



# *Lancaster County Bird Club*

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

*Founded December 8, 1937*

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

## **Call Notes**

**SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2025**

### **President's Perch**

Leaves are starting to change, temperatures are cooling, and birds have been on the move over the past several weeks. Before long, lakes and rivers will fill with waterfowl, hedgerows will bustle with sparrows and other small birds, and our winter residents will return to take advantage of feeders and backyard havens.

We're back at the North Museum starting with our September 11 meeting and will remain there through March 2026. Each second Thursday at 7 p.m., we'll gather for engaging programs that promise to inspire and inform. I encourage you to come out, bring a friend, and enjoy a true "Night at the Museum" — bird club style! These evenings are not just about learning; they're also a chance to connect with others who share your passion.

Our club calendar is full of variety this fall and winter — from seasonal field trips to workshops, community outreach, and special birding traditions like the Christmas Bird Count. You'll find full details in this issue and online, but the diversity of opportunities highlights that there's something for everyone, no matter your level of experience. We've also enjoyed a streak of really great programs over the last few months, making our meetings even more engaging and inspiring. If you haven't been to a meeting recently, you're missing out!

One of the recent highlights for me was our Summer Picnic and Social, held on the evening of our July meeting at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. It's always a treat to spend time with fellow members in such a beautiful setting, swapping stories, making new friends, and

celebrating the spirit of our club. If you couldn't make it this year, I hope you'll mark your calendar for next summer — it's quickly becoming a favorite tradition.

I also want to extend a special thank-you to members who helped support the Bird Club's outreach efforts over the last few months. Garry Steffy, Mike Epler, and Cammy Freed assisted with our World Migratory Bird Day presence at Middle Creek on May 11, and Pauline Zimmerman, Mary Coomer, and Garry Steffy helped with the concession stand at Middle Creek's first-ever Conservation Collectibles Expo on June 28. Your contributions not only helped ensure our participation at these events ran smoothly, but also showcased our club and its mission to everyone attending.

And of course, thanks to the many trip leaders who give their time and expertise to make our field trip outings possible. Their dedication provides members and guests with experiences that deepen skills and build community. But it's your participation that makes these events truly meaningful. Attending, engaging, and supporting these leaders keeps our club thriving.

Inside this issue, you'll find details on our annual multi-night trip to Chincoteague and the Eastern Shore, taking place October 24–27 this year. Trip information was originally shared in our August monthly email blast and we have a few spots remaining. This serves as the last call for participants — anyone wishing to register must contact me by September 21, as our discounted hotel room block will expire shortly thereafter.

Your board will soon begin planning the 2026 slate of programs and outings. You'll receive the complete listing with your membership renewal at the end of December or early January, but rest assured — there's plenty to look forward to.

Enjoy the fall season, keep your binoculars handy and I hope to see you in the field or at an upcoming club event!

Ted Nichols II  
President, Lancaster County Bird Club (LCBC)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Harold B. Morrin Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted for Funding in 2026**

LCBC is pleased to offer \$1,000 scholarships to youth and adults annually to help provide financial support for educational camps, field courses, research, conservation, and educational

interpretation projects which promote or develop an interest in natural history and the environment, with a preference given to the field of ornithology.

The primary deadline to apply for funds from the Harold B. Morrin Scholarship is December 31 of each year. Decisions will be made within 30 days of the application deadline. If budgeted funds for the year are not fully dispersed through this process, the Scholarship Committee will consider applications received beyond that date on a first-come, first-serve basis. Out-of-cycle applications for remaining funds must still be endorsed by the LCBC Scholarship Committee and will also be referred to the LCBC Board of Directors for final approval.

Complete details and the application are available in the scholarship packet under the “About” menu of the club’s website or directly at: <https://lancasterbirdclub.org/about/scholarship/>

Questions? Contact our Scholarship Committee Chair and First Vice President Emily Broich at [emilybroich@gmail.com](mailto:emilybroich@gmail.com) or (717) 333-9146.

