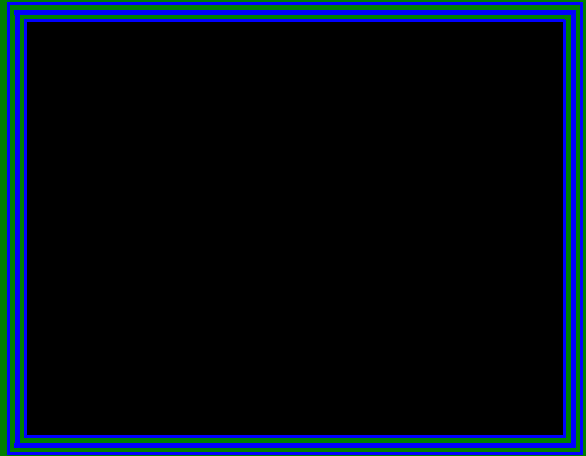


The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

October 2011

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 4 – Yellow Creek State Park naturalist Mike Shaffer will present a program entitled, “Frogs and Toads of Pennsylvania” at this meeting. Come learn about the 16 species of frogs and toads found in our state. From the distinct Eastern American Toad and Fowler’s Toad to the seldom seen chorus frogs, these species serve a critical role in the landscape of PA. This lecture will focus on identification, their preferred habitats, and vocalizations.

Tuesday, November 1 – Jim Jeffries, a retired educator/media specialist, is currently pursuing a second career as a film maker. As a member of the Three Rivers Birding Club, he attended our joint outing this past April. Most of his films are about the beauty of the natural world; however, lately, he has been doing a lot of film work documenting performances by artists and musicians. His upcoming presentation will include narrated HD video of seabirds and shorebirds filmed on location in the Florida Keys and the Hawaiian Islands. Don’t miss this exciting program!

Tuesday, December 6 – We’re in for another special treat. Jon Dunn, who spoke to Todd in February 1998, is returning to present a program on shorebirds. Jon Dunn has lived much of his life in California, where he became a birder at the age of eight, an event triggered, he says, by the life-altering appearance of a bright male Hooded Oriole in his garden. Jon has extensive knowledge of the

identification and distribution of North American birds, and has published numerous papers in a wide variety of journals. He has also long been interested in Asian avifauna. Jon has been Chief Consultant/Editor for all six editions of the National Geographic Society’s *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, the most recent just published. He is the co-writer and host of the two-video set *Large and Small Gulls of North America*, as well as co-author (with

Kimball Garrett) of *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* and the Peterson series’ *Field Guide to Warblers*. Jon is a member of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists’ Union and the ABA Checklist Committee, and has served more than 20 years on the California Bird Records Committee. Beyond birds, Jon has a keen interest in politics, history, and the cinema.

Tuesday, January 3 – Members’ Night. 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, weather permitting, 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 Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

Saturday, October 8 – Prince Gallitzin State Park, led by John Salvetti (814-472-9298) and Dave Gobert. We'll carpool from Yellow Creek State Park. Meet at the Yellow Creek office at 7:30 a.m. or at the Prince Gallitzin office between 8:15 and 8:30.

Saturday, October 15 – Central City Hawk Watch. Meet at Yellow Creek State Park office at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to the hawk watch. Please check with the Higbees to ascertain that the outing hasn't been canceled.

Saturday, October 22 – Yellow Creek State Park at 8:00 a.m., led by Gloria Lamer. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, November 5 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 at the park office. This is a joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club.

Friday, November 25, through Monday, the 28th – 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, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Little Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and White-winged Crossbill.

Saturday, December 17 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Monday, December 26 – 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).

A Note from Our Co-President

The disappearance of the multitude of hummingbirds at my feeders reminds me that summer is over and autumn is here. As I reflect back on my birding experiences over the past season, the one event that stands out is my visit to Presque Isle State Park to witness the migration of the Purple Martins. After reading about this birding phenomenon in the *Indiana Gazette*, I decided to travel to Erie to witness it for myself. My uncle, who has the good fortune of living only three miles from the peninsula, joined Ed and me for our evening visit.

Our trip began at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center where we gathered additional information on what we were about to witness. The receptionist told us that the birds would "stage" on Beach 11 and as darkness drew near they would travel to the reeds on Cattail Island, visible from Beach 1, to roost for the night. She also informed us that the phenomenon lasts for about six weeks and is usually concluded by Labor Day.

We then traveled to Beach 11 to hopefully view the staging. Numerous other birders and non-birders were there to witness this spectacle. As evening drew near, the birds started to arrive. At first they appeared as tiny specks, visible only with binoculars, coming over the treetops. As they got closer, we realized they were in flocks of hundreds. The number of birds on the lines and trees can vary from very few to thousands. On one particular evening more than 20,000 Purple Martins staged at Beach 11. Since it was getting close to their final migration time, we were fortunate to witness several thousand birds coming together. Just as we were told, as darkness started to descend, the birds began to travel across the bay to Cattail Island. Of course, all of us viewers continued to Beach 1 so we could enjoy watching them fluttering over the reeds and then settling in for the night.

On some mornings there are so many birds in the reeds that their mass departure is detected on Doppler radar. As we drove off Presque Isle, I wished I could be there in the morning to witness their flight from the reeds as they begin their 5,000 mile journey to Brazil and Peru. I am anxious to hear of other members' summer birding experiences and hope to see you at the October meeting when we will learn about frogs and toads.

Good birding!

