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Pennsylvania's first **Rock Wren** was discovered at the Dixon Meadow Preserve, *Montgomery* on 10/2 by Ben Dziedzic, seen here 10/5 (*George Armistead*), and last seen 10/12, having delighted hundreds of birders. Read the county summary for more details.

The 2019 PSO meeting will be in Lycoming in September.

The 2019 meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology will be held on the weekend of September 13-15 in Williamsport, *Lycoming*. This will mark the third consecutive year for meeting in the fall - timing which seems to have boosted attendance. As of this writing, details are being finalized and will be presented in the next *PSO Pileated* and on the PSO website.

In this issue.....

Somewhat lost among the spectacular finds of Rock Wrens, Varied Buntings, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, and Roseate Spoonbills in the last couple years was an under-reported event of arguably more ornithological significance - the first confirmed nesting of **Trumpeter Swan**. Our lead article, by Tom Glover, recounts the discovery of what turned out to be a successful nest attempt, with one healthy-looking cygnet produced. The parent birds had been tagged in Virginia and sighted at various locations before choosing a private pond in *Jefferson* for nesting. As an addendum - this same pair of tagged swans - Z675 and Z603 - were re-sighted in 2019, staying for about a week at a small pond in *Blair*, and, I'm happy to report, still with (presumably) last year's youngster still tagging along.

Elsewhere (and hopefully spurring readers to explore them), items from the Local Notes include an account of the travels of a **Brown Pelican** (*Beaver* report), a big **Blue Jay** movement at Hawk Mountain, with comparison to historical reports (*Berks*), banded **Northern Saw-**

whet Owl recaptures (*Chester*), nano-tagging of migrating **Veeries** (*Chester*), good numbers of the seriously declining (in the east) **Common Nighthawk** (*Clarion*), double-clutching of **Barn Owls** (*Mifflin*), details on the **Rock Wren** (*Montgomery*), and counting **Chimney Swifts** (*Philadelphia*), to name a few.

Pennsylvania Birdlists has a new compiler and new locations

After 20 years, Peter Robinson has turned the job of compiling the Pennsylvania Birdlist report to Andy Keister (who is also the county compiler for *Columbia* and *Northumberland*). Some of you will have already noted that a portion of the 2018 list report was presented in the most recent *PSO Pileated*; the entire report is available on the PSO website. Thanks to Peter for his long service!.

Compiler news

Two of our longest tenured compilers are stepping down. **Brian Hardiman**, who has been covering *Monroe* since 1998, is retiring and moving out of the county. In *Bedford*, **Tom Dick** has done his last report, having served as compiler since 2001. Another departing compiler is **Brendyn Baptiste**, now attending college in Maine. Brendyn has been doing both *Cameron* (now in hands of Mark Johnson) and *Elk*. Thanks Brian, Tom, and Brendyn for your contributions to our state journal!

We welcome a new compiler for *Tioga* - **Bob Snyder**, who resides in *Centre*, will add *Tioga* to *Potter*, which he took as of last issue. Beginning with the next (winter) issue, **Laura** and **Mike Jackson** will take over in *Bedford*.

The following counties are in need of a compiler: *Bradford*, *Elk*, *Forrest*, *Fulton*, *Luzerne*, and *McKean*. 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), **Laura** and **Mike Jackson** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **John Carter** (Blair), **August Mirabella** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Dave Gobert** (Cambria), **Mark Johnson** (Cameron), **Billy Weber** (Carbon), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Andy Keister** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland), **Sandy Lockerman** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zach Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Glenn Koppel** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Holger Pflicke** (Philadelphia), **Dan Hinnebusch** (Perry), **Robert Snyder** (Potter, Tioga), **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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Trumpeter Swans Breeding in Pennsylvania

Thomas N. Glover

“...the day may be near when the Trumpeter Swan is confirmed breeding within Pennsylvania.”

John P. Dunn

Introduction

The above quote by John P. Dunn was the last sentence from the section on Trumpeter Swans in the “*Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*” (Dunn 2012: 92-93). That day has arrived! A pair of nesting Trumpeter Swans was observed by Lisa Catarouche and family on a beaver pond west of Richardsville, Jefferson County over the 2018 Memorial Day weekend. Lisa provided photos of the swans as evidence of the first ever recorded nesting of Trumpeter Swans in Pennsylvania (Figure 1). The breeding pair of neck tagged birds (Z603 and Z675) was observed numerous times in Pennsylvania from March 2016 to November 2017. The origin of the pair was determined to be part of an effort to reestablish Trumpeter Swans in the Chesapeake Bay area by the “Environmental Studies on the Piedmont,” a division of the Clifton Institute, located north of Warrenton, Virginia. These birds, Z603 and Z675, provide a narrative into the story of Trumpeter Swans breeding in Pennsylvania.



Figure 1. Z603 and Z675, nesting pair of Trumpeter Swans located on a beaver pond west of Richardsville, Jefferson County (Lisa Catarouche).

Biology and Natural History

North America is the home of two native species of swans, the Trumpeter Swan and the Tundra Swan. The Trumpeter Swan is the largest waterfowl in North America and the largest swan in the world. The range of the native populations of Trumpeter Swans includes southern Alaska, British Columbia, western Alberta, eastern Idaho, southwestern Montana, and Wyoming. Reintroduced and breeding populations are found at various national wildlife refuges in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, South Dakota, and eastward from Ontario, Minnesota, and Iowa to Michigan, Ohio, New York, and Virginia. On winter migration Trumpeter Swans have been found in southern California, New Mexico, Texas, and the Mideast Atlantic coastal area (Johnsgard 2016).

Trumpeter Swans range in length from 54 to 63 inches, weigh between 17 and 28 pounds, and obtain wing spans up to 80 inches. Females average smaller than the males. Adults are entirely white with black legs, black bill, and a black broad patch of skin in front of the eyes. Immatures are dusky gray with white highlights and have a pink center on a black bill. It is common to see Trumpeter Swans with rusty stained heads, particularly during the breeding

season. They forage in shallow water by reaching under the surface to eat aquatic plants and at times tip up in dabbling duck fashion. They also forage in fields of leftover and spilled grains. Trumpeter Swans breed in open habitats of shallow bodies of water and winter on estuaries, large lakes, and rivers that remain partially ice-free year-round (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: All About Birds: Trumpeter Swans).

Like other swans, Trumpeter Swans normally mate for life, but instances of bond breaking have been reported. Most pair bonds form at 5-7 years old, but pairing has been observed as early as 20 months. Trumpeter Swans have been observed on breeding locations as early as the first of February. Nesting birds will commonly take advantage of muskrat lodges as bases for nests. The female does most of the work constructing the nest and most of the incubating of eggs. Usual clutch sizes consist of four to six eggs laid in the first weeks of May. Eggs are incubated for 33-37 days and start hatching the first and second weeks of June. Cygnets weigh 7 to 8 ounces at hatching, and by the first week of September they weigh 15 pounds. By the time the cygnets take flight the first and second weeks of October they weigh 19 pounds. (Banko 1960).

Survival rates for Trumpeter Swans depend on several factors, including habitat quality, predation, and human factors. Survival statistics are variable. Wyoming studies showed that broods ranging from one to four cygnets fledged at least one bird (Travsky and Beauvais 2004). Birds one to two years old have a survival rate as low as 40%, and birds older than two years have an increased rate of 80 to 100 percent (Slater 2004). Life expectancy for a wild bird can be up to 24 years, while a captive bird lived to 33 years of age. The estimated population of Trumpeter Swans in North America based on a 2015 survey was 63,016 (Groves 2017).

Prehistoric populations of Trumpeter Swans must have been common throughout the area covered by the present-day United States. Archeological remains of the birds have been found in Ohio, Illinois, Oregon, and Florida (Banko 1960). Prehistoric Trumpeter Swan remains from Pennsylvania were found in the Sheep Rockshelter in Huntingdon County (Guilday and Parmalee 1965). Pre-settlement rates of survival were primarily impacted by habitat and predation. But with the arrival of Europeans in North America starting in the 16th century, the human factor impacted the survival of Trumpeter Swans. Initial impact on swans took the form of use as a food source. But during the 18th and 19th centuries market hunting took a tremendous toll on the Trumpeter Swan population (Banko 1960). By 1933 fewer than 70 swans were found in the lower 48 states, all located in Yellowstone National Park, but during the 1950s thousands of swans were found in Alaska (Shea, et al. 2002).

Restoration efforts for the Trumpeter Swan began in the early 1900s. Two key acts laid the foundation for these efforts: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) ended the unregulated harvest of the swans in the USA and Canada, and the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (1929) established national wildlife refuges in the USA. The establishment of the Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge west of Yellowstone National Park in 1935 marked the beginning of efforts by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the Trumpeter Swan population (Banko 1960). The success of this breeding program allowed swans to be transferred to other breeding efforts in wildlife refuges located in Wyoming, Oregon, and Nevada (Banko 1960). By 1959 the increase in the swan population at Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge provided breeding stock for zoos and private propagators. The increase further prompted efforts to reintroduce Trumpeter Swans in the Midwestern part of the USA and subsequently into the Canadian province of Ontario (Shea, et al. 2002). The 1968 founding of the Trumpeter Swan Society located in Minnesota added to the efforts to protect the swans' habitats, aid in the restoration of swan populations, and improve their management (Shea et al. 2002). The

successful restoration efforts over the years have culminated in increasing the population to the 63,016 mentioned above.

Part of that restoration effort took place at the “Environmental Studies on the Piedmont” (ES), a division of the Clifton Institute. The ES is located on a 914-acre field station just north of Warrenton, Virginia. The ES was founded by Dr. William J. L. Sladen after he retired from a teaching career at John Hopkins University in 1990. The ES was his base to continue the study of migratory patterns of the Trumpeter Swan and his attempts to restore the birds to their traditional East Coast wintering grounds. Dr. Sladen, born in Wales, was originally a trained physician. He was the British medical officer for research studies in Antarctica during the 1940s, but in the 1950s he became part scientist, part conservationist, and part adventurer. In 1955 he completed a doctorate in zoology from the University of Oxford. Soon after, he settled in the United States and became a citizen in 1962. He was a professor at Johns Hopkins University for many years. His research and adventures took him all over the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. He was one of the original scientists who studied the use of ultralight aircraft to aid captive bred Canada Geese in their migration. That effort was dramatized in the 1996 film *Fly Away Home*. Dr. Sladen died in May 2017 at the age of 96 (Langer 2017). Trumpeter Swans Z603 and Z675 are part of his legacy.

Story of Z603 and Z675

My son Jud Glover and I first encountered Trumpeter Swans Z603 and Z675 on Labor Day, September 4, 2017, while birding the Five Bridges Trail. This undeveloped, nine-mile-long trail, part of the Rails-to-Trail effort, is located west of the town of Brockway, Pennsylvania. The swans were first located on a beaver pond by Jud. We slowly eased our way up the trail with the intention of not spooking the birds. When we got close to the pond, we intentionally kept brush between us and the birds. Peering through the bushes about 30 feet in front us were two very large, white, foraging swans. We identified the two birds as Trumpeter Swans. We started to work our way around the brush till we were soon in the open about 15 feet from the Trumpeters. The birds noticed us but continued to dip their heads, foraging underwater. Upon closer observation, we noticed they wore numbered neck identification collars. With some effort we determined the numbers on the collars, Z603 and Z675. As we stood there viewing the pair, it was not unusual for them to swim within ten feet of us. After a while we began to work our way down the trail and to our amazement, the swans followed. Since this encounter was odd, we wondered what was going on with these two swans. We concluded that they were used to humans.

After entering the day’s bird list in eBird, I went to the Trumpeter Swan Society’s website to enter the two observed Trumpeter Swans along with their identification numbers. The Society keeps track of banding information and sightings throughout the US and Canada. The site explains the numbering system pegged to locations where they were banded. Initially I thought the birds were banded in Wisconsin, but further research proved that assumption was wrong. I found a posting on Alex Lamoreaux’s Nemesis Bird site (Lamoreaux 2016) that mentioned these two individuals. Alex reported the two birds were sighted on March 20, 2016, at Swatara State Park in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Alex investigated the identification numbers of the two swans and found that the Bird Banding Lab had no record to match the collar numbers. In fact, he found that the collar color and pattern expired in 2002. He also learned that, according to swan banding protocol, these neck collar identifiers were the type used on captive swans (Trumpeters, Tundra, and Mutes) in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. All the clues indicated that these two Trumpeter Swans were raised in captivity. That would account for their following us as we continued along the trail.

It was obvious that these two Trumpeter Swans required further research. Using eBird and records submitted by county compilers in past issues of *Pennsylvania Birds*, I found that the two birds were sighted numerous times throughout eastern and southern

Pennsylvania (Figure 2 and Table 1). Schuylkill County accounted for five of the ten PA recorded sightings for the time period March 2016 to early November 2017. In mid-November 2017 the swans were reported in Grant County, West Virginia, and toward the end of December 2017 they were recorded in Rappahannock County, Virginia. The clues pointed to Virginia as the origin of the two birds, and the trail led to the ES, located just north of Warrenton. A phone call placed to that organization cleared up the mystery of Z603 and Z675. Sue Garvin, past Educational Specialist at the ES, confirmed that the two birds’ origin was the ES. At that time Z603 was a twelve-year-old female and Z675, a five-year-old male. Sue noted the travels of Z603 and Z675 may have been due to overcrowding pressure on the field stations’ ponds. The two swans are part of a study and effort to reestablish Trumpeter Swans in the Chesapeake Bay area, initiated by Dr. William J. L. Sladen. She briefly related the story of Dr. Sladen’s efforts. At that time Sue noted that Z603 and Z675 were wintering on a pond at a private preserve near Sperryville, Virginia, in Culpeper County (Garvin 2018).

The next sightings of Z603 and Z675 in Jefferson County proved to be noteworthy. They were observed by Lisa Catarouche and family on a beaver pond near Richardsville, Jefferson County, over the 2018 Memorial Day weekend. Lisa researched the birds online and found articles posted in Todd Bird Club’s newsletter, *The Todd Nuthatch*, detailing the swans’ story. She contacted Margaret Higbee, *The Nuthatch* editor, with the sighting. Lisa informed us that Z603 was on a nest (Figure 3). Upon researching



Figure 3. Z603 on nest located on a beaver pond west of Richardsville, Jefferson County (Lisa Catarouche).

nesting Trumpeter Swans in Pennsylvania, we found that this observation was the first confirmed nesting pair in recent history. No confirmed reports of nesting Trumpeter Swans were noted in either the first *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (Brauning 1992) or the *second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (Wilson, et al. 2012). The second Atlas classified the species as “possible” from reports in Lawrence and Beaver counties. This confirmation was further detailed with a personal email exchange with Daniel Brauning, seasonal editor for *Pennsylvania Birds* (Brauning 2018).

Early on it was feared that the swans’ nesting effort had failed. There was evidence that the eggs did not hatch, but a fuzzy photo taken by Lisa supplied a surprise. Lisa took a photo to highlight the two adults with a deer in the background (Figure 4), but on closer examination the photo revealed an image of a little cygnet between the two adults. Yes, Z603 and Z675 did hatch one egg. During the summer Lisa and her family checked on the swan family, and she supplied photos documenting the growth of the cygnet over the summer (Figure 5). The last of the season’s photos of the family of swans were taken in early September 2018 (Figure 6) while the last

observation of them on the beaver pond was noted in mid-October 2018.

Following the saga of Z603 and Z675 over the past couple years has developed onto a “Trumpeter Swan Reality Story.” It is rare to follow individual birds over a long period of time. At the writing of this article searches on eBird have failed to find Trumpeter Swan reports of Z603 and Z675 in Pennsylvania or in states to the south. We will have to wait to see what chapters this swan family adds to their story.

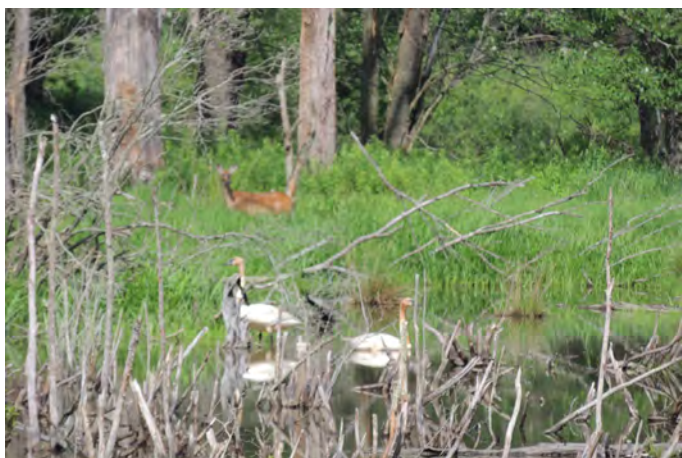


Figure 4. Cygnet noted between the adult swans with deer in the background (Lisa Catarouche).

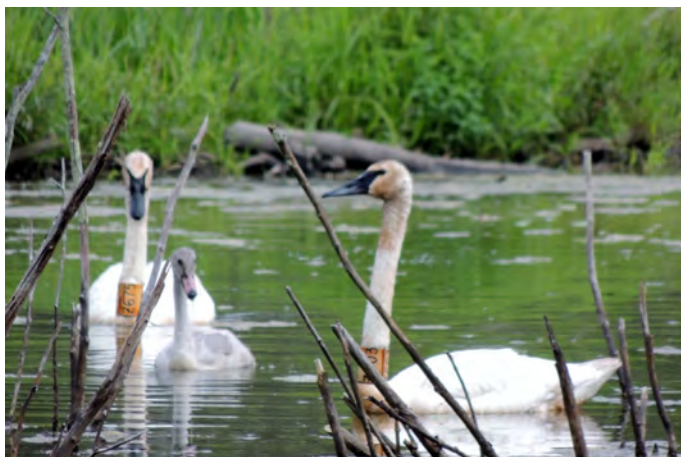


Figure 5. Swan family September 18, 2018 (Lisa Catarouche).



Figure 6. Swan family October 8, 2018 (Lisa Catarouche).

Acknowledgments

Thank you, Lisa Catarouche and family for discovering the swans and for providing photos and updates on Z603 and Z675 and their cygnet starting in the spring, through the summer, and into the fall of 2018.

Thank you to the landowner where the swans were found nesting. The landowner wishes to remain anonymous, and he wants the exact location of the nest site to remain unknown. The restricted access allowed the swans to nest with limited human impact.

Thank you to Sue Garvin, former Educational Specialist of the Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, for providing information on Z603 and Z675, and information on Dr. William J. L. Sladen.

Thanks to Margaret and Roger Higbee and Flo McGuire for reviewing the article.

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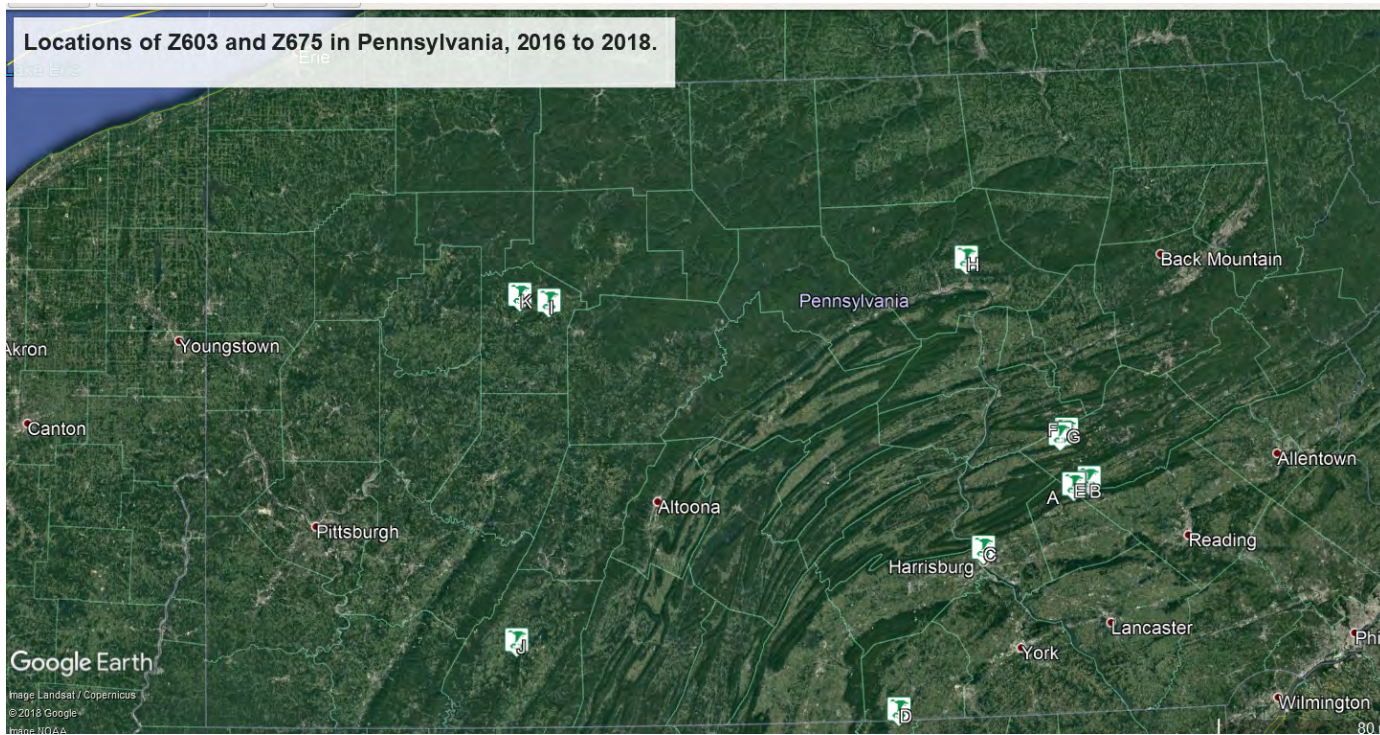


Figure 2. Z603 and Z675 locations noted in eBird and in *Pennsylvania Birds* issues from March 2016 to early November 2017 (Google Earth).

Table 1. Locations of Z603 and Z675 in Pennsylvania noted in Figure 2

Map ID	Date	Location	County
A	3/20/16 – 6/15/16	Swatara State Park	Schuylkill
B	6/18/16 & 9/17/16	Union Canal Veterans Memorial Park	Schuylkill
C	1/25/17	Wildwood Lake Pond, Harrisburg	Dauphin
D	2/6/17	Bullfrog and Gordon Roads	Adams
E	3/2/17 & 3/11/17	Swatara State Park	Schuylkill
F	3/24/17	Ranch Road	Schuylkill
G	3/26/17	Kettle Road	Schuylkill
H	4/1/17 – 4/7/17	Pier 87 Private Pond	Lycoming
I	9/4/17	Five Bridges Trail	Jefferson
J	11/4/17 & 11/5/17	Lake Somerset	Somerset
K	5/18 – 10/18	Beaver pond, west of Richardsville	Jefferson

Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology Interview with Drew Weber Chuck Berthoud

Growing up in the Reading area, Drew Weber started birding with his father, visiting local spots like Lake Ontelaunee and Middle Creek. As his interest in birds and technology further expanded, he started NemesisBird.com to write about birding trips, examine ID challenges and share pictures of the great birds he was seeing. It was through his three years as a point counter for the Second Breeding Bird Atlas and his membership in PSO that he got to know some of the faces of PA birders. Drew was an early adopter of eBird and first set up an account in 2004 and by 2008 had imported all his bird sightings into eBird. In 2006 he jumped all in on using eBird in PA in a friendly competition to get the top PA year list in eBird. While he was not really making a serious effort for a PA big year, birders are competitive by nature, and the presence of this upstart on the Top 100 in PA spurred the more established birders to start getting their data in.

Drew agreed to a telephone interview to discuss what he has been doing since leaving Pennsylvania, talk about birding in the age of computers and smart phones, and help us become better users of all things eBird.

PSO: How did you get up to Ithaca, New York and what are you working on?

Drew Weber: Six years ago I followed my wife to New York and began working at Birds in the Hand, mainly on the BirdsEye and BirdLog apps. Soon after Cornell Lab of Ornithology brought the development of BirdLog (now eBird Mobile) in-house three years ago, I also moved to the Cornell Lab to coordinate the Merlin Bird ID app, which was also originally developed by Birds in the Hand while I was there. Much of my time now is spent leading the effort to expand Merlin Bird ID to cover new regions and add new features to help people identify birds. When I joined the Merlin team, Merlin had only 400 birds; now over 3,000 species of birds can be identified, and the app has a near term goal of identifying every species in the Americas and western Europe. Content for every species in the Americas should be complete in the next year and we are quickly expanding to include other areas globally such as India, China and Australia. My goal is to build Merlin into the ultimate bird guide and identification tool, giving people the confidence to identify any species in the world, supplemented with photographs and sounds from the Macaulay Library. One of the biggest features we've developed was the Photo ID tool, that uses AI-powered tools to identify a bird in a photo. We are seeing more and more people take really fantastic photos of birds, but don't always know their identification. Photo ID in Merlin will be a great resource for these folks, but also does well identifying photos from the back of your camera or through a digiscope rig.

PSO: Merlin ID sounds very useful -- how do you intend birders to use it?

Drew Weber: The newly enhanced **Explore Birds** feature is what most birders will find most useful. You can set the location to anywhere in the world, and Merlin will display **Likely Birds** in the area, based on eBird sightings, plus bar charts showing how frequently that bird is seen each week of the year. If you log in with your eBird account, you'll see a check next to each bird on your life list. For many birders, just out exploring their local area, Merlin is most useful as a pocket reference with photos and sounds for all the birds you probably already know, with media illustrating the vocal and plumage variety you might see.



Merlin also offers the quickest way to see the seasonal patterns that come from eBird data. When you are traveling, you are probably less familiar with the local birds, and Merlin can help you quickly figure out which woodcreeper you are looking at, which warblers are currently in the area, and what all these potential lifers look and sound like. You can even choose to toggle off the species you've already seen, creating a pocket version of the eBird Target Species feature that you can use anywhere.

Merlin is also closely integrated with the eBird Mobile app-- from the comments screen for any species in eBird you can tap the Merlin button to launch directly to Merlin's content for that species, for instant photo and audio references if you need them.

PSO: Why should PA birders use eBird?

Drew Weber: There are both personal and conservation (more on these later) reasons to use eBird. On the personal side of things, eBird organizes all your sightings in one place where they can be easily retrieved. You can explore your life and year lists for any region, plus get Rare Bird and Needs Alerts by email of the birds you need for your life list or year list. Entering checklists has never been easier with the eBird Mobile app so when you get home from a birding trip, your lists are already entered. Newer features to make this more efficient include a Smart Sort feature highlighting the most expected species based on your birding location location, the ability to edit already submitted checklists, and share the checklists with your birding companions. There are three horizontal bars on the screen to toggle between Smart Sort or Taxonomic Sort. Using Smart Sort makes it less likely for someone to report Purple Finch in PA which would be Infrequent or Rare when House Finch, the expected species is found in the top group. If the observer is still unsure of the bird identification, they can jump into Merlin to further confirm their ID.

PSO: It has been exciting to see the improvements to eBird Mobile app such as the smart search and GPS tracking and the photo and sound quizzes on the web site. The profiles of birders, which came out in 2016, are a fun way of seeing where other birders have been, and the Hotspot heat maps show where birders have concentrated their efforts. Birders are beginning to use the new Photo and Sound Quizzes to prepare to bird new areas. What else is coming?

Drew Weber: If you haven't been on the web site for a few months, check out the Explore Species pages on eBird— a new media-driven profile page for over 10,000 species, combining the best of Merlin, eBird, and Macaulay Library into a single resource. If you search for Rusty Blackbird from the Explore tab at the top of the web site, you will find the same description and photo and audio galleries featured in Merlin. Scrolling down the web page, you will find a range map and statistics of total observations by eBirders (over 196,000), a number of photos (over 11,000) and audio recordings (480). If you are logged into the site, your personal observations are summarized. Set the region at the top to Pennsylvania to see the stats and map update just for our state. Further down the web page are some of the best available photos, videos and sounds from the Macaulay Library.

We're also planning to take advantage of advances in Photo ID to help photographers upload and tag their images more efficiently, and catch any identification mistakes and you can expect to see news on that this year.

PSO: What is the value of the eBird data?

Drew Weber: With all the advances in machine learning and the ridiculous amount of data (we now have over half a billion observations from 30+ million checklists) we will be able to see more and more trends emerging. We can separate the effects of habitat and weather to better understand the status and distributions, and abundances of a species. We are learning how detectable a

species is and how many might actually be there. For scientists who want to know how a species is doing across their range, we can show whether a species is increasing or decreasing. If we want to know where conservation efforts really are paying off, or what to prioritize in conservation, we now are getting the data to answer the questions. There is an unlimited potential for learning about a bird's status and distribution.

PSO: How are scientists using the data?

Drew Weber: Recently eBird Status and Trends were released for over 100 species in North America. These are very detailed maps and charts describing the ranges, abundances, environmental associations and population trends for each species. To make these maps we had to screen eBird checklists for good data. Only complete checklists are used over a limited distance or area. To make the abundance maps, at least 50 qualifying checklists are needed over a 30-day period.

The Range Maps show the species' seasonal range boundaries, with each season stacked upon one another, or in other words, they are color coded in the familiar way we are used to seeing them in guide books, but they are much more detailed. The Rusty Blackbird is a good example of the kind of detail we can generate from data provided by eBird. For instance, how many birders know that Rusty Blackbird has three breeding populations, as seen in Figure 1? You would not know that from looking at the range maps in your field guide. We are now in the process of creating more animations of

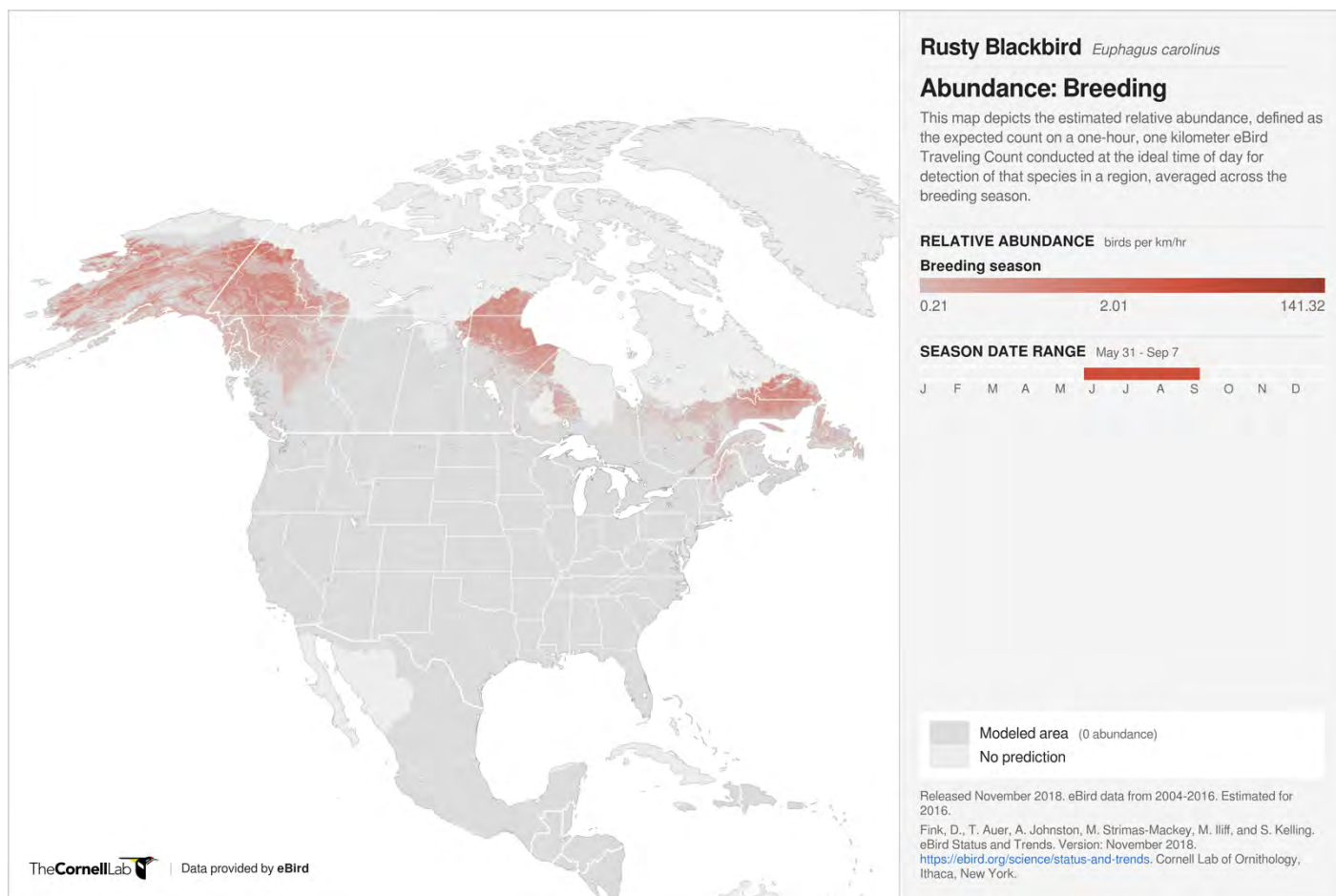


Figure 1. Rusty Blackbird Relative Abundance May 31 to September 7. Source: <https://ebird.org/science/status-and-trends/rusbla/abundance-map-breeding>

bird migration. The more precisely we know where bird populations are, the better we are able to conserve them.

The Breeding Trends Map shows the annual rate of change in the species population in the decade from 2007-2016. In the Wood Thrush example below, in Figure 2, each dot represents a 25x25 kilometer area, and dot size is scaled to abundance. The red color shows the overall decline in PA with the exception of three blue dots in eastern PA. Because of the abundance of data we now have, these maps can be made with great detail.

PSO: How can Pennsylvania eBird users make their sightings more valuable to science?

Drew Weber: It is important to as accurate as possible when recording species, did you make a complete checklist of all the birds you saw? No matter how you birded, whether it was just a quick stop to enter a kestrel you saw perched by the road, or a 12 mile hike, it is crucial that you read the different protocols and make sure

you are using the right one. It is also important to record the actual effort made. If you casually watched birds at your feeder over several hours, it would be appropriate to stop your checklist and start a new one when you can focus on just watching birds. It is better to try and estimate the number of birds seen rather than just put in an 'X'. (These are the minimum requirements for checklists to be eligible each month for a chance to win a pair of Zeiss Conquest binoculars. These Challenges reinforce good eBird practices while attempting to be appropriate to the season and create interest by doing different types of birding.)

Pennsylvania has one of the highest uses of eBird in the world. PA birders have submitted just over one million checklists. This is not that far behind Texas, which has a lot of out-of-state birders and has twice the population of PA. Keep up the good work PA birders!

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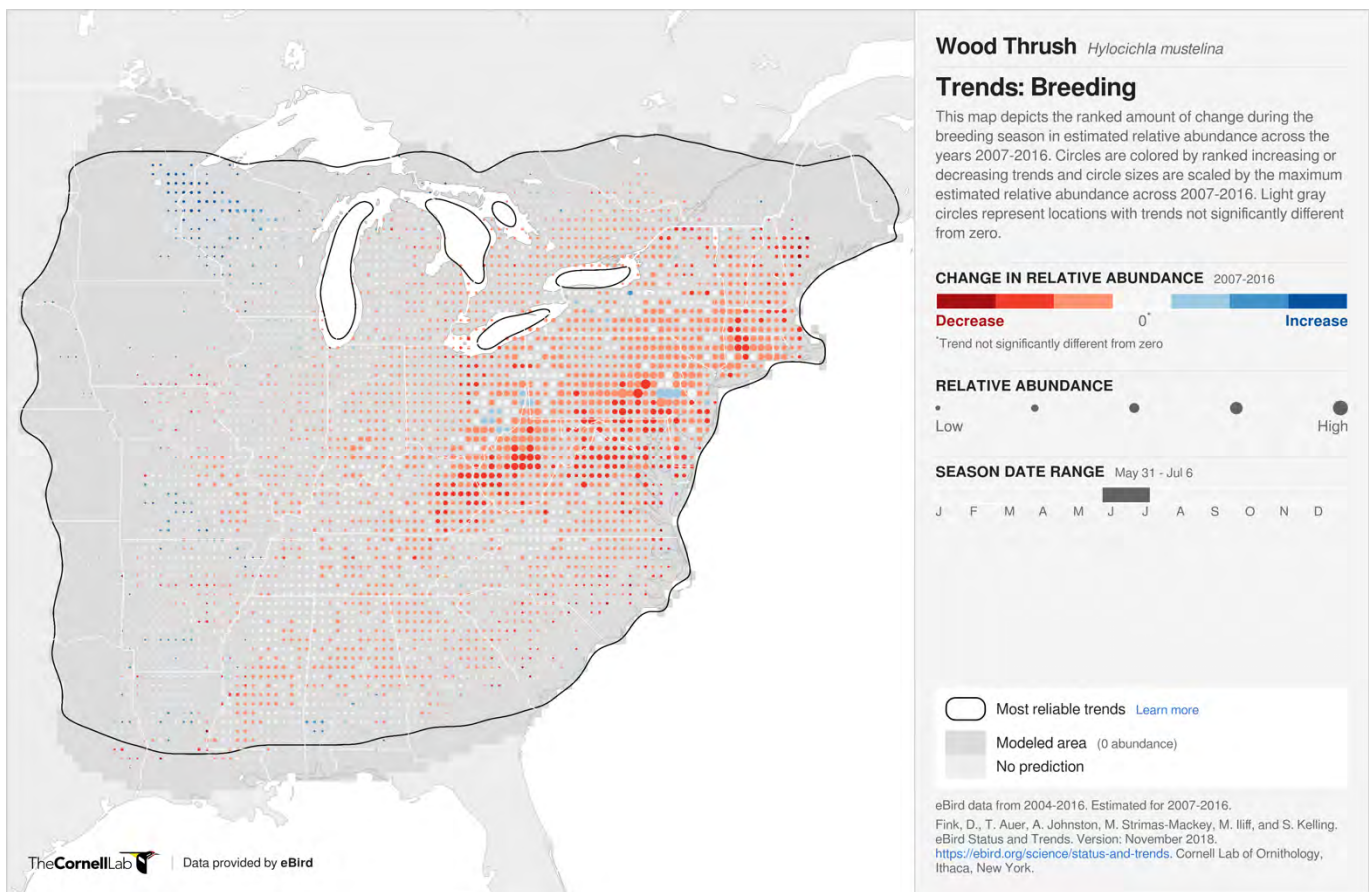


Figure 2. Wood Thrush Breeding Trends. Source: <https://ebird.org/science/status-and-trends/woothr/trend-map-breeding>

A Woodpecker's Badly Deformed Bill Is an Avian Mystery

Paul Hess

At first glance, the woodpecker in the photograph may hint at being a Hairy Woodpecker because of its long bill; however, it is not. It is a Downy Woodpecker with an abnormally long, curved bill, which Walter and Dana Shaffer watched at their feeder in Churchill, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, during late winter and early spring 2018 (Hess 2018).

The reason for its abnormality is unknown. Only examination by veterinary and wildlife disease experts might shed light—and perhaps not even with certainty, according to the experts.

Could the woodpecker have survived by digging its thin bill into hardwood bark for its usual food? Perhaps the relatively soft diet in the log feeder was a key to its survival.

Maybe we shouldn't write off this bird's fate. In 1908 an observer named J. H. Bowles watched an extraordinary Red-breasted Sapsucker with an upper mandible 2.5 inches long and curving far to the right. He said the bird was "very fat and experienced no difficulty whatever in securing her food as I watched her for some time. This she did by using her long upper mandible much as we do a nut pick, digging the insect life to the surface out of deep crevices in the bark, and then picking it up by turning her head completely over on one side."

The earliest detailed description of this abnormality that I can find is a report by the great American naturalist Charles. B. Cory, who had this to say: "In Dr. Gundlach's private museum at Ingenio Fermina, Cuba, I had the pleasure of seeing a most curious *Campephilus bairdi* which might well be called an ornithological monstrosity. The bird was perfect in every respect with the exception of the upper mandible, which had grown to the enormous length of nearly twelve inches, curving downward and passing the body on the left side." (1886). Cory's article includes a drawing of the spectacular aberration. This specimen was the now-extinct Cuban subspecies of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker currently named *Campephilus principalis bairdii* (Jackson 2002).

A 1902 note by ornithologist Bernhard Hantzsch in an obscure German journal *Ornithologische Monatsberichte* described a male House Sparrow specimen collected in Dresden in 1901, which had an upper mandible 1.2 inches long, curved upward, and a straight lower mandible 0.6 inches long. His description included a careful drawing of the bill that also portrays an oddly uneven edge on the upper mandible. [Cory's and Hantzsch's articles are available online by searching the authors and

titles listed in the references. The illustrations are well worth a look.]

Possible causes of such deformities is a long-standing question, and include genetics, accidental injuries, diseases, and "industrial contamination" (Pomeroy 1962).

Research in the past several decades has focused on Black-capped Chickadees in Alaska, after many birds with overgrown beaks were discovered. Caroline Van Hemert at the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center also listed five other species commonly reported with deformed beaks: Northwestern Crow, Black-billed Magpie, Downy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Since then, she says, deformed bills have been found in Hairy Woodpeckers and other woodpecker species in various locations (2007, 2010). In addition, many more species have been reported in North America and other continents spanning groups from loons to eagles and from warblers to siskins (Hess 2010, Nelson 2018). These are much rarer elsewhere than in Alaska.

The deformity observed among Alaskan birds is termed "avian keratin disorder" (keratin being the strong substance of birds' bills, legs, and toes). The search for a cause has focused most intensively on Black-capped Chickadees, which have the greatest incidence of deformities. A study by Handel and colleagues at the Alaska Science Center described the symptoms but reported that forensic examinations failed to uncover a cause (2013). In a paper from 2012, Van Hemert and co-researchers concluded: "We did not find consistent evidence of a bacterial, fungal, or viral etiology for the beak lesions. The changes observed in affected birds did not correspond with any known avian diseases that suggest a potentially novel hyperkeratotic disorder."

A possible breakthrough came in 2016 when Zylberberg, in collaboration with Van Hemert, Handel, and others, used genetic tools to discover a virus never before known, which was strongly correlated with birds afflicted with the bill disorder. They named it "poecivirus," after the chickadee genus *Poecile*. The virus has not been detected outside of Alaska, although additional testing is in progress and the researchers suggest that this virus needs further investigation to support it as a cause (Zylberberg et al. 2016, 2018).

Besides the aberrant bill, the bird found by the Shaffers in Allegheny County has two prominent oddities in plumage.

First, our eastern Downy subspecies normally has bright white areas of plumage, whereas the same areas in this individual are

dull tan or buff. Such drab coloration is typical of Pacific Coastal subspecies. However, those are year-round residents closely bound to their limited far-west range and not known to wander eastward. Moreover, a feature identifying this bird as our eastern subspecies is the series of large pale spots on the wing coverts. Pacific subspecies have no such spots or only a few small ones.

Second, the eastern Downy normally shows a thin white eye ring—tiny feathers known as the orbital ring. This bird has no such ring; the integument around the eye is unfeathered, all black, and somewhat swollen.

The causes of the bird's buffy wash and eye ring aberration also remain a mystery. Are these defects related to, or are they independent of, the abnormal bill? Van Hemert points out that plumage aberrations are sometimes found in birds afflicted with avian keratin disorders of the bill. Like the bill, feathers are made of keratin, so perhaps some process (viral or otherwise) causing an abnormal bill might also cause abnormalities in plumage. Again, much remains to be studied.

Birders are urged to report bill abnormalities in all species, with photos if possible, to the Alaska Science Center tinyurl.com/abnormal-beaks.



Downy Woodpecker, Churchill, Allegheny 31 March 2018. Photo by Walter Shaffer.

Acknowledgments:

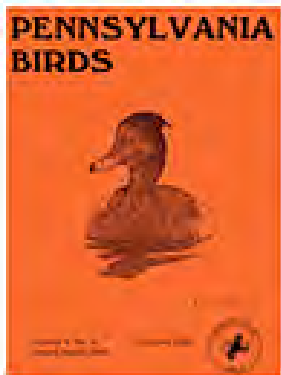
Thanks to Walt Shaffer for calling attention to this extraordinary woodpecker, for photographing it extensively, and for attaching an adjacent ruler to the feeder to measure the bird's size (in an unpublished photo); to Peter Pyle at the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, California, for confirming it as a Downy based on the demonstrated measurements; and to Caroline Van Hemert at the USGS Alaska Science Center for suggestions that improved this article.

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25 Years Ago in Pennsylvania Birds



Volume 6, No. 4.

The first *Breeding Bird Atlas of Pennsylvania* was finally published and reviewed in this issue.

The first Pennsylvania record of Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) was documented from Berks County and the first Pennsylvania record of Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) was reported from Erie County.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Pennsylvania Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2018

Laurie Goodrich

Autumn 2018 migration season was one of the rainiest on record, challenging both southbound raptor migrants and migration watchers. Most observers lamented the frequent rain and fog and reported lower hours as a result. On the bright side, when clear skies emerged, pulses of raptors were observed setting some new one-day high counts for a few sites. Both species of eagles showed impressive counts statewide and Bald Eagle counts set a new record statewide. American Kestrel statewide counts in autumn 2018 hinted at a possible rebound with encouraging one-day counts at several sites as well (see Figure 2).

Migration Summary

In autumn 2018, fifteen Pennsylvania watch sites counted 108,989 hawks in 7101 hours and 1065 total days, for 15.4 hawks per hour overall (Table 1). Statewide count hours were 6% below the average autumn effort of 7572 hours. Pennsylvania welcomed a new autumn site in Fayette County, the Summit Mountain watch on Chestnut Ridge. Summit Mountain was launched in spring 2018 and it is very exciting to see them join the few sites with both spring and autumn counts. We hope to learn much more about hawk movements in that region of the state.

About half the long-term sites showed increased hours despite the rain, while some had reduced hours, likely due to weather in most cases, although some may be in need of additional volunteers.

The total raptor count of 108,989 was about 12% below the 10-year average of 123,853 (Table 1, 2). Two common species were below-average: 48,652 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied, down 24% from the average of 63,768; and Red-tailed Hawk, with 9840 counted, was down 17% from 10-year average of 11,794. Eight of 16 species saw below-average counts with the largest deficits seen by Black Vulture (618 counted), 46% below the 10-year average; Northern Goshawk (109), 22% below average; and Rough-legged Hawk, of which only 6 were counted compared to an average of 9 (Table 2). Also below average were Osprey and Northern Harrier, species that have shown declines in eastern migration counts in recent years (see rpi-project.org; Table 1, 2).

Above-average counts were observed for Bald Eagle, 3156, up 31% from the 10-year average of 2416, and a new statewide record; and Turkey Vulture, 7567, up 8% from the average of 7033. Encouraging was the statewide count of 2407 American

Figure 2. American Kestrels/hour for Pennsylvania sites



Kestrels, up 26% from the average of 1914 (Table 2, Figure 2). Golden Eagle was 13% above average, with 1224 tallied compared to the 10-year average of 1084.

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford) – Allegheny Front counters tallied 11,736 hawks in 685 hours on 103 days, recording 17.2 hawks per hour from August 15 through December 15 (Table 1, 2). Effort was slightly below average, possibly due to weather. Total raptors were 30% above the ten-year average of 8193 and the highest since 2011. Counters set a new record for Bald Eagle, 222, which was 70% above the ten-year average. The Broad-winged Hawk total was 8055, particularly notable at 46% above the ten year-average of 4356 (Table 2). Golden Eagles were slightly lower than average with 194 counted compared to the ten-year average of 205 (Table 2).

Counters tallied the season one-day peak on September 16, with 3973 Broad-wings and 37 Bald Eagles among 4092 hawks recorded. October 26 brought another amazing count when 66 Golden Eagles were tallied amid intermittent showers and easterly winds. The eagle count surpassed the Red-tailed Hawk count of 55 for the day. November 4 was the best late season day with 188 Red-tails and 22 Golden Eagles tallied.

Bake Oven Knob (Lehigh/Carbon) – Bake Oven Knob watchers counted 12,105 hawks in 97 days and 655 hours of watching for an average of 18.5 hawks per hour. Effort and total count were slightly below the 10-year average of 781 hours and 13,410 hawks (Table 1,2); however, rainy weather thwarted many days along the ridge. Despite the weather, the Bald Eagle count of 389 was 27% above average. Other above-average species were Sharp-shinned Hawk (3479), 18% above average; Cooper's Hawk (360), 7% above average;

Table 1. Pennsylvania watchsites counting in autumn 2018

Site	Hours	Total	Raptors/Hour
Allegheny Front	684.5	11,736	17.15
Bake Oven Knob	654.8	12,105	18.49
Broadwing SEPT	4.5	34	7.56
Bucktoe Creek Preserve	800.8	8,509	10.63
Council Cup	105.0	1,801	17.24
Hawk Mountain	1031.5	18,250	17.69
Jack's Mountain	472.5	6,346	13.43
Little Gap	247.5	5,429	21.94
Militia Hill	431.9	6,212	14.38
Rocky Ridge	155.5	3,645	23.44
Rose Tree Park	394.8	3,610	9.14
Second Mountain	613.8	5,999	9.77
Stone Mountain	426.1	5,789	13.59
Summit Mountain	184.8	1,014	5.49
Waggoner's Gap	893.5	18,501	20.71
State Total	7,101	108,989	15.35

Golden Eagle (122), 22% above average; and American Kestrel (167), 12% above average. The Peregrine Falcon count of 72 was the second highest for the site.

On September 16, counters tallied the highest one-day total for Broad-winged Hawk, 1666. Northwest winds on October 12 brought the highest one-day totals for Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and American Kestrels, with 34, 314, and 29, respectively (Table 3). The highest November count occurred on the 3rd with 61 Red-tailed Hawks and 8 Golden Eagles.

Broadwing SEPT (Bucks) – The Broadwing SEPT count occurred on September 19, with 4.5 hours of observation and 34 birds counted. Counters tallied 7 Bald Eagles, 13 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 13 Broad-winged Hawks along with one Cooper’s Hawk.

Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester) – Bucktoe Creek Preserve recorded 8509 hawks in 801 hours over 90 days for above-average site coverage and a rate of 10.6 hawks per hour. Overall counts were slightly below the ten-year average of 9074 hawks, but the count hours set a new site record. Broad-winged Hawk, with 3764, was 27% below-average; however, both Osprey and Bald Eagle were above average at 198 and 330, respectively. All 3 falcons were above average, with the American Kestrel count of 341 being 60% above-average. The Turkey Vulture total of 1778 was also a new site record.

The highest one-day count occurred September 22 when an impressive 2547 Broad-winged Hawks flew over along with 23 kestrels and 19 Bald Eagles. An adult Mississippi Kite was recorded September 20.

Council Cup (Luzerne) – Council Cup counters tallied 1810 hawks in 105 hours over 25 days for an average of 17.3 hawks per hour. The overall count and hours were above-average compared to recent years. The Broad-winged Hawk total of 882 was more than twice the average of 345 and most other species were above average. Counts of Turkey Vultures, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and American Kestrels were higher than in the last decade (Table 2).

Similar to many other sites across the state, the highest one-day count was September 16 when 491 Broad-winged Hawks were counted along with 6 Bald Eagles and 6 kestrels. The peak one-day count of 18 kestrels was tallied October 12 following a cold front (Table 3).

Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill) – Hawk Mountain counters tallied an above-average count of 18,250 hawks in 1031 hours and 121 days (Table 2, 3), resulting in a rate of 17.7 hawks per hour, despite the above-average number of rain days. Count totals were above average for most species

Table 3. Peak One-day counts at watchsites in Autumn 2018

Site Name	American Kestrel		Golden Eagle	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	12	9/16, 10/8	66	10/26
Bake Oven Knob	29	10/12	30	10/21
Broadwing SEPT	-	-	-	-
Bucktoe Preserve	23	9/23, 10/12	2	11/04
Council Cup	18	10/12	1	10/25
Hawk Mountain	96	10/12	25	10/21
Jack’s Mountain	10	9/29	20	10/29
Little Gap	19	9/19	11	11/03
Militia Hill	48	9/22	1	several
Rocky Ridge	46	9/18	-	-
Rose Tree Park	25	9/16	1	11/16
Second Mountain	21	9/16	13	10/30
Stone Mountain	20	10/12	61	10/29
Summit Mountain	5	10/23	1	10/23
Waggoner’s Gap	39	10/12	36	10/29

excepting Black and Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Northern Goshawk (Table 1,3). The American Kestrel count of 427 was an encouraging 12% above-average and new records were set for Bald Eagle (552) and Merlin (247). Counts of both accipiters were higher than have been recorded in more than six years (Table 2).

September 16 brought the highest one-day count with 3308 Broad-winged Hawks and 19 Bald Eagles. However, mid-October was the time to be at the mountain. October 12 and 13 brought back-to-back exceptional flights with a one-day peak count of 96 kestrels and 88 Cooper’s Hawk on the 12th and a peak one-day count of 618 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 27 Merlins on the 13th (Table 3). A one-day high of 39 Bald Eagles flew past October 17. A surprisingly early push of 25 Golden Eagles flew south October 21. Counts were lower than usual in November, dampened by frequent rain storms and fog.

Jack’s Mountain (Mifflin) – Jack’s counters recorded an above-average 6346 hawks over 473 hours, also above average, and 77 days of counting, for a rate of 13.4 hawks per hour. Total counts were 34% above the ten-year average and most species were above average. Exceptions were Turkey Vulture, with a count of 48, 60% below average; and only 2 Black Vultures, 90% below average. A new site record was set for Bald Eagle, 197, echoing patterns observed around the state.

A notable flight occurred September 16 when 1775 Broad-winged Hawks and 14 Bald Eagles sailed south. A one-day high count of 103 Red-tailed Hawks was recorded October 26 and a one-day high of 20 Golden Eagles passed Jack’s October 29 (Table 3). As observed at other sites across the state, flights dwindled in November.

Little Gap (Northampton) – Lower than average counts were recorded at Little Gap,

with the total of 5429 hawks largely due to lower coverage, 248 hours in 36 days. The average of 21.9 hawks per hour was above average but total counts for species were below previous year’s counts.

On September 18, a peak one-day count of 14 Bald Eagles was recorded. The following day, the daily high count for total raptors occurred with 850 Broad-winged Hawks and 19 American Kestrels (Table 3). Sharp-shinned Hawk counts peaked on October 13 with 336 Sharp-shins among 408 total hawks. Another notable flight occurred October 21 with 160 Sharp-shins, 144 Red-tails, and 9 Golden Eagles. Eleven Golden Eagles were tallied November 3 along with 71 Red-tails (Table 3).

Militia Hill (Montgomery) – Militia Hill observers recorded a below-average total raptor count of 6212 during near-average coverage of 432 hours and 58 days, resulting in a rate of 14.4 hawks per hour. The largest deficit in numbers was seen in Broad-winged Hawks with 3489 counted, compared to a ten-year average of 10,178. Peregrine Falcon also showed a large dip from an average of 29 to 12 in 2018, 58% below average. In contrast, Black Vulture (28) was 52% above average, Osprey (308) 22% above average, and American Kestrel (314) 19% above average (Table 2).

September 22 brought the highest one-day count for the season including 1677 Broad-winged Hawks, 27 Ospreys, and 48 American Kestrels (Table 3). October 21 brought one of the highest October counts with a pulse of 156 Turkey Vultures and 59 Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Rocky Ridge Park (York) – Rocky Ridge counters increased their hours to 156 compared to an average of 88 in recent years and recorded 3645 hawks compared to a ten-year average of 2863. In 38 days of coverage, they tallied an impressive 23.4 hawks per hour. Most species showed above-average counts compared to recent

years, likely due to increase in hours. The Rocky Ridge Broad-winged Hawk count of 2811 was 20% above the recent ten-year average and American Kestrel counts, at 126, were nearly double the ten-year average (Table 2,3). In contrast was a below-average count of Bald Eagle, 26, compared to the ten-year average of 44.

The one-day peak count of Broad-wings, 988, was on September 16, along with 11 Ospreys. Peak Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel numbers passed the site October 12 with 45 and 10, respectively (Table 3). Five days were covered in November, tallying 21 raptors including 12 Red-tails. We look forward to seeing reports online from this southern Pennsylvania site in coming years.

Rose Tree Park (Delaware) – Rose Tree counters recorded 3610 hawks on 73 days and 395 hours of coverage between September 1 and November 18, a rate of 9.14 hawks per hour (Table 1, 2). Hours were below average, likely due to persistent rain days. Total raptors were 37% below the ten-year average of 5853 hawks. Rose Tree tallied below-average counts for all species except one, the American Kestrel, for which the total of 184 was 16% above the ten-year average of 159. The Bald Eagle count of 119 was near the average of 123 eagles per year.

September 16 brought a one-day peak count of kestrels, with 25 gliding past along with 2 Merlins and 18 Bald Eagles (Table 3). The peak one-day count for total raptors occurred September 22 when 1228 Broad-winged Hawks soared past along with 10 American Kestrels, 7 Ospreys, 7 Bald Eagles, 16 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and a lone Peregrine Falcon among the total of 1272 hawks for the day. October 18 brought the highest one-day count for mid-season with 53 Turkey Vultures and 49 Sharp-shinned Hawks along with 9 kestrels. This southeastern Pennsylvania site's one Golden Eagle, an immature, was sighted November 16 (Table 2, 3). On the last day of the season, November 18, the lone Northern Goshawk of the season was recorded.

Second Mountain (Lebanon) – Second Mountain tallied a below-average 5999 raptors in 614 hours and 96 days of counts, for a rate for 9.77 hawks per hour of effort (Table 1). The total count is the lowest tally on record for the site, likely affected by damp weather patterns that plagued most of Pennsylvania's sites in autumn 2018. Despite lower than average counts for some more numerous species in 2018, e.g., Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk, Second Mountain counters tallied a surprising above-average tally for late season rarities including Northern Goshawk (22), 37% higher than average and Golden Eagle (104), up 17%. The Bald Eagle count (229) also was up,

18% over average, as was Cooper's Hawk (234) up 9% (Table 1, 2). All 3 falcons were above-average, with, notably, 135 American Kestrels counted as compared to the average of 103, up 31% (Table 2, 3).

The highest one-day count for the site occurred on September 22, with 891 Broad-winged Hawks, 39 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Ospreys, and 2 Peregrine Falcons counted among 941 total raptors. Counters tallied the peak flight for Sharp-shins, 311, on October 10, along with 22 Cooper's Hawks, 2 goshawks, and a total raptor tally of 370 hawks. The peak kestrel count, 21, arrived early, on September 16, along with 14 Bald Eagles and 348 Broad-wings (Table 3). The peak Golden Eagle count, 13, sailed past October 30 (Table 3).

Stone Mountain (Huntington/Mifflin) – The total raptor count at Stone Mountain, 5789, was 35% higher than average with a record high 218 Golden Eagles and near-record counts of 158 Bald Eagles and 3027 Broad-winged Hawks (Table 1, 3). Hours of effort, 426 in 78 days, were slightly above the ten-year average and the 13.6 birds per hour were above the recent average of 10.6 birds per hour. Other above-average counts included Black Vulture, 42; Bald Eagle, 158; Northern Harrier, 54; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 892; Red-shouldered Hawk, 70; Red-tailed Hawk, 700; American Kestrel, 102; Merlin, 36; and Peregrine Falcon, 26. The Cooper's Hawk total of 99 was 10% below the average of 114, and the tally of 4 Northern Goshawks was 33% below the average of 6 (Table 3).

Stone Mountain recorded 3 days of more than 500 Broad-winged Hawks in September with the highest one-day count, 637, on September 20 and the second-highest, 571, on September 27. One of the best October days occurred on the 12th with 292 hawks of 14 species including the one-day high counts of 20 American Kestrels, 188 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 4 Peregrine Falcons (Table 3). One of the most exciting days occurred in late October when, on October 29, 61 Golden Eagles soared overhead among the 119 total raptors, setting a new one-day record (Table 3). The next day another 20 Golden Eagles were sighted, making the two-day tally greater than the total seasonal count at many sites (Table 2,3). Another 25 Golden Eagles were recorded November 3 along with 101 Red-tails and 9 Bald Eagles. The last four goldens for the season were sighted December 8, establishing the new season record of 218 Golden Eagles.

Summit Mountain (Fayette) – Pennsylvania's newest watch site, Summit Mountain, counted 1104 hawks in 185 hours and 34 days of coverage between September 1 and November 23, a rate of 5.5 hawks per hour. The most numerous raptors were Turkey Vulture, 308, Broad-winged

Hawk, 265, and Red-tailed Hawk, 217 (Table 1, 3).

The highest one-day count for the site occurred September 22 with 98 Broad-winged Hawks dominating the 110 raptors for the day. Summit Mountain recorded its highest one-day count for October on the 23rd, with the one-day peak of American Kestrels, 5, and Golden Eagle, one, along with 27 Red-tails and 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks (Table 2, 3). The highest one-day count in November was early in the month, on the 3rd, when 53 Turkey Vultures, 5 Red-tails, one kestrel, and one Northern Harrier were tallied. Rarities included one Northern Goshawk and 4 Peregrine Falcons. We hope to see more counts from this site in the coming years.

Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland) – Waggoner's Gap counters tallied 18,501 hawks in 894 hours and 129 days of coverage. Total raptors were 16% below the ten-year average of 22,257 hawks per autumn season. Hours were much reduced from the ten-year average of 1073 hours, principally due to the persistent rain and fog. Above-average counts were recorded for Bald Eagle, 571, and Golden Eagle, 251 (Table 3), despite the weather. The largest dip in counts was seen for Broad-winged Hawks, with 4653 counted compared to an average of 8053, 42% below average. The Osprey count, 260, was 30% below the average of 357 during the past ten years (Table 3).

Waggoner's Gap recorded its peak counts of Broad-wings of 897 on September 16 and 847 on September 18. October 12 and 13 brought amazing back-to-back accipiter flights including 782 Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 12th along with 67 Cooper's Hawks, 32 Bald Eagles, and a season one-day peak one-day of 39 American Kestrels. The following day, 731 Sharp-shins and 44 Cooper's Hawks sailed past along with 13 more kestrels. October 29 and 30 were highlighted by a notable push of Golden Eagles, with 36 and 27, respectively (Table 3). November can be an eagle month, and November 3 brought the highest eagle counts of the month, with 28 Bald and 11 Golden Eagles sighted. However, counts at Waggoner's were less than average for November overall, similar to many sites across the state.

