



Lancaster County Bird Club

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Founded December 8, 1937

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

Call Notes

JANUARY - MARCH 2020

FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA HUNSBERGER: As I sit here reflecting on the activities and support from our volunteers and members, I am gratified for the vitality and activity of the Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC). We just completed four Christmas Bird Counts since December 15, 2019, including the CBC4KIDS in conjunction with staff from the Lancaster County Park System. Interest by younger members and children has increased over the last few years, volunteers are busier than ever, and many members have contributed extra funds in support of LCBC. I can only assume that the members and others outside the club respect and appreciate our accomplishments. As a result of the generosity of our membership, I am pleased to announce that we are able to award three Harold B. Morrin scholarships for 2019-2020. This accomplishment is due in part to the \$385.00 that Bruce A. Carl helped to raise with the "Big Sit" at Middle Creek in October. Way to go Bruce! You may donate to this worthy cause at any time of the year. The scholarships are awarded to:

Adult – Emily Case of Bernville – Emily is a student at Penn State Berks majoring in biology. Her research involves the foraging patterns of the Common Tern at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. Little is known about the foraging ranges of these birds in inland areas, especially the Great Lakes and associated rivers, where breeding populations are declining rapidly. This is the second year we have awarded Emily a scholarship so that she can continue this important research this coming summer.

Adult – Dr. Andrew Mack of New Florence, PA, former LCBC member for many years. In a tribute to his mentor, Andy will research records from Harold Morrin's field notes and the LCBC files located at Lancaster History archives and enter this data into the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's global database, eBird. These data represent a huge resource for historical ornithological records of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and worldwide.

Youth – William Young, age 15 of Willow Street, PA, LCBC club member. William plans to attend the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Young Birder Camp in 2020. This camp, held at Cornell University's campus in Ithaca, New York, is an annual event which offers high schoolers

a glimpse into what a career as an ornithologist may look like. Presentations by researchers, students, and professors are a principal part of this program, as well as field trips and tours of the Cornell Lab and Macaulay Library. This experience will hopefully help him in determining the steps he needs to take in order to become an ornithologist.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY LCBC FOR 2019-2020

Each year LCBC makes contributions to several local and regional organizations that provide habitat support, education and research, and other services to the quality of bird life in Lancaster County and the region. See list below for our contributions for 2019-20.

Conservation Foundation of Lancaster Co.	\$500 (Envirothon)
Lancaster County Conservancy	\$500
Lancasterhistory.org	\$100 (organizes & preserves LCBC archives)
Ned Smith Center	\$500 (Saw-whet Owl Banding Program)
North Museum	\$500
TOTAL	\$2100

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

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 9, 7 p.m. - Exploring Your State Parks

Club meeting at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA at 7 p.m. Pennsylvania's state parks and forests provide a myriad of opportunities for engaging in the outdoors for all residents and visitors. Join Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation President, Marci Mowery, as we explore the history and opportunities in these special places in our landscape. You will leave with a list of new places to explore and ideas for your next adventure, whatever your favorite outdoor activity is (or could!) be.

A native of Lancaster County, Marci spent her youth exploring the natural areas of the county and the mountains near the family camp, which shaped her future as a professional conservation leader. Her 27-year career spans various positions with the National Audubon Society and as President of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. When not “speaking for the trees,” Marci enjoys exploring new places, trying new foods, and reading.

Saturday, January 25, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Safe Harbor Dam Area - Beginning Birder Field Trip

Roger Stoner will lead a field trip to Safe Harbor Dam and Observation Road for beginning birders or for individuals who would like to experience birding for the first time. Roger will lend binoculars to those who need them Meet at 9 a.m. at the Safe Harbor Dam parking lot. Target species include waterfowl, Bald Eagles, other raptors and winter migrants. Contact Roger Stoner (Lancaster 717-393-9030) by 6:30 p.m. the day before if you plan to attend or have any questions.

Thursday, February 13, 7 p.m. – Restoring Red Knots and the Delaware

Club meeting at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA at 7 p.m. Dr. Lawrence Niles will present a program titled, “Restoring Red Knots and the Delaware Bay.” The decline of Arctic nesting shorebirds is worldwide but especially threatening to shorebirds of the Atlantic Flyway. The threats in this flyway range from the over-harvest of horseshoe crabs to the disturbance of stopovers in August. But the gravest threat is from the impacts associated with climate change. Dr. Niles will discuss efforts to restore the birds and habitats in the Delaware Bay and elsewhere and how all conservation relies on the full commitment of birders.

Dr. Niles has his Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Ecology and Evolution. Throughout his 40-year career, he has led projects recovering Bald Eagles, protecting the Cape May Migratory Bird Stopover and the research and conservation of Arctic nesting shorebirds in the Delaware Bay and throughout the western hemisphere. In 2006, Dr. Niles started his own company to pursue independent research and management projects of a variety of wildlife species as well as habitat conservation through planning and restoration. Currently he is working in the Delaware Bay, Cape Cod, San Francisco Bay, the Canadian Arctic, northern and southern Brazil and Chile. Dr. Niles has published extensively in peer-reviewed scientific journals and he and his wife Amanda Dey were part of the PBS nature documentary “Crash, A Tale of Two Species.”

