

# The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

October 2009

## Meetings

Todd Bird Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month, September through April, at Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce County Park, located just off Route 110 east of the town of Ernest. Arrive early to socialize. Refreshments are provided at each of our meetings. In May we hold our banquet meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 6

– Todd member Mark McConaughy will share his best photos with us at our October meeting. Mark, by profession an archeologist working for the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is an accomplished birder and photographer as well. He serves as a counter at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch and compiles the central PA Birdline. He is a member of the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club and is a board member of the PA Society for Ornithology. He has birded extensively and taken many excellent photos. Don't miss this outstanding meeting!



This Sandhill Crane wintered at Derry Lake, Westmoreland County, in 2008.

Photo by Mark McConaughy

**Tuesday, November 3** – Member Roger Higbee will present *Birding Arizona* at this meeting. The Higbees traveled to southeast Arizona in late July and visited various birding hotspots including Patagonia, Madera Canyon, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, and Cave Creek Canyon. Highlights of their trip included Sinaloa Wren and Brown-backed Solitaire.

**Tuesday, December 1** – Member Dr. John Taylor from the geoscience department at IUP, will present *An Asian Adventure: Birding in Bhutan and Northern India*. In this presentation, John will cover the highlights of a two week excursion with brother Wil Taylor in May 2009, which included several days on Lingmethang Road, arguably the premier birding route in Asia. The presentation will include plenty of striking images (most of them borrowed) of the diverse fauna and flora that they encountered in the eastern Himalaya and at lower elevations in northern India. As usual, John will sneak in a bit of geology to supplement the biology – including the reasons why he is grateful to have made it back alive.

This is also our annual cookie extravaganza. Please bring a dozen of your favorite cookies, so we can sample them all!

**Tuesday, January 5** – Pat Andrascik will present a program entitled *Alaskan Adventure* at this meeting. Pat and her husband Steve flew to Vancouver then cruised the Inside Passage and toured Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Icy Strait, Hubbard Glacier, and Seward. They then traveled overland to Anchorage and continued to Denali by rail. The tour ended in Fairbanks. Highlights of the trip included Bald and Golden Eagles, Mew Gulls, Dovekies, and Willow Ptarmigans.

**Tuesday, February 2** – Gary Edwards, a charter

member of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society, will present a program entitled *The Life and Times of Piney Tract...a Reclaimed Surface Mine*. He has worked with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Audubon on the management of a portion of State Game Lands 330, known to birders as the Piney Tract, for grassland birds, especially Henslow's Sparrows. Gary served as the regional coordinator both during the first PA Breeding Bird Atlas as well as the second. He has also been the Venango County compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* since its inception in 1987.

## Outings

**Tuesday Morning Outings at Yellow Creek** will continue until deer season. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office located on Rt. 259 just off Rt. 422 east of Indiana. Everyone – from beginner to expert birder – is welcome.

**Saturday, October 10** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, October 24** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Carol Guba (724-465-4429). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, November 7** – Joint Todd and Three Rivers Birding Club outing at Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Friday, November 27, through Monday, November 30** – Birding the Niagara Frontier. *You must have a passport or a passport card to enter Canada and return to the US.* This four-day trip will cover Presque Isle and Dunkirk Harbor en route to the Peace Bridge. We plan to stay at the Days Inn near the falls on the Canadian side. You may take part in the entire trip or in only a day or two by meeting us there. If you are interested in going or have questions, please contact the Higbees (724-354-3493).

Last year's Niagara highlights included all three scoters, King Eider, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Little Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Snow Bunting, and Common Redpoll.

**Saturday, December 26** – Indiana Christmas Bird Count. Please contact the Higbees if you plan to participate (724-354-3493).

## Meet Our New President



Julie Mibroda was born in Presque Isle, Maine. She grew up, however, in Homer City, PA, graduating from Homer-Center High School in 1992, and earning her B.S. in biology from IUP in May 2007. During the summers of 2006, 2007, and 2008, she worked on shorthood garter snake and mountain earth snake surveys on a State Wildlife Grant through Shippensburg University. She is currently in her first semester of graduate

school working toward her master's degree in biology. She plans to continue her education to get her PhD so that she may teach at a university or get a wildlife biologist's position at the state or federal level.

