

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 5, No.1 Jan-Mar 1991

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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1, JAN - MAR 1991

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COVER: Northern Hawk Owl by *Michael McNelly* (See Page 7)
Page 19 - Dave Krueger

from the Editors...

We begin our fifth year of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. As you are reading this issue the spring migration is winding down, there is no official breeding bird atlas to work on, and it is the time to catch up on things before the shorebirds start returning in mid- to late-July.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Even though the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project has been completed there is still much to learn about our breeding birds across the state. The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) has instituted a Special Areas Project (SAP). This project has as its ultimate goal the surveying of the birdlife of all State Parks, State Game Lands, local parks and recreation areas, and other areas of particular interest. Birders are asked to quantify their data on forms which are available from **Douglas A. Gross, Ecology III, RR 1, Berwick, PA 18603 (717-542-2191)**. Many bird clubs, Audubon Societies and interested individuals are already participating in this important work. We have adopted SGL 52, which is close to our home, as our area to cover year-round. Try it. You'll probably like it. And you will be adding to the data desperately needed about many birding areas across the state.

PA BIG YEAR UPDATE

As reported in the last issue, Deuane Hoffman is doing a Big Year in Pennsylvania. The good news is that as of 8 May 1991 he stood at 218 species. He had saved vacation time in order that he could take the rest of the month off to do essentially nothing but birding. Plans were made to spend a lot of time at Presque Isle and various western counties.

The bad news is that on 8 May he broke his ankle and as of 30 May had not been able to do any birding. It is healing well and although he will be limited in his activities for a while he does have the fall migration to try and find those species he may

have missed going north. Probably the major miss was Red-necked Phalarope, one each at Green Lane (*Montgomery*) and Muddy Run (*Lancaster*), but they also occur in the fall.

We will keep you posted on his progress, both health and species total. He will start rehabilitation once the cast has been removed in mid-June. We hope you get back on both feet **soon**, Deuane.

COVER PRINT AVAILABLE

When the Northern Hawk Owl appeared in *Wayne* County, we called Michael McNelly and he volunteered to do a painting for us for this issue's cover. Because it is so terrific, we are offering signed and numbered limited edition prints of the artwork (*not the cover with PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, etc. on it*) for sale for \$20.00 postpaid. The prints are 15" x 15" on 80-lb acid-free archival paper and will be shipped flat. The proceeds will go towards helping *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. What a terrific way to commemorate your Northern Hawk Owl as a lifer? a state bird? a county bird!!! And, you will be helping the magazine through these hard times!

Order yours today!

GRASSLAND SURVEY

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is looking for volunteers to run Grassland Breeding Bird Surveys. Similar to the Breeding Bird Surveys run by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, these routes take about two hours to run and consist of stopping every half mile, listening and looking for three minutes, and recording the number of species observed.

The main differences are that you pick your own route (in farmland or other field habitats) and there are only 30 stops instead of 50. Also, you have to record the habitat along your route. This, however, should be done before or after you do the official survey.

If interested, contact Barb Bondra at: **Pa. Game Commission,**

2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA, 17110-7979 or call 717-787-5529.

Grassland species pose an interesting dilemma for conservationists in Pennsylvania. Historically, this state had very little grassland habitat, and hence, few grassland birds. With the clearing of the forests, this situation reversed itself and many grassland species became common to abundant. Now, with suburban sprawl, changing agricultural practices and abandoned farms growing up into forests, the grassland species are declining in many sections of the state.

So ... what should we do? Should we let these species revert back to their historical, pre-seventeenth century status? Or should we try to preserve their early twentieth century status? There are vocal advocates for both options.

Some people suggest a compromise, keep some fields, let others go. However, nature doesn't compromise. There is a growing concern that many of our neotropical migrant, interior-forest dwelling species are declining. Some theorists point to declining tropical forest as the cause. Others point to cowbirds as the primary factor. Cowbirds have increased dramatically in this century due primarily to the loss of and fragmentation of our forests. Will keeping fields (and hence more edges, more fragments for cowbirds) help grassland birds to the detriment of forest species?

What is your opinion? Let us know.

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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LETTERS

Dear Editors:

Thank you for publishing my article on owls. The computerized map of Pennsylvania was especially well done and the tables look neat.

I would like to point out that there are two omissions in the tables. I thought you should be aware of them. In Table 2, all the saw-whet owl data were eliminated and the snowy owl total should be 1 instead of 0, no great loss in either case, unless the reader is very interested in saw-whet owl numbers.

The other omission is in Table 6. There are two years of data in this table and it printed as one year. Table 6 should read 1988 and 1989.

I was sorry to read you are operating in the red. Paul Hess believes it is simply due to the economy. With his experience in the news media, he is probably right. Rest assured we'll be taking your suggestions to help get you through the lean period.

I wish you luck in the year ahead. Thanks again for the nice job you did on my article.

Dick Byers
Murrysville, PA 15668

Sorry, Dick, we will have the corrections included for any reprints that we send out. -eds.

Dear Editors:

Enclosed is my check for next year's subscription to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. I think it is one of the best bird magazines published. Other publications (including *Am. Birds*) should take a lesson from you! I thought I should give you an update on the Delaware Big Year attempt. As of yesterday [25 May 1991], Joe Swertinski had tied your [1981] record of 280! Enclosed is a list of birds he has seen or you had seen but the others had not. He now has 6 months to find 20 species to break 300. Ellen Short is already at 270+ and Colin Campbell, Maurice Barnhill, Joe Rus sell, and I are all 260+. Phil Vanderhorst is also well on his way and may be a trump card. Paul DuMont wrote me to say his Delaware list is 265, with a number of species nobody else has seen.

The high point was yesterday [25 May] with a boat trip to Baltimore Canyon. We saw four species of shearwater, N. Fulmar, Red-necked Phalarope, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and Parasitic Jaeger. Not bad, eh! I added two state life birds, Greater Shearwater and Fulmar to make my Delaware list 320. As you can see by the birds Joe has seen, it has been a phenomenal spring. Warblers were fast and furious in early May. We tried for Swainson's Warbler, but missed twice.

In all, it's been a great year!

Andy Ednie Claymont, DE

Although we try to concentrate on what is happening in Pennsylvania, we thought you might be interested in what is happening in a neighboring state. We held the Delaware Big Year record for almost ten years, but knew it would be smashed once some local birders decided to go for it in a good year. Keep up the search and we do hope one or all of you surpass 3001 -eds.

Dear Editors:

As you begin **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS'** fifth year, I hope you continue to find the satisfaction worth the sacrifice. The enormous labor behind each issue is clear, and your efforts deserve appreciation from all who are interested in the state's bird life.

Your editorial in Vol. 4, No. 3, mentioned dismay at a high rate of non-renewals during the past year and asked for thoughts. Actual reasons would be hard to pinpoint without surveying present and former subscribers, but be assured that this is a normal-if painful-fact of publishing life. Newspaper and magazine circulation people commonly call it "churn," the regular turnover of subscribers requiring continual sales efforts just to stay even.

Churn always increases during economic downturns when consumers are forced to cut corners. That was certainly the case in 1990, and many publications felt it acutely. Only one method can combat it effectively: a massive and expensive sales-promotion program obviously inappropriate for *Pa. Birds*.

Sadly, the economy may point to another distressing year for

subscriptions. If you can ride it out, your subscriber list should rise again-though perhaps at the expense of a mailer to former subscribers. Meanwhile, Audubon chapters and other organizations that consider *Pa. Birds* an important resource might see fit to make a special grant in support in these tougher-than-usual times.

The value of *Pa. Birds'* detailed reports was emphasized recently as I was researching the great tree sparrow invasion of winter 1989-90. Compilers in all parts of the state, alert to their local situation, told of high numbers in 18 counties and continuing scarcity in 3. A major influx occurred throughout most of the eastern and midwestern winter range, but you couldn't learn that from reading *American Birds*. Among eight regions where word might have been appropriate, only the Appalachian, Middle Atlantic Coast and Western Great Lakes winter summaries took notice. Mention was conspicuously absent from Hudson-Delaware, which covers heavily invaded New York and eastern Pennsylvania. *Am. Birds* regional editors can't necessarily be faulted; they can report only the information they receive. Nevertheless, a large gap exists between *Pa. Birds'* well-informed local reports and the national magazine's spotty, inconsistent regional coverage.

It's encouraging to see the widespread interest in *Pa. Birds* created by abstracts in *Auk* (and elsewhere?). I've had several reprint requests from around the country for recent papers, a welcome sign of attention to our still-young state journal.

Paul Hess Natrona Heights, PA

Dear Editors:

Thank you for another year of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. I do enjoy it. Keep up the good work.

I wonder if you'd be interested in starting a children's page. Two of my granddaughters (ages 10 and 12) in Lancaster Co. just reported on a walk on New Year's Day in adjacent creek woods and seeing a Great Horned Owl and three Red-

headed Woodpeckers. I do know they are accurate. I've seen the woodpeckers there myself and one of my daughters with a B.S. in Biology heard the Great Horned calling there last week or so. The children were excited.

No reports from Wayne and Pike [Counties] in last issue. I missed them. No observers there?

*Jeanne T. Kauffman
Sherman, CT*

We hadn't considered anything specifically aimed at children, but would welcome suggestions. We assume there are birders in Wayne and Pike counties, but no one has volunteered to be compiler for that area and, except for the Northern Hawk Owl and related sightings, no one sends us any records from there. We find this disheartening, as this is the fastest growing area in the state. If someone would like to take on this task, please contact us. -eds.

Dear Editors:

Before I begin to tell you about my "mystery bird," I feel it would be wise to defend my mental stability. Did you know that it costs \$450.00 to find out if you're crazy, and that they really do give you that ink blot test? As a matter of fact, some of those ink spots look like bodies of water with waterfowl flying overhead. When my testing was completed the good doctor said, "Barbara, different is not crazy; different is just what it is -different." Here is my story.

At 9:30 a.m. on 13 September 1985 I was taking my usual 3-mile walk at Cascade Park in Lawrence County. It was a mild, sunny morning. I heard a bird singing and I thought, how strange, this bird sounds like it's singing as though it were May.

I walked toward the song, which was coming from a 9-foot deciduous sapling. I saw the back of the bird from 100 feet away and instantly knew it was a nuthatch. But, whoa, the bird was charcoal gray, almost black. It was moving away from me on a horizontal branch. Yep, a melanistic nuthatch. No problem. I approached the bird cautiously and when I was 12 feet or so away the bird turned around and my mouth dropped open instantly.

The throat and breast of the bird was an off-white. The bird appeared to have a neat whitish bib, but the big shocker was its bill! If this bird were a

nuthatch, it should have a nuthatch bill, right? Wrong! Now, brace yourself, because I only want to say this once. That crazy bird had a Bananaquit's bill, only it was a little longer and more curved. The black curved bill looked to be too big for the bird. If it were a nuthatch, then it should sound like a nuthatch, right? Wrong. Its voice had the timbre of a Carolina Wren. I remember the loud song started out on a low note and then just a few notes to a high note. It sang this short, beautiful song three times; then there would be a long pause and it would start over again. The bird stayed on the lower branches and paid little attention to me. It moved along the branches like a nuthatch and was the same size and shape as a nuthatch.

Although I had only been birding on my own for a few years, I knew enough to stand there and study it. The bird was a dull charcoal-gray to black. The wings had a subtle sheen to them. The "bib" was offwhite and the outer edge was neat. It looked as though the bird had a few very slight whitish specks above its left eye.

At that time I was not ready to come out of the closet and declare myself a birder. I had no car, no camera, no confidence and I didn't know a single birder. I decided it was simply an escape. I thought I'd just figure this out for myself, as usual.

On page 189 of the *Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (2nd printing, March 1985) the angle of the Bananaquit in the bottom photograph gives a pretty accurate impression of how the bill looked on my mystery bird. The bill of the Cactus Wren (from the same set of books) looked too short and not thick enough at the base to fit my mystery bird. My bird had a more exaggerated curve to the bill.

If anyone ever sees, or has ever seen, a melanistic nuthatch with a white bib and a deformed bill singing loud, like a Carolina Wren, would you please get in touch with me? If you come across a photograph of a bird that matches this description, would you call me? If you are traveling in another country and you see this bird, it would be a kindness if you would call me collect. I need a name for this "sucker" so I can get on with my life.

Finally, I'd like all of you to remember what "Dr. Feelgood" said. "Nonju worry, Barbara, the elevator goes all the way to the top floor."

*Barb Dean
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle, PA 16105*

We're stumped! Do any of our readers have a guess? -eds.

Dear Editors:

Enclosed is the *Elk* report for January, February and March 1991.

I'm so glad spring is here. We folks in the northern counties don't see the variety of birds you do and it is a treat just to see a returning Turkey Vulture! This past week [mid-April] has been so colorful at my feeder-about 50 Evening Grosbeak, about 30 Am. Goldfinch, 15 Purple Finch -those colors, wow! I was interested to note that the House Finch and Purple Finch are getting along and watched while one House Finch was on one side of the feeder and on the opposite rung was Purple Finch. Too bad I didn't have a beginning birder beside me to show them the difference. I have had maybe 40 or so Dark-eyed Junco at my feeder, but now they are starting to leave. I am noting them on territory in the forest now. Yesterday on my walk I heard a Brown Creeper's song. It was loud for such a little bird. I have not heard or seen any warblers except the Louisiana Waterthrush this spring.

Linda Christenson St. Marys, PA

Dear Editors:

After I made raspberry jelly from my frozen berries, my husband piled the seeds on a stump about 40 feet from our back door. We thought something might eat them, but to our surprise, we looked out on 13 January to see an immature Cooper's Hawk sitting on the stump. Our guess is that the reddish seeds had been mistaken for carrion.

We watched the hawk for more than five minutes by the clock but have no idea how long he had been there before we saw him. This close-up look gave us an excellent opportunity to study the head, referred to as "hooded," the distinct tawny wash, yellow-green care, and to notice fewer streaks on the belly than on the breast.

This sighting was the sixth for our yard since 1979, and includes another for January, the 13th in 1985.

*Era S. VanDenburg
West Chester, PA*

Keeping Track

by Ken Kitson

Some of us are compulsive record keepers. We keep records of our birding adventures and sightings in notebooks, checklists and field guides. Sometimes faithfully, sometimes not so. And some of us whose memories are not improving wish we had kept better records in the past. The following is a suggestion for a way to keep track of your sightings for a given area. Once set up, it is simple to maintain and it's quite flexible. It can be maintained by hand or put on a computer. And it can provide quite a bit of information for a minimal amount of effort.

Basically it involves recording your sightings by week. Start by making a list of the potential species that you will be most likely to see in the area you've defined, e.g., your yard, a park, nature center, etc. Obviously this list will change over time. On a piece of paper (1/8" graph paper works well) list the columns from 0 to 53. This will help facilitate year to year comparisons. Skip a line to allow for inserting the month, then in the column put in the dates for each Sunday in the year. If the year begins with 1 to 3 days through the first Saturday, begin with the "0" column. If the year begins with 4 or more days through Saturday, begin with column "1." Then list the species down the left side of the page(s).

Now it's quite easy to record the species you've seen each week with a check [or a 0 (zero) if on the computer]. For the first sighting in a season I put in the date. Other information which could be indicated include: N (or **boldface**) for nesting, or an * (or underline) to indicate additional notes in a notebook. I also place an A at the top of the column to indicate weeks when we were away and no observations were made.

This system not only works

well for one's individual records but has worked well at Peace Valley Nature Center (*Bucks*) to display the composite record of all who bird there. The chart is displayed at the entrance to the center. A desk with a notebook is provided to record sightings. Also a mail slot is provided to leave a checklist with one's sightings. The sightings, including those from the Saturday morning bird walk, are posted to the chart weekly for all to see. It takes about fifteen minutes per week to maintain.

What can all this provide? First I find it interesting to see the species observed weekly. Monthly seems too long a period of time and daily too short. Each week is a new ball game. Then of course you can track totals by week, month and year-to-date if you wish. And you can see the number or percent of times a species is seen in a year. But I think the best information comes from the pattern that your record makes on the page. At a glance you see the seasonal pattern for each species. In fact we have used the pattern to combine information from a number of years. Using the same chart, I have put the records for nine years into each weekly square by placing a dot for each sighting as follows:

year	1	2	3
	4	5	6
	7	8	9

(See chart on next page)

As you can see, the resulting pattern gives an excellent seasonal and frequency picture for each species. You'll be surprised how punctual some species are.

For more than nine years of data I've used a percentage of times seen rather than the dots. It was this data that gave us the information to produce a more

informative checklist for Peace Valley with monthly bar graphs rather than the less definitive quarterly A, C, **Rs**, etc.

To summarize, recording your sightings weekly can add to your birding enjoyment and provide some useful information. The chart outlined here for that purpose will make the task of keeping track quite easy.

*RD 1, Box 60B
Ottsville, PA 18942*

We talked with Ken and he would be willing to share copies of data sheets he has compiled with you. Please just send a self-addressed stamped envelope (\$0.29 postage) to him. Space does not permit us to reprint blank forms, but it was obvious from the first glance that a lot of data can be stored in a very visual means for retrieval. We welcome comments from you as well. -eds.

"WOODPECKER WOODS"

Brush Mountain Notebook

by Marcia Bonta

Winter woods are woodpecker woods, filled with loud, echoing hammers, muted taps, and a medley of boisterous calls. No matter how cold or inclement the weather, I can always count on hearing or seeing woodpeckers whenever I go walking, and without the leaves on the trees, it is easy to follow their progress up and down the tree branches.

Our year-round residents are hairys, downys, pileateds and red-bellieds, with a smaller winter population of northern flickers. Of all the woodpecker clan, the flickers are the most silent at this time of year. In contrast to their noisy displays of early spring, they prefer to remain mute during their over-wintering. Only a movement high in a tree alerts me to a foraging flicker or I may find several quietly devouring wild grapes in the thicket.

The red-bellieds are comparatively recent mountain residents, their arrival having coincided with both a decade of warmer winters and the advent of gypsy moth caterpillars. Before 1980, to see a red-bellied on our mountain, even in the summer, was a rare and treasured event. But, like Carolina wrens, tufted titmice, northern mockingbirds and northern cardinals, these once predominantly southern birds are slowly extending their range northward, and we seem to have almost as many wintering redbellieds as we do hairys, downys and pileateds.

The pileated woodpeckers, with their magnificent red crests and crowsized black bodies, are my favorites. Their loud calls can be heard long before they bounce overhead, flashing the white undersides of their large wings. They are known to be shy birds, but if I remain still I can often watch them working, stripping the bark off dead or dying trees in search of carpenter ants, their

favorite food. Many people decry what they interpret as destructive behavior on the part of the pileateds since the trees they attack frequently appear healthy. Subsequent investigation, however, always reveals that carpenter ants have already penetrated the heartwood of the tree.

During winter and early spring pileateds do their heaviest cutting into living and dead trees. They gather easier meals during warmer weather when food sources such as wild berries, other kinds of insects, acorns and beechnuts are abundant. Apparently pileateds occasionally inadvertently provide gleaned material for downys and hairys. One researcher watched a pileated woodpecker scale off the bark of a dead hemlock tree while a downy picked at the leavings.

In mid-January one day I paused to watch as a male pileated landed on a tree less than 40 feet from where I was standing. As usual, he was calling loudly. I remained frozen in place as he hitched himself up and down the tree, continuing his cries as he moved along. Then he flew to another, closer tree trunk with a large hole 20 feet up its side. Again he called, and after looking directly at me, he quickly zipped around the back of the trunk directly behind the hole. The next thing I knew he had stuck his head out of that same hole, having sneaked in through a back entrance. Finally, he peered around for a few seconds before taking off across First Field, his calls reverberating in the silent winter woods.

That tree was probably his roosting tree since all the wintering species of woodpeckers have their own special trees in which they spend their nights.

Many experts believe that pileated are especially noisy around their roost trees. Their

nesting trees are another story. Pileateds tend to keep the same nest tree year after year, and they are so silent near it that I have yet to find one.

Pileated woodpeckers mate for life and keep strong bonds even during the winter months. They remain in the same territory and drum throughout the year. During courtship they engage in a bill-waving dance before settling down to share in the incubation of the eggs and the raising of the young.

There is some evidence that both hairy and downy woodpeckers also maintain pair bonds from at least the autumn before, but unlike pileateds, they remain separated during the winter. Hairys have begun drumming as early as December and downys by the end of January in preparation for courtship, which is usually at its height in March. Both of these species also share in incubating the eggs and raising the young.

Downys always come to our feeder. So do red-bellieds. But hairys rarely have. They prefer to keep to a wild environment and are shyer than the smaller downys. These look-alike species prefer a dry, deciduous, upland woods, but the downys are more likely to wander into towns and occupy backyard shade trees.

Unlike pileateds, which live only in the eastern part of our continent from southern Canada to the southern United States, hairy and downy woodpeckers live throughout the wooded areas of North America from northern Canada to Panama, Nicaragua, and western Guatemala. Most of them remain in the same territory all year although there are at least some hairy woodpeckers that occasionally migrate

further south during the winter in search of wood-boring beetle larvae, their preferred food.

Downy woodpeckers also put beetles and their larvae at the top of their gustatory-delight list. Like the hairys, their secondary preferences are ants and caterpillars. So when I see them working over the rough bark of our oak trees in the winter (their favorites now that the American chestnuts are gone), I know they are keeping our forest trees healthy.

Woodpeckers are endlessly fascinating birds with flamboyant calls, worthwhile eating habits, and exemplary domestic arrangements, at least from a human standpoint. Many a cheerless winter day is brightened by an intimate look at their behavior because, unlike most of our birds, they are on duty all year long no matter what the weather.

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.

Mrs. Bonta has two new books which have been published simultaneously. One is Appalachian Spring, which should stir memories for all bird watchers in Pennsylvania. Cloth \$19.95, paper \$9.95. 198 pp.

The other is Women in the Field. University of Pittsburgh Press. Cloth \$19.50, paper \$13.95. 288 pp. Both are available in bookstores or from the author (plus \$1.50 S&H). Both are published by University of Pittsburgh Press. -eds.

BIRD BEHAVIOR: Great Blue Heron catches snake in January

Rich Lichty

While making an early afternoon visit to a favorite farm woodlot northeast of Lancaster on 21 January 1991, I had an interesting sighting. Although I was there to check out the raptor activity, it was a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) that made the trip worthwhile.

At first notice, the Great Blue was in a hunched position next to a stand of brush. It seemed to be shielding itself from the cold 30°F+ weather. It was standing in snow-dusted grass about ten feet from a pool of water fed by Landis Run that rolls through an unoccupied meadow.

Not having any luck with my raptor hunt in the wooded area, I focused my spotting scope on the heron, which was now moving in a stalking manner. I was standing in the open about 50-60 yards from the long-legged hunter wondering what was on the bird's menu.

Suddenly it seemed fixed on something in the meadow grass. The head lunged forward and when it recoiled, I anxiously strained to see its prey. Expecting to see a small rodent plucked from the cold ground, I was amazed to see a 12-15" snake (garter?) hanging from its beak.

The captive was gripped about two inches below its head by the spear-like bill. The captor deliberately manipulated its prey for about five minutes before putting it down. Then, repositioning its grip, sucked in the snake-head first. It took about three to four slurps before the throat showed a swallowing motion. Next, the heron stepped to the water and sipped a few times to wash down the meal.

Although it was a real treat to see the heron stalk, catch and devour its prey, I also was amazed at seeing a snake in the middle of January.

741 N. Reservoir St.
Lancaster, PA 17602

About the Cover Artist

Michael McNelly

This is the second cover Michael has drawn for us. The previous one was of a Screech-Owl (Volume 4, No. 1). When the Northern Hawk Owl appeared in *Wayne County* we contacted him about doing another owl.

Despite his hectic schedule he promised one for this issue. He wrote, "It was an overcast and drizzly September afternoon in Alaska when I saw my first Hawk Owl. He was perched in an old gnarled Black Spruce that rose from a blanket of autumn colored dwarf birch. He seemed to represent the symbol of all wilderness. It's a sight I won't soon forget."

A free-lance illustrator since his graduation from the Hussian School of Art in Philadelphia, Michael's clients include Sun Company, The New York Times, The Franklin Mint, Macmillan Publishing Company, Cigna Corporation, TV Guide, The Jacques Cousteau Society, etc. "Although," he says, "I find the work to be both exciting and profitable, my real love has been the painting of nature." He has cultivated his perspective of wildlife from extensive travels in the Americas, from Alaska to the Amazon jungle.

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

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

Compiled by Terry Schiefer

Well, from the look of your lists you were all very busy birding in 1990. Six years ago when I started *Pennsylvania Birdlists*, the goal of seeing 300 species in Pennsylvania was a milestone achieved by only six birders. Today those ranks have swelled to 18, the latest addition being Glenna Schwalbe. Congratulations! Some goals remained unattained in 1990, however, as Jerry McWilliam's 300th Erie County bird continued to elude him. Will Jerry find number 300 in 1991? Stay tuned until next year.

This year both Steve Santner and Merrill Wood submitted lists for all 67 counties in Pennsylvania, although some lists did not meet our thresholds. Still, this is quite an accomplishment. How many of you have even been in every county?

The listing thresholds are as listed last year in *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* (Vol.4, No-1) with the addition that no county lifelists under 50 are included. Years in parentheses after a total indicate the last year the total was submitted.

PENNSYLVANIA LIFELISTS

1	331	Barbara Haas	42	277	Armas Hill (<i>Birding</i> '90)	7	273	Luzerne	William Reid ('89)
2	330	Franklin Haas	42	277	Bonnie Baird (<i>Birding</i> '81)	10	272	Centre	Merrill Wood
3	322	John Miller (<i>Birding</i> '89)	45	275	Roger Higbee	11	268	Chester	Larry Lewis ('88)
4	315	Bernard Morris	46	274	Ed Kwater	12	267	Lancaster	Steve Santner
5	314	Eric Witmer	47	273	Kenneth Gabler	13	263	Centre	Harry Henderson
6	310	Gerald McWilliams	48	271	Tom Clauser ('89)	14	259	Erie	Ed Kwater
6	310	Steve Santner	49	270	Skip Conant	15	255	Lehigh	Fritz Brock
6	310	Paul Schwalbe	50	268	Carl Garner	16	254	Delaware	Barbara Haas
9	309	Tom Garner	50	268	Thomas Reeves	17	253	Lehigh	Bernard Morris
10	306	Harry Franzen	52	266	Harry Henderson	17	253	Cumberland	Deuane Hoffman ('89)
10	306	John Ginaven	53	258	Randy Miller	19	252	Franklin	Kenneth Gabler
10	306	Jan Witmer	54	257	Joe Meloney	19	252	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman
13	305	Phillips Street	55	252	Linda McWilliams ('88)	21	250	Butler	David Freeland ('85)
14	302	Sam Stull ('85)	55	252	Linda McWilliams ('88)	22	249	Lancaster	Barbara Haas
15	301	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. ('86)	57	251	Mike Kissick ('85)	22	249	Erie	Linda McWilliams ('88)
16	300	Glenna Schwalbe	58	250	Harris Johnson ('86)	24	246	Franklin	Carl Garner
16	300	Evelyn Kopf ('89)	59	246	Steve Feldstein	24	246	Butler	Gene Wilhelm, Jr. ('86)
16	300	Larry Lewis ('88)	60	243	Don Henise	26	244	Centre	Terence Schiefer
19	299	Jerry Book	60	243	Rusty Ryan	26	244	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella
20	297	Rick Wiltraut	62	242	Kevin Crilley	28	242	Philadelphia	Frank Windfelder
21	295	Fritz Brock	63	241	David Kyler	28	242	Erie	David Freeland ('85)
22	294	James Baxter ('86)	63	241	Ernest Schiefer	30	241	Delaware	Al Guarente
23	293	Al Guarente	65	237	Stan Glowacki ('87)	30	241	Lancaster	Randy Miller
23	293	Deuane Hoffman	66	236	Mark Henry ('87)	30	241	Lehigh	Rick Wiltraut
23	293	David Freeland (<i>Birding</i> '90)	67	232	Jonathan Heller	33	240	Chester	Phillips Street
26	292	Terence Schiefer	67	232	Anne Hedgpeth ('86)	33	240	Philadelphia	Barbara Haas
26	292	William Murphy (<i>Birding</i> '90)	69	229	Roy Ickes ('87)	33	240	Lancaster	Larry Lewis ('88)
26	292	George Malosh ('89)	70	225	Arthur Bergey ('89)	33	240	Allegheny	David Freeland ('85)
29	291	John Peplinski	71	217	Richard Colyer	37	239	Centre	Rick Wiltraut
30	289	Robert Schutsky (<i>Birding</i> '89)	72	216	Richard Rosche ('87)	38	238	Philadelphia	Al Guarente
31	288	Allan Keith (<i>Birding</i> '90)	73	213	Matt Wlasniewski	39	237	Philadelphia	Harry Franzen
32	287	Dave DeReamus	74	210	Sherri Labar ('89)	39	237	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman
33	285	Margaret Higbee	75	206	Russ Ruffing	41	236	Erie	George Malosh ('89)
33	285	Frank Windfelder	COUNTY LIFELISTS (TOP 50)			42	235	Chester	Barbara Haas
35	284	James Gray (<i>Birding</i> '83)	1	299	Erie	42	235	Clinton	Paul Schwalbe
36	283	Allen Schweinsberg	2	291	Erie	44	234	Carbon	Rick Wiltraut
37	281	Harold Morrin (<i>Birding</i> '90)	3	290	Philadelphia	44	234	Chester	John Ginaven
37	281	William Reid ('89)	4	289	Delaware	46	233	Delaware	Skip Conant
39	278	Neal Thorpe	5	288	Lancaster	47	233	Erie	Deuane Hoffman
39	278	Merrill Wood	6	285	Lancaster	48	229	Berks	Kerry Grim
41	278	James Baird (<i>Birding</i> '81)	6	285	Lancaster	48	229	Delaware	Thomas Reeves
42	277	Nick Pulcinella	7	273	Lancaster	50	229	Indiana	Margaret Higbee
			7	273	Lancaster	50	229	Northampton	Steve Boyce
									Gerald McWilliams
									Sam Stull ('85)
									John Miller ('85)
									John Miller ('85)
									Eric Witmer
									Tom Garner
									Jerry Book
									Jan Witmer

COUNTY LIFELISTS (BY COUNTY)

ADAMS

149 Deuane Hoffman
136 Carl Garner
128 Steve Santner
124 Kenneth Gabler

ALLEGHENY

240 David Freeland ('85)
182 Ed Kwater
168 George Malosh ('89)
89 Barbara Haas ('89)
79 Steve Santner

ARMSTRONG

200 Margaret Higbee
91 Steve Santner

BEAVER

152 George Malosh ('89)
90 Steve Santner

BEDFORD

122 Steve Santner
73 Deuane Hoffman
63 Merrill Wood

BERKS

229 Kerry Grim
200 Terence Schiefer
192 Larry Lewis ('88)
191 Barbara Haas
173 Ernest Schiefer
168 Deuane Hoffman
166 Steve Santner
157 Bernard Morris
140 Nick Pulcinella
139 Al Guarente

BLAIR

174 David Kyler
103 Steve Santner

BRADFORD

214 William Reid ('89)
168 Frances Biles ('85)
105 Barbara Haas
104 Randy Miller
102 Steve Santner

BUCKS

197 Stan Glowacki ('87)
183 Harry Franzen
138 Bernard Morris
111 Steve Santner
110 Kevin Crilley

BUTLER

250 David Freeland ('85)
246 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. ('86)
165 George Malosh ('89)
100 Steve Santner
58 Barbara Haas ('89)

CAMBRIA

103 Steve Santner

CAMERON

86 Steve Santner

CARBON

234 Rick Wiltraut
175 Bernard Morris
115 Steve Santner
77 Al Guarente
70 Barbara Haas ('89)

CENTRE

272 Merrill Wood
263 Harry Henderson
244 Terence Schiefer
239 Rick Wiltraut
178 Paul Schwalbe
162 Russ Ruffing ('87)
145 Kevin Crilley
136 Steve Santner
124 Barbara Haas
113 Deuane Hoffman

CHESTER

268 Larry Lewis ('88)
240 Phillips Street
235 Barbara Haas
234 John Ginaven
203 Al Guarente
193 Neal Thorpe
157 Steve Santner
149 Nick Pulcinella
Ill Terence Schiefer

CLARION

94 Steve Santner

CLEARFIELD

100 Steve Santner
87 Paul Schwalbe
82 Margaret Higbee

CLINTON

235 Paul Schwalbe
120 Steve Santner
101 Barbara Haas
52 Merrill Wood

COLUMBIA

100 Steve Santner

CRA WFORD

198 Margaret Higbee
193 Roger Higbee
124 George Malosh ('89)
109 Steve Santner
102 Terence Schiefer

CUMBERLAND

253 Deuane Hoffman
228 Don Henise
185 Steve Santner
179 Richard Colyer

131 Kenneth Gabler
127 Carl Garner

DAUPHIN

237 Deuane Hoffman
218 Steve Santner
143 Richard Colyer
127 Merrill Wood
110 Kenneth Gabler

DELA WARE

289 John Miller ('85)
254 Barbara Haas
244 Nick Pulcinella
241 Al Guarente
233 Skip Conant
229 Thomas Reeves
225 Paul Schwalbe
219 John Ginaven
113 Steve Santner

ELK

138 Linda Christenson
90 Steve Santner
76 Ted Grisez

ERIE

299 Gerald McWilliams
291 Sam Stull ('85)
259 Ed Kwater
249 Linda McWilliams ('88)
242 David Freeland ('85)
236 George Malosh ('89)
233 Deuane Hoffman
228 Barbara Haas
228 Margaret Higbee
221 Roger Higbee
197 Terence Schiefer
185 Steve Santner
138 Bernard Morris

FAYETTE

108 Steve Santner
73 Roy Ickes ('87)

FOREST

140 Ted Grisez
91 Steve Santner

FRANKLIN

252 Kenneth Gabler
246 Carl Garner
135 Deuane Hoffman
108 Steve Santner
79 Don Henise

FULTON

191 Kenneth Gabler
151 Carl Garner
118 Robert Walker ('89)
117 Steve Santner

GREENE

91 Roy Ickes ('87)
81 Steve Santner

- 77 Barbara Haas ('89)
- HUNTINGDON**
 213 David Kyler
 181 Merrill Wood
 175 Greg Grove
 104 Steve Santner
 97 Terence Schiefer
- INDIANA**
 229 Margaret Higbee
 217 Roger Higbee
 195 Anne Hedgpeth ('86)
 117 Steve Santner
- JEFFERSON**
 98 Steve Santner
 61 Margaret Higbee ('87)
- JUNIATA**
 104 Steve Santner
 107 Deuane Hoffman
- LACKAWANNA**
 92 Steve Santner
- LANCASTER**
 288 Eric Witmer
 285 Tom Garner
 273 Jerry Book
 273 Jan Witmer
 267 Steve Santner
 252 Deuane Hoffman
 249 Barbara Haas
 241 Randy Miller
 240 Larry Lewis ('88)
 224 Jonathan Heller
 183 Terence Schiefer
 172 Dennis Weaver ('89)
 156 Al Guarente
 140 Kevin Crilley
 123 Don Henise
 123 Nick Pulcinella
 119 Richard Colyer
- LAWRENCE**
 98 Steve Santner
- LEBANON**
 228 Steve Santner
 204 Deuane Hoffman
 182 Randy Miller
 152 George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
 120 Barbara Haas
- LEHIGH**
 255 Fritz Brock
 253 Bernard Morris
 241 Rick Wiltraut
 104 Steve Santner
 93 Barbara Haas ('89)
- LUZERNE**
 273 William Reid ('89)
 216 Mark Blauer ('85)
- 139 Kevin Crilley
 104 Steve Santner
- LYCOMING**
 222 Paul Schwalbe
 118 Steve Santner
 65 Barbara Haas ('89)
- MCKEAN**
 99 Ted Grisez
 83 Steve Santner
- MERCER**
 112 Steve Santner
- MIFFLIN**
 108 Steve Santner
 56 Merrill Wood
- MONROE**
 221 Phillips Street
 108 Steve Santner
 103 Bernard Morris
 72 Al Guarente
- MONTGOMERY**
 228 Harry Franzen
 211 Neal Thorpe
 210 Kevin Crilley
 206 Bernard Morris
 136 Steve Santner
 107 Robert Walker ('89)
- MONTOUR**
 211 Barbara Haas ('89)
 199 Allen Schweinsberg
 119 Steve Santner
 103 Kevin Crilley
- NORTHAMPTON**
 229 Steve Boyce
 228 Rick Wiltraut
 220 Brad Silfies
 209 Dave DeReamus
 203 Bernard Moms
- NORTHUMBERLAND**
 204 Allen Schweinsberg
 166 Barbara Haas ('89)
 112 Steve Santner
- PERRY**
 189 Deuane Hoffman
 151 Steve Santner
 143 Richard Colyer
 116 Don Henise
- PHILADELPHIA**
 290 John Miller ('85)
 242 Frank Windfelder
 240 Barbara Haas
 238 Al Guarente
 237 Harry Franzen
 220 Nick Pulcinella
 215 Skip Conant
- 213 John Ginaven
 163 Stephen Lawrence
 143 Steve Santner
 120 Terence Schiefer
 103 Kevin Crilley
- PIKE**
 100 Barbara Haas ('89)
 91 Steve Santner
- POTTER**
 101 Paul Schwalbe
 82 Steve Santner
- SCHUYLKILL**
 220 Tom Clauser ('89)
 123 Steve Santner
 117 Barbara Haas
 100 Bernard Morris
- SNYDER**
 155 Allen Schweinsberg
 122 Steve Santner
 61 Merrill Wood
- SOMERSET**
 118 Steve Santner
- SULLIVAN**
 143 Skip Conant
 104 Steve Santner
 99 Thomas Reeves
 67 Randy Miller
 59 Barbara Haas ('89)
- SUSQUEHANNA**
 153 William Reid ('89)
 99 Steve Santner
 89 Barbara Haas ('89)
- TIOGA**
 159 Arlene Brown
 150 Larry Brown
 115 Steve Santner
 66 Barbara Haas ('89)
- UNION**
 212 Allen Schweinsberg
 132 Barbara Haas ('89)
 113 Steve Santner
- VENANGO**
 93 Steve Santner
- WARREN**
 227 Harris Johnson ('86)
 217 Ted Grisez
 110 Steve Santner
- WASHINGTON**
 210 Margaret Higbee
 209 Roger Higbee
 173 Roy Ickes ('87)
 161 Russ Ruffing ('87)
 141 Geoff Malosh ('89)

