

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

November 2008

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, December 2 – Dr. Jeffery Larkin, Assistant Professor of Conservation Biology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, will discuss the results of the Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Initiative-Pennsylvania at our December meeting. Jeff will present background information on both the ecology and population biology of the Golden-winged Warbler and share some of the preliminary findings from the 2008 field season.

In addition to this exciting program, our meeting will include our annual cookie extravaganza. Bake a dozen of your favorite cookies and bring them along.

Tuesday, January 6 – Focus on Florida, presented by member Roger Higbee featuring birds, butterflies, and dragonflies as well as spectacular scenery. Birding locations include Ocala, Kissimmee Prairie State Park, Merritt Island, the Everglades, the Keys, J. N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and Honeymoon Island State Park. Shots of various herons, egrets, vultures, Loggerhead Shrikes, warblers, and Lark Sparrows are only a few that will be included.



This Roseate Spoonbill is just one of the species featured at our January meeting.

Photo by Roger Higbee

Outings

Friday, November 28 through Monday, December 1 – The Niagara Frontier. 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 will need your birth certificate and photo ID or a passport to return to the United States. 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, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll.

Friday, December 26 – The 26th annual Indiana Christmas Bird Count. Both field birders and feeder watchers are needed. The count's center is at the intersection of Second and Grandview in Indiana. If you are within 7.5 miles of that intersection, you live in the count circle, and you may bird your yard. If you'd like to go farther into the field, you may join a pre-established group, or form your own. We just need to ascertain that there is no overlap in coverage. If you plan to participate, please contact Roger or Margaret Higbee at 724-354-3493 or e-mail bcoriole@alltel.net. We plan to meet at 6:00 p.m. at Hoss's on the day of the count to compile the data. We have reserved the large room closest to Wayne Avenue.

From the President's Desk

Is it November already? The last time I can remember is waiting for the Labor Day weekend to arrive. We traditionally attend a picnic with members of the family that we see only once (or maybe twice) a year. Ever since that time, school began and I hit the ground running. The meetings started and the commitments keep piling up.

In the birding world the Atlas Project is officially over. The publication committee will soon be meeting and deciding what to do with the data. Thanks to the dedicated members of our group and others, valuable contributions are being made to this worthwhile project. How many times have you picked up a book or read an article about birds and wondered, "How do they know this?" Well, they know all that stuff thanks to those hardworking and tireless few who have spent many of their waking (and sleepy) hours in the field observing our feathered friends in action. Kudos to all who have volunteered their time and efforts to this time-consuming and worthwhile effort. We thank all of you.

And let's not let it stop at the Atlas Project, but keep that spirit going for the Annual Christmas Bird Count. The day to keep in mind is Friday, December 26, 2008. We are again reserving a room at Hoss's Restaurant for 6:00 p.m. to meet, eat, and tally our respective counts. It's always a fun time. Forget those Christmas sales. There will be enough of those before the holidays. Get out and count the birds. If you've never participated before, just give Margaret Higbee a quick call to establish your territory. Otherwise, whether you count or not, join us for dinner. It's a good reason to relax and not have to cook the day after Christmas.

Also, please remember to try to support our various outings. Saturday, November 1, we had a wonderful outing at Yellow Creek State Park. Three Rivers Birding Club came and joined us. Over 20 people were there to share their birding experiences. Unfortunately there were very few from Todd and most of them from Three Rivers. Remember, the price of gas has gone down considerably. You can't really use that as an excuse. We'd like to see more of you guys out there!

Finally, the best meeting of the year is coming up in December, our annual Cookie Night. Share your favorite cookies with people who will really enjoy them. Oh, am I speaking for myself? And, yes, Tom, I already have the ingredients for those cookies you like so well! Hope to see everyone at the next meeting and on December 26 for the Christmas Bird Count.