– Donna Meyer, Co-President

Outings Revisited

Saturday, September 10 – Our outing, led by John Taylor, was scheduled at

Notes from a Novice

Magee Marsh

by Tom Glover

This past May 2011 I had the privilege of witnessing the phenomenon of spring migration at Magee Marsh. My daughter and son-in-law, Elyse and Tom Fuller, invited me along on the weekend of May 14 for a three-day birding trip to Magee Marsh and the surrounding area.

The marsh is located in Ohio's Magee Marsh Wildlife Area along the southern shore of Lake Erie about 30 miles east of Toledo, OH. The marsh is a remnant of the vast wetlands and woods that covered northwestern Ohio up to 200 years ago. These large marshes have been drained during the past centuries primarily for agricultural purposes to the point that only patches of marsh now remain. Migrating birds concentrate in these remaining marshes to rest and feed before continuing their spring migration across or around Lake Erie north into Canada. Magee is an eight-acre site within the Wildlife Area located right along the shore of Lake Erie. The entrance is a winding road off Ohio Rt. 2 that leads to a very large parking area. The interior of the marsh is easily accessed by a meandering, mile-long boardwalk with numerous shorter sidings that offer birders excellent viewing opportunities.

Tom, Elyse, and I arrived at Magee about 10:30 on Friday morning, the 13th of May, and as we pulled into the parking area, I knew that this trip would be one of the highlights of my life's birding adventures. We were greeted by hundreds of parked vehicles. After circling the parking area a few times, Tom found a spot, and after gearing up we walked no more than twenty feet and there they were – birds! In a strip of trees along the parking area next to the marsh were birds, not a few birds, but birds! It was common for each tree to have birds in the top, middle, and lower branches all at the same time. And the thing that we noticed right off was that most of these birds were warblers. And the second thing that jumped out were the people – we could not help but notice that there were thousands of birders milling about. Very quickly we determined that for the most part the birds ignored the crush of birders. The birds were concentrating on forging through the trees. After our initial amazement at the number of birds, we started to work our way to the entrance of the boardwalk. But before we reached the entrance, we encountered a group of more than one hundred birders all looking in the same direction in the marsh, and we learned that someone earlier had spotted a Connecticut Warbler. We joined the group, hoping to glimpse the bird. After a while we abandoned this group and continued our way to the entrance. It took us almost two hours to work our way, the quarter mile or so, from the car to the boardwalk entrance, and then we had to wait

for our chance to get on the boardwalk as the entrance was clogged with birders.

Once we got onto the boardwalk our initial progress was slowed to a crawl, for about every hundred feet or so we encountered throngs of up to 75 birders all looking for the same bird. Once we determined the target species, we either joined the throng or squeezed past to work our way to the next group. As we made our way farther from the entrance, we encountered fewer and smaller groups, but there were still people everywhere.

One of these groups was observing a sleeping Whip-poor-will about 30 feet from the boardwalk. We encountered another group watching a Winter Wren forage next to a log about 20 feet from the path. This bird was oblivious to all the people watching, talking, and milling around just 20 feet away. In fact, the bird did not even react to a guy who was pointing at it with a green laser! Here in western PA we are lucky to get a fleeting glimpse of a Winter Wren. Tom, on three occasions, was the seed for groups of observers. On one occasion he found Gray-cheeked Thrushes foraging on the ground among the trees about 35 feet off the boardwalk, and on two other occasions he spotted Connecticut Warblers, drawing healthy crowds.

On our second day at the marsh, Saturday, May 14, we arrived at sunrise and initially found a lot fewer birders compared to our late arrival the previous day. Most of those early birders were Amish. In fact by late morning there were hundreds of Amish of all ages on the boardwalk. That day I learned that the Amish are avid and knowledgeable birders. That Saturday we were able to get ahead of the thousands of birders who arrived later in the morning.

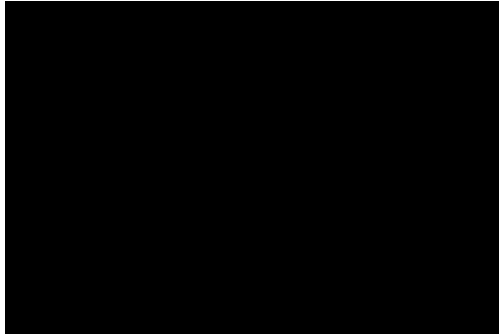
Later that day we birded another location, Oak Open Park, part of Toledo's park system southwest of the city. We had three target birds at that location, and that outing also proved to be interesting. After we determined where the birds had last been seen, we made our way to that location. Just as Tom was parking the car along the road, across the road in an open grove of trees was one of our targets, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers. After about fifteen minutes the pair flew off, and we started walking along the road. We proceeded about 50 feet when on the opposite side of the road in a brushy field we found our second target species, Lark Sparrows. Again after observing the sparrows for about fifteen minutes, we started walking along the road and immediately encountered our third target, a pair of Summer Tanagers

in a tree adjacent to the road. Within less than 100 feet of the car we scored our three target birds, capping off another great day of birding.

Our third day, Sunday, was a washout. We arrived early to a steady drizzle which we were easily able to tolerate, but by the time we reached the halfway point on the board-walk, the skies opened up with a hard continuous downpour. We were drenched, but the day was not a total loss. As we were driving back to PA, the weather cleared, so we stopped at Moraine State Park and birded for a couple of hours.

