



THE DRUMMER

www.senecarocksaudubon.org



November/December 2021

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The McGuires credit native plants and a small water feature with bringing migrants such as this Bay-breasted Warbler to their yard.

Bird-Friendly Habitat Program

by Alice Thureau

Bit by bit, yard by yard. That's how the Bird-Friendly Habitat program plans to bring back healthy habitat for birds. It's a program promoted by Audubon chapters across the state, and now also promoted by our own chapter.

Birds need food, water, shelter, and nesting sites. With planning, you can provide all of those elements in your outdoor space, no matter what the size. For instance, include a bird seed feeder and native berry shrub for

food, a bird bath or downspout pool for water, a small brush pile or native grass for shelter, and a native tree or nest box for nesting.

Native plants are a critical ingredient for restoring bird habitat. Native plants (including flowers, shrubs, trees, vines, grasses, ferns, mosses) are plants that existed in our region before European settlers arrived. The colorful charts on page 3 list just some of the many attractive plants that are native to Pennsylvania.

Like us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/SenecaRocksAudubon>



Owl Prowl

Mal Hays will again be leading our Owl Prowl on November 10. Meet at 6 pm at Roberts Hill Road, the State Gamelands parking lot off of Rt. 208 between Shippensburg and Knox. The rain date is November 11. You can contact Mal for more information.

Native plants provide great shelter and nesting areas for birds. They also provide food to the birds via the insects they attract, high energy berries, seeds, and nuts. Insects and especially caterpillars are important during nesting as 96% of land birds feed insects to their babies. Caterpillars are the perfect baby bird food as they're soft and high in protein. Ninety percent of the caterpillar species need specific native plants for their own food. This shows how intricately the food web is woven and how native plants are truly the foundation.

Many of our SRAS members already provide all the features for a healthy bird habitat, including native plants, on their properties. If you are one who does, please visit pa.audubon.org/habitat and complete the Bird-Friendly Habitat application to be officially recognized as a Bird-Friendly Habitat. For a fee of \$25, you will receive a colorful aluminum yard sign that will celebrate your efforts and hopefully inspire conversations with your neighbors and passersby.

For those of you who are interested in improving your yard to sustain and attract more birds, there is lots of helpful guidance at that same website listed above. You'll find informative articles, a native plant data base (to help you select the right plants), and even sample garden designs. The Bird-Friendly Habitat application also provides guidance for what basic elements are needed to qualify.

Finally, if you need inspiration, click the link below to watch a one-minute animated video that summarizes the need for more bird-friendly habitat and how all of us can help create a better world for the birds. <https://youtu.be/ECbma7Yj4io>

Bird-Friendly Habitat Committee Forming

Alice Thureau & Deb Freed

The Bird-Friendly Habitat program is a way to promote healthy habitat for birds, and perhaps attract more members to our Seneca Rocks Audubon flock. We could use your help to spread the program to the communities in our area. The more we spread the word and inspire others to create a bird-friendly habitat in their own back yards, the more we can help the birds that we dearly love.

If you're interested in being on our Bird-Friendly Habitat committee or even if you just have some ideas or helpful contacts, please contact Deb Freed (dfreed208@comcast.net) or Alice Thureau (althureau@gmail.com). We thank you!

The *Drummer* is the newsletter of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (SRAS), PO Box 148, Clarion, PA 16214. SRAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The *Drummer* is published 4 times per year – September, November, March and May.

The *Drummer* is available on our website in Adobe pdf and may be read or downloaded from the site — www.senecarocksaudubon.org.





Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc., to Editor Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353 (814 755-3672) or email at fmcguire1@verizon.net.



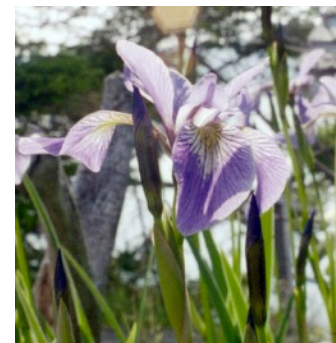


Bird-Friendly Blooms

Whether you grow your blooms in containers, window boxes, a yard, or a traditional garden, consider adding natives to your home this season. Native plants, shrubs, and trees look beautiful **AND** provide critical habitat to birds, bees, butterflies, and more. Plus, they require less water and fertilizer, saving you time and money! Find more native plant ideas at pa.audubon.org/bfc.

