



THE DRUMMER

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September/October 2016

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David Yeany II will speak on "Forest Interior Birds"

Forest Interior Birds

David Yeany II

September 14 Program

Presentation Abstract:

Forest Interior Bird Habitat Relationships and Disturbance Influences in the Pennsylvania Wilds

Over the past three years, the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has been studying forest breeding birds across the state. Our focus was forest interior birds, including species like scarlet tanager, black-

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Birds of the Allegheny National Forest

Steve Dowlan

October 12 Program

The Allegheny National Forest has been occupied by people for tens of thousands of years, but the last 150 years have shaped many of the habitats that support the bird species found here now. I will present the photographic results of seven years living and working on "the Forest", during which I carried a camera with me almost every day. I had many opportunities to capture images of the residents, migrants and breeding species. During the last two years, I made a special effort to locate occupied habitat for Swainson's Thrush, a species at the edge of its range in Pennsylvania. The program will provide an overview of species found on The Forest, with a special emphasis on Swainson's Thrush and other species associated with its preferred hemlock understory habitat.

Steve Dowlan was born in Oil City and raised in Shippensburg. He graduated from the Flexible All-Year School at Clarion University, and later

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*Our meetings are generally held at the Clarion Free Library, lower level.
Come early to socialize -
programs begin at 6:30 pm.*

Forest Interior Birds *(continued from page 1)*

throated blue warbler, and Swainson's thrush. The Pennsylvania Wilds region, located in the state's northern tier, holds some of the largest intact forest patches found statewide and contains the largest remaining strongholds of forest interior bird populations in Pennsylvania. Utilizing off-road survey methods, we investigated cumulative disturbance impacts in the context of natural resource development and partnered with Audubon Pennsylvania to assess bird-forest habitat relationships with implications for forest management on public lands. We surveyed forest birds across seven agency-mapped forest types within conifer, oak, and northern hardwoods forest groups and conducted simultaneous forest community rapid assessments, validating community classifications and measuring forest structure. We estimated detection-corrected densities for 34 bird species and identified significant associations with forest community types for management applications. Using boosted regression trees (BRT), we evaluated the response of detection-corrected densities of 22 bird species to 45 habitat attributes. Among 21 forest attributes selected in the best species models, only forest community type was selected for all 22 bird species, and it was the most important variable in all models (42-98% contribution). Aspect, elevation, tall and short shrub cover, snags and basal area (ft²/ac) were also among the most influential features. By demonstrating that forest interior bird densities are influenced by agency-used forest community classifications and structural attributes, we can provide forest managers with information to help them better manage habitats for forest interior birds, many of which are Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Bio:

In October 2011, David joined the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in Pittsburgh. David provides capacity for a variety of conservation planning and ornithology projects. His

work includes helping maintain the statewide Natural Heritage Areas database, spatial analysis in GIS, avian ecology and monitoring, habitat relationships, and conservation planning for species of conservation concern. David serves as a field ornithologist and represents the Natural Heritage Program on the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) Ornithological Technical Committee.

Before coming to WPC, David was the Important Bird Areas Coordinator for Audubon Maryland-DC, where he helped identify critical bird habitats, developed conservation strategies for IBAs, and conducted monitoring for populations of at-risk birds. He has also worked at Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center in Annville, PA and for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, District 8 (Clarion) doing wildlife and habitat inventory and research.

David has a M.S. in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University in Frostburg, MD and a B.S. in Biology from Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA. He is a native of Forest County and currently lives with his wife, Colleen, just outside Pittsburgh in Cheswick.

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<https://www.facebook.com/SenecaRocksAudubon>

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, February, and April.

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.

Birds of the Allegheny National Forest *(continued from page 1)*

earned a BS degree in Natural Resources from Oregon State University. He began his career in natural resource management monitoring northern spotted owls with the USDI Bureau of Land Management in Salem, Oregon. Over his 24 year career with the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service, he has worked on projects involving harlequin ducks, fox sparrows, willow flycatchers, terrestrial salamanders and terrestrial mollusks. He operated a MAPS bird banding station in the western Cascades of Oregon for seven years. He is currently a supervisory natural resource specialist for the Bradford Ranger District, Allegheny National Forest.

Supporting SRAS

~ Deb Freed

A Note: How we pay for what we do.

