



The Peregrine

Three Rivers Birding Club Newsletter

<http://www.3rbc.org>

Vol. 17, No. 1, January/February 2018



Find Out on Feb. 7 Why Our Forest Birds Need Help

Nearly 40% of all birds classified as “Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania” depend on high-quality forest habitats for their best chance of nesting successfully. We will learn about threats to that success at the Three Rivers Birding Club meeting on Wednesday, February 7, and we will find out what ecologists in Pennsylvania are doing to help these forest species.

Our speaker is David Yeany (*above*), a conservation planning specialist and ornithologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in Pittsburgh.

His presentation titled “Conserving Pennsylvania’s Forest Interior Birds and their Habitats” will cover many species including perennial birding favorites such as Swainson’s Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler (*above, photographed by David*), Canada Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

The meeting will be held at the Phipps Garden Center,

1059 Shady Avenue in Shadyside. Doors open at 6:30 PM for socializing, a business meeting begins at 7:30, and the program starts at 8:00.

David joined the Natural Heritage Program in 2011, working on a variety of ecology, conservation planning, and ornithology projects, including spatial analysis, mapping important habitats for rare taxa, population monitoring, and research wildlife habitat relationships.

He has a M.S. in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University and a B.S. in Biology from Messiah College. David has worked for National Audubon Society, Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center, and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry doing various wildlife and habitat inventories and research. He is a native of Forest County and currently lives with his wife, Colleen, northeast of Pittsburgh.



Young Birders Show Interest in a New Club

“Will there ever be a young birders club in Pittsburgh?” An insert in the last issue of *The Peregrine* asked that question.

A good turnout at the “Young Birders Get-Together” at the Frick Environmental Center in November was encouraging.

Jack Solomon reports the event on page 11. Tom Moeller’s photo at left shows Chris Kubiak’s live Eastern Screech-Owl show.

See *The Peregrine* in beautiful color at 3rbc.org

President's Message

When Winter Weather Keeps You Indoors, Try Book-birding

By Bob VanNewkirk

Weather always has to be considered any time you decide to go birding, especially in winter. Some of my birdiest days during this bleak season have been while looking through my binoculars in frigid temperatures, causing eye-watering, nose-running, and teeth-chattering moments. Fortunately, the birds seemed unaffected by Mother Nature's offerings and went about their normal business, thus providing me with an internal glow and a frozen smile on my face.

Though nature offers one of the most reliable boosts to your mental and physical well-being, some folks for a variety of reasons choose not to venture outdoors in winter in pursuit of birds. So, I offer this suggestion as a way to improve your wintry morale and also as a novel way of "looking" at birds – Go Book-birding!

I grouped my recommendations based on related topics. I hope you will find a selection that sparks your interest and gets you headed for the library, even on a snowy day.

REHABBING:

Fastest Things on Wings by Terry Masear. This book is just as charming, delightful, and captivating as its featured subject, hummingbirds. Terry Masear chronicles her life as a hummingbird rehabber in Southern California. Her exceptional stories exemplify her dedication and compassionate care for these fragile creatures. This is a profoundly moving story, especially for anyone who treasures these remarkable birds.

Flyaway by Suzie Gilbert. Suzie developed a passion for saving animals when working at an animal hospital in New York. Her dedication focused on birds while volunteering at a raptor rehab center. Before being licensed, people begged her to care for abused and unwanted parrots at her home. After building a flight cage and passing her federal permit exam, Suzie took on more birds than she could handle. Her home became a veritable aviary for wild birds, with a Great Blue Heron in the shower, a Mallard in the bathtub, grackles in the flight cage, and waxwings perched wherever they could find space. Worms and grubs were stored in the refrigerator along with people food. Each chapter humorously recounts her struggles to be a devoted wife, a mother of two children, and a tender-hearted rehabber. Her stories of successes and failures are bound to take you on an emotional roller coaster.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

A Life Gone to the Birds by Al Batt. Al has a way with words. He uses them routinely as a writer, speaker, storyteller, and humorist to entertain and educate his audiences. He is a columnist for the *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and his stories are always the ones I read first when my copy comes in the mail. Six delectable chapters in this book tell a variety of short stories that will have you smiling and laughing in short order. I would love to invite Al to speak at a club meeting. The brief bio in the book mentions that he will speak to anyone who will listen.

How to Be a Bad Birdwatcher by Simon Barnes. Simon is an English sports journalist and a self-recognized "bad birder." His British slang and phrasing are appealing. "Bad" refers to those who

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take pleasure in looking at birds and investing time to appreciate them instead of merely ticking them on a life list. Simon writes, "I don't go birdwatching. I am birdwatching. Birdwatching is a state of being, not an activity. It's about life and it is about living." His amusing anecdotes about his experiences at home and abroad support his message: Go birding for enjoyment, for the love of birds, and have serious consideration for their welfare. This book is for any birder and for anyone who would like to become one.

A BIG YEAR'S QUEST:

Birding Without Borders by Noah Strycker. His first bird was a Cape Petrel in Antarctica on January 1, 2015, and his last was number 6,042, a Silver-breasted Broadbill in India on December 31. This book chronicles Noah's incredible round-the-world attempt to set a Big Year record. Each chapter, not only documents the birds he finds in 41 countries and seven continents, but also the myriad problems he encountered, such as numerous travel mishaps, inclement weather, mudslides, sleep deprivation, stolen money, and sickness. In the book's three appendices, you will find Noah's "Gear for a Big Year, a Big Year Snapshot" detailing the sequence of his travels, and his complete Big Year species list.

(In case you missed Noah's presentation at the October 3RBC meeting, you can listen to a recording of it on the club's website.)

The Big Twitch by Sean Dooley. With no wife, girlfriend, or job holding him back, he did find employment as a comedy TV

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Outings to Come

Forget About Weather: Have Some Winter Fun

By Steve Thomas, Outings Director

Saturday, January 27 – Frick Park – “Dead of Winter Walk”: Feeling stuck indoors due to winter’s chill? Then bundle up and get out and join Mike Fialkovich (412-731-3581) for a winter walk to search for the season’s resident birds. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers spend the winter in the park, so we will search for them, and we’ll enjoy all the other birds we can find. Energetic chickadees are sure to raise your spirits. Meet at the Frick Environmental Center at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, February 17 - Sewickley Heights Park: This outing is to participate in the national Great Backyard Bird Count. We will meet at the parking lot at 9:00 AM for this three-hour walk. After the outing there will be a potluck luncheon at the Fern Hollow Nature Center. Bring something to share with the group if you plan to attend the luncheon. Directions to the park are posted on the 3RBC website. For further information contact Bob VanNewkirk (412-366-1694; van126@comcast.net).

