

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1, JAN – MAR 1990

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

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COVER: Eastern Screech Owl by *Michael McNelly*
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from the Editors...

For those of you interested in listing, Terry Schiefer brings us another installment of **Pennsylvania Birdlists** in this issue. It's nice to have someone who has left the state still interested enough to keep up this large task.

Frequently, when listing is being discussed, the issue of birding ethics arises. We at **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** would like to take this opportunity to discuss what we feel is acceptable behavior concerning playing of tape recorded songs in order to see a bird.

First of all, we do not subscribe to the notion that you must see a bird in order to add it to your list. With only a few exceptions, most birds are identifiable by call, and we see no reason why that isn't just as valid a criteria for counting a bird as seeing it. In fact, there are several species that can be identified in the field only by call!

The logical extension of this tenet then is that it is unnecessary to tramp through a marsh, or flush a bird or do excessive tape-recording of a bird if you have already heard it. This is especially true of rare breeding birds, but can be applied to common ones as well.

There is no documentation we know of that demonstrates that playing a tape of a common species for a few minutes on its breeding grounds will disturb it enough to disrupt its breeding cycle, unless it is repeated day-after-day and many times a day. Therefore, we do not object to playing of tape-recorded songs when done in a limited manner and when not involving a rare bird that many others are going to attempt to find.

Pennsylvania is a large state and the number of birders is relatively small. Except at a few well known hotspots, birders rarely run into each other. Therefore, when you play a tape to entice a Kentucky Warbler into view on some back road that you like to bird, it is unlikely that other birders are going to show up at that same spot in large numbers and play tapes at that bird, driving it to distraction.

On the other hand, if Mississippi Kites started nesting in Pennsylvania, and they might in a few years, hundreds of birders would flock to the location to see them. It would certainly not be appropriate in that case to play tape recordings to attract them into view.

These are the extremes, and there is a lot of gray area in between. We urge all birders to exert prudence when playing tape recorded songs.

Although the American Birding Association requires that all birds be

seen in order to be counted on the AOU or ABA lists, they do allow heard birds to be counted on state, local, annual and Big Day lists. As far as our personal lists are concerned, we include heard birds. However, we do not include them when submitting lists to ABA.

The important thing is that we are content to know that we identified that bird even though we did not see it. If some day we happen to see one, so much the better, but we will not endanger the bird, or its habitat, just to see it.

Until four years ago people were skeptical that such a publication as **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** would ever exist. We now have a solid base of more than 50 county compilers contributing on a routine basis. This is the first time in Pennsylvania history that such an accomplishment has been made. Without the efforts of everyone associated with **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** it could never have been done. Pennsylvania birders owe a lot to all of the contributors to this effort.

In addition to Pennsylvania Birdlists, the highlights of this issue include:

Dr. Kenneth Parkes, of the Carnegie Museum, gives us some background on the Black-capped Petrels that you read about in the last issue.

Marsha Bonta's article this issue is about Golden-crowned Kinglets. The atlas revealed that they can be found breeding anywhere in Pennsylvania where the right habitat exists, even in southern counties. A write-up on this phenomenon would be welcomed.

We have reciprocal subscription agreements with approximately 20 other state journals. It is interesting to compare their articles and comments with ours. We are reprinting in this issue an article on documenting sightings from *Iowa Birdlife*. This article is by someone who simply wanted to have her sightings accepted for the state's records. She makes some good points, and, when we read it, we thought "I wish I had said that!" We are therefore sharing it with you.

We welcome Michael McNelly back as a cover artist, we're sure you've seen his work on covers of other national publications as well.

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee presents its first annual report. In keeping with, a Golden-crowned Sparrow was captured at a banding station in Northampton County on 4 June 1952 by Albert

Conway. This bird was kept and displayed at a testimonial dinner for Roger Tory Peterson in Lancaster. The bird was photographed and released. Does any reader have a photograph of this bird or know someone who does? If you do, please let us know.

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK-CAPPED PETREL

by Kenneth C. Parkes

The Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) is one of a genus of some 27 species of medium-sized seabirds, collectively called "gadfly petrels," found in all of the oceanic areas of the world; the exact number is uncertain, as authorities differ as to which populations belong to which species. Of these, only about half a dozen nest in the Northern Hemisphere, and only two on the western side of the North Atlantic. These two are the Cahow (*Pterodroma cahow*) of Bermuda and the Black-capped Petrel. These are similar enough that some authorities consider them to be merely well-marked subspecies of a single species (compare Bourne 1962 with Jouanin and Mougou 1979).

The Black-capped Petrel is now known as a breeding bird only from the mountains of the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). It formerly bred in the Lesser Antilles (Guadeloupe, Dominica, and possibly Martinique), also in the mountains. A darker subspecies bred in the mountains of Jamaica, but is considered to be extinct.

The Cahow is a critically endangered species, with a very small population, much reduced by early predation by man and by introduced rats and pigs. It was extirpated on the main islands of Bermuda, and now breeds only on tiny offshore islets. Here it suffers from nest site competition from White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaeton lepturus*), which enter the nest burrows and kill the young petrels; this predation did not occur when the Cahow could still breed inland, where the tropicbirds do not nest. Tropicbird predation is being controlled by placing wooden frames around the mouths of the petrel nest burrows, so that the tropicbirds cannot enlarge the opening and enter.

Although Bermuda, in the western Atlantic, is relatively close to the United States mainland, there have been no records of hurricane-borne Cahows. On the other hand, tropical storms have carried well over a dozen Black-capped Petrels to the eastern United States and southern Canada. It is pure chance that the birds deposited by Hurricane Hugo in Pennsylvania were the first records for our state. Bull (1974) knew of five specimens from New York, and two of these (Oneida Lake and Cayuga County) almost certainly crossed Pennsylvania on their way to their destiny. Bull, incidentally, did not know the present whereabouts of the specimen from New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, which was found alive in a snowbank on the incredible date of 26 January 1895. This specimen, first recorded by Foster (1895), found its way to the private collection of Dr. Leonard C. Sanford of New Haven, CT. As part of a specimen exchange with Dr. Sanford, Carnegie Museum of Natural History received this petrel on 25 August 1921. The specimen (CM 81920) is a taken-down mount in excellent condition, and until Hurricane Hugo, was the only Black-capped Petrel in the Carnegie collection.

In his list of Pennsylvania Black-capped Petrels, Russ States (1990) did not describe his "Bird D," the Allegheny County specimen now in the Carnegie collection. Its wing, measured flat against the ruler (one of the standard measurements in the ornithological literature) was 275 mm (about 11"), and its bill, from base to tip, measured 32 mm (about 1¼"). Measurements given by Bourne (1962) indicate that this is an average bill length, but the wing is somewhat shorter than average. States described in detail the colors of his "Bird A" only. He called the "upper body

and upper wings dark brown." In our "Bird D: the back in general was a fairly close match for color No. 221, Vandyke Brown, of Smithe (1981), a very blackish brown. The bird was in heavy molt, and the older, worn feathers were more brown and the newly grown feathers more gray. The wings, unlike those of "Bird A," had no brown tones but matches No. 82, Blackish Neutral Gray, of Smithe (1975), and the crown was the same color (hence the name "Black-capped Petrel"). The tail was also in heavy molt; fresh feathers were black on the terminal half, white at the base, and the older feathers were distinctly faded. There is much variation in this species in the amount of white on the forehead and on the nape, and of dark feathers mixed in with the white underparts. Most of the field guides show this species as having a broad white collar around the nape, but as correctly shown by Harrison (1983), in many individuals this collar is incomplete, being mixed with dark feathers in the middle of the nape.

It is highly unlikely that any birder will see a live Black-capped Petrel in flight in Pennsylvania, so "field marks" are not really necessary. Birds picked up after hurricanes can readily be identified by using one of the many books now available, especially Harrison (1983), which gives more information (especially about color variants) than do the field guides. The only birds (other than additional species of gadfly petrel, some of which have reached North America from much farther away than Hispaniola) that might be confused with the Black-capped Petrel are some of the shearwaters, all of which have proportionately longer and more slender bills and lack the white rump patch of typical Black-capped Petrels (mixed with dark

feathers in some individuals).

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BOOK REVIEW

Birds of Ohio. Bruce G. Peterjohn. xviii + 256 pages; 50 color plates, including frontispiece by John Ruthven and 49 original paintings by William Zimmerman. 9 x 11¼ with bibliography and index. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN 47405. 1989. Cloth. \$57.50.

Birds are such a vivid expression of life that it is understandable why those of us who watch them now number in the millions. It should not be surprising, therefore, that in the past twenty years or so there has been a proliferation of birding guides and ornithological treatises for individual states. One of the most recent publishers to become involved in the latter category is Indiana University Press which produced *The Birds of Indiana*, by Russell E. Mumford and Charles E. Keller, in 1984. This fine book was sumptuously illustrated by one of America's premier bird artists, William Zimmerman. Now Indiana University Press has published *The Birds of Illinois* by H. David Bohlen and *The Birds of Ohio*. The latter work is especially significant for Pennsylvania since Ohio borders so much of the Commonwealth on its western side.

The Birds of Ohio is the first comprehensive survey of that state's avifauna to be published since William Dawson's pioneering study in 1903. It is thus a work of fundamental importance for anyone interested in the state's bird populations. In fact, it is organized and presented in order to appeal to and satisfy the dedicated birder as well as the professionally trained ornithologist. The author, Bruce Peterjohn, widely recognized as the state's leading ornithologist, has studied Ohio's avifauna all his life. His carefully prepared text is based on detailed research in existing literature, reports from numerous birders and ornithologists, and thousands of hours of personal observation and field work. The author traces the natural history of each individual species, 390 in all, currently identified as appearing within Ohio's boundaries. Peterjohn begins in the 1800s and chronicles the historical changes in distribution and population abundance to the present.

In fact, Ohio's birdlife has changed dramatically since 1903. At that time, the House Sparrow was just becoming established in the state. The Wild Turkey, Greater Prairie Chicken, Trumpeter Swan, and Passenger Pigeon had

disappeared (the last species forever). Waterbirds of all kinds had been persecuted to near extirpation by hunters seeking quick profit from the meat and millinery trades. In subsequent decades these waterbirds were protected and many returned to their former abundance. When Dawson published his book, Bewick's Wren and Bachman's Sparrow were just entering the state. They eventually established sizable populations and flourished for a few decades, then mysteriously vanished. The European Starling was introduced and became a pest that adversely affected several native species of birds. These are just a few of the changes detailed, species by species, in the book.

In addition to Peterjohn's authoritative text, the work includes a special color frontispiece of the now-extinct Passenger Pigeon by Ohio artist John Ruthven and forty-nine original paintings by the renowned bird artist William Zimmerman. More than one commentator has compared his work favorably to Audubon's. The only minor complaint is not with the lovely realistic paintings but with the publisher's definition of "original," since the color plates are identical to those found in *Birds of Illinois*.

This handsome publication is not intended to be a field guide to the birds of Ohio. On the contrary, it goes far beyond that limited scope. The species accounts describe the abundance, distribution, and historic status of birds positively recorded from Ohio as of 30 June 1988. Species on the state list have been documented by specimens, identifiable photographs, or complete written descriptions prepared at the time of observation. Although admittedly adding to the cost of the book, maps of breeding species showing confirmed county sites would have been valuable additional information.

In sum, Indiana University Press is to be commended for publishing its trilogy of state bird books. More specifically, *The Birds of Ohio* is a valuable reference for birders and ornithologists afield in western Pennsylvania. Finally, the book represents a fine model for Pennsylvania to emulate in the future. Every birder and ornithologist will treasure it and so will the collector of superbly illustrated books of natural history.

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.

"Flame-crests" of Winter

Brush Mountain Notebook
by Marcia Bonta

Whenever I find a flock of black-capped chickadees or spot a brown creeper in the woods, I scan the vicinity in search of golden-crowned kinglets. Those small, hyperactive birds seem to be more abundant every winter here. Because they are highly susceptible to "pishing," I can easily call them down from the high branches of the hemlock trees along our Plummer's Hollow stream or from deciduous trees on our mountaintop. This often puts them at eye level with me so I can distinguish the golden crown of the female from the orange-red crown bordered with yellow of the male. Both sexes have their crowns outlined in black.

Those crowns have led to such nicknames as "flame-crest," "gold-crest," "fiery-colored wren" and "golden-crowned wren," although golden-crowned kinglets are most closely related to gnatcatchers and are part of the Old World warbler family which includes the flycatchers and thrushes of Europe. The golden-crowned kinglets' genus name *Regulus* is Latin for "small king," and its species name *satrapa* means "a ruler who wears a golden crown" in Greek, which reinforces their common name. Otherwise, they are olive and buffy gray birds with white wing bars and a whitish eyebrow stripe, and they hover almost like hummingbirds when they forage in the treetops. Usually they emit high-pitched "zees" as they search for food which is what frequently alerts me to their presence in the woods.

Golden-crowned kinglets breed in the northern United States and Canada or wherever they can find coniferous woods, particularly spruce trees, their favorite nesting sites. Some golden-crowned kinglets winter as far north as Nova Scotia, but most move down to the middle and southern United States. Commonly they stay in evergreen woods or cedar swamps where they are better protected from cold winds, but sometimes they frequent open woods as they do on our mountain and have been seen in orchards or the yard shrubbery of suburban homes.

They like the company of chickadees, brown creepers and even a downy woodpecker or two, however I often see them only with their own kind or, in a few instances, by

themselves. They flutter from branch to branch as rapidly as a warbler, but their wing-flicking when hopping from twig to twig is a characteristic that instantly distinguishes them from our New World warblers. They are tamer than their other species' associates and I can frequently stand and watch them forage within ten feet of me. Other golden-crowned kinglet observers have been even luckier than I. One was able to hand feed them flies, and another, Cynthia Church, wrote of a magic day in October when "golden-crowns became so tame that when I followed them quietly they allowed me to approach them and even to stroke them..They...sat on my hands or lit on my coat. They were incredibly friendly."

My favorite golden-crowned kinglet memory also occurred in October. On a warm day when the woods glowed with sunlight and yellow tree leaves, I sat with my back against a tree trunk, halfway up Laurel Ridge, and "pished." Suddenly dozens of kinglets streamed up the mountainside towards me, as if answering some primeval call, and fluttered within arms' reach. For a few seconds I felt like a modern St. Francis of Assisi, birds at my finger tips, and then they were gone as quickly as they had come. But the euphoria they had aroused in me, the feeling of being akin to other spirits, remained with me for the rest of the day.

Unlike most wintering birds, golden-crowns are not known to eat seeds unless pressed so they rarely appear at bird feeders. They prefer a diet of minuscule insects, insect eggs and larvae, particularly plant lice, aphids, bark beetles and scale insects. They are especially fond of spruce bud moths and caterpillars. Some observers report that in early spring they drink tree sap. However, because they are so small (a mere three and a half inches) and move so quickly, it is difficult to tell what or even if they are actually eating. It could be that they are consuming the insects which are stuck in the sap rather than the sap itself.

Aptly described as "tiny, feathered gems" by ornithologist Arthur Cleveland Bent, golden-crowned kinglets have a lot going for them. They are useful, beautiful,

friendly and, best of all, they are hardy enough to brave our Pennsylvania winters without any help from us.

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.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 1989 CBCs

by Conrad Schmidt

The 90th Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held 16 December 1989 to 3 January 1990. There were 59 counts conducted in Pennsylvania, one of them (Dingman's Ferry) a "dry run," and one (Emporium) a new official count. Lower Bucks and Southern Lancaster tied for the most species (95). One hundred fifty-seven species were reported altogether. The results of the various counts were graciously made available to the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology by the compilers; please keep in mind that these data are unedited and are subject to revision! Distribution maps for some species have been published in PSO's first newsletter. The following is a list of the species reported.

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant (Pennypack Valley), Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, **Green-backed Heron** (Glenolden and Lewisburg), Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Tundra Swan, Mute Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose (blue and white forms), Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal and the Eurasian race of the Green-winged Teal in Central Bucks (an escape?), Am. Black Duck, Mallard, N. Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, **Eurasian Wigeon, Red-crested Pochard** (Bethlehem-Easton, probable escape), Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck.

Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, N. Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Am. Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon (Glenolden).

Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, N. Bobwhite, Virginia Rail (Upper Bucks), Am. Coot, **Sandhill Crane** (Wild Creek-Little Gap), Killdeer, Common Snipe, Am. Woodcock (Butler, Glenolden, Hamburg, Wyncote).

Little Gull (Erie), Bonaparte's Gull (Erie, Glenolden, State College, York), Ring-billed Gull, Herring

Gull, **Thayer's Gull** (Lower Bucks), Iceland Gull (Lower Bucks), Lesser Black-backed Gull (Lower Bucks), Glaucous Gull (Erie, Lower Bucks), Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Ringed Turtle-Dove (Lancaster and Lower Bucks, probable escapes?), Mourning Dove.

Barn Owl, E. Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl (Erie, Bald Eagle State Park).

Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, E. Phoebe, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, European Jackdaw (Lewisburg), Am. Crow, Fish Crow, Common Raven.

Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, **House Wren** (Harrisburg), Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, E. Bluebird, **Swainson's Thrush** (New Bloomfield), Hermit Thrush, Am. Robin, Gray Catbird, N. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Am. Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, N. Shrike (Erie, Clarion, Southeastern Bradford), **Loggerhead Shrike** (Gettysburg), Eur. Starling.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Palm Warbler (Lower Bucks), Common Yellowthroat (Central Bucks, Chambersburg, Glenolden), **Western Tanager** (Audubon).

N. Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Am. Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow (47 on 9 counts—!), Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow (Johnstown), Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow (Southeastern Bradford), Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, **Harris' Sparrow** (Chambersburg), Dark-eyed (Slate-colored and Oregon) Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.

Red-winged Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird (Bernville, York), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, N. Oriole (Southern Lancaster, Upper Bucks).

Pine Grosbeak (Bloomsburg,

Lewisburg, Thompson), Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll (Bernville, Bloomsburg, Butler, Emporium, Warren), Pine Siskin (48 out of 59 counts), Am. Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak (38 out of 59 counts), House Sparrow.

*The following were also reported, but the Records Committee has not received the documentation as yet. Therefore, we reserve judgment on their validity. **Broad-winged Hawk** (Scranton) - American Birds requires photos of any Broad-wing on the CBC, **E. Wood-Pewee** (Chambersburg) - would be the first winter record for Pennsylvania, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (Wild Creek-Little Gap; compiler chose not to submit to American Birds - previous latest fall record was November 4th). Eds.*

THE FINE ART OF DOCUMENTATION

by Ann Johnson

Permission was received from the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to reprint the article from Iowa Bird Life 59:66-70. -eds.

Just to set the record straight, I really am a firm believer in the reporting and documenting of bird sightings in our state; but I have always relied on others to do the job. More persons reporting, however, in combination with comprehensive geographical coverage, enhances the true avian picture across the state. Observations by birders help provide a general view of the environment which has value beyond the competition we may use to amuse ourselves. After thirty years of developing some semblance of skill in identification, the guilt began developing about never taking the time nor putting forth the effort to report the various bits of data collected over the years and document unusual occurrences. As a well-traveled birder, a recent article in one of the journals really hit home when it was reported that many states have been unable to add unusual birds to their state records because visiting birders have failed to document them.

Documentation is the scare tactic used to convince normally coherent birders that they have absolutely no idea what they are doing. The integration of science and humanities is incredible. The art form itself is a combination of scientific observation, analysis of thought, creative but descriptive written communication, and logical argument for making a case. Tie this in with sufficient research and the task looks overwhelming.

Two circumstances last fall totally disrupted my normally relaxing pastime. First, my son's adolescence and corresponding lessening of time demands provided many more hours afield, significantly increasing the odds of stumbling onto some good birds. Second, the drought of 1988, along with the existence of small pockets of water in our creek bed, created an absolutely incredible fall warbler migration. My curiosity was piqued as to the number of species my yard might host during the season. This led to daily notations in a notebook and the conclusion that, if you compile all this data, you just as well report it. The drawback became evident upon the encountering of

species I never expected to see.

Many of us can think of instances where well-intentioned friends and neighbors have reported some incredible sight to us and we politely acted mildly interested and then went on about our business. Now ponder the responsibility of the Records Committee as they ascertain if such sightings are reliable. Their job is to legitimize any unusual avian occurrence in the state of Iowa and not unlike a court of law, clear and convincing evidence must satisfy them beyond a reasonable doubt. It is better to reject any number of legitimate sightings than to allow bogus or questionable reports to become part of the archives. Often the committee has nary a clue as to the skills of the observer; in fact, their objectivity is probably served best without any knowledge of the observer's identity. The judgement of a record boils down, then, to the reporter's ability to describe what was seen and to argue successfully for an identification consistent with the observation.

Two warblers became my nemesis last fall and gave me my first attempts at documentation. The identification was relatively easy with a little careful observation and, after all these years, I do have confidence in my abilities to sort out most of them. Their stopover in my yard, however, forced me into doing something I had never done before—putting pen to paper to describe what I had seen. Both records were insufficiently detailed to be accepted, and, if I am ever in legal trouble, I want the Records Committee as my jury! With a 99.9 percent surety factor (I seldom allow for no margin of error) this obviously means I did a poor job of not only describing the birds but making strong arguments for their accurate identifications through the elimination of similar species.

In an effort to better understand the process, improve my skills, and receive more feedback, I decided to risk any credibility I may have had and, abandoning my normally more conservative approach, submitted a couple of documentations for the winter season with about a seventy-five percent surety factor—not particularly good odds for identification, let alone substantiation. Wintering gulls,

which are extremely difficult for me to describe, provided perfect subjects for documentation attempts. Barb Wilson, who says "Just Call Them All Seagulls" (*Iowa Bird Life* 56:3), may soon have a convert. My apologies and gratitude go to the Records Committee for intruding on their valuable time in reviewing records, but in my mind's eye they have certainly lived up to their task of verifying "extraordinary bird sightings" in our state.

I will never be one hundred percent in agreement with some of the assessments of my records, but that is alright. My Prairie Warbler will always be mine; I can still see it in the front yard today; and I will continue to submit reports, acceptable or not. My experiences over the past year have taught me a lot about coping with the trials of documentation and to those who are willing to try, I offer my keys for having a successful experience.

AJ'S TEN KEYS FOR DOCUMENTATION

1. Forget the ego trip and never take anything too personally. Document for yourself. Only you know what you saw and if nothing else, your written description may bring back pleasant memories. If the committee, whose purpose it is to be skeptical, accepts your record it becomes a bonus. It helps to remember that the reviewers are individuals who over the years have been perfecting their skills and their adeptness at this process qualifies them to serve on the Records Committee. Be a risk taker—even with all your insecurities you may be right; and even if your description is not an acceptable record, you may not necessarily be wrong.
2. Make as many notes as possible before opening the field guide, no matter how great the temptation. Problems develop in two directions once a picture is seen. In maintaining the integrity of the report, it becomes easy to under-describe by becoming unclear in your mind what was real. By the same token, that picture may trigger some illusions that were merely that. Most importantly, be honest, even if it means a

high rejection rate. You will seldom see enough to satisfy everyone, and most identifications are made on a few field marks which may or may not be sufficient for "beyond a reasonable doubt."

3. Re-live and describe your unconscious thought processes. The longer you have been birding, the more concerted effort this step takes, but it is an integral piece of the description. Without it, the obvious may not appear in writing. Explain the steps you took in making your identification. No one else knows why you drew those conclusions.
4. Use graphic adjectives such as bold, subdued, vivid, bright, muted. Yellow with streaking may mean vivid yellow with bold streaking to pale yellow wash with muted streaking. Comparisons to common birds may prove helpful.
5. Know your anatomy when describing a bird, especially when subtle differences are the key to identification. Terms such as crown, mantle, primaries, secondaries, undertail coverts, mirrors, windows, superciliary, patagial, sub-terminal, axillaries, and the like are invaluable as descriptors. Describing the position of the bird when you saw it may help determine why you did or did not observe some key markings.
6. Describe what is not there, particularly if it can provide a key field mark. Errors of omission may make a perfectly acceptable identification an unacceptable record.
7. Practice judging distances and observation times. Both have a great impact on a report's validity and elapsed time is hard to guess when you are busy keying field marks. Make the distance clear in the body of your report; there is quite a difference between 200 feet and two football fields!
8. Do your homework. Although some people have more reference books than others, the major field guides give good ideas of what birds might be confused with your sightings. Remember, only you know why you did not identify some other way.
9. Assign a self-imposed

percentage to your identification. If you are ninety-nine percent sure, you should be able to describe convincingly. Seventy-five percent should leave considerable doubt, which in all likelihood will be reflected in comments from the committee.

10. Do not get discouraged. Enjoy the challenge, learn from it, and keep on reporting.

Lest anyone think otherwise, I hereby confess that in the past six months I have broken all of these rules—some more than once! It is all part of the learning process. Documentation is an art, one which may develop more quickly in some than others of us, but one which inevitably sharpens one's powers of observation, cognitive reasoning, and communication techniques.

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Norwalk, Iowa 50211*

WHERE WERE WE?

The answer to this question in the last issue was easily determined once the scrambled word was unscrambled.

The mystery bird was the Cahow which, although closely related to the Black-capped Petrels found in Pennsylvania last year (see Ken Parkes' article this issue), is normally seen only in and around Bermuda.

The answer, therefore, is...

Bermuda

About the Cover Artist:

MICHAEL MC NELLY

"The vast beauty of nature, especially birdlife, has intrigued and captivated my senses since early childhood. Portraying these wild creatures through various mediums has offered me an escape from the creative pressures inherent to the field of commercial illustration," says Michael McNelly. He has cultivated his perspective of wildlife from extensive travels in the Americas, from Alaska to the Amazon jungle.

A free-lance illustrator since his graduation from the Hussian School of Art in Philadelphia, Michael's clients include Sun Company, The New York Times, The Franklin Mint, Macmillan Publishing Company, Cigna Corporation, T.V. Guide, The Jacques Cousteau Society, etc. Although, he says, "I find the work to be both exciting and profitable, my real love has been the painting of nature."

The Ward Foundation Show in Salisbury, Maryland, the Philadelphia Wildlife Expo and the prestigious Easton Waterfowl Festival are a few of the shows to which Michael is regularly invited.

Michael's membership and support of organizations include: The Ward Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, National Audubon Society, Nature Canada, and The National Wildlife Federation.

Michael has accumulated an impressive collection of awards and ribbons, such as the Award of Excellence given by the Academy of Natural Science Wildlife Art Expo, The International Association of Business Communicators Gold Quill Awards Competition - Award of Excellence, and many awards from the Art Directors Club of Philadelphia. His work can be found in many private collections throughout the United States, including The Raptor Trust and The University of Pennsylvania.



FIRST REPORT OF THE P.O.R.C.

May 1990

Ed Kwater, Chairman

This is the first annual report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.), hereafter referred to as the Committee. Since its inception in April 1989, the Committee has reviewed a number of records of rare bird sightings in the state. The results of the Committee's deliberations are presented below. For an explanation of the Class I - V system, reference should be made to the Committee's Bylaws (PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS 2:91-94) and P.O.R.C. News (PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS 3:8-9).

Review of rare birds records will remain a major function of the Committee. Observers are strongly urged to submit as many details as possible concerning sightings of rarities. Photographs and recordings are particularly useful and these should be submitted together with written descriptions to Barbara Haas, the Committee Secretary. All documentation will be kept on file for future reference.

The Committee has actively been engaged in the compilation of the Official State List of Pennsylvania Birds over the course of the past year. This has proved to be an enormous task involving a considerable amount of research, including museum visits to photograph skins, and literature searches. Many Pennsylvania birders have contributed photographs, recordings and written descriptions without which the Official State List would be a lot shorter, and our thanks must be expressed to all these people. Readers will be pleased to hear that at long last the Official State List is nearing completion. The last batch of photographs is now in circulation and it is expected that the List will be published in the next issue of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS. Species classed as rarities (those requiring a specimen, photograph, recording and written documentation for acceptance) will be bold-faced.

A number of species cannot yet be included in the Official State List as sufficient documentation of their occurrence in the state has not been located. These will be included as hypothetical in the Official State List. This does not, of course, mean that they have not occurred in Pennsylvania. A good example of

such a species is the Fulvous Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) seen at Middle Creek WMA on March 16-17, 1975. The bird was seen by numerous observers and at least one photograph existed, alas no longer extant. Unfortunately, no other photograph or documentation has yet been received by the Committee. We urge anyone in possession of good documentation of this bird to submit it to the Committee so that this species can be admitted to the Official State List. The same applies to any other old rarity records.

The enclosed list gives details of all rare bird records which have been accepted by the Committee based on a review of all submitted documentation since April 1989. In these cases observers' names have been included. In the case of rare bird records which have not been accepted observers' names have been withheld, but the reasons for non-acceptance have been given.

Observers are encouraged to re-submit non-accepted records if further details have become available since the original submission. We also encourage second or third observer's descriptions or documentation so that species can be placed in the highest possible category when accepted. And, we are also interested in dissenting opinions on sightings.

Decisions are made as objectively as possible and are based purely upon the documentation presented to the Committee. Non-acceptance of a record is not meant to be taken personally, but we hope it encourages closer observation and more complete documentation. The Committee's decisions are not always unanimous. In such cases records are automatically circulated to Committee members for a second round of voting.

In the past, a small number of second-hand reports have been received. In fairness to the original observer(s) the Committee has decided only to review first-hand documentation. Some descriptions have been received with two observers' names given. Such documentation can only be reviewed for Class III. Class II distinction requires independent written descriptions by each observer.

The Committee is also

interested in reviewing documentation of the occurrence of rare subspecies such as Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*), and Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus galbula bullockii*). Decisions made regarding the occurrence of these subspecies will also be published in subsequent Annual Reports.

Systematic List of Accepted Records, by Class (A.O.U order)

CLASS I

THAYER'S GULL - *Larus thayeri*. **Lancaster Co.** One in first winter (basic I) plumage, Safe Harbor Dam, 7-9 January 1989 (T. Garner, E. Witmer, R. Miller, J. Book). A well-documented bird with good photographs. First state record outside Erie Co.

CLASS II

MISSISSIPPI KITE - *Ictinia mississippiensis*. **Erie Co.** One in first summer (alternate I) plumage, Presque Isle State Park, 15 May 1988 (E. Kwater, J. McWilliams). First Western PA record.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - *Tyrannus verticalis*. **Chester Co.** Two, Beaver Dam Road near Honeybrook, 12 October 1989 (E. Witmer, B. Haas).

SEASIDE SPARROW - *Ammodrammus maritimus*. **Lancaster Co.** One, Conejohela Flats, 14 May 1988 (J. Book, T. Garner).

CLASS III

PIPING PLOVER - *Charadrius melodus*. **Erie Co.** One adult, Presque Isle State Park, July 24, 1988 (J.H. Stull, J.G. Stull, E. Kwater). One description submitted.

AMERICAN AVOCET - *Recurvirostra americana*. **Erie Co.** One, Presque Isle State Park, 7 May 1989 (J. McWilliams, E. Kwater). Second description submitted for Class II consideration.

MARBLED GODWIT - *Limosa fedoa*. Erie Co. One, Presque Isle State Park, 5 September 1989 (J. McWilliams).