WAYNE

121 William Reid ('89)
87 Steve Santner

WESTMORELAND

130 Steve Santner
91 Margaret Higbee

WYOMING

218 William Reid ('89)
118 Skip Conant
107 Steve Santner
95 Barbara Haas ('89)
61 Al Guarente

YORK

210 Rusty Ryan
184 Steve Santner
165 Deuane Hoffman
120 Kenneth Gabler
116 Carl Garner

PA. ANNUAL LISTS 1990

1 256 Deuane Hoffman
2 250 Ed Kwater
3 249 Steve Santner
4 244 Gerald McWilliams
5 234 Randy Miller
6 231 Dave DeReamus
7 230 Bernard Morris
8 222 Jonathan Heller
9 215 Neal Thorpe
10 209 Skip Conant
11 208 Ronald Leberman
12 207 Don Henise
13 204 Carl Garner
14 203 Al Guarente
15 190 Ernest Schiefer
16 183 Terence Schiefer
17 181 Greg Grove
18 166 Matt Wlasniewski
19 158 Kenneth Gabler
20 152 Stephen Lawrence
21 111 Larry Brown
22 82 Arlene Brown

PA. ANNUAL LISTS (TOP 50)

1 288 Barbara Haas 1986
1 288 Franklin Haas 1986
3 278 Sam Stull 1979
3 278 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
5 268 Terence Schiefer 1985
5 268 Deuane Hoffman 1986
7 263 Gerald McWilliams 1983
8 259 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
9 255 Franklin Haas 1977
9 255 Ed Kwater 1989
11 254 Barbara Haas 1977
12 252 John Ginaven 1978
12 252 Bonnie Baird 1979 (Birding)
12 252 James Baird 1979 (Birding)
12 252 Gerald McWilliams 1988

16 251 Gerald McWilliams 1989
16 251 Steve Santner 1989 (Birding)
18 250 Gerald McWilliams 1979
18 250 Ed Kwater 1990
20 249 David Freeland 1984
20 249 Steve Santner 1990
22 248 Gerald McWilliams 1985
23 247 James G. Stull 1976 (Birding)
23 247 Gerald McWilliams 1982
23 247 Terence Schiefer 1986
26 246 Barbara Haas 1979
26 246 Gerald McWilliams 1980
26 246 Gerald McWilliams 1981
26 246 David Freeland 1981 (Birding)
26 246 Gerald McWilliams 1984
31 245 John Ginaven 1979
31 245 Terence Schiefer 1984
31 245 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
31 245 Larry Lewis 1986
35 244 Franklin Haas 1979
35 244 Steve Santner 1986
35 244 Ed Kwater 1988 (Birding)
35 244 Gerald McWilliams 1990
39 241 Bonnie Baird 1978 (Birding)
39 241 James Baird 1978 (Birding)
41 240 Bernard Morris 1981
41 240 Franklin Haas 1982
41 240 Gerald Book 1986 (Birding)
44 239 Gerald McWilliams 1987
45 238 David Freeland 1974 (Birding)
46 236 Gerald McWilliams 1986
47 234 Randy Miller 1990
48 233 David Freeland 1971 (Birding)
49 232 Tom Clauser 1987
50 231 Dave DeReamus 1990

COUNTY ANNUAL LISTS (BY COUNTY)**ALLEGHENY**

96 George Malosh 1982
93 George Malosh 1974

ARMSTRONG

142 Margaret Higbee 1986
139 Margaret Higbee 1987
131 Margaret Higbee 1990

BEAVER

110 George Malosh 1974
105 George Malosh 1975

BERKS

170 Terence Schiefer 1981
167 Terence Schiefer 1982
152 Matt Wlasniewski 1990
145 Matt Wlasniewski 1989
138 Terence Schiefer 1980
121 Ernest Schiefer 1990

BLAIR

126 Beryl Sternagle 1990
121 Beryl Sternagle 1989

BRADFORD

82 Skip Conant

BUCKS

156 Bruce McNaught

BUTLER

245 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
229 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
225 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
224 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
218 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
217 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
215 Gene Wilhelm, Jr.

CENTRE

224 Terence Schiefer
214 Terence Schiefer
211 Terence Schiefer
191 Terence Schiefer
180 Merrill Wood

CHESTER

225 Larry Lewis
221 Larry Lewis
219 Larry Lewis
216 Larry Lewis
215 Larry Lewis
214 Larry Lewis
209 Larry Lewis

CRAWFORD

202 Ronald Leberman
183 Ronald Leberman
100 Terence Schiefer
89 Geoff Malosh
81 Geoff Malosh

CUMBERLAND

227 Deuane Hoffman
221 Deuane Hoffman
208 Deuane Hoffman
200 Don Henise
197 Don Henise
196 Don Henise

DAUPHIN

205 Deuane Hoffman
189 Deuane Hoffman
132 Steve Santner
114 Steve Santner

DELAWARE

241 John Miller
172 Al Guarente
171 Al Guarente
170 Al Guarente
170 Nick Pulcinella
154 Skip Conant

ERIE

264 Sam Stull
251 Gerald McWilliams
251 Gerald McWilliams
248 Gerald McWilliams

244 Gerald McWilliams 1985
 243 Gerald McWilliams 1979
 243 Gerald McWilliams 1981
 242 Gerald McWilliams 1984
 238 Gerald McWilliams 1990
 234 Gerald McWilliams 1980
 234 Gerald McWilliams 1982
 234 Gerald McWilliams 1987
 234 Ed Kwater 1989
 230 Gerald McWilliams 1986
 221 Linda McWilliams 1986
 219 Linda McWilliams 1987
 218 Gerald McWilliams 1978
 218 Ed Kwater 1990
 215 Linda McWilliams 1988
 158 Ronald Leberman 1990

FRANKLIN

153 Kenneth Gabler 1987
 141 Kenneth Gabler 1988
 139 Kenneth Gabler 1990

FULTON

115 Kenneth Gabler 1988
 82 Kenneth Gabler 1990

GREENE

137 Ralph Bell 1985
 134 Ralph Bell 1986

HUN77NGDON

169 Greg Grove 1990
 35 Kenneth Gabler 1990

INDIANA

188 Margaret Higbee 1990
 172 Margaret Higbee 1986
 171 Margaret Higbee 1987

LANCASTER

214 Randy Miller 1990
 211 Jonathan Heller 1990
 205 Deuane Hoffman 1990
 202 Steve Santner 1986
 194 Steve Santner 1987
 191 Steve Santner 1990

LEBANON

187 Steve Santner 1987
 180 Steve Santner 1990
 152 Steve Santner 1986

LEHIGH

200 Bernard Morris 1984

NORTHAMPTON

189 Dave DeReamus 1990

PHILADELPHIA

225 John Miller 1965
 161 Al Guarente 1990
 152 Skip Conant 1988
 142 Skip Conant 1989
 141 Skip Conant 1990
 105 Stephen Lawrence 1990

SCHUYLKILL

191 Tom Clauser 1987
 167 Tom Clauser 1988
 159 Tom Clauser 1985
 156 Tom Clauser 1989

SULLIVAN

114 Skip Conant 1987
 111 Skip Conant 1990
 98 Skip Conant 1988
 98 Skip Conant 1989
 92 Skip Conant 1986

TIOGA

111 Larry Brown 1990
 107 Arlene Brown 1988
 87 Arlene Brown 1989
 82 Arlene Brown 1990

WARREN

152 Ted Grisez 1985

WASHINGTON

134 Russ Ruffing 1985
 132 Roy Ickes 1984
 100 George Malosh 1975
 94 George Malosh 1976
 87 Margaret Higbee 1987

WYOMING

96 Skip Conant 1990
 86 Skip Conant 1988
 85 Skip Conant 1989
 81 Skip Conant 1987
 80 Skip Conant 1986

YORK

100 Steve Santner 1986

COUNTY ANNUAL LISTS (OVER 200)

1 264 Erie Sam Stull 1979
 2 251 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1983
 2 251 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1988
 4 248 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1989
 5 245 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1983
 6 244 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1985
 7 243 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1979
 7 243 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1981
 9 242 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1984
 10 241 Delaware John Miller 1969
 11 238 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1990
 12 234 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1980
 12 234 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1982
 12 234 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1987
 12 234 Erie Ed Kwater 1989
 16 230 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1986
 17 229 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
 18 227 Cumberland Deuane Hoffman 1989
 19 225 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
 19 225 Chester Larry Lewis 1988
 19 225 Philadelphia John Miller 1965
 22 224 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1981

22 224 Centre Terence Schiefer 1985
 24 221 Chester Larry Lewis 1983
 24 221 Cumberland Deuane Hoffman 1986
 24 221 Erie Linda McWilliams 1986
 27 219 Chester Larry Lewis 1986
 27 219 Erie Linda McWilliams 1987
 29 218 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984
 29 218 Erie Gerald McWilliams 1978
 29 218 Erie Ed Kwater 1990
 32 217 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1980
 33 216 Chester Larry Lewis 1984
 34 215 Butler Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1979
 34 215 Chester Larry Lewis 1982
 34 215 Erie Linda McWilliams 1988
 37 214 Centre Terence Schiefer 1986
 37 214 Chester Larry Lewis 1987
 37 214 Lancaster Randy Miller 1990
 40 211 Centre Terence Schiefer 1984
 40 211 Lancaster Jonathan Heller 1990
 42 209 Chester Larry Lewis 1985
 43 205 Dauphin Deuane Hoffman 1986
 43 205 Lancaster Deuane Hoffman 1990
 45 202 Crawford Ronald Leberman 1989
 45 202 Lancaster Steve Santner 1986
 47 200 Cumberland Don Henise 1989
 47 200 Lehigh Bernard Morris 1984

WANTED:

Plans to build a bird fountain. Design should include gently falling water with shallow pools for bathing.

Electric hook-up not a problem for aerating or heating. I saw one several years ago that was approximately 24" high and perhaps 2% feet long.

Please send to Rom Schutsky, Box 210, Atglen, PA 19310

SITE GUIDE: Lake Ontelaunee

Berks County

by Matthew J. Spence

Ornithological History

Since the construction of the Maiden Creek Dam in 1929, Lake Ontelaunee (which serves as the only water supply for the city of Reading) has been a magnet for birders. This 1080-acre lake may become irresistible to those for whom exotic locations have lost their charms. The ornithological pioneers of this locality were Dr. Earl L. Poole, former Director of the Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery, and Byron Nune-macher. They worked the area from the late 1920s until the death of Poole in 1972.

Next on the scene came the "Flying Squadron," Warren Kalbach, Paul (Pat) Martin, and Charles Schaich; this trio was active from 1949 to 1972. In the summer of 1977, Maurice Broun, of Hawk Mountain fame, became interested in Ontelaunee; he chose to focus on the Cliff Swallow colonies at both the dam breast and the West Shore Bridge. Unfortunately, Broun's study was cut short by his death in October 1979. On 26 December 1949 as part of the Reading Christmas Bird Count, I made the first of many visits to "The Lake."

Of the 312 species that have been recorded in *Berks*, 280 have been identified at Lake Ontelaunee. May has produced the greatest variety, but it is low in waterfowl variety. The other good months are (in order): April, September, October,

November, December and March. Without a doubt, the best time to visit the lake is after a storm, tropical or otherwise. Most outstanding sightings occur just after severe weather.

In 40 years of birding here I have noticed certain trends in bird abundance.

Species that have increased are: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Brown-headed Cowbird and House Finch.

Species that have decreased are: American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Black Tern, Yellowbilled Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher (in the early 1960s both the Alder and Willow could be heard and seen at Peters Creek), Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole and Purple Finch.

Taking the Tour

A typical birding tour of Lake Ontelaunee would proceed as follows:

1) Drive north from Reading

on Rt. 61, turn right (east) on Rt. 73, travel northeast for 0.8 mile and park in the lot at the dam breast. This is a fine spot for observing waterfowl, herons, gulls, and other water birds, as well as the large colony of Cliff Swallows nesting under the bridge from late April to August. Walk down the dirt road that parallels the Maiden Creek below the dam. This is a good location for migrating warblers (very good for Palm Warbler).

2) Drive east on Rt. 73 for 0.7 mile to a parking lot on the left side of the road. Stop here and look for waterfowl, Osprey (in migration) and Red-breasted Nuthatch (in fall, winter and spring). On 9 May 1982 all six swallow species were seen from this point.

3) Continue to drive east on Rt. 73 for 0.2 mile to a fork in the road. Keep to the left, and after 0.25 mile turn left down an old rutted road, park at the end and take the very short walk down to the water. This is another excellent site for cormorants, waterfowl, loons, grebes and herons. When the water is low, this becomes prime shorebird territory. For years Warbling Vireo and Orchard Oriole nested here; Willow Flycatcher still does.

4) Drive back up the rutted road, go over the small wooden bridge and turn left toward Peters Creek (about one mile). This is the best all-around birding stop in the entire

Ontelaunee territory. Park in the first lot on the right and explore the walled creek and the five ponds. Birds to be expected include: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Common Moorhen, American Woodcock, Belted Kingfisher, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Carolina Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole and American Goldfinch. Just about any migrating heron, duck, hawk, shorebird, vireo or warbler can be spotted (in the appropriate season) at Peters Creek. With a bit of luck, you might spot a Sora or Virginia Rail.

5) Continue to travel northeast from Peters Creek past the Campbell's Plant and the Evansville Cement Plant until you reach Molltown (about 2.2 miles). At the end of the village, turn left on Water Street and drive until you either reach a chain across the road (most times) or reach the back waters of Lake Ontelaunee. If the chain is across the road, it is only a short walk west to the lake. When the water level is low in late summer and fall, this is the best place (has good morning light) to see shorebirds. In any season it is a good general birding spot.

6) Retrace your path back out to the Peters Creek Road, turn left and continue to drive to the "Twin Churches," (1.25 mile) turning left on the road between them. Take this road to Rt. 662 (1 mile), turn right and drive until you come to

the pond at Moselem Springs Golf Club on the left (1.7 mile). Park off the road on the shoulder and scan the pond for waterfowl-this pond is superb for Gadwall from September through April.

7) Turn around and go back (west) on Rt. 662 until you reach a bridge that crosses the Maiden Creek (2.5 miles). Stop here to do some general birding. Here nested Least Bittern, King Rail and Prothonotary Warbler until this wetland was degraded by many "improvements."

8) Continue west on Rt. 662 for 1.1 miles, at which point Rt. 662 turns right. Keep going straight ahead until you reach a stop sign (0.6 mile). Turn left onto West Shore Drive and keep going until you reach the lake (2.2 miles). Park in the lot and take either of the two fire lanes-the south lane will take you to the lake for shorebirds and waterfowl; the east lane parallels the lake and is good for warblers and shorebirds (Yellowbreasted Chat nested here in 1987 and 1988).

9) Continue on West Shore Drive until you reach the West Shore Bridge (1.3 mile). Park here and scan for loons, cormorants, waterfowl, gulls and Black Tern. Yellow-throated Warbler attempted to nest here in the early 1970s. Don't forget to look for Osprey perched in the distant evergreens.

10) Follow West Shore Drive to Ontelaunee Drive (2.5 miles), turn left and drive one mile to Rt. 73, turn left and travel the 0.5 mile back to the dam breast (this stop is always worth a second look).

Certainly there are many discoveries yet to be made at Lake Ontelaunee and its environs. Who will be the first to find a Yellowcrowned Night-Heron, a Sandhill Crane or even a Common Raven at THE LAKE?

In the 62 years of the lake's existence, Ontelaunee has produced many exciting records. Here are some highlights:

12	Leach's Storm-Petrel	08/24/33
1	White Ibis	07/31/64
1	Glossy Ibis	08/11/68
7	Gr. White-fronted Goose	02/24/85
3	Snow Goose (white)	09/20/81
220	Snow Goose (blue)	03/11/84
19	Brant	11/02/70
16,000	Canada Goose	03,04/84
52	Wood Duck	10/18/88
1	Eurasian Wigeon	01/22/88
292	Black Scoter	10/23/77
419	Bufflehead	05,03/70
1	Masked Duck	06/14/84
1	Gyr Falcon	10/28/41
1	Purple Gallinule (dead)	09/18/83
1	American Avocet	09/24/57
1	Willet	08/24/33
1	Spotted Sandpiper	01/19/47
10	W. H. B. Grebe	05/25/30
2	Hudsonian Godwit	08/14/58
10	Ruddy Turnstone	06,06/39
4	Red Knot	08/13/55
1	Red Phalarope	12/29/40
2160	Ring-billed Gull	12/21/86
1	Ls. Black-backed Gull	12/16/90
1	Iceland Gull	02/19/89
1	Iceland Gull	02/28/91
1	Glaucous Gull	01/10/88
1	Black-legged Kittiwake	11/17/35
2	Black-legged Kittiwake	03/31/91
3	Sooty Tern	08/13/55
1	Black Skimmer	10/16/54
1	Black Guillemot	04/06/57
1	Black-backed Woodpecker	12/30/64
1	Say's Phoebe	12/28/46
1	Western Kingbird	08/25/41
125,000	Am. Crow	12/21/69
1	"Brewster's" Warbler	09/13/87
1	Pine Warbler	05,08/88
1	Dickcissel	10/17/54
1	Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco	12/19/82
1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	05/11/84
2	Red Crossbill	08/03/69

Abstracted from The Distelfink, Newsletter of the Baird Ornithological Club, Reading, Pa.



First Documented Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*, in Pennsylvania in the Twentieth Century

Franklin C. Haas

On the evening of 18 February 1991, I received a call from Bill Boyle (Regional Editor for *American Birds*) informing me of a possible Northern Hawk Owl in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. He had just received a call from Dana Knowlton who had been called by Terry Gauld. It seems that Terry, who owns a summer place in Wayne County, had been told in early February by her brother that he had seen a Northern Hawk Owl near there. However, she did not have a chance to go up there until Presidents' Day weekend in February. When she finally saw the bird, she confirmed that it was indeed a Hawk Owl. Upon arriving home, she called Dana, who in turn called Bill Boyle.

Although skeptical of such a "good" bird (the only confirmed, i. e. photograph or specimen, records for this species in Pennsylvania are from the nineteenth century, see below), Barb and I decided to check it out the next morning. So, along with Deuane Hoffman (who is doing a Pennsylvania Big

Year) and Bill Stocku, we arrived at the site about 10:00 a.m., 19 February. The location was

the road looking up at the top of a small tree. At the top of the tree was a Northern Hawk Owl!



Northern Hawk Owl, Manchester Twp., 2/22/91. Photo by Randy Miller

approximately four miles west of Lookout, Pennsylvania, in Manchester Township, Wayne County. As we drove up the road, nearing the location from which it had been reported, we saw another birder standing in

Suffice it to say that the identification did not take a lot of study. It was an obvious owl in general shape and structure. It was crow-sized, had no ear tufts and had a long tail. The only other North American owls with long tails which are less than half as large as this bird. The strong barring on the total underside and white spotting on the wings and back also confirmed the identification (We have heard of Northern Harriers and Long-eared Owls being identified as Hawk Owls by inexperienced observers!).

Subsequently, we learned that this bird may have been present at this location since late October 1990. The Wood family, who own some of the property on which the this bird was most often seen, reported seeing this bird as early as late October. Not being expe-



Northern Hawk Owl, Manchester Twp., 2/22/91. Photo by Randy Miller.

rienced birders, they did not know what it was, but they did realize it was something they hadn't seen before. In fact, they remember discussing whether it was a hawk or an owl! Their accounts are convincing and this author has no reason to discount their information.

After our confirmation of the sighting and many phone calls, more than a thousand birders flocked to the area over the next few weeks to see the bird. The bird was very cooperative for most observers, but sometimes hid in an evergreen tree. Most of the time it was seen perched on top of the many deciduous trees in the area and was seen hunting, catching and caching prey, regurgitating pellets and calling.

On one occasion it was seen apparently "warming up" some cached prey by putting it in



Northern Hawk Owl specimen, Reading Public Museum. Photo by Franklin C. Haas.

direct sunlight at the top of a conifer (*pers. comm.* Bob Schutsky).

The bird was last reported on March 17, 1991.

Northern Hawk Owl records in Pennsylvania are few, and this constitutes the first documented (i. e. photograph, specimen or recording) record for the twentieth century. Previous records are as follows.

Nineteenth Century Records:

Warren (1890) reports "Joseph Krider has a specimen captured some few years ago, near Philadelphia, in mid-winter. Messrs. R.C. Wrenshall, Allegheny county, J.F. Kitcham, Bradford county, and J.G. Bohn, report the capture of stragglers."

Turnbull (1869) reports "One was shot at Haddington, near Philadelphia, in 1866."

Poole (unpublished manuscript, 1969) considered the Krider specimen to be the one mentioned by Turnbull. In addition, he sites a specimen taken by T. G. Gentry on October 15 (no year) mentioned in Gentry's *Life Histories of the Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania* (1877:212). Poole discounts the reports of Wrenshall, Kitcham and Bohn mentioned by Warren.

Todd (1940) also discounts the Wrenshall report as "unverifiable and unacceptable."

There is a specimen in the Reading Public Museum with the label "Albany, Berks County, January 26, 1887," with the

initials of L.W. Mengel. I personally examined this specimen in 1990. This appears to be the only extant specimen for Pennsylvania.

Twentieth Century Records

13 May 1963, Meadville, Crawford County, Mary Leberman and Jean Gills. Sight record reported in *Audubon Field Notes* (1963) and Leberman (1988).

13-18 January 1979, Erie, Erie County, Stanley Zagorski. This sight record is the one cited in Leberman (1988) and Stull (1985).

Late October 1990 to 17 March 1991, Lookout, Wayne County, Franklin C. Haas, *et al.*

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2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555

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Fifth Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Preservation

Approx. 180 pp., paper cover, 6 1/2" x 9 1/4", published approx. 1941 or 1942; possibly compiled by T. Gilbert Pearson.

Please call Allan Keith (201)

First Pennsylvania Record of Ross' Goose

Chen rossii
Lancaster County
Franklin C. Haas

A Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) was found by Ed and Jo Pederson on 27 February 1991 in Drumore Twp., Lancaster County, near Muddy Run. The bird was with a large flock of Snow Geese (*C. caerulescens*).

I first saw the bird on 1 March 1991 at the Wentworth farm near the intersection of River Road and Route 272. The bird was in a field with a flock of Snow Geese approximately 200 yards away. Viewing through a Questar scope at 80 power enabled me to see the overall small size, the smaller rounded head and the very small bill, all in direct comparison with the larger Snow Geese. The lack of a "grin" and the small triangular patch at the base of the bill were also noted.

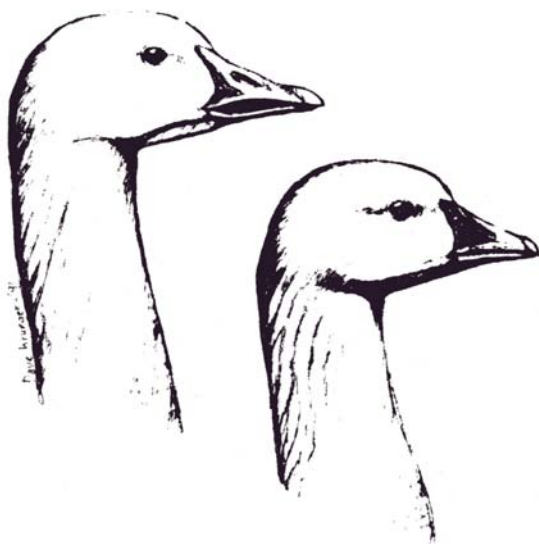
In addition to the Snow Geese, the majority of which appeared to be "Greater," there were also several "Blue" Geese and small Snow Geese which appeared to

be of the "Lesser" race. Although these "Lesser" Snow Geese were noticeably smaller than the other Snow Geese, they did not have the distinctive shape or bill of the Ross' Goose. The flocks of geese frequently took off, milled around and landed in new locations, making it difficult to relocate the Ross' Goose each time.

While scanning through the flocks, the "Lesser" Snow Geese would "jump out" at you, but could be quickly dismissed by the features noted above. As with so many other look-alike birds, when you spotted the Ross', you knew it!

The bird was seen by many observers off and on until 26 March 1991. No satisfactory photographs have been submitted as of this date for documentation. The bird tended to stay at a greater distance than the two other Ross' Geese found at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area a few days later. If anyone has taken identifiable photographs of this bird, please send them to Pennsylvania Birds for submitting to the records committee and for archiving of the record.

2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555



Comparison of Snow Goose (left) to Ross' Goose.

Second State Record of Ross' Goose

Chen rossii
Lancaster County
Tom Garner

On 3 March 1991 I found a Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) at Middle Creek WMA in Lancaster County, several days after the first state record was discovered in the southern part of the county. The bird was with a flock of about 800 Snow Geese (*C. caerulescens*) on the main lake out from Willow Point Trail.

When I first spotted the Ross's, I immediately noted its very small size and even smaller bill. Unfortunately, about a minute after fording it, the flock flew, but landed again on the lake. After spending 30 minutes trying to relocate the bird with no success, I was starting to wonder if the ten hours that Eric Witmer and I had spent the day before looking at 10,000 Snow Geese in the southern part of the county still had my eyes fatigued, and if I had only imagined the Ross's. After another ten minutes of searching I again found the bird, so small in comparison to the other geese that it seemed to "jump" right out at me. This time I watched it for several minutes, leaving no doubt in my mind that it was a Ross' Goose.

Besides its much smaller size I noted its shorter neck and small, rounded head. In comparison to the pink bill of the Snow geese with their obvious grinning patch, the bill of the Ross's at this distance (about 125 yards) appeared so small that it was very difficult to pick out any marks on it with a 35X scope. The bill could be best described as somewhat triangular in shape and proportionately small, even considering the overall small size of the goose.

The flock once again flew, landed again, and I began wishing another birder would be there to confirm the sighting. I turned away from my scope and was happy to see Randy Miller standing behind me, and when he jokingly asked me if I had seen any Ross' geese, he was quite startled that the answer was yes. We were able to relocate the bird, agreed on all field marks, and we also independently noted that it had pale gray coloration on the back of the head and neck and also toward the rear of the wings, near the black primaries. We

wondered if this would indicate a non-adult bird. Randy and I studied it for about 30 minutes under favorable lighting conditions.

The Ross' Goose remained at Middle Creek until at least 16 March and was seen by many observers, most often feeding in the fields along the tour road. At these times it was often very close and the blue-gray triangle could be seen at the base of the bill. When standing upright next to a Snow Goose, the top of the head of the Ross' Goose was below the bill of the Snow's.

Also in with the Snow Goose flock was an individual of the small race of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). It was almost as small as the Ross' Goose, and was dark-breasted with a white ring at the base of the black neck, on the front onethird of the neck only. Its bill was very small.

It also should be mentioned that at least one other observer (Jerry Book) on one occasion, and myself on another occasion (16 March), had a Ross' Goose which appeared to be an adult, showing no signs of any gray coloration. I also found it unusual that the bird I had on 16 March was feeding with Canada geese, about a mile away from the Snow Goose flock. We know that there were at least two Ross's geese in Lancaster County during this time period. Is it possible there were three?

509 Amesbury Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601



Ross' Goose, Middle Creek WMA, 3/10/91. Photo by Jan Witmer.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Erie County
Ted Floyd

I saw an immature male King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Erie at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 1 January 1991. This bird occurs in Pennsylvania most frequently on Lake Erie where it is rare but regular (Leberman 1988). Other Pennsylvania records have been on the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers (Poole 1969).

The bird was in the marina on the north side of West Fisher Drive in Presque Isle State Park. I observed the bird for more than 90 minutes. I first saw it on the shore of the marina at a distance of 30 meters. It began to swim away, but it soon returned. The bird submerged frequently and at one point emerged less than 2 meters from a dock on which I was standing. After 15 minutes the bird swam to Pier B where I again observed it at very close range. Then it relocated to the middle of the marina where it associated with a small flock of Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*).

In profile, the bill showed the characteristic extension towards the eye and concave pattern at the base. Head on, the bill was clearly cleaved by the most anterior portion of the dorsal ridge of the forehead. The base of the bill was dull orange, and the tip was dusky. The forehead was not exceptionally sloped.

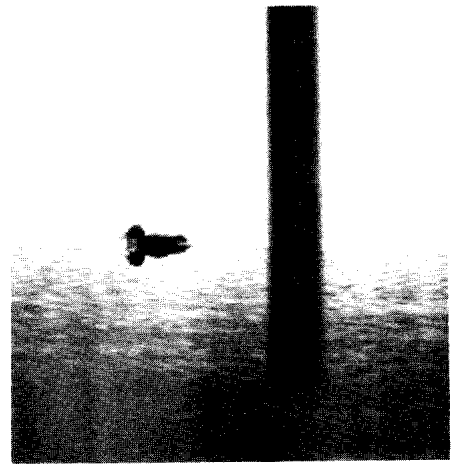
The bird's head was brown. There was a faint but definite buffy eyering. A faint buffy line extending posteriorly from the eye was also apparent. The bird's breast was quite pale in comparison with its dusky back and wings and sides.

I once saw the bird in flight. The upper wing was dark and unmarked. The wing linings were decidedly paler than the dark primaries and secondaries.

The bird was the same size or slightly larger than the Common Goldeneyes with which it associated. Even at a distance the bird was distinguished by its pale breast, orange bill, and overall shape.

I did not hear the bird.

The only bird with which this bird could have been confused is the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), for which there exists no currently accepted Pennsylvania record (Kwater 1990). Immature males of these species differ importantly in bill shape and color, and observations of this bird's bill absolutely preclude the possibility of Common Eider.



King Eider, Presque Isle SP, 1/2/91.
Photo by Jerry McWilliams.

The bird was observed under fair conditions, frequently at extremely close range, with 8.5X binocular and a 20X telescope. Richard Floyd and Arjun Prabhu also observed the bird.

(This bird was seen off and on until 16 March 1991. -eds.)

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Pesticide Research Laboratory
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

Ninth Record of Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* for Erie County Jerry McWilliams

At approximately 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, 17 February 1991, I saw and identified a female Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) at the channel on Presque Isle State Park. The bird was

actively feeding about 150 yards away southeast of the south pier. It remained solitary the entire time, except when other ducks swam past it and when, on one occasion, a female Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) fed in its company for about five minutes.

The direct comparison with the Surf Scoter and with passing female Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*) gave me excellent opportunities to study them together. The Harlequin Duck was only slightly larger than the Bufflehead, but almost two-thirds the size of the Surf Scoter. The Harlequin was entirely dark gray-black, the same tone as the Surf Scoter. Its head was round with a steep forehead and a small Bufflehead-sized bill which was dark, but paler than the rest of the bird. There was a perfectly round white patch directly behind the eye. In front of the eye and at the base of the bill there were two paler patches, one above the other. The lower patch was wedge-shaped, widest at the bottom. The irregular round upper patch was slightly separated from the bottom patch.



Harlequin Duck, Presque Isle SP, 2/17/91. Photo by Dave Darney.

The neck was very thick, equal in width to the Surf Scoter's neck and much thicker than the Buffleheads. The tail was as long as or slightly longer than a Bufflehead's. The tail was usually carried flat on the surface of the water, but occasionally it was up at about a 45-degree angle. A pale belly patch was exposed when the bird stood erect on the water to stretch. When diving it spread its wings slightly as it submerged in the same way that scoters and King Eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*) do.

The bird was viewed by me for approximately an hour and a half under good light conditions. The sky was cloudy (stratus), but the cloud

cover wasn't dense. The wind was westerly at approximately 5 mph. The last two days had been stormy with snow squalls, winds in excess of 25 mph, temperatures below 10° F and wind chill factors at 30° below zero. I used a Zeiss 10X40 binocular and a 25X Bushnell spotting scope. My past experience with the species includes four on Presque Isle and one at Pittsburgh. All were females. Other birders who saw the Harlequin Duck were Joyce Hoffmann, Walter Schaeffer, Geoff Robinson, Linda McWilliams, Dave Darney and Sam Stull. Dave Darney and I both photographed the bird.

*3142 W. 12th St.
Erie, PA 16505*

Third Western Pennsylvania Record of Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

*Erie County
Jean and Jim Stull*

It was 17 March 1991, an unseasonably warm day (high of 78° at 2 p.m.) and overcast. We had been watching birds since about 11 a.m.—mostly Turkey Vultures and crows, but including at least 12 other species, moving from southwest to northeast on strong, gusty southwest winds located about 1/2-mile south of the Lake Erie shoreline. Our vantage point was in Springfield Township along State Line Road just east of the Ohio border in extreme northwestern Pennsylvania.

By 3 p.m. we had tallied more than 650 birds including Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Rough-legged, Cooper's, and Sharpshinned hawks, kestrels, harriers, a Merlin, and a goshawk. A nice adult Bald Eagle had just flown over us when several more TVs appeared over the horizon. With them Jim spotted "something different." I saw it immediately and we watched as it moved closer and skimmed quickly along almost directly overhead. "It's a kite!" Those were my words, but neither of us said anything else as it moved eastward with the TVs and disappeared. Rather than going for the books immediately as we were tempted to do, we first described exactly what we had seen to each other: [I should add here that we have seen all of the five North American kites—the first, an Everglades (now Snail) Kite in Florida in 1954, the last, a

Hook-billed in Texas in 1986.]

1) Typical shape of most kites: slim body; long, slim tail; pointed wings held flat; effortless flight. (Most of the birds that day were riding the winds fairly low, needing little effort to move across our scope of vision.)

2) Smaller than a Peregrine, larger than a Merlin.

3) Long, slim, completely dark, straight or slightly notched tail contrasting with gray unmarked underbody and head. (The bird did not flare its tail at any time as we watched it.)

4) Pointed wings with dark tips. Although all of the illustrations of adult Mississippi Kite we found in a subsequent search of the literature showed (from beneath) a value gradation from dark to light from wing tips to body, this bird showed a fairly sharp contrast between the dark and light—the primaries being darkest. We never saw the upper surface.

We are aware that this is not only an unusual sighting (only the third Western Pennsylvania record), but is also quite early. However, all pertinent characteristics were present and accounted for. The dark unmarked tail, particularly, confirmed our identification of an adult Mississippi Kite. It turned out to be almost the last bird of the day, with only five more kestrels to appear by 4 p.m.

*661 Benson Rd.
Waterford, PA 16441*

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

*Franklin/Fulton Counties
Charles Brightbill*

On Easter Sunday, 31 March 1991, I was hawk counting on Tuscarora Summit on Rt. 30 and Augbrick Rd. at 12:28 EST. A bird thermaled upwards in the east about 100 feet from me.

