



Lancaster County Bird Club

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Founded December 8, 1937

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

Call Notes

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2021

FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA HUNSBERGER:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers of Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC), I want to sincerely express our appreciation for the additional donations made by a number of our members. The complete list of donors is available in the membership section of this newsletter. The additional funds allow the club to continue its support of various environmental organizations in the area and to help sustain its scholarships. The following list will give you an idea of how our members support LCBC with additional gifts:

36 individuals/families gave \$1260 for General Club Support

4 individuals/families gave \$585 in honor of someone

7 individuals gave \$620 in memory of someone

2 individuals/families gave \$3043.40 for the Conoy Wetlands Project and the Bins for Kids.

In addition, 31 individuals have opted to join as sustaining members, adding \$465. I plan to have additional information in the next newsletter for the Conoy Wetlands Project and Bins for Kids.

We all extend our appreciation to our members who willingly volunteer to lead field trips, participate in the Christmas Bird Counts, and present programs at various events and locations throughout the year. We have an active and vibrant organization due to the many members' contributions of time, talent, and treasure. We are always in need of additional volunteers. Thank you all!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reminder: The Harold Morrin Scholarship application deadline is **December 1** and the committee will make its decision by **December 15**. Complete rules and regulations and the application form appear on the LCBC website at www.LancasterBirdClub.org.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 9, 5 a.m. - "Big Sit" at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

Bruce Carl will conduct a "Big Sit" (rain date Oct. 10) 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 for 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. The composite list for this "Big Sit" since it began is 95 species. Contact Bruce at 717-368-4824 or hrdabrd@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m. - Chestnut Grove Natural Area - Beginning Birder Field Trip

Roger Stoner will lead a field trip to Chestnut Grove Natural Area 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.

Thursday, October 14, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail is 2,189 miles long with 515,000 feet of elevation change. It is the longest hiking only trail in the world. It passes through 14 states and six national parks and on average takes six months to complete. Follow along as Warren Wolf hikes the trail through marshes, mountains, fields of beautiful wild flowers, torrential downpours, a snowstorm, temperatures ranging from 100 degrees to below freezing, through 65 mph winds and unbearable mosquitos. Hear about the emotional highs and lows and, of course, the cast of characters, both human and non-human, encountered along the way.

Warren is a master gardener and formerly was the director of the master gardener program in Lancaster County. He is a Pennsylvania Master Naturalist and a member of the Muhlenberg Botanical Society and LCBC. He is an avid birder who loves the chase. Warren is also a graduate of Leadership Lancaster Program. He is a former charter board member of the North Museum and past president, treasurer, and director of the Rough and Tumble Engineers Historical Association. He has hiked the Appalachian Trail, the Vermont Long Trail, and both the Fitz Roy and Torres Del Paine circuits in Patagonia sections of the Andes in South America

Friday, October 22, 6:30 p.m. - Saw-whet Owl Banding at Hidden Valley

This field trip is cancelled. The owl banding station is still closed to visitors due to the pandemic.

Thursday, November 11, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Tree Treasures of Lancaster County

Club meeting at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA at 7 p.m. Dr. Len Eiserer, an LCBC member, will present a program “Tree Treasures of Lancaster County.”

Special trees in Lancaster County will be described including those that are special because of their size, age, rarity, beauty, unusual shape, or because they have historical interest.

Len’s background is in psychology. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maine and his masters and doctorate degrees from Bryn Mawr College. Len has taught psychology for 38 years and currently teaches part-time at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Len’s interest in birds is reflected in his extensive research on both ducklings and robins, with more than 50 scientific publications and presentations. He has also written a book titled *The American Robin: A Backyard Institution*. Currently serving on the board of the Tanger Arboretum, Len has a tree collection of 140 different species and varieties. Besides being semiretired and part-time teaching, Len does community service, travels, plays golf, and works on his tree hobby.

Friday, November 19 to Sunday, November 21 – Delmarva Coast & Chincoteague NWR Field Trip

This annual fall trip to bird the Delmarva Coast and Chincoteague NWR will be led by Roger Stoner. Reservations for the 12-participant limit has been reached, so **this trip is full**. The group will meet at 7 a.m. at the Gap Diner parking lot on Rt. 41. Roger will send additional trip details and the hotel information closer to the trip date. For any questions, call Roger at 717-393-9030.

Thursday, December 9, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - The Ecology and Habitat Management of Young Forest and Shrubland Birds in Pennsylvania.

Young forest and shrubland birds have experienced steep population declines over the past several decades. Many agencies and conservation organizations have been implementing habitat management in an attempt to reverse these declines. Research and monitoring that assesses avian response to habitat management is essential to informing future management. Dr. Jeff Larkin and students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania will share the results from three research projects that focused on the conservation of young forest and shrubland dependent birds. First, **Halie Parker** (IUP graduate student; 2018-2020) will share her research, “The Influence of White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) browsing on vegetation and avian communities in fenced and unfenced timber harvests in central Pennsylvania”. Then, **Kristin Bomboy** (IUP graduate student; 2018-2020) will share her finding on “Space Use and Habitat Selection of Blue-winged Warblers in managed shrublands of Southwestern

PA”. Finally, **JT Larkin** (IUP Undergrad 2016-2019; current UMass graduate student) will present preliminary findings of his ongoing research titled, “A Multi-Regional Assessment of Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) Occupancy of Managed Forests”. These three talks will be followed by a panel-style question and answer session.