SURFBIRD - *Aphriza virgata*. Erie Co. One, Presque Isle State Park, 18 August 1979 (J. McWilliams, S. Stull). First PA record. One description submitted.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. Crawford Co. One molting adult, Millers' Ponds, Pymatuning, 20 August - 3 September 1989 (R.F. Leberman, R.C. Leberman, E. Kwater, J. Hoffman).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL - *Larus ridibundus*. Erie Co. A well-studied adult in full breeding (definitive alternate) plumage, Presque Isle State Park, 1-2 April 1989 (J. McWilliams *et al.*). Second description submitted for Class II consideration.

SABINE'S GULL - *Larus sabini*. Erie Co. One juvenile, Presque Isle State Park, 8 October 1987 (J. McWilliams). Fourth PA record.

WESTERN TANAGER - *Piranga ludoviciana*. Indiana Co. One male, Brush Valley Top, 13 May 1989 (P. Andrascik).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - *Spizella pallida*. Erie Co. One singing bird, Presque Isle State Park, 18 May 1989 (J. McWilliams).

List of Records Not Accepted

Eared Grebe - 3, Little Buffalo State Park, Perry Co., 28 March 1989 - insufficient detail.

Eared Grebe - Lake Marburg, York Co., 28 March and 4 April 1989 - several crucial identification characters omitted.

King Eider - Presque Isle, Erie Co., 19 November 1989 - insufficient detail.

Harlequin Duck - Presque Isle, Erie Co., 2 April 1989 - insufficient detail.

Mississippi Kite - Saginaw, York Co., 24 May 1989 - field marks noted inconsistent with species.

Swainson's Hawk - Rocky Ridge Park, York Co., 3 May 1989 - insufficient detail.

Swainson's Hawk - Rt. 183 Hawkwatch, 12 October 1987 - insufficient detail.

Krider's Red-tailed Hawk - Rt.

183 Hawkwatch, 12 November 1987 - details presented did not conclusively rule out Eastern Red-tailed Hawk.

Ferruginous Hawk - Hummelstown, Dauphin Co., 10 February 1987 - details presented did not conclusively rule out

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk.

Black Rail - Somerset Township, Somerset Co., 25 September 1987 - second-hand report with very sketchy details.

American Oystercatcher - Susquehanna R., between Middleton & Three Mile Island, 15 August 15, 1989 - details did not rule out Black Skimmer.

Black-necked Stilt - Philadelphia Water Treatment Plant, Philadelphia Co., 2-5 July 1988 - insufficient detail.

Ruff - Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., 24 September 1989 - insufficient detail.

Three-toed Woodpecker - No locality given, 22-23 November 1987 - apparently a second-hand report.

Bewick's Wren - Amaranth, Fulton Co., 19 June 1989 - insufficient detail.

OUR WORK MUST CONTINUE!

by Raymond Hendrick

In 1949 when my interest in the world of nature was all consuming, I was twelve years old, roaming all over my grandparents' farm in Virginia looking at everything that ran, flew, swam or crawled, and wanted answers to all of my questions.

When a neighbor stopped by the farm one day to show my grandfather a "chicken hawk" he had shot, the answer to the question, "Why kill such a pretty thing?" was "We have to shoot the hawks to protect the rabbits and bobwhite quail, so we can later shoot the rabbits and bobwhites too!"

During the last forty years, efforts by many people in this country have brought about a big change in that kind of thinking by the people who thought that the only "good" hawk was a "dead" hawk. I will not take the time here to recall chapter and verse of our efforts to convince people of the value of raptors. Those of you now reading this already have seen the light. I guess I have become comfortable and thought so had everyone else. You can then imagine my shock when I

received a call one day last fall to check out a report of, not one, but two dead Osprey that had been shot and killed at Nockamixon State Park in upper Bucks County. After several trips and many phone calls, I was able to put together the following. During small game season a fisherman in his boat on Lake Nockamixon, saw a group of hunters shoot an Osprey that was also "fishing" over the lake. The bird dropped onto the water and was recovered. It is now being mounted for use by the state park in its exhibits.

The fisherman got to shore, found a ranger and told him his story. Unfortunately, when they returned to the area the hunters were long gone. Within the week, a second Osprey was reported shot, but not recovered.

As conservation chairman of the Bucks County Audubon Society, I suggested to our Board that we take action over and above the normal "what a shame and a waste" attitude among our membership. We agreed to pay a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party. We called every newspaper in our area to give them the details of the story and they really went for it. Some went so far as to print editorials calling the guilty persons "morons" and "idiots." Letters from John Q. Public appeared in letters-to-the-editor columns, blasting the "mighty hunters." Sportsmen groups responded not by defending the action, but instead by donating more money to the reward fund. It now stands at \$1500 and is still climbing.

Now, I realize all this will not bring back the dead Ospreys, but I do know it rekindled the fire in my environmental conscience and sent me out to remember that there is still much work that remains to be done. So, let's go out and do it!

685 Spring Valley Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

Compiled by Terry Schiefer

Welcome to the fifth annual edition of *Pennsylvania Birdlists*. For those of you who are asking whatever happened to the first three editions, a few words on the history of *Pennsylvania Birdlists* are in order.

Pennsylvania Birdlists was dreamed up by Jerry McWilliams and me back in 1985. The plan was to have a listing of birders' totals similar to *Birding* magazine's list supplement. But instead of having lists for each state, we would have lists for each county in Pennsylvania, acknowledging the efforts of local birding experts.

During the next three winters, birders across Pennsylvania received postcards announcing the project, followed by the three issues of *Pennsylvania Birdlists* issued in 1986, 1987, and 1988. The newsletter was supported by generous donations from many of the birders who submitted lists, but the bulk of the financial burden fell on me. In 1989 Frank and Barb Haas agreed to include *Pennsylvania Birdlists* in the pages of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. This was a godsend for me, since it freed me from the financial and time constraints involved in mailing individual announcements and newsletters.

I moved to Mississippi in the fall of 1986, but chose to continue editing *Pennsylvania Birdlists*, since it remains my main link to the birding community in the Keystone State. (I do, however, still visit Pennsylvania occasionally to see such novel items as mountains, rocks, snow, and clear water!) ?novelties, not novel items

The list totals that appear in this edition of *Pennsylvania Birdlists* are current as of 31 December 1989, unless otherwise indicated. A few lists not submitted to me were pulled from *Birding* magazine's list supplement and are so indicated. These include Pennsylvania Lifelists over 175 and Pennsylvania Annual Lists over 240 or when no list was over 240 the highest for a given year is listed.

This year I've initiated a few listing thresholds in order to prevent things from getting too unwieldy. They are as follows (at least for now):

Pennsylvania Lifelists - The threshold is 200. Lists under 250 will be dropped if not updated in five years.

Pennsylvania Annual Lists - All lists are accepted for the current year. Past years have a threshold of 200, except where no list exceeds 200 in a given year.

County Lifelists - The top five lists will be included for each county as well as any list over 100.

County Annual Lists - All lists are accepted for the current year as well as the top five lists for each county and those over 200.

I hope you enjoy perusing these lists as much as I enjoyed compiling them.

Pennsylvania Lifelists			25	291	Terence Schiefer	53	264	Carl L. Garner (87)
			27	290	Al Guarente	54	252	Ted Grisez
1	330	Barbara M. Haas	28	289	Robert Schutsky (Birding, 1989)	54	252	Joe Meloney
2	329	Franklin C. Haas	29	288	Jerry Book	54	252	Linda McWilliams (88)
3	322	John C. Miller (Birding, 1989)	30	287	Deuane Hoffman	57	251	Mike Kissick (85)
4	313	Bernard L. Morris	31	286	Allan Keith (Birding, 1989)	58	250	Harris E. Johnson (1986)
5	311	1. Eric Witmer	31	286	William Murphy(Birding,1989)	59	248	Mark Blauer (85)
6	310	Gerald M. McWilliams	33	284	James R. Gray (Birding, 83)	59	248	Bill Fink (85)
7	308	Paul W. Schwalbe	34	283	Frank Windfelder(Birding, 1989)	61	246	Steve Feldstein (88)
8	305	Phillips B. Street	35	282	Allen Schweinsberg	62	238	Harold H. Axtell (85)
8	305	Steve Santner (Birding, 1989)	36	281	William Reid	62	238	Emery M. Froelich (1985)
10	304	Harry Franzen	37	279	Margaret Higbee (87)	64	237	Don Henise
10	304	Tom Garner	37	279	Dave Dereamus (Birding, 1989)	64	237	Stan Glowacki (87)
12	303	Jan. A. Witmer (Birding, 1989)	39	278	Merrill Wood (85)	66	236	Mark Henry (87)
13	302	John H. Ginaven (88)	39	278	James J. Baird (Birding, 81)	67	234	Randy Miller
13	302	Sam Stull (85)	41	277	Harold Morrin (Birding, 88)	68	232	Anne Hedgpeth (86)
15	301	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. (86)	41	277	Bonnie L. Baird (Birding, 81)	69	229	Roy A. Ickes (87)
16	300	Evelyn M. Kopf	43	275	Roger Higbee (87)	70	225	Arthur H. Bergey
16	300	Larry Lewis (88)	43	275	Neal G. Thorpe (Girding, 1989)	71	224	Gary Bayne (85)
18	299	Keith C. Richards(Birding,82)	45	273	Nick Pulcinella	72	223	Ernest Schiefer
19	298	Glenna P. Schwalbe	46	271	Tom Clauser	73	222	Christine Bayne (85)
20	295	Fritz Brock	47	269	J. Kenneth Gabler	74	220	David Kyler (86)
21	294	James R. Baxter (86)	47	269	Ed Kwater	75	216	Richard C. Rosche (87)
22	293	David B. Freeland(Birding,1989)	49	268	Thomas A. Reeves	76	210	Sherri Labar
23	292	George Malosh	50	267	Skip Conant	77	203	Matt Wlasniewski
23	292	Rick Wiltraut	51	266	Harry Henderson			
25	291	John D. Peplinski	51	266	George Wertz, Jr. (86)			

County Lifelists (top 50)

1 299 Erie Gerald M. McWilliams
 2 291 Erie Sam Stull (85)
 3 290 Philadelphia John C. Miller (85)
 4 289 Delaware John C. Miller (85)
 5 284 Lancaster J. Eric Witmer
 6 279 Lancaster Tom Garner
 7 273 Luzerne William Reid
 8 268 Chester Larry Lewis (88)
 9 266 Lancaster Jerry Book
 9 266 Centre Merrill Wood (86)
 11 263 Centre Harry Henderson
 12 257 Lancaster Steve Santner (88)
 13 255 Lancaster Jan A. Witmer (87)
 14 253 Delaware Barbara M. Haas
 14 253 Lehigh Fritz Brock
 16 252 Lehigh Bernard L. Morris
 17 251 Cumberland Deuane Hoffman
 17 251 Erie Ed Kwater
 19 250 Butler David Freeland (85)
 20 249 Erie Linda McWilliams (88)
 21 246 Franklin J. Kenneth Gabler
 21 246 Butler Gene Wilhelm (1986)
 23 244 Centre Terence Schiefer
 24 243 Delaware Nick Pulcinella
 25 242 Lancaster Deuane Hoffman
 25 242 Erie David Freeland (85)
 27 241 Lancaster Barbara M. Haas
 28 240 Delaware Al Guarente
 28 240 Philadelphia Barbara M. Haas
 28 240 Lancaster Larry Lewis (88)
 28 240 Franklin Carl L. Garner (87)
 28 240 Allegheny David Freeland (85)
 33 238 Centre Rick Wiltraut
 33 238 Lehigh Rick Wiltraut
 35 237 Philadelphia Harry Franzen
 36 236 Erie George Malosh
 36 236 Philadelphia Frank Windfelder (86)
 38 234 Clinton Paul W. Schwalbe
 38 234 Dauphin George Wertz, Jr. (86)
 40 233 Philadelphia Al Guarente
 41 231 Dauphin Deuane Hoffman
 42 227 Erie Barbara M. Haas
 42 227 Montgomery Harry Franzen
 42 227 Chester John H. Ginaven (88)
 42 227 Warren Harris E. Johnson (86)
 46 226 Delaware Thomas A. Reeves
 47 225 Delaware Skip Conant
 47 225 Delaware Paul W. Schwalbe
 49 224 Chester Barbara M. Haas
 49 224 Cumberland Don Henise

County Lifelists (by county)

ADAMS

140 Deuane Hoffman
 121 Steve Santner (88)
 31 Barbara M. Haas

ALLEGHENY

240 David B. Freeland (85)
 170 Ed Kwater

168 George Malosh
 89 Barbara M. Haas
 72 Steve Santner (88)
ARMSTRONG
 187 Margaret Higbee (87)
 91 Steve Santner (88)
BEAVER
 152 George Malosh
 77 Steve Santner (88)
BEDFORD
 116 Steve Santner (88)
 65 Deuane Hoffman
 18 Don Henise
BERKS
 199 Terence Schiefer
 192 Larry Lewis (88)
 188 Barbara M. Haas
 168 Deuane Hoffman
 157 Steve Santner (88)
 156 Gene Wilhelm (1986)
 122 Al Guarente
 113 Nick Pulcinella
BLAIR
 133 David Kyler (86)
 103 Steve Santner (88)
 39 Don Henise
BRADFORD
 214 William Reid
 168 Frances E. Biles (85)
 105 Barbara M. Haas
 102 Steve Santner (88)
 95 Randy Miller
BUCKS
 197 Stan Glowacki (87)
 182 Harry Franzen
 114 Bernard L. Morris
 111 Steve Santner (88)
 92 Barbara M. Haas
BUTLER
 250 David B. Freeland (85)
 246 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. (86)
 165 George Malosh
 92 Steve Santner (88)
 58 Barbara M. Haas

CAMBRIA

100 Steve Santner (88)
 14 Barbara M. Haas

CAMERON

76 Steve Santner (88)

CARBON

222 Rick Wiltraut
 168 Bernard L. Morris
 110 Steve Santner (88)
 70 Barbara M. Haas

67 Al Guarente

CENTRE

266 Merrill Wood (86)
 263 Harry Henderson
 244 Terence Schiefer
 238 Rick Wiltraut
 174 Paul W. Schwalbe
 162 Russ Ruffing (87)
 136 Steve Santner (88)
 120 Barbara M. Haas
 113 Deuane Hoffman

CHESTER

268 Larry Lewis (88)
 227 John H. Ginaven (88)
 224 Barbara M. Haas
 223 Phillips B. Street
 201 Al Guarente
 148 Nick Pulcinella
 132 Steve Santner (88)
 111 Terence Schiefer

CLARION

88 Steve Santner (88)

CLEARFIELD

87 Paul W. Schwalbe
 87 Steve Santner (88)

CLINTON

234 Paul W. Schwalbe
 119 Steve Santner (88)
 101 Barbara M. Haas

COLUMBIA

86 Steve Santner (88)

CRAWFORD

189 Margaret Higbee (87)
 189 Roger Higbee (87)
 124 George Malosh
 109 Steve Santner (88)
 102 Terence Schiefer

CUMBERLAND

251 Deuane Hoffman
 224 Don Henise
 177 Steve Santner (88)
 176 George Wertz, Jr. (86)
 21 Barbara M. Haas

DAUPHIN

234 George Wertz, Jr. (86)
 231 Deuane Hoffman
 212 Steve Santner (88)
 84 Don Henise

DELAWARE

289 John C. Miller (85)
 253 Barbara M. Haas
 243 Nick Pulcinella
 240 Al Guarente
 226 Thomas A. Reeves
 225 Skip Conant

225 Paul W. Schwalbe
 216 John H. Ginaven (88)
 113 Steve Santner (88)

ELK
 70 Steve Santner (88)

ERIE
 299 Gerald M. McWilliams
 291 Sam Stull (85)
 251 Ed Kwater
 249 Linda McWilliams (88)
 242 David B. Freeland (85)
 236 George Malosh
 227 Barbara M. Haas
 219 Deuane Hoffman
 219 Margaret Higbee (87)
 218 Roger Higbee (87)
 197 Terence Schiefer
 158 Steve Santner (88)

FAYETTE
 88 Steve Santner (88)
 73 Roy A. Ickes (87)
 18 Barbara M. Haas

FOREST
 142 Ted Grisez
 84 Steve Santner (88)

FRANKLIN
 246 J. Kenneth Gabler
 240 Carl L. Garner (87)
 123 Deuane Hoffman
 105 Steve Santner (88)
 76 Don Henise

FULTON
 118 Robert Walker
 95 Steve Santner (88)

GREENE
 91 Roy A. Ickes (87)
 81 Steve Santner (88)
 77 Barbara M. Haas

HUNTINGDON
 198 David Kyler (86)
 102 Steve Santner (88)
 96 Terence Schiefer

INDIANA
 209 Margaret Higbee (87)
 207 Roger Higbee (87)
 195 Anne Hedgpeth (86)
 111 Steve Santner (88)
 35 Barbara M. Haas

JEFFERSON
 74 Steve Santner (88)
 61 Margaret Higbee (87)

JUNIATA
 102 Steve Santner (88)
 100 Deuane Hoffman

LACKAWANNA
 70 Steve Santner (88)

LANCASTER
 284 J. Eric Witmer
 279 Tom Garner
 266 Jerry Book
 257 Steve Santner (88)
 255 Jan A. Witmer (87)
 242 Deuane Hoffman
 241 Barbara M. Haas
 240 Larry Lewis (88)
 214 Randy Miller
 201 George Wertz, Jr. (86)
 180 Terence Schiefer
 172 Dennis Weaver
 144 Al Guarente
 114 Don Henise

LAWRENCE
 61 Steve Santner (88)

LEBANON
 220 Steve Santner (88)
 202 Deuane Hoffman
 154 Randy Miller
 152 George Wertz, Jr. (86)
 70 Barbara M. Haas

LEHIGH
 253 Fritz Brock
 252 Bernard L. Morris
 238 Rick Wiltraut
 93 Barbara M. Haas
 92 Steve Santner (88)

LUZERNE
 273 William Reid
 216 Mark Blauer (85)
 103 Steve Santner (88)
 39 Barbara M. Haas

LYCOMING
 216 Paul W. Schwalbe
 118 Steve Santner (88)
 65 Barbara M. Haas

MCKEAN
 91 Ted Grisez
 68 Steve Santner (88)

MERCER
 110 Steve Santner (88)

MIFFLIN
 98 Steve Santner (88)

MONROE
 221 Phillips B. Street
 94 Bernard L. Morris
 89 Steve Santner (88)
 64 Al Guarente

MONTGOMERY
 227 Harry Franzen

201 Bernard L. Morris
 134 Steve Santner (88)
 107 Robert Walker
 98 Barbara M. Haas

MONTOUR
 211 Barbara M. Haas
 197 Allen Schweinsberg
 119 Steve Santner (88)

NORTHAMPTON
 221 Rick Wiltraut
 196 Bernard L. Morris
 63 Steve Santner (88)

NORTHUMBERLAND
 203 Allen Schweinsberg
 166 Barbara M. Haas
 104 Steve Santner (88)

PERRY
 178 Deuane Hoffman
 140 Steve Santner (88)
 113 Don Henise
 12 Barbara M. Haas

PHILADELPHIA
 290 John C. Miller (85)
 240 Barbara M. Haas
 237 Harry Franzen
 236 Frank Windfelder (86)
 233 Al Guarente
 217 Nick Pulcinella
 215 Skip Conant
 212 John H. Ginaven (88)
 135 Steve Santner (88)
 118 Terence Schiefer

PIKE
 100 Barbara M. Haas
 77 Steve Santner (88)

POTTER
 101 Paul W. Schwalbe
 80 Steve Santner (88)

SCHUYLKILL
 220 Tom Clauser
 118 Steve Santner (88)
 117 Barbara M. Haas
 48 Al Guarente

SNYDER
 150 Allen Schweinsberg
 111 Steve Santner (88)
 33 Barbara M. Haas

SOMERSET
 116 Steve Santner (88)
 30 Barbara M. Haas

SULLIVAN
 140 Skip Conant
 96 Steve Santner (88)
 59 Barbara M. Haas

48	Al Guarente	203	Randy Miller	County Annual Lists (by county)		
46	Randy Miller	202	Al Guarente	ALLEGHENY		
SUSQUEHANNA				96	George Malosh 1982	
153	William Reid	202	William Reid	93	George Malosh 1974	
98	Steve Santner (88)	153	Matt Wlasniewski	ARMSTONG		
89	Barbara M. Haas	PA Annual Lists (top 50)			142	Margaret Higbee 1986
TIOGA				1	288	Barbara M. Haas 1986
113	Steve Santner (88)	1	288	Franklin C. Haas 1986	139	Margaret Higbee 1987
66	Barbara M. Haas	3	278	Sam Stull 1979	BEAVER	
UNION				3	278	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
210	Allen Schweinsberg	5	268	Terence Schiefer 1985	110	George Malosh 1974
132	Barbara M. Haas	5	268	Deuane Hoffman 1986	105	George Malosh 1975
109	Steve Santner (88)	7	263	Gerald M. McWilliams 1983	BERKS	
VENANGO				8	259	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
84	Steve Santner (88)	9	255	Franklin C. Haas 1977	170	Terence Schiefer 1981
WARREN				9	255	Ed Kwater 1989
227	Harris E. Johnson (86)	11	254	Barbara M. Haas 1977	167	Terence Schiefer 1982
217	Ted Grisez	12	252	John H. Ginaven 1978	145	Matt Wlasniewski 1989
108	Steve Santner (88)	12	252	Bonnie L. Baird 1979 (Birding)	138	Terence Schiefer 1980
WASHINGTON				12	252	James J. Baird 1979 (Birding)
210	Margaret Higbee (87)	12	252	Gerald M. McWilliams 1988	134	Matt Wlasniewski 1988
209	Roger Higbee (87)	16	251	Gerald M. McWilliams 1989	BLAIR	
173	Roy A. Ickes (87)	16	251	Steve Santner 1989 (Birding)	121	Beryl Sternagle 1989
161	Russ Ruffing (87)	18	250	Gerald M. McWilliams 1979	BRADFORD	
141	George Malosh	19	249	David B. Freeland 1984	82	Skip Conant 1988
WAYNE				20	248	Gerald M. McWilliams 1985
121	William Reid	21	247	James G. Stull 1976 (Birding)	BUCKS	
81	Steve Santner (88)	21	247	Gerald M. McWilliams 1982	156	Bruce McNaught 1987
WESTMORELAND				21	247	Terence Schiefer 1986
101	Steve Santner (88)	24	246	Barbara M. Haas 1979	BUTLER	
20	Barbara M. Haas	24	246	Gerald M. McWilliams 1980	245	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
WYOMING				24	246	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
218	William Reid	24	246	David B. Freeland 1981 (Birding)	225	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
117	Skip Conant	24	246	Gerald M. McWilliams 1984	224	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1981
95	Barbara M. Haas	29	245	John H. Ginaven 1979	218	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984
81	Steve Santner (88)	29	245	Terence Schiefer 1984	217	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1980
61	Al Guarente	29	245	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985	215	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1979
YORK				29	245	Larry Lewis 1986
172	Steve Santner (88)	33	244	Franklin C. Haas 1979	CENTRE	
172	George Wertz, Jr. (86)	33	244	Steve Santner 1986	224	Terence Schiefer 1985
147	Deuane Hoffman	33	244	Ed Kwater 88 (Birding)	214	Terence Schiefer 1986
87	Don Henise	36	241	Bonnie L. Baird 1978 (Birding)	211	Terence Schiefer 1984
77	Barbara M. Haas	36	241	James J. Baird 1978 (Birding)	191	Terence Schiefer 1983
PA Annual Lists 1989				38	240	Bernard L. Morris 1981
255	Ed Kwater	38	240	Franklin C. Haas 1982	180	Merrill Wood 1986
251	Gerald M. McWilliams	38	240	Gerald Book 1986 (Birding)	CHESTER	
251	Steve Santner (Birding)	41	239	Gerald M. McWilliams 1987	225	Larry Lewis 1988
218	Tom Clauser	42	238	David B. Freeland 1974 (Birding)	221	Larry Lewis 1983
215	Ronald F. Leberman	43	236	Gerald M. McWilliams 1986	219	Larry Lewis 1986
213	Skip Conant	44	233	David B. Freeland 1971 (Birding)	216	Larry Lewis 1984
211	Don Henise	45	232	Tom Clauser 1987	215	Larry Lewis 1982
		46	230	Steve Santner 1982	214	Larry Lewis 1987
		46	230	Al Guarente 1986	209	Larry Lewis 1985
		48	229	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984	CRAWFORD	
		49	228	David B. Freeland 1970 (Birding)	202	Ronald F. Leberman 1989
		49	228	John H. Ginaven 1986	100	Terence Schiefer 1984
		49	228	Larry Lewis 1987	89	George Malosh 1974
		49	228	Steve Santner 1987	81	George Malosh 1973
					61	Margaret Higbee 1987

CUMBERLAND									
227	Deuane Hoffman	1989							
221	Deuane Hoffman	1986							
200	Don Henise	1989							
196	Don Henise	1988							
106	Steve Santner	1986							
DAUPHIN									
205	Deuane Hoffman	1986							
114	Steve Santner	1986							
DELAWARE									
241	John C. Miller	1969							
165	Skip Conant	1989							
164	Skip Conant	1987							
155	Skip Conant	1988							
ERIE									
264	Sam Stull	1979							
251	Gerald M. McWilliams	1983							
251	Gerald M. McWilliams	1988							
248	Gerald M. McWilliams	1989							
244	Gerald M. McWilliams	1985							
243	Gerald M. McWilliams	1979							
243	Gerald M. McWilliams	1981							
242	Gerald M. McWilliams	1984							
234	Gerald M. McWilliams	1980							
234	Gerald M. McWilliams	1982							
234	Gerald M. McWilliams	1987							
234	Ed Kwater	1989							
230	Gerald M. McWilliams	1986							
221	Linda McWilliams	1986							
219	Linda McWilliams	1987							
218	Gerald M. McWilliams	1978							
215	Linda McWilliams	1988							
163	Ronald F. Leberman	1989							
FRANKLIN									
153	J. Kenneth Gabler	1987							
141	J. Kenneth Gabler	1988							
FULTON									
115	J. Kenneth Gabler	1988							
GREENE									
137	Ralph K. Bell	1985							
134	Ralph K. Bell	1986							
INDIANA									
172	Margaret Higbee	1986							
171	Margaret Higbee	1987							
LANCASTER									
202	Steve Santner	1986							
194	Steve Santner	1987							
184	Randy Miller	1989							
180	Larry Lewis	1988							
138	Terence Schiefer	1985							
LEBANON									
187	Steve Santner	1987							
152	Steve Santner	1986							
LEHIGH									
200	Bernard L. Morris	1984							
PHILADELPHIA									
225	John C. Miller	1965							
152	Skip Conant	1988							
142	Skip Conant	1989							
SCHUYLKILL									
191	Tom Clauser	1987							
167	Tom Clauser	1988							
159	Tom Clauser	1985							
156	Tom Clauser	1989							
SULLIVAN									
114	Skip Conant	1987							
98	Skip Conant	1988							
98	Skip Conant	1989							
92	Skip Conant	1986							
WARREN									
152	Ted Grisez	1985							
WASHINGTON									
134	Russ Ruffing	1985							
132	Roy A. Ickes	1984							
100	George Malosh	1975							
94	George Malosh	1976							
87	Margaret Higbee	1987							
WYOMING									
86	Skip Conant	1988							
85	Skip Conant	1989							
81	Skip Conant	1987							
80	Skip Conant	1986							
YORK									
100	Steve Santner	1986							
County Annual Lists (over 200)									
1	264	Erie Sam Stull	1979						
2	251	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1983						
2	251	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1988						
4	248	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1989						
5	245	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1983						
6	244	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1985						
7	243	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1979						
7	243	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1981						
9	242	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1984						
10	241	Delaware John C. Miller	1969						
11	234	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1980						
11	234	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1982						
11	234	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1987						
11	234	Erie Ed Kwater	1989						
15	230	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1986						
16	229	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1985						
17	227	Cumberland Deuane Hoffman	1989						
18	225	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1982						
18	225	Chester Larry Lewis	1988						
18	225	Philadelphia John C. Miller	1965						
21	224	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1981						
21	224	Centre Terence Schiefer	1985						
23	221	Chester Larry Lewis	1983						
23	221	Cumberland Deuane Hoffman	1986						
23	221	Erie Linda McWilliams	1986						
26	219	Chester Larry Lewis	1986						
26	219	Erie Linda McWilliams	1987						
28	218	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1984						
28	218	Erie Gerald M. McWilliams	1978						
30	217	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1980						
31	216	Chester Larry Lewis	1984						
32	21S	Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1979						
32	215	Chester Larry Lewis	1982						
32	215	Erie Linda McWilliams	1988						
35	214	Centre Terence Schiefer	1986						
35	214	Chester Larry Lewis	1987						
37	211	Centre Terence Schiefer	1984						
38	209	Chester Larry Lewis	1985						
39	205	Dauphin Deuane Hoffman	1986						
40	202	Crawford Ronald F. Leberman	1989						
40	202	Lancaster Steve Santner	1986						
42	200	Cumberland Don Henise	1989						
42	200	Lehigh Bernard L. Morris	1984						

Summary of the Season

When people received their heating bills for December they must have wondered how they would survive the rest of the winter...thinking, the *cold* weather has yet to come. Little did anyone know that we would have two heat waves before the quarter's end. Eighty degree temperatures in February and March in many counties were unprecedented. Many species that remain in the southern states for the winter returned quite early. The Sagers (*Somerset*) mentioned "it was hard to separate wintering and migration records." Generally, it is not easy to find a **Common Loon** in January or February in Pennsylvania, but there were several records this quarter. **Red-necked Grebe**, found in *Chester*, *Erie*, *Indiana* and *York* Counties may be uncommon, but the **Horned Grebe** pull-ing at a pantsleg in *Clearfield* was clearly most unusual! The only reliable location for **Great Cormorant** remains in *Philadelphia*, where a remarkable 30 were seen. *Clarion* birders noted that **Tundra Swan** came through early this year.

Single **Greater White-fronted Geese** was found in *Berks* and *Bucks*, but went unreported in *Chester* for the first time in many years. An amazine five Greater White-fronted Geese were seen and photographed in *Lancaster*. After last quarter's influx of **Brant** statewide, the only reports were in *Bucks* and *Montour*. The **Barnacle Goose** that excited *Chester* birders may have moved to a more traditional (three historical records) *Lancaster* location. Also possibly moving around was the **Eurasian Wigeon** that stayed in *Lancaster* until February and later reported in *Lebanon*, where Santner had the privilege of seeing one on two separate occasions at two locations. The *Berks* **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen until late January.

Perhaps the most compelling question was asked by the Higbees (*Indiana*). "Where are all the **Redheads**? *Bucks* birders listed it as the duck find of the winter! and for all the mild weather and the many bodies of water that are well-birded in *Somerset*, not one Redhead was produced. Were the past two years of drought in the Midwest responsible for the apparent decline? It would be interesting for someone to compile some statistics of breeding success in the last years, plus compilation of other available data to see what the impact might be for reduced hunting pressures in order to allow the population to recover. Any takers?

Turkey Vulture were overwintering in several counties where birders expect them only come March. Who would have expected records of **Osprey** in January? But they were found in *Centre* and *Huntingdon*. **Bald Eagles** had set up housekeeping by quarter's end on the Susquehanna River in *Lancaster* and there is a new nesting record for *Butler*. **Rough-legged Hawks** were not in big numbers anywhere, probably not moving down without the weather pressures from up north. **Peregrine Falcons** are now becoming year-round residents, expected in *Philadelphia*, but newly-welcomed in *Allegheny*, where they may be attempting to nest. Stay tuned.

