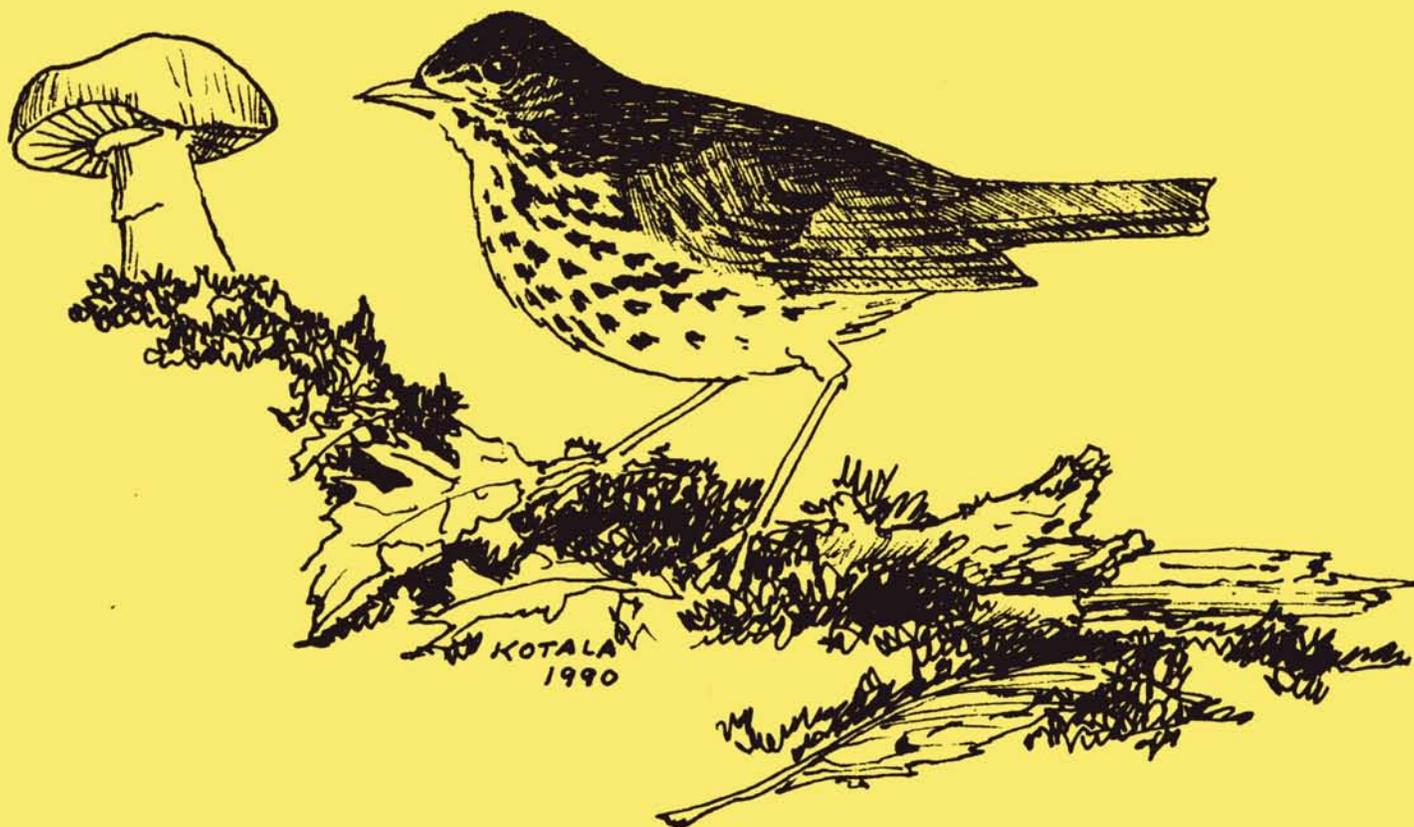


# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

---



---

VOLUME 4, No.2

Apr-Jun 1990



# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2, APR – JUN 1990

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

## Contents

41	Editorial
42	Project FeederWatch in Pennsylvania. . . . . Sullivan & Brittingham
45	E. Bluebird Nesting in Parkway Systems. . . Christopher Atkinson
47	Storm Birds on the Lower Susquehanna. . . Robert Schutsky
49	The Recycled Nest. . . . . Marcia Bonta <i>Brush Mountain Notebook</i>
50	The Early Late Osprey Flight. . . . . Dave DeReamus
50	Glossy Ibis <i>Dauphin County</i> . . . . . Steve Rannels
51	List of Birds of Pennsylvania. . . . . Ed Kwater
54	Iona/Reistville farm ponds. . . . . Steve Santner <i>Site Guide, Lebanon County</i>
56	Summary of the Season
57	County Reports – April through June 1990

## ILLUSTRATIONS:

COVER: Wood Thrush by *Stan Kotala*  
(See Page 49)

## from the Editors...

---

We hope you enjoyed the new texture of the cover of the last issue. But more importantly, as of the last issue, we are using **recycled, acid-free paper.**

Some other subtle changes were also available to us with the use of our new HP Laserjet III Printer. The quality and flexibility of this printer also provides some advantages over the old worn-out Okidata Laserline 6. We hope you enjoy the differences.

The initial response for ordering the **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** checklist has been good, but we still have thousands available. With six columns, the ability to write in locations, weather, number of species, and number of individuals per column, it becomes handy for keeping a lot of data. There is also a generous space for notes. The prices are very good, so why not take advantage of them to get a good start on organizing your outings. Someone might even want to write an article on how to best utilize checklists to retrieve specific information. Any takers?

As we go to press, we are behind schedule, so you may be receiving this copy later than normal. This is because we have actually been birding these past few weeks! Since taking on the task of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, our birding time has diminished greatly. However, Struble Lake, in northern Chester County, only fifteen minutes away, has been drawn down to enable some boat ramp repairs, and this has created some great shorebird habitat. Therefore, we have been spending a few hours per day over there watching for common as well as uncommon shorebirds. We have been rewarded with twenty species of shorebirds so far and we are hoping for more. See the Chester County report next quarter for

details. This is time we normally would have been spending on the magazine, but we felt we deserved a break. We hope you understand.

The drawdown at Struble Lake reminds us of the drawdown at Tinicum in 1986 when we did our Big Year. When impoundments in Pennsylvania are drawn down in spring or fall (especially fall), they make great shorebird attractions. If you know of any pending drawdowns, spread the word. Birders from neighboring counties or from across the state may want to come and partake of the shorebird experience.

Watching shorebirds in Pennsylvania is very unlike shorebirding along the coast. Although we do not get huge numbers, we do get variety, and you don't have to sift through a thousand peeps trying to find the one oddball! Also, we have always found the shorebirds to be more cooperative inland than along the coast.

Speaking of shorebirds, Steve Santner tells us where to find some in his site guide this issue. Margaret Brittingham and Kristi Sullivan bring us up to date on Project FeederWatch in Pennsylvania. (Has anyone ever had a shorebird at their feeder?) And Christopher Atkinson reviews the success of placing Bluebird houses in close proximity to the city.

In the recurring theme of "bad weather, good birds", Bob Schutsky relates to us an exciting October weekend this past year. Marsha Bonta follows the various tenants of a nest on her porch and Dave DeReamus tells of his exciting spring experience.

But the most important article this issue (and a long time coming)

is the first **Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania** put together by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. We realize that the list has some obvious omissions, but verifying the existence of specimens and getting first-hand accounts of past rarity sightings has been a larger task than we anticipated.

Some recent and not so recent records are still being reviewed or researched, and they are listed in the article. If you possess photographs or other documentation of any of the species still not on the list, **do not** assume that someone else is submitting them! Please send them to the Committee. If you don't have a copy, we will make one and return the original to you.

With the publication of this list, **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** will no longer publish any more records of those species noted on the list as requiring documentation unless documentation is submitted along with the report. This will enable us to make a preliminary judgement on the accuracy of the record and will ensure review of the report by the records committee.

NOTE: Our supply of Volume 1, Number 1 is now depleted. However we still have extra copies of Volume 1, Number 2 through the current issue. Now is the time to get the remaining copies of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 for your library before they run out.

Barb and Frank Haas  
Co-editors

---

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by Pennsylvania Birds. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A. \$15, Canada \$25, Foreign \$36. Library rate \$23. Single copies: \$3 (1987, 1988 only), \$4.50 (1989, 1990). Checks and money orders in U.S.\$ only should be made payable to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. Copyright © 1990 by Franklin C. Haas and Barbara M. Haas.  
**SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555**  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

# Project FeederWatch in Pennsylvania

Kristi L. Sullivan and Margaret C. Brittingham

In 1987 Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology initiated Project FeederWatch, a large scale, continent-wide feeder survey designed to collect standardized data from volunteers on the kinds and numbers of birds using feeders throughout North America. Like other large-scale volunteer programs, such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey, data generated from this project will be used to monitor population trends of birds and to document changes in geographic distribution of species over time. Results from the first two years of Project FeederWatch can be used to document the most common species visiting feeders. As more years of data are collected, results will be used to determine the effects of habitat on the kinds and numbers of species present at feeders, to show the effects of both local and regional weather patterns on feeder use and winter ranges, to monitor irruptions of species like Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, and to monitor range expansions of species like House Finches and Tufted Titmice.

In this article, we describe how Project FeederWatch is conducted, report the number and distribution of FeederWatch participants in Pennsylvania, and summarize results from the 1988-89 field season.

## Methods

Data Collection. - Volunteers interested in participating in Project FeederWatch receive data forms, a site registration form, and detailed instructions during September or October. Participants count birds attracted to their feeders and record the highest number of each species observed during each of ten, two-day count periods. Predators perching in or flying through participants' count areas may be counted if they appear to be attracted by birds or mammals using feeders. Count periods are established at two-week intervals from November through March. The purpose of Project FeederWatch is to monitor

wintering populations, therefore migration periods are purposely avoided. Participants observe birds at their convenience. Time of day and length of observation time are not specified; however participants must be able to correctly identify all species that visit their feeders and to complete at least five of the two-day counts. Twice a year, participants receive the FeederWatch News, a newsletter that summarizes regional and continental FeederWatch results and includes related articles on bird-feeding.

Data Analysis. - We divided Pennsylvania into six wildlife management regions established by the Pennsylvania Game Commissions and calculated the number of Project FeederWatch participants in each of these regions (Figure 1).

We analyzed the FeederWatch data using Statistical Analysis Systems (SAS) programs created at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. We calculated the number and percentage of observers who reported each species and the average number of each bird species observed per participant. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology provided us with additional data on continental patterns of feeder use.

## Results and Discussion

Number and Distribution of Participants. - In 1988-89, 7,000 observers throughout the United States participated in Project FeederWatch. The largest concentration of observers was from the urban northeast. The lowest number of participants occurred in North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada.

Two hundred and eighty-three Pennsylvanians, a higher number of participants than in most other North American states and provinces, participated in FeederWatch in 1988-89. FeederWatch participation was state-wide with each of 6 management regions of the

Pennsylvania Game Commission represented (Figure 1). The highest number of observers was from the urban southeast and southwest regions, particularly Allegheny County (62 participants) and Delaware County (21 participants). The lowest number of observers occurred in the northcentral and southcentral regions of the state. Although low participation in parts of those regions may reflect low population densities, there are many areas where we expected much higher levels of participation. For example, the State College area had only three observers and Harrisburg had none.

In the future, recruiting efforts should be concentrated in those regions of the state in which participation was low in 1988-89. An even distribution of sampling effort will ensure that information obtained through Project FeederWatch represents the entire state rather than a few concentrated regions.

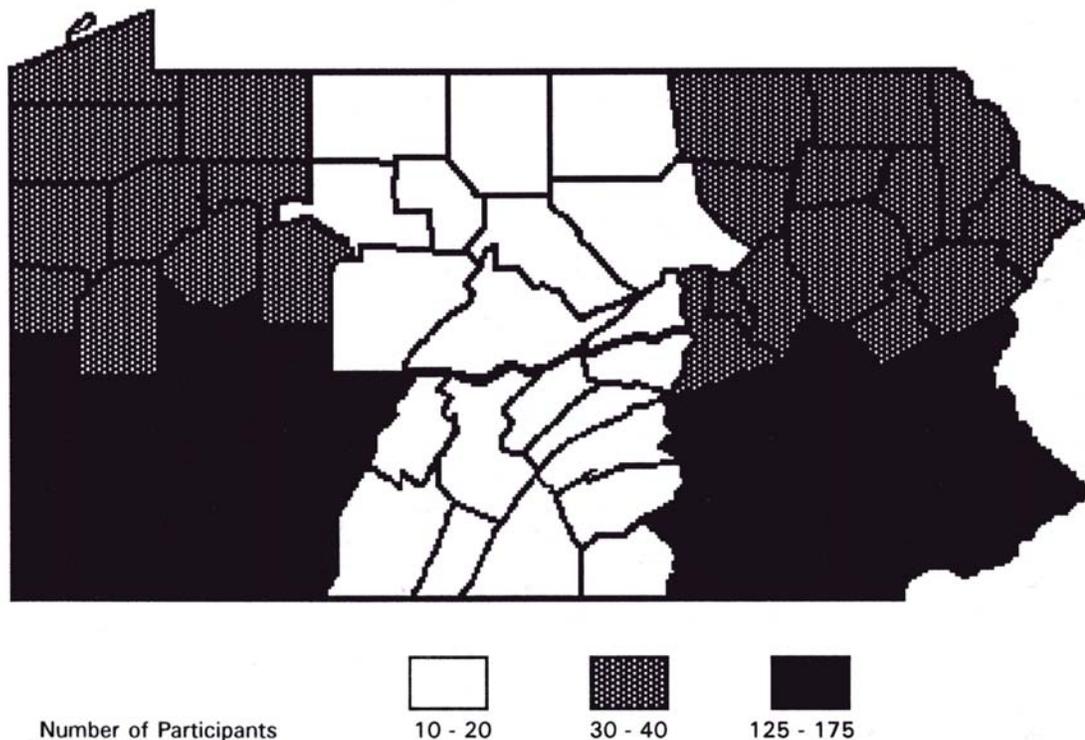
Species Recorded at Feeders. - Forty-three species of birds were observed by at least 5% of Pennsylvania FeederWatch participants (Table 1). The Northern Cardinal was seen at more feeders than any other bird, and the House Finch was the most abundant species at feeders (Table 2). Eleven of 15 species most commonly observed by Pennsylvania FeederWatch participants were also among the top 15 species most commonly observed by all North American participants in 1988-89 (Table 3). Although irruptive species such as the Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak did not appear on Pennsylvania's "top 15" list in 1988-89, we may see that change in the 1989-90 results. Many Pennsylvanians were visited by Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks and Red-breasted Nuthatches in 1989-90, indicating a poor seed crop in the boreal forests.

The 43 species of birds observed by at least 5% of participants belong to 16 families. Over half (22) of those species belong to just 3 families. Thirteen

species, the highest number from any one family, are members of the family *Emberizidae* which comprises the blackbirds and a large group of seed-eating birds. Five species belong to the woodpecker (*Picidae*) family. Woodpeckers are insectivorous but will commonly feed on suet. Four additional species belong to the cardueline finch (*Fringillidae*) family. These species are also seed-eating birds with short, heavy, conical bills. Surprisingly, 3 species of hawk and 1 species of falcon were attracted to yards with feeders. Hawks may feed on songbirds and small mammals that visit feeders. Species most accurately monitored by Project FeederWatch are species that regularly attend feeders, such as woodpeckers and birds with seed-cracking bills.

If you enjoy bird-feeding and would like to become a participant in Project FeederWatch please write to: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

*School of Forest Resources  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802*



**Figure 1.** Distribution of Project FeederWatch participants in Pennsylvania, 1988-89.

**Table 1. Bird Species observed in 1988-89 by at least 5% of FeederWatch participants in Pennsylvania.**

Sharp-shinned Hawk ( <i>Accipiter striatus</i> )	American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )
Cooper's Hawk ( <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> )	Northern Mockingbird ( <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> )
Red-tailed Hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )	European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )
American Kestrel ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )	Northern Cardinal ( <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> )
Ring-necked Pheasant ( <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> )	Rufous-sided Towhee ( <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> )
Rock Dove ( <i>Columba livia</i> )	American Tree Sparrow ( <i>Spizella arborea</i> )
Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )	Chipping Sparrow ( <i>Spizella passerina</i> )
Red-bellied Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i> )	Field Sparrow ( <i>Spizella pusilla</i> )
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> )	Fox Sparrow ( <i>Passerella iliaca</i> )
Downy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides pubescens</i> )	Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )
Hairy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides villosus</i> )	White-throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )
Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	White-crowned Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> )
Blue Jay ( <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> )	Dark-eyed Junco ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )
American Crow ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )	Red-winged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )
Black-capped Chickadee ( <i>Parus atricapillus</i> )	Common Grackle ( <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> )
Carolina Chickadee ( <i>Parus carolinensis</i> )	Brown-headed Cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> )
Tufted Titmouse ( <i>Parus bicolor</i> )	Purple Finch ( <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> )
Red-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> )	House Finch ( <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i> )
White-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> )	Pine Siskin ( <i>Carduelis pinus</i> )
Brown Creeper ( <i>Certhia americana</i> )	American Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis tristis</i> )
Carolina Wren ( <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> )	House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )

**Table 2.** Fifteen bird species most commonly seen at **Pennsylvania** feeders during winter 1988-89.

Species	Percentage of Feeders Visited	Average Number Per Feeder
Northern Cardinal	96	3.1
Dark-eyed Junco	9	55.8
Mourning Dove	94	5.3
House Finch	93	16.5
Tufted Titmouse	88	2.2
Blue Jay	88	1.8
Downy Woodpecker	84	1.2
White-breasted Nuthatch	83	1.1
Black-capped Chickadee	82	2.7
American Goldfinch	76	3.9
House Sparrow	73	6.9
Song Sparrow	70	0.7
European Starling	70	3.9
Common Grackle	57	1.1
Brown-headed Cowbird	50	0.7

**Table 3.** Fifteen bird species most commonly seen at **North American** feeders during winter 1988-89.

Species	Percentage of Feeders Visited	Average Number Per Feeder
Dark-eyed Junco	73	5.4
House Sparrow	60	9.7
Black-capped Chickadee	59	1.9
American Goldfinch	51	6.5
Downy Woodpecker	50	0.6
Blue Jay	49	1.3
House Finch	42	5.4
European Starling	41	1.9
Mourning Dove	39	2.3
Northern Cardinal	70	1.6
Pine Siskin	30	2.5
Red-winged Blackbird	30	1.8
Common Grackle	28	1.6
Purple Finch	25	0.6
Common Redpoll	23	2.7

# Eastern Bluebird Nesting Success in Parkway Systems of Large Municipalities

Christopher A. Atkinson

## Introduction

Nesting boxes are widely used as an effective conservation tool, making suitable habitat for many cavity-nesting birds. Nest boxes installed in a linear "nesting trail" arrangement will attract many local species, raising their breeding densities. However, in populous areas such as Allentown and the surrounding Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, the clearing of land for housing developments and industrial parks has put a severe limitation on the suitable habitat available to provide nesting boxes for desirable species. As a result, the breeding-pair population of some species is very low in this area, particularly the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) whose numbers have dropped across the continent to seriously low levels. Therefore, most individuals and conservation groups who are involved in increasing bluebird population densities have accepted the generalization that bluebirds will no longer nest within close proximity to populous areas, as they have "learned" that humans pose a threat to them (Zeleny 1976). Thus, attempts to establish bluebird nesting trails within cities and towns has almost been ignored.

Eastern Bluebird nesting trails are often established in parks and parkway systems (Files 1986, Tuttle 1987a, Tuttle 1987b). But often these areas are situated some distance from heavily populated areas, and in most cases, have been established as a conservation measure where the full advantage of nesting trails will be realized. However, there has not been any quantitative study yet performed in a parkway system of comparable size and ecological makeup adjacent to larger cities or towns where Eastern Bluebird nesting success may be questioned.

In 1985 an Eastern Bluebird nesting project was initiated in the parkway system of Allentown, Pennsylvania. Two objectives of this study are as follows:

- 1) To determine if Eastern Bluebird breeding pairs could be successfully attracted to populous areas.
- 2) To attempt to increase the population of the of the Eastern Bluebird and other cavity nesting species through the careful maintenance of nesting boxes.

In this paper, I have summarized the results of this nesting project and have provided recommendations for the establishment and maintenance of bluebird nesting trails in municipalities with comparable parkway systems.

## The study area

This study was conducted in the Lehigh Parkway of Allentown, Pennsylvania. The Allentown area, despite being the fourth largest city in the Commonwealth with a population of about 104,000, boasts one of the largest parkway systems in the United States, providing its public with many fine recreational facilities in a truly beautiful, natural setting just as ecologically important as any nature conservancy. This tremendous parkway system, commonly called a green-belt, borders the west side of the city and provides excellent bird watching during migration. To the west and north of this green-belt lies much lightly developed land. To the south of the green-belt lies a long ridge (maximum elevation 1000') of pristine deciduous woodland, hosting ideal bird watching all year. These areas attract a wide diversity of avifauna

and increase the possibility of Eastern Bluebird breeding pairs being attracted to nesting boxes within the close-by green-belt.

The Lehigh Parkway, a 575-acre stream valley comprising a significant portion of the above mentioned green-belt, offers ideal bluebird nesting habitat: open, grass covered areas with scattered trees. Sixty percent of the parkway is well-manicured lawn, about 40% is wooded of oak and coniferous trees.

Due to the public accessibility to the park, it was understood that vandalism of nest boxes was likely, making it very difficult to establish any type of cavity nesting project with success. However, measures to at least minimize expected vandalism were taken. In the preliminary research stage of this project (1985-1986), various surveys were conducted to determine which areas were most frequented by recreation seekers. These areas were avoided for fear of a high vandalism rate of nest boxes and interference of nesting activities. It was found that, due to the park's size, many areas were very infrequently visited by people. These areas have large stands of trees enclosing areas of grass—oftentimes not even noticed by passers-by—making secure bluebird nesting hide-aways.

## Methods

All boxes were mounted on 4x4-inch pressure-treated wood posts with entrance holes 47 to 62 inches above the ground. Measures to prevent nest box predation were not taken as it seems to be non-existent in this area. Nesting interference from House Sparrows (*Passer Domesticus*) is also non-existent. The boxes used were of the standard 4-inch square floor type with side and top opening capabilities for ease in cleaning

and monitoring. Boxes were placed on or near the wood-grass border for ease in grass cutting. However, this created two problems: 1) the need to cut back the continually encroaching vegetation growing around the box so that nesting birds could easily enter and exit, and 2) the placement of nesting boxes this close to dense vegetation increases the possibility of House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) breeding pairs utilizing the boxes to nest.

Nine nesting boxes were first installed in 1987 with an increase in 1988 (N=12) and in 1989 (N=18). In many studies of cavity-nesting birds, nesting boxes are often placed in excess to provide for the maximum breeding density of those species (Alatalo, Lundberg, and Ulfstrand 1985). But, the gradual increase of nest boxes of this study was designed to allow for the gradual increase in the population of the Eastern Bluebird, thus minimizing the potential vandalism of nest boxes.

Nest boxes were checked at least once weekly during the nesting seasons of 1987 to 1989. House Wren "dummy nests" were removed to allow less-dominating species to use the nest box.

## Results

During 1987, nesting attempts occurred in 100% of the boxes (N=9). Eight (89.9%) breeding attempts were made by the House Wren, and one 11.1% breeding attempt by the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapilus*). In 1988, nesting attempts occurred in 75% of the boxes (N=12), yielding two failing nesting attempts and the first breeding success (25%) for the Eastern Bluebird, fledging five young. Six (50%) breeding attempts were made by the House Wren. 1989 yielded very similar results as 1988 with nesting attempts made in 87.5% of the boxes (N=18). Three

failing nesting attempts and again, one nesting success fledging five young were made by the Eastern Bluebird (25.0%). Other species included Black-capped Chickadee (12.5%) and House Wren (56.25%).

## Location of nest boxes

As is evident from the results, the predominant nesting species in the Lehigh Parkway is the House Wren. The location of nest boxes on or near the wood-grass border only accentuated the many problems with wrens using the boxes to nest. Thus, efforts were made to locate the new nesting boxes installed in 1989 a considerable distance away from thick undergrowth.

Rigorous housing development began in late summer 1988 and continued all through 1989 just beyond the border of the Lehigh Parkway. This is just 100 yards from the nearest boxes. Despite this constant construction, separated only by a small stand of vegetation, Eastern Bluebirds found nesting conditions quite adequate and began nesting in the boxes closest to this development. In instances like these, Eastern Bluebird breeding pairs do not demonstrate their usual habitat preference of a rural setting far from human inhabitation.

## Discussion

These results show that Eastern Bluebirds will readily use nesting boxes situated in large parkways of populous municipalities. However, careful planning and maintenance in establishing bluebird nesting trails in these types of areas is essential if a firm breeding population is to be maintained. As stated above, parks or parkway systems situated within largely populated areas have been established for recreational purposes, and are for the use of those whose taxes provide the necessary funds for the maintenance of these parks. Vandalism in these parks, rather than those set aside as a

conservation measure such as state parks, national forests, wildlife conservancies, etc. is unfortunately likely. All intended projects must take into account a "vandalism factor".

Even though the seven nesting attempts made by Eastern Bluebirds in this project may at first seem insignificant establishing bluebird nesting trails in municipal parks truly is a valid exercise. It provides bluebirds places to nest not often encountered, spreading its range into areas as a local breeding species—not merely a migrating species; and educates the public about conservation. However, if vandalism of nesting boxes, especially those with bluebird nesting activity becomes too great, it is perhaps best that the project be abandoned.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the Allentown Bureau of Parks for its continual support of this project. I would also like to thank Lee Machemeer Sr. for his time in constructing the nesting boxes.

525 North 21st Street  
Allentown, PA 18104

## Literature cited

- Alatalo, R.V., Lundberg, A, and Ulfstrand S. 1985. Habitat selection in the Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*), p. 59-83. In Cody, M.L. (ed.) "Habitat Selection in Birds". Academic Press, Inc., London.
- Files, L.L. 1986. Bluebirds making it in Massachusetts. *Sialia* 8: 152
- Tuttle, R.M. 1987a. A six year study of nesting Tree Swallows in Delaware State Park, Delaware, Ohio 1979-1984. *Sialia* 9:3-5,34.
- . 1987b. A study of winter roost site management and the use of sites by Eastern Bluebirds in Delaware State Park, Delaware, Ohio. *Sialia* 9:43-49.
- Zeleny, L. 1976. "The Bluebird". Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

# Storm Birds on the Lower Susquehanna

*Lancaster County*  
by Robert M. Schutsky

## Introduction

A fallout of aquatic birds occurred 18, 19, and 20 October 1989 along the lower Susquehanna River in the vicinity of Muddy Run, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Muddy Run is a pumped storage hydroelectric facility owned and operated by Philadelphia Electric Company.

Observations were made from two major vantage points: (1) the roadbed of the dam breast (dam) of the 1000-acre Muddy Run Pumped Storage Reservoir and (2) Muddy Run Fisherman's Park (MRFP) which is on the east shore of the Susquehanna directly downstream from the Muddy Run Power Plant. The two locations are about two miles apart by road.

## Weather Summary

Early Wednesday (18 October) morning, a cool Canadian air mass pressed into the northeastern United States ahead of a building tropical surge. Northerly winds likely extended up to 5,000–10,000 feet, but slowly eroded by Thursday morning. By noon Thursday tropical air neared the area with a warm front moving through during the afternoon. A strong southerly flow dominated for the next 24 hours with surface winds of 10 to 15 mph, and 40 mph winds at about 5,000 feet. These winds certainly originated in the Gulf Coast region, with the air over us a displacement from northern Alabama and Georgia. By late Friday, cooler air from the Northern Plains moved in behind a cold front that trailed the remains of tropical storm Jerry. Rain began early Wednesday morning and continued intermittently, heavy at times, until the front passed through Friday afternoon.

## Bird Observations: Wednesday

The action began at 1300 h when I found a flock of 16 Black Scoters on the pumped storage reservoir, the *first* known record for this species at Muddy Run. Several other people were able to see the flock during the afternoon. Tom Garner planned to arrive at about

1800 h. As I watched the flock of scoters, which had now increased to 18, a flock of 43 snow geese (white) flew low over the dam, headed downriver.

Tom arrived and saw the scoters, with just enough light remaining to see the orange bills of the drakes. We discussed the potential for the next day. With more rainy weather forecast throughout the night, it seemed promising. I would be at Muddy Run at first light.

## Thursday

I stopped my car in the middle of the dam at 0645 h. Within minutes I had located three separate flocks of scoters that contained 105, 30, and 10 birds. As the light improved and the downpour eased, I was able to discern species. The flocks of 10 and 30 were all Black Scoters. The largest flock was mostly blacks, with two drake White-winged Scoters and three drake Surf Scoters on the periphery of the raft. A quick scan of the rest of the lake revealed nothing out of the ordinary, so I headed for a telephone at my office, which is located midway between the dam and MRFP. Several birders from around the county were soon on their way to see the scoters and look for additional storm-driven birds.

At about 0900 h I made another check from the dam. A flock of 40 Black Scoters with two Surf Scoters was located, but the other two flocks and the White-winged Scoters could not be found. I had been joined by Jerry Book, Harold Morrin, Keith Leidich, and Jo and Ed Pederson. The rain had temporarily abated, so we made the short run to the Holtwood Flyash Pond. We had just begun to scope when another downpour struck. We were forced to retreat to the pavilion a MRFP, a fortuitous move.

Keith Leidich had been at MRFP prior to meeting us on the dam. He had seen a flock of 110 scoters, probably blacks, flying low down the middle of the river. I assumed these were the birds I had seen from the dam at first light, but it could have been a different flock.

We set up birding

headquarters in the pavilion at MRFP. During the heavy rain we were protected, but still had a good view of the river; when the precipitation slowed or stopped, we moved into the open for a more panoramic view of the river valley. Between 1000 and 1200 h we observed three flocks of Black Scoters which totaled 122 birds, four flocks of unidentified scoters (probably blacks) which totaled 156 birds, and three flocks of Brant which totaled 126 birds. There were a few Bonaparte's Gulls and at least 26 Forster's Terns. Canada Geese passing by MRFP were outnumbered by the Brant 2 to 1, an unlikely but enjoyable turn of events. Only Harold Morrin and I remained by noon, when we went to my office to warm up and make a few phone calls.

Barb Haas joined us about 1230 h. From the dam she had seen all three scoters and a Merlin low overhead. By 1315 h Harold, Barb, and I had returned to MRFP. The rain had stopped and the action had slowed considerably. There were several Bald Eagles, some migrant raptors, the local gulls, and Forster's Terns.

At about 1405 h Barb was scoping a small flock of terns on a rock in mid river. By 1410 h the three of us knew we were looking at an unusual species of tern, both for Lancaster County and Pennsylvania. Subsequent review of notes and photographs revealed it to be an Arctic Tern in winter plumage. Maybe the quantity of birds had declined, but the quality had taken a quantum leap forward. We watched the tern for another ten minutes when it flew with the Forster's Terns, apparently to the pumped storage reservoir.

News of the tern sighting brought at least a dozen birders to the area. It could not be relocated even with extensive coverage through the remaining daylight hours. Nine Snow Geese (white) and nine Tundra Swans flew low down the river valley in mid-afternoon. A flock of 27 Brant followed the same path at about 1600 h. No other storm-related birds were reported on Thursday.

## Friday

I was the first to arrive at MRFP at 0815 h. The tern was relocated within five minutes, feeding in close company with a winter-plumaged adult Forster's Tern. Other birders began to arrive at 0830 h. They were able to study it, often in direct comparison with Forster's and Common Terns, off and on for the next five hours.

Good birding continued through the day at MRFP. A very late Spotted Sandpiper flew upriver low over the water at about 0900 h. A single female Surf Scoter flew downriver, followed by two separate flocks of 25 Black Scoters. A flock of 22 Brant flew downriver at noon.

There were at least two adult and one immature Laughing Gulls and several adult Bonaparte's Gulls. The thirty plus or minus Forster's Terns were joined by at least two Common Terns and the previously mentioned Arctic Tern. Two different Peregrine Falcons and a Merlin were observed, and at least 21 Ospreys passed by MRFP during the day.

Most of this action occurred during the morning and early afternoon. By mid-afternoon the skies began to clear and northwest winds brought in colder air. The storm had passed and with it a birding spectacular that is often dreamt about but rarely experienced.

But there was one more surprise yet to come. I had returned to my office to give a vague semblance of order to some slightly delayed paperwork. Harold Morrin and Eric Witmer were scoping the pumped storage reservoir from the center of the dam. Eric was bemoaning the fact that he had missed the tern and never has very good luck at Muddy Run, when an adult Black Skimmer flew through his field of view. I joined Morrin and Witmer and the three of us watched it dive and swoop in the brisk winds for the next twenty minutes. It was Lancaster County's fifth record and only the seventh for the entire state. At 1640 h it flew out of sight with Ring-billed Gulls toward the river. It was a fine finish to a fantastic three days of birding. The observations are summarized in Table 1.

## Discussion

Most expected during an October fallout were the

southbound waterfowl headed for the coast. These included the swans, Brant, Snow Geese, and scoters. The Arctic and Common terns fall into the same category. These are all Canadian breeders that rarely are observed at inland locations except during inclement weather. Most were low flying migrants moving directly down the Susquehanna River valley.

The second group of birds is composed of species that should be well to our south in late October. This would certainly be true of the Black Skimmer. Other likely members of this group are the Spotted Sandpiper and Laughing Gulls. Weather patterns during the storm were never proper to have brought these birds in from the middle or south Atlantic coasts. Hurricane Jerry came ashore near Galveston early in the morning of Monday, 16 October. It was steered to the northeast by a massive high pressure system in the center of the country. Remnants of the storm reached the lower Susquehanna Valley early Wednesday morning, 48 hours after landfall in Texas. This was a strong, fast-moving system, fully capable of transporting birds northeast until the system deteriorated in our region. But whether this was the case is still speculation.

## Additional Pennsylvania Sightings

A careful perusal of the fall issue of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (3:4) revealed many additional storm-related observations from across the state (Table 2). Snow Geese, Brant, and all three scoter species, especially Black and White-winged, were widespread, often in unprecedented numbers. Forster's Terns are expected on the lower Delaware and Susquehanna rivers and Erie in October, but the Centre and Indiana county sightings, all on 20 October, were unusual. A small flock of Common Terns was also in Indiana County the same day. Late Spotted Sandpipers were in Erie 21 October, Chester 26 October, and Huntingdon 29 October.

A Black Skimmer was observed near Pipersville in Bucks County on Sunday, 22 October, presumably a product of the same system that brought a skimmer to the Susquehanna two days earlier. And how can we comfortably justify the Mississippi kite in Luzerne County on 20 October, hardly a typical time or place for that species?

*59 Peach Lane  
Ronks, PA 17572*

Table 1. Storm-related birds observed at Muddy Run 18-20 October 1989.

Species	18 Oct.	19 Oct.	20 Oct.	Total
Tundra Swan	0	9 ad.	0	9
Brant	0	153 (40,26 60,27)	(22)	175
Snow Goose (white)	(43)	9 ad.	0	52
White-winged Scoter	0	3 ♂	0	3
Surf Scoter	0	5 ♂	1 ♀	6
Black Scoter	(18)	327 (140,100, 10,12,45,20)	50 (25,25)	395
Scoter sp.	0	256 (10,12 100,14,120)	0	256
Osprey	0	0	21	21
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	2	2
Merlin	0	1	1	2
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	1	1
Laughing Gull	0	0	2 ad., 1 imm.	3
Bonaparte's Gull	0	6 ad.	3 ad.	6*
Forster's Tern	0	28	29	29*
Common Tern	0	0	2	2
Arctic Tern	0	1	1	1*
Black Skimmer	0	0	1 ad.	1

\* = Total adjusted to eliminate double-counting between days  
( ) = numbers in parentheses represent individual flocks

# The Recycled Nest

## Brush Mountain Notebook

by Marcia Bonta

At the top of a twenty-foot column in a corner of our veranda there is a nest that has served as the nursery for three different bird species. For that reason I call it the recycled nest.

This nest had originally been built by eastern phoebes and for several years they had managed to fledge two families from it each season. Then, one spring, the phoebes' first nesting failed, even though the nest was repaired as usual and a couple eggs were laid which the female started to incubate. But for some unknown reason she quickly deserted her clutch. Although the phoebes continued living here and the male still droned his monotonous song, they steadfastly ignored the veranda nest.

