A TAIL TO REMEMBER – A tour of Ecuador produced an exciting array of birds. Sheree Daugherty described the trip in July/August and September/October 2019 issues of The Peregrine. Brian Shema photographed this Black-tailed Trainbearer on his tour sponsored by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

We’ll see dazzling photos and hear fascinating stories about the Western Hemisphere’s incredible diversity of birds at the Three Rivers Birding Club meeting on Wednesday, February 5. Our speaker is Brian Shema, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) Operations Director and unofficial bird guide.

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.

Brian titles his program “Birds from Eco-tours to North, Central, and South America.” He will not merely spotlight the tours but will give us a glimpse of the birds’ behavior and ecological adaptations to many different environments.

He has led birding trips for more than 15 years, and many of his participants are 3RBC members who traveled with him to places including California, Arizona, Texas, South Florida, Belize, Costa Rica and Ecuador – areas we will visit in his presentation.

Before his promotion to Operations Director to oversee all of ASWP’s activities, Brian was ASWP’s Conservation Director from 2005 to 2016. He has a bachelor’s degree in wildlife science from Penn State University, where he served on a research team investigating Louisiana Waterthrush ecology.

Travel is a learning experience. It is an opportunity to not only expand your bird life list but more importantly, to broaden your life experience. Not everyone in the world lives like we do here in Western Pennsylvania, and that is an important lesson to learn. Regions develop customs, clothing, food choices, and ways of living to suit their environment. Traveling to bird is a great way to experience these fascinating variations.

You don’t have to travel far to notice differences. Drive even a few hours north from Pittsburgh to the higher elevations of the Allegheny National Forest or south to the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, and a different group of breeding birds can be found in the summer.

Visiting well-known birding hotspots within the United States can expand your life list of birds, butterflies, and plants. Tools like eBird have made finding a desired species a click away. What’s more, the Internet has made planning a trip much easier. The pleasant anticipation of a trip while researching an area is an added bonus.

Southern Arizona is a fine example of a place in the U.S. that

wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

This Mark Twain quote from “Innocents Abroad” provides wise words to live by.

Travel is a learning experience. It is an opportunity to not only expand your bird life list but more importantly, to broaden your life experience. Not everyone in the world lives like we do here in Western Pennsylvania, and that is an important lesson to learn. Regions develop customs, clothing, food choices, and ways of living to suit their environment. Traveling to bird is a great way to experience these fascinating variations.

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**President’s Message**

**Travel Far for Birding Joy, and You Won’t Regret It**

By Sheree Daugherty

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad,
The Peregrine

President's Message
continued from page 1

can provide very different and exciting experiences. Nowhere else in the lower 48 can you regularly find Elegant Trogons, Mexican Chickadees, and more than a dozen species of hummingbirds. What says desert more than the iconic and stately Saguaro Cactus? Southern Arizona is the only area in the U.S. where they grow.

Texas also offers many bird specialties including the Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, Black-crested Titmice, and Green Jays. As all Texans brag, the state is huge; it offers wildly differing habitats from the mountains of Big Bend to the coastal estuaries of the Lower Rio Grande.

And don’t forget Florida, which contains many species with very limited ranges within the U.S., such as the Antillean Nighthawk, White-crowned Pigeon, and Snail Kite. Semi-tropical Florida also boasts more long-legged wading birds than you can shake a stick at.

If your constitution is up to the challenge, try a pelagic trip—birding from a boat in the ocean. These sometimes stomach-churning excursions offer an opportunity to see birds that can be found nowhere near dry land. The sight of an albatross with a seven-foot wing span or a shearwater skimming the water’s surface with a wingtip is a thrill. You may also be fortunate to see mammals such as whales, porpoises, seals, and the adorable sea otters. You may see flying fish glide over the waves as well. Just being out at sea gives you a different view of our planet, reminding us that our home is 71% covered by water.