There wasn't much to report for shorebirds, but at least a **Least Sandpiper** made it to *Bucks* and Grove was treated to a flock of **Common Snipe** during a heavy snow squall in *Mifflin*. **Am. Woodcock** could not resist the warm weather to start displaying in several areas as early as early February, but read more as to possible survival.

Gulls deserted the Susquehanna River but made news elsewhere. *Erie*

had the most variety and numbers, as expected. *Carbon* had its first February record of **Bonaparte's Gull**. But *Centre* recorded its *first* county record for **Iceland Gull**, and *Lehigh* its *first* record of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. *Bucks* birders were treated to **Lesser Black-backed**, **Iceland** and **Glaucous** gulls. The best bird on the *Philadelphia* Mid-winter Bird Census in January was a Glaucous Gull and another Glaucous Gull made a one-day appearance in *York*. Single **Barred Owl** made their appearance in *Bucks* and *Delaware*, both unusual.

What was a **Chimney Swift** doing in *Bucks* in late March? The warm weather in mid-March had **E. Phoebe** exploding across the state (see next page). *Chester* and *York* upstaged this influx by having one arrive after the February heat wave. **Tree Swallow** equally took advantage of a promising food supply by making their presence known on early March dates.

A **Common Raven** made news in *Monroe*, perhaps more evidence that this species is expanding its range (or reclaiming old areas). Many compilers noted high numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found in exceptional numbers in many areas. Many will probably remain to breed. Spruce plantation areas, especially around reservoirs, should be monitored for breeding activity. If P.O.R.C. accepts the **Bohemian Waxwing** record in *Mercer*, it will be the first sighting of this species in many years.

For the first time in many years, both species of shrike were recorded. A **N. Shrike** was found in five counties (*Armstrong*, *Centre*, *Clarion*, *Erie*, *Warren*). Two **Loggerhead Shrike** were found in *Adams* and the sharp-eyed Murphys found a **Loggerhead Shrike** in *Franklin* while out

adding a **Harris' Sparrow** to their Pennsylvania list. Warblers could not resist the chance to establish a few new records, a **Pine** in *Westmoreland* in February may be their first such record and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** in *Chester* was found in mid-March.

The **Western Tanager** (*Montgomery*) was seen into late January when its food supply was apparently exhausted. Where did it go? **Dickcissel** were found in *Bucks, Centre, Crawford* and *Wayne*, for the best winter appearance in years. **Am. Tree Sparrows** were found in decent numbers and early **Chipping Sparrows** were found in *Allegheny, Delaware* and *Erie*. **Fox Sparrows** were quite well reported. The aforementioned **Harris' Sparrow** (*Franklin*) was last seen in early March by birders from New Orleans, LA, who had a rather successful trip north and were also reporting birds from (@@@@). A flock of 1000-1500 **Snow Bunting** put on a spectacular show in *Lawrence*.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** made a brief visit to an *Erie* feeder. The only **Pine Grosbeaks** were seen in *York*, their first record in six years. **Purple Finch** had their best reporting in several years. But come on, **House Finch**, give us a break. A nest with four young was found in March (*Mifflin*)! The only reported **Red Crossbill** were found in *Butler*, but **White-winged Crossbill** were more widespread. They were found in seven counties (*Carbon, Centre, Clearfield, Elk, Erie, Indiana, and Tioga*). The *Clearfield* record may be a county first. Witmer was out working in *Lebanon* and found two **Common Redpoll** at a feeder. Kinda brightens your work day! If you were out birding, or even at home just watching feeders, it was hard to miss **Pine Siskins**. But consider the busy fingers at Powdermill Nature Reserve (*Westmoreland*) where by the end of the quarter they had banded over 1100, and "where a few individuals showed evidence of breeding..." write Leberman and Mulvihill.

At least **Evening Grosbeak** were

sparsely reported, and the single-day high state-wide was 24 at a feeding station in *Monroe*.

Not all counts are over once the Christmas Bird Counts are in. *Philadelphia* has held a mid-winter bird census for four years, Tyler Arboretum in *Delaware* has done the same for many years, and *Huntingdon* has initiated its first Bald Eagle census at Lake Raystown. Since 1982, there has been a Bald Eagle census of the lower Susquehanna River which also includes Maryland. These counts, as are all others, are important to the understanding of the status and distribution of many species. Obviously, fluctuations are part of the picture that contribute to our knowledge of what is happening where. In future issues we will try and present the data in an appropriate format.

Read on for the particulars in your favorite birding area.

Dear Editors:

...I've only been a subscriber for one year and congratulate you both for your superb effort in bringing a much needed publication to Pennsylvania birders. It is delightful to get information from all parts of the state instead of just the prime birding areas as reported in *American Birds*. These county reports will eventually make a great data base. I wish you continued success.

Before I close, in Vol. 3, No. 1 on page 9 you printed a poem I recited many times while an instructor at the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut. I have seen "Up from the Egg" printed many times with the author listed as anonymous, but just for your information, the author is Ogden Nash.

Hope you can use my article. I want it to trigger or renew some interest in owl counting.

Dick Byers
Murrysville, PA 15668

Dear Editors:

Rick Wiltraut had an interesting comment about the Bethlehem-Easton CBC's sharp rise in Red-bellied Woodpeckers and major decline in Hairy Woodpeckers since 1970 (**PB** 3:153). He wondered whether Red-bellied are aggressively driving out Hairy, or whether development is replacing woods favored by Hairy with semi-wooded areas favored by Red-bellied. Though Hairy could be declining for some entirely different reason, Wiltraut suggested convincingly that both of those factors are probably involved.

One experience of mine points more toward competition than to habitat change. Hairy had lived continuously in a park woodland in northern Allegheny County since at least 1970 when I began birding there. In 1985 a Red-bellied pair began occupying the same territory. Both species continued to share the site in 1986 and 1987, but when I returned to the area after a two-year absence in 1990 the Hairys were gone and the Red-bellieds had the territory to themselves.

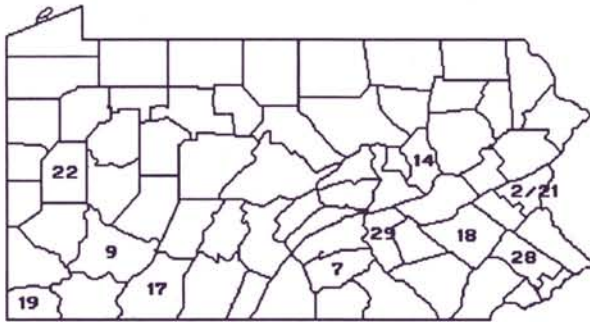
Significantly, the woodland is completely undisturbed; in fact its traditional Pileated Woodpecker pair remains. Thus habitat does not seem to be involved here.

One of the apparently long-lived Hairys could simply have died, so this single case doesn't prove anything. Yet it does seem to illustrate one of the possibilities Wiltraut suggested. I noticed no interaction between the species, which of course doesn't rule out some kind of competition. For example, Red-bellieds have been known to usurp other species' nest cavities. Most sources indicate that Hairys excavate their nests earlier, so the timing would enable such interference. (The Red-bellieds also are so incessantly noisy that I wouldn't blame the Hairys for leaving jsut to get a little peace and quiet!)

To help examine the subject further, I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has observed possible competition, habitat loss or other problems affecting Hairy Woodpeckers.

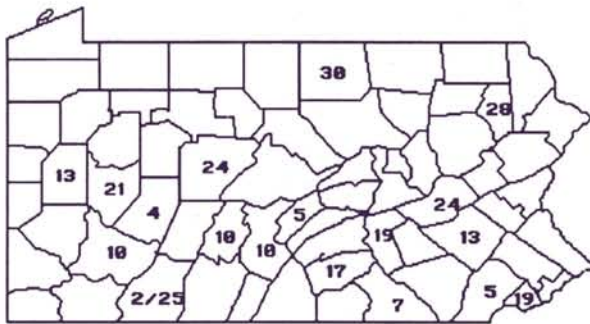
Paul Hess
1412 Hawthore St.
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Early Arrival Dates for Eastern Phoebe in Pennsylvania 1987 - 1990



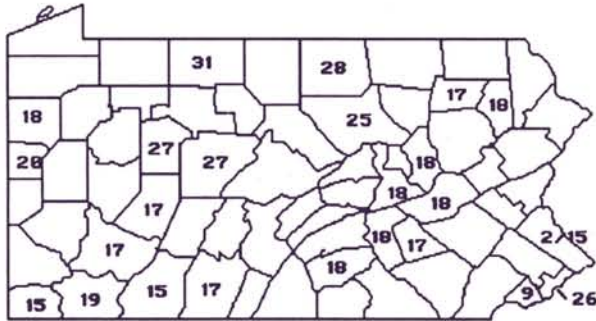
1987

Average Date: March 15



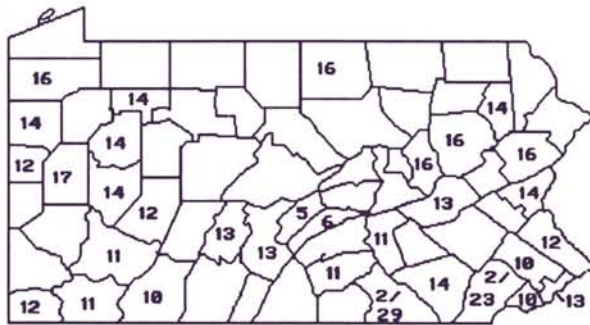
1988

Average Date: March 14



1989

Average Date: March 18



1990

Average Date: March 12

All dates are March unless otherwise indicated.

COUNTY REPORTS - January through March 1990

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, *fide:*reported by, **Ft.:**Fort, **imm.:**immature, **indiv.:**individual(s), **L.:**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.

ADAMS COUNTY

Art and Eleanor Kennell

Two **Loggerhead Shrike** were found near Pumping Station Rd. in March.

OBSERVERS: Eleanor & Art Kennell, 799 Baltimore St., Gettysburg 17325.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Joe Grom

Abbreviations: Harrison Hills Park (HHP), North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park (SoP).

Jan. highlights included PB's waterfowl behind the "pen" on the Ohio R. 1/22. **Canada Goose** 39, **Canvasback** 1, **Common Goldeneye** 6, **Bufflehead** 4. Raptors have become citified, living off pigeon, finch and sparrow. Numerous **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel** reports, plus a few other species, attest to that!

The best hawk report might have been the pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** 2/13 in Sewickley found by EK had it not been superseded in downtown PGH 2/7 by not 1 but, eventually in early April, 2 (a nesting pair?) **Peregrine Falcon!** These birds were originally reported to AG by Patrick Carey who found it (them) from his 10th floor office in the Gulf Building. The birds have been seen on numerous occasions, as reported almost every other day in the daily papers, by m.ob. The success of the nesting will be updated in the next issue.

WH had the lone **Ring-necked Pheasant** sighting(s) in Whitehall 1/15,23. P&DH on 1/8 counted a max. 42 **Mourning Dove** at their Natrona Heights feeding station. **Great Horned Owl** were heard and seen by PB in Kilbuck Twp 1/3-22 and reported to AG near Vincentian Home, McKnight Rd., North Hills 1/8. Hammond at Whitehall, 1/6 and A. Grom in North Hills, 1/31, still bother regularly reporting **Red-bellied Woodpecker**. These two alertly record **Hairy Woodpecker**. WH also lists a **Pileated Woodpecker** in SoP 1/5. P&DH's 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** never showed up after 1/3 at their Natrona Heights home. However the same species continued all month at PB's Kilbuck Twp feeder and on 1/10 at a Glenshaw feeder *fide* AG. Only 1 **Carolina Wren** was listed—by WH in Bethel Park 1/25.

No less than 4 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found at Rocky Run, Kilbuck Twp by PB 1/13. On 1/18 the same observer watched the female

of a pair of **E. Bluebird** already inspecting old woodpecker holes in N. Fayette Twp snags. M&EW had a **N. Mockingbird** in their Elizabeth Twp backyard 1/30. **Cedar Waxwing** small flocks were listed by PB. He also found a ♂ **Rufous-sided Towhee** in Ohio Twp on three occasions.

On 1/27, also in Ohio Twp, PB counted 4 **Am. Tree Sparrow**, where earlier on 1/6,24 he saw 6 and 3. On this same 1/27, KL & SB listed 4 more from Beechwood Farms while T&NM had their 4 a day later in Deer Lakes Park. P&DH had 2 **White-throated Sparrow** visitors at their Natrona Heights feeder 1/3—the only winter date. KL & SB enumerated 15 **Dark-eyed Junco** on the SoP golf course, but AG watched flocks of 8,8,5,12,6,2,10 during Jan. On his Sangree Rd., Ross Twp, farm RS found 12 junco. P&DH watched on 1/7 a ♂ **Purple Finch** in their Heights feeder. Although **Pine Siskin** were found in small numbers, 1-7, EK had as many as 46 in his Allison Park feeder (on 3/11 one enterprising female was seen carrying nesting material).

PB "pen" pals along the Ohio R. included **N. Pintail**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Common Goldeneye**, and 2 **Bufflehead**—all on 2/1. The first 2 **Tee Vee** floated not over Hinckley but over (P&)DH's Natrona Heights 2/10.

WH in Whitehall on 2/2 and 2/27 lists possibly the same resident **Ring-necked Pheasant**. PH recorded abandonment of her nest on 2/13 in Natrona Heights by a **Mourning Dove** that had built the flimsy structure on the unusually early date 2/5! Don't be alarmed that they will now become scarce: AG, during the same time frame, counted in Vincentian Home area alone flocks of 23, 14, 12, 40.

EK claims an **E. Screech-Owl** in a new locality near his home in Allison Park along Ferguson Rd. 2/10. PB listed **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 2/2 in Allegheny Cemetery. T&NM entertained, during all of Feb., a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. **Brown Creeper** were found in the northern as well as southern reaches of *Allegheny*. **Am. Robin** and **Cedar Waxwing** were found throughout in flocks of up to 50 or so.

R&SG found a very early (or wintering?) **Chipping Sparrow** in their yard 2/23. HRL had an on-time **Fox Sparrow** in Wildwood 2/25. The first reports of migrant **Red-winged Blackbird** were both made on 2/9 in Gibsonia (JP) and in O'Hara (PB). P&DH watched the first **Common Grackle** 2/15. A day later M&EW saw theirs. The largest mass of **Pine Siskin** (100+) came to the attention of KL at Beechwood 2/11.

While in Oakland (PGH) 3/1 EK watched a flyover of 40 **Canada Geese**. HRL emphasized that the 4 **Blue-winged Teal** he saw in NoP 3/30 were paddling NoP lake not Marshall.

There were 2 **Turkey Vulture** over Ross Twp 3/3 according to PB. A **N. Harrier** migrated over AG at Vincentian Home 3/16. All three accipiters were sighted in Mar.: 1 **Sharp-shinned** in SoP 3/12 by WH, also 1 at Hardies L., Gibsonia 3/31 by HRL; 1 **Cooper's** in West Deer Twp 3/1 by T&NM; 1 ad. **N. Goshawk** in Natrona Heights 3/24 by PH. This latter *gentilis* in bedraggled condition, made an unsuccessful pass at a flock of grackles before continuing northward.

HRL & JP had **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Hardies L. Without the aid of binoculars KL counted a kettle of 10 hawks (**Broad-winged?**) climb into the clouds above the Monongahela R. at the Point at 10 a.m. on 3/6. PB has a **Red-tailed** nest in a tulip poplar in Bellevue Borough (North Hills) under scrutiny where, contrary to others' observations, both male and female take their turn on the eggs.

Killdeer seemed to return to this area by mid-Mar. **E. Phoebe** arrival dates were also mid-Mar. KL and SB saw scads of **Tufted Titmouse** (25+), **Cedar Waxwing** 25, **N. Cardinal** 20, etc. in Schenley Park (PGH). There were 7-8 reports of **Brown Creeper**. At Crouse Run, Wildwood, 3/31 HRL found the only **Winter Wren** turned in.

Golden-crowned Kinglet abounded in T&NM and P&DH areas in n.e. *Allegheny*. (P&)DH found a "major movement" of **Am. Robin** in "northern grassy areas" where "hundreds" were estimated.

On 3/22 in HHP, P&DH counted 7 **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. After 3/15 **Rufous-sided Towhee** showed up in force. The first **Brown-headed Cowbird** came to Natrona Heights

3/15. The **Pine Siskin** hordes began to be restless feeding more on buds in the very tops of trees, chattering even more—if that were possible. More of them seemed to be paired off.

OBSERVERS: Steve Branca, Paul Brown, Jim Clark, Randi & Sarah Gerrish, Al Grom, **Joe Grom, 9360 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495)**, Walter Hammond, Paul & Deborah Hess, Ed Kwater, Karen LaFrance, H.R. Leapman, Tom & Nellie McGary, Joe Panza, Robert Schlag, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Elders Ridge (ER), Elderton (ELD), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manorville (MNV), North Buffalo Twp (NBT), Rosston (RST), SGL 247 (SGL).

Highlight of the quarter was a **N. Shrike** at SGL. Other noteworthy reports included the large influx of **Ring-billed Gull** during early Mar. and the large flocks of **Pine Siskin** visiting area feeders.

All waterfowl reports are by ES unless otherwise indicated. **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared first at RST on the AR 3/1. First **Horned Grebe** report was 3/5 at the same location, but top count was 11 on 3/17. **Great Blue Heron** was not found until 3/8 at RST. **Tundra Swan** reports were limited to two—4 at RST 1/2 and 1 at KR 3/8 (MC,MH). Up to 200 **Canada Geese** were found at MNV during Jan. **Wood Duck** arrived at RST 3/3 and at KR 3/4 (MC,MH). A **Green-winged Teal** at RST 3/17 was the lone report. **Am. Black Duck** and **Mallard** were present at MNV until mid-Mar., with best counts 40 on 3/5 and 36 on 3/31 respectively. **N. Pintail** at MNV 3/7 was a nice find. A single **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at RST 3/17. Best **Am. Wigeon** count was 8 at KR 3/8 (MC,MH). Two **Redhead** at MNV 3/3 were the lone report. (*Where are all the Redhead?*) High counts of **Ring-necked Duck** included 55 at MNV 3/5 (DL,ES) and 61 at KR 3/8 (MC,MH). Three **Greater Scaup** were listed at RST 3/5 and at KR 3/16 (MC,MH). Top **Lesser Scaup** tally was a mere 12 at RST 3/22. Five **Oldsquaw** at RST 3/17 were a nice find. Two **Common Goldeneye** were observed at MNV 1/2, but not seen again until 3/2 when the river started to open up again; 4 were also found at RST 3/7. A lone **Bufflehead** was found at RST 1/5 and 2/13. Top count was 8 each at RST 3/5 and at KR 3/11 (DS,ES). **Hooded Merganser** were found in small rafts at RST, MNV, and ELD, but a flock of 56 at KR 3/8 (MC, MH) was a good count. **Common Merganser** was found at RST 2/13 and another singleton at MNV 3/12. Largest flock of **Red-breasted Merganser** consisted of 30+ individuals at KR 3/7 (MH,RH).

First **Turkey Vulture** was listed at Nicola 3/14 (ES), when a kettle of 5 was observed. **N. Harrier** was reported only at ER 1/14 (MH,RH *et al.*) and at SGL 2/17 (FE). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from four locations. A **Cooper's Hawk** was a persistent visitor to feeders in FC (ES). Best **Wild Turkey** tally was 27 at NBT (JV). Few **Am. Coot** were reported with top counts 2 at RST 3/5 (ES) and 3 at KR 3/8 (MC,MH). **Common Snipe** was found at ER 2/7 (MC,MH) and 3/16 (MC,MH,GL). Seven **Am. Woodcock** were counted at FC 2/12 and 5 were observed at SGL 2/17 (FE,GW). **Bonaparte's Gull** numbered 21 at RST 3/28 (ES).

The **Ring-billed Gull** migration was so much in evidence this year that the Kittanning newspaper featured these "sea-gulls" in their headlines! Top counts ranged from 70+ at KR 2/16 (MH,GL), 125 at MNV (DL) and 210 at FC (ES) on 3/5, to 500 in the fields surrounding ELD 3/7 (MH,RH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker again this winter visited at KTN feeder from 2/22 to 3/2 (CD). One **N. Flicker** was seen at SGL 1/22 (ES) and 2 at KTN 2/16 (CD,MH,GL). First **E. Phoebe** was seen at SGL 3/14 (ES). **Horned Lark** at ER numbered 50+ on 1/14 (MH,RH *et al.*), but only 1 could be found 2/7 (MC,MH). Eight **Tree Swallow** appeared at RST 3/17 (ES). Two **Common Raven** were both well seen and heard at ER 2/7 (MC,MH). One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were observed at FC during Feb. (JV). **Carolina Wren** reports were limited to 2—singletons at SGL 2/16 (CD,MH,GL) and at FC 2/25 (JV). **Cedar Waxwing**

reports included 63 at SGL 2/17 (ES), 14 at FC 2/7 (JV), and 12 at NBT 2/10 (JV). Best find of the season was a **N. Shrike** at SGL from 2/5 until 3/8 (ES), during which time it was observed by at least 9 other birders and photographed by GL.



Northern Shrike, SGL 247, 2/16/90. Photo by Gloria Lamer

A **Fox Sparrow** appeared at Shay 2/26 (FN). **White-crowned Sparrow** at SGL 1/22, and 2/8,20 was the lone report (ES). Up to 55 **Red-winged Blackbird** and 1 **E. Meadowlark** wintered at ER (MH,RH). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was found at KTN 2/16 (CD,MH,GL). First **Common Grackle** flock numbered 175 at ER 2/7 (MC,MH). Top **Pine Siskin** tally was 86 at FC 3/4 (GW).

OBSERVERS: Marcy Cunkelman, Caroline Davies, Flo Emmonds, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Gloria Lamer, Debby Livengood, Frances Norris, Dorothy & Ed Slovensky, Joe Valasek, Gloria Winger.

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

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

After Dec.'s harsh weather, Jan. and Feb. were unusually mild and had no persistent snowcover. Because of these conditions, there were more Jan.-Feb. reports than usual of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Am. Robin** (hundreds), **Cedar Waxwing** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

Two rarities discovered last quarter lingered into this quarter. The **Greater White-fronted Goose** found at BSF 12/25 stayed there till at least 2/25. This was the second winter for the **Eurasian Wigeon**, which was seen 1/6 (RK) and 1/21 (HJS) at a farm pond near Centerport with 25 **Am. Wigeon**.

A **Common Loon** was at LO 3/4 (MW) and single **Horned Grebe** were at Hamburg 2/18 (KG) and at LO 3/11 (LG). The high count of **Tundra Swan** was 125 near Morgantown 2/18 (RK), but 15-18 at LO in mid-Mar. (MS,MW) was a more normal number. A white **Snow Goose** at BSF 2/18 (RK,MS) was the only report. **Canada Goose** peaked at 18,000 at LO 3/11 (MS).

A ♀ **Am. Black Duck** was seen mating with a ♂ **Mallard** at the Reading Museum 3/24 (MS). The high count of **Gadwall** was 106 at Moselem Springs 1/6 (RK). Nine **Canvasback** were reported from 4 locations in Jan. and Feb. (EB,RK,MW). High counts of duck *spp.* at LO included: 1 **N. Shoveler** 1/28 (MS), 82 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/18 (MS), 3 **Oldsquaw** 3/17 (RK), 2 **Common Goldeneye** 2/4 and 3/17 (MS), 440 **Common Merganser** 2/11 (MS), 10 **Red-breasted Merganser** 2/18 (MW) and 8 **Ruddy Duck** 3/17 (RK).

Both vulture *spp.* again wintered in the Oley Valley and French Creek SP, making them unreliable harbingers of spring. An **Osprey** was in Bern Twp 3/28 (HJS). There were 3 reports of **Bald Eagle**: an imm. at HMS 2/23 (*fide* LG), an ad. at LO 2/14-18 (m.ob.) and an ad. at Hamburg 3/10 (KG). A few **N. Harrier** wintered in Berks, with a high of 5 at Blue Marsh L. 2/11 (m.ob.). A **Cooper's Hawk** near Hereford 1/7 (GLF) was the only one reported. A **N. Goshawk** was migrating over Hamburg 2/19 (KG) and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Flying Hills 2/27 (EB). Two notable concentrations of **Red-tailed Hawk** were 31 at a poultry

farm near Centerport 1/6 (RK) and 40-50 still at a n. Berks pig farm 4/1, when most local Redtails had started nesting (HJS). **Rough-legged Hawk** peaked at 9 in Marion Twp 2/4 (HJS).

The Penn Twp **Long-eared Owl** roost had 8 birds till at least 1/28 (HJS). A **Short-eared Owl** was near Albany 1/23 (LG) and another stayed near Lyons in Feb. (RM). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was located near HR 1/7 (KG).

Two **Barn Swallow** at LO 3/25 were early (MS). A **Common Raven** flew back and forth calling over HMS 1/9 (LG). After last fall's invasion, there were reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at several feeders and conifer stands through Mar., but in the Hamburg area most birds moved on after Jan. (KG). **Brown Creeper** numbers were "well above normal" (e.g., 7 near HR 1/7) on the Kittatinny Ridge near Hamburg in Jan/Feb (KG). The first **Palm Warbler** was seen 3/30 (HJS).

A northbound flock of 100+ **Am. Tree Sparrow** was seen near Virginsville 3/11 (BS,MS). Springlike weather stimulated early movement of **Fox Sparrow**, with a bird in Pike Twp 2/10 about 2 weeks earlier than normal (RK). The only report of **Rusty Blackbird** was a bird at Peters Cr. 3/11 (BS,MS). **Purple Finch** remained scarce, with only 3 reported (RK,HJS). Small flocks of **Pine Siskin** were widely reported at feeders, and a few larger flocks were seen, such as 100 off and on in Bern Twp Jan. through Mar. and 40 near HR 1/28 (KG).

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Gary L. Freed, Laurie Goodrich & HMS staff, Kerry Grim, **Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown, 19512 (215-367-9376)**, Richard Matz, Harold & Joan Silagy, Barton Smith, Matt Spence, Ira Weigley, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Marcia Bonta

Abbreviations: Bellwood (BE), Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CCSP), Canoe Creek Valley (CCV), L. Altoona (LA), Mill Run Res. (MRR). All BM reports by the compiler.

The unusually warm months of Jan. and Feb. plus the unprecedented heat wave in the middle of Mar (80°F) kept bird numbers and species high and brought many species back earlier than usual. But March went out "like a lion" with freezing cold, heavy winds, and occasional snow storms, essentially stopping the migration of passerine species for several weeks.

CCSP and LA were the places to see waterfowl all quarter. One **Common Loon** at LA 3/20 (BK), 11 **Pied-billed Grebe** at CCSP 3/1 (RW,TW), **Horned Grebe** common all winter at CCSP with 3 reported for 2/1 (BK) and 7 on 3/1 (RW,TW). Two **Great Blue Heron** were seen at CCSP 3/5 (RW,TW) and 200 **Tundra Swan** 3/7 (RW,TW). Skeins of **Canada Geese** began streaming over BM on the night of 2/22, but the earliest date was 1/24 with 29 flying over MRR (BK). Three **Wood Duck** appeared at LA 3/11 (BK), the only ones reported for the quarter, as well as 6 **Am. Black Duck** at MRR 3/8 (BK). Eighteen **N. Pintail** appeared on a Sinking Valley farm pond 1/3 (BK) and 10 were reported at CCSP 3/6 (RW,TW). There were 31 **N. Shoveler** on LA 3/19 (BK), and, at CCSP, 4 **Am. Wigeon** 3/11 (RW,TW) and 3 on 3/22 (JS), 4 **Canvasback** 3/6 (RW,TW), 25 **Redhead** 2/15 (BK), 90 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/10 (JS), 12 **Lesser Scaup** 3/10 (RW,TW), several **Oldsquaw** 3/6-11 (BK,RW,TW), 20+ **Common Goldeneye** 2/15 (BK), and 16 **Bufflehead** 3/10 (RW,TW). All the mergansers were seen at CCSP including 100 **Hooded** (RW,TW), 12 **Common** (RW,TW) and 3 **Red-breasted** as early as 1/15 (BK) with 13 by 3/5 (RW,TW). Since CCSP's lake is a relatively recent creation (in the last decade), it is amazing how many waterfowl are already using it.

The first **Turkey Vulture** appeared over BM 2/18 and a single **N. Harrier** flew over Turkey Valley 3/22 (BK). A ♀ **N. Harrier** was observed patrolling overgrown fields in Sinking Valley 1/1 (DK,ML). The compiler sat on a log in the woods on 1/15 and was startled when a **N. Cardinal** came toward her, screeching and flying erratically, followed by a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. She watched as the cardinal neatly evaded the raptor by flying into a grape thicket. An imm. **N. Goshawk** was seen gliding over town center Tyrone 2/26 (DK), probably looking for "squab a la city." BM also had a wintering **Red-tailed Hawk** which suffered the attack of 2 **Am. Crow** 2/7 and protested by

squawking and attempting to evade their swoops. The first migrant **Red-tailed Hawk** were probably those seen at CCSP 3/15 (RW,TW). **Am. Kestrel** first appeared on BM 3/28, **Ruffed Grouse** began drumming 3/4 on BM, and **Wild Turkey** gobbling very early 3/13. **Killdeer** were heard calling over BM 3/5, while 50 appeared at CCSP 3/15 (RW,TW). New Year's Day birding in Sinking Valley produced 2 **Common Snipe** in a farm spring outflow, with watercress present (DK,ML). More than 170 **Ring-billed Gull** were counted at CCSP 2/8 (BK).

Red-bellied and **Pileated** woodpeckers common all winter at BM as well as at least 1 **N. Flicker**. **E. Phoebe** returned the earliest date ever for BM 3/13. About 150 **Horned Lark** were seen along a road near newly plowed fields 3/24 (ML). At least 1 **Carolina Wren** made it through bitter Dec. on BM and reappeared 1/17, followed by **Winter Wren** 1/18. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** had the highest numbers yet all winter on BM, along with **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin**. The first **Hermit Thrush** appeared, hopping robin-like along BM mountaintop trail on a frigid, but sunny 3/27. One **N. Mockingbird** fed at a feeder in BE all winter (CH).

Early returns for sparrows on BM included **Field** 3/28, **Fox** 3/11, **Song** 2/25 and **White-throated** 3/15. A **Red-winged Blackbird** wintered at a BE feeder (CH). The first **E. Meadowlark** was reported at CCSP 3/22 (BK). Two **Rusty Blackbird** were seen in CCV 3/22 (BK). **House Finch** steadily declined in number at BM feeder (from 45 to 12) as **Pine Siskin** increased (between 30 and 40 still appearing daily by the end of March—the largest siskin invasion ever observed by the compiler here in the 18 years she has lived on BM). They were accompanied by 10-12 **Am. Goldfinch** and at our BM feeder only black oil sunflower seed (no thistle) is offered. The only reported **Evening Grosbeak** for the entire quarter was 1, seen briefly on BM, during a snowstorm 1/12. No other finch species was reported during the quarter. **Purple Finches anyone?**

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, P.O. Box 68, Tyrone, PA 16686, Colette Heller, Bill King, Dave Kyler, Melvin Lane, John Salvetti, Russ Wade, Terry Wentz.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

Red-breasted Nuthatch were present in many locations through the season. A **Winter Wren** was present at a feeder in Stevensville in late Jan. and early Feb. (MM). **Pine Siskin** were very common from mid-Jan. on (EB *et al.*). Ten **Evening Grosbeak** were at Spring Hill 2/9-10 (EB).