### **Elections for 2026 officers to be held at December meeting, Nominating Committee being headed by Jeff Musser**

Elections for club officers and board of directors will be held at our December 11 monthly meeting being held at 7 p.m. at the North Museum. Those elected will begin their terms in January. Club Second Vice President Jeff Musser is heading up the nominating committee again for this election. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Jeff at 717-471-2032 or [jmusser1956@gmail.com](mailto:jmusser1956@gmail.com). The slate of nominees will be presented at the meeting and nominations can also be made from the floor. A reminder that a recent bylaws change moved our terms into alignment with the calendar year, so this earlier than normal election is part of that change.

### **Last Call: Annual Members-Only Trip to Chincoteague and the Eastern Shore**

The Lancaster County Bird Club’s annual members-only trip to Chincoteague and the Eastern Shore is scheduled for October 24–27 this year. Led by Club President Ted Nichols, the trip offers two full days of birding in the Chincoteague area, with the option to stay Sunday night for extended exploration or return home that day for a shorter stay.

Highlights include two full days of birding around the Chincoteague area, with a pontoon boat excursion on top of that, as well as stops at Eastern Neck and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuges on the way down and birding at locations like Bombay Hook NWR on the return trip.

For anyone wishing to be closer to the Friday morning starting point, a group rate is available for Thursday night at a local hotel near Eastern Neck in Chestertown, Maryland, at \$127 (plus taxes).

As part of our limited hotel block, rooms in Chincoteague are available at a rate of \$132 per night (plus taxes) for two adults, including a light continental breakfast. The pontoon boat excursion will cost approximately \$40 per person paid directly to Ted.

A few spaces remain since the early August announcement of the trip. To secure your spot, you must reach out to Ted no later than September 21 by emailing [tanicholsii@gmail.com](mailto:tanicholsii@gmail.com) or texting 717-856-3851. Once confirmed, Ted will provide instructions to reserve your hotel — please do not contact the hotel directly until you receive confirmation from him.

Don't miss this popular annual trip — spots are filling quickly!

## **PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS**

### **Thursday, September 11, 2025, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Monthly Club Meeting – “Talkin’ Turkey – Wild Turkey Projects in Pennsylvania”**

Location: North Museum of Nature and Science, 400 College Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603

*Presented by Rachel Pennell, Wild Turkey Research Project Crew Leader, PA Game Commission Southeast Region*

Eastern Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) are being intensely studied in Pennsylvania. We will discuss the objectives of the hen and gobbler projects initiated by the PA Game Commission. Interactions of habitat, predators, hunter harvest, disease, and weather are being investigated. The findings will provide insight on how to better manage turkey populations region wide.

Rachel Pennell is the Wild Turkey Research Project Crew Leader for the Southeast Region of the PA Game Commission. Prior to coming to the PA Game Commission, she worked with migratory waterfowl for Winous Point Marsh Conservancy and the Cohen Wildlife Lab at Tennessee Technological University.

### **Sunday, September 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. - Ironville Park Raptor Watch**

Location: Ironville Community Park, 711-725 Prospect Rd, Columbia PA 17512

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, American 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](mailto:fledge19@verizon.net)) by 6 p.m. the day before if you have questions. Prior registration is not required.

### **Sunday, September 14, 2025, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. - Beginner Birder Trip at East Lampeter Township Community Park**

Sarah Gotwols will lead an afternoon fall migration beginner birder walk at East Lampeter Township Community Park. Celebrate the beauty of fall and the magic of migration with us on a beginner birding program at East Lampeter Township Community Park! Led by an expert from the LCBC, this walk is perfect for all ages—whether you're just getting started or want to sharpen your birding skills.

When: Sunday, September 14, 4–6 p.m.

Where: East Lampeter Township Community Park (meet at the Lions Pavilion)

Cost: Free

Register to attend: <https://eastlampetertownship.org/departments/parks/#birding>

Learn how to use binoculars, field guides, and birding apps—and keep your eyes peeled for a variety of resident and migrating birds on their fall journey. Please bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number will be available to borrow.

In case of bad weather, cancellations will be announced the day before and registered participants will be notified.