Saturday, February 15, 5:30 a.m. – Barnegat Light & Edwin B. Forsyth NWR, New Jersey Field Trip

Zachary Millen (717-723-1279 or zjmillen@gmail.com) will lead a field trip to New Jersey. The first stop will be Barnegat Lighthouse area for Harlequin Ducks, Long-tailed Ducks, scoters, Purple Sandpipers, and other sea birds and shorebirds. The group will then proceed to the Edwin B. Forsyth NWR for wintering waterfowl and raptors. This is an all-day trip with more driving than walking. The weather and temperatures vary so dress appropriately. Limited to eight participants. Meet at 5:30 a.m. at the Ephrata Wal-Mart parking lot located at the Ephrata Rt. 322 exit off Rt. 222 to carpool to New Jersey. Please contact Zach by 6:30 p.m. the day before to register for this trip or if you have questions.

Saturday, March 7, 7 a.m. – Middle Creek WMA

Bruce Carl (717-368-4824 or carls94@ptd.net) will lead this late winter field trip to Middle Creek WMA. Meet at 7 a.m. at Stop # 1 along Kleinfeltersville Road between the museum pond and the main lake. Waterfowl will be the target species on this trip and there should be plenty to see. We will bird into the early afternoon so bring along any snacks/food/drinks and dress for the weather. The group will view the lake from different areas and look at various ponds and wet area with the possibility of finding 12-20 species here on a single day to go along with the many thousands of Snow Geese staging at this time of year. It is a great time to be at Middle Creek. Some of the target birds include Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Ross’s Goose, White - fronted Goose and hopefully some early spring migrants or an early morning American Woodcock. Restrooms will be available at the visitor center starting at 8 a.m. Please contact Bruce by 6:30 p.m. the day before if you plan to attend or have questions.

Saturday, March 7, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Middle Creek WMA – Beginning Birder Field Trip

Roger Stoner will lead a late afternoon field trip to Middle Creek WMA for beginning birders or for individuals who would like to experience birding for the first time. The purpose of this trip is to introduce the many species of waterfowl that gather at Middle Creek this time of the year. At dusk the group will search for Short-eared Owls that often winter at Middle Creek. Roger will lend binoculars to those who need them. Meet at the visitor center parking lot at 4 p.m. Restrooms will be available until 5 p.m. Contact Roger Stoner (717-393-9030) by 6:30 p.m. the day before if you plan to attend or have questions.

Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m. - North on the Wing - Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring

Club meeting at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA at 7 p.m. In this illustrated lecture, naturalist and ornithologist, Bruce Beehler, will recount his hundred-day-long 2015 field trip following the spring migration of songbirds from the coast of southeastern Texas up the Mississippi and thence into the boreal forests of northern Ontario— breeding ground of many of the beautiful and vocal North American wood warblers. Along the way, he visited various migratory bird field projects as well as scores of local, state, and national parks and refuges critical for the preservation of the migration phenomenon. He also spent time in an array of eclectic and beautiful rural communities from southern Louisiana and Mississippi through the Heartland and to the northern limit of roads in Ontario, land of the Cree and Ojibwe First Nations peoples. Bruce's informal goal was to spend time with all thirty-seven eastern wood warblers on their prime breeding habitat. In pursuing this objective, he saw a lot of deeply rural North America. His presentation touches on wildlife, nature conservation, migration research, American history, and rural culture.

Bruce is a naturalist, ornithologist, and conservationist—currently a Research Associate in the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. He conducts research and writing about nature and natural history. Dr. Beehler has spent much of his scientific career studying and working to conserve birds and their forest habitats. After conducting doctoral fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, he worked for 10 years at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, followed by stints at the Wildlife Conservation Society, U.S. Department of State, Counterpart International, Conservation International, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Bruce has published 13 books and authored more than a hundred technical and popular articles about birds and nature. In 2007, he was featured in a *60-Minutes* piece highlighting an expedition he led to the Foja Mountains in the interior of western New Guinea in which scores of new species of plants and animals were discovered. In 2016, he received the Bicentennial Medal from Williams College for his conservation work in the Pacific. In 2017, he received the Scientific Achievement Award from the National Museum of Natural History.

Saturday, March 14, 4:30 p.m. – Woodcock & Waterfowl Field Trip to Middle Creek WMA

John Lahr (717-284-3497 or johnlahr324@gmail.com) will lead a late afternoon and evening field trip to Middle Creek WMA for woodcock and waterfowl. The main objective of this trip will be to hear and/or view the courtship display of the American Woodcock. The group will visit an area where there is an opportunity to hear and view this unique event. Some of the time before dusk will be spent scanning the lake and surrounding habitat for waterfowl and other birds that might be in the area. Meet at the visitor center parking area at 4:30 p.m. Restrooms will be available at the visitor center until 5 p.m. Contact John by 6:30 p.m. the day before if you plan to attend or have questions.

Saturday, March 28, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Birding Along the Susquehanna River

Derek Stoner will lead an afternoon field trip along the Susquehanna River. Meet at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the John Wright Restaurant along the Susquehanna River in Wrightsville. This field trip provides a good opportunity to see Little Gull and maybe even Black-headed Gull which can sometimes be found in among the “Bonies!” Please contact Derek (484-723-3348 or derekstoner@hotmail.com) by 6:30 p.m. the day before if you plan to attend or have questions.

Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m. – Ecology and Management of PA Black Bears

Club meeting and **annual election of officers and board members** at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA at 7 p.m. **REMINDER: this is the first Thursday of April.** Mark Ternent is a Wildlife Biologist in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Management and will speak on the "Ecology and Management of PA Black Bears." Learn about the history of black bear populations in Pennsylvania, why bears were almost lost, and what has allowed bears to rebound so dramatically. The ecology of bears, how they reproduce, hibernate, grow and develop also will be covered, along with information about management of the PA bear resource and the role of hunting. Everyone attending is certain to learn something new about these fascinating animals.

