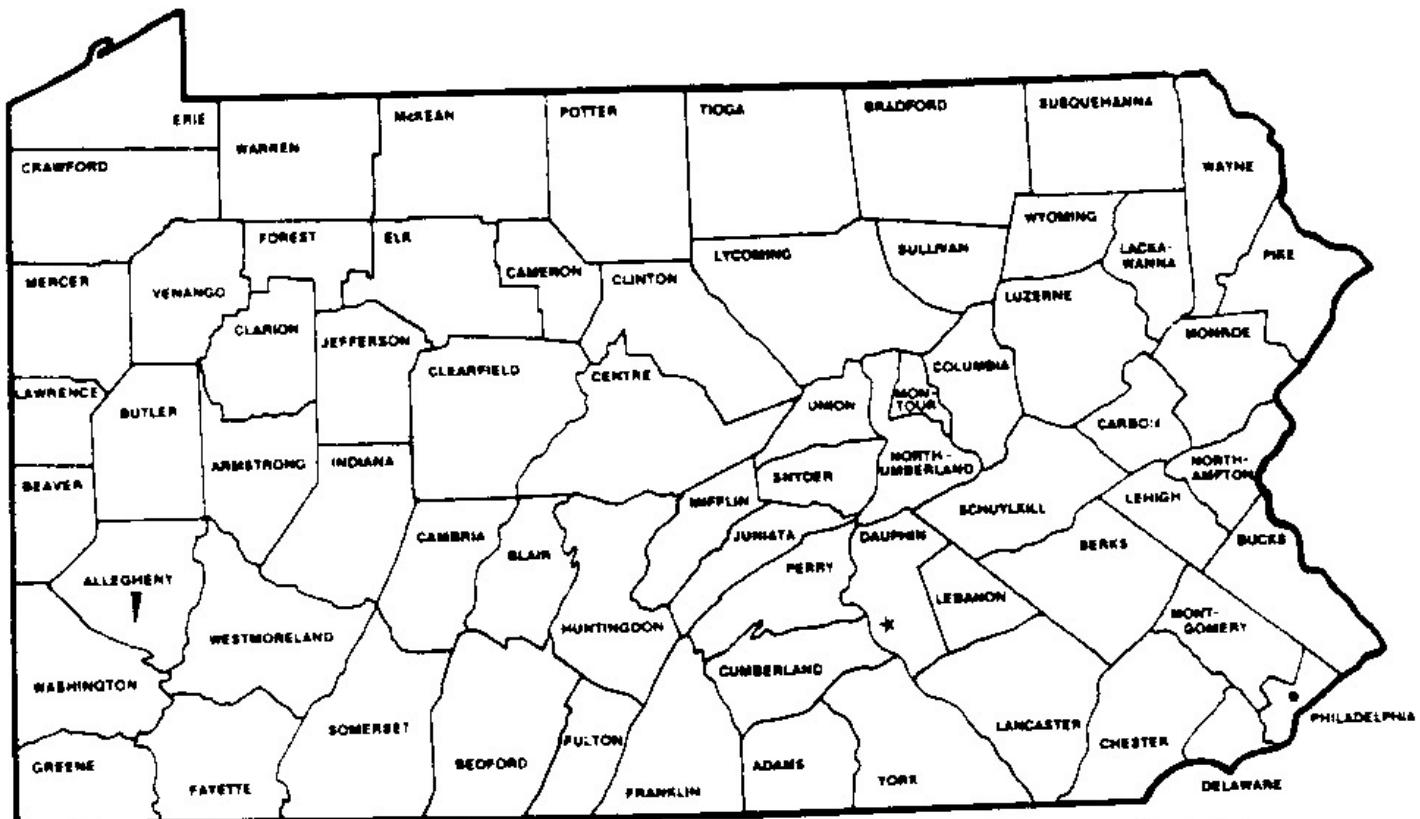


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 1, No.4

Oct-Dec 1987



Pittsburgh

★ Harrisburg

● Philadelphia

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4, OCT - DEC 1987

Table of Contents

Editorial.....	103
Rare Bird Reporting.....	103
Sorting Out Chickadees (Parkes).....	105
Red-bellied Woodpecker Expansion (Haas).....	107
Peregrine Falcon - Unable to Fly (Freed).....	111
Pennsylvania Raptor Rehabilitators.....	112
Frogs at the Knob (Koch).....	113
BIRDING SPOTS:	
Water Street (Blair County).....	115
Trough Creek Valley (Huntingdon County).....	116
Stony Creek Valley (Dauphin & Lebanon County).....	117
Mont Clare Canal (Montgomery County).....	118
Summary of the Season.....	119
County Reports.....	120
Hawkwatching Summaries.....	143

Cover: Green-tailed Towhee, by Jim Lockyer

Illustrations: Page 106, Jim Lockyer
All others, Frank Haas

from the editors...

This issue marks the final one for Volume 1. Whew! It is the biggest and best so far. You who suffered through reading the first two issues must be appreciative of the printing improvements. The compilers continue to do a terrific job in getting their reports to us. More articles have been received and included for greater diversity of material. Thus the first magazine devoted to the status and distribution of the birds of Pennsylvania is going strong. We thank each of you who contributed information to your compiler. We need and want more articles, so please continue to contribute or otherwise you may have to read about our 1986 Big Year or something else we have done.

Many of you have made positive comments about the magazine and we appreciate them. Words like, "It's great as far as I am concerned" and "keep up the good work" make us feel that it has all been worthwhile. Your renewals and solicitations for new subscribers will continue to make it all possible. We will be reprinting Volume 1, No. 1 in the near future on the new printer. Fortunately we did not have that many printed (we're out) and will be available for those who wish to have all volumes for their library. More on that in the next issue. If you have already renewed, please pass the subscription form and envelope on to a birding friend or perhaps contact your local library about subscribing. *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* makes a terrific year round gift.

This issue is exciting because it covers the latter half of migration and the majority of Christmas Bird Counts. As usual many of the CBC's had some surprises. There is a lot devoted to raptors as befits the Fall season. There is controversy about the acceptance of some species into the records for Pennsylvania, so be sure and read that section. There are more site guides to finding birds and tips on separating chickadees. We would like to start a "Letters to the Editors" column soon, so please feel free to write us with comments for possible inclusion. The more involvement we get from you the readers, the more viable this publication will become.

We have analyzed our books, including costs, projected income and expenses for the coming year. We are significantly in the red. If we are ever able to afford offset printing which makes possible the inclusion of photographs (we have several that we would like to use) it will be necessary to include some advertising. The rates are indicated inside the front cover. If you know any individual, business, or organization that would be interested, please advise them accordingly. We would also be willing to contact them directly. Copy ready advertisements are also welcome and the rates are very attractive. This issue is very extensive (read expensive). Please appreciate that we are doing this magazine in our "away-from-our-jobs" time and have accepted the commitment to make it the best possible effort.

Now is the time to get organized for atlasing. Waterfowl, hawks, Am. Woodcock, E. Phoebe and early warblers are on the move. Great Horned Owls have started nesting. Spring is just about here and your reports for the first quarter are almost due for your county compiler.

**Barb & Frank Haas
Co-editors**

What to Do about Rare Bird Sightings?

The lack of a state Records Committee has created some problems that should be addressed. Perhaps soon that situation can be resolved, but in the meantime the problem of including undocumented sightings exists.

As Editors of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* we have been faced with some situations regarding identification that are somewhat outside our provence, e.g., we are not a records committee. However, as editors, we want to ensure the quality and integrity of the magazine. We have been in contact with several of the best birders in the state regarding several sightings of undocumented birds. This is not to say the birds were not what they were called, but just that they were undocumented either by photograph or specimen. In each case they would have been new state records, something that should require documentation for acceptance. (The Clark's Grebe was just split from the Western Grebe by the A.O.U. in 1985.) Some of the written exchange is presented here for your consideration.

Jerry McWilliams writes: "In Erie County...We have been satisfied with accepting records of rare birds from well known competent birders as well as from less experienced birders if they can provide convincing details. However, I personally feel that this has not been the proper procedure for confirming bird sightings. I believe that a journal has little scientific value without substantial proof of its contents. Until all editors who contribute to your publication, American Birds, Birding, or any

other magazine send proof of a sighting, the material will remain as it is, nothing more than an interesting conglomeration of bird sightings. If or when Pennsylvania has a records committee, I believe that for proof of exceptional sightings, one should be required to submit an identifiable photograph, a specimen, or at the very least, observation under suitable conditions by no less than three well-known, competent observers with separate written descriptions from each of them.

...In view of the scientific potential that your publication has, I suggest that we put aside personal feelings and print only sightings that can be substantially proven, so that future ornithologists can use it as a factual guide for bird study in Pennsylvania."

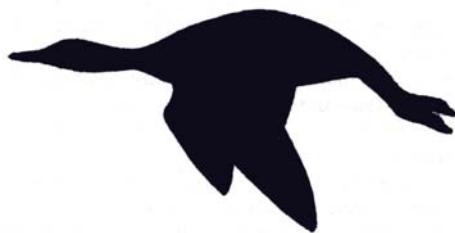
Paul Schwalbe writes: "There is no doubt that events like this one (Clark's Grebe sighting) illustrates the need for a Pennsylvania records committee. I would support the establishment of such a committee whole heartedly. It would not only help keep the records clean but would establish guidelines for observers in the field of what they should do to have acceptable evidence for unusual observations. A records committee would also remove the burden from the editors of any publication - local, state or national; of having to pass judgment on such cases, which is never easy."

However, in order to be accepted by the birders throughout the state, such a committee would have to be established on a recognized authoritative base. No doubt a state-wide ornithological association of some sort would be the best vehicle for this. I'm not sure how it could be done otherwise. We have talked about a state-wide ornithological organization at our atlasing meetings, and we certainly would like to see one materialize in the near future."

What the above letters, as well as many telephone conversations, boil down to is the need for a committee to review all records of unusual sightings. The purpose of the committee would be to encourage submission of reports for possible inclusion in the Official State List. The submission of reports that are eventually determined not acceptable for the official state list would be just as important as accepted records in compiling an historical picture of Pennsylvania ornithology. As stated above, just because a sighting may not be accepted for a state list does not mean that the bird was not there or was incorrectly identified. Criteria that are used by most other state committees eliminate the need to judge an observer's credibility by requiring a photograph or specimen. This way, personalities and prejudice are removed from the process. As Editors of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS it is a very difficult position to have to be sole judges of final inclusion of information. It is important not to let good records go by unreported for fear of not being included on a historical basis.

Until such time as a records committee has been established, we will have to take the possibly unpopular position of deferring acceptance of undocumented (photograph or specimen) reports of species that are first state records or rare and difficult to identify. These records will be submitted to the committee once established and their judgment will be duly reported in this journal. For the moment they will remain as hypothetical, although it is necessary to quantify just what that word means. To our way of thinking it is not that the individual was not believed, just that he/she could not for any of many reasons provide a photograph or specimen. No matter what criteria are established, it will be difficult to meet them. A good birder birding alone (one definition of a good birder) may not have with him (or own) a camera or the bird may not conveniently die on the spot.

We are currently working towards the establishment of such a committee and hope that it will resolve these issues in the near future.



Sorting Out the Chickadees in Southwestern Pennsylvania

by Kenneth C. Parkes

When W.E. Clyde Todd was doing his late 19th century field work that ultimately led to his classical "Birds of Western Pennsylvania" (1940), he was unaware that two species of chickadee, the black-capped (*Parus atricapillus*) and the Carolina (*P. carolinensis*), occurred in the southwestern part of the state. Eventually this was called to his attention, but as he confessed in his book, he was unable to sort out his earlier records. He told me that he knew the voices of the two species were supposed to differ, but he was unable to distinguish them, for the excellent reason that he had originally learned the *combined* vocabularies of both as representing the full spectrum of songs and calls of the black-capped chickadee. Those of us who grew up in an area where only one species occurs have little difficulty in recognizing the voice of the other species as "different" the first time we encounter it.

Todd's confusion has had reverberations to the present day, most easily seen in the chickadee records from southwestern Pennsylvania in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in American Birds and its predecessors. Some CBC's, especially in recent years, have attempted to sort out sightings of the two species. The CBC's are nearly useless for anyone trying seriously to determine the relative distribution of the two species in our area.

How can we improve this situation? In two ways: by learning to tell the species apart, and by admitting that many individual chickadees simply cannot be identified under CBC conditions. Tony Leukering, CBC editor for American Birds, enthusiastically supports my recommendation that count compilers in areas where both species are likely to occur in winter accept "chickadee sp." as a category, just as, for example, "scoter sp." or "white-winged gull sp." have long been acceptable for other difficult species.

Distinguishing the two species by sight is exceptionally difficult, even with long practice, unless typical individuals of the two are seen literally side-by-side (and they do occur in mixed flocks, even as late as mid-April). In typical black-caps, the edgings of the wing and tail are conspicuously white, whereas those of the Carolina are gray. However, this character becomes less and less useful as the winter progresses, because the edgings wear away and become dirtied. Furthermore, the northeastern subspecies of Carolina chickadee has noticeable *paler* gray edgings to the flight feathers than those from say, Washington, D.C. southward, thus more closely approaching the color of the black-capped. I have had the experience of thinking that the wing and tail edgings of a chickadee I was watching in Frick Park were "white" until a *real* black-cap came by for direct comparison. Size is also of little use without direct comparison, but if this is possible, the Carolina will be seen to be somewhat smaller in all dimensions, and *proportionately* shorter-tailed. Some field guides mention the supposed "neat" appearance of the lower edge of the black bib of the Carolina - in other words, the contrast between the black of the bib edge and the adjacent white of the lower breast being sharp, rather than "blurred" by the edge feathers having white tips. Examination of the dozens of specimens of both species in The Carnegie Museum of Natural History clearly shows that this at best an average character and not be relied on for field identification, as many specimens show the supposed bib character of the "wrong" species.

The best separation of the two chickadees is by voice. The whistled "fee-bee" song of the black-capped is normally composed of only two notes, the first one higher on the scale; sometimes the second note is split into two, "fee-bee-bee." The normal Carolina song is *doubled*, with two "fee-bees" in rapid succession, and the second one often differing in pitch from the first. The "chickadee-dee-dee" call of the Carolina is higher and decidedly *faster* than that of the black-capped. This is most easily noticed if you have been listening to one species most of the time and then hear the other one; it is harder to estimate the pitch and speed of an isolated chickadee observation, but with practice it isn't difficult.

The only problem with all of this is that the two chickadee species are known to hybridize occasionally where their breeding ranges overlap, as is the case in southwestern Pennsylvania. A female Carolina that appeared one spring at Powdermill almost certainly mated with a black-cap and produced hybrid young. Some individual specimens in the museum collection, although not of known parentage, appear to be intermediate between the species and are probably hybrids. To complicate things even further, in an unpublished M.S. thesis at the University of Pittsburgh, Marie Crock found that abnormal song types occur in the species' contact zone, possibly as a result of young birds learning the song of the "wrong" species; there also appears to be *convergence* in the call rate of the two species in this area, possibly developing as a communication within mixed-species flocks. This means that certain individual chickadees in southwestern Pennsylvania simply cannot be identified accurately in any way under field conditions.

I strongly recommend, therefore, that birders, especially CBC participants, make an effort to study the characters of both species in areas where only one occurs, in order to be able better to sort them out on CBC's. For the black-capped, this means, essentially, northeast of Allegheny County and in the mountains; for the Carolina in the breeding season, Washington and Greene Counties west into Ohio south of the Ohio River should be fairly safe, although George Hall in his recent "West Virginia Birds" (1983) points out that the increasing numbers of wintering black-caps in that state have resulted in some individuals remaining to breed in what had always been thought of as strictly Carolina area. The ranges of *both* species seem to be shifting, as the Carolina has been replacing the black-capped in the eastern areas of Pittsburgh and adjacent suburbs in recent years (*fide* R. Mulvihill and personal observation).

The second strong recommendation is to record by species only those chickadees encountered on southwestern Pennsylvania CBC's that have been *definitely* identified, and add the category "chickadee sp.?" to the CBC lists. This designation will be fully acceptable to the CBC editor.

Dr. Parkes is Chief Curator of Section of Birds, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh. This article was originally published in the Bulletin, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.



Recent Range Expansion and Population Increase of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus* (Linnaeus) in Pennsylvania

by Franklin C. Haas

Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data have revealed a steady range expansion and population increase for the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Pennsylvania since 1954.

In Pennsylvania, the Red-bellied Woodpecker appears in the records of ornithologists and naturalists dating back to the mid-1800's. The perceived abundance of this species has apparently fluctuated greatly over the years. In Cumberland County, Baird (1845) listed it as an "abundant, more so in Winter; resident." While Frey (1943) found it "a very rare Winter visitant" in the same county.

Michener (1863) found this species frequent as a resident(?), but rare in Summer in Chester County. Stone (1894), however, described it as a rare and irregular straggler, and knew of no recent nesting records for Delaware or Chester Counties.

Amico *et al.* (1984) list it as a "fairly common resident" though it was listed as very rare by Beck (1924), in Lancaster County. Poole (1947) states "A rare visitant. Probably more frequent formerly." in Berks County. The first record for the Poconos was reported by Street (1976) on January 21, 1968 and he now considers it (1986) "well established as a breeding bird along the Blue Mountain and in the valleys to the north of it."

In central Pennsylvania, Kunkle (1951) reported only one record for the Lewisburg region in 1941 and Wood (1983) described it as "Regular, uncommon in all months, after 1960; before, a rare visitor" for the State College area.

Todd (1940) states in his writings about western Pennsylvania, "There is reason to believe...that the Red-bellied Woodpecker was not originally an inhabitant of this section and that its invasion of the area has occurred within comparatively recent times." Todd also mentions the tendency of some individuals to wander northward in Winter which has led to Winter records in the northern counties.

Brauning (1986) states "the Red-bellied Woodpecker is (now) reported from over a third of all Atlas blocks and from all but the mountainous north central counties."

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is a permanent resident throughout most of its range. There is some migratory movement in Winter, especially in the northern parts of its range (Bent). However, as noted above, some of this movement may be northward.

Christmas Bird Counts have been taken since 1900, and especially in recent years have been fairly reliable indicators of the occurrence and abundance of non-migratory species. Upon becoming the compiler for the Glenolden (Delaware County) CBC in 1980, the author noticed, while reviewing the records, a striking pattern in the occurrence of Red-bellied Woodpecker. The Glenolden Count was started in 1922, but there was no record of Red-bellied Woodpeckers until 1957, when two were reported. Figure 1 shows the record of Red-bellied Woodpecker on the Glenolden CBC since 1957.

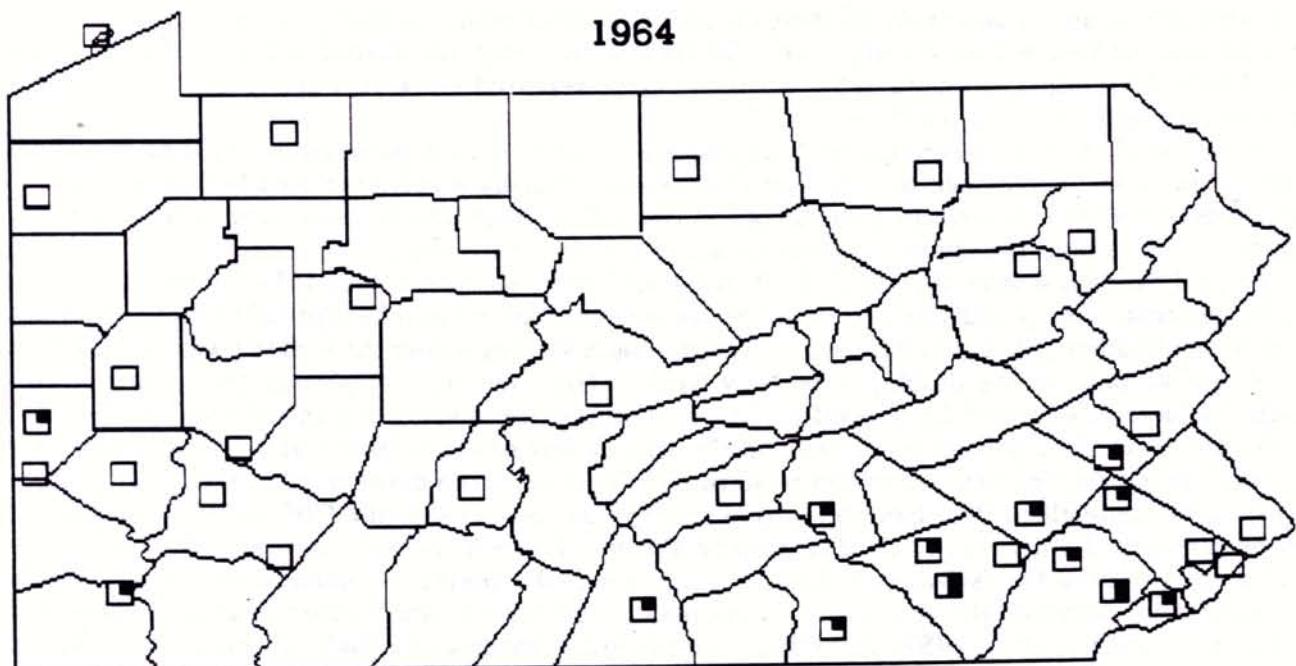
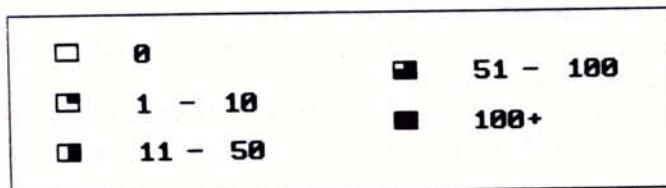
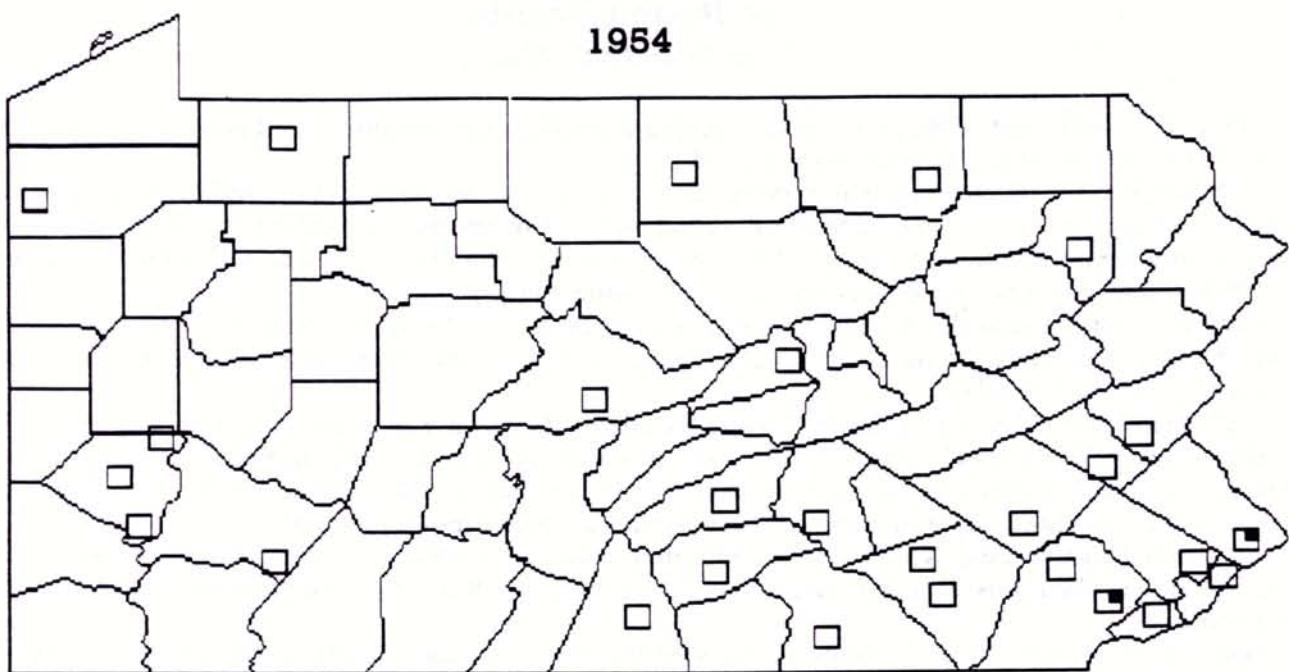
A review of the CBC's throughout Pennsylvania revealed similar patterns in occurrence and abundance. Figure 2 shows the percentage of CBC's in Pennsylvania that have recorded Red-bellied Woodpeckers since 1954. Figure 3 shows the average number of individual birds reported by those same counts during the same period. As can be seen, the numbers on both charts show the steady increase.

Maps 1 through 4 show the CBC's in Pennsylvania every ten years since 1954. The pattern of dispersal is readily apparent. One population started in the southeastern corner and has spread to most of the eastern half of the state. Another population has spread from the southwestern corner through the western tier counties.

A similar pattern has developed in New York. However, in New York, the greater expansion and population increase occurred in the western half of the state, the reverse of Pennsylvania. Bull (1974) felt that the western New York population arrived via Ontario by way of the midwest, rather than from Pennsylvania. The majority of first breeding records for western New York occurred between 1961 and 1971. In northwestern Pennsylvania, Red-bellied Woodpeckers started showing up on the Linesville CBC in 1963 (missed in 1964) and have been recorded every year since. This may be a result of New York birds moving south into the state rather than the southwestern Pennsylvania population jumping over the intervening parts of western Pennsylvania.

Summary: Although the Red-bellied Woodpecker had been a rare breeder in Pennsylvania since at least the 1800's, it wasn't until the 1950's that it began to expand its range and establish itself as a permanent resident throughout the state.

Red-bellied Woodpecker Occurrences on Pennsylvania CBC's



Red-bellied Woodpecker Occurrences on Pennsylvania CBC's

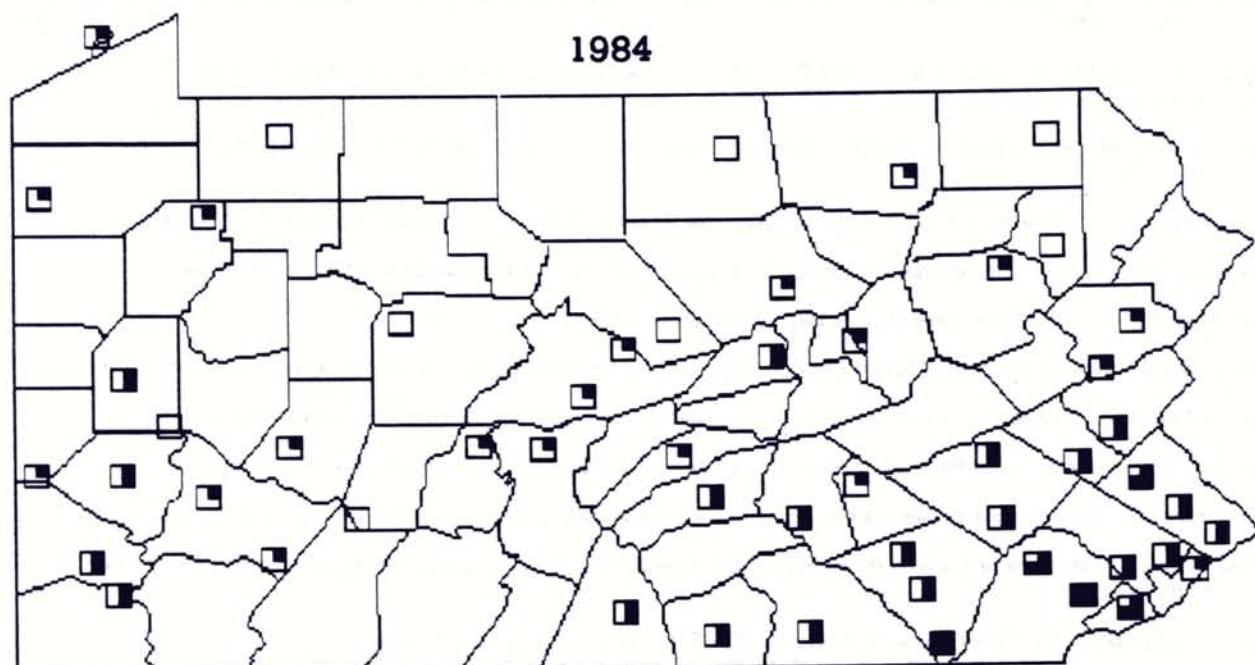
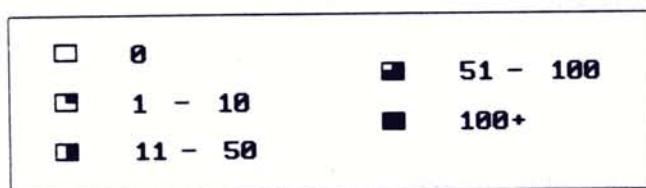
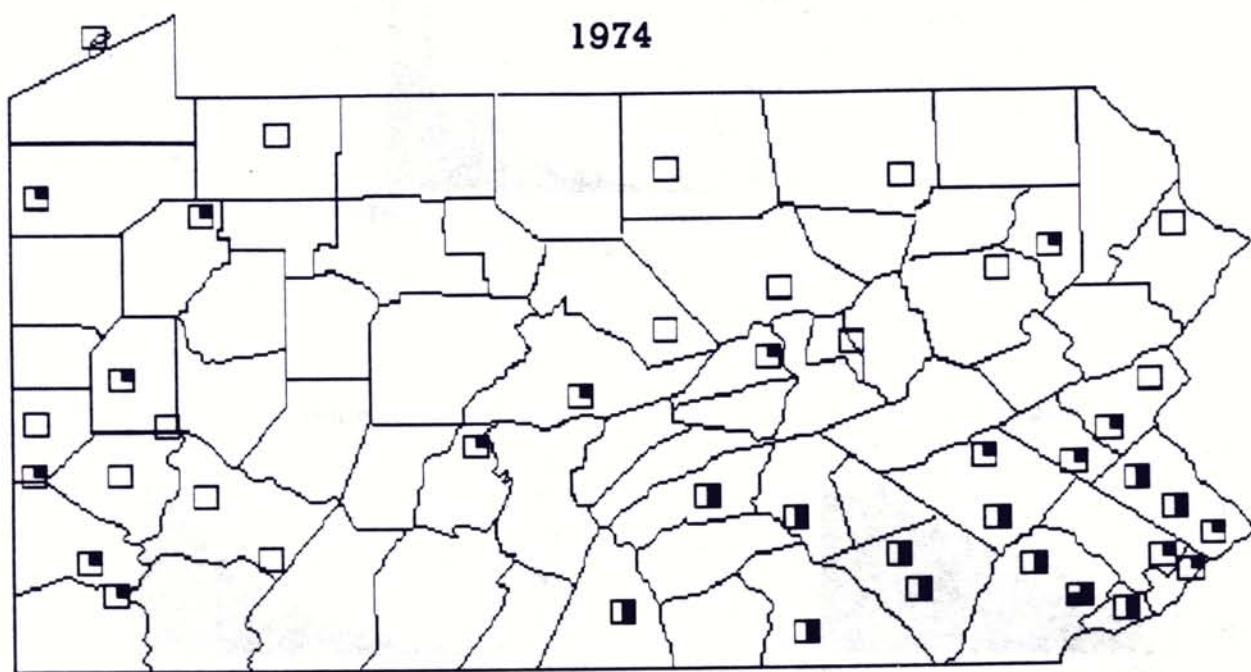


Figure 1

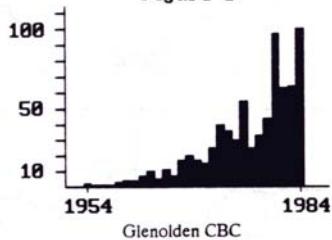


Figure 2

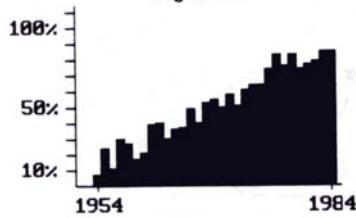
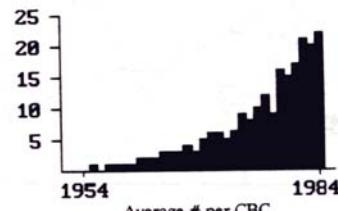


Figure 3



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A Peregrine Falcon - Unable to Fly (This Story Has a Happy Ending)

by Gary L. Freed

On Thursday evening, October 1, 1987, a high school teaching colleague and friend of mine, Skip, called to say that there was a hawk along the road in front of his house near Spinnerstown (upper Bucks County). He had chased it off the road into a brushy area--it was unable to fly--and then had phoned me. He described the bird as having a grayish-colored back, and standing about a foot high. (A Sharpie, I thought.) My response to Skip was that we couldn't do anything in the dark; if the bird could be found the next day, we would attempt to get it to a wild animal rehabilitator.

