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Cover: Pennsylvania's first Hermit Warbler was found 25 (here 29) November at Aston, Delaware where it stayed through the end of the season. (*Barry Blust*)

Time for a Change

This issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 36, No. 4, is my last as Chief Editor. I have served as editor for seven years – seven volumes, a total of 28 issues, probably a couple more than I might have thought when I took over from **Geoff Malosh** in 2016. It has been a privilege to serve the Pennsylvania Birding community. In doing so I have come into contact with dozens (probably triple digits, actually) of Pennsylvania birders, even if many only through *e-communication*. The way birders share their interest and passion for the natural world has always been a great pleasure to see and I am glad to count so many among my friends and acquaintances.

Is *Pennsylvania Birds* relevant in 2023?

In signing off, I will make just one actual editorial point, one I have addressed before, as did Geoff Malosh, whose time as editor coincided with the explosion of eBird usage. A point that bears repeating from time to time. Most avian observations included in these pages nowadays come from the eBird public data base – the bar charts and maps, a resource the value of which simply cannot be over-stated, whether for purposes of science or seeking information on a certain species in a specific location for simple birding enjoyment.

Thus, the question we sometimes hear and sometimes ask ourselves: Is the level of detail reported in our journal necessary in view of the availability of data in eBird a few keystrokes away? The answer in the affirmative is quickly obvious. Without belaboring the point, local experts distill understanding and meaning from all the occurrence charts and maps in a way eBird alone cannot do. With the continual “automation” (is that the right word?) of modern birding, still nothing beat the imperfect but still unmatched human brain for understanding and appreciation of the natural world. It’s our best tool, at least until A.I. eventually achieves world domination.

A product of hundreds

A glance at the Table of Contents page and at the compiler list on page 206 shows that *Pennsylvania Birds* is, of course, the product of the efforts of many individuals. Roughly half of the content of *Pennsylvania Birds* is devoted to detailed county reports, extracted from eBird but also personal contacts via the efforts of compilers in each county, many of whom have been on the job since well before my tenure as editor. And in turn, of course the efforts of county compilers draw from the reporting of hundreds of Pennsylvania birders.

For each seasonal issue, the largest portion of work is done by the seasonal editors, who pull from the county reports what they believe should be expanded upon, and then produce the Summary of the Season and the Birds of Note, essentially the core of each issue. These four individuals are **Mike Fialkovich, Dan Brauning, Geoff Malosh, and Nick Bolgiano**, three of whom have been seasonal editors beginning well before my time as editor.

Most county reports are clearly written and can be read and understood with little or no alteration. But editors gotta edit – and so each county report is read by a seasonal editor, the chief editor, and a copy editor. The addition of two copy editors, **Carol Light and Sheryl Johnson** (both of who also do county compiling) was

one of the smarter things I did as editor – reducing the work required of the seasonal and chief editor and speeding the process of turning out each issue.

In the hand (or online, as some choose), *Pennsylvania Birds* looks great. This is largely due to efforts of two people. In addition to serving as a sounding board, **Deb Grove** does the layout, a task for which I would have some serious shortage of patience. During my term as editor, first **Ted Nicholls II** and then **Rob Dickerson** have served as photo editor. From some 100-225 photos submitted each season, the photo editor selects and edits a subset for possible inclusion in the journal, including the cover photo and the In Focus page. That first subset of photos is then forwarded to the chief editor for final selections and caption writing. A few years back we made the decision to go full color, a bit more expensive to print but no one could argue it was not worth it.

Wendy Jo Shemansky is the first line of contact between the county compilers and the subsequent layers of editors. Wendy Jo receives and bundles all submitted county reports, making repairs of formatting problems (and also posting *gentle reminders* of due dates, saving the editor that task).

For some three decades most issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* have included a book review - the vast majority written by Professor **Gene Wilhelm** of Slippery Rock University. Recurring articles include the hawk watch summaries from **Laurie Goodrich** and **David Barber** of Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, the annual Christmas Bird Counts summary by **Nick Bolgiano**, the birdlist report by **Peter Robinson** and **Andy Keister**, and annual PORC reports by **Mike Fialkovich**. And this is not to mention the dozens of writers of a wide variety of research and feature articles.

Last, but by no means least – there is **Frank Haas**. Frank is indeed not last, but rather first, as he and Barbara started it all 36 years ago. Together they edited the journal for the first 15 years of its existence. We lost Barbara a couple years ago, but Frank remains an essential element in the production of our journal, handling all the business dealings and relay of the completed issue to the printer.

Mark Bonta

Like an overly protective guardian I have been apprehensive about handing the journal over to a new editor. However, I am relieved to report my self-delusional fears of being the only person who could do this right have been allayed by the identity of said new chief editor – **Mark Bonta**. As it turns out, he was close to my own back yard, living (and busily birding) now in Tyrone, *Blair*, near his original home on Brush Mountain, a local section of Bald Eagle Mountain, just a couple dozen miles, as the crow flies, from my own home in *Huntingdon*.

Mark comes from a long career in academics, spanning many fields, including, to mention just two, Ethno-ornithology and Conservation Biology. His list of writing and editorial works goes on for several pages leaving no doubt of his qualifications to take charge of *Pennsylvania Birds*. And, yes, you may well recognize the last name – his mother is Marcia Bonta, a naturalist and writer of national prominence, and still recording her observations, avian and otherwise, at her home on Brush Mt.

I look forward to many more years of reading *Pennsylvania Birds* and know it will be in good hands.

Compiler news and names are found on page 206.

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Geobirding: Filling in the Data Gaps

Alan MacEachren

A Geo-Big Year: Pandemic Retirement is for the Birds is available in print and digital form from multiple sources, see: <https://books2read.com/A-Geo-Big-Year>

In this short note I advocate for *geo-birding* as a strategy to fill (some) gaps in opportunistic citizen science data generated by the Cornell Ornithology Lab's eBird system - <https://ebird.org> (Sullivan et al. 2009). The suggestion is that birding, which is already an important citizen science activity, can contribute more effectively to generation of research data if birders treat the *places* that they bird on equal footing with the *species* that they see.

Place already has a prominent role for many birders who are "listers", with the focus that listers have on year-lists and life-lists at various geographic levels (from global, through state and county, to yard lists). Additionally, places with active birding communities (e.g., counties) often have friendly (one hopes) competition each year for species totals achieved. This listing competition is facilitated and encouraged by the "Top 100" feature in eBird. That feature is one of many in eBird that stimulate birders to go birding more frequently, in this case within the geographic entities for which they check their position in the Top 100.

The eBird system is among the most successful citizen science efforts, perhaps the most successful that is focused on the natural world. It has had a dramatic impact on collection of data that facilitates science about birds (Johnston et al. 2021). But, like most citizen science efforts created to collect data about the natural world, eBird has systematic biases that have been detailed by multiple authors, both within and beyond the eBird team (Sullivan et al. 2014; Dennis and Thomas 2000; Lopez, Minor, and Crooks 2020).

This short note focuses specifically on the geographic biases in eBird data and strategies to help address them. In most cases eBird data are collected near where people live and at sites where they like to spend time. Thus, places with higher human population tend to be oversampled compared to places with lower human population as do habitats that are attractive and easily accessed over those that are less attractive or more challenging to access. Temporally, birders spend more time birding during migration and substantially less time during winter (at least in Pennsylvania and locations with cold winters). The spatial (and temporal) biases in citizen science generated bird presence/abundance data have been addressed in three ways.

First, spatio-temporal modeling strategies have been developed that minimize the impact of the opportunistic data collection biases characteristic of eBird data. The modeling methods can dampen the effects of spatial or temporal unevenness in data collection (Tang, Clark, and Gelfand 2021). Spatio-temporal modeling has been relatively successful (Sullivan et al. 2014) and recent work to merge other data sources with eBird data show promise to improve the results further (Meehan et al. 2022). Still, recent research also shows that absence of data in key locations (unsurprisingly) cannot be entirely overcome through modeling, particularly in cases where the goal is building species distribution models needed for environmental management (Planillo et al. 2021).

Second, rather than starting with opportunistic sampling based on locations selected by citizen data collectors (as in eBird), spatial and temporal bias in data collection can be addressed up front with a systematic sampling plan for data collection. This second strategy is followed in Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) efforts (Sauer et al. 2013) as well as in Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) efforts (McClure, Rolek, and Fleischer 2023). Both BBS and WRS data collection strategies attempt to direct volunteer data collectors to follow a spatially and temporally systematic sampling strategy. Despite the robust sampling plans, however, both BBS and WRS efforts still include locational biases. This is due to difficulties

recruiting volunteers in places where citizens with sufficient knowledge to collect the data are sparse (Diggle, Menezes, and Su 2010). Plus, both efforts focus citizen science data collection on limited time spaces during the year. At present, there is no similar geographically-systematic sampling effort to collect data year round.

Third, some researchers have attempted to address the spatial (and temporal) data gaps in opportunistic citizen science data (including eBird) by manipulating the motivation of volunteers through gaming strategies. In one example, Xue, et al developed a two-stage game they called *Avicaching* to prompt birders to explore under-sampled places (Xue et al. 2016). A similar strategy is presented by Callaghan, et al, who make the argument that better citizen science data will result through game-style prompts that incentivize "looking" rather than by those that incentivize "finding," as some game-based strategies have done (Callaghan et al. 2019). While the idea of focusing birders' attention on "looking" in specific places at specific times through gaming-style prompts and rewards has promise, the strategy has not been put into practice widely.

Here, I suggest a complementary, ground-up, approach to motivating birders to explore under-sampled locations. Specifically, birders can proactively fill (some) data gaps by engaging in geo-birding. Geo-birding, broadly defined here, includes any place-based listing efforts focused more on being geographically comprehensive than on achieving high species totals. Geo-birding can happen at any scale (e.g., county, state, country). The key distinguishing feature of geo-birding involves engaging in comparable effort, across a specified time (e.g., a day, week, month, year) in each sub-territory within the larger geographic territory chosen (e.g., within each county in a state across a year). Under this definition, BBS efforts can be considered a form of geo-birding, one that is top-down, guided by researchers who create a systematic sampling plan. Similarly, Christmas Bird Counts are also a form of geo-birding where the 7.5 mi. radius circles are covered comprehensively by multiple individuals or groups who are each responsible for a territory. The Christmas Bird Counts, of course, have a similar spatial bias to eBird's opportunistic data since counts only happen where a sufficient number of birders reside or where the climate and habitat attracts enough species to prompt birders to come in from other locations for the count.

What I propose here is that birders can add important data to the opportunistic sample generated by eBird by engaging in geo-birding individually (outside of the organized efforts noted above). A primary objective of proposing a geo-birding approach (as a complement to the standard, species total, approach) is to help fill the spatial and temporal data gaps that exist in eBird (or comparable) data, particularly for non-breeding seasons of the year. A second objective is to stimulate birders to simply collect more data – providing an additional listing challenge.

As noted above, geo-birding can involve any spatial scale over any time range. For example, one might decide to bird in every township within a county over a period of a month. If that month was during migration, the data generated would help to fill in gaps about migrating species as their stop-over locations relate to different habitats. If that month was in the middle of winter, it would fill in gaps about resident species that over-winter and the (potentially changing) habitats that different over-wintering species favor as winter progresses.

In the remainder of this note, I draw upon one example of geo-birding that I personally engaged in during 2021, what I called a Pennsylvania *Geo-Big Year*. Specifically, I birded in every county of Pennsylvania during 2021, setting a target minimum number of species seen in each county at 67 (an arbitrary total to match the number of counties in the state). An alternative geo-birding strategy

(more comparable to a BBS sampling strategy) would have been to spend the same amount of time birding in every county. But, since this was initially a solo effort, the species number target provided some motivation to stick to the plan across the whole year. I document my 2021 Pennsylvania geo-birding effort in *A Geo-Big Year: Pandemic Retirement is for the Birds* (MacEachren 2022). Here, I focus on the interface between my Pennsylvania geo-birding quest and the eBird data that helped me plan where to bird (plus the gaps in eBird data that my geo-birding helped to fill).

A key feature of geo-birding, of course is that one cannot bird every place at the same time. Thus, if you're covering a geographic territory by birding in locations that represent every part of that territory, places in the territory must be visited sequentially. This means, depending on the time span covered, that only a small subset of all places birded can be visited during peak times of the day or peak times of the year. Other places will be birded in off times of the day or year. To be most effective in filling data gaps, geo-birding needs to be pursued by many individuals, not just one, who cover the range of places at different times.

While my Geo-Big Year is a sample of one, it did illustrate the potential of geo-birding to capture data for species that might not have been seen in particular places at particular times. Three examples of unexpected species encountered at unexpected places and times are provided below. All are for October, in places that few other birders had been frequenting.

The first October surprise was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo found in the Jacobs Creek Wetland (Fayette County) on October 11. While Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been reported in eBird later than this date in surrounding counties, and a few sightings exist in eBird for the county earlier in October, my sighting was (and currently remains) the latest in any year reported in eBird for Fayette County.



A second October rarity was found in Potter County. This one, seen on October 17, provides an even better illustration of the potential of geo-birding to fill gaps in under-birded places. I had already seen 50 species in the county, in September. When I checked eBird Target Species prior to my October outing, it listed 68 species I had not yet seen (thus that had been reported at least once in some prior October). Although that was promising, over the prior week, only two lists were posted to eBird for the county. They included only 4 species of the 68 that I had not seen. Thus, October in Potter County had a distinct gap in eBird data. I managed to add 9 species to my county year-list that day, filling in some of the eBird October data gap. Plus, I found a Common Loon in the reservoir at Lynn Run State Park. Common Loon was not one of the 68 target species eBird listed. My sighting was the first Common Loon reported to eBird for Potter County in any October. It was also only the 4th Potter County Common Loon report from October through December in any year. About three weeks later, on November 7, another birder reported a Common Loon at the same location, perhaps my sighting encouraged that individual to look there during

fall migration. The site had the bulk of spring migration records for Common Loon in the county, but my sighting had been the first during fall migration there.

The third October sighting, on the 27th, marked the front end of Red-breasted Merganser migration through western Pennsylvania in 2021. This was just the second October sighting of Red-breasted Merganser posted to eBird for Armstrong County (in any year) and the first of the fall in 2021 for any Western Pennsylvania county other than Erie (with many sightings starting in September) or Warren (one report of 4 individuals in September).

Beyond finding some species that were unusual for the place and time found, pursuing a Geo-Big Year provided a few additional insights about data gaps in eBird. After my county list reached about 50 species in any low population county, particularly outside of migration, it was common to have the eBird Explore search list zero species reported that I had not yet seen in the county. This was particularly common along the northern tier of Pennsylvania and in some southwestern rural counties. Less common, but frequent enough to make birding location decisions challenging, the eBird Explore search sometimes showed zero lists reported by anyone other than me, anywhere in a county over the prior 7 days. This even happened during migration in a few cases (e.g., on May 29 for Fulton County and on September 26 for the southern half of Elk County).

To illustrate the gaps in eBird within rural counties of Pennsylvania, I checked a few of the hotspots I birded in rural counties during 2021. For six of these “prime” hotspots I list the hotspot name, county it is in, and the number of eBird lists posted by all birders from January 1 – December 31, 2021. I also indicate how many of the lists were ones I posted, and the number posted by the most active birder. As can be seen, a single birder visiting a site in a county they would not otherwise frequent (if not for pursuing a geo-birding strategy) has the potential to make a substantive addition to eBird data for that county.

1. State Game Lands 13--Splashdam Pond, Sullivan County – 20 lists (2 mine, 9 by the most active birder)
2. Ole Bull SP, Potter County – 26 lists (3 mine, 22 by the most active birder)
3. Mt. Pisgah SP, Bradford County – 45 lists (5 mine, 26 by the most active birder)
4. Moshannon SF--Beaver Run Impoundment, Elk County – 10 lists (2 mine, I was the most active birder – and I also posted 6 of the 7 lists for the year in the nearby Moshannon SF--Marion Brooks Natural Area)
5. Allegheny NF--Buzzard Swamp, Forest County – 74 lists (4 mine, 9 each by the 2 most active birders)
6. Ryerson Station SP, Greene County – 18 lists (8 mine, 2 each by the 2 most active birders)

Lack of data in eBird for rural counties meant that my posts were helping to fill some data gaps. This is a situation where the gaming strategies outlined above might help guide geo-birders to key, under-sampled places. Lack of data from other birders in rural places (in the absence of prompts from a game-based system) prompted me to rely on knowledge of good habitats within which to do my “looking” as well as on maps that helped me locate those habitats. Even without a gaming approach, spatio-temporal modeling (in addition to its current uses for minimizing impacts of bias in data that already exist) could use habitat and climate data together with existing and past bird sighting data to steer geo-birders (who have adopted a geo-birding strategy) to particular places at particular times that maximize the utility of data collected.

Time will determine whether the concept of *geo-birding* catches on as an alternative objective for serious birders and whether, if it does, the quality of opportunistic eBird data is increased. I hope that this short note stimulates at least some birders to undertake geo-birding and in doing so to visit places that are currently under-birded. One proposal I'll end with, that could stimulate geo-birding, is for eBird to add a *Top Geo-100* option that allows birders to compare the number of hotspots they have visited within counties, states, and countries to the totals for other geo-

birders. While this suggestion might not prompt truly comprehensive spatial coverage of territories, it would at least stimulate birders to cover a wider range of places.

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Compiler news

With this issue, two compilers have filed their final reports and will step down: **Tina Alianiello** in *Cambria* and **Rob Dickerson** in *Mifflin*. Beginning with the upcoming winter issue, **Pam Illig** will take over in *Cambria* and **Greg Grove** will return to doing *Mifflin*. In addition, in this issue **Mary Alice Koeneke** takes over from **Glenn Koppel** in Mercer. We thank Tina, Rob, and Glenn for their services. In addition, as announced in the previous issue, **Andrew Hurst** has moved to *Snyder* and **Carol Light** adds *McKean* to *Elk* and *Forest* that already she compiles.

The following counties need a compiler: *Bradford*, *Luzerne*, *Perry*, and *Union*. Contact the editor if interested.

County compilers: **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Jim Kellam** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Laura and Mike Jackson** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **John Carter** (Blair), **Paul Heveran** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Pam Illig** (Cambria), **Mark Johnson** (Cameron), **Ellen Davis** (Carbon), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Rick Robinson** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Andy Keister** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Tim Johnson** (Cumberland), **Sandy Lockerman** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Carol Light** (Elk, Forest, McKean), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Vern Gauthier** (Fulton), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Dan Richards** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zach Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Dennis Miranda** (Luzerne), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Mary Alice Koeneke** (Mercer), **Bruce Johnson** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Holger Pflicke** (Philadelphia), **Robert Snyder** (Potter), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Andrew Hurst** (Snyder), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Barb Stone** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

Cowbird Nest Parasitism is no Problem for Hooded Warblers

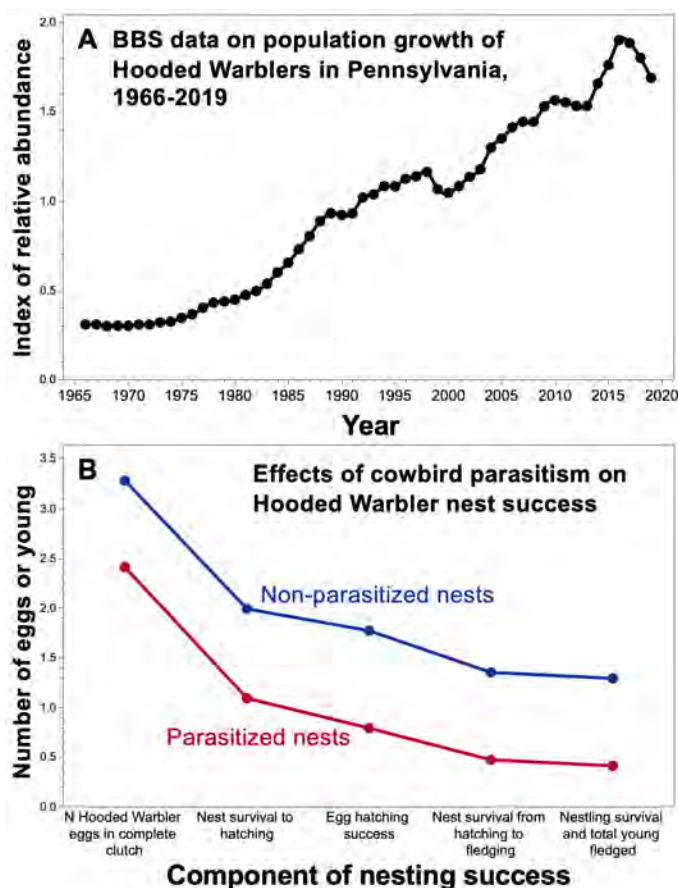
Ronald L. Mumme, Allegheny College

If the PSO were to ask its members to name their favorite Pennsylvania breeding bird, one can confidently predict that the Brown-headed Cowbird would receive zero votes. Although widespread and abundant in the state—it was recorded in 91% of atlas blocks during the most recent Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas (Wilson et al. 2012)—the Brown-headed Cowbird is just as widely reviled because of its status as an obligate brood parasite; female cowbirds do not build nests but instead lay their eggs in the nests of dozens of songbird host species, an act that usually has serious detrimental consequences for host nest success. For example, parasitic female cowbirds regularly remove or damage host eggs in the process of laying their own (Peer 2006), significantly reducing the number of viable host eggs in the complete clutch and increasing the risk of nest abandonment by the host parents (Kosciuch et al. 2006). Furthermore, because cowbird eggs usually develop rapidly and hatch sooner than host eggs (Briskie and Sealy 1990), cowbird nestlings gain a developmental head start and competitive advantage that can seriously impair the growth and survival of host nestlings, particularly for host species that are substantially smaller than cowbirds (Dearborn et al. 1998). Finally, nestling cowbirds are notoriously noisy and obnoxious (Dearborn 1999), and their incessant begging calls are known to attract nest predators and increase the risk of nest predation (Hannon et al. 2009). The overall net impact of cowbird parasitism on host nest success can therefore be substantial, and these cumulative effects have fueled long-standing concern (Brittingham and Temple 1983) that cowbird parasitism may be contributing to major ongoing population declines of North American songbirds (Rosenberg et al. 2019).

But one frequent cowbird host, the Hooded Warbler, has somehow managed to show significant long-term population growth in Pennsylvania despite high rates of nest parasitism. Breeding Bird Survey routes within the state have documented dramatic increases in Hooded Warbler relative abundance that began in the early 1970s and have continued through 2019 (Sauer et al. 2020; Figure 1A). Similar trends are evident from Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas data; the percentage of atlas blocks reporting Hooded Warblers increased from 29% of blocks during the first atlas (1983-1989) to 49% of blocks during the second atlas (2004-2009; Wilson et al. 2012). This population growth in Pennsylvania is especially striking given that the Hooded Warbler appears to be a frequent and preferred target of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism; female Hooded Warblers produce loud and conspicuous “chip” calls near their nests that likely make them relatively easy for cowbirds to find (Mumme et al. 2023). How have Hooded Warbler breeding populations grown so dramatically in Pennsylvania despite frequent parasitism by cowbirds?

Allegheny College undergraduate Claire Lignac and I recently addressed this question as part of our ongoing long-term study of Hooded Warblers at Hemlock Hill Field Station in Crawford County, northwestern Pennsylvania (Lignac and Mumme 2022). We based our analysis on both an extensive dataset (8 years, 847 nests) on the per-nest impacts of cowbird parasitism, and realistic computer simulations that allowed us to explore the population-level consequences of cowbird nest parasitism.

As expected, we found that nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds has multiple negative effects on Hooded Warbler nest success, including a reduced number of Hooded Warbler eggs in the complete clutch, an increased risk of nest abandonment, higher rates of nest predation, and in surviving nests increased egg loss, hatching failure, and nestling mortality (Figure 1B). Our analysis suggests that cowbird parasitism reduces the overall success of an average Hooded Warbler nest by 68%, from a mean of 1.29 fledglings per non-parasitized nest to 0.41 fledglings per parasitized nest.



Surprisingly, however, the severe per-nest consequences of cowbird parasitism do not appear to produce extreme population-level impacts. Our computer simulations indicate that mean annual Hooded Warbler fecundity (fledglings produced per female per year) decreases only 5.6% for each 10% increase in the frequency of nest parasitism. This more modest population-level impact is largely attributable to the timing of breeding for the two species in northwest Pennsylvania. Hooded Warblers are double-brooded and initiate nests from mid-May through the end of July, with a second peak of nesting in late June and early July. In contrast, cowbird parasitism declines dramatically as the Hooded Warbler nesting season progresses, from a high of around 50% for nests initiated in May to practically 0% for nests initiated in mid-July. In addition, when early nesting attempts fail due to abandonment or nest predation, female Hooded Warblers renest rapidly, with the first egg of a replacement nest typically laid 6 days after failure of the previous attempt. As a result, many Hooded Warbler nests are initiated late in the season when rates of cowbird parasitism are relatively low. Our findings therefore show how Hooded Warblers and other small-bodied cowbird hosts, species that typically pay a steep per-nest cost for brood parasitism, can not only sustain moderately high rates of cowbird parasitism but actually thrive and show long-term population growth.

Our findings probably will not change the strong opinions that Pennsylvania birders hold about Brown-headed Cowbirds. However, perhaps PSO members who discover a noisy and annoying cowbird fledgling being fed by a host parent less than half its size will have some appreciation for both the remarkable talent that female cowbirds have in finding and parasitizing the nests of other species, and for the impressive ability of the hosts to maintain

and sometimes even expand their populations despite the severe consequences that parasitism has for individual nests.

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25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



Volume 10 No. 4

Kenneth C. Parkes discussed the subspecies and intergrade forms of Red-tailed Hawks in Pennsylvania.

Ted Floyd noted the expansion of the breeding range of Hooded Mergansers.

Rare birds reported included American White Pelican, **three** King Rails, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Painted Bunting.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Pennsylvania Autumn 2022 Raptor Migration Summary

David R. Barber

Hawkwatchers know September is Broad-winged Hawk season; sure you can see them from early August to early October, but the big numbers are usually seen the third week in September. Dates of peak flights often vary among the Commonwealth's watch sites, which isn't surprising given the longitudinal spread of watch sites, daily weather conditions, and the various flight lines broad-wings take during migration. However, this autumn's broad-wing flight was notable for the thousands of birds moving in a broad front across Pennsylvania in a narrow window of time with peak broad-wing flights on the 16th or 17th at most watch sites. Other notable flights this past autumn included new watch site records for Bald and Golden Eagles, while flights of Osprey and Northern Goshawk were notably low. Read on to see what other notable flights occurred during the 2022 autumn raptor migration season.

Migration Summary

In autumn 2022, 15 Pennsylvania watch sites counted 134,606 raptors in 7289 hours over 1087 days, for an average of 18.5 hawks per hour (Table 1). Bald Eagle Mountain had a limited late season count and the Chester County Hawk Watch and Migration Count at Chambers Lake returned with their first fall count since 2016. Total effort was 5% below average and the total raptor count was 16.7% above the 10-year average of 115,363 (Table 1). Above average numbers were observed for Turkey Vulture, 9633, up 12% from the 10-year average of 8573; Bald Eagle, 3717, up 22%; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 22,596, up 6%; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1190, up 5%; Broad-winged Hawk, 78,657, up 31%; Golden Eagle, 1336, up 13%; and Merlin, 668, up 4% (Table 1).

Nine of 16 species had counts below their 10-year averages. The largest dips were seen in Rough-legged Hawk, 3, down 61% and Northern Goshawk, 39, down 46%. Osprey were below average at all sites and the state total of 1201, was down 33%. Other species with below average counts include Black Vulture, 1006, down 12%; Northern Harrier, 559, down 26%; Cooper's Hawk, 2244, down 5%; Red-tailed Hawk, 9313, down 7%; American Kestrel, 1566, down 10%; and Peregrine Falcon, 293, down 19% (Table 1).

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (*Somerset/Bedford*) – Allegheny Front counters recorded 8009 raptors in 721.3 hours on 112 days for an

average of 11.1 hawks per hour from August 15 to December 30. Effort was 5% below average and the total raptors were 19% below the 10-year average of 9865. Seven of 16 species had above average counts. Counts of both Bald Eagle, 261, and Golden Eagle, 345, were new season long count records and the count of 1479 Red-tailed Hawks was the highest in 10 years. Other species with above average counts include Turkey Vulture, up 18%, Cooper's Hawk, up 10%, Red-shouldered Hawk, up 33%, and Merlin, up 19%. Four of the 16 species had below average counts, most notably the Osprey count of 46 was down 44% and the second lowest season total in Allegheny Front history. Other species with below average counts were Black Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon.

Strong east-southeast winds on September 9 fueled a record Bald Eagle flight with 49 counted, smashing the old record of 38. The first Northern Goshawk of the season was spotted October 23 along with a season high 18 Cooper's Hawks and 133 Red-tailed Hawks. The following day 156 Turkey Vultures were tallied, the fourth highest single day count. Late October and the first half of November saw several days with over 20 Golden Eagles, including 28 on November 9 and 26 on November 10. Golden Eagles peaked in December with 35 counted on the 9th. Two Rough-legged Hawks, both dark morphs, were counted this season, one November 7 and one November 21.

Bake Oven Knob (*Lehigh/Carbon*) – Counters observed 10,711 raptors in 602.5 hours on 97 days for an average of 17.8 raptors per hour from August 15 to November 24. Effort was 22% below the average of 767.8 hours, and the total count

was 11% below the 10-year average of 12,091. Not surprisingly, given the decreased effort, most species had below average counts with the largest drops seen in Osprey, 140, down 48%; Northern Harrier, 34, down 52%; Red-tailed Hawk, 601, down 50%; and Peregrine Falcon, 27, down 42%. Counts of all four species were the lowest in the last 30 years. The only species with above average counts this year were Cooper's Hawk, 235, and Broad-winged Hawk, 6425, which were up 6% and 14%, respectively.

Warm temperatures and light winds produced strong thermals on September 17 which carried a season high 2262 Broad-winged Hawks past the lookout (Table 2). On September 23, 39 Bald Eagles were recorded, the second highest single-day count at Bake Oven. Accipiters peaked October 18 with season highs of 236 Sharp-shinned Hawks (Table 2) and 22 Cooper's Hawks. A season high 10 Merlins also was recorded on the 18th. Golden Eagle peaked on November 13 with 13.

Bald Eagle Mountain – Eagle Field (*Centre*) – Bald Eagle hawk watchers counted 682 raptors in 163.5 hour over 23 days from October 27 to December 19 for an average of 4.2 raptors per hour. This is the third year for this site; however, this year they conducted a late season count focused on Golden Eagles. Golden Eagles numbers were lower than the past two seasons, however, this is likely due to the later start and only conducting counts during favorable winds. The first day of the count on October 27 didn't produce any Golden Eagles but did have a season high 81 Turkey Vultures and the only Peregrine Falcon of the count. The largest Golden Eagle flights were on days with strong west

Table 2. Peak One-day counts at watchsites in Autumn 2021

Site Name	Sharp-shinned Hawk Peak Count	Sharp-shinned Hawk Date	Broad-winged Hawk Peak Count	Broad-winged Hawk Date
Allegheny Front	154	10/22	1162	9/17
Bake Oven Knob	236	10/18	2262	9/17
Chamber's Lake	36	10/8	3096	9/16
Council Cup	10	9/20	471	9/15
Hawk Mountain	283	10/8	2883	9/17
Jack's Mountain	174	10/21	2035	9/17
Little Gap	172	10/15	1450	9/17
Militia Hill	55	9/24	5795	9/16
Rocky Ridge	86	10/7	1100	9/19
Rose Tree Park	30	9/29	1045	9/16
Second Mountain	156	10/20	1007	9/16
Stone Mountain	71	10/10	764	9/16
Summit Mountain	-	-	533	9/17
Waggoner's Gap	560	10/7	2037	9/18

or northwest winds with counts peaking on December 1 with 41 goldens. Gusty west-northwest winds on November 25 produced the highest Bald Eagle flight of the season with 16 and the second highest Golden Eagle flight with 38.

Chester County Hawk Watch at Chamber's Lake (*Chester*) – Chambers Lake counters observed 10,384 raptors in 597 hours over 79 days from September 8 to November 30 for an average of 17.4 raptors per hour. This is only the second time a full season count has been conducted at Chamber's Lake, the other being in 2010. The largest count of the season was on September 16 with 3118 raptors including 3096 Broad-winged Hawks most of which flew low over the lookout. Another 1999 broad-wings were counted on September 26. Flights of Turkey Vulture started to build in mid-October with an October high 171 on the 28th. A season high 185 Turkey Vultures were counted on November 10. The high counts for both Red-shouldered Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk were October 29 with 28 and 31 counted, respectively.

Council Cup (*Luzerne*) – Council Cup watchers recorded 932 raptors in 75 hours over 25 days from September 13 to November 8 for an average of 12.4 raptors per hour. Both effort and the total count were 25% above average, however effort and count totals have varied considerably over the last 10 years.

Sixteen American Kestrels were tallied on September 14, the third highest single-day count at Council Cup. The following day counters recorded a season high 484 raptors: one Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 471 Broad-winged Hawks, and 3 American Kestrels. Five Bald Eagles were observed on September 23 along with the only Merlin of the season.

Hawk Mountain (*Berks/Schuylkill*) – Hawk Mountain counters tallied 20,347 raptors in 1067 hours over 116 days from August 15 to December 30 for an average of 19.1 raptors per hour. Effort was 3% below the average of 1104 hours and the overall count was 25% above the 10-year average of 16,317. Counts of Bald Eagle, 591, and Broad-winged Hawk, 12,503 were up 21% and 60%, respectively and were the second and ninth highest counts recorded at Hawk Mountain (Table 1). Counts of 10 species were below average, most notable were Northern Goshawk, down 71%; Osprey, down 33%; and Red-tailed Hawk, down 20% (Table 1). Other species with below average counts include Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon.

A four-day total of nearly 10,000 Broad-winged Hawks was recorded from the September 16th through the 19th, with a peak of 2883 broad-wings on the 17th

(Table 2). Gusty northwest winds produced a Bald Eagle parade on September 23: a season high 38 Bald Eagles were counted with 22 eagles after 4:00 pm, the fourth highest single-day Bald Eagle count at Hawk Mountain. The best count day of October was on the 8th; 12 species were recorded with season highs of 283 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 32 Cooper's Hawks, 55 American Kestrels, 10 Merlins, and 6 Peregrine Falcons. Two of four Northern Goshawks counted this season were seen on November 13 along with 24 Bald Eagles and a season high 10 Golden Eagles.

Jack's Mountain (*Mifflin*) – Jack's Mountain counters tallied 10,796 raptors in 545.8 hours across 87 days from August 14 to December 18 for an average of 19.8 hawks per hour. Effort was 3% above the 10-year average of 530.5 hours and the total count was 50% above the average of 7195. It was a season of record highs; the season total was a new record driven by record counts of Black Vulture, 94, up 147%; Bald Eagle, 287, up 60%; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1565, up 83%; Cooper's Hawk, 160, up 50%; and Broad-winged Hawk, 7089, up 49%. Other species with above average counts include Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin. Jacks Mountain was the only Pennsylvania watch site to record above average counts of Northern Harrier, Osprey and Golden Eagle were the only species with below average counts. Counts of Osprey, 35, were down 43% and counts of Golden Eagle, 87, were down 30% and the lowest since 2013.

Broad-winged Hawk flights peaked mid-September with 1525 broad-wings on the 16th and 2035 counted on the 17th. A record 19 Bald Eagles were observed on September 20 along with one Osprey, 33 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Cooper's Hawks, 579 Broad-winged Hawks, 8 Red-tailed Hawks, 9 American Kestrels, 2 Merlins and 2 Peregrine Falcons. A record 20 Cooper's Hawks and first Northern Goshawk of the season were recorded on October 12. Golden Eagle counts peaked November 13 with 21, the third highest count recorded at Jack's Mountain.

Little Gap (*Northampton*) – Little Gap observers counted 9920 hawks in 243.5 hours over 40 days from September 1 to November 28 for an average of 40.7 birds per hour. Effort was 48% below average and the count total was 14% below the average of 11,579. However, the number of birds counted per hour was 53% above the 10-year average of 26.6. All species had below average counts, except for Bald Eagle and Broad-winged Hawk which had average counts. The largest drops in count numbers were Northern Harrier, down 70%; Golden Eagle, down 65%; Black Vulture, down 62%; Osprey, down 51%; and Red-tailed Hawk, down 50%.

Flights of Broad-winged Hawk started to build September 14 when 381 broad-wings were recorded along with 12 Ospreys, 15 Bald Eagles, 95 Sharp-shinned Hawks, a season high 24 American Kestrels, 2 Merlins, and a Peregrine Falcon. Broad-wing flights peaked on September 17 with a high of 1450 (Table 2). Light southwest winds October 15 produced several season-high counts: 127 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 21 Cooper's Hawks, and 15 Merlins. A late adult Broad-winged Hawk was observed October 18. The first Northern Goshawk was recorded October 27 along with 10 Bald Eagles, 32 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 16 Cooper's Hawks, and a season high 104 Red-tailed Hawks.

Militia Hill (*Montgomery*) – Militia Hill counters recorded 18,589 raptors in 430.3 hours across 68 days from September 1 to November 15 for an average of 43.2 raptors per hour. Effort was 3% below the 10-year average of 443 hours, but total count was 87% above the average of 9925. Counts of Broad-winged Hawk, 15,726, were 118% above the average of 7199. The 184 Red-shouldered Hawks counted were well above average and was the second highest count at Militia Hill. Other species with above average counts include Turkey Vulture, up 28%; Bald Eagle, up 25%; and Cooper's Hawk, up 13%. Six of 13 species had below average counts. The largest drops were seen in Black Vulture and Osprey, which were 51% and 50% below average, respectively. Other species with below average counts include Sharp-shinned Hawk, down 11%; Red-tailed Hawk; down 25%; American Kestrel, down 29%; and Merlin, down 30%.

Broad-winged Hawk flights were light for the first half of September, before a large push on September 15 and 16; a combined 7879 broad-wings were tallied including a season high 5795 on the 16th. Another big flight of broad-wings was on September 24 with 4115. Also counted on the 24th were 6 Ospreys, 3 Northern Harriers, 55 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Cooper's Hawks, 4 American Kestrels, 20 Bald Eagles, a new single day count record for Militia Hill, and a Swainson's Hawk, the only one recorded at Pennsylvania watch sites this Autumn. Late October saw a nice push of Red-shouldered Hawk with a high of 73 shoulders counted on the 29th, a new count record for Militia Hill. Two Golden Eagles were recorded in November, one on the 2nd and one on the 10th.

Rocky Ridge Park (*York*) – Rocky Ridge observers tallied 3812 raptors in 216.5 hours on 46 days from August 13 to November 29 for an average of 17.6 birds per hour. Effort at Rocky Ridge increased significantly starting in 2018, so comparisons are made to their 5-year averages. Effort was 19% below the 5-year average of 268.4 hours and the total count was 28% below the average of 5272. This

season's count of 59 Black Vultures was 37% above the average of 43. Counts of Bald Eagle, 75, and Red-tailed Hawk, 124, were up 7% and 21%, respectively. All other species had average or below average counts with the largest declines in numbers of Turkey Vulture, down 60%; and Osprey and Northern Harrier both down 50%.

A season high 14 Bald Eagles were counted September 9, the second highest day at Rocky Ridge. The best accipiter day occurred October 7 with 86 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 5 Cooper's Hawks. Light northeast winds on October 28 produced season high counts of 20 Black Vultures, 17 Turkey Vultures, 6 Red-shouldered Hawks, 41 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Merlins.

Rose Tree Park (Delaware) – Rose Tree Park counters recorded 4219 raptors in 378.5 hours over 73 days from August 31 to November 18 for an average of 11.2 hawks per hour. Effort was 18% below the 10-year average of 460 hours, and the overall count was 13% above the average of 3736. The above average total was driven by the Broad-winged Hawk count of 3194 which was 91% above average, and the only species at Rose Tree Park above average this year. Two Golden Eagles were tallied this year, hitting the 10-year average. All other species had below average counts, including record low counts of Osprey, 81, Northern Harrier, 14, Sharp-shinned Hawk, 275, Cooper's Hawk, 48, and American Kestrel, 79, and the second lowest counts of Red-shouldered Hawk, 68, Red-tailed Hawk, 91, and Peregrine Falcon, 8.

The high day for the season was September 19 when 1090 raptors were tallied, including 8 Ospreys, 2 Northern Harriers, 12 Bald Eagles, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 10 Cooper's Hawks, 1045 Broad-winged Hawks, and 6 American Kestrels. Another push of broad-wings passed by September 24 and 26 with 618 and 571 counted, respectively. October's high count came on the 21st with 100 raptors counted, including a season high 63 Turkey Vultures. The last Osprey of the season was observed November 3.

Second Mountain (Lebanon) – Second Mountain hawk watchers counted 6975 raptors in 781.3 hours across 112 days from August 15 to December 15 for an average of 8.9 hawks per hour. Effort was similar to the 10-year average of 777.8 hours and the overall count was 8% below the 10-year average of 7564. Counts of Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Merlin were above average (Table 1). The 285 Bald Eagles counted were a record high and 31% above the average of 218. Eleven of 15 species had below average counts. The Black Vulture total of 70 was down 71% and was the second lowest season count since 2000. Only two Northern Goshawks were counted, 70% below the average of 7. Other species with below

average counts include Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon.

A Merlin was first official migrant of the season when it flew south the morning of August 15. The bulk of the Broad-winged Hawk migration occurred September 16-18 when 2261 broad-wings streamed past the hawk watch with a high of 1007 on the 16th (Table 2). Gusty north winds produced the first Golden Eagle of the season on September 29. Flights of Sharp-shinned Hawk started to build at the end of the first week in October and peaked on October 20 with 156. A season high 101 Turkey Vultures were tallied on October 27. A juvenile Northern Goshawk was observed on the December 2, only the second goshawk of the season.

Stone Mountain (Huntingdon/Mifflin) – Stone Mountain counters recorded 5494 raptors in 433 hours over 76 days from August 31 to December 8 for an average of 12.7 raptors per hour. Effort was 9% below the 10-year average, whereas the total count was 18% above the average of 4667. The count of 1106 Turkey Vultures was up 147% and a new seasonal record. Bald Eagle also had a good count with 223, up 35% and the second highest season long count. Other species with above average counts include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Seven of the 16 species recorded this Autumn had counts below their 10-year averages. Most notable were Red-shouldered Hawk, 28, down 43% and the lowest count since 1993. Golden Eagle, 114, were the lowest in 10 years and were down 17%. No Northern Goshawks were counted for the first time in Stone Mountain's 32-year history.

A season high 13 Bald Eagles were counted on September 10 and 20. West-northwest winds on October 8 produced one of the best flights of the season: 164 raptors were counted including season highs of 9 Cooper's Hawks, 5 Red-shouldered Hawks, 58 Red-tailed Hawks, and 28 American Kestrels, as well as the last Broad-winged Hawk of the season. A record high 573 Turkey Vultures were counted October 22, shattering the old record of 220. High count days for Golden Eagle included 20 on November 9, and 19 on November 28. A light morph Rough-legged Hawk was seen November 20, one of only 3 counted in Pennsylvania this season.

Summit Mountain (Fayette) – Summit Mountain watchers tallied 599 raptors in 11 hours between September 16 and 17 for an average of 54.5 hawks per hour. Effort was much less than the 5-year average of 66.6 hours and the total was 54% below average.

Counters enjoyed a nice flight of Broad-winged Hawks on the 17th with 52

tallied. Although the flight was spread out, the last kettle moved through just above treetops giving spectacular views. Also recorded on the 17th were 10 Turkey Vultures, one Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, and 3 American Kestrels.

Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland) – Waggoner's Gap counters recorded 23,137 raptors in 1025 hours over 131 days from August 1 to December 31 for an average of 22.6 birds per hour. Effort was similar to the 10-year average of 1029 hours and the overall count was 17% above the average of 19,798. Bald Eagle had a record flight for the fifth straight year with 855. Merlin also set a new seasonal record with 152. Other species that had above average counts include, Sharp-shinned Hawk, up 38%; Cooper's Hawk, up 20%; Red-shouldered Hawk, up 28%; Broad-winged Hawk, up 11%; Red-tailed Hawk, up 5%; and American Kestrel, up 9%. Five of 15 species had below average counts. Black Vultures were scarce and their total of 3 was a new low. The 145 Ospreys counted were the lowest in 40 years and down 45%. Other species with below average counts were Turkey Vulture, down 11%; Northern Harrier, down 13%; and Peregrine Falcon, down 11%.

Broad-winged Hawks were sparse for most of August with a high of 32 on the 13th and an August total of 110, barely outpacing the Red-tailed Hawk total of 99. August's total count was the lowest since 2005. Counts of Broad-winged Hawk started to build September 14 with 440 broad-wings and culminated in a season high 2037 on September 18. Following rain on three of the first four days of October, counters enjoyed a run of 17 straight days of triple-digit Sharp-shinned Hawks flights with peaks of 560 on 7th and 547 on the 20th. Moderate north winds produced a new daily record of 39 Bald Eagles October 27. A season high four Northern Goshawks were recorded November 8 along with 16 Bald Eagles, 91 Red-tailed Hawks, and a season high 33 Golden Eagles.

Conclusions

As with any migration count, every year there are winners and losers, counts of some species will be up while others will be down. This held true at Pennsylvania watch sites in autumn 2022. The big winners were Bald Eagle and Broad-winged Hawk. The Bald Eagle count total was the second highest ever recorded in Pennsylvania and the Broad-winged Hawk total was the third highest and counts of both species were above average at most Pennsylvania watch sites. Counts for most species varied among sites, and as if often the case, high counts at a few sites can produce an above average count statewide. Such is the case with Golden Eagle this year; the above average Golden Eagle total was driven by the

record-breaking count at Allegheny Front and the addition of Bald Eagle Mountain, as counts at virtually all other watch sites were below average. While a below average count can be a cause of concern, it is only one year of data, and it is the long-term trends calculated over many years that should be the focus. For example, while counts of Peregrine Falcons were below average this year, the 20-year trend is stable.

Unfortunately, there are some species that appear to be perennial “losers”. Northern Goshawk, now listed as Endangered in Pennsylvania, has been showing long-term declines at watch sites throughout the Northeast, and this year’s total was the second lowest in the last 20 years. Rough-legged Hawks, while never abundant at Pennsylvania watch sites, have become an increasingly rare sighting. The rough-leg total of three matched the record low set in 2019. Counts of some of our more common migrants also have been declining; gone are the September Osprey and late-season Red-tailed Hawk parades, at least at Hawk Mountain. Over the last 20 years counts measured in the number of birds per hour to adjust effort, have declined for both

species, as well as Northern Harriers (Figure 1). The potential cause(s) of the declines vary, ranging from competition with Bald Eagles for Osprey, to habitat loss for Northern Goshawks and Northern Harriers, to global climate change for Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks.

Population studies on raptors are difficult due to their large size and extensive home ranges, so migration counts are the most effective way to determine populations trends. Pennsylvania watch sites are leading the way, providing data that is critical for long-term trend analysis. Documenting the trends is the first step, however determining the cause(s) and mitigating negative trends through conservation action is the goal.

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all the volunteer hawk watchers - without your dedication most of these 15 watch sites wouldn’t exist. Data were gathered from www.hawkcount.org (accessed January 2023) a site managed by Jason Sodergren, HMANA database manager and the Hawk Migration Association of North America. This article is Hawk Mountain Conservation Science Contribution number 379.

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Pennsylvania Autumn Hawk Watch Sites

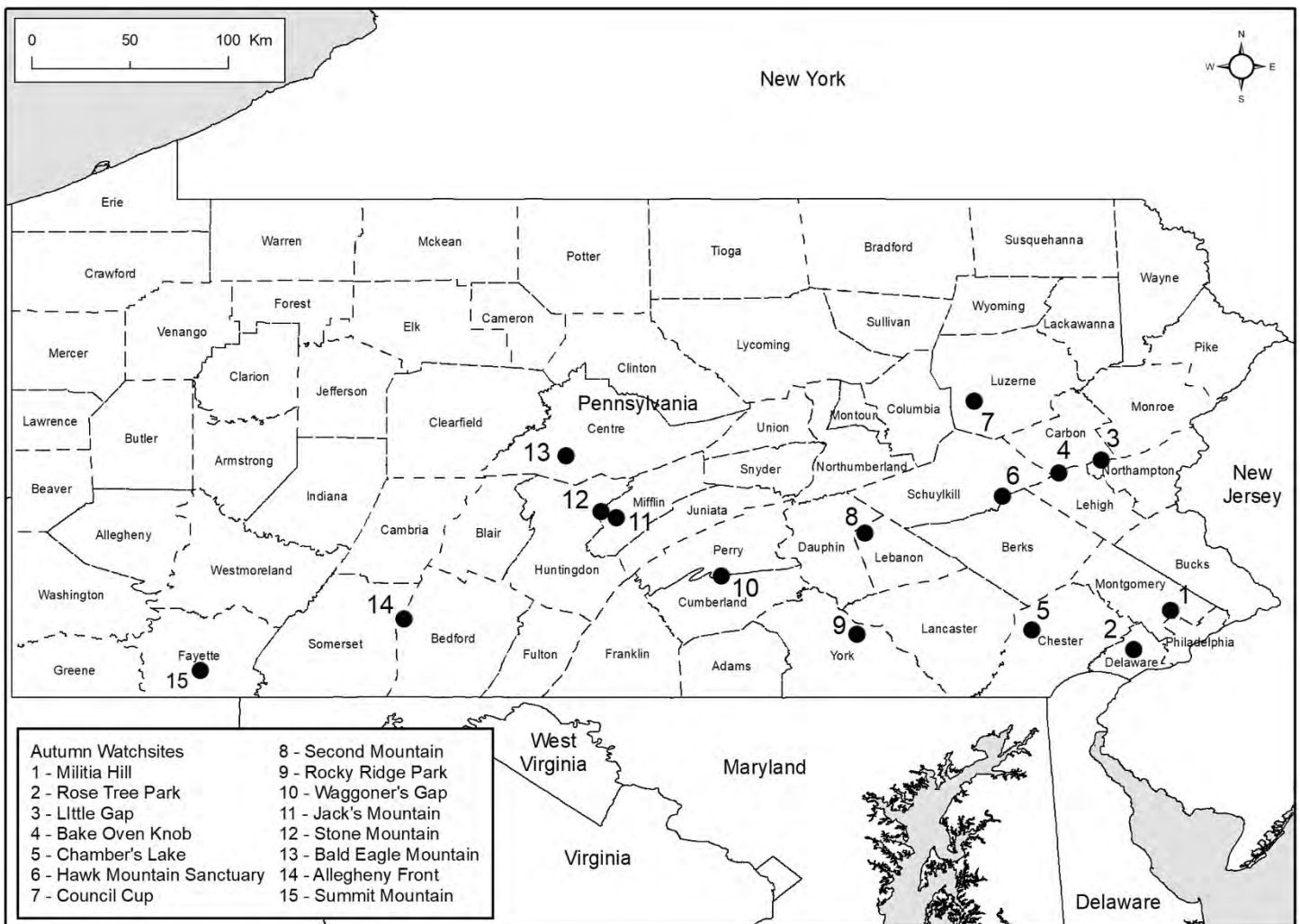


Table 1. Autumn 2022 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	16	101.8	3	7	6	21	0	9	6	0	1	51	31	0	0	6	0	0	0	10	151
September	29	195.8	0	20	37	156	3	134	39	0	4	3767	189	0	2	19	4	6	0	40	4420
October	27	189.3	4	393	3	52	17	933	85	1	34	0	902	0	48	31	25	7	0	42	2577
November	25	153.0	2	72	0	26	12	25	15	1	13	0	333	2	206	0	3	3	0	13	726
December	15	81.5	0	1	0	6	1	9	2	0	3	0	24	0	89	0	0	0	0	0	135
Total	112	721.3	9	493	46	261	33	1110	147	2	55	3818	1479	2	345	56	32	16	0	105	8009
Total per hr			0.01	0.68	0.06	0.36	0.05	1.54	0.20	0.00	0.08	5.29	2.05	0.00	0.48	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.15	11.10
% of flight			0.1	6.2	0.6	3.3	0.4	13.9	1.8	0.0	0.7	47.7	18.5	0.0	4.3	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	115.8	757.6	31.0	417.7	82.4	176.4	35.3	1133.8	133.1	3.8	41.4	6256.1	1141.0	1.0	209.5	57.8	26.8	27.4	0.0	90.0	9864.5

BAKE OVEN KNOB (Lehigh) - Bob Hoopes, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	110.8	42	147	17	9	0	22	8	0	0	67	26	0	0	4	3	2	0	6	353
September	29	208.5	75	239	107	182	11	610	97	0	14	6341	179	0	1	51	20	7	0	37	7971
October	28	162.8	63	290	15	35	17	914	118	4	26	17	230	0	10	28	39	17	0	36	1859
November	23	120.5	56	94	1	71	6	11	12	5	38	0	166	0	47	1	1	1	0	18	528
Total	97	602.5	236	770	140	297	34	1557	235	9	78	6425	601	0	58	84	63	27	0	97	10711
Total per hr			0.39	1.28	0.23	0.49	0.06	2.58	0.39	0.01	0.13	10.66	1.00	0.00	0.10	0.14	0.10	0.04	0.00	0.16	17.78
% of flight			2.2	7.2	1.3	2.8	0.3	14.5	2.2	0.1	0.7	60.0	5.6	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.9	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	103.0	767.8	297.2	947.5	267.6	362.0	71.5	2393.0	221.0	12.8	112.1	5630.4	1191.6	0.0	94.0	125.7	78.9	46.4	0.0	238.8	12090.6

BALD EAGLE MOUNTAIN - EAGLE FIELD (Centre) - Nick Bolgiano and Jon Kauffman, co-compilers

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
October	1	8.3	0	81	0	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	102
November	14	102.8	0	50	0	57	1	20	6	0	5	0	73	0	213	0	0	0	0	1	426
December	8	52.5	0	1	0	25	0	2	1	0	1	0	15	0	107	0	0	0	0	2	154
Total	23	163.5	0	132	0	87	2	26	7	0	6	0	97	0	320	1	0	1	0	3	682
Total per hr			0.00	0.81	0.00	0.53	0.01	0.16	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.59	0.00	1.96	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	4.17
% of flight			0.0	19.4	0.0	12.8	0.3	3.8	1.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	14.2	0.0	46.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	100.0

CHESTER COUNTY HAWK WATCH AT CHAMBER'S LAKE (Chester) - Larry Lewis, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	22	170.3	0	0	121	55	6	116	41	0	4	6000	10	0	0	32	11	5	0	0	6401
October	30	238.0	160	1159	84	93	5	232	53	0	79	0	173	0	3	13	13	4	0	0	2071
November	27	188.5	209	1206	1	83	2	22	9	0	82	0	292	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1912
Total	79	596.8	369	2365	206	231	13	370	103	0	165	6000	475	0	4	47	27	9	0	0	10384
Total per hr			0.62	3.96	0.35	0.39	0.02	0.62	0.17	0.00	0.28	10.05	0.80	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	17.40
% of flight			3.6	22.8	2.0	2.2	0.1	3.6	1.0	0.0	1.6	57.8	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0

COUNCIL CUP (Luzerne) - Donald Kapral, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	3	9.0	0	0	2	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	2	30
October	2	9.0	0	131	1	8	2	20	5	0	15	0	104	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	287
November	8	32.5	0	122	1	22	1	15	4	0	1	1	71	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	244
Total	13	50.5	0	253	4	37	3	45	9	0	16	1	175	0	1	10	3	0	0	4	561
Total per hr			0.00	5.01	0.08	0.73	0.06	0.89	0.18	0.00	0.32	0.02	3.47	0.00	0.02	0.20	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.08	11.11
% of flight			0.0	45.1	0.7	6.6	0.5	8.0	1.6	0.0	2.9	0.2	31.2	0.0	0.2	1.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average for 10 yrs	15.2	62.3	1.0	113.6	5.9	26.7	6.3	66.4	7.8	0.0	2.7	310.2	186.1	0.0	1.4	18.4	0.9	0.8	0.0	7.7	769.2

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks and Schuylkill) - David Barber, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	17	179.7	0	0	31	20	5	13	5	0	3	120	37	0	0	16	3	2	0	2	257
September	28	289.1	1	14	167	196	22	1193	129	0	12	12366	206	0	1	175	60	26	0	40	14608
October	29	262.2	19	421	20	149	44	2314	262	2	70	17	503	0	11	120	96	31	0	37	4116
November	28	241.3	74	181	1	174	29	53	28	2	57	0	507	0	74	1	6	2	0	5	1194
December	14	95.1	27	22	0	52	1	1	2	0	2	0	43	0	21	0	1	0	0	0	172
Total	116	1067.4	121	638	219	591	101	3574	426	4	144	12503	1296	0	107	312	166	61	0	84	20347
Total per hr			0.11	0.60	0.21	0.55	0.09	3.35	0.40	0.00	0.13	11.71	1.21	0.00	0.10	0.29	0.16	0.06	0.00	0.08	19.06
% of flight			0.6	3.1	1.1	2.9	0.5	17.6	2.1	0.0	0.7	61.4	6.4	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	122.4	1103.9	154.5	678.8	329.0	486.5	120.1	3623.6	448.2	13.9	163.7	7793.1	1612.9	1.0	128.6	317.1	169.1	64.1	0.1	165.6	16317.0

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	3	15.0	0	0	3	8	0	5	3	0	0	27	8	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	57
September	25	168.8	14	0	30	135	12	291	48	0	6	7056	140	0	2	64	17	10	0	4	7829
October	29	185.8	12	216	2	82	36	1256	103	1	24	6	533	0	12	59	6	9	0	9	2366
November	24	150.0	66	100	0	60	11	13	5	1	17	0	177	0	63	1	0	0	0	6	520
December	6	26.3	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	24
Total	87	545.8	94	316	35	287	60	1565	160	2	47	7089	866	0	87	125	24	20	0	19	10796
Total per hr			0.17	0.58	0.06	0.53	0.11	2.87	0.29	0.00	0.09	12.99	1.59	0.00	0.16	0.23	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.03	19.78
% of flight			0.9	2.9	0.3	2.7	0.6	14.5	1.5	0.0	0.4	65.7	8.0	0.0	0.8	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	87.1	530.5	38.0	233.0	60.9	179.9	48.6	853.4	106.9	3.6	29.3	4763.9	629.1	0.4	124.8	66.3	17.2	22.1	0.0	17.4	7195.4

LITTLE GAP (Northampton) - Michael Schall, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
September	18	121.3	0	21	90	137	7	595	34	0	1	6868	46	0	0	81	27	8	0	7	7922
October	13	81.0	8	204	2	71	10	802	91	3	38	2	347	0	5	21	45	14	0	10	1673
November	9	41.3	19	73	0	54	2	9	6	1	19	0	113	0	19	1	3	2	0	4	325
Total	40	243.5	27	298	92	262	19	1406	131	4	58	6870	506	0	24	103	75	24	0	21	9920
Total per hr			0.11	1.22	0.38	1.08	0.08	5.77	0.54	0.02	0.24	28.21	2.08	0.00	0.10	0.42	0.31	0.10	0.00	0.09	40.74
% of flight			0.3	3.0	0.9	2.6	0.2	14.2	1.3	0.0	0.6	69.3	5.1	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	69.9	464.7	70.5	367.7	186.1	261.2	63.7	2066.8	230.7	8.0	83.7	6846.8	1006.0	0.4	69.2	134.1	81.2	38.1	0.0	65.2	11579.4

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	*Total
September	28	193.0	0	0	73	95	16	301	44	0	3	15716	1	0	0	86	6	4	1	9	16355
October	27	185.3	3	1088	16	57	23	318	80	0	143	10	37	0	0	64	17	16	0	18	1890
November	13	52.0	4	217	0	4	3	20	15	0	38	0	27	0	2	0	2	3	0	9	344
Total	68	430.3	7	1305	89	156	42	639	139	0	184	15726	65	0	2	150	25	23	1	36	18589
Total per hr			0.02	3.03	0.21	0.36	0.10	1.49	0.32	0.00	0.43	36.55	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.08	43.21
% of flight			0.0	7.0	0.5	0.8	0.2	3.4	0.7	0.0	1.0	84.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	63.1	443.2	14.3	1015.8	177.4	124.9	42.0	719.9	123.8	215.0	89.0	7198.6	86.3	0.2	2.8	210.5	35.9	21.9	0.3	60.3	9925.3

ROCKY RIDGE (York) - Carter Johnson, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVJ	TUVJ	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	3	11.3	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	18
September	23	125.5	5	3	24	49	13	257	9	0	3	2793	25	0	0	49	1	3	0	7	3241
October	15	63.3	49	41	1	20	1	226	11	0	13	3	72	0	0	36	3	3	0	9	488
November	5	16.5	5	18	0	4	3	8	1	0	3	0	22	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	65
Total	46	216.5	59	64	27	75	17	491	22	0	21	2797	124	0	0	86	5	6	0	18	3812
Total per hr			0.27	0.30	0.12	0.35	0.08	2.27	0.10	0.00	0.10	12.92	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.08	17.61
% of flight			1.5	1.7	0.7	2.0	0.4	12.9	0.6	0.0	0.6	73.4	3.3	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	100.0
Average last 5 yrs	55.4	268.4	43.0	161.2	54.0	69.8	34.2	574.4	35.8	0.0	27.0	3973.8	102.2	0.0	0.8	136.8	11.2	8.2	0.0	39.4	5272.0

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware) - Chris Pugliese, co-compilers

Month	Days	Hours	BLVJ	TUVJ	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	1	2.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
September	30	182.5	0	0	75	53	8	126	21	0	5	3176	10	0	0	48	6	5	0	11	3544
October	25	109.5	0	181	5	13	6	135	24	0	31	16	41	0	0	29	10	3	0	9	503
November	17	84.3	0	57	1	14	0	14	3	0	32	0	40	0	2	2	1	0	0	4	170
Total	73	378.5	0	238	81	80	14	275	48	0	68	3194	91	0	2	79	17	8	0	24	4219
Total per hr			0.00	0.63	0.21	0.21	0.04	0.73	0.13	0.00	0.18	8.44	0.24	0.00	0.01	0.21	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.06	11.15
% of flight			0.0	5.6	1.9	1.9	0.3	6.5	1.1	0.0	1.6	75.7	2.2	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	78.7	459.9	20.2	470.1	130.2	125.6	35.6	631.8	113.3	0.6	135.0	1671.0	171.3	0.1	1.9	147.4	23.8	16.7	0.0	40.9	3735.7

SECOND MOUNTAIN (Lebanon) - David Schwenk, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVJ	TUVJ	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	16	97.8	0	0	8	13	4	5	2	0	0	45	12	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	93
September	28	204.8	0	0	49	65	17	418	39	0	5	2907	98	0	1	38	8	3	0	13	3661
October	28	199.0	40	297	5	108	22	1507	93	1	36	33	361	0	10	43	25	13	0	33	2627
November	28	202.8	30	92	3	83	0	20	4	0	35	0	218	0	40	1	1	1	0	8	536
December	12	75.0	0	8	0	16	0	1	0	1	2	0	18	0	9	0	1	1	0	1	58
Total	112	781.3	70	397	65	285	43	1951	138	2	78	2985	707	0	60	85	36	18	0	55	6975
Total per hr			0.09	0.51	0.08	0.36	0.06	2.50	0.18	0.00	0.10	3.82	0.90	0.00	0.08	0.11	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	8.93
% of flight			1.0	5.7	0.9	4.1	0.6	28.0	2.0	0.0	1.1	42.8	10.1	0.0	0.9	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	119.8	777.8	239.2	508.7	82.3	218.0	61.6	1577.8	186.1	6.7	85.5	3702.6	617.9	1.5	77.9	100.5	32.2	22	0.1	43.1	7563.7

STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon) - Greg Grove, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVJ	TUVJ	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	1	6.5	0	0	6	6	0	2	0	0	0	8	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	29
September	26	149.5	0	0	34	107	18	252	40	0	6	2222	66	0	0	56	15	19	0	5	2840
October	25	146.5	5	982	7	70	15	607	52	0	12	4	295	0	7	60	26	6	0	2	2150
November	21	114.5	6	124	1	36	5	18	2	0	9	0	149	1	99	1	3	0	0	3	457
December	3	15.5	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	18
Total	76	433	11	1106	48	223	38	879	95	0	28	2234	517	1	114	121	44	25	0	10	5494
Total per hr			0.03	2.56	0.11	0.52	0.09	2.03	0.22	0.00	0.06	5.17	1.20	0.00	0.26	0.28	0.10	0.06	0.00	0.02	12.70
% of flight			0.2	20.1	0.9	4.1	0.7	16.0	1.7	0.0	0.5	40.7	9.4	0.0	2.1	2.2	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	82.4	475.5	22.1	448.2	59.8	165.6	42.7	800.5	95.9	3.4	49.2	2125.8	553.3	1.2	136.8	80.5	24.1	22.7	0.0	22.7	4541.3

SUMMIT MOUNTAIN (Fayette) - Peter Livengood, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total	
September	2	11.0	0	10	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	572	8	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	599
Total	2	11.0	0	10	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	572	8	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	599
Total per hr			0.00	0.91	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.45
% of flight			0.0	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.5	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	30	165.0	0	0	10	57	3	11	9	0	4	110	99	0	0	12	1	5	0	4	325
September	27	243.0	0	0	124	259	39	2747	157	0	20	7556	364	0	1	168	47	15	0	28	11525
October	26	243.0	1	1109	10	264	62	5885	383	1	130	66	1179	0	41	93	99	29	0	50	9402
November	27	231.0	2	312	1	215	30	58	32	11	102	0	758	0	156	3	5	2	0	18	1705
December	21	143.0	0	33	0	60	3	2	0	4	2	0	54	0	15	0	0	3	0	4	180
Total	131	1025.0	3	1454	145	855	137	8703	581	16	258	7732	2454	0	213	276	152	54	0	104	23137
Total per hr			0.00	1.42	0.14	0.83	0.13	8.49	0.57	0.02	0.25	7.54	2.39	0.00	0.21	0.27	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.10	22.57
% of flight			0.0	6.3	0.6	3.7	0.6	37.6	2.5	0.1	1.1	33.4	10.6	0.0	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	136.6	1029.2	37.3	1628.2	262.6	652.2	156.5	6306.7	486.0	17.5	201.4	6977.3	2326.1	1.5	219.1	254.0	106.4	60.5	0.1	131.4	19797.8

2021 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	SWHA	Unid	Total
August	104	690	45	156	83	136	12	67	34	0	10	431	221	0	0	47	9	10	0	24	1285
September	325	2302	95	307	939	1506	174	7073	705	0	83	78052	1342	0	8	902	224	111	1	205	91727
October	312	2094	364	6492	170	1021	262	15148	1359	13	636	174	4696	0	147	604	404	154	0	259	31903
November	267	1713	473	2613	9	889	105	293	139	21	450	0	2888	3	922	13	29	14	0	89	8950
December	79	489	29	65	0	165	6	15	7	5	11	0	166	0	259	0	2	4	0	7	741
Total	1087	7288.7	1006	9633	1201	3717	559	22596	2244	39	1190	78657	9313	3	1336	1566	668	293	1	584	134606
Total per hr			0.14	1.32	0.16	0.51	0.08	3.10	0.31	0.01	0.16	10.79	1.28	0.00	0.18	0.21	0.09	0.04	0.00	0.08	18.47
% of flight			0.7	7.2	0.9	2.8	0.4	16.8	1.7	0.0	0.9	58.4	6.9	0.0	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.4	100.0
Average of last 10 yrs	1166	7659	1136	8573	1792	3049	756	21299	2368	72	1137	60251	10062	8	1182	1730	641	362	1	945	115363
% compared to average	-6.8	-4.8	-11.5	12.4	-33.0	21.9	-26.1	6.1	-5.2	-45.9	4.7	30.5	-7.4	-61.0	13.0	-9.5	4.3	-19.0	66.7	-38.2	16.7

KEY TO TABLE HEADERS

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

Mountain Bluebird in Northampton County – November 5-7 2022

Dave DeReamus, Northampton County

On 5 November 5th, 2022 I was on my way home from a bird walk, but at the last minute I decided to stop and see if any ducks might have dropped into the Newburg Road retention pond. And I'm glad I did. I got there around 2:30. There were five Killdeer at the back of the pond. I scanned over the large, grassy area between the pond and the hospital with my binoculars and spotted more Killdeer there. So, I drove along the road that parallels the north side of the hospital to see how many were there. After counting eight more Killdeer, I noticed what appeared to be a bluebird atop one of the planted trees. Instead of seeing an expected Eastern Bluebird, I noticed that the bird was an overall grayish color and had a noticeable eye ring. For a second, Townsend's Solitaire flashed in my brain, but then I noticed the turquoise-blue color in the tail. Finally, it registered that I was looking at a female Mountain Bluebird, a bird normally found in the western half of the United States! I grabbed my camera as quickly as I could, hoping that it wouldn't fly away, and blasted several photos from the car. After getting what I was pretty sure were good enough documentation photos, I sent a text out on the local GroupMe app to let others know. Luckily, the bird stayed there the rest of the day and continued through the 6th and 7th, allowing many birders to see this first Northampton County record and even a first for the Lehigh Valley! To my knowledge, this represents the eighth record for Pennsylvania.