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Martha Meglish, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: Core Creek Park (CCP), L. Towhee (LT), L. Warren (LW), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Tyler SP (TSP).

On 3/27 a **Common Loon** was present at NSP (SF), and 4 other birds in breeding plumage were sighted at NSP 3/31 (B&NM). AM reported 5 **Horned Grebe** on NSP 1/6; 2 others were seen at PVP 3/18 (DMc). An imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed flying over Revere 1/16 (SF); a flock of approx. 80 birds were in flight over NSP heading west 2/23. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over Old Bethlehem Rd. in Milford Twp 3/10 (RH). A single **Tundra Swan** over Rt. 313 s. of Quakertown 2/3, 12 birds at PVP 2/19 (MO), and 19 at NSP 2/24 (AM) were reported. The **Greater White-fronted Goose** at PVP continued to be seen until at least 1/6 (B&NM). **Snow Goose** was reported by several observers, with 400+ in a flock seen over Revere 3/22 (SF). A blue-phase **Snow Goose** was noted at CCP 2/4 (GD). A single **Brant** was reported at CCP 2/11 (GD). The Eurasian subspecies of the **Green-winged Teal** was still present at PVP 1/13 (AM *et al.*). Four **N. Pintail** were observed at NSP 2/26 (SF). A **Redhead** seen at PVP 2/17 was surely the duck find

of the winter (AM). **Oldsquaw** were reported from both NSP and PVP 3/20 and 3/25 respectively (SF,AM). A **White-winged Scoter** first reported 3/1 was last seen 3/20 at NSP (SF). **Hooded Merganser** were noted at both NSP and PVP periodically from 2/19 through 3/31 (BD *et al.*). All of the large lakes reported **Common Merganser** in large numbers, 348 at NSP 1/29 (SF) and 250+ at CCP 2/24 (GD) being noteworthy. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at NSP 3/1 (SF), another 5 birds were seen there 3/25 (B&NM).

Several reports of **Black Vulture** were received; 2 at NSP 2/20 (SF), 2 at Chalfont 3/12 (RF), 1 over Plumstead Twp. in mid-Mar. (RH), 7 over Perkasio 3/18 (B&NM), and 5 kettling over Revere and heading NE 3/29 (SF). Early reports of **Osprey** include 2 birds at Revere 3/1 (SF), 1 at NSP 3/25 (RH), and 1 on the Delaware R. at Lumberville 3/30 (BMc). The only **Bald Eagle** reported was 1 flying over PVP 1/19 (HR). An imm. **Cooper's Hawk** was seen periodically at PVP by several observers (BH *et al.*), and 2 were seen at TSP 3/13 (JH). **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 2 birds, were observed at TSP 3/13 (JH), and another was present at Bradford Dam 3/25 (RF). The only reported **Peregrine Falcon** was seen flying over the open fields in the Perkasio area 3/31 (B&NM).

A flock of 12 **Wild Turkey** was observed in Ottsville 1/23 (KK). Two **Am. Coot**, a rare bird lately in our area, were seen at NSP 2/20 (SF), and a third bird joined them 2/26. An early **Least Sandpiper** was present at PVP 3/31 (RF *et al.*). Two **Common Snipe** were seen feeding in Pleasant Valley 3/21 (RH) and others were reported at PVP 3/28 (DA *et al.*). On 2/3 a very early **Am. Woodcock** was heard at PVP (RF,BH), and 5 were displaying at PVP 2/13 (CO).



Glaucous Gull, Nockamixon SP, 2/20/90. Photo by Alan Brady

On 1/21 an **Iceland Gull** was reported at CCP (GD), and a **Glaucous Gull** was present at NSP 2/20 (SF *et al.*). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was also at CCP 1/21, as well as a **Glaucous Gull** (GD). All three of these rare gulls were also present in the Penn Manor area of lower **Bucks** during the quarter. A fish kill at NSP attracted many gulls, among them 30+ **Great Black-backed Gull** (B&NM). A **Barred Owl** was seen on Main St. in the center of Chalfont 3/3, a very rare bird for the county (P&AG), and another was heard at LT 3/27 (SF). Efforts were made to call in both of these birds on succeeding nights but no response was received, migrants perhaps. Two **N. Saw-whet Owl**, 1 at PVP and another at Revere, were present during the period. The Revere bird was heard calling 1/30 (SF). A very early **Chimney Swift** was observed at TSP 3/29 (JH)!

Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** continue to be seen on Erie Rd. in the Quakertown area; a third bird was found dead by the side of the road in Jan. (BS), probably a road kill. Another Red-headed Woodpecker came to a feeder in Ferndale from 3/12-3/10 (ED). On 3/15 a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was present at TSP (JH). Two **Pileated Woodpecker** continue to be seen on Rock Hill Rd. in E. Rockhill Twp 3/18 (BD). **E. Phoebe** was reported from TSP, NSP, PVP, and Revere by four different observers

(JH,RH,BD,SF), *all on 3/12*. A **Fish Crow** was present at Revere 3/2 (SF). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported by many with a flock of about 25 birds seen at NSP 3/25 being the most noteworthy (B&NM). The only report of a **Winter Wren** received was from Revere 3/15 (SF). On 2/4 a **Pine Warbler** was seen in New Britain Twp (JJ). A **Common Yellowthroat** was seen at Holicong Rd. near Rt. 413 for the period 12/31/89 to 1/7 and presumed to have spent the winter in the area.

A **Dickcissel** appeared at a feeder near Carversville 3/14+ (NH) and was observed by many. Two **Fox Sparrow** were present at Revere (SF). On 1/8 an imm. **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted at the feeders at PVP (FR,DS). Six **Rusty Blackbird** were at Revere 3/15 (SF). **Pine Siskin** were seen sporadically, some observers having them regularly at their feeders. **Purple Finch** was also irregularly sighted, with 54 birds in one flock at a feeder in Revere (SF) 1/28 being noteworthy.

OBSERVERS: Don Aiman, Ellenor Davis, Gerry Dewaghe, Butch DuBonis, Steve Farbotnik, **Ron French, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765)**, Paul & Anita Guris, Ray Hendrick, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Nancy Holmquist, Joan Janowicz, Ken Kitson, Don McClintock, Bruce McNaught, August Mirabella, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Maria O'Brien, Craig Olsen, Fred Rappaport, Hart Rufe, Dorothy Sacks.

BUTLER COUNTY

Gene Wilhelm

Abbreviations: Rook Rd. (BR), Butler Boro (BB), Glades SGL (GSG), L. Arthur (LA), Moraine SP (MSP), Prospect Boro (PB), Slippery Rock Twp (SRT).

Three **Common Loon** 3/21, 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** 2/16 and 2 on 3/21, and 17 **Horned Grebe** 3/21 were all found at LA (MG). A **Great Blue Heron** was at BB and another at PB were seen 1/19 (MG). About 10,000 **Tundra Swan** flew over SRT 3/5-8 (GW) and 200 over BB 3/17 (MG); the 100 over SRT 3/20 (GW) were apparently the last migrants. Puddle ducks were up this quarter, especially **Wood Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **N. Shoveler**, **Gadwall** and **Am. Wigeon**. But **Canvasback** and **Redhead** were scarce. **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Ruddy Duck** were seen in average numbers. Fifty **Common Goldeneye** and 100+ **Bufflehead** were at LA 3/31 (MD) and 100+ **Hooded** and 1650+ **Red-breasted merganser** were at LA 3/31 (MG,GW). Eleven **Am. Coot** were also at LA 3/21 (MG).

One **Turkey Vulture** was at MSP 3/30 (GW). A pair of **Bald Eagle** are nesting at GSG (GW). **Am. Kestrel** continues its decline in s. *Butler*. The 2 **Ruffed Grouse** at Camp Lutherlyn 2/5 (MG) were the only report. A **Killdeer** returned to BB 2/13 and 9 were at LA 3/17 (MG). An **Am. Woodcock** was noted in SRT 3/13 (GW). Gull reports include: 65 **Ring-billed** and 1 **Herring** at LA 2/10 (MG); 20 **Bonaparte's** 3/21 (MG) and 100+ on 3/31 (MD), all at LA. One **E. Screech-Owl** at BB 2/13 (MG) was the only report, but **Great Horned Owl** were recorded in 12 locations. The **Belted Kingfisher** at LA 3/2 and 1 **Red-headed Woodpecker** at MSP 2/10 (MG) were early. The first report of **E. Phoebe** was 3/17 in SRT (GW). **Horned Lark** were scarce. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** vacated most winter feeders by 3/1. **Brown Creeper** were common in Feb./Mar. One **N. Mockingbird** was seen in BB 1/29 (MG). **Cedar Waxwing** were scarce, but 10 found on BR in Jan. (MG) and 20 at MSP 3/31 (MD).

Fifteen **Am. Tree Sparrow** were in Washington Twp in Jan. (MG) and 3 lingered in SRT to 3/20 (GW) where they were common all quarter. A **Chipping Sparrow** was noted in SRT 3/19 (GW) and 1 **Field Sparrow** on BR in Jan. (MG). Five **White-throated Sparrow** as well as 5 **E. Meadowlark** were noted on BR in Jan. (MG). Flocks of mixed blackbirds (**Rusty**, **Common Grackle**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, **Red-winged Blackbird**) were in SRT all quarter (GW). Six **Red Crossbill** and 33 **Common Redpoll** fed on hemlock cones in SRT 2/1,20 (GW), apparently traveling together. **Pine Siskin** were common and widespread. The 1 **Evening Grosbeak** at a feeder in BB in Jan. (MG) was the only record.

OBSERVERS: Mary Dean, Marguerite Geibel, **Gene Wilhelm, RD 2, Box 2120, Slippery Rock 16057.**

CAMERON COUNTY

Bill Hendrickson

Being lost in the valleys of the north-central mountain area gives us very little waterfowl habitat. In fact, the only area where one is likely to see any waterfowl is at the George B. Stevenson Dam located in the Sinnemahoning SP. The best time is during spring migration in Mar. and Apr. This year the following were observed: **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes, **Tundra Swan**, **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **scaup** *sp.*, **White-winged Scoter**, **Bufflehead**, **Common** and **Red-breasted** mergansers.

This winter was very unusual, with the very cold Dec. and then the relatively mild first quarter. Whether this had anything to do with it or not, we noticed that there were a large number of **Am. Robin** that stayed. In the past, this observer has been able to go from Dec. to the first week of Mar. without seeing them. Not this year.

On 2/12, a **Cooper's Hawk** swooped by the feeder and succeeded in catching a **Blue Jay**. Though it was observed in the area for a week, until 2/19, no other attacks were seen (BH). A **Golden Eagle** was observed during the middle of Mar. in the Driftwood area (MJ,RH).

On 3/14, while listening and watching **Am. Woodcock** in their spring mating rituals, a **Great Horned Owl** attempted to grab a woodcock in mid-flight, but missed. It then perched in a tree for the rest of the evening, but made no attempt to get any more woodcock (BH).

Also on 3/14, I was swooped at by a **N. Saw-whet Owl** in Sizerville SP (BH).

No unusual birds were noted at my feeder, but beginning in Mar. the number of **Pine Siskin** at the feeder rose dramatically, sometimes numbering over 100 at one time. Apparently they had exhausted their supply of cones in this area (BH).

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

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

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

A **Common Loon** was at WCR 3/30 (SS). On 3/16 a **Horned Grebe** and a **Pied-billed Grebe** were at BSP (RZ). Then on 3/31, 2 **Horned Grebe**, 2 **Lesser Scaup**, 10 **Ring-necked Duck**, and 10 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at WCR (PE,BLM). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at WCR 2/25 (BLM,PE). A **Common Snipe** was at BSP 3/18 (RZ). Two **Bonaparte's Gull** at Mauch Chunk L. 2/25 were a *1st Feb.* record for the area (BLM,PE). A singing **Pine Warbler** was at BSP 3/24 (DD).

The only unusual northern finch was a single sighting of **White-winged Crossbill** near WCR in early Jan. (RW).

OBSERVERS: Dave DeReamus, Pauline England, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut, Richard ZainEldeen.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Abbreviations: Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Colyer L. (CL).

The single **Pied-billed Grebe** 2/18 at CL (KJ,JJ), and **Horned Grebe** at Toftrees Pond 2/10 (JP,BP) were early migrants. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at CL 3/11 (EZ). Another early migrant was the ♂ **Wood Duck** along Tadpole Rd. 2/15 (BP), while the **N. Pintail** at BESP 1/7 was an unusual winter record (DB). A single **Redhead** was at Fairbrook 3/7 (GG). The 4

Ring-necked Duck at the Toftrees Pond 2/10 were also early migrants (JP,BP). A snowstorm during the night of 3/5 put waterfowl down in many areas. One observer (MW) reported the following waterfowl 3/6 at CL: 200 **Tundra Swan**, 27 **Canada Geese**, 1 **N. Pintail**, 4 **Am. Wigeon**, 4 **Canvasback**, 26 **Ring-necked Duck**, 8 **Lesser Scaup**, 3 **Oldsquaw**, 6 **White-winged Scoter**, 1 **Bufflehead**, 28 **Hooded Merganser**, and 28 **Red-breasted Merganser**. In addition, he observed 8 **Redhead** at BESP and 2 **Greater Scaup** at the Elk's Club the same day.

The first **Turkey Vulture** reported was seen near Rock Springs 2/13 (GM). An **Osprey** seen in State College 1/23 was only the *2nd winter* record of this species (DB). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at BESP 2/18 (DB). A **N. Goshawk** was reported along Gatesburg Rd. 3/9 (CY). Two ad. **Golden Eagle** at CL 3/9 were observed diving into the water (KJ,JJ).

The highlight species of the period was the **Iceland Gull** at BESP 1/17, observed and well described by Edgar Spalding. Providing the *1st county* record of this species, the first-winter Iceland arrived with a flock of 15 **Herring Gull**, 3 **Great Black-backed Gull**, and about 70 **Ring-billed Gull**. After about 10-15 minutes it departed with the other gulls and was not seen again. Nighttime forays along Tussey Mt. yielded 1 **N. Saw-whet Owl** at Rocksprings 1/24, and 2 heard (1 seen) along Keppler Rd. 1/30 (JP,BP). This is the earliest Jan. record of this species, which usually arrives in mid-Feb. A **N. Shrike** was seen at Schenck's Cemetery at BESP 1/27 (MW) and 2/18 (DB,AF), and possibly was the same indiv. that was present in early Nov.

A ♂ **Dickcissel** irregularly visited the Bordner's feeder in State College from 12/25/89 through 3/17 (DB). Presumably the same bird was seen a couple blocks away 2/1 with House Sparrow (ES). The only report of **Snow Bunting** was of 2 seen along Nixon Rd. 2/4 (GG). **Red-winged Blackbird** returned early to the Fairbrook marsh and were on territory 2/11 (about 10-14 days earlier than normal) (JP). Also apparently encouraged to return early by the mild Jan. and Feb. weather, **Common Grackle** were observed at Toftrees 2/10 (JP,BP).

The **White-winged Crossbill**, first reported 11/23 (HH), were still present through at least 2/24 at Black Moshannon SP. They were observed feeding on the abundant cone crops on the spruces and hemlocks in the area. Sightings this period included 6 on 2/11 near Mooring Area #4 on the e. side of the lake (JPa), 5 on 2/18 along Moss Hanna trail beyond Indian Trail intersection (DD), and 6 on 2/24 along Strawband Beaver Rd. (JP). **Pine Siskin** remained very common and widespread in the State College area throughout the entire period, with flocks of 200-400 being reported at different locations. Many State College birders commented on the large flocks of siskins visiting their feeders, especially during Feb. and Mar. **Evening Grosbeak**, which were first reported in the State College area in mid-Nov., remained uncommon throughout the period, mostly occurring as widely scattered small flocks of 10-25 individuals. The flock of 51 **Evening Grosbeak** seen 1/9 at CL was the largest reported during the winter season (KJ,JJ).

OBSERVERS: Dave Bell (DBe), Dorothy Bordner, David Darney, Alice Fuller, Greg Grove, Harry Henderson, Katherine & Jennings Jones, Gary Moorman, Jerry Pasquarella (JPa), **John & Becky Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Edgar Spalding, Merrill Wood, Chuck Yohn, Eugene Zielinski.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Abbreviations: Hibernia Park (HP), Kurtz' Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MC), Pickering Res. (PR), Pond on Wood's Rd. (PWR), Struble L. (SL).

Common Loon were first observed at MC 3/21 in nearly complete breeding plumage. As many as 4 were there through quarter's end. Grebe species were represented well at MC, with 2 **Red-necked Grebe** there from 3/18+ and 1 still there 4/1. Both **Horned** and **Pied-billed** grebe were also at MC and SL during this same time span. **Tundra Swan** were first reported at SL 1/28 with 4 indiv. seen. This species was reported since then at SL, KFF, and MC, with a high count of 16 at SL 3/13. Wintering **Canada Geese** numbers were way up, with 6000+ at PR 2/28. A

Barnacle Goose was observed along Todd Rd. near Honey Brook 2/15-16 (m.ob.). This bird was in a large flock of Canada Geese, 1 of which was albinistic. The Barnacle Goose was observed with no leg bands and was seen sporadically in the area for 3 days. For the first time in many years no Greater White-fronted Goose was observed. **Snow Goose** were first seen in small numbers during mid-Feb. and remained until the end of the quarter, with an unusually high count of 500+ at SL 3/18.

Wood Duck were observed fairly regularly during early Mar., with 6 seen at once near Glenmoore. A ♂ **Blue-winged Teal** was at MC 3/21 "swimming in deep water." On 3/13, 4 **Gadwall** were at SL along with a flock of 20 **Am. Wigeon**. Good numbers of **Ring-necked Duck**, with a high count of 147 on 3/17 were at a pond along Rt. 345. **Oldsquaw** was seen at SL, MC and the Rt. 345 pond during mid-Mar., with a high count of 14 at MC 3/20. At SL 3/20 were 4 **Black Scoter** and 2 **White-winged Scoter** at MC. About 150 **Common Merganser** were at PR 2/28.

An imm. **Bald Eagle** was at SL 3/13. An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 2/17 near Nottingham, possibly 1 of the pair that has been at Octoraro Res.

What seemed to be a wild **Wild Turkey** was coming to JM's feeder 3/29-31. When he took someone outside to look at it, he saw 2 Wood Duck perched on his home's gutter. Birds do never cease to surprise, do they!

Two **Bonaparte's Gull** were at MC 3/20 and 2 more were observed in a rather unusual location, flying around a farmer's field with a flock of 25 **Ring-billed Gull**. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was at SL 2/5. Two **N. Saw-whet Owl** were at HP from 2/6 until late Mar. (*Unfortunately they had to contend with several attempts of people climbing the trees in which they were perched, apparently trying to get that "special" photograph. Birders, please do not tolerate this type of behavior when you see it. -eds*).

The 2 **Red-headed Woodpecker** continue along Pleasant View Rd. near Honey Brook. Various reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** were received from a wide range of locations. **E. Phoebe** was first seen 2/23. Rather early **Tree Swallow** were seen at SL and KFF 3/25. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued through the period in small numbers. Also reported in a few different locales were **Winter Wren**. Most people commented on the increase in numbers of **E. Bluebird**. This species seems to be doing quite well, no doubt due to the many bluebird trails in the area.

An extremely early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen at HP 3/15. A **Field Sparrow** was singing near PR on the early date 2/28. The first **Fox Sparrow** was found near SL 3/8. Four **White-crowned Sparrow** were in the area near the Honey Brook sewage treatment plant 1/28. Both **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** were seen in various places, but in very small numbers. Not one report of any **Evening Grosbeak** was received. Maybe next year we'll have our "winter invasion"...

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Kevin Crilley, Ed Fingerhood, Joe Meloney, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Brian Sweisford, Neal Thorpe, Eric Witmer.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Abbreviations: Clarion area (CA), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Leeper (LP), Mt. Zion (MZ), Shipperville area (SV), Wentlings Corners (WC).

Tundra Swan were early this year, a flock of 50 settling in at KL 2/22 (MB). The main flocks came through about 3/8 at LP (LC). A flock of **Canada Geese** was early also, 2/21 at LP (LC). A **Hooded Merganser** on a pond at LP arrived 3/11 (LC). The first **Turkey Vulture** was seen 3/15, also at LP (LC). **N. Harrier** remained all quarter both at MZ and CV, with up to 5 being seen at one time (WF,MB). At LP the first **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 3/8 (LC). **Rough-legged Hawk** were at MZ 2/1 and SV 2/18 (MB).

A ♀ **N. Bobwhite** persisted at a feeder in LP throughout the

quarter (LC). The first **Killdeer** was heard at night in SV 3/9 (MB). More followed at WC 3/13 (C&RR). **Short-eared Owl** were observed all quarter at CV and MZ, with up to 5 at one time (WF). The first **N. Flicker** was spotted 3/14 at WC (C&RR). **Pileated Woodpecker** seem more numerous this winter. WF saw 5 in one day, 2/10, near WC.

An **E. Phoebe** showed up at LP 3/14 (LC). **Horned Lark** were seen 1/27 at MZ (C&RR). They were definitely singing at SV 2/20,21 (MB). **Tree Swallow** were back at Beaver Cr. near Knox 3/15 (C&RR). In Jan. a large (1200+) flock of **Am. Crow** was seen daily over WC going to and from an undiscovered roost (WF,C&RR). A **Common Raven** being chased by crows was seen at LP 3/14 (LC).

One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in CA for the whole quarter (PH). Although **E. Bluebird** were reported on the CBC, they were scarce thereafter until about 3/3 at LP (LC). The **N. Shrike**, also seen on the CBC, stayed at MZ through Mar. (WF,C&RR).

Red-winged Blackbird were also early, appearing at LP 2/18 (LC). **E. Meadowlark** were seen at MZ 3/11 (C&RR). One **Common Grackle** was seen 2/5 at LP and more appeared 2/15+ (LC). The first **Brown-headed Cowbird** showed up at LP 2/15 (LC). **Pine Siskin**, along with **Am. Goldfinch**, came in hordes after the first of the year and stayed through Mar. **Evening Grosbeak** were spotty and in fairly small numbers: a flock of 20-40 at LP (LC), and similar reports from other observers.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shipperville 16254, Lois Callahan, Annabelle & Walter Fye, Pearl Heeter, Carl & Ruth Rowe.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Jocelynn L. Smrekar

Abbreviations: DuBois (DUB), Dubois Res. (DUBR), Troutville (TV).

A **Common Loon** was reported at the wetlands near Sky Haven Coal outside DUB city limits 3/24 and also at the DUBR (DG). **Great Blue Heron** were seen in and near DUB regularly during the quarter and at Helvetia in Mar. (MA,DS). About 1200 **Tundra Swan** were seen on Kyle L. in a snowstorm 3/24 (MA) and a large number of swans, geese and ducks were also seen during the same storm on Bimini L. Large flocks of **Canada Geese** were seen winging their way northward over DUB 3/11 (JS). **Bufflehead** and **Canada Geese** were spotted in DUB 3/17 (MA). On 3/24, 50 **Ring-necked Duck** were seen on the DUBR, along with a pair of **Wood Duck** and 6 **Tundra Swan** (DG,D&JS). At Kyle L. 3/24 there were **Hooded** and **Common** mergansers, 1 **Common Loon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, and 1 each **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebe (DG). On 3/31 there were ±300 **Ring-necked Duck** on the DUBR.

When a friend of Betty Quashnock, who lives near Falls Cr., went to feed her chickens on 2/26, something tugged on her pantleg. She looked down and saw a strange little bird with big feet that couldn't walk very well. After summoning District Game Protector Colleen Shannon, the bird was identified as a **Horned Grebe**. It was surmised that the bird had come down in the ice storm the night before. The grebe was released at the Dubois Reservoir.

A **Turkey Vulture**, reported 3/16, was the first of the season (MA). A **N. Harrier** was seen on Rockton Mt. through Jan. and another was seen regularly all quarter near TV (DS). Raptors are never plentiful in winter in *Clearfield*, but a **Cooper's Hawk** spent the winter watching the bird feeders in the DUB area (DH,MA) and was seen polishing off a **Blue Jay** one day in mid-Feb (DB). Also seen were a **Red-tailed Hawk** in the DUB area (DB) and an **Am. Kestrel** that wintered over in the TV area (DS).

Killdeer made their first appearance 2/26 (MA). **Ring-billed Gull** in large numbers were seen in DUB 2/14, which was early for them (MA). They were reported again 2/24 and 3/17. A **Short-eared Owl** was observed in Feb. in the TV area (RH). Two **N. Flicker** were seen feeding on sumacs near DUB in Feb. (DB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were common at feeders in the DUB and TV areas (D&CH,MA,DS). **Brown Creeper** were also frequenting feeders in DUB in Jan. (D&CH,MA). Atkinson

observed a **Carolina Wren** several times in DUB during the first half of Mar.; this is an uncommon bird in this area. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were present in Jan. in the DUB area as well (MA).

E. Bluebird stayed the winter in the TV area (DS) and in the DUB-Rockton Rd. area. **Am. Robin** were plentiful, especially in Sandy Twp, where a flock of 150-200 remained all winter (RN). A **N. Mockingbird**, unusual for this area any time of year, stayed all winter in Clearfield (B&LO). A flock of 60 **Cedar Waxwing** was observed eating seeds from a birch tree in DUB 1/9 (MA).

Am. Tree Sparrow were seen through the end of the quarter (MA) and a **Fox Sparrow** was spotted in TV in Mar. (DS). **Red-winged Blackbird** were seen in Feb., as well as **Common Grackle** (MA). The first **E. Meadowlark** was reported 3/28 (MA). **White-winged Crossbill** were quite a sensation feeding in spruce trees in *downtown* TV in mid-Jan. and were seen regularly in the area until late Feb. (R&MH). This the 1st time they have been seen in this part of the county, to the best of the compiler's knowledge.

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Dave Badger, Diane Greeley, Margaret & Roger Higbee, Denny & Carol Hiles, Raymond Nelson, Basil & Leah Overturf, Denny Shaffner, Dan & Jocelynn Smrekar, RD 4, Box 409A, DuBois 15801 (814-583-5110).

CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

Individual wintering **White-crowned Sparrow** were at feeders in Jersey Shore 1/5 and 2/4. The South Avis fields produced 2 **Lapland Longspur** and ±70 **Snow Bunting** among the 1200 **Horned Lark** 1/4. A "winter finch" trip to Hyner Mt. 1/31 yielded only 2 **Purple Finch** and about 90 **Pine Siskin**. The siskins were first noted in numbers within the area 1/23.

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: Briar Creek Lake (BCL), Rohrsburg (RB)

After a cold, wintery Dec., Jan. and Feb. were very mild and nearly snowless. Early March was incredibly warm, but late March brought us back to reality. General statements were based on observations shared by NBBC members; unless otherwise noted, specific observations by compiler.

Great Blue Heron were fairly common along the Susquehanna R. all winter. Over 120 **Canada Geese** overwintered near Berwick, going back and forth between *Columbia* and *Luzerne* (DG,ND). Many residents were paired in late Feb. and most migrants flew over 3/9-14 (KH). Open water and mild temperatures brought many waterfowl north earlier than usual, but there were no rarities to report. **N. Harrier** stayed the winter near RB, perhaps paired off to nest locally. **Cooper's Hawk** were again frequently seen this winter, even in communities. **Rough-legged Hawk** were scarce, but persistent in a few particularly open areas.

Ring-necked Pheasant is definitely increasing in the county where there is adequate cover. **Wild Turkey** continues to do very well in the area with many flocks reported. **Mourning Dove** continued to be very common; some nesting in late March. Like last winter, as many as 4 **Short-eared Owl** hunted in open fields near RB through the quarter, a rare sight in *Columbia*. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** continued to expand locally.

E. Phoebe was first sighted at Berwick 3/16 (KH). **Horned Lark** were near RB in Jan, near Berwick 2/23, and near Jonestown in Mar. (DG,KH,SK). A record number of **Blue Jay** wintered in the RB area. Most observers thought **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was common all winter, but less common than in Dec., when they were relatively abundant. **Carolina Wren** apparently suffered from a harsh Dec., but were common in their usual

lowland haunts. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were uncommon all winter. **E. Bluebird** continued to increase to perhaps its largest winter population in the Bloomsburg-Berwick area.

The wintering population of **Am. Robin** was a local winter highlight. Hundreds of **robins** apparently spent the winter in *Columbia* and thousands moved through the county in late Jan & early Feb. A NBBC field trip to Millville area yielded nearly 1000 robins (ND,NS). From 50-250 were seen nearly every day in Jan. & Feb. near RB (DG). These robins took advantage of large crops of winter-persistent fruits, esp. multiflora rose, staghorn sumac, autumn olive, and grapes.

Cedar Waxwing were irregularly common. Two "**Myrtle**" **Warblers** spent the winter near DG's house, often foraging a few inches outside his study window on red cedar "berries." **Am. Tree Sparrow**, **White-throated Sparrow**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** and were fairly uncommon this winter. **Red-winged Blackbird** flocks were earlier and larger in Feb. than in past years. **E. Meadowlark** returned to BCL 3/10 (KH). Fewer **Brown-headed Cowbird** stayed in the Bloomsburg area this winter because some farmers abandoned their large silage storage. **Purple Finch** were rare but persistent in n. *Columbia* spots where there were conifers; **House Finch** were abundant. **Evening Grosbeak** were rare and erratic feeder visitors.

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John Fridman, John & Sue Graves, **Douglas A. Gross, c/o Ecology III, Inc., RD 1, Berwick, PA 18603**, Doyle Harris, Karen Hiller, Scott Killam, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Robert G. Sagar, Nick Short, the North Branch Bird Club.

The following fourth quarter report was delayed by a computer glitch.

On the whole, more ducks were observed this fall than the last few, perhaps because of the storm fall-outs in October. A raft of over 50 **Black Scoter** were bobbing on BCL 10/10 (KH). They were near Berwick the day before (DG). An **Osprey** was sighted above Buckhorn at the late date 11/4 (NS). Other Osprey were sighted in Oct. throughout the county, especially along Fishing Cr. (v.o.). **Cooper's Hawk** were especially prevalent this fall with some bothering feeders in Lime Ridge and Berwick. Many **E. Screech-Owl** were found by CBC workers in the western half of the Bloomsburg circle, but were hard to scare up in the eastern half.

Over 300 **Horned Lark** were sighted in fields near Rohrsburg 12/17 (DG). **Common Raven** were observed throughout the quarter near Iola (J&SG). An uncommonly large number of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were observed in conifers and at feeders throughout the county. At least 40 (!) were counted in a red spruce stand near Iola 10/29 (J&SG). Observers also thought the **Golden-crowned Kinglet** flight was outstanding. Large numbers of **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin** were reported on the Bloomsburg CBC. Also, a few **Hermit Thrush** were called up in the Millville SGL. "**Myrtles**" were especially common in migration. Two stayed in the DG's backyard from 11/5 through the end of the quarter, staying a safe 1 mi outside the Bloomsburg CBC circle. They feasted on red cedar berries and dead flies found around the outside of DG's study window. **Palm Warbler** were seen at late as 11/4 near Rohrsburg (DG).