– Linda Jones, President

Birding at Crooked Creek Armstrong County

by Marge Van Tassel

As parents of three boys when we lived in the suburbs, my husband and I often camped with them or took day trips to fish and explore Crooked Creek as well as other



This Osprey frequented Crooked Creek in August.
Photo by Marge Van Tassel

Pennsylvania parks. Now, as a retired senior citizen who moved to Armstrong County, I have re-discovered much of nature and particularly birds, not only in my yard or on the Kiski River across from my yard, but also at Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek Park is only 12 miles from my

residence, and the park including the lake is not large; but it does have its "fair share" of nature as does the creek itself. At the outflow there are several paths that follow the creek including Baker Trail. In one area near there called Shrub Swamp I have found several species of warblers including Black-and-white and Pine. I have seen Eastern Kingbirds, Northern Mockingbirds displaying ("fancy dancing"), Eastern Towhees, Eastern Phoebe, and many other more common birds in all spots at the park along with quite a few woodpeckers.

A Great Egret has visited one of the ponds just past the park office as has a Green Heron and a female Belted Kingfisher. I've seen the male Belted Kingfisher along with the Great Blue Heron on the lake and also at the outflow. Many Canada Geese frequent the area, and usually at least 5-6 Killdeer and a few Spotted Sandpipers frequent the beach and point of the Tunnelview area. A Double-crested Cormorant has also graced the lake near the dam; he likes to sit on a strip to dry its wings after a long dive. This past summer while people enjoyed the beach or fished on the other side of the beach, one of an Osprey pair was often seen fishing for food itself. This interested not only me but a young man and his wife who photographed the Osprey several times.

My son took me out in his canoe one day at Robb's Fording on the creek side so I could look for the eagles' nest and bird while he fished. He enjoyed seeing the immature eagles and herons as well as I did, and he also



This adult Bald Eagle nested successfully this summer at Crooked Creek.

Photo by Marge Van Tassel

had a successful morning of fishing. We watched an immature eagle perched on top of a large pine tree very near its nest and two young kayakers were also waiting to get a good photo of it in flight. After it spent some time being “heard,” it finally took off and began flying toward the lake where it was soon stopped by one of the Osprey who chased it back to its perch.

The creek itself is fairly wide as it flows in and out of the park and out to the Allegheny River at Rosston.

Trails exist also near the Boat Launch area where I’ve had nice finds, such as a Worm-eating Warbler and early Am. Tree Sparrows, so there’s always something to observe and enjoy at Crooked Creek.

Weird Cowbird Behavior

For about fifteen minutes on the evening of May 14, my brother and I watched a male Brown-headed Cowbird standing near a dead female cowbird lying on the neighbor's brick front walk. He wouldn't abandon it, but, instead, pulled at its wings and tail, pecked at it, and then jumped on its breast and jumped up and down almost like it was administering CPR. The male then flipped the female over on its stomach and continued to pull at the wings and tail to stretch them out. When he got tired of that, he walked around the dead female and pulled it across the walk to the other side near the lawn. This behavior continued for at least fifteen minutes. The male then flew off. About ten minutes later, he returned, standing near the dead female again. It was rather sad to watch. Has anyone seen anything like this?

– Pat Johnner

Special Thanks!

Thanks to all members who donated above and beyond their dues when we were in dire financial trouble toward the end of the past year. We appreciate your support!

Rusty Blackbirds in Pennsylvania

by Doug Gross

Bird conservation has chiefly been concerned about nesting ground and wintering ground issues for good reasons. There has been an increasing amount of concern about migration stopovers as a limiting factor for the populations of some species.

One of the species for which there is a mounting concern is the Rusty Blackbird, a songbird of the boreal forest that migrates to southern United States for the winter. Pennsylvania does not have many boreal bogs, but many of the birds that nest in bogs visit us in large numbers when migrating. One of these is the creaky-sounding Rusty Blackbird. It is so easy to take “blackbirds” for granted, given the commonness of the Red-winged Blackbird, the Common Grackle, and our crows. But, the Rusty Blackbird is a blackbird of a different color, so to speak. And, of quite different circumstance. The International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group (IRBTWG) has a very informative website (listed at the end of the article) that has provided much of the information that I provide in this column.

