

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 2, No.4

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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4, OCT - DEC 1988

Franklin C. Haas & Barbara M. Haas
Co-editors

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ILLUSTRATIONS:

COVER: Great Horned Owl by *Georgette Syster*

from the Editors...

As we complete our second year of publishing *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* we are pleased with the significant strides that have been made in the magazine, especially its appearance. But, more importantly, we are all beginning to learn what is happening all across the Commonwealth as pertains to birds.

Never before has that happened on such a local (county) level. Pennsylvania is actually in its infancy in determining just which species are even regular for many of its 67 counties. Those few counties which have years of data are way ahead of the game. It is of merit to note that Venango and Bedford are joining the ranks to keep records of that order. The more counties that do so, the more we will all eventually learn. As more and more systematic records are kept, the early/late and the expected fall into place. When further placed on a distributional map, with topography playing an important role, more will be learned about our avifauna. Having all these data housed in one publication is a tribute to all who have contributed information. We hope that as more counties keep accurate records, more regional publications, such as those hooks reviewed in this issue, will be forthcoming. Much of the State historical data was based on sightings by only a few individuals. For example, when we did block busting in Northumberland Co. it was.. in essence, virgin territory as far as Poole's book (1964) was concerned. There was not a record entered!

The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project has given us a wealth of information about our breeding birds. The Project had over 1400 volunteers searching the nooks and crannies of every county. The Atlas will be the culmination of umpteen hours of dedicated fieldwork and certain aspects of it are already underway. Species' accounts are being written. Artists are at their easels. We feel that *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* has enhanced the Project by reporting many of the exciting "finds" of 1987 and 1988 breeding birds prior to its publication and has continued to generate interest in the Project.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS is committed to trying to maintain the need for breeding birds fieldwork. It will be necessary to go back to many areas to monitor the stability of our breeding populations, and not just be content that they "used" to breed here. Follow-up articles on atlas blocks will be especially informative down the line. Monitoring of certain areas may be critical to the preservation of a particular species in Pennsylvania. It may be your fieldwork that is the influencing factor in saving

a wetlands, etc.

Once again there is the special section on Hawk Watch results. This was the first year for Militia Hill (Montgomery), which recorded a respectable 3400+ raptors. Not surprising, was that Hawk Mt. had three times as many raptors since they' also had three times as many hours of observation. It continues as the premiere hawk watch location.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS is not, therefore, dedicated to just the rarities that occur. They are fun and rewarding to see, but comprise only a small percent of what is happening out there every day.

As we enter our third year of publication we entreat you all to maintain your interest in and support of Pennsylvania's avifauna by contributing articles and information to *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. We, in turn, will strive to keep on schedule with the publication so that you are always reading about recent past sightings.

Unfortunately, if you do not renew before the next issue, you will not receive any more issues. We are unable to absorb the costs of printing and mailing issues in the hope of renewals. Please look at your address label. If it reads a (code)88, then you have NOT renewed for 1989. Please take a moment to send your \$15.00 check NOW. Our planning for 1989 is dependent upon your support. It is one of the largest state journals anywhere. **Thank you.**

COMING ATTRACTIONS FOR 1989.

Look forward to reading about the status of the Carolina Wren, what's happening to the Am. Tree Sparrow, the rewards of county listing, more personality profiles, site guides, previews of the Atlas. *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS*, finding and identifying gulls, and MUCH, MUCH more. But no complacency, please. We need more articles in order that themes may be developed, that your interests are met, and the birdwatching community can be informed.

Where did you go birding last weekend? Why? Was it a spot that has been traditionally good for waterfowl? early shorebirds? Do you bird that area at other times of the year? How did you find out about it? Are there special birds that draw you there each year? Is it one of the few places in the county that you can expect to see a certain species? Do you keep a list of what you have seen there over the years (as we do for the Tincum area)? Actively consider writing it up and sending it to us. If it is inviting to you, it probably will be for others. There is joy in sharing. Be joyful!

How have you used *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*? Did it help in planning a trip to another area of the state? Did you start to actively keep a county list? Write them down. Send them to us. Other readers would enjoy them as well.

SPECIAL NOTE:

We have only about 35 complete sets of Volume 1, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$12.00.

Don't miss out on your chance to get this collector's item of a limited edition publication. Complete your library while you can.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to sending you Volume three.

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors:

I am pleased to inform you that at their last meeting...the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Bird Club voted to support your publication, **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, ...to help defray publication costs.

On a personal note, I think you two are doing a great job with the publication and are continually upgrading it! I know our family is enjoying it immensely. Keep up the good work!

Also, may I ask a favor--would you be able to send me a dozen or so of the subscription cards & return envelopes. I could then make a "pitch" at our Club meeting to try and get you more subscribers. We did that early on, but have not done it recently. I do take the one card & envelope I receive with our copy to the next meeting and it always disappears from the "freebee" table. Thanks!

Again, our Board was most happy they could make this donation to you, and, incidently, it was by unanimous vote.

*Mrs. Patricia P. Witmer
Corresponding Secretary
Lancaster County Bird Club*

We will be pleased to send more subscription forms to those interested in distributing them. Many of our new subscribers are using the forms so we are pleased some are being given to interested birders. Eds.

Dear Editors:

I'm glad that a Records Committee is finally being established. Sure, some records will not be accepted and some feelings may be hurt, but the quality of bird data in Pennsylvania will improve. Several years ago I saw what I thought was for sure a Gyrfalcon. Its hunting pattern was right, the time of year was right, the coloration (all white with black speckles rather than patches of black) was right, the wings looked right, and other people had seen it. I looked it up in every book I could find and concluded it had to be a Gyrfalcon, rather than a partial albino [other raptor]. So it was put on the hot line. Months later I started hearing reports from local oil people that this "white hawk" was there year round. If it were present during the summer it surely would not be a Gyrfalcon. So if there had been a Records Committee at that time it would probably not have been accepted and thereby wouldn't be cluttering the records with erroneous data.

I am also glad that a photo will not be absolutely necessary for the record to be accepted. I think a lot of people would

not even submit records if they had to have a photo. Most people just don't have the equipment with them when they are out birding.

I hope that emphasis will be put on identification rather than on historical data. At this point in time we are learning more about Birds in PA than ever before, and for some reason the message never gets to the birds that they are or are not supposed to be in an area. They seem to turn up in the most unusual places. So a wide open mind needs to be used going into each new report, and then let the identification decide it.

*Leif Anderson
Kane, PA*

Dear Editors:

I really enjoyed the latest **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. The Dickcissel article was especially good, though I suppose it is the Atlasser in me. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** is turning into one of the better state journals around - I hope everybody in PA subscribes. They ought to.

I was particularly interested in the article on the newly emerging Pennsylvania Records Committee. I applaud the effort, and wish every state had a committee. It would certainly improve the standing of records in the ornithological community...

*Rick Blom, Editor
Birding
Bel Air, MD*

Dear Editors:

I just love **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** magazine. My, how it has gotten so easy to read and so interesting, too.

*Margaret Kenepf
McVeytown, PA*

Dear Editors:

I really enjoy the magazines so much and constantly refer to them for reference and to give me ideas for "day trips."

*Gerogette Syster
Penn Run, PA*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pennsylvania Birdlists has found a new home in the pages of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. As always, you will have the opportunity to publish your list totals in the following categories:

- 1) Pennsylvania lifelist.
- 2) Pennsylvania annual list (for any year).
- 3) County lifelists (for any PA county).
- 4) County annual lists (for any PA county in any year).

I hope to hear from all of you who have previously published in **Pennsylvania Birdlists** as well as from those whose names would be new to our lists. You can send your list totals as of the end of 1988 by 31 March 1989 to:

Terry Schiefer
107 Newkirk Avenue
Reading, PA 19607

Terry Schiefer

Our Pennsylvania Big Year - 1986

PART FOUR

Barbara M. Haas

The last quarter began with us needing just one bird to tie Sam Stull's record. We were at 277 and counting. There remained many possibilities, but just how lucky would we be?

OCTOBER. This month turned out to be as exciting as any this year. Typically we spend most of October at our hawk watch in Northumberland County. Things were different this year. No luxury of being in one place, without telephone, electricity, and running water for us. No days of climbing the tower and watching for hawks for ten hours a day, weather permitting. No, it was still chase time and Tinicum seemed to be as good a place as any to be. It sure was.

Through the years it has been quite productive for us, although we are saddened by the enormous loss of habitat. There are townhouses where Short-eared Owls were routinely found. There are roads through many of the areas where several species of ducks formerly nested. There are areas now "developed" by the airport that used to support at least three species of breeding rails. But, for now, let's return to the Big Year.

The impoundment was still drawn down and there were shorebirds everywhere. We found several juvenile Long-billed Dowitchers on the fourth. This tied the record at 278. The next day we were back and, lo and behold, saw our third phalarope of the year, a Red-necked. It was only the second time we had ever seen all three species in one year. The photographs were not great, but certainly identifiable. It was a new record. Our own "back yard" had come through.

On the 11th, I saw a medium-sized shorebird fly in and immediately called Ruff. It was a juvenile. Frank was put on guard duty while I went back to the headquarters and began calling

some people. John Ginaven was one of the first to arrive, but soon many birders were peering through scopes at this uncommon visitor. It used to be more common at Tinicum, but in recent years seems to have favored Pedricktown, NJ. No matter. It had showed up with perfect timing. It remained until the nineteenth.

Serendipity favored us on the 12th when we were trying to locate some Long-billed Dowitchers for John and Becky Peplinski from State College. They had driven down for



Ruff, Tinicum NEC, 10/11/86. Photo by F. Haas

the Ruff, but also needed the dowitcher for the state. Some had been in the impoundment the day before, but not today. I remembered also seeing some in another section of Tinicum, so we headed out along the dike paralleling the tidal flats to a far observation blind. No luck. But on the way back I caught something in my peripheral vision. Whoa, I said. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow! A state bird. John spied it immediately and after a few seconds Frank located the correct phragmites. It was beautiful and has always been one of my favorite sparrows. Years ago, I had caught a glimpse of one at Tinicum, but could not relocate this "mouse-emulator of the marshlands" sparrows. Never did count it fully. It had always been only half filled in

on my checklist. No more. It gave a few chips and a call, but never showed itself for a photograph. No matter, the criterion of having a witness (or two) was met.

But our day was not over. A message on our answering machine was from Bernie Morris that he had a third-hand report of a Western Kingbird near Reading. It took some detective work, but we finally discovered that Joan Silagy had found the bird two days earlier. A quick call revealed the bird was still there and in less than two hours we were looking at and photographing it. This was only our second sighting of this species in Pennsylvania. Several of our friends saw it the next day and it stayed until the sixteenth.

We had 18 species of shorebirds at Tinicum this month and missed Red Knot. Proving that habitat is a key to seeing birds, the shorebird habitat provided by the drawn-down impoundment provided records for Glossy Ibis, White-rumped, Baird's, and Stilt sandpipers, and as many as 7 Hudsonian Godwits. It was exciting. Pennsylvanians normally do not have the opportunity to look over great numbers of shorebirds to find that Eurasian rarity. Although "it" did not appear, it was a treat to scan flocks and flocks of peeps, watch more shorebirds than we had seen in many years, and photograph many of the more common species.

All news was not good news. Bill Stocku had found an Orange-crowned Warbler that we could not relocate, and Sam Stull saw a Common Ground-Dove at Presque Isle on the 19th. But we had 282 species and were still counting.

NOVEMBER. The excitement continued. We began the month with a N. Goshawk at Bake Oven Knob on the first.

We went to the PBBAP Coordinators' Meeting in Lock Haven the next Friday and Saturday and left from there for Presque Isle. The meeting was well coordinated by Paul and Glenna Schwalbe of Jersey Shore and Dan Brauning of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

There is little more that can be said about birding at Presque Isle. It is just one of the most exciting places in Pennsylvania to bird. Too bad there are not more birders in the area to cover it on a daily basis.

We were out on Gull Point early, but, as usual, not early enough to beat Bill Stocku. We passed Ramsay Khoury who told us Bill was *standing guard* by a Purple Sandpiper, a bird he also had needed for Pennsylvania. We later found out it was the only sighting for the year. How lucky we were.

Later that day we saw the forces of nature at work. The lake breached the dunes and met the bay at the neck of the peninsula. Leaving the Park we could see the waves crashing above the dunes and the road was flooded for at least three tenths of a mile. Thank heavens for a vehicle with good clearance. Presque Isle was closed the next morning, so we went to East Avenue in Erie to check the birds there and at the south jetty.

Jerry arrived there soon after and we teamed with him for most of the rest of the day. The Park road was opened a bit later and while checking birds from Gull Point we noticed quite a bit of activity in the channel. So, off to the Coast Guard Station.

While we were in the restrooms, Jerry called out, "Little Gull!". An adult in winter plumage. Frank was able to get a photograph of the bird as it flew in close by the jetty. It was feeding with the many Bonaparte's Gulls in the channel. Frank suddenly yelled, "Snowy Owl on the south jetty." It was either a female or immature and was just sitting on the rocks. The photographs taken through the Questar demonstrate the remarkable capabilities of this piece of equipment. It was right where we had been earlier in the day. By now it was too late in the day to be able to drive over for even closer shots. Two good birds this late in the year. We were ecstatic. This was also the first Snowy Owl of the season for Erie and Jerry hoped it would hang around for his wife to get to see for a life bird.

We drove home Veterans' Day in snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain. But the trip, albeit hazardous, had been well worth it.

Frequently, in November, Tyler Arboretum has hosted Red Crossbills.

This year was no exception. On the 16th we hiked to the Pinetum and photographed a female feeding. Earlier that day we had an adult male Evening Grosbeak at our feeders and Pine Siskins in the yard as well. Would this be a better winter finch invasion year than those of recent years?

The day before Thanksgiving we braved the crowded highways and headed back to Presque Isle. Traffic was horrendous, compounded by the pouring rain. Most backups seemed to



Purple Sandpiper, Presque Isle SP, 11/9/86. Photo by F. Haas

be due to sheer volume and not accidents, fortunately. The following three days were almost too nice. No rarities, but some redpolls and siskins on the peninsula. Another good find was a female Pine Warbler at an impromptu feeding station at one of the picnic areas. Someone had put up a bag of suet and some corn there and chickadees and titmice were visiting in good numbers. Would it remain for their Christmas Count?

By the 30th the weather had changed dramatically. The winds were now out of the northeast. We joined Sam, Barb, and Dave Steadman out on the Coast Guard jetty. Sam yelled above the roar of the waves to "get on the bird flying towards us along the jetty." We were rewarded with our first look at a first winter Black-legged Kittiwake. Our previous two sightings of kittiwakes in Pennsylvania had been adult birds (*Luzerne* and *Chester*). The discussion that ensued revealed that all Presque Isle sightings have been of immature birds. Perhaps, as with the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, it shows some sort of distributional variation within the state. The immature is a striking bird and although it landed on the water briefly, Frank was never able to get a decent photograph due to the swells. Bill Stocku had abandoned his vigil for

Little Gull over at East Avenue and arrived at the jetty just in time to view the kittiwake. An hour or so later he returned to East Avenue, as it appeared the activity was shifting in that direction. He still needed Little Gull.

Winter birds were on the move. The day before the kittiwake Jerry had had a N. Goshawk and N. Shrike at Presque Isle and when we returned home Sunday night, there was a report of a N. Shrike in Lancaster County.

Our total was now **288** species. We saw 110 species in November. We needed only Code 7 birds at this point, with the exception of Loggerhead Shrike. We could look forward to people scouring their areas for Christmas Counts. We could dream that the Tufted Duck, Mountain Bluebird, or Gyrfalcon would return. Even a Dickcissel was not out of the realm of possibility. We would be out there as well, beating the bushes, hoping all the way.

DECEMBER. This month did not produce the rarities we anticipated. The Lititz CBC (*Lancaster*) had the distinction of having both shrikes. We went out and searched the Palmyra area where the Loggerhead had been found, but to no avail. There was also the report of a possible Thayer's Gull in Lower Bucks County. We spent most of Christmas Day looking for it.

The next day we drove to Presque Isle for the last time this year. Since waterfowl hunting was over, there were ducks all over the area. We searched through thousands of Common Goldeneye in the hopes of one Barrow's. Gull numbers were down, but we looked for a Thayer's and anything else that was different. Time was definitely running out. It appeared that our final count would be 288. December was the only month in which we failed to add a species. The potential was there, good fortune was not.

We learned of other interesting sightings on various CBCs. On the Delaware River were Lesser Black-backed Gull and Great Cormorant. I found a Yellow-breasted Chat in Ridley Creek State Park and Bill Stocku added a new species for the impressive Glenolden CBC list... a Bobolink. He also had a Red-throated Loon on the river.

OVERVIEW. We were exhausted by the end of the year. We were thrilled with our accomplishment. Our criteria for the year had been to either have witnesses

or photographs of every unusual species seen. We were able to meet same for every species but one: the Sandhill Crane at Presque Isle. We were especially pleased with some of the shorebird photographs.

We had travelled 22,940 documented miles and spent 141 days birding, not including just getting to and from work or watching our feeders. We made nine trips to Presque Isle and spent the better part of thirty days somewhere in Erie County. My county list for Erie was now over 200 species. I had upgraded many other county lists. We had actively birded in 29 counties and driven through many more.



Little Gull, Presque Isle SP, 11/10/86.
Photo by F. Haas

We missed 21 species reported, although not all were verified. This meant we had seen 93% of all sightings. We had seen five species that were only reported once: White Ibis, Black-legged Kittiwake, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Although we could not be everywhere at one time, we gave it our best shot. We were quite fortunate in that we were essentially healthy all year. There were some days of miserable driving conditions, but with the exception of the car breakdown in April, we had no major incidents on the road. We tried to use our vacation days judiciously, were obliged to travel on our weekends, and commitments did not always allow us to travel when the weather fronts might have improved our chances of a rarity. We were also lucky that the gasoline prices were less than the year before and Turnpike prices were scheduled to go up in 1987. We were saved considerable expense by the hospitality of the Stulls in Erie. All in all, we were very lucky.

We kept lots of records, too many to reproduce here. We could not have done it without the support of many birders across the state. We thank Jim and Bonnie Baird, Ralph Bell, Dan Brauning, Ken Gabler, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, Paul Hess, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Deuane Hoffman, Jerry McWilliams, Rick Mellon, John C. Miller, Harold Morrin, Bernie Morris, Bill Murphy, Bob Odear, John

Peplinski, Steve Santner, Terry Schiefer, Bob Schutsky, Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, Allen Schweinsberg, Bill Stocku, the Stulls, the Tinicum staff, Eric Witmer, and Merrill Wood for their tangible and intangible support all year. They called, they cheered, they helped our sagging spirits at opportune moments. If we forgot anyone, it was surely not intentional.

We met many new birders and frequently discussed the need for a statewide journal, the result is that which you are now reading. We were able to bird in many new areas across the Commonwealth. There is definitely a birthing fraternity out there. As more and more people get into more local birding, more information will be forthcoming as to just what is possible in our state. Already we know of several counties that are beginning to keep local records in an organized fashion. All this will go towards documentation of just what really occurs here annually.

Birds reported, but not necessarily confirmed, that we missed for the year:

- Am. White Pelican*
- Swainson's Hawk*
- Am. Avocet*
- Marbled Godwit
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*
- Franklin's Gull*
- Thayer's Gull*
- Least Tern
- Common Ground-Dove
- Bewick's Wren*
- Sedge Wren**
- Mountain Bluebird
- Townsend's Solitaire*
- Fieldfare*
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Swainson's Warbler*
- Dickcissel
- Lark Sparrow*
- Yellow-headed Blackbird**
- Brewer's Blackbird**

Those with an asterisk would have been new State birds for us. The double asterisk indicates those which we have subsequently found in Pennsylvania.



Snowy Owl, Presque Isle SP, 11/10/86.
Photo by F. Haas

THE GREAT MILTON CROW WAR

by Allen Schweinsberg

A New Zealand news agency wanted information about the crow war. A Japanese news agency offered a reward for usable video tape of the crows. Brief radio accounts suggested that much of downtown Milton was covered with -- what shall we call it? -- and it was getting deeper every day. An angry resident threatened to dump fifty pounds of "it" in the yard of an individual who was quoted as saying that the crow campaign was misguided. What was happening in Milton, Pennsylvania?

A major American Crow roost exists at Milton. Actually the roost traditionally occupies Davis Island, and to a lesser extent Milton Island, in the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Milton Island contains Milton State Park and is accessed by bridge (the crow war is Milton's biggest news story since the previous bridge collapsed). Although Davis Island has no such access (which probably explains its popularity with crows), in places it is only a few yards from Milton's Front Street, a business and residential area. Crows have roosted here for at least fifty years, going by human memory, and were probably present in similar numbers decades before that.

The birds begin arriving in October and occupy the islands until sometime in March. At dawn in late fall and winter crows fan out from their island sanctuary to feed throughout most of a four county area. They return at dusk, arriving along flight lanes that are used year after year. It takes about an hour for the roost to fill as first a few crows then greater numbers arrive. Each year at the time of the Lewisburg Christmas count an attempt is made to tally crows arriving from the southwest. Estimates generally run between forty and fifty thousand. This suggests the roost contains more than double that amount, since many other birds fly in from the east and north.

The size of other roosts has been estimated by multiplying the acreage by a factor of at least 5000 and more often 10,000 birds. This method too suggests the Milton roost contains more than 100,000 crows. The exact number, of course, must vary over the years, and so must the boundaries of the roost.

This year the roost spilled off the islands and into Milton. Newspaper accounts of this happening were more accurate than brief radio highlights. They noted that the problem area was limited to Front Street. However, when one Front Street resident was asked where the problem was, he said he had no idea. This man lived next to the river only about a hundred yards from the huge roost. None of "it" was in his yard. The truth was that the Davis Island roost had spread to just a few trees on two blocks of Front Street. Under these trees there was an unpleasant mess indeed. Anyone who saw the affected residences would agree that some crows would have to go.

But why try to remove all the crows from Davis Island? Well, perhaps there was a health hazard. "It" was falling into the river (probably very little actually) and communities downstream got water from the river. What was overlooked was that the health hazards (likely none) were neither more nor less than they had been for decades. Besides, isn't that the river that all those fish leave their bodily wastes in?

A few hundred crows would have to go. Absolutely. However some suggested that the campaign to harass the entire island roost was misguided (there's that word again). If the birds were driven off Davis Island where would they go? The Milton residents could find themselves living under tens of thousands of crows. Surely the state authorities would not approve. Wrong. Hurried phone calls to D.E.R., the law enforcement division of the Game Commission, and the State Park system revealed that the war would not be stopped.

Responding to complaints a few years back, the then Milton State Park superintendent (not the publisher of Pennsylvania Birds, rest assured) got into hot water by suggesting the crow problem would vanish if the trees on the island were removed. Nothing was done then except to rush senior park personnel up from Harrisburg to sooth some jittery environmentalists. This time something would be done. The plan was to use propane cannons, flare pistols, and taped "distress calls." One evening in early January, volunteers, led by a representative of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, went into action. At dawn and dusk for five days the assault continued.

There was consolation in that crow roosts have been attacked often in years past with no apparent long term affect on the population. Given a chance these birds would handle the situation intelligently. They did. The roost moved from Davis Island to the southern half of Milton Island -- state park land farther from Milton. It must be confessed that the borough of Milton did indeed displace the crows.

Victory was declared. Water quality problems were forgotten. The native Americans lost again (perhaps).

The crows will disperse to their breeding grounds in March and return again in late October. Most likely they will return to Davis Island, their historical roost. Some may again try to roost along Front Street.

The Great Milton Crow War, while frustrating to many, invites comparison with older attitudes and practices.

There was a 1704 Maryland law which read in part "... Every person that shall bring or cause to be brought to any of the Justices of the peace in any county within this provence the head of a Crow with a perfect Bill shall be allowed the sum of six pounds of Tobacco and the Justice of the peace before whom such Crows heads shall be brought shall cause the Bill to be cut off to prevent the deceit of twice or oftener paying therefore." -- quoted by C.L. Edwards in the May 1888 issue of the American Journal of Psychology.

In the early 1800s the state of Maryland still accepted crow heads, now in lieu of taxes, at a value of three cents each. Favored methods of obtaining the birds included shotgunning them at night in the roost.

In this century some years ago, near Harrisburg, Illinois, dynamite was hung throughout a roost and detonated. They found 100,000 dead crows the next morning.

In 1989, Milton Councilman Blair Judy, who coordinated the borough's battle, was articulate, rational, and patient. He listened to lots of folks before blasting with the propane cannons. That's environmental progress.

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"What?..."

How's That Again!"

A true experience

by Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

"... and it has a blue head and a red body," she continued. Bud Cluster's pulse rate jumped a few beats as the caller described the male bird to him. Bud was still excited when he called us. We should say birds, because apparently there were both a male and a female up on the mountainside at this lady's home. We will just call her Mrs. Finder. The best they could come up with was that she had a pair of Painted Buntings.

What? In central Pennsylvania? Just one Painted Bunting would be astounding, but a pair was unbelievable! Bud very carefully questioned Mrs. Finder. "Yes, the male's head was blue and the body was mostly red. No, she couldn't be sure about the green on the back," but she would look for it the next time. The female was yellow-green, darker on the back and wings.

Describing their behavior, she said, "Well, they come to two of my feeders. No, they are not always together, and when they leave, they usually go down the hill to where the yard narrows, and from there they fly into the woods. I see the male more frequently than the female. I think they might be nesting."

As we were driving out to the area, we talked and thought about many things. "But a pair," Glenna said, "it sounds more like escaped caged birds to me." Paul responded, "I was thinking more about some tropical tanagers, the only problem is that few tropical tanagers have sexual dimorphism, and the sexes in these birds are different."

We arrived. The heat was oppressive, even this late in the afternoon. From under a crumpled blue hat, eyes peered at us, and with finger pressed to the lips, motioned us forward. Carrying our lawn chairs - one must be prepared - we quietly turned the corner. Two round long black tubular things with cameras attached at one end were pointing toward a feeder in a small dead tree about 30 feet away. Cec Hazlett and Bud were there hoping for a shot or two of the birds. And in hushed tones (for the life of us, we still don't know why): "They're starting to come in now, titmice have been here."

"Iced tea? We have plenty."

"No, thanks. We have ice water in the thermos."

The immediate problem was whether it

was better with or without sunglasses because of the glare.

Time passed.

Mrs. FINDER came out and apologized for the birds' absence. "They were here at this time yesterday."

Time passed.

A Red-eyed Vireo flew to the dead tree, looked around for awhile, and left. A female tanager did the same.

"I have to go." Cec said, checking the feeder by the woods. "Let me know if it shows up." Gathering his things together he trudged up to his car. About a half-hour later the remaining three of us also decided it was time to go.

"Will you be here tomorrow morning, Bud?"

"Yes, for a little while."

On the way home, more thoughts, more discussion and lots of speculation. We arrived Saturday morning about 8:30 amid a cacophony of barnyard geese that had wandered in from a field above. Bud was already set up with camera on tripod. Again Mrs. FINDER came out, this time to talk with us about her hummingbirds. There were several of them perching in and flying about a Rose-of-Sharon that was blooming nearby.

Time passed.

About 10:30, Bud said he had to go and would be out of town until Monday, but would call us then. An hour later we also left - without seeing either of the birds, of course.

At home we hit the books. It still didn't make sense. What other birds might be described as having a "blue head and red body?" We sure couldn't think of any. Those that we did find seemed even more improbable than the Painted Bunting. Could you believe a Cape Rock Thrush from southern Africa, or the Carmine Bee-eater from east Africa? Come on now!

The next morning we were back again in the same spot, in the shade under the pine tree, trying to ignore the stares and verbal abuse from the geese. Mrs. FINDER soon came running out and we bet you can guess what she said. "Oh, it was here right after you left yesterday." What else?

Fortunately, she had a very good look at it and was able to give us a better description of the male. We made a sketch as she described it.

"I now know that it can't be a Painted Bunting," she said, "because it has a large red bill. In fact, the bill looks awfully large for the head. It has a small head, like a dove or something. Behind the head the feathers are sort of like a ruff, and they are bright red. The rest of the body is darker red, the tail very dark red. Under the wing there is a strip of blue, as on the head. And the whole time it's here, it keeps

going 'peep, peep, peep;' it never stops."

We went through the field guides with her to try to pin down the exact shade of blue, and came up with the blue on the crown of the Cliff Swallow. Mrs. FINDER went back in the house. A Red-bellied Woodpecker "churred" its way along a row of trees, ravens were talking up on the ridge, and an oriole choked out a note or two.

Time passed.

Hand in hand, the temperature and humidity climbed. It was stifling. We could hear the air-conditioner blowing in the window. House Finches were fussing around the feeder; we also checked the one over by the woods, nothing.

Mrs. FINDER came back out again. While we were talking, a bird that had landed in the pine tree over our heads began to call.

"That's it, that's it," she excitedly got out, "that's it!"

"But, isn't that just a - there it goes over to the feeder!"

Finally, our efforts were coming to fruition, were being rewarded. We put our glasses on the bird. There it was, just as she had described it. The body was red, it had a big red bill, and the head and upper neck were solid blue. Interestingly enough, on each eyebrow above the eye was a tiny red feather!

At times like these, and we all have experienced them, what emotions sweep through one's being. Can we really count them all; excitement, elation, puzzlement, amazement, consternation, embarrassment, and then sorrow; followed much later, very much later, by amusement. But what can one say? Here is Mrs. FINDER standing there waiting for the news, for the report from these very strange people who are supposed to know what they are doing. They certainly cart enough equipment around with them that they should be able to solve this mystery. You open your mouth and stop. After all, you don't want to make her feel bad.

"No, it wasn't a waste of time," you reassure her, after all we really had never seen anything like it (and that was the truth!). "Yes, it was interesting and it was worth the wait, these things have to be checked out, that's the way unusual things are found," we continued.

Blankly, she nodded her head slowly up and down. We thanked her, were invited back again sometime, gathered up our stuff, and returned to the car.

On the way home, after some silence, the hilarity of the situation hit us. Wait till we tell Bud and Cec, we laughed, won't they be surprised. We all know that birds sometimes get

mites, but tell us now, who would have thought it, the skin color is dark blue on the head of a CARDINAL!!

DREAM BIRDING

by
Bernie Morris

Imagine a single spot where you can see such birds as Smew, White Ibis, Greater Golden Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Gyrfalcon, N. Saw-whet Owl, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Hoary Redpoll, and Smith's Longspur. Now imagine that this can be done at absolutely no cost, and literally in your spare time. Does this sound too good to be true? Well read on.

Really active birders will pursue their hobby while driving along the highway, while bicycling, eating, working, etc. In fact, the only time that a really dedicated birder cannot bird is when he is sleeping.

Until now.

The revolutionary idea that you can bird in your sleep came to me just a little over a year ago. I woke up after a vivid dream in which I remembered seeing a Fork-tailed Flycatcher while I was riding the elevated train through Providence, RI. My first reaction upon awakening was "that's impossible, there isn't an elevated in Providence." My second reaction was to jot down the details of this strange dream before they faded away. While I may have dreamed of specific birds before this one, they never made enough of an impression on me to bother remembering. Since then, however, I have kept a list of all of the birds that I have "seen" in my dreams. The next few were not nearly as good as the first; Black Vulture, Blue Grosbeak, and Green-backed Heron. To date I have a total of 58 species (all in the ABA area, of course). When I can remember them, I jot down the location, time, and other details of the "sightings."

Some of these "other" details have been very, very strange. Would you believe a Snowy Owl wading through water up to its breast, or a White-headed Woodpecker "disguised" as a Downy in order to escape attention? I also saw, and actually touched, a snipe that had wandered into my house and was walking around in the bedroom, an Ancient Murrelet on a small woodland pond in New Jersey, and five immature Chestnut-sided Warblers which were swimming

around like phalaropes. I have also "heard," but did not "see," both Sora and Virginia Rails.

This last instance brings up an interesting problem. What exactly are the criteria for adding new birds to a "Dream List?" In most cases, I have clearly "seen" and identified the bird, and in others I have "heard" it calling. However there were also times when I heard others discussing a bird, and then managed to visualize it with all of the proper field marks, but did not actually "see" a "live-and-unrestrained" bird. Does this count? What about species which I "saw" only poorly, but whose identities I had absolutely no doubt about (after all, it is my dream).

Another problem for "dream listers" is whether or not it is allowable to concentrate on a desired species just before going to sleep. Is this cheating? I don't worry about this problem, since this "birding technique" just doesn't seem to work for me. Perhaps the new Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee will have to decide. A technique that I have found to be effective is a daily drill; every morning upon awakening I say to myself, "What good birds did you see last night?" Then write them down quickly before they are forgotten.

That's enough writing for now. It's time for sleep and, perhaps, more good birding.

FRED MEARS

OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD

by
Bruce McNaught

For those of us who are bird enthusiasts, there are certain people who have helped spark our interest in this addictive pastime. One of those special people for many of us here in Bucks County is Fred Mears.

Most local birders know Fred through many years of Saturday morning birdwalks at Peace Valley Nature Center, where he had been Assistant Naturalist since 1980. In early March, Fred retired from Peace Valley and left the ranks of the Pennsylvania birders. He is now a resident of Cape May, New Jersey - a retired birder's paradise! Fred has always enjoyed Cape May, both as a dedicated volunteer bird counter and weekend bird watcher.

Fred's fresh enthusiasm and patience have made him popular with novice and veteran birders alike. In addition to his superb identification skills, his knowledge of habitat, migration patterns, nesting sites and inter-relationships have enhanced his

reputation as a well-rounded ornithologist.

Fred has been an avid birder for as long as he can remember. For nearly thirty years, he has compiled sightings at Peace Valley and other locations which have contributed valuable information to various publications, including one of the first seasonal checklists for the area. His volunteer work and interest in the Nature Center led him to become the first president of the "Friends of Peace Valley," and eventually an employee. Although Fred's work at PVNC kept him busy teaching classes, building bridges, trails, bird blinds, and solar buildings, many don't realize that he still managed to find time to do volunteer work away from the center.