121st Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) – The LCBC sponsors four counts

Saturday, December 18, 2021 – Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids (and adults)

John Lahr (717-284-3497 or johnlahr324@gmail.com) is coordinator of this CBC designed to introduce young people to winter birding and nature at Lancaster County Central Park. Any adults without children are also encouraged to join the group to experience the beauty of the park in winter. Please contact John if you have any questions or want to join the group.

Sunday, December 19, 2021 – SoLanCo – Robert Schutsky, coordinator (717-548-3303) or info@birdtreks.com

Sunday, December 26, 2021 – Lititz – Ted Nichols II, coordinator (717-856-3851) or tanicholsii@gmail.com

Sunday, January 2, 2022 – Lancaster – Barbara Hunsberger, coordinator; Roger Stoner, volunteer contact (717-393-9030)

Please contact the individuals listed with each count if you want to volunteer. You do not have to be an expert! It’s a good time for beginners to get familiar with various areas of the county. You will be assigned to a team with leaders who are acquainted with their areas and know where to seek out the birds. You may also participate in any of the counts by doing a count of your backyard. Please register with the contact person for the count before the count begins to determine if your home is within the count circle.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY LARRY BERNHARDT

The LCBC would like to welcome the new members listed below.

The LCBC 2021-2022 membership forms, along with the schedule for the meeting and field trip dates, were mailed the end of July. As of September 13, there were still 46 households that have not sent in their dues. Please check that you have returned your membership forms and dues.

NEW MEMBERS:

David & Carol Bazzel, Lititz
Jim & Joyce Hanson, Lancaster

Michael & Stacey Conrad, Willow Street

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

In Honor of Ken and Jane Light:	Edward & Rosemary Spreha
In memory of Charley Albin:	Meredith Lombard
In memory of Herb Beck:	Lt. James B. McMullin
In memory of Harold Morrin:	William P. Blakeslee
In memory of Ted Parker & classmate, for scholarship fund:	John D. Lahr
In memory of Steve Santner:	Stephen R. & Sharon L. Rannels

Sustaining members:

Craig Boyhont	Daniel K. & Mary Ellen Ness
Robert E. Coley	Ted Nichols II
Mary Coomer	Frederick D. & Donna M. Paley
Lisa Garrett	Dennis & Lorri Schmick
Franklin Haas	Rick & Donna Schoenberger
Bettina Heffner	John Shenk
Mary Alice High	Terry Webster
Gladys Horst	Ginger Weismantel
Peter & Barbara Hunsberger	David & Laurel Wiegand
John D. Lahr	Dr. Jack Wolgemuth
Darryl & Sally Lownsbery	

General Club Support:

Lisa Black	Joe & Lee Meloney
Gerry M. & Jeanne Boltz	Daniel K. & Mary Ellen Ness
Craig & Amy Burman	Betty M. Randolph
Robert E. Coley	Robert Paul & Sylvia Shellenberger
James & Carol Feister	Larry & Sandy Roda
J. Richard & Shirley L. George	Dr. Mary M. St. John
Franklin Haas	Dennis & Lorri Schmick
Alex & Molly Henderson	Michael & Rose Shull
Michael & Pamela Holmes	James H. & Rita B. Smith
Thomas & Nancy Hopson	R Stanley & Susan Smith
Peter & Barbara Hunsberger	James A. Still Jr.
Robert & Hedwig Hunsicker	Gerald M. Trout
Laura & Dave Kemmick	Dennis & Judy Weaver
Darryl & Sally Lownsbery	Terry Webster
Keith & Judith Maurice	Ginger Weismantel
Herb & Shannon Mauzy	David & Laurel Wiegand
Michael G. & Linda L. McKinne	

MEMBERS' ADVENTURES AND ACTIVITIES

Arizona Trip by Sabrena Boekell

Wanting to experience Arizona birds that I have heard so much about, I organized a trip that took place from April 19-25 of this year. Included were Randy and Pam Kochel, Robyn Finer, Lorri Schmick and myself. We all took part in different aspects of the details, which worked out wonderfully. Many thanks to them.

We were able to rent a wonderful house in Tucson, which had a variety of birds in its garden. The first full day out, I researched and scheduled several birding areas within 30 minutes of the house. One of these habitats was the Sweetwater Wetlands, which besides having interesting birds, including Cinnamon Teal, Sora, and Common Gallinule, produced a close encounter with a bobcat.