Julie lives in Indiana with her husband, Tim, and their "kids" – Otie (their cat), and Maggie (their puppy). Currently most of her birding is done from her back porch, but she is always on the lookout wherever she goes. Julie states, "I am looking forward to attending outings with the club. If there is anything else about me (or about snakes!) you would like to know, please don't hesitate to ask!"

## From the President's Desk...

It's hard to believe that the overnight temperatures are dipping into the 40's already... where did the summer go?!? As is probably the case with most of you, my summer was extremely hectic, which unfortunately kept me from doing much birding. I was lucky to see a Bald Eagle and an Osprey last month at Portage Lake in Maine, but other than catching glimpses of a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at my feeder, these were basically my bird sightings this summer.

I would like to thank all those who were able to attend our members' night meeting on September 1 and share their wonderful stories of bird sightings and their amazing pictures with everyone. How fortunate we are to be able to meet with people who share our passion for birds!

As the club's new president, and a fairly new member, I have a lot to learn about the ins and outs of this organization. I am confident that I can do what is expected of the president to continue the success of the club, and I am open to any suggestions and guidance to achieve this. I believe that the most important thing we

can give to our community, and to our members, is knowledge. So many persons enjoy watching birds, but how many can identify the birds they are seeing? How many people who enjoy birding can identify a bird by its song? How exciting it is to teach someone more about something they already love! I would like to work on bringing in new members and spreading the word about the Todd Bird Club so that we can share our knowledge to facilitate those who already love birds, and to attract those who maybe didn't realize how much they love them, too. I appreciate your patience and your assistance as I learn the ropes as the president of this great club!

– Julie Mibroda

## Outings Revisited

**August 29** – This Todd outing to the Ghost Town Trail started at Saylor Park near Blairsville. When we arrived, AJ Lassick was the first to spot three Eastern Bluebirds perched on the fence. The trees surrounding the parking lot were alive with birds – mostly Cedar Waxwings feasting on the black cherries, but a nice variety of other species was also present. Other birds noted included four Black-throated Green Warblers, one Blackburnian Warbler, three Scarlet Tanagers, and a Baltimore Oriole. There was so much activity in the park that we spent more than an hour watching and listing, among many others, the following: Eastern Wood-Pewees, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Northern Parula, Indigo Bunting, and Northern Cardinals. A flock of 22 Mallards flew overhead. A Sharp-shinned Hawk's appearance momentarily halted a lot of the activity.

When we finally pulled ourselves away from the park, we hiked a little over one mile of the trail before retracing our route. Our total list included 33 species. Present on the outing were Lee Carnahan, AJ and Tony Lassick, Donna Meyer, and Roger and Margaret Higbee.

– Margaret Higbee

**September 12** – The five participants (Marge Van Tassel from Vandergrift, Steve Sanford from Sharon, and Lee Carnahan and Roger and Margaret Higbee from Indiana) for my Lawrence-Mercer outing met me at 7:30 at McDonald's at the I-79 Grove City exit. When I'm leading, we always eat at McDonald's!

Our first stop was at Black Swamp where we spotted a nice array of ducks – Mallards and both Green- and Blue-winged Teal – and shorebirds. Here on the mud were one Semipalmated Plover, about 35 Killdeer, 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 8 Least Sandpipers, and 4 Wilson's Snipe.

Four Purple Finches and a Savannah Sparrow perched in one of the nearby trees so we were able to observe them through our scopes. A juvenile Bald Eagle flew through, and Roger was able to follow it to its perch on an Osprey nesting platform in the distance, so again we got scope views of the bird.



The Shenango birders included Marge Van Tassel, Roger Higbee, Steve Sanford, Linda Wagner, and Lee Carnahan.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

Since there have been so many postings on the list serve from Shenango, we made that our next destination. It was well worth the trip even though we did not find the "good" access point. Our first stop was just off West River Road. Shorebirds included numerous Killdeer, about 20 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 7 Least Sandpipers, and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers. About 10 Tree Swallows flew by, and Cedar Waxwings were catching insects on the wing. Across the water an Osprey perched in a tree.

We made another stop where we added 25 Ring-billed and one Herring Gull and 4 Caspian Terns. Warblers were almost non-existent until Steve told us that he had had a lot of warblers at one of the parking lots. Great save! Here we found 2 Red-eyed Vireos and the following warblers: Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Hooded, and American Redstart.

