

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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COVER: Great Gray Owl by *Randy Miller* (See Page 11)
Page 6, Dorothy Bordner



PIPING PLOVERS

Those of you who did not attend the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology annual meeting at Presque Isle this May missed a great weekend of birding. Warblers and other passerines were abundant in both quantity and variety. Mourning Warblers, Lincoln Sparrows, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were just some of the species easily found that weekend. But the most important sightings involved a Piping Plover which had shown up a few days before. Not only did it hang around for several days, it acted territorial, chasing other shorebirds (especially Semi-palmated Plovers) and calling.

Piping Plovers have not nested in Pennsylvania since the early 1950s (at Presque Isle). And, the entire Great Lakes population has been in serious decline for decades (At last count there were only 11 pairs). The good news is that he was still there in early June. The bad news is no female has been seen. Let's hope a late migrating female hears his plaintive call.

NOT ANOTHER BIG YEAR!

Bob Schutsky apparently got bit by the Big Year bug. He is racing around the state trying to beat Deuane Hoffman's recently set record of 293. He has 267 as we go to press and welcomes reports of any rare birds. The following is a list of birds for which he would appreciate a call: Eared Grebe, White Ibis, Gr. White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, any kite, Black Rail, Purple Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked

Stilt, Am. Avocet, Willet, Whimbrel, Ruff, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Chuck-will's-widow, Black-backed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Western Tanager, Painted Bunting, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Seaside Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Pine Grosbeak, any crossbill, any redpoll. And, of course, any other unusual bird.

He may be reached at (215) 593-5924 (h) or (717) 548-2121 (w).

SUBSCRIPTIONS LAG

We had high hopes as we planned for the sixth year of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. This would be the year that we would finally get to that magical break-even point. But, unfortunately, it was not to be. We topped at 753 subscribers in 1989 (including reciprocals). Things were looking up. In 1990 we dropped to only 709 subscribers, but we continued to upgrade the quality (and quantity of pages) of the magazine in the hopes that more birders would be interested. However, we finished 1991 with only 658 subscribers.

As it stands today (early-June) we only have 543 subscribers, a loss of over 200 subscribers since 1989. Did we send out renewal notices to all of those people? YES, TWICE. Did anyone write us as to why he/she was not renewing? NO.

You, as subscribers, must be as tired of reading about this

plight as much as we are of writing about it. So, in point of fact, this is actually meant for those of you who will not be reading it anyway. But, if you talk to anyone who did **not** renew, ask them why. The cost increase, if that were the reason, was only \$1.50 (**only to cover increased printing and postage costs**) as \$1.00 of the \$2.50 difference from 1991 goes to the state for its new sales tax on magazines.

Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you who sent extra to help defray expenses. If subscriptions don't pick up, there will be changes. What exactly, we do not know.

THE ATLAS

The Atlas is coming. By the next issue we will have an announcement giving particulars for availability and ordering. We are assured it will be worth the wait.

ANNOTATED LIST

The new *Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania* will be available soon. Steve Santner, Dan Brauning, and Glenna and Paul Schwalbe have worked diligently to get this together and the final steps are being completed as we write this. More details in the next issue.

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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Recent History and Current Status of Nesting Bald Eagles, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, in Pennsylvania.

by Daniel W. Brauning and Brenda Peebles.

Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) historically nested widely along Pennsylvania's major rivers and extensive marshes. They were said to nest commonly along the Susquehanna River in the last century (Beck 1924) and nested in Lancaster County until 1954, although unsuccessfully since 1948 (Amico *et al.* 1984). The shore of Lake Erie was a stronghold into the early 1900s and sites were known in Erie County until the late 1950s (Stull *et al.* 1985).

The creation of Pymatuning Reservoir in Crawford County during the early 1930s provided ideal conditions for Bald Eagles. The first aerie was found in 1937 (Oudette 1938), and one or more pairs have nested there and at nearby Conneaut Marsh every year since (Grimm 1952; Leberman, in press). For more than 30 years, beginning in the late 1950s, these Crawford County birds were the only nesting Bald Eagles in the state.

The Bald Eagle is one of three large birds of prey [including Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)] which have undergone major recent population declines (as result, in part, of pesticide contamination) and recoveries (through the use of a reintroduction procedure known as "hacking"). Unlike the Osprey and Peregrine Falcon, which were extirpated from Pennsylvania during the middle decades of the twentieth century, the Bald Eagle apparently continued to "hold on" as a nesting species. However, most pairs had abandoned historic sites in Pennsylvania before DDT became widespread.

The population remained relatively constant at one or two pairs through the 1970s (see graph). There was considerable concern that the remaining adults, which are long-lived, may

have reduced reproductive success because of organo-chlorine pesticide effects. Therefore, the Pennsylvania Game Commission initiated the Bald Eagle Recovery Program, with support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Program involved importing 12 to 14 nestling eagles from Saskatchewan, Canada, and hacking them at two stations in Pennsylvania between 1983 and 1988. A total of 88 Bald Eagle nestlings were hacked. Seven young birds from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center were also fostered into active eagle nests between 1979 and 1988.

LOCATION	NESTS	YOUNG
Crawford County	2	5
Butler County	1	3
Tioga County	1	1
Dauphin County	1	2
York County	1	1
TOTAL	6	12

Table 1. Summary of 1991 Successful Nest Sites.

Active Bald Eagle nests have been monitored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission on at least a weekly basis through the breeding season for a number of years. The status of nest sites is tracked, beginning in February, by observing behavior from a distance in order to avoid disturbance to the birds. Estimated dates of incubation, hatching, and fledging are determined. The primary objective of this work is to determine the number of hatchlings and fledglings.

The work has been conducted by Game Commission employee Brenda Peebles in the northwest and Jack Miller, Wildlife Conservation Officers, and volunteers in the Susquehanna River drainage.

RESULTS

1991 was the most successful nesting season of any since before the population declined. A total of six nests successfully fledged 12 young (Table 1), more than were naturally produced since well before 1960 (Figure 1). In addition to active and successful nests, two nesting pairs in Crawford County failed following hatching and an additional pair there attempted, but never established, incubation. The pair in Lancaster County, although successful last year, apparently took a break this year and never established incubation. In total, nine pairs of Bald Eagles attempted nesting this year (Figure 2), in addition to several other pairs and individuals around the state where nesting has not been established. Note on Figure 1: the number of nests before 1980 is underestimated because it only reflects successful nests, and the number of young is overestimated because it reflects hatched young, not fledglings.

On the basis of identifying eagle leg bands, it is known that six of the nine active nests this year involved at least one adult which had been released in a hacking effort (Table 2). The origin of other birds is not known. Nine of the 12 young produced in 1991 came from nests with at least one hacked adult. Clearly, without Pennsylvania's and New York's hacking programs, Bald Eagle annual production would be insufficient to maintain the population and the species would be nearly extirpated in Pennsylvania.

LOCATION	BANDED BIRDS	ADDITIONAL EAGLES
Duck Farm	?	Male, Female, 2 Juveniles
Erie NWR	1 Adult, 1 Juv marked	1 Adult
Ford Island	?	2 Adults, 5 Im., 1 Sub-A
Glades	Both adults PA hacked	3 Juveniles
Haldeman Is	Both adults PA hacked	
Hartstown	Female NY hacked 1979	1 Male, 3 Juveniles
Pine Creek	Female hacked, unknown	2 Juveniles
Safe Harbor	?	?

Table 2. 1991 Summary of Marked Bald Eagles.

Nesting was initiated over a broad time frame (six weeks) this year (Table 3). The majority of nests are begun in March. The Hartstown pair have consistently begun nesting early. They initiated incubation two weeks before any other eagle pair. The brooding dates reflect the behavior change of a sitting adult several days after eggs hatch, following the 35 day incubation. Eaglets can typically be seen reaching for food within a week. Fledging occurs a remarkable 12 weeks after hatching. Since incubation is initiated upon laying the first egg, eaglets appear and young fledge asynchronously, sometimes several days apart.

The Pine Creek pair were particularly late this year, yet successfully fledged one young. The importance of getting an early start is dramatically illustrated by that nest—the young did not fledge until early August. With many additional weeks after fledging necessary for a young eagle to become independent, the fall and winter months rapidly approach for a young hatched later than early May.

The prospects for Pennsylvania's Bald Eagle breeding population appear excellent. Productivity since 1988 has been above 0.7 young per active breeding pair (Table 4), the rate generally thought to be

necessary to maintain a stable Bald Eagle population (Sprunt *et al.* 1973). Similarly, the recent average is near the recovery goal of 1.0 bird/occupied nest for the Northern States' Plan (Nickerson 1989). The nesting population can be expected to continue growing as a result of the hacking program until 1994, when the last hacked young will have reached breeding

LOCATION	INCUBATION	BROODING	EAGLETS	FLEDGING
Duck Farm	March 4	April 8	April 12	July 1
Erie NWR	April 14	(Failed)	-	
Ford Island	March 24	April 29	(Failed)	-
Glades	March 13	April 17	April 21-30	July 9-11
Haldeman Is	March 6	?	mid-April	early-July
Hartstown	February 19	March 25	April 2-8	June 16-19
Pine Creek	April 2	?	mid-May	early August
Safe Harbor	March 10	?	April 19	?

Table 3. 1991 Nesting Chronology Summary.

age (see Figure 1). At that point, population growth will depend strictly upon natural production and immigration. It appears that the transition will be a smooth one, since natural eaglet production in 1991 reached the level at which young were being hacked during the 1980s. Most significantly, the steady increase in young per nesting attempt reflects a healthy population.

Pennsylvania's own natural

production, as well as immigration from growing populations in neighboring states, assures a growing breeding population, barring unforeseen disasters. A simple prediction model (Table 5) suggests the population growth that should be expected over the next four years.

Assumptions for these projections include: a 50% mortality in the first year of life, 10% thereafter; 80% of adult pairs will attempt to nest; an average of 53% of nesting pairs will be successful; and that 1.7 young will be produced per successful pair. Reproductive rates are based on data gathered on Pennsylvania's Bald Eagle nests during the past 5 years (Table 4). Actual productivity parameters vary considerably, as is illustrated in 1991 when an average of 2 young were produced per successful pair,

producing 3 more young than predicted by the model and in 1992 when the number of active nests increased by 44% and the percent of pairs that were successful reached an astonishing 92%! These conservative projections suggest that Pennsylvania will remain well within the state's recovery goals (Nickerson 1989).

RR2 Box 484
Montgomery 17752

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number of nests	9	11	13	14	14
Number of young	9*	10	11	12	12