Saturday, March 24 – Pymatuning State Park: Meet leader Bob Van Newkirk (412-366-1694; van126@comcast.net) at 8:30 AM for this all-day outing. We will meet in the parking lot of the former site of the Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center (Waterfowl Museum) at 12590 Hartstown Road at Linesville (GPS 41.635779, -80.436634). Lunch arrangements will be made at the Spillway Inn for those who wish to dine there with the group.

Outings are free and open to the public. In the event of inclement weather, contact the leader in advance to confirm whether the outing is on or canceled. Contact the leader, too, with other questions about weather, driving, or trail conditions.

Check the club’s Facebook page and website frequently for late-breaking news of outings, cancellations, and other events announced after publication of *The Peregrine*.

More Big News About the P.I. Piping Plovers

The September/October *Peregrine* included an article titled “Big News at Presque Isle: Piping Plover Nests and Young!”

Mary Birdsong of Presque Isle Audubon and Tim Hoppe of the Pennsylvania Game Commission rescued eggs from a nest inundated by rising lake waters in the spring of 2017. The eggs were transported to Michigan, where the chicks were hatched, raised in captivity, and then released.

Now there are two more chapters of important news:

- In November 2017 one of the plovers released in Michigan was identified by its leg bands at Cedar Key, Florida, where it would most likely spend its first winter.

- Later in November a chick hatched and fledged from the other nest at Gull point was spotted near Naples, Florida.

Now we can hope they will survive the winter and the spring migration back north, perhaps to Presque Isle again.

President’s Message

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writer and occasionally as a stand-up comedian. Sean decided to break the Australian record of 633 species observed in a single year; he actually found 703. He describes twitching as “akin to parasailing off a Himalayan cliff-face whilst blindfolded, drunk and wrestling a shark.” Some of the birds on his 2002 Official Big Twitch List read like a Dr. Seuss Field Guide: Stubble Quail, Noisy Pitta, Splendid Fairy-wren, Brolga, Laughing Turtle-Dove, and Gilbert’s Whistler. This book is a joy to read and reread. Have your Australian field guide handy as a reference.

FOR YOUNG READERS:

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli. In Palmer’s town, ten-year-old boys look forward to becoming wringers who break the necks of wounded pigeons during the annual Pigeon Day shoot. The Shoot serves as a fundraiser to maintain the community’s park. This idea sickens Palmer, who will soon turn 10. His father even won a trophy as a contestant one year. But to fit in with neighborhood bullies, he accepts their nickname for him – “Snots.” Pretending to play along with the guys, they torment a young neighborhood girl that wants to befriend Palmer. Making matters worse is Nipper, a wild pigeon he has made into a pet. Wringer’s themes deal with animal cruelty, peer pressure, bullying, and developing the self-confidence to stand up to it.

Okay for Now by Gary D. Schmidt. Set in 1968, the main character, Doug, and his family move into a small town in New York after his mean-spirited dad lost his job. Doug calls the town “stupid.” Things change when he meets Lil, a younger girl who challenges Doug to prove he isn’t the “skinny thug” everyone thinks he is – a bully, disrespectful to teachers, a petty thief, distrustful. One day Doug discovers Audubon’s *Birds of America* on a library display and meets a librarian who encourages Doug to try drawing. Audubon’s paintings have a profound effect on Doug. This is a story about a boy who sees his own life in Audubon’s bird prints, and works hard to overcome his problems to become the person he really wants to be.

RARE BIRDS:

The World’s Rarest Birds by Erik Hirschfeld, Andy Swash, and Robert Still. According to a Bird Life International assessment, 590 species are threatened with extinction, 197 are critically endangered, 389 are endangered, and 4 exist only in captivity. Photos and accounts of these birds are placed in regional directories along with estimated population, threats, and conservation measures and challenges to save them. Seventy-five illustrations were drawn because there are no known photos of these birds. The authors note that all but 1 of 15 causes of declining numbers are due to human impacts on the environment.

Unlike Noah Strycker’s Big Year, I “traveled” the world through this publication to see and learn about these rare and fascinating species. How bittersweet it is to look at these beautiful birds and think they might become extinct in our lifetime. Everyone who loves birds and nature should examine this book.

Our New Webmaster: Thanks, Tom!

Tom Moeller, 3RBC Treasurer and author of our newsletter’s “Observations” column, has volunteered for another role: Webmaster. His posts will include articles from many sources, including one about Snail Kite evolution currently on the site.

Outings Revisited

A “Yellow” Palm Warbler Was a Fine Autumn Find

Sewickley Heights Park – September 1: Eleven birders, including two first-time participants, met on a cold, cloudy morning eager to hit the trails.

Goldfinches fed on wildflower seeds in the first open area on Bridle Trail. Throughout the outing, these chattering dynamos would brighten an otherwise drab day. We veered to the left onto a new trail and found the first small wave of warblers. We could positively identify only Magnolia, Black-and-white and Blackburnian, as the birds moved quickly through the trees.

On the way to the horse pastures we heard strange calls coming from the woods. What could it be? My best guess was a young Blue Jay trying out some experimental calls. Wrong! A juvenile Red-tailed Hawk perched near the trail was making the unusual sounds.

At the horse pastures we added Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Phoebe, and Barn Swallows. Birding was slow, so we entertained ourselves studying the late-fall wildflowers.

Turning into the woods, we noticed that a few of the ground level branches on a Beech tree appeared to be covered in something white and shaggy—Beech Blight Aphids. They are also known as Boogie Woogie Aphids because, when disturbed, they dance wildly en masse putting on quite a show!

On Pipeline Trail we finally had a nice group of warblers: Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Magnolia, and an American Redstart. We heard Carolina Wrens all day, but we saw only two here in low bushes along the trail.

At brief stop in Walker Park we enjoyed a picnic lunch and admired the newly installed restrooms.

We found our seventh and last warbler, a Chestnut-sided, at the Edgeworth Dump. Double-crested Cormorants adorned the Ohio River buoys, a large flock of Cedar Waxwings flitted through riverside Sycamores, while Chimney Swifts soared overhead.