From 1958 to 1968, he participated in a banding program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Island Beach State Park in New Jersey. He volunteered from 1971 to 1987 in hawk counting at Bake Oven Knob in Lehigh County. He organized the CBC for the Wyncote Bird Club, of which he was a long-time member. He was a compiler for the Central Bucks CBC for over ten years. In addition, the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project benefited from the field knowledge of Fred and his dedicated band of followers. Fred has been a member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club since 1958, as well as a member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association for 15 years. And the list goes on...

We all want to thank Fred Mears for his contribution to a better knowledge of Pennsylvania birds and for encouraging many new birders who sought out his expertise. Even though his regular presence will be missed in Bucks County, we now have a good friend in Cape May, where we can continue to learn from his knowledge. If anyone wants to see him there, he is literally "outstanding in his field."



"Siskin Invasion"

Brush Mountain Notebook
by Marcia Bonta

It was in October of 1987 when I first realized that we might be having a Pine Siskin invasion, the first in the seventeen years we have lived on our central Pennsylvania mountaintop farm. I had gone walking late in the month after a heavy frost, taking my usual path to our Far Field. Along the edge of the field I heard and then saw a flock of 20 pine siskins picking minute seeds from the cone-like fruiting heads of a small black birch tree. I crept closer and sat on the ground to watch them. After fifteen minutes they whirled up as if of one mind and went bouncing off over the ridge. I counted that the sighting of a lifetime--the closest, longest view I had ever had of pine siskins.

But that, it turned out, was only the beginning. Ten days later, while walking up our gravel road at noon, I paused to watch a mixed flock of goldfinches, juncos and siskins drinking from our stream and I instinctively ducked when another siskin flock came sweeping into a sapling at eye level less than three feet from where I was standing. They seemed equally startled to be eyeballing a human and swirled off as swiftly as they had appeared.

Then came the unseasonable snow of 10 November. Late in the morning, in the midst of the storm, 80 pine siskins rained down like oversized brown and white snowflakes, as they settled on saplings, ground, back steps, porch floor and feeder, snatched a few seeds and flew off again. During the next several days we frequently spotted at least some pine siskins near the feeder, but for the most part the large flocks that continued to roam over the mountain throughout November preferred the birch seeds.

In early December we discovered how much they love salt. Below our feeder we had had a salt block for the deer, but it had dissolved into the soil months before. Somehow the siskins detected that salty soil because one day they flew in 80 at a time--pushing, shoving and fighting for room enough to peck at the dirt. After that we were liable to see flocks landing on the salty soil at any time but to ensure a good tally during our Christmas bird Count, I dumped table salt over the soil that day and it brought in 40 siskins not long after dawn.

By then every birder we knew in central Pennsylvania was reporting large numbers of pine siskins and, as far as I could tell, the major lure continued to be the heavy crop of black birch seeds. I learned to scan the top of every black birch I passed on walks

and more often than not I would spot siskins up there eating quietly. Usually they twittered softly as they fed but sometimes they were as silent as the winter woods had become.

Pine siskins, *Spinus pinus*, are closely related to American goldfinches and their call notes as they fly are similar. So is their undulating flight. Their manners at the feeder, however, are feistier. Pine siskins, smaller even than the goldfinches, put to flight every bird that tried to feed when they were in residence. Even the experts are not certain whether it is their needle-sharp bill or the way they fan out their wings and charge full tilt that intimidates the larger birds. Some siskins, in fact, are so aggressive that one will hold the feeder against all comers including their own species. White-breasted nuthatches, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice, northern cardinals, even the usually dominant house finches recoil and flee from a siskin's threatening posture.

Such aggressiveness seems strange in a species known for its year round, flocking behavior. Siskins even flock during their breeding season and nest close together although their numbers then are much smaller, not more than half a dozen per flock. One researcher even claims that siskins have no definite breeding range but settle wherever there is food.

Because they are liable to turn up almost anywhere at any time, studying siskin behavior has been difficult for ornithologists, but most of my own observations tallied with what is known about siskins. They do love salt, they are aggressive at feeders, and they are relatively tame. However, contrary to ornithological wisdom, the siskins on our mountaintop last winter and early spring did not associate with any other species, not even with goldfinches. Time and again I examined siskin flocks for their other known associates--redpolls, crossbills, purple finches, cedar waxwings, juncos--but our siskins remained exclusive and erratic, coming only sometimes to the feeder, other times to the salt area, and many days to neither.

Despite their scrappy habits at the feeder, though, I found them to be harmonious under natural conditions, synchronizing their flight as well as their treetop feeding, moving together as one body controlled by a single brain, and reminding me more of a swarm of giant bees than of a flock of small birds. I only hope that I need not wait another seventeen years to see my second siskin invasion.

A Serendipitous Shrike

by
Richard L. Cleary

Summer afternoons have an enchantment uniquely their own, and one in early August of '86 had worked its spell on me. Under its charm, I had happily surrendered to the inner promptings that tug at those in love with the world of nature, drawing them out to places where they might seek, even if only for a time, to sate their addiction to things wild and beautiful. Such a place for me is the block I'd been assigned to cover in southeastern York County for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

The atlasing season was all but over, but I dearly longed to add two species, Hooded Warbler and Grasshopper Sparrow, to the total for my block. The sparrows I'd found in adjacent blocks in nearly every direction, but despite numerous forays through field and meadow, I had yet to discover them in this one. Hooded warblers were an even less promising prize, I admitted to myself, but suitable habitat nevertheless abounds on the slopes and hollows that cradle the Susquehanna River as it flows through the county, and I was quite sure that persistence would eventually yield me the bird I coveted. It was late in the season, of course, quite beyond most of the safe dates for warblers, but so what. If I got lucky, then at least I'd know where to look the following June, and besides, hunting for Hoodeds afforded me a satisfactory excuse for getting out of the house and into the woods.

The upland fields and riverbottom woods that comprised my little square mile had proffered numerous avian delights throughout the early part of the season, and might still. I had chosen to assay the rhododendron tangles along the slopes that fell into the old canal along the western edge of the river below the dam at Holtwood. I was convinced that Hooded warblers lurked in these thickets though I had as yet no reason to think so other than I knew that if I were a Hooded Warbler that's where I'd be. Unfortunately, my attempts to fabricate the little yellow and black sprites out of sheer will and wishfulness fell disappointingly short, and the evening was beginning to fill the hollows with curtains of darkness. Maybe next year.

Cranking up my Plymouth Voyager, I drove north toward the dam for one last look out over the spot in the river where a pair of Osprey had occupied a nest atop a power line support tower earlier in the season.

Had any young fledged? I never found out, having spent the greater part of June in Florida tracking down Snail Kites and Painted Buntings. Once past the dam the road bends away from the river and up the hillside westward past and through a series of farms. I could sense myself relax just a bit as the crunch of gravel under my radials gave way to the steady hum of asphalt.

Cresting the hill, sunlit fields, brown and desiccated from the summer's heat, supplanted shadow-drenched oak forest on either side of the road. I subjected the fences and posts to a desultory visual inspection, hoping now for a tiny silhouette with a big head and short tail to show itself as I drove past, but no Grasshopper sparrows revealed themselves to my eyes or ears today. I eased resignedly back in my seat and, turning my thoughts to other things, settled in for the drive home. The countryside is beautiful, I mused, even in the oppressive summer haze. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was some way we could keep it out of the rapacious hands of developers? Fat chance.

Suddenly a flash of movement registered in my left peripheral vision. The sort of stimulus that no one on earth would think to respond to or even understand a response to except a hunter. Or a birder. Instinctively, I turned to appraise the object which had just insinuated itself upon my consciousness, and I couldn't believe what I was seeing fly two feet below eye level and almost directly alongside the Voyager. My right foot slammed the brake pedal to the floor as I veered to the side of the road. The rearview mirror received a perfunctory check only as an afterthought. The bird had crossed the road twenty feet in front of my car and had alighted in a spruce tree in the front yard of a modest white farm house.

I always feel a bit ill at ease peering toward a stranger's house and property through binoculars, but now was no time to be paralyzed by the fear of violating some social punctilio. The bird in that spruce tree was a remarkable find for this time and place, and I was not going to let it out of my sight as long as it might reveal some evidence of breeding. The bird in the spruce was a Loggerhead Shrike.

Now this may not impress some readers overmuch, but it impressed the heck out of me. I'd seen lots of Loggerheads down south and lots of Northerns up north, but I'd never seen a Loggerhead in Pennsylvania or even anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic, and although I've seen a fair number of birds over the years, I still relish the thrill of seeing a lifer or spotting some unusual species. Indeed, I hope I never reach the point where a new bird

elicits little more than a "Nice bird," a jaded yawn, and another check on the checklist.

It tarried in the tree for only a moment, and it was gone. Its trajectory carried it to some point behind the house. Scoping a residence from across the road is dicey enough, you understand, but traipsing into a backyard unannounced with binoculars in hand is quite beyond the pale. Reluctantly, therefore, I withdrew my pledge to myself of a moment before to keep the bird in sight come what may, knocked on the door of the house, and explained perhaps somewhat breathlessly to the kindly lady who answered that there was a very unusual bird in her backyard, and may I please be permitted to go around back to view it. Wondering almost visibly if the bird in the back was anywhere near as unusual as the one at her door, she nevertheless acquiesced, and with appropriate pleasantries and thank yous out of the way, I was off. But it was gone. Twenty minutes spent searching the hedgerows and fields behind the house were to no avail. Dusk finally precluded any further exploration.

What now? I wanted to tell somebody, but truth to tell, other than my son who usually birds with me, I didn't know a single other soul who'd both appreciate the find and believe my report of it. Not being a gregarious sort, I don't belong to any of the local bird clubs, my initials are RLC not RTP, and I could imagine the response I'd get from the folks in charge of the atlas project should a birding featherweight such as myself report such an unusual sighting: "Well, that's certainly an interesting find, Dick. Ah, are you absolutely sure it was not a Mockingbird?" What I needed were photographs.

Consequently, the next afternoon found me, camera in one hand, binoculars in the other, trundling along a tractor road behind the kindly lady's house toward a copse of trees that looked for all the world like it might be harboring an itinerant shrike or two. My eyes were surveying the shrubbery around a small equipment shed when I froze in my tracks. My heart

raced with excitement. I could scarcely believe my good fortune. There atop a dilapidated old haywagon sat my shrike. It was still a good way off, but my 10x40s confirmed what my heart already knew. For the next fifteen minutes I followed that little bundle of gray, white, and black feathers, from haywagon to bush to electrical wire, stalking and shooting, stalking and shooting, alert all the while for the presence of a spouse, fledglings, or any

other evidence of breeding.

The bird, whenever it flew, had the courtesy not to fly far, and I was able to squeeze off about a dozen shots, none of which will ever grace the pages of AUDUBON, but several of which were adequate for purposes of confirmation, before my quarry wearied of the game and disappeared beyond a cornfield. Disappointed that I could find no indication that the shrike was anything other than a post-breeding wanderer, I was nevertheless ecstatic that I had seen the bird at all.

Why should a mere bird elicit such elation from a grown man? I don't know, but I shouldn't think I have to explain it to anyone reading this account. No doubt every reader of these pages has experienced the exhilaration I speak of many times over and can relate to and appreciate it. It is what draws us out into the swamps, mountains, and coasts weekend after weekend, year after year, in pursuit of just a glimpse of the marvels that God has lavished upon this earth, marvels and wonders which are there for everyone to thrill to but which remain tragically anonymous to an uncomprehending majority of our brethren. It is, simply put, what people have in mind when they rhapsodize over the joy of birding.

The delight was compounded for me inasmuch as I, myself, had never made a "discovery" before. I am one of those birders who checks the hot lists at the wildlife refuge headquarters to see what others have spotted, but it's not for me to stand on a tabanid-infested dike scoping a mudflat full of peeps at two hundred yards in hopes of coaxing out some European derelict which is probably not out there anyway. I've enjoyed chasing down the finds of others, parasitizing their efforts, as it were, but I had never been the very first to find something that might excite the birding community. Until now.

With the proof safely ensconced in my camera I returned to the house of the kindly lady and spoke with her again about the shrike on her land. After several minutes of pleasant conversation, I popped the question: Would she mind if I put the news of the shrike on the Academy of Natural Sciences' hotline? I explained to her that birders are irremediable listers. That it could be that many people will come to her door to enquire about the shrike so that they may add it to their county list, their state list, their year's list, perhaps even their life list. Graciously pooh-poohing the prospect of being inconvenienced by hordes of binocular bedecked bird-watchers, she gave her enthusiastic assent. I submitted the sighting forthwith, both gratified and relieved that it was

received at the other end without so much as a trace of skepticism, and people did come. Or so I'm told. Whether anyone ever saw the bird again or not, I don't know. I left for Maine the next day to pursue whales and shearwaters. I do know that I've checked that spot each year since, clinging to a fragile, and as yet unfulfilled hope, that one of these seasons a breeding pair of shrikes will deign, perhaps in company with Hooded warblers and Grasshopper sparrows, to reward my vigil.

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Sharp-tailed Sparrow
in
Crawford County
by
Ed Kwater

While birding at Geneva Marshes on Sunday, 8 October 1988, Mark vanderVen and I located an unusual sparrow with a small group of Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and Swamp Sparrow (*M. georgiana*) feeding in willows and cattails along the east side of Watson Run Road. After obtaining close views of the bird we identified it as a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*, the inland race.

The bird was noticeably smaller than the accompanying Song and Swamp sparrows, with a much shorter tail and a boldly marked plumage pattern. It had a broad gray central crown stripe with thinner blackish-brown stripes bordering this and separating it from very a pronounced bright buff supercilia. The cheeks and nape were the same shade of gray as the crown, the color extending from the nape around the sides of the neck.

The chin, throat and breast were bright buff joined to the supercilia by buff stripes at the rear of the cheeks. There was a small, indistinct central breast spot and indistinct brown streaking at the sides of the breast. The rest of the underparts were pure white with a sharp demarcation between the breast and belly. The mantle, scapulars and coverts were a rich chestnut brown with indistinct grayish white stripes on the mantle and scapulars. The flight feathers were brown with a slightly rufous tinge, the tertials blackish brown with paler edges. The tail and rump were brownish-gray, the tail feathers being short and noticeably attenuated at the tips. The bill was quite short, conical and yellowish. The legs were pale brown.

The bird skulked, but also often perched in the open in a small willow bush. It was observed for approximately 20 minutes before flying across the road into an extensive cattail marsh and was then lost to view.

This was the first Sharp-tailed Sparrow recorded in northwestern Pennsylvania since 1981, when one was seen at Presque Isle State Park in October. The species used to be seen almost annually at this locality. Todd (1940) states that "this sparrow breeds mainly in western Canada but during migration it reaches the Atlantic coast where it also winters (in the southern states). While its route must lie directly across western Pennsylvania the species is scarcely known there except in the Erie region where it is a

transient, rare in the spring but common in the fall."

The situation has either changed somewhat since Todd's day or the vast majority of Sharp-tailed Sparrows migrating through western Pennsylvania are missed.

REFERENCE: Todd, W. E. C. 1940. *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Red Phalarope
in **York County**
by
Russell Ryan

What started out as just a routine check on waterfowl ended with what was a York County "first," a Red Phalarope.

On 2 December, around 4 p.m., I parked my truck along the road and proceeded to check out a secluded cove with only my binoculars. I wanted to see if there were any Ruddy Ducks for my December census of birds of Codorus State Park. When I reached the cove I immediately noticed a very light shorebird on the mudflats. My first thought was of a Sanderling, which would have been a new bird for the 1988 park species list. I decided to go back to the truck and get my scope to be sure. I quickly realized that it was a phalarope, but which one? This time when I returned to the truck, I grabbed my field guide and camera.

I finally decided it was a Red Phalarope. I knew I had discovered something unusual, because the Red Phalarope was supposed to be very rare inland. My next reaction was to get pictures to verify this "find," as I knew this sighting would be difficult to believe.

Remember, this observation occurred after 4 p.m. and the light was getting scarce. I managed to get within 50 feet or so, sinking in the cold mud and, using a 420 mm lens, Kodachrome 200 film, took 32 slides. The sun was behind me. I drove home and called a birding friend of mine, Dan Heathcote, to tell him the news. I said that I'd greatly appreciate it if he would come across town and verify the sighting.

No more than 15 minutes went by and he and his wife arrived. A few prayers were said on the way. Would the bird still be there for Dan's verification?

Well, it was not to be found in the cove. We walked further when a Great Blue Heron flew up and a small, light shorebird also flew up and out over the lake. I quickly had the scope on it. It started to fly towards us and Dan's

wife followed it until it landed. Excitement was building for all of us.

Dan finally got his scope on it and verified a phalarope, but the light was poor. The bird cooperated by flying back to the cove where Dan could get a better look at the bill. It was verified - a Red Phalarope! This was also a "lifer" for the two of them.

When I returned home again, I called Al Spiese, the York County compiler for **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, and told him the news. He said he would be out first thing in the morning.

Well, I went to New York City the next day, but when I visited the park on Sunday, Larry Rohrbaugh, Park Ranger, told me that many people from all over Pennsylvania were there on Saturday and Sunday to see this bird.

I was amazed how quickly the word "got out" in such a short time. I suppose that "it" had made the "Hotline" as well as the local "phone tree" method of communication.

Finding the Red Phalarope was a very lucky happening personally, and it sure provided excitement to the birders who were lucky to see it.

The bird was last seen 4 December by Karen Lippy. She had scoped it in for an elderly couple who had traveled an hour to see the bird. Before the couple had a chance to see it through the scope, some ATV riders had *illegally* driven on park property and flushed the bird, which kept on flying.



Red Phalarope, Codorus SP, 12/2/88. Photo by Don Henise.

Common Black-headed Gull in Erie County

by
Ed Kwater

On Friday, 23 December 1988, Jerry McWilliams and I were birding at Erie Public Dock, sifting through a large concentration of gulls (*Laridae*). Several hundred thousand birds were judged to be present, following the estimate of at least half a million birds on the CBC, 18 December. At about midday we turned our attentions to a large flock consisting mainly of Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) feeding on shoals of Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) attracted by warm water in an area known as the West Slip. There was a heavy movement of gulls into this area from Erie Bay and also a continuous exodus as birds returned to the bay area after feeding, resulting in a constant turnover.

After watching the flock for about half an hour my attention was drawn to a bird which I identified as a Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in first-winter plumage. I quickly alerted Jerry. The bird was noticeably larger than the Bonaparte's Gulls, being intermediate in size between these and the associated Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). It also appeared heavier than Bonaparte's in build, with slightly broader wings. In flight there was obviously much more brown and black, and less white on the upperwings. This was most noticeable on the median and lesser coverts, which were dark brown forming a solid, heavy, diagonal bar across the inner wing, much more prominent than the corresponding black or brownish-black bar in the first-winter Bonaparte's Gull. The tips of the primaries and secondaries were black forming a thick, dark bar along the trailing edge of the wing, once again noticeably broader than the corresponding bar in first-winter Bonaparte's Gull. More black was also visible along the length of the outer primaries, restricting the size of the white area on the primaries, which lacked the translucency of Bonaparte's. The rest of the upperwing and mantle was pale gray.

The nape and sides of the neck were white, not gray as in Bonaparte's. The head pattern was seen clearly when the bird alighted on the water. There was a blackish spot behind each eye with a diffuse blackish-brown stripe joining them across the hind crown. A second, less distinct brownish stripe joined the eyes across the mid-crown. The head shape was less rounded than in Bonaparte's, with a flatter, more sloping forehead. The bill was also noticeably heavier, being

approximately 1/3 to 1/2 as long and about half as deep again as Bonaparte's. The basal half was a dirty flesh pink and the rest was black. The culmen seemed less decurved than Bonaparte's, giving a blunter-tipped effect to the bill.

The underparts, tail, rump and uppertail coverts were white with a black band across the end of the tail. The legs were pale flesh pink. Due to the behavior of the bird, the underwing pattern was not seen. It was flying slightly below the level of the observation point and usually feeding away from us. It would frequently disappear behind wooden posts in the dock or into a dense flock of other gulls but was relocated several times, initially by its larger size.

The bird was observed for a total of approximately five minutes through 10X binoculars and 20X spotting scope at a range of 30 yards, and was then lost to sight. Jerry and I engaged in a 4-hour search but could not relocate it.

This was second Common Black-headed Gull reported for Pennsylvania, the first being found by Don Snyder at Presque Isle State Park (*Erie*) on 28 May 1979. My previous experience with this species consists of observations of very large numbers in the British Isles, where it is an abundant breeding species, with up to 300,000 pairs annually (Sharrock 1976). It also has an extensive distribution in the rest of Europe and Asia (Cramp and Simmons 1983). In North America, following the first nesting in Newfoundland in 1977 (Finch 1978) it has spread and is now breeding at 8 known sites in Newfoundland, Labrador and Maine (Montevecchi *et al.* 1987). With its now annual occurrence in the Great Lakes (including Niagara Falls and Cleveland) it should be looked for in any large concentrations of gulls.

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Fall Shorebirding at Green Lane Reservoir Montgomery County.

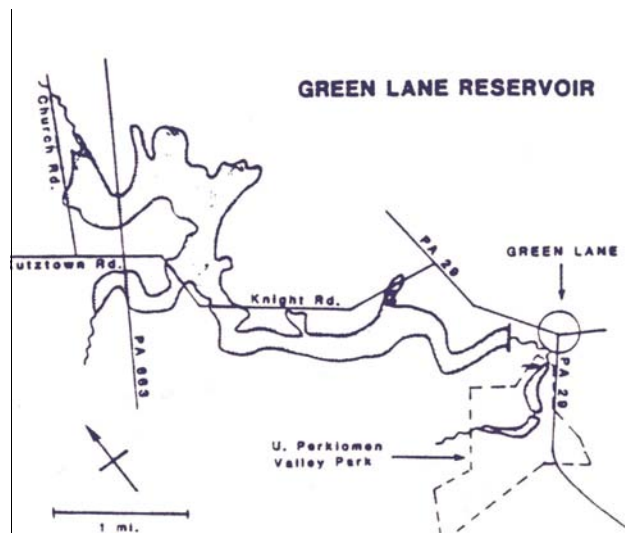
by
Rick Wiltraut

I first became acquainted with Green Lane in the spring of 1970 when the local Audubon group sponsored a field trip there to look for Tundra (then Whistling) Swans, which would feed at the upper end of the reservoir along Church Road. We saw 13 swans that day and it being a life bird, I was elated. However, it wasn't until the fall of 1976 that Green Lane became a regular birding hangout for me. That fall I discovered that the mudflats at the upper end attract a variety of migrating shorebirds, giving me an opportunity to study this fascinating group of birds like never before. At the Jersey shore, the birds were always too far away, and it was frustrating trying to tell them apart. Here the birds were close and with a 20x scope, I had little trouble identifying them. That fall I added Lesser Golden-Plover and Western, White-rumped, Baird's, and Buff-breasted sandpipers to my life list. Since that fall I've seen more than my share of shorebirds at Green Lane, with a personal list of 28 species.

The number of shorebirds seen at this spot varies from year to year depending on the water level and at what time of season the mudflats are exposed. Of course the best years are years of drought. It's may not be good for the crops, but it's great for shorebirds. The flats may be extensive. Heavy rains, however, may cause the mudflats to disappear for weeks, often during prime-time shorebirding. It's worthwhile to check this spot from mid-July through October, though some individuals occasionally linger into November. Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least, Semipalmated, and Pectoral sandpipers are usually the most abundant species. On 2 September 1981, Gary Freed counted 170 Pectoral Sandpiper here. Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, and about ten other less-common species occur more or less regularly. Among these are Lesser Golden and Black-bellied plovers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Stilt, White-rumped, Western, and Baird's

sandpipers. As many as 48 Stilt Sandpiper have been counted here at one time! It's probably the most reliable spot in the *eastern* part of the state to see Baird's Sandpiper, a species which has been observed here almost every year when conditions were suitable. An amazing 8 juvenile Baird's Sandpipers were seen together on 31 August 1987.

One should always keep eyes open for the rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper, which has been observed several times. Spotted and Solitary sandpipers are usually present in late summer and Common Snipe feed along the edges late in the season.



Dunlin often appear in October and linger into November. Storms sometimes produce rarities. Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Long-billed Dowitcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Sanderling, and all three species of phalaropes have been seen here. Once I saw an Upland Sandpiper on the flats. Most recently, I observed a Red-necked Phalarope within 3 ft (*see Montgomery Co. report*).

Of course shorebirds aren't the only birds to be found. Great and Snowy egrets and Little Blue Herons often appear in late July and August, and Tricolored Heron has been recorded three times. Watch for Caspian and Forster's terns, especially after storms. It's a good area to see a variety of waterfowl and, occasionally, loons and grebes. Osprey sometimes perch on snags sticking out of the water. The weedy areas along the

shore are great for sparrows, including the elusive Lincoln's. Marsh Wren, Sora, and Virginia Rail are sometimes seen along the edges of the phragmites. In 1977, I saw my only Yellow-headed Blackbird for Pennsylvania in these phragmites. Bobolinks are regular in early fall and swallows are usually too numerous to count. In late fall, watch for Water Pipits on the flats and Rusty Blackbirds along the edges. You never know what to expect. One day, a few years ago, I enjoyed the sight of a Merlin chasing shorebirds over the flats, and this past year Kevin Crilley and I watched a Common Barn-Owl hunting over the fields near the flats just as it was getting dark. Probably the most memorable day for me was in November 1980 when I saw a Sandhill Crane flapping over the reservoir while I was photographing a Red Phalarope! I was flabbergasted.

When visiting Church Road, it's best to park along the dirt road in the field near the flats. The area is posted, but (add adjective) ethical birders are welcome. Follow the foot path through the weeds to get to the point. It's probably best to visit the area in the afternoon or early evening, when the sun is behind you. It can be

difficult identifying the birds in the morning. Don't forget your scope and your favorite field guide(s). If you're not an expert on shorebirds, there are usually a few experienced birders around to help you out. More often than not, you'll see Ralph Bardman peering through his scope, reminding one of Witmer Stone studying shorebirds at South Cape May. Later, you might want to check the rest of the impoundment for waterfowl and other birds.* Upper Perkiomen Valley Park, near the town of Green Lane, is a great spot to get close looks at Green-backed Herons and Wood Ducks. Often these birds are seen sharing log space with Painted Turtles.

* A list of the birds is available at the Park Office.

For Your Library...

Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley.

By Allen R. Schweinsberg

Lancaster Press, Inc., Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1988: iii + 124 pp. with line drawings by R. Holman, cover illustrations by F. Haas. Paperback. \$8.00 at some Lewisburg stores or \$8.90 by mail from the author, 1200 Zeigler Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

With this book, Allen Schweinsberg offers a fine account of the birds of Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties (PBBA Region 18). For naturalists and birders of the Lewisburg area it should serve as an essential companion book to their favorite field guide and a basic reference for many years to come.

Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley is the fourth, and most complete, published report of birds observed near Lewisburg. The first was a checklist by Nelson F. Davis covering his observations from 1892 to 1922. It was followed by two booklets named *The Birds of the Lewisburg Region*, the first by Richard C. Snyder (1940) and the second by Donald E. Kunkle (1951). These publications speak of the modest but persistent ornithological tradition of Lewisburg, especially Bucknell University. This tradition was kept for many years by the Bucknell Ornithological Club and is today continued by the Seven Mountains Audubon Society.

The book has two main parts: a 7-page Site Guide and a 103-page Species Account section for the 290 species for which there are reliable records in the region. There is also a Contents page, a short Introduction, an Acknowledgments section listing all contributors, and a useful Index to Common Names.

The Site Guide briefly describes 37 bird-watching locations (including 3 Christmas Count circles) in or immediately adjacent to the four counties. Some of the more notorious spots are Montour Preserve, Sunbury Fabridam, Montandon Marsh, State Game Lands 252 (Allenwood), and Milton State Park. In the descriptions, the author wisely differentiates between public and private lands. A skeletal map of the region shows the major roads, county boundaries, and communities. The 37 locations are shown by number. This is not a full-blown site guide, but the directions are quite adequate to find most locations, especially public parks, game lands, and lakes.

The real meat of the book is the Species Account section. A wealth of

detailed information is given here - a snapshot of bird ranges, habitat preferences, @ phenologies, and abundances for the last 20 years. The author gives many good tips on when and where to find each species. These tips should prove invaluable to readers who are newcomers to birding in central Pennsylvania. I found the information on species habitat preferences to be true of my experiences in this part of the state.

Many of the species write-ups read like abbreviated birder adventure stories. There are characters and settings, not just dry assessments of each species. The author shares several interesting anecdotes while providing valuable historical accounts of important bird sightings, many of which could be found nowhere else in print. Bird study has come a long way since 1919 when Davis shot a Winter Wren right on the Bucknell University campus!

I would like to make a few suggestions on how this and future regional bird books may be improved. The Table of Contents would be more useful if it listed the bird families under the Species Accounts section. The Site Guide could have been improved with more information about the topography and vegetation of the region. This could be accomplished by including important topographical features (ridges, large bodies of water) on the map and providing a few paragraphs about the topography, forest types, and land use in different parts of the region. Also, many birders might like to know what U.S.G.S. topographic map(s) cover each of the important birding locations (especially appropriate in the Atlas age).

Like many regional bird publications, this book emphasizes the migratory and exceptional aspects of the species covered. This makes for good reading, but unfortunately sometimes comes at the expense of fundamental breeding and distributional information. For instance, Schweinsberg gives an interesting description of the Milton winter crow roost which he rightly claims to be "the most impressive ornithological spectacle of the four county region," but fails to mention that the American Crow is a common breeding resident, primarily of farmlands and woodlots. In a quick review of other regional accounts and guidebooks I often found a similar weakness in this regard.

None of these minor complaints should keep anyone from purchasing the book and are made only in the spirit of promoting quality in future

publications of this sort.

I wholeheartedly recommend *Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley* to Pennsylvania birders. The author deserves credit for accumulating a tremendous amount of data and organizing it into a useful and entertaining book. It should inspire all of us (myself included!) to keep good notes of our field observations and help prepare similar publications for other regions of the state. At only \$8, it's a bargain. Get your copy soon!

-- Douglas A. Gross
Orangeville, PA

A Field List of the Birds of Western Pennsylvania and Adjacent Regions.
By Robert. C. Leberman

*Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Special Publication No. 13, Pittsburgh,
1988:52 pp. \$5.00.*

Birders in the western half of the Keystone State have long enjoyed a wealth of publications on the bird life of that area. From W.E.C. Todd's monumental *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* (1940) through Bill Grimm's *Birds of the Pymatuning Region* (1952) and Merrill Wood's several editions of *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* (1983) and the *Birds of Erie County* by Stull, Stull and McWilliams (1985). One of the most useful of these was the 1956 *Field List of the Birds of the Pittsburgh Region* by K.C. Parkes. The attractive little publication now at hand is the descendant of Parkes' now unavailable list and resembles it in great detail.

The main text consists of a long list of species accompanied by the conventional bar graphs showing seasonal occurrence and relative abundance. These graphs can be interpreted more accurately and more easily than most of the genre, since each month is divided into three parts. One set of code letters identifies which of the seven "Natural Areas" of the Region and another set of letters identifies which of the 11 habitat classes in which one may expect to find the species. Species that nest in the region are designated. A set of footnotes gives details and dates for those species for which there are less than five records, as well as some other information, usually about out of range nestings of normal transients.

The area covered is Pennsylvania as far east as State College, a strip of eastern Ohio as far west as Youngstown, the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia, and a strip of West Virginia and Maryland south to Morgantown and Deep Creek Lake. I have the impression that the literature from the surrounding states was not as thoroughly covered as was that from Pennsylvania.

As of mid-1985 the author has recognized 368 species as having occurred in the region, and four additional species are mentioned in a footnote as having occurred after that date, too late for inclusion in the text. However no criteria for acceptance of records are given. Most of the records for unusual species are backed by specimen or photographic evidence, but some are apparently based only on sight records.

The distributional and ecological information is about as accurate as could be expected, although individual birders may quarrel with some of the information given. As usual most of the discrepancies between the birder's knowledge and the material in the book come from the lack of publication of the former. Some of these differences will be resolved by the forthcoming Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, but it is unlikely that the atlas will change many of the classifications given here.

The introductory material includes a "Regional Bird Calendar" in which short accounts of the birding activity of each month are given. A section on "Aids to Local Bird Study" lists, with brief annotations, local bird clubs, general and regional books, and some periodicals of use to local bird students. A third section "Suggestions for Birding Trips" describes 13 areas which are particularly interesting for the birder. Unfortunately some of this information is out of date and the areas are no longer as attractive as they once were.

Two maps and a handsome cover portrait of a Golden-winged Warbler by Larry Barth add to the attractiveness of the pamphlet. I would expect that any birder who lives in this area will find this a useful addition to his library.

George A. Hall
Morgantown, WV

KEEPING RECORDS

We all see birds most every day. But how are our records kept of sightings? Some people write down everything in a diary in chronological order. Others may organize them into field check lists for each day of birding. Others may scribble notes to be "filed" later. The trick is being able to locate those records on demand. Can you? Can I, for that matter? It boils down to the fact that some people are more organized than others. There have to be some secrets to it.

How best can records be kept? We get this question a lot, especially from compilers or people just getting into record keeping. There are many excellent methods that have stood the test of time.

We would like to suggest a method that is superb for data collection for either submitting information to your county compiler or writing a report for a given time period, *i.e.*, quarter, year, etc.

Each species requires one page/card (to start) in a suitable holder, loose-leaf binder or file card holder. Ideally, they should be kept in AOU order, not alphabetically. This is the order that is found on checklists. There is no particular need to have a page for a species not yet seen. There is the thrill of adding a "page" just like a "lifer". As the species is seen, date and location can be entered. This gives one his/her own early/late date sightings, and the location adds to indicating, for example, a new county or other specific site. At the end of a quarter (year), a heavy or colored line is drawn on the page. If you are submitting data to a compiler then just pull the information from between the lines and submit. Years of data on a particular species can be easily gleaned for comparisons.

For example, you may look in your records and determine that you have found Great Blue Heron in Cameron County in all months except February. Now there exists a mini-goal for this short, cold month. Find a Great Blue Heron somewhere. Then if someone asks or you want to write up your own Birds of Cameron Co., it is documented that the species is found all months of the year (or, perhaps, all months except February).