The remaining three days we had a wonderful professional guide who was excellent. Some of the places we went included Mt. Lemmon, Walker Canyon, Madera Canyon, and Paton's Hummingbird Center. Some of the birds we got to see were: Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Green-tailed Towhee, Steller's Jay, Arizona Woodpecker, Northern Pygmy Owl, Cactus Wren, Lazuli Bunting, and of course, lots of hummingbirds. We saw about 140 species, 78 of which were life birds for me.

Everyone agreed it was a great trip and we took lots of photos, including the bobcat!

LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS – Summer 2021

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: Lake Grubb Nature Park (LGNP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve, Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), SGL 220, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Susquehannock State Park (SSP), Woods Edge Park (WEP).

June was warm, 3 degrees above average and quite dry with about half of the expected precipitation. In fact, multiple daily temp records were set 6/28-7/1. July average temps were normal, and it turned out to be the 9th wettest month of July on record. Weather information is derived from Harrisburg data from the National Weather Service, which dates back to 1888. 154 species were recorded during the period, below the prior 4-year average of 160 (153, 161, 162, 163 previous).

Two **Trumpeter Swans** summered in the vicinity of MCWMA, mostly on the *Lebanon* side but seen in *Lancaster* once or twice (m.ob.). It is unknown if these birds attempted to breed, but if so they were seemingly unsuccessful. Single drake **Northern Pintail** and **Ring-necked Duck** spent most of July at OR (LL, RR, m.ob.), and two **Bufflehead** were noted around SRCF 6/2-3 (JH, BP). A semi-late drake

Ruddy Duck was seen at MCWMA 6/5 (JD), and a **Sandhill Crane** was found near Peach Bottom 6/9-14 (TA, BS).

Twelve shorebird species were recorded in the period. Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were at SRCF 6/1 (AL). The first **Upland Sandpiper** was seen in flight at LA 7/10, followed by 3 on 7/31 (ZM). Four northbound **Short-billed Dowitchers** stopped at SRCF 6/1 (AL), and a southbound bird dropped in 7/18 (m.ob.). At SRCF there were single adult **Bonaparte's Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull** 7/24 (EW), and lone **Black Terns** 6/12 (anon.) and 7/18 (MH, ML). A **Forster's Tern** was noted at MCWMA 7/15 (JH), and **Common Loon** on the Susquehanna R. near Holtwood was unusual for the date of 7/15 (IG).

It was an exceptional summer for waders, with 8 species of *Ardeidae* and 2 *Threskiornithidae*. Two **Snowy Egrets** were found at SRCF 6/29 (PN), the photographed bird being an adult. Juveniles are comparatively much more common in late summer, and young **Little Blue Herons** trickled in after 7/12, with two each at SFL, SRCF, and MCWMA (SS, ML, RS, m.ob.). Juvenile **Tricolored Herons** showed up practically in droves for this species, with 2 at SRCF after 7/12, and then 3 on 7/24 (ML, EW, m.ob.)! Two more were found elsewhere post-period. The adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** lingered at the **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery in Ephrata to 6/13 (m.ob.), and a juvenile **White Ibis** stayed at SRCF from 7/16 through the period (anon., m.ob.). Most surprising of all, there were an incredible *three* sightings of juvenile **Roseate Spoonbills** on the magic date of 7/12. In the morning one flew north up the Susquehanna R. past SSP (TA), another midday at OR (LL), and another in the evening at SRCF (ML). This last bird may have been the first seen earlier in flight, but the OR bird stayed overnight to 7/13. On 7/14, another was found accompanying **Great Egrets** near Swartzville (LM). Almost to be expected at this point, another would be found post-period. This summer was the 3rd irruption of spoonbills in the past 5 years into *Lancaster*, and concluded a wild and fantastic season for waders in the county.

Mississippi Kites put on a nice push into the state this year, including birds described at MCWMA 6/2 (m.ob.), and near Wrightsdale 6/15 (SB). **Alder Flycatchers** bred near the stop #1 pond at MCWMA (m.ob.), where they are typically found. A late **White-throated Sparrow** continued at NDP 6/4 (DK). A **Bobolink** tagged with a MOTUS tag on 5/19/2021 at Buck Run in *Chester* was picked up by the tower at MCWMA 6/26, showing some local area movement. It returned by the next day to its previous location. Of the local breeding warblers, fourteen species were found, but Pine Warbler was missed. Two male **Dickcissels** sang around fields near Peach Bottom 7/3-17 (m.ob.), with a female also photographed. Elsewhere, a male was photographed at MCWMA 6/19 (JF, FH, RSp), and a flyover was heard near Leola 6/12 (ZM).

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Tom Amico, Sabrena Boekell, Bruce Carl, Jonathan DeBalko, Jim Fiorentino, Michael Hartshorne, Frederick Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Ian Gardner, Dan Keener, Larry Lewis, Austin Loewen, Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser, Paul Nale, Brandon Pentz, Rick Robinson, Bob Schutsky, Rosemary Spreha (RSp), Stanley Stahl, Rita Stima (RSt), Eric Witmer.

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

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 Winter Newsletter is December 20, 2021.**

Submissions made for this column should be made by the deadline date and be for observations that occurred after the previous deadline date (Sept. 15, 2021) 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.