The next morning, Skip reported that the bird had survived the night and was still in the same location. I then called Mary Jane Stretch, Director, The Aark, Newtown, Bucks Co. She is renowned for her ability to rehabilitate injured wild animals. A few years earlier she had successfully rehabilitated a Broad-Winged Hawk which had been hit by a car. When I had taken that bird to her it was in shock and near death, apparently the result of a concussion.

After school I grabbed my camera, hip boots (the hawk was along a little stream) and gloves and hurried with my 12-year old son Steve, to Skip's place. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the bird--a Peregrine Falcon! It was apparent that the bird had a broken right wing. Obviously one could not expect to get that close to a healthy peregrine for photos or for any other reason. I told Skip, while we were capturing the falcon, that we had to be careful not to get raked by the talons--that they were much more dangerous than the beak. At that moment, the bird proceeded to bite right through Skip's leather glove into his finger tip!

The falcon was an immature bird, probably a male and probably of the tundra (*F. p. tundrius*) race. I made these assumptions based on the plates and descriptions in the new Peterson field guide, Hawks, by Clark and Wheeler. My general impression was that this bird was small for a Peregrine, standing barely one foot high. The apparent small size, thin moustache mark, grayish back with wide, buffy feather fringes, all suggested tundra race; small size suggested male.

When I phoned Mary Jane to say that we were on our way with the bird, and that it was a peregrine, I felt she doubted my identification. She seemed astonished to see that it was a peregrine when she opened the box! Upon examination, she told us that the break was high on the wing, and that this type of break was more likely to heal well than are fractures in other parts of the wing. She set it with tape while Skip and I held the bird, and then placed it in a quiet, dark compartment to minimize excitement. Mary Jane's prognosis was optimistic. The plan was: three weeks with the splint in place, one week in a flight pen, and, if all went well, release into the wild soon after. The Peregrine Falcon is an endangered species and requires special attention to governmental details. Mary Jane notified the proper authorities in Harrisburg and received permission to keep the bird and to follow her plan of action for its rehabilitation.

It was of interest to see what she fed raptors--cockerels. Cockerels are newborn roosters which, being of no economic value to hatcheries, are routinely destroyed. They have great nutritional value as interim raptor food, and provide the necessary roughage for pellet production.

I called The Aark on October 30th to determine the status of the falcon and to ask when it might be released. The news exceeded my greatest expectations. The falcon had "escaped" October 23rd--a three-week total recovery! During the third week, the bird had removed its splint. Mary Jane replaced the splint, but the peregrine immediately removed it, so the wing was left unsplinted. A couple of days later when she removed the bird from the quiet box to go into a flight pen, it fought her so strongly that she released it. The bird never even made it to a flight pen! Mary Jane reported that it had flown out and up in unbelievable form--a perfect flight. She further mentioned that such a quick recovery is actually not unusual for a strong and otherwise healthy bird, especially during migration when all instincts are encouraging it to move south. How's that for a happy ending!

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATORS

In keeping with the article on the Peregrine Falcon rehabilitation, we called the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, Milford, Pike County, to obtain a list of Pennsylvania licensed rehabilitators. While reading this list, please consider the following. The DVRC is in desperate need of a new large freezer. The one which was donated to them some years ago bit the dust. The freezer is used for the storage of rats, mice and other foods necessary for recovery. The approximate cost would be \$350.00 for a new one, although a used one would be equally appreciated. Please contact them if you know of one available or send a donation earmarked for same. Without the freezer it is necessary to make several trips each week to obtain an adequate supply of food.

Steven E. Boyer
408 Front Street
Marysville, PA 17053
717-957-2520

Hope Carpenter
Pennsylvania Raptors
R.D. 1, Box 1470
Mt. Bethel, PA 18343
717-897-6659

Ed and Tink Reish
PA Raptors Satellite
R.D. 4, Box 277
Montoursville, PA 17754
717-435-5906

Beth & John Carriacato
Knights Rd., R.D. 1
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Thomas M. Dick, VMD
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904
Home: 814-266-6412
Office: 814-266-7912

Katherine J. Dubin
Forest Sauvage
Tobylanna, PA 18466
717-894-8850

Hawk Mt.Sanctuary
James Brett
Kempton, PA 19529
215-756-6961

Humane Society of HBG Area
Brad Weaver
East Shore Shelter
7790 Grayson Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-564-3320

Linda Lee
Confluence Mill
Pine Forge, PA 19548
215-326-6541

Edwin J. Andrew, VMD, PhD
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
3800 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-898-7891

Mike Ondki
1172 Fox Hill Road
State College, PA 16801
814-237-1857

Jeffrey M. Ott, VMD
Franklin Veterinary Assn.
2380 Buchanan Trail West
Greencastle, PA 17225
717-597-7711

Shaver's Creek Envir. Center
Corkie Potter, Director
267 Recreation Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802

William & Stephanie Streeter
Delaware Valley Raptor Center
Box 9335, R.R. 2
Milford, PA 18337
717-296-8862

Bob Astegher
Del. Valley Raptor Ctr. Satellite
R.D. 6, Box 342
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
717-836-3926

Mary Jane Stretch
The Aark
107 Twinning Brdige Road
Newtown, PA 18940
215-968-4963

Patricia & Nelson Sanborn
885 Bob-O-Link Lane
West Chester, PA 19380
215-692-3341

Willow Creek Animal Hospital
R. D. 2, Box 2037
Reading, PA 19605

Patricia R. O'Connell
638 Turner Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
215-259-7939

Christie Gisewhite
P.O. Box 224
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-248-2237

Margaret Scanlon
329 Babcock Boulevard
Gibsonia, PA 15044
412-625-1397

Danita D. Wampler
R.D. 2, Box 354
Annville, PA 17003
717-865-2948

Linda Lavino
750 Andorra Road
Lafayette, PA 19444
215-836-1459

Nancy P. Crissman
R.D. 9, Box 223
Bloomsburg, Pa 17815
717-458-4462

Harriet K. Wilson
R. D. 7, Box 406
Meadville, PA 16335
814-337-5586

Frogs at the Knob

by Arlene Koch

There are a great many places to watch hawks in Pennsylvania. One of them is Bake Oven Knob, a rock outcropping along the Blue Mountain ridge, northeast of Hawk Mountain. Toward the end of August, the tourists who climb to the top to look at the view and take a few pictures are joined by an ever-changing parade of people with back-packs, thermoses, bag lunches, and (most importantly) birding scopes and binoculars. We the late-comers are here for the fall migration.

In the sweltering days of late August when the temperatures often hit 95°F, when the bugs are buzzing around your face, and you think you can't stand the heat or the bugs for one minute longer -- suddenly, a hummingbird casually wings its way up to your ear, lingers for a bit, then flies off on its merry way south. That little 2-ounce package of feathers makes you stop wondering why you're sitting there instead of in someone's swimming pool on your only day off.

As the days move by, the weather changes; sometimes just a week can mean a temperature drop of 30 degrees and a switch to northwest winds. The big birds begin to move. Migration usually begins as a trickle, building up into a crescendo somewhere around the second week of September with huge Broad-winged Hawk flights. These flights remain relatively steady, depending on the weather, through the end of October. Some days may bring as many as 600 sharpies along with a peppering of kestrels, red-tails, Cooper's, and a few Merlins or Peregrine Falcons. The number of migrants begins to die down gradually through the month of November. However, it is also then that the REALLY big birds wing their way down past the rocks--the red-tails en masse, the goshawks, the roughlegs, and the kings of the mountain, the golden and bald eagles.

This year I took part in an organized hawk watch at The Knob. Sunday was my day to be the "official counter" on the lookout. From mid-August to late-November, I woke up every Sunday at around 5:30 a.m., spent an hour getting everything ready, spent another hour driving, spent 15 minutes walking up to the top of The Knob, and then spent the next 7 or 8 hours sitting among the rocks, peering into the distance, waiting for the next bird to appear over the horizon. Everything had to be recorded, from the wind direction to the number of praying mantises that flew past. Needless to say, the array of wildlife one can observe while doing something like this can be spectacular, but, almost as interesting as the birds I observed were the people I talked to, watched, ignored, yelled at, laughed with, or cursed during my hours on duty.

Unfortunately, the overall impression that remains from my observations was that all too many people have no respect for the natural world, and that they also have little regard for any enjoyment other people might be trying to get out of being in a "wild" place. College students, high school students, young couples with babies, older couples with no babies, and sweethearts holding hands as they tried to maneuver their way up along the rocky trail--all seemed to have one thing in common on Sunday afternoons...they couldn't seem to make it to the top of the lookout without a beer bottle in hand. (For many the outdoors seems to have become synonymous with Miller Lite and Spuds Mackenzie.) And, alas, the icy glare which I usually gave these people never did any good; the beer bottles remained long after the people were gone.

When I got up to the rocks by 8 in the morning, I usually found myself alone, or with very few people around. It was quiet then; the parking lot was empty except for the remnants of the previous night's beer party, and you could actually hear the squirrels on the ground and the birds in the trees. When I came down late in the afternoon, however, I never knew what I would run into.

One group of people I saw on the trail late in October does stick out in my mind for other than "litter" reasons. I tried to keep my head down as they filed past me, modern-day "punkers," with their unusual clothes and haircuts. I admit that, to me, they seemed out of place on the Appalachian Trail. The young woman at the back of the group really stood out. Her head was shaved, except for a Mohawk strip right down the middle, dyed fluorescent orange--certainly one of the strangest looking spectacles I had ever seen--sort of like watching a walking grapefruit with the head of a toothbrush stuck in it! "To each, his/her own," I guess!

Then, of course, there was the day the bear was chasing people down the trail... But, the most memorable--in a negative sense--event up there this year occurred the Sunday morning during which I inadvertently became witness to what appeared to be some sort of religious ceremony. It was early in the season, late August, and there were few birds moving and no people to speak of. I was alone on the South Lookout when I heard a group of people coming up the trail. I heard them before I saw them because half of the group consisted of young boys about 7 to 10 years of age. With them were a couple in their mid-30's, and an older woman whom they were all calling "Mammy;" she appeared to be in charge.

Upon arrival at the top, the boys immediately began running around on the dangerous edges of the outcropping, going out much further than was safe, and generally acting like the kind of kids you try to avoid in the supermarket. Even though I was sitting right in the midst of all of this, they seemed oblivious to my presence. After about five minutes of this, "Mammy" sweetly said "It's time to begin," and told them to be careful so they wouldn't fall.

Surprised by the tardy safety warning, I turned to watch them. One by one, the boys climbed to the outermost edge of the rocks and threw something over. It wasn't until the last boy opened his hand that I could see what they were throwing--live frogs (which they may or may not have picked up from the puddle by the parking lot)! That done, they walked to a spot behind me, and sat down in a circle. "Mammy" then began reading aloud from a book and quoted from it, talking about "having respect for God's world." Eventually, one boy stuck his knife into a tree; "Mammy" told him not to stick the blade in too far, so he wouldn't damage his knife! "How could lobbing live frogs to their deaths, and stabbing trees be 'respect for God's world,'" I asked myself. At that point, I could take no more; I left, unable to appreciate their lack of appreciation for the wonders around them.



Water Street Warblers

by David Kyler

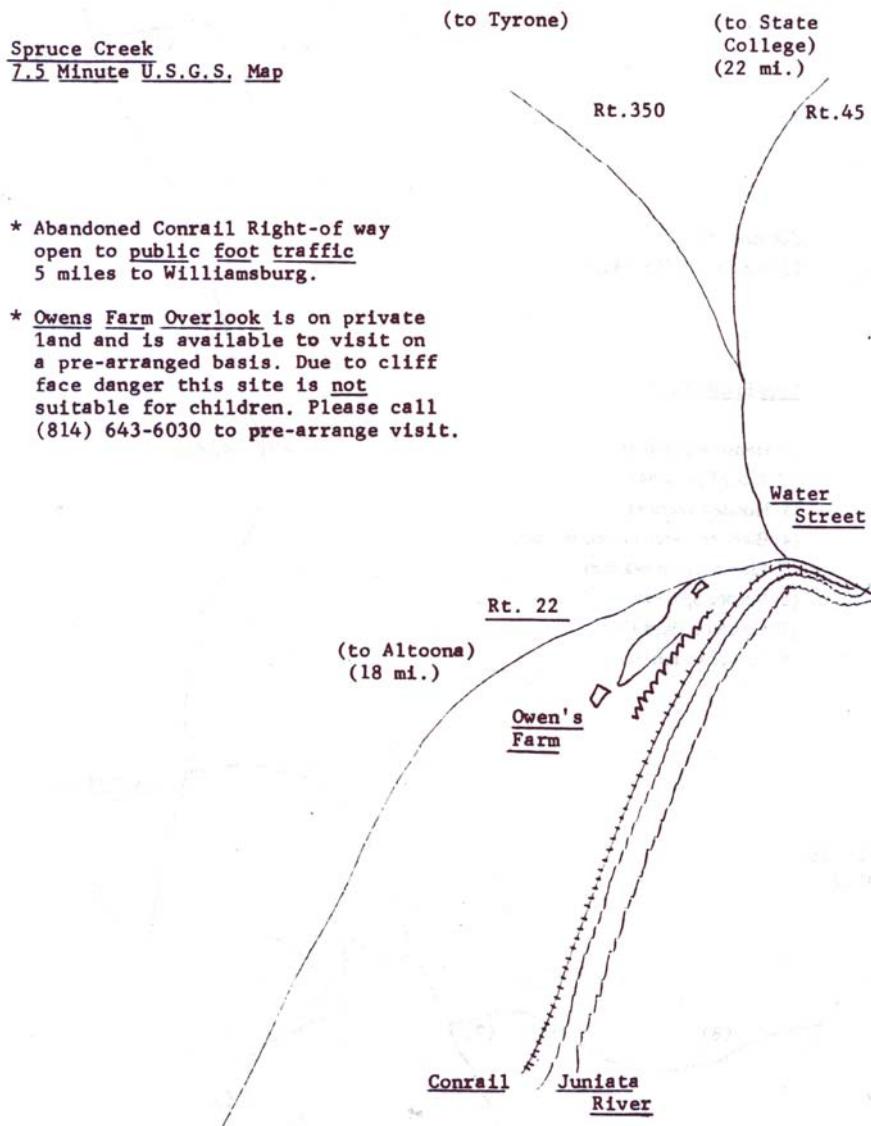
As the rainy month of April gives way to the warmer month of May, and the amount of daylight steadily increases, my thoughts are drawn to a low ridge, close to home, where I have experienced the magic of the wood warbler migration. Each of the past five years, I have traveled to this ridge with the hope of enjoying a warbler "wave" and to date I have not been disappointed.

The "ridge", located just south of the town of Water Street, between Altoona and Huntingdon on Rt. 22, is unique, both in its orientation and opportunity for good birding. Bordered by an upland valley to the west and the Juniata River to the east, the ridge offers a natural northeast corridor for migrants. Tussey Mt., one of the longest main ridges east of the Allegheny plateau, finds a break at the Water Street Gap, and this seems to funnel the migrating warblers along the above-mentioned corridor.

A 200 ft cliff face has been carved out by past mining operations and is visible along much of the ridge's east flank. The top of the ridge, accessible through private land, is covered with loose stands of pine and scrub oak. It is along this path that the warbler flights come in early May. Early morning "fallouts" of Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Chestnut-sided warblers are common, usually accompanied by Yellow-throated and Solitary vireos. Literally underfoot, at the cliff's edge, are Am. Redstarts, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Blue warblers working the shrubs for food. The sheer drop allows the observer the unusual opportunity of "looking down" on feeding Cerulean Warblers.

From far below are heard the calls of Louisiana Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wild Turkey. From the base of the cliff, along the river, one can travel along an abandoned railroad right-of-way to observe the low-level species. Yellow Warblers and Redstarts can be heard singing above the river noise. Belted Kingfishers constantly patrol the river while Rose-breasted Grosbeaks give their metallic "pink" from overhead. Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers have been reported using this flyway during early May, always at the lower level.

While other habitats may offer many different species, both resident and migrant, I believe that no other area offers as many as the Water Street area in early May. And early next May I expect to be once again drawn to that area in search for the returning wood warblers.



Trough Creek Valley

by David Kyler

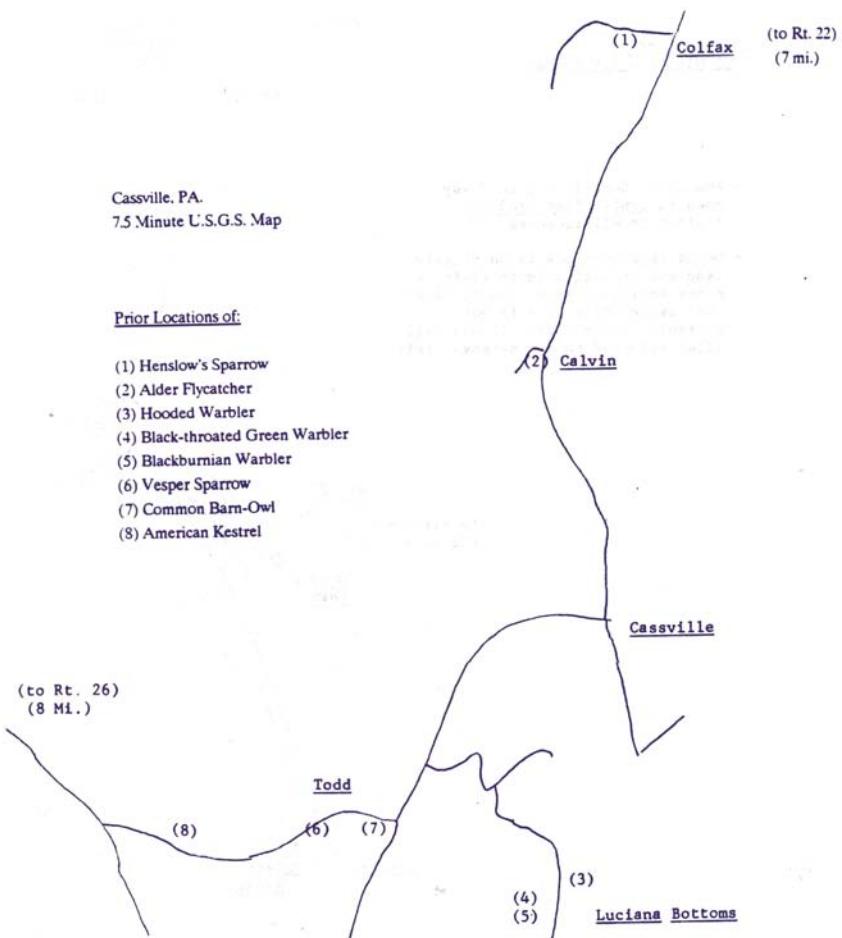
Trough Creek Valley is actually a misnomer. This upland valley is more of a rolling plain than a valley and is home for a number of locally unusual species. Located just east of Lake Raystown in Huntingdon County, this plain claims an average altitude 500' higher than the surrounding ridge and valley system. Bordered by Terrace Mt. on the west, by Sideling Ridge on the east, and by the "Broad Top Coal Fields" on the south, this enclosed basin sees its entire drainage leave via the Greater Trough Creek to empty into Lake Raystown.

Trough Creek State Park, now at the mouth of Greater Trough Creek, is a natural area filled with fast flowing streams and glens full of rhododendron. Louisiana Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Ovenbird and Worm-eating Warbler all make their home here. Barred Owl and Whip-poor-will are often heard calling from deeper in the mature woods. Just upstream, above the Park, the land is relatively flat and uninhabited. Nature is busily reclaiming old abandoned farms and the unused, open fields are prime habitat for Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows and E. Meadowlarks. Kestrel and Common Barn-Owl also use these fields for their hunting preserve.

Near the town of Todd, the Greater Trough Creek splits into its two feeding branches, the Little and the Great. Following the Little northward, towards the village of Calvin, a freshwater marsh is found that supports both Willow and Alder flycatcher. Great Horned Owl and Am. Woodcock nest locally. At the headwaters of this branch, near the town of Colfax, is this county's only reported colony of nesting Henslow's Sparrow.

East of Todd, along the Great Trough Creek, are open fields that support both Grasshopper and Vesper sparrow. Passing through reclaimed strip mining areas, this branch flows through "Luciana Bottoms", which is a remote deep woods area with no human population. Here are found Black-throated Green and Blackburnian warblers along with Solitary Vireo. Brown Creeper are also numerous, probably due to the extensive gypsy moth devastation in the immediate area. Hooded Warblers can be heard calling from the dense underbrush and Acadian Flycatcher can again be found in large numbers.

Whether it is the higher elevation, the scarcity of humans, or the combination of the two, Great Trough Creek Valley offers the Pennsylvania birder an upland oasis in the midst of the ridge and valley system.



Stony Creek Valley

by Steve Santner

Stony Creek Valley is a roadless area of approximately 90 sq. mi. in central Dauphin and northern Lebanon Counties, bounded on the north by Rt. 325, on the south by Rt. 443, and extending from just east of the town of Dauphin east to Gold Mine Rd., south of Tower City. Most of the area is contained within State Game Lands #211. Access to the area is from an abandoned railroad bed running the entire length of the valley or from several trails, including the Appalachian. To avoid getting lost in Stony Valley, it is a good idea to use topographical maps. The most useful are USGS 7.5 min. series maps of the following quadrangles: Indiantown Gap, Tower City, Grantville, Enders, and Halifax.

Stony Valley is primarily secondary deciduous woodland with small areas of pine woodland and some fairly large patches of swampy hemlock and mixed woodland. There is one large plantation of mixed pine on top of Sharpe Mt. and a few small grain fields and brushy areas maintained by the State Game Commission.

Winter is a period of quiet in Stony Valley. There is less food here than in the more populated areas outside. Also, there is more snow here than even a few miles south in the piedmont south of Blue Mt. Some years snowshoes are required to move around once off the railroad bed. Although birds are few, there have been some winters in which flocks of 100-500 Common Redpolls have wandered through the valley. Evening Grosbeaks are always present in at least low numbers and it is always fun to study the tracks in the snow. This is especially productive along the faster moving creeks and runs containing open water and more winter food than the drier habitats.

Migration of landbirds is very good, although the birds are often more difficult to see here, due to the dense vegetation. Migration tends to be better in the western end of the valley; probably the Susquehanna River at the western end of the region serves as a major highway channeling the birds north and south.

Hawk migration can be followed in spring or fall from a watch established on Second Mt. The watch is located at a clearing approximately 1 mi east of Cold Spring Rd. along a jeep trail (accessible by car if care is taken) on the ridge called Second Mt. Cars are permitted along Cold Spring Rd. and hawk watch trail only. This area is part of Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. Live firing takes place along other jeep trails in the area!

The major attractions of this area, at least for southeastern Pennsylvania birders, are northern breeding species. Since most are at the southern edge of their breeding ranges, they are less common than they would be in a comparable area further north. Nevertheless, if you enjoy hiking and can spend some time, you will see many species not found in summer south of Blue Mt. Northern species to be looked for in summer include N. Goshawk (rare), Ruffed Grouse, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (very rare), Least Flycatcher (mostly Clark's Valley), Cliff Swallow (Marquette Lake and Dehart Dam), Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren (Raush Run), Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo (fairly common), Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler (once, in the pine plantation on Sharpe Mt.), Black-throated Blue* Warbler (rare), Black-throated Green Warbler (fairly common), Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush (rare), Chestnut-sided Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Other birds of interest to be looked for include Barred Owl (common), Pileated Woodpecker, Wild Turkey (common, but hard to find), Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawk, both cuckoos, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler (abundant, but hard to see in laurel thickets), Worm-eating Warbler, and Pine Warbler (rare). Edge habitat in Stony Valley is the best area locally to find the Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler hybrids. The parent Blue-winged is fairly common in the region while the Golden-winged is scarce. Brewster's Warbler has been found at both ends of the valley, while the rarer Lawrence's Warbler has been found at two sites at the western end of the valley near the road along Stony Creek just outside the State Game Lands.

Also of interest in the Stony Valley region are the non-feathered animals. One which can be found fairly easily if you leave the railroad bed and travel the less-used side trails is the Timber Rattlesnake. Although not especially aggressive, they are large enough to be very dangerous if provoked. This snake is usually seen or heard before one is too close, while the other poisonous snake of the area, the Copperhead, is the color of fallen leaves and is often unnoticed. Due to its small size, no one has ever died of its bite. Nevertheless, it is wise to wear leather boots unless you plan to stay on the wider, more-travelled trails. Mammals in Stony Valley are also of note, although rarely seen. Black Bear and Coyote are actually fairly common, while Bobcat is probably regular but almost never seen. There is even a plausible recent report of Mountain Lion! All in all, the Stony Creek Valley is a unique area in southcentral Pennsylvania.

Birding the Mont Clare Canal

by Neal Thorpe

One area in Montgomery County is distinguished not only by the fact that the river bank is tree-lined and unspoiled, but also by the presence of a two-mile canal that parallels it. The canal runs past the villages of Mont Clare and Port Providence, and is of considerable historical interest. The two waterways and the varied habitats along them also make the area of considerable interest to birders. Over the last 15 years I have accumulated a list of 116 species seen on or over the river and its islands, in the cleared picnic groves, the tangles of blackberry and willow, the small floodplain and the woodlands that line the river's bank. ?@ in the area.??

The Rt. 29 bridge that crosses the river between Phoenixville and Mont Clare also crosses the canal at midpoint. Near the Mont Clare end of the bridge are entrances both upstream and downstream to what were once towpaths. The upstream one is now a paved road and leads to a picnic grove of tall oaks and maples, the old locks at the head of the canal and the 1836 lock house. In summer it's a good area for both hedgerow and canopy birds. Species seen there include Orchard Orioles, nesting Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Barn Swallows nesting in the old masonry walls of the locks, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The most recent addition to my canal-area list was an immature Double-crested Cormorant seen 8/6/87 sitting on a high-tension cable tower directly opposite the lock house.

Upstream from the lock house are steep hills with tall oaks and maples interspersed with conifers. A wooded trail leads upstream along a narrow river bank under steep shale cliffs. Three streams have each cut ravines into the hills, all with trails that wind upward deep into the woods. This is the area in which to find raptors. A pair of Great Horned Owls nest here. A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks have been present for the last two years, and Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures are often seen in the area.

The towpath down river from the Rt. 29 bridge is unpaved, overgrown and eventually comes to a dead end at a canal spillway. Here there is a bit more floodplain between the canal and the river. There are small meadows of flattened grasses and honeysuckle through which one can walk. On the shoreline, unless the water is very high, one can walk out onto a sandbar overgrown with loosestrife that extends into the river. Offshore are numerous islands with spits and mudflats.

The floodplain meadows attract many birds, but I think of them as belonging particularly to sparrows. Song Sparrows dominate, but I have also found Savannahs, Field, Swamp, the occasional Fox Sparrow in April or November, and Tree Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows in winter. In summer, Spotted Sandpipers, Killdeer and Mallards nest on the bar, and during spring migration a Lesser Yellowlegs or even a Solitary Sandpiper may be walking about.

The bar is also a good vantage point from which to look out over the river. The patrolling Belted Kingfisher is year round. Here in early spring one can see the welcome flocks of hundreds of migrant Northern Rough-winged Swallows dancing over the water and in summer one can find herons. Green-backed Herons are common breeders along the river, a solitary Great Blue Heron is often glimpsed, and Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Egrets typically pay brief visits. The river usually has open water all year and in winter it is a haven for large numbers of Canada Geese, Mallards, and Ring-billed Gulls. The river is so shallow here that the diving ducks must go farther upstream to the Betzwood area to feed. Small numbers of Common Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, and Common Goldeneyes also loaf upstream behind Black Rock Dam.

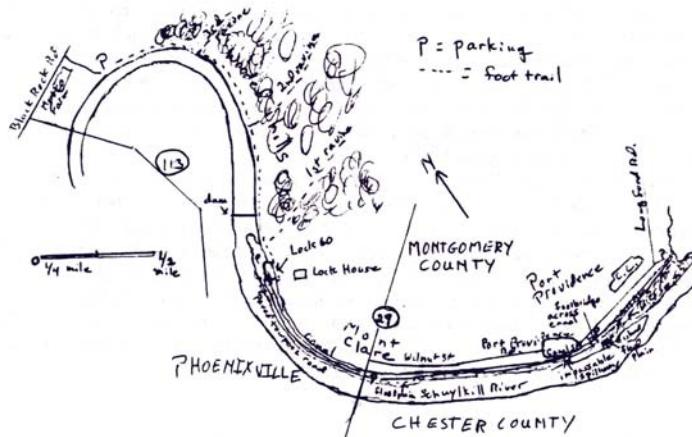
Below the impassable spillway the canal curves away from the river, leaving a broad lowland between it and the river wide enough to accommodate a woods about one-half mile long and 30 acres in extent. The canopy of oaks, maples and tulip trees is high, the understory rampant with honeysuckle tangles, wild grapevines and spicebush. To reach this area it is necessary to backtrack to Rt. 29 and drive down river along Walnut Street and Port Providence Rd. to the Container Corp. plant on the left. Here a sign designates a dirt road dead ahead as the entry to the Schuylkill Canal Recreation Area. There is a parking lot and a trail beyond a barrier leads past the foot of the canal, whose waters here are piped into a small stream that winds through the woods to the river. The river is only a short distance ahead. A riverside trail leads back upstream and a branch trail also follows the stream.