Want to...	Plant these natives!
... welcome more songbirds?  Blend grasses, shrubs, and trees for healthy habitat.	American Beautyberry Birch (black, paper, river) Cherry (black, chokecherry, pin) Common Winterberry Dogwood (pagoda, gray, silky, red osier) Little Blue Stem Pennsylvania Sedge Serviceberry (common, Canadian)
...see more butterflies?  Opt for plants that host caterpillars of native butterflies!	Black Willow Blueberry (highbush, lowbush) Joe-Pye Weed Maple (sugar, red) Milkweed (common, swamp) Oak (white, black, red, scarlet, pin, chestnut, swamp white) Spicebush Viburnum (cranberry, arrowwood)
... attract more hummingbirds?  Add nectar-bearing plants to your garden!	Blue Flag Iris Cardinal Flower Coral Honeysuckle Eastern Red Columbine Great Blue Lobelia Pink Azalea Trumpet Creeper Turtlehead (white, pink) Witch Hazel
...support more pollinators?  Think flowering plants!	Aromatic Aster Bee Balm Black-eyed Susan Blazing Star (dense gayfeather) Coreopsis Goldenrod Hyssop (anise, yellow) Purple Coneflower Wild Geranium

Some Natives:
Black tupelo,
Monarch on
Ironweed, and
Blue Flag Iris.




The 2021 Birdy Dozen

Birds and insects need native plants! For many, native plants provide essential food they can't get from other types of plants. Have a positive impact on your local landscape by adding one or more to your garden this year. **The birds will thank you!**

Flowering Plants		
 Milkweed (Common, Swamp, Butterfly) <i>(Asclepias spp.)</i>	 Goldenrod <i>(Solidago spp.)</i>	 Foamflower <i>(Tiarella cordifolia)</i>
 Mountain Mint <i>(Pycnanthemum muticum)</i>	 Cardinal Flower <i>(Lobelia cardinalis)</i>	 Eastern Red Columbine <i>(Aquilegia canadensis)</i>
Shrubs		
 Lowbush Blueberry <i>(Vaccinium angustifolium)</i>	 Summersweet <i>(Clethra alnifolia)</i>	 Black Chokeberry <i>(Aronia melanocarpa)</i>
Trees		
 White Oak <i>(Quercus alba)</i>	 Flowering Dogwood <i>(Cornus florida)</i>	 Black Tupelo (Black Gum) <i>(Nyssa sylvatica)</i>

Learn more about Audubon's **Bird-Friendly Communities**, see the 2020 Birdy Dozen and discover how to register your property in our Bird-Friendly Habitat recognition program at pa.audubon.org/bfc.

2021 Millcreek Watershed Bird Survey

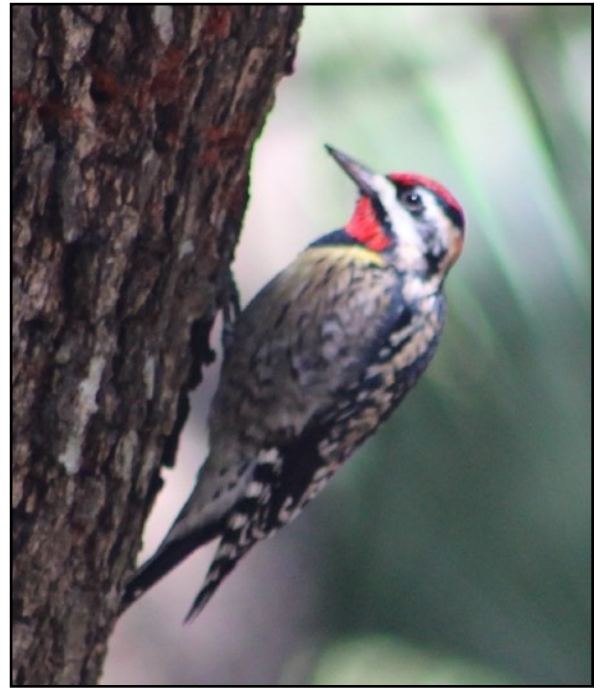
by Mal Hays

Participants in this survey were Paulette Colantonio, Larry Towse, and Malcolm Hays. The survey began on May 11th and concluded on June 12th, totaling 14 hours of observation time. All of Millcreek located in Clarion County from the Jefferson County line to the mouth of Millcreek where it enters the Clarion River was covered. Also, parts of a few tributaries that flow into Millcreek were surveyed.