The variety of insects in the world is amazing. Butterflies may be the darlings of that realm but please don’t overlook the other more “creepy crawly bugs”! I’ll never forget my first sighting of a huge hairy tarantula (OK, I know it’s not an insect) and hope someday to see a Peanut-headed Lanternfly. By overcoming an initial aversion to “bugs,” you can open a whole new world of fascinating creatures to study. You’ll find that the life cycles of many insects are complex and some are outright unbelievable.

Travel outside of the U.S. opens a new world of exotic birds and experiences. For many the preferred way to travel to a foreign country is to go on a birding tour. Tours can help take much of the anxiety out of birding where everything is different from our usual experiences. Relax and let the tour company make all of the plans. Just get to the airport on time and let someone else sweat the details. A local guide is invaluable, because very few of us have the time or ability to memorize so many new species.

The flora and fauna of a new state or country are not the only things worth exploring. Be an adventurous eater and try the local cuisine. It may not be the usual meat and potatoes fare; it may be better! Fresh off the boat fish and shellfish along the coast is a treat. In the Southwest try the local Mexican-influenced fare. The Caribbean has its own profile of spices, and Central and South America offer fruits and vegetables that are unique.

Challenge yourself! Life is short, the planet is large. There is always something to learn, life birds to see, and enriching new experiences.

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Letter from the Editor
By Paul Hess

This issue of The Peregrine emphasizes the excitement of our members’ birding tours. At our February meeting Brian Shema will tell us about trips he has led to many exotic locations.

Our President Sheree Daugherty describes tours conducted by organizations and birding tour companies, and she encourages us to participate in such fun. Page 6 of this issue features photos by two members who birded in Arizona.

In 2019 The Peregrine included articles and photos by Sheree, Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont, Tom Moeller, Pat and Sherron Lynch, Kate St. John, Donna Foyle, Dave Brooke, Claire Staples, and Kathleen Siebert. Many other trip reports are on our website.

Our next issue will include stories and photos about members’ trips to Peru and California. Meanwhile, the October 2019 issue of the Todd Bird Club’s newsletter, The Todd Nuthatch, features two articles by our members: one by Patience Fisher about a trip she and Kate St. John took to Alaska, and one by Debbie Kalbfleisch about her trip to the Appalachians. Read them at toddbirdclub.org.
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Outings to Come

Winter Won’t Scare Us from Great Birding Days

By Steve Thomas, Outings Director
Saturday, January 25 – Frick Park (Dead of Winter Outing III): Meet leader Mike Fialkovitch (412-731-3581) at 8:00 AM at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill entering from Hutchinson Avenue. Note: We will meet and walk in a different part of the park this year for a change. Hutchinson Avenue is off Braddock Avenue in Regent Square. Our path will be on the trails around the wetlands and adjacent areas.

Saturday, February 15 – Sewickley Heights Park: Join Bob VanNewkirk (412-366-1694; van126@comcast.net) to participate in the “Great Backyard Bird Count” at Sewickley Heights Park. Meet at the upper parking lot to bird from 9:00 AM to noon. There will be a potluck lunch immediately afterwards at the Fern Hollow Nature Center. Birders who will be attending the luncheon are asked bring a food item to share.

Sunday, March 29 – Pymatuning State Park: Meet Bob VanNewkirk (412-366-1694; van126@comcast.net) at 8:30 AM at the former site of the Wildlife Learning Center (Waterfowl Museum), 12590 Hartstown Road in Linesville (41.635779, -80.436634) for this outing to Pymatuning State Park and nearby areas. Lunch will be at Scooters by the Lake on the Ohio side of the Causeway for those who attend this all-day outing.

Please monitor the club’s website or Facebook in case there is a sudden cancellation due to inclement weather.

Sandhill Crane Survey Sets a Record in PA

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has surveyed the state’s population of Sandhill Cranes each fall for seven years, and survey participants found a record number of 288 cranes in 2019.

