

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4, OCT – DEC 1989

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

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Page 122: Dave Kreuger

from the Editors...

As we wind up our third year of publishing and enter the last year of this decade, it seems appropriate to emphasize the purpose of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. We recognized the need to promote knowledge and appreciation of the birds of Pennsylvania. Although much of the space has been dedicated to the distribution, migration, and behavior of birds, the personal touch has been maintained by the inclusion of such welcome additions such as personality profiles. We continue to welcome articles on Pennsylvania birdlife so that the record of same will remain perpetually active. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** is by and for its readers.

We want to profusely thank all of you who contribute to making it a success. The County Compilers continue to deserve a lot of credit for their time and effort in collecting the most comprehensive bird data for any state in the Union. Quarterly deadlines always seem to crop up at the most inopportune time, but somehow they are met. Keep up the good work. We need you.

The authors of the many articles are to be commended for their consistent fine quality of research and informative writing. The individual accounts of rare bird sightings have also contributed to the wealth of Pennsylvania's avifauna.

Now that **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS** is an annual feature, more and more listers can see what is happening around the Commonwealth. It appears that this is starting a trend toward more and more official record keeping in counties outside the major flyways, metropolitan areas, etc.

And last, but far from least, we continue to be immensely proud of our covers. All the artists have contributed their original works without solicitation or remuneration. We cannot thank them enough.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS is being read in at least two dozen other states and three foreign countries (England, Germany, and Yugoslavia). Articles are being abstracted for the *Auk* and numerous requests for reprints have been received. Your efforts have not gone unrecognized.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. It is imperative that we receive more quality articles of either a general or scientific nature. There are many of you out in the field constantly who could write something of benefit to all of us. **WE ALL NEED THOSE ARTICLES!** If editorial assistance is required, we will provide it. We even have artists who have volunteered to draw a particular bird for a particular article for us if given adequate notice. If you have plans to write about a particular species, please let us know in order that we can contact the artist to spruce the article up.

It is very important that all of you renew for 1990 as soon as possible. It is very expensive for this fledgling publication to send out renewal cards and envelopes. Just check your mailing label. If it does not read 1990 or higher, then **TODAY** is the day to send in your renewal. We need to know what our income will be in order to plan for next year's publication size and improvements. At this point it is critical that all 700 subscribers

renew. For the first time we are able to cover our printing and postage needs, but we are in dire straits with our ageing laser printer. There are myriad other costs involved that must be covered as well.

The PA Ornithological Records Committee is working diligently to get an Official Class I Checklist ready for publication. We still need photographs taken in Pennsylvania of the following species:

Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Curlew Sandpiper
Black-legged Kittiwake
Boreal Chickadee
Bohemian Waxwing
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lark Bunting
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Brambling
Hoary Redpoll

All of these species were seen at sometime by numerous competent observers.

Apparently there were about 17 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** in York County in the mid-1970's that may have been photographed. By whom? The **Lark Bunting** at Graterford, Montgomery County from 13 December 1961 to 27 April 1962 was seen by scores of observers, banded, photographed, and its song recorded. Do you or someone you know have a photograph?

The **Brambling** that was in Pittsburgh in February 1975 was probably photographed, but by whom?

Hoary Redpolls have been seen on numerous occasions, but the Committee is still lacking a photograph for its records.

The next issue will have an update by Chairman Ed Kwater on all the Committee's findings to date. Please send any photographs to us at **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and we will see that all members of the Committee will review and acknowledge them.

As we approach the last year of this decade, we are optimistic about the future of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. This is not a singular effort, and in order to be viable it needs input from you. Take a few moments to consider what you can do to contribute to the magazine. Site guides, articles, identification tips, personality profiles, whatever.

By the time you are reading this issue, spring migration will be well underway. Waterfowl are moving. Tundra Swans are already staging on the Susquehanna River and elsewhere. Bald Eagles have begun nesting. Kestrels have paired. The first Purple Martins will be returning. Early warblers will have been spotted and heard. Blackbirds will be setting up territories. Goldfinch are noticeably molting into their fresh yellow and black plumage. Siskins and crossbills may be nesting already. It's an exciting time for all of us to be in the field or watching changing behaviors of our feeder birds. Get out and enjoy and send your findings to the local County Compiler for inclusion in the next issue.

The Thirty-seventh Supplement to the *Check-list of North American Birds (The Auk 106 (3):532-536:1989)* contains several

changes that affect the scientific and English names of birds of the Pennsylvania State List. These changes are as follows:

The scientific name of **Northern Gannet** changes from *Sula bassanus* to *Morus bassanus*.

The scientific name of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** changes from *Nycticorax violaceus* to *Nyctanassa violaceus*.

The English name of *Tyto alba* changes from **Common Barn-Owl** to **Barn Owl**.

The English name of *Surnia ulula* changes from **Northern Hawk-Owl** to **Northern Hawk Owl**.

The English name of **Water Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*) changes to **American Pipit**, and its scientific name becomes *Anthus rubescens*.

Other changes are under consideration and will be published here as they are made.

We head off into the 1990s full of enthusiasm. The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology is slowly getting under way. The Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey continues its work on endangered species, and the Records Committee is well on its way to producing the first official bird list for Pennsylvania. And of course, the atlas is due out in 1991.

What else will the new decade bring? ●
Barb and Frank Haas

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American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) in Pennsylvania (Part 2): Large fluctuations add another mystery.

by Paul Hess

Since 1973 American Tree Sparrow numbers have fluctuated greatly on Pennsylvania CBCs, spurring upward suddenly then decreasing more slowly (Fig. 3).

The fluctuations were strongly correlated throughout the east and midwest. Except in 1983 when Kansas had an enormous invasion, yearly levels either rose or fell everywhere. Thus, with that exception, no "redistribution effect" was evident — scarcity in some places balanced by unusual numbers in others. (This year-by-year effect, which Hall (1980) found for some species in the Appalachian Region, differs from the long-term redistribution discussed in Part 1.)

Though the pattern suggests a cyclic process, Davis and Morrison (1987) emphasized the difficulty of distinguishing random fluctuations from more regular cycles. Noting that many interplaying factors can mask the reasons for such variations, they advised: "Conclusions from CBC data must be cautious because aspects such as the source of the immigrants and also the breeding and migrating habits of the birds represented in the data are not known." Nevertheless, some speculations can be made.

Why the ups and downs?

Causes could be environmental or endogenous. They could involve the breeding season, migration, or winter. They could act singly or in combination. Changes in numbers could be real or could arise merely from inconsistent observer contact with the birds.

First, the breeding season: Tree sparrows nest on or near the ground amid stunted trees and shrubs where northern coniferous forests meet the tundra; even above timberline and out on the tundra as far as patches of dwarf shrubs extend

(Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Godfrey 1966, Baumgartner 1968). Differences in the number of young might be expected to cause the largest population fluctuations. Trouble could involve early-season storms, food shortage, nest predators, parasitism, or disease.

However, there is no evidence of great annual or cyclic variations in breeding success. Baumgartner emphasized the species' relative freedom from breeding problems, including human intrusion. She calculated that nearly 80% of young survive the nestling period, a very healthy ratio. Michel Gosselin (pers. comm.) says dams and fire control may have a local effect on some breeding populations, but the total effect on such a wide-ranging species is insignificant. The breeding grounds show no reason for major fluctuations.

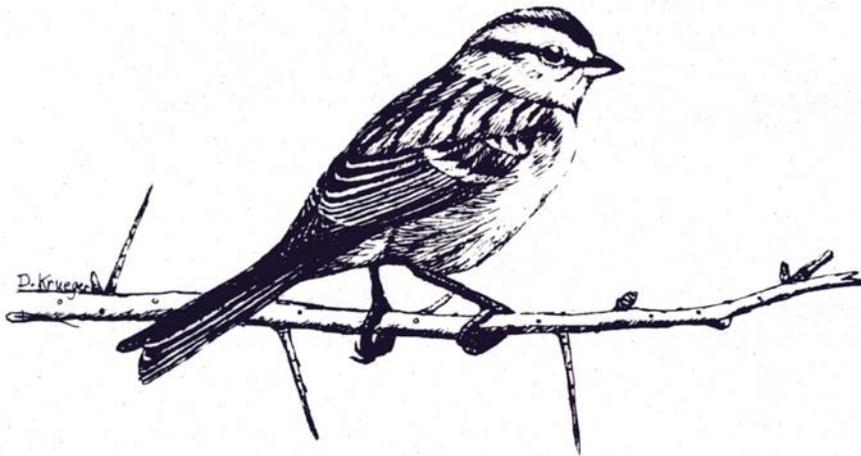
Next, the migrations: These hold the greatest hazards including snows that cover the food supply, sudden storms, and cold spells (Baumgartner 1968). However, West (1960) found that tree sparrows can withstand temperatures to -28 degrees C. (-18°F.). Rarely would they encounter such low temperatures during migration. Storms may be another matter, especially over the Great Lakes. One autumn on Lake Huron, a sudden drop in temperatures accompanied by heavy snowfall killed thousands of birds including tree sparrows (Lincoln 1937). But even severe storms are too limited in time and area to cause great fluctuations everywhere in such a widespread and abundant species.

Finally, the winter season: Extreme cold could mean trouble, but in the sparrows' winter range temperatures seldom fall to West's danger point. The range extends north only to the isotherm of -23 degrees C. (-10°F.) mean January minimum, and most is south of the 0 degrees C. (32°F.) isotherm (Root 1988). During the last 15 years, temperatures

widely approached West's survival point only in the unusually harsh winters of 1976-78. Tree sparrow numbers did dive in 1978-79, so severe cold may have caused one fluctuation. It does not explain the others.

Snow covering food resources is an even more dubious danger. Tree sparrows can survive only about 30 hours without food at an ambient temperature a few degrees above freezing, compared to 43 hours for Dark-eyed Junco (Stuebe and Ketterson 1982). But they would rarely face 30 hours without a meal because of snow cover. It is not often a serious threat for two reasons: (1) Most of the sparrows' favored food plants, including bristlegrasses, panicgrasses, sedges, broomsedge, lamb's quarters and ragweed (Martin *et al.* 1951), are nearly always taller at seed level than the snow. (2) Tree sparrows are not only ground-feeders but alight on weed stalks above the snow and pick off seeds goldfinch-fashion (Forbush and May 1939, Chapman 1939, Pough 1949). They also habitually knock seeds from weed tops to the snow crust — an activity aiding not only other tree sparrows but also juncos, which rarely perform such acrobatics. This may partially explain why juncos often join the sparrows in winter flocks.

Stuebe and Ketterson seemed to consider those behavioral assets merely a possibility, not a significant fact. But the reality is that tree sparrows seldom lack winter food. Snow never covers all their



resources. As Chapman (1939) said, "Even when the snow is deepest they always find an abundance of food."

Snow as a hazard also contradicts the intriguing fact that higher tree sparrow numbers usually accompany snow cover than are found in mild, open winters. This is widely recognized (Bull and Farrand 1977, Bull 1985, Adams and McPeck 1987), and it is true in Pennsylvania. The CBC peaks in 1977, 1980 and 1985 were associated with substantial snow cover, while low points in 1979, 1984 and 1987 had little or no snow. The connection is not always present on individual CBCs or statewide every year, but the tendency is clear. Rather than a real change in numbers, it may mean simply that the birds are more scattered in open winters and less accessible to observers (Adams and McPeck 1987).

Another view of the fluctuations is that mild winters keep tree sparrows in northern states and southern Canada, while heavy snows drive them farther south (Baumgartner 1968, Gross 1989). However, a 15-year comparison of CBC snow depth and birds per party-hour shows the same tendency in the north as well as southward — snow associated with *more* tree sparrows.

Incidentally, different factors must influence the numbers of tree sparrows and those of juncos, their frequent winter companions. More juncos come to feeders during snowstorms, in a vague parallel with the snow/sparrow relationship. But no correlation between tree sparrow and junco counts appeared in 15-year CBC samples throughout the winter range or in yearly banding totals at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland County.

Whatever the reason, presence or absence of snow cover is the strongest predictor of tree sparrow numbers.

A last word

Like the sparrows' long decline in the southeast, their short-term fluctuations create only speculation. Davis and Morrison (1987) rightly called the task of analysis "monumental," emphasizing a need for many years of data where the birds breed and where they winter. Far more research is necessary for a true grasp of the American Tree Sparrow's fascinating population dynamics. ●

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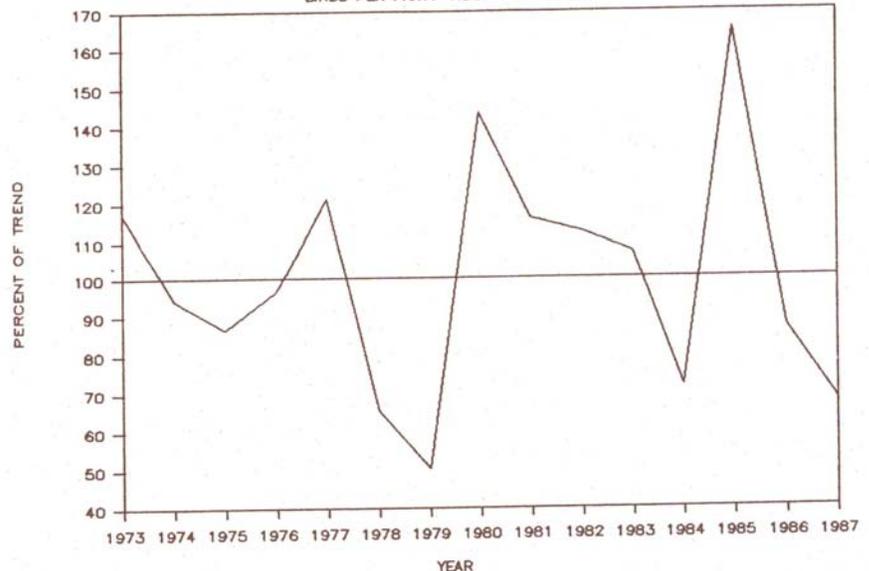
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Fig. 3

Pennsylvania Tree Sparrow Fluctuations

BIRDS PER PARTY-HOUR ON 37 CBCs



West, G.C. 1960. Seasonal variation in the energy balance of the tree sparrow in relation to migration. *Auk* 77:306-329.

1412 Hawthorne St.
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

CORRECTION

Table 1 in Part 1, "American Tree Sparrows on 37 Pennsylvania CBCs," contained two errors in birds per 10 party-hours for 1987. Correct numbers are 7.3 for the West (not .3) and 6.9 for the Southeast (not 10.6). Calculations were based on correct data. The errors occurred only in the table.

Rare Birds in Venango County

by Russ States

Hurricane Hugo was scheduled to reach Venango County sometime late Friday, 22 September 1989. I was awakened by a call on Monday morning (Sept. 25) from Nick Kerlin, Park Superintendent at Oil Creek State Park. He said he had an unusual bird, I said "oh...", and he said he thought it might be a Greater Shearwater, so I said (or at least thought) "right," but as he proceeded to tell me where he found the bird I realized he was serious. The best bird to find its way to Venango County since I've been here and I almost slept through it.

I quickly learned that he had found the bird on Sunday morning at the Park Office when one of the park maintenance personnel came in and asked where he got the duck. Nick responded, "What duck," and went out to investigate. The bird was just sitting against the building, so he picked it up, checked it for broken bones, and then put it in a box. Because of obligations at work he was unable to do anything about the bird on Sunday, so he tried to feed it (it wouldn't eat) and put the box in a warm place.

Now, on Monday, Nick was trying to contact someone to find out what and how to feed the bird as well as what to do with it. I gave him Jean Stull's number and told him he should also try to contact Jerry McWilliams, figuring that while they might not know what or how to feed the bird they might know someone who would.

At this point I grabbed my camera and film and some bird books and headed for the park office. I won't say that I made it in record time, but I did hurry. After all, the bird was in a box and not going anywhere, but I did want to see it alive. After arriving at the park office I found Nick on the phone talking to Jerry. He didn't know of anyone to contact about feeding the bird, but was very much interested in the identification, etc. Talking to Nick I learned that he had called a lot of people, most of whom were not home and so, as of yet, had not gotten any help. He was waiting for a return call from the Pittsburgh Aviary hoping they could help. In the meantime we decided to go look at and photograph the bird.

Nick very carefully lifted the bird from its box (very carefully, because the previous day it took a piece out of his finger). It was a beautiful bird. Nice warm brown plumage, with the head much darker than the body, giving an almost capped appearance. The body was all white underneath, with the wings brown and white. And it was definitely a tubenose! (See complete description elsewhere.) I'm going to label this bird as Bird A, because as it turns out more were to show up.

Just as we were noting details of the bird, a reporter from the local newspaper arrived and after getting what information she could from us, wanted to photograph it. So, after she took some photographs of Nick and I holding the bird, Nick and I took turns holding and photographing the

bird.

We put the bird back in the box and went back to the park office to see if anyone had returned calls. No one had, so Nick decided to call the Game Commission and see what they had to say. They gave him the number of Harriet Wilson, a bird and animal rehabilitator, located near Meadville. We then headed for Meadville.

When we arrived she looked the bird over and said it had a serious concussion. She gave it some medication and put it in a warm dark place. Just a couple of minutes later someone from the Game Commission came in with another bird. (I'll call this one Bird B). This one had a broken wing. Though I only got a quick look, Bird B looked to be the same species as Bird A. The differences I noted at the time were Bird B had some brown splotches on the belly and there were white speckles on the forehead.

Bird B was found about two miles west of Franklin at the Venango Manor County Home, Sugarcreek Township, sometime on Sunday, 24 September 1989.

Jerry went to Meadville after work. He just got quick looks at the birds and was able to take some photographs of Bird B. I talked to him that evening and we discussed characteristics of the birds. I gave him the description of Bird A. He called back later and said he thought they were Black-capped Petrels and not Greater Shearwaters. He thought the bill was too short, and all the books showed brown marking in the white of the wing, and the fact that the undertail coverts were white instead of dark. We left it at that and decided to wait until the pictures came back. I then called Frank Haas to let him know that we had an unusual bird and told him the identity was still up in the air.

On Tuesday I got a call from Dan Brauning who was interested in the bird (if it died) for the collection at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

That evening I called Madge Hribar to get some information and as we were talking she mentioned that her husband, Lenny (who works for the Game Commission), had brought home a bird that they thought was a gull, but it had died. This sounded like too much of a coincidence so I immediately started asking some questions. I learned that he had thrown the bird onto a deer pit in one of the Game Commission's propagation areas. By this time Lenny had looked at the picture of the bird which was in the paper that day and said it looked like the bird he had. I made arrangements to meet him on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

A little after 1:30 on Wednesday I grabbed my camera and bird books and left for my meeting with Lenny. We went to the deep pit and picked up the bird. This could have been nasty since the bird had lain there a whole day, but the temperature had stayed in the 40's and the bird was in the shade in a plastic bag. It was another tubenose! (This bird will be Bird C.) I

decided it was the same species as the other two, so now whatever they turned out to be, three of them had been found in Venango County. I took pictures and found out from Lenny that this bird had been found by a Pete Grove of Rockwood Avenue in Oil City. I called him later that day and learned that he found the bird on his neighbor's front yard about 2 p.m. on Saturday, 23 September 1989.

Lenny said he would put the bird in the freezer at the Franklin Regional Office. I thanked him for his cooperation and set out for home.

Thursday morning Nick called me to say that Harriet Wilson had called to tell him both birds had died, one on Wednesday evening and the other on Thursday morning.

On Sunday, 1 October, I decided to do a little birding at Presque Isle. Out on the point I met Ed Kwater who told me that another bird had been found in Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County, and that as far as he knew at that point it was a Black-capped Petrel. I'll call this one Bird D.

By Monday, one week after I first heard about these birds, I still wasn't completely certain what they were. On Monday, my slides came in the mail. And they were good! I called Nick and he had received his slides also. After viewing the slides, we decided to go with Black-capped Petrel.

Tuesday, when I talked with Dr. Kenneth Parkes of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, he told me that he had the bird found in Allegheny Co and that it was a Black-capped Petrel. He had received it from the Pittsburgh Aviary.

On Wednesday, 4 October, I decided I needed to talk to Harriet Wilson to get more complete information about the birds. She told me that she had gotten rid of them as soon as possible because someone had called and offered her \$500 for the "rare bird." She was pretty upset about this and called the Game Commission to tell them to come and get the birds (they had died by this time). She said when he called he didn't even know if they were alive or dead and she wasn't even sure if he knew what the bird was. Personally, I wonder what anyone would do with a dead petrel, but then people think we're strange.

She had been able to get the birds to respond, got their fluid levels up, was feeding them sea minnows and thought they were improving before they died. She thought they died from either liver or kidney failure. Everyone else from either the museums or the aviary said that no one has ever been able to keep petrels alive and that they probably had no chance from the start.

Then on Monday, 23 October, I made a few, and what I hope will be final (because this bird has cost me a fortune) phone calls. I called Dan Brauning and found out that the Academy of Natural Sciences had received one of the Venango County birds. I then called Dr. Parkes and learned that they were supposed to get one of the Venango County birds, but had not yet received it. And he said that he had a message from Kevin McGowan at Cornell University that he had a Black-capped Petrel that was found in northern Pennsylvania. So I called him to see about this bird. It turns out that it was a fifth Pennsylvania record (this will be Bird E). It was found near Nicholson, Wyoming County, and taken to a rehabilitator in Binghamton, New York, and when it died she called him. He also knew of another of this species found near Elmira, New York.

I made one final call to the Game Commission and they told me that birds A and B were still in their possession. One of these would go to the Carnegie Museum and the other would be mounted and put in the Waterfowl Museum at Pymatuning.

I've tried to piece the story together as much as possible and I want to thank all those with whom I talked and anyone who was able to provide any information.

In this section I will give as much statistical information on each of the five Black-capped Petrels found in Pennsylvania after Hurricane Hugo as I was able to gather. I've labeled the Birds A through E in the order in which I learned about them.

Bird A - Found on Sunday, 24 September 1989 about 9 a.m. by Nick Kerlin, in Oil Creek State Park, Venango County, at the

Park Office. Was taken to Harriet Wilson, an animal rehabilitator on 25 September. Had a severe concussion. Died probably of liver or kidney failure Thursday morning 28 September 1989.

Description - length 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", wingspan 42". Upper body and upper wings dark brown. Head from bill back much darker than body giving a capped appearance. Underside, excluding wing, all white. Tail very worn; had brown edging and white to base of tail. Underside of tail is all white. Bill black, with a very hooked appearance and tubular nostrils. Feet pink with black edges. White on nape, but not all the way



Black capped Petrel, Oil Creek State Park, 9/25/89. Photo by Nick Kerlin. k-



Black capped Petrel, Oil Creek State Park, 9/25/89. Photo by Russ States. k-

across the back of the neck. Eye dark brown. Underside of wing has a dark brown leading edge, white in the middle and a gray trailing edge.

Bird B - Found near Venango Manor County Home, two miles west of Franklin, Sugarcreek Township, Venango County by persons unknown on Sunday, 24 September 1989. Also taken to H. Wilson. Had a broken wing. Died Wednesday evening, 27 September 1989.

Description - length 13", wingspan 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Very similar to Bird A except for brown splotching on belly and white speckling in forehead.

Bird C - Found on Saturday, 23 September

1989 about 2 p.m. on Rockwood Avenue, Oil City, Venango County, by Pete Grove in his neighbor's front yard. Given to the Game Commission on Saturday evening. Died sometime Monday, 25 September 1989. Given to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Description - length 16", wingspan unknown. Appearance nearly identical to Bird A.

Bird D - Found on Saturday, 23 September 1989 on the west bank of the Youghiogheny River in Buena Vista, Allegheny County, by Desmoines Field. Taken to the Pittsburgh Aviary where it died 27 September 1989. Given to the Carnegie Museum.

Description - I have none of this bird.

Bird E - Found on Saturday, 23 September 1989 in a parking lot in Nicholson, Wyoming County, by persons unknown. Taken to a rehabilitator in Binghamton, New York. Died 24 September 1989. At present in the Ornithological Collection at Cornell University.

Description - I have none of this bird. ●

THE HAWK MOUNTAIN INCIDENT

by Jeff Bouton

The date was 15 October 1989. A heavy fog hung over Kempton, Pennsylvania. My partner, Harry, and I rose early and trudged up the path that leads to North Lookout. Normally, under these conditions, I would not have set out this early, but we semi-professional field research biologists have to be resourceful where money is concerned. You see, by getting to the lookout before anyone else, we were assured of saving three dollars each at the gate. (*We do not endorse this ideal eds.*) Armed with binoculars, a two-liter bottle of Mountain Dew, and a three-pound bag of Tootsie-rolls we headed up the rocky trail.

We were quite surprised by the amount of passerine activity along the trail leading to the lookout. Apparently the fog had grounded many of these southbound migrants, creating one of the best inland fallouts I had ever seen. The leaves on the ground were crackling like a giant bowl of Rice Krispies. White-throated Sparrows, juncos, towhees, and thrushes were darting low across the path in front of us by the dozens. The tree tops were alive with migrant kinglets and warbler species. The majority of these were Yellow-rumped Warblers but there were occasional Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll warblers as well as a Red-eyed Vireo or two.

We carefully picked through all of the birds that we could see and hear while others flitted to and fro just out of view in the mist. We stopped once or twice along the way to pish and whistle the call of a Screech-Owl without much success. I accredited the birds' poor response to their unfamiliarity with the South Jersey drawl in my whistled Screech-Owl calls.

Upon reaching the lookout, we realized that the fog lay only in the valleys. There was clear blue sky above us and a sea of clouds lay before us. We sat and patiently waited for the first raptor to float by. After all, Hawk Mountain is one of the best spots in the East to see raptors...isn't it? As we waited, we kept track of the birds that passed or called nearby: Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak. The flight continued. Mockingbird.

"Mockingbird?????" Indeed the bird that flew in from behind was gray and it had white outer tail feathers, but something was wrong. The bird was perched on a dead snag about fifty feet in front of us and it was sitting very upright. It pumped its tail slowly. I was perplexed. The mockingbirds that I'm familiar with (at some other autumn hawk migration hot spot) sit very horizontally. Perhaps the altitude had somehow adversely affected this particular bird's mind and it thought it was a phoebe. I raised my binoculars for a better look.

I suddenly felt a rush, like fifty cups of coffee taking over my body, as the

adrenalin kicked in. I knew I had to remain calm if I wanted to be objective. I mustered up every ounce of dignity and self-control that I could and shrieked, "Harry, get on this bird. Look at it. HURRY!!" My partner was obviously startled, but his birding instincts served him well as he snapped around and lifted his binoculars. "Do you see it?" I asked. "Yeah, what is it?" I asked him to describe it. He responded, "Well, let's see, it's all gray with a bright white eyering." "What about the tail," I queried. He answered, "It appears to be edged in white." I was convinced now that I wasn't suffering delusions from altitude sickness. My partner asked again, "Jeff, what is it." This time more emphatically. Relieved and reassured I answered, "It's a Townsend's Solitaire. I saw dozens of them this summer in Colorado!"

I told him to look at the base of the flight feathers for a buffy wing stripe when the bird flew. As if on cue, the bird left its perch and flew towards us. It perched again on a dead snag at eye level some thirty feet away completely unobstructed from our view. I looked again to Harry and he nodded saying, "I saw it. It also has some fluffy white feathers on the body under the wing." Good! I had forgotten that mark! I could see the dark eye, the faint trace of a malar stripe, and was noting the bird's shape, posture, and behavior characteristics.

At this point, two painful thoughts flashed through my mind, "Why isn't anyone else here and why didn't I bring my camera." Just then a man came around the corner with three children. I would have preferred Roger Tory Peterson, but even if he knew nothing of birds, another observer would help us to confirm the sighting.

I gathered my wits and called out to him. "Sir, we have a Townsend's Solitaire over here." I could see from his blank stare that I would have to try a different approach. I called again. "Sir, this is a very rare bird in the East. I doubt that it has ever been seen here. You may wish to look at it," and I motioned to the bird. To this he replied, "I don't really watch birds. I'm just here for the scenery." Then he turned away and headed back up the trail after his children.

I was at a loss for words. A rare moment indeed! Frantically I exclaimed, "Watch the bird, Harry," and bolted back down the rocky slope. My descent was comparable to a controlled fall as I sprinted down the hill towards the gate. I approached the final destination appearing much like a madman with arms flailing through the air. I think the Hawk Mountain staff members at the gate expected me to say, "The sky has fallen," or possibly worse. Instead, I stood for a few seconds trying to catch my breath. Then I blurted out, "There's a Townsend's Solitaire at North Lookout," and I turned and fired back up the path to where I had

last seen the bird.

I approached the top of the path and heard pishing. A small lump began to develop in my throat. I reached the peak and could see Harry looking all around. He pointed to the conifers below him and said, "I lost it down there." The knot in my throat tightened as I heard the clamor of people charging up the path behind me.

They came one after another. Each to hear the same thing. I looked on the crowd and saw all the disappointed faces. At first I thought that they were disappointed because they hadn't seen the bird, but I now feel that there was more to it than that. As the crowd dispersed, I heard someone say, "Of all the people that come up here, this bird would have to be seen by someone from Cape May." ●

75 Muriel Drive
Rochester, NY

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW
AT GREEN LANE RESERVOIR
Montgomery County
by Kevin Crilly

On 15 October 1989, Brian Sweisford and I were birding at the Church Road marsh at Green Lane Reservoir Park. It was an unseasonably hot and humid day, especially for mid-October. Due to the hazy conditions and bright sun our first few hours out were fairly uneventful. At about 3:30 p.m., as we headed back to the car through a grassy swale, a small sparrow flushed from the ground and flew in a half-circle around us. It lit in a small patch of willow herb (*Epilobium sp.*) roughly 25 feet distant from us. As the bird moved about, partially obscured by the plant, I was anticipating a **Swamp Sparrow**, of which we had seen many. As the bird climbed into view a triangular orange outline on its cheek was apparent. This area surrounded a gray cheek patch. At this point I began flipping through my mental field guide and resolved to stay with this cooperative bird as long as possible. The bird moved about the same plant for nearly five minutes, giving us plenty of opportunity to study its markings. It had an orange wash on its breast and extending part way down the flanks. The throat was white, and a distinct gray collar extended from the shoulder to the hind neck. Several white lines extended from the hind neck to the mid-back. The combination of all these characteristics led me to identify it as a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow!** Although I was familiar with the species from Brigantine NWR and Tuckerton, NJ, I had never expected to find it in my backyard marsh. I'm still amazed at the lucky ending we had to an otherwise mediocre day.

Sweisford and I studied the bird for a total of nearly 10 minutes each, looking north-northeast with the sun at our backs. We were 25 to 30 feet distant from it, and using 9x Nikon and 10x Mirador binoculars respectively. (After the initial 5-minute encounter the bird flew about 40 feet away. After a minute or so it returned to the original plant, where we observed it for another 3 to 5 minutes.)

Subsequent searches by observers familiar with the species on that day and the days following proved fruitless. While somewhat disheartened by this, I am confident of my identification of the bird. Needless to say, I had to feel fortunate, too, that the bird showed itself when and where it did. ●

502 Monroe Drive
Harleysville, PA

HARRIS' SPARROW
Franklin County
by Charles T. Brightbill

It was about 14°F., and the wind was blowing somewhere near 25 mph, making it the coldest CBC on which I'd ever helped.

By noontime the sun was shining brightly and the sky was mostly blue. I approached the crest of a hill on Sheller Road, about six miles southeast of Chambersburg, PA, headed south. I was by myself, driving slowly with the window down, when I noticed some bird shapes in the weedy grass strip to my left. I drove as close as I thought I could, then cut the engine. Through my binoculars I identified American Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos as they flitted, feeding.

In answer to my "pishing," a bird flew toward me and came to rest in some brambles about fifteen feet away, just ahead of me, to my left.

It was an adult Harris' Sparrow—far from its normal winter range—the first I'd ever seen. I wrote down its field marks on my count sheet, noting that there were no streaks on the side of the belly and that the background shade on its back and tail was gray, both contrary to the illustration in my field guide. I also noticed that it sat very erect, as does a White-crowned Sparrow. I observed it for about three minutes, then continued my Christmas Bird Count route.

The next day I called several birders who were able to come and see and photograph the bird. ●

11986 Buchanan Trail West
Mercersburg, PA 17236



Harris' Sparrow, Antrim Twp, 01/06/90. Photo by Franklin C. Haas.



Before you read further, please check your mailing label. If the last two numbers of your account code are not "90" or greater, it is time to renew.

This is the last issue for 1989. It is expensive to send reminders for renewal. Therefore, please take the time NOW to renew for 1990. We need your support in order to continue to improve the journal.

Thank you.

The Editors

REMEMBRANCE OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PAST
"Brush Mountain Notebook"

December 17, 1988 — Eighteen degrees at dawn with light snow flurry and a weak sun. Already two great horned owls have given their pre-dawn hoots from Sapsucker Ridge and as our two sons, Steve (24) and David (22), set off down the hollow on foot, Steve gives me my orders.

"Count the birds in the yard and at the feeder."

I step outside with him and hear a well-known call. "Bluebird," I tell him and point to the top of a black walnut tree. Sure enough, our first eastern bluebird ever on a Christmas Bird Count glows in the rising sunlight.

This is my eleventh CBC on top of the northernmost mountain in Pennsylvania's ridge-and-valley province. We, my sons and my husband, Bruce, cover the habitat on foot and usually total between 20 and 30 miles, depending on how long Bruce and David persist. Steve and I are the committed birders; the other two go along for the experience. Long past exhaustion we push ourselves up and down the ridges, scour the wild grape thickets, "pish" among the dried field grasses, search the hedgerows and laurel tangles.

After a hearty breakfast of homemade coffee cake and cheese omelets, Bruce and I head straight up across the field to Sapsucker Ridge where, amid a snarl of blackberry canes, I spotted a Carolina wren yesterday. Obliging it pops up out of the brush, scratches in the frozen leaf duff, and cocks its head, displaying its distinctive white eyebrow stripe. Added to the feeder birds—black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice, a red-bellied woodpecker, northern juncos, white-breasted nuthatches, tree sparrows, northern cardinals and house finches—along with the bluebird and owls, my species list is a respectable eleven by 9:30 a.m.

I pay attention to numbers too and try my best to count the usual winter residents but the woods are mostly quiet whenever we stop to listen. Carefully we thread our way along the base of the ridge and look up in time to spot five silent bluebirds sitting in the locust trees along the field edge and feeding on the brilliant red berries hanging from the wild bittersweet vines that twine through the higher tree branches.