The following are the notes I wrote at that time:

"immature (brownish); row of light

dots-trailing edge of wings; 'sharp' face; shape like harrier-no rump patch; flight 'buoyant,' not disjointed; tail squared, slightly notched; 100 ft. above; from 3 -9 [o'clock]; circled in thermal e. of me, crossed above, circled over "The Pulpit;" trebled height in ±2 min.; hazy, filtered light; sky [conditions] "3"; wind [conditions] "2" from SE.

The bird disappeared to the west at 12:30 p.m. The bird had vertical striping on its chest and horizontal barring on its tail feathers and rose effortlessly in the thermals. I called it a Mississippi Kite.

I've been a hawkwatcher at Tuscarora since 1968 and I've never seen a bird like this before. I use Audubon Swift 8.5X44 glasses. There was no photo taken and no other witness.

*11986 Buchanan Trail W.
Mercersburg, PA 17236*

Dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Northampton County

Rick Wiltraut

See photo in Northampton report.

On 19 January 1990, I was driving along Richmond Ave. in Forks Township, Northampton, looking for wintering raptors in the area, specifically Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). I had just finished studying an adult male light-morph Roughleg when I spotted a very dark buteo at the top of a tree which I assumed was a darkmorph Rough-leg. When I scoped the bird, however, I noticed that this bird lacked the light spot on the nape that dark Rough-legs often possess. Before I could check for any other field marks, the bird took off. I was immediately struck by the flight pattern which was quite unlike that of a Rough-leg, but more like that of a Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*). It also lacked the long-winged look of a Rough-leg. Unfortunately, I never got a clear look at the tail and the bird soon disappeared. I reported the bird as a darkmorph Red-tail, but it was never seen again.

On 13 January 1991, I was assisting Steve Boyce with his banding study of American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) in the county. We were in the Richmond Ave. area when Steve spotted a dark buteo at the top of a high tension tower

directly across the road from where I had seen the dark Red-tail almost exactly a year ago. Steve assumed it was a dark Rough-leg until I mentioned to him that this was the spot where I had seen the dark Red-tail last year.

Eventually the bird flew and landed on a telephone pole close to the road where we could clearly detect unfeathered tarsi and a rufous red tail. I had previously seen dark Red-tails as a raptor counter at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Michigan, but never had the opportunity to study one so closely. A beautiful bird.

The bird was seen in the area until 17 January, then disappeared. On 20 January, however, Steve and I were kestrel banding along the Belvidere-Martins Creek Highway about seven miles northeast of the Richmond Ave. location when we sighted a dark-morph Red-tail on a pole next to the highway. Since the other bird had not been seen for three days, we assumed that the bird had moved to this spot. It was seen off and on at this location throughout the winter and was last seen on 30 March.

According to Clark (A Field Guide to Hawks, 1987), dark-morph Red-tails winter primarily on the Great Plains, rarely in the East. He also mentions that even in their normal wintering areas, dark-morph birds are "relatively rare, but can constitute as much as 10% of a local population." Occasionally, dark or melanistic individuals are reported from hawk lookouts along the Kittatinny Ridge in fall.

*205 Washington St.
Nazareth, PA 18064*

An unusual Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Lancaster County

Bob Schutsky and Jerry Book

While scanning through gulls along the Susquehanna River near Washington Boro 5 January 1991, we observed what we felt to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), but it did not match exactly what we remembered for this species, nor was what we saw depicted in Grant's Gulls, a guide to identification (1982) which we reviewed later.

We took notes at that time and field sketches were drawn. We viewed the bird for approximately three minutes both on the water and at close range, 50 feet, and in the air with scopes and binoculars. The day was cloudy. Both of us are very familiar with the Lesser Black-backed Gull since it occurs regularly on the river.

This bird was larger than a Ringbilled Gull (*L. delawarensis*) and either the same size or minimally smaller than a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*). Leg color was not noted. Its head was smaller than a Herring Gull, neck narrower at base of head, sort of an Upland Sandpiper look. This was very evident when the bird was sitting on the water next to a first-winter Herring Gull.

The plumage was that of a thirdwinter fuscus, except that the bill was black, and a broken (ragged) tail band was evident. This is what had us going. The bill was proportionately the same as a Herring Gull, but was black with a pale tip. The incomplete (ragged) sub-terminal band is best described as "isolated, complex pattern on each individual rectrix bordered by white." The back and upperwing surface were the same color gray to the base of primaries, darker than *delawarensis* or *argentatus*, the usual color of fuscus not the Scandanavian race. There was no white noted on the upperwing surface.

Although the odds are greater for something aberrant to be found within the more expected species, it is important that notes be taken of any bird, especially gulls, that looks a bit unusual. It had us going until we checked with our local gull guru, Dan Heathcote, who finally convinced us that our original impression was probably correct.

*59 Peach Ln.
Ronks, PA 17572*

Second Record of Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

for Berks County

Rudy Keller

On the evening of 28 February 1991 I got a call from Ernest Schiefer saying that he had seen a first-winter Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) late that afternoon at Lake Ontelaunee. I went to look for the bird 2 March 1991 and found it at the dam breast around midday in sunny, calm weather.

It flew in with Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), circling and banking repeatedly. I watched it through Nikon 7X35E binocular and a 60 mm zoom scope for about 40 minutes at distances of about 70 feet to 500 yds. At close range, the bird was easy to tell from Herring Gulls by its paler back, whiter wings without black tips and slightly smaller size. Its primaries looked translucent from below.

The Iceland's back, nape, rump and tail were lightly and uniformly barred or speckled buffy brown. The tail had no dark band. The brown wash was most visible in direct light at close range; farther away or in poorer light, the bird looked white. It looked even whiter underneath than above, especially the primaries. The bill was dark except for a barely visible pinkish area at the base where the mandibles join. The eyes were dark. I did not see the legs.

While I watched the Iceland Gull, only Herring Gulls were present for direct comparison. The Iceland was smaller overall and had a smaller, thinner, darker bill. Resting on the water at a distance, the pale Iceland could be distinguished from the grayer adult and much darker brown immature Herring Gulls. Schiefer noted that when the bird was resting on the water, the wings extended beyond the tail. When I saw the bird at rest, it was too far away to see this field mark.

My impression is that the National Geographic Guide contains a much better picture of the first-winter Iceland Gull than either the Peterson or Robbins guides.

This is the second county record of Iceland Gull. The first was also a first-winter bird seen at Lake Ontelaunee 19 February 1989 by Matthew J. Spence (Pa. Birds 3:25).

References:

National Geographic Society. 1983. Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Washington, D.C.

Harrison, P. 1983. Seabirds. An identification guide. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.

RD 4, Box 235
Boyertown, PA 19512

Second Record of Black-legged Kittiwake

Larus tridactyla

for Berks County

Rudy Keller

As Matt Spence and I were scanning Lake Ontelaunee for waterfowl at about 9:30 a.m. on 31 March 1991, two birds came in high from the southeast that proved to be adult Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Larus tridactyla*) in breeding plumage. At first I called them Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) because of their small size, buoyancy and fast wingbeats, but as they dropped closer to the water, their pale bills, allwhite heads and lack of contrast between gray mantle and flashing white outer primaries ruled out Bonaparte's Gull. When seen in scale with the Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) that were on the lake, the kittiwakes appeared smaller, sligher, smaller-billed and shorter-winged with faster wingbeats and much more buoyant, graceful flight. They did not call.

The birds' behavior was very ternlike, even butterfly-like, as they hovered several feet above the lake, suddenly dropped to the surface and briefly dipped their bills into the water without alighting, then bounced back up to repeat the procedure. They repeated this behavior near a group of loafing Ring-billed and Herring Gulls for 3 to 5 minutes, then disappeared behind a peninsula. A thorough search of the lake failed to relocate the birds. Perhaps they simply paused to drink, or perhaps they tested the waters, found them too fresh and flew away to look for the ocean.

The kittiwakes had unmarked white heads, dark eyes and short bills that seemed very small at a distance because they were so pale. The underparts were white, as were the rumps and tails. The birds' tails

were fully fanned the whole time they were in view, and we could see no cleft or fork. Harrison (1983) notes that the cleft tail is less noticeable in adults than in juvenile birds. We also did not see the legs, which the birds kept hidden in their belly feathers.

The underwings were white except for black tips on the primaries, with black extending partway up the leading edge of the first primary. On one bird, the wingtips were solid black; on the other, a subterminal white spot contrasted with the black on perhaps the 4th primary of each wing. The leading and trailing edges of the wings were white up to the black wingtips. The mantles and backs were gray. The demarcation between the black and gray or white of the wings was clear, but more scalloped than straight-edged; it did not 'bleed' into the gray or white as it does on the bibs of some chickadees.

I observed the birds through 7X35 binocular and a 60 mm zoom scope in good light under clear, almost calm conditions at distances of about 200 feet to more than 400 yds.

To my knowledge, this is the first sighting of Black-legged Kittiwake in Berks County since Dr. Earl L. Poole saw one at L. Ontelaunee 17 November 1935 during a severe northeast storm. The species was also listed by J. F. Hofmann in 1890, a record doubted by Poole because Hofmann did not list Bonaparte's Gull, which in winter plumage can be confused with Black-legged Kittiwake.

References:

Harrison, P. 1983. Seabirds. An Identification Guide. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.
Poole, E.L. 1947. A Half Century Of Bird Life In Berks County, Pennsylvania. Reading Public Museum And Art Gallery Bull. No. 19. Reading, Pennsylvania.

RD 4, Box 235
Boyertown, PA 19512

**First Winter Record of
Forster's Tern
Sterna forsteri
in Pennsylvania**
Erie County
Jerry McWilliams

Date: 13 January 1991 (remaining until 19 January 1991). Location: Dobbin's Landing at the foot of State Street in Erie. Viewing time: 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. and brief periods thereafter. Weather: cloudy (stratus), light westerly wind, temperature about 35' F. Optical equipment: Zeiss Dyalyt 10X40 binocular and 25X Bushnell Spacemaster Spotting Scope. Observers: myself, Jim Baxter, Ed Kwater, Joyce Hoffmann, Walt Schaeffer and many others.

Description: I discovered the bird sitting on the ice among Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*). The smaller size than Bonaparte's, slim body, long thin primaries, short legs and very pale overall identified it as a small sterna.

I identified it as a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) initially by the black facial patch. Beginning at the front of the eye, the dark patch extended behind and curved slightly below the eye and ended abruptly not extending around the head as in Common Tern (*S. hirundo*) or Arctic Tern (*S. paradisaea*). The nape was lightly flecked with gray. The bill was dagger-like and all black and longer than the neighboring Bonaparte's. The folded primaries were pale gray, not frosty, indicating Basic I plumage or primary wear. The outer rectrices extended to the tip of the primaries. In flight the inner fork of the white tail was bordered in dusky gray or brown. In Common or Arctic tern the inner fork is white and the outer rectrices are black.

Ironically, a Forster's Tern was at Dunkirk Harbor in New York a week or two prior to this sighting. Dunkirk Harbor is about a one hour drive northeast of Erie. I am very familiar with this species since I have seen thousands of them in many areas of the United States in all plumages. This is the first winter record of this species in Erie County. I am not aware of any winter records elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

3142 W. 12th St.
Erie, PA 16505

**First Record of Loggerhead
Shrike
Lanius ludovicianus
since 1982**
Erie County
Jerry McWilliams

This report is the first Loggerhead Shrike sighting in Erie County since 1982.

Date: 31 March 1991. Location: Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park. Viewing time: periodically between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. Weather: mostly clear (some cirrus clouds), wind southwesterly to approximately 10 mph, temperature 27'F. Optical equipment: Zeiss Dyalyt 10X40 binocular and 25X Bushnell Spacemaster Spotting Scope. Observers: Joyce Hoffmann, myself, Walt Schaeffer, Boris Weitzmann and his friend Dave.

Description: While walking towards the east entrance of the bird sanctuary, Hoffmann spotted a shrike perched in a tree about 100 feet ahead of us. As soon as she said "shrike" it flew across a pond and landed in the top of a small Cottonwood and before I could set my scope up it flew down into some Bayberry bushes. We walked around the pond and it flushed, landing again in a nearby Cottonwood. We were able to get two spotting scopes on the bird before it flew.

It was identified as a shrike by the horizontal perching profile, gray back and head with a black facial patch, black wings and tail with white outer rectrices, and whitish-gray under parts. I identified the shrike as a Loggerhead by the following characteristics.

The bird appeared slim and largeheaded. When the bird turned its head showing the side of its face, the shape and size of the bill could easily be seen. It was entirely black including the lower mandible, and was stubby being widest at its base and tapering to a blunt tip. The upper mandible was only slightly hooked and barely reached past the tip of the lower mandible. Northern Shrike (*L. excubitor*) have a longer and heavier bill which is basically the same width to at least midway on the bill. The upper mandible tapers to a strong hook which reaches well below the tip of the lower mandible. The base of the lower mandible is usually pale in Northern Shrike.

The facial patch of the Loggerhead was wide and began behind the eye and was generally the same thickness to the base of the upper mandible. Northern Shrike has a thinner patch that narrows and droops slightly where it meets the upper mandible. I could not clearly see the black extending over the top of the bill. The mantle, nape and head were medium gray with the head appearing slightly darker. Northern Shrike is lighter gray on the mantle with the nape and the head appearing slightly paler than the mantle. The rump was not seen. It did not pump its tail like Northern Shrike, but did appear to jerk it slightly in many directions to keep itself balanced on its perch. I have seen many Loggerhead Shrikes throughout the southern United States and in Erie. I am also familiar with Northern Shrike since they winter in Erie every year. I studied a Northern Shrike for at least thirty minutes near Edinboro just yesterday.

3142 W. 12th St.
Erie, PA 16505

**Winter Record of Nashville
Warbler
*Vermivora ruficapilla***
Lancaster County
Steve Santner

Date: 17 February 1991.
Location: Chet and Thelma Kaufman's backyard at the junction of church and Bowman Roads, Landisville, Pa. Habitat: Wooded backyard surrounded by fields and one other wooded backyard. Some woodlots nearby. The two backyards contain feeders, particularly a suet feeder in the Kaufman's yard, which appeared to be the attraction for the bird. Sighting conditions: Seen as close as 15 feet through a window. Several short (5-10 seconds) looks. Total viewing time about 15-30 seconds with naked eye and 9X25 binocular. The weather and sighting conditions were good to excellent.

Other observers: The Kaufmans at the time I saw it. Many others before and since.

Description: At about noon on
17

February 1991, I stopped in the Kaufmans' having heard of this bird from Bob Schutsky. At that time no positive ID had been made, although Thelma had tentatively identified it as a Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*). Shortly after arrival (12:30 or so) the bird appeared on the suet feeder in the corner of the yard. It stayed there momentarily, allowing a good look at the gray head with a very narrow eye ring and generally yellow underneath. It then moved, without obtaining any food, chased by another bird.

It landed in a nearby bush and sat for a few seconds during which time it was seen to have pinkish legs and a small light spot in an otherwise all dark bill (the exact location of the spot was not observed). Again the gray head and yellow underparts (less bright than in a breeding plumaged bird, but with no hint of green tint) were seen, the gray being seen to be distinctly separated from the green (no transition of gray to green). The green upperparts and tail (with no trace of wingbars) were also seen.

The bird then hopped and flitted along the ground toward the house, stopping for about five seconds on the ground approximately 15 feet away. No new field marks were observed during this period. The bird then jumped behind the car parked in the driveway and was not seen again that day. The undertail coverts and underside of the tail were never seen.

Elimination of similar species: The eye-ring, gray head, green back and tail and yellow underparts all suggest winterplumaged Nashville Warbler. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) is easily eliminated; this bird was almost hyperactive, unlike the relatively slow movements of Connecticut. Also, any Connecticut as bright yellow underneath as this bird (no green tint) would have had some marking on the throat which this bird did not have. Mourning (*O. philadelphia*) and MacGillivray's (*O. tobini*) warblers both should also have markings on the throat and broken, or no apparent, eye-ring. Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) sometimes appears to have a very thin eyering, but it is browner and not as cleanly yellow underneath. Finally, perhaps the most likely contender is Orange-crowned Warbler (*V. celata*).

Some are very yellow underneath, but all that I have seen have some green tint to the underparts. Also, Orange-crowned would have a broken eyering, if any, and probably a black line through the eye. They would not be clear yellow underneath all the way to the base of the bill. The only contra-indication in this bird is the pinkish legs. However, I recall a photo of a bird which appeared on one of the Chicago CBCs a few years back and was identified as a Connecticut Warbler on the basis of bright pink legs. Otherwise the photo appeared to be a Nashville Warbler in all other regards, and was ultimately judged by the Illinois state bird committee to be a Nashville. Unfortunately, I was unable to relocate this photograph.

Experience with this and similar species: Nashville Warbler and Common Yellowthroat-20+ years. Mourning Warbler-10 years. Connecticut Warbler-I've seen only 2, both in the fall of 1989. MacGillivray's Warbler-I've seen a few, back in the spring of 1978. Orange-crowned Warbler-I've seen a few, some in the East and some in California.

*3 Overbrook Village Green Apts.
Elizabethtown, PA 17022*

Brewer's Blackbird
Euphagus cyanocephalus
Huntingdon County
Greg Grove

This single bird was seen about 2:30 p.m. on 12 January 1991 on a fresh manure strip near McAlevy's Fort, Huntingdon County. I observed it from my car at a distance of 30-40 yards. There was bright sunshine at a 90° angle (on my right) from my line of vision to the bird.

The bird had very light white or yellow eyes. Thus it had to be a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) or Brewer's Blackbird (*E. cyanocephalus*).

I ruled out grackle due to size. The bird had a short tail (in comparison to grackles). I was able to compare its length directly with European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) in the field of my binoculars at the same time as I observed this bird. Its length was very similar to the starlings and

slightly larger than the larks.

I ruled out Rusty Blackbird based on plumage. This bird was black, not "rusty." In the bright sunlight its head had a distinct purple sheen and its body had a green-blue sheen. The bird kept mostly to itself, although starlings, Horned Larks, Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*), Rock Doves (*Columba livia*), and one American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) were also on the manure strip.

I observed the bird for 25 minutes through 8.5X44 Swift Audubon binocular.

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Second Report of the PA. Ornithological Records Committee May 1991

by Ed Kwater, Chairman

Since the publication of the First Report of the P.O. R. C. (*Pa. Birds 4:8-9*) the Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania has also been published (*Pa. Birds 4:51-53*). The Official List clearly identified those species which are classed as rarities in the state. Rarities require documentation in the form of a specimen, photograph, recording or written description in order to be considered for acceptance by the P.O.R.C. Some species are exempt from rarity status in certain counties. For instance, White Ibis is considered a rarity (and therefore needs documentation to be submitted to P.O.R.C.) in the whole state except Lancaster County, where it is of relatively regular occurrence. Observers are urged to consult the Official List (and the update in *Pa. Birds 4:100*) to determine whether or not a species is a rarity in any particular county.

During the last twelve months, the P.O.R.C. has reviewed twenty-six rarity records (decisions on two of these are pending) compared to twenty-nine during its first year. These numbers do not accurately reflect the number of rare birds being seen. Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for any rarity seen in the state.

On the whole, the quality of documentation received by the committee is improving. Written descriptions are more accurate and this has greatly increased the acceptance rate from 41 % in the first year (April 1989 to May 1990) to 71 % in the second (May 1990 to May 1991). In several cases however the only documentation received for the submission of a rarity record has been a photograph. Very often this has been sufficient to positively clinch the identification of the bird. However in some instances, photographs have provided inconclusive evidence as to the identity of the species. Either the bird has been too small in the frame or the exposure or clarity has been such that a determination cannot be made. It is often extremely difficult to obtain adequate photographs of a rarity. It is therefore extremely important that full written documentation should accompany all photographs (or recording and specimens for that matter) of rare birds.

Systematic List of Accepted Records, by Class (AOU order)

CLASS I

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus sco/opaceus*). Erie Co. A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, 22 September 1990 (E. Kwater). Photographs submitted.

PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Erie Co. Juvenile, Presque Isle State Park, 22 September 1990 (E. Kwater). Photographs submitted.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*). Lancaster Co. First-winter at Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, 6 October 1990 (E. Witmer). Photographs submitted.

ROYAL TERN (*Sterna maxima*). Philadelphia Co. Juvenile at Tinicum, 15 August 1955 (N. Hoy). Photographs of specimen reviewed. First Pennsylvania record.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides arcticus*). Centre Co. One at Penn State University, December 1981. Photographed on 18 December 1981 (J. McWilliams). First documented Pennsylvania record.

CLASS II

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Mercer Co. One near Sagullas Pond 1 January 1990. (H. Bauer, L. Weiland).

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera x pinus*). Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park, 8 September 1991 (J. McWilliams, E. Kwater).

CLASS III

HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*). York Co. One on the Susquehanna River at Long Level Road on the extremely late date of 25 June 1990 (A. Spiese).

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*). Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park, 29 October 1990 (J. McWilliams).

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*). Cumberland Co. One first-year near Newville, 27 July 1990 (D. Henise).

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). Erie Co. Female at Presque Isle State Park, 11 November 1990 (J. McWilliams).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Beaver Co. A first-summer bird near Baden, 26 June 1988 (E. Kwater). This was the latest of a series of records in Pennsylvania in 1988.

JAEGER (*Stercorarius sp.*). Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park (either Pomarine or Parasitic), 30 September 1990 (J. McWilliams).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*). Lancaster Co. A first-winter bird at Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna River, 9 September 1990. Possibly the same individual as on 6 October 1990 (see above).

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Chester Co. One at Nottingham Park, 9 August 1990 (W. Barber).

- Philadelphia Co. One at Tinicum National Environmental Center, 15 September 1990 (S. Sherman).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammodramus Ocaudactus*). Crawford Co. One of the inland race (nelsoni), Geneva Marshes, 8 October 1988 (E. Kwater).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). Lawrence Co. One at a feeder in New Castle, 28 September 1990 (B. Dean).

List of Records Not Accepted

Eared Grebe - 16 September 1990. No locality given. Insufficient detail.

Ferruginous Hawk - Dauphin Co. 18 September 1990. Details did not conclusively rule out other species.

Prairie Falcon - Mud Level Road, Cumberland Co. 22-24 October 1990. Photographs submitted, but possibility of escape not discounted.

Royal Tern - Sunbury Dam, Northumberland Co. 23 September 1989. Insufficient detail.

Eastern Kingbird - Codorus State Park, York Co. Early date, 11 March 1990. Insufficient detail.

Clay-colored Sparrow - Mt. Joy, Lancaster Co. 22 September 1990. Insufficient detail.

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Summary of the Season - January to March 1991

It would be easy to concentrate on the rarities that were found this quarter, but that hardly would be a summary of what was happening around the Commonwealth. The "big three" (**King Eider**, **Ross' Goose**, and **Northern Hawk-Owl**) generated excitement, but also, because of their presence, other birds were found in the areas of concentration.

Many birders out looking for the **Ross' Goose** in the mass of **Snow Geese** that were in unprecedented numbers in *Lancaster* were also able to get outstanding looks at **Eurasian Wigeon** and some were even fortunate enough to view one or two **Greater White-fronted Geese** (*Lancaster* only).

We have not had a report from *Wayne* in many years, so it was beneficial to *Pa. Birds* to have observations from many birders who visited that site. Maybe this will encourage more of us to go into the seldom-visited areas and turn up who-knows-what.

Both species of expected loons were found, but the **Red-throated** only in *Lancaster*. **Common Loon** were found in all three months somewhere. **Red-necked Grebe** was located in four counties, **Eared Grebe** only in *Crawford* and *Erie*. The 26 **Great Cormorant** in *Philadelphia* were an all-time high count. Four March reports of **American Bittern** were quite good. Seven counties reported **Great Egret**, even one walking on the ice in *Philadelphia* in January! That county produced the only March record of **Glossy Ibis**!

Thirty-one species of waterfowl were found. *Cumberland* birders found the only **Brant** of the season and only *Cumberland* and *Lancaster* hosted **Eurasian Wigeon** this quarter. The **Harlequin Duck** in *Erie* was their 9th county record. A **Surf Scoter** in *Cameron* was an excellent find.

Turkey Vultures in *Westmoreland I* February were unprecedented. Were the January **Osprey** in *Bedford*, *Huntingdon*, *Tioga*, and *Westmoreland* early or late? Good news was the **Osprey** nest-building activity noted in *Northampton* in late March. Not only is the sighting of a **Mississippi Kite** in Pennsylvania unusual, but seeing one at the end of March in *Erie* was outstanding. **Bald Eagle** reports continue to be encouraging in diverse locations around the state. The dark-phase **Red-tailed Hawk**, more usual in our western states, but found in *Northampton* was noteworthy. Winter reports of **Merlin** seem to be

increasing. **Peregrine Falcon** were seen in five counties, all associated with the major river valleys.

Some attention maybe should be directed to quantifying our sightings of **Common Moorhen** and **American Coot**. Those of you with historic data may be able to provide summaries for various areas delineating any decline and perhaps corresponding it to habitat loss or whatever might be apparent. A **Sandhill Crane** took refuge for almost two weeks on Haldeman I., *Dauphin*, a PGC wildlife propagation area closed to the public. What is probably the first winter record of **Ruddy Turnstone** in Pennsylvania was duly recorded by Jerry McWilliams in *Erie*, as well as their first January record of **American Woodcock**.

Little Gull were found, as expected in *Erie*, but also for the second consecutive year in *Lancaster*. The two adult **Thayer's Gulls** in *Erie* were a first state record for that age. An **Iceland Gull** in *Berks* was only the second county record. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were found in the now traditional three counties (*Bucks*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*) but also in *Philadelphia*, where it was the highlight of their Winter Bird Census. **Glaucous Gull** was reported only in *Erie*. **Great Black-backed Gull** numbers were impressive in *Erie*, with 1000 counted. In almost 30 years of birding in *Luzerne*, Bill Reid found his first adult **Great Black-backed Gull**. He has only nine sightings of that species in the county. It was over 50 years between sightings of **Black-legged Kittiwake** in *Berks*. In all probability, the sighting of the **Forster's Tern** in *Erie* was the first winter record of this species for Pennsylvania.

How is **Barn Owl** doing in your area? The *Delaware/Philadelphia* sightings were all of the same birds in the Tinicum area. *Mifflin* birders were excited to find them breeding

there. **Snowy Owl** was found in five counties.

Word came to us that over a thousand people visited the **Northern Hawk-Owl** site. The other expected owl species had good reports generally. *Lehigh* had their best owl winter in years.

Tree Swallows generally came through the last week in March, so the finding of them on the second (*Westmoreland*) and third (*Philadelphia*) of that month was quite early. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** in *Cumberland* 29 March was very early. There were also a few somewhat early **Barn Swallows**

found. For reasons better known to **Blue Jays**, they apparently wintered farther south this year. *Erie* hosted a large winter roost of **American Crow**, unusual. A **Fish Crow** in *Luzerne* in mid-January was also unusual. Southeastern Pa. continued to report good numbers of **Black-capped Chickadee** all quarter, but more peculiar was the **Carolina Chickadee** in *Northampton*. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were uncommon generally, with only the southeast having reports of any decent numbers. **Carolina Wren** was widespread and in good numbers. Outstanding was the **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** in *Lehigh* on the last day of the quarter. Good documentation from a non-birder gave *Delaware* its first **Varied Thrush** record.

Northern Shrikes were found in 11 counties, with an impressive four individuals in *Erie*. The one in *Westmoreland* was excellent for that far south. *Adams* has been the only county in recent years to consistently have **Loggerhead Shrike**, so one in *Erie* and another in *Franklin* were noteworthy.

In *PB's 5* years, vireos have never made this season's report. This year single **Solitary Vireo** were found in *Montgomery* (January) and *Northampton* (March) and were both new "date" records according to Poole's *Birds of Pennsylvania* (1964). Seven species of warblers were found. Leading the list of unexpected was a February **Nashville Warbler** in *Lancaster*, closely followed by a January record of a **Palm Warbler** in *Berks*. As in recent years, **Am. Tree Sparrow** were not found in any significant numbers. The only unusual Icterid was a **Brewer's Blackbird** in *Huntingdon*.

And, finally, winter finches. With the exception of **Evening Grosbeak**, few were noted. And even this species seemed to be concentrated in the northern tier or higher elevations. Crossbill reports were of **White-winged Crossbill** from *Perry* and *Potter*, and **Red Crossbill** in *Centre* and *Huntingdon*.

Com. Redpoll were found only in *Erie* and *McKean*. **Purple Finch** continue their unexplained decline. Sometime soon would be the ideal time for an investigation into the possible reasons.

Read on and see what we may have missed in this summary that piques your interest.

COUNTY REPORTS - January through March 1991

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, ls.:Islands, Jct.:Junction, juv.:juvenile, L. :Lake, **wax.** :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, d:male, Y:female, #:imm. or female, *:specimen, ph.:photographed, ft:feet, mi:miles, in:meters, km:kilometers, date with a + (e.g., May 4+):recorded beyond that date.

ADAMS COUNTY

Art and Eleanor Kennell

Abbreviations: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Dam (LPRD), Red Rock Rd (RRR).

We have moved to a new home situated in the w. part of the county. Our woods are named Warbler Woods. The mild winter kept a lot of birds at our feeders. The **Great Blue Heron** was seen frequently. On 2/2 a Great Blue was stalking mice, voles or whatever and seen eating same. Tundra Swan were seen in small numbers at various ponds. Wood Duck arrived 3/9 and **Am. Black Duck** were noted along Marsh Cr. On 3/16, N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, **Am. Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, both scaup, Cow. Goldeneye, Bufflehead** and Hooded and Cow. mergansers were found.

Found at LPRD 3/21 were: 17 **Horned Grebe**, 26 **Ring-necked Duck**, and 21 **Ls. Scaup (CG)**. Two **Green-winged Teal** and 2 **Hooded Merganser** were at Birch Run Dam 3/21 (CG). 8 Red-breasted Merganser were at LPRD 3/5, as well an Osprey there 3/28. About 370 Black Vulture and the same number of Turkey Vulture were again roosting at Devil's Den in GNMP. Osprey were seen after 3/1 at some large ponds. An ad. **Bald Eagle** flew over Orrtanna 3/20. N. Harrier were seen 3/11+. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen and heard 3/10 and Red-tailed Hawk seemed more numerous this winter. Wild Turkey were seen near our home 3/21. A **Gr. Yellowlegs** was at RRR and 35 **Cow. Snipe** appeared 3/10 and some to end of quarter.

1 **Short-eared Owl** was at Pump Station Rd 1/1-3/28 (v.o.) and Cold Spring Rd 1/19 (CB,KG). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at RRR 1/1 (CG), 3 there 1/19 (CB,KG). 2 N. Flicker and 2 **Pileated Woodpecker** were near or around our feeders. 2 **E. Phoebe** were in Michaux SF 3/20 (CB,KG). A Brown Creeper was on RRR 1/19 (CB,KG) and our feeder until 3/29. A large flock of **Am. Robin** were on RRR 2/26.

Two **Loggerhead Shrike** were at RRR 2/9 (AK,EK,F&KM) and 2/10 at Schrirer Rd (GLF). Fox Sparrow visited the feeders 2/27-3/28. 20 **Snow Bunting** were on Bigham Rd 1 /5 (CB,KG). About 30,000 Com. Grackle were found at RRR 2/10 (GLF). An unusually large number of **Purple Finch** and **Am. Goldfinch** were noted at our feeders.

OBSERVERS: Charles Brightbill, Gary L. Freed, Ken Gabler, Carl Garner, **Eleanor & Art Kennell**, 2332 **Bullfrog Rd**, Fairfield 17320, Floyd & Kathleen Mitchell.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Ted Floyd

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Frick Park (FP), Kilbuck Twp (KT), Monongahela R. (MR), Natrona Heights (NH), North Park (NP), Pittsburgh (PG), Vincentian Home (VH), Whitehall (WH).

A **Great Blue Heron** was present 2/3 along MR near Homestead, where they are frequently seen in winter (SB,KL). At least 4 Wood Duck had returned to NP by 3/7 (TF). There were 2 **Green-winged Teal** at NP 1/4 (TF). Single Gr. and Ls. **Scaup** were at NP 3/23 (MF). An Oldsquaw was a good find at NP 3/23 (MF). A **Cow. Goldeneye** was on MR 2/10 (VD), and 2 Hooded Merganser were on AR 3/23 (MF).

It was a good quarter for raptors. First **Turkey Vulture** was 2/28 at PG (JM,KM). Accipiter reports included: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks each from 4 locations (v.o.); single N. Goshawk at WH 1/6 (WH) and at NP 3/7 (TF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at VH 2/1 (AG), and NH's resident pair had returned by 2/21 (PH). A Rough-legged Hawk was a good find at VH 1/7 (AG). The locally famous pair of Peregrine Falcon continued all quarter at PG (CB *et al.*).

Ring-necked Pheasant was reported from Beechwood Farms (TF), Bethel Park (WH), and WH (WH). An Am. Coot was at NP 3/23 (MF). First Killdeer was not until 3/2 at PG (JM,KM). The only Am. Woodcock was at Greenway 3/23 (JM, KM). There were 80 Ring-billed and I Herring gulls along MR 2/10 (VD). Only owls were: 4 E. Screech-Owl at FP 1/4 (TF); 2 Great **Horned Owl** at FP 1/4 (TF) and I at PG 2/12 (JM,KM); an unusual **Barred Owl** at KT 2/13 (PB). A **Belted Kingfisher** wintered near MR (v.o.). Wintering woodpeckers reports: Red-bellied at 6 locations (v.o.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at KT (PB) and Schenley Park (SB,KL); N. Flicker at KT (PB), PG (PB), and VH (AG).

The best report was of an astoundingly early E. Kingbird at PG 2/22 (JM,KM); the bird was photographed. Small numbers of Blackcapped and Carolina chickadees were reported throughout the county (v.o.). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at NH 1/14 was the only report (PH). Carolina Wren were widely reported (v.o.), but the only Winter Wren was a single bird at NP 1/4 (TF). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at HP 3/17 was the only report (PH), as was an **E. Bluebird** at Settler's Cabin Regional County Park 3/17 (JM,KM). Small flocks of Am. Robin wintered throughout the county (v.o.), and N. Mockingbird were reported from 6 locations (v.o.). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at FP 3/7 (TF).

An **Am. Tree Sparrow** at NH 1/26 was the only sighting (PH). First Red-winged Blackbird was 2/22 at NH (PH). First Cow. Grackle was 2/20 at NH (PH), and 25 were at VH by 2/26 (AG). There were 2 Brown-headed Cowbird at NH 2/4 (PH).

OBSERVERS: Charles Bier, Steve Branca, Paul Brown, Vickie Dziadosz, Mike Fialkovich, Ted Floyd, **Pesticide Res. Lab.**, PSU, University Park 16802 (814-862-1242), Al Grom, Walter Hammond, Paul Hess, Karen La France, John Murphy, Kathy Murphy.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Elders ridge (ER), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manor Twp (M7), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RST), Tub Mill Run (TMR).

All reports are by ES at RST unless otherwise noted. A **Cow. Loon** appeared 3/31. One to 2 **Pied-billed Grebe** were listed between 3/1-23; a singleton was observed on a pond near KR 3/28 (MH,RH). First Horned Grebe was at KR 3/20 (GL); 4 were counted at RST 3/21-22. First **Great Blue Heron** was over FC 2/2 (GW). 7 Wood Duck returned 2/26 at RST,

where 2 **Green-winged Teal** were seen 3/21. Ten **Am. Black Duck** were at MV 2/3, but only 2 were observed at RST 3/21. N. Pintail numbers included 2 on 3/4 and 8 on 4/5. Four **Blue-winged Teal** were observed 3/23; 2 were at KR 3/28 (MH,RH). Ten N. **Shoveler** 3/21 were a nice find. Two to 7 **Am. Wigeon** were present from 2/20-3/28. A single Canvasback was the lone report. First **Ring-necked Duck** arrived at TMR 2/20, while 6 was top count at RST 3/5. Two Gr. Scaup were well described 3/19. Ls. Scaup reports included 7 at KR 3/20 (GL), 10 at RST 3/21, and 2 at KR 3/28 (MH,RH). One **Oldsquaw** was seen 3/27. A single Black Scoter was studied at close range and seen both on the water and in flight 3/27. Top **Com. Goldeneye** was 4 on 3/21. Two to 5 **Bufflehead** were recorded between 3/10-30. Two **Hooded Merganser** 3/21,28 were the lone reports. **Com. Merganser** sightings included 1 on 2/5, 1 at MV 2/12, and 2 at RST 2/22. **Red-breasted Merganser** maxima were 4 at MV 3/23, 5 at TMR 3/25, 24 at KR 3/28 (MH,RH), and 5 at RST 3/31.

