



Lancaster County Bird Club

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Founded December 8, 1937

... observing and preserving our community's native bird life

Call Notes

JANUARY – MARCH 2021

FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA HUNSBERGER:

When I received the “On the Trail” newsletter from the Lancaster Conservancy, I read Phil Wenger’s (President Lancaster Conservancy) letter about the stresses of this year, especially around the holidays and the continued uncertainty of a raging pandemic, which perfectly expresses my feelings about winter. The following excerpts are published here with Phil’s permission. He offers a look at the Norwegian concept of “friluftslive” (pronounced free-loofts-liv) which is loosely translated as “open air living.” It involves staying committed to spending time outdoors, regardless of the weather. The word and the concept have been around for thousands of years and is practiced extensively by Nordic families, especially in winter, but is now being adopted by employers, doctors and others around the world to strengthen what makes us human. We invite you to get outside and see how nature quiets the mind and strengthens the body’s ability to rise above the challenges in our work, life and world. Thank you Phil for introducing us to friluftslive.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Board of Directors of Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC) is pleased to announce that the Harold Morrin Youth Scholarship has been awarded to Zoe Biles of Lancaster. She is a junior at McCaskey High School and hopes to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp this summer if the sessions are held. Her life goal is to become an ornithologist. In her application she states, “In September of 2019, my mom and I took a road trip to Delaware to participate in the Frontiers of Ornithology Symposium for Youth (LCBC helped sponsor this symposium). It was incredible to listen and learn from experts in the field and meet other youths who were bird nerds like me. My favorite speaker was Scott Weidensaul who inspired me to follow my passion for birds.” Harold would be proud of our choice for his scholarship.

No adult scholarship was awarded this year.

Lancaster County Bird Club is now enrolled in Amazon Smile!

When you sign up for AmazonSmile and select the LCBC as your charity, Amazon will donate .5 percent of your purchase to LCBC. There is no difference in your Amazon experience (products, prices, services) when you use AmazonSmile.

Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1690113>

Contributions by LCBC for 2020 - 2021:

Lancaster County Conservancy \$500

Lancasterhistory.org \$100 (organizes & preserves LCBC archives)

Ned Smith Center \$500 (Saw-whet Owl Banding Program)

North Museum \$500

Raven Ridge Wildlife Center \$400 (local wildlife rehab)

Wildside Nature Tours \$800 (in lieu of charge for webinars, donation is in support of his International Guides during pandemic)

Middle Creek WMA (In-kind-donation of bird seed and feeders as needed.)

In addition:

Lancaster Conservancy \$4,100 to support the Lancaster Conservancy's Forest Garden Project:

\$1,500 donation from Len and Pat Eiserer with a \$2,600 match donated by club members for this purpose.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 14, 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Webinar: Lighter Side of Birding

Globe-trotting bird guides see a lot of interesting things! Senior Wildside leader Adrian Binns has been guiding tours in Africa, India, Brazil, the U.S., and beyond, for more than two decades. Along the way, he's encountered more than a few mis-worded signs, weird wildlife, and curious predicaments. Join Adrian for a light-hearted presentation featuring plenty of laughs, tall tales, and fun photos, too! He'll share traveling stories with a sometimes-twisted but always generous sense of humor about our fascinating world.

Adrian, a naturalist and field ornithologist, grew up in Morocco and England where his birding experiences paved the way for a career in the birding community. A former tennis professional, Adrian also worked as an ecological landscape designer, combining a lifelong interest in wildlife with expertise in crafting native-plant landscapes, particularly wetlands and water gardens, to attract birds, butterflies and other critters.

A professional tour guide since the 1990s, Adrian has led birding and eco-tours across five continents, for a variety of organizations and tour companies. He joined Wildside Nature Tours in 2007, leading trips to Africa, India, Brazil, Colorado, Florida and other favorite destinations. As an educator Adrian has written articles and lectured on "Landscaping for Wildlife" as well as being a regular contributor to *Pond* magazine. He co-authored "Big City Birding: Philadelphia,"

for the May 2001 issue of *Wild Bird* magazine, and produced an educational program, “Eastern Owls,” for the National Audubon Society. Adrian has attended birding festivals all across North America and abroad, serving as keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and field trip leader.

Adrian is a past president of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC) in Philadelphia, one of the oldest bird clubs in the country. He competed in the World Series of Birding as a member of the Nikon/DVOC team (1997-2006), placing first five times including a record number of 231 species found in 24 hours in New Jersey in 2003.

Registration link to share via email:

<https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/The-Lighter-Side-of-Birding-d7ebb88b10534d636953f56f>

Registration link to share via Facebook:

https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/The-Lighter-Side-of-Birding-d7ebb88b10534d636953f56f?utm_bmc_r_source=Facebook

Once members register, they will receive a confirmation and unique link for them to join the webinar, as well as a link to add a reminder to their calendars.