Mark is responsible for studying and managing Pennsylvania's black bear population. Bears have been the focus of his career in wildlife research since 1991. A native of Lonaconing, MD, a rural community in the state's western mountains, he earned a B. S. degree in Wildlife-Fisheries Management from Frostburg State University, MD, and a M. S. degree in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, MN. Before joining the Game Commission, he served as a black bear and grizzly bear biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. While there, he compiled harvest data and proposed annual harvest goals for the bear management program, studied black bear and grizzly bear population numbers, attempted to resolve human-bear conflicts, and conducted public outreach and education programs about bears. He also worked closely with federal agencies in monitoring recovery of the threatened Yellowstone Grizzly Bear population. From March 1994 until May 1996, Mr. Ternent worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation conducting research on wild turkeys in the southeast Ozark Mountains and prairie chicken reintroductions in northcentral Missouri. He currently lives outside the State College area with wife, Rhonda.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY LARRY BERNHARDT

Our current membership is 309 members from 207 households which is down from last year. We welcome the following new members:

Charles Berthoud, Spring Grove
Lisa Dziuban, Doylestown
Alan Montgomery & Janice Powell, East Petersburg.

Contributions for General Club Support:

Richard Boshart Esbenshade’s Garden Center (donation for speaker)
Lisa Garrett Carol & Carlton Groff Robert Paul
Lori Wise William Young (Bird-a Thon) Pauline Zimmerman

Sustaining Members:

Carl & Yvonne Beck Emily Broich Robyn Finer

Special Contributions:

Bill & Marilyn Ebel in memory of Harold Morrin

“Big Sit fundraiser”

Mary Coomer Jim & Carol Feister Bettina Heffner
Barbara & Peter Hunsberger Stan Smith Rosemary Spreha
Mary St. John John Wolgemuth

IN MEMORIAM

Robert T. Millard of Lancashire Terrace passed away on October 10, 2019, at Brethren Village. He was married to Elizabeth Glatt Millard who predeceased him. He served in the 7th U. S. Air Corps in Hawaii and the Philippines from 1943-1945. He was a graduate of Bloomsburg State Teacher College in 1949 and received a master’s degree in Speech Pathology from the University of Iowa in 1950. He was the first fulltime speech pathologist at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic from 1950-1985. He was a consulting Speech Pathologist at the Milton Hershey School for 38 years and also consulted at Elizabethtown Masonic Home, retiring in 1994. Robert and Elizabeth were members of LCBC from 1972-2008. He is survived by two sons, Robert Millard II of Lancaster and Dr. James Millard of Dresher, PA. We extend our condolences to his family.

MEMBERS’ ADVENTURES AND ACTIVITIES BY BARBARA HUNSBERGER

Club member, **William Young**, has a column in the “Young Birder Forum: Emerging Perspectives on Fieldcraft” in the American Birding Association’s current issue (November

2019) of Birding. Four young birders, all of them ABA members, volunteered to write up their thoughts on the featured Photo of a Chipping Sparrow. **William** wrote that many birders are after the brightest and jazziest species and ignore many of the common, duller species and disregard an opportunity to take the time to examine and learn about a bird. As **William** states in his column, “stopping occasionally and truly *watching and listening*, not just looking for birds, is invaluable” and creates a great learning opportunity no matter your age. There is also a photo of **William** presenting a check to ABA President Jeff Gordon from the Bird-a-thon **William** held in September 2019. The presentation was made at the October 2019 LCBC meeting when Jeff came to Lancaster as our speaker.

Club president, **Barbara Hunsberger**, gave a presentation at Esbenshade’s Garden Center near Brickerville on Saturday, November 2, 2019, to a small group of enthusiastic gardeners who feed backyard birds. The title of the presentation was “Winter Birds of Lancaster County,” and was illustrated with photos generously supplied by **Mike Shull**. The program was basic in nature and appropriate for non-birders and individuals who feed birds in their garden. Topics included common yard birds of Lancaster County, winter birds of fields and woods, and winter visitors to both yards and fields. **Barbara** closed the presentation with tips on how to help wild birds survive in winter and types of food appropriate for feeding winter birds.

On November 19, 2019, LCBC board member, **Kim Morelock**, helped teach a class of mostly elementary age homeschoolers about birds at the Columbia Crossing River Trail Center in Columbia. The children were from Lancaster and York counties. They were given an overview of the anatomy of a bird and taught about gulls, eagles, Canada Geese and owls. **Kim** showed them how to make a bird feeder out of gelatin and bird seed. Then all of the children, each with a pair of binoculars, went outdoors to look out over the river to look for birds. **Kim** also invited the children to attend one of the LCBC beginning birder field trips.

Club members **Mike and Pam Holmes** recently spent three weeks on a birding tour of Chile. The seven participant tour was a survey tour concentrating on Chilean specialties and visited the far south (Punta Arenas, Tierra del Fuego, and Torres del Paine National Park), the central coast around Valparaiso, the mountains around Santiago and the desert and alpine plateaus above Arica. We had five internal flights, two ferry crossings, and two pelagic trips.

In total we saw 244 species of which 134 were lifers, including Magellanic Penguin and a colony of King Penguins, many Andean Condors, perched and soaring, both male and female Magellanic Woodpeckers, the rare Diademed Sandpiper Plover and the very rare and extremely localized Chilean Woodstar. We also saw five species of albatross, six species of cormorant, all eight possible species of tapaculo, all four woodpecker species and two out of three species of tinamous.