Dave DeReamus
Northampton County
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Mountain Bluebird at Newburg Road, *Northampton* 5 November 2022 (Dave DeReamus).

Summary of the Season: Fall - 2022

Geoff Malosh

Across the state, compilers commented on a hot and dry August, a continuation of what had been the general theme of the summer too. Temperatures in September and particularly October moderated, and indeed in October there were a few overnight freezes in much of the state. November was warmer again with a generally mild pattern that continued into December. Most areas had below average rainfall for the full Aug-Nov period, though the remnants of two tropical storms tempered the deficit in some areas.

The dry August was a boon for shorebirds here and there, and a number of compilers reported a good passerine flight in late August and September. The mild November did not bring much in terms of powerful cold fronts and their associated waterfowl, though some species, such as Tundra Swan, were nevertheless well-reported. No tropical systems hit Pennsylvania directly, or even particularly close to directly, so there were no pelagic species reported, and storm fallout was also mostly nil.

There were only two systems that at least brushed past the Commonwealth; these were the remnants of Hurricane Ian, which brought much rain to the southeastern counties around 10/1-2, and the very late-season Hurricane Nicole, which brought not much more than a dreary, rainy day in southern counties 11/11. Besides Ian, which was a catastrophically destructive Gulf of Mexico storm that smashed the gulf coast of Florida as a Category 4 on 9/28, it was in fact a rather quiet Atlantic season meteorologically, though certainly not in terms of cost.

After passing through the Florida peninsula, Ian spun out into the Atlantic and came ashore again in the Carolinas, but its northward progress had mostly ceased by then, and its effect on Pennsylvania was primarily in the form of heavy rain and flooding 10/1-2 as the storm stalled off the coast of New Jersey. Nicole was a relatively low-power, sprawling storm that originated in the Caribbean. By the time its remnants reached Pennsylvania, which they did along a meandering approach from the southwest and into the south-central counties, its effects were limited merely to heavy rains, which particularly affected the southwestern part of the state. The city of Pittsburgh, for example,

recorded a new rainfall record of 2.36" for the date of 11/11 as a result of the storm.

Rarity-wise, the fall of 2022 was nothing particularly special but there was still a lot around. There were 35 different PORC review species reported, a slightly above average total. Among those were a good number of "one-and-dones", birds seen only once by one observer, but the season did close with two major headliners that were widely enjoyed: **Hammond's Flycatcher** and **Hermit Warbler**, which would represent the second and first records for the state, respectively, if accepted.

Comments on Birds of Note listings

A few procedural notes at the outset are in order for this report. For the purpose of the fall season Birds of Note, I have generally followed a guideline of requiring annually-occurring species be reported, on average, fewer than 10 times per fall over the course of the past 10 years to be considered notable enough for full annotation. To this limit is added a measure of subjective judgment. For example, Common Gallinule often has fewer than 10 records per fall, but being a breeding species and often found in the exact same places year after year, it is also not annotated. Barn and Short-eared Owls are another example of the same.

An overdue review of this rolling 10-year average by species showed that these four are well above the limit: **Black Tern** (15 reports per fall), **Little Blue Heron** (14), **Golden-winged Warbler** (13), and **Dickcissel** (14). As a result, none of these four will be annotated in the fall season Birds of Note hereafter. (Note, for this purpose, certain long-staying groups of birds, such as Little Blue Herons at John Heinz NWR, are considered "one record" even if several individuals may come and go over the course of the fall. Ruddy Turnstones at Presque Isle are another example.)

Nelson's Sparrow is right at the 10 per fall threshold as of this year, but is still hard enough to find that it will remain annotated, for the time being. Indeed, Nelson's was formerly considered so rare in the state that it was a PORC review species all the way up to 2006—just 16 years ago—but now there have been almost 100 records from the past 10 years. **Brant** is another not very much short of the threshold, though the remarkable 39 different sightings in 2012, mostly a result of Hurricane Sandy, have rolled off their average.

Each of the four species being removed is interesting in its own way. Black Tern, for example, would not have come close to the 10-per-fall threshold through about 2014, but is far

above it today. Indeed, up until the late 2010s, Common Tern was also annotated in the fall Birds of Note before being dropped a few years ago, yet it is still reported less frequently than Black Tern has been in the past 10 years. Golden-winged Warbler is similar. When it was first introduced to the Birds of Note in the mid-2000s, it was reported well short of 10 times per year, but is now up to an average of 14 times per year over the past 10, including 12 reports this year. In both of these cases, the most probable reason for the increase in reports over their averages earlier in the 2000s is the general increase in birder coverage and the raw number of birders in the field. Little Blue Heron hasn't been reported fewer than 10 times in any of the past 10 years. This species has never been hard to find in the fall in the southeastern counties, but it's still pretty remarkable that there hasn't been even one "off year" for them in at least a decade. The last is the enigmatic Dickcissel. Through 2016, its rolling average was about 7 per fall, but in just the six years from 2017-2022, there have been 116 reports, including 28 this year alone! The reasons for this distinct and dramatic jump are harder to discern. Better coverage plays a part, of course, but it seems they are actually more frequent generally, too. Most fall reports come from the southeast, but they have been reported from all corners of the state. Detections by nocturnal flight call also play a role. Prior to around 2010, only a few Pennsylvania birders closely monitored nocturnal migrations, but this activity too has risen in popularity in the past 10 years, and Dickcissel obliges with its very distinctive call that is easy to pick out of the nocturnal noise.

The fall season

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was noted in *Adams* in Oct and 11 were in *Schuylkill* in late Aug. These birds put the species on the fall list for the sixth time in the past seven years. Prior to this run, there were only about 10 records for the state at any time of year, the most recent of which was in 2012. **Snow Goose** remained from the summer in *Berks* and *Montour*, and they were reported from five western counties in Nov too. Only two **Ross's Geese** were noted, in *Erie* and *Franklin* both in the last days of Nov. Migrant and early wintering **Greater White-fronted Goose** had a great early start to their flight, with 15 records across 10 counties. Quite early was one in *Lehigh* 9/26. As mentioned, the 39 records of **Brant** from 2012 fell off their rolling 10-year average, but were replaced by a respectable 10 this fall. Readers are referred to the *Delaware* report regarding the fate of one unfortunate Brant at Hog Island 10/29.

A **Barnacle Goose**, first for the fall season since 2018, was in *Bucks* 11/18, but more

interesting was a report from the same county of an apparent **Barnacle x Cackling Goose** 11/7 and presumably the same bird again in *Lehigh* 11/29, possibly the first such combination documented in Pennsylvania. This sighting follows many reports of as many as 5 Barnacle x Cackling Geese traveling together from New Jersey to Massachusetts, and a few records from upstate New York as well, since about 2015. One wonders if they're all children of the same single nest. Regarding **Cackling Goose**, reports in eight counties were heralded by two early birds in *Delaware* beginning 9/24.

Trumpeter Swan enjoyed its second-best fall season ever in terms of sheer volume, with 12 sightings in 10 counties, including as many as 4 in *Cumberland*. Despite the lack of excessively powerful cold fronts in Nov, **Tundra Swans** were still found in great numbers in the western half of the state, with single-day counts exceeding 150 in *Armstrong*, *Blair*, and *Clarion*, and at hawkwatches in *Huntingdon* and *Perry*. The highest numbers were associated with Hurricane Nicole 11/11-12, and a frontal system that moved through around 11/19-20.

The duck migration, as has been the case for a number of recent autumns, was lackluster. Most of the news came in the form of early dates and a few high counts for some species. An example of the latter was 93 **Blue-winged Teal** in *Fayette* 10/2. August **Northern Shovelers** appeared in five counties including *Union* 8/14 where one had been noted in the summer as well. An early **Gadwall** was in *Montgomery* beginning 9/2, and at least one was in *Philadelphia* by 9/9. **American Wigeon** had a lackluster showing, poor enough to warrant specific mention by a few compilers. A **Eurasian Wigeon** in *Adams* 11/12 was the only one reported. The species is now quite rare in the fall again, after the bird in *Philadelphia* that appeared in all but one year 2015-2020 has gone missing for the past two falls. The *Adams* bird, which appeared the day after Hurricane Nicole moved through, was at Long Pine Run Reservoir, a higher-elevation lake one would not necessarily think likely for the species. A **Northern Pintail** in *York* 8/13 was remarkably early; the next pintails would not appear until 9/8 and 9/9 in *Franklin* and *Bucks*, respectively, both notably early themselves.

All of the "bay ducks" were quite sparse, especially **Canvasback** and **Redhead**. Away from *Erie*, *Clearfield* had the highest numbers of **Ring-necked**

Ducks, paced by a respectable 300 following the 11/19-20 front. Triple-digit counts were achieved in four other counties too. **Greater Scaup** is almost always the more uncommon of the scaup duo, and they were quite thin this year as well, with the top count away from *Erie* just 12 in *Philadelphia* in late Nov. In *Erie*, however, an impressive 3470 passed Sunset Point 11/17. An early **Lesser Scaup** appeared in *Montgomery* 8/10.

Accidental in fall away from the *Erie* waterbird count at Sunset Point (and exceedingly rare even there) was a **King Eider** photographed at a private lake in *Lackawanna* 11/13. It was not known as of this writing whether a report was made to PORC. Scoters showed well enough, with reports of **Surf Scoter** in 13 counties, **Black Scoter** in 14 counties, and **White-winged Scoter** in 13 counties. *Allegheny* had all three, a rare feat for a western county other than *Erie*. Interestingly, not many records of each were associated with the storms of 11/11-12 and 11/19-20, with only Black Scoter seen in numbers during those weekends. A remarkably early Surf Scoter was in *Bucks* 9/3-5.

Harlequin Duck was seen five times from Sunset Point in Nov, beginning on Hurricane Nicole day 11/12, and a stunning adult male was also in *Clinton* 11/2. **Long-tailed Duck** trickled through in small numbers in 11 counties, about an average season in terms of distribution but probably below for volume. There was a noticeable pulse of **Bufflehead** in the middle of Nov, a consequence of the two rain events already mentioned, with triple-digit counts reached in six counties that week including 200 in *Lycoming* 11/20. **Common Goldeneye** was hard to find away from *Erie*, with the dozen or so counties reporting them having only one or a small handful of records, almost exclusively in Nov.

An amazing 600 **Hooded Mergansers** at the Pymatuning Causeway, *Crawford* 11/24 was a great fall count even for that storied lake. There was another report of 400 in *Mercer* 11/21. Around the same time, there were also counts of 500 **Common Mergansers** at the Causeway and 495 in *Armstrong*, among many other triple-digit counts scattered around the state. This species is very obviously expanding especially in the southwest, where it is now a year-round resident in *Allegheny* and *Beaver* (at least). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were like Common Goldeneye, scattered around but not plentiful; a somewhat early bird for the southwest was in *Beaver* for all of Oct. Beginning around the time Hurricane Nicole arrived, there were some fair sized counts of **Ruddy Duck** in *Indiana*, *Luzerne*, *Monroe*, and *Montgomery*, with *Luzerne* sporting the two best counts of 463 on 11/10 (the day before Nicole) and 230 on 11/21.

Ruffed Grouse is a species of concern but

they do indeed persist in low but probably stable numbers. This season there were 251 total eBird checklists with the species submitted from 39 counties, which is not great, but not terrible either, by recent standards. A **Pied-billed Grebe** persisted from the summer to 8/21 in *Montgomery*. Three **Eared Grebes** were reported, in *Bucks*, *Erie*, and *Lycoming*, making for 16 fall records of them in eight of the past 10 years. **Red-necked Grebe** had a fairly poor season, with reports from just seven counties and a season total of only 10 at Sunset Point waterbird count in *Erie*.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued in *Berks* and *Franklin* at their long-standing sites, and a potential new population was also discovered in *Cumberland* near the Blue Mountain interchange of the turnpike, were up to 9 were present in late Oct. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** made it nearly to the end of Oct in *Armstrong* (10/25) and *Montgomery* (10/27). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was again reported very thinly, the now well-established new normal for them.

Common Nighthawk is another species of concern that is monitored closely by birders and county compilers alike. The impression from county reports and eBird data is that their migration this fall was pretty good. Fifty-three counties had at least one report, and there were 23 reports of 100 or more tallied on their late summer evening migrations. Most of the dedicated "nighthawk watches" reported good seasons, and one such watch in *Cumberland* even reported a staggering 1253 on the evening of 8/27. A few other nice counts were reported mostly on the eastern side of the state that evening as well. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** persisted to about the end of Sep as usual, with very widely scattered reports from all parts of the state.

There were no rare hummingbirds this fall other than **Rufous Hummingbird**, of which there were nine banded, seven adult females and two hatch year females. A bird in *Center* was nearly certainly a Rufous, from excellent photos of its extended tail, but it eluded capture; and two others, one each in *Center* and *Potter*, were less obvious and left as Rufous/Allen's. Two more *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were in *Somerset*, including one at White Horse Mountain yet again, where *Selasphorus* hummingbirds have reportedly appeared in seven of the past 10 years. Neither of the *Somerset* birds was banded.

There was not very much to report among the Rallidae, with no rare rails found, and both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** appearing in typical numbers. Virginia persisted into Nov in both *Allegheny* and *Bucks*, both at sites where the species had summered. Quite interesting was a Sora foraging for worms alongside an **Ovenbird** in a flower bed at Temple University, *Philadelphia* 10/5. This isn't the first time this report has noted the curious tendency of Ovenbirds to be found in odd situations in the city of Philadelphia. **Common Gallinule** had a better than usual season with a number of

sightings away from typical areas, including reports in *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Luzerne*. **Sandhill Cranes** were again found in all corners, and it appears that *Crawford* may well have replaced *Lawrence* as ground zero for the species in Pennsylvania. Top count there was 134 on 11/18, more than double the maximum from *Lawrence*, which was 65 the day before.

American Avocet had their best showing in the past 10 years, with 12 reports from 12 different counties, the vast majority in Aug. **Black-bellied Plover** had about an average showing, with scattered reports across 11 counties. Once again they were greatly outshined by their close cousin, **American Golden-Plover**, which like last year was widespread (20 counties), with *Cumberland* hosting some truly impressive numbers in early Oct. The top count there was a whopping 130 on Running Pump Road 10/3.

Last year **Semipalmated Plover** had a relatively poor showing, which was rectified this year with reports from 34 counties. Again, though, large numbers were not in evidence, with the best counts consisting of 22 in *Delaware* and 20 in *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Mercer*. In the latter county they, and many other shorebirds, took advantage of the early drawdown of Shenango River Reservoir that occurred this fall. **Piping Plover** was noted only at Gull Point, where they nested again this summer.

For the first time in a while, the Lancaster Airport *did not* host **Upland Sandpiper**, but there were six records elsewhere, an excellent total. Some falls, they are seen only at the airport. Two of the six were detected by nocturnal flight call. The four “big” shorebirds, **Whimbrel**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Marbled Godwit**, and **Willet** were all reported this year. The first three of those (i.e., excluding Willet) have curious statistics from the past 10 years in comparison to the others. Whimbrel is the only one seen in all 10 of the past 10 years, but there are only 13 total records in that time (again, as discussed earlier, taking each fall’s season total at Gull Point as a single record). Hudsonian Godwit has the most records, with 14, but has been seen in the fewest years, 7. **Marbled Godwit**, the only PORC review species of the three, splits the difference in years (9) but has the fewest records overall, with 11. All of these counts are inclusive of this year, in which Hudsonian Godwit had an unusually good showing with reports from four counties including a first for *Butler*.

Ruddy Turnstone was also found in four counties, about average for them. Away from *Erie*, the only **Red Knots** were 2 in *Delaware* 9/3—meager, but also an average showing. Quite exciting was a **Ruff** in *Bucks* 11/12-17, certainly the top shorebird of the season. Both **Stilt Sandpiper** and **Sanderling** had fine showings. The former persisted into early Oct in five counties, and most interesting among the latter were 2 birds seen hanging out in a mulch bed under pine trees in a business park in *Westmoreland* 9/9. (See that county’s report for more details.)

Dunlin had an ordinary showing, with the latest of about twenty Nov reports being one in *Erie* 11/26-28 and one in *Northampton* 11/23. As always, *Erie* had the only **Purple Sandpipers**, singles on 10/29 and 11/5. **Baird’s Sandpiper**, as well, had a normal season, which for them these days meant reports in 13 counties. This is another species whose yearly tally probably benefits from increased birder coverage and also awareness of how to identify this challenging quasi-peep. **Least Sandpiper** recovered from its poor showing last fall with better numbers this year. Many counts of 100-225 were made from four southeastern counties in Aug and early Sep, and Nov birds were found in *Allegheny*, *Franklin*, *Lancaster*, and *York*. **White-rumped Sandpipers** showed very well, topped by a flock of 70 in *Monroe* 10/31.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in four counties, slightly below average but their numbers are small enough that an extra one or two is all it would have taken to make this a “good” season. Seven **Pectoral Sandpipers** in *Somerset* 11/13 was a notable total for that late date in that part of the state, and one hung on until 11/20 in *Bucks*. **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, unlike Least, repeated their poor act from last year, with this year’s max count just 70 in *Lancaster* 8/28. Four **Western Sandpipers** were tallied across three counties, which was a little below recent averages, but one also wonders two things: how many of these are overlooked, and how many are misidentified Semipalmateds? Certainly more of the former occur than the latter, but both errors may be at work at times.

Short-billed Dowitcher followed their characteristically early arrival with most reports in Aug, but one in *Bucks* 10/8 was exceptionally late. The closely-related **Long-billed Dowitcher** had a wonderful season, their best showing in at least 12 years, with 14 sightings in 10 counties, nearly all of single birds. Their total was bumped by the unusual appearance of a few very early adults in Aug in *Bucks*, *Crawford*, and *Chester*.

One might think that **Wilson’s Phalarope** is the most frequent of the three phalaropes, but in the fall, at least, **Red-necked Phalarope** has been more frequent over the past 10 years. This was the case this year too and dramatically so,

with Wilson’s found in only four counties but Red-necked in a whopping 11. Interestingly a number of Red-necked were still turning up in early Oct in southeastern counties. The only **Red Phalarope** was an adult in heavy molt photographed in *Allegheny* on the very early date of 8/2.

Late **Spotted Sandpipers** made it to at least the last week of Oct in nine counties, an unusually high total, and on into Nov in *Butler*, *Bucks*, and *Westmoreland*. **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Greater Yellowlegs** all had essentially pedestrian flights. Most notable among the trio were Solitaries that tarried into the first week of Nov in *Armstrong*, *Erie*, and *York*. Finishing the thought about the big shorebirds, away from Gull Point, **Willet** was limited to singles in *Carbon* 8/22 and *Montgomery* 9/5-7 this year, but despite this lightweight showing, it is still reported at about double the frequency of any of the other three as a general rule.

Six jaegers were counted off Presque Isle this fall, with four identified to species as **Parasitic Jaeger**, one of which was a bit early 9/18. A possible **Black-legged Kittiwake** in *Bucks*, seen distantly and not photographed, was submitted for PORC review. The only **Sabine’s Gull** of the season was one at Lake Arthur, *Butler* 9/25, which would represent the third record for that lake. A great count of 270 **Bonaparte’s Gulls** in *Bucks* 11/13 was excellent away from *Erie* and *Crawford*. A remarkable maximum of 2500 **Laughing Gulls** was noted in *Bucks* 9/25. Despite such numbers, the species remains quite rare away from the Delaware River, lower Susquehanna River, and the counties in that immediate vicinity. Indeed, at least half of the counties in the western half of the state still have no Laughing Gull records at all. Single **Franklin’s Gulls** were in *Lancaster* 10/5 and *Mercer* 11/10.

Iceland Gull is still unusual prior to Dec; this year there were two or three, all first seen on 11/25. Glaucous Gull was not reported. The usual swarms of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in evidence in *Bucks* and *Northampton*, and one in *Montgomery* 8/21 was record early there. **Great Black-backed Gulls** in *Wyoming* 9/25 and *Lackawanna* 11/28 were away from usual areas.

The two species of rare terns for the season were both found only in *Philadelphia*: a **Least Tern** 8/31 and a **Gull-billed Tern** 8/21. The latter was not photographed and it was not known as of this writing whether documentation was submitted to PORC. This marked the fourth autumn in a row that at least one Gull-billed has been reported, and Least has now been found three of the past five. At least 27 records of **Black Tern**, some of which represent sightings of multiple birds over multiple days as “one” record, put to rest its continued presence in the Birds of Note. Among them were somewhat late birds in *Montgomery* 9/25 and *Philadelphia* 10/3, and the top count was an impressive 12 in *Pike* 8/22.

As mentioned in the introduction to this report, **Common Tern** was again less common than Black Tern, with reports from just nine counties, though

this included an excellent flight of 170 at Sunset Point, *Erie* 10/19. Big numbers of **Forster's Terns** included 86 in *Lancaster* on the Susquehanna in Oct, and 136 in *Delaware* on the Delaware 10/1.

A small but good number of **Red-throated Loons** were scattered around mostly in Nov, but one in *Indiana* 10/2 was very early. A few **Common Loons** either remained from summer or arrived at the beginning of Aug, which happens most years, and a count of 209 in *Crawford* 11/28 was most impressive.

Four **Wood Storks** continued from the summer at Octoraro Reservoir in *Lancaster* into early Aug, and then one showed up at (or relocated to?) Middle Creek 8/10-31, seen on both the *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* sides (mostly the latter). There are some eight or nine records of **Brown Booby** for Pennsylvania now, all since 2015, but except for the first of them, which was seen by a few dozen birders in an area normally not open to the public, none were easily chased by the general birding community. That finally changed this fall when one stayed at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 8/22-25 and was seen by hundreds. Another was also in *Bucks* 11/6-7. **Great Cormorant** was noted only in *Philadelphia* before the end of Nov, unusual that it was limited to one county but probably not indicative of anything other than bad luck elsewhere on the Delaware in late fall. **American White Pelican** was missed in 2021 but one was found this year in *Lancaster* 8/23-24.

Quite unusual at Hawk Mountain was an **American Bittern** that hung out at the headquarters 9/20, and another was found in an unusual location in *Montgomery* 10/28, sitting on a fence near the front porch of a suburban yard. **Least Bittern** had its best fall in memory, with records from 11 counties, including three different birds detected by nocturnal flight call.

Away from the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers, late-staying **Great Egrets** were found in *Centre* to 11/24 and *Montgomery* to 11/17. Little Blue Heron has been removed from the Birds of Note, but **Snowy Egret** remains, perhaps a bit surprisingly, with an average of only about seven records per fall. There were nine this season, including *Mercer's* first, a bird at Shenango River Reservoir 8/18-9/10. This was the only one away from the southeast. There were about 20 records of **Little Blue Heron**, the most in the past 15 years. Again, this includes, for example, their daily presence at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* from Aug through 10/8 as one record. Quite remarkable was the

group of 7 in *Westmoreland* 8/9-12. There can't be many other records of even two birds at once in the western half of the state, let alone seven. The only **Tricolored Heron** was in *Lancaster* in late Aug and early Sep.

Cattle Egret did not come close to matching the invasion they put on last fall, but seven records in seven counties was still a good result. Among them were 3 in heavily forested *Warren* 10/14. November **Green Herons** were noted in *Bucks* and *Montgomery*, where birds so late are not completely unimaginable (though the *Montgomery* bird 11/17 was the second latest ever for the county), but surprising was one also in *Schuylkill* 11/16. Most out of place among four counties reporting **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was one in *Centre* 10/24-25.

White Ibis was another species that had its best showing in quite some time, with about seven reports in six counties. One of these, at the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster* 8/23, was photographed in the same tree as a **Rosate Spoonbill**! Which, incidentally, was the only spoonbill reported—“only” a somewhat tongue-in-cheek statement, because the species has now been seen four of the past six fall seasons. A **White-faced Ibis**, another species possibly on the increase, was in *Lancaster* 9/21. It marked the second fall in a row one was reported and about the seventh for the state, all since 2010.

One species that absolutely is increasing, especially in southwestern Pennsylvania, is **Black Vulture**. There were at least five reports from *Allegheny*, two reports in *Fayette*, four reports (of up to 12 birds) in *Indiana*, and several reports (also of up to 12 birds) in *Westmoreland*. Eastward, the 159 hanging around a rendering plant in *Montgomery* 8/30 must have been quite the sight (and smell). Four reports of **Swallow-tailed Kite** included singles in *Indiana* 8/13, *Cumberland* 9/4, and *Perry* 10/9; and a report of 3 in *Cumberland* 8/16 that was submitted for review. There were quite a few reports of off-ridge **Golden Eagles** in county narratives this fall, nothing that is easily quantified in historical context, but it seemed like the mentions were more than usual. A **Mississippi Kite** in *Bucks* 8/23 was the only one reported. Otherwise there wasn't much happening among raptors, at least away from hawk watches (which see the annual fall report elsewhere in this issue). A few interesting reports included a banded **Bald Eagle** in *Butler* that was found to have been originally captured in Albany, New York in 2003, and late **Broad-winged Hawks** in *Delaware* 10/29, and two different birds in *Montgomery* 10/28.

A **Barn Owl** in *Berks* was found when it set off a motion-sensing light at 3am and caused the homeowner to investigate. It was sitting on a bird feeder. They were seen in eight other counties too, an excellent total. Snowy Owl was

unreported in Nov. **Long-eared Owl** was limited to reports in *Chester* and *Erie*; one of the birds in *Erie* was the victim of a window strike and was taken to rehab. Going by the typical pattern, 2022 should have been an “up” year for **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in their cyclic irruptions, but although there was a fair movement of them, it was a middling year overall though some good results were seen here and there. The total at a *Dauphin* banding site was 222 among which were seven foreign recoveries. Smaller operations (in terms of expected annual numbers) in *Allegheny*, *Chester*, *Cumberland*, and *Westmoreland* all saw a few tens of owls for the season.

Red-headed Woodpecker continued to be well-reported in many areas, which has been a trend in the fall the past few years. Many counties reported multiple sightings and even a few hawk watches had good results, such as the season total of 8 at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon*. Birders in *Cumberland* reported large numbers of **American Kestrels** curiously associated with the passage of Hurricane Ian's remnants; see the *Cumberland* report for more details. **Merlins** were also widespread again with many reports from the southern half of the state beginning in Aug. The female **Peregrine Falcon** designated 48/AE that nested for many years at the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg unfortunately died this year at the age of 13. Some of this bird's remarkable legacy is detailed in the *Dauphin* report.

One of the two “top rarities” statewide this fall was a cooperative **Hammond's Flycatcher** that remained for over a month at Tuscarora State Park in *Schuylkill* beginning 10/22. If accepted, it would represent the second record for the state. There are actually three previous records, but only one was accepted by the records committee, a bird in *Northampton* in Nov and Dec 2000. The only other flycatcher rarity was **Western Kingbird**, of which there were three reports: one briefly seen jockeying with an Eastern Kingbird in *Berks* 8/14, one in *Lancaster* 9/14, and one in *Montgomery* 9/22. Otherwise there was not much to say about this family. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was exceptionally well-reported, seemingly more commonly reported now than, say, 10 or 15 years ago, again probably a consequence of increased birder numbers and coverage. One late Olive-sided was captured at Powdermill in *Westmoreland* 10/2. There was also the usual avalanche of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports. Though they are indeed a much more common fall migrant here than spring, one still gets the sense that some percentage of these silent fall migrants are misidentified bright juveniles of other species. An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was still in *Montgomery* 10/18, and **Least Flycatcher** was reported in both *Cumberland* and *Philadelphia* 10/16.

It was an off season for **Northern Shrike** by recent standards, with just five birds reported in total; the last time there were that few by the end of Nov was in 2016. Like with flycatchers, there

wasn't much to say about vireos either. A Solitary-type vireo in *Lycoming* 10/30 was left unidentified to species, but Cassin's was considered. There was also a late **Blue-headed Vireo** in *Philadelphia* 11/23, and **Red-eyed Vireos** made it into the last ten days of Oct in *Delaware*, *Montgomery*, and *York*.

Blue Jay migration in the counties around Philadelphia is increasingly a thing that birders are tuned into. An observer in *Montgomery* broke that county's previous single day record twice this fall, with tallies of 1368 on 9/29 and 1186 on 9/30. There were 529 noted in *Philadelphia* 9/29 as well, and a count of 267 in *Bucks* 9/27 was also notable. **Fish Crow** continued to explode into developed areas outside of their historical range. Some remarkable numbers in *Allegheny* this fall included an amazing 380 in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 8/30. A count of 250 was also made in northern *Berks* in the vicinity of a recently developed shopping plaza in Hamburg, an unheard of total for that part of *Berks* historically, and *Lackawanna* logged a new high count of 230 near Scranton 10/17. **Common Raven** nowadays warrants mention only when they somehow top themselves in their own recent explosion into every corner of the state. One interesting tale came from *Somerset* 10/30, of a group of 16 ravens that seemed to be escorting migrating hawks along, and otherwise playing in the wind. Even in glaciated *Crawford*, they are now increasingly common in the southern half of the county.

Black-capped Chickadee irrupted into southern counties beginning around the end of Sep or mid-Oct. One interesting phenomenon was described in *Philadelphia*, where flights of chickadees were noted in the first half of Nov but the birds seemed to deliberately avoid crossing the Delaware River. The other chickadee isn't discussed much by compilers, but **Carolina Chickadees** in *Juniata* 9/30-10/9 were worth mentioning.

Some late-staying swallows were notable. Large numbers of **Tree Swallows** were still in *Franklin* into the second half of Oct and in smaller numbers stayed into Nov. See the *Franklin* report for more details on these and also on late **Northern Rough-winged**, **Bank**, and **Barn Swallows** there this season. *Montgomery* also saw Bank and Barn Swallows linger a bit longer than usual, to 10/8 and 10/5, respectively, and a Northern Rough-winged in *Somerset* 10/26 was quite late away from the southeast. Two **Cave Swallows** were reported off Sunset Point,

Erie 11/5. This species' late fall flights into the mid-Atlantic have certainly dropped off over the past decade; this season's pair was just the fifth fall report in the past eight years.

A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was in *Lancaster* 11/18, and early **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in Aug were described in *Blair*, *Centre*, *Lackawanna*, *Lebanon*, and *Schuylkill*. The anticipated invasion of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** did happen, but it seemed rather uneven when looked at in total. Some counties reported great numbers, while counties immediately adjacent to them saw a considerably thinner flight. A good example was *Philadelphia* and *Delaware*; in the latter county the nuthatch movement seemed to be more of a pass-through affair which tapered off by mid-Oct. Meanwhile a count of 17 in *Montgomery* 11/24 was a county record.

A late **House Wren** was still in *Indiana* 10/31. Seven reports of **Sedge Wren** included two in Aug at locations were not reported during the summer, but neither of these (in *Cumberland* and *Lancaster*) was seen after the first few days they were found. The rest were more typical late Sep or Oct migrants. **Marsh Wren** seemed well-reported and included early Nov sightings in *Allegheny*, *Erie*, and *Philadelphia*. A **Northern Mockingbird** was out of place in *Warren* 11/11, and a **Brown Thrasher** was at a feeder in *Monroe* from 11/14 through the season.

A **Mountain Bluebird** in *Northampton* 11/5-7 was a wonderful find, which found its way onto 70 eBird checklists during its short stay. Birders who make a point of documenting nocturnal migration reported a good season for thrushes, and banding results were quite good at Powdermill Nature Reserve, too. Daytime reports of thrushes were pretty good as well, especially for **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, among which were late birds in *Delaware* 10/27 and *Allegheny* 10/29, and late **Wood Thrushes** were in *Delaware* 10/20 and *Montgomery* 10/23. **American Pipit** also had a good season with many flocks of 25 or more seen in appropriate habitat around the state.

Evening Grosbeak was back again this year after near-absence last year. They were noted in at least 58 counties, just four short of their remarkable 2020 flight in which they were found in 62. The peak of their flight was again in late Oct and early Nov, especially right around the turn of the month. But overall numbers were fewer than in 2020, and fewer birds stuck around for extended periods. Many of the 58 counties reporting them were limited to one or a handful of birds at a feeder for a day or two. Not many seemed to be settling in place for the winter either. Although there were 17 counties that reported them in the last 10 days of Nov, except for a flock of 23 that passed Hawk Mountain 11/23, all reports for the 10 day period were of

one to three, a minority of which were at feeders. One exception to the low numbers statewide was a feeder in *Forest* where large numbers of grosbeaks have wintered in recent invasion years. This feeder held 40 birds 11/14, and although no reports from this location were made for the rest of Nov, there were excellent numbers still there in the winter, as usual.

Purple Finch also had a good flight, and in good numbers too. Most remarkable was a count of 249 at Little Gap, *Northampton* 10/15. Other sites in *Bucks*, *Westmoreland*, and *York* posted good one-day counts of 25 or more in the second half of Oct. **Red Crossbills** again accompanied the Evening Grosbeaks on their way through, in smaller numbers, of course. There were about 20 reports in 10 counties, mostly in Nov, but one early bird was in *Blair* 9/12, early enough that it was possibly not a migrant. **White-winged Crossbill** was limited to reports in *Monroe* 11/5 and at Hawk Mountain 11/9. The only report of **Common Redpoll** was a curiously early bird in *Indiana* 10/12. **Pine Siskins** also moved through widely, with reports in 54 counties, but like grosbeaks, they too were not in great numbers and many counties were limited to a handful of reports and few birds. In fact there were only five reports of 20 or more statewide, the maximum of which was a flock of 50 over *Allegheny* 10/29.

Snow Buntings arrived in fair numbers including an early one in *Clinton* 10/20. **Lapland Longspur** was found in only four counties, but two of those had Sep reports: *Erie* 9/24 and *Lycoming* 9/28. **Grasshopper Sparrow** tarried into the last week of Oct in *Berks*, *Juniata*, *Lancaster*, and *Lycoming*. The fall of 2021 was an excellent one for **Clay-colored Sparrow** and that was repeated again this fall, with about 12 reports in nine counties, almost exclusively in Oct, though there were a few late Sep reports too. **Lark Sparrow** was reported at three *Philadelphia* locations in a three-day window 10/23-25, but there were no other reports anywhere else for the season. An early **American Tree Sparrow** was in *Montgomery* 11/4 and away from the southern counties a **Chipping Sparrow** still in *Jefferson* 11/28 was notable.

Quite unexpected for fall were not one but two **Harris's Sparrows**: one in *Clinton* 10/26 and the other in *Mercer* 11/12-14. Another nice find was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** in *Lancaster* 10/22. **Nelson's Sparrow**, as mentioned in the introduction, flirts with the 10-per-fall Birds of Note limit, even more so now with this fall's 15 reports, their best showing since 2013. Among them was an "Atlantic" Nelson's Sparrow described in *Bucks* 10/7, and one (interior subspecies) in *Erie* 10/1 was the first there in quite some time. A field in *Cumberland* held as many as 53 **Savannah Sparrows** in late Oct, quite notable there, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** banded in *Erie* 10/30 was record late. A **Dark-eyed Junco x White-throated Sparrow** in *Berks* 10/30 was the only hybrid reported among this family. Regarding one of those parent species, a fabulous count of 440

White-throated Sparrows was made in *Blair* 10/22. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported three times in the second half of Oct in *Philadelphia*, the last of what appeared to be a pretty good fall for them.

The blackbird family saw three rarities reported, all one-day wonders: **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in *Erie* 9/1, **Brewer's Blackbird** in *Westmoreland* 10/22, and what is better described as a five-minute wonder, a **Bullock's Oriole** in *Chester* 11/10 very near the Maryland line. Otherwise this family had a rather mundane season. A count of 75 **Eastern Meadowlarks** in *Bedford* 10/16 was remarkable, however. What are not as remarkable as they used to be, though, are **Baltimore Orioles** lingering into Nov, which occurred in six counties this season, all in the far southeast except for one in *Perry* 11/2. **Rusty Blackbird** was widely reported but in middling numbers, with only a handful of counts of 50 or more made.

With Yellow-breasted Chat having been spun off into its own family, there are now 35 species of warblers that annually occur in Pennsylvania, all of which are, of course, annual in the fall season as well. Therefore this season's total of 38 warbler species was excellent, the most for the fall in the past 10 years at least. Of course, this "warbler season total" is really a count of rarities, of which there were three this year. Of the other nine of the past 10 falls, the rare warbler count was 2 three times, one three times, and zero three times.

This year's headliner was the state's first **Hermit Warbler** which appeared in *Delaware* 11/25 and remained into Dec. It was sometimes uncooperative but was nevertheless seen by a few hundred happy birders. The other two were a **Swainson's Warbler** that remained from the summer to 8/1 in *Blair*, making the third year in a row that a summering Swainson's has lingered into Aug, and a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in *Chester* 9/13. Regarding the latter, though it was present for just one day, it was remarkably cooperative for a warbler on migration, and seen by at least 32 people throughout the morning and afternoon. Both "winged-warbler" hybrids were reported as well, **Brewster's Warbler** in four counties and **Lawrence's Warbler** in five. It was the first time Lawrence's outnumbered Brewster's in at least 15 years, though they have tied occasionally.

A number of compilers commented on a good warbler flight. Three of the budworm specialists—**Cape May**, **Tennessee**, and **Bay-breasted Warblers**—

all showed quite well. There was an indication of an early movement especially of Cape May Warbler in the western Great Lakes this fall, and although Pennsylvania's raw totals of the species in August did not match some numbers being posted to the west, there were a number of quite early Cape Mays in ones and twos, with five counties reporting them on or before 8/15: *Allegheny*, *Blair*, *Chester*, *Erie*, and *Wayne*. The first in *Erie* 8/14 was a record early date for the county. In terms of total number of reports statewide, Cape May was also the most frequently mentioned in eBird, though all three appeared on 2000 checklists or more.

Among the more sought-out of the "regular 35", **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported 12 times, as mentioned at the outset, which was actually a down year for them in the context of the past four. **Orange-crowned Warbler** was noted in 33 counties, among which an impressive 10 had the species in Nov. **Connecticut Warbler** was once again reported more frequently than **Mourning Warbler**, but both were widely found this fall. A single-day count of 8 in *Chester* at the ChesLen Preserve 9/28 may well have been unprecedented for this species away from a banding station; typically even two or three Connecticuts in a single place is a great achievement.

Otherwise, there were a few early and late dates worth reviewing. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported in *Sullivan* 9/17, but the report lacked much detail. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at two different locations in *Montgomery* 8/27, and a late **Prothonotary Warbler** was well-described in *Tioga* 9/13. A **Nashville Warbler** lingered in *Philadelphia* to 11/12, the latest among four counties with the species in Nov and **Northern Parula** was in six counties in Nov, including one in *Blair* to 11/7. Away from the southeast, a **Common Yellowthroat** that was still in *Lycoming* at the end of Nov was notable. Bookending the season was an early **Magnolia Warbler** in *Montgomery* 8/13 and a late one in *Philadelphia* 11/2. A few **Yellow Warblers** hung on into Oct, but one in *Lycoming* 11/27 was extraordinarily late. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** banded in *Erie* 10/30 was record late there, and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in *Montgomery* 8/11 set an early record by three days. Another late *Montgomery* bird was a **Prairie Warbler** 10/9. Lastly, a record early **Wilson's Warbler** in *Erie* 8/11 was one of the first of what would be a good flight for the species.

A late male **Scarlet Tanager** was noted in *Bucks* 10/16. **Summer Tanager** was found in *Delaware* and twice in *Philadelphia*. They have now been annually reported in fall since 2010. A very late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found in *Allegheny* 10/29. **Blue Grosbeak** was found in a remarkable 19 counties. Many of these were birds continuing at summer locations, but a

healthy chunk of them were true migrants. Another record-setter for *Erie* was an **Indigo Bunting** 10/30, and a **Painted Bunting** was reported in *Chester* 11/16. **Dickcissel** had its best fall showing in memory, with at least 28 records in 15 counties, some continuing from summer sites but mostly migrants. Nocturnal detections were way up this fall, too, and included a season total of 15 calls over South Philadelphia 9/14-10/18 (again, all considered as "one record" for our purposes here). Among all these Dickcissels were also notably late birds in *Berks* 11/2, *Bucks* 11/7, and *Lancaster* 11/26.

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Corrigenda: In the Summary of the Season report for the summer season, the citation of ten **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** had them in the wrong county. They were found in *Delaware*.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Given the statistical angle this report sometimes takes, it seemed interesting enough to include one other bit of statistical trivia. This season, there were 15 species that were reported in eBird in exactly 66 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Together with the one county that lacked a report for each, the species that came up just short of a clean county sweep were: Wild Turkey (*Delaware*), Rock Pigeon (*Forest*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Greene*), Eastern Kingbird (*Mifflin*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Venango*), House Sparrow (*Sullivan*), House Finch (*Forest*), Purple Finch (*Greene*), Field Sparrow (*Mifflin*), Swamp Sparrow (*Mifflin*), Common Grackle (*Cambria*), Common Yellowthroat (*Mifflin*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Greene*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Mifflin*), and Indigo Bunting (*Bradford*).

It should be noted that the *Venango* county report in this issue does mention Red-breasted Nuthatch. It's just that there were none reported in that county to eBird. The same is true of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Purple Finch in *Greene*—both species were noted in the county report but there were no eBird records. Of course, this is all merely trivia. Certainly all 15 of these species, except perhaps Wild Turkey in *Delaware*, did actually occur in all 67 counties. Probably the only meaningful conclusion that can be drawn is that *Greene* and *Mifflin* are among the most under-eBirded counties in the state.

For readers who are interested in a mental exercise: this fall there were 50 species reported in all 67 counties in eBird, even *Mifflin* and *Greene*. See how many you can name off the top of your head before checking the answer, which is listed on page 282.

Birds of Note – August through November 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* – *Adams*: one at a farm pond on Buttonwood Rd. 10/11-11/14 (Cy Dietz, Linette Mansberger, *doc submitted*); *Schuylkill*: 11 at Landingville Dam and Marsh 8/29-31 (Dan Brennan, Karen Hardy, Rich Rieger, John Stetson, Dave Krueel, *doc submitted*).

Ross’s Goose – *Erie*: one at Edinboro Lake 11/27-28 (Jennifer Ferrick, Jamie Hill, Pat Kramer); *Franklin*: one at Keefer Road 11/28-12/1 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Armstrong*: 4 at Crooked Creek Lake 11/21-25 (Theo Rickert); *Berks*: one at EJ Breneman’s Quarry 11/28 (Joan Spilde); *Bucks*: one at Owls Nest Park 10/6 (Scott Fraser), one at Churchville Park 11/1 (Kerry Loux), and one at Core Creek Park 11/18 (Dwight Molotsky); *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 11/14 (Al Guarente, et al.); *Clinton*: one at the Ohl/McElhatten Reservoir 11/5 (Joe and Elody Gyekis); *Erie*: one at Veteran’s Park 10/30 (Ripley Kindervater); *Lancaster*: one north of Marietta 10/20 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser, Brian Shade); *Lawrence*: 2 at the Volant Strips 11/26 (Martin Carlin); *Lehigh*: one on Rte. 100 in Macungie 9/26 may have been the same also at Fogelsville Quarry 10/2 (Chris Hugosson); *Montgomery*: singles at Green Lane Park 10/3-6 (James Funk), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 10/28-11/2 (Paul Driver), Norristown Farm Park 11/3 (Sam Stuart), and nearby Norristown/Bridgeport Dam 11/5 (Steve Grunwald).

Brant – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 10/27 (Devich Farbotnik); *Carbon*: 5 at Beltzville SP10/3 (Jason Horn); *Delaware*: one at Hog Island 10/29 (Rob Fergus) was attacked and probably taken by a Bald Eagle; *Erie*: one adult at Presque Isle SP11/3-12 (Jerry McWilliams) and one juvenile there 11/14 through the period (Rust Swaney); *Lehigh*: 14 at Bake Oven Knob 10/28 (Jeff Vinosky); *Monroe*: 7 at Cherry Valley NWR 10/24 (Jon Mularczyk); *Montgomery*: 20 at Heuser/Bob Case Park 11/8 (Steve Grunwald); *Northampton*: 50 at the Little Gap Hawkwatch 10/27 (Joe Yuhás); *Philadelphia*: 16 over the Roxborough Neighborhood and later at the Philadelphia Port 10/28 (George Armistead, Ed Edge), and about 24 on the Delaware River 10/29 (m.ob.).

Barnacle Goose* – *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 11/18 (Dwight Molotsky, *doc submitted*).

Barnacle x Cackling Goose – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Reservoir 11/7 (ph. Barbara Stollsteimer, Will Stollsteimer).

Trumpeter Swan – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP11/23-29 (Bob Snyder, Julia Plummer, Rich Laird); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP11/20 through the season (Larry Lewis) and 2 at Chambers Lake 11/21 (Rick Robinson, Larry Lewis); *Crawford*: one at the Deer Run Trail in Erie N.W.R. 10/1-14

(Joshua Heiser, Ella Lunney); *Cumberland*: 4 at Big Spring 10/16-29 (Vern Gauthier, Jose Medina, Christy Bryan, Michael Illo); *Erie*: 2 at the West Branch French Creek marsh 9/30 (Isaac Phillips) and 10/23 (Dennis Thomas); *Franklin*: one continued at Letterkenny Reservoir all season (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz); *Monroe*: one continued all season at Pocono Summit Lake (m.ob.); *Pike*: a pair at Promised Land SP7/17-11/26 (m.ob.); *Warren*: one at the Tidioute Trail 10/8 (Elizabeth Nicholson); *York*: one at Spring Grove 11/14-19 (Chuck Berthoud, Evan Brooks, Bob Reiter, Robin Smith).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Adams*: one male at Long Pine Run Res. 11/12 (Ron and Tracy George-Snyder).

King Eider* – *Lackawanna*: one female or immature at Crystal Lake 11/13 (Chris Fischer, *doc submitted*).

Harlequin Duck* – *Clinton*: one at Kettle Creek SP11/2 (Sarah Lindgren, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: a total of 5 birds counted at Sunset Point 11/12-28 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).

Eared Grebe* – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP11/6 (Jeff Vinosky, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP channel 11/25-26 (Jeff Kenney, *doc submitted*); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valle Lake 11/12-19 (Bobby Brown, Eric Hartshaw, *doc submitted*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: continued at their established area in Shartlesville all season (m.ob.); *Cumberland*: up to 9 near the PA-997 interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike 10/13-11/4 (Stefan Karkuff, et al.); *Franklin*: regular reports from established areas in Greencastle and Marion (m.ob.).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Berks*: one adult female was banded at Fleetwood 11/16 (Sandy Lockerman) and remained to 11/20; *Centre*: one adult female in Boalsburg 10/16-22 (Tom Pluto, Roana Fuller, Constanza Ehrenhaus) was not banded but several excellent photographs of the tail indicated a very strong likelihood for Rufous; *Chester*: one adult female in Coatesville 9/21-11/12 was banded 10/24 (*fide* Sandy Lockerman); *Clinton*: one adult female at Eastville from 10/12 through the period (*fide* Wayne Laubscher) was banded 10/18; *Dauphin*: one adult female banded in Halifax 10/12 (Gary Lockerman, Sandy Lockerman, Gail Randall, Tom Randall); *Franklin*: one adult female at Upper Strasburg was seen periodically from the second week of Oct (Tim Smith) to 12/7 and was banded 11/29; *Indiana*: one adult female at Seward 9/25 (Greg Tomb) remained through the season and was banded 12/2; *Lehigh*: one immature female in New Tripoli 9/27-10/20 (Dan Altif) was banded 10/1; *Snyder*: one adult female at an undisclosed location from late Oct through the season was banded 11/26 (Sandy Lockerman); *York*: one

immature female in Dillsburg 10/2-11/16 was banded 11/6 (Sandy Lockerman).

Selasphorus sp. – *Centre*: one at Spring Mills 10/6-8 (Debra Rittelmann, Joe Gyekis) was not identified beyond Rufous/Allen's; *Potter*: One in Stewardson Twp. 8/17; *Somerset*: one at White Horse Mountain from late Sep to early Oct (*fide* Jeff Payne) was not banded, and one at Addison 10/9 (Rose Hein) was also not banded.

American Avocet – *Adams*: 2 at Long Arm Reservoir 8/5 (Evan Vaeth), same birds as in *York*; *Allegheny*: 6 at Oakmont 8/22 (Virginia McQuown) with one remaining to the next day; *Centre*: 10 at Bald Eagle SP9/22 (Alice Fork); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/4 (Mary Birdsong), up to 2 there 8/19-21 (Ruth Swaney, Roger Donn), and as many as 7 there 8/11 (Eric Hall, Jenna Kunst); *Franklin*: 3 at Antrim Commons Ponds 8/22 (Kyle Rambo, Bob Keener, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne); *Lancaster*: 7 at the Conejohela Flats 8/22 (Larry Bernhardt, Derek Stoner) and one there 10/9 (Eric Witmer); *Lehigh*: one at Leaser Lake 8/15 (Lisa Poor); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Dam 8/20 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Mercer* one at Greenville 8/18 (E. White); *Monroe*: one at Goldsboro SP8/30 (Jon Mularczyk); *Schuylkill*: 11 at Landingville Dam and Marsh 8/30 (Jonathan DeBalko, et al.); *York*: 2 at Long Arm Reservoir 8/5 (Evan Brooks, Bob Reiter), same birds as in *Adams*.

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: 2 juveniles that fledged this summer remained to the first week of Sep (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Upland Sandpiper – *Centre*: one detected by NFC at State College 9/28 (Joe Gyekis); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 8/15 (Bruce Carl) and one near Mascot 9/6 (Zach Millen); *Montgomery*: one detected by NFC at Elkins Park 9/29 (Paul Driver); *Northampton*: one over Jacobsburg SP8/21 (Adam Miller); *Philadelphia*: 4 at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport 8/14-28 (Patrick McGill, et al.).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: season total was 12 at Gull Point from 8/5-9/3 (m.ob.).

Hudsonian Godwit – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 11/12-20 (Jim Hartley, m.ob.); *Butler*: one at Lake Oneida 10/2 (Kimberly Berry); *Erie*: one adult at Gull Point 8/10-11 (Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 10/1-4 (Christopher Hinkle).

Marbled Godwit* – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/10 (ph., eBird, *doc submitted*).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Delaware*: 2 at Hog Island 8/10 (John Zygmunt); *Erie*: top count of 8 at Gull Point 8/2-9/18 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 9/5 (Bruce Carl); *Luzerne*: one at the Forty Fort recreation fields 8/21-23 (Jonathan DeBalko).

Red Knot – *Delaware*: 2 at Hog Island 9/3 (John Zygmunt, Ross Gallardy); *Erie*: 5 at Gull Point 8/22 (Oscar Nigam), followed by one 9/2 and 9/6 (Mary Birdsong), and one 10/4 (Ruth Swaney).

Ruff* – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 11/12-17 (Dawn Denner, *doc submitted*).

Purple Sandpiper – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 10/29 (Kenneth Rieker) and 11/5 (Noah Butas)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Bucks*: one at Plumstead Twp. 9/19-20 (Ian Baldock) and up to 4 at Penn-Warner Tract 9/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: total of 4 at Gull Point 8/21-9/10 (Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams, Mary Birdsong, Kendall Zook); *Lycoming*: 2 at Nisbet 9/7 (Eric Hartshaw); *Mercer*: one at Shenango River Reservoir 9/5-10 (Michael David).

Western Sandpiper – *Chester*: one at Mosquito Lake retention pond 8/6 (Chad Hutchinson) and 9/12 (Michael Halley);

Franklin: one at Antrim Commons Ponds 8/21 (Tony Arnold); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 8/15 (Bruce Carl) and 8/28 (Derek Stoner).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Adams*: one at Buttonwood Rd. 11/4 (Jon Dale); *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 8/20 (Matt Gallagher), one at Pine Run Dam 11/5-9 (Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella), and one at Core Creek Park 11/21-23 (Barbara Stollsteimer, Philip Stollsteimer, Will Stollsteimer); *Chester*: one at Mosquito Lane retention pond 8/4-5 (Ross Gallardy); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 8/15-16 (Jonathan DeBalko) and 3 at Hartstown Project 10/24 (Eric Hall); *Erie*: one adult at Gull Point 8/16 (Jonathan DeBalko) and a juvenile at Duck Pond on Presque Isle 11/12 (Brian Berchtold); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP11/8 (Sue Dickson); *Lancaster*: 2 at Middle Creek WMA 9/29-10/1 (Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf); *Mercer*: one at Shenango River Reservoir 9/25 (Michael Williams); *Monroe*: one at Kalahari Resort 10/17-11/2 (Bruce Johnson); *Westmoreland*: one at Beaver Run Reservoir 11/12 (Mark McConaughy).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Cumberland*: one at Children's Lake 10/6 (Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/5 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one at Woods Edge Park 9/2 (Rainer Burrow) and one at Middle Creek WMA 9/10 (Mike Epler, Ted Nichols); *Mercer*: one at Shenango propagation area 8/14 (E. White), and at Shenango River Reservoir 8/21 (Amy Henrici) and 8/31 (Michael Williams); *Philadelphia*: 2 at John Heinz NWR 9/4 (Christopher Hinkle).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Berks*: one at Bernhardt's Dam 9/23 (Russell Hoffman) and 3 at Zweizig Road near Shoemakersville 10/2 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Chester*: one at Ellis Woods Park 8/27 (Eric Hughes) and 5 at Chambers Lake 10/2 (Larry Lewis); *Franklin*: Mountain Lake, Fannettsburg 10/2 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz); *Lancaster*: one in Voganville 8/11 (m.ob.) and 3 at Conowingo Pond 10/2-3 (Graeme Spinks); *Lehigh*: one at Alburts Rd. 9/25-26 (Jim Funk); *McKean*: one at Red Bridge Recreation Area 8/26 (Matthew Schenck); *Mercer*: one at Shenango River Reservoir 9/6-8 (Craig Holt); *Montgomery*: one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 8/13 (Jack McBrearty) and 9/23-26 (Dave Belford); *Northampton*: one at Regency Boulevard retention ponds 8/13 (Michael Schall); *Westmoreland*: one at Mammoth Park 8/31 (ph. Steve Wagner); *York*: one at Codorus SP10/5 (Evan Brooks).

Red Phalarope* – *Allegheny*: adult in heavy molt was photographed on Monongahela River opposite town of Monongahela 8/2 (ph. Danielle Farquhar, *doc submitted*).

Willet – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 8/22 (Rich Rehrig); *Erie*: season total of 4 at Gull Point 8/4-22 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 9/5-7 (Jason Fehon).

Parasitic Jaeger* – *Erie*: one at Beach 8 on Presque Isle SP 9/5 (Steve Schmit, *doc status unknown*), and 3 at Sunset Point, a dark immature 10/23 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc status unknown*), a light immature 11/2 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc status unknown*), and another light immature 11/5-6 (Jerry McWilliams, et al., *doc submitted*).

Jaeger sp. – *Erie*: one off Beach 6 at Presque Isle SP 9/18 (Steve Schmit) was thought to be Long-tailed or Parasitic, and one off Sunset Point 11/17 (Jerry McWilliams) was thought to be Pomarine or Parasitic.

Sabine's Gull* – *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur 9/25 (ph. Eric Hall, *doc submitted*).

Franklin's Gull* – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 10/5 (Meredith Lombard, *doc status unknown*); *Mercer*: one in Jamestown 11/10 (ph. Michael Williams, *doc submitted*).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/25 (Tom Fahie, Ian Baldock); *Northampton*: one at Forks of the Delaware 11/25-30 (Scott Singer, Michael Schall) and one at Nazareth Quarry 11/25 (Michael Schall).

Least Tern* – *Philadelphia*: one at Navy Yard 8/31 (Katrina Clark, Manny Dominguez, Ben Filreis, Victor Levefre, *doc submitted*).

Gull-billed Tern* – *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 8/21 (Patrick McGill, *doc status unknown*).

Wood Stork* – *Lancaster*: 4 continued from summer at Octoraro Reservoir into early Aug (m.ob., *doc submitted*) which were reported in *Chester* airspace 8/1 as well, and one at Middle Creek WMA 8/12 (m.ob., *doc submitted*), the latter the same bird as in *Lebanon*; *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 8/10-31 (Matthew Frederick, Joe Wolf, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Brown Booby* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 8/22-25 (Ian Baldock, *doc submitted*) was seen by well over a hundred birders, and one at Penn-Warner Tract 11/6-7 (Devich Farbotnik, Andrew Harrington, Dawn Denner, *doc submitted*).

Great Cormorant – *Philadelphia*: one or 2 along Delaware R. beginning 10/14 (m.ob.) were the only ones reported in the state prior to Dec.

American White Pelican* – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 8/23-34 (Warren Brubaker, *doc submitted*).

Least Bittern – *Centre*: one detected by NFC in State College 8/12 (Joe Gyekis); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 8/1-16 (Rich Ziegler, et al.); *Montgomery*: one in Whitmarsh Twp. 8/28 (Dave Belford), and singles detected by NFC at Fischer's Park 8/27 (Scott Godshall) and Elkins Park 9/15 (Paul Driver); *Northampton*: successfully nested at Minsi Lake 7/26-8/28 (John Munson, Guy de Bruyn); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 8/4-9/18 (m.ob.) and as many as 6 (Debbie Beer) at the Southwest Philadelphia WTP 8/5-10/12 some of which were juveniles; *Pike*: one at Shohola WMA 8/7 (Chris Fischer); *Tioga*: one at the Muck 9/1 (Andy Keister); *Wayne*: one at Hankins Pond 8/7 (David Trently, David LaVerne) and up to 3 at White Oak Park 8/2-8 (Chris Fischer, John Harvey); *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 8/26 (Kevin Pero).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: up to 5 at Bristol through 9/4 (Devich Farbotnik) and one at Penn-Warner Tract 10/14 (Dawn Denner); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 9/2 (Ed Bernot); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 8/7 (Rich Ziegler), 8/12 (Ethan Kang), and 9/4 (John Zygmunt), and 2 on 10/4 (Deborah Hansen, Jim McConnell); *Lancaster*: 2 along Susquehanna River 8/24 and 8/28 (Meredith Lombard); *Mercer*: one at Shenango River Reservoir 8/18-9/10 (Mark Vass); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 8/10-31 (Kristen Jensen); *Philadelphia*: daily reports of as many as 7 at John Heinz NWR 8/1-10/8 (m.ob.) as well as reports at Bartram's Garden, Southwest Philadelphia WTP, and Pennypack on the Delaware in the first half of Sep.

Tricolored Heron* – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 8/20-9/4 (Derek Stoner, *doc submitted*).

Cattle Egret* – *Berks*: one at Zweizig Road 10/18-19 (Andy Wlasniewski, Matt Wlasniewski, *doc status unknown*); *Bucks*: one in Newtown Twp. 10/30 (Barbara Stollsteimer, Will Stollsteimer, *doc submitted*); *Franklin*: one at Long Lane Pond 11/13 (Bill Oyler, Gavin Anderson, Dave Ebbitt, Bob Koontz, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one at Woods Edge Park 10/26 (Kevin Shannon, Dennis Weaver, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 8/20 (Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, ph. James Funk, *doc submitted*);

Philadelphia: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/23 (Patrick McGill, *doc status unknown*); *Warren*: 3 at Akeley Swamp 10/14 (Shelby Heeter, *doc submitted*).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 9/24 (Scott Fraser); *Centre*: one immature at Port Matilda 10/24-25 (Mark Nale); *Dauphin*: present in Harrisburg area to 9/16 (m.ob.), including 4 at West Fairview 8/11-13 (Barb Matthews, et al.); *Lancaster*: one at Noel Dorwart Park 8/1 (Larry Bernhardt) and one at Overlook Park 8/15 (Derek Stoner); *Philadelphia*: one at Navy Yard 8/4 (Ed Edge).