NOTE: The confirmation link is unique to each registrant and cannot be shared.

Thursday, February 11, 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Webinar: Galapagos: The Enchanted Islands

Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours, has led 39 tours to the Galapagos Islands as of 2019. This destination is truly one of his favorite places in the world and going back time and again only reinforces that love and desire to return. As Kevin shares some of his many images made during his many trips to the Galapagos, he will discuss the many aspects of Galapagos history, geology and, of course, the amazing wildlife to be seen and enjoyed!

Kevin was raised to appreciate nature while exploring the woodlands of Pennsylvania as a child. At age six, during a family trip through the American West, Kevin became fascinated with photography as well as seeing the new and different birds throughout North America. Instilled with a love for travel and seeking new, exciting destinations he felt a desire to share his experiences with others and in 1993 he created Wildside.

Kevin’s photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as *Audubon*, *Nature Photographer*, *WildBird*, *Birding* and *Philadelphia* magazines, as well as the many natural history books, most recently “Peterson’s Reference Guide to Owls of North American and the Caribbean” by Scott Weidensaul. Kevin’s current projects include co-authoring a complete revision of John Kricher's popular book “Galapagos: A Natural History.”

Registration link to share via email: <https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/GALAPAGOS-The-Enchanted-Islands-56bcac878f87ad6f41d30934>

Registration link to share via Facebook: https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/GALAPAGOS-The-Enchanted-Islands-56bcac878f87ad6f41d30934?utm_bmc_r_source=Facebook

Once members register, they will receive a confirmation and unique link for them to join the webinar, as well as a link to add a reminder to their calendars.

NOTE: The confirmation link is unique to each registrant and cannot be shared.

Thursday, March 11, 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Webinar: U. S. National Treasures: Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Glacier

Our U.S. National Park System is full of amazing places to visit for birds, wildlife, and amazing scenery. By age 10, Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours had visited every state in the lower 48, camping with his family, and he found places to which he "needed" to return again and again!

In this colorful presentation full of wildlife and grand landscapes, Kevin will share images of Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons and Glacier National Park.

Registration link to share via email: <https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/US-National-Park-Treasures-Yellowstone-Tetons-and-Glacier>

Registration link to share via Facebook: https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/US-National-Park-Treasures-Yellowstone-Tetons-and-Glacier?utm_bmc_r_source=Facebook

Once members register they will receive a confirmation and unique link for them to join the webinar, as well as a link to add a reminder to their calendars.

NOTE: The confirmation link is unique to each registrant and cannot be shared.

Thursday, April 8, 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Webinar: Conservation Tourism... Make Your Trip Count

Experiences are so much more valuable to us than 'things.' Things break, or we get tired of playing with them, while experiences are with us forever. Long after returning home, we continue to tell stories and show photos of our travels, sharing our experiences with friends and family. We live for great experiences!

However, have you ever thought about how your adventures help those who make those experiences so special? The local guides, the people of communities in these far-off lands, and especially the wildlife can benefit from our immersion in any destination.

Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours, founded his tour company after an amazing experience he had traveling to Belize in 1993. He was so taken by this tiny country, its people and its wildlife, that he returned home, quit his job and began designing his first tour, which he led eight months later. Since then, Kevin has shared amazing experiences with thousands of people.

In this image filled presentation, Kevin will share how your experiences have helped build conservation tourism in popular places like the Galapagos Islands, a very well-known tourism destination.

Kevin will also share an incredible story of conservation efforts in remote Nagaland, where Kevin, along with renowned author Scott Weidensaul, launched an exploratory expedition to assist in a conservation tourism project to help protect hundreds of thousands of Amur Falcons which migrate through this rugged region with little tourism infrastructure. This is a story you will not want to miss!

Registration link to share via email: <https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/Conservation-Tourism-Make-Your-Trip-Count>

Registration link to share via Facebook: https://www.bigmarker.com/wildside-nature-tours/Conservation-Tourism-Make-Your-Trip-Count?utm_source=Facebook

Once members register, they will receive a confirmation and unique link for them to join the webinar, as well as a link to add a reminder to their calendars.

NOTE... the confirmation link is unique to each registrant and cannot be shared.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY LARRY BERNHARDT

Our membership presently stands at 176 households and 267 members which is a significant decline in our membership from last year. There are 46 households with 76 members that did not renew their memberships this year. We hope that many of the members that were unable to renew will be able to reconsider once we can return to a more normal existence in the future.