The Rusty Blackbird is in really, really big trouble. It may exhibit the largest recent decline of any North American land bird. Although most of its breeding range is beyond where there is practical coverage by Breeding Bird Surveys, the limited data from BBS and Christmas Bird Counts paint a very bleak picture for this species spiraling out of sight before our eyes. But, before I get into the blackbird doom and gloom....

First, a few words about the life history of this charming blackbird. Unlike many other members of the Icterid family, the Rusty Blackbird has not benefited from changes made on the landscape by humans. It is a bird of wetlands. In the summer months, it inhabits the wet forests of the Great North – the continent’s boreal forest of Canada and extreme northeastern United States. Its nesting range extends from the Bering Sea in Alaska east across Canada to Labrador and the other Maritime Provinces. It nests as far south as northern New Hampshire, Vermont, and the Adirondacks of New York. Its breeding range is similar to that of the Solitary Sandpiper, but it nests farther east and south. Rusties spend the winter in the southeastern United States, primarily in wetlands. Some winter in Pennsylvania as you can review in the Christmas Bird Count Data summaries by Audubon or presented by Nick Bolgiano in annual summaries in *Pennsylvania Birds*.

If you look at a map of the Rusty Blackbird’s range, it

appears that the Appalachian Mountain and Great Lakes region is an important intersection for the migration flights from the boreal forests to the southeastern wetlands and back.

Rusty Blackbirds have been declining for a long time, and the reasons for the decline are not well understood and probably are multiple. According to the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Group, some possible reasons include:

On the boreal forest breeding grounds:

- Gradual retreat of boreal wetlands from their southern extent and reduction in boreal wetlands, perhaps from climate change and also from other factors – affecting a variety of species including Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Lesser Scaup, and other ducks.
- Acid deposition causing a decrease in quantity and quality of boreal wetlands, especially in the eastern part of range.
- Mercury accumulation in tissue may be reducing reproductive success.

And on the wintering grounds:

- Losses from blackbird control programs in the 1960s and 1970s.
- Long-term decline in southern wetlands from conversion to agriculture.
- Possible increase in competition with other bird species due to habitat loss.

An important question for Pennsylvania is: What areas are important stopover locations for Rusty Blackbird? A perusal of available references including *Pennsylvania Birds* reports, the Special Areas Project (SAP) database, and *The Birds of Pennsylvania* (McWilliams and Brauning 2002) reveal that Rusty Blackbirds are observed in many places in Pennsylvania. The migration is quite broad across the state. Rusties visit almost any wet spot including shores of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs, marshes and swamps, meadows, and particularly where there is mix of wet area and trees where they can roost. They were observed at more than half of the SAP locations sometimes in great numbers. It is well known that rusties occur at Conneaut/Geneva Marsh (SGL 213) and Pymatuning Lake and wetland (SGL 214, Pymatuning State Park). The wetlands of northwestern Pennsylvania may, indeed, be important stopover and migration staging areas for this species continent-wide.

Rusty Blackbirds also have been reported in large flocks (>50 birds) at several other locations including:

- Blue Marsh Lake (*Berks*)
- Ricketts Glen State Park (*Luzerne/Sullivan*)

Pennsy, Black, and Celery Swamp complex (SGL 284, *Lawrence/Mercer*)
Prince Gallitzen State Park (*Cambria*)
Yellow Creek State Park (*Indiana*)

How can birders help? One of the best ways is to survey Rusty Blackbirds at local birding spots and visit IBAs that have good chances of hosting rusties. Register your sightings in *eBird* and *Pennsylvania Birds* county reports. Don't be content to just check off Rusty Blackbird on your trip list. The *eBird* data are especially valuable because they are geo-referenced and allow count data. Counting birds, even as an estimation, is much more valuable than a "checkmark" for this species. The degree of importance of each location can be judged only by the flock size and persistence. And, of course, it is great to search for rusties on Christmas Bird Counts.

More data will allow researchers and conservationists to identify the key stopover locations in the state. This will allow for more conservation action at those locations. It also will allow ornithologists to target those areas for research on the Rusty Blackbird population that migrates through the state. Several research projects may be possible including studies of their genetics, contaminants, and places of origin. The IRBTWG and the Smithsonian's Russ Greenberg have a "feather and blood donor" project that will assist the various research projects on this species. Just learning the location of key stopover points would be an important step toward understanding how Pennsylvania plays a part in Rusty Blackbird conservation.