Figure 1. Bald Eagle Nesting History

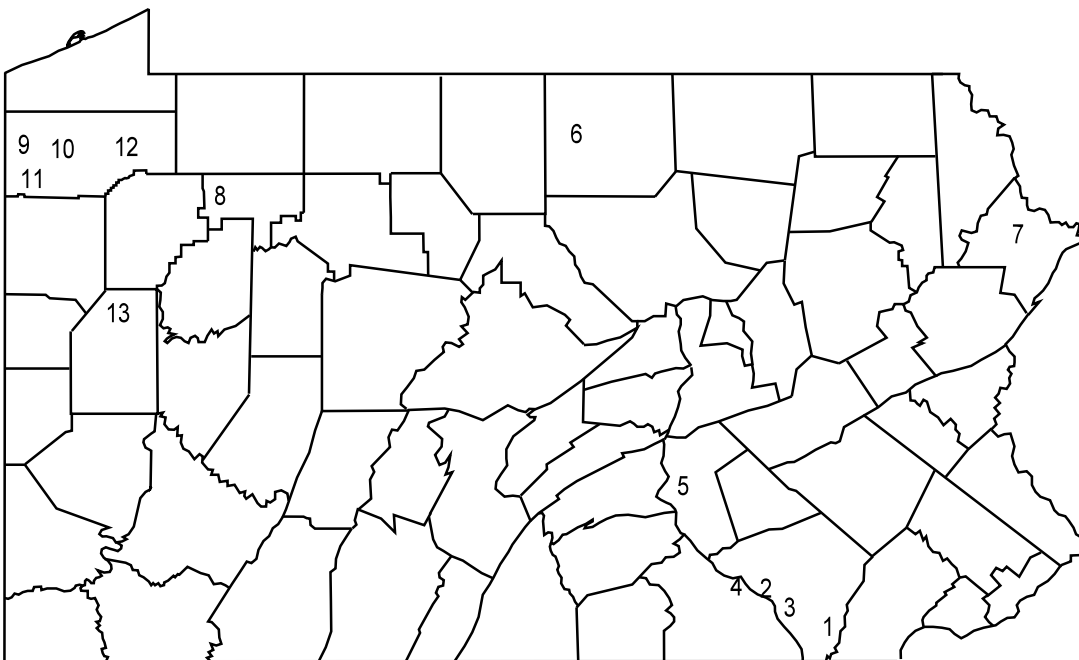
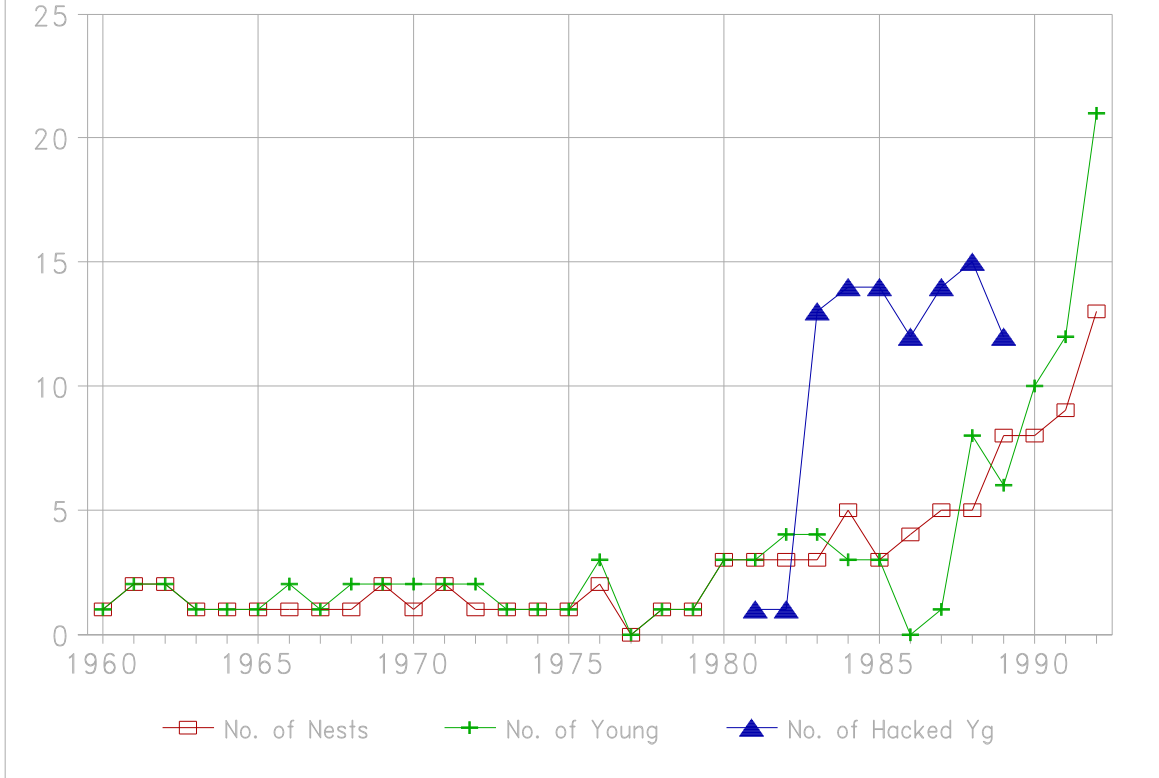


Figure 2. 1992 Bald Eagle Nest Locations.
See Table 5 for reference numbers.

NEST SITE	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	TOTAL
Blackjack	//	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crossingville	//	-	-	//	//	-	-
Cussewago	-	-	0/0	//	0/0	-	-
Duck Farm (10)	1/1	2/2	0/0	2/2	2/2	x/0	7
Erie NWR (12)	-	2/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	1/1	2
Ford Island (9)	1/0	3/2*	0/0	//	0/0	2/2	4
Glades (13)	-	-	-	0/0	3/3	3/3	6
Haldeman Is. (5)	-	-	-	2/2	2/2	3/3	7
Hartstown (11)	3/0*	3/3	3/3	2/2	3/3	1/1	12
Holtwood Res. (2)	-	-	-	-	-	x/0	-
Muddy Run (3)	-	-	1/1	1/1	//	1/1	3
Octoraro Res. (1)	-	-	-	-	-	1/1	1
Pine Creek (6)	?	1/1	0/0	1/1	2/1	2/2	5
Safe Harbor (4)	-	//	2/2?	2/1	1/1	2/2	6
Shohola Lake (7)	-	-	-	-	-	2/2	2
Tionesta (8)	-	-	-	-	-	2/2	2
Total Hatch/Fledged	5/1	11/*7	6/6	11/10	13/12	21/#21	67/58
Total Active Nests	3	5	8	8	9	13	46
Av young/active pair	0.2	1.2	0.75	0.9	1.1	1.75	1.09
Av young/success pair	1	1.75	2	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.76
% pairs successful	25	67	38	64	55	92	62

Key to Table 4.
 = 1 young introduced into nest from outside source, not figured into production averages or totals.
 (x) = Number on Figure 1
 // = inactive pair
 x/0 = failed nest
 x/ = "x" number of eggs hatched
 /x = "x" number of young fledged
 # = not all of the hatchlings have fledged as of this date, but it appears they all will.

**Table 4. List of Breeding Eagle Pairs for past 6 years.
Years with an active nest, hatched/fledged.**

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For Your Library

The following is a list of regional guides/annotated checklists to Pennsylvania that are still available for purchase.

A Guide to the Birds of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. 2nd Edition. 1991. Harold Morrin, Chairman. 184pp. 325 species. \$14.00 postpaid from William Adams, 1400 Quarry Ln., Lancaster, PA 17603. Forward by Ted Parker, III. 36 illus. Maps to 12 birding hot spots. Revised and current to 6 October 1991.

Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley. 1988. Allen R. Schweinsberg. 124 pp. Species accounts for 291 species. Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Cos. \$8.00 postpaid from the author, 1200 Ziegler Rd., Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Birds of Erie County, Pennsylvania, including Presque Isle. 1985. Jean Stull, James A. Stull, and Gerald M. McWilliams. 173 pp. Illustrations by Jean Stull. 327 species. \$9.25 postpaid from Jean Stull, 661 Benson Rd., Waterford, PA 16441.

Birds of Central Pennsylvania. 3rd Edition. 1983. Merrill Wood. 82 pp. 291 species. 25 mile radius around State College. \$3.75 postpaid from State College Bird Club, c/o Dorothy Bordner, 926 W. Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801.

Birds of Western Pennsylvania and Adjacent Regions. 1988. Robert C. Leberman. 52 pp. 368 species. (includes parts of Ohio and W. Va.) \$5.00 Special Publication No.13, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Dark-Morph "Western" Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis calurus
Centre County

Ted Floyd

Jeff Hoover and I saw an adult dark-morph "western" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*) in Centre County at 1200 h. on Sunday 23 February 1992. This form is rare in eastern North America during the winter (Clark and Wheeler 1987), and there are occasional records from Pennsylvania's Kittatinny Ridge in fall (Wiltraut 1991). A recent record is from Northampton County during the winter of 1991 (Wiltraut 1991).

The bird was in a small field along Atherton Street about 3 kilometers north of State College. We observed the bird perched and in flight for about thirty minutes. Skies were clear, and viewing conditions were very good. A light-phase Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*) was nearby.

We viewed the perched bird at a distance of 30 meters. Its entire body was very nearly black. Its cere and feet were bright yellow. When it flushed, its evenly-colored bright red tail was evident. The tail struck me as being more of a solid red than the rufous-red that is characteristic of "eastern" Red-tailed Hawks.

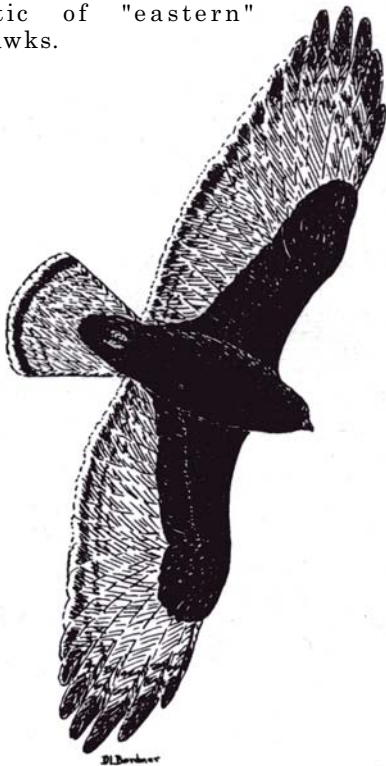
When the soaring bird was viewed from beneath, it imparted a two-toned appearance, very much like a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Its flight feathers were gray, and its underparts and wing coverts were entirely black. The underside of the tail was a pale rosy color. On banking, the bird's brightly colored dorsal tail surface was evident. I could not discern the U-shaped dihedral that is thought to be characteristic of "western" Red-tailed Hawks in flight (Dunne *et al.* 1988).

We observed the bird with 8.5X44 (TF) and 7X35 (JH) binoculars. The bird was observed on subsequent dates by other area birders.

*Pesticide Research Lab.
Penn State University
University Park, 16802*

Literature cited:

- Clark, W.S. and B.K. Wheeler. 1987. *A Field Guide to Hawks of North America*. Houghton Mifflin. Boston, Mass.
- Dunne, P., D. Sibley, and C. Sutton. 1988. *Hawks in Flight*. Houghton Mifflin. Boston, Mass.
- Wiltraut, W. 1991. Dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk. *Pa. Birds* 5:22.



4th Pennsylvania and 4th Lancaster County Record of Ross' Goose.

Chen rossii

Lancaster County

Jonathan Heller

On Sunday 8 March 1992 I got a call from Randy Miller, who told me that he had found a Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) with a small flock of Snow Geese (*C. caerulescens*) at Middle Creek WMA in Lancaster County.

The next day I there by 1400 hours. Almost immediately I found a flock of Snow Geese that numbered about 600. I was able to view them from the road just beyond Stop 1, where they were at a distance of several hundred yards. The sky was mostly cloudy, but occasionally the sun would break through; then the heat waves would make the viewing conditions almost impossible.

After scanning the Snow Geese for 45 minutes, I finally found the Ross' Goose. Some field marks that made it stand out were the small stubby bill, the more rounded head, the shorter neck, and the overall smaller size. I had the bird in view for only ten seconds when it was obscured by a bush. Fortunately, I quickly relocated the bird and was able to study it for several minutes.

This was the fourth Pennsylvania record and also the fourth record for Lancaster County.

*194 Newcomer Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552*

First Pennsylvania Record of Mew Gull
Larus canus canus
 Berks County

David Rich, Harold Morrin, and Jonathan Heller

Date: 2 January 1992

Location: Lake Ontelaunee along Route 73 in Berks County, Pa.

The bird was first found by Jonathan Heller at 1555 who noticed that the mantle was slightly darker than Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) but not as dark as the two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*L. fuscus*) seen earlier. The gull was of similar size to Ring-billed Gull. It was immediately identified as a Common Gull (*L. canus canus*), the European race of the Mew Gull, by David Rich, an experienced birder from the United Kingdom. Then it was confirmed by Harold Morrin. A little later it was seen by Berks County compiler for *Pa. Birds*, Rudy Keller, and his friend Dean Kendall. The following notes were taken while observing the bird without reference to field guides.

Time: 1555 to 1640 h.

Equipment: Questar Telescope 50X and Bushnell zoom 15-45X.

Weather: Perfect light conditions. It was overcast, calm, and cold. The water on the lake was mostly frozen.

Distance: About 300 yards.

Other birds present: The bird was seen in direct comparison with Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), and it was in close proximity to two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The bird was seen standing on the ice, swimming in the water, and preening but was not seen flying.

Identification Points:

Size: Similar in size to Ring-billed Gull. Some observers thought the bird may have been minutely smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls.

Head: Head was noticeably rounded in comparison with the Ring-billed Gulls. Top of head, nape, and the side of the neck were speckled/smudged. The speckling/smudging was slightly darker by the eye and on the side of the neck.

Eye: Dark.

Bill: Totally yellow and unmarked. Also smaller and narrower than Ring-billed Gull.

COMMON GULL (MEW GULL) (LARUS CANUS)
ADULT WINTER
SEEN 2nd JAN 1992 LAKE ONTELAUNEE (READING LAKE)
ON ROUTE 73, BERKS COUNTY, PA.

OBSERVERS DAVID RICH, JONATHAN HELLER, HAROLD MORRIN
EQUIPMENT QUESTAR X50 DRAWN FROM NOTES + DIAGRAMS WHILE OBSERVING BIRD.

David Rich
 2nd JAN 1992
 52 HEOL WEST PLAS,
 COLTY, BRIDGEND,
 MID-GLAM. CF 35 6BA
U.K.