Our 37 species were a low count, but it was a very enjoyable outing with a very pleasant group of birders. **—by leader Sheree Daugherty**

Dead Man’s Hollow – October 7: Seven birders hiked the trails at this Allegheny Land Trust site along the Youghiogheny River outside of McKeesport. I’ve never been to this part of the property, so I was eager to explore it.

Leader David Yeany started by giving us an overview of the area we were visiting using the handy map at the kiosk next to the parking area. We made a nice loop through wooded habitat. We passed a rock formation called table rock because it resembles a large dining room table.

We soon had our first wave of migrants, but due to the leaves, angles, and light, it was difficult for us to see them well. There were Golden-crowned Kinglets, Black-throated Green Warblers, and a Magnolia Warbler. David spotted an Ovenbird, and our warblers included two adult male Black-throated Blue, a Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped, and Palm.

It seemed we were never out of sight and sound of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, as they were abundant in the area, and Northern Flickers were a close second. We also saw Downy, Hairy, Pileated, and a flyover Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – a good woodpecker list.

At one point we heard what we thought was some type of machinery. As the sound got closer, we discovered it was a large



OUTING SURPRISE – David Yeany turned up some nice birds on his October 7 outing at Dead Man’s Hollow. He also turned up this garter snake and gave participants a close look. (photo by Mike Fialkovich)

flock of Common Grackles foraging for acorns and other mast through the leaf litter on the forest floor.

A Winter Wren played hide-and-seek as it flew to a snag, popping out periodically while searching for insects in the numerous cavities and crevasses.

We did well with thrushes, hearing several Swainson’s. Near the end of the walk we hit a pocket of thrushes that included two Wood, a Swainson’s, and a cooperative Gray-cheeked that perched in the open for a few minutes so everyone was able to see it.

The pond at the parking lot yielded a Belted Kingfisher. In the parking lot we heard a Palm Warbler calling, so we searched and found that it was a “Yellow” Palm Warbler, the eastern subspecies that breeds in northeastern Canada and is a rare migrant in Western Pennsylvania. **—by participant Mike Fialkovich**

Frick Park – October 8: Despite heavy rains the night before and through the early morning, 25 participants gathered with leaders Jack and Sue Solomon. Northern Flickers were spotted in the parking area, and the sweet calls of Carolina Wrens accompanied us throughout the hike.

As we headed down Riverview Trail, woodpeckers included Pileated, Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Mourning Doves were plentiful, as were Blue Jays, Robins, and House Sparrows.

Seen and heard were Chipping Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, and a House Finch. A flock of American Goldfinches and an Eastern Wood-Pewee were added to our list. The sun was beginning to show itself as we continued, and we found a Black-and-white Warbler, a Hooded Warbler, a Nashville Warbler, and two Black-throated Green Warblers.

A highlight happened when we came to an area of the trail overlooking the parkway and were treated to approximately 30 Cedar Waxwings feasting on the ripe berries of a wild grape.

On our return, we saw two White-breasted Nuthatches sidling down a tree trunk. A flock of Common Grackles passed overhead, as did an American Crow and a European Starling. A Gray Catbird announced itself as well. We listed 29 species for the morning. **—by participant Patti Kaminski**

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Outings Revisited

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Pymatuning Area: – October 8: With a forecast of all-day rain and wind, only four birders took a chance on braving the weather. While waiting for late-arriving birders, I checked out the woods bordering the parking lot. In a grape vine were two Winter Wrens and a House Wren. Other birds were a Gray Catbird, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, an Eastern Towhee, and many Yellow-rumped Warblers. After the participants joined me, we discovered an Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrows, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a Pileated Woodpecker.

As we walked toward the overlook where the Wildlife Center used to be, Yellow-rumped Warblers were active, as were Red-winged Blackbirds, Blue Jays, American Robins, and Song Sparrows. Scanning the waters, we were pleasantly surprised by the high number of Bald Eagles. On one small island snag, there were six juvenile eagles perched on its branches like ornaments. Two adults were perched in pines across from us, and two more adults thrilled us when they flew parallel to the shoreline near our position. On the water were Double-crested Cormorants, Canada Geese, and a raft of 16 Gadwalls.

At the spillway we hoped to find a duck that wasn't a Mallard. We did: 12 Ruddy Ducks and an American Black Duck. A Tree Swallow zipped overhead. While scanning the propagation field across from the spillway, we spotted a raptor on the ground. It was likely a Northern Harrier. When the bird took off, we could see its whitish rump and upraised wings. On the lake side were a Herring Gull and two Bonaparte's Gulls on the rocks among the many cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls. On Glen Island, we added two adult and one juvenile Bald Eagle to our growing numbers.

On our way to the Hartstown Propagation Area fields and pond, we saw an American Kestrel perched on a powerline. As usual, Canada Geese were numerous. Hooded Mergansers rested on the water, and a small group of Green-winged Teal preened in



GOOD TURNOUT – The October outing at Frick Park attracted two dozen participants to this perpetually favorite birding area. Patti Kaminski photographed the group next to the park's new environmental center. Co-leader Sue Solomon is second from left.

the grass along the shore. Lesser Yellowlegs and Killdeer scurried around the shallows. A sudden Red-tailed Hawk flyover put the ducks, yellowlegs, and Killdeer into flight momentarily before they returned. Two Eastern Meadowlarks flew into a nearby corn field. As we were about to leave, we heard the unmistakable call of Sandhill Cranes. Ten flew across the road and landed near the edge of the same field as the meadowlarks.

Along Wilson Road, the call of Sandhill Cranes again grabbed our attention. This time 23 were flying over the fields toward us. They flew in loose flocks and seemed as if they might land as they descended. However, they never landed and soon flew away.

Making a quick stop at the Route 285 pull-off, we saw two more adult Bald Eagles and another juvenile. The Miller Ponds on Swamp Road were devoid of waterfowl. A Greater Yellowlegs foraged along the grassy edge of the larger pond. We birded farther down the road where a new marsh is being constructed. With its completion and adequate rainfall, the marsh might soon fill and begin to attract waterfowl. Two Pileated Woodpeckers put smiles on our faces as they perched near each other high in a tree.