First **Turkey Vulture** was at KTN 3/11 (JV). The ER strips yielded 7 N. **Harrier** 2/3 (FE,GW); singletons at KTN 2/21 (GW) and at KR 3/20 (GL). **Rough-legged Hawk** was near Worthington 2/1 (CD) and at ER 2/3 (FE,GW). Wild Turkey flocks numbered 25 in N. Buffalo Twp (JV), 8 at South Bend (MH,RH), and 7 at RST (*vide* ES). Single **Am. Coot** appeared on the Allegheny R. at MV 2/7 (DL) and at RST 3/1. **Killdeer** arrived at FC 3/9. First 2 **Am. Woodcock** were found at MT 2/25 (JV).

Two to 6 **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen between 3/23-28. Top **Ring-billed Gull** tallies included 125 at RST 1/31, 150 at KTN 3/3 (DE), and 133 at RST 3/5. Single **Short-eared Owl** were found at ER 1/13 (MH,RH) and 2/3 (FE,GW). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at KTN 2/11 (CD) was the lone report. N. Mockingbird was listed at FC 1/1 (DS,ES) and at Spring Church 3/2 (GW). SGL 247 yielded 1-3 Cedar Waxwing 1/7-14. First Yellow-romped Warbler was recorded 3/8. More than 20 **Red-winged Blackbird** over-wintering at ER were seen 1/13 (MH,RH).

OBSERVERS: Caroline Davies, Don & Flo Emmonds, Margaret & Roger Higbee, RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Gloria Lamer, Debby Livengood, Dorothy & Ed Slovensky, Joe Valasek, Gloria Winger.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Janet Shaffer

We sincerely apologize to the *Bedford* birders for not including their report in the last issue. We did receive it in time, but through our own mistakes, did not include it in the final printout. Herewith is the report.

Fourth Quarter 1990

Abbreviations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Beldon (BL), Black Valley (BKV), Clearville (CL), Hopewell (HO) Shawnee SP (SSP), Yount (YT). CBC was held 12/30 with 53 species and 6739 individuals.

Com. Loon reported from SSP (GH) twice in Oct. and again 12/14; **Pied-billed Grebe**, 5 on 10/28 and 8 on 11/17 in SSP (GH). Great **Blue Heron** reported from BED (JES), BL (CMc), YT (GH) and on the CBC (TF). **Great Egret** at SSP (GH) 11/28 and **Green-backed Heron** YT (GH) 11/27. Small flocks of Tundra Swan in SSP (GH) 10/28 and 11/8 and a flock flying high over BKV (MJ) 11/6. A good number of ducks was reported from SSP (GH): **Wood Duck** 10/5 & 12/30, **Am. Black Duck** 10/28 & 12/14, **Blue-winged Teal** 10/23, N. **Shoveler** 11/17, Gadwall 12/14, **Am. Wigeon** 10/28, Redhead 11/6,11,17, Ring-Necked 35 on 11/6 and 27 present 11/11, **Ls. Scaup** 10/28, Oldsquaw 11/11,17, Surf **Scoter** 10/23. **Cow. Goldeneye** 11/11, 17 & 12/14, **Bufflehead** 11/6,11 & 12/14, **Hooded** 11/11,16,19 and **Red-breasted merganser** 11/11, and **Ruddy Duck** 11/11. Mallard reported 10/25 from BL (CMc) and a CBC total of 194 by seven participants.

Turkey Vulture 10 present 11/5 YT, and GH indicated it was early for them to leave. Osprey BED (JES) 10/16 and in YT (GH) 10/7 & 11/23. **Bald Eagle** reported from YT (GH) 11/13, **Golden Eagle** 11/4 w. of Cessna (GH) and on Wills Mt. CBC period (TF). N. Harrier frequently seen at BL (CMc) during Oct. and various Nov/Dec dates in YT (GH). CBC total was 6

Sharp-shinned; Cooper's, Red-Tailed and Roughlegged hawks present on CBC. **Red-Shouldered** reported 10/2 & 11/11 YT (GH). In BKV a Sharp-shinned regularly checked out the area under a picture window for dead birds during Nov/Dec according to L&MJ. CBC total for Am. Kestrel was 18. **Ring-Necked Pheasant** and **Ruffed Grouse** reported from BL (CMc) and YT (GH). Ruffed Grouse found for CBC at SSP (CV). Wild Turkey 11 on CBC (C&RMc). Only report of N. Bobwhite 10/1 BKV (JT). **Am. Coot** SSP 10/23, 11/17 (GH) and 12/30 (CV). **Killdeer** last reported 10/16 YT (GH), **Spotted Sandpiper** SSP 10/23 (GH) and **Ring-billed Gull** SSP 10/28, 12/14 (GH) and 12/30 (CV). **Rock Dove** 623 and **Mourning Dove** 443 on CBC.

E. Screech-, Great-Horned and Barred owls reported from BL and YT all three months (CMc,RMc,GH). **Barn Owl** observed night of 10/25 on a road-killed rabbit along Rt. 220 s. of BED (TF). Road-killed Screech Owl found 10/26 (JES) near Manns Choice, and Great-Horned found dead 11/29 along Rt. 30 about 3 mi e. of BED (JES). Observers/listeners for owls needed in all areas of county. Last **Ruby-Throated Hummingbird** report was 10/2 YT (GH). Belted Kingfisher 12/15 BL (CMc), and CBC (C&RMc,L&MJ). **Red-Headed, Red-Bellied, Downy, Hairy, N. Flicker** and Pileated woodpeckers reported from almost all areas by CBC participants. Last Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was 12/27 YT (GH). E. Phoebe last seen 11/16 YT (GH). **Horned Lark** near Cessna 11/11, 12/5 (GH) and CBC total of 187 (C&RMc,JES). Am. Pipit near Cessna 11/28 & 12/14 (GH). **Blue Jay** 61 on CBC. Am. Crow 35 at feeder 11/13 BL (TC) and 313 on CBC. Last Com. Raven 11/28 BL (CMc).

Black-capped Chickadee 182, Tufted Titmouse 113, and White-breasted Nuthatch 36, reported on CBC. Brown **Creepers** 3 on CBC (JT) (CV), **Winter Wren** 12/27 YT (GH), Carolina Wren reported all quarter, with total of 21 on CBC. Marsh Wren reported 12/30 CBC at SSP (CV). Golden-Crowned Kinglet totaled 16 on CBC, but only 1 Ruby-crowned was reported; 10 Ruby-crowns banded in Oct. BV (JES). Flock of 15 E. Bluebird 11/24 BL (CMc) and CBC total was 52. **Hermit Thrush** last reported 12/1 BKV (JT). Flock of 100+ **Am. Robin** observed 10/31 BV (JAS); CBC found only 25. **Gray Catbird** 10/20 YT (GH), but 18 N. Mockingbird were still around for CBC. **Cedar Waxwing** 11/25 BL (CMc) and CBC (JT). Eur. Starling on CBC totaled 2395.

Solitary Vireo observed 10/14 YT (GH) and from same area came reports of **Cape May, Yellow-romped, Black-throated Green** and Blackburnian 10/4. Pine Warbler were reported 10/5 & 10/23 YT (GH) and 10/9 BL (TC). Western race of **Palm** 10/13 YT (GH) and Com. Yellowthroat 10/7 YT (GH) and BV (JES). On 12/25 there were 18 d N. Cardinal counted at feeder in BKV (L&MJ); CBC had 138. An imm. Indigo Bunting was banded 10/13 BV (JES). **Rufous-sided Towhee** last reported 11/4 YT (GH). Sparrows on CBC: **Am. Tree** 112, **Chipping** 4, Field 3, Song 29, White-Throated 22, and White-Crowned 14. Fox Sparrow present 11/27 and Swamp 10/22 at YT (GH). CBC reported 666 **Dark-Eyed Junco**, 4 Red-Winged Blackbird, 28 E. Meadowlark, and 50 Brown-Headed Cowbird. Earliest report of **Purple Finch** was 10/15 YT (GH). CBC House Finch total was 280. **Pine Siskin** reported 10/20 BL (CMc), but none on CBC. Evening Grosbeak were absent from CBC, but were present 12/8,9 BL (GH,TC). **House Sparrow** 375 on CBC.

OBSERVERS: CBCers: Terry & Jack Carnila, Collidge Eichelberger, Debbie & Tim Flanigan, Etter Grazier, Gordon Hassel, Dot & Les Hollinger, Laura & Mike Jackson, Rosie & Clyde McGinnett, John & Janet Shaffer, RR 6 Box 333, Bedford 15522 (814-356-3553), JoAnn Sumner, Jeff Territo, Charles Voytko, Anetta & Tom Williams.

First Quarter 1991

Reports from SSP indicate areas of open water existed most of the quarter and many species of waterfowl were present. **Com. Loon** seen 3/27 (CV) and both Pied-Billed 3/6 (CV) and Horned grebes 3/18 (GH) noted. The earliest report of Great **Blue Heron** was BED 2/6 near Chalybeate (JES). Three reports of **Tundra Swan**; the earliest was a flock

of 19 flying N over *BKV* 3/10 (MJ). A flock of 83 Canada Goose flying SE over *BKV* 1/3 (MJ), and a flock of 70 flying NE over *BV* 3/3 (JES). **Wood Duck** sighted near HO 2 pair 3/5 (JES), 8 at Shawnee (GH) 3/20 (GH), and 24 in BL 3/27 (CMc). At SSP were: Am. Black Duck 3/19, N. **Shoveler**, Am. **Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead** 3/18, and Ring-Necked 3/22 (GH). Ls. Scaup and **Bufflehead** from same area 2/22 (CV). **Oldsquaw**, **Com. Goldeneye** and **Red-breasted Merganser** (GH) present 3/18 (GH). **Hooded Merganser** reported 2/27 (GH) and 3/6 (CV).

Almost all observers reported raptors from various locations. Earliest **Turkey Vulture** was *BKV* 2/24 (MJ). Osprey at (TC) BL 1/28 was the only report (TC). An imm. Bald Eagle at YT 3/17 (GH); also 5 or more **Golden Eagle** were present throughout the quarter on Wills Mt. according to Game Protector Tim Flanigan. N. **Harrier** were reported from widely scattered areas all quarter. Terry Carnila, BL, wrote that a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** hit her storm door 1/4. She covered it with a towel and brought it inside. It was dazed for about 5 minutes; returned it outside and it flew away. Terry said it was the "most wonderful bird experience" she ever had. A leucistic Red-tailed Hawk present 2/23 in BV (JES) is apparently the same bird has been in Dark Hollow since 1981.

Am. Coot reported 3/22 (GH). First Killdeer in BV 2/3 (JES). Am. Woodcock "peenting" at Chalybeate 2/26 at dusk with 25°F temperature (JES). A flock of **Ring-billed Gull** landed on the playground of Everett Elementary School 3/5 and gobbled up earthworms that emerged from the previous night's rain. **E. Screech Owl**, Great-Horned and Barred owls reported from BL, BV and YT. **Belted Kingfisher** reported in BL 2/6 (CMc) and BV 2/19 (JES). **Red-bellied**, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers common at feeders; Pileated also common in most areas, probably due to extensive Gypsy Moth-damaged trees. Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker present in YT all quarter (GH).

E. Phoebe earliest report from YT 3/16 (GH). **Horned Lark**, 40, in YT 1/14 (GH). **Barn Swallow** arrived in YT 3/27 (GH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported from HO (PF) and CL (VMc). Brown Creeper in YT 2/8 (GH) & 2/9 (CMc), also **Winter Wren** (GH) YT. E. Bluebird common with 15 in BL 1/16 (CMc). **Am. Robin** sighted BV 2/24 (JES), N. Mockingbird BL 1/8 (TC). **Pine Warbler** at a CL feeder 3/14 (VMc).

14 N. Cardinal in BL 1/31 (CMc). A Rufus-Sided Towhee was scratching in 2 inches of snow in BV 3/30 (JES). **Am. Tree Sparrow** were uncommon. Field Sparrow reported all months of year in YT (GH) and Swamp also in that area Jan. and Mar. First Fox Sparrow (GH) YT 3/17. **Song Sparrow** in BV 3/8 (JES). Few White-throated Sparrow present BK, BV and YT. E. Meadowlark singing 3/26 in BV (JES). Large flocks of **Com. Grackle**, **Red-winged Blackbird** and Brown-headed Cowbird noted 2/25 BL (TC). **Pine Siskin** (TC) BL 2/12 and (CMc) BL 2/27. Scattered reports of **Evening Grosbeak** from BL, BV and CL.

OBSERVERS: Terry Carnila, Tim Flanigan, Mrs. Perry Foor, Gordon Hassel, Laura & Michael Jackson, Gary Koch, Rosie & Clyde McGinnett, Victor McGlaughlin, John & Janet Shaffer, RR 6 Box 338, Bedford 15522 (814-356-3553), Charlie Voytko.

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Abbreviations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), L. Ontelaunee (LO).

Two rare gulls were the highlights of the winter season. A first-winter **Iceland Gull**, the 2nd county record, was discovered at LO 2/28 (ES) when it came in to roost with Ring-billed Gulls, and was seen again 3/2 (tRK), but not after that. At LO on 3/31, 2 ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake** (MS,tRK) in breeding plumage flew in high overland, dipped their bills briefly into the lake without alighting, and just as quickly disappeared. They stayed barely long enough to be identified. This is probably the 1st record since Dr. Earl L. Poole saw one at LO 11/17/35.

Four **Pied-billed Grebe** and 3 **Horned Grebe** 3/31 (RK) were the high counts of these spp. at LO, where the latter has declined in the last 20 years. **Great Blue Heron** stayed all winter, and birds were renovating nests at the Oley rookery by late Mar. (RK). An early **Great Egret** was at BML 3/29 (EB), and the first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** appeared in

Oley 3/23 (RK). The only **Tundra Swan** reported were 23 at

Grace Mine 1/20 (MS), and a **Mute Swan** was at LO 3/23 (RK). In contrast, two large **Snow Goose** flocks totalling about 500 birds-many more than the usual spring total-flew over Pike Twp 3/16 (RK).

High counts of several waterfowl spp. at LO were recorded 3/24, including 14 **Green-winged Teal**, 1 **Mallard X Black** hybrid, 40 Am. **Wigeon**, 104 Ring-necked Duck, 5 Gr. Scaup, 32 Ls. Scaup, 11 **Red-breasted Merganser** and 30 **Am. Coot** (RK,BP,BS,MS). A pair of **Redhead**, a sp. not seen every year, was at a farm pond near LO all of Feb. and was joined by a 2nd d 3/3 (RK,BS,MS). No **Canvasback** reported. Other highs at LO were 4 **Com. Goldeneye** 2/17 (BS,MS) and 3 N. **Shoveler** and 5 **Bufflehead** 3/31 (RK). **Hooded Merganser** was widespread, with highs of 16 at LO 2/24 (MS) and 18 at Grace Mine 3/22 (MW). A new record high of 990 **Com. Merganser** was set at LO 2/10 (BS,MS).

An Osprey at Hamburg 3/24 was the earliest spring record there (KG). A **Bald Eagle** was at LO 2/19 (*vide* LG). KG found 4 Cooper's Hawk in mid-/late-Mar., including a likely breeding pair. An imm. N. Goshawk was at Big Spring Farm 1/19 (HJS) and an ad. migrated over Hamburg 3/16 (KG). A 100+ chicken pickin' Red-tailed Hawk were seen at 3 *Berks* poultry farms 1/27 (RK,HJS). 6 Rough-legged Hawk were in Marion Twp in Jan. (HJS), and the last was reported there 3/9 (KG). A **d Merlin** was near Shartlesville 1/12 (DK). Two **Am. Woodcock** were performing courtship flights in Pike Twp 2/24, the earliest date in 25 years of birding that location (RK). The Penn Twp Long-eared Owl roost had 5-8 birds in Jan. and Feb. (HJS). Two **Short-eared Owl** were near Leesport 1/22-26 (DK).

The only Red-breasted Nuthatch report was of 2 birds wintering at a feeder near Bechtelsville (JK). A **Hermit Thrush** was in that same yard eating holly berries 1/16-20 (JK). A **Palm Warbler** at Peters Cr. 1/27 (MW) was unprecedented. A flock of 18 White-crowned Sparrow near Niantic 3/10 (GLF) was the only large group reported. A Lapland Longspur and 200 **Snow Bunting** were seen with 1000 **Horned Lark** in Marion Twp 1/12 (HJS). A **Rusty Blackbird**, probably wintering, was in Bern Twp 1/19 (EB), and 8 migrants were in Hamburg 3/20 (KG). A **Purple Finch** at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 3/25 (LG) and 2 **Pine Siskin** that wintered at a Plowville feeder (HL) were the only northern finches reported.

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Gary L. Freed, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Rudy Keller, R.D.4, Box 235, Boyertown 19512 (215-367-9376), Joanne Kintner, Dan Knarr, Harold Lebo, Ernest Schiefer, Harold & Joan Silagy, Barton Smith, Matt Spence, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Marcia Bonta

Abbreviations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CC), L. Altoona (LA), Sinking Valley (SV). All BM reports by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

CC and LA were the places to find early migrating waterfowl. The first **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at LA 3/18, followed by 3 more 3/25 (BK). A **Horned Grebe** in basic plumage was diving at CC 3/17 (DK). A **Great Blue Heron** was at CC 2/2 (SAK) and 5 **Tundra Swan** flew over BM 1/13. **Tundra Swan** numbers were high in Mar. with 350 at LA 3/8 (BK), 600 flying over BM in groups of between 125 and 150 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 on 3/10, 500 at LA 3/11 (BK) and 142 over BM 3/20. The first flock of Canada Goose heard going over BM the night of 3/1 (SB). Two **Green-winged** and 2 **Blue-winged teal** at CC 3/27 (DK), as well as a d Am. **Wigeon** 3/6 (SMB), 1 **Canvasback** and 5 **Redhead** 3/18 (BK), 2 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/6 (SMB), 4 **Gr. Scaup** and 7 **Ls. Scaup** 3/18 (BK). Homer Gap Res. produced 17 **Oldsquaw** and 1 **White-winged Scoter** 3/27 (BK). A 6 **Com. Goldeneye** appeared at CC as early as 2/9 (DK), while 3 **Bufflehead** 3/18 (BK), 3 **Hooded Merganser** 3/6 (SMB), 3 **Com. Merganser** 3/18 (BK), and a **d Red-breasted Merganser** 3/6 (SMB) completed the first waterfowl sightings for the period. BK commented that except for Canada Goose and **Tundra Swan**, waterfowl

was scattered and in very small flocks.

Two **Turkey** Vulture on BM 3/2 (SB) were the first back. DK watched an Osprey at CC 3/27 with an 8" Brown Trout in its talons. A 4 Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in the grape tangle outside our back door near our bird feeder on 1/2 by SB, returned 1/8 to walk around the ground in the grape tangle while the small feeder birds remained still. She grabbed a hiding junco and flew off (SMB). On the first day of the year, I watched an imm. N. Goshawk screaming and jumping up and down on the ground in the woods of BM near dusk, an example of play, according to N. Goshawk researcher, Tim Kimmel. Other raptors include 3 **Red-tailed Hawk** in SV 1/4 (BK), 1 **Rough-legged Hawk**, also in SV 2/20 (BK), an imm. Golden Eagle flying high over a valley 20 mi s. of Altoona which the observer watched for 10 minutes 3/11 (RW) and 7 **Am. Kestrel** in SV 1/4 (BK).

SAK heard a **Ruffed Grouse** on BM near Elberta drumming 3/3 as well as a gobbling **Wild Turkey**. I watched 12 turkey foraging along the trail ahead of me for over half an hour without them seeing me sitting on the wet ground. At CC, SMB saw 1 **Am. Coot** 3/6. **Killdeer** were present all period with 5 seen in SV 1/9 (DK), 5 at Altoona Water Treatment Plant 2/24 (BK), and 1 in SV 3/1 (BW). DK found 2 **Com. Snipe** in SV at a farm spring runoff 1/9 while SAK spotted 1 at CC 3/9. First Am. Woodcock on BM at seep 3/3. DK saw 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** at CC 3/27 and 9 Ring-billed Gull flew over BM 2/10. A **Belted Kingfisher** perched on a snag at CC 3/17 (DK) and the first **E. Phoebe**, also at CC, 3/18 (BK). A large flock of **Horned Lark** was seen in SV 1/24 (BK). After an absence of 2 months, the first **E. Bluebird** appeared on BM 2/3. BK spotted the first **Hermit Thrush** at Mill Run 3/14 and BW watched 50 Am. Robin feeding in a juniper in SV 3/1. The first d Rufous-sided Towhee reported on BM 3/28 (MAB) as well as the first Field Sparrow. GK reported the only **Fox Sparrow** at CC 3/26 and 2 Swamp Sparrow, while BK recorded the first **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Com. Grackle** in SV 2/22. Finally, a 4 **Purple Finch** was seen at our feeder 1/10, and she stayed through 1/12. Otherwise it was once again a sparse year for the finches.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, PO Box 68, Tyrone 16686 (814684-3113), Mark Andrew Bonta, Steve Bonta, Steve & Marcia Bonta (SMB), Bill King, Gary Koch, Stan & Alice Kotala, Dave Kyler, Bill Wertz, Ray Winstead.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

Three dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** were at Coryland 3/26 (RY). It was a banner season for **Short-eared Owl**, with a single bird at New Era 1/22 (DG,TG); 4-5 in both the Burlington and Canton areas in early Feb. (v.o.); and 5 at Coryland 3/8 (RY). **Horned Lark** were reported as scarce all quarter (RY). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Fassett 3/31 (LL). An imm. N. Shrike was at Spring Hill 3/18 (EB,WR). Evening Grosbeak numbers were very low, but a flock of up to 14 was present at Spring Hill through the period (EB).

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Doreen Gerlach, Trudy Gerlach, Linda Leonard, **Bill Reid**, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-8362525), Ronald Young.

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: *Bedminster Twp (BD), Buckingham Twp (BT), Doylestown (DY), E. Rockhill Twp (ERT), Five-Mile Woods (FW), New Hope (NH), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Ottsville (OT), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Revere (RV), Springtown (SP), Tyler SP (TSP).*

A Pied-billed Grebe was at NH 1/28 (BH) & also at PVP 3/2 (AM,MO) & NSP 3/4 (SF). A Horned Grebe was at NH 1/28 (BH); another at NSP 3/11 (SF) & 2 at NSP 3/29 (HR,JC). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at NSP 3/14-17 (SF,GF). 9 **Great Blue Heron** kettled over NSP 3/17 (GF) and 2 **Tundra Swan** were in a field near Quakertown 3/2 (SF). Snow Goose were reported periodically with a blue-morph at NSP 1/27 (D&EM) and 1 at PVP 2/9 stayed 3 weeks (RF *et al.*); a flock of 200+ Snows was noted over TSP 3/26 (JH). Earliest **Wood Duck** were 3 at RV 3/1 (SF). The **Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal** reported at PVP

for several winters now, was again present for most of the period (DA *et al.*). (*Would someone please try and get a photo of this bird? -eds.*) As many as 4 N. **Pintail** were at PVP from 2/24-3/24 (RF *et al.*), & 3 at the swamp near NH 3/1 (BH). Two pair of N. Shoveler stopped at PVP 3/4 and 2 Gadwall at L. Warren 3/1 were noteworthy (SF). A few Canvasback were at NH, 3 at NSP 1/22 (SF), and 1 d at PVP periodically (RF *et al.*). 2 Redhead at NSP 1/23 (SF). **Ring-necked Duck** were reported widely, with 82 at Ingham Springs NH 1/1-2/3 the largest flock (BH). A **Gr. Scaup** was at PVP 3/1 (AM) and 13 **Ls. Scaup** at NSP 3/2 (SF). As many as 32 Com. Goldeneye were active on the Delaware R. n. of NH 1/4-3/13 (BR); were at RV 2/9 (SF), and 1 at PVP 3/4 (SF). **Bufflehead** present during a PVP birdwalk 2/16 were a special treat (RF *et al.*). A **Y Hooded Merganser** celebrated the New Year at PVP (RF) and another at NSP 2/13 (SF). Cow. **Merganser** widely reported with 300+ at NSP 2/12 (SF). 1 **Red-breasted Merganser** at PVP 3/22, 10 on 3/24, and 2 on 3/27, & 7 at NSP 3/27 (SF).

7 Black Vulture were at PVP 2/9 (BH), 3 at NSP 2/25 (SF), and 1 over Rt. 413 at Pipersville 3/9 (RH). Earliest report of **Osprey** was at NH 3/26 (BH). An ad. Bald Eagle was at NSP 1/24 (DA), another 2/1115 (SF), and 2 ad. there 2/23 (GF). A roost of N. Harrier in BD was known to contain at least 17 birds (DMc,AB). An explosion in the Meadow Vole population in the area was noted. A **Cooper's Hawk** was at PVP most of the period (KK *et al.*), another n. of NH from 1/23-2/9 (BH). HR & JC observed a N. Goshawk in Durham Twp 1/5, and 1 was found staking a feeder in OT 2/11 (KK). JH reported an imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at TSP 1/4, 1 at RV 2/9 (SF), 1 at PVP 3/15 (RH), and 1 ad. 3/15 and an imm. 3/24 at NSP (GF). Only **Rough-legged Hawk** report was at PVP 1/13 (JaH). A **Merlin** was at PVP 1/13 (P&AG) and a Peregrine Falcon was in DY 3/9 (JS).

A flock of 14 Wild Turkey was in SP 1/21 (RH); 1 indiv. at PVP 3/9 (JS), and 1 at RV 3/26 (SF). 2-4 **Com. Snipe** at TSP 3/12,16 (DO); 1 at ERT 3/25 (HR,JC). A very early Am. Woodcock was in DY 2/12 (RH). A lone Bonaparte's Gull was at NSP 3/30 (BH). 2 **Great Blackbacked Gull** settled at PVP for the 2/16 birdwalk (RF *et al.*), and 49 at NSP 2/27 (SF). Ls. Black-backed Gull was seen periodically at NSP 2/2-3/1 (SF,RH); 2 at Penn Manor 2/21 (NP). 2 **Long-eared Owl** remained in the PVP area all period (RF,MR); and 6 (plus 1 found dead) at TSP (DO). As many as 7 Short-eared Owl in BD, first noted by DMc, also enjoyed the vole explosion (m.ob.). Three separate reports of N. Sawwhet Owl received; 1 seen and heard at RV 1/10 (SF); 1 at ERT 2/2+ (HR,JC); and 1 at PVP 3/9 remained about a week (ST).

Short-eared Owl location: n. on Spring lane to bottom of hill; turn R on Scott Rd for one field and check out at dusk. A "roost" of N. Harrier gradually builds until dark. Last night 1/28/91, 1 d and 7 4 were there at twilight. In the same field is a "nide" (crossword puzzle word) of Ring-necked Pheasant - about 25 indiv. (Alan Brady)

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at PVP 2/9 (BH). A **Pileated Woodpecker** at RV 1/30 (SF), and 1 in SP 2/7 (RH). Earliest **E. Phoebe** was 3/16 at BT (KW). NW & BMC observed 40 **Horned Lark** in a field off Rt. 413 near Carversville 2/20. Earliest Tree Swallow was at NSP 3/22 (SF). High count of Fish Crow was 65 along the river 3/26+ (BH).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited at BT feeder all period (KW). 4 Brown Creeper 1/29 and the only **Winter Wren** report, 1/4, were at TSP (JH). A **House Wren** in TSP 3/17 (DO). **E. Bluebird** reported widely. A Hermit Thrush was in BT Jan/Feb (KW); 1 in DY 2/16 (RH); and FW 3/13 (DO). Over 1000 Am. Robin were in Hilltown Twp 3/11 (HR,JC).

A small flock of **Am. Pipit** at PVP (RF *et al.*) during a snow squall 3/30 was enjoyed by the 2/16 birdwalk group. A N. Shrike, first seen at NSP

2/14 (SF) appeared 3/20 (DA) in the same area and the next week (m.ob.).

GF found a **Pine Warbler** at NSP 3/17. A Louisiana Waterthrush arrived at Carversville 3/30. A **Savannah Sparrow** was at ERT 1/12 (HR,JC); small flocks of this species wintered at PVP (AM *et al.*) and Chalfont (RF). A Fox Sparrow was at RV 2/24 (SF) and a White-crowned Sparrow at ERT 3/30 (HR,JC). 6 E. Meadowlark were in OT 1/13-27 (KK) and 3 at TSP 3/25 (DO). 3 Rusty Blackbird were at RV 3/28 (SF). A leucistic Cow. Grackle accompanied a large flock of this species in a field in BD 3/3 and 1 Brown-headed Cowbird was at ERT feeders 1/12 (HR,JC).

EXOTIC: A **Ear. Goldfinch** was at a feeder in Upper Makefield Twp 3/5-18 (JK).

OBSERVERS: Don Aiman, Alan Brady, Jewel Cummings, Devich Farbotnik, Steve Farbotnik, George Franchois, **Ron French, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765)**, Anita & Paul Guris, Ray Hendrick, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Jason Horn (JaH), Ken Kitson, Joan Kurtz, Don & Elaine Mease, Don McClintock, Bruce McNaught, Augie Mirabella, Maria O'Brien, Don Orris, Nick Pulcinella, Hart Rufe, Margie Rutbell, Joe Siegel, Jeanne Stroup, Shelly Taylor, Kathy Wannemacher, Nancy Wottrich.

BUTLER COUNTY

Paul Hess

Abbreviations: Butler City (BC), Cherry Twp (CT), Glades SGL (GSG), L. Arthur (LA), Marion Twp (MT), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock Twp (SRT).

Despite warm temperatures and snowfall far below normal, few early arrival dates were reported. Killdeer, woodcock, phoebe, towhee, Field Sparrow, red-wing, grackle and cowbird, for example, returned about on time. Storm systems in the southern U.S. may have prevented much early movement.

Two Cow. Loon at LA 3/29 (CL) were first, as were 2 Pied-billed Grebe at SRT 3/20 (GB,SB,RC). Single **Horned Grebe** at LA 3/1-17 (CL,BD) and 5 there 3/29 (CL) were the only reports. **Great Blue Heron** was listed at MSP 1/1, SRT 2/26+ and GSG 3/3 (BD,GB,SB,RC). 47 Tundra Swan were near MSP 3/5 (TF) and the main passage came 3/11 with thousands over the county (*fide* MG). The low duck maxima and few reports of interest, at LA unless noted, include: 2 rather early Wood Duck pairs at SRT 3/7 (GB,SB,RC); an early **Blue-winged Teal** near MSP 3/5 (TF); 60 **Ring-necked Duck** at GSG 3/28 (DB); a Gr. Scaup 3/24 (PH); 300 Ls. Scaup 3/29 (CL); 3 Oldsquaw, a White-winged Scoter, and 2 **Cow. Goldeneye** 1/20 (DD,EH); 54 **Bufflehead** 3/29 (CL,MG); 19 **Hooded Merganser** 3/1 (CL); 4 **Cow. Merganser** 3/8 (CL); 300 **Redbreasted Merganser** 3/29 (MG), and a Ruddy Duck I/1 (BD).

First Turkey Vulture appeared 3/14 at SRT (GB,SB,RC). One of GSG's Bald Eagle pair was seen at the old nest 3/3 (GB,SB,RC), but eggs were laid in a more secluded nest built last summer and incubation remained under way in Apr (NW). N. Harrier was listed at MT, SRT and GSG (GB,SB,RC). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at SRT 3/31 (GB) and Cooper's Hawk at MSP 1/1 (BD) and BC 3/7 (MG) were the only reports. A **Redshouldered Hawk** returned remarkably early to SRT 1/17 and built a new nest in Mar. (GB,SB,RC); another pair was noted at GSG 3/31 (NR).

Killdeer arrived 3/3 at SRT (GB). 4 **Cow. Snipe** were at GSG 3/28 (DB). First Am. Woodcock appeared 3/20 at SRT (GB,SB,RC). About 20 Bonaparte's Gull were at LA 3/25 (PH). Three Short-eared Owl were found along Fisher Rd. near MSP 3/5 (TF). **Belted Kingfisher** returned to SRT 3/8 (GB,SB,RC) among very few reports. N. Flicker was back at SRT 3/3 (GB,SB,RC). Pileated Woodpecker was listed at SRT (GB,SB,RC) and BC (MG). First E. **Phoebe** date was 3/20 at SRT (GB,SB,RC). About 50 Horned Lark were near MSP 3/5 (TF). A **Tree Swallow** at SRT 3/22 (GB,SB,RC) was slightly early, then 200 were at GSG (DB) and 175 at LA (CL) by 3/28-29. Two Golden-crowned Kinglet at SRT 2/3 (GB,SB,RC) was the lone report.

A **Rufous-sided Towhee** at MSP 3/7 (MG) perhaps over-wintered; first dates of 3/29-30 at MSP and SRT (CL,GB,SB,RC) were more usual.

Top **Am. Tree Sparrow** counts were 65 at MSP 1/1 (BD) and a dozen at an SRT feeder (GB,SB,RC). First Field Sparrow report came 3/31 at SRT (GB,SB,RC). White-throated Sparrow remained scarce. 10 E. Meadowlark near MSP 3/5 (TF) was a good count by recent standards. A Rust Blackbird was found at SRT 3/9 (GB,SB,RC). Up to 7 **Purple Finch** were counted at SRT in Mar. (GB,SB,RC), but just 1 other at MSP 1/1 (BD) was noted. A **Pine Siskin** at SRT 3/17+ (GB,SB,RC) was the only report. The few **Evening Grosbeak** reports were led by 15 at GSG 2/3 and up to 13 at SRT (GB,SB,RC).

OBSERVERS: Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Dick Byers, Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney, Barb Dean, Ted Floyd, Marguerite Geibel, Eric Hall, **Paul Hess, 1412 Hawthorne St, Natrona Heights 15065 (412-2262323)**, Carroll Labarthe, Nancy Rodgers, Ned Weston.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Georgette Syster & Gloria Lamer

Abbreviations: Duman L. (DL), Hinckston Res. (HR), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin SP (PG).

All waterfowl reports from PG unless otherwise noted. 3 Cow. Loon were present 3/25 (DG), as well as 4 **Pied-billed** and 2 Horned grebes. **Great Blue Heron** seen 3/21,22,27 (DG). The first Great Egret appeared 3/27 (DG). Tundra Swan numbered 3 on 3/17 (GL,GS) and sent there 3/25 (DG). Top Wood Duck count was 8 on 3/26 (DG) with 3 listed at HR 3/25 (C&GL). 10 Green-winged Teal were seen 3/20 (DG) with 11 present 3/17,17 and only 2 could be found at DL 3/7 (GL,GS). Am. Black Duck numbers were good with 27 on 2/19 (C&GL). A nice tally of 20 Am. Wigeon reported at HR 3/24 (C&GL) and 3 at PG 3/29 (DG). A lone Canvasback was noted 2/10 (C&GL). First report of Ring-necked Duck was 22 on 3/7 (GL,GS) increasing to 155 on 3/17 (C&GL) and 100+ reported 3/21 (DG). To count of Ls. Scaup at PG was 13 on 3/7 (GL,GS) and 29 at HR 3/24 (C&GL). Lone report of Oldsquaw showed 12 on 3/29 (DG). Cow. Goldeneye moved through from 2/10-3/17 with top count of 6 on 3/7 (GL,GS). **Bufflehead** numbers were low with only 2 at HR 3/24 (C&GL) and highest 8 at PG 3/21 (DG). **Hooded Merganser** were present at PG, 6 on 3/23 and 9 on 3/27 (DG); 2 were at DL 3/7 (GL,GS). Only 3 Cow. Merganser were found 3/29 (DG); but 4-27 Redbreasted Merganser appeared intermittently from mid-Feb-3/23 (DG,C&GL,GS). 8 Ruddy Duck were found 3/27 (DG).

Only 1 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported, in PA 3/7 (GL,GS). The highlight of the quarter was a **Rough-legged Hawk** seen 7 times from mid-Jan/mid-Feb (DG). Fresh Wild Turkey tracks in the snow at PG 3/17 provided the only report (C&GL). Earliest Killdeer reports were of 1 each at PG and DL 3/7. High counts of **Ring-billed Gull** were 84 on 2/3 (C&GL) and 100 on 3/21 (DG); with only 1 **Herring Gull** reported 2/3 (C&GL). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was at PG 1/14 (GL,GS).