We ended with a total of 78 species of birds, some of which were habitat specific. Hopefully, this survey can be done again in a few years.

The following species were identified:

1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. Common Merganser
4. Wild Turkey
5. Ruffed Grouse
6. Mourning Dove
7. Yellow-billed Cuckoo
8. Chimney Swift
9. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
10. Great Blue Heron
11. Green Heron
12. Turkey Vulture
13. Broad-winged Hawk
14. Red-tailed Hawk
15. Great Horned Owl
16. Belted Kingfisher
17. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
18. Red-bellied Woodpecker
19. Downy Woodpecker
20. Hairy Woodpecker
21. Pileated Woodpecker
22. Northern Flicker
23. Eastern Wood-pewee



A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was one of the species found on the survey.

24. Acadian Flycatcher
25. Least Flycatcher
26. Eastern Phoebe
27. Great Crested Flycatcher
28. Blue-headed Vireo
29. Warbling Vireo
30. Red-eyed Vireo
31. Blue Jay
32. American Crow
33. Common Raven
34. Black-capped Chickadee
35. Tufted Titmouse
36. Northern Rough-winged Swallow
37. Tree Swallow
38. Golden-crowned Kinglet
39. Red-breasted Nuthatch
40. White-breasted Nuthatch
41. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
42. House Wren

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 43. Winter Wren | 61. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 44. Carolina Wren | 62. Common Grackle |
| 45. European Starling | 63. Ovenbird |
| 46. Gray Catbird | 64. Worm-eating Warbler |
| 47. Brown Thrasher | 65. Black-and-white Warbler |
| 48. Eastern Bluebird | 66. Common Yellowthroat |
| 49. Veery | 67. Hooded Warbler |
| 50. Hermit Thrush | 68. Cerulean Warbler |
| 51. Wood Thrush | 69. Magnolia Warbler |
| 52. American Robin | 70. Blackburnian Warbler |
| 53. Cedar Waxwing | 71. Yellow Warbler |
| 54. American Goldfinch | 72. Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 55. Chipping Sparrow | 73. Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| 56. Field Sparrow | 74. Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 57. Dark-eyed Junco | 75. Scarlet Tanager |
| 58. Song Sparrow | 76. Northern Cardinal |
| 59. Eastern Towhee | 77. Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 60. Baltimore Oriole | 78. Indigo Bunting |

Audubon Mid-Atlantic Chapter Chatter

As you may be aware, National Audubon has reorganized, and our chapter is now part of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, which has published a timely newsletter. The *Chapter Chatter* features our two closest Pennsylvania Hawkwatches—Presque Isle and Allegheny Front, and also has links to a Hawkwatch feature in the Audubon magazine. [Click here to read the October issue.](#)

From the Chapter Chatter:

Remember to save the dates for the 2021 Audubon Mid-Atlantic Virtual Chapter Gathering on Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20. We'll gather on Friday evening to hear from Mid-Atlantic staff on program highlights and updates. And on Saturday, we have a full day of speakers and discussion sessions. We plan to offer four tracks based on the priorities that you shared through your survey responses and our leadership call discussion: Conservation & Habitat; Chapter Challenges & Management; Public Outreach & Engagement; Advocacy.

Sign up today and stay tuned over the next few weeks for a full agenda as presenters and sessions are confirmed. [***Click here to sign up!***](#)

Homecoming Gray Catbird

by Meg Kolodick

Is it whimsical to think that birds can migrate south, and yet find their way back to the very same yard next spring?