Lisa Williams, a commission’s wildlife biologist, reports that the October/November survey nearly doubles the previous high count in the state.

Cranes were observed in record highs for eight counties in 2019. Listed from highest to lowest numbers, these were Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer, Erie, Sullivan, Lackawanna, Wyoming, and Lancaster.

Pennsylvania’s population of Sandhill Cranes has expanded rapidly. The earliest sightings came in the late 1980s in the northwestern corner of the state, and cranes have since been spotted in more than 30 counties. The first breeding record came in 1993 when a pair was discovered in Lawrence County accompanied by a juvenile.

Pennsylvania’s data will be sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has conducted a region-wide survey of the eastern population, which is now estimated at 60,000 birds gathering in their fall staging areas during migration.

The Game Commission seeks volunteers to join in the survey. See tinyurl.com/PA-crane-survey for information on how to help.

A STUDY IN WHITE – A leucistic bird is always fascinating to see, but it is often difficult to identify the species when the bird is a sparrow. In this bird’s case, a patch of yellow at the front of the supercilium identifies it as a White-throated Sparrow. Malcolm Harter photographed it in Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County, on October 30, 2019. (Of course, you’ll need to see the bird in the newsletter online to see the pale yellow.)

Leucism: a Hodgepodge of Countless Variations

By Paul Hess

Leucism involves a variety of mutations that disrupt genetic pathways which deposit melanins – black and brown pigments – into feathers.

Leucistic birds are not true albinos. Albinos can always be determined by their bright red or pink eyes. If the eyes are normal, even an entirely white bird is not an albino.

What’s interesting about Malcolm’s bird, pictured above, is that the absence of melanins apparently did not include the tail. More notably, his bird preserved the normal yellow patch in front of the eyebrow that identified it as a White-throated Sparrow.

Here’s something that surprised me: While puttering around in the ornithological literature, I found a relevant note in a 1947 issue of The Auk, the journal of the American Ornithologists’ Union.

Karl Plath at the Chicago Zoological Park described a White-throated Sparrow like Malcolm’s. That bird similarly retained a patch of yellow in front of the eye, just as Malcolm’s did.

If you’d like to plunge into the intricacies of leucism and its variations, try these two sites:

tinyurl.com/Cornell-leucism
tinyurl.com/Leucism-Sibley

A request: Please send me photos of birds oddly patterned in white or “washed-out” plumage, even if only in patches of feathers. All of these are interesting to ornithologists, and 3RBC members can contribute important information to science.
NEW LOCATION – Our club’s first outing at Maurice K. Goddard State Park in Mercer County on October 6 gave us a look at a new hot spot. Barb Griffith photographed the cloudy landscape, and leader Linda Croskey stopped a Red-winged Blackbird at the moment it came in for a landing.

Outings Revisited

We Ended Our Club’s Year With Visits to Three Lakes

Maurice K. Goddard State Park – October 6: Our first 3RBC outing at this park started with a spectacular sunrise. Our fine group of 16 birders could hardly leave the Lake Wilhelm Marina parking lot, where we observed both an adult Bald Eagle perched across the lake and an immature Bald Eagle soaring. Looking further into the sky we were amazed to see well over 50 Chimney Swifts. We next walked across the road to the wildlife observation deck and were surrounded this time by more than 50 Red-winged Blackbirds.

Our next stop was State Game Lands 270, adjacent to the north end of the park. We birded two different areas, each with spectacular views of wetlands, fields, and mature forests. Each location was full of dozens of beautiful Wood Ducks. We observed an Osprey eating a fish, Great Blue Herons, Pied-billed Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Several people reported a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Both the birds and weather were cooperating as we delighted in seeing pretty patches of blue sky chasing the rain clouds away. Wilhelm Winery with its rustic appeal was a perfect place for lunch, offering cheese trays, beverages, and a time to get acquainted with fellow birders. After lunch, some of us hiked the Falling Run Nature Trail through the shady hemlock forest past a pioneer spring house. Combining participants’ lists, we totaled 34 species for the day. –by leader Linda Croskey

Yellow Creek State Park – November 2: Seventeen birders arrived at Yellow Creek for the joint 3RBC-Todd outing. The feeders at the park office yielded the usual suspects, and the first surprise of the day occurred at our second stop below the maintenance building. After we had listed the few Mallards, Pied-billed Grebes, and Killdeer, Tommy Byrnes spotted a Merlin perched in the top of a tree. Everyone had good scope views.

