately, there were many small **Canada Geese** to confuse birders. For the fifth year, the annual **Trumpeter Swan**

was seen and heard at Lake Towhee Park 9/28 (PTE), a new early arrival date. Surprising was the lack of subsequent reports. PVP had three single **Tundra Swan** reports: an adult 11/20 (AHa); an imm. 11/28 (KI, VM); and an adult 11/29 (BC ph.).

Nine dabbling duck and 12 diving duck species were reported in generally low numbers. The single site high counts for 10 species were in the single digits. Seven species had high counts 15 to 36 and four had highs 44 to 71. The count of 71 was a low high count for **Mallard** at PVP 10/17 (MF) and Bradford Dam 10/29 (JB). **American Black Duck** was a close second, with 69 at Lake Towhee Park 11/10 (AM). Two **Redhead** were at PWT 11/6 (DF) for the only report. A single **Greater Scaup** at PVP 11/8-9 (m.ob.) was the only one detected. Scoters were in very low numbers, with a total of 10 **Surf Scoters**, 8 **White-winged Scoters**, and 5 **Black Scoters** (m.ob.). Similarly, only 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported (m.ob.). A **Common Goldeneye** at PVP 11/29 (BM) provided the only report.

An unusual count of 4 **Red-throated Loons** was at NSP 10/23 (KR), and one was at PWT 10/24-29 (DF). **Common Loons** were present at NSP on six dates between 10/29 and 11/21 (m.ob.), and one was reported at PVP on three dates between 11/9 and 11/30 (AM, AHa). The total number may have been only 5 individuals. Also low in number, only 7 **Horned Grebes** were reported (m.ob.). Three **Great Cormorants** at Bristol 11/12 (TF) provided the only report for the period. Large wading birds were also scarce this season compared to last year. The only report of **American Bittern** came from PRN 10/10 (MD, AM). **Great Egret** had lower peak counts than normal but was widely reported from 24 sites (m.ob.). Core Creek Park provided the highest counts throughout the period, with the highest count 12 on 8/4 (DD). Other site high counts were 4 at PVP 8/1 (KI), and 6 at Churchville Park 8/5 (HD). There were no reports of Snowy Egret or Cattle Egret. Only PWT had **Little Blue Heron**, with 2 on 8/5 and 4 on 8/20 (DF). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** continued scarce, with only three sites reporting a total of 5 birds on nine dates (BC, JC, DD, LF, MG, KI). An imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at PVP 8/15-20 (LF ph., AHa, SG, KI). One was flushed at PVP 11/11 (LF ph.) and confidently reported by the finder. It provided a new county late date. Three presumed juv. **Glossy Ibis** were at PWT 9/17 (DF) for the only report.

A stream of 22 migrating **Red-shouldered Hawks** was witnessed by the Delaware Valley University ornithology class during a two hour visit 11/8 (ZM). Rare here even in irruption years in recent decades, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Tinicum Twp. 11/22 (PC ph.). Also rarely reported in fall, a possible **Virginia Rail** was heard only at a distance at BRD 9/24 (GJ), but one at PWT was out in the open 11/12 (DF). **Sora** was unusually cooperative in being vocal and providing good views at Lake Towhee Park, PRN, and BRD on 10 dates between 9/19 and 10/7 (m.ob. ph.). A **Sandhill Crane** was at PWT for a few days, last reported 10/14 (DF). Two were first noted at PRN 11/24 (KI) and then again 11/30 (SG, AHa, TH). These are the county's fourteenth and fifteenth known reports going back to 1991.

Shorebird diversity and tallies were very low probably due to relatively high water levels at lakes. Seventeen shorebird species were reported. An **American Golden-Plover** stopped at PWT 9/30-10/1 (DF) following one there in late Jul. A **Stilt Sandpiper** at PWT 8/26 provided the lone report (DF). **Dunlin** were reported from PRN 10/7 (PC), PWT 10/14 and 10/24 (DF), and PVP 11/14-15 (KI, VM, KR, LF ph.), for a total of only 6 birds. **Least Sandpiper** is usually numerous, but the high report was only about 20 at PWT 8/19 (DF). Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at BRD 9/21 (AM ph.) and PWT 9/30 and 10/14 (DF). The species stopped at Core Creek Park 9/24-10/2 (DD, DF, MG ph., SG) including a good high count of 10 on 9/24 (MG, DD). Only three sites reported **Pectoral Sandpiper** mostly in low single digit numbers (m.ob.), with 21 the high 10/24 at PWT (DF). One **Red-necked Phalarope** 8/27 and 3 on 9/17 at PWT (DF) provided a good tally. Any count of more than one is usually associated with the passage of a hurricane. All other shorebird reports were mostly in single digits.

A **Parasitic Jaeger** at PWT 9/17 (DF ph.) was the county's second occurrence and maybe related to recent hurricanes. Eight gull species were reported. The only **Bonaparte's Gull** reports above single digits were 29 on 10/30 and 66 on 11/9 at PVP (AM). The county's tenth known **Black-headed Gull** flew by at the Morrisville Levee 11/4 (AH doc.). An imm. **Little Gull** was spotted at Falls Twp. 9/17 (DF) for the eleventh known county

report. As usual, **Laughing Gulls** were still at lower county sites into Nov, with one still at Churchville Park 11/29 (KL). The Nov high report was 300 at PWT 11/4 (KL). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at NSP 8/7 (PC) was the first reported this fall. The monthly high counts, all at PVP, were 3 on 8/27 (JF), 60 on 9/20 (TF), 210 on 10/13 (TF), and 179 on 11/4 (AHa). **Caspian Tern** was less reported this year, with a total of 26 to 29 birds found at seven sites 8/5-10/14 (m.ob.). The highest counts were both 8/24, with 5 at Bristol (DD) and 9 at PVP (ZM). One **Black Tern** at PWT 8/19 (DF) provided the only report. A **Common Tern** made the list 8/18 at NSP (DF). An unusually high total of at least 36 **Forster's Terns** were reported from four sites (PC, DF, MG). The high site counts were 5 at Bristol Marsh 9/27 (MG) and 25 at PWT 10/14 (DF).

Black-billed Cuckoo was scarce again. Singles were at NSP 8/27 (BM) and PVP 9/4 and 9/29 (KI, VM, AM, EP). A probable **Snowy Owl** was seen being chased by crows near Newtown 11/28. The observer had no binoculars, so wanted to be cautious about claiming this as a definite sighting (BB). The SGL 157 **Red-headed Woodpecker** breeding site high count was 5 including juvs. 8/26 (PC). The Buckingham Twp. breeding site still had at least one 11/24 (DS). Two juvs. at Tinicum Twp. 11/23 (EB) may indicate another breeding site. Likely migrants, one juv. was briefly seen at PVP 9/30 (AM, et al.), and another flew over NSP 10/8 (YH). There were 13 to 15 **Peregrine Falcon** reports away from the vicinity of breeding sites (m.ob.).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** 8/21 (KR) and one 9/2 (DF) were at SGL 157 for the only reports. There were a total of six reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** from MKF 8/27 and 9/5 (RS), NSP 9/10 (BM), PVP 9/12 (JB) and 9/16 (BW), and SGL 157 on 9/16 (DF). About 10 **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at five sites between 8/29 and 9/29 (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** were reported from at least 15 sites, often multiple times and multiple individuals (m.ob.). Just adding the high counts at each site totals 28 birds. A very white leucistic **Barn Swallow** was spotted at PWT 8/26-10/1 (DF ph.). Besides the plumage, it was of interest for providing length of stay data at one site for so long late in the season. A **Cave Swallow** was briefly seen at PVP 11/7 (JB doc.). If accepted by PORC, it would represent the sixth known county occurrence.

There were no confirmed reports of Black-capped Chickadees in this off year, compared to last year's irruption. Also, an off year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, one was at Tinicum Twp. 10/2 (PC) and another at Churchville Park 11/18 (CS). **Marsh Wren** was reported frequently at their normal fall hotspots at BRD, PRN, and PWT (m.ob.). The high count was 3 at PRN 10/5 (TF, AHa). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at NSP 9/16 (DF) and Silver Lake Park 9/20 (DD) for the only reports. A pure albino **Northern Mockingbird** at Levittown was a surprise 8/26 (DF ph.). **American Pipit** was reported at six sites (m.ob.), with the highest count 30 on 10/22 at MKF (RS). The first **Snow Bunting** at NSP 11/9 was a little late compared to the average arrival date there (KR). Six were there 11/11 (SG) and lower numbers were there the rest of the month (m.ob.).

The total warbler species count was 31. Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler were not reported. Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were at PVP 8/23 (AHa) and 9/8 (KI). Another was at NSP 8/27 (BM). Probably the same **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at PVP 10/11 (AM), 10/17 (VM), and 10/21 (KI). Another was at a feeder in Feasterville 11/18 (KK ph.). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at NSP 9/8 (DF). It was not detected as often at the PWT hotspot, with a single bird found 9/17 and 9/24 (DF). Single **Mourning Warblers** were detected three times at PVP 9/1-4 (PH, KI, VM, BM). Another was at NSP 9/17 (PTa). Surprising were only two reports in eBird for **Hooded Warbler**. One was at PVP 9/11 (SM), and another was at NSP 9/14 (MF). Breeding site SGL 157 had one 9/2 and 9/10 (DF). A **Palm Warbler** at Bristol 11/24 (DD ph.) was three weeks later than other eBird reports this fall. A **Pine Warbler** at Silver Lake Park 11/23-26 (DD ph.) was almost four weeks later than the end of the steady migrant reports in eBird.

A singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** at the Van Sant Airport breeding site 8/22 (MD ph.) provided the only report. BRD, PRN, and PWT again produced **Nelson's Sparrows**. They were reported regularly at PRN from 10/2 (KR) to 11/14 (MN) on an impressive total of 27 days (m.ob.). Multiple birds were reported on seven of those days, with the peak count 3 on 10/6 (TF), 10/10 (AM), and 10/14 (JD, MS). Outstanding was the discovery of a

Nelson's Sparrow (Atlantic) subspecies 11/1 (KR, DF ph.) and then 2 of that subspecies together 11/4 (DF, BW). This subspecies was then reported until at least 11/13 (m.ob.). Also, single birds of the normally occurring Interior subspecies were reported on seven days at BRD between 9/24 and 11/14 (GJ). Two were detected at PWT 10/14 (DF). The two 11/14 birds at the two sites provided a new fall late date. A bird believed to be a **Saltmarsh Sparrow** was at BRD 9/22 (SG, AM doc.). If accepted by PORC, this will be the county's third. It was likely hurricane related. A juv. **Lark Sparrow** stopped at MKF 9/8 (RS, no doc.). It provided our sixth known occurrence, three of which have been at MKF. A **Dark-eyed Junco** at Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve 9/10 (MD) was a month earlier than the next eBird entry, but there have been at least two earlier dates, 8/23/???? and 8/27/2016, in past years. A **White-throated Sparrow** was first noted at PVP feeders 8/4 (JB ph.) and was seen sporadically until at least 9/16. If not a summering bird, this would be a new fall early arrival date by two weeks. The next report there was of two birds 9/26 (KI, VM). There have been at least seven reports over the years of single birds in June and July as well. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at PVP 10/11 (AM), and they were at MKF as usual (RS). A count of 42 **Savannah Sparrows** at MKF 10/31 (RS) in weedy soybean fields was likely a very conservative count (RS).

Yellow-breasted Chat remains a rare species locally both as summer resident and migrant. There were no fall reports. **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at six sites (DD, MD, DF, KI, VM, RS), with the last report of 4 at the MKF breeding area 9/27 (RS). A **Dickcissel** was at MKF 10/6 (RS, AM ph.) for the only report. An estimate of 400-500 **Bobolinks** at PRN 9/12 was believed to be the highest count the observer had ever had locally (DF). For the sixth year in a row, an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** returned 11/8 to the same feeders in Middletown Twp. (DP). An imm. male or female arrived there 11/25-26 but was aggressively chased off by the adult male (DP). As of the end of the period, it appeared the multiple wintering birds of recent years at this site would not happen. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from 10 sites in mostly single digit counts (m.ob.), with the exception of the Silver Lake Park high count of 16 11/20 (DD). **Purple Finch** was a rare bird this fall. Three were at Tyler State Park 10/23 (BK), one was at a Doylestown Twp. feeder 11/12 (KI), and 2 were at Van Sant Airport 11/27 (AHa). Pine Siskins were even more rare, with no reports.

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Butler County

Locations: 528 Boat Launch (528 BL), Clay Township (CT), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Moraine State Park (MSP), State Game Lands 95 (SGL 95), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), South Shore (SS), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA).

The first week of Oct was warmer than usual, which extended warbler migration until into the month. Just as the warbler movement petered out in the second week of Oct, migrant ducks showed up. Uncommon but not unexpected, two Scoter species showed up at Lake Arthur. The celebrated **Black-headed Gull** returned to the South Shore 11/12 (MV) and remained through the end of the month. Shorebird season was extended with five species recorded in Nov.

Even though most birders take **Canada Geese** for granted, it is worth

looking through big flocks. Unusual were two **Snow Geese** seen with over 100 Canada Geese at Rattigan 9/2 (KB) and a nice surprise was a **Cackling Goose** among Canadas at the WOA 11/2 (RN). A **Mute Swan** was seen at a pond north of Evans City 8/5 (OM) and one was at MSP from 8/31 through the end of the season, spending much of the time at the WOA. **Tundra Swans** made a nice showing from 11/7-19 with high counts of 140 over Clay Twp. 11/7 (BB) and 155 at SS 11/19 (MH, RH). LA is the best bet for ducks in both spring and fall, with 23 species noted this season. The following were high counts: **Wood Duck**, 129 at WOA 10/7 (MV); **Gadwall**, 153 at WOA 11/4 (BB) and 148 at WOA 11/25 (OM); **American Wigeon**, 25 at Burton Rd. 11/19 (BB, MC); **American Black Duck**, 33 at Barkley Rd. 11/19 (STh); **Mallard**, 200 at MSP 10/26 (RM, GW); **Blue-winged Teal**, 5 at WOA 11/2 (RN); **Northern Shoveler**, 3 at WOA 11/16 (LS); **Northern Pintail**, 12 at WOA 11/19 (STh); **Green-winged Teal**, 6 at LO 10/21 (MV); **Canvasback**, 11 at WOA 11/19 (BB, MC); **Redhead**, 10 at WOA 11/11 (BB); **Ring-necked Duck**, 205 at WOA 11/19 (STh, BB, MC); **Lesser Scaup**, 8 at WOA 11/30 (KB); **Surf Scoter** 2 at SS 11/5 (JM, LN) and at Watts Bay 11/13 (MH, RH); **Black Scoter**, one at SS 11/24 (JM, LN, et.al.); **Bufflehead**, 60 at McDanel's Boat Launch 11/21 (LS, ME); **Common Goldeneye**, 4 at WOA 11/12 (GK, MAK); **Hooded Merganser**, 24 at WOA 11/19 (STh); **Common Merganser**, 10 at SS 11/25 (AH); **Red-breasted Merganser**, 3 at SS 11/24 (SD); **Ruddy Duck**, 66 at Lakeview Beach 11/2 (GK, MAK).

Sadly, with **Ruffed Grouse** populations down state-wide, only a single grouse was reported, from Todd Nature Reserve 10/20 (MR). A **Common Loon** showed up early at the Cabins Area of MSP 9/18 (MC) and 4 were seen at 528 BL 10/29 (BB). Singles and pairs were seen regularly through the end of the season including a very nice tally of 33 photographed at Crescent Bay 11/16 (JF). **Pied-billed Grebe** was present at LA through the entire season in single digit numbers (m.ob.). Normally seen in higher numbers, **Horned Grebe** was only seen twice: one at SS 11/2 (RN) and one there 11/11 (BB). A **Great Egret** visited WOA 9/15 (AL).

A migrating flyover **Golden Eagle** was seen at SS 11/11 (BB). **Northern Harrier** hunted over the fields near McConnell's Mill and one was at Pipestem Road 11/28 (BB). **American Coot** arrived at LA 10/13 (AB, SG) and by early Nov the flock that gathers annually at SS had swelled to triple digits (m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane** sightings are increasing in *Butler*. This season there were 2 flying over I-79 on 10/7 (MV), 2 at Worth Twp. 11/11 (BB), and 2 at Muddy Creek 11/4 (RS).

Shorebird movement through *Butler* is usually hit or miss—but mostly miss, perhaps because suitable habitat is mostly hard to reach and is under-birded. However, at the end of Oct, considerable mudflats were exposed at LO, providing a banner shorebird day (for *Butler*) on 10/29. Seven species were a treat: 40 **Killdeer**, one **Greater Yellowlegs**, one **Least Sandpiper**, one **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, 6 **Dunlin**, and one **Wilson's Snipe** (BC). Only seen in fall, an **American Golden-Plover** was at Brownsdale Road 9/10 (RN), probably the seventh *Butler* record. Other shorebirds included **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Semipalmated Sandpiper**. **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen until 11/5 (m.ob). Lingering **Least Sandpiper** and **White-rumped Sandpiper** provided the first November eBird records for *Butler* (MV). **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** were also a bit late, staying into the first week of Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull visited LA beginning 10/29 (BB) and by late Nov numbers had grown to 41 at SS 11/19 (MH, RH), 54 at Nealey's Point 11/19 (BB, MC) and 24 at SS 11/25 (OM). The noted **Black-headed Gull** returned to the same location at SS and drew a lot of attention. First located 11/12 (MV), it stayed through the end of the month, associating with several hundred Ring-billed Gulls. **Ring-billed Gulls** are always present at LA as long as there is open water; their numbers swelled to at least 287 at SS 11/12 (GK, MAK). **Herring Gulls** are often seen there but usually in low single digit numbers.

A **Snowy Owl** was found while spotlighting deer and photographed at night in the parking lot at Lakeview Beach 11/10 (BAS). It flew off and was not relocated. An unusually high count, about 100 **Common Nighthawks** were noted near Mars 8/30 (CT) and a flyover **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at CT 9/28 (BB). The only falcons other than **American Kestrel** were a single **Merlin** at SS 9/9 (MC) and one at SS 12/11 (MF, JV).

Not often seen, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was spotted twice: one at CT 9/6 (BB) and one at SGL 95 on 9/23 (GK, MAK). Among numerous lingering species, **Eastern Phoebe** was seen in several locations until 11/15 (m.ob.). **Common Raven** was reported 9 times through the season with a high count of 5 at LO 9/6 (TR), possibly a family group. Successful nesting has not yet been confirmed in *Butler*. Three species of swallow species were still present in late Oct: **Tree Swallow**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** and **Cliff Swallow** were spotted at 528 BL 10/26 (RM, GW). **American Pipit** passed through 10/15-11/21 with a nice flock of 17 at LO 10/15 (MV) and "several dozen" were there 10/29 (BC). Twenty-eight species of warbler were reported, with four species only reported once: two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** at Jennings Environmental Education Center 8/2 (BB); one **Mourning Warbler** at Moniteau 9/8 (BB); one **Kentucky Warbler** at JEEC 8/6 (MC); and one **Pine Warbler** at Lakeview Beach 9/1 (GK, MAK). The most commonly reported species included **Common Yellowthroat**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was more frequently seen this fall compared to recent years. **Rusty Blackbirds** were scarce, but a flock of 20 was a nice treat at Moniteau 10/12 (BB). One **Common Redpoll** stopped at a feeder at Poplar Forest 11/11 (BAS) and **Pine Siskin** was seen in small numbers at 4 different locations.

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Cambria County

Locations: Dumans Dam (DD), Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Large numbers of **Tundra Swans** were present at PG during Nov and part of Dec. Waterfowl numbers were down, probably due to the warm weather and most of the lake at PG being open to hunting. A single **Northern Shoveler** was at PG 11/25 (TA). A lone **Great Egret** was present at PG from Jul through the middle of Nov. A new late date for **Osprey** established 11/25 at PG (TA). The best find of the season was a juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** at PG 9/17 (JC). The bird was present through 9/22 and was seen many birders. **Caspian**, **Common**, **Forster's**, and **Black Terns** all passed through PG during the period. A lone **Common Nighthawk** at PA was the only report (DG). Two **Merlin** were at PG 9/8 (DG, JS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PG 9/3 (RL). A **Northern Shrike** appeared at DD 11/26 (RS). Two **Barn Swallows** at PG 11/22 probably represented a new late date (DG). A single **Swainson's Thrush** at PA 10/20 was very late (DG). The warbler migration was again spread out over Sep and into mid-Oct. Good numbers of birds were seen. Unusual was a single **Brewer's Blackbird** mixed in with a flock of **American Robins** feeding in a backyard at PA 11/23 (DG).

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Cameron County

Locations: Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Hicks Run Elk Viewing Area (HREVA), Sterling Run Strip Mines (SRSM), Sterling Run (SR), Brooks Run (BR), Bucktail Overlook (BO), Driftwood (DR), May Hollow (MH), Upper

West Creek Trail (UWCT), Forty Maples Picnic Area (FMPA), Camp Metro (CM), Lick Island Run (LIR), Sizerville State Park (SZSP), Grove Hill (GH), Mann's Pond (MP), Three Runs Road (3RR).

No significant rain or wind was felt in *Cameron* and the autumn weather seemed to be near average. All sightings were by the compiler unless otherwise noted. Seventy-eight species were reported, mostly via eBird. The first annual Big Sit was carried out at SSP 10/8 and 26 species were eked out on a not so birdy day.

A flock of **Tundra Swans** was heard in the early morning darkness at 3RR 11/27 (DK). Four **American Wigeon** were at SSP 9/13. Two **American Black Ducks** were found at SSP 10/30. Thirty-three **Mallards** were seen on 8/25, 20 on 10/8 (BS), and 22 on 10/30, all at SSP. A single **Northern Shoveler** was at SSP 9/30. Fourteen **Wood Ducks**, all in a molt, were near DW 8/30. Ten were at UWCT 9/8, and 15 more were at SSP 10/6. Among other reports, a large count of 66 **Buffleheads** was made 11/10 at SSP. Five **Hooded Mergansers** were at MP 11/10. A large flock of 40 **Common Mergansers** were at SSP 11/9 (JL), which to 49 on 11/14.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was at SR 11/25 and another was at CM 11/26 (AB). Ten **Pied-billed Grebes** were at SSP 11/9 (JL). A single **Horned Grebe** was at SSP 11/18. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at SSP 10/22. A **Great Egret** was at SR 8/22 and another was in the same vicinity 9/7, possibly the same bird.

Single **Ospreys** were at SSP 8/23 and 9/13. Another was at FMPA 9/15. A high count of 10 **Bald Eagles**, one **Northern Harrier**, 3 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, and 10 **Red-tailed Hawks** were at SSP 10/8 (BS). Nine Red-tails were found at BO 10/22. A **Virginia Rail** was flushed out of the wet goldenrod at SSP 9/30. Among other sightings, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at SSP 9/13. A late **American Woodcock** was found in SR 11/17. A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SSP 11/9 (JL).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at BO 8/24 and another was at SSP 9/9. Among owls, 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were at CM 9/22 (AB) and 2 were at SR 9/25, a **Barred Owl** was at BR 8/23, and 2 **Great Horned Owls** were at CM on 9/22 (AB) with 2 more at SR 10/21. A single **Common Nighthawk** was at SR 9/6. Four **American Kestrels** were found at SRSM 8/10. A lone **Merlin** was at HREVA 10/13 (KEC).

Four **Warbling Vireos** were at SSP 8/23 (KW). A high count of 149 **American Crows** was made at SSP 11/6, and 4 **Common Ravens** were at BR 11/25. Four **Brown Creepers** were at SSP 11/9 (JL), and 2 **Winter Wrens** were at SR 10/14. Sixty-two **Cedar Waxwings** were at BO 8/24 and 68 were at CM 10/28 (AB). A single **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at SSP 8/23 (KW). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was at SSP 8/25. Among many sightings, 3 **Tennessee Warblers** were seen at LIR 9/3. Many other warblers, totaling 20 species, were seen in small numbers through Oct.

Nine **Chipping Sparrows** were at GH 10/22. A single **Savannah Sparrow** was found at HREVA 8/2 (TK). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at SRSM 8/10, and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** were at SRSM on 8/10, possibly representing the first *Cameron* breeding birds in some time. Three **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at SSP 9/25. Seven **Swamp Sparrows** were at SR 10/14. A nice count of 37 **White-throated Sparrows** was made at SSP 10/30. Twelve **Bobolinks** and 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at SRSM 8/10. **Pine Siskins**, uncommon here, were photographed at CM 10/28 (AB).

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Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO).

Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and current status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010

(B&G, 2010). A few rare species were reported in at least five locations and are not discussed further: **Great Egret, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellow Warbler**, and **Bobolink**.

Three species of rare geese made an appearance. A flock of 30 vocalizing **Snow Geese** flew over Port Matilda 11/19 (PW). Sharp-eyed birders studying a flock of **Canada Geese** at BESP 11/23-25 found 2 accidentally occurring **Greater White-fronted Geese** (JP, BSn). Up to 3 **Brant** were present at BESP 11/5-14 (JP, m.ob.). Two other rarities at BESP were a **Red-throated Loon** was 11/5-23 (CE, et al.), and a very rare **Red-necked Grebe** 11/5 (BC, et al.).

Although not rare during migration, a notable count of 33 **Golden Eagles** was reported flying along Bald Eagle Mtn. 11/10 (*fide* DO). Two rare **Northern Goshawks** were reported: one in an area on Goss Hollow Ln. where Ruffed Grouse have been reported 8/31 (AMc, WMc), and an adult in the Panther Grasslands 10/13 (JCa). Two rare **Sandhill Cranes** flew over State College 9/28 (NB).

Four notable shorebird species were present. A casually occurring **Black-bellied Plover** was heard on S. Nixon Rd. 10/12 (JG). A **Sanderling** was observed at BESP 8/1-7 (JP, JV, JCa), and one or 2 were there 9/12-13 (EZ, BC). A nice mixed flock in field puddles on Tadpole Rd. 10/31-11/6 included two rare shorebirds species: up to 16 **Dunlin** and as many as 12 **White-rumped Sandpipers** (JG, et al.). **Killdeer, Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and **American Pipit** were also present in this flock. Up to 5 Dunlin were also at BESP 10/30-31 (JP, EZ, AM), one was in the Fairbrook Wetlands 10/31-11/5 (MaB), and 6 were present on S. Nixon Rd. 11/1 (EZ). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were seen on S. Nixon Rd. 11/1 (EZ), and 3 others were present at the Fairbrook Wetland 11/5 (MaB).

Three rare tern species were observed at BESP. One or 2 **Caspian Terns** were noted 9/3 (JP, BC), and as many as 20 **Black Terns** were present 8/18-22 (CE, et al.). Up to 5 **Common Terns** were seen 8/7 (JP, JV, CE), and one was spotted 9/14 (CE).

Reports of one or 2 **Northern Strikes** at BESP were made 11/14-26 (BC, et al.). **Yellow-throated Vireos** are rarely encountered during the fall, but a few were reported this year: one or 2 in SCO 8/31-9/13 (JV, et al.), one on Strawband-Beaver Rd. 9/4 (LC, JCa), 4 in State College 9/13 (CE), and one in BMSP 9/17 (MaB). A "strikingly gorgeous" leucistic **Black-capped Chickadee** was spotted in State College 11/2 (JG) and was photographed the same day (KP). One or 2 **Marsh Wrens** made autumnal stops at BESP 9/24-10/14 (JP, et al.). Up to 10 **Snow Buntings** graced a gravel parking lot at BESP 11/24-28 (C&JM, et al.).

A handful of rare warblers were present. A couple **Louisiana Waterthrush** were spotted 8/2-12 off Rte. 3025 near Port Matilda (JCa, MN), and one was at the pond side of the spillway at the Duck Pond 8/4 (NB). One or 2 others were noted along the Tunnel Rd. Extension in Coburn 8/5-13 (JG). Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** and a single **Northern Waterthrush** were observed along Bald Eagle Cr. in Milesburg 8/6 (JCa, MN, LC). A casually occurring **Orange-crowned Warbler** was present in Marjorie Mae Park 10/6 (RC). A few **Connecticut Warblers** were reported, including a single bird at SCO 9/4-17 (CE, et al.). Banding activities at ARBOR netted one 9/19 and another 9/26 (NK). A couple also passed through Port Matilda 10/8-9 (PW). Two **Prairie Warblers** were noted, one at BESP 8/19 (JL) and another in the Bear Meadows Natural Area 8/25 (KS).

Two additional rare species were recorded in Bellefonte by means of nocturnal flight calls: **Clay-colored Sparrow** 8/31 and **Dickcissel** 9/11 (both JP).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Exton Park (EP), Laffy's Pond (LP), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS).

It was yet another fall season with the passage of very few fronts to assist birders in finding birds during their southbound migration. Numbers observed were low. This was experienced throughout the region, and could especially be noted in the totals from Pennsylvania hawkwatches. That said, it was a record year for Broad-winged Hawks migrating over the piedmont, and the southern half of *Chester*. In contrast, numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls captured at banding stations were extremely low. One of the most interesting notes of the season comes from a MOTUS tracking tower, installed in 2017. *Chester* hosts two MOTUS towers, one at BCP, and the other at RFBS.

A single **Ross's Goose** was a terrific discovery among hundreds of Canada Geese in an Exton WTP 11/24-30 (JD, m.ob.). CORES is always a gathering place and safe-haven for geese, and has traditionally been one of the best spots in the county for finding **Greater White-fronted Goose**. Three Greater White-fronts were there 11/19-22 (JDP), long enough for other birders to see (m.ob.). The most notable duck species found this fall were 3 **Surf Scoters** at CL 10/26 (RR, MH, LD.). Reports of other waterfowl were light.

No bitterns were reported. **Little Blue Herons** are annual visitors in the early half of fall. These herons are typically the young of the year, dispersing after breeding. This year they were found at EP 8/4 (BQ, m.ob.) and OCTRES 8/10 (PM). There were two reports of **Snowy Egret**, which are rare visitors inland: Kennett Square 8/22 (MG), and EP 8/23 (JD). A report of a lingering **Green Heron** 11/25 at EP (CH) was notable, since this species is usually not found after the end of Oct. OCTRES is a great spot to find **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, with ample habitat. This year, the reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron from the *Chester* side of OCTRES began 8/10 (PM), with another 8/26 (PM, MH, LD). One found at BCP was an excellent discovery, as this is not an expected location for the species. The immature bird was seen by many 8/13, and again a week later 8/20 (MG, m.ob.). A flyover **Glossy Ibis** reported in Frazer 8/17 (CH) was the only observation of this irregular migrant.

Nov. marks the peak for **Golden Eagles** migrating through Pennsylvania, but reports come earlier as well. A report from Wolf's Hollow CP 10/17 was the first (MG), followed by one in Kennett Square 10/26 (TS); another was EP 11/8 (MH), and 6 were tallied at BCP during the official watch. A whopping 10,649 **Broad-winged Hawks** (LL, et al.) was the best count of this species tallied in a single season at the BCP! An immature **Sora** at EP 9/26 (m.ob.) was the only one reported this season.

A wet summer provided a scarcity of shorebird habitat in the region. This made reports of any shorebirds species noteworthy. LP in Glenville held the most action, and attracted the highest species count, where continuous shallow water was present in this spring-fed farm pond. Highlights from there included 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** 8/28, and up to 4 there 8/31 (MG). Another Stilt Sandpiper was found along the edge of the pond at EP 10/14 (JD) and remained there through 10/16 (m.ob.). **Dunlin** migrate later in the season, so 2 found at the Little Conestoga inlet at MCSP 11/8 (BB) was an expected date for this species, which is not reported annually. At least one was present through 11/19 (m.ob.), as the park intentionally dropped water levels, which produced excellent foraging habitat. The expected "peep" in the region is **Least Sandpiper**, which occurs regularly in spring and fall migrations. A high count of our smallest shorebird was 60 at LP in Glenville 8/28 (MG). The high count of **Pectoral Sandpiper** was 4 at LP 8/28 (MG) and MCSP 10/24 (BB). Reports continued through 11/20 (m.ob.). Notable were 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, an irregular migrant, at OCTRES 8/19 (PM). A remarkable high count of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, typically only found single or very small numbers, was 82 at

LP 8/28 (MG). Other reports were of one at Somerset Lake 8/13 (JS), and another at EP 8/26 (MH, CH, LD). The MOTUS towers will be a remarkable way to discover tagged aerial migrants, going forward. This fall, the tower at BCP recorded an **American Woodcock** 11/18, which was previously tagged in Maine in 2016 (IS).

Groups of **Bonaparte's Gulls** in the region are always notable, since this species typically occurs in small numbers. A good high count was of 16 flying over BCP 11/16 (LL, KN). A remarkable high count of 17 **Laughing Gulls** was made at Somerset Lake 8/13 (JS). This species is rarely found inland, and is typically in association of a strong coastal storm; however, that was not the case in this incidence. **Caspian Tern** is the most likely tern species to be found here. This season the species was observed periodically 8/6-9/4 (m.ob.). Strong mid-Aug storms can bring sightings of **Black Terns** during the peak in their movement through the region. Two appeared at MCSP during such a storm 8/18, rewarding birders who stood watch for them (MH, HM).