Membership in either National Audubon or our Seneca Rocks chapter helps to support basic chapter needs like our PO Box, our website, insurance, program expenses and some stamps. We receive a chapter share from National Audubon for each national member living in designated zip codes in our region. This income partially meets our expenses.

Fundraising activities like Birdathon, calendar and seed sales provide additional income. We also are fortunate to receive some gifts. These sources support our public school library book project, habitat conservation at the Piney Tract IBA and educational projects.

Annual Chapter Membership

~ Deb Freed

Seneca Rocks is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Financial support for our chapter comes from two sources; national memberships and chapter memberships. People who join National Audubon are assigned by zip code to a local chapter. The national organization then financially supports the local chapter with a share for each national member assigned to the chapter by zip codes.

For those who prefer to join only the local chapter each September use the form below. A \$10 chapter membership fee will help support the programs and projects of the chapter.

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society Chapter Memberships are due in September each year

Name _____ (Please print)

Address _____

_____ City State Zip

_____ e-mail address

Membership - \$10.00

Please make your checks payable to Seneca Rocks Audubon Society or **SRAS**

Mail to: Seneca Rocks Audubon Society; PO Box 148; Clarion, PA 16214

The Name Game

~ Gary Edwards

Here's something a little different, lest we get in a rut.

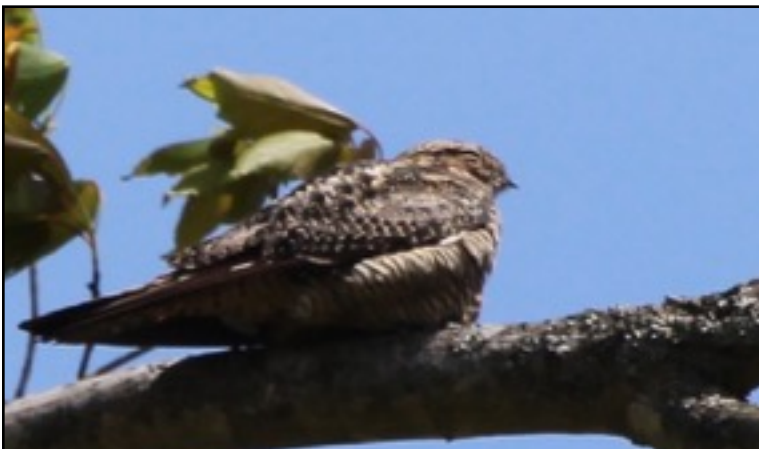
From the lists below, pick out three species with similar food preferences.

1. Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Common Loon, Wilson's Snipe, Turkey Vulture
2. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Pintail, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Greater Yellowlegs
3. Northern Bobwhite, Canvasback, American Goldfinch, Green Heron, Least Sandpiper, White-throated Sparrow
4. Peregrine Falcon, Canada Goose, Ruffed Grouse, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Screech Owl, Red-breasted Merganser
5. Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Mallard, Common Tern

Pick out the four birds that are about the same size.

6. Northern Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Belted Kingfisher, Barn Owl, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher
7. Gray Catbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, Ovenbird, Hermit Thrush, Tufted Titmouse, House Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo

Answers on Page 8



The Common Nighthawk Watch is on-going at the Oil City Marina until mid-September. Bring a lawn chair and your binoculars any evening and join the fun!

Crossbills

~ Gary Edwards

The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology considers the Red Crossbill a rare species from late-May to mid-September. So the adult female photographed by member Meg Kolodick at her back yard birdbath in Oil City on June 17 of this year is highly unusual. The bird stayed only long enough for Meg to snap the photo and hasn't been seen since.

North American crossbills, Red and White-winged, are well named. While the upper mandible is straight, the lower mandible crosses either to the left or right allowing the bird to pry seeds from partially open or closed conifer cones. In most Red Crossbill populations the ratio of left to right "handedness" is about 1:1. White-winged populations are more likely to show a 3:1 ratio of crossing to the right over crossing to the left.

The summer ranges of the two species overlap but the White-winged range extends well into Alaska and north to the tree line across Canada while the Red Crossbill is at home in the Canadian southern taiga and south through the Rocky Mountains. Neither species has a set migration pattern; both are nomadic and continuously search the coniferous forest for cone crops. As a result, almost every winter a few crossbills show up in Pennsylvania, but occasionally, when cone crops across Canada are at severely low levels, huge "superflights" occur. The



Female Red Crossbill, 6/17/2016, photo by Meg Kolodick

superflight winter of 1997-1998 resulted in thousands of White-winged and hundreds of Red Crossbills in Clarion and surrounding counties. Some lingered well into Spring.