The Schuylkill River may not be the best flyway, but these woods are a good place to catch spring and, especially, fall migrants. I have listed 14 warbler species, as well as Warbling and Solitary Vireos and an Olive-sided Flycatcher. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a regular summer resident until two years ago.

The riverside trail goes upstream for a long half-mile, past a nearby island, and this arm of the river between trail and island is sheltered water. Here one may surprise almost any of the area's waterfowl. At the upstream tip of the island is another floodplain area where I have found a Water Pipit and once, during a non-invasion year, a lonely Common Redpoll.

In 1985 and 1986, a pair of Osprey were regularly found perched at five o'clock on a particular dead tree across the river from these woods. In August of 1986 they were seen with one young. That they bred locally, however, has yet to be confirmed.

This is an area that is easily accessed by many birders in the Montgomery/Bucks County area. I would appreciate receiving information regarding any sightings of birds from here in order that a complete list might be maintained for the area.



Summary of the Season

Fall is always an exciting season and this one was no exception. Bucks County had the first state record of a Green-tailed Towhee. Since it arrived in December but was not identified definitely until January and it is still coming to a feeder, the full story will be given its appropriate attention next issue. Western vagrants showed up all over the Northeast this Fall. Consider the following: A Varied Thrush and Dark-eyed Junco "Oregon race" in Lycoming (arrived in December, reported to birders in February), 2 Rufous-sided Towhees (western "spotted" race) in Erie, a Lewis's Woodpecker in Virginia, a Western Tanager in Maryland, and another Green-tailed Towhee in Nova Scotia.

Many counties along our major rivers experienced a "loon fallout" during November. Fortunately many were rescued. Both species of cormorants also made the news. Lancaster had the first Pennsylvania record of a Great Cormorant away from the Delaware River and several counties reported Double-crested Cormorants on very late dates.

Brant, which were virtually absent in 1986, appeared in Lehigh, Bucks, Carbon, Dauphin, Lancaster, and Erie. Blue-winged Teal remained for some CBC's (Philadelphia and Crawford) and tarried in Warren. Erie had two other interesting records, a female King Eider and an immature male Harlequin Duck, the latter shot by a hunter. The number of Hooded Merganser in Crawford in November was outstanding.

An Osprey in December in Northumberland was quite late for the area. Buteos were not to be outdone. Broad-wings were seen in Crawford as late as 10/11 and in Allegheny until 11/3. Swainson's Hawks were seen in Lehigh, Schuylkill, and Perry, as usual at hawkwatches, in October. A white-phase Gyrfalcon was seen in Lebanon. The special section on Fall hawk migration will become a regular feature.

Shorebirds were few and far between, so a Red Knot in Indiana qualifies it as the best of family this quarter and a first county record.

Erie struck gold again with two excellent gull sightings. The first-winter Sabine's Gull was the county's second record and only the fourth state record. The Black-legged Kittiwake is more expected, but certainly not seen in Pennsylvania every year. Forster's Terns stayed quite late in Delaware and York Counties, but to have them on a CBC in Indiana was quite extraordinary.

Although it was suspected this might be a big Snowy Owl invasion year, only a few counties reported them. A Whip-poor-will in Erie was not only late, but a rare Fall migrant sighting for the area.

Fall flycatcher reports were remarkable. Silent *Empidonax* are always a problem, but when they occur in late Fall they pose particular problems. Read the Forest and Butler reports for tantalizing details. Although E. Phoebe CBC sightings in the southern counties are not all that unusual, the first record for Washington was quite unexpected. The Say's Phoebe in Berks in late December led observers to wonder if it were the same one which appeared there two years ago. And once again for 1987 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher made its appearance, this time in Montour County in mid-October. Most amazing for a species that had not been reported over ten times between 1900 and 1986.

The swallow family had some very late dates in several counties as the reports from York, Chester, Delaware, and Erie will attest.

It was quite disturbing to note that no Loggerhead Shrike was seen in the Commonwealth in 1987. Although never at a status above uncommon, they are indeed now rare. If a cause for their overall decline in the Northeast could be determined, perhaps some sort of reintroduction program could be initiated. We would love to see such research conducted. Is it really a pesticide problem or are other factors at work here?

Some good warbler sightings are scattered among the county reports, including those found on CBC's in Delaware and Warren.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in November and December attested to the warm Fall and having one at a feeder makes the sunflower expense a pleasure. Enough said that we missed yet another Yellow-headed Blackbird. Late Chipping Sparrow reports came from unexpected northern counties. Did anyone miss seeing a Pine Siskin in 1987? They were everywhere and in good numbers. Pine Grosbeak reports were as usual quite restricted and the 25 at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary were a respectable number. Bill Reid in Luzerne does turn up good Red Crossbill numbers. It would be fascinating to determine if they are breeding in that area. There was a very interesting article on crossbills in American Birds that discusses the various races and their dependency on specific forest requirements.

Exotics found this quarter included a Flamingo *sp*, Monk Parakeet, and Eurasian Goldfinch.

And as a final note to wind up 1987. There were 298 species documented in the state, plus 4 hypothetical. The status of the latter four will be acted upon once a State Records Committee has been established. But the important question now is, "What will be found in 1988?" We can't wait to find out.

Abbreviations Frequently Used in County Reports

ad.:adult, Am.:American, BBS: Breeding Bird Survey, c.:central, C:Celsius, CBC:Christmas Bird Count, Cr.:creek, Co.:county, Cos.:counties, *et al.*:and others, e.:eastern, Eur.:European,Eurasian, F:Fahrenheit,*fide*:reported by, Ft.:Fort, imm.:immature, indiv.:individual(s), I.:Island, Is.:Islands, Jct.:Junction, juv.:juvenile, L.:Lake, max.:maximum, min.:minimum, m.ob.:many observers, Mt.:Mountain, Mts.:Mountains, NF:National Forest, NWR:National Wildlife Refuge, PABBAP: Breeding Bird Atlas Project, PGC: PA Game Commission, Res.:Reservoir, R.:River, S.F.: State Forest, SGL:State Game Lands, S.P.:State Park, sp.:species, spp.:species plural, ssp.:subspecies, Twp.:Township, w.:western, WMA: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, ♂:imm. or female, *:specimen, ph.:photographed, ft:feet, mi:miles, m:meters, km:kilometers, date with a + (e.g., May 4+):recorded beyond that date. Compilers may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

Allegheny County

Locations: East McKeesport, Elizabeth Twp., Monroeville, North Park, Pittsburgh (PGH), Round Hill Park (RHP), Shaler Twp., South Park, Whitehall, Wilmerding.

Fairly mild weather prevailed, windy perhaps, with rainy periods interspersed. Snowstorms out the the Mid-west veered, as they so often do, either to the north or to the south. The result was a scant 8-10" total. Even the CBC day (12/26) lacked any snow with temperatures averaging 35-45°F.

CORMORANTS THROUGH WATERFOWL. For a 1st PGH CBC record, 3 **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared on the Monongahela R. If they stayed into January they probably succumbed along with hundreds of other water birds in the infamous oil spill of Jan. 2, 1988. (More gruesome details next issue.) Two **Great Blue Herons** were on the Allegheny R. 12/20 (PB) while the CBC tallied 19 later that week.

It was felt that **Tundra Swans** were about 10 days late passing through the area. Although +50 were heard at night on the late date 12/30, the bulk flew over 11/18-22 (JG). **Canada Goose** summer populations on the lakes and rivers gradually increased in numbers as birds from farther north settled in for the winter. On the Allegheny R. opposite Harrison Twp. 150 were counted 12/20 (PB), while the CBC produced 315 more (JV).

The usual number of **Am. Black Ducks** were found wintering in scattered locations. Valimont accepted for the CBC the highest total in 15 years, 45 individuals. There are undoubtedly many more **Mallards**, even year-round on the county's waterways, than the 1366 turned in on the CBC. Six **Bufflehead** on North Park's Marshall L. 11/7 were the only diving ducks reported other than the 5 species on the CBC: 1 **Lesser Scaup**, 12 **Common Goldeneye**, 9 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Hooded Merganser**, and 1 **Common Merganser**.

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS. Almost as soon as people had begun their winter feeding programs, *accipiters*, especially **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, set up their feeding station routes, much to the consternation of many folk and, of course, of all the small bird (and mammal!) visitors. We take many calls here at the Nature Center from dismayed feeder watchers who begrudge the hawks their natural portion. I'm afraid that at least a few - the natural law and man's protective directives to the contrary notwithstanding - are inclined to take matters into their own hands. The CBC listed only 9 Sharp-shinned and 8 **Cooper's Hawks**. There must be many more in residence outside the immediate CBC circle, e.g., 1 at Monroeville 12/12 (GK), and another at Whitehall 10/8 (WH). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was identified in North Park on the very late date 11/3 (JP). There were 40 **Red-tailed Hawks** found on the CBC.

Wild Turkey, regularly seen in several of the county parks, was missed on the CBC. On the next day indefatigable Hoffmann drummed up 23 in North Park (JH).

Only shorebird reported this quarter was **Killdeer**. There were 6 in Monroeville 10/17 (GK) and 2 in South Park 10/6 (WH).

One of the big stories in the county is the greatly increased presence of gulls on the three rivers. Just within the CBC circle 22 **Bonaparte's**, 63 **Ring-billed**, and 52 unidentified as to species were observed. The last big year for gulls was 1983 when 2 and 28 respectively were specifically identified. Also, in the Monroeville area as many as 25 Ring-billed Gulls were seen (GK).

Nobody pays much attention to **Rock Doves** with the exceptions of the citizenry of numerous city parklets where this motley collection of humanity amuses itself "feeding the pigeons" and maybe the city fathers trying to be rid of the "dirty birds." Nobody, except CBC'ers, who tallied 1217, a mere fraction surely of the county's total. **Mourning Doves**, too, are despised in some circles, but not in the CBC area, where 1229 were on hand. There were 22 at a feeding station near North Park 12/12 (HRL), another 51 were counted in flight 12/29, also near North Park (AG).

Despite the 13 hr. devoted to "owling," the CBC reported only 17 E. **Screech-Owls** and just 2 **Great Horned Owls**.

SWIFTS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS. A flight of 40 **Chimney Swifts** passed over Wilmerding 10/6 (GK). Two were also in South Park 10/12 (WH). Two **Belted Kingfishers** were patrolling the not-yet-frozen streams of Wilmerding 12/10 (GK).

Two female **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** persisted at the North Park feeding station thanks to "special recipe" suet cakes concocted by Ruth Grom. A male Red-bellied became a fervent devotee of the Watko's peanut-laden feeder in Elizabeth at the other end of the county. In between, 32 more were "ticked" on the CBC. The CBC counted 7 species of woodpeckers including 323 **Downy**, 79 **Hairy**, and 38 **N. Flicker**.

Elsewhere in this issue is an article on the identification of chickadees. As a result, an unprecedented number of **Carolina** (54) appeared on the CBC in addition to 804 **Black-capped**. A really gratifying result of this article encouraged counters to list 271 chickadee *sp.*, a new category wholly acceptable to the editors of **American Birds**.

There were 203 **Carolina Wrens** on the CBC, which was about half the "pre-crash" numbers of ten years ago. Other reports were of 3 at North Park 12/8 (JG) and 4 at RHP 12/9 (M&EW). **House Wren** reports came in from Shaler Twp. 10/1 (JH) and South Park 10/9 (WH). There was a very good movement of **Winter Wrens** during October, particularly in North Park; only 4 remained for the CBC.

Though there were 30 E. **Bluebirds** at RHP 12/9 (M&EW), the CBC had only 1. A **Hermit Thrush** was seen migrating through South Park 10/6 (WH). The expected, usually large, flight of **Am. Robins** never materialized. The scarcity of winter fruits probably accounts for the mere 127 recorded for the CBC. N. **Mockingbirds** are becoming more prevalent and even though only 5 appeared on the CBC, several were reported from outside the circle, e.g., 1 at Whitehall 10/1 (WH), 1 in E. McKeesport 12/5 (GK), and 2 at RHP 12/20 (M&EW). A flock of 75 **Cedar Waxwings** was found 10/6 in South Park; the CBC listed 231.

A good migration of warblers included such exciting species as **Orange-crowned Warbler** at South Park 10/10 (WH) and **Connecticut Warbler** in Elizabeth 10/14 (M&EW).

A high count for RHP was 50 N. **Cardinals** seen 12/9 (M&EW). The PGH CBC usually vies with Cincinnati, OH, for the national high count. This year PGH is challenging with 1137.

Two species of *Spizella* sparrows continue their downward trend. Only 19 **Am. Tree Sparrows** and 5 **Field Sparrows** were counted this year compared to the 1968 highs of 609 and 125 respectively. Habitat lost to thickets and/or housing developments may be part of the reason (JV). A **Fox Sparrow** at a feeder near North Park 10/17 (HRL) and another, possibly the same wandering bird found 11/11 singing its full song at the Nature Center (JG), may have also stayed to be the only one for the CBC. A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, not often recorded locally, was located for

the CBC in Penn Hills. Two **Swamp Sparrows** were discovered in North Park 11/7 (HRL,JP). **White-throated Sparrows** 10/12 and **Dark-eyed Juncos** 10/13 in South Park were duly tabulated as the first arrivals (WH).

A **Snow Bunting** in a remote field of North Park was found 11/12 (JH). The 2 **Purple Finches** compared to 1752 **House Finches** on the CBC is a developing contrast noted in recent years. Two **Common Redpolls** in Hampton Twp. were the only ones for the CBC and the entire quarter (HRL).

Pine Siskins began to appear in numbers in early October, continued through November and December, and gradually increased at properly stocked feeders, e.g. 34 on 12/12 (HRL), and culminated in a CBC count of 305. Although 550 **Am. Goldfinch** were tabulated, no **Evening Grosbeak** was seen. Earlier in October and early November grosbeaks had been visiting feeders in small groups. Six at a feeder in North Park 10/26 (RG), 20 at Wexford 11/2 (*fide* Grom), and 20 in North Park 11/7 (HRL,JP) promised an exciting winter. Then they vanished.

OBSERVERS: Pat Bracken, Jim Clark, Al Grom, Joe Grom, 575 Brown Rd., Wexford 15090 (412-935-3563), Ruth Grom, Walter Hammond, Joyce Hoffmann, Glenn Koppel, Herschel R. Leapman, Joe Panza, Jim Valimont (CBC compiler), Laura Wirkkala, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

Armstrong County (03)

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

Few birders reported for the quarter. The strips offered the best birding of the season. Highlights there included **N. Harrier** and **Short-eared Owl**.

Two **Common Loons** and 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** were present at K.R. 11/18 and 2 **Horned Grebes** were there 12/5 (MH,RH). A **Great Blue Heron** frequented a pond near KTN 10/4,6 and 12/1,8,14 (NK,NoK). At Center Hill, 45 **Canada Geese** were counted 12/19 (CD,NK). Twelve **Wood Ducks** were observed on a small pond near KTN 10/18 (NK,NoK). Five **Blue-winged Teal** were seen on the above-mentioned pond 10/3 (NK,NoK). A single **Common Goldeneye** and 5 **Bufflehead** were spotted at K.R. 12/5 (MH,RH).

A trip to the revegetated strip mines yielded 4 **N. Harriers** 10/21 (MH,NK *et al.*). Another **N. Harrier** was spotted near the McVille Airport 12/19 (CD,NK). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were reported from three areas near KTN (CD,NK,GW). Two **Cooper's Hawks** were found 12/19 near Clinton (CD,NK). **Red-tailed Hawks** were in good numbers at the strips through the quarter (v.o.). Four to five **Am. Kestrels** were found at the same location during the same period. A kestrel, thought by a rehabilitator to have been poisoned, was picked up 11/24 (*fide* GW).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was observed near Ford City 10/11 (GW) and again 11/24 (JW). A single **Ruffed Grouse** was seen at the strips 12/10 (AH,MH). A flock of 21 **Wild Turkey** was spotted near KTN 11/9 (JK); another flock of 10 was seen sporadically after mid-December (*fide* GS). Two **Am. Coots** were at K.R. 11/8 (MH,RH). **Great Horned Owls** were reported from two areas of KTN 11/9 (NK) and 11/10 (CD). On 10/2, 5 **Short-eared Owls** were counted at the strips, flying back and forth across the county line.

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was last seen 10/10 near Ford City (*fide* GW). **Belted Kingfisher** was listed at KTN 10/5 (NK) and K.R. 11/8 (MH,RH).

N. **Flicker** was seen 12/19 near Clinton (CD,NK). The only reported **Pileated Woodpecker** was listed 12/23 near Ford City (JW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** visited a KTN feeder 10/22 (NK). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** lingered until 11/22 near KTN, when 8 were spotted (NK). The lone **Brown Creeper** report was a singleton visiting a KTN feeder regularly after 11/26 (CD).

Top **E. Bluebird** count was 14 at the strips 10/21 (MH,NK *et al.*). Lone **Am. Robins** were listed near KTN throughout December (NK) and near Clinton 12/19 (CD,NK). Last **Vesper Sparrow** was recorded 10/21 at the strips (MH,NK *et al.*). First **White-throated Sparrow** appeared at Ford City 10/18 (GW). First **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found near Cowansville 10/8 (DG,NK). A single **Brown-headed Cowbird** near KTN 11/22 was the lone report (NK). **Pine Siskins** arrived in mid-October, but did not surface again until 11/18, when a singleton visited a feeder (NK). The same feeder was inundated with a flock of 55 on 12/28, where numbers increased daily until the end of the period. Other siskin reports were of a lone indiv. in another part of the KTN area (CD) and a small flock near Ford City 12/17 (FE). **Evening Grosbeak** reports were limited to three - a flock of 15 near Girty 10/28 (RH), 3 visiting a Ford City feeder 11/3 (JV), and 2 that appeared at Cowansville 12/30 (DG).

OBSERVERS: Caroline Davies, Florence Emmonds, Denise Garrott, Anne Hedgpeth, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Jordan Karp, Nancy Karp, Norman Karp (NoK), Grace Sprout, Joe Valasek, Gloria Winger, John Winger.

Bedford County (08)

Locations: Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch

A significant flight of **Tundra Swans** and **Snow Geese** passed by the Tussey Summit during the extremely windy and bitter weather associated with the cold front which passed through November 21. Unfortunately, a count was impossible since snow squalls blocked visibility; the birds, however, could be heard coming through most of the day. Riding the same winds were 1 **Rough-legged Hawk**, 2 **Golden Eagles**, and 1 **N. Goshawk**, all looking as if they were shot out of a cannon.

A report was received of a possible **Three-toed Woodpecker** on the summit of Tussey Mt. 11/23. This sighting, as it would be a first state record, will be referred to a State Records Committee once established.

The first **Pine Siskins**, in a flock of ±200, made their appearance 10/25. Since that time many siskin flocks have been spotted, but very few of these have settled in at feeders by quarter's end. The first **Evening Grosbeaks**, a flock of 32, passed by the summit 11/15. In general, siskins seem very common this year with Evening Grosbeaks present in fair numbers.

OBSERVERS: Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Salaly Dick, Tim Fox, Kevin Georg, Ruth Sager.

Berks County (06)

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake Rec. Area (BMLRA), Earl L. Poole Nature Preserve (ELPNP), Lake Ontelaunee (L.O.), Nolde Forest Environmental Ed. Center (NFEEC). Reading Christmas Bird Count on 12/20 (RCBC), Hamburg Christmas Bird Count on 12/27 (HCBC) and Elverson Christmas Bird Count on 12/26 (ECBC).

The weather in the fourth quarter was mostly mild until Christmas, with only the Veteran's Day snowstorm as a winter accent. This mild weather allowed such birds as **N. Oriole** and **Brown Thrasher** to linger until the Christmas Bird Count season, but these were overshadowed by the **Say's Phoebe** on the Hamburg CBC (see below). A few winter finches moved through, but didn't linger.

WATERFOWL. Five **Common Loons** were seen at L.O. 11/15 (MSp) and 9 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Kaercher Cr. Park, Hamburg, 10/17 (KAG). The 27 **Double-crested Cormorants** over HMS 10/29 were good but the late 1 on L.O. 11/22 (MSp) was excellent. On 10/2 and 11/11 flocks of about 20 **Snow Geese** were seen high overhead in Pike Twp. (RK); 7 were tallied at HMS 10/29. Fifteen **Wood Ducks** were on L.O., 11/1 (MS). A few **Black Ducks** were seen, including 2 on Angelica L. 11/23

(MSL, SS) and 6 Near Pricetown 12/28 (RK). A flock of 53 **Gadwall** were on the pond at Moselem Springs 11/8 (MSp) (a traditionally good spot for ducks). Also at L.O. were: 1 **Canvasback** 12/6 and 12/20 (MSp); a male **Redhead** 11/22 (MSp); 3 **Common Goldeneye** 11/15, increasing to 10 on 12/6 (MSp); and a lone female **Red-breasted Merganser** 12/24 (TS,ES).

HAWKS THROUGH KINGFISHERS. Please see the separate report elsewhere in this issue on raptor sightings at HMS this Fall. Single **Turkey Vultures** were seen 12/24 at Hamburg and at Neversink Mountain near Reading 12/28 (KAG). An **Osprey** was at BMLRA 11/3 (BP). A **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over NFEEC 10/1 (SS,JSI,MSL). Several observers casually mentioned **Sharp-shinned Hawks** at their feeders but gave no dates. Five were seen at scattered locations in the SW part of the county during December (MSL,SS). Two **Cooper's Hawks** were reported, 1 at Flying Hills 11/17 (EB) and 1 at ELPNP 11/22 (BM,EB). A single **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at NFEEC 11/5 and 2 were there 11/6 (MSL,SS); another was also seen at ELPNP 11/22 (BM *et al.*) Seven **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen near Vinemont 10/25 (BM) and 44 were seen on the RCBC. Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported, a normal-phase bird 11/22 at L.O. (MSp) and a dark-phase bird 12/5 in Marian Twp. (J&HS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen flying high over NFEEC 10/1 (SS,JSI,MSL).

Good numbers of **Am. Coot** were present in early November at L.O. and Moselem Springs, with 67 at the former location 11/1 and 86 at the latter 11/8 (MSp). Flocks of **Killdeer** were in farm fields in November, with 10-25 in a field near Womelsdorf for several weeks in mid-month (*fide* MSL) and 10 on 11/21 in Marian Twp. (J&HS). Forty **Common Snipe** were found 10/24 in Marian Twp. and 20 were still there a month later (J&HS). At least 5 **Am. Woodcock** were found along the Schuylkill R. and Angelica Cr. in Cumru Twp. 10/4-11 (*fide* MSL).

What we think we know about local bird populations and what is true are often two very different things. For example, I don't see many robins from Nov. through Feb. as I drive or walk around on my daily business, but every year for the last five Years I have found them on the Reading CBC in one wooded area with dense underbrush of Tartarian Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose and also in a little glade with a spring-fed stream. The fact that I rarely see any robins later in the winter doesn't necessarily prove that there are no robins around, it only proves that I don't struggle through the underbrush more than once a Year.

Birds reported on CBC's but never mentioned the rest of the winter are a mystery to us. We are ignorant about the actual abundance of these common (maybe I should say *unrare*) birds mainly because they are not glamorous or exciting.

The long-exposure picture **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** gives us a perfect place to begin to share our knowledge of *unrare* birds. There isn't enough room here or patience in me to report EVERY BIRD here. One alternative to recording every chickadee or robin is to have people concentrate on a few species of *unrare* birds at a time. This will begin us on the road to more complete knowledge of our local birds throughout the county or state the year round.

A special request was made at the November meeting of the Baird Ornithological Club for more reports of woodpeckers and open-country birds, such as Horned Larks and Meadowlarks. The habitats of both groups of birds are under pressure from suburban development and I think that this is a reasonable place to start. It is not unreasonable for people to report all the sightings of these species they have every month and the number of reports about these *unrare* birds I have received is encouraging.

The usual **Ring-billed Gulls** were around in late Nov. and Dec. as demonstrated by 100+ near Oley 11/26 (RK) and 80 on Angelica L. 12/20 (MSL). Three **Herring Gulls** were at Angelica Park 12/20 (MSL) and an imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** was at L.O. 12/6 (MSp). **Mourning Doves** continue in high numbers with 20-40 being reported at several feeders in December (BM, MSL). A **Common Barn-Owl** (MJ) and a **Long-eared Owl** (HL) were found on the RCBC 12/20. Lone **Kingfishers** were seen 11/14 and 11/26 (BM).

WOODPECKERS. Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found on the RCBC (MSL) and on the ECBC near Morgantown (MSp). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** are fairly common, at least in the southern part of the county in suburban and wooded areas, and 37 were found on the RCBC (m.ob.). One even came to a feeder in the City of Reading (DL). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at five locations in late Nov. and Dec. (J&HS,EB, RC,SG,MSL). **Downy Woodpeckers** were reported from 7 different feeders while **Hairy Woodpeckers** were only reported from 3 locations, all heavily wooded and relatively undeveloped. Only 3 **Yellow-shafted Flickers** were seen and reported to me directly, but 43 were found on the RCBC; flickers are obviously not feeder birds. **Pileated Woodpeckers** were in the wooded hills in the southern part of the county (BM,MSL) and along the Blue Mt. along the northern part (*fide* LG). Are they lurking in other areas, too?

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS. A **Say's Phoebe** 12/27 on the HCBC near Albany was quite a discovery (*fide* LG). Could this be the same bird that was in the area two winters ago? 60+ **Horned Larks** were reported near Kempton 11/19 while a similar number were seen in Marian Twp. 11/21 (J&HS). Swallows and thrushes this season at HMS were above average. One **Common Raven** was seen in Albany Twp. 10/20 (K&DG) and another at the Port Clinton Fire Tower 12/27. HMS has 14 sightings for the season. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were scarce with 8 reported in November (J&HS 11/30, MSL,SS) and 2 in December (EB) and only 9 on the RCBC. **Brown Creepers** were reported from three areas in late Nov. and early Dec. (B&PM, J&HS, KAG) and no more until the 7 on the RCBC.

The **Carolina Wren** population has remained steady since last winter, with 30 being seen on the RCBC. Two **House Wrens** were reported for the quarter, 1 at Hamburg 11/26 (KAG) and 1 at BMLRA 12/23 (TS,ES). A **Winter Wren** was seen in Spring Twp. 10/28 and another at BMLRA 12/23 (TS,ES). An exceptional **kinglet** day had to be 10/10, when 75+ of each species were seen at HMS. Numbers were about average on the RCBC.

E. **Bluebird** numbers were down this year; 3 seen 11/22 at the ELPNP (BM *et al.*), 11 at HMS, and 14 on the RCBC. The CBC number is less than half of last year's total, but above the average for the previous six years. The 22 **Am. Robins** on the RCBC were much lower than the previous two years. A **Gray Catbird** lingered in the mild December weather at BMLRA 12/23 (TS,ES) and a **Brown Thrasher** was seen on the RCBC (RK). A flock of 17 **Cedar Waxwings** in S. Heidelberg Twp. 11/14 was a good sighting in a year when they seem to be scarce.

The 8 **Solitary Vireos** seen 10/8 at HMS were a good count. Some warblers and their last October dates at HMS were: **Magnolia** 10/6; **Black-throated Blue** 10/7; **Yellow-rumped** 10/24; **Black-throated Green** 10/11; and **Prairie** 10/7.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was at the HMS Visitor Center feeders 11/16. Three **Field Sparrows** were seen in Bern Twp. 11/26 and again 12/2 (J&HS). Nine **Fox Sparrows** were reported from 5 locations in late Nov. and early Dec. (B&PM, J&HS, BP, MR, WS) and 2 were found on the RCBC. Good numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported, with 4 in Marian Twp. 11/21 and 20 in Bern Twp. 11/26 (J&HS) and were seen near W. Hamburg 12/27 (HCBC). **Snow Buntings** were reported from 3 places (J&HS); 20 at the Rte. 183 Lookout on the Berks/Schuylkill Co. line 11/7, 1 in Marian Twp. 11/21, and 200 in the same location 12/5.

The only report of **E. Meadowlark** was of 3 birds in Albany Twp. 11/14 (J&HS). A female **N. Oriole** was found on the RCBC (MSL). The 25 **Pine Grosbeaks** at HMS 11/12 were an excellent

number. Three **Purple Finches** were at Hamburg 10/13 (KAG) and 4 were found on the RCBC. Have all the **House Finches** (as shown by the record high 1522 on the RCBC) caused people to stop looking at small red birds or have Purple Finch numbers really dropped that much?

Red Crossbills were first seen at HMS 11/23 and the high was 27 on 12/14. The only **Common Redpoll** report was of 1 at HMS 11/22. Several large flocks of **Pine Siskins** were reported including: 20-50 Oct. through Nov. in Pike Twp. (RK); 75 at Hamburg 10/11 (KAG); 75-100 at the ELPNP 11/22 (BM *et al.*); 100+ in the Birdsboro area on the RCBC (EB,RC) and 500+ at HMS 11/3. **Am. Goldfinches** were very scarce this quarter, up to 6 were at a feeder in near Vinemont (BM) and only 43 were seen on the RCBC. Out of five reports of **Evening Grosbeaks**, three were 12/5, when 8 were near Vinemont (BM), 21 were in Pike Twp. (RK), and 25 were in Bern Twp. (J&HS). The other reports included a single bird 12/27 in Brecknock Twp. (MSI) and 51 at HMS 11/14.

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Robert Cook, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry A. Grim, Kenneth & Dorothy Grim, Susan Grim, Muriel Jones, Rudy Keller, Harold Lebo, David Levan, Bill Munroe, Barry Pounder, Marilyn Rogers, Ernest Schiefer, Terence Schiefer, Scott Schreiber, Joan & Harold Silagy, Janet Slater, Michael Slater (MSI) RD 4 Box 4106 Mohnton PA 19540, Matthew Spence.

Blair County (07)

Locations: Brush Mt., Canoe Cr. S.P.

A reflective look, weatherwise, for the last quarter found the county to be under the influence of typical weather patterns; stagnant low pressure systems periodically being flushed out by advancing high pressure systems from the northwest.

There were no rarities reported. The Culp CBC was held 12/19.

