



Lancaster County Bird Club

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Founded December 8, 1937

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

Call Notes

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2023

President's Perch

It's certainly summer as the last few weeks have showcased, with plenty of humidity and heat! As is typical of the summer months, birding activity experiences a lull during these months as shown in eBird. However, recent events described below — and the spotting of a Brown Pelican at Middle Creek in the middle of May — show that on top of being able to document and log our breeding birds, there are still surprises to be found if we get out in the field and put forth an effort! Props to all those who sweat it out during the summer months and keep tabs on our local bird life!

A new board is in place as elected at our April meeting. We have a lot of enthusiastic new members on the board! We held our first board meeting in the middle of June and have a lot planned for the 12 months that will extend well into the future! Your board will meet again this fall to finalize the 2024 schedule as well as some other items.

If you missed it, I've decided to stay on as president as we had many members step up to serve on the board and help with other functions prior to the election. Thank you for all who stepped up and agreed to serve and support the club.

Stay tuned for more by the end of the year on what your elevated board has planned to help keep our club moving into the future. Some of our main new priorities include expanding social opportunities for our members to build a better camaraderie amongst our membership, supporting more research in the county and revamping our website and methods of email communication.

With that said, LCBC is now knee-deep in the middle of planning the remainder for our events for 2023. You'll find a listing in this newsletter (and on the website) of upcoming events through the middle of October 2023. We should have the remainder of the 2023 events lined up by the end of August and a postcard will be sent to all members listing all fall events for the club. Those late 2023 events will also be added to the website around that time.

Why the postcard and no annual flyer and membership renewal notice? Remember, the club voted to change our program and membership year to match the calendar year effective January 1, 2024. All members have been given a free six months of membership for this gap that was created. The postcard will fill the gap to keep you updated on club events until we mail membership renewals and the 2024 program brochure in mid to late November.

On that note, I'd like to offer a well-deserved thank you to Bruce Carl who has helped lead many trips for the club — some of which he has been leading for nearly 30 years. Bruce has decided to scale back and enjoy more free time while opening an opportunity for other members to step up and lead these trips. The good news is many members have stepped up and we nearly have all these trips covered with new leaders. Bruce will continue to lead our Big Sit Fundraiser each October and details on participating and donating to that effort are included later in this newsletter. Thanks again Bruce for your service to the club. You have helped bring many to the club and hobby as well as assisted many birders sharpen their skills and refine their interest in the hobby through your field trips. Thank you also to everyone who continues to step up and lead field trips for the club. We couldn't run these events without the support of our members.

As we go to press, we have a very exciting happening in the county! Middle Creek WMA is in the spotlight as a Limpkin showed up there on the evening of July 7. This is a state first record! More than 300 birders have observed the Limpkin in the three days it has now been present! I hope you all get to enjoy this rarity. It also looks like the Limpkin is the second-ever state first record this great local refuge has provided for the record books after hosting a Mountain Bluebird in 1974. (*...and if Bewick's Swan is ever elevated to full species status the 2022 bird there will change that to three first state records hosted there!*) You can stay updated on the status of the Limpkin through the various birding text and Facebook groups as well as eBird. Press is always good to get our name and the hobby out there! An article on the bird also appeared in the LNP newspaper on July 10 with FOX43 also covering the celebrity that evening. Harrisburg's Patriot-News/PennLive also had an article published on July 11!

Good birding and I hope to see you at a future club event or out in the field soon. Thank you very much for your membership and continued support of the club, our mission, and activities!

Feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance or help you with something on the birding front!

Regards,
Ted Nichols II
President - LCBC

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Membership Renewal Reminder - Due to the change in our membership and program year to a calendar year you will not receive your usual membership renewal paperwork and annual program brochure until November of this year!

Hummingbird Banding Demonstration - PGC is hosting Sandy Lockerman at Middle Creek for a hummingbird banding demonstration on July 22 at 9 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Stop by if you're interested in seeing how hummingbirds are banded! We will share additional details on the club's Facebook page!

