

Birds in the Three Rivers Area

This is a summary of select bird reports from spring and summer. The detailed April – May, 2020 report will be published in the next issue of The Peregrine. – prepared by Mike Fialkovich

A late **Tundra Swan** was at Brunot's Island on the Ohio River 5/11.

A late **Gadwall** was at North Park 5/4-7.

Unusual in summer, a **Ruddy Duck** was at Duck Hollow 6/2.

A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at Wingfield Pines 6/12 – 7/11.

Another unusual species reported this summer was a **Merlin**. One was seen in Hays 7/3 and another in Frick Park 8/1.

There were numerous reports of **Northern Bobwhite** in spring and summer from various locations so there must be several sources of release for some reason. Single birds were in Verona and O'Hara Township in April, Hampton Twp. in May, Monroeville, Pittsburgh and Wexford in June, and Harmar Twp. in July.

A late **Common Loon** was at Dashields Dam 5/20.

A pair of **Virginia Rails** returned to Harrison Hills Park this spring and were confirmed breeding; a first for the park.

An **American Avocet** was a great find at Riverfront Park on the Southside 7/24. In typical Avocet fashion, it left at dusk. This was the tenth Allegheny County record.

High counts of **Herring Gulls** at local breeding colonies include 51 (42 adults and 9 chicks) at the Emsworth Dam 6/20 and 59 (44 adults, 15 chicks) at the Highland Park Bridge 6/21.

Two **Black Vultures** were in Fox Chapel 4/5-6. One was wing tagged.

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at Frick Park 4/24-25.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at Frick Park 5/19, one was at North Park 5/20, and one was at Wingfield Pines 5/28; quite a showing for this rare migrant. An Alder Flycatcher was at North Park 6/15-20, apparently on territory. This species does not breed here, but does breed north of Pittsburgh.

Purple Finches were in Pine Township most of July including a juvenile. A male was in Indiana Township in early June.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** lingered at Boyce-Mayview Park to June 12, raising the hopes it would breed, but it was not heard or seen after that date.

A **Swainson's Warbler** was found in downtown Pittsburgh 5/14, where it had struck a window.

Both **Brewster's** and **Lawrence's Warblers** were reported this spring. The Brewster's was at Frick Park 4/30 and the Lawrence's was at Deer Lakes Park 5/16 where it remained well into June.

A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Frick Park in early June. This is noteworthy because this species used to be more widespread in the past. There are still some reliable breeding sites in the area.

A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in Schenley Park 6/3.

A female **Summer Tanager** spent the first half of May in Gibsonia, and an immature male was in Frick Park 5/17.

A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** with a juvenile were at Imperial in late July and into early August.