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new members to LCBC:

Carolyn Drasher, New Holland
Linda Germak, Elizabethtown
Bob & Pat Reiter, Seven Valleys

Ken Eshelman, Lititz
Bill Kametz, Middletown
Chris Sides, Mount Gretna

RETURNING MEMBERS:

We welcome the following returning members:

Stanley & Joselyn Stahl, Andy, Susie, Amelia, Lancaster

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

In memory of Carl Beck:

Yvonne M. Beck
Thomas & Nancy Hopson

In memory of Harold Morrin:

Thomas & Nancy Hopson

The following was incorrectly reported last quarter:

In honor of Roger Stoner:

Peter & Barbara Hunsberger

For Scholarship Fund:

John D. Lahr

Sustaining members:

Yvonne M. Beck
Ted Nichols II

Emily Brioch

Gladys Horst

General Club Support:

J. Richard & Shirley L. George

Donation to purchase bird seed for Middle Creek:

Susan Scanion (non-member)

Forest Garden Project:

Douglas Anderson
Larry Bernhardt
Emily Brioch
Michael & Pamela Holmes
Laura & David Kemmick
Michael & Linda McKinne
Jeffrey Musser
Dennis & Lorri Schmick

Charles & Fern Bauman
Charles & Mary Blakinger
Bettina A. Heffner
Barbara & Peter Hunsberger
David & Christine King
Zachary & Rebecca Millen
Vince Pantanella
Michael & Rose Shull

Yvonne M. Beck
Nancy Blechschtmidt
Mary Alice High & John
Shenk
John D. Lahr
Ted & Kim Morelock
Robert Paul
James H. & Rita B. Smith

Edward & Rosemary Spreha
Ginger Weismantel

Dr. Mary M. St. John
Warren & Nina Wolf

Roger & Linda Lueck-Stoner

IN MEMORIAM

Known for her zest for life and extensive nature knowledge, Karen Wenger was actively engaged in environmental advocacy. Though a relatively recent newcomer to the world of birding, Karen immersed herself in mastering their identification. She became an avid participant in our club field trips and offered her help each year in all our Christmas Bird Counts.

Our community is a better place due to Karen's generous commitment of time to projects protecting our environment and helping the less fortunate - her lasting legacy.

Karen passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on September 19, 2020. We send our deepest condolences to Karen's family. Written by Linda Lueck-Stoner.

IN MEMORIAM

Former member William "Bill" Welsh of Spring Grove, PA in York County, passed away on November 20, 2020 from COVID-19 at age 78. He and his wife Jane were members of the LCBC from 2009 until July 2020 and regularly attended the club meetings. Together they enjoyed birding in York County at Lake Marburg and frequently traveled to the family cabin in the Allegheny Highlands of Cameron County, PA for birding and wildflower botanizing. Other favorite areas in PA for birding included Middle Creek Wildlife Area, Hawk Mountain, Blue Mountain near Carlisle, portions of the Susquehanna River area, in addition to visiting Pymatuning Lake and Presque Isle on Lake Erie. They especially enjoyed traveling together to Cape May, NJ on birding trips. Bill's passion for birds and wildflowers led to his hobby of photography and he enjoyed sharing his photos with the family. Jane Welsh is recovering from COVID-19 and is in the care of a York Alzheimer facility. In addition to his wife Jane, "Bill" is survived by his son William III of Connecticut and daughter Rebecca Miller of York, and his brothers David and George. We send our deepest condolences to his family. We thank George Welsh and Carol and David Welsh for helping to compile this information.

MEMBERS' ADVENTURES AND ACTIVITIES BY BARBARA HUNSBERGER

Lancaster Newspaper December 26, 2020

Birds made the front page of the LNP on 12/26/20 with "Pandemic limits annual bird count." With interviews with President **Barbara Hunsberger** and First Vice President **Ted Nichols II**, the impact of the pandemic on our three Lancaster County Christmas Bird Counts was described by reporter Sean Sauro. The SoLanco Count was canceled and the remaining two – the Lancaster Count and the Lititz Count - have been limited to experienced birders. **Barbara** and **Ted** provided

information on the history of the count which started in 1900 and on the value of the count as citizen science for the National Audubon Society, its originator, and for science in general. In a typical year, the counts in Lancaster County afford an opportunity for novice birders to be teamed up with experienced ones. **Barbara** and **Ted** explained how the COVID-19 mitigation requirements negated the opportunity to provide this experience. Backyard feeder watchers were invited to contact them with their sightings on the count days. With their contact information included in the article, it will be interesting to see if they get reports from backyard birders. This was a really good article with excellent information provided by our own club members. I personally received several phone calls about it from friends who are not birders. Our annual activity has received positive attention during a time of uncertainty and stress for many. Thank you, **Barbara** and **Ted**, for representing our club so well.

Written by Bettina Heffner

Falmouth Forest Garden at Conoy Wetlands Nature Preserve

On a beautiful warm fall day, I took a bike ride on the newly paved extension of the NW Susquehanna River Trail. This stretch just so happens to go right past the newly completed Falmouth Forest Garden at the Conoy Wetlands and Nature Preserve. Due to the very generous support and donation made by **Len and Pat Eiserer**, and as a Master Gardener and a member of the LCBC who donated to this restoration project, I was happy to have a firsthand look at the new garden.