Chile is a beautiful country bordered by the Andes on the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Straits of Magellan to the south. Most of the habitat was open allowing for wonderful views of the birds, including the tapaculos. The scenery was varied but always spectacular. It was a very comfortable trip with excellent lodging, potable water, and varied foods, although there was an abundance of packed lunches featuring ham and cheese sandwiches.

Our favorite habitat was the Alpine plains at 15,000 feet surrounding the snow-capped mountains and volcanoes where we saw 51 species, including three species of flamingoes, Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, Puna Miners, Giant and Slate-colored Coots, D'Orbigny's and White-browed Chat-Tyrants, Rufous-bellied and Gray-breasted Sandpiper, Ornate and Puna Tinamous, Andean Avocet, Lapwing, Duck and Goose, as well as Peruvian Thick-knee. We had 29 lifers on this day alone. Written by Mike Holmes.

BIRDS ON THE MOVE (SEPTEMBER 2019 – NOVEMBER 2019) BY CAROL FEISTER

Editor's Note: Please report your sightings to Carol Feister. She prefers to have reports sent to her e-mail address (cjfeister@comcast.net), but will accept mail (225 Spencer Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603) or phone reports (717-435-8678). Our focus is not just on rare or uncommon birds, but also on more common species appearing in unusual numbers, out-of-season, or exhibiting behavior that would be of interest to our members. Your help is needed in making this column a way of recording the county's bird life. Carol receives sighting reports from the *Pennsylvania Birding List*, *eBird* and *Facebook – Lancaster County Birding*. **If you make a verbal report at a LCBC meeting, please send that report to Carol.**

The two most reported birds for these three months were the **Western Kingbird** and the **Sandhill Crane** which were both found at Chestnut Grove Natural Area (NA). The Western Kingbird was reported on November 4 and stayed until November 7. Twenty-five sightings of the Kingbird were made in the four days it stayed at Chestnut Grove NA. This was the fifth sighting ever of a Western Kingbird in Lancaster County. The Sandhill Crane was found a day later, on November 5 by Jeff Musser and continued to be reported through the end of November. There were over 90 reports of this bird, so it was widely observed!

- Sep 1- 1 Ring-necked Duck – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Ted Nichols II, Mike Epler, Emily Broich
- Sep 1-2 1 Red-necked Phalarope, 2 Laughing Gulls – Conejohela Flats – Eric Witmer, Zach Millen, Jason Horn
- Sep 1-12 2 Western Sandpipers – Conejohela Flats – Eric Witmer, Zach Millen, Jason Horn, Chuck Berthoud
- Sep 2- 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – Conejohela Flats – Zach Millen, Jason Horn
- Sep 2-5 1 Snowy Egret, 1 Little Blue Heron – Speedwell Forge Lake – Bruce Carl
- Sep 2-5 2 Lesser Golden-Plovers, 1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 100+ Killdeer – Lancaster Airport/ Stauffer Rd./ Kissel Hill Rd. – Zach Millen, Bruce Carl
- Sep 2-7 1 Little Blue Heron – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area – Joe Wolf, Vince Pantanella, Ted Nichols II, Thomas Donahue, Zach Millen, Bruce Carl, Rick & Peggy Price
- Sep 2-14 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull – Conejohela Flats – Zach Millen, Jason Horn, Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl
- Sep 2- 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – State Game Lands 156, Pumping Station Rd. – Mike Epler, Ted Nichols II

- Sep 2-5 **1 Sabine's Gull** – Conejohela Flats/ Lake Clarke/Blue Rock Rd. boat launch – Meredith Lombard, Zach Millen, Josh Houck, Larry Bernhardt, Mike Epler, Ted Nichols II, Sara Busch, Jason Horn, Daniel Hinnebusch, Michael Hartshorne, Jerry Book, Derek Hudgins
- Sep 3- **1 Red-necked Phalarope** – small pond off Little Hill Rd., Caernavon Twp./ Main St., Narvon – Frank Haas, Holly Hartshorne
- Sep 4- **1 Belted Kingfisher, 8 Eastern Wood-Pewees, 7 Red-eyed Vireos, 2 Veerys, 4 Cedar Waxwings, 1 Eastern Towhee, 1 Baltimore Oriole, Warblers: 4 Black-and-white, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 2 Am. Redstarts, 1 Northern Parula, 2 Chestnut-sided; 3 Scarlet Tanagers, 11 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks among 29 species** – State Game Lands 156, Pumping Station Rd. – Wed. Birding Group led by Steve Rannels
- Sep 4- **2 Baird's Sandpipers, 2 Western Sandpipers, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull** – Conejohela Flats – Chuck Berthoud
- Sep 4- **1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – Lancaster Airport – Bruce Carl, Jason Horn
- Sep 4-19 **1 Baird's Sandpiper** – Conejohela Flats – Jason Horn, Chuck Berthoud, Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl
- Sep 4-5 **3 Sora** – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Meredith Lombard
- Sep 5- **1 Solitary Sandpiper** – backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek – Sabrena Boekell
- Sep 5- **3 Red-necked Phalaropes** – Conejohela Flats – Chuck Berthoud
- Sep 5- **1 Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, 9 Great Egrets** – Speedwell Forge Lake – Bruce Carl
- Sep 5- **1 Snowy Egret** – Woods Edge Park – Seth McComsey
- Sep 5- **3 Green Herons** – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Larry Bernhardt
- Sep 7-13 **1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – State Game Lands 156, Pumping Station Rd. – Zach Millen, Josh Houck, Mike Epler
- Sep 7- **3 Red-headed Woodpeckers** – Umbletown Rd. – Pamela Fisher
- Sep 7- **3 Common Nighthawks** – Riverfront Park – Meredith Lombard
- Sep 7- **3 Common Nighthawks** – backyard in Gap – Pamela Fisher
- Sep 8- **1 Cliff Swallow, 1 Prothonotary Warbler** – Conejohela Flats – Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl
- Sep 9- **1 Nashville Warbler** – backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek – Sabrena Boekell
- Sep 10- **1 Golden-winged Warbler** – Speedwell Forge Lake – Bruce Carl
- Sep 10- **1 Blue Grosbeak** – backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek – Sabrena Boekell
- Sep 11- **1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – Speedwell Forge County Park – Bruce Carl
- Sep 11- **1 Cape May Warbler, 2 Eastern Wood-Pewees, 1 Am. Redstart** – neighbor's backyard in Gap – Pamela Fisher
- Sep 11- **14 Wood Ducks, 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 6 Great Egrets, 1 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 3 Bald Eagles, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 9 Red-eyed Vireos, 8 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Warblers: 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Am. Redstart, 1 Magnolia, 1 Wilson's; 1 Indigo Bunting among 53 species** – Conoy Canal Trail – Wed. Birding Group led by Barbara Hunsberger