*Presented in partnership with the LCBC and East Lampeter Township Recreation.*

**Sunday, September 21, 2025, 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Pumping Station Road Field Trip**

Meeting Location: Horseshoe Trail Parking Lot at Pumping Station Road and Route 322, State Game Lands (SGL) #156, Lititz, PA (outside Brickerville)

Carl Groff will lead a field trip to Pumping Station Road outside Brickerville. Meet at 8 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 clearcut 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](mailto:fledge19@verizon.net)) by 6 p.m. the day before if you have questions or plan to attend.

**Saturday, September 27, 2025, 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Lancaster County Central Park Field Trip**

Location: Lancaster County Central Park (*Meet at Environmental Center Parking Area*), 1 Nature's Way, Lancaster, PA 17602.

**\*Note – This trip was originally scheduled for a location undergoing construction, the trip has shifted to now occur at Lancaster County Central Park.\***

John Lahr will lead a field trip to Lancaster County Central Park to look for fall migrants at this popular suburban birding location. Meet the leader at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Environmental Center. Bathrooms are available at multiple locations throughout the park. Please contact John at (717-205-3030 or [johnlahr324@gmail.com](mailto:johnlahr324@gmail.com)) by 6 p.m. on the day before if you have questions or to register for the trip.

**Thursday, October 9, 2025, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - Monthly Club Meeting – “Returning Northern Bobwhite Quail to Pennsylvania”**

Location: North Museum of Nature and Science, 400 College Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603

*Presented by Haley Keff, Quail, Pheasant and Dove Biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission*

After decades of habitat loss, wild populations of northern bobwhite were officially extirpated from Pennsylvania in 2014. Ten years later, significant progress has been made toward reestablishing quail through translocation efforts. This presentation will discuss the species' decline, the status of the restoration project, and highlight how, in collaboration with our dedicated partners, we are working to restore wild quail to the commonwealth.

Haley Keff recently completed her master's at Texas Tech University, where her research focused on bobwhite management including translocation, habitat selection, and chick survival. She is now the Quail, Pheasant, and Dove Biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission leading the state's bobwhite quail reintroduction program.

**Saturday, October 11, 2025, 6 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. - BIG SIT at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (Rain Date Oct 12)**

Location: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA 17578

Bruce Carl will conduct a “Big Sit” at Middle Creek WMA up the hill on the Conservation Trail overlooking the visitor center on Oct. 11 (rain date Oct. 12). 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 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](mailto:hrdabrd@gmail.com) if you have any questions. No registration is required.

**Saturday, October 11, 2025, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Beginner Bird Walk at Chestnut Grove**

Location: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (GCNA), 43 Chestnut Grove Rd, Conestoga, PA 17516

Sarah Gotwols will lead our final beginner birder walk of the year at Chestnut Grove Natural Area. Meet the leader at 9 a.m. at the preserve's main parking lot. This trip is for all ages and open to anyone who is new to birding. Participants can expect to learn proper use of binoculars, field guides and apps to help hone your bird watching skills. CGNA has a varied landscape that will offer songbirds, wading birds and waterfowl, woodpeckers and raptors. Please bring binoculars if you have them – we will also have a limited number of binoculars available to borrow. Contact Sarah (717-940-3804 call/text or email [sarahann71880@gmail.com](mailto:sarahann71880@gmail.com)) by 6 p.m. on Friday if you plan to attend. If necessary, weather-related cancellations will be made the day prior and registered participants will be notified.

**Sunday, October 19, 2025, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. - State Game Lands 220 Field Trip**

Location: SGL 220 Parking Lot, Near 115 Swamp Church Road, Reinhards, Pa, 17569

Derek Stoner will lead a field trip to State Game Lands (SGL) No. 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 8 a.m. at the SGL No. 220 parking lot located along Swamp Church Road just outside of Reinhards. GPS coordinates for parking lot are: 40.272869, -76.119807. No restrooms available. Contact Derek Stoner at 484-723-3348 or [derekstoner@hotmail.com](mailto:derekstoner@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, November 9, 2025, 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - Conewago Rec Trail Field Trip**