Common Loons were found at CCSP 11/14 in the company of the following waterfowl: **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Am. Coot**. From 12/19 through the end of the quarter the following waterfowl were found on a small ice-free section of the lake: **Canvasback**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Common Merganser** (DK,CBC participants). During the Fall this man-made impoundment provides a welcome resting place for south-bound migrants.

Raptors continue to use Tussey Mt., the common border between Huntingdon and Blair Counties, as a major Fall migration route. A sub-ad. **Golden Eagle** was observed 11/5 in the company of several **Red-tailed** and **Red-shouldered Hawks**, passing Martinsburg, heading southwest. Of the 11 Golden Eagles observed early on 11/18 in State College (JP), 10 were seen at the Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch later that day (DK). Presumably, these individuals used Tussey Mt. to traverse the 60 mi between these two sites.

Reported from Brush Mt., near Tyrone, were **Am. Woodcock** 10/26, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 10/1, **E. Phoebe** 10/18, **Common Raven** 11/3, and **Winter Wren** 10/6 (MB). Winter Wrens also appeared along the Juniata R. for the CBC (DK).

Brush Mt. reported a **Hermit Thrush** 10/19, as well as arriving **Golden-crowned Kinglets** 10/25 (MB). An unusually large number, 52, Golden-crowned Kinglets were found on the CBC. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were migrating by Brush Mt. 10/6, while a single **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing there 10/17 (MB).

The sunflower feeders on Brush Mt. attracted small flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** 11/1, 11/17, 12/6 and 12/9. At the same feeders were **Purple Finch** 11/10, **White-crowned Sparrow** 11/7, and **Pine Siskin** 10/25 (MB). Siskins continued to be seen often and in large numbers throughout the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030), John Peplinski.

Bradford County (08)

This report also covers Luzerne (40), Susquehanna (58), and Wyoming (66) Counties.

With the exception of a 6-10" snowfall on November 11, the weather for the period was uneventful. Ten **Pine Siskins** and 15 **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen in Orange, Luzerne Co., 10/24 (KM) and both species were widely reported throughout the remainder of the period in all four counties. Over 400 siskins were recorded on the SE Bradford CBC held 12/28.

Bradford: Two **Monk Parakeets** were seen flying into an orchard at French Asylum 10/11 and an ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in the same locality 10/12 (PH). Six **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were found on the CBC. A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was reported near Rummerville 12/28 (WR,LB). Two flocks of **Snow Buntings** were at Warren Center in early December (EC). Three flocks of **Red Crossbills**, totalling 72 birds, were seen near Sugar Run 12/28 (DG,RS,JSt).

Luzerne: Location: Harvey's L. (H.L.)

A **Red-throated Loon** was at Huntsville Res. 11/28-30 (v.o.). There were several **Common Loon** reports, but no more than 2 at any time. A total of 10 **Pied-billed Grebes** was at H.L. 10/23 (WR). A **Gadwall** was there 11/6 (WR) and 5 **Am. Wigeons** were seen 12/19 (CR,WR). Also at H.L. was an **Oldsquaw** 11/2-13 and 2 there 11/28 (m.ob.). All three scoters were seen in the area: 3 **Black** at H.L. 11/2 (WR), a **Surf** at Huntsville Res. 11/29 (BH,FH), and a **White-winged** at Sylvan L. 10/31 to 11/1 (WE). Five **Hooded Mergansers** were at H.L. 11/2 and 5 at Sordoni's Pond near H.L. 11/28-30 (m.ob.). The only **Ruddy Duck** reported was 1 at Sylvan L. 11/1 (WE). There were 29 **Am. Coots** at H.L. 10/9; the population grew to 85 by 11/20 and had declined to 67 by 12/19 (v.o.).

A large flight of **Ring-billed Gulls** took place 11/21, with 300-400 at H.L., 100 at Sylvan L., and 50 at L. Silkworth (WE). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at the Riverlands 10/9 (MS). Ten **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were recorded on the Dallas CBC. The only **Winter Wren** report was 1 at Ashley 10/12 (MS).

A late **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported from Mountaintop 11/1 (JJ). A late **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at Wyoming 10/17 (JSh). A late **Chipping Sparrow** was at a Mountaintop feeder 11/13 (MS). The only **Snow Bunting** was a single bird at H.L. 11/8 (BT). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at Lehman 12/19 (CR,WR).

Susquehanna: No special reports.

Wyoming: The **Snow Goose** previously reported remained on a pond near Tunkhannock throughout the period. A **N. Goshawk** was seen at Bowman's Cr. 11/4 (WR,BD). Unusual was a **Ruffed Grouse** drumming near Meshoppen 10/25 (RD). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at L. Carey 10/10 was the observer's first Fall record of the species in the region in over 35 years (WR). A flock of 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** was seen at Tunkhannock 10/11 (WR).

OBSERVERS: Larry Beebe, Earle Cowden, Robert Daniels, Bruce Davies, William Evans, Doug Gross, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Pete Hutchinson, John Jakoby, Kevin McGuire, Bernie Morris, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Carol Renna, Rob and Robert Sagar, Jim Shoemaker (JSh), John Stahura (JSt), Mark Stari, Bruce Troy.

Bucks County (09)

Locations: L. Galena in Peace Valley Park (PVP); L. Luxemburg in Core Cr. Park (CCP); L. Nockamixon in Nockamixon S.P. (NSP), Neshaminy S.P. (NeSP).

This was one of the most exciting birding seasons in Bucks Co. in quite a few years. The highlight was the first state record for **Green-tailed Towhee** which appeared at the feeding station of the Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center outside of New Hope. The bird was seen only briefly near dusk on December 23rd, then regularly after our first substantial snow fall on January 5, 1988, and continues to be seen through the first part of 1988. There will be a full report on the bird in the next issue.

An injured **Peregrine Falcon** was rescued by Gary Freed near Spinnerstown October 2nd. Please see the article in this issue. The five large reservoirs continue to have good sightings of waterfowl and unusual migrants. Lake Galena led the list this time.

Three separate CBC's - Lower Bucks (LBCBC) 12/19, Central Bucks (CBCBC) 12/27, and Upper Bucks (UBCBC) 12/20 - were conducted. On all counts good numbers of **Great Blue Heron**, mergansers (particulary **Hooded**), and **E. Bluebird** were noted. Unusually low were **Common Grackle**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, **Am. Robin**, **Cedar Waxwing**, and **Rufous-sided Towhee**. Wintering **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Canada Geese** continue to increase each year. The Canada Geese total for all three counts was nearly 35,000!

LOONS THROUGH NIGHT-HERON. A **Common Loon** and 1 **Red-throated Loon** were found at NSP 11/15 (B&NM). A sleet storm 11/4 brought 26 Common Loons to the Pine Run Res. (BM). Loons at PVP were the lowest in year, but their only Red-throated Loon was seen on the CBCBC for a 1st record in its 21-year history (FM). Two **Horned Grebes** were found at PVP 11/1 and another on the Delaware R. at NeSP 12/19 (BM). Although several **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at NSP, numbers elsewhere were generally low. Two **Great Cormorants** on the Delaware R. at NeSP were seen 12/19 and several have been on the river in Lower Bucks as in the past several years. (*Up until 1983 Great Cormorants were unheard of in the Commonwealth; since that time they have been regularly found on the Delaware R. each winter. See also Lancaster Co. report for one of the first sightings away from the Delaware R. -Eds.*) One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Rohm & Haas ponds in Bristol 12/10 (BM).

SWANS THROUGH DUCKS. Eight **Tundra Swans** were at PVP 11/13 and 1 remained until 12/26. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was mixed in with hundreds of Canada Geese at CCP 12/19 (HR). Over on L. Galena 1 **Brant** found 11/7 stayed throughout the period only to be joined by another 12/27. This was a 1st record for the CBCBC. Eighteen species of waterfowl at PVP during the first week of November was by far the best week of the Fall. Included were PVP's only **Oldsquaw** of the season 11/3 and 50 **Bufflehead** 11/1. Other Oldsquaw sightings were of single males at NSP 11/16 (GC) and 12/7 (BNM). The only scoters were 1 male **Black Scoter** 11/1 and a female 11/6 at PVP (FM). Other waterfowl highlights were 6 **Canvasback** with 15 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Ingham Springs outside of New Hope during most of December. One Ring-necked Duck was on a small farm pond near Perkasie 12/4-18 (JC). Three **Lesser Scaup** 11/15 and 2 on 12/7, plus 1 female **Common Goldeneye** 12/7 were the only other ducks of note.

VULTURES THROUGH GULLS. Two **Black Vultures** 12/7 were the only record of the year for PVP, even though as many as 8 have been seen in the winter roost near New Hope. Two **Bald Eagles**, both imm., 1 on 10/31 and 1 on 11/18 visited PVP (FM). On 11/1 shortly before a storm and in a brief 2-1/2 hr period, good hawk flights were observed in various locations. At PVP alone, 65 hawks including 4 **N. Harrier**, 40 **Red-tailed**, 8 **Red-shouldered**, and 13 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season was a "normal phase" at PVP (AM). A **Golden Eagle** was seen flying over in Upper Bucks 12/18 (JP).

Several birders on the UBCBC had the exciting experience of a **Virginia Rail** running out of the Quakertown Swamp in response to their tape (MR). A **Lesser Golden-Plover** 10/23 was a new species for the impressive PVP list. Very few **Common Snipe** were found throughout the period as evidenced by only 1 each on the LBCBC and UBCBC.

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on L. Galena 10/3. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported on the Delaware R., 1 on the LBCBC 12/19 and 1 near New Hope 11/1 (RH).

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES. The population of **Common Barn-Owl** continues to be poor; 2 were reported on the UBCBC and CBCBC. A **Long-eared Owl** was found roosting in cedars below the dam at PVP 12/7. The UBCBC reported neither **Red-headed** nor **Pileated Woodpecker** which is unusual (HR). **Hairy Woodpecker**

and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** numbers remain low, while **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, and **N. Flicker** appear to be doing quite well.

Two late **E. Phoebes** were seen at NSP 12/7 (B&NM). **Carolina Chickadees** seem to be expanding their range into Upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties (HR). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** staged a better than average migration with good numbers wintering; 25 were reported from NSP 10/18 (B&NM). **Brown Creepers** and **Carolina Wrens** were found in good numbers in late December. Only 1 **Winter Wren** was reported. It was along Neshaminy Cr. on the LBCBC. Several **Hermit Thrushes** were found on each of the CBC's.

PIPISTS THROUGH GROSBEAKS. Twenty **Water Pipits** at PVP 11/12 was the best count this quarter. The best sparrow reports came from NSP. On 11/8 a **Vesper**, a very late **Grasshopper**, 20 **Fox and 1 Lincoln's Sparrow** were seen. Fox Sparrows were seen there as late as 12/20 (B&NM). The usual small numbers of **White-crowned Sparrow** were found at NSP and CCP; the latter location has been reliable the last several years. **Snow Bunting** reports were only during mid-November, with 12 at PVP 11/7 and 13 at NSP 11/15 (FM,B&NM).

First **Pine Siskin** sightings were in mid-October at several locations. Good numbers continued through December. Although the first **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen 10/30, only small numbers moved through in November, and they were almost absent in December (FM).

OBSERVERS: George Carmichael, Jewel Cummings, Gary L. Freed, Ray Hendrick, Bruce McNaught, RD 1, Box 263A, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880), Fred Mears, Bob Mercer, August Mirabella, Bob Mitchell, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Joe Pearson, Hart Rufe, Margie Rutbell.

Butler County (10)

Locations: Butler City Area (BCA), Greenville (GRV), L. Arthur (L.A.), McConnell's Mill S.P. (MMSP), Middle Lancaster (M.L.), Moraine (MSP), New Castle Area (NCA), Slippery Rock (SR), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU), Shenango (SHN).

This report also includes sightings from Lawrence (37) and Mercer (43) Counties. Sightings are by the compiler unless otherwise noted. The Butler CBC was held 12/20.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS. Two **Common Loons** were observed 11/20 to 12/27 on L.A. (MG,BD,MD). **Horned Grebes** peaked on L.A. 11/20-30 with 119 (MG,GW). **Pied-billed Grebes** arrived later than usual with 2 on L.A. 10/16 (MG), 19 there 11/11 (GW), and 8 on 12/24 (MG).

Great Blue Herons were widespread in the tri-counties until hard freeze. A total of 28 was recorded on L.A. 12/20, a new record. Singles sighted in the NCA (m.ob.). One was seen flying over S.R. 12/29. **Tundra Swans** were late migrating, thousands flying SE over S.R. 11/12-19. **Canada Geese** congregated early and were scarce after 11/30. An exception was 48 over NCA 12/26 (BD,GD,MD).

Dabbling ducks were scarce: 5 **Am. Black Duck** on LA 10/31 (BD,MD); 7 **Gadwall** on L.A. 12/24 and 11 **Am. Wigeon** there 10/16 (MG) were the only reports for these species. Diving ducks were only slightly better: 1 **Redhead** on L.A. 12/6 (MG), 5 **Ring-necked Duck** 10/17 (BD,MD), 4 **Lesser Scaup** 12/6 and 13 on 12/24 (MG), 1 **Oldsquaw** and 1 **Black Scoter** on CBC (SL,GW,GWi), 2 **Common Goldeneye** 11/6 (MG), and 3 others (2 male, 1 female) 11/15 (BD,MD), and 6 on 12/6 (MG), 7 **Bufflehead** 10/16 (MG), 6 on 11/18 (BD,MD), and 3 others 12/24 (MG), all on L.A. **Hooded Merganser** had a good showing, especially males: 30 on L.A. 11/6 (MG) and a high 33 on 12/29. One **Common Merganser** was sighted on Vosler Rd. NCA 12/26 (BD,MD), the only report. **Red-breasted Merganser** peaked at 150-200 on L.A. 12/6-9 (MG,GW). **Ruddy Ducks** were seen between 10/15 and 11/6 when 35-40 were found on L.A.

Turkey Vultures remained until 11/27. A lone **Osprey** stayed at L.A. 10/28 to 11/4 (MG). No report of **Bald Eagle**, **Golden Eagle**, or **N. Harrier** for the quarter. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were sighted more often and **Cooper's Hawks** far less than usual.

No report of either **N. Goshawk** or **Rough-legged Hawk**. On the other hand, **Am. Kestrel** sightings were up, especially in Lawrence and Mercer Cos.

Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were up for so. Butler Co., but no report for Lawrence or Mercer Cos. Two grouse were seen 10/12 at MSP and 1 on 10/26 in SGL 216 (MG). But most reports came from M.L. between 10/25 and 12/25 (FL). Hunters saw plenty of **Wild Turkey** in the tri-counties, but birders did not. Reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** were widespread, in fact, the best in years. No **N. Bobwhite** was recorded.

Two **Common Moorhens** lingered to 10/30 in NW Mercer Co. The **Am. Coot** continues its decline with only 17 on L.A. 10/17 (BD,MD) and 39 there 11/1. **Killdeer** congregated early and left abruptly at the end of October: 50+ flocked in NCA 10/12-23 (BD,GD) and 101 were counted at SRU 10/30, but only 6 remained there 11/5.

Ring-billed Gull numbers were below average and only 4-8 **Herring Gulls** were observed at L.A. 12/20-24 (MG). **Mourning Doves** were widespread, but only coming to feeders after 10/15. **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** were recorded on the MSP CBC 12/20. No other owl species was reported for the quarter.

Chimney Swifts decreased appreciably after 10/7 when 1500+ were sighted over L.A. (MW,GW); 3 flew over NCA 10/8, and 5 at L.A. 10/18, the last. **Belted Kingfishers** lingered until hard freeze with best concentration of 8-10 indiv. on L.A. On the whole, all woodpeckers were below average, especially **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, for which there was only one report: 1 at MSP 10/29 (MG). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were almost as uncommon: 1 at MSP 10/10, 1 in SGL 95 10/25 (FL), and 2 on 12/20 (SL,GW,GW).

E. **Wood-Pewees** left S.R. 10/10, unusually late. An unidentified *Empidonax* sp. was seen 10/17 at NCA (BD,GD). (Please see also the Forest Co. report of a late *Empidonax* 10/18.-Eds.) The last E. **Phoebe** was recorded 10/17 at MSP (BD,MD). **Horned Larks** were rather scarce with no large wintering flocks reported. **Tree** and **Barn Swallows** were last seen 10/10 at MSP.

Am. **Crows** moved S earlier than usual with 91 flying over S.R. 10/1 and another 131 seen 10/5. A number of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared in October and many lingered at feeders through quarter's end. **Brown Creepers** were exceptionally numerous and remained into late December.

Carolina Wren continues its comeback with widespread reports of singles and pairs in the tri-counties. **House Wrens** were still present in S.R. 11/5. **Winter Wrens**, however, were scarce. It was an excellent quarter for **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, with many reports of small mixed flocks of 6-11 indiv. in Oct/Nov. Many Golden-crowned still were present for the CBC.

E. **Bluebirds** were plentiful as depicted by these reports: 10 at MSP 10/10 (MG), 10 on Swamp Rd. 10/11 (MG), 24 at MSP 10/28 (MG), 12-15 at MSP 11/15-21 (BD,MD), 6 in NCA 12/27 (BD,GD). **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrushes** were unusually scarce: 1 Gray-cheeked at MSP 10/7 (MW,GW) and 1 Swainson's at SGL 95 11/3 (FL); other singles 11/8 and 11/23 at MSP (BD,MD). **Hermit Thrush** sightings were at MSP 10/11 (BD,MD), 2 there 10/28, and 1 at SGL 216 10/28 (MG). Am. **Robins** did not linger, most wild foods being exhausted by 10/31, although a few indiv. were in NCA and S.R. until 11/10. The last **Gray Catbird** was seen at S.R. 10/7 and at MSP 10/10 (MG). **Cedar Waxwings** were common in Oct/Nov with 12 at Shenango 10/12 (BD,GD), 30 at MSP 10/25 (MG), 50 at S.R. 10/25-30, and 200+ at MSP 11/20 (MG). Numbers dropped appreciably after 11/21, again due to lack of wild foods.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was observed in BCA 10/12 (MG) and single **Solitary Vireo** sightings were at MSP 10/10, 10/12, and 10/16 (MG) and another a singing male at S.R. 10/16. A few late warbler sightings: 1 **Nashville** in BCA 10/12 (MG), 1 **Black-throated Blue** in S.R. 10/9, several reports of **Yellow-rumped** 10/10-19, 2 **Bay-breasted** at MSP 10/10, and single **Common Yellowthroats** at MSP 10/8 (MG) and S.R. 10/10.

Rufous-sided Towhees were evident at BCA with 3 on 10/11, 2 pair 10/12-15, and 3 on 10/22 (MG). Am. **Tree Sparrows** arrived in NCA 10/12 with 5-12 indiv. there 11/27 through the quarter.

The species was scarce in Butler and Lawrence Cos. **Chipping Sparrows** started flocking in early October at S.R. with 50+ and as many as 38 at MSP 10/15 (MG). The last was seen at S.R. 11/11. **Field Sparrows** peaked 10/25 at MSP (MG), with only a few scattered reports thereafter. No **Fox, Lincoln's, or Swamp Sparrow** reported. **White-throated Sparrows** were far below average with only two flocks reported: 20 at MSP 10/9 and 15 there 10/24 (MG). Only two reports as well for **White-crowned Sparrow**: 1 at Harmony 10/14 (FL) and 6 at MSP 10/24 (MG). The **Dark-eyed Junco** arrived later (October) than usual (Sept.) and in far fewer numbers.

A flock of 50+ **Snow Buntings** flew N over S.R. 11/5, the only report. E. **Meadowlarks** left the tri-counties by 11/1. Only 1 **Rusty Blackbird** was reported, in BCA 11/21 (MG). Two male **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at a feeder in S.R. 11/23, otherwise all blackbird species were exceptionally scarce this quarter. Few were recorded on the CBC.

Purple Finch was conspicuous by its absence: 1 was sighted in NCA 10/15 (BD,GD,MD) and 12 in MSP 12/24 (MG) were the only reports. Highly unusual. No crossbill or redpoll was seen. October was a good month for **Pine Siskin** with many reports from the tri-counties: 6 in NCA 10/9 (BD,GD), 12 on 10/9 and 75 on 10/24 at MSP (MG), +35 flying over S.R. 10/13 and 10/16, and 11 there 10/26. A flock of 35-50 remained in BCA 12/24-27 (MG) and another flock of 16-25 stayed in NCA 12/22-28 (BD,GD). There were over a dozen reports of siskins at feeders in Butler and Mercer Cos. in Oct-Nov, but only 3 reports at those same feeders in December. Am. **Goldfinch** numbers were far below average in all three counties. Only 2 flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** appeared: 15-25 in NCA 11/2-3 and 50+ in S.R. 11/4-5. These flocks disappeared after early November and only a sporadic indiv. or two showed at feeders thereafter. Few were recorded on the CBC by comparison to the 1009 tallied last year.

OBSERVERS: Barbara Dean, George Dean, Mary Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Fred Lochner, Sandy Linaberer, Bob Ross, Madge Weber, Gene Wilhelm, RD 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock 16057 (412-794-2434), George Wilson (GWi).

Cambria County (11)

This report is relatively short since most of my time this Fall was spent at the Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch.

Most water impoundments were open through the month of December. The following were observed at Hinkston Run Dam 12/6: 4 **Common Loon**, 3 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 1 **Great Blue Heron**, 6 **Gadwall** (unusual), and 3 **Common Merganser**. A subsequent trip there 12/26 yielded 1 **Common Loon**, 30 **Tundra Swan**, and 3 **Canada Geese** (unusual). Additionally on the 26th were 4 **Swamp Sparrows**, which is high for this area.

The Johnstown CBC, which includes part of this county and Somerset Co., produced some interesting figures. Johnstown still maintains a significant Am. **Crow** roost (much to the consternation of a few). This year's count reached 10,260 which is consistent with previous counts. The crow count placed this species in first place with the second highest count being **House Sparrow**, while the **House Finch**, which was in second place last year now took sixth place. This also corresponds with some local feeder watcher observations that fewer House Finch were present. The only other decrease worth noting was the decline in **Dark-eyed Juncos**. **Pine Siskins** can only be described as abundant this year while the other expected northern finch, the **Evening Grosbeak**, reached its second highest numbers in five years.

OBSERVER: Kevin Georg, 219 Columbia, Johnstown 15905 (814-288-1763).

Carbon County (13)

Locations: Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Penn Forest Res. (PFR).

All sightings by Rick Wiltraut unless otherwise noted.

At least 50 **Common Loons** were at PFR and another 50 were at BSP after an early snow storm 11/11. A record high count of 50 **Red-throated Loons** were also seen that day at BSP. Three **Horned Grebes** were at PFR 10/20 to 11/3. A **Brant** was seen feeding on the grass at BSP from 10/25 to at least 11/14 (FCH,WS,RW).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BSP 10/13. A **Lesser Golden-Plover** seen at BSP 10/16 was the 1st record for that location. Other shorebirds seen there include 4 **Dunlin** 10/16 and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 10/20.

Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** and many **Swamp Sparrows** were at BSP 10/16 and a flock of 50 **Snow Buntings** was found there 11/11. About 100 **Pine Siskins** were seen near Wild Cr. Res. 11/21.

OBSERVERS: Franklin C. Haas, Bernie L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), William Stocku, Rick Wiltraut.

Centre County (14)

Locations: Bald Eagle Fire Tower (BEFT), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P.

October proved to be an exceptionally cool month with the average temperature of 45.7° being 5 degrees below normal. The month was dry with only 2" of rainfall (.87" below normal). Dense smoke from forest fires in West Virginia greatly reduced visibility in the county on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of November. The storm system that arrived on the 9th finally cleared the smoke and brought the first significant snowfall of the season, with 7 inches falling from the 9th to the 12th. Overall, November was a month of wild temperature swings with 3 warm spells and 2 cold spells, but the average temperature for the month was 41.4, being just 0.5 degree above normal. Precipitation for November was 2.8" (0.59" below normal). December's weather was warmer than normal and lacked significant snowfall until the last few days of the month.

The State College CBC on 12/19 recorded 70 species, third highest total in 49 years. The best species was the single **Common Yellowthroat** seen near Pleasant Gap (MH). New high totals for the following species were established: **Wood Duck** - 4, **Green-winged Teal** - 10, **Mallard** - 779, **Red-tailed Hawk** - 41, **Mourning Dove** - 650, **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 24, **Downy Woodpecker** - 166, **Hairy Woodpecker** - 27, **Pileated Woodpecker** - 11, **Tufted Titmouse** - 202, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 167, **Brown Creeper** - 29, **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 108, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - 4, E. **Bluebird** - 50, N. **Mockingbird** - 32, N. **Cardinal** - 270, **Rufous-sided Towhee** - 4, **Swamp Sparrow** - 7, and **Pine Siskin** - 708.

There were many reports of **Common Loon** this period. Some of the records include flybys at the BEFT, 1 on 10/8, 1 on 10/28, and 5 on 11/20 (JP) and the following at Colyer L.: 2 on 11/14, 11/15, and 11/17, one on 11/18 (KJ,JJ), and 1 juv. there 11/19 (MW), while 1 was at BESP 11/21 (PS). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at BESP 12/6 (MH) and 1 there 12/31 were late (JP,BP). A single **Horned Grebe** was at BESP 10/11 (HH) and another was seen there 11/21 (PS). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported from BESP 10/2 (*fide* PS) and 4 were there 10/4 (EZ).

A flock of 23 **Tundra Swans** passed over the BEFT 11/26 (JP,BP). Although the waterfowl migration was in general quite poor this Fall, the flock of 61 **Wood Ducks** seen at BMSP 10/15 must certainly be the largest flock ever reported in Centre Co. (MW).

Raptor sightings not at the BEFT included an imm. **Bald Eagle** that was observed flying low overhead at BESP 11/21 (HH,SF). Additionally, a N. **Goshawk** was at Rock Springs 11/17 (JP,BP), and a **Merlin** was seen in State College 10/24 (JP).

One **Spotted Sandpiper** seen at Colyer L. 10/4 established a new late date (EZ). A **Short-eared Owl** was observed flying over Whitehall and Nixon Rds. just after sunset 11/23 (JP,BP). One N. **Saw-whet Owl** responded to call imitations and was approached to within 3 ft in the early evening of 12/7 at Rock Springs (JP). Two others were seen near Mingoville 12/10 (JP). **Chimney Swifts** were seen in Bellefonte 10/8, tying the late date for this species (AF,MW). An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was near Tusseyville 11/14 (KJ,JJ). Fifty **Fish Crows** seen at Houserville 10/18, and 30 there 10/20 were all flying west (ES). One Fish Crow was on the Penn State Campus 11/10 (BP). There was a **Winter Wren** at Walnut Springs Park 10/4 (ES), but the best wren species was the **Marsh Wren** at the "skating pond" at BESP 10/4 (EZ).

Sightings of **Water Pipits** included 8 near Houserville 10/16, one there 11/1 (ES), and ±50 near Tusseyville 11/7 and 11/29 (KJ,JJ). The **Solitary Vireos** (singing) 10/21 at Houserville (ES) and 10/24 at Tussey Mt. (JP,BP) were the last ones reported for the Fall.

Although there was one report of an **Am. Tree Sparrow** in late October from just outside of the county, the first local reports were 11/21 near BEFT (JP), at BESP 11/25 (MW), and 11/27 at Colyer L. (KJ,JJ), all single birds. **Chipping Sparrows** usually depart this area in early November and the 2 near Fairbrook 11/5 were the last ones reported (JP). The first **Fox Sparrow** was reported from Alan Seeger 10/24 (HH). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were sighted at Greens Valley Rd. 10/11 (MH), while 2 were at Rock Springs 10/17 (JP,BP).

Snow Bunting sightings included a flock at BESP 11/15 (RH,EZ), 15 on 11/18, and 50 on 11/25 at BESP (MW). Large numbers of **Pine Siskins** began moving through around 10/14. Migration was especially heavy along the ridges. In one hour on 10/17, over 500 were observed flying s.w. along Tussey Mt., mostly in groups of 20-25 (JP,BP). Hundreds were also recorded on Bald Eagle ridge from mid to late October. After late October, all flocks of siskins that were observed from the fire tower were moving north (?) (JP). Siskins remained common through the end of the quarter with flocks of 150+ seen. **Evening Grosbeaks** arrived in late October when a flock of 5 was seen 10/24 at Walnut Spring Park (ES).

OBSERVERS: Steve Feldstein, Alice Fuller, Randy Harrison, Harry Henderson, Mark Henry, Katherine and Jennings Jones, Becky and John Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), Paul Schwalbe, Edgar Spalding, Merrill Wood, Eugene Zielinski.

Chester County (15)

Locations: Kurtz Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Cr. S.P. (MCSP), Octoraro L. (O.L.) (The lake is bisected by the Chester/Lancaster Co.line; some of the birds were seen in both counties), Struble L. (S.L.).

The West Chester CBC (WCCBC) was held 12/19 and the Elverson CBC (ECBC) was held 12/26.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS. **Common Loons** were observed in fewer numbers than recent years at MCSP throughout the season, with a peak of only 10 on 11/10 (LL); 1 was still present on the nearly frozen lake 12/31. Another was at S.L. 12/26 (LL). A **Red-throated Loon** was seen at MCSP 11/13 (LL). **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at MCSP during most of the season with a peak of 15 on 10/29 and a **Horned Grebe** was there 12/26 (LL). Three **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed near Glen Mills on the WCCBC 12/19. This marked the 1st record for the species in the 73-year history of the count (BB).

A **Great Egret** was present at KFF until 10/13 (GS). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were also there, with 8 seen 10/2 (LL,GS). A total of 10 **Tundra Swan** were seen flying over Parkesburg 11/14 and 1 was at the Honey Brook Sewage Plant with a flock of **Canada Geese** 11/29. One was also present at MCSP 12/6 (LL,GS). A max. of 175 **Snow Geese** in two flocks was seen at O.L. 12/20; 2 of these were "blue-phase." Also, 2

"blue-phase" Snow Geese were seen on the ECBC. In addition to the +3000 Canada Geese at the O.L. 12/20 were 750 Am. Black Duck and 2 Am. Wigeon. All of the expected waterfowl were present at MCSP, however, in fewer numbers than normal, e.g. only 2 Canvasback. Two Wood Ducks and a Green-winged Teal were at O.L. 11/19 (LL). A Blue-winged Teal was at the Honey Brook Sewage Plant 10/29. An ad. male Oldsquaw was observed at MCSP 11/20-21 (LL,GS), 10 Ruddy Ducks were found at S.L., and at least 150 Am. Coots were seen at MCSP from October through December.