Earliest report of **Tree Swallow** was 2 indiv. 3/21 (DG). A Carolina Wren was in Johnstown 3/31 (A&LB) and 1 wintered in a thicket near a feeder in PA (DG). Also up to 5 E. **Bluebird** were noted all quarter (DG). Single N. Mockingbird showed up in PA 2/11 (DG). An unusually early Brown Thrasher made an appearance in a hedge 1/14 allowing the observers to watch him feeding on berries with a small flock of Am. Robin (GL,GS). A nice count of 12 White-throated Sparrow gathered along the roadside (GL,GS) and 3 fed at a PA feeder during the quarter (DG). 3 **Lapland Lonspur** were seen in the PA 2/27. DG reports that longspur, Snow Bunting and Horned Lark often appear in winter in the potato fields of the largely agricultural portions of n. *Cambria*. There were 7 Purple Finch at PG 1/14 (GL,GS). **Evening Grosbeak** counts were good, with flock of 9 at PG 1/14 and 14 at Nicktown 3/7 (GL,GS).

OBSERVERS: Arlene & Larry Brown, Dave Gobert, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, RR 1 Box 183D, **Penn Run 15765 (412-3491159)**, Georgette Syster, RR 1 Box 183C, **Penn Run 15765 (412-3496293)**.

CAMERON COUNTY

Bill Hendrickson

Jan. started interestingly with a N. Shrike in the Hicks Run area 1/6 (RF). The shrike was again seen in the same area 1/25,26 (MJ,RH). A Golden Eagle also over-wintered in that area (MJ,RH). On 1/20 a Surf Scoter was seen on the Driftwood Branch (BH,RF). An E. Bluebird was heard 2/3 (MJ,BH). N. Saw-whet Owl were heard by RF at his house. On 2/24 a Sharp-shinned Hawk appeared at my feeder. It landed on the ground and walked around as if it were looking for something. After a few minutes of this behavior, it flew away (BH,MJ).

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

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

All sightings from Beltzville SP unless otherwise noted.

Com. Loon were seen 1/6 (JF). A Snow Goose and 8 blue morph were found 2/5 (BB). Two Com. Goldeneye were seen 1/13 (JH). 20+ Com. Merganser were counted 1/5, and a N. Harrier 2/24 (JF). A Pileated Woodpecker was noted 1/19, and a Hermit Thrush 1/26 (IF). A flock of 100+ Horned Lark was at the Hickory Run service plaza on the Pa. Turnpike 2/9 (KC). A flock of 15-20 E. Bluebird was present through the season (m.ob.). A single Snow Bunting was seen along the Pa. Turnpike 2/19 (BR). A group of 25 + Evening Grosbeak was seen in Jan. and Feb (JF).

OBSERVERS: Bobby Bergstresser, Kevin Crilley, Jeff Frantz, Barb Haas, Jason Horn, **Bernie L. Morris, 825 N Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**.

CENTRE COUNTY

John & Becky Pepliuski

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

Four Horned Grebe were at CL 3/21 (K&JJ) and 9 at BESP 3/23 (TF). One Am. Bittern was at Toftrees 3/23 (TF) and 3/27 (GG). Other reports of waterfowl include: 4 N. Pintail at CL 3/1 (K&JJ); a d N. Shoveler at Centre Furnace Pond 12/26+ (MW); 8 Am. Wigeon at CL 3/21 (K&JJ) and 26 at BESP 3/23 (TF); numbers of Ring-necked Duck noted at CL 2/24+, peaking at 43 on 3/31 (K&JJ), while 34 were at Toftrees and 55 at BESP 3/23 (TF); a single Gr. Scaup and 101 Ls. Scaup were reported at BESP 3/24 (G&PS); 22 Bufflehead at BESP 3/23 (TF). Peak reports of mergansers at BESP include: 17 flooded (TF), 93 Common 3/23 (TF), and 12 Red-breasted 3/24 (G&PS).

A Turkey Vulture near Linden Hall Rd. 2/22 (K&JJ) was slightly early. An ad. Bald Eagle was at BESP 1/5, and 2 ad. were also there 2/24 (D&BB). One N. Goshawk was observed in the TG 3/17,23 (TF). An ad. Golden Eagle observed flying S along Bald Eagle ridge 1/13 was apparently a very late migrant (KS); another Golden Eagle was seen in the Barrens 3/24 (TK).

A Sandhill Crane, *Ist county record* (No details, -eds.), was reported by two birders 2/2 near CL (EB,MR). It was seen flying SE about 50-100 ft high, but unfortunately was not seen by others who searched for it. 4 Pectoral Sandpiper seen on the mudflats below the overlook at BESP 3/2 were extremely early migrants (HH). A Great Black-backed Gull was at BESP 1/15 (MW). Two Long-eared Owl were present in a pine stand just w. of Unionville all quarter and another at the TG 3/2 (TF). Two N. Saw-whet Owl were heard at Bear Meadows 3/9 (GY,HH,SCFT).

Earliest reported arrival date for E. Phoebe was 3/18 (MW).

Although E. Bluebird are not uncommon in the winter, finding 20 on 2/2 in the CL area is (EB,MR). A wintering Gray Catbird was seen in TG 1/12 and a Brown Thrasher was also there 3/17 (TF). The N. Shrike found near the skating pond at BESP 11/4/90 remained in that area into Jan. (MW,MC, m.ob.). Another N. Shrike was near Rocksprings 1/20 (J&BP). Two Yellow-rumped Warbler were in SGL 176 on 1/12 (TF).

First reported Chipping Sparrow was 3/31 near Fairbrook (J&BP). A Fox Sparrow was seen in TG 1/12 (TF), while another (presumably an early migrant) was near Fairbrook 2/25 (J&BP). Five Snow Bunting were along Nixon Rd. 1/19 (J&BP). Three E. Meadowlark were near Rocksprings 1/11 (CY). The TG continue to be good for seen Rusty Blackbird during the fall and early spring, with 41 there 3/23 (TF). Redwinged Blackbird and Com. Grackle apparently arrived in force in the State College area 2/20 as several birders reported them on territory on that date. A flock of 24 Red Crossbill was near Unionville 2/3 (TF).

OBSERVERS: SCFT = State College Field Trip, Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Edward Budd, Mary Coleman, Ted Floyd, Greg Grove, Harry Henderson, Katherine & Jennings Jones, Tim Kimmel, **John & Becky Peplinski, Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814238-6541)**, Mark Roberts, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, Karl Striedieck, Merrill Wood, Chuck Yohn, George Young.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Abbreviations: Honey Brook (HB), Hibernia Park (HP), Kurtz' Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MC), Octorara Res. (OR), Struble L. (SL).

Most birders reported that many species arrived earlier than usual this year. For example, large flocks of blackbirds and grackles which usually occur towards the middle of Feb. appeared in early Jan.

Com. Loon was first seen 3/27 at MC where 3 were present. Piedbilled Grebe showed up at MC on a rather early date 1/8, with as many as 4 there 1/17. They were observed periodically all quarter at MC. 4 Horned Grebe were there 3/24. Two Red-necked Grebe in winter plumage were at MC 3/11 (NT). First Tundra Swan was at SL 1/15. Scattered indiv. were reported at SL & MC until early Mar. The height of their migration seemingly occurred 3/4 when 150 were at OR, 125 of which were flyovers. On 3/4 a Greater White-fronted Goose was at OR keeping company with a rather oddly-colored Canada Goose (GS). Like most spp. this season, Snow Goose appeared in the area earlier than usual. An estimated 800 were near Cochranville 2/1 and 200 were at SL 2/2.

A 4 Wood Duck in with a raft of Mallard was a surprise find at MC 1/14;3 were there 3/29. A N. Shoveler was at MC 1/14. At least 2-3 Gadwall were at MC during the last week of Mar. 8 Am. Wigeon were at MC 2/24. 2 Canvasback were a good find at MC 1/16 as were 2 pair of Redhead from 2/24-3/3 and 2 Redhead at SL 3/26. Ring-necked Duck were present all quarter, with high count 35 at MC 3/24. Ls. Scaup were also regular from mid-Feb.+ with 40 at MC 3/11. One d Black Scoter was at SL 3/14. Three Com. Goldeneye were at MC 1/10. All 3 species of merganser were observed at SL & MC during late Mar. A high of 7 Hooded were at MC 1/10 and a high of 22 Common at SL 2/15. Ruddy Duck was not as easy to find this season as in years past. A high count of only 2 was at MC 1/12.

While Black Vulture sightings are more commonplace in some areas of the county, the sighting of an indiv. over West Chester 2/19 (JG) was rather unusual. First Osprey of the season arrived at MC 3/27. An ad. Bald Eagle was at OR 1/14. First migrating Gr. Yellowlegs was at SL 3/22. A Ls. Yellowlegs showed up at KFF 3/29. One Com. Snipe was reported near HB along Supplee Rd. in the usual area. Am. Woodcock were displaying at various locations starting 3/21. On 1/14 a single Great Black-backed Gull was at SL. The Red-tailed Hawk nest in W. Whiteland Twp (location deleted) was occupied by a pair of Great-Horned Owl 3/18. At least 1 fledgling was on the nest 4/1. As many as 4 Long-eared Owl were in the pines at HP 3/1 and 3 Short-eared Owls were seen at SL 1/13+. A N. Saw-whet Owl was at HP in the same area as last year. It arrived 1/14. The 2 Red-headed Woodpecker which were along

Pleasant View Rd. near HB have not been seen at all since mid-Dec.

The earliest **E. Phoebe** was in W. Pikeland Twp 3/20. **Horned Lark** were found in fields near HB in Jan. At least 13 were along Given Rd. 1113. Three **Winter Wren** were observed along lower French Cr. (W. Vincent Twp) 3/23-24. A total of 8 **Am. Pipit** were in HB Twp 1/14. Small flocks of **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported in E. Pikeland Twp and near HB along Supplee Rd. & Dampman Hill Rd. in mid-Mar. The latter is a usually reliable spot for this spp. at this time of year. Five **Snow Bunting** were seen near Tel Hai Retirement Center near HB 2/18. **Purple Finch** showed up at feeders towards the end of the season in very small numbers. I had 1 **Pine Siskin** at my feeder 2/15.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, John Ginaven, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Brian Sweisford, Neal Thorpe.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Abbreviations: *Curtlsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Leeper (LP), Mt. Zion (MZ), Shippenville (SV), Wentlings Corners (WC).*

Tundra Swan were heard going over in the small hours of 3/10. Later that day a flock of ± 500 was observed on KL (W&AF). Wood Duck returned to the Beaver Cr. ponds 3/17 (WF,MB). A pair of Hooded Merganser swam on a pond at LP 3/21 (LC). 6 Cow. Merganser were on the Clarion R. near Cooksburg 2/10; 4 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/12, and 54 on 3/24 stopped at KL (WF). N. Harrier continued at various reclaimed strip mines all quarter. The first **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at LP 3/1 (LC). A pair acting aggressively toward a pair of Red-tailed Hawk all during Mar. seemed to indicate they were breeding again (location deleted. -eds.) (LC). A very melanistic (no white at all) Rough-legged Hawk was observed 3/3 in Limestone Twp (TK,JW).

The first Am. Woodcock was reported from LP 3/19 (LC). A Long-eared Owl roost containing at least 4 birds was found 2/24 (W&AF, C&RR,MB) just off Dunlap Rd w. of Callensburg. One owl was still there 3/27 (MB). Short-eared Owl increased in abundance and range: 1 in Limestone Twp (JF); 3 at MZ 2/17 and 3/25; 4 at the Ritts Farm 1/13, with a high there of 9 on 2/17 (C&RR,EM); a pair with the d observed in "clapping flight" at CV 3/9; and 2 at Mt. Airy 3/17 (WF).

The first N. Flicker was seen at LP 3/21 (LC). **E. Phoebe** were back 3/21 at LP (LC) and 3/26 at SV. **Horned Lark** were at CV 2/28. **Carolina Wren** seemed to be over-wintering in several places. The first **E. Bluebird** was reported from Strattanville 2/23 (KP), later arrivals at LP 3/16 (LC). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** fed on peanut butter/corn meal all winter at a feeder in WC (C&RR). On 1/24 it was singing a "muted" song. **First Fox Sparrow** was reported 3/28 at LP (LC). A flock of ± 100 **Red-winged Blackbird** was at MZ 2/28 (MB) and 4 were at a feeder in LP 2/24 (LC). First Brown-headed Cowbird turned up 1/27 at WC (C&RR). **Evening Grosbeak** were around all quarter in flocks of 25-40 birds.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RR 2 Box 26, Shippenville 16254 (814-782-3925), Lois Callahan, John Fedak, Walter & Annabelle Fye, Tim Kimmel, Evelyn Myers, Kathy Pokrifka, Carl & Ruth Rowe, John Williams.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Fourth Quarter 1990

Abbreviations: *Bloomsburg (BL), Berwick (BK), Rohrsburg (RB).*

It was a fairly quiet and uneventful quarter. Many bird populations seemed lower than normal. A mild Dec. led us to believe that the CBC (12/22) would be a huge success. However, dense fog, especially on high open ground, kept CBC teams from finding many species observed in recent days. Still, 72 species on count day was a very good showing for this circle. This success

was due mostly to the increasingly thorough coverage by the North Branch Bird Club (NBBC). General statements were based on observations shared by NBBC members; unless otherwise noted, specific observations by compiler.

Great Blue Heron was fairly common along the Susquehanna R. and Fishing Cr. Over 150 Canada Goose stayed near BK through Dec, going back and forth between *Columbia* and *Luzerne* (DG,ND). Canadas also were found all quarter near BL and Espy, as well as near open farm ponds where "semi-domestics" nest regularly. Ducks were less common than usual. Rough-legged Hawk was scarce, but **Red-tails** common. Cooper's Hawk was again frequently sighted, even in communities. N. Harrier was decidedly less common than last fall (DG). An adult Merlin found near BL (DH,JF) was one of the CBC highlights.

Ring-necked Pheasant continues to be uncommon and found only in pockets where there is adequate cover. Persistent private stocking of pheasant clouds this picture. **Wild Turkey** continues to do very well throughout the area in a variety of habitats. Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** populations were mixed (JF,DG,DH). While searching the manured fields for larks and buntings, DG and SL found 7 **Killdeer** near RB for the CBC. The BL area team also scored another good find when it flushed out an Am. Woodcock near BL for the CBC. No **Short-eared Owl** was found for the CBC, but I was flushed from the road in front of DG's house 12/3 1. A N. Saw-whet Owl sat on a 2-lane highway near Millville and surprised RW while he was going to his CBC area early 12/22.

Amazingly, no Horned Lark was found for the CBC, but there were 150+ near BK in the last week of Dec (ND). There were 3 Fish Crow sighted along the Susquehanna R. near BL for the CBC 12/22 (DH, JF). The northern tip of the CBC reaches raven country; RW successfully found 3 Cow. Raven on count day. **Blue Jay** seemed less common than in previous years, perhaps due to the gypsy moth-induced mast depletion (DG). Although it gave a good showing for the CBC overall count, Tufted Titmouse was less common than usual in n. *Columbia* (DG,SL,RS). Unlike last year, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was very uncommon all quarter. Only 1 Winter Wren was found during the CBC, near Orangeville (DG). Carolina Wren were expanding up creek valleys and into higher elevations than usual (DG,RS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was uncommon. The **E. Bluebird** continued to enjoy success in the area; now this bird is a pleasantly common sight along most rural roads, especially where Staghorn Sumac and Multiflora Rose abound. Fewer Am. Robin were present than might be expected in such a mild Dec. A Grav Catbird popped out of some brush near Millville to top off RW's very successful CBC day. Cedar Waxwing were irregular and uncommon, stopping at DG's house only occasionally for Red Cedar "berries." For the second straight year, 2 "Myrtle" Warbler lingered near DG's house through Dec., foraging on berries. **Dark-eyed Junco** and Am. Tree Sparrow populations seemed to rebound somewhat this year. Surprisingly, there were very few E. Meadowlark in the county in Dec; although spotted count week (ND), none was found count day. A few Red-winged Blackbird persisted near the Espy Bog in Dec (DG). Brown-headed Cowbird was rare in the BL area this winter because some farmers abandoned their large silage storage. **House Finch** were abundant; Purple were quite rare, even in their n. *Columbia* haunts (DG,RS,RW). We are very concerned about this species; it is definitely on a downward slide. Evening Grosbeak were uncommon and erratic feeder visitors for most observers, but were found regularly at 2 feeding stations in the n. part of the county (DG,RS). Grosbeaks were poorly represented by CBC data; only 1 were found in the count circle. Other "winter finches" were very scarce all quarter. Only a few **Pine Siskin** visited DG's feeder in Oct, before abandoning the area.

First Quarter 1991

It was a very open, mild, and quiet winter. Some Mar. migrants seemed behind schedule. **Great Blue Heron** found open water along more small streams than usual (NBBC); this included Huntingdon Cr. near Jonestown (SK). Canada Goose continues to climb in numbers in the area with many paired up in early Feb, defending potential nest sites (DG, ND). Other waterfowl were less common than in most winters. Resident

Red-tailed Hawk and **Am. Kestrel** were common. There were few reports, however, of open-field migrant raptors. For instance, only one N. Harrier wintered at RB where usually there are several (DG). An unusually early Broad-winged Hawk was clearly seen near BK 2/20 (ND, HB). The bird may have been observed for a week previous (HB) but not afterwards, and was well-described by veteran hawk-watcher, N. Dennis, to editor. Unfortunately, no photo was taken. A few Killdeer over-wintered in fields, several seen in BK 2/24 (ND). Gulls were more persistent along the Susquehanna this winter than most, with **Ring-billed Gull** most common and Herring following (no black-backs, though). Only one Shorteared Owl was regularly seen at RB throughout quarter (DG). In Mar., DG witnessed the peculiar sight of a **Pileated Woodpecker** clinging onto and feeding from a staghorn sumac fruit cluster near Orangeville. **Redbellied Woodpecker** was not as widespread in uplands as past recent winters (DG); I did persist near Jonestown 2/5 (SK).

Considering the mild March weather, **E. Phoebe** seemed late in some locations, not reaching RB until 3/24 (DG), but earlier elsewhere (HB,ND). Tree Swallow was observed as early as 3/25 at RB (DG). For the most part, **Horned Lark** has been poorly represented lately, but DG found 10+ foraging at Waller 2/10, with 3+ singing vigorously from manure piles. **Am. Crow** was common all quarter despite widespread persecution with many appearing to form family groups (DG). The first Fish Crow of season was heard 2/4 at BK (ND). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was essentially absent this winter. **White-breasted Nuthatch** and Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers were low. Carolina Wren spread into more upland and upstream areas than it is usually found-after several consecutive mild winters, this semi-hardy species continues a local increase (DG, RGS). Considering the weather, there were not many Am. Robin in the county, even where food was plentiful, but there were enough to make this species an unreliable harbinger of spring. **E. Bluebird** continued its success throughout the rural areas, becoming conspicuously common along some roads. Cedar Waxwing was uncommon all quarter. Two "Myrtle" Warbler over-wintered on DG's property near RB.

Overall, winter finches were quite uncommon. RGS and DG noted fewer Fox, White-throated and White-crowned sparrows than in past winters. There were 50+ **Red-winged Blackbird** flying through the Millville area 1/20 (DG); others stayed the winter in Espy wetlands. Pine Siskin, Com. **Redpoll**, and **Evening Grosbeak** were essentially absent; **Purple Finch** was very uncommon, even where it is usually found (DG, RGS). In uplands, DG found **House Finch** to be less common than in most years, but this was not true in towns (ND).

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John Fridman, Jay Fritz, John & Sue Graves, Alan & Monica Gregory, **Douglas A. Gross, c/o Ecology III, Inc, RR 1, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191)**, Doyle Harris, Karen & Steve Hiller, Dale Hyde, Scott Killam, Sheila Lunger, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Robert G. and Robbie Sagar, Nick Short, Rich Wood, North Branch Bird Club.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

Abbreviations: *Conneaut Marsh (CM), Pymatuning SP (PSP)*.

An **Eared Grebe** in winter plumage was seen with several Horned Grebe for good comparison on Conneaut L. 3/30 (tRFL). About 200 Tundra Swan were at PSP 3/10 (AM). A Snow Goose was at PSP 1/19 (RFL). 105 Canvasback were at Woodcock L. 3/10 and the 860 Ring-necked Duck at CM 3/30 was a very good number (RFL).

A N. Harrier was at CM near Geneva 3/9 (RFL) and 1 N. Goshawk was at Cambridge Springs 1/19 (RFL). The **Snowy Owl** was still present at Pymatuning Causeway 1/1 (RFL). A Short-eared Owl was found n. of Woodcock borough 1/27-31 (J&JS). About 50 **Tree Swallow** were at PSP 3/29 (RR).

OBSERVERS: Ronald F. Leberman, RR 1, Meadville 16335 (814724-5071), Anthony Marich, Robert Ross, Jean & Jim Stull.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: *Big Spring (BS), Brackbill Pond (BP), Green Springs (GS), Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HF), Kuhn L. (KL), Mud Level Rd. (ML), Opossum L. (OL), Pine Grove Furnace SP (PGF), SGL 169 (SGL), Stoughstown Rd. Pond (ST), Stumpstown Rd. (SR), W. Fairview Boat Launch (WF)*.

Both species of loons made an appearance: Red-throated at WF 1/1 (DH); **Common** were at OL on numerous occasions, mostly singles by IS had 2 on 3/25. High count **Pied-billed Grebe** was 3 at OL 3/29 (DHe) and high for **Horned Grebe** was 8 on 3/27 (DH). First Great Egret was at OL 3/23 and 12 Black-crowned Night-Heron at HF 3/24 (DHe).

Waterfowl migration was fair. Is this a sign of our declining water bird populations? A few "good" birds were seen, however. A high of 147 Tundra Swan was at WF 3/18 (DH). Also 3/18 was a flock of ±20 Brant at WF (*vide* RK). Highlight was an **Eurasian Wigeon** at HF found 2/23 (DH) and seen 2/24 (DRHe), but not after. Other ducks with highs and locations:

Species	#	Loc.	Date
N. Pintail	25	KL	3/2
Am. Wigeon	30	SR	1/5
Canvasback	±125	WF	3/18
Redhead	±75	WF	3/18
Ring-necked Duck	11	KL	3/27
Gr. Scaup	6	BP	3/10
Ls. Scaup	±175	WF	3/18
Oldsquaw	7	KL	3/27
Com. Goldeneye	±100	WF	2/3
Red-breasted Merg	1	PGF	3/27

First Osprey, 2, at OL 3/29 (BG). High of 2 Rough-legged Hawk at ML 3/21,24 (DHe) and 1 near Middlesex 1/8 (DC). Both yellowlegs were seen 3/28, with Greater at BS and Lesser at ST (DHe). Pectoral Sandpiper were 5 strong at ST 3/29 (DRHe,DH). A good population of Am. Woodcock enjoys the SGL area, with DHe having 4 performing males on the evening of 3/16. A good total, for KL, was the 4 Bonaparte's Gull 3/28 (DHe). Another, good ?, total was the 250 **Ring-billed Gull** there 3/10. A high of 4 Short-eared Owl was at ML 1/9; singles were noted at 3 other locations in the w. half of the county (DHe).

A Red-headed Woodpecker was found along ML 2/4 (DHe). E. Phoebe was a little late this year, with first at BS 3/24 (DHe). ML was a great place for Horned Lark. Thanks to the local farmers! A high of 500+ was seen 1/9,12 (DRHe). Two extremely early N. Rough-winged Swallow were at SGL 3/29 (DRHe,DH,TC) and 2 later in the day at WF (RK,DH,TC)! The following day 6 were at WF (RK,DH,TC) along with 1000+ Tree Swallow. 5 Am. Pipit were along ML 1/8 (DHe). A Louisiana Waterthrush was at PGF 3/27 (CG).

DC had 20+ Am. Tree Sparrow at his feeders 1/19 and good numbers all quarter. Henise's home played host to good numbers of White-crowned Sparrow, with a high of 17 on 1/7. Two Lapland Longspur were at ML after a snow storm 1/13, along with a good total of 8 Snow Bunting (DH,DC). Fox Sparrow reports were 1 at a feeder 1/22 (DC) and 2 at PGF 3/27 (CG). 50 **Rusty Blackbird** were feeding at a watercress farm near GS 3/10 (DHe). Pine Siskin were a rare sight this quarter, with only singles or small groups found in the South Mt. area. The only Evening Grosbeak blessed the home of Pat Dietz, who lives on South Mt. They were there all quarter, with an average of 35-45 birds.

OBSERVERS: Dick Colyer, Toni Campese, Carl Garner, Betty Gish, Don & Robyn Henise, Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St, Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Ramsay Koury, Judy Stine.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels

Abbreviations: Haldeman I. (HI), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HR), Susquehanna R. (SR), Wildwood L. (WL).

The entire quarter was mild with lots of open water for waterfowl. Wood Duck were first reported 3/2 at Ft. Hunter (RW), increasing to 20 by 3/30 (JR). Spring Cr. in HR held large groups of **Mallard** (250), 4 N. Pintail and up to 50 **Am. Wigeon** from 1/1 through mid-March (SR). HI yielded 14 sp. of waterfowl 3/17 (DH, m.ob.) including 56 **Tundra Swan**, 8 N. Shoveler, 15 **Green-winged Teal** and 10 Gadwall. Also observed were N. **Harrier**, **E. Phoebe** and Tree Swallow. Groups of 60 and 75 Tundra Swan were seen moving up the SR 3/18-21 along with **Bonaparte's** and **Ring-billed** gulls (EC).

Great Egret arrived by 3/11 at WL (EC) with 2 more along 1-81 e. of HBG 3/17 (RW) and another near HR 3/27 (CG). Clearly the best of the long-legged species was an ad. **Sandhill Crane** on HI first discovered by SB 3/5 and seen at least until 3/17. This bird obviously overshadowed any possible excitement of an early E. Phoebe on the same date (3/5;SB)!

The following is a transcript of my field notes of a Sandhill Crane observed at Haldeman's 1. 3/6: 3:05. Large, gray bird observed flying over corn field; pale brownish area at base of primaries; flying with neck extended. 3:10. Standing on ground. Red forehead and crown; white cheek patch, gray body, long legs and bill. Conditions were good. Observed standing, through IOXX40 Zeiss optics from range of about 50 meters. Dan Brauning

Diurnal raptor reports were few, with both **Sharp-shinned** and Cooper's hawks around HR (WE). Am. Woodcock (4) were on territory in the HBG area by 3/5 (DH), the same date that Red-winged Blackbird moved into the HR area (SR). Com. Grackle and Am. Robin had arrived by 2/20 (SR,RW). It was a good quarter for owls, with a resident Great Horned at the Hershey Hotel 1/4 (RW). A roost n. of HR held 1 Shorteared and 6 Long-eared owls 2/10 (SR,ShR). Subsequent counts through March totaled a possible high of 10-12 birds (EC,SB,WE). Short-eareds were also found near Gratz 3/3 (SB).

A flock of 250+ **Horned Lark** worked the fields e. of HR all period. On 1/13 they were joined by 50 Snow Bunting and I Lapland Longspur (SR,ShR) and on 3/3, 250 Snow Bunting dominated our interest. A high of 3 longspurs was present 3/10. Horned Lark were also spotted in more unusual places 3/14, when 45+ rested along the steps of Riverside Park in HBG (EC). E. Meadowlark were seen along Rt. 39 n. of HR until 1/13, later returning by 3/10 (RW). On 2/3 RW observed 15 E. **Bluebird** and 20 **Am. Tree Sparrow** in the same area. On 2/4 DH noted a good day in Stoney Creek Valley with 2 **Con. Raven**, 1 **Redbreasted Nuthatch**, 20 Golden-crowned Kinglet and 3 **Purple Finch**.

OBSERVERS: Scott Bills, Ed Chubb, Wade Edris, Charlie Gilbert, Deuane Hoffman, Jacob Rannels, Sharon Rannels (ShR), Steve Rannels, 237 **E Areba Ave, Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480)**, Richard Williams.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Ridley Creek SP (RC), Tyler Arboretum (TA), Smedley Park (SP), Springton Res. (SR), Tinicum NEC (TNV).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was present at SR 1/4-5 (SC,AG). Also present there were Horned **Grebe** 3/5,30 and I Double-crested **Cormorant** 3/10 (NP). A Great Egret was at TN 1/17+ (JCM,TR). A Mute Swan was in Concord Twp 1/1 (WT). A flock of 250+ Snow Goose flew over Swarthmore 3/17 (NP) including 2 blue-morph, and another flock of 100+ was over Media 3/24 (EK). 500+ Green-winged Teal were in TN

during Mar. (JCM). A **Hooded Merganser** was found at SR 1/1 (RM). NP's survey of SR for the quarter found: 1 **Tundra Swan** 3/5; 8 **Green-winged Teal** 1/5; 2 **Redhead** 3/28; a high count of 52 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/30; 7 **Oldsquaw** 3/28, and 3 **Hooded Merganser** 1/5 and 1 on 3/28. Other species noted were: **Mallard**, **Gadwall**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Gr. Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Ruddy Duck**, and an average of 25 **Com. Merganser**.

Only 1 Black Vulture was reported, at TA 1/14 (JG). A N. Harrier made an appearance in Bethel Twp 1/1 (WT). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Rose Tree Park 1/21 (AG). An appearance in a Swarthmore backyard by a Merlin 3/15 (HMc) was quite a treat. The 2 Peregrine Falcon were in the Chester area all quarter (JCM). A **Cow. Moorhen** was at TN 2/23. At TN 130+ **Cow. Snipe** were located 3/21 (JCM).

Barn Owl were reported all quarter (v.o.). Unfortunately, all reports were of the same owls at TN. JCM had a high count of 3 on 1/5. N. Saw-whet Owl were brought out of hiding by many observers tracking down whitewash or pellets; 2 were at TN all period and 1 at TA 3/23 (DS). In the same area of TN, a **Long-eared Owl** was reported in Jan. (JF) and 2 **Great Horned Owl** (NP). It was amazing that at TN 4 species of owl were occupying the same acre of land and not having the Great Horned wipe out the other species. At least to my knowledge. Two Shorteared Owl at the Phila. Airport in Jan. (JCM) represent the only record this season. **Pileated Woodpecker** were found in Swarthmore and Media (HMc,NP). Another was found at RC 2/26 (BB) and at Delco Community College 2/5 (EK). A Fish Crow at TA 2/2 (JG) represented an uncommon find for that area. A Black-capped Chickadee was still at TA 3/28 (NP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch were quite common throughout Delco this winter. Hermit Thrush seemed to be more prevalent this year than in past winters.

A report came to John Ginaven from a non-birder of a Varied Thrush. It came to our attention too late to find this bird, but a very good written description was received. The bird came to a Media feeder just one day, 1/11. Bonnie Mainwaring's description leaves little doubt that the bird was indeed a Varied Thrush.

A Brown Thrasher spent the winter in the Folcroft area of TN (NP). **Pine Warbler** were found all winter at TA, apparently lingering due to the warm weather. Also lingering into winter were 3 Rufous-sided Towhee at TA 1/25 (JG,AG). Another late bird was a **Chipping Sparrow** at SR 1/5 (NP). A lot of Fox Sparrow were being reported in Jan. and more than the usual numbers of Swamp Sparrow were present in various location. Six **Purple Finch** were at SP 3/24 (EK).

OBSERVERS: Bob Bodine, Skip Conant, John Frieberg, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 S Old Middletown Rd, Media 19063 (215566-8266), Evelyn Kopf, Rob Megraw, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Drew Schmidt, Walt Thurber.

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

Abbreviations: Benzinger Twp (B7), Lake City (LC), Owl's Nest (ON), SGL 28 (SGL).

Nothing unusual reported for Jan. or Feb., but March brought a sighting of a Bald Eagle (LH) over LC 3/14.

Two Pied-billed Grebe noted at SGL 3/31 (DW). Great **Blue Heron** returned earlier, 3/14, and were noted at two separate locations Hallton & BT (DD,DW). On 3/3 a flock of ±100 **Tundra Swan** and a flock of ±80 Snow Goose flew over at BT yard-one flock heading NE and the other NW! (J&LC). DW mentions that at ON 3/31 there were 20 Canada Goose with several pair nesting. Included was the gray-collared bird once again returning to nest. DW watched a pair of Wood Duck at ON 3/31 and a pair on SGL the same day, as well as 3 Ring-necked Duck and a pair at SGL, and a pair of **Hooded Merganser** at SGL. Cow. Merganser seem to be increasing (DW). Only 1 **Bufflehead** landed on

P&DD's BT pond, 3/24.

Turkey Vulture returned 3/2 (DS). LC's BT yard has daily visits by a **Sharp-shinned** Hawk, while Cooper's Hawk is seen in other areas (PD,DS). 2 **Red-shouldered** Hawk at ON 3/31 (DW). 18 **Wild Turkey** walked across the road in front of DW 3/24 at LC. DW reported 12 Ringbilled Gull visited downtown Ridgway 2/22, and states that this event may be more common than not as it has happened in Feb. at least 3 times in the last 5 years! Am. Woodcock reported in various locations (PD,DS,DW).

E. **Phoebe** arrived in BT 3/22 (LC). The Am. Crow in a BT yard 3/12 really looked funny with its mouth filled with popcorn. On 2/23 DS observed a **Com. Raven** in BT, PD found I nesting, DW saw several at ON 3/31. LC watched I flying over her house and also had an interesting time listening to 2 indiv. at SGL 25. Some of the sounds were something like "took, took, took" and a bell-like sound. These birds are fascinating to watch and hear. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and 2 **Carolina Wren** coming to a BT feeder disappeared during mild weather in early Feb. (LC). DW saw 2 flocks of Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1 of 8 and the other 14, working spruce stands at ON. E. **Bluebird** returned 3/22 (DS) and several pair were at ON 3/31 (DW). Again this year, Am. Robin overwintered (DS).

Only 1 Am. Tree Sparrow reported, 1/29, in BT (LC). Song Sparrow returned 2/15, and 1-3 Fox Sparrow were at a BT feeder 3/2-29. Few White-throated Sparrow all winter (LC). **Dark-eyed Junco** doing well. Red-winged Blackbird returned 3/2 (DW). 2 **Rusty Blackbird** made a quick stop at a wet area in a BT yard (LC) 3/6. First Com. Grackle 3/2 and first **Brown-headed Cowbird** were 86 in Ridgway (DW). The first **Purple Finch**, a d, showed up 3/12 in BT (LC). The bird of the season had to be the Evening Grosbeak which showed up in the fall and continued ... and ate and ate and ate (DS,DW,LC).

OBSERVERS: John & Linda Christenson, 602 **Sunset Rd, St. Marys** 15857 (814-781-3156), Paul & Dolly Dornisch, Les Haas, Dave Sorg, Dave Wolfe.

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

Abbreviations: Edinboro (EDN), Presque Isle SP (PI), Union City Dam (UCD). Sightings from PI unless otherwise noted.

Enormous flocks of **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen from midMar. to end of the quarter, with daily estimates of 20,000 to 30,000+ individuals. Gull numbers peaked at near 100,000 birds 2/11, with Great Black-backed Gull reaching unprecedented highs of 1,000 birds.

In an area 4-mi square n.e. of EDN, many birders discovered a multitude of birds of prey. Following the report of a Snowy Owl and 4-5 **Short-eared Owl** on 1/31 by ID, these grasslands became a target for local birders and for those from farther afield. At dusk as many as 16 N. Harrier, 8 Red-tailed Hawk, 10 Rough-legged Hawk (5 dark-morph), 12 Am. Kestrel and 15 Short-eared Owl were recorded along with 1 N. Shrike. Increasing numbers of N. Harrier and Short-eared Owl were being reported at the time of this writing.

Am. Tree Sparrow moved into the region in fair numbers, but were not followed by many northern finches. Very few **Evening Grosbeak** were reported and <20 **Pine Siskin** came from feeder watchers. A couple of Com. Redpoll waited until the end of Feb. to make the only appearance of this species for the reporting period.

This season proved to be quite interesting with lingering late migrants and early spring arrivals, including a few record breakers. The usual rarities appeared along with the unexpected are detailed here.