Each spring you may want to try and "better" your early date for arrivals or late date for departures. Years of data will also show that most species arrive/depart within a very small window, but until the data are organized that window may be a mystery. Data entry at the end of the day is quick and painless...but, more

importantly, rewarding. Notes can be quickly transferred from field cards. It sure beats looking through dozens of field cards for that one date that you saw an Orange-crowned Warbler in October.

Rare Bird Reports: Another excellent habit to get into is to take field notes. Many noted authorities have stated that in this day and age of numerous, excellent field guides, the art of taking field notes is being lost. The addition of a small notebook and pencil to your jacket can be invaluable for that day a rarity is seen. On the next page is a formal report that can be utilized for final submission, But certain aspects should be done on the spot. For those of you with drawing skills (my shorebirds and warblers look awfully similar), a quick sketch can be quite valuable. A photograph would be ideal.

Learn the basic anatomy. Somewhere in the front of most field guides the topography of a bird is depicted. Concentrate on the points of difference to highlight. There's no sense in worrying about leg color when separating Boreal from Black-capped Chickadee.

Behavior can be of immense help in separating species and almost a must to describe for some *Empidonax*. Was that shorebird picking or probing? Was that *Oporornis* with the gray hood walking or hopping? Was more than one bird seen? And, of course, try to find someone else to document the sighting. If it means calling your compiler or us, try and do so at the first opportunity. Independent confirmation is a very satisfactory means of positive reinforcement. You may be adding a new species for the County or someone else's state list. Who knows. We are all in this game together.

VIREO, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, is housing the photographs of all first state records of species. The Records Committee will be the repository of all reports for the compilation of the official state list. Who knows what you may add by just watching your feeder or being out in the field. Unusual birds can be found in unusual places and should be looked for anywhere. Once you get into the habit of keeping organized records, everyone will benefit. Most of all, you.

Thanks to Kerry Grim for the form on the next page.

RARE SPECIES REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| SPECIES: | NUMBER SEEN: |
| SIGHTING DATE: | SIGHTING TIME: |
| LOCATION: | COUNTY & STATE: DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: |
| HABITAT: | |
| SIGHTING CONDITIONS: | LIGHTING: DISTANCE: EQUIP. USED: LENGTH OF SIGHTING: |
| DESCRIPTION: | VOICE: SIZE: PLUMAGE: ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): BEHAVIOR: |
| FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: | |
| COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: | |
| HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? | IF SO, BY WHO? |
| Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? | |
| ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): | |
| SIGHTING & REPORT BY: | |
| ADDRESS: | PHONE # |
| SIGNATURE | DATE: |

SUMMARY OF THE SEASON

This year 295 species were seen in Pennsylvania, some of which will be reviewed by the soon to be announced Records Committee. Highlights, in many cases lowlights, of the quarter make for fascinating reading.

The most consistent theme presented by almost all compilers was the absolute dearth of winter finches. Only three reports had **redpolls** and one described the **19 Purple Finch** on their CBC as "meganumbers." In areas where there are few **House Finches**, the sales of sunflower seeds must have dropped dramatically. When people comment to you that they do not have a single bird at their feeders for days on end, one must truly wonder at what is going on. Is this a drought-related effect from up north? We will have to wait to see the evidence when our breeding birds return in a few months.

Not only winter finches were absent. Consider that the Presque Isle CBC did not record a single **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, constituting the first absence in 24 years! Did the mild winter contribute to the lingering **Semipalmated Plover** in *Columbia* and **Least Sandpiper** in *Lehigh*; both found on Christmas Counts? When the *Cambria* crow roost normally tallies about 10,000 individuals and this year had only 798, one leaps to the conclusion that this species was also affected by the drought. And, although **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was considered rare everywhere, this species is traditionally more cyclical.

Review of reports regarding species that enjoy water as a primary habitat, we had our share of loons and grebes, including single **Red-necked Grebes** in *Berks* and *Erie*. In that same vein, *Somerset*, which has several large bodies of water, had miserable counts of expected species. *Somerset* also had a November **Cattle Egret**! Other good waterbirds found were one **Surf Scoter** in *Lancaster* and two in *Juniata*. When 225 **Brant** fly past a hawk watch (*Northampton*), you can appreciate the vigilance of these intrepid counters. *Berks* and *York* tallied Brant in more expected numbers and it should be noted that some years it is not seen anywhere in the state. Another interesting hawk watch "find" was the two **Lesser Golden-Plover** that flew by the Route 183 watch.

Speaking of raptors, read the special section devoted to ten hawk watches across the state. There were several late **Osprey** dates noted state-wide, no doubt a direct correlation to the improved status of the species in the Northeast. *Centre* outdid Hawk Mt.'s **Golden Eagle** count in November and almost tied their monthly count in one day! *Warren* had to wait almost 100 years for its modern record of Golden Eagle! The annual **Swainson's Hawk** went by Hawk Mt. in November. Albino **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen in *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, *3 in Lehigh*, and a possible one in *McKean*. The bird in *Bucks* has been seen for several years, and although it is not a true albino (dark eyes), it is described as "shimmering white." Although **Rough-legged Hawks** are not ridge-runners to be counted in large numbers on the hawk watches, they can be quite readily found in our ridge-and-valley areas. **Gyr Falcon** were seen in both the east and west. The one **Snowy Owl** report (*Clinton*) proved it was not an invasion year.

A **Sandhill Crane** was found in *Crawford* on a Bartramian Audubon Society field trip: those first-timers probably think rarities are the rule, not the exception. One must always give the caveat, "except *Erie*," when stating that PA is hardly shorebird heaven. Nonetheless, goodies are located every year. In addition to the December stragglers noted above, **Long-billed Dowitcher** deserved mention in *Erie* as not having been seen in at least two years, but they did get their almost annual **Purple Sandpiper**. *Lancaster* also underscored **Long-killed Dowitcher**, and even added a **Hudsonian Godwit** to its highlights, as did *Montgomery*. But truly, this was a phalarope quarter. One sort of expects a **Red Phalarope** in *Erie*, but not in *York*, where it was a first county record. The "swimming" **Red-necked Phalarope** in *Montgomery* came within three feet of the observer!

But the real birding event of the quarter was Pennsylvania's second record of a **Common Black-headed Gull** in *Erie*. In fact gull watching is becoming quite the pastime in several counties. We hope to have special reports on

the family in upcoming issues. We now have confirmed sightings, with photographs, of **Thayer's Gull** in both *Erie* and *Lancaster*. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, which used to be a "chase" bird, are routinely located along the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers and, of course, Lake Erie. **Great Black-headed Gull** deserved underlining in *Carbon* and *Crawford*. A very late **Common Tern** was seen in *Westmoreland* 11/17.

What was the **Chimney Swift** in *Lehigh* doing there on the second of November? The reports continue to confirm the expansion of the **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, with several new highs for various CBCs. We mentioned albino Red-tails earlier, but how about an albino kinglet to keep your identification skills sharp (*Berks*). More expected was the albino junco in *Mifflin*. We have seen several juncos in various degrees of albinism. The Powdermill Nature Reserve (*Westmoreland*) team reported banding a good number of **Hermit Thrush**, but otherwise *Catharus* seem to be continuing to decline throughout. **Bluebirds**, however, are doing quite well based on the reports received. The **Mountain Bluebird** in *York* generated excitement that persisted into 1989. It showed up just in time for many people to get to see it over the Christmas holiday season.

The **Loggerhead Shrike** in *Adams* was a welcome report. Too bad there are not more each year, as this species continues its decline in the Northeast. As always, some vireos and warblers contributed late dates to some county compilations. This continued collection of data cannot be emphasized enough. Finding that elusive (infrequent) **Orange-crowned Warbler** happened to birders in five counties this quarter. Two late **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in December (*Delaware*), although one met its demise at a window (*Blair*).

After all the excitement of the **Dickcissel** this past summer, it was apparent they did not linger as only one report was noted, an immature bird in *Schuylkill* in early October.

Are more **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** coming through, or are more people looking for them in the right habitat at the right time (mid-October seems ideal)? But the status of the **Am. Tree Sparrow** is unclear. We look forward to receiving an article on this species in the coming year. In not just isolated instances, but pretty much state-wide, counts of **White-throated Sparrow** were alarmingly low. Is this yet another species adversely affected by the drought? Individuals of the "Oregon" race of **Dark-eyed Junco** continue to be found, indicating there is probably more of an East-West shift of populations than we realize. **Snow Bunting** reports were scarce, but more in line with the fact that so few northern species came south this winter.

The most exciting icterid report was of the two male **Brewer's Blackbirds** in *Chester*, found on a CBC. At least eight birds were subsequently located by many avid listers scurrying to add another State bird. This species has now, finally, been documented by photographs for the Official State List. Recently, it was brought to our attention that there may be more **Western Meadowlarks** in the East each winter than reports would indicate. If our breeding populations head south in early Fall, perhaps some of the meadowlarks that come into the area later may just be Westerns. It would behoove us all to check them out a bit more carefully. Learning the calls is a big help. One **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discerned in a large flock of mixed blackbirds during a *Lancaster* CBC.

What more can be said about the lack of winter finches. Best of show was the find of two male **Pine Grosbeaks** in *Beaver* on the Raccoon Creek State Park CBC.

Scattered through the reports are lots of CBC data giving immediate reinforcement for all your efforts. Some mammal reports of interest were of coyotes, both dead (*Schuylkill*) and alive (*Carbon*) and a (Little?) Brown Bat in *Huntingdon* on a warm December evening that fell prey to a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.

COUNTY REPORTS - October through December 1988

ADAMS COUNTY

Eleanor and Art Kennell

We welcome the Kennells as the new compilers for *Adams County*. They look forward to receiving your reports.

Location: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP).

Weather conditions continued dry following the summer's drought. The Gettysburg CBC was held 12/29 and the day was clear and cold. Some of the sightings were unusual and some birds were missing from other count years. Sixty-six species and 11,249 individuals were found.

The CBC counted 818 **Canada Geese**, but it was felt that most were resident populations. The BBAP revealed geese nesting in most of the county. In the roost area of the GNMP near Devils' Den, 147 **Black Vulture**, 536 **Turkey Vulture**, and 28 vulture sp. were counted (ED, FH, EK). One imm. **Bald Eagle** (CG, JM), 3 **N. Harrier**, 1 **Cooper's Hawk**, 32 **Red-tailed Hawk**, 52 **Am. Kestrel**, and 1 **Merlin** (JF) were seen during Count Week. The Merlin was seen as early as 12/8 and again 12/21, 28 in a wooded area with feeders. Three **E. Screech-Owl**, 9 **Great Horned Owl**, and 3 **Barred Owl** were tallied on the CBC (AK, DS).

One **Loggerhead Shrike** was found on the CBC and another shrike sp. was seen the day after the count about 6 mi from the first sighting (ML, EAK). Also tallied were 79 **E. Bluebird**, 310 **N. Cardinal**, and 2 **Common Redpoll**. Species missing from the count were **Killdeer**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Daniels, Jean Frank, Carol M. Gehret, Frank Herman, **Eleanor & Art Kennell**, 799 **Baltimore St.**, **Gettysburg 17325**, Michael Locher, Jon Morton, David Shealer.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Joe Grom

Locations: North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), SGL #203 in Marshall Twp., South Park (SoP).

The Pittsburgh CBC was held 12/31.

CORMORANT TO KINGLET. The CBC's 2nd occurrence of **Double-crested Cormorant** was tallied in the same Monongahela R. spot as last year's. GK listed a **Great Blue Heron** at Clairton 11/28. A **Snow Goose** arrived at NoP 12/22 (JH *et al.*), stayed to be the 1st record for the CBC, then vanished. Among the numerous **Canada Geese** in *Allegheny*, 422 were actually counted in NoP by m.ob. (entire period), as was GK's singleton persisting in Monroeville. Of note were 2 **Wood Duck** at NoP and 39 **Am. Black Duck** at NoP and PGH rivers (CBC). A ♀ **Gadwall** turned up on the Allegheny R. near Sandy Cr. (CBC).

In addition to the many **Red-tailed Hawk** reports and the usual feeding station accipiters (although down), the only significant diurnal raptors were 2 "off and on" **Red-shouldered Hawk** in the North Hills and a positive **Merlin** in West Deer Twp 12/17 (T&NM).

Two **N. Bobwhite** were at Beechwood Farms 11/9 (JH, FR). Back on 10/5 in SoP, 12 **Killdeer** were scored by WH, while GK saw 4 on 10/22 in E. McKeesport. Four **Ring-billed Gull** is what GK also saw at PGH 11/39. WH lists **E. Screech-Owl** at Whitehall 10/6; the CBC had 10. There were 1318 **Mourning Dove** on the CBC, but 1851 **Rock Dove** - counted, that is!

The last **Chimney Swift** coursed over W. Elizabeth 10/18 (GK). During this reporting period only 3 reports of **Belted Kingfisher** were made - all by WH at SoP probably of the same bird; on the CBC there were at least 26 scattered reports. The same situation prevails with **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, reported only by WH at SoP. Suddenly on the CBC 48 show up! In addition to 7 on the CBC, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports came from SoP 11/22 (WH), from T&NM at their West Deer Twp feeder 12/1 and 12/8. An interesting ratio which probably holds true in most if not all comparisons between **Downy** and **Hairy** woodpecker numbers is the CBC numbers: 364 **Downy**, 85 **Hairy**. The best **N. Flicker** count, 58, in 10 years was recorded - this after some cries of alarm in spring and fall of 1988. SoP yielded an **E. Wood-Pewee** 10/7 (WH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch, down in CBC numbers (just 2), were recorded in NoP 12/15 (JH *et al.*), at Eliz. Twp (MEW), and at a West Deer Twp feeder (T&NM) during all Dec. **White-breasted Nuthatch** were in good numbers, 343, on the CBC. **Carolina Wren** continue to do well and reached their highest reported total, 237, on the CBC since the "crash" of winter '75-'76. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** continued scarce.

THRUSHES TO GROSBEAK. A **Hermit Thrush** at SGL #203 on 12/22 was just out of CBC range (JH), but 2 others made it. A flock of 7 **Am. Robin** at Whitehall 11/17 increased to ±40 in nearby SoP 11/22, but dwindled to just 3 there by 12/27 according to WH's notes. There were significantly more, 1104, listed for the CBC. M&EW had 2 **N. Mockingbird** in their interesting backyard in Eliz. Twp 12/10; WH saw 1 at SoP 12/30. WH recorded small groups of **Cedar Waxwing** at SoP throughout; just 82 were found for the CBC.

Of some interest are 2 **Orange-crowned Warbler** determined by WH in Whitehall 10/4. He also lists **Nashville** at SoP 10/27, **Magnolia** there 10/3, **Bay-breasted** also same locale 10/7. Mention is made here of the CBC **N. Cardinal** count, 1003, mainly because PGH competes with Cincinnati for the top national count. WH had his first **Am. Tree Sparrow**, 2, in SoP 11/18. JH *et al.* had 2 **Savannah Sparrow** at NoP. The CBC had just under 400 **White-throated Sparrow**, the lowest since 1969. GK's first **White-throat** was tallied in E. McKeesport 10/24, while WH listed 2 at Whitehall 10/3 as his first fall birds. JC, JH *et al.* watched a **White-crowned Sparrow** at NoP 10/27. M&EW figure a "daily average" of 17 **Dark-eyed Junco** in mid-Dec. Even though **Common Grackle** were common enough, e.g. WH at SoP had 50+ on 10/4, it is hard to believe that *not one* grackle could be found to include in the CBC. First miss since 1964!

A ♂ **Purple Finch** fed briefly in JG's Allison Park feeding tray 11/6. JH *et al.* located 2 ♂ and 2 ♀ 12/22 at SGL #203. There were 2064 **House Finch** under-counted on the CBC. **Am. Goldfinch** were down. Again, no **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Jim Clark, **Joe Grom**, 9360 **Babcock Blvd.**, **Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495)**, Ruth Grom, Walter Hammond, Joyce Hoffmann, Glenn Koppel, Tom & Nellie McGary, Pittsburgh CBC (Jim Valimont, compiler), Fred Rimmel, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Locations: Allegheny R. (AR), Buffalo Creek Valley (BCV), Elders Ridge strips (ER), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), West Lebanon (WL), West Winfield (WW).

The weather has been summarized under *Indiana County*. Water levels at Keystone Res. remained extremely low throughout the period. *Armstrong* is desperately in need of more reporters. All observations were made by MH, RH unless otherwise indicated.

A **Great Blue Heron** was found at KR on 10/16. Another was reported in the BCV on 12/8 (DE). More than 100 **Canada Geese** were counted on the AR near Manorville 12/31 (DL). A **Canvasback** observed on the BCV CBC was across the border in *Westmoreland* (GR). Seven **Bufflehead** on the AR near McGrann were a nice find on 11/18 (DL). A **Ruddy Duck** was present at KR on 10/16.

Two **N. Harrier** were found at ER and WL on 11/6. Two were again seen at ER on 11/13 (TBC). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** near FC made dives at a feeder on 12/17, 31 (FE). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed near WW after Christmas (DE).

Shorebirds at KR, all on 10/16, included 3 **Semipalmated Plover**, 7 **Killdeer**, 1 **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper**. An **Am. Woodcock** was flushed from a woodlot along Baker Trail near Elderton on 10/30.

An **E. Screech-Owl** was observed peering from a hole in a dead tree near WL 12/15. Two **Great Horned Owl** were heard hooting near KTN on 10/27 (CD). At least 3 **Short-eared Owl** were found at WL strips on 11/13 (TBC) and again on 12/5 at ER. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen near ER on 11/9 (MH, GL, GS). A feeder near KTN yielded a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on 11/1, 13 then the bird came regularly every day after 11/30 to feast on peanut butter (CD). After 10/21 **Brown Creeper** consistently visited the same feeder (CD). A flock of 50 **Horned Lark**, containing 4 **Lapland Longspur**, was present near ER on 11/6. On 11/13 the larks were found, but only 1

longspur could be discerned (TBC).

OBSERVERS: Caroline Davies, Donna Egbert, Flo Emmonds, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Gloria Lamer, Debby Livengood, George Reese, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club.

BEAVER COUNTY

Ed Kwater

Location: Raccoon Creek SP (RCSP).

This is the first report for *Beaver* and records are rather scant. Birders with interesting sightings are urged to send them to me at the address below, where they will be gratefully accepted. All records were from the above location.

The Raccoon Creek CBC was held 12/18 and the following report includes details. Eighteen observers took part, counting 1714 individuals of 50 species. Raptors included a single **Sharp-shinned, 2 Cooper's, and 17 Red-tailed** hawks (WS). Also reported were a **Rough-legged Hawk** (WS) and an extremely late **Turkey Vulture** (WS). The count produced 19 **Ruffed Grouse** (WS) and although no **Wild Turkey** was reported, 9 were seen 10/22 and 8 on 12/23 (CT). Six hours of owling on the CBC produced 4 **E. Screech-Owl** and a single **Great Horned Owl** (WS).

Woodpeckers were abundant and included 22 **Red-bellied** and 4 **Pileated** (WS,CT). The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported for the season was on 12/23 (CT). The CBC produced 2 **Winter Wren**, 13 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and 11 **E. Bluebird** (WS). Seventeen **Cedar Waxwing** were sighted 12/23 (CT). Three **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were present on the CBC and also 12/23 (CT). This species has been unusually scarce this winter. A **Common Yellowthroat** turned up for the CBC as did a **Rufous-sided Towhee** and 4 **Fox Sparrow** (WS).

Interesting icterid sightings included a **Red-winged Blackbird** (WS) and 6 **Rusty Blackbird** (CT). Perhaps the most interesting report of the season was of 2 male **Pine Grosbeak** RCSP, again on the CBC (WS).

OBSERVERS: **Ed Kwater, 2396 Highland Ave., Allison Park 15101 (412-487-6288)**, William Smith, Chuck Tague.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Tom Dick

Locations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Buffalo Mills (BM), Dunning's Cr. (DC), Koon L. (KL), Pleasantville (PVL), Shawnee SP (SSP), Tussey Mt. (TM), Yount (YO).

The 4th quarter started with a series of wet fronts and ended with a hard freeze starting around 12/7. Adjectives describing this quarter were consistent: dearth, disappointing, scarce, etc. Despite the lack of birds, the reporting was excellent. The variety was reasonable, especially when this past summer's drought, lack of winter finches, no county CBC, and poor raptor winds were taken into consideration. Highlights include a late Sept. **Blue Grosbeak** (unreported previously), **Red-throated Loon**, **Surf Scoter**, and white-phase **Gyrfalcon**. Unless otherwise noted, all observations are those of the compiler.

LOONS TO RAPTORS. Three **Common Loon** and 1 **Red-throated Loon** lingered at SSP from 10/21 to 11/6. **Pied-billed Grebe** in number from 1-3 were reported from SSP for all three months (TD, GH, BR). A high of 24 **Ruddy Duck** was counted at SSP 11/2. Twenty-one **Wood Duck** were counted on DC 10/21 (GH). **Ring-necked Duck**, in small numbers, 1-5, were found throughout the quarter at SSP (GH, BR). An unusual find was 2 ♀ **Surf Scoter** at KL 11/12 (BR). Single **Oldsquaw** and **Common Goldeneye** were reported from KL 11/12 (BR). The only reports of **Bufflehead** were 4 at SSP and 7 at KL 11/12 (BR). **Hooded Merganser** made their appearance in Nov. with 30 at SSP and 3 at KL (BR). Some 54 **Am. Coot** were observed at SSP 11/6 (CV).

The last **Killdeer** counted were 13 at New Paris 11/6. **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls lingered in small numbers till late-Nov. at SSP. The last **Turkey** and **Black** vulture reports were 12/26 (GH) and 10/12 respectively (RS).

In summarizing highlights of the TM Hawk Watch I can only say we were plagued with coverage problems and poor winds, resulting in low total numbers. There were highlights. Despite reduced coverage, the **Osprey** count was good and the **Peregrine Falcon** count held at the '87 level. **Golden Eagle**, usually Tussey's

forte, dropped from 52 to 21. On the latter we may have missed our opportunity when on 11/21 a windy front moved 24 Golden's down the Bald Eagle Range toward Tussey, alas, we had no coverage that day. On 10/28, while watching Turkey Vultures drifting by, I noticed another dihedral shape, presumably a vulture, come into view only to be plummeted by a diving Red-tail, as feathers flew the Turkey Vulture turned into a swerving Golden Eagle, one likely to be missed had it not been for this altercation. The season's highlight, and a Tussey *first*, was a white-phase **Gyrfalcon** riding a s.e. wind (excellent TM wind) low over the summit (SD). The total count is elsewhere.

County raptor information suggested a good distribution of over-wintering **Red-tails** and **Am. Kestrel**. Their was no report of **Rough-legged Hawk**. A late **Osprey** date was 11/25 at Yount (GH), but the most unusual raptor report was a pair of **Osprey** lingering through Dec. and well into Jan. on the Juniata R. near Raystown Dam (EF). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** appeared on all feeder summaries, especially those reporting heavy **House Finch** usage.

GALLINACEOUS TO PASSERINES. Although only one report of **Wild Turkey** was received (GH), it's apparent from winter tracks that many are around. **Mourning Dove** seem abundant as they compete with **Rock Dove** over the meager corn crop. **Great Horned Owl** were reported monthly and 7 **E. Screech-Owl** in DC area (GH). **Belted Kingfisher**, showing the normal seasonal scarcity, were nevertheless reported from several locations (v.o.). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** are now ranking high among the feeder count birds (JTC, LH). Six **N. Flicker** were at TM 10/5, with **Downy, Hairy,** and **Pileated** woodpeckers well reported, including a number of the latter species coming to feeding stations! The last **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was 11/24 (GH).

Last reports of flycatchers were **E. Wood-Pewee** 10/1 and **E. Phoebe** 10/21 (GH). **Common Raven** were common along the steep ridges of the county. **Black-capped Chickadee** were widespread, while only 2 **Carolina Chickadee** were reported 12/25 in BV (JS). **Brown Creeper** were in DC from 11/25+ (GH). **Carolina Wren** were well reported, although only 1 report of **Winter Wren** was received 11/11 (GH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** lingered till 11/29 (GH), with 6 banded between 10/16 and 11/6 in BV (JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were widely reported and 5 were banded during the same period and location as the Ruby-crowneds (JS, BR, GH, TD). **E. Bluebird** were reported by all, in small numbers. The only **Catharus** thrush reported was a **Swainson's** at Yount 10/23 (GH). **Am. Robin** were present throughout the quarter in very small numbers along seeps and protected hillsides. **Gray Catbird** reports were few beyond 10/1, while **N. Mockingbird** were reported in small numbers consistent with previous years (GH, TC, TD).

Spotty flocks of **Cedar Waxwing**, varying from 20-40, were reported regularly. If I had to guess as to the most abundant rural and urban county bird, it would have to be the **Eur. Starling**. The starling is increasing in back country possibly due to the combined effects of Gypsy moths and woodpeckers.

The following are last dates for a few of the warblers: **Tennessee** 10/6 (GH); **Black-throated Blue** 10/2 (banded JS); **Yellow-rumped** 11/8 (GH); **Common Yellowthroat** 10/2 (GH); and **Black-and-white** 10/10 (TD). For the second time in two years, a **Blue Grosbeak** was seen perched on the summit of TM the end of Sept. (KG). **Rufous-sided Towhee** persisted in good numbers till 11/1. **Am. Tree Sparrow** arrived in good numbers about 11/24. **Chipping Sparrow** were banded through 10/19, although the last report was 11/9 (GH); last **Field Sparrow** was banded 10/9; and **Lincoln's Sparrow** were banded 10/2-16 (JS). The first migrant **Dark-eyed Junco** were reported 9/12 and they seem the most conspicuous flocking bird of the roadside. **White-throated Sparrow** appear to be common. **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported in small numbers between 10/2 and 12/9 (TC, GS, JS). **Fox Sparrow** reports were 11/6-21 (JS, GH). The only reports of **Swamp Sparrow** 11/23 and **Savannah Sparrow** 11/8 come from Yount (GH). A single **Snow Bunting** entertained RS for the day at TM 11/8.

Twenty-four **Rusty Blackbird** were reported at DC 10/10 (GH). As for finches, **Am. Goldfinch** were abundant, while the only northern finch reported was an unknown number of **Pine Siskin** at a feeder in BED 11/13 (TC). **Purple Finch** were remarkably outnumbering **House Finch** in the less populated BM section (DH). Lower Purple Finch numbers occur in the northern more populated part of the county, while just the opposite is occurring with House Finch, I wonder about these relationships? Still the overall effect is Purple Finch are reported widely, but in small numbers.

OBSERVERS: Mrs. M.M. Caldwell, Jack & Terry Carnila, Sally & Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Eugene Foor, Kevin Georg, Gordon Hassel, Les Hollinger, Donna Housel, Dave

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Locations: Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS); Kaercher Creek Park, L. Ontelaunee (LO); Leesport (LSP); Route 183 Hawk Lookout, Kittatinny Ridge (R183).

Our three CBC's were: Bernville 1/1/89 (BCBC), Hamburg 12/17 (HCBC), and Reading 12/18 (RCBC).

The long, mild Fall remained into Dec., which brought little severe cold and only one minor snowstorm. The business-as-usual fall migration produced a few unusual birds, including a **Red-necked Grebe** at LO 10/23 (AH) and 11/6 (MS) and a **Dickcissel** at R183 10/2 (H&JS). Highlights of a barely average season at HMS were the annual **Swainson's Hawk** (a light-phase imm.) 11/9 and a brown imm. **Gyrfalcon** (only the 6th record) 11/10 (LG). A complete summary is elsewhere in this issue.

All three CBC's recorded fewer species than usual, perhaps partly due to the scarcity or absence of northern finches. The open winter did allow a few marginally hardy birds to survive through Dec., notably an **E. Phoebe** on the RCBC and **Gray Catbird** on the BCBC and RCBC. The latter count recorded 10 *sp.* of Falconiformes, including both vultures and all three accipiters.

LOONS TO GULLS. A total of 41 **Common Loon** flew over HMS 10/29 (LG). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was regularly seen at LO 10/2 to 11/13 (MS). Two **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at Blue Marsh L. 10/24 (EB). Five **Tundra Swan** were at LO 10/30, 4 on 11/6 (MS) and 26 flew over HMS 11/17 (LG). A **Mute Swan** was at LO 12/18 (MS). Two white-phase **Snow Geese** were at KCP on Christmas Day (KG) and single blue-phase birds were at LO 10/30 and 11/5 (MS) and at KCP 12/26 (KG). What may have been these same 3 birds on 12/17 gave the HCBC a new species. The 5 **Brant** at LO 10/30 were a good find. Next to White-fronted Goose and Eur. Wigeon, Brant are the least commonly recorded waterfowl in Berks (MS). A new high of 118 **Gadwall** was tallied on the HCBC. Duck sightings by MS at LO included 52 **Wood Duck** 10/15, 2 **Canvasback** 10/29, 20 **Common Goldeneye** and 56 **Bufflehead** 10/30, and 7 **Hooded Merganser** 11/6. A **Ruddy Duck** 12/17 at KCP was a new species for the HCBC (KG).

Both vultures were present through Dec., with 11 **Black Vulture** and 3 count-week **Turkey Vulture** on the BCBC, and 6 Black and 16 TV's on the RCBC. An imm. **Bald Eagle** with a red "32" on its right wing was seen 12/11 at LO (MS). Another imm. was seen at R183 on 10/16 (EB). Six **N. Harrier** were found on the BCBC, 10 on the HCBC and 1 on the RCBC. A **N. Goshawk** was spotted on the RCBC. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 12/17 near a location where the species almost certainly nested last summer (GLF). The current county hotspot for wintering **Rough-legged Hawk** is Marion Twp, n.w. of Womelsdorf. Two birds were there 11/12 (H&JS) and 7 found for the BCBC.

Two unusual **Red-tailed Hawk** were seen, an albino on the HCBC and a dark-phase bird on the BCBC. The latter had a blackish-brown back and its head, underparts and underwing coverts were black. The flight feathers were pale and barred below, the primaries had black tips, and the red tail had a black subterminal band (RK,HJS). It matched the photo and description of an ad. black-phase Western Red-tailed Hawk in "Field identification aspects of some Red-tailed Hawk subspecies" by James W. Lish & William G. Voelker in the Summer 1986 *American Birds*, Vol. 40, No. 2.

Three **Wild Turkey** visited a yard in Greenwich Twp 10/1-16 (DL) and up to 8 were near Bechtelsville in Nov./Dec. (JK). The highest number of **Am. Coot** reported was 60 at LO 11/13 (MS). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at a pond near Oley 11/13 (RK). A **Common Snipe** near LSP 10/30 was the first reported (EB). On 11/12, 200 **Killdeer** and 30 **Common Snipe** were seen in Marion Twp, but by 11/19, only 1 of each remained, along with a **Pectoral Sandpiper** (HJS). An **Am. Woodcock** was flushed from a roadside in Pike Twp 11/8-9 (RK). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was on LO 12/4 (MS).

CUCKOOS TO FINCHES. The **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** seen at R183 10/9 was late (H&JS). So was the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** seen in Greenwich Twp on the same day (DL). Two pairs of **Red-headed Woodpecker** stayed near Virginville and Moselem Springs until 10/20 (DL). The 54 **Downy Woodpecker** found in a Washington Twp CBC territory 12/17 was excellent (GLF). A **bk** of 300 **Horned Lark** was seen in Marion Twp 11/19 (H&JS). The 2 **Barn Swallow** seen at LO 10/23 were very late (AH). Six **Common Raven** were at HMS 10/8 (LG) and 1 flew over R183 10/16 (HJS). A **Carolina Chickadee** at LO 11/27 was the first one MS has recorded at that location. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Pike Twp 10/1-4 (RK) and a few sightings at HMS until 10/20 were the only reports, in contrast with **Brown Creeper**, which almost everyone reported. Several observers noted that **Carolina Wren** continue their increase of recent years, and **Winter Wren** were widely reported, with a high count of 3 in Pike Twp 10/8 (RK). Continuing the litany of successful species, 75 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were counted at HMS 10/9 (LG) and a **flock** of 25 **Rubycrowned Kinglet** was feeding on aphids in autumn olive bushes at Nolde Forest 10/20 (MSI,SS). An **albino** kinglet was seen near LSP 10/12 (AVK). Flocks of **E. Bluebird** stayed through Dec. (m.ob.). The largest group reported was 16 birds near Plowville, where a bluebird trail fledged 72 young last summer (HL). The **Swainson's Thrush** near LSP 10/23 was late (A&VK).

Late dates for vireos include: **Solitary** 10/30 LO (MS), **Yellow-throated** 10/4 LSP (AVK), **Red-eyed** 10/10 LSP (AVK). And for warblers: **Tennessee** 10/6 LSP (AVK), **Nashville** 10/6 Bern Twp. (HJS), **Magnolia** 10/6 LSP (AVK), **Cape May** 10/8 LSP (AVK), **Black-throated Green** 10/24 Pike Twp (RK), **Blackburnian** 10/4 LSP (AVK), **Pine** 11/28 LSP (AVK), **Palm** 10/30 LO (MS), **Blackpoll** 10/15 LSP (AVK), **Black-and-White** 10/4 LSP (AVK), **Am. Redstart** 10/6 LSP (AVK), **Ovenbird** 10/3 LSP (AVK) and **Wilson's** 10/16 Bechtelsville (JK).

The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported near Leesport 10/6 (AVK). **Rufous-sided Towhee** were found on the BCBC and HCBC. Three **Fox Sparrow** were wintering at feeders, 2 in Greenwich Twp (DL) and 1 near Plowville (HL). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was near LSP 10/17 (AVK). There were the usual scattered reports of **White-crowned Sparrow**, with 21 birds near Hamburg 12/17 the largest group reported (MS). A flock of 20 **Snow Bunting** flew over HMS 11/4 (LG) and 6 were found on the BCBC. Five **Rusty Blackbird** were at Peter's Cr. 10/9 (MS) and a flock of 27 was found on the BCBC. **Purple Finch** moved through in small numbers in Oct. The 24 birds at HMS 10/14 (LG) and the 19 birds on the BCBC were considered mega-numbers this year! The only **Evening Grosbeak** reported were 6 at HMS 11/11 (LG) and 4 near Lobachsville 12/16 (JP). No one reported **Pine Siskin**.