PLOVERS THROUGH HAWKS. The only location where shorebirds were found in the county this quarter was at KFF when the impoundment was drained. Two Lesser Golden-Plover were observed from 10/5-21. Killdeer were present from early October until late November with a max. 200 seen 11/6 (LL). Max. yellowlegs counts were 10 Greater and 25 Lesser 10/21 (LL). Somewhat unusual was 1 Stilt Sandpiper which frequented KFF 10/17-21 (LL). A single Long-billed Dowitcher was noted 10/23 (LL,GS) and Common Snipe were observed throughout the season, with 20 seen 10/21 (LL). An early morning flight of 12 Am. Woodcock flew over Coatesville 11/3 (JC). Dunlin were recorded as late as 11/7. Although 3 White-rumped Sandpipers were at KFF 10/29, with 2 still there 11/7 (LL,GS), a more unusual bird, Baird's Sandpiper, was seen 10/2 (LL). Pectoral Sandpipers arrived 10/2 and remained until late November, with a high of 50+ on 10/17 (LL).

A Bonaparte's Gull was at KFF 10/17 and 10/21 and on the latter date 7 Forster's Terns were also present (LL,GS). An ad. Ls. Black-backed Gull in winter plumage was on the O.L. 12/20 (LL).

Black Vulture sightings continue to increase in the county, with 8 seen near Elverson 10/20 (RC), 6 near Mortonville 11/4 (JP), and 5 near Elverson 12/26 (LL). A total of 45 were counted at the roost near O.L. 12/20 (LL). For the first time on the WCCBC, the total number of Black Vultures (91) exceeded the count of Turkey Vultures (87).

An Osprey was noted at MCSP 10/30 (LL). A sub-ad. Golden Eagle was seen and heard while flying very low over my home near Mortonville 11/24 (JP). An ad. Bald Eagle and a N. Goshawk were both seen, at different times, flying over Parkesburg 10/29 (LL).

A Cooper's Hawk has been present near S.L. since 12/6 and another observed at O.L. 12/20 (LL). A good raptor flight was reported 10/29, consisting of Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and a few Red-shouldered Hawks. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were found at O.L. 12/20. An interesting story regarding Red-shouldered Hawks began during the extremely cold winter of 1977. An emaciated imm. showed up at a suet feeder near Coatesville. Since that winter at least 1, and sometimes 2, have been frequenting the suet feeders there, always appearing in mid-late November. One has been, there since 11/17 (BH,PH).

PHEASANTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS. Ring-necked Pheasant was described as in "really low" numbers, therefore a total of 12 observed near S.L. 12/26 was exceptional. A Common Barn-Owl was seen near Honey Brook 11/5 (LL) and another was observed feeding in New Garden Twp. 11/21 (PB). The O.L. is a fairly reliable location for Barred Owl and 2 were present there 12/20 (LL). Another was heard throughout the season near the Westtown School and tallied for the WCCBC (BB).

"Flocks of flickers" were reported 10/24 near Kennett Square (PB). I had a similar experience that same day and also observed an albinistic N. Flicker near Mortonville; the head and wing feathers were completely white. The ECBC counted 2 Pileated Woodpeckers and 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers 12/26 (BB). One of the Red-headed Woodpeckers was near S.L. throughout the latter part of the quarter.

PHOEBE THROUGH GROSBEAKS. An E. Phoebe was found on the ECBC 12/26. Also that day, 310 Horned Larks were seen near Honey Brook (BB). Late swallows reports include 1 Barn Swallow 10/6 and a Tree Swallow 10/30 near Parkesburg (LL). Large numbers of Blue Jays were migrating during the week of 10/6 (v.o.). Twenty-eight Red-breasted Nuthatches and

a Winter Wren were at the O.L. 12/20. Another Winter Wren was near Parkesburg 10/27 (LL). Both kinglets were reported in good numbers this quarter.

When compared to the 1986 totals, E. Bluebird counts were down on both the West Chester and Elverson CBC's, 133 to 91 and 137 to 95 respectively. Large flocks of Am. Robins and a few Hermit Thrush were seen near Kennett Square 10/15. Many robins and bluebirds were also in that area 11/27 (PB). A Brown Thrasher has been visiting a feeder in Oxford since November (RMS). Cedar Waxwings were numerous until early November, but have been somewhat scarce since.

A Solitary Vireo and an Orange-crowned Warbler were observed near Parkesburg 10/11 (LL). A N. Waterthrush was still present near Kennett Square 10/16 (PB).

Dark-eyed Juncos arrived somewhat late this year, with the earliest sightings not until late October (PB *et al.*). A Fox Sparrow was at the O.L. 11/19 (LL) and another was seen in Kennett Square 11/22 to 12/2. White-crowned Sparrows were found in their usual haunts, but in fewer numbers. First White-throated Sparrows were reported 10/15 (PB). "Waves" of Chipping Sparrows were seen migrating in Kennett Square (PB) and Mortonville 10/16; I counted 36 in one flock that also contained several kinglets and bluebirds (JP).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen near Elverson during the week of 12/26 (BB). Huge flocks of blackbirds, estimated at 20,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 5,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds, passed over the O.L. 12/20 (LL). A Rusty Blackbird was found near Parkesburg 11/13 and 10 were near S.L. 12/26 (BB,LL). Two others were at a feeder near Coatesville 11/3 (PH).

Pine Siskins were reported in large flocks consisting of as many as 50 indiv. from mid-Oct. to mid-Nov., but had decreased to a few small flocks by December (v.o.). Two Red Crossbills flew over Parkesburg 11/13 (LL). Purple Finch reports were of 21 at MCSP 10/29 and 40 at the O.L. 12/20 (LL). House Finch continue to inundate the area. The WCCBC once again exceeded last year's high with 1263 counted this year.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported throughout the area, mostly of flocks in flight; no report was received of any remaining at feeders. The earliest report was of 14 flying over Elverson 10/16 (RC). The most tallied was 30 at the O.L. 11/14 (LL). By late December they had all but disappeared, with only 4 on the ECBC and 3 on the WCCBC.

OBSERVERS: Paul Beach, Barry Blust, Jim Cook, Robert Cook, Ruth Cook, Beryl and Phyllis Hurlock, Larry Lewis, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Robert M. Schutsky.

Clarion County (16)

One Osprey was found n. of Clarion 11/6.
OBSERVER: Ronald F. Leberman.

Clearfield County (17)

All of the reports received for this quarter came from the DuBois area, in the NW corner of the county.

A Pied-billed Grebe was seen 10/20 near Luthersburg (JS). A Great Blue Heron was reported twice in October and lastly 11/12 (JS). Mallards, reported throughout October, were last seen 11/17 (MA).

The latest Turkey Vulture was seen 10/15 (JS). Reports of N. Harrier were scattered in October and November with the latest being 12/7. The only Sharp-shinned Hawk reported was seen 10/1 (JS). The three reports of Cooper's Hawk were 10/2, 10/28 (JS) and 11/24 (MA). Red-tailed Hawks were seen through November (MA,JS). A Rough-legged Hawk was found 11/13 by Jocelynn Smrekar who commented on their unusual scarcity. Seven sightings of Am. Kestrel, the only falcon reported, were scattered throughout the quarter.

Ring-necked Pheasants were seen six times from 10/16 through 11/11 (JS). **Ruffed Grouse** were reported four times in October and on 11/7 (JS). **Wild Turkey**, widely reported during the breeding season, was noticeably absent from this quarter's reports. A **Sora** lingered in the area until 10/6 (MA). A **Killdeer** 12/2 was the latest of several records. The only gull reported was a **Ring-billed Gull** 11/24 (MA). **Rock Dove** and **Mourning Dove** were as ever-present as usual.

Marianne Atkinson witnessed the southward departure of many **Chimney Swifts** 10/2; the last one was seen 10/9. Several sightings of **Belted Kingfisher** were reported in October, none in November, and 1 on 12/25 (MA). Good numbers of **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** were reported (MA,JS). The last sighting of **N. Flicker** was 10/15 (JS). Several sightings of **Pileated Woodpecker** in October, and 1 on 11/1-2 were reported (JS).

Plenty of **Blue Jays** were seen and **Am. Crows** were equally well reported. Nothing special can be said about the numerous **Black-capped Chickadee** reports. The handful of **Tufted Titmouse** reports were nearly all in October, with the last 12/8 (MA). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported 10/15 and 11/1 (JS), while numerous reports of **White-breasted Nuthatch** were received. A single **Carolina Wren** 11/4 was the only report (MA). **Winter Wrens** 10/15 and 10/17 were probably migrants (JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was first reported 10/6, but most reports were in early November (JS). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** records were concentrated between 10/9-18 (MA,JS).

E. Bluebirds were seen regularly until 11/24 (JS). **Am. Robins** present earlier in the quarter were last seen 11/23 (MA) and 11/28 (JS). **Gray Catbird** was not observed after 10/7 (JS). Nearly all the **N. Mockingbird** reports were in December, the latest 12/23 (MA). The frequent sightings of **Cedar Waxwing** in October dwindled to 4 in November; the last was 11/22.

One **Solitary Vireo** seen 10/6 (JS) and 2 on 10/15 were within typical migration dates for the species. The only warbler reported was **Common Yellowthroat**, last seen 10/13 (JS).

The latest of the three **Rufous-sided Towhee** records was 10/13 (JS). After the initial sighting 11/18 (JS), **Am. Tree Sparrows** were frequently reported. The latest of many **Chipping Sparrow** reports was 10/24 (MA). **Field Sparrows** were not found after 11/14 (JS). The only record of **Fox Sparrow** was 11/10 (JS). **White-throated Sparrow**, first seen 10/13, was not found after 11/22 (JS). The half-dozen **White-crowned Sparrow** sightings were between 10/12 and 11/4 (MA,JS). Unspecified were the numbers of **Snow Buntings** seen 11/28 and 12/6 in Bell Twp., and in Brady Twp. 12/29 (JS).

A late **Red-winged Blackbird** was found 12/29 and the only report of **E. Meadowlark**, a very common breeder in some parts of the county, was 10/16 (JS). **Common Grackles** could not be located after 10/30 (MA). The lack of **Purple Finch** sightings is noteworthy. **House Finch** sightings, on the other hand, are too numerous to mention. The arrival of **Evening Grosbeaks** 10/25 and 10/28 was definitely earlier than normal (MA,JS). They were regularly reported after that. **House Sparrow** populations in the county are not in any danger.

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Jocelynn Smrekar, Edgar Spalding, 115 Old Houserville Rd., State College 16801 (814-238-7973).

Clinton County (18)

Near the top of Bald Eagle Mt., on its north-facing slope just above the village of Pine, some hang-gliders have cleared a swath out of the forest and built a ramp. This offers a good view to the east and northwest, as well as up Pine Cr. and the valley in general. With a proper wind some hawks can be seen here during migration. Last October, in a two-hour period, 41 hawks were seen, including **Red-tailed Hawk**, **N. Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned**, and **Cooper's Hawk**. This year we only got up there once for 1-1/2 hours on 10/25. On this date only 6 Red-tails and 2 Sharpies were seen (P&G).

The Lock Haven-Jersey Shore CBC was held 12/27. The CBC produced the following new high counts for all its 21 count years. There were: 11 **Great Horned Owl**; 14 **N. Flicker**; 236 **Red-winged Blackbird**; 28 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (this kinglet has been in unusually high numbers in the region all Fall); 200 **Brown-headed Cowbird**; 481 **Pine Siskin**; and 4196 **Eur. Starling**. In contrast to this, we had only 62 **Am. Tree Sparrows**. Two other species also in low numbers are 16 **Song Sparrow** and 60 **White-throated Sparrow**. The following were not record breakers, but good strong numbers nevertheless: 11 **Rough-legged Hawk**; 14 **E. Screech-Owl**; 4 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**; 17 **Hairy Woodpecker**; 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**; 11 **Brown Creeper**; 7 **Carolina Wren**; 20 **N. Mockingbird**; and 11 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

Some other records for the quarter included 1 **Common Loon** at Lock Haven 9/17 and 3 on 11/11 (P&GS); the first **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season at S. Avis 12/5 (P&GS); +175 **Horned Lark** at Lock Haven 11/12 (PS); 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Seig Conference Center 11/8 (P&GS); 1 **Dickcissel** at a Lock Haven feeder 11/23-25 (CH); and +50 **Pine Siskin** at Seig Conference center 11/8 (P&GS).

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

Columbia County (19)

Locations: Beach Haven (B.H.), Briar Cr. L. (BCL), Council Cup (C.C.), Susquehanna Riverlands (S.R.), Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES).

Generally speaking, it was a lackluster autumn migration. Many species seemed less frequently sighted than in recent years. This report suffered from the lack of observers sending the compiler written reports of their sightings. All observations were by the compiler unless otherwise noted. Some generalities given as a result of comments collected from the NBBC.

WATER BIRDS. **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Am. Coots** were observed only at BCL and S.R.; the grebes seemed in low numbers. **Great Blue Herons** seemed to be doing well. All waterfowl, both fall migrants and winter visitors, were below average numbers. A rainy September delayed the **Canada Goose** express which ran late and with fewer cars than usual. Few flocks of ducks were seen along the Susquehanna and at BCL. At least 2 **Killdeer** stayed at a SSES spray pond through December.

RAPTORS. **Turkey Vultures** were common migrants along the Susquehanna Valley into mid-October. **Osprey** were at least as common as last year and perhaps more common than in any recent year (ND). Other diurnal raptors seemed sparse; no **Bald Eagle**, **Golden Eagle**, or **Peregrine Falcon** was reported from C.C. (DG,ND) or any other local spot this Fall. Several late **Cooper's** or **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were observed throughout the area. Pairs of **Red-tailed Hawks** were residing in Espy (H&DM) and commonly observed throughout. **Rough-legged Hawk** and **N. Harrier** were almost absent. Again, several people commented that **Am. Kestrels** are more difficult to find than formerly.

Great Horned Owls were heard and seen even in towns such as Bloomsburg (SE) and Espy (H&DM), but few gave a hoot about the CBC. A **Barred Owl** kept showing up in JF's backyard near Mainville at the base of Catawissa Mt. A decapitated ad. **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found in C.C. woods on 11/9 (breakfast for *Bubo*?). No **Long-eared Owl** or **Short-eared Owl** reported.

UPLAND GAMEBIRDS. **Ring-necked Pheasant** may have reached an all-time low in 1987 (m. ob.). **Ruffed Grouse** also seemed fairly low, even in SGL where they usually prosper (JF). **Wild Turkey** were, however, reported by many. Some turkeys were regularly seen by joggers in S.R. Apparently **N. Bobwhites** have been stocked near Wapwallopen and Bloomsburg. **Am. Woodcock** were common near Wapwallopen. **Mourning Doves** remained abundant despite heavy hunting pressure.

WOODPECKERS. Single **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were seen through late December in S.R. (JF) and near B.H. (DG) and through 12/13 near Rohrsburg, where 1 was a regular feeder visitor and found roosting in a flicker hole of a weeping willow (CH). Relatively few N. **Flickers** stayed late. Few **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported. In the CBC about 10 **Downy Woodpeckers** were seen for every **Hairy** (NBBC).

PASSERINES. **Horned Lark** went unreported. **Common Ravens**, 4, were observed near Iola 12/20 (RW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were common in some woods with conifers (CC), but were not common for the CBC. **Carolina Wrens** seem to be doing fairly well in the lowlands and **Winter Wrens** were reported from C.C. as late as 10/24, with 1 lingering near Bloomsburg for the CBC (NBBC).

Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed abundant in migration. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found near Lightstreet 12/20 (DG) and 5 others found in the Montour Co. part of the circle (DU).

E. Bluebirds keep doing well and 126 were seen on the Bloomsburg CBC. Four **Hermit Thrushes** looked funny hopping around in the snow at C.C. 11/3. Unlike past years, no **Am. Robin** was found in the Millville SGL for the BCBC (RS,RW). **Cedar Waxwings** were comparatively common this quarter and the BCBC yielded only 40.

A **Pine Warbler** was seen in a pine-oak forest near SSES with **Golden-crowned Kinglets** 12/23, but not afterward; they have been seen there in past winters (DG). Two **Palm Warblers** were at C.C. with the **Hermit Thrushes** in the snow of 11/3. The last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** report was 10/27 at C.C.; none found for the BCBC.

About 10 **Fox Sparrows** were grounded in the C.C. woods by the early November snowstorm and were digging for food in snow-covered pine needles as late as 11/6. **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** both were much less common Fall migrants than in recent years. **Am. Tree Sparrows** did not seem common until the last week of the year. The only **Snow Buntings** reported were 2 flying near Orangeville 12/20 (DG).

At least 22 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found in silage at Lightstreet (D&DH), where hundreds of **European Starlings** formed living mats of birdage. **Pine Grosbeaks** were not found in the Millville SGL as they were in most recent winters (RS,RW). **House Finches** kept doing well, but **Purple Finch** virtually went unreported near Bloomsburg where they were common feeder birds 10 years ago. **Am. Goldfinch**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Common Redpoll** were fairly common, especially in woods where they fed on birch catkins, and over hawk watches. **Evening Grosbeaks** were gypsy-like as usual. They were more frequently observed in October passing through than later in the quarter. All Evening Grosbeaks captured near Rohrsburg were first-year birds (DG).

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, Sam Evans, John Friedman, Douglas Gross, Susquehanna Biological Laboratory, RD 1, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191), Doyle & Dolores Harris, Karen & Steve Hiller, Cindy Hose, Hugh & Diana McFadden, North Branch Bird Club, Robert Sagar, Dave Unger, Rich Wood.

Crawford County (20)

Locations: Erie NWR, Meadville, Pymatuning S.P. (including the Causeway, Fish Hatchery, Goose Management Area, and Spillway), Saegertown, Tamarack L. (T.L.), Woodcock L. (W.L.)

All sightings by Ronald F. Leberman and/or Mary N. Leberman unless otherwise stated. The Linesville CBC (LCBC) was held 12/20.

The 87 **Common Loons** at PSP 11/14 was the best total in some time. **Horned Grebe** counts were good during migration, with top count of 75 at PSP 11/1. Equally encouraging were the numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes**. There were 30 on W.L. 10/25 (RFL,TP) and 10 at PSP as late as 11/14. One **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen off the Causeway 10/17, but the one on the LCBC 12/20 was very good.

The **Great Blue Heron** continues to be quite common in the area. One **Great Egret** was at the Fish Hatchery 10/24. Twenty-two **Tundra Swan** were in the Spillway area 11/22.

At least 10,000 **Canada Geese** were at PSP 11/22. The **Blue-winged Teal** on the LCBC was a very good find. The best count at PSP for **Gadwall** was 35 11/1. **Am. Wigeon** remained in the area until 11/30, with a peak count of 400 at the GMA 11/1. One **N. Shoveler** was still around 11/8. There were 8 **Ring-necked Ducks** at the GMA 11/1. **Common Goldeneye** numbers reached 3000 at PSP 11/14. On 11/22 there were no less than 1400 **Hooded Merganser** there.

A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Saeger Hill, Meadville, 10/11 seemed a little late for this area. One **Merlin** was w. of Meadville 10/24. Seven **Wild Turkey** were near T.L. 10/25 (HW). A **Virginia Rail** was released near T.L. 10/24 (HW). Best count for **Am. Coot** was 50 at PSP 11/1.

Several **Greater Yellowlegs**, 1 **Western Sandpiper**, 1 **White-rumped Sandpiper**, 4 **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 27 **Dunlin**, and 6 **Common Snipe** were at PSP 11/1.

The first **Bonaparte's Gull** was noted 10/8, by 10/17 there were 1200 present and 750 were still there 11/8. A count of 96 **Mourning Doves** in one tree n.e. of Westford 11/8 was interesting.

Eight **E. Bluebirds** were seen near Saegerstown 10/24 (TP) and 5 were at Erie NWR 10/25 (RFL,MNL,TP). One **N. Shrike** was found 1 mi s. of Norrisville 12/26 (RFL,RCL, MNL). Five **White-crowned Sparrows** were near Fauncetown 10/25 (RFL,MNL,TP). The first **Snow Buntings** were 8 at PSP 10/8. There were 10 **Evening Grosbeaks** at our Saeger Hill feeder 10/31.

OBSERVERS: William Baker, Margaret Baker, Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071), Mary N. Leberman, Thelma Patton, Harriet Wilson.

Cumberland County (21)

Locations: Harrisburg (HBG), Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HFH), Pine Grove Furnace S.P. (PGFSP), Susquehanna R., West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

The first snowfall of the season also produced an unusual event. Loons were in highly unusual places, including fields and porches! The birds were migrating over the area and forced to land wherever they could. Rescue attempts were made, but some birds were placed into ponds of insufficient size for them to become airborne.

The Harrisburg CBC was conducted 12/19 and the 20 **Great Blue Herons** was a good winter record. The last **Great Egret** was at WFBL 10/14 (RK). A new record of 664 **Canada Geese** was set for the CBC. **Am. Black Duck** numbers of 10 at WFBL 10/14 (RK) and 32 for the CBC were quite good. The CBC found 8 **Gadwall**, a respectable number for mid-December. Other waterfowl seen on the CBC include 24 **Am. Wigeon**, 89 **Common Goldeneye**, 166 **Bufflehead**, 16 **Hooded Merganser**, 7 **Common Merganser**, 6 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and a new count bird, 1 **N. Shoveler**. Various waterfowl seen at WFBL 10/30 included 5 **Am. Wigeon**, 1 **Hooded Merganser**, and presumably the season's first **Bufflehead** (RK).

Diurnal raptors in the HBG area are doing well. Two species had high CBC numbers: 59 **Red-tailed Hawk** and 11 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. Unfortunately, **Ring-necked Pheasant** numbers continue to decline as the CBC reported only five. On the bright side, 1 **N. Bobwhite** was found. The high for **Am. Coots** was only 4 at WFBL 10/18 (RK).

The gull population keeps growing in this section of the Susquehanna R. Valley as documented by the CBC. Both **Ring-billed Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull** set records with 970 and 38 respectively. Several **Forster's Tern** reports were received from WFBL all October, with 1 remaining until 10/30 (RK).

Other records for the CBC included 2273 **Mourning Dove** and 48 **Belted Kingfisher**. A good find was an **E. Phoebe** at the HFH 12/26 (TF). Several flocks of **Horned Lark** were observed during the last half of December. The largest flock was ±70 near Newville 12/21 (DH).

There is an increased number of sightings of **Common Raven** in the South Mt. area; 1-2 individuals found at PGFSP 11/24 (JW), Monument Rock 12/12 and Lewis Rocks (DH). The area could support a breeding population.

Carolina Chickadees were a record 120 for the CBC. Either they are expanding northward or people are being more cautious about their identification. An incredible gathering of ±75 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was observed at Monument Rock 11/24 (DH).

Another unexpected find at the HFH 12/26 was a **Common Yellowthroat** (TF). The CBC had 14 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, all at Marsh Run. The 4 **Red-winged Blackbirds** at the HFH 12/26 is a very high winter number.

The CBC's total of 3 **Chipping Sparrows** was excellent. And continued good finds at the HFH 12/26 included 40 **Am. Tree**, 30 **Swamp**, and 10 **Field Sparrows**. Marsh Run produced all 10 of the CBC Swamp Sparrows and the total count of 15 **White-crowned Sparrows** was quite good. Not so good were the winter finches. The CBC had only 1 **Common Redpoll**, 33 **Pine Siskin**, and 12 **Evening Grosbeaks**.

OBSERVERS: Todd Fellenbaum, Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Warren Hoffman, Ramsay Koury, Justin Weaver.

Dauphin County (22)

Locations: Susquehanna R., Wildwood L. Nature Center (WLNC).

The weather for the first half of the period was cooler and wetter than normal, while the second half of the quarter was warmer than normal, particularly in December. Wildwood L. was still open at the quarter's end.

The one rarity was a **Brant** on the bank of the Susquehanna R. near Harrisburg Hospital 11/17-18 (EC). It appeared to be a first-year bird and showed little fear of humans. It is suspected it had been there for a few days before being noticed.

The waterfowl migration was lackluster. A good number of **Canada Geese** moved through, 400-500 easily seen most mornings in October. Most waterfowl species were in low numbers or non-existent, but historically the river's Fall migration is poorer than in the Spring.

The winter finch migration was spotty with only the **Pine Siskin** being reported in numbers.

The following has been gleaned primarily from the Dauphin Co. portion of the Harrisburg CBC conducted 12/19. The only remaining herons were 4 **Great Blue** (P&DW,GL,SN). No dabbling ducks, other than **Mallards** and 20 **Am. Black Ducks**, were reported. Seven **Common Goldeneye** and 86 **Bufflehead** (P&DW,GL,SN) were low numbers, while the **Common Merganser** (normally 30-50 if the river is open) went unreported. **Hooded Mergansers** totalled 8 birds. On 12/29 a non-birder reported a very large hawk hovering over a farm field along I-81. When asked to pick it out in a field guide, he chose the **Rough-legged Hawk** based on the tail markings.

Perhaps due to the warmer weather, **Belted Kingfisher** numbers were up, with 15 reported on the CBC and 6 along a 1-1/2 mi stretch of the river.

Woodpeckers were low: 3 **N. Flicker** (GL,SN,A&NK), 2 **Red-Bellied** (GW,JC), and 1 **Hairy** (GL,SN). **White-breasted Nuthatches** came down from the mountains this year, with 9 reported on the CBC and 7 seen 12/27 at WLNC. Last year they could not be found at WLNC, but a mile away on Blue Mt. they were in good numbers. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (GW) and 4 **Brown Creepers** were on the CBC. A week later 11 Brown

Creepers were found at WLNC, which suggests that they still may have been moving south. **Carolina Wrens** appear to be holding their own so far this winter.

A **Gray Catbird** (A&NK), an **Am. Robin** (GW) and a **Hermit Thrush** (JC) were pretty good finds for the CBC. **Am. Tree Sparrows** were found in average numbers for the CBC, but 3 at WLNC is very low. **Dark-eyed Junco** and **White-throated Sparrow** counts were below normal in general, for the CBC extremely low (3 and 2 respectively), and especially for WLNC where during the winter (other than **Starlings**) they are the most common species.

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, Joe Church, 129 Lucknow Rd., Harrisburg 17110 (717-236-1868), Alan & Nancy Knoche, Gary Lockerman, Sandy Naples, George & Catherine Wertz, Pat & Dick Williams

Delaware County (23)

Locations: Linvilla Orchards (L.O.), Ridley Cr. S.P. (RCSP), Smedley Park (S.P.), Tyler Arboretum (T.A.).

Mild to warm temperatures persisted until November 11, when the first snow storm arrived. The first arctic cold front did not arrive until November 21. The next snow storm was not until December 29, when the area averaged 2".

GREBES THROUGH FALCONS. The first week in November produced an influx of **Pied-billed Grebes** at the Springfield Res. On 11/1 ten were noted (SC) and 4 were still present 11/8 (AG). At the Tinicum NEC, which is located in both Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, 17 were present in the impoundment (Phila. Co.), suggesting a major movement during the first part of the month (AG). A flock of 100 **Snow Geese** were observed flying over T.A. 11/11 (JG). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were on the Springfield Res. 11/26 (AG,JL) and 5 were on a small pond in Middletown Twp. 12/13 (W&AT).

Three **Black Vultures** flying over T.A. 11/15 (AG,SC) are still somewhat unusual, but the species is becoming more commonly seen; a group of 14 was present in Concord Twp. 12/14 (JG,BH). A **N. Harrier** seen 11/15 and again 12/12 (AG) is a locally rare sight at the T.A. A **Cooper's Hawk** was found at L.O. 11/7 (AG). Cooper's Hawks are fairly common in October during the peak of migration, but 1 at Darby Cr. in Essington 12/13 is finding the area to its liking and might possibly winter over (AG,JL). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found at Clayton Park 12/19 (NP). A **Peregrine Falcon** was present in the Tinicum area 10/23 (BS).

PHEASANT TO WAXWINGS. **Ring-necked Pheasants** are losing their habitat in the Delco region. One was found at T.A. 11/15 (AG). The Arboretum is trying to maintain some shrubby areas by cutting back certain fields periodically, which is keeping small birds in the area, but the fields do not appear to be large enough to support the pheasants for any length of time.

One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was spotted at Tinicum 12/10 (JCM). Good finds were 5 **Am. Woodcock** 11/22 in Aston (NP) and 7 at Tinicum 12/19 (JCM).

Three **Forster's Terns** were lingering in Essington 10/28. In Swarthmore, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was still there 10/10, apparently the same bird which was there all summer (HMc).

A report was received of a **Snowy Owl** 12/9 at the Concord Twp. Building, but it could not be relocated. The long-awaited return of the I-95 **Common Barn-Owl** happened 12/5 when it was observed with young (TR). **Long-eared Owls** were found again at Springfield Res. on the Glenolden CBC 12/19. A single **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found 12/17, but due to people pressure in the past the location will not be revealed.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a fly over at S.P. during banding operations (SC,AG). More and more observers are reporting **Pileated Woodpeckers** throughout the region. A new location was the Middletown Fire Co. in Media (CS).

A late **Barn Swallow** was found 10/23. **Am. Crows** are certainly very common in the region, but a concentration of 400+ at L.O. was the largest I've seen in the area (AG). This is the second straight year that **Black-capped Chickadees** were scarce. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** found in the Tinicum area 12/18 was

relocated for the CBC (JCM,BS). The **House Wren** on the CBC was also a good find (JCM). One of the CBC's **Winter Wrens** was observed while singing his full song (AG,JL,DM). It was noted that **Cedar Waxwings** in the T.A. and RCSP were scarce this winter.

WARBLERS TO GROSBEAKS. A **Pine Warbler** was found at the T.A. 11/8 (SC) and remained throughout the season, at times feeding with **E. Bluebirds** and other times associating with **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in the pinetum. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Ovenbird** and **Common Yellowthroat** were all found on the CBC.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was at L.O. 11/7, a fairly late date, although the species has overwintered. **Fox Sparrows** were present at T.A. 11/8 and a **Swamp Sparrow** was also there. The latter is locally uncommon. A flock of 60+ **Snow Buntings** were flying around the Phila. Airport 10/21. A small flock of ±20 **Rusty Blackbirds** came to Crum Cr. Res. 10/24 (AG,JL) and another flock arrived at T.A. 11/8 (SC). **Purple Finch** appeared in the area 10/16 (AG).

Red Crossbills had to be the highlight of the CBC, when 7 were spotted at Upper Banks Nursery in Media (SS). Small flocks of **Pine Siskins** at T.A. were consistently found from 10/25 through the end of the quarter (JG), but in Aston a large flock of 250+ has been repeatedly seen (NP). **Evening Grosbeaks** passed through the area in early November in fairly good numbers, but apparently kept moving south as they were harder to find in December (JG,AG).

EXOTIC. For the 3rd year in succession, a **Monk Parakeet** has appeared at Jim McGrath's feeder in Lansdowne. This year the bird arrived 12/27, but in prior years has shown up in November.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Ginaven, Al Guarante, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Barbara Haas, Jim Lockyer, Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Sandy Sherman, Charles Smith, Bill Stocku, Walt & Andy Thurber.

Elk County (24)

Locations: Allegheny N.F. (ANF), Allegheny Res. (A.R.).