Please visit the IRBTWG website on Rusty Blackbird at http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/decline.cfm

To participate in various bird "citizen science" projects in the state and report rare nesting birds, please contact: Douglas A. Gross, Endangered Bird Specialist, PGC 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859
E-mail: dogross@state.pa.us or dougross@sunlink.net
Phone: 570-458-4109 (or 570-458-4564)

Todd Members Hand Out Water to Roadrunners

On Sunday, August 17, Todd Bird Club members handed out water for the race sponsored by the Indiana Roadrunners. Participating in this event were Alice and Buck Beatty, Lee Carnahan, Gloria Lamer. Special thanks to this crew for their work.

The Roadrunners generously gave Todd a \$30 donation.

Watch for Pine Siskins

This has been a good fall for Pine Siskins in Pennsylvania. On October 15, a flock of about 50 flew over the Higbees' yard near Shelocta. On the morning of October 17, Mike Shaffer and Margaret Higbee watched a flock of about 60 land in the trees near Dragonfly Pond at Yellow Creek. They were able to get "scope-eye views." Later that afternoon Marge Van Tassel and Margaret Higbee spotted a flock of 75 pass over the main recreation area. But it only got better....

October 19

On October 19 Marcy Cunkelman writes: "The white birch tree was alive with 30+ fresh, crisp looking Pine Siskins this morning. They have been at the feeders and flying around in different parts of the yard. I couldn't see if they were on the alder cones since there are still some leaves on the trees. This morning was the first of season very heavy frost with ice in some of my plant saucers...."

On the same day Bruce Carl led a field trip for the Lancaster County Bird Club. They estimated 175 siskins on their outing; most of these birds were feeding on an extensive cone crop.

In Berks County 80 flew over Stony Creek, SGL 110, as reported by Tom Clauser from Pottsville.

October 21

Todd's Tuesday's outing yielded 188 siskins, all in 9 flocks of anywhere from 2 to 60 birds for Lee Carnahan, Marge Van Tassel, and Margaret Higbee. They all seemed to be on the move.

October 26

A little closer to home in Butler County, Mike Fialkovich reported siskins flying over Moraine State Park on the Three Rivers Birding Club anniversary outing.

In northern Jefferson County near Dutch Hill, Kate St. John reported flocks of siskins.

October 27

Bill Walbek birded Independence Marsh in Beaver County and added Pine Siskin to his list – no numbers were indicated.

Forty Pine Siskins flew by Second Mountain Hawk Watch at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

Marcy again writes: "After the conference at Seven Springs today when I went to get the car, I heard siskins at the hotel area. Then when I dropped my friend off at College Lodge Road near Indiana, I hear and saw them in her Norway spruce trees. When I got home, I heard them flying over the yard. I couldn't get a count, but you couldn't miss hearing them flying around and in the trees...."

October 28

The Tuesday morning outing at Yellow Creek was unbelievable. Flocks of siskins were constantly overhead with a final tally of 366 individuals. Observers were Lee Carnahan and Margaret Higbee.

Watch for these small, streaked brown finches with notched tails and white wingbars at your feeders. Their wings and tails are tinged with yellow. Their bills are extremely thin and pointed. They'll come to your feeders for thistle, hulled sunflower, and black oil sunflower seed. And when you do see them, please count them and let us know! Share your sightings!



Pine Siskins are moving through Pennsylvania in large numbers this year. How many will actually winter?

Todd Bird Club Participates in Kritter Kamp

Thanks to Ayn Van Dyke for inviting Todd Bird Club to participate in Kritter Kamp at her home near Tanoma on Sunday afternoon, October 12. Tom and Betsy Fetterman helped man the Todd tables which were conveniently located near the entrance road. It was a beautiful sunny day with many families stopping by to chat and ask questions of "Dr. Tom."



Tom and Betsy Fetterman manned the tables at Kritter Kamp.

