

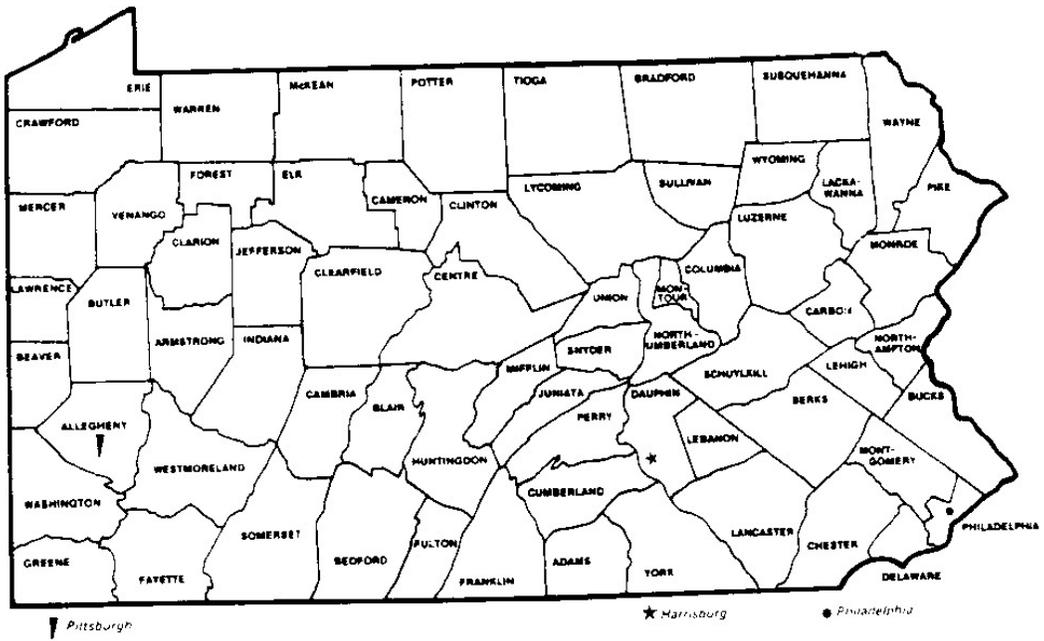
# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Jan - Mar 1987



**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**  
**VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1, JAN - MAR 1987**

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Cover: Northern Saw-whet Owl, by Gary Freed



from the editors...

Welcome to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS!** With this issue we hope to begin to fill a void in Pennsylvania ornithology. This effort is the result of a series of events that started with the formation of the committees on Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania. The sub-committee on birds was composed of professional ornithologists and amateur birders. In attempting to put together a list of species that may be in trouble in Pennsylvania, the biggest obstacle encountered was the great lack of information about the breeding status of most of the species. This situation led to the Breeding Bird Atlas Project now in progress. These two events brought together, for the first time in Pennsylvania, students of ornithology to work together to learn more about Pennsylvania avifauna.

The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project is the largest single ornithological event that has ever occurred in this state. The information being gathered in this project is invaluable. If you are not already participating in the atlas, we strongly urge you to join in the effort (see Dan Brauning's article elsewhere in this issue). The atlas project's field work is scheduled to continue through 1988 and much work remains to be done.

While the atlas project is addressing the species that breed in Pennsylvania, there is still much to learn about the non-breeding species and the breeding species during the non-breeding seasons. This is where we come in. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** will attempt to publish, on a quarterly basis, records of bird sightings from across the state. The emphasis will be on local records, trends, unusually high or low numbers of a species or group of species, and rarities. The latter includes birds out of place or out of season either for the state or a given county.

Already several of you have volunteered to become county compilers. The present count is 58 counties being covered by 41 individuals. We have asked that each compiler submit his/her information in a style most befitting the quarter. We think you will be pleased with their efforts in the following pages.

We would also like to mention our rationale for choosing the quarterly format, rather than adhering to that of *American Birds*. Our reasons were: 1) it would cover a calendar year and data retrieval would be easier; 2) birds do not respect our definitions of seasons, i.e., many birds in Pennsylvania are already breeding during "Spring migration"; many others are migrating during the "breeding" season; 3) by taking the emphasis off "migration" or "breeding" we would hope to get more inclusive reports for the quarter.

We have asked that each compiler submit their material to us within 30 days after the reporting deadline, i.e., end July for the second quarter. We will do our best to have the issue ready for print the following month. One of our goals is to make this magazine as timely as possible; your cooperation is appreciated in making this a reality.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a current listing of the county compilers. Please refer to this for sending your information to the appropriate compiler. If no compiler is listed for your sightings, please send the information directly to us for inclusion in the next issue. Please try to include the county code for your sightings as we may not know the location mentioned.

We also want to include articles of interest to Pennsylvania birders. Therefore we are requesting that you consider submitting an article to us for inclusion in a future issue. This could be a favorite birding location, an unusual sighting for your area, a personality profile, or whatever you think would be of interest to other birders. If it is a birding location, please try and draw a map that we can reproduce. We are hoping that these bird-finding locations will be expanded in order that a booklet can be made by each individual for his/her birding trips to other counties. These can be relatively short articles and still be interesting to many readers.

We plan to have book reviews, discussions on identification problems, and photograph quizzes.

This is an exciting venture that will depend on many people to be viable. Since this is our first attempt at publishing, there will be many growing pains that we hope will be minimal and short-lived. Please bear with us and submit any constructive criticisms that you may have. How it grows will be dependent on our subscribers.

And one last item. If you know anyone who may be interested in receiving this publication, please pass on the subscription form to them or just have them send their name and address and check to us. More subscribers mean we will be able to publish a more comprehensive magazine. Again, we need your assistance in this aspect.

Franklin C. Haas  
Barbara M. Haas  
Editors

## **Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project by Daniel A. Brauning**

Ornithology has a tradition, almost unique among the sciences, of research conducted largely by unpaid, amateur cooperators. With the help of a large number of highly skilled bird enthusiasts, scientific research is conducted that simply could not be done by professional ornithologists alone. This relationship is best developed in Great Britain where the British Trust for Ornithology has, for 50 years, organized and promoted this cooperative research activity.

The most popular cooperative research activity in the United States is the Christmas Bird Counts which have been run for over three-quarters of a century and now involve thousands of volunteers each year. Twenty years ago the British initiated their Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and since then many European countries and 38 of our 50 states have started similar efforts. This effort has contributed greatly to the knowledge of breeding distributions of birds around the world. The ambitious scale of atlas projects necessitates volunteer involvement.

The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project officially began in 1984 with participation by 400 birders. Three years of field work have been conducted since, with involvement of over 1000 birders contributing over 40,000 hours. Significant discoveries include first known nesting attempts by chuck-will's-widow, black rail and common jackdaw. Nesting dickcissels and osprey were documented in the state for the first time in over 30 years.

Good birders are still needed in the remaining two years of the Project. The Atlas will provide the best available distributional information in the state and will set the groundwork for future cooperative research projects. If you are interested, please contact the Ornithology Department, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or call (215) 299-1043.

*Dan Brauning has been heading up the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project since its beginning. No doubt many of you have met him as he has traveled the Commonwealth both lecturing and blockbusting. His unfailing sense of humor and untiring commitment to the Project have made the success of the Atlas possible. As Pennsylvania birders we should all try and contribute to the final publication by our participation in this ambitious program. -Eds.*

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### **Brumbaugh Homestead - Huntingdon County by Dave Kyler**

Many sites in Huntingdon County qualify for inclusion in "Huntingdon Hotspots". The first location that comes to mind, is the Brumbaugh Homestead. Located one and one-half miles north of Marklesburg on Route 26, this site was the birthplace of Martin Brumbaugh, the governor of Pennsylvania from 1916-1919. The original home still stands and is listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

What makes this site of importance to Pennsylvania birders is its proximity to Lake Raystown and the inflow of a spring-fed stream that provides fresh water on a year-round basis. This sheltered site offers refuge and a place to rest for many residents and migrants alike. Great horned owls and screech owls have nested locally, and swamp sparrows have been found in the cat-tails throughout the winter.

It is during the spring migration that this area takes on the most importance. The sheltered back bay provides a resting area for the many species of waterfowl returning to their breeding grounds. Large rafts of red-breasted merganser, common merganser and ring-necked duck are commonly found on the open water in late March. Other March visitors include osprey, common loon, and Bonaparte's gull. The tops of the pine trees that are near the Brumbaugh Homestead are often adorned with migrating great blue herons and great egrets, usually found the first week of April. Occasionally a "thunder pumper" (American bittern) will be found standing erect, hiding in the cat-tails. "Woodies" (wood duck) often are found in early mornings in April. In April, 1985, a white-fronted goose was found in the company of several Canada geese on a sunny Sunday morning.

The lowering of the water level in this flood control impoundment lake in the spring allows the shoreline and mudflats to be exposed. This provides many feeding areas for migrating shorebirds. Semi-palmated and western sandpipers have been reported in the area, as well as pectoral and solitary sandpipers.

One final entry at the Brumbaugh Homestead is the second record of breeding least bitterns in the Lake Raystown watershed. As you can see, this area offers many opportunities for good birding. When visiting Lake Raystown country at any time of year, check out the Brumbaugh Homestead, one of Huntingdon County's "hotspots".

*David Kyler is the compiler for Blair and Huntingdon Counties. He is an enthusiastic birder and looks forward to meeting many of you while birding in these areas. Eds.*

## A Day on Dutch Mountain by Skip Conant

Dutch Mountain, a spur of North Mountain, originates in Sullivan County and extends northeast about ten miles terminating in Wyoming County. The average altitude is 2000 ft. with some spots as high as 2300 ft.

Just after the Civil war my German forebearers bought land on the mountain. The original purchase by my maternal great-grandfather and his two cousins, Otto and Herman Behr, was 3000 acres at a cost of \$.00/acre. Can you believe? Today much of Dutch Mountain is still family-held or State Game Lands. Otto and Herman Behr were excellent amateur naturalists and around the turn of the century reported to the Academy of Natural Sciences that Goshawks were nesting on the mountain. Witmer Stone was sent to investigate and verified the report...the first nesting record for Pennsylvania. Stone fell in love with the area, and usually spent a week each summer on the mountain birding and botanizing with the Behr brothers.

As a boy I spent my vacations at Shady Nook, the family summer home. My time was spent exploring, birding, catching snakes, and even helping with farm chores. What a wonderful way for a young man to grow up. In 1968 I acquired a summer cottage and some ground in the Wyoming County end of the mountain. Fortunately, little has changed since I was a boy. Most of the woods are still only second growth and isolated islands of virgin hemlock can still be found. There are several relic bogs on the mountain with their carnivorous plants, wild cranberries and other typical bog flora. Well, enough of geography and family history. This is supposed to be a birding article for a birder's magazine so on to the birds.

On a good day in June one can expect to see or hear 60 to 70 species on the mountain. Such a day was June 7, 1986. Four of us arrived at the cottage Friday evening for a weekend of birding. On Saturday, at five a.m., I seat myself on the front porch armed with coffee and binos. My buddies are still snoring and I'll wake them at 5:30 for breakfast.

The morning chorus has already started. A robin is first, followed by a rose-breasted grosbeak. In quick succession I hear chipping sparrows, an ovenbird, myrtle warblers, a redstart, scarlet tanager, juncos, brown creeper, common yellowthroat, catbird, brown thrasher, red-eyed vireo, solitary vireo, black-capped chickadee and purple finch (thankfully, no house finches on the mountain yet). Barn, tree, and cliff swallows are swooping over the meadow in front of the house. A male bluebird is perched on my power line and a flock of cedar waxwings fly over. A phoebe and a wood-pewee are calling from my uncle's apple trees next door. A sapsucker is whacking the metal gate in back of the cottage and I hear the nasal "yank-yank" of a white-breasted nuthatch along with the incessant "che-bek" of a least flycatcher.

It is now 5:30 and time to wake the gang for breakfast, but not a bad start. Twenty-six species without leaving the front porch. After a big country breakfast we begin our day by walking to Schmitthenner's Lake just below my cottage. The guys get to see or hear most of the birds I heard earlier, and we add flicker, common crow, bluejay, downy and hairy woodpeckers and magnolia and Canada warblers. We hear a red-breasted nuthatch and I make a mental note to check out this bird next weekend for the Breeding Bird Atlas Program. As we approach the lake a female wood duck scurries off into the reeds followed by nine young, and a spotted sandpiper flutters along the water's edge.

We return to the cottage, load our gear into the car and head out. Halfway down Mud Road a pileated woodpecker flashes across, and a little further on we stop the car to watch a ruffed grouse saunter into the woods. Our first stop is the overgrown hay field at McCarroll's Corner. Male bobolinks are calling and squabbling all over the field and a meadowlark flutters up. A song sparrow sings from a nearby brush pile and we listen to a field sparrow and several savannah sparrows. Looking across the field we spot a kingbird hassling a kestrel.

We now head for "The Bridge", a small span across the headwaters of the Loyalsock Creek. The stream here is slow-moving and lined on both sides with alder and hardhack thickets. I listen carefully and there's the first "fee-bee-o," and now a second, joined by two more alder flycatchers, a lifer for two of the guys. As we watch the flycatchers we hear Nashville, yellow, chestnut-sided, and black-and-white warblers. A great crested flycatcher "wheeps" from the nearby woods and a swamp sparrow trills at the water's edge.

Suddenly we hear a raucous croak overhead and look up to see two ravens circling on the thermals, together with a broad-winged hawk and several turkey vultures. A short walk up the road from the bridge brings us to Engleman's Woods, 15 acres of virgin hemlock that was left intact by my relatives when they lumbered the area. Several black-throated green and two Blackburnian warblers are calling. This completes my list of the 12 species of breeding warblers.

We return to the car and head for Shady Nook Lake. Halfway down the dirt road to the lake a woodcock is flushed from the road's edge. Arriving at the lake we hear red-winged blackbirds calling, and a lone grackle flies over. Scanning the lake we spot a great blue heron hunting for breakfast, and a pair of black duck flush and disappear over the far tree line. It is now 9:30 and we have counted 62 species. An excellent morning so far.

Our next stop is Little Rouse Pond, one of our relic bogs. No new species tallied but the guys are fascinated by the bog and its interesting plant life. The habitat here is ideal for yellow-bellied and olive-sided flycatchers and I keep hoping they will turn up. Both birds were recorded here by Witmer Stone. Maybe next year...

By now we are a bit tired and have wet feet so we decide to return to the cottage for a change of shoes and a rest. As we re-enter Mud Road a sharpie darts across and disappears into the woods. By the time we arrive at the cottage we have decided we'll skip lunch, rest for a few hours and enjoy our steak dinner around 4 p.m. While we are lazing on the front porch a male ruby-throated hummingbird visits the hanging baskets.

Dinner over, we head for Schaffer's Pond, about a mile walk from the cottage. For diversity I turn over a few rocks and quickly find a ring-neck, a smooth green and a red-bellied snake. All three are quite pretty critters the guys have never seen before. Shortly thereafter we hear a tom turkey gobbling. Breeding is pretty well over so this guy is either reminiscing or practicing for next year. We reach the pond, seat ourselves on the small dock and watch a beaver out for its evening swim. A kingfisher rattles then hovers over the water. Suddenly from the woods on the far side of the pond comes the booming "who-cooks-for-you" of a barred owl and we observe a red-shouldered hawk circling overhead.

The evening symphony begins about 6 p.m. The white-throated sparrows are first, followed by several veery. A wood thrush adds its lovely notes, and finally a hermit thrush, the Mozart of the bird world, joins in. We sit enthralled for perhaps an hour listening to this lovely concert. Reluctantly we head back to the cottage. Part way back we stop at another small pond and listen to a chorus of gray treefrogs trilling.

As we approach a stand of tamaracks a large gray hawk flies out of the trees no more than 10 feet high and perhaps 30 feet away. I managed to whisper, "Goshawk," and stand trembling, watching this magnificent accipiter fly off over the tree tops. This is definitely the highlight of our day!

We continue our walk silently, each of us absorbed in our own thoughts of this wonderful evening. It is dark by the time we reach the cottage and we hear a great horned owl in the distance, a fitting end to a day on Dutch Mountain.

Sunday morning we will bird for a few hours, but know it will be anticlimactic. About noon we'll leave this "Paradise Lost" and head for civilization and the real world.

*Skip Conant is not only an avid birder, but an expert on reptiles and amphibians. He is involved in many related projects, including demographic studies on reptiles and amphibians in Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties.*  
-Eds.

## Summary of the Season

Although most compilers reported a rather dull quarter, there were a few bright spots. Most compilers commented on the mildness of the winter, especially in the western counties. In spite of the mild weather, numbers of lingerers did not seem above average. Waterfowl numbers were generally low and migration somewhat disappointing. The female Green-winged Teal that survived an Erie Co. winter for a first seasonal record attests to a generally warm quarter. A female Harlequin Duck in Allegheny Co. was unexpected and the most exciting duck of the quarter. Although Tundra Swans arrived on schedule in traditional locations, they also seemed to depart early.

The numerous reports which included Bald Eagle sightings were encouraging. Perhaps it will not be too much longer before they are nesting somewhere else in the Commonwealth other than Crawford County. It seemed discouraging that there were no reports of a wintering Golden Eagle this year. Other raptor sightings seemed consistent with our own observations through the years.

