

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

October 2010

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 5 - Nearly forty species of Wood Warblers breed in eastern North America. Although some, like the Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, are abundant winter residents in Florida, most are inter-continental migrants that winter in the American tropics. In spring they journey to northern forests to breed. Smaller than a chickadee, some, like the Blackpoll Warbler, cover thousands of miles, from northern Canada to South America – nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean. Warblers will be the topic, and our presenter will be Chuck Tague. See July Nuthatch for complete details.



Golden-winged Warblers have declined to the point that they are now rarities.

Photo by Jeff Larkin

Tuesday, November 2 – Todd member Marge Van Tassel will share her favorite photos at our November meeting. Marge is a retired Administrative Secretary from the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland and spends much of her time birding Crooked Creek and the surrounding areas in Armstrong County. This year she began monitoring the 27 bluebird boxes at Crooked Creek as a USACE volunteer. She also attends many Tuesday

morning Todd outings and the occasional Saturday or special outing at Yellow Creek. She moved in 2005 to the Leechburg area, where she feeds the birds in her yard. Marge has birded extensively the past several years and has taken innumerable photographs. Don't miss this interesting program.

Tuesday, December 7 – Dr. Jeffery Larkin will give us an update on the Golden-winged Warbler Project at this meeting. The Golden-winged Warbler is one of the most critically threatened, non-federally listed vertebrates in eastern North America. In 2010, this species was petitioned to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Thus, the development of management prescriptions that create or maintain Golden-winged Warbler breeding habitat is a conservation priority. In 2008, Dr. Larkin and his students initiated an intensive three-year study intended to examine demographic and habitat relations of the Golden-winged Warbler in northcentral Pennsylvania. During this presentation, Dr. Larkin will provide an overview of this project's scope, initial results, and future direction.

This is also our Christmas Cookie Extravaganza. Please bring a dozen cookies to share.

Tuesday, January 4 – This is our annual Members' Night. Bring your pictures, slides, digital photos, stories, or other memorabilia to share with the club.

Outings

Tuesday Morning Outings at Yellow Creek will continue until deer season. Meet at 8:00 at the park office located on Rt. 259 just off Rt. 422 east of Indiana. Everyone – from beginner to expert birder – is welcome. If you have questions, contact Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

Saturday, October 2 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Early migrating waterfowl will be the target species for this outing. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, October 9 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Marge Van Tassel. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, October 23 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Sue Dickson. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, October 30 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, November 6 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). This is a joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club. Meet at 8:00 at the park office. A trip to the Chinese buffet in Indiana will follow the outing.

Friday, November 26, through Monday, November 29 – 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 Brant, all three scoters, Red-throated Loons, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Little Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Snowy Owl.

Saturday, December 18 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan. Meet at 8:00 at the park office. Late waterfowl are the targets for this field trip.

Monday, December 27 – Indiana Christmas Bird Count. The 15-mile-diameter count circle is centered at the intersection of Second and Grandview in Indiana. We will meet at 6:00 to compile the count and eat dinner, probably at Hoss's. Please contact the Higbees if you plan to participate (724-354-3493).

From the Co-President's Desk...

Greetings to everyone! It was nice to see a respectable turnout for the first meeting of our Todd Bird Club year. If you weren't there, you really missed something. Ross Gallardy gave an excellent presentation on his experiences in Australia. Not only were the birds and wildlife exciting, the narration of his trip diary made you feel as if you were there with him. As the presentation started and Ross started "zipping" through his slides, I thought, "He'll be done in half an hour!" It was over an hour later when our trip to Australia ended. What an experience it was for our audience and our young presenter. Perhaps what I enjoyed most about the presentation was the youthfulness and exuberance of our presenter. Now at the age of 21, this young man has seen many more birds than any one of us will ever see and has had the experience of a lifetime.

If any of you missed reporting your summer findings, please come to the meeting next month. I just found myself looking back through my calendar and found reference to a sighting of an albino robin on June 23. I'll be honest in saying that I really don't remember who saw it or where it was seen, but I did note it in order to report it to the club. Are these rare sightings? Let us know at the next meeting. As always, if you have some items to share with our Chinese auction or have some goodies or snacks to share, these are also welcomed at our gatherings.

It's been a good start to my school year. It just seems as if the end of August came and I "hit the ground running." I am always looking for local biology items to use in class. A good example of that is Jeff Larkin's last presentation to our club on the Golden-winged Warbler. There was just an article about his research in our issue of the *Tribune Review*. It is currently posted on my bulletin board adjacent to the poster that Jeff gave me at our club meeting. The students always enjoy hearing about a local twist to our ongoing conservation efforts. We'll hear more about these warblers at our December meeting.