Using Georgette Syster's hand painted owls, we set up a display. The owls really attracted a lot of attention. We sponsored another coloring contest in which 25 children participated. We handed out a winter bird identification sheet complete with bird photos, Todd brochures, and Indiana County checklists. Special thanks to Tom and Betsy for organizing this outreach.

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County Report

Summer 2008 – June 1 through July 31, 2008

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@alltel.net.

Abbreviations: Belknap (BK), Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Cochran's Mills (CM) Crooked Creek Park (CC), Dayton (DT), Deckers Point (DP), Heilwood (HW), Hoosick's Mill (HM), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Lewisville (LV), Littletown (LT), Malloy Hollow (MH), Margaret (MG), Marion Center (MC), McGregor (McG), McWilliams (McW), Mt. Tabor (MT), Parkwood (PW), Plumville (PV), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Shelocta (SH), Smeltzer (SZ), Spruce Grove (SG), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Virginia (VA), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Yatesboro (YB), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Five young **Wood Ducks** trailed behind a female at KR 7/16 (MH). A **Mallard's** nest with eggs was found near IN 7/5 (GF). Fledgling **Wild Turkeys** numbered 5 near DP 6/2 (MH), 6 near MT 6/16 (CG,MH), and 12 near Penn Run 7/8 (BiF); SB reported an injured turkey n. of IN 7/9-14.

A **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was at CC 6/9 (MF). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at YC 7/25 (MVT) and 7/26 (SG). Ten **Double-crested Cormorants** at McCreary's Pond (RM) and one at CC (MF) both occurred 6/9; singletons were found 6/17 (MH,MVT) at YC and 7/12 (MH, RH) at Hemlock Lake where it remained through 7/24 (MH). A **Great Egret** visited CC 6/4 (MVT). Two **Little Blue Herons**, a ninth *Indiana* record, were present at YC 7/22 (MH) through 7/26 (SG,DK); this is the first occurrence of more than one individual at a time. An adult **Bald Eagle** was found near Homer City 6/2 (DB). A pair nested at CC producing 2 young, all of which were observed 6/9 (MF); another pair nested at Mahoning Lake (fide *The Indiana Gazette*), producing two young; an adult was spotted at KR 6/18 (CG,MH) while another was reported at Edgewood 6/26 (RF). Both **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at four locations (v.o.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found only near Red Mill 6/3 (MJA,MH, MVT), w. of KR 6/8 (MH,RH), near Kenwood 6/10 (MH,MVT), and s.e. of PV 7/14 (MH). Eighteen **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported (v.o.), including confirmed breeding at YC 7/15 (MJA,MH,LM,TM,DS,MVT). Fledgling **American Kestrels** were noted near Rayne 6/30 (MH) and s.e. of PV 7/14 (MH).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard 6/19 (CG,

MH) at KR. By mid-July the water level at YC began subsiding exposing mud-flats in Little Yellow Cove where the first **Semipalmated Plover** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 7/29 (MH, MVT). KR hosted 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/16 (MH) while 7/22 (MH) was YC's arrival date for **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpipers**, and **Pectoral Sandpiper**. Seven was a good count at YC of Solitary Sandpipers



This Great Egret visited Crooked Creek 6/4.

Photo by Marge Van Tassel

7/29 (MH,MVT). **Spotted Sandpiper** reports at KR included singletons 6/19 (MH,RH) and 7/16 (MH). An **American Woodcock** was flushed near McG 6/25 (EF,MH).

Both cuckoos were noted rather widely with 10 **Black-billed** and 11 **Yellow-billed** reports. Three **Whip-poor-wills** were actively calling in Dark Hollow 6/12 (EF,MF,MH).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird's** nest with eggs was found near HM 6/9 (CG,MH). By 7/1 (SB) 4 hummingbirds were present n. of IN. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were

confirmed nesting near HW, a second confirmed *Indiana* record. Two adults, one seen, one heard, were present 6/12 (BF,MH); an adult male was feeding a well camouflaged fledgling 7/1 (MH). On 7/7 (MH) a female was found with a fledgling while another sapsucker called from the stand of trees on the opposite side of the road.