All counties that have significant bodies of water on which to report were consistent in remarking that unusual species of gulls were virtually non-existent. Lancaster Co., which last year had at least 11 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, could find only one this year. Other sightings were of one that was a probable first county record for Philadelphia and the one in Montgomery County that has wintered there for the last three years. White-winged gulls were found only in Erie County. Did the mild winter also contribute to this lack of gull activity?

Common Barn Owls seem to be in trouble in southeastern Pennsylvania; the area under I-95 where they nested and roosted appears to have been usurped by Great Horned Owls. The most typical comment about Great Horned Owls was that they seem to be increasing or perhaps just adapting to more developed areas. Erie County had the only report of Snowy Owl. Eastern county reports of Short-eared and Long-eared owls were welcome, but the numbers were certainly not very encouraging. Except for the four Short-eareds reported from Indiana County, they went unreported in the western part of the state. Although Peplinski did not do his extensive surveys this year that turned up last year's phenomenal numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Centre County area, they were at least reported from several locations across the state. See the Montgomery County section for Freed's winter experience with owls.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue their range expansion. Red-headed Woodpeckers continue their decline in the southeastern section.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher seen in Lebanon and Dauphin Counties was exciting. Again, owing to the mildness of the winter it is possible that it was the same bird that was seen in Lehigh County last Fall.

All reporting areas seem to indicate a return to previous numbers of Carolina Wrens, following the hard winters of 1977 through 1978. Loggerhead Shrikes are definitely in trouble in Pennsylvania and for that matter in northeastern United States. There was not a single report of one this quarter. If the cause can be found for the reduction in the population in this area, perhaps some efforts can be made to reintroduce them. Granted, they were never common but in recent years they have certainly become rare.

Pine warblers made several reports. Except for the Orange-crowned Warbler in Montgomery County, warbler reports were restricted to wintering Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) and traditional early migrants, Palm Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush, which just sneaked in prior to the quarter's end.

American Tree Sparrows were scarce everywhere. Wilhelm remarks that this species is a good indicator of the severity of the winter in his area, with them being common to numerous in severe winters; this year they were uncommon. In southeastern Pennsylvania they are becoming less common every winter, regardless of the weather; Christmas Bird Count data support these observations. It seems Fox Sparrow also is becoming a bit less common each year by all the reports received. Only Berks and Columbia Counties reported White-crowned Sparrows.

The bird mentioned in every report was the Common Redpoll. It certainly was a single species winter finch invasion; Pine Grosbeaks were reported only in Schuylkill and Columbia Counties; crossbills were conspicuous by their absence. Three counties, Berks, Carbon and Clinton, were the only ones to report Hoary Redpolls.

There were 151 species reported for the quarter, plus three exotics. Although exotic waterfowl can be difficult to trace as to origin, the return of the Ruddy Shelduck to Montgomery County for the past seven to eight years justifies the need to keep records of the sightings in event the situation changes.

## COUNTY REPORTS - JANUARY TO MARCH 1987

### Abbreviations Frequently Used in County Reports

ad.:adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: creek, com.: common, Co.: county, Cos.: counties, *et al.*: and others, e.: eastern, Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, n.: northern, Pen.: Peninsula, Pt.: Point, Ref.: Refuge, Res.: Reservoir, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp.: subspecies, Twp.: Township, w.: western, W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,E,W,: direction of motion, n.,s.,e.,w.,: direction of location, >: more than, <: fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, \*:specimen, ph.: photographed, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (e.g., Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Compilers may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

### Allegheny County (02)

*Locations: North Park, Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park.*

SUMMARY: Apart from one outstanding rarity, the waterfowl flight was not spectacular; good weather sent most duck migrants nonstop over the area. Yet despite the mild weather of late February and March, few unusually early arrivals from any family were reported. Meanwhile, it was not a very good "northern finch" winter. Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins made only a scant appearance, Evening Grosbeaks went unreported and crossbills were absent altogether.

Exceptional among waterfowl was a flock of 30 Snow "blue-phase" Geese over Indiana Twp. 2/3 (AO). Because we are far from their normal flyways, we seldom see them at all.

The season's real highlight, however, was a Harlequin Duck--the first record for s.w. Pennsylvania and only a casual visitor even to our north at Erie. This female on the Ohio R. at Brunot Island, Pittsburgh, was initially reported to the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania hotline 3/24, then documented with excellent details and photographs in early April (JM, RB, MV, EK, BFH *et al.*).

Raptors worthy of mention: 1 **N. Harrier** at Pittsburgh 1/27 (TF), 1 **N. Goshawk** at Tarentum 1/29 (PH), and single **Merlins** at Jefferson 1/5 (MM) and Neville Island 2/20 (EM).

Remarkably, considering the good weather, the two "shorebirds" normally earliest to arrive were late. **Killdeer** and **Am. Woodcock** are usually widespread well

before the end of February. This year none was reported in the county before month's end and they did not appear in good numbers until late in the first week of March.

**Barred Owls** are uncommon in largely urban Allegheny County, so an active nest at Ohio Twp. (JH) and single birds on PGH's Chatham College campus 2/28 through March (VD) and at West Deer (TNM) were notable. Several wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were listed during Jan., and **N. Flickers** were rather scarce. **E. Phoebes** and **Tree Swallows** appeared on time. **Carolina Wrens** continued their slow but steady recovery, though their numbers were still far below the pre-crash peak of a decade ago. Meanwhile, **Brown Creepers** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** overwintered well above their minimal levels of the post-crash decade, and their recovery may be complete.

A boom in nest boxes has led to a gratifying boom in **E. Bluebirds**, which opened the nesting season in many new localities. (See also comments in Clinton County -*Ed.*) A **Hermit Thrush** appeared daily in an Indiana Twp. yard 2/9 through late March (AO) and 1 was observed in PGH 3/28 (VD). Migrant **Am. Robins** began appearing widely in the first week of February and some males were well established on territory by 2/21 (PH). Two **N. Mockingbirds** in late March at PGH's Carnegie Museum parking lot (KP) were north of their usual limits. A **Brown Thrasher** at West Deer 3/29 (T&NM) was over a week early. The county had s.w. Pennsylvania's biggest reported **Cedar Waxwing** flocks: 95-105 in February and March at West Deer (T&NM).

Very few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** overwintered. A migrant flock of 12+ **Pine Warblers** observed feeding in a conifer grove at Marshall Twp. 3/28 (AH, PM) was extraordinary for this normally rare spring migrant.

First **Rufous-sided Towhee** arrival was reported 3/18 at South Park (WH) but most returns came 3/24-28. **Am. Tree Sparrows** were in very low numbers, continuing their five-year collapse here. Sparrow first-dates included **Chipping** 3/30 Shaler Twp. (JH), **Field** (2 dozen) 2/19 at Gastonville (MM), **Savannah** 3/29 at Fawn Twp. (PH), and **Fox** 2/15 at Plum (R&SG). Four **Fox Sparrows** at Pittsburgh 3/26 (VD) were a good count. **White-throated Sparrows** were less common than usual. However, **Dark-eyed Juncos** moved northward in excellent numbers during March, in contrast to a low winter presence. Their wintering grounds evidently have shifted southward in recent years.

Seven **Red-winged Blackbirds** at Blawnox 1/11 (JP, HL, LW) were the only winter report and oddly, despite the mild weather, not a single migrant return was reported before March. In parallel, very few **Common Grackles** were back by the end of February; usually they are widespread by the month's third week. The later **Brown-headed Cowbird** was about on time in its March arrival.

After a winter of near absence, **Purple Finches** were extremely common migrants during the last two weeks of March. SW Pennsylvania was visited by a fair scattering of **Common Redpolls** through the period, but the

only Allegheny Co. reports were 3 at West Deer 1/30-31 and up to 5 there in late February (T&NM). About 5 **Pine Siskins** were noted at Fox Chapel in January (TF) among very few reports. No **Evening Grosbeaks** were listed, not the faintest echo of their banner winter here a year ago.

**OBSERVERS:** Ronald Byrom, Vickie Dziadosz, Ted Floyd, Randi & Sarah Gerrish, Barb & Frank Haas, Walter Hammond, Amy Henrici, Paul Hess (compiler), Joyce Hoffmann, Ed Kwater, Herschel Leapman, Elton McFadden, Thomas & Nellie McGary, Patrick McShea, Jerry McWilliams, Matt Mezinze, Arne Olsen, Joseph Panza, Kenneth Parkes, Mark VanderVen, Laura Wirkkala.

### Armstrong County (03)

*Locations: Elders Ridge strips (The Indiana-Armstrong Co. line runs through the strips; some of these birds were in both counties.) Keystone Res. (K.R.), Kittanning (KTN).*

**LOONS THROUGH HAWKS.** One **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted on the Allegheny R. north of Clinton 3/27 (CD,DG,GSS). The only **Horned Grebe** reported was a singleton 2/16 near Rosston on the Allegheny R. (MH,RH). A **Great Blue Heron** was present near Frogtown 1/26 (BS); another was found near Ford City 3/27 (SL).

Top **Tundra Swan** count at K.R. was 22 on 3/17 (MH). **Canada Goose** maximum was 68 at Manorville 2/16 (MH,RH). Six **Wood Ducks** were observed at K.R. 3/12 (AH,MH). The only **Green-winged Teal** report came on 3/26 when 2 individuals were counted at K.R. (AH,MH). **Mallards** arrived at K.R. 3/7 (MH,RH), but best count there was 31 on 3/26 (AH,MH). One to 2 **Am. Wigeon** were seen at K.R. after 3/12 (AH,MH). Top **Ring-necked Duck** count was a low 10 at K.R. 3/19 (AH,MH,NK). Only 2 **Common Goldeneye** reports were received, 5 near Clinton 2/16 (MH,RH) and 1 at K.R. 3/12 (AH,MH). Eight **Bufflehead** were spotted 3/19 (AH,MH,NK), the lone report. First **Hooded Mergansers** were 5 individuals noted near Worthington 3/6 (NK,CD,GSS,DG); highest count was 8 at K.R. 3/19 (AH,MH,NK). One lone **Red-breasted Merganser** was sighted at K.R. 3/26 (AH,MH).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was spotted 2/12 near Kittanning (NK). Few **Cooper's Hawks** were seen. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** near Kittanning throughout the period was thought to be nesting (NK). Three **Rough-legged Hawks** at the strips 1/7 (AH,MH,GS) was the best count. The last individual was seen 2/10 (MH,NK,DG,GW). These birds were usually found in Armstrong Co.

**GROUSE THROUGH WOODPECKERS.** Best **Ruffed Grouse** count was a flock of 6 near Brick Church 2/26 (RH). **Wild Turkey** reports included 7 near KTN 3/8 (NK) and 2 at K.R. 3/12 (AH,MH). Six **Killdeer** appeared 3/7 near Elderton (MH,RH). First **Am. Woodcock** were heard performing their courtship ritual 3/7 near Elderton, where 4 were tallied (HC,MH,RH,NK,NoK).

One ad. **Herring Gull** was noted at Manorville 2/16

(MH,RH); 2 were listed n. of Clinton on the Allegheny R. 3/27 (CD,DG,GSS).

**E. Screech-Owl** was noted only at KTN (NK,NoK). **Great Horned Owls** were heard regularly in KTN until 3/10 (NK); 2 were spotted near a nest at Brick Church 2/26 (RH). **Barred Owl** was reported only from n. of West Kittanning 3/29 (DS). Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** wintering at the strip mines were still present 3/1 (FE,GW).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 1/6 and 1/21 n. of West KTN (DS) and 3/8 near KTN (NK). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were listed at KTN (NK), ER, near Maysville (MH,NK,DG,GW), and near Brick Church (TS).

**LARKS THROUGH SISKINS.** **Horned Larks** first sighted at E.R. 1/28 (CD,AH,MH,NK,GS,GW) had increased to 17 by 2/21 (MH,RH,EH,WH).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were visiting feeders in KTN throughout the period (NK,NoK). **Brown Creeper** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were widespread and numerous (v.o.). First **E. Bluebirds** were 5 on 1/28 near Olivet (MH,AH); 12 arrived n. of West Kittanning 1/29 (DS). Three **Cedar Waxwings** were listed 2/20 near KTN where 75 was highest count 3/13 (NK). The **N. Shrike** at E.R., first noted 1/7, was last seen 2/1 across the line in Indiana County.

**Rufous-sided Towhee** was first observed near East Brady 2/4 and appeared regularly at a feeder until 3/31 (BS). First **Field Sparrow** was seen 2/4 near KTN where it was first heard singing 3/8 (NK). Only 2 **Fox Sparrows** were found; these were near Shay 3/11 (FN). Two **Swamp Sparrows** were located in a marshy area near West Lebanon 1/28 (MH,AH,CD,GW,NK,GS). First **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived in KTN 3/5 (NK). **E. Meadowlarks** wintering at the strips peaked at 24 on 2/14 (MH,BM,JB). **Common Grackles** invaded the area in early March (v.o.). **Purple Finch** have visited feeders near KTN (CD,NK), West Kittanning (DS), and East Brady (BS). **House Finch** maxima included 80 near Ford City (FE,GW). Two **Common Redpolls** in KTN were seen 2/4 and a lone female returned 3/7 and 3/16 (NK). **Pine Siskins** were observed at a feeder near KTN since early January until the end of March, numbering up to 35 individuals (NK).

**OBSERVERS:** Julie Barker, Helen Crawford, Caroline Davies, Flo Emmonds, Denise Garrett, Anne Hedgpeth, Eileen Higbee, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), William Higbee, Nancy Karp, Norman Karp (NoK), Starry Lambing, Vicki Lunde, Beth Marshall, Frances Norris, John Salvetti, Bruce Shettel, Doris Shettel, Grace Sprout (GSS), Tom Stormer, Georgette Syster, Gloria Winger.

### Beaver County (04)

**William Fink** is the compiler for Beaver County. He is not a resident of the county, but is employed there, so he requests that local birders send their data on sightings to him; his address is 9364 Almar Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

### Bedford County (05)

Limited reporting this quarter makes this an abbreviated report.

Bedford Co. lies east of Cambria and Somerset Cos. at the base of the Allegheny Front. Therefore, when on March 6 Charles Voytko reported 575 **Tundra Swans** lined up on Shawnee L. it was an exceptionally high number.

**OBSERVERS:** Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Charles Voytko.

### Berks County (06)

*Locations: Blue Marsh Recreation Area (BMRA), French Cr. S.P. (FCSP), L. Ontelaunee (L.O.), Moselem Springs Country Club (MSCC).*

This was a good winter for siskins and redpolls and they gave many people pleasure at feeders on the days we were snowed in. The continuing presence of **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owls** near BMRA is encouraging. I hope that as people become accustomed to submitting sightings more significant conclusions can be drawn in the future.

**HERONS THROUGH DUCKS.** One **Great Blue Heron** was at BMRA 3/19 (BP,MR). 1000+ **Canada Geese** were found all over the county 3/8 (m.ob.). Nine **Wood Duck** were at L.O. 3/22 (MW). Two **Wood Duck** were seen at BMRA 3/27 (BP,MR) and 3 **N. Pintail** were there 3/9 (BP). A small group of **Gadwall** and 2 **Canvasback** were at MSCC 1/10 (MW). Six **Ring-necked Duck** were at the Prison Dam 3/22 (EB). 50+ **Common Mergansers** were found on L.O. 3/26 (PBC), where 1 **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen 3/8 (MW).

**HAWKS THROUGH KINGFISHERS.** Six **Black Vultures** were at Hamburg 2/14 (KG) and Nine **Turkey Vultures** were seen at Mt. Penn, Jacksonwald 2/17 (RK). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at Shillington 3/13 (MW). A **N. Goshawk** was seen in Bern Twp. 1/31, 2/4 and 3/27 (J&HS). The Bernville CBC found 33 **Rough-legged Hawks** 1/4 (5 parties) and 3 were seen between Fleetwood & Lyons 1/25 (MW). Two **Killdeer** were observed at BMRA 3/19 and 3/25 (BP). Single **Am. Woodcock** were reported at BMRA along Lamm Rd. 3/9 (BP); in Pike Twp. 3/18 (RK); Peter's Cr. 3/22 (MW); and 2 were seen in S. Heidelberg Twp. 3/25 (PM). **Long-eared Owls** were present in Penn Twp. with 7 on 1/5, 8 on 2/8, and 5 on 3/6-7 (JHS). **Short-eared Owls** were also present in Penn Twp., near BMRA, from 2/18 until 3/28 with 1 or 2 being

sighted many days (JHS,EB). One **Belted Kingfisher** was at BMRA 3/9 (BP) and 2 were along Wyomissing Cr. 3/31 (BM,MG).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES.** A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen on the Bernville CBC 1/4 (RK *et al.*) and 1 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 3/22 near BMRA (EB). **E. Phoebes** were first reported 3/18 at Peter's Cr. (MW); other sightings: near Vinemont 3/22 (PBM); Pike Twp. 3/24 (RK); French Cr. S.P. (FCSP) 3/25 (BPC); BMRA 3/27 (BP,MR); and near BM 3/28 (EB). 2847 **Horned Larks** were seen on Bernville CBC (by 7 parties). Many **Tree Swallows** were seen at L.O. 3/26 (BPC). A **Brown Creeper** was seen in Bern Twp. 1/1 (JHS). Two **E. Bluebirds** were near BMRA 3/29 (EB) and 11 **Am. Robins** were near Birdsboro 3/27 (CS).

**WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS.** A **Pine Warbler** was at a feeder near BMRA 3/25 (EB). A **Field Sparrow** was found in Pike Twp. 3/19 (RK). Two **Fox Sparrows** were present from 3/10-29 in Pike Twp. (RK). **Fox Sparrows** were also reported at BMRA 3/25 (BP) and FCSP 3/25 (B&PC). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** were at BMRA 3/9 (BP) and 3 were present there 3/25 (BP). A **Lapland Longspur** was seen on the Bernville CBC (RK *et al.*). The Bernville CBC also produced 139 **Snow Buntings** (by 3 parties). Twelve **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at BMRA 3/19 (BP). **Common Grackles** had returned to the area and were common by the middle of March, while 4-6 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were present at BMRA from 3/19-27 (BP,MR). A dozen or so **Purple Finches** were near Birdsboro 3/16 (CS), while **House Finches** were present at most feeders in the county. **Common Redpolls** were reported from many feeders in the county including: 3-11 in Pike Twp. 1/27 (RK), 8-40 in Bern Twp. from 2/4 until 3/21 (JHS), 50+ at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 3/21 (DW); up to 2 in Brecknock Twp. from 3/21-28 (MS). A **Hoary Redpoll** was seen at a feeder in Bern Twp. 3/14 (JHS). **Pine Siskins** were present in good numbers throughout the period at many feeders, including: 30+ in Spring Twp. all quarter (B&PM), 6-12 in Pike Twp. all quarter (RK), 8-45 in Bern Twp. from 1/5 until 3/31 (JHS), 20-30 in Brecknock Twp. from 1/15 until 3/31 (MS), 20 at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 3/21 (DW), and 3 at BMRA 3/29 (EB).

**OBSERVERS:** Ed Barrell, Bob & Peggy Copeland (BPC), Kerry Grim, Mark Grounard, Rudy Keller, Pam & Bill Munroe (PBM), Barry Pounder, Marilyn Rogers, Joan & Harold Silagy (JHS), Mike Slater, RD 4, Box 4106, Mohnton 19540, Cyrell Smith, Dennis Wingle, Matt Wlaniewski.

### Blair County (07)

*Locations: Canoe Cr. L. (CCL), Canoe Cr. S.P. (CCSP)*

The topography of Blair Co. is both varied and interesting. Included are all types of habitat, from lowland lakes (CCL) and rivers (Frankstown and Little Juniata) through rich, upland farm

valleys to escarpments along the Allegheny front. With this diversity exists the possibility of encountering many avian species.

The species that are permanent residents in Blair Co. seem to be present in average numbers although many backyard feeder reports indicate lower than usual numbers. A good natural food crop and seasonal movement are probable causes for low numbers in these areas.

Individual reports are few at this time, but will increase in the next quarter. Three **Great Blue Herons** were found fishing the small streams in January at Martinsburg (JP). Early **Pied-billed Grebes** were found on CCL 3/26 (ML). **Turkey Vultures** returned 3/7 at CCSP and **E. Phoebes** returned to the same location 3/25 (BS). **Am. Woodcock** were performing their display flights in mid-March with an early arrival date of 2/27 (BS).

**Common Redpolls** were present at many feeders in late January and early February (CH) and were seen in large numbers (250+) in Sinking Valley 2/6 (ML). **Horned Larks** also preferred Sinking Valley for overwintering with large numbers present the entire quarter.

Late quarter migrating waterfowl began arriving on CCL the last week in March, with **Bufflehead** and **Red-breasted Merganser** the first arrivals (DK). With the warm winter and mild spring the northerly migration should be in full swing sooner than expected. Stay tuned for further developments from Blair County!!!

**OBSERVERS:** Colette Heller, David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030), Melvin Lane, Jesse Perry, Beryl Sternagle.

### Bradford County (08)

The compiler is **Bill Reid**, 73 W. Ross Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, who will also report on Luzerne (40), Susquehanna (58), and Wyoming (66) Counties.

### Bucks County (09)

The compiler is **Bruce McNaught**, R.D. 1, Box 263, New Hope, PA 18938.

### Butler County (10)

*Locations: Jennings Nature Reserve (JNR), L. Arthur (L.A.), L. Wilhelm (L.W.), Slippery Rock (S.R.), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU).*

This report also includes sightings from **Lawrence (37)** and **Mercer (43)** Counties.

January, February, and March were unusual this year because of their relatively mild temperatures and insignificant amounts of snowfall. The coldest day of the quarter occurred 2/8 when a minimum temperature of -10°F was recorded in S.R. and surrounding communities. Snowfall amounts were below

average each month with Jan. having 22" total at S.R., only a trace in Feb., and 15" in March. Two snow storms occurred on 3/14 (7") and 3/31 (8"). February was the warmest and driest on record. Lakes and ponds were totally frozen only during the first half of January, making it difficult for ice fishing. A trend toward colder temperatures and more precipitation developed late in March, which affected the bird life.

The warmer, drier weather conditions throughout most of the quarter allowed boreal species to remain farther north. In fact, because of the lack of prolonged snow and ice cover on the landscape, wild foods were plentiful to abundant, depending upon the specific locality and type. Therefore **Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, crossbills, and Common Redpolls** were scarce most of the quarter in the tri-county area. One of the primary winter indicator species in our area is the **Am. Tree Sparrow**. In severe winters the species is common to numerous; in mild winters it is uncommon. This year the species was unusually scarce, in fact, almost rare in most of its usual wintering habitats. In general, the first quarter was relatively "quiet" as exemplified by the paucity of the following observations.

A **Common Loon** was present at L.A. 1/14 (MG). Waterfowl were scarce before mid-March. **Canada Geese** migrated through the tri-county area in early March, followed by heavy **Tundra Swan** migrations the week of 3/15. Late snow storms forced hundreds of Tundra Swans to pause for a few days on L.A., L.W., and the Glades. No rare species of waterfowl were observed this year. Most species of diving and puddle ducks were lower in numbers by comparison with previous years. Some 20 **Lesser Scaup** and 150 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were recorded 3/2 at L.A. (GW). In general, the mild weather allowed fishermen to use motor boats earlier than usual, and these water craft definitely affect the numbers of waterfowl.

**N. Harriers** were observed in the S.R. area 3/18-19 (GW) but other migrating hawks were uncommon. Migrating **Am. coots** arrived on time in early March and reached maximum numbers of 100-150 by 3/31 at L.A., L.W., and the Glades (GW). **Killdeer** arrived on their S.R. breeding grounds late, 3/6, as did the **Am. Woodcock**. Three woodcock performed their aerial dances on 3/28 at JNR, some 10 days later than last year (GW). Because of the mild winter **Mourning Doves** were plentiful throughout the quarter, many remaining at feeding stations in the tri-county area. The first singing male **E. Phoebes** were recorded at various localities 3/22, although the species became widespread after the snow storm 3/31.

Male **Horned Larks** were on their S.R. breeding grounds 3/1; male **Tree Swallows** returned to S.R. 3/31 (GW). Male **E. Bluebirds** were widespread by 3/15, with females arriving 7-19 days later. Male **Am. Robins** actually were late this year, not arriving in S.R. until

2/17. **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce throughout the area, with only 19 observed in one flock 1/4 at S.R. (GW). A lone **N. Shrike**, by far the rarest species for the quarter, was a carry over from 12/86 and was still observed 1/1 at Moraine S.P. (MSP) (SB,RC,GW).

**Chipping** and **Field** sparrows were late this year, the first singing males recorded 3/29 at S.R. (GW). There was no report of either the **Vesper** or **Savannah** sparrow for the whole period, and only one report of **Fox Sparrow**, a single bird 3/29 at S.R. (GW). **White-throated Sparrows** were more common than in other years, with reports of 10-15 remaining at feeders throughout the period in the tri-county area. As many as 21 were recorded on the day of the heavy snow (3/31) at S.R. (GW). **Dark-eyed Juncos** wintered in far fewer numbers this year, finally increasing to 35-50 in one flock at S.R. 3/31 (GW). No **Lapland Longspur** or **Snow Bunting** was reported.

The first male **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were observed 3/1 at S.R., late by comparison to other years. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were unusually numerous throughout the quarter, with small flocks of 25-50 individuals staying at feeders throughout the period. **Purple Finches** were scarce while **House Finches** continued to increase in number. At least 50 flocks of House Finches ranging from 25-100 individuals each roamed the tri-county area all winter. Several **Common Redpolls** were observed in Jan., commencing with 13 at Lutherlyn (MG) and 6 near the Old Stone House from mid-January to 3/31 (SB). **Pine Siskin** and **Am. Goldfinch** were uncommon during the period as attested to by bird feeder watchers. Five Pine Siskins were seen in S.R. 1/11, 6 on 3/6, and 11 on 3/11 (GW), but there were no reports after 3/11. The mini-invasion of **Evening Grosbeaks** in 12/86 petered out early in 1987. Small flocks of 15-50 birds were seen irregularly during January and early February, but only a few individuals remained by the end of March in S.R. and elsewhere.

*OBSERVERS:* Sharon Balint, Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford, Marguerite Geibel, Gene Wilhelm, RD 3, Box 8, Slippy Rock 16057 (412-794-2434).

### Cambria County (11)

The first quarter was not as well reported as usual. Despite a reasonably mild winter, most water impoundments were frozen until early March. We have no data on waterfowl for this period. The only unusual raptor reported was a **N. Goshawk** which could be seen with regularity near Babcock Forest. The most common accipiter of Cambria Co. continues to be a draw between **Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks**. The Rehabilitation Clinic at the Richland Veterinary Hospital had more feeder associated injuries with Cooper's than with Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Winter finches were scarce with only small scattered

flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** (2-20) reported; less than normal numbers of **Purple Finch** were seen and several observers reported seeing mostly females. A few active feeding stations reported **Pine Siskins**, never abundant, always flying with **Am. Goldfinches**, and always the same stations. Unsubstantiated reports of **Pine Grosbeaks** came from two locations within the county. **Common Redpolls**, for the first time in five years, made their appearance at local feeders during the first two weeks of February.

One last item worth commenting on is the crow roost within the city limits of Johnstown which now numbers over 10,000 birds.

*OBSERVER:* Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912).

### Carbon County (13)

*Location: Beltzville S.P. (BSP)*

A **Common Loon** was at BSP 1/4 (RW,GY). Two **Great Blue Herons** were at Hudsondale 3/28 (JG). Several large nocturnal flights of **Canada Geese** were noted during the last week of March. **Common Goldeneye** 15 on B.L. 1/21 (RW). A **Hooded Merganser** at BSP 1/20 (RW) and 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** there 3/31 were recorded (RW).

Two to 4 **Turkey Vultures** were seen daily at Beaver Meadows 3/12-31 (JG). At least 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen on most trips to Hudsondale between 2/22 and 3/31, several considered to be migrants (JG). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was at BSP 1/21 (RW).

**Killdeer** were found regularly in several locations in w. Carbon Co. by the end of the period. BSP hosted 7 **Bonaparte's**, 14 **Ring-billed** and 9 **Herring Gulls** 3/29 (RW). At the same location 1 **Tree Swallow** 3/29 (RW) and 27 **E. Bluebirds** 1/4 were found (RW,GY).

A **N. Shrike** was found and photographed at BSP 1/20 (RW). This is only the second local record. And the bird was singing!

Dozens of **Red-winged Blackbirds** arrived in the w. part of the county 3/20-31 and **Song Sparrows** were singing in Hudsondale 3/27 (JG).

About 80 **Common Redpolls** were at a L. Hauto feeder the first 2 weeks of Feb. (BS). Included with the above were 2 **Hoary Redpolls**, described by the observer as "paler than even the palest commons, with unstreaked white rumps and observed from 2-3 ft away" (BS, *fide* RW).

*OBSERVERS:* James Gibson, Bob Schaffer, Rick Wiltraut, and Gordon Yoder.

### Centre County (14)

*Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP)*

A **Common Loon** was seen at BESP 1/1 (DB,AF); this is one of the few winter records for

the State College area. Also at BESP 1/1 were 9 **Great Blue Herons** (CS); one also there 1/21 (JP,BP). An imm. **Mute Swan** was present at a pond near Waddle from 12/20 through late January (GY, m.ob.); when the pond froze, the bird moved several miles to McCoy Dam, near Bellefonte, where it remained through the end of the period (MW).

A **Black Vulture** flying south along Rt. 220 just w. of Julian 3/31 (KS) represented the northernmost sighting of the species in Centre County to date. An ad. **Bald Eagle** was present at BESP 3/9 (EZ) and 3/11 (CS), and a **N. Goshawk** was present on the Penn State campus 1/21-22 (LR).

An **Am. Coot** that wintered along Spring Cr. near Houserville, was last seen 3/7 (ES), and several **Common Snipe** were at Millbrook Marsh through January (CS). The lone **Greater Yellowlegs** feeding on the mud flats at BESP 3/7 was very early (JP,BP). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was reported 1/1 on the BESP CBC and others appeared there irregularly through March.

**N. Saw-whet Owls** were present at Rockspring 1/14 (JP) and BMSP 2/11 (CS,EZ) and 3/6 (CS *et al.*). Although Saw-whets did not appear to be present in the numbers that they were last winter, they were not surveyed as extensively as in 1985-86.

The first **Fish Crow** of 1987 was seen flying over State College 2/10 (CS), and 4 were seen flying to the n.w. of BMSP 3/8, in an area outside of its range according to current breeding atlas records (JP,BP). An early **Hermit Thrush** arrived near Fairbrook 3/26 (JP,BP), and **Pine Warblers** were reported 3/28 from several locations in the county, including Toftrees and the Barrens.

The only report of **Snow Buntings** was of 12 seen 1/6 along Old Gatesburg Rd., w. of State College (MW).

Though **Purple Finches** were scarce this winter, **Common Redpolls** became common and widespread in mid-January, visiting many feeders in the State College area. Fifty were seen 1/21 (AF) at the Rock Springs Hort. Farm, and two flocks totaling 150 were near the same location 2/19 (HH). Redpolls continued to be seen through the end of the period. While **Pine Siskins** also remained common throughout the period, flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** were smaller and more scattered compared to last winter.

Exotic: On 3/27 a **Eur. Goldfinch** made a brief appearance at a feeder located a short distance north of Rt. 220 (BA,JA).

**OBSERVERS:** Bob and Jan Ackerman, Dorothy Bordner, Alice Fuller, Harry Henderson, Becky and John Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), Larry Ragan, Conrad Schmidt, Edgar Spalding, Karl Striedieck, Merrill Wood, George Young, Eugene Zielinski.

### Chester County (15)

The compiler is **Larry Lewis**, 63 South Park Avenue, Westwood, Coatesville, PA 19320.

### Clearfield County (17)

The compiler for Clearfield County is Edgar Spalding, 115 Old Houserville Road, State College, PA 16801. Since he does not live in the county, the importance of getting your sightings to him cannot be stressed too much.

### Clinton County (18)

There is absolutely no doubt, for Clinton Co. as well as for much of Pennsylvania, this was the year of the **Redpoll**. The "swarms" in the fields were often made up of from 220-300 individuals. This was the best redpoll year since 1967, the year we arrived in this area. The **Common Redpoll** was the most abundant bird at our feeder in Jersey Shore for the whole month of February, with 67 present by count on one afternoon. The only **Hoary Redpolls** detected were two birds in Lock Haven by CH at his feeder on 1/29.

CAN YOU TOP THIS? Flocks of **Wild Turkeys** were seen within 1200 ft of the Lock Haven city limits by PWS and his ornithology students. Twenty-five on 2/24 and 34 on 3/17, both groups at the same location.

Do bluebird trails work to build up bluebird populations in other than the immediate area of the nest boxes themselves? It seems that they do. In 1982 a bluebird trail was established in Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP) by the West Branch Bird Club and Ornithological Society. This series of nest boxes is located 18 miles west of the center of the Lock Haven-Jersey Shore CBC area. During the first 17 years of the CBC from 1967-1983, the only record was of 3 birds seen in 1976. The recent history of the count is as follows:

Year	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
# Bluebirds on CBC	0	0	0	0	6	5	44
# nest boxes BESP	0	0	30	55	55	58	58

This seems to indicate something.

Other records of note. Four **Gadwall** were in Mackeyville 2/10 (PWS); this species is not seen every year in this area. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** continue to be seen more frequently than in past years. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was at BESP 1/1 (CH). One **Short-eared Owl** wintered in South Avis (m.ob.).

**Red-bellied Woodpeckers** are still increasing. None was recorded in the first ten years of our CBC. For the eight years from 1977 to 1984, 1 individual was recorded on four of the counts, and 2 on two of the counts; then 3 were counted on the 1985 CBC and 6 on the 1986 CBC.

**Carolina Wren:** CBC numbers from 1982-1986 inclusive are: 0-2-3-4-11. **Pine Siskins** were abundant at feeders February through March (GS).

**OBSERVERS:** Cecil Hazlett, Glenna Schwalbe, Paul Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514)

### Columbia County (19)

*Locations: Susquehanna Riverlands (S.R.), Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), World's End S.P. (WESP)*

This report also covers Sullivan (57) and lower Luzerne (40) Counties. The winter of 1986-87 began mild and without snow. January changed that with major snowstorms in the first and third weeks. Snow cover, over 2 ft on most of the area, generally persisted through mid-February and through early March in the higher elevations. March was fairly mild and dry.