Later, along the sheltered jeep track to the Far Field, I pick up all the woodpecker species we can expect to find on the mountain—pileated, hairy, downy, more red-bellieds, and, best of all, a northern flicker. When I cross over into our neighbor's land, which has been recently logged, I find a sunny spot with a few remnant trees draped in grape vines. It is there I count four more flickers feeding noisily along with a single robin.

Three miles beyond our home I reach the hunting lodge property and head for a hedgerow of autumn olives, wild bittersweet, hawthorns and wild grapes. Years ago, one January day, I had found it crammed with cedar waxwings. So it is today. By now I am alone, Bruce has gone home to eat and warm up, and I lean against a small tree, surrounded by cedar waxwings eating snow on the ground, feeding on the wild berries at eye level, skimming close overhead in ceaseless movement. The air swirls with waxwings and over and over I try to count them. But they fly in and out in relays, follow me as I move on, line up in layers along the half-concealing branches of a white pine tree, their keening cries cutting through the cold air. These are magical moments for me and I hold the memory of those striking birds close even as I slog back home through a snow flurry so thick that I cannot see the birds in nearby treetops.

Afternoon is anti-climactic. Steve and I go out to look for wild turkeys and find only old tracks and a porcupine feeding in the grape thicket where we hoped to see turkeys. The black birches along the ridgetop hold no stray goldfinches; no flock of chickadees contains even one golden-crowned kinglet. Altogether our species list at day's end stands at 24.

The following day David and I go back to look for the porcupine. Fifty wild turkeys explode off the edge of the ridge. And later, as I walk where yesterday the flickers quarreled, a wedge of ten tundra swans flies overhead.

The second day after the count a goldfinch joins the regulars at the feeder. I think longingly, then, of the sharp-shinned hawk that buzzed the feeder a week ago, the ravens that croak regularly over the ridge, the golden-crowned kinglets that are usual winter residents, the quavering screech owls. Where were you all when I needed you? But then I remember the totally unexpected bluebirds, the song sparrow that waited for Steve at the base of the mountain, the lone brown creeper that foraged on a hemlock trunk, the two white-throated sparrows that scratched in a hollow thicket.

Christmas Bird Count — full of surprises, reverses, thrills, frustrations. Will it ever be any different?

"Next year," Steve says, as he always says, "will be different. Next year we'll get 35 species." Ah, the dreams of CBC futures. ☺

Mrs. Bonta is author of the book, "Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania, A Guide to Natural Places for Individual and Group Outings." It is available from The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park 16802, cloth \$22.50, paper

12.75, plus \$2.00 S&H. autographed copies are available from the author at the same price addressed to Box 68, Tyrone, PA 16686. It can also be purchased at local bookstores. -eds.

A NEW CRAZE: A HAWKWATCHING PARTY

by Al Guarente

My wife, Sharon, and I decided to have a party. It was just supposed to be a little get-together of our normal birding comrades. From time to time the members of this group gather at each of their respective homes. Well, we decided it was time again to solicit the attendance of everyone to our homestead. But we wanted it to be a little different this time, so we thought we would entice everyone to attend a hawkwatching party on our deck. Our deck is low to the ground, but being in suburbia, with not many trees in the yard, it offers a 180 degree panorama of the skyline looking both north and east.

We sent out invitations with a pen-and-ink sketch of a Red-tailed Hawk, requesting all to come prepared with binoculars. As the date approached, the weather looked absolutely appalling. Fortunately we had a rain date. The original party was planned for Saturday, and as it turned out, it rained all day Friday and up to about noon on Saturday. But by the time the party was supposed to have started, at 2 p.m., the weather was gorgeous. Had we made a big mistake in postponing the hawk watch? Well, we would have to wait and see. Past experience at Hawk Mountain taught us it was usually the second day after a front that the big hawk flights ensue, so we were still enthusiastic.

Sunday, 22 October, finally arrived and I was looking forward to when the guests would also arrive — 2 p.m. I was so anxious that I started my stake-out on the deck about 10 a.m. It seemed to be a classic hawk watching day, with winds out of the northwest at 10 mph and temperatures in the upper 50's. After 15 minutes I had already found 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Turkey Vultures, and 3 kestrels. But the biggest surprise came when I added a new bird to my yard list. As I was scanning the skies I found a flock of 32 Snow Geese winging their way south heading for their wintering grounds, possibly at Bombay Hook or Chincoteague.

After relaxing in the chaise lounge for some time, Sharon informed me that John and Peggy Ginaven were coming up the driveway. So we greeted them and then as a joke made them sign a waiver, releasing us of any responsibility in case we didn't produce any hawks today. Well, if any of you know John Ginaven, he was just as anxious to get scanning as I was and suggested we get started immediately. I agreed.

As it turned out, it was a good decision, for as soon as we walked out on the deck a buteo was flying overhead. As the sunlight struck the bird from above, it was obvious from the translucent window patches on the outer wings that it was the first of two Red-shouldered Hawks for the day. As the day progressed and all the other guests arrived we saw many more hawks. Thank goodness. Apparently the second day after the storm was good for Sharpies, as we tallied 52 of these little

accipiters. We also found two Osprey.

Around 3:30 p.m. the Red-tailed Hawks started coming and offered some fine viewing opportunities. Common Loons were also migrating throughout the day. We found 8 loons speeding by in their typical hunched-back flight heading for the coast. While the skies were temporarily void of hawks we saw three little birds land in a treetop and they turned out to be Eastern Bluebirds. Another first for my yard list. This was the second new yard bird in one day. We should have these parties more often!

The highlight of the day, however, came at 4 p.m. when someone spotted a couple of birds flying in low over the treetops from the East. The call came that there was a Sharpie chasing a Red-tail. As everyone got their binoculars on the pair, I noticed that the "small" bird was a Red-tailed Hawk which meant that the large bird could only be an EAGLE. Just as I yelled out, "That's an eagle." both birds plunged beneath the trees in the distance and out of sight. Everyone at this point was hoping the bird would pop back up for a better view, but it didn't happen quickly enough. Somebody suggested that maybe we should go out front, but before they could finish their statement it was apparent that we all had the same thought. At this point I was hoping our neighbors weren't watching our antics, for all at once the whole gang of fifteen birders was running down our driveway and standing next to the street. People in cars going by were definitely staring in amazement at the sight of us all standing there looking through binoculars. What was going through their minds?

No time to think about that now though, for all at once the eagle reappeared from the edge of the trees and was soaring around, *at treetop level*, as if waiting to be identified. John shouted out, "It's a Golden Eagle." Sure enough. We could all see the white patches on the primaries and the white tail band identifying it as an immature bird.

Just then, a neighbor came by walking his two dogs. He asked, "What are you all looking at?" We told him a Golden Eagle. Obviously not impressed, and as if he had seen a million of them before, he just went on walking the dogs and never even looked skyward. As the eagle flew out of sight for the last time, we all started back towards the deck. As everyone was remarking about how nicely the bird cooperated, I told them how this was the third new yard bird for me today and a new bird for my Delaware County list.

The afternoon air was now getting a bit chilly and everyone was getting hungry, so people started going inside. A few of us remained on duty and then, just to finish off the day in the proper manner, within ten minutes of each other, two Merlins flew by to end our first (but probably annual) hawk watch from the Guarente's Deck.

Not to be outdone, my cousin, Nick

Pulcinella, who was also at the hawk watch party, called me the following day and told me he just had a different Golden Eagle fly over his place and that was followed by a Peregrine Falcon. His eagle was an adult bird. Two Golden Eagles in Delaware County in one weekend will be tough to top next year. Well, maybe next year will be the year of the Swainson's Hawk in Delco. Stay tuned. ☉

The final total for the day was:

52	Sharp-shinned Hawk
1	Golden Eagle
2	Osprey
5	Red-tailed Hawk
2	Red-shouldered Hawk
3	Turkey Vulture
6	American Kestrel
2	Merlin

421 Old Middletown Rd.
Media, PA 19063

THE SECOND YEAR - HAWK WATCH AT MILITIA HILL

by Marylea Klauder

We started on the Wednesday after Labor Day and saw a Bald Eagle in the first three hours, what a great beginning! Militia Hill was back on the Birding Hot Line.

A short article about the hawk watch in the *Bird Watcher's Digest* brought many new birders, and four new compilers joined the ranks. This year our counts are going in the computer at HMANA (Hawk Migration Association of North America) so we upgraded our weather data and a new member assembled an attractive and sensitive weather vane to assist us.

We identified two Bald Eagles in one day for the first time on 15 September. And on a busy Saturday an adult Bald Eagle circled overhead long enough to give the thirty watchers a close and memorable sight.

What should have been the best week in September was disappointing, with bad weather including torrential rains which brought severe flooding and 60 mph winds as the tip of Hurricane Hugo slipped by. We thought we had missed the Broad-winged Hawk migration. But on 25 September kettles of circling birds ascended over the hill. As they peeled off from the top of the thermal we counted over 1000 Broad-winged Hawk in an hour.

The biggest surprise in September was the large number of Osprey. Day after day we were thrilled by the beauty of these large raptors, once endangered in the east by the use of DDT.

Unusual sightings in September included flocks of Double-crested Cormorants, a Great Black-backed Gull, a Laughing Gull, a blue-phase Snow Goose, Common Loons, many migrating Monarch Butterflies at extreme heights, and a lovely red fox who ran part way up the hill before he decided that 15 bird watchers all yelling, "Look at the fox," was not his idea of fun.

In October we were visited by Jim Clements, Director of the World Wildlife Fund, who is traveling around the world attempting to see 4000 species of birds in one calendar year. His trip will raise \$400,000 for the new Hall of Birds at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Jim was in Philadelphia for a few days between three months in South America and his trip to Africa. He came to the hill because he needed a Cooper's Hawk and we found one for him in 45 minutes. That was bird number 3202 for Jim and a very special bird for us. It circled twice overhead and made us proud of our little hawk watch, which had become a part of the long and exhausting trip of a warm and friendly man who took the time to share his excitement and adventure with us.

Indian Summer days in October gave us the beginning of autumn colors, the first falling leaves and the sixth Bald Eagle.

Mischief Night was unfortunately celebrated two weeks early by vandals who stole our weather vane and owl decoy and

smashed the bulletin board. Two days of fog and three of rain added more gloom to our spirits. But when the sun came out on 23 October, the northwest winds brought our first N. Goshawk. That was the one species of East Coast raptor that we had not seen last year. It was also the date, for the second year in a row, of a large flight of Turkey Vultures. We saw over 200 raptors that day of 9 different species, along with loons, cormorants, and Wood Ducks. We had now seen more than the total number (3857) of raptors seen in last year's hawk watch. More observers on the hill each day and the increased hours had been very rewarding.

A Master Falconer stopped by one day carrying a magnificent Harris Hawk on his glove. Two sharpies passing over at the time circled to take a closer look at this raptor from the Southwest.

In honor of one of our favorite East Coast species, we had T-shirts printed with an Osprey against a light blue sky. And on Halloween 44 of us gathered for a picnic where we celebrated our identification of 4060 raptors to date. We had seen 13 of the 16 expected species this Fall and still had a month in which we hoped to see the Black Vulture, Rough-legged Hawk, and Golden Eagle.

October bonuses included 7 dowitchers, a meadowlark, a Lesser Golden-Plover, a Snow Goose, the Concord, the Goodyear and Fuji blimps, a box turtle and a large snapping turtle. You never know what you may see on a hawk watch!

Early November was exciting. On the first we saw an immature light-phase Rough-legged Hawk. Then three Black Vultures, followed the next day by a flight of ten more. A few late Ospreys brought the count of that species to 170, over three times the number we had seen last year. Another Rough-legged and another Goshawk were identified. Then on 8 November a lovely immature Golden Eagle circled low over the field, close enough to be seen clearly without binoculars. Now we had completed our list, all 16 expected species!

Frustrated by his inability to see the birds, one member went for cataract surgery and returned to the hill for a brief visit on his way home from the hospital. This shows the type of interest and loyalty the watch developed. One compiler spent three hours in the rain to record two sharpies. Hawk watching can become addictive, but it's such a healthy kind of addiction. Fresh air, good conversation with nice people from many different fields of experience, and the continuing learning process and challenge of identification are all beneficial stimulants. Over 150 in a day, including a late Merlin and another Rough-legged Hawk adds up to a great feeling. And almost every morning we were greeted by the bluebirds, as many as 17 at a time when migrants joined the locals.

A compiler and two other observers leaned against 60 mph gusts one morning

and left the hill only when the park was evacuated for a tornado warning.

Then it got COLD! Blue fingers held binoculars on more Red-tails and Red-shoulders. We had seen 4877 raptors by 17 November. Could we reach 5000 by the end of the month? Yes, we did reach and pass that magic number in just two more days. A single digit chill factor and 50 mph winds brought only birds and the most hardy watchers to the hill. On Thanksgiving Day we awoke to four inches of snow. In our three months on the watch we had experienced the full sweep from the heavy lushness of summer to this crisp, clean sparseness of winter. We added 27 more Red-tails to the list before we went home for our turkey dinners.

Twelve Snow Geese sliced an ice blue sky, another Rough-legged Hawk, and the 8th Bald Eagle. These special birds and an occasional hot chocolate kept us going. Two more Rough-legs among the fast moving Red-tails and the icy breezes, and then it was all over.

On the last day, 27 of us gathered for the final count day, sharing mixed feelings of sadness, relief, and pride in a job well done. In 86 days we had observed 5290 migrating raptors, made many new friends, and thoroughly enjoyed THE SECOND YEAR. ●

NOTES FROM THE RTE 183 LOOKOUT

by Bob MacClay

Our data sheets just show numbers. They don't show the excitement, frustration and sometimes, "What am I doing here?" [feeling]. But when I pull out a sheet to look at, no matter from lookout, I can picture being there that day (sometimes) and enjoy again.

We had pleasant visits with many "old" and new friends, several Bake Oven Knobbers (good old days). We can't list them all, but we do want to acknowledge those who added **greatly** to the count and help keep us straight. So much thanks, alphabetically, to: Ed Barrell, Gerry Church, Pat Essler, Rudy Keller, Dan Knarr, Ann Liebner, Pat Santee, Bob, Joan and "April" Silagy, and Mike Slater. As the years pass and the senses fade, we depend more and more on these good people.

Bad things: two boats stolen from Blue Marsh Lake found gutted and burned on the lookout. A falconer with bow net at North Lookout. Sad sight of Eastern Green Snakes (now turned blue) killed by thoughtless ATV operators. Deer remains in plastic bags dumped at North Lookout. Building destroyed. Terrain ruined. Dumping, including many tires. Auto accident, almost including us, when lady turned to check her cat vomiting. Lucky!

Good things: huckleberries for Anne's delicious pies. Plentiful supply of grapes for good jelly. Deer, one which I'm sure would have run into me if I hadn't waved my arms to stop her ten feet short. Nice snakes -live Eastern Smooth Green, Ring-necked, Garter, and DeKay's Brown. Potatoes and hamburgers on the grill. Downy Woodpecker all fall. Homing pigeon releases. Nice swan, cormorant, Oldsquaw movement. Black Scoter circled our field low so we could get a good look at those "fast-flying little black ducks," and so much more. We do get some breaks.

Good and often Raven sightings. More than normal Red-breasted Nuthatch. Lincoln's Sparrow a few days. Also enjoyed Swamp Sparrow, Connecticut Warbler, and other warblers and "dickie" birds, Pileated Woodpecker, Killdeer, and my favorite, Belted Kingfisher (favorite along with Song Sparrow and Mourning Dove). Mourning Dove because our crippled "wild" dove "Pidge" is over 8½ years old now and so lovable. One tagged Red-tailed Hawk.

Missed large white bird in North Notch, part of the frustration. But then on another occasion, young (early 9:40 a.m.) Gyrfalcon low in North Notch, circled and came right overhead, circled more for altitude. Plenty of time for Bob and Joan Silagy, Mike and Jan Slater, Anne and myself to study. Fantastic!!

The 5100 gulls on 11/21 was really something. They would stream from behind trees in North Valley (limited vision), stop then go East again before coming over the mountain. I could only count those that would show so I wonder how many there really were. Mostly Ring-billed with some

(immature only) Herring.

1990 may find gates erected to keep out traffic, we hope. We don't know what that will mean for us, but it is far more important to protect the area. Blue Mt. Eagle Climbing Club has done wonderful job at Rt. 501 and Port Clinton. We're looking forward to that at 183. Thank you B.M.E.C.C. ●

Mifflin County Eagles

by Margaret Kenepf

During the last week of October my sister, Dorothy Zook, and her husband, Ezra, observed a very large bird coming toward their farmhouse from the Whitehall area along Rt. 655 near Belleville. It landed on an old dead tree along a corn field fence row within full view of their house. She knew instantly that the bird was much larger than the Rough-legged Hawk they see often in the area. Almost daily for ten days it landed on the same tree about 9 a.m., stayed for about a half-hour or more and then moved nearer the barn or on a tree in the pond area. Once they observed it as it mantled its catch on the farm lane. It spent the time on the ground, but seemed at all times to nervously keep watch in all directions.

After several weeks it only appeared occasionally. And then in December they almost daily observed it again in the same areas and with my Bushnell Spacemaster II scope. It was a beautiful immature Golden Eagle. Ezra said it came near enough the house to observe the beautiful feather colorations and even its eye coloration.

By December, another bird of the same species, only a bit smaller and just a bit lighter in color, appeared. They came and left at irregular times and I wasn't fortunate enough to see both birds. Finally on a cold, cloudy, overcast forenoon they saw the larger bird circle upward in wide spirals and finally it vanished into a patch of blue sky high overhead. The second bird stayed near and seemed nervous and by mid-afternoon it flew up and spiraled wide circles and also melted into the sky and flew away. It was a wonderful experience. ●

RD 2, Box 343
McVeytown 17051

About The Cover Artist

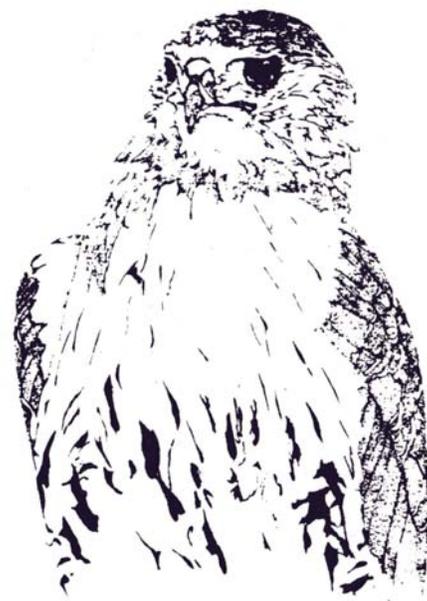
Penny Dereamus

Penny is a native of Easton, PA, and has lived all of her life in Pennsylvania. She considers her talents a natural gift as she has been painting since childhood.

Penny became interested in birds when she met her husband, Dave, in 1978. About five years ago she seriously got into birds, especially raptors.

Presently she has a display at the Green Wing Gallery in Easton and is President of the Paintbox Art Club in Nazareth.

She has been contacted by Hawk Mt. Sanctuary and the Pennsylvania Game Commission for future work. They, as well as we, will be fortunate to receive more of her work.



AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX PROJECT IN WARREN COUNTY

by William Highhouse

In 1971, an American Kestrel nest box project was started with five nest boxes erected in rural areas of Warren County, Pennsylvania. The number of nest boxes gradually increased until 40 were in place for the 1989 nesting season. Accurate records were not kept in the early years, but since the 1983 nesting season, when 23 boxes were up, we have actively monitored the nesting activity of this handsome falcon.

Ron Rieder helped in the early years, then John Dorio, and finally Don Watts. Watts checks all of our boxes three to five times each nesting season.

The number of nesting pairs increased from 14 in 1983 to 34 in 1989. The number of kestrel eggs produced has increased from 96 in 1986 to 167 in 1989. The number of young fledged increased from 80 in 1984 to 118 in 1988 and 94 in 1989.

The number of young fledged per occupied box averages 4.25 in a normal warm, dry May and June, dropping to a low of 2.8 in 1989—when May and June were unusually cold and very wet. The percentage of unhatched eggs averages 13 percent in a warm, dry Spring, but rose to 35 percent in 1989.

A total of 550 nestling kestrels in our boxes has been banded by John Dorio, Ted Grisez, and Don Watts. There have been four recoveries of two of these birds. Both birds were banded in the northwest quarter of Warren County in the vicinity of Lander. The first was banded in June 1979, and was trapped and released at Bristol, Tennessee, in December 1979 by J. W. Coffey. The same bird was captured at the same location (a parking lot near Bristol) in the next two winters as well, on 3 January 1981 and 31 January 1982. Bristol is 380 miles southwest of Warren. Mr. Coffey believes it had remained there as a permanent resident. The second was banded in June 1986, and was trapped and released near Hamlin, New York, surprisingly, in January 1988 by William Symonds. This is 115 miles northeast of the banding site.

Our data indicate that 40 kestrel nesting boxes should fledge 100 kestrels during a warm, dry nesting season in our Warren County, PA, area.

Where to place?

Our best box locations are along rural dirt and blacktop roads. We space our boxes at least one mile apart, facing them away from the prevailing wind, but not toward the road. The best habitat for kestrel boxes is wide open farm country where there is a mixture of pasture, crop, or similar grassland habitat.

Kestrels have nested in the top of a building in downtown Warren where they

have been seen carrying snakes to their nestlings. We also find them nesting in the Conewango Creek and Allegheny River bottomlands where open fields are available for hunting rodents and snakes. Don Watts banded a nestling kestrel which had a three-inch undigested portion of a small snake sticking out of its mouth.

The kestrels migrate northward over a broad area of farming country and creek and river bottomlands as they seek nesting sites in March and April. They are equally numerous in both areas, especially where utility wires are available for perching and hunting.

Our farmland boxes are located from Russell and Akeley westward through Lander, Sugar Grove, Lottsville, Columbus and southward through Pittsfield and Youngsville.

How to make and maintain

All boxes are located on utility poles or dead trees from ten to twelve feet above ground level. It is not necessary to go above this height. All boxes are wired to the poles for easy removal. The weight of the box pulls the wire tight, so it is unnecessary to use any nails.

Our boxes are made in general accordance with plans from "Woodworking for Wildlife" as published by the Pennsylvania Wild Resource Conservation Fund and Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Bill Clark of Cape May Bird Observatory fame told us never to band adult birds or otherwise unduly disturb them while they are incubating eggs, so we act accordingly. We do quietly check each box for occupancy and status.

In the fall we check all boxes for possible repair and replacement. At this time we also add 2-3 inches of new dry sawdust or wood chips to each box.

In checking all boxes in the spring, Don Watts discovered that if a European Starling takes over a nesting box early in the nesting season, it will usually remove all of our sawdust and then build its nest of straw and grasses in the empty box. We remove all starling eggs and nests.

Some of our farmer friends have watched the starlings remove the sawdust piece by piece. We have never seen this behavior mentioned in any of the literature we have read.

This means that if a kestrel evicts the starling from a box without sawdust, the kestrel eggs will then be laid on a flat bare floor; and chances of successful incubation are lessened unless we intervene by adding sawdust. Later in the nesting season, starlings may remove little or no sawdust from the box.

This falcon's future?

The 89th Christmas Bird Count

results indicate that the count of 541 American Kestrels in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the lowest in recent years, continues a long-term decline in the American Kestrel's fortunes.

Other species we have found nesting in our kestrel boxes are Screech-Owl, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Flying Squirrels, starlings, and honey bees.

If you want to help this beautiful falcon by erecting and maintaining nest boxes, we would be happy to answer your questions and aid in box location, if possible. ☺

YR	BOXES	PAIRS	EGGS	FLEDGED
1983	23	14		
1984	28	19		80
1985	24	19		90
1986	27	22	96	68
1987	30	20	90	76
1988	38	30	144	118
1989	40	34	167	94

8 Fourth Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

LURING PURPLE MARTINS

by John H. Ginaven

During the past five years I have been trying to attract Purple Martins to potential nest sites by the use of carved wooden decoys. Although the decoys seem to have attracted martins, none has stayed to nest.

I began the Purple Martin Nesting Project at The Tyler Arboretum in Lima, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, in April 1984. I got the idea of using carved wooden decoys while I was at the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine. Dr. Stephen Kress had successfully used wooden decoys to lure colonial Atlantic Puffins and Common, Arctic and Roseate Terns back to their former nesting sites on Eastern Egg Rock. Since Purple Martins are also colonial nesters, I thought they might be lured by decoys as well. If I could find a simple, inexpensive way to improve the chances of starting new colonies of martins, more homeowners might be willing to put up martin houses in their yards. A mass-produced, plastic decoy would be relatively inexpensive. I chose not to use tape-recorded martin songs in order to keep the experiment simple.

My first martin decoys were carved and painted by Dave and Peggy Pergrin. Eight decoys were rough cut and eight others were sanded to shape. Although I put up four houses in April 1984, I did not put on the decoys until May. I placed two male and two female decoys on each of three houses at The Tyler Arboretum. An eight-room wooden house and a twelve-room aluminum Trio-Grandpa house were located in a wide clearing near a pond. A twelve-room aluminum Trio-Wade house was located in an open field. These three houses were not used by Eurasian Starlings or House Sparrows during the study period. The fourth, a twelve-room aluminum Trio-Grandpa house, was located at my home in West Chester, Pennsylvania. I also placed two male and two female decoys on this house. House Sparrows were discouraged by monitoring the box.

Although I was late getting the decoys up the first year, I did get some positive results. On 14 July 1985 three Purple Martins circled the yard and landed on telephone wires near the house in West Chester. One female flew towards the house but was scared away by a house sparrow, and all three flew away. Again on 26 July 1985, a pair of martins circled the yard, swooped at the house and landed on the telephone wires. These two birds stayed 15 minutes before circling the yard and heading south. Since this house had been installed in 1982 and there had been no prior known visits by martins, it is possible that the decoys attracted the birds.

After the first season I had two major concerns. First, were the decoys attracting martins but scaring them from landing on the house? Second, were the decoys accurate enough under close inspection by the martins? During a phone conversation,

Dr. Charles R. Brown, then at Princeton University, doubted that martins would be frightened by the decoys. He based these thoughts on the fact that dead starlings, placed on houses in Texas to keep live starlings away, did not seem to bother the martins.

During the winter I asked Dave Pergrin to carve four new decoys with more detail, better painting and glass eyes. I also added glass eyes to the eight rough-cut decoys. In 1985, I placed the four new decoys on one aluminum house, the eight rough-cut decoys on another aluminum house and four smooth-shaped decoys on the wooden house. On 20 April 1985, a male Purple Martin was seen flying near the house with the new decoys, but he did not land on the house.

Dr. Kress had suggested trying different numbers of decoys and moving them around. He also suggested putting mirrors on the roof so that visiting martins would see some motion in their reflections. In 1986 I put the four new decoys on the wooden house and no decoys on the nearby aluminum house. I added two mirrors to the roof of the other aluminum house and mounted eight decoys. I also mounted eight decoys on the house in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

On 23 June 1986 some friends, MaryLea and Phil Klauder, who were also trying their own decoys on a few houses, reported that two first-year martins visited a house in Fort Washington State Park, north of Philadelphia. One of the birds stayed 30 minutes, landed on the house and even perched on top of one of the decoys! Obviously, it was not frightened. On 7 July a Purple Martin was seen circling the aluminum house near the new decoys, but it did not land. On 10 July a martin was observed flying and hovering near the house in West Chester.

In 1987, with a new arrangement of decoys, there were two more documented visits. On 30 April two males and one female martin were seen flying around the field where the Trio-Wade house was located. On 15 June two adult male martins were observed flying around the same house. They did not land.

On 30 May 1988 a Purple Martin circled the house in West Chester but did not land. In 1989 I removed the decoys from all the houses except for the four "new" decoys on the wooden house. In May 1989 twelve Purple Martins landed on the Trio-Wade house and spent two days in and around the house. But they did not stay to nest. On 28 May a young male martin flew around the house in West Chester but the doors were capped. I immediately lowered the house and removed the door covers, while the martin sat on the telephone wires and circled overhead. But the martin flew away before I raised the house again.

I am convinced that the decoys have attracted Purple Martins, but I cannot prove that the houses alone would not have

resulted in the same visits. Obviously, the decoys have not been the instant success that I had hoped for. Perhaps others will try using decoys in areas where martins are more abundant. The combined use of tape-recorded martin songs and decoys might prove successful, although more expensive to set up. More realistic decoys may help. If anyone is interested in trying decoys, I would be glad to share my experience. ☺

1268 Delmar Avenue
West Chester, PA

IS OUR FACE RED...

Somehow we managed to misspell Dave Krueger's name in the "About the Cover Artist" section in the last issue. Our apologies to Dave after his writing an excellent article and providing the art work to accompany it.

LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD CLUB
RARE BIRD PHOTOGRAPH
COMMITTEE
by Randy Miller

The Lancaster County Bird Club now has a Rare Bird Photograph Committee. It is comprised of Randy Miller, Steve Santner, Robert Schutsky, and Eric Witmer. Our goal is to collect and file photographs of rare birds photographed in Lancaster County.

If you have slides, or color or black and white negatives of any rare bird we would appreciate it if we could make a print for the LCBC file. If you have any 4 x 5 prints you would like to donate they would also be appreciated. Photo credits will be filed with each photograph. We would also like to know where and when the bird was photographed. Please do **not** cut negatives, and handle your negatives and slides on the edges only.

Please contact any one of us if you have any questions. Your help in making this a success will be greatly appreciated.

607 Woodland Drive
Manheim, PA 17545

Steve and Eric are the compilers for Lebanon and Lancaster Counties respectively and their addresses and telephone numbers are given at the end of each county report. Bob can be reached at P.O. Box 10, 1921 River Road, Drumore 17518 (717-548-2121). We agree this is an important project that may be assumed by other Bird Clubs as well. Good luck. *The P.O.R.C. photograph collection is also off to a good start thanks to many of you. Eds.*

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: A jacket was left at the Sieg Conference Center near Lamar, PA, during the April 1989 Regional Coordinators' Meeting of the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project. If this jacket is yours we would like to return it to you, and will do so by mail. Just send a description of it to:

Paul W. Schwalbe
546 Wilson Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
(717) 398-4514

WHERE WERE WE ??

by Paul & Glenna Schwalbe

The following is a list of birds seen by Glenna and Paul Schwalbe on 26 October 1989. They thought it was an interesting list and present it to you in the form of the question above, "Where Were We?" Can you tell from the list of birds where the observers were? The birds are listed in check-list order with one exception. This exception is a dead giveaway, so it would be no fun for you if it were just listed with the rest of the species. To help remove the temptation to look at this species first, we have scrambled its name. The scrambled name of this species and the location where all of these were seen will be in the next issue of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**.

Double-crested Cormorant
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Osprey
American Kestrel
Merlin
Ruddy Turnstone
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove
(now it gets interesting)
Common Ground-Dove
Belted Kingfisher
(and even more interesting)
Great Kiskadee
American Crow
Eastern Bluebird
Gray Catbird
European Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Cape May Warbler
Northern Cardinal
European Goldfinch
House Finch
(and scrambled)
Awoch

Next issue we hope to present a listing for Pennsylvania. We have one in mind, but would appreciate hearing from other readers as well. -Eds. ●

DINNER FOR TWO

by JoAnne Palka

One evening early in August, around dusk, I was walking my Doberman Pinscher, Maggie. In a large field filled with alfalfa and edged by woods, I witnessed a phenomenon which increased by awareness to the ingenuity of the Barn Swallow. Maggie enjoys chasing birds in flight and since she has never gotten closer than ten yards to any bird and the exercise which this provides is excellent, I have

never prohibited this behavior.

It wasn't long before Maggie darted off in pursuit of a swallow and while observing this chase I noticed that two other swallows were flying low behind, close to her heels. As this fast moving parade continued back and forth through the field it took me a few moments to realize that the lead bird was really a decoy and that the two birds in the rear were devouring the insects which Maggie flushed from the alfalfa. Due to canine exhaustion, the chase (and the meal) soon ended and we started for home. While walking I couldn't help but wonder if, "A bird in flight is worth dinner for two?" ●

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

by Terry Schiefer

It's time once again to send in your Pennsylvania list totals. As usual, you may submit lists in four categories:

- 1) Pennsylvania Lifelist
- 2) Pennsylvania Annual Lists (for any year)
- 3) County Lifelists
- 4) County Annual Lists (for any year)

There are two changes that will effect the way you report your totals. First, in this issue of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** you will find an insert entitled **Pennsylvania Birdlists Report Form**. Use this to submit your totals. Secondly, note that I am now using my Mississippi address to receive your lists. If you have already sent me your lists, or mailed them to my Reading address or to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, don't worry. These lists have been forwarded to me and will be included in the next installment of Pennsylvania Birdlists. I hope to hear from each and every one of you.

203 E. Gillespie St.
Starkville, MS 39759

Summary of the Season

We always seem to start off with some mention of the weather. This will be no exception. We are grateful to all of the compilers who submitted detailed weather information, and although the specifics are not mentioned in the individual county reports this quarter, they will be filed for reference. In the interest of space we will no longer print the individual county weather data, but strongly urge that all compilers who have submitted such data in the past to PLEASE continue to do so.

Although 1989 began with generally above average temperatures, few areas in December were spared record-breaking COLD. Our observations coincide with those of Ralph Bell (*Greene*), that the birds did not seem to suffer great mortality rates due to the cold, probably because there was little snow and ice to cover their food sources. The Higbees (*Armstrong, Indiana*) did comment on the fact that maybe the Carolina Wren population in their area may suffer.

While in some years not a single **Brant** can be found, this quarter they showed up everywhere! All southeastern counties, except *Bucks*, recorded at least one bird and approximately 175 were counted in *Lancaster* in two days. It would probably be safe to say that these sightings were as a result of the adverse weather conditions following storms and the birds just put down until conditions were more favorable. The Brant at Green Lane Reservoir (*Montgomery*) was the first that long-term birders there could ever recall. One in *Dauphin* and another in *Clinton* did not get to wintering grounds.

Most waterfowl departed with the extreme cold that arrived in mid-December. The exceptions were in those few isolated areas where open water prevailed. Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** (*Snyder*) in late December were outstanding. **Eurasian Wigeon** were found in *Berks* and *Lancaster*, and it was felt by Keller that the one in *Berks* was probably the same individual found last year since this species is considered to be site-faithful. *Erie* did not let us down, with fly-by sightings of **King Eider** and **Harlequin Duck**. All three species of scoter were well-represented. The three-day storm in mid-October gave record numbers in some southeastern areas. *The Erie* birds seemed to be just normal migrants and not storm-related. But take heart waterfowl lovers, our new compiler for *Cameron*, Bill Hendrickson, writes that outside of Stevenson Dam, even a **Mallard** is pretty uncommon in that county.