Spring migration at Magee Marsh is a phenomenal experience on two accounts. First are the birds. This location offers a unique opportunity to see birds of all species but especially the warblers. Magee Marsh is noted for warblers during migration. On this trip we

tallied 125 species of which 23 were warblers. Second are the people. How many places can you go and see thousands of people birding at one time! With that many people, you cannot help but see people you know. Tom and Elyse met a couple who are members of their Audubon Chapter from Rockland County, NY, and I met Richard Nugent who occasionally joins us at Yellow Creek and Randi and Sarah Gerrish, members of the Three Rivers Birding Club as well as our own Todd Bird Club.



Close encounters with birds like this Chestnut-sided Warbler are common at Magee Marsh.

Photo by Steve Gosser

The best way to sum up our Magee Marsh trip is an encounter Elyse had with a Chestnut-sided Warbler. She was watching it forage in a tree near the boardwalk. The bird was about 15 feet off the ground, and worked its way down through the branches, and with no hesitation ended up at arm's length in front of Elyse, and that is Magee Marsh.

Behavior Notes

by Lee Carnahan

I was on the north shore of Yellow Creek Lake near the boat launch at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24. While scanning the lake, I noticed an American Crow flying very low to the water. That seemed a tad odd, so I followed the crow in my binoculars. As it entered the nearby inlet, it spread its wings, slowed, and appeared to be planning to

land on the surface of the water. That really got my attention. However, only its head and beak touched the water. When it raised its head, I spotted a 1 to 1.5" silvery minnow in its bill. The crow then gained altitude and flew into the trees out of sight.

Is This Your Chair?

This chair was left at the joint picnic at Dan and Marcy Cunkelman's home.

Please let Marcy know if it is yours. Call Marcy at 724-459-7229 or e-mail her at plant4nature@dishmail.net.

Bird Quiz

How well are you acquainted with bird folklore?

1. Fill in the blank: An old sailor's saying was "As long as _____ are sitting on their eggs, no storm or tempest will disturb the ocean."
2. What bird was nicknamed the "red beebird."
3. Fill in the blank: Ben Franklin wrote to his daughter concerning the choice of the Bald Eagle as our national symbol calling the eagle "a rank coward and that even the little _____ attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district."
4. What bird was illegally sold as "Hollywood Finches"?
5. Which bird was known as the "rain crow"?

(Answers to the Bird Quiz are on page 12)

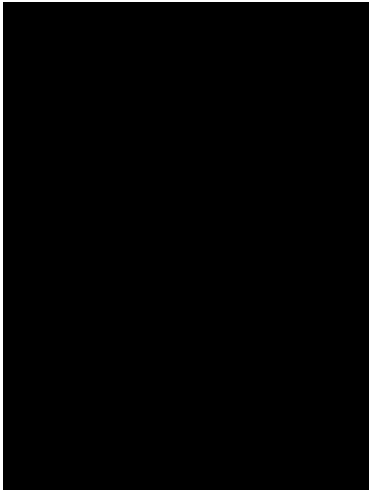
Thanks, Marcy and Dan!

Special thanks to Marcy and Dan Cunkelman for hosting the joint Todd Bird Club and Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club picnic at their home on August 21. The overcast day did not look promising with the threat of rain in the forecast, but all the food was made, so we went ahead with the picnic. Of the 29 in attendance, at least 18 were Todd members.

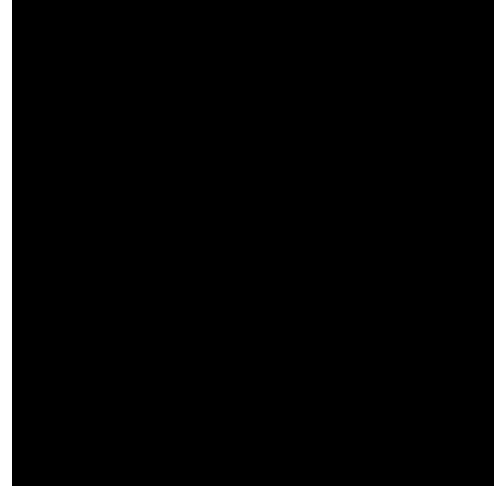
We gathered around 1:00 p.m. and started eating soon thereafter. Dan had erected tents just in case of rain.

Marcy gave us a partial tour of her property, discussing the benefits of each plant. We detoured several times, once for a Praying Mantis and another for an Orange Mint Moth. We didn't complete the tour because a thunderstorm which developed around 4:00 p.m. sent participants scurrying either to their

cars or into the house. Most left, but a few stayed and enjoyed the rest of the day inside. We had a very enjoyable afternoon.



Marcy stops to photograph an insect.



Todd members Carl Trout and co-president Linda Jones were two of our members at the picnic.

Featured Bird: Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

by Doug Gross

CURRENT STATUS: Pennsylvania, extirpated as a breeding bird, uncommon as a passage migrant, protected under the PA Game and Wildlife Code. Federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

REASONS FOR BEING LISTED: Presently extirpated as a breeding bird, but regular migrant in the state. Listed as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird of Conservation Concern in the Northeast; Classified as *Near Threatened* by the IUCN. It also is a priority conservation species for the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture. Loss of habitat in the wintering grounds and declines in conifer forests are among the reasons thought to be responsible for decline. The loss of bees, wasps, and other pollinating insects that are common prey of this species may also be a factor.