This unprecedented phoebe behavior furnished a pair of new arrivals to our Pennsylvania mountaintop home—house finches—with the opening they needed. As soon as the phoebes gave up, in late April, the house finches started to refurbish the veranda nest with the desultory addition of a few stray grass stems. Since house finches frequently reuse black phoebe nests in their native California environment, their adopting of an eastern phoebe nest seemed to be an appropriate extension of their traditional behavior to their new eastern habitat.

House finches, like phoebes, are known for locating their nests near buildings and in a variety of strange places such as in tin cans hanging on fenceposts, in old hats, in stove pipes, in hollow limbs, and in the abandoned nests of hawks, orioles and cliff swallows. Building her own nest is something the female will do if pressed, but it is an untidy affair whether it is constructed from scratch, so to speak, or is the re-made nest of another species.

Once the veranda-nest house finches hatched, their parents kept their nest and its environs clean for four days, but during the nine remaining days the young finches were in the nest, their parents' sanitation efforts were nil. By the

time the five nestlings were fledged, the rim of the nest, the column, and the veranda floor were splashed in white and black, a decor which I cynically labeled House Finch Excreta. Not even the house finches were interested in re-using that filthy nest. Instead they built a second one on the bend of a drainpipe beside our front porch.

The old nest sat vacant for several weeks, too high for us to reach and remove without renting scaffolding. An then, to my amazement, a pair of barn swallows began reconnoitering the site. Six years before a pair had built a veranda nest on top of another column, but otherwise barn swallows had continued to build and then cement their many nests to the sides of the hand-hewn wooden beams in our large Pennsylvania bank barn. Already dozens of young barn swallows had fledged from those barn nests and they and their parents were busily zooming around our hayfield seining the air for insects.

Why had one couple decided to desert the barn and re-make the house finch nest for their second brood I wondered? But re-make it they did. Both sexes worked, plastering a clean, new mud layer atop the thick rim of the house finch excrement. Then both parents took turns incubating the eggs, and, after their hatching, feeding the nestlings. Our veranda was achitter with barn swallows and I often sat beside our upstairs hall window to watch the young swallows and their parents.

For twelve days the parents faithfully removed the youngsters' fecal sacs and carried them off into the shrubbery. But six days before they were due to fledge, they too began to enhance the decor of the veranda floor with their excreta. Finally, at 18 days of age, five new barn swallows were fledged, and, in due course, the summer rains washed the veranda floor clean.

Since then every spring and summer the nest has been continuously checked out by eastern phoebes, house finches and barn swallows. Sometimes one species or another goes so far as to

hop into the nest and look interested. But no bird has ever nested there again. Instead, the nest remains a moldering monument to the birds' efforts at recycling.

*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.*

## About the Cover Artist

### Stan Kotala

Stan grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania and early developed a deep appreciation for nature. This was encouraged by his parents who often took him for long walks in the Pennypack Valley when he was a child. He has kept a log of his observations of the natural world since he was 12 years old. Sketches usually accompanied his written observations and these often are a basis for his current artwork.

For several years he was forced to de-emphasize his nature studies while he pursued the study of medicine at Temple University in Philadelphia. Currently he is a medical doctor affiliated with the Allegheny Family Physicians in Altoona.

Last year Stan made Sinking Valley in Blair County his new home and now he is surrounded by wildlife. His wife and newborn daughter join him on long walks through the wood and fields of Sinking Valley and he once again has time to observe nature closely.

# The Early Late Osprey Flight

by Dave DeReamus

In late March I had been lucky enough to witness a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers working the large tract of woods at the base of Smith Gap, a slight indentation in the Blue Mountain ridgeline about five miles west of Wind Gap. I returned there on the morning of 14 April hoping for some similar excitement. Although I could not locate either Pileated, I did enjoy good looks at a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a total of five Hermit Thrushes working the thickets. A flicker, hammering loudly at the top of a dead snag, attracted my attention long enough for me to notice a raptor flying overhead. Amazingly, it turned out to be an immature goshawk. By this time, the winds had picked up and were out of the south at 10 to 20 miles per hour.

I had done a spring hawkwatch from the top of Smith Gap back in 1980. It was pretty successful, producing 1519 birds during the 33 watch days. Its major drawback was that only the south side of the ridge could be monitored. I decided to drive up and see if more birds might be migrating this day.

The first hour (11-12 EST), I recorded 35 birds of seven species, five of which were Osprey. The 12-1 hour produced more Sharp-shins, Broad-wings, Red-tails, kestrels, another Cooper's, a Red-shoulder, and another 12 Osprey. The next two hours provided more of the same plus two Cooper's and 13 more Osprey. At 3 p.m., winds were reaching 25 miles per hour with higher gusts. Osprey were coming through in twos, threes, and fours. The 3-4 hour contained 20 Osprey and 2 more species—a Northern Harrier and an immature Bald Eagle! Thermal-oriented Broad-wings were battling the winds as they passed by. Kestrels were whizzing by in numbers fairly good by inland standards. I watched in awe as 42 Osprey glided over during the next two hours—21 in each.

It was now the 6-7 hour. The majority of species had stopped flying for the day, but not the "fish hawk." They showed no signs of letting up. My count was at 92 birds and climbing! Every bird seen after 6:06 was another "flying M." Even after sunset came at 6:32 EST, five more birds continued to navigate the winds. The 108th Osprey soared by at 6:48 in near darkness!

It was my personal best one-day count of Osprey in my sixteen years of both spring and fall hawkwatching. Another watcher, who happened to be further downridge, observed the entire day's flight and recorded 171 Osprey! Interestingly, it was also the first day of trout season in Pennsylvania. However, it seemed that many of the birds had no problem "packing a lunch" for the trip. No doubt the Osprey were more successful than the anglers.

The 329 birds, comprised of 10 species, follow: 108 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle, 4 Northern Harrier, 35 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Northern Goshawk, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 91 Broad-winged Hawk, 33 Red-tailed Hawk, 49 American Kestrel, and an unidentified buteo.

*2090 Hidden Drive  
Bath, PA 18014*

Dave also sent us a copy of his team's Big Day list. Rick Wiltraut, Brad Silfies, Steve Boyce and Dave were out on 19 May and recorded 136 species. Their territory included only the extreme eastcentral part of Pennsylvania and they managed to better the local record by 8 birds. They were hurt by the heavy rains that preceded the count day. Most of the traditional shorebird spots were flooded, so shorebirds had to be searched for in flooded fields. As veterans of many Big Days, we know it was an excellent total for the area covered. eds.

## GLOSSY IBIS

*Dauphin County*  
by Steve Rannels

Date: 14 May 1990

Locations: along Route 39 about three miles north of a traffic light near Hershey Park.

Habitat: farm pond in the open with grassy edges.

Conditions: fair to good viewing conditions with backlighting, viewed with a spotting scope by myself and Dave Schwenk and independently by Steve Santner and Richard and Patricia Williams (who found the bird).

Details: About 6:30 p.m., Richard Williams called to report a Glossy Ibis. Dave Schwenk and I easily spotted the bird about 7 p.m. and observed it through a scope. It was a large dark ibis with a long decurved bill and with striking iridescent green and rusty-purplish plumage. There was no noticeable white in the face along the sides of the bill, which would distinguish the glossy from the White-faced species.

It was in the company of a Great Blue Heron and several Spotted Sandpiper, feeding along the pond's edge. I have observed Glossy Ibis over at least 15 years. My experience with White-faced Ibis is limited to two occasions, the last being May 1985 in Arizona. The bird was seen again on the following morning by Dave Schwenk, passing on his way to work, but apparently not after that time.

*237 E. Areba Ave.  
Hershey, PA, 17033*

# OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF PENNSYLVANIA

by Ed Kwater, Chairman, P.O.R.C.

After a substantial amount of research, the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.) has produced the following **Official List of Pennsylvania Birds**. The species included in the List are grouped into Classes I-III as defined in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** 3:8. **Bold-faced/Underlined** species and any species not already on the list are classed as rarities, and sightings of these species therefore require a specimen, photograph, recording, or one or more written descriptions for consideration of acceptance by the P.O.R.C.

The distribution of certain species of rarities varies considerably according to geographical location within Pennsylvania. Therefore, some species are exempt from the documentation requirement in certain areas and are noted in the list below. For instance, Whimbrel occur annually in Erie County, sometimes in three-figure flocks. However, they are extremely scarce elsewhere in the state. For this reason sightings of Whimbrel in Erie do not necessarily need documentation in order to be verified. It has been left to the discretion of the Erie County compiler to decide whether sightings are acceptable for publication in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and *American Birds*. Likewise for White Ibis, which occurs fairly regularly in Lancaster County, but is extremely rare elsewhere in the state.

The P.O.R.C. reserves the right to change the rarity status of a certain species depending upon the frequency of records from a particular area. For instance, if Whimbrel were suddenly to become extremely rare vagrants in Erie County then that county's exemption for documentation of Whimbrel records would be lifted.

Observers are urged to obtain as much documentation of the occurrence of rarities as possible in order to add to the current knowledge of the status and distribution of these species in Pennsylvania.

**CLASS I SPECIES** (as defined in **PB** 3:8)

353 birds

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)  
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)  
Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)  
Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)  
Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)  
**Black-capped Petrel** (*Pterodroma hasitata*)  
**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*)  
**American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)  
**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) (Philadelphia, Bucks exempt)  
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)  
**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*)  
American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)  
Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)  
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)  
Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)  
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)  
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)  
Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)  
Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*)  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violaceus*)  
**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) (Lancaster exempt)  
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)  
**Roseate Spoonbill** (*Ajaia ajaja*)  
**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*)  
Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)  
Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)  
Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)  
Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*)  
**Brant** (*Branta bernicla*) (Erie exempt)  
Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)  
Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)  
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)  
American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)  
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)  
**Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*)  
Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)  
Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)  
**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*)  
American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)  
Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*)  
Redhead (*Aythya americana*)  
Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)  
**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*)  
Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)  
Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)  
**King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*)  
**Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*)  
Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)  
Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)  
White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)  
Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)  
Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)  
Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)  
Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)  
Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)  
Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)  
**Masked Duck** (*Oxyura dominica*)  
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)  
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)  
**American Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*)  
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)  
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)  
Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)  
Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)  
Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)  
Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)  
Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)  
**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*)  
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)  
Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)  
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)  
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)  
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)  
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*)  
Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)  
Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)  
Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)  
Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)  
**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)  
**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)  
**Clapper Rail** (*Rallus longirostris*)  
**King Rail** (*Rallus elegans*)  
Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)  
Sora (*Porzana carolina*)  
**Spotted Rail** (*Pardirallus maculatus*)  
**Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyryla martinica*)  
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)  
American Coot (*Fulica americana*)  
**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*)  
Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)  
Lesser Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)  
**Snowy Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)  
**Wilson's Plover** (*Charadrius wilsonia*)  
Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)  
**Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*)  
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)  
**Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*)  
**American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)  
 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)  
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)  
**Willet** (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)  
 Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)  
**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) (Erie exempt)  
**Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*)  
**Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*)  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)  
**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*)  
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)  
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)  
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)  
 White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)  
 Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)  
 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)  
**Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*) (Erie exempt)  
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)  
 Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*)  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (*Tryngites subruficollis*) (Erie exempt)  
**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*)  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)  
**Long-billed Dowitcher** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)  
 Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)  
 American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)  
 Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)  
**Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) (Erie exempt)  
**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (Erie exempt)  
**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)  
**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)  
**Laughing Gull** (*Larus atricilla*) (Erie and the lower Delaware and Susquehanna rivers exempt)  
**Franklin's Gull** (*Larus pipixcan*) (Erie exempt)  
**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*) (Erie exempt)  
 Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*)  
 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)  
 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)  
**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*)  
 Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)  
 Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)  
 Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)  
**Sabine's Gull** (*Larus sabini*)  
 Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)  
**Royal Tern** (*Sterna maxima*)  
**Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii*)  
 Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)  
**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*)  
 Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)  
**Least Tern** (*Sterna antillarum*)  
**Sooty Tern** (*Sterna fuscata*)  
 Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)  
**Black Skimmer** (*Rynchops niger*)

**Dovekie** (*Alle alle*)  
**Thick-billed Murre** (*Uria lomvia*)  
 Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)  
 Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)  
**Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*)  
 Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)  
 Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)  
 Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*)  
 Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)  
 Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)  
**Northern Hawk Owl** (*Surnia ulula*)  
 Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)  
**Great Gray Owl** (*Strix nebulosa*)  
 Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)  
 Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)  
**Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*)  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)  
 Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)  
**Chuck-will's-widow** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)  
 Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*)  
 Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)  
**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*)  
 Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*)  
 Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)  
 Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)  
 Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)  
**Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*)  
 Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)  
 Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*)  
 Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)  
 Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*)  
 Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)  
 Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*)  
 Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)  
**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*)  
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)  
**Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*)  
 Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)  
**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*)  
 Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)  
 Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)  
 Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)  
 Bank Swallow (*Riparia*)

Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*)  
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
 Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)  
**Common Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*) (Lewisburg, Union Co., exempt)  
 American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)  
 Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)  
 Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)  
 Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)  
 Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*)  
**Boreal Chickadee** (*Parus hudsonicus*)  
 Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*)  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)  
 White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)  
**Brown-headed Nuthatch** (*Sitta pusilla*)  
 Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)  
 Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)  
**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*)  
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
 Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)  
**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*)  
 Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*)  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)  
 Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)  
**Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*)  
**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*)  
 Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*)  
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)  
 Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)  
 Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)  
 American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)  
**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*)  
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)  
 Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)  
 Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)  
 American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)  
 Cedar Waxwing (*Bombicilla cedrorum*)  
 Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)  
**Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*)  
 European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)  
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)  
 Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)  
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)  
 Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)  
 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*)  
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)  
 Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)  
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)  
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*)  
 Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*)  
 Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*)  
 Northern Parula (*Parula americana*)  
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)  
 Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*)  
 Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*)  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*)

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)  
**Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Dendroica nigrescens*)  
**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*)  
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*)  
Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)  
Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)  
Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)  
**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)  
Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*)  
Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*)  
Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*)  
Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)  
Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*)  
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)  
American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)  
Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)  
Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)  
**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*)  
Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)  
Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)  
Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*)  
Kentucky Warbler (*Oporonis formosus*)  
Connecticut Warbler (*Oporonis agilis*)  
Mourning Warbler (*Oporonis philadelphia*)  
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)  
Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)  
Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)  
Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*)  
Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)  
**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) (Greene exempt)  
Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)  
**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*)  
Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)  
**Blue Grosbeak** (*Guiraca caerulea*) (s.e. PA exempt)  
Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)  
**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*)  
Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)  
**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*)  
Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)  
**Bachman's Sparrow** (*Aimophila aestivalis*)  
American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*)  
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)  
**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*)  
Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)  
Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)  
**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*)  
Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)  
Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*)  
**Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus caudacutus*)  
**Seaside Sparrow** (*Ammodramus maritimus*)  
Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)  
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)  
Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*)  
Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)  
White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)  
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)  
**Harris' Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*)  
Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)  
Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*)  
Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)  
Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)  
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)  
Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)  
**Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*)  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)  
Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)  
**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)  
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)  
Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)  
Northern Oriole (*Icterus garrulus*)  
**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)  
Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)  
Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)  
House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)  
Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)  
White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)  
Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*)  
Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)  
American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)  
Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)  
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

#### CLASS II SPECIES

**Common Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*)  
**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

#### CLASS III SPECIES

**Surfbird** (*Aphriza virgata*)

#### EXTIRPATED

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)  
Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*)

#### EXTINCT

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*)  
Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*)

#### PENDING DECISIONS

Decisions on the occurrence of the following species in Pennsylvania are

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)  
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)  
Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)  
White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*)  
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)  
Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)  
Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*)  
Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)  
Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)  
Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)  
Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)  
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa*)  
Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)  
Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)  
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)  
Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)  
Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)  
Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)  
Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*)  
Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe*)  
Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)  
Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)  
Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)  
Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)  
LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)  
Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)  
Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

Anyone with photographs, recordings, or written description of any of the above species is urged to forward them to Barb Haas, the P.O.R.C. secretary. Details will be published in forthcoming issues of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS.

Finally, the P.O.R.C. wishes to thank the numerous observers who submitted photographs and other documentation of bird species in Pennsylvania. Without them the above list would have been far less complete.

# Site guide - Iona/Reistville farm ponds

Lebanon County  
by Steve Santner

In eastcentral Lebanon County there is a series of farm ponds, some permanent and some temporary, which do not look very impressive but which have yielded an excellent variety of shorebirds and other water birds over the past five years. Fall migration (mid-July to early-October) is the best time to bird this area, but interesting birds can be seen here at all seasons.

Since water levels fluctuate greatly with changing rainfall amounts, there may be occasions when there are no birds here, but since the ponds lose and gain water at different rates, there is usually at least one pond with good shorebird habitat.

A trip to this area can be conveniently combined with a trip to Middle Creek WMA, a few miles to the southeast on the Lebanon/Lancaster County line. To reach the ponds, go north from the junction of Rts. 501 and 897 in Schaefferstown to the village of Reistville. From the north, drive south on Rt. 501 from the junction of Rts. 501 and 422 to Reistville. From here the roads travelled will depend on the season. Even during peak shorebird season, it takes only one to two hours to completely cover the area. The lure here is variety, not number of individuals.

In winter, the best birding is done by covering the entire central section of Lebanon County. This area is mostly farmland, some of it Amish farmland containing almost no trees. Birds of interest include many Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, American Pipit (rare), Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. The pines around the tennis courts at ELCO High School occasionally contain Short-eared Owl, especially if there is snow on the ground. To do this area justice in the winter, you will need a larger and more complete map than the one provided with this article. Get either the Pennsylvania Atlas and Gazetteer, published by DeLorme Mapping Co. of Freeport, Maine, or the USGS topographical maps (7.5 min) for Richland and Lebanon quadrangles. In late spring and summer before the shorebirds start moving, this area will yield breeding Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier (rare), Horned Lark (rare), and Savannah, Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows. Check all Purple Martin houses as there are many colonies (some large) in this area. In a few spots Amish residents have put out gourds. In one location containing both gourds and apartment houses, there are many House Sparrows and a few martins in the apartment houses,

while the gourds seem to be occupied by only martins.

Early spring migration (mid-February to mid-April) brings some waterfowl, usually less variety and far fewer numbers than at nearby Middle Creek WMA. Sometimes though you will run across a field full of feeding Tundra Swans or Canada Geese, or a pond with some "puddle ducks." Once there was even a Eurasian Wigeon in with a large group of American Wigeon. American Pipits pass through here in large numbers. However, they usually all go through during a very few days sometime between mid-March and mid-April. If you are here then, they will be everywhere. Otherwise you will be lucky to see one. Late spring (mid-April to the first week in June) brings shorebirds, fewer in numbers and variety than in the fall, but in better plumage. Short-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, and Semipalmated, Stilt and Pectoral sandpipers have all been seen in addition to several more common species. Also seen occasionally are Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret and once a Glossy Ibis.

The ponds are at their best in late summer. While birding this area keep in mind that all of the locations in this article are private property; stay out of the fields unless you have permission to enter and be careful of where you park.

All of the good shorebird ponds can be covered by driving the following route. From Reistville go north on Rt. 501 to ELCO road. Turn around at the restaurant parking lot. If there was water in the last field before reaching the restaurant, park along the southbound side of the road to check it out. Do not attempt to park along the northbound side of the road here as there is insufficient space to get completely off the road and traffic along Rt. 501 is heavy and fast moving. Continue back towards Reistville, checking the permanent pond just north of the village; there are often birds around the edge of this pond. In Reistville, take the hard right onto Reistville Road. In recent years, the pond at the intersection with Ramona Road has been an excellent spot. It usually doesn't dry completely and in most years there is mud and some shallow water.

Continuing west on Reistville Road, check the field on the right for temporary ponds if there has been heavy rain recently. These ponds are better in spring; they are usually dry in the fall. The three ponds (one temporary) on the left just before

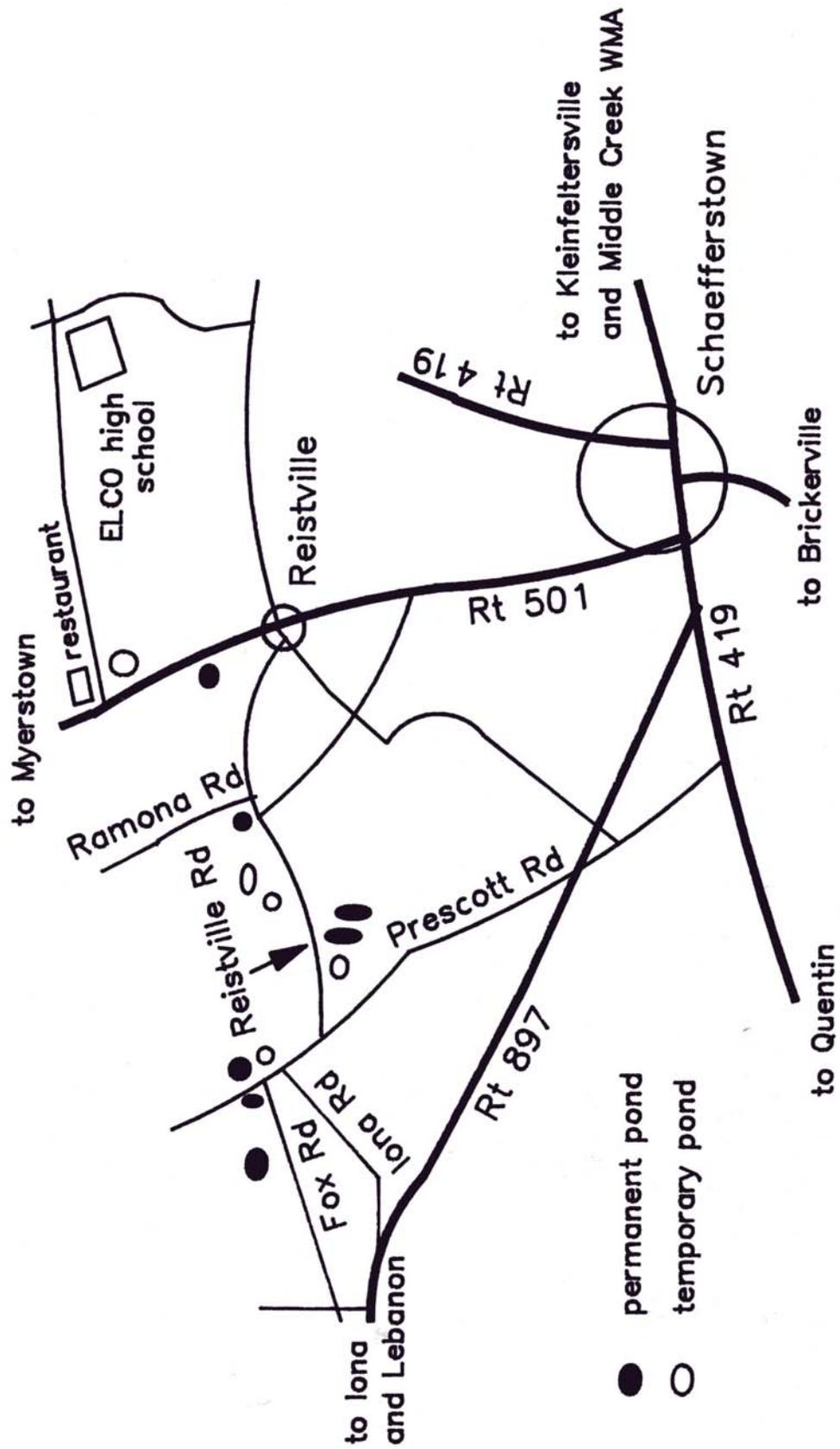
reaching Prescott Road are also usually better in spring, but may occasionally hold a shorebird or wader in the fall. Turn right onto Prescott Road at the "T" and check for water and birds near the intersection with Iona Road. This pond is usually dry and when wet, usually holds weeds, not birds. However, I drove past this pond one August day and found a Willet in with a few yellowlegs! Further north, the two ponds at the junction with Fox Road should be checked. Even though the pond on the left is small and within ten feet of the road, it is often a good spot. The bigger, permanent pond on the other side is good for Common Snipe in the fall and occasionally holds other birds.

Turn left down Fox Road and look for the pond on the right about 300 yards after the turn. It cannot be seen until you are nearly past it. This pond ranges from nearly dry to almost a lake, depending on recent rainfall. Most years this is the most reliable spot for finding fall shorebirds in this area. After scanning this pond, retrace your steps back to Prescott Road and turn right. Continue on Prescott past Reistville Road. On your way towards Rt. 897 check all plowed fields, cut hayfields, or alfalfa or clover fields for Lesser Golden-Plover and Upland Sandpipers.

In the Fall almost anything is liable to show up in the Iona/Reistville area. Over the past six to eight years the following shorebirds have been found here: Lesser Golden-Plover (rare), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet (once), Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper (rare), Hudsonian and Marbled godwits (both rare), Ruddy Turnstone (rare), Sanderling, Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped, Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed and Long-billed (once) dowitchers, Common Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope (once).

3 Overbrook Village Green Apts.  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
(717) 367-5857

# Iona/Reistville farm ponds – Lebanon County



## Summary of the Season - April to June 1990

Most quarters it is relatively easy to discern trends of movement of our birds across the state. Although there were a number of good sightings in many of the counties, there was little to tie things together as in the past. So bear with us as we meander through the reports and pique your interest in reading further. Perhaps you can find some threads that we somehow overlooked. We would be interested in your comments.

The atlas field work has been completed, but not without adding some exciting information. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found in three counties (Lycoming, Monroe, and Sullivan) and presumed breeding in at least two of them. It would have been equally exciting if it could have been proved that Loggerhead Shrikes are breeding in Adams. It is always distressing to read a report that notes "there was no Bank Swallow activity at the sand spit near Portland, where over 200 burrows were found last year" (Northampton).

Continuing with breeding bird reports, unfortunately many compilers felt that our thrush population was down, as well as Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. They may be correct in their assumptions and although the atlas work is over for now, we should still get out and monitor areas and species each year. Doing that will turn up such things as a Pied-billed Grebe with chicks in Forest, a declining breeding bird for us. Berks, a county with a long written history of sightings, found its first Great Blue Heron colony. How rewarding it was to read that at least two pair of King Rail bred in the Tinicum area of Philadelphia. There is so little habitat remaining for these (and other) birds, that we hope there is no further development there.

Moving on to rarities, there was a possible Arctic/Pacific Loon in Carbon. This is a very difficult identification to make, but is certainly not out of the realm of possibility and will be reviewed by the P.O.R.C. Red-necked Grebes in Huntingdon and Somerset and an Eared Grebe in Indiana gave records for our rarer grebes. Double-crested Cormorant are becoming rather common in most localities, unless, of course you live in forested Cameron, where a pair in May made the records for a team doing their first Big Day. Another in Westmoreland was their first summer record. A Least Bittern made news in Centre. Other heron/egret sightings of note were: first record of Great Egret at Lake Altoona (Blair) in Bill King's fifteen years of birding there, a Little Blue

Heron in Erie, and a Tricolored Heron in Chester. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Erie was only their 9th county record. Glossy Ibis records were more numerous this year as they appeared in Bucks, Dauphin, and an excellent number, 12, in Philadelphia.

Forested Cameron birders scored again when a Brant was seen and photographed. This species also turned up in a few other counties but we don't want to spoil your gleanings of the reports completely. Waterfowl reports in general were unremarkable, probably due to the mild winter and lack of bad weather to put them down. But wait, there is one notable exception. The snowstorm on the weekend of 7 April had birders along the Susquehanna River agog. Outstanding numbers of water-related birds were found up and down the river as Deuane Hoffman, Steve Rannels, Eric Witmer, and Al Speise reported from Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties respectively. One observer in Philadelphia had an Osprey flying in the snowstorm!

Imagine counting 171 Osprey on one day in spring in Pennsylvania. Read DeReamus's article and, as noted, he didn't even have a full day watching. The eaglet in Tioga fortunately survived the collapse of its nest in late June. This year there was only one report (as compared to several in 1988) of Mississippi Kite, but it was a county record for Montgomery and a new state bird for Bill and Naomi Murphy. As is the policy of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**, we welcome receiving the nesting records for raptors, but will not publish any details as to location, with one exception, the Peregrine Falcons on the Delaware River bridges.

"Rail habitat is rare in this county [Chester]," writes Jerry Pasquarella, so when they are seen or heard please report the information in the event that land might be set aside either by a local conservancy or park service, etc. For not the first time since **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** began, concern was noted for Am. Coot. The Sagers found none at Quemahoning Dam for the first time since they began keeping records there in the early 1970s.

When it came to shorebirds, Erie birders were treated to two major passages in May, including a surprise Marbled Godwit. This species was also seen in York, but in April. The best Erie shorebird was a Ruff, only their third record. Ruff used to be a regular species at Tinicum (Philadelphia), but has not been recorded there since

1986. The story on the Black-necked Stilt was good news/bad news. They returned to Philadelphia, but breeding success could not be confirmed. Ten stilts were found in Lancaster, their first 20th Century record! We continue to ask birders to try and get photographs of any spring Willets to try and determine if the eastern race can be documented. Seven Willet in Indiana were unanticipated. Whimbrel were found in Lancaster.

Two Common Black-headed Gull in alternate plumage were in Erie, and Lancaster recorded its first-ever Little Gull. A Least Tern in Erie was only their eighth record, while birders in Blair were treated to their first Black Tern.

There did not seem to be any major invasion of cuckoos despite the gypsy moth infestation in many areas. In fact, the Sagers found Black-billed Cuckoo only in normal numbers and no Yellow-billed Cuckoo. They made several comments about the dearth of those species that require insects for their basic diet.

Passerine movement also received mixed reviews. Some compilers reported "waves," others stated it was hard to find more than one or two of the northern U.S. and Canadian breeders. There were several Orange-crowned Warbler sightings (Berks, Erie, Indiana). There were more records of Prothonotary Warbler than usual, but disturbing was the report from Erie that only one pair was reported there.

Outside of Greene, where Ralph Bell reports Summer Tanager as rather common, one was found in Erie. The Blue Grosbeak banded by Janet Shaffer in Bedford was most unexpected, as was the one in Cumberland, but unfortunately not found in Montgomery this year. Yellow-headed Blackbird were found in Chester, Dauphin, and York. Numbers of White-winged Crossbill were reported from five counties, some into late May.

We have snatched some, but decidedly not all, of the interesting items from this quarter. The compilers continue to put in many hours of work to provide this information to you...and we cannot thank them enough. If you think it is easy, just volunteer to give someone a break for a quarter and tackle it yourself!

## COUNTY REPORTS - April through June 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), **I.:**Island, **Is.:**Islands, **Jct.:**Junction, **juv.:**juvenile, **L.:**Lake, **max.:**maximum, **min.:**minimum, **m.ob.:**many observers, **Mt.:**Mountain, **Mts.:**Mountains, **NF.:**National Forest, **NWR:**National Wildlife Refuge, **Res.:**Reservoir, **R.:**River, **S.F.:**State Forest, **SGL:**State Game Lands, **S.P.:**State Park, **sp.:**species, **spp.:**species plural, **ssp.:**subspecies, **Twp.:**Township, **w.:**western, **WMA:**Wildlife Management Area, **v.o.:**various observers, **N,S,E,W.:**direction of motion, **n.,s.,e.,w.:**direction of location, **>:**more than, **<:**fewer than, **±:**approximately, or estimated number, **♂:**male, **♀:**female, **♂:**imm. or female, **\***:specimen, **ph.:**photographed, **ft.:**feet, **mi.:**miles, **m.:**meters, **km:**kilometers, **date with a + (e.g., May 4+):**recorded beyond that date.

### ADAMS COUNTY

#### Art and Eleanor Kennell

*Abbreviations: Pumping Station Road (PSR).*

Eleven **Upland Sandpiper** were seen on PSR 3/24.

**Acadian, Willow, Least and Great Crested** flycatchers were seen in SGL #249 on 5/26.

**Loggerhead Shrike** were seen near PSR April, May, and June. One sign of nest building, a bird with grass in its bill, was noted but there was no evidence of a nest. DB helped to look for possible nest site.

A **Lawrence's Warbler** was observed a number of times with a ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** near its possible nest site near Iron Springs.

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

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY

#### Joe Grom

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R., County, etc. (Alle), North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park (SoP), SGL 203 (SGL), Vincentian Home (VH).*

On the Alle R. near Nadine and Twelve-Mile Island, MI spotted 2 **Great Blue Heron** 4/22 and another 4/27. In a special report, EK listed the following during April: **Am. Wigeon**, 1 ♂ at NoP 4/8 (present since 3/18); 2 **Ring-necked Duck**, same; a pair of **Red-breasted Merganser**, same. A pair of displaying **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, same (probably migrants). According to AG, PH, WH **Chimney Swift** returned to the area 4/23-24. Based on his observations of 2 ♂ **Carolina Wren** at Natrona Heights all April, a pair at Harrison Hills Park 4/29, a pair in Dorseyville all month, PH was able to state "clearly, many survived...December." Bearing him out were numerous sightings during the entire period, e.g., WH at Whitehall, AG at VH in the North Hills, RG in Allison Park, KL & SB in Schenley Park (PGH). In Schenley Park on 4/21, KL counted 10 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. WH at SoP recorded the first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/24. On 4/29, HRL in NoP listed 7 of these tiny mites; 8 more were located at

Harrison Hills Park by PH, including 1 pair with a nest already completed 4/29. EK's special list also included a **Veery** at NoP 4/26, a **Swainson's Thrush** also at NoP, same date. WH found a pair of **N. Mockingbird**—possibly nesting—in Bethel Park 4/21.

First vireo was a **Solitary** 4/16-18 at Allison Park (JG). Four **Warbling Vireo** were counted 4/30 at NoP by HRL & JP. Sewickley's Walker Park yielded the first arriving **Yellow-throated Vireo** to JH 4/27. First **Red-eyed** blinked at AG 4/23 at VH in the North Hills of PGH.

Most interesting of the 34 warbler report slips for April included 9 **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/29 listed by HRL & JP for NoP; a singleton **Yellow-throated** in Walker Park 4/27 (JH); a **N. Waterthrush** in Schenley Park 4/21 by KL; a first **Louisiana Waterthrush** at NoP's Hemlocks II 4/12 by ED and 1 ♂ **Mourning Warbler** seen by JH in Walker Park 4/27.

The brightly colored **Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting** all returned at their usual times near the end of April, but in alarmingly reduced numbers! MI found 1 **Rufous-sided Towhee** 4/24 along Alle R. Blvd and 3 on 4/27 near Nadine Rd. (Penn Hills).

First **Chipping Sparrow** arrived in the North Hills at VH (AG) and in Allison Park (RG), both 4/11; in Whitehall (WH) and 2 in Natrona Heights (PH) 4/14. A **Vesper Sparrow** seen in NoP by EK 4/8 was somewhat unusual. EK counted 9 **Savannah Sparrow** at NoP 4/13. On the same day he saw 1 **Swamp Sparrow** there. Last seen **Dark-eyed Junco** dates include 12+ on a Hazelwood (PGH) hillside 4/13 (KL,SB); on 4/20 at Natrona Heights (PH) and on 4/21 in Whitehall (WH). PH categorized a "migrant flock" of 30 **Rusty Blackbird** at Natrona Heights 4/1. A **Pine Siskin** pair were displaying and carrying nesting material at Rocky Dell, NoP, 4/13 as observed by EK.

During May, on 5/6, HRL found a **Pied-billed Grebe** at NoP. On 5/7 EK watched an **Osprey** carrying a fish while being mobbed by crows at NoP. Also during the first half of May, EK observed **Semipalmated Plover, 5 Solitary Sandpiper, and 8 Least Sandpiper** in NoP.

Both **cuckoos** were present at SGL 203 (n. Alle Co.) on 5/25 when R&JG strolled there. HRL & JP could find but 1 **N. Rough-winged Swallow** in NoP 5/2. Similarly KL found "lots" of titmice but only 1 **Carolina Chickadee** in Schenley Park 5/5. A lone **Veery** at Wildwood 5/6 (HRL) was almost ominous. On 5/27 at Schenley Park, KL & SB carefully identified 1 or 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush. Gray Catbird** were noisily conspicuous on 5/25 at SGL say R&JG.

Highlights of the vireo and warbler reports for May include 7 **White-eyed Vireo** at SGL 5/25 along a ¼-mi path. Two **Golden-winged Warbler** were seen 5/5 at Schenley Park by KL & SB. There were 2 **N. Parula** in NoP 5/2 (HRL,JP) and with JC 5/5. Three **Kentucky Warbler** at NoP (HRL) and 8 at SGL (JG) were good finds. **Common Yellowthroat** at first were abundant: dozens everywhere! Except for **Red-eyed Vireo** and a few warbler species their kin were very scarce.