With the re-introduction of 20 native, crop-producing species and supporting groundcover of native herbs and wildflowers, the forest garden will serve as a demonstration of regenerative agroforestry as a public-natural lands management strategy. The natural regeneration of black walnut trees, pawpaws, persimmons, serviceberries, hazelnuts and elderberry bushes set the template for the restoration efforts, improving bird and wildlife habitat.

As birders, this restored Nature Preserve will set the stage for year-round birding activities. Just think of the many possible bird species that will inhabit and use this five-acre flood plain as their home, or as a stopover on their migratory routes. So, grab your binoculars and head to the new Falmouth Forest Garden. Check out the Lancaster Conservancy website for directions and details on this wonderful treasure right in our own backyard.

Written by Lorri Schmick

Costa Rica Trip

In early December club member **Darryl Lownsbery** joined a birding tour for a second trip to Costa Rica. Both guides worked hard to make sure we all saw all of the nearly 400 birds recorded on the trip. I had 47 new lifers on this trip and the pleasant 76 degree days were a welcome change from the cold here at home. Costa Rica is where warblers go for the winter. We saw over 20 species there: Black-and-white, Wilson's, Cape May, Chestnut-sided and Kentucky among others.

Birding began before breakfast each day and ended around 6 p.m. when it got dark. After dinner more birding produced Black and White, Spectacled, and Pacific Screech owls as well as a Night Hawk flying just outside our rooms. An unexpected find was the Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine, an odd-looking guy scurrying along the wires at the hotel!

A river boat tour on the Tarcoles River brought us close to a migrant from South America, the Orinoco Goose. This goose was a first sighting in Costa Rica!

Some of the areas visited were Monte Verde, Carrera National Park, and Savegre Valley. Luckily skies were clear when we visited Arenal Volcano, allowing good looks at the still smoking volcano. Resplendent Quetzels were seen at two different locations. White-crested Coquette, Magenta-throated Woodstar and Violet Saberwing were just a few of the 32 different hummingbirds seen. A Scintillant Hummingbird was observed sitting on two tiny eggs along a path from our rooms to the dining hall.

The Volcano Junco was found at one of the highest points in the country, near a group of radio towers at 12,000 feet elevation. Other birds seen were a variety of wood creepers, Uniform Crake, Russet-naped Wood-Rail, Ornate Hawk-eagle, King Vulture, Laughing Falcon, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Spotted Antbird, Red-capped Manakin, Black-eared Warbler, Bare-throated Tiger-heron, Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, and Streak-breasted Treehunter plus many more.

This trip was filled with great lodges, good food and friendly local people! If you get the chance to go - Pura Vida!! Written by Darryl Lownsbery

LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS – Autumn 2020

Editor’s Note: This is Zach Millen’s report on Lancaster County birds that appears in the *PA Birds* publication. This article is printed with the permission of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd Farm Pond (BRFP), Brenner Quarry (BQ), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie’s Rock County Park (CRCP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Millport Conservancy (MC), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Overlook Park (OP), Prescot Rd (PR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk’s Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Spalding Conservancy, Sporting Valley Turf Farm (SVTF), Susquehanna River Bainbridge Islands (SRBI), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRLL), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Susquehanna River “The Rocks” (SRTR), Susquehannock SP (SSP), SGL 52, SGL 156, SGL 220, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood’s Edge Park (WEP).

Aug continued the summer heat wave with a mean high of 87F (83F normal mean) and slightly above mean precip, and in fact the mean temp of 77.9 for the entire summer Jun-Aug was an all-time record. The warmth continued through the rest of the fall, creating balmy Oct-Nov temps and allowing many species to linger a little later in numbers. Fall precip was well down, however, at a

total of 7" vs 10" normal mean. There was no snow. Weather information is derived from Harrisburg data from the National Climatic Data Center. 254 (RUHU, RUGR) species were recorded during the period, well above the 3-year average of 240 (242, 240, 238 previous).

Two **Brant** were put down at MCWMA in inclement weather 11/12 (BC). **Cackling Geese** were found at several locations after Nov 1. A juvenile **Trumpeter Swan** hung around MCWMA 11/27-29 (RR, m.ob.). At SRCF high counts were made of 200 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/18 and 250 **Green-winged Teal** 10/7 (JHr). At least 6 **Canvasback** staged on SRLC 11/15 along with a hen **Redhead** (ZM), and there were a few other observations of Redheads in Nov. Large numbers of other *Aythya* staged on SRLC: 150 **Ring-necked Duck** 11/15 (ZM), and 600 **Lesser Scaup** along with another 300 scaup sp 11/13 (ME). Reports were up for **Surf**, **White-winged** and **Black Scoters** which were almost regular in various groups between 10/15 - 11/13 (m.ob.), nearly all on MCWMA and SRLC. A total of 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed 11/13-22 at MCWMA and SRLC.