Conclusions

The 2018 autumn was one of the wettest on record and the weather greatly influenced counts at watch sites across the state, particularly in late season. Reduced coverage and counts were observed; however, when weather did clear, some exciting migrant pulses brought amazing days and high counts for some sites. Central Pennsylvania sites enjoyed upswings in Broad-winged Hawk counts, possibly a result of some birds moving more westerly

than usual. One encouraging highlight of the 2018 autumn was the statewide combined uptick in American Kestrel counts (Table 3, Figure 2). We hope the increase in kestrels in 2018 marks a further rebound in both nesting and migrating numbers. Golden Eagles had surprisingly high counts at mid-state sites in October, earlier than one might have predicted. Less surprising, but just as welcome, was the new statewide record for Bald Eagle, tracking the continued increase in populations. Last year's dip in Osprey and Northern Harrier numbers was not abated in 2018 and bears further attention.

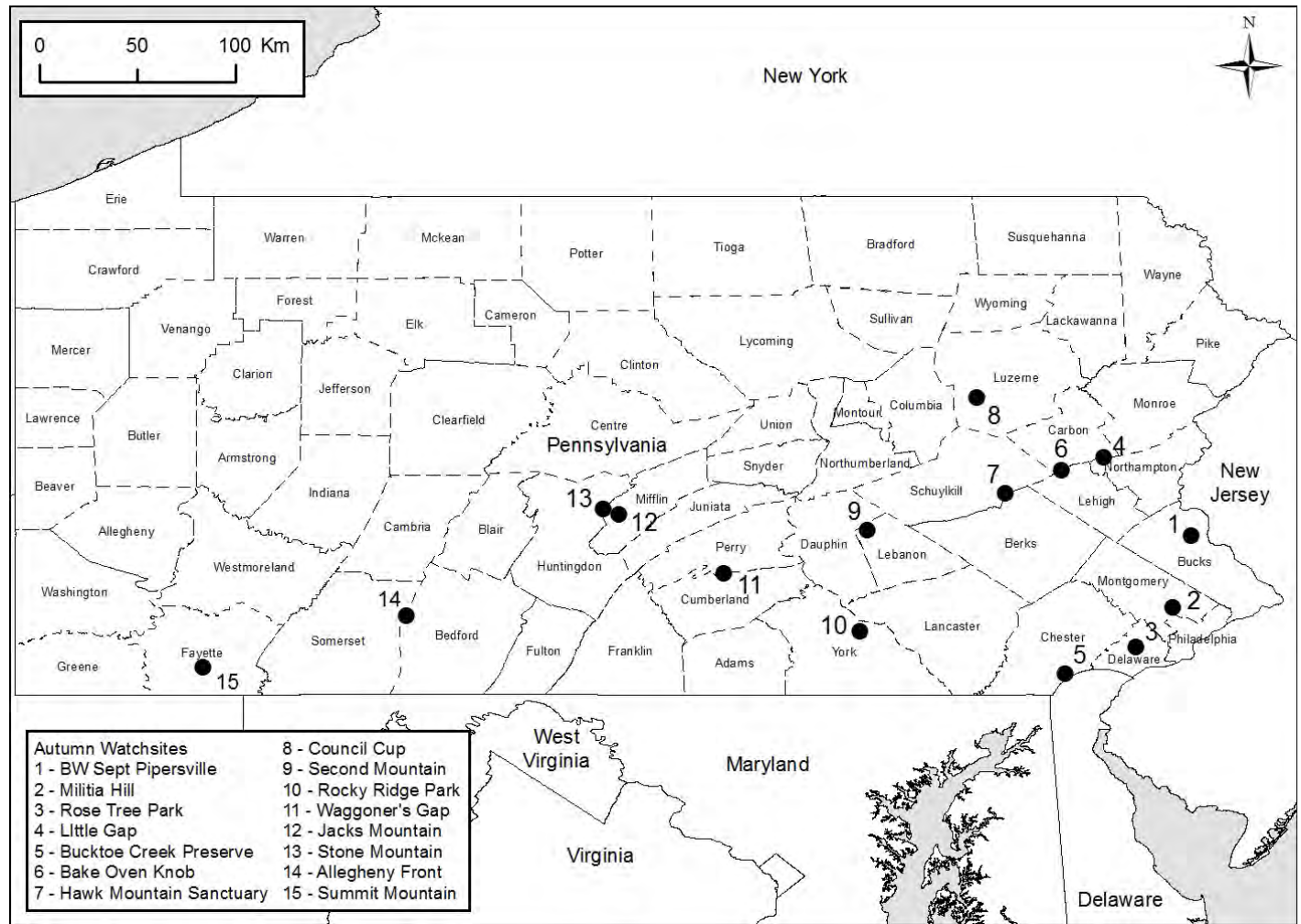
2018 and autumn data were accessed from www.hawkcount.org (accessed January 2019), a site managed by Jason Sodergren, HMANA database manager and Hawk Migration Association of North America. Assistance with table preparation provided by Katerina Ramos, Hawk Mountain volunteer. This article is Hawk Mountain Conservation Science Contribution 311.

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2018 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unit	Total
August	98	674	53	174	126	174	18	38	28	0	4	696	248	0	0	49	11	5	0	82	1,706
September	315	2,163	73	319	1,637	1,146	181	4,380	655	3	85	47,491	676	0	7	1,162	216	145	0	341	58,499
October	351	2,479	306	5,594	318	1,172	441	21,044	2,158	53	600	465	5,549	0	806	1,173	471	193	0	376	40,719
November	230	1,404	130	1,452	4	544	128	881	242	50	453	0	3,193	6	380	23	47	17	0	64	7,614
December	71	382	56	28	0	120	5	10	8	3	8	0	174	0	31	0	2	2	0	4	451
Total	1,065	7,101	618	7,567	2,085	3,156	773	26,333	3,091	109	1,150	48,652	9,840	6	1,224	2,407	747	362	0	867	108,989
Total per hr			0.09	1.07	0.29	0.44	0.11	3.71	0.44	0.02	0.16	6.85	1.39	0.00	0.17	0.34	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.12	15.35
% of flight			0.6	6.9	1.9	2.9	0.7	24.2	2.8	0.1	1.1	44.6	9.0	0.0	1.1	2.2	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average of last 10 yrs	1162.3	7584.4	1149.9	7033	2349.7	2416.9	885.3	25238.5	2784.9	140.3	1105	63768.1	11794	9.5	1084	1914.2	662.5	377.5	2	1047.5	123853.6
% compared to average	-8.4	-6.4	-46.3	7.6	-11.3	30.6	-12.7	4.3	11.0	-22.3	4.1	-23.7	-16.6	-36.8	12.9	25.7	12.8	-4.1	-100.0	-17.2	-12.0

*Total includes two Mississippi Kites

¹Includes three Mississippi Kites

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	Swallinson's Hawk
RSHA	Red-shouldered Hawk	Unit	Unidentified

BOOK REVIEWS

Gene Wilhelm

A REFERENCE GUIDE TO GULLS OF THE AMERICAS by Steve N. G. Howell and Jon Dunn, preface, how to use this book, introduction, plates of 1,160 color photographs, 36 species accounts, acknowledgments, bibliography, list of photographers, and index, 7 x 10 in., ix + 516 pp., published by Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 2017, \$35.00, hard cover.

Almost anyone who visits the beaches of the world recognizes a “sea gull,” so called, but most of those same casual birdwatchers would be shocked to learn that gulls are found hundred miles inland of most continents, are diverse species, and found in great individual numbers. An example is the recent appearance on 29 December 2018 of five species (2 Greater Black-backed, 4 Lesser Black-backed, 19 Bonaparte’s, 1395 Ring-billed, and 29 Herring Gulls), all in one day on Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, Butler County. Of course, as many as five or more gull species in far greater numbers also have concentrated at Presque Isle State Park on Lake Erie that acts as a natural flyway with the other great lakes and the St. Lawrence River to and from the Atlantic Ocean. Nevertheless, identifying certain gull species can vex even the most experienced observer and may offer the ultimate birding challenge. Regardless, gull identification offers something for everyone, from studying different complicated seasonal plumages to just watching them perform unique behavior. Thank goodness that we have two recent guides to help us unravel gull perplexity.

Gulls of the Americas, a Peterson Reference Guide, brings together identification criteria for 36 species of gulls that occur in the Americas: 22 that breed in North America, 10 that breed in South America, and 4 that have occurred as Old World visitors. The 1160 excellent color photographs are selected to show a “representation range” of plumages with an emphasis on birds of “typical,” not all, appearances. Note here too that the tome is not intended to be a field guide. Its large size and heavy weight prevent that from happening. The geographical area covered by the guide includes Greenland, the Galapagos, Falkland, Scotia Arc islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula.

Surprisingly late, modern identification studies of gulls began in 1925 with Jonathan

Dwight’s seminal work *The Gulls (Laridae) of the World: Their Plumages, Moults, Variations, Relationships, and Distributions*. Not until 1982 did another specialist gull book occur: Peter Grant’s classic *Gulls: Guide to Identification* that set a high standard and has been the starting point for serious subsequent works on this challenging group of birds, resulting in increasingly refined gull identification criteria. So, 35 years later Howell and Dunn’s outstanding reference guide appears. Howell has written *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* and *Hummingbirds of North America* while Dunn was editor of all seven editions of the National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Both authors have been leaders for the popular bird tour company WINGS for many years.

The Introduction of this guide poses the question “What are gulls?” The authors respond: “Put simply, gulls comprise a widespread group of frequently gregarious, web-footed birds characteristically found near water” (p. 9). Immediately following the introduction, photographs of all species covered are arranged on plates with captions that highlight identification criteria for each species and plumage cycle. Non-breeding and breeding adults are shown first, then juvenile through subsequent immature ages, typically arranged in chronological sequence. Gulls at rest are shown first, followed by birds in flight. The accounts of each subgroup of gulls are prefaced with a summary of the subgroups’ characters.

Individual species accounts make up the bulk of the guide (pp. 299-492) with English and scientific names of each species given, followed by length in inches and centimeters. Photos of each species are listed, including references to photos elsewhere in the guide. Then the identification summary, taxonomy, status, and distribution provide background information for each species. Beautiful maps are included for all taxa except those rare or local birds in a region. Explanation of range maps are simple and colorful: yellow: stands for resident, breeds locally; pink: seasonal, breeds locally; blue: non-breeding occurrence (can be year-round); olive: migration; blue question mark: possible non-breeding range; black arrow: migration route.

Four sections cover aspects relating more directly to field identification: 1) There are two kinds of similar species: those that often occur together or might reasonably be expected in the same geographic range, and those species whose geographic ranges do not normally overlap so that separating them is not usually a consideration. However, the authors did divide similar species (those likely to occur in the same range) and one for rarer species (those unlikely to occur in the same range but which might be considered when extra limital records are involved). 2) An overview of habitat and behavioral characters emphasizes features relevant to identification. 3) The authors integrated molts and plumages and used plumage cycles that allowed direct comparisons among all species. 4) Known or presumed hybrids are listed, including mixed species pairings for which eggs were laid.

As the authors stress, gulls are such a uniform group that generic distinctions in most current lists do not provide much aid in narrowing choices for an identification. The number of genera recognized recently among gulls varies from a single genus (*Larus*) to seven genera, all of which occur in the Americas. Using current studies, Howell and Dunn divide gulls into two well-marked groups: tern-like or sternine and typical or larine gulls (See Table 2, p. 11). The former gulls are generally smaller, more slender-billed, and vocally screechy birds. The second larine gulls are generally larger, stouter-billed, and vocally laughing species. The authors further divide gulls into five sub-groups of tern-like (Masked, Small, Kittiwakes, Fork-tailed, and Ivory) Gulls vs. four of typical (Hooded, Primitive White-headed, Small White-headed, and Large White-headed) Gulls.

“Variable” sums up the appearance of most gull species. In fact, Howell and Dunn stress that “gulls are an equalizing force among bird watchers in field identification – they can readily humble each and any one of us by defying specific identification. Both patterns of broad similarity and points of small differences can be important for identifying gulls, and knowing when to focus on which is a matter of experience – the name we give to our mistakes. Gull identification involves a perpetual learning curve: The proportion of unidentifiable gulls never reaches zero. Once you accept

this limitation, gull watching should become easier (p.11).

In this ornithological age of demanding ever more identifiable field details, Howell and Dunn satisfy birders' quest for answering such questions as whether gulls exhibit geographic variation. Yes, variation is dynamic and specimen analyses continue to identify new sub-species in 4 or 5 tern like gulls and 9 or 10 typical gulls. Although hybrid gulls do occur, they are generally rare and infrequently seen. On the other hand, birders must contend with the effects of a variety of environmental conditions when watching and identifying gulls. Such factors may operate directly on the gull or may be indirect on observers' perceptions, or both simultaneously: bleaching and wear feathers, pink flush, leucistic condition, dark discoloration mostly due to oiling, sick birds, distance, and lighting or lack of same are covered extremely well in the book and backed by profuse color photographs. Understanding of gull topography is important for being able to describe accurately what you see. Overall size and structure of a gull are fundamental to its identification as are bill size, shape, color, and pattern, head shape, eye color, orbital ring color, leg length and color.

Feathers are not permanent, the authors remind us, because they wear out and need

to be replaced. Molting is simply the normal and regular growth of feathers by which plumages are attained. The principles of gull molt are relatively simple but the reality is much more complex. For example, among many large white-headed gulls, molt may be an almost continuous process for the first two or three years of life, and even in adults there is often overlap in timing between different molts. Thus the authors use the Humphrey-Parkes (H-P) system of naming molts and plumages that are based upon plumage cycles. In the H-P system a bird can have no more and no fewer plumages than it has molts.

In this reviewer's opinion, the apex of the entire reference guide is found between pages 30-46 that challenge the reader who feasibly can do so to follow a gull species through its few plumage cycles from juvenile plumage (First Cycle), through Second, Third, Fourth Cycles to Adult Cycle. The authors used the Western Gull for their example but difficult for gull enthusiasts living in Pennsylvania with only the Herring Gull breeding here. Table 4, First-cycle Molt Strategies of American Gulls, divides all breeding gulls into four groups: Group A: Pre-formative molt extensive (complete in Sabine's Gull, first pre-alternate molt variable. Group B: First pre-alternate molt moderate to extensive; no pre-formative molt. Group C: First pre-

alternate molt limited (occasionally absent?); no pre-formative molt. Group D: Pre-alternate and pre-formative molts absent. (Consult p.44 for gull species in each group). Note that there is a Group E: titled insufficient data for the Swallow-tailed Gull. This large, spectacular, and unmistakable pelagic gull breeds mainly on the Galapagos Islands and is close to my heart because it so willingly appeases humans in allowing intimate breeding friendship while visiting the Galapagos Islands on seven occasions (See pp.339-341 for map and details).

The bulk of the guide is in two delightful, interdependent parts: Plates made up of scores of beautiful color photographs of gulls (pp. 47-298) and Species Accounts that have much informal data on identification summary, taxonomy, status and distribution, field identification aids focusing on habitat and behavior, description and molt, and a colorful range map for each species (pp. 300-492). The book ends with a 13-page bibliography with separate geographical references (pp. 509-513), and a thank you list of photographers who added so much colorful backup proof for gull reality. In sum, do yourself a favor and add this tome to your 'must have' library.

GULLS OF THE WORLD: A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE by Klaus Malling Olsen, acknowledgments, introduction, over 600 color photographs, introduction to the species accounts, topography, the species accounts, and index, 7 x 9 1/2 in., 368 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2018, \$30.36, hard cover.

It is uncanny that two gull guides should be published just one year apart (2017 vs. 2018). Klaus Malling Olsen, author of *Gulls of the World: A Photographic Guide* is widely regarded as the world's foremost and best-known gull expert. His previous books include *Terns of Europe and North America* and *Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia* with Larsson (2004). Olsen states that the aim of the book is to present gull identification in a more concise way and at the same time act as a photographic guide companion to *Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia*. The author makes it emphatically clear that: "The intention is not to present an authorized taxonomic update nor a bewildering mass of putative hybrids,

aberrant individuals, or atypical molting gulls, although the text does mention certain cases and the photo section presents the commoner or more easily identified hybrids. Neither is it our ambition to present highly detailed descriptions of plumages, molt and measurements. For this, we refer to Olsen and Larsson 2004" (p. 9). Olsen does suggest, however, a solid recommendation to use the website Gull Research: www.gullresearch.org not only as an invaluable source of the written word but also for its overwhelming number of Northern Hemisphere color gull photos.

The guide covers all 61 gull species of the world with the sequence of species following *Handbook of the Birds of the World* by del Hoyo et al, 1990, but some exceptions and rearrangements were made for practical reasons. Olsen does not explain the reasons. The Introduction describes all subspecies within a species that are only recognizable in the field. Within its lifespan, a gull goes through several plumage stages. Generally, gulls can be divided into three categories in terms of ageing: 1) Two-year gulls that

include most of the small hooded species, taking about 13-16 months to reach full adult plumage; 2) Three-year gulls that are mostly medium-sized species fall into this category and take 25-28 months to reach full adult plumage; and 3) Four-year gulls that include most large gull species. The plumage development is slower with at least one more immature plumage before reaching full adult plumage. These species take at least 28-40 months to reach full adult plumage. Studies of birds of known age have proved that within this group, exceptions from general rules are common with birds showing a bewildering mixture of characters from different age-classes, or traces of immaturity well into an older age. So, age-classes between first-winter and adult should be regarded as generalizations only (p. 11).

Juvenile is the first full plumage characterized by dark areas on the head and fore-body and a scaly or dark-mottled, camouflaged pattern in the mantle, scapulars, and upper-wing coverts. The under-wing is dark-marked in most species, and the tail has black markings

mainly as a distinct tail-bar. Bare parts are dull and eyes dark. Seven characters are diagnostic for juvenile/first winter (first year) gulls and are retained until the onset of complete molt to second-winter plumage beginning in late spring in the year after the bird hatches. Lengthy details of the sequence cycle process (first-winter, first-summer, second winter, second-summer, third-winter, third-summer, fourth-year, adult-winter, adult-summer) are interpreted for the reader (pp. 12-17).

Generally speaking, the more northerly a gull's breeding range, the less it molts following the breeding season. The large white-headed gulls from further south in their species range molt earlier in autumn than northern populations, as the breeding season is earlier. An exception of the rule concerns upland populations that breed later than populations from lowlands and coastal areas. Long-distance migrants generally molt differently than short-distance migrants and sedentary birds.

Olsen completes his Introduction with subjects also covered by Howell and Dunn but in far less detail: problems in worn, molt, and diseased birds – the latter looking lethargic and untidy with protruding breast and lowered wings; color abnormalities and oil staining that has become particularly threatening to pelagic gulls near off-shore oil ships and rigs worldwide; some notes on color differences and light effects (dull light enhances a rosy tinge whereas strong sunlight makes it less conspicuous thus often more obvious in the winter months); judging size and jizz (the first steps to field identification); and hybrid gulls (pp. 17-27).

Introduction to the Species Accounts is next in the book with each account following a standard format: a 'short introduction' to the main characters for a single species, such as dimensions given in centimeters, overall length (L) from bill-top to end of tail; wingspan (WS) is not exact but should give an overall idea of the size range of the species, says Olsen, who suggests full standard measurements are found in his 2004 book. But what about the rest of the 'world' gulls? (my question). The most characteristic features of a given species are mentioned hereafter, concentrating on shape, jizz, and flight characters. Comparison with similar-looking species can be found at the end of each species account. 'Ageing' comments follow and are particularly interesting. "Descriptions of the plumages from juvenile to fully grown adults are made:

juvenile – first -winter – first summer – second winter – and so on, instead of the recently introduced '1st cycle, 2nd cycle' and so on by Howell & Dunn. This latter method is based on molt sequence throughout the year, which we regard as less useful for a concise description of how a bird looks at any given time of the year. A '1st-cycle bird in autumn, still in rather fresh juvenile plumage, but with several new second-generation feathers, looks strikingly dissimilar to a worn bird still in its '1st cycle' in late spring," concludes Olsen (p. 28).

A few quaint terms used by gull observers in Europe, and possibly elsewhere, appear in the book and defined here: **Apical spots**: white primary tips; **Mirror**: white-rounded spots near tips of outer primaries; **Necklace**: alternative to scarf (see next); **Scarf or shawl**: darker hind-neck areas, contrasting to paler surroundings to suggest a scarf or shawl; **Skirt**: some large gull species (especially from the Pacific) with long secondaries, form a 'skirt' in the folded wings in settled birds; **String of pearls**: small white or pale areas between black in the primary tips and paler basal parts, which creates white spotting in the wing-tip for single feathers; also indicated as 'new moons' in topography illustration (p.31); **Venetian blind**: dark outer webs and pale inner webs in primaries, forming a streaky pattern in the spread wings, most evident from above; **Window**: paler inner primaries, in contrast to darker outer primaries (and secondaries). This reviewer has never heard these terms in the New World but at least Olsen and gull friends have a sense of humor. 'Voice' is a short description of the most commonly heard calls, not songs. 'Moult' notes' are a concise review of the molt sequence of the specie and if considered useful for specific identification, treated in more depth. (See Olsen & Larsson for details, 2004). 'Geographical variation' is considered in a review of morphological and plumage differences between known subspecies and clinal variants, concentrating on features that are clearly observable in the field. 'Hybridization' concentrates on the most frequent hybrids, with descriptions and identification guidance. Random cases regarded as exceptions are briefly described. 'Status, habitat, and distribution' covers a short description of breeding and non-breeding habitats, with notes on migration and occurrence used in combination with the simple but colorful distribution maps: Yellow: breeding areas; Green: if no wintering areas are shown,

occurrence all year; and Blue: only migrating and wintering areas. 'Similar species' describes the most likely confusion species at all ages, concentrating on where they differ from the subject species. 'References' are short source material and Olsen suggests consulting his 2004 book for detailed references. 'Photographic captions' summarize the main identification points each image shows. Month and locality are given.

Topography depicts five black and white gull drawings: one bird sitting on the ground with 27 identification labels. A second black-headed gull has six labels: subterminal bar and gonys bill, hood, nape, ear-spot and eyelids. A third sketch depicts head and bill with seven points: pupil, iris, orbital ring, upper mandible, gonys spot, and lower mandible (p. 30). A fourth drawing depicts a gull in flight with 21 points. A fifth sketch is a gull wing depicting 10 primaries, 13 secondaries, 'mirror', 'new moon', greater coverts, median coverts, lesser coverts, and carpal bar (p. 31). Finally, Species Accounts, the bulk of the book, commences with the Dolphin Gull (pp. 34-36) and ends with Red-legged Kittiwake (pp. 359-363). Two fantastic photos of Franklin's Gulls (pp. 364-365) and an index close the guide.

Two shortfalls of the book, in my opinion, diminish the aim of the author being concise in identifying gulls in the field. First, in the Introduction the author insistently suggests that the reader consult his 2004 book for gull details. Is the guide still available after a lapse of fifteen years? Certainly gull field identification research has advanced considerably in this time frame when other ornithological subjects have received such broad attention. Secondly, although references are listed in each species account, an entire single centered reference section in the back of the book is easier to find, use, and repeat using than individual gull species references. Even without these suggestions, the author deserves high credit for producing a book depicting all 61 gull species in the world. Thus, the book is ideal for those field birders who are already world travelers checking gulls off their international gull list or soon will be.

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Summary of the Season: August through November 2018

Geoff Malosh

The La Niña pattern that dominated the winter of 2017-18 subsided by the summer months of 2018, but Pennsylvania nevertheless experienced extraordinarily wet conditions in late summer and early fall often associated with La Niña. Especially in eastern Pennsylvania, record or near-record monthly rainfall totals were widespread, particularly in August, which was a continuation of what was already one of the wettest summer seasons in Pennsylvania on record. The excessive rainfall was even more extraordinary considering the fact that it was not augmented by the passage of any significant extratropical systems. The remnants of Hurricane Florence did eventually cross through the state on 9/17, but by the time it reached our latitudes the storm had been inland for a few days and was mostly spent, and although it did dump a day's worth of flooding rains especially on the Delaware River basin, its contribution to the annual rainfall total in those areas was not particularly significant. Compilers commented on the rain generally suppressing the waterfowl and especially the passerine flights. Shorebird hotspots were inundated in many places, but typically dry fields that became temporarily flooded provided alternatives for the birds and shorebird enthusiasts alike in some areas.

Temperatures were generally a bit above normal from August to October, but November took a sharp turn to cold days and freezing nights, and the first major snowstorm of the winter arrived early on 11/15 and left up to 8" or more of snow in eastern Pennsylvania (already suffering from huge rainfall excesses) and at least an inch or two most everywhere else. Temperatures in November were as many as 6°F below normal in western Pennsylvania for the month, and generally anywhere from 2°F to 5°F below normal in the east.

The warm temperatures through early November allowed some late migrants to linger past their normal departure dates, as expected, but just about all of them were ushered along (or wiped out) by the sudden cold in November, and few remained to the end of the season.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appeared on opposite sides of the state, two in *Chester* and one in *Mercer*, on the same day 8/10, but none were seen thereafter. **Snow Geese** have long been more frequent in western counties in fall than they used to be; this season they were found in every county that borders on the western state line except *Beaver* and *Washington*, including a remarkable flock of 100 in *Mercer* 11/11. Typically, such large flocks are a springtime-only phenomenon in the west. One bird that summered in *Berks* remained to at least 9/30. Despite the showing of Snows in the west, **Ross's Geese** were not among them, and were found only in *Chester*, *Clinton*, and *Lancaster*; the one in *Lancaster* was an early bird at Middle Creek 10/13-15.

Greater White-fronted Geese were found in seven counties, as early as 10/13 in *Bucks*, and in the west in *Crawford* and *Westmoreland*. Especially in western counties, birders seem more conscious of the subspecies involved, and again these birds appeared to be of the "interior" population. Probably most white-fronts that appear anywhere in Pennsylvania before the end of November are the same. It was a good season for **Brant**, which was recorded in eight eastern counties through much of October. **Cackling Goose** barely warrants mention any longer; they were noted in 12 counties across the state. A **Barnacle Goose** at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 11/30 persisted into December.

The breeding pair of **Trumpeter Swans** in *Jefferson*, the state's first nesting pair, fledged one cygnet and was last seen in the area around mid-October. They were recorded in four other central and western counties by season's end. A very obvious and large pulse of **Tundra Swans** arrived 11/11, with at least 15 counties reporting flocks exceeding 50 birds that day or over the course of the next three or four. Most impressive was a count of 750 that passed the Stone Mountain hawkwatch in *Huntingdon* 11/11. As usual in fall, the very largest flocks were tallied in western and central Pennsylvania, rather than the east.

Despite this rather good showing by swans and geese, the rest of the waterfowl flight statewide was indeed off, as some compilers noted. A **Eurasian Wigeon** returned to FDR Park in *Philadelphia* for the fourth year in a row, present this fall 10/13-30, but aside from this, there wasn't much of significance among dabblers. **Blue-winged Teal** and **Gadwall** were reported in respectable numbers, especially the latter species which reached totals of 87 in *Butler* and 182 in early November in *Crawford*. An early Gadwall and an early **American Wigeon** were both in *Northumberland* 9/3; three other counties scored September wigeons as well. The enigmatic, "on-again, off-again" **American Black Duck** was off-again this fall, a continuance of the species' unpredictable tendencies in this season. A very early **Northern Pintail** appeared in *Indiana* 8/31.

Not much was happening with diving ducks either. **Canvasback** was noted in an above-average 16 counties, with most in the second half of November after the cold set in. An early **Redhead** was in *Crawford* 8/13 and injured birds persisted from the summer in *Lancaster* and *York*. A **Ring-necked Duck** in *Bucks* 8/21 was suspected to have summered locally. Like Canvasback, **Greater Scaup** tends to be uncommon in fall, this year they showed up mostly only after the middle of November. A record count of 25,000 unidentified scaup sp. was witnessed passing offshore from the mouth of Walnut Creek,

Erie 10/26. **Surf Scoter** was the most commonly reported scoter, mentioned in nine counties across the state from about the middle of October on. **Black Scoter** was seen in only five counties, a rather poor showing despite frequent cold fronts in November, and **White-winged Scoter** was seen in six counties, all in November. **Long-tailed Duck** and **Common Goldeneye** were exceptions to the poor season, found in 20 and 14 counties, respectively, quite unusual for fall. There were no significantly large flocks of **Bufflehead** as sometimes occur; top counts were in the low 100s in *Bucks* and *Montgomery* 11/10. A **Common Merganser** in *York* 8/25 set a record early fall date for this species which continues to expand its breeding range in the state.

The only grebe of note was an **Eared Grebe** in *Erie* 11/11, seen on the heels of the strong cold front the day before that also brought so many Tundra Swans and other late season migrants. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was in *Carbon* on the early date of 8/27. **Red-necked Grebe**, like Long-tailed Duck and a few other diving ducks, also bucked the trend with a good showing in 12 counties from every part of the state.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued near Shartlesville in *Berks* and also in the Shady Grove area in *Franklin*, but in significantly smaller numbers at the latter site compared to even the very recent past. Perhaps this small population of expansion-minded collared-doves, which has been a fixture in *Franklin* for quite some time, is on its way out. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were noted after the first week of October in four counties, including one still in *Philadelphia* 11/4. Birders are becoming more aware of the decline of **Black-billed Cuckoos** and many compilers now go out of their way to enumerate sightings of the species; they were included in 11 reports, and their complete absence was mentioned in another three. The only county listing good numbers was *Warren* where it was suspected an outbreak of tent caterpillars boosted the number of cuckoos.

Common Nighthawk has long been a species of interest in this journal, and again compilers provided excellent summaries of their fall migration. In total they were found in 31 counties, a good showing and reflective of birders' attention to the species in late August and early September. The few dedicated "nighthawk watches" that are annually conducted around the state showed good results: season totals were 710 in *Clarion*, 2117 in *Delaware*, and 609 in *Venango*. Several counties had multiple days of double-digit counts of nighthawks passing overhead in the late afternoon. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard in eight counties (above average), including a late bird in *Wyoming* 10/21.

Late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** took advantage of the mild October in at least

10 counties, and three of those stayed into November in *Allegheny* (which provided *Allegheny* its second-ever November ruby-throat), *Bucks*, and *Chester*. The *Bucks* and *Chester* birds disappeared right around the arrival of the 11/15 snowstorm, while the *Allegheny* bird made it to 11/18 before it too disappeared. A **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, the state's fourth, attended a feeder in *Monroe* from mid-November to 11/22. There were just six **Rufous Hummingbirds** banded this season, in five counties: *Allegheny*, *Carbon*, *Lancaster*, *Montgomery*, and two in *Northampton*; all but the *Montgomery* bird appeared in November. An **Allen's Hummingbird** was trapped and banded in Harrisburg 11/23, and another *Selasphorus* attended a feeder in Erie in November but was never captured.

Most interesting among 12 counties reporting **Virginia Rails** was the nocturnal migrant detected by a Motus tower in *Chester* 10/18, a bird that was originally tagged in central New York 6/7/2018. **Sora**, probably the least secretive of the rails, was found in 10 counties, with four of those staying into October, all in the southeast. Reports of **Common Gallinule** were very good. Away from breeding areas in the northwest, they were also reported in *Berks* (an injured bird taken to rehab), *Centre*, *Clearfield* (a road-killed individual), *Lebanon*, *Philadelphia*, and *Wyoming*. They also bred in the latter two counties, with a juvenile in *Philadelphia* staying to 11/19 and surviving the big November snowstorm. **Sandhill Crane** was seen in a remarkable 18 counties, including large flocks of 75 in *Crawford*, 50 in *Potter*, and 32 in *Washington*, but numbers at their most traditional of strongholds in *Lawrence* peaked at just 28 by season's end.

The excessive rain as mentioned inundated many of the usual shorebird hotspots. There were almost no shorebirds whatsoever at John Heinz N.W.R. (a.k.a. Tinicum) in *Philadelphia*, and the Conejohela Flats also turned in a very pedestrian season. Even Lake Erie itself was high, limiting habitat at Gull Point and around Presque Isle. But some counties saw unusually good seasons anyway, as shorebirds turned to flooded fields for stopover sites. **Franklin**, *Lycoming*, and *Northumberland* in particular had unusually good seasons by their typical (relatively low) standards. A season total of 48 **American Avocets** at Gull Point was a great showing; they were also found in *Franklin* and *Lancaster*. Successfully nesting **Piping Plovers** continued at Gull Point to at least 8/12. **Black-bellied Plovers** appeared in 12 counties, which was a better than usual total, but reports of **American Golden-Plover** were about average, with no reports of more than 4 or 5 in any one place. A very late **Semipalmated Plover** was still in *Crawford* 11/7.

A **Ruff** in *Bucks* 8/2-5 was certainly the shorebird highlight of the season. **Upland Sandpipers** are very rare in the fall months. Up to 7 continued at the Lancaster Airport

from the summer into mid-August, probably the most reliable place in the state for them after the end of July. The only other report was of one in *Somerset* 8/23. The season total of 39 **Whimbrels** at Gull Point was also the entire state's season total as well. One **Hudsonian Godwit** was at the Conejohela Flats 10/12, and 4 were at flooded fields in *Lebanon* to 11/4. The only **Marbled Godwits** were one at Gull Point in mid-August and one that flew over a residence in Akron, *Lancaster* 10/2.

Ruddy Turnstones away from Gull Point and the Conejohela Flats were noted in *Cumberland*, *Delaware*, and *Huntingdon*. Single **Red Knots** at Gull Point in the second half of August were the only ones recorded, as usual. **Stilt Sandpiper** was found in just six counties, and not in any of the atypically flooded fields that provided some counties their shot at unusually good shore-birding. One **Stilt** in *Cumberland* held on to 10/20. **Sanderling** was found in 11 counties, about average these days but better than average compared to the more distant past; records this season included rare sightings in *Butler*, *Indiana*, and *Washington* in the west. **Dunlin** was one species not deterred by the incessant rain, and was recorded in 26 counties, a superb showing. However, the top count appeared to be just 40 in *Somerset*, which was perhaps reflective of the nature of the rains this season: a steady drumbeat that was not punctuated by many large storms or fronts.

Baird's Sandpiper was found in 12 counties, the "new normal" for this species also formerly considered much more uncommon. Among these was *Washington's* first since 2010 at a drawn down reservoir (which was subsequently flooded by a rain event that dropped about 4.5" on the area in less than two days). With Tinicum flooded out and the Conejohela Flats having a poor season too, there were no very large counts of either **Least Sandpiper** or **Semipalmated Sandpiper**. Most notable among either species were a few Least that persisted in *Lebanon* to 11/12, and a migrating Semipalmated that was detected by a Motus tower in *Chester* 8/22. It has been tagged near Rodeaway Park, New York on 5/29/2018. **White-rumped Sandpiper** appeared in no fewer than 20 counties, their best showing since what was probably their historically best showing ever in 2011. This time, however, there were no very large flocks of the species, just many scattered records of singles and groups of up to about 15, whereas in 2011, three counties (of 21 reporting) saw counts in excess of 30 (Malosh 2012). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was seen in six counties, again a significant showing considering many of the usual hotspots were underwater. These included birds in *Clinton*, *Huntingdon*, *Lycoming*, and *Monroe*, where they are decidedly less than annual. **Pectoral Sandpiper** is another species that can be associated with fields and pond edges in addition to wide mudflats, and they too were well reported across the state this fall. **Western Sandpipers** were noted in *Bucks*,

Cumberland, *Lancaster*, and *Somerset*, all first noted in August except the *Cumberland* bird which appeared 9/21.

Short-billed Dowitcher was yet another species seen in better than average numbers, recorded in 11 counties, again including a few that rarely see the species, but **Long-billed Dowitcher** was noted only in *Bucks* and *Crawford*. One does wonder about the few late season Short-bills that were reported as late as mid-Oct, though, and whether they might have actually been Long-billed. **Spotted Sandpiper** stayed in *Crawford* and *Fayette* to 10/14, in *Beaver* to 10/21, in *Lycoming* to 10/27, and in *Venango* to 11/6; curiously all of these counties are in the west or central part of the state, and not in the (warmest) southeast. There wasn't much to say about either species of yellowlegs, except for a very late **Lesser Yellowlegs** in *Lebanon* 11/12, and November records of **Greater Yellowlegs** in five counties, curiously again three of which were in the west. **Willet** was found in *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Northumberland*, none later than the first week of August. **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported in four counties, and **Red-necked Phalarope** in six, average showings for each.

The only jaeger was a **Parasitic Jaeger** off Sunset Point, *Erie* 11/8. Another **Sabine's Gull** showed up in early September and stayed for a few days to the delight of many, this time at Yellow Creek in *Indiana*. **Black-headed Gulls** were noted within one day of each other in *Philadelphia* and *Bucks* in the wake of the strong front in the second week of November. The Black-headed Gull that has appeared in fall at Moraine State Park, *Butler* more often than not over the past decade was absent this year. **Bonaparte's Gull** exhibited their typically two-spiked passage through the state, with a spate of records in early September, followed by larger numbers but not until late October and November. Additionally, they appeared to be pushed through by the sudden fronts in November in larger numbers this year, so perhaps they were lingering longer than usual to our north during the abnormally balmy month of October. This season's **Franklin's Gulls** were also all in the east, though on more staggered dates, in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*. *Allegheny's* fifth **Laughing Gull** was the only one seen far out of range. Quite impressive was a flock of 10,000 Laughers roosting in *Bucks* 10/21, with thousands still there as late as 11/3. Again, perhaps this was due to some combination of the heavy rains and warm October that held so many there that late. A few persisted in the southeastern counties into the second half of November.

The season's only **Little Gull** was in *Crawford* 11/18, and also in *Crawford*, a banded **Ring-billed Gull** sighted 8/30 turned out to have been originally captured in Varennes, Quebec. Both **Glaucous** and **Iceland Gull** were noted in *Bucks* in the last week of November, and another Iceland was in *Philadelphia* 11/17. Glaucous especially is somewhat unusual before December, and this

was just the third “fall” record for *Bucks* in the past 10 years, though the species is probably present more or less annually in that county prior to the end of November if it were looked for in a determined way. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in *Montgomery* 9/23 was early but not record-setting; numbers of this species in the southeastern counties in November were about typical. **Great Black-backed Gull** was slightly out of range in *Berks* and *York*, both late in the season.

All four tern species were quite well reported, especially the two notable ones, **Black Tern** and **Common Tern**, which were tallied in 13 and 17 counties, respectively. Black Terns sometimes appear in several areas at once following August or September storms, but like other such species, there was no discernable pattern to the dates they appeared this year, just a steady pulse of Black Terns against a steady drumbeat of rain. A few Commons persisted into early November in *Erie*, which is not unusual. **Caspian Tern** was also widely reported; 80 in *Delaware* 8/15 was the top count, and all were gone by the third week of October. A nice count of 42 **Forster’s Terns** was made in *Cambria* 9/19. The only obviously coastal or pelagic species associated with the passage of the remnants of Florence was a **Black Skimmer** closely photographed at Codorus State Park, *York* 9/17. There was also a report of 7 **Arctic Terns** in *Berks* 9/18, but it is unknown at the time of this writing whether any documentation was submitted for this sighting.

Red-throated Loons appeared in 10 counties, mostly associated with November cold fronts. A remarkable 1300 **Common Loons** collected on Presque Isle Bay 11/13, a day after 512 were also counted around Pymatuning Lake, *Crawford*. August Common Loons were noted in *Bucks* and *Lawrence*. A **Pacific Loon** was noted off the mouth of Walnut Creek in *Erie* 11/16, continuing the increase of sightings of this species across the state over the past decade or so. An **Anhinga** was reported over Second Mountain, *Lebanon* 10/4. A **Brown Pelican** was seen by several dozen birders at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks* 8/8-11, but it was not the only one in the state this year. Another appeared in *Erie* around the Presque Isle channel 8/6-9 and may have been the same bird that was supposedly photographed in downtown Pittsburgh 8/5, during the city’s annual regatta. Later, yet another Brown Pelican was present on the Beaver River in *Beaver* 9/16-18, and based on photos, may have been the same bird that was seen around Sandusky, Ohio for a few weeks in between the *Erie* and *Beaver* sightings, raising the possibility that all of these sightings referred to the same individual bird.

American Bittern was noted in 12 counties, with most of those recorded in October, and one that was still in *Philadelphia* 11/28. **Least Bittern** was found in five counties, all in the east except one in *Centre*. Most of these were seen in August, but one in *Bucks* 10/6 was late. Several very late **Great**

Egrets were seen around western Pennsylvania, including early November records in *Allegheny*, *Lawrence*, and *Westmoreland*. Reports of **Snowy Egret** were fewer than usual, with all reports from the far southeastern counties except one “outlier” in *Dauphin*. **Little Blue Heron** was more widely reported, including up to 24 at Tinicum; two in *Cumberland* to 8/8 were a bit further afield from the typical southeastern locations. A **Tricolored Heron** was present for the second year in a row at Lake Redman, *York* and was seen by many. **Cattle Egret** is no longer a PORC review species in the southeastern counties, six of which saw the species this fall; birds still subject to review were also noted in *Columbia* and *Franklin*.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was noted in five southeastern locations. The birds that typically nest at Norristown Dam in *Montgomery* may have been flooded out this year, unfortunately. A late-staying **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in *Schuylkill* 11/1 made that county one of 12 reporting the species. Reports of **Glossy Ibis** from six counties (including *Crawford* in the west) and zero reports of “Glossy/White-faced Ibis” could be seen as a reflection of the assumptions Pennsylvania birders make about the dark ibises seen here in fall. A **Roseate Spoonbill** appeared again for an extended stay this fall, this time in *Lancaster* where one was present 8/23-10/12. A **Wood Stork** found in surprisingly dense habitat in *Fayette* by a non-birder in the summer stayed to at least 8/16 but was exceedingly difficult for birders to catch up with. Most reports were made by the non-birder who originally found it, while he was working construction in the area.

A few reports of **Black Vulture** were again made west of the Laurel Ridge in *Greene* and *Fayette*, and they were also noted in *Westmoreland*. In *Susquehanna* a pair in Montrose, suspected of breeding but not confirmed, displeased local residents of the town with their droppings. The pair was present to 9/11. A late **Osprey** that passed Bake Oven Knob in *Carbon/Lehigh* 11/14 was one of a very few records in November this year. The **Swallow-tailed Kite** seen near Ligonier, *Westmoreland* 7/31 was seen again 8/1, putting the bird into two different seasonal reports. It seemed to be a good season for **Golden Eagles** off ridge and on, including at least 15 counties reporting one away from a hawkwatch, and a fine season total of 218 at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon*. Comparatively fewer **Northern Goshawks** were seen away from hawkwatches, but the typical random scattering of sightings was made around the state nevertheless. Hawkwatch rarities included **Mississippi Kites** in *Chester* and *York* and **Swainson’s Hawk** in *Bedford*, and another Mississippi Kite was seen elsewhere in *Chester* too. A late **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Bake Oven Knob, *Carbon/Lehigh* 10/30. Some years, **Rough-legged Hawk** may not appear anywhere other than at hawkwatches before the end of November, so nine counties reporting non-hawkwatch birds

was notable. Only the one in *Lycoming* 10/28 appeared before November.

The only **Long-eared Owl** reported this season was in *Sullivan*. Although out of season in a way, it’s worth mentioning the fate of a **Snowy Owl** that was injured on razor wire at the Smithfield Correctional Institute in *Huntingdon* last December. The bird was taken to a rehabilitator in State College and was finally released in November of this year. See the *Huntingdon* report for more details. No other Snowy Owls were reported by the end of November. It was a significant irruption year for **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. Banding stations generally reported a good season but not as big a movement as was perhaps expected. The station in *Chester* captured 152 for the season and an amazing 80 in one night on 11/8. See the *Chester* report for more details including some interesting recapture data, especially of one owl that’s now at least 5 years old and has been captured four times in four different places. The same night 80 were caught in *Chester*, 43 others were caught in *Schuylkill*, a fascinating glimpse at the sheer volume of owls that pass by undetected yet right over our heads in November. Interesting recapture data is presented in the *Dauphin* report as well (which see).

A juvenile **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at low elevation in *Carbon* 8/29. Generally **Red-headed Woodpecker** is the only other woodpecker worth mentioning in this report (seen this year in 16 counties in typical numbers), and indeed there wasn’t much interesting reported among the other species, except for a remarkable “woodpecker flight” that was witnessed at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* 10/12. On strong northwest winds, a total of 114 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** flew past, including 45 in a 20-minute period alone. Along with them were 53 **Northern Flickers** and 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. The total of 114 Red-bellied represents the third largest count submitted to eBird anywhere in the United States. What precisely caused this phenomenal flight is anyone’s guess. As is now typical, **Merlin** was widespread including several records in southern counties in August. A **Gyr Falcon** returned the same area in *Northampton* for a few weeks in November that it was seen last winter.

Late **Eastern Kingbirds** were in *Bucks* 9/30 and *Crawford* 9/16. Being a species seen almost exclusively in passage, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** garners attention from birders and compilers alike; this season they were reported in 24 counties but not on any particularly unusual dates. Late **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were in *Crawford* to 10/18 and *Montgomery* to 10/17. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported in 25 counties but that total comes with the usual caveat about fall *Empidonax* flycatchers, especially in this age that seems to be characterized by less caution from birders in general when it comes to difficult identifications. A late **Least Flycatcher** was still in *Washington* 10/13. **Eastern Phoebe**s in the west made it all the way to the end of the

season in *Erie* and *Mercer*, and to 11/18 in *Franklin*. The only rarity among flycatchers was a **Say's Phoebe** in *Chester* 11/25.

A **Blue-headed Vireo** fallout at Hawk Mountain 9/29 brought 185 of these bespectacled birds across the ridge, along with a handful of four other vireo species. Late vireos included **White-eyed Vireo** in *Erie* 10/18 and *Philadelphia* 10/21, **Yellow-throated Vireo** in *Bucks* 10/14, two different **Blue-headed Vireos** in *Delaware* 11/4, **Philadelphia Vireo** at Hawk Mountain to 10/13 and in *Chester* to 10/19, and a **Red-eyed Vireo** found in a weakened state in *Crawford* 11/10. Reports of **Northern Shrike** in 10 counties kicked off a good winter for them; these included a handful of reports already present by late October.

The late September migration of **Blue Jays** in eastern Pennsylvania was well documented. A 35-day dedicated watch in *Berks* tallied 10,454 birds. Other counts in that area of the state included 1126 in *Montgomery* 9/30, 484 in *Philadelphia* 9/22, and 1000 in 15 minutes in *York* 9/24. A small colony of **Fish Crows** appeared in the Pittsburgh area a little over a decade ago; top count of this now-expanding species in *Allegheny* this fall was 60 on 8/16. **Common Ravens** are just about all over the place at this point, still rare only in the Glaciated Northwest, yet one was seen even there along the *Lawrence/Mercer* border 10/10. *Montgomery* alone had 60 reports of ravens. An early **Horned Lark** was in *Bucks* 8/3. A **Purple Martin** banded in *Delaware* in 2013 was recovered recently in Wilmington, Delaware. Many of the late records of **Tree Swallow** were made in the west this season, strangely. They were seen in the last days of October and the first week of November in *Butler*, *Cambria*, *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, *Somerset*, and *Washington*. Five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** found a wastewater treatment plant in *Montgomery* 11/25 and remained through the season. For a long time, the birds that wintered at the Northeast water treatment plant in *Philadelphia* were the northernmost known wintering rough-wings in North America; perhaps a new record is in the offing, at least for Pennsylvania. Both a **Bank Swallow** and a **Barn Swallow** tagged in New Brunswick 7/8/2018 were detected by a Motus tower in *Chester* 9/15 and 8/21, respectively.

There was a light movement of **Black-capped Chickadees** into southern counties by the end of November, particularly *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Montgomery*. Hordes of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** descended on every corner of the state, with at least a dozen counties reporting the species as early as August. By the time this is published, they will mostly be gone for the winter of 2018-19, and won't return in these kinds of numbers for another two years. A late **House Wren** was in *Montgomery* 11/3. **Sedge Wren** was reported in five counties, a great showing, and it's hard to know whether this was because of the frequent rain, or despite it. Up to 6 at Minsi Lake, *Northampton* 10/8-11/11 was an impressive count. A few **Marsh Wrens**

lingered into early November in *Lebanon* and *Northampton*. By far the rare bird of the season was the state's first **Rock Wren**, long-expected by some but still a surprise when it actually turned up. The bird was seen daily at the Dixon Meadow Preserve, *Montgomery* 10/2-12.

A few **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were late departing, staying to 11/9 in *Delaware* and to 11/25 in *Philadelphia*. An NFC listening station in *Allegheny* was permanently discontinued this year, and few other reports of nocturnal thrush calls were made. A **Veery** tagged in Biddeford, Maine 9/12/2018 was detected just four days later by a Motus tower in *Chester* 9/16. Another Veery was window-killed in *York* around midnight on the somewhat late date of 9/30. Both **Swainson's Thrush** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were noted in their typically small numbers when nocturnal calls are excluded. Reports of Swainson's were made in very early November in *Bucks*, *Somerset*, and *Washington*, and a late Gray-cheeked was in *Butler* 10/31. A **Bicknell's Thrush** call was recorded over Elkins Park, *Montgomery* overnight 10/13. A very late **Wood Thrush** was in *Philadelphia* 11/17-25. As usual a few **Gray Catbirds** lingered into November in the southeast, but one still in *Crawford* 11/11 was unusual. **American Pipit** was well-reported; some of the bigger flocks included a few groups of 40-60 in *Bucks*, flocks of 175 and 150 in *Lycoming*, 46 in *Montgomery*, and 50 in *Tioga*, all in the last two weeks of October.

Evening Grosbeaks invaded once again, as they frequently have for the past eight years or so, and widespread reports of singles and small numbers were made from at least 41 counties. As usual most did not stick around, but there did seem to be more of them settling into place at feeders by season's end than there have been in recent years. No particularly large flocks were noted, at least not before the end of November. **Purple Finch** was predicted to appear in good numbers, and they certainly did, particularly in October. A few counties, e.g. *York*, reported their best Purple Finch showings in many years. **Common Redpoll** was not expected in large numbers, but they were found in six northerly counties and *Juniata* nevertheless, all in the second half of November beginning just before or just after the big snowstorm. **Red Crossbill** was noted in *Mifflin*, *Philadelphia*, *Pike*, and *Tioga*, and **White-winged Crossbill** in *Bucks*. Neither was expected to interrupt and the winter would later show that neither did. Pine Siskin showed quite well too; a few showed up early, such as one in *Lycoming* 8/17, but the bulk of birds appeared in October and many stayed through the season in smallish numbers.

Reports of **Snow Bunting** in 12 counties represented a far above normal total than is usually seen by the end of November. They were already in *Bucks* and *Crawford* by late Oct. **Lapland Longspur** is even more unusual before the end of November, so reports in nine counties was somewhat extraordinary. Earliest birds appeared in the last week of October in

Centre, *Chester*, and *Mercer*. **Chipping Sparrows** present to the end of the season is no longer newsworthy, except perhaps in the west, where a few stayed deep into November in *Allegheny*, *Crawford*, and *Venango*. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** in *Allegheny* 8/27 was quite unexpected at that date. They were also found in *Chester*, *Lycoming*, and *Philadelphia*. **Vesper Sparrow** can often slip away in fall undetected, so reports of them in 13 counties constituted a good haul. A **Le Conte's Sparrow** in *Bucks* 10/6-11 attracted much attention, perhaps too much considering the fragility of its habitat and its penchant for hiding out in said habitat as determinedly as possible. **Nelson's Sparrow** was reported only from *Bucks* (several) and *Huntingdon* this season. Not much is definitively known about the fall migration of **Grasshopper Sparrow**, but one in *Philadelphia* 10/27-11/1 was certainly late. The lake bed at Lake Minsi, *Northampton* provided exquisite sparrow (and Sedge Wren) habitat this season, and some staggering counts of sparrows there included 200 **Song Sparrows** 10/21 and 166 **Swamp Sparrows** 10/8. **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **Fox Sparrow** both passed through in more or less typical numbers. A few Lincoln's stuck around to the middle of November in *Allegheny*, *Huntingdon*, and the southeast. **Lark Sparrows** are not seen annually, so two records, one in *Bucks* 9/11-15 and one in *Philadelphia* 10/26-30, were noteworthy. An **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was reported in *Montgomery* 11/12, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was still hanging on in *Montgomery* to 10/14, one of five counties reporting them.

A **Bobolink** in *Chester* 11/4 was one of the latest on record for the state. **Eastern Meadowlark**, on the other hand, routinely remains in November, this year in six counties. An adult male **Baltimore Oriole** returned to the same feeder in *Bucks* for the seventh year in a row, appearing this year on 10/28. Other late Baltimore Orioles were elsewhere in *Bucks*, and in *Monroe* and *Philadelphia*. Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** were about average with some large flocks thrown in: 100 in *Butler* 11/18, 120 in *Chester* 11/9, and 250 in *Mercer* 11/13. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found at Fort Washington, *Montgomery* 10/15.

As is often the case for the fall season, most of the news with respect to warblers was of late-staying birds, but a few rarities were found this time around too. As mentioned, with the weather being what it was, few big warbler days were reported. One exception was a morning on Hawk Mountain 9/29, when a large passage of migrants included among them 15 **Tennessee Warblers**, 27 **Cape May Warblers**, 27 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 47 **Blackpoll Warblers**, and 87 **Black-throated Green Warblers**. (This was the same day many Blue-headed Vireos were there too.) A significant flight of 48 **Blackburnian Warblers** was noted on the mountain 8/28 as well. An **Ovenbird** tagged in Connecticut 6/2/2018 flew over two different Motus towers in *Chester* 9/15, giving

data not only on the bird's location in *Chester* that night but also the speed and direction of flight. Latest **Worm-eating Warbler** was in *Allegheny* 9/8.

Golden-winged Warbler was noted in six counties, but only in *Venango* in the west, which was unusual. Both winged-warbler hybrids were found in *Centre*, and Brewster's was also found in *Franklin*, *Sullivan*, and *Venango*. November **Black-and-white Warblers** were noted in *Adams*, *Allegheny*, and *Philadelphia*. Following a few autumns in a row of rather good numbers, **Tennessee Warblers** were not as numerous this season. Notably, a banding station in *Warren* caught a record number of adult Tennessees (9) from 8/1-14. **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from at least 24 counties, but this species as always comes with the same caveat as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and for the same reasons. **Nashville Warbler** made it to November in five southeastern counties, with one in *Philadelphia* surviving well past the 11/15 snowstorm. **Connecticut** and **Mourning Warblers** were found in 13 and 19 counties, respectively, but not on any particularly unusual dates. A **Common Yellowthroat** in *Indiana* 11/13 was late for western Pennsylvania, and an **American Redstart** in *Philadelphia* 11/11 was late for anywhere in Pennsylvania.

Unlike Tennessee Warbler, **Cape May Warbler**, another budworm specialist, was strongly reported again this season across the state. Among the latest was one still in *Lancaster* 11/24, and also notable were 16 at the Northeast water treatment plant in *Philadelphia* 10/14 with several staying there into November. Late **Northern Parulas** were in *Clearfield* 10/21 and in *Montgomery* 10/22-28. **Magnolia Warblers** were in *Cameron* 11/5 and *Lancaster* 11/4. **Bay-breasted Warbler**, the third budworm warbler, went the way of Tennessee and did not show in particularly notable numbers. The latest of a few **Yellow Warblers** that made it past the middle of September was one in *Washington* 10/7. Along with the Cape Mays at the Northeast water treatment plant in *Philadelphia* 10/14 were 28 **Blackpoll Warblers**, and some of them similarly continued there into November. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at a suet feeder in *Delaware* was still present at the end of the period. A male **Pine Warbler** at a feeder in *Bucks* beginning 11/16 was believed to be the same bird that's wintered there for 12 years now. A few others were seen around the southeast in November. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was still in *Lycoming* 11/11. Rock Wren was definitely the *rarity* of the season, but probably the most extraordinary *sighting* of the season was a **Townsend's Warbler** seen briefly (and photographed exceptionally well) among a quick moving migrant flock at Bake Oven Knob, *Lehigh* 9/15. The other highlight among the warblers was a beautiful **Black-throated Gray Warbler** that stayed at Noel Dorwart Park, *Lancaster* from 10/13 through the season. It

was sometimes hard to catch up with, but it was seen by many during its very long stay. **Wilson's Warbler** was reported quite well, mostly in September, but a few hung around in *Lancaster* and *York* for most of November.

Last **Scarlet Tanager** was in *Lancaster* 11/4, but like many late lingering passerines, was not reported after the truly cold weather arrived. A **Western Tanager** at a feeder in *Bucks* 11/4 was a one-day wonder and the county's sixth, and a **Summer Tanager** was at Tinicum in *Philadelphia* 9/23. Another one-day wonder was a **Black-headed Grosbeak** in *Schuylkill* 11/13. Several **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** lingered into October in the western counties of *Allegheny*, *Butler*, *Crawford*, *Somerset*, and *Washington*. **Blue Grosbeaks** persisted at breeding areas around the southeast into early September in some cases, and one was still in *Philadelphia* to 10/14. An **Indigo Bunting** was in *Carbon* 11/21, very late for that county. **Dickcissels** did not have much of an "invasion summer" this year, but they did summer in a few areas, and migrants were noted in six central and southeastern counties this fall.

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Reference:

Malosh, Geoff. 2012. The white-rumped sandpiper and sanderling flights of 2011. *Pennsylvania Birds* 25:213.

Birds of Note – August through November 2018

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* – *Chester*: 2 at a private farm pond in Nottingham 8/10 (Kendra VonNieda, *doc submitted*); *Mercer*: one at Shenango propagation ponds 8/10 (ph. Jim Mondok, *doc submitted*).

Ross's Goose – *Chester*: one among a flock of Snow Geese over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 11/18 (Larry Lewis); *Clinton*: one at Mill Hall 11/18 (Brian Schmoke); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 10/13-15 (Bruce Carl, Zachary Millen, Joe Wolf).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Adams*: one at Gettysburg College 11/30 (Andrew Wilson); *Berks*: 2 at EJ Breneman's Quarry 11/25 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 10/13-16 (Mike Lee, Kerry Loux); *Crawford*: 2 at Hartstown Project 11/8 (Sheree Daugherty, Virginia McQuown, Bob Van Newkirk); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 10/31 (Eric Zawatski, Rick Koval, eBird); *Union*: one with Canada Geese over SGL 252 on 11/4 (Brian Schmoke, Sean Herrmann); *Westmoreland*: one at Ice Pond, Ligonier 11/3-22 (Andy Mack).

Brant – *Bucks*: 14 over Doylestown 10/5 (Devich Farbotnik); *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 10/8-11 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig); *Delaware*: 15 over the Rose Tree Park hawkwatch 10/5 (Rob Fergus), 17 on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin later that day were probably the same birds (Rob Fergus), one at Fort Mifflin 10/7 (Al Guarente), and 2 at Commodore Barry Bridge 10/26 (Al Guarente, Rob Fergus); *Lancaster*: 2 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 10/12 (Bruce Carl) and one at Conejohela Flats 10/12 (Jan Horn, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake SP 10/15 (Ian Gardner, Timothy Becker, Dave McNaughton, Mary Coomer, Ted Nichols, Mike Epler); *Lehigh*: one in Emmaus 10/21 (James Funk); *Luzerne*: one at Harvey's Lake 1021 (Eric Zawatski, Rick Koval, eBird); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Regional Airport 9/27 (Jonathan Baker); *Philadelphia*: one flew past Walmart Pier and Parking Lot 10/7 (George Armistead); *Schuylkill*: one at Locust Lake SP 11/11 (Thomas Buehl, Tonia Jordan).

Barnacle Goose* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/30 (Michael Fournier, *doc submitted*);

Trumpeter Swan – *Crawford*: one at Erie NWR 8/26 (Rich Eakin); *Jefferson*: a pair west of Richardsville hatched one cygnet and persisted in the area to mid-Oct (Lisa Catarouche); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 11/16 (Lauren Shaffer, eBird); *Northumberland*: one at an Amish pond 11/21 (Andy Keister); *Somerset*: 2 at Quemahoning Reservoir 11/28 (Linda Greble) through the season; *Tioga*: one at Nessmuk Lake seen a few times from 10/18 (Rich Hanlon) to 11/20 (ph. Lisa Doud).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Philadelphia*: one returned to FDR Park for the fourth year in a row 10/13-30 (Holger Pflücke, et al.).

Eared Grebe* – *Erie*: one off Sunset Point 11/11 (Jerry McWilliams, no doc submitted).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: present near Shartlesville through the season (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one on Thatcher Road 11/13-20 (Adam Erb); *Franklin*: continued in Shady Grove area but still in low numbers, high count was just 4 this fall (m.ob.).

Black-chinned Hummingbird* – *Monroe*: one in a Saylorsburg yard in early Nov (ph. Rick Wiltraut) was banded and confirmed 11/19 (Scott Weidensaul) and remained to 11/22 (no doc submitted).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Allegheny*: one imm. male at Brentwood 11/1-3 (Donna Foyle) was banded; *Carbon*: one imm. male at residence near Beltzville SP was banded 11/19 (Scott Weidensaul); *Lancaster*: one adult female banded at residence in Mount Joy 11/11 (Sandy Lockerman); *Montgomery*: one immature female in Lansdale 10/11-25 (Rebecca Wilson) was banded 10/22 (Sandy Lockerman); *Northampton*: two different females banded at undisclosed locations 11/9 (Sandy Lockerman).

Allen's Hummingbird* – *Dauphin*: one banded in northern Harrisburg 11/23 (Sandy and Gary Lockerman, no doc submitted),

Selasphorus sp. – *Erie*: one at feeder in Harborcreek from early Nov to at least 11/21 (Sharon Brandt *vide* Katie Anderson); *Somerset*: one probable Rufous on Whitehorse Mountain 9/18-20 (John Landis).

American Avocet – *Erie*: season total of 48 at Gull Point 7/1-8/23 (m.ob.) and one at Edinboro University 8/1 (Jamie Hill); *Franklin*: 4 at Two Turn Road 9/5 (Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler) and one at Greencastle Reservoir 9/15 (Carl Garner, Bob Carmack, Marian Carmack); *Lancaster*: 4 on 8/10 (Jerry Book, Mike Epler), 2 on 8/25 (Mike Epler), and one 9/26 (Meredith Lombard), all at Conejohela Flats.