No fall report would be complete without a raptor report. All the records submitted are separately listed following the County reports. Osprey and Bald Eagle sightings away from the ridges were encouraging, with several late accounts of the former noted well into December (*Indiana, Lancaster*). Gross, while birding in *Luzerne*, had the good fortune to watch a **Mississippi Kite** both in flight and at rest. Hawk Mt. recorded more Sharp-shinned Hawks than Broad-wings! The only **Swainson's Hawk** report was from *Lehigh*. One hardly thinks of *Delaware* as a **Golden Eagle** hotspot, but the 3 in October were noteworthy. The best falcon report had to be of the **Gyrfalcon** that went by the Rt. 183 Lookout while several observers were there to enjoy. All three expected species of falcons had record numbers at Hawk Mt. this year. At Bake Oven Knob (*Lehigh*), 15 **Merlin** zipped by in a single hour!

Is it typical that **Ruffed Grouse** are drumming in the fall? There were at least three instances of Ruffed Grouse drumming/displaying on late dates (*Forest, Lawrence* and *Lebanon*).

Some excellent finds were made on various CBCs. A **Sandhill Crane** (*Carbon*) was seen for two days. Shorebird sightings were generally lackluster. There were some interesting late

dates in *Berks, Crawford, Erie* and *York*. A flock of 130 **Lesser Golden-Plover** in *Lancaster* were an excellent find. **Purple Sandpiper** (*Erie*) were seen on at least four separate days and deserve mention.

Good concentrations of gulls were not found in traditional locations this quarter. The lack of gizzard shad as a primary food source forced them to forage elsewhere. Ever opportunistic, they seemed to concentrate on landfills.

A possible **Sandwich Tern** was seen in *Lancaster* and pending review may be the first State record. Also probably storm-related was the well-documented **Black Skimmer** in *Lancaster*.

Red-bellied Woodpecker continue to be found on more and more Christmas Counts in the northern tier. Is there really a decline in **Hairy Woodpecker** going on? Several compilers seem to think so. This species deserves more study. The two **Western Kingbirds** found in *Chester* hung around long enough to be identified by several observers lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. More people missed them than saw them, however. The **Eur. Jackdaw** continue to be found in *Union*, but it still takes some time and effort.

There seemed to be a major invasion of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** all quarter. They came through heavy in the southeast beginning in September (*Montgomery*), but seemed to wait until October and November in the more northern and western counties. And two species of wrens were found quite late, a **House Wren** in December (*Lawrence*) and a **Marsh Wren** in November (*Indiana*).

Bouton's article on the **Townsend's Solitaire** shows that one never knows what to expect at a hawk watch. The first record, with photographs, was by non-birders who took a picture of what they thought was an unusual bird along the Appalachian Trail in *Carbon* in January 1986! **American Robin** made history in *Union* where they racked up 514 individuals for the Lewisburg CBC. This number easily exceeded the total of all robins ever seen that Count's 40-year history. So much for being a harbinger of spring.

Best warbler sightings were of **Orange-crowned** (*Delaware, Erie*) and the **Audubon's** race of the **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Erie*). It was a poor year for finding stragglers on CBCs.

Fingerhood and Walters were more than a little surprised to turn up a **Western Tanager** (*Montgomery*) on the Valley Forge CBC. They took a few minutes out from their CBC efforts to call some people to get the hotline started. Observers were there by the droves over the next several weeks, with camera shutters clicking like castanets. **Dickcissel** reports came from *Centre, Lehigh*, and *Philadelphia*, the latter being the most unusual in these days of over-development.

American Tree Sparrow numbers were up in many locations. Some CBCs had their best counts in more than 20 years. *Montgomery* had its second record of **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** this year! A **Harris' Sparrow** in *Franklin* attracted many birders from in and out of state. Try to envision how Brightbill felt when he had originally found it and it was a Life bird for him. This particular bird was in full adult plumage; many of the East Coast records are of immature birds which are not as flashy and can create some identification problems. There sure were some excellent CBC finds!

Scattered through the reports are excellent counts of **Lapland Longspur**. Whenever this species reaches double-digits in Pennsylvania it is exciting and unusual. The Schwalbes (*Clinton*) counted 18. A pair of **Snow Bunting** made news in *Forest*.

Brewer's Blackbird were located in

Blair, Butler, and *York*. This species is probably overlooked for the most part, so it is encouraging to have well-documented reports. The only report of **Pine Grosbeak** came from *Union*.

We were, thank heavens, somewhat correct last quarter, but not with the magnitude we had hoped for with the CROSSBILLS ARE COMING. The Sagers' (*Somerset*) report sums up the feeling for a lot of us. "A **White-winged Crossbill** ...raised hopes for a heavy invasion of winter finches, but the quarterly reports proved otherwise." But they did come to some areas. Imagine being in *Bradford* on 27 November and finding 21 **Red** and 800+ **White-winged** crossbills, topped off with flocks totaling 350 **Evening Grosbeak** that same day. **Red Crossbills** appeared in *Allegheny, Butler, Clarion*, and *Lehigh*, and **White-winged Crossbill** in *Bucks, Centre, Clinton, Northampton*, and *Somerset*. They came, but hardly a state-wide invasion. **Redpolls** had an equally mixed review. A few here, a few there. But it was hard to miss **Pine Siskin** as they mounted an invasion in October and November. *Birders should be out now looking to see if any are nesting. The same goes for the crossbills.*

Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this section should be considered tentative, pending review by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

We received Doug Gross' reports for Columbia and Sullivan on disk, but the disk was apparently damaged in transit, so his reports will be included in the next issue. ●

COUNTY REPORTS - October through December 1989

Abbreviations Frequently Used: **ad.:**adult, **Am.:**American, **BBS:**Breeding Bird Survey, **c.:**central, **CBC:**Christmas Bird Count, **Cr.:**creek, **Co.:**county, **Cos.:**counties, *et al.:*and others, **e.:**eastern, **Eur.:**European,Eurasian, **F:**Fahrenheit, *vide:*reported by, **Ft.:**Fort, **imm.:**immature, **indiv.:**individual(s), **I.:**Island, **Is.:**Islands, **Jct.:**Junction, **juv.:**juvenile, **L.:**Lake, **max.:**maximum, **min.:**minimum, **m.ob.:**many observers, **Mt.:**Mountain, **Mts.:**Mountains, **NF.:**National Forest, **NWR:**National Wildlife Refuge, **Res.:**Reservoir, **R.:**River, **S.F.:**State Forest, **SGL:**State Game Lands, **S.P.:**State Park, **sp.:**species, **spp.:**species plural, **ssp.:**subspecies, **Twp.:**Township, **w.:**western, **WMA:**Wildlife Management Area, **v.o.:**various observers, **N,S,E,W,:**direction of motion, **n,s,e,w.:**direction of location, **>:**more than, **<:**fewer than, **±:**approximately, or estimated number, **♂:**male, **♀:**female, **♀imm.:** or female, *****:specimen, **ph.:**photographed, **ft.:**feet, **mi.:**miles, **m:**meters, **km:**kilometers, **date with a + (e.g., May 4+):**recorded beyond that date.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Joe Grom

Abbreviations: Deer Lakes Park (DLP), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), North Park (NP), Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park (SP).

Some highlights of the PGH CBC held 12/30 are: The 4th count record of a **Common Loon**, the 3rd in the last four years; 59 **Am. Black Duck**, the highest since 1973; a ♀ **Gadwall** on the Allegheny R., possibly the same one that was sighted last year; the 1st **Am. Wigeon** since 1981; the first **Greater Scaup** since 1976 and only the 4th count record; the first **Red-breasted Merganser** since 1982; the 5th record of **N. Harrier**, last seen in 1986, and found in NP; the 3rd count record of a **Barred Owl**, found this year in NP, with previous records of this species in 1966 and 1976; 95 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, the highest total since 120 were seen in 1976; an all-time high of 17 **E. Bluebird**, all seen in the old Nike site in Indiana Twp; and an all-time high of 7 **N. Mockingbird**. Other species and numbers of interest are: 471 **Canada Goose**, 1198 **Mallard**, 17 **Wild Turkey**, 1 **Killdeer**, 12 **E. Screech-Owl**, 6 **Great Horned Owl**, 51 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, 22 **N. Flicker**, 15 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 251 **White-breasted Nuthatch**, 25 **Brown Creeper**, 320 **Cedar Waxwing**, 1000 **N. Cardinal**, 236 **White-throated Sparrow**, 856 **Dark-eyed Junco**, 12 **Purple Finch**, 1102 **House Finch**, and 175 **Pine Siskin**. Total species 71, total individuals 15421.

Even though this summary leans heavily on the CBC, a foggy and overcast day, there are nevertheless some interesting ornithological bon mots among the meager reports. On 11/9 Paul Hess, back in local circulation — and so very welcome, counted 60 **Tundra Swan** in flight over Natrona Heights. JC had 7 **Bufflehead** at NP 11/2.

In addition to PB's "Osprey over Ross" (Twp) 10/3, previously reported here, PH counted a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Harrison Hills Park 10/15 and MI listed single **Red-tailed Hawk** along Alle River Blvd. in Penn Hills 10/28,31 [same bird?]. PH found an **E. Screech-Owl** in Natrona Heights 10/26. Also on 10/3, PB located a **Great Horned Owl** in O'Hara Twp.

PH was able to find a **Pileated Woodpecker** in HHP 10/15, while at DLP T&NM observed 1 on 11/12. Forty **Am. Crow** came under the scrutiny of AG at Vincentian Home, North Hills, 11/10 but the flock had lost 16 members by 12/5. Perhaps the missing had turned up among WH's 20 in Whitehall by 12/28.

As if to bear out at last some of the "final note" (PB 3:98), **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found by 2's and 3's in many feeders all quarter. The few **Brown Creeper** reports came mostly from northern *Allegheny*. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** had a very good flight by the reports and especially in the CBC.

PB lists **Swainson's Thrush** for Ross Twp 10/11. About 100 **Am. Robin** were found by T&NM 11/12 at DLP. During Oct., flocks of 10, 13, 14, 20, 25, 95 **Cedar Waxwing** were counted by MI, T&NM, WH, PB, AG in scattered areas. On 11/10 AG estimated 75 of these handsome berry eaters at Vincentian Home; CL figured at least twice that (160) in Fox Chapel 11/22. PH had a "single flock" [his words] of 50 in Natrona Heights 12/31.

PB became engrossed in a flock (?) of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** as they fed on poison ivy berries - and neglected to record their number.

PH notes that a "**N. Cardinal** pair was still feeding a young bird on the late date 10/15 at HHP." On 12/22 M&EW reported an **Am. Tree Sparrow** in their Elizabeth Twp backyard. On 10/19 PH lists the "last flock" of **Chipping Sparrow** (12) at Natrona Heights. Over in DLP 2 **Fox Sparrow** were dug out by T&NM 10/28. One week earlier they had been fortunate to find a singleton **Lincoln's** there. PH saw 2 **Dark-eyed Junco** at Natrona Height 10/19.

A few **Purple Finch** were seen by JG and JH in and near NP. On this same day (10/26) each saw or heard **Pine Siskin**. In addition to her 60 siskin, JH also found 1 **Common Redpoll** also in NP. Virginia (Ginny) Duncan had 16 siskin at her feeder in Bradford Woods 12/14, one day later than last year. T&NM saw from 5-25 on a regular basis during Dec. JG, on the other hand, watched 5 or so **Red Crossbill** flying in typical fashion in a northeasterly direction and making recognizable calls. (Out of *Allegheny*, no doubt!) These birds flew over him as he stood in the middle of busy Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, on Sunday a.m. 11/19. Lastly, M&EW in their Elizabeth Twp backyard fed 2 ♂ and 2 ♀ **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Paul Brown, Jim Clark, Virginia Duncan, Vickie Dziadosz, Al Grom, **Joe Grom, 9360 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495)**, Walter Hammond, Paul & Deborah Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Maureen Ireland, Carroll Labarthe, H. R. Leapman, Tom & Nellie McGary, Jim Valimont (CBC compiler), Mike & Evaleen Watko.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Elders Ridge (ER), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manorville (MNV), Rosston (RST), Tub Mill Run (TMR).

The AR was reported to be completely frozen at RST by 12/21. For weather information, see *Indiana*.

Four **Common Loon** at KR were the best count on 10/26 (MC,MH). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** on the AR at RST 11/14 and 12/7 was the lone report (ES). A **Horned Grebe** at MNV 12/20 was a nice find (DL). **Great Blue Heron** was last reported 12/12 at RST (ES).

All waterfowl reports are by ES unless otherwise indicated. Nine **Tundra Swan** at RST included 1 wearing a neck band #K-169. Best **Canada Goose** count was 89 at MNV 12/20 (DL). Last **Wood Duck** report was 12/7 at RST. Two **Green-winged Teal** were found 11/14,15 at MNV and 2 at RST 11/21; a ♀ lingered at the latter location until 12/7. Three **Am. Black Duck** were present at KR 10/26 (MC,MH), but 1 lingered on the AR at RST until 12/13. **Mallard** numbers at RST peaked at 165 on 11/30 and thereafter dwindled. **Am. Wigeon** were found at RST and TMR 11/21,23. Two **Canvasback** at MNV 10/22 were the only report. On 11/21, 2 **Ring-necked Duck** were located at RST. An **Oldsquaw** was observed there 12/7. Five **Common Goldeneye** were tallied at RST 12/12. Top **Bufflehead** count was 16 at MNV 11/12, but 6 lingered at RST till 12/12. Two **Hooded Merganser** were spotted at RST 11/21, where a **Common Merganser** was listed 12/13.

Top **Turkey Vulture** tally was 50+ s. of New Bethlehem 10/9 (PM). An **Osprey** was seen between Leechburg and Vandergrift along the AR 12/23,24 (GW,JW). A **N. Harrier** near ER 10/26 was the lone report (MC,MH). Flocks of **Wild Turkey** numbering from 6-23 were reported from four areas of the county (RH,ES,JV). A lone **Am. Coot** at RST 11/22 (ES) was the only report. **Killdeer** were not reported after 11/4 when 4 were listed at McGrann (ES). Best count of **Greater Yellowlegs** was 18 at MNV 10/19 (ES), but 1 was still found at Robb's Fording 11/7 (MC,MH). A **Common Snipe** near ER was seen just before dusk on 11/5 (MH,RH). Four terns on AR at MNV 12/10 were either **Forster's** or **Common** (DL).

The absence of **Carolina Wren** after the Dec. cold spell concerned several observers. The birds had been coming regularly to feeders at FC (ES). Last warbler reports, all at FC (ES), include **Nashville** on 10/10, **Palm** on 10/9, and **Blackpoll** on 10/2.

A good **Pine Siskin** flight over KR resulted in a count of 75+ on 10/26 (MC,MH). Two dozen were a nice tally at a KTN feeder 11/25

(NK) and remained through year's end.

OBSERVERS: Marcy Cunkelman, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Nancy Karp, Debbie Livengood, Paul Manns, Ed Slovensky, Joe Valasek, Gloria & John Winger.

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Abbreviations: Big Spring Farm, Robesonia (BSF), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO).

Christmas Bird Counts: 79th Reading 12/17 (RCBC), 25th Hamburg 12/31 (HCBC), 5th Bernville 1/1/90 (BCBC).

Mild, rainy fall weather lasted through November, followed abruptly by one of the coldest December's on record. The weather was not ideal for CBC's, especially the HCBC (freezing rain and icy roads), but new spp. were found and records broken, thanks to rarities, late lingerers and expanding southern spp.

At HMS, there were new season records for **Cooper's Hawk** and all three falcons. **Peregrine** broke a record that has stood since 1941 and there was double the previous high count of **Merlin**. HMS hawk totals appear at the end of this issue.

Certainly the bird of the year was the **Townsend's Solitaire** observed at North Lookout, HMS 10/15 by Jeff Bouton and Harry Fink. For details on this 2nd state record, see the article elsewhere in this issue. Details will be submitted to P.O.R.C.

At HMS, the season total of **Common Loon** was 59 and of **Double-crested Cormorant** 127 (LG). An imm. **Snowy Egret** was still at a pond near Oley 10/1 (RK). This fall 63 **Tundra Swan** were counted at HMS and 1 was at Hopewell L. 12/5 (LG, RB). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** (Greenland race) discovered at BSF 12/25 (HJS) stayed to give the BCBC a new species a week later. A **Snow Goose** flight of 100 birds passed over HMS 10/22 and 1 bird was at LO 10/29 (BS, MS). **Brant** lingered at LO 10/22-11/12, two were there 11/19 and 3 on 12/3 (RK, MS). Two **N. Shoveler**, uncommon in Berks, were at LO 10/1 and one 12/17 (MS). A **Eurasian Wigeon**, likely the same bird that wintered in the area last year, was seen at LO 11/26 (MS). Three **Canvasback** were at LO 11/12-19 (MS) and a new high of 3 appeared on the BCBC. Four **Greater Scaup** were at LO 12/19 (MS). A **Surf Scoter** and 10 **Ruddy Duck** were at LO 10/1 (RK). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** 11/26 and 175 **Common Merganser** 12/26 (MS) were the high counts for these spp. at LO.

Record high counts of **Turkey Vulture** were seen on the RCBC (17) and the BCBC (24). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in Penn Twp 12/25 and 1 each was found on the HCBC and BCBC. A pig farm in Upper Bern Twp had attracted 48 **Red-tailed Hawk** 12/10 (HJS). The RCBC had a new high of 71 Red-tails. Two albino birds remain resident near Krumsville and Lenhartsville, and a cinnamon-and-black "western" type Red-tail was found on the BCBC for the second consecutive year. **Rough-legged Hawk** were thinly scattered across farm country, with 1-3 birds reported from several areas.

Wild Turkey is doing well in Berks, with 66 in Pike Twp in Nov., 20 near Bechtelsville in Dec. and a new high of 83 on the HCBC. It should be noted that many, if not most, of these turkeys are privately released birds or their descendants and are about as wild as stocked pheasants. A **Common Moorhen** was at Peters Cr. 10/15 (MS). Interesting late shorebird sightings included 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Blue Marsh L. 11/18 (HJS), a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Moselem Springs 10/1 (BS, MS), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** found dead in Kempton 10/25 (LG), and 3 **Dunlin** at Moselem 10/8 (MS). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at LO 10/22 was the only one reported (MS). The **Long-eared Owl** roost discovered last year in Penn Twp contained 8 birds in Dec. (HJS).

There were 180 **Chimney Swift** at LO 10/8 (MS). A **Rubythroated Hummingbird** in Hamburg 10/12-13 was late (KG). The RCBC recorded a new high of 67 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**. There were 19 **Common Raven** sightings at HMS this fall. Many birds from this fall's **Red-breasted Nuthatch** settled in to winter at feeders or in conifers. The season total just from HMS was 79 as of 12/4 (LG) and the total of all CBC's was 36 birds. The RCBC tallied a 79-year high of 18 **Hermit Thrush**, and the HCBC a new high of 580 **Am. Robin**.

There were more **Am. Tree Sparrow** in the county than in recent years, with each CBC exceeding 300 birds, but no records were broken. A total of 73 **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported in Dec., which is normal. Only 1 **Lapland Longspur** (HCBC) was reported, but the BCBC had a new high of 153 **Snow Bunting**. The only reports of

Rusty Blackbird were 6 at Peters Cr, 10/8 (MS) and 1 on the BCBC. A well-described **Brewer's Blackbird** was found on the BCBC in a flock of Starlings feeding on the ground next to a steer feedlot (HJS). Unfortunately, it could not subsequently be located.

The **Purple Finch** flight was modest (e.g., the season total at HMS was 70 birds), and only a handful remained in Dec. Two **White-winged Crossbill** were seen at HMS 11/5 and 1 on 11/11 (LG). Two **Common Redpoll** on the BCBC were the only sightings. **Pine Siskin** was the only northern finch to stage a strong flight. The highest day's count was 425 birds at HMS 10/26, and the season total there was 2800 (LG). Most of these birds kept going, and by Dec. only a few could still be found at feeders and the occasional flock (50 in Pike Twp 12/30) in the field. A half-dozen here and there was the story on **Evening Grosbeak** this fall. As of 12/6, the season total at HMS was only 42 birds, and the combined CBC total was only eight.

OBSERVERS: Richard Bonnett, Jeff Bouton, Harry Fink, Laurie Goodrich and HMS staff, Kerry Grim, **Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown PA 19512, (215) 367-9376**, Joanne Kintner, Harold & Joan Silagy, Barton Smith, Matt Spence.

BLAIR COUNTY

Dave Kyler

Abbreviations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CCSP), Sinking Valley (SV), Spruce Creek (SC).

Uncommon species for the quarter included **Brewer's Blackbird** and **Snow Bunting**.

Five **Common Loon**, in the company of other waterfowl, were found at ice-free CCSP 11/3 (BK). Two flights of **Tundra Swan** were observed flying SE over BM. The first (100+) was seen 11/19, while the second (15) made the Culp CBC 12/16 (MB). Other waterfowl reports from CCSP include 8 **Am. Wigeon** 11/3 (BK) and 3 **Ruddy Duck** 11/3 (BK).

Raptor reports were: 2 **Turkey Vulture** 12/16; 1 **Cooper's Hawk** in pursuit of a flock of Cedar Waxwing on BM 11/15 (MB); a single **Rough-legged Hawk** in SV 12/16 (ML); and an ad. **Golden Eagle** over BM on high W winds 10/7 (MB).

Localized **Red-headed Woodpecker** were found in SV 11/15 (DK) and on the CBC (AS), while **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found on BM 10/5 (MB) and at SV 12/16 (DK). Two **Common Raven** were performing acrobatics over SC 12/16 (ML), while below at streamside 3 **Winter Wren** were found the same date (DK).

A single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was located on BM 12/16 (MB). Bonta also reports that this year's CBC produced the most number of individuals and species found on BM in the previous 19 years. Among that number were 5 **Hermit Thrush** 12/16. Some 35 **Cedar Waxwing** were found on BM 11/15 (MB). Warbler sightings include 3 **Black-throated Blue** and 2 **Magnolia** on BM 10/5 (MB). Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were located near SC for the CBC (DK).

A single ♂ **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported at a bird-feeding station near CCSP 12/24 (BS). This all-black individual remained for several days at close range.

Winter finches have arrived in the county! **Snow Bunting** were reported at two locations. Two were present at a CCSP beach 11/8 (JS) and 3 were interspersed with **Horned Lark** in SV 12/16 (AS). **Pine Siskin** were reported at many niger seed feeders throughout the area and 11 **Evening Grosbeak** were at a BM feeder 12/1 (MB).

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

Marcia Bonta, Box 68, Tyrone 16686 (814-684-3113) will be assuming the duties as compiler beginning with the next issue. Our many thanks to Dave who has done double duty as the Huntingdon compiler for the past three years.

Editors

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

The extreme cold of Dec. was seen when observers on the SE Bradford CBC held 12/30 found the 27-mi of the river in the area 90% frozen - the tightest that the writer has found the river in 40 years!

A **Barred Owl** was present at New Era through Dec. (DG, TG), and another was heard at Spring Hill 12/30 (EB). **Red-breasted**

Nuthatch were present throughout the period in large numbers, with 12 at SGL36 on 11/27 (RM). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen n. of Laceyville 12/30 (MC). A **N. Shrike** was observed at Quick's Bend 12/30 (MB,JH).

On 12/30, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was observed at a feeder near Standing Stone for 40 min. (WR,JS). Two **Snow Bunting** were seen at Herrickville 12/30 (WR). Thirty **Purple Finch** were seen at SGL36 on 10/1 (RM); at the same location, 21 **Red Crossbill** were seen 11/27; 54 **White-winged Crossbill** 11/26, and 800+ **White-wings** 11/27 (RM). Good numbers of **Pine Siskin** were reported from various locations during Nov. and Dec. Flocks totaling 350 **Evening Grosbeak** were seen at SGL36 11/27 (RM); and a flock arrived at Spring Hill 12/4 (EB).

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Mark Blauer, Mark Catalano, Doreen & Trudy Gerlach, Jim Hoyson, Randy Miller, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Jerry Skinner.

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: Churchville Nature Center (CNC), East Rockhill Twp (ERT), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn Manor area (PM), Pipersville (PI), Quakertown area (QU), Sellersville (SV), Warwick Twp (WT), West Rockhill Twp (WRT). The Upper Bucks CBC (UCBC) was held 12/17; the Central Bucks CBC (CCBC) was held 12/31; and the Lower Bucks CBC (LCBC) 12/16.

On 10/28, 2 **Red-throated Loon** were spotted at NSP (B&NM). A **Horned Grebe** was seen at PVP 11/5 (KC). An imm. **Great Cormorant** was found at NSP from 11/22-28 (J&GR). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** (Greenland race) appeared at PVP 12/28+ (AM *et al.*). A flock of 100+ **Snow Geese** was reported flying over NSP 10/17 (RH). As many as 4 **Snow Geese** have been present at PVP since 10/20, when a "blue phase" was first sighted (BH *et al.*). For the 3rd year in a row a Eurasian subspecies of the **Green-winged Teal** has returned to PVP for the winter, 12/27 (AM *et al.*). A ♀ **N. Shoveler**, first seen 11/5 (KC), remained at PVP for several weeks. Two **Canvasback** and a rarer **Redhead** were observed for the UCBC at NSP 12/17 (BM *et al.*). Pm 10/21, the morning birdwalk at PVP was rewarded with sightings of a ♀ **Surf Scoter** and 3 ♂ **White-winged Scoter** when they dropped in for rest at PVP (RF *et al.*).

A **Black Vulture** was reported flying over PVP 10/7 (AM). Two other **Black Vulture** were seen flying over Rt. 413 in PI 10/26 (RH). **Osprey** continue to be reported widely throughout the county; as many as 8 were seen at one time at NSP 10/14 (GR). Sightings of **Bald Eagle** were reported by many observers all quarter. An ad. and an imm. **Bald Eagle** were both seen at NSP 12/13 (RH,SF) and again on the UCBC 12/17 (BM *et al.*). Several observers felt that **N. Harrier** and **accipiters** were more numerous this period (SC *et al.*). A **Cooper's Hawk** was observed at CNC 12/4 (BH). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at PVP 11/4 (AM). A **Merlin** was at PVP 10/15, and another was seen repeatedly from late Nov. into the UCBC period along the jogging path at NSP (HR).

On 12/28 at Penn Manor, over a dozen dead **Herring Gull** were found under high tension powerlines which they presumably struck. Opportunistic **Red-tailed Hawks** were observed feeding on the carcasses, with as many as 5 **Red-tails** at one spot. On one occasion, the observers saw one **Red-tail** which had another **Red-tail** pinned underneath it, apparently during a scuffle over the food. Finally, both birds took off unharmed. Dave DeReamus, Rick Wiltraut

Wild Turkey have been reported from several locations; 1 was reported 12/18 in a woods near New Hope (BMc). As many as 10 **Virginia Rail** were flushed from the frozen swamp at QU 12/26 (FR, TR). Over 100 **Laughing Gull** were still present in PM 12/7 (CD). An **Iceland Gull** was noted on the LCBC at PM (RM). **Seven Lesser Black-backed Gull** were also in this area 12/7 (CD). Three **Glaucous Gull** were present for the LCBC (RM). A **Black Skimmer** seen flying over near pipersville on 10/22 was truly amazing (BW). A **Ringed Turtle Dove** came to a feeder in Levittown in Nov. (GC). The CCBC recorded at **Long-eared Owl** 12/31 at PVP (KK *et al.*) and 2 **Long-eared Owl** were found roosting in a White Pine woods at PVP 12/27 (RF). For the last two weeks in Dec., **N. Saw-whet Owl** were heard calling on the property of an observer in Revere (SF).

Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen on the UCBC near QU (HR *et al.*). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were seen by most observers all quarter in many areas. **Pileated Woodpecker** were found at several locations including ERT and NSP (HR,RH). **Horned Lark** were noted in WRT on the UCBC (HR *et al.*), and also at NSP (BM *et al.*). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were present throughout the county with many being noted on all the CBCs. Sightings of **Winter Wren** were also more numerous than usual this period.

E. Bluebird are continuing their comeback, with most observers reporting seeing them during the quarter. Eleven **Hermit Thrush** were at NSP 11/24 (B&NM). **Am. Robin** were everywhere on the count days, with over 2000 for the combined counts. Wintering **Gray Catbird** were noted at NSP 12/17 for the UCBC (BM *et al.*), and at PVP 12/24 (GF). Six **Am. Pipit**, first seen 11/24, continued to be seen (4 indiv.) through the end of the quarter at PVP (BH *et al.*). A **Brown Thrasher** was present for the UCBC in WRT (HR *et al.*). A **Palm Warbler** was seen at a feeder in Wycombe 12/16 (AB). A late migrant **Mourning Warbler** was observed in WT 10/1 (SC).

Three **Snow Bunting** were observed feeding in the boat launch area at NSP 10/28 (BM *et al.*); this species was also noted in the same area 11/28 (BH). Over 100 **Snow Bunting** were found 10/22 by Yardley-Newtown Rd. in Lower Bucks (AM). A flock of 65 **Rusty Blackbird** were present at PVP 10/22 (AM); 2 **Rustys** were counted for the UCBC 12/17 (HR). Two **N. Oriole** were found for the period, 1 at NSP 12/17 (BM *et al.*) and a ♀ at a feeder in SV during late Dec. (BD). Several observers reported **House Finch** down in numbers for the period. A **Pine Siskin** was seen at NSP 10/28 (B&NM) and another at PVP 12/27 (GF). Small numbers of **Evening Grosbeak** were reported widely, but most remained at feeders for only a few days.

OBSERVERS: Alan Brady, George Carmichael, Sally Conyne, Kevin Crilley, Butch DeBonis, Chris Dooley, Steve Farbotnik, George Franchois, **Ron French**, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765), Ray Hendrick, Bill Hoehne, Ken Kitson, Bruce McNaught, Rick Mellon, Augie Mirabella, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Fred & Terri Reckner, Gerald & Joan Robinson, Hart Rufe, Babe Webster.

BUTLER COUNTY

Gene Wilhelm

Abbreviations: Book Rd. (BR), Butler Boro (BB), Carbon Center (CC), Glades SGL (GSG), L. Arthur (LA), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock Boro (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Twp (SRT), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU), Wolf Creek Narrows (WCN).

Dec. was the fourth coldest on record, epitomized by the frigid -23°F temperature reading at 8 a.m. on 12/17 at MSP. The date coincided with the Bartramian Audubon Society's CBC. Nevertheless, 23 birders braved the extreme cold and 10-14" snow cover to record 59 species and 4444 individuals. For the first time in memory, LA was completely frozen.

One **Common Loon** at LA 10/8 (GW), 8 on 10/21 (BD,BW), 15 on 11/3 (MG,BS) highest count, 6 on 11/19 (GW), and 2 on 11/26 (MG,BS) last report. The **Pied-billed Grebe** was scarce, with 4 at LA 10/21 (BD,BW) the only report. **Horned Grebe** was extremely low in numbers with 5 at LA 11/10 (MG,BS) highest count. Six **Great Blue Heron** at GSG 10/14 highest count with singles staying at LA to freeze-up in mid-Dec. **Tundra Swan** migration was on time and impressive with flocks flying over SRT day and night 11/2-14; 71 lingered at LA 11/3, with another 44 there 11/26 (MG,BS); 1 **Snow Goose** recorded flying with **Tundra Swan** over SRT 11/2 (GW). About 250 **Canada Goose** still present at GSG 10/14 then species migrated en masse in early Nov.; 120 at LA 11/14 (BD,BW). Generally, there was a poor showing of ducks at LA with the exception of **Am. Black** and **Ruddy** ducks: 3 **Wood Duck** 11/14 (BD,BW); 2 **Green-winged Teal** 10/21 and 21 on 11/14 (BD,BW); 150 **Black** and 300 **Mallard** 12/12 were highest counts (MG,BS); 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at GSG 10/14 the only report; 3 **Am. Wigeon** 11/3 (MG,BS) and 4 on 11/14 (BD,BW); 1 **Oldsquaw** 11/13 (MG,BS); 6 **Common Goldeneye** 11/3 and 1 on 12/12 (MG,BS); 6 **Bufflehead** 11/3 and 19 on 11/14 (BD,BW); 37 **Hooded Merganser** 11/26 (MG,BS) highest count; 3 **Common Merganser** 11/19 (GW) the only report; and 10 **Red-breasted Merganser** 11/20 and 5 on 11/26 (MG,BS). An est. 185 **Ruddy Duck** on LA 11/19 (GW) were the highest count.

Last **Turkey Vulture** at SRT 10/30 and last **Osprey** at LA 10/29 (GW). Female **Bald Eagle** remained near nest site at GSG to hard freeze in mid-Dec. Another ad. seen at LA 11/19 by 45 birders (GW). **N. Harrier** was widespread and well represented as well as all

accipiters (see above). Only 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** reported at GSG 10/14, but 14 **Broad-winged Hawk** over SRT 10/4 was nice; 1 **Rough-legged Hawk** (normal phase) seen at GSG 10/14 and another in MSP 12/17 (BD,GD,BW).

Even more unusual, however, was the influx of accipiters in Dec: 19 **Sharp-shinned** and 9 **Cooper's** hawks, plus 3 **N. Goshawk** were recorded on the CBC, a new high number. Usually these raptors hunt their prey in or near the forest, but on count day they were surveying the numerous finches feeding in open weedy fields, on rural roads, and along forest edges. The deep snow forced these finches into the open. Some 31 reports of accipiters raiding birds at feeders and 3 dead accipiters (2 **Sharp-shinned**, 1 **Cooper's**) were recorded between 12/15-31.

Ring-necked Pheasant and **Ruffed Grouse** were scarce, although both seen at GSG 10/14 by a dozen birders. As usual **Am. Coot** congregated at GSG 10/14 (50+) and LA 11/19 (79). **Killdeer** left SRU 11/1 (early) and 2 **Am. Woodcock** at a spring in SRT (PS) were unusual 12/17.

Bonaparte's Gull was below average at LA with 30 on 11/3 the best count; 20 **Ring-billed Gull** at LA 11/26 (MG,BS) was highest count. A lone **Common Tern** at LA 10/8 was unusually late (GW). **E. Screech**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred** owls recorded in MSP 12/17 and a lone **Screech-Owl** was heard in BB 12/21 (MG). Single **Belted Kingfisher** at GSG, LA, SRC & WCN remained to hard freeze. Last **Red-headed Woodpecker** at MSP was 10/7 (MG,BS); 1 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** seen at MSP 12/17 (BD,GD,BW), the only report; but **Pileated Woodpecker** in MSP 12/17 most encouraging.