White Ibis* – *Blair*: one at Henry's Pond 8/17-9/7 (Michael Croyle, m.ob., *doc submitted*); *Bucks*: one at Lake Towhee County Park 8/11 (Vicky Mahmoud, *doc submitted*) relocated to Nockamixon SPand remained to 8/21, and one flew past Peace Valley Park 11/2 (Rick and Peggy Price, *no doc*); *Cumberland*: one near Camp Hill 8/13 (ph. Wendy Smith, *doc submitted*); *Delaware*: one at Ridley Creek SP 8/27 (*fide* Jeff Hapeman) remained to 8/30 (m.ob.) (*doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 8/23 (ph. Janice Roak, *doc submitted*); *Lebanon*: one at Yordy's Bridge Rd. 8/29-9/4 (Rita Stima, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: 3 flew over West Rockhill Twp. 8/20 (Andrew Harrington) and one at Bristol 8/25 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake and nearby 8/18-9/19 (Brian Quindlen, Michael Halley); *Cumberland*: one at West Fairview 9/24-10/4 (Ramsay Koury); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 9/25-10/4 (Barb Matthews, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Edinboro Lake 11/6 (Brian Zimmerman); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 8/19 (Kyle Rambo, Dale Gearhart); *Juniata*: one at Red Rock Rd. 8/25-9/5 (Deb Brackbill, et al.); *Lancaster*: 2 at Conejohela Flats 8/7-31 (Meredith Lombard); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown/Bridgeport Dam 8/25 (Scott Godshall).

White-faced Ibis* – *Lancaster*: one at Alcoa Marsh 9/21 (Brent Musser, *doc submitted*).

Ibis sp. – *Cumberland*: one on McClures Gap Rd. 8/22 (Eli Young); *Lancaster*: one *plegadis sp.* at Alcoa Marsh 9/21 (Eric Witmer).

Roseate Spoonbill* – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 8/23 (ph. Janice Roak, *doc submitted*).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Cumberland*: one near Letort Spring Nature Trail 9/4 (Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens, *doc submitted*), and 3 along US-11 south of Newville 8/16 (Tina Cole, Jennifer Moore, *doc submitted*); *Indiana*: one at Lewisville 8/13 (ph. Marcy Cunkleman, *doc status unknown*); *Perry*: One at Newport 10/9 (Ryan Hurst).

Mississippi Kite* – *Bucks*: one over Delaware River in Upper Makefield Twp. 8/23 (ph. Judith Greger, *doc submitted*).

Long-eared Owl – *Chester*: reports of birds 11/19, 11/22, and 11/25 north of Malvern; *Erie*: one with a broken wing after a window strike in Erie 11/10 was taken to rehab (*fide* Ruth Swaney), and one at Presque Isle SP11/15 (Roger Donn).

Hammond's Flycatcher* – *Schuylkill*: one at Tuscarora SP10/22-11/29 (Mike Murphy, *doc submitted*).

Western Kingbird* – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee, Bailey's Creek 8/14 (Rudy Keller, *doc status unknown*); *Lancaster*: one at Noel Dorwart Park 9/14 (ph. Seth McComsey, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one at a Wyndmoor yard 9/22 (ph. Jason Fehon, *doc submitted*).

Northern Shrike – *Elk*: one at SGL 411 near Kersey 11/11 (ph. Chelsea Beck); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 11/8 (Gregory Allen); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 10/30 (Michele Carlson, Rich Carlson); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake

11/26 (Bobby Brown); *Somerset*: one at Flight 93 Memorial 11/23 (Linda Greble).

Cave Swallow* – *Erie*: 2 off Sunset Point 11/5 (Katie Anderson, *doc submitted*).

Sedge Wren – *Chester*: one at East Coventry Nature Preserve 9/26 (ph. Eric Hughes) and one at Pickering Preserve 10/18 (Josh Graham); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 from 8/10-11 (Chris Payne, Doris Brookens); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 8/12 (Cathleen Wetzel); *Luzerne*: 3 at Plymouth Flats 9/26 (Rick Koval) with at least one continuing to 10/16; *Montgomery*: one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 10/15-16 (Jack McBrearty); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/16 (Patrick McGill).

Mountain Bluebird* – *Northampton*: one female at Lehigh Valley Hospital Hecktown Oaks Property 11/5-7 (Dave DeReamus, *doc submitted*).

Evening Grosbeak – Recorded in 58 counties, with the vast majority of reports from 10/28-11/15, mostly of flyovers or birds stopping at feeders for a day or two.

Red Crossbill – *Blair*: one at Plummer's Hollow 9/12 (Mark Bonta); *Bucks*: 11 at Nockamixon SP11/8 (Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella); *Centre*: several at Scotia Barrens 11/9-10 (Bob Fatula, Julia Plummer); *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 11/21 (Al Guarente, et al.), one at Chambers Lake 11/21 (Larry Lewis), and one at Coatesville Reservoir 11/27 (Larry Lewis); *Clearfield*: one in Moshannon State Forest 10/24 (Dan Richards); *Forest*: 3 at Beaver Meadows Recreation Area 11/6 (Jeff Kenney, Liz Pettit, Angela Romanczuk, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck); *Lebanon*: one in Ono area 11/12 (Brian Weaver); *Mifflin*: 2 at Jack's Mountain hawkwatch 11/17 (Jon Kauffman); *Monroe*: 3 at Skytop Lodge 11/15 (Rick Koval); *Perry*: reported on five dates at Waggoner's Gap 11/14-28 (Brandon Brogle); *Schuylkill*: reported near Barnesville 11/13 (Thomas Buehl Jr.), at Owl Creek 11/23-26 (Jonathan DeBalko, et al.), and at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/5-13 (m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: 6 at Antiochian Village Camp 10/24 (Emily Matthews).

White-winged Crossbill – *Monroe*: 3 at feeder in Albrightsville 11/5 (Brandon Swayser); *Schuylkill*: reported at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/9 (Hawk Mountain data).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Adams*: one at Virginia Mills 10/3 (Tony Arnold); *Centre*: one at the Haugh Family Preserve 10/14-16 (Carl Engstrom, Julia Plummer, Navin Viswanathan); *Chester*: one at Warwick C.P. 11/3 (Sandy Thomas); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 9/20 (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne), one at Camp Michaux 9/21 (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne), and one on Cumberland Valley Rail Trail in Greason 11/19 and into winter season (Karena Johnson, Tim Johnson); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 10/20 (Trebtor Hall); *Montgomery*: one at Lorimer Park 10/7 (Marjorie Keefe); *Perry*: one at Little Buffalo SP 9/30 (Tiffany Willow, Vern Gauthier) and one at Wagner Community Park 10/6 (Tiffany Willow); *Philadelphia*: multiple sightings at Pennypack on the Delaware 9/15-11/3 (m.ob.); *Schuylkill*: one at Locust Lake SP10/5-15 (Dan Knarr).

Lark Sparrow* – *Philadelphia*: one at Army Corps of Engineers 10/23 (George Armistead, et al., *doc submitted*), one at FDR Park 10/23 (Robert Karchnyak, et al., *doc submitted*), and one at Pennypack on the Delaware 10/25 (Marjorie Keefe, Cheryl Rizzo, *doc submitted*).

Harris's Sparrow* – *Clinton*: one at McElhatten 10/26 (Elizabeth Zbegner, *doc status unknown*); *Mercer*: one in Stoneboro 11/12-14 (Martin Carlin, *doc submitted*).

Le Conte's Sparrow* – *Lancaster*: one at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 10/22 (Larry Bernhardt, *doc status unknown*).

Nelson's Sparrow – *Adams*: one at Knox Rd. 10/8 (Tony Arnold) and 3 at Virginia Mills 10/3-26 (Tony Arnold); *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 9/26-10/12 (Kerry Loux, m.ob.), one at Pine Run Dam 10/3 (Devich Farbotnik), and 2 at Penn-Warner Tract 10/8 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cameron*: one at Sinnemahoning SP 10/16 (Joe Gyekis); *Centre*: one at Haugh Family Preserve 10/5 (Susan Braun, Roana Fuller); *Columbia*: one at Briar Creek Lake 10/20 (Karol Pasquinelli); *Dauphin*: one at Haldeman Island 10/6-9 (Steve Schmit, Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP10/1 (Eric Hall); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 10/2 (Rick Koval) and again 10/6; *Lycoming*: one at Robert Porter Allen Natural Area 10/11 (Allison Matlock); *Monroe*: one at River's Edge Park 10/2 (Jon Mularczyk); *Montgomery*: one at Lorimer Park 10/6 (Josh Cooper) and one at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 10/16 (Mike Grubb, Anna Mindel).

"Atlantic" Nelson's Sparrow – *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 10/7 (August Mirabella).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/1 (Katie Anderson, *doc submitted*).

Bullock's Oriole* – *Chester*: one briefly at feeder on W. Ridge Road just north of Maryland line 11/10 (ph. Denis Quinn, *doc submitted*);

Brewer's Blackbird* – *Westmoreland*: one at Crabtree Farm area 10/22 (Mark McConaughy, Richard Chirichiello, *doc submitted*).

Brewster's Warbler – *Blair*: one at Plummer's Hollow 8/29 (Steven Bonta); *Chester*: one at Rushton Farm Banding Station 9/1 (Ross Gallardy); *Lebanon*: one at Swatara SP 8/30 (Ted Keen); *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 9/2.

Lawrence's Warbler – *Bucks*: one at Neshaminy Creek Path 9/15 (Nickie Goldstein); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 8/31 (ph. Darlene Kershner); *Lehigh*: one at SGL 217 on 9/4 (Chris Hugosson); *Montgomery*: one at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 9/20 (Mike Grubb); *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 9/14.

Swainson's Warbler* – *Blair*: one continued at Mt. Etna Trailhead to 8/1 (Jordan Hillsley, Ryan Hillsley, *doc submitted*).

Black-throated Gray Warbler* – *Chester*: one at Wilson Farm Park 9/13 (Liz Pettit, *doc submitted*).

Hermit Warbler* – *Delaware*: one at Aston 11/25 to end of the season (Teresa Began, Eric Gulson, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Summer Tanager* – *Delaware*: one at The Willows 9/25 (John Zygmunt, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one at Wissahickon Valley Park 8/22 (George Armistead, Kristin Klein, Shane Murphy, *doc status unknown*) and one at Philadelphia Zoo 9/30 (Devin Griffiths, *doc status unknown*).

Painted Bunting* – *Chester*: one at Longview 11/16 (Julia Sheehan, *doc submitted*).

ADDENDUM – Spring 2018

Eared Grebe* – *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 5/1/2018 (Melissa Holland) only recently became known to the *Lycoming* compiler.

Corrections to the Bucks County Report in Vol. 36 Issue 3

Purple Martin Colony - E. Rockhill

YEAR	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
COMPARTMENTS	144	144	143	144	144	132	134	124
NESTS*	137	134	102	137	141	126	119	121
NESTS w/EGGS	67	51	64	48	78	73	96	92
EGGS LAID**	284	260	252	209	291	273	459	388
EGGS HATCHED	189	154	129	140	180	112	364	226
FLEDGED	178	118	121	128	167	108	346	211
FAILED NESTS	12	14	29	12	25	37	9	25

Purple Martin Colony – Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
COMPARTMENTS	60	64	60	60	60	60
NESTS*	27	31	34	24	56	38
NESTS w/EGGS	24	22	22	14	27	29
EGGS LAID**	78	77	53	71	96	90
EGGS HATCHED	42	40	44	?	47	41
FLEDGED	40	40	44	51	34	32
FAILED NESTS	?	?	9	0	13	15

*Nests means gourds or compartments where nesting cups with added leaves and/or material were found.

**Eggs Laid reflects instances where first laying was unsuccessful and a second laying occurred.

Purple Martin colony maintenance continued at several sites.

No detailed written account was given from either site, but the E. Rockhill Twp. colony had a significant rise in fledged chicks after three poor years. A low number of failed nests certainly contributed to that, and we had no devastating spring cold snaps as in prior years. The PWT site remained steady after a small decline, with numbers very similar to last year's (HR, DF, KM). Two new sets of gourds were erected at NSP and one at L. Towhee C.P. this summer. The NSP gourds attracted well over a dozen martins and possibly three nests, with several scouts and a nesting attempt at the L. Towhee site (*vide* PH). Look for more on these new sites in future reports.



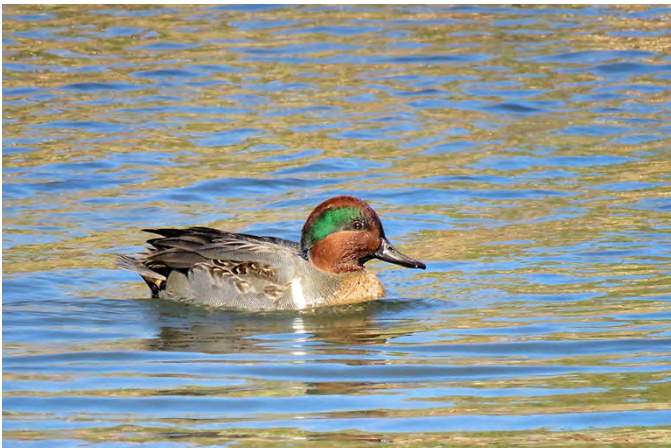
Over 100 eBird reports listed **Evening Grosbeak**, scattered over the state and with several counts topping 20 during the peak in November; this male was at Reading, *Berks* 28 October. (*Mike Slater*)

One of 4 **Evening Grosbeaks** that spent several days at a feeder at Dingman's Ferry, *Pike*, seen here 12 November. (*Bradley White*)

Photographic Highlights



The first for *Clinton*, this **Harlequin Duck** was seen only 2 November at Kettle Creek SP. (Sarah Lindgren)



Green-winged Teal at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 10 November. (Dean Newhouse)



A late **Common Nighthawk** at Fort Washington SP, *Montgomery* 7 October; one or more lingered at this site until 5 November. (Sheryl Johnson)

Color printing

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(More photos inside back cover)



Eared Grebe at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 25-26 (here 26) November; Lake Erie is the most likely location to find this species in Pennsylvania. (Jerry McWilliams)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird surveying the garden at Port Matilda, *Centre* 2 September. (Catherine Alloway)



Adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** at Eastville, *Clinton* 12 (here 28) October through end of the season; one of at least 9 in Pennsylvania during the season and a first *Clinton* record. (Wayne Laubscher)



Female **Selasphorus Hummingbird** in Stewardson Twp., *Potter* 17 August; not identified to species. (Sarah Lindgren)



American Avocets along shoreline at Long Arm Reservoir, *York* 5 August; the same birds were also sighted in nearby *Adams*. (Bob Reiter)



Bands on this **Piping Plover** at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 25 August indicated it had been hatched earlier in the summer at Gull Point at the park. (Jeffrey Hall)



The first for *Juniata*, this **Black-bellied Plover** was photographed on a newly created industrial water catchment near Mifflintown 30 September, seen again 2 October. (Chad Kauffman)



As many as 5 **American Golden-Plovers** were seen during the season in a field at Nisbet *Lycoming*; this bird was photographed 7 September and was at least fourth county record. (Bobby Brown)



Brown Booby at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 22-25 (here 22) August, one of two in the county during the fall, the other at Penn-Warner Track in November; fourth and fifth county records. (*Barry Blust*)



Hudsonian Godwit at Lake Oneida, *Butler* 2 October; the first for the county. (*Glenn Koppel*)



There were two reports of **Red-necked Phalarope** in *Berks*; this bird was at Burnhart's Dam 23 September, and 3 were seen near Shoemakersville 2 October. (*Russell Hoffman*)



Immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Wildwood Park, *Dauphin* 3 September. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



Glossy Ibis at a private wetland on Red Rock Rd, *Juniata* 25 August - 5 (here 5) September; second county record. (*Chad Kauffman*)



Immature **White Ibis** at Ridley Creek SP, *Delaware* 27-30 (here 30) August; at least 7 were reported in the state, mostly in the southeast, but one west to *Blair*. (*Kristen Johnson*)



Swallow-tailed Kite nicely photographed at Newport, *Perry* 9 October; first county record. (*Ryan Hurst*)



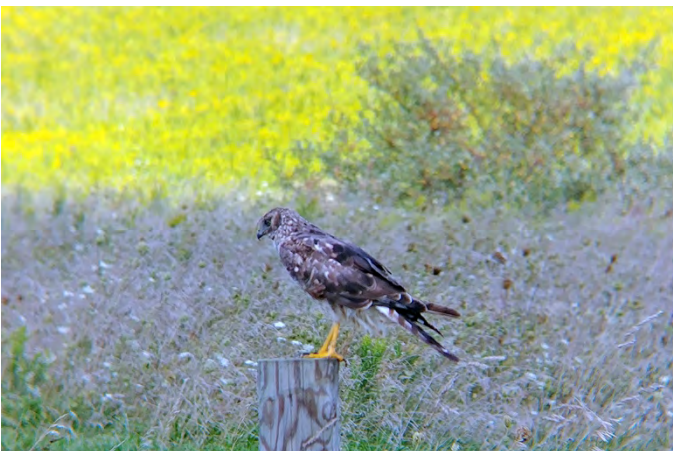
Northern Goshawks are ever more rare in the state, even at hawk watches; this immature goshawk at the Allegheny Front watch, *Bedford* 23 October was the first there in over two years. (*David Poder*)



Sharp-shinned Hawk at Allegheny Front watch, *Bedford* 21 October. (*David Poder*)



Cooper's Hawk at Butler, *Butler* 28 November. (*Glenn Koppel*)



Northern Harrier at Volant Strips, *Lawrence* 22 August. (*Mark Vass*)



Belted Kingfisher at Montour Preserve, *Montour* 28 November. (*Mike Anderson*)



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker working on a maple tree in the photographer's yard at Sygan Hill, *Allegheny* 6 November. (Dean Newhouse)



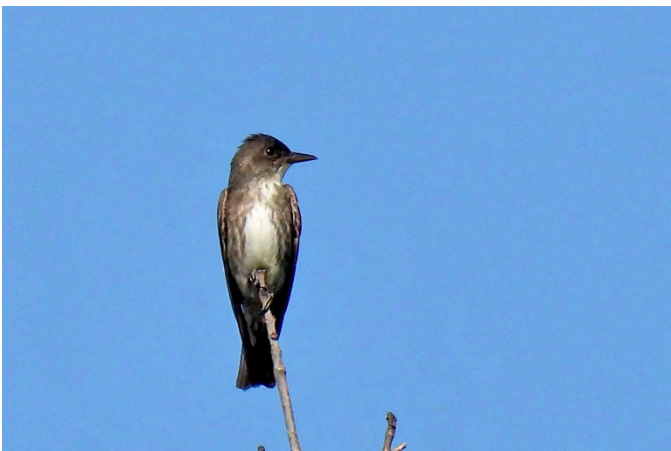
Merlin attacking owl decoy at Stone Mt. hawk watch, *Huntingdon* 9 October; usually too fast to allow such a great close-up in flight unless they "pause" for a second look. (Nick Bolgiano)



Northern Saw-whet Owl in Canal Twp., *Venango* 19 November. (Jeffrey Hall)



Eastern Screech-Owl at Moraine SP. *Butler* 17 November. (Glenn Koppel)



Olive-sided Flycatcher was well-reported; this bird was at SGL 25, *Susquehanna* 6 August. (Barb Stone)



Making a rare appearance in the photo highlights, this **Least Flycatcher** was at Spring Mills, *Centre* 15 September. (Debra Rittelmann)



Philadelphia Vireo at Leaser Lake, *Lehigh* 24 September. (*Liz Brensinger*)



Barn Swallows at the nest at Swissdale, *Clinton* 7 August. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Brown Thrasher at New Milford *Susquehanna* 10 September. (*Nancy VanCott*)



Mountain Bluebird at Newburg Rd retention ponds, *Northampton*; about eighth state record and first for the county (also see article in this issue by DeReamus). (*John Good*)



Swainson's Thrush at Seneca, *Venango* 17 October. (*Meg Kolidick*)



Cedar Waxwing feeding on winterberry at Hallstead, *Susquehanna* 30 October. (*Joanne Sivers*)



An early **Lapland Longspur** at Robert Porter Allen NA, *Lycoming* 28 September; one of only two September eBird records ever in the state away from Presque Isle S, *Erie*. (Bobby Brown)



Harris's Sparrow at Stoneboro, *Mercer* 12-14 (here 14) November; second county record. (Glenn Koppel)



Dark-eyed Junco at New Milford, *Susquehanna* 28 October. (Nancy VanCott)



Not uncommon but not always easy to find, this **Lincoln's Sparrow** cooperated at Norristown Farm Park, *Montgomery* 15 October. (Kaitlin Marks-Dubbs)

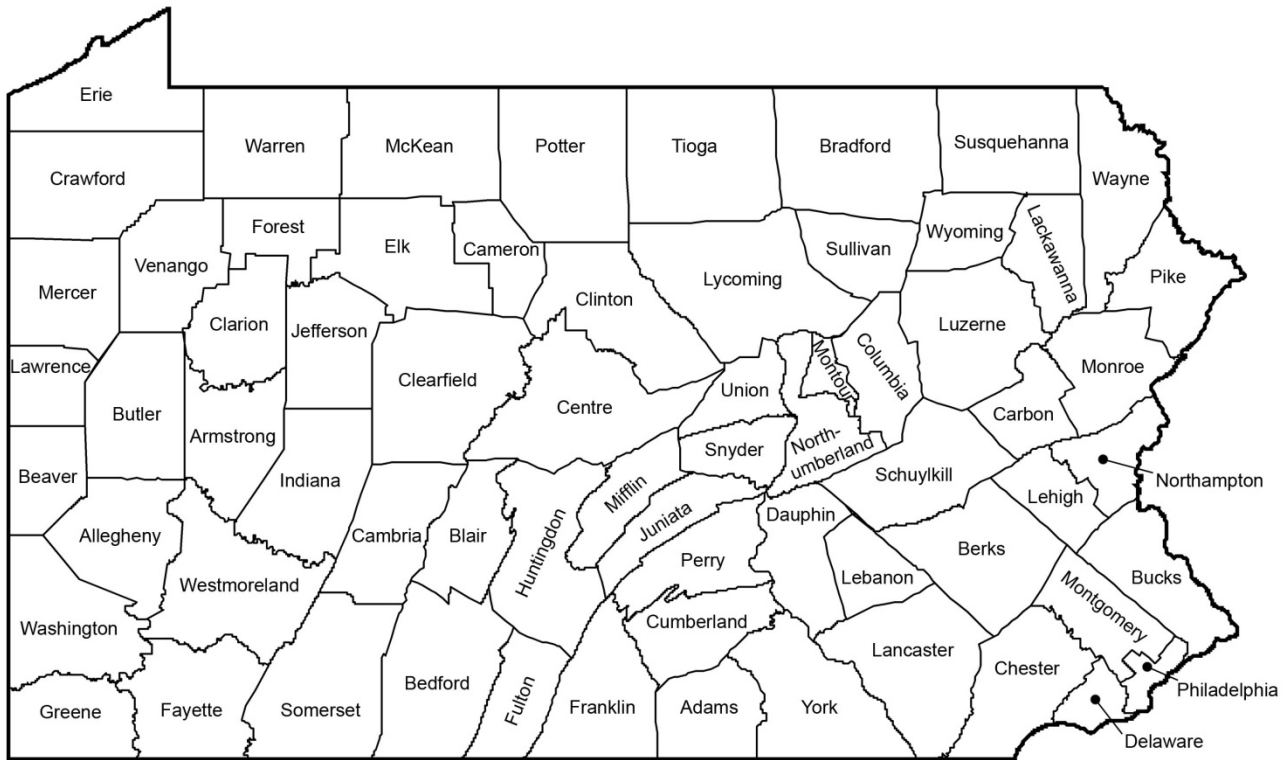


Rusty Blackbird at Seneca, *Venango* 20 November. (Meg Kolodick)



A late **Tennessee Warbler** at Seneca, *Venango* 27 October. (Meg Kolodick)

Local Notes – August 2022 through November 2022



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).	juvénal [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)

The following counties need a compiler: Bradford, Luzerne, Perry, and Union.

Adams County

Locations: Buttonwood Rd (BTW), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Nocturnal Flight Call Surveys (NFC), State Game Lands #249 (SGL), Virginia Mills (VM).

Although the period's average temperature was only 1°F over the norm, Aug and Nov were both 3°F above average. Rainfall deficit for the period was 4.0". The 192 species was a new fall period high for Adams. Solid reporting of waterfowl, shorebirds, and warblers, NFC surveys conducted by Gettysburg College professor Andy Wilson, and county firsts for **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Marsh Wren**, and **Nelson's Sparrow** were the drivers for the high overall count.

A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** seemed to enjoy the company of a flock of **Mallards** at a BTW farm pond where it remained for an

extended stay 10/11-11/14 (CD, LM, et al.). The only **Snow Goose** was a single bird at Pumping Station Rd. 11/15 (EB). The high count among the five reports of **Tundra Swan** was 78 birds at LPRR 11/19 (BO). A nice tally of 42 **Wood Ducks** came from a Chapel Hill Rd. pond 8/28 (AW). Trios of **Northern Shoveler** were at LPRR 10/10 (TA, TJ) and at BTW 10/21 (KS). Top **Gadwall** count was as many as 31 at LPRR 11/17-20 (m.ob.). One of the aforementioned county firsts, **Eurasian Wigeon**, was a male at LPRR 11/12 (RTGS, et al.). Although five sites held **American Black Duck** 9/12-11/30, no count exceeded three birds (m.ob.). LPRR produced the sole **Northern Pintail** report, a pair 11/19 (RTGS, BO). A single **Greater Scaup** was at LPRR 10/27 (TA). A **Lesser Scaup** was at Lake Heritage 10/25 (CM) and 14 were at Lake Kay 11/26 (MS). A solid count of 108 **Bufflehead** was made at LPRR 11/20 (BO) and LPRR held a **Common Goldeneye** 11/8 (BK).

Ruffed Grouse remains sporadic. The single bird at LPRR 9/24 (JG) was an indication that there is at least some ongoing presence in MICH. The only report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was a bird detected during NFC monitoring in MICH 9/21 (AW). This fall saw 10 **Common**

Nighthawk reports, including up to 25 birds detected at Mountain Rd. 9/1 (RDS). Orange jewelweed (*impatiens capensis*) along Knox Rd produced a count of 13 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** 9/7 (TA). **American Coot** is missed more fall periods than not, so 4 at Lake Heritage 11/7 (CM) and a single at Lake Kay 11/3-20 (m.ob.) was nice to see. Two **American Avocets** shared the *Adams/York* shoreline at Long Arm Reservoir with a **Semipalmated Plover**, a pair of **Least Sandpipers**, and a pair of **Pectoral Sandpipers** 8/5 (EV). A sharp-eyed observer spotted a flock of 9 **Dunlin** over VM 10/18 (TA) and a single was found at Granite Hill Campground 11/2 (EB). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was a great find at BTW 11/4 (JD) and an **American Woodcock** was at SGL 10/25 (BK). Four reports of **Wilson's Snipe** were paced by 4 at BTW 10/11-29 (m.ob.). The 9/27 (AW) NFC at MICH detected an **American Bittern**. The SGL marsh at Gun Club Rd. held 18 **Green Herons** 8/24 (PK). A pair of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was at Old Mill Rd. 8/24-27 (TA, SW). Likely the same bird, A **Golden Eagle** was seen at Fairfield 10/18 (TA, EB) and at Gettysburg College 10/19 (TA), likely the same bird in both locations. Reports of the expected owls were solid, with **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** producing 6, 11, and 13 reports, respectively. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was widespread with 25 sites holding birds. A high count of 9 along Knox Rd. 9/24 (TA, TJ) appeared to consist of three family units.

Reports of falcons were exceptionally strong with **American Kestrel**, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon** producing 25, 5, and 4 reports, respectively. A good find was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** along Knox Rd. 9/10 (TA). Vireos were highlighted by single **Philadelphia Vireo** along Knox Rd. 9/24 (TA, TJ) and at Fairfield 10/3 (GDM). None of the four **Horned Lark** reports 8/17-11/10 (m.ob.) totaled more than 2 birds. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Knox Rd 10/10 (TA, TJ) and a trio at GNMP 10/15 (EH) were on the late side. This compiler is typically skeptical of **Black-capped Chickadee** reports at lower elevations in this county, and in *York* as well. However, a total of eight sites in *Adams* and 13 sites reporting in adjoining *York* by experienced birders suggested this fall may have been a true irruptive year for these counties. Twelve sites reporting **Red-breasted Nuthatch** started with a pair at MICH 8/8 (AR). With a pair being seen in this vicinity 7/16, and Breeding Bird Atlas safe dates extending to 8/15, it appears that this species may be a likely breeder in the county. The Orttanna area held up to 9 Red-breasteds 11/3-26 (MS). Somewhat surprisingly, there appears to be no a prior record of **Marsh Wren** for the county, so one at SGL 10/25 (BK) at 08:25 followed by another at that same day VM at 13:39 (TA), very likely provided two separate records for the county. The distance between these two sites is about eight miles.

Veery, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, and **Swainson's Thrush** were all detected during NFC surveys 9/4-29 (AW), and a Gray-cheeked was found along Knox Rd. 9/4 (TA, TJ). **American Pipit** were found at seven sites 10/22-11/13 (m.ob.) with a high count of 30 birds at Mason-Dixon Rd. 10/28 (AW). A home along Buchanan Valley Rd. was the only location where **Evening Grosbeak** was reported, with one there 11/10 (CDe). Reports of **Purple Finch** were made at 14 sites 9/1-11/30 (m.ob.). High count was 8 at SGL 10/18 (DT). A lonely **Pine Siskin** at Orttanna 11/8 (MS) was the only report. A single **Snow Bunting** was at LPRR 11/13 (TA). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found 8/2-10/13 (m.ob.) at VM, GNMP, and during NFC surveys. Rarely reported, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at VM 10/3 (TA). An **American Tree Sparrow** made an appearance at GNMP 11/25 (MSt). Reports of **Fox Sparrow** were limited to a single at VM 11/5 (TA) and 3 at LPRR 11/13 (RTGS). The final county first this fall was a **Nelson's Sparrow** along Knox Rd. 10/8 (TA, TJ). Seven sites reporting **Savannah Sparrow** were led by a nine count at GNMP 10/15 (CM). **Lincoln's Sparrow** were found at Knox Rd 9/24 (TA, TJ) and up to 3 were at VM 10/3-26 (TA). Six sites reporting **Swamp Sparrow** were paced by 8 at GNMP 11/25 (MSt). A **Bobolink** was at Fairfield 8/10 (GDM) and up to 8 were at GNMP 8/13-16 (ED, DW). A nice count of 25 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was made at Knox Rd. 9/24 (TA, TJ). The only report of **Rusty Blackbird** was a single at LPRR 11/15 (PM).

The 28 species of warbler this fall was a very strong showing for *Adams*. The only reports of **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, and

Canada Warbler were a result of the NFC surveys. An 11/20 (DJG) **Black-and-white Warbler** at York Springs was late. A recent trend for in the county has been isolated summer reports of **Prothonotary Warbler**, but this trend has not extended into the fall season until this year. Singles were found at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve 8/13 (TA) and MICH 8/18 (EB). A nice count of 10 **Black-throated Green Warblers** was made at Knox Rd. 9/24 (TA, TJ), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was there 9/18 (TA). A walk along Knox Rd. 9/4 (TA) produced 9 **Scarlet Tanagers**. Unprecedented were seven sites reporting **Blue Grosbeak** (m.ob.). A female at VM 10/3 (TA) was getting late.

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Allegheny County

It was a warm fall this year. Summer dryness continued through August and early November was unseasonably warm. There were a few days in October with low temperatures that produced frost, but the temps quickly rebounded following that brief cold spell. The remnants of tropical storm Nicole moved through 11/11-12 but nothing was noted as far as rarities or fallouts. There were a number of late migrants this fall, perhaps weather related, and two interesting leucistic birds.

Tundra Swans arrived right on schedule in mid-November. A flock of 20 were over Franklin Park 11/12 (OM), 80 were at Gibsonsia (KP), 70 were over Blawnox (RBU) and 2 were over West Deer Twp. (LC) 11/13. A small flock was heard over Boyce-Mayview Park 11/14 (DW), a flock was heard after dark flying over Pine Twp. 11/14 (PL, SL), 75 were counted over Squirrel Hill 11/18 (MK) and 2 were at Imperial 11/26 (MV). **American Wigeon** is an uncommon migrant in the county; notable were an early report of a pair in Findlay Twp. 9/30 (MV, m.ob.) and a female at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville 10/16-22 (CB, AB, et al.). A few **Gadwall** were reported including 3 at Duck Hollow 11/13 (MK), one at Harmar Twp. 11/13 (AH, PM), and 2 at Imperial 11/26-30 (BL, RL, MV). A female or immature **Surf Scoter** was a nice find at Duck Hollow 10/26 (JF) where it remained until 11/3 (m.ob.). A female/immature **White-winged Scoter** was on the Ohio River in Pittsburgh 10/6 (ROR, et al.). A **Black Scoter** was at Sharpsburg Marina 11/13 (AF, m.ob.). **Common Merganser** is now a year round resident in the county. A few larger groups included 28 at Dashields Dam 8/16 and 43 there 10/2 (MV).

A flock of **Wild Turkeys** in Pine Twp. maxed at 64 birds in Nov (PL, SL). A **Horned Grebe** was at Aspinwall 11/12 (JVA, OL) and 2 were at Dashields Dam 11/17 (MV). **Common Nighthawk** high counts included 110 at North Park 9/2 (eBird) and 100 in Scott Twp. 9/4 (ST). There were a few reports of large flocks of **Chimney Swifts** this season with 250 in Oakland 10/4 (KSJ) and 400 at McKees Rocks 10/6 (DBe). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported 10/13 (JSa) at an unknown location.

A **Virginia Rail** was at North Park 8/13 (DNe, NN) and 2 at Wingfield Pines continued from Jul to 8/29 (m.ob.). One was reported there 10/9 (eBird) and 11/14 (BV). A **Common Gallinule** was photographed at North Park 9/5 (BG). **American Coots** were reported from 8 locations during the season.

A flock of 6 **American Avocets** were along the Allegheny River in Oakmont 8/22, spotted from a kayak (VM). They remained until dusk so a number of birders were able to see them. All but one flew off at dusk and that bird remained the following day. This was unusual behavior. Most (if not all) avocets found in the county do not remain for more than the day they are discovered. A group of 35 **Killdeer** were at South Park 11/1, 46 were counted there 11/12 and 32 remained 11/29 (JF). This is a regular fall gathering site. A flock of 64 were at Janoski's Farm in

Findlay Twp. 11/4 (MV) and 31 were at Imperial 11/12 (MV). A **Dunlin** was at Imperial 10/2 (AF, m.ob.). It was often found with Killdeer in a parking lot of a building. A **Least Sandpiper** was at Dashiels Dam 8/10-23 (DBe) and a late bird was at Imperial 10/30-11/1 (MV, m.ob.). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Imperial 10/23-11/1 (MV, m.ob.). One remained 11/5 (eBird). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Dashiels Dam 8/28-30 (MV). An **American Woodcock** was in Gibsonia 11/1 (KP). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Imperial 8/15 (DNe), 3 were there 10/30-11/13 (MV) and 2 were there 11/12 (MV). Quite unusual was a group of 20 **Solitary Sandpipers** photographed in Oakmont 8/30 (JVa). It was a rainy day so they must have been put down by the weather. There were several observations of late **Solitary Sandpipers** this fall. One was present for a number of days in Indiana Twp. and last observed 10/10 (BSh). Two were at North Park 10/13 (AF) and one was reported in eBird in Robinson Twp. 10/28 (SM). There were few reports of yellowlegs this fall. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Imperial 9/20 (AF) and a late bird was at Duck Hollow 10/30 (KSJ). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Imperial 8/14-15 (MV, et al.) and a late bird was at North Park 10/2 (DN). A **Red Phalarope** was photographed in Monongahela 8/2 (eBird), which provided the fifth county record.

Uncommon in fall, a **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Chapel Harbor 11/20 (AH, OL). Four **Black Terns** were in Verona 8/21 (SK, m.ob.) during a day of unsettled weather, and a **Forster's Tern** was in Verona 9/5 (MF) during another day of unsettled weather, the only reports of either this fall. A **Great Egret** was along the Allegheny River near the Highland Park Bridge 8/10-13 (JVA, et al.) and one was at Wingfield Pines 8/19-20 (eBird, JF). **Green Herons** remained through Oct at various locations. One was at Wingfield Pines 10/16-25 (BV, et al.), one was at Boyce-Mayview Park 10/18 (JF) and one was at North Park 10/30 (MD).

Reports of **Black Vulture** continued rolling in with 2 at Beechwood Farms 9/7 (CKu), one at Leppold Lake Park in Imperial 10/10 (JMo), 3 at Beechwood Farms 10/29 (DWa) and 2 in Fox Chapel 11/1 (BSh). Four were at Hartwood Acres 11/12 (MK). A male **Northern Harrier** was spotted flying high over North Park 11/23 (SG), an unusual location for this species. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding continued at Sewickley Heights Park where at least 24 were captured in Oct (BMu). Captures continued through November with a high of 4 on 11/14 (TB). Another banding site was started at Harrison Hills Park where 4 were banded 11/4 (NL, LK). A **Merlin** continued at Chatham University 9/21 (MKu) after the confirmed breeding at that location this past summer. Other reports include one at White Oak Park 9/10 (eBird), at Harrison Hills Park 10/8 (m.ob.), one at the Churchill Valley Greenway 9/5 (MF), one at Boys Home Park 10/20 (JF), one at North Park 10/22-27 (eBird, AF) and one at Calvary Cemetery in Greenfield 11/12 (EH).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at the end of Aug with single birds in Hays 8/24 (NL, MKu, LK) and Chatham University in Squirrel Hill 8/25 (EW). Others were reported at Frick Park 9/5 (MMc), 9/11 (CK, KSJ) and 9/14 (MK, NH). One was at Chatham University's Eden Hall Campus in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh 9/7 (DN), one at Beechwood Farms 9/9 (eBird) and 9/11 (DM) and South Park 9/14 (JP, JF). Late Aug brought the first of the fall migrant **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports with one at Beechwood Farms 8/25 (JVa) and one at Frick Park 8/30-31 (MK). Reports continued at various locations to early October. Fall reports of **Great Crested Flycatchers** are irregular, so 3 this season was notable. Two were at Frick Park 9/11 (MKu, JF), one was at Deer Lakes Park 9/17 (JVa, OL) and one was at Beechwood Farms 9/28 (LK, BSh). **Philadelphia Vireos** were widespread with reports throughout the county.

Common Ravens were seen in Franklin Park during the season as they expand their presence in the county (OM). High counts of **Fish Crows** included 33 in Oakland 8/8 (KSJ), 24 in Monroeville 8/16 (SM), 380 in Oakland 8/30 (KSJ), 75 at Chatham University in Squirrel Hill 8/30 (MKu) and 50 in Oakland 9/8 (JF). It was a good fall for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** with numerous reports for the season. A **Marsh Wren** was at Wingfield Pines 9/24 (BMc) where it continued to at least 10/30 (m.ob.). One was photographed at Hartwood Acres 11/12 (MK). A late **Veery** was at Frick Park 10/16 (KSJ, CK). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at 15 locations according to eBird.

Late October brought a movement of **Evening Grosbeaks** and

Pine Siskins across the state. Some observers in the county were fortunate to detect them or have them visit their feeders. Grosbeak reports included a female at a feeder in Oakmont 10/27 (RBu) and single flyovers in Indiana Twp. 10/30 and 11/2 (DYe). Three females visited a feeder in Gibsonia 11/15 and a male 11/29 (KP). Siskin reports include single birds at a feeder in Ross Twp. 10/27-28 (LN), Upper St. Clair 10/27 (JM) and in Bethel Park 10/28-29 (JP) and 10/30 (AN), Allison Park 11/16 (eBird) and Squirrel Hill 11/18 (MK). A flock of 50 flew over in Indiana Twp. 10/29 (BSh). Eight **Purple Finches** were at North Park 10/24 (AF), a male visited a feeder nearby in Pine Twp. 10/25-27 (PL, SL) and there were numerous reports in eBird.

Two **American Tree Sparrows** were seen at Peter's Creek 11/27 (JF). **Fox Sparrows** lingered well into Nov this fall with a number of reports including one at Bethel Green 11/18 (EH), two at a feeder in Upper St. Clair 11/16-20 with one remaining 11/21 (JM), one at a feeder in Baldwin 11/18-20 (LK), four at Churchill Valley Greenway 11/19 (MF), one at Homewood Cemetery 11/19-26 (MK, SN) and one at Beechwood Farms 11/2-22 (m.ob.). A late **Savannah Sparrow** was at Imperial 10/8 (TB). **Lincoln's Sparrows** and **Swamp Sparrows** are less common migrants, but were reported across the county in eBird.

A flock of about 70 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at Imperial through Oct. They were in the process of molting into adult plumage so many were a patchwork of brown and black. A late **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited a feeder in Upper St. Clair 11/25 (JM). Good counts of **Red-winged Blackbirds** include 64 on 11/12, 72 on 11/13 and 62 on 11/16 in Pine Twp. (PL, SL). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at North Park 9/23 (eBird) and one was there 10/28 (DBr), both photographed. Seven were at Imperial 10/9 and 4 were there 10/23 (MV). One was at Wingfield Pines 10/29-30 (JO, AN, FK). An interesting **Common Grackle** was photographed in Mount Lebanon 10/19 (CP). It had patches of white in the head and the bill was pale. The legs and feet were pinkish.

A total of 32 species of warblers were reported this fall. A **Northern Waterthrush** was a nice find at Beechwood Farms 9/24 (LM, DWa, LFH). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Beechwood Farms 9/2-22 (AH, m.ob.). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found in several locations this fall. Single birds were at Frick Park 9/1 (RBu) and at Beechwood Farms 10/19-31 (DM) and 11/4-5 (eBird). **Connecticut Warbler** reports included singles at Beechwood Farms 9/15 (SD, VM), at the Churchill Valley Greenway 9/18 (eBird), Bethel Park 9/18 (BV), Beechwood Farms 9/29 (JVa, ph.), South Park 9/29 (JF) and Penn Hills Park 10/8 (eBird). **Mourning Warblers** included single birds at Sewickley Heights Park 8/27 (SG) and 9/23 (AF), Beechwood Farms 9/3-23 (JR, m.ob.) and Frick Park 9/11 (CK). A leucistic **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was an interesting find at Beechwood Farms 10/13 (DM). The photos show the bird with a pale head and breast, the normal markings overall were faint and the bill was pale yellow. A **Prairie Warbler** was at Sygan Hilltop Park in South Fayette Twp. 9/7 (DNe). **Canada Warbler** reports included 2 at Sewickley Heights Park 9/2 (SG), single birds there 9/10-11 (SM, AF), one at Beechwood Farms 8/21 (MK, DM, DBe), 9/14 (DM), 9/23 (BSh) and 9/26 (LG), one at Boyce Park 9/17 (ABu) and one at Frick Park 9/4 (CK) and 9/13 (eBird). **Wilson's Warbler** was reported in about ten locations in eBird.

A late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Duck Hollow 10/29 (MF). A single **Blue Grosbeak** continued at Imperial from the summer 8/14 (MV) and 8/28 (eBird).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail North of Dam 8 (AT8), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Keystone Lake (KL).

The number of species found in *Armstrong* this season was 154, which was 10 more than average relative to the previous 10 years. There were 13 species flagged as rare by eBird.

The first rare species to highlight is **Greater White-fronted Goose**. Four individuals were spotted at CCL 11/21 (TR) and were seen multiple times through 11/25 (m.ob., ph.). They often mingled within a larger flock of more than 100 **Canada Geese** and 200 **Common Mergansers**. This rare species has been found in *Armstrong* in only three other years, according to eBird: 2014, 2016, and 2021. **Tundra Swan** was observed five times 11/11-23. Most observers saw a handful of individuals, but 225 were recorded at AT8 during a 2-hour period as they flew in noisy flocks overhead (TR). A single **Black Scoter** at Kittanning's Lock & Dam 7 was first observed 11/22 (SG) and then was seen multiple times through 11/26 (m.ob.). This represented the record for *Armstrong*; the first two sightings were both in early Nov 2017. Coincidentally, another rare sea duck, this time a **Surf Scoter**, was reported: 2 at KL 10/27 (R&MH), representing only the fifth observation here ever, according to eBird. **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted on three days, all in small numbers. Two were at Kittanning's Lock & Dam 7 on 11/26 (TR, DB), 2 more were at CCL 11/24 (SB, KB), and 4 were on the Armstrong Trail near Manorville 11/23 (TR). This collection of sightings is not unusual in terms of location or dates, but the maximum of four individuals was lower than average. Within the past 10 years, the average high count is 10. In contrast, a record high count of 495 **Common Mergansers** was recorded at CCL 11/27 (AH).

Horned Grebe has never been numerous or widespread in the county at this time of year, but none were reported in fall 2022. This is only the third time in the past 10 years that none have been found. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard on Cherry Lane Road 10/25 (SD). This represented the latest fall season observation for *Armstrong* in the eBird database.

A record high count of 112 **Killdeer** was made at CCL 10/8 (TR). Almost all of these individuals were resting on one exposed mud patch surrounded by shallow water. The birds were somewhat distant, so there may have been slightly more or less than 112. This bounty of shorebirds also held true for sandpipers. **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **American Woodcock**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were all seen in typical numbers. **Spotted Sandpipers** were found regularly at KL in Aug, as typical. However, one straggler was seen there 10/27 (M&RH, ph.), which was the latest in the season this species has ever been observed. **Solitary Sandpiper** showed a similar pattern. It was also observed at KL in late Aug through 9/1. Then a record-late straggler was found 11/3 (MS). There were up to six **Pectoral Sandpipers** reported at KL over an extended period 10/14-11/3 (m.ob.), with one found much earlier, on 8/29 (M&RH). This species is considered rare, though eBird shows it has been observed at least once during fall migration in most years. We were graced with several **Dunlin** in Oct. This species appears in *Armstrong* about five in every 10 years during fall migration and is considered rare. This year's observations were of birds on the mudflats at KL 10/17-23 with a high count of six (m.ob.). Last but not Least (because Least was already mentioned at the start of this paragraph!) was a single **Baird's Sandpiper** at KL 9/1 (M&RH). This marks only the sixth time this species has been found in *Armstrong*. It last appeared in late Aug 2018.

No Common Loons were observed during the period, which was

unusual. At least one of this species has been seen each fall season in all but two years since 2009. An unusually late—and large—flock of **Great Egrets** was photographed at CCL 10/16 (DS). There were 14 standing on the limbs of a small clump of trees at the water's edge. A group this size has never been recorded in *Armstrong*. An additional sighting of a single individual was made two days later on the AT8 along the Allegheny R. (TR). The two locations (CCL and AT8) are more than 13 miles apart, so it is unclear if this single bird was also part of the earlier flock. In any case, these two observations represent the latest this species has ever been recorded in eBird in *Armstrong*.

There was a collection of **Eastern Screech-Owls** recorded at the Roaring Run Trailhead in Apollo 8/28-10/2 (SD). Numbers reported were surprisingly high, ranging from 2-10 individuals over three non-consecutive nights. No additional information was given in these eBird reports, so it is not clear whether the counts were estimates based on calls or an exact count of individuals in distinct locations. Other locations with this species included the intersection of Miller Lane and TR849 near North Buffalo (8/26, TR) and Stone House Road (10/7, AB), with one owl each. Two **Barred Owls** were recorded. One was along Logansport Road near Taylor Run 8/9 (JB) and the other was near the McCartney Road and Hitty Road intersection along Roaring Run 10/16 (SD). No other owls were reported during the period.

In the summer 2022 report for *Armstrong*, concern was expressed that the **Peregrine Falcon** had not been seen since 4/20/2022. This fall, however, there were two records of it at Green Acres Road 11/16 (DB) and the Armstrong Trail at Manorville 11/23 (TR).

It was a good autumn for flycatchers. One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed at KL 8/21 (M&RH). The species has only been reported in *Armstrong* one other time, in 2017 at CCL, and that was also in the fall season. Given the flycatchers are easy to miss and hard to distinguish between species, it seems likely that the bird is not as rare as indicated by the eBird data. Another prize this fall was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** found at AT8 on 9/14 (TR, ph.). This was the ninth sighting of this species according to eBird. The previous sightings have all been since 2017, which is interesting because the species is in a steep decline (listed as near-threatened), especially in the core breeding areas of Alaska and western Canada (Hagelin, J.C., et al. 2021, Anim. Migr. 8:168-191). There are little data on the migratory movements of this species in the eastern part of the continent, but an increasing rate of observations here in western Pennsylvania could indicate more individuals are passing through. Another uncommon flycatcher was an **Alder Flycatcher** at Parks Bend Farm 8/7 (MVT). This species is occasionally recorded in the county in spring and summer, but this was the first-ever observation of the species during the fall season. There were a few reports of **Philadelphia Vireo**: one at AT8 on 9/22 (TR, ph.) and one at KL 10/11 (JT, MS). This latter sighting was marked as rare by eBird due to how late it was in the migratory season. There are only three other records on eBird of this species in *Armstrong* during the fall, and none were in Oct. A late observation of a **Wood Thrush** was made at Stone House Road 10/7 (AB).

Two **Kentucky Warblers** were recorded this fall: at AT8 on 9/2 (SK) and on Creek Road along Crooked Creek near Baker Hollow 9/9 (MVT). Although this species breeds in *Armstrong*, it is not common, and is rare after July. Before this year, it was last spotted in fall 2003. Other warblers were found this season at typical levels with the exceptions of **Ovenbird**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. Ovenbird has been found in eight of the past 10 years during fall, but none were recorded in 2022. Even worse, the Cape May Warbler has been found every fall season since 2012, but not this year. A single Chestnut-sided Warbler was spotted near AT8 on 9/14 (TR), but that was the only sighting this season. The average number of Chestnut-sided Warblers recorded in the past 10 fall seasons is 2.9.

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Enon Valley (EV), Hanover Twp. (HAN), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake site (LBL), New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rocky Bend Nature Preserve (RBNP).

Fall waterfowl reports, as has been the trend for some time, were very few. Four lingering **Wood Ducks** were at NB 11/20 (DZ). Ten **Blue-winged Teal** at RCSP 8/30 was a nice total (JM). Rare (these days) for fall was a **Northern Shoveler** at EV 11/12 (MV), and 2 **American Wigeon** at Independence Twp. 10/1-2 (DZ) were a similarly uncommon addition to the county's fall list. One species that showed well was **American Black Duck**, with totals of 8 at AR 11/17-19 (MV) and 35 at the former LBL site 11/26 (KJ, TJ). Non dabblers (excluding Common and Hooded Mergansers) were limited to 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** at AR 11/17-29 (MV), one **Bufflehead** at AR over the same timeframe (MV), 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at RCSP 11/8 (DC), and an early and anomalous **Red-breasted Merganser** that appeared at NB 10/1 (MV) and remained to at least 11/8 (DZ). Among **Common Mergansers**, the top count was 38 at RBNP 10/3 (DZ), a location where they are now known to breed. A **Horned Grebe** was at NB 11/20 as well (DZ).

A late **Black-billed Cuckoo** at RBNP 10/7 (DZ) was the last of three reports for the season. **Common Nighthawks** included one in HAN 8/11-13 (JM), 8 at IND 9/1 (AZ), and 4 at Wright Field 9/2 (eBird). A **Sora** was an out-of-place find at the RCSP wildflower reserve 9/16 (JM). Very interesting were 2 **Common Gallinules** at EV 9/1-3 (MV), suggesting they may have bred at the marsh where they were found. Up to 17 **American Coots** were at the same wetland 10/22-11/12 (MV).

Shorebirds were nearly absent, which is typical nowadays, after the loss of LBL and the degradation of IND in recent years. Two **American Golden-Plovers** were at the Siebel farm in Independence Twp. 9/30 (MV, DZ); one remained to 10/2 (MF). Four **Least Sandpipers** hung around the RCSP spillway 8/6-9/5 (MV, et al.), and 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were there 9/16 (JM). Two late **Spotted Sandpipers** lingered in NB to 10/24 (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported only from RCSP 8/4-10 (MV, M, DC), and Greater Yellowlegs was missed entirely.

Great Egret was reported a number of times at NB; last was one 10/26 (DZ). **Osprey** was reported around the county; last among them was one at RCSP 10/16 (m.ob.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was still in HAN 10/3 (JM). The grasslands around LBL held 4 **Northern Harriers** and 3 **Short-eared Owls** 11/26 (TK, KJ). Both are regular wintering species there now, and the grasslands are extensive and remote enough that the possibility of summering also exists for both, but the area receives precious little coverage. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen around the mouth of the Beaver River and at Aliquippa all season.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted at RBNP 8/23-9/24 (DZ) and at IND 9/1-4 (AZ, DZ). **Common Raven** was found at eight locations. Ten **Bank Swallows**, a species undoubtedly present annually but easy to miss nevertheless, were reported at RCSP 8/2-10 (JM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** irrupted mildly, with reports of small numbers from five locations (m.ob.). Rare for *Beaver* was a **Marsh Wren** at EV 8/5 (MV). It was still singing there 8/10 (GM). Very few spot-breasted thrushes were reported, with only a few scattered reports of **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's**. A nice flock of 45 **American Pipits** were found on Fleetwood Rd. in Beaver Falls 10/6 (MV). *Beaver* participated in the **Evening Grosbeak** flight in late Oct and early Nov. Reports included one near Aliquippa 11/2 (DZ), one in NB 11/13 (DR, GR), and 2 in HAN 11/17 (JM). Reports of **Purple Finch** were scattered around HAN and RCSP 9/30-11/14 (JM, et al.). A **Snow Bunting** was seen briefly in Economy 11/3 (LH). A duo of somewhat early **Lincoln's Sparrows** was noted at IND 9/16 (AZ). At least 6 **White-crowned Sparrows**, an uncommon wintering species here, were at LBL 11/16 (TJ, KJ). As many as 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at RCSP sporadically from 9/27-10/24 (MV, JM).

Warblers were lightly reported but a number of uncommon species provided for a reasonably diverse list. One **Northern Waterthrush** attended IND 9/4-15 (DZ, AZ), and a **Golden-winged Warbler** was there 9/16 (DZ). Other uncommon or rare warblers included an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at RBNP 9/22 (DZ), single **Connecticut Warblers** at

IND (JM) and RBNP (DZ) both on 9/8, and a **Mourning Warbler** at IND 9/15-17 (AZ). Both **Tennessee Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler** had good seasons, but the other budworm specialist, **Cape May Warbler**, barely registered. At RBNP there were three sightings of **Canada Warbler** 8/28-9/12 and four of **Wilson's Warbler** 9/7-20 (all DZ). A late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was also at RBNP 10/4 (DZ).

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Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AW), Jackson Property (Mountain Meadows) near Everett (MM), Lake Gordon/Lake Koon (LG), Rural Home Site (RS), Shawnee State Park (SP), Tussey Mountain (TM), Whitetail Wetlands (WW).

The overall lack of precipitation made for dry conditions, but a late season Category 1 Hurricane Nicole brought much-needed rain to the county in November. A total of 147 species was reported for this period, as no strong cold fronts occurred that would have pushed migrants into the county.

Waterfowl numbers were low, but **Wood Ducks** were reported at scattered locations with a high of 15 on 8/11 at LG (m.ob.). Twenty-one **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at SP 10/18 (m.ob.), and a high of 4 **American Black Duck** was reported 10/16 at WW (SD). Just one **Bufflehead** was seen at SP 11/24 (EB). A high of 19 **Common Mergansers** was tallied at SP 11/23 (LG).

Are **Ruffed Grouse** making a comeback in *Bedford*? It's too early to tell, but two were reported this season: one at Schellsburg 10/22 (MA) and one in Buchanan SF-Big Mountain Road 8/31 (MH). Three grebe species were reported. A high of 4 **Pied-billed Grebes** was reported at SP 10/18 (m.ob.). **Horned Grebes** were seen infrequently, with a high of 2 at SP 11/30 (m.ob.). Just one **Red-necked Grebe** was seen at SP 11/24-30 (m.ob.). Eight **Common Nighthawks** were seen along US-220 on 8/27 (CE). The last calls of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported on Evitts Mt. 8/28 (TP). A fallout of 200 **Chimney Swifts** was reported at WW 8/28 (EB); last were 35 in Everett 9/11 (MLJ). The last fall **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** buzzed by MM 9/26 (MLJ).

The last **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at WW 9/10 (EB). Three **Common Loons** were seen at SP 10/23 (eBird). **Great Egrets** were observed in five locations, with a high of 2 at LG 9/10 (JBC). A high of 6 **Black Vultures** was seen at TM 10/29 (EH), still not as numerous as **Turkey Vultures**. For the latter, a high count of 28 was made at TM 10/29 (EH).

Totals for the fall migration at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (BS) are in parentheses after each species. Seven **Osprey** (46) passed by 9/10 (EB) and 9/15 (DP), and a high of 35 **Golden Eagles** (345) was counted 12/9 (m.ob.). A high of 4 **Northern Harriers** (33) was counted 10/3 (DP). A good flight of 23 **Bald Eagles** (261) was reported 9/11 (EB), and 1162 **Broad-winged Hawks** (3818) sailed by 9/17 (m.ob.). A high count of 133 **Red-Tailed Hawks** (1479) was recorded 10/23 (EB).

There were two season high records set this year. Bald Eagles once again set a new high number of 261, breaking the 2019 record of 246. The Golden Eagle count of 345 surpassed the old record of 320 set in 2015. Totals of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **Cooper's Hawk** continued to rebound with 1110 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 147 Cooper's Hawks recorded. Osprey numbered only 46, well below the five-year average of 79. The 33 Northern Harriers were at the five-year average. **Red-shouldered Hawks** numbered 55, which is 31% above the five-year average.

The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** of the season appeared at MM 9/23 (MLJ). Reports of **American Kestrels** were scattered; 4 were at Sollenberger Road 10/4 (EB). The only sightings of **Merlin** were at AW, with a high of 4 on 10/17 (m.ob.). The only **Peregrine Falcons** were seen at AW where a high of 6 was reported 9/17 (m.ob.).

White-eyed Vireos were reported in two locations: one at WW 9/15 (m.ob.) and one at RS 8/23 (JBC). A high of 4 **Yellow-throated Vireos** was noted at SP 9/14 (JZ). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at MM 10/17 (MLJ). A high of 3 **Red-eyed Vireos** was reported 8/10-14 at RS (JBC).

A high of 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were counted at SP 10/30 (JC). The last 4 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen at SP 8/24 (CE). Single **Winter Wrens** was at SP 11/30 (JC) and at TM 11/14 (EH). A very late **Brown Thrasher** was found at MM 11/2 (MLJ). One **Swainson's Thrush** was reported at RS 9/16 (JBC) and at SP 9/27 (CB). The only **Hermit Thrush** was at TM 10/29 (EH).

The only **Evening Grosbeak** reported was a female at MM 11/3 (MLJ). **House Finches** were daily visitors at MM, with a high count of 20 on 11/10 (MLJ). **Purple Finches** appeared infrequently; high was 8 at TM 10/29 (EH). Pine Siskins were a total miss, like last year. **American Goldfinch** sightings were common, with most birders reporting small numbers, except for the high of 65 at MM 9/18 (MLJ).

Two **American Tree Sparrows** were reported at SP 11/30 (JC). **Fox Sparrows** moved through the county and were a regular visitor at MM 11/9-29, with a high of 5 on 11/20 (MLJ). **Dark-eyed Juncos** are a fall migrant that spends the winter in *Bedford*; a high of 51 were tallied at SP 11/30 (JC). **White-throated Sparrow** is a regular winter visitor that is decreasing; high count this fall was 14 at SP 10/30 (JC). Just one **Lincoln Sparrow** was noted, at MM 10/6 (MLJ). A high of 5 **Swamp Sparrows** was seen at WW (m.ob.). A huge flock of 75 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was reported at Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest 10/16 (MLJ). A single sighting of one **Orchard Oriole** was reported 8/5 at RS (JBC), and 4 **Baltimore Orioles** were at Union Memorial Church 8/29 (EB). A surprising number of 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SP 10/30 (EB).

Seventeen species of warblers were listed, with migration stretching through October for many species due to the warm weather. A few highlights included late sightings of an **Ovenbird** at AW 9/15 (TM) and a **Tennessee Warbler** 9/21 at MM (MLJ). The only **Kentucky Warbler** was one at MM 8/17 (MLJ). Two **Magnolia Warblers** and one **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were observed at LG 9/30 (CE). A late **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at SP 10/30 (EB).

A single **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was frequently seen at MM 8/6-9/24 (MLJ), and a late **Indigo Bunting** was at MM 10/2 (MLJ).

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Berks County

Locations: Angora Fruit Farm (AFF), Bartrum Trail (BAT), Berne Township (BT), Bernhardt's Dam (BD), Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH), Blue Marsh Lake Sheidy Boat Launch (BMLSBL), Blue Marsh Stilling Basin (BMSB), EJ Breneman's Quarry (BQ), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Gotwal's Pond (GP), Green Hills Preserve (GHP), Hamburg Commerce Park (HCP), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Hawk Mountain North Lookout Data (HMNL), Hawk Mountain South Lookout (HMSL), 183 Hawk Watch (HW), Hay Creek (HC), Kaercher Creek (KC), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Kutztown University (KU), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee Bailey's Creek (LOBC), Lake Ontelaunee Blue Falls (LOBF), Lake Ontelaunee Water Street (LOWA), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS), Lowland Road Retention Pond (LRRP), Monacacy Hill Recreation Area (MHRC), Mount Penn (MP), Old Tipton Road (OTP), Peter's Creek (PC), Pine Swamp Road

(PSR), School Road Pond (SRP), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), State Hill Hawk Watch (SHHW).

The 2022 hurricane season produced 14 named storms of which eight became hurricanes. Two of these hurricanes, Ian and Nicole, had minimal impact on *Berks* and resulted in few "storm birds". The settling pond at Hamburg Commerce Park had recently become one of the best shorebird habitats in *Berks*; however, in November, contractors drained the pond and brought in soil and rocks which will have a negative impact on its appeal to migrating shorebirds.

A lone **Snow Goose** lingered at GP this quarter (RK) and another **Snow Goose** stayed at BQ 11/5-20 (RK, TU). Eight **Snow Geese** were seen in flight over Shartlesville 11/26 (JG). Two **Graylag Geese** of unknown origin were at LOBF 11/22 (RK). A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** at BQ 11/28 (JSp) was the only one reported. **Cackling Geese** were reported among migrating **Canada Geese**, with one at BQ 11/1-29 (RK), one at LOBC 11/10 (JSp) and 2 at GP 11/20 (RK) with a gaggle of 700 **Canada Geese**. A total of 45 **Tundra Swans** were seen in migration past HMNL 11/14. **Northern Pintail** were recorded at BQ and LO, with one 10/21 and 2 on 11/6, respectively (both RK). **Green-winged Teal** numbers increased with sightings of 13 at LOWA 10/2 (JSo) and 11 at BQ 10/25 (RK). One of more common fall ducks is **Ring-necked Duck**, of which 25 were at LO 11/20 (TU). At BQ, counts were 40 on 11/9 and 26 on 11/12 (both RK). **Surf Scoters** made brief stops on the largest lakes with one at LOWS 10/16 (JD), 6 at BML 10/24 (JR), and 6 at LO 10/25 (RK). A lone **White-winged Scoter** at LOWS 10/15 (TU) was the only one reported. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at LO 11/26 (Lcr). **Bufflehead** numbers remained the highest among sea ducks with 9 at BML 10/28 (JS), 25 at BML 11/14 (BL), and 68 at LO 11/20 (JSp).

LOWS is a good place to observe **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes**. Eleven **Pied-billed Grebes** were there 10/26 (ZM) and 3 **Horned Grebes** were tallied 10/16 (JR). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued to be seen in Shartlesville in single digit numbers (m.ob.). Sightings of **Common Nighthawk** were scattered throughout *Berks* during migration. The count of 61 **Common Nighthawks** 8/25 (KG) was high, but this total was eclipsed when 171 passed HMNL 9/9. An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded at a home near Fleetwood 11/16 (SL). It was last seen 11/20. Rails remained rare with only one **Virginia Rail** seen at LOBC 10/28 (JSp). On 11/8, a **Sandhill Crane** gave a nice look at it passed HW 11/8 (EB).