Crossbills are also opportunistic nesters and, provided the food supply is adequate, nesting reportedly may occur at any time of year and females may have multiple broods.

In Red Crossbill populations, bill size is correlated with the food preference of the population. Birds with larger bills feed primarily on pine and large fir cones, those with smaller bills prefer spruce. Interestingly, there are 8-10 identifiable Red Crossbill flight calls, each correlates with a specific bill size. In the future, some or all of these 8-10 may be classified as separate species. White-winged Crossbills have small bills and specialize on small spruce cones, but will also feed on hemlock and tamarack.

Who knows, perhaps this winter we'll see hundreds; keep your fingers crossed -- but don't get your hopes up.



Interestingly, three males and a female showed up in Meg and Nick Kolodick's backyard on May 18, 2013. The Red Crossbill female and Red Crossbill male shown here are two from that day. Although a little difficult to see, it looks like the bill on this year's female is larger than either of the two from 2013. At least nine types of Red Crossbill have been identified based on bill size and vocalizations. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to record these crossbills. Also, note that the upper mandible of both females cross from left to right while the upper mandible of the male crosses from right to left. Most Red Crossbill populations studied have a 1:1 ratio of left-to-right and right-to-left mandible crossing. Crossbills feed on partially open or closed conifer cones and always feed with the lower mandible directed toward the cone axis. When there are limited perch sites and the cone cannot be removed from the branch or turned around, only part of the cone can be easily reached by individuals with the same bill crossover orientation. It has been theorized that a 1:1 ratio of left-to-right and right-to-left crossings may minimize overlap in cone use and maximize foraging efficiency (Benkman, 1996).

Warbler Walk at Moraine State Park

Mike Shaffer, Environmental Education Specialist at Moraine State Park, has invited our chapter to join the Todd Bird Club and Bartramian Audubon for an outing on Tuesday, September 20, to look for fall warblers. We will be meeting at the South Shore at 8:00 am by the first restroom by the Pleasant Valley Boat Launch. We will bird on foot some of the Sunken Garden Trail and decide from there what other places in the park to we would like to go. We will bird till around 11:00am.



We might see a Tennessee Warbler on this outing - photo by Meg Kolodick

Cook Forest State Park

~ Dale Luthringer

Saturday, September 3 at 1:00 pm - ***'Fire Tower Historical Tour'*** Please bring your binoculars to the Fire Tower for an historical tour of Fire Tower #9 conducted by park volunteers, Kelley & Al Bilotto. Take a breathtaking view from the box at the very top of the Fire Tower and learn how it operated. The tower will be open from 1:00-3:00pm. (2 hrs)

Saturday, September 3 at 2:30 pm - ***'Foraging Wild Edible Plants & Mushrooms'*** Pennsylvania is home to countless plant and mushroom species - many of them edible and medicinal. Join Adam Haritan from learnyourland.com and foragingpittsburgh.com for an interpretive walk through Cook Forest, where you will learn wild plant and mushroom identification, nutritional benefits of wild foods, harvesting methods, drying and storing methods, medicine making and much more. If you're looking to deepen the connection between you and your land, this is a program you do not want to miss! Program begins at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom. (2 hrs)

Saturday, September 3 at 8:30 pm - ***'A Virtual Tour of Cook Forest'*** There are many things to see and do during your stay at Cook Forest, from walking amongst magnificent tall and ancient old growth forests to taking a scenic float down the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River. Do you like to investigate wildlife, take a hike on a trail, or are you just trying to find a

short break from the rigors of life? There's just so much to do in such a short amount of time that it's just impossible to pack it all into one trip. We challenge you to leave your electronic gadgets at home and start a family tradition that will last generations... many of your fellow campers already have. Bring your chairs and blankets to the Ridge Camp park amphitheater for an evening virtual tour that will bring back many memories and help you to make new ones. (1 hr)



