

THE OSPREY

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July 2009

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another season has past and we are about to begin a new one. Enclosed you will find the 2009 – 2010 Programs and Field Trips brochure which is packed with another exciting line-up of events for your enjoyment. In my opinion, our committee members really out did themselves this year in planning the coming season and I sure do hope that you can find the time to come join us at least one of these wonderful events! As has been standard for the past few years, I have the honor of leading the first field trip of the new season; our very popular Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge trip in Smyrna, Delaware. If you have never taken this trip, you should consider doing so as it offers an opportunity to see many new species that are not found in our local area. It can be a hot and buggy trip, but it is slow paced and we concentrate on finding birds that are new to people that have not birded this type of habitat often. So, if you have never gone on this trip and want to see shorebirds and some other more southerly species, come join us!

You may have noticed that the number of different people listed in our committee chair positions has grown in recent years. This is a good sign and we are always looking for new people to become active with us, either by helping with a current committee or by taking on a new committee. One area where we really (and I mean really!) need some help, is with the newsletter. A little knowledge of using a

computer and of some creative software is all that is needed. I have been doing the newsletter for eleven years and think I do a decent job of it, but feel it is time for a new person to infuse some new life into *The Osprey*! Please, if you or someone you know might be interested in helping with this, just drop me a note or give me a call and we can discuss the details.

Another change you may have noticed is that we had a small shifting in our executive board as well. After many years of being our treasurer, Fritz Brock has stepped down from this important position in order to be freer to travel. Fritz deserves a very large THANK YOU for his many years of service and thankfully he will remain active on our executive board, as well as leading some of our bird walks. In his place, Jon Levin, who had served as our vice president for the past years, will now take on the position of treasurer. This left us needing a new VP and I am happy to say that Barbara Malt agreed to fill that position. So, more shuffling than major changes, but changes none the less.

It is also the time of year to purchase your new Pennsylvania hunting license to help support the Pa Game Commission and the state game lands that so many of us enjoy on an annual basis. I say it every year and this year is

(Continued on page 2)

Sightings Report: April—June 2009

by Dave DeReamus

Numerous **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS** continued to be reported throughout most of the quarter as were small numbers of **PINE SISKINS**. Two additional species of note from this past quarter included the **VARIED THRUSH** that continued to sporadically visit a Salisbury Township backyard to at least April 11th and a **LITTLE GULL** that was seen at Lake Nockamixon on April 4th and 5th.

April began where March left off with continuing reports of numbers of **PINE SISKINS**, which included 170 at Jacobsburg State Park on the 1st. Two **PEREGRINE FALCONS** were seen at

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no different: The game commission receives no money from the state and relies upon the sale of hunting licenses and items on their web site (www.pgc.state.pa.us/) to fund their activities and the maintenance and purchase of land. These lands are open to all, without a user fee of any type, and without our support this could all change. I often hear people complain about having to share the game lands with hunters, especially in the fall when many seasons are open, but what if they were only open to those that helped fund the purchase of them; Most of us would not be allowed to enter them. Do your part, go on-line and purchase a hunting license and also

consider buying a Migratory Bird Stamp and a Federal Duck Stamp; all these help support the wildlife we enjoy so much. Visit The Outdoor Shop and see what wonderful resources the game commission makes available to you there; from clothing, books, to wall charts and other great items!

Enough of my ramblings! I look forward to seeing you during the coming season,

Peter

(Continued from page 1)