See you at the next meeting,

– Linda Jones, Co-President

Special thanks to Gloria Lamer, Alice and Buck Beatty, and Lee Carnahan for handling the water stops for the race at Yellow Creek on August 14. Thanks, too, to the Roadrunners for the \$50 donation for Todd Bird Club.

Notes from a Novice

I Didn't Know Birding Was a "Blood" Sport

by Thomas N. Glover

I was introduced to birding by my daughter Elyse and her husband Tom at the end of last year, 2009, about Christmas time. Now these two are dedicated, tree-hugging, bird freaks. In fact if it were not for birds, they would not be married. I retired last year at the end of July, and for our first big retirement project my wife and I spent the winter near Rockport, located along the southern coast of Texas. We are familiar with this area as my sister and her husband lived in this same area for a number of years, and Elyse and Tom also lived in southern Texas for two years. During those two years they became very familiar with the birds of the south Texas coastal area. We invited the kids – Jud, our son, and Elyse and Tom, down for the Christmas holidays. Jud had to fly back to PA just after Christmas, but Elyse and Tom did not need to return to their home in New York till after the New Year.

During their extra time in Texas they birded every chance they got, and naturally I tagged along. Also during that time they kept checking the Texas bird list serve on line and discovered two rare bird sightings in the Rio Grande River Valley. The next thing I knew a birding trip for New Year's Day was planned to the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park World Birding Center!

Located in Texas along the Rio Grande River, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park comprises 760 acres dedicated to birding. This park is one of the premier birding locations in the United States with its extensive set of trails and roads that run throughout the park, and it has a number of feeding stations, some with observation blinds, located along the trails. The state of Texas supports this park with a very knowledgeable staff and surprisingly a decent network of physical facilities.

I was told to go to bed early on New Year's Eve because we were getting up at 3:30 New Year's morning. I noted that most people were thinking about going to bed at 3:30 a.m. New Year's Day, not getting up. Well by 4:30 we were on a dark, straight Texas highway heading south toward the Rio Grande River Valley. We arrived at the park a little before 8:00, and one of the first things I noticed was that there were 40 or 50 vehicles in the parking lot. And next to the lot was a full RV park with a steady trickle of people moving from the RV park to the

state park. I was surprised that early on a New Year's Day to see that many people who were bird watching! We made our way to the gift shop and offices to pay our entrance fees, and I was surprised again to see that the facilities were fully staffed, serving a bustling crowd. We paid our fees and opted to walk rather than taking the shuttle that makes scheduled runs into the park.



This Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl pleased many birders at Bentsen-Rio Grande in January.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

We entered the area on a bridge over a large drainage ditch with a dike and were greeted at the first feeding station by a loud, raucous flock of Plain Chachalacas. After that noisy introduction we settled down to the business of birding. We birded our way through Bentsen, and in the late morning we decided to look for one of the rare birds that had been mentioned, the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.

After conferring with a group of about six birders who were sitting in camp chairs under a tree viewing one of the feeding stations, we learned that the owl

had last been seen earlier that morning along the same road we were on. So we set off stalking the owl. Well into our search we were surprised by a young man with long, flowing hair madly riding a bicycle, doing his best imitation of "Paul Revere" yelling "Tiger-Heron on the dike, Tiger-Heron on the dike, Tiger-Heron on the dike!" I was completely caught off guard by what happened next. I don't know where they came from, but a crowd of mainly older people were rushing down the road after the young man on the bike. I never saw so many old people moving that fast in my life! We had to get off the road as the stampede passed. We made the decision to continue our search for the owl and to look for the very rare Bare-throated Tiger-Heron later.

We did find the small Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl perched in an oak tree along the road. Tom took a number of photos of the owl from different angles, including views from its backside showing the false eye patches on the back of its head.

After we were satisfied with our views of the owl, we caught one of the shuttles back to the entrance and got off at the dike. As we walked up the dike, I noticed people running along the dike; then I noticed these runners were moving in and out of a crowd of about 50 noisy people packed in a small area. They were gathered around about 15 scopes on tripods pointed at a location about 100 yards



This Bare-throated Tiger-Heron foraged in a brushy area off the dike.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

off the dike. With our own excitement building, we merged with the noisy crowd, and there was the Bare-throated Tiger-Heron foraging next to a brushy area about 100 yards off the dike. It was

interesting to watch the reaction of the crowd as the tiger-heron moved into and out of the brush. Every time the bird disappeared into the brush, a sigh of disappointment erupted from the crowd; but every time the bird reappeared, an excited buzz arose. With noon fast approaching, we learned that some of these people had been waiting on the dike before sunrise, watching for the tiger-heron. We finally departed the feeding frenzy of birders about noon as we had one more birding stop

before our drive north.