HRL & JP saw 2 **Savannah Sparrow** at NoP's Latodami Farm. At his Wildwood feeders HRL still had 4 **Pine Siskin** 5/16.

Among the few June reports came a **Turkey Vulture** sighting in the North Hills at VH 6/6 by AG. He also reported a probable **Cooper's Hawk** there 6/8. Hundreds of blackbirds (grackles, red-wings, cowbirds, starlings) regularly flew many evenings in a westerly direction—apparently to a preselected roost. He also observed a ♀ **E. Bluebird** cautiously exploring a

box recently vacated by a family of titmice—she gave up.

P&DH watched an **Am. Woodcock** probing in a muddy area under a red maple on their urban lawn 6/18. These two astute observers also noted that **Common Nighthawk** in towns along the Alle R. were very late, 6/3 and 6/6! WH in the South Hills had a very extensive report for June. His area was especially rich in all the flycatcher family.

OBSERVERS: Steve Branca, Paul Brown, Jim Clark, Dave Freeland, Al Grom, Ruth Grom, **Joe Grom, 9360 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495)**, Walter Hammond, Paul & Deborah Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Maureen Ireland, Ed Kwater, Karen LaFrance, HR Leapman, Joe Panza.

## ARMSTRONG COUNTY

### Margaret and Roger Higbee

*Abbreviations: Craigville (CRV), Elders Ridge (ER), Ford City (FC), Great Shamokin Trail (GST), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manorville (MNV), Pine Furnace (PF), Rosston (RST), SGL 247 (SGL), Tub Mill Run (TMR), Worthington (WTN).*

All birds were seen by ES unless otherwise noted. **Common Loon** appeared at KR (MH,RH) and at RST (ES) 4/8 and at MNV 4/9 (DL). **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted at RST 4/22. Single **Horned Grebe** were found at RST 4/4, KR 4/8 (MH,RH), and MNV 4/6. The only **Double-crested Cormorant** was listed at MNV 4/25 (DL). Interesting was the report in the Kittanning *Leader Times* of a Great Blue Heronry in the WTN area. Two **Green-winged Teal** were found at RST between 4/2-11. Top **Blue-winged Teal** count was 8 at KR 4/8 (MH,RH). Two **N. Shoveler** at MNV 4/17 (DL) were the lone report, as were 2 **Am. Wigeon** there 4/5. Best **Ring-necked Duck** tally was 15 at RST 4/2. **Greater Scaup** count was 17 at RST 4/31; top **Lesser Scaup** tally, 14 at MNV 4/6. **Bufflehead** at KR 4/8 (MH,RH) numbered 13, while 14 were counted at RST. High **Hooded Merganser** count was 7 at KR 4/8 (MH,RH). **Red-breasted Merganser** were reported in decent numbers from various locations, with best count of 42 at RST 4/11.

**Osprey** was reported only at KR 4/8 (MH,RH). A **Cooper's Hawk** was observed on its nest (location deleted. -eds.) after 4/26.

Few shorebirds were reported. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was observed near PF 5/3, the lone report. **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen along the GST 5/17. **Spotted Sandpiper** was found near WTN 5/1, near CRV 5/14, and near Elderton 6/27 (MH,RH). Up to 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** were found at RST and MNV between 4/4-11. **Ring-billed Gull** numbered 15 at TMR 4/2. Three **Forster's Tern** were well-described at RST 4/6,11; a singleton was spotted near CRV 4/17.

An **Alder Flycatcher** singing at ER 6/26 (MH,RH) was relocated 6/28 (JS). Two **Horned Lark** were found at ER 6/7,9 (MH,RH). A **Winter Wren** at RST 4/30 and 5/7. The season's lone report. **Swainson's Thrush** was found along Buffalo Cr. near the *Butler* line 4/27 and again at FC 5/13. **Hermit Thrush** appeared at SGL 4/22. Best **Cedar Waxwing** count was 24 near FC 4/1.

**Philadelphia Vireo** was observed near FC 5/14. Migrant warblers at FC included **Tennessee** 5/6; **Nashville** 4/26,28 and 5/7. A **N. Parula** on the Shelocta BBS route on 6/2 was the lone report. **Magnolia** was at FC 4/30 and 5/7. Best **Yellow-rumped** flock consisted of 12 indiv. at FC 5/14. Up to 4 **Blackburnian** were seen 5/7. A **Palm** on 5/13 was the lone report. **Bay-breasted** was seen 5/13,18 at FC and 5/26 at KTN (TBC). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was an unexpected find on the Shelocta BBS route 6/2 (MH,RH).

A Grassland Bird Survey, predominantly in *Armstrong* but partially in *Indiana*, yielded 5 **Vesper**, 10 **Savannah**, 6 **Grasshopper**, and 11 **Henslow's** sparrows (MH,RH).

**White-crowned Sparrow** was observed at FC between 5/6-20. A **Rusty Blackbird** was spotted at FC 4/1 and 5 were seen along the GST 4/19. An ad. **Orchard Oriole** was singing at ER 6/26 (JS). Up to 24 **Pine Siskin** were listed at FC 4/20, but 3 lingered there till 5/20.

OBSERVERS: **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Debby Livengood, John Salvetti, Ed Slovensky, Todd Bird Club (TBC).

## BEDFORD COUNTY

### Janet E. Shaffer & Gordon Hassel

*Abbreviations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Black Back Valley (BKV), Shawnee SP (SSP), Yount (YT).*

On 4/4, 6 **Horned** and 4 **Pied-billed** grebe were at YT (GH) and **Double-crested Cormorant** were present in the same area 4/1. **Green-backed Heron** were reported from Beldon (GH) 4/30 and Bedford 5/4 (JES). **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead**, and **Hooded Merganser** were at SSP 4/4-21 (GH). A ♀ **N. Harrier** 4/5 and a ♂ 4/9 were at YT (GH). **Ruffed Grouse** were feeding on the dried fruits of Nannyberry trees in BKV 4/13-15 (LJ). **Killdeer** were protecting 3 young from a hard rain on a slate bank near Lovely 5/10 (JES). All shorebirds were reported from a mud flat at Beldon by GH and were: 12 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/10, **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/23, **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/2, a **Ruddy Turnstone** in winter plumage 5/10, and **Least Sandpiper** 5/11.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Whip-poor-will** were reported from BV and BKV. First report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/25 in BKV (LJ) and of **Chimney Swift** at BV 5/4 (JES). **E. Wood-Pewee** reported 5/14 from BKV (LJ) and **Acadian Flycatcher** banded at BV 5/28 (JES). **Great Crested Flycatcher** were observed in BKV 5/15 (LJ) and 1 banded in BV 6/16 (JES). **E. Kingbird** were conspicuously absent from BV (JES) this quarter, but 1 was in YT 4/26 (GH). A **Common Raven** was at YT 4/24 (GH). **House Wren** were banded 4/22 and **Carolina Wren** 5/25 in BV (JES). A **Winter Wren** was in YT 4/21 (GH). **Ruby-crowned** 4/22 and **Golden-crowned** 4/11 kinglets were found in YT (GH). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was 4/21 in BV (JES) and first **Wood Thrush** from BKV 4/28 (LJ). First **E. Bluebird** eggs reported from BKV 4/17 (LJ). **Cedar Waxwing** were banded frequently the end of May and most of June. A **White-eyed Vireo** was heard 5/19 and a **Red-eyed Vireo** was banded in BV 5/25 (JES).

Warbler reports include: a pair of **Golden-winged** with nest at YT 5/15 (GH); from BV **Yellow** 5/6, **Magnolia** 5/19, **Cape May** 5/26, and **Black-throated Green** 5/2 (JES). BKV produced a **Cerulean** 6/12 and **Black-and-white** 6/25. A **Mourning Warbler** was observed 5/13 gleaning from a hawthorn tree in BV (JES). **Wilson's** and **Canada** warblers were banded at a Girl Scout camp near Osterburg 5/19 (JES).

A count of 12 ♂ **N. Cardinal** was made near a BV home 4/2 and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were seen in the same area 4/29 (L&MJ). A 2nd-year ♂ **Blue Grosbeak**, which had visited the feeder, was banded in BV 5/6, a first for the station (JES). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in YT 4/22 (GH). First **E. Meadowlark** was found on a farm s. of Bedford 4/2 (JES). Last dates for winter finches in BV were **Purple Finch** 5/20, **Pine Siskin** 5/19, and **Evening Grosbeak** 5/5 (JES).

OBSERVERS: **Gordon Hassel, RD 1, Box 107, Bedford 15522**, Laura & Mike Jackson, John & Janet Shaffer, **RD 6, Box 338, Bedford 15522**.

## BERKS COUNTY

### Rudy Keller

*Abbreviations: Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Peters Creek near LO (PC), State Game Lands #110, Kittatinny Ridge north of Shartlesville (SGL).*

A strong warm front at the end of April brought in many songbird species a few days earlier than average. Breeding of the **Great Blue Heron**, suspected for several years, was confirmed when a 7-nest colony was discovered being constructed in Oley Valley farm country 4/22 (RK). The colony, the first recorded in *Berks*, fledged at least 10 young, the last of which had left their nests 7/4. An **Orange-crowned Warbler**, very rare in spring, was seen at PC 4/8 (BS,MS).

Of 7 **Double-crested Cormorant** reports from 4/8 to 6/24, 27 at LO 5/13 (MS) was the largest group seen. An **American Bittern** was at PC 4/22,24 and a **Great Egret** at LO 4/26,28. A **Mute Swan** was at LO 5/27 (RK) and a **Brant** 4/8 (MS). **Wood Duck** is doing fairly well, with broods reported from 4 places. Duck high counts from LO and PC included 15 **Green-winged Teal** and 20 **Bufflehead** 4/1 (MW) and 27 **Blue-winged Teal** and 6 **Greater Scaup** 4/8 (BS,MS). Lingering at the end of June were an **Am. Wigeon** at PC and a **Common Goldeneye** near Strausstown (HJS,MS).

A **Black Vulture** nest in French Creek SP fledged 2 young in late June (RB). Two ad. **Bald Eagle** circled over Birdsboro 4/14 (RB). RB found 10 **Red-tailed Hawk** nests, of which he closely monitored 5, each of which fledged 2 young in May. A **Merlin** migrated over SGL 5/5 (KG).

A **Cooper's Hawk** pair unsuccessfully nested in the city of Reading (RM, BP), while a pair in a wilder location fledged 3 young in early July (RB). An ad. Cooper's was seen at LO 6/24 (MS). In *A Half Century Of Bird Life In Berks County, Pennsylvania* (1947), Dr. Earl L. Poole called Cooper's the second most common breeding hawk (after Am. Kestrel) in the county, stating that it often nested in small woodlots. Then it crashed during the DDT years. It would be good news if increasing nesting season reports mean that a post-DDT recovery is underway.

The high count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 7 at LO 5/13 (MS). A **Forster's Tern** was at Kaercher Creek Park 4/11 (KG) and **Black Tern** sightings at LO were 2 on 5/6 and 1 each on 5/11,22 (BS,MS,MW).

Gypsy moth infestations kept populations of both cuckoos higher than normal. Of 6 eggs laid in Feb., a **Barn Owl** pair hatched 4 young which left the nest 5/10 (RB). Single Barn Owls were seen near Yellow House 4/19 (MW) and in Hamburg 5/14 (KG). A **Barred Owl** was heard near HMS 5/17 (AG) and KG called in 2 at the Hamburg Reservoir 6/7. There were 5 reports of **Great Horned Owl** nests, each of which produced 1-3 young. A **Whip-poor-will** at SGL 5/13 (RM) was the only report.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen in Reading 5/12 (IW) and another near HMS 5/17 (AG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed calling in District Twp. 5/8 and another 5/19-20 (RK). A **Least Flycatcher** was seen in Reading 5/8 (MS) and a bird at SGL 5/19 to 6/2 (KG) was thought to be on territory. Though Dr. Poole found it nesting county-wide in the 1940's, this is now a rare breeder in *Berks*.

Two **Common Raven** were at SGL 5/6 (KG) and 4 on 5/12 (RM). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Pike Twp. 6/30 (RK) wrapped up the 1989-90 invasion. Again this year, a **Winter Wren** was singing at SGL in late May (KG) and at least 4 were in the River of Rocks at HMS mid-May through June (LG). Summer **Hermit Thrush** records increased,

with 6 near HMS 6/23 and 2 at SGL 6/25 (KG). A pink-breasted albino **Am. Robin** was at Flying Hills 4/19 (EB). **Am. Pipit** was well reported, with 40-50 in Upper Tulpehocken Twp. 4/1 (HJS) and 100+ in Windsor Twp. 4/14 (KG).

Five vireo and 30 warbler species were reported, but many were in low numbers. A **N. Parula** was territorial at a new location near Lenhartsville 6/9 (KG). A **N. Waterthrush** near HMS 5/17 (AG) and a **Wilson's** at SGL 5/12-13 (RM) were the only reports. **Mourning** made a good showing, with 3 at SGL 5/20, 1 there 5/28 (KG) and 1 in Pike Twp. 5/25 (RK). The best warbler weekend of this barely average season was 5/19-20, which included these high counts from SGL (KG): 35 **Red-eyed Vireo**, 12 **Tennessee**, 10 **Black-and-white**, 17 **Am. Redstart**, 59 **Ovenbird**, 28 **Common Yellowthroat**, 13 **Canada** and lesser numbers of 8 other species.

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was singing at SGL 5/12 & 19 (KG, RM). A breeding-plumaged **Lapland Longspur** was with 50 **Horned Lark** near Lyons 4/1 (MW). Thirty **Rusty Blackbird** were in Hamburg 4/22 (KG). A Bern Twp. feeder hosted 25-30 **Purple Finch** 4/25 (HJS), by far the largest flock reported. Most **Pine Siskin** flocks were gone by the end of April, but 3 birds stayed at a Pike Twp. feeder till 5/25 (RK).

**Exotic:** A **Red-crested Pochard** was seen on the Tulpehocken Cr. near Reading 4/22 (HJS) and was photographed at the Reading Museum 6/5-6 (MS). Did the bird seen on the Bethlehem CBC move to Reading? Plumage was perfect and the bird had no leg band.

ORSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Rich Bonnett, Laurie Goodrich & HMS staff, Kerry Grim, Al Guarente, **Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown 19512, (215-367-9376)**, Randy Miller, Harold & Joan Silagy, Barton Smith, Matt Spence, Ira Weigley, Matt Wlasniewski.

## BLAIR COUNTY

### Marcia Bonta

*Abbreviations: Altoona Water Treatment Plant (AWTP), Altoona Sportsmens Club (ASC), Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CCSP), Ft. Roberdeau County Park (FRCP), L. Altoona (LA), Mill Run Res. (MRR), Scotch Valley (ScV), Sinking Valley (SV), Sinking Valley Country Club (SVCC).* All BM reports by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

A cold, wet spring retarded the return of many songbirds and made the warbler migration not only late but erratic. Numbers of warblers were also lower than usual, although breeding songbirds such as **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Wood Thrush** and **Indigo Bunting** seemed abundant.

CCSP, MRR, LA and AWTP were all waterfowl hot spots during Apr. and May. One **Common Loon** at CCSP 4/1 (DK) increased to 6 by 4/5 (BK), 2 **Horned Grebe** at CCSP 4/1 (DK), 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** at LA 4/8 (BK), a **Double-crested Cormorant** CCSP 5/20 (DK), 4 **Great Blue Heron** LA 5/12 (BK), the first Great Egret BK has seen at LA 4/25 in 15 years. BK also observed a **Cattle Egret** in full breeding plumage at CCSP 5/9. **Canada Goose** successfully bred for the first time at LA with 2 pair raising 6 young (BK) after arriving 4/9, TW & RB reported the first successful hatchlings at CCSP after arrival 4/1, and BK observed still another family on a farm pond. Altogether observers counted 13 young Canada Goose. A ♀ **Wood Duck** with 11 chicks spotted at CCSP 5/9 (BK) and a pair of **Green-winged Teal** at MRR 4/19 (BK). Six **Ring-necked Duck** first seen CCSP 4/1 (DK) followed by two small flocks at LA 4/2 (BK) and 100 on SVCC pond 4/5 (BS,AS). DK reported 30 **Lesser Scaup** at CCSP 4/1 and 1 **Oldsquaw**. That same day BS & AS saw 24 Oldsquaw at SVCC pond.

First sighting of **Osprey** (2) at CCSP 4/12 (TW, RB), one 4/14 (SK), another 5/5 (BK) and 5/6 (SK). Other birds of

prey included a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** on BM 5/6 (SK), a **Cooper's Hawk** CCSP 5/18 (BK), a **N. Goshawk** in SV 5/15 (BS,AS), **Red-shouldered Hawk** MRR 5/30 (BK) and **Broad-winged Hawk** MRR 5/2 (BK).

SK reported 2 ad. **Wild Turkey** and 6 poults in his rural Sinking Valley backyard 6/24. Two **Am. Coot** first seen 4/1 at CCSP (DK) and 6 **Spotted Sandpiper** at AWTP (BK). **Am. Woodcock** hatchlings at CCSP 5/31 (TW, RB) and 6 **Bonaparte's Gull** at LA 4/11 (BK). One **Caspian Tern** at CCSP 5/13 (BS,AS), but the big excitement at the park were first-ever **Black Tern**, 1 on 5/13, 2 by 5/15 (TW, RB), 5 on 5/18 (BK) and 3 on 6/4 (BS,AS).

A just-hatched clutch of 10 **Ruffed Grouse** climbed over the compiler's feet and hands and up her pant legs as she sat on the ground on BM 5/20 while the female did her broken-wing act in the distance. When she tried to leave, the chicks ran after her instead of the mother.

First **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** back on BM 5/8 and by 5/14 both species of cuckoo were calling, just as gypsy moth caterpillars reached delectable size. Twenty **Chimney Swift** at FRCP 5/23 (SK); first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** back BM 5/8; 2 **Belted Kingfisher** CCSP 4/14 (SK). **Red-headed Woodpecker** found by DK at Royer 6/10. **E. Wood-Pewee** back on BM 5/8 and **Least** and **Great-crested flycatchers** 4/28. Two pair of **E. Kingbird** at CCSP 5/8 (BK) and TW & RB reported 2 **Purple Martin** scouts at CCSP 6/3. First **Tree Swallow** returned CCSP 4/5 (BK) and by 5/18 there were 50 (SK). First **N. Rough-winged Swallow** AWTP 4/22 (BK) but first **Barn Swallow** on BM an unprecedented late 5/5. Earliest date for **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was 4/19 at MRR (BK). They did not appear on BM until 4/26. CCSP had **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/24 (SK). **Hermit Thrush** singing on BM 6/28, **Wood Thrush** back and singing 4/25, **Gray Catbird** 5/9, and **Brown Thrasher** 4/10. Brown Thrasher nested successfully on BM and fledged 4 on 5/1. Huge flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** on BM eating gypsy moth caterpillars by 5/15. **Solitary Vireo** on BM 4/15, **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/15, and **Red-eyed Vireo** 4/29.

**Golden-winged Warbler** singing on BM 4/21 and **Tennessee Warbler**, the second-ever seen on BM, also singing 5/15. **N. Parula** seen 5/29 in Tyrone (DK). **Yellow Warbler** at CCSP 5/6 (SK), **Magnolia** on BM 5/22, 2 **Yellow-rumped** at CCSP 4/1 (DK). On BM returning breeding warblers were **Black-and-white** and **Am. Redstart** 5/7, **Worm-eating** 4/29 and **Ovenbird** 4/28. First **Louisiana Waterthrush** at CCSP 4/24 (SK). On BM stream-side road bank 2 Louisiana Waterthrush nests discovered and a third pair distraction displaying all within half a mile. First nest fledged 4 on 5/25. **Common Yellowthroat** back on BM and singing 4/29; distraction display by pair of **Hooded Warbler** 6/29. No real warbler migration over BM this year so many of the usual species were not seen.

In answer to my question about **Purple Finch** in the last issue of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, BS wrote, "We have seen no Purple Finches since 1980. I remarked about this to some birders several years ago but they didn't seem concerned. I feel the House Finches have pushed them out of here." Is there any hard evidence on this anywhere?

**Scarlet Tanager** in force on BM by 5/1, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 5/9, **Indigo Bunting** 5/8, and **Rufous-sided Towhee** 4/3. Three **Savannah Sparrow** at ASC 4/18 (BK) and 3 on 6/10 at Royer (DK). BS & AS report CCSP has had 2 pairs of nesting **Henslow's Sparrow** since 1986 and

they usually hear some calling behind their house in ScV. This year they have not seen or heard any in either spot. **N. Oriole** back on BM 5/6. Last **Pine Siskin** seen 4/16 in Altoona (BK).

OBSERVERS: **Marcia Bonta, PO Box 68, Tyrone 16686**, Roy Boyle, Bill King, Stan Kotala, Dave Kyler, Beryl & Al Sternagle, Terry Wentz.

## BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

Included in the 78 species recorded on a BBS in the Wyalusing area 6/8 were: **Common Merganser** (♀ with 16 young), **Am. Woodcock**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, 2 **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and a **Henslow's Sparrow** (1 mi n. of New Era) (WR). An **Osprey** was seen perched by a lake near Camptown 6/8 (WR). A **N. Goshawk** nest was found in the county 4/14 (*fide* RM). An **Indigo Bunting** at Spring Hill 4/30 was very early (EB). **Pine Siskin** were widely observed through May. Five **Evening Grosbeak** were seen at SGL #36 on 4/21 (RM).

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

## BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

*Abbreviations: Bradford Dam (BD), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Silver Lake Nature Center (SLNC), Tyler SP (TSP).*

A winter-plumaged **Red-throated Loon** first seen 4/3 was seen almost daily until 5/5 at NSP (SF). **Common Loon** were present in numbers with an astonishing 60 birds seen 4/21 at NSP (GF). SF reported birds present at NSP from 4/1 to 5/20, with 32 present 4/25. KC reported a single full summer-plumaged Common Loon on the Delaware R. at Lumberville 6/5, the latest sighting for the period. On 4/6 an impressive 38 **Horned Grebe** were counted at NSP, 1 in almost full-breeding plumage (SF). On 4/10 a single **Double-crested Cormorant** was present at PVP (RF) and on 4/11, 14 birds were seen at NSP (SF). AM spotted an **Am. Bittern** by the bridge at PVP 4/29. A **Snowy Egret**, an unusual spring migrant for the area, was seen at PVP 5/25 (AM). BH observed 2 **Glossy Ibis** flying over the bridge at PVP 4/16.

A very prolific ♀ **Wood Duck** with 19 young in tow was observed at Revere by SF 5/5 (or was she babysitting?). At Revere a **Mallard** was found nesting in the hollow of a tree 8 ft above the water, 5 eggs, all hatched, first sighted 4/28 (SF). Three **N. Shoveler** were present at NSP 4/9 (SF). On 5/25, 2 very late **Ring-necked Duck** appeared at PVP (AM). Seven **Oldsquaw** rested at NSP 4/6 (SF), and 3 **Surf Scoter** were on the lake at NSP 4/18 (SF). BH spotted 3 **Hooded Merganser** at PVP 4/6, and a **Red-breasted Merganser** was present 5/14 PVP (MO).

Twenty **Black Vulture** were present at Bowman's Hill 5/25 (BH); another was observed at Ottsville 4/27 (KK), and still another was at TSP 4/13 (JH). **Osprey** came through PVP in numbers throughout the period with the first recorded observation 4/10 (RF); on the same date another was observed fishing the Neshaminy Cr. at TSP (JH). On 5/28 and again 6/22, a **Cooper's Hawk** was present (location deleted. -eds.) and possibly nested. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** may also be nesting in the county. **Broad-winged Hawk** passed through the area in decent numbers, with 20 in a kettle over the Carversville area 4/24 (NH) and 34 in another kettle over Ottsville 4/27 (KK). A **Merlin** stopped briefly at TSP 4/27 (JH), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was present under the PA Turnpike Bridge over the Delaware R. 6/24 (EF).

Our state bird, the **Ruffed Grouse**, and her young, were seen at Revere 5/22 (SF). BH found a **Common Moorhen** at what the local birders call Shaffer L. in n. *Bucks*, a noteworthy observation. SF recorded a **Short-billed Dowitcher** at NSP 5/3.

Numbers of **Laughing Gull** were present at the Penn Warner Club area of lower *Bucks* 4/25 (BM). **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported from NSP on several days in April, the high count of 48 being recorded 4/13 (SF). A Gizzard Shad die-off attracted a large number of gulls to NSP all quarter, with 100+ **Great Black-backed Gull** present (SF). On 4/10, 4 medium-sized terns, species unknown, were sighted at PVP (M), a single **Forster's** was present at NSP 4/15 (SF). On 5/5, 2 **Black Tern** were seen at NSP (SF) and 3 were present at PVP 5/14 (AM). On 5/9 a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed at PVP (RF), subsequently a nesting pair was observed by many at PVP all quarter. Another Black-billed was seen 6/1 in the Doylestown area (RH).

**Barn Owl** reared a family in a box erected by SF in the Quakertown area, and they had young present 4/29. Two **Barred Owl** were observed on private property 4/29 and 1 was again seen 6/13, possibly nesting. In order to insure successful breeding, no further information is available.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was noted at PVP 5/25 (AM). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/29, an **Acadian** 5/25, and a **Least** 5/14, all at PVP were noteworthy (AM). A **Fish Crow** was present at PVP 4/9 (DP). A **Common Raven**, the find of the quarter, was carefully observed and heard 4/26 at Revere by SF. A singing **Winter Wren**, a rare treat for our area, was seen and heard at Revere 4/3 (SF). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were present at both NSP and TSP 5/15 (SF) and 5/19 (JH) respectively.

Warblers seemed to arrive late, but reports were encouraging. A single **Chestnut-sided Warbler** stayed in the Doylestown area for 4 days, perhaps attempting to establish a territory (RH). A "yellow-lore" **Yellow-throated Warbler** was noted at TSP 4/12 (JH). On 5/1 a **Prairie Warbler** was present at PVP (MR). Twenty-one **Palm Warbler** were noted at SLNC 4/14 (BM). Three **Prothonotary Warbler** (2 ♂, 1 ♀) were observed at Shaffer L. 6/9 (TS). A fourth bird had been observed at Revere 6/7, only 4 mi from the lake. All but 1 male disappeared, and he was not seen after 6/15 (SF). A box is present at the lake and the male was seen entering it several times. A **Worm-eating** at Bowman's Hill, a **Kentucky** at PVP, a **Hooded** at Bowman's Hill, and a **Wilson's** at PVP, all were observed 5/12 (BH *et al.*). **Yellow-breasted Chat** again nested at PVP (RF *et al.*). Another chat was seen in a small park in New Britain 6/30 (JJ).

The **Dickcissel** reported last quarter near Carversville at a feeder (NH) was joined by a female 4/14. Both birds disappeared a few days later. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at TSP 5/18 (JH). MO reported a **White-crowned Sparrow** at PVP 4/29. The only report received of **Purple Finch** was of 4 birds at TSP 4/19 (JH).

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Steve Farbotnik, Ed Fingerhood, George Franchois, **Ron French**, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765), Ray Hendrick, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Nancy Holmquist, Joan Janowitz, Ken Kitson, Bob Mercer, Augie Mirabella, Maria O'Brien, Don Payne, Margie Rutbell, Terry Shaffer.

## BUTLER COUNTY

Paul Hess

*Abbreviations: Glades SGL (GSG), L. Arthur (LA), Moraine SP (MSP), Todd Sanctuary (TS).*

April was warmer than average, especially in the second half, when many breeding species returned in numbers usually not seen until May. I learned of no exceptionally early arrival dates, but the late-April influx clearly was heavy. May was slightly cooler and much wetter

than normal, but the lack of nicely-spaced fronts meant no great waves of downed migrants. June's normal temperatures and above-average precipitation seemed to create no serious nesting hardships. Scant breeding data enable only a few generalization about population levels: flycatchers, **Wood Thrush**, and **Scarlet Tanager** were conspicuously low; **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow Warbler**, and **Common Yellowthroat** were impressively high. It may not be coincidental that all of the former winter in the tropics and some of the latter in the southern U.S.

Best **Common Loon** count was 9 at LA 4/28 (CL). Five **Pied-billed Grebe** were at LA 4/1,8 (PH,BD), where 2 **Horned Grebe** were seen 4/8 (BD). Seven **Double-crested Cormorant** at LA 4/19 (DF,SS), 4 at GSG 4/17 and 3 there 5/6 (DB) were a good season's tally. **Am. Bittern** was heard at GSG 4/28 and 5/6 (PH,DB), and best **Great Blue Heron** count was 5 there 5/6 (DB). **Green-backed Heron** was scarce. A **Great Egret** was at L. Oneida 4/28 (PH).

At least three groups of **Canada Goose** had fledged at GSG by 4/28, rather early (PH). Top waterfowl counts, at LA unless noted, were 18 **Green-winged Teal** 4/1 (PH&DH), 5 **Blue-winged Teal** at GSG 4/26 (JG,HRL), 270 **Ring-necked Duck** 4/8 (BD), 200 **Lesser Scaup** 4/19 (DF,SS) 250-300 **scaup sp.** 4/10 (JC *et al.*), only 2 **Common Goldeneye** 4/1 (PH,DH), 40 **Bufflehead** 4/19 (DF,SS) and 38 still there 4/29 (CL), 5 **Common Merganser** 4/1 (PH&DH), 1200 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/8 (BD), and 88 **Ruddy Duck** 4/13 (JC *et al.*).

Seven **Turkey Vulture** roosted at GSG 4/28 (PH,DG), and an **Osprey** was seen there 4/16 (DB). GSG's **Bald Eagle** pair were on the nest continually from mid-April to late May, but no eaglets hatched (DB, JG,PH,NW); the male, whose plumage indicated a fourth-year bird at most, must have been only at the threshold of breeding capability. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at MSP 4/8 (BD) and **Red-shouldered Hawk** at GSG 5/28 (PH) were the only reports. Few **Broad-winged Hawk** were listed, but **Red-tailed** were in fine numbers generally.

**Am. Coot** continued very low. Shorebirds included **Greater Yellowlegs** at GSG 4/26 (JG,HRL), **Lesser Yellowlegs** at LA 4/27 (HRL,JP), first **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/19 at LA (DF,SS), a rather early **Least Sandpiper** 4/27 at LA (HRL,JP) and 2 there 5/6 (JC), 3 **Dunlin** at GSG 4/26 (JG,HRL), **Common Snipe** at GSG 4/26,28 (JG&HRL,PH&DG), and an **Am. Woodcock** with 4 young at MSP 4/19 (DF,SS).

Best gull counts at LA were only 35 **Bonaparte's** 4/8 (BD), 75 **Ring-billed** 4/28 (CL), and a good local tally of 7 **Herring** 4/8 (BD). LA's terns were a **Caspian** 4/26 (JG,HRL), 5 **Common** 4/23 (HRL), and an outstanding 18 **Forster's** 4/23 (HRL) and 3 on 4/24 (CL).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was unreported, but **Yellow-billed** was common in late May at GSG (PH). **E. Wood-Pewee**, **Acadian** and **Willow** flycatchers all seemed quite scarce. Two **Least Flycatcher** 4/26 at GSG (JG,HRL) were first. Lone reports were 3 **Red-headed Woodpecker** and a small flock of **Horned Lark** on Stone Church Rd. in late June (BD). A **Purple Martin** colony of 8-10 pairs was at Ekastown (PH). Top swallow tallies were 50 **Tree** each at LA 4/23 (HRL) and GSG 4/28 (PH,DG), plus 5 **N. Rough-winged** and 15 **Bank** at GSG 4/28 (PH). Nine **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at MSP 4/23 (HRL) and 1 at GSG 4/26 (JG,HRL) were the only reports.

Seven **E. Bluebird** were counted at GSG 4/26 (JG,HRL). A migrant **Veery** banded 5/26 at TS (GR) was rather late. The three other *Catharus* thrushes were unreported, and **Wood Thrush** breeding numbers were worrisomely low at TS for the second straight year (GR) and at GSG (PH). First **Wood Thrush** appeared 4/24 at MSP (CL). **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** numbers were very good.

First vireo dates were **White-eyed** 4/28 at GSG (PH), **Yellow-throated** and **Solitary** 4/26 at GSG (JG,HRL), and **Warbling** 4/28 at MSP (CL). A **Solitary Vireo** sang through

June-July at southerly, low-elevation TS, but no nesting was evident (GR). Breeding Yellow-throated numbers were up slightly at TS (GR), and Red-eyed were extremely common on territory at GSG (PH).

By 4/26 **Yellow** and **Prairie** warblers and **Common Yellowthroat** were quite numerous and **Blue-winged Warbler** was present at GSG (JG, HRL), indicating the strong late-April movement. First warbler dates included **Chestnut-sided** 4/28 at GSG (PH), **Black-throated Green** 4/26 at GSG (JG,HRL), 4 **Pine** 4/23 at MSP (HRL), **Cerulean** 4/28 at MSP (CL), **Ovenbird** 4/26 at GSG (JG,HRL), and **Hooded** 4/28 at MSP (CL). Breeding Cerulean were up, but **Louisiana Waterthrush** were down at TS (GR).

**Scarlet Tanager** seemed remarkably scarce at GSG in late May (PH), possibly reflecting both a general trend and the high mortality in rainy May 1989. **Indigo Bunting** was already on territory 4/28 at GSG (PH). **Rufous-sided Towhee** was markedly common at MSP (HRL) and GSG (PH). Among sparrows, few **Vesper** and **Savannah** and no **Grasshopper** or **Henslow's** were listed, but **Swamp** was well represented at MSP and GSG (HRL,PH). **White-throated Sparrow** movement was meager, and **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared only at GSG 4/26 (JG, HRL) and 5/6 (DB).

Only one **Bobolink** location was noted (BD). First **N. Oriole** was listed 4/28 at MSP (CL). Four **Purple Finch** at MSP 4/23 (HRL) were the lone report.

OBSERVERS: Dick Byers, Jim Clark, Barbara Dean, Dave Freeland, Dan Gearhart, Joe Grom, Deborah Hess, Paul Hess, 1412 Hawthorne St., Natrona Heights 15065 (412-226-2323), Carroll Labarthe, H.R. Leapman, Joe Panza, George Reese, Susan Stanton, Ned Weston.

**We welcome Paul Hess as the new Butler compiler and wish to thank Gene Wilhelm for his years of dedicated service.**

#### CAMERON COUNTY

##### Bill Hendrickson

On 5/12 we held our first Big Day. The weather was terrible, cold and rainy all day. It took us until almost 8:30 p.m. before we heard our first **Least Flycatcher**. However, it was a day for seeing the unusual. A first for most of us was the sighting of a **Wilson's Warbler** (group). Also seen were a small flock of **Canada Geese** (JS,MJ,RF,BH), a **Tundra Swan** (RF,BH), and the prize of the day, a pair of **Double-crested Cormorant** (MJ,RF,BH).

On 5/24, an unusual arrival at a local pond was a **Brant** (BH). It only stayed for a few hours, but pictures were obtained.

Also found, and being watched, is a nest of **Turkey Vulture** (BH). The young, when first hatched, looked like large white chickens with black heads. And the hissing sound they make when you approach their nest is eerie. The **Bald Eagle** have returned to the George B. Stevenson dam in Sinnamahoning SP. Though they have been coming here for a number of years, no nest has been found.

Two pairs of **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen at two different ponds during late-May/early June (BH). A family of **N. Saw-whet Owl** spent almost the entire month of June in the Whittimore Hill area (RF). They seem to be in this one area often and no one is quite sure why.

On 5/24, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen and heard in SGL 14 (LC). Another was seen in the Wykoff Run area 5/27 (BH). Again this year, a pair of **Prairie Warbler** has returned to the same nesting area that they used last year (BH). Though not a rare bird elsewhere, these 2 are the only known nesting pair in the area, and in the five years of BBAP, only one other bird was seen.

OBSERVERS: Linda Christenson, Randy Flament, Bill Hendrickson, RD 1, Box 265B, Emporium 15834 (814-486-1546), Marsha Jeffrey, John Strycula.