**WATER BIRDS.** **Great Blue Herons**, mostly imm., overwintered in low numbers along the N. Branch Susquehanna R. At least 90 **Canada Geese** stayed near Berwick, grazing near cornfields near the river. An unusual location for seeing geese was the Wyoming State Forest near WESP, where  $\pm 140$  were seen flying overhead 1/12 (DG); countless skeins flew over Columbia Co. 3/6-8 during a glorious weekend. Many **Mallards** and **Common Mergansers** overwintered on the river. **Am. Black Ducks**, **Common Goldeneyes**, and **Buffleheads** also overwintered. The North Branch Bird Club (NBBC) visited Briar Creek L. 3/15 and found the waterfowl migration still in progress with 1 **Gadwall**, 6 **Am. Wigeon**, 10 **Ring-necked Duck**, 1 **Green-winged Teal** present as well as large numbers of Canada Geese, Mallards, and Blacks. First migrant **Wood Ducks**, 8, were observed at the S.R. 3/13 (DG). **Ring-billed Gulls** were sighted occasionally along the river throughout the winter, but no **Herring Gull**. Ring-bills moved through Columbia Co. in force during the first three weeks of March with several hundred sighted in Greenwood Twp. farmlands from 3/7-15 (RW,DG). **Belted Kingfishers** overwintered in low numbers. At least 2 **Killdeer** overwintered at the SSES spray pond (DG).

**RAPTORS.** **Great Horned Owl** and **E. Screech-Owl** were commonly heard through the winter; 1 pair of Great Horned Owls even nested in the S.R. At least 2 **Long-eared Owls** were seen at Council Cup near Wapwallopen 1/7-27 (DG). **N. Saw-whet Owls** were uncommon, only 1 sighted near Wapwallopen (AP). No **Barred Owl** was reported due to poor highland coverage. Some **Turkey Vultures** returned to their big roost at Shickshinny 2/26. Resident **Red-tailed Hawks** were common throughout the winter, some began nesting in March (DG,PG). A big flight of Red-tails went through Columbia Co. (Millville) 3/22 (RW). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed near Bell Bend 3/18 (DG). **Rough-legged Hawks** were less common than in former winters, but were reported migrating fairly heavily in

March near Unityville, Lycoming Co. (SL). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's hawks** were fairly common all winter, harassing feeder birds; **N. Goshawk** was not reported. **N. Harriers** were commonly observed in open farmlands hunting voles. **Am. Kestrels** seemed less common the last few winters than in former years.

**GAMEBIRDS.** **Wild Turkeys** were common and widespread throughout Columbia, lower Luzerne, Sullivan and neighboring Lycoming Cos. Flocks were observed even fairly close to communities such as Wapwallopen (AP), Shickshinny (DG), and Unityville (DG). (See also Clinton Co. report, Eds.) This species has staged a comeback in recent years and has become common even in agricultural areas. Contrary to turkeys, **Ring-necked Pheasants** have dwindled to very low densities and have disappeared from many areas where they were once common. Some breeding birds do persist where weedy fields and hedgerows provide protection. **Ruffed Grouse** were present, but in low numbers. **N. Bobwhites** are found only in isolated areas near Hobbie, Dorrance, and Pond Hill perhaps as a result of stocking. **Mourning Doves** did well this winter in spite of the heavy snowfall; many found aid at feeders when snow became deep. Pairs were nesting in late March.

**SONGBIRDS.** The first **E. Phoebe** was seen near Millville 3/14 (DG). Flocks of **Horned Larks** were found overwintering in East Berwick (ND) and Hobbie (MG). One suspects local nesting, but no evidence to document. **Tree Swallows** returned to S. R. 3/25 (DG). **Blue Jays** were common winter visitors, but banding indicated that most winter birds do not summer in the same area (DG). **Am. Crows**, some as resident families, were common. **Fish Crows** were first noted migrating near Berwick 2/18 (DG). A pair of **Common Ravens** was observed in late courtship at Council Cup 2/28 (DG,EG). One bird was carrying nesting material. By 3/13, the nest was built and the female was sitting in the nest cup. In 1985 a pair attempted to nest on the same bluff until one was shot by a local farmer who thought it to be a "big crow." Ravens were also observed in their traditional grounds in the highlands near WESP (DG), Jamison City (RW,DG), n. of Benton (RG), and in lowlands near Stillwater along, believe it or not, Raven's Creek (HB).

Single **Winter Wrens** stayed the winter in the S.R. and near Orangeville (DG). **Carolina Wrens** continued to increase since the terrible winters of 1977-78. Some suffered in the deep snow and weak individuals were found in buildings (RS,HM). **N. Mockingbirds** continued their success, especially in multiflora rose plantings. **E. Bluebirds** were especially plentiful in lowlands, staging a major population increase in the last 10 years. (Again see Clinton Co., Ed.) Most lowland and farmland birds seem to be residents which subsist on wild fruits and berries in winter. Sightings of banded individuals near Rohrsburg and Wapwallopen, and in the S.R. substantiate this claim (DG). Bluebirds also seem to be doing well in some highland areas (Lopez) and were nesting by 3/15

(AO). Several **Am. Robins** also overwintered, but probably as transient frugivores. Although 20 were frequently observed in the Millville SGL between Millville and White Hall, this was far fewer than the 200+ seen in February 1986. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were as common in this past winter as they have ever been within memory. **Cedar Waxwings** were fairly common, but not as frequently observed as in recent winters. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were not found along the river and Fishing Cr. as in recent winters. A few **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** overwintered, but their big migration occurred in the first week of March. **N. Cardinal** numbers appeared stable. **House Finches** were often abundant at feeders, but **Purple Finches** were present only locally. **Pine Siskin** and **Common Redpoll** were especially abundant this winter with some feeders having resident flocks. Both species exploited birch catkins in forests during early winter before hitting the feeders hard. **Evening Grosbeaks**, however, were sparse and less common than most winters. Only a few **Pine Grosbeaks** were found in the Millville SGL and were much less common than most winters. No **crossbills** was reported. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were fairly common, but **Am. Tree Sparrows** did not seem to move into the area in large numbers until the early January snows. **White-throated Sparrows** were present, but not in the numbers observed in recent winters. **White-crowned Sparrows** were much less common and rarely observed e. of Montour Preserve (Montour Co.). A small resident population of **Swamp Sparrows** stayed in the S.R. **Field Sparrows** were uncommon in overgrown fields. **Song Sparrows** were common as usual. No **Snow Bunting** or **Lapland Longspur** was reported this quarter.

**OBSERVERS:** Helene Basile, Nancy Dennis, John Fridman, Mary Jo Gibson, Douglas Gross, Susquehanna Biological Laboratory, RD 1, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191), Ed Groshek, Paul Gostine, Karen Hiller, Sheila Lunger, Hugh McFadden, Adolph Oten, Autumn Pfeiffer, Robert Sagar, Richard "Dick" Wood.

### Crawford County (20)

*Locations: Conneaut L. (C.L.), Pymatuning S.P. (PSP), Woodcock L. (W.L.)*

All sightings were made by Ronald F. Leberman and/or Mary N. Leberman unless otherwise noted.

One **Common Loon** and 15 **Horned Grebes** were at C.L. 3/27. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were found along French Cr. at Meadville 2/27. A **Great Blue Heron** was seen w. of Meadville near Harmonsburg 3/27. The **Great Egret** found off the Pymatuning Causeway 3/29 was early for this area (normally mid-April).

Forty **Tundra Swan** were first noted at CM 3/7, with 364 at W.L. 3/8 (m.ob.) and 450 at PSP 3/11. The Goose Management Area population of **Canada Geese**, estimated at 6000 in Jan., fell to about 4000 by mid-

March. Local populations of **Mallard** and **Am. Black Duck** remained near normal for this period. Other waterfowl observed were: 6 **Gadwall** at W.L. 3/8 and 6 at the GMA 3/29; 3 **N. Pintail** at C.M. 3/21; 2 **Am. Wigeon** at PSP 3/27; 2 **Wood Duck** at C.M. 3/11; 5 **Redhead** at Linesville Fish Hatchery 3/7; 800 **Ring-necked Duck** at Hartstown Marsh 3/21; 1 **Greater Scaup** on C.L. 3/27; 30 **Lesser Scaup** at W.L. 3/8. On 1/3 800 **Common Goldeneye** were counted off the Causeway. A **Bufflehead** was found at W.L. 3/8. All three **merganser** species were seen: 100 **Hooded** at W.L. 3/21, 5 **Common** at W.L. 3/22, and 4 **Red-breasted** along the Causeway 3/11 plus 30 on C.L. 3/29.

One **Turkey Vulture** was seen n. of Meadville 3/28. **Bald Eagle** sightings include 1 on the ice at PSP 1/3 and 1 at C.M. on various dates between 2/1 and 3/21. **N. Harrier** sightings include 1 at Meadville 2/6, 2 at the GMA 3/11, 1 n. of Jamestown 3/21 and 1 at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), 3/22. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 3/21 and single **Cooper's hawk** sightings 1/3 and 1/28 in Meadville were the only accipiters reported. Single **Red-shouldered Hawk** sightings were at PSP 2/14 and Meadville 2/15. Seven **Red-tailed Hawk** were at PSP 3/7. Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were present at the GMA until 3/11. The status of **Am. Kestrel** remains unchanged, with good numbers reported.

Six **Am. Coot** were at C.L. 3/11. The first **Killdeer** was noted at Meadville 3/14 and 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** was found at the GMA 3/27. Thirty **Ring-billed Gulls** were counted at the Causeway 1/3, while 250 counted on the lake 3/7. **Great Horned Owls** were at Meadville 1/7 and 1/13.

A **Belted Kingfisher** was at C.M. 1/14. One **Pileated Woodpecker** was n. of Venango along French Cr. 2/7. Forty **Horned Larks** were counted near Saegertown 1/24 and 25 were noted n. of Titusville 2/21.

The first **Tree Swallow** was noted at PGMA Miller Pond 3/29. One **Brown Creeper** was seen at Meadville 1/28 and 3/22. One **E. Bluebird** was seen at C.M. 3/15 and 12 at ENWR 3/22. Near Westford 18 **Am. Robin** were tallied. A **N. Mockingbird** was observed at Springboro 2/28 (TCN).

A **N. Shrike** was at the Mugfintown Bridge along French Cr., Meadville (RFL,TP) and another at Springboro 2/8 (TCN). **Snow Bunting** sightings include 26 on the Causeway 1/3, with 40 there the next day, and 100 on 2/1, including 2 individuals bathing in the water on the ice 20 ft off the causeway; this was our first time to ever witness that event in 40 years of birding.

At the Pymatuning-Conneaut Marsh areas 6000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were counted 3/7. The first **E. Meadowlark** was noted at PGMA 3/7. Twelve **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were on Middle Rd., Meadville, 3/11. One **Purple Finch** seen at feeder 2/1. The 10 **House Finch** at our feeders daily is a record that someone in the area can likely beat. One to 4 **Common Redpolls** were at our feeders 1/27-8 and also seen e. of Saegertown (TP). Fifty **Pine Siskins** appeared at our feeder 1/11 and 10-50 were seen daily

throughout the rest of the quarter. Anywhere from 1-40 **Evening Grosbeak** visited the feeders daily during the entire quarter.

*OBSERVERS:* Mary N. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071), T. Claire Nicols, and Thelma Patton.

### Cumberland County (21)

Weather for the first quarter was for the most part seasonable. Heavy snow in January and February did seem to push down a small contingent of winter finches. Unfortunately rarities seemed few and far between.

Although loons were not recorded in the county this quarter, **Red-necked Grebes** were. One was present at West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL) 3/11-12 (BH, m.ob.). Another was seen 3/28 at Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (BG). **Horned Grebes** also made it, but on the average were scarce; 1 at WFBL 3/24 (DH) and 1 3/28 at Huntsdale (BG).

**Great Egrets** arrived in the area on 3/18 with 3 at Marysville (SB). Other waders to make the count were 4 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** flying past WFBL 3/24 (DH).

Waterfowl migration this season was a disappointment when compared to last year's amazing show. It was, however, still average although it was seemingly very spread out.

**Tundra Swans** were first seen 3/5 with 7 at WFBL. Small numbers continued to trickle through until the third week in March. **Canada Geese**, other than the resident population at WFBL, were well represented during the first few weeks of March. Throughout the quarter this county's section of the Susquehanna R. held its usual numbers of **Mallards** and **Am. Black Ducks** with the population about 50 and 30 respectively. **Buffleheads** and **Common Goldeneyes** were, however, on the down side when compared to previous seasons. High count for each was only 30 **Buffleheads** 3/10 and 18 goldeneyes 3/16. Usual numbers for each hovered at 10-15 at WFBL.

Other waterfowl present at WFBL and vicinity include: 10 **N. Pintail** 3/11. The one and only sighting of any teal were 20 **Green-winged Teal** 3/15 (DH). **Wood Ducks** apparently do not prefer the open Susquehanna R., but rather the more wooded Conodequinet Creek. One pair was seen 3/6 near Good Hope Church (BLW) and another pair 3/22 at Pine Hill Arboretum (DH). A sighting of **Canvasbacks** was very unexpected 3/5, since the birds, a male and a female, were right on shore with the usual assortment of resident geese and gulls at WFBL (DH,JW). Scaup sightings were few and far between. Only 1 **Greater Scaup** at WFBL 3/13; this bird is uncommon on the Susquehanna (DH,JW). Another good sighting was a **Redhead** 3/12 at WFBL (SB). And finally the last waterfowl to report on is the **Common Merganser**. Small numbers started popping up in mid-February with 6-15 present. Numbers then started slowly increasing, and by 3/21, there were

125-150 at WFBL (DH). After this strong showing, numbers dropped quickly the next week.

On 3/22 at King's Gap S.P. (KGSP) 4 **Black Vultures** soared over the Cumberland Valley. **Am. Woodcock** made early nuptial flights this year; on 3/7-8 JD observed courtship flight at SGL 169 near Newville. An unknown observer had them on the same date at Fuller L. parking lot in Pine Grove Furnace S.P. (PGFSP).

The gull population on the river this winter was noticeably on the downswing. Combined numbers of the usual crowd of **Ring-billed Gulls** were only 50-75 at WFBL, and small numbers, 5-10, **Herring Gulls** made company with the usual hoard.

**E. Phoebes** made an early appearance at KGSP on 3/7 with 3 sighted (MB). Numbers increased steadily in the South Mountain region reaching a high of 6 in the Lewis Rock-Tumbling Run area located near the Adams County line (DH,SS).

**Tree Swallows** made their first appearance 3/30 with 7 at WFBL (DH). Notable corvid sightings were 1 **Common Raven** 3/22 at White Rocks near Mechanicsburg and 2 at Pole Steeple 1/3 (DH,JW).

Four **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen at the KGSP feeders 3/22 (DH,JW). On 3/29 a **Winter Wren** was seen along Tumbling Run near the game preserve cabin (DH,SS). Either an early migrant or a hardy wintering **Hermit Thrush** was seen 3/28 at PGFSP (TS,SS). MBH reported that **E. Bluebirds** at KGSP wintered there in good numbers and started courtship in early March.

On 3/22 the small contingency of Breeding Bird Atlas meeting attendants spotted a **Pine Warbler** at KGSP (EC,m.ob.). MBH stated that after this first scout many more arrived during the following week. First **E. Meadowlarks** were found in farmlands during the second week of March. **Common Grackles**, **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and **Red-winged Blackbirds** first appeared at WFBL 3/5 (DH,JW,BLW). Along with the Red-breasted Nuthatches mentioned earlier was a flock of 15 **Pine Siskins** and 30+ **Common Redpolls** (DH,JW).

All in all this first quarter of reporting for **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** was highly enjoyable. My views on the quarter for Cumberland Co. are as follows. Waterfowl migration seemed mediocre, but the minor invasion of winter finches was pleasant. Hope you all have enjoyed not only this report, but the whole magazine.

*OBSERVERS:* John Dunn, Betty Gish, Mary Beth Herald, Devane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Barb Huffman, Scott Sillett, Terrence Sillett, Betty Lou Waldner, Jeanne Waldner.

### Dauphin County (22)

*Locations:* Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Riverfront Park (R.P.), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna R. north of Riverfront Park and south of Ft. Hunter Park (S.R.), and Wildwood Nature Park (WNP).

Although the wintering ducks (**Common Goldeneye**,

**Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser** were all present, it is the opinion of some of the observers that the numbers for all four species were lower than the past few years.

**Wild Turkey** on the other hand have been putting in more than their normal number of appearances in SCV (BH).

The normal "winter finch" numbers were low in many of their usual haunts. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were somewhat lower but **Am. Tree Sparrows** and **White-throated Sparrows** were probably 25% less than average winter numbers.

**Common Redpolls** appeared in early February at various locations with most counts being between 1 and 10; most were gone by mid-March. **Pine Siskins** were also reported from several locations but they tended to stay at feeders for only a few days and then move on while the redpolls stayed for weeks once they found a feeder they liked.

Barb Huffman's 35-40 **Evening Grosbeaks** were the only ones reported; at least 1 lingered until 3/31.