I like to think this is so. Last autumn, I dropped a few dried mealworms into a red metal bucket hanging by our little water feature, that had held a marigold all summer, in case a migrating warbler might care to sample them. None did, but the Gray Catbird, which hadn't left yet, found them, and began looking in the bucket every day, mewing its displeasure if it was empty. Needless to say, it had me trained to wait on it.



The star of the story, Gray Catbird by Meg Kolodick.

Early the next May, I heard that familiar Gray Catbird song, and quickly sprinkled dried mealworms in the bucket. Could it be the very same bird? To my delight, the bird went straight for the bucket. It brought its mate, and eventually, all three of its fledglings. I'll be waiting to see if any of them return next spring, proving my theory.

Saturday, October 30 at 7:00 pm - **'Cathedral by Candlelight'** Want to experience something different this year for Halloween instead of the standard "trick-or-treaters"? Walk back in time with us into the depths of the Forest Cathedral with an historical character from the past. Come view the ancient forest as we walk beneath the giants by candlelight. Either a French Marine from the 1750s who saw these massive trees 250 years ago, or a lumberman from the 1800s will be there to guide us. Bring your flashlights! (2 hrs)



2021 CLARION COUNTY COMMON NIGHTHAWK MIGRATION COUNT

by Mal Hayes

This was our fifth annual count at the Millcreek boat launch on the Clarion river. We started our count on August 14th, and ended on September 7th, counting each night, with three rain out dates—Aug. 16, Aug. 28, and Aug. 29. The 28th and 29th I am sure affected our total because they preceded our 2 largest day counts of 75 birds on the 30th and 62 birds on the 31st. Our total count for the year was 329 birds—our lowest number in the five years we have been doing the count.



Not the greatest photo, but it illustrates how high the Common Nighthawks usually fly! They keep Mal and Larry on their toes! Photo by Flo McGuire

We start each night two hours before sunset and count till dark, breaking it down into four 30 minute quarters. This year in the first quarter 51 birds (15.5%), second quarter 121 birds (37%), third quarter 109 birds (33%), fourth quarter 48 birds (14.5%). Our

five year total 2017-2021 is 2560, 1st quarter 685 birds (27%), 2nd quarter 695 birds (27%), 3rd quarter 864 birds (34%), 4th quarter 316 birds (12%).

We had 21 different people participate as watchers this year, our highest number in our five years. Even though our number of birds has declined over the last 2 years our watchers have increased each year. This makes for a more enjoyable watch, the more eyes the better and makes for more fun watching. Some of the other species we heard or saw during our watch were: Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Merlin, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Raven, Cooper's Hawk, Osprey, and Broad-Winged Hawk.

Thanks to everyone who participated this year—looking forward to 2022.

Oil City Common Nighthawk Watch

by Gary Edwards



*The Intrepid Watchers on the River in the rain.
expectantly watching for migratory night hawks.
As Gary says, "Timing is Everything".
Photo by Dennis Beaver.*

The 18th annual Common Nighthawk Migration Count at the Oil City Marina (Aug 15-Sep 17) was disappointing from a nighthawk perspective with just 369 birds counted, our third lowest total and well below our average of 645. The disappointment was more than made up for by the Magnificent Frigatebird that flew directly over the Marina on September 5 and was well observed by five of us (Dennis Beaver, Meg & Nick Kolodick, Jim Wilson were the others). The next day a Frigatebird was reported from Ohio, just south of Cleveland. The remnants of Hurricane Ida passed through eastern PA on

the 5th and undoubtedly provided the impetus for the Frigatebird being blown in our direction.

We've had other "hurricane birds" over the years, two Black-capped Petrels were found following Hurricane Hugo on September 23, 1989, one at the Oil Creek State Park office and one in Franklin. A Pomarine Jaeger and a Laughing Gull were seen at Kahle Lake during Hurricane Isabel on September 19, 2003 by a group of us including Paul Hess and a contingent from Allegheny County.

Also seen at the Nighthawk Watch was a Merlin on August 16, 18, & 19. It was the fourth year in the last five that a Merlin has made at least one appearance.