Meeting Location: Old Trolley Line Park, 475 Beverly Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Carl Groff will lead this easy walking field trip west along the trail with a stop at the Hershey Trust Wetlands overlook, and then continue west with views of open fields, woodland, and creeks. The walk will be out and back, probably a distance of 2-3 miles, depending on the wishes of the group. You may turn around at any time to go back to the parking lot. Note: You can no longer park along Rt. 743. From Lancaster take Rt. 283 west to the Elizabethtown Rt. 743 exit. Turn right onto Rt. 743 towards Hershey. Go about 1/4 mile and turn right on Beverly Road. A parking area for the Conewago Trail is on the left side of the road at Old Trolley Line Park. There is a porta-john in the parking lot. Meet Carl at 8 a.m. in the parking lot and bring water

and snacks. Contact Carl at (717-471-9969 or [fledge19@verizon.net](mailto:fledge19@verizon.net)) by 6 p.m. the day before if you have questions or would like to attend.

**Thursday, November 13, 2025, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - Monthly Club Meeting – “Finch Irruptions, Finch Feeding and The Stokes Guide to Finches of the United States and Canada”**

Location: North Museum of Nature and Science, 400 College Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603

*Presented by Matthew Young, co-lead on the Evening Grosbeak Road to Recovery Project and Founder and Board President of the Finch Research Network and co-author of “The Stokes Guide to Finches of the United States and Canada”*

From backyards to wilderness peaks, finches are some of the most exciting, mysterious, and popular group of songbirds. In this information-packed book, Lillian Stokes, best-selling author of 35 Stokes guides, and finch expert Matthew Young will introduce you to the 43 finches of the United States and Canada from feeder-favorite goldfinches to Red Crossbill tribes, to least known mountain-top Black Rosy-Finches to endangered Hawaiian honeycreepers. *The Stokes Guide to Finches of the United States and Canada* will also be profiled and was recently published. It covers detailed finch identification, language, behavior, irruptions, specialized maps and foraging charts on crossbills, how to conserve finches and much more. Infused throughout with quotes from the creative Quick Take chapter intros, filled with interesting facts, scientific knowledge, and stunning photos, this book will leave you understanding so much more about the finches you thought you knew.

Matthew Young is a co-lead on the Evening Grosbeak Road to Recovery Project in addition to being the Founder and Board President of the Finch Research Network. Matthew worked in the field of social work with special needs populations at the William George Agency for 12+ years and is currently a Wild Bird Products Specialist and Conservation Coordinator for Aspen Song Wild Bird Food. Additionally, Matthew worked at the Cornell Lab for 15 years where he worked on Golden-winged Warblers, Voices of Hawaii's Birds, Merlin Bird ID, and was Project Lead on the Lab's first Irruptive Finch Survey in 1999. Widely known as a preeminent authority on finches of North America, he has written finch species accounts for breeding bird atlases, Birds of the World accounts, and published several papers on finches and the Red Crossbill vocal complex.

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. - Special Program: It's the most wonderful time of the year — Christmas Bird Count Season!**

Location: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA 17578

Join Ted Nichols, president of the LCBC, to explore the fascinating history of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), the world's longest-running citizen science survey, which began in 1900 as a new tradition to replace Christmas "side hunts," where participants competed to see how many birds they could kill. This year marks the 126th CBC, and the Lititz Christmas Bird Count—covering Middle Creek and the surrounding area—is one of the oldest in the nation, dating back to 1905, even before Middle Creek existed. Discover how this cherished event brings bird enthusiasts together to celebrate conservation and community. Learn about the CBC's origins, its influence on birding in Lancaster County and beyond, and how bird occurrences in this area have evolved dramatically since the first count was conducted. This special lecture will be held inside the visitor center at Middle Creek! Note: *A field trip will complement this lecture and be held on Dec. 27 at 10:30 a.m. Meet at the visitor center, check out our events calendar entry for full details on that offering!*

Speaker Bio: Ted Nichols II has been the compiler for the Lititz Christmas Bird Count since 2017 and, since 2022, president of the Lancaster County Bird Club, a local 400+ member nonprofit organization promoting birding and conservation. A public affairs professional with nearly 20 years of federal government experience, he currently works as a civilian at Naval Supply Systems Command in Mechanicsburg and recently retired from the military after 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Ted also previously led the Astronomical Society of Harrisburg and founded the Cherry Springs Star Party back in 2004.