This report also includes sightings from McKean Co. (42).

There was an alarming trend of very few flocks of **Canada Geese** flying over (less than seven flocks all Fall). The other trends included better numbers of winter woodland birds, including excellent numbers of **Pine Siskins**.

Four **Tundra Swans** were observed on the A.R. 11/19. The first flock of Canada Geese, 25, was seen 11/14 and the largest flock, 31, was 12/21. Six **Common Mergansers** were on the A.R. 12/8.

Turkey Vultures lingered in the region until 11/10. An **Osprey** was observed near the A.R. 10/13 (JM). At least 1 ad. **Bald Eagle** could be found along the southern arm of the A.R. through the quarter (v.o.).

A **Winter Wren** was located in the ANF during a blizzard on 11/16. On 10/20 a **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in the ANF.

The first **Am. Tree Sparrow** was seen 11/4. A migrant **Vesper Sparrow** was found in a grassy clearcut in the ANF 10/19. The largest **Pine Siskin** flock was 15 on 11/6 and the first **Evening Grosbeaks** were 22 in the ANF 11/2. Beginning in early November, many mixed flocks of grosbeaks and siskins could be located throughout the ANF, especially in areas with birch trees. This appears to be a "bumper crop" year for birch catkins.

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford 16701 (814-362-4613), Jinx McCloskey.

Erie County (25)

Locations: Presque Isle S.P.

Cold weather in October brought southward bound migrants rushing through the Erie area in fair numbers, particularly early in the month. In a three-day period, unprecedented numbers of Surf

Scoters passed by the tip of Presque Isle S.P.; an immature Sabine's Gull flew by and later a possible Western/Clark's Grebe was seen at Gull Point.

Despite the unseasonably cold temperatures in October, some noteworthy passerine records were established. Details follow.

By November, bird migration had slowed somewhat with the return of mild weather which continued into December. Open water until the end of December may explain the large numbers of Horned Grebes remaining around Presque Isle, with numbers exceeding 50 birds. The entire birding year seemed to be less eventful than previous years. However the 256 species recorded for Erie County for 1987 is about average.

All sightings were from Presque Isle S.P. (P.I.) unless stated otherwise.

Two Red-throated Loons were seen 11/7 (JM). An **Eared Grebe** was observed from 11/30 to 12/29 (JM *et al.*). A possible, but unconfirmed, **Western/Clark's Grebe** was sighted briefly in the company of **Common Loons**, but could not be relocated after a power boat passed through the area 10/10 (LM). (This will be referred to the State Records Committee once established.) **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed until 12/19 (m.ob.).

A **Cattle Egret** was seen 10/10 e. of Cranesville (SH,JHS). The bird was present with a herd of cattle for about a week. Another was seen feeding in a ditch along a road s. of Erie 11/3 (TK).

Four **Brant** were observed 11/2 (RMH *et al.*). An imm. male **Harlequin Duck** was shot in Thompson Bay 11/14 (BH) for the 4th county record. One female **King Eider** was observed sitting along the beach at the tip of Gull Point (LL,GS). Up to 5 **Black Scoters** were present from 10/8 to 12/5 (JM). An impressive record of 457 **Surf Scoters** passed the tip of P.I. flying in an easterly direction 10/8 (JM). Several other small flocks were seen thereafter until the end of the period (m.ob.). **White-winged Scoters** were observed from 10/11 to 12/5 (m.ob.).

One imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen 12/30 (DF). Single **N. Goshawks** were seen 10/17 and 12/5 (JM). One **Peregrine Falcon** was observed 10/3 and 10/8 (JM).

A **Lesser Golden-Plover** was seen 10/11 (EK) and another located at the Erie Waste Treatment Plant 11/26 (RS,JGS,SS). A single **Baird's Sandpiper** was observed 10/12 and 10/17 (JM).

One or 2 ad. **Little Gulls** were seen 11/11, 11/18, and 11/24 (JM,LM,EK). A partial albino **Ring-billed Gull** was observed in Misery Bay 12/29 (JM). An imm. **Glaucous Gull** was seen 12/9 (JB) and 12/27 (DF). The imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** seen 11/28 was the 8th county record (DF). A first winter **Sabine's Gull** was observed flying in a westerly direction past Sunset Point within a few yards of shore 10/8 (JM). This was the 2nd county record. Several **Forster's Terns** were observed until 10/25 (JM).

At least 2 **Snowy Owls** were seen in Erie and on P.I. from 11/7 to at least 11/30 (m.ob.). A **Long-eared Owl** was found 12/19 (DD, *et al.*) and a **Short-eared Owl** was seen 11/17 (LL,GS). One **N. Saw-whet Owl** was seen 10/12 and 10/23 (JM,LM) and 12/21 (JH).

A female **Whip-poor-will** was seen 10/4 (JM,EK). This species is rarely reported in Fall. The several hundred **Chimney Swifts** circling over Erie at dusk on the late date of 10/14 were a rare sight (JM,LM). A female or imm. hummingbird 10/17 near Springfield was a month later than our latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird record (BB).

A **Tree Swallow** 11/16 was extremely late (LL). The latest record prior to this date was 10/28/84. A **N. Shrike** was seen from early November to 12/31 at P.I. (m.ob.) and another in Waterford 11/16 (JM).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was banded 8/29. This was the first Fall record for the species in the 25 years of banding there (RFL). (*Late report received.-Eds.*) Up to 7 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were recorded in early October; 5 of them were banded by JHS and RFL. One **Pine Warbler** was seen 10/4 and 10/11 (EK). A **Common Yellowthroat** was found 12/19 (JB).

An imm. male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** came to the Stull's feeder for about a week in late December and was last seen 12/27 (JHS). Another bird which was believed to be a different indiv.

appeared at a feeder not far from the Stulls (DM, *fide* JHS). These represent the 2nd and 3rd sightings of this species in winter in the county.

Small numbers of **Lapland Longspurs** were recorded in October and November (JM, EK, LL). Small flocks of **Pine Siskins** were noted in Erie Co. through the period (m.oh.). Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** were detected beginning 10/19. All other northern finches went unreported.

OBSERVERS: Jim Baxter, Bob Boyce, Dave Darney, Dave Flynn, Bill Hafner, Roger & Margaret Higbee, Shayne Hoachlander, Joyce Hoffman, Tim Kimmel, Ed Kwater, Ronald F. Leberman, Larry Lewis, Jerry McWilliams, 3142 West 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Linda McWilliams, Dot Messenger, Grier Saunders, Jean H. Stull, James G. Stull, Sam Stull, Ruth Swaney.

Forest County (27)

The following was submitted by Jerry and Linda McWilliams.

An *Empidonax* flycatcher was studied for approximately 15 minutes in the Allegheny N.F. near Kelletville in Forest Co. 10/18. It showed some characteristics of **Western Flycatcher**, i.e., longish tail, distinctive tear drop projection to posterior edge of eye ring, and frequent flicking of the wings and tail simultaneously. Unfortunately, even with newly published field guides for *Empidonax* flycatchers, the difficulty and uncertainty of identifying this group in the field remains. Therefore, at best, the sighting must stand as *Empidonax* flycatcher sp. (JM, LM).

Greene County (30)

The Clarksville CBC was held December 27th and highs or lows given are from that report.

More **Great Blue Herons** remained in the area this Fall. This was probably due to the mild weather with no freeze-ups. A record 4 **Great Blue Herons** and 7 **Hooded Mergansers** were found on the CBC.

The **Wild Turkey** is increasing rapidly in the county. Thirty were found on the CBC and this only represents a small portion of the total numbers within the circle. A confused **Am. Coot** was noted dodging cars on a wet highway near Lippencott. It was brought to me by Jim Pitcock for identification and banding and then released in a nearby stream.

Two **Barred Owls** were heard calling near Jefferson 10/31. This is a rather rare owl in this county, but it may be increasing due to abandoned farms growing up into wooded areas.

All woodpeckers were well represented on the CBC with 34 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** and 8 **Pileated Woodpeckers** being new records. No **Horned Lark** has been recorded on our CBC for the past two years. It is quite noticeable because of its absence. The 2 **Common Ravens** heard and seen flying over the farm 10/26 represents the first October record for the species. Over 1200 **Common Grackles** were noted flying over the farm 10/31.

The **House Finch** is continuing to increase each year and the 300 on the CBC was a record. A good migration of **Pine Siskin** was observed this Fall. The first migrant was 10/9, with a flock of 39 counted 10/14. A new high of 21 was found on the CBC.

The first migrating **Evening Grosbeak** was seen 10/29 and later a few small flocks were noted migrating in the usual s.w. direction, but none was found at Count time.

OBSERVERS: Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505), Jim Pitcock.

Huntingdon County (31)

Locations: Entriiken Overlook (E.O.), Raystown Dam (R.D.), Stone Valley L. (SVL).

The weather was relatively mild and uneventful the last quarter of 1987. No rare or unusual species was reported, although a few unexpected species were observed late in the quarter. The Huntingdon CBC was held 12/26.

Common Loons were observed above R.D. 11/13-20 and at SVL 12/20-26. The only grebe sightings were of **Pied-billed** at E.O. 10/19. Other waterfowl for the quarter included **Tundra Swan** at E.O. 11/6, 45 Am. **Black Duck** at R.D. 11/13, N. **Pintail** at SVL 12/26, **Ring-necked Duck** at SVL 12/20, **Oldsquaw** at R.D. 12/17-18, and **Hooded Merganser** near Mapleton 12/6-11. The N. Pintail made the CBC. The Oldsquaw were present on the ice-free waters immediately above Raystown Lake's spillway. This area is always productive for waterfowl throughout the winter months.

Vultures were well represented, with both species present. **Turkey Vultures** were observed moving south in good numbers 11/4, while 18 **Black Vultures** remained quite late, the last being seen on the CBC. In addition to the usual numbers of **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel**, other raptors seen were 4 **Rough-legged Hawk** and 3 **N. Harrier**, all 12/26. They were all found near the town of Cottage in Shaver's Cr. Valley. One ad. and 1 sub-ad. **Bald Eagle** were observed in mock combat at E.O. 12/15.

Gulls were limited to the usual **Ring-billed Gulls** overwintering at R.D. and a one-day appearance of a **Bonaparte's Gull** at SVL 12/26.

Horned Larks were found on manure spreads throughout Shaver's Cr. Valley 11/16 and 12/26. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found in good numbers for the CBC.

Sparrow records were single sightings of each of the following species: **Fox Sparrow** in Huntingdon 11/10; **Swamp Sparrow** in the Brumbaugh Homestead cattails near Marklesburg 10/5; and **White-crowned Sparrow** in Huntingdon 10/26.

OBSERVER: David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030).

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IND), Shelocta (SHL), West Lebanon / Elders Ridge strips (The Indiana-Armstrong Co. line runs through the strips; some of the birds were in both counties.), Yellow Creek S.P. (YCSP).

The period offered a few pleasant surprises for birders in Indiana Co., best of which was a **Red Knot**, present at YCSP for three days. Interesting, too, was an early October report of a **Tricolored Heron** at YCSP. Single **Snow Buntings** at two locations were unusual. The waterfowl migration was at best sparse, and few shorebirds were sighted. However, the CBC on December 26 set many records. Highs were tallied on 21 species, lows on only 5. In all, 60 species were listed, topping the previous high of 57 in 1984. Total number of indiv. fell slightly below the previous 4-year average. The highlight of the CBC was the report of 10 **Forster's Terns** on Musser Pond 12/26. (Convincing details were sent to the compilers.)

All waterfowl reports are from YCSP unless otherwise noted. **Common Loons** numbered 17 on 10/31 (GS, AB), but 13 were counted 11/14 (LH). A singleton was present on the CBC (LH), when another was both seen and heard at Twolick Res. (AC). **Pied-billed Grebe** high was 8 on 11/20 (GS, JB). First **Horned Grebe** was reported 10/24 (GS, JS), but top count was 7 on 11/11 (GS). Four were found on the CBC. Single **Great Blue Herons** were reported until 11/25 (GL, GS). An undocumented sighting of a **Tricolored Heron** 10/2 was received (GL, GS).

The **Tundra Swan** movement through our area began 11/19 with 27 spotted over Clarksburg (MH, NK) and 98 over YCSP (GS, DS); 40 were tallied on the CBC. The Count produced 105 **Canada Geese**, an all-time high. The only report of Am. **Black Duck** was 1 reported 10/26 (AH, MH *et al.*). A lone N. **Pintail** was observed 11/25 (GL, GS). On 10/2 a N. **Shoveler** appeared on the lake (GL, GS). A single **Canvasback** was located 12/23 (MH, GL, GS). Few **Ring-necked Duck** reports were received, with best count 6 on Margus L. 11/14 (LH). Top **Lesser Scaup**

report was a raft of 35 on 11/11 (GS). One **Oldsquaw** was found 12/23, but 3 were seen on the CBC (LH). Two Common **Goldeneyes** were observed 11/15 and 7 were a nice CBC total. Top **Bufflehead** tally was 17 on 11/11 (GS), with 4 still present for the CBC (PA,AH). One **Common Merganser** was well-studied 11/25 (GL,GS). **Ruddy Duck** reports were limited to October with top tally a mere 9 on 10/24 (JS,GS).

Last **Turkey Vulture** reported was 11/6 at Nolo (GS). **Osprey** was reported only on 10/2 at YCSP (GL,GS). N. **Harriers** were reported from four areas (m. ob.). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were found at YCSP in October (m.ob.), near SHL in December (MH,RH), and 2 were listed on the CBC. Many **Cooper's Hawks** were reported, but only 3 were tallied on the CBC. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** spent 45 minutes in a backyard near SHL 11/30, the first day of deer season (MH). A healthy 23 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 23 Am. **Kestrels** were tallied for the CBC.

Ring-necked Pheasants were in good numbers, but **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** reports were below average. Top Am. **Coot** count at YCSP was 63 on 10/12 (JB,GS). Last **Killdeer** report came 11/25 from YCSP (GL,GS). The **Red Knot** was well-observed at YCSP 10/24 (JS,GS) and photographed the next day (RH). The bird was extremely tame and allowed approach to within 4 ft.

Best **Ring-billed Gull** tally was 38 at YCSP 10/25 (MH,RH). **Herring Gull** was reported only on 12/23 (LH), when 3 were present.

A gray-phase **E. Screech-Owl**, roosting in a nest box near SHL, was observed almost every afternoon after 11/24 (MH,RH); it was the only one located on the CBC despite owling efforts. **Great Horned Owls** began hooting in late October near SHL. **Barred Owl** was reported only from Nolo (GS), but 1 was found inside the count circle (GS). **Short-eared Owls** numbered 5 at the strips 10/2 (RH).

Last **Chimney Swift** reported was 10/8 near IND (MH). Open water provided habitat for a good **Belted Kingfisher** presence with a record 9 on the CBC. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, usually unreported in IND Co., was found at YCSP 10/31 (AB,GS) and 2 were near Creekside 12/26 (MH,RH,ML). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** near Clarksburg 11/19 (MH,NK) was the lone report. Two N. **Flickers** near Creekside were listed for the CBC (MH,RH). **Pileated Woodpecker**, observed at three locations prior to the Count, was found only near Brush Valley 12/26 (GD,GS). Last **E. Phoebe** was listed 10/5 at YCSP (GS). Two **Horned Lark** reports were received - 3 at YCSP 11/11 and a singleton near Alverda 11/29 (GS).

A **Common Raven** was both seen and heard calling at the strips 12/9 (RH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** maintained a presence near SHL and IND throughout the period (MH,RH,PJ). Seven **Brown Creepers** were tallied for the CBC. **Carolina Wrens** have staged a come-back with reports from various parts of the county. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** hit a record high 60, topping the previous CBC high of 23. Last **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** report was a 1 near SHL 10/20 (MH). **E. Bluebirds** were found in small flocks near SHL, YCSP, and the strips (v.o.). Top count of **Am. Robins** was 650 roosting near SHL 10/23 (MH), but only 8 were found for the CBC. Three N. **Mockingbirds** were reported. Two **Water Pipits** were found 11/11 at YCSP (GS). **Cedar Waxwings**, found in flocks of 15-30 indiv. throughout October were unreported during the remaining two months, except for 9 found near Brush Valley on the CBC (GD,GS).

Solitary Vireo lingered until 10/16 near SHL, where **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was last reported 11/25 (MH). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at the same location lingered until 10/8. A **Pine Warbler** 10/20 was a bit late (MH). Last **Common Yellowthroat** was observed near Brush Valley 10/3 (AJ,GS).

A **Rufous-sided Towhee**, visiting an IND feeder, was last seen 12/24 (PJ). **Am. Tree Sparrows**, below average, numbered only 94 on the CBC, but 13 **Field Sparrows** were a high. One to 2 **Fox Sparrows** visited a feeder near SHL almost daily between 10/23 and 11/20 (MH,RH). **Swamp Sparrow** was reported only from YCSP (v.o) throughout the period. **White-throated Sparrows** hit an all-time low of 25 on the CBC, and only 1 **White-crowned**

Sparrow was seen (GD,GS). **Dark-eyed Juncos**, too, hit a low count of 315, 44% below the previous 4-year average. A **Snow Bunting** put in an appearance in a yard in IND 10/27 (PJ); another singleton appeared at Nolo 11/11 (GS). CBC reports include a single **Red-winged Blackbird** at YCSP (PA,AH), 5 **Common Grackles** near Brush Valley (GD,GS), and 46 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** near Homer City (BM,BR *et al.*). Only 7 **Purple Finches** were counted, but **House Finches** numbered 615, down from last year's high of 849. Many reports of **Pine Siskin** were received beginning 10/14, with top count of 54 near SHL 12/21 (MH). First **Evening Grosbeaks** appeared at YCSP 10/26 (AH,MH), but the CBC tally of 52 was far below average.

OBSERVERS: Pat Andrascik, Alice Beatty, John Beaule, Alan Clark, Gloria Dick, Susan Goldstein, Anne Hedgpeth, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Leon Hue, Patricia Johner, Aino Johnston, Nancy Karp, Gloria Lamer, Mary Little, Beth Marshall, Susan Purviance, Barbara Rowe, John Salvetti, Dan Syster, Georgette Syster.

Juniata County (34)

Locations: Clearview Res., Hammer Hollow

A cold October was followed by an average to warm November and December. Snow in November brought birds to feeders, where they have been feeding steadily ever since. Some observers, however, say their feeder count is down, some noting the daily presence of a Cooper's Hawk. Small creeks and ponds were frozen over in late December. The 5th Lewistown CBC was held 12/19. Sightings of note are included in this report.

Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Clearview Res. 11/15 (LW). **Canada Geese** and **Mallard** numbers were low. Four pairs of **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at Greenwood L. 10/21 (DW). A 1st for the CBC was a **Wood Duck** at Cuba Mills (CG).

A N. **Harrier** at Hammer Hollow 12/17 is probably a winter resident (DW). **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Mourning Dove** numbers were also down for the CBC, but **Great Horned Owl** numbers were up, perhaps influenced by the playing of **E. Screech-Owl** tapes.

Although the count is relatively new, the numbers of **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpecker**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Carolina Wren**, **European Starling**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** were down considerably. The **E. Bluebird** count returned to 1985 levels after a 25% drop in 1986.

Reports from feeders include 1 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (NZ), 1 **Gray Catbird** feeding on yew berries (BM), and 1 **Dark-eyed Junco** marked with a white spot on its rump. The junco was also at our feeder last year (LW). N. **Cardinal** reports are up, while **Common Redpoll** and **Pine Siskin** reports are low, and **Evening Grosbeaks** are just scarce at best.

We were saddened in our community this December by the passing of local birder Alma Wilson. Alma, founder of our local CBC and a co-founder of the Towpath Naturalist Society of Mifflin and Juniata counties, was a good friend, and an avid and learned birdwatcher. Linda Whitesel

OBSERVERS: Chris Gisewhite, Berniece Miller, Towpath Naturalists, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RD #1, Box 356A, Mifflintown 17059 (717-436-8048), Naomi Zook.

Lackawanna County (35)

Locations: L. Scranton, Maple L., Scranton, Springbrook.

Three **Common Loons**, **Pied-billed Grebes**, and **Horned Grebes** were seen at L. Scranton for the better part of November. The only other waterfowl reported were small flocks of **Buffleheads** there and at Maple L. and **Canada Geese** flying overhead.

Sharp-shinned Hawks, Am. **Kestrels**, and especially **Red-tailed Hawks** were noted frequently during migration in various areas of the county. An **E. Screech-Owl** was found in the Dalton area.

Woodpecker sightings included **Red-bellied**, **Downy**, **Hairy**, **Pileated** 10/7 and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 10/4, all near Dalton. An **E. Phoebe** was found there 10/2.

Loose flocks of **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Tufted Titmice**, and an occasional **Brown Creeper** were noted beginning early October. Only report for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was of 1 on 12/6. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were first seen 10/3, the same date as the last **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen.

N. **Mockingbirds** seemed common throughout the county, but **Cedar Waxwings** were not readily found.

Last date for **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 10/1 near Dalton. A flock of **Chipping Sparrows** was near Dalton 10/23. Am. **Tree Sparrows** were first found 11/15, while **Vesper Sparrows** migrated through the area 10/23-30 at Maple L. and Springbrook. Seven **Fox Sparrows** were seen 11/18, the last one noted 12/4. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Maple L. 10/27. **White-crowned Sparrows** on 10/23 were found to round out the sparrow list.

Earliest date for **Pine Siskin** was 10/21, while **Evening Grosbeaks** were not found until 11/13 in the Dalton area.

OBSERVERS: Nancy and Derry Bird, Rosann Bongey, Mike Friedlin, Gerald Klebauskas, 1301 Blair Ave., Scranton 18504 (717-344-4690), Jane Shulenberger, Sue Zenke, Tinka Zenke.

Lancaster County (36)

Locations: Cornwall Fire Tower Hawk Watch (CFTHW), Middle Cr. WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (M.R.), Octoraro L. (O.L.).

The Lititz CBC (LCBC) was held 12/27 and the Southern Lancaster Co. CBC (Solanco) was held 12/20.

This quarter held some surprises for the county birders. A **Great Cormorant** was a 1st county record and possibly the first sighting for the state away from the Delaware R. The Hawk Watch had its finest season since it began in 1975. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Octoraro L. was a 1st for that area and away from the Susquehanna R. A **Snowy Owl** appeared in early Nov. and again mid.-Dec., but was difficult for most to find. Single **Common Raven** were at CFTHW three days. **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were found again (see last issue) on the Susquehanna R. after nearly a 30-year absence.

Many migrating loons were caught in a storm 11/10-12 and were forced down into inappropriate habitat. Many were rescued and released at large bodies of water, especially MCWMA (CS). One to 2 **Red-throated Loon** noted at MCWMA with the many **Common Loons** 11/12-15 (JB,TG,EW).

An imm. **Great Cormorant** was found 12/20 between Cook's Landing and Haines Station along the Susquehanna R. (EW,TG,JW,FH). It was relocated 12/21 (JB). One to 2 imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** lingered at MCWMA into December (SS) and the last sighting was of 1 on 12/12 (TF,HM). Late herons were 1 **Am. Bittern** 11/1 on the Conejohela Flats (TG,EW), 1 **Great Egret** at Washington Boro 11/2 (RK), and a **Green-backed Heron** at MCWMA 12/28.

A record high 178 **Snow Geese** were on the Solanco CBC at O.L. 12/20 (LL). A **Brant** at MCWMA 11/22 was a good find (CD,TD). Two drake **Wood Ducks** were at MCWMA 12/26 (TG,EW,JW), The 4 **Greater Scaup** at Muddy run (RMS,HM)

and an **Oldsquaw** on the Conowingo Pond (EM) were the only reports of either species. Fourteen **Hooded Mergansers** were at MCWMA 11/6 (FH,PM).

Away from the hawk watch, there were 3 imm. **Bald Eagles** at MCWMA 12/5 (TG), single **Golden Eagles** were noted at MCWMA 11/5 (SSm) and 11/28 (PM,VM) and another at Cook's Landing 11/17 (RMS). A **Merlin** was near Groffdale 12/6 (JM).

A **Virginia Rail** was taped in at Speedwell Forge L. on the Lititz CBC 12/27 (MR). **Lesser Golden-Plover** continued at the Conejohela Flats with 28 seen 10/11 and 11 there 10/18 (EW,TG). Also at these flats a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen on the late date 11/1 and a **Red-necked Phalarope** 10/4 (EW,TG).

Two ad. **Laughing Gulls** were at Muddy Run's Fisherman's Park 11/18 (RMS, HM, KL). **Bonaparte's Gull** reports included 6 at MCWMA 11/1 (JB) and 4 on the Solanco CBC below Peach Bottom 12/20 (EW,TG et al.). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at O.L. 12/20 was a 1st record for the Solanco count (LL). An imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** flew over MCWMA 12/27 for a Lititz CBC first (HM et al.). **Forster's Tern** numbers from Sept. remained good through October along the river, with 2 at Cook's Landing 11/17 (RMS) the last reported.

A **Snowy Owl** was at Ephrata 11/3-9 (TG,PW,EW et al.) and another (same?) was seen 12/12-14 at the Lancaster Airport (RMS,JG et al.). Workers at the airport claim the bird was present for about a month. A **Short-eared Owl** was at MCWMA 12/6 (SSc) and 12/27 (HM et al.).

A hummingbird sp. was seen at Muddy Run 11/1 (LN). A record high 6 **E. Phoebe** were on the Solanco CBC (m. ob.). Single **Common Raven** were seen at the CFTHW 10/1,8,19 (FH, HM, PM, JM). Single **Marsh Wrens** were noted at the flats 10/18 and 11/8 (EW,TG). A **Brown Thrasher** was on the LCBC. Passing through at the CFTHW were a **Solitary Vireo** 10/26 (FH,PM) and a **Pine Warbler** 11/2 (PM). A **Common Yellowthroat** was at MCWMA 12/27 (HM et al.).

Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*A. c. nelsoni*) were seen at the Conejohela Flats 10/4, 10/18 (2), and 11/1 (EW,TG). This species had not been recorded at that location since the late 1950's when Ted Hake et al. saw them regularly in Sept/Oct. Two **Fox Sparrows** were at the Lebanon Pumping Station 11/3 (FH) and 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at MCWMA 10/13 (RK).

There were still 4 **Bobolink** at the flats 10/4 (EW,TG). Seven **Rusty Blackbirds** were at the Lebanon Pumping Station 11/3 (FH). **Pine Siskin** were first seen at MCWMA 10/10 (SSc), many more were seen the following week throughout the county and continued through December with many seen on the CBC's.

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Connie Donahue, Tom Donahue, Todd Fellenbaum, Tom Garner, Jay George, Fred Habegger, Ramsay Koury, Keath Leidich, Larry Lewis, Eric McClellan, Pat McElhenny, Val McElhenny, Joe Meloney, Harold Morrin, Linda Nachtrab, Margery Rutbell, Steve Santner, Scott Schreiber (SSc). Robert M. Schutsky, Stan Smith (SSm), Charles Strouphar, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138), Jan Witmer, Pat Witmer.

Lebanon County (38)

Locations: Memorial L. (M.L.), Second Mt. Hawk Watch (SMHW).

This was an average quarter weatherwise except for the very early major snowstorm in early November. Open water persisted on the larger bodies of water until the last two to three days of December. Most bird groups were in average to good numbers; only sparrows were clearly down. The wild food crop was poor. There were almost no acorns, hickory nuts were down, and there were virtually no berries. These deficiencies were really not reflected in the numbers of birds dependent on these foods. However, these species may prove to be much more vulnerable next quarter once the meager supplies of berries and nuts are exhausted.

The Lebanon CBC, held December 19, turned up 68 species, with two more added during the count period. This was an all-time high for this count and reflects a steadily increasing number of party hours of coverage. In terms of rarities, this season was fairly dull, except for the few lucky individuals who witnessed the white-phase **Gyrfalcon** pass by the Second Mt. Hawk Watch!

Large numbers of loons, mostly **Common** but also a few **Red-throated**, were the major casualties of the early November snowstorm. Large numbers were picked up throughout the county and taken to the larger bodies of water for release; 2 remained at the lake at Stoever's Dam Nature Center in Lebanon until at least 12/22 (FH,SS). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported in good numbers (up to 4) at M.L. in Oct/Nov (m. ob.). An extremely late **Green-backed Heron** was found at M.L. 12/22 (SS). It could not be relocated later and the lake had completely frozen over by 12/31.

Waterfowl generally were in good numbers, although **Tundra Swan** was reported only once, a group flying over the SMHW 10/25 (JL,KL). Three **Snow Geese**, 2 **Gadwall**, 2 **Redhead**, 2 **Canvasback**, and 1 **Bufflehead** were all found at M.L. 12/19 (DB,JB,MC,SS). The Gadwall numbers had increased to 6 by 12/22 (SS). This species is seldom reported here even during spring and fall migrations.

The **Black Vulture** continues its increase, 3 being found on the CBC for a 1st record (BW,SW). Refer to separate section for SMHW totals.

Wild Turkey was reported widely in the Stony Valley area during October and November. Due to the poor acorn crop, it remains to be seen how many will survive the winter. There were three reports of **Common Barn-Owl**, all during December; 1 was seen 12/7 just w. of Myerstown (PH), 1 n. of Annville throughout the month in a silo (JH), and 1 at Indiantown Gap on the CBC (DB,JB,MC) and 12/22 (SS). It is of interest that these records were all in December, a time normally thought to be the low point in the numbers of this species locally.

A late **Winter Wren** was reported on the CBC near Annville (BW,SW). Two separate **Gray Catbirds** were also located that day n.e. of Lebanon (FE,JoH). Sparrows seemed to be in low numbers toward the end of the quarter. **Dark-eyed Juncos** in particular were late to arrive and were still in low numbers by the end of December (m. ob.).

The **Pine Siskin** staged a massive migration through Lebanon Co., with large numbers moving past the SMHW (m. ob.). The largest flocks found were 200+ in Stony Valley 11/1 (SS) and 300 on Sharpe Mt. in late October (DZ). Some remained through the end of the period; 46 were found on the CBC (DB,JB,MC,DZ). A few **Purple Finches** and **Evening Grosbeaks** were also observed, but no other "winter finches" could be found.

OBSERVERS: Ellis Blauch, Dick Boshart, Jan Buckingham, Morris Cox, Frank Eckert, Jim Hammond, Jon Harwick (JoH), Fritz Heilman, Jane Light, Ken Light, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-836-2525), Bill Welsh, Scott Welsh, Del Zimmerman.