- Sep 11- 550 Canada Geese, 6 Wood Ducks, 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Green Herons, 1 Osprey, 1 Am. Kestrel, 1 Eastern Kingbird, 6 Chipping Sparrows among 28 species – Middle Creek WMA – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Sep 12- **1 Hudsonian Godwit** – Conejohela Flats – Jason Horn
- Sep 13- 1 Philadelphia Vireo – Speedwell Forge County Park – Mike Epler
- Sep 13- 1 Black-billed Cuckoo – Speedwell Forge Lake – Josh Houck
- Sep 14- 1 Laughing Gull – Conejohela Flats – Jason Horn
- Sep 15- 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Noel Dorwart Natural Area (NA) – Seth McComsey
- Sep 15- 1 Red-headed Woodpecker – Chestnut Grove NA – Keath Leidich
- Sep 18- 11 Wood Ducks, 1 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, 1 Broad-winged Hawk, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Magnolia Warbler, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak among 28 species – Speedwell Forge County Park – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Sep 18- 1 Chimney Swift, 5 Greater Yellowlegs, Hawks: 3 Sharp-shinned, 1 Cooper's, 57 Broad-winged, 2 Red-tailed; 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 2 Red-eyed Vireos, 8 Eastern Bluebirds, 10 Cedar Waxwings, Warblers: 1 Black-and-white, 3 Common Yellowthroats, 1 Am. Redstart. 1 Northern Parula, 2 Magnolia; 1 Scarlet Tanager, 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 5 Indigo Buntings among 53 species – Middle Creek WMA – Wed. Birding Group led by Pamela Fisher
- Sep 18- 1 Green Heron – Bridgeport bridge over Conestoga River – Laura Sheehan
- Sep 18- 1 Northern Waterthrush – State Game Lands 220 – Zach Millen
- Sep 21- 2 Connecticut Warblers, 1 Philadelphia Vireo – Middle Creek WMA – Bruce Carl
- Sep 21- 1 Philadelphia Vireo – Speedwell Forge County Park – Josh Houck
- Sep 22- 1 Worm-eating Warbler – Middle Creek WMA – Eric Witmer
- Sep 23- 1 Cliff Swallow – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Brent Musser
- Sep 24- 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Blue Rock Rd. Boat Launch – Richard Laubach
- Sep 25- 105 Canada Geese, 1 Green Heron, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Am. Kestrels, 1 Philadelphia Vireo, 1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Savannah Sparrow, 2 Tennessee Warblers, 2 Common Yellowthroats, 2 Scarlet Tanagers, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 Blue Grosbeaks, 5 Indigo Buntings among 54 species – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Wed. Birding Group led by Larry Bernhardt
- Sep 25- 9 Chimney Swifts, 1 Great Horned Owl, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2 Eastern Phoebes, 2 Red-eyed Vireos, 1 Swainson's Thrush, 19 Am. Goldfinches among 27 species – Noel Dorwart NA – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Sep 25- 1 Western Sandpiper, 2 Long-billed Dowitchers, 3 Black-bellied Plovers – Conejohela Flats – Zach Millen
- Sep 25- 2 Northern Ravens – Susquehanna River in Peach Bottom – Bob Schutsky
- Sep 26- 1 Canada Warbler – Chickies Rock County Park – Dennis Weaver
- Sep 26- 1 Pied-billed Grebe – Ephrata Township Community Park – Fern Bauman
- Sep 26- 22 Killdeer – North Penryn Road – Jay George