There was a just a single report of a **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 8/22 at BCP (MG). Black-billed is the less common of the cuckoo species here. The RRBS has its worst year of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** captures in 8 years. Thirty-five nights of banding effort resulted in the capture of only 12 owls (DM, et.al). By comparison, in 2016 RFBS captured 95 saw-whets. This low number was a common refrain in the eastern US, and is suspected to be the result of the lack of need for this species to irrupt, due to ample food resources in its normal ranges. An interesting note from RFBS was that one of the saw-whets banded there in 2016 was recaptured in fall 2017 in Ontario (DM).

Reports of migrant **Common Nighthawks** typically cease within the first few weeks of Oct. This year, the late date was 10/13 (JS). Highly intriguing was a report of a nighthawk seen flying over Frazer, late in the day 11/12 (CH). Details obtained could not identify the bird to species, and this late date of a nighthawk leads one to wonder if it might be something other than a Common. To add to intrigue, on the same afternoon, another observer reported a nightjar seen in flight from Upper Uwchlan (AS).

In recent years, **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** have been lingering into Oct. This year, the latest report came from Chadds Ford 10/16 (HD). There were no reports of vagrant hummingbirds this fall. Catching a glimpse of a **Red-headed Woodpecker** is always a treat for birders here, as it is uncommon in migration. One was found at Hibernia Park 9/23 (RR), and the other was a welcomed yard visitor in West Chester 10/7 (NP).

BCP has traditionally been a great spot for seeing **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, due in part to its ample, intentionally placed snags. This fall this uncommon migrant was seen there on multiple occasions 8/20-9/17 (LL, m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireos** are hard to find, and strictly a fall migrant here in *Chester*. This year the reports ranged from 9/17-10/2, mostly at BCP (m.ob.). It was not an irruptive year for **Black-capped Chickadees**, and none were found here this fall. The peak for **Marsh Wrens** migrating through our region is in the first half of October, and all reports fall into this window. Reports were: 10/12 and 10/15 at EP (MH, m.ob.), 10/15 at Warwick CP (P&JW).

Fascinating was the data provided through the MOTUS tower at BCP regarding **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**. The BCP tower detected nanotags on 6 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, all originating in Quebec under the project "Thrush Post-breeding Ecology in Quebec", which is researching the post-breeding dispersal and migration of 3 boreal forest thrushes, including Gray-cheeked. The timelines provided by motus.org show that these 6 individuals were all tagged in September 2017, and after the deployment, it took from 8 to 15 days to get within distance of the BCP tower. Other reports of this species came from RFBS, where one was banded 9/16 (DM, et. al), 9/22 at BCP (IS), 10/8 in Devon (MC), and 10/17 in Kimberton (RK). A single **Snow Bunting** at CL 11/24 was a nice surprise, since this species is scarce here, especially in fall (RR).

A total of 29 warbler species were tallied for the season. In general, with the lack of strong fronts to assist migration, the reports were just slightly below average. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was banded at RFBS 9/12 (WS, DM), and was the only report of this warbler. An early migrant, **Louisiana Waterthrush** is rarely found in southeastern Pennsylvania after 7/31, making two reports stand out: 8/12 in Phoenixville, and another at BCP 8/13 (m.ob.). The **Northern Waterthrush** has a protracted migration, and dates

of observation ranged 8/14-10/7 this year (m.ob.). It was a slow year for finding the elusive **Connecticut Warbler**. The only report that surfaced was of one banded 10/5 at RFBS, which proved to be later than is usual, and a low number netted at this site (DM). A **Common Yellowthroat** was discovered lingering in a yard in Malvern 11/11-17 (TF). **Hooded Warblers** were found 8/14-9/13 (m.ob.). The **Cape May Warbler** continues to be reported with higher frequencies than in recent decades, the uptick believed to be a result of higher success in breeding, due to an abundance of spruce budworms. The window of observation this year was 8/27-11/6 (m.ob.). There were 2 reports of **Cerulean Warbler** in migration, a species that was not recorded previously in 2017, and rarely seen in fall. One was near French Creek 8/2 (PW, JW), and another was at Phoenixville 8/27 (RK). A boreal forest breeding bird, the **Bay-breasted Warbler** has also benefited from the boon of spruce budworms. This warbler was observed 9/3-10/7 (m.ob.). Reports of **Wilson's Warbler** were made 8/21-10/6 (JS, CM, RR).

There was one **Grasshopper Sparrow** observed this fall, 8/31 in Glenville (MG). This species is hard to detect in migration. There were multiple reports of **Vesper Sparrow**, all in Nov when this declining sparrow is expected. Most were from the first week, and came from BCP (IS, HD, GT, CD), but there was one report from EP 11/6 (CK), and a later report from Willisbrook Preserve 11/24 (SJ). **Blue Grosbeaks** are uncommon nesting birds, but a pair at BCP is monitored closely by birders. The last report of this species came 10/22 (MG, m.ob.).

The latest **Bobolink** was noted 10/13 at CL (RR). **Rusty Blackbird** populations continue to be of interest, with their precipitous decline in numbers and no clearly identified cause. These are found in late fall, typically the very last days of Oct and more commonly in Nov. The high count was of 14 at MCSP, at the Little Conestoga inlet (JA).

It was not an irruption year for winter finches. Reports of **Purple Finch** were also very light, with only 4 reports through 11/11 (JA, DS). In some years, this species is widely reported. Likewise, reports of **Pine Siskin** were slim: they were noted at a feeder 11/15 in Kennett Square (JW) and 11/25 in Birmingham (DS), and a few flyovers were at BCP (LL).

An item of note this season: *Chester's* unique Serpentine Barrens region, which includes both Nottingham CP and Goat Hill Preserve, has experienced a devastating infestation of the southern pine beetle, a native species in the U.S., but typically with a more southern range. The impact of the beetle in 2017, which works rapidly in destroying a single tree, was noted by rangers and foresters to be over 400 acres of pitch pines destroyed at Nottingham CP alone. The barrens ecosystem is a National Landmark, and a fragile ecosystem. The region holds many species of flora and fauna, which in Pennsylvania can only be found in these barrens. The area hosts many bird species dependent on the unique features of this ecosystem, and is the last stronghold for Eastern Whip-poor-wills in southeastern Pennsylvania. It is also a hotbed for breeding Yellow-breasted Chat. The impact and damage to this forest will be drastic and extensive, and only time will tell how the specialty species of the barrens ecosystem will be impacted.

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Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT).

This year there were just two species of note for waterfowl. The first were 8 **American Wigeons** at KL 9/21 (ME, LS), a few weeks early. A **Long-tailed Duck** made an appearance in an unusual location, near the dam on Redbank Creek in New Bethlehem 10/30-11/6 (J&AK, MM). Also at this location, a **Great Egret** was seen 8/19-8/23 (J&AK, MM). **Northern Harriers** included a single bird at the CV strips 8/3 (DF, BG, DK), and again 9/4 (TR), and another single bird, likely in migration, over fields near CV 10/13 (CW). Although there is ample habitat in the county, **Sandhill Cranes** are not reported every season, so 4 in the cornfields near KL 10/9 (GE, RS) were notable. Also at KL, 4 **Wilson's Snipe** were located along the shoreline 9/21 (ME, LS). This species is likely present more often than reported in fall, but the right habitat is not always visible to birders from accessible locations.

Certainly the most notable bird for the season was a beautiful first cycle **Sabine's Gull** at KL 9/5-8 (GE, J&AK, JS, JM, CW, et al.) Many observers were able to enjoy and photograph this rare gull that represented the first record for the county. For comparison, a single **Bonaparte's Gull** was present at this location for the same period (GE, JS, JM, CW, et al.). Two **Forster's Terns** were seen also at KL 9/6, and though not as uncommon, were still worthy of note (MD, GM).

For the second year, a search for **Northern Saw-Whet Owls** was undertaken by a dedicated observer, who had increased success this year, with 5 birds found during the first half of Oct (MH, RM, LT). This search was done using call playback of the toot and whine calls. Single birds were found at five different locations around the town of Clarion and Shippenville and in mixed second growth forest habitat, usually with nearby overgrown brushy field or power line cut. Four of the birds responded with a whine call and one responded with what was described as a winter one note call. **Short-eared Owls** were found in a new area this fall due to increased birder effort. One bird was seen at MA 11/24 and 2 were found at a new location south of Callenburg on reclaimed strip mine fields 11/28 (MH). Two birds were found at MZ 11/29, with one on Stockdill Rd. and one at the main parking area location (GE, MH, JW).

For the second year a watch site was set up along the Clarion River north of the town of Clarion, at Mill Creek Boat Launch, for observing **Common Nighthawks** in migration. Counts were done regularly 8/14-9/10 (MH, LT, R&TG, CW). The season total for this year was 567. Counts were conducted generally between 18:30 and 20:30, with variation due to daylight length. Peak days were 8/26-9/6 with the highest count of 236 on 8/30. With nighthawks in decline, it is hoped that this data collection can help in the study of this species. Elsewhere in the county, 2 nighthawks were reported at dusk near CV 9/1 (CW), and 2 during dawn hours at KL 9/6 (AK). At the same location as the nighthawk count, 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** heard calling at dusk 8/28-9/1 (MH, LT, R&TG, CW) were quite notable, a rarely reported species for this late in the season.

The only falcon reported was a **Merlin** at KL 9/7 (GE, KSJ). A rather early **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was on the RVT near Lawsonham 8/31 (MH, RH, FM). Near this same area of the RVT came the only notable vireo, a **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/7 (MH, RH, FM).

Near CV, several nocturnal flight call counts were conducted during migration from 9/6-10/1 (CW). Generally **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls are the least recorded, and this year that species was first heard 9/6 (two calls). This increased slowly to 6 on 9/15 and then 30 or more calls 9/16 and 9/22. One was also heard during daylight hours calling up in black gum and sassafras trees 9/20. **Swainson's Thrush** were heard on each count done through the time period noted, with the peak 9/16 when a remarkable 2000+ calls were heard during 16 minutes, and 9/22 with 1000+ calls in 27 minutes. Note that these numbers represent calls heard and not actual bird numbers. At this location, one or 2 birds were also present during daylight hours on five occasions between 9/6-9/22. A single bird was also reported at KL 9/6 (AK). Most often in fall this species is found not on the ground but in trees or shrubby tangles where fruit or berries are present, including species such as black gum, sassafras, as well as wild grapes, poison ivy

and Virginia creeper. **Hermit Thrushes** migrate later in the season and the only flight calls of this species were 2 on 10/1. Three birds were also noted near Clarion 10/18 (MH, RH, FM).

Just three warbler species were worth mentioning this season. **Northern Waterthrush**, often not reported in fall, was seen at KL 9/9 (BB). A rather late female **Yellow Warbler** was reported at Beaver Creek Nature Area 9/6 (MD). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued to be present and singing at RVT at Lawsonham, heard there 8/4 where it was present throughout the breeding season (RN, CW). One sparrow of note was **Lincoln's Sparrow**, near CV, with four sightings 9/18, 9/22, 10/1 and 10/2 (CW). The 9/22 was of 3 birds seen, rather unusual for this species. Just a single **Rusty Blackbird** was noted this season, one heard calling in a flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** near CV 10/8 (CW).

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Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BL).

Migration was typical with a few notable rarities. A **Snow Goose** was observed near Winburne 11/28 (SS). A single **Surf Scoter** was on BL 10/28 (DR), and 2 more **Surf Scoters** were observed with a large flock of **Ruddy Ducks** at the same location 11/2 (DR). A trio of **Red-throated Loons** was on BL 10/26 (DR). A **Northern Goshawk** was observed flying low over Hartzfeld Rd. near Luthersburg 11/9 (DR). A **Snowy Owl** was seen in Union Twp. 11/29 (HW). Three **Short-eared Owls** hunted fields along Sandy Ridge Rd. near the village of Clover Run 11/25 (DR). A **Northern Shrike** was perched on a wire along Hartzfeld Rd. near Luthersburg 11/9 (DR). A single **Pine Siskin** was observed on SGL 77 in Clear Run 11/2 (DR).

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Clinton County

Locations: Mill Hall (MH), South Avis (SA).

A small flock of **Short-billed Dowitchers**, a very good shorebird species for *Clinton*, was found with **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at SA 8/7 (BS). **Least Sandpipers** were reported along River Rd. east of Lock Haven 8/22 (C&CH). **Pectoral** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also reported at SA 8/22-23 (C&CH). Twenty or so **Common Nighthawks** were hawking insects at the Central Mountain Middle School in Mill Hall 8/30 (DR).

Rare for *Clinton*, a **Northern Shrike** was found on a hunting excursion on Beech Creek Mountain near Cranberry Swamp 11/16 (WC). A few **Dickcissels** continued at the Fairgrounds Road location in MH through Aug (m.ob.). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was located at the MH wetlands 10/8, along with several **Lincoln's Sparrows** (BS). Another **Nelson's Sparrow** was observed at Central Mountain High School in MH 10/14 (C&CH).

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Columbia County

Locations: Bloomsburg Town Park (BTP), Briar Creek Lake (BCL), Fort McClure Boulevard (FMB), Quarry Road (QR), Ridge Road (RR).

Typically, the fall season offers good birding in *Columbia*, but this year birding effort was extremely light and few reports were submitted. Rarely reported in the county, one **Golden Eagle** was observed over QR 11/10 (AK) during a good migratory period. The season started wet, which produced good shorebird habitat along FMB in the town of Bloomsburg, and a nice selection of shorebirds visited the flooded fields there in early to mid-Aug. A single **Semipalmated Plover** was present 8/17-18 (AK), a single **Greater Yellowlegs** was there 8/7 (AK), as many as 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were observed from 8/1-7 (AK, EH), and as many as 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 8/1-12 (AK, EH).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard cat calling north of RR in the early evening 10/18 (AK). There are very few recorded observations of this species in the county. **Common Nighthawks** are regular migrants in early fall. This year, 25 were observed hawking insects over the tennis courts in BTP 8/27 (AK). During a search for rare sparrows in the cat tails at the west end of BCL, 28 **Swamp Sparrows** were counted 10/28 (AK), a high count for the county.

Observers: Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com, Evan Houston.

Crawford County

Locations: Erie NWR (ENWR), Pymatuning Fish Hatchery (FH), Miller Ponds (MP), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Pymatuning area (PYM), Sugar Lake, Erie NWR (SL), Woodcock Lake (WL), Woodcock Lake, Abandoned Road Trail (WART), Woodcock Lake, Schultz Road Causeway (WSRC).

The numbers of migrating waterfowl, particularly ducks, were down this fall season, probably a combination of many species either staying north or migrating without stopping, due to the warm weather. A single **Snow Goose**, a notable but expected bird, was at the FH 11/15 (RL), the only reported sighting this season. Reports of **Ross's Goose**, rare in *Crawford* but recorded the past couple of years, included a single bird Hartstown Marsh 11/26 (RH, TN), at MP 11/29 (SD, VMQ, RVN) and Wilson Rd. and MP 11/30 (IF, MH, RHi). Notable observations of **Tundra Swan** included 9 early birds at Cussewago Bottom 10/30 (CN) and a good count of 63 near Cambridge Springs 11/10 (CR).

Notable observations of **Gadwall** included 9 at the Hartstown Project 8/26 (m.ob.), a very early date, and a good count of 202 in the Pymatuning area 10/31 (RL). A group of 6 early **Ring-necked Ducks** were at PS 9/8 (RR). The only **Greater Scaup** reported this season were 4 at WL 11/15 (RL). A single **Long-tailed Duck** at Conneaut Lake 11/13 (CN) was, notably, the only one sighted this fall. A great combined total of 8045 **Common Mergansers** were counted at FH, PS, and WL 11/15 (RL). That same day, 1020 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed at PS (RL).

Ruffed Grouse is an expected but declining bird in *Crawford*. Observations this season included a single bird seen along Reed Avenue near Conneaut Lake 10/1 (RL) and a single along Maple Hill Rd. 10/24 (RN). A single **Red-throated Loon** was among a very good count of 63 **Common Loons** flying over Rundelltown Rd. in a span of twenty minutes 11/17 (AT). A great count of 6501 **Double-crested Cormorants** was made in the Pymatuning area 11/7 (RL). Notable observations of bitterns included both **American Bittern** and **Least Bittern** at Conneaut Marsh McMichael Road 8/7 (AB, MH, RHi). A single **Little Blue Heron**, notable in *Crawford*, was at MP 10/1 (RL). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are seldom seen here, so a single at FH 11/15 (RL) was notable.

Excellent counts of **Bald Eagle** included 35 in the PYM area 10/22 (RL) and 28 at the FH 11/29 (SD, VMQ, RVN). **Northern Goshawk** is a rarely observed here, so a single at the Pymatuning Causeway 11/7 (RL) was an excellent find. A single dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at the Goose Management Area 11/3 (RL), a somewhat early date.

A single **Virginia Rail** at Geneva Marsh 10/1 (RL) was somewhat late, but a **Sora** at Custards Marsh 11/28 (RL) was very late. Observations of **Common Gallinule** included one adult and 2 juveniles at Geneva Marsh 8/7 (AB, MH, RHi), up to 4 including one juvenile at Geneva Marsh 8/26 (RD, GK, MAK), 2 at Custards Marsh 9/3 (JA), and a good count of 5 at Geneva Marsh 9/3 (LA). **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). High counts were made at MP 11/24, with 76 tallied during the day (MAK, GK), and a superb 181 that evening (RS). The latter probably represents a historical high count for the county.

It was an excellent shorebird flight this fall, primarily due to outstanding conditions at WL. At least one **Black-bellied Plover** was at the FH 10/7 (RS). **American Golden-Plovers** included one at WSRC 8/27 (IF, KP, TN) and at least one at the FH 10/7 (RS). A single **Willet**, an exceptional bird for the county, was observed off Hartstown Road on the very late date of 11/28 (RL). **Ruddy Turnstone** is rarely observed away from the Pymatuning Causeway, so 2 at WL 9/20 (RL) were notable. A **Red Knot** was reported at WSRC 9/1-8 (m.ob.), an excellent find for the county. A single **Sanderling** was at WSRC 9/3 (NA, KZ). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpiper** were above average, but all made at WL. Sightings included a single 8/28 (SS), 8/30-9/1 (m.ob.), and 9/5 (RL), and a good count of 3 on 11/5 (TN, KP). There were multiple reports of **Baird's Sandpiper** around WL: singles 8/14 (TN, KP), 8/26-31 (m.ob.), and 9/7 (TN), and 2 on 8/31 (TN, KP). Late **Pectoral Sandpipers** included 2 at the FH 11/18 (KP) and one there 11/24 (MAK, GK). Good counts of **Dunlin** included 75 (KP) and 102 (TN) at WSRC 11/5. Several lingered at WSRC thereafter, including reports of 7 on 11/17 (TN), 10 on 11/19 (TN, KP) and 3 on 11/30 (KP). Several **Stilt Sandpipers** were reported, including 2 at Tamarack Lake 8/27 (IF), one at WSRC 8/25 (TN, KP) and 8/27 (TN), up to 2 at WSRC 8/29-9/1 (JF, GK, TN, KP, MV), and singles there 9/5 (RL), 9/7 (TN), 9/11 (RN), and 9/22 (TN). At least one bird was also at the FH 10/7 (RS). The only reports of **Short-billed Dowitcher** were 3 at WSRC 8/12 (TN), 2 there 8/13 and 8/14 (RL, TN, KP), one there 9/1 (GK) and 10/7 (RL), and at least one bird at the FH (10/7) (RS). At least one **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at the FH 10/7 (RS). **American Woodcock** often go unobserved during the fall season, but one was found at Woodcock Creek Park 9/21 (TN). Multiple sightings of **Red-necked Phalarope** were notable: one at WSRC 8/25 (TN, KP), 8/30 (KP) and 8/31 (KP, TN, MV), and one at Candahota Lake 9/16 and 9/17 (KB, JC).

A good count of 384 **Bonaparte's Gull** was tallied in the PYM area 11/21 (RL). Three **Laughing Gulls**, rare in *Crawford*, were at the Pymatuning Causeway 9/5 (RL). A good count of 4601 **Ring-billed Gulls** were observed in the PYM area 11/15 (RL). Also good were 43 **Caspian Terns** in the PYM area 9/16 (RL). **Common Tern** is a relatively rare bird in the fall, so observations of 2 at WL 8/19 (TN), one at WL 8/20 (TN), one at PS 9/16 (RL) and 9/23 (RH, CN, TN, KP), and one at the Pymatuning Causeway 10/1 (RL) all made for a good season. **Forster's Terns** included 2 at PS 8/26 (RD), 3 at the WSRC 9/3 (NA, KZ), 3 on Swamp Rd. 9/5 (RSa) and 2 at PS 9/23 and 9/27 (JF, RH, CN, TN, KP).

The only report of **Great Horned Owl** was one at a private residence on Tower Rd. 11/15 (CN). A single **Snowy Owl** was photographed east of Cambridge Springs 11/27 (KZ). This was the first sighting in *Crawford* in what seemed to be a budding irruption year around Pennsylvania. An excellent count of at least 30 **Common Nighthawks** was made east of Cambridge Springs on Rte. 408 on 8/29 (KB).

One of the better observations of the season was a single **Rufous Hummingbird** near West Vernon Road close to the Conneaut Lake outlet 10/6 (RL). There were multiple sightings of **Red-headed Woodpecker** in the expected locations (m.ob.). Additionally, a single bird was at WART 9/28 (TN), a new location for this species, and remarkable counts of 6 and 4 were made at Tuttle Beach 10/8 (ME, LS, VW) and 11/29 (SD, VMQ, RVN), respectively.

There were several observations of **Merlin**. Interestingly all of the sightings were within nine days of each other: one in the WL area 9/1-4 (m.ob.), 9/9 (RR, MS, AW), and 9/11 (RN), and one at Meadville-Diamond Park 9/9 (RH). **Peregrine Falcon** observations are relatively rare in *Crawford* - a Peregrine was noted at WSRC 9/1 (SD), and another was reported there 9/11 chasing shorebirds (TN).

Uncommon in fall, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at the

Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 9/5 (KP) and at WART 9/11 (RN). Observations of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** included a one along Wayland Road in the Meadville area 8/26 (RL) and one at Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 8/27 (KP). A single **Alder Flycatcher** at ENWR 9/16 (SW) represented a late date for this species. A late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was also at ENWR 9/16 (SW). Three late **Eastern Kingbirds** were at Cussewago Bottom 9/19 (JF). **Northern Shrikes**, an expected but still notable species, included a one at WL 11/20 (TN, KP) and a juvenile near SL 10/20 (RE), the latter the earliest eBird date for *Crawford*. The only reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were one at WART 9/10 (TN) and 9/11 (RN), one at the Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 9/13 (KP) and 2 birds at WART 9/17 (TN, KP).

Common Ravens seem to be slowly increasing over the last few years. Sightings included 3 near SL 8/6 (RE), one 9/24 and 10/8 at WART (TN), one at Tsuga Trail, ENWR 10/24 (RN), and one on the Muddy Creek Holly Trail 11/11 (RR). An excellent count of 8 birds, the highest historical ever for the county, was made near SL 9/28 (RE). The only report of **Horned Lark** was a good count of 20 near SL 11/26 (RE). Forty-four **Bank Swallows** were observed at MP 8/26 (MAK, GK).

Red-breasted Nuthatches included one at the Dickson Road Trail at WL 9/2 (TN), one at a private residence in Meadville 10/14 (KP), one at a private residence on N. Richmond Rd. 11/26 (RS), and one at another private residence in Meadville 11/27 (TN). There were several observations of **Carolina Wren**, primarily around WL and at private residence in the Meadville area (m.ob.). **Winter Wren** is an uncommon bird in *Crawford*, so observations of one near Pettis Road 9/23 (RL), one in the WL area 10/4 (JF), one at Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 10/7 (KP) and 10/10 (TN), one at the Tsuga Trail, ENWR 10/24 (RN) were notable. A single **Marsh Wren** was still at Geneva Marsh 10/1 (RL).

A late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Ford Island 11/7 (RL). **Northern Mockingbird** is a very scarce bird in the county, so one along Reed Avenue near Conneaut Lake 10/1 (RL) was notable. There were several reports of **American Pipit**, including an early individual in the WSRC area 9/18 (TN) and a high count of 50 at MP 11/24 (MAK, GK). Two **Snow Buntings** were at the FH 11/18 (KP), the only report this season.

A single **Louisiana Waterthrush** observed along Reed Avenue near Conneaut Lake 10/1 (RL) represents a late date for this species. A single **Orange-crowned Warbler**, an uncommon bird in the county, was at PS trail 9/10 (RL). Excellent counts of **Cape May Warbler** included 10 at the Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 9/13 (KP) and 15 at the same location 9/15 (RH, TN). A good count of 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at WART 9/8 (TN, KP). Three late **Yellow Warblers** were at ENWR 9/16 (SW). The only report of **Wilson's Warbler** was one at Tamarack Lake 9/11 (KP).

Vesper Sparrows included one at MP 8/16 (Bartramian Audubon Society) and 2 at Woodcock Lake 9/14 (AO) and 9/15 (m.ob.). Observations of **Fox Sparrow** were abnormally low this year, and that continued this fall with the only reports being 2 at Cussewago Bottom 10/29 (JF), one at a private residence near Tower Road 11/15 and 11/18 (CN), and 3 at ENWR 11/18 (MA).

The best bird of the season was a **Summer Tanager** that stayed around a private residence in the Meadville area 11/14-27 (TN). The bird periodically came to a suet feeder and to various trees in the yard. A good count of at least 75 **Bobolinks** was made SL 8/9 (RE). An excellent count of 16,714 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were observed during an annual evening count at Custards Marsh 9/11 (IF, RL). Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** were very low this season, with one at the Ernst Bike Trail near Meadville 10/24 (RN) the only one reported. Reports of **Orchard Oriole**, an expected but infrequent bird here, included one at a private residence near Conneautville 8/1 (CN) and one female near SL 8/7 (RE).

Reports of **Purple Finch** were low; high count was just 5 at a private residence in the Meadville area 11/17 (TN). A single **Pine Siskin** was at the Tsuga Trail, ENWR 10/24 (RN).

Observers: **Rob Hodgson, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, (515) 708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com**, Jim Ackerman, Linda Ackerman, Laura Allston, Melissa Althouse, Nancy Andersen, Brendyn Baptiste, Kendall Brubaker, Anthony Bruno, Kevin Byers, John Callender, Martin Carlin, John Carter, Linder Carter, Phillip Chaon, Autumn Clark,

Sheree Daugherty, John DeBalko, Steve Denninger, Natalie DeSantis, Rob Dickerson, Kyle Ditts, Rich Eakin, Mary Eyman, Jennifer Ferrick, Isaac Field, James Flynn, Tom Glover, Benjamin Haywood, Mary Higbee, Roger Higbee (RHi), Mohamed Islam, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Ted Keen, Michelle Kienholz, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Ron Leberman, Jeff McDonald, Virginia McQuown, Ron Mumme, Lauren Nagoda, Clare Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Arianna O'Connell, Kelly Parsons, Kevin Parsons, Ken Pinnow, Nick Poling, Jonah Raether, Rachel Ramsey, Rich Rehrig, Chad Ross, Ramona Sahni, Sarah Sargent, Michael Schall, Steve Schmit, Robert Scribner, Emily Smith, Liz Spence, Kate StJohn, Randy Stringer, Shannon Thompson, Adam Troyer, Robert VanNewkirk, Mark Vass, Caitlin Waddington, Victoria Wefers, Suzanne Winterberger, Ally Wood, Andrew Wood, Louis Zell, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL 230), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

The fall period was warmer than normal with about normal precipitation. Note that unless otherwise stated, occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of any species listed in this report are according to eBird records and "An Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland" (*Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 30 No. 3; Gauthier 2016). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River, but without clear documentation otherwise, they are considered to have occurred in *Dauphin*, since the county line is defined as the west shoreline of the river.

Two **Trumpeter Swans** were reported from the WFBL 11/18, but by the pictures provided and by other reports, it seemed that these birds, although spotted from WFBL, were in the Susquehanna River and thus for the criteria used by this report, not in *Cumberland*. One **Black Scoter** was also reported from WFBL 11/7 but judging from the description given on the eBird checklist this bird too was most likely seen flying over and landing in the river, and thus in *Dauphin*. There was one **White-winged Scoter** on Opossum Lake 11/15 (DK). The bird, which represented just the second fall record and overall third record for *Cumberland*, was seen briefly on the water before flying off.

The **Roseate Spoonbill** which had first been reported 7/15 (JJ) was last reported 9/30 (JG). This bird was *Cumberland's* first, and the fourth for Pennsylvania. More information can be found in the summer 2017 report.

The only raptor of note was one first year **Northern Goshawk** at Ridge Rd. near Camp Michaux 11/11 (VG). Though they once bred in *Cumberland*, currently they are rare and less than annual away from Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch in fall. Even at Waggoner's Gap, the numbers of migrating Northern Goshawks have fallen dramatically over the past few years. Notable by the lack of reports, 11 **American Golden Plovers** in a field off Goodhart Rd. in Shippensburg 9/6 (VG) were the only ones for *Cumberland* this season. Most years there are multiple reports of this species during fall migration.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at Elk Hill Rd., TSF 8/25 and 8/28 (VG, AM, KK, DB), and 2 others were on Ridge Rd., MSF between Shippensburg and Milesburg Rds. 8/26 (VG, SB, DK, RK, AM). This species is annual in the fall in *Cumberland* in very small numbers. The other flycatcher species of note was **Least Flycatcher**: one was at Camp Michaux MSF 9/3 (VG), and one was at SGL 230 on 9/1 (RK, AM) and 9/17 (PL). The only locations where migrant **Philadelphia Vireos** were found were one at Camp Michaux TSF 9/3 and 9/14 (VG), one on Cold Spring Road TSF 9/23 (VG), one at SGL 230 on 9/16 (HW, CB, TF), and one the same location 10/2 (TC, JR). The only report of **Cliff Swallow** was one at the Big Spring 8/15 (VG). This was unusual; most years there are a number of migrant flocks reported in *Cumberland*. The only **Marsh Wren** seen was at Opossum Lake 10/13-14 (VG, DK, SB, TJ). One or two Marsh Wrens are found in fall most years. There were two early reports of **Snow Bunting**: one at Opossum Lake 11/11 (TJ) and 2 at Mud Level Road 11/12 (AnM). Usually this species isn't reported here until mid-Dec.

There were no reports of Mourning Warbler and Orange-crowned

Warbler. A **Connecticut Warbler** was seen on Ridge Rd., TSF about a mile west of Rte. 233 on 9/29 (VG). It was a good year for **Wilson's Warbler**, reports of which included birds at Point Rich Farms 9/1 (DM), Cabin Road SGL 169 on 9/8 (VG), the Big Spring 9/14 (VG), SGL 230 on 9/14 (PL) and 10/4 (KJ, TJ), and 2 at Simpson Park 9/3 (MR).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Capital Area Greenbelt-Paxtang (CAG-P), Fishburn Road-Hershey (FRH), Former Harrisburg State Hospital (HSH), Fort Hunter (FH), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Hershey Important Birding Area (HIBA), Hershey ZooAmerica (HZA), Linglestown (LIN), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (SGL290HI), Stoney Mountain Fire Tower (SMFT), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Weiser State Forest-White Oak Road (WOR), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A **Brant** was photographed on WL 10/18 (SH, EW). There is one record from 2011 and multiple sightings from 2012 at SRWF and FH, but this was the first time this species was observed at WL. A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** was observed at SRWF and SRFS 11/18-19 (m.ob.). The last time a wild one was seen on the river was 2005. Fall arrival of migrating waterfowl was about a month later than the past 10-year average. From 11/23-25, **Black Scoters**, **Surf Scoters**, and **White-winged Scoters** were seen at SRFS (m.ob.) along with a sighting of a **Long-tailed Duck** (PL).

There were only two sightings of **Ruffed Grouse**: 3 at WOR 11/18 and 11/20 (TB) and one at a residence along the mountain ridge just north of Harrisburg 10/27 (JF). A **Red-throated Loon** was spotted at FH 11/10 (S&SB) and remained there through 11/16. A lone **Horned Grebe** was at SRFS 11/12-16 (IG, MS). An **American Bittern** was spotted on the west side of WL 9/3 (JS).

A **Golden Eagle** and 4 **Bald Eagles** were seen from the SMFT 11/11 (S&SB). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were spotted at HIBA 11/21 (GL). Five **Sandhill Cranes** were heard overhead in LIN 11/27 (PL). An **American Golden Plover** was on exposed mud flats at FH 9/1 (EB). Many of the usual plovers, sandpipers and yellowlegs were well represented on the mudflats at WL during the period.

The Ned Smith Center banding site in upper *Dauphin* caught and banded 54 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** and 3 red morph **Eastern Screech-Owls** 10/1-11/17 (S&GL). Five were foreign recoveries (banded elsewhere) but no originating information was available as of this writing. A **Snowy Owl** was briefly seen between Hummelstown and Hershey 11/21 (TN). A **Merlin** was spotted on FRH 11/6 and 11/15 (TB, HW), and at HSH 9/10 (IG). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were observed for a second winter on the cocoa bean silos near HZA (TB), and 2 were over TMI 8/5 (RC).

An occasional migrant, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed at FIG 9/1, and another was at HSH 9/10 (IG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at HSH 9/20 (TA). With no repeat of last year's irruption, this year there was only one report of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, that at WL 11/23 (JD). Nocturnal flight calls were instrumental in identifying numerous **Veeries**, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Wood Thrushes** on the CAG-P 9/17 (DH). The only warbler still remaining in *Dauphin* by the beginning of November was **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at WL (m.ob.). Although regularly seen in numerous locations in the fall in *Dauphin*, this year only two **Fox Sparrows** were reported, those at WL 11/23 (JD). The first **Dark-eyed Junco** returned to SGL 211 by 10/20 (S&SB), and the first appearances of **White-throated Sparrow** and **White-crowned Sparrow** were at WL 10/18 (EB). Not reported to eBird in *Dauphin* in over 20 years, three **Vesper Sparrows** were observed at SGL290HI 9/3 (S&SB).