Wildlife Art Show - Middle Creek's annual Wildlife Art Show will be held this year on August 4 from Noon-5 p.m., August 5 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and August 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Stop out and enjoy the extraordinary work of artists in the area!

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 9, 7:30 a.m. - Middle Creek WMA Outdoor Explorer Series

Vince Pantanella will lead two field trips to Middle Creek WMA in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Middle Creek's Outdoor Explorer Series. Meet at the visitor center parking area at 7:30 a.m. and/or 2 p.m. (meet at Willow Point Parking Lot). Individuals can take part in both trips! Be prepared for ticks. The emphasis of this trip is to look for early fall migrants that could include warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, shorebirds, and hopefully a surprise or two along the way. There will be an approximately 1-1.5-hour lunch break between trips so participants looking to do both offerings can enjoy lunch nearby. Bring snacks, drinks, and dress for the weather. The visitor center has a water fountain and bathrooms, and porta-johns are available at several places throughout the refuge. No registration is necessary.

Sunday, September 10, 7 a.m. - Pumping Station Road Field Trip (SGL 156)

Carl Groff will lead a field trip to Pumping Station Road outside Brickerville. Meet at 7 a.m. at the gravel parking lot at the intersection of Route 322 and Pumping Station Road. Located in the Furnace Hills in northern Lancaster County, Pumping Station Road works its way along the Hammer Creek through SGL 156. Pumping Station Road is one of the more popular spots for warblers and fall migrants in Lancaster County. This section will take you along a gravel/stone road through mixed wooded areas along the creek and in one section you will go through a clear-cut area for power lines. A wide variety of birds are possible with special attention made to the warblers that use this area as a brief stop-over during migration. Some other target birds will include thrushes, flycatchers, tanagers, orioles, sparrows, grosbeaks, and hopefully a surprise or two along the way. There are no restroom facilities or porta-johns at this location. Closest restroom facilities would be in Brickerville at one of the gas stations at the main intersection with Rt. 501. Cell phone reception is also poor at this location. Regular hiking shoes/boots will be fine

for this trip as much of the walking will be on mostly level gravel/grass covered roads. Total walking distance is about 2 miles. Contact Carl Groff (717-471-9969 or fledge19@verizon.net) by 6 p.m. the day before if you have questions or plan to attend.

Thursday, September 14, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Recovery of Our Nation's Symbol: the Iconic Bald Eagle!

Club Meeting - Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. The dramatic restoration of the Bald Eagle stands as one of the historic conservation successes of the 20th Century. This iconic bird experienced a population explosion, from the point of almost being gone from the lower 48 states into a widespread population today, enjoyed by many. This presentation expounds Pennsylvania's role as well as the many environmental initiatives that reset the stage for this species. Dan Brauning was privileged to be "hands-on" with the monitoring and conservation efforts, since re-introductions in the 1980s. Since then, eagles have achieved population levels that no longer require federal and state endangered species listing. At a time of many intractable environmental challenges, we can be heartened by and learn lessons from this dramatic conservation success.

Dan Brauning was raised in Philadelphia and graduated from Geneva College and Penn State. He jumped at the offer to coordinate Pennsylvania's first Breeding Bird Atlas in 1983 and then edit the resulting book. He joined the Pennsylvania Game Commission as Ornithologist in 1990 and there oversaw many bird projects including the state's Breeding Bird Survey, the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project (2004-2009), and published as coauthor with Gerald McWilliams of *The Birds of Pennsylvania*.

Saturday, September 16, 7 a.m. - Chestnut Grove Natural Area Field Trip

Larry Bernhardt and Keath Leidich will lead a field trip to Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA). Meet at the preserve's main parking lot (directions below) at 7 a.m. CGNA is an ideal place to view wildlife and observe nature due to habitat diversity, which includes stream corridors, wetlands, open water, grasslands, and forested uplands, as well as its location along the Susquehanna River migratory corridor. Target species for this trip are early migrating raptors and shorebirds, songbirds, and grassland birds. CGNA is located south of Washington Boro. Follow River Road for 2.1 miles past the Turkey Hill processing plant to the point where River Road makes a sharp turn to the right. Stay on River Road for .7 miles to where Chestnut Grove Road goes straight ahead, and River Road makes a sharp turn to the left. Stay on Chestnut Grove Road for .2 miles. CGNA parking lot is on the right. Be prepared to walk mostly in the sun on trails and service roads. Snacks, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent are recommended. A Porta-John is located at the parking lot. Contact Larry at (717) 314-1461 or sjbernhardt@verizon.net by 6 p.m. the day before if you have questions or to register for the trip.