One of the best birds of the season was a well-described **Ruffed Grouse** at MCWMA 10/31 (anon.). West Nile Virus hit our remnant population hard in the early 2000s, and sightings since have been very few and far between. Lone **Red-necked Grebes** were at SFL 10/26 (BC) and MCWMA 11/22-28 (AW, m.ob.). A juvenile female **Rufous Hummingbird** showed up at a feeder in Quarryville 11/4 and was banded. An adult male of the species visited a Pequea home beginning mid-Oct, but a banding attempt was not successful. Both birds remained post-period (fide SL). **American Coot** were counted at 800 on SRLC 11/13 (ME), and a large flyover flock of 63 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen over Strasburg 10/31 (JB).

Shorebird counts at SRCF were severely depressed this season, due likely in part to low rainfall after Aug and possibly lower overall river levels. This left new areas of habitat available upstream, as I observed in Nov, which would typically be underwater. However, in New Holland there was a freshly harvested potato field where **Killdeer** congregated, which were counted at over 160 9/9 (ZM). Between 9/10-10/12 an adult **Black-bellied Plover** and up to 6 juveniles joined them. Two adult **American Golden-Plovers** dropped in 9/4, and numbers of this species were in the single digits for about a month. Then, on 10/2 a flock of 25 juveniles were found. Numbers quickly shot up to a high of 95 by 10/9 (EM) and the last count was 15 on 10/31. In all, at least 10 species of shorebirds were confirmed in this one field. See the article in this journal by Frank Haas titled "Plover Palooza - American Golden-Plover Event in Lancaster County" for a more thorough account of this spectacle. One of the continuing **Upland Sandpipers** was at LA 8/1 (JHp), the final report. One **Ruddy Turnstone** was found at SRCF 8/20-23 (SSc, m.ob.), and 3 flew by 8/29 (RG, JHr, ZM). The only **Stilt Sandpipers** were lone birds at SRCF 8/29 (JHr, ZM) and MCWMA 9/1 (BC). **Sanderlings** were only observed between 8/29-9/9 and the biggest group was 4, a very low number. **Dunlin** were not numerous, with about 30 in the county and only 13 of those at SRCF. Up to 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** were together at SRCF 8/20-30 (m.ob.). MCWMA pulled in the "best" count of 38 **Least Sandpipers** on 8/29 (SF), a number that is easily surpassed most years at SRCF. The only **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen at SVTF 9/4 (BC). Back in the New Holland field on the evening of 9/10 a juvenile **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was discovered, and the following night there were 4 together (ZM). Counts of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were average

for prior years, often in the high single digits or teens at SRCF. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were frequent there 8/11-9/5. An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** hung out for an afternoon in a stream near Narvon 8/11 (FH), and one was seen and heard at SRCF 10/12 (JHr). At SVTF a juv **Wilson's Phalarope** hung out with the local Killdeer 8/28-29 (ML), an odd place for such a species. A flyby **Red-necked Phalarope** was reported at 9/3 (JD, JHr). These two rare shorebirds are annual or nearly so in the county, but per usual we missed Red Phalarope.

One of the highlights of the season was a young, dark jaeger at SRCF 8/29, identified as a **Parasitic Jaeger** by shape and several plumage points. Unfortunately, only very poor photos were obtained (JHr, ZM, *doc submitted*). Three or 4 **Laughing Gulls** frequented SRLC to 10/12, which is typical. The rarer of the two look-alikes, an adult **Franklin's Gull** was photographed at SRCF 8/3 (SSc). **Caspian, Black, Common and Forster's Terns** were regular along the Susquehanna per usual, but late season an unusual tern event happened on SRPB. On 10/12 13 Caspians were seen together, a solid count for this date (BS). The Forster's Terns were the real spectacle, however, counted at 84 10/16 and 145 10/27 (BS)! As of 11/8 22 remained (CG). Also at this location were as many as 5 **Red-throated Loons** 10/19 and 21 **Common Loons** 10/25 (BS).

The morning of 10/22 was densely foggy with very low visibility. At daybreak someone working the parking lot of a food processing plant near Lancaster city found a juvenile **Northern Gannet** sitting on the wet pavement! To protect it from truck traffic they shooed it under some pines at the edge of the property, from where it eventually wandered into a nearby field. Thankfully the worker was curious about the identification, so they texted a photo to a friend, who texted a friend, who posted to a bird group on Facebook. Pretty soon it was identified and rehabber information exchanged, but not before the local birders found out. However, it was due to be picked up within 30 minutes so time was seriously short! Shockingly, the rehabber was rear-ended on their way to pick up the bird which provided additional time. Fortune favored the birders rushing for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to view a gannet sitting in a field, surrounded by clover, dew, and dried cow manure. Our thoughts go out to the rehabber who dealt with being rear-ended, but we are grateful to have had the opportunity. I am still trying to find out if the gannet made it through rehab, and hopefully can report in the next article.