We continued to the boat launch where we found 5 Green-winged Teal, a Canvasback, 7 Redheads, 3 Ring-necked Ducks, and 64 Ruddy Ducks along with 42 American Coots. Here we also added 16 more Killdeer, 2 Great Blue Herons, a Cooper’s Hawk, and a Belted Kingfisher.

A walk through the main recreational area added 2 Turkey Vultures, a croaking Common Raven, our first Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4 bluebirds, and White-throated Sparrows. Steve Manns walked to the boat rental and found a lingering phoebe which we were unable to relocate.

Our final destination was Phalarope Flats, an area below the Observatory Trail, which in the past has yielded a nice variety of shorebirds. The mud had dried considerably, but we listed 10 Killdeer, 3 Dunlin, and a Greater Yellowlegs. We also spotted 8 more Pied-billed Grebes, a Common Loon, and a Double-crested Cormorant out on the lake. Two late Tree Swallows were flying over the water; we hadn’t seen swallows for weeks. We also had a mini-hawk watch, listing a Sharp-shinned Hawk and 3 Red-tailed Hawks.

Three participants had to leave, but 14 of us went to lunch at the Fortune Chinese buffet in Indiana where we enjoyed a leisurely meal and interesting conversations in the back room. It was almost 3:00 before we said our good-byes. –by leader Margaret Higbee

Reports were not received for the outings at Moraine State Park on October 19 and November 9. See eBird lists of species on the 3RBC website. Our members hope leaders will always write or ask a participant to write reports for The Peregrine.

Are You Interested in Owls? Here Are Three Good Books

Many 3RBC members are enthralled by Bob Mulvihill’s Northern Saw-whet Owl banding programs in the North Hills. If you’d like to learn more about owls, three wonderful publications can help you.

One is by Pennsylvania’s own owl expert Scott Weidensaul: Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean published in 2015. It’s a comprehensive resource for learning virtually everything about our species.

The second is Owling: Enter the World of the Mysterious Birds of the Night by Mark Wilson published in 2019, suitable for both parents and children.

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Observations

Check Out Retention Ponds

By Tom Moeller

There are many places to observe birds: national and state parks, along beaches and rivers, pelagic trips, swamps, forests, grasslands, and even your own back yard. Places not often mentioned are retention ponds, artificial pools with vegetation around the edge.

These ponds are used to catch storm water and control flooding. They are often located in developed areas where storm water drainage can be a problem: near highways, parking lots, or industrial parks. Some are small, about an acre in size, and some are large, several acres of water and land. With water as a central point surrounded by vegetation (often unmanaged), a retention pond can be a magnet for birds.

My first encounter with the term “retention pond” was in connection with a man-made, cattail-clogged watery depression with an earthen dam at the low end on the side of Burgettstown Road between the Southern Beltway and Potato Garden Road. It was down the hill from the “Main Pond” in the old Imperial Grasslands in southwestern Allegheny County years before industrial development sprang up there. Perhaps a Wilson’s Snipe had been reported there. Stopping by this area after exploring other parts of the Imperial area’s habitats, I was duly unimpressed. Since industry has moved into the area, the old retention pond has been extensively landscaped and rid of its vegetation.