**Thursday, December 11, 2025, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - Monthly Club Meeting – “Ornithology Research Update: Forest Birds”**

Location: North Museum of Nature and Science, 400 College Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603

*Presented by Dr. Jeff Larkin and his graduate students Colin Lynch and Nick Logan*

Dr. Jeff Larkin, biology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and American Bird Conservancy Forest Bird Advisor, will introduce two of his graduate students who will report on their master's level research on ovenbirds and whip-poor-wills. The research findings they will share are part of a long-term ongoing effort to better understand the factors that affect the occupancy and abundance of at-risk species and diverse eastern forest bird communities in

general. Colin Lynch is studying the effects of forest structure on ovenbird abundance using LiDAR data. Nick Logan is using autonomous recording units and a machine learned classifier to studying the relationship between whip-poor-will abundance and time since prescribed fire.

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 - Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count (SoLanCo CBC)**

Derek Stoner is the coordinator for the SoLanCo CBC. Contact Derek at (484) 723-3348 or [derekstoner@hotmail.com](mailto:derekstoner@hotmail.com) to volunteer and receive instructions and assignments. All birders are welcome and newcomers will be paired with experienced CBC volunteers. Birders are also welcome to do a feeder watch count for the CBC, but you must contact Derek to make sure your property is within the SoLanCo count circle and to receive instructions.

**Saturday, December 20, 2025, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. - CBC4KIDS (and Adults) – Lancaster Central Park**

Location: Lancaster County Central Park (*Meet at Environmental Center Parking Area*) 1 Nature's Way, Lancaster, PA 17602.

A special event with Lancaster County Parks, John Lahr is coordinator of this CBC4KIDS (and adults) which is 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 and help provide mentorship. Please contact John (717-205-3030 or [johnlahr324@gmail.com](mailto:johnlahr324@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or want to join the group.

**Sunday, December 21, 2025 - Lancaster Christmas Bird Count**

All birders are welcome and newcomers will be paired with experienced CBC volunteers.

Barbara Hunsberger ([phunsberger@comcast.net](mailto:phunsberger@comcast.net)) is the coordinator for the Lancaster CBC and Roger Stoner schedules the volunteers. Call Roger at (717) 393-9030 to receive instructions and assignments. Birders are also welcome to do a feeder watch count for the CBC, but you must contact Roger to make sure your property is within the Lancaster count circle and to receive instructions.

**Saturday, December 27, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Middle Creek Winter Bird Walk**

Location: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA 17578

Join LCBC for a field-based complement to our Dec. 10 lecture on the Christmas Bird Count. This field trip offers a hands-on birding experience that will allow participants to explore Middle Creek's winter landscape and observe the season's local bird species while gaining insight into the process of counting birds for the CBC. Whether you're a seasoned birder or new to birding and CBCs, this outing offers a unique opportunity to connect with nature and learn how birding data is collected in the field each year for this citizen-science survey. No pre-registration is necessary for this trip.

Contact: Ted Nichols, 717-856-3851 or [tanicholsii@gmail.com](mailto:tanicholsii@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** *The lecture associated with this field trip will be held on Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Middle Creek. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend both events, but attendance at both events is not required.*

**Sunday, December 28, 2025 - Lititz Christmas Bird Count**

All birders are welcome and newcomers will be paired with experienced CBC volunteers.

Ted Nichols II is the coordinator for the Lititz CBC. Contact Ted at (717) 856-3851 or [tanicholsii@gmail.com](mailto:tanicholsii@gmail.com) to volunteer and receive instructions and assignments. Birders are also welcome to do a feeder watch count for the CBC, but you must contact Ted to make sure your property is within the Lititz count circle and to receive instructions.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS BY NINA WOLF**

The LCBC would like to welcome the following new members who joined during April to August. Please help them feel welcome!

As of August 31, 2025, we have 402 members.