POPULATION TREND: Across its range, the Olive-sided Flycatcher has experienced a significant decrease of approximately 74% from 1966 to 2005 which converts to about 3.5% per year decrease. It has declined to the extreme in Pennsylvania because it has not been documented nesting here since the 1930s, so it is considered extirpated as a breeding species in the state. It once was fairly widespread in the higher elevation forests and

wetlands of Pennsylvania. This flycatcher is a regular migrant in spring and fall throughout the state.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS: The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a big boreal pewee that is larger (18-20 cm. length) and bulkier (32 - 37 grams) than the more common Eastern Wood-Pewee (*C. virens*, 15 cm. in length, 14 grams). Among the dull-colored flycatchers, it has a distinctive appearance with a tapered profile, looking bull-headed, long-winged, and short-tailed. The plumage is brownish-olive with a dull white throat and belly that are framed by dark flanks, making it seem as if it is wearing a dark vest over a white shirt. When relaxed, the bird shows small white silky tufts poking out from beneath its wings. One of the best field marks is its loud ringing whistled song (quick-THREE-BEERS!) that is a characteristic sound of the boreal conifer forest. In migration they nervously call "pip-pip-pip" from their perches. Where they nest, Olive-sided Flycatchers are very persistent singers that often are the first bird heard in the morning and the last one heard at night.

BIOLOGY-NATURAL HISTORY: Described as "the Peregrine of flycatchers," the Olive-sided Flycatcher has a commanding presence and a stereotypic way of attacking

prey from a prominent perch like the larger falcon. According to Dr. George Miksch Sutton, former state ornithologist, the Olive-sided often perches prominently from “the topmost twig” where it sits in a “dignified, upright manner.” From this prominent perch, it sallies out to snatch its prey mid-air and returns to its perch. They primarily forage in the forest canopy on a variety of flying insects. It is among the few birds that regularly catch and consume members of the wasp and bee family (Hymenoptera). Decreases in the numbers of bees and wasps may be a factor in its decline. The Olive-sided Flycatcher is one of the feistiest and most tyrannical of the Tyrannidae (American flycatcher family). They are particularly intolerant of raptors or any potential nest predators such as a squirrels, jays, or crows.

The feistiness of the Olive-sided Flycatcher continues in migration when they often call loudly from tree branches and chase other birds including hawks away from their favorite perches. The long-winged Olive-sided Flycatcher migrates long distances from its northern breeding ground to its wintering ground in southern Central America and northwestern South America. Most birds spend the winter in the northern Andes Mountains. It has the longest migration of any tyrant flycatcher. Spring migration may begin in Pennsylvania in the first week of May, but more regularly occurs in late May and early June, sometimes as late as the second week of June. Some may even be migrating in mid-June, lingering in good habitat for nesting. The nesting season begins later than most species, many still migrating in early to mid-June (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Fall migration starts early with some observed in the last week of July, but it is more likely to be observed in the last week of August and in September. A few can travel through as late as early October. Migrants are most frequently observed at ridge-top hawk-watching sites. At one time, fairly large flocks could be observed in migration at Pymatuning, but now most observations are of single birds.

Like most tyrant flycatchers, the Olive-sided Flycatcher is monogamous. For a bird of its size, pairs occupy a large territory – up to 40 to 45 hectares (100 – 111 acres) and generally around 25 – 50 acres. Females arrive on the nesting ground later than males and tend to forage closer to the nest than their mates. The female primarily, if not exclusively, builds a loosely-formed, cup-shaped nest generally out on a limb of a conifer tree, far off the ground. The nests are generally well-hidden in a cluster of live needles and twigs. Pairs nest only once but will re-nest if the first attempt fails. The female usually lays three eggs, but sometimes two, four, or five. The pair

divides up the parental duties. Only the female broods the nestlings, but the males help feed the nestlings and fledglings. Both incubation and nestling period last 15 – 19 days, but 16 days is the norm according to some observers. Nesting period may vary according to local temperatures that can be variable in the far north or at high elevations. The young apparently depend on the adults for food for about a week after leaving the nest. Its rigorous nest defense certainly helps to avoid the cowbird parasitism that affects other forest songbirds.

PREFERRED HABITAT: Many Olive-sided Flycatchers migrate through Pennsylvania on their way to their wintering grounds in the fall and on the way to their northern breeding grounds in the spring. They often perch prominently from a branch or snag at the edge of the woods or in a fence row, sometimes at the edge of a pond or cutting.

When it nested in the state, the Olive-sided Flycatcher was found in higher elevation forests and wetlands usually over 1500 feet.

A characteristic member of the North American boreal conifer forest bird community, it is most strongly associated with the northern conifer forests that extend into Pennsylvania and down the Appalachian Mountains at higher elevations. Its loud song was commonly heard in summer in places like Pymatuning Swamp, North Mountain, the Pocono Mountains, and what is now known as Allegheny National Forest. Olive-sided Flycatchers nest in both mature forests and forest edge or burned over areas. They are often found in bogs, semi-open forest, and at the edges of wetlands, ponds, and forest. Territories invariably include conifers such as spruces, tamaracks, hemlocks, and firs, but also include deciduous trees such as maples, aspens, and mountain ash. The first documented nesting in the state was near Hazelton, Luzerne County, in an area that has been converted from forest to strip mines. The last time it was documented nesting in Pennsylvania was in 1932 when it was found in Pymatuning Swamp, a location that now is under water in Pymatuning Lake.