Pine Grosbeak were sighted near Iola 12/17 (J&SG). With the abundance of **House Finch**, it was good to hear of several **Purple Finch** staying around Iola (J&SG) and Benton (RS). **Pine Siskin** were abundant. Several large flocks raided spruce groves and feeders. In Nov., some **Evening Grosbeak** were spotted in transit, but they were less common in Dec.

OBSERVERS: Helene Basile, Nancy Dennis, John & Sue Graves, **Doug Gross**, Doyle Harris, Karen Hiller, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Robert Sagar, Nick Short, Dave & Linda Unger, the North Branch Bird Club (NBBC).

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

Abbreviations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Pymatuning SP [including the Causeway, Fish Hatchery, Goose Management Area (GMA), Spillway], Norrisville, Saegertown, Woodcock L. (WL). All records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Common Loon** was at CM 3/24. Until March there was not a single **Pied-billed Grebe** found, which is a bit unusual, as we normally see them on French Cr. most of the winter. One **Horned Grebe** was at the Spillway 2/10 and 4 there 2/21. **Canada Geese** numbers had built to 4,000 by 1/14. A **Snow "blue" Goose** was near Ford I. 1/28 (m.ob.) and 1 near the Spillway also 1/28 (RFL). Eight **Wood Duck** were at CM 3/24. Two **N. Pintail** were at Hartstown Marsh 2/18 (BR) and 30 at CM 3/24 (RFL). Three **Canvasback** were at PSP 2/3 and a single at CM 3/2. Best number for **Redhead** was 46 at PSP 2/21, though 28 were there 2/17 (EK). The 3 **Ring-necked Duck** at Miller Pond 2/17 were very early (EK), while 350 were at CM 3/24 (RFL). Ten **Lesser Scaup** were found at PSP 2/17 (EK). About 150 **Common Goldeneye** were at PSP 1/28, with 1300 seen there 2/3. A lone **Bufflehead** was at PSP 1/14, 19 and 4 located 2/21. Two **Hooded Merganser** were at CM 1/3 and 1 at PSP 2/17. A **Common Merganser** was at PSP 1/28 and 4 noted at WL 2/23, while 75 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at PSP 2/17.

Two ad. **Bald Eagle** were at CM 1/14 (RFL), and 4 (2 ad., 2 imm.) were at PSP 2/17 (EK). Two **N. Harrier** were seen e. of Erie NWR 3/3. The **N. Goshawk** reported last quarter and seen 1/22 and 2/11 (RFL,TP) was very likely the same bird on all sightings. **Rough-legged Hawk** were present all quarter. A few **Am. Coot**, 1-6 birds, stayed at the s. end of CM (the only open water for most of the period) until 3/2.

About 120 **Ring-billed Gull** returned to PSP 1/28 after some mild weather, and 2000 were at CM 2/3. A **Belted Kingfisher**, which was a good find on last month's CBC, was also seen at PSP 1/19 and 2/3.

Two **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were in Saeger Hill 2/2. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Venango 1/7 and 1 was at a feeder on Bond St. near CM 2/3. Two **E. Phoebe** were found along Mud Rd. 3/16. A single **Horned Lark** was at PSP 3/2. One **Tree Swallow** was found at CM 3/24. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found at many area feeders this quarter. Two **Carolina Wren** were at my feeder 3/3. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were at Shermansville 2/3 and 2 on Mud Rd. in CM 3/2.

An **E. Bluebird** was near Geneva 3/2. About 130 **Am. Robin** were near CM 1/3 and 2/3. A flock of 80 **Cedar Waxwing** was found at CM 1/3. Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were near a feeder at PSP 1/28.

A **Dickcissel** visited TP's feeder near Saegertown 3/27. Two **Snow Bunting** were along the Causeway 1/5. An **E. Meadowlark** was noted at PSP 3/16. **Pine Siskin** numbers went from 3 on 1/6 to 40-50 counted at the feeder at one time daily later on. Although **Evening Grosbeak** did not visit my feeder, a few did visit other feeders (MS,SF,TP).

OBSERVERS: Louis Cressler, Sara Flaugh, Ronald Harrell, Ed Kwater, **Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**, Thelma Patton, John Robb, Bob Ross, Margaret Smith.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: Big Spring (BS), Green Spring (GS), Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HF), Kings Gap SP (KGSP), Kuhn L. (KL), Lower Mifflin Twp (LMT), Mud Level Rd. (ML), North Newton Twp (NNT), Opossum L. (OL), West Fairview Boat Launch (WF).

With a mild quarter on hand, most of the major waters that were frozen in Dec. broke up during early Jan. Waterfowl wintering on the river maintained good numbers through the period. The most common species were **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, and **Am. Black Duck** and numbers were steady throughout.

Migration for water birds also was well observed throughout

the county, with a total of 25 species. High numbers for some follow: 8 **Horned Grebe** at WF 3/27 (DH); 200 **Tundra Swan** at GS 3/11 (DHe); 27 **Wood Duck** at GS 3/24 (DHe); 19 **Green-winged Teal** at HF 3/30 (DH); 16 **Ring-necked Duck** at SGL 169 on 3/18 (DHe); 150+ **Lesser Scaup** at WF 3/22 (DH); 4 **Oldsquaw** at KL 3/20 (DHe); 6 **Redhead** at WF 3/27 (DH). During the last week of Mar. at WF, a **Brant** hung around with the local **Canada Geese**. It departed after staying for six days. An **Am. Bittern** was in a farm pond near Blosserville 3/28 (DHe,RH).

Throughout the period a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** resided at ML (DHe m.ob.). Wintering **Common Snipe** were at GS all quarter (DHe). Early displaying **Am. Woodcock** enjoyed the warm weather on 2/16 in NNT. **Bonaparte's Gull** arrived the last week of Mar., with sightings at WF (RK) and at KL (DHe). Up to 4 **Long-eared Owl** roosted in a pine plantation near OL all quarter and many locals got to see them. Two locations for **Short-eared Owl** were located this quarter, one in NNT had 1 owl (DHe) and the other, a field near Blosserville, had up to 4 birds most likely in migration 3/22 (DHe,DH,RK,RC).

The first **E. Phoebe** was seen at OL 3/11 (DHe). **Horned Lark** were at ML with a high count of 150+ on 1/1 (DHe). An unusually high count of 50 **Am. Pipit** was noted in LMT 3/24 (DHe). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** found BS to their liking all quarter (DHe).

An impressive number of **Fox Sparrow** were seen at KGSP 2/25, with 11 being spotted at once (DHe). **Swamp Sparrow** numbers started to increase during Mar., with a high of 6 at HF 3/28. **White-crowned Sparrow** enjoyed the Henise feeders, with a high of 9 on 1/8. A good count of 10 **Purple Finch** was at BG 1/28 (DHe). And a huge flock of 300+ **Pine Siskin** was seen flying over Lewis Rocks 2/17 (DH).

OBSERVERS: Richard Colyer, Don Henise (DHe), Robin Henise, **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Ramsay Koury.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels

Abbreviations: Clark Creek Valley (CCV), Susquehanna R. (SR), Wildwood L. Nature Center (WLNC), Hershey Medical Center (HMC).

Following a bitterly cold Dec., record warm days through Jan. and Feb. quickly thawed ponds and rivers in the area, prompting the return of many species, including a **Belted Kingfisher** near HMC 2/1 (SR). Feeder birds were reportedly scarce until Feb. and Mar., when numbers increased dramatically with early migrants and possibly diminishing wild food supplies. One notable exception was a very productive feeding station and stream in N. Harrisburg which attracted 42 species, including five woodpeckers and an end-of-season **Great Egret** 3/28 (JW). Predators such as **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's**, and **Red-tailed** hawks and **Great Horned Owl** were also present. A resident **Cooper's Hawk** also dined at feeders in Hummelstown throughout the period (WE). **Dark-eyed Junco** were reported to be more plentiful than usual with 2 "Oregon" sub-species spotted, 1 in Harrisburg (JW), and 1 in Hershey 3/15 (SR). **Purple Finch** and **Fox Sparrow** were noted at a Hershey feeder in late Feb. (GB), with **Fox Sparrow** recorded again on 3 separate dates in Mar. (JW).

Open water on the river yielded good finds starting in Jan. **Horned Grebe**, 7 on 2/17, 80+ **Tundra Swan** 3/13 (JW), and large groups of **Common Goldeneye** including 150 on 1/1 (JW), 25 on 1/21 (SS) with displaying males, and 35 more 3/4 (JW). **Bufflehead** were also common through Mar., increasing to 100+ by the end of the month (JW). Other river finds were 2 **Oldsquaw** 3/30 and 4 **Redhead** 3/4 (JW). **Ring-billed Gull** were abundant throughout the area, with a large SR group of 2500+ on 2/17 (JW). The first **Bonaparte's Gull** was noted 3/29 (EC). On a pond in Hershey 1/2, @@FH counted 34 **Am. Wigeon**, 51 **Am. Black Duck**, 466 **Mallard** and 800 **Canada Geese**. Two of the geese were identified with red neck rings, having been banded in Quebec 8/88. The first **Great Egret** was observed at WLNC 3/9 (JW,EC), with a total of 4 present by 3/24 (JW). About 75 **Green-winged Teal** and 4 **N. Shoveler** were observed at WLNC during the last week of Mar. (JW).

Fields around Hershey held good flocks of 200-300 **Horned**

Lark all quarter, with 12 Lapland Longspur found 2/11, several showing bright breeding colors (SR). A group of Am. Pipit moved through the area in mid-Mar., but did not linger. These fields also provided enough cover for 25 Ring-necked Pheasant sighted 1/21 (SS).

Displaying Common Grackle first arrived by 2/11 (SR,SS) and E. Meadowlark were on territory at HMC 2/15 (SR). The first E. Phoebe were noted in CCV 3/11 (JW) and at HMC 3/15 (SR), soon to be followed by N. Rough-winged and Tree swallows on the SR 3/30 (JW). Am. Woodcock were displaying at two locations n. of Harrisburg 3/25 (JW).

Other sightings of note include several Winter Wren and an active pair of Pileated Woodpecker at HMC from 3/15+ (SR), a flock of 100+ Cedar Waxwing in Hershey 2/20 (SR), and a good visit to CCV by SS 3/18. He observed 1 N. Goshawk, 5 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 60 Pine Siskin, and 2 Evening Grosbeak! The nuthatches and siskins were also observed in the area by JW on an earlier date (2/8).

Steve Rannels has graciously taken over the County report, relieving Steve Santner of some of his heavy workload. He writes, "This recording exercise will be good for me, as I will now have more reason to get out. I should add that during a year away in New Zealand in 1989, the one item I had sent over was PA BIRDS. It kept me nicely informed." We trust you will send your county sightings to Steve.

OBSERVERS: Gerry Boltz, Ed Chubb, Wade Edris, Fred Hartman, Steve Rannels, 237 E. Areba Ave., Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480), Steve Santner, Judy Ward.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Tincum Nat'l Environmental Center (TIN), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

Numbers of Double-crested Cormorant were way down this season on the river, but 1-2 (NP,BS) were seen from mid-Feb. on. Four Great Egret arrived back in the area when they were found along Darby Cr. 3/16 (NP). Tundra Swan were hard to come by also, with only 2 being reported at Chester I. 1/7 (BS). The hard freeze in Dec. apparently forced the waterfowl further south to open waters. About 4500 Snow Goose were fly-bys over Tincum I. 3/7 (BS) and 78 were found on Darby Cr. 3/14 (JCM). Wood Duck were present at CCR all quarter, with 1 pair being reported 1/18 and numbers increasing to 20 on 3/25 (EK). A flock of 100+ Green-winged Teal were at Darby Cr. near TIN 3/26. On 3/30 at CCR, a pair of Lesser Scaup were present and that area produced 2 Bufflehead 2/15 (EK).

Black Vulture were reported all quarter at scattered locations; one at RCSP 1/19 (NP), 2 at Springton Res. (BS), another just w. of RCSP 2/28 (A&GS), and 4 in Media 3/13 (JL). The Osprey seen at TA 3/17 was the first of the year (JG). Sharp-shinned Hawk were quite common around feeders where they enjoyed easy pickings. A Cooper's Hawk was seen in Springfield 2/22 feasting on a starling (SC). Another was in Upland 3/10 (NP). On 1/10 a Rough-legged Hawk was found at the Phila. Airport (BS). While AG was driving to work 1/22, he saw a Merlin fly across the road in hot pursuit of starlings (AG), and another was seen in Upland 1/29 (SC,RM). On 2/5, yet another Merlin was seen in Swarthmore (HMc). A Peregrine Falcon was seen on the Swarthmore College campus 1/1 (HMc). What a way to start off the year!

JCM noted the first Greater Yellowlegs at Darby Cr. 3/27. The previous day at TIN 200+ Common Snipe were spotted (JCM). A Barn Owl was at TIN 3/4 (TR). By 3/22 two Barn Owl were on the nest, with 2 eggs at the same location (JCM). While searching the pine trees in Indian Orchards 3/4 looking for N. Saw-whet Owl, I was surprised when a large owl was flushed. It turned out to be a Barred Owl. Apparently it was only there that day, since further searching by my cohorts only turned up invisible owls. The only Saw-whet Owl reported was at TA 2/19

(RM). Pileated Woodpecker were seen all period at Swarthmore College (HMc). The true harbinger of spring appeared 3/10, when an E. Phoebe was seen in Aston (NP). Tree Swallow arrived in the area right on schedule, 3/15, in many locations.

After the bitter cold in Dec., the Carolina Wren population still seems to be holding its own (NP). A Winter Wren was at the Darlington Tract 1/3 (WT) and a few others were scattered in the area. A few Ruby-crowned Kinglet over-wintered, apparently feeding on suet feeders (SC,SS). Golden-crowned Kinglet could be found in small numbers during the entire winter. Reports from TA say that Pine Warbler were present all winter (JG). Chipping Sparrow were early this year at TA 2/14 (JG). Rusty Blackbird were at TIN 1/17 (SC) and a not too common occurrence was 1 at TA 3/28 (JG). Pine Siskin were in the area in small numbers, but didn't start coming to feeders until late in the season. Many reports came telling of siskins all of a sudden arriving at feeders in Mar.

Exotic. From Marple comes a report of a Hill Myna (HMc). The bird has been there all season. The property owner has tried to feed it myna food purchased from a pet shop, but the bird doesn't take it. Either the previous owner never fed it myna food or it has adapted to the local food supply rather adequately.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Evelyn Kopf, Jim Lockyer, Helen McWilliams, Rob Megraw, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Sandy Sherman, Al & Gwen Smalley, Bill Stocku, Walt Thurber.

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

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

Jan. and Feb. were positively dull birdwise (and otherwise) in Elk, except for flocks of Pine Siskin and noisy Evening Grosbeak, BUT then came March!

One to 2 Pied-billed Grebe were at ON 3/18,31, while 1 showed up at CR 3/25 (DW). Up to 50 Tundra Swan were winging their way through mid- to end-Mar. (LC,DS,DW). Only 1 Wood Duck was seen at CRM 3/31 (DW). He also spotted 3 Am. Black Duck 3/10 in the Belltown area. At the end of Mar. 23 Ring-necked Duck were at ON (DW) and several at EBL 3/28 (LC). Also at EBL 3/28 were 20 Oldsquaw, while only 3 were at SMR the same day (LC). Bufflehead were at EBL and SMR 3/28 (LC) and 3 Hooded Merganser were on SGL 28 3/18, while 2 were at CRM 3/31 (DW) along with several at SMR 3/28 (LC). Common Merganser started to show up 2/18 on the Clarion R. between Ridgway and Belltown where DW located 33 on 3/10.

Seldom seen Cooper's Hawk was seen 1/6 and 2/13 (DS). Sorg reported that Am. Woodcock seem to be back to normal at his residence— that he could hear 3-4 singing at once. He mentions that the last two years the numbers were lower. Concerning Am. Woodcock, Wolfe writes that he was able to get several excellent slides of 1 while it was feeding along the road at ON 3/24. Several dozen Ring-billed Gull arrived in downtown Ridgway 2/20—maybe in time for the Feb. sales! (DW).

An interesting observation 1/20 in BT were the 2 Am. Crow sitting side by side on a tree limb, with one crow acting as if it were taking insects from the other's head. It didn't seem to swallow anything, so maybe this was courtship ritual? (LC). No Carolina Wren was reported. One Winter Wren was seen 3/28 on SGL 25 (LC). Long-time resident DS reported that it was unusual for Am. Robin to be here all winter. A very noisy flock of 110 Cedar Waxwing showed up 1/4-5 in BT (LC).

When I stopped at the local market to get suet, I was informed by the butcher that he read that suet was bad for the birds cholesterol level! I never heard this before and wondered if anyone else had.

Very few Am. Tree Sparrow were reported. Ten Fox

Sparrow were easily seen on SGL 25 on 3/28 (LC) and 2 were in DW's yard from mid-Feb. to mid-Mar. One **White-crowned Sparrow** hung around all winter at a BT feeder (LC). While walking in SGL 25 on 3/22, I spotted a movement in the hemlock tree by the side of the road. When I zeroed in on it, much to my delight, it was a **White-winged Crossbill**! As I stood watching, I noted 9 of them. Interestingly enough, they were silent while in the tree and only made known their presence when they flew - maybe that is why more aren't seen? (LC).

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

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

Abbreviations: Presque Isle SP (PISP).

Winter was over by mid-Jan. Ponds and lakes opened up and became completely ice-free by early Feb.! Balmy days through much of Feb., with record breaking temperatures over 60°F, triggered an early migration for several species of birds. Waterfowl numbers peaked 3/4 at approximately 22,000 birds, of which at least 90% were **Common Merganser**. Other species of waterfowl were below usual numbers, especially **Common Goldeneye**, which are normally the most abundant species.

The survival rate for many passerines was relatively high due to an abundance of wild food and a mild winter. **Am. Robin** were abundant throughout the period. At least 5 **Hermit Thrush** and 3 **E. Bluebird** were found on the 1/1 CBC. The latter species for the first time in the 34-year history of the Count. The bayberry crop recovered from last winter's fruitless season to over-laden plants this year, bringing **Yellow-rumped Warbler** numbers rebounding back to normal. **White-winged Crossbill** bypassed *Erie* in Jan. and Feb., but finally appeared in Mar. **Pine Siskin** were common everywhere throughout the period.

Red-necked Grebe sightings were of 1 on 1/14 (JM), 1 on 3/8 (BW), 4 on 3/10 (EK), and 1 at Edinboro L. 3/13 (JHo). The 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** seen 1/1 at the Erie Public Dock were a surprise, representing the 1st Jan. county record and only the 2nd CBC record (DS,EK). One bird remained until at least 1/5 (JM), but 4 more were seen on the more expected date 3/24 (JA). A **Snow Goose** (blue) was seen 2/21-24 at the Union City Dam (JGS,JHS). Scoter reports were restricted to 2 **White-winged** 2/27, 15 on 2/24, and 3 on 3/4 (JM).

An **Osprey** at Edinboro 3/13 was early (JHo). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen 1/21-23 (MP,DP), and single imm. were noted at Edinboro 1/19 (JH), Union City 3/23 (JM), and PI 3/27 (JM). An imm. **N. Goshawk** was seen in Waterford 2/24 (JGS,JHS). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was found s. of Erie 1/15 (JH). Two **Dunlin** 3/29 were early (BC). An **Am. Woodcock** flushed 2/10 was the first of the species seen before late Feb. in *Erie* (DD).

The gull report includes: 1 **Little** at the Public Dock 1/1 (EK). **Thayer's**, which are becoming regular winter visitors around PI, were discovered 1/13 (2), and as many as 4 migrated past Beach 1 on 2/24 (EK,JM), and 1 feeding along the s. shore of L. Erie 2/25 (JM); still another bird was seen 3/3 (JM,EK). All of the Thayer's were in basic I plumage. No fewer than 15 **Iceland** were seen throughout the period (JM,EK). Eight **Lesser Black-backed** in all plumages, including 1 in basic I plumage, were identified from 1/13 to 3/31 (EK, JM). As many as 25 different **Glaucous** were found from 1/1 to 3/17, with a max. of 13 seen 3/3 (JM,EK).

A **Long-eared Owl** was found 1/13 and 3 found 3/10 (DD). a **Short-eared Owl** was seen 2/10 (JM). Up to 5 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were found until 3/24 (DD) at PI; 1 was found dead at Corry 3/11 (BF). Usually only small groups of **Am. Crow** winter, so a roost of 178 birds in central *Erie* in early- to late-Jan. was impressive.

Carolina Wren appear to be doing well, especially along L. Erie, where several were reported this winter. The 3 **E. Bluebird** found 1/1 s.w. of Erie (JGS,JHS) and the singleton in Greenfield Twp 1/23 (WL) were extremely late and constitute the 2nd and 3rd Jan. records. A **N. Shrike** was found 1/1 to 3/10 (DD).

A **Chipping Sparrow** appeared at a feeder in Edinboro 1/1+. It was the 2nd occurrence of this species in winter and the 1st time it has been known to have wintered *successfully* (DS). Only a day before the Chipping Sparrow arrived at the DS feeder, a ♀ **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** also appeared at the same feeder and stayed until 2/15. A ♂ was discovered at a feeder s. of Erie 1/1 (JGS,JHS). a **Lapland Longspur** was seen 1/1 (JM). The 3 **E. Meadowlark** found in McKean Twp 2/24 may have been over-wintering birds (SS,BM). A well-described **Yellow-headed Blackbird** made a brief visit to a feeder w. of Erie 1/7 for the 10th county record (MW). **White-winged Crossbill** records include the lamentable window kill in Waterford 2/20 (B&HH); 1 at PI 3/3 (GR); and up to 24 at Union City 3/9-23 (JM). Only a few **Evening Grosbeak** were reported.

OBSERVERS: June Alexander, Bill Callista, Dave Darney, Bill Fenton, James Hill, Bill & Heidi Hirshberger, Joan Howlett, Ed Kwater, Wilda Lyons, **Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169)**, Barbara Mitchell, Dave Parker, Nartha Petri, Geoff Robinson, Don Snyder, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull, Brenda Watts, Marian Whittenburg.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Abbreviations: Deer L. (DL), Greenlick Dam (GD), Normalville (NV), Quebec Run Wild Area (QR). All records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

The 2 **Horned Grebe** seen 3/1 increased to 7 by 3/6 at GD and 1 **Tundra Swan** was noted there 3/6 (MEW). Eight **Wood Duck**, 6 **Green-winged Teal**, and 4 **Blue-winged Teal** were at DL 3/13 (MEW). An **Am. Wigeon**, 7 **Ring-necked Duck**, and 16 **Lesser Scaup** were at GD 3/13 (MEW). Two **Bufflehead** were at DL 3/13 and 6 **Red-breasted Merganser** at GD 3/6 (MEW).

A somewhat early **Turkey Vulture** was in NV 3/2 and **Ruffed Grouse** were drumming there 3/5. An **Am. Coot** was at GD 3/13 (MEW). Two **Killdeer** were in NV 3/13.

A "red phase" **E. Screech-Owl** has taken up residence with our "gray phase" which has been roosting in a Wood Duck box for the past 3 years. They are seen alternately perched in the box opening. The pair was seen through the end of the quarter.

A **Pileated Woodpecker** was in NV 1/24 (CC) and another noted at QR 3/11 (DB). An **E. Phoebe** had returned by 3/11 in NV. Three **Common Raven** were found in QR 3/4 and 1 at Bear Run Nature Reserve 3/11 (DB). Three **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were in QR 3/11 (DB). Two **E. Bluebird** were inspecting boxes in NV 2/2, but by quarter's end no nest building had begun.

Two **Fox Sparrow** were at NV feeders 2/25 and 3/13. Five **Purple Finch** visited the same feeders 3/17 and 80 **Pine Siskin** were counted 1/1.

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

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

Abbreviations: Church Hill (CH), Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (AR), Hickory Creek, upper Endeavor (HC), Pigeon Hill (PH), Tionesta (TIO).

Buzzard Swamp, outside Marienville, is one of the best birding spots in *Forest*. I received information from several people. The following water birds were observed at various times, a lot of them migratory. **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Horned Grebe**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Tundra Swan (100)**, **Canada Geese (1000)**, **Wood Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Am. Black Duck**, **Mallard**, **N. Pintail**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **N. Shoveler**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Oldsquaw**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser (50)**,

and **Red-breasted Merganser**. Many other species can be found here and will be noted from time to time depending on their importance (DW,DG,LD).

Bald Eagle, 2 ad., 1 imm., were observed n. and s. of TIO all quarter (RD,SH,AK,CRM,ADW). A **Turkey Vulture** was seen at Queen Cr. 2/28, two weeks earlier than usual (RAW,ADW). **Rough-legged Hawk**, uncommon here, were observed at Golina 2/8 (RAW), Redbrush 2/28 (RAW), on PH 3/5 (ADW,RAW), and the village of Roses 3/25 (DG). Four birds were seen, 1 at each site.

The first **Killdeer** arrived at TIO 2/24 (RAW). A ♀ **Am. Woodcock** was sitting on a nest with four eggs 3/24 at German Hill (EM,RAW, ADW). Over 1000 **Ring-billed Gull** were found on the AR 3/11 (CRM). For over a week starting 3/13, a **N. Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling at 4 a.m. on CH (ADW,RAW). **E. Phoebe** arrived at CH 3/14 (ADW). **Common Raven** took up residence at CH 1/18 (ADW,RAW) and the pair was seen until the end of Mar. Other ravens were seen 1/28 at HC (RAW), in Cooks Forest 2/8, and at Buzzard Swamp 3/10 (ADW,RAW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch frequented a feeder at HC (GW). **E. Bluebird** first arrived at Old County Home 2/12 (RAW). **Fox Sparrow** stopped in their migratory route at Tubbs Run 3/3 (ADW,RAW). **White-throated Sparrow** spent the winter at a feeder at HC (GW). A **House Finch** was heard singing on territory on CH 2/8 (ADW). **Pine Siskin** were here in great numbers all winter (CRM,ADW).

OBSERVERS: Lois DeMarco, Diane Greeley, Dave Wolfe, Rodney Daum, Sam Hale, Amy Keitzer, Eric Millin, C. R. Mann, Gary Walters, Richard Walters, **April Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306)**.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

Locations: Falling Spring Rd. (FSR), Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (MPFH).

A **Green-winged Teal** was with a group of **Mallard** at FSR 1/2-5 (CG). About 51 **Ring-necked Duck** were seen on a farm pond in Upper Strasburg along with 3 **Hooded Merganser** 3/11 (CB).

Both **Black** and **Turkey** vultures were seen in a flock of 97 flying to roost at Cove Gap 2/16 (CB). A normal phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was found on Thornwood Rd. 1/11 (CG). An **Am. Woodcock** was seen in courtship flight at Fayetteville 3/11 (CG).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a feeding station in Cove Gap 2/18 (CB). A flock of 150 **Am. Robin** was at Mercersburg 1/20 (CB). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen at Ft. Loudon 1/31 (CB) and 1 also noted at the Harris' Sparrow site 1/14 (B&NM).

The **Harris' Sparrow** found on Sheller Rd. last quarter was last seen 3/2 (A&GS). It was seen by m.ob. from 1/1 to 2/13. I saw it there on several occasions. The 3/2 sighting was by Al & Gwen Smalley of New Orleans, LA.

OBSERVERS: Charles Brightbill, **Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 110, Fayetteville 17222-0110 (717-357-2736)**, Bill & Naomi Murphy.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

Jan. was generally mild with very little snow. The temperature even reached 65°F on 1/17. Feb. was also mild with the temperature reaching 67°F on 2/16 and 2/22. And Mar. was warmer than usual with temperatures getting into the low 80s from 3/13-15.

Three flocks of **Canada Goose** (total 100+) were noted flying over going NNE around noon 1/4. Since they now nest in the county, and we had 50 on our CBC, these may have been wintering birds.

The mild quarter did not greatly influence spring arrival dates as some species were a bit early and others were later than the average. The first **E. Phoebe** was noted 3/12. This is 5 days

earlier than the 40-year recorded average.

The first **Chipping Sparrow** was noted 3/27. Of 42 years of recorded records, there have been 20 arrivals in Mar. and 22 in Apr., and the first **Field Sparrow** was noted 7 days earlier than the average. The first **Brown-headed Cowbird** was noted 3/15, while the first arrival dates for 42 recorded years is 13.4 Mar.

The first **Purple Martin**, **Tree Swallow**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** were not noted before 9 Apr. and all 3 species were noted the last of Mar. last year (which also had a rather mild Jan-Mar period).

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

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

David Kyler

Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Cornprobst Mills (CM), L. Raystown (LR), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Stone Valley L. (SVL), Water Street (WS).

Short-eared Owl and early returning migrants were the highlights. All records from the compiler unless otherwise noted.

A single **Common Loon**, in summer plumage, was found on LR 1/11 in an ice-free section. This individual was found in the company of other waterfowl on the first Bald Eagle Census of the lake. It is hoped this Jan. census will be the first of many on this central PA body of water. Additional reports of Common Loon came from SVL with 2 reported 3/20,31 (GG). Other waterfowl reported by GG at SVL include 2 **Horned Grebe** 3/18, **Pied-billed Grebe** 3/18, 30 **Tundra Swan** 3/11, and 250 **Canada Geese** 3/7. **Am. Black Duck** appeared in good numbers on the LR count 1/11. Both **N. Pintail** (2) and **Green-winged Teal** (2) were found in a marsh near SVL 3/24 (GG). Final waterfowl reports from GG include 21 **Ring-necked Duck**, 10 **Lesser Scaup**, 7 **Oldsquaw**, and all three species of merganser on SVL 3/30.

Osprey were observed on perch (literally!) at LR 1/31 and hovering over Huntingdon (Juniata R.) 3/23 (ML). **Red-shouldered Hawk** were observed near Cassville 1/13, with 1 ad. and 1 imm. present (RC). An additional ad. was observed near Petersburg 3/10 (DS). **Rough-legged Hawk** were found near WS 1/1 and throughout Jan. and Feb. near MF (GG). An exciting observation was made at AA when an ad. **Peregrine Falcon** made a close fly-by on 2/27 (RC).

Wild Turkey were also displaying 2/24, with 2 males strutting before 8 female on Cypress I. near Huntingdon. **Am. Woodcock** were found in display flight 2/13 near Huntingdon, two weeks earlier than usual. One **Bonaparte's Gull** was found at SVL 3/30 in a flock of **Ring-billed Gull** (GG). Owl reports include a pair of calling **Barred Owl** found near Piney Ridge 1/16 (RC). Unfortunately the **Short-eared Owl** that made its way to the PGC office in Huntingdon 1/1 died a short time later from its shotgun injuries (RC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were found on Piney Ridge 3/18 (RC) and near SVL 1/1 (GG). **E. Phoebe** were heard calling at MF 3/13 (GG) and near CM on the same date (EB). **Tree Swallow** were feeding over the river at Huntingdon 3/20, another early date. Warbler species found were **Yellow-rumped** and **Pine** near CM 3/13 (EB). Sparrows were represented by **Chipping** arriving in Huntingdon 3/28 (DK) and **Fox** at CM feeders 2/10 (EB). **Rusty Blackbird** were at SVL 3/22 and **Evening Grosbeak** were at feeders at MF throughout the quarter (GG).