That afternoon we did bird Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Yes, we did find birds in the refuge, but what a contrast the refuge was to Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. The refuge, a federal facility, was closed for New Year's Day; so we had the place to ourselves – just us and the birds, no frenzied crowd of birders.

We left the refuge and started our long trip north. Tom was driving, and as dark approached, and with our conversation flagging, I was able to review what I had observed that day. Here was a Texas state park dedicated to birding. The more I thought about it, the more I realized the oxymoron quality of that statement. Texas with its popular urban legend of "shoot 'em now and ask questions later" supports 760 acres dedicated to bird watchers. And I came to the conclusion that the people I met that day take birding very seriously. In fact, you better get out of their way when the word goes out, and the birding frenzy starts after they get the scent of "Blood."

Nightjar Survey

by Mary Assenat

I remember hearing Common Nighthawks far back into my childhood. I paired the sound of their nocturnal calls with the orange glow of Hazelwood's and Southside's furnaces reflected off night-time clouds. I can't remember if someone told me they were birds or if I figured it out through my own interest in natural history and animals. They have been one of my favorite birds, even before I knew they were birds, simply because they were unseen and mysterious, heard but unseen.

The nightjars each have rather unmistakable and often repetitive calls from the Eastern Whip-poor-will's maniacally loud and persistent "Whip-poor-will! Whip-poor-will!" to the nasal and buzzy "paank" of my nighthawks. You seldom get a look at a nightjar outside of an aviary or zoo.

One noisy Fourth of July I had the rare luck of actually getting to see a bunch of nighthawks and watch the males' display. A group of males were in a booming frenzy – competing with each other and the fireworks – swooping frighteningly close to Highland Avenue, cars and wires. They live a dramatic and perilous life indeed. Life is hard for any bird, but nighthawks are among the growing clan of urbanized animals I see on my trips into Pittsburgh. Cars, cats and dogs, urbanized hawks and falcons, rats, raccoons, and many other city denizens are all dangerous adversaries for these wildlife pioneers. Their habitat is

subject to the whims of people more so than Mother Nature, and this runs the gamut from the pest-control minded building owner to developers and city planners. I noticed there seemed to be fewer nighthawks, and they didn't seem to be around as long as each summer went by. It couldn't all be explained by excited males meeting an untimely demise in traffic accidents in Shadyside – they were all over the city, but I only saw that fearless frenzy once.

It turns out that nightjars of almost all species are on the decline world-wide. They have not been well researched nor have their populations, life histories, and migration patterns been well-documented. Nightjars are crepuscular and nocturnal birds and thus more difficult to study than diurnal birds. When I heard about the nightjar survey needing volunteers, I jumped on it. I was able to take two routes in Indiana County. Obtaining maps of the routes and registering was easily accomplished via the study's website www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm.

You have to wait until moonrise to begin the survey, which put me well past my normal bedtime in late June and early July. Driving the route during the day is absolutely necessary. You have to scout out where you will be stopping later on in the dark, and it is much easier to get the GPS coordinates and habitat descriptions during

the day when you can actually see. I wasn't expecting to hear any nightjars since I haven't heard any since moving here from Pittsburgh in 2007. I was still disappointed that I didn't get any, but it is now officially documented in the survey, and that information is important. I hope I hear some next year! I understand that some nighthawks have been heard in Kittanning. It is rumored that nighthawks like cities and towns for their flat rock roofs for nest sites, but the dearth of Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows out here in rural Indiana County is not explained by a lack of industrial buildings. These birds are diversely adaptable to humid or arid conditions of woodland/shrubland/grassland/suburbs habitat; they eat all sorts of insects, and they nest and roost on the ground. Chuck-will's-widows tend to prefer woodlands and forests, but we are not without those. So, where are our Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows?

Michael Wilson is an IUP biology grad. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Mike at:

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Your route needs to be surveyed only once a year, so it is not a time-consuming endeavor. A single route would be an invaluable contribution to our understanding these wonderful and mysterious night birds.