Two **Great Blue Heron** were seen on the Susquehanna R. 2/21 (JC). Two **Great Egrets** were first seen 3/29 at WNP (JC). Twenty-two **Tundra Swan** were counted 1/1 at Ft. Hunter Park with a high of 900 flying over 3/14 (JC). At Riverfront Park (R.P.) 9 **Snow "white-phase" Geese** were seen 3/30 (JC). A pair of **Wood Duck** were found 1/1 at WNP (JC). WNP had peak numbers of **Green-winged Teal** (120+) and **N. Pintail** (157). Seven **Gadwall** 3/14, 11 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/21, and 1 **Greater Scaup** were all observed at R.P. by JC. The Wertz had a raft of **scaup** sp. 3/12 on the Susquehanna R.

One **Black Vulture** seen at Clark's Valley end-March (SD). Single **N. Goshawk** were reported along Rt. 325 and Blue Mt. mid-March (SD,DH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in the Halifax area (SD) and 1 **Rough-legged "dark-phase" Hawk** was seen 1/31 (DH).

Two **Am. Woodcock** were displaying at Sportsmen's Golf Course 3/26 (EC). 50+ **Bonaparte's Gull** were at R.P. 3/30 (JC) and 6 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on the river 1/11 (JC).

A **Common Barn-Owl** was found 3/12 at the Lyken Valley Golf Course (SD). **Great Horned Owls** were found on nest in the Halifax area and WNP through the quarter's end (JC,SD). Nine wintering **Short-eared Owls** were found in the Curtin area plus 4 in the Gratz area (SD).

Thirteen **E. Phoebe**s were at WNP 3/29 (JC). The January record of a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Hershey was an exciting sighting sent directly to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** with the Lebanon Co. report. Also on 3/29 at HACC there were 2 **Tree Swallows** in a nest box (JC).

Two **Common Raven** were seen by DH 1/3. **E. Bluebirds** were on nest in the Halifax area 3/31 (SD) and a **Hermit Thrush** was observed at WNP 3/29 (JC). Eleven **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at the latter location, also

on 3/29 (JC).

Six **Savannah Sparrow** at HACC 3/29 (JC) and 1 **Fox Sparrow** at SCV 3/23 were observed (BH). A flock of 9 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at WNP 3/29 (JC). Four **Purple Finch** were recorded 3/2 at SCV (BH) and that same location had the February peak counts of **Common Redpoll** (60+) and **Pine Siskin** (150+) plus the aforementioned **Evening Grosbeaks**.

**OBSERVERS:** Ed Chubb, Joe Church, 129 Lucknow Rd., Harrisburg 17110 (717-236-1868), Scott Dills, Deuane Hoffman, Barb Huffman, and George and Catherine Wertz.

## Delaware County (23)

*Locations: Ridley Cr. S.P. (RCSP), Tinicum Nat'l Environ. Center (TNEC), Tyler Arboretum (T.A.)*

The winter season brought with it heavier snowfalls than we have seen in Delco for many years. However, even with all the snow cover an increase of bird activity at feeders was not generally seen with the exception of very large numbers of **Am. Goldfinches** observed this season.

**LOONS THROUGH GULLS.** The only **loon** reported was 1 **Red-throated** at Governor Printz Park in Essington 3/17 (FW). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** at Lester 3/6 (WS) were either early migrants or birds that over-wintered in the area. **Am. Woodcock** were back in the Media area 3/10 (AG) displaying over a backyard. The wintering population of **Ring-billed Gulls** at two area malls keeps increasing with as many as 350 at the Granite Run Mall parking lots in February.

**OWLS THROUGH NUTHATCHES.** The best find of the season was a short, but welcomed visit by a **N. Saw-whet Owl** at the Tyler Arboretum (T.A.) 3/23-26 (JG). Three **Short-eared Owls** were found at the Phila. Airport (Delco section) 3/22 (SC,JL). **Great Horned Owls** are definitely holding their own with many reports all over the county. Even with all the developed areas in the county they seem to be able to contend with the crowded conditions. We have no reports of **Common Barn-Owls** from Delco this season possibly due to predation from Great Horned Owls. A pair of **Black Vultures** was seen in courtship flight over RCSP in March (FH).

**E. Phoebe**s arrived right on time to start off the spring migration. Most observers felt that **Blue Jay** numbers at feeders seemed to be higher than usual. A tagged **Carolina Chickadee** from T.A. was found at a Springfield feeder all winter; this feeder is about six miles from T.A., which is unusual since most Carolinas tend to stay in a very limited area (SC). This year was notable for the lack of **Black-capped Chickadees** throughout the season. And, this year certainly did not match last year's high numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**; however, they did seem to be distributed throughout the area in normal numbers.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH GROSBEAKS.** **Cedar Waxwing** numbers were way down from the previous winter when 4600 were

reported during the 1985-86 winter season. A few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported; one at T.A. 1/1 (AG) and another at a Media feeder 2/15 (WT). The return of the **Louisiana Waterthrush** at T.A. 3/29 (JG) was a very early date for Delco. 1987 was an invasion year for **Common Redpolls** as just about all sections of Delco reported sightings. One observer in Media reported 2 on 2/16 which gradually increased to a maximum of 23 on 2/28 (JL). As is usually the case, the redpolls visited the feeders in mixed flocks with **Pine Siskins** and **Am. Goldfinches**. Reports from most observers suggested that goldfinches were abundant at feeders this winter. Siskins were also plentiful this year at feeders in Media (AG,JL,WT). A pair of **Rufous-sided Towhees** at T.A. 1/1 were still present through February (AG). **Evening Grosbeaks** were extremely difficult to find after December.

EXOTICS. A female **Ruddy Shelduck** was found mingling with a flock of Canada Geese on the playground area of a local school in Glen Mills 2/15 (RB,m.ob.). (See also Montgomery Co. report *Ed.*) An unusual sighting for the Springfield area was a **Chukar** walking around in a backyard of a developed area (SC).

OBSERVERS: Robert Bodine, Skip Conant, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Frank Haas, Jim Lockyer, William Stocku, Walt Thurber and Frank Windfelder.

#### Elk County (24)

The compiler is **Leif Anderson**, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford, PA 16701 who also covers McKean County.

#### Erie County (25)

*Locations: Presque Isle S.P. (PISP), Union City Dam (UCD).*

A partial freeze on 1/22 at PISP must have gathered all of the area's **Pied-billed Grebes** to form a tight group of 22 birds, which is a very high total in any season in Erie Co. (JM). Up to 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at PISP until late Jan. with 2 remaining as late as 2/17 (JM). A flock of 47 **Great Blue Herons** survived the winter on PISP (JM).

A **Snow "white-phase" Goose** was found at UCD 3/11-3/13 (JM,DD). **Wood Duck** seen at PISP 1/1 (DS). A **Green-winged Teal** successfully wintered at the Erie Public Dock, which may be a first for this species in Erie Co. (JM,LS). A **N. Shoveler**, very rare in winter, appeared 2/7 at PISP (JM). The 60+ **Gadwall** that wintered at PISP were more numerous than usual (JM). Scoters included 1 **Black Scoter** 1/1-18 PISP (JM); 1 or 2 **Surf Scoter** 1/1-18 PISP (JM); 1 **White-winged Scoter** 3/29 PISP (EK).

**Bald Eagle** reports: 1 ad. 3/15 PISP (JM,LS), 2 ad.

3/26 Edinboro Lake (JHo). Eight or 10 sightings of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** is extraordinary for a species rarely reported in winter in Erie Co. (m.ob.). A **N. Goshawk** was seen 3/8 at PISP (BF *et al.*), as well as 1 at Erie Int'l Airport 3/22 (JM). While observing a hawk flight along Lake Erie 3/29, a partial albino **Red-tailed Hawk** (at least 75% white) soared past (BF *et al.*).

Up to 3 ad. **Little Gulls** were seen 1/19-24 at PISP (JM). An imm. **Iceland Gull** 1/24 at Erie Public Dock (JM,LS), and 2 imm. in Feb. at PISP (EK) were reported. Only **Glaucous Gull** was 1 ad. 1/11 PISP (SS).

A **Snowy Owl** was observed 1/28 and 2/4 at PISP (JM) and another 1/29 near Edinboro (SH). One **N. Saw-whet Owl** was seen 1/1 and 2/13 at PISP (JB,DS).

Single **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were reported from Girard (JB), Edinboro (JP), Erie (LS) and PISP (JM). Single **Carolina Wren** sightings at feeders were received from Lake City (JB) and Edinboro (JP). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, rarely reported after January, was seen 2/13 at PISP (LS).

At least 1 **N. Shrike** was seen periodically from January to 2/7 at PISP (JM,DF). Not unprecedented in winter, but quite rare, was a **Pine Warbler** 2/13 at PISP (JH).

**Purple Finches**, rarely reported in winter, were seen in late February at Union City (DP,DT), and Edinboro (DS). **Common Redpolls** were reported from several places with flock numbers ranging from a few individuals to 75 or more at PISP, Erie and Union City (JM *et al.*). A **Pine Siskin** was seen 1/19 in south Erie (LS) and 12 observed in late Feb. in Edinboro (JHo).

OBSERVERS: Jim Baxter, Dave Darney, Bill Fink, Dave Flynn, Jamie Hill, Shayne Hoachlander, Joan Howlett (JHo), Ed Kwater, Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), John Paxton, Dora Porter, Don Snyder, Linda Steadman, Sam Stull, Dorothy Thomas.

#### Fayette County (26)

Sightings listed below are for February. All records are attributed to Dave Krueger and the location is in or around the Ft. Necessity Battlefield area unless otherwise indicated.

A **Cooper's Hawk** was heard calling 2/28 and an ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 2/22. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was noted along with a few **Ruffed Grouse** flushed at the fort 2/15.

Both **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** were calling during the month. A pair each of **Downy** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were noted throughout the month.

Three **Blue Jays** and 5 **Am. Crows** were seen. **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Tufted Titmice**, **Red-breasted** and **White-breasted Nuthatches** and **Brown Creepers** were located. One or 2 **Carolina Wrens** were seen all month. A flock of 7

**Golden-crowned Kinglets** was seen on the 15th; a **N. Mockingbird** was seen the same day.

Seven **N. Cardinals** were noted on the 9th. Only 4 **Am. Tree Sparrows** were counted on the 15th. **Song** and **Swamp Sparrows** were tallied, as well as a **Dark-eyed Junco**. A dozen **Purple Finch** were seen 2/26; a few **House Finches** were also seen. A **Common Redpoll** was seen on the 15th and 7 **Pine Siskins** noted a week later. 8 **Am. Goldfinch** on the 27th. On the 3rd 30 **Evening Grosbeak** were seen and 25 tallied 10 days later.

**OBSERVERS:** David Krueger and **Terri Tullio (compiler)**.

### Greene County (30)

There was hardly any snow in this county during the quarter and the temperature was rather mild (only two mornings of zero or below). Most feeder watchers reported fewer species and numbers than normal.

**HAWKS THROUGH GULLS.** One **Cooper's Hawk** was found roosting in a pine grove near Bell's yard. Two **Am. Kestrels** were on the same property on 1/26 with one noted most days during the period. The first migrant **Killdeer** was observed flying over 2/22. A widespread migration of **Ring-billed Gulls** was noted on 3/15; pictures of them at a shopping center made the local paper, and 97 were counted near Waynesburg by RH.

**OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS.** Bell was awakened by a **Common Barn-Owl** calling the morning of 3/27. One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was often seen or heard during the quarter. An **E. Phoebe** was first noted 3/19 (late); and 1 gave a good flight song 3/23 (first I have ever noted this in this species) (RB). One **Purple Martin** first seen 3/25. Three **Common Ravens** were flying over Bell's farm 2/34; one or more noted on 7 different days in February and March. This species was not recorded in Greene Co. before 1984! **Carolina Wrens** were nest building 3/8. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were present during the quarter. Twelve **E. Bluebirds** were on the farm 1/14 with 6 seen most days. On 1/12 50+ **Am. Robins** were counted. One **Brown Thrasher** seen 3/28. On 1/1 there were 15 **Cedar Waxwings** eating holly berries.

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES.** Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** spent the winter. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found 3/30; there are only 2 earlier records...3/29 in 1963 and 1975. A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was found at Rices Landing 3/26. **Field Sparrows** were singing 3/18. One **Fox Sparrow**, not common in the county in spring, was at a feeder near Waynesburg 3/15. An **E. Meadowlark** was seen 3/5. One **Common Grackle** noted 3/4. A **Pine Siskin** was at the feeder on 1/12 and 1/14.

**OBSERVERS:** Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505), and Ralph Horn.

### Huntingdon County (31)

*Locations: Raystown L. (R.L.), Shaver's Cr. Environ. Center (SCEC), Stone Valley Recreation Area (SVRA).*

Welcome to the first quarterly report from Huntingdon County!!! January opened on a snowy note and found all lakes and open water frozen with the exception of the Juniata R. and its tributaries. Extreme cold at the close of the month increased the ice flow in the Juniata, with only the Raystown Branch open, due to the state mandated warm water blend from R.L. A mild and dry February was followed by a balmy March, showing promise of an early spring.

In this area the 50+ species of permanent residents appeared to be present in average numbers. There was no indication of drastic increase or decrease in any of our local species. However, waterfowl this quarter was lower in both number and species than in previous years.

Throughout the quarter the Raystown Branch held low numbers of **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Am. Black Duck**, and **Mallard**. The lower stretches of the Juniata R. held both **Common** and **Hooded Merganser**. Missing were **Redhead**, **scaup**, **Canvasback** and **Ring-necked Duck** which have overwintered in previous years.

The dates and locations of early migrating waterfowl are as follows; **Common Loon** 3/31 Entriiken (DK), **Wood Duck** 3/8 Marklesburg (DK); **Ring-necked Duck** 3/16 Entriiken (DK); **Oldsquaw** 3/24 Entriiken (DK); **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/16 Entriiken (DK). Entriiken and Marklesburg offer easy access to the open, still waters of R.L., the largest self-contained lake in Pennsylvania.

**Canada Geese** and **Tundra Swan** began flying over in early March with many loud night flights reported. **Snow "blue-phase" Geese** made a brief appearance above Raystown Dam 3/1 (MK) and left the next day.

Three **Black Vultures** were present near Compropst Mills 1/13 (DK) and were seen on a regular basis the remainder of the quarter. **Turkey Vultures** appeared on warm southerly winds in McConnelstown 2/3 (DK) with a northerly push of 55 on 3/13 (DK).

Over-wintering **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen in good numbers and **Red-shouldered Hawks** were present near Donation (EB) and SVRA. A pair of **Rough-legged Hawks** over-wintered just north of McAlevy's Ft. and were seen on a daily basis from 1/12 to 2/27 (DK). During the quarter at least 4 **Bald Eagles** were identified at R.L. Two ad. were seen at the dam in early January (LB); 1 ad. and 1 sub-ad. 2/24 (DK) and 2 sub-ad. near Entriiken 3/10 (DK). Over-wintering eagles have been common the past 3 years, due primarily to the ice-free Raystown Branch and the abundance of "rough" fish.

**Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** have been reported in usual numbers throughout the quarter. An excellent food crop and mild winter should provide an above average turkey season in the spring. **Am. Woodcock** had returned and were performing their display flights 3/7 near McConnelstown (DK). Six **Common Snipe** were found in a farm

spring/marsh 2/5 near Manor Hill (DK).

Gull species were limited to **Ring-billed Gull**, which were found at the dam's spillway all quarter, and **Herring Gull**, which made occasional visits to the same area.

Owl highlights include: **N. Saw-whets** calling at Shaver's Creek in mid-February (JP); **Short-eared** on Stone Creek ridge in mid-January (MB); and a large number of **Great Horned** calling on territory throughout the quarter. **Barred Owls** continue to be seen and heard at Cornpropst Mills (EB) and Shaver's Creek (DK).

**Horned Larks** were present in Shaver's Creek Valley in Jan. in flocks of 200+ (ML) and the only member of the swallow family were **Tree Swallows** found over a farm pond at Jackson's Corner 3/25 (FH). The only **N. Shrike** report was in the Mooresville area 2/23 (MK) and it was not seen again despite many unfruitful hours of searching.

**Pine Warblers** loudly arrived in the pine thickets of Piney Ridge 2/27 (JC) and at SCEC the 28th (DK). Large flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** arrived in the region 3/7 accompanied by lesser numbers of **Common Grackles**.

One of the delights of our backyard feeding station this winter was the common sight of **Common Redpolls** everywhere. Our niger seed feeder attracted them on 1/28 and they stayed until 3/28. Other backyard feeders reported the same news; a redpoll invasion had occurred. SCEC reported its usual feeding station birds: **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskins**, **Evening Grosbeaks** and **redpolls** throughout the quarter.

We in Huntingdon Co. are anxiously awaiting warmer and longer days in anticipation of migration and we hope that you are too.

**OBSERVERS:** Marcelene Baker, Ellen Benner, Lois Braun, Jean Cresswell, Florence Harpster, Margaret Kenepp, David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030), Melvin Lane, John Peplinski.

### Indiana County (32)

*Locations: Indiana (IND), Shelocta (SHL), Yellow Cr. S.P. (YCSP).*

Two **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared at YCSP 3/28, the lone report (ASWP-TBC). **Horned Grebes** were reported only from YCSP 3/28, when 7 were present (ASWP-TBC). A **Great Blue Heron** was observed near YCSP 2/22 (GS) but was not reported again until 3/28 (ASWP-TBC).