For the Birds

by Paulette Colantonio



On October 4th, Alice Thureau and Paulette Colantonio presented a program entitled "For the Birds" to the Clarion Rotary Club. Paulette was contacted by a Rotary member to discuss the illness affecting songbirds in our area this past summer. The presentation included information on this mysterious disease and the 12

species involved, along with a discussion of the dwindling bird populations in North America in the last 50 years, what birds do for humans and why we should care, and how to create bird oases in our own neighborhoods using the Pennsylvania Audubon Society's Bird-Friendly Habitat material. Following the program there was a question-and-answer session for attendees seeking additional information on the various topics included.

Owl Box Report

by Mal Hays

Maintenance has been done on all the owl boxes, new chips installed where needed, all set for the coming breeding season. No owl activity in any of the boxes, which tells me the owls are not using them during the warm weather months. One interesting discovery though, was box 33 had a nest in it. About two inches of pine needles and soft grass was on top of the wood chips. Mixed into the nesting material were snake skins, rabbit fur and grouse feathers. My thought is a Great Crested Flycatcher. I saved the nest for anyone to see. Gary and I had an Opossum in one of the boxes in Oil Creek State Park.

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in our Bird Seed Sale, and to J&J Feeds for their friendly cooperation.



Clarion County Summer 2021 Bird Sightings

by Carole Winslow

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Beaver Creek Nature Area (BC), Clarion (CL), Cook Forest (CF), Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Sarah Furnace (SF).



One Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported—a species typically found farther north, photo by Meg Kolodick

Ruffed Grouse continue to be reported sparsely and this season is no exception with a single bird seen at MZ 6/18 (ME, LS) and 6/20 (GK, MK). One was also found near Snyderburg 7/11 (ES). In Strattanville, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was first reported 6/12 (R&TGS), providing what is the first county record for this species. It was seen throughout June and last noted 7/16 (m.ob.). This location is in town with the bird frequenting a bird feeder and yard area, as well as heard singing in nearby trees and on rooftops. Only a single sighting of **Common Nighthawk** was

submitted, with a bird heard calling at night near the CL mall area 7/17 (ES). For the first time, no reports of **Upland Sandpiper** were had from MA, their normal stronghold, as land use changes there have decreased the available habitat. The only sighting was a single bird at MZ 6/6 (BD, EL).

Sanderlings are not often reported, so a single bird at KL was worthy of note, already headed south in migration 7/26 (BK). **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted with more frequency at the end of the season, as birds start to begin migration. In the south, one was at NB 7/17 (J&AK), and one nearby at



Spotted Sandpiper, photo by Meg Kolodick

Leatherwood 7/23 (BR). Three were also found along the river at CF and 4 nearby at Gravel Lick 7/25 (ES).

Northern Harriers were noted in just four locations. A male was seen near Callensburg 6/4 (MH), and then one near West Freedom 6/15 (MC). At MZ, a bird was present 6/5 (m.ob.), and then seen on four other occasions between 6/15-6/22 (MHi, RH, TR, MS, SS, et al.). A single bird was also seen at MA 6/23 (KD, BG, DK, KS, KSt). **Bald Eagles** are not nearly as unusual as in past years, but a nesting area with no recent reporting was found with 2 adults and one young bird near the nest along the Clarion River near CF 7/25 (ES). A **Great Horned Owl** was seen near CV on the morning of 6/20, near where fledgling **Eastern Screech-Owls** had been active at dusk and dawn. Blood and feathers consistent with a young screech-owl were found nearby, and several days later one young owl was seen with a wound to its wing. (CW). **Barred Owls** are present in the county but infrequently reported, and just one sighting was noted, that of a bird seen perched near Fryburg 6/5 (ES).

There were two sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, the least reported woodpecker by far. The first was one seen in a Fryburg yard 6/6 (PC), and the second seen near Wolfs Corners 6/17 (JHo, SB). **American Kestrels** are present in small numbers but they benefit from assistance with nesting cavities, and a pair near Lickingville took advantage of a new box placed in open farm fields, where 4 eggs were found 6/6 (ES). **Merlins** continue to show a presence during breeding months but nesting is still not confirmed. A pair was seen calling and active in an area of CL with many tall spruce and pine 6/12 and 6/19 (ES), and also reported by another observer in the area on several occasions (TS).