Lehigh County (39)

Locations: Allentown CBC (AXC), Bake Oven Knob (BOK)

The Fall season was a good one, but not without some problems. An early snow storm November 11th forced down loons all over the area, some in locations from which they could not take off. Raptors produced the best flight in years, with several species, especially **Golden** and **Bald Eagles**, and **Peregrine Falcon**, setting new all-time high counts. Northern finches, especially **Pine Siskins** which appeared in record breaking numbers during the Fall migration, did not remain into the Winter season.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL. A **Red-Throated Loon** was seen from Baer Rocks 10/4 (KK). Good numbers of **Common Loons** were found, e.g., 28 at BOK 11/21 (GLF). Other Common Loons were seen on two small city ponds in Allentown,

L. Muhlenberg and at Dorney Park Pond, where there were no previously known records. These were found during the severe snow storm 11/11 (BLM).

A record high count 17 **Great Blue Herons** was found on the AXC. A **Great Egret** was seen flying by Baer Rocks 10/4 (KK). An extremely early **Tundra Swan** was at Baer Rocks 10/17 (JS), 10 others were seen from BOK 11/13 (RB), and another flock of 35 was seen 11/17 (RW). A **Snow "blue phase" Goose** found on the AXC was one of the more unusual birds of the day (FB). On 11/5 130 **Brant** in two flocks were seen at BOK and a record high 120 **Double-crested Cormorants** in two flocks were seen there 10/1 (RW).

RAPTORS. The hawk migration was one of the best in recent years. A hawk watch at BOK organized by Steve Smith provided almost daily coverage this Fall. **Black Vultures** were seen almost daily along the ridge, with 3 seen as late as 11/7 at BOK (GLF). Observers at BOK 10/1 had 13 species of raptors, plus 2 species of vultures, only a Rough-legged Hawk was absent of the normally occurring Eastern raptors (RW). That day the **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count was 400+, along with 67 **Cooper's Hawk**, 32 **Am. Kestrel**, and 5 **Merlin** (RW). A **N. Goshawk** was found on the AXC (BT).

The day after the Veteran's Day snow storm 13 **Golden Eagles** were seen at BOK (RW). Since the snow made the road to BOK impassable, Wiltraut walked up the side of the mountain under extremely bad conditions, but the all-time daily high of the 13 Golden Eagles and 1 **Bald Eagle** made it worthwhile. Another 10 eagles were seen there 11/7 (GLF). Also that day, but at Baer Rocks, 6 **Golden Eagles** and 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen (KK).

The peak day for **N. Harrier** at BOK was 10/23, when 20 flew by (RW). A light-phase **Swainson's Hawk** was seen at Baer Rocks 11/7 (KK). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in record numbers at Baer Rocks, with 10 tallied there 10/6 (BH,RH,KK), the highest daily count ever at that location. Just once, on 10/7/37 at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, was that total surpassed anywhere along the ridge, and then only by one. Eight Peregrines were seen, some videotaped, at BOK 10/2 (RW,RB), and 5 more counted the next day. Prior to this year the record high day's count at BOK was 5, and that was in 1971!

TURKEY THROUGH THRUSHES. Good numbers of **Wild Turkey** were heard and occasionally seen at BOK all season. **Ring-necked Pheasant** continue to decline throughout the area; only 20 were found on the AXC. An **Am. Woodcock** was found at the Walter Tract 11/1 (FB), 1 was seen on the AXC near Henningsville (DK,PS), and 3 **Common Snipe** were found on the AXC at Spring Cr. A flock of about 470 **Ring-billed Gulls** was seen at BOK 11/21 (GLF).

A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen being chased by a Sharpie at BOK 10/29 (RW). I wonder what it would have done if it had caught it. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** have still not recovered from their crash of several years ago. A late bird was at BOK 10/3 (AK), and an even later cuckoo sp. was seen there 10/9 (RW). A **Long-eared Owl** was found on the Hamburg CBC in pine woods near Lynn 12/29 (FB), and the usual numbers of **Great Horned** and **E. Screech-Owls** were found on the AXC.

Record high counts of 230 **Downy Woodpecker** and 30 **Belted Kingfisher** were found on the AXC. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at the Walter Tract 10/5 and 10/17 (FB). An extremely early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at BOK 8/31 (FM). A **Common Raven** was found on the AXC (TL); this was the 1st AXC record and one of the few winter sightings anywhere in the area. The AXC also turned up 22 Red-breasted and 130 **White-breasted Nuthatches**. Other record highs were 285 **Tufted Titmouse**, 33 **Brown Creeper**, and 33 **Carolina Wren**. **Am. Robins**, in contrast, were very low. A **Winter Wren** was found at the Walter Tract 10/10 to 11/28 (FB). A total of 22 **E. Bluebirds** went by BOK 10/29 (RW).

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES. A **N. Shrike** was found on the AXC in an old apple orchard near Orefield (TM). The bird was seen again 12/22 (AK), but could not be relocated after that date. A high count of 500-600 **Cedar Waxwings** was noted at

BOK 10/29 (RW). A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen 10/10 (FB). A **Common Yellowthroat** was found on the AXC (FB) and 57 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were counted.

Additional record high counts were 521 N. **Cardinal**, 19 **Swamp Sparrow**, and 300 **Snow Bunting**, the latter in a single flock (BLM). A flock of 215 **Pine Siskins** was seen at BOK 11/21 (GLF) and 400-500 were seen there 11/27 (FB). About 100 were seen in Fullerton 10/14 (RW). Most of these birds, and many of the other "good" northern finches do not appear to have remained into the winter. Ten crossbills, probably **White-winged**, were at BOK 11/20 (FB,RW).

OBSERVERS: Ray Barnes, Fritz Brock, Dave DeReamus, Gary L. Freed, Brian Hillegass, Ron Hillegass, Dan Klem, Arlene Koch, Ken Krannick, Tom Leckey, Terry Master, Fred Mears, Bernie L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Peter Saenger, Jerry Schappell, Steve Smith, Barry Transue, Rick Wiltraut.

Lycoming County (41)

This will be our final report as compilers for Lycoming County as we are going into rehabilitation of raptors and wildlife. Stanley C. Stahl has volunteered to be the new county compiler. He will be reporting on a **Varied Thrush** which arrived in December, but was not reported to birders until February 1988.

There were no significant weather patterns during the quarter.

Normal numbers of expected species were found. Of particular interest were a **Cattle Egret** near Muncy for two weeks in November and a **Short-eared Owl** at Antes Fort 12/28. **Carolina Wren** sightings were quite numerous and indicate that the species is recovering in this area. **Am. Tree Sparrow**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak** were abundant at some feeders, while absent at others.

The CBC was held 12/19. Overall, many species numbers seemed down for this count. Highlights include the following: At least 3 **Great Blue Herons** in the backwaters of the Loyalsock Cr. and 1 imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** near the mouth of the Loyalsock Cr. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were also found there in their usual numbers. There were 8 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** feeding on poison ivy berries. One **Pine Grosbeak** was spotted in a tree feeding with sparrows, juncos, and titmice. I usually see Pine Grosbeak in big groups and wonder if this one was recently split from a flock we just missed seeing (DG).

OBSERVERS: Wes Egli, Ed and Tink Reish, Charles Schach, Stanley C. Stahl, 610 Chestnut Street, Montoursville 17754 (717-368-1194).

McKean County (42)

Please refer to the Elk County (24) report.

Mifflin County (44)

October. After the long, hot summer the cool fall was most welcome. Migration was apparent when the **Red-headed Woodpeckers** left the Bratton Twp. area by 10/20 and **Common Mergansers** and **Am. Black Ducks** were found on the Juniata R. below McVeytown.

November. A **Common Loon** was on a farm pond for several days, as was a **Snowy Egret** on the same pond. **Canada Geese** were noted moving mainly at night. During the first snow fall they were moving all day, as they had the previous night. It was the most flocks we had seen or heard all season. A small flock of **Snow Geese** landed on the river for a short time.

The past mild winters have certainly made **Carolina Wren** numbers better. In fact, I have noticed that they retire quite early each day into the grapevine wreath on the side porch. One apparently flew into the garage and was confined for a day or so. Its mate was

scolding for quite a while. When released it flew immediately to the suet and ate heartily for quite some time. **Evening Grosbeaks** arrived 11/16, but only stayed for several hours before departing.

December. One or 2 **Great Blue Heron** patrol the river and farm ponds along our small stream. At times one will use our 90-year old hickory tree for a perch. Occasionally we see a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** take a small bird. A **Cooper's Hawk** refused to be chased from the porch 12/14.

Wild Turkeys apparently were heavily harvested this past hunting season, so when 5 were found a week before Christmas everyone was excited. At dusk on 12/28 an ad. and 2 imm. were running at top speed across a snow-covered farmer's field. It was obvious as to the reason when moments later an owl was observed flying over them. Minutes later we saw them all return to the woods. Our **E. Screech-Owls** and **Great Horned Owls** are active.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** visited our Basswood tree and was observed eating suet 12/18. Basswood (or Linden trees) are just great for birds; the bark is terrific for hiding seeds and suet in the grooves. Each spring the clusters of fragrant flowers attract honeybees by the thousands. Basswood honey is delicious. It is also an attractive species for warblers as they visit to glean the insects. But back to winter. **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** join the titmice, chickadees, and nuthatches at the feeder and also use the basswood for their caches.

Our friend Carole Wray lent us an interesting book on bluebirds. In it it describes a bluebird feeder that has been successful in the South. We made two of them and will advise as to our success once the severe weather arrives. We have a flock of 15-20 **E. Bluebirds** that may use it. Also, we sometimes put dowels through the sides of the bluebird boxes for winter perches. It works fine. Two **Am. Robins** were still here 12/18.

Pine Siskin were on the feeders 12/10 and were joined by many **House Finch**, several **Purple Finch**, and many **Am. Goldfinch**.

OBSERVER: Margaret Keneppe, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252).

Montgomery County (46)

Locations: Green Lane Res. (GLR), E. Branch Perkiomen (EBP), Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNP).

Temperatures stayed well above freezing almost entirely throughout the quarter, with only slight amounts of snow at the end of December. Highlights of the season were the continued presence of **Double-crested Cormorants** until 10/24; sightings of a very late **Green-backed Heron** at Four Mills Nature Center in Ambler 12/21; a **Merlin** at UPVP on Thanksgiving Day (11/26); **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Orange-crowned Warbler** on Mt. Joy in VFNP 10/5; and 1 **Lincoln's Sparrow** at GLR 10/16 (GAF) and again 10/24 (GLF).

Max. counts for dabbling ducks at GLR were reached the last week of October: 30 **Green-winged Teal** 10/23 (GAF); 12 N. **Shoveler** (a high count) 10/31; and 14 **Gadwall** 11/1 (GLF). Among the diving ducks, **Common Goldeneye** and **Common Merganser** were in low numbers, probably delayed by the mild weather, but 32 **Ring-necked Ducks** and a local record of 125 **Bufflehead** were at GLR 11/6 (GAF). **Hooded Mergansers** were also unusually numerous, with 35+ at UPVP 11/26 and 25-30 continuing there into December (GAF).

Ten to 18 **Black Vultures** were counted at the Sumneytown roost throughout December (m.ob.). Four were separately reported 2 mi e. of Sumneytown near the EBP 10/20 (DT), 3 at mile-marker 7 of the Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike, about 12 mi e. of Sumneytown 10/25 (AG), and 4 near Schwenksville, less than 5 mi from Sumneytown, 11/14 (DT). These reports may indicate the range of the Sumneytown roost. No less than 140 **Turkey Vultures** were counted in the Sumneytown area 12/20 (GLF). Welcome news was a high count of 15 **Ring-necked Pheasant** at GLR 10/3 (GLF). One **Am. Coot** arrived at GLR 10/4 (GLF).

High waters at GLR prevented large counts or variety of shorebirds, although a high of 10 **Common Snipe** were there 10/24 (GLF). Only other shorebirds reported were 12 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 10/24 (GAF) and 3 **Dunlin** 10/23-24 (m. ob.). Conditions were fine for gulls, and an estimated 100 **Ringed-bill Gulls** were there 11/16. Two **Long-eared Owls** were found 12/31 at GLR but not seen since (GLF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were being seen in above-average numbers by several observers, with 16 turning up on the Wyncote CBC. Ten **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were counted at GLR 10/25 and again 12/27, both times just in the area of GLF's yard. A high of 6 **Brown Creepers** were at UPVP 11/26 (GLF), and an extraordinary total of 9 **Winter Wrens** were on Mt. Joy in VFNP 10/7, 4 of them on the same log (RG).

Other high counts were: 30+ **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in UCV 10/17 (GLF); 35 **Water Pipit** at GLR 11/14 (GLF); 100+ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in the impoundment basin area of VFNP 10/12 (RG); 72 **N. Cardinal** in UCV 12/20 (GLF); 3 **Fox Sparrow** in GLF's yard at GLR 11/5; 10 **Swamp Sparrow** at GLR 10/24 (GLF); 25 **E. Meadowlark** at GLR 12/9 (GAF); 24 **Purple Finch** in UCV 12/20 (GLF); and 80+ **Pine Siskin** in a mixed flock that also included an estimated 40 **Am. Goldfinch** and 75 **Dark-eyed Junco** at VFNP 12/3 (RG).

Several observers noticed that **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Winter Wren**, both kinglets, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Solitary Vireo** seemed to be easy to find in October and early November. One observer added **E. Phoebe**, **Chimney Swift**, **Cedar Waxwing**, and **Savannah Sparrow** to species seen in above-average numbers (RG). Fox Sparrows, for some reason, were conspicuously scarce everywhere except GLF's yard. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, and **Swainson's** and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were below average.

Among notable lingers were a **Great Egret** in Towemencin Twp. 11/12 (GAF) and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Pennypack Cr. near Bryn Athyn 12/1 (DT). A **Common Nighthawk** (no location given) seen 10/7 (GAF) was a bit late, and very late indeed were **Chimney Swifts** still present in Wyncote up to 10/15, thanks, no doubt, to the mild weather (DT).

Late dates for the following species fall pretty much within the normal range: **E. Phoebe** 10/20 at EBP (DT); **Gray Catbird** 10/25 at VFNP (NT); **Brown Thrasher** 10/17 at UCV (GLF); and 2 **Rufous-sided Towhee** 12/25 at Pennypack watershed (N&WM).

OBSERVERS: George A. Fransois, Gary L. Freed, Al Guarante, Ron Grubb, Naomi & William Murphy, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127), Dale Twining.

Montour County (47)

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was discovered about 1 mi s.w. of Montour Preserve 10/15 (JB). It was seen by many observers through 10/18.

OBSERVERS: Jim Brown, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

Northampton County (48)

Locations: East Bangor Dam (EBD), Jacobsberg S.P. (JSP), Minsi L. (M.L.).

The Bethlehem CBC was held 12/26 and had a total of 72 species. Many expected species went unreported.

There were 3 **Common Loons** at M.L. 11/15 (KS). One **Pied-billed Grebe** and 1 **Common Goldeneye** were found on the CBC. Although not found on the count, but seen during the period were **Turkey Vulture** and **N. Bobwhite**. An imm. **Bald Eagle** and 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were found along the Delaware R. near Raubsville 12/26.

The Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO) highlights this season are as follows (RW,GY). Three **Black Vultures** were observed 10/5 and 4 were seen 10/19. A station-high 37 hawks were banded 10/5, including 5 **Cooper's Hawks**. The first N. **Goshawk** was an

imm. male banded 10/12, although the species had a poor showing along the ridge this Fall. An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was banded 11/16 and a dark-phase **Red-tailed Hawk** was at the LGBO 11/23. Another dark-phase Red-tail was seen 12/26 (DD). A dark imm. **Peregrine Falcon** visited the banding station 10/5.

Five **Common Snipe** were seen along Hollo Rd. in Nazareth Twp. 10/24 (DD). A chickadee being chased by a bluebird in Plains Twp. was a bit out of the ordinary (KS). On the CBC, 61 **E. Bluebirds** were tallied. Large numbers of both kinglets were noted at JSP in October (KS). One **Hermit Thrush** was at Bear Swamp 11/15 (KS).

Seven **Swamp Sparrows** were at the EBD 10/14 (DD). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at Bear Swamp 10/14 (DD). **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen as early as 10/10 in Plainfield Twp. (KS).

OBSERVERS: Dave DeReamus, Kathy Sieminski, Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632), Gordon Yoder.

Northumberland County (49)

A flock of +75 **Double-crested Cormorants** was sighted in flight at the Little Mt. Hawk Watch 10/12 (F&BH). **Black Vultures**, apparently at the northern edge of their PA range, were seen on at least four occasions in October at Little Mt. (F&BH,AS). An unusually late **Osprey** was seen at close range by several people 12/24 along the still unfrozen Susquehanna R. near Montandon (KH et al.).

OBSERVERS: Frank & Barbara Haas, Kate Hastings, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

Perry County (50)

Locations: Lewistown, New Bloomfield, Waggoner's Gap

Two CBCs have either part or all of their boundaries in the county. The Lewistown CBC (LCBC) was held 12/19; the section included in Perry Co. is along Rt. 17 from Donnally Mills to Saville in the farmland and ridges in the n.e. portion. The New Bloomfield CBC (NBCBC) was conducted 12/20.

A new high count of 10 **Great Blue Herons** was noted for the NBCBC, as was a record count of 278 **Canada Geese**. **Mallards** have increased throughout with count records of 302 for the NBCBC and 16 for the LCBC. Another record was 24 **Gadwall** for NBCBC. Other waterfowl on the NBCBC included 119 **Am. Black Duck**, 34 **Common Goldeneye**, 1 **N. Pintail**, 2 **Hooded Merganser**, and 3 **Common Merganser**.

Raptors worthy of mention on the NBCBC were a record 3 **Cooper's Hawk** and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle**. **Wild Turkey** numbers were quite good, with 21 seen on the NBCBC. And the 4 **Ring-billed Gulls** were a 1st record.

While **Downy Woodpecker** numbers were high with 90 on the NBCBC and 53 on the LCBC, where did all the **Blue Jays** go? The NBCBC had a meager 25 (100+ in 1986) and the LCBC tallied only 6 (20 in 1986). The New Bloomfield count may have had its 1st record for **Carolina Chickadee**; this has not yet been confirmed, but the species is apparently expanding its range.

N. Mockingbirds are confirmed to be making bold advances northward as indicated with a high count of 49 on the NBCBC. Also nice to see was the continued comeback of **E. Bluebird**. There was a record 115 on the NBCBC. Another 1st for the LCBC was a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** seen near Eshcol.

Pine Siskin reports in central PA were excellent with a high of 169 on the NBCBC and 26 for the LCBC; none was reported on the 1986 LCBC. **Am. Goldfinch** numbers were very good. **House Finches** continue to set records each year with 538 found on the NBCBC. The NBCBC tallied 47 **Am. Tree Sparrows** and 12 were seen on the LCBC.

OBSERVERS: Don Henise, Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Greg Smith, O. K. Stephenson (NBCBC compiler), Linda Whitesel (LCBC compiler).

Philadelphia County (51)

Locations: Carpenter's Woods (C.W.), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDRP), Philadelphia (PHL), Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center (TNEC)

The Fall and start of Winter was mild throughout the PHL area. The first freeze with accompanying cold NW winds arrived November 21-22, but soon mild weather returned and lasted until the very end of December, when on the 29th below freezing temperatures initiated the true winter season. A few highlights from the last quarter are included.

A brief but severe ice storm 11/2 stranded a rare (for the county) **Common Loon** on Roosevelt Blvd. (Hot Line). **Pied-billed Grebes** reached an all-time high of 35+ at the TNEC 10/30 after a continuous build-up from the beginning of September (JCM). Two were seen at FDRP in so. PHL 10/25 (EF,SLi). One **Horned Grebe**, good for a PHL location, was seen at TNEC 12/25 (SS).

The increase in wintering **Great Cormorants** on the Delaware R. continues and deserves separate and detailed discussion. They were on the river, this the fifth consecutive year, from mid-Nov. in numbers up to 10, especially in n.e. PHL (FW,CD). Windfelder points out that only immature birds of this species have been confirmed in this area thus far. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen in FDRP 10/25 (EF,SLi) and another seen from 11/1 to 12/13 at the TNEC (AG).

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, reported on 12/6 was holding out at TNEC despite recent depredations by **Great Horned Owls** (EB,SLi). Four **Snow Geese** were seen as early as 12/11 and another 4 imm. were found 12/25 (SS); 4 were found for the Glenolden CBC 12/19. Ducks arrived in the area on schedule at TNEC with some species showing impressive numbers. 200⁺ **Wood Ducks** were found 9/25 and +50 remained at the Refuge 10/8 (JCM). Also 1 **Blue-winged Teal** was found on 12/19, as well as 435 **Canvasback**, 4 **Redhead**, and 8 **Ring-necked Ducks**; all were excellent numbers this late date. Fifteen **Hooded Mergansers** were counted 11/15 (JCM). Some miles away, on the lake at FDRP, 5 **Ruddy Ducks** made the best of it in the filthy water 10/25 (EF,SLi).

Raptors, hard to come by in most parts of the city, were highlighted by an ad. **Bald Eagle** at TNEC 12/16 (JCM) and an imm. over the upper Wissahickon Valley 10/4 (RF). As early as 7/10 a pair of **N. Harrier** with 2 young were seen at the PHL Airport (JCM). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen in C.W. 9/26 and 10/4 (SL). **Cooper's Hawks** were seen at several locations on several occasions, including C.W. 9/26 and Livesey Lane and the Wissahickon Cr. 12/19 (SL) and 3 at Ft. Mifflin 10/30 (JCM,AG). Although an imm. **N. Goshawk** was present from at least 11/1 (AG), it could not be found on count day. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at TNEC 12/17 (JCM).

Late **Common Moorhens**, 2, and an impressive 235 Am. **Coots** were at TNEC 12/19 (JCM). High water in the TNEC impoundment kept shorebird numbers down, but 1 **Lesser Golden-Plover** was there 10/8 (JCM). Earlier, 2 **Upland Sandpipers** were seen at the PHL Airport 8/18 (JCM).

The **Common Barn-Owl**, which had not been seen for several months, returned to the Tinicum area 11/28 through at least 12/19 (SC,JCM,TR,AG). The **E. Screech-Owl** was seen in C.W. from 11/13 to 12/8 on several occasions (EB,SL). A **Long-eared Owl** was at TNEC 11/28 to 12/10 and a **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found 12/17 (JCM).

Chimney Swifts were seen as late as 10/10, when 14 swarmed over C.W. (SL). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were well represented in C.W. from 10/14 through 12/11, with at least 1, sometimes 2, being seen on six occasions (SL).

Tree Swallows congregated at TNEC 10/8 as +4000 prepared to move south (JCM). **Carolina Wrens** appeared near a West Mt. Airy feeder with 2 on 12/13 and 12/18, but only 1 came in 12/29 (EB). The increasingly uncommon **Winter Wren** put in a good showing at C.W. this season. Four were seen 10/10 and 3 on 10/14 and 1 remained until 12/19 (SL). Others were seen in the back woods along the old trolley tracks of TNEC 12/6 (EB,SLi) and 12/13 (AG).

The only **Hermit Thrush** reported this quarter was off the bridle path near C.W. 12/11 and 45 Am. **Robins** were in the Woods 12/19 (SL). **Cedar Waxwings** appeared only once in C.W., but were 140 strong 11/15 (SL).

The Woods had a **Pine Warbler** 10/10 (SL). **Palm Warblers** are not extremely rare, but always a good bird in this area in winter, so 1 on 12/12 was a treat (AG,HMc). But the most unusual warbler of the season, and surely the highlight bird, was (is) an ad. male **Cape May Warbler** which showed up at a feeder in the Rhawnhurst section of the city 10/26 and was seen almost daily until 12/29 when the owners of the home went on vacation (RS). (Note: further details of later sightings will follow in the next issue.)

The compiler was surprised to see a male **N. Cardinal** feeding a wing-fluttering, but fledged juv. in West Mt. Airy on the late date 10/2 (EF).

Chipping Sparrows remained in good numbers, 12, at C.W. until 10/14 (SL). The regionally rare **Clay-colored Sparrow** was initially found 11/1 (AG *et al.*) and relocated 11/24 (NP). **Dark-eyed Juncos** and White-throated Sparrows were late in arriving, 11/1, at C.W. (SL) and TNEC (AG). **Snow Buntings**, 60+, were at the PHL Airport 10/21, quite early for mild season, but **Purple Finches** came late to C.W. 12/19 when 1 female appeared (SL). However, another female was seen earlier at a nearby feeder 11/13 (same bird?) (EB,EF). **House Finch** numbers were impressive at Ft. Mifflin when 1500+ were counted 10/30 (JCM).

Pine Siskins in small numbers appeared midway through the season with the earliest reported birds, a group of 5 in West Mt. Airy 11/23 (EB) and 4 at Livesey Lane 12/11 (SL). Finally, the season's only **Evening Grosbeak** was seen flying over C.W. 11/17 (SL).

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Skip Conant, Christopher Dooley, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Ron French, Al Guarente, Steve Lawrence (SL), Sidney Lipschutz (SLi), Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Robert Sehl, Sandra Sherman, Tom Reeves, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County (52)

Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were observed at Tom's Cr. 9/26. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was also seen the same day, same place. Tom's Cr. is near Egypt Mills and has been a good location for these two species when we have been there in the fall.

OBSERVERS: Naomi and William Murphy.

Schuylkill County (54)

Locations: Cressona, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Pottsville (PTV), Schuylkill/Berks County Line Hawk Watch (SBHW), Schwartz Valley Rd. (SVR).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS. One of the most notable events for this quarter was the loon "fallout" of 11/9-10. At least 10 **Common Loons** were stranded in the county at Port Carbon, Minersville, Saint Clair, Schuylkill Haven, New Philadelphia, Middleport, Pine Grove, Andreas, and Tamaqua. The Minersville bird was shot and the Pine Grove bird was hit by a car. Most birds came down on roads, but one landed on a car's roof at the St. Clair Industrial Park. Scott Weidensaul was responsible for saving many of them.

A probable imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed under poor conditions 11/19 at SVR (SW). A flock of 27 **Double-crested Cormorants** was seen from the North Lookout, HMS, 10/29 (LG) and 44 were seen from the SBHW the same week. Seven **Snow Geese** flew by HMS 10/25. Twenty **Common Mergansers** were seen at HMS from 11/12-21. Waterfowl migration was considered low for the season at HMS.

The HMS count is given elsewhere in this issue. Best reports from the SBHW include: 7 **Black Vultures** seen from 10/1 to 11/30 (BAM). The **Broad-winged Hawk** migration at SBHW was notable. The total Broad-wing flight, included a fantastic flight 9/20 (6,781 birds) at Cressona, was 13,617 birds. A light-phase ad. **Swainson's Hawk** was seen 10/15 (BAM,JB). The MacClays also saw 12 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 28 **Golden Eagles**, but only 1 **Peregrine Falcon** (10/9).

A report was received of a possible **Krider's Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis krideri*) seen 11/12 at the SBHW. Since this would represent one of few Eastern sightings of this species, it will be referred to a State Records Committee once established.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES. Two **Common Snipe** were at SVR, Wayne Twp. 11/3 (SW). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** flew by HMS 10/29 (LG). SBHW recorded 8 **Great Black-backed Gulls**. HMS reported 14 **Common Ravens** and 1 was seen at the Port Clinton Fire Tower 12/27. Ravens were seen on 75 occasions at SBHW (actual number of birds inconclusive).

200+ **Cedar Waxwings** were at HMS 10/30. One imm. **White-crowned Sparrow** was found at SVR 10/25 (SW). An ad. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen with a large group of **Red-winged Blackbirds** from SBHW 11/15 (JS). HMS had an excellent count of 25 **Pine Grosbeaks** 11/12 and 1 **Common Redpoll** was there 11/22. The Sanctuary also recorded 27 **Red Crossbills** 12/14 and 500+ **Pine Siskins** 11/2.

OBSERVERS: Tom Clouser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363), Laurie Goodrich, Bob and Ann MacClay, Joan Silagy, Scott Weidensaul.

Snyder County (55)

No report for the quarter.

Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

Somerset County (56)

Locations: Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), Deer Valley L. (DVL), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HVL), Jennerstown (JNT), L. Somerset (L.S.), Laskey's Pond near Boswell, Markleton, Quemahoning Dam (Q.D.), Stoughton L. (S.L.).

October's weather was warm and pleasant. Daytime temperatures in the first three weeks were mostly in the 50-60°F range but dropped to freezing several days in the last week. The Johnstown CBC was held 12/19.

A snowstorm 11/6 brought down a **Red-throated Loon** to L.S. and a female **Surf Scoter** on Q.D. (SS,RMS). The first major snowfall (up to 10") of 11/10 and rough weather in the third week of November brought fair waterfowl flights. December had a blend of weather patterns with several periods of low temperatures, some light snowfalls, some freezing rains and some very warm, sunny days. Anthony Marich saw a **Great Egret** 10/2 at L.S. and also observed and photographed a **Wood Thrush** at his home in Markleton from 12/20-31. The bird showed signs of a past wing injury, although it could fly. (Photographs received. -Eds.)

Most waterfowl passed through as sights and sounds in the dark of night or in early morning light or fog. The waterfowl counts from the above-listed lakes and ponds were most very low. The birds rested only briefly on open water because weather cleared rapidly after the major storms. Two **White-winged Scoters** 11/20-21 at L.S. was a good record (AM). Many flocks of **Tundra**

Swans passed through the county 11/11, were heard over L.S. and Q.D. 11/20-21, but only a max. of 26 was reported resting on the dams.

Most **Canada Geese** were heard during the night of 11/18, with a max. of 50 reported seen on the lakes. A Canada Goose (small race) was at Q.D. 12/8. Fair reports include 50+ **Wood Duck** at L.S. 10/2-12, 60 **Hooded Merganser** at HPL 12/3, and 100 **Red-breasted Merganser** at L.S. 12/6. The following highest records for all county locations indicate the poor showing for waterfowl: 5 **Common Loon** at L.S. 11/28, 11 **Pied-billed Grebe** at Q.D. 11/10, 20 **Horned Grebe** at L.S. 11/28, 2 **Great Blue Heron** at L.S. 10/2-11, 6 **Green-winged Teal** at L.S. 10/17, 17 **Am. Black Duck** at DVL 12/3, 500-600 **Mallard** at Q.D. 12/8, 1 **N. Pintail** at JNT 12/19 (only record), 12 **Blue-winged Teal** at L.S. 10/2, 6 **Gadwall** at L.S. 10/9, 10 **Am. Wigeon** at S.L. 12/12, 3 **Canvasback** at L.S. 12/5, 14 **Ring-necked Duck** at L.P. 10/24, 2 **Lesser Scaup** at L.S. 12/5, 3 **Oldsquaw** at L.S. 11/20-28, 20 **Common Goldeneye** at Q.D. 11/6 and L.S. 12/6, 80 **Bufflehead** at Q.D. 11/10 and 33 at L.S. 11/4 (M&EW), and 15 **Ruddy Duck** at L.S. 11/15. A good count of 250 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at L.S. 12/6 (M&EW). Missing completely were N. **Shoveler**, **Redhead**, and **Common Merganser**.