In recent decades there have been scattered reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers at various locations during the summer but no confirmed nesting. Recent summer observations of singing Olive-sided Flycatchers have occurred in a tornado blow-down in an old growth forest, in burned over mountain forests, in black spruce swamps, and at pond edges. The recently occupied locations are consistent with the former breeding range in the state including Pike, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Tioga, McKean, and Warren counties. A particularly intriguing report of a territorial Olive-sided Flycatcher came from the old

growth hemlock – beech forest in Tionesta Scenic Area of Allegheny National Forest in 1993. The mature forest was more open than usual because of the damage done by a storm and by the defoliation caused by a caterpillar outbreak. The loss of conifers from parts of its range has been linked to declines in population in parts of its range, but there seems to be adequate habitat in Pennsylvania for some nesting to occur. The closest locations where this

species has nested recently are within 100 miles (160 km) of the state boundary in the Catskill Mountains. It also nests in New York’s Adirondack Mountains and Tug Hill region and formerly in the Taconic Mountains. The Olive-sided Flycatcher has declined in New York in recent decades. Like Pennsylvania, there is unoccupied habitat in New York leading us to believe that the greatest challenges for this species are on its wintering grounds.

[Editor’s Note: If anyone is interested in the extensive bibliography for this article, please contact me, and I will provide it. MAH]

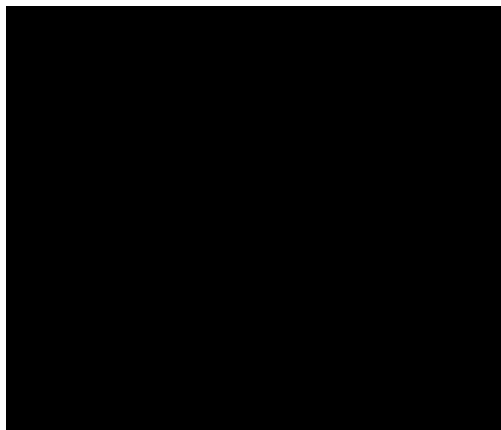
Prince Gallitzin Enjoys Another Successful Bluebird Season

by John Salvetti

Prince Gallitzin State Park boasts a volunteer bluebird program that has been in place for more than 30 years. Five bluebird volunteers monitor the park’s 101 nesting boxes on a weekly basis through the spring and summer months recording bluebird species, the number of eggs laid, and the number of hatchlings fledged. A total of 217 young bluebirds fledged during the 2011 nesting season. In addition, 215 Tree Swallows began their existence this year at the park.

The Prince Gallitzin nest box program also includes one American Kestrel nest and 11 Purple Martin nests. The kestrels fledged 5 young while 11 martin nests success-fully produced 52 young. Thanks to David Gobert’s dedication, these nest boxes are successfully fledging

young. Prior to 2008 there were no known martin nests in *Cambria*.

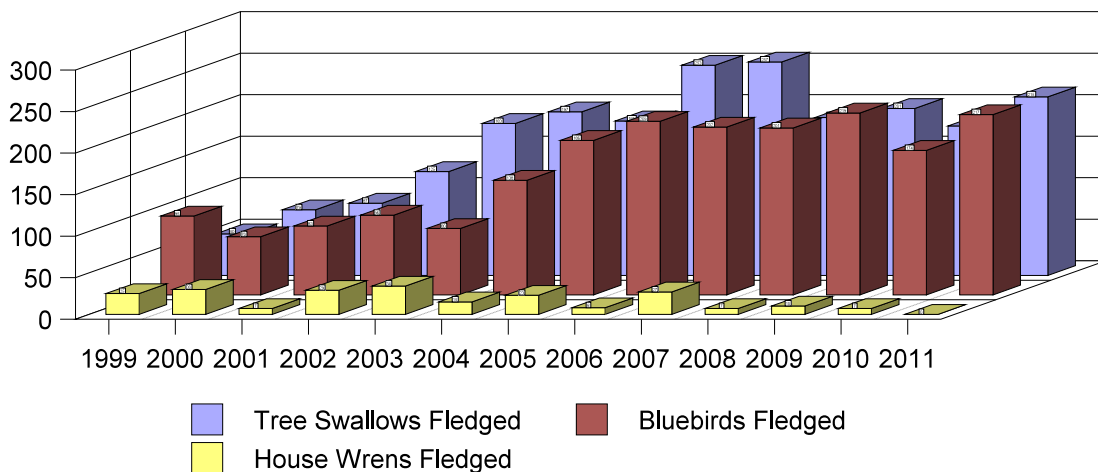


Dedicated volunteers include Arlene Eyer from Ashville (8 years), Judy Letso from Patton (6 years), Jackie Stinson from Ebensburg (8 years), and new to our program Richard Shovestall from Northern Cambria (1 year), who all contributed to producing another successful year. The success of this park’s program would not have been achieved without the complete cooperation of the Prince Gallitzin State Park management.

We plan to install six additional bluebird nesting boxes prior to the 2012 nesting season.

(See additional bluebird chart on page 11.)

Prince Gallitzin Nest Boxes



Indiana, Armstrong, Cambria County

Summer – June 1 to July 31, 2011

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.