Sightings of one or two dozen **Rusty Blackbirds** were made at WL

during Oct and Nov (m.ob.), and the high count for the season was 127 on 11/5 (IG). The only **Purple Finch** for the period was at WL 9/1 (KW).

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Delaware County

Locations: Bethel Springs Elementary School (BSES), Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Crum Woods (CW), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Earles Lake (EL), Episcopal Academy (EA), Fort Mifflin (FM), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Linvill Trail (LT), Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), The Willows (WILL).

August, without a heat wave, was cooler than normal and wetter by more than 2". September was slightly above average temperature-wise and nearly normal in precipitation, although more than half of the month's rain fell on just one day, 9/16. October issued in some glorious days and three particularly warm ones from 10/9-11, making the monthly average temperature fall well above average. November brought a dip in precipitation. All told, a lack of cold fronts during migration season did nothing to aid raptor or passerine migration.

A **Cackling Goose** first discovered at EL 11/20 (MM) was observed and photographed by at least four other birders over the course of the next two days. A single individual was also seen at RCSP 10/17 among a flock of Canada Geese (AG). **Mute Swans** continue to frequent the pond at Liseter and were reported 9/11 (BR) and 9/20 (MM). The only report of **Blue-winged Teal** came from JHNWR 9/18 (AG). A **Common Merganser** flew over RTP 9/20 (JM). A **Red-throated Loon** was a good find on the DR at FM 11/9 (AG). A total of 10 **Common Loon** flyovers were reported from RTP by hawkwatchers on five dates 10/12-11/19 (m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from JHNWR 9/5 (AG) and CCR 11/11 and 11/14 (MM).

There was a single report of **Least Bittern** at JHNWR 8/31 (JMc). **Little Blue Herons** were reported at JHNWR 9/13 and 9/21 (JMc). One immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at JHNWR 8/26 (JMc) and an early morning flyover at RTP 9/16 (AG) were the only reports of this species. Probably the same individual **Tricolored Heron** was encountered 8/18 and 8/23 while canoeing JHNWR (JMc). A single **Glossy Ibis** was at JHNWR 8/9 and again 8/15 (JMc).

The RTP hawkwatch was staffed daily 9/1-11/19 for about 495 total observation hours. Hawk migration through *Delaware* was below average for virtually all species. Most notably, the **Osprey** count did not even break 100, with only 96 migrants tallied, the lowest in the 17-year history at this location. The 373 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were also the lowest count ever, at about one-third of the expected number. A single imm. **Golden Eagle** was nicely photographed 11/10 (JM). The same observer also photographed the other "best bird", an imm. **Mississippi Kite** 9/20 (JM), fitting payment for the long hours he put in staring at the sky. The kite was seen twice from the hawkwatch that day. The highest count for **Broad-winged Hawks** was made 9/22 (JM, MC) when 1351 passed. The seasonal total for this species was 2343, below average but higher than the previous three years. Counters that day also tallied 37 **American Kestrels**, whose seasonal total of 158 was about the same as the average of 162 from the past 10 years when the dip in kestrel numbers first began. Positive news was the **Peregrine Falcon** count of 24, continuing the trend of the past two years in which Peregrine numbers were above their yearly average of 19. The overall raptor count of 4737, although an improvement over the past three years, was still below all other previous years' totals.

An incidental report of a **Virginia Rail** 10/16 from Widener University

(AM) was within the correct time frame to have been a misguided youngster or migrant. Two **Sora** at JHNWR 9/15 at the new boardwalk responded to call imitations (JMc). Likely one of these birds was reported 9/17 (DO) and 9/18 (AG) at the same location.

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were found along the DR at FM 9/6 (AG). A canoe trip along Darby Creek at JHNWR 8/25 produced a high count of 12 **Semipalmated Plover**. This species was reported 8/18-9/8 at that location (m.ob.). A lone **Sanderling** was on the DR at FM 8/23 (AG, JMc) and again 9/4 (AG). Seven **Dunlin** were also at this location 10/19 (AG) and 10 were there 11/5 (AG) on a sandbar. Although **Pectoral Sandpiper** is common in the impoundments at JHNWR on the *Philadelphia* side, a single bird was found only twice in *Delaware*, at JHNWR 8/23 (JMc) and at the DR at FM 9/6 (AG). A single **Western Sandpiper** was foraging with about 150 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** along Darby Creek mudflats at JHNWR 8/18 (JMc). One **Short-billed Dowitcher** along the DR at FM 9/6 (AG) was a good bird for this region. An evening **American Woodcock** flyover in Edgmont 10/25 (Kate Garchinsky) and one flushed from the meadow at EA 11/16 (WS) were the only reports of this species, which generally escapes detection except during spring display flights. A **Wilson's Phalarope** along the DR at FM 9/10 (AG) was notable. Late lingerers included 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at WILL 10/10 (KG) and a **Greater Yellowlegs** still at JHNWR 11/30 (JMc). The latter species was also noted as a flyover at RTPHW 11/2 (AG, DE) and 11/10 (JM).

Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** along the DR at FM 11/9 (AG) corresponded with a large number seen in nearby *Philadelphia* that day. Terns are uncommon county-wide but wander the DR and nearby JHNWR. The last report of **Caspian Tern** was from the latter location 11/2 (JMc), and six **Forster's Terns** at FM 11/9 represented the last report of that species. A **Black Tern** flying downriver at FM 8/23 (AG) was the only individual of this unusual species reported for *Delaware*.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** that flew over the highway and landed in a tree next to the Philadelphia Diner was a nice surprise 9/7 (RF). The only other report was of a calling bird in Swarthmore 9/27 (SO). **Barred Owl** was reported only once from its usual location BT at RCSP 8/31 (BQ). **Common Nighthawk** migration generally runs from mid-Aug to mid-Sep with a peak at the end of Aug. The highest single day total from the daily evening watch at HC was 630 on 8/31, although 9/3 also saw a respectable total of 277 (SJ, KJ). Overall, though, there were fewer big nights than usual and the seasonal total of 1961 was on the low side. Nighthawks continued to be reported in the latter half of Sep with the last county report from RTP 10/5 (JM). A juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** flew by RTP 10/5 (BR).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on the BT at RCSP 8/24 (AG) was the single *Delaware* report. Fall *Empidonax* are tricky but **Traill's** was noted on the BT at RCSP 8/28 (BR), and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported 9/1 on the BT at RCSP (AG) and 9/2 at WILL (JMc). Three **Least Flycatchers** were reported 8/26, 2 from NGM (JS) and one from a Wallingford yard (DO). One was reported from a Springfield yard 9/1 (AB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported only once, from the stable area at RCSP 9/8 (JMc). **Philadelphia Vireo** was at the Morton Homestead in Norwood 9/6 (JMc), at WILL 9/10 (DO), and at RCSP 9/16 (AR).

Common Raven is no longer a rarity in *Delaware*, and there were multiple reports from various observers and locations this season. As of 1997, there were only four records of single birds in the county, but an influx began in 2012 and has continued with reports now regular throughout the year. One individual from a group of 16 late **Rough-winged Swallows** at JHNWR strayed into *Delaware* airspace 11/29 (JMc). A flock of about 60 **Tree Swallows** over DCCC 11/7 was also late (BB), as were 7 the next day over RTP (JM). A single **Cliff Swallow** was reported from JHNWR 8/25 (JMc).

Four **Gray-cheeked Thrush** flight calls over RTP the morning of 9/16 (AG) was a high count; one flight call was also heard from that location 9/25 (AB, DB). Eyes were laid on this species 9/29 at the Linvill Trails (JMc), unfortunately that bird was apparently injured and could not fly. Last was one in CW 10/1 (DE). Five **American Pipits** were at RCSP 10/17 (AG), one was found on sand spit mudflats on the DR at FM 10/21 (JMc), and 2 flew over RTP 11/15 (HM).

Thirty-one species of warbler and one hybrid were reported. Among the more unusual at the BT at RCSP were **Worm-eating Warbler** 9/1 (AG),

Golden-winged Warbler 8/27 (AG, DE), and **Brewster's Warbler** 9/3 (JMc, AG). The **Philadelphia JHNWR Prothonotary Warbler** strayed into Delaware at least once 8/26 (JMc). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at JHNWR 10/27 and 11/17, both times in the new wetlands (JMc). A **Connecticut Warbler** at BSES 9/15 (BQ) posed for photographs and represented species #122 for that location. **Mourning Warbler** showed up at WILL 8/27 (JMc) and 9/9 (JMc); **Wilson's Warbler** was there on the latter date as well. The only report of **Hooded Warbler** came from NGM 9/2 (JM), and there was but a single **Prairie Warbler** reported, at JHNWR 8/26 (JMc). A late **Palm Warbler** was at HC 11/18 (SJ).

American Tree Sparrow was first reported from JHNWR 11/18 (JMc). **Fox Sparrows** were few in number during their expected arrival time at the beginning of Nov, with one report from DCCC 11/14 (BB) and a report of 2 from JHNWR 11/17 (JMc). **White-crowned Sparrow** is always uncommon, but LT hosted an immature hanging out at the edge of the pumpkin patch 9/29 (AG) and 9/30 (JMc) and JHNWR produced an immature 11/17 (JMc). A **Vesper Sparrow** at Barrett's Meadow 10/22 (BB) and one at EA 10/26 (WS) were uncommon migrants passing in their usual window.

A **Blue Grosbeak** 10/5 (JMc) and a **Dickcissel** 10/13 (AR) were good finds at JHNWR. **Bobolinks** frequented their usual migration location at JHNWR from mid-Aug to mid-Sep where a high count of 45 was reached on 9/8 (JMc, AG). A single bird at WILL 8/27 (JMc), a flyover flock of 14 at HC 9/9 (SJ, KJ), and a single flyover at RCSP 9/10 (AG) rounded out the sightings. **Eastern Meadowlark** was found only at LT 9/30 (JMc). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from RCSP 11/17 (CS) and single birds were at JHNWR 10/27 and 11/2 (JMc). Winter finches remained absent except for a lone report of one **Purple Finch** from a Springfield yard 10/7 (AB).

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Elk County

Locations: Allegheny NF--Buzsard Swamp (BS), East Branch Lake (EBL), Jones Twp. (JT), SGL 311--Porcupine Hollow (PH), SGL 311--Winslow Hill (WH).

Waterfowl reports were in short supply with only four species reported, and Mallard was missed altogether. Notable reports included a total of 3 **Tundra Swans** at BS 11/9 (JL), and the family of 20 **Common Mergansers** at EBL 8/3 (BB), likely continuing from the summer. A fairly hard bird to come by in the county, **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported from BS 11/9 (JL). The more commonly found **Ruffed Grouse** was present at JT throughout the season, where they are regularly encountered. **Double-Crested Cormorants** were found at their regular location of EBL in Aug with a high of 5 on 8/10 (BB). More out of place was one flying over WH 9/24 (LS). The only **Green Heron** reported was a single bird flying over at night 8/26 (BB). The **Ospreys** at EBL remained until at least 9/4 when 3 were seen (BB). A **Northern Harrier** was at WH 8/11 (MJ), and **Bald Eagles** were found at four locations across the county (m.ob.).

The best location to find shorebirds in Elk remains EBL where exposed mudflats appeal to the few shorebird that migrate through the area. A high count of 12 **Killdeer** was made at EBL 8/19, along with a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpipers**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and a **Greater Yellowlegs** (BB). Other reports of shorebirds included 3 **American Woodcocks** at JT 9/10 (BB), a **Wilson's Snipe** at BS 11/9 (JL), and **Solitary Sandpipers** at WH 8/7 and at EBL 8/10 (BB).

Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in good numbers in Aug, while **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were fairly scarce (BB). Owls were reported in fairly good numbers this fall. Four **Eastern Screech-Owls** were at

Benezette 9/24 (LS), and 3 were at JT 10/21 (BB). **Great Horned Owls** were at JT 9/9 and 10/21 (BB), at Benezette 9/24 (LS), and at Ridgway Twp. 11/3 (KA, AS). Reports of **Barred Owls** also came from Benezette, JT, and Ridgway Twp. (m.ob.), with a high count of 5 at Benezette 9/24 (LS). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reports, of 3 individuals, came from Ridgway Twp. 11/3 (KA, AS) and from Horton Township 11/6 (NV). **American Kestrels** were reported from their usual areas of PH 8/7, Mefferts Run Rd. 8/27 (BB), WH 10/6 (AB, MH, RH), and BS 10/8 (FM). Nice finds were reports of single **Peregrine Falcons** at WH 8/11 (MJ) and 9/11 (DP, KP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers made a nice show at JT this fall, with singles found there 9/3 and 9/10 (BB). An **Acadian Flycatcher**, a fairly difficult bird to come by in the county at any time of year, was found at JT 9/4 among a flock of warblers (BB). Another uncommon migrant, **Philadelphia Vireo**, was at JT 9/4 (BB). **Common Ravens** were found in various locations across the county (m.ob.). An interesting note about the JT area and northern Elk in general, is the amazing numbers of **Black-capped Chickadees** one can find in just a few-mile hike. On a good day, one can find over 100 **Black-capped Chickadees** at JT alone. Some individuals are likely migrants, but many are likely residents. Normally 8-14 individuals per flock can be found about every quarter mile (BB). The area is prime habitat for the species, with northern hardwoods abounding, conifer woods and plantations, and a few feeders to aid in food supply. These northern, harsher elements inhibit **Tufted Titmice** from taking up residence, which may benefit any competition they provide against the chickadees.

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** colony at JT remained in better numbers this fall compared to last year, with a nice count of 10 on 10/22 (BB). Thrushes could be heard in good numbers during nocturnal flight counts at JT, with 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and 22 **Swainson's Thrush** calls heard 9/9 (BB). Warblers showed up in decent numbers this season with the notables following. A **Northern Waterthrush** was at JT 9/9. **Tennessee Warblers** could be found at JT during Sep, and **Mourning Warblers** were also there 8/13 and 9/4. A nice count of 4 **Cape May Warblers** was made 9/4, along with a single **Bay-breasted Warbler**. Three **Northern Parulas** were also at JT 9/10. **Blackpoll Warblers** were present in good numbers at JT, with 6 on 9/4 and 5 on 9/10 (BB). An amazing count of 7 **Pine Warblers** was made at Benezette 9/24 (LS). **Wilson's Warblers** were found at JT 8/26 and 9/10 (BB).

Grasshopper Sparrows were present at their usual location of PH 8/11 (MJ). **Fox Sparrows** made appearances at JT 11/25-26 (BB). The other expected grassland sparrow usually reported, **Savannah Sparrow**, was at its stronghold of the WH area, with 4 there 8/7 (BB) and 2 there 10/6 (AB, MH, RH). One of the most exciting finds of the season was of a colony of **Dickcissels** hanging over from the breeding season at PH near WH in the reclaimed strip mines. The group tallied 7 on 8/7 (BB), and 5 were found 8/11 (MJ). On 8/7, one adult male was present with 4 adult females and 2 juveniles indicating a confirmed breeding record for this species (BB). A nice count of 30 **Bobolinks** was also made at PH 8/7 (BB). **Pine Siskins** began showing up by Nov, with 13 at JT 11/25, and an amazing count of about 100 feeding on hemlock cones at JT 11/26 (BB).

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Erie County

Locations: Sunset Point waterbird count (WC).

Despite the dry season, Lake Erie water levels remained well above normal which kept the ponds at Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park full, limiting shorebird habitat to most of the outer beaches and sand spits. The appearance of Snowy Owls 11/13-14 was only the beginning of many more owls to come later. Even though predictions indicated a crossbill invasion,

nothing had happened by the end of the fall season. The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were with a large flock of **Canada Geese** on a large Waterford pond 11/6-7 (JH). A single was observed periodically at the Fairview Business Park and Automated Devices ponds 11/9-25 (BS, et al.). The **Ross's Goose** at the Fairview Business Park seen periodically 11/22-30 was just the second county record (JS, et al.). A **Brant** flew past Sunset Point during the WC 10/28 (JM). Another **Brant** was spotted off Niagara boat launch 11/17 (GK) was thereafter seen nearly daily near the Blasco Library in Erie 11/30 (MB). Up to 9 **Cackling Geese** were at the Fairview Business Park 10/2-30 (MV, et al.), which was a record high count for the county. A female **Harlequin Duck** zipped past Sunset Point during the WC 11/29 (JM). A total of at least 11 **Red-necked Grebes** were tallied 11/9-28, mostly from Sunset Point during the WC (JM). An **Eared Grebe** was present off Niagara boat launch 11/11-26 (JB, et al.). A road-killed **American Bittern** in Millcreek Twp. was salvaged for a study skin at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Natural History Museum 11/1 (JM).

Three **American Golden Plovers** were at Gull Point 9/16 (RD), 6 were there 9/27 (RD), and one was present 10/2 (DS). The continuing two juvenile **Piping Plovers** were at Gull Point to at least 8/28 (MB, RD). A rather late **Piping Plover** flew past Sunset Point 9/28 during the WC (JM). Three **American Avocets** were at Gull Point 8/5 and a single bird was there 8/20 (RD). The 60 **Greater Yellowlegs** that took off from Gull Point 8/31 was a very high one-day count (JM, JF). A **Willet** was spotted at Gull Point 8/2 (MB). A single **Whimbrel** made landfall at Gull Point 8/12 and 2 were there the next day (RD). A **Ruddy Turnstone** at a beach in Harborcreek was rather late 11/20 (BB *fide* SS). About eight **Red Knots** were recorded at Gull Point 8/26-10/2 (RD, JM, DS). The only **White-rumped Sandpiper** was one at Gull Point 9/2 (RD). A **Purple Sandpiper** briefly landed on a breakwater 11/13 at Sunset Point during the WC before flying north towards Canada (RD, JM). Another **Purple Sandpiper** flew past Sunset Point during the waterbird count 11/22 (JM). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were at Gull Point 9/2 (RD). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was on Gull Point 8/19 (DS) and another was there 8/26 (RD). A late **Red-necked Phalarope** was well photographed and seen by many off Niagara boat launch 11/11-22 (JB, et al.). Very rare and exceptionally late was a **Least Tern** that flew past Sunset Point during the WC 10/19 (JM).

The **White-winged Dove** spotted along Dunn Valley Rd. in Summit Twp. 11/13 (SSt) provided the third *Erie* record. The first **Snowy Owl** of the season was on a rooftop in Waterford 11/13 (DW). At least four other **Snowy Owls** appeared at the east end of Presque Isle during the following days (m.ob.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was located in the pines 11/17 by our owl hunter (RD). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the east end of Gull Point Trail 9/1 (JM). The **Northern Shrike** present at Fairview Industrial Park 11/25 to the end of the period was likely the returning bird from the past several years (ST).

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Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

September remained very warm and summer-like, and the first half of October was very mild. Finally, by late October seasonal temperatures arrived. There were only a few days with rain producing some waterfowl stopping over.

GRL produced the following 11/6-7: 43 **Tundra Swans**, 14 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 13 **Lesser Scaup**, 39 **Bufflehead**, 18 **Common Loons**, 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** and a **Double-crested Cormorant** (GS, KB). Thirty **Common Mergansers** were at Ohiopyle 9/19 (JL). A flock of 53 **Double-crested Cormorants** was at GRL 11/5 (MD). An **Osprey** was at Confluence 9/19 (JL) and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a nice find at SGL

51 on 8/28 (AP). This species is probably resident in the county but few reports are received. Rains on 10/29 produced some migrants at GRL including a **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Black-bellied Plover** (ST). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were also present at GRL that day, an uncommon but regular migrant in the county (ST).

A visit to SGL 51 on 8/28 produced the following: **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Indigo Bunting** and **Baltimore Oriole** (AP). A **Hooded Warbler** was reported at Ohiopyle State Park 9/19 (JL). A **Magnolia Warbler** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** were found at Confluence that day (JL). A flock of 500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was found in Springfield Twp. 11/9 (TB).

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Lighthouse Island (LI), Tionesta (TI).

There were 125 species reported this fall in *Forest*. Highlights included **Cattle Egret**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, and **Rusty Blackbird**.

A **Cattle Egret** was spotted by a local farmer in the Redbrush area 11/3 (TA). A male **Northern Harrier**, a species of special concern, was a nice find at BS 8/15 (CE). There is little habitat for shorebirds in *Forest*, so a **Solitary Sandpiper** at BS 8/15 was worthy of mention (CE). The only gull reported was a **Ring-billed Gull** at BS 11/9 (JL). An uncommon migrant that appears to be increasing, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was near Minister Creek 9/13 (JS). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at LI 9/29 (KS), and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Kingsley Twp. in the ANF 9/17 (ID, AS, et al.). **Philadelphia Vireo** was also at the ANF 9/17 (MSM, CH, SD, AS, ID) and 9/22 near TI (FM).

Warbler migration was better than usual, with 23 species including a few that are seldom reported. **Blue-winged Warblers** were seen at West Hickory 9/1 (KS) and near Minister Creek 9/6 (JS). The only **Mourning Warbler** was near Minister Creek 8/9 (JS). **Palm Warbler** was at LI 10/3 (KS). A **Prairie Warbler** was noted near Minister Creek 9/6 (JS). **Lincoln's Sparrow**, although a regular migrant, is not frequently observed. Sightings 9/29 and 10/3 at LI and 10/1 at the Rte. 62 Wildlife Viewing Area (KS) were significant. The **Rusty Blackbird** population has been experiencing a sharp and mysterious decline, so the fact that at least a few were spotted in *Forest* this season was welcome. Three were observed at Marienville 11/17 (JB) and one was noted at LI 9/29 and 11/25 (KS).

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Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRRP).

The highlight of the fall was a period of exceptional shorebirding during the last week of August and the first week of September. Shorebird habitat was minimal through most of the month of August; however, lack of rain at Kriner Road created exceptional exposed shoreline there, and persistent thunderstorms that hit the Scotland area caused a normally summer dry

pasture to be wet and muddy at Two Turn Road. Many birders enjoyed the long staying **American Avocet**, **Sanderling**, and **Red-necked Phalarope** at KRRP and multiple **Stilt Sandpipers** along Two Turn Road. Also seen during this time were **Upland Sandpiper**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Phalarope**.

After a slow start, waterfowl migration picked up a bit in Nov. An early **Snow Goose** was at KRRP 9/29 (CG, BO), and a **Cackling Goose** was at KRRP 10/3 (CG). Additional sightings of a single Snow Goose were at Mountain Brook Road pond 11/9 (CG), in flight on Loudon Road 11/10 (BO), and at Little Dipper Pond 11/11 (CG, BO). Additional sightings of Cackling Goose were three at GRRE 10/8 (CG), and a single bird at KRRP 11/13 (CG). Eight **Greater White-fronted Geese** made a lengthy stay at Keefer Road pond 11/20-30 (CB, CG, BO, m.ob.). Reports of **Tundra Swan** were few but included sightings of 57 at Means Hollow Road near Shippensburg 11/9 (SK), 26 at GRRE 11/9 (BO), and a single bird at GRRE 11/17 (CG). A **Surf Scoter** was at BEFA 11/11 (BO). Other somewhat notable waterfowl sightings included 2 long-staying **Northern Shovelers** at KRRP 10/21-11/30 (CG), a **Greater Scaup** at Long Lane pond 11/9 (CG), and 12 **Ruddy Ducks** at Long Lane pond 11/9 (CG). Early **Pied-billed Grebes** were at GRRE 8/7 (CG) and at KRRP 8/17 (VB). Surprisingly, there were no reports of loons during the period. A flyover **Sandhill Crane** rattling its call over the tree tops in Michaux State Forest 11/27 (BO) was interesting.

Shorebirds were the leading story of the period. Typical late-season **American Golden-Plovers** were at GRRE 9/23 (CG) and 10/3-4 (CG, BO). An **American Avocet** was at GRRE 8/24 (CG, DG), and one put down at KRRP 8/27 and continued there through 9/3 (JD, SD, JL, BO, m.ob.). An **Upland Sandpiper** was photographed at Portico Rd. 8/1 (DC), and one was at GRRE 8/27 (CG). Single **Baird's Sandpipers** were at GRRE 8/18 (CG, BO), 9/3 (CG), and 9/7 (CG). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at GRRE 8/21 (CG), and daily counts of up to 4 were in a muddy pasture along Two Turn Road 8/31-9/7 (BO, BK, VG, m.ob.). After a large band of heavy storms moved through, an amazing count of 18 **Stilt Sandpipers** were feeding in this pasture 9/5 (BO). A **Sanderling** was present at KRRP 8/24-30 (CG, BO, m.ob.). Late migrants included a **Greater Yellowlegs** at GRRE 11/5 (CG) and 3 **Dunlin** at GRRE 11/5 (CG). Phalaropes got into the act at KRRP, where a long-staying **Red-necked Phalarope** was present 8/26-31 (DK, CG, m.ob.), and a **Wilson's Phalarope** stopped over briefly 9/6 (DC) and was documented by photo.

Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GRRE 11/1 (CG), and large numbers were found there 11/9 with the count building from 70 early in the day to 120 in late afternoon (CG, BO). **Black Terns** were sighted at GRRE 8/13-16 (CG, BO, VB, NM) and 9/3 (CG). The local **Eurasian Collared-Dove** population at GRRE was not recorded in numbers typical of late summer and early fall seasons in recent past years. The highest reported count this year was 27 compared to a range of 50-125 in previous years (CG).

A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at CSP 10/10 (BO). **Common Nighthawks** migrated through from mid-Aug to mid-Sep with high counts of 70 at Fayetteville-Conocodell 8/24 (DD) and 22 at Caledonia 9/14 (BO). At least 300 **Chimney Swifts** circled at sunset and flew into a chimney on 2nd Street in Chambersburg 8/21 (BO), repeating the timing of a similar observation the previous year. Sightings of **Merlin** were made along the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Path Valley 8/11 (AP), along Fisher Rd. southwest of Chambersburg 8/15 (KC), and in Horse Valley 10/8 (BO). Increased frequency of sightings of **Peregrine Falcon** continued, with reports at GRRE 9/10, 9/19, 10/15, and 10/23 (CG), in downtown Chambersburg 9/28, 10/5, and 11/18 (BO, BK, VG), and at BEFA 10/24 (BO).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Heisey Road Orchard 9/15 (BO). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sightings in Michaux State Forest were made along Ridge Road 8/15 and 9/15-17 (BO, SS, PSO); 2 birds were photographed interacting during a PSO annual meeting field trip 9/17. GRRE continued as a great location for migrating swallows, both in variety and number. Reports included 6 **Bank Swallows** and 277 **Tree Swallows** 8/18, all eastern swallow species 8/30, over 700 **Tree Swallows** 9/23, and over 200 **Tree Swallows** 10/14 (CG).

The late migration of *Catharus* thrushes was reflected by reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/16 and 10/22 and **Swainson's Thrush** 9/25,

9/30, 10/5, and 10/22 in a yard in Green Knolls (VB). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** and 4 **Swainson's Thrushes** were feeding on the fruit of black tupelo at Caledonia State Park 10/10 (BO). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found throughout Oct, with 2 at Bender's Farm 10/7 (BO), 2 in Horse Valley 10/7 (BO), one at Bender's Farm 10/8 (BO), and one at Creekside-Menno Haven 10/20 and 10/22 (BO). A late **Scarlet Tanager** was at Caledonia State Park 10/10 (BO). This summer's eastward irruption of **Dickcissel**, due to drought in the Midwest, carried over into Aug, with sightings at Portico Rd. and Boundary Rd. 8/1 (DC) and in Lurgan Twp. 8/1 (SK).

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Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap State Park (CG), State Game Lands 124 (SGL 124), Valley-Hi Eagle Lake (EL), German Lane (GL), Haines-Seville Wetlands (HSW), Blairs Hill Road (BR).

This season's highlights were two **Ruffed Grouse**, a **Connecticut Warbler**, and a **Bay-breasted Warbler**. The **Ruffed Grouse** were spotted at CG near the Tuscarora Ridge 10/6 (AS). The **Connecticut Warbler** was at HSW 9/17 (MD), seen briefly but at close range south of the trail near the southwest corner of the impoundment. The **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at a residence along BHR 9/12 (CF).

SGL 124 was a good place to observe raptors during the fall season. A **Bald Eagle**, an **American Kestrel**, and 2 **Northern Harriers** were among the highlights at Dickey's Mt., SGL 124 on 10/28 (JS). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were at VHL 10/15 (RK), the only reports of either species to eBird for *Fulton* this season.

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Greene County

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

A flock of **Tundra Swans** flew over LCR 11/8 (MLP). Last **Wood Ducks** at EV were noted 9/24 (MH). At RSP a **Great Egret** was at RSP 8/28 (AL) to 8/30 (MM, BD, RL), and a **Green Heron** was last reported there 9/7 (AL). A **Bald Eagle** was seen flying around RSP 10/14 (AL), and a **Northern Harrier** flew over during a walk at EV 11/8 (MH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at SGL 223 in Whiteley Twp. 9/29 (TR). In Center Twp. a leucistic immature **Red-tailed Hawk** with one black feather in tail was sighted 8/20 (KK). Three **Killdeer** were still in Whiteley Twp. 10/20 (KC, MB).

Shorebirds at RSP included **Least Sandpiper** 8/20 (MD) and **Solitary Sandpiper** 9/7 (AL). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted at RSP 8/20 (MD). At CL, **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** were heard calling throughout the period (RA, LA). Near BF, many **Common Nighthawks** were seen consistently in mid-Sep (CDB). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at EV was last reported 10/1 (MH). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was working on an apple tree in the yard at LCR 10/23 (MLP).

Eastern Phoebe was sighted in Whiteley Twp. 10/20 (KC, MB). RSP was site of the last reported **White-eyed Vireo** 9/21 (AL). Last **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** at EV were both noted 9/19 (MH), and **Warbling Vireo** was last heard at RSP 9/17 (AL). Last **Purple Martin** at BF were seen 8/20 (CDB, LB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted in

Greensboro 9/11 (MW). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was almost close enough to reach out and touch at EV 11/9 (MH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was in Perry Twp. 10/15 (GK, MAK). A **Wood Thrush** was at EF 9/26 (AL), and the last reported **Gray Catbird** was in JT 10/11 (BD, RL).

Last dates for warblers at EV included **Ovenbird** and **Nashville Warbler** 9/24, **Magnolia Warbler** 9/25, and **Connecticut Warbler** 9/17 (MH). At JT, last dates for **Palm Warbler** was 9/29 and for **American Redstart** and **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 9/9 (RL, BD). Last **Common Yellowthroat** at EF was 9/26 (AL). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in JT 9/8 (MM). A **Scarlet Tanager** stayed at EV until 9/25 (MH). **Eastern Meadowlark** was in Morgan Twp. 9/30, as was a large flock of **Common Grackles** 11/2 (KK).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Greenwood Furnace SP (GF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock SF (RSF), SGL 112/Mill Creek Rd. (SGL 112), SGL 322 on Petersburg Pike (SGL 322), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Smithfield (SF), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Tussey Mt. (TM).

The weather swung from a cool August to a very warm October and then back below normal for November. At Huntingdon, October was the extreme month at 5°F above average; August and November were both 3°F below average. Total precipitation at Huntingdon was 2.6 inches below average, with only October seeing above average rainfall. The most notable find of the season was the likely nesting of **Least Bittern**.

A **Ross's Goose** at OC and SF 11/25-27 provided the second county record (GG, RG, et al.). Waterfowl on lakes and rivers were scarce, as usual in fall. Good late counts of **Hooded Mergansers**, which continue to increase in number, included 25 at BA 11/15 (KS) and 18 at CM 11/25 (GG).

Waterbird passage over SMHW was weaker than usual. Top **Tundra Swans** counts were modest, with flocks of 50-60 on 11/6 and 11/8 (DK, NB, GG). The high day for **Common Loon** was 53 on 11/19 (NB, GG). Good flocks of **Double-crested Cormorants** were tallied 10/26 and 11/4, with 236 and 306, respectively (TK, NB, et al.). Away from the hawk watch, 200 **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen in passage above RL 11/5 (GG).

Over the course of five trips 8/8-31, minimally one adult and 2 immature **Least Bitterns** were observed at the CM wetland (GG, LG, DG). Video of one young bird was obtained 8/9 (LG). Although not absolute confirmation of breeding, it seems highly likely that nesting occurred at this location, which would be the first in *Huntingdon* since the first BBA in the 1980s (but not at the CM location).

An **American Bittern** was at that same wetland near CM 10/12 and 10/16 (GG, DK). Interestingly, both bittern species were recorded in eBird for the fall season at that small wetland in central Pennsylvania, but nowhere else in the state between the southeast corner and *Crawford* in the northwest. After many years of increasing summer presence in the county, it was surprising that not one dispersing post-breeding Great Egret was reported through the summer and early fall. A night-heron not identified to species was found at RL 8/14 (KR).