SIZE -SIMILAR SIZE TO RING BILLED GULL
 COMPARED WITH RING BILLED GULLS
 ADULT LESSER BLACK BACKED GULLS
 HERRING GULLS.

Breast: Speckled light gray.
Mantle and wing coverts: Uniform gray, darker than Ring-billed Gull but lighter than the two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls in close proximity. Two small white patches in mid-back. Between the gray mantle and the black primaries there was a noticeable white crescent which was noticeably much wider than on the Ring-billed Gulls.
Primaries: Only seen closed. Black with small white patches.
Tail: Completely white.
Legs: Yellow.

Frank Haas and others.

David Rich
 52 Heol West Plas
 Colty, Bridgend
 Mid-Glam. CF 35 6BA
 United Kingdom

Jonathan Heller
 194 Newcomer Road
 Mount Joy, PA 17552

Harold Morrin
 29 Kready Ave.
 Millersville, PA 17551

On 3 January 1992 Jonathan Heller found the Common (Mew) Gull again and had it confirmed by Harold Morrin, David Rich, Jerry Book, Frank Haas, Barb Haas, Chris Pederson, Ed Pederson, Jan Witmer, Pat Witmer, and other birders. It was photographed by

Pennsylvania's First Mew Gull, With Notes on Its Racial Identification

by Ed Kwater

The adult Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), found by Jonathan Heller and identified by David Rich at Lake Ontelaunee (Berks) on 2 January 1992 was Pennsylvania's first record of this species, pending acceptance by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. The bird was present for several weeks but was rather elusive during the first few days of its stay. Eventually it could be found more reliably on the shore at Blue Marsh Lake only a few miles from Lake Ontelaunee. The bird would often appear soon after midday in the company of Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) which provided an excellent comparison.

Identification of the bird as a Mew Gull was relatively straight-forward. However, assigning it to one of the four races of Mew Gull was less easy. More prolonged views were needed before it could safely be identified as the nominate European race, *L. c. canus*. To most observers it appeared slightly smaller than many of the Ring-billed Gulls present. The head was more rounded than in Ring-billed Gull and the crown peaked slightly just behind the eye. The head and neck were heavily streaked with brownish-gray, particularly on the nape. In Ring-billed Gulls in basic plumage the nape is usually spotted, not streaked, a subtle difference but nevertheless evident in the field at close range. Most of the markings on the neck and breast were brownish-gray crescents on the feather edges. The coarseness of the markings indicated that the bird was still in full basic plumage. The rest of the underparts were pure white. The character which made the bird immediately obvious in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls was the mantle color. This was a

noticeably darker gray than in Ring-billed and Herring gulls, approaching a pale Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*) in shade (Fig. 1).

The folded primaries extended well beyond the tail when the bird was at rest giving it a long-winged appearance. The visible primary tips were jet black with large subterminal white mirrors on the two outermost feathers. The mirror on P1 was slightly larger than



Figure 1. Mew Gull of the European race *canus*, Blue Marsh Lake, Berks Co., 01/10/92. Note the darker gray mantle and wing coverts (in comparison to the adjacent Ring-billed Gulls), large white mirror showing on P1 and the coarse crescent-shaped markings on the neck and breast. The stubby yellow bill, without an obvious bill ring can also be seen. In color by Eric

that on P2 (Figs. 2 & 3), but both mirrors were larger than the corresponding mirrors on the accompanying Ring-billed Gulls. Small white tips on the second to fifth primaries (P2–P5) showed as a line of spots on the folded wing tips. The prominent white tertial crescents were much more noticeable than in Ring-billed Gull, due to the relatively dark mantle and wing coverts. The bird also had small white scapular crescents which were more noticeable than in Ring-billed Gull. The tail was all white.

In flight, or when the bird flapped its wings, the upperwing pattern eliminated *L. c.*

brachyrhynchus, the North American race of Mew Gull. The large white mirrors on the outer two primaries were immediately obvious. The amount of black decreased toward the mid primaries with only a subterminal black spot on P6. Apart from a white trailing edge to the inner primaries and secondaries, the rest of the upperwing was uniformly gray. In *brachyrhynchus* the amount of black on the wing is less than in *canus* particularly on P3–P5. There is a distinct, crescent-shaped white area in *brachyrhynchus*, separating the black tips of P3–P6 from the gray of the rest of the upperwing (Grant 1986, p. 56). It was clear from flight observations of the Berks County bird that the upperwing pattern matched that of *canus* perfectly. The large size of the wing mirrors and the lack of any black in the outer upperwing coverts confirmed the bird as an adult rather than a second-year bird.

The eye was noticeably larger in relation to the size of the head in the Common Gull than in the accompanying Ring-billed Gulls and the iris was very dark. In adult *brachyrhynchus* the iris is usually pale yellow as in Ring-billed Gull, but may sometimes be dark. The bill was noticeably shorter and thinner than in Ring-billed Gull. At first glance it appeared to be unmarked yellow with a slightly paler tip. Closer scrutiny revealed a small gray smudge on the gonys and a second one on the culmen directly above the gonys. Adult *canus* usually shows at least some subterminal gray marking

on the bill in basic plumage. While this often appears as a complete bill ring it is not normally as thick or as black as in Ring-billed Gull. Adult *brachyrhynchus* usually lacks any dark subterminal bill marking in basic plumage (Grant 1986). The tarsus was slightly shorter than on the accompanying Ring-billed Gulls. The legs were grayish-green in color, duller than in Ring-billed.

There are two other subspecies of Mew Gull which should be considered— *heinei* and *kamtschatschensis*. *Heinei* breeds from central Russia to central Siberia (Grant 1986). It is larger, on average, than either *canus* or *brachyrhynchus* and noticeably darker on the upperparts (Cramp & Simmons 1983, Grant 1986). *Kamtschatschensis* which breeds in northeastern Siberia (Grant 1986, Harrison 1983) is the largest of the four subspecies, approaching Herring Gull in size and is also darker than either *canus* or *brachyrhynchus* (Grant 1986). Because of their ranges, neither of the larger subspecies would be a likely candidate for vagrancy to the eastern United States. Almost all previous records in this area have been due to transatlantic vagrancy by *canus*.

In conclusion, identification of the Berks County Mew Gull as an individual of the nominate race was clinched by the diagnostic upperwing pattern. The dark iris color and presence of faint gray subterminal bill markings were also highly suggestive of Common Gull.

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Figure 2. Mew Gull of the European race *canus*, Blue Marsh Lake, Berks Co., 01/10/92. Photo in color by Eric Witmer.



Figure 3. Mew Gull of the European race *canus*, Blue Marsh Lake, Berks Co., 01/10/92. The large white wing mirrors can

ADDENDUM: Although it took several trips by several birders to get confirmatory photographs as to which race of *Larus canus* the Berks County bird was, the original conclusion stated in the previous article was correct.

Our review of the literature indicates that all but one record of *Larus canus* in the East are of the nominate race *L. c. canus*, known as Common Gull in Europe. The Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) is the race that breeds on the Pacific coast from Alaska to British Columbia and winters along the U.S. Pacific coast. —eds.

First Live Record of Great Gray Owl in the 20th Century in Pennsylvania

Warren County

by Ted Grisez

A Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)—apparently only the second confirmed record for western Pennsylvania (Todd 1940) and the first live Pennsylvania record for the twentieth century (see editor's note below)—was discovered 28 January 1992 on the grounds of the United Refining Co. in Warren, Warren County, Pa. Dan Zdarko, an employee at the refinery, took a Polaroid photograph of the owl and showed it to Mike Toole who also works there. Mike tentatively identified it, and that evening showed it to Chuck and Marjorie Neel and me. In spite of the small image, the yellow eyes and white "bow tie" showed.

The next morning I searched the outside of the west end of the refinery without success. Since the location is across the Allegheny River from Oakland Cemetery, I went up there and found it about 10 AM. I left to make phone calls, and when I returned, it had gone. But Marjorie Neel found it, with the help of crows, along the railroad that follows the river bank below the Route 6 by-pass and the cemetery. From that time to 13 February, it was seen daily, all day, except 30 January.

The owl couldn't have been more convenient and obliging. There was ample parking at the end of Crescent Park Rd., and it ranged from about 200 feet to a half mile out along the railroad from the parking area. The railroad company even tolerated the crowds until 11 February, when the tracks were posted and a warning issued in the local newspaper. I estimated well over 2000 people saw it in this period. Forty-seven cars were parked there at one time the second Sunday. It was a birders' reunion, with people from Cleveland, Ontario, Rochester, Long Island, Virginia, and points between. It was encouraging to see so many local people, only mildly interested in birds or just curious, come out to see the cause of all the publicity. Many other city newspapers reported it; an Erie TV station had lengthy coverage with excellent

pictures. A local drug store had a contest for the best photograph, with voting by dollars and the proceeds going to the Warren Humane Society. A shop created a commemorative plaque for sale.



Great Gray Owl, Warren, 2/8/92. Photo by Wayne N. Laubscher

The owl had the species' legendary tameness. It was alert and hunting most of the time. Some people offered it mice, which it readily accepted. It picked wild mice out of the snow while we watched, although I never saw a mouse on top of the snow. It caught one mouse (or vole) actually at Dan Doherty's feet! He thought he was going to be the target. Someone reported that it flew down to the railroad and pulled a mouse out from beneath a tie plate.

The excitement was about over when it was only seen about 4 PM on 13 February. We thought it had left for points north when it wasn't seen for a week. But on 22 and 23 February, it was reported along Mohawk Ave., about one-half mile uphill and south of the river. It was also seen once more along the river on the 23rd. From then

through the end of March it was only seen on nine dates (about once every four days) that I know of, ending 27 March when it was seen and photographed by Walter Atwood. All but one of the observations were along a .3 or .4 mile stretch of Mohawk Ave. It was difficult to find the owl here because of the homes and woods.

Curiously, another Great Gray Owl spent much of the same time period just ten miles north of the state line near Jamestown, N.Y., and about 26 miles from "our" Great Gray. The Jamestown owl was larger, so speculation was that it was a female and the owl in Warren a male.

8 Belmont Dr.
Warren 16365

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NOTE: Most interesting is the fact that the only other confirmed record for western Pennsylvania is of a bird shot in Greene County in 1898. Todd writes, "The occurrence of this owl as far south as Greene County is somewhat surprising; it might be expected instead along our northern border."

The only other documented twentieth century record for Pennsylvania is of a bird found dead in a snow bank in Nockamixon State Park (*Bucks*) in March 1979, a year when there was a significant invasion of this species in the Northeast. That bird may have been the southernmost individual known from that invasion. —eds.



Great Gray Owl, Warren, Feb/92. Photo by Ed Kwater.



About the Cover Artist

Randy Miller

Randy joined the Lancaster County Bird Club in September 1987 and began birding in 1988 after his first Southern Lancaster County Bird Count and several field trips with the Club. His hobbies include birding, photography, hiking, and drawing.

In January 1989 he became interested in photographing rare birds in Pennsylvania after the Thayer's Gull was found at Safe Harbor. Harold Morrin had the idea for a Lancaster County Rare Birds Photographic Committee, which he now heads. He presently has 81 species photographed to date.

Several of Randy's photographs

have appeared in *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*, and we look forward to receiving more as he travels the state with binoculars and camera at the ready.

Looking for Gulls in Berks County

(Nine species of gulls)

by Jonathan Heller

So far we were having an excellent day. Harold Morrin and I had been able to show David Rich of Wales several new birds for his North American list. We had started the day with Snowy Owl in New Holland (*Lancaster*) and then went on to Struble Lake (*Chester*) where we saw both Short-eared (*Asio flammeus*) and Long-eared (*A. otus*) owls. Our next and last stop at Lake Ontelaunee, north of Reading, also proved to be our best stop.

In scanning through the flock of gulls, we had already found one Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*L. fuscus*) when I noticed a gull that looked different from the others. It was the same size as the nearby Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*), but the mantle was a little darker. The head and breast were smudged and speckled, and I could see that the bill did not have a ring on it. By now both Harold and I knew we had something very different, but we were not certain what. I quickly called David Rich to come look at the bird, and he soon found it in his Questar. Through the Questar we were able to see that it had an unmarked yellow bill. Almost immediately, David identified it as a Common Gull (*L. canus canus*) [v. Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*)], a first record for Pennsylvania!