Sunday, September 17, 9:30 a.m. - Ironville Park Raptor Watch

Carl Groff will lead the count at a hawk watch that will take place in the Ironville Community Park parking lot off Prospect Road starting at 9:30 a.m. The viewing area is level and comfortable. Bring chairs and a lunch. The site has public restrooms and a pavilion. Target species will include Broad-winged Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. The watch will continue until the flight ends. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Binoculars are needed and a spotting scope is helpful. Contact Carl at (717-471-9969 or fledge19@verizon.net) by 6 p.m. the day before if you have questions. Prior registration is not required.

Saturday, September 23, 7 a.m. - Noel Dorwart Park Field Trip

John Lahr will lead a field trip to Noel Dorwart Park to look for fall migrants at this popular suburban birding location. This park, in East Hempfield Township, is easy walking on well-maintained trails. Meet the leader at 7 a.m. in the parking lot on Good Drive which is located just north of the railroad crossing and south of Harrisburg Pike. There is a porta-john at this location. Please contact John at (717-284-3497 or johnlahr324@gmail.com) by 6 p.m. on the day before if you have questions or to register for the trip.

Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Beginning Birder Field Trip to Chestnut Grove

Roger Stoner will lead a field trip to CGNA in Manor Township for beginning birders or for individuals who would like to experience birding for the first time. He has binoculars to loan if you need them. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot along Chestnut Grove Road off River Road south of Columbia via Rt. 441. Contact Roger at 717-393-9030 for questions or if you plan to attend.

Saturday, October 7, 5 a.m. - Big Sit at Middle Creek WMA

Bruce Carl will conduct a "Big Sit" (rain date Oct. 8) at Middle Creek WMA up the hill on the Conservation Trail overlooking the visitor center. He will start before dawn and go into the evening. The public may stop by at any time to assist him with identifying species seen and heard from his 17-foot circle or just stop by to visit. The Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. The LCBC is using this event as a fundraiser to supplement our annual donations to Middle Creek WMA and the LCBC youth scholarship program. Folks may sponsor Bruce by pledging an amount for each species identified or by contributing a flat amount to the event. You are also invited to enlist other individuals to sponsor him or to donate. Donations and pledges are to be paid by personal check, payable to the LCBC. Send donations/pledges to LCBC, PO Box 262, Willow Street, PA 17584-0262 and note "Big Sit" in the memo of the check. Contact Bruce at 717-368-4824 or hrdabrd@gmail.com if you have any questions. No registration is required.

Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Birding Pennsylvania's State Parks

Club Meeting - Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Pennsylvania has one of the largest state park systems in the country. With 124 parks across 64 counties the system includes geologic wonders, prominent moments in American history, old growth forests, tidal waterways, and Great Lakes access. This diversity is also represented in the flora and fauna that call our Pennsylvania State Parks home. Join Chris Kemmerer, Education and Interpretation Section Chief for Pennsylvania State Parks, on a tour of the best birding spots in PA's state park system. He'll highlight parks close-to-home near Lancaster, parks worthy of a day trip and parks further afield that may require an overnight visit or two. You'll get a sense for the diverse habitats of each park as well as the best birds to look for. You'll also learn a few other ways to engage with PA State Parks beyond a birding adventure.

Chris Kemmerer has been with Pennsylvania State Parks for over 15 years. As an avid birder and conservationist Chris works to bring his love of the outdoors to Pennsylvania residents and visitors. As the Education and Interpretation Section Chief, he oversees the educational program for state parks; providing direction, support, and training to field staff who annually educate over 250,000 people. In addition, he promotes state park educational opportunities, develops and fosters ongoing partnerships, represents Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on environmental education panels and working groups, guides development of State Park Interpretive Management Plans, and leads various exhibit and non-personal education projects, such as the award winning exhibits at Hickory Run State Park.