A singing **E. Wood-Pewee** was recorded at GSG 10/14 (BD,BW), the latest report. Some 300 **Am. Crow** were seen at MSP 10/7 (MG,BS). Unprecedented numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned** kinglets flooded the county in Nov., many lingering into Dec. (v.o.). **Brown Creeper** lingered throughout quarter in good numbers with 14 in MSP 12/17 the best count. **Carolina Wren** was reported from many parts of **Butler** with strongholds in BB, SRT, and WCN. The 4 **Winter Wren** in MSP 12/17 represents the highest number in years. The mini-invasion of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** that began last quarter continued unabated throughout this quarter as best illustrated by 46 in MSP 12/17. Mass movements of **Am. Robin** occurred throughout Nov., but **E. Bluebird** outnumbered robins in MSP on CBC 25 to 19. A late **Gray Catbird** was observed in BB 12/11 (MG). **Cedar Waxwing** was common in Oct-Nov. but by 12/15 had disappeared, missed totally on the CBC for the 1st time. **Eur. Starling** started flocking and migrating in Oct., with 5000 near LA 11/3 (MG) and 7500 in SRT 11/30 (GW).

Solitary Vireo stayed into quarter with 1 seen in MSP 10/7 (MG). A **Bartramian Audubon Society** field trip to GSG 10/14 recorded 10 species of sparrows: 1 **Am. Tree**, 2 **Chipping**, 5 **Field**, 1 **Savannah**, 5 **Fox**, 11 **Song**, 1 **Lincoln's** (without a tail), 5 **Swamp**, 75 **White-throated**, and 39 **White-crowned**. With Dec. cold and snow came the mini-boreal invasion of **Am. Tree Sparrow**: 850 were recorded alone on the CBC v. 71 last year. It was by far the most numerous species of the count followed by **Dark-eyed Junco** (662). An "Oregon race" of the junco appeared at a feeder in SRT 11/7 to 12/3 and the population of the juncos gradually increased to a peak of 662 in MSP 12/17. **Red-winged Blackbird** vacated county before 12/1 as did **Common Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird**. *None of these species was recorded on the CBC.* **Rusty Blackbird** was unusually common throughout Oct-Nov., with flocks of 50-100 seen in various areas. A ♀ **Brewer's Blackbird** was carefully studied by 20X spotting scope at GSG 10/14 by a dozen birders and compared with scores of **Rusty Blackbird** females in proximity to the bird. The dark eye and distinctive call note readily identified her. The observation was the 1st county record of the species in several years. Two **E. Meadowlark** lingered in CC to 12/24 (MG,BS). Two flocks of **Red Crossbill** appeared in SRT 10/22 (BD,GD,GW) and remained to 10/31. One flock of 30+ roamed the countryside to West Sunbury, the other stayed close to SRU where 15+ ate abundant hemlock cones (GW). At least 4 **Common Redpoll** were recorded in MSP 12/17 (BS,GW), although other reports of the species visiting feeders could not be confirmed. **Pine Siskin** literally invaded the whole county between 10/15-25 when it was common the receive reports of 50+ feeding on various cones. At least 100 lingered in SRT to 11/15 then dispersed and changed from feeding on cones to food at feeding stations.

However, by CBC only 15 were counted and few remained elsewhere. A few **Evening Grosbeak** were recorded in the Dec. invasion.

OBSERVERS: Barb & George Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Bill Sarver, Betty Starr, Priscilla Stoughton, Bob Walczak, Gene Wilhelm, RD 2, Slippery Rock 16057.

CAMERON COUNTY

Bill Hendrickson

We welcome Bill as the new compiler. He writes that Great Horned, Screech, Barred, and even N. Saw-whet Owls are not uncommon, along with Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse, and might be of interest to birders venturing into Cameron County. And, while it might be common throughout the State to see waterfowl, even something as common as a Mallard, outside of at Stevenson Dam, is pretty uncommon. Any help birders can give for the area would be appreciated.

Climbing to the tops of the mountains during fall, one comes across many migrating birds, including a **N. Harrier** seen 11/4 (RF, BH). A **Golden Eagle** was seen being chased from a deer carcass by a flock of **Common Raven** 11/12 (BH,RF). Two **Golden Eagle** were reported in the Driftwood area 12/25 (RH).

On crisp, clear evenings and nights **Great Horned Owl** can be heard outside my home, and on occasion, **Barred Owl** and the elusive **N. Saw-whet Owl** can be heard (BH). So far this year, our resident **Saw-whet** expert reports only 1 has arrived 11/12 (RF). Excluding the **Saw-whet**, the other three owl species mentioned were heard at various times in the Driftwood area (MJ).

Quite a few migrating **E. Bluebird** were heard in fall. Coming into the area in early Nov. were many **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and large flocks of **Pine Siskin**.

OBSERVERS: Randy Flament, Ralph Harrison, Bill Hendrickson, RD 1, Box 265B, Emporium 15834 (814-486-1546), Marsha Jeffrey.

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: Beltzville SP (BSP), Little Gap CBC (LGXC).

One **Red-throated Loon** was at BSP 11/23-27 (BS,RW). The LGXC was held 12/17. An **Am. Bittern**, seldom seen in the region, was at BSP on the late date 10/17 (RW). Two **Mute Swan** and 21 **Ring-necked Duck** were also seen at BSP on the LGXC (RW). A **Brant** was present at BSP 10/31—11/3 (RW). A flock of 30 **Lesser Scaup** were early at Penn Forest Res. 10/14 (DD). Eleven **Oldsquaw** were at Penn Forest 11/3 (RW). Five **Common Goldeneye** were at Wild Creek Res. 11/24 (PE,BLM). A flock of 25 **Hooded Merganser** was at Wild Creek 11/24 (PE,BLM). **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen at BSP and Wild Creek in late Oct. and Nov. (m.ob.).

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen near Weatherly 10/22 (SB). Two imm. **Bald Eagle** were seen on a deer carcass near BSP 12/4 (RW).

A **Sandhill Crane** was found on the LGXC in a field next to the lake in BSP (RW). It was seen the next day (PE,JH), but not after that time. This is the 1st county record. A **Black-bellied Plover** and 9 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at BSP 10/18 (RW,BS).



Sandhill Crane, Beltzville S.P., 12/17/89. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

Lincoln's Sparrow were found 10/18 near the BSP lake (RW,BS).
OBSERVERS: Steve Bartol, Dave DeReamus, Pauline England, Jason Horn, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Brad Silfies, Rick Wiltraut.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Abbreviations: *Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Black Moshannon SP (BMSP), Colyer L. (CL)*.

Single **Double-crested Cormorant** were at BESP 10/8 (EZ) and 11/4 (m.ob.). A **Brant** found in the parking lot of a State College doughnut shop in mid-Oct. was captured and released unharmed at BESP (SF). In addition, 2 Brant (1 ad., 1 imm.) were at BESP 10/28 (HH), and an imm. was at a pond in the Elk's Country Club 10/29-30 (KJ, JJ, MW). The 8 **N. Pintail** at BESP 11/11 (MW) were late migrants. A ♀ **Redhead** was at BMSP 11/9 (MW). It was a good period for scoters, with 23 **Black Scoter** 10/18 and 28 on 10/20 at CL (MW, KJ, JJ), while **White-winged Scoter** sightings included 2 on 10/20, 30 on 10/20 at CL, about 50 at BESP 10/20 (MW), and 1 at BESP 11/23 (EZ).

The only **Bald Eagle** reports for the period were from BESP of 1 ad. seen 12/1 (MW), and 1 ad. 12/31 (HH). Two **N. Goshawk** were seen 11/12 along Bald Eagle ridge (HH) and 1 was at BESP 11/26 (HH). The peak single-day for **Golden Eagle** at the Bald Eagle Mt. fire tower this fall was 14 on 11/26 (KS). An ad. Golden Eagle was seen at BMSP 12/28 (JP, BP). A **Merlin** was a flyby at Karl Striedieck's fire tower 10/22 (JP, BP). An imm. ♂ **Peregrine Falcon** was found wounded on Airport Rd. near Bellefonte 10/4 (MW). Taken to the Shaver's Creek Nature Center, it unfortunately died the next day.

A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen at BESP 10/8 (MH, EZ), and 4 were there 10/28 (HH). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at BESP 10/8 (MH, EZ). The 2 **Bonaparte's Gull** seen on the Penn State campus 12/16 provided only the 3rd county "winter" record for the species (MB, CB). Four **Forster's Tern** were at CL 10/20 (MW). Four **Barred Owl** and 1 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were heard at Bear Meadows 10/12 (GY, SY), while another Saw-whet was seen and heard at BESP 12/31 (JP).

Two **Swainson's Thrush** were at Walnut Spring Park 10/1 (JP, BP). The highlight of the field trip to BESP 11/4 was the sighting of a **N. Shrike** (AF). Reports of **Palm Warbler** included singles 10/7 near Stormstown (JP), at BESP 10/8 (EZ, m.ob.), and 1 at Toftrees 10/8 (JP, BP). A ♂ **Dickcissel** visited a State College feeder from 12/25+ (DB).

The first **Fox Sparrow** (2) reported this fall were noted at Toftrees 10/29 (HH, JP, BP). Two **Lincoln's Sparrow** were observed at CL 10/7, and 2 at Toftrees 10/8 (JP, BP). **Lapland Longspur** reports included 16 on 12/24 along Shiloh Rd. (JP, BP) and 5 near Blanchard 12/31 (HH, GY). Four **Snow Bunting** were seen along Shiloh Rd. 12/18 (CY), and 5 were near Blanchard 12/31 (HH, GY). **Rusty Blackbird** had returned to the Toftrees Pond area by 10/8, with 100+ being present (JP, BP). Perhaps the highlight of the period was the appearance of **White-winged Crossbill** at BMSP 11/23 (HH) when 8 were seen. This is the first report of this species in the State College area since the winter of 1982-83. They were observed feeding on the abundant cone crops on the spruces and hemlocks in the area. The crossbills were still present through at least mid-Dec., with sightings of 55 on 12/11 (HH) and 25 on 12/12 (EZ). The first report of **Pine Siskin** was of a flock of 10 at CL 10/7 (JP, BP). Other reports of siskins in the State College area during Oct. included 1 at BMSP on 10/15 (GY), 40+ at Rocksprings 10/22, and 25 at Toftrees 10/29 (JP, BP). **Evening Grosbeak** apparently returned to the State College area 11/18, when a small flock of 6-10 was observed at Toftrees (HH), and another 8 were seen 11/19, about 8 mi w. of State College (JP, BP).

OBSERVERS: Margaret & Cliff Bastuscheck, Dorothy Bordner, Shirley Fonda, Alice Fuller, Harry Henderson, Mark Henry, Katherine & Jennings Jones, **John & Becky Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Karl Striedieck, Merrill Wood, Chuck Yohn, George & Sue Young, Eugene Zielinski.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Abbreviations: *Honey Brook (HB), Hibernia Park (HP), Kurtz' Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MCSP), Struble L. (SL)*.

A single **Red-throated Loon** was at SL 10/22. **Common Loon** was first seen when 7 flew over Northbrook Orchards 10/17. They were seen in migration again in early Nov. as well as at MCSP, where as many as 5 were present until early Dec. As many as 4 **Pied-billed Grebe** were at MCSP 11/6 and a couple were seen for a few days thereafter. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at SL 10/19. Good numbers of **Great Blue Heron** have been reported this season. **Snow Geese** were seen migrating with flocks of **Canada Geese** during the early part of Oct., with up to 8 seen in one flock of HB. The 1st county record for **Brant** occurred 10/19 at the Elverson Sewage Ponds. **Twelve** were there for a few days and, remarkably, an imm. was observed at the pond at Tel-Hai Retirement Community during the same time. A single ♀ **Canvasback** was at MCSP 12/2-10. **Lesser Scaup** were at MCSP from late Oct. until early Dec., with a peak number of individuals on 11/6, when "a whole raft" was reported. A **Greater Scaup** was there 11/26 and 5 were seen 12/10. Also at MCSP on 11/26 was a single **Oldsquaw**. A single **Black Scoter** was at MCSP 10/27 and as many as 16 were at SL 10/19. A lone **White-winged Scoter** was at Leopold L. 10/20. A **Common Goldeneye** was at MCSP 11/26. A few **Common Merganser** were seen in early Dec., but by then most of the lakes were frozen solid and waterfowl were basically nonexistent.

There were quite a few good cold fronts from mid-Oct. until late-Nov., which in turn brought many excellent hawk flights, especially 11/4 and 11/12. SS saw at least 45 birds in fifteen minutes near Octoraro Res., including a sharp-looking ♂ **N. Harrier**. A few migrating **Osprey** were reported up until 11/11. An imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over Compass 10/7. A **N. Goshawk** was near HB 10/18-19. Good numbers of **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen during migration. **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near MCSP 12/23, near HB 11/20, and near Parkesburg 11/26. **Ring-necked Pheasant** is now in such low numbers that you really have to work to find one.

The only reports of shorebirds were from an area near SL along Given Rd. On 10/22 both **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were there. Also present that day were 2 **Pectoral** and 8 **White-rumped sandpipers**, as were the usual **Common Snipe** (as many as 12) which have been observed there for years now. A rather late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at MCSP 10/26. Single **Bonaparte's Gull** were at MCSP 12/2 and SL 12/3.

The **Red-headed Woodpecker** has continued to be seen along Pleasant View Rd. near HB. The bird(s) of the season have to be the 2 **Western Kingbird** at Tel-Hai Retirement Community 10/12-13 (EW *et al.*). The birds were looked for, but not found, 10/14-16. The fields near SL were quite good for **Horned Lark** from early-Dec. on. So far, this has been a relatively good year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which has been seen all quarter in various locales, although not in very large numbers. A flock of 24 **Am. Pipit** was at MCSP 11/24 and another flock was seen near SL 11/23, which also included a **Vesper Sparrow**. At least 1 **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at HP 10/7. Three **Snow Bunting** were seen in with a flock of Horned Lark in a field near SL 12/9. There were 12 **Rusty Blackbird** at MCSP 11/24. **Purple Finch** have been present, but in very small numbers, and at widely scattered locations. Flocks of **Pine Siskin** were first seen and heard in mid-Oct. and have been recorded sporadically ever since. Scattered reports of **Evening Grosbeak** have also been received, but the only flock reported was near Chester Springs 11/22. Still waiting for that "winter invasion."

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, John Ginaven, Barb Haas, Phyllis Hurlock, Larry Lewis, Joe Meloney, **Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440)**, Grier Saunders, Sandra Sherman, Brian Sweisford, Neal Thorpe, Eric Witmer, Ellie Wolf.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Abbreviations: *Clarion area (CA), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Mt. Zion (MZ), Shippenville area (SVA), Wentlings Corners (WC)*.

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society held its CBC 12/30, the first day the cold weather relented in our area. Although locations are not specified in this report, the area covered most of the locations usually

reported. Unless otherwise noted, assume the observer is the compiler in SVA.

Four **Common Loon** lingered at KL 11/4. Many flights of **Tundra Swan** flew over 11/17-24, with up to 75 birds in some flocks. Two swans were still at KL 12/9. Following the unusually warm spell in Nov., a pair of tame **Mallard** nested and were *brooding 12 eggs* on 11/24 at Strattanville (BS). The nest was not successful because the female was killed by a car shortly thereafter. Only 1 Mallard was still around for the CBC. A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was on a pond near WC 11/18 (WF).

A late **Turkey Vulture** was flying above the Clarion R., CA, 11/16. **N. Harrier** continued through the quarter at both CV and MZ, up to 6 at one time. At MZ., a **N. Goshawk** appeared 10/8 (WF). A flock of 32 **Wild Turkey** was attracted to a newly manured field near Knox, CBC (CR,RR,LG). A lone **N. Bobwhite** stayed at a feeder near Leeper until the end of the quarter (LC).

On 12/12 loud squawks from the back deck where I have a bird feeder attracted my attention. A small hawk had attacked and pinned a Blue Jay to the deck, but my appearance at the glass door frightened them to the ground below. The hawk then mantled over the jay and proceeded to pluck feathers out of the very active and vocal captive. I grabbed my binoculars and went out on the deck to see better. That scared the still-struggling birds over into the next yard, but I could see them plainly enough. Somehow the jay managed to escape. Instead of fleeing, though, it turned on the hawk who had its back turned at that point, hopped onto its back and delivered several good stabs to the hawk's head. The jay flew away safely, but the hawk just sat there on the ground as if stunned for a little while. Then it shook itself and took off in the opposite direction. Meanwhile all the jays in the neighborhood and a lone crow had joined in the racket and a terrified black cat streaked out of the bushes toward the woods.

Both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks have been picking up easy meals in my yard this winter. Judging from the small size of this hawk—it seemed not much larger than the jay—it probably was a male sharpie. As it flew away I had a glimpse of typical accipiter banding on the tail, but other than that, it all happened so fast I really wouldn't want to call the hawk anything but *Accipiter sp.* Margaret Buckwalter

A small flock (10-12) of **Greater Yellowlegs** was at a strip-mine pond near CV 10/19. The last 1 was at WC 10/28 (WF). **Short-eared Owl** were in short supply, but 1 was still around at CV and 3 at MZ through Dec. (MB,WF).

Two **Red-bellied Woodpecker** turned up on the CBC. One has been a steady feeder visitor in CA (JH). One **N. Flicker** was recorded on the CBC (WF *et al.*).

Red-breasted Nuthatch, 11, on the CBC far exceeded the single individuals in each of the previous four years. Also on the CBC were 5 **Carolina Wren** and 1 **Winter Wren** (WF). The 19 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** also surpassed other CBCs. A pair of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was banded 10/14 at WC (WF).

On 11/24 John Pokrifka was cleaning out bluebird boxes in the far reaches of SGL 74. To his surprise one of the boxes was actively defended by **Black-capped Chickadees**. When he opened it he found fresh moss and four eggs—white with reddish brown speckles at one end. Naturally he closed the box up again without disturbing it further. On a subsequent visit the box was deserted and the eggs were cold. Was the warm weather in Nov. connected with this and the Mallard nesting which was also reported to me on 11/24?

A few **E. Bluebird** hung around all fall culminating in a CBC count of 7. One **Hermit Thrush** and 154—an unusually large number—of **Am. Robin** turned up on the CBC. Also of note on the CBC were the following: 1 **N. Mockingbird** CA (PD), 219 **Cedar Waxwing**, 1 **N. Shrike** (two cars full of observers almost collided over that one), and 1371 **Eur. Starling** (the most numerous species).

A **Solitary Vireo** was banded by WF 10/14. The CBC also turned up 2 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at CV (TB). An unusual **Palm Warbler** was banded at WC 10/8 (WF).

One **Rufous-sided Towhee** lingered at a feeder in CA 12/31 (EM). The 116 **Am. Tree Sparrow** were high for that species on the CBC. **Fox Sparrow** were seen as late as 11/18 at Leeper (LC) and at SVA 11/22. WF banded a **Swamp Sparrow** at WC 10/14. A total of 817 **Dark-eyed Junco** on the CBC made that species the second most abundant on our count. **Snow Bunting** counted in at 11, **Red-winged Blackbird** at 3, **Common Grackle** at 1, although thousands were present in a flock at Leeper 10/24 (LC), 3 **Brown-headed Cowbird**, 478 **House Finch** (down from previous year). A small flock of **Red Crossbill** (6) was seen at Leeper 12/21 (LC) but not thereafter. **Pine Siskin** in small flocks were found in Dec., but only 9 showed up for the CBC. We tallied 202 **Am. Goldfinch** on the CBC and 141 **Evening Grosbeak**, compared to none the previous year.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shippensburg 16254, Lois Callahan, Great Egret Clary, Peter Dalby, Gary Edwards, Jill Fitterer, Annabelle & Walter Fye, Louise Gates, Janice Horn, Eric McCleary, Eleanor Moore, Evelyn Myers, Carl & Ruth Rowe, Brian Sacolic, Russ States, John Street, Gilbert Twiest, John Williams.

Erratum: PB 3:103. Second paragraph about Clarion reads: "One female Common Merganser with 11 young proved they had bred there this season." Since the preceding sentence referred to Kahle Lake it sounds as though the mergansers had bred there. Sentence should have read, "One female Common Merganser with 11 young on the Clarion River 7/9 proved they had bred there this season." MB

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Marianne Atkinson

The DuBois CBC was held 12/31/89. This count includes part of NW Clearfield and E Jefferson. Seven field observers and 12 feeder watchers found 49 species, with a total of 2,750 individuals.

A **Great Blue Heron** on the CBC apparently survived the harsh Dec. weather, seen 3 times in the same area 12/31. One **N. Harrier** was noted on the CBC. A **Cooper's Hawk** had been noted in DuBois in Oct. and Nov. Last **Ring-billed Gull** were noted 11/17. One **Short-eared Owl** was found on the CBC.

One **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at a feeder for the CBC. Only 1 **Brown Creeper** was located for the CBC. First **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were noted 10/21. A flock of 30 **E. Bluebird** was seen 10/19, with only 4 on the CBC. The demise of the **Hermit Thrush** found on my porch with some feathers plucked from the body was felt to be the work of the local Cooper's Hawk. The 288 **Am. Robin** found on the CBC was a good number. The last **N. Mockingbird** noted was 11/17, but one was heard singing very quietly 10/6-7, unlike its boisterous singing in spring.

The latest **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 10/19. **Am. Tree Sparrow** arrived 12/1, with 124 on the CBC. Single **Swamp** and **White-crowned** sparrows were nice finds on the CBC. The lone **Red-winged Blackbird** and **E. Meadowlark** were also welcome additions for the CBC. **Common Grackle** had departed by 11/22. **Pine Siskin** were not noted until 12/31, but 70 were counted on the CBC. First **Evening Grosbeak** were seen 12/13 and 62 found on the CBC.

OBSERVER: Marianne Atkinson, 201 South Ave., DuBois 15801 and Jocelyn Smrekar were the CBC compilers.

We welcome Marianne as the new compiler for Clearfield and she looks forward to receiving any or all reports from birders in or passing through the area.

CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

On the Lock Have-Jersey Shore CBC, 12/30, a flock of 194 **Double-crested Cormorant** were observed, apparently migrating, from the NW to the SE. Since all still water was frozen over due to the coldest Dec. on record, it was assumed that they may have come from L. Erie (G&PS). A hunter who shot a **Brant** in the Lock Haven area 10/18 claimed that 3 more were in the same place either 11/1 or 11/2. Fifteen **Ruffed Grouse** were on SGL 295 s. of Lamar 10/26 (DB,DM). **Mourning Dove** are wintering in especially large numbers this year, with a count of 784 on the CBC.

An ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Jersey Shore 11/30 (PP). **Horned Lark** were also in very large numbers this fall, 1441 were recorded in the S. Avis fields for the CBC (G&PS). **Red-breasted**

Nuthatch were in greater numbers than ever before experienced during the past 23 years. Three at a time were common at feeders.

Two **Winter Wren** were at SGL 295 on 10/26 (DB,DM). The first **Lapland Longspur** were seen 12/2 with the larks, and their numbers increased to 18 on 12/30 (G&PS), the largest number seen in 23 years of birding this area! **Snow Bunting**, which also were with the larks, were seen first 11/23 and increased to 60 on 12/30 (G&PS).

A **White-winged Crossbill** was at Tamarack Swamp 11/13 (SS); and ±100 **Pine Siskin** at SGL 295 on 10/26 (DB,DM). The only **Evening Grosbeak** seen during the period were 5 on 11/29.

OBSERVERS: Dick Byers, Dale Matuza, Parker Peer, **Paul and Glenna Schwalbe**, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514), Stanley Stahl.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

Abbreviations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Erie NWR (ENWR), Linesville CBC (CBC), Pymatuning SP [including the Causeway, Fish Hatchery, Goose Management Area GMA, Spillway](PSP), Saegertown, Tamarack L. (TL), Woodcock L. (WL). All observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Three **Common Loon** at WL 10/20 were the first migrants noted, with a max. of only 6 (low) at PSP 12/2. We usually find groups of 20-40; maybe I just missed them? Seven **Double-crested Cormorant** were near the Spillway 10/8 (RFL) and 4 at PSP 11/10 (AJM). A **Great Blue Heron** at WL 12/24 (RCL,RFL) was a bit of a surprise as this area had been 99% frozen over since 12/2 when the temperature was not above 32°F and was -20°F on 12/20. None was found on the Linesville CBC 12/17.

High count of **Tundra Swan** was 150 at CM 11/9, with 3 remaining for the CBC (RH). Two **Mute Swan** were near the Fish Hatchery 10/8. Twenty **Snow Geese** were at CM 11/16 (AJM) and 1 "blue" was at PSP 11/11 (AJM).

Waterfowl reports of note included a high of 7 **Green-winged Teal** at PSP 10/21; 90 **Am. Black Duck** on the CBC (m.ob.); 595 **Mallard** on the CBC despite the frozen conditions; *only 1 N. Pintail* was recorded this Fall—at the Fish Hatchery 10/21; 6 **Blue-winged Teal** at WL 11/4 were rather late; max. of 31 **N. Shoveler** at PSP 11/20; 33 **Gadwall** at PSP 10/21, with the last known 10 in the area at CM 11/20; high of 200 **Am. Wigeon** at CM 11/8 (AJM); of 5 **Canvasback** at CM 11/19, 4 were still there 12/8; 2 **Redhead** at PSP 11/12 (RFL,VJ); 12 **Lesser Scaup** at PSP 10/8, with 2 at CM on the CBC (RH); 1 tail-less ♂ **Oldsquaw** at CM 12/8; 1 **Black Scoter** was at TL 10/20. **Common Goldeneye** numbers ranged from 6,000 at PSP 11/4 to 18,000 there 12/2 (RFL), with 6 found on the CBC (BR). High **Bufflehead** count was 46 at PSP 11/12 (RFL,VJ). Numbers of **Hooded Merganser** varied as the 5 noted at WL 10/20 built to 1,000 at PSP in Nov. Three **Common Merganser** were at CM 12/8 and the high **Red-breasted Merganser** was 10 at CM 12/8. Some 57 **Ruddy Duck** were at PSP 11/19 (RFL), with 1 on the CBC (RH).

Single ad. **Bald Eagle** were found at TL 10/8, ENWR 11/17 (RFL), and 3 on the CBC sitting on the ice (RFL,RCL). Six **Cooper's Hawk** were found on the CBC (m.ob.) and the **N. Goshawk** found e. of Cambridge Springs 12/9 (RFL) was likely the same bird seen there 12/24 (RFL,RCL). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near Townville 11/25 (RFL) and 6 **Rough-legged Hawk** were found on the CBC (m.ob.). About 225-250 **Am. Coot** were at PSP and CM from 11/4-17, with 2 at CM on the CBC (RH).

Shorebird sightings except as noted were at PSP and included 1 **Lesser Golden-Plover** at WL 10/8; a high of 15 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/28; 15 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/21; 1 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 10/28; 10 **Least Sandpiper** 10/21; 8 **Pectoral** 10/28; and 50-60 **Dunlin** 10/21-28; 1 **Common Snipe** was found 10/21.

Conservative gull counting at PSP revealed a high of 30,000 **Bonaparte's** 12/2 and a peak of 20,000 **Ring-billed** 11/24.

The 136 **Mourning Dove** CBC count was about average. At least 2 **Barred Owl** were calling back and forth at Saeger Hill 10/27. The 2 **Belted Kingfisher** on the CBC were the first recorded on that count in two years (RFL,RCL). Four **Red-headed Woodpecker** were at CM 11/24 (AJM). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at our feeder 10/22 and 3 were found on the CBC (m.ob.). Thirty-five **Horned Lark** were located for the CBC (RFL,RCL).

About 800 **Tree Swallow** were seen at PSP 10/8. A **Carolina Wren** spent the entire quarter at our feeders; another was seen off and on at a Meadville feeder (SEF); and 1 was noted on the CBC (RH).

Twenty-two **E. Bluebird** were on the CBC (m.ob.) and 2 noted at CM 12/23 (RFL,RCL). The 30 **Am. Robin** for the CBC was not a record, but not too bad. Some 18 **Cedar Waxwing** were at PSP 11/4. The **N. Cardinal** CBC tally was 111. The ♂ **Rufous-sided Towhee** at a Center Line feeder proved to be one of the better birds seen on the CBC (RFL,RCL). A total of 120 **Snow Bunting** were on the CBC (RFL, RCL) and 11 **Rusty Blackbird** were also recorded. Two **Pine Siskin** (RH) and 9 **Evening Grosbeak** were noted on the CBC (RFL,RCL).

OBSERVERS: Sarah Flaugh, Ronald Harrell, Virginia Johnston, Robert C. Leberman, **Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**, Anthony Marich, Jr., Bob Ross.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Locations: Brackbill Pond (BP), Harrisburg CBC 12/16 (HCBC), West Fairview Boat Launch (WF), Waggoner's Gap (WG).

The only **Common Loon** to be seen during the period was the one seen on a quarry lake on the HCBC. One **Pied-billed Grebe** was tallied on the HCBC. **Canada Goose** continue to increase in numbers, a record number was tallied on the count with 724. One **Mute Swan** hung around the area with the bird being seen first 11/21 at WF (RK), then 12/9 (DH) and on the HCBC.

In total, the HCBC did extremely well with waterfowl with 20 sps. Other notable waterfowl for the period included: 135 **Bufflehead** at WF 11/6 (RK), 1 **Canvasback** at WF 11/6 (RK), 52 **Am. Coot** at WF 11/6 (RK), 1 **White-winged Scoter** at BP 11/5 (GR), and 3 **Ruddy Duck** at BP 11/5 (GR).

The raptor of the period was a **Bald Eagle** seen on the HCBC, the first ever. There were 2 **Forster's Tern** reports, 1 on 10/24 and 1 on 11/6, both at WF (RK). A lone **Short-eared Owl** was reported on the HCBC.

A hardy **House Wren** was seen on the HCBC (EC,JC), and a record 4 **Hermit Thrush** were tallied. Three **Fox Sparrow** and 7 **Swamp Sparrow** were good totals for the HCBC. The 35 **Purple Finch** on the HCBC was high. **Pine Siskin** reports started with 150± at WG on 10/1, with a high of 500+ on 10/16 also at WG (DH).

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, Joe Church, **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Ramsay Koury, Grace Randolph.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Santner

Dec. was the **coldest on record**, even causing the Susquehanna R. to freeze over in the slower moving sections. The river remained at least partly open in the more rapidly moving parts in the northern part of the county. The Harrisburg CBC was held 12/16.

Double-crested Cormorant remained on the river until at least 12/9 at Cove (SO), while 8 were seen, probably in migration, flying over the WHP television tower on Blue Mt. 10/22 (SS). Due to the open water, **Tundra Swan** remained at cove through the end of the period (SO). A **Brant** was shot by a hunter at Cove 10/23, as were 2 **Oldsquaw** (SO). Another was at Cove 11/23 (SO).

A **Golden Eagle** was seen migrating over Harrisburg 12/4 (ES), while an imm. **Bald Eagle** (possibly 1 of the birds hacked nearby) was seen 10/15 near Cove (SO) and an ad. was seen on the CBC (RK). The only **Am. Coot** reported was 1 at Wildwood L. 11/2 (EC). **Bonaparte's Gull** was on the river at West Fairview 10/22 (SS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch were fairly common during the fall; fewer remained by the end of the quarter, but 1 was found near Harrisburg in the *Dauphin* section of the CBC, as were 3 **Winter Wren** (EC,JC). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** flew into a picture window in Hershey on the somewhat late date 10/18 (GB).

Lapland Longspur arrived in the Hershey area in good numbers this year; at least 10 were found with 400 **Horned Lark** 12/16 (JKL) and at least 5 on 12/29 (WE). On the latter date there were about 500 **Snow Bunting** as well (WE). Winter finches were a little more common this year than last. **Purple Finch** was rare all fall; 1 was found on the CBC near Harrisburg (EC,JC). **Pine Siskin** were widely reported (m.ob.) while **Evening Grosbeak** were much less so. Grosbeaks were reported at feeders, but tended not to stay very long. Typical were 6 reported 12/9 and 14 on 12/11 at a feeder in Harrisburg

(JW).

OBSERVERS: Gerry Boltz, Ed Chubb, Joe Church, Wade Edris, Ramsay Koury, Jane & Ken Light (JKL), Steve Oliphant, **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Ed Spreha, Judy Ward.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Springton Res. (SR), Tinicum National Environ. Center (TNEC), Tyler Arboretum (TA). The Glenolden CBC was held 12/16 and any references to count day indicate this date.

Common Loon were found throughout the season. Many were seen during Oct., but 1 still remained for the CBC at SR. One **Pied-billed Grebe** was also found there the same day. Also 1 was present at CCR 12/2 (EK). It's unusual to see **Double-crested Cormorant** away from the Delaware R., but 25 were seen flying over Media 10/5 (JL). A **Green-backed Heron** was found along Darby Cr. 12/16 (JF), which is late. An unusual spot for a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Delaware County Community College 10/25 (EK). On 10/8 a total of 8 **Tundra Swan** were at the Phila. Airport (WC) and 2 were found at Chester I. for the CBC (BS). On 10/22, 32 **Snow Geese** were over Media (AG) and 100+ were flying over TNEC 11/2 (JCM). Some 100+ **Wood Duck** were at TNEC 10/25 (JCM) while 4 were present at TA 10/5 (NP). At CCR, anywhere from 1-10 **Wood Duck** were present during Oct. (EK). Again at Chester I., 6 **Oldsquaw** were found (BS). There was a **Hooded Merganser** at CCR 11/17 (EK) and 335 **Common Merganser** 12/16 represented a record high count. Two **Red-breasted Merganser** were also found on count day.

A total of only 50 **Ruddy Duck** on the CBC shows a lack of recovery from previous oil spills or a major wintering grounds shift for this bird. Counts of *nearly 40,000* Ruddy Duck were common in the early 1970's.

A good find was a **Black Vulture** on 12/16. One **Bald Eagle** was found 12/16 along with 1 **N. Goshawk**. In Springfield on 12/29 a **Cooper's Hawk** (SC) was found feeding on a starling (Hooray!). On 11/12 over Media 25 **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen migrating (AG) and 2 were seen on count day. On 10/22, during a hawk watch on my deck, 1 imm. **Golden Eagle** was observed (m.ob.). The following day in Aston an ad. Golden Eagle was spotted flying overhead (NP). Finally, another report of a Golden Eagle in Haverford Twp 11/15 (KB). In Wayne on 10/5 a **Merlin** (JM) was observed and 2 were seen over Media 10/22 (m.ob.). A migrating **Peregrine Falcon** was found over Aston 10/23 (NP). On count day, 2 Peregrines were found, 1 flying along Crum Cr. in Swarthmore (HMc) and the other at Chester I. (BS).