All waterfowl reports are from YCSP unless otherwise noted. **Tundra Swan** were first reported 3/6, when 200 were counted (GS), but the largest flock consisted of 1500 birds 3/13 (LH). Top **Canada Geese** count was 75 on 3/11 (GS). First **Wood Duck** arrived 3/11 (GS). Three **Green-winged Teal** were sighted 3/12 (GS); 2 were counted 3/19 (LH), 3/21 (TBC), and 3/28 (ASWP-TBC). Two **Am. Black Duck** were seen at Elders Ridge 2/21 with a flock of 56 **Mallards** (EH,WH,MH,RH). First **Am. Black Duck**

at YCSP appeared 3/16 (LH). Top **Mallard** tally was 150 on 3/13 (LH). First **n. N. Pintail** appeared 3/11 when 22 were listed (GS); on 3/12 55 were counted (GS). **Blue-winged Teal** were not found until 3/28 when 6 were tallied (ASWP-TBC). A **Gadwall** was seen 3/16, the lone report (LH). **Am. Wigeon** were present in low numbers after 3/7 (GS,JOS,LH). Highest **Canvasback** count was 8 on 3/7 (GS,JOS). Best **Redhead** count was 6 on 3/18 (LH). **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived 3/7 (GS,JoS,) but peaked at 100 on 3/18 (LH). A good find 3/28 was 1 **Greater Scaup** seen in the company of 2 **Lesser Scaup** (ASWP-TBC); the only other report of Lesser Scaup was a raft of 5 on 3/18 (LH). Twelve **Oldsquaw** 3/21 were the only report (TBC). Five **Common Goldeneye** were spotted 3/18 (LH) and 3 on 3/21 (TBC). First **Bufflehead** was seen 3/11 (GS), but small numbers were present through the end of March. First **Hooded Merganser** were 2 individuals 3/11 (GS); highest count was 9 on 3/21 (TBC). An ad. male **Common Merganser** was well described 3/10-11 (GS). On 3/8 12 **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived (MH,RH), but the best count was 34 on 3/19 (LH). The lone **Ruddy Duck** report came 3/19, when only 2 were listed (LH,GS).

First **Turkey Vulture** was late, 3/23 near SHL (MH). Best find of the season was an ad. **Bald Eagle** at YCSP 3/16 (LH) and 3/19 (LH,GS). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reports included one in IND 1/31 (JS,GS) and 1 at YCSP 3/7 (JoS,GS). Five **Cooper's Hawks** were seen (m.ob.). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near Edgewood 2/3 (BM) and last noted at Elders Ridge 2/10 (DG,MH,NK,GW). (The Elders Ridge strips are bisected by the Indiana and Armstrong Co. lines. This is the same bird reported in the Armstrong Co. report; the hawk flew from Armstrong across the border into Indiana Co.) **Am. Kestrels** appeared to be wintering in larger numbers this year than usual.

Only 3 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were noted, 1 near SHL 3/5 (MH), the second near IND 3/8 (MH,RH), and the third near Strongstown 3/30 (GS). First **Killdeer** appeared 2/21 in Indiana (RH,WH). First **Am. Woodcock** were heard performing their courtship ritual 3/6 near SHL (MH,RH).

Two early **Ring-billed Gulls** were listed at YCSP 2/7 (GS); maximum count was 200 on 3/7 (GS,JoS).

**E. Screech-Owl** were seen near Nolo 2/4 (GS) and near Clymer 2/9 (MD). **Great Horned Owls** were hooting near SHL (RH) and at Nolo (GS). **Barred Owl** was seen near Nolo 3/13 (DS,GS,*et al.*). Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** wintering at the strip mines were still present 3/1 (FE,GW). First **Belted Kingfisher** was at YCSP 2/4 (TJ).

The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** visiting the feeder daily in Brush Valley (GD) has not been seen for several weeks. The only other report from Indiana Co. was 1 on 2/6 near YCSP (PA). The TBC outing to Pine Ridge Park 2/21 produced the only **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sighting

(AJ,CJ,GS,JS). **N. Flicker** was not reported until 3/28 near IND (MH,RH) and at YCSP (GS).

**Horned Larks** were seen near Nolo 1/20 (GS), but were singing on territory near Alverda (GS) and near Rossiter by 3/25 (MH,TJ). **Tree Swallows** returned near SHL (MH) and near Nolo 3/27 (GS).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were visiting feeders near SHL throughout the period (MH,RH). **Brown Creeper** seem to be more numerous than usual. The only report of **Carolina Wren** came 2/14 and 2/16 (TJ). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were widespread. First **E. Bluebirds** were 5 on 2/1 near West Lebanon (AH,MH,RH). Only two **N. Mockingbird** reports, 1 in IND (AH) which appeared periodically throughout the winter, and another seen near IND 3/24-25 (MH,RH). A **Brown Thrasher** appeared at an IND feeder 1/5 and fed every day until 2/27 (BR,DR). A **N. Shrike** at the strips had been present since 1/7 in Armstrong Co., but was only seen in Indiana Co. 2/1 (AH,MH,RH).

First **Rufous-sided Towhee** was heard at YCSP 3/28 (GS). First **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived at YCSP 3/5 (GS). **E. Meadowlarks** wintered at the strips (MH,RH). **Common Grackles** invaded the area in early March (v.o.) with the earliest report of 50 near SHL 2/27 (MH,RH). An early **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited a feeder in IND 1/6 (AH). Up to 11 **Purple Finch** have visited a feeder near SHL throughout the period (MH,RH). **House Finch** maxima include 60 near SHL (MH,RH) and 55 in IND (TJ). **Common Redpolls** numbered 1-4 between 1/16 and 2/12 near SHL (MH,RH); a single female reappeared 3/17. The only other report was another singleton near Penn Run 1/26-29 (JD). Up to 11 **Pine Siskin** were observed at the feeders near SHL after 1/6 until the end of March (MH,RH). Another 3 were sighted 2/28 near Nolo (GS). Another 2 began visiting an IND feeder the last week of March (BR,DR). **Am. Goldfinch** remain common with the highest count of 77 near SHL (MH,RH). Flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** are more commonly being reported at feeders than earlier in the season. Top count was 25 near SHL 2/16 (MH).

*OBSERVERS:* Pat Andrascik, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Jane Derry, Gloria Dick, Marian Dixon, Flo Emmonds, Denise Garrett, Anne Hedgpeth, Eileen Higbee, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), William Higbee, Leon Hue, Aino Johnston, Conrad Johnston, Timmi Jones, Nancy Karp, Beth Marshall, Barbara Rowe, Donald Rowe, John Salvetti, John Semone (JoS), Dan Syster, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club, Gloria Winger.

#### Juniata County (34)

This report also includes sightings from Mifflin County (44).

Migratory waterfowl reports seemed to indicate more **Tundra Swans** and less **Canada Geese** than have been noted in the past few years. **Red-bellied** and **Downy Woodpeckers** seem to be more common. **Common Redpolls** and **Am. Goldfinches** were present in good numbers at area feeders. However, **Evening Grosbeaks** were virtually absent as a winter visitor for the second year in a row.

During January and February, and part of March a mixed flock of about 65 **Turkey** and **Black Vultures** maintained their winter roost on a ridge by the Lauver Valley Rd. near Evandale in Juniata Co. Observer D. Weidner stated they were feeding on the discards of a nearby chicken hatchery. Another high count was 3/10 at Dunmire's Ridge, Mifflin Co., when a mixed flock of about 50 vultures was observed migrating; 10 were also noted 3/3 (MK,AK).

Early plowing by farmers occasioned an early influx of spring gull migrants.

*OBSERVERS:* Amanda Kauffman, Margaret Kenep, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (editor Mifflin Co.) (717-899-6252), Linda Whitesel, RD #1, Box 356A, Mifflintown 17059 (717-436-8048), (editor, Juniata Co.), D. Weidner.

#### Lackawanna County (35)

The compiler for Lackawanna Co. is Gerald Klebauskas, 1301 Blair Avenue, Scranton, PA 18504.

#### Lancaster County (36)

*Locations:* Middle Cr. WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (M.R.), Peach Bottom (P.B.), Susquehanna River.

One **Common Loon** first seen in Lancaster 1/10; the pond began to freeze and with lack of open water from which to take off it was rescued on 1/24 and later released at P.B. 1/27 (CG); 2 were on the river near P. B. early- and mid-January. (RMS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on the river above Holtwood Dam 1/27 (RMS). **Great Blue Herons** wintered in large numbers, about 40, in Solanco, especially in the Conowingo Islands (RMS). The **Tundra Swan** migration peaked in late February/early March. There were 5000+ at Washington Boro 3/7 and 5000+ at MCWMA also 3/7 (m.ob.). About 2000 lingered in mid-March at MCWMA, however none could be found at Wash. Boro 3/13, appearing to leave that area 1-2 weeks early (RMS).

One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen at MCWMA 3/7 (TG). A flock of 3100 **Snow Geese** arrived at M.R. 3/4 and all but 50 were "blue-phase" (RMS,HM). This was the largest single flock observed in the county and they remained about 10 days. Numbers at M.R. have been increasing annually since early 1980's (RMS). **Canada Goose** migration peaked on 3/7-8 (m.ob). One male **Wood Duck** seen at Donegal Springs 1/31 and 2/1 (SS). A male **Blue-winged Teal** was found on Lititz CBC and found

again in same area along Hammer Creek, Warwick Twp. 2/5 (FH). Three **Canvasback** were at M.R. 3/7 and 4 **Redhead** at WB the same day (SS). On the river n. of Bainbridge, 5 **Oldsquaw** were seen (LC). Some 10,000+ **Common Merganser** wintered on the lower Susquehanna, along with the 1-2000 at M.R. (RMS).

One **Osprey** returned to last year's P.B. nest site 3/18 and 2 were at site 3/25 (RMS). Up to 5 **Bald Eagle** wintered below P.B. with scattered sightings along the river through the quarter (RMS). No eagles were regular at MCWMA during the period. One ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at M.R. 1/6 (RMS). An im. **Merlin** was in Clay Twp. 2/1 (EW).

This was the worst winter in recent years on the lower Susquehanna for gulls. No white-winged gulls were reported. The only **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was an ad. at M.R. Fisherman's Park 1/9 (HM,RMS).

**Barred Owls** were noted in several areas along the Conestoga R. in the Lancaster area in March and thought to be nesting at one site (DA,CG). Only 5 **Long-eared Owl** wintered at M.R., compared to 13 last year (RMS). At least 10 were present at MCWMA (m.ob.). One **Short-eared Owl** was at MCWMA 2/8 (LS).

In Clay Twp. and West Cocalico Twp. 5000+ **Horned Lark** were counted 2/1 (EW). One **Tree Swallow** 3/28 at M.R. marked the first of the season (RMS).

The Serpentine Pine Barrens hosted 40+ **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 2/3 (HM,RMS). Small flocks of **Water Pipit** overwintered in Solanco with 30 near Quarryville 1/20 (HM,RMS). The ad. **N. Shrike** found 11/30/86 in West Cocalico Twp. was seen irregularly until 2/8 (EW,TG *et al.*).

Three **Savannah Sparrow** were near M.R. 1/20 (HM,RMS). **Lapland Longspur** were nearly absent from traditional areas during the quarter (EW,SS,TG) although there was 1 in Clay Twp. 1/4 (TG). Over 500 **Snow Bunting** were noted in Clay Twp. and West Cocalico Twp. 2/1 (EW). **Common Redpoll** first appeared in Providence Twp. 1/23 (JP,EP), became widespread by mid-February, and up to 100 at feeders in Akron area by early March (JW,PW,FH), then disappearing by the end of the period from feeders (v.o.). **Pine Siskin** began to build in numbers in January, but nothing like the numbers of the redpolls of February and March (RMS *et al.*).

**OBSERVERS:** Dale Althouse, Larry Coble, Fred Habegger, Clyde Gamber, Tom Garner, Harold Morrin, Ed Pederson, Jo Pederson, Steve Santner, Leon Schreffler, Robert M. Schutsky, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138), Jan & Pat Witmer.

### Lawrence County (37)

Please refer to **Gene Wilhelm's** report of Butler County (10) which includes sightings for Lawrence County.

### Lebanon County (38)

*Locations: Memorial L. (M.L.), Middle Cr. WMA (MCWMA).*

March 7-8 was the big weekend for **Tundra Swan** and **Canada Goose** migration in the county. However, most birds were flying over; very few remained by the end of the weekend (SS *et al.*). Ducks apparently also overflowed the area as there were very few individuals present during the usual peak period of the latter half of March. However, most of the expected species were seen during the season at M.L. (m.ob.). A flock of 20 **Am. Wigeon** appeared late in March at a farm pond near Iona, staying through the end of the period (m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye** is uncommon in Lebanon Co., so 4 at M.L. 3/21 were unexpected (SS,JG,HM,RMS).

This was not a great year for **Rough-legged Hawk**, although a few were present in fields near Lawn (KL) and Reistville (SS). However, **Red-tailed Hawks** were found in large numbers (m.ob.), as they have been for the last 3 or 4 years. **Ring-necked Pheasant** have been reported by hunters to be less common than formerly, but here in the county they seem to have almost completely recovered from the weather-caused population crash of the mid to late 70s. Perhaps this is due to restocking from a private game farm in the s.w. part of the county and from MCWMA in the s.e. part of the county. **Am. Coots** appear to be suffering from a steady population decline locally; this year none was reported through the end of the period.

**Great Horned Owls** continue their apparent increase in numbers, although whether their numbers are actually increasing or they are just becoming less shy about nesting in towns where they are more easily seen is unclear to this observer. **Short-eared Owls** appeared at two locations in the county this year. A total of 7 appeared at ELCO high school s. of Myerstown at the end of January (SR) although they were not there earlier in the winter (SS *et al.*), and stayed until at least 3/29 when 3 were still present (SS). An additional 3 birds wintered at another traditional location near Lawn (DW).

There were few rarities reported during this period throughout all of e. Pennsylvania this season. Thus, the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** reported 1/1 near Myerstown (fide KL) was quite a shock! Unfortunately, it could not be relocated after this date. Presumably this is the same bird reported later in the month from Hershey, Dauphin Co., and possibly is the same bird seen earlier in the fall near Bake Oven Knob.

This was not a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** year; none was reported during the period. However, two of the winter finches, **Pine Siskin** and especially **Common Redpoll**, were reported in good numbers (m.ob.). Many redpoll flocks of 2-3 dozen were reported throughout the county. No Lapland Longspurs were reported this year, but a few **Snow Buntings** were reported among the flocks of **Horned Larks** near Palmyra (KL).

*OBSERVERS:* Wade Edris, Jay George, Ken Light, Harold Morrin, Steve Rannels, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-836-2525), Robert M. Schutsky, Doug Wood.

### Lehigh County (39)

This season was a fairly dull one for birds. A record influx of redpolls that began in late January was the most noteworthy happening. Many species of owls were also found in better than average numbers.

Waterfowl were not particularly numerous, except for **Canada Geese**, which seem to be growing in numbers every year. A pair of Redhead spent the winter at Dorney Pond, as did 2-3 **N. Shoveler** and **Gadwall** at Jordan Springs (BLM). A very cooperative roost of **Long-eared Owls** near Stony Run was seen by many birders in January. At least 3 different **Short-eared Owls** were seen in the area from 1/20+, when the first was found at the ABE airport (FB). In February others were seen in Lynn Twp. (SS), and another 2 at ABE (FB). The first **Am. Woodcock** returned 3/7 (FB). Good numbers of **Horned Lark** were seen at the usual spots: over 100 on Grim Rd. 1/1 (BLM), and 30 near Henningsville 1/31 (PS).

**Carolina Wrens** continue their population expansion throughout the area. **E. Bluebirds** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen in good numbers, but the **Ruby-crowneds** were much less common. The usual large flock of larks and **Snow Buntings** was seen along Grim Rd. January and February (BLM). **Common Redpolls** were the prime birding attraction in our region. A few were found in December, but good numbers first appeared in late January. The highest local count was 70-100 in Salisbury Twp. 2/2 (SS,FB). Good number of **Pine Siskins** also appeared in February. **Evening Grosbeak** numbers were low in most areas.

*OBSERVERS:* Fritz Brock, Bernie L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Peter Saenger, Steve Smith.

### Luzerne County (40)

The compiler is Bill Reid, 73 W. Ross Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, who also reports on Bradford (08), Susquehanna (58) and Wyoming (66) Counties.

### Lycoming County (41)

We had a very good winter at our feeders. **Mourning Dove** 75, **Common Redpolls** 60, **Pine Siskins** 45, **Evening Grosbeaks** 120, **Am. Tree Sparrow** 19, **Song Sparrow** 1, **Hairy Woodpeckers** 2, **Downy Woodpeckers** 5, **White-breasted Nuthatch** 2, **Black-capped Chickadee** 12, **Tufted Titmouse** 5, **Brown Creeper** 1, **House Sparrow** 10, **Dark-eyed Junco** 25,

**House Finch** 30, **N. Cardinal** 7, **Am. Goldfinch** 37.

On 3/28, at Rose Valley L., we had 1 **Great Blue Heron** and 200 **Canada Geese**.

Two imm. **Bald Eagles** spent the winter in the w. part of the county. One **N. Harrier** (no date, Ed.) was reported. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's hawks** appeared at bird feeders more frequently than in past years. **Red-tailed** and **Rough-legged hawks** were prevalent. **Great Horned Owls** were heard on clear cold nights.