the Martins Creek PPL power plant on the 2nd. On the 3rd, 6 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were seen in Bath. Lake Nockamixon was the place to be on the 4th when a LITTLE GULL was found in addition to 2 RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS, 3 RED-NECKED GREBES, and an ICELAND GULL. The LITTLE GULL continued to be seen on the 5th. A CASPIAN TERN was spotted at Green Lane Reservoir on the 4th, two others were seen at Beltzville State Park on the 7th, and two more were present at Leaser Lake on the 11th. On the 5th, Kunkletown and New Tripoli both produced a very early RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. A RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was seen near Cementon on the 6th. Additional sightings from Lake Nockamixon included the continuing 3 RED-NECKED GREBES and ICELAND GULL on the 8th, and 3 ICELAND GULLS on the 10th. A BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was found at Green Lane Reservoir on the 10th. Birds seen on the 15th included a very early YELLOW-THROATED VIREO near Emmaus and 20 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS at the Grandview Cemetery in South Whitehall Township. Seven were later seen there on the 18th. Sightings from the 16th included the "AUDUBON'S" form of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER that was present throughout most of last quarter at the Dorney Park pond, 12 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS in Williams Township, and the first of a few YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS that returned to the Bethlehem Boat Club area. Three GLOSSY IBIS were seen flying over Leaser Lake on the 18th. Green Pond produced a fairly late TUNDRA SWAN on the 18th and a DUNLIN on both the 18th and 19th. A RUSTY BLACKBIRD was seen along Bangor Vein Road on the 18th and the 23rd, and another was seen near the Bethlehem Boat Club on the 26th. A BLACK SCOTER was seen at Lake Nockamixon on the 22nd. A total of 11 GLOSSY IBIS were seen flying over the Henningsville on the 24th. A DUNLIN visited Leaser Lake on the 25th. Three CERULEAN WARBLERS were seen near Bake Oven Knob on the 27th.

On May 2nd, a RED-HEADED WOODPECKER visited an Upper Saucon Township feeder. Sightings from the 9th included a VIRGINIA RAIL in Upper Mount Bethel Township, a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON in Bethlehem Township, a WHIP-POOR-WILL at Little Gap, and 5 CERULEAN WARBLERS near Bake Oven Knob. An AMERICAN BITTERN stopped at the Monocacy Nature Center on the 10th. Jacobsburg

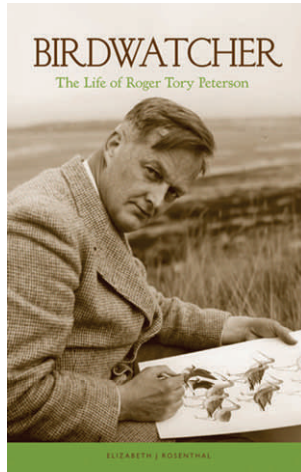
State Park produced a KENTUCKY WARBLER on the 10th, 2 YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS on the 11th, a LINCOLN'S SPARROW on the 11th and 12th, and a YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER on the 12th. Another YELLOW-BELLIED was seen there on the 18th. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was spotted near Kunkletown on the 11th. Two YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS were seen at Hugh Moore Park on the 15th and another was seen near Freemansburg on the 17th. Single OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were spotted at Bake Oven Knob on the 16th and at Leaser Lake on the 17th. A retention pond in Lower Nazareth Township produced 2 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS on the 17th. Also on the 17th, a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was found at Green Pond, an ALDER FLYCATCHER was seen near Kunkletown, and a GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was spotted in Upper Milford Township. Another ALDER FLYCATCHER was seen near Mount Bethel Township on the 21st and 22nd. A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen in Upper Mount Bethel Township on the 21st, and 2 GRAY-CHEEKED or BICKNELL'S THRUSHES were spotted near Katellen on the 22nd. A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was seen at Walking Purchase Park in Salisbury Township on the 23rd. Leaser Lake held a GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH and a KENTUCKY WARBLER on the 24th and 13 SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS on the 26th. Additional sightings from the 24th included a HERRING GULL at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center and 5 CERULEAN WARBLERS near Kirkridge. Nazareth Boro Park held 20 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS from the 25th to at least the 30th, and the Grandview Cemetery held five of them on the 28th. Another GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH visited Fountain Hill on the 27th.

On June 5th, 5 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were still present at Nazareth Boro Park. On the 9th, a pair of BLUE GROSBEAKS were present at the Grand Central landfill near Pen Argyl. A few miles south of there, in Plainfield Township, another pair of them was found on the 13th. A DICKCISSEL was also seen there that day. Sightings from Bear Swamp included an ACADIAN FLYCATCHER on the 13th, a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH on the 26th and 27th, and an ALDER FLYCATCHER on the 27th. Yet another BLUE GROSBEAK was found along Jacktown Road in Washington Township, Northampton County on the 28th. A BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was seen in Lynn Township on the 29th.

BIRDWATCHER

by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal

Roger Tory Peterson was a giant of his time whose legacy is, as his son Lee once said, "all-pervasive." He seemed to have lived several lifetimes during his nearly 88 years as the originator of the modern field guide, a masterful and evocative painter, a feverishly persistent and thorough photographer, a passionate filmmaker, a fluid and fluent author, a teacher of natural history for all grade and age levels, a life-long student of natural history, the most resourceful of scientists in his tireless sharing and synthesizing of information, a wise and dedicated conservationist from his earliest days, and a mentor and a hero to scores of people around the world.