As we continued to study the bird we were able to see other field marks; especially noticeable was a broad white crescent between the mantle and the black primaries. As we were watching the Common Gull, we were glad to see Rudy Keller and his friend Dean Kendall walking toward us. Together we wrote up a report

which has been sent to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

The next day, 3 January, we decided to come back to the same area to look the gulls over again. One of the first places we visited was the pig farm near Strausstown. It was an incredible place for gulls; we estimated 20-30,000 were present! Included in this mass of birds were several white-winged gulls. In just one flock we had three Iceland Gulls and one Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*). It was really quite thrilling watching these birds through David's Questar.

After success at the pig farm, we headed on to Blue Marsh Recreation Area's lake with the hope of seeing a Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) which had been seen there several days earlier. Not finding the Snow Bunting, Harold and I settled down to look through the gulls. Several minutes later I located a strange looking gull that was sitting on the ice a couple hundred yards in front of us. It appeared similar to an Iceland Gull, but was slightly darker in color with dark primaries and some smudging through the eye. With our curiosity aroused we decided to call to David.

Unfortunately, just as he got it in his scope, it decided to fly—the whole way to the other side of the lake at that. However, as it was flying across the lake, we did see a few details: namely, the frosty white underwing primaries and secondaries, totally dark brown tail, and evenly colored pale brown upperparts. The primaries and secondaries seemed a little darker than the rest of the upperwing although

we did not get a really good view. These details would indicate that the bird was either a Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) or possibly one of the hybrids roaming the area.

After this excitement we resumed sorting through the gulls in the hope that the gull might have flown back within view. In about fifteen minutes I came upon a gull the size of a Ring-billed Gull but with a darker back and unmarked yellow bill. It was the Common Gull! After watching it for a few minutes, we took off for Lake Ontelaunee to tell the other birders who were waiting there. We did not have time to follow them over to Blue Marsh Lake, but that evening we learned that everyone got to see it and that it was photographed by Frank Haas.

On 3 January 1992, nine species of gulls were seen at either Lake Ontelaunee and/or Blue Marsh—Laughing (*L. atricilla*), Ring-billed, Common Gull (first state record), Herring (*L. argentatus*), Glaucous, Iceland, a possible Thayer's, Ls. Black-backed, and Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) gulls. Surely, never before had there been such a variety of gulls in Berks County!

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The Subspecies of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and the Re-identification of a Western Pennsylvania specimen

by Kenneth C. Parkes

The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) has five quite distinctive subspecies. Two breed in the interior of North America: *A. c. altera* Todd of the marshes bordering James Bay in Ontario and Quebec, and *A. c. nelsoni* Allen of fresh-water prairie marshes from northeastern British Columbia and central Manitoba south to northern South Dakota and Minnesota. Three subspecies are confined to coastal salt-marshes, with successive north-to-south essentially linear breeding ranges. From the mouth of the St. Lawrence River south to Maine the subspecies is *A. c. subvirgatus* Dwight; in Maine its range adjoins that of *A. c. caudacutus*, which breeds south to southern New Jersey, where it intergrades with *A. c. diversus* Bishop, which breeds south to North Carolina (ranges abridged from American Ornithologists' Union 1957). The northern races are strongly migratory; *caudacutus* and *diversus* are hardier; a few of the former regularly winter as far north as Long Island, and many *diversus* move only a short distance down the coast.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History has a series of 13 Sharp-tailed Sparrow specimens taken at Presque Isle, Erie County, Pennsylvania, in late September and early October 1900. Of these, 8 are *nelsoni* and 5 are *altera*. Fall migrants of these two subspecies are not hard to identify in the hand, and a good close look might even separate them in the field, although only if the observer knew what to look for. The back of *altera* is olive-brown, with grayish-white streaks with little or no black on their edges. The tertials are dark gray, edged in buff. There is no black in the crown. In *nelsoni* the pale streaks of the back have distinct black

edges, and the centers of the tertials are black rather than dark gray. There are longitudinal black dashes in both the gray central and brown lateral crown stripes. Both races are orange-buff on the breast and flanks (paler on the throat), with longitudinal streaks on the breast and flanks. The streaks are gray and somewhat blurred in *altera*, black and more sharply defined in *nelsoni*.

The three coastal races, in turn, are quite distinctive. The northern *subvirgatus* looks more like *altera* than it does its neighbors to the south, but is olive-gray rather than olive-brown above, and its streaking is much more blurred. In *caudacutus* the breast and flanks are paler buff than in the inland subspecies, and the black streaks of the underparts, especially on the flanks, are much heavier than in *nelsoni*. Dorsally *caudacutus* is not unlike *nelsoni*, having the pale streaks edged with black; the base color of the back is a somewhat warmer brown in *nelsoni*, grayer and more olivaceous in *caudacutus*, but this is subtle. The southernmost race, *diversus*, is an exaggerated version of *caudacutus*, with still heavier black streaking on the underparts and much blacker upperparts.

Photographs of *caudacutus* ("typical coastal form") and *nelsoni* ("inland form") appear in Farrand (1983:257). Peterson (1980:288-289) portrayed, top to bottom, *caudacutus* ("typical form"), *subvirgatus* ("maritime [Acadian] race"), and *nelsoni* ("inland [Nelson's] race"). The text and plate are both erroneous in indicating that the breast of *nelsoni* is "almost devoid of streaks." In Diane Pierce's plate (p. 391) in the National Geographic field guide (Scott

1987), the colors of *subvirgatus* and *caudacutus* are reasonably accurate, but, again, *nelsoni* is shown as too clear-breasted. In the Carnegie series of 20 adult *nelsoni* from the breeding area in Saskatchewan, none is wholly unstreaked on the breast. In 8 of the 20, the streaks are present but faint, and breast streaking is obvious in the rest. The black flank streaking is present in all. However, in the fall and winter (the basic plumage), *nelsoni* is heavily streaked on the breast, and this is the time of year when most Pennsylvania birders will encounter that subspecies.

On 3 October 1972, Robert C. Leberman collected (under my permit) a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Powdermill Nature Reserve, near Rector, Westmoreland County, one of the few records in western Pennsylvania away from the glaciated northwestern corner. This specimen, an immature female, was reported by Leberman (1976), and identified as the James Bay subspecies *altera* on my authority.

I recently had occasion to reexamine the Sharp-tailed Sparrows in our collection in connection with identifying some recently catalogued specimens to subspecies. While so doing, I looked at the Powdermill specimen, no. 144952, for the first time in some years. To my amazement and chagrin, I found that I had probably called it *altera* in 1972 because that was what I expected it to be. Instead, it proves to be a perfectly typical specimen of the Atlantic coast salt marsh subspecies *caudacutus*. It differs from *altera* in all diagnostic characters. There are black marks in the crown stripes, the dorsal streaks are edged with black, the buff

of the breast is paler and less orange, and the sides and flanks are heavily streaked with black. Although size was not mentioned earlier, the bill of *caudacutus* is noticeably longer than that of *altera*; exposed culmen ca. 12 mm as compared to ca. 10 mm. The Powdermill specimen's culmen measures 12 mm. The bird is virtually identical with a 12 October specimen of *caudacutus* from Westport, Massachusetts (no. 163719); a 16 November specimen (no. 26146) from Amelia Island, Florida, is also an excellent match, although its plumage, as might be expected, is slightly more worn.

I have no explanation for the occurrence of this bird of a strictly salt-marsh form in western Pennsylvania. It is paralleled by the record of the equally salt-marsh-restricted Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*) in Latrobe, Westmoreland County, on 13 September 1988 (Mulvihill and Leberman 1989). Although probability of occurrence is certainly one of the factors to be taken into consideration in field identification of birds, these two specimens demonstrate that the improbable must not be completely discarded.

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January

by Steve Santner

January, the first month of the year, is also the low point in terms of the number of species present. However, it can still be one of the most exciting months of the year. During years of food scarcity to the north, many species may irrupt into Pennsylvania. Depending on what food is in short supply, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak, or Red and White-winged crossbills may be found. On very rare occasions birds like Gyrfalcon or Hawk Owl may enter the state. Rough-legged Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Evening Grosbeak, and Purple Finch are always around but may be much more common some winters than others. Seen every year, but only in winter, are Tree Sparrow, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. The bunting is sometimes seen in flocks but usually it, and the longspur as well, must be searched for among the large flocks of Horned Larks found in large, windswept fields. Those fields spread with manure are the most likely to contain these birds.

January is a good month for beginning birders to start. There are fewer species present and there are no leaves to block the view and little bird song. January is also a good month to search for owls. Great Horned Owls begin nesting and are calling frequently just before dawn or just after dusk. Eastern Screech-Owl can be induced to call by using a tape recording of its call. However, if this is done,

do not overuse the call as Screech-Owls are territorial all year and overuse may result in the owl deserting its territory. Long-eared, Short-eared and Saw-whet owls all winter singly or in roosts. To find the rare Saw-whet, try looking into thick brushy areas, especially those containing cedars or low pines. Sometimes the presence of droppings or pellets will aid in locating the bird or birds, which prefer to sit in the thickest parts of evergreens, about 4-12 feet above the ground. A potentially good area is the cedars at the White Oak picnic area at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Kleinfeltersville. Long- and Short-eared owls are more common and are usually found in taller pines. The Short-eared Owl can also be found flying over open grassy fields just before sunset, sometimes as early as 3:30 or 4:00 on winter afternoons.

Very little movement takes place during January. Waterfowl are often forced to leave this area in early January as the water freezes over. If a thaw occurs, some will often return, to be pushed out again if the water again freezes. The end of the month brings the coldest temperatures of the year, but the first sign of spring is at hand; the House Finch begins to sing!

MORE FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Birds of Pennsylvania. 3rd Edition. 1979. Merrill Wood. 144 pp. 381 species. \$2.25 postpaid from Publication Distribution Center, College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, 112 Agriculture Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker Tumbled in 1990 on Southeastern Pennsylvania Christmas Bird Counts

by Paul Hess

The Red-bellied Woodpecker's (*Melanerpes carolinus*) recent population trend in Pennsylvania has been phenomenal. Haas (1987) traced its rise from 1954 to 1984 on Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). He found steady range expansion from the state's southeastern and southwestern corners, plus greatly increasing numbers in those two long-colonized areas.

The trend continued impressively through 1989, then 1990 brought a surprising reversal. Numbers dropped 39% overall on Pennsylvania CBCs with comparative 1989–90 data.

Major decreases were by no means statewide; the 1990 change was decidedly minor in most of Pennsylvania. But southeast of the mountains, the Red-bellied tally fell to half its 1989 level.

This report updates Haas' findings to 1990 and suggests that the southeast's sudden plunge was not merely a result of poor CBC weather. On the other hand, no evidence points to a lasting downturn. Even if population losses were real, the woodpeckers may simply have shown a larger one-year CBC fluctuation than usual.

Three notes on method:

* All comparisons use birds per party-hour, including feeder hours because the Red-bellied is a fairly regular feeder visitor in winter. The figures represent total birds divided by total party-hours for the area involved, not an average of individual CBCs' birds per party-hour.

* Long-term analysis for 1970–1990 uses a consistent base of 37 Pennsylvania CBCs with data for the entire period. They are split into two regions: 15 CBCs mainly southeast of the mountains (SE) and 22 elsewhere in the state (non-SE). See Table 1.

* The 1989–1990 comparison uses all 58 Pennsylvania CBCs with

data for both years, including 21 SE and 37 non-SE counts. See Table 2.

The Rise to 1989

Some background puts the 1990 decrease into perspective. Red-bellied Woodpeckers have advanced northward not just in local thrusts but in a movement spanning the whole range, nearly half the continent wide.

Haas documented expansion in Pennsylvania as early as the mid-1950s, when the species began to appear on a fast-growing percentage

pressures within the traditional range were also involved; a significant upward trend occurred during 1965–79 even in the southeastern states, heart of the species' abundance (Robbins *et al.* 1986).

Pennsylvania's spectacular trend is shown by CBCs with continuous data for the last two decades (Table 1a, Fig. 1). The statewide level in 1989 was four times that of 1970, and the average annual rate of increase for 1970–89 was 7/6%. That corresponds closely to the 8.0% average rate for 1966–89 on Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Surveys (USFWS 1991). Only House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) and Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) rose faster among all species with significant BBS increases during the period.

Reflecting the range expansion, Red-bellied numbers grew tenfold from 1970 to 1989 on non-SE CBCs (Table 1b) at an average yearly rate of 13.2%. Even on SE CBCs, where it was already fairly common, the tally more than tripled (Table 1c) at an average annual rate of 6.9%.