After lunch at the Spillway Inn, we visited the Linesville Fish Hatchery where we enjoyed three Great Egrets, three Great Blue Herons, many Wood Ducks, a Northern Shoveler, and a Belted Kingfisher. Six dowitchers were drilling for food at the far end of the spit. Despite viewing them with a spotting scope, the distance and wavy distortion caused by heat waves coming off the water, made identifying which species of dowitcher unreliable. Two adult and five juvenile eagles were there, but because this area is very close to the Wildlife Center, I did not add them to the total.

We proceeded to explore the area near the Tuttle Campground, especially for a Red-headed Woodpecker where we had found them on past outings. The area was alive with birds such as American Crows, Cedar Waxwings, a Northern Flicker, an Eastern Phoebe, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and two adult and two juvenile Bald Eagles. Shortly we located the red-heads and watched them fly back and forth from the swampy inlet between the lake and the road. Each time one would land, it seemed to be caching acorns. After watching this behavior for quite a while, we decided to count how many of these woodies we were actually seeing. We spent an additional half hour trying for an exact count, and our effort netted six adults and one juvenile. On the way back to our cars, we heard a Red-shouldered Hawk calling. Our last stop, Custards, produced the last species we listed: five Turkey Vultures. The whole wetland area was filled with the sounds of Red-winged Blackbirds, and we saw one more adult Bald Eagle perched majestically atop a tall snag.

Despite the prediction for rain, it didn't happen, and the wind was hardly noticeable. We listed 51 species. More predictable was that birding at Pymatuning is sure to supply unpredictable and captivating sightings. –**By leader Bob VanNewkirk**

Moraine State Park – October 22: On a day that was more summer-like than fall, 29 birders gathered on the South Shore for the club's 16th anniversary picnic and outing. A bright blue sky and a warmer-than-normal temperature for late October brightened everyone's mood.

The earliest birder to arrive at the boat launch area told me that he had seen a Bald Eagle flying over. Other early arrivers discovered a Cooper's Hawk perched high atop a tree in the marsh. As more participants joined the group, more species were quickly spotted such as Double-crested Cormorant, Common Grackle, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, and Mallard. Noticeably absent seemed to be the American Coots that usually gather in large numbers here.

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A Good Day for Golden Eagles at the Allegheny Front

By Tom Kuehl

A rare occurrence: Not only was there good weather on November 4, but also a favorable east wind for the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology's annual outing to the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. The outing was led by Chad and Noah Kauffman. The favorable conditions drew quite a crowd including a good showing of members of the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club, Three Rivers Birding Club, and Todd Bird Club which had a joint outing with 3RBC at Yellow Creek State Park that morning.

Well into the prime time for Golden Eagle migration, and with no better place to be than the Allegheny Front on a strong east-wind, the anticipation was high. The day's tally was six Golden Eagles -- good, but not the possible blow-out day for Golden Eagles that these conditions can produce at this time of the year.

Highlights of the day included spectacular views of the white tail-base and wing-patches of a juvenile Golden Eagle that floated past in the late morning; a fourth-year (nearly adult) Bald Eagle that drew oohs and aahs as it cruised straight overhead in the early afternoon; and an adult Red-shouldered Hawk that took a low and

slow flight path over the hawk watch. Also, kudos to Kate St. John who spotted a female Northern Harrier flying low in the valley that might otherwise have sneaked past the many observers. Alas, only a few early arrivers were present to see two Northern Goshawks (quite the rarity) that flew over at 8:13 and 8:19AM.

It was good that the strong east winds provided for almost non-stop action with a steady stream of what would be 157 Red-tailed Hawks, which helped to make the cold wind bearable. A quick-passing Merlin also stirred the blood, and it was nice to have two groups of three Black Vultures float over for good looks of their stubby tails and silvery wing tips. Common Loon and Double-crested Cormorant fly-overs also provided a warming diversion.

The Allegheny Front is well known for the magical late-day rush of Golden Eagles, but on this day those hopes were dashed by the arrival of clouds and drizzle. As a result, the 3:10 PM adult Golden Eagle with a tracking transmitter on its back was the final eagle of the day. Lacking a full description and photo, the best guess by text messages with researcher Mike Lanzone was that it could have been one that had been named "Letson."

Outings Revisited

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We first checked out the hedgerow and field along the parking area. A White-crowned Sparrow was heard, but the bird was not sighted. As the group began to spread out, Northern Cardinals, a Swamp Sparrow, Tufted Titmice, Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins, American Goldfinches, a Downy Woodpecker, and two Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted.

Our large group then "moseyed on" toward the Sunken Garden Trail. With a smile on his face, one birder aptly remarked that getting the group to move closer together and quicker was like trying to herd cats. Nevertheless, we reached the trail head and spied a Red-bellied Woodpecker flying from one tree to another. We also got a quick look at a few perched Cedar Waxwings before they flew off. The dense vegetation near the two wooden bridges provided good habitat and quick views of two White-throated Sparrows, a Song Sparrow, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Farther along the wooded trail, many robins and waxwings grabbed our attention as they competed for the remaining grapes on high-growing vines. A few birders also saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet briefly.

We headed back to the parking lot along a maintenance road. Sharp eyes spotted a Dark-eyed Junco foraging in low branches and a White-crowned Sparrow pecking at goldenrod seeds. More Yellow-rumps and goldfinches were there. Near the road's end, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found in some woody brush. Some birders formed a single line according to height to get a good look at that spritely bird. Earlier in this same area, one person found an Eastern Phoebe. We could not relocate it for the group.

We caravanned to the beach to look through the gulls and search for waterfowl. As expected, the gulls were all Ring-billed. A dozen Canada Geese rested on the shore. Two cormorants and a Pied-billed Grebe swam in the lake. Tucked tightly against the end of the beach and temporarily out of sight were 34 American Coots. Three Killdeer foraged on the gravel roads. We made a quick stop at the overlook to check for raptors and waterfowl, but found none. However, we did watch a kettle of 16 Turkey Vultures seemingly fly out of the woods, spiral high into the sky, and disappear.