Sunday, September 4 at 10:00 am - ***'Hike the North Country Trail: Fire Tower-Gravel Lick'*** Please meet at the Fire Tower Parking Lot for a moderate interpretive 3 mile hike along the North Country Trail. We start by visiting Seneca Point and then take a breathtaking view from the box at the very top of the Fire Tower. We will then hike down to the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River, stopping to take

lunch at the waterfall near historic Hemlock Island. We will then walk the new re-routed section to a beautiful overlook of Gravel Lick Bridge. Shuttle will be provided back to the starting point. Please pack a lunch, bring sturdy hiking footwear and plenty of water, over 1400ft of elevation change. (4 hrs)

Friday, September 16 at 8:30pm - ***'Owl Prowl'*** Please bring your flashlights and meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom for an evening owl prowling. Explore Cook Forest at night for Pennsylvania's owls as we car-pool to owl hotspots in the park. Barred, great horned, screech and saw-whet owls have been known to make an appearance. (2 hrs)

Saturday, September 17 at 8:30 am - ‘Hike Cook Forest: Tobacco Trail’ Please meet at the Gateway Lodge parking lot for a challenging hike on Cook Forest’s long awaited Tobacco Trail. This beautiful trail along the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River connects Cook Forest & Clear Creek State Parks running from RT36 in Cooksburg to RT899 in Clarington. Many historic lumber stops along the way including remnants of the Barnett Mill, Maze Gap, and lumber ghost towns. We’ll also take a breathtaking view from the saddle of the Hogback. This is a challenging hike of near 8 miles with over 3000 ft. of elevation change. Please pack a lunch, bring sturdy hiking footwear, and plenty of water. Shuttle will be provided back to the starting point. (6 hrs)

Saturday, September 17 at 1:00 pm - ‘Fire Tower Historical Tour’ Please bring your binoculars to the Fire Tower for an historical tour of Fire Tower #9 conducted by park volunteers, Kelley & Al Bilotto. Take a breathtaking view from the box at the very top of the Fire Tower and learn how it operated. The tower will be open from 1:00-3:00pm. (2 hrs)

Answers to The Name Game Quiz

1. Eagle, Gull, Vulture (all scavengers)
2. Gnatcatcher, Veery, Vireo (all insect eaters)
3. Bobwhite, Goldfinch, Sparrow (all seed eaters)
4. Falcon, Hawk, Owl (all meat eaters)
5. Heron, Kingfisher, Tern (all fish eaters)
6. Dove, Flicker, Kingfisher, Thrasher (all about 12 inches)
7. Ovenbird, Titmouse, Sparrow, Vireo (all 5½ - 6 inches)



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Turk's Cap Lily - photo by Flo McGuire

Birds in the Yard

~ Paulette Colantonio

On August 11th, a program entitled “Birds in the Yard: Attracting and Keeping Winged Visitors”, was presented by Paulette Colantonio. Members of the Knox Women’s Club gathered in Sue Ogden’s beautiful Victorian home for the presentation. Those attending were asked to picture and evaluate their yard from a bird’s perspective. The PowerPoint and discussion revolved around four questions. Did the yard provide places to hide and places to nest? Was there a variety of natural food sources? Did the dwelling offer clean water year-round? Last, did the yard include supplemental food sources at the appropriate times?

First, coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs that thrive in Zone Five were presented, along with some of the birds these botanical gems entice. For instance, according to *Birdscaping Your Garden: A Practical Guide to Backyard Birds and the Plants that Attract Them* by George Adams, dogwood trees are magnets for 98 species throughout the year and elderberries are a

favorite of 120 species! Native grasses were scrutinized for their contribution to a well-rounded habitat. Grasses provide coveted nesting material and nesting sites for some species. In the fall and winter, they produce food as seeds. (For all the reading Lepidopterists, ornamental native grasses are host plants for some butterflies, especially skippers).

Next, clean water was examined as a critical factor for attracting and keeping birds all year. Placement of water sources and the importance of keeping water features clean was emphasized. Various ways to provide water in the cold months was also part of the discourse.

In addition, 10 species of birds were closely studied, including the specific trees, shrubs, and flowers they prefer. American Goldfinch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Northern Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Mourning Dove, Song Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and House Wren were featured in this section, along with a word about woodpeckers in our area. Songs and calls of said species were played. Supplemental food sources were assessed when applicable to a species. For instance, nyger in Yankee feeders or socks was discussed during the

American Goldfinch segment and making and offering nectar was chatted when viewing the hummingbird. Women attending had numerous questions and comments to share, relating personal experiences with each species.