Abbreviations: Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana (IN), Kittanning (KT), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A healthy count of 32 **Wood Ducks** at YC 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) included many young. The top **Mallard** tally, including young, at YC this summer was only 11 on 6/14 (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN). An unusual summer sighting of an immature **Lesser Scaup** at PG occurred 6/22 (DG). Once again this summer the appearance of a partially grown **Hooded Merganser** at YC suggested local breeding 6/21 (TG, MH). A hen **Common Merganser** accompanied by her 8 young was spotted at CC 6/24 (MH, LR, JV). A **Ruddy Duck** on the Urling mine drainage treatment pond near SH 6/13 (RH) and 2 Ruddies at PG 6/21 (JS) were unusual. Only 3 **Ruffed Grouse** were noted, one on the KT BBS 6/1 (MH, RH), one at YC 7/1 (BF, TF, JH, MH), and one at Saylor Park 7/11 (LC). A flock of 9 **Wild Turkeys** at CC (MH, LR, JV) included 7 young on 6/24, the same day the high of 7 was counted n. of IN (SB). One to 2 **Northern Bobwhites** were present near Plumville between 6/27 and 7/10 (MJ); 2 were also noted near Penn Run 6/28 (BF, TF).

A **Common Loon** lingered at KR 7/14 (NB, KB). YC lake hosted a **Double-crested Cormorant** 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML), 4 one week later (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN), and 2 the following Tuesday 6/21 (TG, MH). A **Great Egret** visited CC 7/25 (MVT).

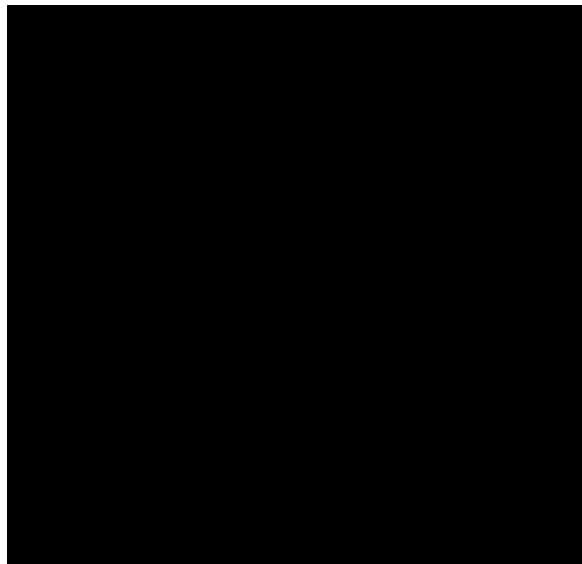
Four **Bald Eagles**, including 2 adults, were sighted at Mahoning 6/18 (PS); 3 were noted at CC 6/26 (MVT); one, at YC 6/30 (BF, TF); and 3, at KR 7/14 (NB, KB). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was spotted n. of IN 7/21 (SB) while **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at only three locations (v.o.). **Broad-winged Hawk** pairs were spotted 6/24 (MH, LR, JV) at CC, 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) at YC, and 7/8 (GL) at Nolo.

Best **Killdeer** count was 19 along Dutch Run 7/2 (MH, RH). The water level at YC remained relatively low exposing an extensive mudflat in Little Yellow Cove until mid-July. Here Killdeer peaked at 25 on 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) before the rains raised the water levels. One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was present 7/26 (LC, TG) at YC. Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were found at KR 7/14 (NB, KB). First **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) at YC; 3 Solitaries were found at YC 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM) while CC hosted a Solitary Sandpiper 7/25 (MVT). **Least Sandpipers** noted at YC included 2 on 7/12 (MH) and 4 on 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM). An **American Woodcock** was spotted at SGL 262 on 6/21 (PS).

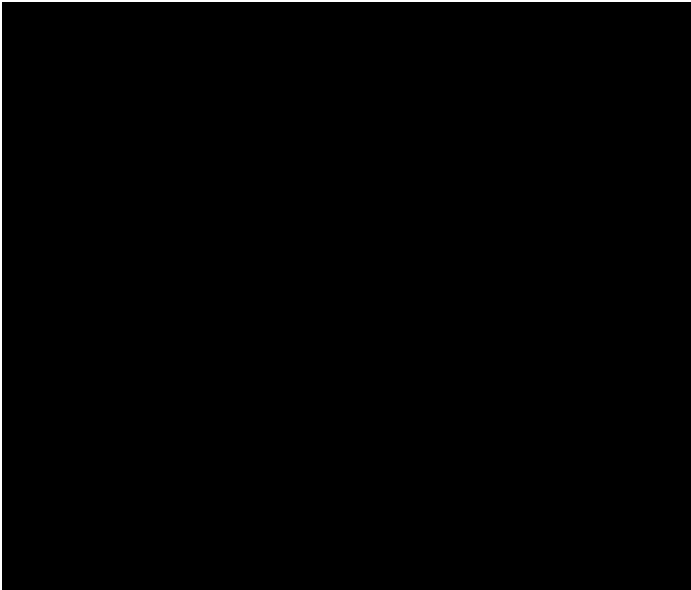
PG hosted a **Laughing Gull** 6/19 (DG) while a **Herring Gull** seen at CC 6/8 (MVT) was the lone report. Two **Caspian Terns** turned up 6/22 (DG) at PG where a **Black Tern** was sighted 6/12, 13 (DG). YC hosted a **Common Tern** 6/21 (TG, MH).