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Gary L. Freed, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Armas Hill, **Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown 19512 (215-367-9376)**, Anna & Vernon Kendall, Joanne Kintner, Don Lane, Harold Lebo, Jean Patton, Scott Schreiber, Harold & Joan Silagy, Mike & Jan Slater, Matt Spence, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Dave Kyler

Locations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CCSP).

An unusually warm and dry November and December, preceded by an exceptionally cold October, highlighted the weather patterns for Blair for the final quarter of 1988. Unusual records include the "winter wanderings" of several **Bald Eagle** and a very late **Yellow-breasted Chat** that became a "window fatality" in November. All records by compiler unless otherwise noted. The Culp CBC was held 12/17 and compiled by Melvin Lane.

A "lone loon" (**Common**) was found in an ice-free section of the lake at CCSP 11/1, while 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** frequented CCSP 10/14 (BK). Other CCSP waterfowl sightings: 1 **Green-winged Teal** 12/11, and 1 **Common Merganser** 10/24 and 4 on 12/11. **Tundra Swan** flights, heading SE, were: 30 over Loop Mt. 10/3 and also over BM 12/18 (MB). A single **Canada Goose** was found in Spruce Cr., associating with a resident flock of **Mallard**, on the CBC (ML).

Raptor listings include: 1 **Turkey Vulture** over BM 12/30 (MB); 4 **Osprey** at CCSP 10/4 and 4 over BM 10/16 (MB); 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** at CCSP 1/10-13 (TW) and 1 ad. over BM 12/25 (MB); 1 **N. Harrier** over BM 10/16 (MB) and 1 at CCSP 10/27 (BK); 2 ad. **N. Goshawk** at CCSP mid-Oct. through early Nov. (TW); and 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** near the Kettle Res. 11/12 (AS).

Shorebird listings were limited to 19 **Killdeer** 10/15 (MB) and 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/26 at the CCSP mudflats, an area exposed by annual lake level drawdown.

Imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found on BM 12/26 drilling series of holes in mature Black Walnut trees (MB). **Horned Lark**, in flocks of up to 100, appeared in Sinking Valley in time for the CBC and were found on fresh manure spreads. **Brown Creeper** were found late in the quarter in good numbers, with 4 appearing on the CBC.

Brush Mt. reported 1 **Hermit Thrush** 10/20 and 11/5; 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 10/23; 30 **Cedar Waxwing** 12/17; and 2 **Solitary Vireo** 10/23 (MB). One of the most unusual reports comes from Altoona, where a **Yellow-breasted Chat** met its demise at a winter feeding station 11/24 (JO). This species usually leaves this area by early Sept. Sparrow records include **Fox** on BM 10/30 and 11/13 (MB) and **Swamp** on Lock Mt. 10/24 (BK). Female **Purple Finch** were found at feeders on BM 12/23 (MB).

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, Bill King, **David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane, John Orr, Angeline Stout, Terry Wentz.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

By the end of Dec. there had been practically no snow throughout the 4-county area. Though there was ice in the Susquehanna R. at many locations, Harvey's L. (*Luzerne*) was still mostly open. Blue Jays and sparrows, particularly **Tree**, were scarce in many areas. The only winter finch reported was a single **Evening Grosbeak** near Beaumont (*Wyoming*) 12/16 (E. Johnson, *et al.*).

Among the 55 species on the SE Bradford CBC held 12/26 was an extremely late **Turkey Vulture** seen near Laceyville (MC,CS). Also noted on the count were: 1 **Rough-legged Hawk** near Laceyville (MC,CS); 1 **Killdeer** at Sugar Run (JH,JS,BT); above-normal numbers of **Ring-billed**, 13, and **Herring**, 5, gulls; 6 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**; 1 **Common Raven** in New Era (D&TG); 46 **E. Bluebird**; and 2 **Snow Bunting** at Herrickville (WR). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Beaver Meadows 10/1 (WR).

OBSERVERS: Mark Catalano, Doreen & Trudy Gerlach, Jim Hoyson, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Jim Shoemaker, Cheryl Stone, Bruce Troy.

BUCKS COUNTY

Bruce McNaught

Locations: Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP).

Three separate CBCs are held each year in *Bucks*. This year they were: Lower Bucks (LCBC) 12/17, Central Bucks (CCBC) 1/1/89, and Upper Bucks (UCBC) 12/18. All three counts could be characterized as "average," with 90, 72, and 80 species respectively. Numbers of individuals were also not very high considering this year more participants helped than ever before. To better compare records, Bucks County Audubon has computerized 20 years of CBCs. In looking over past records, those doing well were **Great Blue Heron**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Black Vulture**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Wild Turkey**, **Common Snipe**, **Am. Crow**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **N. Mockingbird**. All had record high numbers this past year in at least one count area. Also, both the **Carolina Wren** and **E. Bluebird** continue to make strong comebacks in all three CBCs, doubling last year's numbers in some areas. Of those species doing poorly, **Ring-necked Pheasant** continues to decline even from the low numbers recorded in 1987. Also, the lowest number of **Purple Finch** was reported in 20 years for two of the three counts. Perhaps because of the mild winter, boreal species were poor, with no **Pine Siskin** and only 1 **Evening Grosbeak** on all counts. More details to follow.

LOONS TO GULLS. Only 1 **Common Loon** was reported for PVP this fall, 11/29, the worst year since the lake was built in 1973. Two were seen at NSP 12/18. Also 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** were seen 12/18 and 2 on 12/31 at NSP (BNM). A record 38 **Great Blue Heron** and 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were on the LCBC (JD). **Tundra Swan** put on a better-than-usual show at PVP, with 20 on 11/14, 33 on 11/19, and 22 on 11/23. One **Snow Goose** (blue) was found among the **Canada Geese** at NSP 12/31 (BNM) and 12 "white" at PVP were seen through mid-Dec. **Mallard** peaked in early Dec., but dwindled to far below average numbers for the winter population, only 170 at the

end of the period at PVP (FM). A large number of **Am. Black Duck**, 90, on a small farm pond in Solebury Twp 12/3 increased to 145 on 12/31, plus 80 wintering at PVP. Good numbers of **Common Goldeneye** on all CBCs, with high of 40 on the LCBC. **Hooded Merganser** were reported in good number, 27, on the LCBC and 2 at NSP through mid-Dec. Diving ducks were generally poor at PVP, and although **Bufflehead** and **Ruddy Duck** are best represented there, they were only average, with 59 of the former 11/15 and 40 of the latter wintering (FM).

Black Vulture continues to increase, with a record 41 seen on the UCBC (HR). **Turkey Vulture** were absent during Dec. at PVP for the first time in 10 years, however, they were certainly common along the Delaware R. Fall hawk migration was generally poor. One imm. **Osprey** stayed at PVP until 11/27, and 3 **Red-shouldered Hawk** 10/27 was the best day (FM). Average number of **N. Harrier** seen during the period in Upper Bucks (KK). A record 134 **Red-tailed Hawk** were recorded on the UCBC (HR) and an *albino* continues to reside near the Vo-Tech School, where it has been seen for years.

Am. Coot were found in below average numbers in Dec., only 11 for the LCBC, 1 for CCBC, and none for the UCBC; however, 1 was reported at NSP several days before that count (BNM). A record 17 **Common Snipe** was found on the UCBC, with 15 congregated on one wet area near Telford (RB).

Late for this area were 3 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at PVP 11/12 (FM). Grows Landfill, Lower Bucks, continues to attract a large number of gulls. On the 12/17 LCBC, 2332 **Ring-billed**, 20,263 **Herring**, 1 **Iceland**, 6 **Lesser Black-backed**, and 247 **Great Black-backed** gulls were seen (RM). None of these numbers are unusual compared to past years, including the Iceland, with periodic sightings back to 1979, or the Lesser Black-backed, with a high of 12 recorded there in 1986.

OWLS TO FINCHES. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found in cedars at PVP during the week of 12/17, but not seen afterwards (RF). Another Saw-whet was found dead along the road near this location the week before, 12/10. We hope they weren't mates.

Record high counts of **Am. Crow** were recorded on two CBCs, 5255 on LCBC and 2624 on LCBC. **Carolina Wren** continue to increase in number, with 92 on the UCBC (HR). Several **Winter Wren** were recorded in each of the count areas in Dec. Kinglets in Central and Upper Bucks were below recent year records, however, in Lower Bucks they seem to be everywhere. A record 105 for the LCBC 12/17.

The 15 **Hermit Thrush** on UCBC represents an all-time high. The other counts each had one. Two others were at NSP 12/15 (BNM). An unusual sighting of a **Pine Warbler** was reported for the LCBC (RM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** numbers were low throughout the period, in fact, the lowest numbers in years for all three counts.

Although average numbers of **Am. Tree Sparrow** were recorded for the CBCs, their numbers seemed low through the rest of the period; 6 at PVP 12/30 was the high count (FM). **Fox Sparrow** were late, with the first being 10/21 at PVP and a few late stragglers in Dec.; 1 was at NSP 12/15. **Lincoln's Sparrow** also arrived late with the first and highest count of 3 at PVP 10/1. **White-crowned Sparrow** put on the best show in years there, starting with 1 on 10/5 and increasing to 25-30 per day through most of Oct. By 11/12 they were all gone. Four **Snow Bunting** at NSP 12/18 was the only report (BNM).

A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen at a feeding station for several days in early Dec. near Buckingham (DDM). A poor showing of winter finches all quarter. None at all at PVP and the 55 **Purple Finch** on the UCBC was the lowest since 1978. The 25 Purple Finch at NSP 12/18 was the highest number reported anywhere. On all counts, not a **Pine Siskin** was seen and only 1 **Evening Grosbeak** in CCBC and that 1/1/89.

OBSERVERS: Ralph Bardman, Jack Dyer, Ron French, Ken Kitson, Dan Del Mar, **Bruce A. McNaught, BCAS, RD 1, Box 263A, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880)**, Fred Mears, Rick Mellon, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Hart Rufe.

BUTLER COUNTY

Gene Wilhelm, Jr.

Locations: Glades Wildlife Area (GWA), L. Arthur (LA), McConnell's Mill SP (McP), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock Area (SRA), Slippery Rock University (SRU).

Oct. was unusually cloudy, cool, and dry; Nov. cloudy, windy, and mild; and Dec. somewhat snowy and cold. The CBC on 12/18 in MSP

recorded 2-4" snow cover with all water bodies 98% frozen. The coldest day of the quarter was 12/12, when the temperature dropped to 0°F at 7 a.m. in SRA. The year 1988 was one of the driest on record and the summer drought continued unabated to year's end. Such an extended dry period had its dire effects on the county's avifauna as illustrated by this report. In general, all species were much lower in numbers and non-residents left exceptionally early.

LOONS TO DUCKS. **Common Loon** peaked 11/1-5 at LA, very early, with 5-10 indiv. **Horned Grebe** never reached more than 75 indiv. at LA between 10/20-25, again exceptionally early. **Pied-billed Grebe** continued its decline, with 2 on LA 10/27 (MD) the only report. **Great Blue Heron** was common and widespread to 12/8 freeze-up. **Tundra Swan** migrated early, 10,000+ seen flying SE over SRA 10/28 and the last flocks observed 11/2, nearly two weeks earlier than normal. **Canada Geese** also migrated earlier, mostly in early Oct.; only 46 counted on LA 10/27 (MD). Dabbling ducks continued their crash, probably due to the continued drought: 5 **Am. Black Duck** 10/21, and 1 ♂ **Wood Duck** on LA (MD) was the best report other than **Mallard**. Diving ducks, at least, showed at GWA and LA in Oct/Nov, but species and numbers were pitifully few: 35 **Lesser Scaup** and 91 **Ruddy Duck** on LA 10/28 (BD,MD) were the best report. **Red-breasted Merganser** did not appear in appreciable numbers as in former years, and only 1 **Common Goldeneye** was observed on LA 12/15 (BD,GD,MD).

VULTURES TO OWLS. **Turkey Vulture** continues to increase. Two roosts were discovered in Oct.: one in MSP where 35-50 indiv. congregated and another on US 422 just 5 mi e. of Butler, where 75-85 were recorded. A few lingered in SRA until 11/29, unusually late. Lone **Osprey** lingered at GWA and LA again for the 3rd consecutive year in late Nov. **Bald Eagle** continues its marvelous comeback, with ad. and imm. seen throughout the quarter at GWA and LA/MSP. It is just a matter of time before each species accepts GWA and LA/MSP for nesting sites. No report of **Golden Eagle** or **N. Harrier** again this quarter. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** continued to be sighted more often than **Cooper's Hawk** at bird feeders, a trend that started 3 years ago. Unusual this year was the kettle of **Broad-winged Hawk** flying SW over SRA 10/3, with as many as 35-40 birds. **Am. Kestrel** continues its decline, with many former sites no longer occupied.

Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were lower than usual: 1 on Book Rd. 12/14 (BD,MD). On the other hand, **Wild Turkey** had a marvelous year, with several reports of many large flocks culminating in 40 birds 12/18 in McM (EW,JW *et al.*). **Killdeer** started their fall staging on SRU campus as early as 10/1, with 150 indiv. and left abruptly shortly thereafter. One **Pectoral Sandpiper** and 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** seen 10/16 were unexpected at LA (BAS). Heavy cutting of timber has dispersed the **Great Horned Owl**. A lone **E. Screech-Owl**, gray phase, at McM 12/18 was seen by 25+ people in broad daylight and constituted the only quarter report.

SWIFT TO KINGLETS. **Chimney Swift** decreased appreciably after 10/2 in SRA, much earlier than usual. **Belted Kingfisher** was scarce except at GWA and LA, but nonexistent along usual streams. On the whole, all woodpeckers were below average. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** arrived in mid-Oct. and a few lingered to 12/18+. The **N. Flicker** moved through in large numbers 10/4-12 and many lingered in MSP and McM until 11/1. More were recorded on the CBC than in previous years. **E. Wood-Pewee** vacated SRA 10/1, some 10 days earlier than last year. **E. Phoebe** also left early, the last recorded in SRA 10/4. **Horned Lark** was scarce, with no large flocks reported. **Tree** and **Barn** swallows were last observed 10/1 in SRA, unusually early. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** waves did not materialize, in fact, the bird was scarce all quarter. On the other hand, **Brown Creeper** appeared in early Oct. and lingered in large numbers until 11/28 in MSP and SRA. **Carolina**, **House**, and **Winter** wrens were noteworthy for their absence; in fact, only 1 **Carolina** and 1 **Winter** were recorded on the CBC, an all-time low for both species. **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned** kinglets were widespread and numerous in Oct/Nov., but vacated *Butler* by mid-Dec. The CBC recorded the smallest number of kinglets in many years.

THRUSHES TO FINCHES. **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin** were well represented and stayed to the end of the quarter in unprecedented numbers; the CBC totaled 66 bluebirds and 3537 robins. However, all other species of thrushes were scarce. No mimics lingered, but **Cedar Waxwing** was common in Oct/Nov. then became scarce in Dec., with 154 on the CBC. A lone **N. Shrike** near *Butler* 10/9 was out of the ordinary because it was so early. Vireos and warblers were virtually nonexistent, with one weak wave in SRA 10/3.

Scarlet Tanager was last recorded in SRA 10/1. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was especially scarce compared to last year. **Rufous-sided**

Towhee was nonexistent. A mixed flock of **Chipping** and **Field** sparrows lingered in SRA to 10/29, then left abruptly. **Dark-eyed Junco** was scarce until late Dec., when the CBC recorded 572. **Song**, **Swamp**, and **White-throated** sparrows were far below average numbers on the CBC, whereas the **Rusty Blackbird** was unusually common in Oct/Nov at GWA, MSP, and SRA. **Purple Finch** was below average numbers and not one single report of **Pine Siskin** or **Evening Grosbeak** for the county. However, 40 **Snow Bunting** added an unexpected thrill to the CBC, the only report (GB,SB,RC).

Unfortunately this will be my last report as compiler for *Butler*. I just am away too much and will be again this year... Continued success with PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS.

OBSERVERS: Bartramian Audubon Society (BAS), Gene & Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford, Barbara & George Dean, Mary Dean, **Gene Wilhelm, RD 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock 16057 (412-794-2434)**, Ed & Joan Wilver.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Tim Fox

Locations: Richland Twp. (RT), Upper Yoder Twp. (UYT).

The majority of this quarter's report is from Allegheny Plateau CBC held 12/17. Sightings during the count and count week follow. Unless stated otherwise, all observations are by the compiler. Speculations on drought-related trends are remarked throughout with the help of the CBC summation.

Thirty-four **Mallard** were on Stoneycreek R. in downtown Johnstown 12/17 (GS,FB). Two **Am. Kestrel** were in RT 12/20 and the imm. **Merlin** reported in UYT 12/17 (CV) was an extremely late observation. Eight **Ruffed Grouse** were seen at Wilmore Dam 12/2. Forty **Wild Turkey** meandered through a front lawn in Summerhill Twp (LS). A count of 58 **Mourning Dove** was reported 11/12 at an RT feeding station (TD).

Very unusual sightings for *Cambria* were 3 **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in UYT 12/17. Seldom seen this late, a lone imm. **E. Phoebe** was observed in shrubbery of a lawn in Geistown Borough on count day (GS). CBC **Am. Crow** have ranged from 9189 to 14,091 (1983-1987), while this year's count plummeted to only 798 (CV). This drop is suspected to be drought-related.

Two **Brown Creeper** and 2 **Carolina Wren** were reported to be regulars at a feeder in RT throughout the quarter (TD). **House** and **Winter** wrens were reported 10/28 and 10/27 respectively (TD). Three **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were seen in UYT on the CBC (CV). Eleven **E. Bluebird** were in RT 12/27. The first 5 **Am. Tree Sparrow** were sighted at Beaverdale Res. 11/26. A **Fox Sparrow** was at a feeder in Summerhill Twp 10/26 (LS). A migration of 13 **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted in RT 10/28. Some 6000 **Common Grackle** gathered in RT 10/23 (TD). The 4 **Common Redpoll** reported on the campus of the U. of Pittsburgh at Johnstown 12/15 was a record for the CBC. Three **Pine Siskin** were at a RT feeder 12/17 and 13 **Am. Goldfinch** were seen 12/29.

OBSERVERS: Tom & Sally Dick, **Tim Fox, P.O. Box 352, Summerhill 15958**, Brian Freiwald, Glenn Sager, Lynn Sanderson, Charles Voytko.

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Locations: Beltzville SP (BSP), Wild Creek Res. (WCR).

The Little Gap CBC was held 12/18.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was found at BSP 12/21, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** was there 12/18 (RW,GY). Four **Greater** and 2 **Lesser Scaup** were at BSP 12/21 (RW). Ducks found on the CBC include 5 **Bufflehead**, 30 **Common Goldeneye**, 18 **Hooded Merganser**, 1 **Gadwall**, and about 350 **Mallard** (RW,GY). A flock of 27 **Common Goldeneye** was at BSP 12/21 (RW) and a flock of 9 **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at WCR 10/30 (BLM). An imm. **Great Blue Heron** was seen along the Aquaschicola Cr. on the CBC (B&TK). A

Great Black-backed Gull found at Lehigh Gap on the CBC was only the 2nd county record (RW). An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at BSP 12/21 (RW). A **Peregrine Falcon** has been wintering over near Weatherly for the third season in a row (SB). It was seen on one occasion to take a **Mourning Dove** at a feeder. A ♀ **N. Harrier** was seen near Lehighon 12/31 (DK).

While calling for **Barred Owl** on the CBC at Hell Cr. near the Penn Forest Res., Wiltraut and Yoder heard a coyote answer! The usual number of **Great Horned Owl** were heard calling near Lehighon in Dec. (DK, BR). Groups of **Wild Turkey** and small flocks of **E. Bluebird** were both noted near Lehighon in Dec. (DK, BR). These birds are regularly seen in the area. Twelve **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were seen in the spruces at WCR on the CBC (RW, GY), only a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen there, and no other northern finches at all were found in the area. A group of 55 **Am. Robin** and 20 bluebirds were at BSP on the CBC (RW, GY). Three **Lincoln's Sparrow** were seen near BSP 10/2 and a **Swamp Sparrow** was seen there 12/21 (RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Bartol, Bernie & Tim Kita, Dan Kunkle, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Barry Reed, Rick Wiltraut, Gordon Yoder.

CENTRE COUNTY

John D. Peplinski

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP). Colyer L. (CL).

This period saw no major or unusual weather events. The average temperature was near normal and precipitation was slightly below normal. Significant snow cover existed for only a short time during the period.

The 50th State College CBC on 12/17 recorded 63 species and 7985 individuals. Some of the best sightings included 1 **Tundra Swan**, 1 **Wood Duck**, 4 **Hermit Thrush**, 1 **Rufous-sided Towhee**, and 17 **Rusty Blackbirds**. New high count totals for the following species were established: **N. Flicker** (16), **N. Mockingbird** (41), **Cedar Waxwing** (447), and **Swamp Sparrow** (8).

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on Spring Cr. at Houserville 12/26+ (MW). One **Great Egret** was at BESP 10/1 (PGS). A **Tundra Swan** was present on Spring Cr. 12/17+ (ES). Some of the waterfowl reports included two flocks of **Snow Geese** totaling 40 individuals near Kylertown in mid-Oct. (DBu); 1 **Wood Duck** on Spring Cr. 11/9 (ES); 8 **Am. Wigeon** at CL 10/23 (KJJ), and 1 **Oldsquaw** and 26 **Hooded Merganser** at BESP 12/3 (PGS). Frequent trips to CL by Katherine and Jennings Jones yielded the following peak numbers of ducks: 4 **Green-winged Teal** 10/30, 52 **Ring-necked Duck** 10/27, 1 **Oldsquaw** 11/3, 10 **Common Goldeneye** 10/30, 40+ **Bufflehead** 10/30, 2 **Hooded Merganser** 10/30, and 6 **Ruddy Duck** 11/1-9.

Bald Eagle sightings along Bald Eagle Mt. included a single imm. 11/28 and an ad. 11/28 (JP). An **albino Red-tailed Hawk** was seen at the fire tower 10/23 (TK, BM, SS). The only **Golden Eagle** that was reported away from the fire tower was the 1 ad. 10/30, seen flying over State College as it was harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk (BP, LS). An ad. **Peregrine Falcon** passed by the tower 10/13 (JP).

Without question the highlight of the entire season occurred 11/21, when **24 Golden Eagle** passed the tower (JP), breaking our previous single-day record of 18 set 11/13/86. This fantastic eagle day followed the passage of a strong cold front during the previous evening and three days of cloudy, rainy weather with southerly winds. Strong NW winds (25-35 with gusts to 48 mph) existed early in the morning of the 21st and the first eagles were seen at 9:30 a.m. Incredibly, **18 Golden Eagle** passed within the next 90 minutes! By 11:30 a.m. things slowed considerably, with the last eagles seen just before 3 p.m. *Please refer to the raptor summary for the Bald Eagle Fire Tower elsewhere in this issue.*

A late **Common Nighthawk** was seen in State College 10/1 (DB). Shorebird reports from BESP included single **Semipalmated Plover** in mid-Oct. (DBu); 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/1 (P&GS); a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/22 (HH); and 1 **Dunlin** 11/6 (DB, BB).

And from CL included 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/26 (MW) and 1 **Spotted Sandpiper** 10/9 (KJJ).

Single **Bonaparte's Gull** were at BESP 10/22 (HH) and at CL 11/20 (DB, BB). The only **N. Saw-whet Owl** reported was the 1 seen at Rock Springs 11/25 (JP). A flock of 63 **Fish Crow** was seen flying W over the Penn State campus 10/24 (ES).

Thirty **Water Pipit** were seen along Red Mill Rd (near CL) 10/20, and others were in the same area 10/30 and 11/6 (KJJ), while 7 pipits were near Houserville 11/25 (ES). One ad. **N. Shrike** was present at BESP from 11/28 to 12/3 (PGS). Some of the notable warbler records of the period included the only **Orange-crowned** reported 10/23 at BESP (HH), single **Palm** 10/12 and 16 at Rock Springs (eastern race) (JP) and at BESP 10/17 (MW), a late **Bay-breasted** in Nov. near Houserville (DBe), and a late **Wilson's** 10/18 in Houserville (ES).

This fall's first report of **Am. Tree Sparrow** (1) in the State College area was 11/12 (JP). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed 10/9 in the Barrens (JP). **Snow Bunting** were first sighted at BESP 11/3 when 5 were seen (MW); 12 were there 11/13 (GY, EZ), and 12 were seen migrating along Bald Eagle ridge 11/21 (JP). Pine Siskin, crossbills, or Evening Grosbeak were not reported during the period.

OBSERVERS: Dave Bell (DBe), Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Dave Butler (DBu), Harry Henderson, Katherine & Jennings Jones, Tim Kimmel, Barb Mitchell, Becky & John Peplinski, 4 **Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, Linnea Slaybaugh, Edgar Spalding, Sam Stull, Merrill Wood, George Young, Eugene Zielinski.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Locations: Hibernia Park (HP), Honey Brook (HB), Marsh Creek SP (MCSP), Octoraro Res., Chester side, (OR), Struble L. (SL).

Weather for the period was near normal, with slightly higher than average temperatures. Open water was frozen over only during the middle part of Dec. There were no mudflats, etc., for shorebirds. Only Marsh Creek was drained substantially, but too late to be of any real significance. The exceptional find of the period was the presence of **Brewer's Blackbirds** at a farm in Westtown Township. The Elverson CBC (ECBC) was held 12/26 and the West Chester CBC (WCBC) was held 12/17.

LOONS TO GULLS. The only reported sighting of **Common Loon** was 1 individual at MCSP 11/9. Two **Pied-billed Grebe** were also there that same day. An **Am. Bittern** was at SL 10/7. A total of 25 **Snow Geese** (all white-phase) were at SL 11/20. Three **Wood Duck** were at HB Sewage Plant 11/4. At the confluence of the Buck Run and Doe Run streams were 21 **Blue-winged Teal** 12/23. The only reported sighting of **Canvasback** was an individual at SL 10/31. Three **Ring-necked Duck** were at SL 11/11. **Lesser Scaup** were observed at SL and HB Sewage Plant during early Nov., with 12 at the sewage plant 11/18. One ♀ **Oldsquaw** was at HB Sewage Plant 11/22. Scoter reports were of 3 **Black** and 1 **Surf**, all at SL 11/20. This is the 3rd year in a row for Surf Scoter at SL. There were 3 **Common Goldeneye** at the Sewage Plant 11/4. **Bufflehead** were noted at the usual locations, but in small numbers. A pair of **Hooded Merganser** was at SL 11/15. **Ruddy Duck** were observed from late Oct. until early Dec. at SL, MCSP, and HB Sewage Plant.

At least 60 **Black Vulture** were at their roost near OR 12/18. A late **Osprey** was at MCSP 11/26. On 11/4, an ad. **Bald Eagle** was observed flying over Elverson; 1 ad. and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** were sighted in the county during the ECBC. Four **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen flying over Coatesville 11/17. Two resident Red-shoulders continue "near OR" (*loc. details omitted, JP*). A **Golden Eagle** was seen at French Creek SP 11/4. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at SL 10/7.

As mentioned by nearly every birder I've spoken with, **Ring-necked Pheasant** are at dramatically low numbers. Every CBC report tallied fewer individuals than ever. The **Wild Turkey** has apparently survived the hunting season, as it continues to be seen near the domestic turkey farm near HB. There were at least 43 **Killdeer** at MCSP 11/21, due primarily to the exposed mudflats when the lake was partially drained. The only shorebird report is of 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at MCSP 11/9. Also there that day was 1 **Common Snipe**. **Ring-billed Gull** continue to make their presence known in greater numbers each fall and winter.

OWLS TO FINCHES. **Barred Owl** continue at OR, with 1 heard 12/18. A total of 10 **Long-eared Owl** were found at Moore's Marsh

near Elverson 12/26. Two ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** continue at the Amish schoolhouse on Pleasant View Rd. near HB. An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker was at SL 10/2 and another imm. found near Marshallton on 10/24. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** has been sporadically reported, with at least 2 birds in one area of Willistown Twp 11/3. **Horned Lark** were seen in fewer numbers this year in the area around SL. Late date for **Tree Swallow** was 11/5 at MCSP. The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report is 1 which was in my yard 11/12, but none was observed on any of the CBCs and I received no report of any others, although 3 were on the Chester side of OR 12/18, the day of the SoLanCo CBC. **Carolina Wren** numbers continue to increase each year. **Winter Wren**, which was first reported near West Chester 10/1, was fairly widespread this season; 4 were at OR 12/18.

Cedar Waxwing was a difficult species to find this season. The largest flock reported was of 30 birds in Willistown Twp. A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was at a feeder in Westwood 11/8. Another late warbler was the **Cape May** at HP 10/18. Also somewhat late was an **Indigo Bunting** at SL 10/7.

A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*nelsoni*) was at SL 10/23; Lewis reports that this is the 4th time he has recorded this sparrow there. On 10/22 there were 7 species of sparrows in an unharvested soybean field in HP. Included were at least 20 **Savannah Sparrow**. Numbers of **White-throated Sparrow** are down substantially over years past. Conversely, **White-crowned Sparrow** has been rather easy to find in proper habitat this season, and in good numbers. Another sparrow reported as easier to find this season was **Fox Sparrow**, with 7 in one thicket at OR 10/26. Two were still (?) there 12/18. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Kurtz's Fish Farm near SL 10/2. **Snow Bunting** were seen at MCSP; a flock of 20 were in the main parking lot 11/21-22 and 8 were in the same area 12/9. Also in the soybean field at HP 10/22 was 1 **Dickcissel** (LL). It was only there that one day.

The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was of 1 near Downingtown 12/17. The **Brewer's Blackbird** were first seen on the WCBC 12/17, with 2 ♂ sighted (BH,PH). Subsequent trips to the area have confirmed at least 8 individuals. They were later photographed for the first documented record for the state (FH).

A **N. Oriole** was in a Westwood yard 10/1. The only **Pine Siskin** reports were of individual "fly-overs" the week of 11/6-12. Very few **Purple Finch** were seen in migration and not many more have been seen since. The only **Evening Grosbeak** report was of 3 that were observed at the Nature Center of Charlestown 12/31.

OBSERVERS: Dave Davis, Barb & Frank Haas, Beryl & Phyllis Hurlock, Larry Lewis, Martin Page, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Neal Thorpe, Era VanDenburg.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Edgar Spalding

All reports come from Sandy and Brady Twps in the DuBois area. The **Tundra Swan** seen 12/15 was unusual and late (MA). **Canada Geese** were first seen in the area 10/6 (JS) and reported throughout Nov. They were observed leaving in two flocks on 12/2 (MA). One **N. Harrier**, observed throughout Oct., was last seen 11/14 (JS). Five reports of **Cooper's Hawk** were received. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported 10/27 (JS). **Am. Kestrel** was last seen 12/12 (MA). All four reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were between 10/3-30 (JS). **Killdeer** were reported in Oct., as late as 10/20 (MA). A **Common Snipe** was seen 10/17 (MA). Perhaps more unusual was the **Am. Woodcock** 10/26 (JS). **Belted Kingfisher** was observed regularly throughout the quarter (MA).

N. Flicker were sighted 10/22 (JS) and 11/4 (MA). A lingering **E. Phoebe** remained until 10/6 (JS). **Common Raven** were seen twice in Oct. and also 11/30 (JS). The only reports of **Tufted Titmouse** were 10/14 (JS) and 12/20 (MA). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen 10/17 (JS). There were two sightings of **Brown Creeper**, 10/2 and 11/3 (JS), and two of **Carolina Wren** 10/22 and 11/16 (MA). The only **House Wren** sighting was 10/2 (JS). There were several scattered reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. The **E. Bluebird** reported in Oct. were last seen 11/16 (JS). **Am. Robin** were quite evident in Oct. but became scarce in Nov., with the latest sighting 11/14 (MA). The only **Gray Catbird** was 10/3 (MA). Surprisingly, there was only one report of **N. Mockingbird**, 11/22 (MA). **Cedar Waxwing** were seen often in Oct. and lastly 11/16 (MA). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen 10/27 (JS). Less expected was the **Pine Warbler** 10/16 (JS). **N. Cardinal** was regularly reported. The only **Rufous-sided Towhee** sightings were 10/3

and 10/16. Surprisingly, only 1 **Am. Tree Sparrow** was seen this quarter 11/30 (JS). The latest of five sightings of **Chipping Sparrow** was 10/27 (MA). **Field Sparrow** were reported several times in Oct., though latest was 1 seen 11/15 (MA). The eight reports of **White-throated Sparrow** were all in Oct. Three **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen, the last 10/17 (JS). Four reports of **E. Meadowlark** from 10/5-20 were received (JS). **Common Grackle** were seen until 11/3 (MA). **House Finch** seemed as numerous as ever. In strong contrast with this time last year, there was no sighting of **Pine Siskin**. **Am. Goldfinch** sightings were scattered throughout the quarter, and **House Sparrow** continue to be easily seen.

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Jocelynn Smrekar, Edgar Spalding 115 Old Houserville Rd., State College, PA 16801

CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

Weather-wise, the mean low, mean high, and total precipitation respectively for the three months were as follows: October 38°, 58°, 2.1"; November 33°, 53°, 3.8"; December 21°, 40°, 2.45. All in all very dry, with a rather cool November and a warm December.

Our CBC (Lock Haven-Jersey Shore CBC by name) held 12/31 produced the following high counts for the species listed. Unless otherwise noted, these are the highest counts for the 22 years of compilation. There were 15 **Tundra Swan**, only the 5th record, with a previous high of 3 birds. This flock of swan is wintering over, and this is the first time there has been a wintering flock of swan on the river in Clinton since the count began. Five **Am. Wigeon** were the highest in 20 years, and the **Am. Kestrel**, which have been common all fall were 22 in number, the most since 1977. The 11 **Great Horned Owl** equaled last year's all-time high. The 9 **Red-bellied Woodpecker** seen indicates their continued increase in the area. Twenty-one **Hairy Woodpecker** match this same high for 1977. **N. Flicker**, 31, and **Pileated Woodpecker**, 11, are both new highs. It seems as though this was a good year for woodpeckers in general.

Am. Crow, 869, **Brown Creeper**, 15, and **Carolina Wren**, 15, are all new highs. Fifty **Song Sparrow** were the highest in 10 years.