Like tightly packed sardines, many birders and three spotting

scopes crowded onto the observation deck. Three other birders with scopes scanned from beside and in front of the deck. Finally, with waterfowl to observe, no one complained about the cramped space and no one had to be voted off the deck. On the water were many Wood Ducks, Mallards, Gadwalls, some Pied-Billed Grebes, three Ruddy Ducks, and two Great Blue Herons. A flock of Canada Geese flew into the area but kept to themselves. A Mute Swan also distanced itself from the other waterfowl as it foraged. Four Killdeer and a Greater Yellowlegs were scoped feeding along the shore. A Red-tailed Hawk flew briefly over the marsh but never landed. We spent an hour on the deck so that as many people as possible could look through the scopes. A small group decided to look for birds along the roadside. They found a Brown Creeper.

Our participants netted 42 species, although some of us did not see all of them. Since we had found an interesting diversity of birds, it was time to taste the diversity of food that people had brought for the club's anniversary-picnic. So, we headed off to the McDanel's Boat Launch pavilion with thoughts of delicious food and treats – and, of course, sharing our stories about past birding adventures. –by leader **Bob VanNewkirk**



Gadwalls: John James Audubon, Birds of America

Observations

Sexual Dimorphism in Plumage

By Tom Moeller

Some Christmas cards show a seasonal pair of cardinals – he is bright red; she is a dull, brownish orange. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is brilliantly colored with his rose breast, black head, and white belly, while his mate has a dull brown back and a brown-streaked white breast.

Other pairs of birds are subtly different. Woodpecker males have more red on their heads than the females. On the other hand, Blue Jays show no distinction between male and female plumages, just like gulls, wrens, and eagles. These different kinds of pairs show one aspect of *sexual dimorphism* – a distinct or even subtle change in coloration between males and females of a species. [Other aspects are size differences (most raptors), structure (male peacock’s tail), and shape (bill curvature in some hummingbirds).]

Why do some pairs differ in plumage color along sexual lines?

Darwin thought that sexual selection caused plumage dimorphism. Females picked the showiest males as mates leading to the “pretty” males evolving into the norm. New research shows that the main factor in determining sexual dimorphism is the social mating system of the species. There are monogamous, polygynous, and promiscuous (lekking) relationships. Monogamous defines a one-on-one pair (cardinals and grosbeaks), polygynous represents one mate with multiple partners (for example, Red-winged Blackbirds), and promiscuous relationships are for procreation with little or no responsibilities in caring for the young (prairie-chickens and hummingbirds). The less a male has to do with his offspring, the showier is his plumage.

A “predation theory” also tries to explain dimorphism in some pairs. Predators learn to avoid certain brightly colored prey, such as monarch butterflies, due to bad taste or difficulty in capture. This could be why male birds evolved brighter plumage than their female counterparts to be more conspicuous to predators. It is particularly evident in dimorphic birds that nest at shrub height, like cardinals or grosbeaks. The brighter male is an easier seen but more elusive target for predators; thus, a deterrent to predation. Try to chase him, and do not see her.

Yet, even monogamous relationships often have adulterous encounters. Females can be side-tracked by another showy male but still keep a relationship with her first male as provider or nest defender. Monogamous females like Canada Geese with large clutches of eggs or open nests (not enclosed or cavity nests) usually have more than one sexual partner. Thus, some offspring in such families can be fathered by outsiders. However, the more the male is involved in raising the young, the stronger the monogamous bond even in dimorphic pairs. The male American Goldfinch, which is quite distinct from his partner, helps with the feeding of nestlings and is the primary feeder of fledglings. No time for hanky-panky from him!

Plumage differences can be year-round, as with cardinals, Summer Tanagers, or Red-winged Blackbirds; or seasonal during breeding, as with most ducks, goldfinches, and bobolinks, where the eclipse (non-breeding) males appear similar to the females. Color differences are due to concentrations in feathers of melanin pigments (browns and black) or carotenoid pigments (reds and yellows) in addition to feather structure, which reflects iridescent colors, as in a male hummingbird’s gorget.



YES, THE SAME SPECIES – Males and females of some birds differ so greatly that they might be mistaken as two different species by beginners. This is called plumage dimorphism, and Tom Moeller explains it in this chapter of “Observations.” He took the photos at the same feeder in Venango County in 2009.

Woodpeckers are cavity nesters, which usually have a low risk of adultery. The pair meets through male drumming and calling, not by plumage coloration. There is little color difference between them except more red on the male’s head. While the male does most of the excavation on a nest hole, both parents incubate the eggs and guard their nest site. And both feed nestlings and fledglings. Wood Ducks are also cavity nesters. The drake is an attractive bird that lures a hen with his showy plumage. When it comes to raising a family, the hen picks out a nest hole and does the incubation. She also tends to the nestlings and fledglings, but neither parent feeds the ducklings because they are precocial (active right after hatching). The Wood Duck drake, therefore, has much time to wander.

Eagle cams have shown Bald Eagles at Hays and other locations to be excellent monogamous parents. Both adults incubate the eggs and provide food for the family. When the female sleeps on her eggs at night, the male perches nearby sleeping with one eye open. Whenever another eagle approaches a nest site, it is chased off by one of the pair. The male and female adults have the same plumage, but females are larger than males (another type of dimorphism). Such a strong bond begins by pairing off from a communal gathering with soaring and aerobic maneuvers together – a much more physical attraction marked by stamina, agility, and flying ability. No need to be “pretty.”

Sexual dimorphism has many aspects. Plumage differences

The Peregrine

Conservation Honor for Kate St. John



Kate St. John, naturalist, author, educator, conservation activist, and birding leader, has received the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's W.E. Clyde Todd Award.

The award recognizes outstanding effort to further the cause of conservation in Pennsylvania. Kate received her well-deserved award at the society's Members' Night at Beechwood Farms on December 7.

She is most widely known for "Outside My Window," her delightful and educational daily blog about birds and nature (birdsoutsidemymywindow.org). Kate's special interest is in monitoring the Peregrine Falcons nesting at the University of Pittsburgh and elsewhere in the region. When she has some free time, she leads bird outings in Schenley Park.

Among her conservation efforts was working with the *Save Hays Woods Coalition* in 2006 to stop proposed strip mining in the area, enabling the Hays Bald Eagles to find a home there in 2013.

Accepting the award, Kate credited Chuck Tague and Esther Allen for inspiring her to educate people to be aware of the natural world, understand it, enjoy it, and preserve it.