Stone Mt. hawk watch results are summarized elsewhere in this issue. Observations began in 1995. On the positive side, **Bald Eagles** (158) and **Golden Eagles** (138) had their second and third highest seasonal counts ever, respectively. The **Broad-winged Hawk** total of 2445 was third highest ever. However, other common species were low, especially **Osprey**,

Sharp-shinned Hawk, **Cooper's Hawk**, and **Red-tailed Hawk**, all of which had totals among their three lowest ever. Only one **Northern Goshawk** was recorded, another record low. To varying degrees depending on species, poor numbers were probably the result of lack of cold fronts and northwest or west wind during usual peak flight periods. For some raptors, particularly Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks, an increased tendency to stay north may play a role in reduced numbers in recent years.

Shorebird species included four plovers and seven sandpipers. The following notable reports were all from the fields at PF. Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were found 10/9 (JK, m.ob., ph.) and up to 24 **American Golden Plovers** were present following rain 9/4-8 (JK, m.ob., ph). Both of those big plovers are found only every few years in the county. Up to 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were present 8/19-20 (JK, JV). **Killdeer** were present constantly, often in large numbers (m.ob.); the high count was 140 on 9/13 (JV). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found 10/11 (JK). Elsewhere, 9 **Dunlins** were photographed over SMHW 11/4 (NB). A flock of 25 **Bonaparte's Gulls** flew over SMHW 10/30 (NB, DK), and 20 were at RL 11/18 (GG).

The highest count of **Common Nighthawks** was at SF, a modest 12 on 8/30 (RL). Counts of up to 4 were recorded in SV on four occasions 8/28-9/15 (DW, BS). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** appeared to settle in for fall (and maybe winter) in a recently logged area of SGL 322, where scattered tall trees remain, including some oaks. Two adults were seen 10/24 (GG) and an immature 10/7 and 10/27 (GG, DG). Single Red-heads flew by SMHW 9/15 (NB) and 10/5 (TK, JD). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** report was of 3 at GF 9/26 (NB). **Peregrine Falcons** are not often reported in *Huntingdon* away from hawk watches. One at PF 9/8-9 was nicely photographed (JK, JC, MN); another was there 10/6 at the peak of Peregrine migration, perhaps attracted by the Killdeer flock (JK, AS, MB).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported three times, about average: SGL 112 on 8/24 (GG, DG), Red Rose Rd. 9/14 (JK), and SCEC 9/27 (DW, JK, et al.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found six times, more than usual (m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireos** were about average, found in RSF 9/14 (NB), at SGL 322 on 9/21 (GG, DG), at SMHW 9/29 (JK), and on SCR 10/4 (DG).

At SMHW, there was heavy passage of **Tree Swallows** through much of Oct. During the period 10/3-10, counters tallied 4337, with a high of 1491 on 10/7. These numbers are no doubt well below actual numbers as counters obviously focus on raptors; many swallows were beyond unaided vision, noted only when scanning with binoculars. Tree Swallows were recorded until at least 10/26, with a count of 246 as late as 10/24 (m.ob.). **Marsh Wrens** are rare but nearly annual in fall. One was near Marklesburg 9/27 (KS, CY, LF), and on 10/12 singles were at both OC and CM (GG). Not always reported, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were on TM 9/18 and at GF 10/14 (NB).

Twenty-five warbler species were recorded. **Cape May** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were noticeably numerous, perhaps because of increased spruce budworm infestation in Canada. Aside from common species, the following were reported only a few times: **Louisiana Waterthrush** (one report), **Northern Waterthrush** (3), **Northern Parula** (2), **Prairie Warbler** (one), and **Canada Warbler** (one). Surprising were 2 late **Palm Warblers** at SMHW 11/2-3 (GG, JD).

Oddly, no American Tree Sparrows had been reported by the end of Nov. The first **Fox Sparrows** were 3 at SCEC 11/4 (DW). Up to 3 **Vesper Sparrows** were in the fields at PF 9/8-13 (JK, JC, MN, JV). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were present at OC 9/23-10/5, with conservative high counts of 4 birds (GG, DG). Many **Swamp Sparrows** stop-over at OC during migration; good numbers were present through Oct, with highs of 25 on 10/5 and 18 on 10/23 (GG, RL, MN). Few **Bobolinks** are found in fall; a nice count of 6 was made at PF 9/5 (EZ) following one the previous day (JK). A good flock of 55 **Rusty Blackbirds** was at Marklesburg 11/16 (KS). Two at SCEC 10/4 were the first reported for the season (DW).

One note not related to birds: monarch butterflies at SMHW seemed to be above average in number and were seen late, with 5 on 10/25, 2 on 11/3, and one on 11/6. There were 11 days when 20 or more were counted—keeping in mind there is often only one spotter and the focus is on finding raptors. High monarch counts were 76 on 10/8 and 59 on 9/20.

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Indiana County

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

A flock of 7 **Snow Geese** visited Timber Lake 11/22 (AB, DB, RW). These were the first reported in the county since 11/23/2014 (MH, RH) when one was sighted at YC. First **Tundra Swans** were heard overhead 11/3 (DaMo) after dark and next appeared at YC 11/7 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH). Later that day a flock flew over a home near LV (MC). The largest flock was 88 individuals over YC 11/14 (LC, SD, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK). Hemlock Lake yielded the season's first **Blue-winged Teal** 8/17 (AK, JK). Two **Northern Shovelers** in Little Yellow Cove at YC were first arrivals 9/7 (JaP, JP); two days later (RC, DK) 3 were counted at the same location. These were the only reports of shoveler this fall. **Godwits** arrived 10/10 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM) and were present in small numbers through the end of the season. A flock of about 100 **American Wigeons** at YC 10/29 (MH, RH) set the record for the third highest fall count. Previous highs were 212 on 10/31/2012 (BC, BM) and 188 on 10/20/1996 (GL). First **Northern Pintail** appeared at YC 9/23 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, LM, DM, KT), representing the third earliest date on record. The earliest was 9/15/1992 (MH, GL, GS, LW). A **Green-winged Teal** 9/23 (HM) at YC was first.

A single **Redhead** 11/25 (MD), amazingly, comprised the entire report for this species. **Ring-necked Duck** maxima at YC were low: 11 on 11/1 (MH, RH) and a mere 12 on 11/14 (LC, SD et al). Top count of **Lesser Scaup** was 15 on both 11/19 (RL) and 11/25 (MD). Two **Surf Scoters** were listed at YC between 10/31 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) and 11/7 (LC, PF, et al.); one was still present 11/14 (LC, SD, et al.). The most recent Surf Scoter prior was present only one day four years ago on 11/5/2013. A scoter trifacta occurred at YC 11/3 (LC) with reports of 3 Surf, 2 **White-winged Scoters**, and 3 **Black Scoters**. The 2 White-winged remained through 11/7 (LC, PF et al); the previous White-winged Scoter was seen 11/25/2014 (TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, EY). Six **Black Scoters**, one drake and 5 hens, were present at YC 10/29 (MH, RH), and 2 hens lingered through 10/31 (LC, RH). This was the highest count since 10/31/2002 (MH, MS) when 16 were present. High **Bufflehead** tally was 69 on 11/7 (LC, PF, et al.). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were spotted at YC 11/14 (LC, SD et al) and 11/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM). Numbers of **Hooded Merganser** were low with the only reports of a singleton at YC 9/23 (LC, RC, et al.) and 3 near YC 11/21 (MH, RH). Top **Ruddy Duck** count was 336 on 11/7 (LC, PF et al).

A **Red-throated Loon** at YC 11/14 (LC, SD, et al.) was a nice find; 2 on 11/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM) were even better. The tally of 20 **Common Loons** 11/4 (LC) was the highest count since Hurricane Sandy in 2012 (TS). A **Great Egret** was present at YC on seven dates from 9/7 (JaP, JP) and 10/10 (LC, RC et al). A **Glossy Ibis** near Elders Ridge 9/3 (TB) was the fifth for *Indiana*. A kettle of 32 **Broad-winged Hawks** passed over YC 9/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL), the last date any were seen in the county.

Only one to 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** visited YC between 8/12 (MH, RH) and 9/5 (LC, TG, MH, DK). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was a great find 9/7 (JP); the bird lingered in Little Yellow Cove through 9/19 (LC, MH, RH) providing the fifth county record. A lone **Sanderling**, a species that does not occur every year, was reported on three dates this fall. The first two sightings, 9/28 (DKo, RM) and 10/3 (LC, PF, MH, RH, DK, JT), could possibly have been the same individual, but the third sighting 10/29 (MH, RH) was in all likelihood a different bird, as it was traveling with **Dunlin**. **Dunlin** moved through the park between 10/18 (JP) and 11/4 (3RBC, TBC) with the high of 23 on 10/29 (MH, RH). This was the highest fall count on record since Hurricane Sandy 10/31/2012 (m.ob.). Ten **Least Sandpipers** 8/15 (LC,

MH, RH, DK) was the highest eBirded count since 8/14/2015 (JH). A **White-rumped Sandpiper**, another species not reported every year, appeared in Little Yellow Cove 9/23 (LC, RC, et al.) where it remained 9/26 (PF). Only one to 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted on 12 dates between 8/19 (MH, RH) and 10/14 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** stopped at YC 8/12 and 8/19 (MH, RH), and 2 were found 8/15 (LC, MH, RH, DK). Top **Wilson's Snipe** count was 3 on 10/10 and 10/14 (LC, RC, et al.), and 10/24 (LC, TG, GL, DS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** 10/18 (ME, LS) was the latest date since 2008 (MHu). **Solitary Sandpipers** migrated through between 8/8 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, MS) and 10/18 (JP). Eight was the top **Lesser Yellowlegs** count 8/29 (TG). Twelve **Greater Yellowlegs** was the highest tally since 2010 (LC, MH, GL) and the fifth largest flock reported.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** 8/29 (TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) was only the fourth Aug record for this species and the first since 8/6/2002 (MH, JS, SS). Three **Black Terns** 8/22 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL) were a nice surprise. A single **Forster's Tern** 8/12 (MH, RH) was the only one reported.

A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** still lingered at BS 9/29 (MH, DK). It was a much better year for **Common Nighthawks** in the county. Top count was 30 in Indiana 8/20 (JaP, JP), the highest count since 8/28/2003 (SG) when 46 were tallied. Five was the top count of **Short-eared Owls** at West Lebanon 11/29 (TB, MH, RH). The last sighting of a Short-eared Owl in *Indiana* occurred eight years ago on 11/27/2009 (MVT).

An amazing 3 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at YC 8/29 (TG, MH, RH, DK, GL), the highest count ever in one county location. Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** arrived at BS 8/28 (MH, RH, FM, JM). Another was spotted there 9/4 (MH, RH, RN), and one was near LV was sighted 9/16-19 and 9/22 (MC). The only **Philadelphia Vireos** noted were single birds at BS on five dates from 9/4 (RN) to 9/29 (MH, DK) and at YC 9/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). A **Tree Swallow** at YC 11/1 (MH, RH) was only the fifth Nov record for the county. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted only near SH this fall 8/6-11/19 (MH, RH). Only 2 **Veeries** were noted: one at BS 9/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and one at IUP 9/29 (JP). BS was the only location for single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** from 9/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and 10/7 (MH, RH). **Swainson's Thrushes**, however, were spotted at five locations this fall (m.ob.).

A female **Golden-winged Warbler** was a good find at BS 9/15 (RM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still present near LV 8/12 (MC). **Rusty Blackbird** maxima included 39 near LV 11/5 (MC) and a mere 7 at YC 10/31 (LC, PF, et al.). YC hosted 18 **Pine Siskins** 11/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM), the only report.

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Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Clover (CO), Cherry Run Road (CR), Five Bridges Trail (FB), Fordham Lake (FL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Orchard Road (OR), Punxsutawney Walmart Parking Lot (PWM), R & B Lane (RL), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), State Game Lands 244 (SGL 244), Wolf Run Trail (WR).

Highlights for the period were as follows. Two **Trumpeter Swans** were on FB 9/28 (JG, TG), providing a first county record. The same two swans have been reported over the past few years in numerous locations

in south-central Pennsylvania. Six **Green-winged Teal** on FL 10/31 (AK, JK) was the high number here, and 34 **Common Mergansers** on the RB 8/10 (AK, JK) represented the highest ever recorded. One **Sanderling** in the PWM parking lot 9/18 (AK, JK) was also a county first. The 77 **White-throated Sparrows** counted on the FB 10/22 (JG, TG) was yet another high count for *Jefferson*.

Waterfowl included a high count of 54 **Canada Geese** on FL 9/28 (AK, JK), and the last **Wood Duck** on FB 9/27 (JG, TG). A **Hooded Merganser** in CC 8/25 (RD) was the only one sighted for the period. The last **Pied-billed Grebe** was on FL 10/31 (AK, JK), and the last **Double-crested Cormorant** was on FB 9/4 (JG, TG).

A high count of 23 **Turkey Vultures** was made at SGL 244 on 10/20 (DR). The last **Osprey** was on the MS 11/3 (AK, JK). Single **Northern Harriers** were noted on CR 8/19 (AK, JK), on Rte. 536 on 9/16 (AK, JK), and at CO 11/3 (DW). **Bald Eagles** were noted numerous times including many observations of the resident MS pair. **Red-shouldered Hawks** included one on the MS 10/2 (AK, JK) and one at SGL 244 on 10/2 (DR). The only **Broad-winged Hawk** noted was on the RB 8/22 (AK, JK). A lone **Spotted Sandpiper** was on the RB 8/22 (AK, JK), and two sightings of **Greater Yellowlegs** included singles on FL 9/28 (AK, JK) and 10/20 (AK, JK).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was on RL 8/6 (AS). Four **Chimney Swifts** were the last at FL 10/4 (AK, JK), and 3 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in RG 10/1 (AK, JK) represented the only sighting for the period. One **Merlin** was harassing other birds on FB 9/17 (JG, TG).

Last observations of migratory birds included one **Eastern Wood-pewee** in CC 9/12 (TK), 2 **Willow Flycatchers** at RB 8/10 (AK, JK), 2 **Eastern Phoebes** in RG 10/1 (AK, JK), one **Philadelphia Vireo** on the MS 9/21 (AK, JK), 2 **Red-eyed Vireos** on the MS 9/18 (AK, JK), 7 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on the RB 8/1 (AK, JK), 6 **Barn Swallows** over FL 9/3 (AK, JK), one **House Wren** in RG 10/15 (AK, JK), and one **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** on the FB 9/17 (JG, TG). First arrivals for the period included 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** on the RB (AK, JK), and two observations of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**: 3 on RL 10/4 (AS) and 3 on the MS 10/4 (AK, JK).

A total of 10 warbler species were reported. Last dates included 2 **Nashville Warblers** at MS 10/2 (AK, JK), one **Common Yellowthroat** at RL 10/4 (AS), one **American Redstart** on WR 8/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM), 2 **Magnolia Warblers** at MS 9/21 (AK, JK), one **Bay-breasted Warbler** RL 9/10 (AS), 3 **Chestnut-sided Warbler** RL 9/10 (AS), 4 **Blackpoll Warblers** at RL 10/4 (AS), 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at RL 10/4 (AS), 6 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at MS 10/23 (AK, JK), and 4 **Black-throated Green Warblers** at MS 9/22 (AK, JK).

The last **Chipping Sparrow** (one) and the last **Field Sparrows** (2) were on RL 10/4 (AS). The only **White-crowned Sparrow** reported was on RL 10/4 (AS). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on FB 10/22 (JG, TG) represented a new late date for *Jefferson*. Eight **Eastern Meadowlarks** on OR 10/6 (AK, JK) were the only ones reported.

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Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing at Juniata River (CC), Juniata River (JR), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), Mifflintown (MF), Oakland Mills (OM), Port Royal (PR).

Juniata saw two new county records this season. The first was the stunning **Swallow-tailed Kite** from *Snyder* that crossed into *Juniata* near Oriental Rd. 8/26 (CK). Not quite matching the kite, but a great find nevertheless and another first for the county, 6 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found near OM 11/25 and stayed into Dec (LT, CK, DB, ph).

An **American Bittern** was quite a good yard bird in MF 10/8 (E&AB, ph.). Five **Great Egrets** were on the JR at MF 9/8 (PV). A **Little Blue Heron**

was reported on the JR at PR 9/11 (*fide* AT). Among the usual few shorebird reports were a **Least Sandpiper** at CC 8/2 and a **Spotted Sandpiper** at the same location for a Big Sit 10/7-8 (CK). A **Short-eared Owl** was well described at OM 8/22 (AT, et al.). The only reported **Common Nighthawks** were 3 at CC 8/26-27 and 2 at PR 9/8 (CK).

The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in LCV 9/12 (DB). Four **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were tallied during the Big Sit at CC 10/7-8 (CK) and one was in LCV 10/16 (DB). A **Merlin** was seen three times 10/1-8 at CC (CK) and one was noted by a turkey hunter in SGL 215 on 11/4 (DK). A late **Lincoln's Sparrow** was nicely photographed near Oriental 11/17 (CF). The first breeding by **Blue Grosbeak** was confirmed at the Renno farm near Van Wert. A singing grosbeak was present there in 2016 but no breeding evidence was obtained. This summer, a male was noted carrying food and young birds were observed in early Aug (PR, CK).

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Lackawanna County

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Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd. Farm Pond (BRFP), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Ironville Community Park (ICP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Sporting Valley Turf Farm (SVTF), Susquehanna River Bainbridge Islands (SRBI), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRL), SGL 156, Susquehanna W.T.P. Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Overall weather and precipitation were fairly normal, and it was a slow season for vagrants. Any distribution notes (abundance, rarity, etc.) are in comparison to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. A total of 242 species were recorded during the period.

The BRFP held two species of rare geese for several days at the end of Nov. First, 28 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found on 11/20, which stayed through 11/23 then relocated after a freeze to AM where they remained through the end of the period (DS, m.ob.). Two of these individuals were banded, and one of these was recorded which the Bird Banding Laboratory showed to have been banded in July near Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada, making these birds of the interior North America population. Three **Ross's Geese** joined them on 11/22 (TF), and 2 continued to 11/23. **Cackling Geese** were noted at WEP and MCWMA in Nov (m.ob.), and as always, common **Canada Geese** and straggler **Snow Geese** gave *Lancaster* 5 goose sp. for Nov (m.ob.). A wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** showed up on a small farm pond near Kinzers 11/26 (ZM, m.ob.). It was the same bird seen in Apr at a golf course in *Chester*, and banding data shows that it was hatched in 2016 to the reintroduced Ontario population. The single summering **Tundra Swan** continued to at least 10/22 at MCWMA (m.ob.). Migratory birds began to appear there and a few other locations by 11/8 (m.ob.).

A single **Canvasback** at MCWMA 11/24 (BC) was the only report. A slightly early **Ring-necked Duck** mixed with the duck flocks that gather on SRCF in the fall 10/4-7 (SSc, m.ob.). Early single **Greater Scaup** and

Lesser Scaup were first reported at SRCF 8/15 (MS, m.ob.), which were last seen 9/2 and 10/8 respectively. Rare (but most commonly found in Nov) was a female-type **Black Scoter** at MCWMA 11/1 (BC). Two drake **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the SRLC 11/16 (ME). Up to 10 **Common Goldeneyes** were near Columbia on the SRLC 11/13-29 (LB, m.ob.). The breeding **Hooded Mergansers** at RFP were not reported this season, but a few were located in the vicinity of the Susquehanna R., including one at MRR 8/25 (LB) and 2 at SRCF 8/29 (SSc). Two summering **Common Mergansers** were seen on the SRLC 8/14-15 (JL, CB). Two breeding reports were also made, first of a hen with 4 ducklings 8/17 on the Conestoga River near Lancaster city (G&JD), and second of the female and up to 6 young that were reported at SFL in the summer. Counts of up to 12 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were made on the SRLC 11/11-19 (ME, m.ob.). Eight **Common Loons** on the SRLC 11/21 was a decent tally (ML).

The only **American Bittern** was at MCWMA 10/25 (MSt). A long-staying juv. **Snowy Egret** stalked SRCF 8/20-9/25 (ML, m.ob.), and an unconfirmed report was made of one at OP 8/15 (WH). The juv. **Little Blue Heron** found in late Jul at MCWMA continued to at least 9/1. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** frequented the GP for several weeks, and was last reported 8/16 (KGM, ZM). Two records of juv. **White Ibis** were made this season. The first was at MCWMA 8/3 seen flying from the *Lebanon* side into *Lancaster* (fide SF), and the second was at SRCF 8/17 (JB, MSt, ph.). **Glossy Ibis** were at the same locations, with one at SRCF 8/30 (MSt ph., EZ), and a pair at MCWMA 9/14 (BC).

A migrating **Golden Eagle** was described along the ridge at SGL 156 on 11/10 (BK). An excellent flight of 1076 **Broad-winged Hawks** was viewed at ICP 9/19 (CG). Reports of **Virginia Rail** were few, with singles at AM 8/30 (ZM, JH) and a Lancaster wet farm meadow 10/12 (DS, ZM). The latter bird was flushed by a dog and landed 20 feet up in a maple, allowing for some unique photos. **Sora** were found at 5 locations between 8/20-10/29 (m.ob.), most commonly at CGNA. A northbound **Sandhill Crane** was observed at CGNA 10/14 (ME, JS).

Once again, *Lancaster* produced on shorebirds with 27 species recorded, with SRCF holding 22. Always short-staying was an **American Avocet** at SRCF 8/20 (BC, EW, TG, m.ob.). The *Pluvialis* plovers often stop at the SRBI and the SRCF during fall migration. At these spots were up to 3 **Black-bellied Plovers** at once from 8/12-10/22 (m.ob.), and up to 7 **American Golden-Plovers** 9/3-10/3 (m.ob.). An additional pair of golden-plovers was observed on SVTF 8/30 (ML). This turf farm also held an **Upland Sandpiper** 8/25 (IG, m.ob.), and 5 Upland Sandpipers continuing from Jul were last reported 8/5 at the LA (MSc, m.ob.). **Marbled Godwit** is less than annual in the county; one put down during thunderstorms on the SRCF 8/12 (SSc ph.). Single **Ruddy Turnstone** were at the SRCF 8/23 and 10/1 (ME, m.ob.). Often solitary, **Stilt Sandpipers** were regular on the SRCF starting 8/14 (m.ob.); however, a high count of 5 came at AM 8/29 (DH). The last report was made at MCWMA 10/3. Up to 8 **Sanderlings** were counted at the SRCF or SRBI between 8/19-10/8 (m.ob.). **Dunlin** were fairly common at 4 locations 10/1-11/19 (m.ob.). Lone juv. **Baird's Sandpipers** stopped at SRCF 8/26-27, 9/3, and 10/1 (m.ob.). Eight **White-rumped Sandpipers** were counted at SRCF, and 2 were last observed 10/8. A late juv. was photographed nicely at CGNA 11/19 (JH). A juv. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** frequented the SVTF 8/22-9/7 (ZM, m.ob.). A molting adult **Western Sandpiper** appeared at SRCF 8/27 (BC, TG, EW). Only 2 reports of single **Short-billed Dowitchers** were made, at SRCF 8/29 (SSc) and MCWMA 9/27 (BC). An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found at AM 8/29-30 (DH, m.ob.). One juv. **Wilson's Phalarope** was photographed at SRCF 8/27 (BC, TG, EW).

At least 2 **Laughing Gulls** were near SRCF from the summer through 9/3, a subadult and a juv. (m.ob.). A **Least Tern** was seen at SRCF 8/23 (ME), a species not seen in the county since 2010. An excellent tally of 81 **Black Terns** was made at SRCF 8/18 (ML). An adult **Common Tern** was found at SRCF 8/23 (ME). **Forster's Terns** were common at SRCF this season, including high counts of 18 on 9/14 and 10/14 (SSc, JS, m.ob.).

Several reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were made in Aug, one on a Gap road 8/2 (PF), 2 at MCWMA 8/10 (CM) and one there 8/16 (BC). A nest of 5 young **Barn Owls** were banded 8/25 at a Groffdale farm (DS), and one was heard at a Reinholds breeding location 10/15 (BC). A **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** was heard calling at MCWMA 11/4 (BC). A

banded adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** returned to a feeder in Quarryville for the third year running, which marked the first time that this has occurred in Pennsylvania. She appeared at least by 8/14, and possibly up to two weeks earlier (fide SW). Two reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were made, one at the small farm pond near Kinzers 11/26 (BC, ME, ZM), and another in Willow Street 10/14 (WY).

Olive-sided Flycatchers are uncommon in both migrations, so one at MRR 8/25 (LB) and one at MCWMA 9/1 (BC) were notable. Roughly 10 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were represented in reports spanning 9/1-13 (m.ob.), with the majority on the ridge in the northern end of the county. The singing **Alder Flycatcher** at MCWMA continued through at least 9/23 (m.ob.). Quite a number of reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were made, of at least 15 individuals from 8/25-10/7 (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** continue to trend upward, and observations were made in all weeks but one this fall. Eight **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** lingered at SWTPWB 11/26 (EW). Spotty reports of **Bank Swallow** were made in early Oct to at least 10/6 at BI (GD, m.ob.). A few single **Cliff Swallows** were noted at various areas with migratory swallow flocks in Aug, with the final report 9/4 at CGNA (KF, m.ob.).

A lone **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at SGL 156 on 9/12 was the only representative of its kind (ML, ZM). **Marsh Wrens** were found moving down the river corridor, with one at BI 10/7 (m.ob.) one at CGNA 10/14 (ME, JS), and 2 there 10/22 (TF). A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at SWTPWB 11/26 (EW). A pair of **Snow Buntings** was observed in flight over an Upper Leacock farm 11/21 (DS).

A total of 32 warbler species were recorded in *Lancaster* this fall. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was part of a mixed feeding flock at MCWMA 8/24 (BC). Three **Connecticut Warblers** were found at SGL 156 and SFCP in a tight interval from 9/11-12 (BC, ME, ZM). **Mourning Warblers** were observed at MCWMA 9/1 (BC) and CGNA 9/11 (LB).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen at CGNA 10/11 and 10/14 (m.ob.). Interior race **Nelson's Sparrows** frequented the emergent wetlands at BI 10/1-22, with a high count of 13 on 10/15 (m.ob.). An adult **Lark Sparrow** was associating with a sparrow flock along the riverbank at SRCF 9/10 (JB, m.ob.). It represented at least the sixth county record, and has now occurred in two consecutive fall seasons. A singing **Vesper Sparrow** hung around CGNA 10/11-15 (m.ob.). A singing **Dickcissel** continued from the summer in Ephrata farmland 8/1 (BC), and another was calling in flight before dawn at MCWMA 10/3 (BC). Seven **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SFCP 11/11 (TN), and singles were found at an Oxford farm 11/27 (DS) and RFP 11/29 (DK). Several scattered reports of **Purple Finches** were made 9/29-11/8 (m.ob.). A **Pine Siskin** was reported at OR 11/3 (PF) and 3 were at MCWMA 11/18 (BC).

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Lawrence County

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

A county-record high count of 32 **Greater White-fronted Geese**, along with 2 **Snow Geese**, arrived at VR with a cold front 11/19 (MV). All of them remained the next day (JF). Ten **Tundra Swans** were at VSM 11/22 (GK, MAK), the only report this season. Four **Gadwalls** were at the former Glacial Sands gravel pond 10/29 (MV). Up to 6 **Blue-winged Teal** were at WNGM 9/4-10/1 (MV).

Eight **Double-crested Cormorants** were at VSM 8/10-18 (KP, KvP), an unusual location for them. A **Green Heron** was still hanging around

WNGM 10/1 (MV). As usual **Northern Harriers** were reported all around the northern tier of the county throughout the season (m.ob.). A **Rough-legged Hawk** arrived at Lake Road, Washington Twp. 11/19 (MV), and one was at VR 11/23 (AB). Up to 7 **Common Gallinules** were noted at WNGM (where they breed) through 10/1 (MV). First large count of wintering **Sandhill Cranes** was 58 at BS 10/30 (RN), and 43 were seen in nearby Plain Grove Twp. 11/24 (JM, LN).

The shorebird conditions at Shaner Rd. gravel pits took a turn for the worse over the summer, as the marshy end of the most productive pond was significantly altered by ongoing operations at the site, and there were next to no reports of shorebirds there this fall. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was still at the Glacial Sands gravel pond 10/11 (OM) and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at VSM 9/23 (MV). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the Glacial Sands gravel pond 10/29 (MV). First wintering **Short-eared Owl** appeared at VSM 11/17 (GK, MAK). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** remained at a residence in Hickory Twp. to 10/1 (KK).

A **Northern Shrike** appeared again at Shaner Rd. this fall, first noted 10/29 (RS) and a handful of times thereafter through Nov. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at BS 10/20 (BB). A very good count of 60 **American Pipits** was made at VSM 11/19 (ST), and 10 were at VR 11/20 (JF). Just five species of warbler were reported for the fall, as usual a result of nearly non-existent coverage of county woodlots during migration. An **Eastern Meadowlark** was hanging on at VSM 11/25 (TJ). Twelve **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in the New Wilmington area 11/22 (RW, BD). **Purple Finch** was reported throughout the season at a feeder in Harlansburg (PS).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd Ponds (FXP), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Gretna (MG), Reistville Flooded Fields (RFF), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 156, Shuey Lake (SL), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Cackling Goose** was at Lion's Lake 11/12 (P&RW). Up to 8 **Blue-winged Teal** were at FXP 8/30-31 (RR, JH, EZ), and up to 5 were there 9/6-10/2 (BC, RCM, DB, P&RW, m.ob.). Three more were seen at MLSP 9/9 (AB). A **Northern Shoveler** was fairly early at SGL 145 on 9/4 (MC). A **Red-throated Loon** provided a new county early date at MLSP 10/12 (RCM, DB).

A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** continued from 7/30 at MC to 8/3-16 (SF, TB, KB, RCM, BB, m.ob.). Two were seen there 8/17 (RCM). **Black-crowned Night-herons** were found at SDP 8/10 (P&RW) and the pond at Mine and Birch Roads 8/12 (TB, KB). A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was photographed while perched at the Lebanon YMCA 9/10 (BR). A juvenile **White Ibis** provided a fifth county record at MC 8/2-12 (SF, TN, ML, RCM, P&RW, m.ob.). It was a terrific fall for **Glossy Ibis**. Up to 10 at MC 8/3-18 (SF, TB, RCM, JL, LJ) provided the 13th county record. Single Glossy Ibis at Fredericksburg 8/5 (MD) and FXP 8/27-28 (DY, GR, TB, RCM) provided county records fourteen and fifteen. Lastly 3 at RFF 9/28-10/4 (RCM, DB, TN, m.ob.) gave us 16th county record and new county late date.

A **Northern Goshawk** was seen at MG 11/10 (RP, GT, PB). A rare "Barthelemy" plumage variant **Golden Eagle**, with white patches at the junctions of the neck and wings, was photographed at 2Mtn 10/22 (EC, SR, m.ob.).

An **American Golden-Plover** was at FXP 8/26 (BC, GR, ZM, TN). Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were at RFF 8/31-9/2 (JH, BC) and one was

there 9/11-10/2 (RCM, DH, TB, DB). Another Semipalmated Plover was at FXP 9/12 (RCM). Up to three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were fairly late at FXP 11/5-19 (SSt). Up to 5 **Western Sandpipers** were reported at FXP 8/26-28 (RCM, DB, TN, JS, AK) and 37 were reported at RFF 8/30 (RCM, DB). Up to four **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at RFF 9/24-10/2 (DHi, TB, RCM, DB). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at FXP 8/24-27 (RCM, DB, BC, GR). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was fairly late at FXP 11/1 (SSt). A single **Dunlin** was at FXP 11/1 (SSt), and 17 were there 11/5 (SSt). Their numbers dwindled to two at FXP 11/10-19 (SSt), which tied the county late date. Up to 15 **Stilt Sandpipers** were at RFF 8/29-9/21 (JH, TB, RCM, BC, F&BH, m.ob.). Up to two Stilt Sandpipers were at FXP 9/2-12 (JH, BC, P&RW, RCM), with one there 9/21 (RCM, DB). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** provided a fourth county record at RFF 8/27 (SS, RR). Presumably the same bird was reported at FXP 8/28 (RCM). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at RFF 8/30-31 (RR, JH, BC, SW), and 2 dowitchers not identified to species were seen at FXP 8/30 (SSt). A **Wilson's Snipe** provided a new county early date at FXP 8/26 (BC, RCM). Two **Wilson's Phalaropes** provided the 11th county record at FXP 8/26-27 (DY, JH, GR, ZM, TN, P&RW). The birds apparently moved to RFF, and were joined by a third Wilson's Phalarope to provide a new county high count 8/27-9/1 (RR, TB, JH, RCM, LK, m.ob.). A single Wilson's Phalarope lingered at RFF 9/7-12 (F&BH, TB, KB, RCM). A winter adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was at MLSP 10/12 (RCM, DB).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** tied the county late date at MLSP 10/14 (RCM, DB). A **Barn Owl** was seen during a deer spotlight survey at FIG 8/27 (DM, JD). A **Snowy Owl** provided county record number 18 along Killinger Rd. near Annville 11/21 (KBi, m.ob.). Likely the same juvenile bird was seen and photographed along Rte 322 east of Campbelltown 11/27 (BBo, TN, P&RW). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling in Stoney Valley late in the day, from 2Mtn 10/10 (EC, m.ob.). **Common Nighthawks** put in a good showing this fall. On 9/4, 8 were at MLSP, one was at FIG, and one was over Grantville (TB, KB). On 9/5, 11 were at 2Mtn (EC) and 3 were at CA (P&RW). Two Common Nighthawks passed by 2Mtn 9/14 (FW, m.ob.), and 4 were there 9/15 (SC, m.ob.). Three **Eastern Whip-poor-Will**s were calling along Cold Springs Rd at FIG 9/9 (TB). Two juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at ML 9/4 (TB, KB). Single **Red-headed Woodpecker** migrated past 2Mtn 9/17 (DS, m.ob.), 9/19 (EC, m.ob.), and 9/21 (FW, m.ob.). Single **Merlins** were seen at SDP 8/10 (P&RW), at SSP 9/20-22 (TB, P&RW), and at MC 10/23 (RCM, DB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at RFF 9/1 (BC) and 10/3 (RCM). One was seen at MC 10/23 (RCM, DB). A tundra Peregrine chased an **American Kestrel** at FXP 9/7 (RCM).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at GDP 8/18 (RCM, RP, DH) and nearby MG 9/8 (PB, m.ob.). They were also found at SGL 145 on 8/27 (P&RW) and 10/7 (PB). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen at CSP 9/4 (JH) and at SSP 9/8 (TB) and 9/20 (SW). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at MC 8/12 (RCM). Four **Least Flycatchers** provided a good count at CSP 9/1-4 (TB, JH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at CSP 9/4 (JH). **Common Ravens** are increasingly reported in southern Lebanon. One was found at SGL 145 on 8/12 (RCM, SH) with two there 11/10 (RP, GT, PB). Another was at Coleman's Memorial Park 11/5 (FH, JLo). Eleven Ravens provided a good count at 2Mtn 11/24 (SC, RCM). Three **Bank Swallows** were at MC 8/8 (BC, ZM), and 12 provided a good count at MLSP 8/21 (P&RW). A **House Wren** was at CA 11/2 (RCM, JHo), a new county late date. A **Marsh Wren** provided the 15th county record at SL 10/5 (IG). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** flight call was heard along Cold Springs Rd at FIG 9/9 (TB), and also along Mitchers Rd 9/9 (ZM). Two **American Pipits** were found at SGL 145 on 11/25 (JH).