Three common species with unusually low numbers for the CBC were **Rough-legged Hawk**, 3, **Blue Jay**, 49, and **House Sparrow**, 177. **Evening Grosbeak** were missed on the count for the first time in 21 years.

Other species noteworthy during the quarter were a late **Osprey** at Cedar Run 12/17 (BC), an imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** at McElhattan 11/17 (PS) and 1 on the CBC at Avis (CS,VS). Also at Avis on the CBC was a **Common Barn-Owl** (CS,VS). An imm. **Snowy Owl** was enjoyed by many, often perched on the Holiday Inn sign, at Exit 25 of I-80 near Lamar. The bird was first reported 12/7 and last seen 12/24 (PGS).

The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported was on the CBC. It's a rough way to get a good record, but as P. Schwalbe was approaching Lock Haven on a back road during the morning of 10/7, he hit a small bird. Backing up and retrieving it, to his astonishment he saw it was a **Lincoln's Sparrow**. A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was reported on the CBC. Also reported were the first **Pine Siskin** of the season, 6, on the CBC.

OBSERVERS: Blair Carbaugh, Charles Sample, Vesta Schach, Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514).

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Doug Gross

Locations: Briar Creek L. (BCL), N. Branch Susquehanna R. (SR).

Water Birds: Many birders and hunters thought that this was the poorest waterfowl fall migration in many years. However, **Great Blue Heron** and **Belted Kingfisher** were fairly common. Some **Pied-billed Grebe** were observed on BCL (KH). Over-wintering waterfowl populations also seemed low, with no **Common Mergansers** found on the SR during the 12/18 Bloomsburg CBC. A **Wood Duck** was found near Bloomsburg on the CBC (DH).

The best find of the season was a **Semipalmated Plover** that was heard calling and then seen on the SR between Bloomsburg and Catawissa during the CBC (H&DM). The plover stayed two more days

before rising water apparently induced it to move on. This was the 1st record for the CBC and for the area during the winter.

Raptors: An **Osprey** was spotted as late as 10/24 near Orangeville (DG). **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel** were frequently seen by many. **Cooper's Hawk** was also reported frequently, even in settled areas like Espy (H&DM). **Rough-legged Hawk** and **N. Harrier** were reported in much fewer numbers than usual. **Great Horned Owl** were hooting in several locations in Dec., even at the edge of Bloomsburg (HM). The **Barred Owl** heard by DG and AP in a hollow near Greenwood was a 1st for the CBC. **E. Screech-Owl** was heard and seen in several places, but not **N. Saw-Whet**.

Woodpeckers: **Red-bellied** were sighted in more places than formerly, including Rohrsburg (DG). Seven times as many **Downy** were seen as **Hairy** on the CBC.

Songbirds: All reporting NBBC members but the compiler thought that **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** were more common than usual. (This may be because most observers live at lower elevations and near the river while the compiler is in the uplands.) **Red-breasted Nuthatch** went unreported. **Carolina Wren** seems to be expanding its range into higher elevations away from the river.

Both kinglets were noticeably less common than in past recent migrations (DG); only 14 **Golden-crowned** were found on the CBC. Many observers commented on the relative abundance of **E. Bluebird**, especially in farm country; the CBC yielded a relatively high 113 (including some in *Montour*). There were 13 **Am. Robin** in SGL #226 on the CBC (RGS,RMS); this is actually fewer than are usually found. A **Fox Sparrow** was seen at a feeder near Benton in early Nov. (RGS). Winter finches were almost absent from the county. No **Evening Grosbeak** was reported this quarter, not even on CBC day. Only 10 **Common Redpoll** were found on the CBC in a Christmas tree farm near Iola (DG). **Am. Tree Sparrow** was also noticeably rare, but often is until snow cover forces them south. The Espy Bog hosted over 100,000 "blackbirds" in the fall. The large roost contained primarily **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and **Common Grackle** (H&DM,DH).

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John & Sue Graves, **Douglas Gross, RD1, Box 147, Orangeville 17859**, Doyle Harris, Karen Hiller, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Autumn Pfeiffer, Robert G. Sagar, Robert M. Sagar, Dave & Linda Unger, the North Branch Bird Club.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald Leberman

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custard's Bridge (CB), Erie NWR (ENWR), Meadville (MDV), Norrisville, Pymatuning SP [including the Causeway, Linesville Fish Hatchery (LFH), Goose Management Area (GMA), Spillway] (PSP), Saegertown, Tamarack L. (TL), Woodcock L. (WL).

All sightings by Ronald F. and/or Mary N. Leberman unless otherwise indicated. The Linesville CBC was held 12/18.

Two **Common Loon** were at WL 10/22 and 27 were at PSP 11/27. **Pied-billed Grebe** numbers were down here, although 3 were at PSP and HM 10/30 (BAS). One **Horned Grebe** was at PL 12/2. Eight **Double-crested Cormorant** were at PSP 9/4, with 2 found 10/23. Three **Great Blue Heron** were on the CBC (m.ob.) and 2 were at CB 12/30. A **Great Egret** was found at WL 11/18 (JH). Fourteen **Tundra Swan** were at WL 11/23 (RFL,RCL,MNL), Marich reported several large (?) flocks over CM 11/17, 6 were noted on the CBC. A **Mute Swan** was at the GMA 10/23. The 2 on the CBC, 1 at CL and 1 at the LFH were a first for the count (m.ob.).

Snow Goose was first reported at GMA 10/16, with the high of the period being 7 at the GMA 12/2; 1 remained for the CBC; 1 of the "blue" form was at CM 11/11 (AJM). The 14,000 **Canada Geese** at GMA 11/18 was slightly above average, with 8940 tallied for the CBC. Two **Wood Duck** were at LFH 10/23; 1 found on the CBC (JH), and 8 at CB 12/30. Seven **Green-winged Teal** remained at PSP 10/30. Only 21 **Am. Black Duck** were found for the CBC. The 259 **Mallard** was a conservative CBC tally. The only **N. Pintail** report was 1 found at PSP 11/12. The 16 **Blue-winged Teal** noted at CM 10/8 was good (EK). Six **N. Shoveler** were at PSP 10/2 and 5 were at TL 11/6. The 8 **Gadwall** at PSP 10/16 (RFL) and 3 there 10/30 (BAS) were well below normal numbers and only 2 were on the CBC. Equally low were the 4-7 **Am. Wigeon** at PSP 10/16-23 (RFL), although RCL had 30 at TL 11/13. The 1 **Canvasback** found for the CBC was the lone report (RH). No **Redhead** was located all quarter. Numbers of **Ring-necked**

Duck built from 1 on 11/13 (RCL) to 14 on 11/26 (RFL), down to 2 for the CBC. The 20 **Greater Scaup** at TL 12/4 were well-studied in good light and likely a new species for that lake (RFL). A **Lesser Scaup** was at PSP 10/23, with 6 at TL 11/6. Eight **Oldsquaw** were at TL 10/29 and 2 remained 12/4. No scoters noted. Some duck numbers were better however: the 1200 **Common Goldeneye** at PSP 10/30 built to 10-15,000 by 11/27, but only 20 could be located 12/18. **Bufflehead** high was 8 at GMA 12/2. **Hooded Merganser** numbers went from 250 at PSP 10/23 to 1600 there 11/19, with another 200 at TL 11/13. Two **Common Merganser** were at PSP 11/27. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at PSP 12/2. Numbers of **Ruddy Duck** were not so impressive, with the high count of 8 at PSP 11/18.

Bald Eagle sightings included 2 ad. and 1 imm. at HM 10/30 (BAS), 1 ad. at TL 11/13 (RFL,RCL,MNL), and 2 ad. at PSP 11/27. A very good total of 7 noted on the CBC, with 5 in sight at one time. Three **Cooper's Hawk** were found on the CBC. The **Red-shouldered Hawk** at CM 12/22 was an extremely reddish bird.

The most interesting **Rough-legged Hawk** sighting was 1 fighting over a goose carcass with a **Red-tailed Hawk** at GMA 11/18. And the Red-tail won (?).

Ten **Am. Kestrel** were found for the CBC. A **Merlin** was seen chasing a flock of **Rock Dove** in downtown Meadville 11/11 (JR,RFL). A **Ruffed Grouse** was found near Meadville 12/1 and 1 was located for the CBC. A **Wild Turkey** was a 1st CBC record. **Am. Coot** was missed on the CBC for the first time in a while, however, 30 were on CL 12/22 (RFL,RCL).

A **Sandhill Crane** was first found at GMA in a pond and later in a corn field with geese 10/30 (BD,BAS) and 1 (same?) was there 11/25 (AJM). Best count of **Killdeer** was 75 at WL 10/30. The last reported **Greater Yellowlegs** was 1 at PSP 11/12 (EK). **Dunlin** had a rather poor showing, with none noted at PSP, 14 at TL 10/29, and 49 there 11/6. Four **Common Snipe** were at TL 11/6. A flock of 30 **Am. Woodcock** were found near Woodcock 10/7 (LJ).

The 1000 **Bonaparte's Gull** found at PSP 10/23 increased to 2500 on 11/6. Some 4000 **Ring-billed Gull** were noted at PSP 10/23, but only 3 could be located for the CBC. One lone **Herring Gull** was noted 12/18. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was on the ice at CL for a 1st CBC record and one of very few *Crawford* records (RH).

A mere 3 **Rock Dove** could be located on the CBC; they were just not leaving the barn lofts due to the very cold weather. One **Short-eared Owl** on the CBC near Tuttle Point (JH,RS). The 8 **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was a great total for the CBC. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at HM 10/30 (BAS). The 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** found on the CBC was rather low compared to recent years. Our Saeger Hill feeders hosted 1 **Brown Creeper** 12/17-23 and 1 **Carolina Wren** 12/31 (RFL,MNL). The 31 **E. Bluebird** on the CBC were a little above average. There were 132 **Cedar Waxwing** counted on the CBC. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at the Ohio end of the causeway, in the brushy area on the n. side, 10/23. Best count of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was 40 at CM 10/8 (EK). First reported **Am. Tree Sparrow** was 1 at HM 10/30, with 234 on the CBC. The **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** found at CM 10/8 is written up elsewhere in this issue (EK,MVV). Only 2 **White-throated Sparrow** were found on the CBC, extremely low. The CBC **Snow Bunting** tally was 175. Although 30 **Rusty Blackbird** were at HM 10/30, only 1 was found for the CBC. Other CBC totals were 3 **Red-winged Blackbird**, 5 **Brown-headed Cowbird**, 1 **Purple Finch**, 320 **House Finch**, 36 **Am. Goldfinch**, and 188 lovely! **House Sparrow**.

OBSERVERS: Bartramian Audubon Society (BAS), Barb Dean, Ron Harrell, Jeff Holbrook, Larry Johnson, Ed Kwater, Mary N. Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, **Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**, Anthony J. Marich, T. Clare Nicolls, J. Robb, Russ States, Mark VanderVen.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Joe Church

Locations: Susquehanna R., Wildwood L. Nature Center (WLNC). The weather for the area during the period was mild and on the dry side. A cold snap struck in the latter half of Dec. and was

long enough to freeze the river over for the Harrisburg CBC. There were no rarities for the period.

Although there were no rarities found, two interesting locations were. The first was a site, found by BH, on Stony Mt. for hawk watching. It is right in line with Hawk Mt. and Wagoner's Gap, but is located in *Dauphin*. She had 3 **Golden Eagle** there on the day she found it in October. The second location was a heronry found by EC & JC during the CBC. It, as are the other heronries in the area, is on an island in the SR. This site is about 2 mi. n. of the well-known heronry. There were at least 16 nests visible from the shore. Most likely it is a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** or a **Great Egret** colony. The information below unless otherwise noted is from the CBC.

By October most of the herons, except **Great Blue**, have left the area, but a **Green-backed** was at WLNC 10/27 and a pair of **Great Egret** was seen in mid-November. Great Blue stay in small numbers, including 2 which for the last three years have wintered in the vicinity of the Rockville Bridge. With the freeze, the number of ducks was down by the time of the CBC, but prior there were small numbers of **Green-winged Teal**, **N. Pintail**, **Gadwall** and **Am. Wigeon** at WLNC. During the CBC there were small numbers of **Common Goldeneye**, 12, **Bufflehead**, 20+, and **Common Merganser**, 5, on the open pools in the SR.

Hawks were probably the most interesting group. Along with BH's Golden Eagles, the **Bald Eagle** near Dauphin and at Dehart Dam were still present. **Red-tail** are increasing in the area and a **Rough-legged** was spotted near Linglestown 11/16. On the CBC, a suspected **N. Goshawk** was seen flying over the SR near Rockville. A large **Sharp-shinned** or small **Cooper's** was seen a couple times in mid-Dec. hawking in a residential area that abuts I-81 (EC). The only shorebird was a **Common Snipe** found at WLNC. Five **E. Screech-Owl** were heard, but no **Great Horned** was found and the pair usually found at WLNC has not been seen since Spring.

Red-bellied Woodpecker continue to increase in numbers, but the best find was an imm. **Red-headed** frequenting BH's feeder in SCV during Dec. The ratio of **Carolina** to **Black-capped Chickadee** is now being reported at nearly 1:1. **Tufted Titmice** and **White-breasted Nuthatch** were reported in near normal numbers, while **Brown Creeper**, **Carolina Wren** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were up. EC & JC found 5 **E. Bluebird**, which is not unusual, but they were in the woods rather than in their normal habitat. The normal wintering finches and sparrows were in, but **White-throated** and **Tree** sparrows, for the 2nd winter in a row, are in lower numbers than previous years. WLNC had 6 **White-throated** compared to around 100 and 2 **Tree** compared to 30-50 normally found. Not one report of siskins or redpolls.

Compiling has been an enjoyable experience and I hate to give it up, but for the sake of the continued high quality of the product I must. I am looking forward to receiving the magazine and will report my observations to the new compiler. Hopefully one of these days I will be able to get back in to the field on a more regular basis so that I have some things to report.

One additional note, when I began birding on a regular basis I lived in Pittsburgh and one Sunday morning on a cold winter day I was watching birds coming to a feeder at a house in North Park. This man came out, I was debating whether to run, and introduced himself to me. It was Joe Grom who was profiled in last issue. I remembered him saying, "hang around," because he could hear an Evening Grosbeak in the area. I didn't hear it, but I hung around and within minutes had a life bird for my list.

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, **Joe Church**, 129 Lucknow Rd., Harrisburg 17110 (717-236-1868), Barb Huffman.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Locations: Delaware R., Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (TA), Tinicum Nat. Envir. Ctr. (TNEC).

It was a very mild winter, with temperatures averaging 5-10° above normal into the middle of Dec., when cold temps started freezing the ponds and streams. Most of the water was frozen by the

time of the Glenolden CBC held 12/17.

This was the first CBC since the start of the Blue Route (cross-county expressway) construction, and many people commented on the destruction of habitat in their count areas and the decreased number of birds. Although no one has documented these findings as of this time, it would seem almost certain that this would be the case.

SWANS TO FALCONS. **Tundra Swan** were well represented, as 31 were found on Chester I. 12/17 (BS). At the Springton Res., 9 **Snow Geese** were found 12/17 (KB). During Oct. on the tidal marshes at TNEC were 250 **Wood Duck**, a very good number for this time of year (JCM). One **Oldsquaw** was discovered on the river for the CBC (BS). This is a big drop from 10 years ago when you could find a small scattering almost anywhere up and down the river. **Common Merganser** are not uncommon in the area, but 3 at TA 12/17 provided their 1st record (RD,AG,JL). The 11 **Red-breasted Merganser** at TNEC 12/17 was a superb find (J&JF); these birds are always hard to find in Delco.

During Nov., 1 **Black Vulture** was seen at TA (NP) and again 1 found 12/17 (JL,DMc,TR). Although increasing in numbers in surrounding counties, this bird is still rather hard to find throughout Delco. A **Bald Eagle** was in Swarthmore 10/26 (HMc) and an ad. was at TNEC the following day (JCM). A **N. Harrier** was seen flying over RCSP 12/17 (JG,BH). One bird I always welcome the chance to see, a **N. Goshawk**, was found along the river 12/17 and again at TNEC 12/27 (BS). At the Media water works a **Merlin** was spotted flying past 10/5 (CS). During the week before and after the CBC, but not on count day, a **Merlin** was in the area of Swarthmore College (HMc). The **Peregrine Falcon** which nests on the Commodore Barry Bridge was found on count day again this year (BS). Also, 1 was present at TNEC 12/6-7 (JCM).

SANDPIPERS TO FINCHES. At the TNEC tidal flats there were 65 **Pectoral Sandpiper** and 4 **Stilt Sandpiper** seen 10/8 (JCM). In the Brookhaven area a **Common Snipe** was found 12/17 (SS,CW). On 11/12, at an orienteering meet in RCSP, an **Am. Woodcock** was observed (JL). There were 25+ **Forster's Tern** lingering at TNEC 10/27 (JCM). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling in the Wawa area 10/23 (WC) and 1 **Short-eared Owl** was observed flying around the airport a little before dawn 12/30 (CC). Only 1 **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found on the CBC (AG,JL,DMc,TR).

An **E. Phoebe** was found in Middletown Twp 12/17 (N&TC). This looks like the second year in a row that **Black-capped Chickadee** are way down in numbers. But once again this is a mild winter up to this point, just as last year. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were extremely difficult to find this season (HMc), with only 1 found on the CBC (BH). One **House Wren** was at TNEC (JCM) and 2 in Swarthmore (HMc) 12/17. One **Winter Wren** was found at TA 10/9 (JL) and 8 were counted on the CBC. At TA on 10/9 there were 35 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** passing through on migration, along with an equal number of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (AG). Two **Hermit Thrush** were present at TNEC 10/15 (AG,JL), with a typical 13 seen on the CBC. A **Brown Thrasher** was in Wawa 12/17 (W&AT,WB), a good find for this time of year. One **Solitary Vireo** was still present at TNEC 10/9 (AG,JL). Two **Pine Warbler** were discovered at the Springhaven Country Club 11/15 (HMc). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was uncovered at RCSP 12/17 (JG). One lingering **Chipping Sparrow** was at TA 11/27 (AG). **Am. Tree Sparrow** continue their drastic decline in the area (area wide?) with only 53 on the CBC (FH). Winter finches were just about nonexistent this season, with just a few scattered reports of **Purple Finch** and one report of a ♂ **Evening Grosbeak** at TA 10/23 (HMc).

OBSERVERS: Wyatt Barnes, Kate Brethwaite, Charlie Cameron, Walt Cressler, Nick & Tony Crocetto, Richard Dean, John & Joe Freiberg, John Ginaven, **Al Guarente**, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Barb & Frank Haas, Evelyn & George Kopf, Jim Lockyer, Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Sandy Sherman, Charles Smith, Bill Stocku, Walt & Andy Thurber, Chris Walters.

ELK COUNTY

Leif Anderson

Locations: East Branch L. (EBL), Elk SP (ESP).

Five **Common Loon** at EBL 10/14 were a good find, but the 5 **Oldsquaw** there 11/3 were even better (LC). Five flocks of **Canada Geese** were noted on EBL (KC) in mid-Oct., with two of the flocks comprised of 150 birds each.

Osprey were noted 10/11 and 10/14 at ESP and EBL (KC,LC). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in St. Marys in early Dec. (DS). A large flock of 50 **Wild Turkey** was found on SGL #25 on 12/11 (KC). An **E. Screech-Owl** was noted in Benzinger Twp 12/28 (DS) and a **Barred Owl** was found on SGL #44 on 11/12 (KC).

A **Winter Wren** was still present along the Shawmut grade 12/26 (KS). A rather late **Black-and-white Warbler** was in SGL #25 12/26 (KC). A **Fox Sparrow** was found at Bendigo SP 10/26 (LC) and 1-4 **White-crowned Sparrow** remained in a yard in Benzinger Twp from Oct. through Dec. (LC).

OBSERVERS: **Leif Anderson, 48 Birch St., Kane, 16735 (home, 814-837-6596; work, 362-4613)**, Keith and Linda Christenson, Dave Sorg.

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

The most outstanding notes of interest this season were made from the multitudes of gulls that blanketed Presque Isle Bay. Counting the gulls by lots of 1000 from the bluffs of the bay front yielded a total count of a *half million* birds by mid-December. An estimate of the gull numbers broken down by species is detailed later. Record numbers of **Tundra Swan** were tabulated on the CBC, with totals reaching 494. By the end of the calendar year, **Mallard** and **Am. Black Duck** reached a maximum of 4000 to 5000 individuals. Very few passerines attempted to winter in *Erie* this season. Most left the area early in December with the first big freeze. Absolutely *no Yellow-rumped Warbler* was found on the CBC, constituting the first absence of this species in 24 years!

Locations: All sightings from Presque Isle S.P. (PI) unless otherwise noted. Erie Public Dock (EPD). Underlined species indicate an absence of two or more years between sightings.

Two or 3 **Red-throated Loon** were found 10/30 (JM). One or 2 **Red-necked Grebe** were seen 11/3 (JM) and 11/12 (EK). **Double-crested Cormorant** were regular through 11/11, reaching a peak of 36 birds 10/13 (JM). One **Am. Bittern** was seen 10/8 (JM) and 1 **Great Egret** noted 11/12 (ED,DS).

An imm. (white) **Snow Goose** was seen in Edinboro 11/14 to early Dec. (DS). Six **Brant** were found 12/31 (DP). **Black Scoter** were the least common of the 3 species, with up to 5 birds present from 10/23 through 12/10 (JM). **Surf Scoter** appeared 10/12 and were observed until 12/11 (JM), with 24 seen 11/12 (EK). Small numbers of **White-winged Scoter** were present from 10/1 to 12/17 (JM). Considering the low numbers of waterfowl observed the past few years, the **Red-breasted Merganser** has continued to be seen in good numbers as the 2500 transient birds counted 11/12 indicates (DS). The 200+ **Ruddy Duck** on Edinboro L. the last 2 weeks in Oct. were more than we expect in *Erie* in spring or fall (JH).

Bald Eagle sightings were: 1-2 imm. periodically to 10/27 (m.ob.); 1-2 ad. 10/16 to 12/4 at PI and w. of Erie (m.ob.); and, 1 sub-ad. 12/16-17 (JM,SH). Single **Merlin** were on PI 10/12, 11/11, and 11/23, and Millcreek Twp 10/23 (JM,LM). The Merlin at the EPD 12/31 established the *first* Dec. county record (JBB). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings were 1 imm. 10/1 (JM), 10/10 (JHS), and 1 imm. 10/5 (JM).

One or 2 **Lesser Golden-Plover** were found from 10/8-22 (JM,EK). A **Red Knot** was seen 10/3 (JM). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen 10/9 (EK) and 1 **Purple Sandpiper** 11/29 (BC). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found 10/8 (JM) and single **Red Phalarope** were seen 10/13 (JM), 10/29 (EK,JM), and 12/11 (JM).

An imm. **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen 10/30 (JM,SS). A first winter **Franklin's Gull** was seen 10/28-29 (JM,EK). **Little Gull** sightings include 1 w. of Erie 10/1 (JB), 2 at PI 10/28 (JM), and 2-3 at EPD 12/16-26 (m.ob.). One **Common Black-headed Gull** was found 12/23 at EPD (ED,JM) for only the second Pennsylvania record. See the separate articles for details. Some 150,000 **Bonaparte's Gull** and 300,000 **Ring-billed Gull** were estimated on the Bay in mid-Dec. (JM). A first winter **Thayer's Gull** was seen 11/11 for the first fall record (ph.,JM); also 1-2 first winter birds were seen 12/4-29 (EK,JM,JP), and 1 second winter individual was seen 12/17 (EK) & 12/26 (JM) at EPD. An ad. **Iceland Gull** was found 12/16 at PI; 1 or 2 first winter birds were found 12/23 and 12/28 at EPD (EK,JBP); and 1 ad. was at EPD 12/27 (JBP). One second winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen 12/7 at PI (JM) and a third winter bird was at EPD (ph.,JM,LM). Up to 6 **Glaucous Gull** (all ages) were seen 12/11+ at PI and EPD (m.ob.). A Glaucous x Herring Gull was seen 12/11+ at EPD (JM,EK). About 700 **Great Black-backed Gull** were on the Bay in mid-Dec. (JM).

Three **Forster's Tern** were on L. Erie 10/1 (JB), plus 6 at PI 10/2 and 1 on 10/5 (JM). A **Black Tern** was at PI 10/3 (JM). A **Short-eared Owl** was found 10/19 (JM).

Hermit Thrush were numerous on PI in early Oct. as the conservative count of 46 on 10/12 indicates (JM). While birding on Gull Point 11/12, DS witnessed the rare occurrence of a **N. Shrike** flying in from Canada via L. Erie! One or 2 birds were seen from 12/7+ at PI (JM,JB). Very rare in fall was a **White-eyed Vireo** banded 10/1 (JHS,JGS). Single **Orange-crowned Warbler** were found 10/2 (EK), 10/5 (JM), and 10/15 (banded by RL). One **Common Yellowthroat** was seen 12/4 (EK). **Lapland Longspur** were at Gull Point from 10/5 to 11/28 (JM,EK), with a high count of 15-20 on 10/16 (JGS). **Snow Bunting** were migrating past PI in good numbers 11/12, with an estimated 400 tallied (DS).

OBSERVERS: Jim & Bonnie Baird, Jim Baxter, Bill Callista, Jamie Hill, Shayne Hoachlander, Ed Kwater, Ron Leberman, Linda & Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Dave Parker, John & Becky Peplinski, Don Snyder, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Locations: Green Lick Dam (GLD), Mill Run Res. (MRR), Normalsville (NVL).

All records by compiler unless otherwise noted and found in the NVL area. The two reservoirs had a variety of water-associated birds this quarter, although numbers were not high. First GLD, where the following were seen 10/30: 1 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 12 **Ring-necked Duck**, 4 **Common Goldeneye**, 2 **Bufflehead**, and 10 **Hooded Merganser** (MEW), plus 2 **Tundra Swan** found 12/15 (CC). And, at MRR: 2 **Common Loon** 11/18, 1 **Great Blue Heron** 11/18, 1 **Green-backed Heron**, 1 **Mute Swan** 10/25, 20 **Canada Geese** 10/25, 6 **Am. Black Duck** and 7 **Mallard** 11/18, 1 **Gadwall** 11/25, 1 **Common Goldeneye** 11/18, 6 **Bufflehead** between 10/25 and 11/18, and 2-8 **Hooded Merganser** between 10/30 and 11/18.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited the feeder 12/31 and 1 **Am. Kestrel** was seen 12/21. Two **Ring-billed Gull** were at MRR 10/25, where on 11/25 a **Belted Kingfisher** was found.

One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 12/3 and a **Pileated Woodpecker** 10/30. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in Connellsville 12/4 (RP). A **Brown Creeper** and 2 **Carolina Wren** were found 10/27. Ten **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and 5 **White-crowned Sparrow** passed through 10/5, while 8 **Rufous-sided Towhee** were seen 10/8.

OBSERVERS: **Cindy Cook, RD 1, Box 259A, Normalville 15469 (412-455-7356)**, Rich Pujia, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

We welcome Carl Garner as the new compiler for *Franklin County*. Please send your sightings to him for future issues.

The farm area around Shippensburg is a good wintering location for **Rough-legged Hawk**, especially along Thornwood Rd. in either direction from Rt. 533 n.w. of Shippensburg. The following were all seen from Thornwood Rd. (DRH):

11/20 - 1 light phase
11/27 - 3 light phase, 1 dark phase
12/03 - 2 light phase
12/09 - 1 light phase
12/20 - 2 light phase
12/24 - 1 light phase, 1 dark phase

Also in the same area 12/10 was an imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker**. (DRH).

The 29th CBC compiled by Ken Gabler yielded 75 species, up from the average 68 species. Eight species had new highs: 899 **Mallard**, 74 **Am. Kestrel**, 13 **Great Horned Owl**, 53 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, 52 **N. Flicker**, 26 **Carolina Chickadee**, 52 **E. Bluebird**, and 8 **Gray Catbird**. Two species, **Common Redpoll** and **Sharp-shinned Hawk** equalled the previous high. **Evening Grosbeak** has been seen 25 of the 29 years; only 1 this year, the lowest number ever.

The following species were seen from the Tuscarora Summit Hawk Watch (Fulton): 176 **Common Loon** 11/11; a total of 88 **Tundra Swam** seen 11/1 and 11/18. One **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Cowan's Gap SP 10/16.

OBSERVERS: Ken Gabler, **Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 110, Fayetteville 17222-0110 (717-352-8151)**, Don & Robyn Henise.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

Generally a nice Fall and very little snow. The first light frost here was 10/4 and a hard frost two days later. The one really cold spell occurred in mid-Dec. and the temperature reached -5°F on the morning of 12/12. Our CBC was held 12/31.

A record 151 **Canada Geese** were counted in three different areas on the CBC. On the same day, 2 **Hooded Merganser** and 1 **Common Merganser** were found on the Monongahela R. A record 55 **Red-tailed Hawk** were also counted; the previous high was 35 in 1980. But the 14 **Am. Kestrel** found was down from the 24 listed last year. No **Killdeer** was found for the CBC (last year 18) and the last noted for the year was flying over 12/14.

The last **Chimney Swift**, 6, were noted 10/6. A new high of 14 **Pileated Woodpecker** was recorded. Less farming and more big woods are evidently helping this species. A record 137 **Blue Jay** also indicates more big woods and also an increase in bird feeding stations throughout the area (in 1978 had only 21 for the CBC). The last **E. Phoebe** was noted 10/11.

A record 86 **E. Bluebird** on the CBC was encouraging; the former high was 78 back in 1974. Some 50,000+ **Eur. Starling** were noted flying over our farm going to a roost w. of here 11/21. The flock had started building up the last of Oct., but evidently left for warmer climes soon after the 11/21 date. Last **E. Meadowlark**, 2, were noted here 11/2. No large numbers of **Common Grackle** were seen here after a 1400+ peak was reached 11/6.

OBSERVERS: **Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505)**, plus 28 CBC individuals.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Dave Kyler

Locations: Huntingdon (HTD), Juniata R., Water Street (WS).

The third quarter of 1988 found the usual weather patterns reversed in *Huntingdon*. October, usually a mild month, was highlighted by periods of extreme cold, while November and December were moderate by comparison. Precipitation was below average for the entire quarter.

All records are by the compiler unless otherwise noted. Unusual records were 2 **Orange-crowned Warbler** at WS 10/9 and 1 **Rusty Blackbird** found on the Huntingdon CBC 12/18.

Flights of **Tundra Swan** were noted late, with 90 reported over Piney Ridge 12/5 and 37 over Rockhill Furnace 12/9. **Canada Goose** overflights were early, with 30 over HTD 10/1 and 65 over Piney Ridge 10/10. Other waterfowl include 1 **Wood Duck** at Mapleton 10/17, 1 **Gadwall** on the CBC, **Am. Black Duck** on the river 11/11 to 12/18, and 7 **Bufflehead** on a Mill Creek pond 10/31.

Raptors include 3-4 **Turkey Vulture** at HTD 10/20 to 11/9; 2-7 **Black Vulture** at HTD 10/18 to 12/1. Unfortunately both vulture species left the area before the CBC. Migrating **Osprey** were seen at Aitch 10/5 and over Mapleton 10/9. Imm. **Bald Eagle** were reported at L. Raystown 11/18 and 12/2. Local winter feeding stations have been visited by **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 10/1,4 and 19 and 1 was reported to have taken a restless (Little?) Brown Bat one warm Dec. evening in HTD. **Cooper's Hawk** continue to use the State Correctional Facility at HTD for their private hunting preserve. Rock Dove are a reliable food source for them throughout the winter. Overwintering **Rough-legged Hawk**, 7, were reported in the Shaver's Cr. watershed on the CBC.

Am. Woodcock were heard in moist upland fields near HTD 11/3 and again 11/8. **Common Snipe** appeared on the CBC for the

1st time, sharing a watercress bed with several **Killdeer**. **Ring-billed Gull** arrived at L. Raystown 11/29+.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker have been visiting backyard feeding stations in Saltillo in Nov. and Dec. (EW). Sixty-one **Horned Lark** magically appeared from snow squalls on the CBC. Two **Brown Creeper** were found in the WS area 10/10 (ML) and an unusually large number, 17, were tabulated on the CBC. Other interesting species that turned up on the CBC were 4 **Am. Robin**, 1 **Gray Catbird**, and 1 **Hermit Thrush**.

Two **Orange-crowned Warbler** were reported from the WS area 10/9. Both were observed feeding in low shrubs along the Frankstown Branch of the river for a period of several minutes (ML). Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seen in HTD 10/7, while **Black-throated Green** and **Palm** warblers were located in HTD 10/18.

Sparrow records include **Am. Tree** in HTD 11/22, 15 **White-throated** at WS 10/10, 1 **Fox** in HTD 11/6 and 1 in Alexandria 11/1 (ML), and 1 **Swamp** at Cottage 12/18. A single **Rusty Blackbird** was found in the Cornprobt Mills area sharing a feeder with other winter visitors. It was first observed 12/12 and remained until the CBC 12/18 (EB). Two **Common Grackle** were found in the Rockhill Furnace area 12/1. Two **Purple Finch**, 5 **Pine Siskin**, and 1 **Red Crossbill** made their appearance for the CBC. The Purple Finch are breeding residents of the Shaver's Cr. Environ. Center and the Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill may have overwintered.

OBSERVERS: Ellen Benner, **David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane, Ernie Weyant.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Locations: Clarksburg (CBG), Creekside, Indiana (IND), Margus L. (ML), Nolo, Parkwood, Shelocla (SHL), Yellow Creek SP (YCSP).

Dry weather continued through October with warm temperatures the first few days of the period. More seasonal temperatures occurred the remainder of October. A brief warm period returned at the beginning of November with temperatures up to 62°F on 11/5, then warm spells recurred periodically throughout the month. Rainfall was near normal throughout November. Normal temperatures existed at the beginning of December, but on 12/12 temperatures dipped to 10°, during which time, lakes and streams froze. By 12/14 it was 45° once again. By the date of the sixth annual CBC, 12/16, lakes and streams had somewhat thawed. Temperatures peaked at 57° on 12/27. Below average precipitation occurred in December, with little snow cover.