3RBC congratulates Kate for her enthusiasm and commitment. She is an inspiration to all of us. (*Ramona Sahni photographed Kate accepting her award.*)

Observations

continued from page 7

have genetic origins evolved and enhanced by male hormones (testosterone) and other factors. These color differences are used to attract mates. Yet some birds do not use color differences to lure a mate, relying on sounds, calls, and physical attributes instead – their plumage being of little consequence. This topic is much deeper and more fascinating than these paragraphs can show.

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[See more examples of plumage dimorphism in Tom's photo gallery on our website.]



Birding Treasures Abound on Ecuador's Sun Route

Kathleen Siebert and her husband Steve recently took their second birding trip to Ecuador, this time exploring habitats along the Ruta del Sol, or Sun Route, which she says "promised cerulean skies and sun-drenched landscapes" in contrast to other regions where rain is frequent and sun is rare.

The route, stretching from Guayaquil northward along the Pacific Ocean, offers hundreds of species of birds in diverse habitats. "The fascinating journey passes through picturesque fishing villages and miles of pristine beaches, and a variety of habitats from coastal scrub and salt lagoons to lowland semi-humid deciduous woodlands and, yes, even cloud forests," Kathleen says.

A South American specialty she photographed at the Ecusal Salt Ponds in Salinas was the lively Gray-Hooded Gull, above.

Read Kathleen's complete report of this rewarding adventure on the 3RBC website (tinyurl.com/y8w78v2f).

The Peregrine



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER – Bob Mulvihill thrills a crowd at his super-popular Saw-whet Owl banding sessions at Sewickley Heights Park. At right, Bob and this essay’s author, Victoria Wefers, share the spotlight with one of the stars of the show.

Kinship and Kindness on a Sacred Night with an “Owler”

By Victoria Wefers

Project OwlNet is a continent-wide effort, monitoring the migration and population dynamics of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. In Sewickley Heights Borough Park in Allegheny County, National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill and his group of volunteers have been setting up mist nets and banding these owls as part of the study since the autumn of 2013.

In the beginning, it was just Bob and his right-hand man, Doug Cuzolo. Little was known about the Saw-whet Owl’s presence during migration in western Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie and the Allegheny Mountains.

I am one of those volunteers; I am an “owler,” as we affectionately refer to ourselves. We’re a tight group which continues to grow! I often say I’ve found my tribe when referring to birders, and, that being the case, I would add that owlers are close kin. I continue to be moved each and every night.

Below is a journal entry from 2016, after a particularly cold night:

“Last night, early this morning, after midnight, our last hike into the wood, 1/4 mile up the trail, brilliant crisp night sky looking down upon us, stars like diamonds. The four of us, silhouettes made larger with layers, wool, canvas, Gortex and fleece. We know this path by heart. There’s a sacredness in the night, in the quiet, we trudge through the nearly frozen mud. Earlier, boisterous conversations and laughter had drifted across the clearing, the only sounds now are breath and footfall. I can’t help think what an absolute joy this has been, these woods, this kinship of like-minded. Working with birds has shown me the kindness in my own species. And I needed that.

“Four lamps single file light the trail, we can see every breath. The Woodcocks who had put on their marvelous display earlier have vanished, they’re resting, all quiet now. Sacred wood.

“We reach the mist nets on the trail, each of the six approximately 40 feet in length. I suddenly realize I will have to take my hands out of the warmth of my pockets.

“Without instruction the four of us get to work, Bob has trained us well. Our hands working as fast as they can, strings untied from nets, knots holding much tighter than normal. Nets systematically gathered, loops collapsed together, scooped into bags, knotted closed, and put away. Poles dismantled, spikes come up from frozen mud with ease, my fingers feeling numb. A last piece of rope

unknotted releases a borrowed limb that kept the net line straight.

“We hear crying, sounds so close, closer; my first guess a coyote, someone says, maybe a lost pup. Then it is CLEAR. It is clear and beautiful, the Tundra Swans, overhead, they must be right above us. We stop and smile. This part of the trail is tucked in under evergreen and bare wood, we can’t see them flying over. But I smile even now, thinking of that moment, the four of us working as quickly as possible to get in from the cold, now with morning upon us, stopping to witness if only by sound this still wondrous night magic.

“We hike single file back along the trail, towards the clearing, loading gear; bags, and poles. ‘Goodnights’ and ‘Thank yous’ with tired smiles are quick. I jump into my jeep and fumble my keys, driving away down the tree lined hill, I exit the park, feeling happier I think, than I’ve a right to.”



TOTAL THRILL – It wasn’t a leisurely drive, but Geoff Malosh made a thrilling trip to see the solar eclipse of August 2017. His photo captures the totality on August 21, 2:25 PM, at Youngville, Tennessee. Geoff tells the story on the 3RBC website in an essay titled “A Different Kind of Chase” (tinyurl.com/ycttr45t).

The Peregrine

Honeycreeper Excitement on the Island of Hawaii

By Dave Brooke

A guide from Hawaii Forest & Trail took us to the Palila Forest Discovery Trail at the Ka'ohē Game Management Area and Ka'ohē Restoration Area, which are on the western slope of Mauna Kea at about 7,000 feet. It is home to the critically endangered Palila, an endemic Hawaiian honeycreeper found nowhere else but on this small tract on the world's tallest volcano. (If you count the submerged part of this volcano, it is taller than Mount Everest.)

The trail is enclosed by a fence to keep feral sheep from eating the Palila's primary food source, Mamane tree seed pods. Only 5% of the island's Mamane forest habitat remains, and this is the largest stand.

The Palila is a finch-billed honeycreeper with a spectacular bright yellow head, throat, and nape. Of the 16 finch-billed Hawaiian honeycreepers, all are extinct except the Palila, and fewer than 2,000 may remain in this remote dry forest.

I met Mark, the guide, and my group at 8:00 AM. Eight of us from the U.S., Canada, and Austria were driven up a 4x4 road to an enclosure where Mark hoped to find this elusive bird for us.