We left Shenango and had lunch at Subway, of course – hoagies for everyone and Lee and I split a foot-long Italian. We then made another pass along Bonani for the cranes which I had seen this morning before the outing but which we had missed on our earlier trip through. No luck – no cranes were visible. Everyone else left, but Steve and I returned to Black Swamp where we added 2 Lesser Yellowlegs to the morning's list.

By the way, I did not see the cranes again until September 23!

– Linda Wagner



# Historical Birding Data Going Online – North American Bird Phenology Program

In the 1880s, educator Wells W. Cooke founded the Bird Phenology Program (BPP), encouraging professional as well as amateur ornithologists to record their bird sightings, to track migration and population. Completed sighting cards were sent to the U.S. Geological Survey building in Laurel, Maryland. These 2 x 5 cards sent in by over 3,000 individuals accumulated over the years to total about 6 million records before the program was discontinued in the 1970s.

Volunteers are now scanning the paper records, and a program has been set up whereby citizen scientists, working from home, can log on to the site and enter the data into a template to create digital records. More than 363,000 cards have been scanned so far, and volunteers have transcribed more than 85,000 of them.

This data will provide a treasure-trove of information about the historical abundance and distribution of birds in North America. For more information or to help, see <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/index.cfm>

A sample card showing AOU # 654, a Black-throated Blue Warbler. “L” indicates the Last sighting of spring 1910, on May 17 at Beaver, PA, by “Todd,” most likely W.E. Clyde Todd, for whom the Todd Bird Club was named.

– Flo McGuire

[Editor's Note: Flo McGuire has transcribed an amazing 2739 of these cards to date!]

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "USGS North American Bird Phenology Program—Transcription - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/transcription\_main.html". The page content includes a sidebar on the left with the text "Observer Card Transcription" and "Logged in as: fmcguire1@verizon.net". The main area features a central image of a handwritten bird sighting card with the text "654 Beaver, Pa. Todd." and "L 5/17 -10". Below the image is a transcription form with the following fields: "Species/Name of Bird" (Common or Sci. Name), "AOU Number" (654), "Location" (Country: United States, State/Province: Pennsylvania, County/Parish, City/Town: Beaver), and "Observer" (Observer Name). To the right of the form is the "Event Observation Data" section, which includes a "Reference Year" field, a table for "Event Month", "Day", and "# Birds at Event Date" with rows for "First Arrival", "Next Seen", "Most Common", and "Last Seen", and radio buttons for "Breeds?", "Overwinters?", and "Commonness". Below this is the "Transcription Process" section with a "Problem with Card?" dropdown and a "Transcriber Comments" text area. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the "start" button, open applications "PABIRDS - Thunderbird" and "USGS North American...", and the system clock "12:30 PM".

## Prey for a Predator?

by Marge Van Tassel

One muggy August day while walking the Baker Trail at Crooked Creek, I spied a healthy garter snake – or rather it spied me. I was hoping to see or hear birds, of course, but they'd recently been keeping a low profile. Usually a walk in the area near the outflow would yield something of interest – butterflies, dragonflies, mushrooms, cardinal flowers, etc. The previous week I had found a lot of interesting things along that trail, but this day most of the fungi were working their way back into the ground or had been eaten.

About a quarter of a mile into my walk I heard a loud, deep hoot of a Great Horned which I had also heard last fall while birding one night while my son was fishing at Crooked Creek. What a neat sound! I could not see it anywhere although it didn't sound very far away, I had no real feel for its location, so I just continued walking, stopping to admire the wildflowers and fungi I spotted along the way, taking photos of those that were in fairly decent lighting.

The trail becomes a little difficult at the bend in the creek just before it reaches Route 66, so I decided to return to my car to drive to another spot on the lake or on the creek which winds its way north and east toward Indiana. While I was looking down at the ground where I had seen crown fungi and another mushroom, a snake crept across my path and wound around a large tree on my right. I saw it on the other side of the tree where it was facing the path, sticking out its lovely red tongue. I know that snakes use their tongues as “feelers,” so it may have just been trying to find its way around the tree to return to where it had been, or possibly it was looking for available prey to eat. I lowered my camera and snapped a photo that turned out to be not so great but identifiable then proceeded to walk on.

I was a few hundred feet past the snake and facing forward, considering what I planned to do next when I heard a fairly loud swoosh of vegetation. Looking back over my shoulder, I saw branches fluttering on the bushes and tree where I had observed the snake. Did the snake serve as a meal for another predator?