A good count of 13 **Tennessee Warblers** was made at SGL 145 on 9/9 (JH). Three **Cape May Warblers** provided a new county late date at GDP 11/2 (RCM). A male **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at GDP on a rare date 11/2 (RCM). Multiple **Connecticut Warblers**, representing at least two different adults and two different first-year birds, were at SSP 9/16-29 (MC, TG, TB, P&RW, SS, JF, AW). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen in the same area of SSP 9/23 and 9/29 (AW). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were seen at CSP 9/1 (TB), at SGL 156 on 9/10 (P&RW), and at SSP 9/14 (TK).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find at FIG 10/13 (IG). Up to 17 **Savannah Sparrows** were at FIG 9/21-26 (IG), and 13 were there 10/13 (IG). Up to 8 **Grasshopper Sparrows** lingered very late, and were nicely photographed at FIG 9/21-26 (IG). Two provided a new county late date at

FIG 10/13 (IG). Two **Fox Sparrows** were seen at SGL 145 on 11/17 (GT, PB), and 11 were reported there 11/25 (JH). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at FIG 9/15 (IG), and 2 were at SSP 9/18 (TB). Up to six were at FIG 9/21-26 (IG). Four **Dark-eyed Juncos**, one a begging juvenile, provided evidence of breeding at 2Mtn 8/24 (RCM, DB).

A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** provided a new county late date at GDP 11/2 (RCM). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at MC 8/3-14 (RCM, ZM, m.ob.), and 2 were there 9/14 (BBE). Two **Dickcissels** were heard at MC 8/4 (RCM), and a calling male Dickcissel was photographed at SL 9/22 (IG, JD, TB, RPi). Two **Purple Finches** were at FIG 9/21 (IG), and another was at 2Mtn 11/7 (IG).

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Lehigh County

Total species reported in *Lehigh* this season was 175. This report benefited greatly from data submitted to eBird, as well as from information gathered from various listservs and social media platforms. Notes and totals from the 57th hawk watching season at Bake Oven Knob (BOK) were gleaned, in part, from the HMANA Hawk Watching Exchange listserv, as reported by the official BOK counter and compiler (CJ, BH respectively). Additional BOK reports came from individual observers. BOK totals in this report are unofficial, and are detailed in a separate article in *Pennsylvania Birds*.

The first **Snow Goose** flock of the season, a small one (20), was reported 11/16 at Weisenberg Township (FD). A true highlight of the season was a **Barnacle Goose** at Catasauqua 11/21 (MC). This represented just the fourth county record since 1981. This goose was presumably the same Barnacle that was subsequently found a few miles east of here in *Northampton* and seen sporadically well into Dec. **Cackling Goose** arrived 10/31 at Lake Muhlenberg (PS), and four were at Catasauqua 11/28 (MC). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at Nestle Way in Upper Macungie 9/8 (DH), and another was at the same spot 10/15 (KD). The retention pond at Nestle held a **Northern Shoveler** 9/10 (KD); this is not a commonly observed duck for the county. The first **Common Loons** (2) passed over BOK 9/22 (BP).

An immature **Little Blue Heron** was at the new storm water basin at Krock's Road in Macungie 8/6 (KD), and continued there to at least 8/30 (MC). A similar immature Little Blue Heron had been noted at nearby at Haafsville back in late Jul, and a little less nearby up in Moore Township, *Northampton* a few days earlier, so it doesn't seem like too much of a stretch to imagine that all of these "similar" immature Little Blues may have, in fact, been the same Little Blue Heron exploring the region, and finding quite a few of the better habitats over the course of about five weeks. A **Glossy Ibis** was found at Nestle Way 8/5 (MS), and seen by many observers through at least 8/8.

The max count for **Golden Eagle** at BOK (11) occurred 11/10, with 172 **Red-tailed Hawks** tallied there the same day. The best days for **Bald Eagles** at BOK were spread across the season, illustrating that the best time to see eagles in late summer and early fall is simply after a front moves through, regardless of the month. Max counts were 17 on 8/19, 21 on 8/31, 17 on 9/28, 19 on 10/16, and 26 on 10/26. A new BOK seasonal high count of 411 was established this year for Bald Eagles, beating the previous max of 388 from 2013. A curiously high total of 98 **Broad-winged Hawks** was

tallied early in the season 8/17, but this seemed to be a fairly consistent anomaly based on similar data from other regional hawkwatch sites. The max daily count for the species here this season was 2604 on 9/17, and a total of 8893 Broad-wings were recorded for the season.

At Haafsville, a **Common Gallinule** was attracted to the flooded field there, and subsequently attracted many birders to said flooded field for several days. It was first recorded and photographed 8/6 (JF). This represented one of very few county records, and perhaps the first since the late 1980s. The only shorebird highlight of the season was a pair of **Dunlin** at Nestle Way 10/22 (KD).

Near Slatington, an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** arrived 11/9, and was trapped and banded with remarkable efficiency 11/10 (JG, SL). Although vagrant fall Rufous Hummingbirds have been found nearly annually in *Lehigh* over the past decade (eight of the past nine years), what made this record particularly interesting was that the same home owners hosted an adult female Rufous Hummingbird just two years ago. This year's bird stayed well beyond the end of the fall reporting season. Up to four **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, including two juveniles, remained at their breeding territory in Heidelberg Twp. through at least late Oct (m.ob.). Up to three Red-headed Woodpeckers, including one juvenile, remained at Trexler Nature Preserve into early Aug (KD). A **Merlin** returned to Whitehall as early as 8/12 and was seen sporadically throughout the season at the same spot where it wintered last year (CS). As in recent years, **Peregrine Falcons** were reported at various sites around the county. A particularly interesting observation was of one bird very efficiently taking out an unfortunate **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the Krock's Road storm water basin 11/8 (KD). Seasonal totals for falcons at BOK were 111 **American Kestrels**, 58 **Merlins**, and 48 **Peregrine Falcons**.

Common Ravens continue to be reported from all corners of the county, including most quarries, South Mountain at the lower end of the county, and even well within the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem (m.ob.). They are fairly common at the north edge of the county along Blue Mountain, but a group of 21 at BOK 10/10 was notable (DD). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** lingered in small numbers into early November at Dorney Pond (m.ob.), but a late outlying report of 2 there 11/23 was certainly of interest (JH). Typical for the region this year by its near absence, there were only two reports of single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in the county, 10/13 at Fogelsville (MC), and 11/21 at South Mountain Preserve (CK). Twenty-one species of warblers were recorded, with no particular highlights.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a very nice find at Trexletown 11/6 (ph. KD). This was the first report in my tenure as county compiler, and seems it may be the first *Lehigh* record since 1991. Five **Lincoln's Sparrows** arrived 10/1 at SGL 205 (JL). At least one of the **Yellow-breasted Chats** that probably bred at Leaser Lake this summer lingered through 9/10 (KD), and one of the **Blue Grosbeaks** that bred a few trees to the left lingered through 9/5 (CK). A particularly curious report was of a pair of **Rusty Blackbirds** at Dorney Pond 8/31 (KD). Although quite early, the birds were well described by a careful and trusted birder, observed feeding with a flock of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and **Common Grackles**. I could find no other Aug records for this species in Pennsylvania, so if correct, as it seems to be, this may represent a new early return date for the state. The previous early fall return date for the extended Lehigh Valley region seems to be 9/25.

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Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Indian Park-Montoursville (IP), Mill Street (MS), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Route 15 Overlook (R15), Williamsport Dam (WD).

The weather this fall was unremarkable. A lack of rainfall early in the season meant very low water levels in the river and creeks. This may have contributed to the fewer shorebird reports than normal, as there was more exposed habitat for them to spread out. As usual, some storm systems caused minor fallout throughout the season. In total, 191 species were reported, a few more than past years.

A **Greater White-Fronted Goose** flew over IP 11/22 (BB, DeB, BoB). A few **Snow Geese** were seen from R15 migrating with flocks of Canada Geese 11/4 (BB, et al.). Other sightings included a flock of 34 migrating over Montoursville 11/13 (DeB) and one at Susquehanna S.P. 11/19 (BB, DeB). An early **Tundra Swan** was first seen near Muncy Boat Launch 9/2 (WE, BB, DeB, BoB), and continued through at least 9/16 (WE). The only other sightings for the season were 11/9, when a flock of 38 flew over Montoursville (DeB) and a group of 8 was seen on the water at WD (BB).

A **Blue-winged Teal** was at WD 10/9 (BB, et al.), 4 were at RVL 10/21 (SP), and 2 were at MS 10/30 (BB, DeB, BoB). The only **Northern Shoveler** reported was at CI 9/24 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Gadwall** were reported a number of times from RVL from mid-Oct through early Nov. Other sightings included 10/8 and 10/9 at WD (BB, DeB, BoB) and 11/12 at IP (BB, DeB, BoB). **American Wigeons** were seen at WD several times between late Sep and mid-Oct, along with 3 birds at Greevy Boat Launch 10/7 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 2 birds at CI 10/8 (BB, DeB, BoB). **American Black Ducks** were seen quite a few times, particularly at IP. A high count of 29 was made at a pond near Montgomery 11/19, along with a hybrid **Mallard x American Black Duck**. A male **Northern Pintail** dropped in at dusk with a flock of Mallards at WD 10/9, providing the only sighting of that species during the fall (BB, DeB, BoB). **Green-winged Teal** were at RVL 10/30 (SP), 11/5 (BB, DeB, SP), and 11/6 (EH).

A male **Canvasback** was present at WD 11/1-6 (MD, BB, et al.). Away from RVL, which had numerous sightings in Oct and Nov, the only **Ring-necked Duck** was at WD 11/3-4 (BB, et al.). **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were both reported in small numbers at RVL from mid-Oct through Nov. Two **Surf Scoters** were at RVL 10/30 (SP, et al.), and a **White-winged Scoter** was also briefly seen there that day (SP). A **Black Scoter** was at RVL 11/18-20 (SP, et al.). **Long-tailed Duck** reports were also limited to RVL, with reports from late Oct through mid-Nov. Up to 2 **Common Goldeneye** were seen at RVL during the second half of Nov (m.ob.), along with a sighting at WD 11/4 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported at RVL 11/19 (NF) and 11/24 (SP).

Common Loons weren't terribly abundant this fall, but there were a few reports at RVL in Oct and Nov, and flyover sightings at R15 in Nov. The only sighting from the river was near the Maynard St. Bridge 10/14 (MD, BB, DeB, BoB). A **Red-necked Grebe** was present at RVL 11/4-9 (SP, et al.). **Double-crested Cormorants** were present for the entire season, with some large numbers recorded, including more than 500 birds migrating over R15 on 11/4 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Great Egrets** were a little less abundant than the past few falls, but the species was still regularly seen along the river during Aug and Sep, especially near CI. There was a sighting from Greevy Boat Launch 10/14 (BB), which provided only the third ever *Lycoming* eBird record for Oct, with the previous two in 2014. One of the best birds of the fall was a juv. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at WD 10/29 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.), which provided the second known *Lycoming* record of that species, with a prior record in March 2008. The bird was seen again at dusk 11/2 (BB, MD, JD).

Black Vulture reports were similar to last fall, with fairly regular sightings throughout the entire season. Less coverage at R15 during fall migration meant lower **Golden Eagle** totals than past years, but there were still quite a few seen. Counts at R15 were 2 on 10/26 (BB, DeB, BoB), 4 on 11/8 (BB), 12 on 11/10 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 2 on 11/19 (BB, DeB). An additional 3 were seen at MS 11/19 (BB, DeB, BoB), along with one 11/27 (BB). The remaining sighting was a migrant over Montoursville 11/10 (BB). Reports of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were maybe slightly elevated, but mostly seen in the typical spots. The big day for **Broad-winged Hawks** was 448 at R15 on 9/17 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). Migrant **Red-tailed Hawks** seemed a bit low overall, but at least 6 Northern/abieticola birds were seen. A migrating **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at R15 on 11/10 (BB, DeB, BoB). The species was also reported at Mill Hill Rd. 11/20 (EZ) and 11/24

(BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). **American Coots** were fairly limited. One was at RVL 9/23 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP), another was at SGL 252 on 10/22 (BB, AK), and one was at IP 10/22-25 (BB, DeB, et al.).

Two **Dunlin** were at RVL 10/30 (SP, et al.), and around 60 dropped in at MS during a rainy 11/1 (BB, DeB, BoB), 10 of which stayed through the following day (AK, BB, DeB, BoB). It was a very quiet fall for **Least Sandpipers**, with only a single sighting of one bird at CI 9/24 (BB, DeB, BoB). **American Woodcocks** were only found at MS, with sightings 9/25 (BB, DeB, BoB), 9/26 (BB, DeB), and 10/3 (DanB). Three **Wilson's Snipes** at MS 11/2 provided the only sighting of that species during the fall (AK, BB, DeB, BoB). **Solitary Sandpipers** were observed regularly through mid-Sep, with IP particularly reliable for them. A **Greater Yellowlegs** flew over Greevy Boat Launch 8/27 (BB, DeB, BoB), and the species was also observed at MS 9/19 (BB) as well as 10/19-20 (BB, DeB, BoB). Eight birds at MS during the shorebird fallout on 11/1 provided the first Nov eBird record and all-time high count of the species in *Lycoming* (BB, DeB, BoB). Three continued to be seen the following day at the same location (AK, BB, DeB, BoB). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at IP 8/31 (BB), 9/1 (BB, DeB, BoB), and 9/3 (BB, DeB).

The bird of the fall was a flyover **Long-tailed Jaeger** at WD the evening of 8/26 (DB, MD, ph.), providing a first *Lycoming* record. The weather was calm and sunny, which is not typically what one would associate with a jaeger sighting in this area. The bird kept flying north, and was not found again. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen in small groups on numerous occasions at RVL and along the river. Reports of **Herring Gull** were limited to 2 at WD 10/22 (BB, DeB, MD), 2 at R15 on 11/8 (BB, AK, EH), and one at the Lycoming County Landfill 11/19 (BB, DeB, BoB).

Two **Caspian Terns** dropped in at WD 9/6 (BB). Three **Black Terns** were found near CI 8/18 (BB, DeB, BoB), and another one was observed at RVL the same evening (SP). This species has now been recorded three years in a row in *Lycoming*, after more than 25 years without a known sighting. That is probably more a result of increased birding effort than a reflection on the abundance of Black Terns migrating through the county.

Eastern Screech-Owls were reported from a few areas, but one was found roosting on a bridge off of Heshbon Rd. that was seen daily at the end of November, continuing through the end of the reporting period (SP, et al.). One of the best finds of the fall was a **Snowy Owl** near the Lycoming Mall 11/15 (B&SB, et al., ph.). One was reported via facebook a few miles away earlier that morning, which may have been the same bird, and there were other reports of two owls in the same area that week, but that was never confirmed. **Short-eared Owls** were seen at Mill Hill Rd. throughout Nov, including at least 6 on 11/24 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). A slightly late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a private residence north of Williamsport 10/8-10 (SP). No western vagrant hummingbirds were found during the fall. Sightings of **American Kestrel** were relatively common and widely scattered, and included a high count of 13 migrating past R15 on 9/16 (BB, DB, JY, et al.). **Merlins** continued to be seen fairly frequently, with RVL, Williamsport, and especially Montoursville having the most sightings. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in the two typical spots, WD and Muncy Boat Launch, in addition to other scattered sightings throughout the fall.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at SGL 252 on 8/27 (BB, AK, DB), and the same outing produced a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** as well. The **Acadian Flycatcher** that spent the summer at MS was reported for the last time 8/9 (D&KP). **Least Flycatchers** were fairly scarce, with observations from RVL 8/13 (BB, SP) and 9/9 (BB, SP), along with a sighting at SGL 252 on 9/24 (BB, AK). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were reported from WD 8/3 (DB, MD), 8/6 (DR), 8/12 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, MD) and 9/16 (DB, MD), but no reports were made elsewhere. **Eastern Kingbirds** were observed numerous times throughout the fall, but the last sighting for the year on 9/9 at RVL was notable because a young bird was still being fed by an adult (BB, SP).

The only report of **Yellow-throated Vireo** came from RVL 9/2 (DanB). **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen fairly regularly from mid-Sep through most of Oct, and a new late date of 10/26 was set for the species at R15 (BB, DeB, BoB, AK). A **Philadelphia Vireo** at SGL 252 on 9/10 (BB) was followed up by sightings of 2 at R15 on 9/18 (JL) and one the following day at the same location (BB, DeB, BoB, JL), along with a report outside of Montoursville 9/29 (EH). **Warbling Vireos** were reported a handful of times

at RVL during Aug and Sep, and 3 were seen at SGL 252 on 9/10 (BB). A flyover **Horned Lark** was seen at Mill Hill Rd. 11/24 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). **Bank Swallows** were only seen a handful of times. These included birds at MS 8/6 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 9/2 (BB), at Alvira Rd. 8/27 (BB), at RVL 9/2 (DanB), and at Greevy Boat Launch 9/3 (BB, DeB). Reports of other swallows were fairly typical compared to previous years.

There were a few scattered reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** throughout the season, but nowhere near as many as the fall of 2016. The high count was 7 or more at the Williamsport Water Authority 11/24 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). There were scattered reports of **Winter Wrens** throughout the season, with sightings becoming more regular in Nov. A **Marsh Wren** was found in brush along the Loyalsock Cr. at MS 10/7 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen at RVL 8/19 (BB) and 10/14 (SP). A late **Brown Thrasher** was seen at RVL 11/9 (AK). A small group of **American Pipits** was at MS 11/2 (AK, BB). The only **Snow Bunting** report came from RVL 11/18 (SP, BB, DeB, BoB).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at WD 8/27 (JY, MD, JD, DR). The only **Northern Waterthrush** was at SGL 252 on 9/25 (AK). *Lycoming's* first Oct eBird record of **Black-and-white Warbler** was made at R15 on 10/1 (BB). **Nashville Warblers** were relatively hard to come by, with just six reports throughout the fall. The biggest warbler highlight of the fall was a **Connecticut Warbler** at MS 10/2 (BB, et al.), the first for the county since 2012. **Hooded Warblers** were a bit scarce, with a single report from Little Pine S.P. 8/11 (CH). **Cape May Warblers**, on the other hand, were a bit more common than normal, with quite a few reports, many of which involved several birds. **Northern Parula** reports were limited to mid-Sep through early Oct, with several reports in that time frame. **Magnolia Warblers** were seen through mid-Oct, with the last report on 10/15 at RVL (SP). **Bay-breasted Warblers** weren't terribly abundant, but were seen a handful of times in Sep, including a high count of 4 at SGL 252 on 9/10 (BB). **Yellow Warblers** were mostly gone by Sep, although a slightly late bird was seen at CI 9/16 (BB). **Blackpoll Warblers** were not as numerous as last fall, but the species was regularly found from mid-Sep through early Oct. A late male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was near a feeder on Mahaffey Hollow Rd. in poor weather 10/29 (ph. DT). A **Pine Warbler** was seen at MS 10/13 and 10/14 (BB, DeB). The species was also seen in more expected areas earlier in the fall. **Canada Warblers** were seen at CI 9/17 (BB, DeB) and at RVL 9/18 (BB). **Wilson's Warblers** were reported a handful of times in Sep along the river and at RVL.

Fox Sparrow was at RVL 11/5 (BB, DeB, SP, NF) and 11/12 and 11/22 (SP). Other reports included MS 11/10 (BB, DeB), at least 10 at SGL 252 on 11/12 (BB, DeB, BoB), and a few at the Williamsport Water Authority 11/24-25 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were almost completely absent; the only sighting was of a somewhat early imm. at SGL 252 on 9/24 (BB, AK). Reports of **Savannah Sparrow** were limited to MS between 8/31 and 10/1. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported quite a few times, with SGL 252 a particularly good spot. At least 15 were seen there 10/1 (BB, AK). Other locations with sightings included MS, CI, RVL, and Little Pine S.P. A few **Eastern Towhees** were still hanging around at the Williamsport Water Authority 11/24-25 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB).

The only **Bobolink** was at SGL 252 on 8/27 (BB, DB, AK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** remained at MS as late as 11/2 (AK). The only **Orchard Oriole** sighted was at SGL 252 on 8/6 (BB, DB, AK). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at SGL 252 on 10/22 (BB, AK), along with 5 on 11/12 (BB, DeB, BoB). The only other fall report was 4 birds at CI 11/11 (BB, et al.). The only report of **Purple Finch** was of 6 birds at R15 on 10/26 (BB, DeB, BoB). Two **Pine Siskins** were seen at RVL 11/12 (SP). Good numbers were noted at the Williamsport Water Authority in late Nov, with 80 or more seen 11/25 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, MD).

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McKean County

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Mercer County

Locations: Buhl Park (BP), Chestnut Run, East Zahniser Road (EZR), Shenango Reservoir (CR), Clark (CL), Golden Run, Shenango Reservoir (GR), Hermitage (HE), Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Lusk Road (LR), Mahaney Recreation Area (MR), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Rattlesnake Swamp (RS), Reed's Furnace Road (RF), SGL 270 (S270), SGL 130 (S130), Sandy Lake (SL) Sharpsville (SV) Shenango Propagation Area (SP), Skunk Run Road (SKR), Stone Base Road (SB), Tower Road (TR), Triple Link (TL), Trout Island (TI), West River, Shenango Reservoir (WR), Willow Tree, Shenango Reservoir (WT), Williamson Road (WRo), Wise Road (WS).

Note that this report follows ABA checklist version 8.0.1. Warmer and drier conditions continued into the fall season with temperatures averaging 1°F above normal and precipitation 5.02" below average. There were 25 species of warblers recorded, and 16 species of shorebirds. The most intriguing sightings were of 2 **Western Grebes** at LW 11/27 and one **Pacific Loon** also at LW 11/27-29. Both would represent first *Mercer* records if accepted by PORC.

Waterfowl seemed slow this year. **Tundra Swans** included 14 at GR on 11/8 (MH, RH) and at LL 11/6-9 (NT). Only one **Northern Shoveler** was reported, at SP 8/31 (m.ob.). **Gadwall** were seen at multiple spots: EZR 11/5 (NT), one at GR 10/26 (KS), 2 at WT 10/26 (BW) and up to 13 at WR 10/15-11/13 (m.ob.) Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at S270 on 8/24 (SSc). **American Black Ducks** were found throughout Nov, starting with 6 on 11/8 at GR (MH, RH) and up to 12 on 11/15 at SP (BW). **Green-winged Teal** were reported twice: 5 at WR 10/31 (GM) and 7 there 11/4 (MV).

One **Surf Scoter** was at GR 11/8 (MH, RH). Two **Buffleheads** were at GR 11/8 (MH, RH) and up to 4 were at LW 11/27-30 (MD, m.ob.). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were at LW 11/28. Mergansers showed nicely. **Hooded Merganser** was seen from 10/9-11/27, including up to 16 at CR (BB, NT, m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** were at both Shenango Reservoir and LW 11/4-30, with up to 15 at LW and 14 at SP (m.ob.). A flyover was noted at WRo 10/29 (NT). Eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at both CL and GR 11/8 (MH/RH), and 2 were at LW from 11/27-29 (MD, m.ob.). No large flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** were found, but one was at LW 10/9-11/29 (BB, m.ob.) and up to 14 were at GR 10/26 (KS).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at GR 10/29 (SS) and another was reported in the county 11/29 (KSo). Two **Western Grebes** were reported from LW 11/27 (GE), the first for *Mercer* if accepted, and if documentation is submitted to PORC. Cuckoos were scarce. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported only on 8/15 at SP (CE), 8/25 at TL (KS, MH, BD), and 9/17 at TI (BW). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported 8/23 at SP (KS/SS), 9/1 at SP (BW), 9/23 at GR (BW) and at WR 8/8-25 (NT). A **Common Nighthawk** was noted at TI 9/3 (BW), 3 were at HE 8/29 (KS) and a nice group of 21 was at WRo (HT, NT). The only reports of rails were made at S130, with **Virginia Rail** noted 9/15 and 11/14 (NT), and **Sora** on 9/15 (NT). **Sandhill Cranes** were at RS until 11/9 (NT).

Of the 16 species of shorebirds, the **American Avocet** at S270 on 8/31 (RN) was the most noteworthy, the fifth record for *Mercer*. Virtually all shorebird reports were from either WR or SP. Curiously, shorebird migration showed records during Aug and then nothing during Sep, picking up again in mid-Oct. Up to 3 **Black-bellied Plover** were at WR from 10/8 (GM) to 11/5 (m.ob.) There was one record of **Stilt Sandpiper**, at SP 8/31 (BW). **Dunlin** put up good numbers in early Nov, with up to 68 at WR on 11/5 (GM). **Baird's Sandpiper** is always a good find. One was at SP in late Aug (MV, m.ob.). Again at WR, up to 6 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were present to 11/4 (GM, MV). Only a few **Wilson's Snipe** were found: one at SP 8/10 (KP), 3 at WR 10/8 (GM), and one at EZR 10/29 (NT). Single **Caspian Terns** showed up at CR and SP 8/15-31 (BW, KS, SS, RN). **Forster's Tern** was reported only at GR 8/29 (KS, SS).

Perhaps the bird of the season was the **Pacific Loon** at LW 11/27-29 (MD, m.ob.). Several photos were obtained of this first *Mercer* record, if accepted by PORC. **Common Loons** were well represented at GR, LW, and SL 10/9-11/29 (BB, m.ob.). Interest in the Pacific Loon resulted in good numbers of Commons found at LW. A high count of 4 was made at GR 11/8 (MH, RH). **Great Egrets** were uncommon, with up to 3 at GR 8/29-9/30 (KS, BW), 2 at WR 10/15 (GM), one at SP 9/26, and one at WRo 9/14 (NT). A **Little Blue Heron** at SP 8/10 (KP) represented the second e-Bird record for the county. A photo was added to the checklist with clearly shows LBHE. one **Green Heron** 9/7 at S130 (NT).

All 3 of the expected owls were found, **Eastern Screech-Owl** at EZR, **Great Horned Owl** at EZR, and **Barred Owl** at WRo (NT). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were noted at BP 9/28 (SS), at WRo 8/9, and at SKR 9/20 (NT). A **Merlin** was at SP 8/29 (KS, SS). Good numbers of **Eastern Phoebes** were reported throughout the period (m.ob.). **Great-crested Flycatcher** was at TL 8/25 (KS, MM, BD). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at S130 on 9/7 and one was at SKR 9/9 (NT).

Two reports of **White-eyed Vireo** were made: one at TL 8/25 (KS, BD, MM) and one at TI 9/19 (SS). Single **Blue-headed Vireos** were noted at BP 9/24, 10/7, and 10/13 (KS, SS), and at S130 on 9/22 (NT). **Philadelphia Vireo**, always a nice find, included one at HE 10/5 (KS) and one seen at various locations 9/7-9/22 (NT). Two **Purple Martins** were noted at SP 8/23-25 (CD, KS, SS), one was at LW 9/7 (NT), and one was at WRo 9/1 (NT). Swallows appeared to be mostly gone by 9/11, although 50 **Tree Swallows** were found at WRo 10/7, and 30 were at LW 10/26 (NT). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted four times: one at WS 10/18 (KS), and one at BP 11/13, 11/15, and 11/21 (SS). **Winter Wrens** were noted at BP 10/8-15 (m.ob.).

Hermit Thrush was seen 10/14 at BP (SS), **Swainson's Thrush** was at BP 9/14-25 (SS, m.ob.) and WRo 10/1 (NT), and one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SKR 9/30 (NT). **American Pipits** included 9 at WR 10/31 (GM), one at SP 11/14 (BW), and at WRo 10/15-11/1 (NT). Sparrows were scarce. Two **American Tree Sparrows** were at GR 11/2 (SS, MM, BD) and up to 3 remained to 11/25 at SP (BW). They were also at WRo 10/24 (NT). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at WRo 9/6-10/15 (NT) and one **White-crowned Sparrow** was at WRo 10/8 (NT).

Among the 25 species of warblers found were the following highlights. Up to 2 **Cape May Warblers** were at BP 9/14-10/9 (KS, SS, MH). One or 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at BP and WR (SS, KS, BD, SAH, RL). One or 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** were also at BP 9/14-10/8 (KS, SS, BD, SAH). A **Canada Warbler** was at MR 9/13 (SS). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at SKR 9/12-13 (NT). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at SKR 9/20 (NT). Quite nice was an **Eastern Palm Warbler** at WRo 10/15 (NT). **Scarlet Tanagers** were noted at BP, TI, and SV 9/14-15 (SS, KS). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was noted from 8/15-9/15 at BP, SV TI, SP, GR, and WR (KS, SS, CE). **Indigo Bunting** was only found three times: one at SP 8/13 (BW), 3 at WR 9/13 (KS), and one at EZR 9/17 (NT).

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Mifflin County

Locations: Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW) Victory Park (VP) Cooper's Gap Rd (CGR).

An uncommon sighting of a **Virginia Rail** was reported at Swarey's Orchard 9/17 (SS, AS). Observers found the bird during the last few

minutes of daylight and were able to use a hand held electric light to confirm. Uncommon but regular, a **Great Egret** was observed at VP 8/19 (JG) and 8/26 (JG, LS).

At JMHW, 618.5 hours of observation were logged, surpassing the previous high of 573 hours in 2016. The season ended 12/27, and the overall raptor count of 8014 was above the 10-year average. This was mostly due to the large **Broad-winged Hawk** flight in Sep. The season count of Broad-wings was 6088, and the one-day high count was 1209 on 9/17. Other high day counts included: 856 on 9/11, 621 on 9/12, 1167 on 9/16, and 1201 on 9/18. **Bald Eagles** were once again above 10-year average with a season count of 153. The first **Golden Eagle** of the season was observed 10/2, and the high day count was 26 on 11/19, setting the second highest one-day count. Season count of 151 Golden Eagles was just one short of the all-time season count set in 2015. Other species well above the 10-year average included: **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **American Kestrel**, and **Peregrine Falcon**. Counts for **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Osprey** (DS, et al.) were below the 10-year average.

One **Least Sandpiper** was observed at construction site outside of Reedsville 8/3 (RD). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was at VP 8/10 (RD). The shorebird highlight for the season was a flyover of 9 **Dunlins** at the Stone Mountain Hawk Watch on the *Huntingdon/Mifflin* line 11/4 (NB). Five days later, 2 individuals were found foraging in a flooded field on Roy Rd. 11/9 (JK, JZ, RD, GG). These two reports constitute the first eBird reports for *Mifflin* and possibly first records ever. Dunlins were reported in *Centre*, just north of the two locations, so it no surprise a few individuals were found.

A high count of 40 **Common Nighthawks** was noted outside the town of Burnham 9/11 (RD). **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings were reported throughout the Kishacoquillas Valley at their normal locations. A high count of 4 at Plum Bottom Farm 9/9 (JG) and 2 juveniles were observed at a new location on CGR 9/17 (RD). One **Peregrine Falcon** was observed outside JMHW in Lewistown 11/7, 11/8, and 11/14 (RD). This marked the third consecutive autumn an adult was observed at this location.

Cooper's Gap Road produced one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** CGR 9/17 (RD) and one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** CGR 9/8 and 9/16 (RD). Twenty-one species of warblers were recorded, highlighted by one **Wilson's Warbler** outside Reedsville 9/16 (RD) and one **Morning Warbler** on CGR 9/16 (RD).

A few rarely observed sparrows made appearances. One **Grasshopper Sparrow** on Renno Rd. 8/2 (RD) and a very intriguing report of a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at home on Back Mountain Rd. and Roy Rd. was made 9/24 (IB, CY), the latter representing the first county record in eBird and possibly first record ever.