Eastern Wood-Pewees were observed on nest near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH) and n. of MC 7/31 (MA,MH). The *Armstrong* portion of the SH BBS 6/1 (MH,RH) and the MG BBS 6/8 (MH, RH) each yielded 8 singing **Acadian Flycatchers**; other good counts were 8 near HM and 6 s. of HW 6/9 (CG, MH) and 7 near McW 6/18 (CG,MH). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing near Smicksburg 6/23 (MH). **Willow Flycatchers** were observed carrying food s. of HW and near BK 7/16 (CG,MH) while fledged young were found n. of MC 7/31 (MA,MH). Single **Least Flycatchers** were found near DP 6/2 (MH), near Kenwood 6/10 (MH,MVT), w. of KR 6/11 (MH,RH), near Penn Run 6/12 (BF,MH) and both near HW and KT 6/14 (MH,RH); 2 were heard on the VA BBS 6/15 (MH,RH). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were listed at 20 locations this period (v.o.). **Eastern Kingbirds** had fledged near LT 6/8 (MH), near BK 7/16 (MH), and n. of MC 7/30 (MA,MH).

Ten **White-eyed Vireo** reports were received including an adult feeding a young bird near McCormick 7/28 (EF,MH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found 6/18 (CG,MH) near McW, 6/19 (CG,MH) near SZ, with the best counts of 4 near McG 6/25 (EF,MH) and an equal number at MH 7/1 (MH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were noted at numerous locations this summer (v.o.) including individuals at CM 6/1

(MH,RH), at KR and at Smicksburg 6/9 (CG,MH), and n. of Bryan 7/16 (MH) plus a pair at Denton 7/30 (MA,MH). Single **Warbling Vireos** were found both near SH and near Girty 6/1 (MH,RH), near Blairsville 6/7 (MH,RH), and both near PV and HM 6/9 (CG,MH); 2 were listed on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH,RH). A distressed pair of **Red-eyed Vireos** near Kenwood 6/10 (MH,MVT) dive-bombed a Blue Jay which continued to eat one of the vireo eggs seemingly unperturbed.

A **Fish Crow** was calling at 4th and Philadelphia in Indiana 6/28 (MH,RH), not far from the confirmed nesting site the previous month. Two **Common Ravens** near Strongstown 6/12 (BF,MH) were amazingly the only ones reported. A pair of **Horned Larks** accompanied a fledgling near McCormick 7/28 (EF,MH).

By 7/7 (DS) the **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton contained 31 pairs that had produced 124 young, up from 28 pairs last year but down from the 132 young fledged. The colony established last year at West Shamokin High School was vacant this year (DS). In *Indiana* a pair of **Purple Martins** nested near Rossmoyne, raising four young (MA,MH). At a nearby Amish farm several martins summered but did not nest. By 7/15 (MJA,MH,LM,TM,DS,MVT) **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were feeding young at YC. A **Cliff Swallow** near SH 6/1 (MH,RH) was still present through mid-July; another was spotted near Purchaseline 6/30 (MH).

A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was feeding a very young fledgling at YC 6/17 (MH,MVT); at least one was present near SH throughout the summer. A family group of 4 was found in IN 7/21 (MC). **Brown Creepers** were singing near HW 6/12 (BF,MH), near SZ 6/19 (CG,MH), in MH 7/1 (MH), and at YC 7/15 (MJA,MH,LM,TM,DS,MVT). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was still present at the traditional site at YC 6/24 (MJA,MH,MVT). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen on nest near Girty 6/1 (MH,RH) and feeding young n.w. of PV 6/9 (CG,MH) and at YC 6/24 (MJA,MH,MVT). Single **Veeries** singing near Johnstown 6/15 (MH,RH) and near Pine Flats 6/21 (MH,RH) were the lone reports. **Hermit Thrushes** reported included one near Red Mill 6/3 (MJA,MH,MVT), 2 near Strongstown 6/12 (BF,MH), 2 near Gypsy 7/9 (MH), a pair near SG 7/17 (BF,MH), and one near Locust 7/24 (MH). The six BBS routes with sections in the region yielded a total of 97 **Wood Thrushes** (MH,RH); a nest with eggs was found 6/9 (CG,MH) near HM while adults were observed carrying food near McW 6/18 (CG,MH) and near SZ 6/19 (CG,MH). **Northern Mockingbirds** were widespread with adults carrying food near Five Points 6/4 (MH) and fledglings near Barnards 6/18 (CG,MH). Recently fledged **Brown Thrashers** were being fed by the adults near Barnards 6/18 (CG,MH); an adult was carrying food near HW 6/25 (EF,MH); fledglings were noted in MH 7/1 (MH) and near LT 7/8 (MH). **Cedar Waxwings** were on nest near McW 6/18 (CG,MH) and carrying nesting material near McG 6/25 (EF,MH).