I've returned to this spot several times hoping to see the snake or hear the owl or spot yet another predator, but the gas company has had trucks and caterpillars in the area laying another pipeline, so I guess I'll just have to try again later when they are gone. Will I ever really know what happened to that snake?

## It's That Time of Year— the Waxwings Descend on Nolo!

by Georgette Syster



Elegant Cedar Waxwings often descend en masse on fruiting trees.

One morning around 7:00 near the end of August, I stepped out on my deck to enjoy a cup of coffee. My “horizon” consists of the tops of the many deciduous trees that comprise my woods in our backyard near Nolo. Suddenly I noticed a large flock of Cedar Waxwings in the top of a massive wild cherry tree. It was nearly impossible to count them as they were still for only a few seconds

at a time. At one point I had estimated around 30 birds when a loud noise at my neighbor's caused about 40 individuals to fly away. I then realized how many waxwings were still in the tree.

Counting was difficult as the birds fed, flew out, circled around, and returned to the tree, much as a flycatcher hunts from a perch for insects. But the waxwings were not catching insects; they were eating what I believe were fermented cherries. It was like a giant fraternity party. They landed, ate a few cherries, and circled out from the tree then landed and repeated the process over and over again. Not just a few birds behaved this way – all of them did!

Counting became impossible. Yes, even harder than counting a huddle of feeding and diving American Coots at Yellow Creek State Park.

It seemed like a giant ballet with all the birds partying the same way. Amazing! The sky was filled with waxwings, each doing its own choreography. The affair continued for another 40 minutes until a small gang of Blue Jays decided to crash the party. It was a most unusual show that continued to some extent throughout the day – but never in such a confusing concentration.

As you can imagine, I really enjoyed all the bird activity. It also helps to support my theory which has begun to fully blossom as I age. If you sit quietly in a spot for a long enough time, the birds will come to you!

# Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County Report

Summer 2009 – June 1 through July 31

Please submit your reports at the end of each month to Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934 or e-mail to [bcoriole@windstream.net](mailto:bcoriole@windstream.net).

Abbreviations: Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Margaret (MG), Patton (PT), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Rimer (RM), Shelocta (SH), Sherrett (SR), Virginia (VA), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Eight young **Common Mergansers** trailed behind a hen along Plum Creek near Elderton 6/3 (MH); this is the first time they have been spotted at this location. Three Common Mergansers flying overhead at a stop on the KT BBS 6/7 (MH,RH) were a welcome surprise.

The presence of a **Pied-billed Grebe** at PG 7/30 (JS) suggests possible breeding. A **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared 6/2 (MH,MVT) at YC, where one week later 3 were sighted (MH,MVT); a singleton was last seen there 6/16 (MH,DM); one stopped at PG 7/3 (JS).

An **Osprey** at PG 7/3,29 (JS) was the only one reported in the region. Adult **Bald Eagles** were sighted 6/5 (MH,JV,MVT) at CC, 6/11 (BF,MH) near Templeton, and 6/30 (MH,MVT), 7/7 (MH,DM), 7/14 (MH,DM,MVT), and 7/26 (LC) at YC where a juvenile was observed 7/21 (MH,DM,MVT); one was seen at PG 7/8,29 (JS). The adult on 7/7 at YC came into Little Yellow Cove and dived successfully for a fish right in front of the observers. A raptor day at KR yielded a **Cooper's Hawk**, 3 **Broad-winged Hawks**, and 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** on 6/13 (KB). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted only n. of IN (SB) while **Cooper's Hawks** were found at five locations (v.o.). PG's nesting boxes housed two pairs of nesting **American Kestrels** this summer (JS).

A single **Virginia Rail** was found at PG 7/8,30 (JS). The water level at YC remained high with very little exposed mud in Little Yellow Cove. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** arrived 7/26 (LC), and one **Least Sandpiper** and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** were nice surprises 7/14 (MH,DM,MVT). Single **American Woodcocks** near Lewisville 6/10 (MC) and at Nolo 6/16 (AB,GL) were the only ones reported. A single **Ring-billed Gull** was seen at YC 6/9 (MH,MVT) and 6/16 (MH,DM); 5 visited PG 7/29 (JS). YC yielded 5 **Forster's Terns** 6/2 (MH,MVT) and 2 on 6/30 (MH,MVT).