Eleven **Killdeer** were found throughout the area on the CBC. One **Common Snipe** was at TNEC 12/3 (SC). For the CBC a Common Snipe and 3 **Am. Woodcock** were present. Five **Bonaparte's Gull** are always nice to see in this area (BS). A record high count for **Great Black-backed Gull** was set when 171 were seen. Some 60+ **Forster's Tern** were at TNEC 10/6 (JCM). **Black-billed Cuckoo** were present in several sites 10/1, including CCR and Media (EK). On 12/2 a pair of **Barn Owl** were seen at TNEC (TR) and were still present 12/10 (JCM).

A late **Common Nighthawk** was in Wallingford 10/5 (AG). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at Hildacy Farms 10/14, 21 (BB). **Pileated Woodpecker** were low on the CBC, with only 1 being found, however 2 were at Swarthmore 11/4 (HMc) and 2 at RCSP 10/31 and 11/28 (EK).

One **Winter Wren** was at TA 10/5 (NP). Another Winter Wren was found for the CBC (JL,DM,TR). A **House Wren** hung around TNEC until 12/14 (JCM). In Swarthmore a late **Wood Thrush** was still present 10/11 (HMc). Also on 12/14 was a **Gray Catbird** at TNEC (JCM). And 18 **Am. Pipit** were the Phila. Airport 11/25 (JCM).

At TA an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a good discovery 10/7 (JG). Two **Pine Warbler** were found at CCR 10/8 (EK). Three days later 600+ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were present at TNEC (JCM). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at TNEC 10/6 (JCM). One **Common Yellowthroat** was discovered on the CBC, which is the normal number for the count period. Two **Chipping Sparrow** were found on

the CBC lingering in the area along with a **Savannah Sparrow**. At TA 10/25-26 one imm. **White-crowned Sparrow** was present (JG). **Dark-eyed Junco** seemed to be present in larger numbers this year according to many observers. Two **Snow Bunting** at the Phila. Airport (JCM) were whetting our appetites for the upcoming winter season. Another was found 12/2 (BS).

With the development of Delco, the **E. Meadowlark** is rare anymore, but 1 was at Linvilla Orchards 10/22 (AG). **Purple Finch** were not numerous this season. One was seen 10/22 (NP) in Aston and another in Darlington 12/1 (AG). Three **Pine Siskin** at an Aston feeder 10/25 (NP) increased in numbers to 33 until early Dec. **Evening Grosbeak** started to get our hopes up when a flock was at TA 11/26 (AG). Then 1 in Glen Mills 12/4 (JG), 4 at RCSP 12/10 (JCM), and 1 at Swarthmore 12/12 (HMc), but that was the last of them.

OBSERVERS: Kathy Baker, Bob Bodine, Skip Conant, Walt Cressler, John Freiberg, John Ginaven, **Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266)**, Evelyn Kopf, Jim Lockyer, Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, Joe Meloney, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Bill Stocku, Walt Thurber (CBC compiler).

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

Abbreviations: Benzinger Twp (BT), Crow Run Marsh (CRM), East Branch L. (EBL), Glen Hazel (GH), Owl's Nest (ON), St. Marys Res. (SMR).

Only 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted at ON 10/14 (DW). A flock of 40 **Tundra Swan** flew over Johnsonburg Rd. 11/26 (LC). SMR produced some interesting birds—60 **Snow Geese** flew over 10/20, 16 **Wood Duck** were swimming in a distant cove 10/10, and, best of all, 4 **Black Scoter** and 1-3 **White-winged Scoter** were easily seen with a scope 10/20-22 (LC).

While fishing, KC observed 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** at EBL 10/14. More **Belted Kingfisher** were noted this quarter than before (DW).

Common Raven were spotted 12/9 at Benzette (DS), 12/26 flying over Ridgway and at ON during deer season (DW). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were easily located all quarter. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were plentiful during Oct./Nov. in ON and CRM (DW). **E. Bluebird** were migrating through *Elk* during Oct. and into Nov. as witnessed by the flock seen 10/8, plus other birds seen into Nov. (DS), and the "more than I have ever seen in my life" flock 10/15 in a clearcut area near GH (LC). The cold weather didn't seem to send the **Am. Robin** away, as they were seen in various parts of the county (DS,DW). A quick trip to SMR 11/20 gave me the opportunity to check out the 4 **Am. Pipit** that were in the grassy area (LC).

Yellow-rumped Warbler seemed to be everywhere on my two-hour walk at GH 10/15 (LC).

Up to 30 **Am. Tree Sparrow** were noted starting 11/15+ (LC,DS,DW). Most unusual were the 100+ **Brown-headed Cowbird** at a feeder in Ridgway the end of Nov. (DW). The only **Purple Finch** reported were at a BT feeder 11/5-7 (LC). Large flocks of **Pine Siskin** were seen at feeders and in Hemlock trees since Oct. Up to 50 **Evening Grosbeak** gobbled down sunflower seeds at a BT feeder during the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Keith Christenson, **Linda Christenson, 602 Sunset Road, St. Marys 15857 (814-781-3156)**, Dave Sorg, Dave Wolfe.

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

A good wild food crop may have prevented any substantial winter kill. The later-than-usual CBC, 1/1/90, revealed evidence of a high survival rate for passerines with sightings of **Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush**, large numbers of **robins, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee**, and **Am. Tree Sparrow**.

Jerry McWilliams and Ed Kwater conducted a survey of the water birds (WBS, hereafter) migrating over L. Erie from the northwestern-most tip of Presque Isle S.P. (PISP) in Oct. and Nov. This survey produced some surprising totals, including 1022 **Common Loon** and a number of rarities (see summary).

Last year's gull flight was not repeated this year. Gizzard Shad were scarce, which appeared to be the staple diet of the vast number

of gulls last winter, so without the shad there were few gulls.

The passage of **Pine Siskin** on the weekend of 10/28-29 was brief, but intense, with totals exceeding 400 birds. **Evening Grosbeak** and **Common Redpoll** flocks at the end of November were noteworthy. **Not sure from original if this was one mixed flock or separate flocks or what.** Unfortunately, the prospects of a massive northern finch invasion soon dwindled when December arrived and all finches were difficult to find. All records in this summary were from PISP unless noted otherwise.

The WBS produced a total of 10 **Red-throated Loon**, the most ever recorded in one season (10/20 to 11/12), with 7 of the 10 seen 11/4 (JM,EK). The WBS produced 1 **Red-necked Grebe** 11/11, 18 (JM,EK); 3 were seen 11/24 (EK); 1 from 11/27-12/2 (JM,EK). **Double-crested Cormorant** continue to increase, with a total of 265 for the period (EK,JM). A bird at Edinboro L. 11/16 was rare for the Fall away from L. Erie (JH). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 10/28 (EK).

Several **Tundra Swan** migrated over *Erie*, with many remaining until late December when lack of open water forced them out of the area. Not one, but 2, **Trumpeter Swan**, #81 and #86, appeared 12/9 and remained until 12/17 (DD); #81 was the bird found the first quarter of this year (PB:3:31). **Snow "white" Geese** appearances were 1 at Corry 10/5 (JM); 1 early Oct., w. of Erie (SS); 10 late Oct. in Albion (*vide* DS); and 1 at PISP 11/19 (JM). A good **Brant** passage occurred 10/18-19, with 66 birds counted (DSt,JM), with up to 6 birds remaining to 11/6 (JM,CT). The WBS produced a ♀ **King Eider** 11/19 (JM) which represents the 6th occurrence of this species in PA since 1976, all of which have been in *Erie*. The WBS produced a ♀ **Harlequin Duck** 11/17, only the 7th county record. More seaduck records were 127 **Oldsquaw** 11/19 (W.B.S.); 6 **Black Scoter** 10/7 (DD) and 19 on 10/29-11/19 (W.B.S.); 7 **Surf Scoter** 10/7 (EH) plus 120 (W.B.S.) 10/8-11/23; 154 **White-winged Scoter** (W.B.S.) 10/7-11/24 and 8 on 12/3 (JM).

An ad. **Bald Eagle** seen 10/29-11/18 (JH,DD) was marked with a white wing tag and a leg band; a sub-ad. was seen 11/17 (JM). Single **Rough-legged Hawk** were observed 10/29 (JM); 11/19 (JHS); 12/3 in Edinboro (MT); and 12/17 (DD). Single **Merlin** were seen 10/8 (JM) and 11/5 (JHo).

At least 3 different **Lesser Golden-Plover** were seen 10/7-22 (JM, SS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** 10/21 exceeded our late date by a record 16 days (JM). At least 7 different **White-rumped Sandpiper** were seen from 10/8 to 11/5 (JM,JHS), with a late bird present 11/24-26, which exceeds the previous record late date by 11 days (EK,JHS respectively). Single **Purple Sandpiper** were found 11/4 (BW); 11/10-12 (JM,EK); and 11/17 (W.B.S) represent a good number of sightings.

An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at the Erie Public Dock (EPD) 12/23 (JM,EK). A first winter **Glaucous Gull** was at the EPD 12/26, 27 (JM,EK respectively). **Iceland Gull** reports include 1 ad. 12/3 (JM); 1 ad. and 1 first-winter at EPD 12/16 (JM); and 2 first winter at EPD 12/22-23 (JM). Eight **Forster's Tern** were seen 10/20 and 1 on 10/22 (JM).

Up to 2 **Long-eared Owl** were found 12/3-30 (JM *et al.*). Three **Short-eared Owl** were seen 10/28 (EK); 2 on 11/4 (JM); and 1 on 11/13 (JGS). Up to 2 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were found 11/18+ (DD *et al.*). A **N. Shrike** was seen 10/28-29 (EK) and 1 from 12/17+ (DD).

A very late **Solitary Vireo** found 10/29 was 11 days later than the previous record date (JM). Single **Orange-crowned Warbler** were found 10/1 and 10/7 (EK). A **Pine Warbler** was seen 12/9 (JM). An exceptional find was a **Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler** 11/18 (EK); this was the 1st sighting of this race in *Erie*.

At least 300-400 **Am. Tree Sparrow** was an impressive number that were feeding along the road in 3 or 4 flocks 11/27 (JM). A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was in Edinboro 12/31 (DS). **Lapland Longspur** were seen periodically from 10/1 to 11/24 (EK,JM), with a late bird seen 12/23 (EK). Twelve **Common Redpoll** were seen 11/24 (JM,EK).

OBSERVERS: Dave Darney, Ken Foy, Eric Hall, James Hill, Joyce Hoffman (JHo), Ed Kwater, Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Don Snyder, Dave Steadman (DSt), Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull, Ruth Swaney, Chuck Tague, Marian Terwilliger, Brenda Watts, Harriet Wilson.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Abbreviations: Greenlick Dam (GD), Normalville (NVL).

Two **Common Loon** were at GD 10/10 and 12/5 (MEW). Also at that

location were 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** and 4 **Great Blue Heron** 10/19 (MEW). One of the latter species was at Mill Run Res. 10/1 (CC). Thirty **Tundra Swan** were at GD 11/7 (MEW). Five **Brant** and 8 **Black Scoter** were at GD 10/19. Fifty **Bufflehead** and 60 **Hooded Merganser** were there 11/12. A count of 12 **Ruddy Duck** was made at GD 10/19 (MEW).

An **Osprey** was at GD 10/12 (MEW). A **N. Harrier** was at NVL 11/10 as well as two sightings of a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** there 10/11 and 12/20 (CC). One **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found in NVL 12/4 (CC).

The following sightings were all from NVL by CC. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen 10/18 and a **Brown Creeper** and **Carolina Wren** have remained through the quarter. The last date for **E. Bluebird** was 11/25 when 3 were seen. One **N. Waterthrush** was noted 10/18. Three **Fox Sparrow** and 2 **White-crowned Sparrow** were found 11/22. The first fall sighting of **Dark-eyed Junco** was made 10/23 when 30 were seen. At least 200+ **Pine Siskin** were the first of the season 10/23 and 30 have stayed through the end of the quarter. Although 50+ **Evening Grosbeak** were noted 10/4 none has stayed to feed for the winter.

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

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (ART), East Hickory (EH), Church Hill (CH), Old Breck Farm (OBF).

Bald Eagle are being seen in our area with more frequency than ever. At least three times each month they were found at Tionesta L., Hunter Station, ART (m.ob.). We do not know if we are seeing the same bird or various birds, but hope that a pair will remain permanently in our area.

A ♂ **Ruffed Grouse** was observed displaying for two females on CH 10/10 (ADW). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** has been a regular visitor to a feeder in EH during Dec. (EF). A **Common Raven** was seen at Brookston 10/23 (BH), and 2 n. of Marienville 12/24 (TG). Many **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen in the woods—more than in recent years 11/28-12/9 (RAW). **Carolina Wren** were heard singing and observed n. of W. Hickory Bridge 11/4 (BR) and in EH 11/6 (LB). A large flock of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen 11/18 at ART (CM).

A **Rufous-sided Towhee** came to a feeder 11/19 and remained throughout Dec. at Hickory Cr., Upper Endeavor (GW). A pair of **Snow Bunting** was observed at a gravel pit at OBF 11/5 (RAW,ADW). We know of only one other time this species was noted in *Forest*. A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen during the last three weeks of Dec. on Pigeon Hill (BT). A large flock of **Pine Siskin** was at BS 10/22 (GW,RAW,ADW) and have been seen regularly at feeders this winter along with **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Leota Brady, Ed Foreman, Ted Grisez, Clint Hetrick, Bill Highhouse, Mark Kingston, C. R. Mann, Dan McFarland, Bob Ross, Bob Toman, Gary Walters, Richard & April Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306).

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

Abbreviations: Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (MPFH), Shippensburg (SHP).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MPFH 10/24 (DP). Four flocks of **Canada Geese**, totaling 117 birds, passed over Fayetteville 10/8 (CG); two flocks, totaling 59, passed over Chambersburg 11/2 (CG).

An **Osprey** was at MPFH 10/24 (DP). Four **N. Harrier** were seen n.w. of SHP 11/15 (DH). Also from near SHP were a max. of 4 **Red-tailed Hawk** 12/5 (DH). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen s. of Mercersburg along Rt. 75 on 11/29 (CB) and another n. of Marion along I-81 on 12/17 (B&FH). Other **Rough-leg** sightings included 1 on 12/4, 5, 12 and 2 on 12/10; all were normal phase and seen n.w. of SHP (DH).. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a feeder in Cove Gap 11/23 (CB).

An ad. **Harris' Sparrow** was found on Sheller Rd. on the Chambersburg CBC 12/16 (CB). It was seen by m.ob. the following day (JB,TG,F&BH,DH,EW,JW) and finally photographed. It remained through the end of the quarter+. (*See separate article.*)

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Charles Brightbill, **Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 391, Marion 17235-0391 (717-352-8151)**, Tom Garner, Barb & Frank Haas, Deuane Hoffman, Eric Witmer, Jan Witmer.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

The record breaking cold in Dec. did not seem to cause any noticeable mortality—probably because there was not much snow cover here.

Our CBC was held 12/30 and it was a very foggy day, with temperatures in the 30's. Despite the fog, 7 species were recorded in the highest numbers since the count was started in 1954. These 7 species were: **Cooper's Hawk** (5), **Mourning Dove** (376), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (37), **Tufted Titmouse** (158), **Carolina Wren** (36), **N. Cardinal** (333), and **House Finch** (513).

It seems the **Carolina Wren** can withstand the cold OK (1 was singing when the temperature was below zero). Evidently it is deep snow for a period of time (like during the bad winter of 1978-79) that drastically reduces their numbers.

Practically all streams were completely covered with ice at Christmas time, with the exception of a small riffle on Ten-mile Cr. where we found a **Great Blue Heron**, 15 **Am. Black Duck**, 72 **Mallard** and 3 **Hooded Merganser**.

Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found near Carmichaels 12/27 (RB,DB). A **Barn Owl** was seen in a barn 3 mi w. of Clarksville 12/16 (RC). The first **Pine Siskin** was noted 10/2 (RB) and the only **Evening Grosbeak** reported were 3 at a feeder in Jefferson 12/3 (BC).

OBSERVERS: David Bell, **Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505)**, Ron Chidester, Betty Clelland.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Dave Kyler

Abbreviations: *Entriken Overlook (EO)*, *Greenwood Furnace SP (GFSP)*, *Huntingdon (HT)*, *Newburg (NB)*, *Stone Valley (SV)*, *Stone Valley L. (SVL)*, *Tussey Mt. (TM)*, *Water Street (WS)*.

Unusual species for the quarter include: **Snow Goose**, **Bald Eagle**, **N. Goshawk**, **E. Phoebe**, and **Hyacinth Macaw**. All accounts are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

A single **Snow Goose** was present in SV in the company of farm pond Mallards 10/18-25 (PL). In addition to the many reported over-flying skeins of **Canada Goose**, 4 indiv. were found on the CBC held 12/17. A single **Green-winged Teal** was found 12/17 in the Juniata R. with 11 **Am. Black Duck**. Ice-free SVL was the location of single **White-winged** and **Surf scoters** 11/4 (GG). Other waterfowl present at SVL that day were 1 **Oldsquaw** and 1 **Common Goldeneye** (GG). The final waterfowl report was of 4 **Am. Coot** found at SV 10/29 (GG).

A single **Am. Bittern** was located in a SV marsh 10/24 (PL). Shorebird species reported were **Common Snipe** in NB 12/19 and **Spotted Sandpiper** at SVL 10/29 (GG).

Raptor reports include: a kettle of 5 **Black** and 67 **Turkey** vultures over HT 11/2; 2 **Bald Eagle** (1 ad., 1 sub-ad.) at EO 12/18;; 1 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at GFSP mantling a migrating **Am. Robin**; an ad. **N. Goshawk** in SV on the CBC (ML); and 9 **Golden Eagle** on TM in high winds 11/21 (ML).

An unusual find was made by ML in Hare's Valley in central *Huntingdon* 11/20. A beautiful blue and yellow-trimmed **Hyacinth Macaw** was found munching on Hickory nuts, grapes, and chicken feed in a local's backyard. The bird, obviously an escape, was later caught and found to be neither leg-banded or wing-marked. Unfortunately this individual succumbed to a virus late in Dec. "Big Mac" will be missed by those who came to admire his beauty and presence.

A late season **E. Phoebe** was located in Alexandria 11/24 (ML), while just n. in SV 38 **Horned Lark** were found 12/18. Two **Winter Wren** were found along the semi-frozen Juniata R. 12/17. A single **Am. Pipit** was found on the same date searching for food along the river's

edge. Good numbers of **Hermit Thrush** (4) were present for the CBC (RH) and were found near SVL. New for the CBC was 1 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** found near SVL (RC).

Four **Fox Sparrow** were at WS 10/22 (ML) and 3 **White-crowned Sparrow** were at a feeder on the CBC (RH). Small flocks of **Pine Siskin** were reported all quarter feeding along the roadsides. For the CBC, 49 siskin (MB) and 57 **Evening Grosbeak** (GZ) were found.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Brittingham, Rob Criswell, Greg Grove, Randy Harrison, **David Kyler, RD 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane, Phil Lukish, Gene Zielinski.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Locations: *Bolivar (BLV)*, *Clarksburg (CKG)*, *Creekside (CKS)*, *Indiana (IND)*, *Margus L. (ML)*, *Shelocta (SHL)*, *Timber L. (TL)*, *West Lebanon (WL)*, *Yellow Creek SP (YC)*.

The *Indiana* CBC was held 12/26 with a snow cover of 8+ inches and a low of -4°F with winds gusting to 26 mph. The wind chill factor was -50°F at times during the day. Although the bird count was not the worst we've ever had, the weather did qualify as THE worst. Waterfowl were found only on ponds with warm effluents or with pumps that kept them open manually.

Common Loon reports were more numerous than usual, especially at YC, where a fallout of 231 occurred 11/3 (GL). Next best tally was 33 over SHL 10/19 (MH). Top **Pied-billed Grebe** count was 5 at YC on 10/24 (MH,GL). Last **Horned Grebe** was reported 11/22 at YC (GL). **Great Blue Heron** were spotted near CKG 12/11 (MC) and near IND on 12/26 for our CBC (JB,BM). A single **Great Egret** at YC 11/29 (late) was the season's lone report (BF,TF,CL,GL).

Fewer than usual **Tundra Swan** reports were received. They were listed on only 3 dates at YC—70 on 11/10 (CL,GL), 44 on 11/25 (BF,GL), and 3 on 12/5 (JS); 40 were seen flying over Nolo 11/29 (CL,GL). **Brant** appeared for the 1st time on TBC records at YC; 33 were tallied 10/20 (BF,GL); 13 on 10/22 (BF,MH,RH); and 1 on 10/26,27 (ph. GL). Top **Canada Goose** count was 152 at TL 11/22 (GL). Duck reports are all from YC unless otherwise noted. Last **Wood Duck** reports were 12/11 at CKG (MC) and 12/26 at IND (GC). Five **Green-winged Teal** were listed 10/22 (MH,RH). TL hosted 6 **Am. Black Duck** 11/22 (GL); CBC produced 11 on 12/26. High **Mallard** count was 106 on 11/14 (GL), but CBC tally of 387 was an all-time record despite the frozen conditions. A single **Blue-winged Teal** 10/24 (MH,GL) was the lone report. Four **N. Shoveler** 11/7 were a nice find (GL). Three **Gadwall** were listed 11/1,2,9 (MC,MH,GL,JS, GS). Top **Am. Wigeon** count was 8 on 10/23 (MH,GL,BM). **Ring-necked Duck** numbered 11 on 11/17 (GL). Up to 7 **Greater Scaup** were found 10/20 (GL,JS), but 2 lingered until 11/10 (CL,GL). **Lesser Scaup** numbers peaked at 17 on 10/23 (MH,GL,BM). Six **Oldsquaw** were a nice find 11/3 (GL). On 10/19, 16 **Black Scoter** were well observed (GL,GS), but 25 were counted the next day (GL,JS). **White-winged Scoter** reported included a singleton 10/19 (GL,GS) and 13 on 10/20 (GL,JS). Top **Common Goldeneye** count was 18 on 11/3 (GL). Best **Bufflehead** tally was 42 on 11/12 (CL,GL). **Hooded Merganser** numbers reached 22 at YC on 11/13 (GL), but 11 were a nice count at Nolo 11/17 (GL). Max. **Ruddy Duck** tally was 11 at ML 11/2 (GL).



Brant, Yellow Creek S.P., 10/27/89. Photo by Gloria Lamer.

Osprey was sighted at YC on 10/3,5,9 (AB,GL). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was well-described there 10/20 (*vide* BF). One to 3 **N. Harrier** were reported from Nolo, TL, YC and Gipsy (v.o.). **Sharp-shinned**

Hawk was reported only at YC (CL,GL) during the period and was totally absent on CBC day. **Cooper's** were found only near SHL 10/15 (MH), at YC 11/1-16 (MC,MH,JS,GS), and near CKS 12/26 (MH,RH). **Rough-legged Hawk** was listed at YC 11/29 (CL,GL), but 3 on the CBC was an all-time record (PJ,BM,GS *et al.*).

Interestingly, the harrier reported at Nolo last Spring with the "dangling leg" reappeared on 11/7 and was seen hunting awkwardly but successfully on several occasions (GL).

Five **Ring-necked Pheasant** on a TBC outing near WL was a nice find. A single **Wild Turkey** was found at CKG 12/11 (MC). Best **Am. Coot** count was 32 at YC 11/2,3 (BF,GL). Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** were found 10/21 (MH,RH *et al.*), but 8 were counted 11/1 (MC,MH,JS,GS); 2 were last seen 11/16 (GL). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** appeared at YC 10/23,24 (MH,GL,BM,GS). **Dunlin** numbered 13 on 10/23,24 (GL,JS,GS). Seven **Short-billed Dowitcher** were feeding in a wet spot in the grass beside the road at YC 10/22 (MH,RH). **Common Snipe** reports include a singleton at WL 11/5 (MH,RH) and 3 at YC 11/8 (MC,MH).

Top **Bonaparte's Gull** count was 34 at YC 11/2 (BF,GL). **Ring-billed Gull** peaked at 77 on 11/12 (CL,GL). Two **Herring Gull** were present 11/2 (BF,GL). Eight **Common** and 1 **Forster's** terns were counted 10/20 (GL,JS). **Barred Owl** was heard near SHL 10/22 (MH,RH) and at Nolo 12/1 (GL). TBC outing near WL produced 2 **Short-eared Owl**. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a yard near BLV for almost an hour on 12/5 (MM). Five **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were reported (v.o.). Last **Tree Swallow** was at YC 10/20 (GL,JS). Two **Common Raven** at CKG were listed 10/19 (MC) and 11/18,25 (DC,MC).

This is probably the winter that will decimate **Carolina Wren** populations in our area. A regular feeder bird near SHL was last seen 12/26 (MH,RH) when overnight temperatures plummeted to -15°F; it was found dead several days later beneath a concrete porch.

A **Marsh Wren** at YC 11/15,16 was late (MH,GL,JS,GS). Last **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** report was 11/17 near SHL (MH). Best **E. Bluebird** count was a flock of 20+ at CKG 12/8 (MC). **Hermit Thrush** reports include 1 at SHL 10/28 (MH), 2 at YC 12/5 (JS), and 3 on the CBC (MC,MH,RH). A **N. Mockingbird** was found at IND 11/15 (PJ) and 3 on the CBC. **Am. Pipit** maxima at YC were 20 on 10/19 (GL,GS) and 7 on 10/25 (GL). **Cedar Waxwing** were more common than usual throughout the period with all-time CBC high of 157.

Solitary Vireo lingered until 10/17 near SHL (MH,RH). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** flocks numbered 18 at SHL 10/10 (MH,RH) and 15 at YC 10/23 (MH,GL,BM); last sighted were 2 at YC 11/7 (GL).

First **Am. Tree Sparrow** were 6 at YC 11/8 (MC,MH). Single **Fox Sparrow** were listed at YC 10/23 (MH,GL,BM), 11/7 (GL), and 11/8 (MC,MH). Two **Swamp Sparrow** were found at YC on the CBC (GC,GL,GS). A flock of 8 **White-crowned Sparrow** near IND on the CBC has been spotted other years in this same location. First **Dark-eyed Junco** arrived 10/1 at Nolo (GL). **Rusty Blackbird** reports include 5 near SHL 10/27 (MH), 3 at YC 11/1 (MC,MH,JS,GS), and 13 on the CBC. The CBC recorded 62 **Purple Finch**, significantly above the previous high of 36. **Pine Siskin** were incredibly widespread between 10/14, when 116 were counted in one grove of trees near SHL (MH,RH), and 10/26. However, during the CBC *only 1* was counted at a feeder in IND (GC,GL,GS). **Evening Grosbeak** reported include 4 birds at Nolo 11/28,29 (CL,GL), 21 near BLV 12/1 (MM), 4 near SHL 12/2 (MH), and 7 again near SHL 12/29 (MH,RH). CBC produced 18 birds, all at feeders.

OBSERVERS: Julie Barker, Alice Beatty, Greg Cook, Dan & Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy & Tom Fetterman, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Pat Johner, Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Beth Marshall, Mary McClure, John Salvetti, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club (TBC).

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Diane L. Greeley

Abbreviations: Clear Creek SP (CCSP). All observations were made at or near my home unless noted otherwise.

I was on several birding trips this fall including a trip with the Wapiti Audubon Society to Bald Eagle SP. It was a great time and I added some interesting birds to my Lifelist (not to mention the Orchid!). Thanks, guys. Another trip was to Kyle L. (*Jefferson*) 11/7. There had been reports of ducks being there the day before...I found 1 Black-capped Chickadee and 1 Belted Kingfisher. Big Trip! However, daily observations yielded some interesting sights.

The quarter started with a fishing and birding trip to Redbank Cr. near Heathville with my "birder" grandsons. I hadn't even wanted to go, but, the 5-year old said, "Come along, Graundmuzzer, and you can write down all the birds and fish I catch." Of course, I went. He found a *blooming* Quaker Lady, whose normal blooming time is Apr.-June! The other boy was frightened by "something in that bush." It turned out to be a skulking House Wren. He later saw and pointed out a Gray Catbird and a Great Blue Heron, which I thought was pretty good for a 3-year old. They call these our "ad ben sure" trips! (JG,JuG,AG,DG).

On the occasion of a visit to my Mother's home in Roseville she said I was learning things I never realized you could learn. We were taking clothes in from the line and talking at the same time. A bird flew over behind me. It cast a shadow on the grass and when I saw it I said, "Chickadee." She started to laugh and said, "Yes, and it landed in my fir trees. But, how did you know?" I couldn't explain the recognition of a flying shadow, but I thought, "Oh, no. Another aspect of birding!" Shadow Birding. Has anyone else had much experience with this phase of the birding world?

A late migrating **Great Blue Heron** was seen at Belltown 12/19 (RG). **Canada Geese** and **Mallard** were the only waterfowl seen all quarter.

Some 40 **Turkey Vulture** were found 10/3, with the last noted 11/13. A **N. Harrier** was seen sporadically all quarter, with 1 in the yard Christmas Day. A **Cooper's Hawk** started coming to my feeders 11/8. It is still here and I've discovered it eats birds, rodents, and kittens! Now, I'm angry with it. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen 12/7,17. Where were all the raptors for our CBC?

Ring-necked Pheasant started coming to the feeders 11/11. First, 1 male, but we didn't see another until a ♀ started coming every day. She got so used to me being around that she started eating her cracked corn right out of bright red cereal bowl about 5' from me. Then on 12/14, no more pheasant. We think because of foxes, as I have seen a black phase of the Red Fox in our fields. **Ruffed Grouse** were found 10/30 at Content (HG). We found a partial albino grouse at CCSP 12/2 (JG,RG,DG). **Wild Turkey** were seen often in various places in quite large flocks, including 3 running right by the front door 11/18. No **N. Bobwhite** found all quarter.

Killdeer remained until 10/25 and 1 **Am. Woodcock** was seen 10/30 (HG). **Rock Dove** numbers seem to be dropping in the county, but **Mourning Dove** numbers on the CBC increased ten-fold. For some reason, the two common species of owl, **Great Horned** and **Barred**, have been strangely quiet, only responding when prompted by a tape recorder. It was strange to see a **Belted Kingfisher** at our home 11/14. The first **Hairy Woodpecker** in two years was seen on suet 11/14. The **N. Flicker** is still eating Millet from the feeders and seldom touches the suet. It's real funny seeing him try to hang upside down on the glass to get the Millet from the 2-gallon feeder.

The last **E. Phoebe** was seen 10/27. The only **Horned Lark** reported so far were the 4 on the CBC 12/17 near Moore Bridge over North Fork Cr. n. of Brookville (DG,JH,JS). **Blue Jay** were absent from the feeders only 5 days all quarter. Brings up some new questions. We told you last issue that we would search for an **Am. Crow** roost. None was found and this year numbers dwindled to mere dozens in Dec. as compared to hundreds last quarter, or even last year. Six **Common Raven** stayed in the area all quarter.

The CBC **Black-capped Chickadee** count was about one-half from last year and the **Tufted Titmouse** dropped from 21 to 1. On 12/9, titmice came to the feeders for the *1st time in over 10 years!* There have been 7 of them almost daily since. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported from several areas, including Sigel. There seems to be a general influx this year. One started coming to the feeders regularly 11/27 and was the *1st in 5 or more years*. **White-breasted Nuthatch** numbers seem to have increased slightly. The only **Brown Creeper** report was the 1 on the CBC near Moore Bridge

12/17. The last **House Wren** was seen at Redbank Cr. in Heathville 10/2. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found in conifers at Conifer 12/19 by the 5-year old, who then pointed them out to all interested parties (JuG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were seen 11/13 traveling with a flock of Yellow-rumped Warbler. Other thrush notes include a few lingering **E. Bluebird**, sporadic sightings of **Am. Robin**, last **Gray Catbird** seen 10/2, and last **N. Mockingbird** found 12/2. No **Cedar Waxwing** found.

Last dates for **Solitary Vireo** were 10/22,24 and for **Red-eyed Vireo** 10/27. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seen in a mixed flock of 100+ birds 10/3, then alone 10/8,9, and daily until 10/27. The kinglet was with them 11/13, but they were seen again alone 12/4. Another species of warbler in that mixed flock 10/3 was a **Palm Warbler**.

The **N. Cardinal** population in *Jefferson* is down. Latest **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 10/24. The first **Am. Tree Sparrow** arrived at feeders 11/14. Others report they have fewer than other years, but they seem to have increased at mine. (I know where theirs went!). The CBC numbers were almost double of last year (Let's hope this is a good sign). Other sparrow reports include latest **Chipping** seen 10/3 and **Field** 10/14. One **Song** was found on the CBC and 1 has been at the feeders 12/27+. The first **White-throated** arrived 10/19, visited only 5 times in Nov., but daily in Dec. **White-crowned** were here 10/8-25, then moved on. **Dark-eyed Junco** were in Sigel (EM) and Roseville (JH) 10/11. They arrived at our feeders 10/16 and slowly increased in number all quarter, and the CBC numbers more than *quadrupled* (797). No **Snow Bunting** have been found in the area so far.

Red-winged Blackbird reports were scattered all quarter, with 8 sightings at our feeder in Dec. **E. Meadowlark** was also sporadic in Oct., with 1 in the backyard 11/3 and 12/24. A **Rusty Blackbird** visited the feeder 12/2-3. **Common Grackle** were seen only 5 times in Oct., but a flock of 51 was found on the CBC near Moore Bridge area 12/17. The only reports of **Brown-headed Cowbird** were the 12 seen on the CBC in Pinecreek Twp (JH,JS).

Purple Finch arrived 10/22, were here a few times in Nov, and became steady visitors in Dec., slowing increasing in number to about 15. **House Finch** have been steady at the feeders all quarter, but not in the number seen previously; they were down almost 50% from last year. A **Pine Siskin** was seen 12/7 and 3 large flocks were seen for the CBC in different areas. Another lone siskin was here 12/21. **Am. Goldfinch** were seen off and on in Oct., 7 times in Nov, and 5 times in Dec., but not in the number of previous years. **Evening Grosbeak** came on 11/29 and again 4 times in Dec., but not in great numbers as before. **House Sparrow** numbers have also declined in *Jefferson*, but were in high numbers for the CBC.

OBSERVERS: **Diane L. Greeley, RD 1, Box 55 Corsica 15829 (814-856-2000)**, Ross, Harold, Justin, & Adam Greeley, Jean Hartzell, Evelyn McNeil, Jocelynn Smrekar.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Abbreviations: Casners' Crossing (CC), Mifflintown Access (MA), Muskrat Springs Access (MSA).