- Sep 28-29 1 Little Blue Heron, 1 Yellow Warbler – Middle Creek WMA – Troy Corman, Sara Busch, Ramsay Koury
- Sep 28- 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers – Middle Creek WMA – Eric Witmer, Troy Corman, Ramsay Koury
- Sep 29- 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Millport Conservancy, Lititz – Dave Kubitsky
- Sep 29- 1 Warbling Vireo – Noel Dorwart NA – Josh Houck
- Sep 29 Warblers: 1 Cape May, 1 Blackburnian, 1 Black-and-white, 1 Nashville, 1 Magnolia, 1 Northern Parula, 1 Bay-breasted, 1 Tennessee, 1 Chestnut-sided – Middle Creek WMA – Sara Busch
- Sep 30- 1 Common Loon, 3 Swainson's Thrushes, Warblers: 1 Black-throated Green, 1 Cape May – backyard in New Holland – Zach Millen
- Sep 30- 1 Mourning Warbler – Middle Creek WMA – Bruce Carl
- Oct 2- Cuckoos: 1 Yellow-billed, 1 Black-billed; Sandpipers: 1 Spotted, 1 Solitary; 1 Green Heron, 2 Belted Kingfishers, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Baltimore Oriole, Warblers: 3 Black-and-white, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Cape May, 5 Northern Parulas, 1 Magnolia, 1 Pine, 1 Black-throated Green; 1 Scarlet Tanager among 44 species – Conestoga River Park – Wed. Birding Group led by Barbara Hunsberger
- Oct 2- Gulls: 32 Ring-billed, 3 Herring; 2 Great Egrets, 6 Bald Eagles, 2 Northern Flickers, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 25 Am. Robins, 15 Cedar Waxwings among 22 species – Riverfront Park – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Oct 2- 1 Connecticut Warbler – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Oct 2- 10 Common Nighthawks – Farm fields in Gap – Pamela Fisher
- Oct 4- 1 Hooded Warbler – Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands – Mike Epler
- Oct 4- 1 Prairie Warbler – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Oct 4- 1 Connecticut Warbler – Stoner Family Farm, Manheim Twp. – Derek Stoner, Zach Millen
- Oct 5- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler – Speedwell Forge County Park – Mike Epler
- Oct 6- 1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Conejohela Flats – Zach Millen, Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer
- Oct 6- 1 Barn Swallow – Bainbridge Islands – Bruce Carl, Zach Millen, Eric Witmer
- Oct 9- 202 Canada Geese, 1 Herring Gull, 2 Bald Eagles, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8 White-throated Sparrows, 1 Swamp Sparrow, 1 Baltimore Oriole, Warblers: 1 Tennessee, 1 Cape May, 1 Northern Parula, 1 Pine, 7 Yellow-rumped, 1 Black-throated Green among 50 species – Muddy Run Recreation Park – Wed. Birding Group led by Larry Bernhardt
- Oct 9- 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – backyard in Gap – Pamela Fisher
- Oct 10- 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – backyard in Marietta – Bill Libhart
- Oct 11- **1 Boat-tailed Grackle** – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Meredith Lombard
- Oct 12- 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 Eastern Towhee, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 White-throated Sparrow – Valleybrook Estates – Leon & Jane Schreffler

- Oct 12- 2 Broad-winged Hawks, 1 Veery – Middle Creek WMA – Pamela Fisher, Mike Epler, Bruce Carl
- Oct 12- 1 Connecticut Warbler – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey, Josh Houck
- Oct 12- 1 Ovenbird – Millport Conservancy, Lititz – Dave Kubitsky
- Oct 13- 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee – Stoner Family Farm, Manheim Twp. – Derek Stoner
- Oct 14- 1 Greater Scaup – Conejohela Flats – David Taylor
- Oct 16- 1 Vesper Sparrow, 2 Nelson's Sparrows – Conejohela Flats – Jason Horn
- Oct 18- 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo – backyard overlooking Octoraro Creek – Sabrena Boekell
- Oct 19- 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 Wilson's Warbler – Conejohela Flats – Brian Schmoke, John Carter, Sean Herrmann
- Oct 19- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Oct 19- 1 Indigo Bunting – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – William Young
- Oct 19-20 1 Yellow Warbler – Conejohela Flats – Sean Herrmann, Jason Horn, Zach Millen
- Oct 19- 1 White-crowned Sparrow – backyard in Gap – Pamela Fisher
- Oct 20- 1 Long-billed Dowitcher, 1 Marsh Wren, 2 Nelson's Sparrows – Conejohela Flats
Jason Horn, Zach Millen
- Oct 21- 1 Northern Parula – East Petersburg Community Pool Complex – Josh Houck
- Oct 21- 1 Northern Parula – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey, Zach Millen
- Oct 23- 1 Bald Eagle – Cider Mill Rd., West Earl Twp. – Jan & Pat Witmer
- Oct 23- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler – North Penryn/Elm Farmland – Bruce Carl
- Oct 23- 2 Wood Ducks, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 3 Northern Flickers, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, Kinglets: 3 Golden-crowned, 3 Ruby-crowned; 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 Cedar Waxwing, 35 Chipping Sparrows, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, 21 White-throated Sparrows, 4 Palm Warblers, 4 Yellow-rumped Warblers among 49 species – Lancaster County Central Park – Wed. Birding Group led by Roger Stoner
- Oct 23- 69 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 12 White-crowned Sparrows, 1 Tennessee Warbler among 25 species – Conestoga River Park – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Oct 23- 1 Great Horned Owl – Noel Dorwart NA – Linda Whipple
- Oct 24- 1 Common Yellowthroat – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Oct 24- 1 Dickcissel, 1 White-throated Sparrow – front yard in Peach Bottom – Bob Schutsky
- Oct 25- 1 White-eyed Vireo, 1 Blue-headed Vireo – East Petersburg Community Pool Complex – Josh Houck
- Oct 26-28 1 Green Heron – Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands – Darlene Kershner
- Oct 28- 1 House Wren – Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands – Darlene Kershner
- Oct 30- 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4 Killdeer, 2 Great Blue Herons, 1 Northern Harrier, 4 Northern Flickers, 13 Am. Robins, 17 White-throated Sparrows, 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers among 38 species – Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands – Wed. Birding Group led by Barbara Hunsberger