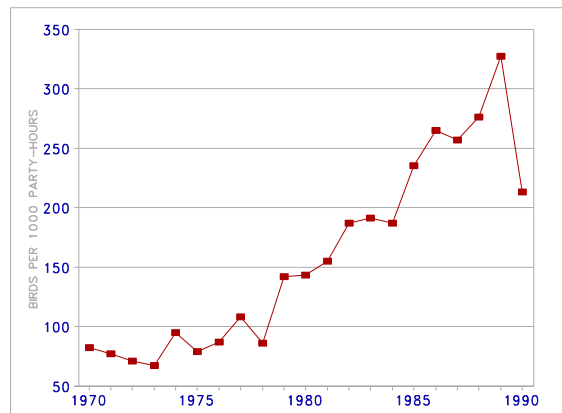


Figure 1. Red-bellied Woodpecker on PA CBCs.

of CBCs. Substantial movement north occurred about the same time in West Virginia (Hall 1983) and Ohio (Peterjohn 1989). By the 1960s numbers were increasing sharply across most of New York (Temple and Temple 1976, Bull 1985). The vast advance gained momentum during the '70s and '80s. It continues to draw attention farther and farther north from the western Great Lakes, through southern Ontario, to New England (Powell, Weir, Perkins 1991).

Factors influencing the expansion probably include periods of mild winters, good year-around food resources, availability of preferred semi-open habitat, tolerance of human presence, and a tendency for pioneers to wander northward after the breeding season. Perhaps population

That trend stalled dramatically in 1990 when a 35% decrease left the long-term Pennsylvania CBCs with their lowest Red-bellied Woodpecker count since 1984. The loss was quite limited geographically. On non-SE CBCs, the count edged up 2% to a new high. But the SE count plunged 48% to its lowest level since 1980. This drop was twice as great as the SE's largest previous percentage decrease in 1975.

A more complete basis for the two-year comparison uses all 58 Pennsylvania CBCs with 1989–90 data, and the following analyses refer entirely to these (Table 2). The net Red-bellied decrease was 39%, again with a striking distinction between

the two regions. The non-SE downturn was only 10% with a loss on 18 CBCs, a rise on 17, and no change on 2. In contrast, the SE drop was 49% with a decrease on all 21 CBCs.

Was the sudden SE plunge a result of count-day weather conditions? CBCs ordinarily offer a credible index of major long-term population changes, and even a single year's change as large as this can be meaningful. But 1990 was not an ordinary year. Exceptionally poor birding weather, with fog and/or rain ranging from light to heavy, plagued 15 of the 21 SE CBCs.

However, I see no sign that Red-bellied numbers were affected either by a lag in observer effort or by poor counting weather itself.

Total party-hours, including feeder hours, actually rose slightly from 1989 on the 15 bad-weather SE CBCs. More to the point, hours on foot decreased only 8%. That's a tribute to birders who braved the soggy conditions, and it certainly indicates no major lapse in effort.

The most telling argument against a weather factor is that Red-bellied losses were almost exactly the same on the SE's good-weather and bad-weather CBCs, 50% vs. 49%.

Wet weather also showed little effect on other areas' Red-bellied counts. In southwestern Pennsylvania the 1990 decrease was just 1% on 6 CBCs hit by rain (Beaver, Buffalo Creek Valley, Bushy Run, Clarksville, Pittsburgh, and Washington; ironically the count fell 77% on the southwest's only good-weather CBC, Raccoon Creek). Directly east of us in New York and New Jersey, 14 of 23 CBCs had wet weather yet the Red-bellied level dropped only 16% there.

Wind is another factor to consider. Robbins (1981) reported a 25-year correlation between Red-bellied counts and wind speed on a Maryland CBC. He also found substantial drops in breeding birds counted generally when wind speed reached about 8–11 mph. Of the SE Pennsylvania CBCs in

1990, 11 listed wind in that range and 10 did not. Again little or no effect appears. Red-bellied losses were almost the same for each group, 50% vs. 47%.

If count-day weather was not involved, then perhaps the Red-bellied Woodpecker population really decreased. Was 1990 a sign that the species is reaching its maximum density for SE Pennsylvania?

Future years will answer that, but bits of evidence indicate only a one-year anomaly limited to CBCs. Good numbers returned in 1991 to the few SE CBCs for which Red-bellied were mentioned in *Pa. Birds*. Furthermore, Breeding Bird Surveys in the same SE zone showed no Red-bellied dip at all, maintaining a virtually constant average of birds per route in 1989, 1990, and 1991 (USFWS 1992).

BBS data wouldn't tell much about young, which suggests two possible reasons for the low CBC levels: poor production of young in the cold and wet 1990 nesting season, or more young than usual leaving SE Pennsylvania to join the great northward advance.

In any case, 1990 marked a notable interruption of the Red-bellied Woodpecker's long-term CBC trend in Pennsylvania. For future analyses it will be important to remember the big drop's confinement to CBCs in the southeast corner of the state.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to Dan Brauning, Pa. Breeding Bird Atlas Project, for data on distribution and to Bruce Peterjohn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for local Breeding Bird Survey data.

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Table 1. Red-bellied Woodpecker on 37 CBCs in PA.
(Birds per 1000 party-hours)

Year	a. State (37 CBCs)	b. Non-SE (22 CBCs)	c. SE (15 CBCs)
1970	82	16	134
1971	77	20	117
1972	71	19	111
1973	67	16	113
1974	95	29	154
1975	79	29	118
1976	87	32	125
1977	108	31	162
1978	86	31	132
1979	142	42	225
1980	143	55	224
1981	155	54	249
1982	187	74	281
1983	191	100	277
1984	187	78	288
1985	235	124	346
1986	265	122	418
1987	257	117	395
1988	276	141	417
1989	327	168	475
1990	213	172	248

b. NON-SE: Beaver, Buffalo Cr. Valley, Bushy Run SP, Butler Co., Clarksville, Culp, Dallas Area, Erie, Hamburg, Lewisburg, Linesville, Lock Haven-Jersey Shore, Mansfield, New Bloomfield, Pittsburgh, Pleasantville, Raccoon Cr. SP, Scranton, SE Bradford Co., State College, Warren, Williamsport.

c. SE: Bethlehem-Easton, Central Bucks Co., Chambersburg, Elverson, Glenolden, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lehigh Valley, Lititz, Lower Bucks Co., Pennypack Valley, Reading, West Chester, Wyncote, York.

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Table 2. Red-bellied Woodpecker on 58 CBCs in PA.
 (Birds per 1000 party-hours)

Region	1989	1990	Decrease
State (58 CBCs)	363	221	39%
Non-SE (37 CBCs)	174	157	10%
SE (21 CBCs)	553	282	49%
rain/fog (15)	465	238	49%
clear (6)	790	392	50%

NON-SE: Bald Eagle SP, Beaver, Bedford, Bloomsburg, Buffalo Cr. Valley, Bushy Run SP, Butler Co., Clarion, Clarksville, Culp, Dallas Area, DuBois, Emporium, Erie, Hamburg, Huntingdon, Indiana, Johnstown, Lewisburg, Lewistown, Linesville, Lock Haven-Jersey Shore, New Bloomfield, Pittsburgh, Pleasantville, Pocono Mtn., Raccoon Cr. SP, Rector, Scranton, SE Bradford Co., State College, Thompson, Warren, Washington, White Mills, Wild Cr.-Little Gap, Williamsport.

SE: RAIN and/or FOG: Audubon, Bethlehem-Easton, Central Bucks Co., Chambersburg, Elverson, Glenolden, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon Co., Lehigh Valley, Lititz, Lower Bucks Co., Pennypack Valley, West Chester, Wyncote.

SE; CLEAR WEATHER: Bernville, Gettysburg, Reading, SO Lancaster Co., Upper Bucks Co., York.

Third Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

April 1992

by Ed Kwater, Chairman

This report covers all decisions on the occurrence of rarities in Pennsylvania made by the Pa. Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) from May 1991 to April 1992. Reviewing records of rarities will remain a major function of the PORC. During the above period 95 records were reviewed. This is a substantial increase from the 14 records covered by the second PORC report in May 1991 (*Pa. Birds* 5:1) and thirty records covered by the first report in May 1990 (*Pa. Birds* 4:1). This reflects a far greater awareness on the part of birders of the need to document the occurrence of rare birds in Pa., either by photographs, tape recordings, video tapes, or written descriptions. The PORC wishes to express its appreciation to all those who submitted documentation of rarities.

Of the 95 records reviewed, 67 (71%) were accepted. This compares favorably with an acceptance rate of 75% for records covered by the second report and only 43% for records covered by the first report. The standard of documentation has improved substantially since the PORC first began receiving records for review in 1989. Not only have written descriptions become more detailed and thorough, but an increasing number of records qualify for consideration for Class I status (those supported by either a specimen, photograph, or recording—see *Pa. Birds* 3:1). Of the 67 accepted records, no fewer than 32 (48%) qualified for Class I status, compared to five (28% of all accepted records) in 1991 and only one (8% of all accepted records) in 1990. The increasing proportion of Class I records is largely due to the number of photographs now being submitted to PORC. Photographs, even relatively poor ones, are an excellent way of documenting the occurrence of a rarity and the need for them cannot be overemphasized. However, a photograph should not be used as a substitute for a written description, but as a supplement to the description. Photographs cannot show a bird from every angle and frequently do not illustrate hidden areas such as the wing coverts or rump. There are a few species for which photographs can never be absolutely diagnostic. A classic example of this is the Pacific Slope

Flycatcher record from *Lancaster Co.* in 1990. This species belongs to the Western Flycatcher complex and was recently split from Cordilleran Flycatcher. These two species are only safely separable in the field by voice. The occurrence of this individual was well documented by photographs, written details, and tape recordings to clinch its acceptance as the first Pennsylvania record of Pacific Slope Flycatcher.

This report adds several new species to the Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania (*Pa. Birds* 1990 4:2, 4:3). Apart from the Pacific Slope Flycatcher, there were first state records of Ross' Goose (quickly followed by a second record) in *Lancaster Co.* in 1991; Vermillion Flycatcher in *Tioga Co.* in 1991; Black-legged Kittiwake in *Chester Co.* in 1983, followed by a more recent record in *Berks Co.* in 1991; Black-tailed Godwit in *Philadelphia Co.* in 1979; and Lark Bunting in *Westmoreland Co.* in 1980. The godwit and kittiwake are prime examples of how first state records can be accepted based on two written descriptions (Class II) or one written description (Class III) respectively. The written documentation must be extremely detailed in cases such as this however, and the PORC always welcomes photographic evidence of species which appear in Class II or III of the Official State List.

It should be noted that accepted records are only credited to the people who submit adequate documentation. In many cases these people are not the ones who originally found and/or identified a rarity. For this reason, finders are strongly encouraged to submit their own descriptions, photographs, or recordings so that they can be credited with their find.

The PORC not only reviews records of rare species in the state, but also records of rare subspecies such as Oregon Junco, Bullock's Oriole, and Spotted Towhee, and rare hybrids such as Lawrence's Warbler. Unseasonal records of otherwise common species are also reviewed. Examples of such species included in this report are the Great Crested Flycatcher in *Butler Co.*, Ruddy Turnstone and Forster's Tern in *Erie Co.*, and Nashville Warbler in *Lancaster Co.* All of these species were recorded in Pennsylvania in

late fall or winter and at least the first three established record late dates.

Of the records which were not accepted, most did not have adequate documentation in the collective opinion of the PORC. The committee comprises seven members and six positive votes are needed in order for a record to be accepted. Pacific Loon, Western/Clark's Grebe, Barnacle Goose, Long-tailed Jaeger (*the PORC Chairman is not immune from having records rejected!*), Three-toed Woodpecker, and Boat-tailed Grackle would have been first state records if they had been accepted. Two records of Barnacle Goose were not accepted. One of these records was accompanied by photographs which were obviously of a Barnacle Goose. However, it is not clear at this stage whether or not the record involves an escaped bird. The PORC will continue to discuss this and all future records of Barnacle Goose in the state. All observers who have records in the "not accepted" column are urged not to be discouraged, but to document the occurrence of rare species as thoroughly as they can with particular reference to plumage topography and with photographs and/or recordings whenever possible.

There are still a relatively large number of rarities for which documentation has not been submitted to PORC by the observer(s). This is especially important since 1989 when PORC was founded, but also applies to records before then, some of which would be first state records if accepted. These species are covered in *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* 1990, Vol. 4, No. 2, p. 53. Documentation for a few of these species (e.g., Barrow's Goldeneye, Band-tailed Pigeon, Le Conte's Sparrow) has now been submitted to PORC. All observers with records which have not yet been reviewed are urged to submit documentation.