Alder Flycatchers were found in two locations, and all were likely still migrants on their way north. One was calling near MZ 6/5 (GK, MK) and also found there 6/16 (MS, SS). A bird was also found singing at BC 6/16 (MS, SS). **Least Flycatchers** are present mostly in northern *Clarion*, but one was found at MA 6/5 (DB). Only one **White-eyed Vireo** was reported, singing on the AT near East Brady 7/20 (CW). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found singing at this location on the same date, and one was also found at an unusual location near CV, away from water where they are usually found, 6/7 (CW). Two birds were also reported in their more typical location on the AT near SF 6/12 and 6/18 (CW), and single birds 6/23 (KD, BG, DK, KS, KSt) and 7/18 (MD).

Horned Larks are not often reported in summer, but one bird was found in possible nesting habitat at MA 6/5 (GK, MK). **Purple Martins** were reported nesting at a newer location near Fryburg, with 23 active nests in 36 units, and 110 total eggs counted 6/21 (JR fide ES). Two were also seen at BC 6/16 (MS, SS). **Bank Swallows** are not commonly reported, but 4 were present at MZ 6/20 (GK, MK), and two at NB along Redbank Creek 6/25 (EP).

Golden-crowned Kinglets typically only nest in the northern border areas of CF, but one was found near NB along the RVT where some breeding habitat is present 7/17 (J&AK). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also typically nest only around CF, but do



Pine Siskin, photo by Meg Kolodick

occasionally breed in pine plantation areas in the south, where one was found calling in this type of habitat at MZ 7/7 (ES). The only summer finch report of note was a single **Pine Siskin** seen at a feeder in CL 6/26 where there is some nesting habitat present, but was not seen thereafter to confirm any breeding success (ES).

Clay-colored Sparrows have shown definite decline in numbers over the past six years, and they were only documented in one location this year, with two singing

males first found near MZ 7/5 (DM, BRo). Two were found still on location and singing 7/11 (DD, CW) and 7/12 (ES). Their preferred habitat of overgrown scrubby fields, most commonly reclaimed strip mines, is still present throughout southern *Clarion*, but population is still difficult to measure without more birder effort at locating birds. As succession slowly changes these fields, and increasing human use of this habitat takes place, this may be a possible cause of the decline in reported numbers. In spring there was a concern with decline in **Henslow's Sparrows**, but as the season progressed, numbers at MZ and in other strongholds for this grassland species were typical of most past years and they continue to appear to have no significant population change at present. This species is also most typically present south of I-80, but this year one was found singing in a reclaimed strip mine area near Snydersburg 6/6 and still present 7/11 (ES).

Yellow-breasted Chats are another habitat specialist that prefer similar areas to Clay-colored Sparrows. They were once again present in their typical stronghold at CV strips with three birds found 6/5-6/23 (BG, DK, GK, MK, KS, et al.) and one still there 7/21 (CA, NA, KA). One was also reported at MZ 6/18 (ME, LS) and two birds were singing in a new location near CV with similar habitat from 6/2-7/6 (CW).

There were just four sightings of **Worm-eating Warbler**, with the first on the RVT 6/10 (CW), and the rest found at SF with four present 6/12, one 6/18



Worm-eating Warbler, photo by Meg Kolodick

(CW) and one bird still present 7/18 (MD). The best report of **Louisiana Waterthrush** was a nest near Miola, something rarely found, with at least four very young birds 6/3 (ES). It was located in a large forested area along a run leading to the Clarion River. Other sightings were all in southern riparian areas, with three found at SF 6/12 (CW)



Blackburnian Warbler, photo by Meg Kolodick

and two still present 7/18 (MD). Two were heard on the RVT 6/10 (CW), and one on the RVT Sligo spur late in the season 7/28 (MHi, RH, FM). Only a single **Kentucky Warbler** was reported, a bird found near SF 7/4 (MD). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported from CF for a change, with three found 7/4 (JB). One was found in their typical area at RVT 6/10 (CW), and also three to five birds at SF 6/12, 6/18 (CW), with one remaining 7/4 and 7/18 (MD). **Northern Parulas** continue to be found almost exclusively on the northern and southern borders, with birds reported in three locations just south of CF along the river, 6/3, 6/10 and 7/5 (ES). In the south they were reported on the RVT 6/10 and at SF 6/12 (CW).