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

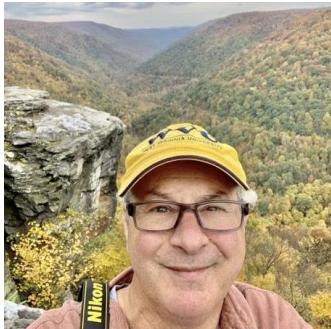
Albert & Virginia Alley – Lebanon  
Bonnie Berkoski – Harrisburg  
Jill, Silas & Charlise Jared – Ephrata  
Karen Gee – White Haven  
Michelle Joyce – Hershey  
John Long – Lititz  
Misty Matesig – Denver  
Patrick Murphy – Lititz

Mark Mummert – Millersville  
Pale Nale – Gilbert  
Nick Schaefer & Andrea Nale – Landisville  
Mary Schultz – Drumore  
Benjamin Snyder – Lancaster  
Debra Spurgeon – Lititz  
Laurie Truluck – Lancaster  
Darlene Walker – Lancaster



**Larry Snyder**, June 1, 1940 – July 24, 2024, was a long-time member of the LCBC. His son, Ben Snyder, who joined the club in honor of his father, sent the following message: Our family spent many weekends watching the birds at Middle Creek WMA, aka The Project. He loved wild birds and birdwatching as well as nature. Our yard was always busy with bird feeders. Ned Smith days in Millersburg were one of his favorite events and he enjoyed LCBC meetings for many years.

The club extends its sincere condolences to Larry's family.



### **Remembering Ad Crable**

The birds — and outdoors — have lost a friend in conservation. We are saddened by news of the recent loss of Ad Crable — a 42+ year journalist and fellow LCBC member — at the age of 72 on Aug. 28, 2025. We will miss the eloquence and charisma he possessed in sharing his love of the outdoors with the masses. Our sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

All who had the privilege of knowing him — or even simply reading his works — are richer for it.

His obituary can be found at: <https://www.snyderfuneralhome.com/obituary/ad-a-crable-iii/>

His last article — published on Aug. 10 — on emerging technology transforming our understanding of the movements of small birds and other flying wildlife as dainty as bats, butterflies and dragonflies was penned after attending our April meeting and is available at: [https://lancasteronline.com/sports/outdoors/middle-creek-hosts-rare-antenna-to-track-migrating-birds-bats-insects-in-real-time/article\\_f8d1ed5e-74cd-465a-af99-8097182910eb.html](https://lancasteronline.com/sports/outdoors/middle-creek-hosts-rare-antenna-to-track-migrating-birds-bats-insects-in-real-time/article_f8d1ed5e-74cd-465a-af99-8097182910eb.html)

### **SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

#### **Sustaining Members:**

Bruce Carl  
Kylee Carlson  
Leonard Eiserer  
John Long

Andrew Mack  
Joe Meloney  
Glenn Shaffer  
Darlene Walker

#### **General Club Support:**

William A. Earhart  
Leonard Eiserer  
Sarah Gotwols  
Alex & Molly Henderson

Arnold & Sandy Offner  
Nick Schaefer & Andrea Nale  
Jerry Stine  
Darlene Walker

**Bird Seed Donations:** Tim Trussel

**In Memory of Nancy Hudson:**

Robert Hudson

**In Memory of Larry Snyder:**

Benjamin Snyder

Donation in lieu of speaker fee for Sarah Gotwol's talk: Cristine Maser, Hempfield Rec Center

2025 Migratory Bird Day Book Sale brought in \$598

### **MEMBERS' ADVENTURES & ACTIVITIES**

Please send trip reports and pictures to Carol Feister ([cjfeister@comcast.net](mailto:cjfeister@comcast.net)). Our next newsletter comes out in early January. Please submit items by December 28, 2025. **Birders who travel, please consider sending in a report!**

**“Quarterly Compiler for Lancaster County Bird Observations Needed for Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology and Pennsylvania Birds Journal — Reports also printed in LCBC Newsletter”**

**From Zach Millen:** All, I am looking for someone to take over the role of writing quarterly compilations of bird sightings in Lancaster. This is primarily for the PSO journal, but it is also published in the LCBC newsletter. Most of the information comes from eBird. Life has simply become too busy for me to keep up with it. If you are interested, please contact me at [zjmillen@proton.me](mailto:zjmillen@proton.me) or 717-723-1279.