In conclusion, the presentation and discussion ended by reviewing the four opening questions about yards from the bird's point of view. It was a very enjoyable evening for members as well as the presenter.



*Henslow's Sparrow at Piney Tract,
photo by Flo McGuire*

Clarion County PA Birds Report for Summer 2016

~ Carole Winslow

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RV).

To start the season report, a second year of confirmed nesting **Turkey Vultures** on the wooded hillside north of the Clarion River near Clarion is of interest. Nests are often difficult to locate although the birds are not unusual, so this nesting site on private land provides a nice record and a location that is able to be monitored by the property owner. Adults arrived in mid-May and by the third week of June young were heard at the nest site, which is a small natural cave. Two chicks were observed 6/25 and continued to be present through the end of the season (DF). **Northern Harriers** also had another successful breeding season, with an active pair very visible at MZ through the entire season and enjoyed by many visiting birders. The adults were seen doing food transfers and attending a nest site not far off the main road through this grassland. They remained throughout the season and successfully fledged young (BB, PB, JC, SD,

SG, et al.). A pair of harriers was also seen at MA 6/7 (JC, AP), and 6/22 (MF) with no other breeding information known. At one site near CV, a pair continued on grasslands there through 6/7 and while no breeding was confirmed with certainty, an adult female was still present and seen 7/21 (CW). Several miles away at another grassland site on Rankin Rd, a pair was seen 6/7 actively hunting and food transfer witnessed to confirm breeding (CW).

Two shorebirds are of note, the first being **Upland Sandpiper**, which unfortunately appeared to have very little study this year. Only one report for the entire season on record, with a single bird seen at MA 6/11 (BB, GW). Hopefully this just denotes a lack of effort and not an actual indication of breeding status for this species. The second species is of note not for its rarity, but for the general scarcity of breeding confirmation on this bird, the **American Woodcock**. At MZ, an adult and 2 young birds were seen 6/11 (BB, GW).

Barred Owls are likely present in greater numbers than reported, but since information is less available, it is worth noting a bird calling during daylight hours on the RV near Lawsonham 6/25 (CW). A species with an even less regular reporting history is **Eastern Whip-poor-will**. A nice late season record was from 7/19, with 2 birds calling and responding to tape playback at an area near Strattanville (GE, MH). This site is a regenerating clear cut area that provides excellent habitat for this species.

Two reports of late **Alder Flycatchers** were noted for the season, likely late migrants but with habitat present, breeding is always worth considering. The first report was a singing male at MZ 6/18 (SD), and also a singing male at an overgrown marshy area near CV, present from 6/16 through 6/18 (CW). It was promising to have increased **White-eyed Vireo** reports this season, as this species is likely more prevalent than it seems, with abundant areas of appropriate habitat in the southern part of *Clarion*. A single bird was reported near Callensburg 6/9 (PB), and a singing male was

seen outside of Rimersburg 6/19 where they have been confirmed breeding in the past (SD, CW). Three birds were also reported later in the season on 7/12, along a spur of the RV near New Bethlehem (J&AK). **Yellow-throated Vireos** occupy usually just the riparian habitat in the county, and this year only 2 birds were reported. A singing male was present 6/19 at Sarah Furnace near East Brady (SD, CW), and a single bird was also noted at Gravel Lick on the Clarion River 7/26 (RS).

Cliff Swallow nesting locations are limited in the county, so it was good to have a new nesting area found 6/4 at a barn near Strattanville, with just two active nests along with barn swallows present (RM). An even more positive finding was a newly discovered site for breeding **Purple Martins**. Birds have been present here for at least one previous season but it was unknown to this reporter. At this colony outside of Callensburg, 16 birds were reported 6/7, with nests noted with eggs (MM). According to the owner, along with a neighbor with a second active colony, they estimated possibly 200 birds fledged last year and expecting maybe 150 this year. This site will hopefully be monitored in future seasons to determine continued success for this species in the county.