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: continued from summer at Gull Point to at least 8/12 (Don Snyder, Jerry McWilliams, et al.).

Ruff* – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/2-5 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *doc submitted*).

Upland Sandpiper – *Lancaster*: up to 7 continuing from summer at Lancaster Airport to 8/17 (Zachary Millen, m.ob.); *Somerset*: one near Berlin 8/23 (Chris Payne, Jeff Payne).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: season total of 39 at Gull Point 7/3-8/16 (Sara Sargent, Mary Birdsong).

Hudsonian Godwit – Lancaster: one at Conejohela Flats 10/12 (Jason Horn); Lebanon: up to 4 at Fox and Prescott Roads 10/28-11/4 (Fred Zimmerman, Patricia and Richard Williams, Jonathan Heller, Steve Schmit, Mike Epler, Michael David).

Marbled Godwit – Erie: one at Gull Point 7/7 (Mary Birdsong), 8/1 (Sara Sargent), and 8/16 (Mary Birdsong); Lancaster: one flew over residence in Akron the evening of 10/2 (Bruce Carl).

Ruddy Turnstone – Cumberland: 4 at Mud Level Road 9/24-25 (Tim Johnson, Dave Kerr, Vern Gauthier); Delaware: one on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 8/21 (Al Guarente); Erie: up to 4 at Gull Point through 8/30 (m.ob.); Huntingdon: one at Pennsylvania Furnace Road 9/9-24 (Jon Kauffman); Lancaster: one 8/4 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen), 3 on 8/19 (m.ob.), and 3 on 8/25 (Mike Epler), all at Conejohela Flats.

Red Knot – Erie: 10 at Gull Point 7/22-27 (Steve Schmit) and singles there 8/16-9/1 (Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Clinton: one or 2 at South Avis 9/9-13 (Eric Zawatski, et al.); Delaware: 2 on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 8/31 (Rob Fergus, Al Guarente); Huntingdon: one at Pennsylvania Furnace Road 9/8-11 (Joe Verica, Julia Plummer); Lancaster: one at Sporting Valley Turf Farm 9/11 (Mike Epler) and one at Groffdale Farm Field 9/15 (Zachary Millen, Patricia and Richard Williams); Lycoming up to 3 in Nisbet 9/15-19 (Steve Pinkerton, Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); Monroe: one at Long Pond 9/11 (Bruce Johnson).

Western Sandpiper – Bucks: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/22 (Devich Farbotnik); Cumberland: one at Mud Level Road 9/21 (Vern Gauthier); Lancaster: one adult and one juv. at Conejohela Flats 8/30 (ph. Zachary Millen); Somerset: one or 2 at Somerset Lake 8/30-9/7 (Jeff Payne, Shannon Thompson).

Long-billed Dowitcher – Bucks: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/21-24 (ph. Devich Farbotnik); Crawford: one at Miller Ponds 11/23 (Dana Shaffer, Walter Shaffer).

Willet – Erie: season total of 20 at Gull Point 7/1-8/6 (m.ob.); Lancaster: one at Conejohela Flats 8/4-7 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen, m.ob.); Northumberland: 2 at an Amish pond 8/2 (Karol Pasquinelli).

Wilson's Phalarope – Bucks: one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/11-12 (ph. Devich Farbotnik); Cumberland: one at Allen Road in Carlisle 9/9 (Karena Johnson, Tim Johnson); Delaware: one on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 9/14 (Rob Fergus, Sara Busch, Bob Kelly); Franklin: one at Two Turn Road 8/22-27 (Bill Oyler, Bob Keener); Lebanon: one at Fox and Prescott Roads 8/7 (Daniel Hinnebusch), and one at South Hills Park 8/23-25 (Michael David, Jonathan Heller, Mike Epler, Patricia and Richard Williams); Monroe: one at Mt. Pocono Airport 9/11 (Bruce Johnson).

Red-necked Phalarope – Berks: one at Blue Marsh Lake 9/18 (Ken Lebo, Russell Hoffman); Centre: one at Bald Eagle SP 9/18 (Kurt Engstrom); Clinton: 4 at South Avis 9/10 (Eric Zawatski); Erie: one at Gull Point 8/22 (Don Snyder, Roger Donn); Franklin: one at Two Turn Road 9/17-18 (Bob Koontz, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart) and one there 10/21 (Bill Oyler); Lycoming: 5 at Williamsport Dam 9/18 (Maddi Dunlap, Jean Dalton, Bobby Brown, Deb Brown); Northumberland: one at Phillips Road 9/19-20 (Matthew Heintzelman).

Parasitic Jaeger* – Erie: one off Sunset Point 11/8 (Jerry McWilliams, doc submitted).

Sabine's Gull* – Indiana: one at Yellow Creek SP 9/8-11 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer, doc submitted).

Black-headed Gull* – Bucks: one north of Washington Crossing Historic Park at David Library 11/12 (ph. Seth Ausubel, doc

submitted); Philadelphia: one returned again to John Heinz N.W.R. 11/11 (m.ob., doc submitted).

Franklin's Gull* – Bucks: one at Penn-Warner Tract 10/7 (ph. Holly Merker, Devich Farbotnik, doc submitted) and one at Peace Valley Park 11/3 (ph. August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik, doc submitted); Lancaster: one at Conejohela Flats 10/12 (ph. Jason Horn, no doc submitted); Philadelphia: one at Walmart Pier and Parking Lot 10/7 (George Armistead, doc submitted).

Little Gull – Crawford: one at Pymatuning Spillway 11/18 (Shawn Collins, Donna Foyle, Barbara Griffith, Kate St. John).

Glaucous Gull – Bucks: one at Nockamixon SP 11/30 (Paul Cooper).

Black Tern – Bucks: one at Peace Valley Park 8/18 (August Mirabella); Butler: one at Watts Bay, Lake Arthur 9/10 (Martin Carlin); Cambria: 2 at Prince Gallitzin SP 8/21 (Dave Gobert); Centre: one at Bald Eagle SP 9/11 (Julia Plummer, Joe Verica) and 2 at Scotia Barrens and Pond 9/12-14 (Joe Verica, et al.); Chester: 4 at Marsh Creek SP 8/17 (Larry Lewis); Delaware: one on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 8/29 (Rob Fergus); Indiana: 14 at Yellow Creek SP 8/21 during rain (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Gloria Lamer); Lancaster: 2 at Conejohela Flats 9/2 (Mike Epler) and 2 at Middle Creek W.M.A. 9/9 (Bruce Carl); Lycoming: one at Nisbet 9/15 (Bobby Brown, et al.); Montgomery: one each at Green Lane Park 8/4 (Paul Heveran), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 8/23 (Jack McBrearty, Curt Dunn, et al.), and Green Lane Park 9/13 (Paul Heveran, Eric Zawatski); Montour: one at Montour Preserve 8/13 (Andy Keister, eBird); Philadelphia: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/11 (Mark Greenberry); Venango: one at Kahle Lake 9/12 (Jerry Stanley).

Common Tern – Allegheny: one at Point SP 10/22 (ph. David Kirk); Berks: 7 at Blue Marsh Lake 9/18 (Ken Lebo, Russell Hoffman, Joan Silagy); Bucks: 2 at Nockamixon SP 8/13-15 (Devich Farbotnik, Vicky Mahmoud, Richard Smith, Matt Hardy) and one at Penn-Warner Tract 8/24 (Devich Farbotnik); Butler: one at Lake Arthur 9/16-25 (Martin Carlin); Centre: one at Scotia Barrens and Pond 9/12-13 (Joe Verica, Julia Plummer), up to 5 at Bald Eagle SP 9/18 (Kurt Engstrom, John Carter), and one at Colyer Lake 9/18 (Julia Plummer); Crawford: one at Pymatuning Spillway 8/9 (Mike Fialkovich), one at Woodcock Lake 9/10 (Ken Pinnow), and one at Pymatuning fish hatchery 10/26 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman); Delaware: one on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 8/29 (Rob Fergus) and 3 there 9/18 (Al Guarente, Michael David); Erie: up to 30 present at Presque Isle through 11/6 (m.ob.); Huntingdon: one at Lake Perez 9/9 (Jon Kauffman); Indiana: one at Yellow Creek SP 9/11 (Lee Carnahan, m.ob.); Lancaster: 2 on 8/19 (Bruce Carl, et al.), 3 on 9/1 (Mike Epler), and one 9/23 (Mike Epler) all at Conejohela Flats; Luzerne: one at Plymouth Flats 9/25 (Rick Koval, eBird); Lycoming: one at Williamsport Dam 8/13 (Bobby Brown); Mercer: one at Lake Wilhelm 9/25 (Neil Troyer); Montour: one at Montour Preserve 8/13 (Andy Keister, eBird) and 4 there 9/25 (Andy Keister, eBird); Philadelphia: one at Navy Yard 9/12 (George Armistead); Tioga: one at Railroad Grade Trail at Ives Run 10/12 (Ken Cooper); Venango: one at Kahle Lake 9/8 and 9/27 (Jerry Stanley); York: one at Codorus SP 10/18 (Dean Newhouse).

Black Skimmer* – York: one photographed at Codorus SP 9/17 following passage of the remnants of Hurricane Florence (ph. Bob Anderholt, no doc submitted).

Arctic Tern* – *Berks*: 7 at Blue Marsh Lake 9/18 (ph., Ken Lebo, Russell Hoffman, Joan Silagy, no doc submitted).

Pacific Loon* – *Erie*: one on Lake Erie off Walnut Creek 11/16 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/3-7 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: present on Delaware River beginning 10/7 (m.ob.).

Anhinga* – *Lebanon*: one at Second Mountain 10/4 (Fred Wilcox, no doc submitted).

Brown Pelican* – *Beaver*: one juvenile at New Brighton 9/16 (ph. Mary DeVaughn *fide* Kate St. John) was seen until the morning of 9/18 by several other observers (no doc submitted); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 8/8-11 (ph. Paul Teese, m.ob. *doc submitted*); *Erie*: one around Presque Isle channel 8/6-9 (Nate Irwin *fide* Mark Lethaby, m.ob., no doc submitted).

Least Bittern – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 10/6 (Paul Heveran); *Centre*: one at Muddy Paws Marsh 8/11 (Joe Gyekis, Carl Engstrom, Julia Plummer); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 8/20 (Rudolph Keller); *Northampton*: one injured bird found in residential Nazareth 8/7 was taken to rehabilitator, its fate was unknown; *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/2-9 (Jamie Zigarelli).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: 3 at Dow Chemical, Bristol Twp. 8/5-11 and 2 through 8/18 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one continued from July at Milltown Res. to 8/5 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 9/5-8 (ph., m.ob.); *Delaware*: six reports in August (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 8/30 (Derek Stoner) and one on Conowingo Creek near Quarryville 10/13 (Tom Amico); *Philadelphia*: up to 4 at John Heinz N.W.R. to 9/29 (m.ob.) and one at Navy Yard 9/12 (George Armistead, Geoff Veith).

Little Blue Heron – *Berks*: one at Lowland Road retention pond 9/7-24 (Daniel Hinnebusch, m.ob.); *Bucks*: one at Dow Chemical, Bristol Twp. through 8/18 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Nockamixon SP 8/8-9 (m.ob.), and one at Bradford Dam 8/21-9/19 (Michael Fournier, Gail Johnson); *Cumberland*: 2 west of Newville continued from the summer to 8/8 (Vern Gauthier, m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 9/5 (Scott and Stephanie Bills); *Delaware*: multiple reports including 11 at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/5 (Damon Orsetti); *Lancaster*: one in Manheim 8/18-19 (Brian Brown, Mike Epler), one along Mill Creek in New Holland 8/18 (Ervin Martin, Zachary Millen), and one at Conejohela Flats 8/21 (Eric Witmer); *Philadelphia*: up to 24 at John Heinz N.W.R. (m.ob.) and one at abandoned Island Green Country Club and Golf Course 8/10 (Holger Pflücke); *York*: one at Lake Redman 8/14 (Mike Epler).

Tricolored Heron* – *York*: one at Lake Redman 8/12-9/18 (ph., Bob Reiter, *doc submitted*).

Cattle Egret* – *Berks*: 11 at Shartlesville farm pond 10/29 (Kerry Grim, Matt Wlasniewski); *Chester*: one in field at Atglen 11/4 (Michael Gardner); *Columbia*: one on Mount Pleasant Road 10/23-11/12 (Andy Keister, et al., no doc submitted); *Franklin*: one at Clearfield and Thornwood Roads 11/9-11 (Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler, no doc submitted); *Lebanon*: one at Balmer Ponds 8/3-23 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Steve Walthus, et al.); *Montgomery*: 4 at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 10/31 (Curt Dunn, Jack McBrearty, Bob McGarry); *Northampton*: one at Seiple's Farm Pond 11/7 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/3-4 (Bill Schmoker, et al.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Adams*: one juvenile at Gettysburg College 8/24-25 (Ian Clarke, Andy Keister, Andrew Wilson); *Bucks*: one in Bedminster Twp. 8/1 (Devich Farbotnik) and one in a New Britain Twp. yard 9/3 (Lucy

Siegfried, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith); *Lancaster*: one at Alcoa Marsh 8/3-6 (Daniel Hinnebusch, Thomas Chambers, Emily Broich) and one at Conejohela Flats 9/7 (Zachary Millen); *Montgomery*: four reports of adults at Norristown Dam 8/28-9/17 (Michael Rosengarten, Scott Godshall); *Philadelphia*: juveniles at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/5 (Mark Greenberry) and 9/13 (m.ob.) and at Philadelphia Zoo 8/16 (Barbara Cheyney) and 8/21 (Bradley Smith).

Glossy Ibis – *Berks*: one at Fleetwood 8/31-9/1 (Steven Fordyce) and one at Gotwal's Pond later on 9/1 (Devyn McPheeters) was probably the same bird; *Bucks*: up to 6 persisted at Penn-Warner Tract from Jul to 9/30 (Devich Farbotnik), and 3 flew over Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 8/31 (Richard Smith); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 9/8-15 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Suzanne Winterberger); *Lancaster*: one continuing from summer at Middle Creek W.M.A. to 8/6 (Craig Boyhont); *Lebanon*: one or 2 at Balmer Ponds and Fox and Prescott Roads 8/11-20 (m.ob.) and one at Balmer Ponds 9/21 (Patricia and Richard Williams); *Lehigh*: one at golf course near Coopersburg 8/16 (Erich Boenzli); *Philadelphia*: one at Navy Yard 9/30 (George Armistead).

Roseate Spoonbill* – *Lancaster*: one at Riverfront Park 8/23 (Bill Libhart) relocated to Conejohela Flats 8/24 (Meredith Lombard), remaining to at least 10/12 (*doc submitted*).

Wood Stork* – *Fayette*: one continued from summer near Connellsville to at least 8/16 (Greg Hardy *fide* Mark Vass, no doc submitted).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Westmoreland*: one continued from summer at Ligonier to 8/1 (Mike Fialkovich, *doc submitted*).

Mississippi Kite* – *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 9/2 (Larry Lewis, George Tallman, no doc submitted), and one over East Fallowfield Park 9/3 (Joe Sebastiani, *doc submitted*); *York*: one over Rocky Ridge County Park 9/18 (Randy Phillips, Phil Keener, no doc submitted).

Swainson's Hawk* – *Bedford*: one at Allegheny Front hawk watch 9/30 (William Zemaitis, eBird, no doc submitted) was photographed in silhouette.

Long-eared Owl – *Sullivan*: one at White House Camp 10/13 (Josh Potter).

Gyrfalcon* – *Northampton*: one returned to East Allen Twp. for second year beginning 11/17 (ph., Brad Silfies, no doc submitted).

Say's Phoebe* – *Chester*: one at Black Rock Sanctuary 11/25 (Barbara Hostetler, *doc submitted*).

Northern Shrike – *Blair*: one at State Gamelands 278 North 11/15 (Lindera Carter, Mark Nale); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin SP 10/28 (Dave Gobert); *Centre*: one on Long Ln. 10/20 (Joe Gyekis, Sue Haney), and one at Mid-State Airport 11/14 (Julia Plummer); *Erie*: one at Fairview Industrial Park 11/19 to the end of the period (Don Snyder), and one at the Eaton Reservoir 11/26 (Tim Lyons); *Lawrence*: one at Shaner Road 10/30 (Martin Carlin) to at least 11/8; *Luzerne*: one at State Gamelands 57 on 11/5 (Cindy and Scott Ahern); *Lycoming*: one in Jackson Twp. 11/17 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Montgomery*: one at SGL 234 on 11/11 (Rick Keyser, Kate Jensen); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 11/14 (Matthew Heintzelman); *Westmoreland*: one at Morosini Reserve 10/25-11/2 (Steve Manns).

Sedge Wren – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 10/8 (Mike Lyman); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 9/30 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer); *Montgomery*: multiple birds at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (Stephen Shreiner, Rob Schuyler, Paul Driver); *Northampton*: up to 6 at Minsi Lake 10/8-11/11 (Matt

- Sabatine, Jason Horn); *Perry*: one at Brig. Gen. Frank E. Tressler Bird and Game Sanctuary 10/11 (ph. Steve Schmit).
- Rock Wren*** – *Montgomery*: one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 10/2-12 (ph. Ben Dziedzic, m.ob., *doc submitted*), would represent the first for the state if accepted.
- Bicknell's Thrush*** – *Montgomery*: one recorded on nocturnal migration over Elkins Park 10/13 (vr. Paul Driver, no doc submitted).
- Evening Grosbeak** – Recorded in 41 counties across the state.
- Red Crossbill** – *Mifflin*: 3 at Jack's Mountain Hawk Watch 11/8 (Jon Kauffman); *Philadelphia*: one heard in Mount Airy 11/13 (Matt Sharp); *Pike*: 3 in Dingmans Falls area 11/8 (Bradley White); *Tioga*: 3 in Wellsboro 10/24 (Rich Hanlon).
- White-winged Crossbill** – *Bucks*: One female at Buckingham Springs 10/31-11/3 (ph., Bill Keim, August Mirabella).
- Le Conte's Sparrow*** – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 10/6-11 (ph. Jason Horn, m.ob., *doc submitted*).
- Nelson's Sparrow** – *Bucks*: reported at Bradford Dam (Gail Johnson) and SGL 196 (Brian Henderson) 9/30, up to 8 at Pine Run Dam 10/6-15 (m.ob.), up to 2 at Penn-Warner Tract 10/6-7 (Jim Hartley, Devich Farbotnik, Holly Merker), and one at Bradford Dam 10/18-20 (Gail Johnson); *Huntingdon*: one at Brunbaugh's Access, Raystown Lake 10/26 (Luke Fultz).
- Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Allegheny*: one at Harrison Hills Park 8/27 (Dave Brooke); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 10/1-4 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 11/23 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Philadelphia*: one at Delaware River Trail at Reed Street 10/26-27 (Geoff Veith) and one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/31 (Geoff Veith).
- Lark Sparrow*** – *Bucks*: one near Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. 9/11-15 (ph. Richard Smith, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one at Delaware River Trail at Reed Street 10/26-30 (ph., George Armistead, m.ob., *doc submitted*).
- Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** – *Montgomery*: one at Pennsburg 11/12 (ph. Paul Heveran).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird*** – *Montgomery*: one female-type at Fort Washington 10/15 (Bill Reaume).
- Golden-winged Warbler** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 8/28 (*vide* August Mirabella); *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek SP 9/29 (Kevin Dougherty); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 9/1 (Bruce Carl); *Montgomery*: singles at Valley Forge National Historical Park 8/25 (Steve Grunwald), McKaig Nature Education Center 8/26 (Steve Grunwald, Michael Rosengarten), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 8/26 (Anna Mindel, Mike Grubb), and McKaig Nature Education Center 9/10 (Steve Grunwald); *Philadelphia*: one at Wissahickon Environmental Center 8/25 (Madelyne Ray); *Venango*: one at Seneca 8/31 (Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick).
- Brewster's Warbler** – *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 8/28 (Julia Plummer); *Franklin*: one at Heisey Road abandoned orchard 9/1 (Bill Oyler); *Sullivan*: one on Connells Dam Rd. 9/8 (Brian Sullivan, Chris Wood); *Wayne*: one at Himalayan Institute 8/20 (Chris Fischer, John Loz).
- Lawrence's Warbler** – *Centre*: one at PSU Arboretum 9/13 (Jim Dunn, John Carter, Linder Carter).
- Townsend's Warbler*** – *Lehigh*: one passed by Bake Oven Knob 9/15 (ph. Scott Keys, *doc submitted*);
- Black-throated Gray Warbler*** – *Lancaster*: one at Noel Dorwart Park 10/13 through the period (ph. Seth McComsey, m.ob., *doc submitted*).
- Western Tanager*** – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. 11/4 (Richard Smith, *doc submitted*).
- Summer Tanager*** – *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. 9/23 (George Armistead, no doc submitted).
- Black-headed Grosbeak*** – *Schuylkill*: one immature at feeder in Wayne Twp. 11/13 (Scott Weidensaul, no doc submitted).
- Dickcissel** – *Bucks*: singles at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. 8/14 (ph. August Mirabella, Richard Smith, Devich Farbotnik) and 10/7 (Richard Smith); *Centre*: one heard on nocturnal flight over State College 10/6 (Joe Gyekis); *Chester*: one at Exton Park 10/9 (John Daniel); *Huntingdon*: one at Juniata College 8/25 (Aidan Griffiths); *Lebanon*: 2 at Swatara SP (Barbara Ritzheimer); *Philadelphia*: one or 2 at Bartram's Garden 9/28-10/14 (George Armistead, et al.), one at Delaware River Trail at Reed Street 11/2 (Sara Busch, Jim McConnell), also heard on nocturnal migration on six occasions in South Philadelphia (Holger Pflücke) and at Discovery Center East Park Reservoir 10/19 (Holger Pflücke).ph.
- Corrigendum* – Vol 32, #3: Gadwall – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 7/22-25 (Devich Farbotnik). (not at Peace Valley Park

Photographic Highlights



Wood Ducks at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 27 September. (Sherri Hendricks)



A somewhat late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at New Oxford, *Adams* 13 October. (Linette Mansberger)



One of some 400 **Common Nighthawks** feeding over Haverford College, *Delaware* 3 September, the peak time for nighthawk migration. (Kristen Johnson)



Representing the fourth state record, a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** appeared in a yard in Saylorsburg, *Monroe* 28 October, seen here 4 November; it then returned for brief stay 18-22 November, when captured and banded to confirm identification. (Rick Wiltraut)



This immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** at Brentwood, *Allegheny* 1-4 (here 4), November was about the 14th county record. (Geoff Malosh)



Sandhill Cranes captured in flight at Miller's Pond, *Crawford* 15 September during the 2018 annual PSO meeting, at Meadville in 2018. (Wayne Laubscher)



One of four **Hudsonian Godwits** at a farm near Myerstown, *Lebanon*, present 28 October-4 (here 1) November. (*John McNamara*)



Another of the **Hudsonian Godwits** at Myerstown, *Lebanon*, seen here 1 November in a dispute with a **Dunlin**. (*John McNamara*)



Sanderling is a rare sight in southwestern Pennsylvania; this individual, representing the third eBird report for the county, was at Bentleyville, *Washington* 8 September, peak timing for fall reports. (*John Flanigan*)



Pectoral Sandpiper migration extends later into the fall than that of most shorebird species; this bird was at Bradford Dam, *Bucks* 28 October. (*Kerry Loux*)



The most northwesterly Pennsylvania sighting out of about a half dozen reports for the season, this **Snowy Egret** was at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 4-8 (here 8) September. (*Sherri Hendricks*)



This **Tricolored Heron**, the only one reported for the season was at Lake Redman, *York* 12 August-18 (here 16) September; perhaps the same bird that stayed at this location for an extended time in fall 2017. (*Bob Reiter*)



Green Heron with a tadpole morsel at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 13 September. (*Susan Guiswite*)



Remarkably, for the second consecutive year, at least one **Roseate Spoonbill** visited the state and apparently liked what it found, staying mostly in the area of the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 24 August-12 October (here 2 September). (*Zach Millan*)



Still a rare species in northern Pennsylvania, **Black Vultures** took up residence in an old barn in downtown Montrose, *Susquehanna*, seen here 21 August; their presence was not totally appreciated (see county report). (*Barb Stone*)



Another view of the *Susquehanna* **Black Vultures** in their old barn in Montrose; they were last recorded 11 September (here 21 August). (*Nancy VanCott*)



Male **Northern Harrier** over the Gettysburg Battlefields, *Adams* 17 November. (*Susan Guiswite*)



This juvenile **Bald Eagle** passed the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford/Allegheny* 18 November; one of a record high total of 3156 counted collectively at all of the fall watches in Pennsylvania, 31% above the ten-year average (see report in this issue). (*Tom Kueh*)



Red-tailed Hawk at Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, *Dauphin* 22 October. (Eric Willet)



Few issues go by without a screech owl pic – who can resist? – this **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at Clarksburg, *Indiana* 20 November. (Anthony Bruno)



Belted Kingfisher, about to dine on – something - in Oakland Twp., *Susquehanna* 2 August. (Barb Stone)



Merlin at Churchville Nature Center, *Bucks* 21 November. (Kerry Loux)



This **Gyrfalcon** found at Bath, *Northampton* 7 November (here 12 November) is believed to be the same bird present last year in the general area. (Eric Zawatski)



Warbling Vireo in State College, *Centre* 9 August; while the deep yellow suggests Philadelphia Vireo, the lack of strong eye line and early August date argue against. (Ron Crandall)



Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded during fall 2018, as they do approximately in alternating years; this bird posed during a backyard Big Sit in Oil City, Venango 13 October. (Jeffrey Hall)



Another view of the first-ever **Rock Wren** in Pennsylvania, featured on the cover, showing off its colors 5 October in Dixon Meadow Preserve, Montgomery. (George Armistead)



Golden-crowned Kinglet with delicate hold on spider (look closely) captured perfectly in this shot at Wildwood Park, Dauphin 22 November. (Eric Willet)



The least often seen of the five spot-breasted thrushes in Pennsylvania, and only one not nesting, this **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at Seneca, Venango 14 September. (Meg Kolodick)



American Robin at John Heinz NWR, Delaware 21 November. (Catherine Adamcik)



Northern Mockingbird in Noel Dorwart Park, Lancaster 29 November, perhaps keeping watch over "his" food plot as winter approaches. (Carol Light)



Among the earliest of a modest **Evening Grosbeak** irruption were these two in Lyn Twp., *Lehigh*, staying only two hours and not seen again at the location through the winter. (*Liz Brensinger*)



This handsome male **Evening Grosbeak** was one of five grosbeaks present over a two-day period in a yard in Townville, *Crawford* 7-8 November (here 7), feeding on sunflower seeds and sumac berries. (*Alejandra Lewandowski*)



White-winged Crossbills were not part of the influx of northern seed-eaters; this lone bird in Buckingham Meadows Community, *Bucks* 31 October (here)–3 November provided the only fall report and there were none in winter. (Red Crossbills were similarly scarce). (*August Mirabella*)



Snow Buntings had been found in 12 counties by the end of the season; this bird was at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks* 2 November. (*Eric Zawatski*)



One of two from the fall, this **Lark Sparrow** on the Delaware River Trail, *Philadelphia* was present 26-30 (here 26) October; another was in *Bucks* 13-15 September. (*George Armistead*)



Immature **White-crowned Sparrow** at Hopewell Twp. Rec. Area, *York* 30 October (*Dean Newhouse*)



Vesper Sparrow in Robinson Twp., *Washington* 18 October. (*Beth Signorini*)



One of three **Rusty Blackbirds** found in a forested floodplain along Bald Eagle Creek, near Howard, *Centre* 7 November. (*Bob Snyder*)



Blackpoll Warbler at Redman Acres, *Northumberland* 14 October. (*Karol Pasquinelli*)



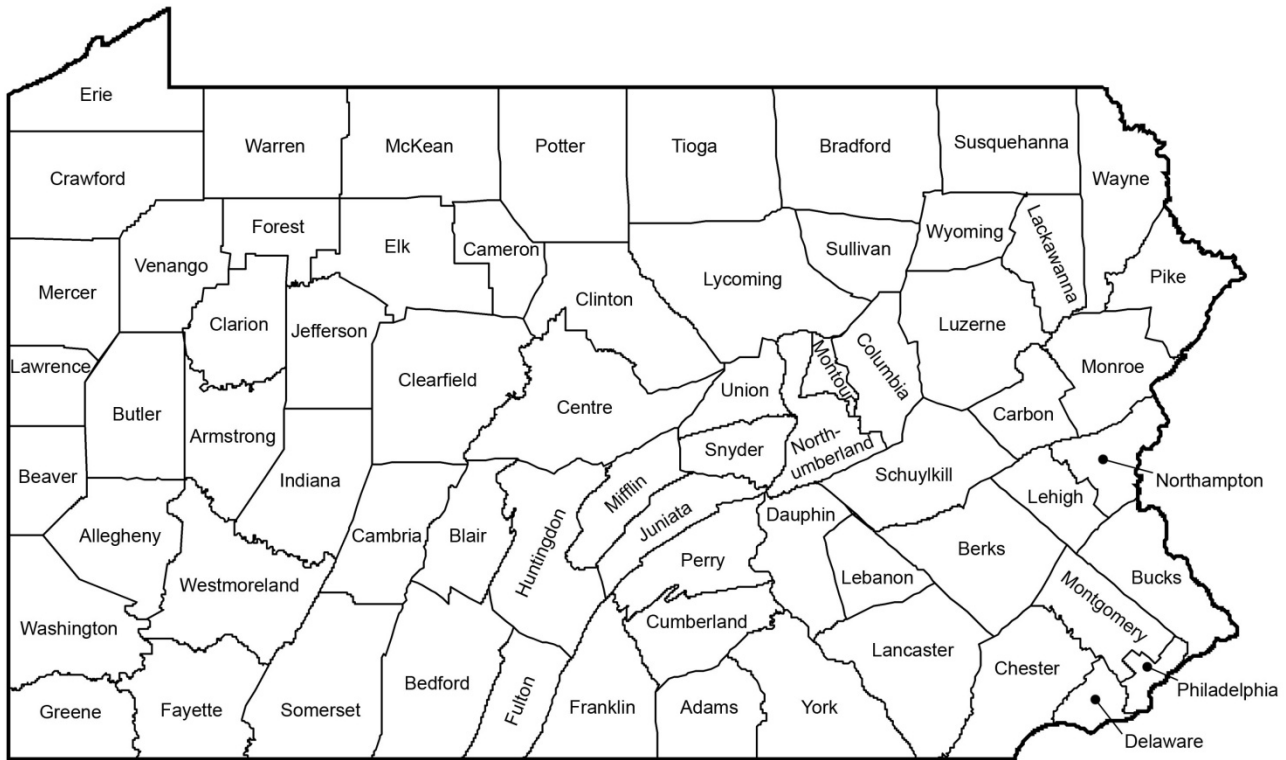
This **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Townville, *Crawford* 14 September was one of 15 warbler species that visited the photographer's backyard during the mid-September weekend. (*Alejandra Lewandowski*)



This long-staying, cooperative **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at Noel Dorwart Park, *Lancaster* 13 (here 17) October–19 November; one of three in the state during the fall of 2018 and first record for the county. (*Seth McComsey*)



Another view of the *Lancaster* **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, seen here 20 October. (*Zach Millan*)



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).	juvinal [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)

Adams County

Locations: Freedom Township (FREE), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Ridge Rd – Cumberland Township (RRCT), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

Extremely wet conditions continued in southcentral Pennsylvania. Total rainfall exceeded the average by 9.3 inches. Temperatures from Aug-Oct averaged 3-5°F above normal, but November’s 48°F average was 5°F below average. November also saw a winter storm 11/15 that brought 5-8 inches of snow to this region. The 167 species set a new high for the period, paced by better than average showings for waterfowl (24), shorebirds (9), and warblers (23). Highlights among these were **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, a pair of **Evening Grosbeaks**, and an **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at GC 11/30 (AW) appeared just in time for this report. A single **Cackling Goose** was at LH 11/22 (CM, JW). A strong movement of **Tundra Swans** was witnessed at FREE 11/11-13 (MS) with a

flight approaching 100 birds. Up to 7 appeared along Possum Hollow Rd. 11/23-26 (PK) and those numbers continued to build into Dec. Three reports of **Northern Shoveler** were paced by 5 at GC 9/20-28 (CM, AW). Up to 8 **Gadwall** were at LPRR 10/17-11/10 (EH, RGTS, AM, BO). Three locations held **American Wigeon** and **American Black Duck** with high counts of 17 wigeons at LPRR 11/10 (AM) and 20 black ducks at GC 9/22 (PL). LPRR produced the only reports of **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, and **Common Goldeneye**, all of single birds, with sightings 11/3 (RK), 10/17-11/9 (EH, RGTS, BO), 11/1-29 (BK, RK, BO), and 11/1 (RGTS), respectively. A pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers** was at LH 11/22 (MSt). Five reports of **Ruddy Duck** 10/17-11/22 (m. ob.) were headed by 37 at LH 11/13 (DT), a nice count for Adams.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at SGL 10/28-31 (DJG). A single **Ruffed Grouse** was in Michaux SF 8/26 (CC) and a pair was at Shippensburg Rd 11/7 (MB). High count among the 10 reports of **Wild Turkey** was 16 along Scott Rd. 9/17 (AW). Two of the eight locations reporting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** held Oct birds: 10/5 (at Shippensburg Rd. MB) and 10/9 and 10/13 at RRCT (CM). Black-billed Cuckoo went unreported. The four reports of **Common Nighthawk** spanned 8/29-9/16 (CM, MS, RDS) with a high count of 7 at FREE 8/29 (MS).

For a county lacking any truly reliable shorebird habitat, this fall’s 9 species

represented one of the better fall totals in recent years. High water levels in the region's traditional shorebirding hotspots may have accounted for greater dispersal into *Adams*. A **Dunlin** at GC 10/25-26 (CM, AW) was the best find. Three reports of **White-rumped Sandpiper** included one at GC 9/13 (CM, AW), a pair at Bigham Rd 9/17-18 (AW), and a trio along Pumping Station Rd 9/18 (BP). A pair of **Pectoral Sandpipers** was at GC 10/23-26 (CM, AW) and GC produced a nice count of 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/12 (CM, AW). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were along Bigham Rd 9/17-18 (AW), and GNMP held a single 11/5 (AW). Rare for the county, a juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was at GC 8/24-25 (IC, AK, AW).

Ospreys included a bird photographed carrying a fish and flying through a **European Starling** murmuration 9/18 (BP). An adult **Golden Eagle** flyover at GNMP 10/18 (EH) was a nice surprise. Good counts of **Northern Harrier** included 5 at FREE 9/11 (MS) and 6 at GNMP 11/26 (AW). Owl reporting was mixed; **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred Owl** were noted 8 and 7 times, respectively, but Eastern Screech-Owl was missed. All expected woodpecker species continue to be widely reported. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported 22 times, but trends late in the season indicated that it might be a down year for overwintering. Three reports of **Merlin** spanned 10/18-11/29 (EH, BO, AW).

Reports of flycatchers, vireos, and swallows were all rather ordinary. **Horned Lark** numbers were limited to 2 at Wenksville and Shippenburg Rd. 11/16 (BO) and 3 at GC 11/19 (AW). The three reports of **Black-capped Chickadee** (CC, CF, EH) were at the higher elevations of Michaux SF. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was first reported 9/5 (CM) with 13 reports (m. ob.) through the end of the period. A **House Wren** was a bit late at Lake Mae 10/26 (CM). Nine reports of **Brown Creeper** 10/0-11/25 were above average (m.ob.). **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were both well-reported, led by high counts of 7 Golden-crowned at GC 11/9 (AW) and 4 Ruby-crowned at RRCT 11/2 and 11/6 (CM). Five reports of **Swainson's Thrush** 9/24-10/16 (MB, CM, SDM, TR) were above average, and four reports of **Hermit Thrush** 10/13-11/6 (MB, CaC, CM) were about average. A **Brown Thrasher** at RRCT 11/28 (CM) was late. Counts of **American Pipit** were nominal, with 5 at GC 10/24 (AW) and 2 at GNMP 10/31 (AW). At least one *Adams* birder was lucky enough to observe this year's limited movement of **Evening Grosbeak** into the state: a backyard feeder along RRCT attracted 2 birds 11/16 (CM). This was apparently the first record for *Adams* since 2001. The 15 reports of **Purple Finch** spanned 10/17-11/30 (m. ob.) including a nice high count of 7 at York Springs 10/14 (DJG). Up to 5 **Pine Siskins** were at a Turkey Pit Rd. backyard 11/5 (LM) and a single was at a Bugle Call Path home 11/14 (anonymous).

Tardy **Chipping Sparrows** included one with a deformed upper mandible at York Springs 11/18 (DJG) and a normal bird there 11/25 (DJG). With the cold November temperatures, the arrival of American Tree Sparrow may have been anticipated, but none were detected. Reports of **Fox Sparrow** were limited to singles at Bugle Call Path 11/12-14 (anonymous) and RRCT 11/14 (CM). Three locations held **Savannah Sparrow**: 9 at Pumping Station Rd 9/30 (BP), 4 along Bigham Rd. 11/11 (AW), and up to 4 at GNMP 10/18-11/22 (EH, CM, PR, JW). Up to 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at GNMP 10/16-31 (PL, CM). Eight reports of **Swamp Sparrow** were made 10/1-11/25 (m. ob.) all in the Gettysburg area.

Although the diversity of warblers was a definite highlight, many were only reported once or twice. A **Black-and-White Warbler** at RRCT 11/6 (CM) was late. Two **Tennessee Warblers** were at GNMP 9/28 (EH), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at GC 10/24 (AW), and a **Connecticut Warbler** was found along Natural Dam Rd 10/6 (CM) Single **Cape May Warblers** were at Natural Dam Rd. 10/6 (CM) and GC 10/22 (AW). Two **Bay-breasted Warblers** and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were at GNMP 9/19 (AW). Another Chestnut-sided was at Oaks Community Park 9/15 (MB). **Canada Warblers** were at SGL 9/11 (DJG) and at RRCT 9/23 (CM). The Wenksville and Shippenburg Rd. area is a typically reliable spot for **Blue Grosbeak** in summer and early fall; it produced the only Blue Grosbeak this period, on 8/2 (BO).

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Martin (SDM), Callan Murphy, Bill Oyler, Bonita Portzline, Doug Powless, Patricia Rich, Theo Rickert, Michael S, Jeremy Scheivert, Deb Siefken, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Mike Stinson (MSt), David Taylor, Stewart Van Horn, Jason Verdier, Joel Wagner, Andrew Wilson.

Allegheny County

The first report of **Tundra Swan** came from Verona 11/13 when a flock of 48 flew over (SK). Several flocks were noted 11/14 including two ebird reports of 100 over Oakmont, a flock of 253 over Beechwood Farms (JL), an unknown number over Schenley Park (SA), 40 over Greenfield (KSJ), and two flocks totaling 207 birds over Pine Twp. (PL, SL). Lastly, a flock of 10 flew over Gibsonia 11/20 (KP). Uncommon here (and unusual to have two separate reports the same day), a white morph **Snow Goose** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/25 (MV) and another was at North Park the same day (MJ). The bird at North Park remained 11/26 (MJ).

Waterfowl were scant this fall. Twenty **Blue-winged Teal** were at Imperial 9/2 (MJ), and a **Green-winged Teal** was there 9/8 (MV). Two **Gadwall** were in Findlay Twp. 11/11 (MV). A **Northern Pintail** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/2 (MV) and 2 were there 11/25 (MV). A **Greater Scaup** was on the Ohio River at Brunots Island 11/25 (LF, JF). An adult male **Canvasback** was a surprise on the Highland Park reservoir 11/25 (AHa, BH). A bit early, 9 **Bufflehead** were at Imperial 10/21 (MV), 3 were at Brunots Island 11/22 (JF) and one was on the Allegheny River at Blawnox 11/25 (AH). A nice raft of 33 **Common Mergansers** was on the Allegheny River visible from the bluff at Harrison Hills Park 11/25 (DB). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at North Park 11/1 (OM).

A **Horned Grebe** was on the Allegheny River at Harmar Twp. 9/3 (AH, PM). This was early, however a bird was present on the river last June, so perhaps it was the same individual roaming the area during the summer.

There were few reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** all summer, so two reports this fall were welcomed. Singles were at Frick Park 8/31 (SA, TRh) and 9/11 (AP). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported regularly in Sep. Somewhat tardy **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at Frick Park 10/14 (MF) and South Park 10/18 (JF).

Common Nighthawks were reported from early Aug to mid-Sep with high counts of 40 at Hartwood Acres 8/14 (AB), 50 at Harrison Hills Park 8/27 (MD, DB) and 82 at Ross Twp. 8/30 (BM). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard and recorded at Deer Lakes Park 9/22 (DyE). I can't remember a fall report since I've been compiler. There was an ebird report of over 300 **Chimney Swifts** at a roost in Bethel Park 10/8-10.

An immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Brentwood 11/1-3 and was banded (DF, BMu), providing the 14th county record and the first since 2016. Another hummingbird appeared at a feeder in Coraopolis in November, opening the possibility of adding another species to the county list. It was banded by Bob Mulvihill 11/18 and was determined to be a late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. The only other November record in *Allegheny* was in 2006.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was along the Ohio River near Dashields Dam 8/4-5 (MV). A late **Greater Yellowlegs** was at North Park 11/1 (OM). **Solitary Sandpiper** reports included singles at Imperial 9/2 (MJ) and Fox Chapel 9/24 (CH). A **Least Sandpiper** was at was at Imperial 8/4-5 (MV, et al.) and one was at Dashields Dam 9/8 (GM). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Imperial 8/4-16 (MV, m.ob.). Two **Dunlin** were at Dashields Dam 8/11 (MV) and one was at Imperial 10/23 (MJ); the latter is most reliable location in the county to find them.

A juvenile **Laughing Gull** was discovered at Chapel Harbor on the Allegheny River in O'hara Twp. 8/5 (MD, TH). The bird was last reported 8/16 and for some was very elusive. It was most reliable in the early morning and evening but its whereabouts during the day remained a mystery. This provided the fifth county record. With many observers searching for the Laughing Gull, some terns were observed in the area in Aug. Two **Caspian Terns** were at Chapel Harbor 8/15 (JC, LK) and a **Forster's Tern** was there 8/20 (JVA). A late **Common Tern** was a surprising discovery at Point State Park in Pittsburgh 10/22 (DK). The bird was approachable and photographed by the observer. Keeping with the late date theme, a **Great Egret** was reported in eBird with a photograph at Duck Hollow 11/10 (DK).

Unusual here are kettles of **Broad-winged Hawks**, so two reports were very surprising. Twenty-three were over Shaler Twp. 9/16 (JH) and 72 were over

Beechwood Farms 9/23 (SA, TRh, AP). A few **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at the two local banding stations in early Nov at Sewickley Heights Park and Boyce-Mayview Park (BMu, GG). A **Merlin** was at Duck Hollow 9/8 (SA, AP). Single birds were reported in Pine Twp. 10/9 (PL, SL), at the Penn Dot Wetlands near Wingfield Pines 10/15 (ST), Shaler Twp. 10/30 (JH), Brentwood 10/31 (DF), Jefferson Borough 11/11 (JHA), Schenley Park (SA) and Homewood Cemetery both 11/20 (TL).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported 8/25-10/9 at six locations. One in Oakland was an exciting new yard bird 9/29 (FI). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported 8/25-9/30 from five locations.

Although **Common Ravens** are now regular in the county, they still appear in unexpected locations. One was in Harmar Twp. off and on in Aug (JV). One was in Jefferson Borough 9/30 (SSn) and one was at Harrison Hills Park 10/9 (DB). One was observed chasing a crow in Mount Lebanon 11/28 (RT). A group of 60 crows roosting at Carnegie Mellon University 8/16 were determined by their calls to be **Fish Crows** (SA). The **American Crow** roost in Pittsburgh was once again in the Oakland section of the city this fall. Like many other locations across the state, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely reported in the county this fall.

Reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** included one in Pine Twp 9/20 (PL, SL), 3 at Beechwood Farms 9/23 (SA, TRh, AP), one at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/26 (ST) and one at Beechwood Farms 10/23 (BSh).

Up to 5 **Purple Finches** were in Pine Twp. from late Sep through Oct (PL, SL). Seven were at Harrison Hills Park 10/11 (TRh, AP), and there were singles and doubles at four other locations during the period. Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were reported in various locations from late Oct through Nov. The high count was 10 photographed in Bethel Park 11/16 (eBird). A small (as of this writing) influx of **Evening Grosbeaks** into the state began in mid-Nov, including a few local reports made to eBird with photos: four visited in Gibsonia 11/15 and 4 were in West Deer Twp. 11/22. It remains to be seen if they will be present this winter.

Three **American Tree Sparrows** at North Park 11/17 (AP) and one in Findlay Twp. 11/24 (TRh) were the first few of the season. A **Chipping Sparrow** lingered in Pine Twp. through Nov (PL, SL). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a great find at Harrison Hills Park 8/27 (DB), just the second record for the park (*vide* PH). This provided the 22nd record for the county and the first since 2014. A **Savannah Sparrow** in South Park 9/13 provided a rare report of a migrant (JF, JP). **Fox Sparrow** reports included singles 11/10 at North Park (SD) and 11/17 in Marshall Twp. (JHz). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Beechwood Farms 10/3 (BSh), 3 were at Harrison Hills Park 10/6 (AH), one was at Frick Park that day (JS, SS), singles were at Boyce-Mayview Park (ST), North Park (AH) and Round Hill Park (JHA) 10/7, Pine Twp. 10/10-18 (PL, SL), Shaler Twp. 10/14 (JH), South Park 10/22 (JF) and Pine Twp. 11/14 (PL, SL). **White-crowned Sparrows** included single birds at North Park 10/7 (AH), Boyce-Mayview Park 10/17 (ST), Hampton Twp. 10/23 (DN), Duck Hollow 10/30 (KSJ) and Pine Twp. 11/1 (PL, SL), and 2 were at Harrison Hills Park 10/30 (DB).

A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Imperial in Aug (MV, JF, LF). A large flock of at least 2000 **Common Grackles** were observed during a Three Rivers Bird Club outing at Deer Lakes Park 9/8 (TH, OL, et al.). Birds were observed flying through a gap in the trees so it was difficult to estimate the numbers. An estimated 2000 were at Schenley Park 10/15 (KSJ). **Rusty Blackbirds** were heard with a flock of Common Grackles in Forest Hills 10/15 (TBI).

Twenty-eight species of warblers were reported during the fall migration. Fall reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** are rare so one in Pine Twp. 9/8 (PL, SL) was noteworthy. It's always interesting to receive a fall report of a **Louisiana Waterthrush** because they are rarely reported after July, but nobody knows exactly when they depart. There was an eBird report of one 8/26 at SGL 203 in Wexford. Several good photographs were included and one clearly showed the unstreaked throat, eliminating Northern Waterthrush (and it would be early for that species). A very late **Black-and-white Warbler** was in Plum Borough 11/2 (AH). A **Mourning Warbler** was a good find in Pine Twp. 9/29 (PL, SL). Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported from eight locations in Oct. There was an ebird report of a late bird 11/12 on the North Side of Pittsburgh. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/2 (LN, CD). **Cape May Warblers** were reported in 10 locations from 9/6-10/12. A late bird was in Churchill 11/10 (WS). **Northern Parula** was reported from five locations 9/12-30. Less common warblers included **Canada Warblers** at Boyce Park 8/18 (AH, PM), Pine Twp. 8/31 (PL, SL), Sewickley Heights Park 9/6-7 (BVN, GM) and Frick Park 9/11 (AP) and **Wilson's Warblers**, reported at Pine Twp. 9/1

(PL, SL), Sewickley Heights Park 9/7 (GM), North Park 9/7 (OM), Frick Park 9/22 (JS, SS, MK), Beechwood Farms 9/23 (STh, SuT), Frick Park 9/27 (SS) and Beechwood Farms 10/3 (BSh).

A late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was photographed at a feeder in Monroeville 10/20 (RH).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail no. of Dam 8 (AT), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Cowansville (CO), Creek Road (CR), Keystone Lake (KL), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Logansport (LP), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Robbs Fording Road (RF), Worthington (WT).

The most noteworthy and exciting sighting of the season was an immature **Golden Eagle** first noted 11/20 on Ardale Road in between Ford City and CCL (SGu, ph.) then observed again the following day interacting with an adult and an immature **Bald Eagle** on the same farm (AB, SGU, ph.). This is probably just the second report for *Armstrong*; two park rangers at Crooked Creek reported photographing one perched and hunting from the control tower there sometime in the mid-1980s.

Forty **Tundra Swans** were reported 11/16 at CCL (TR), 113 were seen over the lake there 11/10 (JB), followed by 165 on 11/11 (TR), and 100 at CO 11/20 (JS). Only 2 **Wood Ducks** were spotted from the AT 8/2 (MH), but a high count of 40 was reported there 8/28 (TR). Only 3 **Green-winged Teal** observed were from CCL 11/11 (JB, TR) along with the only **Ring-necked Duck** for the season. One **Greater Scaup** was at CCL 11/20 (JB) and 6 **Lesser Scaup** were observed there 11/13 (MVT). The only report of **Common Goldeneye** was a handsome, lone drake at PBF 11/16-27 (JB, MVT, ph.). A **Redhead** female joined this bird for a few days as did a female **Hooded Merganser**. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at CCL 11/13 (MVT, ph.).

The only **Horned Grebes** were 6 at KL 11/11 (MH, RH).

CCL was only location for **Semipalmated Plovers** with 2 there 8/20 (TR, ph.). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was a nice find at CCL 8/28 (SGu, ph.). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported at CCL 8/7 (AB, SGU) and 8/20 (TR). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were noted at CCL 8/20 (TR) and 8/27 (AH), and a lone **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed at CCL 8/27-9/23 (AH, MD, TR, MVT) 6 had been seen 8/12 (AB). Three **Bonaparte Gulls** were flying around CCL 8/2 (MVT, ph.) and a high count of 150 were on the lake 11/11 (MVT, ph.). Three **Caspian Terns** were at CCL 9/7 (MVT, ph.) and 2 were at KL 9/4 (SGU). A **Common Loon** was at KL 11/11 (MH, RH), and a nice count of 6 were in the rain at CCL 11/19 (JB, MVT, ph.). At least one **Double Crested Cormorant** seemed to hang around CCL from 8/6 (SGU) through 8/27 (MVT), and 2 immatures were seen at the trash boom 8/26 (MVT, ph.). A lone **Great Egret** that graced KT L&D 7 on 8/6 (SGU) represented the only report.

Three **Ospreys** were at CCL 8/2 (MVT & park staff) and one or 2 were observed 8/6-9/10 (AB, SGU, AH, CR, TR, JLS, MVT). It is believed both **Red-**

shouldered Hawk young fledged successfully, as the one many thought was injured and a few had attempted to rescue was seen and photographed in good condition 7/31 before it flew off successfully (MVT, ph.). Adults were observed in quite a few locations in the county including CCL, Ardale Road, and a residence in LB (MVT). A **Broad-winged Hawk** that hung around most of summer was last observed 8/27 (AH) and one was also at CR on the same date (MVT). Other broad-wings were noted near the KT Hospital (MVT) 9/28 and in WT 10/6 (NMc). First **Rough-legged Hawk** to of the season was on Pasture Road near MCL 11/27 (AD).

Eastern Screech-Owls were numerous as expected, but the only report of **Great Horned Owl** was one flushed from its roost by a Belted Kingfisher 8/27 (AH) at CCL. It was seen again 9/11 (SGu), **Barred Owls** appeared at CCL 9/14 (MVT) and 10/6 (NMc). **American Kestrels** were reported from several areas; 3 was a nice count near MCL 11/27 (AD).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find at CCL 9/4 (SGu) and one was also reported from MB 9/28 (JS). The only report of **Willow Flycatcher** was from Campbell's Run Road 8/14 (MVT). A **Philadelphia Vireo** in the company of **White-eyed** and **Warbling Vireos** was a nice find at MB 9/2 (SGu). **Common Ravens** were observed in many locations, and the pair at CCL was observed courting. A nice count of 31 **Horned Larks** was made at Ardale Road 11/20, and 20 were observed in WT 11/25 (TR). A single **Bank Swallow** was a good find on RF 8/23 along with 15 **Barn Swallows** (ST). Only reports of **Winter Wren** were singles at MB 10/5 and CCL 10/12 (TR). A **Veery** was a nice find at SGL 247 on 8/26 (TR) as was a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 10/6 (BP, et al.). Two **American Pipits** at WT 10/30 (SGu, ph.) were the only ones reported. An **Evening Grosbeak** was first report at CCL 11/17 (JB).

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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).

Fifty-eight **Tundra Swans** over Ambridge Res. 11/11 (MV) represented *Beaver's* only contribution to that species fall flight this year. An early **Blue-winged Teal** was at NB 8/18 (MV) and another was at RCH 10/4 (MV). One **Northern Shoveler** at IND 10/26, one **Gadwall** at RCH 11/21, 2 **American Wigeon** at IND 10/26-11/2, and one **Northern Pintail** at RCH 11/16 (all MV) each represented the only reports of the season. Up to 3 **American Black Ducks** were at IND 10/19-11/2 (MV), and 4 were at RCH 11/16-21 (MV). There were very few reports of bay ducks, with just scattered reports of **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Duck** (m.ob.). Up to 7 **Common Mergansers** persisted at NB through at least 10/14 (m.ob.).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was noted on Park Road in Independence Twp. 11/4-7 (JM). A nice change of pace were reports of **Common Nighthawk** from three locations: 10 at Ambridge 8/24 (MV), 9 at ECON 8/31 (KD), and 6 at Hanover Twp. 9/6 (JM). It appears Independence Marsh will be greatly affected and likely destroyed altogether by a planned Shell gas pipeline that will cross directly over the property, a terrible loss for the county and the many birds that came to rely on this location over the past number of years. With shorebird habitat at Little Blue Lake also a thing of the past, it's likely that the "best" shorebird location left in *Beaver* may well be the spillway at RCSP. Indeed, this season the only shorebird of note was recorded on the spillway: a **Dunlin** 10/25-28 (JM, MV). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was also on the spillway 10/21 (MV). Six **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted at IND 10/19 (MV).

One **Bonaparte's Gull** was among 122 **Ring-billed Gulls** at RCH 11/25, and 200 Ring-bills were at Vanport 11/28 (GR). The bird of the season, and one of the more unexpected sightings anywhere in the state this fall, was a juvenile **Brown Pelican** on the Beaver R. at NB 9/16 (ph. MD *vide* KSJ). The bird was

seen through the day 9/17 (BS, ST, GM, MV) and was seen in the early morning 9/18 (DR) but it departed downriver mid-morning and was not seen again. It represented the first record for *Beaver* and just the third for western Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie. The first for this region was an adult bird in *Washington* in April 2011, and the second may well have been this same bird seen in *Allegheny* in early August of this year, in downtown Pittsburgh during the city's annual regatta. The bird in *Beaver* and the one photographed in *Allegheny* both had very distinctively pale underparts, extremely so for a Brown Pelican, suggesting that it may have been the same bird. Interestingly, in the interim between early Aug and mid-Sep, a white-bellied immature Brown Pelican was seen in *Erie* 8/6-9, and later for several days around Cedar Point, Ohio, before appearing in *Beaver* 9/16. It is not unreasonable to presume that all of these sightings referred to the same single bird, but of course there is no way to know for sure. During heavy rain 9/16 (the remnants of Hurricane Florence), pelican watchers at NB also noted an unidentified **sterna sp.** flying upriver at NB (GM, ST).

A **Northern Harrier** was noted near Aliquippa 11/16 (MV) and one was seen from the Pennsylvania Turnpike near Beaver Falls 11/23 (TJ, KJ). A **Merlin** was seen around Ambridge 10/30-11/2 (MV).

A few **Common Ravens** were seen in new and odd locations once again: one was near Aliquippa 8/10 (MV), one was at IND 9/12 (FK), and one was in RCSP 11/1 (DC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** first appeared 9/12 and by season's end were noted at five locations, some of which were feeders where they were present more or less for the rest of the season (m.ob.). **Purple Finch** was found in Hanover Twp. 10/7 and in RCSP 10/25 (JM) and in ECON 11/9 (KD), as well as a few other scattered locations. Up to 7 **Pine Siskins** were at feeders in Hanover Twp. 10/18-20 (JM) and one was at a feeder in Vanport periodically 10/21-11/6 (GR). Another 3 were at the RCSP feeders 11/22 where they remained into the winter (MV, m.ob.).

It was a very poor season for warblers and other Neotropical migrants, owing to an almost total lack of coverage of RCSP and other hotspots by the county's birders this season. "Best" of all was a **Wilson's Warbler** at IND 9/18 (JF). An early **Blackburnian Warbler** was at ECON 8/15 (KD), and a lingering **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still at IND 9/18 (JF).

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Bedford County new compilers next season: Laura and Mike Jackson

Berks County

Locations: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH), Christman Lake (CL), 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 (LWS), Lowland Road Retention Pond (LRRP), Old Topton Road (OTP), 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).

2018 may well go into the record books as the wettest year in *Berks* history, with December totals still to be included. Numerous storms affected migration flights as southbound birds took other routes. Two major events did create opportunities for fallouts: the remnants of Hurricane Florence 9/18 and a nor'easter 10/26. Passing cold fronts were again few.

Two pink-billed **Greater White-fronted Geese** kept company with 1800 **Canada Geese** at BQ 11/25 (RK), an increasingly popular location for this species. The small group of summertime hold-over **Snow Geese** at SFP dwindled to zero by 9/30 (MW). A lone **Snow Goose** was found with large flocks of **Canada Geese** at two locations: School Road pond 11/9 (RK) and Christman Lake 11/30 (KG). The highest counts for migrating **Canada Geese** at HMS were 3000 on 10/5 and 4880 on 11/18 (LG). Two large flocks of **Canada Geese**,

1800 each, rested on BML 11/23 and BQ 11/25 (RK).

Seventeen **Tundra Swans** made a brief appearance at BMLSH 11/10 (RH). Other migrating ducks were scattered throughout the county as they found shelter on both large lakes and small rain pools. Five **Blue-winged Teal** were at OTP 6/12 (RK), 5 **Redhead** were at BQ 11/30 (RK) and one was at BMLSH 11/8 (DP), single **Lesser Scaup** were at BQ 10/16 (RK) and BMLSH 11/7 (DP), and 2 were at LO 10/16 (RK). The largest number of **Bufflehead** was 300 at BMLSH 11/10 (RH). A lone **Common Goldeneye** was at EQ 11/25 (RK).

Common Loons did not appear in large numbers during the season's frequent storms. One or two were the norm at BML periodically 9/1-11/22 and on LO 10/6-11/3 (m.ob.). Eleven **Pied-billed Grebes** were at LO 11/4 (RK). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at LO 10/20-11/4 (RK). A second **Red-necked Grebe** appeared at the same location 11/3 (JW, PW).

An **American Bittern** was an unusual find at KDRA 10/4 (MTG), where it is more often seen during spring migration. Late summer dispersal resulted in 4 **Great Egrets** at LO 9/18 (DA) and 4 at BMA 8/2 (KG). Staff reported seven **Great Egrets** in migration at HMS 8/19 (LG). A single immature **Little Blue Heron** was hard to see at LRRP 9/7-24 (DH, m.ob.). **Cattle Egrets** usually appear as singles and usually for only part of a day. A new high count of 11 **Cattle Egrets** was made 10/29 during a light rain storm at SFP (KG, MW, m.ob.). Initially only one was seen, but soon 10 more flew over the observer and landed near the single bird (KG). The eleven egrets began to feed in a sweeping manner in the high vegetation along the shoreline which often hid them from view. Several other birders responded to the alert and, true to form, the birds left as the skies cleared. The previous high count of this species was 4 at Glen Morgan Lake 5/19/1996 (KL). A single **Glossy Ibis** was at a Fleetwood rain pool 8/31 and remained until the morning of 9/1 (SF). In the late afternoon of 9/1, a single **Glossy Ibis** at GP was likely the same bird (DM).

The fall migration count at HMS began 8/15 and the frequent rain canceled several count days. As of 11/30, these were the reported high single day counts from North Lookout: 47 **Osprey** 9/19, 36 **Bald Eagles** 10/12, 7 **Northern Harriers** 10/12, 618 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/13, 88 **Cooper's Hawks** 10/12, 28 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 11/4, 3308 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/16, 114 **Red-tailed Hawks** 10/18, and 25 **Golden Eagles** 10/21 (LG). Off-ridge sightings of **Golden Eagles** are rare. An adult **Golden Eagle** flew over KDRA 10/30 to the surprise of the observers (KG, RK).

An injured **Common Gallinule** was found near Sinking Spring during the first week of Oct and taken to a local wildlife rehab center. It is not known if the bird survived (JS).

The frequent rain suppressed the numbers of shorebirds. Water levels were high in ponds and lakes so migrants turned to rain pools in pastures. Sightings included: 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/5 (KK), 9 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/1 (RK), 2 **Sanderlings** 10/27 (DP), 20 **Least Sandpipers** 8/26 (DA), and one **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/12 (RH). A rare **Baird's Sandpiper** made two appearances at OTP, 9/12 (EK) and 10/5 (KK, AZ). A lone **Short-billed Dowitcher** fed at a rain pool along Sportsman Road 9/2 (DP). Hurricane Florence brought a female **Red-necked Phalarope** to BML 9/18 (KL, RH).

Gulls increased at BML in Nov. On 11/30, the lake held 6000 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 585 **Herring Gulls**. A single **Great Black-backed Gull** was photographed as well. Only one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at BML 11/18 (ES). **Caspian Terns** are regular visitors to LO and BML in late summer. An unusual number of 6 were at BML 8/15 (RH). Some rare terns were found and photographed at BML 9/18 as the remnants of Hurricane Florence passed through: 7 **Common Terns** and one **Arctic Tern** (KL, RH, JS). A **Forster's Tern** was photographed at BML 8/1 (JW, PW).

Late Aug is a good time for **Common Nighthawks** at HMS. Twenty-two flew past the lookout 8/24 and 26 passed by 9/1. A total of nine **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were counted in migration at HMS this season, compared with 36 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**; the latter included a high count of 11 on 10/13. Falcons bring excitement to HMS each migration. At HMS as of 11/30, the high daily count for **American Kestrels** was 96, **Merlins** 27, and **Peregrine Falcons** 5. An immature **Peregrine Falcon** soared among **Chimney Swifts** in Hamburg KDRA 9/26 (KG, RK).