Others retain their “magic.” A small water basin next to the former Gander Mountain (now Ollie’s) building in West Mifflin was a place where I discovered birds. There is a tiny drainage structure in the bottom of the cavity, and the hollow is surrounded by a chain link fence. Song Sparrows and goldfinches first attracted me to the place. I’ve photographed a Northern Mockingbird, a Chipping Sparrow, and an immature Red-tailed Hawk there. There were probably Red-winged Blackbirds too, as well as interesting butterflies. Nearby, Killdeer patrol the parking lot and surrounding grassy areas.

However, the little pond pales in comparison to a larger area on the opposite side of the slag hill known as Brown’s Dump* where the West Mifflin Walmart Supercenter is located. This pond is at the end of the Century Plaza strip mall, next to the Giant Eagle. The area is about an acre and a half with a retention basin down in a recess. Phragmites grow abundantly down there, surrounding a drainage structure with grates on the top for water overflow. In summertime the area is covered with growth: the phragmites, trees of heaven, sumac, honeysuckle, and more. Insects breed in the water, so birds are attracted to it all. One day I saw a dozen species there within an hour, including blackbirds, catbirds, Willow Flycatchers, sparrows, Killdeer, rough-winged swallows, and a Red-tailed Hawk flying over. When the vegetation dies back, Mallards can be in the water, and I even had a Wild Turkey wander through one April day. All this right next to the Giant Eagle parking lot! Unfortunately, with the shopping center right there, much debris (plastic bags, paper, and bottles) ends up down in the recess, very noticeable in winter. And mosquitoes can be a problem in warm weather – I know!

In Monroeville there is a retention pond down the hill from the Best Buy store. A dirt road off the parking lot leads down to a “road” made of large stones with the pond and its drainage structures down to the right. There is also another wet area at the end of the stone road, where birds drink and dragonflies breed. Song Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, an occasional hawk, starlings, and other birds are found there, along with butterflies and rabbits.

The area is under high-voltage wires, and the road seems to be access for maintenance on the electrical towers.

In Harmar Township there is a long, narrow pond behind the shopping center at the corner of Freeport Road and Route 910. The pond is located behind the Meadows (Ladbrokes) and the Alpha Ice Complex. Again, a busy area with birds, such as Mallards, Wood Ducks, even Gadwall, plus other unexpected species for such a small, isolated spot.

Check out these retention ponds, which are found almost everywhere. There will be some usual birds – sparrows, blackbirds, catbirds – and every once in while something worth the look – even a life bird.

* See the history of Brown’s Dump at The Brookline Connection reference below.

References:


Tom’s photo gallery on our website shows many birds found at such ponds… and see page 7 in this issue for comments related to his mockingbird column in the Nov/Dec issue.
Visit Arizona, and You’ll Find Birds Such as These

In the November/December 2019 issue of The Peregrine Jim Valimont described the birding excitement he and other 3RBC members enjoyed during a tour of Arizona sponsored by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Two of our club members photographed some of the species seen during the visit last August and September. Clockwise from top left are a Broad-billed Hummingbird by Mike Fialkovich, a Gambel’s Quail by Michelle Kienholz, a Mexican Jay by Mike, and an acrobatic Lesser Goldfinch by Michelle. Members are welcome to submit such articles and photos for The Peregrine.
Book Review

Pittsburgh’s Ted Floyd Invites Us to Discover How to Know the Birds

By Frank Izaguirre

Birding is many things to many people: art, passion, vocation, avocation, literature, science, fun. In Ted Floyd’s new book How to Know the Birds: The Art & Adventure of Birding (National Geographic, 2019), we find all of these ways of experiencing birds integrated so that each elevates the others. Although Floyd rejects the label of master for himself in the book’s introduction, make no mistake: he is not only an authority on all these ways of conceptualizing birds, he has here masterfully blended them all together.

The book is structured around 200 species accounts, each entry featuring a kind of lesson. These lessons progress among various themes as well as seasonally: winter begins with ideas anchored by the concept of the spark bird and the start of the birding life, like key points for bird identification; spring covers two of the most captivating aspects of bird biology, song and migration; summer turns to breeding season activities like courtship, nesting, and molt; late summer entries transition to bird conservation and its many challenges; fall pivots to birding culture, the institutions we value, and the foundations of our bird knowledge; and the book’s final entries outline the contours of this knowledge, so we can see the many discoveries that still await.