Most noteworthy sightings this quarter came from the Lewistown CBC held 12/27 on a cold, 0-16°F, day with variable weather and a good wild food crop. Two **Mute Swan** at MSA (MK,DW) were still there at quarter's end. Other reports from that day include 2 **N. Pintail** at MA (CW), 3 **N. Harrier** (TN), 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** at CC (CG,AK,MM), 9 **Common Snipe** with 4 in one group near Van Wert (MK) and 5 near Ickesburg, 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (CW,LW), 11 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (CW), 391 **Am. Robin** (a new high) including a flock of 276 near Ickesburg (CW,LW), 1 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at the Cedar Grove Swamp, 2 **Fox Sparrow** (CW), and 4 **White-crowned Sparrow** at Cedar Grove Swamp (MK). Also at the Swamp were 10 **Red-winged Blackbird**, a first for this count and previously sighted in a flock of 170 blackbirds in the same location 12/6 (DW). **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak** were back on the count this year, with all being sighted consistently at feeders prior to the count. Our **E. Bluebird** numbers were way down (32), the lowest number recorded in the seven years of this count.

Sources other than the CBC included two sightings of 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** on the Juniata R. near Port Royal 11/13,15 (DW) and 1 **Hermit Thrush** in Hammer Hollow 11/23 and 12/16.

OBSERVERS: Towpath Naturalists, Chris Gisewhite, Amanda Kauffman, Margaret Kenep, Marilyn Miller, Dusty Weidner, **Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048)**,

Grover Wolfgang, Carolyn Wray.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Abbreviations: Dalton area (DA), L. Scranton (LS), Susquehanna R. (SR). The Scranton CBC was held 12/16 under adverse conditions. It was partly cloudy and windy with a wind chill factor of -20°F.

A **Common Loon** was seen at LS 12/13 and 1 **Great Blue Heron** remained in Scranton until at least 12/1. A flock of 25 **Mallard** were noted all quarter on the Lackawanna R. near Blakely, while 40 **Am. Black Duck** and 20 **Common Merganser** were found on the SR for the CBC.

One **N. Harrier** was seen on the CBC. A **Cooper's Hawk** was found at DA 11/30 and 5 counted on the CBC. Also on the CBC were 21 **Red-tailed** and 4 **Rough-legged** hawks as well as 10 **Am. Kestrel**, **Ruffed Grouse** were noted at DA 11/5. One **N. Bobwhite** was seen on a road near Heart L. 11/9. An **Am. Woodcock** was found at DA 10/4. A **Belted Kingfisher** was noted intermittently until Nov. on the Lackawanna R. at Scranton.

Downy Woodpecker outnumbered **Hairy's** 5:1 on the CBC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported in good numbers and in many areas all quarter and 16 were found on the CBC; many were reported from feeders. A **Carolina Wren** was noted 10/13-30 in DA. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen 10/12 in DA. Five **E. Bluebird** were found on the CBC and **Am. Robin** were quite common especially in Oct. & Nov. There were 13 **N. Mockingbird** seen on the CBC.

The CBC found 105 **Am. Tree Sparrow**, **Fox Sparrow** were found 10/16-30 and 3 seen at DA 11/24. Two **Swamp Sparrow** were seen on the 12/16 CBC, but only 10 **White-throated** were found that day. An imm. **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at a DA feeder 11/14+.

Five **Purple Finch** were found on the CBC, compared to 418 **House Finch** that same day. **Pine Siskin** first appeared at a DA feeder 11/28. **Evening Grosbeak** reports were few, 30 seen on the CBC and another dozen or so 12/6,8,12.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Mike Freidlin, **Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2821, Factoryville 18419 (717-344-4690)**, George Mozurkewich, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Abbreviations: Cornwall Fire Tower (CFT), Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run, including Fisherman's Park (MR), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF).

Highlights of the period include *Lancaster's* 2nd record(s) of **Great Cormorant**, SoLanco's 1st **Eurasian Wigeon** and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. However, "bad weather" birds were the big story. Pennsylvania's 1st record of **Sandwich Tern** (if accepted by P.O.R.C.) was found at Muddy Run Fisherman's Park during the storms of Oct. 18-20. Also associated with this weather were large numbers of **Brant** and all three species of scoter. The 1st **Black Skimmer** in 30 years was also in the Muddy Run area.

The extreme cold of Dec. concentrated waterfowl on the SoLanco CBC (12/23) producing an excellent variety of species. However the virtual freeze-up of the Susquehanna R. left few numbers of waterfowl on the Lancaster CBC (12/30). Gull numbers were low on the river by the end of the period due to a reported lack of typically abundant Gizzard Shad, which were affected by high flows and low water temperatures of May, June, and July (RMS).

A **Red-throated Loon** was a MC 11/5 (EW,SS). High counts of 9 **Common Loon** and 8 **Horned Grebe** were at MR 10/13 (RMS). The county's 2nd record(s) of **Great Cormorant** were of 2-3 imm. on the SR between Holtwood Pinnacle and MR 10/10-23 (RMS *et al.*). A very unwary **Am. Bittern** was at MC 10/12 to 11/11 (FH,RM *et al.*). Two were also found on islands below Bainbridge in the river 10/14 (JB *et al.*). One **Great Egret** lingered at SRCF until 10/31 (EW,TG).

Somewhat early were 9 **Tundra Swan** at MRFP 10/19 (HM, RMS,BH) and 52 **Snow Geese** passed MR 10/18-19 (RMS,HM). Five flocks totaling 175 **Brant** passed by MRFP 10/19-20 (RMS,HM *et al.*). A semi-tame **Brant** was at the MR Recreation L. 10/21-30 (RMS *et al.*). About 75 **Wood Duck** were still at SRCF 10/21 (EW,TG) and 2500 **Am. Black Duck** were at MR 11/20 (RMS). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was found on a farm pond with up to 80 **Am. Wigeon** near

Chestnut Level, Drumore Twp 12/23+ (DHo,RK *et al.*). The only reported **Canvasback** were 2 at MC 11/4 (SS) and 1 on the SoLanco CBC. No **Redhead** was reported. Many **Oldsquaw** reports were received, largest flocks reported were 16 at SRCF 11/11 (EW,TG) and 20 at MR 11/21 (RMS). The three-day storm of 10/18-20 produced record numbers of scoters with 650+ **Black**, 8 **Surf** and 3 **White-winged** from MR (RMS *et al.*). Other sightings included 18 **Black** below Cooks Landing SR 11/8 (RMS), 1 **Surf** at MR 11/2 (JB), and a **White-winged** at SRCF 11/4 (JB *et al.*).

Excellent coverage of the CFT was made by members of the Lancaster County Bird Club. The 68 days (387.3 hours) yielded 13 species/6871 individuals. Some highlights of the coverage include 11 species of raptors 10/24, 42 **Red-shouldered Hawk** 10/25, a "Kreider's" **Red-tailed Hawk** 10/9 (PM,FH), 1st **Golden Eagle** of the season 10/10, and 5 **Merlin** 10/22. Raptors away from the tower included a late **Osprey** at Ephrata 12/4 (EW). **Bald Eagle** away from the SR include 1 ad. near Churchtown 11/23 (FH) and 12/16 (B&FH) and 2 ad. at MC 12/2 (RM). The SoLanco CBC tallied an all-time high count of 23 **Bald Eagle** (6 ad., 17 imm.). Amazing were 17 **Red-tailed Hawk** in one tree 12/6 (JB) (probably a poultry dump site was nearby). **Merlin** were at MR 10/19 (BH) and 11/13 (LH,RMS) and near New Holland 11/26 (TK,NC). **Peregrine Falcon** were reported from SRCF, taking a **Killdeer** 10/7 (TG,BS,EW), and 10/21 (TG,EW) and 2 at MRFP 10/20 (LL *et al.*).

Two groups of **Lesser Golden-Plover** were reported with 130 near Intercourse (LS) and 22 at MC (RMS *et al.*). Lingering **Yellowlegs** include a **Greater** near New Holland 12/3 (LS) and a **Lesser** in Leacock Twp 11/26 (TK,NC). The last reported **Spotted Sandpiper** was at MRFP 10/20 (RMS *et al.*). **White-rumped Sandpiper** were reported on 5 trips to the SRCF from 10/5—11/4, with a high count of 10 on 10/21 (JB,TG,EW). The last **Baird's Sandpiper** was on the SRCF 10/8 (JB). Seven **Stilt Sandpiper** were at SRCF 10/21 (TG,EW). Ad. **Laughing Gull**, (much rarer than imm.) were reported, with 3 at SRCF 10/20 (RMS,HM,LL) and 1 at SRCF 11 (TG,EW). A **Common Tern** was at SRCF 10/7 and 3 at MRFP 10/20-21 (m.ob.). A most incredible record of a **Sandwich Tern** at MRFP 10/19-20 (RMS,HM,BH) will be a 1st state record if accepted by the P.O.R.C. Another storm-related bird was *Lancaster's 5th* (1st in 30 years) **Black Skimmer** 10/20 (EW,HM,RMS).

A **Barn Owl** was at Octoraro L. 10/11 (RMS) and 11/15 (JV). The Lancaster CBC recorded 2 **Barn Owl** (1st since 1980) (JW *et al.*), 1 **Barred Owl** (1st since 1972) (JP,EP,CP) and a **Long-eared Owl** (1st since 1977) (HM *et al.*). An early **Short-eared Owl** was at MC 10/14 (RMS *et al.*). The last reports of **Common Nighthawk**, 1 at Akron 10/2 (FH), and **Chimney Swift** at CFT 10/24 (FH). Twenty **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found at SHD 11/23 (RMS). Fewer **Marsh Wren** were found at SRCF this fall, with 1 on 10/3 (RMS,KL). However, 4 found below Bainbridge on SR islands 10/14 were in very good habitat (JB *et al.*).

Two **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were seen (F&BH), the latest 9/28. Single **Gray Catbird** were found on both CBCs. About 100+ **Am. Pipit** were s.w. of Wakefield 11/8 (RMS,JV) and 1 was still in the Clay area 12/30 (RM). A **Scarlet Tanager** was still at Neffsville 10/10 (RB). **Am. Tree Sparrow** were found in better than average numbers on both CBCs. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** could be found again at SRCF on three dates between 10/3-14 (m.ob.); 3 others were found below Bainbridge on the SR 10/14 (JB,DH,TG,EW). Single **Lincoln's Sparrow** were at MC 10/2 (TG) and near MR 11/6 (RMS). Good numbers of **Lapland Longspur** and **Snow Bunting** were found by the end of Nov. to the end of the period in the Amish areas and n. *Lancaster*. An excellent count of 45 **Lapland Longspur** and 350 **Snow Bunting** were on Clay Rd. 12/30 (RM). Very low numbers of **Red-winged Blackbird** were found on either CBC. A first-winter ♀ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found in Fulton Twp in early Dec. (EB). A **N. Oriole** was found on the SoLanco for the 3rd time in 10 years. Fair numbers of **Pine Siskin** were noted throughout the county since at least 10/9 (FH) through end of the quarter, few birds seemed to using local feeders however. Small numbers of **Evening Grosbeak** appeared in mid-Nov./early-Dec., none reported staying in an area for more than a day or so.

OBSERVERS: Erik Blom, Jerry Book, Ray Bubb, Nancy Clupper, Tom Garner, Barb & Frank Haas, Fred Habegger, Lloyd Hassel, Dan Heathcote, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Kurtz, Ramsay Koury, Keith Leidich, Larry Lewis, Pat McElhenny, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Chris Pederson, Ed & Jo Pederson, Steve Santner, Leon Schreffler, Robert M. Schutsky, Bill Stocku, June Vaughn, Eric Witmer, 805 **Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan Witmer.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Locations: Bessemer area (BA), Ellwood City area (EC), New Castle area (NC), Plain Grove area (PG), Volant area (VA), Vosler Rd. (VR).

We were up to our eyeballs in **Am. Tree Sparrow**. (Please refer to **PB 1:9**, where Wilhelm remarks that these sparrows are a good indicator of the severity of the winter in his area (*Butler*), with them being common to numerous in severe winters.) All bodies of water were frozen by 12/7, except for a few open areas on rivers and creeks.

Many **Great Blue Heron** are commonly seen here, but AM and BW have provided data on three heronries in *Lawrence* which will upgrade our reports on this species in the future. Two heronries are along Little Beaver Cr. and one is in Amish area. AM also came through with a response to the alarming absence of **Pied-billed Grebe** here. We may have a nest site in the s.w. corner. **Tundra Swan** were recorded migrating late over NC 11/13,24 (RB). Some 700 **Canada Geese** congregated at a large pond in VA from 11/11-24 and 350 gathered at Elders Pond, NC 10/8. It was unusual to witness large V-formations of them moving S over NC for two hours mid-afternoon 12/21. At that time cornfields were under 10" of snow and bodies of water were locked up. Fifty **Canadas** remained in the BA where high winds blew snow off some of the cornfields giving them access to food. A small gem of a cattail marsh in NC contained at least 60 **Wood Duck** until 10/21. The birds breed at this location. One **Wood Duck** stayed at the downtown section of the Neshannock Cr. through 12/31+ with 100 **Mallard**. 120 **Mallard** were on Vosler L. 11/19. Some 50 **Am. Black Duck** and 1 **Hooded Merganser** were on Mahoning R. to the Rt. 168 bridge crossing the Beaver R. 12/5 (AM). Two **Bufflehead** were at Elders Pond 10/22 and a ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser** was feeding with 60 **Mallard** in NC 11/11. We usually experience a poor waterfowl migration here as we do not have large bodies of water.

Some 23 **Turkey Vulture** were counted in PG 10/18. Our last report was of 6 over EC 11/11 (BW,MD,JB). **N. Harrier** sightings were up this quarter. One ad. ♂ and ♀ were at VA all period and 1 ad. ♂ at NC 11/26, plus 1 ad. ♀ on VR 12/31. Many ad. and imm. **Sharp-shinned** and a few **Cooper's** hawks were recorded from all over, especially at feeders from late Oct.+ I wonder what provoked so many **Red-tailed Hawk** to call so noisily from so many locations on a sunny windy morning 11/5? Once again it is alarming to have *no Red-shouldered Hawk* to report. Normal phase **Rough-legged Hawk** were a welcome sight after last year's absence; 1 on VR 11/19, 2+ in Amish area until 12/23. A *drop* in **Am. Kestrel** numbers is the *norm* for this quarter, even so, they are easily found in most areas with suitable habitat.

Sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasant** remain normal. **Ruffed Grouse** sightings were up, with 3 roosting at Lakewood 10/22 and drumming was heard in PG and BA 10/28-29. **Wild Turkey** was found at a new location in late Oct., with 2 at a farm in VA. It is disturbing not to be able to report **Am. Coot** again this fall. Some 200+ **Killdeer** gathered at Volant with 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 10/14. The last flocks of **Killdeer**, 30+, were noted 11/11 at many areas. **Common Snipe** sightings were up, with 5 flying over VR 10/17 and 5 in Amish area 11/22 and 1 on VR 12/31.

At least 6 **Ring-billed Gull** were reported from 3 locations in Dec. There were some reports of many **Mourning Dove** at feeders during the frigid Dec. weather. Bales had 60 at his feeder in NC.

E. Screech-Owl were especially vocal this quarter. They are surprisingly common in *Lawrence*, with about 25 locations evenly distributed throughout in the right habitat. Out of a dozen sightings, I have only seen 2 of the red morph. I do not believe any **Short-eared Owl** made a stop at the VR area this fall. We also searched two other strip mine areas, but came up empty. **Barn Owl** rumors persist! in fact the latest rumor was of several seen in spring '89 (non-birders). What is interesting is that they are almost all pointing toward the Amish area, but we have nothing concrete...yet.

One imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at VR 11/11(GD) and at least 1 ad. was wintering in the BA. The **Pileated Woodpecker** is also doing very well here, with many sightings in Oct. and Nov. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found fighting on the grass in NC 12/31. Our last **E. Phoebe** was seen 10/21 in EC (BW). **Horned Lark** can sometimes be found at five locations. We found them wintering over this year, with the biggest flock of 400+ at BA 12/31 and a smaller

flock at Amish area 12/31. Last **Chimney Swift** were seen 10/17. About 150 **Am. Crow** roosted at PG 11/19.

Three **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at Lakewood 10/22 and 1 came to a Union Twp feeder in Dec (BW). A very high number of **Brown Creeper**, 23, was found at 12 scattered locations from 10/8+. Nearly 20 **Carolina Wren** were found at 9 locations and were even more vocal all period than usual. We have found them along the Beaver R. recently, and they appeared to be in good numbers the three days of Dec., when temperatures were above freezing. We thought we had seen our last **House Wren** in PG 10/22, but found 1 in NC 12/29! **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were numerous 10/1-22 and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were in good numbers all over on 12/31.

E. Bluebird, in flocks of 5-12, were common in Dec. We had **Swainson's Thrush** in PG 10/8, and 1 in SGL 216 on 11/19. WOW! for **Hermit Thrush** this quarter. On 10/8 we had a total of 5 at three areas and tallied 16+ indiv. through 12/31+. They are at NC, EC, PG, and VA. Few **Am. Robin** were seen after 11/11. Last **Gray Catbird** were 1 at PG 10/8 and 1 in NC 11/24. Large flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** were seen to end of the quarter. We had 1 **Solitary Vireo** in PG 10/18.

Late warbler sightings through 10/8 at PG were single **Magnolia, Tennessee, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Green**. First **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were noted in early Oct. and we are enjoying high numbers at this writing (1/22/90).

Last **Scarlet Tanager** in PG was 10/8. It was not unusual to see 20 **N. Cardinal** at a NC feeder during the severe cold. Many **Rufous-sided Towhee** remained singing till 10/22 and last was recorded 10/29 in NC.

Am. Tree Sparrow began trickling into the county the 2nd week of Nov., and by 11/22 they were all over. On 11/26, hundreds were in the vast weedy fields in the Princeton area. Elsewhere in *Lawrence*, flocks of 40-50 were commonplace. These are the highest numbers I've seen in 7 years of birding here. **Field and Chipping** sparrows were last seen 10/29. A higher than usual number of **Song Sparrow** were found in Dec. A few **Swamp Sparrow** remained in VA through Dec. **White-throated Sparrow** remained in good numbers of ±40 per flock till mid-Nov. and then only in single digits to end of the quarter. Two **White-crowned Sparrow** in NC and 1 in VA were found 10/8-14. A 1000+ **Snow Bunting** were found in BA 12/31.

Red-winged Blackbird moved to cornfields 10/22. Some 7 **E. Meadowlark** were at VR 12/31+. About 50 **Rusty Blackbird** were at PG 12/31. A flock of ±400 **Common Grackle** flew over NC 10/22. A few **Brown-headed Cowbird** came to NC feeders in Dec. Six **Purple Finch** were in NC 12/7-8 (MD). Flocks of ±45 **Pine Siskin** were at NC from late Oct. through Dec. Both the Rodgers' feeder in VA and NC feeders hosted small flocks all period. Only 2 **Evening Grosbeak** were reported, 12/16, at a feeder in VA (NR).

OBSERVERS: Ray Bales, George Dean, Mary Dean, Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle 16105 (412-658-3393), Anthony Marich, Nancy Rodgers, Bob Walczak.

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

Abbreviations: Memorial Lake (ML), Second Mt. Hawk Watch (SMHW), Stony Creek Valley (SCV).

Migration patterns were not too unusual during Oct. and Nov., except that, due to heavy rainfall earlier in the year, there was good shorebird habitat in the Iona/Reistville area. Dec., however, was the **coldest on record**. ML froze almost completely by 12/16, the day of the Lebanon CBC, driving out almost all waterfowl. The only large areas of open water were provided by deep quarries and abandoned mines. Nevertheless, although numbers of individuals were down, the 60 species recorded were the 2nd highest in the 10-year history. The birds of the season were the **godwits** seen on the farm pond n. of Reistville.

A **Common Loon** was seen 12/31 on a lake in an abandoned iron mine in Cornwall (WE,SR). A **Double-crested Cormorant** flew over the SMHW 10/8 (MC). An **Am. Bittern** was found at Stoever's Dam Park in Lebanon in early Oct. (FHe). A **Brant** was at ML 12/9 (PM). Four **Snow Geese** flew by the SMHW 10/8 (m.ob.) and 1-3 (2 blue phase) were at ML from late Nov. until 12/9 (m.ob.). Early in the quarter, there were many "puddle" ducks in the Iona/Reistville farm ponds, with the most unusual sighting being the 17 **N. Shoveler** 10/7 (SS). **Ring-necked Duck** is not usually noteworthy, but this year a late bird was seen 12/16 on a quarry pond near Palmyra (JKL,ERS).

Canvasback were at ML from 11/23—12/16 (m.ob.). The peak was 4 on 11/29 (PM) and the single bird remaining after freeze-up in a very small pocket of open water (MC) was thought to be injured. **Common Goldeneye** was seen 11/23 and 12/9 at ML (PM). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** were reported at ML 12/4 (MC).

The SMHW reported a total of 8002 hawks of 14 species. Details are published elsewhere in this issue. Away from Second Mt., 2 **Rough-legged Hawk** were found n. of Reistville 11/11 (RM). **Peregrine Falcon** was reported twice in Lebanon, on 11/20 and 12/9 (PM). A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming on the very late date 11/22 at Indiantown Gap (MC *et al.*). An **Am. Coot** was on a quarry pond near Palmyra 12/16 (JKL,ERS).

In addition to the usual common species, there were a number of unusual shorebirds this quarter. Most inexplicable was the **curlew sp.** which flew right down the ridge past startled hawkwatchers at the SMHW 10/5 (MC *et al.*). On 10/29, there were 2 **Marbled Godwit** on a farm pond n. of Reistville (BG). The following day, early in the morning, there was a single **Hudsonian Godwit** (JB)! By 8:30 a.m., all the shorebirds had left this pond (SS). This is typical of these ponds; the birds drop in and stay only a short while before moving on. Other shorebirds of interest seen in this area include **Pectoral Sandpiper**, last seen 10/29 (JB), **dowitcher sp.** seen 10/8 (PM), **White-rumped Sandpiper** 10/22 (SS), and **Stilt Sandpiper**, last seen on the very late date 10/30 (JB). A locally very rare **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen in flight over Lebanon 12/9 (PM), while also on that date a **Bonaparte's Gull** was at ML (PM).

The latest **Chimney Swift** was 1 seen 10/8 at the SMHW (MC). A **Pileated Woodpecker** seen n. of Lickdale 11/6 was chasing, and being chased by, a Red Squirrel! The last **Empidonax** was seen somewhat late on 10/7 in SGL 145 near Mt. Gretna (SS). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was common early in the quarter, somewhat less so later on, but a few remained to the end of Dec. One was seen on the CBC (GB *et al.*). **Winter Wren** were almost common this fall, being reported from nearly everywhere (m.ob.), although none could be located for the CBC. However, **Carolina Wren** set another local CBC record high with 13; they seem to have recovered to levels higher even than their early 1970s highs. It remains to be seen whether they can survive the rest of this winter. Also somewhat unusual were the two widely separated **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** found on the CBC (m.ob.). **Am. Pipit** were found in numbers in the Iona/Reistville area throughout Oct. and Nov., with the peak being 100 on 10/30 (SS).

Philadelphia Vireo was found on the late date 10/8 near Lickdale (PVM,FH). **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported 10/1 near Palmyra (JKL). Some late warbler dates this year were **Tennessee** 10/15, **Nashville** 10/8, **Cape May** 10/8, **Black-throated Blue** 10/16, and **Am. Redstart** 10/15 (m.ob.).

Although **Am. Tree Sparrow** may be declining in numbers, (see 2-part article in PB), the CBC set another record this year (191 seen), almost doubling the previous record set only last year. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported twice; 10/5 near Lickdale (PM) and 10/7 in SGL 145 (SS). A **Swamp Sparrow** was seen as late as 12/13 near Lickdale (PM). A single **Snow Bunting** was seen early on 10/27 in Palmyra (GB) and a small flock was located at the old Cornwall iron mine 11/12 (PVM,FH). A few winter finches have shown up so far this winter. **Purple Finch** passed through in small numbers in Oct. and early Nov., but none remained into Dec. Yellow or orange **House Finch** are not uncommon, but a more unusual albino with a little pink on the rump was observed at a feeder in Myerstown 11/9 (JaB).

Pine Siskin, on the other hand, were more widespread and common, being found throughout the period all over the county (m.ob.). **Evening Grosbeak** have been widely reported, but none stayed put for any length of time. Largest flocks were about 20 birds passing the SMHW 12/1 (EB) and a similar size flock in SGL 145 on 12/2 (RM).

OBSERVERS: Ellis Blauch, Gerry Boltz, Jerry Book, Jan Buckingham (JaB), Morris Cox, Wade Edris, Bud Garner, Fred Habegger, Fritz Heilman (FHe), Jane & Ken Light (JKL), Pat and Val McElhenny (PVM), Randy Miller, Steve Rannels, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857), Ed & Rosemary Spreha (ERS).

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Leaser L. (LL).

This season was a fairly average one, except for raptors and

winter finches which were found in good numbers. Among those birds seen in much better than average numbers were **Osprey**, all the falcons, **N. Harrier**, **Horned Lark**, **Carolina Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Solitary Vireo**, and **Pine Siskin**. The most unusual species were **Swainson's Hawk** and **Dickcissel**. The Allentown CBC, held 12/16, is abbreviated as AXC.

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen on the Lehigh R. in Allentown 10/23 (AJ). **Great Egret** were seen in early Oct. at Jordan Park and in Allentown (TF, CRE). A single **Brant** was seen at LL 10/21 (DH), and about 100 flew past BOK 11/12 (FB). Two **Wood Duck** were at Dorney Pond 10/5 (ME). A flock of 5 scoter *sp.* flew by BOK 10/22 (FB). Uncommon waterfowl found on the AXC included a **Canvasback**, 7 **Redhead**, and a **Common Goldeneye**. A very late **Turkey Vulture** was seen near Trexlertown 12/24 (AJ).

Rough-legged Hawk were seen in good numbers in Dec., with 4 different ones noted on the AXC. Raptors were good to excellent, especially in Oct. The exception were **Golden Eagle** and **N. Goshawk**, both which, especially the Gos, were low. A **Bald Eagle** seen away from the hawk ridges was noted in Emmaus 10/25 (JH). On 11/12, 5 were seen at BOK, along with an imm. **Swainson's Hawk** (FB, AK). A record high count of 11 **N. Harrier** was noted on the AXC. On 10/22, 689 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were seen at BOK (FB, BLM). One was seen chasing (unsuccessfully) a **Tree Swallow** at BOK 9/10 (BLM, AK). A very late **Broad-winged Hawk** was at BOK 10/21 (FB). An ad. **Golden Eagle** was seen at South Mt. 10/24 (CM), and 4 were at BOK 11/12 (FB, AK). Also at BOK, an **Am. Kestrel** was seen eating a mouse in flight, which it dropped but recovered; another caught a Monarch Butterfly, which it quickly released, and a third was seen harassing a **Turkey Vulture** (BLM, AK). On 10/22, a record-breaking flight of **Merlin** went by the ridge; 34 at BOK (FB, BLM), and 51 at Baer Rocks (TK). At BOK, 15 birds went by in a single hour! The previous high day's count at BOK was 9! Another Merlin was noted on the AXC in Emmaus.

Two late shorebirds, a **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper**, were seen 10/25 at a drainage pond near Jordan Park (TF). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Dorney Pond 10/5 (ME). An **Upland Sandpiper**, the only 1 reported, was at the ABE Airport 9/8 (RW). Up to 3 **Am. Woodcock** were seen near Henningsville 10/16-20 (PS, SS), and another at Applewood 11/23 (PE). A flock of 15 **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the ABE Airport 11/3 (FB). A flock of at least 100 **Ring-billed Gull** was at L. Muhlenberg in Dec. (m.ob.). An extremely late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Applewood 10/12. A **Short-eared Owl** was seen 10/23 at the unlikely locale of BOK (DG, JG).

An extremely late hummingbird was seen in Allentown 10/4 (NB, JB). Two partial albino **Am. Crow**, with very light colored backs, were at BOK 11/11 (BLM, FB). These were the first such that either of us had ever seen. At least 2100 crows went by BOK 10/22 (FB).

A very early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Applewood 10/7 (PE). A record late **Yellow Warbler** was seen in Jordan Park 10/28 (PE, BLM). **Pine Warbler** were seen 10/1 at Applewood (PE).

A ♀ **Dickcissel** was seen at a feeder in Salisbury Twp 11/5-7 (FB). On 10/8, seven species of sparrow, including a **Lincoln's**, were in a small field near Cedarbrook (BLM). **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen near Spring Cr. 10/9, 23 (PC), and at Cedarbrook 10/8 (BLM). A late **Vesper Sparrow** was seen near Emmaus 12/13 (FBa). Two **Lapland Longspur** were seen on the AXC near Trexlertown (BLM, m.ob.). This is the 1st AXC record for the past 10 years. **Pine Siskin** were seen in good numbers starting in early Oct. A flock of 60 went by BOK 10/7 (GLF). A small flock of **Red Crossbill** flew by BOK 11/24 (FB). Finally, **Evening Grosbeak** were found in many locales in Oct.

OBSERVERS: Frank Bader (FBa), Steve Boyce, Nancy & John Boyer, Fritz Brock, Pat Clarke, Dave DeReamus, Catherine R. Elwell, Pauline England, Marie Erdman, Gary L. Freed, Ted Fritzingler, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Durrae Henry, Jason Horn, Alan Jennings, Tim Kline, Arlene Koch, Valerie Kuntzweiler, Clint Miller, **Bernard L. Morris**, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Peter & Sandy Saenger, Brad Silfies, Rick Wiltraut.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Harveys L. (HL), Sylvan L. (SL), Wilkes-Barre (WB), Wyoming (WY).

A **Red-throated Loon** was seen at HL 11/23 (JH, JS); and small numbers of **Common Loon** were noted at several locations. A **Red-**

necked Grebe was at HL 11/24 (WR). An imm. **Brant** was at HL 10/19-22 (WR *et al.*), and another was at WB in early Dec. (FP). A **N. Pintail** was seen at HL 12/11-15 (WR *et al.*); and 2 **Am. Wigeon** were at Shickshinny L. 11/25. Three **Oldsquaw** were at SL 11/23 (WE, JH, JS); and 2 were at HL 12/8-11 (WR). A flock of 17 **Black Scoter** was at HL 10/20-22 (WR *et al.*); 2 **Surf Scoter** were at SL 10/23 (WE); and a **White-winged Scoter** was at HL 10/22 (JH, JS). A flock of 7 **Hooded Merganser** was at HL through much of Dec. (m.ob.). Three **Ruddy Duck** were seen at HL 10/22 (BY); and 1 was at SL 10/23 (WE).

An imm. **Mississippi Kite** was closely observed in flight and at rest at the Wetlands (near Berwick) 10/20 (DG). A **N. Harrier** was noted at WY 12/22 (JS). Single **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen at E. Dallas and WY 12/16 (TB, WR). Twelve **Greater Yellowlegs** noted at WB 10/25 were late (FP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch were widely reported throughout the quarter. A flock of 110 **Cedar Waxwing** was observed at Nescopeck Creek SP 11/22 (KC). Two **Lapland Longspur** and 2 **Snow Bunting** were seen in a flock of 60 **Horned Lark** in WY 12/16-27 (TB, WR, JS). A **N. Oriole** was at a feeder in Carverton through Dec. (DAS). Small flocks of **Pine Siskin** were reported in Nov. and Dec; and there were scattered reports of flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** in Dec.

OBSERVERS: Terry Baltimore, Kevin Crilley, Doug Gross, James Hoyson, Frank Pacovitch, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., **Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Dorothy Ann Searfoss, James Shoemaker, Bonnie Yuscavage.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wes Egli

Abbreviations: Fairfield Twp (FT), Jersey Shore (JS), Montoursville (MTV), Rose Valley L. (RVL), Upper Fairfield Twp (UFT).

One **Red-throated Loon** was observed on RVL 10/23 (SS). Seven **Black Scoter** were seen on RVL 10/23 (SS), with 4 staying until 11/12 (SS, WE). Another imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen by E&TR near their home in UFT 10/14. One ad. **Bald Eagle** was spotted by two parties (7 indiv.) during the Lycoming CBC held 12/17. First observed in UFT, then, as the bird flew in a SE direction, spotted by the second party in FT. One **N. Goshawk**, the 1st seen in 5 years of the CBC, was seen 12/17. Seventeen **Rough-legged Hawk** were also a new high count (m.ob.). One **Merlin**, observed by SS 10/1, landed in the same willow tree in MTV where 1 had been seen a year earlier. At a pond at Indian Park in MTV, 1 **Am. Coot** was found for the CBC (SS). The 4 **Barn Owl** were a new count high and a **Short-eared Owl** (E&TR) was also found in UFT for the CBC.

A late **Common Loon**, trying to land on what it must have believed was some type of waterway, unfortunately alit on Rt. 15 on Steam Valley Mt. (n. of Williamsport) instead. Being a loon, it was unable to take off from the roadway. Fortunately, it was spotted by a concerned motorist who got in touch with local rehabilitators Ed and Tink Reish. Ed picked up the bird (on our 12/17 CBC day), noted no serious injuries, kept it happy in their bathtub, and when the bird was strong, planned to release it. Of course, all water in our area was frozen solid, so arrangements were made with Chris and Jack Schaeffer to take the bird to the Chesapeake Bay for release. Water was frozen there also, so it was then taken and released in the Delaware Bay. A happy ending to what could have been a sad story.

The 361 **Mourning Dove** was excellent and the 622 **Horned Lark** is perhaps a new record for the JS area (GPS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in JS 12/30. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** numbers were up, as many were heard and seen during the quarter, with 9 on the CBC. The report from JS said "more this year than at any time during the past 22 years" (GPS). On 10/8 **Am. Pipit** were heard and seen at RVL (SS). Also at RVL 10/6, 1 **Nashville** and 3 **Palm** warblers with whitish underparts and 1 **Palm** with a bright yellow underside were seen (SS). **Am. Tree Sparrow** were seen in good numbers in MTV in Nov./Dec. (SS); a good count of 684 was noted for the CBC. The 2,101 **Dark-eyed Junco** was the second highest single species (behind **Eur. Starling**) counted. The 17 **Lapland Longspur** in the JS area 12/30 represents the largest number ever seen (GPS). One **Snow Bunting** 10/23 and 4 on 10/25 were seen at

RVL (SS); 61 were found in JS 12/30 (GPS). Five **Red-winged Blackbird** were spotted on the count. A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen feeding at the home of E&TR the week of 12/6 in UFT. **Pine Siskin** were reported at RVL 10/6 to 11/2 (SS), with 170 on the CBC. Siskins, along with **Evening Grosbeak**, seemed to be quite sporadic throughout the quarter. Some 87 grosbeaks were noted on the CBC, but numbers had not been high at usually popular feeding stations. The first 5 were found in JS 11/29, but few records since then (GPS).