Many sightings of flycatchers in fall are made along the ridges. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** that visited Lutz Road in Boyertown was unusual 9/4 (RK). On ridge at HMS was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and **Least Flycatcher** 9/4 (RK).

An excellent passerine fallout took place at HMS 9/29 that brought good numbers of vireos and warblers. Birders make plans to arrive at sunrise to see

these species before the raptors arrive later in the morning. That morning, the following vireos were reported: one **White-eyed**, seven **Yellow-throated**, 185 **Blue-headed**, nine **Philadelphia**, and 7 **Red-eyed**.

The last two weeks of Sep and the month of Oct are the peak of the fall **Blue Jay** migration. On 9/20, 157 Blue Jays were counted flying along the ridge heading west-southwest (KG), parallel to but not over the base of the mountain. A daily log of observations from then through 10/25 resulted in a final tally of 10,454 migrating Blue Jays (KG). The average per hour, over 67 hours in the field, was 156. A historical note from *A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania* (William D. Uhrich, 1997) quotes Maurice Broun's migration notes for Blue Jays. He wrote, "Prior to the fall of 1939, I have recorded inconsequential numbers of **Blue Jays**, with the exception of 603 birds counted on September 26, 1935." During a sixteen day period beginning September 24, 1939, Broun counted approximately 7350 **Blue Jays**. These numbers were surpassed greatly during a four-week period beginning September 15, 1965, when over 55,000 Blue Jays migrated over Hawk Mountain. Later, from September 11 to October 30, 1957, over 42,000 **Blue Jays** were tallied. The numbers recorded this past fall migration represent a sort of snapshot of days gone by.

Common Ravens have been increasing in recent years. This summer, nesting was confirmed in Hamburg on the roof of its only motel. Sightings of single birds are numerous throughout Berks. A daily count of 31 was noted at HMS 8/25 (LG).

The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** of the season visited HMS 8/17 and at least one nuthatch made the count each day. The high daily count was 26 on 9/29 (LG). In this irruption year, birders reported single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** throughout the county. A morning walk at SGL110 found 20 **Winter Wrens** (KG). A **Marsh Wren**, usually a spring migrant and not thought to be a breeder, was present at KDRA 9/22-10/12 (KG, KL, DA). Two **Marsh Wrens** were seen 10/5 and 10/9 at the same location. KDRA was especially wet this summer which may have presented a more favorable habitat for this species.

Poor weather conditions were not conducive for pre-dawn flight call monitoring, so reports of migrating thrushes were not received. During the 9/29 fallout at HMS, 10 **Swainson's Thrushes** were tallied. Additional reports were of one or two birds: HMSL 10/4 (RK), LOWS 10/6 (RK) and KDRA 10/15 (KG).

The highlight of the warbler migration at HMS was the 9/29 fallout when hundreds of birds worked their way over and around the lookout. The following warblers were recorded: 6 **Black-and-white**, 15 **Tennessee**, 27 **Cape May**, 7 **Magnolia**, 10 **Bay-Breasted**, 5 **Blackburnian**, 27 **Black-throated Blue**, 47 **Blackpoll**, 2 **Palm**, and 87 **Black-throated Green** (LG). Other warblers of note included **Orange-crowned Warbler** at KDRA 10/7 (KG), **Connecticut Warbler** at BML 10/14 (JS) and at KDRA 10/7 (KG), and **Mourning Warbler** at BML 9/15 (AZ). Also at HMS, these high daily counts were noted: 24 **Cape May Warblers** 8/30, 48 **Blackburnian Warblers** 8/28 and 55 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 10/5 (LG).

Three **Snow Buntings** flew past HMS 11/29 (LG). An elusive but cooperative **Lincoln's Sparrow** was present at KDRA 10/5-16 (KG). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** flew over HMS 9/30 (LG), and a single **Rusty Blackbird** was seen at KDRA 11/12 (KG), a reliable spot for this species.

Based on forecasts of a better than usual winter finch irruption, birders hoped to see some species that have not been recorded in recent years. **Purple Finches** were reported at home feeders and as flyovers. The first **Purple Finch** flew past north lookout HMS 9/16, and single digit birds were noted daily until 11/30 (LG). The daily high count of **American Goldfinch** was 87 on 8/30 HMS (LG). **Evening Grosbeaks** returned with a scattering of reports. Five and 6 were counted at HMS 10/26 and 11/11, respectively (LG). There was a report of **Evening Grosbeaks**, **Pine Siskins** and **Purple Finch** at a feeder station in Huff's Church 11/17 (MG).

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Blair County

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

The fall period brought moderate temperatures and above average precipitation, including 10-14 inches of snow in mid-November. The species count for the period was 157. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data.

For a county that continues to be underbirded, the migration produced some excellent finds. A group of 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** were feeding on black oil sunflower seeds at a residence along Grandview Rd., Altoona 11/18 (MS ph.). These were the first reported Evening Grosbeaks since December 1987. A **Northern Shrike** at SGLN 11/15 (LC, MN) provided the fifth eBird record for Blair.

Nine duck species were reported, including 5 **Gadwalls** at Lake Altoona 10/21 (MN), 2 **Lesser Scaup** drifting on the lake at CC 11/23 (JC, LC), and a single **Ring-necked Ducks** at CC (PI) and RP 11/14 (JC).

A **Virginia Rail** was at CC 8/19 (JC, LC). Two **Green Herons** were at CC 9/26, and single was along the Juniata River 8/26 (JC, LC, MN). A lone **American Woodcock** was found at SGLN 9/13, and then one was near the AT 10/11 (MN). Shorebirds were sparsely reported. A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was at CC 8/19 (JC, LC), and 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were along the banks on the Little Juniata near Williamsburg 8/26 (JC, LC, MN).

Three **Black Vultures** were noted 11/21 soaring along I-99 (AM). The only **Golden Eagle** reported was gliding near the APR 10/28 (JC, LC, MN). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted along Grandview Rd 8/29 (VM).

The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the fall was observed 10/3 in Newry (BS), and the last **Gray Catbird** was at SGLN 10/23 (MN). As those birds were departing, others were just arriving including the 16 **Pine Siskins** in Newry 10/22 (BS), and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** which appeared at a few locations: 2 at PSU Altoona campus 10/4 (MS, VM), and singles at BESCN 10/26 (MN), and CC 11/23 (JC, LC).

An uncommon **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGLN 9/3 and one was at LT 9/13 (JC, LC). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were recorded at FH 9/20 (LB), and the last 2 **Wood Thrush** were reported near the APR 9/8. Lone **Fox Sparrows** were at CC 11/23, and near the AT 11/7. There were 6 **White-crowned Sparrows** at SGL 198 on 10/28 (JC, LC, MN), and 2 more were at RP 11/1 (MN). **White-throated Sparrows** were commonly seen, with a high count of 14 on the APR 10/28. Four **American Tree Sparrows** were at SGLN 11/3, and single **Lincoln Sparrows** were at CC 9/22, and at the Ray Amato Memorial Trail 10/22.

Warblers showed well with 30 species reported. Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were at FH 9/20 (LB), at CC 9/22 (JC, LC, MN) and on Cabbage Creek Rd 10/7 (RM). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was on the PSU Altoona campus 10/12 (AM). An extraordinary count of 40 **Cape May Warblers** was made in FH 9/30 (LB). Three **Wilson's Warblers** were at FH 9/3 (LB, BB). A pair of **Bay-breasted Warblers** was viewed at SGLN 9/15, and a single was at FH 9/20. Single **Cerulean Warblers** were at the LT 8/17 and FH 8/4.

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Bradford County – no compiler

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), Silver Lake Park (SLP).

Temperatures were mostly above normal, with August (+4.1°F); September (+4.9°F); October (+2.6°F); and November (-1.8°F). Rainfall was overall high with August (-0.44"); September (+2.66"); October (-0.99"); and

November (+6.23"). November's 9.73" was a record. An early snow storm brought up to six inches of snow 11/15-16. Hot weather with lack of cold fronts made early migration lackluster. Moderating temperatures and cold fronts by late September produced a good passerine movement through October. Waterfowl fallouts were generally light despite the regular rain events. Shorebird habitat was limited, with only two sites reporting numbers. Cyclic irruptive passerines were represented, but most were in relatively low to moderate numbers compared to some recent heavier movements. The rarest reports were **Ruff**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Franklin's Gull**, **Brown Pelican**, **Evening Grosbeak**, **White-winged Crossbill**, **Lark Sparrow**, and **LeConte's Sparrow**. The reported species totaled 247 compared to the previous 10-year average of 234. There were eight new fall 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 **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Churchville Park 10/13-16 (ML, KL ph.) was the only report. Also the only report, a flock of 14 **Brant** flew over Doylestown 10/5 (DF). A **Barnacle Goose** 11/30 at PVP (MF) was the first in the county since Jan 2013. **Cackling Goose** was barely noticed. Singles were at PRN 10/17 (AM ph.) and PVP starting 10/20 (AM ph.), with a high there of 3 on 11/12 (AM). One was at Core Creek Park 11/21 (SA, MN ph.). Ten **Tundra Swans** passed over PVP 11/10 and provided the only report (TF). Nine dabbling duck and 14 diving duck species were reported in generally modest single and low double digit counts. One exception was an estimate of 800 **Mallards** 11/17 at PWT (DF), which was believed to be the highest by far the observer ever had in the county. Certainly very long term historical numbers likely were much higher. The highest eBird entries are 1300 at PVP 12/17/1977 (AM) and 1050 at NSP 2/1/2004 (BEt). A **Ring-necked Duck** was at PWT 8/21 (DF), over six weeks earlier than arriving migrants and was suspected of being in the area all summer. There is only one previous known Aug report. A single **Greater Scaup** at NSP 11/18 (DF, RS) furnished the only report. Three **Surf Scoters** at NSP 10/21 (PC), one there 11/18 (RS), and one at PVP 11/27 (AM, VM), provided the only reports. Single **White-winged Scoters** were at PVP 11/2 (KR) and NSP 11/24 (DF). Two **Black Scoters** 11/25 at NSP (PC) was also the only report. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at PVP 10/10 (TF) and 11/22 (KF). One was at NSP 11/11 (AM, JM). **Bufflehead**, as usual, provided better site high counts, with 115 at PVP (AM) and 125 at NSP 11/10 (KR). Two different **Common Goldeneyes**, only one per day based on gender, were at PVP 11/7-12 (HD, AH, KI, VM, AM). Two were there 11/28 (AM). The only other report was one female at NSP 11/11 (AM, JM).

Only 10 **Horned Grebes** were reported from three sites (m.ob.), with the high report 4 at NSP 11/18 (AH). Surprising was an early movement of **Red-necked Grebes**, with one at PWT 10/21, 2 there 10/27, 2 at NSP 10/30 (all DF), and one at PVP 11/27 (BC ph.). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was tallied at 23 sites (m.ob.), with at least 4 birds being present later than our previous fall late date of 10/7. These were at SLP 10/9 (DD), PVP 10/9 (KI, VM), PVP 10/12 (VM), Tyler State Park 10/12 (MGr), and MKF 10/17-10/22 (RS). Only 9 **Black-billed Cuckoos** were tallied per eBird data from eight sites (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawk** migration is only a fraction of what it used to be locally. The high counts were 43 at MKF 8/30 (RS), 40 at Riegelsville 10/2 (EB), 25 at Yardley 9/15 (SH), and 21 at Solebury Twp. 10/1 (DF). Rarely reported here, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Churchville Park 8/24 (BW). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** furnished a new fall late date by two weeks at feeders in Upper Southampton Twp. 11/11-15 (EH, NL). It was confirmed from photos (DF, AM) by hummingbird expert Nancy Newfield as this species. It fed up to the late afternoon start of the snow storm 11/15, not seen again, and presumed dead. Single **Soras** were reported from PRN 10/4-23 (m.ob.). The high count at PWT was 4 on 10/7 (DF). One was flushed while harvesting a MKF soybean field 10/15 (RS). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over MKF 10/14 (RS), adding to the recent increased reports of this species.

High water levels in general resulted in only PWT and BRD providing attractive habitat for shorebirds. The total shorebird species count was 21. PWT took the shorebird diversity trophy and had many of the high counts. For species where counts were provided at PWT (DF, HM) and BRD (MGa, SG, GJ, AM, RS), the high counts are in the following tables. A **Ruff** at PWT 8/2-5 (DF ph. doc.) provided the county's fourth known sighting. PWT produced the fifth known county occurrence of **Long-billed Dowitcher** 8/21-24 (DF ph.). Single **American Woodcocks** were reported at Churchville Park 10/25 (AB), Solebury

Twp. 10/31 (DF), and Doylestown Twp. 11/1 (CC). A **Wilson's Phalarope** at PWT 8/11-12 was the 16th known occurrence for the county (DF ph.). A **Solitary Sandpiper** lingered at PVP until 11/7 (DL ph.) for a new fall late date.

PWT Shorebird High Counts

SPECIES	COUNT	DATE
Black-bellied Plover	3	8/24
Semipalmated Plover	6	8/11
Ruff	1	8/2-5
Stilt Sandpiper	22	8/3
Sanderling	1	8/25
Dunlin	6	10/21
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	8/23
Pectoral Sandpiper	14	8/11
Western Sandpiper	1	8/22
Short-billed Dowitcher	9	8/4
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	8/21-24
Wilson's Phalarope	1	8/11-12
Greater Yellowlegs	9	10/13
Lesser Yellowlegs	72	8/31

BRD Shorebird High Counts

SPECIES	COUNT	DATE
Killdeer	10	9/8
Semipalmated Plover	14	9/1
Dunlin	6	10/25
Least Sandpiper	65	9/1
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	10/12-26
Pectoral Sandpiper	20	10/20
Semipalmated Sandpiper	14	9/1
Wilson's Snipe	5	10/16
Spotted Sandpiper	4	10/1
Solitary Sandpiper	4	10/13
Greater Yellowlegs	19	10/20
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	9/6

Six gull species were reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported starting 10/14 in mostly single digit counts from five sites (m.ob.). PVP had the highest counts, with 85 on 11/8 (AM) and 65 on 11/10 (TF). The county's eleventh known **Black-headed Gull** was just north of Washington Crossing Historic Park at the David Library 11/12 (SA ph., doc.). An estimate of 10,000 **Laughing Gulls** at the PWT evening roost 10/21 (DF) provided an impressive show. Thousands were still there 11/3 (DF). A **Franklin's Gull** was spotted overhead at PWT 10/7 (HM ph., DF). Another was a PVP 11/3 (AM ph. doc., DF). There are now 14 known occurrences for the county. An **Iceland Gull** at PVP 11/28 (AM) provided the first report, with 3 there 11/29 (KR ph.). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** highest report was 298 at PVP 11/8 (AM). A **Glaucous Gull** at NSP 11/30 (PC) was a good find away from the lower Delaware R. and the only report. **Caspian Tern** was spotted at five sites between 8/4 and 10/7 (m.ob.). The high count was 7 at PVP 8/19 (RS). One **Black Tern** at PVP 8/18 (AM) provided the only report. Two **Common Terns** were at NSP 8/13-15 (DF, VM, RS, MHa), and one was at PWT 8/24 (DF). **Forster's Tern** reports continued from late Jul at PWT through 8/13 (m.ob.), with a high count of 5 on 8/13 (DF). A total of 7 more were at four sites in Sep (IB, LH, KK, EZ).

Although there were probably only 3 **Red-throated Loons** reported they lingered once they were here. One or 2 were at PVP 10/30-11/8 (m.ob.), and one was at NSP 11/25 through the period (m.ob.). A first year **Common Loon** was at PWT 8/21 (DF). There were a very low number of migrants reported from PVP, NSP, and PWT (m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorant** high site counts were 135 at PVP 11/6 (KI), 120 at Morrisville Levee 11/2 (MGa), 200 at Bristol 11/5 (DD ph.), and 200 at PWT 11/15 (MGa ph.). Rarely noted away from the lower Delaware River, the season's only reported **Great Cormorant** was first spotted at PVP 11/3 (BK, SA, AM ph.) and seen 11/4 (JF, RS ph.) and 11/7 (GA ph.). It had the misfortune of having swallowed a complex multi-hook fishing rig that was hanging out of its mouth. The bird of the season was **Bucks'** first fully documented **Brown Pelican** at NSP 8/8-11 (PT, m.ob. ph., doc.). A previous

report in Sep 1994 was only classified as possible. Single **American Bitterns** were at PVP 10/10 (AH, TH) and PRN 11/19 (KR). The rarely reported **Least Bittern** was briefly seen 10/6 at PRN (PH). **Great Egret** was present throughout the period and reported from 25 sites (m.ob.). Core Creek Park provided the highest counts, with the highest 7 on five dates (BB, DD, DF, MGa, KK). There were 3 **Snowy Egrets** at Dow Chemical, Bristol Twp. (formerly Rohm and Haas) 8/5-11, with at least 2 still there 8/18 (DF). A **Little Blue Heron** was at Dow Chemical in Aug through at least 8/18 (DF). One was at NSP 8/8-9 (m.ob. ph.), and one stayed at BRD 8/21-9/19 (MF, GJ, m.ob. ph.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was again scarce, with only four sites reporting a likely total of 5 birds on nine dates (DD, DF, MGa, AH, SH). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** flew by at Bedminster Twp. 8/1 (DF), and a juv. was in a residential yard in New Britain Twp. 9/3 (LS, RS, VS ph.). The unusually long staying varying numbers of **Glossy Ibis** at PWT first reported in Jul continued through 9/30, with the high count 6 from 8/27-31 (DF). The last date is a new fall late date. Three that flew over MKF with cormorants 8/31 (RS) were unusual there.

A site count of 61 **Black Vultures** at Upper Makefield Twp. 11/21 (SA, MN) was the standout high count. A **Golden Eagle** was a very good find at Quakertown Swamp 11/14 (BEt). Four imm. **Red-shouldered Hawks** put on a good show at BRD 9/7-8 (AM, SG, DR). Three imm. **Broad-winged Hawks** at NSP 8/15 (EB) hopefully indicates breeding success there. **Barred Owl** has been reported at PVP only four times in about 55 years of active birding even before the park was created. All have been since 2011, with the most recent 11/19 (BS, PS). Three of our known **Red-headed Woodpecker** breeding sites had sightings in Aug and Sep (EB, AH, PH, AM, DSm). The only reported migrant stopped at MKF 9/27-29 (RS). **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at eight sites (m.ob.). Unusual was having 2 at the same time at PVP 9/21 not near a breeding area (AH ph.). Another was at MKF 9/27-29 (RS).

The reports of migrant flycatchers were surprisingly few. Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** at SLP 9/10 (DD ph.) and PVP 9/23 (*vide* AM) were the only reports. A possible family group of 3 **Acadian Flycatchers** was heard and seen at Richland Twp. 8/20 (AH ph.). Only 2 **Least Flycatchers** were reported in eBird, both at PVP 9/19 (DL, BM). An **Eastern Kingbird** at Markey Park 9/30 provided a new county fall late date (BEn). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** 10/14 at PVP (KI) was also the latest on record. Rare in spring, **Philadelphia Vireos** are hoped for in fall. Only 7 were reported in eBird between 9/14 and 10/8 from five sites (m.ob.). **Blue Jay** migration was very evident. High counts in eBird were 217 on 10/5 (AM) and 210 on 10/16 (KI, VM), both at PVP. **Common Raven** reports came from at least 20 sites, with the sum of the high counts at each site totaling 31 birds. A surprise for the date, a **Horned Lark** flew over PWT 8/3 (DF). Possibly nesting is occurring there on the capped landfill. High counts were 45 at MKF 11/20 (RS) and 55 at Bedminster Twp. 11/29 (SA, MN).

Reports indicated a light movement of **Black-capped Chickadee**, with the first noted at PVP starting 11/10 (AM). The high count there was 4 on 11/21 (AM). NSP had a high report of 3 on 11/18 (RS), and 2 were noted at PWT 11/17 (DF). Although widespread starting 8/24 (AH) with reports from 45 sites, the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** counts were all lower single digit, with the large majority single birds (m.ob.). A rarely reported **Sedge Wren** was at PRN 10/8 (ML) for the only report. **Marsh Wren** was reported regularly 8/28 to 11/7 (m.ob.). Reports came from five sites, with PRN and BRD being the reliable sites. The high count was 6 10/6 at PRN (JHo). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Springfield Twp. (VDr) provided the only report. **Swainson's Thrush** was well reported starting 9/7 through the end of Oct (m.ob.). The last one was at Doylestown Twp. 11/1 (LW). **American Pipit** was reported at six sites (m.ob.), with the highest counts of about 50 on 10/17 at PVP (JM, AM), 40 at Patterson Farm, Lower Makefield Twp. 10/20 (MGa ph.), and 40 on 10/25 and 59 on 11/1 at MKF area (RS).

Most years not reported at all, 4 **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Springfield Twp. 10/29 (VDr). Singles were at NSP 11/18 (DF), Warminster Twp. 11/25 (DM ph.), and Doylestown Twp. 11/27-28 (MHo). **Purple Finch** was the most numerous irruptive species starting 9/15 (RS), with 48 sites reported in eBird. Most counts were in the single digits (m.ob.). Only four sites had counts in double digits, with highs of 24 at SGL 196 on 9/30 (BH), 21 at PVP 10/20 (AM), 14 at MKF 10/30 (SA), and 12 at BRD 10/22 (AM). A female **White-winged Crossbill** 10/31-11/3 at the Village of Buckingham Springs (BK ph.) was the only one of its kind detected this fall and the first since the irruption of 2012-2013. **Pine Siskins** made a modest irruption but were widespread. At least 29 sites provided reports (m.ob.), but most counts were in the single digits. The only sites having more than single digit counts were feeders at Upper Southampton Twp.,

with a high of ~20 10/28 (CM), and Buckingham Springs, with a high of 18 10/31 (BK, AM).

Three **Snow Buntings** were historically right on time 10/28 at our reliable site at NSP (PC). One to 4 were reported through 11/27 there (m.ob. phs.). Not always reported this season, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at MKF 10/22 (RS), for the only report. A first winter **Lark Sparrow** 9/11-15 across the street from MKF (RS ph., doc.) was the third year in a row for this species at MKF area. One also wintered there in 2006-2007. There are only seven known occurrences for the county. **Vesper Sparrows** were at MKF 10/17-11/2, with an excellent high count of 12 on 10/22 (RS). Two were at Patterson Farm 10/21 (KL ph.), and one was at BRD 10/23-25 (GJ, AM ph.). A **LeConte's Sparrow** was at PRN 10/6-11 (JHo, m.ob. ph.) for only the fourth known occurrence. The immediate habitat was flattened by the invasion of birders. The first **Nelson's Sparrows** were reported 9/30, with singles at BRD (GJ) and State Game Lands 196 (BH). They were reported regularly at PRN 10/6-15 (m.ob. phs.), with the high count as many as 8 10/6 (JHo). Multiple birds were reported on five of those days. Up to 2 were at PWT 10/6-7 (JHa, DF, HM) and one was at BRD 10/18-20 (GJ ph.). One **Yellow-breasted Chat** at NSP 9/6 (VM) provided the only report. For the seventh year in a row, wintering **Baltimore Oriole** returned 10/28 to the same feeders in Middletown Twp. (DPe). For the second year, only one adult male stayed compared to the multiples that wintered there up to winter 2016-2017. Late ones were at MKF 11/11 (RS) and PVP 11/21-23 (AM ph., BEn). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from only six sites starting 10/22 at PVP (AH). The high count was 15 at SLP 11/10 (DFi), but Churchville Park took a close second with 14 on 11/3 (SF,BS).

The total warbler species count was 32. Prothonotary Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler were not reported. One **Golden-winged Warbler** was at PVP 8/28 (*fide* AM) for the only report. Rarely reported, **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at Tyler State Park 9/27 (MF), BRD 10/13 (GJ, DSI), Upper Southampton Twp. 10/14 (DPr), and Lake Towhee Park 11/1 (AM, JM ph.). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at NSP 9/8 (DF), and one was at MKF 9/30 (RS). Singles were at PWT 9/17 and 9/24 (DF), with the high count there 6 on 9/30 (DF, KL ph.). Not expected, single **Kentucky Warblers** were reported at PVP 8/22 (HD), 9/11 (JB), and 9/22 (MR). One **Hooded Warbler** at PVP 9/8 (BEn) provided the only report. **Cape May Warbler** is usually reported at a handful of sites and on a handful of dates, with low single digit counts. A highlight this fall, it was reported from 18 sites almost continuously from 8/27 through 10/29 on at least 30 dates (m.ob.). Although still mostly low single digit counts, there were several higher counts, with the high being 9 at PVP 9/27 (AM, JM). Two at PWT 10/21 (DFa) provided a new fall late date, only to be surpassed by one at PVP 10/29 (KR). There were surprisingly few reports of **Bay-breasted Warbler**. One was at SGL 157 on 9/20 (PH, AM) and 2 were there 9/30 (PC). Also 9/30, one was at SLP (DD). One provided a new fall late date 10/14 at PVP (AM, JM). **Blackpoll Warbler** was another highlight with 20 sites reporting from 9/23 to 11/14 on 35 dates (m.ob.). The highest counts were ~20 at PWT 10/21 (DF) and 17 at PVP 10/14 (JM, AM). **Palm Warbler** was regular as usual, but there was only one stand out high report of 15 at SLP 10/14 (DD). A male **Pine Warbler** 11/16 was believed to be the same one returning to winter for the twelfth winter in a row at Lower Makefield Twp. feeders (CF). Often missed in fall, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 9/27 at PVP (AM, JM) provided the only report.

A **Western Tanager** at MKF 11/4 (RS doc.) added to the list of rarities detected there and was the county's sixth known occurrence. **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from only three sites, with the high count 3 at Neshaminy State Park (AH) and the last report at MKF 9/21 (RS). MKF is a reliable site for **Dickcissel**, with one 8/14 (AM ph., RS, DF) and another 10/7 (RS).

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Butler County

Locations: Glade Run Lake (GRL), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), North Shore (NS), Slippery Rock (SR), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA). Lake Arthur, Nealeys Point, North Shore, South Shore, Watts Bay and Wildlife Observation Area are all located in Moraine State Park.

Warm, almost summer-like weather persisted well into mid-October, allowing birders to enjoy an extended warbler migration. Reports and numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds were down, perhaps because frequent rain hampered observers and high water limited shorebird habitat. Unusual sightings included 9 **Snow Geese** flying over SR 10/31 (GW, JW) and one photographed at WOA 11/7 (TR), a **Mallard x American Black Duck** at GRL 8/6 (BM) as well as several **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the same location. Relatively rare for **Butler**, **Black Tern** and **Common Tern** visited LA.

Compared with 14 reports last winter season, **Tundra Swans** were scarce, with nocturnal flights over SR ending 11/11 (GW, JW), 12 over Kiester Road 11/10 (OM), and 260 at MSP 11/11 (Three Rivers Bird Club outing). By far the most frequently reported ducks were **Wood Ducks**, starting with a healthy breeding population, followed by migrants at WOA which included nice flocks of 77 on 9/11 (KD), 81 on 9/14 (TR), 66 on 10/2 (MV) and 73 on 10/19 (GK, MAK). Compared with the past several years, duck movement began early: 3 **Gadwall**, 2 **American Wigeons** and a lone **Green-winged Teal** appeared at WOA 9/29 (MJ), then duck movement picked up in early Oct with the arrival of **Ring-necked Duck** at WOA 10/2 (MV) and **Northern Shoveler** at WOA 10/2 (MC). **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at WOA 10/6 (GK, MAK) and 18 **Ruddy Ducks** showed up at NS the same day (MV). Overall, 16 species of duck were reported this season compared with 23 sp. last fall. Even though migration started a bit earlier this year, they were much less numerous than last fall. **Northern Shoveler** and **American Wigeon** were seen in small numbers early Oct through the end of the season (m.ob.). **Gadwall** arrived early in small numbers the first week of Oct and increased to nice double digit tallies in early Nov with high counts including 50 at Moraine State Park 11/11 (Three Rivers Bird Club outing) and 87 at WOA 11/21 (KB). **American Black Duck** made a notable showing, reported at least 10 times from mid-Oct through the season. Surprisingly, no scaup, scoters or Common Goldeneye were reported.

A pair of **Northern Bobwhite**, described as unafraid of people, appeared near Sarver 8/24 (TA) and was seen several more times in Aug. Then only the male was observed 9/3 and 9/6. We just hope they did not become feral cat food. **Pied-billed Grebe** was present in small numbers from 9/20, mostly at LA; high count was 20 there 11/11 (Three Rivers Bird Club outing). **Horned Grebe** appeared 10/25 and was noted in single digit numbers through the end of the season, at LA (m.ob.). Contrasted with no reports of Black-billed Cuckoo, there were at least 20 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** from wide-spread locations (m.ob.). Most were gone by mid-Sep but one remained near LA 10/6 (GK MAK). **Common Nighthawk** made a better than average showing with four double-digit flights, including 15 over Chicora 8/27 (CW), 17 over Butler Twp. the same day (GK, MAK) and 12 near Callery (CT). **American Coot**, normally reported in triple digit numbers up to 400 or more in the fall season, was noticeably less numerous than in recent years with no three-digit tallies (m.ob.).

Shorebird migration was less than stellar and saw just 8 species reported. A lone **Sanderling** was photographed at LA 8/1 (MC). This bird might have been one of a group of six that were seen at LA 7/24-27. Much more noticeable in the spring, **American Woodcock** was only reported once, from Lancaster Twp. 9/11 (RN). **Bonaparte's Gull** appears regularly in the fall season at LA in small numbers but a very nice count of 154 was a surprise at Nealeys Point 11/22 (GK, MAK). No rare or uncommon gulls appeared but terns made a nice showing with four species at LA. More frequently seen in Aug, **Caspian Tern** was observed at North Shore 9/6 and 9/12 (GK, MAK) and one was at Bear Run Boat Launch 9/16 (MC). An uncommon but regular visitor, **Forster's Tern** was reported four times 9/16-10/1 (MC, MJ, JF). Each having only a handful of records for **Butler**, decidedly uncommon **Black Tern** and **Common Tern** also

visited LA: a **Black Tern** was photographed at Watts Bay 9/10 (MC), and a **Common Tern** was seen and photographed at LA 9/16 to 9/25 (MC).

More frequent in spring, a lone **Common Loon** was a bit early at Lake Oneida 9/5 (KB) and 3 were at LA 11/11 (3RBC, GK). Single **Great Egrets** were spotted at Glade Run Lake 8/6 and 9/16-19 (m.ob.) and one was near Callery 9/23 (CT). Wandering **Black-crowned Night-Herons** have visited GRL in the past several years; 2 were there 8/6 (BM) and one was seen 9/10 (RE). As many as 333 **Turkey Vultures** roosted overnight at SR 10/30-11/19 (GW, JW). Established breeders at LA and SGL 95, **Bald Eagles** are now regular at GRL as well. **Northern Harriers** were spotted at SS 10/14, at Johnson Road 10/28, 2 were at Reichert Road 11/22 and one was at Unionville Road 11/30 (m.ob.). Some may have been the same bird as these locations are in the same general area. Six raptors were tallied in SR 11/1: one **Bald Eagle**, 2 **Northern Harriers**, 3 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 4 **Cooper's Hawks**, 5 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and 8 **Red-tailed Hawks** (GW, JW). Four **Sandhill Cranes** regularly frequented fields near Moraine State Park (MC). Single **Merlin** were spotted at various locations in Moraine State Park on seven different dates (m.ob.) and one was at Mt. Chestnut 11/12 (MH, RH).

Rarely seen, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** stopped at Seven Hills Road 8/25 (KB). An uncommon **Philadelphia Vireo** arrived at Callery 9/17 (CT) and one was at NS 9/19 (MC). **Common Raven** was elusive this season with only four reports 8/19-9/21 (m.ob.). **Tree Swallows** usually remain later than other swallows but warm weather allowed 3 to stay at LA all the way until 10/31 (MC).

Consistent with a state-wide pattern, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were widespread starting 9/7 through the season. High count was 3 at Lakeview Beach 9/17 (GK MAK). **American Pipit** was noted twice: one at Thorn Reservoir 8/22 (KB) and one at Reichert Road 11/2 (MC). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** had several fallouts in back yards in SRB the weeks of 10/14-19 and 10/28-31, allowing many observers to study these thrushes in minute detail over a long period of time (GW, JW). **Pine Siskin** were not nearly as widespread as **Red-breasted Nuthatch** but started appearing at Butler Twp. 10/16, Seen there almost daily and increasing in number up to 11 on 10/23, they abruptly moved on by 10/26, only to return in smaller numbers through the end of the season. (GK MAK). A very nice tally of 27 **Pine Siskins** was a treat at the Bird Watcher's Store 10/27 (MC). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 15 at The Glades 10/24, 24 in SR 11/1 (GW, JW), 29 at MSP 11/29 (GW, JW), and an impressive tally of 100 at West Liberty 11/18 (BB). Warblers were average with 25 species recorded: of those, 15 sp. were spotted in Oct but none were particularly late. The most frequently reported warblers included **Common Yellowthroat**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, and **Hooded Warbler**. A late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a feeder near Lyndora 10/13 (RHo).

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Cambria County

Locations: Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl at PG arrived earlier this year probably due to the colder weather in Nov. A few hundred **Tundra Swans** were at PG during Nov. **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **White-winged Scoter** were some of the better ducks (TA, DG, RL). **Ruffed Grouse** were seen at a few of the Game Commission-managed clearcuts. A total of 54 **Common Nighthawks** were counted at PA 8/30-9/4 (DG). Two **Black Terns** were at PG 8/21 (DG). A remarkable 42 **Forster's Terns** were seen feeding over the lake at PG 9/19 (DG). A juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at PG 9/28 (DG).

A **Northern Shrike** was at PG 10/28 (DG) in the same area where a shrike has been located the past several winters, but this year's was earliest date that it has been seen. Last **Tree Swallows** were at PG 10/30 (DG). A single **Marsh Wren** was at PG 9/25 (DG). Twelve **Snow Buntings** were at PA 11/25 (DG), and 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PG 10/14 (RL). Very rare in the area, a

female **Prothonotary Warbler** was among an early wave of warblers at PA 8/24 (DG). There were good numbers of the usual warbler species.

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Cameron County

Locations: Sterling Run (SR), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Bucktail Overlook (BO) Three Runs Road (TRR), West Creek (WC), Cameron (CA).

The weather this season was mainly rainy and cloudy, with very little sunshine. Eighty-four species were reported, mostly via eBird. Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were at SSP 11/17 (MJ). Seventy-four **Common Mergansers** and 7 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at SSP 9/23 (MJ). Two **Golden Eagles** were at BO 11/10 (MJ). Nine **Horned Larks** were at SSP 11/17 (MJ). Three **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at TRR 11/17 (DK). A flock of 23 **Evening Grosbeaks** was at SR 12/5 (SJ). Nine **Pine Siskins** were at WC 10/20 (MPB). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at WC 11/18 (MPB). One **Magnolia Warbler** was at CA 11/5 (DG).

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Carbon County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Blue Mt. Ski Resort (BMSR), Lehigh Gap N.C. (LGNC), Mauch Chunk L. (MCL).

A juv. male **Rufous Hummingbird** banded at a private residence near BSP 11/19 (SW) represented the first confirmed county record and the fall's obvious highlight. Notable across the state was the predicted influx of northern irruptives, and *Carbon* was no exception, as observers enjoyed a female **Evening Grosbeak** at a feeder near BSP 11/14-15 (RR, BR), **Pine Siskins** generally from Oct through the season, **Purple Finches** in numbers beginning in Aug, and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** headed down the Kittatinny Ridge, mostly in Sep.

Waterfowl were well represented at BSP, which hosted a **Brant** 10/8-11 (RR, BR et al.), a **Canvasback** 11/19-21 (RR et al.), a **Common Goldeneye** 10/11 (RR, BR), and two **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/27-28 (RR, BR). **Pied-billed Grebe** was photographed from the blind at MCL 8/27 (JB). One of few shorebirds in relatively mud-less *Carbon* was a **Solitary Sandpiper** at BMSR 9/30 (MS, CH). Up to four **Caspian Terns** at a time appeared at BSP 8/11 (RR, BR), 8/13 (RR, BR), and 9/13 (EZ). A late **Great Egret** was at MCL 10/13 (MY).

Carbon-specific data from the hawk watches are difficult to compile since totals are not assigned to county or observer and are not consistently entered to eBird. However, assuming the majority of raptors utilize the north side of the ridge on strong flight days, we can tentatively assign the season's high counts (all from BOK) to *Carbon*: 30 **Golden Eagle** 10/21, 3 **Northern Goshawk** 10/24, 34 **Bald Eagle** 10/12, and 1666 **Broad-winged Hawk** 9/16. BOK also recorded an early **Golden Eagle** 9/14, a late **Broad-winged Hawk** 10/30, and a late **Osprey** 11/14.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a Pocono Plateau breeder, so a juv. along lower-elevation Hell Hollow Rd. 8/29 (RB) was intriguing. Throughout the migration, BSP produced uncommon passerines, including **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/28 (JB), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 10/9 (RR, BR), **American Pipit** 11/2 (EZ), **Cape May Warbler** 10/17 (RR, BR), and **Wilson's Warbler** 9/8 (JB). **Dark-eyed Junco** and **White-throated Sparrow**, localized nesters, were at Lake Harmony 8/4 (LR, JR, PT). Nine **White-crowned Sparrows** at BSP 11/13 (RR, BR) and 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows** at BMSR 9/30 (MS, CH) represented this season's highs. Summer resident **Blue Grosbeaks** continued at LGNC's "Grosbeak Gulch" through at least 8/16, when an adult and a juv. were seen (RB). **Indigo Bunting**, unexpected in late Nov, was photographed in Nesquehoning 11/21 along with **Chipping Sparrow** (JB). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Connecticut Warbler went unreported this fall.

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Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Colyer L. (COL), Scotia Barrrens and Pond (SCO).

Information for this report were obtained from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status now from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (*B&G, 2010*). Additional information was obtained from the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC/MW) <<http://pabirds.org/records/index.php/birds/macgillivrays-warbler/>> and the Winter Finch Forecast 2018-2019 (WWF18) by Ron Pittaway <<http://jeaniron.ca/2018/wff18.htm>>.

The only **Snow Goose** sighting was of a flock of 135 birds flying over BESP 11/19 (CE). A very rare fall **Red-necked Grebe** was at the Toftrees pond 10/26-29 (MaM, CS). One or 2 more were observed at BESP 10/27-28 (JP, JL), where one was still present 11/20 (JP). **Common Gallinules** are considered casual, so one at SCO 9/14 was a treat (JP). **Sandhill Cranes** are spotted rarely but regularly, and this year was no exception. One was present 8/13-20, on Geary Rd., and an unidentified person indicated it could have been present as much as 3-4 weeks prior to the report date (JL, et al.). A reportedly "continuing bird" was at Tusseyville/Williams Rd. 8/20 (JD). Also, a dozen cranes were seen resting in an open field with small pools on Apex Dr. 11/21 (JE).

A few rare sandpipers were present, and nearly all were found at BESP. A trio of **Sanderlings** were spotted there 8/18 (JP, JG). Single **Dunlins** were observed 9/9 (JP) and 10/6-14 (JCa, LC, MN), and 4 were noted 10/21 (JP). As many as 6 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were encountered 9/10-11 (EZ, JP, JV). Other **White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen 9/11 on Old Gatersburg Rd. (JCa) and 9/15 on Tadpole Rd. (AM). Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found swimming by the dam at BESP 9/18 (KE). **Caspian Terns** are rare fall migrants. One was observed 9/9 at COL (JP). Up to 15 were present at BESP 8/21-9/17 (JP, JL), with the high count occurring 9/17 (JP). A **Black Tern** was also present at BESP 9/11 (JP, JV), and one or 2 were noted 9/12-14 at SCO (JV, et al.). A third rare tern species, **Common Tern**, was observed 9/12-13 at SCO (JV, JP). Up to 5 were present 9/18 at BESP (KE, JCa), and one was spotted the same day at COL (JP).

A single **Red-throated Loon** was identified at BESP 11/20 (JP). A **Least Bittern** was observed at Muddy Paws Marsh 8/11 when it flew up out of the marsh beside the boardwalk (JG, CE, JP). Although rare, **Great Egrets** were present at many locations. A first year **Northern Goshawk** was at SCO 9/5 (JV). Up to 2 **Barn Owls** were observed in a known location off Paradise Rd. 9/8 (JG) and 11/10 (EZ).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported. One was present 9/1-20 at SCO (JP, et al.), and the other was spotted 9/16 on Dug Rd. (JCa, LC). Two **Northern Shrikes** were reported: one on Long Ln. 10/20 (JG, SuH), and the other at the Mid-State Airport 11/14 (JP). Two vireos of note were observed. Four **White-eyed Vireos**, which are rarely found in the fall, were seen 9/15 near Moshannon (DK). Although encountered rarely during migration, **Warbling Vireos** were reported in many locations. Single **Marsh Wrens** were reported in three locations: Muddy Paws Marsh 9/8 and again 10/14 (JG), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center 10/2-3 (JK, et al.), and BESP 10/13 (JP). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was spotted in the Thickhead Wild Area 9/7 (NiB), and an unknown number were counted at BESP 9/16 during a nocturnal flight count (JCa). One was observed 9/20-23 at SCO (JP, et al.).

It was shaping up to be an interesting year for winter finches, since seed production in eastern Canada was low this year (WWF18). **Evening Grosbeaks**, which have been rarely seen for many years, were widely observed, with the first report of 3 coming to a feeder in State College 11/12 (AmW). The high count occurred 11/16 on Marsh Cr. Rd., where up to 8 were seen moving between feeders and a crabapple tree (AC, BS). The last observations were both on 11/22 – a single bird in Port Matilda (RR) and 3 in Howard (BSn). Three **Common Redpolls** were reported 11/17 at BESP (JP),

and **Pine Siskins** were widely reported.

A few **Lapland Longspurs** were reported. One was seen 10/27 in Centre Hall (JG), and 2 were spotted 11/17 in Rebersburg (JP). Also 11/17, 6 were mixed in with a flock of **Horned Larks** (JeS). Another was seen along with flock of Horned Larks on Garbrick and Airport Rd. 11/18 (JL). One **Snow Bunting** was reported 11/17 in Rebersburg (JP), and 5 were foraging along the roadside on Apex Ln. 11/22 (DaB). A rare **Henslow's Sparrow** was on Hosterman Gap Rd. 8/18 (JPo), and another was seen near the open power line cutout in SCO 9/1 (JCa, LC). One was also present 9/16 in the German Settlement Grasslands-SGL 100 (JCa).

Although not a rarity, **Louisiana Waterthrushes** are seldom observed during fall migration. One was observed off Rte. 3025 from 8/3-14 (MN, JCa, LC), and another was spotted 8/27 along the Allegheny Front Trail/Shingle Mill Trail along Black Moshannon Creek (NiB). Another rarity, **Northern Waterthrushes** were widely reported. Both **Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler** hybrids were observed. A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen 8/28 at SCO (JP), and a **Lawrence's Warbler** was noted 9/13 at ARBOR (JD, MaB, DeG). **Orange-crowned Warblers** are considered casual. This year, five were identified, including one each at SCO 9/14-21 (JP, JCa, LC), Jo Hayes Vista 10/3 (JV), and Haugh Family Preserve 11/4 (JG). Two were spotted 10/30 at ARBOR (JG). Another rarity, **Connecticut Warblers** included one between Rte. 45 and Rte. 2007 on 9/20 (JG) and another on the same date at ARBOR (NK). **Mourning Warblers** were also present. One was spotted 8/20 at MMNC (JV), and another was present 9/21-24 at SCO (JV, JP). A third was identified 10/12 at the Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (MN).

One warbler was never definitively identified, but one of the two candidate species, **Mourning Warbler**, is a rarity, and the other, **MacGillivray's Warbler**, has only been reported twice in Pennsylvania, once in *Berks* in 2004 and once in *Dauphin* in 2013 (eBird, PORC/MW). This bird was spotted 11/5 on the Penn State University Park central campus (JG). A lengthy discussion regarding the identification, including species considered but rejected, evidence supporting the two remaining candidate species, and links to videos of the bird are available in eBird <<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49714251>>.

Although **Prairie Warblers** are not rarities, they are seldom reported during the fall. Four were observed this season – one at Muddy Paws Marsh 9/12 (JV), another at the 9/16, Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine on 9/16 (JCa), and a single bird at SCO 9/19 (SL). The last one was spotted 9/29 foraging in Joe Pye weed at Tudek Park (SMc).

A rare **Dickcissel** was heard during a nocturnal flight count in State College 10/6 (JG).

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Chester County

Locations: Brandywine Polo Fields (BPF), Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP).

The season featured more rainy days than one can recall in previous autumns, this after a wet spring and summer. Area lakes and ponds were filled to the brim, so were not ideal for shorebird migrants, so birders shifted search efforts to wastewater treatment plants and a polo field instead. In general, it was a decent season for migrants. Seasonal highlights included a pair of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** in Nottingham, a **Say's Phoebe** in Phoenixville, and an irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks** into the region.

The 2018 Avian All-Star lineup for *Chester* would certainly include the pair of **Black-billed Whistling Ducks** that were discovered at the edge of a farm pond in the Nottingham region of the county 8/10 (KVN). The two were a one-day-wonder on a private farm. This represented just the second record of Black-bellied Whistling Duck for the county, the first, coincidentally, was made in the same region of the county at Nottingham CP in June 2010. **Snow Geese** made their first appearances mid-Nov (m.ob.). A **Ross's Goose** was spotted among a flock of Snow Geese that flew over BCP 11/18 (LL), which was the only report of this species for the season. Found with effort once larger groups of **Canada Geese** have made their way south during fall migration, **Cackling Geese** were first detected as solos or pairs at the end of Oct., and were reported sporadically throughout the end of the season (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** were encountered on three dates and locations in Nov. A small group was detected by ear over RFBS 11/10 (KJ, SJ), and a single bird was found at Coatesville Res. 11/14 (RR) and 11/21 (CK, JDP). They were also detected in nocturnal migration over Coatesville 11/29 (JS).

A high-count for **Blue-winged Teal** was 17 at GM 10/8 (MC). Outside of this location, Blue-winged Teals were most reliably found at EP, lingering there in small numbers through 11/15 (m.ob.). A drake **Canvasback** was a nice find at MCSP 11/23 (BB, NF, SS). This species is an irregular migrant here in fall. Another irregularly reported bay duck, the **Greater Scaup**, made an appearance at MCSP 11/10 (MH). The season went without any scoters reported, which occasionally happens in fall. The lake at MCSP hosted **Long-tailed Ducks** on a few occasions in Nov., with 2 detected there 11/7 (BB, m.ob.), then 10 found there 11/23 (BB, m.ob.), a number which increased to 16 by 11/25 (HM, m.ob.). Long-taileds are irregular in fall, and typically occur in tiny numbers when they visit, so this high count was notable.

Red-necked Grebes are also irregular in fall, so all reports of this species are noteworthy. One discovered 9/10 at MCSP (SS, NF) was particularly remarkable since it was the only report in Sept. for Pennsylvania. Other statewide reports began mid-Oct.

Despite a nice uptick in Black-billed Cuckoo observations in the previous two seasons, the species went undetected in fall. This species is usually found in small numbers during fall, and has been detected at least once each autumn since 2013. This could be attributed to their nature of being generally difficult to detect, and less likely to be vocal during daytime in fall. Birders in *Chester* were not focusing on NFC listening, which is an easier way to detect these cuckoos as they move through. The BCP hosts an annual fall **Common Nighthawk** watch in early evenings late Aug-early Sept., where migration of this nightjar is easily viewed with an open sky and good horizons. This year, the peak high count was 134 on 9/2 (LL), and was also the county-wide high. A remarkable first for the location, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at BCP 9/1-3, during the evening nighthawk watch held there (LL, GT). This species has not been detected in fall in *Chester* in recent years.

An immature **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered into Nov at a feeder near Phoenixville (LT, MH). The bird appeared to be a female, and her identity confirmed by photographs (reviewed by SW). The last date observed was 11/13, when the homeowners departed for a trip, and were unable to maintain the feeder during cold weather.

The season was devoid of reports of rails, which likely indicates little effort spent detecting these elusive migrants, since birders tend to focus on songbird, shorebird, and raptor migration more intently in fall. However, a **Virginia Rail** was logged at the BCP Motus station 10/18, on its southbound migration. This rail was nano-tagged in central New York 6/7/2018.

Shorebird habitat was confined to fields this fall, instead of shorelines and mudflats, due to above average rainfall in 2018. A solo **Black-bellied Plover** was detected as a flyover migrant at BCP 9/12 (LL). This species is not commonly found in fall, so a single report was not surprising. **Killdeer** was the only other plover found by birders, with a high count of an estimated 150 at the BPF 8/21 (LL). A single **Dunlin** was a good find at MCSP 10/27 during a rainstorm (ZB). This species tends to be a later migrant in Pennsylvania, and is not regularly found in *Chester*. It was a great season for finding "grass-pipers", especially **Baird's Sandpipers**. Two were discovered at Somerset Lake's WTP 8/22 (LL, AG), and up to 6 reported later that day at the BPF (LL). Long-absent from *Chester* birders' year lists, this marked the first sighting of this species since 2010. Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were discovered at the BPF 9/4 (LL) and another was present 9/18 (LL). This species is the more commonly found long-winged peep, but is still irregular in fall. A remarkable high count of 52 **Pectoral Sandpipers** was made at BPF 9/11 (LL), a new high count for this

species in *Chester* in eBird. Although this species is usually found in fall where habitat is conducive, far smaller numbers are the norm. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** are uncommon but fairly regular fall migrants where habitat exists; this year 4 were at Milltown Res. in West Chester 8/2 (SS, NF, MH), and other reports came from Somerset WTP and BPF (m.ob.). The Motus Journey at BCP logged a Semipalmated Sandpiper 8/22, during its south-bound journey. It had been tagged near Rodeaway Park, New York 5/29/2018. **American Woodcocks** go largely undetected in fall, but one was observed at BCP 10/28 (LL). **Wilson's Snipe** also dropped into the BPF on three occasions: 9/11, 9/26, and 9/28 (LL). The WTP at Upper Uwchlan holds good snipe habitat in a wet meadow on the eastern side of the property, and one was detected there 11/9 (MH).

The latter half of fall tends to be the best time for **Bonaparte's Gull** in *Chester*, and this season they were seen twice: 2 at CL 10/22 (RR) and one at MCSP 11/4 (MH). A single **Laughing Gull** on Struble Lake 11/16 (MH) was unusual, but coincided with a movement of this species on the piedmont that day. Laughing Gulls are irregular during migration, and often associated with a strong weather event that brings this coastal gull inland. In addition to the aforementioned Laughing Gull, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was also seen at Struble Lake 11/16 (MH), and was the only report of this gull in fall. A flyover **Great Black-backed Gull** in East Fallowfield Twp 11/25 (JS) was the only report. This species is not easily found in fall, especially away from known gull hangouts. A high count of 6 **Caspian Terns** was made at MCSP 8/9 (LL). Four **Black Terns** were spotted at MCSP 8/17 (LL). This is an irregular fall migrant, but could be annually occurring and simply not observed every year by birders, since they make a quick passage through the region. **Forster's Terns** moved through MCSP 8/2 (LL) and 8/18 (JS, LL, BB), and 2 were at CL 8/12 (RR).

A **Snowy Egret** reported at the end of Jul. at Milltown Res. continued there through 8/5 (m.ob.) Unusual was an absence of Little Blue Heron reports throughout the county this fall. This species usually makes appearances into mid-Oct in small numbers as a post-dispersal migrant, and usually as hatch year birds. A **Cattle Egret** standing in a field in Atglen was a good find 11/4 (MG). Cattle Egrets are irregularly found during any season, and one that stays put for a period of time has been a rare occurrence over the past decade. It remained through the day 11/4, but was not seen after. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found in scattered locations throughout the county 8/18-9/19 (m.ob.).

Golden Eagles were reported 10/22-11/17, mostly from BCP where an established hawk watch site exists. This was the first fall in recent years where multiple sightings of **Mississippi Kite** were made. Though annually reported in spring, this species is not regular in fall. Two were observed from the hawkwatch at BCP 9/2 (LL, GT). Another surprise was a flyover 9/3 seen from an East Fallowfield Park (JS). An immature **Northern Goshawk** provided excitement at the BCP hawkwatch 11/7 (LL). **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers peaked 9/22 when 2547 passed over BCP (LL). This was a decent number for a single day seasonal high count of this super-flocking migrant buteo. The last Broad-wings were observed in the county was 10/10, an expected final date.

An **Eastern Screech Owl** banded in 2013 at RFBS was recaptured there yet again this fall. RFBS had their second-best year for banding **Northern Saw-whet Owls** since they opened their station in 2010. At total of 152 Saw-whets were banded in 2018, far more than the 12 saw-whets banded there in 2017, which was a poor year for irruption (DM). A remarkable highlight of the season was a site record-breaking 80 owls banded in one night, 11/8! This unprecedented high count of owls was thrilling for all present, and demonstrated a just slice of the volume of these nomadic irruptive owls that move through the region. There were two foreign recaptures, each with their own interesting history of banding records. The first female was first banded on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 2015, was recaptured in Poughkeepsie, New York in 2017, and then caught at RFBS in 2018, which proves she was at least 4 years of age. The second recapture was another female, this time with an even more exciting history in the nets of banders: it was determined she hatched in 2014, and was initially caught fall 2016 in Barrie, central Ontario, Canada. Her second swing into the net was that same fall, at Little Gap Banding Station in *Northampton*. Next up was recapture in extreme northern New York 2/29/2017. Finally, her most recent appearance for banders was at RFBS 11/3. This data reveals her to be 5 years of age, which is exactly the kind of information banders hope to learn when deploying their bands on owls each fall.

There were 11 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** observed 8/6-11/3 (m.ob.). This is a low-density migrant, and likely an irregular nesting species. A high count of **American Kestrels** during migration was 23 at the BCP hawkwatch

10/12 (LL). This species is notably declining in the eastern United States, and has become somewhat scarce as nesting birds in *Chester*, so populations are being monitored with careful eyes.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were discovered by local birders on a few occasions, and filled a narrow date range of 8/15-30 (JW, PW, NF, SS, LL, m.ob.). This large flycatcher is a low-density migrant. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was a good find in a yard near Coatesville 9/2 (MN). Due to its preference of forested habitat with dense understories, it is harder for birders to detect. Although a common flycatcher in the northern part of the state, the **Least Flycatcher** is an uncommon passage migrant through the county in fall. Sporadic reports occurred 8/8-9/14 (m.ob.). Arguably the best bird of the season, and the first known county record, was a **Say's Phoebe** at Black Rock Sanctuary 11/25 (BH). Despite subsequent searches of local birders, this vagrant phoebe was not seen after the finder watched it fly away from the park on the observation date. This marked the only record of this species in Pennsylvania for 2018, and one of only a few eastern U.S. records for the season 2018. The **Philadelphia Vireo** is the rarest of the vireos in *Chester* and is sought after in fall migration, when it is most likely to appear here. This season, observations were made 8/27-10/19 (m.ob.).

Researchers in New Brunswick, Canada are conducting studies on swallow migration, and are nano-tagging several swallow species on their breeding territories in order to track their movements. A **Bank Swallow** tagged by this project 7/8/2018 was logged by BCP's Motus Tower 9/15, and a **Barn Swallow** tagged on the same date and in the same location was logged by RFBS Motus Tower 8/21.

Another light-irruptive fall produced only one observation of **Black-capped Chickadee**, which was noted from Cochranville 11/3 (MG). This species is all but absent in years where they are not known to be irrupting from their range in the far north. Typically, when notable irruptions are underway, Black-capped are found in early Oct and continue in moderate numbers into fall. A singular observation this year demonstrated little, or limited movement. It was an irruptive season for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, with widespread movement in the mid-Atlantic region throughout the course of fall. There were many reports of this spunky nuthatch, spanning through the entire reporting period. The most unusual report of a migrant **Marsh Wren** was one that was captured in the nets of a banding station at BCP 9/12 (IS). This marked the first-known occurrence of this species on that property, and was a surprise to the bander. The bird proved to be a juvenile, based on careful analysis, and was in heavy molt. Two Marsh Wrens were found at Hibernia Park 9/27, with at least one lingering through the following day (RR). Another was found 10/31 at Waterloo Mills Preserve, in the small wetlands there (KF). The low-frequency of observations in fall is typical, since this species is an irregular nester.

Catharus thrush migration is being carefully monitored by researchers, with a particular focus on **Veery**. A Veery that was nano-tagged in Biddeford, Maine 9/12/2018, as part of a research project through the University of New England, was logged by the Motus tower at BCP 9/16. The study at UNE is focusing on the timing and distance of migration of their tagged birds. It is not known when this Veery left Maine, but its detection at BCP four days after its tagging does provide some information on this individual's probable migration route. The **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is a passage migrant we expect, but only in small numbers as observations in the field. NFC stations are more apt to detect the movement of this thrush, as they wing their way southward, but no active NFC stations, or night-listeners, reported this season. Encounters are expected in Oct, and this season yielded observations 10/4-17 (m.ob.), two of which were birds netted at RFBS 10/10 and 10/17 (DM, WS). **Swainson's Thrush** were detected 9/13-10/25 (m.ob.). This thrush is uncommon, but expected during that window of time.

A long-awaited irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks** finally played out, offering local birders the possibility of finding one attending feeders, or as flyovers at local birding patches. The last irruption into the county was in 2012, but was a much smaller scale, with fewer observations. This species was once an expected visitor at feeders in winter, and sometimes in very good numbers, but in recent decades, the population has experienced a significant decline throughout eastern North America. When a single male appeared at a local birder's feeder near Hibernia CP 11/1 (RR), visitors were encouraged to come take a look at this dapper bird, which remained through 11/3. A female attended another birder's feeder 11/9-10, and 6 of these colorful yellow grosbeaks visited a feeder near French Creek SP 11/11 (PVL). Three more attended a feeder near Unionville 11/22 (RB). **Purple Finches**, another irruptive species, were in

good supply this fall. The first report came 9/15, and the high count was 33 noted at BCP 10/28 (MG, m.ob.). Observations continued through the reporting period. In conjunction with the movement of other winter finches, **Pine Siskins** moved into the region for the first good push in a few years. Encounters began 10/7, and carried through the end of the season. The seasonal high count was 85 at BCP 10/22 (LL).

Lapland Longspurs are irregular in fall, but were detected on three occasions: two separate flyovers at BCP 10/25 and 11/19, both picked out by their distinctive flight call (LL), and one at CL 11/11 (CH), an unexpected location. A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, an irregular migrant, was a welcomed guest at the feeding station next to the hawkwatch at BCP 10/1-4 (LL, m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrows** are always a good find, with a few records this season 10/20-11/8 (m.ob.).

Most years, **Bobolinks** become scarce after the last week of Sep as they depart to their South American wintering grounds, so one found along the edge of CL 11/4, was not only unexpectedly late, but also the only Nov record in Pennsylvania in recent years (RR). **Rusty Blackbirds** are in decline, so all observations are noteworthy. Usually found in smaller numbers, a count of up to 120 at EP 11/9 (KC) was significant.

An **Ovenbird**, banded and nano-tagged in Connecticut 6/2/2018, flew over the RFBS Motus Tower, and soon after, was logged at BCP's tower 9/15. This Ovenbird was part of a study focusing on the effects of mercury on migration, and particularly speed and path of these study group birds, so its detection at both towers in *Chester* will contribute valued information. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were more readily detected this fall, and were reported from several locations 10/1-11/1 (m.ob.). This species is uncommon, so finding them is a challenge. **Nashville Warblers** were detected 8/24-11/8 (m.ob.), which is a long period of opportunity to try one's luck at finding one. RFBS caught 4 **Connecticut Warblers**, including an adult male that was recaptured a few days after the initial banding (DM). This warbler is scarcely detected, but likely moves through the county in small numbers without notice. Away from RFBS, the species was reported 9/4-10/5, and found at GM 9/9 (MC), BCP 9/24 (LL), and Towpath Park 10/5 (NF, SS). **Mourning Warblers** are also very hard to find in fall, but two were seen by lucky birders: one at BCP 9/11 (LL), and another at GM 9/16 (MC). **Hooded Warblers** seem to be an earlier migrant, and are only found in small numbers during fall migration. There were 4 reports of birds that were clearly migrants, based on location: one at MCSP 8/13 (LL), and 3 encounters at BCP 8/26 (LL), 9/9 (LL), 9/29 (AU). Another report on 8/9 was likely of a family group of 3 birds still on the nesting grounds at the Bear Hill area of French Creek SP, a location known for nesting (NF, SS). **Wilson's Warblers** were found 9/4-10/19 (m.ob.). This seemed to be a good year for encounters, as some years only a handful are found, and this year 7 were noted.

A single **Dickcissel** was an excellent discovery at EP 10/19 (JD). This mid-western species is irregular during any migration, but more commonly found during spring or summer. Although nesting does occur in small numbers in eastern Pennsylvania, this species has not been known to nest in *Chester* in recent years.

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Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Zion/PineyTract/SGL 330 (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Rimersburg (RI), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Sarah Furnace (SF).

Two **Long-tailed Ducks** and one **Common Goldeneye** were both found on Redbank Creek at NB 11/30 (MM), species that are much more commonly located on large bodies of water. A species not previously noted much in this report, **Ruffed Grouse**, will probably need to be added more often, not due to increased sightings but just the opposite. A single grouse was reported this fall near RI 8/7 (MM), and it constitutes only the second report of the year for the county in eBird, not a promising statistic for our state bird. **Red-necked Grebes** are becoming a little more regular as migrants, most commonly on KL, and a single bird was again reported there 11/2 (KD, BG, DK).

A **Common Nighthawk** watch was again conducted along the Clarion River at Millcreek from 8/14-9/7, from approximately 18:30-20:30 each evening (MH, LT, GE, TS, JH). The period of highest numbers was from 8/23-31, with the highest total of 271 birds 8/26. Numbers were recorded for half hour intervals and consistently 19:30-20:00 was the peak time. The total count for the season was 710, topping last year's number of 567. Hopefully as this watch continues in the future, more useful information will be obtained on this declining species and perhaps will be contributed to a larger effort to understand population changes. Another report of this species was from East Brady overlook, with 7 seen at dusk migrating along the Allegheny River 8/27 (CW). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were noted calling remarkably late into the season, at a breeding location near Strattanville from 9/14-19 (MH). At a fall roosting site in RI, **Chimney Swifts** continued rather late into the season with approximately 75 still present there 10/11 (MM).