BBS routes yielded the only **Black-billed Cuckoos**, one on the VA route 6/13 and two on the PT 6/14 (all MH,RH). The MG 6/6 (MH,RH) and the PT 6/14 (MH,RH) BBS routes each yielded single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**; another was found at YC 7/21 (MH,DM,MVT) and 7/28 (MVT). A **Whip-poor-will** was calling in Dark Hollow 6/15 (EF,MF,RH).

The MG BBS 6/6 (MH,RH) and the KT BBS 6/7 (MH,RH) each yielded only 4 singing **Acadian Flycatchers**. An

**Alder Flycatcher** singing at YC 6/2 (MH, MVT) was still present and vocal 7/21 (MH,DM,MVT); another was heard on the KT route 6/7 (MH,RH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at YC 6/2,9 (MH,MVT), 6/23 (MJA,MH,DM,MVT), and 7/7 (MH,DM); across the river from RM 6/4 (BF,MH); near RM 6/11 (BF,MH); and near SH (MH,RH) throughout the summer. **Yellow-throated Vireo** records, among many, included an individual across the river from RM 6/4 (BF,MH), one at CC 6/5 (MH,JV,MVT), and one at KR 6/13 (KB). Single **Warbling Vireos** were spotted at Creekside 6/10 (MH) and at Templeton 6/11 (BF,MH), the only reports.

A **Common Raven** flew over YC calling 6/9 (MH,MVT) while one was sighted near Worthington 6/19 (MH,RH). By 7/16 (DS) the **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton contained 40 pairs that had produced 163 young, up significantly from last year. One gourd on 6/24 (DS) contained 7 young; females usually lay 4 or 5 eggs. Many birds were saved by the feeding of scrambled eggs 7/2 (DS) while die-offs were occurring elsewhere across the state because of the cool, wet weather. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were on nest near SR 6/4 (BF,MH); rough-wings were observed carrying food and/or fecal sacs at three YC nests 7/14 (MH,DM,MVT). A **Bank Swallow** at YC 6/2 (MH,MVT) was probably a late migrant; 4 were moving through PG 7/30 (JS). Four **Cliff Swallows** were listed at KR 6/13 (KB) while the high count of 26 at PG occurred 7/3 (JS).

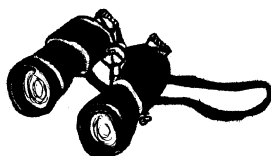
A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was carrying food near SH 6/26 (MH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were feeding young at YC 6/16 (MH,DM). **Veery** reports included 4 on the VA BBS 6/13 (MH,RH), one on the PT BBS 6/14 (MH,RH), and one at Dysart 6/15 (DG,JS). Single **Hermit Thrushes** were singing near Spruce 6/13 (MH,RH) and near KT 6/7 (MH,RH) while 2 were singing near SR 6/4 (BF,MH). The MG BBS route yielded 23 **Wood Thrushes** 6/6 (MH, RH); 12 was a good count at KR 6/13 (KB). A **Brown Thrasher** was carrying food near RM 6/11 (BF,MH).

Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were found near SR 6/4 (BF,MH) and at CC 6/5 (MH,JV,MVT) while the MG BBS yielded 4 on 6/6 (MH, RH); the RM area also harbored 4 on 6/11 (BF,MH). A **Northern Parula** was singing 6/11 (BF,MH) near RM while another was territorial at YC 6/2 (MH,MVT) through 7/7 (MH,DM). **Yellow Warbler** BBS

counts included 23 on the MG route 6/6 (MH,RH) and 17 on the KT 6/7 (MH, RH), both down from last year. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 3 near SR 6/4 (BF,MH), 2 on the MG BBS 6/6 (MH,RH), 3 on the KT BBS 6/7 (MH,RH), 8 on the VA BBS 6/13 (MH,RH), and 11 on the PT route 6/14 (MH,RH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were singing on territory at YC 6/16 (MH,DM) and 6/30 (MH,MVT); another Magnolia was near SR 6/4 (BF,MH). Dysart yielded 2 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 6/15 (DG,JS) while St. Lawrence harbored 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 7/20 (DG,JS); these were the only reports for the latter two species. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread with numerous reports (v.o.) from across the region. **Blackburnian Warblers** were listed only at YC 6/16,23,30 (v.o.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** along the river at RM 6/11 (BF,MH) was the lone report. One to 2 **Pine Warblers** were found on YC outings between 6/2 (MH,MVT) and 7/14 (MH,DM,MVT), and another was near SH through 6/23 (MH). **Cerulean Warblers** included one across the river from RM 6/4 (BF,MH) and one near Brick Church 6/6 (MH,RH). Among many reports, **Black-and-white Warblers** included 3 near SR 6/4 (BF,MH) and an equal number near RM 6/11 (BF,MH); a family group of 4 was listed at YC 7/28 (MVT). At least 6 **American Redstarts** were noted near RM 6/4 (BF,MH). An agitated **Louisiana Waterthrush** was noted with food in its bill across the river from RM 6/4 (BF,MH); other Louisianas included one at CC 6/4 (MH,JV,MVT), one near RM 6/11 (BF,MH), and one on the VA BBS 6/13 (MH,RH). The only **Kentucky Warbler** reported was one on the MG BBS 6/6 (MH,RH). June 4 (BF,MH) yielded 10 **Hooded Warblers** and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** near SR and 5 Hooded Warblers and a chat across the river from RM.