OBSERVERS: **Wesley Egli, 123 N. Main, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222)**, Ed & Tink Reish, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, Stanley Stahl.

MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda Ordiway

Abbreviations: Derrick City (DC), Gilbert Lane Res. (GLR).

Reports are scant for this quarter. Going to college away from home limits my time in this area. *Any McKean birder, I could use some help.*

An **Osprey** was at GLR 10/12. At 5 a.m. on Christmas morning 2 **Great Horned Owl** were calling at GLR. The one seemed to pick up its call on the last note of the other.

A **Belted Kingfisher** was working Little Gilbert Cr. 12/31. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** seemed more abundant than the usual number of winter residents. An absence of the resident pair of **Carolina Wren** was noted for the first time in 5 years at DC. The last reported sighting of **E. Bluebird** was 11/22 in the Willow Cr. area.

Am. Tree Sparrow were seen at feeders various times throughout Dec. A few **Pine Siskin** were at GLR 12/21. **Evening Grosbeak** arrived at feeders 12/22, but not in large numbers.

OBSERVERS: Madeline Miles, Linda Ordiway, 72 Gilbert Lane, Bradford 16701 (814-368-7464).

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Abbreviations: Grove City Area (GCA), Hermitage Area (HA), Limber Rd. (LR), Saguallas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR). Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at SP 10/2,12 and 11/14 and 1 **Horned Grebe** was there 11/12 (HB,SM,LW). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were present also at SP; an imm. 10/26 and 11/18 and 1 ad. 11/12 (HB,SM,LW). Thirty-five **Tundra Swan** flew low over HA at 8:30 a.m. on 11/25; 19 were at SP 11/18,21 (HB,SM,LW). The usual variety of ducks was noted on the ponds in Oct. and Nov., but thought to be down in numbers.

The 8 **Turkey Vulture** at GCA 10/11 were unusual (HB,SM,LW). Two ♀ **N. Harrier** were at LR 10/14 (HB,SM,LW). GCA had a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 12/23 and a **Cooper's** 11/18 (HB,SM,LW); another Cooper's was seen 10/29 and 11/2 at a site in HA. **Ring-necked Pheasant** are uncommon in the county, however 1 was seen at SRR 10/22 (BS) and another at HA 11/29.

Four **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at SRR 10/6 and 12 **Bonaparte's Gull** were also there 11/14. An imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** fed from a hanging suet ball at Greenville 12/23-31 (BR). A ♀ **Pileated Woodpecker** was observed for 3 hours at HA 12/4 excavating holes in a black cherry tree. GCA had a **Carolina Wren** 12/22-31+ (HB). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** invasion beginning in Sep. continued through the first week in Oct. One opted on 11/23 to finish out the quarter at a suet feeder in HA and 3 others chose a GCA feeder 11/16-12/31+ (HB).

Am. Tree Sparrow remained scarce; 8 were at SRR 12/1 (BS), and 20 in HA 11/25-12/31+. One **Vesper Sparrow** was at LR 10/14 (HB,SM,LW). On 10/1, 12 **White-throated Sparrow** were found at SRR and "hundreds" of **White-crowned Sparrow** were there 10/22 (BS). The first **Dark-eyed Junco** was not noted at HA until 10/5, but they became common beginning 10/26. Three **E. Meadowlark** were at LR 10/14 (HB,SM,LW).

The "Best Bird" of the quarter had to be the ♂ **N. Oriole** in HA 11/19. He was found late in the afternoon with the temperature at 36°F. gorging on dogwood berries. Early the following morning he was seen briefly in the same dogwood tree, preening—then vanished. Twenty-five **Pine Siskin** arrived at a HA feeder, but only remained one week.

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Shirley McCarl, Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Bob Ross, Bill Sarver, Loraine Weiland.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenep

All sightings by the compiler in McVeytown or near the Juniata R. unless otherwise noted.

A **Great Blue Heron** is a regular visitor either near River bridge or by our home. **Canada Geese** flew over in large flocks and were heard the nights of 10/24-25. By 12/31, 13 were still seen near Horningsford (GG). During Dec. **Mallard** and **Common Merganser** were regulars on the river.

A **N. Harrier** was seen near Longfellow off Rt. 103 on 12/8. Two **Sharp-shinned** and 1 **Rough-legged** hawks were near Belleville 12/24 (GG). At least 3-4 **Am. Kestrel** are regularly seen on the utility lines in a 2-mi radius of our home. A **Common Snipe** was seen 12/10+ at Dunmire's Pond w. of McVeytown (A&JM,MK). **E. Screech-Owl** were vocal in several areas 11/27-12/11 (GG,MK).

One ♂ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited a potted red Begonia flower 10/4 and left. From late summer through 12/31 neither **Red-headed** nor **Pileated** woodpeckers has been seen, which is discouraging. A ♂ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen on Jack's Mt. near Atkinsons Mills and a ♀ found there 12/13 (GG). We had 8 **Downy Woodpecker** at suet and feeders at one time on Basswood tree, but only 1 **Hairy**, which is very low.

About 40 **Horned Lark** were seen near Belleville 12/22 (GG). Our **chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** counts were both up from the past two years. One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at the feeders 12/24. One **Brown Creeper** has been seen all quarter constantly checking the Basswood tree trunk. It has been seen on the ground and under the picnic table, but never at the abundantly filled suet and seed feeders. *(We have never seen one on any of our feeders either. Has anyone? -Eds.)*

Two **Carolina Wren** are still using the hanging flower pot, with sprigs of evergreen stuck into the dirt, for their winter roost. They nest nearby each summer, however, we only ever see 2 each winter. We wonder why only 2!

The ♂ **N. Mockingbird** is still observed in company with the regular feeders, being belligerent at times. Possibly this will be a spring when we will not see the first **Am. Robin**—as small flocks of a dozen or so are constantly being seen in yards and brushy areas all about the county this winter. Eleven **E. Bluebird** were observed 11/4 investigating the nesting boxes on the fence row and also very interested in the new "apartment box" which is 4' high and has 4 boxes stacked in one unit. One bluebird nest with 3 young fledged this summer and the birds are now using the boxes for winter roost. During the recent snows, the birds were frequently seen on the honeysuckle and rose hips and on the weedy bank.

A ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen at a feeder for 3 days about 11/26 (SS). Seven **Am Tree**, 3 **White-throated** and 2 **White-crowned** sparrows were observed feeding 11/26. **Dark-eyed Junco** numbers were great after they arrived 10/29. One **Purple Finch** was observed with the regular large flock of **House Finch** 12/16. Five **Pine Siskin** visited the feeders for one day, 12/28.

OBSERVERS: Greg Grove, Margaret Kenep, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), A & J Morgan, Sara Smith.

MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

In Arrowhead on 12/29-31 at least 70 **Evening Grosbeak** were observed at six feeders and other boulder feeders. Several photos were taken of this excellent number (LM). *(Unfortunately they did not reproduce well for inclusion in this issue. -Eds.)*

OBSERVERS: Lewis Molnar, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St., Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

Abbreviations: *Barnes Arboretum (BA)*, *Green Lane Res. (GLR)*, *Ft. Washington SP (FWSP)*, *Pennypack Elementary School (PES)*, *Unami Cr. Valley (UCV)*, *Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP)*, *Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNP)*.

A **Western Tanager** found on a CBC in Whitpain Twp 12/30 and the 2nd **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** of the year at GLR 10/15 (see separate article), combined with a late migration that had migrants coming through till mid-October, plus good numbers of other birds made it an outstanding quarter.

Waterbirds started out well at GLR, with several **Common Loon** sightings between 10/20 and 12/6 (KC), 2 **Horned Grebe** in Nov. (GLF) and an amazing 36 **Double-crested Cormorant** counted 10/20 (BS). The 2-8 cormorant present during the 3rd quarter remained regulars until 11/17 (m.ob). **Snow Goose** numbers were down, with a max. of 5 (including 2 "blue") moving between GLR and UPVP in Dec. (NT, RG), but a **Brant** that lingered at GLR from 10/20-31 was the 1st there within anyone's memory (GAF, KC). A total of 49 **Wood Duck** flushed in the overgrown silt basin at Oaks, Upper Providence Twp 10/16 (NT) seems worth mentioning. A look at the past 5 years of CBC data showed that this year **Am. Black Duck** were up 58% (88) and **Common Merganser** up a whopping 343% (337). At GLR and UPVP wintering ducks were in normal numbers until iced out by the big Dec. freeze. At GLR these included 1-3 **Oldsquaw** during Nov. (m.ob) and a **Red-breasted Merganser** 11/23 (GLF). At UPVP **Hooded Merganser** numbers had swelled to an awesome 47 by 12/3 (KC).

Hawk sightings were also good. An unusually late **Osprey** was at GLR till 11/17 (GAF, KC). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen both at GLR (GLF) and UPVP (RG) 11/26. An ad. and an imm. **N. Harrier** were regularly seen at GLR from mid-Nov. on, as were several **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks in the UPVP-GLR-Pennsburg area (m.ob). The FWSP hawk watch had its 1st **N. Goshawk** ever, an imm. 10/13, its 2nd 11/5. Yet another flew over PES 11/9 (JH). The Audubon CBC held 12/30 yielded yet another Gos! Biggest **Red-shouldered Hawk** days at the watch were 11/1, 4; **Broad-wings** peaked 9/23-24 and totalled 1877 for the season. Two **Rough-legged Hawk**, not regularly seen at GLR, were there the last days of Dec. (m.ob). An imm. **Golden Eagle** flew over PES at naked-eye level 10/27 (JH) and an imm. **Merlin** was a regular at GLR from mid-October through the quarter. An ad. was also seen over Red Hill 12/17 (KC). The hawk watch counted 21 **Merlin** in Oct. and Nov.

THE REMARKABLE BIRD LIFE OF PENNYPACK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

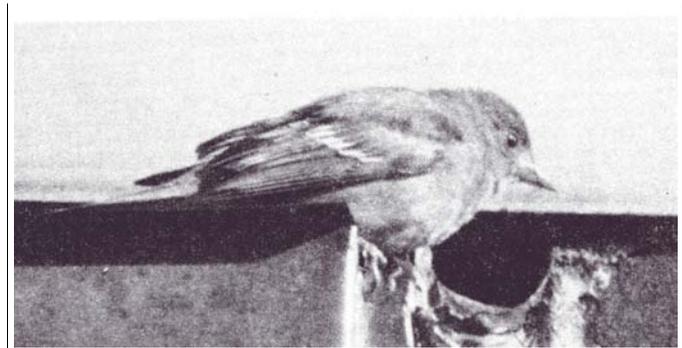
For over a year now, Jeff Herbst has been impressing readers of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** with the variety of species he has seen in the small enclave of Pennypack Elementary School across the street from his house, and in his yard. The school grounds consist of a playground and soccer field in the middle of Hatboro. They are bordered by Hatfield's busy Main Street, Pennypack Creek and, directly across the creek, Jeff's built-up residential street. Both the creek and the residential street are tree-lined, and there is a good stand of trees in the playground.

Unfortunately, Jeff moved in January to Bucks County, and his 4th-quarter notes from PES will be his last. His **Merlin**, which kept perching on the same branch in 1987 and 1988 was not back this year, but he still closed with a good story. Among his ho-hum sightings this quarter were an immature **Northern Goshawk**, an immature **Golden Eagle** flying over at naked-eye level, 4 **Black Vulture** flying together and an **American Woodcock**. But his most eventful day was 6 October, when he had a **Hermit Thrush** and a flock of 6 **Black-throated Green Warblers** at his feeder, and then went out onto the school grounds to look around. There he found an owl pellet balanced ever so carefully on the round crossbar of a soccer goal! May he have as good luck in Bucks County.

The **Wild Turkey** hen in the UCV still had 10 young extant as of 10/8, and 22 were counted in the turkey family at GLR 11/12 (GLF). With ponds iced over, coots and **Killdeer** both turned up in the Schuylkill R. in Dec. The 12/30 Valley Forge CBC had its first 2 coots ever: 1 at VFNP (RG) and 1 upstream near the Rt. 29 bridge (BF, JP). Two Killdeer were in the same area at VFNP by 12/17 and 4 on islands off the Rt. 29 bridge from 12/17+ (NT). **Common Snipe** numbers reached 40+ at GLR by the end of Oct. (KC) and a single **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen there 11/12 (GAF, GLF). RG comments that by the Dec. freeze, gull counts in the river reached "as high as I can remember," and included a few **Great Black-backed** as well as **Herring** and **Ring-billed**.

GLF counted an impressive 11 **E. Screech-Owl** in the UCV 12/17, and he and GAF saw a **Short-eared Owl** at GLR 11/18. A very late **Chimney Swift** was over GLR 10/4 (KC). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was in the GLR-UPVP area from 11/10 through Dec. (m.ob). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which began their invasion in Sep., were reported from every sector. A **Winter Wren** was at GLR 10/28 (BS) and another in the UCV 12/17 (GLF). RG commented "a great year for **Golden-crowned Kinglet**," and GLF counted 36 in the UCV 12/17. **E. Bluebird** were also reported doing well everywhere. By Dec. a flock of 15-20 could be seen at GLR, looking breathtaking when they lighted on the snow (m.ob). RG reported 14 seen near Sumnertown and 8 at VFNP, and WM reported 17 at FWSP. Six **Hermit Thrush** were in the UCV 12/17 (GLF), 1 at BA 12/4 (RK) and 1 at VFNP 12/30 (RG).

The numbers of **Am. Robin** at GLF this season is notable, with estimates ranging from 1000-1500. Three **Gray Catbird** were in VFNP for the 12/30 CBC (RG).



Western Tanager, Whitpain Twp., 01/01/90. Photo by Frank Haas.

An apparent female or first-winter male **Western Tanager** was found 12/30 by Edward Fingerhood and Christopher Walters in Whitpain Twp. The bird was actively feeding on the ripe fruit of crab apple trees in a young second growth deciduous woods adjacent to open fields below the St. Helena's Church.

The bird was seen and photographed the next day (and into Jan.). This is the first *Montgomery* record of this rare Pennsylvania bird.

Edward Fingerhood

Am. Tree Sparrow, scarce last year, were reported in numbers this year: 10 at GLR 11/19, 39 in the UCV 12/17 (GLF). RG had an exceedingly late **Chipping Sparrow** in VFNP 12/30. GLF saw a **Lincoln's** and 6 **White-crowned** at GLR 10/8. Two other declining species also showed an upcurve this year: over 30 **E. Meadowlark** at GLR from mid-Nov. on, and a flock of from 20 to 35 **Purple Finch** there from late Oct. on (KC, GLF). Sixteen of the latter were counted at FWSP 11/4 (WM). Two at BA 11/27 were not seen again (RK). Best **Pine Siskin** count was at BA, with 14 there 11/27 (RK); 9 were at GLR 12/15 (KC). Finally, yes, there were a few reports of fleeting **Evening Grosbeak**. The first was seen at FWSP 11/4 (WM); 7 were in Hatfield area 11/27 (GAF), 1 was at BA 11/29 (RK), 30 were in GAF's Pennsburg yard 12/2 and about a dozen in WLM's Wynnewood yard 12/4. None, alas, stayed.

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Bob Fetterman, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Rudy Keller, William L. McLean, William Murphy, John Pufko, Brian Sweisford, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127).

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

One "white" and 1 "blue" **Snow Goose** were at the PP&L ash basin for the Bloomsburg CBC held 12/17. Also present were enormous numbers of **Canada Geese** (1400) and **Am. Black Duck** (1150). Twelve **Rough-legged Hawk** in that vicinity 12/17 were also notable.

Quite late were 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 11/18. The 12/17 count also produced a **Snow Bunting** and 16 **Pine Siskin**. (All sightings by DU)

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

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO). The Bethlehem-Easton CBC (BCBC) was held 12/30 and the Wild Creek-Little Gap CBC (WCBC) was held 12/17.

A late **Common Loon** and 2 late **Pied-billed Grebe** were seen on the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers 12/17 (AC,DD,RW). A late **Double-crested Cormorant** flew by LGBO 11/5 (RW). A flock of 7 **Great Blue Heron** flew by LGBO 10/22 and 6 were seen 11/26 (RW,GY). A total of 16 Great Blue Heron were found on the BCBC, including 1 in the middle of a cornfield that might have been hunting mice (AC, DD,RW). A **Mute Swan** was found on the Delaware R. for the BCBC (AC,DD,RW). A flock of 202 **Snow Geese** flew past LGBO 10/21 (DG,JG,MS) and a total of 16 were found on the BCBC. A flock of 50-60 **Brant** flew over near Hecktown 10/21 (RW). Waterfowl total on the BCBC included 3 **Green-winged Teal**, 1 **Canvasback**, 18 **Ring-necked Duck**, 22 **Lesser Scaup**, 22 **Common Goldeneye**, and 45 **Common Merganser**. The **Red-breasted Merganser** reported at the Aspen Inn last quarter was still present in late Dec. and recorded on the BCBC. The bird apparently can't fly, explaining why the bird was in eclipse plumage in Sep. Injuries will often cause severe changes in molt patterns.

Three **Black Vulture** were seen at LGBO 11/4 and 1 was seen 11/19 (MS). A late migrant ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen at LGBO during the WCBC (MS). A total of 34 **N. Harrier** was recorded on the BCBC. Ten **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen on the BCBC, and an ad. **Golden Eagle** was seen on the WCBC. In addition to the **Peregrines** seen at the LGBO, 1 was seen at Copella on 10/1 (DD).

A **Common Snipe** on the WCBC was the 1st for that count and 6 were recorded for the BCBC. Three **Pectoral Sandpiper** were present near Pt. Phillips 10/5-16 (DD) and 8 were at the Nazareth Sewage Ponds 10/19 (RW). A mixed flock of about 75 **Herring** and 75 **Ring-billed** gulls was seen at the Chain Dam during the BCBC (AC, DD,RW). An **E. Screech-Owl** continued to reside in a mailbox near Moorestown (DD) and 9 were counted along Scenic Dr. during the WCBC (RW,GY). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found for the second year in a row in the Copella pines 12/16 (DD). A total of 23 **Great Horned Owl** was recorded on the BCBC.

The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** reported was 1 seen at LGBO 10/24 (BS). The BCBC recorded the following woodpecker numbers (in order of abundance): 196 **Downy**; 74 **Red-bellied**; 64 **N. Flicker**; 23 **Hairy**; 15 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**; 1 **Pileated**. *Note how Red-bellied outnumbered Hairy by over (more than???) 3:1. In 1970, this same count recorded 56 Hairy, only 5 Red-bellied! Are Red-bellieds more aggressive, driving Hairys out of the area? Is development destroying too many wooded areas which Hairys prefer and providing semi-wooded areas favored by Red-bellieds? It's probably a combination of both factors.* Two **Pileated Woodpecker** were seen on the WCBC (BM et al.).

A late **E. Phoebe** was seen at Copella 11/29 (DD). **Horned Lark** were reported in excellent numbers; 471 were counted on the WCBC (DD et al.) and 781 found on the BCBC. It was a good year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, with a total of 33 found on the BCBC. There were 54 **Carolina Wren** found on the BCBC, compared to 2 found in 1970. The 7 **Winter Wren** on the BCBC was a good number, as were 67 **Golden-crowned** and 9 **Ruby-crowned** kinglets. Three **Winter Wren** were found at Copella 10/7 (DD). A flock of 22 **E. Bluebird** was seen at Copella 11/10 and 3 **Swainson's** and 1 **Gray-cheeked** thrush were seen at Jacobsburg SP 10/3 (DD). Two **Gray Catbird** and 1 **Brown Thrasher** were reported on the BCBC. Eight **Am. Pipit** were

seen as late as 11/15 at Copella (DD). An unidentified warbler, which was well-described, was found on the WCBC near Berlinsville and may have been a ♀ **Black-throated Blue**. Unfortunately, no photographs were obtained (SR). Two **Pine Warbler**, not often reported in fall migration, were seen at Jacobsburg SP 10/3 (DD).

Two **Rufous-sided Towhee** were recorded on both the BCBC and WCBC. One **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at Pt. Phillips 10/31 (DD) and 4 **Savannah Sparrow** were recorded on the BCBC. The first **Am. Tree Sparrow** in the area arrived at Nazareth 11/16 (RW). A total of 504 **Tree Sparrows** was recorded on the BCBC. **Snow Bunting** were first seen at LGBO, with 3 on 10/23 (RW,GY). The 220 **Snow Bunting** and 4 **Lapland Longspur** were seen at Schlegel and Delps Rds. on the WCBC (AC,DD). About 100 **Snow Bunting** were near Seiple's Farm 12/29 (RW). A total of 38 **E. Meadowlark** were found on the BCBC. A flock of 10 **Rusty Blackbird** was found near Northampton 12/29 (SB,RW). The best northern finch report was a small flock of **White-winged Crossbill** in hemlocks in a Bethlehem yard 10/19-22 (DGe). A flock of about 60 **Pine Siskin** was seen at LGBO 11/26 (SB,RW,GY). Although good numbers of siskins were seen on the ridge throughout Oct./Nov., very few remained in the area. Only 1 was recorded on the BCBC. Likewise, only 2 **Evening Grosbeak** were found on the BCBC.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Andy Cuttic, Dave DeReamus, John Galm, Richard Gemmel, Dan Gerlach, Bernie Morris, Mike Schall, Brad Silfies, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St., Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184), Gordon Yoder.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Abbreviations: Delaware Twp (DT), Rush Twp (RT), Susquehanna River near Riverside (SR). Observations by Dave and/or Linda Unger unless otherwise noted.

Other than several sightings of **Am. Black Duck**, **Mallard** and **Common Merganser** on the SR earlier in the quarter and due to the earliest freezing of the SR in recent times in Dec., no late or unusual waterfowl were sighted. Two **Turkey Vulture** in RT 12/25 were unusual, they normally are not in this area from Nov. to March. This was the winter of the **Rough-legged Hawk**. They were almost as common as **Red-tailed Hawk** in parts of neighboring *Montour* and were seen frequently in the farmlands of DT (MB,RF). This was the only northern species that was abundant this quarter.

A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen at a feeder on 10/1 in RT. Two **Carolina Wren** were at our feeders from 12/21 through the worst of the cold spell for our first Dec. record in RT at higher elevations.

The first 10 days of Oct. in RT had a better passerine migration than Sep. with sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Solitary Vireo**, **Tennessee**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **Prairie**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Kentucky** and **Canada** warblers.

Two late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were in RT on 10/17. **White-throated Sparrow** were common in RT early in Oct. but were very hard to find the rest of the quarter. **Am. Tree Sparrow** were virtually non-existent for the quarter. **Pine Siskin** on 11/5 in RT were the only record, so it seems the predicted invasion of northern birds failed to reach *Northumberland* so far this winter. **Evening Grosbeak** were seen in RT only once, 12/10. Also, it appears that **House Sparrow** are declining in DT and being supplanted by **House Finch** (RF).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Roy Fontaine, Christine Smull, Linda and Dave Unger, RD6, Box 246, Danville, 17821 (717-672- 3254).

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Locations: New Bloomfield CBC, 12/30 (NBCBC)

Waterfowl on the NBCBC had good numbers with 8 sps. with count records for 5 sps.

Black Vulture were seen throughout the period (DD). A notable raptor was the **Merlin** seen on the count by OKS in the town of New Bloomfield.

Seven **Wild Turkey** were seen in Buffalo Twp 10/28 (DD). All three gulls for the count had record numbers. Five **Short-eared Owl** made the count for BR. He saw them near Warm Springs Lodge. The

owls were seen a couple of times after the count day.

Even with an extremely harsh December, thrushes for the count did well. Record numbers for **Hermit Thrush**, 11, and **Robin**, 302, plus a possible **Swainson's Thrush** (if accepted by American Birds and PORC) seen on Haldeman's Island.

A **Winter Wren** was in Buffalo Twp 11/18 (DD). Oh joy, a new high count for **Brown-headed Cowbird** was tallied, 48, let's hope we never set that record again.

Finally another count sp was brand new, a lone **Snow Bunting** seen in a flock of **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Tree Sparrow** in a freshly manured field. Only 1 **Purple Finch** was reported on 11/25 and 12/9 in Buffalo Twp (DD), and 12 **Pine Siskin** were seen there 10/28 (DD).

A Total of 70 sps. were seen for the count, the second best ever.

OBSERVERS: Dallas Dowhower, **Deuane Hoffman**, **3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Brian Rollfinke, Dr. O.K. Stevenson.

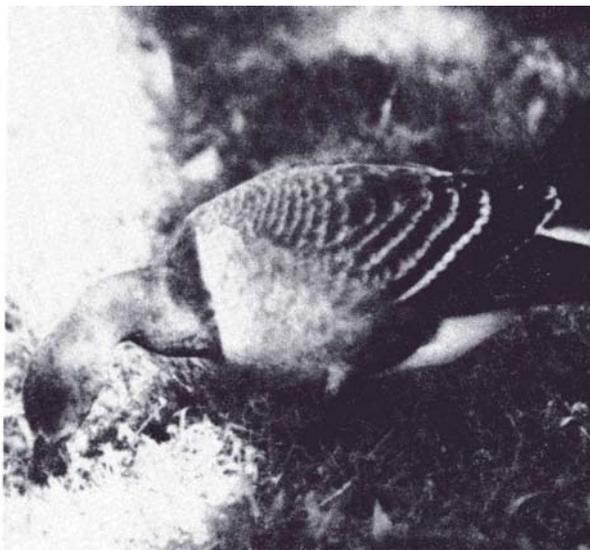
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: *Andorra Nature Center (ANC)*, *Carpenter's Woods (CW)*, *Pennypack Park (PP)*, *mouth of Poquessing Cr. and Delaware R. (PC-DR)*, *Tinicum National Environmental Center (TN)*.

A late migrating **Common Loon** was seen over CW 10/21 (MD). **Double-crested Cormorant** peaked at 115 at PC-DR on the *Philadelphia/Bucks* line 10/22 (EF). They rapidly dropped off thereafter. Two lingered there to 11/19 (EF). The **Great Cormorant** story on the DR continues to surprise observers. Three were found 11/19 at PC-Dr, including 1 ad. As noted previously, nearly all Great Cormorant found on the river are imm. FW reports the highest single day count at 20 on the DR in NE Phila. 12/16.

Two juv. **Brant** were found on the e. bank of the Schuylkill R. 10/21 by Keith Russell. Later, photographed by Sid Lipschutz, both birds continued to be seen until 10/26 (RR). Thereafter, 1 bird was seen on various dates until 11/5 (Dan Brauning,FW,EF).



Brant, Schuylkill River, 10/26/89. Photo by Sid Lipschutz.

Some 75+ **Wood Duck** were at TN 10/19 (JCM). Along with 150 **Canvasback**, 1 ♀ **Redhead** was found in a pond near the DR 11/26 (FW). A ♀ **Common Goldeneye** at PC-DR 11/19 was the earliest report for the county (EF). **Ruddy Duck**, 50+, were at TN 12/16 (JCM).

A **Turkey Vulture** was in South Phila. 10/21 (MD). Frequent reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in W. Mt. Airy could represent two of this species. That many (2) were reported 10/3 in CW (MD). Single Sharpies were found 11/23, 30 patrolling a feeder in the area (EB). The vigil there was rewarded 12/23 when a hapless Mourning Dove became breakfast for a Sharpie (EF). A short time later, 12/28, just two blocks away, MD notes that a bird of this species was found "in our rhododendron whilst eating Christmas dinner House Sparrow au gratin." **Cooper's Hawk** was seen in CW 10/14 (SL) and 11/18-22 (MD). **Red-tailed Hawk** were found in unusually large numbers this season. The largest single count being 22+ at Tn 12/10 (JCM). A pair

of **Am. Kestrel** appears to have taken up residence at 49th & Market Sts., both seen 10/2 and 12/20 (EB). A very late **Merlin** was identified at Tn 12/11 (DM). Two **Peregrine Falcon** reports: 1 from the Girard Pt. Bridge 10/5 (EF), and 1 from downtown Phila. 11/6 (CW) were the only of the period.

Laughing Gull lingered along the DR into Oct. FW reports 2 in basic plumage 10/7 in NE Phila. and EF found a surprising 14 as late as 10/29 at PC-DR. Numbers of **Great Black-backed Gull** continue to grow each season. JCM found 100+ at TN 10/25 for a record high in the county. Some weeks earlier at TN he found 53 **Forster's Tern** 10/6.

One **Barn Owl** was seen at TN by JCM 12/10, while 1, then 2 **Great Horned Owl** appeared there 11/19 (TR) and 12/10 (JCM). A late **Common Nighthawk**, just 1, migrated over CW 10/1 (MD), but **Chimney Swift** persisted until 10/21 when "several" were noted in South Phila. (MD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker continued 10/1 in NE Phila. with a pair at FW's feeder. He notes this as the "prime time" for their fall migration, and indeed, other reports from that area as well as that of SL for CW 10/8 confirm it. However, wintering sapsuckers were found in and near CW 12/22, 29 (MD). **Pileated Woodpecker** at CW, a pair, were seen 11/22 (MD); two weeks later, nearby, he found 2 females, 12/3, and again, this time 2 ♀ and 1 ♀ at the ANC, 12/15.

Early Oct. **E. Phoebe** were reported in PP (FW), and CW (MD). The last date for this species, 10/9 at CW (EB). A great swarm of 500+ **Tree Swallow** was preparing for migration at TN when JCM found them 10/4. And another bird whose numbers appear to be rapidly expanding, the **Am. Crow**, was counted 200+ strong at TN 12/13 (JCM). FW notes that **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were "common" in migration and a number stayed to winter. **Brown Creeper**, usually well documented, could only produce one report, that from EB in CW 12/7. **Winter Wren** reports did better. One was in the CW area 10/1 (SL), 3 in PP 10/8 (FW) and 1 in CW 10/22 (MD). A group of 2 **Marsh Wren**, [adults and imm. (?)] gurgled talkatively around their abandoned nest at TN 10/14 (EF,SS).

Hermit Thrush first appeared 10/7, with 1 in CW and peaked at 6 there 11/6 (MD). One was at ANC 12/15 (MD). The latest **Wood Thrush** report is from CW 10/8 (MD). A **Gray Catbird** lingered at TN until 12/14 (JCM). Noteworthy, because rarely reported in the region, were 18 then 30 **Am. Pipit** at TN 11/25, 27 (SC). **Cedar Waxwing** put in a good visit this quarter. Some 50+ were found at CW 11/8 (MD) for our earliest report. FW reports an "amazing" 400 in PP 12/16. "A few" close out the period near CW 12/29 (MD). The last **Solitary Vireo**, "singing softly," passed through CW 10/22 (MD). Late and lingering warblers included a **Magnolia** at CW 10/4 (MD), 2 ♂ **Black-throated Blue** 10/7 and one 10/8 in CW (MD), 900+ **Yellow-rump** passing through TN 10/10 (JCM) and 1 at ANC 12/15 (MD), an imm. **Black-throated Green** 10/10 in CW (EB), a **Palm** in TN 10/14 (EF,SS), 1 **Common Yellowthroat** 12/13 at TN (JCM), and one 12/11 (DM), then 2 on 12/13 (JCM) **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Tn to round out the numbers.

A pair of **Rufous-sided Towhee** in W. Mt. Airy 12/15 dropped to a single ♀ by 12/18 (EB). **Am. Tree Sparrow** were scarce; 2 in TN 11/25 (SC), and 5 at ANC 12/15 (MD). One **Field** and 1 **Swamp sparrow** were discovered near Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill R. 10/30 by RR. Only 2 **Fox Sparrow** were reported. One indiv. in W. Mt. Airy 11/29 (EB) and 1 at ANC 12/17 (MD). MD notes the first "big flight" of **White-throated Sparrow** in CW 10/23, but SL found 1 there some 15 days earlier. JCM made a good discovery of 1 **White-crowned Sparrow** at Tn 12/16.

A well-described ad. ♀ **Dickcissel** at PP 10/22 was reported by F. Windfelder. This unusual Phila. bird is rarely seen even in SE PA nowadays.

Our only **Purple Finch** report comes from FW who notes 1 in PP 10/22 with "several others seen thereafter." An impressive flock of 475 **House Finch** were in TN 10/25 (JCM), while an odd leucistic indiv. with an all white head (!) was visiting a W. Mt. Airy feeder 11/18 (EB).

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Skip Conant, Michael Drake, **Edward Fingerhood**, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Steve Lawrence, Sid Lipschutz, Doris McGovern, John C. Miller, Tom Reeves, Robert Ridgely, Sandra Sherman, Frank Windfelder.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Tom Clauser

Abbreviations: Landingville Dam (LD), Marlin (ML), New Ringgold (NR), Pottsville (PV), Rt. 183 Hawk Watch (HW), Schuylkill Haven (SH), Schwartz Valley Rd. (SVR), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD). The Hamburg CBC was held 12/31 and all reports refer to that date.

I am glad to be back at the helm as the *Schuylkill* compiler and am looking forward to having more reports from birders in 1990. I personally want to thank Ann and Bob MacClay for the excellent job they have done at the Rt. 183 hawk Watch. They are to be commended for a job well done. Some highlights of their sightings are included here, their full report is elsewhere.

Twenty-two **Double-crested Cormorant** flew by HW 10/14 and 11 on 10/22 (ABM). One **Great Blue Heron** was at HW 10/14, 2 on 11/23 and 1 on 11/24 (ABM). One was at LD 10/7 (TC). Six **Brant** went by HW 10/14, 70 on 11/2, 185 on 11/4, and 28 on 11/12 (ABM). Also flying by HW were 37 **Snow Geese** 10/21, 14 **N. Pintail** 11/21, 11 **Oldsquaw** 10/22, and 21 **Black Scoter** 11/26 (ABM).

Some 62 sightings of **Black Vulture** were noted from 10/3—11/20. Late **Bald Eagle** sightings were singles 10/22, 11/10, 11 and 3 on 11/12 (ABM). A normal phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was near SVR 11/22 and 7 (3 dark, 4 normal) were at SVR 12/16 (SW). One was found for the CBC. The single best day for **Golden Eagle** at HW was 11/12 when 6 were seen (ABM). An imm. **Gyrfalcon** was reported from HW 9/30, seen well and confirmed (ABM,JS,BS *et al.*).