All waterfowl sightings are from YCSP unless otherwise noted. Two to 5 **Common Loon** were present between 10/19 and 11/22 (GL, BR, GS). Top count of 9 **Pied-billed Grebe** occurred 11/4 (MH, TJ); 2 lingered until 12/6 (LH). **Horned Grebe** was recorded only 11/4 (MH, TJ) and 11/22 (GL). Few **Great Blue Heron** were listed, but 1 flying over IND 12/26 was well-timed for the CBC (AC, PJ). First **Tundra Swan** report was a flock of 56 on 11/16 (GL); 19 flew over Nolo 12/3 (GS). Up to 64 **Canada Geese** lingered at the VFW pond in IND until 12/27 (GL). Five **Wood Duck** were found 11/22 (GL). High **Am. Black Duck** count was 14 on 12/6 (LH); a total of 15 were counted at Twolick and at Musser's Pond 12/26 (v.o.). An all-time high of 341 **Mallard** was tallied on the CBC. A single **N. Pintail** 11/4 was the lone report (MH, TJ). Four **Am. Wigeon** were listed 10/21 at ML (AB, GL, GS). Two **Canvasback** were reported 11/21 at YCSP (GL) and 12/7 at ML (GL). **Ring-necked Duck** was found in low number with top count being 20 on 11/21 (GL); a singleton lingered at ML to be included on the CBC (LH). A raft of 6 **Greater Scaup** was found 12/7 (GL). Top **Lesser Scaup** count of a mere 11 occurred 12/6 (LH). Five **Common Goldeneye** were a nice find 11/22 (GL); a ♀ was still present for the CBC (LH). Seven **Bufflehead** were counted 11/12 (BDR) and again 11/22 (GL). Eight **Hooded Merganser** 11/22 was the top tally (GL). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was found 12/6 (LH), the lone report. **Ruddy Duck** maxima were 32 at ML 11/4 (MH, TJ) and 30 there 11/12 (BDR).

N. Harrier was listed at Nolo on 11/8,15 (GS) and near IND 12/15 (GL). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found at YCSP on 10/19 (AB, GL, GS); another, that had been seen periodically since 12/5, snatched a **Tufted Titmouse** from a peanut butter log near SHL on 12/13 (MH). Two **Cooper's Hawk** were listed on the CBC. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was listed only at YCSP 11/4 (MH, TJ) and near SHL 11/18 (MH). All-time highs of **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel**

were relocated on the CBC.

A flock of 10 **Ruffed Grouse** was observed near Creekside on 12/13 (*fide* SC). Top **Wild Turkey** count was 25 near parkwood 12/24 (EP), but none could be located the day of the CBC. Maximum **Am. Coot** tally was 12 at YCSP on 11/16 (GL) when and where last **Killdeer** were also reported (GL). **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at YCSP on 10/18,21 (AB,GL,GS) and on 11/4 (MH,TJ). Two **Common Snipe** near SH on 10/30 were last (MH,RH). Gull reports at YCSP were rather limited, with a lone **Bonaparte's** found on 11/4 (MH,TJ). **Ring-billed Gull** count reached 43 on 11/18 (GL).

An **E. Screech-Owl** was found near Nolo on 11/1 (DS). Another first appeared in a nest box near SHL 11/23 and seen occasionally until 12/22 (MH,RH). A road-killed **Great Horned Owl** was found near IND on 10/20 (GS). **Barred Owl** was heard near Nolo on 11/1 (DS). Although **Belted Kingfisher** was listed near IND on 12/24 (AB,GL), this was the first year that none could be found on the CBC. Reports of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** continued to increase in number, with 4 individuals seen on the CBC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported only near SHL, where 2 birds were recorded 10/4 (MH). **N. Flicker** maintained a good winter presence with a high CBC total of 9 (v.o.). **Pileated Woodpecker**, too, were found in good numbers with 6 counted on the CBC.

The 3 **E. Phoebe** at YCSP 10/19 (AB,GL,GS) were the last reported. A flock of 26 **Horned Lark**, found near IND on 12/11 (KM), were relocated for the CBC (MC,DP). A roost near SHL contained at least 83 **Am. Crow** on 11/14 (MH). One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and 2 **Brown Creeper** were present near SHL throughout the period (MH,RH). Last **House Wren** was spotted and later heard attempting to sing on 10/13 near SHL (MH). A **Winter Wren** was seen in a wood pile near SHL on 10/4 (MH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were numerous in Oct., but rather difficult to find in Dec. with an all-time low count of 5, far below the average of 26, on the CBC. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** lingered until 11/16 near CBG (MC). **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin** both reached all-time highs on the CBC, with 34 and 472 counted respectively. A **N. Mockingbird** near CBG was a nice find 11/3 (MC); another was observed on the CBC near IND (GD,BM). **Cedar Waxwing** tallies included 50 near CBG 11/7 and 25 near IND 12/23 (BR).

Solitary Vireo, still singing emphatically, was last seen near SHL 10/17 (MH). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was listed at YCSP 10/19 (AB,GL,GS). Best **Yellow-rumped Warbler** tally was a mere 7 at YCSP 11/4 (MH,TJ), but 2 were found amid poison ivy berries near SHL 12/19 (MH). **Palm Warbler** was located near SHL 10/14 (MH).

A **N. Cardinal** still feeding young on 10/3 was observed near SHL (MH). Last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported there 10/4 (MH). Single **Fox Sparrow** was found 10/22,24 at a feeder near SHL (MH,RH). Two Fox and 2 **Swamp** sparrows were found at YCSP 11/4 (MH,TJ). A single **White-crowned Sparrow** was found near SHL 10/22-26 then again 12/25 (MH,RH). First **Dark-eyed Junco** reported was 10/2 near SHL (MH). A mixed flock of blackbirds near CBG 12/1 was estimated to contain at least 3000 **Red-wings** (MC). **Am. Goldfinch** was observed feeding young near SHL 10/3 (MH). The only **Evening Grosbeak** report of the season was a low-flying individual that flew n. across YC lake calling all the while on 11/4 (MH,TJ).

OBSERVERS: Alice Beatty, Alan Clark, Suzanne Conner, Marcy Cunkelman, Gloria Dick, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Leon Hue, Pat Johnner, Timmi Jones, Gloria Lamer, Beth & Ken Marshall, Ed Patterson, Dorothy Pless, Barbara & Donald Rowe, Dan & Georgette Syster.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Diane L. Greeley

We welcome Diane Greeley as the compiler for Jefferson County.

The observations are mainly my own because I only started as compiler for *Jefferson* in January 1989! The period was warmer than usual and we did not have the wintering birds that we expected. The summer birds lingered longer than normal. Several persons have mentioned that seed sales are way down this year. The trend seems to be that feeders in the country have far more birds than feeders in towns. I've noticed this myself.

The 2nd Port Barnett Bridge CBC was held 12/17. Trends are difficult to determine after only two years, but some items are worth mentioning. There were 8 participants (same as 1987, but some different people). We had 33 species in 1987 and had hoped for 34 this year - we got 48! There was a total of 1571 individuals, including

the highlight of 2 ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks!** We had the usual common birds, but not in great numbers as expected, e.g., **Am. Goldfinch** can usually be found in small groups and we had a grand total of 5, as compared with last year's 19. We had a greater variety of hawks, but not the numbers. A big difference was noted for game birds. Last year we had greater variety and small numbers, this year only 2 species, but still in single digit numbers. We had three times as many **Rock Dove**, but only 1/3 as many **Mourning Dove**. There was about a 1/3 decline in **Blue Jay** and a whopping decline in **Am. Crow** (I hear they all went to Milton!).

There was a huge decline in **Black-capped Chickadee**, but 4 times as many **Tufted Titmouse**. Nuthatches and creepers were nearly the same, with the addition of 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. We found 2 **Winter Wren** and a big increase in both kinglets, as well as an increase in **Am. Robin**. Starling numbers more than doubled. There was a slight decline in **N. Cardinal**, but a large increase in **Am. Tree Sparrow**. We found a variety of other sparrows, but in very small numbers. **Dark-eyed Junco** more than doubled. There were no siskins or redpolls, but some **Purple Finch** and a few **Evening Grosbeak**. One **Brown-headed Cowbird** was found at a feeder. **House Sparrow** stayed about the same, but there were *six times* as many **House Finch**.

Common Merganser were found on the Clarion R. near Clarrington 10/15 (JH,DG). Vultures and numerous hawks of various species were seen during Oct. and/or Nov., but their numbers seemed down in Dec. A ♂ **N. Harrier** was seen coursing over hayfields 10/9.

On 11/8 it was warm and rainy and there was a Pheasant of some sort in the grapevines by our house. It has yet to be positively identified, as it seemed to be a hybrid of Ring-necked Pheasant and one of the exotic species being handled by the PGC. The bird was in a plumage unknown to us as yet, so we are still not quite sure what it was. Any ideas?

On 11/26, a lone **Killdeer** was seen and heard winging its way southward. I wished I was following it at least as far as Virginia! An **E. Screech-Owl**, **N. Bobwhite**, and **Tufted Titmouse** were found in areas seldom frequented by these species in late-Oct. and Nov. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, uncommon for this area, was seen 10/8 at a feeder. Perhaps an omen of snow to come was the larger numbers than usual of both species of kinglets. A number of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were also seen 10/8.

The highlight had to be the 2 ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** which were observed from about 50 ft for about 10 minutes (*good details* - *Eds.*). The first **Am. Tree Sparrow** arrived 11/15, while **White-throated** and **White-crowned** were first seen 10/4 and 10/3 respectively. **Dark-eyed Junco** came into feeders 10/7-8. My sister and I were quite surprised on 11/23. On a telephone pole near Sigel was a bright **Snow Bunting**. Hunt as we did, we could not find another bird. Several inquiries since and we have yet to hear of another Snow Bunting in the whole county! (JS,DG). The last **E. Meadowlark** seen in n. *Jefferson* was 10/31.

OBSERVERS: **Diane L. Greeley, RD 1, Box 55, Corsica 15829 (814-856-2000)**, James Greeley, Ross Greeley, Joan Hartzell, Jocelynn Smrekar.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Location: Hammer Hollow (HH).

Mild weather and a consistent flow of migrating birds through the area made this a good birding quarter. The 2 **Surf Scoter** at Muskrat Springs Access 11/19 were the highlight; others of note include 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** at HH 12/11, 1 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Clearview Res. 11/19 (not often seen anymore), 2 **Hermit Thrush** 10/23 (DW), 1 **Solitary Vireo** at HH 10/9, 4 **Common Yellowthroat** that stayed around HH until 10/23, and another recently scarce bird, 1 **Purple Finch**, which was at the feeder in HH for three weeks until 11/29.

A **Great Egret** was on the Juniata R. 10/9. A 150+ **Wood Duck** were found at Port Royal Swamp 10/16.

The Lewistown CBC held 12/17 yielded these results: **Wood Duck** were sighted for the 2nd year in a row, with 3 at Muskrat Springs Access. One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was located near Arch Rock. A flock of 30+ **E. Bluebird** was found in Licking Cr. Valley. Counts down significantly were **Carolina Wren**, **White-throated Sparrow** (down for the 2nd year in a row), and **Am. Goldfinch** (also down for the 2nd year in a row). The **N. Cardinal** and **Dark-eyed Junco** counts were up, as they were for the whole quarter. Counts also up were

Mourning Dove, Brown Creeper, and E. Bluebird for the second year in a row (TNS). We are still waiting for sightings of **Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Towpath Naturalist Society, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Locations: Covey's Swamp (CS), Dalton Area (DA), Elmhurst (ELM), L. Scranton (LS), Maple L. (ML), Peckville (PKV), Schultzville (SCV), Scranton (SCR), Springbrook (SPB), Thornhurst (TH).

The dryness of the past summer had the water level of all lakes below average. Any correlation between the mild weather and lack of snow and the lack of wintering species at bird feeders? The CBC was held 12/17.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was in DA 10/8. Some 2-8 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen on the river in SCR during the period. Eight **Wood Duck** were at TH 10/8. About 20 **Mallard** were in PKV and 1 at TH in Dec. Found on the CBC were: 1 **Am. Black Duck**, 1 **Common Merganser**, while 1 **Hooded Merganser** was on LS 12/14-15. Also on the CBC were 1 **N. Harrier**, 1 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 7 **Red-tailed Hawk**, and 6 **Am. Kestrel** in various locations.

An **E. Screech-Owl** was at DA 10/31 and at Nay Aug Park during Nov. and Dec. Three **Ring-necked Pheasant** were at DA 10/5 and 10/13 at TH; they were all hens...just released? A **Ruffed Grouse** was at TH 10/5 and 16 **Wild Turkey** were at EL for the CBC. Found at ML were 6 **Killdeer**, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 3 **Spotted Sandpiper**, and 1 **Stilt Sandpiper** 10/3.

A **Belted Kingfisher** was in SCR 12/17. **Mourning Dove** remain common throughout, but the **Ringed Turtle-Dove** (escapee?) was reported at PKV for the CBC.

Observers should be on the lookout for the Eur. Collared Dove, which can be safely separated by call and field marks. This species is hardy, does not require feeding stations, and is making a strong push in North America. The bird has spread dramatically through Europe in the last 40 years and is entrenched in southern Florida and elsewhere. More details will be forthcoming.

Two **N. Flicker** were at TH 10/8 and the CBC resulted in 43 **Downy**, 8 **Hairy**, and 2 **Pileated** woodpeckers. While **Tufted Titmouse**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** (76) were quite common on the CBC, only 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at PKV was found. Six **Brown Creeper** and 3 **Carolina Wren** were found on the CBC. **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned** kinglets were last noted at CS and DA 10/24 and 10/19 respectively. No **Am. Robin** remained for the CBC, but 3 **E. Bluebird** and 37 **N. Mockingbird** were found. A small flock of **Cedar Waxwing** were at TH 10/8 and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at DA 10/9. A count of 115 **N. Cardinal** was quite good. The last **Rufous-sided Towhee** was seen at DA 10/7.

Sparrow reports were interesting. First **Tree** arrived at DA 11/15, with 113 for the CBC. **Chipping** were not seen after 10/12 and **Field** not after 10/20. **Fox** were found at DA between 10/25 and 11/11. **Song** have been relatively uncommon, with only 21 for the CBC. Very small numbers of **White-throated** have been seen and only 9 for the count. **White-crowned** were last seen at DA 10/28. **Dark-eyed Junco** have been plentiful.

Four **Rusty Blackbird** were at CS for the CBC. A ♂ **Purple Finch** was at DA 12/10, with only 14 on the count, but 651 **House Finch** were tallied. Only 3 **Pine Siskin** and 29 **Am. Goldfinch** were counted, but that was better than the zero **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Mike Friedlin, Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2321, Factoryville 18419 (717-344-4690), George Mozurkewich, Jane Shulenberg, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

J. Eric Witmer

Locations: Cornwall Fire Tower (CFT), Middle Cr. WMA (MC), Muddy Run, including Fishermans Park (MR), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Washington Boro (WB).

Highlights of the season include **Surf Scoter**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, **N. Saw-whet Owl**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. "Gulling" got interesting below Safe Harbor and Holtwood Dams by the end of the period, with reports of **Iceland**, **Lesser Black-backed**, and **Glaucous** gulls found among the thousands of gulls.

The SolanCo CBC was held 12/18, with more than 70 participants. Observers found fewer **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Am. Robin**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Purple Finch**, and **Am. Goldfinch**. No other winter finches were reported.

Single **Red-throated Loon** were downriver from SRCF 11/12 (TG,EW) and at MC 11/24 (EW). **Nineteen Common Loon** were in the WB area 11/4 (JB) and 4-12 **Double-crested Cormorant** were regular in the WB area until the end of Nov. (m.ob.), with single imm. sighted at MRFP 12/26 (JB,TG) and at Wisslers Run 12/27 (FH,EW). Single **Am. Bittern** include SRCF 10/1 (JB,SS) and at a small pond near Mt. Joy 11/13-17 (TM)! A presumed **Glossy Ibis** was at SRCF 10/29 (TG,EW).

A 100+ **Tundra Swan** were migrating downriver at WB 10/29 (TG,EW). Two ♂ **Wood Duck** and 50+ **N. Shoveler** remained at MC 12/11 (TG,EW). More **Oldsquaw** were found this fall, most likely due to observer(s) desire to find scoters or other "fowl-weather" drop-ins; 1 at MR 11/15, 11/30 (JB), 1 at WB 11/20 (JB,SS), 4 at MC 11/22 (JB), and 5 on the CBC.

The "bird" of the season was a ♀ **Surf Scoter** at MRFP 11/19-22 (RMS *et al.*). This is only the 4th known county record. Some 63 **Bufflehead** were at MC 10/30 (EW). An all-time high count of 12,245 Common Merganser were on the CBC, with most birds in the Peach Bottom area.

There were 35 **Black Vulture** and 70 **Turkey Vulture** roosting near MC through the end of Dec. (EW *et al.*) and 300-400 **Turkey Vulture** were n. of Lancaster 10/27 (R&SB). A remarkable 20 **Bald Eagle** (8 ad., 12 imm.) were found on the CBC. Many more than usual, probably due to the open water and the inactivity of the Conowingo Dam downriver. A **Merlin** was at SRCF 10/9 (TG,EW) and a **Peregrine Falcon** (continental race) was observed from the CFT 10/1 (JB,JG,LS). *The complete CFT hawk watch report is elsewhere in this issue.* Only 10 **Ring-necked Pheasant** and 2 **N. Bobwhite** were on the CBC, with 27 and 25 birds being the past 10-year average, indicating that these birds are steadily declining.

The following were all at SRCF: 5 **Sora** 10/1 (JB,SS); single **Black-bellied** and **Lesser Golden plover** 11/5 (JB *et al.*); a **Hudsonian Godwit** 10/29 (TG,EW); and a calling **Long-billed Dowitcher** 10/15 (TG,EW). An **Am. Woodcock** was found on the CBC at Octoraro Res. 12/18 (WT,RM).

Several imm. and winter ad. **Laughing Gull** were at SRCF from 10/9 to 11/5 (m.ob.) and 500+ **Bonaparte's Gull** were in the MRFP/Holtwood Dam area 11/19 (RMS *et al.*). Two **Iceland Gull** were a 1st for the CBC at MRFP (RMS,DH) and 1 at SHD 12/27-31 (TG,FH,EW). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** put in an early appearance at SRCF 10/23-29 (JB,TG,EW), a 1st upriver from SHD. Other Lessers include 2 at SHD and another at MRFP 12/26 (JB,TG). The "rarer" **Glaucous Gull** was below Holtwood Dam 12/26 (JB,TG). Single **Common Tern** were at SRCF 10/1 and 10/23 (JB,TG,EW). The previously reported **Forster's Tern** in the SRCF area dwindled to 100 by the end of Oct., with the last report of 6 on 11/12 (TG,EW).

A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was at Octoraro Res. on the CBC (LL,GS). A late "nighthawk" was at CFT 10/11 (FH). The season appeared to be another non-flight **Black-capped Chickadee** year, however, the CBC recorded an all-time high of 499 Carolina Chickadee (past 10-year average = 277).

The last recorded **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at MC 10/2 (TG). Fifty **Water Pipit** were n. of Ephrata 11/24 (EW). Late vireos included **Solitary** and **Red-eyed** at Providence Twp 10/19 (EJP) and a **Philadelphia** at MC 10/2 (TG). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Providence Twp 10/17 (E&JP) and the Pederson's last warbler migrant was a **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/20.

A migrant **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at SRCF 10/1 (TG,EW). One to 2 **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** could be found again at SRCF 10/1,9,15 (m.ob.). The only reported **Lincoln's Sparrow** (1-2) were at MC 10/9-10 (SS,TG). A single **Bobolink** was at SRCF 10/15 (TG,EW). A ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found on the CBC near

Peach Bottom (FH,JW) with the many "blackbirds." An all-time high of 126,589 Common Grackle were reported on the CBC.

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Ray & Shirley Bubb, Tom Garner, Jay George, Fred Habegger, Dan Heathcote, Larry Lewis, Tom McKinne, Ralph Miller, Ed & Jo Pederson, Steve Santner, Grier Saunders, Leon Schreffler, Robert M. Schutsky, William Tawzer, **Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan Witmer.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Locations: Bessemer Area (BSA), Cascade Park (CCP), Covert's Crossing (CC), Harlansburg Area (HBA), McConnell's Mill SP (MMSP), New Castle Area (NCA), Plain Grove Area (PGA).

October was unseasonably cold with near normal (3") precipitation. November was slightly wetter than normal, and December was very dry with less than 2" precipitation. Area ponds were frozen by 14 December, although large areas of the Mahoning R. and Neshannock Cr. remained open. *Lawrence* has no large bodies of water, so waterfowl reports are confined to farm ponds, etc.

HERONS TO GULLS. Single **Great Blue Heron** were seen at several locations. Marich reported 200+ **Canada Geese**, 300+ **Mallard**, 75+ **Am. Black Duck** (excellent number), 1 **Common Merganser**, and 3 **Common Goldeneye** 12/13 on the Mahoning R. and Beaver R. from CC to Moravia; he found 2 **Ring-necked Duck**, 2 **Mute Swan**, and 8 **Am. Black Duck** there 12/17. Elder's Pond, NCA, had 2 **N. Shoveler** 10/7 (MD,BD) and 2 **Blue-winged Teal** 11/5. About 135 **Canada Geese** and 85 **Mallard** flew over NCA 12/14. The Neshannock Cr. hosted 50-100+ **Mallard** in downtown New Castle and we were surprised to record 2 ♂, 1 ♀ **Wood Duck** lingering there 12/31+. These birds are being fed by the City Rescue Mission.

Eight **Turkey Vulture** were counted 10/16 in NCA, but none was seen after 10/29. A **N. Harrier** was sighted at 5 locations, the most we've had in the past 6 years. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was frequently reported and **Cooper's Hawk** in NCA and Ellwood (BW,BD). A careful search for **Rough-legged Hawk** turned up nothing, as opposed to last year, when we had several sightings. **Am. Kestrel** seem common throughout the county.

Only 1 ♀ **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen this quarter in NCA (JB). Hunters have reported large numbers of **Ruffed Grouse** off the Savitch Bike Trail in NCA. We are talking 30+ seen in late-Nov/early-Dec.; 1 was also noted in SGL #151. Forty **Wild Turkey** were at MMSP 12/18 (JW *et al.*) and 3 in NCA all quarter (JB,MD). About 75 **Killdeer** were flocked at PGA 10/29, but none seen after 11/5. Two to 4 **Common Snipe** were at a spring-fed farm pond in Amish area from 12/4-31. One **Greater Yellowlegs** was in the PGA 10/29. Ten **Ring-billed Gull** were at the Bessemer strip mines in October and November.

DOVES TO FINCHES. The 1 **E. Screech-Owl** at MMSP and 1 heard at CC 11/13 were the only reports (JEW,GD). Unfortunately we could not find any evidence to substantiate the rumor of a **Common Barn-Owl** in NCA even with (mentor) Wilhelm's assistance in the effort 10/14. That same day we walked the fields in PGA searching for **Short-eared Owl**. On 10/25 a single Short-eared Owl was seen flying low over the fields on Vosler Rd.

A little background on those Short-eared Owls. They were first found on Vosler Rd. in Plain Grove Twp 10/18/86. George and I stopped to check 2 **N. Harriers** at about 7 p.m. We also saw 1 owl. Then on 3/26/87 we found three owls. Two were on the ground 500 ft or so apart. It was 6:45 p.m. When we started for home we found another also perched just a few feet off the ground, also on Vosler Rd., but (guessing) 1/2 mi away. Then this year we began looking for them, trying to go out almost every evening, since we have never seen the owls for more than one day. BD.

The last 6 **Chimney Swift** were recorded 10/15. A few **Belted Kingfisher** remained at open water 12/31+. Regrettably, **Red-headed Woodpecker** was absent all period, though in past years we have enjoyed several pair all winter. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found in Pulaski 10/9 and Volant 10/29.

The last **E. Phoebe** was recorded in BSA 10/23. Flocks of **Horned Lark** (50+/flock) remained the entire quarter in Amish, PGA, and BSA. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was 1 at our NCA feeder 11/17. **Brown Creeper** made a strong showing in Pulaski and NCA the last half of Nov; most were at CCP. The song of the **Carolina Wren** was enjoyed at many locations in Oct. and Nov., with 8 seen at CCP 11/13.

N. Mockingbird is hard to find in this county, so 1 on Covered Bridge Rd. 12/4-31 and 1 in Princeton for the entire period were pleasant surprises (BBS,BGD). An easy 65+ **E. Bluebird** were found in a few hours in NCA 10/14 (GW) and a flock of 35 were moving through BSA 10/23. It's unusual not to have a single **Swainson's Thrush** to report, but refreshing to report 6 **Hermit Thrush** from 10/9-25 in Pulaski and PGA. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were visible through 10/23. Good numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were noted 10/14-25, but compared to the last 2 years, they were very scarce after that (GW,BGD). A **Water Pipit** was found in the PGA 10/14, somewhat unusual for fall (GW). Other than **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, the last identified fall migrants were **Nashville**, **Blackburnian**, **Blackpoll**, and **Cape May** in the Pulaski area 10/9. A few **Chestnut-sided** were in PGA 10/16.

On 10/14, Wilhelm described a beautiful behavior...a large flock of starlings and blackbirds swirling over each pass that a Sharp-shinned Hawk made in the PGA. I saw the same behavior 10/22 as 1500+ starlings noisily swirled above each pass of a Red-tailed Hawk in BSA. Some 800+ **Brown-headed Cowbird** were flocked in Eastbrook 10/16 and 700+ **Red-winged Blackbird** were found feeding in a cornfield in PGA that same day. A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was near New Castle 12/30-31 (NR).

A few **Am. Tree Sparrow** always seem to arrive early in PGA around 10/16, but the best concentration was of 100+ at Rose Point 10/26. The last **Chipping Sparrow** were in BSA 10/23. The only report of **Vesper Sparrow** was at Amish areas 10/9. **Savannah Sparrow** were in Amish area 10/12 and 10+ were in PGA 10/14 (GW,BD). A few **White-crowned Sparrow** were in the PGA and Volant area 10/14-29 (GW,BD). **White-throated Sparrow** were seen in more areas and in higher number when compared to last year, when there were few in our area. **Swamp Sparrow** were still in the BSA and Pulaski through the end of November. **Purple Finch** sightings were up slightly with 6 seen 10/23 and 11/13 in BSA. **Dark-eyed Junco** were here in October, but not highly visible until November, then they seemed to be everywhere and in higher numbers than last year. A dozen **Rusty Blackbird** came to our yard 11/17. Neither **Pine Siskin** nor **Evening Grosbeak** could be found anywhere. This is the first time in 6 years that we haven't recorded siskins here by October.

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LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

Locations: Memorial L. (ML), Second Mt. (SM).

During the first two months of the final quarter of 1988 the weather was unremarkable with few good fronts to push birds through. Dec. was very cold, causing Memorial L. to freeze completely by the 15th and moving many "half-hardy" species and waterfowl out. In spite of increased party hours on the Lebanon CBC held 12/17, only 55 species were recorded, 13 fewer than last year. This year, the wild food crop was average to good. However, numbers of berry-eating birds (waxwings, thrushes, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler**) were down from last year, perhaps still reflecting the dismal berry crop of last year. The bird of the season was the **Peregrine Falcon** (see story below).

The **Common Loon** migrated in large numbers 10/23. A total of 52 were seen flying over the SM Hawk Watch, most of these in the morning (m.ob.). A single **Red-throated Loon** was reported 12/2 at ML (MC). In *Lebanon*, **Double-crested Cormorant** are still rare, but given their increase elsewhere, the imm. seen at ML 11/6 (m.ob.) is not surprising. Waterfowl were in good numbers until freeze-up.

Highlights included 4 **Canvasback** and 1 **White-winged Scoter** 11/6 (m.ob.) and 3 **Tundra Swan** and 4 **Hooded Merganser** 11/20 (P&VM), all at ML. Away from ML, the only reports were of a ♀ **Wood Duck** at Stoever's Dam 12/5 (RS) and 2 **Bufflehead** 11/13 at the small lake at Camp Bashore (FH,P&VM).

The hawk migration at SM is reported elsewhere.

A local chicken farm w. of Memorial L. puts out dead birds daily. During the CBC, 37 **Red-tailed Hawk** were found at or very near here (DB,JB,MC). The most interesting observation of a raptor during the quarter occurred in the city of Lebanon. On 10/27, Pat McElhenny was standing near his jeep in the parking lot of the post office. Both doors of the vehicle were open. A **Rock Dove** flew at top speed through both doors, closely pursued by a **Peregrine Falcon!** The Peregrine did not fly through and the pigeon escaped.

Missed in the last report was the sighting of an imm. **N. Goshawk** near Lickdale 9/14,22,25 (PM). A **Ruffed Grouse** was heard drumming at Mt. Gretna 10/2 (SS). An **Am. Woodcock** was found 11/20 near Lickdale (P&VM). During construction of a new boat launch area at ML, the water was drawn down for about two weeks. Seven **Pectoral Sandpiper** were seen here 10/23 (PM). **Ring-billed Gull** are common in the county, but 800-1000 at ML 12/5 was a very high count.

This was a fairly dull quarter for small landbirds. The **Carolina Wren** has apparently recovered to the peak levels seen in the early to mid-70's; 12 were found on the CBC, an all-time high. The last **Swainson's Thrush** was slightly late, seen 10/2 at Mt. Gretna (SS). A **Rufous-sided Towhee** on the CBC (KL) was the 1st since 1981. **Am. Tree Sparrow** and **Dark-eyed Junco** were in very good numbers this season; 104 and 702, respectively on the CBC, both all-time highs. A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was found at SM 10/7 (MC,A&SW). There were no winter finches reported, not even **Purple Finch**.

OBSERVERS: Dick Boshart, Jan Buckingham, Morris Cox, Fred Habegger, Ken Light, Pat and Val McElhenny, **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Richard Shott, Ann & Scott Welsh.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK),

This quarter was not especially noteworthy. The hawk flight was dull, especially in comparison to the record-setting one of last year, and winter finches were practically nonexistent. The Allentown CBC, held on 12/17, totaled 72 species, about average. Frozen water kept waterfowl numbers down. Birds seen in record high numbers on the CBC include: **E. Screech-Owl, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, N. Cardinal, Song and White-crowned sparrows, and House Finch. Ring-necked Pheasant** were practically nonexistent.

The usual number of **Common Loon** were seen from the hawk lookouts. A **Snow Goose** was seen in a quarry near Ironton 11/2 (PZ). Ten **N. Shoveler** and 1 **Gadwall** were at Jordan Springs 11/11 (RW), and 8 **Bufflehead** were at Leaser L. 11/18 (BLM). Four **N. Pintail** and a **Common Merganser** at the Fogelsville Quarry on the CBC were unusual (FB).

Black Vulture were seen at BOK all season, and away from the hawk ridges from mid-Oct. through late-Nov. at Henningsville (PSS). On 10/15 at BOK, 17 **Turkey Vulture**, 4 **Golden Eagle**, 374 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 16 **Cooper's Hawk**, 3 **Merlin**, and 7 **N. Harrier** were seen (FB,BLM).

Merlin were seen in Emmaus 9/29 and 10/1 (JH), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at BOK 10/2 (BLM). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen circling over Coopersburg in late Dec. (DR). An **Am. Woodcock** was present through Nov. near Henningsville (P&SS). A **Least Sandpiper**, the 1st winter record, was carefully identified at Dorney Park's back pond on the CBC, and remained until 12/20 (BT,m.ob.). About 50 **Ring-billed Gull** were at L. Muhlenberg in early Dec. (BLM). A dead **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found near Ranger L. on the early date of 10/10 (DW), and another was also found dead about a mile away near Schnecksville 12/8 (RW).

At least three **albino Red-tailed Hawks** were at BOK; the first was an ad. with an all white back and a red tail 10/15 (FB,BLM), the second 10/17 (PZ), and the third was a completely white bird with wide pointed wings, a very large head, faint black speckling and black wing-tips (originally thought to be a white Gyrfalcon) seen 11/12 (FB,BLM,DK,m.ob.). This is an unprecedented number; normally 1 albino is seen every 5-10 years at this location. Another albino Red-tail was seen 12/11 near Macungie (GLF).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near Stines Corner 12/29 (AL). A very late **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at South Mt. in Emmaus 10/1 (JH). A record late **Chimney Swift** was seen at BOK 11/2 (RB,FB). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen in Emmaus 10/1 (JH), and a **Swainson's Thrush** was netted and banded at Jordan Pkwy on the late date 10/22 (MAT). Only a single **Hermit Thrush** was found on the CBC. A **N. Oriole** seen on the CBC was the 2nd count record (BT). The only reports of **Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, or Evening Grosbeak** were of single birds on the CBC. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen near Macungie 10/5, and 9 **White-crowned Sparrow** were also there 10/21 (RW).

OBSERVERS: Ray Barnes, Fritz Brock, Gary L. Freed, Jason Horn, Ann Lessel, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Duane Ray, Peter & Sandy Saenger, Barrett Transue, Mary Ann Tretter, Doug Wiltraut, Rick Wiltraut, Peter Zakrewski.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Locations: Council Cup (CC), Harveys L. (HL), Kirby Park (KP), N. Branch Susquehanna R. (NBSR), Susquehanna Riverlands (SR), Wapwallopen (WAP), Winter Bird Count (WBC).

Please refer to the *Bradford* report for introductory remarks.

Among the 50 species seen on the Dallas CBC held 12/17 were: 1 **Common Loon** at L. Silkworth (EJ *et al.*); 2 **Greater Scaup** at HL; 7 **Hooded Merganser**; 1 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**; 6 **E. Bluebird**; and 1 **Evening Grosbeak**.

Two **Common Loon** were at HL 10/21 and a **Horned Grebe** was there 12/31 (WR). A ♂ **Gadwall** was present at HL 10/24-28 and an **Am. Wigeon** was at the same location 12/31 (WR). Two **Redhead** were at HL 11/24-25 (G&DM,JS *et al.*). Three **Oldsquaw** were at Sylvan L. 11/24 (JS) and 1 was at HL 11/25 (JS,LG). The only **Red-breasted Merganser** reported was 1 at HL 11/24 (JS) and the only **Ruddy Duck** reported was at HL 10/28 (WR). Waterfowl migration was quite low in the WAP area. With the exception of **Canada Goose**, the winter waterfowl populations seemed low as well (DG).