- Oct 30- 1 House Wren – Speedwell Forge County Park – Patricia & Richard Williams
- Oct 30- 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Northern Mockingbird, 26 Am. Robins, 45 Cedar Waxwings, 24 House Finches, 35 Am. Goldfinches, 51 White-throated Sparrows among 26 species – Lancaster County Central Park – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Nov 1-5 **4 Virginia Rails** – Woods Edge Park – Seth McComsey
- Nov 2-3 1 Brant – Conejohela Flats – Larry Bernhardt, Josh Houck, Mike Epler, Fern Bauman, Meredith Lombard, Zach Millen, Chuck Berthoud
- Nov 2- 4 Black Scoters – Conejohela Flats – Larry Bernhardt, Josh Houck, Mike Epler, Fern Bauman, Meredith Lombard, Zach Millen
- Nov 2- 2 Tree Swallows – Chestnut Grove Natural Area – Amy Evans
- Nov 3- 2 Am. Pipits, 25 Horned Larks – Musser School Rd., Leola – Leon & Jane Schreffler
- Nov 4- 1 House Wren – Speedwell Forge Lake – Bruce Carl
- Nov 5- 1 Pine Warbler – Speedwell Forge Lake – Bruce Carl
- Nov 5- 1 Indigo Bunting – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Nov 6- 1 Blue-headed Vireo – Chestnut Grove NA – Keegan Tranquillo, Megan Zettlemoyer
- Nov 6-8 1 Palm Warbler – Chestnut Grove NA – Pamela Fisher, Donald Weidemann, Chad Ehrhart, Al Guarente, Chris Della Penna, Joey Della Penna, Scott Godshall, Mike Epler, Daniel Hinnebusch, David Wiegand, Barbara Hunsberger
- Nov 6-8 2 Tree Swallows – Chestnut Grove NA – Derek Hudgins, Mike Epler
- Nov 6- **1 Sandhill Crane, 1 Western Kingbird, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Bald Eagles, 2 Am. Kestrels, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 1 Palm Warbler among 23 species** – Chestnut Grove N – Chestnut Grove NA, 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Nov. 6- 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 31 Ruddy Ducks, 1 Belted Kingfisher among 10 species – Blue Rock Rd. Boat Launch. 31 Rock Pigeons, 5 Ring-billed Gulls among 3 species – Columbia River Park – 8:30 Wed. Birding Group
- Nov 6- 17 Ring-necked Ducks, 350 Buffleheads, 1 Hooded Merganser, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Am. Coot, 1 Sandhill Crane, 9 Bald Eagles, 1 Am. Kestrel, 1 Western Kingbird, 1 Cedar Waxwing, 1 Savannah Sparrow, 7 Palm Warblers, 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler among 50 species – Chestnut Grove NA, Conejohela Flats, and Riverfront Park – Wed. Birding Group led by Barbara Hunsberger
- Nov 8- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler – Noel Dorwart NA – Seth McComsey
- Nov 10- 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Lesser Yellowlegs – Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands – Josh Houck
- Nov 10- 1 Blue-headed Vireo – Mike & Megan Zettlemoyer
- Nov 12- 1 American Woodcock – PA turnpike near Girl Scout Rd. overpass – Sandy Lockerman
- Nov 13- 2 Cooper’s Hawks – Penryn Rd., Manheim – Jay George
- Nov 18- 2 Greater Yellowlegs – Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands – Darla Shank
- Nov 19- 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk – Just south of Manheim – Jay George

- Nov 20- 1 Pine Warbler – Octoraro Reservoir, Mt. Eden Rd. – Darlene Kershner, Mary Coomer, Pamela Fisher
- Nov 20- 26 Green-winged Teal, 1 Bufflehead, 1 Red-throated Loon, 2 Bald Eagles, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flickers, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 2 Common Ravens, Kinglets: 1 Golden-crowned, 1 Ruby-crowned; 1 Brown Creeper, 1 Fox Sparrow, 1 Swamp Sparrow, 1 Pine Warbler, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers among 42 species Octoraro Reservoir and Mt. Eden Rd. – Wed. Birding Group led by Larry Bernhardt and Pamela Fisher
- Nov 25- 1 Greater White-fronted Goose – Greenfield Estates Pond – Zach Millen, Pamela Fisher
- Nov 26- 1 Eastern Phoebe – Octoraro Reservoir, Mt. Eden Rd. – Michael Gardner
- Nov 29- 2 Black-capped Chickadees – Turkey Hill Trail Nature Preserve – Jason Sears
- Nov 30- 1 Eastern Phoebe, 5 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 1 Wilson’s Warbler – Susquehanna WTP, Washington Boro – Eric Witmer
- Nov 30- 1 Black-capped Chickadee – Long’s Park – Jason Sears

REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS

September 28, 2019

Seth McComsey and 10 fellow birders observed 35 species and 304 individual birds at Noel Dorwart Park. Among the birds seen included 20 Chimney Swifts, 7 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 Nashville Warbler, 2 American Redstart, 1 Northern Parula, and 1 Blackpoll Warbler.