American Bitterns were in marsh habitat near MCWMA 9/18 (BC) and at CGNA 10/15-24 (m.ob.), and normally a few are found each fall. The post-breeding dispersal heron flight brought small white waders starting with numerous reports of up to 7 **Snowy Egrets** and 4 **Little Blue Herons** at OR in early Aug (m.ob.). **Cattle Egret** was nearly missed until a juvenile showed up at a farm outside SSP 11/21 (TA, m.ob.). A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was dedicated to a stream at NDP for nearly a month after mid-Sep, single-handedly destroying its crayfish population (DK, m.ob.). A **Glossy Ibis** was sighted flying down SRLC 8/8 (ML), and presumably a continuing bird hung out at SRCF 8/8-9/10 (SSc, m.ob.). There were 3 **Golden Eagle** reports around the county 11/4-21, all of young birds (SB, MG, M&MZ). On 8/24 a **Barn Owl** hunted the back fields at MCWMA (SF), and 11/6 a **Short-eared Owl** was accidentally flushed from pheasant-stocked fields (RG). Hopefully it moved on before falling prey to the wrong end of a trigger-happy hunter's shotgun.

Five **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found late Aug-early Sep, and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** sightings were somewhat numerous, mostly in Sep. The last of the breeding **Alder Flycatchers** at MCWMA was reported 8/6 (m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireos** were well represented, also mostly in Sep.

Nearly all members of the suite of irruptive boreal birds put on red letter flights this season! Nov brought a movement of **Black-capped Chickadees**, as it did across much of the region, with at least 9 individuals scattered in the county. This was the first true irruption since 2016 of the northerly cousin to our local Carolina Chickadees. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were impressive as well, with a rough estimate from eBird data of at least 100 individuals reported. Surely this was only a small fraction of what truly passed through. Similarly, there was a massive irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks**, with an eBird total of 50 individuals over 12 locations between 10/27-11/11 (m.ob.). It stands as one of, if not the best passage of these birds since the 1970s. **Purple Finches** were seemingly everywhere one looked, on par with the fall of 2018 as the best flight this decade according to eBird data. **Common Redpoll** are quite rare in this region of PA, but there were 3 observations: A pair with goldfinches north of Manheim 11/19 (BC), one with siskins at a feeder near Wakefield 11/23 (CG), and 3 flyovers at MCWMA 11/25 (BC). More would be found post-period. Both crossbills were recorded, all in the northern end of the county. Five **Red Crossbills** in 3 groups were ticked 11/4-28 (BC), and a female **White-winged Crossbill** flew over SGL 220 11/21 (BC). **Pine Siskins** put on their best show this decade, with many hundreds observed beginning in Oct.

A **Lapland Longspur** was observed in flight over New Holland farmland 10/30 (ZM), signalling the start of a good winter for these. Two **Snow Buntings** were seen amongst larks and pipits in farmland near Ephrata 11/18 (BC). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded at CGNA 10/21 (LB), on the later side for this species. At least 5 reports of **Vesper Sparrow** were made during the period. A **Nelson's Sparrow** was finally found at weedy islands south of Bainbridge on the Susquehanna R. 10/18 (EW), the first there since heavy rains in the fall of 2018 wiped out much of its vegetation, which is slowly regaining a foothold. One was also found at NDP 10/26-28 (SM, m.ob.) in weedy habitat with a stand of cattails. A third individual was discovered at CGNA 11/2 (RN) to round out a decent fall for this species.

Thirty-two warbler species were tallied this season. Five **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported 9/21-10/20, and at least 8 **Connecticut Warblers** were found, a very skulky species which is likely underreported (m.ob.). **Mourning Warblers** are difficult to find after Sep, but one was described at an Ephrata park 10/2 (FB), and another photographed at CGNA 10/20 (BM). Most **Blackburnian Warblers** have pushed on by early Oct, but a straggler was a bit late 10/22 at CGNA (ML). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was a nice find 11/6 near Quarryville (DB), and a late **Wilson's Warbler** was photographed at CGNA 11/22 (KL, m.ob.).

A probable Summer Tanager was seen briefly just east of MCWMA 9/12 (EW), which unfortunately does not contribute to this season's species count. An adult male **Painted Bunting**

returned to a Mohnton home 11/29 (fide anon), earlier than its arrival dates in previous years between 12/17-20. The bird begins its 4th winter out of the previous 5, at the ripe old age of at least 7 at the time of this writing in 2021. And last, but not least, a **Dickcissel** gave its recognizable flight call over a Lancaster farm 9/12 (DS), and another was photographed at CGNA 10/19-21 (RN, m.ob.).