An uncommon **American Golden-Plover** cooperated with birders at HCP 9/17-22 (MW, m.ob.). A **Semipalmated Plover** also lingered at HCP 9/19-10/2 (DJ, MW, m.ob.). Although always found in good habitat, 33 **Killdeer** was a high number at HCP 8/15 (RK). HCP continued to have the best shorebird habitat, and unusual species continued to be found there. A single **Stilt Sandpiper** was present 9/9-13 (AW, m.ob.). A lone **Dunlin** was only a one-day visitor 11/12 (RK). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen there 8/21-29 (RK, m.ob.). **Least Sandpipers** were reported throughout *Berks* 8/4-10/28 (m.ob.) with the following high counts: 30 at BD (RK, m.ob.) and 50 at HCP 8/21-23 (RK). A rare **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at HCP 10/11 (RK). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present at HCP 8/6-10/13 (m.ob.) with a high count of 8 on 10/6 (MW). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** roamed the mud at HCP 8/9-10/11 (m.ob.); high counts were 10 on 8/22 (AW), 26 on 8/22 (AZ), and 12 on 9/11 (BB). A **Dowitcher sp.** made a short appearance at HCP 8/2 (JR, MW, m.ob.). A flushed **American Woodcock** was a surprise on a walk at PC 8/26 (JSp). The elusive **Wilson's Snipe** was reported on three occasions: at HCP 9/30 (AW, MS), 2 at HCP 10/13 (RK, MW), and 3 at GP 10/22 (JWe, PWe). There were two surprising sightings of **Red-necked Phalaropes** at different places and times in *Berks*. One was photographed at BD 9/23 (RH). The bird was observed feeding in its unique whirling motion by several fortunate birders before it departed. On 10/2, during a light rainfall, 3 light-colored shorebirds passed over the observer's car, over a low bank, and to an algae-covered farm pond on Zweizig Road near Shoemakersville (MW). These 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen resting on the pond but only for two minutes, before the farmer's three dogs appeared on a far bank and disturbed the birds, which flushed and were not seen again. High count for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 15 at HCP 9/11 (MW) and for **Lesser Yellowlegs** it was

18 at HCP 8/16 (RK). Twenty **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LO 11/20 (RK) and 3 were at BML 10/5 (RH).

The first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** of the season was reported at BLM 11/27 (RK). Two **Caspian Terns** made a brief appearance at LOBC 8/15 (RH, RK). Another single **Caspian Tern** made an unusual pass over MP 8/27 (RH). It may have been traveling from LO to BML, or vice versa. In any case it was definitely out of its element. A single **Common Loon** made several extended appearances at KC. It was first seen 6/28 and 7/27, and then 8/1-18 (KG). A single loon was seen again at KC 11/8-9. It is difficult to determine if this was the same bird or not.

The surprise visit of an **American Bittern** 9/20 to the native plant garden at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary headquarters was a new bird for the sanctuary list. It seemed content to hide in the cattails along the pond edge into the next day. **Great Egrets** were reported throughout *Berks* in numbers of one and two (m.ob.). Three **Cattle Egrets** arrived at the Zweigz Road farm pond in the late afternoon 10/18 and departed at the next sunrise (AW, MW). The 8 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** reported at BMLSBL 8/17 (EB) were the season's top count.

The first report of **Golden Eagle** at HMNL was 9/29. There were three off-ridge reports of **Golden Eagles**: AFF 11/7 (DJ), SHHW 11/12 (BL), and Stricker Road in Heidelberg Township 11/5 (BL). **Northern Goshawk** numbers were slightly better this season with 3 reported. The highest one-day count for **Bald Eagle** was 38 on 9/23. The highest one-day count for **Broad-winged Hawk** was 2883 on 9/17. A more detailed report will be available in this journal's fall hawk migration report. Reports of **Barn Owls** are rare in *Berks*. On 9/22, a home owner in rural Birdsboro got out of bed at 03:00 and while walking through the family room, noticed a motion-detecting light shining in the backyard. Perched on one of his bird feeders was a **Barn Owl**, which must have activated the motion detector. It flew off into the night and was not seen again (RS). At a Bernville residence 10/30, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found as it was mobbed by a horde of songbirds (JS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker sightings were reported after the third week of September. During the week of 10/15, 18 sightings were recorded. At HMNL, counts for **American Kestrel**, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon** were at the 10-year average. The **Peregrine Falcon** nesting at Fourth and Penn Street in Reading successfully fledged three offspring. Besides these, there were numerous other sightings of single **Peregrine Falcons** throughout *Berks*.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found along the ridge at AFF 9/8 (RH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** included singles at KDRA 8/18 (KG) and AFF 8/30-9/2 (RH). Four **Acadian Flycatchers** were counted at HR 8/3 (KG). During the week of 9/1, birders made nine reports of **Least Flycatcher**. Two kingbirds found during a walk at LOBC 8/14 turned out to be an **Eastern Kingbird** and a **Western Kingbird** (RK). Detailed field notes confirmed the seventh *Berks* record of the latter species. The first two were reported by Earl Poole: 9/18/1938 at LO, and 8/25/1941. The most recent was one near Morgantown from 12/28/2006 to 1/11/2007 (HH). This fall's bird was observed for several minutes until it tussled with the **Eastern Kingbird** over an insect after which it flew off.

Off-ridge **Philadelphia Vireos** included 2 at KDRA 9/16 (KG) and one at LO 9/24 (TU). At MP walks 9/20-21, a single **Philadelphia Vireo** was found along the Skyline Drive (RH, PW, JW). **Fish Crows** have become more numerous in northern *Berks* since the construction of Tilden Ridge Shopping center in 2003. The Cabela's store with its acres of parking lots was followed by large box stores, a Wal-Mart and a Lowe's, and additional restaurants and shops. The once predominantly agricultural area is now commercial, and with its many dumpsters and litter, it is now a draw for the crows. On 9/21, 320 **Fish Crows** were counted as they went to their evening roost along the Schuylkill River. This event took place every late afternoon for weeks thereafter. The **Black-capped Chickadee** incursion commenced in mid-Sep and resulted in numerous sightings (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Winter Wren** reports, usually of single birds, were common this fall as well. In what has become an annual species, a **Marsh Wren** visited KDRA 10/6-7 (KG).

Nocturnal flight call monitoring identified these thrushes: **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** at Nolde Forest 10/8 (AZ) and a Boyertown residence 9/21 (RK), and 10 **Swainson's Thrushes** at KDRA 9/16 (KG).

Ten **American Pipits** worked the fields Mertz Road 10/29 (RK). Sightings of **Evening Grosbeaks** at the feeders of *Berks* homes created excitement and hope for more of these hungry yellow birds from the north. A single **Evening Grosbeak** was at a feeder near Topton 9/27 (KD). Thereafter, there were 10 reports of single **Evening Grosbeaks** at feeders. Three more passed the Reading Pagoda on the Skyline Drive in Reading 11/2 (JSo).

At KDRA, 10 **Purple Finches** were noted on a morning walk 10/11 (KD). Three **Pine Siskins** flew past the Reading Pagoda 11/2 (JSo). In the early morning hours at a Henningsville residence 11/23, a **Lapland Longspur** was identified by nocturnal flight call (PS). Single **American Tree Sparrows** popped up at BML 11/18 and Reading Airport 11/28 (JSp). A **Dark-eyed Junco x White-throated Sparrow** was spotted among a flock of **White-throated Sparrows** at the Daniel Boone Homestead 10/30 (JSo). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** noisily fed at BML 11/17 (SF).

A total of 33 warbler species were reported. Due to unfavorable fronts with high winds and wet weather, there were no fall-outs of southbound warblers. What warblers were found were scattered along ridges and in parks with bodies of water. Highlights included: **Orange-crowned Warbler** at HW 9/24 (EB), **Connecticut Warbler** at KDRA 9/29 (KG), at Union Meadows 10/6 (LC, LI, RH, RK, BL), and at Nolde Forest 10/8 (AZ), **Mourning Warbler** at KDRA 9/18 (KG), **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL 280 on 8/26 (BL), and **Wilson's Warbler** at MP 9/5 (JB) at KDRA 9/15 (KG), and at LO 9/15 (TU).

Blue Grosbeaks were reported on these dates: 8/2 at HCP (MW), 8/10 at HCP (KG), and 8/21 at SGL 280 (JSp). **Dickcissel** reports were down this quarter as field cuttings interrupted nesting. The usual fields near Hamburg, Fleetwood and Lyons produced no sightings. The only reported **Dickcissel** was a flyover at the MP Reading Pagoda 11/2 (JSo).

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Blair County

Locations: Bells Gap Rail Trail (BGRT), Bellwood Trolley Trail (BTT) Canoe Creek S.P. (CC), Frosty Hollow (FH), Henry's Pond (HP), Lower Trail-Mount Etna (LT), Lower Trail-Coverdale Trailhead (LTC), Northern Blair Rec Center (NBRC), Plummers Hollow (PH), State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN), State Game Lands #198 (SGL198).

The species count this season was 181. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data. The highlights for *Blair* included the county's first **White Ibis**, a juvenile photographed at HP 8/17-9/7 (m.ob.), a single adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at BTT 9/7 (JC), an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at HP 9/11 (CE), and a **Red Crossbill** (type-2) flyover in the town of Tyrone 9/12 (MB).

There were 18 species of waterfowl reported this fall, compared to 14 last fall. Highlights include 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at SGLN 9/20 (MN), a single at HP 9/11 (CE), and another single at BTT 10/20 (JC). A high-count of 5 **American Wigeons** and 61 **American Coots** was made at CC 11/19 (JC), and the top count of 13 **Green-winged Teal** nestled at the Army National Guard Readiness Center Pond 11/4 (PI).

There was an increase **Common Nighthawk** reports this year compared to previous years, with a high count of 12 at Bellwood Park

8/25 (JC). As many as 298 **Chimney Swifts** were viewed in Tyrone as they emerged from a single area of buildings toward the north end of town 10/6 (MB). The last eBird report of 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** was made from FH 9/24 (LB). An **American Woodcock** was noted at PH 9/3, and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** called near PH 9/18 (MB). The only gull reported was a **Ring-billed Gull** at PH 10/2 (MB), and a **Forster's Tern** was located at Bellwood Reservoir 8/19 (JC). **Bald Eagles** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were again commonly reported. Two separate reports of single migrating **Golden Eagles** were made 10/8 and 10/14 near Tyrone (MB, JC), and as many as 9 were reported migrating at PH 11/13 (MB). The high count of 359 **Broad-winged Hawks** was also made at PH, on 9/17 (MB).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Tyrone 9/14 and 9/27, and was diving at **Rock Pigeons** on the latter date (MB). Seven woodpecker species were documented, including reports of the uncommon **Red-headed Woodpecker** at PH 9/30 (MB) and at SGLN 10/16 (JC). There were at Sinking Valley Golf Course 9/7 (JC).

An **Alder Flycatcher**, uncommon in *Blair*, was seen at SGLN 8/6 (GN, LN, MN). The last report of **Least Flycatcher** was made 9/24 at CC (JC). There were four reports of single **Philadelphia Vireos**, and a high count of 3 was noted at PH 9/17 (MB). A **White-eyed Vireo** stayed at the BTT until 8/25 (JC). There were many reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and a surge of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also made their presence known. **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, and **Swainson's Thrush** were well-documented via NFC monitoring and early morning detection. Ten **Evening Grosbeaks** found the feeder tray at CC 11/5 (ph. LP). There were good numbers of sparrows reported. As many as 29 **Fox Sparrows** were at PH 11/20 (MB), and 440 **White-throated Sparrows** were at PH 10/22 (MB). A high-count of 6 **White-crowned Sparrows** was made 10/22 at CC (JC), and 7 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PH 10/1 (MB). The first reported **American Tree Sparrow** was at CC 11/13 (MK).

It was a strong showing for warblers with 30 species reported. The highlights included a lone **Connecticut Warbler** at PH 9/23 (MB) and the **Swainson's Warbler** continuing at LT to 8/1 (JH, RH). The fall's high count of 6 **Cerulean Warblers** was made at LT 8/18 (NB). Two reports of **Mourning Warbler** were made 8/10 at PH (MB) and 9/11 at CC (JC). A very late **American Redstart** was at NBRC 11/5 (JC, MB, SB).

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Bucks County

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

August was very warm (+3.1°F) and drier (-0.43") than average. September's temperatures were average (+0.2°F), with low precipitation again (-1.38"). October cooled down quite a bit (-3.1°F) and also got a lot wetter (+2.77"). November warmed up again (+1.8°F) and was drier than average by a little bit (-0.5"). The fall featured a steady supply of cold fronts, but most of them fairly weak. Particularly different from several recent years was the lack of drenching tropical storms in late summer. This, combined with a lake drawdown at CCP, provided a lot of mudflats for rarities to use. Accordingly, this fall's species total was an excellent 244 species, above the 10-year average of 236. Rarities, at least in this compiler's mind, were in bountiful supply. Most of the new early and late dates set were new fall late dates for warblers and other passerines, plus a few early waterfowl. Thanks very much to August Mirabella for compiling some general notes and observations. Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* and the subsequent county

spreadsheet were referenced for historical information, as well as this journal.

Reports of **Snow Goose** were exceptionally low, with all reports of one to 2 birds except for 28 over NSP 11/22 (DB). **Greater White-fronted Geese** appeared in the county as early as 10/6, when one flew over Owls Nest Park with **Canada Geese** (SF ph.). One was described at Churchville Park 11/1 (KL), and one was photographed at CCP 11/18 (DM ph.). It's possible that these two observations were of the same bird, given relatively close dates and locations. One **Brant** put down at NSP 10/27, right in the peak migration window for this scarce goose (DF ph.). A sharp-looking **Barnacle Goose** was found after the fact when a photographer reviewed his photos from CCP 11/18 (DM ph.). This species is now nearly annual in *Bucks*. Site high counts of **Cackling Geese** across seven sites totaled 17 birds, with a high of 5 at PVP on the fairly early date of 10/11 (ED ph.). Birder awareness of this smaller goose seems to be on the rise. A small goose at PRN 11/7 was most probably a **Barnacle x Cackling Goose** (BS ph., WS). It showed characteristics of both species, and the bird's exceptionally small head and bill suggest Cackling Goose influence rather than Canada. It was likely the first such hybrid documented in *Bucks*. The high count of introduced **Mute Swans** across nine sites was just 12 at the PWT area 11/6 (AH). A total of 16 **Tundra Swans** were reported across four locations, including a high of 9 at PWT 11/7 (DD ph.). In some recent fall periods, they have gone unreported.

Despite some low numbers, duck variety was very good with 24 species this fall. This included all of the regulars, plus all the annual rarities that birders hope for. **Blue-winged Teal** numbers peaked at the end of Sep, with 15 at BRD 9/28 (KI, VM). **Northern Shovelers** topped out at 30 in SLP 11/21 (MGr). Not long after, SLP also hosted the period high count of 23 **Gadwalls** 11/29 (DD). By contrast, **American Wigeons** were in very poor numbers. The high count of 2 occurred at five locations countywide, hardly a blip on the radar (m.ob.). Fairly low totals of **American Black Ducks** included 32 on 11/23 at Lake Towhee C.P. (KI, VM) and 30 in Doylestown Twp. 11/25 (NG). **Northern Pintails** are typically reported in low fall numbers now, so 11 at NSP 11/7 were an ordinary present-day tally (DF, AH). Healthy fall counts of 80 **Green-winged Teals** were made at two sites, BRD 11/7 (GJ) and PWT 11/20 (KL).

Four **Canvasbacks** were back on the autumn list after two straight absences. One female was at PVP 11/1 (JW), and 3 were at NSP 11/21 (DK). Single **Redheads** were at PWT 11/6 (DF, AH ph.) and at NSP 11/21 (MD ph.). **Greater Scaup** barely announced their presence. Two were at NSP 10/27 (AM) and one there on 11/6 (MH, AR, AW), with one more at PVP 11/30 (CM). Although **Lesser Scaup** were more widespread on most area lakes, numbers were miniscule compared to historical fall totals. Six was the maximum this fall, seen at NSP 11/8 (JF, JV). An exceptionally early scoter was scrutinized and eventually identified as a **Surf Scoter** at PVP 9/3-5 (AM ph., ML). This was a new county fall early date by almost a month. Two Surfs were at NSP 10/27 (SG), and one there again on 11/12 (DF, PJ). Two female-type **White-winged Scoters** were at PVP 11/2 (DF ph., KM), and 3 were there 11/7 (BR ph.). Another was at NSP 11/12 (TF, JF, ph.) To complete the scoter trifecta, 7 **Black Scoters** were at PWT 11/6-7 (AH, DD), and 2 were discovered at NSP 11/8 (DF). Eventually, one stayed on the lake until 11/24 (EZ). It's not typical for scoters to stay this long in *Bucks*, so a large number of birders got to enjoy this individual. Just 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported this fall, a female at PVP 11/14 (IB ph.) and one there on 11/24 (ED ph.). The largest **Bufflehead** concentration reported was 94 at NSP 11/13, an average fall count during peak passage for them (KR). Surprisingly, only one **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported, a female well-documented at NSP 11/15 (AG vt.). **Ruddy Ducks** have been in short supply in recent autumns, so 63 at PVP 11/7 (AM) and estimates of 50 at PWT during Nov (DF, AH) were more normal fall counts.

Wild Turkey sightings can be unpredictable, but a photographed group of 37 in Wrightstown Twp. 11/27 was a decent number (BB ph.). While the high count for **Horned Grebes** was 3 at NSP 11/9 (CP ph.), the more unusual record was of an early arrival at PVP 9/2 (MG, KL ph.). The previous early date in *Bucks* was 9/21, three weeks later than this bird. A rarer **Eared Grebe** was an excellent find at NSP 11/6 (JV ph., eBird expedited review). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported from a

near-average 25 sites (m.ob.), while **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at six locations (m.ob.). One site in New Britain Twp. had 2 Black-billed on 8/28, possibly early migrants (TH ph.). **Common Nighthawks** continued a concerning declining trend, with a meager high of 19 at PVP on the slightly late date of 10/2 (DF, KM). One adult and fluffy juv. **Virginia Rail** continued from the summer at BRD through 8/27 (VP, m.ob.), and one of these or a different bird appeared there 11/8-11 (GJ). A single bird was detected at a farm neighboring MKF 9/5, a less likely location for the species (RS). It is unclear how many **Sora** were at BRD from 8/13-10/9 (m.ob. ph.), but 3 were seen together on 8/21 including 2 in juvenile plumage (IB ph.). Another was seen in a horse pasture near Kintnersville 9/14 (*fide* DZ).

An exciting total of 22 shorebird species were seen in the county this fall, including several rarities. Black-bellied Plover was an unusual miss in such a good year. Four **American Golden-Plovers** were a good find at PWT 9/24 (JH), which turned into 5 by day's end (DD ph., MGA ph.). **Semipalmated Plover** numbers were not exceptional, with a high of 11 birds at the drained CCP 8/7 (VP). The county's eighth known **Hudsonian Godwit** was seen by many birders at PWT from 11/12-20 (JH, m.ob. ph.), but unfortunately the bird was missing nearly half of one leg. A much rarer **Ruff**, just the fifth county record, was also at PWT 11/12-17 (DD ph., *eBird expedited review*). This site has hosted Ruff before, and the few birders who could access it on that day enjoyed both the ruff and the godwit in the same view. Good habitat this fall meant good reporting of **Stilt Sandpipers**. The artificial flats created at CCP by draining meant that Stilt Sandpiper numbers rose from one on 8/21 (DD ph.) and 8/23 (MGA ph.) to 3 on 9/6 (KL) and eventually 4 on 9/27 (ShF). An additional bird was at PRN 9/1-3 (AM, KR ph.).

Sanderlings had an excellent year, especially by recent standards. An early adult was at NSP 8/1 (DF), and a juvenile stopped there on 9/6 (DF ph.). Another adult spent part of the day at CCP 8/21 (DD ph., AH ph.), and another juvenile was at a Plumstead Twp. Sod farm 9/9 (IB ph.). **Dunlin** are not too rare during their late migration peak, if given the right habitat. One was at BRD from 10/22-30 (GJ, m.ob.), and one was at PWT 10/28 (DD). **Baird's Sandpipers** are typically found only in years with good exposed mud. This year, one was found in great habitat at CCP 9/5 (MGA ph.) and was joined by a second on 9/6 (BS, PS ph.). A new Baird's was discovered at PRN 9/26-27 (AM ph.) and enjoyed by many. Maximum counts of **Least Sandpipers** were normal for a good mud year, including 142 at CCP 8/26 (AK) and 124 at PRN 8/19 (AM). Most of the same locations attracted several **White-rumped Sandpipers**. Different birds stopped at CCP 8/22 and 10/3 (DF ph.), one was at PVP 9/3-5 (AM, DF), and one was at PWT on 10/8 (DD ph.). Yet another great shorebird find was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at a Plumstead Twp. sod farm 9/19-20 (IB ph.). Unfortunately, the owner at this location is known to be hostile towards birders, so few got to see it. Some folks got their consolation a few weeks later at PWT, when 2 "Buffies" on 9/17 (DF) turned into 4 in the evening (JH, DD ph.). This may be a new all-time *Bucks* high count. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen at eight locations total, with a high of 8 individuals at CCP 9/6 (BS, PS). One that lingered at PWT until 11/20 set a new county late date (KL ph.). Similar to Pectorals, **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were well-reported at seven locations (m.ob. ph.), with a high of 26 at CCP 8/7 (VP). Sometimes missed during poor years, **Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen at four sites. The high of 7 were at CCP 8/21 (AH ph.), while other sightings were of 3 at BRD 8/20 (IB ph., KR), one at PRN 8/22 (AM ph.), and one at PWT 10/8 (DD ph.). **Long-billed Dowitcher** is typically very rare in *Bucks*, with 10 or 11 previous county records. A remarkable 3 birds were found this fall, allowing dozens of birders to study this tricky shorebird. A richly colored adult appeared at CCP 8/20 (MGA ph.), while a very late bird stayed there 11/21-23 (BS, PS ph., WS). In between these, another Long-billed was at PRN 11/5-9 (CR, AM vt.). Single **American Woodcock** were flushed by fortunate observers at BRD 8/21 (GJ), at PVP 11/3 (KI, AM), and in Tinicum Twp. 11/8 (DA). The top count of **Wilson's Snipe** was late in the season at the usual BRD location, with 16 on 11/23 (AM). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** at NSP 11/18 was not much short of the county late date of 11/30 (ED). Peak counts for both yellowlegs species at CCP were almost an even split, with 14 **Greater Yellowlegs** on 8/21 (KL) and 16 **Lesser Yellowlegs** on 8/23 (KI, VM).

Late birds lingered at PWT, with 3 Greater 11/16 (AH) and a Lesser until 11/19 (m.ob.).

Seven gull and three tern species were seen during the period, with no major rarities, with one possible exception—a report of a possible **Black-legged Kittiwake** at PVP 11/21 (KR, *doc submitted*). The bird was distant and disappeared before the observer could get any photo documentation. If accepted by PORC, this would be the first county record. One observer enjoyed watching flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls** totaling a new county high 270 birds migrating past NSP after a cold front on 11/13 (CR). The top estimate of **Laughing Gulls** at PWT was 2500 on 9/25 (DF). One juvenile **Iceland Gull** stopped at PVP 11/25 (TF ph., IB ph.). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers swelled to 160 at NSP 9/19 (IB, KR) and 118 at PVP 11/7 (AM), which is now expected. Although **Caspian Terns** were seen at a widespread seven sites, the high count was just 4 at PVP on 8/26 (AK, PD) and 9/10 (DL, LR ph.). **Black Terns** put in a good showing, however. Four were over the water at PWT 8/22 (DD ph.). Five wheeled around PVP 8/22, although there was a much bigger fish to fry for the birders who came to the park (DF), and one more was at PVP 9/5 (JF). Three **Forster's Terns** at PVP 8/12 were a good find, and the only report of the period (ED).

One **Red-throated Loon** made a stop at NSP 11/29-30, an adult (AH ph., JV ph.). **Common Loon** reports were low, with very few at the main lakes. The high was just 5 at NSP 11/13 (DF). Early birds were at PWT 8/20 (DD ph.) and on the Del. R. in Upper Makefield Twp. 8/4 (JM), although the latter was continuing from the summer. The county's fourth and fifth **Brown Booby** records were at opposite ends of the fall season. The first, an immature found at PVP 8/22-25, stayed long enough for dozens (hundreds?) of birders to chase (IB ph., *eBird expedited review*). The second bird was seen at PWT 11/6-7, floating among gulls (DF, AH ph., DD ph.). No Great Cormorants were reported, despite birds seen in neighboring counties along the Del. R. Several estimates nearing 100 **Double-crested Cormorants** provided the seasonal maxima at PVP in Aug-Sep. (m.ob.).

An **American Bittern** photographed in flight at NSP 8/14 set a new fall early date by almost two weeks (KF ph.). Another bittern was at BRD 10/27, a more typical observation date (GJ). The high count of 25 **Great Egrets** was, not surprisingly, at CCP on 8/27 (RA, RM, RVK). Numbers stayed high all the way through Sep (m.ob.). One **Snowy Egret** showed up at PWT 10/14 (DD ph.). Numbers of Snowies in Bristol rose to 5 by 9/4 (DF). Unfortunately, one of these had a leg injury and died after being taken to a rehabber (DF). **Little Blue Herons** peaked at 5 on the mud at CCP 8/6 (RS), with at least one staying until the end of the month (m.ob.). Other sightings included one at BRD 8/10-15 (GJ), PRN 8/22 (AM), and PVP on 8/23 (JD ph.) as well as 9/4-5 (JF ph.). Three more were at Bristol 8/25, with 2 staying until 9/10 (DF). All of these were immature birds. In other white heron news, chaseable **Cattle Egrets** tend to drum up some excitement. One in Newtown Twp. 10/30 did just that for a day (BS, WS ph.). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are annual summer residents, even if not breeders, at SLP. At least 2 photographed there from 8/16-9/15 were juveniles, however (DD ph., MGA ph.). Up to 2 dispersing or migrant juveniles were also at PVP and PRN 8/24-9/5 (SS ph., AM ph., DF ph.). Another juvenile was photographed at NSP 8/14-23 (AH ph.). One juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was described at Churchville Park 9/24, too (SF). The county's fifth known **White Ibis** was discovered by a birder at Lake Towhee C.P. 8/11 (VM), but apparently seen by park staff even earlier (*fide* KR). This youngster soon moved to larger NSP, where many birders observed it until 8/21 (m.ob., *eBird expedited review*). Surprisingly, another White Ibis was described flying past PVP on the late date of 11/2 (R&PP, *no doc.*). The observers' description matched well with a subadult bird, which would furnish the sixth county record and a first for PVP. **Glossy Ibis** are not nearly as rare, but often random in their occurrence. A yard flyover sighting of 3 in West Rockhill Twp. 8/20 fit the mold for this species (AH), as well as one in Bristol 8/25 (DF ph.). This fall was rather quietly a very good one for herons and other wading birds.

Golden Eagle is always a good bird that birders hope for in late fall and early spring. An immature was described over MKF 11/13 (RS), and an adult over Haycock Twp. 11/29 (JV). One observer was unsure of the identity of a raptor along the Delaware R. in Upper Makefield Twp. 8/23.

After getting excellent photos, however, she later learned that it was a juvenile **Mississippi Kite** (JG ph., *eBird expedited review*)! The bird was in such fresh condition that one can't help but wonder if it was raised somewhere along the river. That said, an early southbound traveler can't be ruled out either. Speaking of migration, a dedicated watch for **Red-shouldered Hawks** at NSP 11/13 yielded 17 heading south (DF). Some observers picked up on **Broad-winged Hawk** movement, especially 9/16 and 9/26 (m.ob.), but the high of 425 over Warrington Twp. 9/16 was not exceptional (VP ph.). The only owl of note was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** detected in Bensalem Twp. 11/1 (DBel).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at 11 locations, at least five of which indicated breeding success (m.ob. ph.). Large numbers of dead and dying ash trees seem to be doing a good turn for this flashy woodpecker. Observers did well in finding single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** at six locations from 8/19-9/20 (m.ob. ph., vr.). These hefty flycatchers appear like clockwork on tall snags in their brief migration window. At least 6 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at five sites, a good total (m.ob. ph.). These included 2 together at PVP 9/13, not a common sight (DF ph.). One in Lower Makefield Twp. 9/18 was chowing down on an invasive adult Spotted Lanternfly (MGa ph.). The one observed carefully in Tinicum Twp. 10/7 was outside their normal migration timing, and a new county late date (DA). Just 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** were reported, both along the Delaware R. at the tail end of breeding season (EB, SH). A calling **Alder Flycatcher** at PVP 9/12 was a good find, especially for the fall season (AM). In fact, there is only one previous fall eBird record in *Bucks* for this challenging empid. **Least Flycatchers**, the most common fall empid, were found at 12 locations across the county, mostly singles (m.ob. ph.). At least 11 **Philadelphia Vireos**, the fall vireo specialty, were well-documented at seven sites (m.ob. ph.). One at PVP 10/6 was only two days shy of the fall late date (MF).

Passing flocks of **Blue Jays** totaling 267 birds on 9/27 furnished a new eBird county high (AM). The peak count of now-regular **Common Ravens** was of 6 soaring at PVP 10/17 (RB). After a complete absence last autumn, **Black-capped Chickadees** staged a good movement into 27 locations this fall (m.ob. ph.). This included a count of 7 over a 2.1mi stretch of SGL157 on 11/8 (DF). Similar to last fall, **Horned Lark** numbers were at six sites but only in single digits (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were already moving in the summer season, signifying a big autumn for the species. Sure enough, these little sprites showed up at 45 sites all over the county (m.ob. ph.). Top counts during their passage included 10 in a yard neighboring PVP 9/3 (WC ph.) and 10 at PVP itself on 9/12 (AM, PH). **Marsh Wrens** were seen at just three locations this fall (m.ob.), with a high of 4 at BRD 9/26 (GJ). Single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were seen at six widespread locations during Sep and early Oct, not a bad turnout for this quiet migrant (m.ob. ph.). The sum of high counts at 19 **Swainson's Thrush** locations was 40 individuals, a good year for them (m.ob. ph.). This fall, a healthy nine locations had double-digit **American Pipit** counts (m.ob. ph.). The highest count of 75 was made in good habitat near MKF 10/26 (RS).

Winter finches returned this year, not in the numbers that they did two years ago but still enough to get birders excited. Four reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** were received, making this the second consecutive two-year irruption after a long absence. Two females at a Nockamixon Twp. feeder 10/30 were the first report (BL). One female stayed for several days 10/31-11/3 in Doylestown Twp, allowing several birders to come and see it (BB ph.). Another female was observed at NSP 11/8-9, most likely the same bird both days (DF ph., JBH). A flock of 10, including many males, was seen for one day in a Hilltown Twp. yard 11/13 (MK). **Purple Finches** appeared by mid-Sep, often indicative of a good flight year (m.ob.). Most were seen in pairs or small groups, but a good count of 28 at NSP 10/29 was bolstered by flyover birds (m.ob. ph., DF). Two longtime birders had an exciting, but brief, look at 11 **Red Crossbills** at NSP 11/8 (DF ph., AM). These crossbills have been seen in just 14 of 51 years since 1972, making them a rare sight. On top of their rare status, this number is most likely a new record high. **Pine Siskins** staged a small movement, with one or 2 detected at nine locations (m.ob. ph.). The high of 3 were seen in a hemlock tree in Upper Makefield Twp. 11/26 (JA).

A flyover **Lapland Longspur** at PRN 11/5 was an excellent pickup,

and a rare bird at any season in *Bucks* (CR). Up to 4 **Snow Buntings** were present at NSP 11/3-23, their favored location in the county (DF ph., RS). Other Snow Buntings at PWT 11/12 (DD ph.) and PRN 11/22 (LH ph.) were more unusual. Yet more reports of single birds came from Tyler S.P. 10/26 (RM) and PVP 11/9 (JS). **Grasshopper Sparrows** surely pass by undetected most autumns, so it was nice to have one well-photographed at BRD 10/12 (GJ ph.). American Tree Sparrow, unfortunately, went unreported. Single **Vesper Sparrows** were at five locations across the lower half of the county, all in mid- to late Oct (m.ob. ph.). **Nelson's Sparrow** was found at BRD from 9/26-10/12, but only one bird each time (KL, m.ob. ph.). On 10/7, the Nelson's reported was described to be of the rarer Atlantic subspecies, being very dull in appearance (AM) Only one was reported from their reliable PRN location on 10/3 (DF ph.), likely due to early mowing by park staff (*fide* AM). However, 2 were found in habitat at PWT 10/8 (DF ph.). More often than not, one or two birders come up with a **Yellow-breasted Chat** during migration, such as the one in New Britain 9/14 (TH). A nice flock of 17 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was enjoyed in Tinicum Twp. 10/18 (DA). For the second autumn in a row, **Rusty Blackbird** reports were low. The high count of just 12 was at SLP 10/29 (SB).

Thirty-two warbler species were reported, a fairly average total. Misses included Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Cerulean, all of which are never easy to get. A beautiful male **Golden-winged Warbler** in New Britain 8/27 was the only fall report (KR). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found at PVP 9/26 (MF) and at SLP 11/29 (DD ph.), the latter probably trying to overwinter. A **Nashville Warbler** in Richland Twp. 11/2 was on the later side for that species (CP ph.). **Connecticut Warblers** were found by eager birders at six locations 9/15-10/6, sometimes with more than one bird likely (m.ob. ph.). **Mourning Warblers**, rarely an easy identification, were seen at MKF 8/27 (RS ph.) and at PVP 9/17 (ED, AD, KF, WC). A female-type **American Redstart** at BRD 10/29 set a new record late date (MF). A good walk in peak season produced 19 redstarts at PWT 9/17, a new eBird county high (DF). Birders have been impressed in recent years at the number of **Cape May Warblers** passing through in late Sep. One observer at PVP counted 10 on 9/18 (JC ph.), and 14 were tallied at PWT 9/17 (DF ph.). Both of these counts are higher than the previous eBird county high. A **Northern Parula** found in a mixed flock in Richland Twp. 11/14 was another new late date, by 12 days (CP). Staying with new record late dates, a **Magnolia Warbler** at Churchville Park 10/22 beat the old record by one day (ML ph.). A bright **Yellow-throated Warbler** at NSP 9/18 was a good fall find (VM).

A **Scarlet Tanager** photographed in a Bensalem Twp. backyard 10/16 also beat the previous fall late date by one day (ST ph.). Surprisingly, this was an adult male that still had a bit of scarlet plumage on the belly. No migrant **Blue Grosbeaks** were found outside of the annual MKF breeding areas, but a high of three locals were at a neighboring farm 8/16 (RS). The last report was on 9/27, possibly a migrant (RS). A breeding bird was still singing at Bristol 8/6, too (DF). **Dickcissels** were well-represented, with at least three credible reports. One was at NSP 9/29 (DF), one was at MKF 10/19 (RS ph.), and one was in Hilltown Twp. 11/6-7 (CR, AM ph.). The last bird was probably a new fall late date, discounting the few winter records.

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Butler County

Locations: Callery (CA), Glade Run Lake (GRL), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Moraine State Park (MSP), North Shore (NS), South Shore (SS), Stoughton Road (SR), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA). Lake Arthur, McDanel's, Nealey's Point, North Shore, South Shore, and Wildlife Observation Area are part of Moraine State Park.

Highlights included the county's third record of **Sabine's Gull** at Lake Arthur, and an unprecedented flurry of shorebird activity at Lake Oneida, including *Butler's* first **Hudsonian Godwit** (see S.A.). We are not shocked when an occasional Chukar or Northern Bobwhite marches around neighborhood yards but surprising was an escaped **Budgerigar** that roamed a neighborhood in Zelenople 10/5 (DK). Finally, a lone male **Evening Grosbeak** appeared at a feeder in Cranberry Twp.

Not often mentioned here but continuing to thrive are **Canada Geese** which stage in the low hundreds at LO, and frequently reach counts of several hundred; this season 375 were there 9/8 (MAK, GK). Five **Mute Swans** were seen at Valencia 10/3 (KP). A few **Tundra Swans** arrived at LA the first week of Nov, and 60 stopped at LO 11/13 (KB). The highest total after that were 50 at LA during a Three Rivers Birding Club outing 11/20 (DBr). Overall, 21 species of ducks were reported. Resident **Wood Ducks** were present in low numbers during Aug, and increased to double digit tallies of up to 53 at the Wildlife Observation Area 9/29 (MAK, GK). The high count of 89 was attained there 10/8 (MC). Numbers gradually diminished thereafter. An early **Blue-winged Teal** arrived at LO 8/3 (MV) and small flocks up to 15 passed through 9/9-10/8. Up to three **Northern Shovelers** appeared at LO 9/3-18 and up to 3 more were seen at LA in Oct. **Gadwall** were more widespread, starting with small numbers through Oct. Later, flocks of 67 and 73 were at WOA 11/14-17 (MAK, GK). **American Wigeons** were present at LA and LO 9/29 through the season, with a fine high count of 36 at WOA 11/3 (DBr). **Mallards** demonstrated the same pattern as Wood Ducks with residents observed in small numbers until migrants began staging at LA in double digit flocks of up to 62 at LA 11/3 (MAK, GK), 84 at LO 11/19 (KB) and 119 at SS 11/23 (MAK, GK). Up to 4 **American Black Ducks** visited LO 10/19-11/29 and up to 3 **Northern Pintails** visited both LA and LO. Counts of **Green-winged Teal** started in low single digits in Sep, increasing to 15 at SGL 9/5 on 10/2 (SG), and the top count among many double digit tallies in Nov reaching 31 at WOA 11/12 (DK). **Redheads**, **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Lesser Scaup** were rather scarce with only a handful of reports for each. Three **Surf Scoters** were at SS 11/9 (DN) and 2 **White-winged Scoters** stopped there 11/23 (MAK, GK). The only **Long-tailed Duck** reported was spotted at Nealey's Point 11/8 (MAK, GK). **Bufflehead** arrived at LA 10/22 (MC), and topped out at 46 at SS 11/14 (MAK, GK) before receding to lower double digit tallies through Nov. The only report of **Common Goldeneye** came from Barkley Road 11/17 (MAK, GK). **Hooded Mergansers** are local breeders in *Butler* so a few seen in Aug were probably resident breeders. Starting in Nov, migrant flocks of up to 29 hoodies were frequently seen through the month. **Common Mergansers**, in double digit numbers up to 67, frequented LO from 10/19 into mid-Nov, and dwindled to single digits after that. Three **Red-breasted Merganser** reports included up to 7 birds at LA 11/20-27. The first **Ruddy Ducks** arrived 10/18 in single digit numbers, and increased to 16 at SS 11/3 (MC) before reaching the high count of 32 there 11/21 (MAK, GK).

Sadly, No Ruffed Grouse were reported. **Wild Turkeys** were reported in low numbers with flocks up to 20 birds but the bulk of observations came from MSP, probably due to the park receiving the most attention from birders. **Pied-billed Grebes** arrived 8/23 and **Horned Grebes** 10/23. Both were present in single digits through Nov. Two well described **Red-necked Grebes** made a short appearance at LA 11/8 (MAK, GK) and several were spotted 11/19-26. **Yellow-billed**

Cuckoos were widespread 8/2-9/24 but **Black-billed Cuckoos** were only reported from three locations. The first report of **Common Nighthawk** was made 8/20; overall the movement was less than notable, with only a handful of reports and a high count of 19 near Callery 9/4 (CT). Four lucky ladies found an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** at MSP 9/14 (DK, et al.). This species has been reported in eight of the past 13 years. Fourteen **American Coots** arrived at LA 10/17 (MC) and their numbers swelled to 65 on 10/22 and up to 74 were tallied there 10/25 (MC). **Sandhill Cranes** were seen regularly at Stoughton Road (MC, et al.) and 3 were seen grazing in a cornfield at Kiester Road 10/15 and 10/22 (OM).

In some years, even a few Semipalmated Plovers or Pectoral Sandpipers are much appreciated in shorebird-challenged *Butler*. This season however was different. Near drought conditions caused Lake Oneida (part of the city of Butler's water supply) to be drawn down to levels not seen in years. Fourteen species graced the exposed mudflats, some remaining for extended periods. Birders were thrilled to see four and five species in one field of view. The following species were seen from the first week of Aug well into Sep, with **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** holding out until Oct, and **Spotted Sandpiper** and both **Yellowlegs** to Nov. **Semipalmated Plover** 8/3-9/27, high of 9 on 9/3 (MV); **Least Sandpiper** 8/3-9/18, high of 36 on 8/22 (KB), **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/4-10/28, high of 9 on 9/18 (KB), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/6-10/10, high of 9 on 8/7 (EW), **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/7-9/7, **Spotted Sandpiper** 8/1-11/6, high of 10 on 8/8 (KB), **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/1-10/15, high of 22 on 8/8 (KB), **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/2-11/10, high of 5 on 9/8 (KB), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/3-11/6, high of 6 on 9/16 (KB).

Decidedly uncommon in *Butler*, **Baird's Sandpiper**, of which there are less than 20 county records, foraged 10/8-11. Also rare, one or 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were present 9/16-10/18. The highlight of the season was the discovery of *Butler's* first **Hudsonian Godwit** 10/2 (KB). The only other *Butler* godwit records of Marbled Godwit: one at Lake Oneida in 1972 and one at Lake Arthur in 2004. In 1976, Lake Oneida hosted 15 species of shorebirds including Stilt Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope. (KB, MC, GK, MAK, OM, MV, EW, et al.)

A wayward **Sabine's Gull**, previously confirmed in *Butler* just twice, was photographed at LA 9/25 (EH). The previous records included one adult and three immatures at LA 9/7-9/1996, associated with Hurricane Fran, and one there 9/12/2008. This season's bird was not associated with a tropical storm. However, two days prior to the sighting, wind gusts reached 20 mph and on 9/25 winds gusted at 30 mph. Perhaps these winds caused this wanderer to seek shelter on LA. **Bonaparte's Gull** arrived at NS 10/20 (MC) and small double digit flocks of up to 35 frequented LA through the season. Low double digit numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** in Aug slowly swelled to 94 on 10/24 (MC) and then increased to 152 at LA 11/8 (MAK, GK), 260 by 11/19 (DK), and topped out at an estimated 500 at SS 11/27 (MC). Up to 10 **Herring Gulls** were seen in Nov. and four tern species stopped at LA a few times in Aug and Sep: Singleton **Caspian Terns** 8/6-9/25, up to 9 **Black Terns** 8/19-22, 2 **Common Terns** 8/31, and lone **Forster's Terns** 8/16-9/8 (m.ob.).

A **Red-throated Loon** was spotted with 17 **Common Loons** at SS 11/17 (MAK, GK). Twenty-nine **Common Loons** were tallied at LA 11/17 (MC). After being seen in very low numbers during the summer season, a nice flock of 54 migrant **Double-crested Cormorants** stopped by LA 9/18 (MC). Single **Great Egrets** were enjoyed at Porter's Cove 9/19 and at McDanel's 10/25 (m.ob.). Warm temperatures kept **Green Herons** here into mid-Oct with a late bird seen 10/22 (OL). A wandering **Black-crowned Night-Heron** stopped at Glade Run Lake 8/12 (TC). Several nice counts of over 100 **Turkey Vultures** were reported with 150 at Davis Hollow 9/23 (MC). Dramatic fishing forays by **Ospreys** continued to entertain many at LA. **Northern Harriers** were scarce but singles were seen at Reichert Road and SR. Seen regularly at LA, LO and SGL 9/5 Glades, a **Bald Eagle** was seen at Big Run Cove, LA 10/25 sporting a band which indicated that the bird originated in Albany, New York in 2003 (MC). Singleton **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at four scattered localities. **Merlin** sightings have increased in recent years with most

reports coming from around LA.

Not often reported, **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were spotted near CA 9/3-6 (CT) and at the Rte. 528 Boat Launch 9/14 (KB). A late **Eastern Phoebe** was at Squaw Valley Woodlands 10/29 (DW). **Common Ravens** are establishing a pattern in which they are seen only a few times during the summer season but show up much more frequently and in every corner of the county in the fall. Perhaps in the summer they retreat to and more remote areas while incubating and fledging young. Despite a few observations of probable family groups, successful nesting in *Butler* has not been confirmed or documented.

Red-breasted Nuthatches showed up as early as 8/31 and one or 2 were seen many times in Sep, but reports dwindled to two in Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were noted at Butler Twp. 9/22 (MAK, GK) and CA 10/1 (CT) and **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen at six locations 9/20-10/23. Up to 4 **American Pipits** were seen associating with the numerous shorebirds at LO 9/18-11/2. *Butler's* portion of an early state-wide movement of **Evening Grosbeaks** that seemed to fizzle out was a male photographed at Cranberry Twp. 11/18 (AHa). The first **Pine Siskin** arrived at Wolf Creek Narrows 10/8 (BB) but only one or 2 were spotted at a handful of locations through the season thereafter. **Fox Sparrows** appeared 10/25 and were noted through mid-Nov, and lone **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at CA, SGL 95, and SS 9/24 to 10/16. An impressive flock of 2000 **Common Grackles** was captured on video at Reichert Road 11/13 (MC).

Twenty-eight species of warblers were reported, including two reports of tardy **Yellow Warblers** 9/17 and 9/20. Thirteen species hung on into Oct. Far outnumbering other reports were **Common Yellowthroats** and **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. For the following list, the date (if shown) indicates last date seen for species lingering into Oct: **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Northern Waterthrush** 10/2, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black and White Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler** 10/9, **Orange-crowned Warbler** 10/23, **Nashville Warbler** 10/8, **Common Yellowthroat** 10/12, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart** 10/3, **Cape May Warbler** 10/9, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia Warbler** 10/2, **Bay-breasted Warbler** 10/9, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/10, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Palm Warbler** 10/23, **Pine Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** present 8/28 through the season, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/12, **Canada Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**. Very interesting was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** far from its ordinary haunts, photographed on concrete in suburban Cranberry Twp. 8/26 after crashing into a window. Happily, the bird revived and flew off (AHa).

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Cambria County

Locations: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Johnstown Flood Memorial (JFM), SGL 108 Dugans Marsh (DM).

Two **Black Vultures** soared over the JFM 9/14 (MK), and a **Golden Eagle** was seen at PG 11/26 (JC). Both **Wilson's Snipe** and **Pine Siskin** were reported at PH 9/1 (MS). **Evening Grosbeak** was reported at a private residence 11/2 and 11/24 (eBird). There were reportedly at least 100 **Bobolinks** migrating though the area of DM 8/20 (PJF). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at PG 10/10 (JC).

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Cameron County

Locations: Dents Run (DR), Emporium (EM), Mason Hill (MH), Sterling Run (SR), Sterling Run Mines (SRM), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP).

There were 130 species found this season. Twenty-five **Tundra Swans** were found at SRM 11/26 (AS). Nine **Mallards**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 27 **Buffleheads**, and 7 **Hooded Mergansers** were at SSP 11/20 (AS). Three **Caspian Terns** were at SSP 9/11 (SS). A **Northern Harrier** was at SRM 10/8 (AS). A rare **Short-eared Owl** was found at SRM 11/22 (GJ).

A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at EM 11/9 (CB). Two **Horned Larks** were at SRM 11/23 (AS). Two **Winter Wrens** were at MH 10/29 (AS). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and six **Swainson's Thrush** were seen at DR 9/27 (CW). Twenty-eight **American Pipits** were at SSP 11/20 (AS). Twenty-two **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen at SR 11/3 (MJ). A single **Pine Siskin** was at SR 11/16 (GJ). A rare **Nelson's Sparrow** was found at SSP 10/16 (JG). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at SRM 10/15 (JG), and 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at SRM 10/22 (AS). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at SR 11/24 (BH).

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Carbon County

Locations: Beltsville State Park (BSP), Hickory Run State Park (HRSP), Lehigh Gap N.C. (LGNC), Mauch Chunk Lake (MCL), Penn Forest Reservoir (PFR), Perryville Dam (PD), Phiefer's Ice Dam Pk. (PIDP), Strohl's Valley Rd. (SVRD), Wild Creek Reservoir (WCR).

With a mild fall, BSP waterfowl were slow to arrive at BSP. Highlights from the lake were: 5 **Brant** 10/3 (JHor), 5 **Northern Shovelers** 10/5 (RB) were heard calling as they flew over Pine Run Cove, 4 **White-winged Scoters** 10/3 (JHor), 2 **Black Scoters** 10/3 (JG), 25 **Buffleheads** 11/13 (DC), up to 15 **Common Mergansers** 8/9-11/13 (m.ob.), a **Common Loon** 10/3 (JG), and up to 6 **Double-crested Cormorants** to 10/2 (m.ob.). A **Lesser Scaup** male was the highlight at MCL 9/3 (BE). At PD, reports included approximately 185 **Canada Geese** 10/25 (PN), one **Wood Duck** 9/18 (PN), an **American Wigeon** 10/13 (PN), 2 **American Black Ducks** 10/25 (PN), 65 **Mallards** 10/23 (PN), 4 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/3 (BW), and one **Double-crested Cormorant** 8/8 (PN). PFR waterfowl included 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** 10/23 (RR), one **American Wigeon** 10/25 (PN), A **Pied-billed Grebe** showed up WCR 8/12 (PN).

A high count of 25 **Mourning Doves** was made at BSP 8/21 (BW). Ten **Common Nighthawks** were seen at HRSP 9/4 (RBru), and 4 were at WCR 8/19 (PN). Up to 4 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were at BSP through 10/21 (JG, BW), and 4 **Wild Turkeys** were at SVRD 9/28 (PN). A **Great Egret** was seen at PIDL 8/12 (PN) and multiple sightings of single **Green Herons** were made as late as 10/3 thru the area (m.ob.).

Two **Ospreys** were at PD 8/19 (PN) and singles were found at BSP, PD, and MCL. **Bald Eagles** at many sites numbered up to 3; last sighting was 11/28 at SVRD. One or 2 **Northern Harriers** were spotted at BSP 10/5-9 (JH, BW). A single **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed up to 10/9 at BSP (m.ob.). Only one **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted, at WCR 8/26 (PN). Seven **Broad-winged Hawks** at MCLP 9/18 (TB) were just about on schedule.

One late **Killdeer** was at SVRD 10/15 (RR). Last date for **Spotted Sandpiper** at BSP was 10/5 (RR, JHor). Two **Least Sandpipers** were flushed along Trinity Gorge Tr., BSP 10/6 (RB). Most exciting was a **Willet** at BSP on a rainy morning 8/22 (RR), possibly a first for *Carbon*. A **Herring Gull** was at WCR 8/19 (PN). Three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were counted at BSP 10/9 (BW), and 28 **Northern Flickers**, perhaps staging to migrate, were at BSP 10/5 (RB). Three **American Kestrels** were at BSP 10/5 (JHor) with reports of other singles made through 10/25 at various locations (m.ob.). Two **Merlins** were sighted at BSP 10/16 (BW) and single birds were sighted as late as 11/28

at SVRD (PN). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were seen at both BSP and LGNC 10/3-9 (JHor, AM, RR).

An **Eastern Phoebe** at PFR 10/22 (PN) was the last. Last date for **Red-eyed Vireo** was 10/16 at BSP (BW). Approximately 130 noisy **Blue Jays** were tallied 10/5 at BSP (RR), and 35 **Fish Crows** at the day use area of BSP 8/24 (RB) was surely a nice flock to see. **Purple Martin** reports included 8 at the wildlife management area 8/22 (PN, RR) and 6 at BSP 8/11 (TS). Up to 35 **Tree Swallows** were seen 10/3 (JHor) among other sightings from 8/18-10/5 (m.ob.). all at BSP. Top number of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was 5 at WCR 8/23 (PN). Eight **Cliff Swallows** were counted at BSP 8/18 (RR) and 60 **Barn Swallows** were noted 8/23 at BSP (PN).

Ten **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were sighted at BSP 10/9 (BW). Three **Eastern Bluebirds** 8/21 (BW) and 6 8/24 (RR) were noted at BSP. Along the Pine Run Cove Trail a single **Gray-checked Thrush** was noted 10/5 (RB), and one **Swainson's Thrush** was at HRSP 10/12 (TB). **Hermit Thrushes** were sighted 8/13-10/25 at various locations (m.ob.). Up to 14 **Gray Catbirds** were counted at once at BSP (BW), where they were present 8/21-10/16. A **Brown Thrasher** was at BSP 10/3 (JHor), too. Single **Northern Mockingbirds** were at PD 10/16, BSP 10/21, and SVRD 10/23.

High count of **Chipping Sparrows** was 20 at HRSP 9/4 (RBr). A **Field Sparrow** was at BSP 10/9 (BW). Last **Savannah Sparrow** was at BSP 10/16 (BW), following one at PD 10/9 (BW). A **Fox Sparrow** appeared at BSP 11/13 (DC). Up to 24 **Song Sparrows** were counted at BSP 10/16 (BW). Last sighting for **Lincoln's Sparrow** was 10/16 at PD (BW). **White-throated Sparrows** are common in the fall, but a count of 150 at BSP 10/16 (BW) was noteworthy. Earliest sighting of **White-crowned Sparrow** was 10/2 at BSP (BE). One **Rusty Blackbird** was at BSP 9/29 (m.ob.).

Warbler migration seemed a little later than usual. Sightings included: **Tennessee Warbler** at BSP 9/29 (RR), **Connecticut Warbler** at BSP 10/3 (JHor), **Common Yellowthroat** at BSP 10/9 (BW), **Cape May Warbler** at BSP 10/5 (m.ob.), **Northern Parula** at BSP 10/9 (BW), 8 **Blackpoll Warblers** through 10/12 at HRSP (TH), and 4 **Palm Warblers** at BSP 10/16 (JHor) and 3 at PD 10/16 (BW). Last **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 6 at PD 10/16 (BW). A **Wilson's Warbler** was noted at BSP 9/17 (BW).

A single **Scarlet Tanager** was still at BSP 10/5 (RB). A **Blue Grosbeak** was photographed at LGNC 8/9 (RR). Three **Indigo Buntings** were around until about 10/5 at BSP (JHor).

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Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Colyer Lake (COL), Dreibelbis Birding Area—formerly known as Julian Wetlands (JUL), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Soaring Eagle Wetland—formerly Gov. Tom Ridge Wildlife Preserve (GTRWP), State College (STCOL), Toftrees pond and game lands (TOF).

The following species were reported at five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Warbling Vireo**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Snow Bunting**. Information for this report were obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A single **Snow Goose** was spotted 11/10 near Coburn (JG, LS, DR). An accidental immature **Trumpeter Swan** was observed 11/23-29 at BESP (BS, JP, RL). There have been fewer than 10 observations of this species, all but one since 2014. As many as 3 casually occurring

Red-necked Grebes were present at BESP 10/22-11/1 (MR, et al.).

Two *Selaphorus* hummingbirds visited feeders in Spring Mills and Boalsburg. The Spring Mills bird appeared sometime early in Oct. and was observed 10/6-8 (DR, JG). Unfortunately, the observers were unable to make an exact identification, leaving it as **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird**. The Boalsburg bird was also initially identified as a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird**; however, it was trapped and positively identified as a **Rufous Hummingbird**. It was present at feeder 10/16-22 (TP, RF, CoE). Unlike the Spring Mills bird, this one had a small gorget. These birds represented the third and fourth records for *Centre*. The first two were **Rufous Hummingbirds**, one in Port Matilda in 2003 and the other in Lemont in 2013.

A **Virginia Rail** was present at JUL 8/4-14 (NV, JC). Five **American Avocets** in non-breeding plumage became the 10th observation of this species for *Centre* when they stopped at BESP 9/22 (AF, et al.). All but one of the observations of this accidentally occurring species have been since 2007. An **American Golden-Plover** was heard during a Nocturnal Flight Count in STCOL 10/19. Another NFC in STCOL 9/28 yielded the late migration of a casually occurring **Upland Sandpiper** (both JG).

A single imm. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported at BESP 9/11-15 (CE, et al.). This was the sixth record for the species, with all records occurring since 2014, and all from BESP. Three **Common Terns**, 2 adults and one juv., were observed at BESP 9/22.

At least 2 **Red-throated Loons** were heard on a foggy 11/11 at BESP (DH). An NFC in STCOL 8/12 picked up a casually occurring **Least Bittern** as it flew by in the night (JG). As many as 2 **Great Egrets** were spotted at BESP 8/1-26 (BS, SB), and another was there 11/22-24 (RL, et al.). One was reported 8/14-9/8 at TOF (MM, et al.). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was recorded 8/16 at a STCOL NFC station (JG). Many birders took in the sight of a juv. **Yellow-crowned Night-heron** in Port Matilda 10/24-25 (MN, et al.). They are casually occurring (B&G, 2010).

A large flight of **Merlins**, estimated at about 70 birds, was reported at the Bald Eagle Mtn. hawk watch 10/15 (KS *vide* NiB).

A few rare migrating **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were present, including one perched on top of a tree at SCO 8/26 (JP) and another seen there 9/15 (SH). A third bird was spotted 9/4 at Cedar Hill (RF). **Marsh Wrens** were also present, with single birds being reported singing at Curtin Wetland 10/1 (JG) and another at the Haugh Family Preserve 10/5-7 (JK, et al.). Another was spotted "away from water" at ARBOR 10/14 (JG), and near a stream on farmland near Woodward 10/22 (JP). **Evening Grosbeaks** were widely reported throughout *Centre* 10/23-11/25, and several **Red Crossbills** were seen at SCO 11/9-10 (BF, JP). A rare **Lapland Longspur** was observed in Centre Hall 11/11 (JK). Two rare sparrows were seen at the Haugh Family Preserve. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was present 10/14-16 (CE, JP, NV), and a casually occurring **Nelson's Sparrow** was reported 10/5 (SB, RF). Birders encountered 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats**, one heard near Spring Mills 8/28 (DR) and another seen in Milesburg 9/4 (RL). On 8/18 at BESP, 13 **Bobolinks** were reported, and a single bird flew over BMSP 8/21 (both JG). One was observed in Bellefonte 8/24 (NK), and another was present 9/26 in STCOL (JG).

Five rare migrating warbler species were noted. Single **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted at three locations: 8/1-6 off SR 3025 (MN), 8/2 at GTRWP (MB), and 8/3 on Sinking Creek, where one was observed foraging on an exposed sandbar (LR). **Northern Waterthrushes** were present at many locations. Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were identified at SCO 9/29 (JB), and one was spotted at SGL 333 on 9/30 (NiB). Single **Connecticut Warblers** were present at four locations. One was "hanging out with a thrasher, phoebe, and a catbird" at COL 9/6 (DR). Another was spotted near Spring Mills 9/13 (JG, LS, DR), and birders found a third in the Moshannon SF 9/25 (PW, JP, KO). The last report was made 10/1 from Curtin Wetlands, where a single bird was found in an alder thicket (JG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was spotted 8/26 at Scotia (JP). This species is rarely seen during migration (B&G, 2010).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), ChesLen Preserve (CLP), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), Downingtown (DOW), Exton Park (EP), Glenville Farm Pond GFP, Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GH), Great Marsh (GM), Homestead Road (HR), Longwood Gardens-Abbondi Property (LG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Mosquito Lane Retention Pond (MLRP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), State Game Lands 43 (SGL43), Struble Lake (SL), Upper Uwchlan Township-Rte 100 WTP (UUT), Westtown Lake (WL), West Vincent Twp. Sewage Pond (WVT).

Although the captivating sight of long skeins of white geese overhead had not begun by the end of Nov, a single **Snow Goose** was at CL 11/6 (LL), followed by a few scattered reports of small numbers, including 12 over Frazer 11/19 (TF). A group of five birders reported the season's only **Greater White-fronted Goose** at LG 11/14 (AG, et al.). Reports of **Cackling Goose** have become regular, even from Walmart! A single bird was photographed at the retention pond there 11/18 (SJ). A juv. **Trumpeter Swan** reported from MCSP 11/20 (LL, m.ob.) continued through the end of the period; that report was followed by a pair of adult birds at CL 11/21 (RR, LL). **Tundra Swans** moved through the area 11/19, with a high count of 49 over MCSP (JK, AR). Aug brought the first reports of both teal species, with 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at Glenmore WTP 8/14 (RG) and a single **Green-winged Teal** at Eagleview Pond also 8/14 (RG). By mid-Nov, Blue-winged Teal had moved on, but Green-winged Teal continued throughout the county. **Northern Pintail** were hard to come by with reports of single birds from three locations and a high and earliest report of 3 at CL 9/15 (LL). An early **Redhead** was reported from LG 11/7 (AG, et al.), followed by 2 at EP 11/17 and 2 at CR 11/22. Commonly regarded as one of the latest ducks to pass through the state, there were no reports of Canvasback. Presenting birders with one of the season's trickier identification challenges, both scaup species were reported by the end of Oct, with a single **Greater Scaup** at WVT 10/26 (JK, AR), and 9 **Lesser Scaup** at CL (LL, m.ob.). All three scoter species visited the county: a single **Surf Scoter** was found amongst a flock of **Ruddy Duck** at CL 10/16 (LL) and a single **White-winged Scoter** was at SL 11/3 (LL). Since most scoter sightings in the fall are of female birds, a adult male **Black Scoter** at MCSP 11/12 (LLy) was quite the bird. It remained to 11/14, at times coming very close to shore. **Horned Grebe** reports are generally few, and this season was no different. A single bird was reported from SL 11/7 (LLy) and additional, sporadic reports of one or 2 birds continued through 11/24. One was at MC 11/9 (GR).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was gone by mid-Oct. Single south-bound **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported 3 times: one at CLP 8/26 (MN), one at BCP 8/31 (GT), and one seen from the deck of a private residence 9/21, when the bird landed in a nearby tree during a beautiful fall morning (DH). **Common Nighthawk** passes through the region from mid-Aug through Sep, with a few stragglers into Oct. This season there were widespread reports, but no location sees numbers of migrating birds like BCP, where, this year, a high of 221 was reported 8/31 (LL, WB).

The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at the end of Oct. At a Coatesville area private residence, an adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** was banded 10/24; this bird was first observed on 9/21 and stayed through 11/12. Unfortunately, visitation could not be arranged.

Up to 3 **Virginia Rails** were heard grunting at CLP 8/16-10/14, and one or 2 were likewise heard at GM 9/26, 9/27 (m.ob.). The only visual

report came from an unlikely source, a nocturnal vigil held 10/15 (RG, ZB). Similarly, **Sora** was reported at GM 9/28 (JK, m.ob.) and another single bird was at CLP 10/5 (RG) and 10/8. A surprising and unusual report came from CL: an immature **Common Gallinule** first observed 10/27 (LL, m.ob.) which stayed to 11/1, after making its way onto many an eBird list. This was the first fall season record for **Chester**. CL was also the place to find **American Coot**. Starting with a single bird 10/11 (RR, LL) as many as 13 were reported through the fall season.

In seasons where there are no major reservoir drawdowns, one is most likely to find **American Golden-Plover** in this region the grasslands of **Lancaster**. That was not the case 9/11, when a flyover bird was heard north of Honey Brook (RG, MG), then relocated on the ground (ph. WW, NW). A **Semipalmated Plover** spent part of the day 8/14 at MLRP (RG, MG), a previously unknown but readily accessible spot. Despite its low profile, this location hosted quite a few species of shorebirds. Another well-known location for shorebirds is GFP, where the season's first **Stilt Sandpiper** was found 8/30 (RG, MG). Through 10/9, up to three birds were reported there. Also, at GFP were 6 **White-rumped Sandpiper**, nicely photographed 10/9 (MH, AW). Single birds were also at MLRP on several days. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were first reported from GFP 8/4 (JD); the max of 14 birds was there 9/23, and lower numbers were present through 10/9. Pectoral sandpiper was found in several locations, all along Rte. 41 between Cochranville and West Grove. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** could be found in these same places. Even a **Western Sandpiper**, always a nice find, was reported at MLRP 8/6 (CH), and again on 9/12 (MH). Several additional sightings, likely the same bird, were made near Walmoore Holsteins, just up the road, a few days earlier. Also at Walmoore Holsteins were 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 8/20 (RG). At MLRP a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found 8/4 (RG) and 8/5; on the same day there was a report from SECCRA (PD), not far away so perhaps it the same bird. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was found at Ellis Woods Park 8/27 (EH, m.ob.). Quite the find was not one but 5 **Red-necked Phalaropes** at CL 10/2 (LL).