Joint Todd-Westmoreland Picnic Revisited



Carl Trout, Leonard Anderson, and John Somonick were among the picnickers at the Cunkelman home.



Marcy discusses the various plants in her yard.



Co-presidents Linda Jones and Donna Meyer discuss recent bird sightings while Roger Higbee looks on.

Once again this year Dan and Marcy Cunkelman graciously invited members and friends of the Todd Bird Club and the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club to their home for a delicious picnic on Sunday, August 22. The morning started with rain, but by 1:00 and picnic time, the sun appeared and the rain ceased.

Marcy took us on a tour of her wonderful yard. Evelyn Fowles and Margaret Higbee were at the back of the group and had lingered somewhat behind when they spotted a flycatcher in the top of a tree. Margaret put the scope on it and found that it was an Olive-sided Flycatcher! She shouted, "Olive-sided Flycatcher" and turned to see the entire group running toward them. The bird was extremely cooperative as everyone was able to get multiple looks through the scope. The Olive-sided was an all-time yard bird for Marcy. Special thanks to both Marcy and Dan for their hospitality.



Marcy Cunkelman explains her mulching technique to the group.

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County Report

Summer - June 1 through July 31, 2010

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.

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Patton (PT), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Shelocta (SH), Virginia (VA), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A healthy count of 55 **Wood Ducks** at YC 7/20 (LC,MH, DM,MVT) included many young. **Mallards**, however, did not exhibit a strong presence at YC this summer with the best count a mere 3 on 6/1 (LC,SD,MH), and no young were observed. Two were on Musser's Lake 6/1,4 (SB). The appearance of a partially grown **Hooded Merganser** at YC 6/29 (LC,TG,MH) suggested local breeding. Eleven **Common Mergansers** were present on the Kiski River near LB 7/19 (MVT).

Not countable but notable was a **Chukar** at Ebensburg 7/2 (JS). Thirteen young accompanied two hen **Wild Turkeys** at Cochran's Mill 6/7 (MVT); 15 was the turkey tally n. of Marion Center 7/15 (SB). **Northern Bobwhites** of undetermined origin were calling 6/6 (MH,RH) near Dayton and 6/13 (MH,RH) at Northern Cambria.

A **Common Loon** lingered on the Kiski near LB 6/10 (fide MVT). Another Common Loon on the lake at Blue Spruce was still present 6/13 (MA,MH); we later learned that the park's maintenance men had unsuccessfully tried to catch it as it was entwined in fishing line. Another call to the park office yielded the information that the bird several weeks later had been in poor condition and was being taken to a rehabilitator but had died en route. YC lake hosted 5 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/1 (LC,SD,MH) and one a week later (LC,SD,MH,MVT); another appeared at CC 6/7 (MVT).

The Marion Center area yielded 12 **Turkey Vultures** 6/8 (SB) while Rossmoyne hosted 11 on 7/26 (SB). An **Osprey** at CC 7/23 (MVT) was unusual as they have not been known to nest at this location. **Bald Eagle** reports, all at YC, included an adult on 6/15 (LC,SD,TG,MH,MVT) and 6/22 (LC,TG,MH,DM,MVT) and a pair of adults on 7/2 (LC,MH,GL). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were spotted near Dayton 6/6 (MH,RH) and at YC 6/15 (LC,SD, TG,MH,MVT) while **Cooper's Hawks** were also noted at only two locations (v.o.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found near KT 6/26 (MH,RH). Only 4 **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were received (v.o.). Leaving the observers breathless, a **Peregrine Falcon** flew over YC 6/29 (BB, KBU,LC,SD,MH).

A **Virginia Rail** at PG 6/16 (KB,CD) was the lone report.

The water level at YC remained relatively high exposing

few mudflats in Little Yellow Cove until August, so few shorebirds were noted. A **Semipalmated Plover** arrived 6/1 (LC,MH). One Lesser **Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared 7/13 (LC,TG,MH,DM) while 6/1 (LC,MH) marked the appearance of a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**. PG yielded an **American Woodcock** 6/8 (CD) and 6/13 (MH,RH).

Seventy **Ring-billed Gulls** visited YC 6/1 (LC); one at YC on 7/6 (LC,TG,MH,DM,MVT) was the only other one reported. A **Herring Gull** was seen near LB 6/26 (MVT), the lone report.