#### CARBON COUNTY

##### Bernie Morris

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

A possible **Arctic/Pacific Loon** was seen and carefully described at Penn Forest Res. 5/12 (SB). Unfortunately no other birders learned about this bird in time to see it. The observer's notes have been submitted to P.O.R.C. Three **Oldsquaw** were at WCR 4/11 (RW,DD), and another at BSP on the record late date 4/30 (RW). **White-winged Scoter** were plentiful in the area; birds were seen at BSP 4/11 (RW,DD), and 7 were found there on the record late date 5/16 (DD). A late **N. Harrier** was seen near Penn Forest 5/13 (BLM,PE).

**Bonaparte's Gull** were noted by m.ob., all at BSP. The highest count was of 33 birds 5/10 (DD). Two ad. **Laughing Gull**, very rare in the area, were seen at BSP on the record early date 4/30 (DD), and another, the 1st summer record for the county, 6/9 (BLM,PE). **Forster's Tern** were reported at Penn Forest Res. 4/21 (DD), and at BSP 5/12. **Common Tern** were found at BSP 5/5,14,24 (RZ,RW,DD).

As many as 2000 **Tree Swallow** were at Penn Forest 5/17 (DD). Singing **Brown Creeper**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Solitary Vireo**, **Prairie** and **Chestnut-sided** warblers were all found 6/9 near Albrightsville (BLM,PE).

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

#### CENTRE COUNTY

##### John and Becky Peplinski

*Abbreviations: Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Colyer L. (CL), Black Moshannon SP (BMSP), State College (SC), Toftrees Pond (TP).*

The 5 **Double-crested Cormorant** seen at BESP 4/18 were the first of the spring (DB,BB), while several remained there through early May, with 2 on 5/3 and 3 on 5/6 (GG). An **Am. Bittern** was at TP between 5/11-13 (RH,HH). A very rare spring migrant in the SC area, the 1 **Least Bittern** seen at TP 4/12 was an excellent find (HH). On 4/27, a **Great Egret** was observed at BESP (DB,BB). A single **Cattle Egret** was at BESP 5/10 (GB). An ad. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was near Linden Hall 4/15 (J&KJ), while an imm. night-heron sp. was at the Centre Furnace Pond in SC 5/12 (GB). One **Glossy Ibis** was at Fairbrook Marsh 5/7 (JP,BP).

Several **Tundra Swan** lingered into May at BESP, with at least 1 still on 5/12 (JP,BP), and 2 at a swamp along Rt. 220 from 5/28 (MW) to at least 6/10 (HR,EZ). Three **Surf Scoter** and 47 **White-winged Scoter** were seen at BESP 5/4 (DB,BB); 1 additional White-winged Scoter 5/4 was at CL (DB,BB).

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen 4/14 at BESP (m.ob.). Single **N. Goshawk** were reported at BESP 4/1 (RH) and at BMSP 4/8 (JP,BP). Separate sightings of 2 (HH,GY) and 1 (PS,GS) **Caspian Tern** at BESP 4/14 were reported, while 4 were there 6/23 (MW). Five **Common Tern** were at CL 5/4, with 2 there 5/5 (JP,BP). **Forster's Tern** reports included 1 at TP 4/15 (GG), 1 at BESP 5/3 (GG), and 2 at BESP 5/10 (GB).

A single **N. Saw-whet Owl** was calling at BMSP 5/12 (JP,BP,TS). **Whip-poor-will** were first heard this year near SC 4/24 (JP). **Chimney Swift** were first reported 4/23 near SC (JP,BP). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** seen during the period was the 1 at Black Hawk Gap 5/17 (DB,BB). **Least Flycatcher** were on territory at BMSP by 4/26 (JP). The **E. Kingbird** at CL 4/22 was earlier than usual (J&KJ). Heavy kinklet flights of both species were noted at BESP 4/14 (PS,GS),

while at least 450 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were seen along a two-mile section bordering Black Moshannon L. 4/13 (JP). The single **Swainson's Thrush** near SC 4/28 (GB) and at Walnut Spring Park 5/22 (EZ) were the only ones reported this spring.

A **Mourning Warbler** was along Spring Cr. 5/27 (HH). At least 3 **Henslow's Sparrow** had returned to their nesting field along the Allegheny Front by 5/19 (JP). A singing **White-throated Sparrow** was reported in SC on the unusual date 6/26 (DB). The **White-crowned Sparrow** at Toftrees 5/13 was fairly late (HH). Eleven **White-winged Crossbill** were seen at BMSP 4/8 (JP, BP). **Pine Siskin** remained very common and widespread in the SC area during the period at least through late April and then began to depart, but some were still being seen at feeders until 6/18 in SC (DB). The 2 **Evening Grosbeak** seen at BMSP 4/26 were the last ones reported this spring (JP).

OBSERVERS: Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Gail Butler, Greg Grove, Randy Harrison, Harry Henderson, Katherine & Jennings Jones, **John & Becky Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Terence Schiefer, Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, Merrill Wood, George Young, Eugene Zielinski.

## CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

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

**Common Loon** was observed as late as 5/3 at MCSP, with a high count of 7, all in breeding plumage, 4/6. A high count of 18 **Horned Grebe** were at MCSP 4/6. A rather late individual was present there until 5/14. Eight **Double-crested Cormorant** flew over SMF 4/13 and 1 was seen near OR 6/9, as was 1 at KFF 4/17. Single reports of **Am. Bittern** were at MCSP 4/22 and at SL 5/9. A **Great Egret** was near OR 5/1 and 2 were at KFF 4/17. A **Snowy Egret** was at Tel Hai Retirement Center 4/15. A **Little Blue Heron** was seen at OR 4/24 and a **Tricolored Heron** was at SL 4/17. A small flock of **Cattle Egret** was observed in a farm field along Ellis Lane in East Goshen 5/20 and a single was found just e. of OR 6/9. A very productive spot for **Black-crowned Night-Heron** is the road that leads into the HB Sewage Plant. They were seen there until 5/20. Rather remarkable is the **Tundra Swan** that has remained throughout the period and was still being seen off and on as recently as mid-July in the area around KFF and SL. This is not the domestic swan nearby which has a pinkish bill and legs.

Not many reports were received regarding waterfowl. The only species reported were as follows: 30 **Am. Wigeon** at HB sewage plant 4/22, "several" **Ring-necked Duck** at KFF 4/1, 4-6 scaup *sp.* at KFF during early April, 5 **Oldsquaw** at MCSP 4/6, small numbers of **Bufflehead** at scattered locations during April, 8+ **Common Merganser** at HB sewage plant 4/1, and 10 **Ruddy Duck** at SL 4/22. Two reports were received of imm. **Bald Eagle** at SL 5/3 and near HB 5/8. A late **N. Harrier** was seen at SL 5/2. I observed a kettle of 200+ **Broad-winged Hawk** near Lionville 4/25. A **Merlin** was seen flying over a neighborhood near Glenmoore 4/23. Many observers are now commenting on the higher numbers of **Ring-necked Pheasant** being seen.

Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were seen/heard at Moore's Marsh near Elverson and at the new county park in Embreeville. The county park service has expressed an interest in setting aside the land in Embreeville where the rails are located. Please let them know of your support for this. "Rail habitat" is very rare in this county.

Scattered reports of both **yellowlegs** were received, with all observations occurring at SL or HB sewage plant. A new spot for migrating shorebirds has proven to be rather productive this spring. A farmer built a pond on the property at the corner of Rt. 82 and Lewis' Mill Rd. The following species were all seen there from 4/24 to 5/6: **Least** and **Pectoral** sandpipers and **Dunlin**. Two **Pectorals** and a few **Leasts** were also reported at OR 4/24 and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at SL 5/10. Two **Common Snipe** were along Given Rd. near HB 4/17. **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen as follows: 2 on 4/11 s. of HB, 11 at MCSP 4/23 and 1 at SL 5/7. Two **Caspian Tern** were at the pond in Tel Hai 4/21 and another 2 were at MCSP 5/3. A single **Forster's Tern** was at SL 4/24 and 2 were at OR 4/26. Two **Black Tern** were at SL 5/6 and another (?) 2 were there 5/10.

Both **cuckoo** species were in apparently low numbers this year. At least 3 **Barred Owl** continue at OR. As many as 3 **Red-headed Woodpecker** continue along Pleasant View Rd. near HB. A well-documented **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at HP 5/15 (m.ob.). The last **Red-breasted Nuthatch** of the season was reported 4/18. **Winter Wren** were found in good numbers early in the quarter, with as many as 5 at HP 4/9. One late individual was at SL 5/9. Also there that same day were 84+ **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. Only one report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** near West Chester 5/7. **Swainson's Thrush** seemed to be much more common during migration than in more recent years and various reports of **Hermit Thrush** were received until mid-April. Approximately 30 **Am. Pipit** were at KFF 4/15. **Cedar Waxwing** finally arrived in the area in good numbers by the end of the quarter.

**Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at HP 5/8. The only **Yellow-throated Warbler** report that I received was of an indiv. in W. Vincent Twp 4/26. There were many **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reports and singing males were heard as late as 5/22. **Cerulean Warbler** nested again this year along the Pickering Cr. in Charlestown and the usual spots along White Clay Cr. near OR. All of the other "expected" warblers were reported in average numbers. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was along Homestead Rd. near HB from late-April until at least 5/12. Good numbers of **Grasshopper Sparrow** were seen at various locales such as MCSP, SMF, and Doe Run. **Four Fox Sparrow** were in one spot at SMF 4/13. **Bobolink** nested again in the area above Sycamore Lane near Phoenixville, with at least 5 pair there. A ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen near HB 4/13. Only 1 **Purple Finch** was reported near Glenmoore at a feeder 4/18. Scattered reports of 1-2 **Pine Siskin** coming to feeders during early April were received. The only **Evening Grosbeak** report was a flock of 5 near Mortonville 4/22.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Neal Thorpe, Eric Witmer, West Chester Bird Club (WCBC).

Note: The WCBC annual spring count recorded a total of 201 species in the county from 4/15 to 5/15.

## CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

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

A lone **Black-crowned Night-Heron** visited KL 4/19 (WF). Numerous sightings of **N. Harrier** during this quarter prompted a search for the nest on a reclaimed strip mine 6/29. Observed activity included the ♂ passing food to the ♀ also the ♀ dropping down into the grass with food. No nest or fledgling was found. A **Merlin** that seemed quite tame and came close to the feeders was seen at Leeper from 4/12 to 5/26 (LC). Its presence may have accounted for the disappearance of the pair of **N. Bobwhite** present the previous quarter. The ♀ bobwhite was last seen 5/23 and the ♂ 5/25 (LC). **Am. Woodcock** were seen and heard from 4/1 through the middle of June (late) at Leeper (LC).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at KL 4/12 (C&RR). A pair of **Barred Owl** nesting at WC produced at least 2 fledglings that were scrambling around the branches of the nest tree 5/27 (WF,C&RR). Although **Short-eared Owl** were seen at MZ 4/12,19,28 (6 reported by turkey hunters on that date), they were not seen thereafter despite much searching. However, on 6/30 numerous fresh owl pellets were found in one small area suggesting their recent presence. At CV the last Short-eared Owl was seen on Seneca Rocks Audubon Society's birdathon 5/12 (FW).

The first **Common Nighthawk** was observed 5/3 in CA (PD). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at SV 5/1 (MB). One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** appeared at SV 4/16 (MB). A **Willow Flycatcher** was banded at WC 5/27 (WF). The first **E. Phoebe** was reported from KL 4/12 (C&RR). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen at Leeper 4/28 (LC). The first **Tree Swallow** was reported from Leeper 4/15 and the first **Barn Swallow** from there 4/24 (LC). The first-ever **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Fye's banding station at WC was seen 5/27. The earliest **Hermit Thrush** report was from KL 4/12 (C&RR); earliest **Wood Thrush** at Leeper 4/28 (LC). A **N. Mockingbird** stayed at Leeper for three days, 5,22-24 (LC). The earliest **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen at SV 5/6 (MB), and a **Cape May Warbler** 5/6, also SV (MB). The first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported at KL 4/12 (C&RR). **Blackpoll Warbler** were at Leeper 5/24 (LC) and at WC 5/27 (WF,C&RR). A **Connecticut Warbler**, unusual in these parts, was reported from Leeper 5/1 (LC).

The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at SV 5/5 and the first **Indigo Bunting** was there 4/29 (MB). First **Chipping Sparrow** appeared at WC 4/12 (C&RR). Grassland sparrows seem down in numbers from previous years at MZ (WF). The last **Evening Grosbeak** of the season left SV 4/27 (MB).

OBSERVERS: **Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shipperville 16254**, Lois Callahan, Peter Dalby, Walter Fye, Carl & Ruth Rowe, Fran Williams.

## CLINTON COUNTY

### Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

A **Common Loon** in full breeding plumage was at Kettle Creek SP 6/26 (DB). Three active **Great Blue Heron** nests in tall snags over the water were found in Rosecrans Bog 5/29 (BR). To our knowledge this is the 1st time the Great Blue has nested in this swamp. A flock of 55 **Ring-necked Duck** was on the river in S. Avis 4/2 (G&PS). Responding well to a tape recording of its calls at Fairpoint swamp (near Lock Haven) 5/5 (G&PS) was a **Virginia Rail**.

We had 12 species of shorebirds in the general area this quarter. Not that this is a lot of shorebirds, but it illustrates that with a wet April and lots of rain ponds in the fields, we do have shorebirds in central PA. Last year at this time, when it was dry, we had very few. Rain ponds in the fields are where we get most of our good shorebirds, without these we just don't have the habitat. Included among these 12 species were a **Black-bellied Plover** 5/22 and a **Dunlin** 5/21-22, both at Jersey Shore.

Both **cuckoos** were in greater numbers than they have been for the last five years. One **Barn Owl** was heard at Jersey Shore 5/15 (PS). Four **Winter Wren** at Forest H. Dutlinger Natural Area 6/27 (DB) were a good number. DB also had a **Swainson's Thrush** at Kettle Creek SP 6/26. The warbler migration was very weak, we did not experience one good day. However, both a **Blue-winged Warbler** at FHDNA 6/27 (DB) and a **Kentucky Warbler** at Beech Cr. 5/14 (G&PS) were good.

**Pine Siskin** were present at feeders in Jersey Shore to the end of the period (GS).

OBSERVERS: Dick Byers, Bob Ross, **Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514)**.

## COLUMBIA COUNTY

### Douglas A. Gross

*Abbreviations: Rohrsburg (RB).*

A male **N. Harrier** was carrying nesting material over open fields near RB 4/7 (DG). The male was observed as late as 5/1, but not afterwards. **Am. Kestrel** continues to do fairly well in the county, especially along rural routes where there are both fields and large trees. Putting some concerns about nest box height to rest, a pair of kestrels successfully nested in a box only 7 ft. off the ground on DG's horse shed near RB. No nesting **Barn Owl** have been reported to DG in 2 years, but other owl populations seem fairly good.

**Long-eared Owl** was confirmed nesting in s. *Columbia* for the first time (DG). A pair fledged 4 young in a large stand of pines. A third adult was seen and videotaped, suggesting more pairs of this elusive owl nest in the immediate area. Unfortunately, parts of the pine forest are being cut for new housing and these rare and poorly-known birds may lose a significant amount of their local breeding habitat. To the delight of those on a NBBC field trip, four **Short-eared Owl** gave a show near RB, 4/6. They were last seen in area, 4/7 (DG).

**Common Raven** probably nests in some remote wooded areas n. and e. of Millville (DG,J&SG). Again, some **Fish Crow** invaded farmland over 10 miles away from the river to nest near RB and Fowlersville (DG). **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned kinglets** both staged good spring migrations (NBBC). **E. Bluebird** has become a fairly common roadside bird throughout most of n. *Columbia* and even some residential areas around Bloomsburg (DG,D&HM). This has been due to the bluebird box-making efforts of many people, especially birders S. Killam and R. Sagar, but also dozens of nonbirders. We also thank the recent mild winters for recent bluebird success. **Brown Thrasher** is increasing in overgrown fields near RB, some arriving 4/21 (DG). In an expedition to Jakey's Hollow (a newly-established PaDER Natural Area near Mordansville) NBBC members found **Solitary Vireo** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** to be common breeders at a fairly low elevation in a virgin hemlock stand (ND, DG). The uncommon **N. Parula** was found both at Jakey's Hollow and in a front yard of near Eyer's Grove (DG), high in tall conifers at both locations. A **Canada Warbler** was singing in a hedgerow near Mordansville 5/20 (ND, DG).

**Vesper Sparrow** has disappeared near RB where corn fields have grown over with grasses and herbs, and have been replaced by **Grasshopper Sparrow** (DG). **Bobolink** is getting harder to find in the Lightstreet/Summer Hill area (DH).

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John & Sue Graves, **Douglas A. Gross, R.D.1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859**, Doyle Harris, Karen Hiller, Scott Killam, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Robert Sagar, Nick Short, Dave & Linda Unger, the North Branch Bird Club.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

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

Twelve **Horned Grebe** were at TL, s.e. of MDV, 4/6. Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were noted at PSP 4/14. A **Great Egret** was seen s. of Saegertown along French Cr. 4/4 (RFL,VJ). The 3 **Tundra Swan** at WL 4/13 (RFL) were the only ones reported! One **Snow Goose** was at Miller Pond 4/14 and 19 N. **Shoveler** were there 4/8. Four **Oldsquaw** were at Sugar L. in the ENWR 4/8. One ♀ **Hooded Merganser** was at PSP off the causeway 6/17.

A **N. Harrier** was n. of MDV at the County Fairground 6/10. A **Merlin** was seen just w. of MDV off Rt. 19 and I-79 on 4/6. The single **Semipalmated Plover** at the Fish Hatchery 5/13 (RFL,m.ob.) was unusual for spring. Seven **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at Miller Pond 5/13 (m.ob.). One **Common Tern** was at CM 5/13. Reports of **Black Tern** included 6 at CM 5/13, 2 at Smith's Marsh 6/2, and 1 at the Fish Hatchery 6/2,17.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found near Conneautville 6/28 (TCN). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing and seen at close range along Mud Rd., CM, 4/22. The pair of **Orchard Oriole** near Springboro 6/23 was a good find (TCN).

OBSERVERS: Virginia Johnston, **Ronald F. Leberman**, **RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**, T.C. Nicholls.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: *Brackbill Pond (BP)*, *Doubling Gap (DG)*, *Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HFH)*, *Kuhn L. (KL)*, *Lamb's Gap (LG)*, *Lower Mifflin Twp. (LMTWP)*, *Mud Level Rd. (MLR)*, *Opossum L. (OL)*, *Pine Grove Furnace SP (PGF)*, *SGL 169 (SGL)*, *West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL)*.

While no **Red-throated Loon** was spotted this quarter, **Common Loon** were abundant on the dates 4/6-8 at WFBL. On 4/6 DH saw 9 indiv., while 5 were seen 4/6 (DH,RK,DC), and 2 on 4/8 (RK). DHe also had 1 away from the SR at OL 4/7. The marsh at OL held 4 **Pied-billed Grebe** 4/7 (DHe). **Horned Grebe** made impressive showing at WFBL 4/5 with 40 indiv. and again 4/7 with 20 birds (RK).

In recent years, **Double-crested Cormorant** have been common summer residents along this stretch. On 4/18 DH saw 47 at WFBL and had no fewer than 74 fly past a point near the I-81 bridge 6/3. And in w. *Cumberland* DHe had 10 birds at KL 4/29. The only **Am. Bittern** seen was 1 at SGL 169 on 4/21 (DHe). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at HFH peaked at 72 on 4/7 (DHe). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** were first spotted 4/14 at WFBL (RK), with an unusual sighting of 1 at KL 5/28 (DHe). This spot is approx. 35 air miles from the closest known nest site.

DHe did quite well with waterfowl in the w. part of the county with 14 species sighted, including: 8 **Ring-necked Duck** at KL 4/1, 12 **Greater Scaup** at KL 4/11, and 7 **Red-breasted Merganser** there 4/7.

**Osprey** topped out at HFH with 17 on 4/18 (DH). During some spring hawk watching at Waggoner's Gap 4/25, RW saw a respectable 39 **Broad-winged Hawk** and 4 **Osprey**. A **Merlin** was seen at WFBL 4/3 (RK). At KL, DHe had **Virginia Rail** on four occasions, with 2 on 6/10 and also **Sora** once on 5/12.

Shorebirds were good at SGL with 11 species being

reported: 3 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/6 (DC), 12 **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/30 (DHe), 5 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 6/7 (DHe), 6 **Least Sandpiper** 5/14 (DHe), and 2 **Am. Woodcock** 5/3 (DH). Three **Upland Sandpiper** were at MLR 5/8 and 2 were seen 5/25, also at ML (DHe).

A **Common Tern** fallout was witnessed 5/10 with 20 at WFBL (RK) and 2 at KL (DHe). Three **Forster's Tern** were with the Commons at WFBL 5/10 (RK). The SR continues to be good in spring for **Black Tern**. On 6 different times the terns were seen: 1 at WFBL 4/30 (RK), 7 at WFBL 5/10 (DH) and 1 also at KL, an inland locale, 5/10 (DHe), 1 at WFBL (RK) and 5 at BP 5/11 (DC), and 1 at WFBL 5/15 (RK). Why we see good numbers in the spring and not in fall is one of the many mysteries of migration patterns!

Ducks did well this quarter, with the weekend dates 4/6-8 taking the spotlight. They deserve special mention by each day as follows.

**Thursday, 4/5.** RK saw only 10 **Greater Scaup** and 1 **Bonaparte's Gull**.

**Friday, 4/6.** DH went to the WFBL at approx. 11:45 a.m. and saw: 500+ **scaup** sp., 7 **Redhead**, 1 **Surf Scoter**, 1 **Oldsquaw**, 300+ **Bufflehead**, 125+ **Common Goldeneye**, 15 **Ring-necked Duck**, 63 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 50 **Bonaparte's Gull**, and 300-400 **Tree Swallow**. The weather at this time was cool and raining. After a phonecall, RK went to the river in the evening with the weather continuing to deteriorate and saw 10 **Canvasback**, 750+ **scaup**, 500+ **Bufflehead**, 3 **Oldsquaw**, and 1000+ **Tree Swallow**. Within 5 hours the numbers were increasing dramatically.

**Saturday, 4/7.** The day began with a snow squall that lasted till approx. 11:30 a.m. After the snow slowed down, RK and DH went to WFBL and, to be blunt, were amazed! The weather had forced down thousands of birds. The following numbers are the best approximation we could count: 5 **Common Loon**, 20 **Horned Grebe**, 600 **scaup**, 500 **Bufflehead**, 5 **Oldsquaw**, and 3500+ **Bonaparte's Gull**. The river was alive with birds. It was the greatest concentration Ramsay or I had ever seen here.

**Sunday, 4/8.** Most of the birds had left, but the **Bonaparte's** were still swarming all over the river. In just a small area, approx. ¼ mi long N-S and 200 yards wide, RK counted 836 **Bonaparte's**. The SR at this point is about ¾ mi wide, so with careful estimation there could easily have been 5000+ **Bonaparte's Gull**.

In summary of these 3 days, neither I nor anyone else who birds this section of the river has seen such an amazing display of sheer numbers. The combination of adverse weather and peak migration of the particular species mentioned produced a phenomenon rarely seen in this area.

A **Barn Owl** was found at OL 4/1 (GR) where a **Long-eared Owl** had been found previously. An unusual **Great Horned Owl** nest was found in SGL. The nest was in the hollow stump of a fallen tree about 15 ft high over, of all things, water! Great **Horned Owl** chicks are notorious jumpers and this would seem detrimental to the young birds, but on 5/2 DHe saw the empty nest with 1 young on the ground near the nest site; the other chick's fate was unknown. A **Barred Owl** family successfully nested in a dead maple tree in downtown Newville. A **Short-eared Owl** was seen near Bloserville 4/8 (DC,RK,DH). The only **Whip-poor-will** heard this year were at DG 5/12 and 6/2 (DHe). Is this bird declining throughout its range, and if it is, why?

A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at ML 5/4 (DHe). **Am. Pipit** were seen in good numbers: 300+ at ML 4/12 (DHe), 80 at LMTWP 4/22 (DH,DHe,RHe,DC), and 40 at MTWP 5/11 (DC). Five early **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were seen at WFBL 4/5 (RK).

Passerine migration was good with all 4 *Catharus* thrushes seen, including **Gray-cheeked** at LG 5/20,27 (DC, RK), at PGF 5/23 (DH). Warblers made a good showing with 27 species seen, including a **Mourning Warbler** at LG 5/23 (DC,DH). This is a

very rare migrant in our area.

Some finches stuck around the Henise feeders into May, with **White-crowned Sparrow** until 5/11 and **Pine Siskin** until 5/7. The bird of the season was also a finch. An ad. ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** was found at LG 5/21 (DC). Colyer had good looks and made good field notes. This is not the first in our area, but nonetheless is quite rare this far north in PA.

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

#### DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels

Abbreviations: Clark Creek Valley (CCV), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey Medical Center (HMC), Stoney Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna R. (SR), Swatara Creek (SC).

This quarter began with good number of waterfowl (20 species) reported on SR from 4/5-8. A summary of 2 reports by RK and JW includes 4 **Common Loon**, 40 **Horned Grebe**, 750+ **Lesser Scaup**, 40 **Common Goldeneye**, 5 **Oldsquaw**, 3 **White-winged Scoter** at Ft. Hunter (increasing to 7 by 4/21), 500 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Common** and 30 **Red-breasted** merganser. A probable fly-by **Brant** was also reported near Bainbridge 4/22. Other species seen were **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Wood Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, **Am. Coot** and a flight of 1000+ **Tree Swallow** 4/6. An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was observed at Wildwood L. Nature Center 4/14 (RK). **Bonaparte's Gull** peaked to 2500+ by 4/7, with 3 other gull sp. present in smaller numbers.

Our best April performance began 4/7, when Anne & Bruce Stanley discovered an ad. ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in their Hershey yard. It remained until 4/15, regularly visiting their feeder along with **Common Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird**. Another Hershey feeder bird was a **Pine Siskin** sporting a yellow band on its right leg, seen 4/5-6 (EC). Any information on banding location?



*Yellow-headed Blackbird, Hershey, 4/11/90. Photo by Randy Miller.*

Although siskins were reported by most to leave feeders by mid- to late-Apr. (EC,RPW), they persisted until 5/13 in HBG (CW) and were feeding in hemlocks around Hershey until the same date (SR). A good find was a **Pine Grosbeak** n. of Hummelstown 4/21 (CW) (no details— eds).

Migration proceeded pretty much on schedule in spite of a season of changing weather patterns. Expected flocks of **Rusty Blackbird** (50+) foraged flood plains of the SC 4/18 (SR,JKL). Large groups of **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned** kinglets were observed from 4/12 (SR at HMC) to 4/21 (JW at SCV). Several **Winter Wren** (1 singing) persisted at HMC until 4/19 (SR) and were located in CCV 4/23 (JW). Our resident **House Wren** arrived to its nest box one week early in Hershey, 4/22, vigorously singing as 5 **Common Loon** flew overhead (SR). **Cape May Warbler** was reported 5/9 in several location (RPW,JW), the same date for a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at HMC (SR,WE), the only cuckoo reported for the period. A good flight of **Blackburnian**, **Bay-breasted**, and **Blackpoll** warblers passed through HMC 5/15 (SR,WE). Of note was a hybrid **Blue-winged x Golden-winged** warbler in HBG 5/9 (JW).

Warblers peaked in mid-May with our best day at HMC 5/17 (SR,WE). That same outing produced a banner thrush day: 3 **Gray-cheeked**, **Swainson's** and **Wood, Veery**, and **Am. Robin** were present. The next day produced 1 lingering **Gray-cheek**, a late **Hermit Thrush**, and all the rest!

For those readers who want a good spot for **Wood Duck**, 17 drakes chased 3 hens back and forth across the SC behind the Hershey Hotel 5/8 (SR,SLR). One week later the odds had improved with fewer bachelors and at least 6 pairs. The woods behind the hotel are also a good spot for thrushes and for **Acadian Flycatcher**, which are found from mid-May through June (RPW,SR).

A superb sighting of an ad. **Glossy Ibis** on a farm pond along Rt. 39 n. of Hershey was made by RPW 5/14. The bird was seen feeding near a **Great Blue Heron** and several **Spotted Sandpiper** that evening (SR, DS,SS), and was observed again the following morning by DS.

Other reports of interest include **Common Nighthawk** in HBG 6/15 (SLR), **Lincoln's Sparrow** in HBG 5/3 and in SCV 5/4 (JW), **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/25 (RPW), and a probable new nesting site for **Bobolink** n. of Hershey (RPW). A **Great Egret** and numbers of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were observed in the Hershey area throughout the period (SR,SLR,DS).

OBSERVERS: Emily Cox, Wade Edris, Ramsay Koury, Jane & Ken Light, Sharon L. Rannels, Steve Rannels, 237 E. Areba Ave., Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480), Steve Santner, Anne & Bruce Stanley, Dave Schwenk, Judy Ward, Carol Whitfield, Richard & Patricia Williams.

#### DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Delaware R. (DR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center (TN), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

Two **Horned Grebe** were found on the DR in Lester 4/21 (BS). On 5/5, on the Tyler Arboretum birdathon, 31 **Double-crested Cormorant** were a large number seen this far from the river (JG). Also, on 4/27, 6 cormorants were flying over the CCR (EK). **Wood Duck** throughout the area seem to be increasing in numbers.

A nice find was an **Osprey** on the late date 6/23 (TR). HMC usually manages to find a **Bald Eagle** in the residential suburb of Swarthmore every year and this year was no exception when she saw an adult fly over 6/26. On our Big Day, 5/17, we found a **N. Harrier** at the PHL Airport (JF,AG,JCM,NP). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen over Swarthmore 4/18 (HMc). On 6/13 at the Lester end of the airport, 1 **N. Bobwhite** was seen flying and heard calling (BS). Whether this bird was introduced or not is unknown. One **King Rail** was present in Folcroft 5/17 (JF,AG,JCM,NP). **Virginia Rail** were right on schedule at CCR when 1 was found 4/21 (AG). A pair was present there 5/8 (EK). The usual number of **yellowlegs** and **Spotted Sandpiper** were

reported in the Delco region this season. **Solitary Sandpiper** were represented at CCR throughout the first half of May and in good numbers. One **Least Sandpiper** and 2 **Dunlin** were all the sandpipers to be found at the airport 5/26 (AG).

Both species of **cuckoo** were well represented the entire quarter at TA and RCSP. An early **Common Nighthawk** was at the Springton Res. 5/5 (AG). An excellent find was the **Whip-poor-will** in Media 5/17 (HMc). The bird was heard just the one night and couldn't be found again. **Pileated Woodpecker** were found in Swarthmore 5/24 (HMc) and in Media 6/1 (EK).

**Least Flycatcher** made a big splash in the area this year, with the largest numbers of this species in recent years. Two were at TA 5/5 (RM,NP) and again another at TA 5/23 (JG,AG). Twelve **Purple Martin** returned to the Aston nesting site 4/22 (WT). No known nesting sites are in the area of TA or RCSP, but on 5/23, 4 were seen in the Sycamore Mills area of RCSP (AG). Again on 6/6, 2 martins were present in the same area. A couple of lingering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were present in June; In Havertown, 2 were still at a feeder 6/3 (MK) and 1 in Swarthmore during the first week of June (HMc). One **Winter Wren** was present at TA 4/3-4 (JG) and another was there 4/22 (SC,RM) and were about average in numbers this year throughout the county.

A very early **Veery** was in Springfield 4/15 (SC). At RCSP on 5/23 and 6/6, **Yellow-throated Vireo** were present (AG). No **Golden-winged Warbler** reported this quarter, a declining species which should be watched very carefully. **Cerulean Warbler** were common along Ridley Cr. in their usual areas, as were **Prairie Warbler** throughout RCSP. On 4/27, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was found in Media, a very rare occurrence for such a developed suburb. The Tyler birdathon recorded 22 species of warblers, including **Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded**. An early Hooded Warbler was in TA 4/28 (SC,RM). One **Mourning Warbler** was at TA 5/23 (JG) and 2 were at RCSP (DM). **Yellow-breasted Chat** were difficult to find this year, but 1 stayed at TA during May.

A **Savannah Sparrow** was discovered at TA 4/28 (JG), a very rare occurrence in this county. A **White-throated Sparrow** was lingering at a Media feeder until 5/25 (JL). **Purple Finch** didn't stage an invasion this year, but were reported in single numbers from many locations (AG,HMc, WT). **Pine Siskin** decided to hang around Swarthmore until 5/30, but couldn't be found nesting anywhere.

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

## ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

*Abbreviations: Allegheny NF (ANF), Bear Cr. (BC), Benzinger Twp (BT), Cole Run (CR), Crow Run Marsh (CRM), Owl's Nest (ON), St. Marys Res. (SMR), SGL 28 (SGL).*

For a heavily-wooded county, there were a surprising number of waterfowl reports this quarter. The most exciting one came from Dave Wolfe who stated that a trip to CRM 5/26 produced a ♀ **Hooded Merganser** with a brood of 6, while the very next day a walk to a CR duck pond netted a ♀ Hooded Merganser with a brood of 7! Wolfe also noted that the **Ring-necked Duck** flock reported on last quarter continued at ON until the first of May; they came to this area much earlier than normal, in much greater numbers, and stayed later than usual.

Three **Common Loon** were at SMR 4/5-9 (LC), while 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at ON 4/13 and 1 at SGL 4/15 (DW). Six **Horned Grebe** were at SMR 4/5 (LC). For the second

spring in a row, an **Am. Bittern** showed up at ON 4/22 (DW). **Great Blue Heron** numbers seem to be down and the first 1 was seen at Hallton 4/8, later than usual (DW). A pair of rarely reported **Green-backed Heron** was observed at BC 6/15 (DW). Up to 25 **Tundra Swan** were seen in BT in early Apr. (LC,DS). First brood of **Canada Goose** was seen at ON 4/13 (JW). A Canada Goose with a gray collar noted at ON 4/8 was found to be the same bird reported last year. This year it returned with mate and raised 5 young (DW). There was a pair of **Green-winged Teal** at ON 4/8,13 (DW). No sightings of **Am. Black Duck** since Mar. **Blue-winged Teal** were at SGL 4/15 (DW). At SMR 4/5 were 3 **Am. Wigeon**, while 9 **Ring-necked Duck** were there 4/2 (LC). Eleven **Greater Scaup** were at ON 4/8 and 7 on 4/13 (DW). Just off the dam breast of SMR 4/5-9 were 8-10 **Oldsquaw**, for very close observation (LC). Only 3 **Bufflehead** were at SGL 4/15, while **Common Merganser** were seen in various numbers and are doing well (DW). **Red-breasted Merganser** were only seen at SMR 4/2-9 (LC).

DW spotted an **Osprey** eating a big bass at ON 5/20 and LC also watched while an Osprey ate its dinner across from SMR 5/1. Raptors confirmed nesting (location deleted. -eds.): **Cooper's Hawk, N. Goshawk** (with young), **Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Red-tailed**. This quarter's **Cooper's Hawk** sightings seem to be up, including a new nest spotted (T&SS,DS).

One **Greater Yellowlegs** was at CR 5/27 (DW). JW found an **Am. Woodcock** brood of 4 near Laurel Mill Ski Trail the end of June and LC noted 1-2 at SMR area, including 1 bird that flew a short distance and displayed his tail feathers while prancing back and forth. Only 1 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** noted 6/14 (DS). T&SS were lucky enough to spot a **Long-eared Owl** near ON the week of 4/26. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted in BT 5/10 (LC).

On 5/16, an **E. Phoebe** returned to her nest on the corner of our house. The nest was constructed on top of our outdoor flood light (last year). She successfully raised 3 young this year. After fully fledged, we observed the youngsters returning to the nest to "rest" a full week after the female had left. Ten days later, the female returned to lay a second clutch. T&SS

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** were first seen at ON 4/13 (DW). Numbers of **Ovenbird** seemed to be up this year. Large numbers of **N. Oriole** were noted from mid-May to end-June at ON, BC and the Ridgway area (DW). One bird was seen using a hummingbird feeder 5/15 at BC and T&SS think it was gobbling up ants.

Twenty-five **Pine Siskin** were still visiting a BT feeder 6/8, but had dwindled to a pair by the end of the month (LC). An interesting observation 5/28 was of a **Pine Siskin** and **House Finch** eating out of the same hole on my thistle feeder, each taking turns (LC). **Evening Grosbeak** were gone by the end of Apr. (LC).