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were calling on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH); single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were sighted near Cowansville 6/6 (MH, GL)

and along Aultman's Run 7/4 (MH, RH). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were listed on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH), near SH between 6/21 (MH, RH) and the end of the season, along Aultman's Run 7/4 (MH, RH), and at YC 7/7 (BF, TF, JH, MH). Nolo yielded a **Great Horned Owl** and 3 **Barred Owls** 6/6 (AB, DB); single Barred Owls were heard near Plumville 6/28 and 7/5, 9 (MJ) and near SH 7/1 (MH, RH). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at YC 7/26 (LC, TG). A **Common Nighthawk** circled over KT calling on 6/14 (RH). The West Lebanon area yielded 3 **Whip-poor-wills** 6/19 (MH, RH) but only one the following eve-



This young Red-tailed Hawk was photographed at Crooked Creek Park by Marge Van Tassel on July 7.



This Purple Martin box at Crooked Creek fledged four young this year.
Photo by Marge Van Tassel

ning (BC, EF, MF, MH, RH).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at YC 6/14 (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN). A **Least Flycatcher** near YC 6/21 (TG, MH) was at a new location.

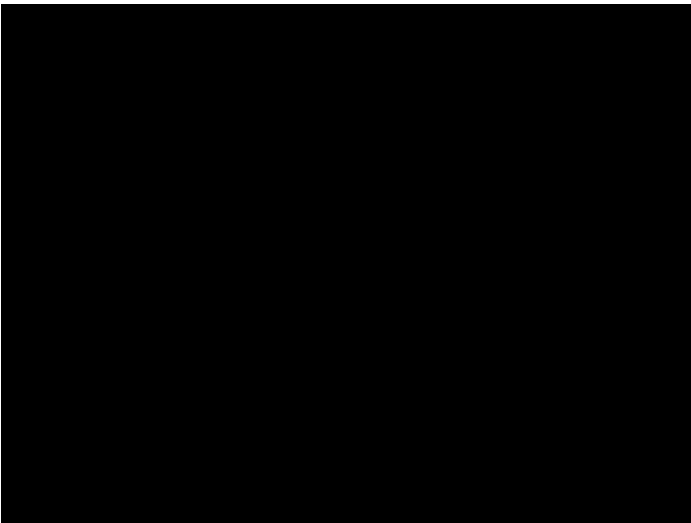
Single **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Warbling Vireos** were listed on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH); 3 Yellow-throated Vireos were heard at Lenape Golf Course 6/7 (RH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were listed at six locations (v.o.).

A **Fish Crow** was present on the IUP campus 7/5-6 (JT). Single **Common Ravens** were noted at Nolo 6/2 (GL) and at YC 7/26 (LC, TG); 2 were observed at CC 6/8 (MVT).

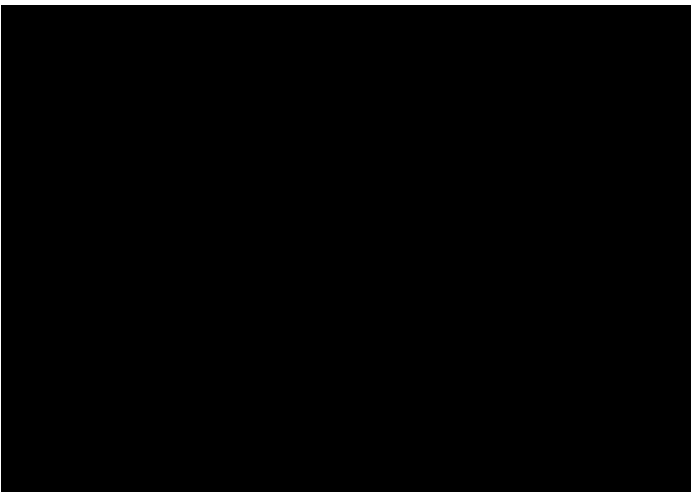
The **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton (DS) produced more than 200 young. In addition, the colony at West Shamokin High School which yielded only 8 birds last year fledged 18 young. Several Amish farmers in the Dayton area were also successful in attracting martins this year. Purple Martins nested at CC for the first time with 4 nestlings fledging successfully; on 7/25 (MVT) 5 adults were present and the four young were still in the nest. **Cliff Swallows** are uncommon breeders in our area, but one was noted at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and 3 were at KR 7/14 (NB, KB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch was present periodically near SH throughout the summer, and one was sighted at YC 7/26 (LC, TG).

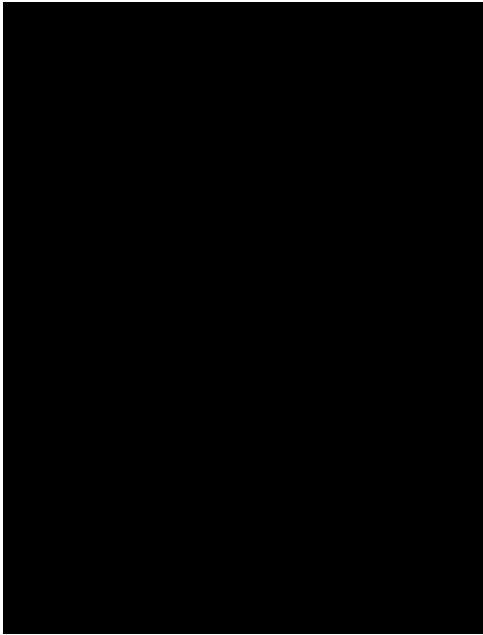
Thirteen **Ovenbirds** and one **Louisiana Waterthrush** were listed on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH). Louisiana Waterthrush was last noted at YC 7/12 (LC, TG, MH). Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were found 6/4 (MH, RH) on the KT BBS and 6/6 (MH, GL) near Sherrett; one to 2 were at YC between 6/14 (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN) and 7/12 (MH). A **Lawrence's warbler** was singing a blue-winged song near Sherrett 6/6 (MH, GL). The Lawrence's looked very much like a Blue-wing except for its black throat. A **Nashville Warbler** singing on territory near Sun Cliff 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM) was unusual as there are few previous breeding records for the county. **Kentucky Warbler** reports included singletons on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH) and near Elderton 7/2 (MH, RH). Both the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH) and the Patton BBS 6/5 (MH, RH) yielded 11 **Hooded Warblers**. Two **Northern Parulas** were singing at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and one was there 7/7 (BF, TF, JH, MH); another was near Brush Valley 6/21 (TG, MH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were noted at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and near Sun Cliff 7/18 (LC, TG, MH,



Marge Van Tassel photographed these young Purple Martins on July 15 during a next exchange.