Neither cuckoo was widely reported. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were listed only near the JS Airport in IN 6/2 (BF,TF,MH), along the Baker Trail near CC 7/5 (MH,RH), at YC 6/29 (BB,KBu,LC,SD,MH) and 7/2 (LC,MH), and near SH between 7/11-21 (MH,RH). **Yellow-billed** was listed only at Homer City 6/3 (LC).



An adult Willow Flycatcher feeds its fledgling a tasty morsel.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

A **Great Horned Owl** near PG 6/20 (CD) was the only one noted. Listed at PG were 2 **Barred Owls** 6/7 (CD) and 6/16 (KB,CD); 2 were hooting at Nolo 6/14 and 7/15 (AB,DB). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was a nice find at PG 6/7 (CD). A **Common Nighthawk** over IN 6/18 (DW, RW) and 2 over KT 6/26 (MH,RH) were the only ones reported for this declining species.

The high count of 6 singing **Acadian Flycatchers** was noted at CC 6/3 (MH,MVT). A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was a good find at YC 7/20 (LC,MH,DM,MVT). The best count of **Willow Flycatchers** was 7 at YC on 7/13 (LC,TG, MH,DM,MVT)

when an adult was observed feeding a fledgling.

YC yielded one to 2 **White-eyed Vireos** between 6/1 (LC,SD,MH) and 7/13 (LC, TG,MH,DM,MVT). In *Armstrong* 3 were listed on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH,RH); another was heard at the Lenape Golf Course 6/8 (RH). The VA BBS yielded 3 **Blue-headed Vireos** 6/12 (MH,RH) while the PT BBS yielded 6 the following day (MH,RH); one was found at CC on three dates, 6/30, 7/12, and 7/23 (all MVT). Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were present at CC 6/3 (MH,MVT); singletons were reported 7/5 (MH,RH) both along the Baker Trail and at Girty. One **Warbling Vireo** was spotted 6/6 (MH,RH) near KT; 2 were seen 6/8 (LC, SD,MH,MVT) at YC, where one was still singing 7/13



(LC,TG,MH,
DM,MVT).

A family group of 5 **Common Ravens** was present near Homer City 6/3 (LC), the same day 3 were counted at CC (MH, MVT); on 6/8 (JS) a raven appeared at Dysart; two flew over YC 6/15 (LC,SD, TG,MH,MVT).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows had fledged from the drainage holes in the bridge over Little Yellow Creek, and the adults were feeding their young at YC 6/29.

Photo by Marge Van Tassel

The **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton (DS), known as the Gastown colony, contained 45 pairs that produced more than 200 young, up again from last year's 163. In addition the colony at West Shamokin High School, which yielded no birds last year, fledged 8 young; at least two eggs were lost at this colony to House Sparrows (DS). The Prince Gallitzin colony, now in its second year, fledged 12 young by 7/21 (DG). (See Insert above for details about the PG colony.)

Northern Rough-winged Swallows had fledged from the drainage holes in the bridge over Little Yellow Creek, and the adults were feeding their young at YC 6/29 (BB,KBu, LC,SD,TG,MH).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was calling near SH 7/11 (MH, RH). **Brown Creeper** reports included singletons near SH 6/3 (MH) and near LB 6/5 (MVT). A **Blue-gray Gnat-catcher** was observed carrying food at YC 6/8 (LC,SD, MH,MVT). **Veery** reports, all from *Cambria*, included one at Dysart 6/8 (JS), 3 on the VA BBS 6/12 (MH,RH), and one on the PT BBS 6/13 (MH,RH). The VA. BBS 6/12 (MH,RH) yielded 14 **Wood Thrushes** while the PT route produced 25 the following day (MH,RH).

Reported **Blue-winged Warblers** included individuals at YC on multiple dates (v.o.), near Creekside 6/2 (MA) and at CC 6/3 (MH,MVT); 2 were near Echo 6/26 (MH,RH). A **Golden-winged Warbler** song was heard on the VA BBS near Dilltown 6/12 (MH,RH). A territorial **Northern Parula** sang at YC 6/1 (LC,SD,MH,) through 6/15 (LC,SD,TG,MH, MVT); another was singing 6/3 (MH,MVT) at CC. Among many reports, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 11 on the PT BBS 6/13 (MH,RH). A **Magnolia Warbler** on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH,RH) was unexpected as it was a new species for that route; one was noted at YC 6/29 (BB,KBu, LC,SD,MH). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** near PG 6/20 (KB,CD) and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at St. Lawrence 6/8 (JS) were the lone reports for these two species. Seven **Black-throated Green Warblers** were listed on the PT BBS 6/13 (MH,RH). **Blackburnian Warbler** was recorded at YC 6/1 (LC,SD,MH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still singing at Cochran's Mill 7/5 (MH,RH). **Pine Warblers** were present at YC throughout

