



The retention pond at Century Plaza mall in West Mifflin in late fall. Above is Brown's Dump, an old slag heap. To the right is the defunct Century III Mall; to the left is a Giant Eagle market. All the summer growth is brown.

Note blue plastic bags....

Overflow structures seen in the previous shot. Phragmites are in the back; other grasses in the front.



Summer growth in the same pond consists of Trees of Heaven and lush grasses. A Gray Catbird is visible on the tree.



A pair of catbirds meow in another Tree of Heaven on the property.



Although an invasive plant, the phragmites provide a home for native species like the Red-winged Blackbird (on the left) and the Song Sparrow (on the right).



Invasive honeysuckle is the home for Willow Flycatchers that find plenty of insects spawned in the pond waters.



Even Cedar Waxwings can be attracted to a retention pond.



Unexpectedly a Wild Turkey can turn up near a retention pond.



The blue bags and other debris let you know which pond this is...



Overhead a Rough-winged Swallow scooped up insects rising from the retention pond waters.



The skyway over the pond also had a Red-tailed Hawk passing with a meal it had found nearby.



This fenced in retention pond near Ollies store in West Mifflin was overgrown with small trees and unmanaged weeds and invasives.

Yet birds like this Northern Mockingbird call the small retention pond home.



An American Goldfinch hung out in a Tree of Heaven by the pond.



This Eastern Tailed-Blue butterfly was there too.

A Killdeer spread its wings in the grass near the retention pond.





In Monroeville, the water attracted birds and insects, like this Twelve-spotted Skimmer dragonfly.

One soggy Indigo Bunting had just bathed in the Monroeville retention pond.



An Eastern Cottontail was also attracted to the vegetation around the pond.