At least 3 and perhaps 4 **Bald Eagle** were seen in the WAP/Beach Haven area 10/6-11. Three ♂ eagles were first sighted on the NBSR across from SR (RD,JF,JM,TS) and later identified by DG. In different combinations these birds were seen between Shickshinny and WAP until 10/11, when 2 were seen near WAP (H&DM). One of these eagles (a "white-bellied II" plumage) was conspicuously larger than the other two. A possible 4th **Bald Eagle** was sighted high over CC 10/10 (ND). Raptor migration at CC in Oct. and Nov. was fairly slow, with Red-tails predominating (ND). **Great Horned Owl** were conspicuous in SR in Dec. (DG).

The **Am. Coot** population at HL, which was 21 on 10/5, grew to 80 by 11/18, but was down to 67 by 12/17. There was a **White-rumped Sandpiper** in a flock of 10 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at KP 10/7 (WR). There were several reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** lingering into Nov. There were very few **Ring-billed Gull** reported and no **Herring Gull**.

A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and a late **E. Wood-Pewee** were observed at KP 10/7 (WR) and the former species, locally uncommon, were seen at feeders in SR on a regular basis in 1988 (JF,DG). A **Horned Lark** flock was spotted near Nescopeck 10/17 (ND). **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** populations were conspicuously low in two forest WBC plots near SR and WAP (DG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in Dallas daily in Nov. and Dec. (EJ). **Winter Wren** were fairly common in laurel and bramble on CC in Oct., while **Carolina Wren** were noticed in more areas away from the river than past years (DG). **E. Bluebirds** were especially

common this quarter in SR and near WAP (JF,DG), with 30 spotted in one backyard near WAP 12/25 (JR). **Am. Tree Sparrow** was conspicuously rare in Dec. (DG). Two **Lincoln's Sparrow** were observed at KP 10/7 (WR). Several flocks of **Purple Finch** were at Dallas in mid-Nov. (EJ), otherwise NO winter finches!

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, Robert Dinklerlacker, John Fridman, Len Groschek, Doug Gross, Edwin Johnson, Hugh & Diana McFadden, James Montgomery, George & Dave Mozurkewich, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, John Rockovich, Jim Shoemaker, Terry Soya.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Stanley Stahl

Locations: Montoursville (MTV), Rose Valley L. (RVL).

The Williamsport CBC, held 12/18, hosted 1 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 8 **Bufflehead**, 1 **Hooded Merganser**, and 1 **Ring-billed Gull** (PGS). Four **Common Loon** were seen with some waterfowl at RVL 11/13. The waterfowl were **Ring-necked Duck**, **Canvasback**, **Bufflehead**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser**. A **N. Harrier** was also along the lake. About 30 **Ring-billed** and 1 **Bonaparte's** gull were at the lake 11/18. On that date also were a pair of **Green-winged Teal**, 4 **Common Goldeneye**, and about 40 **Bufflehead**. The following day 3 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Ruddy Duck**, 2 **Hooded** and 4 **Common Merganser** were present (PGS).

A **Common Snipe** rested along a small cove at the mouth of the Loyalsock Cr. 11/18. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen around MTV in Oct. and early Nov., and **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were in MTV and Picture Rocks throughout the period, plus 1 of the latter in Jersey Shore 12/13 (PGS). A **Merlin** was in MTV as late as 10/5, but not seen later. A road-killed **E. Screech-Owl** was found on I-180 in MTV 11/7.

Warblers were in Indian Park, MTV, as late as 10/5, when 2 **Tennessee**, 1 **Cape May**, 20 **Yellow-rumped**, and 1 **Blackpoll** were seen. Northern finches were rare, but Egli saw **Purple Finch** at his feeder in Picture Rocks in Nov., and Bigger caught an **Evening Grosbeak** that had been banded in e. Texas two years earlier.

OBSERVERS: Walt Bigger, Wes Egli, Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, **Stanley C. Stahl, 610 Chestnut St., Montoursville 17754 (717-368-1194)**.

MC KEAN COUNTY

Leif Anderson

Location: Allegheny Nat. Forest (ANF).

Not much bird activity over the quarter. The only items of interest follow. Two flocks of **Canada Geese**, numbering about 40 per flock, went over the ANF 11/17. The mystery "white hawk" continued to be seen off and on around Westline since Nov. This bird has been seen off and on for four years now. Originally it was thought to be a Gyrfalcon, but unconfirmed reports of it being around in the summer make this highly unlikely. Eventually an attempt will have to be made to capture the bird and find out exactly what it is.

A **Barred Owl** was seen prowling around during the day on 12/21. An **Am. Woodcock** was at Tracy Ridge Campground 11/1. Two **Carolina Wren** were at a feeder in Kane 11/12, but left within the week. Single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and 2 **Rufous-sided Towhee** were observed 10/18. A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was noted at a feeder in Kane 11/12. A flock of 12 **Evening Grosbeak** were seen 11/1+. From this date on only scattered flocks have been seen in the woods feeding on birch catkins. No flocks had appeared at feeders before the end of the quarter.

OBSERVER: **Leif Anderson, 48 Birch St., Kane, 16735 (home, 814-837-6596; work, 362-4613)**.

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Locations: Hermitage Area (HA), Saguallas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR).

All sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Five **Pied-billed Grebe**, 6 **Ruddy Duck**, 1 ♂ and 3 ♀ **Green-winged Teal**, and 100 **Ring-necked Duck** were observed at SP 10/30

(BD). Two **Tundra Swan** at the same site 11/6 (BD). Eighteen **Wood Duck** were at SRR 10/7.

An **Am. Woodcock** was seen at HA 10/29. The **Am. Kestrel** seems in normal numbers county-wide. The 2 **Great Horned Owlets** that fledged last summer at HA remained on their parents' territory until at least 10/29. Two **E. Screech-Owl** were at different locations in HA: the first herd 10/29 and then irregularly until end of the period; the other (a gray-phase) irregularly roosted in a Wood Duck box from 11/23+.

Six **Horned Lark** were at SP 10/30 (BD). At HA on 10/15, a warm sunny afternoon, 75 migrating **Chimney Swift** were observed. **Winter Wren** were unusually common throughout Oct., and both **kinglets** were in good numbers the first 10 days of Oct.

Six **E. Bluebird** were seen daily at HA around a field containing a nest box, from which 4 probably fledged as the second brood, from 10/1-24. Could they have been roosting together at night as a family in the box? Six **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were at SRR 10/7. **Dark-eyed Junco** began arriving 10/15, while 35 **White-throated Sparrow** were at SRR 10/7. Neither **Pine Siskin** nor **Evening Grosbeak** was reported this quarter.

OBSERVERS: Barb Dean, **Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476)**.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepp

Autumn crept quietly and normally into our area and migration seemed normal also.

Am. Robin seemed to have headed south by mid-Oct. Usually several small flocks winter over each year in this area.

22 October. An imm. **Bald Eagle** flew through the valley, seemingly following the river. Small flocks of **E. Bluebird** are frequently seen in the brush on the stream bank. Insects are seen flying about each moderate day and rose hips are very abundant, as well as honeysuckle and other berries. The **Great Blue Heron** still frequents the small stream and also is seen near the River Bridge at McVeytown. A small private fish pond is also a dining spot for the heron and it is not exactly welcome there.

28 Oct. **Canada Geese** and **Tundra Swan** stopped to rest and refresh on the Juniata R. near McVeytown. They visited several corn fields nearby. October and early November migrating flocks were as usual, however, on 12/22-23, at 3 a.m., several large and very noisy flocks were heard flying S. Flocks were also observed during daylight hours crossing over the valley. The weather was very cold.

3 Nov. A **Snowy Egret** and 1 **Canada Goose** were observed near McVeytown in the company of **Am. Black Duck** and **Mallards**.

10 Nov. Two **Carolina Wren** were discovered in the carport, sleeping each night in an opened bag of peat moss. They have been seen every night since. Since early November, 1 **Brown Creeper** scans the trunk of the linden tree and occasionally mingles with other feeder birds on the ground.

24 Nov. 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** observed. Usually one visits us each spring and fall. From mid-Nov. on at Esh's Orchard near Siglerville, an albino bird began to feed several times a day. It was identified by LW, MM, and MK after several visits. It was very shy for the first few visits, then later came with the juncos, chickadees, goldfinches, and nuthatches. It was identified as an albino **Dark-eyed Junco**. It is very beautiful.

Several flocks of **Wild Turkey** have been observed since hunting season and are coming to bird feeding stations locally to glean the corn placed there for the doves and other ground feeding birds. An unusual note was of six deer which appeared at dusk to feed on the corn. They ate the loose kernels rather than the whole ears.

Normal numbers of **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's** and **Red-tailed** hawks, as well as **Am. Kestrel** were observed this quarter. **N. Cardinal** and **Dark-eyed Junco** numbers were up. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** have been seen at suet feeders and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a Lewistown feeder in early December (CG). Neither **Pine Siskin** nor **Evening Grosbeak** had been seen by quarter's end; by this time last year, dozens of the former had been seen. Our local rehabilitators report they have had very few injured animal referrals this fall. They have treated 2 **Great Blue Heron** for broken legs (CCG).

OBSERVERS: Anna Esh, Chris & Charles Gisewhite, **Margaret Kenepp, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252)**, Marilyn Miller, Linda Whitesel.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal G. Thorpe

Locations: Barnes Arboretum (BA), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Fort Washington SP (FWSP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge Nat. Historic Park (VFNP).

It was a beautiful, mild fall, mostly sunny, with strong northwest winds in Oct. to bring on migrants. Several observers, however, noted the scarcity of robins, waxwings, sparrows, and goldfinch and the total absence of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Pine Siskin**. The Valley Forge CBC was held 12/31.

Four **Red-throated Loon** were at FWSP 10/12 and 2 on 10/23, the latter with 3 **Common Loon**; also 60 **Tundra Swan** were there 11/14 (W&NM). **Double-crested Cormorant** and **Snow Goose** numbers were down at GLR, with only one sighting of each, the single cormorant 11/6 (GLF) and the lone Snow Goose flying in with **Canada Geese** 12/11 (NT). **Wood Duck** continued to do well at UPVP, with a max. of 40 there 10/2 (GLF). Dabbling ducks seemed in customary numbers. **Ring-necked Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Common Merganser** were either low in numbers or late in all waters, but **Bufflehead** were abundant. A single **Canvasback** was at VFNP 12/17 (RG). At GLR an early **Oldsquaw** turned up 11/12, 2 on 12/11 and a rare **Red-breasted Merganser** was present 10/30 (GLF). Two **Greater Scaup** were in a pond just e. of Evansburg SP 12/31 (CG); but 47 **Lesser Scaup** at GLR 10/26 was a good count (RW). **Hooded Merganser** were in good numbers at UPVP from 11/21+, with a max. of 20 by 12/11.

The newly organized Militia Hill hawk watch report is elsewhere in this issue. Elsewhere, an ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 11/25 at UPVP, where they have been scarce in recent years (GAF), and an imm. **Golden Eagle** was at VFNP 10/8 (RG).

Merlin reports are particularly interesting. The FWSP sightings were in October. JH reports from Hatboro that on 12/28 he found a Merlin perched in a tree bordering the soccer field of Pennypack Elem. School, just across Pennypack Cr. from his house. This was exactly the same date on which he saw a Merlin on the same perch in 1987. That Merlin intermittently visited the soccer field through March '88. The current Merlin was back again 12/31. The bird(s) of both years stays put for as long as an hour, occasionally flying to and from several perches, and seems undisturbed by the approach of a human with binoculars. He is most often found in the afternoons. And also on 12/31 Dan Brauning, doing the Valley Forge CBC, saw a Merlin over Norristown. Could the same bird be haunting the PA Tpk corridor between Hatboro and Norristown? What JH calls his birding "turf" around the school and creek seems to attract other good birds as well. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** took a Starling near his feeder 12/9, a **Great Horned Owl** was both heard and seen 12/23, an **Am. Woodcock** came through 10/28, and a **Winter Wren** 10/30.

A very late **Osprey** was at GLR 11/13 (KC). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at BA 11/15 and 1 at GLR 11/24-26. A **N. Goshawk** was at GLR 11/24 (GAF). GLF counted 30 **Ring-necked Pheasant** at GLR 11/25, commenting, "One last stronghold!" Shorebird reports were all from GLR: A very late **Semipalmated Plover** 10/29-30 (GLF,KC); two different **Hudsonian Godwit**, 1 on 10/8-9 (GAF, GLF) and 1 on 11/5-6 (m.ob) for only the 3rd and 4th records; 2 juv. **White-rumped Sandpiper** 10/15 and 2 late 11/4-7 (m.ob.); a good count of 18 **Pectoral Sandpiper** seen 11/6 (RW) and 7 still there 11/16 (RW); 1 lingering **Dunlin** 11/17 (KC); a late **Stilt Sandpiper** 10/25 (RW,KC).

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at GLR 10/12 (RW,ph.); at one point it swam to within 3 ft of the observer. Two **Bonaparte's Gull** were there 12/11 (NT). W&NM were surprised to see a **Great Black-backed Gull** at FWSP 11/6 in view of the absence of water there. A **Common Barn-Owl** was seen in the Red Hill area 12/7 (GAF), and the **Barred Owl** at VFNP, reported in March as a 1st record for the park, obliged the CBC 12/31 (RG). **Chimney Swift** were still being seen in the area as late as 10/19 (DT). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was found in the upper UCV 12/18 (GLF), where 4 pair bred this summer (WNM).



Red-necked Phalarope, Green Lane Res., 10/12/88. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

Quite a few remarkably late birds were seen in the quarter, probably because of the mild weather. The CBC turned up three: 1 **E. Phoebe**, a **House Wren**, and a **Brown Thrasher**, all in VFNP 12/31. At GLR another House Wren was seen 11/25 and a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 11/13 (GLF). **Winter Wren** were in good number: as well as JH's in Hatboro 1-2 were reported from GLR, BA, the river at MC, VFNP, and Perkiomenville, with dates from 10/7 to 12/21. An early **Water Pipit** was at GLR 10/1 (RW) and last seen 11/13 (GLF). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was at BA "among some of the last of the green leaves" 10/27 (RK), a **Nashville Warbler** was near Lansdale 11/16 (RG), while DT watched 4 **Black-throated Blue** gorging on aurelia berries for half an hour at FWSP 10/11, and a **Black-throated Green** was seen in JH's remarkable Hatboro schoolyard 10/14.

The max. 20 **Savannah Sparrow** at GLR were low (GAF). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at GLR 10/9 (GAF), plus 1 along the river near MC 11/7 (NT). DT writes, "At my feeder I have only an occasional single **White-throated Sparrow**." Ten to 15 **Bobolink** were at GLR 10/1 (RW). High count of **Rusty Blackbird** was 30 at GLR 10/15 (RW). Winter finches were nonexistent.

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Jeffrey Herbst, Rudy Keller, Bernie L. Morris, William & Naomi Murphy, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453, Dale Twining.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

The 12/18 Bloomsburg CBC included **Mute Swan**, 685 **Canada Geese**, 2 **Snow Geese** (1 of each phase), 945 **Mallard**, 687 **Am. Black Duck**, 1 Mallard x Black hybrid, 2 **Am. Wigeon**, and 2 **N. Pintail** at Montour Preserve and the PP&L ash basin (DU). Earlier, on 11/26, 5 **Gadwall** were found at Montour Preserve. **Barred Owl** were reported near Chillisquaque Cr. in Nov. (DC).

OBSERVERS: Dave Conrad, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Dave Unger.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Locations: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO) for all raptors. The Wild Creek-Little Gap CBC was held 12/18.

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS. An early flock of 75 **Snow Geese** was observed flying over Williams Twp near Easton 10/4 (AK) and 225 **Brant** (an incredible number for PA.-EDS.) were counted flying past the LGBO 10/29 (SB).

Four **Black Vulture** at LGBO 10/9 was good for that spot (RW,GY). It was a disappointing year for the **Sharp-shinned Hawk**; the best day was 145 on 10/11 (SB)! Nineteen **Cooper's Hawk** were seen 10/13 (SB), but **N. Goshawk** were again down in numbers, with a peak of only 3 at LGBO 10/30 (GY). Boyce counted 333 **Red-tailed Hawk** 11/17 and Yoder had a light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** 10/21. A good count of 3 **Golden Eagle** was noted on the early date 10/7

(SB), and an ad. Golden and an ad. **Bald Eagle** were observed flying *side-by-side* 11/17 (SB)! Another ad. Bald was also seen that day (SB). Other Golden were observed 10/28, 11/8, 11/23 and 11/26 (SB,GY). On 10/27, a dark imm. Bald Eagle was seen with a yellow patagial marker on its right wing (SB). Any information on the possible origin of this bird would be greatly appreciated. **Am. Kestrel** seemed up in numbers during Dec. in a study area in the n. part of the county (SB). Two **Merlin** were seen 10/5 (BS,RW) and 2 also on 10/11 (SB). A rather late Merlin was seen 10/30 (GY). An imm. **Peregrine Falcon** was observed harassing a Cooper's Hawk 10/5 (BS,RW,ph.) and 1 other seen 10/11 (SB). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was discovered in a pine wood near Copella 12/18 (DD).

WOODPECKERS TO FINCHES. An ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at LGBO 10/27 and another ad. was seen feeding in a field near Bath 12/6 (SB). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was near Klecknersville 12/18 (PI,LM). A record **445 Horned Lark** was noted 12/18 near Scenic Rd. (BS,DD) and **Common Raven** were noted at LGBO 10/20, 10/27, and 11/15 (SB). Two **Winter Wren** were seen at LGBO 10/3 in an area along the trail where they are regular every Oct. The birds seem to be attracted to large rockpiles (RW). Another Winter Wren was seen 12/18 near SGL #168 (PZ). A **Hermit Thrush** was found in a pine woods near Copella 12/18 (DD). Thirty **Water Pipit** were seen at Newburg 10/25 (RW). A flock of about 100 **Snow Bunting** at Graver's Hill 12/13 were the only ones reported (SB,BS). Northern finch reports were absolutely nil!!

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Polly Ivenz, Arlene Koch, Lisa Mattioli, Brad Silfies, **Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632)**, Gordon Yoder, Pete Zakrewski.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Locations: Montandon Marsh (MM), Rush Twp (RT), Susquehanna R.

All sightings were by the compiler unless otherwise noted. Also, any sightings included from the Lewisburg Christmas Bird Count (LCBC) held on 12/18 refer to the small area of the count in *Northumberland* near MM.

Great Blue Heron were present along the river near Riverside until the bitter cold weather in early Dec., but no report of any egret species was received. The only waterfowl reports were from the LCBC: 6 **Common Goldeneye** and 10 **Common Merganser** on the river below Winfield (SA) and 21 **Am. Black Duck** at MM (RN).

There is no major hawk migration through this area that I know of, but 6 **Turkey Vulture** 10/16 in RT was an unusual sight. **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel** were common locally in RT throughout the quarter and the LCBC sighted 4 of each around MM (RN). **N. Harrier** were also fairly common in Oct. in RT with several sightings for the month. A ♂ **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** has been a regular late quarter visitor to our feeders and a single **Cooper's Hawk** was seen on the LCBC (RN).

Killdeer were present at a large parking lot near Riverside until early Nov., with a high of 5 present 11/5. **Ring-billed Gull** were irregular visitors along the river, with a late 5 sighted 12/28. Several sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** (m.ob.) indicate they are holding their own, but there was no report of **Ring-necked Pheasant**. **Great Horned Owl** started calling in RT in late Nov. and the LCBC recorded 5, along with a **Barred Owl** at MM (RN). **E. Screech Owl** remain common in woodlots in RT, both red and grey color phases were observed hunting near our home.

Both **Downy** and **Red-Bellied** woodpecker numbers seem to be increasing in our area, the LCBC recorded 17 and 4 (RN). A single **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 12/31 along the river s. of Lewisburg (AS). **Blue Jay** vanished from RT after mid-Nov., which is unusual, and the LCBC had only 4 (RN). **Tufted Titmouse** numbers seem to be increasing not only in RT but in nearby Twps. and Cos. as well (m. ob.); normally we seen 5 or 6 at a time where this past quarter as many as 14 were seen at once.

Carolina Wren, however, remain scarce in RT with only 1 seen 11/8, but populations at lower elevations seem to be doing well; the LCBC recorded 4. Both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned** kinglets were present in good numbers during their fall migration through RT until late Oct., no late reports of Ruby-crowned, but the LCBC recorded 16 Golden-crowned 12/18. **E. Bluebird** continue their steady increase and were common in RT throughout the quarter. In

RT the last flock of 27 **Am. Robin** was seen 11/4 and the last **Wood Thrush** 10/7, also 2 very late **Swainson's Thrush** were seen 10/19. The fall warbler migration was very lackluster in RT with the last observed flights 10/14-17, when **Black-throated Blue**, **Cape May**, **Myrtle** and **Palm** warblers were seen.

N. Cardinal remain a common resident and the LCBC got 34 in their small *Northumberland* area. The first **White-throated Sparrow** flock appeared in RT 10/8, the LCBC recorded 10 near MM, but they remain very dispersed due to our snow free winter so far. **Am. Tree Sparrow** also seemed hard to find this winter with the LCBC getting only 32. **House Finch** were common nearly everywhere, but **Purple Finch** were noticeably absent with only two sightings in RT, 11/6 and 12/29. **Dark-eyed Junco** was the most common wintering species and **Evening Grosbeak** was nonexistent with no sighting. The blackbird roost in Riverside continued to grow from the last quarter and would split into three or four large foraging flocks every day. It was composed mainly of **Common Grackle** and **Eur. Starling**, with some **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and was estimated to contain over 300,000 birds. The roost was dispersed by late Oct.

OBSERVERS: Steve Anderson, Richard Nickelson, Allan Schweinsberg, Linda and **David L. Unger, RD 6, Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254)**.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Edward Fingerhood

Locations: Bartram's Gardens (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Morris Arboretum (MA), Pennypack Park (PP), Tinicum Nat. Environ. Center (TNEC).

The fall weather was a bit milder than normal for the area and except for a sudden freeze and quick thaw in mid-Dec., no noteworthy weather patterns developed. No snow fell during the period, thus fields and woods were open for foraging birds.

CORMORANTS TO RAPTORS. **Great Cormorant**, now "thought to be regular in winter on the stretch of [Delaware] river" at the foot of Pennypack Ave., were reported 11/12 and 4 on 11/25 (FW). JCM found ±250 **Wood Duck** at TNEC 10/8, a good showing. More than a month later, 11/10, 110 **Canvasback** and 21+ **Bufflehead** were at the refuge (JCM). **Lesser Scaup** numbered 32 on the Schuylkill R. 12/10 opposite BG and a raft of **Ruddy Duck** there grew from 22 on 11/10 to 32 on 12/10, but dwindled to 8 by Christmas Day.

Cooper's Hawk were reported twice, first in CW 10/21 (MD) and 12/17 at a n.e. Phila. feeder (FW). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at TNEC 10/27 (JCM), while at least 3 resident **Red-tailed Hawk** occupied various Fairmount Park locations (EF). An ad. ♂ **Peregrine Falcon** was at TNEC 12/6-7 (JCM), perhaps being 1 of the Schuylkill R. bridge resident pair. These were only reported 10/8 and 10/13 at the bridge (EF).

While we were watching the hapless Phillies lose the last game of a forgettable season, Sandra Sherman described to me the flight of 2 soaring **Black Vulture** back on 10/4/81 over Veteran's Stadium, in a happier time for the Phillies. This mid-afternoon flight constitutes, as far as I know, the *only* county record of this species. EDF.

RAILS TO FINCHES. A **Virginia Rail** was found at TNEC 10/8 (JCM). **Am. Coot** were in good numbers 11/18, when 70+ were at TNEC (JCM). An unusual flight of 7 **Killdeer** flew over CW 10/7 (SL) and 2 were in the BG meadow 10/10 (EF). Four **Stilt Sandpiper** lingered at TNEC until 10/8 (JCM). Infrequent, but reassuring sightings of the CW **E. Screech-Owl** were reported 10/27 and 11/10 (EB). Late migratory **Common Nighthawk** were found in small numbers over CW 10/2-5 (SL,MD). **Chimney Swift** were characteristically still swarming in early Oct., 31 over CW 10/2 (SL), while others hung on until 10/18 on City Line Ave. (MD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were first reported from two Phila. location 10/1, CW and the NE, 2 at each site (SL,FW), while the last for the period was 12/16 in CW (SL). The season and year ended well for SL when on 12/29 he found a **Pileated Woodpecker** near CW. FW reports that the nesting pair in PP regrettably seem to have moved on; The ♂ was last seen in the

spring.

An **E. Phoebe** was in CW 10/6 (MD). **Brown Creeper** were reported in more than usual numbers from a variety of locations. Surely the most startling record comes from C. Walters, who, upon looking outside the 15th story window of his downtown Phila. office 10/20, found a Brown Creeper busily searching crevices for food. Several late **House Wren** reports include those found at Ft. Mifflin 11/10,12,15 and a very late lingerer at TNEC 12/17 (JCM). Two **Winter Wren** were found by SL 10/2 and 1 each 12/3,10,17 in CW. A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at TNEC 10/29 (SC). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were in CW 10/9 and 10/17 (MD) as well as in MA and 5 in BG 10/10 (EF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were in CW 10/4 and 10/9 (MD) and 4 at BG 10/10 (EF).

An **E. Bluebird**, always unusual in the city, was seen 10/29 at TNEC (SC). No less than 5(!) were found there 11/18 (JCM). FW reports 3 at Fox Chase Farm 11/24 and an unsuccessful nesting for that location in the spring of 1987. A **Swainson's Thrush** in CW was noted 10/4 and the first seasonal **Hermit Thrush** the next day (MD). S. Lipschutz reported this species 10/20 as a new "backyard" bird for the Art Museum area. SL's "latest ever" **Wood Thrush** for CW was 10/15. A good flock of 62 **Am. Robin** were in CW 12/26 and that same day, same area, 60 **Cedar Waxwing** were found (SL).

Solitary Vireo in CW 10/5-6 were joined by **Red-eyed Vireo** 10/6 (MD). FW continued his PP warbler migration study this season and reports among his highlights a **Tennessee** 10/19, **N. Parula** 10/15, and late **Black-throated Blue** 10/19. This latter species was seen from 10/4 (SL) to 10/10 (MD) in CW. **Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle")** were found at TNEC 10/8 (JCM) and 10/17 (MD). Modest numbers of this bird were noted from widely separated areas and habitats 10/10 when 3 were at MA and 5 at BG (EF). A late **Blackpoll** was found at PP 10/15 (FW) and an equally late **Common Yellowthroat** showed up at TNEC 12/17 (JCM).

A **Savannah Sparrow** was identified at MA 10/10 (EF) and a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*nelsoni*) was banded at TNEC 10/17 (JCM). SL remarks that an imm. **White-crowned Sparrow** found at CW 10/4 was only his "second in 30 years" there. Numbers of **Dark-eyed Junco** seemed "down." The earliest report was 10/6 at CW (MD); the highest count for that location or any in *Philadelphia* was 9 on 12/26 (SL). An impressive flight of 100+ **Rusty Blackbird** came through TNEC 10/8 (JCM). But **Am. Goldfinch** were "scarce" (FW); SL reports a steady decline in three years of CW CBCs in the 3rd week of Dec.; he found 18 in 1985, zero in 1988.

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Skip Conant, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Steve Lawrence, John C. Miller, Frank Windfelder.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Tom Clauser

Only two reports were received this quarter. All were essentially hawk related. The MacClays' hawk watch report is included in the separate section. Interspersed in their report are some rather interesting sightings during the quarter which are included below. They are located on Rt. 183 on the Schuylkill/Berks line. As is typical with hawk reports, not all non-hawks were noted on the summaries as to date, although the hawk reports are meticulously detailed.

The best count for **Common Loon** was 58 on 10/23 with a season total 160. Seen also were 15 **Double-crested Cormorant** in three flocks. No **Tundra Swan** was seen, but 1 **Snow Goose** was seen and 8402 (in 125 flocks) **Canada Geese** were counted. A total of 36 ducks were seen, including 28 **Common Merganser**. A dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in the valley before any were reported on the ridge. The best sighting was of 2 **Lesser Golden-Plover**. They had 29 sightings of **Common Raven**, with a high of 7 on 10/11. A young **Dickcissel** was observed all day 10/2. One **Snow Bunting** was seen. Not a single **Pine Siskin** or **Evening Grosbeak** was seen.

A male coyote, which unfortunately showed during "buck" season was found shot on the lookout. BAM

The Weidensauls submitted the following two reports. 16 October. From our porch we watched an imm. **Cooper's Hawk** (probably female, based on size), unsuccessfully attack 2 **Ring-necked Pheasant** cocks. The pheasants rocketed across an open field and a back road, diving into the brushy shores of a tiny creek. A moment later the hawk appeared from a different angle, moving low and fast. Directly above the spot where one of the pheasants disappeared, the hawk pulled up, stalled and dropped talons first.

Perhaps 30 seconds passed before the Cooper's sprang into the air empty-handed. It flapped once and dropped again, this time 15 or 20 ft from the site of the original attack. Again, the hawk vanished for a few moments, then repeated the maneuver a third time. It seemed as though the hawk was trying to flush the pheasants from the dense cover, but without success. Eventually, the Coopers flew off - and a short while later, the 2 pheasants could be seen moving away through the brush, stopping to cackle every so often.

At least 3 imm. Cooper's Hawk were in the area from August through December, suggesting a local nesting. A week before the pheasant incident, 1 of the hawks rose out of a neighbor's pasture carrying a Muscovy duckling in its talons.

24 December. An ad. male dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** in Wayne Twp near Friedensburg continued through the end of the reporting period. The hawk started each morning by perching at the very top of the same hickory tree, in the middle of a large pasture. After two hours or so, it would flap off, always in the same easterly direction. Sex and age according to Clark; clearly visible at rest was the small, light nape patch, and in flight, the tail with narrow black and white bands on the underside.

This area, between Summer Hill and Schuylkill Mt. in Wayne and Washington Twps, is traditionally good for Rough-legs, starting in January. During the winter of 1987-88, however, not a single Rough-leg was seen. Perhaps this early sighting means this winter will be better.

This is Tom's last report as compiler for *Schuylkill*. He is a most meticulous records' keeper, but now has the luxury of being able to travel and therefore is not spending the amount of time necessary in the county to do his typical excellent report. Fortunately, **Dan Knarr, RD 1, Box 23d, New Ringgold 17960 (717-386-4780)**, has agreed to carry on and welcomes your reports.

OBSERVERS: Tom Clauser, Bob & Anne MacClay, Jeanne & Scott Weidensaul.

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A **Common Snipe** was found on the 12/18 Lewisburg CBC (CS), probably the 1st Dec. county record. An excellent site for **Common Barn-Owl** was reported about 2 mi n.w. of Selingsgrove (JC). Also, **Barred Owl** were noted along Penns Cr. just n. of Selingsgrove (SR). Five **Lapland Longspur** were tallied for the CBC (CS).

OBSERVERS: John Clark, Steve Rhoads, Carl Shaffer, **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Locations: Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HVL), Jennerstown (JTN), L. Somerset (LS), Laurel Hill SP (LHSP), Laurel Rocks Pond (LRP), North Fork Dam (NFD), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Rockwell L (RL), Somerset Beaver Dan (SBD), Stoughton L. (SL).

Temperatures were on the cool side in October and precipitation below average. November was warmer and wetter than normal. Another open winter appeared to be on the way as December failed to produce any real winter weather punch except for some record low temps on the 12th, a light snow the 18th, and freezing rains, light snows and high winds at the end of the month. It was good weather for movement of birds and birders. We kept watch and tried to assess the effects of dwindling food supplies resulting from the summer's drought. A good county record was a **Cattle Egret** seen at JNT 11/10 (JL). All unassigned reports were by the compilers.

The Johnstown CBC, held 12/17, with its territory mostly in *Somerset*, proved that numbers of individual birds were well below average. Compared with five previous years, only **Mallard, Am. Kestrel, Red-bellied** and **Downy** woodpeckers, **Blue Jay**, and **E.**

Bluebird made any gains and they were very slight. Seventy species in Count week, however, was a record but received little help from wintering finch species. Lingering summer species, a **Hermit Thrush** near QD, an emaciated and injured **Wood Thrush** near NFD, a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** picking off flies at Sager's window near HVL, and 3 **Rusty Blackbird** at the Sager home and 2 near NFD, were 1st CBC records.

Throughout the period, there was a good variety of waterfowl in low numbers to be found somewhere. The good spots shifted from smaller bodies of water early in the quarter to larger ones in Dec. When the low temps hit 12/12, LS completely froze, giving up the role of the waterfowl hot spot to QD, which remained at least partially open and became the resting place for most migrants passing through. One **Canada Goose** with band #K075 was seen 10/10 (AM) and 100+ **Wood Duck** were found at the SBD roost 10/18 (AM).

The following selected account is of highs to point out the poor migration picture for waterbirds (AM,MEW,GRS,RM,DJ).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 13 | Common Loon | 18 | Pied-billed Grebe |
| 3 | Horned Grebe | 6 | Great Blue Heron |
| 80 | Tundra Swan | 2 | Mute Swan |
| 1 | Snow Goose | 113 | Canada Geese |
| 101 | Wood Duck | 10 | Green-winged Teal |
| 52 | Am. Black Duck | 926 | Mallard |
| 1 | N. Pintail | 15 | Blue-winged Teal |
| 2 | N. Shoveler | 6 | Gadwall |
| 8 | Am. Wigeon | 1 | Canvasback |
| 4 | Redhead | 16 | Ring-necked Duck |
| 24 | Lesser Scaup | 1 | White-winged Scoter |
| 4 | Common Goldeneye | 31 | Bufflehead |
| 81 | Hooded Merganser | 2 | Common Merganser |
| 17 | Red-breasted Merganser | 47 | Ruddy Duck |

One **Osprey** was at Confluence 10/9 (AM); scattered reports for **N. Harrier** in Oct. (AM,GRS); and 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** at HVL 11/3 (GRS). **Am. Coot**, in numbers of 1-20, were at LS 10/16 to 11/22 (AM,MEW) and 1-28 at QD 10/28 to 12/31 (GRS). A few **Killdeer** were at QD early in Oct.; a **Common Snipe** in Milford Twp. 10/7 (AM). As the fields were quickly stripped of grain after the poor harvest due to drought, the **Morning Dove** numbers dropped sharply during the quarter and by the CBC most were found at home feeders. Only **E. Phoebe** report was 1 at HVL 10/7. **Horned Lark** reports were of 25 at Markleton 12/10 (AM), 95 near Thomas Mills 12/17, and 120 near Scalp Level 12/17. One **Barn Swallow** was at LS 10/19; and 4 **Tree Swallow** there 10/26 4 on 10/29 observed eating gray dogwood berries (AM).