A single adult **Sandhill Crane** was spotted in fields near Tylersburg 9/16 (MH). This is not far from where breeding evidence was found in *Venango* and as there is suitable habitat, it seems hopeful that breeding will eventually be confirmed for the county. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was spotted at NB between 8/12-10/29, rather an unusual small body of water for this species (J&AK). At this same location, a **Great Egret** was seen 8/13-17 (J&AK, MM).

Reports were down for the year for **Northern Harriers**, and this continued into fall with only one reported at MZ 8/3 (MS). Hopefully this is more due to lack of observers than a real trend. An early **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at one of their winter strongholds near Wolf's Corners 11/23 (KS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was noted outside of RI, responding to a whine call during a targeted search using playback 10/30 (MH).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** near CV 9/4 (CW) was the only one noted. An **Acadian Flycatcher** continued calling late into the season at a breeding location along the RVT at Lawsonham, still present through 8/31 (CW). Typically an uncommon species, a **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at MZ 8/3 (MS). Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** continued singing at known breeding locations along the RVT at Lawsonham through 9/4, unusually late, although it is impossible to be certain that these were the same individuals present through summer (CW). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found near CV 9/22 (CW), and another seen at SF on the Armstrong Trail 9/23 (TR), during their typical migration period.

Two adult **Cliff Swallows** were found with an active nest located in a large equipment barn near Clarion at the late date of 8/13 (RM, GS). Two **Brown Creepers** were noted at a suet feeder at a home in Strattanville 11/1, where there have been two birds present each winter for the past six years (MH). They continued to be seen there regularly through the remainder of the season. **Winter Wrens** are yearly nesters in the northern reaches of the county, are but not as regularly seen in migration, so two together near CV 10/19 (CW) were notable.

In what has proven to be the best year in some time for **Evening Grosbeaks**, the first report was of birds at a feeder in Strattanville 11/7 (LT). They continued regularly through the season there with numbers up to 12, feeding on sunflower seeds at platform and hopper type feeders. At what has become a regular breeding and year-round location for **Purple Finches** in RI, this species has continued to be successful with numbers this fall reaching a high of 32 in a single day. They were present throughout the season (MM). Fourteen **Pine Siskins** were noted at a feeder in Clarion 10/14 (TS). They were also reported at feeders in RI (MM) where up to 8 were present from 9/27-11/30.

Two **Lapland Longspurs** were seen in a field near KL 11/9 (JS), always a species worth noting as they occur in limited numbers each year. **American**

Tree Sparrows were conspicuously absent from feeders near CV where they are usually present, with only a single bird first noted late in the season 11/29 (CW). **Henslow's Sparrows** showed typical numbers for the past year, and they continued actively singing at MZ into early fall. Sixteen were reported there 8/3 (MS), and a single singing bird near CV through 8/21 (CW). Only one **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted this year, found at a weedy field edge near CV 10/18 (CW).

Unusual for fall, **Mourning Warbler** was reported near CV 9/12 (CW). At the same location on the RVT where several other species were still actively singing into early fall, **Yellow-throated Warblers** can be added to the list. Two singing males were present 8/12 and one still remarkably singing 8/17 near a breeding location (CW). A single **Prairie Warbler** was reported rather late into migration for this species, but at a breeding stronghold at CV strips 9/23 (TR). An adult male **Canada Warbler**, not a commonly reported in fall, was near CV 9/12 (CW). A **Scarlet Tanager** was also seen at the late end of migration, in a yard in RI 10/5 (MM).

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Clearfield County

Locations: DuBois Reservoir (DBR), Kirk Road near Luthersburg (KRL), Pine Swamp Road in Luthersburg (PSL).

Long-tailed Ducks included a flock at DBR 11/28 (DR) and another at Curwensville Lake 11/29 (JV). A late season **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was observed feeding at firecracker plants (*Vermillionaire cupheas*) near DuBois 10/7 (MA). One **Virginia Rail** was seen at the Penn State DuBois Wetlands 8/24 (NW). Unfortunately, an immature **Common Gallinule** died after being struck by a vehicle in Luthersburg 10/1 (DR). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at the DBR 11/17 (DG). One **Great Egret** stayed at the Platt Road Swamp for several days 8/15-9/1 (JB, DG). An early migrating light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was perched atop a tree along KRL 11/8 (DR). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen near Anderson 11/25 (JS). Two adult and two juvenile **Merlins** were seen near a nesting site in Clearfield 8/2 (JS).

One **Winter Wren** was seen near Frenchville 11/16 (PK). **Northern Mockingbirds** are becoming more common in the High Plateau area of the state; one was on Troy Hill Road 10/31 (JD). **Pine Siskins** were seen in flocks ranging from 3 to 22 in Clearfield, Frenchville, Grampian and Rockton 11/3-22 (PK, BM, DR, JS). A mixed flock of **Snow Buntings** and **Horned Larks** were observed along KRL 11/30 (DR). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in Curwensville 11/6 (JS). Several late migrating warblers were observed: an **Orange-crowned Warbler** along PSL 10/7 (DR), a **Northern Parula** on SGL 77 on 10/21 (DR), and a **Wilson's Warbler** along PSL 10/14 (DR).

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Clinton County

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

A single **Ross's Goose** was found among a small flock of Canada Geese at MH 11/18 (BS), apparently the second county record. The flock was not seen after that morning.

Thanks to the persistent wet weather, it was an excellent shorebird season in *Clinton* beginning in early Aug. Besides the usual mix of migrants, there were at least two first county records. An **American Golden-Plover** was observed at SA 8/14 (CCH). A **Black-bellied Plover** was found there 9/10 (CCH). A **Sanderling** and 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were also there 9/10 (m.ob.). The county's first **Baird's Sandpipers** were 2 at SA 8/31-9/4 (m.ob.). Another

first for *Clinton*, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was discovered at SA 9/9 and 2 were there 9/10 (EZ), with one staying to at least 9/13 (m.ob.). Four **Red-necked Phalaropes** were observed at SA 9/10 (EZ).

A single **Red-throated Loon** was on the Susquehanna River at LH 11/6 (DS, WL). A flock of **Common Loons** was viewed at the same location 11/19 (WL). A **Great Egret** was at SA 9/13 (CCH).

During the early part of this period, the county's first **Osprey** nest in MH fledged three young (m.ob.). Nearby in MH, two **Merlins** were observed engaged in aerial play maneuvers 8/10 (RS). The following day, three **Merlins** were at the same location (CCH, WL). This was very strong evidence for nesting, which, if it had been confirmed, would have been a first for the county. **Peregrine Falcons** were reported occasionally through the period. One was at SA 9/20, 2 were east of LH 11/3, and one was near SA 11/14 (m.ob.).

Pine Siskins were first observed at feeders at Woolrich 10/18 and then sporadically through the rest of the period there, as well as at Avis and Swissdale (m.ob.).

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Columbia County

Locations: Bloomsburg Fair Grounds (BFG), Catawissa (CAT), Crow Hill Sanctuary (CHS), Flooded Driving Range in Scott Township (FDR), Fort McClure Boulevard (FMB), Jamison City (JC), Madison Township (MADT), Mount Pleasant Road (MPR), Montour Township (MONT), Sands Street Flooded Field (SS).

Fall was an extremely wet season. Frequent storms and rainfall created flooded fields and fallout conditions for southbound shorebirds early in the season. Late fall brought an influx of several species that typically stay to our north most years, including **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Evening Grosbeak**, and **Pine Siskin**.

There were few notable waterfowl reports for the season, but a single **American Wigeon** at the FDR 9/26 (AK) was an early record. **American Coots** are rarely reported during the fall, but one lingered at the FDR 10/23-29 (AK, EH).

Shorebirds were reported much more frequently than normal across the county, particularly at the FDR and in low lying areas near the Susquehanna R. Up to 4 **Dunlin** lingered at the FDR 10/20-29 (AK, EH) and one was found at the same location on 11/2 (EH). As many as 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were also at the FDR 10/23-29 (AK, EH). **Pectoral Sandpiper** sightings included one at the BFG 8/22-23 (AK) and up to 26 at the FDR 9/13-11/2 (AK, EH). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at the FDR 9/13 (AK), up to 2 were later at the same location 10/23-26 (AK, EH), and one was found along FMB 10/25 (AK). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were common this season with a notable sighting of 18 at the FDR 9/26 (AK). **Greater Yellowlegs** observations included 2 at the BFG 8/22-23 (AK), one at SS 8/11 (AK), 2 along FMB 8/21-22 (AK), and up to 2 at the FDR from 9/13-26 (AK).

One of the highlights of the season was a **Cattle Egret** that lingered along MPR 10/23-11/12 (m.ob.). At one point it was seen feeding inside a small fenced-in chicken coop (AK). The season's lone **Short-eared Owl** was a single bird near the CHS 11/16 (DG).

In a normal season, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** would be a notable observation. However, this season the species pushed south early and remained throughout the period. It was reported at 12 separate locations. The first observation was a single bird in MONT 9/29 (AK) and the season's high count was 3 at CHS 11/10-30 (DG). **Evening Grosbeak** is another species that pushed south in late fall. Four were observed at a feeder in JC 11/4 (JL). Notable winter finches included **Pine Siskins** that seemed to move through in waves. The first report was a single bird at a feeder in MONT 10/6 (AK). Other notable sightings included 4 at CHS 10/22-23 (DG), 7 in JC 10/18 (JL), 7 in CAT 11/11-22 (JS,TF), and the high count was 13 in JC 11/3 (JL). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were reported twice: one in MADT in a switchgrass field 10/20 (AK) and one along FMB 10/24 (KP).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Traci Fetterman, Doug Gross, Evan Houston, Judith Lynn, Karol Pasquinnelli, John Slotterback.

Crawford County

Locations: Erie N.W.R. (ENWR), Erie N.W.R. - Sugar Lake (SL), Pymatuning SP - Fish Hatchery (FH), Pymatuning State Park (PSP), Pymatuning SP - Hartstown Project (HP), Pymatuning SP - Miller Ponds (MP), Pymatuning SP - Spillway (PS), Woodcock Lake (WL), Woodcock Lake - Abandoned Road Trail (WART), Woodcock Lake Causeway (WLC).

A flock of **Snow Geese**, uncommon for *Crawford*, were seen flying over the Cussewago Bottoms area 11/10 (*fide* KZ). Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at the HP 11/8 (SD, VM, BVN). A single **Trumpeter Swan**, an excellent species for *Crawford*, was at ENWR Pool 9 on 8/26 (RE). Notable counts of **Tundra Swan** included 75 over the Conneautville area 11/10 (AdT), 94 at WLC 11/11 (TN), and 87 in the Pymatuning area 11/12 (SK).

An excellent count of 1335 **Wood Ducks** was made during the annual Blair Bridge Duck Count in the Goose Management Area 9/15 (AM). Excellent counts of **Gadwall** included 85 at the HP 11/4 (TN, KPi), 160 the Goose Management Area 11/4 (RL), 115 on the same date at MP (TN, KPi), and 182 at MP 11/10 (MV). An early **Gadwall** was observed at FH 9/15 (AP) and at the same location 9/25 (KC). Early observations of **American Wigeon** included a single at the PS 9/16 (m.ob.), 3 at the HP 9/16 (MHi, RHi, LW), and a single at MP 9/21 (JMc). A single early **Redhead** was observed at the PS 8/13 (JMc), 8/15 (BBa), 8/19 (MD), and 9/9-10/1 (m.ob.). Another early **Redhead** was observed at the PSP dam 9/23 (KC). An early **Ring-necked Duck** was at MP 9/7 (JA, LA). A pair of **Surf Scoters**, an uncommon bird in *Crawford*, was at Espyville Marina 11/25 (MH, JMc). Observations of **Long-tailed Duck**, an expected but still notable bird, included a single at the PS 11/21-30 (m.ob.) and a good count of 15 at the Pymatuning Causeway 11/25 (RL). Notable counts of **Hooded Merganser** included at least 500 in the Pymatuning area 11/12 (SK) and 500 the PS 11/19 (CN). A good count of 200 **Common Mergansers** was made at the PS 11/21 (TN). Notable counts of 250 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 1000 **Ruddy Ducks** were observed from the Tuttle Beach area 11/18 (SC, DF, BG, KSJ).

A single **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, rare for *Crawford*, was reported in and around the fields near Thatcher Road 11/13-20 (AE). A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at WART 10/10 (TN). Although the overall number of observations of **Common Nighthawk** was unusually low, good counts of up to 22 were observed in the Meadville area 8/26 (RHo, KPi). There were several high counts of **Chimney Swift** this fall, including 404 near Guys Mills 8/26 (GR), 220 on the Allegheny campus in Meadville 8/31 (RHo), 567 near Guys Mills 9/16 (GR), and 715 near Guys Mills 9/25 (GR).

Observations of **Virginia Rail** included a single bird seen at McMichael Road 8/25 (JP) and another single bird seen at the same location during the PSO annual meeting field trips 9/15 and 9/16 (m.ob). Single **Sora** were seen on the same field trips 9/14-9/16 (m.ob). **Common Gallinules** were observed in their expected locations throughout the Conneaut Marsh area (m.ob.). An excellent count of 8 was made at Custards Marsh during one of the PSO field trips 9/16 (DGro, GG, JG, CK). **American Coot** is infrequently observed in *Crawford* outside the late fall and winter seasons, so the sighting of a single at Geneva Marsh 8/4 was notable (AH). **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in their expected locations and numbers (m.ob). A high count of 75 made at MP 11/18 (SC, DF, BG, KSJ).

Frequent rain covered almost all of the traditional mudflats with water from Aug through at least mid-Oct, resulting in an off season for shorebirds. The only sighting of **Black-bellied Plover**, notable expected here, was a single in a field along Rundletown Road near Conneautville 10/7 (KZ). A late **Semipalmated Plover** was at WL 11/7 (RL). **Stilt Sandpipers** included one at MP 8/5 (TN) and one at WLC 9/5 (TN). The frequency of observations and overall numbers of **Dunlin** were very low this season, with a high count of just 17 at MP 10/27 (KPi), a much lower number than recent years. Baird's Sandpiper was not reported, following several fall seasons with multiple sightings. Observations of the notable **White-rumped Sandpiper** included a single at the FH 9/8 (TN) and 3 at MP 10/1 (MV). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included one at MP 8/4 (AH), one there 9/16 (RL), 3 there 9/23 (ME), 2 at the FH 9/23 (ME), and 2 back at MP

9/30 (TN). A single rare **Long-billed Dowitcher** was MP 11/23 (JMC, DS, WS). **American Woodcock** often are not seen during the fall, so one at WART 8/23 (TN) and another there 9/2 (KPi, TN) were notable. A good count of 16 **Wilson's Snipe** was made at ENWR Deer Run Trail 10/14 (TN, KPi), and a late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at the same location and date too (TN, KPi).

A notable count of at least 2000 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made in the Pymatuning area 11/12 (TN). Observations of **Little Gull** are exceptionally rare in *Crawford*, so the sighting of one at the PS 11/18 was very notable (SC, DF, BG, KSJ). **Laughing Gull** is an excellent bird for *Crawford*; one was at the FH 10/6 (TN). A single **Ring-billed Gull** banded at Varennes, Quebec was observed at the PS 8/30 (MV). **Great Black-backed Gull** is rare here, so one at the Pymatuning Causeway 11/25 (RL) was noteworthy. Notable counts of **Caspian Tern** included up to 28 at the PS 8/19 (MD, RL) and 21 at the same location 8/20 (TN, KPi). A least one **Caspian Tern** was seen at the Pymatuning Causeway 10/25 (IF), notably late. **Common Tern** is an expected but infrequently observed bird during the fall season; one was at the PS 8/9 (MF) and another was at WLC 9/10 (KPi). One late **Common Tern** was at the FH 10/26 (IF, RL). There were no observations of Forster's Tern this fall.

An excellent count of 514 **Common Loon** was made at Pymatuning Lake 11/12 (SK). A good total of 108 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at the PS 9/15 (MAK, GK).

Thirteen **Great Egrets** were at the FH during a PSO Annual Meeting field trip 9/16 (m.ob.). A late **Green Heron** was at WART 10/7 (RHo, TN, KPi). A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the FH 10/30 (RL). A single **Glossy Ibis**, an excellent bird for *Crawford*, was first observed at MP 9/8 (TN, KPi, SWi) and seen again 9/9 (JF, DW), 9/10 (JMc), and 9/15 (SB, DGri).

Osprey and **Bald Eagle** were observed in their expected locations and numbers in the Pymatuning and WL areas (m.ob.). A single late **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen in the Vernon Township and I-79 area 10/19 (RL). The only sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk** were of a light morph at SL 11/10 (RE) and a dark morph in the Conneautville area 11/16-17 (AdT).

Great Horned Owl is an infrequently but likely underreported species here. One was at the Helen B. Katz Natural Area 9/15 (DB, JK, TK, CW, DY) and 2 were at PSP South Lake Area 10/26 (SS). **Short-eared Owl** is an extremely rare bird during the early fall months, so the observation of a single bird east of Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Road 8/19 was very notable (RL). A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at a private residence in Meadville 9/17 (RHo).

There was a higher than average number of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** sighted this fall, primarily in the Pymatuning and Conneaut Marsh areas (m.ob.). High counts included 5 at McMichael Road 9/15 (AP), 6 at Tuttle Beach 9/15 (FI, RSa), and 5 at the same location 11/8 (SD, VM, BVN).

Observations of **Merlin**, an uncommon but increasingly expected bird, occurred in the expected locations and numbers (m.ob.). Sightings of **Peregrine Falcon**, relatively rare here, included a single near Tamarack Lake 8/19 (RL), a single near Cambridge Springs 9/24 (KZ), and a single in Meadville 11/7 (IF).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the ENWR Tsuga Trail 8/31 (GK, MAK) and another was at the ENWR Deer Run Trail at a PSO Annual Meeting field trip 9/15 (m.ob.). Late observations of **Eastern Wood-Pewee** included one at WART 10/7 (RHo, TN, KPi) and one on the Allegheny Campus in Meadville 10/18 (KPi). Observations of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were better than normal: one at WART 8/26 (RHo, TN, KPi), one there again 9/12 (TN, KPi) and 9/15 on a PSO Annual Meeting field trip (m.ob.), one at Custards 9/16 (RHi, MHi, LW), and one on Towpath Road 9/16 (RL). A late **Eastern Kingbird** was observed at ENWR 9/16 (ED).

White-eyed Vireo was well-reported (m.ob.). There were also a higher than normal number of sightings of **Philadelphia Vireo** this fall, likely due to the high number of observations during the PSO annual meeting field trips (m.ob.). A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was near Guys Mills 10/6 (GR). A very late **Red-eyed Vireo** was observed in a weakened condition in the Cussewago Bottoms area 11/10 (AdT).

Observation of **Common Raven**, increasingly common but still notable here, included one at Cussewago Bottom Conservation Area 9/15 (DB, JK, TK, CW, DY), 2 near SL 10/3 (RE), 2 near Townville 10/8 (AL), 2 near Guys Mills 10/23 (GR), and 2 in the Conneautville area 11/3 (AdT). The only observations of **Horned Lark** were 10 birds in the SL area 10/29 (RE) and 3 still there 10/30 (RE). An excellent count of 300 **Tree Swallow** was made at Pymatuning lake 9/30 (TN), and 140 **Bank Swallow** were at MP 8/6 (RHo, TN).

Consistent with most of Pennsylvania, there was a minor irruption of **Red-**

breasted Nuthatch throughout *Crawford* (m.ob.). Of particular note were observations of one at a private residence west of Conneautville 8/2 (KZ), one at the PSP South Lake Area 8/15 (KPi), and one at WL 8/25 (TN), all early dates for this species. **Winter Wrens** included one at Ford Island 9/13 (RL), one at WART 9/17 (JMc), and 2 at a private residence in the Conneautville area 10/8 (KZ). Five **Marsh Wrens** were tallied at McMichael Road 9/15 (MH, RHi, LW). **Carolina Wren** was reported more frequently than usual (m.ob.).

An early **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was heard singing near Cussewago 9/3 (KZ). A good count of 25 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was made at WART 10/7 (RHo, TN, KPi). Observations of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, included up to 3 heard during a nocturnal flight call watch at ENWR 9/16 (CW) and a single at a private residence in Meadville 10/6 (KPi). A late **Gray Catbird** was at the ENWR Seneca District 11/11 (JH, AS). **Northern Mockingbird** is still an infrequent species in *Crawford*, so observations of one in a pasture near Conneautville 9/8 (KZ), 2 at ENWR 9/16 (LB, DH), and one near Conneaut Lake 9/30 (TN) were notable.

There was an irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks** throughout Pennsylvania this season, which included multiple reports in *Crawford*. One was at the feeders of a private residence in the Saegertown area 11/2 (CL), 6 were at a private residence near Springboro 11/3 (reported to CN), up to 3 were at a private residence near Townville 11/7-11/8 (AL, TL), one was in the Conneautville area 11/10-11 (AdT), and 4 were in the Conneautville area (AnT). Strangely there were no observations of Purple Finch. **Pine Siskins** were seen in their expected numbers and locations, including multiple feeders at private residences in Meadville (m.ob.). A high count of 22 was seen at a private residence near Meadville 11/4 (SC). Large numbers of **American Goldfinch** used the fields at WART as staging grounds this fall season, where the high count reached at least 100 on 9/15 (m.ob.).

A sighting of 8 **Snow Buntings** at the PSP Causeway 10/25 (IF) was notably early. Late observations of **Chipping Sparrow** included one at SL area 11/8 (RE) one at a private residence in the Meadville area 11/18 (SC, DF, BG, KSJ), another in the Meadville area on the same date (MD), and one underneath a set of feeders in the Meadville area 11/22 (KPi). Reports of **Fox Sparrows** were typical (m.ob.). Observations of **Lincoln's Sparrow** were off, though; observations included one at WART 10/7 (RHo), one at a private residence in the Conneautville area 10/8 (KZ), 2 at WART 10/9 (CP), and one at Hartstown Marsh 10/22 (JMc, MW).

Notable counts of **Bobolink** included up to 75 in cornfields near ENWR 8/25 (RE) and 150 at Teakettle Road 9/2 (MHa) and 9/3 (KZ). A good count of 500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was made at Custards Marsh during a PSO Annual Meeting Field Trip 9/15 (JG, DGro, GG, CK). Observations of **Rusty Blackbird**, a notable but expected bird, occurred in their expected locations and numbers throughout the county (m.ob.). A late **Common Grackle** was in the Conneautville area 11/11 (AdT).

Late observations of **Northern Waterthrush** included one at WART 9/30 (KPi) and one in the Guys Mills area 10/7 (GR). There were several late **Blue-winged Warblers**: one at WART 9/10 (RHo), one near ENWR 9/17 (GR), and one near Blooming Valley 9/19 (Erie Observatory). The only observations of **Mourning Warbler** were up to 2 near Pettis Road 8/4-9/13 (RL) and one at WART 9/10 (RHo). A **Cerulean Warbler** in the Conneaut Marsh area 9/16 (RL) was the only one reported this season. There were several notable counts of **Bay-breasted Warbler**, including 6 seen on a PSO Annual Meeting field trip at Helen B. Katz Natural Area 9/16 (m.ob.), 5 on the same date on a different field trip at Cussewago Bottoms Conservation Area (m.ob.), and 4 at WART 9/23 and 9/29 (KPi). Late observations of **Yellow Warbler** included one at WART 9/2 (TN, KPi) and one at PSP Railroad Grade Trail 9/15 (MD, JG, CK). There were a higher than normal number of observations of **Wilson's Warbler** throughout the county, primarily during the PSO Annual Meeting field trips 9/15 and 9/16 (m.ob.).

A late **Scarlet Tanager** was near Townville 10/8 (AL), and 2 late **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at a private residence on Pettis Road 10/2 (RL).

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Donna Foyle, Barbara Griffith, Debra Grim, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Joe Gyekis, Mark Hanneman, Denise Hardtmann, Jennifer Harned, Rebecca Hart, Amy Henrici, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, James R. Hill III, MiMi Hoffmaster, Frank Izaguirre, Laura Jackson, Mike Jackson, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Chad Kauffman, Scott Kinzey, Matt Kneitel, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Clair Landis, Mike Leahy, Ron Leberman, Alejandra Lewandowski, Terry Lobdell, Peter Lusardi, Evan Mann, Anthony Marich, Mike Mencotti, Mark McConaughy, Jim McConnor, Virginia McQuown, Jean Miller, Claire Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Karol Pasquinelli, Jim Pemberton, Ken Pinnow, Aidan Place, Julia Plummer, Mike Plyler, Carl Pohlman, Peggy Price, Rick Price, Renee Reilly, Gary Reimer, Ramona Sahni, Michael Schall, Robert Scribner, Rebecca Serey, Dana Shaffer, Walter Shaffer, Annette Smith, Shawn Sowers, Kate StJohn, Emily Thomas, Stephen Thomas, Adam Troyer, Andrew Troyer, Bob Van Newkirk, Mark Vass, Nick Voris, Linda Wagner, Scott Walker, Daniel Weeks, Nathan Weyandt, Tiffany Willow, Chris Williams, Michael Williams, Carole Winslow, Suzanne Winterberger, David Yeany II, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mud Level Road (MLR), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL 230), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

The fall period was very wet as 2018 was on course to be the second wettest in history for the Harrisburg area. Please note that unless otherwise stated, occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and "Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds" (*Pennsylvania Birds* 30:138-147, Gauthier 2016). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River that may be possible to list on this report, but without clear documentation otherwise they are considered *Dauphin* birds, since the county line is defined as the western shoreline of the river.

One waterfowl report of note would have been the Black Scoter at WFBL 11/21, but judging from the description given and photo on the eBird checklist, this bird was in the river and thus in *Dauphin*. Therefore *Cumberland* still awaits its first substantiated sighting for this species.

The rainy weather did provide the best autumn for shorebirds in the county over the past few years. Yet even though there were many flooded agricultural fields, as one might expect due to of all the rain, there was one field in particular at the traditional shorebird hotspot on MLR the produced most of the good shorebirds. All the following species were found at this location about 0.2 miles west of the intersection with Duncan Road. There were up to 8 **American Golden Plovers** 9/22-10/9 (TJ, KJ, m. ob.) and one or 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 9/24-30 (TJ, DK, VG). Four **Ruddy Turnstones** 9/24-25 (VG, DK, BO, MW) represented that species' first record in the county in 10 years, and the first ever in the fall season. The last appearance had been in the same location in the spring of 2008. Another good find was up to 4 **Stilt Sandpipers** 9/24-10/20 (VG, BO, m. ob.) as this species is only occasional in the fall present being present more than 10% but less than 50% of the time. Spotted at this location as well were up to 12 **Dunlin** 10/18-25 (BK, m.ob.). Like Stilt Sandpiper, Dunlin is only occasional in *Cumberland* in the fall. Nine **White-rumped Sandpipers** were also seen 9/21 (VG) and then only one 9/22-10/9 (TJ, KJ, m. ob.). This species is rare in the fall, seen nearly annually but usually in very small numbers. Yet still another species at this MLR field were up to 9 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 9/22-10/23 (VG, AM). This species is rare in the fall in *Cumberland* as well. Finally, there was one **Western Sandpiper** there 9/21 (VG). This represented just the fifth record for the species in *Cumberland* in the past 28 years, following sightings in 1991, 1994, 2006, and 2007. The only other shorebird of note was one **Wilson's Phalarope** found on a small retention pond during a rain storm at Allen Road in Carlisle 9/9 (KJ, TJ). This was a great find, since this species is occasional in the spring but had been reported only one other time in the fall.

There was one sighting of 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Stoughstown Pond, which had become more like a lake due to the rain 11/9 (VG). Bonaparte's are mostly annual in the fall but in very small numbers. Also of interest were 2 first year **Little Blue Herons** in a flooded field on Route 641 at the Green Spring Brethren in Christ Church west of Newville. The birds were originally found in

the summer period on 7/28 were last seen on 8/8 (VG, m.ob.). This was the first report of this species in the county since one was seen near Carlisle 7/29/08 (HW).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was on Milesburn Road MSF 8/26 (RGS, TGS) and one was at Pine Grove Furnace State Park (MSF). One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at Camp Michaux 10/5 (VG) and one was at the Propagation Pond area of SGL 169 on 10/7 (VG). There was one **Least Flycatcher** at Big Flat MSF 8/25 (DB, SB, VG) and one at Camp Hill 9/08 (KM). **Philadelphia Vireo** made its usual fall appearance with one or two reported at six different locations: Boiling Springs, SGL 230, SGL 169, Camp Michaux, Big Flat, and Ridge Road in MSF. There was only one report of 6 **Cliff Swallows** over a flooded field on MLR 9/24-25 (VG, BO, MW) and an unusually high number of 30 **Bank Swallows** just east of Newville at Old Mill Road 8/18 (TJ), with 4 more at MLR 9/29 (VG) and just one at MLR 10/5 (VG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported in locations throughout *Cumberland* in what has been the largest invasion since 2012.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SGL 230 on 10/7 (TA). **Swainson's Thrush** included one at Ridge Road MSF 9/22 (RK, VG), 2 at WFBL trail 9/29 (RK), 2 at SGL 230 on 9/29 (AM, SS) and one the same location 10/7 (RK). The high count was 5 at Camp Michaux MSF (AM, VG).

There were 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder on Courtney Road in Shippensburg 11/8 (BP, EP). Formerly a reliable winter visitor, the bird is now a vagrant with only scattered reports over the past decade. **Purple Finches**, on the other hand, were reported throughout *Cumberland* in what seemed to be the biggest invasion of the species since 2014. **Lincoln's Sparrows** seemed less numerous than usual. Typically found in small flocks during fall migration, this year only singles were found at Opossum Lake 9/29 (VG), Camp Michaux 10/5 (AM, VG), SGL 169 on 10/7 (VG), and Le Torte Spring Trail 10/23 (DB).

Of the less common migrant warblers, Connecticut Warbler and Wilson's Warbler went unreported, which was unusual since they are both reported most years though in very low numbers. There was one **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Trindle Spring Run Trail 10/5 (DH), another on the Big Spring 10/6 (VG), with another at Pine Grove Furnace MSF 10/14 (BK). There was also one **Mourning Warbler** at SGL 230 on 10/7 (TA).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Appalachian Trail-Peter's Mountain (AT-PM), Former Harrisburg State Hospital (HSH), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Hershey Important Bird Area (HIBA), Hershey ZooAmerica (HZA), Linglestown (LIN), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Weiser State Forest-Greenland Tract (WSF-GT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A total of 203 species were reported to eBird for the fall season. An **Allen's Hummingbird** was added to the *Dauphin* list when one was caught, banded and identified in northern Harrisburg as an adult female 11/23 (S&GL).

Many species of migrating waterfowl were seen this season on the Susquehanna River including a **Black Scoter** from 11/21-27 at SRWF (m.ob.), a **White-winged Scoter** photographed at SRFS in Harrisburg 11/6 (SS), and another **White-winged** seen on 11/28 (ZM).

Common Nighthawks were reported migrating in the Harrisburg area, including 17 on 9/2 (RK), 12 on 9/15 (EC) and 27 on 9/16 (S&GL). A few late migrating **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** included 2 in the Harrisburg area 10/1 and 10/2 (AM, S&GL) and one in the Halifax area 10/9 (S&SB).

The usual plovers, sandpipers, yellowlegs and **Wilson's Snipes** were seen at WL on the south lobe's mudflats (m.ob.). A **Caspian Tern** was at WL 9/25 (DM) and again 9/28 (EC). A **Snowy Egret** was present at WL 9/5-8 (m.ob.) and a **Little Blue Heron** was spotted there 9/5 (S&SB).

A **Golden Eagle** was spotted from the AT-PM 11/7 (JM). The Ned Smith Center's banding site in upper *Dauphin* caught and banded 136 migrating

Northern Saw-whet Owls 10/1-11/17 (S&GL). Five were foreign recoveries (banded elsewhere) from Ontario, Canada, New York and Vermont. Two **Peregrine Falcons** were observed and photographed 11/1 for a third winter on the cocoa bean silos near HZA (BH).

Seen occasionally in fall migration, single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at HSH 9/5 (TA), WSF-GT 9/15 (N&EF), and AT-PM 9/20 (S&SB). A lone **Gray Catbird** was seen along the Towpath Trail in WL in late Nov (m.ob.). In line with this year's movement into the state, an **Evening Grosbeak** was observed and photographed at the nature center feeders at WL 11/9 (KW). **Purple Finches** were seen in abundance with the earliest sighting at FIG 10/19 (IG).

Reports of **Fox Sparrows** began as early as 11/3 at AT-PM (S&SB) and the first sighting of **Dark-eyed Juncos** was 10/4 at HSH (AR). The only **Eastern Meadowlark** reported this season was a late one at HIBA 11/21 (MC). Thirty **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in LIN 10/9 (PL).

A late **Common Yellowthroat** was in Harrisburg 11/6 (SS) and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at AT-PM 10/9 (S&SB). Not seen on a regular basis, a migrating **Connecticut Warbler** was at AT-PM 9/15 (S&SB).

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Delaware County

Locations: Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront (CB), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Fort Mifflin (FM), Gamet Valley High School (GVHS), Glen Mills School (GMS), Greenbank Farm (GF), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

Wet and warm: the wettest summer (June to August) on record for southeastern Pennsylvania (and that's since 1895!) continued into the fall. August brought rain nearly daily; many locations totaled more than 10" for the month. The average relative humidity (RH) during Aug and Sept has been rising steadily as dew points climb into the upper 60's and 70's, in other words formerly August weather now bleeds into September. September averaged 4-6 degrees above normal with precipitation 1.5-2.5 times normal. Hurricane Florence wreaked havoc with weather to our south for days before and after the actual storm and affected us directly 9/17-19 with rain and some flooding. October rainfall was about normal; November saw a return of wet conditions with approximately 10" of rain, once again well above normal.

An unusual sighting from the RTP hawkwatch 10/5 was a flock of about 15 **Brant** headed south (RF). Later that afternoon, a flock of 17 **Brant**, likely the same birds, were found on the DR at FM (RF). One bird remained after the flock moved upriver. A single **Brant** was also seen at this location on 10/7 (AG), and two were at CB 10/26 (AG, RF). On 10/16, above RTP, 3 **Cackling Geese** were photographed among a flyover flock of Canada Geese (JM). Three **Tundra Swans** closed out the RTP hawkwatch 11/18 (SJ), and a single individual was reported the following day from GVHS (SJ). Three **Blue-winged Teal** flew up Darby Creek 9/7 at JHNWR (JMc) where 3 were also reported 10/6 (AG), one on 10/10 (JMc), and 4 on 10/12 (RF). Three were also noted on the DR at FM 10/5 (AB, DB). Up to 4 **Northern Shovelers** at JHNWR, common in *Philadelphia* but not *Delaware*, were reported 11/11 (SK), 11/20 (RF) and 11/30 (RF). Similarly, **Gadwall** was reported on four dates at JHNWR: 10/6, 10/12, 11/11, and 11/20 (AG, RF, SK, RF) but **American Wigeon** and **Ring-necked Duck** were only reported once each, 10/6 (AG) and 11/11 (SK), respectively. A single **Long-tailed Duck** was a good find on the DR at FM 10/26 (RF). The first report of **Common Merganser** was 11/30 at JHNWR (RF), and two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the DR at FM 11/17 (RF). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at JHNWR 10/8 (RF) and 10/12 (RF), and a single bird was at CCR 10/30 (AG). A **Horned Grebe** was on the DR at FM 10/26 (RF).

Seven reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** during this period were much more than usual (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawks** made their annual passage during Aug and Sep. A daily watch was conducted at HC 8/17-9/7 with a few additional days until 9/18. High counts were 523 on 9/2, 395 on 9/3, and 200 on 8/27 (SJ, KJ). The season total of 2117 was higher than last year but still a bit low. The last nighthawk in the county was reported from a Wallingford yard 9/30 (DO); the last **Chimney Swift**, over RTP 11/1 (AG); the last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, feeding on *Cana* 10/7 in a Media yard (AG).

The only **American Coot** reported during the period was at CCR 10/30 (AG). An exciting flyover of two **Sandhill Cranes** 11/17 (DE) added a new yard bird for a diligent observer in Swarthmore, proving you can get lucky if you look! **Black-bellied Plover** intermittently used a sandbar in the DR at FM for about a month between 8/19-9/18 (AG, DB, JMc). Amazingly, a single **American Golden-Plover** was reported from the same location on the first and last of these dates (AG, RF). This is clearly the best *Delaware* shorebird location. A single **Ruddy Turnstone** was a nice find 8/21 (AG) and **Sanderling** showed up five times 8/3-9/19 (m.ob.). Four **Dunlin** were present 10/5 (RF); **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found 8/29 (RF); two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were a highly unusual find 8/31 (RF, AG); two **Short-billed Dowitchers** flew downriver 8/4 (EZ) and one was found 8/26 (AG). Even a **Wilson's Phalarope** was spotted from this location 9/14 by "storm-birders" (RF, SB, BK). Lastly, a **Wilson's Snipe** call was heard there 10/5 (AB, DB).

If shorebirds weren't enough reason to watch the DR at FM, consider gulls and terns. Seventeen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were counted on the sandbar 11/10 (AG) and a single one was seen the next day at JHNWR (SK). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen flying downriver 10/7 (RF). Three late **Laughing Gulls** were still there 11/20 (RF). **Caspian Terns** were regulars at this location from the beginning of Aug through 10/11 (m.ob.). More unusual were three **Caspian Terns** spied in transit over RCSP 8/31 (JMc). In Aug, this species also showed up regularly at Boeing Ridley Park, with a high count of 80 on 8/15 at 08:15 (JH) or occasionally at JHNWR (m.ob.). From the end of Aug into Sep they could be found at CB (m.bs.). Back at the DR at FM, both a **Black Tern** and a **Common Tern** were seen 8/29 (RF). Three **Common Terns** also made use of the area 9/18 (AG, MD). **Forster's Terns** also use the stretch of river in *Delaware* from Aug through Oct (m.ob.).

During Oct and into Nov, **Common Loons** were occasionally seen flying over the county. There were six reports of **Snowy Egret** in August (m.ob.) and multiple reports of **Little Blue Heron** including one of 11 together at JHNWR 8/5 (DO). Only a single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from CB 8/29 (SA, EM).

The RTP hawkwatch, staffed daily from 9/1 to 11/18, tallied fewer hours than usual due to five rain-outs and reduced weekday coverage. Hawk migration through *Delaware* was below average again this year. The overall raptor count of 3562 was below nearly all other previous year totals (CP). For the second year in a row, the **Osprey** count did not even break 100, with only 95 migrants tallied, the lowest in the 18-year history from this location. The 655 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** rebounded from last year's lowest-ever count (373). The daily **Bald Eagle** record was tied 9/16 when 18 were counted (CR, SJ). A single **Golden Eagle** was seen 11/16 (BKe, AS). Exactly as last year, the highest day for **Broad-winged Hawks** was 9/22 (CP, JM, AG) when 1228 passed by, but the seasonal total for this species was only 1872. Migrant **Red-shouldered Hawks** (127) outnumbered **Red-tailed Hawks** (61) by a more than 2:1 margin. Perhaps the latter are moving later or not moving at all. On a good note, **American Kestrel** numbers rose to 184, above the average of 162 from the past 10 years. An immature **Northern Goshawk** was seen on the last official watch day 11/18 (SJ).

The only **Barred Owl** was reported calling 9/6 from RCSP (JMc). A good seasonal influx of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** this fall provided the opportunity to hear two birds at the BT at RCSP 11/10 (RF) and 11/11 (DB, AB) and one 11/13 (DO).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** report was 8/25 at the BT at RCSP (AG), one day later than last year's single *Delaware* report. That location hosted a **Least Flycatcher** 8/30 (AG), but the same observer also found one in his Media yard 9/16. **Trail's Flycatcher** was noted at CFM 8/16 (BS, JS) and at DCCC 9/11 (BB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported on five dates 8/25-9/15 at the BT at RCSP (AG, LH), at HILD 9/14 (AG) and at the DT 10/3 (AG). Reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were up, with birds spotted at HC 8/24 (SJ), the BT 8/30 (AG), TA 9/1 (SBN), in Swarthmore 9/11 (JMc) and at TMA 10/7 (RF). **Blue-headed Vireo** appeared for the last time 11/4 both in the Crum Woods

(DE) and at HC (KJ). A single **Horned Lark** was reported from RCSP 10/11 (AG). A total of 208 **Purple Martins** were banded at the GMS colony 7/9 (DMC). In June, a martin banded at that site in July 2013 was recovered from Wilmington, Delaware (DMC).

Red-breasted Nuthatches started arriving in Aug, indicative of the predicted influx, with the first report from TA 8/29 (SBN). Another much-anticipated irruptive species, **Evening Grosbeak**, was located at RCSP with 4 on 11/15 (RF) and 2-4 on 11/18 (RG). Unfortunately we are still waiting for larger numbers or more frequent reports of this noisy, gregarious species. **Purple Finches** did show up in reasonable numbers across *Delaware* beginning in Sep but seem to have faded as Nov waned. **Pine Siskins** followed a similar trend, arriving in mid-Oct.

A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found foraging in trees along the DR at FM 11/9 (RF). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported from a Springfield yard 10/6 (AB, DB). **American Pipit** was found in multiple locations from 10/13 to 11/17 (m.ob.) with 30 estimated that day behind PHL (AB, DB).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** 10/19 (RF) at DR at FM was located by scoping the brushy hillside near Gate 18. Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were also noted in the area the same day. An uncommon species for *Delaware*, **White-crowneds** showed up in multiple locations and were noted by many observers during Oct and Nov this year. Similarly, **Fox Sparrow** reports this year were numerous beginning the last week of Oct and continuing through Nov. A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at RCSP 10/13 (AG) and also 11/4 (RG), and two were along Cheney Rd corn fields in Glen Mills 11/2 (RF). Three flocks of **Bobolinks**, totaling 79 birds, headed south prior to rain, flying past RCSP 8/31 (JMc). Between 8/24 and 9/16 there were four other reports of this species from either JHNWR or DR at FM (m.ob.). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were photographed at GF 10/21 (SW), and one was reported from DR at FM 10/25 (AG). A lone **Rusty Blackbird** was seen at CFM 11/4 (AG).

Twenty-eight warbler species were reported in *Delaware* during this period with many species found at multiple locations by various observers. **Golden-winged Warbler** was photographed at RCSP 9/29 (KD). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from RCSP 9/28 (DK, EW), visiting a private residence in Newtown Square 9/30-10/4 (KG), seen at TA 10/13 (AG), and photographed at HC 10/26 (EK) and TMA 10/28 (DO). The only **Hooded Warbler** was reported from Swarthmore 9/20 (JMc); the only **Prairie Warbler** from RCSP 9/7 (LH); the only **Wilson's Warbler** also at RCSP 9/28 (DK, EW). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen in Wayne 11/12 (PM), and a late male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** appeared at a suet feeder in Springfield 11/10 and remained through the end of the period (*fide* BK). **Canada Warbler** reports were in short supply with birds at RCSP 8/30 (AG), 9/6 (JMc), and 9/15 (AG). Seven warbler species (Tennessee, Magnolia, American Redstart, Pine, Palm, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue) lingered into November (m.ob.).

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Elk County – no compiler

Erie County

The water level of Lake Erie remained high through the season, which limited shorebird habitat along the lake shore. However, the outer beaches of Gull Point at Presque Isle S.P. continued to be where shorebirds concentrated, especially the more uncommon ones. All four Piping Plover chicks successfully fledged and eventually migrated south along with the parent birds around mid-summer. Season highlights included an immature **Pacific Loon** off the mouth of Walnut Creek during the waterbird count (hereafter WC) and an immature **Brown Pelican** that spent a few days sitting on a buoy outside the channel at Presque Isle S.P. It was photographed by many. Small flocks of **Pine Siskins**

were seen mainly along the lakeshore and Presque Isle S.P., but only a single **Common Redpoll** was reported. A few **Evening Grosbeaks** appeared at feeding stations the first few weeks of November, but all appeared to have moved on since none were reported thereafter. The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PI) unless noted otherwise.

Three **Snow Geese**, including one white and two blue, were seen flying past the WC at Sunset Point 11/16 (JM). A **Cackling Goose** was with a flock of **Canada Geese** at the Fairview Business Park from 11/19 to the end of the month (DS). The estimate of 25,000 **scaup sp.** observed in the air at one time 10/26 off the mouth of Walnut Creek during the WC was a record one day high in fall for unidentified scaup (JM).

Quite unexpected was an immature **Pacific Loon** swimming past the WC with five **Common Loons** at the mouth of Walnut Creek 11/6 (JM). It was only the fifth Pacific Loon for the county and the first away from PI. The 1300 **Common Loons** counted sitting on the water at the east end of Presque Isle Bay 11/13 may have been a fall county record for loons on the water (JM). **Red-necked Grebes** were reported 10/14-11/29 mostly from Sunset Point during the WC (JM). The only **Eared Grebe** this fall was one at Sunset Point during the WC 11/11 (JM). The immature **Brown Pelican** that was spotted sitting on a buoy in the channel 8/6 (NI, *fide* ML) was only the third accepted record for the county. The pelican remained at this site to 8/9 where it was seen and photographed by many. The five **Sandhill Cranes** that were first spotted flying past a residence during 'big sit' 10/14 (JM, JH) remained in the area until 10/18 (JH). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were reported from Siegel Marsh by a duck hunter 10/16 (*fide* RD).

A single **American Golden-Plover** was at Gull Point 8/22 (RD) and another was photographed there in early Sep (RSw). A season total of 48 **American Avocets** were reported at Gull Point 7/1-8/23 with a high of 32 birds 7/15 (MB). Even more noteworthy was one on the edge of a pond at Edinboro University 8/1, perhaps the first avocet sighting away from the lake Erie shore (JH). A season total of 20 **Willetts** were observed at Gull Point 7/1-8/6 (mob). A season total of 39 **Whimbrel** was reported 7/3-8/16 at Gull Point (SS, MB). A single **Marbled Godwit** was at Gull Point 7/7 (MB) and another was there 8/1 (SS). Up to 10 **Red Knots** set down at Gull Point 7/22 and they remained there until 7/27 (SSm). Single **Red Knots** were at Gull Point 8/16-9/1 (MB, RD). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was spotted among a flock of **Dunlin** during the WC at Sunset Point on 10/19 (JM). A total of two **Stilt Sandpipers** were present at Gull Point 7/21-8/14 (TR, MB, RS). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was a good find at Gull Point 8/22 (DS, RD).

An immature **Parasitic Jaeger** was observed chasing a **Ring-billed Gull** off Sunset Point during the WC 11/8 (JM). This was the only jaeger seen during the fall season. The **Short-eared Owl** seen flying across the lake from Canada during the WC 11/11 was one of few ever recorded crossing the lake (JM). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were located in the pines 11/3 and 11/22 (RD), and one was seen on the road with prey in the Erie Ravine on 11/18 (KA). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** coming to a feeder in Millcreek Twp. to 10/12 was record late for the county (CS). A **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** was visiting a feeder in Harborcreek from early November to at least 11/21 (SB, *fide* KA).

A very late **Eastern Phoebe** remained in Edinboro to the end of the period (JH). A **White-eyed Vireo** at Perry Monument 10/18 was very late (JD). The **Northern Shrike** at the Fairview Industrial Park from 11/19 through the period was believed to be the same bird present here for the last several years (DS). There was also a **Northern Shrike** nicely photographed at the Eaton Reservoir 11/26 (TL). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were at Gull Point 11/4 (RD). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were well represented with 5 different birds 10/20-22 on several trails at the east end of PI (ST, JF). Singles or pairs of **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported 11/2-15 in Greene Twp. (BPZ), McKean (DO), Millcreek Twp., (CS), Waterford (CVB), and Edinboro (*fide* KA). The only **Common Redpoll** reported was one at the ranger station feeder 11/18 (BG).

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Fayette County

Ten **Common Mergansers** were on the Youghiogheny River at Dawson 8/21 (TK, JK). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was photographed at Colonial Reservoir 10/14 (MJ). The county's first **Wood Stork** first reported in late July continued near Connellsville to at least 8/16 (GH *vide* MV). **Black Vulture** remains rare but reports are increasing. Two were observed at Dawson 8/21 (TK, JK), 2 others were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 10/19 (KS), and 2 were also seen at Nemacolin Woodlands 11/6 (DB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a nice find at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 10/19 (KS).

Red-headed Woodpecker is another species that is rare in the county but apparently may be a local resident. Two were at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort 8/12 (DB), and 3 were at the Heritage Scout Reservation in Farmington 8/19 (DB). This species has been in this general area during the summer so hopefully they will remain in the area. Two **Common Ravens** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 10/19 (KS). Two **Purple Finches** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 10/19 (KS).

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Forest County – no compiler

Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Bender's Farm (BEFA), Clearfield/Thornwood Roads Retention Field (CTR), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRRP), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Two Turn Road (TTR).

The reporting period was weak on waterfowl and flush with shorebirds. The wet spring and summer left no muddy shoreline at ponds where migrating birds are normally found, but instead created flooded areas that attracted and held a great diversity of migrating shorebirds. Continued rains through September and October continued the run of good shorebird activity that began in August.

Two early **Snow Geese** were in a cut corn field along Keefer Road 9/23-24 (BO, BKtz), and another was at CTR 11/26 (BKtz). A **Cackling Goose** was at GRRE 9/27 (CG) and at KRRP 10/19 (CG). An early **Tundra Swan** was in a flooded field along Huber/Rockdale Roads 9/28-10/2 (BO, LN, BKtz) and later, migrating flocks of 85 over BEFA (BO, KH) and 31 over Burnt Mill Road (BKtz) were reported. Up to 11 early **Northern Pintails** were found at Huber/Myers Roads 9/28-10/2 (BO, LN, BKtz). An early **Common Merganser** was reported from KRRP 9/17 (DC). There were no uncommon ducks reported and no loons reported. Reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** were light, and the only report of **Horned Grebe** was seven at Letterkenny Reservoir 11/18 (BO).

Sightings of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continue year round in the area from Greencastle to Shady Grove, but the numbers remained low for the second year in a row. The high known report of 4 (GA) paled in comparison to a few years ago during this reporting period when there were numbers of congregating doves that ranged from 25 to 125 at times during Aug and Sep. **Common Nighthawk** reports and numbers were light; 19 were in Zullinger 8/26 (CG), one was at Caledonia SP 8/27 (BO), and 7 were at Norlo Park Fayetteville 9/16 (JD, SD).

Seven species of shorebirds were flagged by the e-bird filter during the period and other non-flagged species were flagged by the filter for numbers reported. Four **American Avocets** made a short stay at TTR 9/5 (BKtz, BO), and one was found at GRRE 9/15 (CG, BC, MC). An **American Golden-Plover** was at KRRP 9/22 (GA) and along Huber Road 9/29 (BO, LN). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at ACP 8/25-26 (BO, CC, CG), at TTR 9/5 (BKtz, BO), and up to 11 were reported at CTR 8/25-9/4 (BKtz, BO, m.ob.). Up to 3 **Sanderlings** were observed at ACP 8/24-26 (JD, DG, BO, CC, CG). Continual reports of up to 4 **Dunlin** were made from CTR 10/6-11/1 (BO, BKtz, CG, m.ob.), and there were single day reports of one at TTR 10/13 (BO) and 10 at TTR 10/24 (BO). **Pectoral Sandpiper** is a regular fall migrant here; however, the frequency of reports, length of time, and number of up to 10 birds that were

reported from CTR 8/3-10/24 were of note (BKtz, BO, mob). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at TTR 8/26 (BO, BKtz), and 2 were at CTR 9/1-4 (BKtz, BO, m.ob.). Following a state-wide occurrence, **Franklin** experienced more frequent sightings of **White-rumped Sandpiper** this fall; one was at TTR 8/3-5 (BO, VB, BKtz), one was at ACP 8/28 (BO), 3 were at CTR 9/15 (BKtz, GA), and one was along Brandt's Church Road 9/29 (BO, LN). There were three separate periods of time for **Short-billed Dowitcher** sightings with one at TTR 8/2-6 (BO, VB, DC, m.ob.), two at CTR 8/25-9/15 (BKtz, BO, m.ob.), and one at CTR 10/7-10 (BKtz, BO, m.ob.). A **Wilson's Phalarope** made an extended stay at TTR 8/22-27 feeding in the various pasture ponds created by all the rain (BO, BKnr, m.ob.). Two separate sightings of **Red-necked Phalarope** were made at the flooded retention fields of TTR 9/17-18 (BKtz, CG, DG) and 10/21 (BO).

Reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** were one at GRRE 11/18 (GA), 2 at Fannettsburg Lake 11/18 (BO), and 8 at GRRE 11/19 (CG). The only report of **Double-crested Cormorant** was one at Little Dipper Pond 9/29 (BO). An exceptional find was a **Cattle Egret** at CTR 11/9 (BKtz) and seen again there 11/11 (BKtz, BO).

A **Golden Eagle** was seen in the air with vultures off the ridge at Roxbury 10/13 (BO), and a **Northern Goshawk** was reported near Doylestown in Path Valley 10/24 (MW). Nocturnal birding for **Northern Saw-whet Owl** yielded one seen in flight in MSF 11/8 (BO, LN). There were a number of reports of **Merlin** at various locations 9/4, 9/12, 9/28, 10/5, 10/9, 10/16, 11/12, and 11/30 (BO, DC, BKtz, GA). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings picked up again during the fall, with reports from various locations 8/1, 8/28, 9/29, 11/16, 11/25 and regular reports from downtown Chambersburg 9/8-11/30 (DC, DK, BO, GA, RG, TSG, BKtz).

A late **Eastern Phoebe** was at KRRP 11/18 (BO, CG). Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen in a timber cut area in MSF 9/5 (BO). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from Monterey Wetland Preserve 9/16 (CC). A high count of 386 **Tree Swallows** was made at GRRE 9/12 (CG). Six **Bank Swallows** were at GRRE 8/26 (CG). A migrating **Cliff Swallow** was seen feeding at Keefer Road pond 8/4 (BO). A **Marsh Wren** was heard and seen at BEFA 10/6 (BO). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was photographed in a Greene Knolls yard 10/10 (VB).

A potential good winter irruption of northern finch and similar feeding species showed promise as the fall progressed. Beginning in late Aug, there were increasing reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Purple Finch**, and **Pine Siskin** through the end of the reporting period.

Lincoln's Sparrows were reported 10/5-20 during their typical peak migration time through our area (BO, BKtz, GA). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported 10/15 at Sand Bag Road (BO), and 11/1 and 11/8 near Roxbury (JM). A **Blue-winged Warbler** and a **Brewster's Warbler** were foraging together at the Heisey Road abandoned orchard 9/1 (BO). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen in a migrant flock in MSF 9/1 (BO). Late summer **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at Portico Road 8/5 (BO) and at ACP 8/25-28 (BO, JD, SD).

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Fulton County – no compiler

Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Franklin Twp. (FT), Jackson Twp. (JT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ryerson State Park (RSP) and Sycamore (SY).

A flock of **Snow Geese** was sighted at SY 11/14 (JC). A flock of **Tundra Swans** flew over SY 11/27 (JC, TC). **Wood Duck** was last seen at EV 10/31 (MH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was last seen in JT 9/30 (RL). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was still in FT 10/16 (RB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at RSP 9/1 (AL). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at RSP 9/12 (AL). **Green Heron** was last reported at RSP 9/12 (AL). A **Black Vulture** was in Morgan Twp. 9/18 (KK). **Osprey** was last reported at RSP 9/16 (AL). **Bald Eagle** was reported several times during the period (m.ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted

in Morgan Twp. 11/5 (KK). **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen in Whiteley Twp. 9/21 (JL). **Eastern Screech-Owl** was seen in Freeport Twp. 11/23 (WP). A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was seen at EV 10/14 (MH). A **Merlin** was at CL 11/2 (LA).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was sighted at LCR 10/16 (MLP). **White-eyed Vireo** was last reported at RSP 9/16 (AL). **Blue-headed Vireo** was last reported in JT 10/9 (RL, BD). **Philadelphia Vireo** was found at SGL 223 on 9/12 (TK). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen in JT 10/9 (RL, BD). **Brown Creeper** was in SY 11/7 (AC). **House Wren** was last reported at SGL 223 on 9/12 (TK). **Winter Wren** was seen at CL 11/1 (LA). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was spotted at SY 11/29 (JC). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was sighted in JT 10/9 (RL, BD). **Gray Catbird** was last reported in JT 10/4 (BD, RL). **Cedar Waxwing** was reported at CL 10/30 (LA).

Evening Grosbeak was reported in FT 11/9 (PR). **Purple Finch** was observed at LCR 10/23 (MLP). **Pine Siskin** was first observed at CL 10/20 (LA). **Dark-eyed Junco** was first reported at LCR 10/21 (MLP). **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed LCR 11/14 (MLP). **White-throated Sparrow** was first observed for the season at EV 10/29 (MH). **Rusty Blackbird** was visiting the feeders at EV 11/11 (MH).

Ovenbird and **Northern Waterthrush** were observed at EV 9/26 (MH). **Black-and-White Warbler** was last observed at SGL 223 (TK). **Common Yellowthroat** was last observed at LCR 10/9 (MLP). **Hooded Warbler** and **Northern Parula** were reported at RSP 9/1 (MD). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported at SGL 223 on 9/12 (TK). **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported in JT 10/2 (RL, BD). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was first observed in JT 10/9 (RL, BD). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was sighted at LCR 9/12 (MLP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was last reported at EV 10/1 (MH). **Indigo Bunting** was last reported from RSP 8/9 (AL).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon (HU), Lake Perez (LP), Murray Run Rd. (MRR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Peace Chapel/Juniata College campus (PCJC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Seven Points Rec Area at Raystown Lake (SP), SGL 322 at Petersburg Pike (SGL322), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SEEC), Smithfield (SF), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

Every month of the 2018 fall season saw above well-above average rain. The season's total was 12 inches above average, nearly double the norm; September alone was over 5 inches above. Temperatures from August to October were moderately above average. November was cold, averaging 6°F below normal. Frequent cold winds of late October and through November brought the best hawk flight at Stone Mt. in several years, including an astonishing record 218 **Golden Eagles** for the season.

Some good news from last winter first: A Snowy Owl was noted by guards and inmates on the grounds of the Smithfield Correctional Institute in December 2017 (off limits to birders!). On Christmas Day, the owl was found entangled in razor wire, injured slightly. It was captured and taken to Centre Wildlife Care at State College. In late Nov 2018, St. Nick, as the bird was appropriately christened, was released, now healthy, a "lucky jailbird" as described by bander Wayne Laubscher.

The high count of **Tundra Swans** at SMHW was 750 on 11/11 (GG). Waterfowl reports were unremarkable. Among somewhat unusual finds were a female/fall **Surf Scoter** and a **Long-tailed Duck**, both at LP 11/9 (JK). The high count of **Hooded Mergansers** was a modest 12 in TCV 11/26 (AP). Twenty-six **Common Mergansers** at RL 9/18 was a good number, but well within expected range (AG). **Red-necked Grebes** are rare in fall; most reports occur in late winter or early spring of cold years when the Great Lakes freeze. One Red-neck

was at LP 10/25 (LF, JK, DW, et al.) and 2 were at SP 11/13 (AP).

Common Nighthawks were reported in modest numbers: 9 on 8/27 in HU (TK, DK) and 8 there 9/12 (AG), 7 at PF 9/11 (JK), and 6 at Warrior's Mark 9/3 (NW). In ENN, nighthawks were noted on 7 dates 8/23-9/5, in numbers ranging from 2-7 (DW). The only **Sora** was at LP 8/10 (NW), a suspiciously early fall date for a species not known to nest in the county, though it certainly may do so given the secretive nature of rails.

Shorebirds included 3 plovers and 13 sandpipers, excellent variety for *Huntingdon*. The best fall shorebird location in the county is often the complex of big fields at PF. In some years, crops are grown there that are harvested early, such as tomatoes this year, leaving a mostly bare soil surface that attracts shorebirds, especially if the season is wet, as it was this year. The following reports were all from PF, except as noted. **American Golden Plovers** were the big draw, present reliably 9/9-10/3, with a max of 8 (JK, m.ob., ph). Up to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** were present 9/2-18 (JK, EZ, JP, JB). **Killdeer** were present constantly, often in large numbers (m.ob.); the high count was 120 on 9/10 (JK, EZ). Probably the second county record, one **Ruddy Turnstone** was present 9/9-24 (JK, m.ob.). Representing a third county record, **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at PF 9/10-18 (m.ob.), with a max of 14 on 9/13 (JK, JP). Another third county record was provided by a single **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/8-11 (JV, JP, m.ob.). Up to 11 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were there 9/9-24 (JK, SB, m.ob.) and up to 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 9/10-14 (JK, EZ, m.ob.).

Elsewhere, 9 **Dunlins** were photographed over SMHW 11/4 (NB) and one was at OC 10/26 (LF). Four **Baird's Sandpipers** were at AR 9/13 (GG), furnishing the third county record. **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported from at least five locations (m.ob.). Late **Greater Yellowlegs** were 6 at OC 10/20 (SB, RD, LF) and 2 there 10/26 (LF).

Eighty **Bonaparte's Gulls** passed over SMHW 10/29 (NB). The high day for **Common Loons** at SMHW was 42 on 10/18, a rather modest number compared to some years (DK, et al.). **Double-crested Cormorant** flights at SMHW were topped by 52 on 10/12 (LF), 96 on 10/18 (NB), and 65 on 11/14 (NB). An **American Bittern** was at OC 10/6-7 (LF, DO). Rare anytime, but more so in fall, was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at OC 9/20 (LF).

Stone Mt. hawk watch results are summarized elsewhere in this issue. Overall, the season saw much better numbers than in 2017, thanks to many days of beneficial northwest or west wind. Most notable was the tremendous **Golden Eagle** flight. The season total of 218 topped the previous high on 171 (2015). On 10/29, a Stone Mt. one-day record 61 Golden Eagles were counted (NB, DK). Twenty more came on 10/30 and 25 on 11/3. The **Bald Eagle** count of 158 tied for second highest ever. Other species which topped long-term (23 years) averages were **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon**. The season total 3027 Broadwings was the second highest ever. Sharp-Shinned Hawk, **Red-tailed Hawk** and **American Kestrel** rebounded somewhat from dismal counts in 2017. Merlins were seen at five locations away from SMHW and Peregrines at three, including one seen on multiple occasions around Juniata College campus in HU (DO, LF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were widely reported in SV. An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was noted at SGL322 on three occasions in Sep (m.ob.). Singles flew by SMHW 9/18 (NB), 9/26 (GG), and 10/4 (TK, DK). One was at ENN 9/30 (DW). Three **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported with singles at MRR 9/7 (GG), LP 9/23 (BT), and LP 9/27 (JK), a typical fall showing. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SEEC 9/23 (LF, AG).

Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived in good numbers and winter finches in low or modest numbers. An **Evening Grosbeak** was heard over SMHW 10/30 (NB) and 2 were at SEEC 11/12 (JK). A **Common Redpoll** was photographed at HU 11/13 (LF). **Pine Siskins** were noted at over half a dozen locations, with a high of 35 at a feeder in SF 11/10 (TK, DK). Two **Lapland Longspurs** were at PF 11/16 (JK), and one was still there the next day (LF).

The only **American Tree Sparrow** report was of one at SF 11/10 (TK, DK). The first **Fox Sparrow** was at SEEC 10/25 (DW, JS); 5 were at MRR 11/14 (GG, DG). Not often reported in fall, a **Vesper Sparrow** was at PF 10/3 (JV, JK, MB). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was well-described at BA 10/26 (LF). First **Lincoln's Sparrow** was 9/29 at MRR (GG, DG) and 2 late Lincoln's were at PCJC 11/14 (DO).

Twenty-four species of warblers were reported, slightly below average for fall. **Tennessee Warblers** were widely reported. Single **Mourning Warblers**, not reported annually, were at SEEC 9/10 (DW) and 9/30 (AG, CG, DvG), and at HU 10/1 (LF). Also unusual in fall, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was

photographed on the campus of Juniata College 8/25 (AG).

A flyover **Dickcissel** was heard at Juniata College 8/25 (AG). A good count of 15 **Bobolinks** flew over a field on SCR 8/29 (GG). The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was of 8 at PCJC 11/14 (DO).

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Indiana County

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

First 3 **Tundra Swans** arrived 10/24 (AK, JK) at YC, the third earliest date on record for the county, with the earliest 10/19/1992 (DS, ES); maxima included 80 observed plus another heard only flock at YC 11/10 (LC, SD, MH, RH, SM) and 105 over a yard near SH 11/11 (MH, RH). These numbers do not begin to compare with the highs prior to 2010.

Ducks appeared in low numbers this fall at YC. All waterfowl reports were at YC unless otherwise noted. Last dates included 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) for **Wood Duck**, 10/9 (LC, RC, SD, TG, DM) for **Blue-winged Teal**, and 11/20 (LC, MH, RH) for **Northern Shoveler**, all at YC. **Gadwalls**, which normally linger into Dec., were last noted 11/17 (LC, MH, RH, GL); 6 was the high tally 11/13 (LC, PF, MH, RH). A single **American Wigeon** remained through 11/13 (LC, PF, MH, RH). **Mallards** peaked at 59 on 11/13 (LC, PF, MH, RH). A hen **Northern Pintail** appeared in Little Yellow Cove 8/31 (MH, RH) and stayed through 9/18 (LC, TG, DK); 4 on 10/27 (LC, TG) were the only others reported. Fifteen **Green-winged Teal** on 10/20 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) were first arrivals; last noted were 8 on 11/20 (LC, MH, RH).

Two **Canvasbacks** arrived 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, DK), and numbers peaked at 22 on 11/20 (LC, MH, RH), the same day **Redheads** reached a mere high of 8; prior to 2012, it was not uncommon to have fall Redhead tallies in the triple digits. **Ring-necked Duck** maxima included 142 on 11/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and 101 on 11/13 (LC, MH, RH). A flock of an estimated 300 **Greater Scaup** on 11/20 (LC, MH, RH) is the largest YC raft on record; the previous high of 20 was sighted 11/2/2012 (CD). Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were photographed at Hemlock Lake 11/18 (AK, JK); two days later (LC, MH, RH) a YC count of 27 surpassed the previous high fall tally on record by 12. Fifteen were present 11/9/1997 (CL, GL). **Buffleheads** peaked at 67 on 11/10 (LC, SD, MH, RH, SM).

Five **Hooded Mergansers** were listed at YC 11/10 (SM); before 2012 maxima were consistently in the double digits. Found only on two dates at YC, **Common Merganser** sightings included 3 on 9/9 (MH, RH) and 4 on 11/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH); **Common Mergansers** are not found every fall at YC. A single **Red-breasted Merganser** appeared at YC 11/17 (LC, MH, RH, GL). This season's high YC **Ruddy Duck** tally of 195 was made 10/27 (LC, TG).

Best counts of **Common Nighthawks** included 10 on 8/28 (JP) at the White Twp. Recreation Complex and 5 near LV 9/18 (MC). **American Coots** at YC peaked 10/27 (TG) at 112, far below the normal fall highs going as far back as 1983 (MH, RH); many years top counts were well over 1000. Unusual was a large flock of 31 **Sandhill Cranes** flying over Hemlock Lake 11/21 (NV); there are no other fall records, and the largest "flock" previously reported 12/26/2014 (DC, MC) involved 2 individuals.

Little Yellow Cove provided mud intermittently this fall, depending upon the amount of rainfall. Two to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** were listed through 9/14 (DBe). A **Stilt Sandpiper** found 8/19 (LC) was still present later that evening (MH, RH). YC hosted a **Sanderling** 8/19 (LC, MH, RH) through 8/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, GL) and another 8/31 (MH, RH). Five **Dunlin** arrived at YC 10/23 (LC, PF, DK, TG, MH, RH, DM) and were still present 10/27 (MH, RH); these last three are species that we don't see every year. The only **Wilson's Snipe** noted were 3 that flew over YC during a heavy rain 8/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, GL) and one 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, DK), also at YC. **Greater Yellowlegs** were in short supply with only singletons noted between 10/23 (LC *et al*) and 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, DK).

A **Sabine's Gull** provided a second county record at YC 9/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL) through the afternoon of 9/11 (PW, RW) with many getting to see it. Four **Caspian Terns** at YC 9/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL) comprised the first fall sighting since 10/30/2012 (MH, RH *et al*). Fourteen **Black Terns** landed on YC Lake 8/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, GL) during a heavy downpour and started actively feeding once the rain abated; this is the second highest count on record with the high of 18 noted 8/12/14, also during a rainstorm. A single **Common Tern**, perched on a buoy 9/11 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, JKu, TK, GL, DM), was the first one reported since 9/8/13 (SG). A **Forster's Tern** at YC 9/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL) appeared to be banded.

Top counts at YC were 11 for **Common Loon** 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, DK) and 30 for **Double-crested Cormorant** 10/23 (LC, PF, DK, TG, MH, RH, DM); this was the highest cormorant count since 2012.

Merlin was sighted at IUP 8/2, 8/7, 9/23, 9/26, 10/14, and 11/6 (JT). The same bird was probably seen at Oakland Cemetery on 8/26 and 11/29 (MH, RH); another was present at YC 9/11 (LC, PF, *et al.*) and 9/12 (SR). A **Peregrine** flew over a yard near SH 11/4 (MH, RH).

Single **Philadelphia Vireos** at BS 9/18 (DK) and at IUP 10/1 (JT) were the only reports. A **Fish Crow** was still vocal at IUP 9/6 (JT). After an unsuccessful spring attempt to draw **Purple Martins** to the nest box at YC, 2 immatures appeared during a downpour 8/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, GL). Other last swallow dates, all at YC, were 9/14 (DBe) for both **Northern Rough-winged** and **Bank Swallows** and 9/11 (LC, PF, *et al.*) for **Cliff Swallows**.

Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared first 8/16 (MH, RH) near SH then appeared in at least nine other locations. **Brown Creepers** were noted at only three locations: near Homer City (LC), SH (MH, RH), and at YC (*m.ob.*), with most sightings beginning in Nov. Last **House Wren** was near LV 10/3 (MC); there are only seven other Oct records in our county, going back 30 years. Present at six locations between 10/13 (MH, RH) and 11/3 (SD), **Winter Wrens** were more widespread than usual. Last **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at YC 11/17 (JaP, JP).

Only 2 **Veeries** were noted this fall: singletons at BS 9/4 (DK) and at Laurel Lake Camp 9/15 (KL). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were spotted at BS, the county's Gray-cheek hotspot, 9/23 (MD). The last **Swainson's Thrush** was listed at YC 9/27 (TR). A **Hermit Thrush** at IUP's Co-op Park 10/23 (JSk) was the season's lone report. A **Wood Thrush** at BS 10/2 (DK) was noted on the second latest date on record with the latest being 10/6/1995 (RH). One to 2 **Pine Siskins** visited four *Indiana* feeders between 11/1 (MH, RH) and 11/24 (MC) then disappeared.

An **Eastern Towhee** lingered in IN through 11/10 (JP). First **American Tree Sparrow** appeared near LV 11/22 (MC); amazingly this was the only Nov report. A **Fox Sparrow** lingered near SH 11/19-29 (MH, RH) and at YC 11/10-20 (*m.ob.*); another was a one-day wonder near IN 11/22 (SD). Top **White-crowned Sparrow** count of 10 was achieved near LV 11/30 (MC); this was the third largest fall flock on record with the top tally of 14 near IN 11/9/2005 (DJ). Most **White-throated Sparrows** did not appear till well into Oct, but earliest were 2 near LV 9/28 (MC), a more normal arrival date.

Last **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported at IUP's Co-op Park 10/23 (JSk). YC harbored the latest **Orchard Oriole** ever 8/21 (LC, MH, RH, DK, GL) and LV, the latest **Baltimore Oriole** 9/23 (MC); the previous respective last dates were 8/13/12 (BC) and 9/19/98 (KT, SW). Only two locations hosted **Rusty Blackbirds**: YC where the high was 49 on 11/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and the LV area where 19 were listed 11/5 (MC) and 39 on 11/13 (MC).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a nice find at BS 9/23 (MD); there are only seven previous county records. Two **Nashville Warblers** at BS 9/14 (DK) comprised the entire fall report for this species. A late male **Common Yellowthroat** chipped then popped up from the weeds across from the YC maintenance building 11/13 (MH) but could not be relocated for the rest of the group; this represented our first Nov record. The only **Palm Warbler** reports were of 2 at YC 10/5 (ST), one at IUP 10/7 (JT), and one near SH 10/17 (MH, RH). Three **Pine Warblers** remained at YC 9/27 (TR). The only **Prairie Warbler** noted was near SH 8/27, 9/6-7, and 9/12 (MH, RH). A **Wilson's Warbler** visited a yard near SH 9/11-12 (MH, RH); this was the only report for *Indiana* this year, including both spring and fall.

A **Scarlet Tanager** and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 10/3 (MC) and an **Indigo Bunting** 10/6 (MC), all near LV, were last.

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Jefferson County

Locations: Brockway (BR), Cloe Lake (CL), DuBois PennDot Wetland (DW), Five Bridges Trail (FB), Fordham Lake (FL), Galusha Road (GR), Kyle Lake (KL), Lipp Road (LR), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Mill Road (MR), PA Rt 949 (Rt 949), R & B Lane (RL), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Richardsville (RV), Ringgold (RG), Shields Road (SH), State Game Lands #244 (SGL 244), Toby Creek Trail (TB), Winslow Pond (WP).

The highlight for the period for *Jefferson* had to be the ongoing story of the first ever recorded **Trumpeter Swans** breeding in Pennsylvania, a pair on a beaver pond west of RV (LC). The swans hatched one cygnet and the family was last observed in mid-Oct. Other highlights included the highest ever count of 4 **Greater Yellowlegs**, found on FL 10/20 (AK, JK), and a highest count ever of 17 **Purple Finches** in RG 10/23 (AK, JK). *Jefferson's* first **American Bittern** was found at DW 10/16 (SH). A bright white **Great Egret** was seen numerous times on FL 10/15-11/1 (AK, JK). Six **Evening Grosbeaks** on GR 11/4 (RK) was the third time this species has been noted here.

Waterfowl for the period included a high count of 120 **Canada Geese** on FL 11/11 (AK, JK), and a high count of 45 **Tundra Swans** on RL 11/20 (KA). Another high count was 19 **Wood Ducks** on TB 8/5 (TS). Two **Gadwalls** on WP 11/11 (JS) and 2 **American Wigeon** also on WP 11/11 (JS) were the only ones seen. One **Common Goldeneye** was observed twice on CL 11/18 (NV) and 11/21 (AK, JK). Oddly, only one **American Coot** was recorded for the period, on FL 9/30 (AK, JK).

Osprey was at CL 8/15 (AK, JK), and 9/20 (AK, JK). One of the resident **Bald Eagles** was found on the MS 10/22 (AK, JK), and the only **Red-shouldered Hawk** for the period was at KL 11/22 (AC, BS).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** on the RB 8/10 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and an **Eastern Kingbird** on SH 8/10 (MH, RH) were the only reports of those species. Other species reported only once included 13 **Horned Larks** on MR 11/17 (NV, BV), 2 **Tree Swallows** on the FB 8/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and one **Cliff Swallow** on the RB 8/31 (AK, JK). The season's first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in RG 9/5 (AK, JK). Numerous sightings of this species were recorded for the rest of the period. The only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was on the MS 10/23 (AK, JK) and 5 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were first, also on the MS 10/16 (AK, JK).

Single **Hermit Thrushes** were on the TB 8/5 (TS) and on the RB 8/10 (MH, RH, FM, JM). The only **Wood Thrush** was heard in SGL 244 on 8/12 (JG, TG). Just 3 **Brown Thrashers** for the period were all on the MS 8/24 (AK, JK). Two **American Pipits** was a nice find at CL 11/17 (NV, BV), and the following day 4 more **American Pipits** were there (AK, JK). A high count of 11 **Pine Siskins** were the first ones noted for the season in RG 11/4 (AK, JK). They were reported a number of times again through the season. The only **American Tree Sparrow** was noted on LR 11/17 (NV, BV). **Fox Sparrows** were observed twice: one in RG 11/17 (AK, JK) and 3 on LR 11/17 (NV, BV). The first arrival of **Dark-eyed Junco** in southern *Jefferson* is always interesting to track, and that took place this year in RG 10/17 (AK, JK). This species is found year round in wooded areas in the northern part of the county. Two **White-crowned Sparrows** on the MS 10/22 (AK, JK) were first, and the season's first 3 **White-throated Sparrows** were also on the MS 10/16 (AK, JK).

A total of 14 warbler species were recorded for the period, among these were only one **Ovenbird**, on the FB 8/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and one **Black-and-white Warbler** also on FB 8/17 (MH, RH, FM, JM). The last **Common Yellowthroat** was in BR 9/25 (NW). Three **Hooded Warblers** were on the RB 8/10 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and one was on the MS 8/18 (AK, JK). Last **American Redstart** was observed in BR 9/25 (NW). Two **Cape May Warblers** in RG 9/22 (AK, JK) were the only ones noted, and the last **Magnolia Warbler** was on the

FB 9/16 (JG, TG). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was on the RB 8/10 (MH, RH, FM, JM). The last **Yellow Warbler** for the season was one on the TB 8/5 (TS), and the last **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found on Rte. 949 on 9/2 (DK). The only 2 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were also found on Rte. 949 on 9/2 (DK). A high count of 4 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were on the MS 10/16 (AK, JK) and the last **Black-throated Green Warbler** was in BR 9/25 (NW). Lastly, a **Wilson's Warbler** at FL 9/3 (AK, JK) was a nice find.

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Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing, Juniata River (CC), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Mifflintown (MIF), Thompsontown River Access (TRA).

Not often reported in *Juniata*, a **Long-tailed Duck** was at Parson's Pond 11/29 (CK). Fourteen **Common Mergansers** flew by CC 8/20, an unusually high number for Aug (CK). **Common Nighthawk** was reported only twice, both at CC, with one 9/11 and 4 on 9/22 (CK). Finding shorebirds is a challenge in *Juniata*; aside from **Killdeer**, the only other report was of 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** at TRA 9/3 (JT). Among several reports of **Great Egret**, the maximum was 4 at Schick's pond in LCV 8/5 (DB). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at CC 9/22 (CK) and LCSS 10/1 (DT).

Chubb's Rd. in eastern *Juniata* held 2 uncommon species 9/3: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and **Philadelphia Vireo** (DH). First **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in LCV 9/11 (DB). An **Evening Grosbeak** was in LCV 11/11 (DB) and a **Common Redpoll** at MIF 11/15-16 (CK), both documented by photo. The first **Pine Siskin** was in Oakland Mills 10/14 (HP). Siskins attended a LCV feeder regularly beginning 10/29, with a peak of 15 on 11/24 (DB). Fifteen siskins were also counted at a MIF feeder 11/15-16 (CK). Warblers were scarce, with 17 species reported, all expected.

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Lackawanna County

Locations: Chapman Lake (CL), Corby Swamp (CS).

Despite persistent rain showers and thunderstorms, *Lackawanna* had a relatively exciting period. The most noteworthy waterfowl observations were of **Surf Scoters**; a single female visited CL 10/10 and remained through 10/16 (MM) followed by a county high of 17 at Gravel Pond 10/14 (TD). Two infrequent county sandpipers also made appearances this period. The first was the observation of 2 **Least Sandpipers** at the lake beside Hillside Park in South Abington Twp. 9/5 (KD). Following were 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at CS 10/28 (DT). Another exciting find included Lackawanna's first **Caspian Terns**, 2 at CL 8/2 (MM). **Great Egrets** frequented the bodies of water throughout the season, ultimately producing a total of 15 sightings at three separate locations (m.ob.).

Marsh Wren is sparse across much of the state, thus one at CS 9/27 (TD) was significant. County highs of 17 **Eastern Meadowlarks** and 4 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were tallied at Archbald Pothole S.P. 10/5 (TD). The expected migratory warbler species were observed, but rare was a single **Mourning Warbler** at Lackawanna S.P. 8/23 (TD).

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Tony DeSantis, Kathy Detweiler, M. Mack, David Trently.

Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd Farm Pond (BRFP), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Ephrata Twp Community Park (ETCP), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Groffdale Farm Field (GFF), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dowart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Prescott Rd (PR), 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), Susquehanna SP (SSP), SGL 52, SGL 156, SGL 220, Susquehanna W.T.P. Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Average low and high temperatures were 87/68°F in Aug (83/63°F historical average), 74/60°F in Sep (76/55°F), 65/41°F in Oct (65/43°F), 50/32°F in Nov (54/35°F). Rainfall Aug-Sep was severely elevated at 15" where normally we receive less than 8". Migrants seemed in short supply overall. Any distribution notes (more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. A total of 240 species were recorded during the period.

An early **Ross's Goose** obliged Big Sit observers at MCWMA and continued from 10/13-15 (BC, ZM, JW). Several **Brant** were found 10/12 including 2 at MCWMA (BC) and one at SRCF (JHor, m.ob.). Reports of **Cackling Goose** at MCWMA were one 10/14 (MD, ZM), one 10/26 (BC), and 2 on 11/2 (BC); one was at BRFP 11/27 (DS). A late male **Blue-winged Teal** was described at MCWMA 11/23 (SBe). Lone **Canvasback** were at CGNA 11/13 (CG), ETCP (FB, m.ob.), and SRCF 11/25 (BC, EW). The drake **Redhead** continued around SRCF all season, previously injured by duck hunters. A **Surf Scoter** was found at MCWMA 11/2 (DH). **Common Mergansers** were not found breeding this year, but 7 were at SRCF 8/30. Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MCWMA 10/16 (P&RW).

The last sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were 10/10 at a Conestoga home (TC), a Peach Bottom home (BS), and MRR (LB, BH), and 2 at a Lititz home 10/11 (CB). The female **Rufous Hummingbird** that visited a Quarryville feeder for 3 straight seasons did not return this year, but an adult female was banded at a Mount Joy home 11/11 (SL). A **Virginia Rail** was at WEP 10/12 (ME) where they are breeders. **Soras** were found at WEP 9/5 (ZM) and CGNA 9/1-10/10 (m.ob.). A **Sandhill Crane** showed at MCWMA for the Big Sit 10/13-14 (BC, EM, m.ob.), 2 were there 11/23 (CS), and another at OR 11/7-8 (m.ob.).

Many of the shorebird observations were made at SRCF. Due likely in large part to the double-than-normal rainfall Aug-Sep, numbers were very depressed at this traditionally vibrant location. Many birds made use of flooded fields instead, following the Susquehanna R to find habitat. Notable was one New Holland field (GFF) that held a variety of 14 species in Sep. Seven **American Avocet** were recorded at SRCF: 4 on 8/10 (JBoo, ME, m.ob.), 2 on 8/25 (ME, m.ob.), and one 9/26 (ML). An adult **Black-bellied Plover** was in a Manheim farm field 9/1 (DB), a juv. 9/12-13 at GFF (ZM, m.ob.), and a flyover there 9/28 (ZM). **American Golden-Plovers** were numerous, with at least 3 at a Manheim sod farm 9/2-12 (ME, m.ob.), one on 9/9 at MCWMA (BC), one at SRCF 9/19 (ME, ZM) and 4 there 9/23 (ME), and at GFF a minimum of 6 were present 9/12-29 (ZM, m.ob.) and 2 were there again 10/14 (MD, ZM). **Upland Sandpipers** continued from Jul at LA, with 7 on 8/4 and the final count of 3 on 8/17 (ZM, m.ob.). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was seen briefly at SRCF 10/12 (JHor), the first since 2012. A **Marbled Godwit** was heard and seen in evening flight over an Akron home 10/2 (BC). At SRCF an adult **Ruddy Turnstone** was photographed 8/4 (ME, ZM), an adult and 2 juv. were there 8/19 (m.ob.), and another 3 were present 8/25 (ME). **Sanderling** records spanned 8/4-10/27, encompassing about 12 individuals mostly at SRCF (m.ob.). **Dunlin** sightings were fairly few, with notable instances of 10 at SRCF 10/12 (ME, TN) and one at OR 11/7 (PF, DH, BH, RS, WW). Five juv. **Baird's Sandpipers** were documented as follows: at SRCF one 8/30 (ZM) and one 9/7-8 (ML, ZM, EW), at SVTF 2 from 9/2-3 (ME, JHou, SM) and one 9/12 (ZM), and lastly one at GFF 9/15-16 (PF, ZM, DS). **Least Sandpiper** numbers were very low, cresting at just 40 at SRCF 9/7 (ZM). Notable **White-rumped Sandpiper** reports were made of 14 at GFF 9/10 (ZM, m.ob.) and one at OR 11/7 (PF, DH, BH, RS,

WW). Single juv. **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were photographed 9/11 at SVTF (ME) and GFF 9/15 (ZM, P&RW). Good finds at OR were 13 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 10/23 and a late individual 11/7 (PF, DH, BH, RS, WW). Two **Western Sandpipers**, an adult and juv. were noted at SRCF 8/30 (ZM ph.), possibly with an accompanying second juv. A young "**Western**" **Willet** enjoyed the SRCF 8/4-7 (ME, ZM, m.ob.).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was observed around SRCF 9/1-2 (EB, JBe, KD, m.ob.), and another on SRLC 9/8 (JR, KR). **Laughing Gulls** appeared in the county as they do each fall, with observations coming at SRCF 9/2, 10/3, 10/7, and 11/17 (m.ob.), at OR 10/9 (CG), and a juv. at MRR 10/22-23 (TA). An adult **Franklin's Gull** was documented at SRCF 10/12 (JHor, ph.). **Black Tern** were missed in large flocks as often show on SRLC in mid Aug, with only pairs at SRCF 9/2 (ME) and MCWMA 9/9 (BC). **Common Terns** were regular at SRCF, with 2 on 8/19 (BC, ME, ML, ZM, EW), 3 on 9/1 (ME), and one 9/23 (ME). An exceptional 28 **Forster's Terns** were seen on SRCF 9/23 (ME). A **Red-throated Loon** on the Susquehanna R near Peach Bottom 11/18 was the only sighting (BS). A **Snowy Egret** was seen in flight at SRCF 8/30 (DS), and a juv. was on the Conowingo Creek near Quarryville 10/13 (TA). Three juv. **Little Blue Herons** were found in a tight window, at a Manheim pond 8/18-19 (BB, ME), along Mill Creek in New Holland 8/18 (EM, ZM), and SRCF 8/21 (EW). A young **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at AM 8/3-6 (DH, TC, EB), and another was at SRCF 9/7 (ZM). The prior juv. **Glossy Ibis** at MCWMA was last reported 8/6 (CB). As mentioned in the summer report, we were astonished to host a juv. **Roseate Spoonbill** for the second season running, but the observation was brief. Then, on 8/23 at RFP came another spoonbill report (BL), which in all likelihood was the same bird! Predictably, the next day it had made its way to SRCF (ML ph.), and remained here delighting observers for almost 2 months. The final sighting was 10/12 (ME, TN), when a young Peregrine Falcon stooped on the bird it was last seen flying off over the Susquehanna R. to the south.

Several **Golden Eagles** moved through starting late Oct, with a juv near a Peach Bottom home 10/22 (BS), an adult over a Wrightsdale home 11/2 (SB), an adult and juv. at MCWMA 11/10 (ME, FB), and a juv. there again 11/12 (DH). Three nearly fully-grown **Barn Owl** nestlings were present in a nestbox at a Mt. Joy farm 9/2 (JHe). An early **Merlin** was noted at a Marietta home 8/23 (ML).

Always a nice find, solitary **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports were made at a Kirkwood farm 8/18 (CG), and at MCWMA 9/3 (BC), and 9/15-16 (JC, ME). Six **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were documented: at CGNA 9/1 (WY), SGL 52 on 9/3 (ZM), SGL 156 on 9/12 and 9/18 (ME), MCWMA 9/15 (JC), and SGL 220 on 9/16 (BC, PF, CG). An **Eastern Phoebe** persisted at NDP 11/24 (JBoo, JMul). Ten **Philadelphia Vireos** were found from 9/3-10/1 (m.ob.). Up to 8 **Cliff Swallows** hung around Wissler's Run at MRR in Aug, some feeding young. Regionally rare, a **Black-capped Chickadee** was seen at CGNA 11/17 (ME). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** invaded in force as they did in 2016, with reports beginning 8/19 at SRCF (BC, ME, ZM, EW). Very rare during migration was a juv. **Sedge Wren** discovered at SRCF 9/30 (BC, EW). A **Marsh Wren** was also seen there 9/30 (BC, ME, ZM, EW), along with one at CGNA 10/6-8 (FZ, m.ob.) and 3 there 10/7 (ME). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** lingered to 10/7 at CGNA (EB, ME, TN), and another to 10/10 at an East Petersburg park (JH). Early Nov brought a flight of **Evening Grosbeaks** to the feeders of a fortunate few for the first time since 2012. Single birds were observed 11/3 at a Fertility home (BP ph.), a Marietta home 11/10 (BL), and on 11/12, one was at an Ephrata home 11/12 (NR ph.) and 4 were at a Bridgeport home (*fide* NR). **Purple Finch** irrupted as well, with over 1000 birds tallied in the month of Oct alone according to weekly eBird data totals. Fall 2010 was the last season to rival this one, with frequencies on checklists around 20-40% from Oct to early Nov. **Pine Siskin** arrived in the first moderate flight since 2015, to the tune of about 300 birds recorded beginning 10/14. A **Vesper Sparrow** was viewed at at MRR 8/2 & 8/5 (TA), and another at SRCF 11/4 (BC, EW).

A marginally late **Northern Waterthrush** was seen near a Manheim home 10/10 (PB). A female-type **Golden-winged Warbler** mixed with a small gleaner flock at MCWMA 9/1 (BC). Late **Tennessee Warblers** were discovered at OR 11/7 (PF, DH, BH, RS, WW) and a Gap home 11/15 (PF). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were recorded at CGNA 10/7 (ME) and NDP 10/14 (MD, IG) and 10/19 (ZM). A single **Connecticut Warbler** at LCCP 9/19 (WY) was the only one found this year. Single **Mourning Warblers** were seen at OR 9/20 (LB), MCWMA 9/22 (FB), and NDP 10/5-6 (SM). A **Common Yellowthroat** was discovered at RFP 11/20 (BL). An adult male **Cape May Warbler** frequented a suet feeder at a Marietta home from 11/24 (ML), where it remained

into the winter. A **Magnolia Warbler** was photographed at NDP 11/4 (GD, ZM). A late adult male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was discovered at NDP 11/7 (SM). Two **Pine Warblers** were present with a gleaner flock at SFL 11/14 (BC). The most astounding find of the year was an adult male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at NDP 10/13 (SM, *doc submitted*, m.ob.). Many observers were delighted to view and photograph this bird, which continued to be seen nearly every day through the period. This represented the first record for *Lancaster*. Single **Wilson's Warblers** were viewed at NDP 10/13-14 (TN, IG) and LCCP 10/24 (PF, m.ob.). A male **Scarlet Tanager** was photographed at an East Petersburg home 11/4 (KG).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Vosler Road, Washington Twp. (VR), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (WNGM).

Nine **Snow Geese** and 139 **Tundra Swans** descended on VSM 11/11 (GK). Up to 8 **Blue-winged Teal** persisted at WNGM for most of Sep (MV). A somewhat late **American Wigeon** was still at Edinburg Lake 11/23 (MV). Rather rare in *Lawrence* especially in fall, single **Canvasback** were at the former Three Rivers gravel pond in New Beaver 11/3 (MV) and at VR 11/17 (MV). A **Redhead** sat on Edinburg Lake 11/3-23 (MV). Top count of **Ring-necked Duck** was just 33 at SR 11/10 (MC). An impressive 48 **Common Mergansers** were gathered on the Glacial Sands gravel pond along Rte. 108 on 11/24 (MV). Good numbers of up to 44 **Ruddy Ducks** were around Plain Grove Twp. and nearby in the second half of Nov (m.ob.).

The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was one at SR 9/3 (MC). Counts of up to 9 **Common Gallinules** were made at WNGM, a breeding location for the species, through 9/30 (MV). An somewhat early **American Coot** appeared with the gallinules at WNGM 9/30 (MV). Top count of **Sandhill Cranes** in the VSM area by season's end was just 28 on 11/2 (DK, KD, et al.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at SR 9/16 (GK, MAK). A few **Semipalmated Sandpipers** trickled through: one in Plain Grove Twp. 8/14 (BB), one at SR 8/21 (MC) and 2 at SR 9/16 (GK, MAK, MH, RH). The only report of **Greater Yellowlegs** was of 2 at SR 9/8 (GK, MAK). Thirty-two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SR 11/11 (GK), an unusually high count for this species in *Lawrence*. There were 23 still there the next day and one persisted to 11/17 (m.ob.). Early **Common Loons** included one at Mason Road 8/14-19 (BB) and one at Brent Road 9/15 (MV). Quite surprising was a very late **Great Egret** found by an observer at VSM 11/11 (MD) who had some to see the Snow Geese, two species not often mentioned together in these parts. Single **Merlins** were at SR 10/14 (AP, SA) and in Liberty Twp. 11/2 (MC).

A **Northern Shrike** returned to SR again this year, first noted 10/30 (MC). It was seen by several observers through 11/8, but it likely persisted beyond that date. A late **Tree Swallow** was at SR 11/10 (MC). First **Red-breasted Nuthatches** of this invasion year appeared at BS 9/29 (JF, MJ). An **American Pipit** was at VSM 10/30 (MC), and the only **Lincoln's Sparrow** of the season was at BS 10/14 (AP, SA). Six **Eastern Meadowlarks** were still holding on at VSM 11/17 (MC).

CORRIGENDUM: An observer (GW) of the historic flock of at least 49 Whimbrels at SR 5/20/2018 was inadvertently omitted from the details of that

record in Volume 32, No. 2 of this journal. The author regrets this unfortunate error.

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Lebanon County

Locations: Balmer Ponds (BP), Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Cedar Crest Retention Pond (CCRP), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd Ponds (FXP), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Gretna (MG), Quitapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Snitz Creek Park (SCP), South Hills Park (SHP), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP), Weavertown Rd (WR).

A shorebird bonanza and a winter finch invasion were two highlights of a memorable fall quarter. Record rainfall and *Lebanon's* core of very active birders produced rare shorebirds in unusual numbers. One of this year's best shorebird locations was in normally dry South Hills Park.

A **Brant** was at MLSP 10/15 (IG, TB, DM, MC, TN, ME). It was a good fall for **Blue-winged Teal**. Up to 12 were at FXP 8/16-30 (P&RW, JE, MD, ML, m.ob.). Single digit counts were reported from seven different locations 9/1-10/25 (JH, EH, P&RW, SW, m.ob.). A female **Canvasback** was reported at MLSP 11/18 (ST). Accidental in August was a **Lesser Scaup** at QEW 8/2 (P&RW). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MLSP 10/27 (JH, P&RW), a single was at MLSP 11/17-19 (JH, MC, P&RW, IG), and 4 were there 11/24-26 (JH, IG). A **Ruddy Duck** provided a new county early date at FXP 8/5-13 (TB, KB, P&RW).

An **Anhinga** was reported at 2Mtn 10/4 (FW). The flooded fields southeast of Lebanon attracted large numbers of **Great Egrets**. Some of the better counts were 18 at BP 9/1 (JH), 15 at FXP 9/7 (DH), and 25 at the Miller Farm Pond off Reistville Rd 9/28 (P&RW). A **Cattle Egret** was at BP 8/3-23 (TB, KB, SW, MS, ME, TK, P&RW, MD, m.ob.). **Black-crowned Night-herons** were more common than usual this fall. A juvenile was in Palmyra 8/17 (SW), and 5 were at the Myerstown Quarry 8/22 (P&RW). Balmer's Pond was the hotspot, with up to 5 Black-crowned Night-herons seen there 8/22-9/10 (MD, JH, P&RW, m.ob.). A **Glossy Ibis** moved between BP and nearby FXP 8/11-20 (P&RW, MS, JHo, TK, JE, JEv, TB). Two were in the same area 8/23-30 (MD, FH, ML, DK, EH, SS, m.ob.), and one was at BP again 9/21 (P&RW).

Two **Northern Goshawks** made for a nice day at 2Mtn 10/10 (RS, m.ob.). **Merlins** were reported from seven county locations 9/7-11/26 (BM, SW, TB, P&RW, JH, IG, m.ob.). A Merlin and two **Peregrines** were harassing the shorebirds at FXP 11/4 (MD). A Peregrine was also at FXP 10/29-30 (DK, m.ob.), and at FIG 10/9 (SW).

A **Virginia Rail** was calling from the flooded fields at BP 8/12 (MH, EZ, EH). A **Sora** was heard at WR 9/15 (DS). A juvenile **Common Gallinule** was at SDP 9/24-10/7 (P&RW, ME, SW, JHo, m.ob.) and one turned up at BP 10/9 (P&RW).

A **Black-bellied Plover** made brief appearances at FXP 10/29 (DK, EZ), and 11/1 (EH). Up to two **American Golden-Plovers** were at FXP 8/29-9/1 (SS, EZ, P&RW, TB) and one was there again on 9/6 (SW). Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were found in five different locations 8/4-9/9 (m.ob.). Six were at FXP 9/9 (DH). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at FXP on a new county late date 11/19 (P&RW), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at WR also on a new county late date 11/12 (JH). Up to 4 **Hudsonian Godwits** brought many birders to FXP 10/28-11/4 (FZ, P&RW, JH, SSc, ME, MD, m.ob.). Eight very late **Least Sandpipers** were at WR 11/12 (P&RW). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at SHP 8/26-29 (MS, JH, TB, TK, P&RW), with a single one there 9/15 (P&RW). One was at WR 10/9 (P&RW). The flooded fields at FXP were a White-rumped Sandpiper hotspot from 9/28-11/5 (P&RW, SW, JH, FZ, EZ, m.ob.). Fifteen were counted there 10/31 (JDe). A single **Baird's Sandpiper** was at SHP 8/26-30 (JFe, NF, CC, JH, m.ob.). On 9/1 three were at SHP (JH, JHo), along with two others at nearby CCRP (JH, P&RW). Four Baird's were at

SHP 9/2 (JH, P&RW, MH, BBr), with two remaining 9/3-7 (P&RW, ME, JH, SW, m.ob.). Unusual numbers of **Dunlin** were at FXP 10/20-11/5 (m.ob.), including 87 counted there on 10/27 (JH). Four more were at WR fairly late 11/12 (P&RW). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at SHP 8/9-10 (P&RW, SW), from 8/20-29 (TB, JH, ME, P&RW, TK, m.ob.), and again 9/6-8 (ME, JH, P&RW). One was at FXP 8/29 (EZ), and again 10/28-11/2 (JH, ME, IG, SW, DH, m.ob.). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at SHP 8/27-29 (JH, TB, TK, MS, P&RW). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at FXP 8/7 (DH), and also at SHP 8/23-25 (MD, JH, ME, P&RW, m.ob.).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at MLSP 11/9-10 (JH, ME, SW). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were part of the mixed flock at MLSP 11/17 (JH).

Barred Owls were heard at FIG 8/13 (TC, KD) and SGL 156 on 10/30 (JH). It was a good fall for **Common Nighthawks**. Two were over Cornwall 8/28 (P&RW), with four there 9/2 (P&RW). Two were at MLSP 9/1 (JC); four at MG 9/1 (EF); and one was near Lebanon 9/18 (TK). Fifteen Common Nighthawks provided an excellent count at SSP 9/2 (CC, NF, BB, BBr, m.ob.). A Common Nighthawk provided a new county late date over Ono 10/4 (TB). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was lingering at FIG 9/13 (IG). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at FXP 8/12 (CE), and SHP 8/12 (EH). One was at ML 9/2 (TB, KB) and 11/18 (ST). Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were at FIG 11/24 (JH).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at SGL 145 on 8/23 (MC), 9/15 (P&RW), and 9/26 (P&RW). One was at FIG 9/13 (SW). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found at SGL 145 on 9/6 (P&RW). **Philadelphia Vireos** were rather scarce. One was at SGL 145 on 9/30 (JHo) and another was at MLSP 10/7 (MC). A **Red-eyed Vireo** provided a new county late date at SDP 10/18 (P&RW). Up to 15 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found on a new county late date at QEW 10/20-21 (JH, ME, TN). Thirty **Bank Swallows** were reported at FXP both 8/28 (P&RW) and 9/9 (DH). Sixty Bank Swallows were at MLSP 9/10 (IG). Six **Cliff Swallows** were at FXP 9/9 (DH).

It was an invasion year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. The first was reported at MG 9/1 (EF), with many reports from various locations thereafter (m.ob.). A **Marsh Wren** was photographed in the cattails at QEW 11/1 (TBu). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was calling over SGL 211 at dawn 10/1 (TB).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was skulking in the brush at SGL 145 on 11/18 (JH). A record-late **Nashville Warbler** was near Newmanstown 11/8 (JW). Up to 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** also provided a new county late date at QEW 10/20-21 (ME, TN, JH), but another Blackpoll was later yet at CA 10/26 (P&RW). Up to three **Connecticut Warblers** were found at SSP 9/21-10/1 (TB, SW, P&RW, JH). A Connecticut Warbler was also at SGL 156 near CA 9/24-30 (JF). A **Mourning Warbler** was at SSP 9/29 (JH).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at MLSP 10/17 (P&RW). Twenty-two **Savannah Sparrows** provided a new county high count at SL 10/10 (IG), and 20 were still there 10/19 (IG). Good counts were provided by 10 **Fox Sparrows** at 2Mtn 11/10 (JH), and 7 at MLSP 11/24 (JH).

Lingering from the spring quarter was a **Blue Grosbeak** along Chapel Rd at MC 8/20 (TB). Two **Dickcissels** were reported at SSP 8/9 (BR). There were 45 **Rusty Blackbirds** at FXP 10/28 (JH), and one was at SGL 145 on 11/17 (RP).

In this finch invasion year, the first of many **Purple Finch** reports came from SGL 145 on 9/20 (P&RW). Numbers and locations increased rapidly. The first **Pine Siskin** was reported from CSP 9/30 (JH), with 4 there 10/14 (JH). Single digit siskin counts were reported from many locations thereafter (m.ob.). A good count was 24 at a feeder in the Newmanstown area 11/8 (JW). Nineteen were at SGL 145 on 11/9 (JH). Three **Evening Grosbeaks** graced a feeder near Lebanon 11/13 (GR).

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Lehigh County

Total species reported from *Lehigh* this season was 182. This report benefits greatly from data posted to eBird, as well as from information gathered from various listservs and social media platforms, particularly the Facebook page of the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society. Notes and totals from the 58th 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 (KB, BH). Additional BOK reports came from individual observers. BOK totals are unofficial, and will be detailed in a future issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*.

The first **Snow Goose** flock of the season (a small one) was about 20 at Haafsville 11/15 (DN). A **Brant** was photographed along an Emmaus roadside 10/21 (JF). Our only **Cackling Goose** report was of 2 at Fogelsville Quarry 10/25 (FD). A few **Blue-winged Teal** and **Northern Shovelers** were at Cetronia Rd 9/7 to 10/14 (max 3 each). Leaser Lake held an attractive male **Surf Scoter**, which was photographed 10/30 (TE). **Long-tailed Duck** also made an appearance at Leaser 11/18 (JHi, MB).

Reports of migrant **Common Nighthawks** were a bit more consistent than in recent years, with tallies from at least a dozen areas 8/30-10/5. The max count of 20 was noted over DeSales University in Upper Saucon (PH). **Chimney Swifts** put on quite a show returning to various communal roost sites in Sep and early Oct. Peak late Sep estimates of well over 1000 birds came from Raub Middle School in Allentown on several evenings. There were over 600 at Saint Francis of Assisi, also in Allentown (SB), and about 300 at a roost in Cementon (CK). This was only the second fall season in a decade where no vagrant western hummingbirds were confirmed in *Lehigh*.

A group of 3 **Dunlin** photographed at Krock's Road was arguably the only shorebird highlight this season (KD). Ten other more common shorebird species were reported around the county, mostly in very small numbers. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was a nice find at Leaser Lake 11/18 (MB). Also at Leaser, a **Red-throated Loon** was seen by many 10/21-11/14. Schantz Rd in Macungie held a congregation of 14 **Great Egrets** 9/18 (JG). The probable highlight of a round of golf near Coopersburg 8/16 was an adult **Glossy Ibis** in a puddle along fairway #3 (ph. EB). This was one of only a handful of county records.

The 58th hawk watch season at Bake Oven Knob, high atop Blue Mountain near Germansville, began 8/15 and ended 11/26. During this time, 12,105 raptors were tallied passing by the Knob (KB, weekday counter, BH Sunday counter and daily compiler). A few highlight flights for the season were 29 **Golden Eagles** 10/21, 314 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/12, 34 **Bald Eagles** 10/12, and 1666 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/16. Away from BOK, there were a few other raptor highlights. A Golden Eagle passed over Upper Saucon 10/26 (PH). From the same site, a stunning raptor thought to be an albino **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed 11/19 (PH). **Northern Goshawk** was at Leaser Lake 11/10 (FD). Over the past few years, Bald Eagle reports from around the county have become too numerous to sort through, so I will offer that as a piece of excellent news and move on. In addition to BOK's seasonal total of 72 **Peregrine Falcons**, birds were also reported from Albutis 9/22 (JV), Catasauqua Lake 9/20 (MC), and thrice from Upper Saucon 9/24 (2), 10/5, and 10/12 (PH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported 9/11 near Fogelsville and 9/22 at Catasauqua Lake (MC). **Tufted Titmouse** is not mentioned often, if ever, in this report. Unfortunately, this cheerful, familiar bird must be noted here for its relative absence of late. As some measure of the situation, Tufted Titmouse is usually reported to eBird daily in *Lehigh*, often in high numbers and within many lists per day. The status quo seems to have begun to alter around mid-Oct. Frequency of reports was demonstrably low the following month: for the entire month of November, just *ten* eBird lists included Tufted Titmouse (this despite no dip in the quantity of eBird reports for the county). It is hoped that Christmas Bird Count data, and ensuing reports within the next few issues of this journal will shed some light on the apparent recent distributional changes of this species within the region. Hopefully this is a seasonal anomaly. A more typically scarce bird here is the **Marsh Wren**. One spent a few days at a reedy area of the DeSales campus in Upper Saucon beginning 9/26 (PH). There was a nice push of **Purple Finch** through the county, with daily reports 10/24 to 11/11. The max count of 12 was at Albutis 10/26 (JV). Outside this window, there were reports from two different areas 11/25. **Pine Siskin** had a similar pattern, with near-daily reports 10/14-11/14, and outlier records as early as 9/15 at Haafsville (ph. DN), and as late as 11/25 elsewhere. The max count (at least 25) came from Upper

Saucon 10/22 (PH). **Snow Bunting** made an appearance at the hawk watch at BOK 10/31 (DG). **Vesper Sparrow** was reported from Leaser Lake 8/19 (KG) and Krock's Road 10/6 (KD). The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** for the season was reported to eBird from Leaser Lake 9/2 (PD). **Rusty Blackbird** was once again scarce, with just one report of 2 birds at Upper Saucon 10/31 (PH). Finally, the bird rounding out this report is the highlight of the quarter *and* of 2018 here, so far anyway. A **Townsend's Warbler** was found and photographed as it passed by Bake Oven Knob 9/15 (SK – accepted by PORC, Class I). The likelihood of this bird being recognized *and* sufficiently documented among a quick moving migrant warbler flock is extremely small. Good fortune favors the prepared, and the observer was able to snap at least two clear photos displaying field marks necessary to eliminate similar species. Of the few Pennsylvania records, none appears to be earlier in fall, though slightly earlier fall records do exist in the Mid-Atlantic. An excellent find and a first county record!

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Luzerne County – no compiler

Lycoming County

Locations: Indian Park - Montoursville (IP), Mill Street (MS), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam (WD).

The rain from the summer continued into the early fall, and water levels on the river and creeks were quite high for the most part. The rain contributed to favorable shorebird habitat in farm field puddles, and *Lycoming* had what was probably its best shorebird season ever, with Nisbet in particular being a shorebird magnet in mid-September. Unfortunately, mosquitos were intolerable at many of the best hotspots, leading to little birding at those locations. RVL was one of the spots that did not have an abundance of mosquitoes, leading to a very good fall for that hotspot, since weekend birding was primarily focused there. There was a significant early snowstorm in mid-November, but no notable bird reports came from that. Three shorebird species provided first county records, and there were good records among other family groups as well, such as finches. In total, 193 species were reported, which was two more than the fall of 2017.

The **Snow Goose** at IP that first arrived in Mar continued throughout the entire fall season. Additionally, a flock of 75 was reported migrating over Lime Bluff Park 9/29 (WE). A lone **Brant** was photographed at the Williamsport Regional Airport 9/27 (JB). A **Cackling Goose** was at the pond at IP 10/18 (BB, DeB, BoB), and flew off close to dusk with a flock of Canada Geese. A flock of 20 **Tundra Swans** migrated over RVL 11/10 (BB, DeB), providing the only sighting of that species during the fall. The only **American Wigeon** of the fall was at RVL 9/20 (RH, KC). A **Mallard x American Black Duck** was seen a few times at IP during Nov. A **Northern Pintail** was at IP 11/24-25 (BB, DeB, BoB). A few **Green-winged Teal** were present in Nisbet 9/18 (AK, BB, DeB, BoB, SP). **Canvasbacks** were a bit more abundant than most years, with several reports from RVL in Oct and Nov, along with a flyover of 4 in Montoursville 10/12 (BB, DeB) and one bird on the pond at IP 11/21 (BB, DeB, BoB). A **Redhead** was at IP 11/25 (BB, DeB, BoB). Three **White-winged Scoters** were at WD 11/2-4 (JD, BB, et al.), and 2 were at RVL 11/18 (BB). A **Black Scoter** was at WD 10/27 (BB, DeB, BoB, MD), and the species was seen several times at RVL during Nov. A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen from the Rte. 15 Overlook 11/3 (BB, DeB, BoB), and another was seen at RVL 11/4 (BB, DeB). **Common Goldeneyes** were seen at RVL 10/21 (SP) and 11/23 (BB, DeB, BoB), and one was observed at WD 11/23 (JD).

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were found in a puddle in Nisbet 9/18 (AK, et al.). Up to 10 **Semipalmated Plovers** were present in Nisbet in mid-Sep. One was also at WD 9/9 (BB, et al.). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was found in Nisbet 9/15 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP, et al.), and continued at the location through 9/18. That sighting provided the first *Lycoming* record of the species. **Least Sandpipers**

were seen more frequently than most years. Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were observed flying over Nisbet 9/18 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP), providing another first *Lycoming* record. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found in Nisbet 9/15 (SP, BB, DeB, BoB, et al.), which was another first *Lycoming* record. The species was seen at the same location in subsequent days, with at least 3 individuals present 9/18 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP) and 9/19 (BB, DeB, BoB). Typically a rarity in *Lycoming*, **Pectoral Sandpipers** became relatively common in Nisbet for about a week in mid-Sep, including at least 15 individuals present 9/18 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP). Additionally, a flock of 42 flew over a residence along Lycoming Cr. 9/16 (SP). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at WD 9/9 (MD, BB, DeB, BoB). The species was also mixed in with the other shorebirds in Nisbet during mid-Sep, with the highest count 6 on 9/17 (AK). Five **Red-necked Phalaropes** were actively foraging at WD 9/18 (MD, JD, BB, DeB, et al.), providing the third *Lycoming* record of that species. A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at MS 10/27 (BB). **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were both seen several times during Sep and Oct.

There were a few sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at RVL during Oct and Nov. Ten **Herring Gulls** flew past the Rte. 15 Overlook 11/22 (BB, DeB). Nine **Caspian Terns** were at RVL 9/9 (BB, SP), and one dropped onto a puddle in Nisbet 9/18 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP). A **Black Tern** was seen flying over the river at Nisbet 9/15 (BB, et al.). A **Common Tern** flew by WD 8/13 (BB), providing the first known fall record of that species for *Lycoming*.

An **American Bittern** was briefly seen at RVL 10/13 (BB, DeB, BoB, DanB). High water levels on the river limited favorable habitat for **Great Egrets**, and numbers were much lower than recent falls, with only a few scattered reports in Aug and Sep.

Golden Eagle sightings at the Rte. 15 Overlook included one 10/19 (AK), 2 on 10/21 (BB, DeB), one 11/3 (BB, DeB, BoB), and 2 on 11/22 (BB, DeB). The species was also seen over IP 11/11 (BB, DeB) and Montoursville 11/17 (BB, DeB, BoB). The best day for **Broad-winged Hawk** migration was 9/16, with more than 1000 migrants flying over Montoursville in 2 hours (BB, DeB), and high numbers were recorded elsewhere in the county that day. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at RVL 10/28 (BB, et al.), the species was seen in Jackson Twp. 11/17 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 11/20 (EH), and one migrated by the Rte. 15 Overlook 11/22 (BB, DeB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at the Rte. 15 Overlook 8/19 (BB, DB), and 2 were reported at Little Pine SP 9/3 (EH). A **Northern Shrike** was found in Jackson Twp. 11/17 (BB, DeB, BoB), which was the first report of one in *Lycoming* since Feb 2016. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at WD 9/16 (BB, DeB), along with sightings at RVL 9/19 (BB, DeB) and 10/13 (BB, DeB, BoB, DanB).

A late **Barn Swallow** was at RVL 10/27 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 10/28 (NF). A **Marsh Wren** was at RVL 9/19 (BB, DeB), and at least 2 were present at the other side of the lake 10/21 (SP). Some fairly large flocks of **American Pipits** were found during the fall, including at least 175 at Mill Hill Rd. 10/20 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP) and at least 150 in Nisbet 10/27 (BB, DeB, BoB).

Evening Grosbeaks were confirmed at five locations during late Oct and Nov, with most of the sightings consisting of small flocks. It was a relatively strong fall migration for **Purple Finches**, with numerous sightings. Two **Common Redpolls** were reported visiting a feeder outside of Montoursville 11/17 (EH). A **Pine Siskin** was seen and ph. at a feeder in Duboistown 8/17 (EC), and the species was also observed in decent numbers later in the fall when they are more expected.

Five **Snow Buntings** were seen along Rose Valley Rd. 11/21 (AK), and a few were seen in Cogan House during the second half of Nov.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was still present at MS 8/20 (BB). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at RVL 11/23 (BB, DeB, BoB), providing the fifth known *Lycoming* record, and the first record outside of May/Jun. **White-crowned Sparrows** were more plentiful than the prior fall season, with scattered sightings in late Sep, Oct, and Nov. The highest count of **Lincoln's Sparrow** during the fall was 11 on 10/7 at SGL 252 (BB, AK), with smaller counts scattered around the county during the expected timeframe.

Along with being seen in some of the expected places early in the fall, an **Eastern Meadowlark** was at RVL 11/18 (BB, SP). **Rusty Blackbirds** were pretty scarce during the fall, with 5 at RVL 11/11 (BB) and one at South Williamsport Park 11/13 (BB, DeB).

The only report of **Worm-eating Warbler** during the fall was in Waterville 8/2 (JH). There was a late **Northern Waterthrush** at WD 9/30 (BB, DeB, BoB, MD). A **Mourning Warbler** was found at SGL 252 on 9/23 (BB, DeB, SP, AK).

Cape May Warblers were seen in good numbers during the fall, including a high count of at least 14 at RVL 9/17 (BB, DeB). **Magnolia Warblers** were abundant at times, including at least 12 at RVL 9/17 (BB, DeB). There was a very late **Yellow Warbler** at WD 9/29 (BB, et al.). The only report of **Prairie Warbler** during the fall was in Ralston 9/11 (NF). A very late **Black-throated Green Warbler** was seen at RVL 11/11, which was the first Nov record of that species in *Lycoming*. **Wilson's Warblers** were at RVL 9/9 and 9/27 (BB, DeB).

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McKean County – no compiler

Mercer County

Locations: Airport Road (AR), Buhl Park (BP), Cannery Road (CA), Chestnut Run (CR), East Cornell (EC), East Zahnizer Road (EZ), Golden Run (GR), Grove City (GC), Halfway Road (HR), Jamestown (JA), Jefferson Township Park (JT), Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Leesburg (LE), Mahaney Recreation Area (MR), Millbrook Road (MB), Maurice Goddard State Park (MG), Mercer (ME), Old Fredonia Road (OF), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), Reed's Furnace Road (RF), Riverview Manor (RM), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Skunk Run (SK), State Game Lands 130 (S130), State Game Lands 270 (S270), Sharon (SH), Sharpsville (SV), South Barry Road (SB), Transfer (TF), Triple Link (TL), Trout Island (TI), West Lake Road (WL), Williamson Road (WR).

Before getting to the seasonal summary, I want to mention Neil Troyer whom I met through Suzanne Butcher and Bartramian Audubon. Neil is an avid birdwatcher and was compiler for *Mercer County* from 2011-2017. When he asked, I took over the compiler's position in summer 2017 knowing that Neil's would continue to provide assistance as well as his extensive knowledge of the area and its birds to guide me. This also introduced me to a county with exceptional areas to find birds. Neil and his family are relocating to Kentucky and I will miss his guidance. I want to thank Neil for all he has contributed to the understanding of the birdlife of *Mercer*. Thank you, Neil!

The highlight of the fall season was the first *Mercer* record of a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, seen and photographed at PR 8/10 (JM). Throughout western Pennsylvania, 11/11 was a good day for waterfowl. At SL were 100 **Snow Geese** (MW), 4 **Cackling Geese** were at LL (NT), and 100 **Tundra Swans** at SV was the highest number reported (SS, MHo). **Mute Swans** show up periodically. This season 4 were at MB 11/30 (JMC, SS, KS, MHo). Otherwise, waterfowl were scarce, notable reports included one **Gadwall** at BP 11/18 (MHo, SS), one **Redhead** at LL 11/25 (NT), 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** at LL 11/29 (NT), one **Bufflehead** at BP 10/25 (SS, MHo), 2 **Common Mergansers** at GR 10/25 (JMC), and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at BP 10/7 (SS, MHo, JMC) and at LL 11/11 (NT).

Northern Bobwhites were not reported this period. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were periodically reported throughout the county with a high count of 4 at GR 10/5 (JMC). Only one **Red-necked Grebe** was found: 11/1-2 at MG (JMC, KS). Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at SK 8/31 (NT) and BP 10/1 (SS). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was also at SK 8/31 (NT). **Common Nighthawks** were seen throughout Aug to 9/3. Oddly, only one at a time was ever seen (m.ob.).

Two **Virginia Rails** were at PS 8/14 (BB), and one **Common Gallinule** was there 9/15 (JMC). This is a traditional area for these birds. A nice group of 4 **Sandhill Cranes** was seen at OF 11/18 (KS).

This fall was not very conducive for shorebird migration. Substantial rainfall throughout the period left Shenango Reservoir high and unable to be brought down enough for shore birds by season's end. Only 11 species were reported for the period with nothing unusual. The highest day for shore birds was 8/12 when 7 species were reported, all at PR: one **Semipalmated Plover**, 4 **Least Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, one **Spotted Sandpiper**, one

Solitary Sandpiper, one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and one **Greater Yellowlegs** (AP). The season's first **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noted 10/21 at LL (NT). One **Common Tern** at LW 9/25 (NT) was a nice find.

Common Loons included 4 at LW 9/25 (NT), 2 at GR 10/25 (JCM), and the highest count for the season was 6 at MG 11/11 (JMC). A surprising sight was an **American Bittern** over I-79 at Grove City 8/15 (CK). No Least Bitterns were found in TL during the season, surprising after a pair was heard during the summer.

A nice flight of **Broad-winged Hawks** was noted at WR 9/15 (NT), A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at WR 11/25 (NT), and another was on AR 11/30 AR (GK, NT, HT), hopefully the start of a good winter season for them.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were again found in several locations, including TI and PR, but BP was the most consistent site for them (m.ob.). **Merlins** were noted at WR 9/18-10/15 (NT).

A single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SR 9/2 (NT) and at MR 9/11 (JMC) Willow Flycatchers were still calling until 9/25 at WR (NT). A single **Eastern Phoebe** still present at WR through the end of the period (NT). Vireos were seldom reported but **Philadelphia Vireo** was at TI 9/12 (KS) and SK 9/11-27 (NT). One **Red-eyed Vireo** was still at JA 10/18 (MW).

A very good find was a **Common Raven** flying across the *Mercer/Lawrence* border along I-79 on 10/10 (NT). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen 8/3-10/8 with the highest count of 19 at SR 10/6 (BW). **Tree Swallows** continued at WR until 11/3 (NT).

Portending a good season for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, the first birds arrived 9/1 at MR and continued throughout the period (m.ob.). Highest count was 31 at MR 10/30 (MHo, SS, KS, SAH). The only **Marsh Wrens** were 2 at PS 8/4 (JMC). **Winter Wren** was uncommon: 2 were at GR 10/5 (SS) and 2 were at BP 10/14 (SS, MHo, JMC).

Surprisingly for migration, only **Swainson's Thrush** and **Wood Thrush** were reported. Swainson's twice: at BP 9/13 (SS) and at SH 9/23 (SS). Wood Thrush were reported sporadically with the highest count 3 at SR (AP, JC).

A sign of a winter finch invasion to come, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** were at WR 10/21 (NT). **Purple Finches** are breeders in *Mercer* so scattered reports are common. **Pine Siskins** started showing up in late Oct, with 7 at S130 (NT), 2 at OF 11/2 (KS), 6 there 11/3, and 12 on 11/12.

Seven **Lapland Longspurs** at EZ 10/21 (NT) were the only ones reported. The first 3 **American Tree Sparrows** were at S130 on 10/30 (NT). Other sparrows came through around their normal times. **Vesper Sparrow** seen at EZ, a known location, 10/21 (NT), **Fox Sparrows** were noted three times: singles at MR (JMC) and at RF (JMC) 10/31 and 3 at S130 on 10/30 (NT), **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at WR 9/19-10/30 (NT) and one was at MR 10/13 (JMC). **White-throated Sparrows** began showing up 10/3 at MR (JMC) and continued through the period mostly at feeders. Only report of **White-crowned Sparrow** was made at OF 11/2 (KS).

Two late **Bobolinks** were at EZ 9/30 (NT). One **Orchard Oriole** was still at WR 8/30 (NT). High count of **Red-winged Blackbirds** was 500 in a mixed flock at CA 11/13 (JMC, SS). This mixed flock also contained 250 **Rusty Blackbirds** and 2000 **Common Grackles**. **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen periodically from 10/3-11/13.

It was a fairly uneventful warbler migration this year with only 24 species noted. Most reports were made 9/6-27 and most were of only one individual. There was a good flight at GR 9/22 with the following highlights: **Mourning Warbler** at SK 9/16 (NT), 7 **American Redstart** (SS,JMC), **Cape May Warbler** at LW 9/17 (NT), 21 **Magnolia Warbler** (SS,JMC), 18 **Bay-breasted Warbler** (SS,JMC), 2 **Blackburnian Warbler** (SS,JMC), 2 **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (KS), 11 **Blackpoll Warbler** (SS,JMC), **Pine Warbler** at WR 10/6-7 (NT), 22 **Black-throated Green Warbler** (SS,JMC), and **Canada Warbler** at SK 9/2 (NT).

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Mifflin County

Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW) Victory Park (VP) Cooper's Gap Rd (CGR) Bunker Hill Road (BHR).

The fall season concluded with 141 species, falling well short of the 2017 fall season of 158 species. The number of checklist submitted into eBird for the 2018 fall season of 141 was also well below the previous season of 216 checklists. Total number of species for the year through November 2018 was 199, only 4 short of 2017.

American Coots are not often found outside VP and Juniata River; one individual was observed on BHR 11/22 (JZ) and 11/23 (RD). Shorebird reports this season were scarce with one plover and 6 sandpiper species. Highlights included one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on Cemetery Road 8/4 (JZ), one **Wilson Snipe** on Mechanic St 11/1 (JK), and representing a new county record, one **Short-billed Dowitcher** on Cemetery Road 8/3 (RD) and 8/4 (JZ).

At JMHW, 469.5 hours of observation were logged, falling short of the 4-year average of 563 and dropping significantly from the 2017 season of 625.5. This was in part due to many days of rain and fog that prevented counters to maintain the watch. Although observation hours decreased, the species numbers for the most part did not follow. The overall raptor count was slightly above the 4-year average with 6341 total migrants. Total **Broad-winged Hawk** was slightly above the 4-year average of 3656, with 3702 and a high count of 1775 on 9/16. Other high day counts included 248 on 9/15, 226 on 9/18 and 806 on 9/20. **Golden Eagle** counts on Jack's were not as good with 137, short of the 3 previous years; counts of 152, 144, and 151. **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and **American Kestrel** all exhibited counts above the 4-year average, including a season record of 21 **Merlins**, exceeding the previous record of 19 in 2016 (DS, et al).