**Tree Swallows** 12 at Rose Valley L. 3/28. **Am. Robins** and **E. Bluebirds** wintered over. A flock of 35 **Cedar Waxwings** were feeding on our hackberry trees 2/1.

**Common Redpolls** were plentiful throughout the county.

*OBSERVERS:* Ed & Tink Reish (Please note change for 1988.-Eds.)

### McKean County (42)

The compiler is Leif Anderson, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford, PA 16701 who also reports for Elk (24) County.

### Mercer County (43)

Please refer Gene Wilhelm's report for Butler Co. (10) which includes Mercer County.

### Mifflin County (44)

Please refer to the Juniata (34) County report for sightings. The compiler for Mifflin County is E. Margaret Kenepp, Box 343, R.D. #2, McVeytown, PA 17051.

### Monroe County (45)

The compiler is Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632), who also reports for Northampton Co.

### Montgomery County (46)

Locations: Ft. Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Mont Clare (M.C.), Schuylkill R., Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge Nat'l Historic Park (VFNP)

Highlight of the season was the widespread invasion of **redpolls**. **Evening Grosbeaks**, however, were scarce. A number of other winter visitants (**Pied-billed Grebe**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Fox Sparrow**) seemed down. As usual, GLR, UPVP, and the Schuylkill R. were the places to look for wintering waterfowl. Montgomery Co. is lucky to have two

very active, experienced birders, George A. Francois (GAF) and Gary Freed (GF) who live near GLR, and another, Ron Grubb (RG), who has been keeping records of waterfowl in the VFNP area (Betzwood to Pawling Road) since 1980.

LOON THROUGH DUCKS. **Pied-billed Grebes** were 2 on the river at VFNP (RG); 1 at GLR 3/21 (GAF). A **Horned Grebe** in basic plumage was at GLR 3/28 (GAF). Single **Great Blue Herons** wintered all quarter at GLR (GAF,GF) and along Mont Clare canal (NT).

**Tundra Swans** and geese poured into GLR in their usual March numbers; the 28 seen 3/8 had increased to 60 by 3/15 (GAF,GF). One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was among thousands of **Canada Geese** 3/22 (NT). Three to five **Snow "white-phase" Geese** were at GLR all winter. They were joined by another 11 in early March; curiously, all these were "blue-phase". The blue-phased clustered together, sitting apart from the white-phased. GAF's rough count of Canadas was 4000 most of the quarter, reduced to 500-600 by 3/31.

Two **Wood Ducks** were present all season on the river at VFNP (RG) and another 2 at UPVP (m.ob)--where in past years even greater numbers of wintering **Wood Ducks** have been found. Mid-March saw new arrivals: 5 more at UPVP (GAF,GF); 10-12 in spring ponds in first silt basin VFNP (NT). Best views of March-arriving **Green-winged Teal** were at GLR: 20 on 3/15 (GAF); 35 on 3/21 (GF). **Am. Black Ducks** were present in good numbers all season from the river to GLR; highest count was 214 at UPVP 2/20 (GAF). **Mallards** were plentiful everywhere, and were seen pairing up as early as 3/8 (WM). Five **Blue-winged Teal** were at GLR 3/28 (GF). Up to 9 **Gadwall** wintered at GLR and UPVP (m.ob). **Am. Wigeon** were scarce, but 2 were seen at GLR 3/8 (NT). High count for **Ring-necked Ducks** at VFNP during quarter was 34 (RG); at GLR 35 (GAF,GF). **Lesser Scaup** was reported only at GLR, with 3 on 3/8 (GAF).

Up to 40 **Common Goldeneye**, 22 **Bufflehead**, 8 **Hooded Mergansers** and 44 **Common Mergansers** wintered in their usual stretch of the river at VFNHP (RG). Most are found upstream from the Betzwood Bridge, although the **Hooded Mergansers** favor just downstream from the bridge. Maximum count of 100 **Common Mergansers** at GLR was 3/8 (GAF). A few **Bufflehead** and **Hooded Mergansers** were also seen throughout the season at UPVP (m.ob). And 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at UPVP 1/1 (DT).

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS. **N. Harrier** sightings were 1 each at Sassmansville 1/2 and E. Greenville 3/2 (LR); 1 FWSP 3/7 (WK); 3-5 throughout season at GLR (GAF,GF). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at Niantic 2/1 (LR); 1 in Oreland (WM) and a pair in UPVP 2/18 (NT). **Cooper's Hawk** were reported from late February to late March, including 1 ad. at GLR (GAF,GF,DT). **Red-tailed Hawks** were reported from many points, and GAF added this note: "Ever increasing numbers throughout; seem to be displacing our local [UPVP] population of Red-shouldered." **Rough-legged Hawks** were as follows: 1 E. Greenville 2/21 (LR); 1 light-phase GLR 2/21 (GF); 1 dark-phase GLR 2/22

(GAF). **Am. Kestrels** were seen, but once again GAF comments from GLR area (excellent kestrel territory) "numbers below last 10-year average, but not alarmingly so." Merlin 1 GLR 3/28 (GAF).

Four **Ring-necked Pheasant** noted in Wyncote area (DT) and 1 **Ruffed Grouse** in Sumneytown 2/25 (GAF). VFNHP had 1 **Am. Coot** (RG). Season's first **Greater Yellowlegs** at GLR 3/15 (GAF), but, except for the ever present **Killdeer**, shorebirding there was virtually wiped out by high waters. Niantic was a hotspot for wintering **Common Snipe**: 2 seen 1/4, 3 1/10, and 9 by 2/7 (LR); at GLR 1 was found 3/21 and 6 on 3/28 (GF). Reports for **Am. Woodcock** were 1 at North Hills 3/22 (DT); 3 at GLR 3/15 and 1 "dancing" there 3/24 (GF).

The 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at VFNHP was a first record for this area (RG). **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** present on all waters; up to 1000 Ring-bills at GLR in March (GAF). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that wintered on Bergey's Pond in Hatfield in '85 and '86 was back this year, last seen 3/20. The **Great Black-backed Gull** at VFNHP 1/27 constituted only the third record in 8 years (RG); another was at UPVP (DT).

**E. Screech-Owls** and **Great Horned Owls** were reported from all quarters. GAF located a Great Horned's nest at UPVP and reports that 2 owlets were doing well by the end of March. NT saw a Great Horned swoop into her yard at Mont Clare at 1500 h. 2/8 and snatch up a squirrel. But the exciting owl notes came from GLF, who lives on the edge of GLR. During the quarter there, in the conifer-clad hills above the reservoir, he saw 7 species of owls (all but the Snowy of the regularly reported species) and adds the following: "**Common Barn-Owl** 1 1/17; **Screech** common all quarter; **Great Horned** very common, with 4 at once on 2/5 which flew around yard; **Barred Owl** 1 heard calling from 3/22-30; **Long-eared Owls** 2-6 present from 2/6 to April; **Short-eared** seen 2/26 by GF and RG, and again on 2/28 by RG; **N. Saw-whet Owl** 1 seen regularly 1/9 to 2/4, usually in the same tree." An enviable record!

KINGFISHERS THROUGH KINGLETS. An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited UPVP all quarter (GF). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports included: 2 at Wyncote 2/5 and 2 at Mill Grove 3/29 (DT); 2 at UPVP all quarter (GF); 1 along Indian Cr. all quarter (NT). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen regularly off Camp Green Lane and Hauseman Rds. near Sumneytown (DT). First **E. Phoebes** seen in different locations by GAF, WK, GF and NT, all on 3/28. 50-60 **Horned Lark** found in Niantic area in Jan. were + 200 by 2/6 (LR). Three **Tree Swallows** first arrived at GLR 3/28 (GF). **Blue Jays** back in vociferous numbers at Mont Clare 3/27 (NT). One or 2 **Fish Crows** regularly heard throughout quarter at Mont Clare (NT). Although 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Green Lane Boy Scout Camp 3/20 (RG) and 1 at GLR 3/28 (GF), this was first winter in 4 yr. with none at Mont Clare feeders (NT). **Brown Creepers** found in moderate numbers, 1 at Mont Clare feeder from 1/13 to 2/10 (NT). Only **Winter Wren** was 1 in lower UCV 3/29 (GAF). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** numbers were + 20 at GLR all quarter (GF).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES. **E. Bluebirds** seem to be

doing quite well; 3-4 small flocks all quarter at GLR (GF); a pair at Dietz Mill (RG); individuals seen at Whitmarsh Militia Nat'l Park and FWSP and 4 seen investigating Pennypack Watershed nest boxes near Bryn Athyn (DT). **Hermit Thrush** 1 GLR seen 2/9 (GF) and 2/22 (NT). About 35 **Am. Robin** noted in Red Hill 2/22 (LR); early spring arrivals noted 3/7 (NT). The 2 **Gray Catbirds** and 1 **Brown Thrasher** were at Betzwood 1/27 (RG).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was well-seen at Port Kennedy Station 3/14 (RG). About 30 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at GLR all quarter (GF). First **Pine Warblers** of season were 2 at UCV 3/28 (GF); first **Palm Warbler** 1 Betzwood 3/29 (RG). A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was at Betzwood on CBC 1/3 (RG,GF). Sparrow reports: **Am. Tree Sparrow** 50 at GLR all quarter (GF); **Fox Sparrow** 1 at GLR, 1 UCV both 3/28 (GF); 1 at UPVP also 3/28 (GAF) but missing elsewhere this year; **Swamp Sparrow** 1 at GLR 3/28 (GF). On **White-throated Sparrows**: WM writes, "White-throated and Song Sparrows almost non-existent in this [Oreland] area as were goldfinches." No reduced numbers noted elsewhere.

**Red-winged Blackbirds** were back in force by 3/27. Earliest reported **Common Grackle** was 1 at Red Hill 2/22, but "hundreds" in E. Greenville by 3/2 (LR). A second-year male **N. Oriole** acquiring ad. plumage was observed frequently during the quarter by N. Donaldson at her Bryn Mawr feeder (late report to Ed.). Only 10 **Purple Finch** were seen and those in E. Greenville 2/28 (LR). Reports of **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** came from many observers. The redpoll invasion was evident from E. Greenville to Mont Clare and from Wyncote to Rosemont; largest flock reported was 32 in E. Greenville 2/10-28 (LR). **Pine Siskins** were equally widespread; largest flock was 30-40 at Oreland feeder (WM).

EXOTICS. A **Ruddy Shelduck**, seen yearly at GLR for last 7-8 years, returned again this year in early March (m.ob.). (See also Delaware Co. exotic listings, Ed.)

OBSERVERS: George A. Franchois, Gary Freed, Ron Grubb, William Kershner, William Murphy, Larry Rhoads, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127), Dale Twining.

#### Montour County (47)

**Short-eared Owls** have been in the vicinity of the PP&L Montour Power Plant since late November (DU). **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** were reported in agricultural lands in January (ASt). On 2/14 ten mid-winter **E. Meadowlarks** were highly unusual (MB,AS). Nine **Rusty Blackbirds** were counted 1/31.

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Ann Stoltzfus, Dave Unger.

#### Northampton County (48)

HERONS. An imm. **Great Blue Heron** was found dead near Bath 2/4 (DW).

HAWKS. An imm. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was accidentally caught in a potter trap while attacking redpolls at Danielsville 2/26. It was banded and released (BS). **N. Goshawks** were noted at Nazareth 1/28 (SB) and Little Gap 3/26 (SB,BS,RW). **Red-tailed Hawks** were observed feeding on meat scraps near Pt. Phillips throughout January. (SB,RW). Boyce tallied the following hawks in 139 miles on 1/14: 29 **Red-tailed**, 1 **Rough-legged**, 1 **N. Harrier**, and 19 **Am. Kestrels**. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted at Pt. Phillips 2/16, at Delps 2/21, and at Copella 2/25 (SB). **Rough-legged Hawks** were present in fields near Bath throughout January and February with a peak of 5 in less than 2 mi on 1/29, which included 3 "dark" and 2 "light" birds (SB,BS,RW). 13 **Am. Kestrels** were banded in n. Northampton Co. (BS). One ad. female was retrapped 1/29 about 100 yd from where she was banded as an ad. in a nest box in June, 1986 (BS,RW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES. An early **E. Phoebe** was observed at Delps 2/21 (SB). A **Hermit Thrush** at Delps 2/21 may have wintered in that area (SB). Nine **E. Meadowlarks** were seen near Bath 1/29 (SB,BS,RW). Over 450 **Common Redpolls** were banded at Danielsville during the quarter with a peak of 120 at that location 3/7 (BS). During the quarter 100+ **Pine Siskins** and 150+ **Am. Goldfinch** were banded at Danielsville (BS). A **Savannah Sparrow** was observed at Pt. Phillips 1/9 (SB,RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Brad Silfies, Doug Wiltraut, Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632).

#### Northumberland County (49)

An unusual winter **Turkey Vulture** was spotted in the northern portion of the county 1/17 (MB). The **Am. Crow** roost at Milton I. shifted its location from the traditional site in Milton S.P. to the vicinity of the cemetery; thousands were still present 3/22 (AS).

EXOTIC: A **Eur. Goldfinch** visited a feeder in Sunbury for several days in March (DE).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Donald Eister, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

#### Perry County (50)

This county is sparsely populated and has few birders. Therefore, the coverage is not as thorough as desired. All sightings were reported by Skip Boyer.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on the Susquehanna R. at Marysville 3/13. No waterfowl were reported during

this quarter.

**Bald Eagles**, 1 ad. and 1 imm., were seen 3/13 flying past Marysville. On 3/7 near the village of Cove, **Am. Woodcocks** were in courtship flight.

During the period 1/1 to 3/3 at least 5 **N. Saw-whet Owls** were present in the Marysville area. He says a good way to attract not only Saw-whets but any owls to a wood lot is to spread seed on the ground; this not only attracts small birds, but also mice at night. In turn, the owls are attracted to the potential prey.

Although not in this quarter, but well worth mentioning, is a sighting of a **Snowy Owl**. This bird was seen by Boyer in December 1986 near New Bloomfield.

The **E. Bluebird** population during the winter months was reported as large.

At Boyer's feeders during the entire period **Common Redpolls** and **Pine Siskins** were in plentiful numbers. Also present were the usual **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **White-throated Sparrows**, and a few **Am. Tree Sparrows**. On 3/14 there was a small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** at the feeders.

OBSERVERS: Skip Boyer, Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475).

#### Philadelphia County (51)

Location: Tinicum Nat'l Environ. Center (TNEC).

The first Philadelphia Co. winter bird census in thirty years, organized and compiled by Keith Russell, took place on January 11, 1987. This report summarizes the results of that census with several added notes.

Two wintering **Common Loons** and 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** were found 1/11. **Great Cormorants**, first reported in 1984, wintered on the Delaware R. At least 5, all in juv. plumage, were counted as late as 3/21 (FW). Seven **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found 1/11 (DC).

Waterfowl were well represented, with 17 species on the January count. **Ruddy Ducks** appear to be increasing; 1165 were counted on the Delaware R. (RH). Eleven **Am. Kestrels** were at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and vicinity 1/11 (RH). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, probably the first record for the county, was found 1/11 (v.o.).

Only 1 **Common Barn-Owl** and 1 **Short-eared Owl** were found at TNEC; down from previous years (JCM).

This was not a finch invasion winter. Only 2 **Black-capped Chickadees** were found 1/11, while 276 **Carolina Chickadees** were counted. A wintering **Gray Catbird** was an interesting find 1/11. Only 1 **Snow Bunting** (RH) and 1 **Common Redpoll** showed up 1/11, but a site in n.e. Philadelphia had redpolls at a feeder from 1/21 to 3/11. Their numbers peaked at 53 on 3/1 (FW). **Pine Siskins**, in low numbers, were reported throughout the period at scattered sites in the county.

OBSERVERS: Dave Cutler, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818),

Richard Horowitz, John C. Miller, Frank Windfelder, plus 17 observers from the Academy of Natural Sciences.

#### Pike County (52)

**Turkey Vultures** returned right on schedule; Hinkley, OH has nothing on us. The invasion of **Common Redpolls** was felt to be the most exciting sighting reported throughout the county this quarter.

OBSERVER: Jane Gilpin (compiler).

#### Potter County (53)

The compiler is David Hauber, Jr., R.D. #2, Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915.

#### Schuylkill County (54)

Our Schuylkill Co. compiler was not recruited until after the close of the first quarter. However, he writes he is actively collecting reports for the second quarter. Sightings should be submitted to Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363). He has assured us he has some really nice reports for the next quarter, but is keeping us, as well as you, in suspense for now.

He also reported **Common Redpolls** in Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven and Hawk Mt. Sanctuary throughout February. And on 3/28 in Schuylkill Haven he saw 4 **Pine Grosbeaks**; this was only one of two reports of this species for Pennsylvania this quarter!

#### Snyder County (55)

**Pied-billed Grebes** and a **Greater Scaup** were at Faylor L. 3/28 (RH). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was on the Isle of Que 2/7 (SF), and 1 imm. was there 2/10 (JH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen twice near County Line Rd., in early and mid-March (CRG). On 2/15 a **Long-eared Owl** was photographed in midday after it emerged from a hole in a tree near Little Mexico (DN).

OBSERVERS: Scott Fletcher, Carl R. Getz, Jack Harclerode, Robert Holman, Dave Ney, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

#### Somerset County (56)

Locations: Hooversville (HVL), Jennerstown (JNY), Quemahoning Dam (Q.D.), Thomas Mills (T.M.).