Just a few warblers are worth noting for the breeding season this year. **Worm-eating Warblers** were continuing at Sarah Furnace with single singing males noted 6/15 and 6/19 (SD, CW). Three territories with singing males were noted on the RV near Lawsonham 6/25 (CW). Only a single report of **Kentucky Warbler** was noted for the season, with a female seen at a traditional breeding area near Sarah Furnace 6/15 (CW). Only one sighting of **Cerulean Warbler** was received, with two singing males present in typical habitat along the RV near Lawsonham 6/25 (CW). Present on the same day, at this location with excellent riparian habitat, were 2 singing male **Northern Parulas** (CW). **Pine Warblers** are not common breeders, but do occupy specific habitats present in a few areas and are worth noting. On

6/18, one was reported at the main site at MZ, and also 3 birds noted along Mauthe Rd in pine stands there at the edge of the gamelands area (SD). In this same area, a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was also noted 6/18 (SD). They have been present at this location in some past years but never confirmed breeding. Up to two birds were also seen at Camp Coffman 6/23 and 6/24, where extensive pine and spruce forest are present (DL). **Yellow-breasted Chats** continue to become more regularly reported in new areas of southern *Clarion* as strip-mined fields age and provide excellent habitat for this species. A single bird was seen at MA 6/11 (BB, GW), and a singing male was present at a newer location outside of CV 6/16-6/18 (CW). Up to two birds were seen at two locations at MZ between 6/6 and 6/18 (PB, SD, SG, FM).

Henslow's Sparrows are one of the species most often sought out at grasslands in the county, and this year showed typical numbers reported from the usual locations throughout the season (m.ob.). A confirmation of breeding was obtained with an adult carrying food nicely photographed at MZ 6/18 (FM). **Clay-colored Sparrows** are showing shifts in location and changes in numbers. For the first time in years, no positive reports were received for this species from its two stronghold areas of CV strips and MZ. A report of a single bird present at a location outside of Callensburg 6/9 was a positive, as this site has had birds present in the past (PB). A new location for the species was also found at a grassland area of SGL 74 outside of Strattanville. Up to two singing males were present there from 6/22 through a late date of 7/21 (MH, RM). Closer monitoring of these birds might reveal more information on causes of site desertion and also more confirmation of breeding activities at new locations. The only other sparrow worth a mention is **Vesper Sparrow**, the least common grassland sparrow in the county, and with only one sighting noted for the season. A single bird was seen at MZ 6/9 (PB).

For finches, only two species are worth mention for the year. **Purple Finches** have been regular

breeders at a site in Rimersburg for the past two years, and continued this year with breeding confirmed by fledglings seen 6/28 (MM). This site has good habitat with large Norway spruce and feeders available year round. Birds were present throughout the season at feeders with a high count of 9 birds. This species was also confirmed at a location with stands of pine and Norway spruce outside of CV. At least one pair was present through the season and two fledgling birds noted in early July (CW). A pair of **Pine Siskins** continued at feeders in Rimersburg until 6/6, at the same location with nesting purple finches. Unfortunately, breeding was unable to be confirmed at this location but certainly not ruled out, with birds present this late (MM).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Brendyn Baptiste, Phil Bartley, Jack Chaillet, Steve Dowlan, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Deb Freed, Steve Gosser, Eric Hartshaw, Mal Hays, John and Avis Keener, David Lumpkin, Florence McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Aidan Place, Ron Smith, Marjorie Van Tassel, Daniel Weeks, Gene Wilhelm.

I believe that at least in the present phase of our civilization we have a profound, a fundamental need for areas of wilderness - a need that is not only recreational and spiritual but also educational and scientific, and withal essential to a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, and our place in all nature...

By very definition this wilderness is a need. The idea of wilderness as an area without man's influence is man's own concept. Its values are human values. Its preservation is a purpose that arises out of man's own sense of his fundamental needs.

~ Howard Zahniser (Western PA native and Author of the Wilderness Act), from "The Need for Wilderness Areas"

Upcoming Dates & Events

*August 14 to mid-September – Common Nighthawk Watch
at Oil City Marina every evening*

September 14 - "Forest Interior Birds" - David Yeany II

*September 20, Tuesday - Warbler Walk at Moraine State
Park*

*October 12 - "Birds of the Allegheny National Forest" -
Steve Dowlan*

*November 9 - "Deer Effects on Forest Habitat" - David
Cole*

December 14 - Members' Night and CBC Planning

December 18, Sunday - Christmas Bird Count



SRAS Leadership Team

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