**Scarlet Tanagers** were seen nest building across the river from RM 6/4 (BF,MH) and carrying food near RM 6/11 (BF,MH). The PT BBS yielded the region's only reported 2 **Vesper Sparrows** 6/14 (MH,RH). **Savannah Sparrows** included single birds 6/3 (MH) near Elderton and 6/11 (BF,MH) near Widnoon as well as 2 near PT 6/14 (MH,RH). **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports included 2 across the river from RM 6/4 (MH), 3 on the MG BBS 6/6 (MH,RH), one near Widnoon and another near RM 6/11 (BF,MH). A singing **Henslow's Sparrow** was a good find near SR 6/4 (BF,MH); PG hosted a singleton 7/29 (JS).

A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was feeding at least two fledglings at YC 6/23 (MJA,MH,DM,MVT). **Baltimore Orioles** were still carrying food 7/7 (MH,DM) at YC. CC yielded 2 **Purple Finches** 6/5 (MH,JV,MVT); at least 5 were present n. of IN the same day (SB) while a female purple was observed nest building at YC 6/16 (MH,DM). Four **Pine Siskins** were still present at Johnstown 6/4 (KG); singletons visited a yard near Lewisville 6/8-9, 25-26; 7/6 (MC) and a SH feeder 6/19 (MH).



Observers: Mary Jane Alexander (MJA), Alice Beatty, Sid Blair, Ken Byerly, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Erma Dovenspike, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Kevin Georg, Dave Gobert, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Gloria Lamer, Donna Meyer, John Salvetti, Duke Snyder, Josie Valasek, Marjorie Van Tassel

## Bird Quiz

1. Which buteo can be identified by its dark patagial markings?
2. Which species' pre-dawn flight call sounds like a spring peeper?
3. Which loon gives goose-like cackles?
4. Which is the only loon that can stand upright?
5. What is the only subterranean-nesting raptor in the US?

*See Answers on page 8.*

## Field of Dreams

by Evelyn Fowles

Marcy and Dan Cunkelman extended their warm hospitality to the Todd Bird Club and the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club on a very hot August 9. Thirty people who came to the potluck picnic enjoyed a wonderful assortment of fresh summer fruits and vegetables and many tasty homemade dishes which were complemented by scrumptious desserts. I find it hard to believe that Marcy and Dan have created so many islands to attract birds and butterflies in the eight years they have lived there. There are native as well as "alien" plants. The pond has attracted a snapping turtle, and Rocky the Flying Squirrel has almost become a pet. Marcy's many types of salvia attract hummingbirds. By the way, most salvias are deer resistant. Marcy's yard list of 158 birds proves that "if you build it, they will come," as was mentioned in one of my favorite movies, *Field of Dreams*. Let's all plant plants to attract our favorite and have our own field of dreams!





Marcy Cunkelman identifies the plants in her yard for the birders at the picnic that she and her husband Dan hosted in early August.



Host Dan Cunkelman greets everyone as they arrive.



Roger Higbee and Donna Meyer listen attentively to Marcy's explanations.

This newsletter is produced four times a year by the Todd Bird Club.

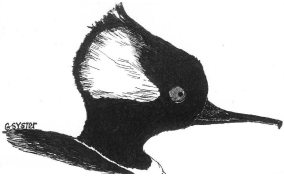
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## Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 7)

1. Red-tailed Hawk
2. Swainson's Thrush
3. Red-throated Loon
4. Red-throated Loon
5. Burrowing Owl





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