Several **Osprey** remained at Q.D. until early October. N. **Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were in normal numbers. There was a high count of **Red-tailed Hawks** and 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** on the CBC. Am. **Coots** were in low numbers, with a max. 18 at L.S. 10/17. Only a few **Killdeer** remained at Q.D. in October. Nine **Common Snipe** at JNT 12/19 and 1 **Am. Woodcock** at CGL 10/24 were reported. **Mourning Doves** were down after record numbers on the 1986 CBC.

There were very few reports of E. **Screech- or Barred Owl**, but **Great Horned Owls** are in good numbers. A few **Belted Kingfishers** remained until end-Dec. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at JNT 12/19, **Red-bellied** seen regularly, **Downy** in high numbers, but few N. **Flicker**.

The only **E. Phoebe** was at HVL 10/10. No **Horned Lark** reported. Flocks of 200-500 **Am. Crows** were common throughout the quarter feeding in fields by day and returning to their roost in Johnstown (Cambria Co.) each evening.

CBC counts of **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** were highest in 5 years, but **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Brown Creeper** numbers were down. A few **Carolina Wrens** were reported, but only 1 **Winter Wren** on 10/9 at HVL. Both kinglets were in low numbers.

Few **E. Bluebirds** were seen in October and none on the CBC. A high of 300 migrating **Am. Robins** was at HVL 11/10. One **Gray Catbird** was found at L.S. 11/6 (RSM). A few N. **Mockingbirds** were reported from scattered locations. **Cedar Waxwings** were low with only 27 on the CBC. Flocks of several hundred **Eur. Starlings** were common in October but the CBC was low.

A **Solitary Vireo** was at HVL 10/3. Only warbler reports were of 1 **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 10/10, 1-3 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** from 10/13 to 11/23, and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/10, all at HVL. N. **Cardinal** hit a record high on the CBC and 30-40 **Rufous-sided Towhees** were at HVL 10/3-11, with 1 female at Markleton 12/7.

Few **Am. Tree Sparrows** were seen after arriving 11/12 in HVL and the CBC numbers were down. The only report of **Chipping Sparrow** was of 2 at HVL. Few **Field Sparrow** or **Fox Sparrow** reports were received. Although **Song Sparrow** and **White-throated Sparrow** numbers were average, few **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen and **Dark-eyed Junco** numbers were low.

Flocks of 200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** 11/18 at HVL and 150 on the CBC were the best reports. Only a few **E. Meadowlarks** lingered with 5 on the CBC at JNT. The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was 1 at HVL 11/20-23. **Purple Finch** numbers were very low. The CBC revealed a population decline of **House Finch** for the first time since their continual build-up began in the early 1970s. **Pine Siskins** first arrived in a flock of 200 at HVL 10/25 and were reported regularly in good numbers in the county throughout the quarter. **Am. Goldfinch** were in good numbers

and **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen irregularly in flocks of up to 40 at HVL and reported from many locations. **House Sparrows** reached their highest count in 5 years on the CBC.

OBSERVERS: Paul Labovitz, Anthony Marich, Robert S. Mulvihill, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Glenn and Ruth Sagar, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Michael & Evaleen Watko, and CBC reporters.

Sullivan County (57)

This report is very incomplete due to the lack of field data sent in to the compiler. Most county bird watching is conducted in the summer. Generally, there was nothing particularly unusual observed in the little time spent in the county by the compiler.

RAPTORS. N. **Goshawks** were observed in October in two different locations. Both birds were actively hunting in open areas near known nesting locations. Local falconers have asserted that the local Gos population is resident. If Goshawks are residents, it gives us even more reason to treat their nesting data as proprietary and their nesting grounds as areas which especially deserve conservation measures. (*Amen.-Eds.*) **Red-tailed Hawks**, perhaps residents, were also observed near Shunk.

PASSERINES. **Common Ravens** were found in pairs near Ellenton in October, near Nordmont in November (DG), and along Schrader Cr. in December. The pair along Schrader Cr. was observed flying through four different atlas blocks within 15 minutes. How do we map them? Maybe we will find their nest in 1988.

Black-capped Chickadee populations seemed a bit low, but lack of comparative data makes it difficult to assess the populations of these "residents" which may disperse from higher elevations. **Tufted Titmice** pairs were found at forest edges at 2000+ ft near Ellenton and Lopez. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were not found in extensive hiking in deciduous forests. **Dark-eyed Juncos** seemed to be everywhere in November and December. Two **E. Meadowlarks** were sitting on a sign near Shunk 10/20.

OBSERVERS: Donald Gross (DG), Douglas Gross, Susquehanna Biological Laboratory, RD 1, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191).

Union County (60)

No report for the quarter.

Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

Venango County (61)

Locations: Allegheny R., Hunter Station (H.S.), Kahle L. (K.L.), Two Mile Run L. (TMRL).

Highlights for the period were a **Double-crested Cormorant** on the Allegheny R. at Oil City from 11/1-5, **Ring-billed Gulls** on the river on three occasions, a 12/30 sighting of a **Great Blue Heron** at Hunter Station, and a **Snowy Owl** that was first seen within the city limits of Oil City 11/14. The owl remained in the area until 12/14 when it appeared to be sick. It was captured by the PGC personnel on the 14th and died December 15th. Results of the autopsy are not yet available.

Additional sightings of interest during the quarter were a **Common Loon** and a **Horned Grebe** 12/30 at H.S., a pair of **Mute Swans** 10/10 at K.L., **N. Harriers** at least once each month, **Am. Robins** in small numbers 12/30, and a **Rufous-sided Towhee** 11/10.

The water fowl migration numbers appeared to be down. A partial explanation may be that TMRL, normally counted on for **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Horned Grebe**, **Tundra Swan**, etc., was partially drained beginning in October. The timing was too late for migrating shorebirds to utilize the exposed mudflats, but too early to allow maximum utilization by waterfowl.

Hawk migration, never spectacular, seemed about average. Winter visitors, **Evening Grosbeak** and **Snow Bunting**, were spotty. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Water Pipits** were not observed, but **Pine Siskins** were common.

OBSERVERS: Gary Edwards, 450 Stevens Dr., Apt. 304, Pittsburgh 15237 (412-931-4379), Russ States, 24 E. 5th St., Oil City 16301 (814-676-6320).

Warren County (62)

Locations: Allegheny Res. (A.R.), Seneca Pumped Storage Res. (SPSR).

The Warren CBC was held 12/19. Fifty-eight observers found 60 species. The most exciting finds were **Ovenbird** and **Chipping Sparrow**. Each was a new record for the count. All high/low records refer to the CBC unless otherwise indicated.

Two **Common Loons** were on the A.R. 10/21 (KC). Six **Pied-billed Grebes** were tallied on the CBC and 1 **Horned Grebe** was at Hodge Run Bay 12/21 (TG). The 25 **Great Blue Heron** count was a high. A **Tundra Swan** was at Starbrick 12/21 (JB). **Am. Black Ducks** were low, but 377 **Mallards** was a record high. A **Blue-winged Teal** a mi below Kinzua Dam 12/11 was an excellent date (DD,BH). An **Oldsquaw** was at Starbrick 12/2 (MB). First report of **Common Goldeneye** was 10/31 at the SPSR. The 28 **Buffleheads** were the 2nd highest count.

One **Osprey** was seen on the A.R. 10/1 (JB), another at Kinzua Dam 10/6 (TG). **Bald Eagle** reports continue to be good from this area. First sighting for the quarter was 10/7, when an imm. was found on the A.R. (MB). One ad. and 3 imm. 11/20 was the single day high for the quarter (DD,BH). Several other sightings were reported from the A.R. as well as Kinzua Dam until 12/19 (v.o.). **N. Harrier** reports include 1 near N. Warren 10/7 (BH,Jr.), 1 n. of Youngsville 10/21 (TG), and 3 in the Lander area 10/30 (MB). **Cooper's Hawk** and **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were the only accipiters reported (v.o.). Four **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen along the Allegheny R. e. of Warren 10/23 (DD,BH). The 11 **Am. Kestrel** set a record.

Nine **Am. Coot** were at Akeley Swamp 11/2 (TG). The 192 **Ring-billed Gulls** were the 2nd highest count and 286 **Mourning Doves** were also a new high.

The 12 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were the 2nd highest count. There were 2 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** on the CBC and 1 has been visiting a feeder in Warren through December (BHi). Attesting to the fact of the past few mild winters, a **Carolina Wren** appeared at a feeder in Saybrook 10/8 and was seen four times between 11/7-30 (CN). Also, 1 was at Sheffield 12/12, and yet another at Barnes several times in December (BD).

New highs: **Downy Woodpecker** (112), **Black-capped Chickadee** (896), **Tufted Titmouse** (82), and **White-breasted Nuthatch** (169) and **N. Cardinals** (219). The **Ovenbird** was at a feeder in Warren from 12/13-31. It could be seen at close range and was feeding on fine-cracked corn (RR, *fide* TG).

A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** came to a feeder in Saybrook 11/17-27 (CN). **Am. Tree Sparrow** count of 43 was the lowest since 1959. The **Chipping Sparrow** was, perhaps, a lingering bird from the ±100 reported in the e. end of Warren 10/20 (TG). **Field Sparrow** was missed on the CBC for the 1st time since 1964. Two **Fox Sparrows** were in Saybrook 11/8 (CN). A flock of 12 **Snow Buntings** was found near Spring Creek 12/2 (MB).

Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen near Irvine 10/23 (TG). **House Finch** also set a new record with 356 tallied. The best count for **Pine Siskin** this quarter was ±200 near Russell 12/7 (RR). The first **Evening Grosbeak** report was of 15 in Sheffield, with a max. count of 150 there in November (NS).

EXOTIC. A 10-year old flamingo *sp.* escaped from the Erie Zoo 9/30, was seen feeding with a flock of sheep near Scandia 10/2, and later that day flew to join some Canada Geese at the Kinzua Res. Grisez reports that the last he heard it was in Watkins Glen, NY, shortly after this sighting.

OBSERVERS: Jeri Bleech, Mike Bleech, Keith Confer, Dan Doherty, Brita Dorn, Al Emery, Nancy and Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Bill Hill (BHi), Bill Hill, Jr., Rick Lyle, Chuck Neel, Chase Putnam, Ron Rieder, Norman Samuelson, Don Watts.

Washington County (64)

Locations: Lone Pine Golf Course (LPGC), Washington & Jefferson College (W&JC), Washington Res. (W.R.).

The following information is based on some of the more interesting observations of the 14th annual CBC held 12/19. Nineteen field observers and 21 feeder watchers tallied 4,461 indiv. of 55 species.

Temperatures remaining mostly above freezing (low of 28°F Count day) during December resulted in mostly open water, however, few waterfowl were observed. A most notable exception was a **Tundra Swan** on W.R. #4, a new species for the count. Also, some of the LPGC breeding population of **Canada Geese** (32) stayed around long enough to be included. **Mallards** (35) and **Am. Black Ducks** (6) may be decreasing in the county, as their averages for the last 5 years of the CBC are decidedly lower than their averages for the first 5 years (45 vs. 98 for Mallards and 17 vs. 28 for Blacks).

Red-tailed Hawks (25), 13-yr. average of 11, and **Am. Kestrels** (23), average of 10, were numerous, although both of these species have been increasing on the CBC's.

For the 3rd consecutive year, no **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen. Four **Common Snipe** was a new high, as was a **Mourning Dove** total of 531 (previous high was 382).

Two hours of owling resulted in the following: 4 **E. Screech-Owl**, 0 **Great Horned Owl**, and 2 **Barred Owl** (DS). A large, white bird (probably an owl) with brown streaks on its breast was observed earlier in December and described by the caretaker of Anawanna Scout Camp (SM), but was not seen again and its identity could not be confirmed.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers (50) seem to be continuing their slow increase, average of 37 for last 5 years, and 9 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were nice. An **E. Phoebe** raised the 14-year species total to 89.

As always, separating the chickadee species was a problem, however, there appear to be more **Carolinas** in perhaps a 60:40 ratio, with at least 20% unable to be classified. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (3) were low, 13-year average of 25, as were **Brown Creepers** (6), average of 13.

Carolina Wrens have apparently recovered from the devastating winters of the late 70's. A total of 18 were observed, compared to a 7-year average (1977-83) of 1.5. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** (30) were plentiful, average of 14, whereas **Am. Robins** (3) were scarce, 13-year median value of 19.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were also fairly common with a total of 16, however, this species has been increasing on the CBC's, a first 6-year average of 2 compared with a 10 for the last 6 years. A flock of 15 of these was observed 10/23 in the vicinity of W.R. #4 (SG).

Numbers of sparrow species tended to be below average, with no **White-crowned** or **Field Sparrows**, 13-year averages of 3 and 4, respectively. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were also down, 133 compared with an average of 241. A **Chipping Sparrow** was seen by LT on 11/3 near the campus of W & J College.

No unusual blackbird species was recorded count day, but 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed 10/23 (SG). **House Finches** continue to be reported by feeder watchers in great numbers, with the total of 714 surpassing our previous high by almost 200. And finally, **Pine Siskins** were the biggest surprise of the count, with 110 indiv. observed (previous high of 11, and a 13-year average of 2). Additionally, a flock of 40 siskins was seen 10/21 in East Washington (LT).

OBSERVERS: Sayre Greenfield, Roy Ickes, Dept. of Biology, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington 15301 (412-223-6118), Sherm Marker, Don Self, Linda Troost.

Westmoreland County (65)

Locations: Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Donegal L. (D.L.), Green Lick Dam (GLD) in Fayette Co. just south of Westmoreland Co. line, Latrobe Res. (L.R.), Mammoth Park (M.P.)

Observations are by the compilers unless otherwise indicated.

LOONS THROUGH SANDPIPERs. Very few **Common Loons** were noted on local lakes during the period. Best count of **Pied-billed Grebes** was 32 at GLD 10/3 (MEW); a max. of 20 **Horned Grebes** was recorded at D.L. 12/6 (MEW). An early flock of 50 **Tundra Swans** flew over PNR 10/28; 200+ flew over PNR and surrounding areas 11/11 (RCL,RSM,EM); a large single flock of +600 birds settled for most of the day on Ross Mt. Park L. 11/12 (Mrs. Clinton Olsen); 120 flew over PNR in three flocks 11/21, and an unusually large flock of 46 was still present on GLD 12/20 (MEW).

A particularly good count of **Canvasbacks** was 50 at D.L. 12/6 and 3 **Oldsquaws** were at L.R. on the same date (MEW). **White-winged Scoters** were seen both early and late in the quarter, 4 were at GLD 10/11 and 6 were at D.L. 12/6 (MEW). **Common Goldeneyes** were first seen at PNR 11/10 and there was a max. of 26 at D.L. 12/6 (MEW). **Buffleheads** were particularly widespread and numerous on 11/4, when 32 were seen at GLD, 24 at D.L., 18 at L.R., 22 at M.P., 16 at Acme Res., and 13 at Laurel Hill S.P. (MEW). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen many places in large numbers 12/6, including 200 at GLD, 200 at D.L., 150 at L.R. and 100 at M.P. (MEW). Max. for **Ruddy Duck** was 50 at GLD 10/11 (MEW), and 6 were still present at L.R. 11/16 (RCL,HMS).

Early wintering **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's** and **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Am. Kestrels** were probably in above average numbers (RCL,RSM,DS). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen just s. of Ligonier 12/31 (MEW). Out of the few shorebird reports, only a **Short-billed Dowitcher** seen 10/22 at M.P. was noteworthy (MEW).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH VIREOS. An intergrade (Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted) **N. Flicker** was banded at PNR 10/6. By the end of the period it seemed as though more than the usual number of N. Flickers might be attempting to winter in the PNR and Ligonier areas. With just 20 banded at PNR during October, the late fall flight of **E. Phoebes** was below average. Last **Tree Swallow** was at M.P. 10/3 (DS).

Carolina Chickadees may be increasing in the county. We have three records of the species for the quarter: 1 was present throughout the period at Greensburg (DS); 1 was banded at PNR 10/31; most unexpected was 1 banded at the Linn Run S.P. office (elev. 1900 ft) 12/18 (RSM). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** banded 11/18 was present at PNR to the end of the quarter.

An above average 28 **House Wrens** were banded at PNR in October (last one 10/20), but our total of 9 **Winter Wrens** is somewhat below average. We banded 1 **Marsh Wren**, an uncommon fall migrant at PNR, 10/1. A good flight of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** after 10/4 is evidenced by our banding total of 40 for the quarter, and more than the usual number of this species were present in the region in the early winter period. The flight of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was exceptionally poor at PNR; just 93 were banded, compared to a more usual total of 150+. With just 20 banded, we had one of our poorest flights ever for **Hermit Thrush**. **Gray Catbirds**, though, continued their very good migration through 10/17. Our catch of 12 **Solitary Vireos** (last one 10/31), although well below our average of the past five years, is nonetheless an improvement over our very poor catch of just five birds for the same period last year.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were banded at PNR 10/6 and 10/24. **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, with just 147 banded, had one of their poorest flights in the past six years (but this species is prone to wide annual fluctuations in migrant numbers). Wintering Yellow-rumps were noted at Twin Lakes Park 12/12 and Mount Odin Park 12/30 (DS).

An average 13 **Palm Warblers** were banded through 10/25. A very good flight of **Common Yellowthroats** continued through October. A late yellowthroat was banded 11/4 at PNR.

After a late 11/14 arrival, just 14 **Am. Tree Sparrows** were banded. With just 68 banded, **Field Sparrows** had a below average flight at PNR; 1 present 12/8 was probably a wintering individual. **Fox Sparrows** (first and last seen at PNR 10/17 and 11/27, respectively) had their third consecutive very good fall flight. Both **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows**, on the other hand, had among their worst fall flights ever at PNR, based on banding totals. **Dark-eyed Juncos**, with 538 banded by the end of the quarter, were in above average numbers.

A wintering **Common Grackle** was present at PNR at least through 12/17. A record 240 **House Finches** was banded during the quarter at PNR (the previous record for this period was 116 in 1985), indicating that this species is still on the increase. The **Pine Siskin** flight began 10/12, continued very heavy through October and dropped off suddenly by the first week of November. Our total of siskins banded is far and away a record for PNR for the period. **Evening Grosbeaks**, with 169 banded, were in good and fairly even numbers throughout the quarter, after their arrival 10/26.

OBSERVERS: Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Mrs. Helen M. Schmidt, Dennis Smeltzer, Michael and Evaleen Watko.

York County (67)

Locations: Brunner's I. (B.I.), Codorus S.P. (CSP), Gifford Pinchot S.P. (GPSP), Gut Rd. (Saginaw), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Pahagaco L. (P.L.), Rock Ridge Park (RRP), Sheppard Myers Dam (SMD), Susquehanna R., York Haven (Y.H.).

Weather: The temperature for the quarter was about average, with partly cloudy skies many days that helped for hawk watching. There was a mid-November snow storm, but then temperatures reverted to normal. The York CBC was held 12/19.

The Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch report submitted by Jerry Dyer began by stating it was a very good year. His reasoning was, "more birds flew over and we had four more pairs of experienced eyes in the sky." The result was 1297 hawks seen during the four months, an increase of almost 300% over last year. Two new species were added to the list. A **Golden Eagle** was seen 11/12 and 11/24 and a **Merlin** flew by 10/25. A total of three **Bald Eagles** were seen 10/1-2 (JB,AS). Three N. **Goshawk** were counted (in 1986 four were tallied, so this represents the only decrease). A late **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 11/12.

Twenty-eight participants on the CBC found 72 species, down from 76 last year, but 6 species were found that were not on last year's count. Both grebes and 7 species of ducks were found on our five lakes in the area. Two **Barred Owls**, possibly a pair, were seen at P.L. Notable in winter in this area, was a pair of **Barn Owls** e. of Hanover (RR). The blackbird population, which from 1949 to the spring of 1982 numbered up to an estimated 10,000,000 in some years, has dwindled to only 1978 **Eur. Starlings**, 10 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 4 **Common Grackles**, and 6 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. The 163 **Pine Siskin** and 104 **Am. Goldfinch** were well above average.

Unusual sightings: 12 **Canvasbacks** were at LAD 12/18 (RR). Sightings of Merlins included 1 each at CSP 11/14, GPSP 11/23, and e. of York 12/3. At least the last two could be considered unusually rare winter birds. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was on B.I. 10/17 (JoP,JeP).

It seemed an unusual Fall for the swallow family. Although the **Tree Swallow** migration seemed normal, 45 N. **Rough-winged Swallows** found 10/24 were late. Equally unusual were 6 **Bank Swallows** along the River and 1 **Barn Swallow** on Gut Rd. 10/20.

A **Gray Catbird** was found at CSP 11/2 (RR), although this species occasionally will stay all winter. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen 10/10 was a few days later than normal for the area. One wintering **Vesper Sparrow** was seen near Hallam 12/31.

Early/late sightings: An ad. **Pied-billed Grebe** with 2 much smaller imm. found at GPSP were unusual. Late shorebird dates include 1 **Semipalmented Plover** at CSP 11/2, 1 **Spotted Sandpiper** at Gut Rd. 10/8, 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at CSP 11/2, and 8 **Dunlin** at CSP from 10/25 to 11/13 (RR).

There were no recent records for **Forster's Tern** until those reported in the last issue. Remarkably, 8 were seen 10/20 and 10/24 and 1 was seen as late as 10/29. All of the October birds were imm., whereas all the Aug./Sept. sightings were of adults.

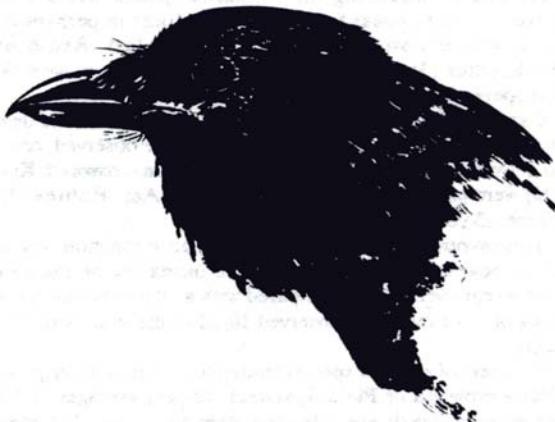
Seven **Horned Larks** were found 11/13 at Larchmont Farms. This location has been consistent in supporting larks and **Snow Buntings** for more than 35 years. Some years they arrive in mid-Oct. and remain until mid-Mar.

Other late sightings include a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at RRP 10/2 and single **White-eyed Vireos** on Gut Rd. 10/3 (AS) and RRP 10/10 (MS,NS,AS).

Highs and lows: **Swamp Sparrows** were reported in very good numbers, with 6 in Fairview Twp 12/19 (RK) and other scattered reports. **Pine Siskin** reports were excellent throughout the county. Numbers ranged from 10-26 in Jacobus (FV) to +200 at Pleasureville Hill (CS). In addition to many reported at thistle feeders, they were also found at Pahagaco L. (DH,AS) and along Bull Rd. (MS). This could be considered a major invasion year for the county.

Trends. The **Am. Black Duck** population continues to increase in this area; 199 were tallied on inland lakes 12/19, plus many hundreds were along the Susquehanna R. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** have shown an increase on the last two CBC's, with 14 of the 19 seen this year found at SMD (JoP,JeP,DD).

OBSERVERS: James Beath, Bill DelGrande (CBC compiler), Dorothy Dressler, Jerry Dyer, Dick Humbert, Ramsay Koury, John & Jean Prescott, Russell Ryan, Mike & Noreen Sankovich, Cas Shue, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309), Francis Valesquez.



Hawkwatching Summaries

With the founding of the Hawk Migration Association of North America in 1974, hawkwatching has grown and many new hawk watching sites have been established. Beginning with this issue, all future hawk watch summaries will be included in a special section in the fourth quarter of each year. This will facilitate easier comparison of the data for those interested in trends. They are listed alphabetically.

Bald Eagle Fire Tower (Centre County)

Highlights of the Fall observations at the BEFT include new single-day records of 3 N. Harrier 11/5, 92 Red-tailed Hawk 10/31 and 97 on 11/5. Other notable sightings at the fire tower included a Merlin 10/21 (JP), and a total of 39 Golden Eagles, including 11 on 11/5 and 11/18. A summary for the period:

Hours	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
	32	36	8	76
Turkey Vulture	29	5	0	34
Osprey	6	0	0	6
N. Harrier	1	3	0	4
Sharp-shinned	116	3	0	119
Cooper's	28	0	0	28
N. Goshawk	4	0	0	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	2	0	2
Broad-winged Hawk	3	0	0	3
Red-tailed Hawk	201	165	14	380
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	0	2
Golden Eagle	38	1	0	39
Am. Kestrel	6	2	0	8
Merlin	1	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	395	219	16	630

Cornwall Fire Tower (Lancaster County)

A remarkable Turkey Vulture migration was noted 10/29, when 500+ went by the CHW (FH,PM). The CHW, manned by members of the Lancaster County Bird Club, enjoyed its finest year ever. Coverage was excellent and record numbers were tallied. The total below reflects the entire season (Sept. 5 to Nov. 30):

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Osprey	97	33	1	131
Bald Eagle	1	0	4	5
N. Harrier	42	41	89	172
Sharp-shinned	748	833	66	1647
Cooper's	25	57	6	88
N. Goshawk	0	9	5	14
Red-shouldered	3	17	77	97
Broad-winged	6777	52	0	6829
Red-tailed	26	193	922	1141
Rough-legged	0	2	2	4
Golden Eagle	0	3	5	8
Am. Kestrel	71	45	3	119
Merlin	2	2	0	4
Peregrine	0	4	0	4
Unidentified	34	48	37	119
<i>Totals</i>	7826	1339	12170382	

Hawk migration was slow in October due to unfavorable weather, however November brought record flights including 18 Red-shouldered Hawks 11/15 (FH,JB,PM) and 261 Red-tails 11/1 (JG *et al.*). A late Osprey was recorded 11/13 (HM,FH,PM).

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Schuylkill & Berks)

For more detailed analysis see the Hawk Mountain Bulletin. Our thanks to Laurie Goodrich, HMS Staff, for providing this information.

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec Total
Black Vulture	2	5	22	8	1 38
Turkey Vulture	0	0	42	13	7 62
Osprey	99	442	117	2	0 660
Bald Eagle	18	25	7	10	5 65
No. Harrier	29	91	134	93	8 355
Sharp-shinned	2	2967	3703	119	2 6808
Cooper's	2	110	450	21	7 590
N. Goshawk	1	2	13	31	9 56
Red-shoulder	1	8	115	217	5 346
Broad-winged	100	8237	71	0	0 8408
Red-tailed	35	91	1395	2548	141 4210
Rough-legged	0	2	4	8	10 24
Golden Eagle	0	1	14	79	4 98
Am. Kestrel	74	325	175	1	0 575
Merlin	0	15	34	1	1 51
Peregrine	0	4	27	0	0 31
<i>Totals</i>	363	12325	6323	3151	20022377

The fall migration on the mountain was below average for waterfowl; average for raptors, vireos and warblers; and above average for swallows and thrushes. The season was exceptional for Golden Eagles, while Peregrine Falcons, Rough-legged Hawks, and Osprey were above average.

Second Mountain (Lebanon County)

The hawk watch had a very successful season this year, with over 11,000 total birds reported.

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Hours	62	174	222	132	590
Osprey	16	154	43	0	213
Bald Eagle	1	3	0	3	7
N. Harrier	7	52	40	34	133
Sharp-shinned	9	1334	2112	48	3503
Cooper's	5	65	115	5	190
N. Goshawk	0	0	10	9	19
Red-shoulder	1	4	61	76	142
Broad-winged	106	4777	50	0	4933
Red-tailed	31	144	638	886	1699
Rough-legged	0	0	0	7	7
Golden Eagle	0	2	3	6	11
Am. Kestrel	5	63	31	0	99
Merlin	0	1	2	1	4
Peregrine	2	0	12	1	15
Gyrfalcon	0	0	0	1	1
Unidentified	3	31	7	3	44
<i>Total</i>	186	6630	3125	120	11610

Any Golden Eagle seen in Sept. is unusual, but the adult seen 9/1 was extraordinarily early (MC). The Gyrfalcon was a white-phase bird seen 11/22 (EB,MC). The 15 Peregrine Falcons was a very high number compared to what could be found in most recent years. One of these provided a thrill as it blasted a Rock Dove out of the sky in a spectacular stoop (MC). The August Peregrines were seen 8/30 (MC).

Tussey Mountain (Bedford County)

The first **Black Vultures** were spotted 9/1; flocks of up to 5 have been sighted with regularity throughout the month suggesting nesting along the ridge. This is an increasingly familiar trend for this southern species since the inception of the Watch in 1984.

Species	1984	1985	1986	1987
<i>Hours</i>	175	231	365	417
Osprey	22	38	64	53
Bald Eagle	4	3	2	8
N. Harrier	39	50	44	73
Sharp-shinned	208	433	579	617
Cooper's	25	84	91	67
N. Goshawk	1	6	9	16
Red-shoulder	23	28	65	30
Broad-winged	201	443	262	1675
Red-tailed	332	546	894	911
Rough-legged	0	0	0	3
Golden Eagle	9	16	31	54
Am. Kestrel	21	35	57	78
Merlin	0	3	8	13
Peregrine	4	7	12	8
<i>Totals</i>	965	1928	2322	3657

Waggoner's Gap (Perry County)

The following WGHW data were received from Don Henise. Greg Smith is the compiler.

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Observation days	26	29	31	27	10	123
Osprey	45	291	123	0	0	459
Bald Eagle*	10	18	6	4	2	40
N. Harrier*	19	83	122	97	1	322
Sharp-shinned*	52	4044	4789	77	0	8962
Cooper's*	5	201	327	10	1	544
N. Goshawk	0	7	59	32	7	105
Red-shoulder*	0	0	113	194	5	312
Broad-winged*	159	14056	42	0	0	14257
<u>Swainson's</u> *	0	0	2	0	0	2
Red-tailed*	48	307	1475	2509	112	4451
Rough-legged	0	0	2	21	1	24
Golden Eagle*	0	0	29	87	7	123
Am. Kestrel*	59	120	69	1	0	249
Merlin*	0	4	23	1	0	28
Peregrine*	0	12	21	0	0	33
Unidentified						202
<i>Total</i>	397	19143	7202	3033	136	30113

Excellent coverage for the season contributed to the many records established for the WGHW. Season record highs are indicated by the asterisk. Other records worthy of mention follow.

New day records were: 66 **Red-shouldered Hawk** 11/1; 4827 **Broad-winged Hawk** 9/21; 748 **Red-tailed Hawk** 11/1; 5 **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/6; 16 **Golden Eagle** on 10/6 and 10/14 (the previous seasonal record was 73). The **Swainson's Hawk** observations were 1 each on 10/10 and 10/11.



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