A flock of about 400 Horned Grebe arrived during the night of 2/15. The birds may have been wintering somewhere n. of Pa. and forced south by reduced open water. Since numbers of this magnitude are unprecedented before early Apr., they were not likely to be spring migrants (JM). A Red-necked Grebe was seen 2/16 (JM,DI-i). An **Eared Grebe** (carry-over from Dec.) was found 1/1 (JM,EK). 2-3 Doublecrested Cormorant were noted all quarter (JM). A Great Egret was seen 3/30 (WS) and a Black-crowned Night-Heron 3/22 (BC). Three Snow Goose (blue-morph) were at UCD 3/15 (DT,JM). A Green-winged Teal was seen 2/17 (WS). A basic I d **King Eider** was seen 1/1-27 and 3/3,16 (tTF et al., ph. JM). A 4 **Harlequin Duck** was found 2/17

and 3/2 (tJM,JH,WS;ph. DD) for our 9th record. A total of 5 Black Scoter was seen 1/1,26 and 3/30 (TF,JM,EK); a moribund bird was delivered to the Erie Zoo from Harborcreek (fide JHS). As many as 14 Surf (JM) and as many as 9 White-winged scoters were noted to 3/9 (JM,EK).

The Turkey Vulture seen w. of Erie 2/24 was 8 days earlier than our earliest record (JM). Ad. Bald Eagle were reported on PI and in the Erie area, with 2 birds showing wing tags. A white left wing tag on 1 indiv. and a yellow left wing tag on another (m.ob.). A spectacular find for JGS and JHS was the ad. **Mississippi Kite** that was seen well, migrating along the L. Erie shore at the Roderick Wildlife Reserve on the extremely early date 3/27 (tJHS). A N. Goshawk was w. of Erie 2/24 (JM) and 1 at the Ohio/Pa line 3/27 (JGS,JHS). Several **Rough-legged Hawk** were reported from many areas, particularly the w. half of the county. Rarely seen in winter was a **Merlin** 2/16 w. of Erie (JM), and the same or possibly a different bird was on PI 2/22 (JHS,JGS).



Long-eared Owl, Presque Isle SP, 2/17/91. Photo by Jerry McWilliams.

Quite unexpected was the discovery of a Ruddy Turnstone feeding among gulls along the edge of the ice on the unusual date 1/26 and represents the 1st winter Erie record and possibly the state (tJM). A Dunlitt was noted 1/1 (TF), and the one 3/9 (EK) was the earliest spring record by 27 days. BW was surprised to flush an Am. Woodcock 1/2 for a 1st winter record. Up to 3 Little Gull were found 1/12-21 and 3 were seen 2/10 (JM). Five Thayer's Gull were recorded between 1/31-3/23 (JM,EK); 2 were ad., which are the 1st birds of this age recorded in Pa (tJM,TF). At least 6 Iceland Gull were present from 1/6-3/23 (JM,JHS, EK,DS) and at least 7 **Ls. Black-backed Gull** were recorded for the season, with the first appearing 1/12 and at least 3 remaining to the end of the period (JM,EK). A bird in alternate definitive plumage was at Siegel Marsh 3/16+ (JM,JGS,JHS) for the 1st record away from L. Erie. Glaucous Gull were present in good numbers beginning 1/5+, with a season total of no less than 20 indiv. (JM,EK). Most remarkable was the appearance of a Forster's Tern 1/13 that remained until 1119 (tJM et al.). This is the 1st winter Erie record and possibly for the state.

Owl reports were excellent. A Snowy was in EDN 1/31-3/20 (JD et al.; ph. JM); and the 1 at PI 3/23 (EK) may have been the indiv. from EDN. The Short-eared 3/23 was the only 1 reported away from the EDN

area (EK). Up to 3 N. Saw-whet Owl were found 1/13-26 and 1 or 2 3/9-16 (DD). A roost of about 140 Am. Crow were seen again this winter in late Jan. and early Feb. near EDN (DS). Winter roosts of this number are rare in Erie.

As many as 5 Carolina Wren wintered on PI, which is the most recorded there in many years. For the second winter in a row, E. Bluebird have remained through the period. They were reported from Albion (SH), EDN (DS), *w. of* McKean, and in Greene Twp (JHS,JGS). A more than usual number, 4, of N. Shrike was noted, with the usual single bird wintering on PI (m.ob.). The **Loggerhead Shrike** found 3/31 (JH,tJM,WS) was the 6th record since 1979; the last record was 4/10/82. A **Field Sparrow** successfully wintered at a feeder *w. of* Erie (GR). Six **Lapland Longspur** were found 1/17 in Franklin Twp (JGS,JHS). The 2 Com. Redpoll seen 2/23 & 3/5 were the only ones of the season (JB,TF). **Evening Grosbeak** were scarce again this winter, with birds reported from Union City (DT) and EDN (DS).

OBSERVERS: Jim Barker, Bill Callista, Dave Darney, Julie Dell, Ted Floyd, Shayne Hochlander, Deuane Hoffman, Ed Kwater, **Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W 12th St, Erie 16505** (814-833-3169), Geoff Robinson, Walt Schaeffer, Don Snyder, Jean (JHS) & Jim (JGS) Stull, Dorothy Thomas, Brenda Watts.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Abbreviations: Deer L. (DL), Greenlick Dam (GD), Mill Run Res. (MRR), Normalville (NV), Springfield Twp (ST).

1-2 **Horned Grebe** were at GD 3/20,21 (M&EW,WC). A **Great Blue Heron** and a **Great Egret** were at DL 4/3 (WS). 8 Wood Duck at DL 3/8 (M&EW) and 4/3 (WS), with 13 at MRR 4/3 (WS). 4 Am. Black Duck at MRR 3/12 (WC); 2 Blue-winged Teal at DL 4/3 (WS); 3 Gadwall 3/28 (M&EW), 6 Am. Wigeon 3/11 (M&EW), 3 Redhead 3/18 (WC), and 25 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/28 (M&EW), 6 Gr. Scaup 3/21 (WC), 10 Ls. Scaup 3/23 (M&EW), 1 Com. Goldeneye 3/21 (WC), 7 **Bufflehead** 3/21 (WC), 2 **Hooded** 2/24 and 2-14 **Red-breasted** merganser (M&EW,WC), all at GD. 4 **Bufflehead** 3/25 (WC) and 7 **Hooded Merganser** 3/8 (M&EW) were at DL.

A N. Harrier was in NV 3/12 (WC). A **d Ring-necked Pheasant** was in NV 3/16 (CC). A **Gr. Yellowlegs** was at MRR 4/3 and 8 **Com. Snipe** were at DL 4/3 (WS). 18 **Ring-billed Gull** were at GD 3/18. An E. Screech-Owl in NV 1/2 (CC). **Belted Kingfisher** were noted in NV 3/27 (CC) and MRR 4/3 (WS). 2 **Horned Lark** were in ST 3/12 (WC). A **Chipping Sparrow** 3/27 and a Fox Sparrow 3/5 were in NV (CC). 40 **Evening Grosbeak** were ST 4/3 (WS).

OBSERVERS: **Cindy Cook, RR 1 Box 259A, Normalville 15469** (412-455-7356), Wes Cook, Walter Shaffer, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

Abbreviations: Church Hill (CH), Tionesta Creek (TC).

Due to a mild winter, the Allegheny R. never froze over, resulting in some observations of relatively common birds here that normally winter further south. Six Tundra Swan flew over CH 3/2 (RAW). About 60 Canada Goose stayed all winter at Hunter Station (RAW,ADW). Com. Merganser were seen occasionally throughout the quarter (RAW,ADW).

An ad. and imm. Bald Eagle were observed frequently all quarter (RAW,ADW). A Cooper's Hawk frequented our feeder area in Jan. and did catch a grosbeak (RAW,ADW). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen at Fool's Cr. 1/13 (TG *et al.*). A pair of Pileated Woodpecker started coming to suet 2/26 (RAW,ADW) on CH and a Corn. Raven was seen there 1/23 and 2/7 (RAW). **E. Bluebird** arrived on German Hill 3/2 (WK). A flock of 23 **Am. Robin** came to our feeder area 1/19 and robins were seen in parts of the county the rest of the winter (RAW,ADW). A

pair of **Rusty Blackbird** was seen along TC 3/30 (GW,RAW). No **Pine Siskin** was seen, but **Evening Grosbeak** were plentiful this winter.

OBSERVERS: Ted Grisez, Wayne Kiser, Gary Walters,

Richard & April D. Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306).

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

Abbreviations: Bender's Pond (BP), Letterkenny Res. (LB), Quarry Rd. (QR). All observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Two Pied-billed Grebe were at LR 3/21, and 4 **Horned Grebe** at BP near Upper Strasburg 3/21. Eight **Great Blue Heron** were along QR 1/23-3/6 (m.ob.). Twelve Tundra Swan were at BP 3/22. A **Greenwinged Teal** was at Falling Spring Rd 1/26 and 8 at BP 3/22; 2 N. Pintail along QR 1/24 and 2 at BP 3/21; 2 Gadwall at BP 3/21; 11 Am. Wigeon at BP 3/22; 5 Ls. Scaup at BP 3/21; 4 **Hooded Merganser** at BP 3/21 (CG), plus 2 at Caledonia SP 3/21 (JB), and 3 at LR 3/21 (CG); 1 **Red-breasted Merganser** at LR 3/21 (CG).

Eight Broad-winged Hawk were at Waynesboro 3/26 (R&LS). A Red-tailed Hawk nest was found 3/6 along McKinley St; both birds were seen going to and from the nest. They were observed from 3/6+ and the nest will be monitored for the next quarter (JB). An Am. Woodcock was seen 3/1 (JB) and 3 at Woodstock Rd 3/5 (CG). Two **Great Horned Owl** nests were found; on 1/22 near Duffield (JB) and 3/23 near Shippensburg 3/23 (RC). Both had a bird sitting on the nest from date found through end of quarter and also will be monitored.

An E. Phoebe was at BP 3/22 (CG) and I in Chambersburg 3/28 (JB). Four Tree Swallow were at BP 3/28. Ten **Am. Pipit** were at Cook Rd. 3/15 (KG). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was near Waynecastle 1/11 (CB). A Black-and-white Warbler was at the Waynesboro Fish & Game Association 3/28 (R&LS). And 25 Snow Bunting were near Lemasters 1/15 (B&BH).

OBSERVERS: Joan Bowen, Charles Brightbill, Ken Gabler, **Carl L. Garner, PO Box 391, Marion 17235**, Bill & Betty Hayden, Randall & Lista Snuff.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph K. Bell

There were no periods of deep snow or below zero readings during the quarter. March was generally mild with temperatures reaching the 70s on 3/2,23 and 27. Unless otherwise noted, all observations were on the Bell farm near Jefferson.

The first Turkey Vulture was noted near Waynesburg 3/17 (BB). Wild Turkey are really increasing all over the county; 42 were noted in one flock near Waynesburg 3/4. The first Am. Woodcock, 2, were noted searching for worms in an open grove 3/1 and the first **E. Phoebe** was heard calling 3/17 ... just about on time. The average arrival date here for the past 31 years has been 3/16.

Two Tree Swallow were noted 3/23 and a **Rufous-sided Towhee** arrived here the same day. A lone **Bank Swallow** was noted 3/26, but it soon left and no more seen during the period. The first **Chipping Sparrow** was noted 3/27, but the earliest arrival ever was 3/21/1979.

House Finch are very numerous at most feeders. Some people love them, but others are beginning to complain that they are taking over their feeders. If they start taking over **Purple Martin** houses and **E. Bluebird** boxes, complaints will surely increase. The only **Evening Grosbeak** noted were 19 flying over going west 1/14.

OBSERVERS: Betty Bell, **Ralph Bell, RR 1 Box 229, Clarksville 15322** (412-883-4505).

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

David Kyler

Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Alexandria (AL), Brumbaugh Access (BA), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Huntingdon (HU), L. Raystown (LB), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Raystown Dam (RD), Stone Valley L. (SVL). All records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Unusual species reported include: Osprey, N. Saw-whet Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brewer's Blackbird and Red Crossbill.

Waterfowl reported include: 1 **Com. Loon** on LIZ during the 2nd annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle census held 1/11 (RC). **Tundra Swan**, 111, were down at BA, in a sheltered backwater 3/11 (RC) and **Wood Duck** were found in good numbers, 23, near Hesston 3/22 (RC). A large flock of **Bufflehead** was located just above RD 1/10 (RC) and numbered 40+.

A mixed kettle of vultures was located above HU 2/22, with 15 Black and 54 **Turkey**. A late Osprey was seen at RD 1/1, hunting from hover (GG). In addition to low numbers of waterfowl, this year's census at LIZ yielded 2 ad. and I sub-adult **Bald Eagle**. Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** were carrying nesting material (location deleted) 3/30, while the first report of **Broad-winged Hawk** was made 3/29 near CM (EB). Two late season **Rough-legged Hawk** were observed near MF 3/3 (GG). Ten **Com. Snipe** were in a Petersburg farm slough 3/21 (ML). **Am. Woodcock** were displaying 2/25.

The highlight of Feb. was a single ad. N. Saw-whet Owl found near AL 2/4 (ML). This fearless raptor was seen by over 40 observers, at close range, from 2/4-8. A small colony of Red-headed Woodpecker was located near HU 1/I and the 3 remained active all quarter. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports came from Piney Ridge 2/15 (RC) and Petersburg 1/15, with I indiv. found at each location. Both **Golden-crowned**, 2, and Ruby-crowned kinglets were seen near the Juniata R. at HU 2/6. A single **Am. Pipit** was found feeding at a manure spread near MF 1/12 (GG).

A **Pine Warbler** returned to SVL 3/23 and was singing on a warm, sunny day (GG). **Yellow-romped Warbler** were found along the river 1/23 feeding in low shrubs. Blackbird reports range from early Redwinged in AL 1/15, 4 **Rusty** near MF 3/2, and I **Brewer's** near MF 1/12 (tGG). Two **Purple Finch** and 15 **Pine Siskin** were at SVL 1/1 and 80 **Evening Grosbeak** made their appearance at a backyard feeder in time for a Cornell-sponsored FeederWatch program (DG). DK had 7 **Red Crossbill** at Shavers Creek 1/1.

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

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Clarksburg (CKG), Creekside (CS), Indiana (IND), Margus L. (ML), New Florence (NF), Penn Run (PR), Robinson (RB), Shelocta (SHL), Timber L. (IL), W. Lebanon (WE), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

Highlights of the season were Snow Goose and N. Shrike, both at YC. All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise noted.

One to 2 **Com. Loon** were listed after 3/24 (v.o.). Pied-billed Grebe had been present through the period with best count of 7 on 3/31 (GC). Horned Grebe arrived 1/15 (BB,MH,GL), but numbers peaked at 27 on 3/21 (GL). A single Double-crested Cormorant was observed 3/29 (C&GL). Tundra Swan arrived 2/28 (BF,TF,GL) with top count of 298 on 3/10 (C&GL). Two different flocks of Snow Goose were reported-6 at ML 1/20 (GS) and 7 at YC 1/22 (GL). Wood Duck first listed 3/7 (GC), but best count was 31 on 3/32 (C&GL). One Green-winged Teal was present 1/15 (BB,MH,GL), but up to 14 counted 3/12 (MH,GL). Up to 14 N. Pintail were recorded 3/5 (BB,BF,MH,GL). Best Blue-winged Teal tally was 14 on 3/31 (ES). N. Shoveler was listed on only 2 dates-5 on 3/21 (GL) and 1 on 3/29 (C&GL). 4 Gadwall were found 1/15 (BB,MH,GL) but were not reported again until 3/19 (MH,GL). Top **Am.**

Wigeon count was 102 on 3/21 (GL). 8 Canvasback were at

Nolo 3/10 (C&GL), but 13 at YC 3/18 (GL) was the largest raft reported. 10 Redhead observed 3/19 (MH,GL). Small numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** were listed consistently all quarter; a large influx began 3/3 (GC) and peaked at 329 on 3/22 (GL). One Gr. Scaup was listed between 1/9 (MH, GL) and 1/15 (BB,MH,GL); 1-3 were found from 3/10+ (GC,C&GL). Ls. Scaup max. was 74 on 3/21 (GL). Top **Oldsquaw** tally was 11 on 3/21 (GL). **Com. Goldeneye** were present all quarter with best count 10 on 3/17 (C&GL). **Bufflehead** reports, all after 3/1, included 32 on 3/19 (LH,MH,GL) and 27 on 3/31 (C&GL). **Hooded Merganser** counts included 18 on 2/21 (MH,GL) and 17 on 3/21 (LH,GL). 2 **Com. Merganser** were found 2/21 (MH,GL) and a singleton was listed 3/12 (MH,GL). Top **Red-breasted Merganser** tally was 96 on 3/10 (C&GL). A single **Ruddy Duck** was seen 2/25 (LH) but the only other report was of 2 indiv. 3/29 (C&GL).

Turkey Vulture arrived at YC 3/1 (GL). Single N. **Harrier** were found at 4 locations (JB,MH,GL,GS). Six Sharp-shinned and 5 **Cooper's** hawk reports were received. **Red-shouldered** was listed only at YC 1/2 (GL) and 3/10 (C&GL). An early Broad-winged was well-observed at YC 3/18 (GL). **Am. Coot** arrived at YC 3/14 (GL) with best count 27 on 3/31 (D&ES). First Killdeer was 2/26 (BB,BF,MH,GL). 1-5 **Com. Snipe** were found consistently at YC and on adjacent property 3/1 + (v.o.); 2 were listed at PR 3/18 (GS). First **Am. Woodcock** was 1 near Ernest 2/4 (DF).

Gull maxima included 116 Bonaparte's at YC 3/26 (BB,MH), 411 **Ring-billed** 3/4 in the YC vicinity, and 500+ Ring-billed near SHL 3/7 (JH); 2 Herring at YC 3/4 (GL). **Belted Kingfisher**, absent from our area since mid-Dec., reappeared at YC 2/4 (MH,GL).

E. Phoebe arrived at YC 3/19 (MH,GL). **Horned Lark** were found at 3 localities with best count 10 near Brush Valley 3/24 (GC). **Tree Swallow** arrived at YC 3/23 (TBC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** only at SHL, where I was present after 2/12 (M&RH). Hermit Thrush was at YC 1/29 (MH,GL), 2/15 (GL), and 3/31 (C&GL). Four reports of N. Mockingbird were unusual. A Brown Thrasher visited an IND feeder 1/24 (NM), then not listed until 3/28 near Elders Ridge (DC). 12 **Am. Pipit** appeared at TL 3/22 (GL), and 2 seen at YC 3/30 (C&GL), the lone reports. A **N. Shrike** made its appearance at YC 2/21 (MH,GL) and was last seen 3/20 (GL).

Two Yellow-romped Warbler, feeding primarily on Poison Ivy berries, were present at SHL all quarter (M&RH). **Pine Warbler** was first seen at YC 3/26 (BB,MH). First **Rufous-sided Towhee** at Nolo 3/25 (GL). Chipping Sparrow arrived at Robinson 3/3 (GC). A **Field Sparrow** at YC 1/29 (MH,GL) accompanied a flock of **Am. Tree Sparrow**. **Fox Sparrow** was reported 1/7-14 at CKG (MC), at Nolo 3/6 (GL), and near CS 3/14 (MH). Up to 6 Swamp Sparrow wintered at YC (MH,GL). A flock of 70+ Red-winged Blackbird 1/22 near NF was first ^(MM). E. Meadowlark returned to Nolo 3/9 (GL,GS). 2 **Rusty Blackbird** 3/12 (MH,GL) and 3 **Com. Grackle** 1/15 (BB,MH,GL), both at YC, were first reports. Brown-headed Cowbird arrived near IND 1/13 (BM). Purple Finch were found in numbers from 1-4 all quarter at CKG (MC), Nolo (GL), YC (MH,GL), and SHL (M&RH). **Evening Grosbeak** reports were sporadic with the only consistent flocks near Nolo (GL) and YC (v.o.). The Nolo flock peaked at 33 indiv. 2/24 (GL). Up to 24 were counted at Alverda 3/16 (FM).

OBSERVERS: John Beaulé, Becky Byerly, Greg Cook, Dan & Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy & Tom Fetterman, Don Frew, lack Heim, Margaret and Roger Higbee, **RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-3543493)**, Leon Hue, Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Beth Marshall, Mary McClure, Norms Meharey, Frances Michny, Pat Petersen, Dorothy & Ed Slovensky, Dan & Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Abbreviations: Casner's Crossing (CC), Clearview Res. (CR), Mi(lintown Access (MA), Muskrat Springs Access (MS).

Horned Grebe were seen twice, at CC 3/25 and at MA 3/30. Tundra Swan made an early appearance 2/24 (DW) with stragglers seen

through end of quarter. MR told of watching one flock flying into the west just as the sun was setting. A beautiful sight. Migrating ducks were more difficult to find this year; the river was high most of the quarter. Wood Duck were the exception and were often present in easily visible areas. While not as numerous as last year, **Red-breasted Merganser** were present in good numbers with 5 at Cr 3/18 and 1 at CC 3/24; the latter merganser was keeping company with 1 of the Horned Grebes. An Am. Coot at CC 3/24,30 was welcome sight this year. He kept company with 4 Wood Duck until 3/31. 3 **Cow. Snipe** were seen near Oakland Mills 3/27 (AT). **Ring-billed Gull** flocks made an early appearance; ± 100 were seen near Thompsonstown 2/4 (DW) and stayed around a few weeks. It was warm then with insects stirring. In contrast, **Herring Gull**, which are usually found in low numbers along the Juniata R. were very scarce. A **Great Horned Owl** was first seen on nest 1/21 near the intersection of Rts. 75 and 222; 2 owlets were produced and fledged 3/31 (DW). Purple Martin returned to boxes near MS 3/21 (MR); 7 **Tree Swallow** returned to MA 3/23; and 3 **Barn Swallow** returned to the Renno farm near Van Wert 3/28 (MR). A **Cow. Raven** was in the valley 2/17 near Rts. 75 and 222 (DW). There seems to be a pattern of brief winter visits to this area by the ravens. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were consistently seen in good numbers all quarter. This year they came into my feeding station with a mixed flock, but not partaking. The only report of Evening Grosbeak was of 13 at Troyer's feeder 3/29.

OBSERVERS: Moses Renno, Aden Troyer, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RR 3 Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Abbreviations: Blakely (BL), Clark's Summit (CS), Covey's Swamp (CO), Dalton area (DA), Factoryville area (GA), Glenburn Pond (GP), L. Scranton (LS), Olyphant (OL), Scranton (SC).

Two **Horned Grebe** were on LS 3/24. **Great Blue Heron** were at FA 3/27; at SC 3/29; and at CO 3/31. Wood Duck were at CO 3/31. Mallard at FA 3/2,5. Six to 8 **Ring-necked Duck** at FA 3/15; 2 Bufflehead at LS 3/15,26; and 4 **Cow. Merganser** on LS 3/10+.

Earliest **Turkey Vulture** was seen at CO 3/3. An ad. **Bald Eagle** flew over OL 1/2. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at DA 1/16. A Cooper's Hawk at FA 1/12, at a BL feeder 1/23, and seen all quarter at CS. Ruffed Grouse were at FA 3/5. 27 **Killdeer** were at CS 3/6 and Am. Woodcock seen at DA 3/1. About 100 **Ring-billed Gull** were at GP 1/20 and 13-50 at IS from 3/10+, and 2 **Herring Gull** at SC 3/2 with 24 there 3/15.

First **E. Phoebe** were: DA 3/25; BL 3/28; CO 3/31. Our **Blue Jay** population dropped noticeably. Fish Crow at BL 3/8. Red-breasted Nuthatch was not reported at all; an incredible decrease from last year, but **Carolina Wren** were present all quarter. An **Am. Robin** was at a SC feeder reportedly eating mixed seeds from mid-Mar. on. Cedar Waxwing were at DA 2/2. Two Fox Sparrow were at DA 3/2. White-throated Sparrow numbers were down from last year. **Purple Finch** were at CO 3/3,31. Eight **Evening Grosbeak** at BL was the only report.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Arlene & Marie Jarocha, **Gerald Klebauskas**, RR 2 Box 2821, Factoryville 18419 (717-945-3949), Mike Freidlin, George Mozurkewich, Jane Shulenberg, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Abbreviations: Elizabethtown (E'town), Muddy Run (MR), Middle Creek WMA (MC), Octoraro L. (OL), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Susquehanna R. (SR), SR Conejohela Flats (SRCF) and adjacent waters.

Highlights of the period include outstanding numbers of Snow Goose, along with Pennsylvania's *Ist Ross' Goose*, with a total of three different birds in the county. At least 4-5 Eurasian Wigeon, 2 Little Gull, N. Shrike, and a **Nashville Warbler**.

The only reported **Red-throated Loon** was at MR in early Jan. (RMS *et al.*). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at MR 2/11-12 (RMS,JV,HM). An ad. **Double-crested Cormorant** was below

SHD 1/5 (RMS *et al.*) for the only Jan/Feb record. Single **Am. Bittern** were found 3/30 at SRCF (JB,TG) and at MC (JH). An ad. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen regularly in Jan/Feb along Lititz Run near Oregon and joined by others in Mar. (EW). **Tundra Swan** made another impressive showing again this year, with 42 birds at MC already 1/6 (EW), numbers building to 2500 by 2/2 (RMS,EW), and up to 5000 later in mid-Feb (m.ob.). An apparently "wild" Mute Swan was at MC 2/21 (FH,PM). Two Gr. White-fronted Goose were at MC 1/20,27 & 2/17 (TG *et al.*) and other single birds were at MR 3/2 (RMS *et al.*) and at OL 3/6 (JS) and 3/17 (GS).

A small Canada Goose thought to be of the race "minima" was at MC in a large flock of Snow Geese 3/3-16 (m.ob.); another (same bird?) was at MR 3/26 (RMS). A d Wood **Duck** found on the SoLanCo CBC wintered through the period at the mouth of Peters Cr. (RMS *et al.*; 3

Unprecedented were 10,000 Snow Goose (only 20+ blue morph) flying over the MR area 1/5 (JB,RMS *et al.*). The birds did not remain in the area but reappeared 2/7 in Drumore Twp (RMS). Under close observation later in the day an ad. *Ross' Goose* was found (J&EP). This ad. was seen almost daily in the MR area from 2/27-3/21 & 3/26 (m.ob.) with the larger flocks of Snow Geese. An *imm.* *Ross' Goose* was found at MC 3/3 with about 800 Snow Geese (tTG). An ad. *Ross' Goose* was found at MC 3/5 (JB). *Ross' Goose* sightings were made almost daily since 3/3 with the last report of the ad. 3/16 (TG). There was no report of the two birds seen together, however photographs of each bird do exist. The ad. at MC was a different bird than the one at MR.

Peak counts of 20,000 Snow Geese were made 3/3-5, with 4000 at OL, 9000 at MR, 5000 at Washington Boro and 2000 at MC (RMS *et al.*). A major movement through the county was 3/19-21. The last concentrations of Snow Geese was 600 at MC 3/17 (TG) and 500 at MR 3/30 (CH).

According to RMS, he was able to read the neck collars of 10 Snow Geese. All 10 birds proved to be individuals that had wintered on the Delmarva Peninsula. "A possible reason for the sudden influx into s.e. Pa. is the growth of the Snow Goose population. According to Michael Hill, a graduate student of Eastern Kentucky University who is conducting the Delmarva study, the population has gone from a low of 30,000 to a current level of 360,000. Half of these winter in and around Bombay Hook [NWR]. It seems logical that as the numbers swell, flocks will fan out in search of food-which the Lancaster farm fields can amply supply."



Ross' Goose, Middle Creek WMA, 3/9/91. Photo by Jane Schreffler.

Wood Duck were at MC 1/1 (EW). N. **Shoveler** and Gadwall wintered at MC in larger numbers than in the past, most likely due to a mild winter (EW,SS *et al.*). A N. Shoveler, rarely seen at MR, was reported there 3/2 (RMS *et al.*). Eur. **Wigeon** sightings include 1 at Mt. Joy along the Chickies Cr. 2/8 (tJH) and the previously reported d and 2 4 (rufousphase). Eur. Wigeon remained on several farm ponds in Fulton and Drumore Twp's at least until Mar (RMS *et al.*); 2 d were reported from the "Wentworth pond" 3/3 (D&RH). 20 **Am. Wigeon** were on a pond at Penryn 3/22-26 (B&LC). A **Canvasback** was at MC 2/4 (LH); 2 d Redhead were at MC 2/8-3/10 (RM *et al.*) and another at a farm pond in Manheim Twp 2/3 (LH). A **Gr. Scaup** was at MC 3/16 (m.ob.). A d White-winged Scoter was at SRCF 1/12 (JB,TG,EW) and again 1/13 (SS). Somewhat unusual away from the SR was a 4 **Com. Goldeneye** at MC 1/6 (EW). 1500+ **Com. Merganser** were at SRCF 1/11 (JB,TG, EW). 20 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at MR 3/23-26 (RMS *et al.*).

An ad. **Peregrine Falcon** was seen flying downriver over MR 1/30 (RMS). An **Am. Coot** was at MC 2/8-9 (RM *et al.*). A high count of 50 Cow. Snipe was at Habecker Church Rd. (Manor Twp) 3/31 (JD). Am. Woodcock were observed in Conoy Twp 3/2 (LC,BS) and courtship displays noted at MC 3/5 (LS).

Two **Little Gull**(No details, -eds.) in basic plumage were seen flying downriver with several Bonaparte's Gull on the York side of the SRCF 3/30 (D&LH). This is the 2nd consecutive year in Mar/Apr that a Little Gull has been found along the SR with Bonaparte's. The only reported Ls. Black-backed Gull was at SRCF 1/5,29 (JB *et al.*). A Barred Owl was near E'town 2/24 and had been in the area since the fall (LC); another was near SHD 1/19 (JB). 4-7 **Long-eared Owl** wintered in the MC in several locations (m.ob.) and 1-2 Short-eared Owl were at MC most of the quarter.

Two separate imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintered in the s. portion (MS,CP,J&EP). An **E. Phoebe** was found in Fulton Twp 1/22 (JB). The first reported Tree Swallow was at MC 3/17 (SS). An early Barn Swallow was in Caernarvon Twp 3/30 (B&FH). A wintering Redbreasted Nuthatch was regularly visiting a feeder in E'town at least through 2/26 (LC). **Gray Catbird** were found, with 2 in Drumore Twp 1/14 (RMS *et al.*) and single birds at MC 2/3,23 (TG) and at W. Cocalico Twp 3/31 (LS). 40 Cedar Waxwing were in Ephrata 2/11 (EW). A N. **Shrike** was at Mt. Joy 1/5 (JH), with another at Speedwell Forge L. 3/1-29 (FH *et al.*).

Remarkable was a **Nashville Warbler** (tSS) seen at a feeding station near Landisville 2/12+ (C&TK,SS). A **Pine Warbler** was at a feeder in E'town 1/10 (LC). A 4 **Com. Yellowthroat** was found in a wet area near Quarryville 2/9 (RMS). **Savannah Sparrow** were found all quarter in Upper Leacock Twp (LC) and Clay Twp (m.ob.). E. Meadowlark were found in a number of areas. A **Rusty Blackbird** was at SHD 1/5 (D&LH).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Bruce & Lynn Carl, Larry Coble, Jack Downs, Tom Garner, Barb & Frank Haas, Fred Habegger, Lloyd Hassel, Dan & Lori Heathcote, Jonathan Heller, Don & Robyn Henise, Cathy Hicks, Chet & Thelma Kauffman, Pat McElhenny, Randy Miller, Harold Moron, Chris Pederson, Ed & Jo Pederson, Nick Pulcinella, Steve Santner, Grier Saunders, Brian Schleinkofer, Leon Schreffler, Robert M. Schutsky, Jim Sheetz, June Vaughn, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave, Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138).

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

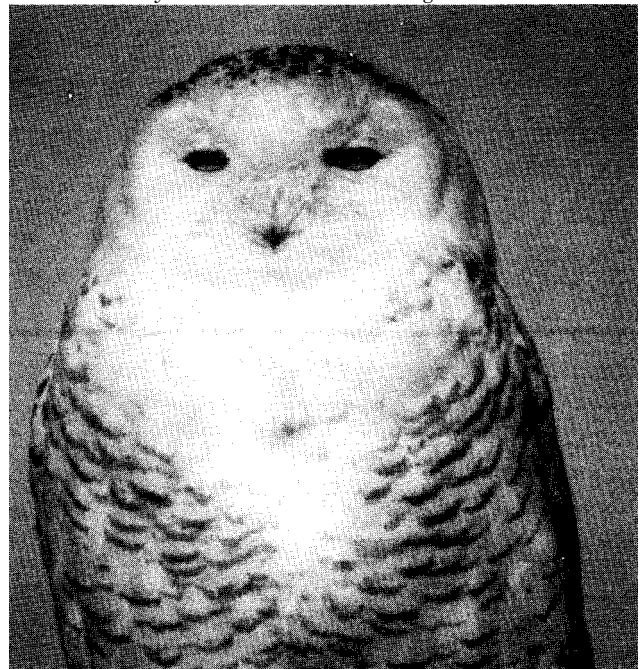
Abbreviations: Memorial L. (ML), SGL 145 (SGL).

The extremely mild weather allowed greater numbers of waterfowl than usual to winter over. ML froze for only about a week in Feb. and even then there was a little open water. There were no heavy or lasting snowfalls and probably wintering birds fared well. This was not a year for irruptive species generally, although Black-capped Chickadee moved in numbers. There were few winter finches. The bird of the season was the **Snowy Owl** which spent most of the period in a trailer park on the w. side of Lebanon.

Both Pied-billed and Horned grebes were present at ML 3/24 (SS). The Pied-billed was there on and off all winter (m.ob.). Tundra Swan started their migration very early; many were feeding in fields n. of Middle Creek WMA from mid-Jan. on. Peak numbers reported was 3000+ on 2/15 (BLC). A Blue-winged Teal returned to L. Duffy in SGL on the slightly early date 3/23 (BLC). Many other waterfowl overwintered; selected sightings include a very high number (60) of **Ringnecked Duck** on ML 3/24 (SS), a Cow. Goldeneye (uncommon here) 1/13 (SS) and several Oldsquaw 3/17 (DZ).

Black Vulture continues to increase locally. The Mt. Gretna roost contained about 50 Black and 150-200 Turkey vultures (m.ob.). **Bald Eagle** was reported twice: 2 ad. flew over Bellegrove in early Mar. (DZ) and an imm. was on the *Lebanon/Schuylkill* line at the High Bridge Dam 2/2 (JC,MC). Up to 8 Am. Coot were at ML all quarter, more than the pathetic numbers of the past 2-years, but still well below the numbers seen there in the '70s. An early Cr. Yellowlegs was at Iona 3/31 (TC,DH,RK). Only 1 Short-eared Owl was found at the Elco High School roost site, but lack of deep snow may have accounted for that. As noted, a Snowy Owl spent much of the winter in Lebanon. It was initially seen by Stephanie Smaltz, a local resident. This bird was very tame and was subsequently seen and photographed by many and although it became very difficult to find in Mar., it remained through the end of the period.

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen almost daily in a backyard in Palmyra all quarter (JKL). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen in small numbers. This was not an invasion year, unlike the Black-capped Chickadee, which was in large numbers everywhere, even in the s.w. portion, where normally most chickadees are Carolina. Carolina Wren were everywhere; their numbers are now higher than they were prior to the mid-70s crash. Fox Sparrow were moving in large numbers 3/24, with 5-10 at both ML and in SGL (SS) Winter finches were almost nonexistent. Evening Grosbeak had almost completely disappeared from the county by New Year's Day. There were a few **Purple Finch** and there was one report of 5 **Pine Siskin** on the *Lebanon/Schuylkill* line near Suedeberg.



Snowy Owl, Lebanon, 2/21/91. Photo by Barbara Haas.

OBSERVERS: Bruce & Lynn Carl, Toni Complese, Jay Cool, Morris Cox, Deuane Hoffman, Ramsay Koury, lane & Ken Light, Steve Sautner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apts, Elizabethtown 17022 (717367-5857), Del Zimmerman.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

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

Despite an almost complete lack of the winter finches, this was one of the better winters in recent years. The most noteworthy family was owls, with 8 species seen in our area in Jan. Jason Horn had 7 species on 1/1! Several unusual waterfowl, unseasonal warm-weather birds (undoubtedly due to the unusually warm weather), rounded out the season.