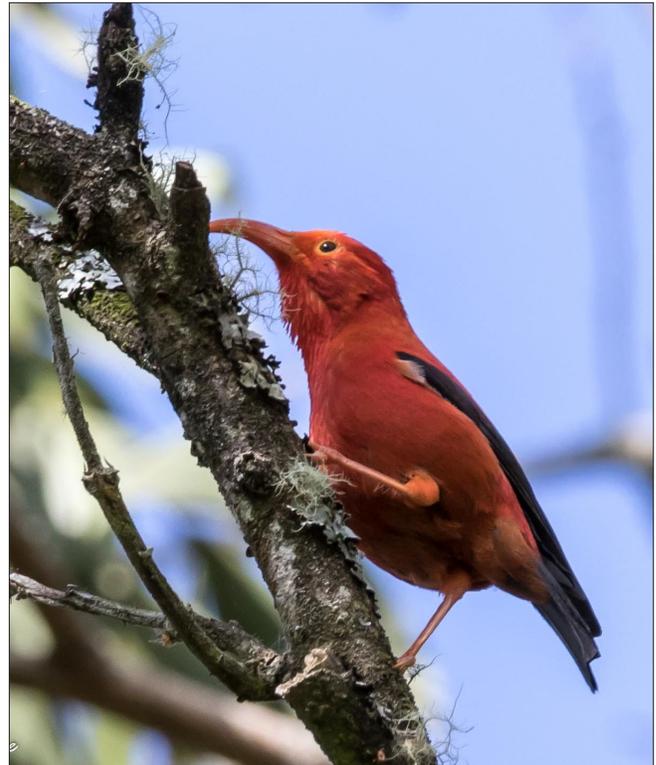
We ignored Hawaii Elepaio, Red-billed Leiothrix, Apapane, and Hawaii Amakihi for now, while Mark focused on finding the Palila. Within 30 minutes he heard its distinctive call 30 yards away. We crawled up a small lava mound and saw a gorgeous male

perched in a tangle of Mamane branches. The bird gave us three or four minutes before flying off, and I was able to get a few usable shots with my telephoto lens. We searched for another 45 minutes to no avail. However, while eating breakfast outside the enclosure, one of our group spotted a pair flying from trees 60 yards away. We got a quick look through our binoculars before they were gone.

Next we traveled to the other side of the range to a wet-mist forest on the slope of Mauna Loa, which was sunny and warm. Our guide was sure we would see the Elepaio and Amakihi there, but the hope was to find Hawaii's iconic Iiwi. This striking red honeycreeper with a long, curved bill is the poster child for Hawaiian birds.

We hiked a couple of miles into a forest that our guide said offered a good chance to find the Iiwi. Sure enough, we had fleeting looks at a couple. We also saw other birds mentioned previously, so the afternoon was looking good. While we ate lunch in another part of the forest, the Iiwi came into trees around us – first two or three, then another four. We agreed that at least nine were flying in and out. By the end of the afternoon, I can say with confidence that we saw 16-20 individuals.

That day was the highlight of my trip to Hawaii. It was a privilege to go to this incredible volcanic mountain and see these rare birds.



STARS OF HAWAII'S BIRDLIFE – Honeycreepers are high, perhaps highest, on a birder's list of target species on the Hawaiian Islands. Among honeycreepers Dave Brooke saw during a day to remember on the Island of Hawaii were the critically endangered finch-like Palila at left and the dazzling Iiwi above. The Palila is found only on small remnants of its disappearing forest habitat.



EXCITING EXPERIENCE – Nesting Cooper's Hawks aren't often found, but Pat and Sherron Lynch had a nest on their property in Allegheny County. They invited Kraig and Lisa Cawley for a look, and Kraig took this fine portrait of one juvenile in June 2017.

Club for Young Birders Makes a Promising Start

By Jack Solomon

Hopes for creating a local young birders club soared, as more than 57 registrants, including 27 youngsters, showed up for the Young Birders get-together on November 11 at the Frick Environmental Center.

Counting volunteers, nearly 70 people were there, and the turnout was a testament to the sponsors and volunteers:

- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Park Naturalist Patty Himes for making the FEC and its staff available to run the event;
- Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) and Education Director Chris Kubiak, for leading an outing, and bringing the star of the event, an Eastern Screech-Owl;
- 3RBC and President Bob VanNewkirk, members Patience Fisher, Tom Mueller, and Jack Solomon, for leading outings;
- CitiParks and Naturalist Erica McGrath, for leading outings and setting up exhibits;
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History and ornithologist Matt Webb for leading outings and setting up exhibits;
- National Aviary's Bob Mulvihill for leading outings;
- Local birder Mark VanderVen for creating a slide show.

We plan to stay in contact with young people who expressed interest in a club and attract more to future events. Chris Kubiak says ASWP will sponsor the group and possibly provide a bus for a field trip for participants under 18. Watch *The Peregrine*, the 3RBC website, and the Facebook page for further news and events.

Bob Mulvihill praised the event as a "distinct pleasure," which included bird walks and a pizza lunch generously provided by Jack and Sue Solomon. Bob added, "The hope now is that a real organization of young birders will be formed, and the ASWP has kindly agreed to facilitate that. Many thanks to all the folks who are helping make it possible!"

Birders Helping Birders: a Cooper's Hawk Story

By Kraig & Lisa Cawley

In late June 2017 we received an email from our friends and neighbors, Pat and Sherron Lynch, that a pair of Cooper's Hawks nesting on their property in Pine Township had four young. The Lynches invited us to come and look at the family.

On July 1 we returned from a vacation in Maine (for which Pat and Sherron helped us prepare to enjoy, report, and add many life birds on land and sea).

On the fourth of July, Pat spotted three of the juveniles remaining near the nest, and the Lynches invited us for a look. We did not see the parents, but the juveniles were perching in the nest or within a hundred yards of it. They patiently took turns flying to the nest one at a time to enjoy a meal.

It was fascinating to see the young birds downing the food and growing at a remarkable pace, yet looking awkward and gangly for their size.

We appreciate how Pat and Sherron, two accomplished birders, are helping us to expand our birding horizons.



NO, THIS IS NOT A BIRD – Eastern Box Turtles are much less common than they used to be, and finding one is a real treat. Birders on a Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology field trip did in Cumberland County in September 2017. Frank Izaguirre took this horror-show portrait, closer than many of us have seen the face.

Birds in the Three Rivers Area

Our 31 Warbler Species in August-Sept. 2017 Included Golden-winged

By Mike Fialkovich, Bird Reports Editor

Summer lingered, as early September was hot and dry with near record highs around 90 degrees for about 10 days.