Kestrel Report by Dan Mummert, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission

With the recent banding of a very rare second clutch, I think we now have the kestrel nesting season all wrapped up. Thank you everyone for your help making this an exceptionally successful year for our PGC kestrel conservation initiative for southeastern PA. Later this fall, we will be going through the data and writing a report detailing the season but for now we can at least provide you with a quick summary of where we're at with this program and all we accomplished this year. In short, we now have 320 kestrel boxes in eight counties of southeastern PA. Roughly half of these boxes are on PGC State Game Lands and other public lands and the other half on family farms. The boxes on family farms were for the most part built and donated by several of you which is outstanding. We can't thank you enough for the time, effort, and personal funds you used to make these kestrel boxes.

This year, 101 of the 320 nest boxes were used by kestrels and had at least one kestrel egg laid in them. Eleven of these nests ultimately failed in fledging young, but 377 kestrel chicks and two adults were banded from 90 successful nest boxes. In addition, our program assisted Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's ambitious research project that's working to learn why kestrels are declining throughout North America. With our help, researchers from Hawk Mountain placed 20 radio transmitters on kestrels from our nest boxes. These kestrels are now being tracked by Hawk Mountain interns to learn more about their movements and the importance of different habitat types for their survival. Researchers from Hawk Mountain also took blood samples from 27 nestlings from our program's nest boxes which will be used

to study whether or not environmental toxins such as rodenticides or herbicides may be a possible cause for the decline in kestrels. We also helped provide data related to prey availability and the type of habitats surrounding a number of our nest boxes.

We can't stress enough how valuable your help has been to the success of this program. We'll keep you posted with more details about this season, the future goals of the program, and information about preparing for next year's nesting season. Thank you!!!

Color-banded Kestrels by Laurie J. Goodrich, Ph.D., Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association

We need your help to look carefully at kestrels!

To help assess the movements of American Kestrels and better understand why they are declining, the science team at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has deployed over 100 color bands with a number and letter combination (both red and green) on both fledglings and adults. Some sport tiny backpack radio transmitters as well. As kestrels are starting to disperse out of the study area, we are seeking your help in re-sighting these tagged birds.

If you are in the Hamburg, Lancaster, or State College area especially, but really anywhere in PA and beyond, keep a look out for kestrels sporting these accessories.

Report any sightings to Mercy Melo, Hawk Mountain Ph.D. student working on the kestrel project (mlmelo@umass.edu<mailto:mlmelo@umass.edu>).

THANK YOU for your help -- Together we can learn more about these little falcons and figure out how we can reverse their continental population decline!

Middle Creek Lake Drawdown by Lauren Ferrari, Biological and Visitor Center Manager, Middle Creek WMA

The recent lowering of the lake at Middle Creek WMA is a habitat manipulation process called a drawdown. When the lake was built a few decades ago it was designed with a series of "stoplogs" on the one end of the dam. These stacked 6 in. pieces of wood allow us to lower the water levels of the lake below the top of the spillway at the dam. We typically start this process in late spring and continue to slowly lower the water level a few feet through summer and then start to catch water and increase the water level in early fall.

Lowering the water level exposes mud flats around the perimeter of the lake. These areas will grow aquatic vegetation that will eventually produce seed and be food for migrating and overwintering waterfowl. Also these mudflats and shallow water areas benefit shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, yellowlegs, etc.) during migration as it gives them a place to feed and refuel. A lot of these wildlife species breed in northern Canada, migrate through Pennsylvania, and overwinter in the southern US and as far south as Central and South America. Drawdowns at Middle Creek mimic what would typically be seen in a wet dry cycle previous to human interference.

Update on the Forest Garden Project by Brandon Tennis, Vice President of Stewardship, Lancaster Conservancy (LC)

This is an update on the Forest Garden Project along the Northwest River Trail and the expanded access to the wetlands along the trail.

All trees and shrubs purchased through LCBC funds have been planted. Seed has been purchased with LCBC funds as well. We will be over seeding in areas that have been under weed cloth for the past three years. We will be removing sections of weed cloth in phases and direct seeding as we go. As part of their mini-grant award, Conoy Township has installed a wildlife blind within their trail corridor along the River Trail that leads into the wetland complex. The LC will be thinning the overstocked red maples which will improve the view from the blind into the first open pool. We will also be removing the red maples from that pool. The township has also installed a kiosk at the wetlands parking area on Prescott Rd.

The LC installed a kiosk at the Wetlands trailhead. The township, as part of their mini-grant, should be installing a raised-treat loop trail on their corridor that would bring visitors inside of the wetlands area. Furthermore, the LC has demolished and removed the dilapidated buildings south of the Prescott parking area.

Lastly, we are ready to get a new kiosk display into the Falmouth Forest Garden!

We just need to square away the LCBC logo.

LANCASTER COUNTY YEAR LIST 2020 BY MIKE EPLER

Editor's Note: Because the Christmas Bird Count data can be found online and the PA Migration Count is no longer held, we are including the 2020 Lancaster County Research List in this newsletter.