2 Snow Goose were at LM 1/7 (SS,BLM). A flock of 8 Gr. Scaup was at the Fogelsville Quarry 3/24 (PE). A count of 54 migrating Turkey Vulture was noted near Albutis as early as 2/4 (CRE). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was present all season at Applewood (PE). A flock of 5-6 Wild Turkey was near LL 1/20 (PE,BLM). An early Gr. Yellowlegs was on a pond near LL 3/30 (FBa,PE,BLM).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Kistler Valley 1/1 (m.ob.). Good numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were noted, but only a few Ruby-crowned were found. An extremely early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Jordan Park 3/31 (AJ). Three **E. Bluebird** were at Walnutport 2/21 (DG,JG). A Fox Sparrow was seen at Applewood 2/2 (PE), and a White-crowned Sparrow was there 2/9 (PE). A single Evening Grosbeak was at the Trexlertown Pines 1/27 (BLM).

This was the year for owls. Two **Snowy Owl** were resident at the ABE Airport through 3/3 (DGER, m.ob.). One was decidedly whiter than the other and perhaps an ad. male. Both birds kept somewhat apart, but both frequented fields right next to the heavily used runways. How did they stand the noise of the jets? These were the first cooperative (i.e., that stayed around for more than 1-2 days) Snowy Owls in our region in over 15 years. The Snowy Owls were gone by early March, but their place was taken by 3 **Short-eared Owl** seen from a taxiing plane at the airport 3/12 (FBa). Another good pair of owls was the **Barred Owl** first found 12/30 in Lynn Twp (FB,PE,JH). They were seen in a pine woods with 15-20 **Long-eared Owl** throughout the quarter. Another pair of Barred Owl was near Albutis (CRE). At least 4 different **N. Saw-whet Owl** were found in the county. Birds were seen in Emmaus 1/31 and 2/15 (JH), at the Walter Tract 2/10 (FB, m.ob.), and in Coopersburg 1/9 (D&EM). This is probably a record number of sightings.



Snowy Owl, ABE Airport, 3/2/91. Photo by Jeff Kaboly.

OBSERVERS: Frank Bader (FBa), Fritz Brock, Catherine R. Elwell, Pauline England, John Galm, Dick Gemmell, Dan Gerlach (DGER), Jason Horn, Allen Jennings, Don & Elaine Mease, **Bernie L. Morris**, 825

N **Muhleuberg** St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Berwick (BK), Dallas (DA), Harveys L. (HL), Kirby Park (KP), Susquehanna Riverlands (SR), Wyoming (WY).

A **Great Blue Heron** at Wilkes-Barre 2/15 was the 1st Feb. record of the species that the compiler has recorded in 40+ years of birding in n.e. Pa. Six Wood Duck were at BK 3/2 (A&MG); a N. Pintail was at WY 1/12 (JSh); 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at HL 3/30 (JSk); an Am. Wigeon at BK 3/17 (A&MG); 7 Gr. **Scaup** were at HL 1/8 and 2 remained through the month (WR); 12 Corn. Goldeneye were noted at WY 2/18 (TB); 6 Hooded Merganser at HL 1/8 (WR); 56 **Com. Merganser** at Huntsville 3/8 (WE); a **Ruddy Duck** was at HL in early Jan. (v.o.).

The first Turkey Vulture flock was spotted 2/22 at Shickshinny (TS). N. Harrier reports came from WY 2/18 (TB) and Conyngham 2/28 (A&MG). A Cooper's Hawk was seen daily in late Mar. at WY (JSh). The only Red-shouldered Hawk report was at DA 3/27 (WR).

Not just 1, but 2 **Merlin** visited the yard and feeding station of J&P near Hobbie from Nov. through Feb. They were seen intermittently as they raided the feeding station of small songbirds. One of these may have visited in past winters.

The 20 **Am. Coot** wintering was well below the 34 of the previous winter and the 50-60 of earlier years. A **Com. Snipe** was observed at KP 3/1 (WR). There was an increase in Herring Gull reports. There were 2 Great Black-backed Gull noted at HL: an imm. 3/2 and an ad. 3/23 (WR). Of the 9 Great Black-backed Gull that the compiler has noted in Luzerne since the 1960s, the 3/23 record was the first ad. bird seen. In KP at dusk on 1/1, JM and JL called in 6-7 E. Screech-Owl at the same time.

In a winter in which **Horned Lark** numbers were low, the only report was of 200 at BK 1/27 (A&MG). For the 1st time in 15 years, spring migrant Tree Swallow preceded **E. Phoebe** at SR (DG,JF); the swallow arrived 3/18 and phoebe was a late 3/20. Next **E. Phoebe** report was from W. Pittston 3/25 (JSh). A Fish Crow at WY 1/12 was very unusual for the date (JSh). 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were daily visitors to a DA feeder (FJ).

DG found **Blue Jay**, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch to be less common near SR and WP than in most winters, including 2 resident-bird study plots. DG wonders about the relationship between the latter three small resident hole-nesting species and the large gypsy moth infestation of 1990. All of these species fared well during the nesting season, but seemed to decline in late summer. Were small caterpillar populations affected by the large-scale defoliation? More research needs to be done on this subject.

Carolina Wren continue to be reported from many locations. A flock of 20 **Am. Pipit** was seen at WY 3/26 (JSh). Up to 16 Cedar Waxwing were noted on various occasions at Conyngham (A&MG). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was noted at BK 2/18 (A&MG) and at least 2 over-wintered in SR's Wetlands Nature Area (DG,AG.); and 3 **Pine Warbler** were at Huntsville on the early date 3/30 (TB). Male Red-winged Blackbird were teaming over SR, setting up territories by 2/25. 20 Snow Bunting were at DA 1/27 (JH,JSh).

OBSERVERS: Terry Baltimore, Nancy Dennis, William Evans, John Fridman, Alan & Monica Gregory, Douglas A. Gross, James Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, Jim Lockwitch, John Murray, John & Autumn

Pfeiffer, **Bill Reid**, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), James Shoemaker, Jerry Skinner, Terry Soya.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

Abbreviations: Antes Fort (AF), Muncy area (MA), Picture Rocks area (PR), Rose Valley L. (RVL), SGL 252 (SGL), Upper Fairfield Twp (UFT), Washington Twp (WT).

Pied-billed and **Horned grebes** were observed along with an **Am. Bittern** at RVL 3/28 (A&LB); 8 **Horned Grebe** there 3/27 (G&PS). A **Great Blue Heron** was on Muncy Cr. 3/23 (WE). A single **Tundra Swan** 3/9 and 14 **Wood Duck** 3/29 were at SGL (DB). Some high counts from RVL in late-Mar. include: 23 **Wood Duck**, 1 **Green-winged Teal**, 13 **Am. Black Duck**, 8 **Mallard**, 21 **Am. Wigeon**, 89 **Ring-necked**, 101 **Is. Scaup**, 2 **Com. Goldeneye**, 33 **Bufflehead**, 36 **Hooded Merganser**, 6 **Cow. Merganser**, 3 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 2 **Ruddy Duck** (A&LB, G&PS, PB, FS, WE, JJ). **Ring-necked** in Hughesville 3/23 & **Permsdale** 3/24 (WE, JJ). 6 **Wood Duck**, 1 **Blue-winged Teal**, 1 **Gadwall**, 2 **Am. Wigeon** and 12 **Ring-necked Duck** were in **Williamsport** 3/24 (G&PS). 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at AF 3/25 (G&PS). 7 **Am. Coot** were on RVL 3/27 and 1 **Gr. Yellowlegs** 3/25 and 2 **Com. Snipe** 3/30 at AF (G&PS).

Turkey Vulture first near RVL 3/16 (WE). **Osprey** at **Lycoming Cr.** 3/25 (DD) & RVL 3/28 (A&LB). An ad. and imm. **Bald Eagle** were at **Little Pine SP** 3/30 (J&SW). A **d N. Harrier** was hunting in **UFT** 1/27 (WE, ER). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at SGL 3/21 (DB). **Rough-legged Hawk** were found all quarter in **UFT** (E&TR). **Am. Coot** was found on RVL 3/28 (A&LB). **Killdeer** first seen in PR 3/2 (WE). An **Am. Woodcock** was first reported 2/26 in WT (DB). **Ring-billed Gull** were at RVL 3/16 (WE). 4 **Short-eared Owl** were seen hunting late 3/17 in **Muncy Twp** (WE, JJ). **E. Phoebe** was reported 3/28 in MA (WE) and 3/29 in WT (DB). 40 **Horned Lark** noted in **UFT** 1/14 (E&TR). A flock of 15 **Fish Crow** from the **Milton I.** crow roost was seen in WT 2/27 (DB). **Cow. Raven** were in PR 1/13 (WE).

A **Winter Wren** was singing at SGL 3/29 (DB). A 4 **Rufous-sided Towhee** at SGL 2/27 (DB). **Field Sparrow** were first heard 3/30; **Fox Sparrow** first at SGL 3/21 (DB). 3 **d Red-winged Blackbird** were at the **Reish's feeders** 1/13, then a singing d showed up at our backyard pool 3/3 (WE). **E. Meadowlark** were noted 3/17 in **Muncy Twp** (WE, JJ). A dozen **Rusty Blackbird** at SGL 3/29 (DB). A lone **Purple Finch** was at DB's home in WT 2/25 (DB). **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** were sporadic all quarter; siskins reported in **UFT** early (E&TR), grosbeaks at more locations in numbers ranging from 1-3 in WT, ±50 at a **Slate Run feeder** 3/23+ (BR), and ±60 at feeders in PR (WE) and **UFT** (E&TR).

OBSERVERS: **Peggy Bigger**, **Dan Brauning**, **Arlene & Larry Brown**, **Dennis Dusza**, **Wesley Egli**, **PO** Box 381, **Picture Rocks** 17762 (717-584-2222), **Jim Jacobs**, **Ed & Tink Reish**, **Glenna & Paul Schwalbe**, **Bob Ross**, **Fred Stiner**, **JoAnn & Sonya Wolfe**.

MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda D. Ordiway

Abbreviations: Eldred Swamp (ES), Kiondike (KL), Red Bridge (RB), Sugar Bay (SB), Willow Bay (WB).

This quarter went too quickly with not enough field time to do the season or the county justice. This also will have to be my last report. (Frank & Barb, you will have to find another compiler who sends things late!) I will be attending graduate school at Marshall University in W. Virginia come 6/7. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of Pa. Birds, I love it! A big thanks also to those observers who sent me some reports.

3 **Com. Loon** at SB 1/14. **Pied-billed Grebe** at ES 3/20 and 2 **Horned Grebe** at RB 3/28. A **Green-backed Heron** at ES 3/31. On 3/12, 500 **Tundra Swan** n. of **Eldred**, numerous reports of **Tundra Swan** and **Canada Goose** the weekend of 3/15 in the **Bradford area** (my phone was

humming!). **Wood Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Am. Black Duck & Blue-winged Teal** arrived at ES 3/24. 3 **d Am. Wigeon** & 5 **Ring-necked Duck** at WB 3/31. 8 **Ring-necked Duck** and **Gr. Scaup** at RB 2/23.

5 **Turkey Vulture** were in **Farmers Valley** 3/21 and **Red-shouldered Hawk** showed up the last 2 weeks of Mar. for the second year. Two kettles of hawks, **Broad-wings?**, in a report turned in by 2 people who I feel are reliable as to if they were "hawks:" 48 swirling over the **Manilla watershed** 3/21; and 30 over the **Glendorn Estates** 3/31. 4 **Is. Yellowlegs** at ES 3/30. **Am. Woodcock** at the **Gilbert area** 3/12, a welcome sight. **N. Saw-whet Owl** at **Foster Hollow Hill** 3/18 calling in the evening. **First N. Flicker** at **McKean/Warren line** 2/28, looking fairly weak. **Travel or nourishment?** **E. Phoebe** at **Gilbert**. **Cow. Raven** at higher elevations (**Marilla Hill**, 1(L) mid-Feb. +. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** singing end Mar., breaking the winter silence! **Early Hermit Thrush** 3/22 not singing at **WB Hemlock Campground**. **Invaded by Am. Robin** week of 2/24, there goes my phone again! **Chipping** and **Field sparrows**, neither singing, at **Gilbert** 3/23. **Red-winged Blackbird** at WB 3/16. 5 **Com. Redpoll** at KL 3/3, thanks, **Deuane!** As of 3/31 **Evening Grosbeak** still here sporadically.

OBSERVERS: **Dr. Frank Bray**, **Deuane Hoffman**, **Madeline Miles**, **Linda Ordiway**, 72 **Gilbert LN**, **Bradford** 16701(814368-7464). Thanks again, **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** is going to WV also!

Our thanks to Linda for her reports (they were never that late) and the extra notes she sent along. Good luck in Grad School, Linda. If anyone is interested in being compiler, please contact us. -eds.

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Abbreviations: Grove City area (GC), Hermitage area (HA), Limber Rd (LR), Saguallas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SP 3/30 (HB). The first 2 **Great Blue Heron** returned to the **Brucker Sanctuary** on the same date as last year: 2/19. In the annual pre-season count, 238 nests were tallied.

Around SRR, **Canada Goose** is becoming exceedingly common and tame. (No nesting floats have been set out on the propagation ponds this year.) On 3/26 a pair, probably on a nest site search, waddled up from an area pond right to the front door. There, the Y investigated a life-like **Canada Goose** wooden planter loaded with those colored, plastic Easter eggs, and she dislodged several. Oh, for a camera at that particular moment! It would have been a perfect Easter-season newspaper picture, with the caption: **Local Easter bunny** replaced by **Easter goose!**

Two **Wood Duck** were at HA 3/19, and 5 on the same pond 3/25. The following waterfowl were at SRR in singles or pairs: **N. Pintail** 3/2; **Blue-winged Teal** 3/26; **N. Shoveler** 3/2; **Gadwall** 3/26; **Am. Wigeon** 3/17. 6 **Am. Wigeon** were at SP 3/30 (HB). "Wall to wall" (200-300) **Ring-necked Duck** were at SP & **Willow Pond** 3/30 (HB); 20 **Gr. Scaup** showed up 3/26 at SRR, and 2 **Bufflehead** were there 3/17 and 25 on 3/26. At SRR there were 8 **Hooded Merganser** 3/17 and 12 on 3/26, and 6 at SP 3/30 (HB). SRR always hosts many **Red-breasted Merganser** in Mar: 75+ on 3/17 and 60 on 3/26.

A **N. Harrier** was at LR 2/3 (NR). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** continues to be a feeder predator at GC (SM), as does a **Cooper's Hawk** at HA. An **Am. Kestrel** was near SP 3/30 (HB), and a **Merlin** was again at SRR propagation ponds 1/6. Two **Wild Turkey** were unexpected at HA 1/5, and 3 seen getting ready to roost the evening of 3/30 about 75 ft up in a group of oaks was even more unusual. Most thrilling was to see 4 leave this same roost at 6 a.m. the following morning. **Killdeer** began arriving 2/20. An **Am. Woodcock** was seen and hear "doing his thing" 3/20 at HA.

Great Black-backed Gull has now reached **Mercer**, with a sighting 2/24 at SRR. It was a stand-out among hundreds of **Ring-billed Gull**. A

Pileated Woodpecker was at HA 2/3. **E. Phoebe** arrived at HA 3/22, and 10 Tree Swallow returned to SRR 3/26 and 100 at Celery Swamp 3/30 (NR). The single Red-breasted Nuthatch, which arrived at the HA feeder last Nov., left the first week of March, and the GC feeder pair was last seen 3/23 (HB). The HA pair of **Carolina Wren** survived the winter, but the single GC bird was not seen after 3/17 (HB). Individual Golden-crowned Kinglet were seen at various sites all quarter, and a good movement was noted beginning the last 10 days of Mar. A pair of **E. Bluebird** had their nest box staked out 2/2 at SRR. Rufous-sided Towhee returned 3/30 to **LR (HB)**. **Am. Tree Sparrow** and **Dark-eyed Junco** remained scarce all quarter. Field Sparrow returned 3/22 at HA. Two E. Meadowlark were at **LR 3/30 (HB)**. No report of **Purple Finch**, **Cow. Redpoll** or **Pine Siskin**, and only one report of **Evening Grosbeak**: 6 at GC 2/17 (HB,LW).

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Shirley McCarl, **Marty McKay**, 2320 Valley View Rd, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Nancy Rodgers, Loraine Weiland.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

Abbreviations: Juniata R. (JR), McVeytown area (MV), Newton Hamilton (NH). All sightings by compiler in MV unless otherwise noted.

An excellent count of 22 **Great Blue Heron** was made at a pond in Ferguson Valley 3/21 (TM, LB). Two **Tundra Swan** were on the JR near MV 2/15. Two pair of Wood Duck went over 3/30 and 3 **Am. Black Duck** were on JR near Ryde 3/18. Cow. and Hooded mergansers were found on JR above Ryde and near NH 3/7, 8, 10, while 3 **Red-breasted Merganser** were near Ryde 3/8.

Three Black and 35 Turkey vultures were observed near Lewistown 3/4; many "TVs" were noted migrating in late March. Our local Red-tailed Hawk are conspicuous by their absence since late-Feb. and may not nest nearby this season! We were delighted 3/18 to hear and see at least 4 **Am. Woodcock** displaying over the farm field and the creek area across the road from us. Especially since their original habitat was cleared and they have adapted to this area close to our home.

The owners at Dunmire Sons Dairy, MV, wanted to start using the silage from their silo and discovered that **Barn Owl** had a nest with 5 eggs already in it. Tim Marks, PGC, put a box in place and moved the nest and the plastic which held the nest into it. They later discovered that there were 7 eggs and the 4 was incubating them. The Dunmires (as does everyone else) hope they are successful in raising their young.

Red-bellied Woodpecker were nest building by 3/18. Downy were in good numbers, but Hairy woodpecker numbers seem especially low. N. Flicker were noted 3/4, 5 (MK, BK). **Pileated Woodpecker** have been seen near Granville all season (RM). An **E. Phoebe** arrived in full voice 3/3. One of our 3 Carolina Wren appeared 1/10 minus its tail and was not seen after 1/12. Another Carolina Wren is busy constructing a nest just above the kitchen door in Burnham (RS).

E. Bluebird over-wintered in good numbers. They fed on rose hips and honeysuckle berries with some supplements of currants and raisins. Many neighbors also reported them, 1/19 (CS), 2/18 (TK), during Feb. and Mar. (GM), and all quarter (SS). The local House Sparrow has tried to fill our 2 closest boxes as well as the 10 that we had cleaned and repaired and left on the picnic table. He was so busy stuffing grasses into many of the cleaned out boxes. Well, he'll be busy for quite a while, as I'll probably clean them out several more times before the bluebirds can claim them. Best one wins! A wintering Am. Robin was noted 1/21, with next sighting 3/1 (AM). TK saw "a flock of 17 in their yard really hunting for food and flying about."

An almost completely leucistic N. Cardinal was regular at

a Mattawana feeder during Feb. (MM). There was a bit of color just under the wings. Song, White-throated and **White-crowned** sparrows and **Dark-eyed Junco** were regulars all quarter. Both **Red-winged Blackbird** and Cow. Grackle arrived the same day, 2/23; usually the Red-wings arrive first. E. Meadowlark first noted 3/15. **Brown-headed Cowbird** were in large numbers at the feeders 3/5. **House Finch** had begun nesting in a hanging planter 3/18; they had used it for roosting all winter. Only 2 Pine Siskin were noted at a local feeder this winter, 3/5. **Am. Goldfinch** were in good numbers all season.

OBSERVERS: Larry Baker, Thelma Kanagy, Bill Kauffman, **Margaret Kenepf**, RR 2 Box 343, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), Tim Marks, Grace Miller, Mary Miller, Ron Moon, Ruth Smeltzer, Sara Snook.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

Abbreviations: Green Lane Res. (GLR), Evansburg SP (ESP), Ft. Washington SP (FWSP), Schuylkill R. (SR), Upper Perldomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFN).

The quarter's more interesting birds were 2 **Bonaparte's Gull** at GLR one day only, 1/24 (GAF); a N. Goshawk well seen at ESP 1/26 (FH); a **Barred Owl** at GLR, both heard and seen from 3/5-13 (GLF); another Barred Owl calling and visible at FWSP at 9:45 a.m. 3/31 (W&NM); a N. Saw-whet Owl at GLR 2/26 (GLF) and a surprising Solitary Vireo in FWSP 1/6 (W&NM).

Pied-billed Grebe were scarce everywhere, although a single finally turned up at GLR in Mar. A **Horned Grebe** was at GLR 3/9-16 (KC, GLF); **Tundra Swan** came through late Feb/early Mar., with a max. of 17 at GLR; Snow Goose were low in numbers, with 3 blue-morph at GLR 3/2 and 1 that lingered between GLR and UPVP 3/16-27 (KC, NT). The vigorous **Wood Duck** population at UPVP seemed secure with 6 arriving there 3/5 (GAF). Other Mar. waterfowl records at GLR & UPVP include: small numbers of **Green-winged Teal** (max. 5) first seen 3/3 (GAF); N. Pintail numbers were up a little this year, although nothing like the hundreds once seen at GLR; an early pintail sighting was 2/3 at GLR (KC), but from 3/2-17 numbers swelled to 60; 3 **Blue-winged Teal** had arrived at GLR by 3/30 (GAF); about 20 Gadwall were at UPVP all quarter; **Am. Wigeon** had arrived by early Mar.; a 4 **Canvasback** was at GLR 3/2 (GAF). From Feb. + **Ring-necked Duck** were at GLR in good numbers (50+), and smaller numbers at UPVP and in the SR at Betzwood. Ls. Scaup max. was 14 on 3/24 (GAF). There were fewer **Cow. Goldeneye** in the SR at Betzwood this winter than in past years, at most 30, but numerous **Bufflehead (NT)**. The large wintering population of **Hooded Merganser** was at UPVP, with 30+ there all Jan. and many still there in Mar. **Cow. Merganser** numbers were very low in the SR, never more than 12 (NT), and seemed sparse at GLR except for a peak in Feb. of 140+ (KC). Missing altogether was **Ruddy Duck**.

An imm. **Bald Eagle** was at GLR 1/24 (GAF) and a N. Harrier was seen several times in Jan. and Feb. On the same 1/26 visit to ESP in which FH saw the N. Goshawk, he also saw a **Sharp-shinned, Cooper's** and a Red-shouldered. He points out that ESP has been under-reported by birders, and that it has good possibilities. Single Sharp-shinned and Cooper's were also glimpsed at GLR (GLF); an imm. Cooper's wintered at FWSP (W&NM). The pair of Red-shoulders that bred last year (location deleted -eds.) was present through the winter, becoming more vocal 3/2+ and I was seen regularly in Jan. and Feb. over the SR (BF). GLR's Merlin was also seen twice in Feb. (GLF).

No less than 17 Ring-necked Pheasant were counted at GLR 1/13 (KC); Ruffed Grouse may have reached the UPVP area: a road-kill was found 3/30 (RG); and GLR's Wild Turkey population, 26-strong, is doing well. A tom was gobbling in the UPV 3/16 (GLF). By late Mar. as many as 5 Cow. **Snipe** could be seen from Church Rd. at GLR, grazing in a wet field. Am. Woodcock were on schedule in scattered locations.

The **Red-headed Woodpecker** in Upper Providence Twp stayed through Jan., but Hairy Woodpecker seem to be becoming harder to find.

Pileated Woodpecker are still in the UPV, and I occasionally visited RG's yard, but there has been no report of any s. of there for years. Earliest **E. Phoebe** report was along the SR 3/23, earliest Tree Swallow in same area 3/20 (BF). Red-breasted Nuthatch were still evident at quarter's end, with 12 in one stand of pines in FWSP 3/31 (W&NM), overlapping the arrival of singing **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. **E. Bluebird** were doing well at GLR, ESP and FWSP, as were wintering **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. Earliest **Pine Warbler** were 3 in UPV 3/28 (GLF).

Reports of 1-2 **Fox Sparrow** at feeders were widespread, and several White-crowned Sparrow spent the quarter in a roadside hedgerow in the SR valley in Upper Providence Twp. E. Meadowlark seem to have come back to GLR to stay, with a max. of 24 counted 1/4 (GLF). **Purple Finch** counts there, however, were "much lower than last year" (RG).

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Bob Fetterman, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Frank Hohenleitner, William & Naomi Murphy, Neal Thorpe, **Box Q, Mont Clare, PA 19453 (215-933-2127)**.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A warm winter and some open water enabled a **Great Blue Heron** to visit Montour Preserve 2/9 (A&MG). Five **Hooded Merganser** were at the mouth of Roaring Cr. 1/2 (CS). A shrike sp. was seen on three occasions from 1/25-2/13 (CS).

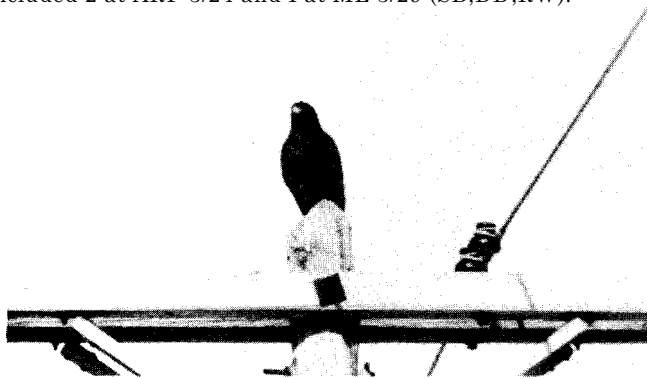
OBSERVERS: Alan & Monica Gregory, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Christine Smull.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: *Albert Rd. Ponds (ARP), Delaware R. (DR), E. Bangor Dam (EBD), Forks Twp (FT), Craver's Hill (GH), KGecknersville Pasture (KP), Martin's Cr. (MC), Minsi L. (ML), Wind Gap (WG)*. All observations by Dave DeReamus unless otherwise noted.

A **Horned Grebe** was at ML 3/29 (SB,DD,RW). 3 **Tundra Swan** were in FT 2/10. A flock of 150 Snow Goose was seen at MC 3/17 and 8 others were at ARP 2/22. 22 **Green-winged Teal** were counted at MC 3/17 and Blue-winged Teal were at MC 3/29 & KP 3/30. 8 N. Pintail were at MC 3/17 and a N. **Shoveler** was there 3/29. 55 **Ring-necked Duck** were at EBD 3/29 (SB,RW) and 2 Redhead at ARP 2/22-27. 8 Ls. Scaup at ARP 3/24 and a Gr. Scaup there 3/29. 18 Com. Goldeneye and 10 **Bufflehead** were on the DR above Easton 2/2. An excellent count of 80 Com. Merganser noted at ML 3/23 and sightings of Red-breasted included 2 at ARP 3/24 and 1 at ML 3/29 (SB,DD,RW).



Red-tailed Hawk (Dark Morph), Forks Twp., 1/14/91.
Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

The most heartening sighting this quarter was a pair of Osprey building a nest on a telephone pole at MC 3/29 (DD,AK). The d was observed doing a courtship flight with a fish in its talons. An ad. Bald Eagle was at ML 2/23 (SB). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was again present at WG where I (the same?) has been seen for at least 4-5 years in a row (m.ob.). A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk was at Richmond R. in FT 1/13 (SB,RW) and later at MC/Belvidere Hwy until 3/30 (SB,RW). Only 3 **Rough-legged Hawk** were reported.

A Pectoral Sandpiper was at KP 3/15. 3 **Com. Snipe** were still present at KP 1/5 and 24 were counted there 3/30. Single **Great Black-cked Gull** were seen on the DR at Frost Hollow 2/2 and at MC 3/29. A dead Long-eared Owl was found in Williams Twp 1/13 (SB,RW). A Pileated Woodpecker was in Williams Twp 2/2 and a very early E. Phoebe was found at MC 2/24 (SB). A **Carolina Chickadee** (No details, -eds.) was seen being chased by Black-caps at EBD 3/17 (DD) and another was seen in Williams Twp in Jan. (AK).

The first **Am. Pipit** was at Arrowhead Rd. 3/23 (RW) and an extremely early singing Solitary Vireo was observed at MC 3/24 (SB). Poole (*Pennsylvania Birds*, 1964) has an "extreme date" of 4/3. Two Savannah Sparrow were still present at GH 1/12 and 4 White-crowned Sparrow were at Yeska's 1/1. 2 Lapland Longspur were at GH 1/12.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St, Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Four Canvasback and 2 **Great Black-backed Gull** were along the Juniata R. near Newport 1/15 (DC). 12 Wild Turkey were near Liverpool 1/18 (DC). 2 Hermit Thrush, 25+ Am. Robin, and 12 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were near Mannsville 1/2 (DH). After a 1 1/2-hour search, DH finally relocated 27 **Red Crossbill** near Dunkleberger Rd. 1/2. Evening Grosbeak continued to use Ron Sober's feeders near Ickesburg, although there numbers had decreased to a high of only 8 on 1/6.

OBSERVERS: Dick Colyer, Dentine Hoffman, 3406 Montour St, Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475).

Corrigenda: The Purple Fmch high on 12/22/90 should be 3 not 30! And the low of 5 Pine Siskin should be 15, not 5!

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: *Andorra Nature Center (ANC), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware R. (DR), Ft. Mifflin (FM), Girard Pt. Bridge (GPB), Philadelphia (PHL), Pennypack Ave. at Delaware R. (PPD), PHL Sewage Ponds (PSP), Schuylkill R. (SR), Tincum Nat. Environ. Center (TN), W. Fairmount Park (WFP), W. Mt. Airy (WMA)*.

The annual Mid-winter Bird Census (WBC), once again, was the event of the season. Coordinated and compiled by Keith Russell, the count was held 1/13 and fielded 41 birders who reported a remarkable 96 species, an all-time high. Highlights follow. A detailed report is available from Keith at 71 W. Washington Ln., Phila. 19144.

A Com. Loon on the WBC was the only report. Likewise, Piedbilled Grebe was found on the WBC, with found 2 at TN that day (KS); 1 at TN 3/3 (SS) and 4 on 3/21 (JCM). Two **Horned Grebe**, unusual for PHL, were at PPD 2/21 (NP). It seems established now that **Double-crested Cormorant** are in before **Great Cormorant** leave. Two imm. Greats were at FM 1/2 (RR). An all-time high of 26 Great Cormorant was noted on the WBC; 10 remained as late as 3/12 at PPD (KS) and latest was at the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge 3/28 (CD). Two Double-crested noted on the WBC, but 20+ at GPB 3/28 (KS).

One Great Egret was "walking on ice" at FM 1/2 (RR) and 1 for the WBC; 2 were at TN 1/18 (NP). 2 Black-crowned Night-Heron found

on WBC. **Glossy Ibis**, 14, was first seen flying N over the DR 3/26 (KS) and I settled into TN 3/29 (JCM). Only I Snow Goose, good for PHL, was on the WBC.

The census produced 18 species of ducks. WBC had just I **Wood Duck**; 2 at TN 3/4 (NP) increased to 6 by 3/28 (KS). While scouting for the WBC 1/6, EB, KR & CW counted 200 Green-winged Teal in s.w. PHL, but only 14 a week later. By 3/3 there were 200-250 (NP) and last reported 3/28 when KS saw 14 at GPB. 87 N. **Pintail** at PSP 2/28 dropped to 35 on 3/7 (EF). At least 600 were flying N along the river 3/17 (CD). First report of **Blue-winged Teal** at TN was 3/24 (KS). A Gadwall keeping company with a Y Mallard in WFP 1/12 (EF,EB) was not found the next day, although the WBC did produce 2. Another of these scarce PHL ducks was seen 2/24 at PSP (EF). Only 1 **Am. Wigeon** on the WBC, but 50+ at TN until 3/10 (NP,KS). **Canvasback** at PPD dropped from 150 on 2/21 to 4 by 3/18 (PPD). Only report of **Redhead** was I on WBC. TN had 8 Ring-necked **Duck** 3/3 (NP,SS). 4 Gr. Scaup rested at TN 3/3 (NP); 15 were on the Schuylkill R. 1/6 (EB,KR,CW), but only 6 for the WBC. 50 Ls. **Scaup** were counted. DC found a rare PHL Oldsquaw to enhance the WBC, likewise I **Hooded Merganser**. **Com. Merganser** numbered 112 for the WBC and lingered in smaller numbers until 3/23 at TN (JS); **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen there the same day (JS). JCM writes that **Ruddy Duck** had "low numbers on the Delaware R. again this year." Several specific counts confirm that observation. Scouting for the WBC only 60 were on the river 1/6 (EB,KR,CW); the count produced 224, and a mere 20-40 were at PPD from 2/21-3/18 (KS).

Three Turkey Vulture made the WBC and 1 over CW 2/2 (SL). 5 N. Harrier were counted; 2 3, I Y were at the NE PHL Airport 1/21 (EF) and I at TN 3/28 (KS). 4 Cooper's Hawk on the WBC, along with 2 **Red-shouldered Hawk**; another of the latter was in CW 3/19 (MD). As usual, numerous Red-tails were seen (70 for the WBC); an imm. in Independence Park 1/14 (Tim McFadden), and courting at Morris Arboretum 2/3 (MD). **Am. Kestrel** were in various locations. On 2/20, 2 were in w. PHL (EB). A **Merlin** was found on the WBC (Michael Darcy).

A careful study by Chris Dooley for the Pa. Game Commission of **Peregrine Falcon** nesting on the DR has resulted in some remarkable findings. On 3/8 he found pairs at the GPB, the Walt Whitman (WWB) and Tacony-Palmyra (TPB) bridges, all on the Pa. side. Later that month a pair was found at the Betsy Ross Bridge (BRB). By the end of the month he had confirmed nesting pairs at the GPB, WWB and BRB (in this case, on the New Jersey side, despite numerous prey carcasses found on the Pa. side). By month's end the TPB pair was not yet confirmed nesting. We look forward to the next report on breeding from Chris. Please report any sightings of juv. Peregrine Falcons.

A low number of just I Killdeer found on the WBC, but 4 at PPD 3/25 (KS). A **Com. Snipe** was first found at TN 3/1 (JS) and numbers peaked at 110+ by 3/21 (JCM). **Am. Woodcock** were already displaying at TN 2/28 when DM found 5. A **Ls. Black-backed Gull** was found at the Belmont Ave. Res. (DC) for a highlight of the WBC. The count produced just I **Barn Owl** but at least 2 wintered at TN (JCM). Another was found late Mar. under the GPB (CD). 17 **Great Horned Owl** were found on the WBC. **Three Long-eared Owl**, increasing rare in this area, were at TN 3/21-31 (JCM).

Only 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were counted 1/13, but I ad. d over-wintered in n.w. PHL (RR). I appeared in CW 2/13 (SL), and I there 3/27 (EB,MD). A Y Hairy Woodpecker was in CW 2/4 (EB). A **Pileated Woodpecker** wandered from the woods onto Greene St. in WMA 1/5 to the delight of EB. Only I found on the WBC. An **E. Phoebe** wintered in the area, but earliest migrant was 3/22 (EB) in n.e. PHL. Five Tree Swallow were early at TN 3/3 (DM,SS).

Fish Crow are doing very well; an all-time high of 114 on the WBC and KS noted them all season at PPD. One wit remarked that Fish Crows were eating Blue Jays. A few Black-capped Chickadee were found; 5 on the WBC and I at TN 3/4 (NP); RR reported 2 all winter in n.w. PHL.

A good count of 20 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on the WBC; at least 3 wintered in n.w. PHL (RR). House Wren were back by 3/26 when JS found I in Franklin Square. The real wren story, however, is the relative abundance of **Winter Wren**. I've never received so many reports spanning all three months. First one reported in CW 1/6 (SL). WBC produced 5; 1 at TN 3/3 (SS) and 3/29 when JCM found 2; JS had 3 at TN 3/24.

Two reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, I at TN 3/24 (KS) and 2 over-wintered in n.w. PHL (RR). Am. Robin were scarce (RR). The WBC found only 101. A **Hermit Thrush** appeared at ANC 3/31 (KS).

The only warbler report was of 1 **Pine Warbler** "singing" at TN 3/29 (JCM). Nine sparrow species were reported: 3 Savannah in s.w. PHL 1/6 (EB,KR,CW) and 5 on WBC. "Low numbers again this winter" of Am. Tree writes JCM. RR found 8 at FM 1/2, but added "the only place I ever seem to find this declining bird." WBC found 40. The last report, 1, comes from a WMA feeder 2/14 (SL). 2 Fox were noted on the WBC and I appeared in n.w. PHL 2/23 and remained, sometimes with a second bird, through late Mar. (RR). 4 imm. White-crowned were in fields near FM 1/2 (RR) and 3 found 1/6 in s.w. PHL (EB,KR,CW) were relocated for the WBC 1/13. A Rusty Blackbird helped the WBC's species count, but 2 more were uncounted that same day at TN (KS). Peak was 15 at TN 3/21 (JCM), but only 3 there 3/29 (IS). Although not a "finch year" by any means, the WBC managed 2 **Purple Finch** and I Pine Siskin.