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A must read! Available in most area bookstores!

Community Event

LVAS joined Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery on Route 100 in Fogelsville on June 20 for their Summer Celebration event. It was a wet day so Cherene M. represented LVAS complete with golf umbrella and duck boots! The stormy weather sure didn't deter a group of resilient members of the community who came out for some good live music, good food, and interesting demonstrations. There was plenty of bird chat (and wasp nest chat and squirrel chat!) for those visiting the LVAS tent, plus fun give-a-ways for all. The kids especially liked the "cool" bird stickers. We thank Sue and Louise from the nursery for inviting us and allowing us to share our love of birds and the environment with the community.

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Saturday, May 23, 2009 – LVAS Bird Walk Penn Forest Township

Trip Leader: Adam Smith. Participants (13) (in order of sign in sheet): Dennis Glew, Marge Pfeiffer, Jennifer Quinn, Ron Hillegass, Betty Abrams, Joanne Sora, Diane & Tim Mason, Jack Golden, Fritz Brock, Sue Mahan, Terry & Stephen Kloiber (Please forgive any misspellings.)

This walk was an impromptu walk which Adam Smith offered to do a few weeks ago. It was emailed to the membership. We met at 6:30 AM in the parking near Red Robin at the Tilghman Square Shopping Center. It was approximately 58°F with about a 75% cloud cover. We started off with four species in the parking lot...Killdeer, Chimney Swift, Canada Goose with goslings, and a European Starling in its nest inside the parking lot light pole. Carpooling with three full cars, we left the parking lot at about 6:50 A.M., picked up a 4th car along Route 903, and then drove up to the first stop for a walk along Schoolhouse Road and Drakes Creek Road arriving there at approximately 7:30 A.M. We walked along the road for about an hour and then departed for our second stop, the Hatchery Road Power Line. Adam was quite organized and even handed out typed directions to the two places we would be stopping at and included his cell phone number on them so no one could get lost.

I try to make most of our walks but sometimes my schedule just doesn't allow it. I am very glad I was able to attend this one as I think it was the best one of the season, for a number of reasons. For one we had great weather, unlike a lot of the trips this spring. It was probably the most comfortable morning, that we've had all season--it was not raining, it was not terribly foggy, it was not misting, nor was it terribly hot or cold. It was comfortable for walking, which is what we did--and a lot of it. The second reason, unlike some of the other trips, the birds were there and we had some good warblers and great looks at most of the birds. But it was also a fun walk, with a very nice group of people, and everyone helped each other to get on the birds. It was just so neat to see perfect strangers coming together helping each other get better looks at the warblers up so high in the trees. Some folks give better descriptions than others of where to look to spot the bird and everyone seemed anxious to get everyone else on the birds. We exchanged stories of birding experiences, and personal experiences as we walked. We gave Adam gold stars for waiting long enough for the Blackburnian to turn into better light so we could get that flaming orange color; and for trekking us through the high grass to get the Golden-winged Warbler (even if we did pick up a few hitch-hiking ticks along the way); and for getting the Chestnut-sided Warbler to land on the right side of the road so that we could pick up great color and watch him sing in the sunshine; and how he got the Blue-winged Warbler and Brewsters Warbler to pop up one after the other and at the same time for great comparisons, we'll never know. But we had great looks at great warblers. We laughed when the three-quarter mile walk felt like ten miles and threatened to take Adam's gold stars away. We looked at tadpoles, awed at a Raven, and simply enjoyed every aspect of the morning. I think my sister, Diane Mason, and I will never forget this walk because after we lingered behind in hopes of getting a better look at the Louisiana Waterthrush, she took a wrong turn off the trail and stepped into the "swampy" grass and as I asked her where she was going, it sucked her down to above her knees pulling her in like quick sand. I couldn't believe my eyes and how fast it happened; and as she screamed I reached out to grab her hoping I wouldn't get pulled down with her. I managed to pull her out and once on stable ground again we both laughed so hard we could cry, "At least you saved your binoculars" I said. When we caught up to the group who was continuing to walk down the power line on the trek back to the cars, we had to tell them our story -- didn't you hear her scream I asked. Adam, having recently learned how Diane reacts to flying insects said, I thought I heard something but figured Diane just saw a bug!" And we laughed some more. On the walk back we did double takes at the Blue-winged and Brewsters Warblers again as the Chestnut-sided followed us along the path. Birds were everywhere. By the time the trip concluded at approximately 12:30 the temps were probably up in the 70's, and the sun was shining, though there were clouds threatening rain. We got back about an hour and a half later than anyone expected, but I don't think anyone complained. All had a great time. [Text submitted by Joanne Sora]