Sunday, October 15, 8 a.m. - Field Trip to State Game Lands 220

Derek Stoner will lead a field trip to State Game Lands (SGL) #220 to search for late migrants and early winter arrivals. Some of the target birds include any lingering warblers, White-crowned Sparrow, Purple Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireos, and maybe a surprise or two. Meet at 7 a.m. at the SGL #220 parking lot located along Swamp Church Road just outside of Reinholds. From Rt. 222 north, exit at Denver/Turnpike exit. Turn left at the end of the ramp towards Rt. 272 north. Follow Rt. 272 north for 1.2 miles to the intersection of Rt. 272 & Rt. 897. Turn left on Rt. 897 north for 3.1 miles to 4-way stop in Reinholds. Go straight thru 4-way stop. Drive .4 miles to Galen Hall Road. Turn right (just past the Reinholds Ambulance building). Turn left on Swamp Church Road. Follow Swamp Church Road .3 miles to SGL #220. Parking lot is on the right. No restrooms available. Contact Derek Stoner at (484-723-3348 or derekstoner@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY LARRY BERNHARDT

The LCBC membership has risen to 227 households with 344 members. This is the highest it has been since 2018-2019 club year. Welcome to the following new members.

NEW MEMBERS:

Hayley Caulfield-James – Willow Street
Sandy Leibolt – Lititz
Diane Shemis - Elizabethtown

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

In Honor of Ted Nichols II:

Stan Smith

General Club Support:

Richard Hill

MEMBERS' ADVENTURES & ACTIVITIES

Big Bend National Park Trip by Nina Wolf



In late April, Nina and Warren Wolf travelled to Big Bend National Park in Texas in search of the Colima Warbler. We had arranged several walks with Lee Hoy (who as of May now works solely for Wildside Nature Tours and no longer offers this as a private tour), the last of which was a 12-mile round trip hike up the Chisos mountains and back to the canyon where they are known to nest. In the first 3 miles the elevation gain is over 2,000 feet. We started in the dark with headlamps, jackets, and gloves (it was quite cold and windy), but it grew very hot as the day went on. We had been told to carry a gallon of water. Each. So we did. And we drank it. All of it. Once you reach the top it is about 3 miles back to the canyon where they nest. The Colima is rare, found in only two sites in the U.S., the other being on private land and inaccessible. There are a few places in Mexico where it can be found but in the U.S. this is the spot. Our efforts were rewarded partway up the mountain where we heard two and finally caught sight of

one. We watched for a while hoping it would come closer. Apparently, some folks choose to head back at this point, but we were a small group and unanimously agreed to keep going to the canyon spot where we had better looks at another Colima Warbler, as well as some Canyon, Rock and Bewick's Wrens, and two lifer Hummingbirds for us - the Blue-throated Mountain-gem and the Broad-tailed Hummingbird. It was a long day but very rewarding. As we walked back down the mountain (I forget how many steps there are to traverse but there are many) we were reflecting on how fortunate we were to have seen the target birds we sought as it would have been a more difficult hike back had we not. I wonder how the young men fared that were hiking with their radio blaring "to keep the bears away" before Lee politely explained that they needn't worry in that particular area about bears. They seemed to have a new appreciation for their surroundings after we helped them find the squawking Mexican Jay that was serenading us all. It made for an interesting adventure for sure.



Broad-billed Hummingbird



Blue-throated Mountain-gem Hummingbird



Colima Warbler

Elizabethtown Rotary Club Presentation by Ted Nichols



Club President Ted Nichols presented a program on birding and the club's mission and activities to the Elizabethtown, PA Rotary Club on June 26. Thank you to the Rotary Club for the invitation and to the Rotary members who attended for the great questions! We hope to see some of you at an upcoming event!

Thanks to Ted for promoting the LCBC! Interested in a program showcasing LCBC and the hobby of birding? Contact us at inquiry@lancasterbirdclub.org.

LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS – Spring 2023

Our weather for the season was routine overall, however, May set a record with only 0.2 in. of rain compared with the average of nearly 4 in. Weather information is sourced from the NWS Harrisburg station. The species count was 228, versus the 5-year average of 234 (229, 232, 243, 233, 232 previous). The 1st county record Anhinga, 2nd Brown Pelican, 2nd Bicknell's Thrush, 4th Swallow-tailed Kite, and continuing 3rd Say's Phoebe and 3rd "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler were seasonal highlights. The all-time county list increases to 365.

Spring **Snow Geese** migration was quite unusual historically. Coming into Mar there were fewer than 3,000 birds remaining, and by the end of the first week they had cleared out entirely. Nine **Greater White-fronted Geese** dropped by MCWMA 3/6 (m.ob.), as did 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/26 (JF, m.ob.). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were frequent along the Susquehanna R., but scoters were absent.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found in a field near Farmersville 5/23 (ZM). **Sandhill Crane** sightings were quite numerous around the county, notably a flock of 12 in flight over LCCP 5/7 (JB). There were 17 shorebird species this spring. **Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, White-rumped Sandpiper** and **Short-billed Dowitcher** all made the list from Susquehanna R. locations and MCWMA. Late on the evening of 5/26, a northbound flock of 80+ **Whimbrel** were observed near Reamstown, just south of the Ephrata mountain (EM). An adult **Little Gull** was sighted on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom 3/10 (BS), one north of Accomac 3/11 (TG), and 2 near Wrightsville 3/27 (ML). Surprisingly, **Caspian Tern** was the only tern species found. A **Red-throated Loon** floated on MCWMA 5/2 (JW, m.ob.).

An **Anhinga** was discovered and photographed 5/18 at SRCF by a kayaker and posted to Facebook (anon.). It was not re-found despite a thorough search the following day. Its presence was not surprising given the high volume of reports across PA and neighboring states this spring. What is surprising is that it was the first *Lancaster* record! Given some of the outlandish water bird sightings over the last century or more in this county, it was just a matter of time. No doubt there will be more in the future as they continue to overshoot into the northeast in increasing numbers.

Hardly to be outdone, an adult **Brown Pelican** circled over MCWMA 5/14 (NC, TC). The bird (presumably the same individual) reappeared there on the dam 5/18 (SF, m.ob.). It was observed all day 5/19 sitting along the lake shore, hardly moving. Its fate is unknown, but given its behavior it was probably not a positive outcome for the second *Lancaster* record.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** appeared in front of a storm over Rohrerstown 4/22 (SM). It circled with vultures for several minutes, obliging the observer just enough time to grab his camera, marking the 4th record for *Lancaster*. A **Mississippi Kite** was seen near Danville 5/14 (KLe), and a stunning adult male **Rough-legged Hawk** was photographed at MCWMA 3/8 (LS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sang at MCWMA 5/22 (KLo), the only one for spring. The final date for the over-wintering **Say's Phoebe** at SWTPWB was 3/25 (m.ob.). The 2nd county **Bicknell's Thrush** was well-photographed and its diagnostic song recorded at WHCP 5/22 (DL). The only previously accepted record of this cryptic species came from the same observer in the same location nearly 18 years to the day prior! This shows just how difficult these are to find, and even harder to confirm. Another would be captured in a banding operation post-period.

Both **Purple Finch**, and in particular **Pine Siskin** showed a notable increase over last spring. There were two **Lapland Longspurs** in a field near Gap 3/10-11 (RB, NW, WW). Thirty-three warblers were found, including an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at NDP 3/1-4/13 (SM, m.ob.). The over-wintering male "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was last reported at SWTPWB 4/2 (m.ob.), having been photographed in beautiful breeding plumage and confirming its identity beyond a doubt.

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Jen Barrall, Redmond Brubaker, Nancy Clupper, Tom Clupper, Steve Ferreri, Jim Fiorentino, Tom Garner, Daniel Lane, Keath Leidich (KLe), Kade Lockhart (KLo), Meredith Lombard, Ervin Martin, Seth McComsey, Bob Schutsky, Lauren Shaffer, Joe Wolf, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf

Locations: Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna WTP Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wheatland Hills Community Park (WHCP).