Interesting for September, 4 **American Wigeons** were on the Ohio River at Leetsdale 9/22 with 2 remaining to 9/23 (MV). This duck is uncommon even during peak waterfowl migration, so the early date is also unusual. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at North Park 9/7 (OM). An injured **Red-breasted Merganser** was found along the Allegheny River at Chapel Harbor 8/12 (TH, OL) where it was regularly reported to at least 9/1 (v.o.).

A **Great Egret** at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/3 (FK) was the only one reported. An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a nice find at North Park 8/2 (AB). Every few years one seems to show up at the park, so careful checking may reveal an annual occurrence of this species.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed bathing in a backyard pond in Pine Twp. 9/27 (PL, SL). What a treat that must have been! Unusual here, a group of 10 **Broad-winged Hawks** was observed migrating over North Park 9/16 (DYe). An early **Merlin** was photographed at Schenley Park 9/5 (JCo).

Two **Virginia Rails** were a nice find at Wingfield Pines 10/30 (JM). Shorebird reports were few. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Imperial 9/16 (MV), single **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Fox Chapel 8/12 (TH, OL) and 8/26 (TH), at North Park 9/7 (AB), and at Beechwood Farms 9/23 (MF). Three **Least Sandpipers** were at Chapel Harbor 8/12-17 (TH, OL, AH) and one was at North Park 8/18 (OM). A **Common Tern** was at Dashields Dam 9/1 (MV).

A **Barred Owl** was spotted at Sewickley Heights Park 8/26 (GM). This species is resident at the park, one of the few locations that produces regular reports.

There were some great **Common Nighthawk** counts during the last two days of August. Highs include 140 over Aspinwall 8/30 (STh, SuT), 204 over Boyce-Mayview Park 8/30 (ST), and 100-plus over Gibsonsia 8/30 (BMu). Smaller flocks were 22 over Fox Chapel 8/31 (CK) and 50 over Tarentum 9/11 (RP). The largest flock of **Chimney Swifts** reported was at Greenfield, where 211 were counted 9/20 (KSJ).

Olive-sided Flycatchers passed through in late August and early September, reported at seven locations from 8/25-9/10 (v.o.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported from seven locations (v.o.), and most were entered into eBird with good photographs confirming the identification. A **Willow Flycatcher** was at Chapel Harbor 8/12 (TH). **Great Crested Flycatcher** is uncommon in fall, so two reports were notable: 1 at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/3 (FK) and 1 at Sewickley Heights Park 9/4 (GM).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 9/10 (BMu). Two **Veeries** were detected via nocturnal flight calls as they migrated over Moon Twp. 8/24 (GM), and singles were at Beechwood Farms 9/2 (OL, TH), Harrison Hills Park 9/9 (PH), and North Park 9/13 (BMu). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is the least reported thrush in the county, so reports of 1 in Sewickley 9/13 (DYe), 3 at North Park 9/16 (DYe), and 1 at Sewickley Heights Park 9/24 (JM) are notable.

Thirty-one warbler species were reported. Here are highlights:

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find at Sewickley Heights Park 9/11 (BVN). The species has bred in the hills near the park and perhaps still does, although this bird could have been a migrant. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at North Park 9/13 (BMu). We had two reports of **Golden-winged Warbler**: single birds at North Park 9/6 (SD) and Boyce-Mayview Park 9/21 (JM, LN). **Mourning Warblers** were reported at Moon Twp. 9/1 (2 recorded via a nocturnal flight call monitor by GM), North Park 9/16 (DYe), Forest Hills 9/17 (TBI), and Schenley Park 9/19 (KSJ). **Connecticut Warbler** is always tough to find, but fall is the best season. One was at North Park 9/15 (AB) and 1 was at Boyce Park 9/18 (MD) and 9/19 (MH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was a good find at Harrison Hills Park 9/9 (AH). This species breeds in the park but is an uncommon migrant.

Cape May Warblers Seemed more numerous than usual, or more people were out finding them. They were reported at 11 locations. Uncommonly seen in fall, **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported in Pine Twp. 9/10 and 9/23 (PL, SL). **Cerulean Warbler** is rarely detected during migration, particularly in fall. One at Sewickley Heights Park 8/26 (GM) could have been a local breeder and 1 was in O'Hara Twp. 9/18 (BSh). **Northern Parula** was reported at Harrison Hills Park 9/1 (AH); 2 were at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/16 (ST), 1 was at North Park that day (DYe), and 1 was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/30 (GM). **Palm Warblers** were fairly widespread. Although an uncommon migrant here, they are regular in the proper habitat in the fall.

Pine Warblers are uncommon but regular migrants, and the only four reports were of singles at Sewickley 8/30 (DYe) and Harrison Hills Park 9/3 (PH, JV), 2 in Pine Twp. 9/7, and 1 there 9/9 (PL, SL). Rarely seen on migration, a **Prairie Warbler** was photographed at Beechwood Farms 8/26 (TH). **Canada Warbler** was first found at Homewood Cemetery 8/25 (JC) and was reported at various locations until 9/9 (v.o.). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were seen at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/1 and 9/3 (ST), Harrison Hills Park 9/3 (JV), North Park 9/6 (SD) and 9/9 (SD, TH), and Sewickley Heights Park 9/16 (GM).

Lincoln's Sparrow reports include singles at North Park 9/16 (DYe) and Boyce-Mayview Park 9/23 (JM, LN), and 2 at Beechwood Farms 9/23 (MF). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported from Boyce-Mayview Park 9/25 (ST). Two **Bobolinks** were detected flying over at Harrison Hills Park 9/13 (AP). A **Purple Finch** was in Pine Twp. 8/7 (PL, SL).

Observers: Sameer Apte, Tony Bledsoe (TBI), Alan Buriak, Jack Chaillet, Jacob Cooper (JCo), Michael David, Steve Denninger, Mike Fialkovich, Mike Hamburg, Amy Henrici, Paul Hess, Todd Hooe, Fred Kachmarik, Jay Kadane, Chris Kubiak, Oliver Lindhiem, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Geoff Malosh, Oscar Miller, Bob Mulvihill (BMu), Lauren Nagoda, Kate St. John, Aidan Place, Rob Protz, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson, Brian Shema (BSh), Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, David Yeany (DYe), various observers (v.o.).

DID YOU KNOW? Mike Fialkovich, our Bird Reports Editor, is one of our state's scientific and birding leaders. He is President of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, a member of the state's Ornithological Records Committee, and Allegheny and Fayette County bird reports compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* magazine.