Bonaparte's Gull was recorded at the three most productive bodies of **Chester** waters. First was a single at MCSP (BB), one or 2 were at CL 11/19-11/20 (LL, RR), a flock of 20, the max for the season, was at MCSP 11/21 (RG), and one was at SL 11/24 and 11/27. Sandwiched in between the Susquehanna R. and Delaware R., any tern in **Chester** is a satisfying sighting. CL was the place for terns this season, with all of the following from there: a high count of 4 **Caspian Tern** was made on both 8/17 and 8/27 (RR) and 2 **Forster's Tern** 10/17 (LL).

A **Red-throated Loon** was SL 11/30 (LL), and numerous **Common Loons** were noted at MCSP throughout November, with a high count of 4. **Little Blue Heron** at GFP has become an annual occurrence, this year from 8/4-9/12 (m.ob.). While hitting the "little white ball", a golfing birder found a "little white bird" (another Little Blue) at Ingleside G.C. 9/10 (JS). A third immature was at MCSP 9/2 (CK). The only **Black-crowned Night-Heron** spent a day at CL 10/7 (LL). Also at CL was a **Glossy Ibis** 8/18 (BQ, MH); this immature was more easily viewed from Birdell Rd. and stayed until 9/19.

During all-day vigils at CL, a **Golden Eagle** was noted 10/23, 10/26, 10/27, and 11/14 (LL). In an East Fallowfield backyard, an eagle was photographed 10/31. **Northern Harrier** sightings were widespread, with one or 2 birds reported throughout the period, mostly in mid-Oct. A very interesting report was submitted from MCSP 11/21 (RG): a female **Cooper's Hawk** captured a gray squirrel and dragged it into the water, where it submerged the critter for a full 5 minutes to ensure its demise! **Broad-winged Hawk** migration peaked during the middle of Sep, with widespread reports of several birds each and a few of flights of up to 1000 birds. A previously referenced nocturnal vigil also produced a rare bird for **Chester**: **Barn Owl**. Two different birds were heard screeching, with supporting VAM (Visual Active Migration) observation on the night of 10/15 (ZB, RG). RFBS is known for its **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding operation. This season, it was the only source of saw-when reports. From 10/18-11/18, approximately 20 were heard or banded. One captured and banded 11/8 was wearing a tag showing that it has been banded in Ontario, Canada. **Long-eared Owl** was reported and photographed north of Malvern 11/22. Another sighting, presumably from the same location, was documented 11/25. Another credible report was

made (outside of eBird) of one in *Chester* 11/19, perhaps the same bird again.

The long-continuing **Red-headed Woodpecker** along Beaver Dam Rd was reliable through the season. The Schuylkill River Trail near Phoenixville is reliable for **Peregrine Falcon**, where they are known to nest.

Sought-after migrating flycatchers were reported and ph. in typical numbers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at 5 different locations, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** from 6, with an unusual 2 birds being reported together at a home in East Fallowfield on 8/21 (MN) and another 2 birds banded at RFBS on 9/8 (SJ). **Least Flycatcher** sightings were widespread, from 15 different locations. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was a bit late at Hibernia Count Park on 10/21 (RR), foraging with a small mixed flock, as was a **Red-eyed Vireo** at CLP on 10/22 (EM, KM). All **Philadelphia Vireo** sightings occurred during September, excluding one at BCP on 8/28 (LL).

Black-capped Chickadee reports began mid-Oct with one or 2 birds at feeders and elsewhere. A marginally late **Bank Swallow** was at GM 9/27 (JK, et al.), representing a location first for the species. Despite summer observations that seemed to indicate nesting would be attempted, there were no early fall reports for Cliff Swallow. Perhaps they migrated early. However, a "pale-rumped swallow" was seen flying at Okehocking Preserve 9/26 (RG, MG) and was reported as Cliff/Cave. It was a good year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which began showing up by mid-Aug and increasing in Sep. A particularly good place for them was CR, where a high count of 7 was made 11/27 (LL). A **Sedge Wren** was photographed at East Coventry Nature Preserve 9/26 (EH). The area where it was found had been "rotary-mowed" only for several years, leading to improved habitat. Another was at Pickering Preserve 10/18 (JG, m.ob.). **Marsh Wren** is expected and was first reported at CLP 10/5 (RG, m.ob.), when 4 were present. They remained to 10/25, with up to 3 reported between those dates. An "Ornithotherapy" event based on Marsh Wren occurred 10/9 (HM). Additional sightings of single birds were made at EP 10/9 (ph. CH) and Malvern Hunt 10/11 (RG). Yet another was at Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve 10/16 (ph. PW, JW). Only a single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported in the field, that 10/8 at CL (LL). Via nocturnal NFC counting, at a residence near West Chester, 10 were identified 9/16. At RFBS 9/20-27, 6 birds were caught and banded. The highest total for **American Pipit** was reported from HR 10/30 (RG, AW, MH); sightings continued there through the period. A nice flock of 18 was at Wolf's Hollow C.P. 11/22 (JM).

Evening Grosbeak reports were widespread across the state. In *Chester*, reports were limited to two. One was heard and seen at a residence near DOW 11/5 (ZB), and another heard only bird over Malvern Hunt WTP 11/13 (RG). Good numbers of **Purple Finch** showed up in mid-Sep, with a high count 20 at CL 10/28 (LL). Highlighting the value of learning bird calls, all 3 reports of **Red Crossbill** this season were heard-only, fly-over birds: one at LG 11/21 (AG, et al.), one at CL 11/21 (LL), and one at CR 11/27 (LL). By mid-Oct, **Pine Siskin** showed up in disappointingly small numbers, with already meager sightings declining by Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow is very difficult to find once singing has stopped; nonetheless, single birds were reported south of Cochranville 8/9, 8/18, and 8/20 (RG, MG). Often, **Clay-colored Sparrow** are found associating with **Chipping Sparrow**, when found at all. One was photographed at Warwick C.P. 11/3 (ST) by itself, a great find indeed. *Chester* is one of the few counties in Pennsylvania in which **Vesper Sparrow** is not currently known to nest. This fall, single birds were found at six locations 10/10-11/3.

Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from a nocturnal NFC, photographed 9/16 (RG), and from a residence near Malvern 9/19 (WL). A late chat along the CL shoreline 10/12 (RR) was a surprise. An impressive estimate of 200 **Bobolink** was made south of Cochranville along Sawmill Rd. 8/20 (RG, MG); this followed an estimate of 100 birds at the same location 8/18. **Rusty Blackbird** was found in multiple locations, with a high count of 18 at MCSP 11/22 (BB).

Four reports of **Golder-winged Warbler** were bookended by the first at Cedar Hollow Preserve 8/23 (JG), and the last at Harmony Hill N.A. 9/21 (ph. JD). At RFBS, a rare **Brewster's Warbler** was described

9/1 (RG). **Connecticut Warbler** was seen frequently. Starting with a one 8/27 at Waterloo Mills Preserve (KF), about 25 different individuals were reported from seven locations. At RFBS, 5 birds were fitted with a band, all on different days, and all in Sep, and an amazing 17 were reported from CLP, with an astonishing 8 birds 9/28 alone (RG, m.ob.). The last report was made at a private residence 10/15 (ZB). A decent showing was made by another *Orporonis*, **Mourning Warbler**, with the first bird getting a band at BCT 8/31. Three birds were reported from RFBS, with one banded on 9/15. Other reports were made 9/2 and 9/9, and the last was at Waterloo Mills Preserve 10/10 (KF). Providing just the fourth fall record in the past 10 years, a **Kentucky Warbler** was photographed at a private residence in East Fallowfield 9/6 and 9/7 (MN). A **Northern Parula** in the second week of Nov was a bit late, as was a **Yellow Warbler** in the third week of Oct. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in a mixed flock at Hibernia County Park 9/15 (DB). The birds were foraging insects that were feeding on beech nut sap.

This fall featured not one, but two first county records for *Chester*. One might be thought of as a candidate for rarity seen for the shortest duration of time: a striking male **Bullock's Oriole** at a feeder near Nottingham (ph. DQ). It stayed for just five minutes before flying off south toward Maryland, and was not seen again. A slightly longer-staying bird, though itself for only one day, was *Chester's* first **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Wilson Farm Park 9/13 (LP, m.ob.). It was extensively photographed. Initially feeding by itself, it eventually joined a mixed flock for a time. The last observation was made at 14:37 and it was not seen again.

Another great find was a female-type **Painted Bunting** at Longview, south of Coatesville 11/16 (JS). Video was made of the bird, which could not be relocated on subsequent searches. This sighting was first for *Chester* for the fall season. Also at Longview was a **Dickcissel** 10/8 (JS). It was heard, but not well seen, and ultimately a comprehensive call review of several possible species was conducted before settling on the identification. Others included one near DOW by NFC 10/15 (ZB, RG), one SL 10/21 (RG), and one nicely photographed at Malvern Hunt WTP 10/22 (JG).

Observers: **Rick Robinson, 114 Mallard Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320, (610-639-0114), birder18@verizon.net**, Josh Auld, Zach Baer, Dorothy Bedford, Debbie Beer, Anne Bekker, Claire Binkley, Adrian Binns, Walt Blackwell, Barry Blust, Bel Broadley, Sharon Burke, Sara Busch, Brian Byrnes, Richard Candler, Kayann Cassidy, Brian Chilcote, Evan Coates, Aaron Coolman, Angela Cote, Steve Cottrell, Mike Coulter, John Daniel, Hank Davis, Mike DeFina, Joey Della Penna (JDP), Angela Detweiler, Paul Dietz, Ed Edge, Andy Ednie, Jason Fehon, Rob Fergus, Tony Fernandez, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford, Steve Fordyce, Kevin Fryberger, Melissa Gallardy (MeG), Ross Gallardy, Michael Gardner, Steve Gautier, Peter Gibb, Josh Graham, Mike Grubb, Al Guarente, Frank Haas, Michael Halley, Jeff Hapeman, Denice Hardtmann, Michael Hartshorne, Katie Henderson, W.Brian Henderson (WBH), Marylyn Henry, Jason Horn, Lou Horwitz, Eric Hughes, Chad Hutchinson, Luc and Theresa Jacobs, Kristin Johnson, Mark Johnson, Lou Jacobs, Sheryl Johnson, Joanne Karkosak, Dave Karkosak, Darlene Kearny, Jeff Kenney, Rick Keyser, Carol Kuniholm, Andrew Larson, Larry Lewis, William Lucas, Liz Lyng (LLy), Christian Long, Sandy Lockerman, Kelly Loux, Dave Luning, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Ellie McDonald, Kate McDonald, David McLaughlin, Doris McGovern, Michael McGraw, John McNamara, Joe Meloney, John Mercer, Holly Merker, Patrick Millar, Zach Millen, Jim Moffet, Rob Murray, Michael Niven, Kelly Nunn, Ellen Nunn, Liz Pettet, Brian Quindlen, Denis Quinn, Brian Raicich, Ashley Rathman, Charlie Reese, George Rementer, Laura Reilly, Angela Romanczuk, Ian Russel, Christian Scheibe, Joe Sebastiani, Win Shafer, Kathy Shattuck, Julia Sheehan, Vincent Smith, Tim Sterrett, Ian Stewart, Scott Stollery, Brian Storey, Wendy Sykora, George Tallman, David Taylor, Sandy Thomas, Gerry Tieg, Andrew Trumpp, Tim Uhler, Andy Urquhart, Patty VanLandeghen, Patricia Verbosky, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Elizabeth Walshe, Liling Warren, John Werth, Patty Werth, Ann Williams.

Clarion County

Locations: Beaver Creek Nature Area (BC), Clarion (CL), Cook Forest (CF), Cullsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Lucinda (LU), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT).

A high number of 211 **Tundra Swans** set down on KL as weather turned 11/12 (JH). **Blue-winged Teal** were scarce with just one reported at KL 10/2, and the same day 2 **White-winged Scoters** were also present, regular but infrequent at this location (ES). Four **Northern Pintails** were found there 10/3 (ES), and just one **Canvasback** was present 11/7 (AK, SK).

Migrating **Common Nighthawks** were seen near CV, with 4 flying over the evening of 8/30 and 27 on 9/5 (DD, CW). One was seen late in migration near NB 9/21 (ES). For the sixth year, a dedicated local team conducted a nighthawk migration watch along the Clarion River at Millcreek, with a total of 672 birds counted 8/14-9/7, the second highest yearly total (MH, LT). Peak nights were 8/22 with 70 birds, 8/27 with 229, 9/1 with 43 and 9/2 with 85 (m.ob.).

Clarion has limited habitat for shorebirds, but with water level changes at KL and increased observers, there were more reports this year for various species. The first was **Least Sandpiper**, with 5-6 present at KL 8/16-24, as well as 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** seen there 8/24 (ES). **Wilson's Snipe** were also seen at KL: one 8/31 (CW) and one 10/3 (ES). Two were also found at BC 10/28 (MS, JT) and 3 were seen 11/4 (MS). A single bird was reported at SGL 72 on 10/28 (MS, JT). **Solitary Sandpiper** was first reported at KL, where 2-5 were recorded 8/16-8/31 (KB, ES, CW) and then 2 late birds were found 10/3 (ES). One was also present at Millcreek 8/29 (MH, LT, CW), and one was at SGL 63 on 9/11 (MS). **Greater Yellowlegs** were first noted with a single bird at KL 8/27 (KB), and then 2 were at NB 9/14 (ES). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at KL, with one 8/16 and 5 on 8/24 (ES). Two were present there late into migration 10/22 (DS). An **American Bittern**, an infrequent visitor, was photographed at BC rather late into migration 10/28 (MS, JT).

Golden Eagle, another uncommonly reported species, was seen being harassed by a raven near CV during peak migration 10/29 (CW). **Northern Harrier** sightings were back down this season, with reports from just three locations. One was near Limestone 10/1 (ES), one was at CV 10/13 (CW), and at MZ reports included one 10/5 (DF, BG) and 2 10/17 and 11/5 (JH, JK, LP, AR). **Rough-legged Hawks** were found back at their new stronghold in the northern part of Clarion, with one near LU 11/12 and 11/19, as well as one at a separate location 11/26 (ES). There was just one **Short-eared Owl** report, a bird seen at dusk at MZ 11/5 (JK, LP, AR). The least-reported woodpecker is **Red-headed Woodpecker**; a hatch-year was found near NB 10/23 (ES). In CL, where they are presumed nesting for the past several years, 2 **Merlins** were seen flying together and calling 8/15, and single birds were seen 9/12 and 9/21 (ES). One was also reported in NB 9/14 (ES).

Several **Philadelphia Vireos** were noted this season: one each at BC 9/12 (ES), at CV 9/15 (CW) and in CL 9/30 (TS). **Horned Larks** have decreased over time, so a flock of 28 in a cut corn field near CV was a nice find 10/29 (CW), as well as one or 2 birds near LU 11/3 and 11/26 (ES). **Purple Martins** were only noted at KL, with 6 birds 8/6, a single 8/16, and 11 on 8/19 (ES).

Only one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen for the season, near CV 9/23 (CW), but **Swainson's Thrush** showed increased reporting. One to 2 birds were found at five locations from 9/14-9/30, their normal migration period (KB, ES, TS, CW). Nine nocturnal flight call counts (predominantly focused on thrushes) were done again at a farm near CV, from 8/31 through 9/30 (CW). All were conducted in predawn hours after nights with predicted strong migration, generally calm, clear, and often with fog which helps listening conditions. **Veery** was featured as the early migrants, as well as **Wood Thrush** on the first morning of 8/31. The first Swainson's Thrushes were detected 9/2 when 95 calls were heard over 20 minutes. Call numbers started to increase 9/9 with approximately 250 calls over 25 minutes, a mix of Veery, Swainson's and Wood Thrush. Mid-September is usually peak migration and this was borne out by a heavy flight the morning of 9/14, when approximately 1125 calls were

heard over 24 minutes. Gray-cheeked thrushes were first detected with at least eight calls, several Veery as their migration approached its conclusion, and most of the rest were 2:1 Swainson's and Wood Thrush. The next day 9/15 was also a heavy flight with approximately 1450 calls over about 50 minutes, including still several Veery, at least 20 Gray-cheeked, and the rest about 3:1 Swainson's and Wood Thrush. The last Veery was heard 9/16 though no exact numbers were counted. Late in the month 636 calls were counted over 30 minutes 9/29, with the highest season total of Gray-cheeked at approximately 30 calls, and much of the rest was Swainson's with much decreased numbers of Wood Thrush as their migration period begins to close. The last flight calls were recorded 9/30 with approximately 400 calls still heard over 24 minutes, with Swainson's and Wood Thrush at 8:1 respectively, and 5 Gray-cheeked as well.

American Pipits were reported more frequently this year with 3 seen along Redbank Creek in NB 9/20 and 4-5 at KL 10/2-10/3 (ES). Singles were seen at two locations near LU 11/3 and 11/8 (ES). As they were throughout the state in this irruption year, **Evening Grosbeaks** were widely reported in the county in November. First were 2 at a feeder in CL 10/31 (TS), and 2 at feeders in CV 11/10 (CW). One was seen at a feeder in Leeper 11/8 (AK), and one to 2 were seen in two areas near Snedersburg on three occasions from 11/8-11/26 (ES). At feeders at a home near LU, up to 12 birds were seen regularly 11/3-24 (ES, MSc). **American Tree Sparrows** continue in low numbers, with sightings at BC 11/4-7 with a high count of 14 (AK, SK, MS), one at LU 11/26 (ES), and 2 at CV 11/19-20 (CW). **Lincoln's Sparrows** are regular fall migrants but are often overlooked. This year one was in CL 9/15 and 2 were at a different location 9/30 (TS). Singles were near CV 9/24 and 10/11 (CW) and at LU 10/15 (ES).

There were only 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** reported this year, one at SGL 63 on 11/6 (TS), and one at a feeder area near LU 11/19 (ES). There were no noteworthy warbler records this year other than a fairly late **Ovenbird** found at CF 10/23 (BK).

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, cjwinslow94@gmail.com, Kimberly Berry, Don DeWolf, Donna Foyle, Barbara Griffith, Jeffrey Hall, Mal Hays, Brady Karg, S Kaye, Jeff Kenney, Ann Kline, Liz Pettit, Angela Romanczuk, Eric Schill, Mike Schill (MSc), Tabassam Shah, David Snyder, Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor, Larry Towse.

Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL)

Reports via personal communication were supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report. A total of 160 species were reported in eBird. A **Horned Grebe** was seen CL 11/12 and 11/18 (TC, JS). **Ruffed Grouse** were reported at multiple locations in the county (m.ob). A **Black-bellied Plover** was photographed at CL 8/23 (JF, JS). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was seen along the Caledonia Pike 10/14 (JS). **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen throughout Clearfield: 2 near Karthaus 10/31 (JS), near Houtzdale 11/8 (SK), one along Berkey Road 11/15 (ES), and one at Treasure Lake 11/23 (DR). A **Red Crossbill** was seen in the Moshannon State Forest 10/24 (DR). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in Glen Richey 11/21 (JA).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly**, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net, Jason, Arnold, Thomas Curry, John Forcey, Sue-Ann Krupa, Janelle Rawson, Dan Richards, Eric Schill, Jerod Skebo, Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor.

Clinton County

Locations: Swisssdale (SW).

The fall of 2022 brought several first records for Clinton. A first county record **Harlequin Duck** made a one day appearance at Kettle

Creek State Park 11/2 (SL, m.ob). On 11/5 another first county record, a **Cackling Goose**, was reported at the Ohi/McElhatten Reservoir near Loganton in the company of a **Greater White-fronted Goose** (J&EG, NS, LS). From at least 10/12 through the period, a residence in Eastville hosted a **Rufous Hummingbird**. This also represented a first for *Clinton* and was considered long overdue (m.ob).

The county's second **Harris's Sparrow** was found at McElhatten 10/26 (EZ). Somewhat early, a flock of **Snow Buntings** was discovered at South Avis 10/20 (SP). **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported at several locations during the period: near Lock Haven 11/3, Woolrich 11/10, and West Keating 11/21 (PG, CCH, MS).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Charles and Carol Hildebrand, Joe and Elody Gyekis, Polly Graybill, Sarah Lindgren, Steve Pinkerton, Matthew Schenck, Nick Schleissmann, Loanne Snavely, and Elizabeth Zbegenr.

Columbia County

Locations: Briar Creek Lake (BCL), I-80 Bloomsburg (I-80), Jamison City (JC), Stillwater (SWTR).

It was a good season of birding in *Columbia* County this year with several notable sightings. Weather featured average temperatures and below average rainfall. **Common Nighthawks** had a good flight with many sightings, most concentrated between 8/19 and 9/3. Most notable was a group of 100 swirling over I-80 on 8/27 (DB). **American Coots** are becoming less and less common, but there were two sightings in the county this year: a single present for a few days at BCL 10/22-23 (JD, KD, AK) and another near SWTR 11/6 (MB). The only significant shorebird sighting was a single **Pectoral Sandpiper** found at BCL 10/22 (KD).

It was another irruption year for **Evening Grosbeaks** in the state. Here, 2 were observed at a feeder in JC 11/2 (JL). The highlight of the season was the sighting of a **Nelson's Sparrow** at the west end of BCL 10/20 (KP), apparently the county's first of this species. It could not be relocated in several subsequent visits.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Matt Baker, David Brown, Joanna Dillon, Kayley Dillon, Judith Lynn, Karol Pasquinelli.

Crawford County

Locations: Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning State Park (PSP); Pymatuning State Park-Miller Ponds (MP), Woodcock Lake- Abandoned Road Trail (WART).

A single **Snow Goose** was observed at Conneaut Lake 11/24 (IF, JHa, SR). Reports of **Mute Swan** included single birds at Erie NWR 10/12 (JG, SGr) and at PSP 11/28 (EH). Observations of **Trumpeter Swan** were made at Erie NWR Deer Run Trail 10/1 (JH, EL), 10/9 (YL), 10/10 (BM), and 10/14 (CN). **Tundra Swans** were observed in their expected numbers (m.ob.). **American Black Duck** were observed in their expected low numbers in Nov (m.ob.). Notable observations of **Green-winged Teal** included a single early bird at MP 8/10 (CH) and a good count of 45 at the same location 10/14 (KN).

The only observation of **Ruffed Grouse** was a single bird at Erie NWR 10/9 (YL). A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard calling at Cussewago Bottoms 10/10 (YL). Observations of **Black-billed Cuckoo** included single birds at Conneautville area 8/6 (CN), the Hartstown Project 8/7 (MHa), and Woodcock Lake 9/10 (TN). The only observation of **Common Nighthawk** was one at the Guys Mills area 9/1 (SM).

Soras included one at Geneva Marsh 9/9 (CL, MO), 3 there 9/10 (DB), and one at Hartstown Marsh 10/9 (EH). **Common Gallinule** observations were made at Hartstown Marsh and included 3 on 8/26, 6

on 9/10 (CL, MO), and one 9/26 (MW). **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A high count of 134 was made at the Fish Hatchery 11/18 (PL).

Observations of **American Golden-Plover** included up to 4 in a field near Florek Road and U.S. 99 from 9/16-18 (BM, KZ, RZ), 7 in a field along Miller Station Road 9/25 (KZ, RZ), and a single bird at PSP 10/9 (EH). **Stilt Sandpipers** included single birds at the Hartstown Project 8/6 (AH, EH) and 8/7 (MHa), Woodcock Lake 8/20 (TN, KPi) and 8/21 (BM), and the PSP spillway 9/3 (BW). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at Woodcock Lake 9/9 (BM, KPi) and 9/10 (JHe, TN). There were higher than average number of **Short-billed Dowitcher** reports (m.ob.). Observations of **Long-billed Dowitcher** included one at MP 8/15-16 (JD) and 3 at the Hartstown Project 10/24 (EH).

A high count of 250 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made at the PSP causeway 11/14 (CH). Notably there were no observations of either Common Tern or Forster's Tern this fall. A notable high count of 209 **Common Loons** was made in the PSP area 11/28 (EH). A high count of 100 **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed at the PSP Nature Center 10/9 (EH). **Great Egrets** were reported in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.).

A single **Rough-legged Hawk**, expected around PSP in fall, was observed at MP 11/20 (IF). Observations of **Great Horned Owl** included singles in the south PSP area 9/16 (MW) and Erie NWR Deer Run Trail 10/10 (BM). Observations of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were made in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Reports of both **American Kestrel** and **Merlin** were typical.

There were multiple observations of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at WART, including single birds 8/27 (TN, KPi), 9/3 (RHo, BM, TN, KPi), and 9/14 (TN). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Greendale Cemetery 9/12 (BM) and at WART 9/17 (BM, TN). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were observed at Tryon-Weber Woods 9/1 (SK) and Woodcock Lake 9/12 (TN).

Observations of **Common Raven**, increasingly expected in the eastern half of *Crawford*, occurred in their now typical numbers and locations (m.ob). **Horned Lark** included 2 birds at Ernst Nature Tail 8/15 (MV), one in the Cochran area 9/1 (SK), and one at MP 11/6 (YL). A good count of 75 **Bank Swallows** was made at MP 8/4 (CH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were observed in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Late observations of **House Wren** included 2 at South Lake Road area 10/22 (SS) and one a private location in the Custards area 10/25 (SGo). **Marsh Wrens** were seen in slightly higher than average frequency and numbers (m.ob.). An estimated 20 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were heard giving flight calls at a private location in the Conneautville area 9/14 (KZ). A late **Gray Catbird** was observed in Meadville 11/5 (KPi). **American Pipits** included 3 at PSP 10/15 (EH), 5 in the Rundletown area 10/21 (BM), and a good count of 22 at the same location 11/13 (BM).

The late October-early November irruption of **Evening Grosbeak** into our region yielded several observations in *Crawford*: 11 in the Woodcock area 10/28 (BM), 5 in Meadville 10/29 (SC), a single bird in Cambridge Springs 10/30 (eBird), a good count of 30 at the PSP Nature Center (RHo, BM), 8 at a private location in the Conneautville area 10/31 (CN), 3 in Cambridge Springs 11/1 (KZ, RZ), and 2 more in Cambridge Springs 11/5 (RS). **Purple Finches** were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Observations of **Pine Siskin** included one in Meadville 8/17 (KPi), 11 more in Meadville 10/29 (SC), and one a private location in the Rundletown area 11/13 (BM).

A single **Snow Bunting** was observed at Woodcock Lake 11/21 (CL). A late **Eastern Towhee** was seen in the Springboro area 11/19 (CN). **Fox Sparrows** were observed in expected numbers and locations, including a notable conservative count of 14 at in Conneautville 10/30 (KZ). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at SGL 214 Towpath 9/26 (MW), at Erie NWR Tsuga Trail 10/1 (BM), and in Conneautville 10/30 (KZ). Observations of **Bobolink** included 2 birds at the Hartstown Project 8/15 (JD), one at MP 8/15 (JD), and again at MP in Sep (SK). **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.).

A late **Ovenbird** was in the Saegertown area 10/6 (RK). A single **Northern Waterthrush** was observed at the Fish Hatchery 9/9 (EH). An

early **Tennessee Warbler** was found in Saegertown 8/15 (RK), and a **Mourning Warbler** there 8/17 (RK), too. A slightly late single **Yellow Warbler** was at the SGL 214 Towpath 9/26 (MW). A **Prairie Warbler**, rare for *Crawford*, was observed at WART 8/28 (BM).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Burd Run Nature Trail (BR), Big Spring (BS), Children's Lake (CL), Camp Michaux (CM), Huntsdale (HUN), King's Gap State Park (KG), Letort Spring Nature Trail (LS), Mud Level Road (ML), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGF), Pine Road (PR), Running Pump Road (RP), Cumberland Valley Rail Trail (RT), South Middleton Township Park (SM), Trout Run Nature Preserve (TR), West Fairview (WF), Wagoner's Gap Hawk Watch (WG), Winding Hills Nature Trail (WH), Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve (VDF).

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, V. 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 to have occurred in *Dauphin* since the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

A group of 2 adult and 2 juvenile **Trumpeter Swans** were reported at the mill at BS 10/16, 10/18, and 10/29 (per VG, JM, CB, MI).

A new population of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was discovered along PA-997 near the Pennsylvania Turnpike, with up to 9 reported 10/13-11/4 (SK, et al.). **Common Nighthawk** was widely reported this fall in mostly good to normal numbers, but with one amazing, conservative count of 1253 during an annual dedicated nighthawk watch at PGF 8/27 (DB, StB, VG, KJ, TJ, TM). The next highest count was also made at PGF with 77 tallied 9/1 (TJ). A **Sora** was found at VDF 9/29-30 (DG, KH, BM).

After an abysmal start to the season, 9/30 marked a turning point after which all notable shorebirds were reported. One to two **Black-bellied Plovers** and up to 130 **American Golden-Plovers** foraged in farm fields at RP starting 9/30, with the Black-bellied Plovers staying through 10/4 and the American Golden-Plovers through 10/9 (CP, VG, m.ob.). Small flocks of American Golden-Plovers were also reported with 7 at ML and 10 at Oakville Road 10/1 (TJ), and one bird at SGL169 on 10/11 (RS). The lake at CL was drawn down for repairs 9/21 and the resulting mud flats attracted a number of shorebirds, including the lone **Semipalmated Plover** for the season 10/8 (IG). Seven **White-rumped Sandpipers** arrived at CL 10/3, with one staying through 10/9 (DB, StB, TJ, m.ob.), and 2 were at RP 10/5 (CP, RP). One **Wilson's Phalarope**

made a brief appearance at CL 10/6 (DB, ScB). A juvenile **White Ibis** was photographed 8/13 along Prowell Dr. near Camp Hill (WS), and a **Glossy Ibis** split time between *Cumberland* and *Dauphin* counties at WF 9/24-10/4 (RK, m.ob.). A flyover, unidentified ibis species was also photographed along McClures Gap Rd. 8/22 (EY).

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was photographed near LS 9/4 (DB, StB), and an exceptional count of 3 **Swallow-tailed Kites** together was reported along US-11 south of Newville 8/16 by veteran hawk watchers (TC, JM). An unusual concentration of **American Kestrels** followed the passage of Hurricane Ian, with 10 at ML 10/3 (CP, RP), and 12 sitting together on a short section of power line in Walnut Bottom 10/4 (TJ). A **Barn Owl** was observed outside Mechanicsburg 9/28 (SK). The night of 10/29 was good for **Northern Saw-whet Owl** migration, with 19 banded at KG (CP, RP).

Olive-sided Flycatchers included singles at CM 9/9 (MS), PGF 8/27 (m.ob.) and 9/8-9 (CP, MS), Ridge Road in MSF 9/9 (VG), and TR 10/5 (NM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen in a short window, with one at PGF 9/8-10 (CP, RP), one at CM 9/9 (DW), and one at BR 9/10 and 9/17 (BK). **Black-capped Chickadee** made a strong push throughout *Cumberland* starting the third week of Oct after being absent the previous fall (m.ob.). A singing male **Sedge Wren** was well documented in the SGL 169 propagation area 8/10-11 (CP, DB), and marked the only known *Cumberland* record apart from a possible breeding pair in 1988. Unfortunately, this year's bird was not relocated during subsequent visits. It was a good fall for **Marsh Wren** with reports of single birds at a private marsh along PR 8/13-14 (RM), at VDF 10/5 (SS), at SM 10/15-17 (DB, StB, CP, RP, TA), and LS 10/21 (CP). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found in MSF 9/4 (VG), another at PGF 9/19 and 9/29 (CP, KJ), 2 at KG 9/26 (CP, RP), and one at SGL169 10/3 (CP, RP).

The **Evening Grosbeak** movement reached *Cumberland* with 2 at WG 11/2 and another there 11/23 (BB, AIM), and in the valley 2 were seen at feeders in Newville 11/8 (CC). **Pine Siskin** numbers were low, with a handful of sightings and the highest count being 3 at WG 11/7 (CP, RP). It was a great year for **Clay-colored Sparrow** in *Cumberland*. After one was recorded this spring, there was one at SGL 169 on 9/20 (CP, RP), one at CM 9/21 (CP, DB), and one along RT in Greason 11/19 into the winter season (KJ, TJ). **Vesper Sparrow** is usually sparse in fall, so a count of up to 4 was notable, in an unharvested soy field along RT in Greason 10/23-29 (KJ, TJ). The same field hosted a large flock of at least 53 **Savannah Sparrows** 10/16-29 (KJ, TJ). An exceptional count of 11 **Lincoln's Sparrows** was made at VDF 10/5 (SS).

Yellow-breasted Chat provided a rare fall record at a breeding site in SGL 230 on 9/2 (PL, AnM). Two very late **Bobolinks** were at SM 10/15-17 (DB, StB, CP, RP, TA, SK, DW). **Orange-crowned Warbler** were found with single birds in MSF 10/9 (CH, SM), and WH 11/5 (AIM). It was a good fall for **Connecticut Warbler** with sightings at seven locations, including 2 birds at HUN 9/21-22 (TJ, DB, StB), but **Mourning Warbler** was found just once: one at MSF 9/16 (VG). **Dickcissel** made a rare September appearance with one at RT in Greason 9/10-11 (KJ, TJ).

Observers: **Tim Johnson, 334 Greason Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, (717) 409-4805, tj359@sbcglobal.net**, Tony Arnold, Brandon Brogle, Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens (ScB), Steve Brookens (StB), Christy Bryan, Carol Cash, Tina Cole, Ian Gardner, Vern Gauthier, Deb Grove, Keith Heimer, Christopher Hollister, Michael Illo, Karena Johnson, Stefan Karkuff, Bob Koontz, Ramsay Koury, Peter Lusardi, Rodney Martinez, Annette Mathes (AnM) Allison Matlock (AIM), Barb Matthews, Jose Medina, Nicholas Minnich, Jennifer Moore, Tracey Mosebey, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Michael S., Scott Michaud, Steve Schmit, Wendy Smith, Roger Stone, Don Weidemann, Eli Young.

Dauphin County

Locations: Appalachian Trail-Peter's Mountain (ATPM), Clark's Ferry Bridge (CFB), Fort Hunter (FH), Millersburg Ferry Wall (MFW), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (SGL290HI), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Weiser State Forest (WSF), Weiser State Forest-

Greenland Tract (WSF-GT), Weiser State Forest-White Oak Road (WSF-WOR), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Migrating **Tundra Swans** appeared during the early part of Nov with a flock of 32 at SGL290HI 11/12 (SB, StB). Three more flocks of a dozen or so were seen along SRFS 11/19 (EC). A few **Redheads** were spotted on the river, including one at MFW 11/19 (SB, StB) and 3 at FH 11/21 (DH). Four **Surf Scoters** were seen during the last week of Nov at SRFS (m.ob.) and a lone **Black Scoter** was observed at SRWF 11/4 (DH).

Four **Ruffed Grouse** were seen this reporting period: one was at WSF-GT 10/16 (BB, JF, NF), 2 at WSF-WOR 11/19 (TB) and one at WSF 10/21 (TB). Not seen often, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was spotted on SGL290HI 9/24 (SB). The latest reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at a Halifax area home 10/12 (IJ). A **Rufous Hummingbird** was observed, caught and banded at a Halifax area home 10/12 (GL, SL, GR, TR).

A late migrating **Great Egret** was observed at WL 11/13 (m.ob.). A **Little Blue Heron** was seen and photographed at WF 9/3-13 (m.ob.), and a **Glossy Ibis** was also at WF 9/25-10/4 (m.ob.).

Golden Eagle was observed flying over SGL290HI 11/7 and 11/20 (SB, LM, NM) and 3 were along ATPM 11/8 (SB, StB). A **Bald Eagle** is being seen on a regular basis along Rte. 39 just east of Linglestown in the area of the attempt at nest-building was made last spring (KS). A pair of them was photographed in a tree along SRFS 11/22 (EC). The Ned Smith Center's owl banding site in upper *Dauphin* caught and banded 222 migrating **Northern Saw-whet Owls** from 10/10 through 11/18 (GL, SL). There were 7 foreign recoveries (banded elsewhere), 2 originating in Kentucky and Cape May, New Jersey. The other locations had not been confirmed as of this writing.

After being absent for most of the summer, the male **Peregrine Falcon** at the CFB was observed on multiple occasions in Oct and Nov (GL, SL). The Department of Environmental Protection made an announcement that the longtime dominant female **Peregrine Falcon** (48/AE) at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg died in Nov from age-related natural causes. She was 13 years old, the typical life expectancy for this species according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She was banded on May 21, 2009 on the PA-NJ Turnpike Bridge and began her tenure in Harrisburg in 2012. She laid 41 eggs with 37 hatching and 35 fledging. She played a vital role in the recovery of peregrines and her prodigies are a testimony to a remarkable falcon. (Excerpt from DEP's Falcon Wire)

There were three reports of **Evening Grosbeak**. Two were along ATPM 11/8 (SB, StB), one was along the Susquehanna River in upper *Dauphin* 11/19 (DB), and a flock of 8 were at a home in eastern *Dauphin* 11/3 (EC). Two **Snow Buntings** were observed at SGL290HI 11/20 (LM, NM). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was also seen and photographed at SGL290HI 10/6 and 10/9 (m.ob.). A very late female **Baltimore Oriole** was observed at a home feeder in upper *Dauphin* 11/24 (KH).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com**, Dave Barnes, Tim Becker, Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills (StB), Brian Brown, Ed Chubb, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, Kayla Harbert, Daniel Hinnebusch, Ian Johnson, Gary Lockerman, Sandy Lockerman, Laura Minnich, Nicholas Minnich, Gail Randall, Tom Randall, Kevin Shannon.

Delaware County

Locations: Barrett's Meadow (BM), Brinton Lake (BL), Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Chester Park (CP), Commodore Barry Bridge/Riverfront (CB), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (DRHIR), First State National Historic Park (FSNHP), Governor Printz Park (GPZ), Harvey Run Trail (HRT), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Preserve (HILD), Houston Park (HP), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook (MH), Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), Newtown Meadow Preserve (NMP), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Smedley Tract (ST), Springton Reservoir (SR), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA), Tyler

Arboretum (TY), The Willows (WILL).

The previous dry season ended with 4-5" of rain 9/6. The remnants of Hurricane Ian brought more rain 10/1-5 with 3.5-5" total accumulation, and the remnants of Hurricane Nicole passed through 11/11 bringing less than an inch of rain but temperatures in the 70s.

As last year, the first real push of **Snow Geese** did not occur until the last week of Nov although one individual was seen in a flock of migrating Canada Geese over Springfield 9/24 (BS), and a dozen flew over Ardmore 10/28 (MW). A lone **Brant** on the DRHIR 10/29 (RF) was attacked and pushed underwater by a Bald Eagle that started rowing to shore with it in tow. The end of the story is unknown, though presumably not good for the Brant. Reports of **Cackling Goose** included 2 from FSNHP 9/24 (EK) and one from BL 11/24 (KF). Seven **Greater Scaup** were seen flying downriver at CB 10/31 (RF), and 6 **Lesser Scaup** showed up at SR 11/7 (RF) with one also seen there 11/14 (JZ). Two **Black Scoters** on the DRHIR 11/4 (BO, KSh) were a good find. A **Long-tailed Duck** was photographed amidst **Buffleheads** on SR 11/19 (JZ) where the latter were reliable from the end of Oct with a high count of 75 on 11/8 (RF). Every year for the past three, a female **Common Goldeneye** has shown up at CCR, usually at nearly the exact same time; however, this year's bird was seen only 11/17-19 (DE, RF, EK, JZ), that end-date being the usual arrival date. It also was only present for two days as opposed to a week or more. The only other of its kind was reported 11/14 from JHNWR (BS). **Common Mergansers** visited JHNWR 11/22-23 (KE, EK) and SR 11/19 (JZ) and 11/30 (RF). More unusual were 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** seen flying upriver DRHIR 10/29 (RF). Unlike last year when there was but a single **Ruddy Duck** report, six were seen at SR 10/24 (RF) and then 20 arrived 11/7 (RF) with several remaining through 11/12 (m.ob.). The species was also at MH and CB 10/24-31(RF), DRHIR 11/5 (RF), and JHNWR 11/8 (EK). **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from Eastern University 8/22 (KS), DRHIR 11/6 (JMc), BL 11/26 (BQ), JHNWR 11/8 (EK) and 11/22 (KE) and multiple days from SR (m.ob.). Two of three **Horned Grebes** found at SR 11/7 (RF) remained through 11/12. Two to one were also at DRHIR 10/20-21 (JMc, RF). A **Red-necked Grebe** at SR 11/9 (RF) was an excellent one-day bird.

Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were numerous again this year, but there was just a single **Black-billed Cuckoo** report from a Glen Mills yard 9/2 (EK). Although **Common Nighthawks** were widely-reported, particularly on 9/12 (m.ob.) which is at the end of their usual movement window, the daily watch at HC 8/18-9/16 (SJ, m.ob.) tallied only 1050, the second-lowest count ever, making the past three years the lowest three years in count history and the fourth year in a row of totals under 2000. The highest daily count was 180 on 8/23 (SJ, BK), once again nowhere near historical numbers. A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nest at HC fledged young 9/9 (SJ), and a late individual was reported nectaring on salvia in a Boothwyn yard 10/16 (KG). **Chimney Swifts** lingered later in numbers higher than usual; the last was reported 10/22 in Wallingford (DO).

A feeding flock of 24 **American Coot** was a high count at SR 11/7 (RF). **Black-bellied Plovers** put in appearances DRHIR 8/12 (AG), 8/15 (RF) and 9/26 (AG, RF) as did 2 **American Golden-Plovers** 9/20 (RF) and 9/26 (RF, AG). **Semipalmated Plover** were seen there 8/2-9/9 (m.ob.) with a high count of 22 on 8/10 (AG). This species was also reported three times from JHNWR and once from GPZ during the same time frame (m.ob.). Four **Ruddy Turnstones** were present DRHIR 8/10 (JZ) as were 2 **Red Knots** 9/3 (JZ, RG). A **Stilt Sandpiper** DRHIR was a surprise 10/5 (RF). Two **Sanderlings** were present there 8/11 (JH, RF, JZ), and one was seen 8/16 (RF) and again 8/25 (RF) at which time 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** also made a brief stop on the mudflat. **Least Sandpipers** were documented in *Delaware* 8/1-9/11 with late individuals seen 10/1 DRHIR (m.ob.) and JHNWR 10/29 (JMc); passage was 8/1-9/30 with a high count of 90 DRHIR 8/11 (RF). Fifteen **White-rumped Sandpipers** flew downriver in a flock DRHIR 10/5 (RF). A separate individual was seen later that day (DB, AB, RF) and a single individual was noted 10/20 (JMc). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported consistently at SR 8/1-8/26 with up to 6 present (m.ob.) and a single bird 10/4 (JZ). During this time frame, they were also reported four days from

DRHIR (m.ob.) and 8/12 from JHNWR (EK). Four **Short-billed Dowitchers** were found at DRHIR 8/5 (CH, BF). **Wilson's Snipe** were reported from JHNWR 10/27 (JMc) and 11/22-23 (KE, EK) and also from DRHIR 11/4 (JMc).

Bonaparte's Gulls were noted as early as 8/25 (RF) at DRHIR and then reported three other times from that location and three times from GPZ in Oct (m.ob.) and twice from SR in Nov (m.ob.) with a high count of 11 on 11/7 (RF). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were noted DRHIR on four days from late Sep to early Oct (m.ob.). Single **Black Terns** were noted only twice: 8/30 at GPZ (RF) and 9/11 at DRHIR (EK). **Common Terns** were reported at DRHIR 9/3 (AL), 9/6 (RF, JZ) and 10/1 (JH, RF, SB) and **Forster's Terns** were common at DRHIR Aug-early Nov with a high count of at least 136 on 10/1 (JH).

Common Loons were at DRHIR 10/1 (JH, AG, RF), 10/3 (RF) and 10/30 (AG), and flyovers were reported from RTP 11/13 (SJ) and Aston, where many were warbler-watching, 11/26 (m.ob.). **Least Bittern** was noted at its usual JHNWR location 8/1 (RZ), 8/14 (BB), and 8/16 (BQ, LH, GA). **Snowy Egret** was noted at JHNWR 8/7 (RZ), 8/12 (EK), 9/4 (JZ) and 10/4 (DH, JMc) when 2 flew from *Delaware* into the impoundment. **Little Blue Herons** reports from JHNWR ranged from 5 on 8/7 (RZ) to single birds 8/12 (EK) and 8/28 (AD) to 2 birds 10/3 (JZ, MK). A single individual was also at CCR 9/5 (BS). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from HILD 8/2 (JHu). A video of a **White Ibis**, discovered 8/27 at RCSP, made its way to a birder (JeH) and was posted 8/29 causing others to mount a search during which the newcomer to the county was found (RG, MG). The young bird, calmly foraging in Ridley Creek eating its favored crayfish, was then seen by multiple birders that day and the next.

The 24th season of the RTP hawkwatch (CP, m.ob.) reported its highest **Broad-winged Hawk** total since 2013, counting 3176 birds. A simultaneous trial hawkwatch run at nearby ST tallied 3344 Broad-wings. Unfortunately, the good news ended there as **Sharp-shinned Hawks** plummeted to an all-time low of 275, down over 60% from last year's 719, and most other species were recorded in below-average numbers. A Broad-wing lingered at NGM until 10/29 (JS, m.ob.). A video of a late **Osprey** was taken in Newtown Square 11/12 (EK). On the bright side, birders waiting for a glimpse of the Hermit Warbler in Aston got great views and photos of an immature **Golden Eagle** 11/26 (m.ob.). An immature was also reported from Concordville 11/24 (EK), an adult from NMP 11/17 (JW), and others flew over RTP 11/14 and 11/8 (DE). Expected owl species reports were more numerous than usual this period.

Red-headed Woodpeckers may be exploring *Delaware*; an immature was noted at ST 9/21, 9/23 and 9/25 (AS, JM) and an adult was at HRT 9/25 (AG). Also at HRT was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 9/10 (JZ); another Olive-sided was at the BT 9/12 (BS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** discovered at Penncrest High School 8/25 (JMc) stayed an additional day. Other reports came from ST 9/3 (JMc), NMP 9/11 (JZ) and Cobbs Creek 10/6 (RH). There were nearly a dozen **Least Flycatcher** reports (m.ob.) from the end of Aug through mid-Sep.

Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from Newtown Square 9/5 (MD), Glen Mills 10/2 (EK), and TY 10/8 (WL). **Philadelphia Vireos** must have had a good year since there were nearly a dozen reports during Sep (m.ob.). Two **Red-eyed Vireos** were at CP on the late date of 10/25 (RF). A **Black-capped Chickadee** incursion began at the end of Oct and continued through the end of the period (m.ob.). There was only a single **Cliff Swallow** report from DRHIR 9/6 (RF). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** arrived mid-Aug, or more accurately passed through, since their numbers diminished by the end of Oct.

Gray-cheeked Thrush reports came from Glen Mills 9/24 (EK), 10/6 (EK) and 10/27 (AG) as well as from Wallingford 9/21 (RF) and JHNWR 10/9 (AG). A late **Wood Thrush** was in Springfield 10/20 (JHa). An **American Pipit** was photographed at SR 10/27 (JZ). There was also a flyover at JHNWR 11/4 (DS) and additional flyovers were reported over Wallingford on five days from 10/15-11/24 (RF). The same Wallingford yard hosted a momentary **Evening Grosbeak** stopover 10/30 (RF), and one was at ST 10/28 (AG ph., DE) and Hunters Run 10/11 (EW). **Purple Finches** were numerous across the county from the beginning of Oct to mid-Nov but then petered out (m.ob.). **House Finches** also appeared to

be migrating during this time. **Pine Siskins** were few and far between by comparison, but scattered reports of one or two came from multiple locations starting at the end of Sep (m.ob.).

An **American Tree Sparrow** was reported from JHNWR 11/29 (BS). Mid-Oct saw an influx of migrant **White-crowned Sparrows** reported from more than a half-dozen locations (m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at three different Glen Mills locations 10/24 (BB) and 10/26 (RF, EK). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported from more than a dozen across the county (m.ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was only found at NMP 9/9 (JW)

Without a doubt, the star of the season was the **Hermit Warbler** that was originally documented by phone video in an Aston yard 11/25 by visiting birders (Teresa Began, Eric R. Gulson C.) and re-found the next day (RG) in a stand of white pines along the edge of the parking lot of the Chichester Baptist Church on Cherry Tree Rd. It remained through the end of the period, but lived up to its name in being elusive and spending much of its time concealed while giving only occasional stellar looks for those who waited patiently. Although there are several records from New England and a couple from New York, this bird represented the first record for the species in Pennsylvania, if accepted.

Thirty-two warbler species were reported in *Delaware* during this period. In addition to the aforementioned **Hermit Warbler**, other notable warbler sightings during the period were: **Worm-eating Warbler** at ST 8/27 (JMc), **Orange-crowned Warbler** at DRHIR 10/1 (JH, RF), in Cheyney 10/8 (AGe, JeH), at WILL 10/29 (m.ob.), and at NMP 11/17 and 11/19 (both JW), **Connecticut Warbler** at BM 9/14 (RF, JZ ph.), at CFM 9/16 (JMc), at HRT 10/14 (JMc), **Mourning Warbler** at TMA 8/13 (AG) and HRT 10/7 (RF), **Hooded Warbler** at HP 9/15 (JMc), at RCSP 8/25, 8/28 and 9/27 (all CS) and in Boothwyn 10/7 (KE).

A beautiful **Summer Tanager** was photographed at WILL 9/25 (JZ). **Blue Grosbeak** was at DRHIR 8/14 (DB), FSNHP 8/15-16 (EK, JZ), WILL 9/26-27 (JZ), and at HRT, where it bred, through 9/30 (m.ob.) with an additional report there 10/7 (RF). A **Dickcissel** was recorded over a Wallingford NFC station 10/23 (RF).

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Elk County

Locations: Bendigo State Park (BSP), Benezette (BNZ), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Elk State Park (ESP), East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), Johnsonburg (JB), Loleta Recreation Area (LRA), Mosquito Creek Wetland (MCW), Winslow Hill Elk Viewing Area (WH).

There were 121 species reported on eBird for the season. A **Blue-winged Teal** was at ESP 9/25 (MS). There was an incidental report of an **American Black Duck** north of BSP 8/10 (BB). Two **Green-winged Teals** were at BUZ 9/16 (TC), and 2 were also at WH (KR). A **Bufflehead** was seen east of Ridgway 11/7 (MM), and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** were at ESP 9/21 (CB) as was a **Least Sandpiper** 9/11 (MS).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at EBL 8/1 (BB). **Great Horned Owl** singles were observed three times: near BNZ 8/13 (JA) and 10/16 (CL),

and near Kersey 11/7 (CB). **Barred Owls** were reported more often: one at EBL 8/1 and 2 there 8/2 (both BB), 2 near LRA (AN), one near BNZ 10/6 (CL), and one near Kane 11/29 (CB). **American Kestrels** had several sightings: one on Russelas Rd. 9/21 (CB), 6 together along hedgerow near Kersey 9/30 (CB), at MCW 10/1 (CH), at WH 10/2 (AN), 7 on Dewey Rd. 10/2 (KG), and 2 at Beaver Run Impoundment 10/8 (JK).

A **Least Flycatcher** was near BNZ 8/13 (BC), and a **Warbling Vireo** was at BSP 9/20 (CB). A **Northern Shrike** was on SGL 411 near Kersey 11/11 (CB), photographed with its prey on a lower branch. Summer birds continuing into Aug included 2 **Barn Swallows** at BUZ 8/9 (MS, JT), **Cliff Swallows** including 2 at EBL 8/4 (BB) and one at ESP 8/7 (MS), 2 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at LRA 8/20 (AN), 2 **Winter Wrens** at WH 8/26 (JS), a **Veery** (detected by NFC) at EBL 8/2 (BB), and a **Wood Thrush** at EBL 8/2 (BB) and at BUZ 8/9 (MS, JT). **Hermit Thrushes** included 3 near JB 8/3 (ES), one at BSP 8/6 (MS), up to 4 at EBL 8/7-14 (BB), and one on SGL 293 near JB as late as 10/14 (DK).

An **American Pipit** was seen at ESP 9/21, and 3 were seen at SGL 44 near Kersey 10/21 (both CB). Two days later at the same location there were 50 conservatively estimated. They were in the area with 110 **American Crows**.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported in *Elk*, as in most other Pennsylvania counties. Five were photographed visiting a birdbath in Weedville 10/30 (KH), followed by 3 in Kersey 11/6 (CB), one in Kane 11/10 (GF), and 3 near JB 11/25 (BB). A **Pine Siskin** was also in Kane 11/10 (GF), photographed near Ridgway 11/16 (MM), and seen in EBL 11/26 (BB).

A **Fox Sparrow** was seen in Kersey 11/18-28, with 2 there 11/19 (CB), and one was photographed near Ridgway 11/22 (MM). A **Savannah Sparrow** was in Kersey 9/30 (CB), and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen twice: on Porcupine Rd. in SGL 311 on 9/26 (CW) and photographed at MCW 10/1 (CH). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was near JB 8/1 (BB). There were 8 **Rusty Blackbirds** photographed at St. Mary's airport 11/12 along with 61 **Cedar Waxwings** (WA, MM).

Migrant warbler species included: 2 **Tennessee Warblers** in Kersey 9/30 and one there 10/8 (both CB), a **Nashville Warbler** in BSP 9/20 and one near Kersey 9/30 (both CB), a **Cape May Warbler** in BSP 9/3 (MS), one **Bay-breasted Warbler** in BSP 9/20 (CB) and one photographed at Daguscahonda 9/19 (MM), a **Blackpoll Warbler** in BSP 9/11 (MS) and 9/20 (CB) with 3 near Kersey 9/3 (CB) and one near WH 9/30 (MK), a **Palm Warbler** in ESP 9/21 (CB) and 9/25 (MS), and a **Pine Warbler** photographed near BNZ 9/7 (CL) and one at Marion Brooks NA 10/9 (KO).

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Erie County

Locations: Waterbird count at Sunset Point (WC).

Fall warblers arrived earlier than usual and set several early county records, and some other passerines took their time leaving, breaking late county records. Fall shorebird migration was lackluster though the usual rarities made appearances. The only northern finches reported were Evening Grosbeaks, with small numbers making brief stops at feeding stations beginning in late Oct and continuing through the period. Some highlights of the fall season were Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, several Harlequin Ducks, both godwits, several jaegers, Glossy Ibis, two Cave Swallows, Nelson's Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Only two **Snow Geese** were reported this season, both white

morphs. A single immature was at Sunset Point 11/24 (BS) and an adult was there during the WC the next day (JM). An adult **Ross's Goose** was with a large flock of Canada Geese on Edinboro Lake 11/27-28 for a third county record (JF, JH, PK). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** made a one-day visit at Veteran's Park 10/30 and set a record early date (RK). A single adult **Brant** was at the east end of Presque Isle State Park, mainly along the outer shore, from 11/3-12 when it was killed by an adult Bald Eagle (JM, et al.). An immature Brant appeared in the same location on 11/14 and it remained through the period (RS et al.). There were at least five **Harlequin Ducks** that present in November beginning 11/12, when two female types flew past the WC at Sunset Point. A single immature male was spotted during the WC the next day at the same location (JM et al.). Later, a female flew past the WC 11/17 and then a female or immature male was seen again on the WC 11/28 (JM). A combined total of 10 **Red-necked Grebes** were counted at the WC from 10/16 to the end of the period, which is about average for the season (JM).

An **American Avocet** was observed at Gull Point 8/4 (MB), up to two were there 8/19-21 (RS, RD), and as many as 7 were at Gull Point on 8/11 (EH, JK). **American Golden-Plovers**, mostly singles, were reported from Gull Point from 8/26-10/29 (m.ob.). A couple of juvenile **Piping Plovers** that hatched at Gull Point this past season, remained into the first week of Sep, which is later than others stayed since they started nesting again on the park. A season total of 14 **Whimbrels** were observed at Gull Point from 8/5-9/3 (m.ob.). An adult **Hudsonian Godwit** in heavy molt was at Gull Point 8/10-11 (JM, et al.) and a **Marbled Godwit** was there 8/22 (AM). Very few **Red Knots** were reported. Five were at Gull Point 8/22 (ON), followed by one 9/2 and 9/6 (MB) and a last bird on 10/4 (RS). **Stilt Sandpipers** were present at Gull Point from 8/5-9/9 (m.ob.). A **Purple Sandpiper** was on the breakwaters 10/29 (KR) and another also on the breakwaters 11/5 (NB). Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported from Gull Point beginning 8/5 and then periodically to 9/5 (JF, MB). A total of four **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Gull Point 8/21-9/10 (RD, JM, MB, KZ). An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** was confirmed by the call note heard at Gull Point 8/16 (JD) and a rather late juv. Long-billed Dowitcher was seen feeding with a Greater Yellowlegs at Duck Pond on 11/12 (BB). The only phalarope this season was a juv. **Wilson's Phalarope** at Gull Point 9/5 (MB). Only four **Willetts** were observed this season at Gull Point, from 8/4-22 (m.ob.).

Jaegers put on a show this fall over the lake with at least five different birds reported. An adult light morph **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen from Beach 8 on 9/5 (SS), a dark morph immature passed Sunset Point at the WC 10/23 (JM, RD), a light morph immature made the WC 11/2 (JM), and yet another was off Sunset Point at the WC 11/5-6 (JM, et al.). A dark morph immature **Parasitic/Long-tailed jaeger** was observed too far offshore to be sure of which species from Beach 6 on 9/18 (SS), and a **Parasitic/Pomarine jaeger** was observed far offshore during the WC from Sunset Point on 11/17 (JM). At least 170 **Common Terns** flew past Sunset Point on the WC 10/19 for a rather high late season count (JM). A **Glossy Ibis** made a brief appearance at Edinboro Lake 11/6 for a very rare inland sighting (BZ).

A **Long-eared Owl** that suffered from a broken wing after flying into a window in Erie 11/10 was taken to a bird rehab center for recovery (*vide* RS). Another **Long-eared Owl** was spotted roosting in a pine at Presque Isle on 11/15 (RD). Single **Short-eared Owls** were flushed from the grassy sand dunes at Gull Point from 10/30 through the period (RD). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were mist netted and banded at the east end of Presque Isle by the Erie Bird Observatory (EBO) from 10/16 to at least 10/30 (*vide* RD). One was found during the day roosting in a small pine at Presque Isle on 10/30 (RD).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported was one along Dead Pond Trail 8/23 (JM). A **Northern Shrike** made a brief appearance at B-trail 11/8 (GA). Two very rare **Cave Swallows** were seen feeding over the lake off Sunset Point on 11/5, which is right within the time frame when they have been reported in the past (KA). **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from feeders scattered across the county beginning 10/27 through the end of the period, but only as singles or 2-3 at a time (m.ob.). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was identified in a marsh south of Ridge Trail 10/1 for long overdue sighting (EH). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was captured and

banded on 10/30 by the EBO representing a record late county record (*vide* RK). An immature male or female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a good find by the leader of a bird walk at Gull Point 9/1 (KA). **Orange-crowned Warblers** are uncommon to rare in spring and fall in the county; one spotted along Pine Tree Trail 8/22 was record early by about a week (JM). A **Connecticut Warbler** was identified and well photographed along Pine Tree Trail 9/27 (EH) and another was banded by the EBO at Fry's landing in late Sep (*vide* RD). Not one, but 3 **Cape May Warblers** were seen along Pine Tree Trail 8/14, which was record early for the county by a few days (JFI). A female **Northern Parula** on Pine Tree Trail 8/22 was surprisingly the first county record for Aug (JM). Very early was a **Bay-breasted Warbler** along Pine Tree Trail 8/14 which was record early in the county by at least two weeks (JFI), and a female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** banded by the EBO 10/30 was record late for the (*vide* JS). The **Wilson's Warbler** at Gull Point 8/11 (NW) was record early in the county by about ten days. Two **Indigo Buntings** banded by the EBO 10/30 was also record late for the county (*vide* JS).

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Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Jacob's Creek Wetlands (JCW).

Weather was warm and dry during the season. There were a few days in October with overnight lows near freezing, but the temperatures quickly rebounded to mild and unseasonably warm temperatures into November. The remnants of Hurricane Nichole moved through 11/11-12, resulting in a bit of a fallout at GRL, but with low species diversity.

The first **Tundra Swans** were a bit early with 3 at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort 10/30 (MDo). Arriving at GRL right on time were 8 on 11/12 (KB, AB), followed by 47 there 11/15 (AB, et al.), 10 on 11/16 (CH), 75 on 11/18 (AB) and 4 on 11/20 (MD). Three **American Wigeon** were at GRL 11/12 (KB, AB), the only report for the season. Nine **Blue-winged Teal** were at GRL 8/30 (AB). An amazing count of 93 was made there 10/2 (KB). **Northern Shoveler** reports included 2 on 9/9 (AB), 7 on 11/16 (KB) and 6 on 11/12 (KB, AB) all at GRL, and 2 were at JCW 10/17 (EH). **Gadwall** reports are all from GRL with 4 on 11/6 (KB), 12 on 11/12 (KB, AB), 15 on 11/20 (KB) and 2 on 11/25 (KB). Shovelers and Gadwalls are never very numerous so these are typical counts. Five **Green-winged Teal** were at the lake 10/2 (AB). **Ring-necked Ducks** are typically numerous at the lake during migration but small numbers were found this fall with 2 on 10/31 (AB, ABe), 6 on 11/12 (JL) and 10 on 11/15 (AB). Ten **Lesser Scaup** were there 11/12 (AB, KB) along with 100 **Bufflehead** (KB, AB). One **Bufflehead** was at Hutchison Park 11/20 (EJR). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at Deer Lake 10/29 (JC) and 3 were at GRL 11/12 (KB, AB). **Common Merganser** observations include 6 at Youghiogheny Reservoir 8/30 (CE) and 7 at Ohiopyle State Park 9/29 (DF, BG). Like Ring-necked Ducks, **Ruddy Ducks** are typically one of the most numerous migrants at GRL but numbers were very low this fall. They were present 10/2-11/20 with a max of only 4 on 11/12 (KB) which was surprising given the stormy conditions the day of the max count when high numbers would be expected.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was reported from Kentuck Knob 10/1 (DBI), the only report for the season. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at GRL 11/12 (KB, AB) and 5 **Horned Grebes** were at Spring Valley 11/2 (DBI, CT, MDo). **Common Nighthawk** reports included 2 at Connellsville 8/27 (KB), one near Hopwood 8/29 (EJR), 21 at Spring Valley 8/29 (DBI), 4 at Uniontown 9/3 (PD), and one at JCW 10/8 (KB). A nice count of 182 was tallied flying over Spring Valley 9/3 (DBI). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Farmington 10/6 (DBu). Eight **American Coots**

were at GRL 11/12 (KB, AB).

There were some highlights for shorebirds this fall. *Fayette* doesn't have a lot of shorebird diversity due to lack of habitat. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was a nice find at JCW 8/28 (EJR, m.ob.), a first county record. One **Least Sandpiper** was at Duck Pond Road 8/21 (KB), 6 were at JCW 8/30 (KB, AB) and 2 were at Virgin Run Lake 9/6 (AB). A notable flock of 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** dropped into Duck Pond Road during a rainy day 8/30 (KB). This is a good count for the county. Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were another shorebird highlight at JCW 8/21 (EJR, KB, AB, ABe), a species not often seen here. An **American Woodcock** was flushed at Lemont Furnace 8/8 (NS). **Solitary Sandpipers** were at JCW 8/21-9/10 with a high count of 4 on 8/30 (KB, AB, ABe, EJR). One was at Mill Run Reservoir 8/23 (EJR), one was at Duck Pond Road 9/3 (KB), and 3 were at Virgin Run Lake 9/6 (AB).

A few gulls stopped by GRL. Single **Ring-billed Gulls** were there 9/30 (MF) and 10/2 (KB, MJ). A flock of 19 were there 11/12 along with a **Herring Gull** (KB, AB). Seven **Caspian Terns** were at GRL 10/2 (KB, MJ).

One **Common Loon** was at GRL 10/22 (MC, m.ob.) and 11/11 (MF). Two were there 11/12 (KB) and 3 on 11/17 (AB). Single **Great Egrets** were at GRL 8/23 (DM) and 9/1 (AB) and at JCW 9/18-24 (KB).