OBSERVERS: Ellen Benner, Rob Criswell, Greg Grove, **David Kyler, RD 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane, Dan Smith.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Clarksburg (CKG), Homer City (HC), Indiana (IND), Jacksonville (JKV), Robinson (RBN), Shelocta (SHL), Timber L. (TL), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

The waterfowl migration began very early this year at YC. The water is usually still frozen until mid-Mar., but open water was the rule rather than the exception during Feb. Waterfowl came through in good numbers with the exception of **Redhead** which were recorded on only one date. Highlights of the month include **Red-necked Grebe**, **Snow Goose**, and **White-winged Crossbill**, all at YC.

All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise indicated. First **Common Loon** arrived 3/19 (MC,GL). Best **Pied-billed Grebe** count was 6 on 3/19 (MC,GL). **Horned Grebe**, present since 2/3, peaked at 41 indiv. 3/17 (CL,GL). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice surprise 3/25 (CL,GL) and was subsequently observed until 3/28 (MC,MH,GL,GS). First **Great Blue Heron** was seen flying over IND 2/1 (JH,MH), but 7 were found at YC 3/29 (GL). Top **Tundra Swan** tally was 145 on 3/5 (GL), but 4 still lingered 3/31 (ASWP,TBC). A single **Snow Goose** appeared 2/21 (MC,MH,GL); a second indiv., differently plumaged, appeared 3/6 (MH,GL) and stayed until 3/8 (GL,FM). **Canada Geese** in IND numbered 146 on 1/10, but top count at YC was 326 on 3/8 (GL).

Eight **Wood Duck** arrived 2/22 (GL) but best count was 15 on 3/20 (MH,GL,GS). **Green-winged Teal** were present in nice numbers with high tally of 26 on 3/23 (MC,MH,GL). **Am. Black Duck**, present since 1/9 (GL,GS), peaked at 33 on 3/8 (GL). Top **Mallard** count was 130 on 3/7 (JS). **N. Pintail** were present continually after 2/13 (MH,GL), but best count was 32 on 3/8 (GL). **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 3/27 when 7 were listed (BB,MH,GL). Two **N. Shoveler** were found 3/16,20 (MH,GL,GS). **Am. Wigeon** were found consistently after 2/9 (GL) with top count 52 on 3/12 (GL). **Canvasback**, found in rafts varying from 2-9 indiv., were sporadically present after 2/15 (MH,GL); 115 on 3/19 was the largest flock on record at YC. *This raft of 115 consisted of 114 drakes and 1 female.* The only **Redhead** reported were 7 on 3/7 (JS). An early **Ring-necked Duck** appeared at IND 1/10 (GL) but were present after 2/9 at YC in good numbers with top count 197 on 3/8 (GL). Between 3/3 and 3/29, 2-7 **Greater Scaup** were intermittently recorded (BB,MC,MH,GL). Best tally of **Lesser Scaup** was 96 on 3/7 (JS). **Oldsquaw** were reported on 5 dates with best count of 22 on 3/17 (CL,GL). On 3/27, 2 **White-winged Scoter** were observed (BB,MH,GL). Four **Common Goldeneye** were spotted 2/3 (MH,RH), but up to 6 were tallied 3/10 (TBC). **Bufflehead** were present consistently 2/12+ (MH,GL) with top count of 39 on 3/23 (MC,MH,GL). The high **Hooded Merganser** tally was 45 on 3/7 (JS). **Common Merganser** made its first appearance with 2 ♀ on 2/4 (MH,RH), but 3 ♂ were seen 2/9 (GL). On 2/20, 5 indiv. were counted (GL). Up to 43 **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen 3/9 (MH,GL), but this species was consistently present after 2/14. Seven **Ruddy Duck** were reported 3/23,27 (BB,MC,MH,GL).

Two **Turkey Vulture** were at YC 3/1 (GL). **N. Harrier** was reported from 5 locations (AB,DB,CL,GL). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were listed only at SHL (MH), RBN (GC), and Nolo (GL,GS). Four **Cooper's Hawk** were reported (MH,RH,GL). Largest **Wild Turkey** flock consisted of 18 indiv. near CKG 2/17 (MC). Up to 25 **Am. Coot** were seen at YC 3/27 (BB,MH,GL). **Killdeer** arrived at YC 2/9 (GL). Three **Common Snipe** were listed at YC 3/29 (GL). First **Am. Woodcock** was courting near CKG 2/23 (MC).

Top gull tallies were 136 **Bonaparte's** 3/28 (MC,GL) and 127 **Ring-billed** 3/6 (MH,GL). One to 2 **Herring Gull** were seen 1/17,18; 3/11,12 (CL,GL,GS). **Belted Kingfisher** arrived near SHL 2/5 (PF). A single **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** near RBN 3/16 was the lone report (GC). First **E. Phoebe** was 3/12 near CKG (MC). Two **Horned Lark** at TL 3/5 (GL) was the only report. **Tree Swallow** returned to YC 3/10 (TBC). **Common Raven** reports continue to increase in the county with records from Penn Run 1/13 (GS), CKG 3/3 (MC), YC 3/12 (GL), and HC 3/15 (GL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch was listed regularly only at SHL

throughout the period (MH,RH) and sporadically at YC (MH,GL). **Carolina Wren** disappeared from most areas of the county excepting CKG, where 4 survived December's cold spell (MC) and RBN, where at least 1 was reported regularly (GC). First **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was spotted at YC 3/25 (GC). **E. Bluebird** wintered in fair numbers. **Hermit Thrush** was found at YC 3/8 (GL), heard 3/10 (RG,SG), and seen 3/11 (GC). **N. Mockingbird** was listed at CKG all period (MC), at IND 2/11 (PJ), at RBN after 2/24 (GC), and at Coral 3/25 (AB,DB). A single **Cedar Waxwing** at CKG 1/29 and a flock at RBN after 3/4 (GC) were the only reports. Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were at SHL after 1/27 (MH,RH), and 3 were listed at RBN after 2/21 (GC).

Am. Tree Sparrow reports involved small flocks of up to 20 indiv. from widely spaced areas of the county (v.o.). First **Chipping Sparrow** arrived near CKG 3/19 (MC). First **Field** was seen at YC 3/3 (TBC). **Fox Sparrow**, listed at CKG during Jan., was not reported again until 2/26 (MC), the same date another was found at Rochester Mills (JP). Thirty **E. Meadowlark** were counted in the fields surrounding WL 3/16 (MC,MH, GL). **Rusty Blackbird** reports include 3 at Nolo 1/1 and 1-2 at YC 2/25 (GC), 3/11 (GC,CL,GL), and 3/21 (GL). First returning **Brown-headed Cowbird** were seen at RBN 2/27 (GC). **Purple Finch** surfaced at Nolo (GL) and SHL (MH) on 2/24,25 respectively.

Highlight of a TBC outing were two sightings of **White-winged Crossbill** at YC 3/10 (MH,GL *et al.*). The first flock involved 17 birds; the second, 5 indiv. On 3/13, 7 were once again located (BB,MC, MH,GL). Flocks of **Pine Siskin** were found all over with best feeder counts of 119 at SHL 2/5 (MH,RH) and 162 at Nolo 3/5 (GL). Top **Am. Goldfinch** feeder tally was 51 at SHL 1/29 (MH). **Evening Grosbeak** made an appearance at CKG and at JKV 1/2 (MC) and at RBN 2/24 (GC), but were absent from most of the county excepting Nolo. Nolo's flock arrived 1/7, peaking at 84 on 2/4 with 30 still present 3/31 (CL,GL).

OBSERVERS: Audubon Society of Western PA (ASWP), Alice & Beatty, Becky Byerly, Greg Cook, Marcy Cunkelman, Paula Fleming, Randy & Sarah Gerrish, Jonathan Higbee, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Pat Johner, Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Jone Perkins, John Salvetti, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Locations: Clearview Res. (CR), Hammer Hollow (HH), Juniata R. (JR), Mifflintown Access (MA).

The warm temperatures during Jan. thawed much of the ground and it stayed that way throughout the quarter. We tapped maple trees one week earlier this year, 2/7, and I saw that some Amish had tapped theirs 1/26. By the river, early maple blossoms were out on 2/19. Trailing arbutus was found two weeks early, 3/27.

Waterfowl were terrific. There were many species in easy to see places, such as the CR. The river was open all quarter and MA was a good spot to observe many species. The **Pied-billed Grebe** at CR 3/15 was two weeks earlier than normal. **Great Blue Heron**, although present, were hard to find. **Tundra Swan**, first seen 3/13 in a flock of 100+ near MA (DW) and hundreds migrating over Monroe Elem. School in Richfield at 8:15 a.m., were present on the CR in numbers of 61 on 3/13 to 10 on 3/24; they were more visible in the county this year than some years.

From 3/13+, CR was a good spot to see samples of our spring migrants. Following is a list: 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** 3/15,22; 1 **Great Blue Heron** 3/19 and 4/2 (perhaps a resident), the swans noted above; 12 **Canada Geese** 3/13 dwindling to 4 on 3/31 (probably breeding birds, an increase of 1 pair, with many territorial skirmishes); 4 **Wood Duck** 3/16; 5 **Mallard** 3/18+; 3 **Gadwall** 3/14; 1 **Am. Wigeon** 4/2; 1 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/13,18 and joined by a ♀ 3/22; 1 **Lesser Scaup** 3/14 (who kept company with the ♂ Ring-necked until the female arrived); 1 **Oldsquaw** 3/24; 5 **Common Goldeneye** 3/14; 1 **Bufflehead** 3/13 and 2 on 3/18; 1 **Hooded Merganser** 3/3 and 3 on 3/15,17; 11 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/24; and 1 **Barred Owl** 3/13,15 (probably

a resident). This reservoir is small enough that birds are scoped with ease; patience is needed to await the appearance of the shier species, and persistence is needed to make the many visits needed to see a variety. (*Amen. —eds.*)

While the first Wood Duck was at Port Royal on the JR 2/6 (DW), they were common from 3/16+. They and the Ring-necked Duck arrived at usual times, while the Am. Wigeon was late and the Bufflehead was early. For the second year, **Am. Black Duck** sightings were down. Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser, while present on expected dates, peaked in high numbers about 3 weeks early: 102 goldeneye 1/27 and 325 merganser (down about 200 from 1989) on the JR at Van Dyke were the highs. Both **Hooded** and **Red-breasted** merganser were more plentiful and early this year.

Two **Black Vulture** were seen along Lauver Valley Rd. 1/27. Reports of **Rough-legged Hawk** were down this year. They were absent from two of their usual haunts I watch. A **Common Snipe** stayed at Renno's at least through 1/27.

The **E. Phoebe** made an early appearance in HH 3/6. Another early date was set by **Tree Swallow** in Licking Creek Valley 3/16. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** stayed in good numbers all quarter. A **Hermit Thrush**, probably the one seen in 12/89, came to my feeder in HH 1/20. Not only was it seen here out of season, but until this winter I have never seen one in HH. The 185 **Am. Robin** seen 1/4 was the last of the big flocks reported this winter.

An atypical-plumaged **Dark-eyed Junco** was consistently seen at my HH feeder during Jan. and part of Feb. **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** returned two to three weeks early, 2/19 (DW). **Purple Finch** were present all quarter. **Pine Siskin** and **Am. Goldfinch** were very plentiful, particularly in Mar. Not 1 **Evening Grosbeak** was reported this quarter.

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

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Abbreviations: Dalton area (DA), Lackawanna SP (LSP), L. Scranton (LS), Lenoxville area (LA), Marshbrook (MB), Scranton (SC).

As was last year, Jan. was relatively mild, Feb. a bit colder, with Mar. initially very mild, which probably prodded many flocks of geese northward early. There were reports of flocks flying over all day and night in some cases. Snow cover was lacking for most of the period. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Pine Siskin** were very common, while **Evening Grosbeak** not seen at all.

Three **Horned Grebe** and 4 **Tundra Swan** were on LS 3/23. The day of 3/2 and the night of 3/10 were particularly good for flights of **Canada Geese**. They continued the next day, 3/11, and 1 **Snow Goose** was seen in one of the flocks. A count of 31 **Ring-necked Duck** was made at TA 3/23 and a **Blue-winged Teal** was found at DA 3/31.

Turkey Vulture were noted at LS 3/16 and DA 3/31. A **N. Harrier** was at SC 2/23, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at LS 1/18, a **Cooper's Hawk** at SC 2/22, a **Red-tailed Hawk** near Factoryville 3/4 and at DA 3/31, and **Am. Kestrel** at MB 3/17. One ♂ **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at LA 3/17.

Ring-billed Gull were noted at SC 3/4. **Mourning Dove** initiated cooing at SC 2/24. **Belted Kingfisher** were on the Lackawanna R. all period. **N. Flicker** were first noted at LA 3/17. An **E. Phoebe** was found near LS 3/14. **Fish Crow** were at LS 3/11. A **Carolina Wren** was reported intermittently in DA. A **N. Mockingbird** was noted at SC 1/4 and at LSP 3/10. First **Am. Robin** was seen at DA 2/27. **E. Bluebird** numbers seemed down.

Am. Tree Sparrow were noted daily at DA and a **White-crowned Sparrow** visited a DA feeder all period. One **Fox Sparrow** was at Covey's Swamp 3/25. **E. Meadowlark** returned to LA 3/17. First **Red-winged Blackbird** at DA 2/25 and first **Common Grackle** at DA 3/3. **House Finch** remain numerous, but **Purple Finch** only seen sporadically.

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LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Abbreviations: Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run, including Fisherman's Park (MR), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF).

A **Red-necked Grebe** was at SRCF 1/13 (JB,TG *et al.*). **Tundra Swan** were on the move early, with 1200 at Washington Boro 1/17 (AS). However, MC has become the major staging area for swans in the county. Twenty were at MC already 1/20 and by mid-Feb. there were 2000+. About 6000+ were seen 3/1-10, but after 3/15 only several hundred remained (EW *et al.*). Single **Greater White-fronted Geese** (Greenland race) were at MC 2/4 (JN) and 2/10 (JW,EW). An amazing 5 were seen together at MC 3/3 (FH,PM,HM,RM ph.). How many PA White-fronted Geese are not of the Greenland race? **Snow Geese** were also early in the period, with 375 (350 blue/25 snow) at MR 1/22 (RMS). These birds left and a new flock of 225 (200 blue/25 snow) arrived 2/20 and this flock built to 1800 (1100 blue/700 snow) by 3/9 and was present until at least 3/20 (RMS). Lesser numbers of Snow Geese were at MC throughout the period but 51 (45 blue/6 snow) were found 2/17 (FH) and 100 (only 3 blue) were seen 3/15 (EW *et al.*), along with 800 noted 3/18 (PM,VM). Also at MC was the county's 3rd record of a **Barnacle Goose** 3/3 (FH,PM,HM,RM), possibly the same bird seen earlier in the period in *Chester*.

A **Wood Duck** was on Chickies Cr. 1/28 (JH) and the first migrating Wood Duck were reported from Ephrata Twp 3/5 (FH). Wintering **Am. Black Duck** continue at MR, with 5000 on 1/8 and 7000 on 1/15; also 1/8 were 3000 **Mallard** (RMS). Twenty **N. Pintail** and 1 **Gadwall** could still be found at MC 1/7 (SS). The previously reported **Eurasian Wigeon** at Chestnut Level was with up to 80 **Am. Wigeon** and last seen 2/7 (RMS *et al.*). Two to 3 **Canvasback** were at MC 1/28 (RM) and 2/11 (m.ob.). A lone drake **Canvasback** was on a small pond e. of Mountville 2/9-15 (DW). A drake **Redhead** was at MC 1/28-2/8 (RM *et al.*). Up to 300 **Common Merganser** were on the main lake at MC 2/10-20 (EW *et al.*).

The peak count of **Bald Eagle** at MR was 15 (5 ad./10 imm.) 1/13 (RMS). The Henney I. pair of Bald Eagles has relocated somewhat up river from last year, but nest observation has been more difficult and will be nearly impossible with the forthcoming foliage. An imm. **N. Goshawk** was at Ephrata 1/15 (DG). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was near Ronks 3/11 (RMS). **Rough-legged Hawk** in average numbers wintered in traditional Amish farm country, with a good number of dark-phase birds. Somewhat unusual was 1 at MC 3/28 (FH). Two sightings of an ad. ♂ **Merlin** were received, 1 successfully hunting **Horned Larks** in Upper Leacock Twp 1/24 (LC) and another in Drumore Twp 2/20 (RMS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen overhead near Ronks 3/12 (RMS). A possible white-phase **Gyrfalcon** was seen briefly in Lancaster 1/21 (RM). Though searched for on numerous occasions afterwards, it unfortunately was not relocated.

Gullung along the river remained poor, however 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** flew by Holtwood 2/5 (RMS,HM). MC again hosted up to 6 **Long-eared Owl** (beginning 1/14) and 4 **Short-eared Owl** (m.ob.). The first **E. Phoebe** reports came 3/14 from several areas. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were found through Jan. in MC, where they were missed in Dec. (FH,EW). A good find was a **Pine Warbler** near Eden 2/5 (JH).

RM had close looks at a **Clay-colored Sparrow** 3/17 just before some heavy rains. The bird went for cover as he went for his camera. A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was near Lititz at the beginning of the period (RM,TG *et al.*). **Lapland Longspur** and **Snow Bunting** could be found again in Clay and Upper Leacock Twps, with the best numbers of Snow Bunting in Jan. (m.ob.). **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** were present in small numbers during the period.

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Larry Coble, Don Garner, Tom Garner, Fred Habegger, Johnathan Heller, John Nehring, Pat & Val McElhenny, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Al Speise, Dennis Weaver, **Eric Witmer,**

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Abbreviations: Amish area (AA), Bessemer area (BSA), Coverts Crossing (CC), Ellwood City area (ECA), Harlansburg area (HA), Neshannock Cr. (NC), New Castle area (NCA), Plain Grove area (PGA), Volant area (VA). Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Two **Pied-billed Grebe** were found in the s.w. corner 3/11-31 and 5 **Horned Grebe** were there 3/31 (BD,GD). BW discovered a **Great Blue Heron** heronry in AA 1/5. From the road, which is some distance away, we were able to count 42 nests. On 3/18 the colony contained ±30 active nests (BD,GD). The Great Blue Heron colony near the *Beaver* line on the McCanlis farm contains 47 nests, with 75% occupied. All nests are in 4 sycamore trees located in the flood plain and the crowns of the sycamore trees extend above the surrounding trees (AM). As of 4/8, incubation is in progress. The following data were submitted by Tony Marich.

	# of nests	Circumference	Condition of tree
Sycamore 1	5	14'7"	hollow
Sycamore 2	6	9'	no comment
Sycamore 3	23	15'1"	hollow
Sycamore 4	13	15	hollow

On 3/18 husband George and I saw 25 Great Blue Heron circle over the nest site twice and descend on the nests. They may have just come in.

Flocks of **Tundra Swan** flew over NCA on time, 3/6 (RB). At the end of the quarter small numbers were being found at VA (NR). Our largest flock of **Canada Geese** numbered 700+ at VA, although 200 were in BSA and 120 were at VA 1/27. Some were nesting before quarter's end. *Lawrence* boasts many breeding **Wood Duck** and many good locations. One ad. ♂ remained on the NC all period and several pair returned slight early, 3/3, to PGA. Our highest count was of 6 pair on Vosler L. 3/25. A few **Am. Black Duck** were in AA the entire period. Some 200+ **Mallard** were recorded by the end of Jan. (normal). Waterfowl migration began 3/4 with **Ring-necked Duck** appearing on Vosler L. A brush hog began removing growth from along the lake and the activity forced waterfowl to abandon the area. They moved a bit farther n. to the Volant wetland, where 700+ remained to the end of the quarter. Heavy rainstorms 3/30 forced 125 Ring-necked Duck down into BSA quarry. Thirty **Am. Wigeon** 3/11 and 3 ♂ **N. Pintail** 3/30 were at Volant wetlands. Two **N. Shoveler** were at the Rt. 18 marsh 3/18. Our most unusual waterfowl report was of 5 **Greater Scaup** forced down on the BSA quarry 3/31 during another heavy rainstorm. Eight **Bufflehead** were at PGA 3/14. Several **Hooded Merganser** were in NCA 3/18-30.

Turkey Vulture appeared slightly early, 3/4, and **N. Harrier** were active at five locations in the n. area from 1/9 through 2/28 (SM, JM, BD). Ad. and imm. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were also active all over the county the whole period in contrast to only 2 **Cooper's Hawk** reported. **Red-tailed Hawk** were nesting in 3 known locations. Of interest was a 95% albino Red-tailed in BSA seen from 1/3-27. The bird is pure white except for a pale yellow bill and a few reddish tail feathers (BAS). **Am. Kestrel** numbers remain steady. Six **Ring-necked Pheasant** came to a NC feeder in Jan. (BW) and were also found in 3 other locations.

One **Killdeer** was in NCA 2/8, slightly early, and by 2/25 they were everywhere. Owing to the mild weather, Killdeer were observed mated in mid-Mar. when temperatures reached a record high 79°F. Seven **Common Snipe** were in NCA 1/5 and in AA and PGA in Feb. and Mar. (BD,GD,BW). Three or 4 **Am. Woodcock** performed aerial dances in VA 3/28-31+ (NR). Gull reports for Mar. include **Ring-billed** flying over Beaver R., 6 **Bonaparte's** in BSA, and 5 **Herring** at BSA quarry.

One **Short-eared Owl** was at the Volant strip mines 2/7 (BD,GD). It was barking and chasing a Red-tailed Hawk at dusk, but was not seen again. **Belted Kingfisher** did not appear until the end of Mar., unusual, since we usually see a few all winter. N.

Flicker began returning 3/4 in good numbers. One **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintered in BSA (HB,GD). **Pileated** was elusive, as usual, but our numbers are good.

Our first **E. Phoebe** was on time at HA 3/12 (PS) and common by 3/17. **Horned Lark** wintered in big flocks of 300-500 in BSA and NCA (BD,SM, JM). Other flocks returned to AA the first week of Feb. The first **Tree Swallow** was recorded in ECA 2/24 and low numbers were seen to the end of the period. Forty **Am. Crow** roosted in VA and 80 in Wayne Twp 3/4. We had more **Brown Creeper** this period than we have had in 5 years. They were found all over the county all period. **Carolina Wren** survived the frigid Dec. and found in many locations.

Golden-crowned Kinglet remained in higher numbers than I can remember in years all quarter. **E. Bluebird** were incubating eggs in NCA 3/25 (RB). **Hermit Thrush** could not be found in Feb. or Mar., but we had many sightings in Jan. A flock of 50 **Am. Robin** was noted in NCA the third week of Jan. and by mid-Feb. we found 100's (MD,BD). About 100 **Cedar Waxwing** appeared to be feeding on pussy willows in NCA 2/28. Amazing numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** wintered. A flock of 18 was found along Beaver Cr. 1/7 and 12 were in ECA 1/13, while 5 were recorded in NCA 3/4.

Rufous-sided Towhee appeared 3/25. Most **Am. Tree Sparrow** left during one of our mildest Jan. on record. Several flocks of 50 were found in BSA and VA 2/4, but by 3/4 we could only find one flock of 40 in the vast weedy fields in BSA. All were gone by quarter's end. We could not find any wintering **Field Sparrow**, but many arrived by 3/25. **Song Sparrow** wintered over in the highest numbers in 7 years. Only 2 **White-crowned Sparrow** were noted in BSA 1/1 and several **Swamp Sparrow** were in BSA 1/7 and 3/11. **Dark-eyed Junco** dropped in numbers the same time Tree Sparrows were leaving, however flocks of 30 were found at several locations to 3/31. An ad. ♂ **Lapland Longspur** was with **Snow Bunting** in BSA 1/12 (BW,BD).

Our most spectacular experience this winter was the sight of 1000 to 1500 Snow Bunting swirling over the open fields in the BSA from 12/31 to 1/20 (BD, MG, HF, MJ *et al.*). Several times a Cooper's Hawk was observed repeatedly flying over the flock, splitting the huge flock into 3 smaller ones (SM, JM, BW, LW, HB). On 1/1 we found 800+ buntings in NCA and ±600 were moving through the VA 2/4. An ad. ♂ **N. Harrier** made many passes over the flock in the VA, also splitting that flock into 3 smaller flocks. The Volant birds remained only one day.

Red-winged Blackbird were recorded the last week of Feb. (SM, JM) and in NCA on 2/24-25 a dozen came to roost in pine trees the two evenings we had blizzard-like conditions and 45 mph winds. Although 7 **E. Meadowlark** wintered in PGA, most returned 3/10 (LW, HB, SM, BD). **Common Grackle** returned mid-Feb. and the only **Purple Finch** report was of 1 at our feeder 2/15. **Pine Siskin** were at VA and NCA feeders all period in numbers from 6 to 20. **Am. Goldfinch** numbers were very low until 2/4-9, when up to 70 were found in AA and high numbers were also in NCA. **Evening Grosbeak** not here!

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LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

Abbreviations: Memorial L. (ML).

The season started with a warm spell following the intense cold of Dec. By the middle of the month there was significant open water on ML and the waterfowl began to move back in. It continued warm through Feb. and the first half of Mar. when there was an unprecedented four straight days during mid-Mar.

with temperatures over 80°F! This resulted in a prolonged but otherwise mostly unexciting waterfowl migration. The early songbirds (blackbirds, Fox Sparrow, etc.) returned ahead of schedule. A cold snap during the last two weeks of Mar. slowed things down. The rarities of the season were the **Eurasian Wigeon** (maybe two!) and **Common Redpoll**. In the 'species' accounts that follow, all water related bird reports are of early dates unless otherwise noted.

Common Loon was reported 1/7 at the Cornwall mine pit (SS). This is a very deep hole that never freezes. This year there were many waterfowl and some other water-requiring species here in early Jan. when all other water was frozen. **Horned** and **Pied-billed** grebes were at ML 2/19 (SS). Over 1000 **Tundra Swan** were in a field near Iona 2/4 (SS). Up to 100 **Am. Wigeon** spent most of the winter at a pond near Iona. In this group on 3/31 was an **Eurasian Wigeon** (SS). This was possibly the same bird as had been seen in the *Lebanon* portion of Middle Creek WMA 3/11 (SS *et al.*) and could even have been the same bird as was seen in s. *Lancaster* during Dec. and Jan. **Wood Duck** were found at Green Point. As usual, **Redhead** was reported only once this year, on the early date of 3/3 at ML (PVM,FHb). **Canvasback** was seen early, when 2 were found at ML 2/15 (PM) and peaked there at a high number of 8 on 3/31 (SS). There were 6 **Hooded Merganser** on a small pond near Lickdale 2/19 (PM), while the peak at ML was 11 on 3/7 (JW). **Red-breasted Merganser** was at ML most of Feb. (PM,SS *et al.*).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** spent much of Feb. in the vicinity of ML (PM,SS,JW). A very early **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported 3/15 on Sharp Mt. (JW). **Wild Turkey** are not usually seen in winter here. However, 6 were seen near Cornwall in the s. part of the county 2/24 (RM), while 6 more were found in the north, near Lickdale 1/12 (PVM). **Am. Coot** were seen at ML 2/19 (PM), while **Am. Woodcock** appeared on territory by the third week in Feb. (SR).

Tree Swallow returned during the mid-Mar. heat wave; several were at ML 3/17 (MC,SS). **E. Bluebird** attempted to nest in mid-Feb. (DZ). However, the eggs in this nest were later found frozen. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** numbers appear to be increasing in migration; their peak numbers are higher in recent years and the period over which they are being reported in migration is getting wider. This year the peak was 50-100 seen 3/31 in the Colebrook-Mt. Gretna area (SS). Perhaps the increase reflects continued recovery from the population crash during the hard winters of the mid-1970s. **Am. Pipit** migration here is unpredictable. Apparently large numbers move through during a very short period in late Mar./early April. This year many could be found in nearly every large field in c. *Lebanon* 3/24 (MC,SS), while none was found on any other day in Mar. Forty **Cedar Waxwing** were at Cornwall 1/7 (SS). Later these disappeared and no others reported during the period.

Fox Sparrow continues to increase locally in migration. They were noted from mid-Feb. on (m.ob.). Three **Swamp Sparrow** apparently wintered in a marsh n. of Lickdale (PVM). **Lapland Longspur** occurred in normal numbers this past winter, but **Snow Bunting** could not be found. Some winter finches were seen. **Pine Siskin** were not settling in at feeders, but overall were in very high numbers. The largest flock reported was 60 seen 1/7 at Cornwall (SS). Two **Common Redpoll** were found at a feeder in Shaefferstown 3/12 (*good details*, EW).

OBSERVERS: Morris Cox, Fred Habegger (FHb), Fred Hartman, Pat & Val McElhenny (PVM), Randy Miller, Steve Rannels, Steve Santner, 3 **Overbrook Village Green Apt.**, **Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Judy Ward, Eric Witmer, Del Zimmerman.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: Leaser L. (LL), L. Muhlenberg (LM).

This winter was at least average in our area in terms of birding. The following common species were all seen in very good numbers: **Horned Lark**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Brown Creeper**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Carolina Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **E. Bluebird**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, and **Am. Tree Sparrow**. The "winter finches" which came through in

fall did not appear to stay however, except for a few sightings of **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak**.

A **Horned Grebe** was found at Fogelsville Quarry 2/10, and another at LL 3/30 (SS). A record early **Great Egret** was seen in the Little Lehigh Parkway 2/7 (CRE). An early **Tundra Swan** was seen at Applewood 2/20 (PE). Three different sightings of **Snow Geese** were reported; 1/19 and 3/17 in Catasaquua (DG,JG,TM), and 2/17 at Dorney Pond (J&NB). A **Redhead** was at LM 1/12 (SS). A pair of **White-winged Scoter** and a **Lesser Scaup** were seen at LL 3/30 (SS,PZ), but were gone the next day. A **Common Merganser** was seen at the unusual location of LM 1/20 (J&NB). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen on the Little Lehigh in Emmaus 1/20 (FBa), another 2 were at LL 3/31 (PE,BLM), and 1 **Hooded Merganser** were at LM 1/26 (DD).

Three **Black Vulture** were reported near Slatedale in mid-Jan. (AL). Despite the frigid Dec. weather, **Turkey Vulture** were seen all season in areas where they have not normally wintered. Mid-winter sightings include birds seen 1/7 (CM), and many others in late Jan./early Feb. An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen at Applewood 2/17 (PE). Three early **Broad-winged Hawk** were in Emmaus 3/12, and a **Merlin** found there the next day (JH).

Ring-billed Gull continue to expand, as many as 300 were at LM in Feb. (BLM). Their increasing presence in mall parking lots attracted the attention of the *Allentown Call-Chronicle*. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was briefly seen on the ice at LM 1/12 (DD). This is a 1st county record. Searchers the next day could not find it, but did turn up an ad. **Great Black-backed Gull** on the Lehigh R. (BLM,PE,DD). **Great Horned Owl** were found in many locales. One unusual location was tiny woodlot in Allentown's west end (BCM). A calling **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, sounding like a cross between a Red-tailed Hawk and a Blue Jay, was found in Allentown 2/17 (BCM). On 2/20, 125 **Horned Lark** were found in Catasaquua (DG,JG), and a late bird was seen near LL 3/31 (PE,BLM). An **E. Meadowlark** was at LL 2/10 (SS), and an early **Chipping Sparrow** was found in Emmaus 3/14 (JH).