Twenty **Blue-winged Warblers** (v.o.), but no **Golden-winged Warblers** or hybrids, were noted this period. Single **Northern Parulas** were singing 6/1 (MH,RH) near CM and 6/8 (MH,RH) near Brick Church; a territorial parula sang at YC 6/10 (MH,MVT) through 7/1 (MH). **Yellow Warbler** BBS counts included 30 on the MG route 6/8 (MH,RH) and 22 on the KT 6/14 (MH,RH), both up from last

year. Among numerous reports, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 5 near Elkin 6/4 (MH) and 2 on 6/19 (CG,MH) near SZ as well as adults feeding young near BK 7/16 (CG,MH) and carrying food near SG 7/17 (BF,MH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were noted at six *Indiana* locations (MH) as well as two singing birds near RM 6/3 (MJA,MH,MVT), one near McW 6/18 (CG,MH), and one near BK 7/16 (MH). At least 5 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were counted near RM 6/3 (MJA,MH,MVT). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread with the species confirmed carrying nesting material near HW 6/12 (BF,MH); carrying food at YC 6/17 (MH,MVT), near McG 6/25 (EF,MH), and near Rossiter 7/12 (MH,RH); fledglings were still accompanying their parents near BK 7/16 (MH). **Blackburnian Warblers**, listed at five locations, were confirmed carrying food at YC 6/24 (MJA,MH,MVT). The SH, PW, and the MG BBS routes yielded **Yellow-throated Warblers** one on 6/1, 2 on 6/7 and one, 6/8 (MH,RH), respectively. Three **Pine Warblers** were singing at the IN Country Club 6/9 (RH), near SH 7/2, 9 (MH), and at YC 7/8 (MH). The McW-MT area was the hotspot for **Prairie Warblers** 6/18 (CG,MH) when 8 were counted; *Indiana* reports included 2 near DP 6/2 (MH) and single birds at eight other locations (v.o.). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was singing near SH 6/1 (MH,RH). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were at CM 6/1 (MH,RH); one was found on the MG BBS 6/8 (MH,RH); a pair was actively feeding near HM 6/9 (CG,MH) while another was singing along Glade Run also 6/9 (CG,MH); 2 singing males were listed near Echo 6/10 (MH,RH). Among 18 **Black-and-white Warbler** reports were notes of 2 on the SH BBS and one at CM 6/1 (MH,RH), one near Red Mill 6/3 (MJA,MH,MVT), 2 on the MG BBS 6/8 (MH,RH), 4 w. of KR 6/11 (MH), and 3 on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH,RH). **American Redstarts** were carrying food on the PW BBS 6/7 (MH,RH), near HM 6/9 (CG,MH), and near Rayne 6/30 (MH). Fledgling **Ovenbirds** were observed near MT 6/18 (CG,MH), near Rayne 6/30 (MH), near LT 7/10 (BF,MH) and near BK 7/16 (MH). A **Northern Waterthrush** was a nice find near RM 6/3 (MJA,MH,MVT); the bird was both seen and heard. A family group of 4 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** was also found near RM 6/3 (MJA,MH,MVT); the only other reports were birds near Robbs Fording 6/1 (MH,RH), near PV 6/9 (CG,MH), at YC 6/17, 7/8 (MH,MVT), near McG 6/25 (EF,MH), and along Little Mahoning Creek 7/9 (MH). Among many reports, **Kentucky Warblers** listed included 2 near Taylorsville 6/2 (MH), 2 near Elkin 6/4,23 (MH), and 3 w. of KR 6/11, 7/2 (MH). **Common Yellowthroat** fledglings were being fed near HW 7/7 (MH); young were spotted at YC 7/15 (MJA,MH,LM,TM,DS,MVT), n. of Bryan 7/16 (MH), and n. of MC 7/31 (MA,MH). Top **Hooded Warbler** counts included 8 on the Parkwood BBS 6/7 (MH,RH), 7 in the Tanoma area 7/4 (MH,RH), and an equal number near SG 7/17 (BF,MH). The Skrgic tract w. of KR yielded 7 Hooded Warblers 6/11 (MH) including two pairs carrying food, and 8 adults on 7/2 (MH). Adults were also carrying food 6/21 (MH,RH) near Grisemore. **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports included 2 near Blairsville 6/7 (MH,RH), one near Spaces Corners 6/14 (MH,RH), one near McW 6/18 (CG,MH), a territorial pair at YC 6/24 (MJA,MH,MVT) and 7/15 (MJA,MH,LM,TM,DS,MVT), and singletons near JS Airport 6/28 (MH,RH), near LT 7/8 (MH) and again 7/10 (BF,MH), and near Rossiter 7/12 (MH,RH).