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Dave Cutler, Chris Dooley, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W Sedgwick St, Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Steve Lawrence, Doris McGovern, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Robert Ridgely, Keith Russell, Sandra Sherman, Jack Siler, Kate Somerville, whom we welcome as a new contributor, Chris Walters.

POTTER COUNTY

All sightings were 3/3 by DH. Two **Com. Raven** were near Carter Camp. Seven Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Brown Creeper, 8 Golden-crowned **Kinglet**, and 12 **Evening Grosbeak** were found at Lyman Run SP. Exciting were the 9 **White-winged Crossbill** (5d, 4Y) found at Cherry Springs SP.

OBSERVER: Deuane Hoffman.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Dan Knarr

Abbreviations: New Ringgold (NR), Port Clinton (PC). Reports by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Black Vulture were at PC 2/23. **Wild Turkey** were seen at PC 2/17. Am. Woodcock were heard near NR 2/25 (DK,MK). **E. Phoebe** were near NR 3/17 (DK,MK) as were Fox Sparrow 3/30.

OBSERVERS: **Dan Knarr, RR 1 Box 23d, New Ringgold 17960 (717-386-4780), Marjie Knarr.**

Steve Lawrence writes that "**Blue Jays** were almost completely absent. I had I in Jan., none in Feb (the first month ever without a Blue Jay in WMA). I saw 3 on 3/3, but not another one until 3/31." His comments were borne out by others. An all-time low of 33 was seen on the WBC. Ridgely writes "very scarce this winter in n.w. PHL." Has anyone else noticed this?(EF)

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Waterfowl highlights for Faylor L. included 15 species on 3/29, most numerous being Wood Duck, Am. Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Ls. Scaup and Com. Merganser. Earlier, on 3/16, roughly 100 Com. Merganser were present (R&PW).

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

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: Camp Soles L. (CSL), Central City (CC), Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HV), Jennerstown (JT), L. Somerset (LS), Laurel Hill SP (LH), Markleton (MT), New Centerville (NC), New Lexington (AE), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Rockwood (RW), Samii's Swamp nr. Jennerstown (SS), S. Glade Creek (SGC), Stoughton L. (SL), Youghiogeny Dam (YD), Youghiogeny R. (R)

Many days were spring-like, such as 2/3-4, when temperatures in the 60s tricked a grouse into drumming; chickadees, cardinals and titmice into spring songs; and honey bees into buzzing at the Sager's feeders.

A d Black Scoter 1/20 (GRS) and a 4 Surf Scoter 1/15-16 (RM) took advantage of QD's open water for a resting place. An unusually large concentration of Mallard was noted at SS, where 1300-1400 were counted in the swamp and nearby cornfields 1/5 (AS), and 500-600 on 1/12 (AM). Most migrating waterfowl arrived on schedule and with numbers in the average range for the last 4-year period. Single sightings of waterfowl included a Com. Loon at LS 3/30, 8 N. Shoveler at QD 3/21, and 2 Com. Merganser at LS 3/11. Shown below are high counts for each species, other locations (OL) where seen, and period covered.

Species	#	Date	Locations/OL	Period
Pied-billed Grebe	8	39536	LS/YD,CSL,QD	1/1-3/30
Horned Grebe	7	39528	LS/QD	3/8-3/28
Wood Duck	6	39534	LHSP/QD/SGC,LS	3/43/31
Gr-wing Teal	6	39525	LS/SL	3/11-327
Am. Black Duck	25	39509	CGL/LS,SSJ	1/12-3/19
N. Pintail	6	39458	SSJ/LS,YR	1/12-3/11
Bl-wing Teal	5	39536	LS	324326
Gadwall	3	39530	LS/HPL,SL,QD	122324
Am. Wigeon	20	3/24-27	LS/QD,SL	3/5-3/30
Canvasback	15	39525	LS/QD,SL	3/16-3/19
Redhead	18	39525	LS	3/11-3/31
Ring-neck Duck	250	39531	HPL/QD,LS,YR	2/16-328
Lesser Scaup	188	39530	LS/QD	3/8-3/30
Oldsquaw	4	39524	QD/LS	3/18-3/30
C. Goldeneye	sev.	39517	QD/LS,YL	1/17-3/19
Bufflehead	24	39525	LS/YR,QD	1/10-328
Hooded Merganser	18	39464	QD/LS,YR	1/1-327
Red-br. Merganser	39	39526	LS/QD	3/6-3/30
Ruddy Duck	6	39524	QD/LS	3/18-3/24

The first 2 Turkey Vulture were at RW 3/6. QD had 2 Osprey 3/7 and LS had I on 3/26. N. Harrier were at NC 1/3,22,30 & 3/4; and I at QD 3/3. Single Rough-legged Hawk were at Black Twp 1/4,25; MT 2/2; and NC 3/25. Single Golden Eagle were at CC 3/3,12. Am. Coot was very low again, seen only at LS from 3/17-30 with a high of 7 on 3/20,30. NL had an early Killdeer 1/11 and reports were widespread after 3/1. AM reported Com. Snipe at spring seeps which receive barnyard runoff when adjacent areas were snow-covered. At NL he saw 9 1/1, 6 1/21, 2 2/15, and at Wilson Cr. 11 on 3/14-15. Am. Woodcock was first reported at Barronvale 3/19.

YR had 22 Ring-billed Gull 2/10, and LS reached a high of 193 3/17; but the lone Herring Gull at LS 3/11 was the only report. Only E. Screech-Owl reports were I at QD 1/12, and I that remained in a Wood Duck nesting box 1/27 as the Sagers removed the box from a tree with a wrecking bar and hammer at HV. Red-bellied Woodpecker reports indicate this species is well-established as a wintering bird; a Yellowbellied Sapsucker seen feeding regularly from beginning of quarter was found weak and died 3/11 at MT; and N. Flicker were seen irregularly in numbers from 1-8 at HV. First E. Phoebe arrived 3/22 at SL & HV. It was a great year to find Horned Lark in the Boswell, IT, Davidsville & HV areas all quarter in manure-spread fields and cornfields, and high of 300 was at HV 1/14. No Red-breasted Nuthatch reported and only single Brown Creeper at HV 2/22 and MT 3/29. A pair of Carolina Wren roosted for the second winter in AM's unheated basement garage at MT, and singles were at Hidden Valley 1/8-9 and all quarter at Thomas Mills.

A few Golden-crowned Kinglet were at RV irregularly until the last week of March, when a good movement of 3-10 was observed daily. E. Bluebird did well due to the mild weather; Am. Robin could be found in sheltered spots all quarter and many small flocks of up to 100 began the migration 3/6-7; but the lone Cedar Waxwing reported was at HV 1/5. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at HV 1/19 was doing a customary behavior for that location, feeding on cluster flies around windows. Rufous-sided Towhee were at Whipkey Dam 3/11 and HV 3/29. Up to 30 Am. Tree Sparrow were at HV feeders 1/1-30, then 2/8-28; and I at MT 2/13. First Chipping Sparrow arrived at HV 3/30, Field 3/26, and Fox 3/4. 4 Red-winged Blackbird were first at HV 2/16; E. Meadowlark were first at NC 3/14; 5 Rusty Blackbird were at NC 1/11 and 1 remained to 1/21; a few Cow. Grackle were at HV 1/7 to mid-March, when many migrants passed through; and the first Brown-headed Cowbird was at HV 3/24. 6-12 Purple Finch were at HV feeders all quarter; up to 10 Pine Siskin were near Dalton Run Dam 1/1-20; only a few Am. Goldfinch were at HV feeder from I/ I+ and numbers reached 10 in mid-Mar. Evening Grosbeak were at HV 1/2-21, reaching a high of 17 on 1/7; 2 were at MT 1/23; and RW had 10 on 3/12 and 7 on 3/13.

OBSERVERS: Walt Bowen, Kevin Georg, Velva Idzkowsky, Dan Jenkins, Dean Jobe, Bob Leberman, Alberta Long, Anthony 1. Marich, Betty McCurdy, James R. Moses, Richard Murphy, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RR 1 Box 176B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Dr. Ali Samii, Evaleen & Michael Watko, Mike Wolfe.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: World's End SP (WESP), Wyoming SF (WSF). As usual, both seasons found very few observers in this county.

4th Quarter 1990

Since I have received many unverified reports of **Bald Eagle** in Sullivan through the years, I was very pleased to receive an acceptable record of an imm. or subad., flying near Ricketts over SGL (n. of Ricketts Glen SP) 11/28 (SS). According to other sources, a bird was seen in the general area (over and near SGL 57 in both Sullivan and Wyoming) for a prolonged period during the quarter. Undocumented reports also reached DG of Bald Eagles at Eagles Mere L.

Although forest birds seemed generally sparse, DAG found an unusually large number of Black-capped Chickadee when he tromped through WSF wetlands through the quarter. **Com. Raven** stayed the winter in WSF near WESP, on North Mt. near Nordmont (DG,DAG). This species has increased dramatically in the area near Lopez (SC,TS); Conant saw over 15 in early Oct. and Soya frequently saw 6 or more flocking together in Nov. and Dec. SS spotted 7 Snow Bunting along Rt. 487 at Ricketts 11/15. The forested areas near Lopez have been a haven for the declining Purple F'mch, so SC was alarmed to hear that House Finch arrived in the Bellasyva area in late Oct.

1st Quarter 1991

More **Red-tailed Hawk** were seen in agricultural sections than in previous winters. **Com. Raven** and **Am. Crow** were both fairly common in their appropriate habitats; a raven was being mobbed by crows over a field near Shunk 2/3 (DG). **Tufted Titmouse** may be increasing here, with more being sighted near homes and in wetlands (DG,SC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was much less common in WSF this winter. **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Am. Tree Sparrow** were quite common. Since juncos are common to abundant breeders here, I wonder if some wintering juncos (*Junco h. hyemalis*) are local breeders, especially in mild winters. Winter finches seemed absent, but there were few reports to substantiate this.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Donald Gross, Douglas A. Gross, RR 1, Box 147, Orangeville 17859 (717-542-2191), Terry Soya, Stanley Stahl.

TIOGA COUNTY

Bob Ross

Abbreviations: Beechwood L. (BL), Crooked Cr. (CC), Grand Canyon Airport (GCA), Hills Creek L. (HCL), Hamilton L. (HLL), Knoxville area (KA), Liberty area (LA), Millerton area (MA), Marsh Cr. (MC), National Fishery Laboratory (NFL), Nessmuk L. (NL), Pine Cr. (PC), Sabinsville area (SA), Stony Fork (SF), The Muck (TM), Wellsboro area (WA), Westeld (WE), Welsh Settlement (WS).

Lakes remained ice-covered later this year than last, perhaps contributing to generally later observations and fewer numbers of water birds. Winter-plumaged **Pied-billed** and **Horned grebes** were first noted on NL 3/24,28 respectively (RMR,JW). Three **Double-crested Cormorant** flew over WA 3/20 (DS). A few **Great Blue Heron** over-wintered, with observations of single birds at MC 1/13,20 (RMR,JW), WE 1/20 (HR), & TM 1/27, 2/24 (RMR). A fly-over was seen at WA 3/18 (MC), but a known active heronry near TM was not reoccupied by end of quarter (RMR). **Tundra Swan** were found again in low numbers with only 2-9 per sighting at HCL (cornfield), BL, CC, & WA 3/9-28 (RMR,JW,HR). Twenty **Snow Goose** flew S over WA 1/1 (MC).

Though greater species diversity was observed this year than last, total numbers were not much greater, as the following table shows:

Species	#	Date	Location
Wood Duck	15	3/4-31	LA,WA,TM,NL,SA
Gr-wing Teal	2	39530	NL
Mallard	43	1/6,3/9	NL,TM
Bl-wing Teal	7	3/24-31	NL,HLL,SA
Am. Wigeon	17	3/24,28	NL
Ring-neck Duck	194	3/7-31	NL,CC,HCL,SA
Gr. Scaup	19	3/21,24	MA,NL,HCL
Ls. Scaup	17	39530	NL,HCL
Com. Goldeneye	2	39510	LA
Bufflehead	2	39532	WA
Hooded Merganser	7	3/24,28	HCL,NL
Com. Merganser	14	3/13-28	BL,PC,HLL,NL

The first reported **Turkey Vulture** returned 3 days later than last year to LA, 3/18 (JR). A mid-winter **Osprey** hovered over fish race-ways at NFL 1/29 (GP), but first seasonal sighting was at SF 3/31 (DD). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was identified near MA 3/27 (JoS).

N. **Harrier** were in good numbers with sightings of 1-6 birds at various locations in n. *Tioga* from 1/1-3/10 (m.ob.). Single **Sharp shinned Hawk** were seen at WA & TM 2/1 and 3/16 (C&JC,RMR). **Cooper's Hawk** were also present at TM 1/2 & MA 3/18 (RMR,A&LB). **Rough-legged Hawk** hunted the same farmfields as harriers in n. *Tioga* in good numbers from 1/7-3/15 (m.ob.). **Am. Kestrel**, observed at LA 2/8 (JR), appeared in greater numbers at WA 3/17+ (MC). A single **Merlin** was reported from LA 3/13 (JR).

Killdeer returned to NFL 3/1 (GP), 9 days ahead of last year. Four **Com. Snipe** fed in a pasture seep at WA 1/27 (MC,DS); 2 remained 1/29 and were observed at length (MC,DS,RMR,JW); and others at SA 3/31 (HR). Several snipe winnowed at/after

sundown 3/31 + at TM, *TJoga's* largest wetland (RMR). Single **Am. Woodcock** were flushed at WA & MA 3/10,21 (RMR,A&LB).

"**Seagulls**" invaded n. *Tioga* 3/3-5 with sightings of 1-150 **Ring-billed** at 6 locations (m.ob.) and 3 **Herring** at MA (A&LB). A pair of **Barred Owl** killed a grouse at Colton Point SP 3/29 (F&RC). **Short-eared Owl** wintered at 3 locations: 6 at WS 1/6-3/4 (v.o.); at least 1 pair near GCA 1/26-3/13 (v.o.) and 12 at MA 3/3-21 (A&LB). All of these owls occupied high-plateau active-farmland habitat. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** vocalized near MA 2/20-3/9 (JoS,A&LB).

A few **Belted Kingfisher** over-wintered at LA & MC from 1/6-3/3 (JR,RMR). **N. Flicker** were first reported back at WA 3/3 (MC). **E. Phoebe** returned 3/23 on PC (RC,RMR), 1 week later than last year. Flocks of 12-30 **Horned Lark** were seen at GCA, Antrim, WS, & LA 1/26-31 (RMR,JW, JR). **Tree Swallow** returned to LA 3/29 (JR), nearly 2 weeks later than last year's sighting at HCL.

Carolina Wren over-wintered successfully with singing heard at WS 1/6 (RMR,RC), TM 1/12 (RMR), and WA (F&RC). **E. Bluebird** (1-4) were not reported until 3/5-25 (m.ob.). One **Am. Robin** was reported mid-winter (1/12) at TM (RMR), but large numbers did not return until 3/5-7 at LA & MC (JR,RMR). Single **N. Mockingbird** were at MA & HLL 2/28 and 3/25 (A&LB, MC). An imm. **N. Shrike** was observed near MA 2/15 (JoS). Probably the most unlikely winter sighting was a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at an MA feeder 1/5 (ph. A&LB).



Yellow-rumped Warbler, Job's Corners, January 1991.
Photo by Arlene Brown.

Am. Tree Sparrow wintered in abundance at TM all quarter (RMR) and were reported at feeders in LA & MA (JR,A&LB). **Fox Sparrow** (1-2) were observed 3/6,9 at LA & TM (JR,RMR). **Swamp Sparrow** either over-wintered or migrated early to breeding habitat at TM, with singing heard 2/23 (RMR). Only 1 **White-throated Sparrow** was reported (1/12; TM,RMR). **Dark-eyed Junco** were numerous throughout the county (m.ob.). Small (7) to large (100+) flocks of **Snow Bunting** were seen at NFL, GCA, & WA 1/13-2/29 (RMR,C&JC,MC).

A few **Red-winged Blackbird** over-wintered with single birds spotted 1/12-21 at TM, MA, & LA (RMR,A&LB, JR). The first large migratory wave occurred 2/23-24 at TM & WA with flocks of > 50 birds.

Tioga's resident pair of **Bald Eagle** has rejected the wooden platform placed in their former nest site and were observed carrying sticks to a new location N on 3/23 + (CD). A second pair of ad. **Bald Eagle** was observed in the canyon to the south during the same period (JS,TF). The partitioning of this narrow corridor of eagle habitat into two adjacent territories would be a strong indication of recovery in Pennsylvania.

Two E. Meadowlark were sighted 1/3 at WA (MC), but spring arrivals were not seen until 3/6-20 at TM, MA, & NFL (RMR,A&LB). Both Rusty Blackbird and Cow. Grackle arrived in large mixed flocks with red-wings at TM 2/23-24. Grackles, however, were not reported at LA & MA until 2/27 and 3/2 (JR,A&LB). A single d Brown-headed Cowbird also arrived with mixed blackbird flocks and used a TM feeder 2/24 (RMR). Only I Purple Finch was seen this quarter at MA 2/1 (A&LB). It was a good winter for Evening Grosbeak, though, with reports of up to 54 birds at MA, TM, PC, & LA feeders 1/4-2/17.

OBSERVERS: Arlene & Larry Brown, Flossie & Ron Comstock, Martha Copp, Bob Cupper, Carol & Jack Cupper, Chuck Dillon, Dave Dropkin, Tom Finkbiner, Jim Johnson, Garland Pardue, Robert M. Ross, RR 2 Box 113A, Wellsboro 16901 (717-376-5394), Jean Rothrock, Howard Rushmore, Dick Sargent, Jack Sherwood, Joanne Stickler (JoS), Chuck Weed, Julie Wetherbee.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

With birding activity at a seasonal low, the only report of note is of a pair of Wood Duck at the Holman Sanctuary 2/24-the earliest date ever at that locale.

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

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Barkeyville area (BA), ClintonWile area (CA), Kahle L. (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek SP (OC), Two Mile Run Park (7MR).

Following a Jan. of average temperatures and snowfall, Feb. and Mar. temperatures were again above and moisture levels were below normal. Highlights were a Rufous-sided Towhee that spent the winter in the Cooperstown area (AM); a Lapland Longspur in a group of Snow Bunting at KL 1 / 12; 2 Hermit Thrush at OC 1/22 (NK); 3 Snow Goose in the OCA 1/24; a Gray Catbird at OC 2/3. 3/10 was a particularly exciting day when the AR, KL, and ponds in the CA and BA produced over 1000 Tundra Swan, over 100 Ring-billed Gull, about 20 Canvasback, and a total of 21 species of waterfowl.

Data kept over the last 5 years reveal the following: Jan. 1991 produced a total of 62 species and aggregate total for Jan. is 82. In Feb. 54 species were recorded and that month's total now stands at 75. For Mar., 83 were found this year and the Mar. total now stands at 100.

The first Cow. Loon of the year was at KL 3/31. Waterfowl migration was considered good with N. Pintail and Am. Wigeon present on the AR at Franklin as early as 1/26. 22 Hooded Merganser were at OC 3/21 (NK). Along with the regular waterfowl species, the quarter produced sighting of more uncommon N. Shoveler 3/3, Oldsquaw 3/9, and White-winged Scoter 3/9 at TMR.

Turkey Vulture were present 3/2 (DE). N. Harrier wintered over at several locations but Rough-legged Hawk was scarce. Killdeer first made its appearance 3/9. Ls. Yellowlegs was at a pond in the CA 3/29. Several Cow. Snipe were calling 3/29 in the CA and Am. Woodcock was heard 3/20 at OC (NK). Several Bonaparte's Gull were at OC 3/24. At least 3 Short-eared Owl were at their normal winter location in the BA all quarter. A high of 9 was recorded 2/17. First reported E. Phoebe was 3/23. Cedar Waxwing, as in the past three years, were not seen after the first week in Jan. A Fox Sparrow was recorded 3/31 in the BA. Northern finches, with the exception of Evening Grosbeak, were not recorded.

OBSERVERS: Shay Ames, Dave Edwards, Gary Edwards, 450 Steven Dr, Apt 304, Pittsburgh 15237 (412-931-4379), Nick Kerlin, Alice Morrison, Russ States, 24 E Fifth St, Oil City 16301 (814-6766320).

WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

Abbreviations: Barnes (BA), Irvine (IR), Kinzua Dam (KD), Lander (LA), Saybrook (SA), Starbrick (ST), State Line Rd (SLR), Warren (WA).

A Com. Loon was seen in WA 1/6 (DD). A flock of Tundra Swan was heard flying through the overcast near LA 1/12 (BH) and several flocks were reported returning 3/3. A d Wood Duck and a d Greenwinged Teal were still with 200+ Mallard along the river in front of the WA Hospital through Jan. (TG). Six Am. Black Duck flew from the river near IR 1/20 (DW). Four Oldsquaw were at ST 3/29 (BDW). A Redbreasted Merganser was at KD 2/7 (TG).

An early Osprey was at Akeley Swamp 3/30 (TG). It was a good winter for Bald Eagle below KD. They were seen by m.ob. through Jan. with max. 6 on 1/28 (DD,BH) and 7 or 8 (2-3 imm. and 5 ad.) 1/29 (CMN,TNG). In Feb. top counts were 3 ad. and 2 imm. 2/3 (TS) and 5 ad. and 1 imm. 2/11 (RL). Only 1 ad. could be found late in Feb.-2/23 (TG,BH) and 2/27 (TNG). But 2 ad. and 2 imm. were seen 3/15 (DD,BH) and an ad. 3/16 (BH). An ad. was seen in WA 1/26 (DP) and in ST 1/26 (DD). An ad. was at Webb's Ferry on the reservoir 3/31 (DP). N. Harrier were seen near LA 1/12 (DD,BH) and 2/16 (DW); 2 were on SLR 3/30 (DW) and I at Akeley Swamp 3/31 (KC). A Sharp-shinned Hawk spent much of the winter near their feeder at SA (CMN). Cooper's Hawk were seen at four locations in Jan. (4 observers) and 3 in WA 2/24 (DW). A Rough-legged Hawk was near LA 1/13 (DD,DW) and 1 w. of WA 3/30 (BU). A Golden Eagle was at KD 1/28 & 3/15 (DD,BH) and again 3/16 (BR). About 60 Ring-billed Gull fed on the handouts for waterfowl in WA and rested on the river at ST in Jan. A Short-eared Owl was discovered near LA 1/12 (DD,BH) and again 1/13,20 and 2/24 (TS).

A Red-bellied Woodpecker came to a feeder in WA the last week of Mar. (MC). There was a Carolina Wren in BA 1/13 (BDD), I in WA 1/19 and 2 1/24 (DD). A N. Mockingbird was at his feeder near Garland from Dec. through 1/6 (DO). A Brown Thrasher came to a feeder in WA in late Dec. and stayed through Jan. (PS) and the third location (including Dec.) this winter was 1 at the Newbold Estate near IR (TG). Fifteen Am. Pipit were at SA 3/18 (MN). A N. Shrike returned to the same location on SLR as last winter and was seen 1/5,13,20, on 2/27 and 3/31 (DW, BH,DD,TNG,BDW). An ad. and an imm. were seen near LA 1/19 (DW).

A Rufous-sided Towhee used his feeder near WA from Dec. to 1/15 (GB). The first Fox Sparrow report was at SA 3/5 (CMN). A flock of 74 Snow Bunting was counted near LA 1/13,14 (DD,DW), 50 there 2/16 (DW) and 10 next to the Seneca Pumped Storage Res. 3/2 (BDW). Three Rusty Blackbird were at SA 3/3 (CMN). A Y Brown-headed Cowbird came to his feeder in WA 2/27 (TG). A Pine Siskin came to their feeder in BA 1/13 (BDD), and ± 10 was the high count at SA in Feb. (CMN). Fifty to 100 Evening Grosbeak were regular at their feeder in SA all Jan. (CMN), 35-100 through Feb., and 15-20 still coming at the end of Mar. About 20 were coming to a feeder in WA through late Mar., although none had been there through winter (MC).

OBSERVERS: Greg Burkett, Merle Caldwell, Dan Doherty, Brita & Don Dom, Nancy & Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr, Warren 16365 (814723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Rick Lyle, Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Dave Ostrander, Doug Palmer, Jim Palmer, Tom Simmons, Patty Smith, Brenda & Don Watts.

WAYNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

All observations were in the Lookout area unless otherwise noted. The big news for the county was the first twentieth century documented record in Pa. for N. Hawk-Owl. It was seen by over a thousand birders from when it was first reported 2/18 until it was last seen 3/17 (WR). Read the separate article for more details.

Four Rough-legged Hawk were seen 2/20 (NP). Several observers

reported flocks of **Wild Turkey**, up to 37 in number, along Rt. 191 n. of Honesdale. Several observers saw a N. Shrike near the Hawk Owl area, and on one occasion was chased by the owl. About 25 **Evening Grosbeak** were also in the area 2/20 (NP).

OBSERVERS: Nick Pulcinella, William Reid.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert Leberman & Robert Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Beaver Run Res. (BR), Donegal L. (DL), Ligonier Valley (LV), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Ross Mountain Park L. (RMP), Trout Run Res. [also called Latrobe Res.] (7R), Twin Lakes Park (7LP), Youngwood Swamp (YS).

Mid-winter records of **Pied-billed Grebe** are unusual in this area, since open water is generally not available at this season, but this year I was seen at TR between 1/7-15 (RCL). A **Horned Grebe** also lingered at TR from 1/1-15 (RCL); migrants were at DL 2/22 (MEW) and BR 3/25 (DB). A very early **Am. Bittern** was at PNR on 3/24 (TR,RSM).

A good mid-winter count of 36 Tundra Swan was made at RMP, n. of Ligonier, 1/11 (HO); 15 were at TR 3/10 (AS); 13 on DL 3/12 (RCL), and 29 there 3/16 (RCL,RFL). The first Wood Duck had returned to TR by 3/1 (MEW), to Murrysville by 3/25 (DB), to YS by 3/26 (DS), and to PNR 3/29 (RSM). A **Green-winged Teal** at TR 1/4 (RCL) was unusual for this season. Counts of up to 25 **Am. Black Duck** were made at TR all quarter (RCL,RSM). The first Blue-winged Teal was seen at DL 3/5 (RCL); 2 were at YS 3/26 (DS). The season's first Gadwall was at DL 3/26 (MEW). Three **Am. Wigeon** at Keystone L. from 1/6-20 (DF) were unusual for mid-winter; best wigeon count was 17 on DL 3/3 (DK). Three **Redhead**, always a scarce species in this area, were seen at DL 3/19 (RCL). Up to seven **Ring-necked Duck** spent the winter on TR (RCL); 24 were on DL 3/26 (MEW). Five **Gr. Scaup** were on DL and 6 at TR 1/19 (RCL). A single **Ls. Scaup** was at TLP 1/19 (DS), and a flock of 25 on DL 3/22 (RCL,RSM,LB). Two **Oldsquaw** at BR were a good find 3/25 (DB). Single wintering **Bufflehead** were at TR 1/15 and 2/25 (RCL), and at TLP 1/19 (DS); 4 at BR 3/31 (VC). Four **Com. Merganser** at TR 1/7 is probably a 1st mid-winter occurrence of this species for the county (RCL). **Ruddy Duck** was first seen at DL 3/19 (RCL).

A **mid-winter Turkey Vulture** at PNR 2/1 was unprecedented for the LV (RSM,RCL,CW); another seen 2/21 (RSM) was probably an early migrant. By early Mar. vultures were much more common than usual, and a roost of 25 was observed (CM) at Linn Run SP 3/5-a date somewhat earlier than that on which the first vultures are normally found in this area; another roost of at least 15 vultures had formed near TR by the end of Mar. (RSM,BM). An extremely late (**migrant?**) **Osprey** was well-described from along Laurel Hill nr. Laughlinton 1/17 (DFide LB) for the 1st local winter record. The only N. **Harrier** of the season was near TR 2/27 (RSM,BM). A mid-winter **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen near Murrysville 1/14 (DB); a trio of these birds had returned to PNR, where none was known to have wintered, by 2/24 (RCL,RSM). Always rare along the more westerly mountain ridges in s.w. Pa., an imm. **Golden Eagle** was a good find at PNR 3/14 (RCL,RSM).

An **Am. Coot** was seen at TR 1/1-7, for one of few LV winter records (RCL). A scattering of wintering Killdeer was seen on various lakes throughout the county, with as many as 7 at DL 1/4 (RCL). The first two migrant Killdeer were seen (DS) at Greensburg 2/22; 1 was at MP 3/3 (VC). The first **Am. Woodcock** of the season was heard nr. Rector 2/24 (TGR). The first Bonaparte's Gull of the spring was at DL 3/23 (MEW). An early flock of 5 **Ring-billed Gull** was at DL 2/4 (RCL), and a flock of 25+ was there 3/17 (TR,BR). There were 4 **Herring Gull** at TR 2/5 (RCL); this species is infrequent in the LV.

Before the end of this quarter there were signs that spring was going to arrive early this year, Punxsutawney Phil's prediction notwithstanding. An **E. Phoebe** had returned to PNR by 3/7, more than a week earlier than usual (RCL), and a **Tree Swallow** at DL 3/2 (DK) is the earliest local record of that species by nearly two weeks.

PNR records indicated a marked increase in the number of new (unbanded) **Black-capped Chickadee** captured during the last week of March; almost certainly birds returning north after last fall's heavy flight through much of the state. Although the fall chickadee migration was not very heavy in *Westmoreland* judging from the small number banded, it was pronounced farther east in the state. This suggests that chickadees took a different route northward this spring than they followed during their southward migration last fall.

At least four different **Brown Creeper** frequented a suet feeder near Stahlstown during much of the winter (LB), but they were reported as less common than usual in some more westerly parts of the county (VC). Not surprisingly, given the mild temperatures during most of the season, **Carolina Wren** wintered well, with numerous reports from throughout the county. **Am. Robin** were more common than usual, with wintering flocks of up to 100 birds seen throughout the period. **N. Mockingbird**, too, wintered more commonly than usual, with more than the usual number of reports coming from the mountainous e. half of the county. Always rare this far south, a **N. Shrike** was a good find at DL 3/2 (DK); the bird was located again 3/3 (RSM,TR) and 3/9 (DK,TP). Another sign of this spring's quickened pace was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** near Stahlstown 3/31 (LB), only the 2nd March record of the species for the LV.

Wintering **Rufous-sided Towhee** were found near PNR (JW) and TR (RCL), and the first migrant was banded at PNR 3/25 (RSM). The first **Chipping Sparrow** had returned to PNR by 3/28 (RCL), and **Fox Sparrow** by 3/2 (RCL). The first **E. Meadowlark** of the spring was found nr. PNR 3/2 (RSM). **Rusty Blackbird** had returned to PNR by 3/2, and a "large flock" was seen or. MP 3/3 (VC). We had no reports of wintering **Pine Siskin**. **Evening Grosbeak** were present only in scattered small flocks, making the third consecutive winter that this species has not staged an "invasion."

OBSERVERS: Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-5937521), Larry Barth, Dick Byers, Virginia Cronenberger, Dorothy Ferguson, Dan Fritz, Don Koch, Ronald F. Leberman, Bonnie Mulvihill, Chuck Norton, H. Olsen, Tom Pearson, Barb Rich, Ted Rich, Theresa Gay Rohall, Bob Shaw, Alex Simkovich, Dennis Smeltzer, Mike & Eveleen Watko, John Whiting, Chuck Wood.

WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Sordoni's Farm (SF).

A **N. Harrier** over-wintered at SF (v.o.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at L. Carey 3/29 (JS). A dark-phase and a light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** wintered at SF (v.o.). A flock of 22 **Wild Turkey** was noted on numerous occasions in Eaton Twp (WR), and 29 were at Factoryville 3/15 (JS). Two **Am. Woodcock** were in flight at Stevens L. 3/2 (WR). The 7 **Short-eared Owl** reported last quarter remained until I/11, but not seen after the snow storm of that date (v.o.).

Horned Lark were generally scarce, but 75 were in Meshoppen Twp 2/18 (WR). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at a feeder in Tunkhannock 2/18 (RD). Two **Am. Pipit** were in Lemon Twp 3/27 (WR). Two **Fox Sparrow** were at Beaumont 3/14 (PR). Two **Lapland Longspur** and 200 **Snow Bunting** were in Meshoppen Twp 2/18 (WR). The only **Pine Siskin** report was of 7 birds at L. Carey 1/1 (WR). **Evening Grosbeak** were scarce; 6 at Centermoreland 2/8 (PR).

OBSERVERS: Robert Daniels, Penny Reid, Bill Reid, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Jerry Skinner.

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Abbreviations: Brunner's I. (BI), Codorus SP (CSP), Gifford Pinehot SP (GP), Impounding Dam (ID), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Sheppard Myers Dam (SMD), Spring Grove (SG), SGL 416 (SGL), Wrightsville (WR).

Many days of prevailing NW winds created undesirable conditions for small birds and birders. None of the lakes completely froze, but the normal larger numbers of most ducks didn't appear until about mid-Jan. Most notable were the **Redhead** and **Ring-necked** ducks.

1-3 Com. Loon were found on the 3 s.w. corner lakes through early Mar. (DH,RR,AS *et al.*). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at BI pond 1/19 (J&LD). First migrating N. **Pintail** arrived BI 2/1 (AS); 14 N. Shoveler at CSP 1/12 (D&LH) and 6 at LAD 3/21 (AS); 2 **d Canvasback**, I at CSP 1/2 and 1 on SG lake 1/16 (RR); 8 d and 6 4 Com. Merganser at LAD 1/12-22 (RR) and ±165 at GP 2/21 (AS); 1 **d Redbreasted Merganser** at CSP 3/9 (RR); only 2 **Ruddy Duck**, at GP 3/9 (JP,JeP). On 3/19 **Bald Eagle** sightings were near SMD (BD) and SG (BL, RL). The 100+ **Am. Coot** wintered at CSP until 3/23 and 9 Bonaparte's Gull noted there 1/31 (RR).

From the middle of Feb. to 3/5 a **Snowy Owl** was seen and studied by several yard workers at BI. Its favorite evening perch was the top of a coal pile. One evening feathers were seen floating to the ground and flying away was the owl with a pigeon in its talons. A farmer n. of York Haven reported seeing it in a field one evening.

A **Barred Owl** reported at Muddy Creek access area 2/4. BS states this is a favorite and regular location. The Prescott's saw I in a tree 3/2 near Lewisberry. 2 **Short-eared Owl** were at LAD 3/19-20 (RR). DH counts this as a very profitable wintering area. Only sighting of **Horned Lark** was 10 at Lauxmont Farms 1/10 (AS). A Barn Swallow was at CSP 3/24 (RR). The only **Black-capped Chickadee** was I at a home n. of WR 1/1 (J&LD). A total of 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: I on Gut Rd. 1/6 (JP,JeP), I at Lock 12 2/12 (BS), and 2 at BI 3/25 (AS). Hermit Thrush above average, with best count 5 at Lock 12 on 2/14 (BS *et al.*). Cedar Waxwing were elusive, with no reports after 1/5. A 4 Am. Robin with a pure white head, nape and throat was at BI from 1/3+. Its breast was a brilliant red. After molting the white turned to a light grayish color.

Yellow-rumped Warbler reports showed continued low numbers from Jan. to early Mar. **Am. Tree Sparrow** were no better than previous recent winter counts, a max. of 20 at Stewartstown 2/19 (AS). A Savannah Sparrow at LAD 3/20 was early (RR). Fox Sparrow were seen each month, with best records 3 each at ID 3/9 (BD) and CSP 3/17 (RR). 4 Swamp Sparrow in SGL 2/1 (AS). A Snow Bunting at LAD 1/15 (RR, AS). Finch reports were miserable: 2 **Purple Finch**, no **Pine Siskin**, a very few **Am. Goldfinch**, and no Evening Grosbeak.

OBSERVERS: Bill Del Grande, Jack & Lil Downs, Dan & Lori Heathcote, John & Jean (JeP), Ben Lease, Ron Lease, Russell Ryan, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd, York 17402 (717-755-8309).

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