Black Vulture reports continued this fall with one at Laurel Caverns 8/20 (RR) and 3 were at Spring Valley 11/13 (CT). An **Osprey** was at GRL 10/2 (AB) and 4 **Bald Eagles** were there 11/12 (KB).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling at Ohiopyle State Park 8/19 and again 8/27 (RR, MAI). Two **Merlin** were at Deer Lake 8/12 (JC), one was at Spring Valley 9/17-10/8 (DBI, CT), and one was at JCW 9/24 (KB). Up to 5 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort during the season (MDo, AP).

Rarely reported, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was photographed at JCW 9/10 (KB). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Deer Lake 9/14 (JC) and another was at JCW 9/18 (KB). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Jumonville 9/16 (JC), Farmington 9/17 (AP) and Virgin Run Lake 10/2 (KB). One visited a feeder in Connellsville 10/1-16 (BM). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is rarely reported in the county. One was at Farmington 9/27 (AP) and one was at Ohiopyle State Park 9/29 (DF). An **American Pipit** was at GRL 11/11 (MF).

Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at Duck Pond Road 8/21 (KB). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were in Connellsville 10/2 (MA). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at JCW 10/8-10 (KB), 3 were found 10/17 (EH) and another 11/5 (KB). One was at GRL 10/13 (AB), two 10/22 (MC) and two 11/11 (MF). One was at Virgin Run Lake 11/24 (KB). Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were at JCW 10/17 (EH), 2 were there 10/22 (MC), one was at GRL 10/22 (MC) and 11/16 (KB), and one was at Farmington 10/27 (AP). Rarely reported outside the breeding season, a nice count of 8 **Bobolink** was made at Duck Pond Road 8/21 (KB).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found at Ohiopyle State Park 8/20 (RR) and three **Cerulean Warblers** were photographed there that same day (RR). Both species breed at the park but are usually not seen later in the summer.

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Forest County

Locations: Beaver Meadows Recreation Area (BEA), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Kellettsville (KEL), Marienville (MAR), Salmon Creek Road (SCR), Tionesta (TIO), West Hickory (WH).

There were 116 species reported on eBird this period. Seventeen **Tundra Swans** were in TIO 11/19 (JM). **Ruffed Grouse** were seen three times: one on SCR 8/1 (CW), 3 near MAR 10/12 (SK, AK), and one in

BEA 11/24 (TS).

Species that visited earlier this year and stopped on their return-migration routes included **Blue-winged Teal**, **American Black Duck**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Double-crested Cormorant**. This year a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen at Tionesta Creek Rd. 10/2 (T&JK) and 2 were at BUZ 9/3 (KS).

These owls were reported: 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** heard from different directions in BEA 8/1 (JKe, AR), a **Great Horned Owl** was near East Hickory (LS), and one **Barred Owl** was in BEA 8/1 (AR, JKe), in BUZ 8/9 (MS, JT), and near WH 11/22 (ES). Four **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (2 adults and 2 juveniles) were photographed on Loleta Road in perfect habitat 8/16 (TS). The other six of Pennsylvania's woodpecker species were reported numerous times throughout this year. A **Merlin** was at Lighthouse Island 8/27 (JM), and also at BUZ 9/3 (KS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed at BUZ 9/2 (MH, RH, T&JK). An **Alder Flycatcher** was in BEA 8/1 (JKe, AR). A **Swainson's Thrush** was in BUZ 9/3 (KS). **Evening Grosbeaks** returned in November: one in MAR 11/3-4 and 40 there 11/14 (both DY), 5 in TIO 11/15 (JM), and 2 in BEA 11/24 (TS). Three **Red Crossbills** were in BEA 11/6 (JKe, LP, AR, MS, SS). Nine **Snow Buntings** were near KEL 11/6 (JM), and 10 **American Tree Sparrows** were photographed in BEA 11/8 (NW, WW). Two **Fox Sparrows** were in TIO 11/18-21 (JM), and 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were near KEL 10/8 (PS). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were near WH 10/1 (MH, RH, T&JK, CW) and 3 were in BUZ 10/2 (T&JK). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted south of TIO 10/14 (LB).

Warblers not usually seen in *Forest* that migrated during this period included a **Tennessee Warbler** near WH 10/1 (MH, RH, T&JK, CW), a **Cape May Warbler** seen in BUZ 9/2 and again that day in TIO (both MH, RH, T&JK), 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** east of TIO 9/2 (MH, RH, T&JK), a **Blackpoll Warbler** near WH 10/1 (MH, RH, T&JK, CW), and a **Canada Warbler** at SCR 8/1 (CW) and at BEA the same day (JKe, AR).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antietam Meadow Park (AMP), Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Buchanan State Forest-Broad Mountain Eastern Slope Trails (BSF-BMEST), Caledonia State Park (CSP), Creekside Nature Trail Menno Haven (CNTMH), Fort Loudon Fort Historical Site (FLFHS), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Keefer Road Farm Pond (KEEF), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRIN), Letterkenny Reservoir (LERE), Little Dipper Pond (LDP), Long Lane Pond (LLP), Mountain Brook Road Pond (MBRP), Mountain Lake Fannettsburg (MLF), SGL 076-Lower Horse Valley (SGL076-LHV), SGL 235-Bricker Road (SGL235-BR), SGL 235-Upper Horse Valley (SGL235-UHV), Wilson College Fulling Mill Trail (WCFMT), Woods Road Retention Ponds (WRRP).

It was an uneventful fall for notable waterfowl. The only noteworthy birds were a **Ross's Goose** at KEEF 11/28 (BO, BKtz, M.ob) that was present through 12/1, and the long-staying **Trumpeter Swan** at LERE that was present throughout the entire period (BKtz, BO). The swan was one of four that were first observed at LERE 3/22-29. Beginning in April one remained and was reliably observed through the summer and fall reporting periods. The bird was obviously acclimated to the fishermen and kayakers that frequently used this location, and its lack of wariness was concerning. It was observed flying from one end of the reservoir to the other recently, which disproved that it was injured or ill and couldn't

This season's report is being dedicated to Joan Bowen who passed at the age of 91 on November 28th, 2022. Joan was a unique person: a dedicated teacher prior to retirement, a local historian, and long-time birder. She was an original founder of Conococheague Naturalists (now Conococheague Audubon) in the early 1960s. After Carl Garner's passing last December, she was the last of the original members of the Naturalists. Joan was an enthusiastic birder who mentored many. Visits to her at the Penn Hall campus of Menno Haven during her late independent living and assisted living years were full of stories about her local birding experiences, her Victor Emanuel-guided birding tours, her research into local African-American history, and her efforts in archiving Chambersburg Area School District history. Joan was the coordinator and compiler for the Chambersburg Christmas Bird Count for many years. I remember her describing to me about getting her 600th US life bird in Alaska which occurred when a jaeger was attacking a godwit nest (I admit that the exact details elude me). Joan was known in the Pennsylvania birding world of the day for hosting a Varied Thrush at her cabin in *Adams* near Caledonia in the winter of 1978, and for finding a Lark Sparrow on Shatzer Road near Chambersburg in the winter of 2006. There were many Pennsylvania birders who came to *Adams* and *Franklin* to see these birds. While she was no longer able to get out and go birding the last few years, her mind was sharp and her knowledge and memories of birding remained clear.

leave. It was last seen 12/12, and it seems to have wisely moved on. Notable sightings among ducks were non-existent. It was a weak migration of puddle ducks, which was followed by a weaker than normal number of diving ducks, that turned out to be the story of the season. The only blip was a sudden increase in some divers like **Buffleheads** when a Lake Erie snowstorm occurred in mid-Nov.

As is normal with the established colony in the south-central part of *Franklin*, there were regular reports of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** from the Greencastle and Marion areas. **Common Nighthawk** reports were less frequent than in past years; however, there was a notable high count of 86 in the Caledonia area 9/5 (DP). Late calling **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported 8/14 at CSP (AA) and in the Glen Forney area near Waynesboro 9/6 (DB). The last reported **Chimney Swifts** to pass through the county were over Greencastle 10/16 (KR). The last reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** came to feeders in the north end of Chambersburg 10/7-11 (BO). For the second time in the past three autumns, a **Rufous Hummingbird** was confirmed in *Franklin*. According to the host (TS), the bird was present beginning the second week of Oct at an Upper Strasburg feeder. It was absent for three days during the first week of Nov, and then returned daily. Conococheague Audubon was contacted late Nov and the bird was observed 11/26 (BO) and subsequently banded by Sandy Lockerman and observed by other birders 11/29 and 12/1 (BO, KS, VB, KR). Afterward, it disappeared again, but reappeared one last time 12/6-7 before disappearing.

Of note was a **Virginia Rail** heard at Happel's Meadow 9/5 (KR), the only report of this species in *Franklin* anytime in 2022. After a spring with no reports of **American Coot**, there were reports in the fall of one at ACP 10/15-16 (KR, BO, BKtz), up to 2 at a pond near Upper Strasburg 10/16-11/1 (BO, KS), and one at a pond along Iron Bridge Road 10/29 (BO).

The fall reporting season was an active one for shorebirds, with 18 species reported including some rarities. Three **American Avocets** were at ACP 8/22 (KR, BKner, CP, RP). Several locations in Pennsylvania had reports of the species this same date. **American Golden-Plovers** made a good showing with up to 7 near Upper Strasburg 9/11-12 (BO, KR), one along McClay's Mill Road 9/19 (BKtz), up to 16 along Antrim Church Road 10/1-4 (KR, TB) and 2 at ACP 10/4 (KR, TB). Neighboring western *Cumberland* had reports of large numbers of the species 9/30-10/9 that reached as many as 130 birds. The only report of **Semipalmated Plover** was at ACP 8/21 (KR, TA). The only **Dunlin** was a bird at ACP 10/19-23 (BO, DE, KR). The last reported **Least Sandpiper** was from KEEF 11/7 (BO). Following an unusual number of **White-rumped Sandpipers** in

spring migration 6/7-16, there were several fall reports including at KEEF 10/5-8 (BO), at ACP 10/5 (KR, TB) and at ACP 10/13-21 (BO, KR, DE). Of note was a count of 60 **Pectoral Sandpipers** in a field at GRRE 10/3 (KR, TB), and the last report for the species of 4 was at KEEF 11/7 (BO). The last **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 2 at ACP 10/13 (BO). A **Western Sandpiper** was reported at ACP 8/21 (TA) which represented the fourth record (by eBird) of this species in *Franklin*. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was present at ACP 8/5-8 (BO, KR, DE). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was found at MLF during a wet weather day 10/2 (BO, Bktz) which was the seventh (by eBird) for *Franklin*. Last reports of other common shorebird species were **Spotted Sandpiper** at ACP and KEEF 10/5 (KR, BO), **Solitary Sandpiper** at KRIN 10/13 (BO), **Greater Yellowlegs** at ACP 10/14 (JSp), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at ACP 10/30 (KR).

Separate sightings of **Black Tern** at ACP were 8/20 (KR) and 8/30 (BKnr, KR). Along with report of this species 5/7 in spring migration, three total sightings of this species in *Franklin* in 2022 were very notable. An **American Bittern** was observed from FLFHS while flying over the Mt Parnell Fisheries ponds 9/3 (CP, RP). A **Cattle Egret** was found at LLP 11/13 (BO, GA, DE, Bktz). This set a new the late date for this species in *Franklin*. There were reports of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in the area between Fayetteville and Caledonia 8/11 (DD) and 9/21 (AM). A **Glossy Ibis** was in the streamside meadow at GRRE 8/19 (KR, DGe), the fifth in *Franklin*.

A surprise **Golden Eagle** was seen flying over and away from ACP 10/23 (KR). **Barn Owl** (or owls) continued occasionally in an undisclosed location in the St Thomas-Edenville area. **Northern Saw-Whet Owls** were reported from different areas of Michaux SF 11/2 (KR) and 11/8 (GA, BO). As is typical during the fall-winter seasons, there were scattered reports of **Merlin** and **Peregrine Falcon**.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at HROO 9/2 (BO), in the Upper Strasburg area 9/6 (BO) and along Middle Ridge Road in Michaux SF 9/8-10 (BO, KS, KR, DGr, GG). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported 9/4, 9/6, and 9/10 at HROO (BO, KR, VG, VB), from Stillhouse Hollow in Michaux SF 9/9 (KR) and at WCFMT 9/12 (AM). A late and lingering **Eastern Phoebe** was found at KRIN 11/18 and 11/20, and was also seen at least into mid-Dec. In addition to the two boreal-nesting flycatchers mentioned, another sought after boreal migrant is **Philadelphia Vireo**, which was reported in the Upper Strasburg area 9/6 (BO), at HROO 9/6 (KR) and from Stillhouse Hollow in Michaux SF 9/9 (KR). The Black-capped/Carolina Chickadee hybrid line has pretty much moved across *Franklin*, and pure **Black-capped Chickadees** are very infrequently found in most of the county now. Winter irruptive years for this species provide for more frequent opportunities for birders, and by the end of Oct it was apparent that the upcoming late fall and winter would be such a year.

An unusual number of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports occurred in the Mid-Atlantic during July this year, and in *Franklin* there were two such reports included in the summer summary. Reports of them continued and increased in the fall. A **Marsh Wren** was at a pond near Upper Strasburg 10/21 (BO). A late **Gray Catbird** was photographed in a yard in the south end of Chambersburg 11/5 and 11/24 (DC). Although there were a few reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush in spring migration, there were none in fall migration. With the number of reports of **Evening Grosbeak** statewide that began in the later half Oct and early Nov, there was high anticipation of birds to be found in *Franklin*. That did not prove to be the case. The only known sighting was 3 photographed at a feeder in the St Thomas area 10/29 (BKnr). Reports of **Purple Finch** started in Sep and were regularly reported in Oct, but tailed off in Nov. **Pine Siskin** reports were very light, even at the feeding station that seems to attract them in most years. The only reports were up to 2 inconsistently at a Greene Knolls yard 9/27-11/5 (VB) and 2 seen at the CSP feeders 11/16-17 (BO, Bktz). The only reports of **Rusty Blackbird** were up of to 5 at ACP 9/23-24, 10/9, and 10/12 (KR, DE).

There were 28 species of warblers reported this season. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at AMP 11/10 (KR). A late **Nashville Warbler** was photographed in a north end of Chambersburg yard 11/5 (RG, TGS). A **Connecticut Warbler** was found at HROO 9/4 (CP, RP, BO). A **Mourning Warbler** was at HROO 9/4 (CP, RP) and 9/6

(KR), and at Furnace Run Park 10/18 (Bktz).

Late summer **Blue Grosbeak** reports were made at SGL235-BR 8/2 (BO), from the Upper Strasburg area 8/2-8 (BO) and from Woodstock/Ragged Edge Road area east of Chambersburg 9/4 (AM). The only **Dickcissel** report was a bird in the Woodstock/Ragged Edge Road area 9/4 (AM). Reports of the species were considerably down this year, including in the spring and summer seasons.

In normal years, swallows migrate through *Franklin* according to a pretty consistent schedule for each species. There are always a few stragglers that are found after normally expected late dates, which differ for each species. This year's late fall migration of swallows was much different than normal, possibly due to Hurricane Ian which came inland at South Carolina 9/30. There were many more late reports than normal and in considerably higher numbers from mid-Oct into Nov after Ian impacted the Mid-Atlantic. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** had a total of five reports later than Sep prior to this year, but in Oct this year there were reports at ACP 10/2-11, at LERE 10/2, at Greencastle Sportsman's 10/3, and at KEEF 10/3-9 (KR, BO, TB, DE, CP, Bktz). **Tree Swallow** is typically the most abundant and latest migrating swallow. Very large numbers continued to mid-Oct this year with high counts of 510 at ACP 10/16 (KR), 500 along Iron Bridge Road 10/16 (BO) and an estimated 4500 along Airport Road 10/17 (AM). Prior to 2022 there was one Nov record of 2 birds at KRIN 11/9. In Nov this year there were reports of seven birds at GERE 11/4 (KR), 20 at KEEF 11/5 (BO) and 12 at Izaak Walton Meadows 11/6 (BO). These *Franklin* November Tree Swallow records were the only records in the state west of the southeastern counties. A late **Bank Swallow** was reported at KEEF 10/4-7 (CP, Bktz, BO). The only other Bank Swallow in Oct was one at MLF 10/2/2015. **Barn Swallow** has five historical reports later than Sep, but in Oct there were reports at KEEF 10/2-24 (BO, CP, Bktz), at ACP 10/2-14 (BO, KR, TB), at MLF 10/3 (KR, TB), at Greencastle Sportsman's 10/3 (KR, TB), along Wenger Road 10/4 (BO) and in the Upper Strasburg area 10/10 (BO). **Cliff Swallow** is an earlier migrant, usually gone by September, and there was no pattern of lateness for them in 2022. All historical contexts mentioned here were taken from eBird.

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Fulton County

Locations: Blairs Hill Rd. (BHR), Boy Scout Rd. (BSR), Buchanan S.F. Kerper Tract/Redbud Valley (KET), Buchanan S.F. Knobsville Tract (KNT), Cowan's Gap S.P. (CG), Haines-Seville Wetland (HSW), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Tuscarora Summit/The Pulpit (TS), Wells Tannery (WT).

There were 148 species reported on eBird in *Fulton* for the fall period.

There were no waterfowl of special note. Three species that were only reported once during the season included 3 **Gadwall** at MGL 11/12-13 (TM), 8 **Northern Pintail** at MGL 11/12 (TM), and 3 **Hooded Mergansers** at 11/14 MGL (TM). Up to 4 **Pied-billed Grebes** were present at MGL 9/26-11/29 (DG, GG, TM, VG) and up to 4 were at CG 10/29-11/29 (VG, BO, JK) as well., One more was at BSR 11/12 (TM). An **American Coot** was at the same location 11/15 (TM), providing *Fulton* with its first fall eBird report since 11/23/2000.

Common Nighthawks were not all that common, with 3 at Union Church 8/28 (TM) and one at MGL 8/30 (TM). As usual there were not many shorebirds; only four species were reported. Among these was one

Greater Yellowlegs at MGL 10/22 (DG, GG). The only gulls reported were 2 **Bonaparte Gulls** at MGL 11/12 (TM), and 3 **Ring-billed Gulls** at MGL 11/24 (VG, TM). One to 3 **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at MGL 8/24-10/14 (TM, MC, JS, VG).

A **Golden Eagle** was at TS 11/1 (BO) and 11/2 (VG, TM), and another was at Wells Valley Presbyterian Cemetery 11/23 (TM). A **Merlin** was at TS 10/14 (BO).

A **Northern Goshawk** was reported at TS 11/1 (BO). This was the first report from this former hawkwatch site since 2014. There are no other eBird records for *Fulton* away from TS. The only other *Fulton* record for goshawk found in back issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* unfortunately did not specify the location, so it's not known if it occurred at TS. "An adult Northern Goshawk was seen carrying a young rabbit into the woods 6/26." (Vol. 3 No. 2, Apr-Jun 1989)

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at MGL 9/17 (TM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made an early appearance, reported regularly in many locations from the third week of Aug through the end of the period. There was only one report of one **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, at MGL 9/17 (VG, TM), but **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from five different locations: MGL, CG, KET, BSR and Oregon Road from 9/17-21. Top count for them was 6 at KET 9/20 (VG).

Purple Finches were seen from mid-Sep through the end of the period at several locations in small flocks, the largest of which was 5 at BHR 9/26 (CF). **Fox Sparrow** showed up in Nov, with one at WT 11/5 (TM, EB), one at BSR 11/12 (TM), and 2 at MGL 11/24 (VG, TM). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in the area of WT 10/8 and 10/16 (EB, TM), and 2 were on Rock Hill Rd. 10/14 (VG). There were two reports of **Bobolink** from 295 Purnell Rd., WT: 8 on 8/20 (TM) and 12 on 8/21 (TM). There was a flock of 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Wells Valley Presbyterian Cemetery 11/6 (TM).

There were 22 species of warbler observed during the period, with a number of species reported only once. There were 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** at Jerry Rd. Harrisonville 8/19 (VG, TM). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was present at KNT 9/2 (TM). One **Tennessee Warbler** was seen at MGL 9/19 (TM), along with 2 **Nashville Warblers** the same location 9/17 (VG, TM). Lastly, from KET there was one **Canada Warbler** 8/30 (TM) and one **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/2 (TM).

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Greene County

Locations: Center Twp. (CT), East View (EV), Franklin Twp. (FT), Greene River Trail (GRT), Jackson Twp (JT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY), and Wayne Twp (WT).

Wood Duck were last seen at EV 10/28 (MH). **Common Merganser** was at EV 11/6 (JH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at RSP 9/17 (LY). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was last reported at EV 9/21 (MH). An **American Woodcock** was at SY 10/4 (AC, JC), and a **Spotted Sandpiper** was in Dunkard Twp. 8/14 (AW).

Golden Eagle was spotted in SY 8/13 (AC, JC). **Osprey** was last reported at the Bell farm in MT 8/29 (CDB, LB). Other raptors included **Northern Harrier** at RSP 9/18 (LY), **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Cumberland Twp. 11/19 (CB), and **Broad-winged Hawk** at RSP 9/17 (LY). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at RSP 9/17 (LY), a **Great Horned Owl** was heard at the Bell farm 9/11 (CDB, LB), and a **Barred Owl** was heard in JT 8/3 (RL).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was at EV 10/28 (JH, MH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at SY 10/10 (JC). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was heard at the Bell Farm 8/14 (DB). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was last reported in WT 10/3 (HL). **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard in EV 8/21 (MH). An **Eastern**

Kingbird was still at RSP 9/1 (WP). **White-eyed Vireo** and **Yellow-throated Vireo** were heard in MT 9/20 (KK). **Blue-headed Vireo** was found in JT 10/3 (NR) and a **Red-eyed Vireo** was in MT 9/18 (AW). **Purple Martin** was last observed at the Bell farm 8/16 (CDB). Approximately 300 **Tree Swallows** were in MT 8/5 (GB) and **Barn Swallow** was last seen 9/17 at same location (KK).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found in SY 10/13 (AC, JC) and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** showed up in WT 10/8 (SB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in JT 10/3 (NR). **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were all last reported in JT 10/3 (NR). **Veery** was at RSP 9/17 (LY) and **Swainson's Thrush** was in Richhill Twp. 9/28 (NR). **Purple Finch** was at SY 11/4 (JC). A **Fox Sparrow** was in SY 11/20 (JC). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was in SY 11/17 (JC). **Dark-eyed Junco** was first reported at EV 11/8 (MH). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was in MT 10/12 (KK). **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole** were last reported at RSP 8/16 (TR). **Red-winged Blackbird** was in MT 11/19 (KK) and **Common Grackle** was at EV 11/8 (MH).

Connecticut Warbler was at EV 9/10 and same location held a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 8/27 (MH). **Common Yellowthroat** and **Cape May Warbler** were found Richhill Twp. 9/28 (NR). **Hooded Warbler** was in Perry Twp. 9/10 (RN). **Northern Parula** was found at RSP 9/17 (LY). **Magnolia Warbler** and **Blackpoll Warbler** was present in JT 10/3 (NR). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were found in WT 10/3 (HL).

Scarlet Tanager was last reported at EV 8/25 (MH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** were both last reported in Richhill Twp. 9/28 (NR).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon – town (HU), Juniata College (JC), Juniata River (JR), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Stone Valley (SV).

For the fall season in *Huntingdon*, a total of 179 species were entered into eBird, about average for recent years. Temperatures were close to normal overall, with Aug and Nov above average by over 2°F and Oct 1.5°F below. The season was rather dry, about two inches below normal rainfall.

High count of **Tundra Swan** at SMHW was a rather modest 150 on 11/20 (GG). As usual, fall waterfowl, especially ducks, were unremarkable, except in the negative sense, such as the less than a *total* of 10 **American Black Ducks** found throughout the entire season, with no count of more than two.

Ruffed Grouse reports were similar to recent dismal seasons—of about eight reports, top count was three. As usual for the two cuckoos, and perhaps even more extreme than usual, there were dozens reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** but only 2 **Black-billed Cuckoos** were noted: one at SCEC 8/6 (JPo) and one at SMHW 9/17 (TK, DK).

Few reports of **Common Nighthawk** were received: one at HU 8/17-18 (DK,TK), one over JC 8/24 (Ni), one at ENN 8/28 and 6 there 8/29 (DW), and 7 at OC 9/6 (Ni). Only 2 **American Coots** were recorded: one at OC 10/13-26, presumably the same individual throughout (DO, KT, Ni), and one at RL 10/12 (AP).

A flyover **Black-bellied Plover** was heard at PF 9/5 (JK). High **Killdeer** counts in the big fields of PF reached 144, 163, and 126 on 9/5, 9/6, and 9/12, respectively (JK). A **Sanderling** at PF 9/13 provided only the third county eBird report (JK). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at

PF 9/12 (JK) and MAR 10/26 (KT). A late **Greater Yellowlegs** was at SGL 10/26 and 10/30 (KT). Twenty-three **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PF 9/12 was an unusually high number for the county (JK). The only **Bonaparte's Gull** report was of a single at RL 10/12 (AP).

Fall hawk watch results at SMHW are summarized elsewhere in this issue. Notable was the count of 223 **Bald Eagles**, second highest seasonal count (since 1995). On the other hand, the 114 **Golden Eagles** was below the ten-year average of 144, due in large part to lack of favorable winds for the watch through late Oct and much of Nov. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** flew over 11/20 (GG), the only one for the season (GG, NB, JK, DK, TK, RC et al.).

The high counts of **Double-crested Cormorant** at SMHW were 108 on 9/8 (TK, DK) and 144 on 10/23 (NB); these are typical numbers. The only **American Bittern**, not often reported in fall, was at SCEC 10/8 (DW).

Notable reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were 5 at Mooresville 8/23 (MC) and a total of 8 flyovers at SMHW on six different dates 9/8-10/6, including 3 on 9/13. This total is well above the usual couple seen most years at SMHW. Away from SMHW, **Merlins** were reported at least seven times, centered mostly around HU. **Peregrine Falcons** are also seen these days with some regularity, mostly at HU or along the JR, possibly the pair confirmed nesting in 2021: singles were at PF 9/14 (KT), JC 10/5 (Ni), HU10/16 (Ni), along the JR near Hun 10/31 (KT), and 2 were at Alexandra 10/29 (MK).

There were at least 9 reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 8/16-9/19, well above the usual number of fall reports; concentrated mostly at HU and SCEC, two locations with lots of birding activity. The only 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** showed up on the same date, 9/24; one on SCR (DG, GG) and one at SMHW (NB). As elsewhere, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported often and in many locations, and as usual the largest numbers came from SV in northeastern *Huntingdon*, with lots of pine stands and also more heavily birded than the southern half of the county.

The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was recorded at the night flight call station at SCEC 9/17. At that same location, 25 **Swainson's Thrush** were detected 9/17. Two notable high counts of **Cedar Waxwing** were 178 at SMHW and 182 near McConnellstown 9/25 (TK, DK). **American Pipits** were scarce except for a good count of 65 at PF 9/21 (JK).

Evening Grosbeaks visited feeders at SCEC 11/6-22, with a high 7 on 11/7 (m.ob.). A flock of 7 briefly visited a feeder near MF 11/8 (JM). Numerous reports of **Purple Finch** peaked sharply during the second half of Oct. Three **Pine Siskins** were seen at SMHW 10/23 (NB) and singles were at HU 10/28 (DO) and 11/19 (LF). The only **Snow Bunting** was at Neelyton 11/10 (DE).

American Tree Sparrow was reported from three locations, headed by six reports throughout Nov at OC, with a high of 6 on 11/9 and 11/26 (Ni). The lone **Vesper Sparrow** was at OC 9/3 (DO). Single **Savannah Sparrows** were at OC 9/29, 10/13, and 10/22; and one was recorded at night over SCEC 9/17. Seven reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** were all of singles, 9/28-10/22 (m.ob.). **Swamp Sparrows** are always easy to find at OC in fall; of many reports the high was 15 on 10/11 (CK, JG).

Remarkably, and alarmingly, only one **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported—on Paul's Rd near Alexandria 8/9 (GG, DG). Only 6 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found: 2 at OC 10/13 (KT) and singles there 10/17 and 10/29 (Ni), and 2 at MAR 10/30 (KT).

Twenty-eight warbler species were recorded, matching exactly the average of the past five fall seasons. The least common of the 28 was **Mourning Warbler**, which was recorded at night 9/17 at SCEC, the only report of the season. A **Yellow Warbler** near HU 9/27 was slightly late (TK, DK), as was a **Northern Parula** 10/28 (DW) and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/23, both at SMHW (NB). A good count of 100 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was made along the JR at HU 10/28 (DO).

A **Dickcissel** was photographed at OC 10/9 (Ni), the fifth county record in eBird.

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Indiana County

Locations: Two Lick Reservoir (TL), West Penn Trail (WPT), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

The highlight of the season was a first for *Indiana*—the appearance of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** near Lewisville 8/13 (MC).

A **Mute Swan** was observed and photographed at YC 11/26 (JP). First 6 **Tundra Swans** arrived 11/8 (SD, ED, CH, MH, RH, DK, GL, GT) at YC where they peaked at 67 on 11/15 (LC, BG, CH, DK). TL yielded 102 overhead and 63 on the water 11/12 (LC). During the state park competition 10/2 (MH, RH), a **White-winged Scoter** arrived and landed on YC Lake.

Two reports of single **Ruffed Grouse** were welcomed, one at YC 10/2 (SS) and one along the Rexis Branch of the Ghost Town Trail near Vintondale 11/14 (GT). Late **Common Nighthawks**, both singletons, were seen 10/12 (DL) along the WPT and the other at YC 10/15 (CH, DK, TM, JT); top count of 21 occurred along the WPT 9/3 (MCa). An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** appeared near Seward 9/25 (GT) and continued through the end of the season after which it was banded and documented by Sandy Lockerman 12/2 (GT, et al.). After sparse **American Coot** counts the past few years, it was good to see a peak of 178 at YC on 11/19 (MH, RH).

Two **Semipalmated Plovers** 8/23 (ED, CH, MH, RH, DK, SVD) and one 8/30 (SD, CH, MH, RH) at YC were the only reports. Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** arrived at YC 10/25 (SD, PF, CH, MH, RH) and remained through 10/30 (CH). YC hosted a single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/23 (ED, CH, MH, RH, DK, SVD). A lone **Long-billed Dowitcher**, identified by call note and photographed, appeared at YC 11/8 (SD). Last **American Woodcock** was noted 10/26 (DS) at Nolo. Four **Wilson's Snipe** flew over the observers at the YC boat launch 10/25 (SD, PF, CH, MH, RH) and were photographed in flight (CH). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** lingered at BS 10/9 (TH). One to 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** continued into the fall with last reports of 2 on 9/2 (AK, JK) at Hemlock Lake and one 9/13 (MH, RH, DK) at YC. First 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared at YC 8/16 (ED, PF, CH, MH, RH) with last sighting, a singleton, 10/19 (CH, MH, RH) at YC; one also was sighted at Hemlock Lake 9/2 (AK, JK). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** with an apparent injured leg dropped into YC 10/25 (SD, PF, CH, MH, RH), the last report. Rain and wind 8/23 (CH, MH, RH, DK) downed 3 **Caspian Terns** onto the beach at YC while 3 **Black Terns** at the same time did not stop but continued to feed over the water.

A **Red-throated Loon** landed at YC 10/2 (MH, RH) and another was present 10/15 (CH, DK, TM, JT). **Great Egrets** put in great appearances this fall with counts of one to 3 between 8/2 (PF, CH, MH, RH, DK) and 10/15 (CH, DK, TM, JT); however, the 9 on 10/16 (MS) was the highest count since the 27 tallied on 4/13/1989 (AB, DB, GL).

As **Black Vultures** continue to expand their range, local sightings have increased with counts this fall of 12 near Armagh 9/4 (KP), 5 near Seward 10/8 (GT), 4 near Lewisville 10/25 (MC), and 3 in Indiana 11/1 (JP). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** photographed near Lewisville 8/13 (MC) could not be relocated after the initial sighting.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at YC 10/31 (DM). Single **Merlins** moved through the county between 8/28 (JP) and 11/18 (GT) with reports from YC, near Seward, and Indiana. A **Peregrine Falcon** was noted at the Homer City Generating Station 11/16-17 (RS).

After only one spring report, **Olive-sided Flycatchers** made multiple appearances at various sites. IUP boasted the first sighting 8/29 (JT). YC hosted single birds between 8/30 (SD, CH, MH, RH) and 9/13 (MH, RH, DK) with 2 sighted in the same tree, one chasing the other, on 9/6 (ED, CH, MH, RH, DK). A yard near SH hosted a single bird 9/4 and 9/7 (MH, RH). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were observed near LV 8/30, 9/1 (MC) and at SGL 262 on 9/17 (TH). Both Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and **Philadelphia Vireos** were spotted at BS between 9/10 (ED, MH, RH, WH, CH, TM, JT, MW, RW) and 9/25 (TH) with 5 flycatcher and 3 vireo reports. YC harbored one Philadelphia Vireo 9/20 (CH, MH,

RH, DK, TR). A **Northern Shrike** at YC 10/30 (MCa, RC) was an exciting find and was subsequently seen by 12 others through 11/5 (ABo, TB, SH).

An amazing 68 **Purple Martins** were counted at YC 8/2 (PF, CH, MH, RH, DK, GL, KT); last noted were 4 on 8/16 (ED, PF, CH, MH, RH). One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were listed at 10 locations this fall (m.ob.). A late **House Wren** lingered at YC 10/31 (DM) and **Winter Wrens** were noted at eight locations. Only 2 **Veeries** were noted this fall, one along the WPT 9/24 (EH, SM) and the other at YC 10/8 (JT). Four **American Pipits** flew over the south shore boat launch 10/16 (EW).

Evening Grosbeaks appeared at four locations in the county this fall: 6 near Seward 11/1 (GT), one at YC 11/14 (MCa), one near LV 11/15 (MC), and 2 near SH 11/21 (MH, RH). The Seward location saw a second visit by one 11/7 (GT).

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Jefferson County

Locations: Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MST), Ringgold (RG), Fordham Lake (FL), Clarion-Little Toby Trail (CLTT), Clear Creek State Park (CCSP), O'Donnell Road (OR), Dobson Road (DR), Panic-Wishaw Road (PWR), Strausser Road (SR), Brookville (BV).

The 2022 fall migration provided a nice variety of annual migrants and sporadic visitors. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at MST 9/16 (JAK), and 3 increasingly uncommon **Common Nighthawks** at CLTT 8/18 (DK) were highlights. Shorebird habitat is sparse in *Jefferson*. Despite that, a **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed at KL 8/17 (DK), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was present at CL 9/7 (JAK). A **Green Heron** was tallied at FL 8/27 (JAK).

Bird of prey notables included a **Northern Harrier** OR 11/16 (SL), and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** at FL 9/9 (JAK). A **Barred Owl** was documented at CCSP 9/23, and a **Merlin** was discovered along DR 9/15 (JAK).

A vocalizing **Alder Flycatcher** was at FBT 8/12 (MH), a **White-eyed Vireo** was at FL 9/9 (JAK), a trio of **Purple Martins** were along SHR 8/1 (JAK), and a pair of **Cliff Swallows** was at FL 9/1 (JAK). A **Winter Wren** was found along PWR 10/17 (MM), and an unusually large flock of 80 **American Pipits** were photographed along SR 11/21 (JAK).

A modest movement of **Evening Grosbeaks** occurred regionally, and one handsome male patronized a feeder in RG 11/21 (JAK). Another northern visitor, a **Pine Siskin** visited the same feeder in RG 11/6 (JAK). A late **Chipping Sparrow** was photographed in BV 11/28 (TC), an **American Tree Sparrow** showed up in RG 11/20 (JAK), and a pair of **Fox Sparrows** were noted in BV 11/21 (TC). A **Bobolink** was identified in RG 8/21 (JAK). Warbler highlights included a **Connecticut Warbler** and a **Wilson's Warbler** at MST 9/16 (JAK).

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Juniata County

Locations: Bolgiano Cabin (BC), Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Juniata County Industrial Park Retention Pond (JCIP), Licking Creek

Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA).

The species count for the season was 151, which included two first county records and one second county record—all of these referring to the eBird database. We note that *Juniata* has a very active contingent of Amish birders. What rarities have they seen over the decades that have never made it into the consciousness of the "English" birders and their databases?

Only eight duck species were recorded, none unusual. There were few reports of **Common Nighthawk**: one at MRA 8/24, 2 at MIF 8/31, one at MA, and a late bird at East Waterford comprised the only reports (MP, JP). The only **Ruffed Grouse** was recorded on Shade Mt. north of MA 8/14 (JS).

A newly constructed retention pond at the Juniata County Industrial Park (JCIP) holds promise for shorebirds, or at least it did for this one fall season as it seems likely it will grow up in grass by next year. Most notable there was a **Black-bellied Plover** 9/30 (CK) and 2 on 10/2 (MP, JP); these represented the first *Juniata* records in eBird. A total of nine shorebird species were recorded at JCIP during the season, a good showing for a county with only modest shorebird habitat.

Double-crested Cormorants are uncommon here; among eight reports, top count was 8 at MRA 9/2 (DG, RF). A long-staying and cooperative **Glossy Ibis** was present at a private pond off Red Rock Rd 8/25-9/5 (DB et al.). This was the second for *Juniata* following one near MA in April 1996.

Two **Golden Eagles** were seen over BC 11/9 (NB). Seven **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at the Juniata Saddle Club grounds 8/27 (MN, DS), where they are regular. A **Merlin** was noted at CC on at least six dates 8/27-10/30 (m.ob.).

Two species lingered late: an **Eastern Phoebe** and a **Gray Catbird** were both at BC 11/22 (NB). Rare in the county, a **White-eyed Vireo** was in LCV 9/4 (DB). A **Carolina Chickadee** was at CC 9/30 and 2 were there 10/8-9 (CK, TW, VG, SS, SJ); *Juniata* is not far north of the chickadee hybrid zone and occasional reports are to be expected.

Notably high swallow counts included 200 **Tree Swallows** at CC 10/8 (CK, VG, TW), 50 **Bank Swallows** at CC 8/27 and 9/4 (CK), and 75 **Barn Swallows** at MIF 8/7 (MP, JP). Five **Swainson's Thrush** were at BC 9/15 (NB). The high count among several **American Pipit** reports was 15 at MA 10/24 (MP).

Several reports of **Evening Grosbeak** were entered into eBird. Multiple reports from a feeding station on Blacklog Rd. in far western *Juniata* were topped by 12 on 11/9 (MR); 16 was the high at a LCV feeder 11/1; (DB), and 9 were at MA 10/31 (MP, JP). An early **Pine Siskin** was photographed at LCV 8/24 (DB), 2 were at SGL 107 on 10/23 (JP), and one on Blacklog Rd. 11/13 (MR).

The only report of **American Tree Sparrow** was of 2 near MIF 11/26 (CK, NK). Four reports of **Fox Sparrow** were topped by 11 at SGL 107 on 11/2 (DaT). Twenty warbler species were identified, all annually expected except a **Connecticut Warbler** that was voice-recorded at CC 9/24 (CK, JG) providing the first eBird record of this species for the county.

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Lackawanna County

Locations: Archbald Pothole SP (ASP), Crystal Lake (CL), Lackawanna SP (LSP), Lake Scranton (LS), NY, Ontario, & Western Rail Trail (OW), Pinchot SF (PSF), State Game Lands 312 (SGL).

To say that *Lackawanna* experienced a fantastic fall migration

season would be an understatement! The period saw a wonderful diversity of species in a variety of habitats throughout the area. In comparison to the summer months, the Poconos Region obtained some much-needed rainfall setting the stage for a stunning fall color display in the early weeks of Oct. Such factors, combined with several above average temperatures, ultimately enhanced the fall birding experience.

Waterfowl diversity this period was significantly better than they have been during previous fall migrations. A new county high tally for **Gadwall** was established with 12 at LSP 11/17 (RW). A **Redhead** at Newton Lake 11/21 (CF) was a great find. Another unexpected discovery for not only *Lackawanna* but for Pennsylvania generally was a female or immature **King Eider** at CL 11/13 (CF). Adding to the period's excitement were 2 **White-winged Scoters** at LS 10/26 (CF). A new county high tally of 150 **Ruddy Ducks** occurred at LS 11/14 (BC). A third county high tally of 2 **Red-throated Loons** was made at LS 11/16 (BC).

A few rare gulls also appeared, including a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 10/25-27 (CF, RK) and a **Great Black-backed Gull** 11/28 (CF) at LS. Two **Golden Eagle** reports were made in Nov, one at LSP 11/5 (DB) and by 2 in flight above Hubbard Mtn. north of Blakely 11/28 (RW). Four sightings of single **Peregrine Falcons** occurred within the Scranton metropolitan area (m.ob.); such occurrences are not documented annually.

Transient flycatcher highlights consist of two species. Single tallies of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** occurred at PSF 9/9 (CF) and ASP 9/17 (DL, DT). Additionally, single counts of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were had at OW near Simpson 9/13 and ASP 9/15 (CF). A **Philadelphia Vireo** at ASP 9/15 (CF) followed by 2 at LSP 9/30 (TD) were notable finds.

Worthy of mention was the new *Lackawanna* high tally of 230 **Fish Crows** made from McDade Park near Scranton 10/17 (MA). This species appears to be continuing its expansion throughout the northeast. A high count for **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was made with 2 at SGL 312 on 9/25 (CF). The 2022 winter finch irruption did not appear to be quite as impressive as it was during the 2020-21 irruption, or at least not in our region, but significant finch reports were still made. **Pine Siskin** sightings were limited to two occurrences at the southern end of the county; the period high was comprised of 6 at Eagle Lake Community in Covington Twp. 10/16 (DC). **Evening Grosbeaks** were slightly more common with a new county high of 12 near Mt. Cobb 10/31 (BH) followed by 3 at SGL 312 on 11/3 (CF) and 2 at LSP 11/4 (TD). **Snow Buntings** are always a welcomed sight during the winter months; one was at CL 11/14 (CF, RK) this fall.

Four **Rusty Blackbirds** stood out as *Lackawanna's* period high at Sickler Pond Rd. 10/19 (DS). Two **Connecticut Warblers** included one each at OW 9/13 and SGL 312 on 9/25 (CF). Attempting to steal the show were **Mourning Warblers** with single tallies made at Hillside Park 8/26 (RJ), a Dalton residence 10/8 (MM), and at LSP 9/8 (RW) and 10/1 (TD, SP). Two **Wilson's Warblers** were at LSP 9/10 (SP) and one was at ASP 9/15 (CF).

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Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Overlook Park (OP), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFPC), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Conowingo Pond (SRCP), Woods Edge Park (WEP).

August was quite hot and dry, and December stayed warm, but overall it was a fairly routine season weather-wise. Weather information is sourced from Harrisburg data from the National Weather Service. 245

species were recorded during the period, just under the 5-year average of 249 (241, 254, 269, 240, 242 previous). The first county record of **White-faced Ibis** was found, which brought the all-time list to 363. In other news, **Western Kingbird** (7th) and **Roseate Spoonbill** (~8th) were highlights, not to mention the **Wood Storks** (2nd) continuing from summer.

A juvenile **Greater White-fronted Goose** associated with Canada Geese along the Susquehanna R. north of Marietta 10/20 (ML, JM, BS). One of the most unusual sights of this fall was a pair of **Ruffed Grouse** flushed along a road south of the Buck 10/21 (TA). A young **Common Gallinule** was photographed at SRCF 10/22 (RB, DS), bringing the year tally to 4 for this species.

The shorebird species count was 26 for the season. At SRCF 7 **American Avocets** were documented 8/22 (LB, DS), and another 10/9 (EW). A flock of 15 **Black-bellied Plovers** flew over SRCF 9/18 (EW, m.ob.), but did not stop. **American Golden-Plovers** were found several times, notably 7 near Groffdale 9/22 (WB, EM), and 9 near Washington Boro 9/25 (DS). The last two Octobers yielded sizable flocks in eastern *Lancaster*, but this year was more average for our area. Unfortunately, **Upland Sandpipers** did not pass through LA as they frequently do. However, one was seen and heard in flight at MCWMA 8/15 (BC), and another walked a rainy field with Killdeer near Mascot 9/6 (ZM). The only **Ruddy Turnstone** was an adult at MCWMA 9/5 (BC). **Stilt Sandpipers** were found several times around the county, notably a flock of up to 5 at MCWMA in the first week of Sep (m.ob.). Six **Sanderlings** were listed at SRCF 8/23 (WB). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was described at MCWMA 8/23 (JF), and the best count of 9 **White-rumped Sandpipers** was at SRCF 10/9 (EW). Single **Western Sandpipers** were picked out from Semipalmated Sandpipers at MCMWA 8/15 (BC) and 8/28 (DS). There were only four instances of **Short-billed Dowitcher**, all in Aug. A pair of its rarer cousin, the **Long-billed Dowitcher**, showed up at MCWMA 9/29-10/1 (NW, WW, m.ob.). Lone **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen at WEP 9/2 (RB), and MCWMA 9/10 (ME, TN, m.ob.). A juv. **Red-necked Phalarope** was a one-day wonder on a Voganville farm pond 8/11 (m.ob.), and 3 more were discovered on SRCP 10/2-3 (GS, m.ob.).

There were several **Laughing Gulls** sighted along the Susquehanna R. Sep-Oct. A **Franklin's Gull** was photographed at SRCF 10/5 (ML), marking one of the better records of the season. Several **Black Terns** filtered through MCWMA 8/30 and 9/6 (BC, JF), but none were found along the Susquehanna R. **Common Terns** were reported sparingly at MCWMA and on the Susquehanna R., but **Forster's Terns** put on a show on SRCP where up to 84 birds resided in early Oct (GS, CG, m.ob.). An **American White Pelican** hung around SRCF 8/23-24 (WB, m.ob.).

An adult **White-faced Ibis** was a mega find in AM 9/21 (BM, m.ob.), which was documented well with photos and video. This individual was quite plain, showing very dull facial skin with a limited pale border, but with nothing obvious standing out to indicate the possibility of a hybrid with Glossy Ibis. It will become the first county and 7th state record if accepted by PORC.

A full complement of wading birds was logged this season. All were juveniles, unless noted as an adult. The continuing 4 **Wood Storks** were around OR the first days of Aug, and one showed up at MCWMA 8/12 after these birds disappeared (m.ob.). A flyover **American Bittern** (age unknown) was seen at MCWMA 10/31 (BC). **Snowy Egrets** were few, but there were 2 birds of unknown age along the Susquehanna R. 8/24 and 8/28 (ML). **Little Blue Herons** were in numerous locales, including up to 5 at MCWMA in Aug (m.ob.). A **Tricolored Heron** topped the list at SRCF 8/20-9/4, which incredibly have been documented now 3 out of the last 4 years in the county. The only **Cattle Egret** was at WEP 10/26 (KS, DW, m.ob.). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at NDP 8/1 (LB), and OP 8/15 (DS). A **Roseate Spoonbill** and a **White Ibis** were found at SRCF 8/23 (JR, m.ob.), both one-day wonders and amazingly photographed side-by-side in the same tree! Two **Glossy Ibis** were also there 8/7-31 (ML, m.ob.).

A **Short-eared Owl** was observed hunting at LA the evening of

10/26 (ZM). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** sightings were strong around the county from late Aug-mid Sep (m.ob.). A brief observation of a **Western Kingbird** took place at NDP 9/14 (SM), and the observer fortunately had just enough time to snap a photo of the 7th county record before it disappeared for good.

Black-capped Chickadees staged an irruption beginning late Oct, and were widely reported around the county in low numbers (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued their recent biannual irruption trend, putting on an impressive movement which began over the summer. A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was photographed well near Paradise 11/18 (RR). A **Sedge Wren** chip notes were sound-recorded at MCWMA 8/12 (CW), and **Marsh Wrens** were found at 3 locations all in Oct (m.ob.).

Evening Grosbeaks once again irrupted for the third time since 2018, but this year was minor compared to 2020. Three birds flew over an Akron yard 10/30 (BC), as did 2 at SFCP 11/5 (JHe). **Purple Finches** arrived in droves beginning the latter half of Sep, but only 2 **Pine Siskins** were found near Holtwood 10/29 (ME). **Vesper Sparrows** were reported 4 times from Oct-Nov, and a late **Baltimore Oriole** was photographed at CGNA 11/14 (RN). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was described at CGNA 10/22 (LB), which would be only the 3rd county record if accepted by PORC.

There were 34 warbler species tallied for the season. Notably, a brilliant male **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen and documented very well at MCWMA 8/27 (JHe). Another (or the same individual) was seen there 8/31, along with a stunning male hybrid **Lawrence's Warbler**. Four **Orange-crowned Warblers** were noted in a tight window from late Sep to early Oct (m.ob.), and there were 5 **Connecticut Warblers** found, mostly in Sep (m.ob.). Last, but not least, a **Dickcissel** was observed at LCCP 11/26 (CB).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Mason Road, SGL 151 (MR), New Castle (NC), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Vosler Road pond (VR).

The two rarest species found this season both appeared together: a **Snow Goose** and 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found at the VSM 11/25 (MC). Both species remained the next day (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** included 11 at the Glacial Sands gravel pond on PA-108 (MV) and 10 at Edinburg Lake (MV), both 11/12. The access situation at SR is now much more difficult due to unhappy landowners as detailed previously this year, but birders still occasionally stop by and check it briefly from the roadside. Indeed, SR provided the bulk of waterfowl reports this season. Among these were 2 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/17 (MV), up to 10 **Gadwall** 11/10-28 (MV, CH), an **American Wigeon** 11/18 (MV), 10 **American Black Ducks** 11/18 (MV), 2 **Northern Pintails** 11/25-28 (AP), as many as 70 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/25 (AP), 16 **Bufflehead** 11/12 (MV), and 50 **Ruddy Ducks** 11/15 (MV). **Common Merganser** was the only duck (besides the local breeders) found away from SR in any appreciable numbers. Top count was 16 at Glacial Sands 11/13 (MV). They were found in two other locations as well.

The maximum count of **Sandhill Cranes** as of the end of Nov was 65 on 11/17 (DB). A **Dunlin** appeared at VR 10/8-11 (MC), and 2 late **Dunlins** were there 11/10 (MV). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also at VR 9/8 (RN). One of the more amazing results this season was near complete lack of **Solitary Sandpipers**: they were noted at three

different locations 8/6 (m.ob.), but there was not a single report for the rest of the season after those. A late **Greater Yellowlegs** hung on at SR to 11/10 (MV). A **Common Loon**, uncommon in fall, was at MR 11/17-18 (DB). Last of three reports of **Great Egret** was made at SR 10/2 (MV). **Red-headed Woodpecker** seems to be more frequent over the past two or three years, and they were found again this season in three different locations, but not at the spots they have been recently regular. Singles were found in NC 8/19 (PS), in Volant 8/26 (MCr), and at BS 9/18 (RC).

Passerines, as usual in *Lawrence*, were an afterthought. The glaciated northwest is just about the last region in Pennsylvania where **Common Raven** remains uncommon, but there were still two reports in the county this season: one at NC 9/28 (LW) and one near Hillsville 11/24-25 (DR). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at just two locations, but they were quite regular at one of those, in NC 8/20-10/6 (PS). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported six times at that same NC location 9/17-10/6, and a **Hermit Thrush** was there 10/25 (both PS). **American Pipit** was well-reported at VR, where reports included one 9/17 (MV), 11 on 10/8 (MC, JO), 7 on 11/5 (MC, JO), and 40 on 11/10 (MV). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was still singing at VSM 10/8 (RS). A late **Baltimore Oriole** was still in NC 10/8 (PS). Reports of **Rusty Blackbird** included 2 at SGL 150 on 10/12 (MH, RH, LW) and a few reports of one in NC 10/23-11/5 (PS).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Clear Springs Rd (CSR), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FIG), Fox and Prescott Roads (FXP), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Second Mountain Hawk Watch (2Mtn), Swatara State Park (SSP).

Forty-one **Common Nighthawks** provided an outstanding count at MLSP 8/30 (JH). An **American Golden-Plover** was reported from SGL 145 on 8/26 (PB), and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was at MC 8/22 (TW). Two juvenile **Sanderlings** were found in Shaefferstown, on the Dutchway grocery store parking lot during a rain storm 9/8 (*fide* SF). A **Dunlin** was at FXP 11/2 (P&RW), and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at QEW 10/16 (RSt). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen at MC 8/22 (TW). A **Common Loon** was fairly early at MLSP 8/19 (TB, KB)

An **American Bittern** was found at MC 8/19 (PB) and at MLSP 9/8

A juvenile **Wood Stork** was a terrific find at one of the ponds along Hopeland Rd at MC 8/10-31 (MF, JW, TN, AM, AK, JDe, DY, CY, m.ob.). Its three-week stay allowed many birders to observe this rare vagrant. It provided a second *Lebanon* record; first was in Hammer Creek 9/22/1996.

(RE). Up to 6 **Little Blue Herons** continued at MC from 7/14 through 8/26 (AL, RS, JW, AM, AK, JDe, m.ob.). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MC 8/14-23 (C&CM, MD, TW). A juvenile **White Ibis** provided a sixth county record in Swatara Creek at Yordy's Bridge Rd. 8/29-9/4 (RSt, KB, TB, JD, CT, MC, P&RW, SW).

Merlins were found at MLSP 9/10 (KS), SSP 10/5 (MH), and Palmyra 11/11 (TN). Two were at Shuey Lake 9/19 (JD, CT).

It was a strong showing for **Olive-sided Flycatchers** this fall. They were found at 2Mtn 8/23 (RS, AF) and 8/31 (JD, CT), at ML 9/9 (JD, CT) and 10/2 (SW), at CA 9/10-11 (P&RW), and at CSR 9/18 (JH, PH, RH, m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen at 2Mtn 8/26 (JD, CT, SW), and 9/13 (JD, CT). **Philadelphia Vireos** were relatively abundant this fall, with seven reports from four different locations. Single

Philadelphia Vireos were seen at MLSP 9/10 (KS) and 10/3 (DT), at Clear Springs Rd. 9/16 (JF), and at SSP 9/16 (KS) and 9/19 (DK). Two were at 2Mtn 9/17 (SW, JD), and 4 were observed at SSP 9/17 (JH). The first of many **Red-breasted Nuthatches** this fall was found at FIG 8/12 (JD). Eight Red-breasted Nuthatches was a good count at MLSP 9/2 (RSt). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SSP 9/16 (ME).

A small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** was observed at the Lebanon VA Hospital grounds 11/2 (TN), and one was at MLSP 11/12 (JH). A **Red Crossbill** was seen in the Ono area 11/12 (BW). Four **Lincoln's Sparrows** provided a nice count at SSP 9/18 (JH, RH, PH, m.ob.).

A **Connecticut Warbler** was found at the Equestrian Trail area of SSP 9/15-23 (JH, JD, CT, P&RW, ME, NF). The area has been reliable for this species for a number of years. **Mourning Warblers** were seen at SGL 80 on 8/29 (TK), and SSP 9/17 (JDe). **Wilson's Warblers** were observed at SGL 145 on 9/15 (RSt), and SSP 9/17 (JH). One or 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** were at MC 8/10-9/4 (TN, JH, RR, KS, m.ob.).

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Lycoming County

Locations: Robert Porter Allen Natural Area (RPANA), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam (WD),

A total of 195 species were reported this season. A **Green-winged Teal** was at RVL 8/13 (BB), and 2 were at the same location 8/27 (BB). Those represented the first two reports of that species in *Lycoming* in the month of Aug. A single **Surf Scoter** was at RVL 10/2 (BB) and 10/7-13 (m.ob.), and again 11/15 (EH). Two **Black Scoters** were at RVL 11/17-19 (EZ, et al.), and one was present at that location 11/23 (BB, RB, JG). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at WD 11/2 (BB). The only report of **Red-breasted Merganser** was one bird at RVL 11/19 (BB, EH).

A **Red-necked Grebe** was at RVL 10/5 (BB, DeB, BoB). *Lycoming's* fifth **Eared Grebe** was found at RVL 11/12 (BB, EH) where it remained through 11/19 (m.ob.). A **Sora** was heard at SGL 252 on 9/25 (BB, AK).

An **American Avocet** was at WD 8/20 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.), *Lycoming's* fourth avocet. A **Black-bellied Plover** was in Nisbet 10/4-5 (AM, et al.). **American Golden-Plovers** were seen in Nisbet a number of times during the fall, including up to 5 birds 9/7-8 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.), one 9/19 (AM), and 3 on 10/4-5 (AM, et al.). Additionally, one flew over RVL 9/24 (BB). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at WD 8/21-22 (BB, DB). Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were in Nisbet 9/7 (EH, et al.), which represented the second county record. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at SGL 252 on 8/28 (BB, AK), and one was at the same location 9/4 (BB). A group of 8 **Black Terns** dropped in at RVL 8/20 (DanB). A fairly late **Great Egret** was at RVL 10/22 (AM, BB, DeB, BoB).

A juv. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near SGL 252 on 8/28 (BB, AK) and a family group of 5 birds was seen at the same location 9/4 (BB). An adult was at RVL 9/18 (AM, BB). One was also reported along the Pine Creek Rail Trail 9/21 (TF). Finally, 3 were at the Lycoming County Conservation Trail 10/16 (EH, et al.).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 252 on 8/14 (BB, AK) and one was at RPANA 9/2 (AM). A **White-eyed Vireo** was at SGL 252 on 8/14 and 8/28 (BB, AK). A fairly drab Blue-headed-type vireo, possibly a Cassin's, was at SGL 252 on 10/30 (BB, EvH), which was ultimately left unidentified.

A **Northern Shrike** was found at RVL 11/26 (BB). A **Marsh Wren** was at RVL 10/2-5 (AM, et al.) and one was at RPANA 10/18 (AM). A

number of small groups of **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported throughout the county during Nov (m.ob.). Similarly, there were scattered reports of **Pine Siskins** during Nov (m.ob.).

A **Lapland Longspur** was at RPANA 9/28 (BB) and 2 were in Cogan House Twp. 11/16 (EH). A late **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at RPANA 10/23 (BB). A **Nelson's Sparrow** was at RPANA 10/11 (AM), a first for *Lycoming*. A late **Bobolink** was at RPANA 10/16 (BB).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at RVL 10/2 (BB, et al.). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at RVL 9/14 (BB), and one was at the Lycoming County Conservation Trail 10/15 (MH). A late **Common Yellowthroat** was reported in Slate Run 11/12 (DF), and a late one was also at RVL, initially reported 11/19 (JD) and continuing into the winter season. A very late **Yellow Warbler** was found at RVL 11/27 (BB).

ADDENDUM: Photos of a previously-unknown **Eared Grebe** in breeding plumage were discovered from RVL 5/1/2018 (MH). This would become *Lycoming's* third known record, and shift the 2020 record to fourth, and the 2022 record to fifth.

Observers: **Bobby Brown**, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com, Dan Brauning (DanB), Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Rebecca Brown, Jonathan DeBalko, Dave Ferry, Tom Forwood Jr., John Good, Eric Hartshaw, Melissa Holland, Evan Houston (EvH), Andy Keister, Allison Matlock, Eric Zawatski.

McKean County

Locations: Bradford (BRD), Kinzua Bridge State Park (KBR), Red Bridge Recreation Area (RED), Shawmut Trail (SHW), Sugar Bay (SBY), Willow Bay Recreation Area (WIL).

There were 159 species reported to eBird. A **Tundra Swan** was near BRD 11/19 (SB). A **Sora** was flushed from the grass in RED 10/2 (MS), One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was photographed at SBY 10/2 (MS). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was photographed at RED 8/26 (MS), the first (in eBird) for *McKean*. A **Great Egret** was near BRD 8/27 (MM).

A **Northern Harrier** was seen near Kane 8/9 (BB) and at KBR 9/23 (MS). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was on Morrison Trail 8/7 "trilling softly about 15 minutes" (KS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen at SGL 62 near KBR and also on Elk SF's Shawmut Grade Rd, 10/8 (both MS). One was heard at KBR 11/17, reported as continuing there from Oct (WC). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at SBY 8/20 (MS)

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SBY 8/24 (MS), and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was near KBR 9/13 (MS). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at WIL 9/7 (MS, SS). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen near KBR 9/18-21 and near Smethport 9/19 (both MS). Two **Horned Larks** were at RED 9/30 (MS). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at WIL 8/21 (BG). Two **Winter Wrens**, seen here throughout the summer, were on Morrison Trail to 8/7 (KS). A **Northern Mockingbird** was on SHW near Smethport 9/8 (MS). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported near KBR 9/21 and also on Pennsy Grade Rd. 10/8 (both MS). Reported throughout summer and into autumn were **Swainson's Thrush**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Wood Thrush**.

An **Evening Grosbeak** was first seen at SHW 10/9 (MS, SS vr.). Five were photographed near Smethport after "local legend Matt Schenck had told us" about their call, which caught the attention of the observers as the grosbeaks alternated between a box elder and a Norway spruce for 35 minutes (JK, LP, AR). Four were photographed at Rixford 11/8 (LC), and one was near Bradford 11/17 (MM). Two **Pine Siskins** were at SBY 11/6 (JK, LP, AR, MS, SS), and 9 were at KBR early afternoon the same day (JK, LP AR, MS).

Two **American Tree Sparrows** were in Eldred 11/9 (AL), one was in Kane 11/17 (FA), and one was in BRD 11/19 (BM). Seen in both spring and fall migration were **Fox Sparrow**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, and **Savannah Sparrow**. There were almost a dozen reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow**, almost all in Oct and almost all of single birds (WA, BG, MS, SS). There were five reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** 9/30-10/23 (CLu, MO, MS, SS).

A **Northern Waterthrush** was at SHW 9/1 (MS), the only report since several in May. Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were in Rixford 8/6 (LC). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was near KBR 9/24 (MS vr.) and near SHW 10/5 (MS, SS). One **Wilson's Warbler** was at RED 9/8 (MS).

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Mercer County

Locations: Artman Road (AT), Barry Road (BR), Beaver Pond Road (BPR), Big Bend (BB), Buhl Park (BP), Carlisle Road (CAR), Clark Area (CLR), Clark's Mills (CM), Golden Run (GR), Golf Road (GO), Greenville (GN), Grove City (GC), Hadley (HD), Hermitage (HE), Jamestown (JA), Ko Road (KO), Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Mercer (ME), Millcreek Road (MC), Propagation Area (PR), Rutledge Road (RU), Sandy Lake (SL), SGL 130 (S130), SGL 270 (S270), SGL 284 (S284), Sharon (SH), Sharpville (SV), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Stoneboro (STB), Transfer (TF), West Lake Road (WL), West River Road (WRR), White Chapel (WC), Willow Tree (WT).

August was hot and dry with only 1.87" of rain, a continuation of the summer's dry weather. Several cold fronts with precipitation in Sep and Nov increased the rain total to 10.3" for the period, which was still nearly five inches below average for Aug-Nov.

Two small groups of **Tundra Swans** were recorded a week apart at GN: 25 on 11/12 and 20 on 11/19 (MW). A high count of 400 **Hooded Mergansers** was noted at LW 11/21 (JS) and a pair of **Common Mergansers** arrived at WT 9/10 (JL); a maximum of 117 was noted at RU 10/23 (BS, BW). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** for the period was of 21 at LL 10/8 (KS).

Single observations of **Common Nighthawk** were reported from SH through Aug (MHo) with a maximum of just 2 on 8/15. A maximum of 55 **Chimney Swifts** at BPR 10/8 (KS) was also the last report for the species. The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** occurred at TF 10/3 (KS).