The Ornithological Technical Committee (OTC) of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PBS) has recently voted two new members onto the PORC. The seven member committee now consists of the following members:

Barbara Haas - Secretary
Franklin Haas
Roy Ickes (new)

Ed Kwater - Chairman
Jerry McWilliams
Steve Santner
Jerry Skinner (new)

Bob Leberman and Paul Schwalbe have recently completed a three-year period of service. The PORC wishes to thank them for their hard work. Special thanks go to Paul Schwalbe for acting as Treasurer. A new Treasurer will be appointed at the next PORC meeting in June 1992.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF ACCEPTED RECORDS, BY CLASS (AOU ORDER).

CLASS I

- EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*). **Lycoming Co.** A bird in alternate definitive plumage, Rose Valley Lake 29 April 1988 (S. Stahl).
- CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*). **Indiana Co.** A bird at Yellow Creek SP 25 April 1991 (G. Lamer).
- ROSS' GOOSE** (*Chen rossii*). **Lancaster Co.** At least one bird at Middle Creek WMA from 3-16 March 1991 (T. Garner). This is the second accepted record for Pa. (see below)
- EURASIAN WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*). **Crawford Co.** Adult male at Custards, Geneva Marshes 7 April 1991 (J. McWilliams).
- KING EIDER** (*Somateria spectabilis*). **Erie Co.** A male in basic I plumage at Presque Isle SP 1-27 January and 3-16 March 1991. Seen by many observers and photographed (T. Floyd, F.C. Haas, J. McWilliams).
- HARLEQUIN DUCK** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). **Erie Co.** A female at Presque Isle SP 17 February 1991 (J. McWilliams, D. Darney).
- RED-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo jamaicensis*). **Northampton Co.** A western dark morph bird in Forks Township 19 January 1990 and 13 January to 30 March 1991 (R. Wiltraut).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*). **York Co.** Two birds at Spring Grove 11 May 1991 (R. Ryan).
- AMERICAN AVOCEET** (*Recurvirostra americana*). **Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle SP 20 July 1991 (S. Santner, F.C. Haas).
- WILLET** (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). **Indiana Co.** A flock of 12 at Yellow Creek SP 30 April 1991 (photo G. Lamer).
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT** (*Limosa haemastica*). **Cumberland Co.** One at Kuhn L. on 9 November 1988 (D. Henise).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). **Montgomery Co.** A bird in alternate definitive plumage at Green Lane Reservoir 25 August 1988 (R. Wiltraut).
- Crawford Co.** A bird in basic definitive plumage at Pymatuning 22 September 1991 and 6 there 6 October 1991 (E. Kwater).
- RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). **York Co.** A bird at Codorus SP 2-4 December 1988 (R. Ryan, D. Henise).
- THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*). **Erie Co.** The remains of a bird in definitive plumage at Presque Isle SP 22 April 1991 (J. McWilliams).
- NORTHERN HAWK OWL** (*Surnia ulula*). **Wayne Co.** A well watched individual near Lookout probably present from late October 1990 and last seen on 17 March 1991 (F. Haas). The first fully documented (photographed) twentieth century record for Pa.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). **Cumberland Co.** One at New Cumberland 24 May 1991 (A. Burnett). First county record. Recording submitted.
- Fulton Co.** A bird was present in late May and June at Breezewood and was photographed and recorded on 9 June 1991 (D. Colyer, R. Miller).
- RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus*). **Westmoreland Co.** An immature male came to a feeder at Ligonier from 17 October to 21 November 1990. It was trapped and positively identified on 15 November (R.S. Mulvihill, R.C. Leberman).
- PACIFIC SLOPE FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax difficilis*). **Lancaster Co.** A bird was present in East Drumore Township from 16-26 December 1990 having been found on a Christmas Count. The bird was photographed and recorded. This extraordinary extralimital record is the first for Pennsylvania (F.C. Haas).
- VERMILLION FLYCATCHER** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). **Tioga Co.** A male in basic 1 plumage at Jobs Corners 25 and 25 October 1991 (A. Brown, photographed by F.C. Haas). First record for Pa.
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus crinitus*). **Butler Co.** An extremely late bird near Slippery Rock 18-20 November 1990 (P. Hess, F.C. Haas, B.M. Haas). Originally thought to be an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) the identification of this bird was clinched by excellent field notes and photographs.
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*). **York Co.** A female at Long Arm Dam 23 December 1988 to 29 January 1989 (D. Heathcote, R. Ryan).
- LAWRENCE'S WARBLER** (*Vermivora chrysoptera X pinus*). **Northampton Co.** A male at Portland 5 May 1991 (R. Wiltraut).
- WESTERN Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*). **Montgomery Co.** A male in either basic 1 or basic 2 plumage in Whitpain Township from 30 December 1989 to 21 January 1990 (E. Fingerhood, J. Pasquarella, F.C. Haas).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** (*Spizella pallida*). **Lycoming Co.** A bird at Rose Valley Lake 2 May 1989. Recording submitted (S. Stahl).
- Lehigh Co.** One is Salisbury Township 30 April to 1 May 1991 (S. Smith).
- Tioga Co.** One at Jobs Corners 16-18 May 1989 (L. Brown, A. Brown).
- Mercer Co.** One at Limber Road, Worth Township 14-19 July 1991 (M. Fialkovich, J. Panza).
- LARK SPARROW** (*Chondestes grammacus*). **Lancaster Co.** One at Ronks 9 January 1982 (R. Schutsky).
- LARK BUNTING** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). **Westmoreland Co.** A male at Export 25 May 1980. First fully documented Pennsylvania record (M. Fowles, E. Fowles).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella neglecta*). **Erie Co.** One 29 June to 19 July 1978. Recording submitted (J. Baxter).

CLASS II

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). **Dauphin Co.** A bird at Hershey 14 May 1990 (S. Santner, S. Rannels).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*). **Philadelphia Co.** One in basic plumage at Philadelphia Sewage Ponds 16–26 October 1979. First Pennsylvania record (J. Ginaven, F.C. Haas).

SABINE'S GULL (*Larus sabini*). **Erie Co.** An immature bird at Presque Isle SP 23 September 1989. Fifth Pennsylvania record (E. Kwater, J. McWilliams).

CLASS III

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*). **Lancaster Co.** A juvenile on the Susquehanna River at Marietta 14 August to 15 September 1991 (J. Heller).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*). **Northampton Co.** One at Green Pond 29–30 December 1990 (D. DeReamus, B. Webster).

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). **Lancaster Co.** A bird in Drumore Twp near Muddy Run 27 February 1991 (F.C. Haas). First Pennsylvania record.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*). **Lancaster Co.** An alternate definitive male on Chickies Creek 8 February 1991 (J. Heller).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*). **Monroe Co.** A bird near Jonas 24 May 1991 (R. ZainEldeen).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). **Erie Co.** One seen during a hawk flight, State Line Road, Springfield Twp 27 March 1991 (J.H. Stull, J.G. Stull).

MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*). **Lancaster Co.** Two at Marietta 3 August 1991 (J. Heller).

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). **Erie Co.** A totally unseasonal bird at Presque Isle SP 26 January 1991 (J. McWilliams).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). **Mercer Co.** A juvenile at

Shenango Reservoir 31 August 1991 (T. Floyd).

Lancaster Co. Up to 3 at a sod farm near Landisville 6–19 September 1991 (J. Heller).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*). **Lancaster Co.** A female at Holtwood Flyash Pond 23 May 1991 (R. Schutsky).

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). **Greene Co.** One at Dry Tavern 15–22 September 1991 (R. Bell, G. Hall).

PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). **Erie Co.** A juvenile at Presque Isle SP 5 October 1991, the first of several records that fall season (E. Kwater).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*). **Cumberland Co.** A bird aged as an adult at West Fairview Boat Launch on 27 and 29 August and 17 September 1988 (R. Koury).

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*). **Erie Co.** One in basic 1 plumage at Presque Isle SP 13 January 1990. One in basic definitive plumage at the same location 17 February 1991 (J. McWilliams). Two in alternate definitive plumage at Presque Isle 5 March 1991 (T. Floyd).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*). **Chester Co.** Three in definitive basic plumage at Marsh Creek SP 24 December 1983 (P.B. Street). First accepted Pennsylvania record.

Berks Co. Two in definitive alternate plumage Lake Ontelaunee 31 March 1991 (R. Keller, M. Spence). Second Pennsylvania record.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*). **Erie Co.** One at Erie Public Dock 13–19 January 1991 (J. McWilliams). First county record in winter and probably the first winter record for Pennsylvania.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*). **Northampton Co.** One at Seemsville 14 September 1990 (R. Wiltraut).

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*). **Delaware Co.** A bird at Media 11 January 1991 (B. Mainwaring).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*). **Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle SP 31 March 1991 (J. McWilliams).

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera X pinus*). **Lebanon Co.** A female at Duffy's Pond (SGL 145) 17 May 1990 (S. Santner).

NASHVILLE WARBLER

(*Vermivora ruficapilla*). **Lancaster Co.** One at Landisville 17 February 1991 was an extremely unseasonal bird, probably a wintering individual (S. Santner).

SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). **Montgomery Co.** A male near Sumneytown 4 June 1983 (E. Fingerhood).

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*). **Northampton Co.** A male at Little Gap Bird Observatory 30 July 1991 (R. Wiltraut).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*). **Erie Co.** One at Presque Isle SP 6 May 1991 (J. McWilliams).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). **Northampton Co.** One at Easton 14 November 1990 (A. Koch).

Huntingdon Co. One near McAlevy's Fort 12 January 1991 (G. Grove).

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle SP 23 November 1990 (T. Floyd).

List of Records Not Accepted

Pacific Loon—13 May 1990, Penn Forest Reservoir, Carbon Co. Details submitted did not rule out Arctic Loon.

Eared Grebe—30 March 1991, Conneaut Lake, Crawford Co. Description did not rule out Horned Grebe. Details of head and bill shape were not given.

Western/Clark's Grebe—1–3 November 1987, Somerset Lake, Somerset Co. Conflicting documentation submitted. It was not certain which of the two spp. was involved or even if the bird was definitely an *Aechmophones* sp.

Barnacle Goose—4 February 1989, Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co. The submitted account does not include a description of the bird.

Barnacle Goose—28 January 1989, Pymatuning, Crawford Co. Photograph of a definite Barnacle Goose submitted but the status of the bird as an escapee is uncertain.

(Common) Green-winged Teal—27 December 1989 to 13 January 1990, Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co. The submitted account does not include a description of the bird.

- Barrow's Goldeneye—4 March 1991, Presque Isle SP, Erie Co. Description does not conclusively rule out Common Goldeneye.
- Mississippi Kite—31 March 1991, Tuscarora Summit, Franklin/Fulton Co. line. Description does not rule out several spp. of falcon, notably American Kestrel.
- Mississippi Kite—7 April 1991, Mt. Gretna, Lebanon Co. Details very brief and did not rule out other species of raptor.
- Swainson's Hawk—6 October 1990, I-176 near Green Hills, Berks Co. No details submitted by original observer.
- Long-tailed Jaeger—2 September 1990, Presque Isle SP, Erie Co. Description did not conclusively rule out Parasitic Jaeger.
- Franklin's Gull—14 April 1991, Memorial Lake, Lebanon Co. Description does not eliminate Common Black-headed and Bonaparte's gulls.
- Royal Tern—14 April 1991, Memorial Lake, Lebanon Co. Description does not conclusively eliminate Caspian Tern.
- Least Tern—29 May 1990, Presque Isle SP, Erie Co. Details submitted were extremely brief.
- Black Skimmer—22 October 1989, Pipersville, Bucks Co. Details submitted do not include a description of the bird.
- Three-toed Woodpecker—15 December 1984, Presque Isle SP, Erie Co. The possibility of confusion with a Hairy Woodpecker (maybe an aberrant individual) was not ruled out.
- Bewick's Wren—6–8 May 1988, Mount Holly Springs, Cumberland Co. Insufficient detail. Description did not rule out Carolina Wren.
- Townsend's Solitaire—12 May 1984, Presque Isle SP, Erie Co. A close vote. Not accepted because at the time it would have been a first state record and the observation period was extremely brief.
- Varied Thrush—10 January 1985, North East, Erie Co. Details submitted were very brief and did not conclusively rule out American Robin.
- Blue Grosbeak—22 May 1988, Bell's Farm, Greene Co. No written description of the bird itself was actually submitted.
- Painted Bunting—15 May 1986, Lititz, Lancaster Co. Details submitted were very brief.
- Lark Bunting—29 December 1990, Maple Grove Dairy, Bethlehem, Northampton Co. Description did not match any known plumage of the species at that season.
- Grasshopper Sparrow—30 December 1989, U.S. Rt. 6 and Standing Road, Bradford Co. Brief description did not rule out LeConte's Sparrow. An unseasonal report.
- Harris' Sparrow—2 May 1987, SGL 46 near Hopeland, Lancaster Co. Description brief and written several years after the sighting.
- (Oregon) Dark-eyed Junco—15 December 1990, Tioga Co. Description does not rule out female Dark-eyed Junco.
- Brewer's Blackbird—16 December 1989, Menges Mills, York Co. Description does not rule out Rusty Blackbird.
- Boat-tailed Grackle—17 December 1977, Bucks Co. Description very brief and does not rule out Great-tailed or Common grackles.
- Bullock's Oriole—13–29 December 1990, Knox, Clarion Co. The committee vote was deeply split on this one, with some members holding the view that a female Western Tanager was not eliminated.