OBSERVERS: Frank Bader (FBa), John & Nancy Boyer, Fritz Brock, Dave DeReamus, Catherine R. Elwell, Pauline England, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Jason Horn, Ann Lessel, Barbara C. Malt, Terry Master, Clint Miller, **Bernard L. Morris**, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut, Peter Zakrewski.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Harveys L. (HL), North Branch Susquehanna R. (NBSR), Susquehanna Riverlands (SR), Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), Wapwallopen (WAP), Wilkes-Barre (WB).

The first **Horned Grebe** report was from HL 2/17 (FP). **Wood Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Gadwall** were all seen at WB 3/9 (WR); and a N. **Pintail** was seen there 3/6 (FP). At HL, 3 N. **Shoveler** were seen 3/12 (JM), 4 **Redhead** were there 3/21, and 2 **Greater Scaup** noted 3/24 (WR). Several **Oldsquaw** were noted at HL: 1 on 2/17 (FP); 7 on 3/17 (TB); and 2 on 3/31 (WR). Two **White-winged Scoter** were found there 3/30 (WR). All three mergansers were seen at Huntsville 3/21; and 2 **Hooded** were at WB 3/8 (FP). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at HL 3/30-31 (m.ob.). Two **Ruddy Duck** were at HL 1/18, with 1 remaining through mid-Feb. (m.ob.).

At least 2 **Am. Woodcock** were displaying in SR 2/10, an unusually early date (SF). Seven **Am. Woodcock** were observed in the Dallas area 2/17-20 (JH). But with snow storms 2/23-25 and sub-zero temperatures 2/25-26, many woodcock apparently did not survive their record-early arrival.

Turkey Vultures returned to Shickshinny 2/22 (TS). A single imm. **Bald Eagle** flew over SR 2/28 (DG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at Wyoming 3/27 (WR). Some 20 **Am. Coot** wintered at HL, about half the number in recent years. Over 4 **Killdeer** over-wintered at SSES (DG).

Two **Great Horned Owl** were seen at Kirby Park 3/21 and 1 was calling at noon (TB). **Great Horned Owl** and **E. Screech Owl** were conspicuously common in SR all winter. **E. Phoebe** arrived at HL and Huntsville on the early date 3/16 (WR). Nine **Tree Swallow** at HL 3/24 were also early (WR), while they first returned to SR 3/26 (DG). **Fish Crow** arrived at WB 3/1 (FP). For the second consecutive winter, **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** populations were below average in two forest winter bird census plots near SSES (DG). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was also uncommon in these plots (even though fall migration was good). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were widely reported all quarter. **Carolina Wren** was fairly common in SR and near Wap along NBSR (DG). **E. Bluebird** continues its success in SR and nearby areas. Five **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were at the Wetlands 3/4 (EG) and at least 4 "Myrtles" spent the winter in SR (DG).

A **Fox Sparrow** was noted at Frances Slocum SP 3/26 (WE). **Red-winged Blackbird** descended upon SR 2/23, some arrived 2/21 (DG).

The **N. Oriole** at a feeder in Carverton remained until late Jan. (DAS). A pair of **White-winged Crossbill** was seen at HL 3/2 and the male was singing. Despite much searching, they could not be relocated (WR). Some **Common Redpoll** stayed in the forests, feeding on birch catkins, but not visiting feeders; few were seen after early Feb. (DG). **Pine Siskins** were common throughout the winter, but declined in late Feb; most foraged in the woods, not coming to feeders. **Evening Grosbeaks** were again conspicuously absent (DG).

OBSERVERS: Terry Baltimore, William Evans, John Fridman, Ed Groshek, Douglas A. Gross, Jim Hoyson, John Murray, Fred Pacolitch, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Dorothy Ann Searfoss, Terry Soya.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

Abbreviations: Montoursville (MTV), Muncy area (MA), Picture Rocks area (PR), Pine Cree Valley (PCV), Rose Valley L. (RVL), Upper Fairfield Twp (UFT), Williamsport area (WA).

Waterfowl seen at RVL 3/31 (SS) included: **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Horned Grebe**, **Wood Duck**, **Am. Black Duck**, **N. Pintail**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Oldsquaw**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, all three species of merganser, and **Ruddy Duck**. Common Merganser were also seen on Muncy Cr. in MA 2/22 and in PR 3/12-18 (WE).

Turkey Vulture were first seen passing through UFT 3/11 (E&TR). Two ad. **Bald Eagle** (possibly the local nesting pair) were seen in PCV 2/24,25 (K&JL). **N. Harrier** were seen in UFT 1/15-21 (E&TR). A lone **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen flying overhead at SGL 252 on 3/10 (WE). **Rough-legged Hawk** reports were quite numerous all quarter in MA (WE) and UFT (E&TR). **Killdeer** were first seen in MA the week of 3/5 (WE). **Bonaparte's Gull** spotted at RVL 3/31 (SS) and **Ring-billed Gull** flocks were many, first seen in MA the week of 3/5 (WE).

Horned Lark were spotted in open fields near Avis in Jan. (P&GS,WE). A **Fish Crow** was near the Susquehanna R. in WA 2/13 (WE). **Common Raven** were seen in PCV 2/18 (WE). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were quite common throughout the quarter (m.ob.). A **Winter Wren**, first heard, then sighted, was in MA near the river 1/14 (WE). **Snow Bunting** were seen in large flocks with **Horned Lark** and **Lapland Longspur** near Avis 1/22-28 (P&GS,WE). **Purple Finch** were spotted at a PR feeder 1/1-7 and 2/19-25. **Pine Siskin** numbers were up this quarter from last, with large flocks of ±100 at many feeding stations throughout the county (m.ob.). **Evening Grosbeak** also picked up this quarter (m.ob.).

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

MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda D. Ordiway

First, a note of thanks to area birders who responded to my call for help in recording observations for the county.

Through the month of Feb., 15 **Tundra Swan** were reported on Eldred Swamp at Indian Cr. area. **Wood Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, and **Ring-necked Duck** have been reported off and on in the lakes of Glendorn Estates. No actual dates were reported. **Turkey Vulture** first reported 3/16. Two ad. and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** were present on Willow Bay 3/10. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** seemed more prevalent at area feeders.

Wild Turkey, ranging in flock size from 8-22, were sighted around the Bradford area. **Am. Woodcock** were seen and heard doing their courtship display at Gilbert Lane 3/9. Two **N. Saw-whet Owl** were heard 1/29 for three days and 3/12 for two days at Derrick City. **E. Bluebird** wintered all quarter in Smethport. **Am. Robin** were noted since Jan. and **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported mid-Mar., all in Smethport. **Pine Siskin** arrived the last week of Feb. in profuse numbers. **Evening Grosbeak** started arriving about 1/2, but not yet in large quantities.

Five *McKean* swamps have already been illegally destroyed. The PA Fish Commission is monitoring other swamps to prevent further illegal activity. Any birders who know of any swamps in any condition, please contact me as to their whereabouts.

OBSERVERS: Mr. & Mrs. Frand Bray, F. E. Guenter, M.D., Madeline Miles, **Linda Ordiway, 72 Gilbert Lane, Bradford 16701 (814-368-7464)**.

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Locations: Grove City area (GCA), Hermitage area (HA), Limber Rd. (LR), Saguallas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Willow Pond (WP).

The Bartramian Audubon Society found 2 **Common Loon** and 32 **Tundra Swan** at SRR 3/24 (BS). Fourteen **Tundra Swan** were at SO 3/10 (SM), 11 at SRR 3/16, and 28 at SRR 3/28. All had left by 3/30. A flock of 50 **Mallard** wintered on the Shenango R. at the bridge in downtown Sharon and were fed corn twice daily by a dedicated citizen. One ♂ **N. Pintail** was found among them 1/23 (BS).

In the s. part of the county near Rt. I-80 there were 6 pairs of **Wood Duck** 3/31. A pair of **Common Grackle** pecked at the head of one ♀ **Wood Duck** until she left the nest box.

Additional waterfowl notes: The only report of **Pied-billed Grebe** came from SP 3/28 (SM). Ten **Am. Wigeon** 3/22, 4 **N. Shoveler** 3/16, 10 **Redhead** 2/9, 3 **Ring-necked Duck** 2/9 and 3/22 all at SRR. A 100 **Ring-necked Duck** were at WP 2/19 (SM). **Lesser Scaup** and **Bufflehead** noted at SP 3/28 (SM). All 3 species of merganser were observed: a few **Common** at SRR 3/24 (SM), 3 **Red-breasted** 2/9 gradually increased to 100 by 3/30 at SRR, and 2 **Hooded** at HA 2/7 and a few **Hooded** at SP 3/28 (SM). Two **Am. Coot** were at SRR 3/27.

The first 2 **Great Blue Heron** returned to the Brucker Sanctuary on the very early date 2/13. By 2/24, 20 had returned and were fixing up their nests, with the temperature at -5°F! More than 400 are expected back by 4/1.

Mercer has "one up" on famous Hinkley, Ohio, and their **Turkey Vultures** of 3/19. Two were spotted 3/2 cruising over SRR. A **N. Harrier** was at LR 1/21 (HB,LW). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were reported from GCA as feeder predators

(HB,SM). There was 1 Cooper's sighting at HA 1/3. **Red-shouldered Hawk** observations continue, all at HA: 1 perched near a busy intersection 1/17 was noteworthy, since they are not normally present most winters. The warm weather may also be responsible for a pair displaying 2/6 over a last year's nest site, and a second pair arrived on schedule 3/1, screeching as they flew in from the SE. The ♀ of this second pair immediately broke off a hemlock branch and deposited it in an old squirrel's nest, but has chosen another unknown nest site. Two **Rough-legged Hawk** were at SP 1/2 (SM). Six **Am. Kestrel** were in the Amish area 3/31 (BD).

Pileated Woodpecker was reported 1/28 and 2/6 at HA. **E. Phoebe** returned about a week early, 3/14 at HA. About 200+ **Horned Lark** wintered on Amish fields in the extreme s. part of the county (BD). A very early report for **Tree Swallow** was 3/16 at SRR. There were at least 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** that wintered at feeders: 1 carried over from 1989 to 3/31+ at HA; 3 at GCA from mid-Nov. 1989 to 3/31; and 1 at another HA location 2/8 (WB). One **Carolina Wren** showed up at HA 1/9-2/11 (WB), and 2 at GCA 2/24-3/3 (HB).

The sharp eyes of HB and LW spotted a **Bohemian Waxwing** mixed in with 12 Cedar Waxwing at SP 1/1. **Field Sparrow** returned early to HA 3/16. A pair of **Purple Finch** were noted 1/10 and 3/24 at HA. SM reported **Am. Goldfinch** molting on the early date 2/17. A Rt. 58 feeder had 3 **Pine Siskin** 3/19-31 (SM), and at GCA there were 100 on 2/25 dwindling to 30 on 3/31 (HB). At HA, the 2 siskins 1/8 increased to 25 by mid-Jan. and remained past the end of the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Harriet Bauer, Wilma Black, Barbara Dean, Shirley McCarl, **Marty McKay**, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Bill Sarver, Loraine Weiland.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

Abbreviations: Belleville area (BA), Ferguson Valley (FV), Jacks Mt. area (JM), Juniata R. (JR), Mattawana area (MA), Pleasant Acres (PA).

Tundra Swan frequented the JR during Mar. On 3/28 two fed in our neighbor's field. They were so beautiful. **Canada Geese**, which used to only migrate through here, have become permanent residents; 10-12 were on the river and frequented farm ponds. Migrating flocks at times numbered 200+ and they are seemingly more numerous. **Am. Black Duck**, **Mallard**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, and **Common Merganser** were in good numbers on the JR 3/1.

Our local **Sharp-shinned Hawk** took a starling from the neighbor's backyard feeding station — almost more than it could cope with (M&BK). A **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen on nest 2/5; an ad. was seen carrying food to the nest with several young 3/5. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in BA 1/21, where a **Ring-necked Pheasant** was also found (GG). **Wild Turkey**, 8-10, were found in MA (MK) and in Jacks Mt. area 3/5 (GG). Grove continues his interesting sightings, when on 3/20 during a heavy snow squall he found at least 15 **Common Snipe** at Rockville Hardware, BA, in a tiny creek just beside the parking lot. He suspects they came down due to the snow and gusty winds. "They were watched from a distance of 20' and seemed quite oblivious of our presence." **Am. Woodcock** were heard only once, 3/10. We are very concerned about their vanishing habitat in our area (MK). Hundreds of **Ring-billed Gull** frequented the filed along the river 3/6-11. They landed by the dozens in farm fields and then moved on.

E. Screech-Owl were more obvious by their numerous pellets in the drain spouts when they were cleaned 3/20 than by their vocalizations of late. No **Red-headed**, **Pileated**, or **Hairy woodpecker** seen this quarter. Our regular **Red-bellied Woodpecker** are apparently nesting in a dead snag of old elm tree. **Downy Woodpecker** are relatively abundant here as possibly 6 pair were frequenting sunflower feeders and suet. A **N. Flicker** was on nest in an old Banana Apple tree; they chipped away so many wood pieces I thought the tree trimmers were in the area. In the Jacks Mt. area, pileated, downy, and flickers were found (GG). **E. Phoebe** returned 3/5 and were nest building by 3/28.

Common Raven are regularly vocal on the Knob. Six to 8 **Black-capped Chickadee** have brightened the season and indicate pairing for nesting. A **Brown Creeper** visited the Basswood tree daily. Two **Carolina Wren** which used the hanging basked for a winter roost were ousted and a pair of **House Finch** now have 4 young in the nest 3/28. **E. Bluebird** are nesting in several boxes within sight of the house. A few **Am. Robin** wintered, but by mid-Mar. large flocks came in and early morning singing brought on spring fever. The lone **N. Mockingbird** still hasn't paired and still likes to prove its aggressiveness at the feeders. **N. Cardinal** were numerous this quarter and by 3/10 two nests were observed. A mixed flock of 40-50 **Am. Tree** and **Field** sparrows was found in JM 1/20 (GG). Up to 12 **White-crowned** and **White-throated** sparrows mingled with regulars in the yard.

Red-winged Blackbird returned 2/14 (MK), followed closely by **Common Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** 2/16. **E. Meadowlark** were in BA 1/21 (GG). Over 200 **Am. Goldfinch**, **House Finch**, and **Pine Siskin** were observed at feeders 3/30 (MM&BK), while dozens of siskin and finches were at our feeders (MK). A House Finch nest was found 3/10 (BW).

OBSERVERS: Greg Grove, Mary & Bill Kauffman, Margaret Kenepf, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), Tim Marks, Gene and Mid Riley, Bill Womer.

MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Two **Great Blue Heron** were at Brady's L. 3/23 (LM). On 3/28, an imm. **Tundra Swan**, 6 **Green-winged Teal**, and 4 **Am. Black Duck** were seen along a stream near Cherry Valley (RW). Six **Wood Duck** were seen on a lake along Lower Cherry Valley Rd. 3/17 (RZ). Six **N. Shoveler** were seen at Brady's L. 3/23 (LM). Two **Common Snipe** were seen near Cherry Valley 3/26. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen along Lower Cherry Valley Rd. 3/17 and an early **E. Phoebe** was at Jonas 3/16 (RZ). A **Common Raven** was at Jonas 3/17 (RZ) and 2 **Rusty Blackbird** were seen near Cherry Valley 3/28 (RW).



Evening Grosbeaks, Arrowhead, 3/16/90. Photo by Lew Molnar.

Molnar's feeders in Arrowhead were quite active. The following were seen either 2/10 or 2/17: 12 **Mourning Dove**, 4 **Downy Woodpecker**, 6 **Hairy Woodpecker**, 12 **Black-capped Chickadee**, 4 **Tufted Titmouse**, 1 **Red-breasted** and 4 **White-breasted nuthatches**, 12-36 **Pine Siskin**, 24 **Am. Goldfinch**, and 12 **Evening Grosbeak**. High counts of siskin (60) and Evening Grosbeak (24) were recorded 3/16.

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

Abbreviations: Barnes Arboretum (BA), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Fort Washington SP (FWSP), Schuylkill R. (SR), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

Tundra Swan stopped off at GLR beginning 2/6 (GAF), with a max. of 37 on 3/12 (KC). A low max. of only 5 **Snow Geese** were observed in GLR waters in Mar. (KC), but skeins of 100+ flew over them 3/19 (NT) and 250+ over Hatfield 3/22 (GAF). **Wood Duck** families have long been easy to find in the UPVP area, and they began arriving there 3/12 (RG), with an early single seen 3/1 (KC), but their numbers are definitely up along the SR. For the second year in a row, it's almost impossible to walk anywhere along the river from Rt. 29 to Betzwood without causing an explosion of screaming woodies from under the bank. Both GAF and GLF expressed concern about the low numbers of **N. Pintail** at GLR compared to counts of over 60 ten years ago. (GAF asked, "Who will save the ducks?") However, KC counted 32 present there 3/12, the very day after GAF had seen only 4. Numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** in the lower SR also seemed low, but 80 **scaup sp.** at GLR 3/20 were outstanding (GAF). **Common Goldeneye** were plentiful on the lower SR (Betzwood area) and both **Bufflehead** and **Common Merganser** were abundant there and at GLR. Missing this year were any reports of **Blue-winged Teal**, **N. Shoveler**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead** and **Oldsquaw**. Only one **Ruddy Duck** was reported, that in the lower SR 2/5 (NT).

But this was the year for hawks at GLR. Four **N. Harrier** were regulars during Jan. and Feb., as were 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** all quarter. A single **Cooper's** was seen 1/13, 26 and 3/19, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was off and on around RG's Green Lane house from 2/12+, and on 3/15 was joined by a mate. On 3/21, RG saw the male "hopping around behind the house gathering sticks while the female ate a small mammal the male had caught and given her." Two imm. **Rough-legged Hawk** were readily visible all Jan. at GLR, as were 2 **Merlin** Jan. and Feb. (m.ob). One **Merlin** was last seen 3/11 (RG). Meanwhile, a hawk-watcher along the upper SR (Rt 29 area) saw on the morning of 3/19 a **Sharp-shinned**, a **Cooper's**, a **Red-shouldered** and 3 **Red-tailed** (BF). And at BA, RK watched a Sharpie "eliminate" a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**.

Last year's **Wild Turkey** brood at GLR has evidently had a high survival rate, for from 20-25 turkey were being seen there throughout the quarter (GAF, GLF), and GLF, who lives there, had 14 at his feeder 3/18. Other good reports from GLF were a count of 15 **Ring-necked Pheasant** in the area, 3 **Am. Woodcock** 3/13, 4 **Common Snipe** 3/25 and a single **Bonaparte's Gull** 2/3.

A single **Barn Owl** was seen at GLR 2/8, 25 and 3/10 (GAF, GLF), and another was at FWSP, where it was seen one day only, 3/17, as it sat on roost regularly occupied by a **Great Horned Owl** (WM). A red-phase **E. Screech-Owl** occupied an owl box in BF's back yard in Mont Clare all quarter, and was joined there by a second in Mar. when the 2 began mating. But the biggest owl excitement was generated by up to 7 **Short-eared Owl** at GLR all quarter, which almost every dusk put on a show on a hillside opposite the bird sanctuary (m.ob). One was also spied 1/14 along nearby Little Rd. in Perkiomenville (RG).

A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** were a surprising sight at a suburban feeder in Wynnewood 3/3; 1 returned one day in mid-Mar. (WMcL). Earliest **E. Phoebe** reported was 3/10 in the lower SR silt basin (NT). **Tree Swallow** were flying over GLR by 3/25 (GLF). Three widespread county feeders attracted a pair each of wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and a **Winter Wren** was found along the lower SR 2/5 (NT). A small flock of 8-12 **E. Bluebird** was conspicuous at GLR, ground-feeding on poison ivy and in Jan. looking brilliant against the snow. RG found other small flocks of bluebirds in nearby areas. Hundreds of **Am. Robin** also wintered at GLR, and another 60-70 filled the crabapple trees at BA all winter (RK).

The summer-like spell in Feb. drew 2 **Gray Catbird** and a **Brown Thrasher** to FWSP 2/11 (WM). GAF estimated that about 90 **Cedar Waxwing** and 30 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** spent the

quarter at GLR. By 3/23, newly-arriving yellow-rumped began to appear in large numbers all along the SR. First reported **Pine Warbler** was at FWSP 3/17 (WM).

UPDATE: It was inadvertently reported in the last issue that the **Western Tanager** found Dec 30 1989 was the first *Montgomery* record. Actually, there was one earlier record of this bird in Ambler from 21-24 Dec. 1974 that was seen by many observers.
Ed Fingerhood

The famous **Western Tanager** of Dec. lingered in Whitpain Twp. for the first weeks of Jan., but was last seen 1/21. The first **Rufous-sided Towhee** was at GLR 3/25, and GLF counted 100 **Am. Tree Sparrow** there 1/6. An unusually dedicated **Fox Sparrow** first seen at NT's feeder in Mont Clare in Dec. was seen regularly through 2/26, when it was joined by a second. Both promptly vacated 2/27, but either one of these or another reappeared 3/20. **E. Meadowlark** made a good, if temporary, comeback at GLR in early Jan., when about 40 were seen for a few days with hundreds of starlings flocking from field to field. RG's Green Lane feeder drew enviable numbers of **Purple Finch** (from 40 to a max. of 55 on 1/30) and **Pine Siskin** (20 to 25 daily, with a max. of 62 on 3/25) all quarter. Both species in much smaller numbers were reported for limited times around the reservoir proper, at FWSP and at BA.

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

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A **Brant** was found by SS at the PP&L ash basin in the company of well over 1000 **Canada Geese** 1/3. On 3/18 an **Oldsquaw** was seen by CS at Montour Preserve. Earlier, on 2/1, she saw 2 **Short-eared Owl** there. On 1/9, SS estimated 200-300 **Am. Robin** at Montour Preserve. Near 80°F temperatures 3/12 seemed inappropriate for the ad. **N. Shrike** found and well described by SS near the ash basin.

OBSERVERS: Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Christine Smull, Stan Stahl.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: East Bangor Dam (EBD), Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO), Minsi L. (ML), Port Phillips (PP), Smith Gap (SG).

All observations by Dave DeReamus unless otherwise noted.

The **Common Loon** on the Delaware R. at Easton was still present 1/1. On 3/24, 3 **Horned Grebe** were at ML and 6 **Pied-billed Grebe** were at EBD. A lingering **Pied-bill** remained on the Lehigh R. at Easton to at least 1/13. A late **Great Blue Heron** was at Easton 1/1 and 10 were seen at ML 3/17 (RZ). **Snow Goose** records included 1 at Sandt's Eddy 1/14 (DD, RW), 35 past LGBO 3/12, and 9 at Schlegel Rd. 3/20. Seven **Wood Duck** were seen at Sandt's Eddy 3/24 and 10 were at ML 3/17 (RZ). Two **N. Pintail** were at ML 3/31 and the ♂ **Canvasback** at Hollo Pines remained until 1/1. An excellent count of 21 **Bufflehead** was at Sandt's Eddy 1/14 (DD, RW) and DeReamus counted 97 **Common Merganser** at ML 3/29.

Two **Turkey Vulture** were seen on the early date 2/1 at Bushkill Center and the first **Black Vulture** was recorded at LGBO 3/15 (BS). Extremely warm weather brought a very early **Broad-winged Hawk** to LGBO 3/15. The bird, an immature, was carefully studied at close range by Silfies, an experienced raptor bander. Poole (*Pennsylvania Birds* 1964) lists an "extreme" date of 3/12. An almost full albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen throughout the period along Rt. 33 near Wind Gap (m.ob., ph.) and a dark-morph ad. was seen near Easton 1/19 (RW). **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings included a light-phase at Fancy Furrow

1/19 (RW), a light at Rts. 22 and 512 on 1/26, and a dark at Fancy Furrow 1/22-2/8. The highlight of Boyce's **Am. Kestrel** study was the sighting of an ad. **Peregrine Falcon** attacking 2 Red-tails near Morgan's Hill 3/25.

Killdeer were first noted at Copella 2/23 and 19 were seen at Schlegel Rd. 3/20. A **Common Snipe** lingered until 1/1 at Hullo Pines, 14 were at PP 3/17, and 15 were at Gradwohl's 3/25 (RW). Three **Am. Woodcock** were in courtship at Clearfield 3/14 (DD,RW). About 175 **Ring-billed Gull** were seen at ML 3/24.

Two **Pileated Woodpecker** were seen at Moore Park 3/27 and 2 early **E. Phoebe** were at PP 3/14. Over 150 **Horned Lark** wintered at Graver's Hill and 150 **Tree Swallow** were present at EBD 3/24. The first **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were 3 at ML 3/29. A very late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was observed at Nazareth 1/27. A very early **Palm Warbler** was seen at EBD 3/24. The earliest date for the area prior to that was 4/2.

Six **White-crowned Sparrow** were found at Nazareth 1/27. A lingering **Swamp Sparrow** was at EBD 1/24 and 2 **Lapland Longspur** remained at Graver's Hill until 3/6. About 75 **Snow Bunting** were seen at Schlegel Rd. 1/1. Four **Rusty Blackbird** were at EBD 3/24. Finally, a **Pine Siskin** was seen at PP with a beak full of grass fibers 3/14. It was not seen again.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Brad Silfies, **Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St., Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184)**, Richard ZainEldeen.

The following was omitted from the last report: The highlight of the season was the record flight of 24 **Merlin** during a flight of 1000 Sharp-shinned Hawks at LGBO (m.ob.). **Corrigendum:** THE LGBO hawk watch summary should read 28 Turkey Vulture for Nov., not 28 Black Vulture. Black Vulture total should read 4.

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Four **Canvasback** were on the Juniata R. below Newport 3/20 (RC). A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near Bridgeport 1/1 (DHe). On 3/10 at Board Run Rd., Newport, Dowhower had a mixed flock of birds that included 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. On 1/16, while hiking in the Tuscarora SF near Hemlock Natural Area, Hoffman had a flock of at least 500 **Pine Siskin** feeding and flying around the area. The noise was actually deafening.

OBSERVERS: Richard Colyer, Dallas Dowhower, Don Henise, **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: Andorra Nature Center (ANC), Bartram Gardens (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Pennypack Park (PP), Mid-winter Bird Census (MWBC), mouth of Poquessing Creek and Delaware R. (PC-DR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Tinicum National Environmental Center (TN), West Fairmount Park (WFP).

Both Jan. and Feb. were among the warmest on record. Little rain fell during the period, no snow, and most water was open. Nonetheless, as will be seen, the effects of the Dec. freeze were felt.

The 4th annual *Philadelphia* MWBC held 1/13 resulted in 82 species and provided few surprises. The best bird was a **Glaucous Gull** found by Richard Horwitz and Sandra Sherman at the Girard Point Bridge. Several duck species, not surprising following the freeze, were at all-time lows, but the **Common Merganser** count (480) was nearly five times the previous high. **Great Cormorant**, 5, continued on the DR. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were at all-time highs. Details can be obtained from the compiler, Keith Russell, at 71 W. Washington Lane, Phila. 19144.

In addition to the 5 Great Cormorant on the MWBC, a remarkable 30 were found 1/27 at Pennypack Ave. and the DR (FW). Others found were 4 at PC-DR 2/20 (EF) and 1 on the DR at Ft. Mifflin 3/21 (JCM). All were imm. birds. Three **Double-crested Cormorant** were found on the MWBC, another 3 at the Girard Pt. Bridge 3/16 and 8 on 3/17 (EF). The first **Great Egret**, 2, appeared at TN 3/15 (JCM).

Four hundred **Snow Geese** flew over CW 3/16 (SL). Tom Reeves *et al.* found duck numbers and species "down at TN" and speculated that "the hard freeze scared them off." **Wood Duck**, however, seemed to recover from zero on the MWBC to 10+ at TN 3/12 (DM,JCM) and 18+ the following day (JCM). Open water on the Schuylkill R. off BG produced **Canvasback**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Duck** for Jack Siler, a new contributor, 1/1. These ducks, plus **Ring-necked**, were at TN the same day (JS). **Common Merganser** were plentiful this winter. First reported 1/1 (JS) at BG, the MWBC county total above, plus ±50 at TN 1/21 (JS) and 375+ on the DR at Ft. Mifflin 1/13 (JCM). One ♂ **Red-breasted Merganser** was found at TN 3/16 (JS). **Ruddy Duck** were among the duck species having all-time lows on the MWBC two weeks later.

Chris McCabe, another new contributor, found **Turkey Vulture** over the Roxborough area throughout Jan. and Feb. Several were in WFP 1/15,16 and 2/2,15 (CM). Roxborough also produced a **N. Harrier** for CM 1/22 and 2/7. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were seen on dates throughout the period in CW (SL), NE Phila. (EF), SCEE, Roxborough, and WFP (CM). An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** delighted SL at CW 3/3. **Red-tailed Hawk** were plentiful. Seen by CM all quarter at ANC and SCEE, he counted at least 7 in WFP through Feb. Fifty-eight were found on the MWBC and at least 15+ from the TN/Ft. Mifflin area 2/10 (JCM). **Am. Kestrel** showed up in such unlikely places as 2 in downtown Phila. in early mar. (SL) and a pair in w. Phila. during most of the period (EB). The Girard Pt. Bridge **Peregrine Falcon** pair were seen from 2/20+. They were observed mating 3/17 (EF, Donna Calio). That same day a **Peregrine** was observed at CW (SL).

The CW **E. Screech-Owl** was not reported this season and appears to have abandoned its nesting hole. **Great Horned Owl** did better. One was seen hunting at dusk during Jan./Feb. at SCEE and a pair was noted in WFP 1/2-9 (CM). Two were calling at Delaine Landing along the DR in NE Phila. 2/11 (EF,EB) and another 2 in CW 3/16,17 (SL).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was favoring Concourse L. in WFP and seen 2/7,26 (CM). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found in WFP 2/20 (CM). The only other report was from the MWBC 1/13. **N. Flicker** moved through the region in numbers 3/16, when JCM found 25+ at TN. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was found on the MWBC and another was seen in CW 2/16 (CM) and a ♂ near the woods 3/12 (MD).

Our earliest **E. Phoebe** date was 3/13 at TN (DM,JCM). As noted in earlier issues, there appears to be a lag of several days between northern migration at TN and CW. The first CW phoebe was 3/17 (SL) and 3/18 for PP (FW). A flock of 31 **Horned Lark** was found in the Northeast Airport on the MWBC (Al Kronschnabel, Bob Sehl).

Tree Swallow, 10, were reported first at TN 3/11 (FW). The flock there had grown to 100+ by 3/14 (JCM). Warm Feb. weather may have spurred some early nesting activity among **Am. Crow**. One was seen 2/25 carrying nesting material in WFP (CM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at an all-time high with 11 on the MWBC. Others were noted in WFP 1/31 (CM). **Brown Creeper** were found in W. Mt. Airy 2/13 (EB) and 2 in CW 3/15 (MD).

Steve Lawrence notes that "winter in the CW area seemed a bit low in numbers, much having been cleaned out by the bitter Dec., but what survived Dec. seemed to survive." That included **Carolina Wren** in CW where EB found one 1/5. SL reports a real survivor no matter what cold, the **Winter Wren** near CW 1/13. Others were found at TN 1/11,21 (JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were still at TN 3/4 (TR) and at ANC 3/11 (MD). Seventy-five were recorded on the MWBC 1/13.