The lack of precipitation exacerbated the annual draw down of Shenango Reservoir and provided extensive habitat for shorebirds. Observations from the various access points along the shoreline resulted in a list of 24 species. Few shorebird species were noted anywhere else in the county. Highlights included: **American Avocet** at GR 8/18 (BW), **American Golden-Plover** at WRR 8/31 (MW) and 2 on 10/2 (MW), **Still Sandpiper** at WRR 8/31 and 9/27 (MW), and **Sanderling** at WRR 8/21 (AH). A **Baird's Sandpiper** at WRR was seen from 8/20 through 10/8 (m.ob.), 2 were at WRR 9/06 (JS), and 2 were at WT 9/18 (MW) and 10/8 (MW). A single **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at WRR 8/19 (MW) and was subsequently reported through 10/22 (m.ob.). **Short-billed Dowitcher** was first seen at PR 8/12 (MHo) and again at WRR 8/20 when 9 were observed (MH, RH, LW); one remained until 9/9 (MW). A single **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found at WT 9/25 (MW). **Wilson's Phalarope** was found at PR 8/14 (EW), at WRR 8/21 (AH), and at RR 8/31 (MW). **Red-necked Phalarope** followed at WRR with sightings 9/6 (CH, m.ob.) and 9/8. Notable counts among shorebirds included: 50 **Least Sandpiper** at WRR 8/24 (CH), 26 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at WRR 8/28 (MD), 20 **Solitary Sandpiper** at WRR 8/19 (MW), and 50 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at WRR 9/5 (MW). A **Least Sandpiper** was still present at WRR 10/2 (MW).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was present at WT 9/10 (JL), and max count was 4 at GR 10/22 (MW). **Ring-billed Gulls** began increasing with 140 at GR 10/5 (KB). A **Franklin's Gull** found at JA 11/10 (MW). Two **Forster's Terns** were at GT 8/31 (KP) and 9/20 (MW). **Double-crested Cormorants** built to 248 birds at BPR by 9/30 (MW).

An **American Bittern** was at GR 9/18 and 10/23 (both MW). Five **Great Egrets** were at WRR 8/28 and lingered through 10/15 (MW). A

high count of 9 was made at WT 9/18 (MW). Another surprise was a **Snowy Egret** at WRR 8/18 (MV) a first for *Mercer*. It was seen 9/10.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at S270 on 11/19 (MW).

Passerines began arriving in late Aug. Singles of the following species were: **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at S130 on 9/5 (MW), **Philadelphia Vireo** at WRR 9/1 (MW) and at LW 9/28 (JH), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at GN 10/16 (MW), and **Hermit Thrush** at GR 10/16 (MW). **American Pipits** were found in several locations from 9/10 at SR (MC, JD) to 10/28 at CAR (MW), with a maximum of 75 at BR 10/24 (MH, MHO). **Evening Grosbeaks** made appearances at JA 10/28 (MW), at MC 10/31 (MW, m.ob.) where 6 were seen 11/1 (BW), and 2 at GN 11/19 (MW). **Pine Siskins** were observed 10/23 (KS) at CAR and TF, and one more was at TF 11/2 (KS).

The most notable sparrow species found during the period was a juvenile **Harris's Sparrow** at feeders in STB 11/12 (MC). The bird was seen and photographed by many through 11/14. Other notable sparrows were: 4 **Fox Sparrows** at SL 10/31 (MW) and 5 at CM 10/31 (MW), **American Tree Sparrow** at CM 10/31 (MW) and a maximum of 11 at TF 11/10 (KS), a single **Vesper Sparrow** at AT 8/26 (MW), 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** at BB 9/28 (MW) and one each at CAR (KS) and GN (MW) 10/23, and a high count of 5 **Swamp Sparrows** at S284 on 10/29 (LH).

Only two reports of **Bobolinks** were made: 6 at PR 8/15 (JDB) and a report from Mercer 9/4 (NT). A flock of 200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was observed at GN 10/28 and 250 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** visited a residence in TF 10/23 (KS). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were first seen at BB 9/28 (MW). The species was observed sporadically through Oct at a few other locations, with a maximum of 16 at HD 10/31 (MW). The last rusties were 11 at GO 11/10 (KS). A **Common Grackle** flock at GN 8/23 (MW) was estimated at 500 individuals.

A total of 18 warbler species included these highlights: one **Golden-winged Warbler** in Mercer (NT) and another at TF 9/8 (KS), one **Orange-crowned Warbler** at WRR 9/11 (MW), and a **Connecticut Warbler** at WRR 9/28 (MW).

Observers: **Mary Alice Koeneke, koenekema@gmail.com**, Kim Berry, Paul Brant, Martin Carlin, Karen Clapper, Michael David, Johnathan DeBalko (JDB), Jeff Hall, Ashley Harold (AsH), Louis Freeland-Hayes (LH), Joshua Heiser (JoH), Amy Henrici (AH), Marge Higbee, Roger Higbee, Mimi Hoffmaster (MHo), Craig Holt, Jennie Leonard, Chris Lundberg, Jim Mondok, Oscar Nigam, Mariam Obanjanyan, Jim Offhaus, Keven Parsons, Jen Peters, Kate St. John (KSJ), Steve Sanford, Pam Shaw, Jim Springer, Kim Springer, Jerry Stanley (JSt), Shannon Thompson, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, E. White, Michael Williams, Pam Williams (PaW), Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County

Locations: Belleville vicinity (BV), Jack's Mountain Hawkwatch (JMH), Juniata River at Ryde (JRR), Reedsville area (RA), Victory Park (VP).

Birding activity was extremely light for the fall period, with only a handful of reports. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at BV 10/2 (CY), representing a first county record. A second bird was found later that day in a nearby flooded field (IV, CY) and was quite possibly the same bird. An immature **Little Blue Heron** was found at JRR on 8/14 wading along the river (IB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at VP 11/4 (MN, DS). Peregrine Falcons have been observed overwintering at the park for six out of the last eight winters. An **Evening Grosbeak** was found on a farm at BV 11/28 (CY). Two **Red Crossbills** flew over the JMH 11/17 (JK). The "jip" call was heard as the birds passed over.

Observers: **Rob Dickerson, 44 Oak Ridge Rd, Lewistown, PA 17044, radickerson@gmail.com**. Ivan Byler, Jon Kauffman, Mark Nale, Darla Shank, Christopher Yoder.

Monroe County

Locations: Broadhead Creek Rec Area (BC), Cherry Valley NWR (CV), Delaware River (DR), Goldsboro State Park (GSP), Long Pond IBA (LP), Lynchwood Lake (LL), Mount Pocono Airport (MPA), Mt. Airy Lake (MA), Pocono Summit Lake (PSL), Silver Valley Natural Area (SV), Skytop Lodge (STL), Swiftwater Lake (SL), Tobyhanna SP (TSP).

Highlighting this were two new rare county species found by Jon Mularczyk. One would be hard-pressed to pick which species would be the better bird—**American Avocet** or **Nelson's Sparrow**. Both were great finds and were enjoyed by many birders.

The **Trumpeter Swan** continued at PSL (m.ob.). The seven **Brant** found feeding in a field at CV 10/24 (JM) were county firsts for many observers. A high of 3 **Surf Scoters** stayed put for six days at a MPA retention pond 10/11-17 (BJ). Shawnee Lake had an estimated 150 **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/10 (NT). STL had a high of 52 migrating and resident **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at their dozen or so feeders 8/6 (RK). A very high count of 94 **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over GSP 10/28 (JM). A couple of **American Coots** were found in Oct, one at PSL (BJ) and one at GSP (JM). The **American Avocet** was found on a stormy day 8/30 sleeping at the GSP sandy beach (JM). Two juvenile **Black-bellied** and **American Golden-Plovers** were found side-by-side at the MPA 10/2, which presented a nice study (AM). Early Oct produced one **Dunlin** and 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the MPA (BJ, JM). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** stayed one day at LL 8/20 (BJ). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** stayed for two weeks 10/17-11/2 at the Kalahari Resort retention pond. The only **Wilson's Snipe** of the period was a single at LL 8/13 (BJ). GSP had 70 **White-rumped Sandpipers** photographed 10/31 (JM).

GSP produced a **Black Tern** in Aug, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and a **Peregrine Falcon** in Sep, a **Northern Goshawk** in Oct, and a **Red-throated Loon** in Nov (all JM). Other Peregrines and **Merlins** were seen in every month of the period, too numerous to mention individually. An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** made an appearance at CV 9/10 (NT).

A couple of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were spotted in Sep (JS, JM), while the ever-elusive **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was tracked down twice, one in Aug and one in Sep (JM). **White-eyed Vireos** put in Sep appearances at Weir Lake and CV/HQ (PN, JM, JS, NT). High counts of **Common Ravens** are becoming annual at STL; this fall 72 were there 10/28 (RK). The DR at River's Edge Park had a high of 500 **Bank Swallows** 8/18 and 300 **Chimney Swifts** 8/31 (JM). The only northern species that invaded in large numbers was **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, but not so much as other years. A high of 3 **Marsh Wrens** all together at CV in a little cattail patch was an encouraging find (JM).

Even more encouraging were the 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** at the Wolf Rocks hawk watch 10/27, and the 8 at LP 11/5 (JM). A high of 32 **American Pipits** were counted in flight at the MPA 10/7 (BJ). The only **Red Crossbills** seen were 3 at STL 11/15 (RK). Better yet were the 3 **White-winged Crossbills** at a feeder in Albrightsville 11/5 (BS). **Pine Siskins** were spotted in ones and twos on only a few occasions. **Bobolinks** successfully bred in the LP area as the first grass cutting didn't happen until mid-Jul. A **Brown Thrasher** found 11/14 continued through the period under the observer's feeders (BJ). The **Nelson's Sparrow**, considered accidental by some rather than annually rare or missed, was found at River's Edge Park after storms and wind from the east 10/2 (JM). It was well seen by all observers as it flew from clump to clump of small patches of river-side vegetation.

The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** found was at STL 9/25 (RK). **Connecticut** and **Mourning Warblers** were in good supply this fall. Connecticut was observed 9/17 (PN), 10/2 (JM), and 10/8 (DH), and Mourning was spotted 9/17 and 10/3 along the DL (JM). A **Blue Grosbeak** was clearly seen at the CV/HQ tract 9/10 (JM).

Observers: **Bruce Johnson**, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com, Diane Husic, Rick Koval, Renae Losey, Paul Nale, Jon Mularczyk, Mike Schall, June Smith, Brandon Swayser, Nancy Tully, Jeff Wilkins.

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Fischer's Park (FP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Franconia Twp. (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Lorimer Park (LP), Norristown/Bridgeport Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The species count of 224 this period was well above the fall average of the past ten years, 216. While still among the top counts from the last decade, helped by several irruptive passerines and increasing observer count, it was also hampered somewhat by a lack of shorebird habitat at GLP for portions of the period, and less luck than in some past seasons with mega-rarities. Only one PORC review list species was found this period: a Western Kingbird. Many new early or late date and high count records were set, however.

An uncharacteristically early **Greater White-fronted Goose** at GLP 10/3-6 (JFu, m.ob., ph.) represented the second earliest county record of its kind, a few days too late to dethrone the reigning 9/29 champion from 2008. Single Greater White-fronted Geese turned up at PERT 10/28-11/2 (PD, m.ob., ph.), NFP 11/3 (SS) and nearby ND 11/5 (SGr). **Cackling Geese** began to show up in quantities of up to 5 at GLP beginning 10/17 (m.ob.). Elsewhere, up to 5 Cackling were at WWP 10/23-11/1 (PD, m.ob., ph.) and a pair were at George Washington Memorial Park cemetery in Plymouth Meeting 10/31-11/3 (DB, m.ob., ph.). Singles made appearances at WWP again, 11/23 to the end of the period (RB, m.ob., ph.), and Sandy Run Park in Springfield Twp. 11/25 (DB, ph.).

A pair of late-staying **Blue-winged Teal** remained at GLP to 11/5 (m.ob., ph.). GLP hosted record high numbers of **Northern Shoveler**, including 135 on 11/23 (LH), 130 on 11/26 (LH) and 120 on 11/12 (AD). In all, 80+ shovelers were counted on 11 days 10/22-11/26 (m.ob.). From eBird data, there were just *three* prior 80+ fall days before 2022, all from 2017 or later. The previous fall high count of 111 dated back only a year, to 2021. Early waterfowl included a **Gadwall** at GLP beginning 9/2 (PH, m.ob., ph.), a **Green-winged Teal** at GLP 8/2 (AD, ED, ph.) and a **Lesser Scaup** at PERT 8/10-11 (MG, JC, ph.). The scaup was so early, in fact, that it represented a first Aug record for the county. A hen **Greater Scaup** was observed at GLP 11/1 (KR). Another early waterbird, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, continued from Jul at GLP to 8/21 (m.ob., ph.). A **Horned Grebe** was at GLP 10/21 (JHo, m.ob., ph.).

A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen on a Valley Forge Audubon Society birdwalk at NFP 10/27 (LS, et al., ph.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were as elusive as usual this fall, with only five reports 8/10-9/16 (m.ob.). Representing both a new record late date for *Montgomery* and first Nov record was a **Common Nighthawk** that roosted in a tree next to the Militia Hill hawk watch at FWSP 11/1-5 (PB, m.ob., ph.). A vocal **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported in Upper Salford Twp. 9/13 (LHu). A group of 300-360 **Chimney Swifts** took refuge in the chimney of St. Colman Church in Ardmore 9/25-29 (EP, JO, m.ob.). Though no western hummingbirds were confirmed this period, a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** remained for several weeks beyond its normal departure date in Meadowbrook, lingering to 10/26 (BF).

A **Virginia Rail** nocturnal flight call (NFC) was recorded from FT 10/22 (SG, vr.). A far more commonly observed rail this period was **Sora**. Up to 3 Sora resided at DMP fairly consistently 8/1-11/1, though a few weeks did go by within that timespan without sightings (m.ob., ph.). The 11/1 observation (RD) represented the second most late county record of this species. Another pair of **Sora** was detected in the (non-wetland) fields at PERT 9/23 (PD).

Three **American Golden-Plovers**, an adult and two immatures, were at DMP 9/30 (AD, m.ob., ph.). Another immature there 10/3-5 (RB, m.ob., ph.) may well have been a continuing individual. An **Upland Sandpiper** NFC recorded over Elkins Park 9/29 (PD, vr.) represented a new record late date by 19 days. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at GLP 9/6 (PD, m.ob., ph.), the only one of its species located this period. A couple of higher counts of **Least Sandpipers** were tallied during a period of good mud at GLP: 162 on 8/22 and 159 on 8/19 (both PH). **White-rumped**

Sandpipers were at GLP 9/5 (JFu, m.ob., ph.), WWP 9/2 (DB, m.ob., ph.), Limerick Community Park 10/4-5 (SGr, PD, vt.), GLP again 10/1-2 (SGr, JH, ph.) and DMP 10/5 (PD, DB, vt.) in quantities of one and 2. As many as 15 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were noted at GLP 9/5 (m.ob.) by people chasing a "**Western**" **Willet**. The Willet was present at GLP 9/5-7 (JF, m.ob., ph.). There are only three prior records of Willets in *Montgomery*, including a probable "Eastern" in 2021 (pending PORC decision). Much smaller quantities of Semipalmated Sandpipers were present at five other sites 8/20-9/24 (m.ob.). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at GLP 8/27-9/7 (RH, m.ob., ph.), early for this species. Continuing to demonstrate its remarkable **Red-necked Phalarope** magnetism, WWP pulled in two more this season, the first 8/13 (JM, m.ob., ph.), and the second 9/23-26 (DB, m.ob., ph.). These two phalaropes represented fourth and fifth WWP records, all since May 2021. The Aug sighting, a first for the county in Aug away from GLP, also represented a new record early date by five days. A **Spotted Sandpiper** persisted at GLP to the late date of 10/27 (SG, ph.). Another late-staying GLP shorebird was a **Lesser Yellowlegs** that lingered to 11/13 (m.ob., ph.). It represented a new fourth place county lateness record.

A **Laughing Gull** was at GLP 10/23 (SGr, m.ob., ph.). By the following day, 10/24, the GLP Laughing Gull count had increased to a new park-record-setting 6 (ML, m.ob., ph.). A record-setting early **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was detected at GLP beginning 8/21 (PH). Prior to 2022, there had been only one confirmed Aug Lesser Black-back in *Montgomery*, six years earlier. **Caspian Terns** were present at GLP throughout Aug to 9/8 in quantities of one to 4 (m.ob., ph.). Groups of 9 and 10 Caspians were also observed there 8/11 (PH) and 9/13 (KC, WS), respectively. Single **Black Terns** were at GLP 8/7 (PH) and 9/6 (JHo, m.ob., ph.), and another was described as a flyover at FWSP 9/25 (SGr).

Common Loons were scarce, with just two singles noted, both at GLP 9/18 (PH) and 10/23-25 (AD, m.ob., ph.). **American Bitterns** were observed from a yard adjacent to PERT 8/26 (RC), via NFC from Wyndmoor (JF, vr.) and at GLP 11/3-7 (CF, RD, ph.). A shocking discovery of another migrant American Bittern, perched on a fence next to a front porch in a suburban Wynnewood home, was made 10/28 (JSo, JW, ph.). **Least Bittern** was reported calling from a Whitemarsh Twp. wetland 8/28 (DB), and nocturnal flyovers were recorded from FT 8/27 (SG, vr.) and Elkins Park 9/15 (PD, vr.). A **Snowy Egret** enjoyed an extended stay at GLP's Church Rd. 8/10-31 (KJ, m.ob., ph.). At the south end of GLP, an immature **Little Blue Heron** was present at Knight Lake during a similarly long, overlapping window, 8/11-9/7 (JC, m.ob., ph.). Another young Little Blue was briefly noted at WWP 8/15 (JM, m.ob., ph.). A **Cattle Egret** appeared, and then almost immediately disappeared, at GLP 8/20 (AD, ED, JFu, ph.). Though it didn't stay long, a cool photo of it was made with the continuing Snowy Egret and a Great Egret, all standing in a line (JFu). Late **Green Heron** observations included a lingerer at WWP 10/18 (m.ob., ph.), a NFC from Wyndmoor 10/27 (JF, vr.) and a very late bird at FP 11/17 (LS, et al., ph.). The Nov heron represented just the second on record for Nov, and second-latest record overall. The first Nov record dates back only a year. An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at WWP 8/26 (RB, m.ob., ph.), and another was recorded over FT 9/23 (SG, vr.). A **Glossy Ibis** was at ND 8/25 (SG, m.ob., ph.), a first for this location.

As established in prior installments, **Black Vultures** truly enjoy hanging around the foul-smelling MOPAC Rendering plant in Souderton. On 8/30, 159 were counted there (CB). Fall means hawkwatching for the dedicated observers at FWSP's Militia Hill. Noteworthy Militia Hill high counts for the period included 208 **Turkey Vultures** 10/15 (SGr, PW), 9 **Osprey** 9/16 (RiC, AF, SJ), 5 **Northern Harriers** 10/5 (SGr) and 10/23 (RiC), 57 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/6 (RiC), 17 **Cooper's Hawks** 10/29 (SGr, JHe), 20 **Bald Eagles** 9/24 (RiC, AF), 73 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 10/29 (SGr, JHe), 5795 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/16 (RiC, AF, SJ) and 4115 on 9/24 (RiC, AF), 15 **Red-tailed Hawks** 10/28 (SJ), 16 **American Kestrels** 10/6 (RiC) and 6 **Merlin** 10/5 (SGr). The aforementioned Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk tallies both set new daily count records for Militia Hill. Late adult Broad-wings were viewed at FWSP 10/21 (SJ), and at both PERT and near-adjacent LP 10/28 (PD, MS). Five **Golden Eagles** were sighted at FWSP and elsewhere 10/24-11/20 (m.ob., ph.).

A **Barn Owl** NFC was recorded over Wyndmoor 10/27 (JF, vr.). It

was another good fall for **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. They were found at ten locations starting 10/19 (PD, m.ob., vr.). Though only one or two were counted at most of these locations, some of the larger parks contained more, including 6 at PERT 11/30 (PD, vr.). Adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted from Gladwyne (StS), FWSP 9/15 (SGr) and in the Unami Creek Valley 9/29 (SeG, ph.) at a location where they oversummered, and probably nested.

Five **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found between four locations 8/18-9/16 (m.ob., ph.). An **Eastern Wood-pewee** at GLP 10/18 (ML, KR, ph.) became the holder of the new late date record for the county, by one day. Though not quite in record-setting territory, an **Acadian Flycatcher** remained at Rolling Hill Park, *still singing*, to 9/14 (JeC, ED, vr.), and a "**Trail's**" **Flycatcher** was at High School Park in Elkins Park 10/4 (PD, ph.). At least 22 **Least Flycatchers** were recorded between 15 locations 8/24-9/25 (m.ob.), as well as a fairly late one at GWP 10/8 (AD, ED). An even later unidentified silent *Empidonax* was reported at WWP 10/15 (DB). Tarrying **Eastern Phoebe**s remained through the end of the period at WWP (m.ob., ph.) and Twining Valley Park (MG, ph.), and a third was noted at the Willow Grove YMCA 11/29 (MG). A **Western Kingbird** was a spectacular yardbird find in Wyndmoor 9/22 (JF, ph., doc. submitted via eBird). *Montgomery* has only one confirmed previous record of Western Kingbird, also from mid-Sep. Like this one, it didn't stick around for very long, and wasn't seen by very many people. **Eastern Kingbirds**, collecting at GLP for their annual staging event, numbered as many as 60 on 8/15 (PH).

Fourteen **Philadelphia Vireos** were documented at nine locations 9/13-10/5 (m.ob.). A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was noted in Wynnewood 10/21 (RBi). A new county **Blue Jay** high count was set 9/29, when 1368 jays were recorded flying past a FT yard (SG). The same observer also tallied 1186 jays the following day, 9/30, from the same location, a number that would've topped our previous high count too. A reasonably-sized **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption occurred this period, with sightings beginning 10/17 (m.ob.).

Late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found in low single digits at a few spots: at WWP 11/6 (RB), ND 11/12 (KS) and at the S.T.P. next to Heuser Park 11/14 (DB). An estimated 500 **Tree Swallows** were at GLP 9/18 (PH), an unusually early date for this kind of volume, as well as 10/2-3 (JFu) and 10/9 (AD, ED). A late-staying **Bank Swallow** remained at GLP through 10/8 (KR), and a **Barn Swallow** stayed at GLP to 10/5 (JFu, m.ob.). Another notably late Barn Swallow was at WWP 10/4 (AA, RB). A small **Cliff Swallow** colony was discovered under the Rte. 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River at Pottstown 8/2 (ScS, NF). As many as 7 individuals were seen there 8/8 (m.ob., ph.). Another Cliff Swallow was at GLP 8/11 (PH).

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption that began in Jul continued into Aug, becoming more widespread by the end of that month. High concentrations of them were reported in the conifers at Evansburg S.P. (m.ob.), including a record-setting 17 on 11/24 (SGr). There were also good numbers at PERT which saw several reports in the 7-8 range from 9/3 onward (m.ob.). A **Sedge Wren** was a stellar find at WWP 10/15-16 (JM, m.ob.). At least 15 **Marsh Wrens** were spotted between 9 sites 8/13-10/29 (m.ob., ph.), in what appears to be *Montgomery's* best ever season for this species in the eBird era.

Swainson's Thrush bookended their fall 2022 season with early NFC reports at FT 8/16 and 8/24 (SG, vr.), and a late pair at PERT 10/25 (MG). Late **Wood Thrushes** included one at McKaig Nature Education Center 10/13 (BE), and a FT NFC 10/23 (SG, vr.).

Several northern finch species irrupted south this period. The most exciting of these was **Evening Grosbeak**, which were spotted at 10 locations 10/28-11/23, in quantities of one to 3 (m.ob., ph.). By far the most abundant of the winter finches, though, was **Purple Finch**. After an initial report at FWSP 9/9 (SJ), volume grew and continued fairly heavily through the end of the period (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins** were around, but scarce. Singles were detected at 8 sites 10/29-11/21 (m.ob.). All but two in late Oct were observed as calling flyovers.

A **Snow Bunting** was at GLP 11/13 (JH, JK, AR, ph.). Two more appeared with some Horned Larks at VFNHP 11/22-27 (SGr, m.ob.). **Grasshopper Sparrow** NFCs were recorded in FT on the widely separated dates of 8/16, 9/15 and 10/21 (SG, vr.). A **Clay-colored**

Sparrow was well-described at LP 10/7 (MK). An **American Tree Sparrow** was located at GLP on the early date of 11/4 (SB), a good two weeks before others were detected this period. An even earlier **Dark-eyed Junco** was in an Audubon yard 9/7 (LT, ph.), representing a new record early date by a substantial nine days. Another very early sparrow was a **White-throated Sparrow** at FP 8/10 (AD, ED). This represented the second Aug record for *Montgomery*, and first since 2011. **Vesper Sparrows** were noted as singles at GWP 10/8 (AD, ED, ph.), DMP 10/21 (PD) and GLP 11/1 (DM). As many as 4 Vesper Sparrows were viewed by gobs of birders at NFP 10/15-11/5 (KRu, m.ob., ph.). A **Nelson's Sparrow** showed relatively nicely for photos in atypical, wooded creek edge habitat at LP 10/6 (JC, m.ob., ph.). Another Nelson's at WWP 10/16 (MG, AnM, m.ob.) proved more elusive. Despite fifteen-plus observers, no photos of it could be obtained. A record high twelve **Lincoln's Sparrows** were recorded at PERT 9/28 (PD).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported at VFNHP 8/25-26 (SGr, m.ob.). Another was photographed in North Wales 9/29 (JS, ph.). An unusually late **Orchard Oriole** was at VFNHP 9/3 (LP, et al., ph.), representing a new photo-confirmed record late date. A late **Baltimore Oriole** was in Bryn Athyn 11/13 (JC, ph.). There were fourteen reports of up to 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** from 9 locations beginning 10/5 (m.ob.). A **Common Grackle** with a tawny head and all white body was found at FP 11/24 (AD, ph.).

Near-record late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found in two different locations 8/27: at Merion Botanical Park (ED, ph.) and Hatfield Twp. Nature Area (SK). A male **Golden-winged Warbler**, or possibly multiple male Golden-winged Warblers, was seen at LP off and on 8/24-9/1 (JC, m.ob., ph.). A **Lawrence's Warbler**, the F2 backcross of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, was described at PERT 9/20 (MG), two and a half weeks later than *Montgomery's* prior latest record of this unusual hybrid combo. It appears to represent a Pennsylvania's latest, from eBird data. The period proved to be an excellent one for **Orange-crowned Warblers**, with at least 9 identified between six sites 10/6-11/28 (m.ob., ph.). A late **Nashville Warbler** was at Haverford College 11/6 (SJ). Five **Connecticut Warblers** were located 9/11-10/6 (m.ob., ph.), and, similarly, 5 **Mourning Warblers** were noted 8/27-9/28 (JC, ph.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was a good discovery at LP 8/25 (RC). At least 6 **Hooded Warblers**, mostly males, were seen 8/13-9/26 (m.ob.). A rare fall **Cerulean Warbler**, a female, was at VFNHP 8/12 (SGr, JF, JC, ph.). A late **American Redstart** was at Stony Creek Park in Lansdale 10/22 (CB), a late **Northern Parula** was spied at Haverford College 11/4 (DMe), and late **Yellow Warblers** were at DMP 9/30 (JE) and GLP 10/3 (JFu, ph.). A **Magnolia Warbler** was reported at DMP on the record early date of 8/13 (DB, JB). A pair of **Palm Warblers** showed up at VFNHP 9/3 (JH, et al. ph.), more than a week earlier than expected. A late Palm was noted at WWP 11/26 (AA, vr.), and 2 late **Pine Warblers** were reported at VFNHP 11/26 (SGr), a spot where they have overwintered in the past. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at GLP 8/11 (PH) represented a record early date by three days. A notably tardy **Prairie Warbler** was in Salford Twp. 10/9 (WBH, KH, ph.).

A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** at VFNHP and a family group at DMP continued to at least 9/3 and 9/11, respectively (m.ob., ph.). A passage migrant Blue Grosbeak was found at PERT 9/28 (PD). It was a great season for **Dickcissels**, with flyovers heard at GLP on 8/13 and 9/9 (both PH), FT on 3 dates 10/10-21 (SG, vr.) and PERT 10/19 (PD); and solo birds seen on the ground at DMP 8/13-18 (KS, RF, ph.), WWP 10/17 (PD, JF, vr.) and NFP 10/18-24 (KRu, RS, m.ob., ph.).

EXOTICS: A **Chukar** was discovered wandering around GLP 10/8 (AK, ph.). A blue-and-white domestic-type **Budgerigar** made an appearance in a Meadowbrook yard 8/21 (BF, ph.).

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(SGr), Jason Hall, Katie Henderson, Jeff Herbst (JHe), Paul Heveran, Robert Hickie, Len Hillegass, Jason Horn (JHo), Lynn Hughes (LHu), Kristen Jensen, Sheryl Johnson, Akash K., Marjorie Keefe, Jeff Kenney, Stephen Kerr, Michael Lyman, Jack McBrearty, Darshan Mehta (DMe), Anna Mindel (AnM), Dennis Miranda, Jen Ottinger, Liz Pettit, Elizabeth Porter, Ken Rieker, Angela Romanczuk, Katie Ruth (KRu), Rebecca Schulze, Jennifer Segrest, Martin Selzer, Kiehl Smith, Jennifer Sontchi (JSo), Lynn Sowden, Scott Stollery (ScS), Steve Strawbridge (StS), Sam Stuart, Wendy Sykora, Linda Tomeo, Jason Weckstein, Peg Wilsbach.

Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP).

This season's main highlight was the 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** at Waltimyer Rd. from at least 8/26 to 8/31 (WS, m.ob.)—a singing male and a second bird whose rich brown plumage seemed to indicate a juvenile. The only other county eBird record is a singing male on Strick Rd. 7/29/2022. These two locations are roughly 4 miles apart, as the grosbeak flies.

A **Cackling Goose** was at the MP 11/21 (MH), and perhaps the same bird was there 11/28 (AK). Two pairs of **Snow Geese** over-summered, and these continued through the fall period, one pair the Fry Wetlands, and the other pair at the MP. The latter was joined by a third bird starting 9/6. Recently, **American Coots** have been detected only once or a few times per year; the only report this year was a pair that spent about three weeks at Fletcher's Pond 10/25-11/24. Presumably the same 2 birds were at the nearby MP 10/24 (AK). Three **Black Terns** were at the MP 8/22 (AK), a species not annually reported in the county. One **American Golden-Plover** was with a county eBird high count of 185 **Killdeer** at Strick Rd. 9/22 (AK).

Among non-irruptive passerines, a **Connecticut Warbler** passed through the MP 9/19 (AK). Two **Philadelphia Vireo** reports were made two days apart, one at the MP 9/19 (AK) and one in this compiler's backyard in Danville 9/17 (EH).

Among irruptive species, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** made a detectable push through the area in Sep and Oct, with reports from four different locations likely representing 6 individuals. **Purple Finches** were fairly widespread from Sep to Nov, with a high count of 5 in this observer's backyard 10/18 (EH). Lone **Pine Siskins** were at the MP 11/3 and 11/5 (AK). *Montour* was one of only about seven Pennsylvania counties that missed out on this season's large Evening Grosbeak flight.

Observers: **Evan Houston, evanghouston@gmail.com**, Wayne Stahl, Andy Keister.

Northampton County

Locations; Little Gap Hawk Watch (LGHW), Nazareth Quarry (NQ), Regency Boulevard Retention Ponds (RBRP), West Greinar Rd Retention Pond (WGRP).

The county did not have any waterfowl fallouts but there were a few highlights. A flock of 50 **Brant** were seen at LGHW 10/27 (JY). **Tundra Swan** was reported from Bath 11/19 (MS) and NQ 11/21 (AM). At the RBRP, one or 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were observed back on 7/2 (DD) and stayed through 10/11. There were 2 summering **Bufflehead** at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve that were present 7/1-8/28 (SA). Another summering duck was a male **Ruddy Duck** that was at RBRP 7/2-8/7 (DD).

A nice variety of shorebirds were found, including some rare and a few late season birds. There was an **American Golden-Plover** at WGRP 9/26 (AM). An **Upland Sandpiper** was recorded over Jacobsburg S.P. 8/21 (AM). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Hollo Rd. Retention Pond 9/4-5 (DD). A late season **Dunlin** was at RBRP 11/23 (DD). Another good find at WGRP was a **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/14 (AM). On 7/9, A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was photographed at RBRP (DD). Several birders got

to see a **Red-necked Phalarope** at RBRP 8/13 (MS). Lastly, 2 lingering **Lesser Yellowlegs** were last seen at WGRP 11/7 (EH).

An **Iceland Gull** was at the Forks of the Delaware 11/25-30 (SS, MC). Two **Iceland Gulls** were seen on NQ 11/25 (MS). There were about 300 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at NQ 11/25 (MS). Minsi Lake, at the northern edge of the county, hosted **Least Bitterns** 7/26-8/28 (JM). Nesting was confirmed on 8/5 when both juvenile and adult birds were observed (GB). A juv. **Little Blue Heron** was found at a retention pond on Van Buren Rd., Nazareth 7/27-29 (JH).

The season total for the LGHW was 9920. The top day was 9/17 when 1450 **Broad-winged Hawks** flew past the lookout. **Northern Goshawk** was observed 10/27 (ZM), 11/13 (JL), and 10/30 (AM, SB). Other LGHW highlights were 7 **Peregrine Falcons** 10/10 and 15 **Merlin** 10/15.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at Jacobsburg S.P. 8/13 (AM). **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen fairly often around the LGHW this fall. On 9/17, a high of 7 **Philadelphia Vireos** were found on the trails at the LGHW (AM). Perhaps the highlight for the year was found was the county's first **Mountain Bluebird**, a female located on the grounds of the Lehigh Valley Hospital Hecktown Oaks Property 11/5 (DD). It was present for three days and many folks got close-up looks as it hunted insects from trees lining the sidewalks. There were four reports of **Evening Grosbeak** with a high of 6 at a yard in Moore Twp. 11/3 (BE). **Purple Finch** reports were many. An impressive count of 249 **Purple Finches** flew past the LGHW 10/15 (AM). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at Housenick Memorial Park 10/5 (LF) and by the Newburg Rd. Retention Pond 11/6-8 (DD, AM).

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Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), SR-125 Trevorton (SR-125), Trevorton (TREV), Truckenmiller Road (TR), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

It was good season with several notable sightings. Fall weather saw average temperatures and below average rainfall. The ATBD had a good season for waterfowl. A single **White-winged Scoter** lingered from 10/30-11/4 (m.ob.), and a group of 6 **Black Scoters** were found 11/8 (BP, EH). **Ruffed Grouse** still persist on the mountaintops in the southern portion of *Northumberland*. One was reported along SR-125 on 10/14 (CD), and another was at WSF 9/20 (BP). Probably the most significant sighting of the season was a **Laughing Gull** at the ATBD 10/26 (WD, BP, EH). Two **Barn Owls** were seen at a farm along TR 9/1 (AK), where they had nested over the summer.

Olive-sided Flycatchers have become regular at WSF in early fall. This season, up to 2 were present between 8/23-9/1 (m.ob.). A group of 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** visited a feeder in TREV 10/31 and again 11/3 (CD). Even though it was an irruption year, these were the only ones reported in the county this season.

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Awbury Arboretum (AA), Bartram's Garden (BG), Delaware River (DR), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDR), GER (Germantown Neighborhood), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Navy Yard (NY), Northeast Philadelphia Airport (NEPA), Pennypack Park (PP), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia Port (PPO), Roxborough Neighborhood (ROX), Southwest Water Treatment Plant

(SWWTP), Temple University (TU), West Fairmount Park (WFP), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

Sixteen **Brant** migrated over ROX and might have been the same birds that circled low over the DR at the PPO on the opposite site of the city 10/28 (GA, EE). About two dozen were seen along the DR the following day which might have included the previous individuals (m.ob.). An extraordinary scoter trifecta—3 **White-winged Scoters**, 2 **Surf Scoters** and one **Black Scoter**—was achieved at NY 10/29 (CH). Additional **Surf Scoters** were photographed 10/26 and 11/6 (m.ob.) and another **White-winged Scoter** was there 10/28 (m.ob.).

A **Sora** was eating worms together with an **Ovenbird** in a flower bed on the campus of TU 10/5 (MGI, MP). Up to 2 were seen regularly at JHNWR in Sep and Oct (m.ob.). **Common Gallinules** were seen at breeding sites (JHNWR and SWWTP) until the end of Oct, and a migrant immature bird was photographed on a BirdPhilly field trip at POD 10/9 (m.ob.), the first ever for that location. Three **Sandhill Cranes** were detected over nw. Philadelphia 11/9 and 11/24 (m.ob.). This was species #247 for the year for Patrick McGill, breaking the previous record of 246 species observed in the city by the late Frank Windfelder in 2012. Up to 4 **Upland Sandpipers** at NEPA 8/14-28 were a long overdue species at this location (PM, et al.). Interestingly, there have been no records from Philadelphia International Airport along the DR for the past 25 years, even though up to two dozen birds used to be observed in the Tinicum area (airport and JHNWR) until the 1980s. The species even bred in the area in the 1950s. A **Hudsonian Godwit**, first since 2015, was enjoyed by many at JHNWR 10/1-4 (CH, et al.). There were also up to 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** 9/4-9 and 10/2-3 (m.ob.). One bird was a nice surprise at SWWTP among 38 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/21 (HP). A flyby flock of 13 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at NY 10/5 was extraordinary (BF, VL). We have not seen hundreds like folks used to back in the 1950s, but dozens of **Pectoral Sandpipers** at JHNWR 9/30-10/2 were an outstanding record in recent years (m.ob.). Another species on everyone's "likely-to-show-up-again" list was the **Wilson's Phalarope**; 2 were finally photographed at JHNWR 9/4 after six years of waiting (CH et al.). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was very late at BG 10/28 and rounded out a very productive shorebird season with 18 recorded species.

A juv. **Least Tern** briefly stopped on a pier at NY during one of the newly established regular river watches 8/31 (KC, MD, BF, VL). Hunting along the DR at POD was a **Gull-billed Tern** 8/21 (PM). Up to 160 **Caspian Terns** were counted flying to their roost past NY 8/17-9/21 (m.ob.). Single migrant **Black Terns** were at JHNWR 8/12 (m.ob.), NY 10/3 (BF), and 6 flew past POD 9/21 (PM). **Common Terns** were more numerous than in previous years, with many observations along the DR at NY and POD 9/5-10/13 (m.ob.).

Only two observations of **American Bitterns** were made: one at JHNWR 9/8 (LM) and another at SWWTP 9/21 (HP). A **Cattle Egret** dropped in on the ballfields at POD during a rainy afternoon 10/23 (PM). Up to 3 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were back at their roost along the Schuylkill River at the Waterworks 8/1-9/15 (m.ob.). A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** photobombed a wedding party at NY 8/4 (EE). During a "personal" hawkwatch located in GER new high counts of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (17 on 9/15), **Broad-winged Hawks** (2026 on 9/24) and **Red-shouldered Hawks** (43 on 11/9) were achieved (LH). A **Golden Eagle** was spotted there 11/9 (LH). A concerted search effort turned up a number of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at AA, Poquessing Creek Park, Tacony Creek Park, and WVP 10/20-11/26 (AD, BF, PM, TV). An awesome number of 16-20 birds were heard!

Actively migrating **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen during a morning flight watch in ROX 9/16 (GA) and at POD 9/27-29 (MGR, LH). Two individuals were at FDR 9/14 (RK, HP). Migrating **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were also recorded though in much lower numbers than in previous flight years with a high of 29 over GER 10/8 (LH). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found at PP 8/16 (PK), AA 8/25 (BR), and WVP 8/25-9/2 (m.ob.). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was very late at POD 11/23 (LH). Numbers of **Philadelphia Vireos** peaked towards the end of Sep as opposed to the usual first half of the month (m.ob.). Another flight year for **Blue Jays** was marked by a new high count of 529 migrants in only one hour over GER 9/29 (LH). A great movement of **Black-capped**

Chickadees, not noted in recent years, was evident in many parts of the city 10/22-11/15 (m.ob.). Interestingly, none were recorded south of Center City and hardly any observations were made across the DR in New Jersey. In contrast, **Carolina Chickadees** were less abundant in this and the last fall season, compared to previous years. It was also another good season for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** with a maximum of 5 at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education 11/19 (PM). The third **Sedge Wren** in four years was found by the same observer (with support by GA for the first), this time at POD 10/16 (PM).

The only **Evening Grosbeaks** seen during this winter finch flight season were 2 at WVP 11/8 (BF). Compared to 2020 (and 2018), **Purple Finch** numbers were down, and **Pine Siskins** were virtually absent. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at POD 10/8-16 (VS, et al.). **Clay-colored Sparrows** were seen there 9/15-11/3 (m.ob.). Additionally, one bird was at BG 9/23 (VS et al.), WVP 9/24 (GA), and FDR 10/25 (RK). A **Lark Sparrow** dropped out of the sky at the Army Corps of Engineers 10/23 (GA, et al.). Another was seen feeding in the construction site of the future wetland at FDR on the same day (RK, et al.). And yet another was photographed at POD 10/25 (MK, CR). **Vesper Sparrows** were observed at five different locations with a maximum of 2 at IGCC 10/30-31 (JE, HP).

More abundant than usual were **Yellow-breasted Chats**. One bird continued at NY 8/5 where it spent the entire summer (HP). Migrants were seen at PP 9/5 (PK), POD 9/26 (PK) and 10/14 (HP), Benjamin Rush State Park 9/28 (TB, BF), JHNWR 10/3 (CS), WVP 10/18 (KJ), and TU 10/20 (MGi, MP) where a window strike was also found 9/15. Up to 130 **Bobolinks** were feeding at JHNWR 9/8-10, a number not seen since 2016 (m.ob.). Two birds were very late at POD 11/3-5 and were the first November record in eBird (m.ob.). The search for the Upland Sandpipers at NEPA produced an unusual number of **Eastern Meadowlark** records in August with a maximum number of 8 birds 8/19 (m.ob.). Philly birders should keep an eye on this location during that time in the future. Late fall observations of **Baltimore Orioles** have become more regular for a number of years and so the following will be the last to be included in the fall reports. One bird was at WFP 11/8 (BF, CH) and up to two were at POD 11/12-27 (m.ob.).

Red Square in Center City was "stuffed with **Ovenbirds**" 10/3, 21 of them in fact, a new fall high count (CH). Compared to last year, **Connecticut Warblers** entirely avoided the migrant trap pocket parks in Center City. They were seen at the usual locations; regularly so at POD with one or 2 birds there 9/16-10/14 (m.ob.). One individual was amazingly photographed in morning flight over ROX 9/15 (GA). **Hooded Warbler** migration appeared to peak around a month early in the second week of Aug. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were more abundant than in the previous five years but **Blackpoll Warblers** were less so. A few notable late warblers included **Magnolia Warbler** at WFP 11/2 (ED), **Yellow Warbler** at Lardner's Point Park 10/15 (LH, JM), and a **Canada Warbler** at JHNWR 10/8, a new late date in eBird (AD).

Rare fall observations of **Summer Tanagers** were made at WVP 8/22 (GA, KK, SM) and the Zoo 9/30 (DG). Direct breeding evidence for **Blue Grosbeaks** was recorded at PPO (EE) and IGCC (HP) in early Aug. There was no success at the Tacony Boat Launch. Juvenile birds at POD were impossible to separate from probable migrants from the end of Aug onwards. Up to 7 were observed there 8/22-9/7 (m.ob.). **Dickcissels** were much more abundant than in previous years with peaks in the first week of Sep and Oct. POD was again the hotspot among the six locations with records. Birds were present 8/31-10/25 with 3-4 individuals seen 9/25-10/5 (m.ob.). In addition, nocturnal flight calls of fifteen individuals were recorded over South Philadelphia 9/14-10/18 (HP).

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Pike County

Locations: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

Last year a pair of **Trumpeter Swan** had a prolonged stay at Promised Land SP. On 7/17, a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** was again present at the lower lake of Promised Land SP where they remained through 11/26. All three species of scoter were seen at LW: 13 **Surf Scoters** 10/26 (CF), 8 **Black Scoters** 11/7 (CF), and 8 **White-winged Scoters** 11/13 (RJ). The only uncommon shorebird found for the period was a **Dunlin** at LW 10/5 (CF). Also on 10/5, 3 **Caspian Terns** and 3 **Common Terns** spent the day at LW (CF). **Black Tern** was seen at LW on three dates: one 8/20 (CF, MG), 12 on 8/21 (CF), and 4 on 9/7 (RJ). A **Least Bittern** was found at Shohola WMA 8/7 (CF). At a feeder in Milford, there were 6 **Evening Grosbeaks** 11/9 (KR) and at a feeder in Dingmans Ferry, there were 4 **Evening Grosbeaks** 11/11-20 (BW). **Snow Bunting** was seen at LW 11/5-27 with a high of 13 on 11/5 (AN).

Observers; **Michael Schall, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Cheryl Faust, Chris Fischer, Mary-Therese Grub, Ryan Johnson, Kate Raizenberg, Alexis Neenan, Bradley White.

Potter County

Locations: Austin (AUST), Cherry Springs SP (CSSP), Coudersport (COUD), Cross Fork (CRFO), Dry Run Road (DRRD), Forest Road, Eulaia Township (EUTWP), Galeton (GALE), Galeton Lake (GALA), Hebron (HEBR), Joerg Road (JOERG), Lyman Run SP (LRSP), Ole Bull State Park-Beaver Swamp (OBSP-BS), SGL 64 east unit (SGL 64-east), Shinglehouse (SHING), Sinnemahoning SP-Potter (SISP-P), Susquehannock SF-Hammersley Wild Area, Odin (SSF-HWA), Sweden (SWED), Sweden Hill (SWHI), Ulysses (ULYS).

Data for notable sightings were obtained from eBird, from 19 locations submitted by 35 observers. A total of 120 species were listed for the county. Waterfowl numbers for *Potter* are usually low and migratory birds are few, however 4 **Snow Geese** were reported from a residence on JOERG 11/13 (SL). There were 10 observations of **Wood Duck**, with high counts of 25 and 18 from a camp near ULYS 10/11 and LRSP 10/27 (SD, SSc), respectively. Five **American Black Ducks** 10/5 and 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** 10/27 were at LRSP (MS, SSc). There were just three reports of **Buffleheads**: 2 at GALA 11/13 (MSc), 3 at LRSP 11/7 and 12 at LRSP 11/14 (SSc). **Hooded Mergansers** were observed at three locations: 10 at SHING 10/12, 2 at GALA 11/13 and one at LRSP 11/18 (KE, MSc, PM). Three reports of **Common Mergansers** included one at AUST 8/21, 9 at SISP-P 9/24, and one at SWED 10/19 (DaK, TA, MSc). **Wild Turkey** was reported 11 times, mostly single birds, with high counts of 12 at COUD 11/26 and 8 at SWHI 11/21 (MSc, SSc, RS). There were 5 reports of one to 3 **Ruffed Grouse** (RS, BM, PH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SGL 64-east 8/25 (JT) and 2 were at LRSP 10/20-11/3 (SSc, DM). An **American Woodcock** was at SISP-P 10/14 (AK). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at LRSP 8/20 (AK), and a **Greater Yellowlegs** was at GALA 9/14 (MSc, SSc). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at LRSP 8/20 and SISP-P 8/13 (AK, DT).

Single **Ospreys** were reported 10 times (MS, AK, RS, CW, JP). There were just two accounts of **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 2 at OBSP-BS 8/20 (AK) and one at SISP-P 10/14 (KL, MB). Single **Cooper's Hawks** were reported from two locations: EUTWP 9/6 (RS) and GALE 11/27 (MSc, SSc). There were 30 reports of **Bald Eagles** mostly along the Rte. 6 corridor (m.ob.) Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from SISP-P 8/11, Ole Bull Rd, CRFO 8/20, and LRSP 8/20 (KC, AK). Only one **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed, at COUD 8/11 (KC). There were no reports of Eastern Screech-Owl, and just two reports of single **Great Horned Owls**: at AUST 10/16 (CK) and SISP-P 10/14 (AK). Two reports of **Barred Owls** were made: 3 at LRSP 8/20 (AK) and one at SWHI 10/27 (RS). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at HEBR 11/2 (DWH). **American Kestrels** were reported 20 times from 7 locations

(MSc, SSc, CB, RS, DT). Merlin was not reported.

A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (probably the third for *Potter*) was seen at OBSP 8/26 (CW). Past records include one at Hemlock Hollow Road 5/27/2012 (Deuane Hoffman) and one at SGL 64-east 9/11/2017 (Sam and Seth Greene).

On 8/11, **Fish Crows** were observed at two locations: 2 at LRSP and 2 at SISP-P (KC). Twelve **Horned Larks** were seen at CSSP 11/23 (SSc). There were 14 reports of up to 6 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** from eight locations (KL, MB, mob.). Single **Winter Wrens** were reported five times from three locations; SSF-HWA 9/25 (JG), LRSP 9/30 (KC), and SISP-P 10/17 (SB, RF, DG). Single **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported from CSSP and SISP-P, both 9/24 (JP, TA). **Pine Siskins** were seen at the following locations; 5 at HEBR 11/2 (DWH) and 2 at DRRD 11/1 (TK). Two and four **Fox Sparrows** were seen at Cowley Hill and Ridge Road, respectively, 11/3 (CB). Seventeen observations of south-bound **White-throated Sparrows** were made from eight locations 10/6-11/2 (mob.); then apparently no observations were made from most of Nov into Dec. A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at SISP-P 9/24 (TA). Migrating **Swamp Sparrows** were reported from SISP-P 9/24 and 10/14, and from LRSP 10/22 (TA, AK, KL, MB, SSc). Fourteen **Bobolinks** were seen in some large fields along Club Hill Road, GALE 8/20 (AK) and one **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted at CSSP 9/21 (DGi).

Sightings of migrating wood warblers included one **Nashville Warbler** at SISP-P 9/24 (TA), 2 **Mourning Warblers** at COUD 8/20 (DaK), single **Cape May Warblers** at COUD 9/3 (SM) and SISP-P 9/24 (TA), one **Magnolia Warbler** at OBSP-BS and 2 CRFO both 8/20 (AK), one at SISP-P 9/24 (TA), and one at SSF-HWA 9/25 (JG), one **Palm Warbler** at CSSP 9/21 (DGi), single **Pine Warblers** at COUD 9/3 and SHING 9/4 (SM, KE), and one **Wilson's Warbler** at SWED 9/24 (RS).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Tina Alianiello, Chelsea Beck, Madison Botch, Susan Braun, Ken Cooper, Sue Dibble, Kathy Ebling, Roana Fuller, Barbara Gee, Daniel Gibbons (DGi), Deborah Grove, Joe Gyekis, D. W. Hauber (DWH), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Paul Hunter, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Darlene Kershner (DaK), Kevin Lamp, Sarah Lindgren, Sethu Manickavel, Bill Mendat, Paige Menton, Darrin Menzo, Max Muller, Joshua Penderville, Joshua Potter, Matthew Schenck (MSc), Susan Schenck (SSc), Ronnie Schenkein, Madelyn Sundquist, Danielle Tate, Jaime Thomas, Cathleen Wetzel.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary North Lookout (HMS), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

The eBird database was used extensively to compile this fall narrative. Many people who posted *Schuylkill* sightings to eBird have been included as observers except for those posting exclusively from HMS. The list of observers from Hawk Mountain in the fall is significant due to its popularity with birders who come to see the hawk migration. Although the Hawk Mountain Visitor Center and South Lookout are located in *Berks*, HMS, where the counters are located, is in *Schuylkill*. Besides counting raptors, HMS records data on non-raptors that are also used in this report. Sightings at the North Lookout not attributed to a single individual have been noted as Hawk Mountain Data (HMD). This season was notable for the number of species reported that were either rare for the county or unusual for the season including birds that were new to the county list.

With a few exceptions, waterfowl species are generally limited in *Schuylkill* in diversity, abundance and frequency. **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, a species that was new to the county last fall migrating past HMS was spotted again. This time closer looks were available of 11 birds at LVD 8/29-31 (DB, KH, RR, JS, DK). Only the third fall sighting over the past 11 years, a **Greater Scaup** was at SCR 11/14 (DKn). The second fall sighting and the third overall sighting, 2 **Surf Scoters** were at SCR 11/11 (DK) and again 11/16 (JD). A **Red-breasted Merganser**,

very unusual in the fall, was at SAL 11/17 (TB).

The first county record for **American Avocet** occurred at LVD where 11 were spotted 8/30 (JD, TB, TJ, KG, DK, RR). The first **American Golden-Plover** since 2018 was seen in a field near the Zion Stone Church in Kepner 10/20-22 (m.ob.). A county record **Little Blue Heron** was located in a pond in Friedensburg 9/20-26 (TB, RR, DK, TJ, JDe, CT, DR). The first fall sightings **Black-crowned Night-Heron** since 2018 were made at two locations. Single birds were found at SAL 8/14, 9/4, 9/19, and 9/16 (TB, PN, KH) and other single birds were found at SAL 8/28 and 9/24 (RR, AR, BR). A juvenile night-heron, thought to be a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was observed at SAL 9/2 (DD).

Schuylkill is one of the sites for on-going research into **Northern Saw-whet Owl** migration. This was the 26th 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 Friedensburg. At Hidden Valley, they had a disappointing year even though the other two sites had above average years. They had seventy-one birds caught and banded although a site that tracks fairly closely in another county had over 200. The low numbers were explained by a series of unfortunate events that were specific to this site. Although **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are becoming more common, or at least are being seen more frequently in recent years, they have nested in the county now for the last several years. This year, pairs, and in one case juveniles, were reported throughout the season in two locations: near Barnesville (JoD) and on Coal Mountain Road (LG).

Schuylkill's first **Hammond's Flycatcher** that was initially spotted 10/22 (DK, m.ob.) at the TSP spillway. The bird was spotted almost daily throughout the season. The first fall sighting of **Marsh Wren** since 2017 occurred at LSP 10/6 (DK, TJ). An irruption of Evening Grosbeaks occurred throughout the county with sightings at numerous locations (m.ob.). **Red Crossbills** were reported near Barnesville 11/13 (TB), at Owl Creek 11/23-26 (JD, TB, DK, TJ), and at HMS 11/5-13 (m.ob.). **White-winged Crossbills** were also seen at HMS 11/9 (HMD, BB). One additional county first was **Clay-colored Sparrow**, present at LLSP 10/5 (DKn), 10/6 (TB), and 10/15 (TB). Thirty species of warblers, including both breeders and migrants, were observed, which was two more than last year.

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Kevin Bergersen, Dave Barber (DBa), Dan Brennan (DB), Bracken Brown, Thomas Buehl Jr., John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Bill Derbes, Jarrod Derr (JDe), Denise Donmoyer, Kerry Grim, Laurie Goodrich, Karen Hardy, Hawk Mountain Data (HMD), Tonia Jordan, Rudy Keller, Dan Knarr (DKn), Dave Krue (DK), Ann Marie Liebner, Paul Nale, Rich Rehrig (RRe), Rich Rieger (RR), Alexander Ritzheimer, Barb Ritzheimer (BR), Beverly Rockovich (BeR), John Stetson, Cassidy Titus, James Trusky.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL).

The fall of 2022 saw a first county record and another potential first county record among a total of 145 species. A **Rufous Hummingbird**, the first for *Snyder*, was first seen late Oct and was banded and confirmed 11/26 (SL). The hummer frequented a porch feeder through the end of the period. Two **Bonaparte's Gulls**, which are more likely to be seen here in the spring, were on FL 11/12 (AH, JP, MP, JS). Five **Black Terns** were at FL 8/22 (AH), and a **Caspian Tern** made a brief appearance at FL 8/23 (JS).

A **Marsh Wren** was heard chattering in the rushes beside FL and was seen several times throughout October (AH, JS). There are only a few records in the county. *Snyder* has little birding activity so the few reports here were a fairly narrow representation of the finch irruption this fall. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** 11/14 (RM) were the only report for this species. **Pine Siskins** were seen just once as well: 2 on 10/30 (AH). There were three reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow**, two from FL 10/2 and

10/9 (AH), and the other from Trail of Trees 9/24 (JD).

There were several warblers of note during fall migration. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a good find along Tractor Rd. 9/11 (KC). A **Mourning Warbler** was found at Trail of Trees 9/24 (JD). Two **Connecticut Warblers** were hanging low in the brush at FL 9/18 (AH). This sought-after fall warbler had no prior eBird entries in *Snyder* and so this was a potential first county record.

Observers: **Andrew Hurst, (717) 580-3642, andrewnerika@daystar.io**, Kay Cramer, Jonathan DeBalko, Sandy Lockerman, Regina Miller, Jason Petersheim, Michael Petersheim, Jessica Sauder.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Bluebird Hill Farm (BHF) (near Jerome), Buffalo Creek (BC), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT 93), Great Allegheny Passage (GAP), Indian Lake (IL), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Mallard's Rest, Payne Property on Allegheny Mt. (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake (SL), Stonycreek Lake (SCL).

A dry summer with some mud at QR but a slowly refilling SL offered minimal shore bird habitat and no surprises, as we have come to anticipate in recent years. The mystery of why we have so many *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in migration continued. A **Northern Shrike** returning for the sixth straight winter at Flt 93, and uncommon migrants such as **Dickcissel** and **Marsh Wren** were period highlights.

Overall waterfowl numbers were rather low but diversity was fairly good. A flock of approximately 15 **Snow Geese** migrated overhead west of Somerset 11/18 (AS). Feral **Mute Swans** are rare in the county. The origin of a short-staying bird at SCL 10/26-11/13 was unknown (JP, CP). **Tundra Swan** reports were sparse with three sightings from 11/8 (RM) to 11/12 (LG). **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Northern Pintail** had two reports each, **American Wigeon** and **American Black Duck** three reports, **Green-winged Teal** had four reports with a high count of 12 at SL 11/13 (JP), and **Gadwall** were on 15 checklists from QR, SL, and MR. Diving ducks were represented by 4 **Redheads** at SL 11/4 (JP), 10 reports of **Ring-necked Duck** including up to 75 at SL 11/14 (JP), 3 **Greater Scaup** at SL 11/10 (RM), 5 **Lesser Scaup** at QR 11/12 (LG), 12 reports of **Bufflehead** including up to 16 at QR 11/13 (LG), and about 12 reports of **Ruddy Duck**. Always nice finds were 2 **Surf Scoters** and 2 **Black Scoters** at an expected date of 11/6 at QR (LG). Of eight reports of **Hooded Merganser**, the high was 75 at QR 11/23, and 17 **Common Mergansers** at QR 11/19 (LG) was high total for them.

Ruffed Grouse are hanging on in very low numbers. The only two reports were of one flying across PA-219 near SGL 50 on 11/12 (AD) and one walking across the PP yard (CaP). **Wild Turkeys** were widely reported. **Pied-billed Grebes** were present through most of season at SL where they may have bred, but high was 15 at QR 11/26 (LG). **Horned Grebe** was detected at QR 10/24 (PH) and 11/6 (LG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** singles were found three 10/5-14, but **Black-billed Cuckoo** was not seen after 8/2. **Common Nighthawk** was on six lists with a high of 6 at PP 8/28 (CP, JP, RP). A probable **Rufous Hummingbird** attended feeders from late Sep to Oct at a White Horse Mountain site, for the seventh record in 10 years there. (The nearby PP has had 4, as well.) This bird was not trapped and banded so it was not known whether it was a returning bird. Another *Selasphorus* was photographed at a feeder near Addison 10/9 (RoH). **Virginia Rail** singles were detected at Mallard's Rest 8/2 (EH), SL 8/8 (AG, AW), and in a grassy field at KRNA 10/22 (JP). **American Coot** reports were up, with seven mentions from Flt93, SL, and QR, with a nice high of 34 at SL 11/14 (JP).

Thirteen shorebird species were found but nothing to rival the years in which habitat was present at SL. **Semipalmated Plover** was found twice at QR 8/9 (EH) and 8/17 (LG). A lonely **Dunlin** was at BC 10/14 (JP). **Least Sandpiper** was at QR on at least seven days with 7 on 8/23

(JP) the high, and one was at the sewage treatment plant in Meyersdale 8/8 (AW). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at QR three times, but high was 7 on the somewhat late date of 11/13 at SCL (AP, JP). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at QR 8/11 (LG), and on about that date a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was also found there (BF). Both **American Woodcock** and **Wilson's Snipe** had multiple reports. Of many **Spotted Sandpiper** records, 8 at Meyersdale 8/8 was the high number (AG, AW), and up to 7 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at QR to 9/10 (m.ob.). **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported at QR and SCL, as were **Lesser Yellowlegs**, with a late bird at QR 11/3 (JP, CP).

Ring-billed Gulls were found only twice. Nice finds were a **Black Tern** at QR 8/17 (LG) and 3 **Forster's Terns** at Youghiogheny Lake 8/27 (KT). All five reports of **Common Loon** came from QR this period. **Double-crested Cormorants** were in small numbers at QR and SL, but notable was a flock of 63 seen migrating over Allegheny Mountain at PP during a short hawk watch (CP). **Great Egret** was spotted twice: 8/13 at SCL (JP) and 8/14 at Flt 93 (DH). **Green Herons** were widely reported up until 10/8. **Black Vulture** reports were up during this migration period with a high of 4 near Tire Hill 11/19 (LG). **Osprey** was a bit sparse with just five reports of singles. **Golden Eagle** was only seen as migrants passing PP 10/23, 10/30, and 11/2 (JP). **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and **Cooper's Hawk** were all reported 13 times on eBird. Sharpies had a high of 23 migrants at PP 10/15 (JP). **Bald Eagles** were widely reported as singles or pairs. **Red-shouldered Hawks** garnered six reports with 8 at PP 10/27 (CP) the most notable. **Broad-winged Hawks** were widely spotted to 9/30. **Red-tailed Hawks** were numerous with 19 at PP 10/27 (CP). A brood of **Barn Owls** was in a silo at an active farm west of Somerset (BF). Two young birds and one adult were visible 8/8 (JP, JM, MM). **Eastern Screech-Owl** had a better than normal seven reports, **Great Horned Owl** **Barred Owl** each had 8 reports of singles and pairs. The secretive **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** has not been reported in recent years, but an ambitious playing of old Toot Route tapes got one to respond at PP 10/23 (CP, JP).

There were an encouraging five reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**. **American Kestrel** numbers are definitely depressed from years past and were recorded just nine times. A pair of **Merlins** pair at the Somerset Country Club on the interesting date of 8/1 may have indicated breeding (JS). There were five other reports, including a hunting bird at nearby SL 8/11 (JP). Flycatchers were a bit thin this period with no Olive-Sided, Yellow-Bellied, or Alder reported. Many **Eastern Phoebes** and **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and a handful of **Acadian Flycatchers** were reported. **Willow Flycatchers** were at Meyersdale and Mallard's Rest. There were six reports of **Least Flycatcher** and only 2 reports of **Great Crested Flycatcher**, 8/26 (JP) and 2 on 8/29 (CP, JP, RP), both at PP. A nice count of eight **Eastern Kingbirds** reports rounded out the season's flycatcher sightings. One of the more exciting reports was the return of a **Northern Shrike** to Flt 93 on 11/23 (LG), marking the sixth winter in a row that a shrike has been found in the same area of this more than 2000-acre memorial. It cannot be known if it is the same bird finding this rather southerly wintering location each year, but seems likely.

A visit to the far southeastern part of the county along Comps Rd. 9/3 yielded a nice suite of southerly species, including a **White-eyed Vireo** and 7 **Yellow-throated Vireos** (BF, JP). Amongst the many **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** reports county-wide, PP yielded the only records of **Philadelphia Vireo** 9/20 and **Warbling Vireo** 9/4 (JP). **Common Raven** has become, well, common; however 16 at once at PP 10/30 at playing the wind and seemingly escorting migrating hawks along, was noteworthy. **Horned Lark**, a very late migrant, went strangely unreported, except for a flyover at PP 11/29, where it is rare (CP). Of two late swallows 10/26 at SL, the one identified at close range was a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**. SL was also the site of the only reported **Purple Martin** 8/8 (AG, AW) and 4 **Bank Swallows** 8/25 (JP). A true phenomenon was observed in the large cattail beds on the mostly drained SL when remarkable numbers of Swallows on several days were observed from sunset to dark going to roost. One example was 8/5 when a conservatively estimated 3000 mostly **Barn Swallows** formed clouds of birds as they settled into the marsh (CP, JP).