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HAWK WATCH REPORT (Fall 1991)
Cornwall Fire Tower (Lancaster)
Jay George, Compiler

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
<i>Coverage - days</i>	21	22	19	62
<i>Coverage - hours</i>	107	109	78	294
Osprey	40	25	0	65
Bald Eagle	6	0	0	6
N. Harrier	17	49	7	73
Sharp-shinned Hawk	231	702	19	952
Cooper's Hawk	13	75	6	94
N. Goshawk	0	4	2	6
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	37	3	41
Broad-winged Hawk	2298	5	0	2303
Red-tailed Hawk	16	307	110	433
Golden Eagle	1	1	2	4
Am. Kestrel	30	33	0	63
Merlin	3	3	0	6
Peregrine Falcon	0	1	0	1
Unidentified	12	68	4	84
<i>Totals</i>	2668	1310	153	4131

Somehow this report was omitted from the last issue. —eds.

Feeding Hummingbirds

Apparently the jury is out as to whether or not the red dye used in commercial hummingbird mixtures is good/bad/neutral for hummingbirds. A safe alternative is to use the following formula:

2 cups sugar
8 cups water

Boil the above together for about 4–5 minutes. Allow to cool. Then pour into a glass container and refrigerate. Use as needed. Make more solution when the last is used to fill the feeder(s). The dilution can go to 5:1 at the height of summer flowers and humidity, but the 4:1 ratio should be maintained at the beginning and at the end of the season.☺

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

Compiled by Terry Schiefer

1991 was the year of the Big Year—the biggest ever in Pennsylvania. **Deuane Hoffman's** total of **293** species is really spectacular considering that most of us have not seen that many species of birds in Pennsylvania in our lifetime! Not to be overlooked are outstanding annual lists submitted by **Joyce Hoffman** and **Randy Miller**, both among the top ten largest annual lists for Pennsylvania.

In Erie county, **Jerry McWilliams** is still searching for his 300th species in Erie County. He did, however, see a lot of other species last year for the second largest county annual list ever. Three birders, **Deuane Hoffman**, **Jerry Book**, and **Rick Wiltraut**, have joined the ranks of those who have found their elusive 300th Pennsylvania bird.

Steve Santner still reigns supreme in the county lifelist category with top lists in twelve counties to his credit. He's followed by **Deuane Hoffman** and **William Reid** each with five top lists and **Margaret Higbee** with four.

Congratulations to all of you!

Each Christmas I travel home to Pennsylvania hoping to add a new species to my state list. This year a Mew (Common) Gull turned up and most of you were there to look for it. It was great seeing birding friends I hadn't seen in years, and it was a real pleasure meeting many of you for the first time. Now if only I had met that Mew Gull as well...

PENNSYLVANIA LIFELISTS

1 337 Barbara Haas
2 336 Franklin Haas
3 322 John Miller (*Birding* '89)
4 319 Bernard Morris
5 318 Eric Witmer
6 316 Steve Santner
7 313 Tom Garner
7 313 Paul Schwalbe
9 311 Gerald McWilliams
10 310 Harry Franzen (*Birding* '91)
11 309 Deuane Hoffman
11 309 Jan Witmer
13 308 John Ginaven
14 307 Phillips Street
15 303 Jerry Book
15 303 Glenna Schwalbe
17 302 Sam Stull ('85)
18 301 Rick Wiltraut
18 301 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. ('86)
20 300 Evelyn Kopf ('89)
20 300 Larry Lewis ('88)
22 299 Keith Richards (*Birding* '82)
23 298 Fritz Brock
23 298 Dave DeReamus
23 298 Robert Schutsky
23 298 William Murphy (*Birding* '91)
27 296 Al Guarente
28 294 George Malosh (*Birding* '91)
28 294 James Baxter ('86)
30 293 David Freeland (*Birding* '90)
31 292 Ronald Leberman
31 292 John Peplinski
31 292 Terence Schiefer
31 292 Allan Keith (*Birding* '91)
35 291 Randy Miller
36 290 Margaret Higbee
37 289 Frank Windfelder
38 288 Joyce Hoffmann
39 285 Nick Pulcinella

40 284 James Gray (*Birding* '83)
41 283 William Reid
41 283 Allen Schweinsberg ('90)
43 282 Ed Kwater
44 281 Harold Morrin (*Birding* '90)
45 280 Neal Thorpe (*Birding* '91)
46 279 Armas Hill (*Birding* '91)
47 278 Merrill Wood
47 278 James Baird (*Birding* '81)
49 277 Roger Higbee
49 277 Bonnie Baird (*Birding* '81)
51 276 Skip Conant
52 274 Kenneth Gabler
53 271 Tom Clauser ('89)
54 270 Carl Garner
55 268 Thomas Reeves
55 268 Walter Shaffer
57 267 Richard Colyer
57 267 Harry Henderson
59 266 George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
60 265 Steve Farbotnik
61 260 Jonathan Heller
62 258 Robyn Henise
63 257 Joe Meloney ('90)
64 256 Mike Fialkovich
65 253 Ernest Schiefer
66 252 Kevin Crilley
66 252 Kerry Grim
66 252 Ted Grisez ('90)
66 252 Linda McWilliams ('88)
70 250 Russell Ryan
71 247 Jim Lockyer
72 246 Steve Feldstein ('90)
73 245 Greg Malosh
74 244 Geoff Malosh
75 243 Don Henise ('90)
76 241 David Kyler ('90)
77 240 Stan Glowacki
78 236 Mark Henry ('87)
79 235 Bruce Carl
79 235 Devich Farbotnik

81 231 Roy Ickes
81 231 John Salvetti
83 225 Arthur Bergey ('89)
84 222 Sherri Labar
84 222 Matt Wlasniewski
86 221 Stephen Mallanson
87 218 Greg Grove
88 216 Richard Rosche ('87)
89 206 Russ Ruffing

COUNTY LIFELISTS (TOP 50)

1 299 *Erie* Gerald McWilliams
2 291 *Erie* Sam Stull ('85)
3 290 *Philadelphia* John Miller ('85)
4 289 *Lancaster* Eric Witmer
4 289 *Delaware* John Miller ('85)
6 287 *Lancaster* Tom Garner
7 281 *Lancaster* Robert Schutsky
8 276 *Lancaster* Jerry Book
9 275 *Lancaster* Jan Witmer
10 274 *Luzerne* William Reid
11 272 *Centre* Merrill Wood
12 269 *Lancaster* Steve Santner
13 268 *Chester* Larry Lewis ('88)
14 264 *Erie* Ed Kwater
15 263 *Centre* Harry Henderson
15 263 *Lancaster* Randy Miller
17 259 *Lancaster* Barbara Haas
18 257 *Lehigh* Fritz Brock
19 256 *Lancaster* Deuane Hoffman
19 256 *Lehigh* Bernard Morris
21 255 *Cumberland* Deuane Hoffman
21 255 *Delaware* Nick Pulcinella
23 254 *Delaware* Barbara Haas
24 253 *Erie* Deuane Hoffman
25 252 *Franklin* Kenneth Gabler
25 252 *Lancaster* Jonathan Heller
27 250 *Butler* David Freeland ('85)
28 249 *Franklin* Carl Garner

28 249 *Erie* Linda McWilliams('88)
 30 246 *Bucks* Steve Farbotnik
 30 246 *Butler* Gene Wilhelm, Jr.('86)
 32 244 *Centre* Terence Schiefer
 32 244 *Delaware* Al Guarente
 32 244 *Lehigh* Rick Wiltraut
 35 243 *Dauphin* Deuane Hoffman
 36 242 *Philadelphia* Frank Windfelder
 36 242 *Erie* David Freeland ('85)
 38 241 *Centre* Rick Wiltraut
 38 241 *Chester* Phillips Street
 40 240 *Cumberland* Don Henise
 40 240 *Philadelphia* Barbara Haas
 40 240 *Lancaster* Larry Lewis ('88)
 40 240 *Allegheny* David Freeland ('85)
 44 239 *Chester* Barbara Haas
 45 238 *Clinton* Paul Schwalbe
 45 238 *Erie* Barbara Haas
 47 237 *Carbon* Rick Wiltraut
 47 237 *Philadelphia* Al Guarente
 47 237 *Philadelphia* Harry Franzen ('90)
 50 236 *Cumberland* Robyn Henise
 50 236 *Erie* George Malosh ('89)

COUNTY LIFELISTS (BY COUNTY)

ADAMS

160 Carl Garner
 152 Deuane Hoffman
 139 Kenneth Gabler
 131 Steve Santner
 61 Jonathan Heller

ALLEGHENY

240 David Freeland ('85)
 188 Ed Kwater
 168 George Malosh ('89)
 158 Mike Fialkovich
 144 Geoff Malosh
 141 Greg Malosh

ARMSTRONG

202 Margaret Higbee
 91 Steve Santner

BEAVER

152 George Malosh ('89)
 113 Geoff Malosh
 112 Greg Malosh
 90 Steve Santner
 75 John Snarey

BEDFORD

122 Steve Santner
 70 Kenneth Gabler
 73 Deuane Hoffman
 74 Merrill Wood

BERKS

233 Kerry Grim
 203 Terence Schiefer
 198 Matt Wlasniewski
 192 Larry Lewis ('88)
 191 Barbara Haas
 184 Ernest Schiefer
 170 Deuane Hoffman
 166 Steve Santner
 160 Bernard Morris
 143 Nick Pulcinella
 142 Al Guarente

110 Jonathan Heller

BLAIR

174 David Kyler ('90)
 103 Steve Santner
 53 Don Henise

BRADFORD

215 William Reid
 168 Frances Biles ('85)
 114 Randy Miller
 105 Barbara Haas ('90)
 102 Steve Santner

BUCKS

246 Steve Farbotnik
 208 Devich Farbotnik
 202 Stan Glowacki
 183 Harry Franzen ('90)
 144 Bernard Morris
 119 Kevin Crilley
 111 Steve Santner

BUTLER

250 David Freeland ('85)
 246 Gene Wilhelm, Jr. ('86)
 165 George Malosh ('89)
 122 Geoff Malosh
 119 Greg Malosh
 108 Deuane Hoffman
 100 Steve Santner

CAMBRIA

154 John Salvetti
 103 Steve Santner

CAMERON

86 Steve Santner

CARBON

237 Rick Wiltraut
 181 Bernard Morris
 115 Steve Santner
 102 Deuane Hoffman
 81 Al Guarente

CENTRE

272 Merrill Wood
 263 Harry Henderson
 244 Terence Schiefer
 241 Rick Wiltraut
 179 Paul Schwalbe
 162 Russ Ruffing
 152 Greg Grove
 145 Kevin Crilley
 136 Steve Santner
 126 Barbara Haas
 116 Deuane Hoffman

CHESTER

268 Larry Lewis ('88)
 241 Phillips Street
 239 Barbara Haas
 234 John Ginaven
 203 Al Guarente
 193 Neal Thorpe ('90)
 161 Steve Santner
 151 Nick Pulcinella
 111 Terence Schiefer
 101 Deuane Hoffman

CLARION

104 Steve Santner

CLEARFIELD

100 Steve Santner
 87 Paul Schwalbe

82 Margaret Higbee ('90)

CLINTON

238 Paul Schwalbe
 120 Steve Santner
 101 Barbara Haas ('90)
 57 Merrill Wood

COLUMBIA

100 Steve Santner

CRAWFORD

198 Margaret Higbee ('90)
 193 Roger Higbee ('90)
 191 Ronald Leberman
 155 Deuane Hoffman
 152 Geoff Malosh
 150 Greg Malosh
 124 George Malosh ('89)
 109 Steve Santner
 102 Terence Schiefer

CUMBERLAND

255 Deuane Hoffman
 240 Don Henise
 236 Robyn Henise
 213 Richard Colyer
 187 Steve Santner
 176 George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
 147 Carl Garner
 132 Kenneth Gabler