Dave Gobert writes, concerning Purple Martins at Prince Gallitzin State Park:

The first adult male returned on 4/29 followed on 4/30 by an adult female. By 5/5 they had begun to build a nest. On 5/11 another adult male was present. This bird would show up from time to time all season. It did not breed. On 5/15 a sub-adult male arrived. After this date birds began arriving daily with a total of 20+ in July. A sub-adult pair began nest building on 5/24. On 5/31 there were a total of 5 nests with one nest containing 5 eggs. On 6/7 there were 3 nests with a total of 15 eggs. This would be the total, as the other 2 nests did not produce. By 6/26, 13 eggs had hatched, 2 eggs failed to hatch. Twelve young fledged, with one dying of unknown causes. On 7/9 our first bird left the nest. On 7/11 another bird fledged, and by 7/21 all had fledged. The young were attended by the parents for a week and by 7/26 all birds left the site.

Four birds present had bands. Three were read and the results were: A first year bird banded in 2009 at Mammoth, PA; a 3-year-old female banded at Edinboro, PA, in 2007; and a 2-year-old male from the Gastown colony banded in 2008. The other banded bird was likely from the Erie area as it had the same color combination as the Edinboro bird. This is the second year for this colony and it is hoped that it will continue to grow.

the summer (v.o.) but were last heard singing near SH 6/19 (MH,RH). **Prairie Warblers** were listed at St. Lawrence 6/8, 7/21 (JS), near Pine Flats 6/13 (MH,RH), at PG 6/16 (KB,CD), and near Dayton 6/26 (MH,RH).

Cerulean Warblers included one at Cochran's Mill 6/3 (MVT), one at PG 6/8 (CD), one at Rearick's Fording 6/15 (MVT), 3 near Echo 6/26 (MH,RH), and 2 along the Baker Trail 7/5 (MH,RH). Among many reports, **Black-and-white Warblers** included one at CC 6/3 (MH,MVT) and 2 at PG 6/16 (KB,CD). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was last noted at YC 7/20 (LC,MH,DM,MVT). **Kentucky Warblers** are becoming increasingly difficult to find in our region; the only Kentucky Warbler reported was one near Echo 6/26 (MH,RH). *Cambria* yielded the only **Canada Warblers** with reports of one at Dysart 6/8 (JS), 3 near PG 6/20 (KB, CD), and 2 at St. Lawrence 7/1 (JS).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found near Dayton 6/6 (MH,RH), the lone report. **Savannah Sparrows** were observed at 9 locations (v.o.) and **Grasshopper Sparrows** at 7 (v.o.). A **Henslow's Sparrow** singing near KT 6/6 (MH,RH) was a nice find. Best **Swamp Sparrow** count was 10 at YC 7/2 (LC,MH,GL). The KT BBS yielded 3 **Bobolinks** 6/6 (MH, RH) while 2 were listed along the PT route 6/13 (MH,RH). Five **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were counted n. of IN 7/13 (SB).

Orchard Orioles were feeding young at YC 6/29 (BB,KBu, LC,SD,MH) and 7/6 (LC,TG,MH,DM,MVT). YC also yielded a nest with young **Baltimore Orioles** 6/8 (LC,SD, MH,MVT). A yard n. of IN yielded 1-3 **Purple Finches** throughout the period (SB). A **Pine Siskin** turned up at a

feeder near Lewisville 6/29 (MC) where it lingered for several weeks.

Observers: Mary Assenat, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Katie Brashear, Bill Budris, Karen Budris (KBu), Dave Beatty, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Cory DeStein, Sue Dickson, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Tom Glover, Dave Gobert, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Donna Meyer, John Salvetti, Duke Snyder, Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT), Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead.



This Pine Siskin appeared at Marcy Cunkelman's feeder near Lewisville 6/29.

Photo by Marcy Cunkelman

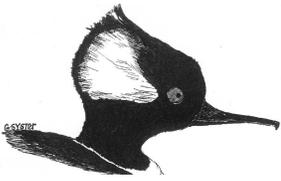
Thanks!

Special thanks to our members who gave a little extra with their dues when our treasury dipped extremely low. We sincerely appreciate your support! Your generosity did not go unnoticed! Thanks again.

–Gloria Lamer, Treasurer

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

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