October 10, 2019

American Birding Association President Jeffrey Gordon shared his hopes at October’s meeting for the future of his organization to continue to foster a welcoming birding community. How can beginning birding be more accessible? Gordon shared a few takeaways to be more inclusive to those new to birding.

Gordon also wondered aloud how often we get to see the human emotion of birding. Through a quick Google image search, he had discovered a relative lack of artistic renderings and photographs of birders birding in contrast to many artistic pieces depicting other outdoor pursuits like hunting and fishing. He highlighted ABA’s efforts to capture this human side of birding and the feelings it evokes through photography - with birders themselves as subjects. Rich imagery like this conveys to others how birding can bring people together and add joy to our lives.

(Information taken from notes Emily Broich, secretary.)

October 12, 2019

Leaders John Lahr and Roger Stoner led six birding enthusiasts at the fall Beginner Birding Trip at Chestnut Grove Natural Area in Manor Township. On a day that was mostly cloudy and mild, the group observed 21 species. Among these were good scope views of a Great Blue Heron, a Red-tailed hawk, and Savannah Sparrow. Also seen was a flock of 50 Tree Swallows feeding.

October 12, 2019

The Lancaster County Bird Club for the sixth year participated in the annual Bird Watchers Digest "BIG SIT" which was held on Saturday, October 12, 2019, along the Conservation Trail on the hillside behind the visitor center at Middle Creek WMA. There were 21 participants joining Bruce A. Carl throughout the day identifying 70 species. The number of participants was a new high for this count and the species count was right on the six-year average. There were six new species added to the cumulative list which now stands at 113 species. The new species added included Gadwall, Veery, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, American Redstart and Cape May Warbler. The daily count got started at 4:30 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. Things started early with a few birds and mammals calling/being seen before sunrise and they included Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Screech Owl, Mockingbird, Canada Goose, Killdeer, American Woodcock (a single flyby twice just before sunrise), Great Blue Heron, Song and White-throated Sparrows and a very close and vocal coyote serenading two observers with its howls and barks just before 5 a.m.. Some other highlights include Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Broad-winged Hawk, Gray Catbird, Eastern Phoebe, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warbler. This year's "Hotspot" at the BIG SIT was a Kestrel box that was in the field to the north of the count circle. This location was busy throughout the day with Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cape May Warbler, American redstart, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, House Finch and Carolina Wren all being seen either on the box or in the field/weeds below and around the box. Many thanks go out to all who stopped by to help out for the day. This was very much appreciated. See everyone again in 2020!!

October 25, 2019

Seven birding participants accompanied Leader Rosemary Spreha at the Northern Saw-whet owl (NSWO) banding at Hidden Valley in Schuylkill County. The group viewed three Northern Saw-whet Owls and a Great Horned Owl was heard hooting in the distance. Nate McKelvie was the bander in charge. The three Saw-whet owls were caught in the second net check. Two had already been banded earlier in the week. Nate explained the banding procedure and demonstrated all the measurements that are taken.

November 14, 2019

Dr. Brent Horton, assistant professor of Biology at Millersville University, presented his research on polymorphism and the physiological bases of behavior in White-throated Sparrows. White-throated Sparrows exhibit plumage polymorphism (white-striped and tan-striped morphs). Many early field guides mistakenly identified the tan-stripe morph of White-throated Sparrows to be female or juvenile. Plumage polymorphism is now understood to occur in both sexes. Dr. Horton led the audience through a fascinating discussion of how each morph is associated with differences in behavior and breeding strategy. White-striped males tend to sing more and exhibit more aggression while tan-striped individuals of both sexes demonstrate more parental care. Interestingly, the morphs pair with the opposite plumage. His scientific presentation was well-received by the membership and will have many of us being a bit more curious about the

behavior of the common White-throated Sparrows we'll see this winter. *(Information taken from notes of Secretary Emily Broich.)*

November 22-24, 2019

Roger Stoner and 19 participants drove to the Delmarva Coast and Chincoteague NWR and observed 104 species at a number of different locations. Best birds seen were 2 Ravens and a Merlin at Ashland, DE; a Brown Pelican, Laughing Gull, Red-throated Loon, and Surf Scoter at the Ocean City Inlet. Two Bald Eagles were observed “housekeeping” their nest, along with a Prairie Warbler, and a good variety of ducks at Chincoteague NWR. Brown-headed Nuthatches were seen at close range as well as a Clapper Rail. Gannets were common on all ocean views. Avocets, Merlin, Red-shoulder Hawk, and Harriers were seen at Bombay Hook. All three Scoter species were seen on this trip.

December 12, 2019

Mike Defina, filling in for scheduled speaker Brian Quindlen, presented a light-hearted and heartfelt recap of recent travels with birding companions to Arizona at December's club meeting. Mike took certain delight in connecting with an audience largely familiar with the excitement Arizona birding has to offer. They explored as many hotspots as they could fit into five days, including Madera Canyon and the Santa Rita Lodge, Patagonia State Park, Ramsey Canyon, Box Canyon, Portal, and Coronado National Forest. If the diversity of specialties like Zone-tailed Hawk, Elegant Trogon, Hooded Warbler, Cassin's Kingbird, Phainopepla, Whiskered Owl and Flame-colored Tanager are any indication, birding in Arizona is great. And even better when shared with friends. *(Information taken from notes of Secretary Emily Broich.)*

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:

President -	Barbara Hunsberger – 717-984-2738
First Vice President -	Ted Nichols II – 717-856-3851
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