Beautifully illustrated by N. John Schmitt, the book’s lively and expressive drawings often depict the entanglement of birds’ lives with our own, a key theme of the book.

While Ted Floyd now addresses audiences of thousands, even tens of thousands, on the topic of how to know the birds through this book and other platforms, several Three Rivers Birding Club members were the first people to help him know how to know the birds. Indeed, the book is dedicated to 3RBC’s founding President, Jack Solomon, and The Peregrine’s original and long-serving Editor, Paul Hess.

For those who have known Floyd since he was a child or have gotten to know him on his return visits to Pittsburgh, of perhaps special interest will be his analysis of the evolution of birding as a pursuit and the culture that attends this pursuit: how technology has become a central aspect of birding, how birding has become less hierarchical and more diversified, among other observations. In these insights and stories, we can see not only the growth of birding as a popular hobby, but the growth of someone many of us are lucky enough to know, simply, as Ted.

Editor’s note: Ted’s book is reviewed and recommended in The New York Times with such praise as “Those of us who might feel intimidated by the competitiveness of many bird watchers couldn’t ask for a warmer, kinder, more helpful companion out in the field — carrying binoculars and a mobile phone.”

Naughty, Naughty Mockingbirds

Tom Moeller’s “Observations” column about mockingbirds in the November/December Peregrine prompted a couple of other examples about this ornery species’ behavior.

Pat and Sherron Lynch: A decade or more ago, we parked in the only space near the entrance to a small reserve in Florida. We were greeted with a cacophony of angry noises coming from a mockingbird. We thought the bird would get over it, and we went to explore the reserve.

Apparently, it did not get over it. When we returned, we had to chase the still scolding mocker from one of the side mirrors. It had dumped all over the mirror, and parts of the roof and windshield.

That was one angry mocker! Apparently, we had parked too close to its nest. At least it didn’t attack us. Ah! Live and learn.

Paul Hess: Our son in Florida once had a cat that faced continual harassment by a mockingbird pair in his fenced-in back yard. Day after day, year around, both birds would harass the cat almost continually, fluttering and chattering right above it.

While I watched the spectacle during a visit, the cat absolutely ignored the commotion with no sign of annoyance. As any cat lover knows, cats are endowed with transcendence that we mere humans can only envy.
By Mike Fialkovich, Bird Reports Editor

Various observers witnessed a flock of 90 Blue-winged Teal on the Allegheny River at Brurat’s Island 9/23. This may have been one of the highest (or highest count ever) in Allegheny County. Two Northern Shovelers were at Peters Creek in Jefferson Borough 9/21 (JHA). A Northern Pintail was at Janoski’s Farm in Findlay Twp. 9/21 (MV).

There was an effort to observe and count migrating Common Nighthawks this fall. A few observers focused their efforts, and the following high counts were tallied: 43 in Aspinwall 8/30 (STH), 76 at Heidelberg 8/30 (RT), 42 in Verona 8/21 (SK), 51 in Heidelberg 8/31 (RT) and 161 there 9/1 (RT), 43 in Pine Twp. 9/22 (PL, SL), and 90 in Heidelberg 9/11 (RT).

Single Semipalmated Plovers were found at Dashields Dam 8/9 (MV) and Duck Hollow 8/10 (MV). Two were at Chapel Harbor 8/14-19 (MD, JP, AH). Solitary Sandpipers were reported during most of August at various locations. Three Least Sandpipers were at North Park 8/2 (MV) where 1 remained until 8/9 (MV), and 1 was at Chapel Harbor 8/27 (MD). A flock of 10 American Avocets was discovered on the Ohio River at Brunot Island 9/23 (reported to BM). This provided the ninth county record. Interestingly, the birds were swimming in the middle of the river where they remained until dusk. An American Woodcock was a nice find for the season at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/9 (ST).