All records are by Glenn and Ruth Sager unless otherwise indicated.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS. All waterfowl were seen at

Q.D. unless otherwise stated and include: 5 **Common Loon** 3/19; 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** 1/7 and 5 on 3/15; the first 25 **Tundra Swans** 3/11 (TD) with a high of 135 on 3/19. Six **Canada Geese** were observed 3/10 and increased to 39 by 3/22; a flock was reported flying overhead near T.M. 3/16 (DR). Two pairs of **Wood Ducks** seen 3/21 plus a pair on Sager's pond at HVL 3/24-31. Four **Am. Black Duck** were seen 1/7 and 11 on 3/15. One to 3 **Mallards** were seen irregularly in January and February on Q.D. and Stonycreek R. nearby; 53 at Q.D. 3/15, with 2-5 irregularly until end of March. Pairs noted on a number of farm ponds in vicinity of Hooversville (HVL). High **Am. Wigeon** count was 8 3/19. Best for **Canvasback** was 29 on 3/15. Also on 3/15 were 4 **Ring-necked Duck**, 61 **Common Goldeneye** and 3 **Bufflehead**. First **Hooded Mergansers** were 3 on 3/15, high of 5 on 3/19 and 2 on 3/21. Other merganser reports included 3 Common 3/21 and 83 **Red-breasted** 3/15. Only **Ruddy Duck** was 1 on 1/7.

HAWKS THROUGH KINGFISHERS. One **Turkey Vulture** was at HVL 3/29. A **N. Harrier** was at JNT 2/5 (BM). **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's** and bin numbers 1-3 were seen irregularly in HVL throughout the quarter. A kettle of 47 **Broad-winged Hawks** was at Stoystown 3/7 (DE). Mulvihill commented there were few **Am. Kestrel** in JNT in February.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at HVL 1/10. Single **Ruffed Grouse** were at HVL 1/20 and at Q.D. 3/11. Sadie McClintock reported 1 **Wild Turkey** 3/2 which was pecking at glass of front door and then flew onto roof of the house. Reports of **Am. Woodcock** were 1 at Q.D. 3/15; 1-5 at HVL from 3/5-23; and 2 at T.M. 3/24.

Q.D. hosted 55 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/13, 2 on 3/15, and 7 on 3/17. Flocks of 10-20 **Mourning Doves** were seen during January and February with 22 on 3/14 and 2-6 remainder of March in HVL; 10 were at T.M. 1/4 (DR).

An **E. Screech-Owl** was noted at HVL 1/17 and another at Q.D. in mid-February. A pair of **Great Horned Owls** hooted irregularly in January and March. A **Barred Owl** was noted at T.M. 3/11 (DR). One **Belted Kingfisher** was at Q.D. 3/7.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES. A pair of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** was seen regularly at HVL feeder January through March. These are newcomers to this area in the last several years. One to 2 **Hairy** and 6-14 **Downy Woodpeckers** regularly visited a HVL feeder during the quarter. One **N. Flicker** was at T.M. 1/6 & 21 (DR), with 1-2 irregularly at HVL from 2/22 to end of March. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was irregular all quarter at HVL; 1 was found at Q.D. 3/15 and 3/21.

First sightings of **E. Phoebe** were 1 at HVL 3/17 and JNT 3/27 (BM). First **Tree Swallows** were at HVL 3/24. About 20-25 **Blue Jays** were "whickering" in treetops at HVL each morning from 2/16-28, with 8-12 at feeders during the quarter. Flocks of 100-500 **Am. Crows** were in fields near HVL January. Large flocks feed in fields and in evening return to roost in Johnstown (Cambria Co.) during the winter.

Daily visitors to a HVL feeder were: 15-35 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 6-10 **Tufted Titmouse**, 2-8 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, and a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. One of the latter species was also at T.M. regularly (DR) and singles at JNT feeder during January and February. One Brown Creeper was at HVL 3/14; 1 or 2 at JNT various dates in January, better than average numbers in February (BM). One **Carolina Wren** was at T.M. 1/8 (DR). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were of 3 on 3/19 and 2 on 3/21 at Q.D., 1 at HVL 3/22, and seen in JNT on various dates in January, with better than average numbers in February (BM).

An **E. Bluebird** was found 3/15 at T.M. (DR); 1-5 at HVL irregularly in January and February, 3 pair regular in March. One **Am. Robin** was at T.M. 1/8 (DR), 3-12 at HVL irregularly through January and early February, 40-100 each evening 2/16-28, low numbers in March except for 100 on 3/31, scattered individuals in JNT during January, better than average in February, and migrant flocks by end of month (BM). One **N. Mockingbird** was at HVL 3/7.

WAXWINGS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES. In HVL 14 **Cedar Waxwings** were seen 1/15, 22 on 2/17 and 5 on 3/17, plus flocks of up to 75 at JNT in widely scattered localities in February (BM). **Eur. Starlings**, reported in very low numbers in January and February at HVL, were common by the first half of March.

A good winter population of **N. Cardinals** was in HVL area, with up to 37 at feeder in late February and 20 as late as 3/19. A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was at HVL 3/30-31. Low numbers of **Am. Tree Sparrows** were noted at HVL, with up to 35 at feeder during January and February and early March, 18 on 3/16, 10 from 3/19-24, and 1 on 3/25. One **Fox Sparrow** was found at T.M. 3/10 and 3/31 (DR); this was the first year since 1973 in which none was recorded in this period in HVL. Two to five **Song Sparrows** at HVL feeder January and early February, 8-12 last half of February, and became more abundant by end of March. Low numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** noted at HVL with 1-4 at feeder January to March, except for 3/29 when 10 were present. Up to 35 **Dark-eyed Juncos** at HVL feeders regularly in January, February and early March building in numbers from 42 on 3/9 to 75 on 3/29.

One **Red-winged Blackbird** was seen at HVL 1/10, a flock of 500 found 3/7, with smaller numbers the rest of month. One **E. Meadowlark** was found at HVL 3/7, with 1-4 regular to end of month. Fifty **Common Grackles** were at HVL 3/7, 37 on 3/14, 400 on 3/18, 75 on 3/20 and lower numbers rest of March. Four **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at HVL on 1/10, 2 on 3/24 and 1 on 3/25.

From 1-4 **Purple Finch** were seen irregularly at HVL in January and February, 3-6 from 3/8-13, 10 on 3/14 and 1-7 to end of month. Small flocks (5-10) of **House Finch** were at HVL in January and early February, up to 25 in late February and low numbers again in March. Five **Common Redpolls** at Stoystown feeder 2/1 through 3/6 (DE); about a dozen arrived 2/5 at JNT and stayed to about 3/20 (BM). Two **Pine Siskins** at HVL on 1/17, 3 on 3/13, 2 on 3/20, flocks of up to 20 at JNT from 1/13 to end of the month, perhaps 30 or more in February and March (BM). Only 2-5

**Am. Goldfinch** irregularly at HVL in January and February; 1 on 3/5 and 1 on 3/31 were the only reports for March. They were reported as numerous in JNT in January and February. Flocks of 5-17 **Evening Grosbeaks** noted irregularly at HVL in January and February, 1 on 3/7, 4 on 3/11 and 20 on 3/31.

Low numbers of 15-30 **House Sparrows** at feeders in HVL, larger flocks of 50 or more observed around farm buildings during quarter.

OBSERVERS: Dave Escherich, Bob Mulvihill, Dean Ross, Glenn and Ruth Sagar, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242).

### Sullivan County (57)

Please refer to the Columbia Co. (19) report for sightings.

### Susquehanna County (58)

Bill Reid, 73 W. Ross Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 is the compiler for this county as well as Bradford (08), Luzerne (40) and Wyoming (66) Counties.

### Union County (60)

**Rough-legged Hawks** were still present in late March (MB). The first **Ring-billed Gulls** were moving north 3/9 (AS). A **Common Barn-Owl** was seen on the ground in February and again at the same location two mi w. of Mifflinburg 3/28 (MH).

The **Common Jackdaws** were bringing nesting material to the usual penitentiary site as early as 3/19 (JP). An unusually large congregation of **Fish Crows**, at least 100, gathered in a Kelly Township field 3/24 (AS).

Early spring **Red-winged Blackbirds** were judged to be very scarce and **Common Grackles** quite abundant relative to their usual numbers (AS). **Common Redpolls** were common again with the last known date being 3/22 (L&JD).

EXOTIC: A **Chukar** of unknown origin appeared on the Bucknell University campus in March (fide AS)

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Lester and Jane Derr, Mark Holman, John Petery, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

### Venango County (61)

Location: Oil Cr. S.P. (OCSP).

The Pleasantville CBC was held 1/3 and listed 1 **Wood Duck**, 38 **Am. Black Ducks**, its first-ever **Am. Wigeon**, 2 **Common Goldeneye**, and 8 b(DO).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted on the CBC (TG,NG) and at OCSP (NK).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen at Oil City 2/22

(NK). Two **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were found on the CBC. That count also listed 9 **Brown Creeper**, 4 b, 17 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and 1 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

The CBC listed 26 **Am. Tree Sparrows** and 7 were counted at OCSP 1/31 (NK). Also noted on the CBC were 1 **Field Sparrow**, 6 **Song Sparrows**, but only 7 **White-throated Sparrows**. The count had a record 434 **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Nick Kerlin and David Ostrander (compiler, Pleasantville CBC). Material was obtained from the summary submitted by Paul Hess to the Bulletin, a publication of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. -Eds.

### Warren County (62)

There was a **Common Loon** on the Conewango 3/30 (KC). Seven **Canada Geese** were seen flying south over Warren 1/20 (RL). Except for a few **Common** and **Hooded Mergansers**, the usual **Mallards**, 20 **Bufflehead** (3/5) and a lone **Am. Black Duck** there were very few ducks this winter (TG).

There have been a minimum of 6 **Bald Eagles** along the Allegheny R. in the vicinity of Kinzua Dam this quarter. Significant sightings include 1 ad. and 3 imm. seen on 1/7 (NG,TG), 3 ad. and 2 imm. on 1/10, and 1 imm. 1/21 (RL). In February there were at least 4 present and 2 ad. were at the Seneca Pumped Storage Reservoir above the Kinzua Dam (LA). One imm. was seen in Warren 1/2 (RL). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at a Saybrook feeder 1/11 (CN). **Cooper's Hawks** were observed in or near Warren 1/19 (RL), 1/28 (DD,MT), 2/29 (BH) and another near Irvine 3/15 (DW). A **N. Goshawk** was seen 1/1 in Warren (CL). The first returning **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported 2/27 at Saybrook (CN). There were a few complaints of hawks keeping birds from the feeders.

A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at a feeder in Cherry Grove 2/17-24 (CN). This is on the plateau at 1950 ft elevation (nearly all previous records have been from the Allegheny R. Valley). First **Tree Swallows** were 2 seen w. of Warren 3/28 (BH).

Two **Common Raven** were noted 1/29 at Weldbank (TG). Single **Carolina Wrens** were reported at Tidioute through Jan. (JK) and at Grisez's feeder in Warren 2/16-26 and again 3/6 (TG). An **Am. Robin** was noted 1/21 near Irvine (BH,DD). A **Gray Catbird** first noted at Neels' feeder in Saybrook 1/11 remained through the quarter. A **Brown Thrasher** at Palmers' feeder between North Warren and Scandia appeared in Dec. and stayed to 2/15 (JJP).

**Common Redpoll** at area feeders included 1 on 1/2 and 5 on 1/17 (CN) and 2 in Warren 1/23 (TG). **Pine Siskin** reports included 3-12 during January and 2 on 3/8 in

Saybrook (CN), and 2 in Warren 3/15 (DW). Single **Rufous-sided Towhees** were seen throughout January at the Dorn's feeder in Barnes and at Tidioute (JK). A **Fox Sparrow** was reported in Warren 3/30 (HJ).

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### Westmoreland County (65)

Locations: Donegal L. (D.L.), Latrobe Res. (L.R.), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

Unless otherwise indicated, all records included in this report should be attributed to Bob Leberman and Bob Mulvihill at the PNR. PNR is the field research station of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, located 3 mi s. of Rector. A year-round bird-banding program was begun by Leberman in 1961. Mulvihill joined the program as a volunteer in 1978 and as a staff member in 1983.

Both birding and bird-banding in January and February were dull and sluggish, perhaps due to unseasonably mild weather during these months, but things began looking up in March. Despite the mildness of the winter we recorded few unusually early returning birds and, in fact, a few species that often return before April did not (e.g., Chipping, Vesper, and Swamp Sparrows).

Four **Common Loons** were at L.R. 3/28 (J&SJ). One **Pied-billed Grebe** was at D.L. 3/9 and 8 **Horned Grebes** present there 3/15.

Eighteen **Tundra Swans** first noted at L.R. 3/10 (BS); scattered flocks noted until about 3/25, incl. 54 at D.L. 3/15. **Wood Duck** first seen at PNR and D.L. 3/15. **Green-winged Teal** appeared first at D.L. 3/15 and at PNR 3/28. Up to 6 **Am. Black Duck** on D.L. and L.R. on many dates after 3/7. The first and only report of **N. Pintail** was 10 at D.L. 3/9 (LLB). Two **Gadwalls** at D.L. 3/9 were the only report of that species in the region (L&LB). **Am. Wigeons** were first seen at D.L. 3/7 (SPR); 5 present 3/9 (L&LB) and 8 on 3/15. Two **Redheads** at D.L. 3/15 were the only ones reported. A

small farm pond 1/2 mile w. of PNR on 3/15 provided the first records for **Ring-necked Duck**, 6 **Common Goldeneyes**, **Bufflehead**, 2 **Hooded Merganser** and 12 **Red-breasted Mergansers**. Twenty **Hooded Mergansers** were at L.R. 3/15 (BS). Only report of **Common Merganser** was the 2 birds at L.R. 3/31.

**Turkey Vultures** returned 3/7. **Sharp-shinned, Cooper's** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were present in typical wintering numbers in the Ligonier Valley, with the first migrant **Sharp-shinned Hawk** noted 3/28. However, we could find no wintering **Rough-legged Hawk** and there were very few **Am. Kestrels** in the area.

One **Am. Coot** was on D.L. 3/15. The first **Killdeer** was noted 3/7. First **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared 3/31. **Am. Woodcock** did not arrive until 3/4 with up to 10 courting males present by mid-March. This was the first time in past few years they had not returned by the end of February. **Ring-billed Gulls** were first seen at D.L. 3/9.

Arrival dates for **E. Phoebe** were 3/9, about 1/2 mi. s.w. of PNR (LLB) and 3/21 at PNR.

A flock of 50 **Horned Larks** was seen about 3 mi s. of Ligonier 1/5, a particularly good mid-winter total for this region.

**Tree Swallows** arrived 3/27.

The 3 **Common Ravens** seen flying overhead 2/15 may have been local wintering birds or migrants.

**Black-capped Chickadee** numbers were genuinely down from some winters; the permanent resident chickadee population was not supplemented, as it sometimes can be, by migrant chickadees from the northeast. Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present at a few localities. **Brown Creepers** apparently overwintered in better than average numbers. **Carolina Wrens** were in their best winter numbers in more than 10 years, and most if not all seem to have survived the season. We look forward to our best breeding population of this species in a long time; nesting sites were already being investigated at PNR by the end of this quarter. Like creepers, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** apparently overwintered in better than average numbers.

**E. Bluebirds**, while present, were not as numerous as we expected they might be given the mildness of the season. One **Hermit Thrush** was near PNR 1/17 (TB,PW). **Am. Robins** probably wintered in better than average numbers locally; there were hundreds at PNR, and probably thousands along roads in Ligonier Valley, following a wet snowfall on 3/31. A **Gray Catbird** 1/22 near Mt. Pleasant may be a first local mid-winter record (DC). **Cedar Waxwings** were seen in flocks of up to 75 individuals throughout the quarter.

The first **Rufous-sided Towhee** was seen 3/26. **Am. Tree Sparrow** numbers were banded in below average numbers at PNR during the quarter. A flock of 10 **Field Sparrows** seen just w. of PNR 1/17 (TB,PW) was a very good local winter count; first migrant was banded 3/6. **Savannah**

**Sparrows** arrived just w. of PNR on 3/29 and 2 were present at PNR feeders during the 3/31 snowfall. Twelve **Fox Sparrows** banded by the end of March equalled the 5-year average, with the first individual noted 3/18. Our total of 150 **Song Sparrows** banded during March was about average. **Dark-eyed Junco** numbers were down in January, but the March migration of this species was above average according to PNR banding results.

The first blackbird migrants were not **Red-wings** but a dozen **Rusty Blackbirds** a few miles n. of PNR 2/24. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were not recorded at PNR until March. The first **Common Grackle** was reported near PNR 2/28 (JW). A wintering **E. Meadowlark** was observed 1/29. Brown-headed Cowbird was first seen 3/18.

March banding totals of the **House Finch** show the nearly continuous growth in numbers of this species (from 11 in 1982 to 52 in 1987). Up to 12 **Common Redpolls** were reported at a few feeders, mostly at higher elevations, during February, and **Pine Siskin** reports were of individuals scattered throughout the Ligonier Valley. Although **Am. Goldfinch** numbers were down in January and February, they became more numerous by the end of March. Not unexpectedly, **Evening Grosbeaks**, following last year's heavy invasion, did not move south in such great numbers this winter.

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