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 four to 10 sentences for printing in each edition of the newsletter.

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

Keep in mind, the newsletter is published only four times a year. **The deadline for submission of observations for this column for the Fall Newsletter is September 30, 2023.**

Submissions made for this column should be made by the deadline date and be for observations that occurred after the previous deadline date (June 15, 2023) 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.

REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS

April 1, 2023 – A beginner birding trip to Riverfront Park was cancelled due to the weather.

April 8, 2023 – Fourteen species were observed at Safe Harbor Park during a field trip led by Kim Morelock. Some of the species the group of nine participants observed included 75 Double-crested Cormorants, 22 Great Blue Herons, 12 Bonaparte’s Gulls, 2 Canada Geese, 5 Common Mergansers, and 1 Osprey.

April 10, 2023 – Nina Wolf reported that her group of 11 participants met at Conestoga River Park and spent almost three hours finding 44 species. We hadn’t intended to stay so long but there were some new faces, and the birding was good. The Gnatcatchers had arrived, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows were flying, we saw most species of Woodpeckers, and some White-breasted Nuthatches, um, courting. Chipping Sparrows were plentiful and vocal and while we didn’t see a Louisiana Waterthrush during this walk, we did hear one singing. A couple of Yellow-rumped Warblers and THREE Yellow-throated Warblers (first of the year for us all) rounded out this stop.

From there we headed to Shenk’s Ferry where we DID get to see a Louisiana Waterthrush. We were serenaded by Northern Parula that proved quite difficult to nail down but a few of us finally spotted one, high up in the trees over the path. The wildflowers were in bloom, with a few of them being sought-after species not always seen like the Red Trillium.



Yellow-throated Warbler
at Conestoga River Park



Louisiana Waterthrush
at Shenk’s Ferry

April 13, 2023 – David Yeany II, avian ecologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, explained to an audience at Middle Creek WMA Visitor Center how the Evening Grosbeak’s population has decreased approximately 92 percent (500 million birds) since 1970.

This number is the highest declining land bird in the United States and Canada. Reasons for this decline most likely is because of spruce budworm population cycles, habitat change, window collisions, climate change, and conjunctivitis (pink eye). David said by using advanced tracking methods, Evening Grosbeaks can be tracked in real-time as they migrate across the upper northeast United States and lower Canada to western Pennsylvania. Birds can be captured and tagged with Lotek Sunbird satellite tags which cost around \$2000 each. These trackers have more locational accuracy for birds the size of evening grosbeaks and these birds do not have to be recaptured to retrieve tag data. The trackers help researchers know where the Evening Grosbeaks are flying from their wintering season in the United States to their breeding season in Canada.

April 22, 2023 – Carl Groff led a group of five birders, which included his father who he has birded with since Carl was six years old, to Safe Harbor. The weather was sunny but quite windy. They saw the target migrants that were on his list which included Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The highlight of the trip was a Sandhill Crane fly over just before lunch. Fifty-two species were counted.

April 29, 2023 – The field trip to Octoraro Reservoir was cancelled due to projected rainy weather.

May 6, 2023 – Forty-nine species were observed by 12 participants at the Pumping Station Rd. warbler walk led by Bruce Carl. The highlight was a flyover American Bittern which is quite unusual for this location. Other notable flyover birds included Osprey and Broad-winged hawk. There were 10 warbler species found on this morning which included Worm-eating, Nashville, Palm, and Black-throated Green. Some other nice sightings included Purple Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-throated Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a very nice look at a Solitary Sandpiper feeding along the muddy shoreline of Hammer Creek. View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S136354228>

May 6, 2023 - Fifty-eight species were observed by five participants at Chickies Rock County Park on a clear day with temperatures reaching the mid-60s. Led by Roger Stoner and Meredith Lombard, the small group observed a pair of adult Bald Eagles that flew close overhead at Breezyview Overlook. Only seven species of warblers were seen probably because weather conditions were not favorable for northward migration. Uncommon birds seen were Tundra Swan and Osprey. The highlight of the trip was a long, unobstructed view of a Red-headed Woodpecker.