During 2020 birders in Lancaster County reported locating 278 different bird species. This is above the 5-year average of 269, the 10-year average of 267, and the 20-year average of 271 species.

One new species was added to the official count of Lancaster County. The addition of Northern Gannet brings the total to 358. *

There were 34 species of waterfowl reported, including all the expected species. Pink-footed Goose was seen for the second time in 44 years. All three species of scoter were seen. Brant was reported for the fifth year in a row. They have been reported in 20 of the last 22 years. Prior to that they were seen about fifty percent of the time. Trumpeter Swan was seen for the sixth year out of the past 10 years. Eurasian Wigeon was missed for the first time in 12 years. One was reported at Middle Creek WMA

*Per the official list from the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

but was not seen in Lancaster County.

Among game birds, Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite were seen. Ruffed Grouse was missed after being reported last year for the first time in eight years. It is likely that the Northern Bobwhite seen in the county are escaped or released birds, and not a self-sustaining population.

Pied-billed and Horned Grebe were reported. Red-necked Grebe, which is reported six out of 10 years on average, was also seen.

Eurasian Collard-Dove was seen for the third time in nine years. Prior to this they had been reported in seven of the eight years following their discovery in 2004.

Eastern Whip-poor-will was seen for the eighth time in the past 15 years. Prior to this they were seen annually.

In addition to Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird was also reported. This is the twelfth year it has been seen in the 19 years since it was first reported in the county.

Both Virginia Rail and Sora continue to be seen yearly. Common Gallinule was seen for the first time in nine years.

Sandhill Crane was seen for the seventeenth year in a row.

The shorebird species count was down three from last year at 26. This is just below the 10-year average of 27. Among the less common species reported were American Avocet, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, and Red-necked Phalarope. Western Sandpiper was missed for only the second time in 36 years.

A Parasitic Jaeger was seen in the county for the fourth time in 44 years.

There were 13 species of gulls and terns seen. The least common among these were Little Gull and Franklin's Gull. All the usual tern species were reported including Black Tern and Common Tern. A Least Tern was seen for the fourth time in the past 10 years.

Common Loon and the less common Red-throated Loon were both seen.

A first county record Northern Gannet was reported. This was a juvenile bird found grounded in a parking lot on a foggy morning. A rehabber was called to rescue the bird. During this time over a dozen birders arrived to view the bird before it was taken away. Unfortunately, the bird was found to have a badly injured shoulder and had to be euthanized.

White Pelican was reported for the fourth time in seven years. It had only been seen three times in the prior 37 years.

There were 11 species of wading birds reported. Among the least common species were Least Bittern and Cattle Egret.

All the expected raptor species were seen. Mississippi Kite was also reported. Northern Goshawk was missed for the ninth year in a row after been seen for 34 of the previous 35 years.

Six of the seven normally occurring species of owls were seen in the county. Long-eared Owl was not reported for just the second time in 44 years. Snowy Owl was also not reported.

The regularly occurring flycatchers were all reported. A Western Kingbird was also seen. This marks the third time this species was recorded in the county in the past five years. It had been seen just three times in the 39 years prior to this.

Common Raven has been seen for the past 19 years in a row. They were reported in just nine of the previous 25 years.

All expected wren species were reported, including Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren.

In addition to the expected finch species, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll were reported.

All expected sparrows were seen this year. Clay-colored Sparrow was seen for the first time in four years. Lark Sparrow was also reported in the county. This was the seventh time, three of those times being in the last four years.

Warbler species stood at 34 with all expected species seen, including the less common Golden-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.