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Tom Amico, Larry Bernhardt, Paul Blank, Sabrena Boekell, Jerry Book (JBo), Emily Broich, Drew Brubaker, Bruce Carl, Mike Epler, Lauren Ferreri, Steve Ferreri, Pam Fisher, Ross Gallardy, Michael Gardner, Carlton Groff, Dennis Harnly (DHa), Jonathan Heller (JHe), Daniel Hinesbusch (DHi), Jeff Hopkins (JHp), Jason Horn (JHr), Josh Houck (JHu), Barbara Hunsberger, Dan Keener, Laura Kemmick, John Lahr, Keath Leidich, Bill Libhart, Sandy Lockerman, Meredith Lombard, Ervin Martin, Barb Matthews, Seth McComsey, Rebecca Millen, Randall Nett, Ted Nichols II, Brian Quindlen, Rick Robinson, Steve Schmit (SSc), Josh Schulz, Bob Schutsky, Derek Stoner, Stan Stahl, Dennis Weaver, Dick & Patti Williams, Eric Witmer, Andrew Wolf, Joe Wolf, Mike & Megan Zettlemyer.

BIRDS ON THE MOVE

For those members who may not use online resources to share their significant bird sightings or like to see their sightings in print, LCBC would like to continue to allow members to share their recent significant sightings through our newsletter.

Each member is asked to put their sightings into a narrative format (descriptive sentences) that tell the who, what, where, when, why and how of their sightings. Each member is asked to limit their submission to 4 to 10 sentences for printing in each edition of the newsletter.

Sightings can be submitted by email or U.S. mail to:
Carol Feister
cjfeister@comcast.net
225 Spencer Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603-4929

Keep in mind, the newsletter is printed only four times a year. **The deadline for submission of observations for this column for the Spring Newsletter is March 22, 2021.**

Submissions made for this column should be made by the deadline date and be for observations that occurred after the previous deadline date (December 15, 2020) and before the current deadline. The “Birds on the Move” column editor or “Call Notes” newsletter editor reserves the right to edit submissions based on newsletter space constraints.

Please note the club will no longer cull online forums/resources for information to populate this column. Submissions must be made by an individual to the column editor if they wish for their sightings to be published.

REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS

October 8, 2020 – Webinar: Spring Migration in the Dry Tortugas

Adrian Binns, senior Wildside Nature Tours guide, has visited the Dry Tortugas National Park over 25 years during spring birding migration and considers this one of the best areas to see migrating and nesting seabirds in this country. Speaking during the second webinar for the LCBC, Adrian described the adventure of taking a boat tour to a group of seven coral islands which are located 70 miles west of Key West, FL

This trip features a three-night tour which eventually ends up at Fort Jefferson which is situated on Garden Key. The brick fort was constructed in 1846 and was never completed, but a few years later was used by the Union Army during the Civil War. Today this area is used for campers, snorkelers, and birders. Most of the exploring by birders is done at this site. The only fresh water for birds is found here too.

Birds seen on the boat trip to the islands include Bridled Tern, which are found on floating weeds in the Gulf waters. Audubon's Shearwater come up from the Caribbean to the warm waters of the Gulf and are seen along with the Brown Boobys, which feed on flying fish and squid. Roseate Tern also frequents here which is as far south as this bird travels. Loggerhead turtles and Bottle-nose dolphins are other popular photo-ops on the way to the fort.

About 80,000 Sooty Terns and 5,000 Brown Noddys frequent Bush Key (closed to the public) during April and early May. Sooty Terns eventually leave the key and fly to the Eastern Atlantic and remain for five to seven years on wing with no landing or stopping until they return to Bush Key to breed. This is the longest continuous flight of any other bird, Adrian said. Birders also attempt to find the rare Black Noddy on Bush Key among the thousands of Brown Noddys. The difference is the Black Noddy is slightly smaller and has a white cap which remains brighter when it turns its head in certain lighting. The Brown Noddy's cap seems to fade away in this lighting.

Hundreds of Magnificent Frigatebirds soar over the fort with their eight-foot wing spans and long tails and eventually nest in the Buttonwood trees on Long Key. These birds have the largest wingspan to weight ratio in the world. Adrian added they are also the only seabird where the males and females "look different."

Early migrants (early April) seen during this time at the fort include Indigo buntings, Yellow-throated Warblers, Swainson's Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and Prothonotary Warbler. Mid-April visitors include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Thrush, Eastern Kingbird, and Cape May Warbler. Later visitors include Scarlet Tanager, Bay-breasted Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher. Long-distant migrants are the Blackpoll Warblers, Dickcissel, and Bobolink. Raptors seen here include the American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon.

