

Report on Township Bird Surveys

"Birds are perhaps the best and most visible indicator of the quality of habitat on a piece of land," states Derek Stoner in the final reports on bird surveys conducted between July and October, 2007 on two properties in the Township. "The purpose of the survey is to determine what birds are utilizing the property for both breeding and migratory stopover habitat."

Property A, 29 acres along the White Clay Creek, is described as a forest habitat with large mature trees and understory plants. A total of 68 species (45 breeding and 28 migratory) were observed over 8 visits to the site. Notable bird species sighted include Coopers Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Arcadian Flycatcher, Veery, Louisiana Waterthrush, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Thirty-two hours were spent observing birds on Property B, which yielded 108

Species Groups	Property A	Property B
Raptors	5	6
Woodpeckers	6	6
Flycatchers	5	7
Vireos	3	5
Swallows	0	3
Thrushes	4	5
Warblers	10	16
Sparrows	4	9
Blackbirds	0	6

species observations. This site included large expanses of hay fields, mature forest, freshwater wetland, and thicket habitats for birds. Among the notable birds observed were: Belted Kingfisher, Wood Duck, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ovenbird, Prairie Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, American Redstart, and Brown Creeper.

"The bird studies were conducted at the request of the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Management Committee as part of their efforts to document the wildlife resources of the watershed," said Phil Geoghegan, Chairman of the Open Space Committee. "The Township agreed to support the studies because we were interested in knowing that information as well, to give us another tool to use in obtaining grants from the state and county. The information will also help us decide whether/where to put nature trails for the observational and educational benefit of our residents, especially the kids."

Message from Chairman....

(continued from page 1)

most of us want local government to quietly provide opportunities for youth, protect the environment (in quite a number of ways), remove the snow off of the roads, take opportunities when they arise to make intersections easier to negotiate, collect Impact Fees when legal to do so, etc., etc... as well as recognizing quite impressive picture taking skills.

Can you tell that I really enjoy the picture of an Eagle that appears on page 6. When I first saw it I thought, "Wow, that's a really good image to use in a newsletter that, in part, highlights bird studies, protecting the environment, and, obviously, the accomplishments of a local Eagle Scout. Then I learned that the image was captured by our very own newsletter editor, Carla Lucas, whose quite the picture taker when she's not trying to make sense out of things written by people like me.

Possible minor boredom aside, we sincerely hope you find this issue of the newsletter informative and helpful. As always, if you have ideas for future newsletters, please let us know (610-255-5212). Also, as always, please feel free to contact me at 610-255-4592 or rwwhipple1@aol.com, with any questions or comments. Last but not least, if you have any really good eagle pictures, please send them in. Who knows how many images of eagles the next newsletter might contain.

Dick Whipple
Chairman, FTBOS

About the eagle: Although eagles are occasionally seen in our area, this digital image was taken with a 200m lens, at about six to eight feet from an eagle at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Two eagles that are unable to survive in the wild are part of the native plants and wildlife exhibit at the museum. This eagle had a tumor on its head that affected its vision and therefore its ability to hunt.

not enter this information in the County database, you are ultimately responsible to prove your system was pumped and will need a receipt as documentation.

The goal of this program is to help protect our groundwater, avoid unnecessary sewage system failures, and save everyone time and money in the long run.

On-Lot Sewage Management Program

Every home in Franklin Township is currently served by an on-lot sewage system. While the particular designs may vary, all have one thing in common: regular maintenance is essential to both protect the environment and avoid unnecessary expenses. The single most effective maintenance activity that can and should be performed on all on-lot sewage systems is the regular pumping of the primary treatment tank, typically called a septic tank. This simple activity will remove the accumulated solids in the treatment tank, prevent solids from traveling out of the tank and damaging the drainfield, and allow the natural treatment processes in the tank to work as intended.

Franklin Township has an on-lot sewage management ordinance that requires, among other things, that every homeowner have their sewage system pumped out at least once every three years. Programs like this are in place in many other Chester County Townships as well, and are strongly encouraged by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Franklin will be revisiting some details of the on-lot sewage management program in the near future, but

the regular pumping of treatment tanks will remain as the core of this program. Future newsletters will have more information to explain any changes and discuss sewage system maintenance in more depth.

If it's been more than three years since you last had your system pumped, contact a Chester County Health Department licensed liquid waste hauler (a firm that pumps & hauls sewage) to schedule a pump-out. A list of licensed pumpers can be obtained by calling the Chester County Health Department at (610) 869-0560.

All sewage pumpers/haulers in Chester County are required to be licensed by the Chester County Health Department. As a condition of maintaining this license, they are also required to enter a record for each sewage system they pump into an electronic database maintained by the County.

Franklin may elect to use this database to help track system pumping. Always make sure the pumper you hire is licensed by the County and records your system's pumping in the County database. Keep receipts for all pumping though – if your pumper does