The choice for bird of the year for 2020 was between two birds, the Northern Gannet and the Pink-footed Goose. It is hard to pass up a first county record in the gannet, but I have chosen the Pink-footed Goose. While the Pink-footed Goose is not the first county record, it is the second. The first record was in 2004 and was seen by just a few people. This Pink-footed Goose was seen by literally hundreds of people over the course of six weeks. Originally found at Wood's Edge Park the bird alternated between there and Middle Creek WMA. While at Wood's Edge Park, the bird was sometime viewable at distances of less than 100 feet and was quite reliable. Much like the Varied Thrush of 2019, the accessibility of this bird, and the excitement that it generated, helped to earn it the title this year.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Calliope Hummingbird	Glaucous Gull
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	King Rail	X Great Black-backed Gull
X Snow Goose	X Virginia Rail	Sooty Tern
X Ross's Goose	X Sora	X Least Tern
X Greater White-fronted Goose	X Common Gallinule	Gull-billed Tern
X Pink-footed Goose	X American Coot	X Caspian Tern
X Brant	Black Rail	X Black Tern
Barnacle Goose	X Sandhill Crane	X Common Tern
X Cackling Goose	Black-necked Stilt	Arctic Tern
X Canada Goose	X American Avocet	X Foster's Tern
X Mute Swan	X Black-bellied Plover	Royal Tern
X Trumpeter Swan	X American Golden-Plover	Black Skimmer
X Tundra Swan	X Semipalmated Plover	X Red-throated Loon
X Wood Duck	Piping Plover	Pacific Loon
X Blue-winged Teal	X Killdeer	X Common Loon
Cinnamon Teal	X Upland Sandpiper	Leach's Storm-Petrel
X Northern Shoveler	Whimbrel	Wood Stork
X Gadwall	Hudsonian Godwit	X Northern Gannet
Eurasian Wigeon	Marbled Godwit	Great Cormorant
X American Wigeon	X Ruddy Turnstone	X Double-crested Cormorant
X Mallard	Red Knot	X American White Pelican
X American Black Duck	Ruff	Brown Pelican
X Northern Pintail	X Stilt Sandpiper	X American Bittern
X Green-winged Teal	Curlew Sandpiper	X Least Bittern
X Canvasback	X Sanderling	X Great Blue Heron
X Redhead	X Dunlin	X Great Egret
X Ring-necked Duck	X Baird's Sandpiper	X Snowy Egret
X Greater Scaup	X Least Sandpiper	X Little Blue Heron
X Lesser Scaup	X White-rumped Sandpiper	Tricolored Heron
X Surf Scoter	X Buff-breasted Sandpiper	X Cattle Egret
X White-winged Scoter	X Pectoral Sandpiper	X Green Heron
X Black Scoter	X Semipalmated Sandpiper	X Black-crowned Night-Heron
X Long-tailed Duck	Western Sandpiper	X Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
X Bufflehead	X Short-billed Dowitcher	White Ibis
X Common Goldeneye	X Long-billed Dowitcher	X Glossy Ibis
X Hooded Merganser	X American Woodcock	Roseate Spoonbill
X Common Merganser	X Wilson's Snipe	X Black Vulture
X Red-breasted Merganser	X Wilson's Phalarope	X Turkey Vulture
X Ruddy Duck	X Red-necked Phalarope	X Osprey
X Northern Bobwhite	Red Phalarope	Swallow-tailed Kite
X Ring-necked Pheasant	X Spotted Sandpiper	X Golden Eagle
Ruffed Grouse	X Solitary Sandpiper	X Mississippi Kite
X Wild Turkey	X Greater Yellowlegs	X Northern Harrier
X Pied-billed Grebe	Willet	X Sharp-shinned Hawk
X Horned Grebe	X Lesser Yellowlegs	X Cooper's Hawk
X Red-necked Grebe	Pomarine Jaeger	Northern Goshawk
Eared Grebe	X Parasitic Jaeger	X Bald Eagle
X Rock Pigeon	Long-tailed Jaeger	X Red-shouldered Hawk
X Eurasian Collared-Dove	Black-legged Kittiwake	X Broad-winged Hawk
White-winged Dove	Sabine's Gull	Swainson's Hawk
X Mourning Dove	X Bonaparte's Gull	X Red-tailed Hawk
X Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Black-headed Gull	X Rough-legged Hawk
X Black-billed Cuckoo	X Little Gull	X Barn Owl
X Common Nighthawk	X Laughing Gull	X Eastern Screech-Owl
X Eastern Whip-poor-will	X Franklin's Gull	X Great Horned Owl
X Chimney Swift	X Ring-billed Gull	Snowy Owl
Bahama Woodstar	California Gull	X Barred Owl
X Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X Herring Gull	Long-eared Owl
X Rufous Hummingbird	Iceland Gull	X Short-eared Owl
Allen's Hummingbird	X Lesser Black-backed Gull	X Northern Saw-whet Owl