November 12, 2020 – Webinar: Birding in Big Bend National Park

Big Bend National Park is located in southwestern Texas, just across the Rio Grande River from Mexico. The area includes the entire Chisos mountain range and a large portion of the Chihuahuan Desert. "It's a unique special place," said Lee Hoy in his webinar. Lee lives two hours north of

the park and gave his tips as to where to go and what to see if you ever visit the park. Lee's advice also included what birds to see and where to see them.

Lee is the owner/operator of Big Bend Birding & Photo Tours and is a photo workshop instructor for Wildside Nature Tours. Several of his tips to visitors are that summer, with its lower humidity, is a good time to see birds. Another good time for viewing is when it is raining. Getting a good view of the Colima Warbler takes some effort. To see this bird requires a long hike into the mountains. He called this the "death march." He suggests birders get their lodging reservations in early, at least six months in advance at the visitor center at Chisos Basin.

Hiking to the mountains on Pinnacles Trail will reward the visitor to possibly see White-throated Swift, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Redstart, Black-headed Grosbeak, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Black-crested Titmouse, and the Colima Warbler.

Other suggestions included Dugout Wells on the east side of the park (Blue Sparrow and Screech Owl), Daniels Ranch along the Rio Grande (Common Yellowthroat, Lark Sparrow), Rio Grande Village Campground (Golden-throated Woodpecker, Roadrunner, and Painted Bunting), Sam Nail Ranch (Varied Bunting, good for migrating birds), and Cottonwood Campground (Grey Hawk which is one of Lee's favorites and a Blue Grosbeak).

Those looking for other things besides birds can try Santa Elena Canyon (Bobcats and Peregrine Falcons), Pine Springs Trail (good for bears, black-tailed Jack Rabbits, Antelope squirrels) and according to Lee, the best views of the Milky Way in the lower 48 states. Favorite times to visit the park are from mid-March to late June, August through early September, and mid-November to mid-January.

December 10, 2020 – Webinar: Celebrating World Seabird Day

Alex Lamoreaux, senior leader for Wildlife Nature Tours, said that "quality over quantity" distinguishes pelagic birding in the Monterey and Half Moon Bays of central California. The bay might seem calm at the time bird watchers are out on the water but there is a lot more going on beneath the water that may soon lead to a "feeding frenzy" above the water.

During his webinar presentation, Alex remarked how the Pelagic Zone in Monterey Bay, which is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, fluctuates with temperatures and tides to bring krill and plankton to the surface for birds and marine animals. This area is protected against commercial fishing and birds such as the Sooty Shearwater, Black-footed Albatross, and Humped-back whales and dolphins are free to roam in these waters.

It is not uncommon to see over 1,000 Sooty Shearwaters in the bay during any one day, Alex said. He called the bird the "ultimate seabird" because it has a good sense of smell to track down fish and squid and is able to expel saltwater through a tube in its nose. It can also fly for miles without flapping its wings and is able to swim underwater to catch its food. The Black-footed Albatross lives to 50-60 years old and nests around Hawaii but spends the rest of the year roaming around the Pacific Ocean.

Alex listed the groupings of birds around Monterey Bay which include: Cormorants and Pelicans, Gulls and Terns, Jaegers and Skua, Shearwaters, Fulmar, Albatrosses, Storm-Petrels, Alcids, Shorebirds, and Rarities. Numerous examples were shown for each grouping.

He also suggested those wanting to take a boat tour of this region to bring along layered clothing, have rain pants and hats, wear good shoes to prevent slipping on the boat, bring 10x binoculars if possible, carry a large water bottle and snacks, and have pills for seasickness. If a camera is included ensure that a lens cap and camera case are packed to protect against the salt water.

December 26, 2020 – CBC4Kids

The annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4Kids) was held at Lancaster County Central Park in partnership with the county park. There were 27 people signed up for the event. The cold weather we woke up to on December 26 of 22 degrees kept most people away. Five people came out to the event including one very enthusiastic 8-year-old girl and her mom. She even had her Christmas present of brand-new binoculars with her. She insisted on being the person to write down what we saw on the county park bird checklist. Unfortunately, she got cold and about 45 minutes into the walk asked to go home. We sent the bird checklist along with her so she could use it again. We saw a total of 16 species of birds and two taxa (7 White Tailed Deer and 2 Squirrels.) Surprisingly, we saw only one sparrow species: a single White Throat huddled in a bird nest by the environmental center. Seeing two Pileated Woodpeckers was the highlight of the walk.

Submitted by John Lahr

If you have any questions regarding items in the newsletter, Club meetings/programs, or field trips, please feel free to contact a member of the Board of Directors. For your convenience, their names and telephone numbers are listed below:

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