One **Blue Grosbeak** continued on Middle Rd. 8/1 (DG) and 8/2 (RD). This individual was first reported 7/27 (AP). An audio recording of a **Dickcissel** was made on Renno Rd. 9/9 (JG). A **Bobolink** was spotted on Maple Grove Rd. and Barefoot Rd. 9/9 (JG). An uncommon **Orchard Oriole** was observed on Middle Rd. 8/2 (RD). Only a few reports of **Pine Siskins** were made throughout the region, mostly flyovers at nearby hawk watches. Forty-three was the high count at JMHW 10/21 (CK).

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Monroe County

Locations: For Evergreen Preserve (FEP), Lynchwood Lake (LL).

The period was remarkable for the warmest October on record. A few reports trickled across this compiler's desk. A **Black Scoter**, uncommon in the county, was a nice find on a Tobyhanna pond 11/6 (BJ). A single **Greater Yellowlegs** at LL 10/27 was on the late side (BJ), and the 22 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at LL 8/29 represented the high count for the season (BJ). Other shorebird highlights included 9 **Least Sandpipers** at Hunter's

Lake 8/31, a single **Pectoral Sandpiper** at LL 8/6-13, and another 2 Pectoral Sandpipers also at LL on the late date of 10/27 (all BJ). Single **Stilt Sandpipers** were found and nicely photographed at LL 8/29 and Swiftwater Lake 9/3 (BJ). The single **Wilson's Snipe** at LL 10/27 was another late find (BJ).

An estimated 150 or more **Common Nighthawks** were seen over Analomink's FEP 8/19 (NT, SR). Another 60 or more were over Mountainhome on the somewhat late date of 9/12 (DS). An excellent discovery was the immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** at FEP 10/16 (NT). Even more exceptional was NT's fine photograph of this bird captured in a single frame with a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. Always a challenge to find in the east, the **Orange-crowned Warbler** seen in a Saylorburg front yard 10/17 was a new yard bird for the observer (RW).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Bruce Johnson, Sandy Rimland, Darryl Speicher, Nancy Tully, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Ashbourne Country Club (ACC), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Life Time Fitness Detention Basin (LTFDB), Lorimer Park (LP), Norristown Dam (ND), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The fall species tally for the county was 217, not counting a resident exotic duck and a probable western vagrant flycatcher that eluded identification. This is an average total when compared to the past several autumns, still a respectable number given the relative lack of shorebird habitat and diversity.

Two PORC review list species were discovered by the same observer this period. A **Bicknell's Thrush** was recorded as a nocturnal flyover in Elkins Park 10/2 (PD, vr., doc submitted). *Montgomery's* first confirmed **Le Conte's Sparrow** since 1994 was found in a meadow at PERT 11/4 (PD, ph., doc. submitted) and continued there through the following day (m.ob.).

A flycatcher found along the Zacharias Creek Trail near ESP 11/16 would probably have had a place on the review list as well, but regrettably could not be identified to species (MAC). Originally identified as a Great Crested Flycatcher, the late date would seem to indicate a western vagrant, either a different flavor of *Myiarchus* or, a possibility favored by the finder after she started looking at pictures on the web after the fact, one of the yellow-bellied kingbird species. Cellphone photos taken at the scene were too grainy to confirm more than color and general size, and efforts by others to refine the mystery flycatcher came up empty.

A large **Snowy Owl** irruption beginning late in the period caused much excitement among birders and non-birders alike. One of these ghostly Arctic wanderers appeared on the roof of Springfield Twp. Middle School in Oreland 11/22 (CW). Over the next few days, it was observed at several different locations in the same general area of Oreland/Flourtown, including on signs overhanging Rte. 309 (m.ob.).

A final especially noteworthy mention for the period was the continuing **Sedge Wrens** at GWP, present and defending territory there since 7/23 (MJ). The pair was reported to have successfully fledged one or more juv., observed 9/11 (KR), despite regular human intrusion. They remained at GWP until at least 10/15 (m.ob.).

A **Ross's Goose**, embedded in a unit of **Canada Geese**, made many appearances at GLP 10/24-11/3 (KR, m.ob, ph.). Another Ross's Goose, or perhaps the same one again, was seen at GLP 11/26 (KR, ph.). A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed at GLP 10/20 (KR, ph.). A **Greater White-fronted x Canada Goose** was well-described at GLP 11/22 (RK). There were a few reports of single **Cackling Geese** at GLP (m.ob.), as well as a report of 2 on 10/20 (KR). Reports of **Tundra Swan** were scarce, with sightings at GLP of only 4 on 11/9 (WBH) and 2 on 11/11 (AK).

Twenty **Blue-winged Teal** were reported at GLP 9/30 (JH), a high number for a fairly late date. Fellow **Spatula Northern Shoveler** was present at GLP in particularly good numbers from mid-Oct through the end of the period. A high count of 102 was tallied 11/20 (RK). An early pair of **Gadwall** was at GLP 8/26 (MJ). The first of several early **American Wigeon** was noted at GLP 9/19 (LH). A third early dabbler, an **American Black Duck**, was seen at ND 8/1 (MR). Two **Greater Scaup** were observed at GLP 11/11, along with a **Long-tailed Duck** (SG). A rainstorm brought another Long-tailed Duck to GLP 11/13 (WBH). The **Hooded Mergansers** that bred at GLP; their offspring and perhaps a few friends were noted there through Aug and Sep (m.ob.). Thirty-four Hooded Mergansers were at GLP 11/23 (MJ), a high number for the location.

An early **Common Loon** stayed the week of 9/22-29 at GLP's Knight Lake, a weird spot for loons compared to other areas of GLP (LH). The **Pied-billed Grebe** present at WWP through the latter half of Jul stayed put there into Sep (m.ob.). Three **Horned Grebes** were at GLP 10/26 (AM, m.ob.).

The 2016 late summer **Great Egret** extravaganza at GLP, where 20 or more egrets were noted on multiple days, was not repeated in 2017. This likely had much to do with the higher water level. The 2017 high count was a mere 6, and came from a Telford pond 8/15 rather than GLP (ZM, KH, WBH). The summer season's 3 imm. **Little Blue Herons** remained at GLP, but had lost a member by 8/4 (m.ob). They continued as a duo until 9/4 (m.ob). A single Little Blue, perhaps still one of the original three, was detected at GLP 9/9 (PK, PM). Two imm. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** flew over FWSP 8/11 (AF). Another stayed for more than a week at WWP, 8/19-30 (PM, KR, m.ob), and a fourth Black-crown was seen at GLP 9/16 (PD). The probable family group of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at ND lingered just barely into the fall period, with a sighting of one adult and one juv. there 8/1 (MR), and none again after that. A pair of **Glossy Ibis** was found at a pond in Fort Washington 8/18 (JR). This location, dubbed LTFDB due to its proximity to said gym, proved to be one of the hotter shorebird/wader spots in the county this autumn. A single Glossy Ibis remained at the basin until 8/21 (m.ob).

Larger groups of **Black Vultures** recorded this period included 90 at the Elmwood Park Zoo 10/7 (WBH, KH, BG) and 85 near Souderton 11/2 (WBH). Militia Hill Hawk Watch again counted raptors from the tower at FWSP in Sep and Oct. High counts chronicled by the diligent hawk-watchers included 114 **Turkey Vultures** 10/16 (HB, AS), 14 **Osprey** 9/16 (AF, SGR), and 45 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/16 (HB, AS). There were three 500+ **Broad-winged Hawk** days at FWSP, with the highest of these being 9/22, when 2028 were tallied (HB, RC). An imm. **Golden Eagle** was photographed over GWP 11/11 (KO).

Virginia Rails were found on back to back days in Plymouth Meeting 9/26 and Lower Moreland Twp. 9/27 (both PD). A **Sora** was at DMP 8/26-28 (RC, m.ob). Flyover groups of 5 and 2 **Sandhill Cranes** were noted at GLP 11/4 (LH, ph.).

Regular late summer rains kept GLP's mudflats hidden beneath water. Picking up the shorebird slack were WWP and the aforementioned LTFDB, although neither location pulled in as many birds as GLP in its prime. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was present at WWP 8/18-24 (m.ob). Another found its way to LTFDB 8/31-9/5 (JR, m.ob), and was joined by two more 9/6-8 (JR, SF). A **Dunlin** was observed at GLP 11/3-6 (AM, m.ob). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was discovered at WWP 9/16 (PD, AM). The period's high count of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 6, was noted at WWP 8/24 (AM). A very early **American Woodcock** was found at GLP 8/2 (PD). The species is not known to nest in the area. A **Spotted Sandpiper** at WWP 10/26-31 was a couple weeks late (CD). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at GLP 11/23 represented the latest record for its species in *Montgomery* eBird data by 4 days (MJ).

Bonaparte's Gull quantities at GLP of 33 on 10/30 and 23 on 11/9 were particularly high for the county (both WBH). Smaller numbers of Bonaparte's, no more than four, were observed at GLP on 4 dates 10/8-11/30 (m.ob.), and a single bird turned up at WWP 10/14 (CD). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** high count for the period was 40 or more at GLP 11/26 (GF). **Caspian Tern** numbers at GLP topped out at 8 on 8/24 (GF). Caspians were regulars at this location 8/4-9/20 (m.ob.). A single **Black Tern** spent the day at GLP 9/16 (JG, m.ob.).

The only report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** came from Kulpsville 8/30-

9/1 (JW). A pair of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** was found at PERT 11/3 (PD). Another was heard vocalizing in Franconia Twp. 11/15 (SG). Members of the Militia Hill Hawk Watch conduct an informal nighthawk watch from FWSP beginning in late Aug. An impressive 480 **Common Nighthawks** were counted from the tower 8/31 (RC). Other notable counts include 239 on 9/3 and 224 on 8/26 (both RC). The high count of nighthawks away from FWSP was 70, observed over the *Montgomery* portion of Haverford College 9/12 (SJ, KJ). There were no reports of late nighthawks. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was a surprising find at the defunct ACC 8/25 (PD). At least 4 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** lingered a few days late, but there were no exceptionally late observations of this species (m.ob.). The sole western hummer noted was an imm. female **Rufous Hummingbird**, first seen 10/24 at an undisclosed residence in Collegetown and banded/last seen 11/4 (SL). Four or five different **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were located this period (m.ob.).

At least 5 and possibly as many as 9 southbound **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found, including a pair at PERT 9/2 (SG). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted at LP 8/26 (PD), FWSP 9/13-16 (PT, m.ob, ph.) and ACC 8/24 (PD). **Least Flycatchers** were reported from seven locations (m.ob.). What was presumed to be the same **Eastern Phoebe** remained at WWP until the end of the period (CD, m.ob.). Another particularly late phoebe was found at PERT 11/25 (JaG). **Philadelphia Vireos**, several well-photographed, were found at five locations 9/10-24 (m.ob.).

The largest flock of migrating **Blue Jays** detected contained 50 individuals at FWSP 9/12 (BF). Unlike some previous autumns, regular massive numbers of jays on the move were not detected. The only **American Crow** flock to break the century mark was noted in Salford Twp. 11/10, when a flock 175-strong flew over the observer (WBH). The highest quantity of **Fish Crows** noted, 31, were in Pennsburg 10/10 (PH). The range expansion of the **Common Raven** continued to evidence itself. Ravens were noted at a minimum of twenty locations all over the county (m.ob.). Although most of these reports were of just one or two individuals, 6 ravens were observed flying over FWSP 10/7 (SJ).

A handful of late **Barn Swallows**, up to 5 depending on the day, were noted at GLP 9/30-10/12 (MRa, m.ob). Single **Cliff Swallows** were at Skymount Park 8/5 (WBH) and GWP 9/8 (MJ). Twenty **Bank Swallows** were seen at GLP 9/4 (GF), a nice count. Snowy Owls aside, most of the characteristically fickle northern species chose not to irrupt south in the fall of 2017. There were no confirmed reports of Black-capped Chickadee, for example, and just one **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, spotted at a feeder in Glenside 10/31 (KeJ). Though not as headline-grabbing as the Sedge Wrens, at least 5 **Marsh Wrens** were found at four locations between late Sep and mid-Oct (m.ob).

Two late **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported, one at PERT 10/9 (MJ) and another, much later, at neighboring LP 11/18 (MG). This latter gnatcatcher is the latest of its species recorded in eBird. Other lingerers included a **Wood Thrush** in Schwenksville 10/13 (MC) and **Gray Catbirds** at SGL 234 on 11/15 (KR), GWP 11/26 (TM) and GLP consistently through the end of the period (m.ob.). Eight **Snow Buntings** were observed in flight in Pennsburg 11/28 (GF), potentially checking out a construction site, the future home of a new middle school.

In a strange twist of fate, more **Golden-winged Warblers** were detected than **Worm-eating Warblers** this period. The only two Worm-eaters noted were at McKaig Nature Center 8/24 (SGr) and LP 8/27 (PD). Golden-winged Warblers, by contrast, were seen at PERT 8/30 (MG), GWP 9/7 (ML, ph.), Trevellyn Park 9/10 (MJ) and Haverford College 9/10 (KJ, ph.). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed visiting a backyard water feature 8/4 (CA). It was a good season for spruce budworm aficionados, with many reports of **Tennessee, Bay-breasted** and **Cape May Warblers**. A month-late Cape May Warbler was seen at GLP 11/24 (RK), almost certainly representing a new late record for the county. Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at PERT 10/7 (AMi, MG), McCarthy Park in Plymouth Meeting 10/15 (PD) and PERT 11/5 (PD, AMi). A **Connecticut Warbler** was found dead at a garden center in Glenside 9/19 (NG, ph.), an apparent window strike victim. Solo **Mourning Warblers** were reported from ACC 8/28 (PD) and Rydal 9/12 (LW). Four **Hooded Warblers** were identified at various locations in the Huntingdon Valley area 8/27-9-17 (PD,

MG). A late **Pine Warbler** was observed at VFNHP 11/29 (MR). A total of 31 warbler species were recorded.

A late **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found in the grass at PERT 11/5 by observers looking for the Le Conte's Sparrow (JaH, KR, SS). Single **Clay-colored Sparrows** were located at PERT 10/3 (PD, MJ) and GWP 10/13 (MJ, ph.). Perhaps more remarkable were the numbers of fellow *Spizella*, **Chipping Sparrow**, that remained at PERT through the end of the period. These included a flock 30-strong 11/29 (PD). Outside of PERT, there were seven other late Chipping Sparrow reports of one to 3 individuals (m.ob.), including 3 at VFNHP 11/26 (MR, ph.). A minimum of 9 **Vesper Sparrows** were located at eight locations 10/7-11/4 (m.ob). A late **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported at PERT 11/23-25 (HB, AMi).

A family group of **Blue Grosbeaks**, 2 adults and 2 juvs., discovered at VFNHP 8/22-25 wound up being solid confirmation of breeding success (MEH, et al., ph.). Single migrant Blue Grosbeaks were detected at PERT both on 9/30 (AMi, MG) and 10/18 (PD). Single **Dickcissels** were found at PERT 10/8 (PD, ph.) and DMP 10/18 (PBu).

A large group of 22 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at VFNHP 9/12 (MEH, et al.) was far and away the high count for the period. The species breeds at the park, one of a very small number of reliable breeding locations for this species that still remain in *Montgomery's* ever-growing suburban sprawl. A late **Orchard Oriole** was found at ACC 8/30 (PD, vt.). A **Baltimore Oriole** at ESP 10/13 was late (EF, CF, ph.), but another at GLP 11/10-13 was considerably later (DR). **Purple Finches** did not irrupt in numbers this year. Single well-described birds were found at GLP 11/11 (PH) and Schwenksville 11/26 (MC). **Pine Siskins** were nowhere to be found either. A flyover was reported at PERT 11/15 (PD), and that was it.

EXOTICS: The Cheltenham **Mandarin Duck**, present on Tookany Creek since 2013 or earlier, was seen again 10/2 (RI).

ADDENDUM: A late report was received of a female-type Purple Finch at GLP 6/7 (KC). This sighting represented the first summer record of the species for the county in eBird.

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Montour County

Locations: Greenhouse Ponds (GP), Montour Preserve (MP), Route 54 Wetlands near Arrowhead Road (R54W).

The seasonal highlights were several sightings indicative of the notable dispersal of southern wading and marsh birds across the northeastern U.S. this summer. A **Tricolored Heron** graced the R54W 8/1-7 (EH, m.ob.), and a **Glossy Ibis** dropped in for two days to a small seasonal wetland near the Danville Soccer Park 8/4 (JB, m.ob.). Both of these species have apparently occurred in the county previously, but not for many years and both represented the first eBird records for the county.

A **Ross's Goose** made a surprise appearance at the MP 11/21-22 (WS, AK). The **Snow Goose** with the damaged wing at the GP continued through the period, after spending the summer here. Typical of the fall season in this area, other waterbirds made only brief appearances. These included two sightings each of **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Common Loon**, and single reports of

Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Long-tailed Duck, American Coot, and Horned Grebe. All of these reports were from the MP, GP, or R54W. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was along the Susquehanna River near Danville 9/5 (AK).

Shorebirds had a good season for tiny and habitat-poor *Montour*, with 13 total species reported. Highlights included an **American Golden-Plover** flying over the R54W 9/30 (EH), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the GP 9/23 (EH), a **Short-billed Dowitcher** at the wetlands by the Danville Soccer Park 8/18 (EH), **Dunlin** at the GP 10/9 and 10/24 (AK), and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the GP 10/8 (EH) with one bird lingering until 10/28.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at the MP 9/17 (AK) was a nice highlight. A **Northern Shrike** on Stamm Rd. 11/19-22 (RW, AK, KP) was the first report of this charismatic species in the county for 3 years. Vireos included a **White-eyed Vireo** at the Chillisquaque Creek Natural Area 8/11 (BE) and a high count of 4 **Philadelphia Vireos** at the MP 9/16 (EH). The county's first **Connecticut Warblers** in many years headlined a season total 25 total species of warblers. All were at the MP, with one at Ridgefield Point 9/16 (EH) and up to two birds at a different spot 9/23 to 9/27 (EH, KJ, AK, ErH). A **Blue-winged Warbler** at the MP 8/25 (EH) was an uncommon fall migrant. The lone **Bobolink** report was of 3 migrants at the MP 8/25 (EH), and the only **Rusty Blackbird** was at the R54W 10/15 (AK).

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Northampton County

Observers entered 201 species to eBird during the period, which included 7 species of geese, 14 species of shorebirds, and 28 species of warblers. The rarest of the geese was a **Barnacle Goose** at the ponds on Valley Center Pkwy in Hanover Twp. 11/22 (SS). Birders trying to find the **Barnacle Goose** located a **Ross's Goose** at nearby ponds on High Point Blvd. 11/23 (MS). Five **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen at the High Point Blvd. ponds 11/26 (AM). The **Ross's Goose** moved to the Valley Center Pkwy pond 11/24 (BE). There were 12 **Cackling Geese** at this pond the next day (BE). The reward for checking the same ponds paid off 11/27 when a **Brant** was located at Valley Center Pkwy (AM). The **Barnacle Goose** was relocated in the late afternoon 11/27 at a pond on Silver Crest Rd. outside of Bath (AM).

Uncommon birds recorded 8/10 included an adult **Black-crowned Night-heron** found at Green Pond and a dark Ibis seen flying over the Madison Farms Shopping Center (BE). The Little Gap Hawk Watch had 2 outstanding **Broad-winged Hawk** counts this fall: 5414 on 9/17 and 4501 on 9/18. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** flew over the Little Gap Hawk Watch 11/10 (GL, EB). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew south over Little Gap 11/2 (MS). In Nazareth at a private pond, there was a **Sora** 10/22 (DA).

Shorebird migration was very good in the spring at Minsi Lake after it had been drained for dam repairs. During the summer, the grass grew tall, which limited the amount of habitat. The only uncommon shorebird seen at Minsi were 3 **Sanderlings** 8/29 (AM). A nice fallout of shorebirds occurred at a retention pond on Newburg Rd. next to Rte. 33 on 9/14, which included 3 **Stilt Sandpipers** and many **Yellowlegs**. A **Baird's Sandpiper** showed up at the pond 9/15 (AM). Another retention pond on Hanoverville Rd. had 2 **Dunlin** drop in on a rainy 11/5 (MS). A **Caspian Tern** flew over Little Gap 9/5 (BS).

The grasses that grew in the dried lakebed at Lake Minsi attracted numerous sparrows and a **Marsh Wren** 10/17-20 (MSa). There was a late **Brown Thrasher** along Covered Bridge Rd. 11/24 (JI). Among 28 species of warblers, a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Monacacy Nature Center 9/8 (JF) was a highlight. Uncommon warblers seen at Little Gap included a **Connecticut Warbler** 8/31 (MS) and **Orange-crowned Warbler** 9/12 and 9/17 (MS, CCS). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Jacobsburg State Park 9/8 (BW). A **Dickcissel** was seen on private property in Nazareth 10/22 (DA).

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Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Fort Rice Road (FRR), Redman Acres Road (RAR), Riverside (RIV), State Game Lands 84 (SGL84), State Game Lands 165 (SGL165), Warrior Run Wetlands (WRW).

The fall season saw many good reports in *Northumberland*. Although the season started wet, it quickly turned warm and dry and remained that way throughout the season.

Black-crowned Night-Herons have become regular visitors to the county in late summer and early fall. Three were observed at the ATBD 9/5 (AK). Shorebird reports were few and far between, due in part to lack of habitat within the county, and construction at the ATBD which limited access for viewing. The best report was 4 **Dunlin** at RAR 11/5 (SF). **Peregrine Falcons** are infrequently reported in the county, but 2 were observed at the ATBD 10/22 (KP).

Thrushes made a nice showing this fall. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was photographed at SGL165 on 9/26 (KP) and a **Swainson's Thrush** was photographed at SGL84 on 9/20 (KP). The highlight of the season was the showing of sparrows. High numbers and a great variety were reported across the county. **Vesper Sparrows** were reported only once but 3 were seen along FRR 10/29 (AK). **Savannah Sparrows** were numerous and included a county high number of 10 at WRW 10/14 (EH). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported several times. A county high count of 8 was made in RIV 8/17 (KJ) and one was reported at SGL84 on 8/23 (KP). Uncommon anywhere in the state, a single **Nelson's Sparrow** was at WRW 10/12 (AK). Large numbers of **Lincoln's Sparrows** moved through. Good counts included 8 were at SGL84 on 10/1 (KP) and 6 at WRW on 10/17 (EH). A **Dickcissel** was found at WRW 10/14 (EH). The bird was present until at least 10/15 (AK).

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Perry County

Locations: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), State Game Lands 170 (SGL 170), Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch (WGHW).

The drawdown of LBSP made for the possibility of finding shorebirds, which on a normal basis is difficult to do here. There was only one species outside of the few usual suspects, but it provided the first eBird report for *Perry*: one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at LBSP 9/16 (CK, TW, m.ob.). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is always a hard species to find in *Perry* so the sighting of one at WGHW on two separate days 9/14 (ML) and 9/22 (TJ) was notable. There was one **Philadelphia Vireo** at LBSP 8/27 (VG) and 9/4 (RH, AM, CK, VG), one at Lamb's Gap 9/13 (IG), and one at Miller's Gap 10/2 (JR, TC). The only report of **Bank Swallow** was of one at LBSP 9/4 (CH, RH). The only reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, in what was shaping up to be a non-invasion year, were one at LBSP 9/4 (RH, AM, CK, VG) and one at WGHW 10/21 (TJ).

The only warblers of note were one **Mourning Warbler** at LBSP 9/17 (CK m.ob.) and one **Wilson's Warbler** at SGL 170 on 9/17 (TN, m.ob.). There were no reports of Orange-Crowned and Connecticut Warblers. The one **Vesper Sparrow** at SGL 170 on 10/15 (PM) was the first fall eBird record of this species for *Perry*, and the first record of this species on eBird east of the Warm Spring area near Landisburg for any season. Likewise, the one **Savannah Sparrow** reported from SGL 170 on 10/15 (PM) was another first fall eBird record for *Perry*. The only reports of **Lincoln Sparrows** were from LBSP; singles on 10/28 (RK, VG), 9/15 (CK), and 9/17 (CK, m. ob.).

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River Trail (DRT), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Houston Meadow (HM), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Southampton Woods (SHW), Tacony Creek Park (TCP), Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

The 2017 fall migration was characterized by an unusually warm October with fewer cold fronts than usual. Although the latter is an admittedly subjective observation by the author, the former is supported by NOAA data that shows October was on average almost 7°F warmer than the normal (1981-2010). August was slightly cooler and 70% wetter, September was slightly warmer and November was average with less than half the normal precipitation.

The absolute seasonal highlight, pending acceptance by PORC, was the **White-winged Tern** observed during the Big Sit at TI 10/8 (AB, et al.), which stayed for another day to the delight of many. This was the second state record preceded by one bird that appeared a few months earlier in mid-August in *Tioga in*. Whether it was the same bird will be for the experts on Eurasian marsh tern plumage to decide.

A single **Brant** was first reported at TI 11/4 (MW) and was enjoyed by many observers until 11/14. Not an easy bird to find in *Philadelphia* even with the throngs of **Canada Geese** in appropriate habitat, a **Cackling Goose** was discovered at TI 10/18 and stayed another day (GA, et al.). An additional individual was observed 11/2 at FDR (HP) and rediscovered 11/12 (KR). This bird stayed at least until 11/21 (m.ob.). Two **Tundra Swans** were reported from TI on 11/11 (m.ob.) of which one stayed until 11/30. Each fall since 2015, a drake **Eurasian Wigeon** has visited Meadow Lake at FDR but only stayed until the end of Dec. On 11/11 this year, he was again discovered (PM) and was seen there irregularly until 11/20 mostly in the company of a couple of **American Wigeons**. A regular but uncommon visitor, a female **Long-tailed Duck** was photographed at the Race Street Pier in Center City 11/27 (SG). At POD a single **Red-throated Loon** was observed floating in *Philadelphia* waters 10/29 (FW).

Snowy Egrets were few and far between this season with a maximum of 3 at TI (m.ob.). After sightings in 2008 and 2015, a rare **Tricolored Heron** was first spotted in the impoundment at TI 8/21 (DE) and was then observed sporadically until 8/31 (m.ob.). **American Bitterns** were reported twice each from TI in Sep (ARe, MP) and FDR in Oct and Nov (HP, RK). For FDR this was only the second year with reports (after 2016), even though a good amount of habitat exists for a migration stopover. Four of the juvenile **Least Bitterns** that hatched at TI were reported through early Aug (m.ob.). Up to two **Glossy Ibis** were regularly seen at TI until early Sep (m.ob.), but the observation of seven flyover individuals at the PEC 10/7 (PK) was a bit unexpected.

High counts of migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** were 50 in northwest Philadelphia 9/9 (PM) and 46 at TCP 9/23 (RI). A **Swainson's Hawk** was noted in northwest Philadelphia 10/25 (TC, DEF) but this sighting was not publicized until 10/28. Notably, a Swainson's Hawk was photographed at the Ashland Nature Center Hawkwatch in Delaware 10/26. Pending acceptance by PORC, this would constitute the first record for *Philadelphia*. Other than these observations, hawk migration in the fall largely goes unnoticed. The search for a suitable hawkwatch site in the county needs to be intensified!

Aside from an observation in regular habitat at POD 8/6 (HP) one unfortunate **Virginia Rail** was observed trying to enter a local branch of a

bank in Center City 10/20 (LH) and another at Temple University Hospital 10/23 (TJ). Both were likely victims of window strikes. After the first breeding success in many years for **Common Gallinules** at TI, 4 juveniles were observed until the end of Sep (m.ob.). Later on, an immature was discovered 11/4 and observed last 11/26 (m.ob.). A separate individual was reported from FDR 11/16 (RK).

This season, the lack of extensive mudflats in the impoundment at TI due to failure of the water control structure could have been the reason for the lower number shorebird species. Only 11 species were observed this year, compared to 21 in 2016 and 18 in 2015. The highlight was up to 7 regularly occurring but uncommon **Stilt Sandpipers** 9/20-24 at TI (JM, et al.). Overall numbers for **Semipalmated** and **Least Sandpipers** were also lower. Hopefully the shorebirds found enough suitable foraging grounds at the Darby Creek tidal flats in adjacent *Delaware*. Only one **American Woodcock** was reported from IGCC 11/26 (HP), a portrait of the steady decline in their population since the 1970s.

Last winter's **Black-headed Gull** returned to the impoundment at TI. Though there is no real proof this was actually the same bird, the plumage of the individual strongly suggested it. The winter of 2016-17 was definitely the bird's first, and the current individual was clearly an adult in basic plumage. It was first reported 11/17 (BM, EP, GV), a month earlier than last year's bird, and stayed at least until the end of the reporting period. Up to 91 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported from the same location in Nov (m.ob.).

Up to 100 **Common Nighthawks** at once were reported roaming the skies in northwest Philadelphia in Aug and Sep this year (m.ob.). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported from an exceptional three sites: one each at HM 8/25 (KJ), Cobs Creek Park straddling the *Philadelphia/Delaware* county line 9/1 (GA, TC) and at FDR 9/4-9 (m.ob.). Numbers of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were somewhat higher than usual especially considering that none were reported at all in 2015 and 2016. Although several western flycatchers made an appearance in the Mid-Atlantic and New England, none were discovered locally. At Lemon Hill in FP up to 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** were noted 9/9-10 (m.ob.) and one individual was reported each at FDR 9/9 (HP) and at the FP Horticultural Center 9/16 (HP).

Common Ravens continued to be observed on a regular basis with a maximum of 3 at the WVP 11/16 (KJ). Small numbers of **Cliff Swallows** were reported from TI in Aug (m.ob.). This winter was not shaping up to be another irruption year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, single individuals were nevertheless observed at HM 10/19 (KJ) and 10/22 (DE) as well as at the WEC 10/19 (PG). One late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was discovered at TI 11/17 through the end of the period (m.ob.). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported from FDR 9/30 (HP) and PEC 10/1 (PK). Several nocturnal flight calls were also recorded over south Philadelphia in Sep at a newly established recording station (HP). **American Pipits** were reported from the usual spot along the Delaware River at POD in Oct and Nov (PG, BQ, HP) and from Cumberland St. 10/21 and 11/26 (HP).

A late **Ovenbird** was photographed at Logan Square in Center City 11/27 (MG). An unexpectedly large number of **Golden-winged Warbler** observations were made: PEC 8/20, 9/1, and 9/4 (PK), SHW 8/24 and 9/1 (FW), CW 9/4 (DE et al.), and FDR 9/21 (RK). The long-staying male **Prothonotary Warbler** at TI was not observed past 7/30, but one individual was seen there 8/19 (AM) and 9/3 (SP). Up to two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were observed at FDR on 11/20 (AR, KR) and one was at IGCC 10/14 (HP). Always hard to find in fall, a male **Hooded Warbler** was discovered at CW 9/12-18 (KJ, et al.). Immediately following this male's presumed departure, an adult female was seen there 9/19-25 (KJ, MH). An observation of two **Prairie Warblers** at HM 11/2 constituted a new late date for this species in the county (KJ). Hundreds of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at TI between 10/13-15 were notable (m.ob.). On 9/8 a **Kirtland's Warbler** was reported at Lemon Hill in FP which, if accepted by PORC, would be the first record for *Philadelphia* (HP).

Three **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported: one at IGCC 10/14 (HP), one at the DRT 10/17 (FW) and one at POD 10/19 (HP). Sometimes difficult to distinguish from fall **Chipping Sparrows**, these individuals were textbook birds. This year again, POD was a reliable spot to find **Vesper Sparrow** with one individual seen 10/17-28 (PK, FW, PG, HP). An additional bird was located at IGCC on 10/21 (HP).

As usual, one had to be at the right place at the right time to find a **Blue Grosbeak**. This was the case at TI 8/16 (MH) and 10/7 (DE, TC). In addition, one female-type bird was discovered at BRSP on 8/20 (DSR), a place that probably deserves more attention from local birders. **Dickcissels** were seen at three different locations: Sedgley Woods at FP 9/4 (MH), POD 10/1 (TC), and TI 10/13 (ARi), and recorded twice on their nocturnal migration over south Philadelphia 9/6 and 10/8 (HP). These records were reflective of the increased numbers of Dickcissels throughout the Mid-Atlantic and New England this year. **Bobolink** numbers at TI were lower this fall compared to the previous five years, except 2014. Up to three **Purple Finches** were seen on three occasions at FDR in Nov (RK, HP). Lone **Pine Siskins** were seen at TI 10/28 (TF) and 11/6 (SS).

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Pike County

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville Desilting Basin (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

eBird was used extensively to compile this fall narrative. Most people who posted *Schuylkill* sightings to eBird have been included as observers, except for those posting exclusively from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The list of observers from this location in the fall is significant due to the popularity of Hawk Mountain where many birders come to see the hawk migration. Although the Hawk Mountain Visitor Center is located in *Berks*, the North Lookout is in *Schuylkill* therefore the data obtained at this location were used in compiling this narrative. Also, the counters at HMS record data on non-raptors which have also been used in this report. Sightings at this location not attributed to a single individual have been noted as Hawk Mountain Data (HMD). The non-raptor data generated by the many observers at HMS led predominately by Rudy Keller provide insight into the migration season through *Schuylkill* of many songbirds.