X	Belted Kingfisher	X	Gray Catbird	X	Worm-eating Warbler
X	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	X	Brown Thrasher	X	Louisiana Waterthrush
X	Red-headed Woodpecker	X	Northern Mockingbird	X	Northern Waterthrush
X	Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	Eastern Bluebird	X	Golden-winged Warbler
X	Downy Woodpecker	X	Mountain Bluebird	X	Blue-winged Warbler
X	Hairy Woodpecker	X	Varied Thrush	X	Black-and-white Warbler
X	Pileated Woodpecker	X	Veery	X	Prothonotary Warbler
X	Northern Flicker	X	Gray-cheeked Thrush	X	Tennessee Warbler
X	American Kestrel		Bicknell's Thrush	X	Orange-crowned Warbler
X	Merlin	X	Swainson's Thrush	X	Nashville Warbler
	Gyr Falcon	X	Hermit Thrush	X	Connecticut Warbler
X	Peregrine Falcon	X	Wood Thrush	X	Mourning Warbler
X	Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	American Robin	X	Kentucky Warbler
X	Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	Cedar Waxwing	X	Common Yellowthroat
X	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X	House Sparrow	X	Hooded Warbler
X	Acadian Flycatcher	X	American Pipit	X	American Redstart
X	Alder Flycatcher	X	Evening Grosbeak	X	Cape May Warbler
X	Willow Flycatcher		Pine Grosbeak	X	Cerulean Warbler
X	Least Flycatcher	X	House Finch	X	Northern Parula
	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	X	Purple Finch	X	Magnolia Warbler
X	Eastern Phoebe	X	Common Redpoll	X	Bay-breasted Warbler
	Say's Phoebe		Hoary Redpoll	X	Blackburnian Warbler
	Ash-throated Flycatcher	X	Red Crossbill	X	Yellow Warbler
X	Great Crested Flycatcher	X	White-winged Crossbill	X	Chestnut-sided Warbler
	Tropical Kingbird	X	Pine Siskin	X	Blackpoll Warbler
X	Western Kingbird	X	American Goldfinch	X	Black-throated Blue Warbler
X	Eastern Kingbird	X	Lapland Longspur	X	Palm Warbler
	Loggerhead Shrike	X	Snow Bunting	X	Pine Warbler
	Northern Shrike	X	Grasshopper Sparrow	X	Yellow-rumped Warbler
X	White-eyed Vireo	X	Chipping Sparrow	X	Yellow-throated Warbler
X	Yellow-throated Vireo	X	Clay-colored Sparrow	X	Prairie Warbler
X	Blue-headed Vireo	X	Field Sparrow		Black-throated Gray Warbler
X	Philadelphia Vireo	X	Lark Sparrow	X	Black-throated Green Warbler
X	Warbling Vireo	X	American Tree Sparrow	X	Canada Warbler
X	Red-eyed Vireo	X	Fox Sparrow	X	Wilson's Warbler
X	Blue Jay	X	Dark-eyed Junco	X	Summer Tanager
X	American Crow	X	White-crowned Sparrow	X	Scarlet Tanager
X	Fish Crow		Harris's Sparrow	X	Western Tanager
X	Common Raven	X	White-throated Sparrow	X	Northern Cardinal
X	Carolina Chickadee	X	Vesper Sparrow	X	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
X	Black-capped Chickadee		Le Conte's Sparrow		Black-headed Grosbeak
X	Tufted Titmouse		Seaside Sparrow	X	Blue Grosbeak
X	Horned Lark	X	Nelson's Sparrow	X	Indigo Bunting
X	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X	Savannah Sparrow	X	Painted Bunting
X	Purple Martin		Henslow's Sparrow	X	Dickcissel
X	Tree Swallow	X	Song Sparrow		
X	Bank Swallow	X	Lincoln's Sparrow		
X	Barn Swallow	X	Swamp Sparrow		
X	Cliff Swallow	X	Eastern Towhee		
	Cave Swallow	X	Yellow-breasted Chat		
X	Golden-crowned Kinglet		Yellow-headed Blackbird		
X	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	Bobolink		
X	Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	Eastern Meadowlark		
X	White-breasted Nuthatch	X	Orchard Oriole		
X	Brown Creeper		Bullock's Oriole		
X	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	Baltimore Oriole		
X	House Wren	X	Red-winged Blackbird		
X	Winter Wren	X	Brown-headed Cowbird		
X	Sedge Wren	X	Rusty Blackbird		
X	Marsh Wren		Brewer's Blackbird		
X	Carolina Wren	X	Common Grackle		
X	European Starling	X	Ovenbird		

REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS

July 8, 2021 - Webinar: South Africa's Kruger National Park (NP)

The Big 5 at Kruger National Park in South Africa consists of elephants, cape buffalos, leopards, lions, and rhinoceros. There are also more than 600 species of birds in the park. That is more than double the number of birds in Yellowstone National Park. Josh Engel of Red Hill Birding takes tourists around Kruger NP at least a month each year to show them this wildlife. He calls Kruger NP an incredible place to visit. In this webinar presented by Wildside Nature Tours, Josh takes the viewer through a typical day's travels and explains what there is to see and do within the park's boundaries.

There are two camps in the park, Pafuri and Shindzela. Tourists travel for eight days, spending four nights at each camp. One problem is that both camps do not have any fencing around them to keep visitors separated from wildlife. This can become a problem because there are many elephants and predators roaming around these water holes looking for a drink. Guards help to protect the people by escorting them from their tents to where meals are served. Walking around in the dark without a guard by your side is not highly recommended. Animals are not the only thing hanging around the water, birds such as a Red-billed Hornbill are also common.

The day starts early for Josh's visitors. One of the main reasons is seeing the rising sun along with having great light to take pictures of animals and birds eating their breakfast. The trucks have a driver and a tracker. The tracker keeps his eyes glued to the ground looking for footprints or signs of recent activity. Getting out early also means a chance to find owls at the end of their nocturnal activity preening themselves. Also, it's also a good time to find animals such as the Honey Badger which is a rare find in Kruger. Other birds to view in the early morning are the Blue Waxbill, Golden-breasted Bunting, and the Long-billed Crombec.

After driving around for several hours, it's time to take a coffee break in some shaded area. The air is starting to warm and it's not uncommon to see around 25 species of raptors flying around. Some of these include the Martial Eagle in the rainy season and the Bateleur, a larger raptor. Another rare sight would be the Thick-billed Cuckoo which Josh had not seen until recently in South Africa. Always a favorite to see is the Oxpicker bird which hangs on the backs or heads of rhinoceros or buffalo. Josh's favorite bird in South Africa is the large black and red Southern Ground-Hornbill which is a turkey-sized predator.