Effects of drought were very noticeable for **Am. Crow**, as leftover grain diminished and flocks of 300+ in fields in early Oct. dropped to <50 by mid-Dec. *Somerset* grain fields normally feed the crows in a Johnstown (*Cambria*) roost, where the CBC dropped to 798 from a five-year average of 10,480. One **House Wren** lingered until 10/2 at HVL.

A **Wood Thrush** was seen on the CBC, 12/17, with binoculars and then hand-held. When examined it was found to be emaciated and evidently injured since it was unable to fly. The nature of the injury was not immediately apparent. All CBC members were able to see it hand-held later and photographs were taken.

Evening flocks of migrating **Am. Robin** at HVL in the last half of Oct. had a high of 200 on 10/27 and small flocks were reported to the end of the quarter in various locations. A **Gray Catbird** was at HVL 10/21. The only **N. Mockingbird** reports were of 2 at HVL 10/1, 1 at New Centerville 10/19 (AM), and 1 at HPL 12/3 (AM). **Cedar Waxwing** were hard to find anytime and only one flock of 9 was on the CBC. **Eur. Starling** were observed in flocks of about 100 at HVL in late Nov. stripping berries from shrubs. Most were seen on the CBC in small flocks around barns.

A **Solitary Vireo** was at HVL 10/17. The sightings of warblers at HVL included: 1 **Tennessee** 10/2, 1 **Nashville** 10/17, 1 **Black-throated Blue** 10/3, and 2-5 **Yellow-rumped** from 10/1-18, plus 1 on 11/13 and 1 on 12/16. Two **Rufous-sided Towhee** remained at Thomas Mills until mid-Dec. (DR). **Am. Tree Sparrow**

arrived late, 12/9, at HVL, and as with all sparrows this quarter, were below average in numbers. Only **Chipping Sparrow** report was 1 at HVL 10/12. Twelve **Snow Bunting** were on unreclaimed surface mine 11/7 in Milford Twp (AM). All blackbirds were in low numbers and few were seen congregating in fields. Marich saw several hundred **Common Grackle** feeding on beech nuts at Markleton 10/31. Only a few **Purple Finch** were reported at HVL in Nov.-Dec; 1 **Pine Siskin** was there 12/3 and 3 on the CBC; **Am. Goldfinch** were low throughout the quarter and no **Evening Grosbeak** was reported.

OBSERVERS: Dan Jenkins, John Lehman, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Richard Mock, Dean Ross, **Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242)**, Michael & Evaleen Watko.

SULLIVAN

Doug Gross

There were very few reports sent in this quarter. If anyone birdwatches in *Sullivan*, please send your observations to the address listed below. They will be very much appreciated.

Ruffed Grouse were reported by some hunters, but seem to be only locally common. SC was surprised to hear one drumming near Lopez 10/3. **Wild Turkey** is recovering from low populations in the w. part of SGL #13 (near Nordmont) apparently caused by removal of birds from this traditional breeding ground to supply other parts of the state (DnG). On other parts of North Mt., **Wild Turkey** is quite common, especially where there is light hunting pressure on private lands (ND). **Common Raven** were conspicuous near Nordmont in early Dec. At least one pair are permanent residents in the w. end of SGL #13 (DnG,DG).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Nevin Dressler, Donald Gross (DnG), Douglas A. Gross (Ecology III, RD 1, Berwick 18603).

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Bill Reid

No special report.
County Compiler: **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**.

TIOGA COUNTY

Martha Copp

The CBC was held 12/17. Only 37 species were found, compared with 50 last year. Highlights included 1 **Great Blue Heron** (HR), 1 **Osprey** (RFC), 1 **Cooper's Hawk** (BR), and 5 ♂ **E. Bluebird**, the latter species near Hills Creek L. area .

Two **Tundra Swan** were at Nessmuk L. 11/1 (MC) and by mid-Nov. 30 **Mallard**, 4 **scaup sp.**, and 6 **Bufflehead** were found there. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Charleston 11/19 (BR).

A **Brown Creeper** was found near Charleston 11/19 (BR). Three **E. Bluebird** were found at Hills Creek L. 12/27 (DG) and 1 at Stony Fork area 12/31 (KM). One **White-throated Sparrow** was found in the Roundtop area in mid-Oct (MC). Very unusual was not being able to find any **Snow Bunting**, **Pine Siskin**, or **Evening Grosbeak**. Observers report very little feeder activity.

OBSERVERS: Ron & Flossie Comstock, **Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751)**, Don Garrison, Kathy Monks, Bob Ross, Howard Rushmore.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Eleven **Wood Duck** was a good number for the 12/18 Lewisburg CBC (RH). An imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** lingered from late Oct. through 11/8 in a populated area of Kelly Twp. Six **Common Snipe** were found on the CBC in a farm stream that harbors this species virtually every winter (AS,JS). The two **Eur. Jackdaw** survived to make another CBC (JP). A **Rufous-sided Towhee** was seen 12/16 and days following at the Pyle residence, making this the 3rd winter in recent years for this site (FP). Nine **Rusty Blackbird** were seen near

Mifflinburg 12/18 (RH).

OBSERVERS: Robert Holman, John & Evelyn Petery, Florence Pyle, **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**, Joanne Schweinsberg.

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Locations: Allegheny R. (AR), Kahle L. (KL), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Two-Mile Run L. (TMRL).

The quarter was highlighted as much by the absence of some species as by the presence of others. No **Evening Grosbeak**, **Pine Siskin**, or **Common Redpoll** was seen, but the number of **Rough-legged Hawk** reported was rather high.

A total of 178 species were identified for the year in *Venango*, with a high daily total of 102 during the Spring birdathon. This brought the total for 1987 and 1988 to 190.

The 23rd Pleasantville CBC, held 12/17, produced 40 species and 909 individuals, with just three observers in two parties and four feeder watchers (NK). Highlights were a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, a **Rufous-sided Towhee**, 2 **Swamp Sparrow**, and a **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco**. The junco had a distinctly visible brown back and black head. It was seen by both compilers for a brief time, but has not been relocated.

Common Loon were present at KL and TMRL from 11/4-21. A late **Horned Grebe** was at TMRL 12/23 and the only **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen there from 10/19-21. A total of 6 **Tundra Swan** were on the AR and TMRL 12/23-29. On 10/23, >320 **Canada Geese** were at a pond near Clintonville (KE). Other waterfowl sightings for the period were: 13 **Am. Black Duck** on the AR 12/23, an uncommon **Canvasback** at TMRL from 11/29 to 12/5, and the usual fall migrant species including **Ring-necked Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Common Merganser**.

Shorebirds reported were limited to **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. The last **Killdeer** sighting was 10/4. **Ring-billed Gull** were on the AR 12/5 and 12/17. **N. Harrier** reports were restricted to the KL area 11/4 and 12/29. **Rough-legged Hawk** reports were received each month.

A **N. Flicker** was at OCSP 12/11 and 12/18 (NK). Three **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were seen during the CBC (NK) and there were 4 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** records for the period. **Hairy** and **Downy** woodpecker reports were numerous. A late **E. Phoebe** was sighted 10/23 at KL. A flock of 75 **Horned Lark** 12/29 and 2 **Water Pipit** 10/23 were also at KL. **Brown Creeper** numbers were down with only 2 reported on the CBC (NK) and few other records. Likewise, **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned** kinglet reports were scattered. A late **Hermit Thrush** was seen at KL 11/4 and a flock of 300 **Cedar Waxwing** was reported 12/17.

Late **Red-winged Blackbird** reports were 12/11 at OCSP (NK) and 12/17 at Eagle Rock. Three **Rusty Blackbird** were at KL 12/29.

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

WARREN

Ted Grisez

Locations: Allegheny Res. (AR), Kinzua Dam (KD), Seneca Pumped Storage Res. (SPSR).

The Warren CBC was held 12/17. The 65 species seen was the 3rd highest and the 6320 individuals was a record.

Single **Common Loon** were on the AR 10/5 and the Conewango Cr. at Russell 10/30 (KC). **Tundra Swan** were still migrating most of Dec., with the 90 on count day being only the 3rd record. The 4 **Snow Geese** were only the 2nd count record. Twelve **Blue-winged Teal** were on the river e. of Warren 10/1 (DD). The 679 **Mallard** and 37 **Bufflehead** were new high counts. **Red-breasted Merganser** were found for the 5th consecutive year. A **Ruddy Duck** and 1 scapula *sp.* were at the SPSR 10/3 (BH,DD).

Bald Eagle reports remain encouraging. Monthly high counts were 3 in both Oct. and Nov. (v.o.). The 1 ad. on the CBC was only the 5th record. **Cooper's Hawk** set a new count record with 5 seen. First **Rough-legged Hawk** report was at Columbus 10/2 (CP).

An imm. **Golden Eagle** was observed 12/14 as it circled low over the river at KD, then higher and downstream before soaring over the hilltops and heading back up and across the reservoir (TG). We only know of four other records for *Warren*, all by Ralph Simpson. Three were in late Nov. and 12/5 and 12/18/1891; the other 4/1/10. Three of the four were along the river.

A **Killdeer** was at the mall in N. Warren 12/15 (MB). **Herring Gull**, 149 and **Rock Dove**, 229, also set new highs for the CBC. New records were set with 10 **N. Flicker** and 375 **Blue Jay**. A **Common Raven** was seen along the Scandia-Onoville Rd. 12/6, less than 2 mi from the state line (CN). This is a new location for them. The 2 found for the CBC were only the 3rd record. A **Carolina Wren** was singing at TG's feeder 10/27. One **E. Bluebird** was seen for only the 4th count record. One **N. Shrike** was found on SF Rd. 437 s.w. of Warren 12/10 (GB). The 236 **Eur. Starling** were the least since 1979. Only 8 **White-throated Sparrow** were found on the CBC, the least since 1966. Two **White-crowned Sparrow** were at the feeder the first week in Nov. (TG). A flock of 20 **Snow Bunting** was at Lander 11/29 (MB). Three **Rusty Blackbird** were at Watts' feeder 12/11 and at least 1 stayed through 12/17. **House Finch** continue to set record highs (381), while the 16 **Evening Grosbeak** were low.

Observers: Mike Bleech, Greg Burkett, Keith Confer, Dan Doherty, Bob Fields, **Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464)**, Lee Hart, Bill Highhouse, Rick Lyle, Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Chase Putnam, Ron Rieder, Mike & Tina Toole, Don Watts, Bob Winter.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill

Locations: Donegal Lake (DL), Latrobe Res. (LR), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

The Rector CBC was held 12/18. Highlights are in this report.

SWANS TO TERNS. The **Tundra Swan** flight through the Ligonier Valley was almost a week later than usual: the first sighting was of a single bird at LR 11/16 (MEW); 50+ flew over PNR 11/18, and 50 were seen 2 mi w. of Ligonier 11/21 (ES). A maximum of 45 **Am. Black Duck** was at LR 11/21 (RCL). One to 6 **Green-winged Teal** were noted at LR between 10/24 and 11/21 (RCL,MEW). Diving ducks were few and far between during the period (MEW,RCL). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen s. of Ligonier 11/14 (MEW), and 1 was still present in that area for the CBC (BTR). A very late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at PNR 10/31. Two to 3 **Dunlin** were present at LR from 10/17 to 11/1 (RCL). A late **Common Tern** was at LR 11/17 (RCL).

KINGFISHER TO THRUSHES. Despite partly to mostly frozen streams and reservoirs for the CBC, an above average total of 10 **Belted Kingfisher** was recorded. As many as 30 **N. Flicker** were seen together 10/6 at PNR (RSM), in one of the best migrations at this locality in many years. One flicker was still at PNR 12/18 for the CBC (BTR).

A late **Least Flycatcher** banded at PNR 10/29 was recaptured in apparently good health 11/27, a record late date for PA. With 29 banded, the Oct. flight of **E. Phoebe** was good at PNR; last 1 was caught 11/2. One seen on the CBC (DS,MB) constitutes the 1st Dec. record for the county. Four **Horned Lark** just s. of Ligonier made the CBC list (BS,LB). The CBC turned up 15 **Carolina Wren**, a good Dec. total for the Rector area. A very good flight of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at PNR was evidenced by the banding of 55 birds, to a last date of 11/18; 19 were discovered on the CBC. Following last year's very poor fall flight at PNR, an above average 241 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were banded through 11/9. A good total of 27 **E. Bluebird** was made for the CBC. The banding of 52 **Hermit Thrush** during the period compares to last year's very poor total of just 20.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES. **Orange-crowned Warbler** were caught at PNR 10/6 and 10/11. The 256 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** banded were a below average flight, but an improvement over last year's very poor total of 147. No **Yellow-rumps** could be found for the CBC. An above average 24 **Palm Warbler** were banded through 10/20. Only 10 **Am. Tree Sparrow** were banded after an 11/11 arrival,

but a good total of 45 was recorded for the CBC. A total of 75 **Field Sparrow** banded was average at best, and none was listed on the CBC (a few to several can usually be found wintering in the area). Between 10/8 and 12/7, a total of 38 **Fox Sparrow** was banded (a more nearly average total following several above average fall flights). An unusually large number (59) of **Song Sparrow** was found wintering in the Rector area (CBC). With 339 banded, the **White-throated Sparrow** flight was the best in recent years. The 47 **White-crowned Sparrow** banded during the period represents the best flight ever of this species at PNR; observers in the field noted many more than usual as well. Our total of 474 **Dark-eyed Junco** is just average.

A good Dec. total of 40 **Rusty Blackbird** resulted from the CBC. Also good for this area were the 60 **Brown-headed Cowbird** (in a mixed flock with the Rusty Blackbirds) listed for the CBC. The increase in **House Finch** continues unabated in this area: the CBC total was a remarkable 632; the banding total for the period was 348, practically exceeding the highest annual total for the species ever! Northern finches were very scarce during the period. Only 66 **Purple Finch** were banded in migration, and just 16 were listed on the CBC. One **Pine Siskin** was seen at PNR 10/6 (RSM), and 1 was banded there 10/18. None was recorded on the CBC. Two **Evening Grosbeak** on the CBC (BS) were the only ones observed in the county during the period.

OBSERVERS: Larry Barth, Mark Bowers, **Robert C. Leberman** and **Robert S. Mulvihill**, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Barb & Ted Rich, Bob Shaw, Eric Shaw, Dennis Smeltzer, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

WYOMING

Bill Reid

Locations: Schmitthener L. (SML), Stevens L. (SL), Tunkhannock (TNK).

Three small geese or **Brant** were seen in a flock of 60 **Canada Geese** flying over TNK 10/4 (WR). There were 7 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at SL 10/1 and 13 there 10/8 (WR). SC witnessed a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** attack a **Cooper's** near SML 10/2. A **Tufted Titmouse** was at an unusually high elevation (>2000 ft) near SML 10/1 (SC). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted at SL 10/14 (WR). A **Carolina Wren** was heard for the first time in 30 years near SML 10/2 (SC). Twenty **Water Pipit** were at SL 10/1-8, with 3 lingering to 10/14. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at TNK 10/15 (WR). Flocks of **Purple Finch** were seen at TNK in mid-Nov. (BD).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Bob Daniels, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

YORK

Al Spiese

Locations: Brunners I. (BI), Codorus SP (CSP), Gifford Pinchot SP (GPSP), Lauxmont Farms (LF), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Long Level (LL), Rocky Ridge Co. Park (RR), Spring Grove (SG), Wrightsville (WVL).

The weather was almost normal with no surprises except more windy days in October. Many birds seemed to come later and linger longer before migrating. This established some new late dates.

The York CBC was conducted 12/17, with Bill Del Grande as coordinator. Found were 84 species by 26 dedicated observers. It was a very favorable day, low winds, open water and mostly cloudy, which led to a successful count.

Some CBC observations worth note: **Common Snipe** were located for the first time in several years. Unusual was no **N. Harrier**, although 1 was seen 11/4-6. Three wintering **Common Barn-Owl** were good, along with an increase to 11 **Red-headed Woodpecker**. There was no **Red-breasted Nuthatch** compared to 19 last year. Only 3 **Am. Robin** was low. **N. Mockingbird** exploded to 113. Twelve **White-crowned Sparrow** were good. The 3 uncommon wintering **Rusty Blackbird** at 3 different locations were worth the effort. **Pine Siskin** were zero, although 5, possibly migrating, were seen in early November.

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** at CSP 11/6, no previous Nov. records (DaH, KL). An imm. **Green-backed Heron** was at SG 10/22 (RR) and 1 imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at GPSP 10/24 (RK). An est. 50 **Snow Geese** at CSP 11/18 was a good number to be found

on an inland lake; some were of the "blue" phase (LR). A **Brant** was at LAD 11/5; this is rare anytime, but best chance is Nov. (DaH). There are no recent winter records of **Wood Duck**, so the 6 seen 12/17+ were good. A max. 54 **Green-winged Teal** were seen at CSP 11/3-22, with as many as 70 seen on Oct. (RR). **Am. Black Duck** continue to be seen at scattered locations in numbers of 100+. An est. 275 **Oldsquaw** were at CSP 11/6 (RR). Seven **White-winged Scoter** were seen 10/20-21, the day after a storm, and 8 were observed 11/15 (RR). A **Common Goldeneye** at CSP 10/27 constitutes only the 2nd Oct. record (JJP). Good numbers also were 105 **Bufflehead** at CSP 11/18 (RR) and 32 **Hooded Merganser** at BI 12/25, though 25+ of the latter species typically winter in York each year. Best count for **Ruddy Duck** was 29 at CSP 10/11-22 (RR, JJP). These reports indicate an increased number of some waterfowl this winter.

An est. 70 **Turkey Vulture** were feeding on some kind of carrion just outside the CSP boundary 12/12-23 (KL). An imm. **N. Goshawk** was at LF 12/26 (JED); occasionally 1 will winter here. A late **Broad-winged Hawk** went by the RR hawk watch 10/24. Reports indicate **Ring-necked Pheasant** are on the decline the last few years. One **Lesser Golden-Plover** at LAD 10/17 was the only report. Late shorebird reports were 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** calling at BI 12/25 (JD), 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** at BI 10/13 (AS), 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** at LAD 11/29 (AS), 3 **Least Sandpiper** at BI 10/27 (AS), 11 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at CSP until 11/18 (RR), 7 **Dunlin** at CSP until 11/18 (RR), 1 **Stilt Sandpiper** at LAD 10/17 is rare anytime (DaH), 1 **Red Phalarope** at CSP 12/2-4 (RR, DaH et al.). See full article elsewhere.

Two rare birds in one month is more than anyone could expect. We had just gotten over the excitement of a Red Phalarope when there was word of another rare bird less than 5 mi from CSP at Long Arm Dam. After work on 12/23, Heathcote parked near the breast of the dam and before long appeared this bird with long tapered blue wings, blue rump and tail, and a white eye ring. The rest of the body was basically shades of gray. It was flitting from tree to ground and back again pausing ever so often to hover slightly in mid-air. A female Mountain Bluebird.

Confirmed by Ryan and broadcast via the hotlines, we once again had the main bird attraction for eastern PA. Ten birders from York were treated on 12/26 to seeing it so close that binoculars were not needed. Camera shutters clicked, but anything after that was anti-climactic. It was seen at least until 1/29/89.



Mountain Bluebird, Long Arm Dam, 12/24/88. Photo by Russell Ryan.

Mountain Bluebird, Long Arm Dam, 12/24/88, Photo by Russell Ryan.

Two first-year **Forster's Tern** were at WR 11/12 (AS). A **Least Flycatcher** seen at RR 10/7 was the only *Empidonax* in Oct. (AS, JB). An **E. Phoebe** at CSP 10/27 was somewhat late; this species is rarely found in winter. Ten **Tree Swallow** stayed at BI and SA 10/27 to 11/4 (AS). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at a Stony Brook feeder 10/27 to 11/4 (AS). **Brown Creeper** numbers were above average. One **House Wren** was found at CSP 10/3 (RR), while 2 **Winter Wren** arrived early, 9/29, and 1 was singing at RR 11/9 (AS). A max. 35 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were at GPSP 10/17-24 (RK) and 7 were on the CBC; this is one of few PA counties where they can be found all winter.

E. Bluebird are becoming fairly common as a winter resident. A late note, 209 were fledged at CSP this summer. A ♀ **Mountain**

Bluebird was found at LAD 12/23 (DaH) and remained at least until 1/29/89 (m.ob.).

A **Gray Catbird** was noted eating berries at RR 11/9 and 1 was found on the CBC; occasionally they are seen all winter. A max. 25 **Water Pipit** were near CSP 10/22-30; this species is not located every year. Several reports of **Solitary Vireo** were received in Oct., with the latest being 1 at CSP 10/24 (RK).

Late warblers include: 1 ♂ **N. Parula** at Craley Fish & Game Rd. 10/10 (AS); 2 **Palm** at RR 10/8 (1 was completely yellow underneath, the other gray with yellow undertail feathers) (JB,AS) and 3 were at CSP 10/18 (RR); a **Black-and-white** at CSP 10/22 (RR); a ♀ **Common Yellowthroat** at CSP 10/27 (JPP). These are all new late dates for the county.

OBSERVERS: James Beath, Bill Del Grande, Jack Downs, Jerry Dyer (JeD), Carl L. Garner, Dan Heathcote (DaH), Ramsay Koury, Karen Lippy, John & Jean Prescott, Larry Rohrbaugh, Russell Ryan, **Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309).**

1988 HAWK WATCH REPORTS

Bald Eagle Fire Tower (Centre County) John D. Peplinski, Compiler

| | Sep | Oct | Nov | Totals |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Turkey Vulture | 17 | 61 | 0 | 78 |
| Osprey | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| N. Harrier | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| Sharp-shinned | 16 | 78 | 0 | 94 |
| Cooper's | 5 | 19 | 2 | 26 |
| N. Goshawk | 1 | 7 | 2 | 10 |
| Red-shouldered | 1 | 7 | 4 | 12 |
| Broad-winged | 223 | 0 | 0 | 223 |
| Red-tailed | 10 | 285 | 201 | 496 |
| Rough-legged | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Golden Eagle | 0 | 4 | 33 | 37 |
| Am. Kestrel | 10 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Merlin | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 294 | 468 | 249 | 1011 |

Golden Eagles Adult - 16 Immature - 14 Unidentified - 7

Cornwall Fire Tower (Lancaster County) J. R. George, Compiler

| | Sep | Oct | Nov | Totals |
|-------------------------|------|------|-----|--------|
| <i>Coverage - days</i> | 19 | 24 | 17 | 60 |
| <i>Coverage - hours</i> | 128 | 123 | 66 | 317 |
| Osprey | 80 | 14 | 0 | 94 |
| Bald Eagle | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| N. Harrier | 48 | 57 | 41 | 146 |
| Sharp-shinned | 678 | 576 | 16 | 1270 |
| Cooper's | 16 | 35 | 6 | 57 |
| N. Goshawk | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Red-shouldered | 2 | 22 | 16 | 40 |
| Broad-winged | 4533 | 8 | 0 | 4541 |
| Red-tailed | 10 | 112 | 344 | 466 |
| Golden Eagle | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Am. Kestrel | 81 | 13 | 0 | 94 |
| Merlin | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Peregrine | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Unidentified | 41 | 35 | 16 | 92 |
| Totals | 6815 | 5494 | 879 | 442 |

This was our 14th year. Best day was 9/19, with 3332 birds. Five Bald Eagle tied the record of 1987. Red-shoulder and Harrier count were 2nd best highs. Kestrel total was also 2nd best, but a new record day was set 9/26 with 26 birds. A few daily records were set, but the yearly total was about proportional to the hours spent counting.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill) Laurie Goodrich, Compiler

| | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total | |
|-------------------------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-------|------|
| <i>Coverage - hours</i> | | 147 | 270 | 278 | 188 | 68 | 951 |
| Black Vulture | | 0 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 16 |
| Turkey Vulture | | 0 | 0 | 47 | 3 | 1 | 51 |
| Osprey | | 47 | 476 | 87 | 1 | 0 | 611 |
| Bald Eagle | 6 | 26 | 6 | 16 | 3 | 57 | |
| N. Harrier | 28 | 92 | 105 | 76 | 3 | 304 | |
| Sharp-shinned | | 17 | 2264 | 4311 | 126 | 0 | 6718 |
| Cooper's | 3 | 106 | 325 | 23 | 0 | 457 | |
| N. Goshawk | | 1 | 0 | 19 | 27 | 3 | 50 |
| Red-shouldered | | 0 | 12 | 155 | 192 | 6 | 365 |
| Broad-winged | | 136 | 5775 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 5933 |
| Swainson's | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Red-tailed | 60 | 127 | 1429 | 2947 | 142 | 4705 | |
| Rough-legged | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Golden Eagle | | 0 | 0 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 67 |
| Am. Kestrel | | 80 | 463 | 87 | 4 | 0 | 634 |
| Merlin | | 1 | 13 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 49 |
| Peregrine | 0 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 15 | |
| Gyr Falcon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Totals | 393 | 9404 | 6732 | 3479 | 170 | 20178 | |

Highlights were the light-phase Swainson's seen 11/9 and the dark-phase Gyr Falcon 11/10. Most species passed through in average numbers but, because of the poor Broad-winged Hawk flight, the total count was about 4000 below average.

Militia Hill (Montgomery County) Marylea Klauder, Compiler

| | Sep | Oct | Nov | Totals | |
|----------------|------|------|-----|--------|------|
| Black Vulture | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Bald Eagle | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 | |
| Osprey | | 35 | 21 | 0 | 56 |
| N. Harrier | 7 | 10 | 9 | 26 | |
| Sharp-shinned | | 118 | 260 | 79 | 457 |
| Cooper's | 5 | 32 | 16 | 53 | |
| Red-shouldered | | 6 | 40 | 24 | 70 |
| Broad-winged | | 1706 | 6 | 0 | 1712 |
| Red-tailed | 122 | 304 | 495 | 921 | |
| Rough-legged | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Golden Eagle | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Am. Kestrel | | 40 | 63 | 14 | 117 |
| Merlin | | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Peregrine | 4 | 0 | 2 | 6 | |
| Totals | 2050 | 740 | 645 | 3435 | |

This was the first year for this hawk watch. Obviously all are record days and totals. Counting Turkey Vultures in this area, where they are found 12 months of the year, is difficult, but the 104 seen 10/23 was remarkable. The only real "miss" was a N. Goshawk, but we'll be back next year. Unidentified raptors were not recorded this year, but will be in the future. Our season started 9/7 and observations continued until 11/30; we were rained out only 3 days. Our best single day was 9/14, with 949 hawks.

Rocky Ridge (York County)
Jerry Dyer, Compiler

| | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Totals |
|----------------|-----|------|-----|-----|--------|
| Osprey | 8 | 45 | 4 | 1 | 58 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| N. Harrier | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 15 |
| Sharp-shinned | 6 | 112 | 90 | 8 | 216 |
| Cooper's | 0 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 19 |
| Goshawk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Red-shouldered | 0 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 25 |
| Broad-winged | 6 | 4820 | 1 | 1 | 4828 |
| Red-tailed | 9 | 18 | 39 | 127 | 193 |
| Golden Eagle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Am. Kestrel | 6 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 34 |
| Merlin | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Peregrine | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 37 | 5030 | 172 | 164 | 5403 |

A sub-adult Bald Eagle 8/9 is noteworthy. A new high count of 3158 Broad-winged Hawks was set 9/19. The Peregrine Falcons were seen 10/5 and 10/25.

Second Mt. (Lebanon County)
Morris Cox, compiler

| | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Total | |
|-------------------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|
| <i>Coverage - days</i> | | 16 | 27 | 29 | 21 | 93 |
| <i>Coverage - hours</i> | | 124 | 233 | 201 | 118 | 676 |
| Osprey | | 17 | 136 | 27 | 0 | 180 |
| Bald Eagle | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 9 | |
| N. Harrier | 17 | 58 | 42 | 19 | 136 | |
| Sharp-shinned | | 15 | 1043 | 1475 | 28 | 2561 |
| Cooper's | 3 | 74 | 133 | 9 | 219 | |
| N. Goshawk | | 0 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 18 |
| Red-shouldered | | 4 | 4 | 64 | 48 | 120 |
| Broad-winged | | 144 | 1626 | 16 | 0 | 1786 |
| Red-tailed | 54 | 118 | 550 | 803 | 1525 | |
| Rough-legged | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Golden Eagle | | 0 | 0 | 23 | 5 | 28 |
| Am. Kestrel | | 17 | 102 | 42 | 0 | 161 |
| Merlin | | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Peregrine | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 16 | |
| Unidentified | | 6 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 29 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 281 | 3192 | 2401 | 922 | 6796 | |

Lower overall numbers were seen this year due to the lack of any Broad-winged peak day. Most other species were in average numbers. Golden Eagle numbers were very high, Peregrine numbers were high again this year and the Am. Kestrel was more numerous.

Route 183 - Schuylkill/Berks Line
Bob and Anne MacClay, Compilers

| | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Totals |
|-------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|--------|
| <i>Coverage - days</i> | 3 | 24 | 27 | 22 | 10 | 86 |
| <i>Coverage - hours</i> | 9 | 133 | 137 | 88 | 50 | 417 |
| Osprey | 0 | 85 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 26 |
| N. Harrier | 0 | 34 | 27 | 13 | 0 | 74 |
| Sharp-shinned | 0 | 760 | 1379 | 15 | 1 | 2155 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 0 | 52 | 141 | 5 | 2 | 200 |
| N. Goshawk | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 14 |
| Red-shouldered | 1 | 7 | 46 | 47 | 2 | 103 |
| Broad-winged | 10 | 1674 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1685 |
| Red-tailed | 10 | 78 | 506 | 517 | 48 | 1159 |
| Rough-legged | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 13 |
| Golden Eagle | 0 | 0 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 28 |
| Am. Kestrel | 0 | 115 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 133 |
| Merlin | 0 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Peregrine | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Unidentified | 0 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 22 | 2833 | 2185 | 620 | 64 | 5724 |

Bald Eagle: 10 adult, 15 imm., 1 no age.
Golden Eagle: 11 adult, 2 sub-ad., 15 imm.
All but 1 of the Peregrines were adult; the 1 was not aged.
Rough-legged: 4 dark, 9 light, 1 undetermined phase.

Tuscarora Summit (Fulton County)
Carl Garner, Compiler

| | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Totals | |
|------------------------|-----|------|------|------|--------|------|
| <i>Coverage - days</i> | 8 | 27 | 30 | 24 | 89 | |
| Osprey | | 4 | 98 | 26 | 0 | 128 |
| Bald Eagle | 0 | 6 | 2 | 3 | | 11 |
| N. Harrier | 2 | 49 | 54 | 38 | | 143 |
| Sharp-shinned | | 11 | 525 | 1055 | 16 | 1607 |
| Cooper's | 0 | 13 | 40 | 2 | | 55 |
| N. Goshawk | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Red-shouldered | | 0 | 3 | 30 | 12 | 45 |
| Broad-winged | | 10 | 1172 | 14 | 0 | 1196 |
| Red-tailed | 1 | 36 | 475 | 869 | | 1381 |
| Rough-legged | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Golden Eagle | | 0 | 0 | 11 | 21 | 32 |
| Am. Kestrel | | 3 | 18 | 23 | 0 | 44 |
| Merlin | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Peregrine | 0 | 6 | 4 | 2 | | 12 |
| Unidentified | | 0 | 23 | 36 | 13 | 72 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 31 | 1952 | 1774 | 983 | | 4740 |

We had 14 observers contribute data for the season. Best monthly days were: 9/16 with 249 birds (198 Broad-winged high); 10/15 with 237 (high Sharpie day); and 11/7 with 186 (175 Red-tail high). Best day for Golden Eagle was 11/4 (5), with the 1st sighted 10/1.

Tussey Mt. (Bedford)
Tom Dick, Compiler

| | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| <i>Coverage - hours</i> | 175 | 231 | 365 | 417 | 329 |
| Osprey | 22 | 38 | 64 | 53 | 56 |
| Bald Eagle | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| N. Harrier | 39 | 50 | 44 | 73 | 65 |
| Sharp-shinned | 208 | 433 | 579 | 617 | 419 |
| Cooper's | 25 | 84 | 91 | 67 | 54 |
| N. Goshawk | 1 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 6 |
| Red-shouldered | 23 | 28 | 65 | 30 | 21 |
| Broad-winged | 201 | 443 | 262 | 1675 | 559 |
| Red-tailed | 332 | 546 | 894 | 911 | 731 |
| Rough-legged | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Golden Eagle | 9 | 16 | 31 | 54 | 21 |
| Am. Kestrel | 21 | 35 | 57 | 78 | 56 |
| Merlin | 0 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 8 |
| Peregrine | 4 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| Gyrfalcon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 889 | 1692 | 2118 | 3606 | 2014 |

Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland)
Greg Smith, Compiler

| | Aug | Sep |
|-------------------|-----|----------|
| Osprey | 3 | 217 |
| Bald Eagle | 3 | 13 |
| N. Harrier | 9 | 62 |
| Sharp-shinned | 17 | 1074 |
| Cooper's | 2 | 38 |
| N. Goshawk | 0 | 4 |
| Red-shouldered | 0 | 1 |
| Broad-winged | 69 | 1844 |
| Swainson's | 0 | 1 |
| Red-tailed | 28 | 50 |
| Golden Eagle | 0 | 0 |
| Am. Kestrel | 19 | 111 |
| Merlin | 0 | 1 |
| Peregrine | 1 | 12 |
| Unidentified | 6 | 41 |
| <i>Total</i> | 168 | 3468 |

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