Scarlet Tanagers were carrying food near SZ 6/19 (CG,MH) and feeding young near McG 6/25 (EF,MH); 15 were found near SG 7/17 (BF,MH) with multiple confirmations of

adults feeding young or carrying food. Single **Vesper Sparrows** were near Brick Church 6/1 (MH,RH) and near Elkin 6/4 (MH); 2 were s. of HW 6/9 (CG,MH); one was listed on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH,RH) and another was spotted near Edgewood 7/9 (MH,RH). **Savannah Sparrows** were mowed out for the second time 6/11 (MH) near Elderton; 10 fledglings in a field n. of MC 7/31 (MA,MH) were a good sign. Best **Grasshopper Sparrow** counts were 5 s.e. of PV 7/14 (MH) and 5 n. of MC 7/31 (MA,MH); *Armstrong* reports included 2 w. of KR 6/11 (MH), 3 on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH,RH), one near SZ 6/19 (CG,MH), and 2 n. of Bryan 7/16 (MH). **Swamp Sparrows** were widespread this period with as many as 5 near Rayne 6/30 (MH) and 4 near Tanoma 7/4 (MH,RH); adults were carrying food near DP 6/2 (MH) and n. of MC 7/31 (MA,MH). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was singing at Sun Cliff 7/10 (BF,MH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were feeding young near HM 6/9 (CG,MH) and carrying food at YC 6/17 (MH,MVT). **Indigo Buntings** were carrying food near McG 6/25 (EF,MH) and in MH 7/1 (MH).

At least 3 **Bobolinks** were spotted in a field that was being mowed near SG 6/12 (BF,MH); near SZ 7 were counted 6/10 (CG,MH) while a field near Taylorsville 6/30 (MH) harbored at least 8 individuals including several fledglings.

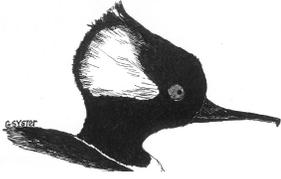
Eastern Meadowlarks were widespread, but the only breeding confirmation was obtained 6/4 (MH) near Elkin. **Orchard Orioles** were widely noted with reports of 24 individuals in addition to a nest with young near SZ 6/9 (CG,MH). **Baltimore Orioles** were carrying food w. of KR 6/11 (MH), along the Patton BBS 6/21 (MH,RH), and near the JS Airport 6/28 (MH,RH). Christmas tree farms near McW and MT each yielded 2 **Purple Finches** 6/18 (CG,MH); 3 were listed at RV 6/1 (LU) and up to 5 were present n. of IN throughout the period (SB).

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