After lunch at the camp, it's time to drive in the afternoon to find wildlife just coming out in the warmer air. Midday birds to see include the African Hoopoe and the Crested Barbet, two quite colorful birds. Another favorite to see is the Lilac-breasted Roller, one of the most colorful birds around. This bird seems to pose for the cameras but even looks more colorful when it takes off in flight. Lions can be seen during this time near water holes along with cape buffalo. Lions are familiar with the vehicles and tend to avoid them. Water birds around the ponds include the Malachite Kingfisher, a beautiful blue, brown, and white bird. Much larger birds are the Saddle-billed Stork and the Goliath Heron.

The last part of the trip is sundowner time, the time of the day in late afternoon when the daytime wildlife is getting ready to rest and the nighttime animals are getting ready to appear. It is also time for a drink, whatever that might be, and time to look in the distance for activity in the grassland. A leopard might also be seen if one is lucky. A great photo-op would be a Pel's Fishing Owl perched in a tree. This owl is probably the largest owl in Africa and hunts fish at night. As night falls it's time to get back to the camp for a long-awaited dinner.

September 9, 2021 - Armed with some of her favorite birds and animals, Tracie Young of Raven Ridge Wildlife Center (RRWC) entertained a small audience at the first LCBC meeting of the 2021-2022 season. There are 13 rehab centers in Pennsylvania, but RRWC is the closest at Washington Boro. Tracie's programs with the public were shut down last year due to COVID so she was glad to be able to take her crated friends to the meeting and explain their background stories on why they are at the center. Included in Tracie's presentation were an opossum named Dottie, a skunk named Monster, Teddy the Barred Owl, a Great-horned-Owl named Pharaoh, a Red-tailed Hawk named Little Dude, and Baron von Vulture, a Black Vulture.

Baron von Vulture was hit by a car when it was eating some roadkill. Tracie said vultures don't know when they will eat again so Baron, in this situation, was slow to get out of the way of the oncoming car. Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures help each other in the wild. The Turkey Vulture smells the carrion and the Black Vulture sees it. Both birds are federally protected. Monster, the skunk, can spray 10-12 feet with exact accuracy and can destroy a yellow jacket's nest. Teddy was struck by a car but is a true ambassador Tracie said. Barred Owls must focus first to hear their prey and are silent fliers. Pharaoh is the "boss of the woods" Tracie said, and this bird has fostered 25 baby Great-horned Owls at the center by teaching them how to eat, groom and get ready for life.

September 11, 2021 – Ted Nichols II led a group of some 16 birders to Middle Creek WMA and charted 65 species. Among these species were the following warblers: 4 Black-and-White, 8 Common Yellowthroat, 2 American Redstart, 9 Cape May, 1 Cerulean, 11 Northern Parula, 2 Magnolia, 1 Bay-breasted, 5 Blackburnian, 4 Chestnut-sided, 1 Blackpoll, and 3 Black-throated Green. Vireos seen were 18 Red-eyed, 1 Philadelphia, and 1 Warbling. Some other species recorded were 30 Broad-winged Hawks, 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 Common Nighthawks, 1 Chimney Swift, 1 Eastern Screech-Owl, 9 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 3 Eastern Phoebes, 3 Scarlet Tanagers, 5 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 6 Indigo Buntings.

September 12, 2021 – Fourteen participants joined Bruce A. Carl on a field trip to Pumping Station Road on SGL 156 in northern Lancaster County. The group identified 43 species on this morning walk that included 10 warbler species. Bruce said there were not many birds on this particular day but there was a good variety. A few highlights included: Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, and Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush. Some of the probable warbler migrants included Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Pine, and Canada.

September 18, 2021 – Keith Leidich and Larry Bernhardt led a small group of seven other birders to Chestnut Grove Natural Area where they spotted 44 species. Among a variety of more common sightings, the birders also discovered 2 Eastern Phoebes, 2 American Kestrels, 2 Northern Flickers, 5 Cedar Waxwings, 3 Bobolinks, 3 Indigo Buntings, 1 Virginia Rail, 1 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1 Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 Scarlet Tanager, and 1 Pileated Woodpecker.

September 19, 2021 – Approximately 2,770 Broad-winged Hawks along with another six species of raptors were observed by 11 participants at the annual Ironville Park Raptor Watch in West Hempfield Township. Led by Carl Groff, the group observed around 10:40 a.m. a river of Broad-winged Hawks flowing through the valley between the ridges and funneled into a kettle, small at the bottom and widening at the top, like a tornado Carl said. There were over 2,000 migrants in this massive kettle. Later in the day smaller kettles were seen in various locations around the park. Other raptors seen included 10 Red-tailed Hawks (all local), 7 Bald Eagles, 6 American Kestrels, 2 Ospreys, 2 Cooper’s Hawks, and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks. Twelve other species were seen which included Black-throated Blue and Black and White Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

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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