"They're much cuter when they have feathers!" says Marge Van Tassel. These guys were banded July 25.



This is one of the raucous Common Ravens at Crooked Creek, photographed by Marge Van Tassel on June 8.

DM). A **Yellow Warbler** nest containing young was found at YC 6/14 (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN). **Pine Warblers** were present at YC, both on the north and south shores, throughout the summer (v.o.); a yard near SH yielded one 6/18 (MH, RH) and 6/24 (MH). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a non-breeding species in the

county, visited YC 7/26 (LC, TG). **Prairie Warblers** included 2 on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH), 2 along Aultman's Run 7/4 (MH, RH), and one near SH 7/23 (MH, RH). **Black-throated Green Warblers**, usually a common nesting species, were hard to find at YC this year with all reports of singletons (v.o.); in addition, the *Indiana* portion of the Patton BBS

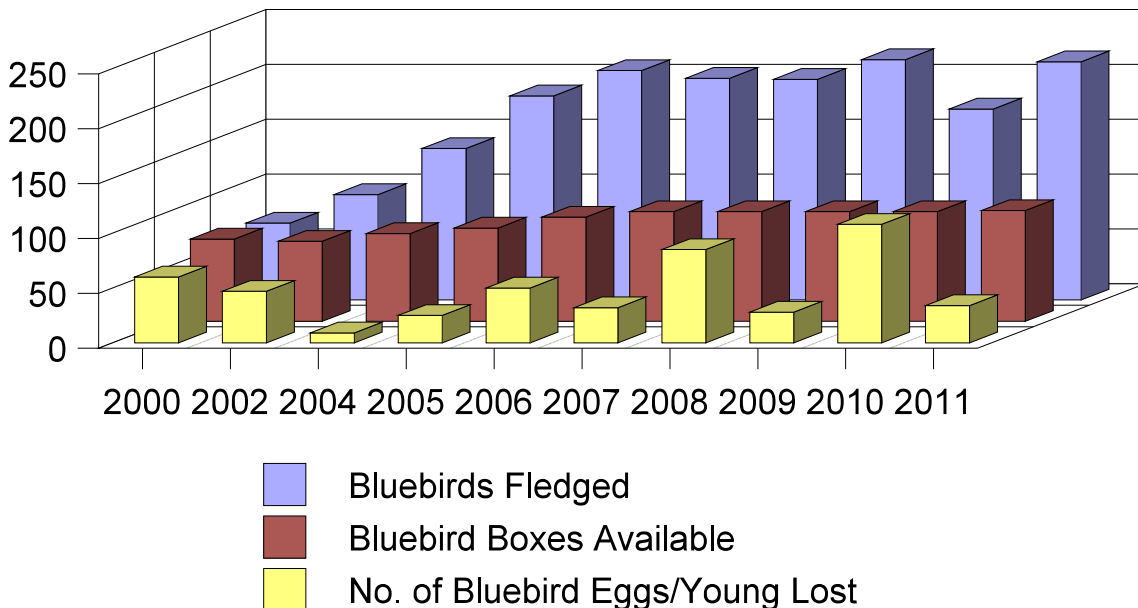
yielded only one 6/5 (MH, RH); another single bird was at Nolo 6/27 - 7/27 (GL).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found near SH 7/4 (MH, RH), the lone report. A **Savannah Sparrow** was found on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH). Dutch Run yielded at least 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 7/2 (MH, RH). A singing **Henslow's Sparrow** was a good find near Sherrett 6/6 (MH, GL). Two **Bobolinks** on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH) and one near Pine Flats 6/5 (MH, RH) were the only ones reported.

A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was nesting at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and were observed feeding fledglings 6/28 (TG, MH). The KT BBS produced a nice count of 5 **Orchard** and 12 **Baltimore Orioles**. Baltimore Orioles were feeding young at YC 6/21 (TG, MH).

Observers: Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Sid Blair, Norman Bond, Ken Byerly, Lee Carnahan, Blaine Carnes, Sue Dickson, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Tom Glover, Dave Gobert, Jim Haney, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Marian Johnson, Gloria Lamer, Melissa Little, Donna Meyer, Richard Nugent, Lynn Ramage, John Salvetti, Patrick Snickles, Duke Snyder, John Taylor, Josie Valasek, Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT).

Bluebirds at Prince Gallitzin



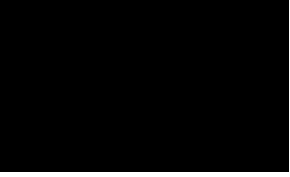
Answers to Bird Quiz

(on page 5)

1. Kingfisher
2. Scarlet Tanager
3. Kingbird
4. House Finch
5. Yellow-billed Cuckoo

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