The first week in Dec. (I'm afraid I didn't jot down the exact date) I spotted an ad. **Merlin** sitting on top of a utility pole near my house, eating a songbird. About ten minutes later, a ♀ **Am. Kestrel** stooped on the Merlin, chasing it to another perch about 200 yards away; she took the Merlin's perch. A few minutes later she went after the Merlin again, and again took over the perch. This went on for almost an hour, with the Merlin getting in a few minutes of eating between attacks until it finished the passerine and left. Scott Weidensaul

Sixty **Wild Turkey** were found for the CBC near Auburn. A total of 5,557 gulls flew by HW, including 8 **Bonaparte's** 11/12 and 5,100 **Ring-billed** 11/21 (ABM). Single **E. Screech-Owl** were at TRD 10/8, ML 10/9 (TC), SH 11/25 (CC), and 3 found on the CBC. **Great Horned Owl** were reported from SH 11/25 (TC) and 12/31 (CC), plus 2 heard on the CBC. A **Snowy Owl** was once again reported from the Hidden Valley Golf Course area, but these reports continue to unfounded and unconfirmed as yet. A **Short-eared Owl** was present from 12/3-14 near SVR (SW).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at SH 11/5,25 (CC). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** has visited this compiler's feeding stations in PV from 10/21+. One **Pileated Woodpecker** was found near NR for the CBC. The tally for **Horned Lark** on the CBC was 686. Single **Carolina Wren** were at PV 10/29 and 12/2 (TC). A **Winter Wren** was found near Port Clinton for the CBC. The CBC had 76 **E. Bluebird**. One **Solitary Vireo** was at TRD 10/8 (TC).

A nice influx of warblers was reported from TRD 10/8 (TC), including **Cape May**, **Black-throated Green**, **Pine** and **Blackpoll**. A **Connecticut Warbler**, not reported last quarter, was seen at HW 9/17 (JS).

An excellent count (*for recent years -Eds.*) of 313 **Am. Tree Sparrow** was noted on the CBC. A nice **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at the HW 9/3-4 (JS,RK,ABM). One **Swamp Sparrow** was at LD 10/7 (TC), and 1 at SVR 10/30 (SW). Five **Purple Finch** were at the compiler's feeders in PV 10/21 and 5 **Pine Siskin** at the same location 12/17. Eleven **Evening Grosbeak** were at PV 12/1 (TC) and 7 in SH 12/26 (CC).

OBSERVERS: Ed Brahler, Clara Clauser, **Tom Clauser**, 213 **Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363)**, Pat Essler, Lauri Goodrich, Rudy Keller, Dan Knarr, Ann & Bob MacClay, Joan & Bob Silagy, Jeanne Tinsman, Scott Weidensaul.

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Mute Swans remained on Faylor L. in early Nov. (R&PW). Three **Greater White-fronted Geese**, discovered by GB, sat at the shore of the Susquehanna R. on the morning of 12/20. They permitted a close approach. Two had the orange bills (pale tip) of the Greenland form, but the third had a pink bill. All 3 appeared to be first-winter birds, with only 1 having a trace of white above its bill (AS). They and the nearby **Canada Geese** disappeared overnight. For the Lewisburg CBC held 12/30, SA & CS had 62 **Common Merganser**. More unusual for the count were the 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** that SA had at "Little Mexico."

OBSERVERS: Steve Anderson, George Boone, **Allen Schweinsberg**, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Carl Shaffer, Richard & Pat Williams.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: Brotherton (BT), Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), Hooversville (HV), Jennerstown (JT), L. Somerset (LS), Milford Twp (MT), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Shanksville (SV), Stonycreek (SC), Youghiogheny River (YR). The Johnstown CBC was held 12/16 and all records refer to that date.

The appearance of **Brant** and scoters highlighted the waterfowl migration. Up to 12 Brant were at LS 10/18-21 (AM,TS,SJ,M&EW) and 5-25 SC Lake 10/19-23 (AM). Up to 24 **Black Scoter** were at LS 10/17-20 (AM,M&EW,TS). One **Surf Scoter** was at QD 11/30—12/2 (AM,MH). A **White-winged Crossbill** at J&RP's feeder in SV 10/9 raised hopes for a heavy invasion of winter finches, but the quarterly reports proved otherwise.

The waterfowl migration was shorter than normal due to late arrival of most species and early freezing of impoundments and waterways. Only a few **Tundra Swan** were reported from scattered locations; 1-4 **Mute Swan** were seen in Boswell-JT area 12/16-23; good **Snow Goose** reports included a high of 200 at LS 10/19 (TB); and low counts of **Canada Geese** included 350 at QD 12/17 (RS). The drawdown of LS in late Sep. had a dramatic impact on migrants using that lake. **Wood Duck**, which normally roost at the lake, were absent. AM projects that the LS flock may have dispersed to roosts at CGL and Middlecreek and Kimberly Run beaver dams, where he recorded 30-40 and to a new beaver dam at JT, where BD saw 200 from 10/23-28. Mudflats left by the drawdown attracted up to 51 **Green-winged Teal** 10/4—11/15, up to 150 **Mallard**, and up to 10 **N. Shoveler** 10/13—11/20 (AM,TS,M&EW). Except for those noted in this report, all other ducks of the subfamily *Anatinae* were in low numbers of less than 50. After freeze-up of other dams and ponds, there was a build-up at QD to a high of 93 **Am. Black Duck** 12/2 and ±1000 Mallard 12/9 (AM<MH,RS). AM noted that man-made structures influenced water temperatures, causing ice-free waterways at a mine discharge into wetlands below Stoughton L. and on the YR at the outlet of the dam. Mallard and Black ducks congregated at these locations after 12/17, when QD froze over. A few reports were received for ducks on open water of SC and YR to 12/31.

Am. Coot were again very low, with a high of 24 at LS 11/1 (TS). A **Black-bellied Plover** was at BT 10/19 (J&RP). The mudflats at LS accounted for a variety of shorebirds in low numbers during the last half of Oct., including **Black-bellied Plover**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Sanderling**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, and **Common Snipe** (TS,M&EW,ST,AM).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered at HV to 10/9 (G&RS). **Horned Lark** counts were good in late Dec. in MT (AM) and BT (J&RP) and hit a 7-yr high on CBC 12/16. Six late **Tree Swallow** were at LS 10/21 (AM). Early reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were best in several years, but numbers diminished greatly by CBC. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** broke a 7-year CBC record after many good reports during the entire quarter. Four **Am. Pipit** were at LS 11/5 (M&EW). **E. Bluebird** counts remained high to end of quarter in spite of cold weather. "Many" **Hermit Thrush** were seen at SV 10/13 (J&RP) and above-average sightings reported to end of quarter. A **N. Shrike** was seen at Daley 11/4 (SD).

Warbler reports include: 4 **Tennessee** at HV 10/4 (G&RS); 1 **Yellow** at HV 10/9 (G&RS); 1 **Yellow-rumped** remaining to 11/13 at

HV (G&RS); 1-2 **Black-throated Green** at HV 10/3-7 (G&RS); and 1 **Blackpoll** at SV 10/22 (J&RP).

A pair of **Rufous-sided Towhee** were at Markleton 11/4+ (AM). One **Snow Bunting** was near Davidsville on CBC and 8 in MT 12/20 (AM). Low numbers of **Purple Finch** appeared regularly from mid-Oct. to end of the quarter, 40 **Common Redpoll** at HV 11/3 (G&RS), up to 30 **Pine Siskin** at various locations from 10/26 and highest count in a 7-year CBC history; and **Evening Grosbeak** counts built from 1 at Daley 10/13 to 25 at various locations by 12/15 and then dropped to a few to end of the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Terry Buchannan, Sally Dick, Bruce Duke, Margaret Haines, Shirley Jensen, Anthony Marich, Jeff & Retta Payne, **Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242)**, Tom Shervinski, Sam Tatamir, Michael & Evaleen Watko, and CBC reporters.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Bill Reid

Good numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Pine Siskin** were seen through Nov. and Dec.

OBSERVER: **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**.

TIOGA COUNTY

Martha Copp

Several sightings of **N. Harrier** include 2 on Rt.660 on 10/14 (BR), 1 at Welsh Settlement 10/30 (MC), and 2 at Dean Hill 12/10 (BR). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at Catlin Hollow 12/16 (BR). A **Red-tailed** and 2 **Rough-legged** hawks were at Shumway Hill 12/20 (DS, MC). Other **Rough-legged** sightings include 2 at Dean Hill 12/16 (BR) and 1 at Welsh Settlement 12/26 (MC). A flock of **Wild Turkey** was at Lambs Cr. 10/28 (DS).

We thank Martha for being compiler for Tioga these past two years. She has turned the responsibilities over to Bob Ross. Bob can be reached at R.D. 7, Wellsboro 16901 and looks forward to receiving your reports.

One **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at Stony Fork 12/30 (HR). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was found at Brownlee 10/10 and 12/27 (DS, MC); 1 was at S. Callahan Rd. 10/28 and 3 at Marsh Cr. 12/16 (BR). It was 70°F on 10/21 and an **E. Phoebe** was singing near Draper (BR). Two **Common Raven** were on S. Callahan Rd. 10/28 (BR). A pair of **Tufted Titmouse** were at Brownlee 12/12-30 (DS,MC). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and a **Brown Creeper** were in Sabinsville 11/19 (HR) and 1 creeper was found at Lambs Cr. 12/27 (MC,DS). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were at Nessmuk L. 12/16 (BR).

A flock of **Snow Bunting** was found at Barber Hollow 11/29 and Shumway Hill 12/1 (DS,MC). Three **Rusty Blackbird** were at Marsh Cr. 12/16 (BR). **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** began arriving in the area 12/24 (HR,MC,DS).

The following is a list of feeder birds seen 12/31 near Willard: 20 **Mourning Dove**, 2 **Downy** and 1 **Hairy woodpecker**, 8 **Blue Jay**, 2 **Tufted Titmouse**, 4 **Eur. Starling**, 2 **N. Cardinal**, 1 **Am. Tree Sparrow**, 8 **Dark-eyed Junco**, 5 **Red-winged Blackbird**, ±30 **Pine Siskin**, ±30 **Am. Goldfinch**, 6 **Evening Grosbeak**, and 6 **House Sparrow** (MC).

OBSERVERS: **Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751)**, Bob Ross, Howard Rushmore, Dick Sargent.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Quite unusual, but not unprecedented, was the **Green-backed Heron** found by CS in Union Twp for the Lewisburg CBC held 12/30. Three **Barn Owl** were still present at Dry Valley 12/30 (CS). Lewisburg's **Eur. Jackdaw** were seen in Oct. & Dec. (J&EP).

It was an **Am. Robin** CBC for Lewisburg with the tally of 514 easily exceeding the *total* of all robins ever seen in the 40-year history of the

count! Two **Gray Catbird** were found 12/30, 1 in SGL 193 (CS), and 1 along Buffalo Cr. (J&EP).

Four **Lapland Longspur** (AS) and 130 **Snow Bunting** (AS,RH) were noted on the count. RH found 10 **Rusty Blackbird** 10/26 and 130 on 12/30 near Mifflinburg. Also he had 15-20 **Pine Grosbeak** 10/26 and 7 on 12/30. The CBC produced only *one* **Purple Finch**. Is this species undergoing a winter decline, or are casual birders, inundated with **House Finch**, misidentifying them?

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

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Abbreviations: Kahle Lake (KL), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Two Mile Run Lake (TMLR).

In spite of the record breaking cold spell in December, the anticipated influx of northern finches was not very significant. The 24th Pleasantville CBC was successful in the number of birds and the number of species recorded, especially considering that the 0-20°F weather and 14" of snow combined to reduce the number of participants to four feeder watchers and four individuals in the field.

Highlights included 181 **American Goldfinch**, the 2nd highest total for that species; 65 **Snow Bunting**, only the 2nd year these have been seen; and 7 **E. Bluebird**. The total number of species was 38 and the total number of individuals was 1257 (NK).

Shorebird and hawk migrations were unspectacular, but large numbers of **Mute Swan** were observed. **Bonaparte's Gull** were at KL 11/5. **Killdeer** stayed around until 11/15. Two **Bobwhite** were seen near Rockland 11/5. The first **N. Harrier** was seen 10/8 and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded 11/10. One **Short-eared Owl** had returned to the Barkeyville area strip mine by 11/23 and an **E. Screech-Owl** was reported near Seneca 12/8. **Chimney Swift** were around through 10/8 and a wandering **N. Mockingbird** was spotted 11/2. At least 200 **Snow Bunting** were at KL 11/23 as were **Water Pipit**.

OBSERVERS: David Edwards, **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 COUNTY

Ted Grisez

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

Two **Common Loon** were seen at the SPSR above KD 11/12 (KC), and again 11/25, as well as 1 at KD 11/25 (DW). One was seen at the marina on the AR 12/1 and 2 there 12/9 (DD,BH). The only **Horned Grebe** was at the marina 12/1 (DD,BH).

Several flocks of **Tundra Swan** were migrating over Warren about 11/1 and 11/17 (DP,TK). One remained at Starbrick 12/28-31 (DD,TG). The 23 on the CBC held 12/16 was the 4th time. The 335 **Canada Geese** on the CBC was *five times* the previous high in 1988. About 80 remained at Warren and Irvine at the end of Dec. A ♂ **Wood Duck** and 1-3 **Am. Black Duck** hung out with the ±150 **Mallard** that people feed near the hospital in Warren. The 156 **Common Goldeneye** were the 2nd highest CBC. Three early **Bufflehead** stopped at Neel's pond in Saybrook 10/19 (CMN). The 35 on the CBC was the 2nd highest. The 230 **Common Merganser** on the CBC equalled the previous high. There were 106 in one flock at Starbrick 12/30 (TG). A **Red-breasted Merganser** joined the Warren Mallards 12/6 (WH).

Jim King related an observation by someone else that a Bald Eagle knocked a Great Blue Heron into the Allegheny R. near Tidioute in mid-Nov. The eagle left the scene.

Two imm. **Bald Eagle** were at Sugar Run Bay on the AR 11/5 (RL); 1 ad. at KD and 1 at the marina 12/1 (BH,DD); 2 imm. and 1 ad. at KD 12/17 (RP); 1 ad. on KR 12/22 (KC); 1 ad. at KD 12/27 (RL); 1 ad. at Starbrick 12/28 (DD); and 1 imm. at the old Warren Airport 12/30 (TG); but only 1 ad. on the CBC 12/16.

N. Harrier on the CBC was the 1st. There were several reports

of **Cooper's Hawk**, many of them in Warren, and 8 on the CBC bettered the high of 5 in 1988. An imm. **N. Goshawk** was seen in the vicinity of last year's successful nest 11/27, and 1 on the CBC was the 3rd time. Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen on Four-Mile Run 11/2 (DW), and 1 on the CBC was the 3rd time. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at North Warren Mall 11/9 (DD) and on the CBC.

A **Mourning Dove** banded 6/1/85 by TG in Warren flew into a window there and died 12/17/89. As suspected, at least some of the urban doves do not migrate. Of 177 banded here, none has been reported by hunters.

Thirteen **Hairy Woodpecker** on the CBC was low, but 95 **Downy Woodpecker** was 2nd highest. A **Common Raven** was seen at Sheffield 10/23 (BH), 3 on Four-Mile Run 11/2 (DW), and 5 near Scandia 11/27 (RL). The 388 **Black-capped Chickadee** on the CBC was the lowest since 1978. The 25 CBC **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was the 2nd highest. Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were the 1st since 1982. Two **E. Bluebird** were the 5th time on the CBC. A **N. Shrike** was seen near Lander 12/31 (DW). **Ten Yellow-rumped Warbler** was a new CBC record.

A **Fox Sparrow** stayed at Saybrook 11/1-25 (CMN). The record 994 **Dark-eyed Junco** was 31% over the previous CBC high. Four **Rusty Blackbird** were seen at Akeley Swamp 10/5 (TG). **Common Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were missing from the CBC. Sixteen **Common Redpoll** were the 1st since 1981. There were 25-30 **Pine Siskin** at Saybrook 10/29-31, 15-20 about 11/15, and 1 or 2 the rest of Nov. (CMN), and 10 at Akeley 11/56 (DD). The 136 on the CBC was a new high. First **Evening Grosbeak** report was 6 at Putnam's Eddy 11/18 (BH). The 99 on the CBC was low.

The 71 species on the CBC was a new high (70 in 1976), and 6602 birds was a record number for the 5th consecutive year (6320 in 1988), even though the party hours has not changed much since 1978. This was Warren's 47th CBC.

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, Dan Doherty, **Ted Grisez**, **8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464)**, Bill Highhouse, Wm. Hill, Ted Kirsch, Rick Lyle, Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Doug Palmer, Ralph Peterson, Don Watts.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert Leberman & Robert Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Donegal Lake (DL), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR). The Rector CBC was held 12/17.

The 2 **Double-crested Cormorant** noted in our third quarter report remained at DL until 10/12 (v.o.); a single bird was at LR 10/19 (RCL). We saw the first **Tundra Swan** of the season 11/3, when 35 flew over PNR; scattered flocks were noted thereafter, through the end of the quarter. Three blue phase **Snow Geese** flew over DL 10/5 (RCL,MEW); 5 were at LR from 10/23 through at least 11/15 (v.o.). A **N. Pintail** was at MP 10/19 (MEW), the season's only report. Two **Gadwall**, unusual fall migrants in the Ligonier Valley, were at DL 10/19 (RCL). The only **Redhead** report came from LR 12/5 (MEW). First **Lesser Scaup** arrived at DL 10/20 (RCL). An **Oldsquaw** was picked up dead at Idlewild Park, just e. of Ligonier 11/27 (ES), for the only county report this year. There was an unprecedented flight of **Black Scoter** for the area: 2 were at LR 10/19 (RCL,DS), 12 at DL 10/20, 4 at DL 11/2 (RCL), and 5 on a pond near Acme 10/22 (MEW). The first **Common Goldeneye** of the season was seen at Acme 11/12 (MEW). **Bufflehead** was first seen at PNR 10/20 (RCL); best count was 24 at DL 11/12 (MEW). **Ruddy Duck** peaked at 18 on LR 10/19 (MEW).

A count of 22 **Red-tailed Hawk** was an excellent CBC total at Rector 12/17, and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was listed from the same locality 3 mi s. of Ligonier where 1 was found on last year's CBC. The PA Fish Commission lowered the water level of DL by about 8' this fall, providing good mud-flats for shorebirds for the first time in many years. No rarities were seen, but unusual for the region was a **Black-bellied Plover** from 10/25-11/2 (v.o.). **Killdeer** peaked there at 100 on 10/4 (RCL); **Greater Yellowlegs** high count was 15 on 10/20 (RCL), with 28 **Lesser Yellowlegs** there 10/6 (LB,RCL,RSM). There were 2 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 10/2 (LB,RCL) and 2 **Least Sandpiper** 10/26 (LB,RCL). Two **Dunlin** were at LR 10/19 (DS); at DL there were

as many as 6 on 10/26 (RCL).

The fall flight of **Acadian Flycatcher** was the best ever observed at the PNR banding station, with a record late bird captured 10/25; the last **Least Flycatcher** was netted on a rather late 10/13. The Rector CBC turned up greater than usual numbers of many of our "less hardy" or infrequent wintering species: 17 **Brown Creeper**; 14 **Carolina Wren**; 51 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**; 4 **Hermit Thrush**; 3 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**; 2 **Rufous-sided Towhee**; 1 **Fox Sparrow**; and 14 **Swamp Sparrow**. The mud-flats at DL attracted **Am. Pipit** during much of Oct.; the best count was 24 on 10/2 (LB). A very late **Tennessee Warbler** was banded at PNR 11/9. There was a very good flight of **Orange-crowned Warbler**, with 9 banded at PNR between 10/3-24, and a **yellow Palm Warbler**, rare in western Pennsylvania, was banded there 10/13. Remarkable, considering a well-documented downward trend in the number of wintering **Am. Tree Sparrow** in southwestern Pennsylvania (Hess 1989, PB 3:90-93), was a total of 213 of this species on the Rector CBC. A **Chipping Sparrow**, possibly attempting to winter at PNR, was seen from 12/12-16. About 100 **Pine Siskin** were banded at PNR from 10/4+; this and the number of reports at feeders indicates a good flight. The first **Evening Grosbeak** of the season was a flock of 24 seen along Laurel Hill e. of Jones Mills (JG) 12/2; a few were seen near Rector 12/3 (CN), and 40 were at PNR 12/10. As of the end of the quarter, this species was neither numerous nor widespread in the county.

OBSERVERS: Larry Barth, John Gale, **Robert C. Leberman** and **Robert S. Mulvihill**, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, Pa. 15677 (412-593-7521), Chuck Norton, Eric Shaw, Dennis Smeltzer, Mike & Evalene Watko.

WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: South Eaton (SE), Sordoni's Farm, n. of Harveys L. (SF), Tunkhannock (TU).

A **N. Harrier** was seen at Kaiserville 12/14; and an imm. **N. Goshawk** was seen near TU 12/18 (WR). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at SF 11/22 (WE); and 2 were there 11/23 (JH,JS).

A late **Black-billed Cuckoo** was calling at SE 10/15 (WR). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at SF 12/16 (EJ).

A late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at TU 12/15-18 (WR). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were present at many locations throughout the period. **Pine Siskin**, which were first noted at SE 10/15 (WR), were present in many locations through Nov. and Dec. A small flock of **Evening Grosbeak** was seen at Russell Hill 12/3 (RD); and there were other scattered reports of small flocks which did not linger.

OBSERVERS: Robert Daniels, William Evans, James Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), James Shoemaker.

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Abbreviations: Brunners I. (BI), Codorus SP (CSP), Gifford Pinchot SP (GP), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Menges Mills (MM), Rocky Ridge County Park (RR), Spring Grove (SG).

The York CBC was held 12/16. The compiler, Bill DelGrande, reports it was very rewarding, with 22 observers in the field recording 89 species of birds. Two of the rarer birds were 1 **Bonaparte's Gull** and 1 **Brewer's Blackbird**. Bright skies, good snow cover, and mostly open water on our larger lakes helped produce new high numbers for many species. Our rare bird for the quarter was **Black Scoter**, and 8 were seen together.

The 23 **Double-crested Cormorant** at CSP 10/19 were unexpected (DH,LH), and a late imm. cormorant was on BI Pond 10/23 (AS). An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was behind Hechinger's Hardware store 12/8-9, during and after a snow storm (AW,AS). Eleven **Tundra Swan** were seen near SG on the CBC flying south (MS,DiH). A max. of 8 **Snow Geese** were seen at three locations through the quarter to 12/16. Six **Brant** were at CSP 10/18 and 1 at LAD 10/28 (DH,LH). Wintering **Canada Geese** are increasing every year, with 1671 found on the CBC. Three **Blue-winged Teal** were found on a CSP field trip 10/14 and a **N. Shoveler** was at BI 11/25 (JoP,JeP). Eight **Black Scoter** were at LAD 10/19 (DH,LH); this species has been absent in recent years. A total of 155 **Bufflehead** arrived at CSP & LAD 11/12 (DH,LH).

1989 HAWK WATCH REPORTS

On 10/9, a **N. Harrier** flew low and directly beside 175 **Mallard** on a pond at BI and they didn't even attempt to fly (AS). One ad. **N. Goshawk** was found sitting in a tree near Pahagaer L. by four CBC birders. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at the Outdoor Country Club 11/11 (RR).

One **Red Knot** was at SG 10/11 (AS). Three **White-rumped** and 1 **Baird's** sandpiper were at LAD 10/28 (DH, LH). A max. of 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at LAD or CSP 12/3-16 (RR, DH). Three **Barn Owl** were found from an earlier sighting at the same location 12/16 (KL).

Two **Common Nighthawk** were flying at LAD 10/11 (KL). Eleven **Red-headed Woodpecker**, both ad. and imm., on the CBC show strong status as permanent residents. The 9 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on the CBC, plus other sightings during the quarter at six other locations indicates an above average wintering population.

After the disastrous winter of 1988-89, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were easy to find, with 14 on the CBC. There were also 59 **Carolina Wren**. A **House Wren** was at CSP 10/8 (RR). There were 114 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and 7 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** counted on the CBC. The final tally of **E. Bluebird** at CSP this summer showed about a 10% decrease from prior years, with 61 on the CBC down about the same percentage. The 10 **Hermit Thrush** tally was good. A **Gray Catbird** was at CSP 11/23 (RR). The 18 **Am. Pipit** at BI 10/23 was a high count (AS). No **Palm Warbler** was found this fall and we usually have a few in Oct. One **Connecticut Warbler** was at RR 10/14 (AS).

A partial albino **Carolina Chickadee** (heard singing) is visiting the Marietta Watershed bird feeder. The white on the face extends well above the eye and the throat is white except for a necklace of black streaks where the bib should end (AS, JeD).

The 222 **N. Cardinal** on the CBC was high. Some 50+ **Am. Tree Sparrow** were at BI 12/30 (JoP, JeP), with 33 on the CBC in a different area. One **Chipping Sparrow** was at GP 11/1 (AS). The **White-crowned Sparrow** count of 44 on the CBC had the largest number near Jefferson at nearly the same location as last year (JD, LD).

Wintering **E. Meadowlark** at LAD produced 8 on the CBC and through Dec. (RR). Fifteen migrating **Rusty Blackbird** were at SG 10/11 (AS). A **Brewer's Blackbird** near MM was with a flock of 22 **Common Grackle** and 4 **Red-winged Blackbird** on the CBC (AS). One **N. Oriole**, possibly injured, was at CSP 10/29 to 11/5 (RR). Migrant **Pine Siskin** came through in large flocks, but very few remained. There was a bountiful supply of **Am. Goldfinch** in many locations. Only a few **Evening Grosbeak** have been sighted so far.

OBSERVERS: Bill DelGrande, Jack & Lil Downs, Jerry Dyer (JeD), Dan & Lori Heathcote, Dick Humbert (DiH), Karen Lippy, Jean & John Prescott, Russell Ryan, Mike Sankovich, Al Spiese, 4086 **Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309)**, Andy Wyatt.

CORRIGENDA: The part on gulls in **PB3:117** should read: "Only 1 **Laughing Gull** was found 9/19 at WR; a sub-adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (with pink legs) was seen at BI 7/15 to 8/4 returned to a certain rock for resting and roosting (AS). It was confirmed 7/22 by JeP & JoP."

I observed this bird at close range many times and also flying. At first I was confused by the pink legs and then I read Claudia Wilds' account in the Audubon Society's **Master Guide to Birding** and she states: "Most imm. birds acquire dark gray backs by early in their 2nd year; from that point on they increasingly resemble adults although some sub-adults still have pink legs." Dan Heathcote had seen a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at CSP 5/5 (**PB3:83**) and **Lancaster** recorded its earliest Fall record of this species 8/26-27 (**PB3:109**) (EW *et al.*). The mantle of this latter bird was as dark as a **Great Black-backed Gull**, indicating a Scandanavian subspecies. The **York** bird seen 7/15 to 8/4 was a sub-adult with a dark mantle. Since this is one of the newer birds to Pennsylvania, I tink detailed notes from some sightings should be recorded. Just maybe this bird in some stage is remaining all Summer.

I also missed reporting an **Am. Bittern** at BI 9/3 (J&LD). Al Spiese

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

	Oct	Nov	Totals
<i>Coverage - days</i>	2	9	11
<i>Coverage - hours</i>	6	36	42
Turkey Vulture	15	9	24
Osprey	2	0	2
N. Harrier	0	1	1
Sharp-shinned	46	4	50
Cooper's Hawk	12	3	15
N. Goshawk	0	2	2
Red-shouldered	0	5	5
Red-tailed	23	244	267
Rough-legged	0	5	5
Golden Eagle	2	27	29
Merlin	1	0	1
<i>Totals</i>	101	300	401

Decreased days and hours of coverage made for the meager records at this location this fall.

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

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<i>Coverage - days</i>						
<i>Coverage - hours</i>	133	250	278	226	48	802
Black Vulture	1	0	25	27	0	53
Turkey Vulture	0	0	141	62	0	203
Osprey	87	504	165	2	0	758
Bald Eagle	14	21	9	10	8	62
N. Harrier	22	81	198	96	5	402
Sharp-shinned	43	1347	8262	180	1	9833
Cooper's Hawk	4	56	701	24	2	787
N. Goshawk	0	1	9	14	3	27
Red-shouldered	0	0	87	171	2	260
Broad-winged	160	7265	79	0	0	7504
Red-tailed	42	61	539	3012	58	3712
Rough-legged	0	0	2	8	2	12
Golden Eagle	0	0	10	27	8	45
Am. Kestrel	69	423	345	2	0	839
Merlin	0	28	122	7	0	157
Peregrine Falcon	2	14	32	3	0	51
Unidentified	9	37	54	34	3	137
<i>Totals</i>	453	9838	10780	3679	92	24842

It is interesting to note that all three falcons and Cooper's Hawk set new season records. New one-day records include 175 Osprey on 9/23 (prior record 133 in 1979) and 34 Merlin on 10/22 (prior record 18 in 1986).

Militia Hill (Montgomery County)
Marylea Klauder, Compiler

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
<i>Coverage - days</i>				86
<i>Coverage - hours</i>				436
Black Vulture			18	18
Turkey Vulture	40	237	136	413
Osprey	94	71	4	169
Bald Eagle	5	2	1	8
N. Harrier	18	33	35	86
Sharp-shinned	285	529	191	1005
Cooper's	21	41	30	92
N. Goshawk	0	1	1	2
Red-shouldered	6	8	50	64
Broad-winged	1869	8	0	1877
Red-tailed	119	188	617	924
Rough-legged	0	0	7	7
Golden Eagle	0	0	1	1
Am. Kestrel	130	140	14	284
Merlin	12	17	4	33
Peregrine Falcon	7	5	0	12
Unidentified	107	81	107	295
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2713</i>	<i>1361</i>	<i>1216</i>	<i>5290</i>

Biggest day was 9/25 with 1100 Broad-winged counted. Over 3 times as many Osprey were seen as last year, probably a direct result of more observers and more coverage. The observers were: Ed Fingerhood, Ron French, Paul Guris, Jane Henderson, Jeff Herbst, John Heuges, Roy Imsick, Bill Kershner, Henry Kurtz, George Layne, Jim McKinney, Bill Murphy, June Sparango, Dale Twining, John Ward, Chris Witt, Charlie Wonderly, Ruth Zumeta.

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

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<i>Coverage - days</i>	3	24	20	26	3	76
<i>Coverage - hours</i>	12	138	116	121	11	398
Osprey	3	63	42	0	0	108
Bald Eagle	3	5	1	6	0	15
N. Harrier	0	27	50	21	0	98
Sharp-shinned	2	535	2407	44	1	2989
Cooper's Hawk	0	29	218	12	0	259
N. Goshawk	0	3	6	7	0	16
Red-shouldered	0	11	21	42	2	76
Broad-winged	12	3062	22	0	0	3096
Red-tailed	5	46	205	1081	12	1349
Rough-legged	0	0	2	6	0	8
Golden Eagle	0	1	4	15	0	20
Am. Kestrel	1	76	73	0	0	150
Merlin	0	2	11	2	0	15
Peregrine Falcon	0	4	8	1	0	13
Gyr Falcon	0	1	0	0	0	1
Unidentified	0	14	28	9	0	51
<i>Totals</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>3879</i>	<i>3098</i>	<i>1246</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>8264</i>

Little Gap Bird Observatory (Northampton Co.)
Rick Wiltraut, Compiler

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<i>Coverage - days</i>	7	18	19	17	3	64
<i>Coverage - hours</i>						
Black Vulture	0	0	0	28	0	28
Osprey	28	127	81	1	0	237
Bald Eagle	5	18	5	4	3	35
N. Harrier	5	18	94	31	0	148
Sharp-shinned	4	419	2836	63	1	3223
Cooper's	2	16	183	7	0	208
N. Goshawk	0	0	9	6	0	15
Red-shouldered	0	2	43	16	0	61
Broad-winged	36	2200	8	0	0	2244
Red-tailed	5	54	247	1038	6	1350
Rough-legged	0	0	1	3	0	4
Golden Eagle	0	0	9	13	3	25
Am. Kestrel	6	100	50	0	0	156
Merlin	0	6	29	0	0	35
Peregrine Falcon	0	4	10	0	0	14
Unidentified	1	34	44	35	0	114
<i>Totals</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>2998</i>	<i>3649</i>	<i>1249</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>8001</i>

The LGBO staff wishes to thank Mike Schall for contributing much of this data.

Second Mt. (Lebanon Co.)
Morris Cox, Compiler

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>Coverage - days</i>	15	26	27	28	3	99
<i>Coverage - hours</i>	89	180	220	157	12	658
Osprey	24	69	55	0	0	148
Bald Eagle	2	11	5	1	0	19
N. Harrier	8	22	115	57	1	203
Sharp-shinned	8	366	2869	71	0	3314
Cooper's	6	53	291	14	0	364
N. Goshawk	1	2	5	2	1	11
Red-shouldered	3	8	60	36	0	107
Broad-winged	191	1285	63	0	0	1539
Red-tailed	34	103	529	1192	8	1866
Rough-legged	0	0	0	4	0	4
Golden Eagle	0	1	11	15	1	28
Am. Kestrel	14	91	62	2	0	169
Merlin	0	1	9	0	0	10
Peregrine Falcon	1	7	7	0	0	15
Unidentified	0	9	2	9	0	20
<i>Totals</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>2028</i>	<i>4083</i>	<i>1403</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>7817</i>

Broad-winged Hawk was again low in numbers. Several species set new all time highs for this watch, which was started in 1984. N. Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and Am. Kestrel set new highs barely ahead of previous ones and probably due to the record coverage this year. Golden Eagle tied its previous high. Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and Merlin all were found at levels far above any previous totals. Two single day records were set: 21 N. Harrier on 10/24 and 41 Cooper's Hawk on 10/10.

Rocky Ridge (York County)
Jerry Dyer, Compiler

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Black Vulture	0	5	3	27	35
Osprey	0	25	9	0	34
N. Harrier	1	6	4	21	32
Sharp-shinned	2	112	76	7	197
Cooper's	0	6	4	3	13
N. Goshawk	0	1	0	1	2
Red-shouldered	0	0	2	31	33
Broad-winged	1	566	19	0	586
Red-tailed	13	25	27	206	271
Am. Kestrel	5	15	5	2	27
Peregrine	0	0	0	1	1
Unidentified	0	1	0	1	2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>762</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>1233</i>

There was a lot of rain during the best Broad-wing migration period in Sept. which reduced their numbers, but a good Nov. helped produce more N. Harrier, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed hawks than last year.

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