Blackburnian Warblers are a species of the cool northern forest but one was found this season in a remaining patch of appropriate

hemlock habitat along Canoe Creek near Knox 7/10 (DR). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** are another species more typically found north, but one was heard singing in habitat with rhododendron and mountain laurel stands near SF 6/12 (CW). **Pine Warblers** have been confirmed breeding in *Clarion* before but in very limited numbers and are habitat specific. One was found in the pine plantation areas of MZ 6/22 (MHi, RH) and again 7/2 (GV). At CF where they are normally present most years, they were again found 6/12 (LB), 6/24 (HG, KN), and two found 7/4 (JB).

The most unusual occurrence of the season was the movement of **Dickcissels** into the area, last seen in 2017. A singing male was first reported near West Freedom 6/13 (DD, CW), and continued with up to two other singing males through 7/4 (m.ob.) Another singing male was found on Rankin Rd near CV 6/17 (DD, CW), and continued along with a second singing male there by 6/26 (MD, JH, T&JK, MM, ES). Both males were last seen with a possible female bird 7/2 (KZ). In another area nearby, a singing male was found at a cut hayfield 6/27 (ST), and a report of two singing males was also received from MZ 6/18 (ME, LS). Unfortunately, no further reports were received to confirm any type of nesting activity for this species.

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, cjwinslow94@gmail.com, Casey Andersen, KM Andersen, Nancy Andersen, Kimberly Berry, Lisa Blazure, Jeff Brinker, Dave Brooke, Sara Busch, Brian Byrnes, Martin Carlin, Paulette Colantonio, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Donald DeWolf, Barbara Drennen, Mary Eyman, Patience Fisher, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder (R&TGS), Hannah Greenberg, Barbara Griffith, Mal Hays, Jeffrey

Hall, Margaret Higbee (MHi), Roger Higbee, Jason Horn (JHo), Lara Jones, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Chad Kauffman, John and Avis Keener, Barb Kiester, Mary Alice Koeneker, Glenn Koppel, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Michael Leahy, Eileen Luba, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, Dot Monahan, Oscar Nigam, Kelley Nunn, Eric Pilgram, Dan Rabosky, Jim Reed, Bill Reddinger, Theo Rickert, Bobbie Rochow (BRo), Kathy Saunders, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Eric Schill, Tabassam Shah, Liz Spence, Kate St John (KSt), Shannon Thompson, Larry Towse, Mark Vass, Gale VerHague, Daniel Weeks, Kendall Zook.

American Kestrel Research

Dear PA Birders:

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 PhD student working on the kestrel project (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!

Laurie Goodrich, PhD

Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science Acopian Center for Conservation Learning Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association

Events

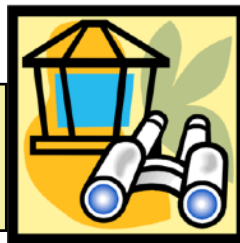
Owl Prowl, November 10,
rain date November 11. Meet
Mal at Roberts Hill Road
at 6 pm.



Christmas Bird Count —
Saturday, December 18 —
Be there or be square!



Don't forget, if you need a
new bird feeder, contact Jim
Wilson!



*Nature is loved by
what is best in us.
—Ralph Waldo
Emerson*

Leadership Team		
Team Member	Role	Phone
Deb Freed	President	814-226-4719
Alice Thureau	Vice-President	814-319-2677
Kay John	Secretary, Membership	724-526-5960
Janice Horn	Treasurer	814-226-7367
Paulette Colantonio	Education	814-797-2031
Pat Conway	History, Facebook	814-752-2036
Gary Edwards	Outreach Programs	814-676-3011
Mal Hays	Outings Leader	814-764-5645
Danette Karls	CBC Feederwatch	814-764-3251
Mike Leahy	Beaver Creek/IBA 21	814-229-1648
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Ron Montgomery	Outreach Programs	814-764-6088
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