64 Species: [Species List by Adam Smith w/some additions and notations by Joanne Sora]

Canada Goose (p), Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Killdeer (p), Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift (p), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling (p), Blue-winged Warbler *, Brewster's Warbler *, Golden-winged Warbler *, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler *, Magnolia Warbler *, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler *, Prairie Warbler *, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat *, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler *, Scarlet Tanager *, House Finch, Eastern Towhee, House Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak *, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch.

??? Bird Quiz ???

1. Which bird is the world's fastest flyer?
(a) Peregrine Falcon, (b) Rock Pigeon, (c) Spine-tailed Swift
2. Which bird is the world's fastest diver?
3. Which bird migrates the longest distance?
4. Which bird has the world's widest wingspan?
(a) Himalayan Griffon, (b) Wandering Albatross, (c) Andean Condor
5. Which bird is the world's smallest?
6. Which bird is the world's largest?
7. On a White-winged Crossbill, which side does the lower mandible cross the upper mandible?
(a) right side, (b) left side, (c) either, they can be right- or left-billed
8. Which bird has the largest repertoire of songs in North America?
9. Benjamin Franklin suggested that this bird become our national symbol.
10. How many bird species have you seen, or heard today?

(ANSWERS BELOW)

1) c – The Spine-tailed Swift, of eastern Asia, can fly horizontally at more than one hundred miles per hour. 2) The Peregrine Falcon can dive at one hundred seventy-five miles per hour. 3) The Arctic Tern flies from the North Pole to the South Pole and back again, each year. It takes the tern two months to fly nearly twenty-five thousand miles one way. This bird can fly more than fourteen thousand miles nonstop! 4) b – The Wandering Albatross boasts an eleven foot wingspan, (ten inches across) the griffon and condor, ten foot wingspans. 5) The Bee Hummingbird found in Cuba. 6) The male Ostrich can measure in at eight feet tall, and almost three hundred pounds! 7) c – While developing, the lower mandible bends to one side or the other. 8) The Brown Thrasher has a repertoire of more than one thousand songs. 9) Wild Turkey, there is a lot to be said about this. 10) Enjoy (Some of the above measurements may be a little conservative)

LVAS participated in several local events celebrating spring recently. We hosted a table at Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery's spring festival and at LL Bean's spring sports weekend.



Barbara Malt with our table at LL Bean.(left)

Mark Boyd greets visitors at Edge of the Woods.(right)



Jack Kane helps children identify birds at LL Bean (center)



WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING

For quite a few years the Lehigh Valley has been well represented in the World Series of Birding. This year was no exception, as a number of residents were members of various teams. This grueling, twenty-four hour 'big day' was held on May 9, 2009. Sponsored by the New Jersey Audubon Society, teams raise money for the conservation effort of their choice. To find out everything you'd like to know about this event, go to www.worldseriesofbirding.org.

Congratulations to; Bob Hoopes - 1000birds.com, Corey Husic - ABA Tropicbirds, Dan Zmoda - Greenkill GNATcatchers, Dan Atlif, Rick Wiltraut - The Western Strays, Mark Boyd, Tim Erickson, Rodney Johnson, Matt Sabatine - Waterman Bird Club Diving Dabblers, and good luck on May 15, 2010.



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EARTH DAY AT THE DA VINCI CENTER

LVAS again participated in this year's Da Vinci Center's Earth Day Celebration on April 25, from 11am to 3pm. A poster display featured common backyard birds of our area along with ideas for making the backyard more attractive to birds. Also featured was a poster about the Kittatinny Ridge and songbirds that make their homes along it. Several slide presentations were continuously projected on a large screen behind the displays, including "Birds of the Lehigh Valley" and the "Kittatinny Ridge".