Red-breasted Nuthatches first appeared at PP 8/3, and were

widely reported in early fall, then not reported at all after 11/10. A three-mile walk on Mt. Davis yielded an impressive 10 **Brown Creepers** and 18 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 9/19 (AF). Getting late were **House Wrens** at both PP and SL 10/26 (CP, JP). **Winter Wrens** had many reports 10/3-11/23. A very nice record for the county was a photographed **Marsh Wren** in a small cattail-lined pond at KRNA 10/26 (CP, JP). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was thin, with four reports up to 9/3. The thrushes were all accounted for, with a well-seen **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at PP 9/28 a highlight (JP). Pre-dawn night flight calls of above species plus **Swainson's Thrush** were numerous at PP 9/20 (JP). **Gray Catbirds** departed KRNA by 10/22 and **Brown Thrashers** at PP by 9/22. **Northern Mockingbird** is rather uncommon here, as noted by only five reports from four locations. Large numbers of migrating **Cedar Waxwings** were seen on many Sept and Oct early mornings at PP, with a maximum of 180 on 10/25 (CP, JP). **Evening Grosbeaks** put on a small show at PP as they moved past: 3 on 11/3, 4 on 11/5 (JP, AP), and a single male 11/29 (RP). **Purple Finches** were common from about 8/28-11/28 at several places. **Pine Siskin**, until recently fairly common seasonally, were limited to just two reports, one at Markleton 10/3 (LA) and 2 at PP 11/2 (JP).

Single **Grasshopper Sparrows** were detected three times at Flt 93. **Chipping Sparrows** and **Field Sparrows** are reasonably common but 20 of each at Comps Road 9/3 were good counts (BF, JP). The first **American Tree Sparrow** was near Meyersdale 11/24 (MMac). **Fox Sparrows** garnered eight reports with 5 at PP 11/2 the high count (JP). Both **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were widely reported by late Sep. A singing **Vesper Sparrow** at PP 8/4 was a treat; the only other report was in BA 10/24 (CP). Flt 93 was only site to report **Savannah Sparrows**, with up to 5 present 9/2 (CP), and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** 8/10 (BW, CB). Nattily-attired **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at five locations with a nice count of 7 at PP 9/23 (JP). **Swamp Sparrow** was a numerous migrant. The latest **Eastern Towhee** of the period was at QR 11/16 (LG). **Bobolinks** were reported from five locations including 50 on 8/1 (CN, MMac) and 38 on 9/2 (CN) near Deal. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported 10 times but once again the grasslands at Flt 93 had the most reports and the highest count on 10 on 10/5 (DG). Orchard Oriole was missed and **Baltimore Orioles** departed by 9/19. Encouraging was a flock of over 60 **Rusty Blackbirds** on the exposed mud at drawn-down SCL 10/26 (CP, JP).

There were 26 species of warbler reported with seemingly only moderate effort, including three prime weeks at PP being missed. Some noteworthy results included: only five **Ovenbird** reports of up to 6 on 8/29 (CP, JP, RP) all at PP, one **Louisiana Waterthrush** at QR 8/3 (LG), **Blue-winged Warbler** at PP 8/29 (CP, JP, RP) and Comps Road 9/3 (BF, JP), many **Black-and-white Warblers** up to 9/22, latest **Tennessee Warbler** on GAP 10/10 (LG), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at PP 10/16-24 (CP, JP, RP), somewhat late **Nashville Warblers** at PP 10/17 and 10/20 (JP), **Connecticut Warbler** north of QR 9/17 (LG) and at BHF 9/20 (PL), **Mourning Warbler** at PP 8/29 (CP, JP, RP), up to 7 **Hooded Warblers** at Laurel Summit, a high of 12 **Cape May Warblers** at Comps Road 9/3 (BF, JP), only 2 **Northern Parula** reports 8/13 and 9/19 at PP (JP), widely reported **Magnolia Warblers** up to late one at PP 10/21 (JP), seven **Bay-breasted Warbler** reports of up to 7 at QR 9/18 (EH), nine reports of **Blackburnian Warbler** with high 5 PP 8/29, many **Chestnut-sided Warblers** up to 9/21, six reports of **Blackpoll Warbler** beginning with an early bird 8/24 (LG), **Black-throated Blue Warblers** up to 9/26, **Pine Warbler** at QR 8/29 (LG) and at PP 9/1 (JP), **Yellow-rumped Warblers** from 10/6-27, many **Black-throated Green Warblers**, three reports of **Canada Warbler** ending at Mt. Davis 8/13 (CE), and no Wilson's Warblers. Most interesting were **Yellow Palm Warblers**, one at PP 10/16 and 3 from 10/19-27, among sixteen reports of the species in total. There is perhaps a narrow migration overlap at this longitude.

Scarlet Tanagers departed by 9/20. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** peaked at 10 at PP 8/29 (CP, JP, RP). **Indigo Buntings** had a rather anemic high count of 8, and were last reported at PP 9/26. A spectacularly cooperative young male **Dickcissel** graced PP 10/16, a first for the location (JP).

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Sullivan County

Locations: Deer Lake (DL), Dushore (DSH), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), High Knob (HK), Jamison City Rd (JC), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), McCarroll's Corner (MC), Ricketts Glen State Park Hayfields (RGSPH), Ricketts Glen State Park West Boat Launch (WBL), SGL 66 Shady Nook Lake (SNL), SGL 66 Shady Nook Old Home Place (OHP).

The weather for the fall period was mostly uneventful. The dry conditions from earlier in the summer continued into Aug but water levels had returned to normal by the end of the period. There was a cold snap in Nov that brought a small amount of snow and froze smaller bodies of water. The larger lakes remained open. There were many excellent finds although nothing that would be considered an extreme rarity. All observations not otherwise noted were by the author.

There were only a few waterfowl reports. A flyover flock of 20 **Tundra Swans** were at EML 11/19. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were on EML 11/25. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at HK 8/15 (SM). A lone **Common Nighthawk** was seen at MC 9/4. A group of 17 **Sandhill Cranes** were present at KC 10/8, and a flock of 5 that flew over SNL 11/20 seemed to be late migrants. There was a **Double-crested Cormorant** on EML 9/10 (TH).

A **Golden Eagle** glided over the Dushore area 11/20. Five **Bald Eagles** were observed at the same time near KC 10/8, all of which were immature or sub-adults. Four of the eagles were feeding on a deer carcass and were surrounded by a mixed flock of corvids, mostly crows and at least one **Common Raven**. Three **Bald Eagles** remained on the carcass the next morning still surrounded by corvids. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard on DM 9/3. A **Merlin** was observed repeatedly swooping and diving in Dushore 9/4.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a good find at WBL 8/17 (DG). Three **Horned Larks** were at KC 11/20. One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was an excellent find at DL 10/22 (SM). Two **Pine Siskins** were reported at DL 10/29 (SM). A **Snow Bunting** was at RGSPH 11/8 (JH). An **American Tree Sparrow** was spotted among a small flock of **Dark-eyed Juncos** in Dushore 11/20. Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen at DL 10/29 (SM). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at OHP 9/17 where they occur annually mid- to late Sep.

Twenty-two species of warbler were reported during the fall period. A **Mourning Warbler** at HK 8/15 was a nice find (SM). A **Pine Warbler** was at OHP 9/3. **Worm-eating Warbler** was observed along JC 9/17 (JL). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found in LSF 9/23 (SM). Both **Blackpoll Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler** were in LSF 9/25 (SM).

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Susquehanna County

Locations: Comforts Pond (CP), Cooley Hill Pond (CHP), Elkdale Road Wetland and Fields (EWF), Rails to Trails Ararat (RTA), State Game Lands 35 (SGL35), Stillwater Dam (SWD).

After a very dry summer, area ponds and wetlands were

replenished with early fall rains. This was much to the relief of area birders who were looking forward to the annual migration of waterfowl. Infrequent visitors included a **Greater Scaup** at CHP 11/1 (TB), single **Surf Scoters** at CP 10/14 (CF) and the next day at RTA 10/15 (NV, BS), a **Common Goldeneye** at CHP 11/28 (TB) and a **Horned Grebe** at CHP 11/12 (TB).

The annual **Common Nighthawk** migration watch over the Susquehanna River valley began 8/15 and continued until 9/19. High count of 104 occurred in Great Bend Township 8/22 (m.ob.). This species was seen on 24 evenings during this period. Although hundreds of **Common Nighthawks** migrate through our area each spring and fall, none are known to nest here.

The aforementioned rains also created mud that invited south bound shorebirds to stop by. An **American Golden-Plover** was seen and heard near Auburn 10/26 (TB). Interestingly, this species was also seen last year on the same date and at the same location. A recently discovered wetland at EWF provided good habitat for 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/31 (CF) and for 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 10/27 (CF). It had been six years since Pectoral Sandpipers had been seen in *Susquehanna*. The top candidate for the most exciting bird was a **Black Tern** flying over the lake at SWD 8/23 (DG, GG), a new species for *Susquehanna*. It was thought that strong storms the previous day influenced its presence here.

For only the second time this year, a **Peregrine Falcon** was reported in Montrose 8/17 (TN). This one was keeping watch over the seventh hole of a local golf course.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are expected during migration, but sightings of them are still few and far between. Three locations sporting this species included a property adjacent to Woodbourne 8/31, 9/13, 9/15 (JSt), private property in New Milford Township 8/24 (NV) and SGL 35 on 9/2 (BS). As expected, the last flycatcher of the season was an **Eastern Phoebe** in Great Bend Township 10/27 (BS).

A single **Evening Grosbeak** was the harbinger of the predicted irruption of this species when it came to a feeder near Liberty Park 10/16 (JS). Reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** continued to pop up across the area over the next several weeks (m.ob.) They were unreported during this season last year.

It was an average season for warblers with 27 species reported, compared to 25 species in 2020 and 26 species in 2021. The last warbler of the season was a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** foraging on the ground with **Eastern Bluebirds** in SGL 35 on 11/24 (BS, GS).

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Tioga County

Locations: Bungi (BNGI), Calkins Road (CALKR), Cowanesque Lake (COWL), Cowanesque Lake-Tompkins Campground (COWL-TC), Dean Hill Road and Rte. 287 (DHRD), Hamilton Lake (HL), Hills Creek Estates (HCEst), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hills Creek SP (HCSP), Kendrick Road, (KENDK), Lambs Crick Place (LCP), Letonia (LTNA), Leonard Harrison State Park (LHSP), Marsh Creek Straight Run Area (MCSRA), Miller Mountain (MLRM), MUCK SGL (MSGL), Nessmuk Lake (NELA), Ore Bed Road (OBR), Pine Creek Rail Trail-Darling Run (PCRT-DAR), Pine Creek Rail Trail-Webster Road. (PCRT-WEB), Roseville (ROSE), Slate Run-Old CCC Camp (SR-OCCC), Tauscher Pond (TP), Tioga-Hammond Lakes-Ives Run Rec. Area (THL-IRRA), Tioga-Hammond Lakes-Ives Run Rec Area-Campground (THLA-IRRA-C), Tioga-Hammond Lakes-Ives Run Rec. Area-West Boat Launch (THLA-IRRA-WBL), Tioga Hammond Lakes-Railroad Grade Trail (THLA-RT), Wellsboro (WEL).

Rains made a welcome return. Drought finally broke as fall migration began. The rising water covered the mud flats at Ives Run that had presented so much fun for shorebirders. Fall warblers provided

entertainment, and confusion, as expected. A nice variety of duck species were observed and provided the opportunity for some observers to locate species that they had missed in the spring. As usual, observers frequented the local hotspots with many visits to Tauscher's Pond, where a good variety of dabbling species were sighted. Many of these species might also be found in ponds and beaver dams in other parts of the county if there were observers available to record them. Some observers commenced their own migration and headed for warmer climates for a few months. In total, 183 species were reported to eBird during the fall season. Data for this report were primarily obtained from eBird. Communication with local observers helped flesh out some details.

Snow Goose was not reported. **Canada Geese** were present throughout the county at all expected locations. (m.ob.). **Wood Duck** sightings dropped off as the season waned; last was a hen HCSP 11/28 (LD). **Blue-winged Teal** were present this fall with observations at MCSRA, THL-IRRA, MSGL, and TP (m.ob.). The last report was 10/27 at THLA-IRRA-WBL (LD). **Northern Shovelers** were present at several locations during Oct. The earliest observations were at THLA-IRRA 10/2 (KC, JG) and the last was at TP 10/28 (LD). **Gadwall** passed through from 10/12 at (KC) to 11/5 at TP (LD). They were also at HCSP 10/25 (GT) and NELA 10/21 (KC). During Oct **American Wigeon** put in appearances at NELA 10/18 (LD) and TP 10/11-18 (KC, LD). **American Black Duck** were reported at all of the expected locations except COWL (m.ob.). The earliest **Green-winged Teal** was reported at HCSP 9/25 (LD), and the last was also at HCSP 11/4 (LD). A lone **Canvasback** drake was a surprise at TP 11/10 (LD). **Ring-necked Ducks** were present at NELA, HCSP, THLA-IRRA, and TP from early Oct into late Nov (m.ob.). A single **Greater Scaup** was observed at HCSP 9/29 (KC). A **Long-tailed Duck** put in an appearance at COWL 11/3 (DKP). Reports of **Bufflehead** began in Nov at all expected locations except COWL. This was probably because observers were not spending time at COWL. **Hooded Merganser** observations were scattered throughout the county beginning 8/6 at MCSRA (JC). **Common Mergansers** were present throughout the county with reports of larger flocks in mid- to late Nov (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Merganser** hens or immature birds were observed at THLA-IRRA-WBL 10/31 (EH) and HCSP 11/4 (LD). **Ruddy Duck** were observed at NELA from 10/21 (KC) through 11/27 (LD). Notably they were not reported at any other location during the season.

One observer was fortunate to spot and take cell phone pictures of 8 **Northern Bobwhite** along KENDK 8/26 (KC) after a heads up from some friends. He later learned that these were released birds that had traveled roughly a mile from where they had started. The covey had been reduced to five birds and was reported to be foraging under a nearby feeder into early Sep. Their fate thereafter is unknown. Our state bird, the, **Ruffed Grouse**, has become infrequently in the county. This is in a part a function birder coverage (lacking in grouse habitat), but the bird is also less common generally. Six were observed on THLA-RT 8/17 (SM) and 2 were reported near HCLR 9/13 (LD) **Ring-necked Pheasant** are stocked for hunting and were observed at several known stocking locations during the season. Of note, at least two of three birds that had moved from a nearby SGL were observed near HCLR 11/29 (LD).

Pied-billed Grebe were first observed at MSGL 9/1 (AK) and last observed at THLA-IRRA-C 11/25 (LD). A lone **Horned Grebe** was reported at COWL 11/3 (DKP). The last report of a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at COWL-TC 8/27 (JT) Just one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed, at THLA-RT 8/27 (SM, RM). Two observers recorded **Common Nighthawks** at TP 9/2 and 9/3 (KC, LD). The last report of a **Chimney Swift** was at HCEst 9/9 (GT). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported throughout the county into the end of Sep (m.ob.).

Virginia Rails were observed at MSGL in Aug and Sep. The last observation was two birds on either side of the boardwalk to the blind 9/18 (JG). Four **Common Gallinule** were seen near where they had been spotted during the summer season at PCRT-WEB 8/2 (GT) **American Coots** were observed first at TP 9/29 (KC) and the earliest observation at NELA was 10/18 (LD). The last report was at NELA 11/27 (LD).

After first appearing at the end of the summer season, shorebirds continued to make their way through the county this fall. **Semipalmated**

Plovers were observed at THLA-IRRA from 8/10 (LD) through 8/23 (LD). One was also observed at COWL 8/24 (JT). The last **Killdeer** observation was made at THLA-IRRA 10/25 (DKP). An uncommon visitor, a **Stilt Sandpiper**, put in an appearance at COWL 8/24 (JT) and was documented with a good picture. **Least Sandpipers** lingered into mid-Sep; last was at THLA-RT 9/16 (LD). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was admired by three observers at THLA-IRRA 8/13 (JC) and 8/15 (KC, EW). One or more **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed at THLA-IRRA from 8/3 (KC) to 9/2 (JG). The last report of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was 5 at THLA-RT 9/3 (LD). **American Woodcock** were observed at MCSRA 10/9 (JC) and near HCLR 10/11 when this observer's dog flushed one or two birds several times. A **Wilson's Snipe** was observed MCSRA 8/24 also when a dog flushed it (JC). Another was heard calling and then seen flying at TP 10/18 just before dark. **Spotted Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were observed at a number of locations into Sep (m.ob.). The last yellowlegs species observed was a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at HCSP 10/18 (LD).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was observed at THLA-IRRA-WBL 8/1 (GT). **Herring Gulls** were observed COWL 8/9 (DH) and THLA-IRRA where the last observation was 11/7 (DKP). A **Caspian Tern** entertained observers at THLA-IRRA 8/15 (CC, KC, EW, LD) 8/27 (JC) and 9/1 (AK).

Two **Common Loons** were seen at THL-CO/DA 11/14 (DKP). **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed throughout the county the entire season (m.ob.). A **Least Bittern** revealed itself at MSGL 9/1 (AK). **Great Egrets** were observed at COWL 8/7 (KC) and THLA-IRRA-WBL 8/5 (GT). **Green Herons** lingered into Sep (m.ob.). Not surprisingly, a few **Black Vultures** were seen near the Canyon in Oct (m.ob.). Then the last reports were from WEL 11/12-24 (MSc, SSc). The last report of an **Osprey** was MCSRA 9/25 (JC). Scattered observations of **Northern Harriers** occurred in Sep and Oct (m.ob.). Northern Goshawk was not reported. **Bald Eagles** continued to be quite common (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed at scattered locations from Aug to Oct (m.ob.). The last report of a **Broad-winged Hawk** was from KENDK 10/5 (KC).

Eastern Screech-Owls were observed from as far west as REX 8/24 (KR) to as far east as ROSE 8/10 (BS). **Great Horned Owls** were heard at scattered locations, usually early in the morning (m.ob.). **Barred Owls** were reported from near HCLR in the north 10/6 (LD) to SR-OCCC 9/20 (TF) in the south. Common woodpecker species are present in the county in good numbers. A rarely seen **Red-headed Woodpecker** was documented with pictures when it was observed flitting from fence post to fence post along CALKR 9/26 (LD). **American Kestrels** were frequently seen during the season (m.ob.). **Merlins** were observed from Aug into the end of Oct (m.ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted from OBR 9/17 (KC).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at THLA-IRRA 9/15 (KC). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were observed LTNA 8/26 (LS), near HCLR 9/4 (LD) and MCSRA 9/5 (JC). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was located at THLA-IRRA-WBL 10/2 (JG). Most swallows made their exits to warmer climates in Sep, but a few were observed in Oct. The last observation was a **Tree Swallow** at HL 10/4 (LD). Last **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at PCRT-WEB 9/5 (LD). Either **Northern Mockingbirds** are becoming more common, or this observer was previously unfamiliar with them. The last reported observation was at MLRM 11/22 (LD).

Thrush species passed through the area in the usual time frame. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was picked up while night birding with the aid of the Merlin App at LHSP 9/17 (KC). Numerous **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard during the same night at LHSP 9/17 (KC). They were also observed at two other locations with the last report from HCSP 10/2 (JG).

Some irrupting finches appeared, and sparrow populations made the usual seasonal shift. The first observation of **Evening Grosbeaks** was 5 on DHRD 10/29 (DKP). A **Pine Siskin** was reported at THLA-IRRA-C 10/31 (EH). **Purple Finch** reports dropped off and the last observation was LCP at 11/6 (LD). The first **American Tree Sparrow** was observed at DHRD 10/28 (D&KP). **Fox Sparrows** were seen at three locations: MSGL and THLA-RT 10/29 (EH) and WEL 11/12 (MSc). **White-crowned Sparrows** were observed at eight locations all in Oct (m.ob.). Two late observations of **Savannah Sparrow** were made at TP 9/29 and 10/6 (KC). **Lincolns Sparrow** was reported at TP 10/6 (KC)

and near HCLR 10/7 (LD).

The last report of **Bobolinks** was at TP 9/13 (KC), and last **Eastern Meadowlark** was at DHR 10/4 (LD). Meanwhile, the first **Rusty Blackbird** was at TP 9/29 (KC).

Lastly, there were many observations of those challenging fall warblers. They confusing baypolls did not disappoint, and one rare species was observed. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was recorded THL-RT 8/7 (SM). A **Northern Waterthrush** was also observed at THL-RT 8/23 (JT). A **Prothonotary Warbler** appeared at MCSRA 9/13 (JC). **Nashville Warblers** were seen at six locations with the last two reported at MSGL and BNGI 10/2 (JG). Two **Mourning Warblers** were heard near where they had been seen earlier in the year at LTNA 8/1 (LS). A **Northern Parula** was recorded PCRT-DAR 10/1 (MK). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were reported at seven locations in Sep and Oct with the last observation at HCSP 10/2 (JG). **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported at six locations, the last of which was at TISF-BRT 10/3 (KS). The last **Palm Warbler** was near HCLR 10/7 (LD). The final **Prairie Warbler** was located at THLA-RT 9/27 (KC). **Wilson's Warblers** were seen at HCSP 9/1 (AK), MLRM 9/2 (LD), and MSGL 10/2 (JG).

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Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Allegheny River Trail (ART), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Emlenton (EML), Franklin area (FA), Fisherman's Cove (FC), Franklin (FR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil City Marina (OCM), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Seneca area (SA), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP), Venus (VE), Windy Hills (WH), Wyattville Pond (WP).

As usual for *Venango*, the fall waterfowl migration was light. Two **Snow Geese** were near FR 11/29 NB. The only report of **Tundra Swan** was 34 at KL 11/18 (JS). A **Blue-winged Teal** was sighted early in the season at WP (JS), and a **Northern Shoveler** was at KL 11/20 (JS). Low numbers of **Gadwall** were listed 10/18, 11/16, and 11/20 all at KL (JS). An **American Black Duck** was at AR 10/16 (JS), several **Northern Pintail** were sighted 11/16-20 at KL (JS). Diving ducks included **Ring-necked Duck** at KL 10/27 and 11/16 (JS), **Long-tailed Duck** at KL 10/27 and 11/20 (JS), and (only) one **Bufflehead** report, at KL 11/16 (JS). A few reports of **Ruddy Duck** at KL were made 10/16 and 10/27 (JS), 10 on 11/12 (JH), and 11/16 (JS).

Wild Turkeys were in low numbers this fall. A report of the scarce **Ruffed Grouse** was made 10/31 near WH (RR). A **Horned Grebe** was at KL 11/16 (JS). Reports of cuckoos were about normal, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported from 8/5-14 and 9/3 at BHNS (JS, KG), and **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at BHNS 8/1-14 (JS, KG). **Common Nighthawks** were noted 8/14-9/1 at the Nighthawk Watch at the OCM. Numbers were on the low side with just over 200 seen. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard near EML 8/28 (MC). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported through 9/24 at FA (NB) and BHNS KG, JS).

The only *Rallidae* sighted was an **American Coot** at KL 9/30 and 10/18 (JS). Shorebirds included **Killdeer** through 11/5 in FR (RS), **Least Sandpiper** at KL 8/29-9/2 (JS) and one at TMRP 8/29 (RS), one **American Woodcock** at VE 8/5 (DS), **Spotted Sandpiper** at TMRP 8/2-9/1 (RS), **Solitary Sandpiper** from 8/29-9/1 at KL and TMRP (JS, RS, JH), **Greater Yellowlegs** at KL 8/29 and 10/18 (JS) and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at TMRP 8/11 (RS).

Up to 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at KL 10/20-27 (JS), and a single **Herring Gull** was at TMRP 8/28 (RS). Our only **Common Loon** for the season was at KL 11/12 (JH). **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at TMRP 8/15-17 (RS) but were not reported again. **Great Blue Heron**

were observed through 10/13 (RS), **Green Heron** was again in low numbers, seen through 9/22 at TMRP (RS). Last **Turkey Vulture** was in FA 11/10 (NB). Several sightings of **Osprey** included at FC 8/8, at WR 8/29 WR, at KEN 9/18, and at OCA 10/13 (RS). **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were light with reports only at FA 8/13 and 8/28 (NB).

Eastern Screech Owl had 2 reports, 8/11 in OC and 8/28 at TMRP (RS). **Barred Owl** was observed all season at BHNS (KG, JS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was photographed at BHNS 11/19 (JS, KG, JH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** had a few sightings starting 10/4 at BHNS (KG, JS). A **Merlin** was spotted at KL 8/30 (JS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported in Polk 9/4 (LB). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** had numerous sightings through 9/19 at BHNS, FA, and OCSF (JS, NB, RS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen 8/14-9/19 at BHNS (JS, KG) and at OCSF 9/13 (RS). **Least Flycatcher** showed at OCSF 9/1, 9/18, and 9/22 (RS). **Eastern Phoebe** was last seen 10/22 at FA (NB), and **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported at FA 8/27-9/1 (NB) at OCSF 9/15 (RS). A **White-eyed Vireo**, unusual for *Venango*, was seen at BHNS 9/13-18 (JS, KG). **Yellow-throated Vireo** included birds at TMRP 8/28 (RS), at BHNS 9/16 (KG, JS), and at SA 9/18 (MK, NK), **Blue-headed Vireo** were common thru 10/12 (m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireo** made numerous appearances at BHNS 9/3-25 (JS, KG), and a late **Warbling Vireo** was at OCSF 10/4 (RS).

A **Purple Martin**, always uncommon in *Venango*, was at BF 8/15 (RS). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen frequently 9/15-10/25. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at BHNS, OCSF, and FA 9/30-10/22 (JS, RS, NB). Many **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at both BHNS (JS, KG) and FA (NB) 8/14-10/25. **Veery** was present only at BHNS 9/8-15 (JS, KG). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrush** observations were at SA 9/18 (MK, NK) and at BHNS 9/19 (JS, KG), **Swainson's Thrush** made a good showing this season with reports from 9/13-10/4 at both BHNS (JS, KG) and FA (NB), **Hermit Thrush** had only two reports: at OCSF 10/13 (RS) and at BHNS 10/26-27 (KG, JS).

Cedar Waxwing had good numbers through 11/2. One report of **Evening Grosbeak** was made at VE 11/20 (DS). **Purple Finch** was common 9/19-11/24. **Pine Siskin** was reported thrice: 2 at SA 10/26 (MK, NK), one at FA 11/22 (NB), and 3 at BHNS 11/20-23 (JS, KG).

Chipping Sparrow was seen through 10/27, **Field Sparrow** through 10/26, and **American Tree Sparrow** had several reports all late in season beginning 11/4 at TMRP (RS). **Fox Sparrow** was seen in multiple locations 10/25-11/22. There were only two sightings of **White-crowned Sparrow**: at BHNS 10/25 (KG, JS) and at FA 10/28 (NB). **White-throated Sparrow** first arrived 9/23 but became less common through the period, with the last report at FA 11/22 (NB).

The last **Eastern Meadowlark** report was of 3 at Fertigs 10/2 (DS). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 10 at KL 11/20 (JS) and 4 at SA 11/20 (MK, NK). The last **Common Grackle** of the season was at TMRP 11/11 (RS).

Ovenbird was still at SA 10/2 (MK, NK). The only **Blue-winged Warbler** was at OCSF 9/13 (RS). **Black-and-white Warbler** remained until 9/13 at FA (NB). There were numerous reports of **Tennessee Warbler** for the season, the last at SA 10/27 (MK, NK). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at TMRP 8/28 (RS) and at BHNS 10/2 (JS, KG). **Cape May Warbler** was present 8/29-10/6, and **Northern Parula** was observed at BHNS 8/29-9/30 (JS, KG) and at SA 9/18 (MK, NK). **Magnolia Warbler** remained until 9/22, **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen on at TMRP 8/28 (RS), at FA 9/13 (NB) and at SA 9/18 (MK, NK), and **Blackburnian Warbler** stayed until 9/30. **Blackpoll Warblers** were observed 9/10-10/6 at BHNS (JS, KG), OCSF (RS), and SA (MK, NK). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** had numerous sightings at BHNS 9/2-10/4 (KG, JS). The only **Palm Warbler** was at BHNS 10/21 (JS), and the only **Pine Warbler** was at BHNS 9/16-18 (JS, KG). **Black-throated Green Warbler** stayed until 10/20 at BHNS (JS). **Wilson's Warbler** was at BHNS 9/1-20 (JS, KG).

Scarlet Tanager had a good showing through 10/3 at TMRP, BHNS, FA, and SA. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** stayed at FA to 9/28, and **Indigo Bunting** remained until 10/4 at OCSF (RS).

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Anders Run Natural Area (AR), City of Warren (CW), Chapman State Park (CSP), Cherry Grove (CH), Clarendon (CL), Economite Rd (ER), Hearts Content Natural Area (HC), Hillside Acres Tidioute (HA), Kinzua Dam (KD), Peterson Road (PR), Rim Rock Recreation Area (RM), State Route 426 (SR-426), Tidioute (TI), Tidioute Trail (TT).

This fall was a strange one, and not just in politics! The predominantly dry and warm conditions of summer transitioned into a wet and cool fall here on the Allegheny High Plateau. The lack of any extreme cold snaps kept waterfowl numbers low for *Warren*. A single **Trumpeter Swan** was photographed at TT 10/8 (EN). The only **Ring-necked Duck** reported this fall was at CSP 10/9 (CL, MO), and 5 **Lesser Scaup** were spotted at AS 11/12 (IR). A maximum of 7 **Common Mergansers** were at KD 10/8 (CL, MO). A particularly good sighting for *Warren* was a single **Ruddy Duck** at TT 11/6 (EN). One of the few species that actually seemed more common than usual this year was **Wild Turkey**. Small flocks were seen all through the county, with a maximum of 18 birds feeding along the road at HC 11/24 (SHS). **Mourning Doves** remained ubiquitous around *Warren*; but a flock of 34 at a home feeder in CW 10/19 was noteworthy—and probably expensive to feed! (TS).

A rather late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was spotted at RM 9/30 (JC); most of its kind had left the region before then. **Common Nighthawk** populations have declined more than almost any other species in the Northeast, so a report of 33 migrating over ER 8/26 was encouraging (CW). A similarly large push of 34 migrating **Chimney Swifts** was seen over CW 9/3 (TS). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** lingered until 9/24, when one was seen at ER (CW). A single **American Coot** was spotted at AS 10/23 (SH). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** and their one colt were seen feeding in a pasture on SR-426 on 8/30 (EN, KN); most local sightings (and breeding) occur at AS. Shorebirds tend to be sparse in heavily forested *Warren*, so 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** along the Allegheny River in CW 9/3 were notable (LB). A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** was at KD 9/30 (JC). The only gull to occur in numbers locally is the **Ring-billed Gull**; a high of 50 was at KD 10/8 (CL, MO). A local rarity, 3 **Cattle Egrets** were seen and photographed at AS 10/14 (SH). A single immature **Golden Eagle** was seen riding the ridges just west of CW 9/23 (CB). An impressive 5 **Belted Kingfishers** were spotted along the river in CW 9/3 (LB). An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen RG 11/9 (TS). This species tends to be sparse locally because it prefers open, savannah-like woodlands.

Eastern Kingbirds, like most aerial insectivores, are another species that has shown drastic declines in recent years, so a count of 5 at AS 8/3 was noteworthy (IR). Though not uncommon, **Warbling Vireos** are almost always seen singly, so 4 at AS 8/20 (TS) was unusual. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** occurs in *Warren* strictly as late-fall (and early spring) migrants, so one at AR 9/10 was quite early (TS). Rubys usually outnumber their **Golden-crowned Kinglet** cousins, so a high count of 11 at CSP 10/1 was unusual (JC). A single **Marsh Wren** was seen at AS 9/2 (EN); they occasionally breed here. A real rarity this far north, a **Northern Mockingbird** hung around a back yard in CW 11/11 (TS). After breeding, **Cedar Waxwings** form small to large flocks that wander looking for fruit; the largest reported this fall was 40 birds at PR 9/4 (RK). Three **American Pipits** were at TI 11/20 (EN). It looked to be another good irruption year for some winter finches. Among the scattered reports of finches in the county were 9 **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder at SR 10/19 (RJ) and a single **Pine Siskin** on PR 11/26 (RK). **Tennessee Warblers** tend to migrate through this region early to mid-Sep, after undergoing a complete molt into winter plumage on their breeding grounds. But occasional individuals begin migration early and molt along

the way—typically we see one or two per year as early as late July. Presumably these birds either failed to find a mate or failed to raise young, allowing them to initiate migration early. This year a bird-banding study in CG caught 6 such early migrants in various stages of molt 8/2-3 (SHS, DW). Our high count this fall was for Tennessee was 6 at PR 9/4 (RK). It seemed a particularly good year for **Bay-Breasted Warblers**, with a high count of 4 at HA 9/17 (EN). Other notable high counts for warblers included 15 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at CL 10/3 (TS), 16 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** netted and banded at CH 8/2 (SHS, DW), 7 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** along TT 8/1 (AB), and a whopping 13 **Cape May Warblers** banded at CH 9/12 (CB, SHS, DW).

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Washington County

Locations: 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).

Waterfowl were quite scarce. A **Blue-winged Teal** was at Timber Lake 9/4 (MV) and up to 4 were at CL 9/10-13 (m.ob.); these were the only ones reported. **Gadwall** was found at five locations, including 3 at PL 11/13 (JF). An **American Wigeon** was at Frosty Valley G.C. 11/30 (RR) was uncommon for fall. A **Northern Pintail**, also uncommon to rare in fall, was at Ciaffoni Rd. 11/19 (FK). **Green-winged Teal** was seen on and off at CL and CC in Oct and Nov (m.ob.). **Ring-necked Ducks** at the Ginger Hill ponds topped out at a mere 11 from 11/1-20 (JL). A nice count of 21 **Common Mergansers** was made near Canonsburg 10/13 (JuL).

Black-billed Cuckoos included one at CC 8/19 (RI, SG) and one on Plum Run Rd. (near Hickory) 8/29 (FK). **Common Nighthawks** were noted at an encouraging nine locations 8/5-9/17 (m.ob.), but the max count was only 8. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was singing at Hillman State Park 8/12 (RT). **Sora** was found at two different locations 10/3: GCW (ST) and CC (FK). Four **American Coots** were at Reservoir #4 on 10/27 (RI). Shorebirds were barely reported. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at CL 9/3-5 (JO), **Least Sandpiper** (through early Sep), **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Greater Yellowlegs** (through early Oct) were all frequent at CL (m.ob.), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was still at CC 10/7 (FK). Two **Caspian Terns** were an excellent find at CL 9/5 (JF), the first for *Washington* since 2018 and the third in the past 10 years. An **American Bittern** at GCW 10/8 (ST) was another nice find. **Great Egrets** were common at both CC and CL through mid-Sep; top count was 6 at CC 9/7 (RI). Along the Panhandle Trail near Midway, **Northern Harrier** was first noted 11/8 (DC) and up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** were popular among birders beginning 11/19 (m.ob.). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported on Plum Run Rd. 8/20-9/9 (FK). A **Merlin** was near Midway 11/25 (MK), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was noted near Prosperity 9/17 (LY).

Passerine migration was mostly unremarkable. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at PL 8/15 (JP, JF) and at CL 9/5 (JF). **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted at four locations 9/9-25 (m.ob.). There were a whopping 60 reports of **Common Raven** logged to eBird this season. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was first found at WP 9/8 (LC) and they were fairly frequent county-wide thereafter. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at WP 9/20 (LC), and up to 4 were at Peterswood Park 9/16-28 (JF). A **Purple Finch** at CC 10/23 (FK) was one of a few reported here and there this fall. Two **Pine Siskins** on Plum Run Rd. 10/29 (FK) were notable considering that there was not a big flight of siskins this fall. **Rusty Blackbird** was noted at six locations 10/7-11/9, but no report was of more than 3 birds. A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen at PL 8/18-26 (JF), and a slightly early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at CC 8/19 (RI, SG). All three budworm warblers, particularly **Bay-breasted Warbler**,

had good season with many reports mainly in Sep and the first week of Oct. Single **Canada Warblers** were at Frosty Valley G.C. 8/28 (RR) and PL 9/5 (JF), and single **Wilson's Warblers** were found in a WASH yard 9/2 (LC) and at the Washington Park School pond 9/21 (LC).

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Wayne County

Locations: Gouldsboro S.P. (GSP), Hankins Pond (HP), White Oak Pond (WOP).

A **Surf Scoter** was photographed at GSP 10/4 (JM), and a female **Black Scoter** was seen at Elk Lake 11/20 (CF). **Virginia Rails** were recorded at HP 8/8-10 (CF, JJ) and at WOP 8/2-6 (CF, JH). The annual breeding **Sandhill Crane** pair, along with two juveniles, was reported near Lakeville 8/1 (RJ). At least one **Black Tern** was spotted at GSP 8/22-23 (JM). **Least Bitterns** were recorded at HP 8/7 and WOP 8/2-8 (m.ob.). Two adult and two juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at the Lake Wallenpaupack Caffrey R.A. 8/3-13 (m.ob.). The birds likely bred this summer at this location. Twenty-two warbler species were counted. Noteworthy sightings included 2 **Tennessee Warblers** at SGL 159 on 9/19 and a **Canada Warbler** near Honesdale 8/20 (CF).

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclechu76@gmail.com**, Chris Fischer, John Harvey, Ryan Johnson, Jon Mularczyk.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam/Chestnut Ridge Park (AD), Allen Road/Rt. 381 Farm Area (ARFA), Beaver Run Reservoir Rt. 380 Overlook (BRR-380), Conemaugh River Lake/Livermore-West Penn Trail (CRL), Crabtree Farm Area (CFA), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Lake a.k.a. Derry Lake (ESL), Keystone State Park (KSP), Kuehl Property—Murrysville (KP), Latrobe Reservoir a.k.a. Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Laughlin Farm Road Area (LFRA), Love Hollow (LH), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve and Bird Banding Station (PNR), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), St. Vincent Lake and Wetland (SV), Sewickley Wetlands (SW), Tubmill Reservoir (TR), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Westmoreland Heritage Trail locations: MAWC Beaver Run property (WHT-BRR), Delmont to Trees Mill (WHT-D), Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (WHT-SST), Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve (WPNR), Youngwood Swamp (YS).

An impressive amount of effort was put forth this season, especially for shorebirds at MP, and not for the first time the season's final tally benefited from significant effort provided by interns and researchers at PNR. Highlights included a very special capture at PNR, a shorebird species observed in unusual habitat, and reports of several rarities.

Overall waterfowl reports were modest, perhaps due to the mild weather in Nov. A **Cackling Goose** was reported at SV 11/12-23 (IF, et al.). Reports of **Tundra Swan** included 50 on the WHT-SST 11/13 (KB) and 75 near Scottdale 11/18 (AB). There were many scattered reports of **Wood Duck** including a notable high count of 40 at PNR 10/8 (KP). Except for a remarkable count of 52 **Blue-winged Teal** at MP 8/30 (RC), all other reports were of no more than 4 birds at YS, SV, LR and LH. **Northern Shoveler** was found only at DL 11/6 (AL, ST), where up to 5 were present. The earliest **Gadwalls** were 3 TR 11/13 (AM). All other reports were later in Nov mostly from SV, but the last were one at LR and 4 at ESR 11/26 (AM). **American Wigeon** was also reported only in small numbers—one at LR 10/28 (KP, GP), one at DL 10/31 (EH), 2 at ESL 11/6 (PC), and one at LR 11/19 (SM). **American Black Ducks** were at

just three locations this season: 15 at LR 11/26 (JLK, TK, MM), one at BRR-380 on 11/27 (AH), and 4 at SV 11/29 (JK). The only report of the season of **Northern Pintail** was of 3 at DL 11/13 (AN, HN). There was scattered reporting of **Green-winged Teal** although no more than the 4 at TR 10/28 (KP, GP). **Redhead** was found at just two locations. The earliest and highest count at DL was 4 on 10/28 (KP, GP) and latest was one at SV 11/21 (AS). Reports were sparse even for **Ring-necked Duck**; highest count was 11 at LR 11/13 (AM). All three reports of **Lesser Scaup** were at DL: 4 on 11/6 (AL), 4 on 11/25 (KBell), and 3 on 11/26 (SM). **Bufflehead** was a little more frequent, with the highest count of 12 at LR 11/13 (AM). Top count among many reports of **Hooded Mergansers** was 25 at ESL 11/26 (AM). Significant counts of **Common Mergansers** included 57 at WHT-BR 10/19 (KB) and 45 at CLR 10/25 (JLK, TK). Of the several locations that had **Ruddy Ducks**, LR was the most productive beginning with 8 on 10/19 (KP), followed by 34 on 11/13 (AM) and 28 on 11/26 (JLK, TK, MM). Many of the more uncommon divers were not reported during the season. Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, and all three scoters were missed.

An unconfirmed and unsubstantiated report of **Ruffed Grouse** in New Alexandria 8/14 was the only one of the season. **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at many locations in low numbers. Three **Horned Grebes** were at BRR-380 on 11/10 (MM). As expected, there were many reports for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** but just a few of **Black-billed Cuckoo**. For the latter, there was one at PNR 8/16 (KP), one at PVP 8/27 (JLK, TK, MM) and 9/12 (PF), and one at AD 9/29 (AB). Observers put in quite a bit of effort looking for **Common Nighthawks**. In Delmont, high count among reports on five days 8/27-9/17 was just 5 on 9/1 (KB). At PNR, the top single day count from 8/26-9/17 was 18 on 8/29 (KP). Among other reports were 10 in Youngstown 8/25 (SW), and one in downtown Greensburg 8/15 (MF), the latter of which perhaps indicated that they might have nested there. Single **Virginia Rails** were at MP 8/22 (RH, SM) and at SW 10/28 (KP, GP). The only report of **Sora** was one flushed from the pond at PNR 10/6 (KP). **American Coot** was reported in low numbers at many scattered locations, but mostly at SV where up to 4 were present 10/25-11/23.

There is limited shorebird habitat in *Westmoreland*, however good effort made by many observers resulted in a respectable list of species for the season. A single **Stilt Sandpiper** at MP 8/23 (MM, DM, AB, AL, KP, GP) was probably the same bird there 8/30 (RC). Another Stilt Sandpiper was at DL 9/2 (AL). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at MP 8/19 (RC) to 8/21 (RC). **Least Sandpipers** were reported only at MP 8/5-9/13, with a high of 12 on 8/20 (RH, SM). Observers trying to see American Pipits in the CFA resulted in a chance encounter with a **Pectoral Sandpiper** there 10/22 (RC, MD). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported several times at MP from 8/24 (SMi, RH, SM, MC, RCa) to 10/5 (RC). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** at BRR-380 on 11/12 (MM) may well have been just the second report for *Westmoreland*. **American Woodcocks** were active and noted on several dates at PNR 9/1-10/28 (KP, et al.). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at MP 8/31 (ph. SW), probably the fifth report for the county. **Wilson's Snipe**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** were reported at many locations during the season. MP was the most productive of several locations for **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/11-10/24 with a high of 5 on 10/18 (RC) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/11-10/2 with a high of 4 on 8/24 (MM) and 9/2 (RC).

Ring-billed Gull was the gull reported, with the top count just 2 at SV 11/17 (RC) and no terns or loons were found at all. DL was the only productive location for **Double-crested Cormorants** 8/14-10/28, with a high of 12 on 10/19 (KP). Quite the rarity was a **Least Bittern** was caught and banded at PNR 8/26 (KP), and another was possibly heard there that day. A **Great Egret** was at DL 8/2 (EH) and 3 were at CLR 8/24 (DL). Seven **Little Blue Herons** were at MP 8/9-12 (RC). These likely represented the fourth record for *Westmoreland*.

Black Vultures were reported in several locations in the Ligonier Valley; the season high count was 12 at PNR 10/8 (JB, KP). There were many scattered reports of **Osprey**. **Northern Harrier** was found in two locations with appropriate habitat: 2 in the CFA beginning 10/8 (EH, SMi), and one in the LFRA 10/14 (RC). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported more frequently than usual. As now expected, there were many scattered

reports for **Bald Eagle**, including 5 at LD 11/22 (MM) and 3 there 11/25 (MM). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was widely reported at DL and PNR; and at the KP one and at times 2 were noted on about 20 dates. Many of the well-scattered reports for **Broad-winged Hawks** in Aug were likely early migrants. Shorebirds at MP provided 15 reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** on five different days at that location, from 8/9 (RH, SM) to 9/3 (PCo).

Two **Sanderlings** were found at an industrial park in New Stanton 9/9 (Mike Fialkovich) were both rare for the county and very unusual for the location and circumstances. Mike described it as follows: "Strangely they were in the mulch under two blue spruce trees a few feet from the building. From a distance noticed a bird under the trees but in the shade, so all I could see was a shape. As I got near, I saw that there were two birds, and they were Sanderlings of all things! This was right next to a sidewalk and the area with the trees is perhaps 20 feet wide or so. Across the road is a parking lot that is being repaved so there were construction vehicles scraping up asphalt and dumping materials and a lot of activity. Later I took a break and quickly ran out to check on them and they were gone. They may have been flushed by someone walking by or a vehicle. They were tame when I noticed them, and I was able to take a few photos with my phone. I usually have my camera gear on Friday but not this time, of course

Scattered reports of **Eastern Screech-Owl** included roughly a dozen reports at PNR 8/19-10/29 (KP). Of the several scattered reports of **Great Horned Owl** was a report of 2 at MR (MC, RC). Similar reporting for **Barred Owls** included one in the early morning at MR 9/3 (RH, SM, ph. SMi). The only report of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was 20 banded on a very successful night at PNR (KP, GP).

There were many reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in both higher and low elevation locations. Not far from the resident **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Penguin Court in Laughlinton, one other was reported in Rector 10/22 (WL). A **Merlin** was on the WHT-D 9/15 (KB), and there were three reports of them in the Latrobe area: one at the Rt. 30 Shoppes 9/22 (KP), one at WPNR 9/27 (JK) and one at SV 10/8 (EH, SMi). A **Peregrine Falcon** over KSP observed during the Big Sit outing of the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club was the only one reported.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was only reported at PNR: one captured 9/2, one heard 9/3 (SM, KP), and one late capture 10/2. As expected, many **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were captured at PNR. The only one away from there was at AD (AB). **Willow Flycatcher** was frequent and there were many reports of **Trail's Flycatcher** and *Empidonax sp.*, but none of Alder Flycatcher, none of which is unexpected for the fall season. The high count of **Least Flycatcher** away from PNR was 4 at AD 9/13 (AB). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was found at four locations: one at PNR 8/23 (KP), one at LH 8/26 (AM), one at PVP 9/10 (SM), and one at WPNR 9/13 (JK).

PNR banded many **Philadelphia Vireos** from 9/2-10/4. The best locations away from there were WHT-D, where the first was one 9/1 (KB, PF) and the last was one 9/15 (KB, LH), and at PVP, where the earliest was one 9/10 (SM) and the last 10/3 (EH). Many reports of **Common Raven** continued at both high and low elevations in *Westmoreland*. The high count and earliest of three reports for **Horned Lark** was 19 in the CFA 10/19 (RC). The only **Purple Martin** of the season was at BRR-380 on 8/1 (RH, SM), an indication that they migrated early. The only reports of **Bank Swallow** were of one at DL 8/14 (AM) and one on Harr Road 8/28 (KP). **Cliff Swallows** were reported at two locations: 20 at DL 8/2 (EH) and 3 at MP 8/27 (JLK, TK, MM).

Many scattered reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** provided evidence of a modest and early irruption. The most productive location was PNR where one was first reported 8/24 (KP), the season-high count was 4 on 9/24 (JB, KP) and the last was one 10/18 (KP). **Brown Creeper** was also widely reported during the season at both high and lower elevations. It was a productive season for **Winter Wren**; of note was the high count of 6 at PNR 10/9. As is often the case with this rare migrant, **Marsh Wren** was captured at PNR 9/18; additionally one was photographed nicely at DL 10/1 (AB).

Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, and Hermit Thrush were captured in significant numbers at PNR. PVP was a productive location for **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, with records spanning from one 9/20 (PF, EH) to one 10/8 (RH, SM). PVP was also productive for **Swainson's Thrush** with one of the many reports there a count of 12 on 9/20 (EH). A flock of **American Pipits** were first found in the CFA when 75 were present 10/8 (EH, SMi). The high count there was 90 on 10/10 (EH) and high counts continued through 11/8 when 80 were reported (SMi).

Unfortunately, despite the irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks** statewide, the only report in *Westmoreland* was a flyover of 3 at PNR 10/29 (KP). **Purple Finches** were frequently reported, including a very high count of 42 at PNR 10/28 (KP). The only report of **Pine Siskin** was also at PNR 10/28 (KP), a flyover at the banding station. Six **Red Crossbills** were at Antiochian Village Camp 10/24 (EM).

The only report of **Snow Bunting** was of 2 at TLP 11/14 (RG). The two reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** were early in the season and both at SVR: one 8/1 (RC) and one again 8/3 (RC). Seven **Fox Sparrows** at PNR 10/28 was the high for the season (KP). Among the other scattered reports of Fox Sparrow were one at PVP 10/3 (EH), one at SVR 10/25 (RC), one at the MR 10/28 (LH), and at SV on both 11/8 (RC) and 11/15 (RC). Many reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** began with one at PNR 10/4 (KP). Several of *Westmoreland's* productive grassland locations held **Savannah Sparrows**. An early season report was of 3 at the ARFA 8/17 (KP, GP), and later reports included 13 in the CFA 10/8 (EH, SMi) and 2 in the LRFA 10/14 (RC). As always, many **Lincoln's Sparrows** were captured at PNR, from 9/22-10/18. Away from there, reports included the high count of 2 at SVR on both 9/27 (RC) and 10/10 (RC).

There were three reports for **Bobolink** away from PNR: 7 at MP 8/22 (KP), 3 at DL 9/4 (AG), and one at MP 9/20. At PNR flyovers were recorded 8/31 and 9/7 (both KP). The CFA was the most productive location **Eastern Meadowlark** where the top count was 6 on 10/22 (RC). There were just three reports of **Orchard Oriole**: one at MP 8/12 (MF) and uncaptured birds at PNR 8/19 (KP) and 8/28 (KP). It was nice to see several reports of **Rusty Blackbird**, some of which had significant numbers: 15 at YS 10/26 (MMc) and 20 at SW 11/4 (MF) were followed by a flock of 50-60 there 11/6 (GS, MS). A **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported with excellent photos in the CFA 10/22 (MM, RC). The only past known records for this species were also both in the CFA 1/30/2003 and 1/6/2004.

Even though Cerulean Warbler was missed, a significant list from the PNR banding station provided for a stunning 33 warblers reported, plus two hybrids. The nets at PNR yielded the only reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** 8/16, 8/23, and 8/26 and **Golden-winged Warbler** 9/11. Both hybrids were captured at PNR as well: one **Brewster's Warbler** 9/2 and one **Lawrence's Warbler** 9/14. In addition to 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** at PNR 9/21 were reports of one at DL 9/5 (RH, SM), 2 at PV 9/18 (MMc), and one there 9/23 (EH, MMc, SMi), and one on the WHT-D 9/29 (KB). **Connecticut Warblers** were captured or reported at PNR 9/1-29. PVP was a productive location for Connecticut Warblers, too, where reports ranged from 9/10 (SM) to 9/23 (EH, SMi), and 2 there 9/20 (ph. EH). **Mourning Warblers** were reported at several locations: one at YS 8/18 (MMc), one on the WHT-D 8/19 (KB), and 2 at PVP 9/18 (MMc) and one there 9/20 (EH). The only reports of **Kentucky Warbler** were at CLR 8/2 (MC), and at PNR both 8/19 and 8/27. Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at KSP 9/1 (SW) and on the WHT-D 9/21 (KB, LH). A **Prairie Warbler** was at PNR 9/10 (JB, KP). **Wilson's Warblers** were reported or captured at PNR 8/24-9/25; away from there were one the WHT 8/27 (KB), one at KSP 9/3 (PB), one at PVP 9/17 (PB), and one at PVP again 9/23 (EH, SMi). Probably a result of the recent spruce budworm outbreak in the boreal forest, **Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers** were all very well reported at PNR and elsewhere. In summary, it was just a remarkable fall warbler migration for *Westmoreland*.

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Fisher, Ian Fitzgerald, Regina Gaison, Eric Hall (EH), Rebecca Hart, Amy Henrici, Linda Huber, Aaron Graham, Janet L. Kuehl, Dennis Lauffer, Annie Lindsay, Wendy Love, Andy Mack, Steve Manns, Emily Matthews, Mark McConaughy, Michael McDevitt (MMc), Sue Miller (SMi), Alyssa Nees, Hanna Nees, Kevin Pero, Gustav Pettersson, Georgia Shalek, Andrew Smith, Mike Smith, Samuel Tripp, Steve Wagner.

Wyoming County

Locations: **Beaumont (BM), Aldovin Pond (AP), Davis Crossing (DC), Hoppy Road (HR), Iroquois Trail in Tunkhannock (IT), Jennings Pond (JP), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Sheridan (LS), Lake Winola (LW), Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LRG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Nesbitt Road (NR), Oxbow Lake (OL), Perrin's Marsh (PM), Phelps Swamp (PS), Riverside Park (RP), Russell Hill (RH), Scavazzo's Pond (SP), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), State Game Lands 57 (SGL), Vosburg Neck, including Vosburg Neck State Park and Camp Lackawanna (VN).**

A total of 154 species were reported to eBird this fall, compared to last year's count of 175. The previous ten years average is 144. This report includes notes on 29 species, passage migrants and a few others of particular interest.

A single **Blue-winged Teal** was on a farm pond 10/3 (TB). They usually appear in very small numbers. Two **Gadwalls** were at LC 11/28 (TB). **American Wigeon** was noted twice: 5 at SP 11/7 (JD) and 4 at OL 11/25 (TN). A trio of **Green-winged Teal** made an appearance at SL 10/9 (TB). A group of 10 **Ring-necked Ducks**, a frequent fall visitor, was at OL 11/25-26 (TN), and 12 were at SP 11/7 (JD). **White-winged Scoter** is rare in *Wyoming*, so one on LC 11/7 (TB) was particularly exciting. **Bufflehead**, on the other hand, is expected during migration, and there were several reports, including 4 on LC 11/8 (TB), 6 on at LW 11/13 (SP), 3 at LC 11/14 (TB), at SF 11/18 (RK), 96 at LC 11/20 (TB), and one at SF 11/21 (RK). **Ruddy Duck** was present at LC 10/5-11/20, with a high count of 12 on 11/1 (TB), and one was at OL 11/26 (TN). Up to 3 **Horned Grebes** were 11/6-22 (TB, RK). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were observed at SL 10/9 (TB) and at LC 11/20 (TB) and 11/24 (MC).

A **Least Sandpiper** and a **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared at VN 8/28 (TB). Three species of gull were observed at LC during the fall: 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 11/20, a single **Herring Gull** 11/14, and a single **Great Black-backed Gull** 9/25 (all TB). The Great Black-backed was apparently the first in *Wyoming* since 2001. **Common Loon** is a regular visitor during migration, almost always in single digit numbers. This fall, single birds were observed at LC 11/14 (MC) and 11/27 (TB). Two locations with nesting **Peregrine Falcon**, a confirmed breeder, are being monitored: ledges near Laceyville, and near Falls. There were no sightings fledglings at Laceyville this fall, but there were signs of successful nesting. One adult and one immature were observed 8/14 and 8/20 near a likely nesting location near Falls (SP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included one at SGL 8/15 (DG), and singles at VN 9/1 and 9/16 (TB). **Philadelphia Vireo** is rare in the county, but this year it was at VN on several occasions 9/15-16 and 9/29 (all TB). **Swainson's Thrushes** were at two locations: single birds at SGL 8/2 and 8/8 (DG), and at VN 9/15, 9/24, and 9/29 (TB). The only **Pine Siskins** were 2 at Forkston 10/30 (KH). Three species of migrating sparrows were recorded: single **Fox Sparrows** at VN 10/8 (TB), at Forkston 10/30 (KH), and 10/31 at RP 10/31 (KH), 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** at HR 10/8 (SP) and one at VN 10/9 (TB), and one to 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows** 9/15-10/6 (TB).

There were 27 species of warblers reported, the great majority of these possible or confirmed breeders locally, but there were some passage migrants. These included counts of up to 6 **Tennessee Warblers** at VN 8/28-10/8 (TB) and one at HR 9/24 and 10/8 (SP); a single **Orange-crowned Warbler**, possibly a first for *Wyoming*, at VN 9/21 (TB); a **Connecticut Warbler**, another possible first, at VN 9/21 (TB); **Cape May Warbler** at VN on several occasions 9/2-10/8 (TB); counts of up to 10 **Bay-breasted Warbler** from 8/28-9/29 (TB); and a single **Wilson's Warbler** at VN 9/15 (TB), the first record in the past two

years.

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Twp Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP), State Game Lands #242 (SGL2), State Game Lands #243 (SGL3).

The season's 206 species was a solid showing. Shorebirds and warblers showed well, which when combined with the appearance of northern irruptive species, accounted for the above average total. A trio of **Snow Geese** at LAR 11/28 (BP) included one dark morph juvenile. A **Cackling Goose** was identified at LAR 11/22-23 (EB, BR). After no sightings at Spring Grove since the summer of 2021, **Mute Swan** returned with as many as 7 there 10/31-11/7 (m.ob.). A **Trumpeter Swan** was also there 11/14-19 (CB, EB, BR, RS). Quartets of **Northern Shoveler** were at CSP 10/6-9 (EB, MH, KJ, LM) and GPSP 11/6 (RK). Six sites reported **American Black Duck** but no count exceeded 5 birds. An August surprise was a pair of **Northern Pintails** at SGL3 on 8/13 (EV). A single **Redhead** was at Spring Grove 11/1-5 (DA, MC) and a pair of **Greater Scaup** was there as well (DA, MC, BR, RS). Up to 13 **Lesser Scaup** visited LAR 10/27-11/22 (JO, BR, AS). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at GPSP 11/24 (AL) was the only report. Nice **Pied-billed Grebe** counts of 5 birds 10/25 (JD) and 11/19 (DT) and 6 birds 11/26 (RK) were made at GPSP. That site also held 8 **Horned Grebes** 11/5 (LM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo continued to generate many reports; singles of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were found at RRCP 8/24 (FB) and SVCP 9/12 (EB). A nice find was an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** at Dover Twp. 9/28 (DC). **Common Nighthawk** migration through York was sparse again this fall, as none of the eight reports exceeded 2 birds. A Dillsburg homeowner hosted a female **Rufous Hummingbird** 10/2-11/16 that was trapped and banded (S&GL).

A pair of **American Avocets** was along the York/Adams shoreline at LAR 8/5 (EB, BR), and 2 **Sanderlings** were at LR 9/2-10 (DA, CE, BR, RS). Up to 3 **Dunlin** were at CSP 10/5-8 (m.ob.) and a single was at LAR 11/7 (BR). A nice find was a **Baird's Sandpiper** at CSP 10/6 (KJ). Four reports of **Pectoral Sandpiper** at CSP 8/6-11/7 included a max of 12 (m.ob.). LR held 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/29 (CE). Singles of **American Woodcock** were found at CSP 10/28 (KJ, MJ) and Glen Rock 11/6 (NM). Four sites with **Wilson's Snipe** were led by the max of 6 at HTP 11/21-26 (DF, MH, BR). Exceedingly rare for the county, a **Red-necked Phalarope** was beautifully photographed at CSP 10/5 (EB, et al.). There are three prior reports for the county, two from spring and one from fall, all prior to 2012.

Other than the omnipresent **Ring-billed Gull**, single reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** and **Herring Gull** were the only gulls noted. A pair of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was at LR 9/12-19 (BR) and one at Tyler Run Creek 10/5 (CS) was a bit late. The RRCP Hawkwatch produced fairly typical numbers, but Oct was a bit challenging with many cloudless, calm days. High daily tally for **Broad-winged Hawk** was 1100 on 9/19 (CMc, RP). Although not detected this year at the watch, a **Golden Eagle** was reported from CSP 11/21 (BW). Like Adams, York had a good season for the expected owls, **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Great-horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl**. Twelve sites reporting **Red-headed Woodpecker** were within normal range; however, there were no reports after 11/7, which suggests that overwintering individuals will likely be sparse this

year. York saw the same positive results as Adams with the three falcon species.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported at four sites 8/28-9/13 (m.ob.). A very nice count of 25 **Eastern Kingbirds** stopped over at LAR 8/25 (JO). Nice counts of 8 **White-eyed Vireos** were made from SVCP 9/5 (DA) and SGL2 on 9/18 (RK). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was late at SVCP 10/22 (EV). As mentioned in the Adams report, credible **Black-capped Chickadee** reports in York suggested that some noticeable level of an irruption into southcentral Pennsylvania occurred, the first time here in at least 11 years. A nice of 6 **Winter Wrens** was made at Hellam Hills 10/8 (DA). A **Marsh Wren** was at LR 10/4 (BR) and another was at Nixon County Park 10/6 (AP). Twenty-five **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at SVCP 10/22 (CB) was a strong tally. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** singles were found at RRCP 9/21-10/8 (DA, FB). Four sites reporting **American Pipit** 10/6-11/13 (CB, KJ, RK, BR) were paced by 12 at Sunnyside Rd. 11/9 (CB). Several flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** estimated at 175 birds moved through SGL2 on 9/24 (RK).

Evening Grosbeaks were limited to a flyover single at GPSP 11/5 (RK) and a feeder visit at a home in Lower Windsor Twp. 11/5 (FDP). Birders enjoyed **Purple Finches** at 24 different sites. One Dillsburg area homeowner (JD) enjoying the initial sighting of a female at his feeder noted that a **Cooper's Hawk** appreciating the visit as well. It ended badly for the finch. Among these many reports was a great count of 25 termed "conservative" at SVCP 10/15 (DA). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported in four places 8/2-10/11 (SA, LH, MH, EV) but no count exceeded 2 birds. An impressive 40 **Chipping Sparrows** were counted at Sam Lewis State Park 10/24 (BR), and another "chippy" at Red Lion 11/26 (PS) was pretty late. A trio of **American Tree Sparrows** was at LR 11/25 (BR) and one was at CSP 11/26 (RS). **Fox Sparrows** were first reported 10/2, and 10 were at SVCP 11/2 (DA). Seven sites held **Savannah Sparrows**, with a high of 10 at HTP 10/12 (ML). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at eight sites 9/22-10/21 (m.ob.). Likely a record was the 16 locations reporting **Swamp Sparrow**, which were paced by up to 11 at LR 10/15-16 (BR). **Bobolink** were found at three sites 8/7-9/8 (RK, JO, BR, EV) with up to 6 at LAR. As always, HTP led the **Eastern Meadowlark** parade with up to 32 birds during the period. **Rusty Blackbird** were found at three sites; CSP, SGL2, and LR 9/27-11/9 (m.ob.) with up to 8 at SGL2.

The 33 warbler species this fall was about as good a season as York has experienced. The powerline at RRCP receives good coverage and continues to produce an occasional **Golden-winged Warbler**. One was there 9/1-2 (FB, DK) this year. **Orange-crowned Warbler** can be a tough find, so singles at SVCP 10/8 (CB) and LR 10/24 (BR) were noteworthy. Tougher yet, a first year **Connecticut Warbler** was at SGL2 on the late date of 10/23 (RK). Also typically challenging, a **Mourning Warbler** was at SVCP 9/24 (BPh). Notable single-site, double-digit high counts over the course of the migration included 11 **American Redstart**, 13 **Cape May Warbler**, 15 **Bay-breasted Warbler**, 36 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and 30 **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Sites involved were GPSP, LR, and SVCP (DA, RK, BPh, BR). Often missed in fall, single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were on the late side at SVCP 9/17 (MW) and Nixon County Park 9/26 (KG). A **Wilson's Warbler** was found in North Codorus Twp (JT).

A great count of 14 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** in varying plumages was made at SGL2 on 9/16 (RK). Continuing from their very strong summer, **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at eight sites, including a nice count of 4 at HTP 9/3 (AS). A pair of **Dickcissel** was at LAR 8/1-2 (LH, JO).

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Wielgopolski.

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Fifty species reported in all 67 counties:

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal.



Goodbye from the Editor-in-chief and Assistant Editor.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

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IN FOCUS – FALL WARBLERS



Black-throated Gray Warbler at Wilson Farm Park, *Chester* for just one day, 13 September; first county record. (*Barry Blust*)



For the second consecutive year at least one **Swainson's Warbler** was found along the Lower Trail, *Blair*, here 2 August. (*Michael Croyle*)



Golden-winged Warblers are sparse nesters in Pennsylvania, and even less often found in migration; this Golden-wing was at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster* 27 August. (*Jonathan Heller*)



Connecticut Warbler at Colyer Lake, *Centre* 6 September. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



Orange-crowned Warbler in Lower Nazareth Twp., *Northampton* 6 November. (*Dave DeReamus*)



Palm Warbler at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 15 October. (*William Berteotti*)