## **REVIEW OF COMPLETED EVENTS**

**April 12, 2025 – Safe Harbor Park Field Trip.** Kim Morelock ran this field trip. We had a light rain the entire morning but managed to get 50 species!! I had seven people with me. Highlights were a good number of Yellow-throated Warblers, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

**April 14, 2025 – Shenk’s Ferry.** A group of 12, led by Nina and Warren Wolf, met first at Conestoga River Park in cool 43 degrees and misty rain. We typically start here in hopes of finding the striking Yellow-throated Warblers and they did not disappoint as we saw two of these early warblers. We also were treated to several Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers as well as one Pine Warbler. We had both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. A special treat was three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, two seen together, while we were just getting started in the parking area. We totaled 42 species before leaving the park and getting to Shenk’s Ferry by about 9 a.m. where the weather had improved with sun and temps in the 50s. Wildflowers like the Bluebells the park is known for were in their prime. Showy Orchis leaves were up but not yet in bloom and one “Stinking Benjamin,” nearing bloom, was still stunning. Twenty-four species were observed on this walk; we heard two distinct Louisiana Waterthrushes but only Nelson Yoder was lucky enough to get a good look at one.

**April 19, 2025 – Safe Harbor and Chestnut Grove.** Carl Groff led 11 participants on this field trip, including his father. The weather was sunny and cool in the 60s with light and variable wind. We had a nice morning with a total of 42 species spotted. We got good looks at Yellow-throated Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

At Chestnut Grove, the group saw a few raptors – Coopers Hawk, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, and Bald Eagle, among other species.

**May 3, 2025 – Pumping Station Road Warbler Walk.** Carl Groff led 13 participants on this sunny, calm day with temperatures in the low 60s. Warblers were not numerous, but we did see 8 species. Black-and-white Warblers were the most numerous. The most unusual sighting was a Canada Goose way up on top of a dead oak snag, sixty feet up in the air. A total of 47 species were observed.

**May 3, 2025 – Chickies Rock County Park Warbler Walk.** The leaders of this warbler walk were Derek Stoner, Meredith Lombard and Roger Stoner. There were eight participants including the leaders. The weather was partly cloudy and 70 degrees. This outing started well with a Wild Turkey feeding along the road to the Breezie View parking lot. However, it was a slow day for warblers with only 13 total warblers of seven species seen. Everyone had a long

clear view of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Other good birds were a Scarlet Tanager, Swainson's Thrush and Wood Thrushes. A total of 55 species were observed among 449 total birds.

**May 3, 2025 – Middle Creek WMA Warbler Walk.** Doug Anderson had 10 participants on this warbler walk where 67 total species were observed, this included seven warbler species. The best birds seen were Yellow-breasted Chat and Worm-eating Warbler.

**May 4, 2025 – Northwest River Trail.** There were only three of us (Nina and Warren Wolf and one participant) for this walk but we toughed it out in damp conditions with more rain coming. We easily found a very, very vocal Prothonotary Warbler and had great looks at it; other warbler species included Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler. We had several Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Indigo Buntings as well. Walking back to the cars we had two more Prothonotary Warblers singing around us as well as a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Over three dozen species for the walk. As we finished up, the expected rain arrived right on queue.

**May 10, 2025 – Muddy Run Recreational Park.** Larry Bernhardt led a field trip to Muddy Run Recreational Park on May 10. It was attended by seven members from the LCBC on a beautiful morning. We crossed the causeway and climbed up the relatively steep slope to the open field between two tree lines. We traveled 2.8 miles over 3 hours and 10 minutes viewing 44 species which included 8 warblers, with the Wilson Warbler being the least common.

#### **May 10, 2925 – World Migratory Bird Day.**



Participants gather for a group photo following one of the bird walks that LCBC hosted as part of World Migratory Bird Day activities held at Middle Creek on May 10. The club also hosted a book sale with a variety of birding books available for a donation to the club and had a table at the event with information on the club.

