Watch for shorebird migrations

UNIVERSITY PARK -Shorebirds such as sandpipers and plovers, flying south from the Artic Circle, are common around lakes and ponds in August. That's because the fall migration of shorebirds reaches its peak in Pennsylvania this month, says Merrill Wood, author of "Birds of Pennsylvania" and retired faculty member in zoology at Penn State. Equally common migrants in

Pennsylvania during August, he added, are herons such as the Great Blue Heron and the Great Egret. These are seen along

shallow streams, lakes, and ponds. One sure sign of fall migration is the appearance of the Solitary Sandpiper, Wood affirmed. This sandpiper often goes to the coasts of Argentina so it gets an early start from the tundras of the farm north. He said the peak migration

of waterfowl, on the other hand, comes in late October.

Many surprising and interesting facts on birdlife can be found in "Birds of Pennsylvania", a paperback guidebook published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. The volume features 201 original pen-and-ink drawings of the most common birds in Pennsylvania plus facts

about 381 species found in the Commonwealth. It is printed in black and white.

The guidebook is available for \$2.25, tax included, from "BIRDS", Department 6000, University Park, PA 16802. Checks or money orders should be payable to The Pennsylvania State University. At Penn State, copies are available in room 204 of the

Agricultural Administration Building. When ordering by mail, allow at least two weeks for delivery.

A monthly description of Penn-sylvania birdlife tells what may be seen throughout the year. For each species, the guidebook includes abundance, seasonal occurance, habits and status change, and general breeding and wintering ranges.

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