Two **Barn Owls** were heard outside Reedsville 8/23 (RD). One male and one female Barn Owl along with two nestlings were observed at Bella Vista Farm outside Milroy 9/30 (JK). This was certainly unusual and noteworthy given four young were banded in late spring and the seasons two nestlings represented the pair's second clutch of the year. Double-clutches in Barn Owls are rare and occur when the first clutch fledges in April and May.

Two species that are elusive in the county and rarely found outside fall migration were reported on CGR: one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 8/23 and a high count of 3 **Philadelphia Vireos** 9/20 (RD). Very large flights of **Blue Jay** were observed throughout the east following a poor acorn, beechnut, and hazelnut crop in the north. Many of these flights were noted along the coast and at migratory pinch points, but some flights were noted in the Ridge and Valley region too. A high count of 178 on JMHW 9/27 (JK) and 40 10/5 (KT) were noted in *Mifflin*. Three **Red Crossbills** were reported at JMHW 11/8 (JK). Twenty-three species of warblers were noted, two more than the 2017 fall season. Highlights included one **Wilson's Warbler** outside Reedsville 9/5 (RD) and one **Prairie Warbler** on Back Mt Rd outside of Milroy 9/12 (RD). **Yellow Warblers** are often not reported beyond mid-August, so a late report of 2 at VP 9/23 (RD) was noteworthy.

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Monroe County

Locations: Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center (KCEEC), Long Pond (LP), Summit Lake (SL),

Weather-wise the period was wet with record rainfall totals in November. Bird-wise it was highlighted by some nice shorebirds, a winter finch "teaser", and a hummingbird rarity. On a bittersweet note, I will be stepping down after twenty years as *Monroe* compiler. I would like to thank everyone who has ever submitted a report during this time, and I also want to say thank you to Tom Clauser who provided much needed guidance to a greenhorn compiler just getting started back in 1998. The new *Monroe* compiler is Rick Wiltraut. I am very grateful to Rick for taking on this responsibility. He can be contacted at wiltraut@pa.gov.

High waterfowl counts included 8 **Green-winged Teal**, 10 **Lesser Scaup**,

and 16 **Ruddy Ducks** at SL 10/18 (BJ). The following shorebird reports were all from BJ unless noted otherwise. A high count of 55 **Killdeer** was tallied in a tilled field in LP following hard rains 9/11, and 9 **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at SL 10/19. An excellent find was the well-photographed **White-rumped Sandpiper** at LP 9/11 in the same field as the previously mentioned **Killdeer**. An exceptional count of 25 **Pectoral Sandpipers** made at SL 10/19 was in addition to the 10 **Dunlin** found there on the same day. Another product of the hard rains on 9/11 was the beautiful **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** that dropped into the same LP field as the **Killdeer** and **White-rumped Sandpiper**. The shorebird "hit parade" for BJ started when he found and photographed a **Wilson's Phalarope** near the Mt. Pocono Airport 8/23.

An above-average total of 85 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded during Pocono Avian Research Center's fourth season of Project OwlNet at KCEEC (DS). The banding season ran from 10/18 to 11/11. The Bird of the Season honors went to the adult female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** that frequented feeders in a Saylorburg yard in Nov (RW). This bird first appeared in early Nov and was suspected to be a possible Black-chinned based on photographs (ph. RW). The hummingbird then disappeared for about a week and then reappeared 11/18. Positive identification was made when the bird captured and banded 11/19 (SW). Believed to be only the third confirmed record for the state, the bird was last seen the morning of 11/22 (RW).

Sharing the same Saylorburg feeders with the Black-chinned Hummingbird was a female **Baltimore Oriole** present the week of 11/19 (RW). A **Common Redpoll** was a fly-over in Saylorburg 11/21 (RW), and single **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported at feeders near Marshalls Creek 11/10 (NT) and Saylorburg 11/16 (RW), and 2 were at a Mt. Pocono feeder 11/7 (BJ).

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Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Haverford College (HC), John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (MG), McKaig Nature Education Center (MNEC), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The region experienced one of its wettest ever autumn seasons in 2018, a continuation of the year's rainy trend. Roughly 26 inches of precipitation fell in the Philadelphia area Aug-Nov, double the usual amount. No major hurricanes or tropical storms were responsible for this water bonanza either, only a steady, regular deluge of smaller storms. Shorebird habitat, as could be expected, was minimal and miserable. This helped lead to a total species count of 211, well below the period average (since 2013) of 216 species. Some great birds were among the 211, however.

It's not too often that *Montgomery* gets to boast of a first state record, but fall 2018 brought one of those. During an evening walk at DMP 10/2, an unusual bird was spotted poking around a pile of rocks adjacent to the trail (BD). The videos the observer was able to capture with his phone may have not been as crisp as could be captured by a high-end camera, but, illustrative of the power of the device that the majority of us carry in our pockets daily, they were good enough to confirm the identity of a bird rarely seen east of the Mississippi. It was a **Rock Wren**, Pennsylvania's first on record. Throngs descended on DMP to see the wren for themselves over the next several days. To give an idea of volume: the Rock Wren was reported 203 times by 172 eBird users over the course of its 13 known days at DMP. Those numbers do not include birders who do not use eBird, nor do they include people who were unsuccessful in their searches for the often-uncooperative wren. The actual number of birders trying their luck at spotting the bird was likely much higher. The Rock Wren was observed at DMP 10/2-12 (doc. submitted), patrolling the same stretch of stones daily. After 10/12, it disappeared, hopefully safely moving on to a different locale.

Two other state review list species/subspecies were spotted this season. A flyover **Bicknell's Thrush** was recorded over Elkins Park during the night of

10/13 (PD, vr.). At the opposite end of the county, in Pennsburg, a possible county-first **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** was found 11/20 (PH, ph., doc. submitted). It was seen for just fifteen minutes that day and did not return in the days that followed.

Although huge numbers of **Snow Geese** were never observed in the county this period, an estimated 1500 were viewed in a harvested corn field in Niantic 11/24 (MA). Single **Cackling Geese** were picked out of groups of larger geese at DMP 10/6 (SJ, KJ, ph.), a fairly early date for this species, as well as at GLP 11/5 (EZ, ph.) and 11/17 (ML). A high concentration of **Gadwall** was present at GLP later in the period, including top count of 107 on 11/1 (RK). An early **American Wigeon** was located at GLP 9/17 (PH, ph.). A storm the previous night may have led to the presence of 120 **Bufflehead** at GLP 11/10 (SG), the highest count of this species in *Montgomery* since a fallout event in Nov 2012. A male/female pair of **Common Goldeneye** was reported on a pond at PERT 11/9 (MG, KRo), likely a first for the location. A **Hooded Merganser** was seen at GLP on several occasions in Aug and Sep (m.ob., ph.), potentially an adolescent hatched there earlier in the year. A lingering Hooded Merg was also at ND 8/16-23 (SG, RyS, MR, ph.), another location where the species now seems to reside year-round. This is still a relatively new phenomenon for *Montgomery*. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted at GLP 11/5-6 (RK, KC, PH).

Although, as usual, the bulk of our **Wild Turkey** reports came from PERT (m.ob.), the top count of 13 was tallied at a more atypical location: a golf course in Horsham 11/20 (JR). Three juvenile turkeys were seen at GLP 8/24 (AM), and a group of 7 poults was observed with their mother near Bally 8/29 (MA).

A **Horned Grebe** was at GLP 10/22 (GF), the only one noted this season. Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported at VFNHP 8/5 (KRu) and, much later in the season, at DMP 10/8, foraging at the edge of the rocky area where the Rock Wren was seen (JiM). The Oct observation represented a new county late date in eBird.

Noteworthy higher counts of migrating **Common Nighthawks** included 164 at FWSP 8/27 (RC), 160 at PERT 9/1 (PD) and 143 at FWSP 8/30 (BM, et al.). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard vocalizing in Red Hill 9/22 (AC). A new high count for **Chimney Swift** was set on the evening of 9/4, when an estimated 2500 swifts were seen pouring into a chimney of a school in East Norriton (SF, EF, vt.). This number bested the previous high count by 1850.

Although a few **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** remained into the early days of Oct (m.ob.), none stayed particularly late. A first year female **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded in Lansdale 10/22 (SL) following at least one failed attempt. This hummingbird was observed almost daily 10/11-25 (RW, m.ob.). Curiously, the Lansdale Rufous was seen chasing another hummingbird into a neighboring yard 10/18 (RW). This second bird was never identified. Another late mystery-hummingbird was seen briefly at PERT 10/20 (CA).

A **Virginia Rail** was reported in Plymouth Meeting 8/25 (SGr). Based on Jul reports, it seemed likely the species summered at this location. An immature **Sora**, presumed to be a migrant, was found in a meadow at GWP 8/10 (PD, vt.). **American Coots** were scarce, with only 6 reports of one to 3 individuals 10/17-11/12, all from GLP (m.ob.) save one at WWP (JM).

Shorebirds were particularly tough to find this period, and of the species that were found, quantities were generally low. There were few standout finds. In all, only 11 species were reported, far short of the 5-year period average of 15.8. Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were in Hatfield Twp. 8/1 and 8/20 (both KR) and at WWP 8/13 (JM) and 9/2 (AM). Among scattered reports of **Pectoral Sandpiper** (m.ob.), 9 at WWP 10/20 (JM) represented the biggest quantity. Similarly, a group of 7 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in Hatfield Twp. 8/1 (KR) represented that species' maximum count this period. There were four reports of single **American Woodcocks** at PERT 10/20-11/1 (PD, AnM, MG), and another in North Wales 11/2 (MaR). **Wilson's Snipe** were noted at DMP in quantities of one or 2 on three days 9/30-10/9 (m.ob.).

A huge group of 92 **Bonaparte's Gulls** spotted at GLP 11/21 (VM) represented the third highest quantity of this species in *Montgomery* on record in eBird, as well as the highest count ever for autumn. Beyond that, Bonaparte's were seen at GLP in considerably smaller quantities of 1-6 on four occasions 11/3-25 (all SG). A single Bonaparte's Gull made an appearance at WWP 11/4 (CD, JM). A group of 3 **Laughing Gulls** flew over a yard at the edge of ESP 11/15 (EF), heading east. Whatever weather conditions were responsible for that trio also likely dropped 5 Laughing Gulls on the reservoir at GLP 11/16 (PH, ph.), the following day. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at GLP 9/23 (GF) was a few weeks earlier than usual, but far from an early record. Although GLP

Lesser Black-back counts in the months that followed were primarily in the single digits (m.ob.), there were four reports in the teens (m.ob.) and one sighting of 33 on 11/11 (WBH, et al.).

The usual small **Caspian Tern** congregation at GLP was back in Aug, including a high of 8 on 8/20 (PH). Single **Black Terns** appeared at GLP 8/4 (PH), WWP 8/23 (JM, CD, et al.) and GLP 9/13 (PH, EZ, ph.). Two **Forster's Terns** were seen at GLP 8/4 (PH). An unidentified tern spotted the previous day may have been one of those (PH).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at GLP 10/27 (SG, ph.), followed by a pair on 11/15 (RK, KC). **Common Loons** were scarcely more common than Red-throated. One Common was on the water at GLP 9/26 (KR) and a group of 3 flew over FWSP 10/20 (DS). The largest quantity of **Double-crested Cormorant** for the period was 140, also a FWSP flyover, 10/14 (SGr).

Migrating **American Bitterns** were found in Fort Washington 8/19 (PD, vt.) and 10/28 (PD, SGr), and at DMP 9/3 (AMe, ph.) and 10/23 (MR, m.ob., ph.). A **Least Bittern** observed in flight at GLP 8/20 (RK) was an unusual find, though they are so good at hiding, more may pass through than we realize. Perhaps even more unusual for modern times in *Montgomery* was a group of 4 **Cattle Egrets** at WWP 10/31 (CD, JM, BM, m.ob, ph.). Prior to this sighting, Cattle Egrets had not been confirmed in the county since 2010. A mildly late **Green Heron** was spotted on the banks of the Schuylkill at VFNHP 10/20 (SW). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were observed in quantities of up to 3 on four dates 8/11-9/7 at GLP (PH, m.ob.). There were four reports of single adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at ND 8/28-9/17 (MR, SG). No immatures were observed this season. There was some speculation that nesting attempts may have been flooded out due to the summer's heavy rains, or that nesting trees may have been cut down.

The Militia Hill Hawk Watch volunteers once again scanned the skies at FWSP in Sep-Oct, and accounted for all of the season's raptor high counts: 156 **Turkey Vultures** 10/21 (MM, SGr), 59 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 9/22 (MR, RC) and 10/21 (MM, SGr), 12 **Cooper's Hawks** 9/16 (SGr), 12 **Bald Eagles** 9/16 (RC, SGr), 11 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 10/24 (BV, RC), 17 **Red-tailed Hawks** 10/24 (BV, RC), 48 **American Kestrels** 9/22 (MR, RC) and 5 **Merlin** 9/15 (SJ, SGr). An all-time single day record **Osprey** high count was set 9/1, when an astonishing 85 migrated over the hawk watch (SJ, RC), easily topping the old 2011 record of 61. The period's **Broad-winged Hawk** single day high count was less remarkable, only 1677 on 9/22 (MR, RC). That was one of just three days that saw 500 or more Broad-wings at the hawk watch; the others were 613 on 9/19 (SGr, RC) and 512 on 9/30 (SGr, PW). During the big 9/22 flight, 924 Broad-winged Hawks were also observed flying over Pennsburg (PH). Single **Golden Eagles** were sighted from the hawk watchers at FWSP on five days 10/19-30 (m.ob.), at Lower Merion 10/21 (JW, DM, ph.) and Plymouth Meeting 11/3 (DB). A pair of Golden Eagles flew by Lower Merion 11/11 (JW, et al., ph.).

Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard at PERT 10/17 (PD, vr.) and HC 11/11 (SJ). There were eight reports of single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** 9/3-27 from an assortment of locations (m.ob.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen twice at PERT, 8/22 (AnM, MG) and 8/29 (MG). A late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was found at HC 10/17 (EK, ph.). Among 9 reports of **Least Flycatchers** (m.ob.), one stood out in being quite late. Observed in Fort Washington 10/3 (PD), this date represented a new county late date in eBird, and only our second Oct record. A late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was located at Lower Merion's Shortridge Memorial Park 9/30 (JW, DM).

A **Northern Shrike** at SGL 234 in Linfield was a nice find 11/11 (RiK, KJe, vr.). Unfortunately, with active hunting at this location through most of the week, opportunities for wider viewing were mostly unavailable, and the bird was not found again. A somewhat early **Philadelphia Vireo** noted a PERT 9/2 (PD) kicked off a handful of sightings of this species from elsewhere. There were five other reports 9/10-28, including a pair together, possibly eating berries, at ESP 9/28 (EF). Late **Red-eyed Vireos** were recorded at FWSP 10/22 (KR) and at PERT through 10/26 (MG).

Large quantities of irruptive migrating **Blue Jays** were counted throughout the region. Of ten reports featuring at least 100 jays (m.ob.), the highest total of 1126 was made at Pennsburg 9/30 (PH). An estimated 40 vocal **Fish Crowns** lined buildings in Harleysville 10/6 (WBH, KH). **Common Raven** was seemingly everywhere, reported 60 or more times in quantities of up to 3 (m.ob.).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows have evidently found some good eats at a water treatment plant between Heuser Park and VFNHP in King of Prussia. They remained there through the end of the period, with at least 5

present on 11/25 (BDi). A late **Purple Martin** was observed at GLP 9/11 (PH). The previous day, 9/10, 15 **Bank Swallows** were viewed at GLP (PH).

A small-scale irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees** occurred in fall 2018. They were infrequently noted at four locations in the northern portion of the county from 10/20 on (m.ob.), including a pack of 3 at GLP 11/3 (DH, et al.). The widespread irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was much more obvious. Not long after an initial sighting at PERT 8/20 (FB, HB), they were seemingly everywhere (m.ob.).

The usual handful of late **House Wrens** were found in weedy field locations (m.ob.), with the latest of these occurring at PERT 11/3 (PD). Though packing less star-power this year than in some previous years thanks to the DMP Rock Wren, single **Sedge Wrens** were back again at PERT 9/30 (SSh, RS) and at a different location in the preserve 10/2 and 10/6 (both PD, ph.). There was no evidence of attempted nesting there in 2018. **Marsh Wrens** were noted at 10 locations 8/19-10/31 (m.ob.), including at least 2 at DMP during early Oct's Rock Wren Frenzy.

A delinquent **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** dawdled by ESP until 9/28 (EF, ph.). Another was found in Franconia Twp. 10/13 (SG), but the latest gnatcatcher report of the season came from GLP 11/3-5 (JF, RK, ph.). There has been just one prior *Montgomery* report of this species from Nov or later in eBird data. Several late **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected, including one at HC 10/25 (EK, ph.). Twelve **Hermit Thrushes** were found at PERT 10/23 (PD), a goodly count of this species. Of five Oct reports of **Wood Thrush** (m.ob.), the latest one came from PERT 10/14 (MG). At least eight different **Gray Catbirds** were found in Nov (m.ob.).

A group of 46 **American Pipits** over ESP 10/25 (EF) represented the season's high count. Another flyover high count was the 230 **Cedar Waxwings** tallied during some skywatching in Pennsburg 11/8 (PH).

At least some degree of irruption was experienced in three "winter finch" species this season. **Evening Grosbeaks** were, by far, the least common of the three. Flyby birds were noted from VFNHP 10/30 (SGr) and Franconia Twp. 11/11 (SG). A group of 7 grosbeaks briefly visited feeders in Elkins Park 11/17 (BG), remaining for just 10 minutes. The irruption of **Purple Finches** was much more significant. Beginning 9/21, when a female-type was found during an American Birding Expo field trip to MG (NS, et al.), Purple Finches were soon found throughout the county (m.ob.). Careful skywatching led to a few high numbers entering the record books, including counts of 61 on 10/30 and 42 on 10/26, both from Pennsburg (both PH). **Pine Siskins** irrupted south as well, but didn't seem to be quite as prevalent as Purple Finches, and had a later start. The first one was noted flying over Salford Twp. 10/18 (WBH). Though most siskin reports were of small quantities only (m.ob.), a mob of 25 was seen in Lansdale 11/1 (RW).

Chipping Sparrows lingered at multiple locations in single digit counts through the end of Nov (m.ob.). Early **American Tree Sparrows**, all single birds, were observed at ESP 10/21-24 (EF) and Schwenksville 10/26 (MC). Twelve **White-crowned Sparrows** were at Norristown Farm Park 10/27 (SGr), a notable count of this species away from remaining farm country in the northwest portion of the county. **Vesper Sparrows** were observed in quantities of one or 2 at six locations during the limited window of 10/20-28 (m.ob.). Late **Lincoln's Sparrows** were located at ESP 11/15 (EF) and PERT 11/17 (PD).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, now thankfully moved out of warblers to a more taxonomically appropriate location, was a lucky find in a Salford Twp. powerline cut 10/14 (WBH, ph.). In addition to this bird representing a new late date for the county in eBird, it also appears to be the only Oct record.

A female-type **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found in the reeds of a wetland area in Fort Washington 10/15 (BR, ph.). Going off eBird data again, this represents just the second county record of the species and the first since 1977. A group of 162 **Bobolink** was counted at PERT 9/8 (PD). A single late Bobolink persisted there 10/23-27 (PD). Groups of roughly 250 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were observed at DMP 8/24 (BD, ED) and in Franconia Twp. 11/4 (SG). DMP seems to be a cowbird magnet in late summer/early fall, for reasons that are likely more clear to them than us. A half dozen single digit reports of **Rusty Blackbird** from five locations were better than nothing (m.ob.), and included 8 at VFNHP 11/24 (SS, ph.).

Perhaps due to unseasonably warm temperatures keeping insects active, or maybe to rain delaying migration, many warbler species lingered later than usual this season, such as an **Ovenbird** at GWP 10/14 (JuG); a **Nashville Warbler** at PERT 11/17 (PD); **Common Yellowthroats** at GWP 11/12 (SG) and VFNHP 11/24 (SS, ph.); a **Cape May Warbler** at VFNHP 10/28 (JG, ph.);

a **Northern Parula** at FWSP 10/22 (KR) and through 10/28 at PERT (AnM, MG); a **Magnolia Warbler** at HC 10/23 (SJ); a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at PERT 10/14 (PD); a **Yellow Warbler** at PERT 9/30 (PD); a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Heuser Park 11/22 (SGr); one or 2 **Palm Warblers** at WWP through 11/20 (JM, DE); a pair of **Pine Warblers** at GWP 11/12 (SG, ph.); single **Black-throated Green Warblers** at ND 10/29 (SG) and HC 11/6 (KJ, ph.) and a **Wilson's Warbler** PERT 10/9 (PD). The Wilson's Warbler actually represented a record late date for the county in eBird. Four solitary **Golden-winged Warblers** were found 8/25-9/10: VFNHP 8/25 (SGr), MNEC 8/26 (SGr, MR), PERT 8/26 (AnM, MG) and MNEC again 9/10 (SGr). A few **Orange-crowned Warblers** were also located, all as singles: HC 10/18-19 (EK, SJ, ph.), DMP 10/24 (PB, AB), Fort Washington 10/26 (BR, ph.) and High School Park in Elkins Park 10/28 (PD, vt.). The only **Connecticut Warbler** report came from MNEC 9/10 (SGr). Few **Mourning Warblers** were noted as well, found only at High School Park 8/23 (PD, vt.) and HC 9/15 (SJ). There were eight reports of **Hooded Warblers**, however, including a pair of males at MG 9/22 (PK, VS).

A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** spied carrying food at DMP 8/11 (PD, vt.) eventually led to a family group of 5, seen 9/8 (SGr). There were many Blue Grosbeak observations in the days between those two end points (m.ob, ph.), but none were detected at DMP after 9/8. Coincidentally, from 9/8-13, a juvenile Blue Grosbeak was seen at PERT (PD, ph.). An **Indigo Bunting** at PERT 10/19 (CA) was the latest of a handful of slightly late buntings (m.ob.).

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Northampton County

There were 23 species of waterfowl reported. Highlights included 2 early **Blue-winged Teal** at a pond on Silver Crest Rd., Bath 9/18 (BE). Also notable were 4 **Canvasbacks** at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 11/6 (MSa) and a **Red-breasted Merganser** at Echo Lake 11/6 (MSa). Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** were banded at private residences 11/9 (SL). The owners did not want the locations made public. Both birds were female.

Minsi Lake was drained for dam repairs more than a year ago and the lakebed has become a sea of sedge, grass, and cattails around a few pools of water and 2 flowing streams. Birds and other wildlife have taken advantage of this oasis for shelter and food. A **Virginia Rail** was found at Minsi 10/8 and 10/17 (MSa). **Sora** was seen 10/8-10 (MSa, BE). An **American Bittern** was found at the west end of the lake 10/7-11/11 (MSa, m.obs.). A **Cattle Egret** was at Seiple's Farm Pond 11/7 (MS). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Green Pond 8/15 (BE). A local resident of Nazareth found an injured **Least Bittern** in a residential area 8/7 and took it to the Jacobsburg EC. I do not know if it survived. It was not a good season for shorebirds as the only notable species was **Dunlin** at Seiple's Farm Pond 10/18 (BE).

Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from several locations. A bird seen on Best Rd. in Moore Twp. 9/12 (BE) was a continuing bird from summer. There was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Housenick Memorial Park 9/15-16 (RO, JY) and at Woodlands Hills Park 9/29 (MC). The dark morph **Gyrfalcon** that wintered in the area last winter returned on 11/7 (BS). It was reliable to see its first week back at several locations in E. Allen Twp. but then started moving around more as the Snow geese returned.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at Monacacy Nature Center Park

8/28-9/1 (LF, TE). This park was also good for **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26 (LF, SA). A late **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Monacacy Nature Center Park 9/18 (LF).

For sparrows and wrens, habitat is extremely important and Minsi Lake had exemplary environs. The lakebed is 117 acres with grasses and marsh plants covering much of it. On 10/8, multiple **Sedge Wrens** were found (MSa, JH). A rare bird anywhere in Pennsylvania, they were reported through 11/11 with a high count of 6 on two occasions. Both juveniles and adults were seen but it is not known if nesting occurred. **Marsh Wren** was also present and up to 5 were seen 10/7-11/11 (MSa, m.ob.). Numbers of sparrows at Minsi were staggering with **Song Sparrow** and **Swamp Sparrow** being the most numerous. The high count for **Song Sparrow** was 200 on 10/21 (AM) and the high count for **Swamp Sparrow** was 166 on 10/8 (MSa).

A late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was observed at Housenick Memorial Park 10/10-11 (LF, CH). **Evening Grosbeak** was reported once near Roseto 11/5 (MSa). **Common Redpolls** were seen at Ballas Park 11/15 (MSa). There were a lot of reports of **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin**. They are not listed here since they were common throughout the state during fall migration. A **Lapland Longspur** was seen in a field on Green Meadows Rd. in E. Allen Twp. 11/16 (JM). Finally, a late **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Ballas Park 11/1 (LF).

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Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), County Line Road (CLR), Elysburg (ELY), Kipps Run Road (KRR), Old Swamp Road (OSR), Phillips Road Flooded Field (PRFF), Redman Acres Road (RAR), Riverside (RIV), State Game Lands 84 (SGL84), Sulpher Springs Road (SSR), Warrior Run Wetlands (WRW), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

Fall was an extremely wet season that caused flooding conditions in many areas of the county. In some of the Karst limestone areas near Turbotville, flooded fields created shorebird habitat that never existed in previous years. A combination of good habitat along with frequent storms that produced fallout conditions for southbound migrants resulted in many notable reports.

Rarely reported, a **Trumpeter Swan** was found at the AP 11/21 (AK). This was most likely the same bird seen in an adjoining county a few days earlier. **Northern Shoveler** was reported several times this fall including 2 at the AP 9/3 (EH), 4 at PRFF 9/22 (AK), 5 at RAR 9/23 (KP), and 3 at the AP 10/25 (AK). The only **American Wigeon** was a single bird that lingered at the AP from 9/3-10 (EH, AK). Two **Northern Pintails** were reported from the AP from 10/21-10/22 (SF, MK, LS). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed from the ATBD 10/21 (KP).

The season's only **Sora** was one individual heard at the WRW 9/22 (AK). An **American Coot** was reported from the AP 11/19 (AK). An unexpected **Sandhill Crane** was observed standing in a mostly dry PRFF 10/22 (AK).

Shorebirds were the highlight of the season as the nearly constant rain turned a small depression in a pasture along Phillips Road and the nearby flooded fields near County Line Road into hotspots. One **Black-bellied Plover** was found along CLR 9/18 (AK). Up to 3 **American Golden-Plovers** were reported in nearly the same location 9/18-19 (AK, KP). Reports of **Semipalmated Plover** included up to 5 at PRFF 8/14-31 (m.ob.), one at PRFF 9/9 (AK, KP), and one at PRFF 9/19 (AK). Up to 14 **Dunlin** were at the AP 10/18-27 (m.ob.). **Baird's Sandpiper** were reported twice this season: 2 at the PRFF 8/24-31 (m.ob.) and one at the PRFF 9/6 (AK). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were represented by up to 3 at the PRFF 8/24-30 (m.ob.) and one at the PRFF 9/19 (AK). **Pectoral Sandpipers** seemed to be constant, which is extremely unusual. Reports included up to 4 at PRFF 8/22-30 (m.ob.), up to 7 at PRFF 10/1-23 (MH, AK, KP) and up to 25 at the AP 10/18-25 (AK). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported from PRFF 9/6 (AK), 4 were observed at the AP 9/10 (EH, AK) and one was found at PRFF 10/2 (KP). One **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found at the AP 8/3 and again 8/25 (PW, RW), one was reported along CLR 8/11 (AK) and up to 3 lingered at the PRFF 8/12-30 (m.ob.).

As many as 8 **Wilson's Snipe** were at the AP 8/14-31 (EH, AK, PW, RW) and 6 were at the PRFF 8/13-25 (m.ob.). **Lesser Yellowlegs** became common this season; notable sightings included up to 23 at the PRFF 8/12-10/11 (m.ob.), up to 12 at the AP 9/3-11 (m.ob.), one at RAR 9/23 (KP), and 4 along CLR from 9/18-19 (AK). **Willet** was another unusual sighting with 2 at the AP 8/2 (m.ob.). **Greater Yellowlegs** were also common; 2 lingered at the AP until 11/21. One **Red-necked Phalarope** was found at the PRFF during fallout conditions 9/19-20 (m.ob.).

Caspian Terns are regular at only a few sites, and this season's only reports were of 6 at the ATBD 9/9 (KP) and one at RAR 8/12 (KM).

Great Egrets were common; observations included up to 14 at the AP 9/1-30 (m.ob.) and a late report of one at the AP 10/9 (AK). **Green Herons** are not particularly unusual however a high count of 9 was made at the AP 9/9 (m.ob.). **Black-crowned Night Herons** have become regular in the fall. This season's observations included one at RAR 8/12 (KP) and one at the ATBD 8/3 (AK).

One **Golden Eagle** was observed migrating south over SSR 10/18 (AK). Unusual in many parts of *Northumberland*, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are year-round residents along OSR and as many as 6 were found during the fall season. There were too many reports from this location to list. A single **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at the ATBD 10/17 (KP). This was most likely one of the birds that nest on the nearby cliffs.

Olive-sided Flycatcher is rarely reported, but this season 2 were at WSF 9/13 (KP). The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was a single at SGL 84 on 9/30 (KP). **Tree Swallows** are common enough, but an estimated 4000 at the AP 10/7 (AK) was notable. Normally, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** would be a notable sighting. This year there were too many reports to mention, with the exception of a high count of 6 at SGL 84 on 9/30 (KP). A single **Marsh Wren** was found at the WRW 9/22 (AK). Although rarely reported, they are most likely regular visitors to this location in the fall. **Pine Siskins** moved south in good numbers. Notable reports included 2 in RIV 9/29 (SF), 2 in ELY 10/5 and 10/21 (KP), 19 in RIV 10/21 (JB), 7 in RIV 11/10 (JB), up to 13 in RIV 11/5-16, and 6 in ELY 11/15 (KP).

Warbler reports were sparse. One **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported from RRR 8/19 (SF) and one **Canada Warbler** was reported from RIV 8/19 (SF).

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Perry County

Location: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP).

A **Surf Scoter** was at the Juniata River Amity Hill Access 11/10. *Perry* had a better than typical year for shorebirds. Several species were reported at Warm Springs Rd., including a **Solitary Sandpiper** 9/7, 3 **Dunlin** from 10/19-21, 7 **Pectoral Sandpipers** from 10/20-21, and 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 10/21 (all SS). A **Sedge Wren** was photographed at Brig. Gen. Frank E. Tressler Bird and Game Sanctuary 10/11 (SS). There are no other records for this species in eBird. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at LBSP 10/19 (SS).

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Andorra Meadow (AM), Bartram's Garden (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Cumberland Street on the Delaware (CS), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail - Reed Street (DRTR), Discovery Center - East Park Reservoir (DCEPR), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glen Foerd (GF), Houston Meadow (HM), Independence National Historic Park (INHP), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Lardner's Point Park (LP), Morris

Aboretum, Navy Yard (NY), Northeast Water Treatment Plant (NEWTP), Pastorius Park (PP), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Tacony Creek Park (TCP), Walmart Pier and Parking Lot (WPPL), Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

The beginning of the fall season in *Philadelphia* felt a little bit warmer than usual, especially September, and birds seemed to move later. November was certainly back to normal with some early snow (3.5") in the middle of the month. Nevertheless some goodies persisted late in the season.

Skeins of migrating **Snow Geese** were seen more frequently than usual. The high count of around 1000 birds was over TI 11/25 (SB). A **Brant** flew by WPPL along the DR 10/7 (GA). A **Cackling Goose** was photographed at HM 11/18 (GA, TF). The drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was back at FDR for its fourth year in a row 10/13-30 (HP, et al.). Arriving on Meadow Lake at least two weeks earlier than usual, it was still molting from its eclipse plumage. With Audubon's Discovery Center opening in late Sep, more frequent observations from the East Park Reservoir were submitted to eBird, including that of 75 **Canvasbacks** 11/24-29 (BED, DMi, et al.). This species was also early by at least a week at its usual wintering site at NY with a high count of 101 on 11/24 (GA). A lone drake **Redhead** was at TI 11/22 (GA). Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were at DCEPR 11/7 (RI) and at GF 11/10 (DS), and one was flying high north over the DR at POD 11/18 (HP). One **Red-necked Grebe** was at TI 11/2 (GV).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos migrated late this season with the last bird observed at TI 11/4 (TF, et al.). Three people made an effort to count **Chimney Swifts** this season. At least 4000 birds were roosting in a chimney somewhere in Center City in the first half of Sep (GA, KR). In the northwestern part of *Philadelphia* the following high counts were recorded at these locations: 600 at Chestnut Hill Towers 8/2, 700 at Shawmont School 9/29, 700 at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School 10/5, 1540 at Jenks School 10/5, and 4600 at Dobson School 9/6 (JS).

The **Virginia Rail** at TI continued to be seen until 8/5 (m.ob.). A single **Sora** was observed at TI in Aug, 9/23-29, and 10/6 (m.ob.). On adult **Common Gallinule** was recorded at TI until 8/4 (m.ob.), but one of the extraordinary finds this season was that of a family at FDR 9/2 (PM). Comparing the size of the three chicks to the ones that hatched at TI in 2017, the three week-long incubation period must have started in late July or early August, a full three weeks after the birds at TI hatched last year. The family stayed at Meadow Lake to successfully raise all chicks, not disturbed even by the occasional soccer games nearby. The last juvenile was seen 11/19 (HP) surviving 3.5" of snowfall a few days prior. Five **Sandhill Cranes** were spotted over TI 11/17 (CR, et al.).

With the water levels at TI high again, shorebirds were few and far between. Of note were a flyover **Dunlin** 11/23 (RMG, GV) and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/4 (FW).

The annual **Black-headed Gull** was back at TI 11/11 (m.ob.). A Philly first, a **Franklin's Gull** in its second pre-basic molt was discovered among **Laughing Gulls** at WPPL 10/7 (GA). A first cycle **Island Gull** was observed at a trash transfer station in southeast *Philadelphia* 11/17 (GA). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were observed at TI, NY, and WPPL in Oct and Nov (m.ob.). A new high count for the city, 310 **Caspian Terns** were heading east along the DR at NY 9/17 at dusk (GA). The lone **Black Tern** for this fall was at TI 8/11 in heavy rain being mobbed by **Tree Swallows** (MGr). Rare in the county and the first sighting since Hurricane Sandy in 2012, a juvenile **Common Tern** was discovered feeding in the midst of adult **Forster's Terns** at NY 9/12 (GA).

Scarce in fall, a **Red-throated Loon** was recorded migrating southwest over the DR at NY 11/11 (HP). Single **Common Loons** were observed at POD 10/7 (GA) and 11/23 (SB).

An **American Bittern** was irregularly seen at TI 9/28-11/28 (m.ob.) and once at FDR on 10/13 (DP). Up to four **Snowy Egrets** continued at TI until 9/29, not always easy to separate from the up to two dozen juvenile **Little Blue Herons** (m.ob.). An additional **Snowy Egret** flew by the NY 9/12 (GA, GV), while a lone juvenile **Little Blue Heron** rested along the edge of one of the old ponds at IGCC 8/10 (HP). Always a great find, a **Cattle Egret** was briefly seen at TI 8/3-4 (m.ob.). Irregular observations of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were recorded at TI throughout the season including a flyby family of 2 adults and one juvenile on 9/20 (GV). Single juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed at TI 8/5 (MGr) and 9/13 (m.ob.) as well as at the Philadelphia Zoo 8/16 (BC) and 8/21 (BS). A flyby **Glossy Ibis** at NY 9/30 was quite a surprise (GA).

An immature **Golden Eagle** migrated over HM 10/18 (DE). The bulk of hawk migration tends to go around *Philadelphia* over Pennsylvania's Piedmont region, so this bird was a great find. Aside from observations at locations in northwest *Philadelphia*, the only other **Eastern Screech-Owl**, a red morph, was back in the same tree at POD 11/20 (PM). A successful squirrel-hunting **Great Horned Owl** at PP 10/15 was a first record for that city park that is close to WVP (JG). Hooting **Barred Owls** were heard at WVP 9/20 (KJ) and at HM 11/11 (m.ob.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was back for the winter in the Poplar Woods at TI 11/17 (GV, et al.).

The third-highest count of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** for any single location in the United States (according to eBird) was recorded at POD 10/12 (HP) on a day that was characterized by moderate to strong northwest winds. During a two hour-long stretch before sunset, 114 birds including 45 individuals that passed by in 20 minutes were counted flying southwest along the DR. The frequently would rest for up to a minute in trees at the water's edge. It's anyone's guess what that total number could have been if the count had started earlier in the day. The birds were accompanied by 53 **Northern Flickers** and 2 adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. One additional juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** migrated southwest along the DR at POD 9/22 (HP). A new all-time high count of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was achieved when 11 were observed at NEWTP 10/14 (DMo, HP, AR).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at WEC 8/27 (PM), at CW 9/18 (KJ) and at IGCC 9/28 (HP). The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** of the season was extensively studied at TI 8/24 (JM). One **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at TI 10/4 (AK) and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** there was quite late 10/21 (GV). A new high count of **Blue-headed Vireos** for *Philadelphia* was recorded at TI when 12 were observed in part of the refuge 10/20 (TF). Completing the quartet of notable vireos at TI, one **Philadelphia Vireo** was spotted 9/7 (JM). A **Warbling Vireo** was a bit late at POD 10/8 (HP). A large flight of **Blue Jays** in flocks of up to 26 birds at POD 9/22 resulted in a new high count of 484 for *Philadelphia* (HP). A few fly-over **Horned Larks** were heard and seen at LP 11/17 (HP), TI 11/21 (TF) and POD 11/25 (HP).

Quite early in the season a **Black-capped Chickadee** spent a few days at TI until 9/2 (GA). The first wave of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** hit the county during this irruption season in the first week of Sep. The species was reported to eBird twice as frequently compared to average years, with a maximum number of 3 at TI, FDR, and MA in a single day. The honorary mention goes to the lone migrating **White-breasted Nuthatch** among the troves of woodpeckers on that very special day at POD 10/12 (HP). We really do not see our local nuthatch on migration so that was an especially cool observation. Late **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at NY 11/17 (GA) and NEWTP 11/18-25 (GA, TF, HP).

Great morning flights of **American Robins** were witnessed just after sunrise at IGCC, with 613 on 10/21 and 708 on 10/30 (HP). Single **Wood Thrushes** were very late at TI 11/17-25 (LR, et al.) and at INHP on 10/29-11/1 (LV), which made them the only reported Wood Thrushes above the Mason-Dixon Line at that point. The first of what were hoped would be many **Evening Grosbeaks** arrived at TI 11/12, but did not stay (TF). As part of the wider winter finch irruption, great numbers of **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** arrived in Oct with the former peaking in the last two weeks of Oct and the latter in the first half of Nov. Particularly high numbers of **Purple Finches** were as follows: 32 at AM 10/21 (MD), 63 at IGCC 10/30 (HP), and 31 at SCEE 11/18 (GA, TF). **Pine Siskins** were numerous, with 15 at BG 10/24 (GA), 19 at TI 10/31 (TF) and 15 in a Philadelphia backyard 11/4 (RS). The first **Red Crossbill** for *Philadelphia* in six years was heard in the Mount Airy neighborhood 11/13 (MS).

Normally an infrequent visitor in the few remaining grassland habitats of the county, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was discovered at two locations this fall: one at BG 9/28-29 (GA, MP) and one at POD from 10/27-11/1 (AB, et al.). A **Lark Sparrow**, only the second eBird record after a one-day wonder at POD in 2016, stayed at DRTR 10/26-30 to the joy of many observers (GA, et al.). This location that is bordered by Walmart on one side and the U.S. Coast Guard on the other has had its fair share of local rarities, especially sparrows, and will sadly be torn up to make room for riverfront apartments in the near future. During the Lark Sparrow bonanza, a **Clay-Colored Sparrow** was discovered in the mix of sparrows 10/26-27 (m.ob.). Another was at POD 10/31 (GV). **Field Sparrows** were numerous at IGCC with 13 individuals recorded 8/10 and 8/25 and 16 on 10/21 (HP), and at AM with 10 on 11/11 (m.ob.). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was early by at least a week at FDR 9/20 (HP). More frequently seen usual, and peaking in the last week of Oct, were **White-Crowned Sparrows** (m.ob.). **Vesper**

Sparrows can be seen annually in fall if one knows where to look for them. The prime location for this species remains POD where birds were observed 10/19-11/4 including up to 4 on 10/21 (m.ob.). In addition, 2 were at IGCC 10/21 (HP), one was at BG 10/24-25 (GA, GV), and one was at DRTR 11/4 (TF, AR, MW). A handful of **Lincoln's Sparrows** were recorded a bit later than usual; these included birds at TCP 11/3 (RI, HP), at POD 11/3-4 and again 11/18 (m.ob.), at DRTR 11/13 (GA), and at NEWTP 11/18 (GA, TF). An estimated 40 **Swamp Sparrows** is quite unusual, even at such a perfect location for them as POD, but so it happened there 10/28 (BQ).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at FDR 9/20 (HP). **Bobolinks** were not as abundant as in previous years. Seven **Eastern Meadowlarks** at BG 10/6 represented a new high count for the site, a number we only rarely see these days in *Philadelphia* (GA). **Orchard Orioles** at CS 9/1 (HP), TI 9/2 (TF, MW) and CW 9/3 (JG) were all a bit later than usual. November records of **Baltimore Orioles** are scarce so individuals at NEWTP 11/18 (GA, TF) and FDR 11/30 (HP) were nice surprises.

The only **Golden-winged Warbler** of the year was at WEC 8/25 (MR). Late were a **Black-and-white Warbler** at CW 11/8 (JG), 2 **Tennessee Warblers** at NEWTP 11/18-19 (GA, MGb, TF) and a **Nashville Warbler** at NEWTP 11/24 (DB). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were located at nine different locations including a new county-wide high count of 3 at POD 11/25 (GA, HP). Skulking **Connecticut Warblers** were discovered at TI 10/19 (JM) and at DCEPR 10/21 (KR). A **Mourning Warbler** was photographed at TI 8/25 (TF). A late female-type **American Redstart** was seen at HM 11/11 (m.ob.). **Cape May Warblers** were seen unusually late with several observations well into November. A new county high of 16 birds was recorded at NEWTP 10/14 (DMo, HP, AR). The same pattern was true for **Blackpoll Warblers** with observations as late as the last week of November, e.g. at DCEPR 11/25 (KR). An extraordinary count of 28 individuals was made at NEWTP 10/14 (DMo, HP, AR).

A bright red male **Summer Tanager** was a very nice surprise at TI 9/23 during a field trip while the American Birding Expo was in town (GA, et al.). After five years with no recorded sighting at these two locations, **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen again at BG and POD. Up to two birds were seen at BG 9/28-10/14 (GA, PM, GV) and at POD 9/8 and 9/24-27 (PM, HP). The family at IGCC stayed until 9/28 when 3 were noted, and the last was recorded 10/8 (HP). Notable numbers of **Indigo Buntings** included 10 at CS 9/1 (HP), 13 at POD 9/8 (HP), and 11 at BG 10/6 (GA). Up to two **Dickcissels** were at BG 9/28-10/14 (m.ob.) and one bird was seen at DRTR 11/2 (SB, JM). In addition, nocturnal flight calls were recorded on six occasions in South Philadelphia (HP) and once at DCEPR on 10/19 (HP).

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Pike County

Pike had an ample number of highlights during the period. There were 72 **Common Nighthawks** over the Delaware Twp. Municipal Complex in Dingsmans Ferry 8/27 (BW). Two **Virginia Rails** were reported from the Sunset Lake marsh 8/20 (DM) and another was at Camp Hidden Falls in the Delaware Water Gap NRA 9/4 (DM). Multiple **Great Egrets** were at Pecks Pond 8/22-9/5 with a high of 4 on 9/5 (RJ). Uncommon birds seen at the Pocono Environmental Education Center included a **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/22 (CH, BW), a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 10/5 (DP) and **Rusty Blackbird** 10/31 (DM). Another **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in White House 10/4 (BW). Winter finches made a good showing with **Pine Siskins** and **Purple Finch** scattered around the county. There was one **Evening Grosbeak** in White House 10/4 (BW) and 3 **Red Crossbills** were reported from the Dingmans Falls area 11/8 (BW).

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Potter County

Locations: Allegheny Bottoms: north of the intersection of state road 3007 and Kim Rd: 41.787848, -78.184972 (AB), Austin Dam Memorial Park (ADMP), Colesburg (CB), Coudersport (CO), Dairy Farm at 3067-3037 PA Rte. 49, Coudersport (DFCO), Mitchel Park, Coudersport (MPCO), Eleven Mile Road (EMR), Ellisburg (EB), Dingman Run Road (41.827728, -78.060974) Hebron (DRRHB), Galeton (GA), Pigeon Hill Rd, Galeton (PHGA), Galeton Lake (GL), Genesee (GN), State Gamelands 204 (SGL 204), Penn-York Camp (PYC), Karr Hollow, Shinglehouse (KRSH), Shinglehouse (SH), Assembly Park, Shinglehouse (APSH), South Hollow, Homer Township, 41.6948, -78.0609 (SHH), Susquehannock State Forest at Odin (SSF-OD), Ulysses (UL), Dry Run Road (41.77173, -77.906957) near Sweden Valley (DRRSV).

Data were obtained from eBird reports submitted for twenty-one locations by nineteen observers. Noteworthy was a November fly-over observation with photos of 50 **Sandhill Cranes**. Raptor reports included **Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel**, and **Merlin**. Two species of owls were reported: **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred Owl**.

Seven **Wood Duck** were on GL 10/7 (TS). Sixty **Mallard** were in MPCO 11/30 (SaG). One **Common Merganser** was observed in GA 8/1 (JM) and 15 were at GL 9/18 (TS). One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported at Baker Run, SSF-OD 11/27 (MH) and another was on private woodland property approximately one mile south of EB 11/30 (SS). One **Great Blue Heron** was at a farm pond on Andrew Settlement Road near GN 11/29 (SS). Two **Green Herons** and one **Osprey** were at GL 9/18 (TS). An adult **Bald Eagle** was at SH 11/16 (KE). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at MPCO 11/30 (SaG). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen along a trail in APSH 10/6 (KE). A single **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PYC 8/4 (SeG). One **Red-tailed Hawk** was at UL 8/4 (SeG). Two additional **Red-tailed Hawks** and a **Rough-legged Hawk** were reported at a large dairy farm approximately 3 miles east of CB on Rte. 49 on 11/30 (SaG).

Fifty **Sandhill Cranes** were photographed as they flew over a residence in SH 11/17 (KE). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen near a Germania Street residence in GA 8/1 (JM). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at GL 9/18 (TS).

Black-billed Cuckoos included one at UL 8/4 (SeG) and one eating caterpillars at ADMP 9/2 (SI). One **Great Horned Owl** was reported during the day at SHH 11/26 (MH). One **Barred Owl** was also observed during daylight hours at Baker Run, SSF-OD 11/27 (MH). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at AD 9/2 (SI). An **American Kestrel** was seen in the AB 10/23 (JS). A **Merlin** was at a Pine Street residence in GA 9/30 (TS).

Three **Common Ravens** were observed at SSF-OD 11/27 (MH). Five **Horned Larks** were observed in the AB 10/23 (JS). A single **Winter Wren** was observed at 204 Castle Hollow Road, SGL 204 on 11/29 (SS). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were along DRRSV 10/30 (TK). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at a farmhouse along DRRHB 11/30 (SaG). Another **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was photographed at SH 10/25 (KE). Three **Brown Creepers** were at Baker Run, SSF-OD 11/27 (MH). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at farmhouse along DRRHB 11/30 (SaG).

One **Black-and-white Warbler**, 2 **Tennessee Warblers**, and 3 **Nashville Warblers** were at ADMP 9/2 (SI). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were observed and photographed at KRSH 10/5 (KE). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was observed at ADMP 9/2 (SI). Two **Palm Warblers** and one **Wilson's Warbler** were seen at a farm on EMR 10/7 (MB).

Sparrows included 2 **Chipping Sparrows** at AB 10/23 (JS), one **Field Sparrow** at PHGA 8/5 (JG), and one **Savannah Sparrow**, one **Fox Sparrow**, and 10 **Swamp Sparrows** in the AB 10/23 (JS). A single **White-crowned Sparrow** was in SH 10/25 (ph. KE). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at ADMP 9/2 (SI).

A **Purple Finch** was at a feeder in SH 11/9 (ph. KE), one **Pine Siskin** was at SHH 11/26 (MH), and an **Evening Grosbeak** was at EB 11/30 (SS).

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Deer Lake (DL), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Acopian Center (AC), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

eBird was used extensively to compile this report. 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 *Schuylkill* in diversity, abundance, and frequency. An immature **Brant**, a species seen only every two or three years, was spotted at LLSP 11/11 (TB, TJ). A **Cackling Goose** was found and photographed at DL 11/10 (TB), the first fall sighting since 2013. The only **Tundra Swans** reported this year were fly-bys at HMS. Ten were counted 11/22 and an impressive flock of 60 passed by 11/29 (HMD). A single **Green-winged Teal** was at APWS 9/8, 9/9, and 9/22 (JoD). For the third fall in a row, **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported, this year at two locations. Sixteen were at LVD 11/18 (DK) and a single bird was at DL 11/26 (JA). For the first time since 2012, **Greater Scaup** were fall visitors in the county. Two birds were found at DL 9/9 (DH) and one was at the same location 11/3-26 (DA, EZ, JA, MG, TJ). Very unusual in fall, **Common Goldeneyes** were found at APWS. A single bird was seen 11/27 and was joined by a second bird 11/28 and 11/29 (JoD). Also unusual for the county in fall, a **Ruddy Duck** was found at DL 11/6 (JA), 11/7 (TJ), 11/8 (EZ), and 11/10 (TB, JA), and another was at LLSP 11/22 (TB).

Common Nighthawks can be elusive. This year, one was seen near I-81 on 8/4 in the extreme northern portion of the county (JoD). Eight were seen near Brockton 9/3 (LR), another 9/2 at AC (PB) and numerous sightings occurred at HMS between 8/24 and 9/2 (HMD, RD, JA) with a high count of 26 on 9/1. Rare for the county, an **American Golden-Plover** passed HMS 10/1 (JA). Two other rarely seen shorebirds were found in *Schuylkill* this fall: a **Dunlin** at TSP 10/19 (TJ) and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at LVD 9/16 (DH). For the second year in a row, a **Bonaparte's Gull** was found in the fall, this year at DL 10/23 (JA). Two reports of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** consisted of one along the Kittatinny Ridge near HMS 10/13 (JW) and an immature at DL 11/1 (JA).

Since HMS is located in the county, there are excellent records of species and dates for migrating raptors. Since these data are published elsewhere, they will not be discussed here except to mention two notable sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/20 and 11/23 (HMD).

Schuylkill is one of the sites for on-going research into **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. This was the 22nd 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. Hidden Valley never got the big totals that were expected this year although they did come close to setting a record on 11/8 when 43 Saw-whets were caught, just three shy of the all-time record many years ago. They had a yearly total of 153 owls, which was above the five-year average of 108, but they were expecting more like 300. Strong, protracted northwesterly winds in late Oct seemed to have shifted a lot of the flight to the east, especially along the coast, and there were indications a significant number of owls were moving after the normal end of the season just

after Thanksgiving (SW).

There were quite a number of reports for **Red-headed Woodpecker**, all at HMS between 9/4 and 9/26 (m.ob.). Seen only in low numbers every year, individual **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen 9/2 at Owl Creek (CH, MS), 9/4 at HMS (RK), and 9/19 at AC (JA). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is a species considered uncommon in the county in the fall but they have been seen consistently over the past seven or eight years. This year was no exception with sightings of individual birds 8/24 and 9/4 at HMS (RK), 8/26 at SGL 227 (TB), 9/2 at TR (DK) and 9/11 at AC (JA). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found at two locations: one or 2 at LLSP 9/15 and 9/16 (DK, TB, TF, TJ) and higher numbers at HMS 8/24-9/29 (HMS, JA, RK). **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at the same two locations as well: single birds at LLSP 9/2 (TB) and 9/27 (DK) and on several dates between 9/5 and 10/13 at HMS (m.ob.) with a high count of 9 on 9/29. **Swainson's Thrush**, a bird considered occasional in the county, was reported several times this season. At LLSP, 2 were found 9/16 (TB) and singles were found 10/1 at SGL 227 (EZ), 10/1 at TSP (EZ), 9/16 at TR (DK), and 9/19 and again on 10/13 at AC (JA). In addition quite a few sightings were made at HMS 9/17-10/22 with a high count of 10 on 9/29 (HMD). **American Pipits** are unusual in *Schuylkill*; 2 were near Pitman 10/6 (TB), 4 were at DL 11/10 (JA) and they were noted at HMS 10/22-11/7 with a high count of 8 on 10/22 (JA, HMD). *Schuylkill* joined in the enjoyment of seeing **Evening Grosbeaks**, with reports at SGL 227 of one 11/4 (TB) and 2 on 11/11 (TJ). Multiple birds passed the overlook at HMS 10/26 (JA), 11/4 (HMD), 11/11 (HMD), and 11/23 (HMD). **Snow Bunting**, a bird that is hard to find most years, was spotted at HMS 11/29 (HMD), and near New Ringgold 11/20 (JA).

Vesper Sparrow breed in small numbers in the county but are not seen every year. One was at TSP 10/19 (TB). An unusual fall sighting of a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was made at SAL 10/8 (DD), the first since 2013. **Bobolinks** are considered rare in the county in fall, but observers at HMS reported many birds passing through 8/17-9/15 (m.ob.). Two more were at the AC 9/7 (JA).

Twenty-six species of warblers, including both breeders and migrants, were observed in the county this fall; three fewer than last year. Overall, the birds passed through with little deviation from averages. Always notable, a single **Mourning Warbler** was at the AC 9/25 (JA). The most significant find in the county this fall was an immature male **Black-headed Grosbeak** found and photographed on a feeder in Wayne Township 11/13 (SW).

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Snyder County

A pair of **Pectoral Sandpipers** foraged with **Killdeer** on a plowed field near Freeburg 10/27 (JG). At a farm near the base of Shade Mountain south of Middleburg, a **Golden Eagle** scavenged on a gut pile from a deer hunter 12/7 (JW). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** foraged with a mixed flock along the edge of Faylor Lake 10/27 (JG).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, j99@psu.edu**, Jason Weller.

Somerset County

Locations: Bluebird Hill Farm (BHF), Flight 93 National Memorial (F93), Hidden Acres Farm (HAF), High Point Lake (HPL), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Payne Property on Allegheny Mountain (PP), Somerset Lake IBA (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

The main observation of the season was it was wet! Rainfall through the

period and year was at or near record levels. Despite this, 20 shorebird species were found mostly at SL where dam replacement and a proposed shorebird habitat project are in limbo. Nice finds included **Trumpeter Swans**, **Red-necked Grebe**, a **Selasphorus hummingbird**, and higher counts of some migrants.

The fall waterfowl migration is usually less pronounced than spring, as hunting seasons keep the birds moving. The best birds of the season were 2 **Trumpeter Swans** at QR 11/28 (LG) which then stayed long thereafter. **Tundra Swans** were frequently detected migrating over the county; 72 at Stonycreek Lake 11/25 was the largest flock spied on ground (JP, CP, JM, MM). Small numbers of most species of puddle ducks were present including 6 **Northern Pintail** at Stonycreek Lake (CP, JP) and a nice group of 25 **Green-winged Teal** at SL 11/9, which built up to 47 by 10/24 (JP). Diver ducks included 3 **Canvasback**, 32 **Ring-neck Ducks** and one **Lesser Scaup** at Stonycreek Lake 11/25 (JP, CP), 110 **Ring-neck Ducks** at Deer Valley YMCA (LM), and 8 **Greater Scaup** 10/28 at SL (JP). Additionally there were 15 **Bufflehead** at QR 11/10 (LG), one **Common Goldeneye** and 35 **Ruddy Ducks** at QR 11/9 (JP) and the following high counts: 32 **Hooded Merganser** at QR 11/10 (LG), 16 **Common Merganser** at SL 11/4 (JP), and 9 **Red-breasted Merganser** at SL 11/3 (JP).

The only **Ruffed Grouse** reported was one at PP 9/16 (JP). Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were at SL 10/30 (SC), 3 **Horned Grebes** were at QR 11/9 (JP), and a **Red-necked Grebe** was present 10/29-11/4 (JP, et al.). Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at LHSP 9/29 (AH) and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was in the Jennerstown Area 9/3 (LG). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at HAF 8/12 (SD). The highest report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** was 8 at PP 8/27 (CP, JP). Very interesting was a probable **Rufous Hummingbird** first found 9/18 on Whitehorse Mountain (JL) and seen again 9/20 (JP, CaP). This was the third in 15 years for this mountaintop property located 2 miles from PP, where 3 have also been found in same time period. Six **Selasphorus** sp. in 15 years in a relatively small area on an eastern mountaintop is quite a significant trend.

A **Sora** was at SL 9/28 (MD). The only report of **American Coot** was 2 at HPL 10/25 (DB). A flock of 15 **Sandhill Cranes** was seen circling a CREP enhanced wetlands south of Berlin 10/25 (*fide* JP). A **Black-bellied Plover** flew over PP 10/6 (JP). An **Upland Sandpiper** was found in a cut hayfield with about 30 **Killdeer** in BA 8/23 (CP, JP). The following shorebirds were all found at SL, where despite persistent high water and varying amounts of exposed mud, 16 species were found (JP plus others credited). These included multiple **Semipalmated Plovers**, up to 45 **Killdeer** 8/30, a county high 7 **Stilt Sandpipers** 9/4-7, 40 **Dunlin** 10/28, a **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/23-9/4 (CP, ST), **Least Sandpipers** from 8/10-10/25 including 10 on 9/7, **White-rumped Sandpiper** 10/25 (late), **Pectoral Sandpipers** from 8/30 to 10/28 including a nice high of 22 on 10/25, up to 7 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** from 8/30-9/7, up to 2 **Western Sandpipers** from 8/30-9/7 (JP, ST), a **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/21, up to 9 **Wilson's Snipe** from 10/25-11/9 (SC), up to 9 **Spotted Sandpipers** 8/10-9/7, up to 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** 8/21-9/7, up to 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** from 9/7-11/3, and up to 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/21-9/7.

Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at QR 11/9 (AP, JP) and 15 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at SL 11/9 (JP). A **Caspian Tern** flew around SL 9/12 (JP) and a **Forster's Tern** was there 8/22 (SK). The high for **Common Loons** was 4 at QR 11/5 (LG). Seven **Double-crested Cormorants** were eating gizzard shad at SL 9/21 as a **Great Egret** stalked the shallows (MD). A **Green Heron** persisted at PP until 9/16 (JP).

A 1.5-hour hawk watch at PP 10/8 yielded 2 **Osprey**, 18 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 3 **Cooper's Hawks**, one **Bald Eagle**, and 9 **Red-tailed Hawks**. Other high counts at PP were 3 **Golden Eagles** 11/4 and 54 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/16 (JP). Few reports of owls included just 2 **Eastern Screech Owls** near Glencoe 8/25 (CP, JP), a **Great Horned Owl** near Bakersville 10/6 (SC), and a **Barred Owl** at PP 10/12 (JP).

Belted Kingfisher was reported at Stonycreek Lake 11/25 (CP, JP) and QR 11/10 (LG). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** passed through PP 10/23 (JP). Very nice was both an adult and immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** at QR 11/5 (LG). All expected falcons were reported including **American Kestrel** 10/2, **Merlin** 9/16 and 2 **Peregrine Falcons** 10/8, all at PP (JP).

Migrant **Eastern Wood-Pee-wees** maxed at 10 at PP 9/6 (JP). Uncommon was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at PP 9/3; also there and late was an **Acadian Flycatcher** 9/20 and more expected the **Least Flycatcher** 9/4 (JP). Ten **Eastern Phoebes** at PP 10/8 was a good showing, but only one **Eastern Kingbird** passed by 9/4 (JP). **Blue-headed Vireos** passed through

PP in October including 6 on 10/8, and an impressive 25 **Red-eyed Vireos** were present there 9/4 (JP). Nine **Common Ravens** were enjoying the thermals at PP 10/8 (JP). Notably late were 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 10/28 and 4 **Tree Swallows** 10/29 at SL (JP). A **Bank Swallow** at SL 8/26 and 2 **Cliff Swallows** 8/26 at PP (CP, JP) were the last reported.

The first **Red-breasted Nuthatches** of the subsequent moderate invasion at PP appeared 8/24 (JP). Bakersville was the scene of a **White-breasted Nuthatch** reunion 10/6 when 15 were found (SC). **House Wrens** were at PP until at least 10/8 and up to 3 **Carolina Wrens** were there through season (JP). The only report of **Blue Gray Gnatcatcher** was one at PP 8/27 (CP, JP). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were common in Oct and Nov, and a nice count of 12 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was made at PP 10/9 (JP).

Night flight calls of spot-breasted thrushes were monitored on several early mornings at PP. **Veery** was first heard 8/27, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/29 and 10/5. **Swainson's Thrushes** are always most numerous and at least 30 were heard descending 9/27; unexpected was a late **Swainson's** well seen on ground under spruce trees 11/3 (JP). **Hermit Thrush** was reported in Mt. David area 10/25 (LM) and a few **Wood Thrushes** were heard at PP between 8/27 and 9/27 (CP, JP). **Gray Catbirds** persisted until at least 10/9 at PP with 3 present and the last **Brown Thrasher** was seen there 10/8. **Northern Mockingbird** are scarce in *Somerset*; the only report was from Confluence 11/30 (BO). **Cedar Waxwings** were very numerous migrating past PP, exemplified by the 305 noted 8/27 (CP, JP). **Evening Grosbeaks** put in their first showing since 2012 at PP when 6 appeared at feeders 11/21 (CP) followed by a single female several days thereafter. **Purple Finch** numbers were normal at PP, with 3-4 at feeders, and a single in Confluence 11/17. **Pine Siskins** were present but sparse with birds at PP 8/27 (CP, JP), Mt. Davis 10/25 (DB) and Confluence 10/29 (MA). **American Goldfinch** maximum was 30 at PP 9/4 (JP).

Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at F93 on 8/14 (KD). **Chipping Sparrow** numbers have seemed low past few years; 3 at Seven Springs 10/24 was the highest reported (AD). The first **American Tree Sparrow** dropped in 11/21 at PP accompanied by 2 lingering **Fox Sparrows** and 20 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Two **White-crowned Sparrows** stayed at PP until 10/23. **White-throated Sparrows** were numerous there with a high of 30 on 10/6 (JP). Nice was a report of **Vesper Sparrow** at HAF 8/12 (SD). Five **Henslow's Sparrows** at F93 on 8/21 demonstrated the importance of trying to maintain grasslands at this 2000+ acre site (AN). Hordes of sparrows in millet at PP 10/8 included 9 **Lincoln's Sparrows** and 45 **Song Sparrows**. A Lincoln's was still present 10/23. **Swamp Sparrows** were present through the season at SL and other spots. **Eastern Towhee** remained at PP through at least 11/9 (AP, JP). Two **Bobolinks** stopped in millet at PP 8/27 (JP). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at BHF 10/6 (PL). Latest reports for **Orchard Oriole** was 8/11 in Salisbury, (AH) and for **Baltimore Oriole**, 9/15 at PP (JP).

Twenty-four warbler species were reported. Notable sightings were as follows: **Worm-eating Warbler** 8/19 and 8/27 at PP (CP, JP); up to 5 **Tennessee Warbler** at PP 10/4, one **Orange-crowned Warbler** 10/23, 4 **Nashville Warbler** 9/20, 13 **Common Yellowthroat** 8/27, and a **Hooded Warbler** 9/15. **Hooded Warbler** also reported in Jennerstown 9/23 (MC), six **Cape May Warblers** at PP 8/27 was the highest total (CP, JP), and one was in Central City 10/8 (MD). PP hosted a **Northern Parula** 9/15, up to 6 **Magnolia Warblers** 9/20, **Bay-breasted Warblers** 8/25-10/6, and an all-time high 10 **Blackburnian Warblers** 8/27 (CP, JP). A **Yellow Warbler** was at BHF 8/11. A maximum of 10 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was at PP 8/29, with 3 **Blackpoll Warblers** 10/8, a single **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 10/6, and 3 **Palm Warblers** 10/23 also highest. **Pine Warbler** singles were at PP 9/3 (JP) and Bakersville 10/6 (SC). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** didn't show at PP until 10/12. A nice find was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Laurel Hill SP 8/18 (CJ) where a **Canada Warbler** was also present (CJ). Highest count of **Black-throated Green Warblers** at PP was 10 on 8/27 and 3 were still present 10/6 (JP).

Three **Scarlet Tanagers** were at PP 9/20; high count was 7 on 9/3 (JP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** peaked at 10 9/3 and one was still there 10/6. Some years very high numbers of **Indigo Buntings** are in millet at PP. This year the high was just 10 on 9/27.

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Sullivan County

Locations: Conklin Run Wilderness Area (CRWA), Connells Dam Rd. (CD), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Ganoga Lake (GL), Hunters Lake (HL), Jamison City Rd (JCR), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lietzelman Road, Dushore (LR), Ricketts Glen State Park, Hayfields (RGSPH), Ricketts Glen State Park, Lake Jean (LJ), Rte. 487 Beaver Pond (BP), SGL 13, Grassy Hollow (GH), SGL 13, Ricketts (RK), SGL 66, Shady Nook (SN), Sullivan Falls Road (SFR), White House Camp (WHC).

The season tended to be cold and wet. A mid-November snow storm left ten inches of snow on Dutch Mountain. Despite the weather there were some very good birds found throughout the season. It was very nice to see a good number of eBird reports for the county. Reports not credited were by the author.

Waterfowl reports were few and were made either early in the season regarding breeders, or of late season migrants. A female **Common Merganser** with two probable young of the year was at LJ 8/2 (DG). Also seen at LJ were 3 young **Wood Ducks** 8/24 (DG). There were 5 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Ruddy Ducks** and a lone **Horned Grebe** on EML 11/18 (WE).

Both cuckoo species were reported from RGSPH with **Black-billed Cuckoo** present 8/27 and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 8/10 (both DG). There were 6 adult **Sandhill Cranes** in a large open field near DM 9/2. There were two adults and one young at the LR breeding location on 10/20 as well as two adults near KC on the same day. This was the last sighting of the season. An **American Woodcock** was a good find at LJ 11/30 (RS). Three **Common Loons** were on HL 11/20 (PR). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at LJ 8/24 (DG). This species was reported at LJ through at least 9/6, photographed multiple times, all probably the same individual.

Raptors were well represented throughout the period. **Osprey** was present several times around LJ and at RGSPH 8/27 (DG) and EML 9/1 (JD). **Bald Eagle** was noted several times including a juvenile at GL 8/4 (JH) and an adult at HL 8/12 (WE). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at RGSPH 8/10 (DG). One of the best birds of the season was a **Golden Eagle** at GH 11/19 (DG). A few owls were also reported during the fall period including a **Great Horned Owl** at CRWA 8/25 (SM) and **Barred Owl** at RGSPH 8/10 (DG). **Barred Owl** was also found at WHC 10/13 (JP). Most noteworthy was a report of **Long-eared Owl** heard at WHC 10/13 (JP).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was an excellent find at LJ 8/27 (DG). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was photographed in the CD area 9/8 (ph. BS, CW). Three **Horned Larks** were found in an open area near KC 11/17. A single **Cliff Swallow** was among other swallows at KC 8/21. **Marsh Wren** was an outstanding find at BP 9/8 (BS, CW). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was present at SN 9/3. **Swainson's Thrush** was observed at SN 9/23. **Cedar Waxwing** is a common breeder on the mountain and can be found in large flocks. One such flock of 57 was observed at RGSPH 8/10 (DG). There were six **Pine Siskin** at a feeder on DM 11/17.

A high of 23 **Field Sparrow** including fledged young was counted at RGSPH 8/10 (DG). A lone **American Tree Sparrow** was DM 11/17. Three **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at SN 9/22 where this species has appeared for several years running. A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at LJ 10/18 (EZ).

It was an excellent season for warblers. Not only were the breeders represented but virtually all of the typical migrants made an appearance during migration. The highlights included a **Brewster's Warbler** in the CD area 9/8 (BS, CW). Also observed in the CD area 9/8 were **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Bay Breasted Warbler**, and **Cape May Warbler** (BS, CW). **Cape May Warbler** was found to be relatively abundant at times (RM). Two excellent finds at RK 9/8 were an immature **Connecticut Warbler** and a **Wilson's Warbler** (BS, CW). A **Mourning Warbler** was reported from JCR 8/10 (JL). **Pine Warbler** was at SN 9/3. Another outstanding find was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at LJ 10/2 (DG, EZ).

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Susquehanna County

American Black Ducks are an uncommon species in the county and are typically only present in the fall in shallow, heavily vegetated ponds or rarely during the winter on river shoals. True to form they appeared and were photographed on Stump Pond in Oct and Nov (EB, BS, NV, DB). A pair was also found in similar habitat on Broadhead Pond 11/11 (EM, JSt, et al.). Three were on Lake Montrose 11/23 (TN). A seasonally low number of **Ring-necked Ducks** made appearances on Big Elk Lake, Page Lake, and Quaker Lake 10/23-11/30 (m.ob.). Scaup species were also sparse this autumn, with 3 **Greater Scaup** on Lake Walter 11/11 (EM, JM, JS, NW, BM, JSt,) and a single report of 6 **Lesser Scaup** on Quaker Lake 11/14 (EM). A male **Long-tailed Duck** was photographed on Quaker Lake 10/21 (EM) for the only sighting of the species this fall.

The following news may be due to underreporting, but this was the season that local birders discovered **Common Nighthawks** are regularly present in the county. A birding couple, whose property adjoins the Susquehanna River, first detected their presence, and then shared with the local birding community that the species could be seen most evenings at dusk. Reports from 8/15 to 9/16 included up to 26 birds seen in a single evening (DA, JM, BS, GS, EM, NV). Generous access to a private vantage point meant the awe-inspiring air show was enjoyed night after night by all interested parties. **Virginia Rail** is very difficult to see in *Susquehanna*. There are only a handful of appropriate wetlands with roadside access. This year they were discovered in a new location on private property outside of New Milford. The first observation was of three young chicks located by kayak 8/4 (NV). The parents and their young family were carefully seen, heard, and photographed from that first sighting through 9/16 (BS, RS, NV).

The 2018 fall season was one seemingly without southbound shorebirds stopping in the county. Our normal muddy welcome mat was absent. We experienced so much rainfall that mud edges were all underwater. The only species reported were the expected **Spotted Sandpiper** at Page Lake 8/15 (DB) and **Solitary Sandpiper** at a private wetland 9/5 (BS, NV). A late **American Woodcock** showed itself in New Milford Township 10/6. **Great Egrets** continued to entertain local birders in their post-breeding dispersal in a region where we are unaccustomed to encountering waders associated with coastal habitat. The show, once a rare occurrence and recently an annual event, began on 8/14 in Great Bend Township (BS) and continued through 9/27 along the Susquehanna River (BS). The species was also at Hollister's Pond, Dunn Pond, and Williams Pond in between these dates (BM, DS, GS, JS, JSt).

Susquehanna's first pair of **Black Vultures** continued through Aug in an abandoned downtown building in Montrose (EM, BM, TN, BS, WS, NV), and were last reported 9/11 (JS). There have been some rumblings from non-birding neighbors concerned about windshield moldings and bird droppings. If this new county species returns to the same location, we may need to do some lobbying to assure their ongoing presence. **Ospreys** are absent from the county through nesting season, we believe due to competition with Bald Eagles for suitable foraging and nesting sites, so it is always a fun exercise to find them passing through during fall migration. This season's early report was from the east Great Bend wetland 8/1 (GS) and the last in SGL 35 on 10/1 (EM, BS), with a total of 14 reports (m.ob.) for the period. The only sighting of a **Northern Harrier** came from a private location in Springfield Township 9/3 (NB). Many of the former agricultural fields in the southern portion of the county are now natural gas well pad sites which may be limiting habitat options for this stunningly beautiful bird of prey. Two sightings of **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the northwestern corner of *Susquehanna*, 8/5 (ES) and 8/17 (EM) were only separated by 1.5 miles, a distance that falls within the rural definition of "neighbors." It is also the area in which the species has been seen repeatedly over several recent seasons/years and suggests the possibility of nesting birds. **Merlins** were spotted at two locations. A pair was photographed perched in a farm hedgerow 8/31 (EM), and another was observed attempting to dislodge a pair of **American Kestrels** from their summer habitat in New Milford Township 8/2 (BM).

An **Olive-side Flycatcher** was discovered in SGL 35 on 8/29 (EM, BS). It was found deep within the canopy of a tall tree, perched on a branch not a barstool, and was silent not impatiently placing orders. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was a great find when it was spotted posing nicely at Hollister's Pond 8/8 (JSt). Often unreported in the county, 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** were present, one photographed in Great Bend Township 9/16 (BS) and the other on private property in Dimock Township 9/29 (JSt). A number of **Purple Martin**

houses can be found in *Susquehanna*, perched forlornly atop poles and adjacent to various lakes and ponds. In spite of the birds being present in adjoining counties, rooms-to-let remain unfilled or occupied by non-target species. So the observation of a small flock of migrating birds along the Susquehanna River became newsworthy 8/15 (EM).

Predictions of visitors from the north proved correct when a number of species paid autumn visits to the county. The most numerous of these were **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. Between Aug and Nov there were a total of 69 individuals reported to eBird (m.ob.). **Evening Grosbeaks** first appeared in Forest Lake Township 10/30 (DD), and continued through Nov at various feeders (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins** joined the chorus first at Woodbourne Preserve 11/2 (JS) and then paid visits to other *Susquehanna* feeders, often in the company of American Goldfinches. An early snow storm brought with it a couple of early **Snow Buntings** to a property in New Milford Township 11/19 (BM).

Nov marked the return of **American Tree Sparrows** to the region. The first was reported near Lake Montrose 11/3 (TN) and a light scattering of other individuals appeared around the county (m.ob.). The movement of **Fox Sparrows** through *Susquehanna* was either light or underreported this year. Single individuals were discovered at feeders first on 11/11 (JSt), then 11/12 (EM), and finally 11/30 (JS). In spite of their boldly patterned crowns, **White-crowned Sparrows** can be hard to locate autumn visitors, when they are few in number, but this fall was an exception to that rule. They were seen at six different locations (m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrows** appeared like clockwork in the same week and at the same location as has been the case for a number of years. Birders wanting to see the species in *Susquehanna* need to mark their calendars and note the location in New Milford Township 11/16-23 (BM, JS). The landowners do not charge admission to see them, but may accept sweets left on their doorstep. **Lincoln's Sparrow** proved a one day wonder on a property in New Milford Township where 2 birds were seen and photographed 9/23 (BS, NV). A late **Eastern Towhee** was at a bird feeder near Woodbourne Forest Preserve 11/19 (JSt). An unusually late, calling, flyover **Bobolink** was observed near Springville 9/3 (NB). Fourteen **Eastern Meadowlarks** were discovered foraging in a field in New Milford Township 10/7 (BM). Regular hikes in SGL 35 during the fall migration period resulted in a number of new late dates for various wood warbler species. Nine species were seen last in Sep and 14 others lingered into Oct (m.ob.).

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Tioga County

Locations: Ansonia (AN), Burfield Road (BR), Kendrick Rd at Covington (COV), Cowanesque Lake Recreation Area (CLRA), Dean Hill Road (DHR), Grand Canyon Airport (GCA), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Hurley Hill Road (HHR), Lake Nessmuk (LN), Landrus Road (LR), Leonard Harrison State Park (LHSP), Muck Rail yard Area (MRA), Mills Hill Road (MHR), Middle Ridge Swamp (MRS), Mills Hill Road (MHR), Mill Cove Environmental Area (MCEA), The Muck in Niles Valley (MNV), North Elk Run Road (NERR), Pine Creek Rail Trail-Darlington Run (PCRT), Railroad Grade Trail at Ives Run (RGTR), Stony Fork School Road (SFSR), Tioga-Hammond Lakes-Ives Run Rec. Area (THL), Wellsboro (WB), Wellsboro Johnston Airport (WJA), Wilson Creek (WC), intersection of Welsh Rd and Mills Hill Road (WR/MHR), Welsh Road (WR).

This is the first report from *Tioga* by this compiler. Data were obtained from eBird reports submitted for twenty-eight locations by thirteen observers. Noteworthy waterfowl reported included **Trumpeter Swan, American Black Duck, Surf Scoter, and White-winged Scoter**, and a **Great Egret** was also observed. Large raptors were represented by **Black Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk** and **Golden Eagle**. **Sandhill Cranes** were present in a snow-covered field near the Grand Canyon Airport in November. Owl species reported included **Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl** and **Northern Saw-whet Owl**.

Small raptors reported were **American Kestrel** and **Merlin**. Migrating thrushes included **Veery** (vr.), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (vr.), and **Swainson's Thrush**. **American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak** were observed late in the season.

One **Trumpeter Swan** was at LN 11/20 (ph. LD). Eight **American Black Ducks** were at MRA 11/21 (DB), and a single female **Greater Scaup** was at LN 11/19 (LD). A single **Surf Scoter** was at Tauscher Pond, HCSP 10/28 (LD), and one **White-winged Scoter** was at HCSP 11/21 (KC). One **Long-tailed Duck, 5 Buffleheads, 5 Hooded Mergansers** and 250 **Common Mergansers** were at THL 11/21 (KC). One **Ruddy Duck** was on LN 11/20 (LD).

A **Ruffed Grouse** as reported from the forest adjacent to LN 11/20 (RH). Ten **Common Loons** were at THL 11/21 (KC), and 4 more were reported earlier at LN 11/20 (LD). Four **Wild Turkeys** were seen along Mills Hill Road, WB 11/25 (TS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at LN 11/19 (LD), and a single **Great Egret** was at LN 9/18 (LD).

Five **Black Vultures** were at DHR 11/16 (RH). One **Osprey** was seen at Ives Run from the RGTR 10/31 (PH). One adult **Bald Eagle** was near Wellsboro along MHR 11/25 (ph. TS). A **Northern Harrier** was seen from Airport Rd. at GCA 11/19 (RH). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was sighted at the Sampson Farm along HCLR 9/25 (LD). Two **Cooper's Hawks** were seen from SR 660 at MRS 9/25 (RH). A single **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PCRT 9/22 (RH). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen from SR 660 at MRS 10/25 (RH). Three **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported from MHR 11/23 (RH), and single **Rough-legged Hawks** were at MHR 11/25 (TS) and WB 11/28 (RH). A **Golden Eagle** flew over LN 10/2 (LD).

Fifteen **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in a snow-covered field of corn stubble east of Airport Rd. at GCA 11/20 (RH, et al.). A **Caspian Tern** was photographed at CLRA 9/9 (RH). A single **Common Tern** was observed near Ives Run from the RGTR 10/12 (KC).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at dusk from LHSP 9/6 (RH et al.) and another was reported during nocturnal birding along HCLR 9/27 (LD). One **Great Horned Owl** was heard at dusk from NERR 11/17 (RH). Three **Barred Owls** were heard during evening birding at LHSP 9/6 (RH et al.). One **Barred Owl** was heard during nocturnal birding from Route 6, 2.75 miles north of AN 10/6 (JC) and another was at SFSR 11/29 (SS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** responded from a power line cut at LR, while recorded owl calls were played during nocturnal birding 9/2 (KC).

One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at the intersection of Rte. 287 and Dean Hill at WC 11/25 (CMcN). One **American Kestrel** was seen 0.2 mile east of Roundtop Road along MHR 11/25 (TS). A **Merlin** was reported from Kendrick Road at COV 10/2 (KC).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Ives Run, near the north end of the railroad grade trail THL 9/9 (ph. RH). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported from HHR 9/3 (NY). Seventy **Horned Larks** were seen in three separate flocks along WR 11/16 (RH). Forty **Horned Larks** were seen in a snow-covered field of corn stubble from Rte. 660 at MRS 11/22 (RH, et al.), and another flock of 44 was seen in a snow-covered field of winter wheat cover crop, southeast of Wellsboro along MHR 11/25 (TS). A **Winter Wren** was reported from DHR 11/30 (DKP). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from a residence along Rte. 6, 2.6 miles north of AN 10/7 (JC). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen at a residence on Rte. 6, 2.64 miles north of AN 10/7 (JC), and another was at a residence located between Rte. 287 and Dean Hill Road at WC 11/25 (CMcN). A single **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at MNV 11/17 (LD). Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at a residence near AN (10/7 (JC)).

Migrating thrushes were heard during the evening (nocturnal) birding, and voice recordings were made for **Veery** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at LHSP 9/6 (RH, et al.) One **Veery** and 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen at LN 9/14 (RH). Fifty **American Pipits** were seen at a field of corn stubble from Rte. 660 at MRS 10/25 (RH). One **Lapland Longspur** was observed in a snow-covered field of corn stubble, near the GCA 11/19 (RH et al.). Two **Snow Buntings** were at WJA 11/18 (RH) and in a field along WR 11/16 (ph. RH).

Two **Tennessee Warblers** were along Kendrick Road near COV 10/10 (KC). A **Cape May Warbler** was observed at a residence off Rte. 6, 2.64 miles north of AN 10/7 (JC). A **Magnolia Warbler** was seen along a walking trail southwest of LN 10/12 (LD). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was reported from Kendrick Road west of COV 10/10 (KC). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at LN 10/9 (LD), and a **Palm Warbler** was along trail near the southwest corner of LN 10/12 (LD). One **Pine Warbler** was at THL 10/11 (RH).

Twenty-five **American Tree Sparrows** were seen at the intersection of

SR T564 and BR 11/29 (RH). One late **Chipping Sparrow** was near a farm pond on HCLR 11/29 (LD) and one **Fox Sparrow** was reported from a residence in WB 11/24 (AP). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were at MRS 10/25 (RH, et al.) Three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen from Kendrick Road near COV 10/10 (KC). A late **Eastern Meadowlark** and one **Rusty Blackbird** were seen along the edge of a snow-covered field and the shoulder of WR 11/16 (ph. RH). Another late **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed in a field along Mills Hill Road southeast of WB 11/25 (ph. TS, et al.). Three **Red Crossbills** were reported from the town of WB 10/24 (RH). Three **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen east of Rte. 286 at WC 11/21 (DKP).

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Union County

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** joined a flock of **Canada Geese** cruising across the sky over SGL 252 Allenwood 11/4 (BS, SH). The increase of these and other typically central-U.S. geese in the east continues. A pair of **Peregrine Falcons**, with the female carrying food, was reported from Shikellamy State Park 9/17, possibly on the *Northumberland* side, but the eBird checklist was unclear on the exact position of the birds (DB). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at SGL 252 Allenwood 9/23 (AK). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** gave called from the woods at R. B. Winter State Park at dawn, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** foraged along the edge of a puddle in the power line cut 10/6 (JG). Also at SGL 252 Allenwood, a **Wilson's Warbler** was found 9/23 (AK).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, j99@psu.edu**, Dan Brauning, Sean Herrmann, Andy Keister, Brian Schmoke.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin area (FA), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil City Marina (OCM), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Seneca (SE), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

Mild weather persisted until early October when the temperatures plummeted. Subsequently there was plenty of rain, and then the temperatures dropped to near or below freezing, with several snowfalls. This resulted in a decent showing of waterfowl, mostly at KL. All of the following were at KL: **Tundra Swan** 11/10-20, **Green-winged Teal** 10/16 TMRP (RS), **Canvasback** 11/20-23 (GE), **Redhead** 11/20-26 (GE), **White-winged Scoter** 11/18 (JS, KG, RS), **Black Scoter** 11/18-20 (JS), **Long-tailed Duck** 11/18 (JS), and the only **Common Goldeneye** 11/20.

The only **Ruffed Grouse** report for the period was noted 11/25 (GE). **Red-necked Grebe** was at KL 10/23 and 11/2 (JS). **Great Egret** was sighted multiple times, which is unusual. One was at KL 8/8 and 8/18 (JS) and one was on the AR 8/23 (JH).

Turkey Vulture remained until 11/22 at BHNS (JS, KG), last **Osprey** was seen 10/22 at TMRP (RS), a **Northern Harrier** cruised near KL 11/12 (NK, MK), **Broad-winged Hawk** was present through 9/27 near FR (NB), and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was near KL 11/27 (JS, KG).

Once again shorebirds were scarce. The highlights were **Black-bellied Plover** at KL 9/17 (RS, GE), over 100 **Killdeer** at KL 8/2, a single **Spotted Sandpiper** at KL 11/6 (JS), and a **Greater Yellowlegs** at KL 10/16-11/6. The only terns were a **Black Tern** at KL 9/12 and a **Common Tern** at KL 9/8 and 9/27 (JS). The annual **Common Nighthawk** Watch at the OCM was held 8/14-9/10 and yielded 609 nighthawks with the help of 10 participants. A **Merlin** was seen at the nighthawk watch 8/23-27.

Flycatchers were as follows: **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 9/16, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at BHNS 9/3-5 (JS, KG), the only **Great Crested Flycatcher** 8/26, and **Eastern Kingbird** was seen through 8/30. Vireos included **Yellow-throated Vireo** through 9/20 (RS), **Blue-headed Vireo** through 10/17 (NK, MK) at SE, **Philadelphia Vireo** at SE 8/30 (NK, MK) and at BHNS 9/10 and 9/25

(JS, KG), **Warbling Vireo** at SE 9/12 (NK, MK), and **Red-eyed Vireo** through 9/26 (JS).

Horned Lark was at KL 11/9 and 11/19 (JS). The last **Purple Martin** observation was at KL 8/12, **Tree Swallow** was seen through 10/26, **Bank Swallow** through 9/10, **Barn Swallow** through 9/26 (JS), and **Cliff Swallow** through 9/8 (JS, KG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch showed up at feeders 9/7 and remained through the end of the quarter. **Winter Wren** put in a few appearances at SE 8/20 (NK, MK) and 9/16 (GE). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** remained until 9/3 (NK, MK). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was observed 10/5 through the end of the period. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at OCSP 9/25 and 10/29 (RS). **Veery** was in SE on 1/20 (NK, MK), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was in SE 9/14 (NK, MK), **Swainson's Thrush** were at FA 8/10 and 10/8 (NB). **Hermit Thrush** was recorded through 11/29. Last **Gray Catbird** sighting was 10/11 (NB). **American Pipit** was at KL 10/13, 10/20, 10/23, and 11/17 (JS). The only **Lapland Longspur** was at KL 11/9 (JS), and **Snow Bunting** was observed at KL 11/21 and 11/22 (JS).

Warbler highlights were as follows: **Golden-winged Warbler** at SE 8/31 (NK, MK), **Cape May Warbler** at FA 8/12 (NB) and SE 9/24 (NK, MK), **Northern Parula** at SE 9/21-23 (NK, MK), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at SE 8/25 (NK, MK) and at BHNS 10/14 (JS, KG), **Blackpoll Warbler** at SE 9/11 and 10/10 (NK, MK), **Palm Warbler** at KL 9/17 (GE), **Pine Warbler** at SE 9/29-10/20 (NK, MK), **Canada Warbler** through 9/11 (NK, MK), and **Wilson's Warbler** at BHNS 8/31 (JS, KG) and at SE 9/30 (NK, MK).

American Tree Sparrow was first seen 11/12 (JS, KG), **Chipping Sparrow** remained through 11/20 at SE (NK, MK), **Fox Sparrow** was at FA 11/6-21 (NB), **White-crowned Sparrow** was at BHNS 11/20 (JS) and at SE 11/11 (NK, MK), **White-throated Sparrow** returned 9/28, and **Savannah Sparrow** was at KL 9/17 (GE).

Scarlet Tanager was recorded through 10/2 (NK, MK), **Bobolink** was last seen 8/26-27 at KL (JS), **Rusty Blackbird** was at KL 11/18 (JS), and **Orchard Oriole** was seen at TMRP 8/30 (MH, RH). **Pine Siskin** were recorded from 10/21 through the end of the period, and **Evening Grosbeak** was at a feeder at OCA 11/4 (DM).

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Warren County

Locations: Alder Bottom Rd. (AB), Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Anna bird banding site, Allegheny National Forest (AN), Big Four Road (BF), Booby Trap banding site, Allegheny National Forest (BT), Forest Road 449 banding site, Allegheny National Forest (F4), Ice Cream banding site, Allegheny National Forest (IC), Mead Island (MI), Starbrick (SB), Sanford Rd, Pittsfield (SR), Six Mile Rd (6M), Sheffield (SF), Smith Hill Rd, Pittsfield (SH), Tidioute Area (TA), Tidioute Trail (TT).

A prolonged, warm summer rapidly changed to winter-like conditions in mid-October, which made for an interesting season bird-wise. Waterfowl were notably sparse: the one highlight was an **American Black Duck** at SR 9/11 (IR). Multiple **Golden Eagles** were sighted at various locations across the county in October (DW, JF, SS). **Black-billed Cuckoos** seemed particularly common, probably owing to the local build-up of tent caterpillars (m.ob.). A **Great Horned Owl** was spotted at SR 10/11 (IR). **Merlins** were reported from BT 9/17 (SS) and MI 9/23 (GR). Although regularly seen throughout Warren as single birds, of note were 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** along TT 11/29 (SI).

An early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at IC 8/9 seems to have been the only one reported (m.ob.). Otherwise it was a good fall for flycatchers. Forest Service banding sites reported unusually high numbers of **Least Flycatchers** (19) moving through between 7/26 and 9/24; multiple **Eastern Wood-Pewees** at F4 from 8/1 through 9/19; and 3 adorable **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** at several sites 8/20-9/17 (m.ob.). Unusual for our upland banding sites were 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** on 9/19 and 9/28, a single **Warbling Vireo** at BT 8/2, and

a single **Yellow-throated Vireo** also at BT 8/8 (m.ob.). Most thrushes seemed to be low in numbers, except for a record high count of **Swainson's Thrush** between 8/1 and 10/5 at multiple sites (DL, SS). **Cedar Waxwings** were exceptionally abundant; high counts this fall included 21 seen in TA 10/19 (EN), 26 at F4 on 9/14 (JS) and 42 at BT 8/16 (SS). It was another eruption year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, with multiple birds reported from TA 10/6 and 10/19 (EN), in SF 10/9 (SG), and at AN 9/6 (m.ob.). Good numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** moved through, augmenting our small resident population; noteworthy were 5 at SH 11/12 (SB), and 3 at 6M 10/12 (TP). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** of the fall was seen in TA 10/6 (EN), later than in most recent years. The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was of three seen from BF 11/24 (TS).

Warblers of note included 2 **Northern Waterthrush** at MI 9/23 (GR), and an adult **Connecticut Warbler** at AN 9/12 (m.ob.). Occasionally, a few individual **Tennessee Warblers** leave their boreal breeding areas early, before molting, to pass through Pennsylvania in late summer well before the bulk of the population. This fall banding sites on the Allegheny National Forest caught a record 9 adults between 8/1 and 8/14 (m.ob.). First arrivals for other migratory warblers included **Bay-Breasted** and **Blackpoll Warblers** 9/19 at IC, **Cape May Warbler** 9/3 at BT, and a very early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 8/2 at AN was likely a local breeder. ANF banding sites reported high seasonal numbers of certain species including 73 **Magnolia Warblers** and 54 **Hooded Warblers** on various days and sites, and 2 **Northern Parulas** 9/12 and 9/20 (m.ob.). Sparse in this area, a single **Pine Warbler** was found at HC 8/4 (AJ, ML). Of note was a rather late-moving **Wilson's Warbler** at IC 10/22 (SS).

Ten **Scarlet Tanagers** were banded on 8/13 at F4, a high daily count for this species (SS). The first **Fox Sparrow** of the season showed up at IC 10/12, a single **Swamp Sparrow** was in mid-forest at BT 10/5 (SS), and the first **American Tree Sparrow** did not appear until 11/29 in TA (SI), a very late date for *Warren*.

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Washington County

Locations: Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A count of 26 **Blue-winged Teal** at CC 9/2 (MJ) was impressive for *Washington*. A very early **Northern Shoveler** was at Glass Hill Road 9/8 (FK); the species was seen sporadically in Oct as well. Two **Gadwalls** hung around BENT 11/4-18 (JF). Following a strong cold front about a week prior, some late waterfowl along with a few other species seen only once for the season were found in the BENT area 11/17-18: three **American Wigeon** were late, and the season's only **Redhead**, **Canvasback**, **Horned Grebes**, and **Common Loon** were noted (MJ, JF, LF, RT). A few **American Black Ducks** were around BENT in early Nov (MJ, JF) and 2 were at R4 on 11/21 (RI). The only report of **Northern Pintail**, typically difficult to find in fall, was of 7 near BENT 11/4 (MJ, JF, LF). A **Ring-necked Duck** was near BENT 10/7 (JF, LF), and their number surged there in Nov, with counts of up to 49 in mid-Nov (JF, m.ob.). Fourteen **Bufflehead** and 27 **Hooded Mergansers** near BENT 11/18 were the season high for each (MJ, JF, LF, RT), and 21 **Ruddy Ducks** were at PL 11/20 (JF).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was seen along Rte. 18 in South Franklin Twp. 10/16 (RI). There were more reports of the declining **Black-billed Cuckoo** than usual: singles were at CC 8/2 (FK), MC 8/28 (JF, LF), WP 9/12-20 (LC), and a somewhat late bird at CC 10/9 (MJ). A few reports of **Common Nighthawks** were made in and near WASH 8/12-9/1 (LC, et al.); they were also noted in Peters Twp. 8/25 (GG) and in Finleyville 9/12 (MH, RH). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered in Peters Twp. to 10/5 (GG). A *Washington* record-setting flock of 32 **Sandhill Cranes** was photographed over a farm in Bealsville 11/23 (*vide* RT).

R4 was drawn down this fall, which created good shorebird habitat at the southern end of the reservoir until a storm that dumped about 4.5" of rain on the area 9/9-10 inundated the flats more or less for the remainder of the season. All

of the following highlights were listed at R4. One **Semipalmated Plover** was present 8/4-6 (MJ, RI) and another found some exposed mud there 9/23 (MJ). The county's first **Baird's Sandpiper** since 2010 appeared 8/25 (JF, MJ) and remained to 9/1 to the delight of several observers. Counts of **Least Sandpiper** peaked at 17 by 9/9 (MJ) when the flooding rains finally drove them off. Up to 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 8/24-9/9 (RI, SG, et al.). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was present 8/30-9/6 (MJ, et al.). Also rare for *Washington*, a single juv. **Short-billed Dowitcher** was present 8/20-9/2 (RI, et al.). Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** and one **Greater Yellowlegs** made it to 9/9 before they too were driven off by the rains (m.ob.), and no Lessers were seen in the county thereafter. There were a handful of other notable shorebird records away from R4. A **Sanderling** was found near BENT 9/8 (MJ, JF), another very rare species for the county. A second **Baird's Sandpiper** also turned up near BENT 9/8 (MJ, JF). A somewhat late **Spotted Sandpiper** was still at CL 10/7 (MJ), and a similarly lingering **Solitary Sandpiper** was near Marianna 10/11 (MJ). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was still near BENT 10/28 (JF, MJ, MM).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was around BENT 10/28-11/4 (RI) and another was at CL 11/10 (JF). Quite rare in *Washington* away from the Monongahela River, 6 **Herring Gulls** were on a pond near BENT 11/18 (MJ, JF, LF, RT). Two **Caspian Terns** were at the same BENT pond 9/8 (MJ, JF). **Great Egrets** were common around CL and nearby Boone Reservoir until 10/7 (m.ob.).

Osprey hung around PL to 10/10 but that was the last for the season. Away from the traditional areas around Robinson Twp. and adjacent grasslands, **Northern Harrier** was seen also around BENT for much of Oct (m.ob.). **Bald Eagles** were present in the vicinity of CL through the season, as is now expected, and one was in Peters Twp. 11/22 (GG). The only report of **Short-eared Owl** at Robinson Twp. was made on the last day of the season 11/30 (LN). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was first reported at WP 10/3 (RI), and sightings around the county were a little more frequent than usual for the rest of the season. A **Merlin** was at Washington Cemetery 11/29 (LC).

Great Crested Flycatcher was still at WP 9/11 (LC). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was detected at the Washington Park School pond 9/12 (LC) and at CC 9/22 (JF). A late **Least Flycatcher** was in a WASH yard 10/13 (RI). The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was of one at CC 9/23 (JF). Except at the Lake Erie shore, western Pennsylvania generally does not see the large early fall movements of **Blue Jays** that are often encountered on the eastern side of the state, so the 43 tallied near BENT 9/27 (JF, JP) was notable for this area. **Common Ravens** were all over the place once again and at this point almost no longer warrant mention in this report. A nice count of 30 **Horned Larks** was made along Parkview Road near CC 11/23 (RI). A late **Tree Swallow** was near BENT 11/4 (MJ). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted at Washington Cemetery 8/4 (MW) where they sometimes spend the whole summer; first obvious irruption birds appeared in Peters Twp. 9/8 (GG) and they were frequently reported around the county thereafter.

Reports of spot-breasted thrushes were unremarkable, except for a late **Swainson's Thrush** described at PL 11/3 (ME). An **American Pipit** was at GCW 10/13 (AP, JC) and 20 were on Parkview Road 11/4 (MJ). Reports of **Purple Finch** picked up beginning with a bird at a WASH feeder 10/13 (RI), and first **Pine Siskin** appeared at the same feeder 10/31 (RI), but neither species was particularly abundant thereafter. A **Lapland Longspur** on Parkview Road 11/23 (RI) with the Horned Larks mentioned above was very nice for *Washington*.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was still in Robinson Twp. 10/1 (FK). Just two reports of **Fox Sparrow** were made: one at Cecil Twp. 10/19 (FK) and one at MC 11/3 (JF). As usual a few **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found beginning with one at the Buffalo Creek IBA 10/17 (RI). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was hanging on at BENT 11/18 (MJ, JF, LF, RT), and an impressive tally of 1500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was made at GCW 10/13 (AP, JC).

Solid reports of **Orange-crowned Warbler** included one at WP 9/27 (LC) and one at CL 10/17 (JF). A **Connecticut Warbler** was detected at MC 10/1 (RI), rare but probably under-reported for the county in fall. Late warblers included **Cape May Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Ten Mile Creek County Park 10/11 (MJ), **Northern Parula** at PL 10/11 (JF), **Blackpoll Warbler** at MC 10/12 (JF), a well-described **Yellow Warbler** in WASH 10/7 (JP), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at GCW 10/13 (AP, JC). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was an obvious migrant at R4 on 9/8 (JF, MJ). The only **Canada Warbler** was noted at CC 9/23 (JF).

Two different lingering **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** appeared at a WASH feeder 10/6-7 (JP), and a late **Indigo Bunting** was at GCW 10/13 (AP, JC).

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Wayne County

Locations: Himalayan Institute (HI), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

The most significant sighting this season was 4 **Sandhill Cranes** photographed at a farm near Lakeville 8/5 (DJ, RJ). This sighting marked the first eBird report of the species in *Wayne*. Only the fifth county eBird record of **Golden Eagle** was made when an adult was photographed in Equinunk 11/3 (DA). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, another county rarity, were at LW 10/6-10 (PamR, PatR).

This year's winter finch irruption brought **Evening Grosbeaks** to feeders at a few private residences, with periodic sightings occurring 11/1-11 (KC, JH). Small numbers of **Pine Siskin** were noted at several locations across the southern half of the county.

Nineteen warbler species were reported. The highlight was a **Brewster's Warbler** at HI 8/20 (CF, JL).

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclachu76@gmail.com**, Dave Altmiller, Kathleen Colligan, Chris Fischer, John Harvey, Dave Johnson, Ryan Johnson, John Loz, Pamela Reeser (PamR), Patricia Reeser (PatR).

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Reservoir a.k.a. Derry Lake (ESR), Hamilton Road Ponds (HRP), Ice Pond, Ligonier (IP), Kuehl Property, Murrysville (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir a.k.a. Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Leon's Farm (LH), Love Hollow (LH), Morosini Reserve (MR), Northmoreland Park (NMP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Sewickley Wetlands (SW), St. Vincent Lake/Wetlands (SVL), St. Vincent Wetland (SVW), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Tub Mill Reservoir (TR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT), Westmoreland Heritage Trail – Delmont area (WHT-DEL), Westmoreland Heritage Trail – BRR area (WHT-BRR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail – Saltsburg area (WHT-ST).

Extensive coverage of the Morosini Reserve in Ringertown resulted in the finding of a rare winter visitor to *Westmoreland*. The Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club conducted its 11th annual Big Sit at KSP, with compiler Dick Byers reporting a tally of 47 species. New species recorded were **American Wigeon**, **Great Egret**, and **White-eyed Vireo**, raising the all-time species count to 93.

Rare for *Westmoreland*, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at IP 11/3 and continued to 11/22 (AM). High counts of **Canada Geese** included 279 at BRR 10/20 (KB), and 285 on 11/20 (AM) and 300 on 11/24 at SVL (RH). Significant flocks of migrating **Tundra Swans** included 65 near Ross Mountain Park 11/11 (AM), 100 at PNR 11/14 (LD), and 30 over the Greengate Shopping Center 11/28 (MJS).

There were just a few reports of **Blue-winged Teal**, with the high count just 3 at WHT-BRR 8/26 (KB). A high count of 36 **Northern Shovelers** at ESL 11/20 (SM) was also the only report of the season. Other puddle ducks were sparse as well; season-high counts were 9 **Gadwall** at HRP 11/24 (RH), 8 **American Wigeon** at LR 11/3 (AM), and 9 **American Black Duck** at LR 11/18 (AM). A very productive day at ESL 11/20 included a stunning 220 **Canvasback**, 48 **Redhead**, 7 **Ring-necked Duck**, 65 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Surf Scoter**, one **White-winged Scoter**, 2 **Long-tailed Duck**, 65 **Bufflehead**, 6 **Common Goldeneye** and 32 **Ruddy Duck** (AM). Other high counts of diving ducks were 3 **Long-tailed Duck** at ESL 11/28 (SM), 22 **Ring-necked Duck** at LR 11/3 (AM) and 47 **Ruddy Duck** at LR 11/3 (AM). Season-high counts made along WHT-BRR were 16 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/18 (KB) and 40 **Common Mergansers** 11/13 (KB).

A rarity compared to the widely reported **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** for the season was at MR 8/2 (SM). **Common Nighthawks** were monitored from home in Delmont 8/18-9/7; high count was 10 on 8/31 (KB). **American Coots** were recorded at several locations for the season, with the high count of 11 at BRR 11/19 (KB). A **Sandhill Crane** was nicely photographed at TLP 9/13 (VM).

The drained Donegal Lake provided all the high counts of shorebird species for the season. These included one **Dunlin** 10/21 (MJ), 3 **Least Sandpipers** 8/2 (JH), 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 10/21 (MJ), and 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** 8/2 (MJ). Late reports of 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 11/3 (AM) and one **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/27 (AM) were also made there.

A productive day for gulls at the Rte. 286 causeway of BRR 11/13 included 13 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and of 13 **Ring-billed Gulls** (SM) and there were 20 **Ring-billed Gulls** at ESP 11/20 (AM). Two **Caspian Terns** were at BRR 9/8 (KB). Four **Common Loons** were reported at LR 11/3 (AM). The only report of multiple **Double-crested Cormorants** was of the 2 at BRR 9/8 (KB). Not always seen in *Westmoreland* during migration, there were several reports of **Great Egret**, well scattered in both dates and locations: one at KSP 10/6 (RC/SM), one at SW 11/2 (MF) and one at NMP 11/4-6 (MVT).

Expected in the Ligonier Valley, although thinly reported this season, were one **Black Vulture** at LH 9/2 (AM) and one near Wilpen 11/23 (SP). Three **Ospreys** were reported at a nesting location at DL 8/3 (RH), and 3 **Ospreys** and 3 **Bald Eagles** were reported at KSP 10/6 (SM). Continuing from the previous season, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was found again north of Ligonier on Rte. 711 on 8/1 (MF). **Northern Harrier** was seen in Delmont 10/1 (KB), near Crabtree 11/7 (TK, JK), and on Cameo Lane in Greensburg 11/24 (RH). One **Eastern Screech-Owl** called at the KP 9/17 (JK) and one was heard on the KSP Big Sit 10/11 (GD). Two **Barred Owls** were reported at LH 10/9 and 11/4 (AM). **Barred Owls** vocalized a number of times in the early part of the season at the KP, often in response to day-time fire sirens, with the first of the season 8/8. They were joined by howling coyotes during the last report 9/13 (JK, TK). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was incidentally sighted on Rock Springs Road near the intersection of Rte. 66 and Rte. 22 on 9/8 (GS, JK, KB, TK). A **Peregrine Falcon** upset some **Blue Jays** as it passed over LH 9/30 (AM).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was flycatching at LH 9/19 (AM). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was made at WHT-DEL 9/8 (KB, JK, TK, GS). A first winter **Northern Shrike** was at MR 10/25 to at least 11/2 (SMa). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were at LH 9/23 and 10/6 (AM). Scattered reports of **Common Raven** were made in locations in both the Laurel Highlands and at lower elevations on the Plateau, including 2 at NMP 11/3 (SM). The BRR Municipality Authority building serves as a staging area for migrant **Purple Martins**; reports there included 160 on 8/18 (MD) and 80 on 8/27 (SM). The irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** resulted in many scattered reports in *Westmoreland*, including birds at the Cloverleaf Golf Course 8/31 and 9/27 (TK), at MR 9/18-11/1 (SM), and on Thorn Run Road 9/21-11/7 (SM). Reports of **Brown Creeper** at WHT-BRR spanned from one on 10/1 to the season high count of 3 on 11/20 (KB), and for **Winter Wren** from 10/26 to 11/7. One **Winter Wren** hopped about in a stick pile at KP 10/13 (TK).

A kinglet fallout at LH 10/14 included 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and a remarkable 20 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**. The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at LF 10/5 (MS). A species often missed, one **American Pipit** was at DL 11/18 (AM). One of several large flocks reported during the season, 88 **Cedar Waxwings** were at WHT-DEL 9/10 (KB). An **Evening Grosbeak** visited a feeding table along Rte. 259 north of Ligonier 11/25-26 (LS), adding *Westmoreland* to the list of counties this species visited during this invasion year. Many well-scattered reports of **Purple Finch** included a report of 4 at WHT-ST 9/23 (KB). The same was generally true for **Pine Siskin**, reports of which included a high count of 15 near Stahlstown 11/15 (DB). There were 2 **Fox Sparrows** at MR 11/2 (SM). Other significant counts of migrant sparrows included 5 **Lincoln Sparrows** at LF 10/5 and 5 **White-crowned Sparrows** at Scottsdale 11/17 (GS). A high count of around 80 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was made at SW 11/2 (MF). Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SW 10/26 (MF), Delmont 11/8 (KB), and Scottsdale 11/19 (GS).

Significant effort at LH (AM), MR (SM) and on the various sections of the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail (KB) provided for an impressive tally of 25 warbler species for the season. Including hybrids, another 6 species (**Lawrence's Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Connecticut Warbler**, and **Mourning Warbler**) were captured at PNR. Significant finding away from PNR included 2 **Orange-**

crowned Warblers at LH 10/4 (AM), on Rock Lick Hollow Road in Delmont, there were 2 **Cape May Warblers** 9/14 (KB) and 4 **Blackpoll Warblers** 9/24 (KB), and an astounding 44 **Palm Warblers** were counted at LF 10/5 (MS).

Species of note captured at the PNR Banding Station that were not otherwise reported during the season were **Merlin**, **Wilson Snipe**, **Woodcock**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, and **Marsh Wren**.

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Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center, including Vosburg Neck (EMNC), Iroquois Trail, Tunkhannock (IT), Jennings Pond (JP), Lake Carey (LC), Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LRG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Nesbitt Road (NR), Oxbow Lake (OL), Phelps Swamp (PS), Riverside Park (RP), Russell Hill (RH), Scavazzo's Pond (SP), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL).

This fall season was one of conflicting results. On the one hand, it seemed as though we were seeing fewer than usual of each of the regularly visiting species, which was a little disappointing. On the other hand, we had more than the usual number of records of uncommon and rare species, which was exciting.

Ring-necked Duck is a regular fall migrant in *Wyoming* and they did not disappoint this year, as 2 were at LC 11/13 (MC) and up to 22 were on SP 10/23-11/13 (JD). **Lesser Scaup** is an uncommon fall visitor, and this year 5 were recorded at LC 11/20 (JD, MC), the first fall records since 2016. Another regular visitor during the fall is **Bufflehead**, which was reported in small numbers at several locations: 3 at MP 11/4 (DT), 2 at LC 11/20 (JD), 2 again at LC 11/28 (JS), and up to 13 at OL 11/11-29 (MC). Two **Common Goldeneyes**, another rarely recorded species, spent a few days at LC in late Nov to 11/28 (JS). A single **Red-breasted Merganser**, uncommon in fall, was reported at LC 11/15-16 (JD). Several birders recorded **Ruddy Duck** throughout the period: a single was at MP 11/4 (DT), up to 6 were at LC 11/2-25 (MC), and one to 4 were at OL 10/23-11/30 (JD, MC). A single **Horned Grebe** paid a short visit to LC 11/15-29 (JD, MC). **Red-necked Grebe**, another rare visitor to *Wyoming*, was at LC 11/20 (MC, JD). This was the first in the county since November 2016.

For the first time since April 2016 and only the fourth time since the turn of the century, **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was recorded in *Wyoming*, when one was heard singing at EMNC 10/21 (RL).

Although **Common Gallinule** was identified as a possible breeder in the Second PBBA, which completed in 2009, there are apparently no records of the species in this area since that time. This year, however, a pair of birds with five young was recorded at DC 8/3 (JD). It will be interesting to see if this is the beginning of more regular records and even nesting in *Wyoming*.

Yet another rare visitor, **Red-throated Loon** was recorded at LC 11/20 and 12/1 (JD). It's possible it was the same bird each time. This was the first fall record of the species in seven years. Single **Common Loons** were at JP 10/16 (JD), LC 10/28 (MC), and LC 11/20 (JD, MC). **Double-crested Cormorant** has been expanding its range in Pennsylvania, but almost all *Wyoming* records have been outside of safe dates. This fall, single birds were recorded three times at LC: 10/7 (CE), 9/7 (MC), and 11/13 (MC). **Great Egret** is often seen in very small numbers during post breeding dispersal; one was at a small pond just north of Tunkhannock 9/26 (TS).

Golden Eagle is known to migrate along the Susquehanna and the local ridgelines and a few occur here each year: birds passing overhead or feeding on carcasses during migration. Most of those come from a local falconer, who maintains a blind on a local mountain. It was from that blind that one was observed flying by 11/8 (JD).

Again, this year, no indication was found that **Osprey** is breeding in *Wyoming*, but there were again several records of single birds, outside of safe dates and likely in migration: 8/10 over Tunkhannock Creek just east of Tunkhannock, 9/6 at OL (MC), and 9/7 and 9/13 at LC (MC).

Swainson's Thrush, rare here, was recorded twice: 10/5 at LC (CE) and 10/6 near Forkston (DT). These were the first records I'm aware of in over ten years. Three **Snow Buntings** were recorded along Sugar Hollow Road 11/27 (SR). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at EMNC 11/4 (DT). Finally, a single **Orange-crowned Warbler** was recorded at SGL 57 on 11/1 (EZ). This species, too, is rare for *Wyoming*, with few if any records made in the past 10 years.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco**, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, Mark Catalano, Justin Clarke, Gordon Dimmig, Carl Engstrom, Nate Fronk, Sandy Goodwin, Eric Hartshaw, Rebecca Lesko, Kay Nace, Linda Pallis, Sharon Richards, Jim Ridolfi, Darla Shank, Ty Sharrow, Jerry Skinner, Sharon Templin, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas, David Trently, Matthew Voelker, Eric Zawatski.

York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCPC).

The period's species count of 192 was above average. Highlights included a **Black Skimmer**, a **Tricolored Heron**, a **Mississippi Kite**, a trio of **Evening Grosbeaks**, and strong movements of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Purple Finch** into the county. The colder than normal November and a snowstorm 11/15 seemed to have pushed a number of species along while also bringing waterfowl into the county somewhat earlier and in better numbers than normal.

The only report of **Snow Goose** was a single at LR 11/23-30 (m.ob.). Presence of **Mute Swan** grew at Spring Grove with up to 7 birds 10/3-11/26 (m.ob.). **Northern Shoveler** was found once, a trio at LR 9/28 (AWg). Four reports of **Gadwall** 10/2-11/29 (m.ob.) were paced by a nice count of 16 at New Cumberland 11/29 (DN). The five reports of **American Wigeon** 10/6-11/22 (m.ob.) with a high count of 8 at Lake Lea 10/29 (CH) was better than normal. Of the six reports of **American Black Duck** 10/6-11/29 (m.ob.) a nice county count of 17 birds came from New Cumberland 11/22 (DN). LR one or 2 **Northern Pintail** 9/28-11/23 (DN, BR, AWg) and GPSP held a single 11/6 (DNN). A pair of **Canvasbacks** was at LAR 11/21-22 (MH, SH, PK) and single **Redheads** were at Long Level 8/26 (CM) and Spring Grove 11/20 (CB). The August bird was photographed and appeared to be an injured bird from last winter's hunting season. Four sites held **Ring-necked Duck** with up to 51 at Spring Grove 11/5-26 (CB, PK, DN). Six **Lesser Scaup** were found at LAR 10/25 (DN) and 3 were at LR 11/17 (BR). Wrightsville produced the only report of **Common Goldeneye** with 4 birds 11/30 (DK). A photographed group of 5 female **Common Mergansers** at LR 8/25 (BR) eclipsed the county's previous early date by a wide margin. The only **Red-breasted Merganser** was at LAR 11/22 (MH, SH). Two **Horned Grebes** were at LAR 11/22 (MH, SH) and a single was at CSP 11/25-27 (KJ, JW).

The better-than-average five reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** (DNN, RS, AWg) reflected the results of a strong Game Commission stocking season. Twelve locales holding **Wild Turkeys** were led by a 20 count along the Rail Trail 11/29 (SM). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported at 11 sites 8/2-10/6 (m.ob.) and singles of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were at Ski Roundtop 8/22 (CH) and John Rudy County Park 10/15 (AWg). **Common Nighthawk** was well reported 8/3-10/1 (m.ob.) but high count was limited to 5 birds at Messiah College 9/1 (LS).

The wet year put a damper on shorebird migration, and only 11 species noted. Noteworthy sightings included: **Dunlin** at LR 10/21-11/3 (m.ob.) with a high count of 5 birds 10/21 (DNN), up to 28 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at LV 8/30 (BR), and 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** at LR 9/28 (GG) and 10/6 (AWg). Nine **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LAR 11/8 (DN) was the only report. Single **Herring Gulls** were at the Ridge Rd Landfill 10/23 (DN), Native Lands Park 11/19 (AWg), and LR 11/29 (CK). Uncommon inland in the county, a **Great Black-backed Gull** was at LR 11/29 (DN) and 2 birds were along the Susquehanna R. at Apollo County Park 11/19 (AWg). Up to 2 **Caspian Terns** were at LR 8/28-9/13 (m.ob.) and a single was at CSP 10/18 (DN). Not so common for *York*, a **Common Tern** was at CSP 10/18 (DN) and CSP held a pair of **Forster's Terns** 10/21 (RS). A beautifully photographed **Black Skimmer** (no additional doc.) put in a very short stay at CSP 9/17 (BA). The brevity of the stay resulted in no other lucky observers. Interestingly, the county's only prior record was a 9/20/2003 bird at nearby LAR during Hurricane Isabel.

CSP held a single **Common Loon** 10/26 (RS) and then a pair 11/27 (KJ). GPSP also had a loon 11/2-19 (DNN, AWG). The attractiveness of LR to the wading group was very apparent this year. High count of **Great Blue Heron** was 15 birds 8/22 (DN, RS) and 26 **Great Egret** 8/23 (CK) and 9/23 (RS). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was a one day event at LR 8/14 (ME) and a **Tricolored Heron** (doc. submitted) put in an extended stay 8/12-9/18 (m.ob.). This could have been the same bird that visited last year with an extended stay 7/24-8/16. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were also at LR and LW 8/7-9/23 (m.ob.) with a high count of 6 at LW 8/13 (ML).

The RRCP Hawkwatch (RP, KO, FP, AWG, et al.) continued to concentrate on the peak of **Broad-winged Hawk** migration. Total broad-winged count was a pretty typical 2811 with best days of 988 on 9/16 and 689 on 9/19. A count of 46 **American Kestrels** 9/18 set a single day site record, and that same date produced a **Mississippi Kite** sighting (RP, PK, no doc.). Raptor highlights away from the hawkwatch included broad-winged kettles of 175 on 9/16 (DNN) at Fairview Twp and 37 at Ski Roundtop 9/18 (CM), and a **Golden Eagle** at LR 10/22 (KJ).

Reports of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** were typical. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at Shrewsbury Twp. 10/1 (JF). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** arrived 9/15 and were widely found thereafter, reported at 22 locations (m.ob.). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports came from 10 sites but decreased towards the end of the period, suggesting that minimal overwintering was likely in store. High count was at one of the county's strongholds, HTP, with 6 birds 8/24 (DNN). Away from the hawkwatch, **Merlins** were reported 9/16-10/29 at four sites, and single **Peregrine Falcons** were at LW 8/7 (AWG) and LR 10/23 (DN).

Reports of flycatchers and vireos were pretty typical for the period. Two sites reported the elusive **Philadelphia Vireo**: a single was at Nixon County Park 9/16 (KJ) and singles visited Fairview Twp. 9/20, 10/3, and a rather late 10/9 (all DNN). A remarkable 35 minute period at RRCP Hawkwatch 9/24 (CE) saw a **Blue Jay** flight of over 1000 birds. The hawkwatch site was also the vantage point for a flock of 9 **Common Ravens** 10/9 (AWG). Up to 7 **Horned Larks** were found at HTP 8/4-9/30 (TC, DF, BR). The only other location reporting larks was North Hopewell Twp. where 5 were found 10/23 (WH). Latest **Purple Martins** were 2 at LR 8/30 (RS). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption was first noted 9/1, and eventually they were reported at 22 sites (m.ob.) throughout the period. **Brown Creeper** was first found 9/22 and was solidly reported from that point forward. The four **Winter Wren** reports were confined to a fairly tight period 10/22-11/8 (EH, CK, AWG).

Fifteen locations reporting **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were led by a 7 count at GPSP 10/26 (DNN), and 20 sites reporting **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were paced by a nice 15 count at RRCP 10/17 (BR). Larger flocks of **Eastern Bluebirds** are a treat for any birder, and certainly the 30 birds at HTP 10/19 and 10/25 (both BR) fit that bill. **Veery** were found at RRCP 9/19 and 9/22 (CE) and one succumbed to a picture window strike in East Prospect at 21:23 hours 9/30 (BB). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at Nixon County Park 9/16 (KJ) and 10/7 (AWG). Four sites produced **Swainson's Thrush** 9/8-10/26 (CB, CE, KJ, DNN, AWG) led by a trio at RRCP 9/26 (CE). A **Gray Catbird** at CSP 11/27 (PM) was the only sighting in Nov this year. **Cedar Waxwing** high count was 48 at York Twp. 9/26 (AP).

As with *Adams*, one lucky birder hosted **Evening Grosbeak**: 3 females were at a backyard feeder in Shrewsbury Twp. 11/3 (JF). The 23 sites reporting **Purple Finch** 8/18-11/18 (m.ob.) represented the strongest showing in many, many years. Nice counts of 14 came from Goldsboro 10/28 (BS) and Newberrytown 11/15 (KG), and 18 were registered at Woods Rd 11/15 (MC). Nine reports of **Pine Siskin** 10/21-11/28 (m.ob.) were a positive as well. High count was 17 over RRCP 10/22 (AWG).

Single **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at RRCP 8/25 (DW) and 9/6 (DN) and the reliable HTP produced sightings of up to 4 birds 8/4-10/4 (TC, DF, BR). A new recently explored venue, West Manheim Twp. Park, produced a sighting 8/23 (DN). **Chipping Sparrows** were highlighted by a great count of 26 at GPSP 9/11 (DN) and two late sightings 11/28 (AP, SW). The one observer (SW) noted that despite the late date, the bird showed full breeding plumage. A pair of **American Tree Sparrows** was at LR 11/19 (CE) for the only report. Two **Fox Sparrows** were at RRCP 11/6 (AWG) and singles were at Apollo County Park and Native Lands Park 11/19 (AWG). HTP produced the only **Savannah Sparrows** 9/30-11/4 (DF, KJ, DN, BR) including a remarkable high count of 33 birds 10/4 (DF). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a good find in North Hopewell Twp. 10/23 (WH). Seven sites produced **Swamp Sparrows** 10/7-11/27 (m.ob.) but

high count was limited to 3 birds. HTP produced the only **Bobolinks** 8/19 to the rather late date of 10/4 (DF, DNN, BR) with a high count of 9 birds 8/24 (DNN). The same venue produced reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** 8/4-11/4 (m.ob.) with a nice count of 20 birds 10/4 (DF). Highpoint Scenic Vista was the only other locale reporting meadowlark, with a single 10/23 (DN). A **Baltimore Oriole** at GPSP 10/4 (DNN) was getting late. Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** were comprised of 6 at HTP 11/4 (BR), a single at a York Twp. home 11/15 (AP), and up to 30 at Sunnyside Rd 10/30-11/18 (CB, DN, BR).

The 26 warbler species reported was a little above average. Singles of **Blue-winged Warblers** were found 8/24 (DKe) at RRCP and along the Rail Trail 9/12 (AWG). The five sites reporting **Tennessee Warbler** and three sites reporting **Nashville Warbler** were paced by counts of 3 for both species, 10/14 (AWG) at Apollo County Park and 10/6 (CB, DN) at RRCP, respectively. Five reports of **Cape May Warbler** spanned 8/24-10/7 (DKe, AP, BR, AWG). A nice fall bird was a **Cerulean Warbler** at RRCP 8/25 (AW). A **Magnolia Warbler** at LR 10/18 (DN) was getting a little late. Four sites each reporting **Bay-breasted Warbler** 9/3-10/13 (m.ob.) and **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/12 to a decidedly late 10/17 (m.ob.) were above average, as were five sites reporting **Blackpoll Warbler** 8/23-10/21 (m.ob.). Fourteen **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at RRCP 8/23 (DW) was deemed a conservative count by the observer as small waves were moving through the trees. Nice counts of 30 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** came from LR 10/6 (CB, DN) and Sunnyside Rd 10/17 (CB). Two **Canada Warblers** were found at RRCP 8/23-24 (DKe, DW) and a single was at Nixon County Park 9/4 (AWG). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were reported at RRCP 8/23 (DW) and 9/7 (AWG) and at a York Twp. home 10/25 (AP).

Seven sites produced **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 9/9-10/22 (m.ob.). **Blue Grosbeak** put in a strong showing with four sites producing reports. HTP held up to a pair 8/4-24 (TC, DF, DNN) as did West Manheim Twp Park 8/23-9/1 (KD, DN). Singles were at Goldsboro 8/13 (BS) and along the Rail Trail 8/18 (AWG).

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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

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

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IN FOCUS -- Fall Waterbirds



Coming in for a landing – not the usual view of **Pied-billed Grebe**; this bird was at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* 7 November. (*Barry Blust*)



This adult **Virginia Rail** was photographed from a kayak, at New Milford, *Susquehanna* 9 August; a few days earlier, 3 chicks were seen at the location, and calls were heard into early fall. (*Nancy VanCott*)



This immature **Laughing Gull** at Fox Chapel, *Allegheny* 5 August represents the fifth county record. (*Geoff Malosh*)



This **Arctic Tern** at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks* 18 September, the 7th county record, came down with Common Terns during Hurricane Florence, stayed a few hours, then departed. (*Ken Lebo*)



There are approximately a dozen records of **Brown Pelican** in Pennsylvania, nearly all since 2000; this pelican at New Brighton, *Beaver* 17 September, a one-day visitor, was one of three for fall 2018. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Another of the three **Brown Pelicans** in the state during fall 2018, this bird was at Nockamixon SP, *Bucks* 8-11 (here 10) August, providing a first county record. (*Eric Zawatski*)