A variety of pamphlets were available for people to take on various topics, including information on bird feeding, attracting birds to the yard, birding trails, and, of course, LVAS programs and activities. For the kids, coloring pages, bird stickers and bird punchouts were a hit. And, as always, our collection of the Audubon Plush Birds, with authentic bird songs, was very popular.



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Book about real captive lorikeet supports avian rescue and conservation efforts, By Cherene Mastroianni

“Lucky - Based on a True Story” Written by Monica Engebretson Illustrations painted by Melodee Strong 2009; 36 pp.; \$19.95

This isn't as much a book review as it is an opportunity to share some information about an important avian conservation project headed by the Avian Welfare Coalition. But I will certainly tell you about the book!

Inspired by real events that took place in 2003, Lucky is a wonderfully written and illustrated children's book about the true story of the trapping, captive life and release of Lucky, one particular rainbow lorikeet, (a parrot species) from the Spice Islands. Children will love that every page is bursting with beautiful color. Adults will appreciate the message of compassion and stewardship that the author presents to young readers through the eyes of the young boy who receives Lucky as a gift. The book is softbound in a larger 10"x11" format, similar to a coloring book.

Numerous lorikeets just like Lucky are captured from the wild and sold all the time. After being sold, many will live out the rest of their lives chained on one leg to a small man-made perch and fed an unnatural diet. The Animal Welfare Coalition along with the World Society for the Protection of Animals produced this book to bring awareness to the public about the circumstances surrounding captive exotic birds and the bird trade. 100% of the proceeds from this book benefit avian welfare, rescue and conservation.

I recommend this book as a tool for educators and as a delightful gift for children of all ages (don't forget Toys for Tots too), or to add to your own collection as I did, because it really is meant for adults as well. This is definitely one purchase you can feel good about. To order visit: www.LuckytheLorikeet.com.

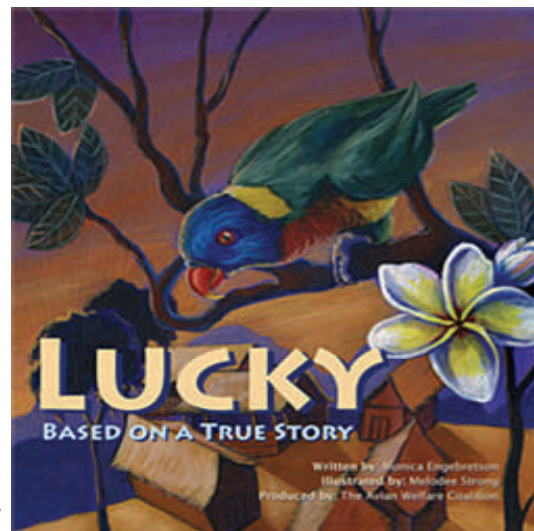
Lucky is now listed as a resource for the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE). And for all you Internet social network fans, when you become a Lucky fan on Facebook, you'll be entered for a chance to win a free copy of the book!

About the Avian Welfare Coalition: Formed in 2000, the Avian Welfare Coalition (AWC) is a working alliance of veterinarians, conservationists, avian welfare and animal protection organizations dedicated to the ethical treatment of parrots and other captive birds. The Mission of the AWC is to raise awareness about the plight of parrots and other captive birds and to serve as an educational resource for the humane community, lawmakers, and the general public. The AWC also aims to prevent the abuse, exploitation, and suffering of captive birds, to address issues of rescue, placement, and sanctuary for displaced birds, to increase legal protections for captive birds, and to support legitimate conservation programs aimed at preserving birds' rightful place in the wild.

About the Author: Monica Engebretson is Senior Program Associate for Born Free USA united with Animal Protection Institute. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Humboldt State University with a major in Wildlife and minor in Environmental Ethics. Monica has authored multiple articles on captive exotic birds and the bird trade.

To place and order, or for information, activities, lesson plans, and updates related to this book, visit:

www.LuckytheLorikeet.com For more information about the Avian Welfare Coalition and how you can help, visit: www.avianwelfare.org



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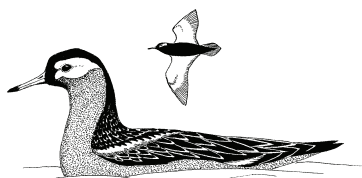
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White-winged Crossbill, by George West



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