Am. Robin seemed to have found CW a refuge this winter. SL recorded them 1/1-2/16, with at least 10 from 1/13. A **Gray Catbird** was found on the MWBC and another at the ANC 3/11 for the earliest report. Two **Hermit Thrush** were passing through the 80° heat in CW 3/15 (MD). Early warbler reports include **Pine** at TN 3/12 (JCM) and in CW 3/15 (MD). A **Palm**

was seen at TN 3/13 (DM). **Ovenbird** was noted at the SCEE 2/16 (CM) and a **Common Yellowthroat** at TN 3/12 was "singing" (DM).

Am. Tree Sparrow wintered at TN with a report from JS for 1/21 and 3/11 (FW). **Fox Sparrow** were scarce; none on the MWBC and just 1 from TN 3/16 (JS). Fifty **Snow Bunting** were found at the old Byberry property in NE Phila. on the MWBC (Chris Dooley). A small flock of **Red-winged Blackbird** wintered in WFP, noted 2/7,20 (CM). **Rusty Blackbird** numbers grew from 2 on 3/11 (FW) to 50+ by 3/16 (JCM) at TN. **Common Grackle** 2/13 and **Am. Goldfinch** 2/14 were found at a W. Mt. Airy feeder (EB).

OBSERVERS: We welcome Chris McCabe and Jack Siler as new contributors who join Erica Brendel, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Steve Lawrence, Doris McGovern, John C. Miller, Tom Reeves, Frank Windfelder.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Tom Clauser

Abbreviations: Deer L. (DL), Landingville Dam (LD), New Ringgold (NR), Port Clinton (PC), Pottsville (PV).

Three **Great Blue Heron** were at LD 2/3 (TC) and 25 **Tundra Swan** flew over PV 3/14 (PE). Two **Hooded Merganser** were at NR 3/16 (DMK). Six **Black Vulture** were over PC 1/17 (JT) and other sightings were reported from PC from 2/10-3/30 (DMK). Some 25 **Turkey Vulture** were reported from PC 2/1 (LG *et al.*), and 150 **Turkey Vulture** were over PC 2/11 (LG,JB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at DL 1/8 (JT), and 2 were at NR 2/16 (DMK). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was over PV 1/7 (TC). **Am. Woodcock** were heard and seen displaying at Adamsdale 3/10 (LG *et al.*), and they were heard at NR 3/13 (DMK).

The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** that frequented the compiler's feeders during the last quarter was last seen 2/21. An **E. Phoebe** was first seen at NR 3/13 (DMK). A **Carolina Wren** was in PV 1/20 and an active pair was seen checking nest sights 1/28 (TC). Twenty **Cedar Waxwing** were at PV 1/7 (TC).

OBSERVERS: Jim Brett, Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363), Pat Essler, Laurie Goodrich, Dan & Marjie Knarr, Jeanne Tinsman.

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Faylor L. was clear of ice by mid-Jan. and on 3/17 hosted 200+ **Tundra Swan**, 2 **Mute Swan**, and 20 **Oldsquaw** with commoner species. Earlier, on 2/24-25, about 50 **Common Merganser** were there. "Dozens" of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were moving through hemlocks and white pines near Troxelville 1/27-28. **Pine Siskin** were at feeders throughout the period. (All sightings by R&PW.)

OBSERVERS: Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Richard & Pat Williams.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: Black Twp (BT), Cranberry Glad L. (CGL), Fort Hill (FH), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HV), L. Somerset (LS), Laurel Hill SP (LHSP), Markleton (MA), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Shanksville (SV), Somerset (SO), Stroughton L. (SL), Youghiogheny R. (YR).

Waterfowl, **Am. Robin**, and **Pine Siskin** dominated the reports. With some waterfowl species on open water in Jan. and some migrants arriving early in Feb., it was hard to separate wintering and migration records. Large flights in the normal

migration period were missing for the most part, so the records of birders who made frequent rounds of waterways were important in monitoring an almost constant movement of birds.

A lone **Common Loon** arrived at LS 3/19 and 1-2 were seen thereafter at LS and QD to end of quarter. Single sightings of **Pied-billed Grebe** on YR 1/13,28 and 3 **Horned Grebe** at LS 1/29 and 1-2 at LS in mid-Feb. were followed by sightings of up to 15 of both species throughout Mar. at various lakes. A **Great Blue Heron** was at CGL 3/11; 2 at LS 3/20 and 2 at HPL 3/25. The highest **Tundra Swan** count at QD was 312 on 3/6 and less than 50 at LS and L. Gloria from 3/6-13. **Canada Goose** numbers were very low, evidenced by the high of 50 at QD 3/5, 30 at SL 2/10 and 12 at LS 2/15. The early arrival of **Wood Duck** on SL 2/10 was followed by very low counts all quarter. AJM reported the quick takeover of a nesting box at LS as a female **Wood Duck** left a box at 6:33 a.m. 3/21 that was put in place the previous evening at 5:15 p.m. SL had a high of 18 **Green-winged Teal** 3/24, LS had 1-8 from 3/10+, and HPL had 3 on 3/25. **Am. Black Duck** and **Mallard** were both in very low numbers of 40 or less. One **N. Pintail** was on YR 1/13, 9 at LS 2/10, 4 at QD and 1 at LS 3/10,20. Up to 5 **Blue-winged Teal** were at LS 3/16+. LS was host to 4 **Gadwall** 3/9 and 15 **Am. Wigeon** were at SL 3/24. **Canvasback** were seen only at LS, with 17 on 3/20, 8 on 3/24, and 4 on 3/19. QD had the best counts of **Ring-necked Duck**, with 25 on 3/4, 250 on 3/8, and 52 on 3/30; HPL had 51 on 3/25; and LS 10 or less from 3/10+. **Lesser Scaup** were seen in numbers up to 81 at LS, CGL and QD 3/10+. Six **Common Goldeneye** were at LS 2/10 and QD 3/4 and 1 at LS 1/29. Few **Bufflehead** reports at LS, HPL and QD had a high of 15 at HPL 3/25. Mergansers added much to the birding picture, with appearance of all three species. Up to 51 **Red-breasted** were seen regularly at QD, LS and HPL 1/29+; up to 35 **Hooded** were at QD, LHSP, SL, YR and LS 1/13-3/30; and 1-3 **Common** at LS and YR 1/21-2/16. One to 10 **Ruddy Duck** were at LS 3/1-24 and 6 at QD 3/30.

Turkey Vulture arrived first at FH 3/7. **N. Harrier** were seen at a number of locations from mid-Feb. on. A dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Berlin 3/26. The only **Am. Coot** report was of 3 at LS 3/23. The first **Killdeer** was seen in BT 2/9; LS had a **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/12 and 6 **Dunlin** 3/30 and 5 on 3/31. First report of **Common Snipe** was of 7 at HPL 3/25; and first **Am. Woodcock** was at SV 3/12. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at MA 1/2. First **E. Phoebe** were reported widely 3/10-11. **Horned Lark** were in low numbers in the SV-HV area in Mar. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were more numerous than last year, reported in various locations all quarter. A pair of **Carolina Wren** roosted through the quarter in fiberglass roll insulation in the ceiling of an unheated basement garage at MA. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were in good numbers the last half of Mar.

E. Bluebird did very well all quarter. Only **Hermit Thrush** were 1 at SV 1/2 and 3 at SO 3/1. The 51 **Am. Robin** at HV 1/2 was the beginning of similar reports throughout Jan., and by Feb. few days went by without robin reports, with migrating flocks in the hundreds by the end of Feb. The only **N. Mockingbird** was reported at SO 3/18. There were 7 **Am. Pipit** at Ursina 3/24, 1 at LS 3/24, and 5 at FH 3/25. Only **Cedar Waxwing** report was 10 at HV 2/17.

Two **Rufous-sided Towhee** were at MA 1/1-29. The first **Field Sparrow** arrived at HV 3/20. Two **Fox Sparrow** at HV 2/27 was an early date and 1 was also seen there 3/24. **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived in flocks of hundreds in the period 2/22-28. The first **E. Meadowlark** was at SV 3/10. Few **Purple Finch** were seen in Jan./Feb., but by 3/11 a flock of 24 was at HV and maintained similar numbers to end of quarter. The Jan. count of **Pine Siskin** was low, but by Feb. to end of quarter there were numerous reports of 50-100 at feeders. The only **Evening Grosbeak** reports were 1 at MA 1/2 and 6 at HV 3/19.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Haines, Anthony J. Marich, Alex Mellon, Bonnie & Robert Mulvihill, Jeff & Retta Payne, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Tom Shervinski, Evaleen & Michael Watko.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: World's End SP (WESP), Wyoming SF (WSF).

With very little snow, few skiing birders visited this county during the winter, resulting in poor coverage. Observations by the compiler, unless otherwise noted.

Common Raven stayed the winter on North Mt. near Nordmont (DoG). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was common in hemlock groves near WESP. **Dark-eyed Junco** were plentiful in each of my trips to the county. There were at least 10 **Red Crossbill** in WSF near WESP 1/14 (DG). Hundreds of **Pine Siskin** were in forests throughout the county in the winter; several flocks were observed in WESP 1/14. **Evening Grosbeak** were not particularly common.

OBSERVER: Donald Gross (DoG), **Douglas A. Gross, R.D.1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859.**

This fourth quarter report was delayed due to a computer glitch.

There was very limited observation of birds in *Sullivan* this quarter. Word reached the editor of a **Bald Eagle** spotted over Eagles Mere L. in Sept. (no binoculars). This seems almost too good to be true. Unfortunately, there was no confirmation of this sighting.

Common Raven were sighted near World's End SP and on North Mt. near Elk Grove. While hiking in Wyoming SF and SGL 13 near Nordmont, I noticed a large number of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in all three months. **Pine Siskin** were locally abundant in hemlock groves.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Bill Reid

An early **Turkey Vulture** was seen at Montrose 3/25 (WR). Flocks of over 100 **Am. Robin** were reported through Jan. Six **Pine Grosbeak** were seen near Birchardville 1/6 (JH,JS).

OBSERVERS: Jim Hoysen, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Jim Shoemaker.

TIOGA COUNTY

Bob Ross

Abbreviations: Beechwood L. (BL), Cherry Flats (CF), Farmington Twp (FT), Hills Creek L. (HCL), Hammond L. (HDL), Hamilton L. (HLL), Liberty (LI), Marshlands (MR), Mansfield area (MA), Marsh Creek (MC), National Fishery Laboratory (NFL), Nessmuk L. (NL), Pine Creek (PC), Sabinsville (SA), Stony Fork (SF), Tioga L. (TL), Wellsboro area (WA).

The first **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at NL 3/20, while **Horned Grebe**, in winter plumage, preceded them 3/11 (RMR). An imm. **Great Blue Heron** wintered at NFL (RMR), but the first migrant did not arrive at LI and PC until the first week of Mar. (JR,CD). **Tundra Swan** stopped at several area lakes 2/21-3/14 but in much fewer numbers than last year; only 3-11 swans per sighting (MC,RH,RMR,DS). On 3/6-15, 91 (RMR) and 300 (HR) **Canada Geese** and a flock of **Snow Geese** (JR) passed through NL, SA, and LI respectively. Ducks were observed in fewer numbers even than last year, as the following table shows:

Species	Date	No.	Location	Observer(s)
Wood Duck	3/20	6	PC	CD
	3/31	3	HCL	MC,DS
Green-winged Teal	3/12	4	MCRM	
Mallard	3/11-12	6	NL,MC	RMR
	3/14	5	BL	HR

Gadwall	3/11	3	NL	RMR
Ring-necked Duck	3/11	20	NL	RMR
	3/23,31	2 flocks	HLL,HCL	MC,DS
Bufflehead	3/11	1	NL	RMR
	3/11,23,31	3 flocks	HDL,HLL,HCL	MC,DS
Hooded Merganser*	3/9	2	MC,NFL	RMR
Common Merganser	2/11	15	TL	RC,FC,RMR
	3/20,28	3	NL,MC	RMR
	3/31	3	PC	DM

* nested, 6 eggs.

Ring-necks, followed by **Bufflehead**, were best represented.

Turkey Vulture returned to LI on time, 3/15 (JR), and a kettle of 24 vultures formed at MC in cold, windy weather 3/27 (RMR). Two ad. **Bald Eagle** initiated nesting activity on PC 2/19 (CD,MB), with apparent incubation beginning 3/18. A sub-ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen on PC 3/26 (CD). **N. Harrier** wintered in good numbers, with sightings from 1/15+ (MC,RMR,HR,DS,SS). An imm. **Cooper's Hawk** was seen near feeders at SA 2/4 and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was chased by crows at BL 3/14 (HR). **Rough-legged Hawk**, both phases, were also observed in good numbers from 1/14-3/21 throughout the county (WB,FC,RC,RMR,SS). **Am. Kestrel** were seen at LI and WA 2/1 and 3/21,23 (JR,RMR,MC). The first **Killdeer** was reported at WA 3/10 (MC), a week ahead of last year. **Am. Woodcock** courtship displays were observed repeatedly at WA 3/31 (RMR).

An evening of owls was enjoyed on 2/1 when JM asked RMR about night calls sounding like the repeated beating of a log or a pipe for the previous two weeks. Suspecting a **E. Screech** or **N. Saw-whet** owl, RMR played a Saw-whet tape about dusk in Babylon Hollow near MR. In 15 min. a **Great Horned Owl** responded with 5-hoot vocalizations. Fifteen minutes after repeating the Saw-whet tape, a Saw-whet responded with its own vocalization for about a minute, just after dark. Finally a **Barred Owl** responded with the 9-hoot series and numerous variations. Three species apparently defending the same territory with their calls in less than an hour!

At least 1 **Belted Kingfisher** wintered, with sightings at WA 1/13 and 2/4. **N. Flicker** returned to MA and WA 3/8,25 (EE,DR). **Pileated Woodpecker** were found in good numbers county-wide, with sightings from 2/25-3/14 (FC,RC,DD,EE,RMR,HR). **E. Phoebe** returned to WA and NFL 3/16 (MC,RMR), HCL (MC,DS). A **Common Raven** was chased by a crow at NL 3/11.

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were present all quarter at MA feeders (EE). A **Carolina Wren** sang on a cold 2/7 morning at WA. **House Wren** arrived at WA 3/18 (DR), and a **Winter Wren** was seen at LI 3/28. **E. Bluebird** were reported in good numbers at WA 3/7 (MC,DS) and at LI 3/20 (JR). Flocks of 2-4 dozen **Am. Robin** were seen 1/14 at MC (FC,RC,RMR) and at MA 1/15 (EE).

Four **Fox Sparrow** were reported at a LI feeder 1/11 (JR) and 2 at MC 3/27 (DL). Six **White-throated Sparrow** used a LI feeder 2/2 (JR). **Red-winged Blackbird** returned to LI as early as 2/4 (JR), but not to WA until 2/24 (MC). **E. Meadowlark** returned to NFL 3/15, while **Rusty Blackbird** were seen at WA by 3/18 (RMR). **Common Grackle** were first seen at WA 2/16, and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were reported late to WA 3/24 (DR). A single **White-winged Crossbill** was seen at LI 1/30 (JR), but **Pine Siskin** were present county-wide in very large numbers all quarter (FC,RC,EE,RMR). **Evening Grosbeak** were seen in moderate numbers at SA and WA 2/15 and 2/24-3/30 respectively (HR,MC).

We welcome Bob Ross as the new compiler for Tioga County and give thanks to Martha Copp for her years of service. —eds.

OBSERVERS: Wayne Bonney, Mike Bowser, Flossie & Ron Comstock, Martha Copp, Chuck Dillon, Doris Davies, Ethel Erickson, Dorothea Leber, Darlene Madarish, Jim Meade, **Dr. Robert M. Ross, RD 7 Box 238, Wellsboro 16901 (717-724-6199)**, Don Rothiers, Jean Rothrock, Howard Rushmore, Dick Sargent, Susan Shellenbarger.

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Kahle L. (KL).

Fifty-five species were observed in Jan. bringing our total to 73 for the last three years. Likewise, Feb. total was 53 species this year and 65 for the three-year period, while Mar. produced totals of 79 and 98. By the end of the quarter, the 1990 total for the county was 86. A **Loggerhead Shrike**, seen 3/26 by DE was a *first* for the county—according to our records—and brought our county total to 202 species.

A pair of **Green-winged Teal** wintered on the AR near Franklin. Three early **Turkey Vulture** visited the Kennerdell area during a 2/24 snow storm. **N. Harrier** and **Short-eared Owl** present throughout the quarter on a strip mine area near Barkeyville and increased numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Pine Siskin** were present the entire period. **Cedar Waxwing** continued their trend of being seen early in Jan. and then not being recorded in Feb. or Mar.

Additional significant sighting included a **Bald Eagle** on the AR 1/23, **Pied-billed Grebe** on AR 2/24, **Ring-billed Gull** at KL 1/28, **Am. Woodcock** 3/3, **Brown-headed Cowbird** 1/1, **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** 2/12, **Rusty Blackbird** 3/11.

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

WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

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

A **Common Loon** was seen in Warren 2/1 (RR). About 200 **Tundra Swan** flew over Warren 3/5 (TK), 100 on 3/14 (BH), and 60 were at Akeley 3/14 (KC). A ♂ **Wood Duck** and an **Am. Coot** hung out in Jan. with a large flock of **Mallard** that people feed near the hospital in Warren, and the **Wood Duck** and 3 **Redhead** were there in Feb. Four **Oldsquaw** were on the SPSR 3/18 (DEW). A pair of **Red-breasted Merganser** accompanied some **Common Merganser** below Starbrick 2/12 (TG).

Two ad. and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** were seen from KD to Warren 1/6 (v.o.), 1 ad. at KD 1/13 (TG), 1 taking a live fish from the Conewango Cr. at N. Warren early Jan. (MY), an ad. at Putnam's Eddy e. of Warren 1/27 (BH,DD), an ad. at Irvine 2/7 (DW), an ad. from Putnam's Eddy to KD 2/22,24,28 (CMN,TG,DD), and 1 at Althom 2/28 (EF). All were on the river, except the 1 on the Conewango. A **N. Harrier** was seen at Sheffield 3/1 (RL). Several **Cooper's Hawk** were reported in and near Warren in Jan. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in the Lander area 1/14 (DW), 1/15 (DD,TG,BH), and 3/18 (DEW).

Despite high counts of **Herring** and **Ring-billed** gulls on CBCs, they virtually disappear by 1/15. A **Great Horned Owl** near Irvine was calling at 3:15 p.m. in bright sunshine 1/31 (TG). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was near Irvine 2/7 (DW), and 1 stayed all month s. of Irvine in Feb (CA). There were 15 **Horned Lark** near Lander 1/14 (DW).

There were 2 **Common Raven** just s. of Warren 1/6 (DW), 1 near Scandia 2/1 (TG), and 3 w. of Sheffield 2/5 (TG). **Black-capped Chickadee** were feeding from the hand at the Buckaloons Recreation Area and a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was catching tiny flying insects there 1/31 (TG). A flock of **E. Bluebird** were w. of Russell 1/26 (JT), and 1 at KD 1/27 (DD,BH). Two flocks of **Am. Robin** totaling 53 were counted n.e. of Lander 1/31 (TG).

The **N. Shrike** reported 12/31 was seen again n.e. of Lander 1/15 (DD,TG,BH), 2/17 (DW), and 3/18 (DBW). Fifty **Snow Bunting** were seen near Lander 1/14 (DW). A **Red-winged Blackbird** was at a feeder in Saybrook 1/3 (CMN). A **Purple Finch** was at Warren 2/25 (TG). **Pine Siskin** were at most

feeders, with top counts of 70 in Jan. and 200 in Feb. and Mar. at Saybrook (CMN), and 100 in Warren in Feb. (RR). TG trapped 1 in Warren 2/25 that he had banded 3/18/88. Forty-three **Am. Goldfinch** was the top count at a feeder in Warren 2/26 (TG). About 30 **Evening Grosbeak** were at their feeder in Saybrook in Jan. and Mar. and 10 through Mar. (CMN), and up to 25 near Garland (DO) in Jan.

OBSERVERS: Curt Anderson, Dan Doherty, Keith Confer, Ed Fike, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Ted Kirsch, Rick Lyle, Chuck & Marjorie Neel, David Ostrander, Ron Rieder, Joe Tarr, Don & Brenda Watts, Martin Yucha.

WAYNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

A red-bellied Woodpecker was seen in Starlight 1/24 (JC) and White-winged Crossbills at the same location 1/9 (JC).

In the town of Honesdale, a ♂ **Dickcissel** was present at a feeder in the company of **House Sparrow** 1/20-21. It was seen and identified by Joe Southerton (a Lewisberg, *Union* birder). Joe showed me photographs taken at a distance of perhaps 3-4 ft through a window. The bird was unquestionably a Dickcissel. (*fide* Allen Schweinsberg).

OBSERVERS: Jack Christian.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Donegal L. (DL); Keystone L. (KL); Latrobe Res. (LR); Loyalhanna Res. (LHR); Mammoth Park (MP); Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR); Saint Vincent L. (SVL).

The only **Pied-billed Grebe** record during the quarter was of 2 birds at LR 3/31. Two **Horned Grebe** were at KL 2/15 (VC); the species was first recorded at LR 3/1 (MEW) and at DL 3/5 (RCL). A **Great Egret** was seen on Indian Cr. 3/18; what may have been the same bird was at DL from 3/26-29 (LB,TD,RCL). The **Tundra Swan** flight was virtually unnoticed; the only report was 2 birds at LR 3/19 (RS). Six **Wood Duck** were on a farm pond near DL 3/6 (DS); they were not seen at PNR until 3/9 (RCL). First **Green-winged Teal** were at DL 3/16 (MEW). A max. of 70 **Am. Black Duck** was seen at LR 1/15 (RCL), among several winter records. First **N. Pintail** was at LR 2/12 (RCL); there were 4 there 3/1 (RCL,MEW) and 4 at DL 3/6 (MEW). First **Am. Wigeon** were 2 at SVL 3/2 (DSm); there were 4 each at DL and LR 3/6 (MEW). First **Ring-necked Duck** was at MP 2/15 (VC), at LR 2/28 (DSm), at DL 3/5 (RCL), and LR 3/6 (MEW). High count was 29 at DL 3/6 (MEW). The only **Lesser Scaup** records were of 20 birds at DL 3/13 (RCL,MEW) and 15 at LR on the same date (MEW). Best duck record for the quarter was 4 **Oldsquaw** at DL 3/29 (RCL, LB). There was a **Common Goldeneye** at MP from 2/1-6 (VC), and 2 goldeneyes were at DL 3/5 (RCL). First **Bufflehead** were 3 at KL 3/13 (VC), with scattered small flocks at area lakes thereafter (RCL,MEW). A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** was at MP from 1/27-2/6 (VC); first likely migrants were 4 at KL 2/15 (VC) and 2 near PNR 3/8 (RCL). A ♂ **Red-breasted Merganser** was at KL 2/15 (VC); the species was first noted at DL 3/6 (MEW).

First **Turkey Vulture** was at Bushy Run SP on 2/10 (VC) and PNR 2/17 (RSM,BTR). Unusual for the county was a winter record of **N. Harrier** at MP 2/1 (VC). Best raptor for the quarter was an imm. **Golden Eagle**, first seen on Laurel Hill 1/2 (RSM); it was spotted in the general area a few more times in Jan. and Feb. (RSM, *fide* RES), and it was last seen 3/10 (BTR). This is one of just a few records of wintering Golden Eagles in the county. First **Killdeer** was at MP 2/15 (VC). **Am. Woodcock** returned to PNR 3/1 (RCL), with at least 10 displaying males a few days later (RSM,BJM,RCL). First **Ring-billed Gull** were seen at DL and KL 2/15 (RCL,VC); there was a max. of 25 at DL 3/5 (RCL).

E. Phoebe returned to PNR and nearby localities 3/11 (RSM,RCL, LB). **Tree Swallow** were not reported in the county

before the end of the quarter. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was visiting a feeder in Jeanette after 2/3 (VC). **Carolina Wren** wintered well at many area bird feeders, having survived severe weather at the end of the previous quarter. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** wintered in better numbers than usual in the PNR area (RCL,RSM). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a very rare wintering bird in the county, was reported at MP 1/27 (VC); no migrants had been reported before the end of the quarter. Flocks of up to 12 **E. Bluebird** were noted at several localities throughout the quarter; apparently, more **Am. Robin** than usual wintered in the county as well (v.o.). Two **N. Mockingbird** were seen regularly during the quarter at DL (RCL,LB, VC). Several **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seen at KL from 1/17-24 (VC) and at LHR from 2/13-3/13 (VC). A **Pine Warbler** visiting a bird feeder 3 mi. s. of West Newton from early Feb. through the end of the quarter may be the *first* such record for the county (DJK). There were more than the usual number of wintering **Rufous-sided Towhee** records (v.o.). **Am. Tree Sparrow** were especially numerous during the first two months of the quarter (RSM,RCL,VC); encouraging after more than a decade of decline in this species as a wintering bird in the county. First **Field Sparrow** was banded at PNR 3/9 (RSM,RCL); but, surprisingly, **Chipping Sparrow** were not observed at PNR by the end of the period. A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at LHR 3/13 (VC). First **Fox Sparrow** was at PNR 2/25 (RCL,RSM). An **E. Meadowlark** seen just w. of PNR 2/4 (JW) was probably a wintering bird, which is unusual for the area; first migrant was noted 3/14 (RSM). A **Common Redpoll** banded at PNR 3/15 is the only record of the species in the county for the quarter (RCL, RSM). The invasion of **Pine Siskin** at PNR and elsewhere in the county that began at the end of the last quarter reached unprecedented heights during this quarter. Over 1,100 siskins were banded at PNR, where a few individuals showed evidence of breeding before the end of the quarter (RCL,RSM), and up to 200 were reported at area bird feeders (JW). **Am. Goldfinch** were also especially numerous (v.o.). **Evening Grosbeak**, on the other hand, were scattered and scarce; 5 were banded at PNR between 1/2 and 2/3, and the only other report was of 8 at Murrysville 3/19 (DB).

OBSERVERS: Larry Barth, Dick Byers, Virginia Cronenberger, Tom Duran, Don and Judy Koch, **Robert C. Leberman** and **Robert S. Mulvihill**, **Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521)**, Bonnie J. Mulvihill, Barb & Ted Rich, Robert E. Shaw, Robin Shaw, Dennis Smeltzer, Don Stitt, Mike & Evaleen Watko, John Whiting.

WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Tunkhannock (TU).

Three **Common Loon** were noted at L. Carey 3/25 (EL). Two **Am. Wigeon** were seen at Sordoni's Farm 3/21. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed at Sordoni's Farm through early Jan. (m.ob.). A flock of 58 **Wild Turkey** was seen near TU 3/12 (WR).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, quite possibly the 1 seen in Dec., was noted at TU 2/25 (WR). At TU, 37 **Blue Jay** were noted in a single tree 3/5 (WR). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were widely reported through the winter. A **Winter Wren** was observed at S. Eaton 3/24 (WR). Flocks of 100+ **Am. Robin** were seen in the Meshoppen area in mid-Jan. (RD). Five **White-winged Crossbill** were seen at Sordoni's Farm 2/13. A flock of 200 **Pine Siskin** was seen at S. Eaton 1/22 (WR), and were widely reported during the remainder of the season. There were several reports of singing birds.

OBSERVERS: Robert Daniels, Earl Lorah, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**.

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Abbreviations: Accomac (AC), Brunner's I. (BI), Codorus

SP (CSP), Gifford Pinchot SP (GP), Pahagaco L. (PL), Sheppard Myers Dam (SMD), Susquehanna R. (SR), Spring Valley County Park (SV), Wrightsville (WR).

The most notable birds were 2 **Red-necked Grebe** at CSP, a **Glaucous Gull** at BI, an **E. Kingbird** that couldn't wait for its proper time, and several **Pine Grosbeak** that only stayed long enough to make sure of their presence.

Eighteen species of duck plus **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes, **Tundra Swan**, **Snow Goose**, **Canada Goose**, and **Am. Coot** showed up sometime during the quarter at CSP. Three **Common Loon**, 1 **Pied-billed Grebe**, and a max. of 29 **Horned Grebe** were at CSP during Jan. (RR,DH,BS,KL). Two **Red-necked Grebe** seen at CSP 3/3 (RR) remained until 3/11 when they were also seen by DH. Also counted at the same location 3/1-5 were 237 **Tundra Swan** (KL). About 200 **Snow Geese** were flying n. over the SR 2/18 (AS). Some 600 **Mallard** gathered at PL 3/12. The 2 pair of **Wood Duck** at SMD 3/9 were a few days early (RR). Six **N. Shoveler** were seen on a lake off Pleasant Grove Rd. 3/17 (AS) and 1 at CSP 3/31 were much better than last year. A pair of **Gadwall** remained at GP all winter until 2/6. Only 1 **Canvasback** found. The 25 **Common Goldeneye** at GP and another 10 on the nearby Conewago Cr. were unexpected 2/26 (MS,NS). About 270 **Common Merganser** arrived at GP 2/17, with 75 remaining until 3/5 (AS). The 17 ♂ **Red-breasted Merganser** at CSP 2/12 were worth noting (RR).

NO *accipiter* was reported. **Wild Turkey** have been sighted at 3 locations, status unknown, in Mar., with the largest flock about 20 (DL,GL,AS). Approx. 1800 **Ring-billed Gull** descended on CSP 3/5, but left for the fields to feed during the morning (RR). A 2nd-winter **Glaucous Gull** at BI remained only 1 day, 1/28 (JeP,JoP).

An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** at GP is the most northern reported wintering area. Continued above average were the sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. An **E. Phoebe** was found at Lock 12 (BS *et al.*) 2/29. Several **Tree Swallow** arrived early at CSP 3/11 (KL). Many new locations for **Brown Creeper** confirm earlier reports of a very good winter.

Larry Rohrbaugh, coordinator for CSP Bluebird Program, reports that there are nearly as many **E. Bluebird** there in winter as in summer. On 2/14 there were about 75 seen at the Marina at once (AW,RW). They have 23 people monitoring, nearly every week, their 13 trails and 150 boxes. The 1989 compilation of birds fledged was: 209 bluebirds, 228 Tree Swallow, 98 House Wren, 13 Tufted Titmouse, and 4 Carolina Chickadee. The CSP Bluebird Program, with the support of Superintendent Gene Grifo, was presented the Bluebirder of the Year award by the PGC in 1989.

In Jan. 114 **Am. Robin** were counted. A total of 24 **Am. Pipit** were seen on Hoff Rd. near CSP and Ridge Rd. n. of E. Berlin. A **Savannah Sparrow** at SV continues to show its presence during the winter. A **Dark-eyed Junco** with pinkish sides was seen at a Wilshire Hills feeder. A few **Pine Grosbeak** remained for a short while in the trees off Denninger Rd. 3/6 (CL). These were the *first* in 6 years. The largest count of **Pine Siskin** was 75 seen at a feeder n. of WR (JD,LD). The 11 **Evening Grosbeak** at WR 1/5 was the only account (AS).

OBSERVERS: Dale Leiphart, Glen Leiphart, Jack & Lil Downs, Karen Lippy, Clair Long, Jean & John Prescott, Russell Ryan, Mike & Sankovich, Bob Schutsky, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309), Anna & Raymond Warner.