OBSERVERS: Linda Christenson, 602 Sunset Road, St. Marys 15857 (814-781-3156), Dave Sorg, Theron & Susan Steffan, John Weyant, Dave Wolfe.

## ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

*Abbreviations: Presque Isle SP (PI).* All sightings from PI unless otherwise noted.

Early to mid-Apr. remained cool and the last week of Apr. became balmy with temperatures reaching the low 80s. May was very cool and wet, but migration continued, most species arriving on time. Several days of northerly winds during the second and

third weeks of May grounded many passerines, giving observers opportunities to view good numbers and ample variety of species. June was cool and wet with several frosts away from the lake the first half of the month.

There were two major passages of shorebirds at Gull Point in May. The first occurred 5/13, composed mostly of **Short-billed Dowitcher**, and the second on 5/29, when most shorebirds were **Semipalmated Sandpiper**. See details below.

*Catharus* thrush were again scarce this spring—particularly **Swainson's Thrush**, which were never seen in more than single figures on a daily basis. The small **White-winged Crossbill** invasion dissipated by late Mar., but **Pine Siskin** remained well into this period.

More coverage of Gull Point, especially in May, produced, as might be expected, a number of rarities which are detailed in the following summary.

**Double-crested Cormorant** continue to increase. Birds were seen regularly from 4/8+, with up to 50 birds present for several days in mid-May. The **8 Am. Bittern** seen leaving in a northerly direction from Niagara pond at dusk 4/16 made a rare sighting (JM). Single Am. Bittern were seen 5/14,15 (JHS,JGS) and 5/19 (EK). As many as 6 **Least Bittern** were seen almost regularly on a ¼-mile stretch of trail and others were heard and seen elsewhere through May. **Great Egret** were reported from mid-Apr. to early June with a bird that may have been summering 6/30 (EK). One **Snowy Egret** was seen 5/25 (JM). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was seen 5/20 (RK), 5/24 (JM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen through Apr. and to 5/25, with a max. of 32 birds from 4/16-19 (JM). The imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** found in Erie 4/19 was the *9th* county record (EA,JM, ph.). A **Mute Swan** seen 5/28 to early June may have been an escape from a pond w. of Erie (JM). Two **Brant** noted 4/19 (BC).

An albinistic **Turkey Vulture** with a white back and tail made an interesting sight as it migrated past a hawk watch w. of Erie 4/16 (JM). Single **Bald Eagle** were seen 4/15 and 5/17 (JM), with 1 bird seen near Lake City 6/13 (JB). Single **Merlin** were seen from 4/8 to 5/12 w. of Erie and on PI (JM). At least 4 **Peregrine Falcon** were seen from 5/14-22 (JHS,RK,JM). A possible **Black Rail** was spotted briefly 5/20 along the Sidewalk Trail (BM). If accepted by PORC, this would be the first record for *Erie* and one of few in PA.

One **Willet** was seen 5/7 (JHS) and 3 on 5/20 (BM). On 5/13 on Gull Point during the passage of a cold front, an approx. total of 2000 shorebirds of 16 sp. was recorded, with 1500 birds observed in the first three hours of daylight (JM,EK) and the remaining 500 passing through after 1 p.m. (JHS,JGS). The most notable sightings in this group were: 3 **Whimbrel**, 400 "peeps" (mostly **Least Sandpiper**), 4 **White-rumped Sandpiper**, 450 **Dunlin**, and 1100 **Short-billed Dowitcher**.

On 5/29 a second shorebird fallout occurred (JHS,JGS,DS) which included approx. 600 birds of 15 sp., including the following notable sightings: 14 **Whimbrel**, 42 **Ruddy Turnstone**, 1 **Red Knot**, 54 **Sanderling**, 325 **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, 7 **White-rumped Sandpiper**. Other Whimbrel sightings include 44 on 5/24 (JM) and 5 on 5/30 (JHS). Unexpected were 2 **Marbled Godwit** 5/18, which is the 1st spring record and about the *14th* for the county (JHS,JGS). One **Red Knot** was seen 5/20 (JHo). Four **White-rumped Sandpiper** were found 5/28 and 2 found 6/2 in addition to the above sightings (JM). One of the most outstanding sightings of this spring was a **Ruff** observed within a few feet 5/5 (JGS). This is only the *3rd* record.

Single **Laughing Gull** were seen 5/10 (JM), 6/3 (JHo), and 6/15,17 (JM). A **Little Gull** was seen 5/25 (JM). One of the rarest discoveries of the spring was 2 ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** observed 5/19 (EK *et al.*), representing the *4th* state record. The birds were still present the next morning for at least two hours before flying off (JHo,BM). A very late **Iceland Gull** was discovered 5/19 (EK). Once again this year, **Caspian Tern** were numerous, with sightings in double figures regularly in mid- to late-April. **Forster's Tern** were observed from 4/17+, with a max

of 31 seen 5/13 (EK). An ad. **Least Tern** seen 5/29 (JGS,DS) represents only the *8th* county record.

While canoeing Long Pond on 6/26, LM discovered a pair of nesting **Black Tern**. Though the nest was concealed behind vegetation, LM and EK observed an ad. dropping fish into the nest site on 6/30. Recently a juv. was seen; details will be in the next reporting period. This is the *2nd* confirmed nesting in the past 3 years. They previously nested here until 1955.

One **Long-eared Owl** was seen 4/8 (DD) and 3 on 4/14 (JHo). Up to 11 **Short-eared Owl** were seen 4/14-22 (GR,JM). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found in Corry 4/30 (BF). One **Whip-poor-will** was noted in Corry 4/29 (BF), but none reported from PI. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** seen 4/26 at Edinboro was at least 5 days earlier than the species has been recorded in *Erie* (JH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was banded 5/21 (RL), and singles were seen 5/26 (EK) and 5/28 (SS). The 4-5 **N. Mockingbird** reported were slightly above the spring average. One **White-eyed Vireo** was noted 5/7 (JHS) and 3 5/12 (JHo).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Corry 5/8 (BF) and 1 banded at PI 5/17 (RL). A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was found 5/12 (JHS). Single **Orange-crowned Warbler** were seen 5/3 (JHS), 5/12 (JGS), and 5/19,20 (EK,RK). At least 2 territorial **Magnolia Warbler** were in Edinboro through June (MT). This species is a very rare breeder in the county. A **Pine Warbler** was found 4/21 (GR). A **Summer Tanager** was seen in Edinboro 5/6-8 (JH) and was only the *9th* county record. At least 1 **Pine Siskin** remained at Union City until 6/6, establishing the 1st June county record (JM).

Other species of regular, but uncommon birds seen were **Oldsquaw**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Carolina Wren**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (very scarce), **Yellow-throated** and **Philadelphia vireos**, **N. Parula**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Only 1 pair of **Prothonotary Warbler** reported!

Jim & Jean Stull banded on 7 days in May for a total of 456 net hours. They banded 424 birds of 60 species. Best day was 5/20, with 190 birds of 38 species in 110 net hours.

OBSERVERS: Evelyn Anderson, Jim Baxter, Bill Callista, Dave Darney, Bill Fenton, Joyce Hoffmann (JHo), Joan Howlett, Ramsay Koury, Ed Kwater, Ronald Leberman, Linda and Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Bernie Morris, Geoff Robinson, Don Snyder, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull, Marian Terwilliger.

## FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

*Abbreviations: Bear Run Nature Reserve (BR), Greenlick Dam (GD), Normalville (NVL), Ohiopyle SP (OSP).*

One to 3 **Common Loon** were at GD 4/1,10 (M&EW) and 4/21 (RS). Three **Pied-billed Grebe** were also there 4/21 (RS). A **Horned Grebe** was noted at GD 4/10, as well as a **Great Blue Heron** that day (M&EW). Also at GD were 3 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/21 (RS); 2 **Am. Wigeon** 4/21 (RS); 4 **Lesser Scaup** 4/3 (M&EW); 15 **Bufflehead** 4/3 and 9 on 4/13 (M&EW); 1 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/10 (M&EW); and 5 **Ruddy Duck** 4/3 (M&EW).

Single **Osprey** were at GD 4/13 (M&EW) and 4/29 (RS). On 5/25 a **Broad-winged Hawk** and a **Red-tailed Hawk** were doing battle in the skies over NVL (CC). **Wild Turkey** were gobbling all morning at NVL 4/29 (CC). Ten **Am. Coot** were at GD 4/21 (RS). A flock of 32 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at GD 4/13

(M&EW) and 4 **Ring-billed Gull** were there 4/29 (RS).

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at NVL 4/28 and a **Belted Kingfisher** visited our pond (CC). An **E. Wood-Pewee** was in Bullskin Twp 5/14 (RS), while an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at OSP 5/19 (EH), and an **E. Kingbird** was in Bullskin Twp 5/5 (RS). In May a **White-breasted Nuthatch** repeatedly flew against a picture window; this behavior has been noted with Cardinals, but never before by nuthatches (J&EH). **Wood Thrush** returned to Bullskin Twp 4/22 (RS) and to NVL 4/25 (CC). A **Solitary Vireo** was seen at BR 4/14 (EH), while first **Red-eyed Vireo** were noted at NVL 4/16 (CC).

Warbler reports include: a **Nashville** flew into a window near Perryopolis in early April (J&EH); **N. Parula** at NVL 4/29 (CC); **Blackpoll** at OSP 5/19,28 (EH); **Black-and-white** 4/28, **N. Waterthrush** 4/22, **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/16, all at NVL (CC). A **Mourning** was at OSP 5/19 and a **Hooded** at NVL 4/28 (CC); a **Wilson's** went through OSP 5/23 (EH). First **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen 4/29 and 4 came to feeders 5/15 in NVL (CC). **Seven Indigo Bunting** were noted at our feeders 5/15 (CC). First **Rufous-sided Towhee** was noted 4/4 (CC). A **Fox Sparrow** was in NVL 4/5 and EH found a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at OSP 5/19. Six **Bobolink** were seen in Bullskin Twp 5/5 (RS) and 4 in NVL 5/25 (CC). Four **Pine Siskin** were still at NVL feeders 5/25 (CC).

OBSERVERS: **Cindy Cook, RD 1, Box 259A, Normalville 15469 (412-455-7356)**, Eric Hall, Jim & Elaine Harmon, Roberta Stauffer, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

## FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

Abbreviations: *Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (ARNT)*, *Buzard Swamp (BS)*, *Church Hill (CH)*, *Hickory Cr. upper Endeavor (HCUE)*, *Minister Cr. (MC)*, *Nebraska Bridge (NB)*, *Tionesta Cr. (TC)*, *Tionesta (TIO)*.

A **Common Loon** was observed at ARNT 4/2 (CRM). A ♀ **Pied-billed Grebe** with chicks was seen at NB 6/24 (PS,GW). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen on a pond n. of Marienville 5/6 (TG,NG) and 1 was seen at BS 6/16 (MB,RAW,ADW). A **Great Egret** was found at NB 4/27 (GH) then discovered on a small pond in E. Hickory 4/28 (LB, EF,NF,ADW). An imm. **Tundra Swan** was seen at BS 5/19 (TG,NG) and was still there 6/9 (RAW,ADW). **Wood Duck** were seen frequently on TC, including a hen with chicks at NB 6/23 (PS,GW). An **Oldsquaw** was floating at ARNT 4/6 and a small flock was found later just down river (ADW). **Common Merganser** have been nesting here for several years. One ♀ has 21 young in her care at HCUE (RAW).

Five **Bald Eagle** were flying over ARNT 4/5. One was seen carrying a branch and 2 were flying in courtship manner (ADW). Also 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** has been seen throughout the quarter at ARNT (CRM). An imm. **Golden Eagle** was seen flying overhead at MC 4/22 (CS,RAW,ADW).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest that we monitored had 3 young at the beginning of June and in the middle of June the nest was empty and both adults were found dead not far from the base of the nest tree. The bodies had been visited by scavengers so we do not know exactly what happened. The young were not ready to fledge at this time (GW, RAW,ADW).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at Kelleetville 4/23 (TG,NG). One was there in 1989 also. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** came to suet on CH 4/7 (ADW). On 4/15 at

Mayburg, we discovered a ♂ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and a **Pileated Woodpecker** excavating nest cavities in close proximity (GW,RAW,ADW). We kept an eye on the sapsucker nest and the young fledged the last week of June. Three **Common Raven** were seen in TIO 5/17 (RAW). A **N. Mockingbird** was also seen in TIO 6/6 (RAW). On 5/26, a **Tennessee Warbler** flew into a window on CH and was just dazed, but gave us a chance to get a good look at it (RAW,ADW).

OBSERVERS: Leota Brady, Margaret Buckwalter, Ed & Norma Foreman, Ted & Nancy Grisez, Gene Hale, C.R. Mann, Cindy Smith, Parks Swartzfager, Gary Walters, Richard & April D. Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306).

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

Abbreviations: *Mercersburg (MB)*, *Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (MP)*, *Renfrew Park (RP)*.

A **Great Blue Heron** was n. of MB 4/5 (CB). Two **Surf Scoter** were observed on a farm pond at St. Thomas 5/21 (CG). One **Golden Eagle** was sighted from a mountain road between St. Thomas and Edenville 5/2 (KG). A **Black-bellied Plover** 5/14 and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/28 were at MP (CB). A **Dunlin** was s.e. of Marion 5/25 (CG) and 1 was at MP 5/28 (CB). On 5/20 at MP, FM found a **Wilson's Phalarope**. Seventeen **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen at MP 4/7 (CG).

Two **Willow Flycatcher** and 1 **Least Flycatcher** were seen and heard at RP 5/20 (CG). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at Siberia 5/23 (CG,KG). Five species of vireo, **White-eyed** (2), **Solitary** (1), **Yellow-throated** (1), **Warbling** (1), and **Red-eyed** (3) were seen in the Little Cove 4/27 (CB,CG,KG). One **Wilson's Warbler** was at RP 5/20 (CG) and 1 at MP 5/21 (CG).

A **Dickcissel** was seen on Pine Rd. at Upper Strasburg 5/25 (FM,KG) and 5/26 (CG); 2 were seen near Fort McCord 6/4 (CG,KG). North of MB, a **Rufous-sided Towhee** was seen 4/6 (CB). Fifteen **Bobolink** were seen on Pine Rd. at Upper Strasburg 5/17 (CG).

OBSERVERS: Charles Brightbill, Carl L. Garner, Ken Gabler, Floyd Mitchell.

## GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

Our April weather was quite variable—ranging from 35° and snow flurries on 4/3 to 88° on both 4/25 and 4/28.

The **Great Blue Heron** nesting site w. of Jefferson was checked 5/20 and 19 nests were counted—2 less than last year. An **Osprey** noted at a pond e. of Waynesburg 5/5 (MB). There were more Osprey reports than usual this spring.

The now rare **Red-headed Woodpecker** was heard calling here on the farm 5/14. Lots of **Acadian Flycatcher** around. In fact there were 19 on our Jefferson BBS route—the highest count in the 25 years the survey has been "run." The now rare **Horned Lark** and 2 singing **Vesper Sparrow** were noted on a nearby strip mine 4/29.

The first **Purple Martin** noted 4/9 and there were perhaps 15 pair here at our box later. There are very few occupied boxes here in this county, perhaps 6 or 7 colonies at the most and there were over 100 colonies before Hurricane Agnes in 1972 decimated the species here.

A good migration of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** 4/11. The first **Wood Thrush** noted 4/24, close to the average arrival date of 4/25 since 1953. The latest was 5/2 in 1975 and there were 4 arrivals on 4/19 (1955, 1963, 1966 and 1977). The Wood Thrush is still doing very well here. There was record count of 32 **Gray Catbird** on our BBS route—the previous high was 28 in 1984.

I noted the first **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/11. This species is now common and seems to be still increasing—in fact, one sang in our yard on several different days. A **Summer Tanager** was noted singing in our yard 5/15, and several groups have come here to see and list this bird on their life lists. This species is now rather easy to find in *Greene*. The **House Finch** is still increasing in numbers and, as a result, more and more people are now considering it a pest at their feeders.

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

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY

David Kyler

Abbreviations: *Aitch Access (AA)*, *Detweiler's Run Natural Area (DR)*, *Stone Valley L. (SVL)*, *Whipple Dam SP (WD)*.

When the majority of county reports came trickling in from contributors, the most commonly asked question was, "Where was the warbler migration this year?" According to the respondents, similar time spent in similar locations produced many fewer species and numbers of individuals per species than in any previous year. Have our local migration patterns shifted or are we seeing the first effects of loss of winter habitat in the tropics?

All sightings by the compiler unless otherwise noted. Unusual species sightings were **Red-necked Grebe**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and **Connecticut Warbler**.

One to 7 **Common Loon** were found on SVL from 4/1-5/11 (GG). A single Common Loon was observed at AA on a later date, 5/17. A single report of **Red-throated Loon** was made from SVL 5/4 (GG). The next day, 5/5, he found 2 **Red-necked Grebe** there. GG also had the following waterfowl at SVL: 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** 5/5; 2 **Green-winged Teal** 4/14; 2 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/14; 7 **Oldsquaw** 4/4; and 4 **Surf Scoter** 5/4. Raptors reported were nesting **Red-shouldered Hawk** (location deleted, -eds.), nesting **Barn Owl** (6 young) in Alexandria (ML); nesting **Great Horned** and **Barred** owls in the Cornprobst Mills area (EB).

**Bonaparte's Gull** were at SVL 4/6, 10 & 5/1, with numbers of 2, 2, and 6 respectively (GG). Terns located include 4 **Caspian** at AA (RC), 2 **Common** at SVL (GG), 1 **Black** 5/4, 19 (GG). Shorebird species were all reported from GG and include 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/24 at WD, **Lesser Yellowlegs** near McAlevy's Fort 5/23, 5 **Solitary Sandpiper** at WD 5/2, and 5 **Least Sandpiper** at McAlevy's Fort 5/5.

Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen frequenting a dead stand of trees near Huntingdon 6/25 and both **Winter Wren** and **Swainson's Thrush** were seen at DR 4/29 (GG).

Warbler species of note were 2 **Yellow-throated** near Water Street 4/28 (ML), a **Prothonotary** at SVL 5/8 (GG), and a ♂ **Connecticut** in a wet crabapple orchard near Huntingdon 5/8. This individual, with full hood and bright eye ring, was observed only on this date and only by the compiler.

Completing the report were sightings of 11 **Bobolink** near Newburg 5/4 and 3 **Evening Grosbeak** on Piney Ridge 4/26 (RC).

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

## INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: *Clarksburg (CKG)*, *Gipsy Strips (GPS)*, *Indiana (IND)*, *Penn View Mt. (PVM)*, *Shelocta (SHL)*, *SGL 273 (SGL)*, *Strangford (SFD)*, *Timber L. (TL)*, *Yellow Creek SP (YC)*.

Birding this period at YC has been the best ever. Good numbers of waterfowl plus an excellent variety of warblers led to an extremely productive spring. A Big Day, conducted 5/11, yielded 108 species, 13 short of last year, but the decline was attributed to the windy weather. Highlights at YC included **Red-throated Loon**, **Eared Grebe**, **Willet**, and **Loggerhead Shrike**. Also of interest were 2 well-described **Orange-crowned Warbler**, 1 at IND, 1 the other at SFD.

All waterfowl reports, unless otherwise noted, are from YC. A **Red-throated Loon** made its appearance from 4/29 (CL, GL) to 5/5 (TBC). The bird's health was questioned when it beached itself 25 ft from 7 observers on the boat launch ramp. It proceeded to support its head by implanting its bill into the gravel. Because of concern for the bird's safety, the observers shooed the loon back into the water. Shortly thereafter, the bird once again, very loonlike, was diving and appeared to be feeding normally.



*Red-throated Loon, Yellow Creek S.P., 5/3/90. Photo by Gloria Lamer.*

Top **Common Loon** count was 21 on 4/10 (GL), but 2 lingered until 6/19 (GL). On 4/6, the lake was dotted with a total of 25 **Horned Grebe** (GL). Unusual was an **Eared Grebe** 5/16 (EH) which was well observed by at least 7 other observers until 5/30; attempts to photograph it were unsuccessful. **Double-crested Cormorant** were found periodically from 4/3-6/8, with top count 23 on 4/23 (GL). Remarkable was the absence of **Great Blue Heron** at YC after 5/1 (MH, RW). Single **Great Egret** were listed 4/10, 11, 20 (LH, GL, FM), 4/21 (TBC), and 5/22 (BB, GC, MH, GL).

Three **Tundra Swan** lingered until 4/9 (MH, GL). Young **Wood Duck** were seen swimming with adults 5/17 (GL, GS). Last **Green-winged Teal** was spotted 5/11 (MH, NK, GL). Best **Am. Black Duck** count was 14 on 4/6 (GL). The lone **N. Pintail** report was 3 indiv. 4/1 (LH). Top **Blue-winged Teal** tally was 31 on 4/17 (BB, MH, GL). Four **Gadwall** were counted 4/6, 9 (MH, GL). Largest **Am. Wigeon** raft numbered 46 indiv. 4/6 (GL). **Canvasback**, seen this period only on 4/6, numbered 43 (GL). Two **Ring-necked Duck** were still present 5/29 (BB, MH, GL). Top **Lesser Scaup** and **Oldsquaw** tallies were 158 and 126 respectively on 4/6 (GL). One to 4 **White-winged Scoter** appeared intermittently from 4/20-5/22 (MH, GL *et al.*). April 6 also brought the period's best **Common Goldeneye** count of 24

(GL). **Bufflehead** appeared especially abundant this year, with top count of 211 on 4/9 (MH,LH,GL). Largest **Hooded Merganser** raft consisted of 14 on 4/4 (GL). **Red-breasted Merganser** numbers peaked 4/6 with 41 indiv. (GL), but 4 were still found 5/29 (BB,MH,GL). **Ruddy Duck** inundated the lake with an amazing count of 383 on 4/6 (GL).

Single **Osprey** were found at YC between 4/3 and 5/16 (v.o.). **N. Harrier** was reported at TL 4/6, YC 5/3, and at Nolo 4/10, 11 and 5/5 (CL,GL). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were found at 4 locations this quarter; **Cooper's** only at SHL and Nolo. First **Broad-winged Hawk** returned to SHL 4/24 (MH).

**Virginia Rail** was observed and heard at YC 4/30 (MH,GL) and heard again 5/8 (MH,GL,CLa). **Am. Coot** were in small numbers throughout the spring with highest tally of 18 on 4/9 (MH,GL). One to 2 **Black-bellied Plover** were spotted 5/17 (PF,MH,GL). Single **Semipalmated Plover** were recorded 4/21 (BF,MH,GL), 5/22 (BB,MH,GL), and 5/29 (BB,GC,MH,GL). Two to 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** were listed on 4 dates from 4/6 (GL) to 5/5 (TBC). Seven **Willet** made a surprise appearance on the morning of 4/20 (GL,FM) and were seen later that evening (BF) but had departed by 4/21. **Spotted Sandpiper** was first listed 4/24 (BB,MH). Two **Ruddy Turnstone** were found 5/16 (GL). Best **Semipalmated Sandpiper** count was 8 on 6/7 (GL); 1-2 **Least Sandpiper** were spotted between 5/5 (TB) and 5/22 (BB,PF,MH,GL). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen 5/16 (GL), the lone report. Two **Dunlin** were reported 5/16 (MH,GL). Up to 11 **Common Snipe** were counted 4/4 (GL), but 4 were still present 4/21 (TBC).

**Bonaparte's Gull**, present until 6/8 (GL), peaked at 157 indiv. 4/11 (GL). Best **Ring-billed Gull** tally was 162 on 4/18 (GL). **Herring Gull** was still present 5/22 (BB,GC,MH,GL). Single **Caspian Tern** were listed 4/17 (BB,MC,MH,GL) and 5/8 (MH,CLa); 3 were found 5/17 (PF,MH, GL). Single **Common Tern** were observed 5/17 (PF,MH) and 5/22,29 (BB,NH,GL). **Forster's Tern** were present sporadically between 4/9 and 5/18, with best count of 14 on 5/16 (MH,GL). **Black Tern** was spotted 5/16 (EH,MH).

First **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found near SHL 5/4 (RH). The SHL BBS route yielded 4 **Black-billed** and 6 **Yellow-billed** cuckoo (MH,RH). **Purple Martin** was listed only at YC 4/18 (GL), 4/21 (TBC), and 5/1 (MH,NK,GL), all singletons. Other swallow reports included 3 **Bank** and 14 **Cliff** 5/5 (TBC). **Common Raven** was observed throughout the period near CKG, with stick carrying reported 4/22 and 3 young spotted with 2 ad. 6/1 (MC). **Winter Wren** was foraging under downed limbs at YC 4/9 (MH,GL). **Am. Pipit** numbered 5 on 4/4 (GL) and 11 on 4/7 (TBC) at YC.



Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Creek S.P., 4/14/90. Photo by Gloria Lamer.

Another highlight of the season was the brief appearance of a **Loggerhead Shrike** at YC 4/14 (GL,GS,MH,RH). The bird was spotted again the next morning (CLa,BM,KM) but could not be found later that afternoon (GL).

Variety rather than large numbers of warblers seemed to be the rule this spring. No large flocks of migrant warblers were reported, but 19 warbler species were listed 5/5 (TBC). Single **Orange-crowned Warbler** were well-described near IND 5/7 (PJ) and at SFD 5/9 (J&JT). Interesting sightings included **N. Parula** at CKG 5/2 (MC) and at YC 5/5 (TBC). The lone **Yellow-throated Warbler** report came from CKG 4/19 (MC). **Pine Warbler** arrived at CKG 4/12 (MC) and was present at YC from 4/21 to 5/29 (MH *et al.*). **Pine** appeared at SHL 6/21 and sang constantly through month's end (MH,RH). **Palm** was noted at YC 5/5 (TBC). An extremely agitated **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen carrying food for young at SGL 6/5 (BB,MH,TJ,GL). **Wilson's** was found at PVM 5/15 (MH,BM) and at YC 5/22 (BB,MH,GL). **Canada Warbler** was both seen and heard at SGL 6/5 (BB,MH,TJ,GL).

Last **Am. Tree Sparrow** was recorded at YC 4/9 (MH,GL). Fifteen was considered a conservative estimate of **Vesper Sparrow** at the GPS 6/26 (BB,MH). **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's** sparrows there numbered 30+ and 11 respectively. A **Fox Sparrow** was noted at YC 4/9 (MH). **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared in our area 5/2-12 making appearances at various locations throughout the county; strangely, all reports were of singletons. First **Bobolink** was listed at Nolo 5/24, when 2 were seen (GL). Four **Rusty Blackbird** were found at YC 4/4 (GL) and 2 were there 4/17 (BB,MC,MH,GL). A ♂ **Orchard Oriole** was spotted 5/1 at YC (MH,NK,GL), where a pair was subsequently found 5/9 (GL). **Purple Finch** were nesting near Nolo (GL), at CKG (MC), and near SHL (MH) by late May. Last **Pine Siskin** reported was 5/25 near SHL (MH,RH). Top **Evening Grosbeak** count at Nolo was 68 on 4/3 (CL,GL); a singleton lingered there until 4/30 (GL). On 5/1, 5 appeared at YC (MH,NK,GL), the county's only report away from Nolo.

OBSERVERS: Becky Byerly, Greg Cook, Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy Fetterman, Paula Fleming, Eric Hall, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Leon Hue, Pat Johner, Timmi Jones, Nancy Karp, Carroll Labarthe (CLa), Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Frances Michny, Georgette Syster, John & Joe Taylor, Ray Winstead, Todd Bird Club (TBC).

## JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Abbreviations: BBS Rt. 072 Mifflintown (BBSM), BBS Rt. 068 Peru Mills (BBSP), Clearview Res (CR), Hammer Hollow (HH), Juniata R. (JR), Port Royal (PR). Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

**Great Blue Heron** reports were few this quarter; there were none since 4/8. However, a **Great Egret** was seen at JR near PR 5/28 (DW).

The trend of **Red-breasted Merganser** reports of last quarter continued, with the following listings: 9 at CR 2/19; 1 at Van Dyke 3/4; 2 at Mifflintown Access 4/2,11; 15 at CR 4/4 and 1 there 4/8. This was a very good spring to see these birds in the county. Last year the river and waterways were searched diligently to find only one. **Black Vulture** sightings, while not common, are becoming more numerous and include 1 at Van Wert 6/13 and 1 on BBSM near Liverpool 6/17.

BBSM, which usually has 6+ **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, produced none this year and also had no **Black-billed Cuckoo**. BBSP had a normal report of 3 **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 3 **Yellow-**

billed Cuckoo 6/10.

The **Whip-poor-will**, after one appearance 5/8 in HH, is absent again this year and is probably no longer a resident bird in this location.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** singing from the top of a tree about ½-mi e. of Shade Mt. Fire Tower in Licking Cr. 5/28 was a real pleasure to see and hear. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** stopped on their way through HH to feed on a pine tree 5/4.

On 5/20, a **Swainson's Thrush** for the second time was observed migrating through HH; the previous date was 5/17. An albino **Am. Robin** was present at the Karl Mummah farm near Cuba Mills 6/24. Mr. Mummah said this bird had been coming to the bank behind his barn for about two weeks. It left that area the following week. This bird was completely white.

A **Solitary Vireo** showed up in a new location about 1 mi w. of the end of HH Rd. on the Shade Mt. 5/28. It approached the observer and behaved in a very agitate manner. Two locations where **Warbling Vireo** have been sighted regularly these last two years yielded none this year.

Warbler reports include 1 **Golden-winged** in HH 4/30; 1 **N. Parula** at PR 4/27 (DW); 1 **Bay-breasted** in HH 5/20; 1 **Cerulean** at SGL 171 Thompsettown 4/29; and 1 **Common Yellowthroat** at SGL 171 on 4/29. With the exception of the N. Parula and Bay-breasted, these warblers were 1-2 weeks early.

An **Indigo Bunting** at HH 4/26 was also one week early, while the **Dark-eyed Junco** at HH 4/17 was two weeks early for a final spring sighting. An **Orchard Oriole** for the second year in a row and in almost the same location was counted on BBSP near the Lack-Tuscarora Elem. School 6/10.

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

### LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

*Locations: Covey's Swamp (CS), Dalton Area (DA), Factoryville area (FA), Lackawanna SP (LSP).*

The one noticeable feature of this spring's migration was the lack of individuals within a species. Only two observers talked of two instances of "waves like the old times!" A rookery of **Great Blue Heron** was discovered near Maplewood. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and **Green-backed Heron** were noted at CS 5/12.

High count of **Turkey Vulture** was 16 at Dunmore 5/12. An **Osprey** was at FA 4/24. Earliest sighting of **Killdeer** was 4/4 at CS. **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary** and **Spotted** sandpipers, and **Am. Woodcock** were all at CS 5/12. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were found at FA 6/9 and DA 6/27. **Whip-poor-will** were found near Montage 5/7, 12 and **Common Nighthawk** near Scranton 5/21. A ♂ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Clark's Summit 6/2 allowed very close approach. Earliest sighting of **House Wren** was 4/27 at FA and **Carolina Wren** were seen there 5/13+.

Best warbler find was a pair of **Worm-eating Warbler** in Falls 6/24 that gave good signs that they were breeding there. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was located at Heart L. 6/1 and 3 were seen and heard at Marshwood 6/9. An **Orchard Oriole** and nest were located at LSP 5/26. **Purple Finch** were noted occasionally at Marywood College and DA throughout the period. **Pine Siskin** were last seen at FA 5/11.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Mike Freidlin, **Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2321, Factoryville 18419 (717-344-4690)**, Jane Shulenberger, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

### LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

*Abbreviations: Holtwood Flyash Pond (HFP), Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run, including Fisherman's Park (MR), Summer Bird Count (SBC), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF).*

Highlights of the period include the first recent records of **Black-necked Stilt** in the county. Three different sightings of **Whimbrel** were recorded. Good numbers of shorebirds were recorded from the SRCF and a surprising wet area in a farmer's field near Mt. Joy that hosted a **Wilson's Phalarope** and at least 10 other species of shorebirds. The 1st county record of **Little Gull** was established on the river. The seldom seen/heard **Alder Flycatcher** was also found.

Several groups of **Common Loon** totaling about 150 and ±35 **Horned Grebe** were at SRCF 4/7 (TG,EW). A **Tricolored Heron** was at SRCF 5/20, one of the county's few spring records (TG,EW). Two **Glossy Ibis** were near Oregon along the Conestoga Cr. 4/13-14 (TG,EW). An apparently health **Tundra Swan** lingered at SRCF until at least 5/27 (m.ob.). Eight **Canvasback** were at MR 4/7 (SS). A high count of 42 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at MR 4/21 (DH). The following waterfowl sightings are considered somewhat late: 1 **Am. Wigeon** was on the SoLanCo SBC 6/9; 2 **Greater Scaup** at SRCF 5/24 (JB); 3 **Bufflehead** at SRCF 5/24 (JB); and ♀ **Hooded Merganser** at HFP until at least 5/20 (m.ob.) and at SRCF 5/27 (JB).

*Lancaster's 1st 20th Century record of **Black-necked Stilt** featured 10 at HFP 5/20 (JB et al.). Another lingered at MC 5/25-30 (LH et al.). **Five Whimbrel** were along the shore of MR 5/19 (SS,JP,EP et al.) and single flew into HFP 5/20 (JB) and another Whimbrel was on the SRCF 5/27 (JB). Previous to this year there were only three known Whimbrel records for the county!*

Four **Black-bellied Plover** were at Mt. Joy 5/20 (RM). Thirty **Semipalmated Plover** were at SRCF 5/27 (JB,TG,EW). Three to 6 **Ruddy Turnstone** were on the SRCF 5/19-20 (JB,TG,EW), another was at Mt. Joy 5/13 (JH). Two **Western Sandpiper** were at SRCF 5/27 (JB,TG,EW). One to 3 **White-rumped Sandpiper** were on the SRCF from 5/16-6/3 (JB,TG,EW) and another at Mt. Joy 5/22 (JH). Good numbers of **Dunlin** were noted, with 25 at MC 5/26 (LC), 20 at Mt. Joy 5/10 (JH), and 65 at SRCF 5/19 (JB). A **Common Snipe** was at MC 5/12 (JW et al.). Most interesting was a **Wilson's Phalarope** along Pleasure Rd. near Mt. Joy in "farmland puddle" 5/18-20 (JH et al.).

*The rarest find of the period was of 2 breeding-plumaged **Little Gull** flying up the river a mile above the Accomac Inn (York side) with several **Bonaparte's Gull** 4/4 (JB). This is a long-awaited 1st county record.*

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was on the SRCF 4/7,14 (TG,EW). Eight **Caspian Tern** were at MR 4/10 (RMS). **Common Tern** reports include 1 at MC 5/5 (EW) and 5 at SRCF 5/19 (JB). No **Black Tern** reports.

A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed from the SRCF 4/14 (JB,TG,EW). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MC 5/19 (HM et al.). Single calling **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were near the Chickies Cr. 5/13 (JH) and at MC 5/19 (TG). Another good county find was a calling **Alder Flycatcher** near Mt. Joy 6/1 (JH). A **Least Flycatcher** was at MC 6/2 (TG) and 200 **Am. Pipit** were

along Clay & Lime Rock Rds., Clay Twp, 4/15 (NC,TK).

**Philadelphia Vireo** were near Safe Harbor 5/11 (RM) and at Chickies Rock 5/12 (WT *et al.*). A late **Black-throated Green Warbler** was found on the SoLanCo SBC 6/9. A **Mourning Warbler** at MC 5/24 (SS) topped off a rather dull warbler migration. One to 2 breeding-plumaged **Lapland Longspur** remained in Clay Twp to at least 4/5 (RM,NC,TK). Twelve **Rusty Blackbird** were in Neffsville 4/17 (TG). **Pine Siskin** lingered into May in several areas, with the latest report being in Elizabethtown 5/30 (LC).

The 14th annual SoLanCo SBC was held 6/9. The 114 species tied the 10-year average. The total of 10,243 indiv. birds was slightly above the 10-year average of 9579. Significant high counts of the following were made: **Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Horned Lark, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, N. Mockingbird, N. Cardinal, and Chipping Sparrow.** The following were reported in lower than average number: **N. Bobwhite, Black-crowned Night-Heron (missed), Cerulean Warbler, Am. Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat (RMS *et al.*).**

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Nancy Clupper, Larry Coble, Tom Garner, Lloyd Hassel, Dan Heathcote, Johnathan Heller, Tom Kurtz, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Ed & Jo Pederson, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Leon Schreffler, William Tawser, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138), Jan Witmer.