With some exceptions, waterfowl species are generally limited in diversity, abundance and frequency in *Schuylkill*. In addition to the resident **Mute Swans** at Stoyer's Dam in Schuylkill Haven, a pair was reported on or near LLSP 9/27-11/25 (ME, JG, TN, SR) and another pair was seen in Pine Grove 11/23 (BR). The only **Tundra Swans** were 4 fly-bys at HMS 11/8. **American Black Duck** were reported three times, all at APWS (JoD), and a **Northern Shoveler** was seen at SAL 10/26 (DD), the first reported in the fall since 2012. Two **Green-winged Teal** were at OC 11/4 (DH), the only ones reported this year. **Ring-necked Duck**, limited to single sightings in two of the past five years, appeared at three locations this fall: at SAL 10/26 (DD), a pair at LLSP 10/27 (TB) and 12 at OC 11/20 (JB). Numerous reports of **Buffleheads** were received this fall. There were four reports at LLSP in Nov (TB, JB), and they were also reported 11/5 at LVD (DH), 11/4 and 11/24 at TR (DK), and 11/4 (DH) and 11/20 (JB) at OC. **Hooded Mergansers** were only seen once, 11/6 at TSP (CC). **Common Mergansers** were more numerous, reported at three locations: 11/23 in Pine Grove (BR), 11/24 at Deer Lake (DA) and several fly-bys at HMS 9/24-

11/23 (m.ob.).

Common Loons were absent from local lakes this fall but were commonly seen migrating past HMS 9/23-11/26 with a high daily count of 24 (m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at two locations: one at SAL 11/2 (DK) and single birds twice at APWS 11/4 and 11/17 (JoD). Single **Great Egrets**, an uncommon bird for the county in the fall, were reported as fly-bys at HMS 9/2 (HMD) and 10/16 (JO). An immature night-heron was photographed at SAL 8/24 (AL, PS). The photo was shared with numerous people and the consensus was **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** which is extremely rare in *Schuylkill*.

Since HMS data are published elsewhere, they will not be discussed here except to mention notable sightings of a **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/11 and a **Sandhill Crane** 11/4 (HMD). Shorebirds are another bird group that is not abundant in the county. Found only the second time in the fall over the past six years, a **Semipalmated Plover** was at KRM 8/30 (JD). Very unusual for the county, two **Dunlin** were reported at LVD 11/5 (DH). The only **Least Sandpipers** reported were at KRM 8/30 (JD). Unreported in the county for the past six fall seasons, a single **Bonaparte Gull** was at SAL 11/2 (DK).

Schuylkill is one of the sites for on-going research into **Northern Saw-whet Owl** migration. This was the 21st year in an ongoing research project headed by Scott Weidensaul examining the saw-whet movement through eastern and central Pennsylvania. The survey is conducted at three locations including one in *Schuylkill* at Hidden Valley near Freidensburg. The owl movement is cyclical and 2017 was expected to be the down year in a four-year cycle. The total at HV this fall was 52, the second-lowest total at this site since 1999 (only 2011, with 34 owls, was lower). The average is 152, and the peak years were 2001 with 334, and 2012 with 332. This season was also the second-lowest overall for the whole operation, all three sites, and that was reflected across the East -- most sites had record or near-record lows. This was all expected, though not necessarily the severity of the dip. The bust year was on time in terms of the four-year population cycle, and it was predicted because of the almost complete absence of cone crops across eastern Canada in autumn 2016. This fall there was a record bumper crop of cones, and expectations are high for a very heavy flight of owls next year (SW).

Seen only in low numbers every year, **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were noted this season on 10 separate dates at HMS 8/16-9/15 (m.ob.). One was also reported at the Hawk Mountain Acopian Center 9/10 (DH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, uncommon in the fall, was reported 9/4 at two different locations: TR (DK) and SGL 227 (TB). **Philadelphia Vireo**, also uncommon, was reported at two locations as well; one at LLSP 9/16 (TB), and at HMS on five dates 9/9-25 (m.ob.). Rare in the county, a pair of **Marsh Wrens** was photographed at LLSP 10/27 (TB). It has been almost twenty years since this species was last reported in the county. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported twice: a single bird at TSP (TB) and one heard at HMS 10/10 (RK). **American Pipits** are unusual in *Schuylkill*. A small flock of 5 was found near Pitman 10/15 and a larger flock of 25 was in the same area 11/23 (TB). They were also reported at HMS 10/7, 11/8, and 11/20 (HMD, HM). **Snow Bunting**, hard to find most years, was at HMS 11/11 (DK), 11/24 (HMD), and 11/30 (HM).

Twenty-nine species of warblers, including both breeders and migrants, were observed in the county this fall, three more species than last year. Overall, the birds passed through with little deviation from the averages. Always notable, a single **Connecticut Warbler** was found on the Kittatinny Ridge near HMS 10/8 (TW).

Vesper Sparrows breed here in small numbers, but are not seen every year. This year one was at LLSP 10/21 (TB). **Lincoln Sparrows** are somewhat hard to find due to its relative scarcity and its skulking nature. One was found near Pitman 10/15 (TB), single birds and pairs were at LLSP 9/24-10/21 (TB) and another was at TSP 10/14 (JP). **Bobolinks** are rare in the county during the fall season, but observers at HMS reported flocks up to 13 birds passing through 8/16-9/27 (m.ob.). A single **Pine Siskin** was reported in Pottsville 10/21 (DK), but numerous others were reported on 10 different occasions at HMS 10/5-11/26 (m.ob.).

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Snyder County

In mid-August, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was found at the Showalter family farm along Nipple Rd. in the southeastern part of the county (AS). Other birders made successful forays to see the spectacular creature between 8/24 (AT) and 9/4 (KC). Two **Barn Owls** were reported near Winfield 9/1 (IA). At Walker Lake, a nice group of sparrows, including 25 **Swamp Sparrows** and 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were observed 10/14 (SS).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, 720 N. Allen St., State College, PA 16803, (814) 883-3649, gyekis9@gmail.com**, Ian Adrian, Kay Cramer, Steve Schmitt, Adam Stauffer, Aden Troyer.

Somerset County

Locations: Bluebird Hill Farm (BHF), Flight 93 National Memorial (Flight 93), Hidden Acres Farm (HAF), High Point Lake (HPL), Indian Lake (IL), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Payne Property (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake (SL).

It was a good migration season overall, with abundant summer rains and a short dry period in early fall. Somerset Lake was the star attraction, hosting 19 shorebird species including 2 phalarope species. The lake was drawn down in preparation for dam replacement over the next two years, which once again demonstrated that the lake lies in a flyway where, if habitat is available, shorebirds will land and feed. There are still attempts being made to do bottom contouring, and plans are being considered for natural or man-made modest drawdowns of the lake to provide habitat conducive for shorebirds and an attraction for birders. With 31 shorebird species reported there since 2012, the lake indeed has great potential.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen with **Canada Geese** at QR 11/21-23 (LG). Similarly, Canada Geese attracted an adult **Snow Goose** near Boswell 11/27 (LG). Two banded **Trumpeter Swans** (Z603 and Z675) were reported at SL 11/4-5 (m.ob.). Hundreds of **Tundra Swans** rested on the dwindling water and mud at SL 11/8 (CW). There were a few **American Black Ducks**, including 2 at BHF 10/6 (PL). Four **Northern Shovelers** appeared at SL 9/19 (JP) and 3 **Green-winged Teal** were present there 9/8 (ST). Diving ducks were a bit scarce with a few reports of **Ring-necked Ducks**, 6 **Greater Scaup** at IL 11/20, 6 **Lesser Scaup** at QR 11/5 (JP), up to 60 **Buffleheads** at QR and 120 **Ruddy Ducks** at IL 11/5, and 80 Ruddies were at QR same day (JP). **Hooded Mergansers** were at QR 11/26 (LG) and 9 **Common Mergansers** were at LHSP 11/17 (ED).

Although still present in *Somerset*, numbers of **Ruffed Grouse** are dismally low and widely scattered. There were two reports this season: one at QR 11/26 (LG) and one at HAF 11/23 (SD). **Wild Turkeys** were numerous and widely reported. There were no large fallouts of **Common Loons**, with 3 at QR 11/23 (LG) the high count, and 2 were reported at HPL 11/24 (BL, SC). Eleven **Pied-billed Grebes** at QR 11/23 (LG) was a nice showing, and 2 **Horned Grebes** were there that day as well. **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported from 9/24, when 5 were at SL (KW), to 11/5, when 28 were at IL (JP). A nice group of 15 **Great Blue Herons** were around SL 9/1 (JP). **Green Herons** were reported in Aug, mostly at SL and QR (m.ob.).

The only report of **Black Vulture** was one at PP 9/25 (JP). **Turkey Vultures** were numerous with 17 the highest number reported, in northern part of county 9/4 (LG). **Osprey** was found in Confluence 8/21 (BO, TO), and **Bald Eagles** were widely reported through period. Thirteen late afternoon **Broad-winged Hawks** passed PP from 17:00-17:45 on 9/13 (JP). The only report of **Golden Eagle** was one at PP 11/10 (JP, AP) but many more undoubtedly passed this Allegheny Mountain property. There were few reports of **American Coot** but none of rails.

Shorebirds were definitely the highlight of the season, which is exceptional in this high elevation, mountainous county with no large lakes or rivers. All reports were from SL unless otherwise noted. **Black-bellied Plovers** arrived late, with reports of 2-8 birds made from 10/30-11/4 (m.ob.). One **American Golden-Plover** was found 9/1 (JP), but then the floodgates opened 10/29-11/5, when 14 reports were made of up to 11 individuals (ST). **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported 13 times 9/1-17, with up to 7 birds. **Killdeer** were very numerous; high count was 132 on 10/22 (JP). They all left *en masse* about 11/17. **Spotted Sandpipers** probably bred but reports were of only one or 2 birds 8/18-9/13. **Solitary Sandpipers** were present 8/9-9/23, with 5 on 8/18 (JMc) the high count. There were 31 reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** from 9/1-11/17 with up to 12 present 10/31 (JL). There were also few couple reports of this species from QR. **Lesser Yellowlegs** was noted 17 times from 8/15-10/31 with maximum of 30 on 9/4 (JP); in addition one was reported at the Flight 93 Memorial 8/5 (SG). **Stilt Sandpipers** garnered 5 reports from 9/3-13 with up to 5 on 9/5 (JP). Rare in the county, **Sanderlings** were reported twice: one 9/6 and 2 on 9/22 (JP). **Dunlin** descended in herds from 10/29-11/9; the highest count was 136 on 11/5 (AH). **Baird's Sandpiper** was represented by 2 individuals 9/4 (JP) and 10/29 (ST). **Least Sandpipers** were present 8/1-10/29 with a high of 22 on 9/3 (JL). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported 21 times, ranging from one to 7 birds 9/3-11/4. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was reported 17 times from 8/26-10/31; high count was 18 on 9/7 (TO). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were in the mud 10/22 (JP). **American Woodcock** migrants were widely seen in county but not reported from SL. The second **Red-necked Phalarope** of the year was present 9/4-6 (JP, m.ob.). The star of the whole show, however, was the **Red Phalarope** found on a blustery 10/31 (JP, JM, m.ob.). It is certainly this compiler's hope that Pennsylvania birders will support the creation and use of long-term shorebird habitat at SL!

There were only a few reports of **Bonaparte's Gull**: 2 at SL 10/31 (JP) and 10 there 11/9 (JP, AP). There were numerous scattered reports of small groups of **Ring-billed Gulls**, and an interesting report of 5 **Herring Gulls** at SL 10/30 (JF). **Caspian Terns** were at SL 8/23 (CW) and 9/6 (JP). One **Black Tern** visited SL 8/11 (JP).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** nest was found at PP 8/20 with fledging occurring about 8/25. In 2016 this same spot had a recently fledged, short-tailed juvenile 9/20. A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed from a field near Somerset 11/9 (JP, AP). A high count of 120 **Chimney Swifts** was made at SL 9/20 (API, JC). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested successfully near SL (*fide* JP), in SM a pair fledged and was re-nesting 8/14 (EM), and a bird was near Fairhope 9/20 (RO). A **Peregrine Falcon** strafed shorebirds at SL 9/9 (JP).

Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared twice at a favorite snag on PP 8/21 and 9/18-19 (JP). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found in alder at PP 9/24. An **Acadian Flycatcher** visiting that site 8/30 and a **Least Flycatcher** was seen 9/24 (JP). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at SL 9/3 (JL). Two **Eastern Kingbirds** were at Confluence 8/21 (TO, BO) and one was at SL 9/9 (RC). A **Northern Shrike** at the Flight 93 Memorial 11/14 (JS) was a nice find and nicely photographed. A migrant **White-eyed Vireo** was at SL 9/17 (ST). A likewise migrant **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at PP 8/23 (CP, JP). **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** are widespread and numerous migrants. **Philadelphia Vireo** was first spotted 9/10 with 2 at PP. An interesting sighting was 2 begging from a third at PP 9/25, possibly suggesting a family group migrating together (JP). A few **Purple Martins** were seen in SM 8/14, either migrants or possibly a second breeding spot in county away from the known Springs site (EB).

The only report of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** came from Shaw Mines, where 2 were noted 9/11 (JH). Both **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were widely reported. Morning descent of calling

thrushes went from a few birds in early September to about 30 on 9/13, to dozens 9/15, to hundreds of calls 9/21 including dozens of **Swainson's Thrushes**, and about 5 each of **Veery**, **Wood Thrush** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush**. Unanswered is the question of whether descent is heavier on wooded ridgetops such as the PP site on Allegheny Mountain or whether these birds move as an evenly distributed wide band. **Gray Catbirds** were numerous at PP through early Oct, and **Brown Thrashers** maxed out at 4 at PP 9/10 (JP) and 4 at SL 9/17 (ST). **Northern Mockingbirds** are thinly distributed in the county; there were 13 reports of one or 2 individuals throughout the period. Reports of **American Pipit** 9/23-11/5 were all at SL including a nice high count of 156 on 10/29 (ST).

Twenty-four species of warbler were reported. Among the more interesting were 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** in Fairhope area 8/26 (RO), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at PP 9/25 (JP), a beautiful, cooperative juvenile **Connecticut Warbler** at PP 9/11 (JP), 12 or more **Cape May Warblers** at PP 9/11 (JP), **Bay-breasted Warblers** at PP 9/10 and 9/21 (JP), reports of **Palm Warbler** from 10/1-15, a **Pine Warbler** at Glenwood (LG), 12 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on Crumb Road 10/15 (SD), **Canada Warbler** at PP 9/11, and a few **Wilson's Warblers** at PP (JP).

The first report of **American Tree Sparrow** was made at SL 11/1 (BO). **Vesper Sparrow** was at the Flight 93 Memorial 8/13 (JK). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at SL 10/20 (TO). A few **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were at the Flight 93 Memorial 8/5 (SG). Single **Fox Sparrows** were at PP 11/6 and 11/18 (JP). **Lincoln's Sparrows** included 2 from PP 9/11, one in Confluence 10/31 (BO), and a late bird 11/30 at BHF (PL). There was a strange dearth of **White-crowned Sparrow** reports again this season with only one at PP. A nice flock of 40 or more **Dark-eyed Juncos** moved through PP 11/6. Migrant **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were a bit thin with reports mainly in late Aug. **Indigo Bunting** maxed out at about 20 in mid-Sep at PP, a lower number than normal because no large fields of millet were planted.

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Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Cherry Township (CT), Conklin Run Wilderness Area (CRWA), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Estella (ES), Hunter's Lake (HL), Lake Makoma (LM), Muncy Valley (MV), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Ricketts Glen State Park Hayfields (Hay), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), Splashdam Pond (SDP), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), World's End State Park (WESP).

The number of reports for the period steadily declined as each month passed, but there were more observers than usual. The weather remained generally seasonable with no major events. The season included several interesting migrants and observations primarily among passerines. All observations were by the author except as noted.

Reports of waterfowl were unremarkable in both variety and numbers. Four **American Black Ducks** were on Kost's Pond in Dushore 10/7. A **Green-winged Teal** was present on SDP 9/2. Four **Buffleheads** floated on EML 11/25, and 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** were on HL the same day. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on EML 11/11 (JL). **Ruffed Grouse** were reported throughout the period, including 2 at CRWA 9/20 (SM) and 4 on DM during Thanksgiving weekend. Four **Sandhill Cranes** were near KC 8/5. These were separate from the family group of two adults and one young that were last seen in CT 10/21.

Shorebirds included a **Spotted Sandpiper** at WESP 8/7 (SS) and one

Solitary Sandpiper at SDP 9/4. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found at a small pond near KC 9/15 and 9/30. An **Osprey** was fishing at SDP 9/2. Two adult and one young **Bald Eagle** at EML 10/22 (WE) were among the several sightings of eagles. There were three species of owl in the DM area heard during the period. Lone **Barred Owls** were heard on multiple occasions in Sep and Oct. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** tooted very loudly for about a half minute 10/21. Two **Great Horned Owls** were also calling back and forth the evening of 10/21.

Red-bellied Woodpecker is still uncommon in the county, making the bird seen at HL 11/11 a good find (JL). Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were at CRWA 9/20 (SM). **American Kestrel** numbers peaked in Aug with a high of 10 across the county during the first weekend of that month. An **Eastern Kingbird** seemed on the late side when present near LaPorte 8/29 (MA). A **Northern Shrike** was an excellent find at SDP 10/22. Vireos were well represented at SN 9/16 with 6 **Blue-headed Vireos** and 4 **Red-eyed Vireos** noted, along with 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** and a **Warbling Vireo**, the last two species observed in proximity to each other for good comparison. A high of 50 **Blue Jays** were observed at EML 10/22 (WE). A **Fish Crow** was a good find in ES 9/1 (TR). One lone **Cliff Swallow** and a single **Barn Swallow** were well seen among a large flock of about 40 **Tree Swallow** at SDP 9/2. Three **Wood Thrushes** were somewhat notable in ES 9/1 (TR). Seven **Gray Catbirds** in RGSP 9/2 was the high for a single location (JH).

There were twenty-one species of warbler reported, which included a number of excellent finds. Uncommon to the county was a **Worm-eating Warbler** in MV 8/1 (AK). **Tennessee Warbler** was the most common of the pass through migrants with many sightings including birds at Hay 8/26 (SF, MK), one at ES 9/1 (TR) and 2 at SN as late as 10/6. A single **Nashville Warbler** was at Hay 8/26 (SF, MK). A **Connecticut Warbler** at SN ended a 30-year wait for this observer when it popped up 9/15. One **Cape May Warbler** at SN was a bit late 10/1. **Northern Parula** was another good find at SN 9/17. A lone **Blackpoll Warbler** was at SDP 9/2. Four **Palm Warblers** at SN 10/6 were the last reported. Two **Pine Warblers** were found on DM 10/7. Two **Prairie Warblers** were seen at RGSP 9/2 (JH). A lone **American Tree Sparrow** on DM 11/25 was the only member of the species reported. Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at SN 10/22. The first 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows** of the season were observed at SN 9/16. Three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** on SN 10/6 seemed a bit late. The estimated 150 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 60 **Common Grackles** at EML 10/22 (WE) were good counts.

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Susquehanna County

August concluded three months in which average precipitation was almost double the mean of the last decade for the same period. The ensuing three months, while drier, were unseasonably warm. Those factors seemed to have little effect on the sequence and timing of birds migrating through the region. The imprecise and overlapping sequence is a familiar one: shorebirds, then neotropicals, then sparrows, followed by waterfowl, and the arrival of wintering northern species. Diurnal raptors form a season-long backdrop to the annual parade. The most unusual avian trend related to our residential herbivorous species and their absence from backyard bird feeders. A total 160 species were reported to eBird in the four-month period in 2017, as compared to 148 species in 2016.

The classic sign of autumn migration are the overhead V-shaped formations of geese heading south. Twenty **Snow Geese** were noted among skeins of **Canada Geese** flying over a property in Bridgewater Township 11/27 (BM). Three local birders thought they could burn some post-Thanksgiving dinner calories by scanning through hundreds of geese for something unusual. The municipal golf course adjacent to Lake Montrose is the perfect place for such exercise, and it paid off with their identification of *Susquehanna's* first recorded **Cackling Goose** 11/24 (WS, JM, EM). They left feeling sated by their discovery, yet still having room for

pumpkin pie.

Less common waterfowl included 10 **Gadwall** at Stump Pond 9/6 (EB) and another 2 on Nagle's Pond 10/25 (JSt). A pair of **American Wigeon** was photographed on Stump Pond 10/20 (NV) and a single drake was on a farm pond in Springville Township 11/3 (JS). Autumn is often scoter time. Quaker Lake hosted a single **Surf Scoter** 11/1-4 (AL, EM, JSt). Good numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Ruddy Ducks** made stopover visits to various county lakes (m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** are not uncommon, but on the county's small bodies of water, large flocks of them are. Ninety-six were together on Page Lake 11/22 (NV) and 160 were present on Comfort's Pond 11/28 (BS, NV).

An **American Bittern**, try as it might, was unable to go unnoticed at Nagle's Pond 8/21 (JSt). The **Great Blue Heron (White Form)** that was seen in Jul reappeared on 8/23 and was observed many times through 9/25 (m.ob.). The water level in East Great Bend Swamp had been lowered since Jul, so during this visit the heron fished both there and a short distance away in the shallows of the Susquehanna River. Great Egrets were absent this year in contrast to the fifteen sightings of a year ago. A **Golden Eagle** was seen circling over SGL35 on 8/8 (JM), and another over Quaker Lake 10/30 (EM).

With our overall lack of viewable muddy shores, shorebirds can be hard to come by. This year the usual suspects were well reported: **Least**, **Semipalmated**, **Spotted**, and **Solitary Sandpipers**. Three less common visitors highlighted the season. A pair of **Stilt Sandpipers** was picked out from among other sandpipers at Hollister's Pond 8/4 (JS). A single **Semipalmated Plover** was a nice find at the same location 8/30 (JS). A lone **Dunlin**, photographed at Quaker Lake 11/2 (JSi), represented the first county record. Absent any large towns or cities with their restaurant parking lots, and with no landfills in the county, gulls are seasonal visitors only. **Herring Gull**, **Ring-billed Gull**, and **Bonaparte's Gull** went unreported in Aug, Sep, and Oct. Then all three species appeared in Nov on various lakes and ponds (m.ob.). Their visits were brief and they will not return until ice-out next spring.

Insomnia must be rampant in *Susquehanna* as sixteen nocturnal eBird checklists for owl vocalizations were submitted by seven sleepless birders. Our spectacular sunset showing of **Short-eared Owls** had resumed as of 11/28 at Glemboski Farm Fields (JS). But the big headline in the local rag, The Strigiformes Sentinel, was the county's first **Snowy Owl**. A photograph of a white owl visiting the backyard of a non-birder was posted on Facebook. Someone viewing the picture contacted a local birding couple. They went to confirm the sighting, were joined by two others, and all were able to see and photograph the owl in the late afternoon sun 11/29 (NV, FV, BS, EM). Plans were made with the landowner for others to come and view the bird the next day, but alas, it was gone in the morning. Three distant sightings over the next several days had many local birders slow-driving the neighborhood during the ensuing week. It was a huge disappointment that the owl was not relocated.

Another species known for being difficult to find in our corner of the state is **Common Nighthawk**. Two local birders had a chance to experience these graceful flyers on late Sep afternoons. Five were seen flying over Page Lake 9/12 (DB) and 7 were over the river in Hallstead 9/15 (NV). A **Merlin** provided good views as it perched on a hay bale in Bridgewater Township 9/23 (BM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** posed nicely for a photo, showing off its stylish vest 9/4 (BS). Another fall classic appeared 9/26: a **Philadelphia Vireo** in Silver Lake Township (EM). A winter preview occurred with the discovery of six **Horned Larks** 11/27 (JS).

Wood warblers were well represented with twenty-three species reported. Spring 2017 saw larger than normal flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, and again this fall, there were a number of records of aggregates of 20 or more birds, to a high count of 26 together in Springville Township 10/20 (NB). At the other end of the spectrum were single sightings of some species. A **Wilson's Warbler** was photographed 9/14 (BS). A **Tennessee Warbler** was observed 9/26 (EM). One **Cape May Warbler** visited a property in Dimock Township 9/17 (JSt).

The changing of the sparrow guard is another eagerly anticipated sign of autumn. The red caps traded places on schedule. Our last **Chipping Sparrow** was seen 10/14 (NV) and our first **American Tree Sparrow** posed for pictures 11/12 (NV). There was only one report of a pair of **Fox**

Sparrows 11/11 (NV), a species typically seen more often in the fall. No White-crowned Sparrows were on their migration through the county. A pair of **Vesper Sparrows** returned to their traditional roadside habitat in Bridgewater Township 10/16 (BM). One was observed at the same location 11/4 (TN, EM). Another was reported early on 8/22 at Bear Swamp (JF). Between the vespers and many **Dark-eyed Juncos**, there was a veritable blizzard of white R6's! A handful of **Lincoln's Sparrows** were present at three locations in Sep and Oct (NB, NV, EM).

Many of our residential seed-eating species were absent from backyard feeders. The change was noticeable enough to generate lots of discussion regarding the reasons for their absence. The hope is that after an exceptional growing season, our local granivores were busy feeding on a bountiful seed harvest and will return to feeders with the onset of winter weather. **Orchard Orioles** are in the process of upgrading their local status from rare to regular. They were reported at three locations this fall (NB, NV, EB). **Crossbills**, on the other hand, maintain their "RBA" status. Six **White-winged Crossbills** were an exciting find on private property near Woodbourne Sanctuary 11/23 (JSt).

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Tioga County

Locations: Tioga-Hammond Lakes Rec. Area (THL)

Without a doubt, the bird of the season and indeed the century in *Tioga* was Pennsylvania's first **White-winged Tern**, initially found at Nessmuk Lake 8/10 (RH, KR). Happily, this beautiful molting adult, still in nearly complete black and gray breeding plumage except for the beginnings of white winter feathers developing on the head, stayed put at the lake until 8/13, often right alongside one of the most easily accessed sections of shoreline and within 50 yards or less of observers. This was the long-awaited first for the state of this central Eurasian species and close cousin of the Black Tern. They have been recorded in several nearby states and provinces, including Ontario, New York, Delaware, Virginia and New Jersey, but most of these records were from before the 1990s, when sightings of vagrant White-winged Terns in North America declined for unknown reasons. Nearly all North American records of White-winged Tern, like this one, have come during the months of May to September. The Nessmuk Lake bird attracted the attention of birders from all across the eastern United States and Canada during its four-day stay. No fewer than 260 eBird checklists from 241 different observers listed the bird in that time, to go along with the untold scores of other observers who do not use eBird. Remarkably, a second White-winged Tern, or perhaps this same bird again, appeared in *Philadelphia* in early Oct. The Philly bird was also an adult and further advanced in molt, leaving open the possibility that it was indeed the Nessmuk Lake bird found again.

A number of other species were noted in *Tioga* this fall that warrant mention. Three **Snow Geese** flew over THL 11/4 (KC). A **Redhead** and 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** had the distinction of being submitted to eBird a few hundred times beginning 8/10, since they were present at Nessmuk Lake while the White-winged Tern was drawing crowds. Early Aug is early for both species; the Redhead apparently stayed well into Nov, whereas the three Ring-necks, if they stayed that deep into the fall as well, became obscured by late Oct when they were joined by many other southbound Ring-necks arriving more on time. A **Surf Scoter** was at THL 11/2 (RH, KC), and a **Red-necked Grebe** was photographed at Cowanesque Lake 11/7 (KC). A late **Great Egret** was at Nessmuk Lake to 10/12 (RH).

A juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was found by a tern chaser near Colton 8/12 (ST). **Virginia Rail** persisted at The Muck IBA to 9/14, and **Sora** to 8/17 (m.ob.). A late **Semipalmated Plover** was at Cowanesque Lake 10/9 (BC). Up to 3 **Dunlin** frequented THL 10/17-11/2 (m.ob.). A well-described **Laughing Gull** turned up at Cowanesque Lake 10/12 (BC), and

a very late bird was photographed at THL 11/16 (KC). Late **Caspian Terns** were photographed at both Hills Creek State Park and Nessmuk Lake 10/12 (RN). Both sightings were of an adult and a juvenile together, suggesting they were probably the same birds that had moved between locations.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found by tern chasers at Nessmuk Lake 8/11-12 (MD, TL, et al.), notably early in this non-invasion year. The species was reported sporadically elsewhere through 11/25. **Marsh Wrens** persisted at The Muck IBA to 10/8 (m.ob.). A **Connecticut Warbler** was a nice find at Hill Creek Estates 9/23 (GT). What would have been considered the bird of the season in just about any other not featuring a White-winged Tern, a beautiful adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found in a residential yard near Stokesdale 8/3 (ph. LR). Not only was it remarkable for being an adult male in blazing bright plumage, it was also quite early in fall for a vagrant of this species to appear in Pennsylvania, although there are two July records and at least two other August records for the state. It represented the first for *Tioga*. **Pine Siskins** were noted 10/26-11/27, mostly from around THL; high count there was 16 on 10/28 (RH).

Report submitted by Geoff Malosh, *Pennsylvania Birds* fall season editor. Observers: Bruce Carl, Ken Cooper, Michael David, Rich Hanlon, Tim Lenz, Lori Redell, Kathy Riley, Shannon Thompson, Gary Tyson.

Union County

Locations: R. B. Winter State Park (RBW), State Game Lands 252 at Allenwood (SGL 252).

A **Snowy Owl** made a ghostly appearance at the US Penitentiary in Lewisburg 11/30 and continued at least into the wee hours of the morning 12/1. It was seen by numerous observers at the prison, before being reported to the birding community (BB). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a private residence in Lewisburg 10/16-19. This tiny male initially raised interest that it might be a rare visitor from the west, but its identification was confirmed via banding (BB, et al.). A **Merlin** showed up in Lewisburg 11/11 (MH). Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at SGL 252 on 9/4 (SH). A set of 4 **Wilson's Warblers** was reported at RBW 9/4 (KM).

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Venango County

Locations: Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Foster Road (FR), Justus Lake (JL), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC), Oil City Marina (OCM), Rhoades Farm near KL (RF), Waitz Road (WR).

The species count for the period was 161, up from 155 last year. That increase, combined with a couple of first county records, made this an outstanding reporting period. For the third consecutive year, the scarcity of cold fronts during Oct and Nov apparently contributed to the low numbers and variety of waterfowl on JL and KL. The only **Tundra Swan** flights were reported each day 11/19-22 (KG, JS, GE). One or 2 **Surf Scoters** visited KL off and on 10/24-11/17 (GE, JS). A **Cattle Egret**, one of the firsts for the county, was originally reported at a farm on FR 11/1 (LB). The bird remained thru 11/6 (m.ob.) and provided good viewing opportunities. A **Virginia Rail** made a brief appearance at JL 10/20 (RS, GE) but a **Sora** remained a little longer 10/20-26 (GE).

A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was located at KL 10/9 (KG, JS). Far and away the most exciting find of the season was a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** at KL 9/5-7 (JS). It represented the first county record and provided good looks and photographic opportunities to those fortunate enough to make the trip. It was an exceptional year at the 14th annual **Common Nighthawk** migration count at the OCM, with counts conducted this year from 8/14-9/14 (m.ob.).

The final tally was 1342 nighthawks, an increase of 1036 over last year's well below average count of 306. There were eight sightings of **Merlin** 8/8-10/5 (GE, JS, RS) and also a **Peregrine Falcon** was recorded at BHNS 10/9 (JS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was recorded at BHNS on nine occasions 9/1-27 (KG, JS). The only **White-eyed Vireo** was reported in OC 8/8 (MK, NK). **Philadelphia Vireo** was at the same location 9/9-10 and also was reported on nine occasions at BHNS 9/9-23 (KG, JS). A **Winter Wren** made brief visits to an OC back yard and to BHNS 10/8 (MK, JS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were absent this period. The only report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was from BHNS 9/12 (KG, JS). A single **Snow Bunting** was at RF 11/8 (GE). An earful of **Cedar Waxwings** exceeding 75 were at OCSP 10/14 (RS). Warbler migration was unspectacular except for five reports of **Orange-crowned Warbler** at BHNS 9/20-10/16 (KG, JS). The first **American Tree Sparrow** was noted 11/12 (GE), the same date as last fall's first report. Eight reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** were submitted 9/18-10/8 (NB, JS). The first **White-throated Sparrow** was noted 9/25 (KG, JS), and **White-crowned Sparrow** moved through from 10/11 (GE) to 11/29 (MK). **Pine Siskins** visited feeders at BHNS 10/14-20 and again 11/21 (KG, JS). An annoyance of **Common Grackles** exceeding 300 was at WR 10/14 (RS).

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Warren County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Economite Road (ER), Eisenhower High School (EHS), Kinzua Dam (KD), Longhouse Scenic Drive (LS), Tanbark Trail (TT).

Fall seemed delayed this year, at least based on the somewhat late arrivals and departures of migrants. Perhaps the high precipitation slowed things down. Noteworthy among waterfowl were a **Common Loon** and 2 **American Black Ducks** at KD 11/27 (SS). Not unusual at all were numerous and repeated sightings of **Bald Eagles** at multiple sites along the Allegheny River, with as many as 4 at once at KD 11/27 (m.ob.). An immature **Snowy Owl** was reported near EHS 11/13 (JGF), one of many regionally in what seemed to be another big flight year.