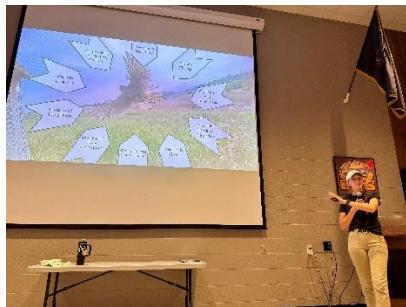
**May 11, 2025 – Millport Conservancy.** Doug Anderson had eleven participants on this field trip and they observed 43 species.

**May 17, 2025 – Susquehannock State Park.** Tom Amico and Larry Bernhardt led a field trip to Susquehannock State Park on May 17. There were five attending who met at the Susquehanna River overlook. The morning started out somewhat overcast, but it turned into a nice mildly hot

sunny day. From the overlook, we walked back towards the entrance and through the fields on the return trip. We saw or heard six species of warblers including a Kentucky Warbler. We were thrilled to see an immature Mississippi Kite that was first sighted by Michelle Joyce with Josh Schulz and others in the group confirming its identification. It was soaring high over the open area and was viewed for 20 plus seconds. What a bird to see towards the end of the field trip!

**May 18, 2025 – Birding in Juniata County.** This trip was cancelled.

**June 12, 2025 – Club Meeting.**



Mercy Melo from the Game Commission gives a talk on American Kestrels at LCBC's June 12 meeting held at Middle Creek.

**June 14 – 19, 2025 – Trip to Maine.** LCBC returned to Maine for a second year in a row June 14-19, 2025. The trip which filled up 10 minutes after announcing it at our January meeting was once again guided by PA native Seth Benz who served as Senior Bird Engagement Specialist for the Schoodic Institute at Acadia. This year's trip focused on the Big Woods of Maine around Mount Katahdin and Baxter State Park. We also spent one evening on the coast to allow for another Puffin cruise to Petit Manan. Ten members of the club traveled up together by van for the trip and we were joined by another club member who was in the area for a few days of the trip. 116 species were observed in total on the trip. A full eBird trip report for the trip is available at: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/385025>.



**June 22, 2025 – Ferncliff Preserve & Bald Eagle Road Field Trip.** This trip was cancelled due to the trip leader's illness.

**June 28, 2025 – Middle Creek's Conservation Collectibles Expo.**



Ted Nichols and Pauline Zimmerman pose for a quick photo prior to the club's concession stand opening to support Middle Creek's first-ever Conservation Collectibles Expo held there on June 28. Club members Mary Coomer and Garry Steffy also assisted with the fundraiser.

**July 12, 2025 – Conoy Wetlands and Falmouth Forest Garden.** Fifteen attendees walked the Northwest River Trail from Prescot Rd to the Falmouth Forest Garden. Thirty-one species were seen. The highlights included an abundance of Northern Cardinals (40), active Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Great Crested Flycatcher along the trail, with Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants out on the river. No Prothonotary Warblers were seen or heard, however Mike Epler reports that there were several active nests at the Conoy Wetlands bird blind this season.

**July 17, 2025 – Barn Owl Banding at Middle Creek WMA.** Following LCBC's July meeting where Jon Kauffman from Penn State's Shaver's Creek Environmental Center presented a captivating program called "Life in a Nestbox," the Game Commission hosted members from LCBC and Quittapahilla Audubon Society for a special barn owl banding at Middle Creek on July 17. Many thanks to PGC's Dan Mummert and Laura Richmond for working with us to put this special event together.



**August 9, 2025 – Clark Nature Preserve.** Ten people were present, a few were first time attendees to a bird club event. We walked the Universal Accessible Trail and saw in total forty species during the time on site. Highlights included a family of Red-bellied Woodpeckers that was very active foraging and calling; a Willow Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Baltimore Oriole - all of which were life list birds for a few folks; and a close-up observation of a first year Red-eyed Vireo with a large caterpillar in its beak that perched and was calling for the adult bird only a few feet away for several minutes. We also hiked out Goodno Trail to House Rock Overlook for raptors and other birds soaring over the river. Only a few vultures were seen.

**August 14, 2025 – Club Meeting.**



Mike Moore, from Delaware, presents his “Unconfusing Fall Warblers” talk to a packed house at LCBC’s August meeting.

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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