#### LAWRENCE COUNTY

Robert Walczak

*Abbreviations: Bessemer Area (BSA), Ellwood City area (ECA), New Castle Area (NCA), Volant area (VA), Vosler Rd. (VR).* All records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Two **Pied-billed Grebe** were found in BSA 4/29 (BD,GD). Sixty plus **Great Blue Heron** were at the heronry in Amish area during the month of Apr. as nesting was taking place already (DW,RW). One **Great Egret** was found in Shenango Twp from 4/10-13 at a pond (PM,RW) and 2 were seen along the Beaver R. in the W. Pittsburgh area 4/17 (BS).

Four **Tundra Swan** could still be found in VA 4/3 (BD,GD). **Canada Geese** were reported with goslings from all over the county during Apr. and early May (RW,PM,BD,GD). A pair of **Wood Duck** were found in a little wetland area in Shenango Twp 4/16 (PM). Also, a Wood Duck with young was reported 6/24 in the Swamp Rd. area (BD). The Volant wetlands was a good location for waterfowl during the first week of Apr., with 2 pair of **Am. Black Duck** being seen 4/3, 16 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/8, 1 pair **Am. Wigeon** 4/1 and 17 on 4/8, 500+ **Ring-necked Duck** 4/3 and 400+ on 4/8. One **Bufflehead** was reported at a pond on Rt. 956 on 4/1 (BD,GD).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was coming to a feeder 4/17 as well as a **Cooper's Hawk** feeding on feeder birds in the New Castle area (BD). Another Cooper's Hawk was reported from the VA 4/8 (BD,GD). Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** flew over NCA 5/30 (BD). During the first week of Apr., 7 **Red-tailed Hawk** were reported as nesting in the county (BD,GD,RW,DW,PM). These raptors are really thriving in *Lawrence*, especially along the main highways. **Am. Kestrel** (3) reported seen in BSA 5/5 (BD,GD), plus a pair seen in Taylor Twp in early Apr.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** were found on VR 5/19; 1 at the Volant strip mine area 5/21 (BD); and 1 in Shenango Twp 4/24-26 (HL). **Virginia Rail** returned to a wetland on Frew Mill Rd. 4/29

(BD). **Killdeer** were found in Shenango, Taylor, and Union twps in good numbers and nesting by mid- to late-Apr. (RW,PM,DW). Three **Solitary Sandpiper** were in Amish area 4/29 (BD). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was in the Rock Point area 5/6 (RW,MG,BD,GD). **Upland Sandpiper** returned (pair) to breed at Amish area 4/21 and 2 pair also returned to VR 4/25 (BD). Three **Common Snipe** were found on VR 4/23 (BD). Courtship flight of 4+ **Am. Woodcock** was observed from 4/3-9 in VA (BD,GD,RW). On 4/14, 50 **Ring-billed Gull** were found in a field not far from VR (BD,GD).

**Chimney Swift** returned in really good numbers this year, with 50+ flying over Shenango R. in Taylor Twp during June (RW,PM). They were well reported from Shenango and Union twps as well as NCA, with 25+ at each location (BD,GD,RW,DW,PM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** numbers seem to be higher also this year at feeders. By 5/17, BD had 7 (4 ♂, 3 ♀) at her NCA feeders. Two were also visiting a feeder in Shenango Twp 5/14-23 (TW). **Belted Kingfisher** numbers seem to be down this year.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in the VA 4/1 (BD,GD). Two **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were seen in the ECA 6/21,26. **Downy** and **Hairy** woodpeckers were seen carrying suet to young in NCA 5/20 (BD). A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** was noted at Rock Point 4/8 (TN) and were found in several other locations in NCA (BD). **E. Phoebe** were well reported. **E. Kingbird** were seen in great numbers 5/14 while walking on my grandfather's farm checking the bluebird trail and 7 were in the ECA that same day. **Barn Swallow** (3) were first seen in Shenango Twp 4/14. **Bank Swallow** were found at two locations, VR 6/21 (BD) and Union Twp 5/27 (RW,DW).

**Brown Creeper** numbers were up this year; 4 were seen in ECA 4/6 (RW) and 1 in VA 4/8 (BD,GD). **Carolina Wren** are doing well and being reported from several areas now. Two were along Neshanock Cr. 5/19 (BD), 3 at Rock Point 5/6 (v.o), and several nesting in VA (BD). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was on VR 4/1 and 6 in VA 4/8 (BD, GD). Three **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were in Amish area 4/29 (BD).

The second brood of **E. Bluebird** were leaving nests in ECA and Shenango Twp by the third week of June. Out of a trail of 24 boxes, I had 37 young fledge by quarter's end. It is a real thrill to see bluebirds making a comeback in *Lawrence*, as more and more people are putting out nest boxes. First **Wood Thrush** was noted in Shenango Twp 4/15 and 3 were seen at Rock Point 5/6 (RW,BD,GD,MG). A 100+ **Am. Pipit** were seen in VA 4/1-3 (BD,GD) and in Amish area 4/14 (BD).

Warbler numbers seemed to be much lower this year. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was in Amish area 4/29 (BD). One **Tennessee** was on VR 5/19 (BD) and a **N. Parula** at Rock Point 5/6 (BD,MG,RW). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Rock Point 5/6 (MG,RW,RN). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were quite common in early Apr. (BD,RW). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen for the second year in a row at Rock Point 5/6 (MG,RN,RW,HF), as well as a **Cerulean Warbler** there that day. A **Black-and-white** was noted in Amish area 4/29 (BD).

Three **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were seen 4/29 in Frew Mill Rd. area (BD). **Vesper, Savannah and Grasshopper** sparrows were in the VA 6/12 (BD). First **Savannah Sparrow** were noted in the NCA 4/14 in Amish area (BD,GD). One **Fox Sparrow** reported 4/1 on VR (BD,GD).

Two ♂ **Bobolink** were in ECA 4/30 (RW), while the first was noted in BSA 4/29 (BD). They were also noted at a new location, Volant strip mine area, 5/19 (BD). Courtship flights were noted the second week of June here. Six **Pine Siskin** were in NCA 5/19 (BD) and Barb Dean reported still having 2 in her backyard 6/4.

OBSERVERS: Barb Dean, George Dean, Helen Ferguson, Marguerite Geibel, Harry Lutton, Paul Makarevich, Tony Nastas, Rosie Noll, Becky Sheeler, Dorothy Walczak, **Robert M. Walczak, 3556 Ellwood Rd., New Castle 16101 (412-656-0201)**, Tom Walczak.

*We thank Barb Dean for her three years of dedicated service. She has passed the baton to Bob Walczak, who welcomes your sightings. -eds.*

## LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

*Abbreviations: Memorial L. (ML).*

This quarter started very wet and water levels were high until the middle of June. June was a dry month, but this probably did not affect breeding success, which was unremarkable this spring. Shorebird migration was dull as was waterfowl migration, which was nearly over by the beginning of the quarter due to the mild winter weather. Landbird migration was slightly ahead of schedule while the leaves were far ahead of schedule, making it very difficult to see May migrants and lowering the number of reports received. This year's birdathon was held 5/6 and produced 141 species in *Lebanon*, *Lancaster*, *Dauphin* and *Berks*, 2 fewer than last year despite having an additional group in the field. Rarity of the season goes to the **Lawrence's Warbler** seen near Mt. Gretna.

Two **Common Loon** were at ML 5/6 (m.ob.) and 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** was there 4/16 (JW). **Cattle Egret** are much less often reported since the abandonment of the *Lancaster* heronry at Rookery I; 1 seen 5/17 at the Iona/Reistville farm ponds was noteworthy. Fewer **Great Egret** were found this year than has been usual in the last 5 years when the population locally had been increasing. In fact, the only *Lebanon* report this spring was of a single bird on a farm pond s. of Campbelltown 5/14 (SS). Waterfowl had mostly departed by mid-Apr. Noteworthy late reports were 18 **Bufflehead** and 3 **Ruddy Duck** 5/5 at ML (BFH). The Ruddy Duck were still there the next day (m.ob.). The only **Am. Coot** were 8 seen at ML 4/16 (JW).

One **Semipalmated Plover** was reported this year. It was seen 5/9-14 at the drained swimming lake in Mt. Gretna (MC,SS). **Dunlin** was seen from at least 5/5 (BFH) to at least 6/1 (SS) near Iona. Two were here 5/27 (PM). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was located 5/27 at Reistville (PM). Other shorebirds of note were the **Short-billed Dowitcher** near Iona 5/15 (MC,SS) and the somewhat late **Common Snipe** seen here 5/5 (BFH). Three larids of note were found, all at ML: 5 **Caspian Tern** on the early date 4/10 (JW), 1 **Forster's Tern** and a **Bonaparte's Gull** 5/5 (BFH).

Landbird migration was mediocre and a bit early this year. One **Common Nighthawk** was found 5/8 migrating over SGL 145 at Mt. Gretna (RM). Five **Rusty Blackbird** was the peak total reported 4/18 from Mt. Gretna (RM). This lake, drained every spring, is the one location in the county where this species is regular. Due to the early migration, all 5 nesting species of vireo were seen on the birdathon 5/6, but only 23 species of warblers were found. Of these, only 18 were found in *Lebanon*. Overall, there were no good warbler waves this spring, but all of the expected species were seen. The only warblers of note were the 5 **N. Waterthrush** seen at various location throughout the county 5/14 (MC,SS) and, as reported in the introduction, the ♀ **Lawrence's Warbler** reported from L. Duffy near Mt. Gretna 5/17 (SS). The latest **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen 5/5 at Swatara SP (BFH), a much different pattern from last year when White-crowns were seen almost throughout the month. This year, the six birdathon groups could not find a single one 5/6. An **Orchard Oriole** was reported from the *Lebanon* section of Middle Creek WMA 5/6 (m.ob.). It was still here in June and probably nested (SS).

OBSERVERS: Morris Cox, Barb & Frank Haas, Pat McElhenny, Randy Miller, Steve Santner, 3 **Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Judy Ward.

## LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

*Abbreviations: Baer Rocks (BR), Leaser Lake (LL).*

The migration in our area this spring was not bad at all. Most of the landbirds either came early, with a good number of early area records being broken, or quite late. Among the more common birds that were seen in very good numbers were: **Osprey**, **both kinglets**, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, and **Winter Wren**. Among those birds not usually seen at all in our area, good numbers of **White-winged Scoter**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, and **Forster's Tern** were noted.

Two Big Day teams did Big Days (what else?): Team #1 (BD1), which went out on 5/13, consisted of Fritz Brock, Arlene Koch, Steve Smith, and Joe Zajacek. They found 124 species on a rainy day. Team #2 (BD2), which went out the next Saturday, 5/19, was composed of Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Brad Silfies, and Rick Wiltraut. It tallied 136 species.

A late **Pied-billed Grebe** at LL 5/26 was the highlight of the LVAS trip to this locale. A late **Horned Grebe** was at Jordan Parkway 5/12 (PZ). A **Great Egret** at the upper field at the Walter Tract 4/5 was the 1st record there (SS). A **White-winged Scoter** was at LL 4/13 (AJ).

A record high count of 171 **Osprey** was noted at BR 4/14 (KK) and 3 **Bald Eagle** were seen there 4/28 (KK,m.ob.). A late **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Applewood 5/27 (PE). A **Merlin** went by at BR 4/28 (KK,m.ob.). An albino ♀ **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported mated with a normal ♂ near Egypt (JS). Adults with young **Killdeer** were found near the Alburdis Res (DLS). As many as 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Spring Cr. 5/6 (PE,BLM). An **Upland Sandpiper** was surprised in an open field atop the Blue Mt above LL 4/28 (BLM,PE). This is the 1st spring migrant that I have ever seen in our area. A high count of 29 **Least Sandpiper** was noted at Spring Cr. 5/2, and 23 **Common Snipe** were there 4/3 (SS).

A young **E. Screech-Owl** was seen in a box in Jordan Parkway 3/25 (PE). Fledged young **Great Horned Owl** were seen by many observers, and banded by Judy Wink, on a nest in S. Whitehall Twp. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from the Walter Tract 5/20 (SS). Other early flycatchers included a **Great Crested Flycatcher** 4/29 (FB), and **E. Kingbird** 4/30 (CRE).

A **Winter Wren** carrying nesting material at BR 4/28 was the first confirmed breeding record for this location (BLM). Another singing bird was noted at Bake Oven Knob in late May (PZ). A record early **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in Allentown 4/28 (BLM). An early **Wood Thrush** was seen 4/26 (PE), and a late **Am. Pipit** 5/13 (BD1). Early **Yellow-throated Vireo** were seen 4/28 (JH) and 4/29 (FB,AJ), and an early **Warbling Vireo** 4/26 (TF).

Several warblers had their previous early record dates broken or tied. These were: **Golden-winged** 5/1 (BLM,JG,DG), **Cape May** 4/28 (BLM, PE), **Blackburnian** 4/27 (BLM), **Cerulean** 4/28 (JH), and **Blackpoll** and **Canada** warblers 5/1 (BLM). Wow, quite a list. Other early but not record-breaking warblers included: **Blue-winged** 4/27 (SS), **Tennessee** 5/1 (BLM), **N. Parula** 4/28 (FB), **Yellow** 4/23 (TF), **Am. Redstart** 4/27 (BLM), **Worm-eating** 4/28 (FB), **Ovenbird** 4/27 (m.ob.), and finally **Hooded** 4/29 (SS). Other warbler notes: on 5/13, in a combination of rain and fog, a huge flight of warblers was noted on Blue Mt. above LL. The flock was mostly **Yellow-rumps**, but also contained 30+ each of **Black-throated Blue**, **Bay-breasted**, and **Blackpoll** (PE). The most unusual warbler of the season was a singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Jordan Parkway 6/4 (JZ).

Early **Scarlet Tanager** were reported 4/28 (FB,N&JB), and several early **Indigo Bunting** were seen 4/27 at many locations. An early **Bobolink** was found 4/30 (SS), a record early **Orchard Oriole** was seen in Allentown 4/28 (FB), and 2 ♀ **White-winged Crossbill** were seen in Emmaus 4/27 (JH). A

very late **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen 6/6 in Allentown (CM). Three late **Pine Siskin** were seen through 6/1 in Allentown (N&JB). The only reports of **Evening Grosbeak** were of birds at Appletown 4/25 (PE), and near New Tripoli 5/2 (DJ).

OBSERVERS: Nancy & John Boyer, Fritz Brock, Dave DeReamus, Catherine R. Elwell, Pauline England, Ted Fritzinger, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Jason Horn, Allen Jennings, Durrae Johanick, Arlene Koch, Ken Krannick, Terry Master, Clint Miller, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Jackie Saidman, Brad Silfies, Steve Smith, David L. Stauffer, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Zajacek, Peter Zakrewski.

## LUZERNE COUNTY

### Bill Reid

*Abbreviations: Exeter (EX), Harveys L. (HL), Lee's Swamp (LS), Susquehanna Riverlands (SR), Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES).*

Two **Red-throated Loon** were observed at Huntsville 5/4 (WR). The highest **Common Loon** report was 10 at Sylvan 4/25 (EW). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was present at EX 5/11-6/30 (WR,JH,JS). There were numerous **Horned Grebe** reports, with 30 being noted at HL 4/1 (m.ob.). An **Am. Bittern** was seen at LS 5/6-12 (WE,JH). The first **Green-backed Heron** reported was at PP&L wetlands 4/20 (A&MG). The historic **Black-crowned Night-Heron** colony at EX was again unoccupied; the only report received was a single bird at Wyoming 5/24 (JS). **Canada Goose** population near Beach Haven keeps getting bigger along the Susquehanna R. in spite of predation in SR (snappers?). Both **teals** were seen at Duryea Swamp 4/16 (PS). Three **Gadwall** were noted at EX 5/4 (WR) and 3 **Oldsquaw** were at HL 3/31-4/4 (m.ob.). Numerous **Bufflehead** were reported, with the highest concentration being 97 at HL 4/6. **Common Merganser** ducklings (12) were seen swimming with their mother near Beach Haven 6/1 (BM). Although nestings have been attempted nearby in recent years, this is the first local confirmation of a successful nest in the immediate area. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at HL 4/9 (WR).

On 3/31 while observing ducks at HL, I became aware of some violent splashing in the water about 50 ft from the shore. A ♂ **Mallard** had grabbed another male Mallard by feathers on the back of its head and was apparently trying to drown the second bird. The second bird was splashing toward the shore, alternately raising his head out of the water and then having his head pushed under the water again. When the birds reached shore, the Mallard under attack ran off through some high grass, hotly pursued by the aggressor duck, and I did not see them any more. Two ♀ Mallards calmly sat feeding in the lake at the site where the commotion first began. They seemed unconcerned about what was going on, though I do not pretend to know what they were thinking. Bill Reid

A **N. Goshawk** was observed near Loyalville 5/19 (JH,JS). As in the past few years, a **Merlin** overwintered near Hobbie and frequently snatched birds from the feeders of A&JP near Hobbie. The falcon persisted through April. A **Wild Turkey** nest was found only 300 yards outside of a SSES security fence; 10 eggs (DG). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were both recorded at LS 5/6-12, and a **Common Moorhen** was seen there 5/6 (WE,JH). A Moorhen flew away from DG in SR 4/26. Shorebirds were scarce, due in part to high river levels; the only noteworthy reports were 2 early **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at EX 5/4 (WR) and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Kirby Park 5/14. **Am. Woodcock** were scarce following their very early arrival in Feb., followed by a killing cold. The only **Herring Gull** reported were 2 in a flock of

55 **Ring-billed Gull** at EX 5/4 (WR). Fifteen **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen at HL 4/6 (WR). There were three reports of **Common Tern**, a bird which is often missed in this region; they were all at HL: 5 on 5/4 (WR), 1 on 5/12 (MB), and 1 on 5/19 (JH,JS).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was fairly common in forests near SSES, particularly in SR, but (contrary to expectations) neither cuckoo was especially common in forests ravaged by gypsy moth caterpillars (DG). A **Barred Owl** was near Loyalville 5/19 (JH,JS); and 2 were heard at Carverton 5/11 (WR). Several **Whip-poor-will** were recorded at the Nanticoke Industrial Park in May and June (MB). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** seems to be expanding along the Susquehanna River bottomland forest (DG,JF).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a rare sight even in migration, were in TR419 Forest, a hillside forest BBC plot near SSES, 5/22; one calling loudly and repeatedly (DG). Another was capturing wasps in SR 5/24 (DG). **Least Flycatcher** may be increasing in forests near SSES where it was once a rare breeder (DG). The only **Marsh Wren** reported was at Frances Slocum SP 5/18 (WR). The earliest **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** report was 4/2 at HL. A single **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Kirby Park 5/18 (WR). A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was present at Nanticoke through May (MB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** continued to increase in TR419 Forest, away from the river bottomlands (DG). The warbler migration was uneventful with **Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted**, and **Blackpoll** again being very low in numbers. **Blue-winged Warbler** appeared near Wapwallopen as early as 5/8 and seemed to be spreading into more locations near SSES, including SR. **Golden-winged Warbler** seems to be expanding in transmission corridors near SSES (DG). The latter species appears to have decreased sharply during the past few years in other portions of the county, but were noted singing on territory at Nanticoke (MB). Migrant **Yellow-rumped Warbler** seemed even more common than most years (DG, JF). For the 2nd straight year, **Blackburnian Warbler** established territories in DG's 2 upland forest plots where they did not nest previously (DG). A **Pine Warbler** was seen at a feeder in Dallas 4/12 (EJ) and some Pine Warbler remain in scattered pine groves near Wapwallopen and SSES (DG). A **Mourning Warbler** was noted at Kirby Park 5/18 (WR) and 2 Mourning Warbler were singing vigorously in TR419 Forest 5/22, but did not stay in the area (unlike 1989 when one was territorial through June). **Hooded Warbler** were reported from Bunker Hill and Nanticoke (WR, MB); and a **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at Wyoming 5/24 (JS). **Yellow-breasted Chat** continues to expand into more transmission corridors and overgrown fields near SSES (DG).

Two **Indigo Bunting** seen at the Riverlands 4/29 were very early (A&MG). Eleven **Rusty Blackbird** were at Kirby Park 4/20 (WR). An **Orchard Oriole** was at Kirby Park 5/18 (WR). A remarkable record was that of 12 **White-winged Crossbill** seen at Luzerne 4/22 (A&BY). **Pine Siskin** were present through June at Conyngham (A&MG) and Mountaintop (JJ).

OBSERVERS: Mark Blauer, William Evans, John Fridman, Alan & Monica Gregory, Doug Gross, James Hoyson, John Jakoby, Edwin Johnson, Brian Mangan, Autumn & John Pfeiffer, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Paul Satore, James Shoemaker, Allen & Bonnie Yuscavage.

## LYCOMING COUNTY

### Wesley Egli

*Abbreviations: Hughesville (HVL), Huntersville (HTV), Muncy area (MA), Picture Rocks area (PR), Pine Creek Valley (PCV), Rose Valley L. (RVL), SGL 252 (SGL), Tiadaghton State Forest (TSF).* Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

The following were some of the species seen in PCV 6/30:

**Red-shouldered** and **Broad-winged** hawks, **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (not often seen along Pine Cr.), **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Yellow-throated Vireo** (feeding young), **N. Parula**, **Worm-eating Warbler** (feeding young), and **Purple Finch** (S&SR,J&KL).

A **Common Loon** was on RVL 5/19. Four ♂ **White-winged Scoter** were on RVL 4/6 (SS). An **Osprey** was observed flying over Muncy Cr. in HVL 4/27. **Broad-winged Hawk** were seen at RVL 5/19 and in PR 6/3. A **King Rail** was at Antes Fort 4/26 (G&PS); this is only the 2nd record the Schwalbe's have had in the past 23 years. An equally good find was 1 **Stilt Sandpiper** in basic plumage at Antes Fort 5/17; this was only their 2nd record for Central PA in the past 23 years. A **Barn Owl** was seen flying from its nest site in a silo 5/18 (WE,ER).

There were at least 4 breeding **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in a remote bog 6/13 (DG). This probably represents at least 3 pairs in a location where only one pair had been found in previous recent summers. Although this does not constitute a range extension, it does mean that this very rare nesting species is a little less rare than we thought. Other bogs were searched for this elusive species without success. Doug Gross

**Pileated Woodpecker** were heard and seen all quarter in PR. **Fish Crow** sightings were also fairly common. Several fledgling **Common Raven** yelled and croaked loudly in TSF in early June (DG). Unlike last summer, no **Swainson's Thrush** were found in TSF (DG). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were seen 5/19 at SGL and 1 **Solitary Vireo** near PR 5/19.

**Golden-winged** and **Blue-winged** warblers, along with **Cape May**, **Canada**, and **Hooded** were among those seen at SGL 5/19. **Magnolia** and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were fairly consistently found in high elevation conifer groves and bogs in TSF (DG). More **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were also found in TSF than in past years (DG). **Palm Warbler** were seen at SGL 5/5. A **Cerulean Warbler**, a locally rare species, was spotted while singing in a tall sycamore in downtown Proctor, 6/22 (DG).

Near PR 6/13 a pair of **Worm-eating** were observed. A **N. Waterthrush**, first heard singing on Laurel Run near PR, then spotted, 5/8. There were two sightings of **Orchard Oriole** (G&PS). **Purple Finch** were observed coming to my feeders in PR through 6/24. **Pine Siskin** also came to these feeders through the same date.

The highlight of this quarter was the late sightings of a flock of 20 **White-winged Crossbill**, first observed by me 5/26 in my parents' backyard, feeding on larch cones. My parents (P&PE) had seen them about a week earlier feeding in the same tree. My uncle and aunt (J&EE), visiting from Slippery Rock, also observed the birds. Attempts to photograph them were unsuccessful. The flock was last seen 5/29 feeding in the larch, then flying off in a NW direction.

OBSERVERS: Jim & Ele Egli, Paul & Peggy Egli, Wesley Egli, 123 N. Main, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222), Doug Gross, Jane & Ken Light, Sharon & Steve Rannels, Ed Reish, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, Stan Stahl.

#### MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda D. Ordiway

Abbreviations: *Betula* BBS (BBBS), *Boat Rd.* (BR), *Derrick City* (DC), *Eldred BBS* (EBBS), *Gilbert Lane* (GL), *Toad Hollow* (TH), *Tracey Ridge* (TR), *Willow Bay* (WB).

Numerous reports of **Wood Duck** in beaver ponds were received including a ♀ with 11 young 5/31 at GL. Female

**Common Merganser** and young were at WB and GL 5/31, with 8 young and 6/4 6 young respectively. **Bald Eagle** sightings were the usual for this time of year, 1 at WB and reports by fishermen of 4 at Sugar Bay (1 ad., 3 imm., including 1 very light bird). **N. Harrier** was spotted in WB area on occasion. DW found a **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest in June (location deleted. -Eds.). **Broad-winged Hawk** nested in GL. **Am. Kestrel** in Custer City and Lang Maid Lane areas are increasing.

**Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** populations are strong. A grouse nest with eggs was found at DC 5/21, and 2 separate turkey broods seen in GL. Five **Spotted Sandpiper** were at GL 5/31, and 4 at WB the same day. Three **Am. Woodcock** were still horizon-flying 6/1. A flock of 18 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at GL 4/21.

**Cuckoo** numbers are low for the second year. **Black-billed** 1 at GL 5/28, and 4 on BBBS 6/23. **Yellow-billed** 1 at BR 5/31, 1 on BBBS 6/23. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** numbers were very low this season, although TG had 9 on one 3-mi trail in Ludlow 4/24. **Acadian Flycatcher** was at TH 6/27. **Alder Flycatcher** reports include: at TH 6/15; 4 on BBBS 6/23; 2 at WB 5/31; 4 on EBBS 6/11. **Willow Flycatcher** reports were 1 on BBBS, 3 at WB, 2 on EBBS. The Alder and Willow flycatchers at WB split the marsh, with the Willow at the upper end and the Alder on the lower. **E. Kingbird** appeared at its normal places, 1 at Foster Hollow, 1 at Stone Quarry, and 2 at Eldred.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow** were recorded at GL & WB. **Cliff Swallow** populations are strong at the WB bridge and new nestings are reported in downtown Bradford under the Howard Johnson's Bridge and at Bradford Central High. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last noted at GL 4/29. **Winter Wren** were found at GL, TH, WB & DC. **E. Bluebird** showed up in one new place, GL, and nesting reported on Lang Maid Lane, Pine Acres CC, and WB. Two new reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, at TH and Foster Hollow, and the old places, Glendorn and Marilla. The first singing **Hermit** and **Wood thrushes** 4/21. **Solitary Vireo** were noted in the higher elevations and a **Warbling Vireo** was seen and heard on the BBBS. A migrant **Philadelphia Vireo** was found among tree tops with Red-eyed Vireos in DC 5/21.

The warblers are listed if common, with details if not. **Blue-winged**, **Golden-winged** 5/27-6/1, singing among chickadees and seen, GL. **Nashville** singing and seen 6/30 at White-throat swamp. **N. Parula** DC. **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green** low. **Blackburnian**, **Cerulean** is the bird of the summer, very abundant in most local hardwood forests. Few **Black-and-white** sightings, **Am. Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Mourning** in usual places, but more numbers. **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded**, **Canada** seem more than in past years. **Yellow-breasted Chat** at TH and BBBS.

**Savannah Sparrow** in the farm fields for both BBBS and EBBS. I counted 9 singing ♂ **White-throated Sparrow** in White-throat swamp 6/30. Three **White-crowned Sparrow** were at a GL feeder 5/14. **N. Oriole** numbers seem lower. Last **Pine Siskin** left mid-June.

OBSERVERS: Frank Bray, Ted Grisez, Madeline Miles, Linda Ordiway, 72 Gilbert Lane, Bradford 16701 (814-368-7464), Don Watts.

#### MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Abbreviations: *Grove City area* (GCA), *Hermitage Area* (HA), *Limber Rd.* (LR), *Pennsy Swamp*, *Saguallas Ponds* (SP), *Shenango R. Res. including Golden Run and propagation areas* (SRR), *Willow Pond* (WP).

One **Common Loon** was at SP 4/14 (SM) and 1 at SRR 4/20,24. The only **Pied-billed Grebe** reported was found at SP 4/16 (SM). **Double-crested Cormorant** returned to SRR 5/18, with up to 3 seen there the remainder of the quarter. Four N.

**Shoveler** were found at SP 4/18 (SM) and 2 at SRR 4/20. An **Osprey** flew low over SRR 4/26. A **N. Harrier** was observed at LR 4/16 (SM) and at PS 4/23 (BD).

A **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora**, each with 3 chicks were found at PS 6/10 and a **Common Moorhen** was also there that day (SM,BD). Numbers of **Killdeer** were thought to be lower than usual in the s. part of the county (SM). SP hosted a **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/12 (SM,BW). There were 2 **Upland Sandpiper** at LR 5/5 (BD), and 3 on 5/11 (SM). Three **Dunlin** showed up at SRR 5/18. Two **Common Snipe** were at SP 4/14, and 4 at LR 4/16 (SM).

Both cuckoos were noted on Creek Rd: **Black-billed** 6/15 and **Yellow-billed** 6/25 (HB,BD,SM,LW). Two pairs of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were visiting nests at the fish hatchery at SP 5/25 (MG,HF, SM,BS), and 1 was spotted in the extreme s. part of *Mercer* 6/17 (BD). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** came through HA 5/15, cheering a particular number and kind of alcoholic drink! **E. Phoebe** were reported as unusually common at HA. **E. Kingbird** were at SP 5/12 (SM,BW), at SRR 6/1, and at HA 5/30 and 6/15. Four **Horned Lark** were at LR 4/16 (SM).

The **Purple Martin** houses at SRR are totally vacant. They are not recovering from last spring's heavy rains. However, 16 were counted at SP 4/16 and 4 at WP 4/20 (WP). A small colony of **Cliff Swallow** was found 6/17 under the outside eaves of an old barn at HA, and 1 pair was watched gathering mud and constructing a nest on the outside of the Headquarters building (with aluminum siding) at SRR 6/26. **Bank** and **Cliff** swallows were at SP 5/12 (SM,BW), and at least one small colony of **Bank** was active at SRR 6/1.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** lingered at a GCA feeder until 5/5 (HB). **Winter Wren** moved through HA the first two weeks of Apr., when the weather was more like March. A **Marsh Wren** was at PS 6/10 (BD,SM). A **Brown Thrasher** was at HA on the early date 4/6. Two **Am. Pipit** were on the gravel road at SRR 5/1. A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at the fish hatchery at SP 5/25 (HF, MG,SM,BS), and also on Creek Rd. 6/15 (HB, BD,SM,LW).

There are still waves of warblers! Their migration at HA began with the **Louisiana Waterthrush**, heard 4/11-16. **Yellow-rumped** was first seen 4/16. In all, 20 sp. moved through HA, with the peak 5/18-23, which was about 1 week late. A ♀ **Am. Redstart** was feeding a fledgling perched on top of a cluster of wild rose blossom 6/15 at the Springfield Sportsman's Club (HB,BD,SM,LW).

**Scarlet Tanager** are in normal numbers at HA. **Grasshopper**, **Henslow's**, and **Swamp** sparrows were all seen at LR 5/12 (SM,BW), and 2 **Vesper** at SRR 4/24. **Henslow's** were also present 6/25 on Spring Rd. (HB,BD,SM,LW). A feeder in HA attracted a **Purple Finch** 4/2, and one in GCA had 2 pair 4/9 to 6/5 (SM). **Pine Siskin** remained well into May at GCA (HB).

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Barb Dean, Helen Ferguson, Marguerite Geibel, Shirley McCarl, **Marty McKay**, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Betty Starr, Bob Walczak.

## MIFFLIN COUNTY

### Margaret Kenepf

*Abbreviations: Belleville area (BA), BBS Route Ryde to BA (BBS), Lewistown area (LA), Mattawana area (MA), Treaster Valley (TV).*

After an early April birding trip to Texas, we settled into enjoying our beautiful spring weather and flowers and migration of birds. **Green-backed Heron**, which frequent the Juniata R., visited two area farm ponds. One neighbor was able to add this species to their yard list.

TM remarked that a **Turkey Vulture** roost he monitors has only 40-50 birds, down from previous years. Our local nesting

**Red-tailed Hawk** successfully reared 2 young. One evening I cautiously slipped along the stream to a good vantage point to watch the family and was surprised to have one of the adults come screaming over my head. I got the message and left the area.

The **N. Bobwhite** which came into our backyard 6/10 was a pleasant surprise as we haven't had any in possibly 20 years. It was only heard for several days here and then a report from BrK, perhaps 2 mi away, that she heard it for a day or two. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were seen 4/15, but only once since—on Jacks Mt. on the BBS. I later noted this area had been infested with gypsy moths and perhaps that is why they were still there.

TD reports **Barn Owl** being seen and probably nesting as usual. A pair of **E. Screech-Owl** nested in a neighbors Maple tree in the end of a hollow, broken off limb which practically hangs over the public road, and reared 2 young. Sometimes they swooped close to the folks as they came onto their porch, especially Mrs. Ritchey. They are now visiting our backyard and vocalizing, in their untrained voices. They are cute and rather unafraid of humans. **Short-eared Owl** were observed in the BA during May (DZ). **Common Nighthawk** were heard over LA each evening. **Whip-poor-will** were heard at a mountain cabin (H&SM). This is great news as they are now only several miles from us.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** counts are up this year and it is exciting. A report from Sara Smith notes that she sees up to 12 and she used 10 lb. of sugar in 24 days, sometimes filling feeders more than once a day. Other reports were also all good (BrK,CK,AK,B&MKa,GM). AY reports hummers are around their remote mountain cabin in the Licking Cr. area. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 5/25 (MK) and 5/27 (BrK), while **Pileated Woodpecker** were seen 6/10 (B&MKa) and 6/20 (BrK). **E. Phoebe** nesting on the downspout curve of drainspout were successful in rearing 4 young. Reports from the BA area are encouraging once again for **Purple Martin**, 3 pair (JY), 1 pair (BrK), and 6-8 pair (CK). The **Barn Swallow** count at a BA farm was down to only 40-50 this year and the norm is several hundred (DZ).

It is very rewarding and fun to watch families of **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** visiting sunflower and suet feeders in summer, especially when the young are learning to eat from close feeding trays. A pair of **Carolina Wren** have built a large nest in the hanging flower pot on GM's porch and only use it for sleeping at night. They enter noisily each evening. It seems early for this behavior, as they usually do this on our porch nearer fall for a winter sleeping quarters. Our **E. Bluebird** successfully fledged 4 young just 12 ft from our kitchen door and they seemed unafraid of our coming and going. They were very secretive as they came and fed as they could hide very well in the foliage of the linden tree and the honeysuckle vines which grew all about the house.

They, unknown to us, nested in another nearby box in the Chestnut tree just 25 ft from the kitchen door and we were shocked one day to see the young emerge from the box and the parents started feeding them on the Chestnut tree just off the porch. They were always near the house, however, we just thought they liked to stay around since they had nested here. An unusual incident happened with the first nesting pair when they started feeding the young. A ♀ **House Finch** sat on a limb and each time a bluebird parent came to the box with a bite of food, the finch would fly along to the roof of the box and wait until the bluebird left the box and would repeatedly wait for another trip to the box. It proved very interesting. Once we saw the finch look into the box.

On 6/26 in TV, LW observed an ad. and 2 young **Veery** and also heard 2 more singing up the trail; also found were 2 ♂ **Canada Warbler** singing. Part of this area is being timbered, but on the side of the trail that is undisturbed these birds are still there. On 6/20, as I slipped up to the meadow to observe the young hawk family, I caught a glimpse of what I first thought was an **E. Phoebe** family. Upon closer inspection I discovered it was a family of **N. Waterthrush**. It had been about 15 years

since I had last seen them in the area.

**Indigo Bunting** seem more scarce since farmers no longer plant artichokes. In those days we had hundreds of buntings everywhere, especially when the artichokes were in bloom. The birds seemed to glean the insects from the plants.

**House Finch** counts up-up-up and still going. They started very early and are still nesting everywhere. A **Pine Siskin** was observed 5/30 (AK).

OBSERVERS: Tim Dunmire, Orville Heister, Amanda Kauffman, Bill & Mary Kauffman, Brenda Kauffman (BrK), Charles Kauffman, **Margaret Kenepf, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252)**, Tim Marks, Grace Miller, Hazel & Sherri Miller, Marilyn Miller, Sara Smith, Linda Whitesel, Janice Wilkinson, Annie Yoder, Jonas Yoder, Dorothy Zook.

## MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: *Cherry Valley (CV), Pocono L. (PL), Skytop Lodge (SL), Tamamint area (TA).*

Ten **Common Loon** were at SL 5/17 (JS) and 2 **Green-backed Heron** were in TA 4/17 (BNM). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was in the TA 4/17 (BNM) and an ad. was present at SL 6/24+ (JS). Two **N. Harrier** nests (location deleted) were reported (*vide* DB). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed carrying a chipmunk at SL 5/24 (JS). A **Wild Turkey** with 8 chicks was seen at SL 6/9 (JS) and another was at Brady's L. 6/15 (RW).

Four **Greater Yellowlegs** and 11 **Common Snipe** were seen at CV 4/23 (RW) and 2 Greater and 3 **Lesser yellowlegs** were there 5/15 (RW). An **Am. Woodcock** was seen at SL 6/28 (JS). Both **cuckoo** were reported from the Jonas area (RZ) and the first **Common Nighthawk** arrived at SL 5/17 (JS). **Whip-poor-will** were heard at SL (JS) and Jonas (RZ).

The highlight of the season was the discovery of 2 singing **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in a sphagnum bog in Pocono Lake Preserve in late June (DB). This is the first summer record of this species at PLP since the nests were found here in the early 1920s. **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported from SL (JS) and **Alder Flycatcher** were found at Brady's L. (RW) and s. of their usual areas at Faulstick Rd. (SB,DD,BS,RW). **Least Flycatcher** were common at Brady's L. (RW). A large **Purple Martin** house is still active at Saylorburg (RW).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found in June at SL (JS) and PL. (RW). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were found at SL (JS) and CV (RW). **Golden-winged Warbler** were reported as "common" at SL (JS) and at least 2 pair of **Nashville Warbler** were found at Brady's L. (RW). An early **Cape May Warbler** was at TA 4/17 (BNM). **Blackburnians** were common at PL (RW) and **Yellow-rumpeds** were found at SL (JS) and PL (RW). One **N. Waterthrush** was at TA 4/17 (BNM). A **Hooded Warbler** singing at PL during June (RW) was unusual for the plateau. Another was present at Jonas (RZ). A singing ♂ **Mourning Warbler** was seen and photographed at Faulstick Rd. 5/19 (RW,BS,DD,SB). A pair of **Orchard Oriole** was seen at CV 5/15 (BS,RW) and **White-throated Sparrow** were seen with juveniles at Brady's L. (RW). From the TA 4/17 was the report of dozens of **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin**, but most striking were the 30+ **Evening Grosbeak**, which were missing everywhere else (BNM).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dan Brauning, Dave DeReamus, Bill & Naomi Murphy, John Serrao, Brad Silfies, **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 River Valley (SRV), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNP).*

Good sightings this quarter included: at GLR a **Red-throated Loon** 5/20 (GAF), an **Am. Bittern** 4/24 (KC) and an ad. ♂ **White-winged Scoter** 4/1 (GAF,GLF); at FWSP a "PA-lifer" **Mississippi Kite** for W&NM that "just soared over and was gone" on 5/13; 2 different **Bald Eagle** (1 imm.) over the SRV 4/7 and 4/19 (BF,JP) and another imm. over GLR 4/16 (GAF); a **N. Goshawk** over RG's remarkably birdy Perkiomenville home 5/8 and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** fledgling in his yard—a happy conclusion to the mated adults he reported in the first quarter; a ♀ **Merlin** in NT's yard 4/5, either it or another in same area 4/8 (BF), and a low-flying **Peregrine Falcon** over the VFNP silt basin 6/23 (NT).

There were continued complaints of low numbers of **Green-backed Heron** everywhere, from the SRV to GLR. A skein of 70+ **Snow Geese** flew over the SRV on the latish date of 4/27, about 50 "white," 20 "blue" (BF,JP).

Throughout May remarkably unwary **N. Bobwhite** were being seen and heard along a 3-mile stretch of the SRV, from Mont Clare to the VFNP silt basin, causing much excitement (no bobwhite have been in the area within memory) until it was discovered that a local breeder had released dozens. Probably every one was doomed; there were no sightings in June.

**Virginia Rail** (a max. of 3) were being seen regularly at GLR from late May through June—the first report of their presence there in years (GAF). An **Upland Sandpiper** was also at GLR, seen twice in the same area, 5/6 and 5/18 (NT), and a pair of Upland Sandpiper was safely back at their longtime breeding ground, the Hickory Valley Golf Club, seen 6/10 (GAF,GLF).

The shorebird migration at GLR was extremely skimpy because of high waters, although GAF wrote "1000+ shorebirds flew over me while I was watching a Virginia Rail 6/1. They flew in a broad, but not deep, front in a NW direction. Perhaps dunlins or knots from the Delaware Bay staging areas." But only a handful of yellowlegs and unexceptional peeps managed to find a toehold on the edges of the brimming reservoir.

Ten **Bonaparte's Gull** were at GLR 4/13 (GAF), and 2 late ones there 5/21 (KC). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen in the Oaks silt basin area of the SRV for the Valley Forge Audubon spring bird count 6/2 (BF,KH,JP), and another at GLR was first heard, then found as a road kill by GAF 6/14. A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, almost unheard of nowadays in these parts, was in the wooded bluffs above the SRV upstream from Route 29, seen only 4/28 (BF), and another paused equally briefly in RG's yard 5/12. **Pileated Woodpecker** were back in the upper UCV, and RG had one in his yard "almost daily" from 5/2-31, plus an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/19-20. Other Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings were by the river in VFNP 5/17 (NT) and at FWSP 5/23 (W&NM). A small flock of 5 or 6 **Purple Martin** lingered at GLR 4/29-5/6 and a few **Bank** and **Cliff** swallows were spied among the hordes of arriving swallows in early May (KC,GAF). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was in FWSP 5/23 (W&NM), and another was in the lower Perkiomen Cr. valley on Indian Head Road 5/24 (NT,KH). Single **Hermit Thrush** were at FWSP 4/7 (W&NM) and GLR 4/27 (KC). A wave of Swainson's thrush evidently

arrived 5/23, when W&NM counted 25 at FWSP and RK watched 8 to 9 hanging from a Japanese cherry tree at BA, gorging on the pea-sized fruit. RK's lot stayed to feast through 5/24.

Observers variously described the warbler migration as "dull," "slow" and "pretty bad." All felt populations were down, although number of species seen was almost normal. On 5/23 W&NM saw 21 species at FWSP, and total species for the quarter reported by all observers was 33. These included **Bay-breasted** at 4 locations, from the SRV to RG's yard; a wave of 15 **Blackpoll** in the SRV at Port Providence 5/21 (KH); **Prothonotary** in the upper UCV 5/1 (RG) and 5/13 (GLF), and in the lower Perkiomen valley (Indian Head Road) 5/23-24 (KH,NT); territorial **Worm-eating** in VFNP through June; **Mourning** in the SRV bluffs 5/18 (KH), in FWSP 5/23 (W&NM) and in Salford Twp 5/24 (GAF); **Hooded** in RG's yard 4/30 and a territorial pair in the upper UCV throughout May (m.ob); **Wilson's** in the upper UCV 5/20 (GLF) and—where else?—in RG's yard 5/23.

There was no report of **Blue Grosbeak**. There were two reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow**; in the upper UCV 5/23 (NT), and 1 singing at BA 5/24 (RK). **Bobolink** were at Hickory Valley GC, and a few **E. Meadowlark** were at GLR (NT,KC). In April, RG had high counts of 60 **Purple Finch** and 24 **Pine Siskin** at his feeders.

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Bob Fetterman, George A. Francois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Kevin Hakun, Rudy Keller, William & Naomi Murphy, John Pufko, Neal Thorpe, **Box Q, Mont Clare 19453.**

## MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

**Double-crested Cormorant** were at Montour Preserve and at PP&L's ash basin 5/3 (CS). A **Snow Goose** appeared on that date in a field near the ash basin (CS). An **Oldsquaw** was sighted at Montour Preserve 4/28 (CS). A ♀ **N. Harrier** was seen near wetlands in Mayberry Twp 6/17 (CS). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was hovering at Montour Preserve 4/15 (A&MG).

A **Ruddy Turnstone**, a **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and several **Dunlin** were noted at the ash basin 5/12 (AS). On 5/19, 35 **Dunlin** were in a wet field near the ash basin and 3 **Black Tern** were at Montour Preserve (WE). **Bank Swallow** continue to take advantage of the ash piles at the ash basin. Approximately 15 were counted there 6/23 (CS). Thirty **Cedar Waxwing** fed in mulberry trees at Montour Preserve 6/23 (A&MG).

OBSERVERS: Wes Egli, Alan & Monica Gregory, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Christine Smull.

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

*Abbreviations: East Bangor Dam (EBD), Minsi L. (ML), Monocacy Nature Center (MNC), Point Phillips (PP).* All observations by Dave DeReamus unless otherwise noted.

Twenty-three **Common Loon** were at ML 5/10. Up to 8 **Pied-billed Grebe** were at EBD 4/11-22 and 5 **Horned Grebe** there 4/21. Sightings of **Double-crested Cormorant** included 12 over Copella 4/23, 8 at ML 5/10, and 1 at ML 5/17. Thirteen **Great Blue Heron** were at ML 4/6 and a **Great Egret** was at Nazareth 5/30. Twenty-three **Ring-necked Duck** were at EBD 4/12 and a ♂ remained there until 6/16 (RW). Also at EBD were 7 **Green-winged Teal** 4/6 and 7 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/12. The 13 **Am. Wigeon** at ML 4/6 was a good count. Two **Greater Scaup** were at ML 4/6-11 and 2 **Red-breasted Merganser**

there 4/21-22. Boyce saw a ♀ **Common Merganser** exiting a sycamore tree cavity while fishing along the Delaware R. at Martin's Cr. in late May and a ♂ was there 6/4 (RW).

A **Turkey Vulture** nest with 2 eggs was found inside an abandoned outhouse at the Keystone Cement Co. during May (BS). **Osprey** nested at their usual site at Portland (RW). DeReamus witnessed an excellent hawk flight at Smith Gap 4/14, which included: 2 **Black Vulture**, 108 **Osprey**, 1 imm. **Bald Eagle**, 4 **N. Harrier**, 35 **Sharp-shinned**, 5 **Cooper's**, 1 **N. Goshawk**, 1 **Red-shouldered**, 91 **Broad-winged**, 33 **Red-tailed**, and 49 **Am. Kestrel**. **Cooper's Hawk** were nesting or presumed nesting in at least 4 different location (DD,LM,BS,JZ).

On 6/19, I heard a strange call while looking for arrowheads on my sister's farm near Bath. I followed the sound to the top of her neighbor's chimney. A **Scaled Quail!** I was totally dumbfounded. The bird, undoubtedly a release, remained until 6/26 when it was videotaped by Timothy Feather. Does anyone know of any hunting clubs that release these birds? Although not "countable," it was fun to have this taste of the Southwest in *Northampton*.

A pair of **Virginia Rail** was present at EBD throughout June, the 1st summer record for the county (DD,BS,RW). Flooded fields provided for some good shorebirding in May and early June. A **Black-bellied Plover** was seen at Richmond Rd. in Forks 5/21 and 2 **Semipalmated Plover** were present at Gun Club Rd., Bath, 6/5-8 (RW,DD). One of these birds remained to 6/9 (RW). Four **Killdeer** eggs hatched in a yard at Copella 4/26 and 4 youngsters were seen at Hecktown Dairy 5/9 (RW). **Greater Yellowlegs** were recorded from 4/16-5/27, with highs of 4 at Richmond Rd. and 4 at Gun Club Rd. 5/21. Five **Solitary Sandpiper** were at EBD 5/7 and 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** with 2 **Dunlin** were seen at Tatamy 5/20 (RW); 3 other **Dunlin** were at Gun Club Rd. 5/25. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were seen at PP 5/10 and Richmond Rd. 5/30 (RW) and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at a small pasture at PP 6/3 (DD,BW). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen at Richmond Rd. 5/18-19 (DD *et al.*) and an **Am. Woodcock** was at EBD 6/30 (RW,DD,GY). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Tatamy 5/21 and 47 **Ring-billed Gull** were there as late as 6/3. An injured **Herring Gull** was present at ML all quarter.

**Cuckoos** were reported in good numbers. **Barred Owl** were heard at their usual spot along National Park Rd. and a late **Short-eared Owl** was seen at Morgan's Hill 4/22 (AK). A ♂ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** returned to a Copella feeder 4/26. **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen near Wind Gap 5/2 and near Bath 6/26 (TF,RW). A late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at MNC 5/17 (JZ). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Morgan's Hill 4/22 (AK).

An extremely early **E. Wood-Pewee** was reported from MNC 4/20 (JZ). Poole's (*Pennsylvania Birds* 1964) extreme date for this species is 5/1. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MNC 5/19 (DG) and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was near Copella 5/19 (RW,DD,SB,BS). **Least Flycatcher** were on territory at ML in May. A pair of **E. Phoebe** nested in an unnatural cave made of dumped cement blocks near Portland (RW). Two **Horned Lark** with 2 fledglings were seen at Graver's Hill 5/3. *There was no Bank Swallow activity at the sand spit near Portland where over 200 burrows were found last year (RW).* A pair of **Cliff Swallow** was seen gathering mud near a barn at Graver's Hill 5/19, only the 2nd record of nesting in the county (SB,BS,DD,RW).

A singing **Winter Wren** was present at Smith Gap from 5/15-6/1, although nesting was not confirmed (DD,RW). The area seems very suitable for breeding; a steep and rocky hillside with a tumbling spring and scattered upturned stumps. The elevation here is about 1240 ft. A **Marsh Wren** was singing at EBD 5/5 (BS) and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was heard singing at Copella 5/21 (DD). *Singing N. Parula* were present at Smith Gap 6/1-14

(RW) and at Fry's Run 6/9-11 (RW,DD). There are no known breeding records for the county. The **Yellow-throated Warbler** did not return this year to Frost Hollow and Ground Hog Lock. Over 300 **Yellow-rumped** and 9 **Palm** warblers were seen at EBD 4/21. Three different **Mourning Warbler** were seen: n. Bethlehem 5/24 (DG) and MNC 5/22,25 (JZ). The latter bird had a partially albino head. A pair of **Kentucky Warbler** was near Copella 5/19 (RW,BS,SB,DD) and another was heard singing at Smith Gap 6/1 (RW). Hooded were found at several locations along the Blue Mt. and 1 was singing at Mariton Refuge 6/10-12 (LM). The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was 1 near Portland 6/16 (RW). An extremely late **Tree Sparrow** was reported at Jacobsburg 5/8 (DG,JG) and a lingering **White-throat** remained at PP until 5/17 (DD). Nine **Rusty Blackbird** were at EBD 4/12 and **Orchard Oriole** were found at their usual breeding sites in tall shade trees along the Delaware R. A first-year ♂ Orchard Oriole was singing at Arlene Koch's farm 5/30 (RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Tim Feather, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Dan Gerlach, Arlene Koch, Lisa Mattioli, Brad Silfies, Babe Webster, **Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St., Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184)**, Gordon Yoder, Joe Zajacek.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Abbreviations: *Riverside (RS), Rush Twp. (RT), Susquehanna R. (SR).*

**Black-crowned Night Heron** were seen several times on the SR islands in Lower Augusta Twp in late June (PD,TS). Since the SR is becoming cleaner more **Canada Geese, Mallard,** and **Wood Duck** are successfully nesting on the river islands (m.ob.). **Turkey Vulture** are becoming more common in both RS and RT. Two **Black Vulture** were in RS 4/12. **Killdeer** in RS are having one of their most successful nesting seasons in recent years, at least two pair are raising their second brood. Five **Black Tern** were on the SR near RS 4/5 and a single was seen 5/5 over a pond at the Cherokee Golf Course.

A **Barn Owl** was seen twice in RT, no nesting location has been found. **Common Nighthawk** returned to RS 5/21 and the first **Rubythroated Hummingbird** were in RT 5/3. **Great Crested Flycatcher** were back in RT 4/26. Both **N. Rough-winged** and **Bank** swallows returned to RS 4/19 and some stayed to nest.

The Bank Swallow colony has had a rough nesting time, first nesting in a boiler ash pile which heavy rains in late May collapsed. They then tried to nest in a coal pile which is being used. Currently they're back in the ash pile with approx. 50 nesting holes being used.

The warbler migration was mediocre at best, due to the early emergence of the vegetation. The highlight was a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Milton I. on the SR from 5/12-17. **Scarlet Tanager** were back in RT 4/28 and **Chipping Sparrow** were late, 4/22. Both **Grasshopper** and **Vesper** sparrows are locally common in RT. **Purple Finch** were in RT from 4/8-30, with a high of 8 on 4/28. Over 200 **Am. Goldfinch** and **Pine Siskin** were at RT during the 4/7 snowstorm. Pine Siskin were present in RT throughout the quarter till 6/21; several were observed gathering cat hair in Apr., so nesting was probable. Although no **Evening Grosbeak** were seen last quarter, 2 were in RT 4/28.

OBSERVERS: Pat Dorian, Bill Haut, Allen Schweinsberg, Tom Smink, Chris Smull, Linda and **Dave Unger, RD 6 Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254)**.

The following is the report for the first quarter of 1990.

Abbreviations: *Riverside (RS), Roaring Creek Water Company (RCWC), Rush Twp (RT), Sunbury Fabridam (SF), Susquehanna R. near Riverside (SR).*

After the record cold temperatures in the last quarter, the record highs this quarter really got the birds moving early. Both **Great Blue Heron** and **Common Merganser** were common along the SR after it became ice-free in late Jan. (CS). The first large flocks of **Canada Geese** appeared in RT and RS 3/4 and by 3/18 over 1000 were seen in one day flying north. Two **Snow Geese** (blue phase) were at SF 1/27 (CS). A pair of **Wood Duck** were seen investigating a nesting box in a marsh in Upper Augusta Twp 3/10.

**Turkey Vulture** were seen frequently after Jan., and a single **Osprey** was at RCWC 2/1. A **Cooper's Hawk** was a regular visitor at our feeders throughout the quarter feeding mainly on Pine Siskins. At least 2 **Rough-legged Hawk** were present in RT until early March. A **Merlin** was seen 3/4 near a bird feeder in Shamokin (PK). **Ruffed Grouse** started drumming 3/10 in RT.

**Killdeer** returned to RS 3/9 and were nesting shortly thereafter due to the mild weather. **Am. Woodcock** were seen in RT 3/6. Mostly **Ring-billed Gull** and some **Herring Gull** were present on the SR after 1/18, a flock of 50+ were seen 3/9 at the IGA parking lot in Elysburg. A second-year **Great Black-backed Gull** was on the SR 3/9. A **Barn Owl** was seen hunting in RT 3/29, the first sighting in several years.

The first **E. Phoebe** returned in RT 3/15. **Blue Jay** were again conspicuously absent from RT throughout the quarter. **Fish Crow** returned to RS late in Feb. and a flock of over 150 including some **Am. Crow** were along the SR 3/3. A pair of **Carolina Wren** started building a nest in a Xmas wreath in RT in late Feb., the nest was abandoned with four eggs in March. Large flocks of foraging **Am. Robin** appeared 3/3 in RT and remained throughout the month. A **Pine Warbler** was singing in RT 3/14. Both **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** were in RT and RS 2/19. Only a single **Purple Finch** was seen 3/5 in RT. **Pine Siskin** numbers went from 2 on 1/2 to 153 on 3/5 at our feeders. There were still over 30 left at the end of the quarter. **Am. Goldfinch** were numerous during the quarter but not a single **Evening Grosbeak** was reported.

OBSERVERS: Phil Krebs, Chris Smull, Linda and **Dave Unger, RD 6 Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254)**.

## PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: *Hemlocks Nature Area (HNA), Kansas Valley Picnic Area (KV), Tuscarora SF (TSF).*

RK had 63 **Double-crested Cormorant** at Marysville 4/21.

DH saw a **N. Goshawk** in suitable habitat in the TSF 6/24. **Common Raven** seem to like the high ridges of w. Perry, for DH saw 7 separate birds 6/23. While looking for breeding birds, DH had 4 singing **Hermit Thrush** in the HNA 6/24. On 6/10, DC & DH saw 1 and heard another male **Blackburnian Warbler** at a confirmed breeding locale in KV. A late **Pine Siskin**, or a possible breeding bird, was seen in the HNA 6/24 (DH).

OBSERVERS: Dick Colyer, **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Ramsay Koury.

## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: *Andorra Nature Center (ANC), Bartram's Gardens (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware R. (DR),*

Franklin Square (FS), Girard Point Bridge - Rt. I-95 - (GPB), Harper's Meadows (HM), Pennypack Park (PP), Roxborough (RX), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SC), Schuylkill R. (SR), Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Tinicum National Environmental Center (TN), West Fairmount Park (WFP), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

**Common Loon** flew over CW in two groups of ten 4/10 (MD). **Pied-billed Grebe** were found at TN 4/1 (JS). A large number of **Double-crested Cormorant** were on the rivers; 30 were streaming down the SR towards the DR at the GPB 4/5 (EF), 1 had moved up the SR to the dam in WFP 4/20 (CM) and 5 overflow CW 4/27 (EB). An imm. was at the GPB 6/11 (EF). An **Am. Bittern** was at TN 4/13 (JS). The same day, SL found a **Cattle Egret** at TN, uncommon there. **Least Bittern** were found at TN 4/28 (DM) and 6/23 (TR). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at TN 4/1 (JS) and 4 on 4/15 (PB); 2 were over the SR 6/14 opposite the University Ave. exit (EF). **Twelve Glossy Ibis** were at TN 4/28 (DM). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at TN 4/1 (JS) and 2 **Gadwall** were at the STP 5/17 (AG). A **Common Merganser** flew over CW 4/24 (SL).

Robert Ridgley observes that **Turkey Vulture** seem down in the past few years. But **Osprey** were well represented. JS found 1 over TN in a *snowstorm* 4/7. Two were there 4/15 (PB); and 1 flew over downtown Phila. 4/16 (Stanley Harrison). A pair of **N. Harrier** at the Phila. airport apparently bred (JCM). At least one pair of **Broad-winged Hawk** remained to breed. RR described a "resident pair" in the ANC area, displaying in late-May and early-June. The early date for this species was 4/24 over RX (CM). Another possible breeding location was at the City Ave. Bridge 6/19 (EF). Likely breeding of **Am. Kestrel** occurred at 49th & Market Sts. (EB) and in WFP (CM).

What began obviously ended enigmatically with the GPB **Peregrine Falcons**. Copulation was observed between the 2 ad. as early as 3/17. Subsequently the birds were seen entering and leaving a hole in one of the crossbeams of the underbridge structure. This hole was persistently used by both adults through the first three weeks of April. It was correctly surmised that this was the nest hole, because on 5/19 an inspection of the location by members of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Univ. of PA Veterinary School, PGC, Peregrine Fund, and PennDot personnel discovered two 5-day old chick and 2 addled eggs.

An alternate nesting platform was built near the nest hole, which was less crowded and allowed the young exercise space. They were removed to that site on 5/22. On 5/23, the ad. ♀ was seen bringing food to the young at the new nest site. By 6/4 the hatchlings began to explore the edges of their nest box and on 6/6, still covered with down, they emerged onto the platform for brief periods. By 6/12 their bodies were completely feathered and the youngsters were seen hopping, running, and flapping along the nest platform and adjacent walkway. They were observed to fledge on 6/13 (C. Hanson).

Both juvenile birds were observed on portions of the GPB 6/14-15, fully fledged and flying along the girders and superstructure of the bridge. (On 6/14, both adults made several spectacular passes at an apparently escaped Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*), which eluded sure destruction by escaping into the phragmites on the south side of the river.)

Subsequently, only 1 juvenile was seen 6/19. Thereafter neither young bird was seen again despite frequent observations of the site and environs; both adults were seen in this period. The juvenile's disappearance has not been explained.

Thanks to Dan Brauning, Catherine Hansen, and Sidney Lipschutz for contributing to this ~~Field~~ **Field** ~~ring~~ **ring** ~~hood~~ **hood**

Other Peregrine sightings: 1 in WFP 5/7 that "took a pigeon along the river" (CM); an "immature" in center city 5/29 (SL). [Note: this, alas, was not one of the GPB juv. because they did not fledge until 6/13, but noteworthy nevertheless]; 1 "hunting

farm fields" in RX 5/19 (CM) and a probable in center city 6/18, age unknown (SL).

Our request for reports of and impressions concerning the status of the **Ring-necked Pheasant** were well received. Overall, it appears that the bird is maintaining itself in the county. For example, JS reported in on every trip, 15 dates, at TN from 4/1-5/24 and 6/9,13, and on most BG visits. RR and MD report them at ANC and along Northwestern Ave. The only contributor to consider them "down" was CW, who reported only 2 on the 6/9 SC census; usually 20 or so are found. An **Am. Coot** was seen at the STP 5/17 (AG). At least two pair of **King Rail** nested in the TN area (DM,JCM). **Virginia Rail**, first reported calling 4/5 (DM) at TN were still there 5/15 (JS). **Sora** were also at TN 4/1 (JS) and 4/28 (DM).

Nine **Black-necked Stilt** were found at the STP 5/10 (JCM) and hopes were high that they had returned to attempt nesting for at least the second consecutive year. On 5/17 only 2 were seen (AG), but had recovered to 4 by month's end. One nest was begun, then abandoned for unknown reasons. By mid-June, no stilts could be found (JCM).

The only **Semipalmated Plover** report comes from the STP 5/17 (AG). **Solitary Sandpiper** were first reported 5/1 in WFP (CM) and last seen 5/12,13 at TN (SC,JS). Ten **Dunlin** were found 5/17 at the STP (AG). And **Common Snipe** numbers, first noted at TN 4/1 (JS) had grown to 55 by 4/13 (SL). An overflying **Laughing Gull** was unusual at W. Mt. Airy 5/7 (SL). **Common Tern** were at TN 5/10 (JS) and 4 in the DR-FM area 5/17 (AG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** showed up 5/8 in CW (MD) and rather late, 6/19, at Tn (DM)—breeding? A red-phase **E. Screech-Owl**, nesting 4/25 in RX was tending 5 gray-phase young in late May (CW). A **Common Nighthawk** overflew the CW area 5/9 (SL) and **Chimney Swift** arrived 4/23, just 1 at CW (MD). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were noted at CW 5/8 (MD) and a probable breeder at SC 6/9 (CW).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued until 5/7. JS considers FS the "most reliable spot in town" for this species. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were seen 4/14 in WFP (CM) and in W. Mt. Airy 4/15 (EB). The **N. Flicker** migration seems to have peaked about 4/13, when MD observed "huge numbers" in the area. The **Pileated Woodpecker**, unusual for Phila and decidedly rare in CW, was seen there 5/5,12 (SL).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in PP was a good find for FW 5/17. A decidedly "good bird" was a transient **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, seen passing through PP 5/23 by Robert Sehl (*vide* FW). Fewer **Acadian Flycatcher** were reported at ANC this year than previously (RR). Two **Least Flycatcher** were noted at TN 5/3 (SC) and 1 in CW 5/14 (MD).

We regret to report that the only known **Purple Martin** colony in *Philadelphia* failed to attract the birds this year. Despite proper box maintenance and cooperation from the homeowner on whose property the martin house exists, martins were not noted (FW,EF). **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were first seen 4/8, with "many" at TN (SC). They were also along the WC 4/21 (MD) and apparently nested along the River Drives (RR). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** lingered in n.w. Phila. until 5/26 (RR) and **Brown Creeper** was seen until 4/9 at CW (EB). **Marsh Wren** were nesting at TN 5/16 (JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** seemed to peak about 4/6-7 when MD found 20+ at CW and 50+ along the WC and last reported 4/16 in CW (EB), some 5 days earlier than last year's late date. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were seen in CW 4/6 and in RX 4/24 (CM). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was noted at RX 4/24 (CM) and last reported 5/23 at CW (MD).

The earliest **Veery** report comes from SC who found them at TN 4/15, a very early date; previous early date was 5/1. **Gray-checked Thrush** appeared at CW 5/13 and were singing there! 5/18 (MD).

They were last seen 5/23 (MD). **Swainson's Thrush** spanned the dates 5/3-20 when MD found a remarkable 30 at CW. **Hermit Thrush** lasted until 4/24, when CM found them in WFP. On 4/16, EB heard this thrush "singing very loudly, a persistent, full song" in CW. **Wood Thrush** first appeared in WFP 4/10, a very early date (CM), and 18 were found on the Andorra BBS 6/3 (MD). JCM noted a large thrush movement through the area 5/17, while MD felt the "best flight" was 5/22 when 5 thrush species appeared at CW. **E. Bluebird** nested in RX (CM). A **Solitary Vireo** in CW 5/23 (MD) established a new late date. **Yellow-throated Vireo** at TN 4/19 (SL) did not breed there, but **Warbling Vireo** which arrived there 5/8 did (JS,TR).

In all, 28 species of warblers were found. "Best" were the **Golden-winged** at CW 5/7 (SL), a ♂ **Yellow-throated** at TN 4/23 (DM), and the **Prothonotary** at TN 4/28 (DM) and 5/4 (SC). MD reported the "first big flight" in CW was 5/17 when 17 species were found; the "best flight" was 5/22 when 18 species were recorded there.

**Scarlet Tanager** were at CW 5/2 and remained to breed at ANC; 7 were found there 6/3 (MD). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** passed through WFP 5/3 (CM), but may have bred at ANC (MD). **Blue Grosbeak** were found at TN 6/9 (TR) continued at TN and were also found at GPB 6/19 (EF). JCM comments that their numbers are down due to continuing loss of habitat. **Indigo Bunting** were reported in June (MD,CM) and SL remarks that 1 in CW 6/24 was the "first summer record there in at least 10 years." **Fox Sparrow** was seen in CW 4/7 (SL) and a **Lincoln's** 5/22 in PP (FW). **Swamp Sparrow** were reported "up" in TN (TR). **White-throated** were last reported at CW 5/24 (MD). And, a now uncommon **White-crowned Sparrow** was at TN 5/7 (JS). More than 75 **Dark-eyed Junco**, "many singing" were in CW 4/7 (MD). **Orchard Oriole** bred in n.w. Phila. (RR) and a 1st-year ♂ was singing at TN 6/19 (DM). A surprisingly late **Purple Finch** at SC was seen 6/9 (CW). A flock of 7 **Pine Siskin** was in CW 4/16 (EB) and last reported 5/20 in n.w. Phila. (RR). And 2 **Evening Grosbeak** lingered at a feeder in RX 4/25 (CW).

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Pat Burkett, Skip Conant, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Al Guarente, Steve Lawrence, Chris McCabe, Doris McGovern, John C. Miller, Tom Reeves, Robert Ridgley, Jack Siler, Frank Windfelder, Charles Wonderly.

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

### Tom Clauser

Seventeen **Common Loon** were seen near Hidden Valley Golf Course (HVC) 4/25, and 1 at Second Mt. 4/27. An ad. **Bald Eagle** was over Orwigsburg 5/3.

A late **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen at Dreherstown 5/23. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the High Bridge of the Lebanon Res. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at Dreherstown 5/23.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** could be termed numerous in and about Pottsville from 6/12-25, and 2 were at HVC 6/21. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** continued to be relatively plentiful, with 2 at Hidden Valley 4/25, 2 at Second Mt. 4/27, and 4 counted in the Pottsville area in April. Nice views of **Pileated Woodpecker** were reported from Rt. 183 on 6/14 and Hidden Valley 6/21. A pair of **Bobolink** were seen at HVC 6/20. Four to 6 **Pine Siskin** remained in the Cressona area until 6/14.

OBSERVERS: **Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363)**, Ken Johnston, Ann Leibner, Anne & Bob MacClay, Pat Santee.

## SNYDER COUNTY

### Allen Schweinsberg

A **Great Egret** occurred at Walker L. 6/19 (R&PW). One or 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were said to have been seen on several occasions along the Susquehanna R. about mid-May to early June; these were convincingly described to CS. Walker Lake's 2 **Mute Swan** were seen 4/14-15 & 5/5; presumably the same pair was at Faylor L. 6/9 (R&PW). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted at Faylor L. 4/14-15. On the same weekend, an **Osprey** and 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at Walker L. (R&PW). **Whip-poor-will** were seen and heard near Troxelville 5/11 and in June (R&PW). A **White-eyed Vireo**, quite uncommon in the county, was found at Faylor L. 5/5 (R&PW).

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

## SOMERSET COUNTY

### Ruth and Glenn Sager

*Abbreviations: Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), Fort Hill (FH), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HVL), Jennerstown (JT), L. Somerset (LS), Laurel Hill SP (LHSP), Markleton (MKT), New Centerville (NC), Quemahoning Dam (QD).*

Rating birding in the county for this quarter would have depended on the type of birders contacted. Those interested in waterfowl would have said, "Very good." Those who follow warbler and songbird migrations would have responded, "Very poor." Those who monitor breeding birds might have remarked, "Fair to middlin."

A **Red-necked Grebe** at LS 4/6 (AM), 3 **Great Egret** at CGL 4/11-14 (AM), a **N. Shoveler** at LS 4/10 (E&MW), a pair of **Oldsquaw** at LS 4/6-15 (AM), and 4 **White-winged Scoter** at QD 4/20 (B&FH) stand out among the waterfowl reports. Only **N. Pintail**, **Redhead**, and **Common Merganser** were absent from the expected migrants. The **Common Loon** high was 28 at QD 4/21 and 1-7 were at LS, LHSP & QD to mid-May. **Pied-billed Grebe** were low counts of 1-6 at QD, LS & HPL; and **Horned Grebe** reached high of 36 at LS 4/6, but very few at QD & LS 4/1-13. LS had 21 **Double-crested Cormorant** 4/17, 10 on 4/10, and 7 on 6/5, and 1-3 were at LS & LHSP 4/10-15. **Great Blue Heron** reached a high of 11 at LS 4/8. **Canada Geese** were nesting early in April. AM reported the first brood at Rockwell L. 4/25; a brood of 4 young hybrids of Emden Goose X Canada Goose at Confluence; and the round-up of 117 Canada Geese 6/27 for transport to the Gulf Coast states because of over-population of the species.

Traditional 2-ft deep wooden **Wood Duck** boxes at CGL held 17 eggs, with 9 hatched and 16 eggs with 13 hatched (AM). LS had 12 **Green-winged Teal** 4/10 and 1-7 to 4/30; and 1-5 **Am. Black Duck** 4/1-7. There were 13 **Blue-winged Teal** there 4/6 and low numbers at LS & QD to end of May. **Am. Wigeon** at HPL 4/10-13 had a high of 18 on 4/7; and 10 were at LS 4/13.

On 4/5 AM observed 6 **Am. Wigeon** at CGL taking aquatic vegetation from 1 **Bufflehead**, 1 **Ring-necked Duck** and 33 **Lesser Scaup** as they fed together and the divers brought it to the surface.

The highs for **Ring-necked Duck** were 186 at QD 4/7, 109 at HPL 4/7; and for **Lesser Scaup** 289 at LS 4/6. Three **Common Goldeneye** were at LS 4/6. The **Bufflehead** high was

182 at LS 4/6, QD had 26 4/7 and 2 were present to 4/21. **Hooded Merganser** were at LS & QD 4/1-15 with high of 15 at LS 4/6; and MKT had a late report of a ♀ 6/10. **Red-breasted Merganser** completed a banner winter and spring season with high of 109 at LS 4/6, up to 20 at QD and the last 2 seen at LS 4/24. The 188 **Ruddy Duck** at LS 4/6 stood out among low counts from 4/5-15.

**Osprey** were reported at QD, CGL, Meyersdale Lagoons, and LS from 4/7-5/28; a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at CGL 4/14; and **Broad-winged Hawk** arrived at HVL 4/22, where they nested. AM found 7 broods of **Wild Turkey** 6/17 in grassland on a reclaimed surface mine at MKT surrounded by woodland. Concern grows for **Am. Coot**, which reached a high of 10 at HPL 4/7, and except for a late bird at LS 5/29 moved through 4/3-15. The Sagers found none at QD for the first time since they began keeping records there in the early 70s.