A Great Egret was at Boyce-Mayview Park 8/23 (FK) and 2 were there 9/9 (ST). An immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was discovered roosting in a tree next to a business in Duquesne 8/5 by an employee and reported to Bob Mulvihill. The bird was last reported 8/21. It fed on the lawn of the business in the evening and even walked along the sidewalk. It was observed capturing cicadas. This was the second county record and the first documented with photographs.

A kettle of 60 Broad-winged Hawks was observed over the Allegheny River Valley in Verona 8/31 (SK). We normally don’t see large numbers during migration in this area because this species typically follows the mountain ridges during migration. A Mississippi Kite was observed flying over a backyard in Upper St. Clair 8/25 (ST), only the second county record.

Two Merlin reports were early for the fall season: 1 in Pine Twp. 8/5 (PL, SL) and 1 at Schenley Park 8/21 (KSJ). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Frick Park 9/27 (JS, SS).

Olive-sided Flycatcher reports were numerous with single birds at Schenley Park 8/21 (KSJ), South Park 8/31 (JF), Pine Twp. 9/2-3 (PL, SL), Boyce-Mayview Park 9/7 (ST), Beechwood Farms 9/7 (AP) and 9/18 (BSH), and Harrison Hills Park 9/22 (AH). A nice fall count of 5 Acadian Flycatchers were at Tom’s Run (DYE). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in early September. They were concentrated in 9/6-9, including single birds at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/6 (LN), Deer Lakes Park 9/6 (DB), South Park (JF), North Park (DN) and Round Hill Park (JHA), all on 9/8, and Boyce-Mayview Park 9/9 (ST). Great Crested Flycatcher is not often reported in fall so 2 singles at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/2 (ST) and Pine Twp. 9/8 (PL, SL) were notable.

Five Bank Swallows were at Chapel Harbor 8/2 (JVA). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was a nice surprise at a feeder in Pleasant Hills 9/20 (HF). Single Veeries were reported 9/1 and 9/6 in Pine Twp. (PL, SL). A Hermit Thrush at Pine Twp. 9/30 was a bit early (PL, SL).

Twenty-three warbler species were reported during the period. Some highlights follow. Cape May Warblers are always nice to see, and there were numerous reports: 1 at North Park 9/8 (DN), 1 in Penn Hills 9/21 (MF), 1 at Deer Lakes Park 9/21 (JVA, OL, TH), 2 at Frick Park 9/24 (DWE), 1 in Natrona Heights 9/26 and 2 there 9/30 (PH). Northern Parula was at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/9 (ST) and at Frick Park 9/27 (DWE). A late Yellow Warbler was at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/6 (LN). Palm Warblers included 1 at Schenley Park 9/27 (KSJ) and 1 in Pine Twp. 9/27 (PL, SL). A Pine Warbler was in Pine Twp. 9/30 (PL, SL). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Frick Park 9/24 (DWE) was a bit early. A Canada Warbler was at South Park 9/8 (JF) and another was at Schenley Park 9/27 (KSJ). A Wilson’s Warbler was at Round Hill Park 9/15 (JHA, AR, BM). There is an overwhelming number of warbler reports in eBird during migration, and I can provide only a small sample of them in this newsletter.

Observers: Dave Brooke, Michael David, Holly Ferkett, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Jim Hausman (JHA), Amy Henriici, Paul Hess, Todd Hooe, Fred Kachmarik, Scott Kinzey, Oliver Lindheim, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Bob Mulvihill (BM), Lauren Nagoda, Dick Nugent, Joe Papp, Aidan Place, Anthony Rairdan, Kate St. John, Brian Shema (BSH), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Steve Thomas (STH), Sue Thomas (SUT), Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, John Vassallo (JVA), Dan Weeks (DWE), David Yeany (DYE).