Passerine migration seemed better than it has been in recent years. The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** seen in *Warren* was at a banding station on the ANF 9/11 (FM, TR). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported 9/23 at ER (CW) and 9/24 at LS (JF). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** seemed sparse this fall, with single birds seen at TT and ER 9/23 (CW). Forest Service bird-banding stations on ANF caught higher numbers of most warblers than in most years, particularly for the 'spruce budworm' species, with especially high numbers of **Cape May** and **Tennessee Warblers**, and record numbers of **Bay-Breasted Warblers** (m.ob.). Of particular note were one early **Connecticut Warbler** 9/5 and another rather late one on the ANF 9/25 (SHS, FM), and a single **Orange-crowned Warbler** 10/4 (SHS). Large flocks of **Pine Siskins** showed up early on the ANF 10/20 (SHS).

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Washington County

Locations: Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Peters Lake (PL), Washington Park (WP), Washington Park School Pond (WPSP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

The **Tundra Swan** that stayed in the county into early Jun must have summered somewhere locally, as it reappeared at CCCP 8/13-9/1 (MJ). More timely were a group of 6 on a pond near Houston 11/9 (GG), the only other report. Eighteen was a nice count of **American Wigeon** at CCCP 10/29 (MJ, JF). First **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at TL 9/10 (MJ). Small numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen near BENT 10/22 and 11/12 (RI), and one was at R4 on 11/21 (RI).

A **Common Loon** near BENT 11/8 (RI) provided the only report. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at the AMD pond on Hahn Rd. 9/16 (MV). **Horned Grebe** was well reported by autumn standards: 7 at BENT 10/22, 14 there 11/8, and one at R4 on 11/9 (all RI). A late **Osprey** was noted at PL 11/18 (JF). There was some clarity regarding the **Bald Eagle** nest at CL and the unknown fate of its "first eaglet" from the summer. It turned out that the immature bird that was captured and taken to a rehabilitator, and which was originally believed to be two years old, was in fact the first eaglet to fledge from the CL nest. (The second eaglet was, unfortunately, found electrocuted at nearby power lines not long after it fledged.) The first eaglet recovered in rehabilitation from its dehydrated state and was eventually successfully released at CCCP on 8/31 (*fide* LC). One of the adults was seen back at the CL nest 10/6 arranging sticks at the site (LC). A **Northern Harrier** was noted near BENT 11/8 (RI), and there were five sightings of **Red-shouldered Hawk** for the season (m.ob.).

Top count of **Killdeer** near BENT was just 40 on 10/22 (RI). One or 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at CL in the first week of Sep (JF, et al.). **Greater Yellowlegs** were at CL for most of Sep and Oct (PB, et al.) and 10 were part of a flyover flock of 30 shorebirds (the other 20 unidentified) at CCCP 10/29 (MJ). A late Greater was also at CCCP 11/5 (MJ). **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were reported at CL through mid-Sep (m.ob.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at CL 10/1-3 (MJ). Rare for the county were up to 2 **Dunlin** at CCCP 10/27-11/5 (MJ). Best of all shorebirds was a cooperative juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** at CL 9/10-17 (JF) that remained long enough for many to see. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were near BENT 11/12 (RI). Quite unusual both for the location and the date were 2 **Forster's Terns** at CCCP 10/29 (MJ).

A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in Washington 8/11 (LC). Migrants included 20 at PL 8/30 (GG), 3 at WPSP 9/11 (LC), one at McMurray 9/13 (RT), and one late bird at Washington 10/17 (RI). A **Merlin** was at WPSP 9/10 (LC), a nice find for that location, and a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Trax Farm 10/23 (GG).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was still at CCCP 10/4 (RI), and a **Philadelphia Vireo** was at WPSP 9/12 (LC), the latter the only report for the season. **Common Ravens** were reported at four locations this season, ever closer to being a truly "common" species here. Five **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at HSP 9/17 (LC) where they breed, but there were no reports of fall migrants this season. Up to 3 **Winter Wrens** were at PL 10/31-11/14 (JM, LN). Reports of spot-breasted thrushes were few; these included **Veery** at WP 9/14-15 (LC) and **Swainson's Thrush** there 9/14-17 (LC).

The warbler flight wasn't terrible but did not include any rarities or notable fallouts. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was half-heartedly singing at Mingo Creek County Park 8/5 (JM). First **Black-and-white Warbler** arrived at Washington Park School 8/28 (LC). Despite a good season in surrounding counties, there were just three reports of **Tennessee Warbler** in *Washington* this fall (m.ob.). The other budworm birds, **Bay-breasted Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler**, were recorded six times each (m.ob.). A **Nashville Warbler** was at Cecil Twp. 10/1 (FK), and a **Kentucky Warbler** was still hanging on at WP 8/29-31 (LC, RI). An early **Blackpoll Warbler** appeared at WP 8/31 (LC, RI). **Palm Warbler** was noted only at GCW 10/18 (JM), and 2 **Pine Warblers** were at HSP 9/17 (LN). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at PL on the last day of the season, 11/30 (FK). **Wilson's Warbler** was noted at WPSP 9/2-9 (LC) and in Cecil Twp. 9/23 (FK).

A good count of 150 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was made at CL 10/1 (GG). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 2 at CCCP 10/4 (RI) and 4 there 10/15 (MJ). A **Purple Finch** was at CL 10/8 (JF). **Pine Siskins** appeared briefly in mid-Oct, with reports of 2 at Washington 10/19 (RI) and 8 in Peters Twp. 10/22 (LGK).

ADDENDUM: An extraordinarily early **Osprey** was noted on the *Washington* winter raptor survey conducted 2/24/2017 (KK, MH). This

represented the earliest spring record in the county's history.

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Wayne County

Locations: Lacawac Sanctuary (LS), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Prompton State Park (PSP).

Species diversity this season was lower compared to recent years, possibly due to fewer submitted sightings. Notable migratory waterfowl included 10 **Bufflehead** at LS 11/21 (TK) and 2 **Common Loons** at LW 10/23 (EH). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at Beaver Pond 8/13 (JH). A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was spotted along Swamp Brook 9/29 (NF).

Eleven warbler species were recorded. The only migrant species noted was one **Tennessee Warbler** near the Delaware River in Buckingham Township 9/11 (RK). Overwintering **American Tree Sparrows** were first reported at PSP 11/12 (JL). The highlight of the season was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at a residence in Bethany 9/21 (CF, JH). The only previous eBird sighting of this species in *Wayne* occurred in May 2016.

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclechu76@gmail.com**, Chris Fischer, Nate Fronk, John Harvey, Elaine Hendricks, Ted Keen, Rick Keyser, Josh Lefever.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir at the Rt. 380 overlook (BRR-380), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Reservoir, a.k.a. Derry Lake (ESR), Ice Pond—Rte. 30 Ligonier (IP), Kuehl Property, Murrysville (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir a.k.a. Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands (SVW), Westmoreland Heritage Trail through Municipal Authority Beaver Run property (WHT-BR).

Significant effort provided for excellent coverage at several of the Laurel Highland waterfowl hot spots in *Westmoreland*, which resulted in reports of several species that might have otherwise gone undetected. Also, the extensive effort at the drained Donegal Lake provided for better than normal reporting of shorebirds, and for a first county record sparrow species.

The Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club conducted its 10th Big Sit at KSP. Highlights were 2 **Osprey**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, one **Great Horned Owl**, one **Eastern Screech-Owl**, and one **Common Raven** (compiled by DB).

A group of 5 or 6 **Greater White-fronted Geese** was present at SVW 11/23-26 (NW, et al.). Among reports of large numbers of **Canada Geese** were 280 at LR 10/8 (AM) and 250 at WHT-BR 11/8 (KB). Of the several reports for **Tundra Swan**, the highest count was 44 over Delmont 11/9 (KB). Likely an injured bird, one **Tundra Swan** at the Lowber Passive Wetland Treatment pond 8/13 (MJ) was reported to have been there for at least the last several weeks. It was reported again 9/30 (JP) getting regular harassment from the resident pair of **Mute Swans**.

WHT-BR is a reliable location for **Wood Duck**, where reports of 37 on 10/16 and 26 on 10/24 were made (KB). The high count of **Gadwall** was of 10 at WHT-BR 11/22 (KB). There were just two reports of **American Wigeon**, both at LR: 17 on 10/29 and 19 on 10/30 (JL). The numerous reports of **American Black Duck** spanned 9/30-11/13; high count was 23 at LR 11/5 (JL). Twenty **Blue-winged Teal** were reported at SVW 10/8 (MJ). Single **Northern Pintails** were at LR 10/30 (JL) and 11/7 (JL). Twelve **Green-winged Teal** at WHT-BR 11/20 (KB) was top for the season.

Ring-necked Ducks were reported at several expected locations 10/18-11/7, with the high report of 14 at LR 10/30 (JL). The best of just three

reports of **Lesser Scaup** was 4 at IP 11/26 (AM). **Surf Scoter** were first reported at DL 10/29, 3 (JL) and up to a maximum of 5 continued at that location until 11/10 (RH). There were 2 **Surf Scoters** at BRR-380 on 11/6 (JL). There were 3 **White-winged Scoters** at LR 10/25 (JL). **Bufflehead** was reported at several locations during the season, with the high of 15 at LR 11/7 (JL). IP held 20 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/26 (AM). There were 24 **Common Mergansers** at WHT-BR 10/27 (KB) and 27 at LR 11/5 (JL). As was the case for many of the waterfowl species, LR was the best location for **Ruddy Duck**; 4 first appeared there 10/21 (JL) and 12 were there 11/5 (MD) and 11/7 (JL).

Ruffed Grouse remain thinly reported in *Westmoreland*, with just a few reports of one during the season. They were located at LR 10/4 and 10/25 (JL) and several reports were made at PNR 9/2-10/17 (m.ob.). One **Red-throated Loon** was at BRR-380 in the early morning of 11/5 (IG), and was reported at that location later that day and the next (MD, JL). Only two reports for **Common Loon**, singles at LR 11/3 and 11/7 (JL). Four species of grebe were reported for the season. **Pied-billed Grebe** was widely reported in small numbers, and **Horned Grebe** was at BRR-380 on 11/5 (MD) and 11/7 (KB). One **Red-necked Grebe** was photographed at DL 11/5 (MD) and one **Eared Grebe** was seen at Bridgeport Dam 11/23 (JP). The only high count report for **Double-Crested Cormorant** was 30 that flew over a Delmont home 11/3 (KB). One **Great Egret** was at WHT-BRR 9/11 (KB). A juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Burrell Lake Park 8/5-8 (ph. SL).

Not customarily seen outside of the Ligonier Valley in *Westmoreland*, one **Black Vulture** was spotted soaring with 3 **Turkey Vultures** just north of Delmont 10/11 (TK). More significantly, two road-killed white-tailed deer attracted 44 **Black Vultures** northeast of Ligonier 11/26 (ph. AM). Despite the draining of DL, as many as 3 **Osprey** were reported at that long-time nesting location 8/17 and 8/20 (JL). Four **Bald Eagles** circled and dove together at LH 10/1 (AM). One **Northern Harrier** flew over the Bridgeport Dam 11/6 (KB) and one was reported at SVW 11/27 (JF). A wide-eyed immature **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was banded at PNR 8/29 (ph. JL). There were numerous sightings of **Red-shouldered Hawk** at PNR 10/14-31 (m.ob.), where they are reliable. The high count of **Broad-winged Hawk** at PNR was 8 on 9/17 (JL). A chance sighting of one **Golden Eagle** being harassed by 4 **American Crows** was made at the Wolf Rocks Trail 11/24 (GM).

One **Sora** was seen around the ponds at PNR 9/7 (JL) and one was flushed from the grassy vegetation below the dam at DL 10/6 (JL). All reports of shorebirds that follow were made at DL. **Semipalmated Plovers** were present 8/3-23, with the high count of 4 on 8/18 (JL). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was photographed 8/22 (JM) and was seen by several other observers later that day. Four **Dunlin** 11/4 (MJ) continued to 11/5 (MD, JL). One **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/20 (ph. ME) was found again 8/21 (JL). The high count of many reports of **Least Sandpiper** 8/22-9/2 was 10 on 8/22 (MD) and 8/23 (JL, MW). The high of the many reports of **Pectoral Sandpipers** 8/8-11/5 was 6 on 8/12 (JL). Just one or two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were tallied 8/17-9/17. Reports of **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/25-10/3 never exceeded a single bird. The season high count for **Greater Yellowlegs** was of 5 on 11/5 (JL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported 8/9-9/5, with the high of 6, which included two each with just one leg, 8/25 (MF). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was photographed 8/5 (ph. MD), and another was photographed 9/15 (ph. LM). There were 5 **Wilson Snipe** at MPL 10/23 (JL). Single **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LR 10/29 (JL) and 11/5 (MD, IG). The only other gull reported was **Ring-billed Gull**, with reports of singles beginning 10/24 at WHT-BR (KB). A **Black Tern** was actively feeding at Acme Dam 9/5 (JL).

The first extreme cold weather of the season drew around 50 **Mourning Doves** to the feeders at the KP 11/10 (TK). **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Barred Owl** were widely reported during much of the season at PNR. One Eastern Screech-Owl called at KP 8/2 (TK, JK), and Barred Owls were heard periodically 8/6-11/25 at the KP (TK, JK). One **Great Horned Owl** was at WHT-BR 8/23 (KB) and one hooted in the early evening of 9/20 at LR (JL). A surprised birder nearly stepped on a **Short-eared Owl** during a mid-day visit to DL 10/28 (ST). A nocturnal banding effort at PNR 10/20 netted 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (JL, MW, NL). Ten **Common Nighthawks** at the Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg 8/26

was the high count for that location (PC). An early evening visit to DL 9/13 found 14 **Common Nighthawks** moving overhead (JL). Despite many evenings of effort at a Delmont home in Sep, just 2 **Common Nighthawks** on 9/4, 2 on 9/11, and one on 9/17 were noted (KB).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at DL 8/21 (SS) and one was at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 9/28 (JH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was widely reported in the Laurel Highlands, and there were also several lower elevation reports in the area around Beaver Run Reservoir including 2 on Pump Station Road 9/30 (KB, JK, TK). A **Merlin** was at DL 9/17 (JL), and one was at LR 10/9 (JL). A **Peregrine Falcon** flushed and chased a **Wilson's Snipe** at DL 10/28 (ST).

Often only reported via captures at the PNR banding station, the substantial effort during the season resulted in several reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** elsewhere: one at DL 8/28, 9/1 and 9/5 (JL), one on Hunters Lane 9/9 (KSJ), and one at LH 9/10 (AM). Aside from captures and sightings at PNR, the only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at DL 9/3 (JL). Again excepting PNR, the only **Philadelphia Vireos** were at WHT-BR 9/21 and 9/28 (KB). Low elevation reports of **Common Raven** continued with 2 in downtown Jeannette 10/5 (TK). A remarkable gathering of 227 **Purple Martins**, predominately juveniles, were meticulously counted as they roosted on a power line at BRR-380 (KB). High counts of other swallows were 3 **Bank Swallows** at DL 9/2 (JL), and 3 **Cliff Swallows** at DL 8/28 (JL).

Two reliable locations provided for the only reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, one at SFB 8/24 (DH) and one at Twin Lakes Park 11/15 (KA). A **Winter Wren** was reported on the Grove Run Trail in Linn Run S.P. 8/6 (AH), where they nest. Up to 2 were reported several times on WHT-BR as well (KB). A well-described **Marsh Wren** was heard and seen several times in cattail habitat in the company of **Swamp Sparrows** at DL 10/28 (ST). There were 52 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** banded at PNR during the season. A substantial flock of 77 **Cedar Waxwings** was noted at the Pump Station Road (Delmont) Bridge over Beaver Run 9/16 (KB). Single **American Pipits** were noted several times during the season; the earliest was one photographed at DL 9/9 (SS) and the last was one on the mud flats at the north end of LR 10/29 (JL).

Nearly daily outings along Pump Station Road outside of Delmont and on the Delmont and Beaver Run sections of the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail netted 21 species of warbler this fall (KB). Significant were one **Northern Waterthrush** 9/16, 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** 9/28, 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** 9/26, one **Palm Warbler** 10/9, 20 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 10/31, and one **Wilson Warbler** 9/21. A female **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed near the PNR banding station 8/16 (JL). A **Mourning Warbler** was at LH 10/1 (AM). Season totals of species banded at PNR, but not otherwise reported elsewhere, included 2 **Worm-eating Warbler**, one **Cerulean Warbler**, 16 **Connecticut Warbler**, and 2 **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

Coverage at the drained DL resulted in a first county record with the late afternoon discovery of a **Lark Sparrow** 9/7 (JL). As expected, chasers were out in force the next day and relocated the bird (MF, ST). A very productive 3.5-hour visit to DL 10/28 netted 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 9 **White-throated Sparrows**, 11 **Savannah Sparrows**, a remarkable 52 **Song Sparrows**, 5 **Swamp Sparrows**, and, for good measure, one **Rusty Blackbird** (ST). Seasonal counts of captures at PNR included 35 **Fox Sparrows** and 41 **Lincoln's Sparrows**. One **Vesper Sparrow** was reported at DL 9/18 (JL). One **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported in Rostraver Township 11/23 (JP). Ten **Rusty Blackbirds** (not in nets) were reported at PNR 11/5 (JL). A **Common Crackle** visited the feeders at the KP 11/27 (TK). Fourteen **Pine Siskin** counted at DL 10/22 (JL).

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Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center, including Vosburg Neck (EMNC), Iroquois Trail, Tunkhannock (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LRG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Nesbitt Road (NR), Oxbow Lake (OL), Phelps's Swamp (PS), Riverside Park (RP), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), State Gamelands 57 (SGL).

It was a typical fall migration for *Wyoming*. Many of the usual transients were noted, such as Bufflehead, and some of the more unusual migrants as well, such as both Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper. The total number of species reported was within the typical range for the fall season. That said, the migration did seem a bit late, and was missing a few of the usual characters, and with fewer individuals of some species. It remains, however, for the folks at Cornell and Audubon to put some hard data under scientific review and provide some conclusions to help answer folks who perceive a reduction in the number of birds they're seeing, usually in their yard or at their feeders.

Two **Green-winged Teal** were at RP 11/2 (JD, MC) and a single bird was at OL 11/18 (NF). There were four reports of **Ring-necked Duck**, all at OL: 2 on 11/1 (MC), 2 on 11/14 (JD), 39 on 11/21 (MC), and 23 on 11/25 (MC). **Bufflehead** appeared in fewer numbers than expected. Four were observed at LC 11/8 (JD), one was at LC 11/12 (MC), and 4 were at SF 11/22 (EZ). **Ruddy Duck** was recorded during a brief period in early Nov at OL: 4 on 11/1 (MC), 2 on 11/2 (JD), and 2 on 11/5 and 11/6 (MC). A single **Horned Grebe** was at LC 11/1-8 (MC).

A rare observation for *Wyoming* was an **American Bittern** perched on a dock at LC briefly on 8/26 (AT). This was the first sighting of this species in *Wyoming* since 2009 that I am aware of. **Osprey** was identified as a probable breeder during the second Breeding Bird Atlas, but the species is rarely reported in *Wyoming* outside of migration. Single birds were recorded near Factoryville 9/15 (MS), over Tunkhannock Creek at the Shadow Brook golf course 9/17 (JD), and at LC 10/3 (JD, MC). Rarely seen in such numbers in *Wyoming*, 42 **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted near Jenningsville 9/17 (MS, SR). The species is a confirmed breeder in the county, but is not typically seen in large numbers here even during their migrations in Sep. **Rough-legged Hawk** is a regular winter visitor. This fall, only a single report was made: one at the *Wyoming/Susquehanna* border over fields just south of Lynn 11/18 (JB). **American Coot** is another species that is uncommonly reported in *Wyoming*, usually only a few individuals at a time. This season the only report was of one at LC 11/3 (MC).

Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at RP 9/3 and 4 were there 9/9 (both NF). **Greater Yellowlegs** were recorded at several locations: 4 at RP 9/3 (NF), 2 at EMNC 10/14 (DT), 3 at SL 10/30 (JD, MC), and one at LC 11/11 (JL). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at LC 11/9 (MC). Each of these species is uncommon or rare here. The typical gull species for *Wyoming* is **Ring-billed Gull** which is also a possible county breeder. Therefore, it's exciting to see any other gull species, such as the 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LC 11/8-14 (JD, MC). This species typically shows up here in very small numbers although in the fall of 2000, 21 were recorded at SF.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed twice: 10/10 and 11/23, both single individuals at EMNC (JD). Finally, a single **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at SGL 9/7 (EZ). This was the first record of the species in *Wyoming* in fifteen years, although certainly they come through every year, and birders are just not in the right place to see them or are not familiar with the species. Or, perhaps more likely, they've been observed, but those observations were not shown in any publicly-available records. eBird has made a huge difference in the quality and accessibility of bird data available to this compiler, and indeed to everyone.

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Township (FVTP) Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP).

The period's 198 reported species equaled the fall of 2012, which was the prior high. Waterfowl, shorebird, and warbler variety were all above average. Two rare species carried over from the summer, **American White Pelican** and **Tri-colored Heron**. However, the true highlights of the season came from the RRCP Hawkwatch, where **Anhinga**, **Mississippi Kite**, and a probable **White-winged Tern** were all reported. The tern observation on 9/21 was sandwiched between the state's first ever record in *Tioga* 8/10-13 and another in *Philadelphia* 10/8-9.

Five **Snow Geese** were seen overhead at RRCP 11/4 (DNN). Reports of **Tundra Swans** were limited 5 over FVTP 11/8 (DN) and 110 at CSP 11/9 (DN). **Wood Ducks** were well reported including a nice count of 33 at GPSP 8/30 (RS). Of the four **Gadwall** reports, high count was 11 at SG 11/25-30 (CB, PK) and Marsh Run 11/28 (DN). A pair of **American Wigeon** at GPSP 10/12 (DN) represented the only report. **American Black Ducks** were noted at four sites 9/24-11/30 (AD, PK, JL, DNN) but no report exceeded two birds. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at CSP 9/9-10/6 (JSD, HM, DN, RS) and a **Northern Shoveler** was there 11/17 (DNN). The Codorus Creek at Louck's Mill Rd. held 2 shovelers 11/29 (SS), an unusual location and habitat for them. LAR held a **Redhead** 11/17 (DNN), a **Lesser Scaup** 11/9 (DN), and 3 **Surf Scoters** 10/26 (DN). Good finds were a **White-winged Scoter** at LR 11/9 (DN, m. ob.) and a **Common Goldeneye** at GPSP 11/25 (KJ).

Up to 3 **Common Loons** were at CSP 11/2-24 (PM, DN) and a **Horned Grebe** was at Long Level 11/29 (CM). The **American White Pelican** that appeared at CSP in Jul lingered until 8/3 (m.ob.) A count of 145 **Double-crested Cormorants** at GPSP 11/5 (DN) was notable. The female **Anhinga** at RRCP 9/22 (RP, FP, *doc submitted*) was well studied at low altitude. **Little Blue Heron** was reported at CSP 8/14-9/5 (m.ob.) including an adult and juvenile there 8/24 (DC). The **Tricolored Heron** from the summer period at LR and LW was still present at LW 8/1 (DC, CK) and then moved to CSP 8/3-16 (KL, m.ob.), again affording outstanding viewing and photo opportunities. Latest report of **Black-crowned Heron** was 9/19 at LR (RS). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was photographed perched on a car at Pleasant Acres Senior facility 9/10 (*vide AP*).

A **Mississippi Kite** was spotted at RRCP 9/16 (DC, FB) soaring with 3 **Broad-winged Hawks**. This was the first kite seen at the RRCP hawkwatch since 10/6/2006. Total broad-winged count for the season at the hawkwatch was 2862. Best single day was 9/19 (RP, KO, et al) when 971 were counted. This day was also the high count for **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (120) and a solid day for **American Kestrel** as well (20). The next day was another good day for "sharpies" too, 87 birds (RP, KO, et al). A juvenile **Northern Goshawk** was found perched in RRCP 9/16 (RC, FB). When hawkwatch site coverage was available in Oct, warm temperatures and light winds resulted in no significant flight days. High count among five reports of **American Coot** was 20 at CSP 11/12 (DKo).

York enjoyed the best variety of shorebirds in a number of years, with CSP providing the bulk of the sightings. An **American Golden-Plover** was a good find at CSP 9/28 (HM). A trio of **Semipalmated Plovers** was at LAR 8/24 (SB) and up to 4 were at CSP 8/10-10/26 (m. ob.). Better counts of **Killdeer** included 45 at LAR 9/8 (PK) and the same number at CSP 9/25 (DNN). Up to 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 12 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at CSP 8/8-11/17 (m.ob.). For such a solid shorebird season, it seems improbable that there would only be one site reporting **Solitary Sandpiper**; CSP held a pair 8/8-9/5 (m. ob.). A **Sanderling** at CSP 9/2 (DC) was a rewarding find. Up to 10 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at CSP 8/13-9/27 (m.ob.). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were first seen 8/28 at CSP (DC) and one or 2 were present 9/26-11/9 (HM, DN). **Pectoral Sandpipers** visited CSP 8/8-10/21 (m.ob.) with a high count of 10 on 10/3 (PM). **Dunlin** included 5 at LAR 10/19 (DN), 2 at CSP 10/21 (MC), and 7 at LAR 11/17 (DNN). Having not been reported in the county since 2012, up to 4 **Stilt Sandpipers** drew a host of birders to CSP 9/2-28 (CB, m. ob.). Two **Short-**

billed Dowitchers were found at LAR 8/16-24 (CB, SB, DC, et al). The only **Wilson's Snipe** was a single at SG 11/20 (CB).

The lucky date for **Bonaparte's Gull** viewing was 11/9 when 17 were at LAR and up to 100 were at CSP (both DN). A **Herring Gull** was at CSP 9/11 (JSD) and 10/1 (HM). Up to 2 **Caspian Terns** were at CSP 8/6-20 (CB, DC, JFI) and LR held a single 8/7 (RS). A **Forster's Tern** was at CSP 8/4 (DC) followed by **Black Terns** 8/11-21 (m.ob.), of which the high count was 3 on 8/21 (KL). The **White-winged Tern** at RRCP hawkwatch 9/21 (RP, FP, *doc submitted*) was viewed under good conditions. The experienced observer noted plumage differences from the similar size and shape **Black Tern** species that are consistent with white-winged (RP). Additionally, 9/22 would be a fairly late date for black tern in the lower Susquehanna R. valley. Most **Black Terns** pass through in August, but there are records into Oct in some years. The most recent sighting of **Black Tern** in this area on or after 9/22 was in 2010 at the Conowingo Pool near the Maryland line.

Three reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was a good showing. Singles were at LR 8/17 (DN) and 9/10 (KC) and at RRCP 8/24 (DW). Thirteen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** through 9/4 (m.ob.) were also a positive. Reports of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** were about normal and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** along Bank Hill Rd. 10/7 (DL) was a nice addition. **Common Nighthawk** sightings spanned 8/21-9/19 (m. ob.) and included a high count of 8 at Yorkana 9/5 (DKo). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at FVTP 10/12 (WC). Nine sites reported **Red-headed Woodpecker**, which was above average, and GPSP and HTP continued their status as a stronghold for the species. High count at HTP was 9 birds 8/12 8/20 (both DF) and at GPSP the high was 10 birds 11/2 and 11/6 (both DN). Fourteen reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were paced by 4 at LW 11/14 (CK).

Excluding those seen at the RRCP hawkwatch, reports of falcons were as follows. Utility poles along rural Posey and Lucky Rd. in Lower Chanceford and Chanceford Twp. held a remarkable 27 migrating **American Kestrels** 10/13 (CB). **Merlins** were at GPSP 10/25 and 11/2 (CW, AWo) and at Yorkana 11/21 (DKo). **Peregrine Falcons** were at GPSP 10/17 and 11/11 (both DNN) and at Dillsburg 11/23 (DG).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at RRCP 8/26 (DC) highlighted an otherwise routine season for this family. **White-eyed Vireos** and **Red-eyed Vireos** appeared in normal numbers, but the single report of 3 **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Spring Valley County Park 9/16 (AW) was unusually low. **Blue-headed Vireo** was well-reported (m. ob.) with eight sites contributing observations. But **Warbling Vireo** was only reported twice, at LW 8/21 (DF) and at Lock 12 on 9/5 (TA). With 10 reports of **Common Raven**, this species is now regular in both *York* and *Adams*. HTP produced the only **Horned Larks** 8/5-11/25 (DF, TCa, RE, KK); 10 was the high count 11/25 (RE). The latest **Purple Martin** sighting was of 5 birds at Lock 12 on 8/13 (TA). A single **Tree Swallow** at GPSP 10/28 (DN), 6 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at GPSP 10/12 (DN), and 18 **Cliff Swallows** at LAR 9/8 (PK) were pushing "tardy" status for their kind. A pair of **Black-billed Chickadees** was at GPSP 11/23 (DG). **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, and **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** continued to be well-reported in the fall here.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a nice find at RRCP 9/27 (CB). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from four locations 9/27-10/10 (CB, SC, WH). An impressive count of **Hermit Thrush** was made at the Quaker Race Day Use area and Campground area of GPSP. Ten were at the campgrounds 11/24 (DG), and the 11 at the Quaker Race Use area the following day (DG) suggested the same flock may have moved across the lake. Usually reliable for **Gray Catbird** in late fall (and even overwintering some years), LW held one 11/14-21 (CK), the only Nov report this year. **Cedar Waxwings** were paced by a flock of 120 at GPSP 11/11 (AWo).

With 28 warbler species reported, the variety itself was a highlight. Unless otherwise noted, observations were at RRCP. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found 9/7 (CB). Multiple sightings of **Tennessee** and **Nashville Warbler** spanned 8/17-10/17 (CB, DN, AW, DW). Tennessee was also found at Jefferson 9/30 (IS) and Nixon County Park 10/8 (SC), and a Nashville was at Kline's Run 9/23 (KM). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** noted 10/14 (DNN) was late, and a photographed **Cape May Warbler** 11/2 (DN) was very late. Cape May Warbler were also found 9/9-11 (CB, DW).

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a good find at Lock 12 on 9/4 (TA). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found 9/7-10/1 (CB, AW, DW) and 2 were at Jefferson 9/30 (IS). Up to 5 **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported 9/7-11 (CB, DW); Nixon County Park held one 10/8 (SC). A **Connecticut Warbler** was a great find in Sep (DC, FB) as was a **Mourning Warbler** at Shrewsbury Twp. 9/23 (JF). **Wilson's Warbler** was found 8/26 (DW) and at LW 9/12 (CK).

The variety among the sparrows tends to be fairly consistent each fall. This year no American Tree Sparrow were detected, and the latest **Chipping Sparrows** were 4 at GPSP 11/22 (CB, DW). Single **Savannah Sparrows** were found at Kline's Run 9/24 (CM) and CSP 11/12 (DKo), and 3 were at LR 11/6 (CF). HTP held up to 5 Savannah Sparrows 8/1-27 (DF, DNN, TN) and provided the only reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow**, with up to 8 birds 8/1-27 (DF). **Fox Sparrows** were limited to single birds at GPSP 11/20 and 11/25 (DG, AWo). **Lincoln's Sparrow** (TC, DN, AW) and **Swamp Sparrow** (CB, CK, CM, AW, DW) were both well-reported, with observations from five and seven sites, respectively. Lincoln's was limited to single birds, but a high of 7 swamps came from Sunnyside Rd 10/19 (CB, DW).

HTP held up to two **Blue Grosbeaks** 8/1-12 (DF, DN, DW), up to 7 **Dickcissels** with fledged young 8/1-15 (DC, DF, RP), and 12 **Bobolinks** 8/13-27 (DF, DN). The site continues to produce the top counts of **Eastern Meadowlarks**, with up to 22 birds 8/1-14 (TCa, DF, DNN, TN, RP) this season. The high count was made 8/13 (DF). LAR was the only other site reporting meadowlark—up to 3 birds 8/11-16 (CB, PK). **Rusty Blackbirds** were limited to a report of 5 at LW 11/8 (CF). Orchard Oriole was missed. Five reports of **Purple Finch** included an early sighting at Shrewsbury Twp. 8/31 (JF), and a nice count of 8 at Red Lion 10/3 (RS). Pine Siskin was not reported.

EXOTICS: A banded **Ringed Teal** was at CSP 9/15 (KL). A pair had been seen a number of years ago at the same location, which at the time were suspected to be escapees from a local businessman's holding of exotic waterfowl.

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

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

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

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

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IN FOCUS PART 2



Indiana birders recorded their first **Short-eared Owls** since 2009; this owl, photographed 19 November, was one of at least five at West Lebanon. (Anthony Bruno)



Golden-crowned Kinglet in Wildwood Park, Dauphin 17 November. (Sherri Hendricks)



Cape May Warblers are a "spruce budworm warbler" – species that respond positively to outbreaks in the vast Canadian forests to our north. Fall 2017 reports were above normal; this bird was at the Stone Mt. hawkwatch, Huntingdon/Mifflin on 1 October. (Nick Bolgiano)



Reflecting their breeding range, most Pennsylvania **Henslow's Sparrows** are found in western counties; however, even there they are infrequently reported in the fall. This sparrow was at Hillman SP, Washington 10 August. (Jeff McDonald)



"I Became a Better Birder When I Stopped Focusing on the Males" – K. Kauffman. Female **Hooded Warbler** in Scotia Barrens, Centre 6 September. (Ron Crandall)



This **LeConte's Sparrow**, the first in Montgomery since 1994, was present at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 4-5 (here 5) November. (Scott Godshall)