Shorebird reports included a **Black-bellied Plover**, photographed by Walt Bowen 5/19 at LS, 2 **Semipalmated Plover** at LS 5/20; 3-4 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at LS 4/13-15; 2 **Dunlin** at LS 4/13; and a high of 8 **Common Snipe** near NC 4/9 and lower counts 4/3-27 in wet areas in hay fields or grassy area with standing water a few inches deep on reclaimed surface mines visited by AM and 2 observed by RS at a swamp near JT 5/5. **Bonaparte's, Ring-billed,** and **Herring** gulls all appeared in moderate numbers for their species, reported on area dams, plowed fields, and downed by inclement weather along roadsides, on parking lots, etc. LS was the place to see terns, with 2 **Common** 4/21,30; 5 **Forster's** 4/30; and 2 **Caspian** 4/15.

Expecting an influx of **cuckoos** because of heavy gypsy moth infestation in n. *Somerset*, the Sagers were surprised to find **Black-billed** in normal numbers and no **Yellow-billed** seen or heard at their farm near HVL. Three **Short-eared Owl** were seen 4/3 (AM) on an idle surface mine site near wetlands along South Glade Cr. near NC, and the first **Common Nighthawk** was 5/18 on an idle surface mine in Black Twp.

Except for **Willow Flycatcher** and **E. Phoebe**, which were in normal numbers, flycatchers were hard to find near HVL. The songs of **E. Wood-Pewee** and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were especially missed. AM found 2 **E. Kingbird** nests atop dead snags surrounded by standing water at CGL 6/17. He found 2 **Horned Lark** nests in grain fields at NC 5/3,18 with 4 eggs in each nest, but the Sagers found only 2 birds 4/7 in usually good area near HVL.

Two **Purple Martin** were at LS 6/23. **Tree Swallow** had poor nesting success in boxes around HVL; a **Bank Swallow** colony was found in a stockpile of material at a quarry near HPL 6/8; and **Barn Swallow** were in lower numbers near HVL. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at MKT 4/4-15, and the last 1 at HVL 5/1. Single **Brown Creeper** was at MKT 4/9 and several at HVL in early Apr. Four **Carolina Wren** were fledged from nest in garage insulation at MKT reported in last quarter, and another nest was found in MKT 6/22 in a potted plant on a porch. The first **House Wren** 4/23 at HVL signaled the takeover of most of the 15 boxes on Sagers' farm, eviction of 2 **E. Bluebird** and 1 **Tree Swallow** pair, and even a nesting in a bird feeder.

Several **Golden-crowned Kinglet** continued to make their rounds in QD-HVL area to end of Apr; and several **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were there from 4/15-27. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** movement was good 4/20-28 in QD-HVL area, where 8 were seen in one group 4/25, but very low in breeding season (*another low for birds that eat on the fly*). Poor **E. Bluebird** nesting success was reported by several people monitoring boxes and where there was no evidence of parasites the possibility of loss from extremes of both hot and cold weather was raised as a reason. Four **Am. Pipit** were in farmland at FH and 41 in a farm field near NC 4/4. Finally on 5/12, 2 **Cedar Waxwing** showed up at HVL and very low numbers were seen there to end of June (ditto the comment above).

From 4/25-5/1 turned out to be the best chance at HVL to see **Solitary Vireo** and returning warblers, but they were in low

numbers of 1-8 daily and all were possible county nesters (**Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky,** and **Common Yellowthroat**). Six **Magnolias** were at JT and 2 at HVL 5/5 and **Yellow-breasted Chat** was finally heard at HVL 6/13, where it nested. Very few **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were noted at HVL all quarter. The first **Indigo Bunting** at HVL was 4/26. **Chipping Sparrow** was first heard at HVL 4/3 and **Savannah** 4/25. The last **White-throated** was at MKT 4/12; and 1 **White-crowned** at HVL 5/2 and daily 5/16-23. First **N. Oriole** was at Hollsopple 4/29. **Purple Finch** continued in good numbers at HVL, where last 5 were seen at feeders 5/29. **Pine Siskin** at HVL numbered 4-8 in Apr. and last 2 were seen 5/5. Flocks of up to 50 **Am. Goldfinch** frequented Sagers' feeders in Apr. and 8 **Evening Grosbeak** were seen there from 4/26-5/1 and 2 on 5/5-6.

OBSERVERS: Walt Bowen, Barbara & Frank Haas, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Evaleen & Michael Watko.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

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

Sighting a **N. Goshawk** got SC's blood circulating 5/27, because it was certainly a breeder near one of his favorite spots. A ♂ **N. Harrier** was seen hunting near Dushore 6/11, raising more suspicions that there is a small local breeding population (SC). Several **Red-shouldered Hawk** were heard and seen in the county in June (SC,DG). Reports also reached DG of some **Red-tailed Hawk** (less common summer birds than **Red-shouldered** in this county) from the n.e. corner of the county. A pair of **Am. Kestrel** were apparently nesting in a clear-cut in WSF 4/15 (DG). Several broods of **Wild Turkey** were reported from several locations (SC, DG). A migrating **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Shady Nook Pond near Lopez 5/19 (SC). **Great Horned Owl** were heard in the Eagles Mere and Forksville areas this spring (FC,EMC members). **Barred Owl** were heard near Lopez and young **Barred** were found in WSF near WESP (DG). Rarely seen in the county, a **Common Nighthawk** was spotted flying over a pond near Lopez 5/19 (SC).

At least 2 **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were discovered in a bog in the county. **Acadian Flycatcher** seem less common in the last 3 years in WSF near Ogdonia than they were previously (DG). A **N. Rough-winged Swallow** colony was discovered in Dushore next to a grocery store (SC). A large **Bank Swallow** colony continues to thrive near Colley (SC). Several **Brown Creeper** were in WSF, especially in Kettle Creek Natural Area, paired off and courting on 4/14,15 (DG). The Muncy Valley **Mourning Warbler** spot could boast of 3 singing males in June (SC,BS). Another was heard singing in a roadside berry patch near Hillsgrove 6/22 (DG). In a few high elevation shrubby bogs in WSF, **Canada Warbler** was probably the most common and conspicuous breeding species (DG). Some **White-throated Sparrow** were heard singing in bogs in WSF throughout June (DG,SS), and in shrubby stream-side woods near Camp Brule 6/26 (DG).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Fred Crafts, Douglas Gross, R.D.1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859, Barbara Sonies, Stan Stahl, Eagles Mere Conservancy (EMC).

## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Bill Reid

*Abbreviations: Auburn Twp (AT), Forest Lake Twp (FL).*

A **N. Harrier** was seen in FL 6/6 (WR). A flock of 30 **Least Sandpiper** was seen at a farm pond in AT 5/21 (WR). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen s. of Birchardville 5/21 (WR). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed at FL 6/6 (WR). A flock of 6 **Am. Pipit** was present at Lymanville 5/4-12 (WR). **Yellow-breasted Chat** were observed in Rush and Apolacon Twps 6/6 (WR). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded in Springville Twp 5/11 (WR). Up to 4 **Henslow's Sparrow** were present along Rt. 267 in AT 5/8-6/30 (WR,TK,RM).

OBSERVERS: Tom Kurtz, Randy Miller, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**.

## TIOGA COUNTY

### Bob Ross

*Abbreviations: Beechwood L. (BL), Colton Point SP (CPSP), Hammond L. (HDL), Hamilton L. (HLL), Hills Cr. L. (HCL), Leonard Harrison SP (LHSP), Liberty (LI), Little Marsh (LM), Marsh Cr. (MC), Marshlands (ML), National Fishery Laboratory (NFL), Nessmuk L. (NL), Pine Cr. (PC), Sabinsville (SA), Tioga SF (TSF), Wellsboro area (WA).*

One to 5 **Common Loon** in both summer and winter plumage were observed 4/3-5/14 on HLL, BL, & NL (MC,DM,HR,RMR). Three **Horned Grebe** were seen on BL 4/8 (HR). Nine **Double-crested Cormorant** were observed at Cowanesque L. 4/21 (DM,RMR) and 38 on 5/8 (DM). A **Great Egret** stayed on NL 5/4-10 (DM,RMR), while a **Snowy Egret** was seen at LI 5/12. **Green-backed Heron** were first seen on PC 4/20 (DM). **Common Merganser** did well this year on PC, with broods of up to 11 chicks reported frequently (RC,CD,DM,RMR).

**Osprey** were reported in the county from 4/11-5/10 at NFL, NL, LM, PC and the Tioga R. (DM,RMR). Young Osprey are also being hacked at HDL by Army Corps of Engineers.

Four **N. Harrier** were seen in WA 6/2 (DM,RMR). Single **Cooper's Hawk** were observed 4/12 and 6/24,26 on PC (RMR) and at WA (HR). A **Broad-winged Hawk** cried on the soar at WA 6/2 and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at WA 6/3 (RMR). A **Red-tailed Hawk** was observed sitting on its nest on Earth Day (4/22) deep in TSF; on 6/20 two large young still occupied nest (DM,RMR). A **Merlin** was reported at LI 5/24 (JR). **Ruffed Grouse** with large broods (9 commonly) were found throughout the county 5/27+ (v.o.); **Wild Turkey**, however, were not commonly seen.

The resident pair of **Bald Eagle** in Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon produced one young bird which survived the collapse of the nest in a white pine on 6/28. At one point the eaglet was observed on the ground, but has since been seen flying and feeding in PC successfully.

Rails were hunted with boots and tape recorders without success (v.o.). Young fledged from one **Killdeer** nest at NFL by 6/15, while another had four eggs 6/20 (RMR). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** fed at PC 5/9 (CD,DM). **Solitary Sandpiper** (<4 per sighting) were seen at PC and LM 5/6-9 (CD,DM). Two **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen at PC, LM, and NFL 5/9+ (DM,RMR). **Am. Woodcock** continued courtship ritual through 4/25 at WA (RMR). **Bonaparte's Gull** (4-15 per sighting) were observed on HDL and NL 4/11-25 (DM,RMR), while 5 **Ring-billed** were seen at Cowanesque L. 4/14 (DM).

A **Common Nighthawk** was seen at WA 5/24 (DM,RMR), while **Chimney Swift** were first reported 4/28 at SA (HR). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported 5/7 at PC (FC). A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** fed young at CPSP

6/20 (DM,RMR). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at WA 6/26 (JC). **E. Wood-Pewee** were first heard at LM 5/24 (DM,RMR). *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported late: **Acadian** and **Alder** "sang" in WA 6/2, **Least** at CPSP 6/5 (RMR). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen on PC 5/24, while **E. Kingbird** arrived at BL 4/29 (HR). A **Horned Lark** was seen on reclaimed strip mines near Morris 5/7 (DM,RMR).

**Tree Swallow** returned to WA 4/1 (RMR; they arrived at HCL 2 weeks earlier, 3/17 *fide* MC, but were not included in the first quarter report). **N. Rough-winged**, 20-25, and ±30 **Cliff Swallows** arrived at PC 5/6 (DM). **Barn Swallow** preceded them 4/23 (RMR). A pair of **Common Raven** began nest-sitting at CPSP 4/16 (DM,RMR). **Carolina Wren** established territories throughout the county, usually near streams (v.o.). **Winter Wren** established territories near MC 4/7 and PC 6/24 (RMR). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were seen at CPSP and TSF 4/16-21 (DM,RMR). **Veery** were not heard until 6/5 at CPSP (RMR), though **Hermit Thrush** sang as early as 4/16 in TSF (DM,RMR). **Wood Thrush** were not reported until 5/24 at LM (DM,RMR). **Gray Catbird** was first seen at LI 5/9, **N. Mockingbird** 5/24, and **Brown Thrasher** 4/24 (JR). Five **Am. Pipit** chose melted roads over snow-covered fields at NFL 4/4 (RMR).

**Solitary Vireo** were first reported singing 5/5 at LHSP and CPSP (CM,RMR). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing at HDL 6/10 (RMR). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was observed nest-building at MC 6/1 (RMR). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported at SA 6/10 (HR). **Yellow Warbler** were at SA by 4/27 (HR). Two **Chestnut-sided Warbler** sang regularly at HDL 6/10 (RMR). A **Magnolia Warbler** was territorial on the rim of our Grand Canyon at CPSP 6/5 (RMR). **Black-throated Blue** were in CPSP's mountain laurel thickets 6/5 (DM,RMR). **Yellow-rumped** were first reported in the TSF 4/21 (DM,RMR). **Black-throated Green** were first found singing at LHSP 4/26 (DM). **Pine** returned to CPSP 4/16 and subsequently nested in good numbers (DM,RMR). **Cerulean** were reported at LI 5/9 (JR) and **Black-and-white** nested in good numbers at CPSP and the TSF (RMR). A ♀ **Am. Redstart** was singing at MC 6/1 (RMR), while **Ovenbird** sang at LHSP beginning 5/9 (DM). **Common Yellowthroat** were at LI 5/9 (JR). A **Hooded** sang near ML 6/17, and a **Canada** showed agitated behavior at CPSP 6/5 (RMR).

**Scarlet Tanager** sang at LM 5/24 (DM,RMR). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** used sunflower feeders at MC 5/5-31 (DL). **Indigo Bunting** were first observed at LI 5/12 (JR) and **Rufous-sided Towhee** first seen in TSF 4/21 (DM,RMR). **Chipping Sparrow** returned to LHSP 4/17 (DM), while both **Field** and **Vesper** sparrows were found in the TSF 4/21 (DM,RMR). Both **Savannah** and **Grasshopper** sparrows sang from high-elevation farm fields near WA 6/3, with the Savannah carrying food for young (RMR). **Swamp Sparrow** returned to PC 4/22 (DM,RMR). **White-throated Sparrow** were reported at SA and TSF no later than 4/12-21 (DM,HR,RMR). **Dark-eyed Junco** nested throughout the county (v.o.). **Bobolink** appeared in good numbers 5/8+ (HR,JR,RMR). **Rusty Blackbird** were last reported at WA 4/1 (RMR). **N. Oriole** were in good numbers 5/24+ (DM,RMR).

OBSERVERS: Flossie & Ron Comstock, Martha Copp, Jack Cupper, Chuck Dillon, Dorothea Leber, Darlene Madarish, Howard Rushmore, Jean Rothrock, **Robert M. Ross, RD 7 Box 238, Wellsboro 16901 (717-724-6199)**.

## VENANGO COUNTY

### Gary Edwards and Russ States

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Clintonville area (CA), Hovis Pond (HP), Kahle L. (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Shaffer Pond (SP), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).*

The quarter was not extremely productive. Numbers of

nearly everything were down. Dave Edwards again gets the prize for the best bird of the quarter. He found a **Black-crowned Night Heron** at a pond near Barkeyville 4/9. Two were seen 4/10, and a single bird remained 4/13. They were not seen after that. Another *Venango* 1st, and his second in two weeks (he saw our 1st **Loggerhead Shrike** near the end of March). This brings our county total to 203 birds.

All waterfowl at KL unless otherwise noted. **Common Loon** were found until 5/12. **Horned** and **Pied-billed grebes** both until 4/8. There were **Double-crested Cormorant** at both HP and KL 4/14. The first **Green-backed Heron** was seen 5/12. There were two **Great Egret** records, 1 at SP 4/14 and the other 4/28 at CA. **Great Blue Heron** were on the nest by 4/6. Thirteen of them were observed on the train ride (approx. 9 mi) through OCSF near the end of June. **Tundra Swan** were found at OCSF 4/1,8 and 5/13 (NK). A **Mute Swan** stayed from 4/1-28 at CA. **Green-winged Teal** 4/7-8. **Am. Wigeon** 4/6 TMRP, and 4/8,28 and 5/12 on a small pond near KL. **N. Shoveler** 4/23 SP, **Blue-winged Teal** 4/8 CA, and **Ruddy Duck** 5/12 at HP. Small flocks of **Ring-necked Duck** were seen 4/1,14. And **Lesser Scaup** 4/6 TMRP and 4/14,28 at KL. No **Greater Scaup** reported this quarter. **Bufflehead** and **Red-breasted Merganser** remained in the area until 5/12. The last **Hooded Merganser** was seen 4/1.

An **Osprey** was seen 4/7,8, and 5/6 all at KL. There is a late report from last quarter of a **Bald Eagle** in OCSF 3/27 (NK) and 1 ad. was reported in the first week of June in OCSF. There were two **N. Harrier** sightings on the reclaimed strip mine area of s. *Venango*. The first was 4/8 and the second was 6/23. The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** sighted was 4/3 OCA, while **Cooper's Hawk** was seen on many occasions throughout the county. Our first **Broad-winged Hawk** was 4/21. **Ring-necked Pheasant** were observed 4/14 and 5/12 OCSF.

Shorebirds were both low in numbers and species. There was 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/14 at CA and 3 **Spotted Sandpiper** there 5/12. Five **Least Sandpiper** were seen at HP 5/12 and, also 5/12; a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found at CA. **Am. Woodcock** were reported 4/8 and 5/12.

**Bonaparte's Gull** were seen 4/8 KL, 4/11 AR and 4 on 4/15 KL. **Ring-billed Gull** were observed on many occasions, with 200+ seen 4/24 AR. One ad. and 1 imm. were spotted 6/10 AR and 1 was seen 6/23 AR, our latest June record by 10 days. Terns included a **Common** 5/5 on KL, a **Forster's** 4/14 KL, and 1 **Black** 5/12 HP (this is the second year in a row these have been seen after an absence of many years).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed** cuckoo were numerous throughout the county. On 4/7 a **Great Horned Owl** was found on the nest near Hunter Station. And a **Barred Owl** was heard 5/12. Our last **Short-eared Owl** observation was 1 indiv. on 4/1 in s. *Venango*. The only reported **Whip-poor-will** was 6/30 OCSF. **Common Nighthawk** were first seen 5/14 OCA. The first **Chimney Swift** was seen 4/28.

We had our first **Red-headed Woodpecker** since July 1986 on 6/23 KL area, and just barely at that. It was observed about 100 yards from the county line and was being harassed by starlings.

Flycatchers generally were hard to find. **E. Kingbird** were fairly numerous, the first was seen 4/28 TMRP. **No Great Crested Flycatcher** and **no Least Flycatcher** reported this quarter despite some effort being made to locate them. And the first **E. Wood-Pewee** wasn't found until 6/24. An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen 6/24 near Tippery and a **Willow Flycatcher** was observed 6/2 OCSF.

All swallows had returned by 4/28 except **Cliff Swallow** which wasn't seen until 5/12. NK reported fairly good numbers in OCSF. He had at least 25 **N. Rough-winged**, 10 **Bank**, and 58 **Barn** swallows 5/15. **Carolina Wren** were singing 4/10 in Rockmere and 6/15 OCA. The first **Hermit Thrush** was seen 4/7. A **Swainson's Thrush** was observed 5/12 near TMRP. A small flock of **Am. Pipit** was seen 5/5 KL. There were observations of **Yellow-throated Vireo** 5/6 and 6/12 OCSF. **Solitary Vireo** on 5/8,12 OCSF.

Warbler numbers were disappointing. The total number of species this year was 21, down from 26 last year and 29 the year before. All warbler sightings in OCSF unless otherwise indicated.

Some of the warbler highlights include: **Golden-winged** 5/9 OCA, Nashville 5/5, **N. Parula** first seen 5/9, **Blackburnian** 5/12 and 6/2, **Cerulean** 4/29, **Cape May** 5/7 OCA, **Palm** 4/28, **Mourning** 5/5 and 6/24, **Canada** 5/12, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/21.

The last **Am. Tree Sparrow** was seen 4/14. All our grassland sparrows returned to the reclaimed strip mine area in the s. part of the county and were fairly numerous, though we didn't locate a **Henslow's Sparrow** until 6/23. **White-throated Sparrow** were seen until 5/10 OCSF, and the only **White-crowned Sparrow** reported this spring was 5/6 OCSF (NK). Several **Swamp Sparrow** were seen 4/21 and 5/12 OCSF. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was observed singing 6/30 OCSF. **Pine Siskin** remained in the area in small flocks (10-15 birds) until 5/18. Our last **Evening Grosbeak** were seen at a feeder near Henry's Bend 4/28.

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

## WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

*Abbreviations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Allegheny Res. (ARs), Allegheny R. (ARv), Chapman Dam (CD), Kinzua Dam (KD), Webbs Ferry (WF).*

Two **Common Loon** were at the Seneca Pumped Storage Res. and 1 at KD 4/12 (TG), 2 at CD 5/13 (DD), 5 at WF on the ARs 5/20 (KC), and 1 there 6/30 (KC). An **Am. Bittern** was heard at AS 5/21 (TG) and seen there 5/23 (TH). A **Great Egret** was seen at AS 4/16,19 by TG and CN. A **Green-winged Teal** accompanied the Mallards on the ARv at Warren 4/3-6 (BH). They were more common than usual at AS in April (TG). Six **White-winged Scoter** were seen at WF 5/23 (JPK). There was a **Hooded Merganser** with 4 young at Saybrook 6/6 (CMN).

The only **Osprey** report was 1 at AS 4/13 (DW). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen at Irvine 4/10 (JS), an ad. in Warren 4/25 (DP), and a sub-ad. at CD 5/13 (DD). Single **N. Harrier** were seen at Pittsfield 4/10 (JS), AS 4/6 (TG), and Chandler's Valley 4/13 (DW). The **N. Goshawk** near (location deleted. -Eds.) moved their nest a short distance since last year and it contained 3 young in late May (DW). **Am. Kestrel** occupied 34 out of 40 nest boxes (BH,DW). *A nestling banded near Lottsville 5/31/86 was found dead near Mill Creek, WV, 225 mi south 3/29/90 (TG,DW).* A **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** were heard calling at AS 6/9 (BW,DW), and 2 Virginia rails were calling there 6/20.

Eight **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen on the ARv in Warren 4/11 (BH), and 12 at KD 4/12 (TG). Four **Black Tern** were feeding on the surface of the ARv near Irvine and seen separately 5/22 by DW, DD, and BWi. Both species of **cuckoo** seem scarcer this year. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was calling at Saybrook 4/2 (CMN).

**Carolina Wren** nested at Russell (WM) and in a bluebird box in Warren (DD). A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at the Buckaloons Recreation Area near Irvine 5/23 (JPK). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was singing near West Spring Cr. 6/22, and a pair was seen at the Newbold Estate near Irvine about 6/30 (TG). There was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** in Warren 5/15 (TG). A max. of about 300 **Pine Siskin** were at Neel's feeder in Saybrook 4/4, and 60 **Evening Grosbeak** the same day (CMN).

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, Dan Doherty, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Tom Hampson, Bill Highhouse, Bill Hill (BH), Jim & Pat King, Walter Morehouse, Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Doug Palmer, John Schultz, Brenda Watts, Don Watts, Bob Winter (Bwi).

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill

*Abbreviations: Acme Dam (AD), Bushy Run Park (BRP), Donegal L. (DL), Dugan's Ice Pond (DIP), Forbes SF (FSF), Keystone L. (KL), Latrobe Res. (LR), Laurel Summit Glade (LSG), Linn Run SP (LRSP), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).*

Five **Common Loon** at DL 4/4 (LB) were the season's best count; there were 10 **Horned Grebe** there 4/6 (RCL, LB, TP). A **Double-crested Cormorant** at LR 6/21 (MEW) was apparently the first summer record of the species for this region. An **Am. Bittern** was at PNR 4/21 (RCL, RSM, EK, JM). The first **Green-backed Heron** of the season was at PNR 4/20 (RCL, RSM).

There was only one good fallout of waterfowl in the Ligonier Valley, that being on 4/6 when about 200 individuals of 15 species were spotted at DL (RCL, LB, TP). Individual **N. Shoveler** were found at LR 4/2 (RCL) and 4/5 (RCL, LB), and at DL 4/6 (RCL, LB, TP). There were 19 **Oldsquaw** at DL 4/6, and 8 **Gadwall** were a good count there on the same date (RCL, LB, TP). Rather late records of **Common Goldeneye** for this region include 2 at DL 4/6 (RCL, LB, TP), and 1 at AD 4/7 (MEW). There were 40 **Bufflehead** at DL 4/6; the best count of the period (RCL, LB, TP). A dozen **Hooded Merganser** were found at Beaver Run Res. 4/13 (VC), and up to 8 at AD between 4/7-13 (MEW). A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** on Crisp Pond at PNR 6/6 was a first summer record for that area (RCL). Some better counts of **Red-breasted Merganser** on DL include 24 on 4/1 (LB), 30 on 4/6 (LB, TP, RCL) and 26 on 4/7 (MEW). The season's best count of **Ruddy Duck** was 35 at DL 4/6 (RCL, LB, TP).

The first **Osprey** was at DL 4/6 (LB, TP); 1 was at MP 4/10 (MEW); 1 at KL 4/13 (VC). The **Broad-winged Hawk** returned to PNR 4/21 (RCL, RSM). A rather late **Solitary Sandpiper** was still at PNR 5/16 (RSM, RCL). The best count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 100+ at DIP near Ligonier 4/13 (MEW). A **Forster's Tern** at DL 4/20 (FBH) was the only county record this spring.

Migration was normal to slightly early: the first influx of neotropical migrants (about 25 species) coming between April 25 and April 29; the next wave (about 20 species) came between May 2 and May 9. The spring passerine migration largely overlapped a heavy hatch of gypsy moth larvae at PNR, which may partly account for some unusually high banding totals of a number of species: **Acadian Flycatcher** (19 banded, compared to a ten-yr. average of 7.6 ± 5.8); **Red-eyed Vireo** (92, 38.3 ± 14.3); **Philadelphia Vireo** (56, 8.7 ± 7.3); **Nashville Warbler** (76, 20.1 ± 7.6); **Tennessee Warbler** (230, 49 ± 48.9); **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (32, 8.1 ± 3.1); **Am. Redstart** (53, 20.5 ± 11.9). Out of 50 species analyzed, only six (**House Wren**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Field Sparrow**, **Song Sparrow**, and **White-crowned Sparrow**) had 1990 spring totals that were below their ten-yr. average.

The first report of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was from Ligonier 4/25 (*vide* RS). The season's only **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near Rector 5/20 (HMS). Single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were banded at PNR 5/11, 16, 19 (RCL, RSM). **Least Flycatcher** had returned to PNR by 4/25. **House Wren** were rather late returning to PNR this spring, the first bird seen 4/21 (EK, JM), and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were not seen there before a rather late 4/20 (RCL). A **Marsh Wren** was a good find at PNR 5/8 (JG). A **Swainson's Thrush** found singing in LRSP 6/20 (JW) was the first mid-summer record for this region in many years. The first **Brown Thrasher** of the season was at a PNR feeder 4/12 (RCL, RSM).

A pair of **Nashville Warbler** showing physical evidence of

breeding was banded at PNR, an unusually low elevation for this species, in the latter part of May (RCL, RSM). The first **Yellow-throated Warbler** was not seen until the rather late date of 4/19 (RCL, RSM), but several pairs were found summering at PNR this year, including a pair seen building a nest in a white pine on 5/23 (RCL). A **Pine Warbler** was a rare find at PNR 4/21 (RSM, RCL, EK, JM). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen at LRSP 5/7 (JG, PG), and individuals were banded at PNR 5/10, 11 (RCL, RSM). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** near Stahlstown 4/2 (LB) was early for this region; but the first was not seen at PNR until 4/10 (RSM, RCL). A **Kentucky Warbler** at PNR 4/27 (RCL, RSM) was a few days earlier than usual. The **Connecticut Warbler** is a rare spring migrant in our area, but this spring a female was banded at PNR 5/22 (RCL, RSM), and a singing male observed there 5/26 (DK, RSM).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were in good number this spring, and one of the better counts was of a flock of 36 at LRSP 5/7. An **Orchard Oriole** banded at PNR 4/25 was very early for this area (RCL, RSM, BM). On the heels of a very heavy winter and early spring presence (including some breeding attempts at PNR), the latest report of **Pine Siskin** was at Jeanette 5/21 (VC). Although virtually absent over the winter, two fairly large flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** flew over LSG in FSF 4/15 (RCL); one remained at a feeder near Stahlstown on 4/18 (WHR), and another at PNR on 4/19 (RCL, RSM).

OBSERVERS: Larry Barth, Virginia Cronenberger, Jim Gruber, Patricia Gruber, Frank and Barb Haas, Dave Krueger, Ed Kwater, **Robert C. Leberman**, Jerry McWilliams, Bonnie Mulvihill, **Robert S. Mulvihill**, **Powdermill Nature Reserve**, **Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521)**, Tom Pella, William H. Rea, Helen M. Schmidt, Robert Shaw, Judy Ward, Michael and Evaleen Watko.

## WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

*Abbreviations: Camp Lackawanna (CL), Eatonville (EA), L. Carey (LC), North Eaton (NE), Tunkhannock (TU).* All records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Six **Common Loon** and 8 **Horned Grebe** were noted at LC 4/6. A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at CL 5/12. Duck observed included: 1 **Blue-winged Teal** at NE 4/11; 5 **Am. Wigeon** at Sordoni's 4/10 (NS); 3 **Oldsquaw** at LC 4/2; and 2 **Hooded Merganser** at Phelps Swamp 5/12.

An ad. and a sub-ad. **Bald Eagle** were seen at a pond near TU 5/25, but could not be found again. A **N. Goshawk** was observed near EA 4/12. A **Virginia Rail** was present at Lemon Twp 4/27-5/12. A **Sora** was heard calling in a flooded field at W. Falls 6/4. Two **Common Moorhen** were seen at Phelps Swamp 4/27-5/25, but could not be found after that; probably they did not breed there as they did at that site in 1989. An **Am. Coot** was seen at LC 4/6. The only **Greater Yellowlegs** reported was a single bird at NE 4/11-14.

A flock of **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen at Sordoni's 4/6. **Alder Flycatcher** seen and heard at W. Nicholson and NE 5/25 were early. A **N. Rough-winged Swallow** at NE 4/14 was probably an all-time early record. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was present at TU throughout the quarter. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted at TU 5/24, and a **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Dixon 5/12. A flock of 65 **Am. Pipit** was seen in Lemon Twp 4/21.

Non-breeding warblers such as **Tennessee**, **Cape May**, **Bay-breasted**, and **Blackpoll** were scarce or absent. Among the warblers noted 5/12 were **Cerulean** at CL and **Kentucky** at Vosburg. **Louisiana Waterthrush** were scarce, not having recovered from the swollen streams of 1989. A **Fox Sparrow** was seen at LC 4/13. Three **Bobolink** seen at Lemon Twp 4/27 were very early. **Orchard Oriole** apparently nested at Meshoppen (RD), and another was noted at EA 6/30. **Pine**

**Siskin** were present at several locations into June, and young were seen at TU 6/6. A small flock of 5 **Evening Grosbeak** was present at TU 4/16-19.

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

## YORK COUNTY

### Al Spiese

Abbreviations: *Brunners I. (BI)*, *Century Run (CR)*, *Codorus Furnace (CF)*, *Codorus SP (CSP)*, *Collinsville (CO)*, *Goldsboro (GO)*, *Gifford Pinchot SP (GP)*, *Gut Rd. (GR)*, *Impounding Dams (ID)*, *Long Arm Dam (LAD)*, *Marietta Watershed (MW)*, *Richard Nixon CP (RN)*, *Reservoir Hill (RH)*, *Sheppard Myers Dam (SMD)*, *Spring Grove (SG)*, *Susquehanna R. (SR)*, *Wrightsville (WR)*.

With the warm Jan. & Feb. weather, it has been suggested that this produced the unusual sighting of 6-7 young **Common Merganser** in mid-April. There are no previous nesting records for *York*. One **Wood Duck** with a chick was seen near the end of Apr. A **Marbled Godwit** was seen by 5 birders 4/21. In early May a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was exciting to two Hanover birders. A bird that has to be rare in our area near the end of June was a **Horned Grebe** at Long Level. Our annual Century Run and birdathon 5/12 accounted for 142 species. For once we had nearly all the so-called "easy" birds, but shorebirds were greatly lacking in both numbers and species.

One **Red-throated Loon** was at CSP 5/30 (CG). From 12-20 **Common Loon** were at LAD, CSP, GP 4/6-7; an imm. at CSP through the quarter (v.o.) and 2 ad. on the ID were also seen into late Jun (KY). One **Horned Grebe** was at LL 6/25 (AS). Three **Great Egret** s. of WR 4/3 and 1 at GP 4/7 (RG,DD) were early arrivals; 15 were also seen leaving the SR at WR and heading w. into *York* before 7:45 a.m. on 6/26 (AS). The 75-100 **Cattle Egret** were along Rt. 24 near Red Lion and 22 in a field near WR indicate better numbers than last year (J&LD). Several **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at BI again this year and 2 were seen flying into the nesting area of previous years (AS).

Two **Tundra Swan** were found on the CR (JS). Two ♂, 1 ♀ **Wood Duck** with a chick were seen at GR 4/30 (AS). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at CSP 4/6 (RR). A pair of **Redhead** were at a BI pond 5/13 (J&JP). At CSP 4/6, 138 *scaup sp.* were at CSP and a max. of 22 **Oldsquaw** were there 4/14 (RR). Five **Surf Scoter** at CSP 5/3 were unusual (Da&LH). From 20-65 **Bufflehead** were at CSP 3/25-4/6 (v.o.). In mid-Apr., 1 ♀ **Common Merganser** with 6 or 7 young trailing were seen at Fishing Cr. near Goldsboro (BW). At LAD 4/6, 37 **Red-breasted Merganser** were found and 2 on the CR 5/12 (RR).

An ad. ♀ **Shelduck** was identified at L. Redman 4/28 (AS). It was also seen by 6 other *York* birders the same day. It had arrived earlier, but no one knew what they were looking at. It was in the same general location as 20 **Mallard**, but it seemed to stay by itself. After remaining possibly a week, it departed about the same time as the Mallards.

Although **Shelducks** are boldly different than our other species of waterfowl, **Ruddy Shelducks** have caused confusion in recent years. On at least three occasions, **Ruddy Shelducks** have been reported to us as **Fulvous Whistling Ducks!** Because of the great many ducks kept in private collections, there are a lot of escapees. Observers are advised to look more closely at strange looking ducks to be sure of the identification. We recommend *Waterfowl, An Identification Guide to the Ducks, Geese and Swans of the World* by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn. (1988, Houghton Mifflin Co.) —eds.

An imm. **Bald Eagle**, with several missing primaries, seen at Davidsburg and GP 5/25 was possibly the same bird passing through the area. A **Black-bellied Plover** was at CSP 5/1 (KL) and 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** at SG 4/17 (AS). One **Marbled Godwit** was found by RR 4/21 and later seen by *York* birders (Da&LH,AS,RG) plus some "outsiders." It remained only one day. Two **Am. Woodcock** were seen at SMD 5/12 performing courtship ritual (CG).

One ad. and 2 2nd-year **Great Black-backed Gull** were found at LL on the CR (MS,AS). A **Forster's Tern** was at LAD 5/22 (CG). Reports of at least 3 **Barn Owl** at 3 different locations were received; 1 each in a barn, a silo, and a box (MS,RR,WF). **Whip-poor-will** were first heard at CSP by naturalist 5/26 until 6/3 (RR).

A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** fledged 2 young at RN the latter part of June (m.ob.). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RH 5/17 (JB). Sixteen **E. Kingbird** were counted in one MW field 5/4 (RG). Besides the large colony of **Bank Swallow** that always returns to BI, a small colony, estimated at 35 pair, was located at a quarry off Roosevelt Ave. (RR). **Cliff Swallow** nests were located in many areas, on both sides of the 1-mi long WR bridge. Seven nest were at 1 span alone (AS). The **Gray Catbird** at BI 4/7 was a few days early (AS). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were sighted at 3 locations by 5/25.

One **N. Parula** was at CF mid-June (J&LD). They also saw a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Lock #12 on 5/7. **Worm-eating Warbler** have been nesting in the same general area of RN for at least the last 8 years (KY). Reports of **Kentucky Warbler** show their presence in very good numbers. A **Wilson's Warbler** was found at CSP 5/6,12 (RR).

The 11 **Grasshopper Sparrow** at CO 6/14 confirms this area as very productive (J&LD). **E. Meadowlark** reports were widely scattered and in above average numbers. The **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found near the edge of L. Marburg, CSP, 5/4 (KL,AW).

OBSERVERS: James Beath, Jack & Lil Downs, Dorothy Dressler, Warren Frey, Carl Garner, Rita Gross, Dan & Lori Heathcote, Karen Lippy, John & Jean Prescott, Russell Ryan, Mike Sankovich, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309), Joan Stone, Anna Warner, Bill Whittock, Kim Young.