May 6, 2023 - Doug Anderson led a group of nine birders to Middle Creek WMA and saw 78 species during the eight-hour trip which was about 4 miles long walking and 2.5 miles driving. Highlights of the trip were 2 Kestrels, 1 Osprey, 1 Common Raven, and 11 warbler species. Doug said the sightings were slower than usual at this time of year. Only one Eastern Phoebe

was seen and many of the trees were fully leafed in.

May 7, 2023 - Seven birders, led by Nina Wolf, birded the Northwest River Trail Prescott Road area, including some folks from Neighboring Chester County who added their expertise. A quick stop at a river access point yielded a Spotted Sandpiper in addition to a few Double-crested Cormorants and the expected Ring-billed Gulls. The group observed Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Wood Thrushes, Baltimore Orioles (always a spring treat), and several warblers – most notable several Prothonotary Warblers. A disappointment, however, was a very vocal Blackburnian Warbler that the group could not find in all the leaves. All told they saw 41 species, six of which were warblers. The group parted ways after offering some additional birding location suggestions to folks unfamiliar with the area and hope they will have fond memories of the outing.

May 13, 2023 - Larry Bernhardt led a field trip to the Conewago Recreational Trail on a day that was cloudy, and rain was forecast in the morning for the three participants who walked almost four miles in 3.5 hours. Forty-one species were seen, including three warblers which were identified by sound. Also, an Osprey, which is seldom seen in this area, was seen soaring over the wetlands. A highlight was the many Baltimore Orioles the group observed on the walk, including one which was feeding on the ground only a short distance away.

May 14, 2023 - Larry Bernhardt led a field trip to Noel Dorwart Park with a group of seven participants and observed 39 species. The three-hour walk covered almost three miles. The highlight of the trip was hearing an Alder Flycatcher singing and then seeing it many times as it moved from the end of one branch to another branch giving very nice views.

May 20, 2023 - Tom Amico and Larry Bernhardt led a field trip to Susquehannock State Park and observed 50 species. There were seven birders who walked the four-mile trip in nearly four hours. Six warblers and a Yellow-throated Vireo were seen despite the overcast sky and some fog over the river. The overlook at the end of the park offered spectacular views from Peach Bottom looking south and to the Norman Wood Bridge looking north.

May 21, 2023 - Carl Groff led a small group of three birders to the East Licking Creek area in Juniata County. The group had the opportunity to observe many of the common breeding birds for the area. Most of the migratory species had moved north or they were between waves. Good looks were had at Indigo Buntings, Orioles, Blackburnian Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Great Crested Flycatcher. The trip concluded with a picnic lunch on top of the mountain. Carl said it was great to bird with Samir and Youssef!

May 24, 2023 - Jarrod Derr, a wildlife biologist with the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, led four members of the LCBC on a bird hike through Fort Indian Town Gap.

Fifty-one species of birds were identified. While most of these were identified by sound, there were some great looks at a Red-headed Woodpecker and a Black-and-white Warbler eating a worm.

June 25, 2023 - Ted Nichols II and Emily Broich led a group of 13 birders to Lancaster Conservancy's Ferncliff Preserve and a hollow on nearby Bald Eagle Road in Southern Lancaster County near Drumore. The trip focused on locating, observing, and listening for breeding species. Total species logged for the trip was 44; 37 at Ferncliff and 23 at Bald Eagle Road. Among the species encountered were the following highlights at Ferncliff: 6 Louisiana Waterthrush, 7 very vocal Acadian Flycatchers, nesting Osprey, and 4 Purple Martins putting on aerial displays at an overlook on the river. Unfortunately, the once reliable hollow at Bald Eagle Road once again provided no evidence of Kentucky Warblers for the second year in a row of this field trip despite their history at the site. A Baltimore Oriole and Brown Thrasher played hide and seek with the group at Bald Eagle Road and were new species for the day on top of a vocal, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A complete account of the morning is available at: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/144232/>

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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