DAUPHIN

243 Deuane Hoffman
 234 George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
 218 Steve Santner
 165 Richard Colyer
 127 Merrill Wood
 110 Kenneth Gabler
 109 William Reid
 106 Don Henise

DELAWARE

289 John Miller ('85)
 255 Nick Pulcinella
 254 Barbara Haas
 244 Al Guarente
 230 Thomas Reeves
 225 Skip Conant
 225 Paul Schwalbe
 219 John Ginaven
 127 Deuane Hoffman
 121 Steve Santner

ELK

153 Linda Christenson
 90 Steve Santner
 76 Ted Grisez ('90)

ERIE

299 Gerald McWilliams
 291 Sam Stull ('85)
 264 Ed Kwater
 253 Deuane Hoffman
 249 Linda McWilliams ('88)
 242 David Freeland ('85)
 238 Barbara Haas
 236 George Malosh ('89)
 233 Margaret Higbee
 222 Mike Fialkovich
 221 Roger Higbee
 218 Geoff Malosh
 217 Greg Malosh
 197 Terence Schiefer

194 Steve Santner
 177 Richard Colyer
 146 Randy Miller
 138 Bernard Morris
FAYETTE
 108 Steve Santner
 78 Deuane Hoffman
 73 Roy Ickes ('87)
FOREST
 140 Ted Grisez ('90)
 91 Steve Santner
FRANKLIN
 252 Kenneth Gabler
 249 Carl Garner
 135 Deuane Hoffman
 113 Steve Santner
 94 Don Henise
FULTON
 192 Kenneth Gabler
 159 Carl Garner
 119 Steve Santner
 118 Robert Walker ('89)
GREENE
 101 Roy Ickes
 81 Steve Santner
 77 Barbara Haas ('89)
 57 Deuane Hoffman
HUNTINGDON
 213 David Kyler ('90)
 201 Greg Grove
 181 Merrill Wood
 104 Steve Santner
 97 Terence Schiefer
INDIANA
 235 Margaret Higbee
 220 Roger Higbee
 195 Anne Hedgpeth ('86)
 117 Steve Santner
JEFFERSON
 99 Steve Santner
 61 Margaret Higbee ('87)
JUNIATA
 123 Deuane Hoffman
 104 Steve Santner
 71 Jonathan Heller
LACKAWANNA
 90 Steve Santner
LANCASTER
 289 Eric Witmer
 287 Tom Garner
 281 Robert Schutsky
 276 Jerry Book
 275 Jan Witmer
 269 Steve Santner
 263 Randy Miller
 259 Barbara Haas
 256 Deuane Hoffman
 252 Jonathan Heller
 240 Larry Lewis ('88)
 211 Bruce Carl
 201 George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
 183 Terence Schiefer
 172 Nick Pulcinella
 172 Dennis Weaver ('89)
 170 Al Guarente
 162 Richard Colyer

142 Kevin Crilley
 132 Don Henise
 113 Bernard Morris
LAWRENCE
 102 Steve Santner
LEBANON
 230 Steve Santner
 209 Deuane Hoffman
 192 Randy Miller
 186 Stephen Mallanson
 152 George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
 122 Barbara Haas
 116 Jonathan Heller
 114 Bruce Carl
LEHIGH
 257 Fritz Brock
 256 Bernard Morris
 244 Rick Wiltraut
 104 Steve Santner
 93 Barbara Haas
LUZERNE
 274 William Reid
 216 Mark Blauer ('85)
 142 Kevin Crilley
 104 Steve Santner
 72 Jonathan Heller
LYCOMING
 224 Paul Schwalbe
 119 Steve Santner
 89 Deuane Hoffman
 65 Barbara Haas ('89)
MCKEAN
 99 Ted Grisez ('90)
 83 Steve Santner
MERCER
 149 Deuane Hoffman
 119 Steve Santner
 64 Greg Malosh
 50 Geoff Malosh
MIFFLIN
 108 Steve Santner
 104 Greg Grove
 57 Merrill Wood
MONROE
 221 Phillips Street
 117 Bernard Morris
 109 Steve Santner
 74 Al Guarente
MONTGOMERY
 228 Harry Franzen ('90)
 220 Kevin Crilley
 212 Bernard Morris
 211 Neal Thorpe ('90)
 136 Steve Santner
 120 Al Guarente
 107 Robert Walker ('89)
MONTOUR
 211 Barbara Haas
 199 Allen Schweinsberg ('90)
 119 Steve Santner
 103 Kevin Crilley
NORTHAMPTON
 230 Rick Wiltraut
 229 Steve Boyce ('90)
 220 Brad Silfies ('90)
 214 Dave DeReamus

209 Bernard Morris
NORTHUMBERLAND
 204 Allen Schweinsberg ('90)
 166 Barbara Haas
 112 Steve Santner
PERRY
 200 Deuane Hoffman
 162 Richard Colyer
 155 Steve Santner
 125 Don Henise
 121 Dallas Dowhower
 116 Walter Shelly, Jr.
PHILADELPHIA
 290 John Miller ('85)
 242 Frank Windfelder
 240 Barbara Haas
 237 Al Guarente
 237 Harry Franzen ('90)
 223 Nick Pulcinella
 215 Skip Conant
 213 John Ginaven
 163 Stephen Lawrence ('90)
 150 Thomas Reeves
 143 Steve Santner
 120 Terence Schiefer
 118 Deuane Hoffman
 103 Kevin Crilley
PIKE
 100 Barbara Haas ('89)
 96 Steve Santner
 77 Deuane Hoffman
POTTER
 101 Paul Schwalbe
 82 Steve Santner
 61 Deuane Hoffman
SCHUYLKILL
 220 Tom Clauser ('89)
 123 Steve Santner
 117 Barbara Haas ('90)
 100 Bernard Morris
 75 Bruce Carl
SNYDER
 155 Allen Schweinsberg ('90)
 122 Steve Santner
 64 Merrill Wood
SOMERSET
 161 Richard Murphy
 118 Steve Santner
SULLIVAN
 145 Skip Conant
 104 Steve Santner
 99 Thomas Reeves
 91 Randy Miller
 59 Barbara Haas ('89)
SUSQUEHANNA
 161 William Reid
 99 Steve Santner
 89 Barbara Haas ('89)
TIOGA
 183 Larry Brown
 178 Arlene Brown
 119 Steve Santner
 97 Deuane Hoffman
 95 Bruce Carl
UNION
 212 Allen Schweinsberg ('90)

132	Barbara Haas ('89)
113	Steve Santner
80	Deuane Hoffman
VENANGO	
212	Gary Edwards
96	Steve Santner
WARREN	
227	Harris Johnson ('86)
217	Ted Grisez ('90)
112	Steve Santner
WASHINGTON	
210	Margaret Higbee
209	Roger Higbee
190	Roy Ickes
161	Russ Ruffing
141	George Malosh ('89)
WAYNE	
122	William Reid
93	Steve Santner
WESTMORELAND	
130	Steve Santner
91	Margaret Higbee ('90)
WYOMING	
231	William Reid
118	Skip Conant
107	Steve Santner
95	Barbara Haas ('89)
61	Al Guarente
YORK	
216	Russell Ryan
185	Steve Santner
172	Deuane Hoffman
172	George Wertz, Jr. ('86)
132	Kenneth Gabler
127	Carl Garner
105	Jonathan Heller
104	Barbara Haas

PA ANNUAL LISTS 1991

293	Deuane Hoffman
273	Joyce Hoffman
266	Randy Miller
261	Gerald McWilliams
252	Ed Kwater
251	Steve Santner
246	Jonathan Heller
246	Charles Tague (<i>Birding</i>)
236	Walter Shaffer
233	Jerry Book
231	Don Henise
230	Nick Pulcinella
227	Steve Farbotnik
227	Mike Fialkovich
227	Bernard Morris
225	Ronald Leberman
224	Robyn Henise
220	Al Guarente
220	Margaret Higbee
217	Dave DeReamus
216	Devich Farbotnik
213	Skip Conant
208	William Reid
205	Greg Grove
202	Carl Garner

177	Kenneth Gabler
175	Ernest Schiefer
170	Matt Wlasniewski
163	Larry Brown
163	John Salvetti
158	Arlene Brown

PA ANNUAL LISTS (TOP 50)

1	293	Deuane Hoffman	1991
2	288	Barbara Haas	1986
2	288	Franklin Haas	1986
4	278	Sam Stull	1979
4	278	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1983
6	273	Joyce Hoffman	1991
7	268	Terence Schiefer	1985
7	268	Deuane Hoffman	1986
9	266	Randy Miller	1991
10	263	Gerald McWilliams	1983
11	261	Gerald McWilliams	1991
12	259	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1982
13	255	Franklin Haas	1977
13	255	Ed Kwater	1989
15	254	Barbara Haas	1977
16	252	John Ginaven	1978
16	252	Bonnie Baird	1979 (<i>Birding</i>)
16	252	James Baird	1979 (<i>Birding</i>)
16	252	Gerald McWilliams	1988
16	252	Ed Kwater	1991
21	251	Gerald McWilliams	1989
21	251	Steve Santner	1989 (<i>Birding</i>)
21	251	Steve Santner	1991
24	250	Gerald McWilliams	1979
24	250	Ed Kwater	1990
26	249	David Freeland	1984
26	249	Steve Santner	1990
28	248	Gerald McWilliams	1985
29	247	James G. Stull	1976 (<i>Birding</i>)
29	247	Gerald McWilliams	1982
29	247	Terence Schiefer	1986
32	246	Barbara Haas	1979
32	246	Gerald McWilliams	1980
32	246	Gerald McWilliams	1981
32	246	David Freeland	1981 (<i>Birding</i>)
32	246	Gerald McWilliams	1984
32	246	Jonathan Heller	1991
32	246	Charles Tague	1991 (<i>Birding</i>)
39	245	John Ginaven	1979
39	245	Terence Schiefer	1984
39	245	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1985
39	245	Larry Lewis	1986
43	244	Franklin Haas	1979
43	244	Steve Santner	1986
43	244	Ed Kwater	1988 (<i>Birding</i>)
43	244	Gerald McWilliams	1990
47	241	Bonnie Baird	1978 (<i>Birding</i>)
47	241	James Baird	1978 (<i>Birding</i>)
49	240	Bernard Morris	1981
49	240	Franklin Haas	1982
49	240	Gerald Book	1986 (<i>Birding</i>)

COUNTY ANNUAL LISTS (BY COUNTY)

ADAMS

140	Carl Garner	1991
86	Kenneth Gabler	1991

ALLEGHENY

96	George Malosh	1982
93	George Malosh	1974

ARMSTONG

142	Margaret Higbee	1986
139	Margaret Higbee	1987
131	Margaret Higbee	1990
122	Margaret Higbee	1991

BEAVER

110	George Malosh	1974
105	George Malosh	1975

BEDFORD

70	Kenneth Gabler	1991
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BERKS

170	Terence Schiefer	1981
167	Terence Schiefer	1982
162	Matt Wlasniewski	1991
152	Matt Wlasniewski	1990
145	Matt Wlasniewski	1989
142	Ernest Schiefer	1991

BLAIR

126	Beryl Sternagle	1990
121	Beryl Sternagle	1989

BRADFORD

82	Skip Conant	1988
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BUCKS

203	Steve Farbotnik	1991
196	Devich Farbotnik	1991
156	Bruce McNaught	1987

BUTLER

245	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1983
229	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1985
225	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1982
224	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1981
218	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1984
217	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1980
215	Gene Wilhelm, Jr.	1979

CENTRE

224	Terence Schiefer	1985
214	Terence Schiefer	1986
211	Terence Schiefer	1984
191	Terence Schiefer	1983
180	Merrill Wood	1986

CHESTER

225	Larry Lewis	1988
221	Larry Lewis	1983
219	Larry Lewis	1986
216	Larry Lewis	1984
215	Larry Lewis	1982
214	Larry Lewis	1987
209	Larry Lewis	1985

CRAWFORD

202	Ronald Leberman	1989
183	Ronald Leberman	1990
100	Terence Schiefer	1984
89	George Malosh	1974
81	George Malosh	1973

CUMBERLAND

227	Deuane Hoffman	1989
221	Deuane Hoffman	1986
214	Don Henise	1991

209	Deuane Hoffman	1991	171	Margaret Higbee	1987	93	Skip Conant	1991
202	Robyn Henise	1991	<i>JUNIATA</i>			86	Skip Conant	1988
200	Don Henise	1989	33	Kenneth Gabler	1991	85	Skip Conant	1989
127	Carl Garner	1991	<i>LANCASTER</i>			81	Skip Conant	1987
55	Kenneth Gabler	1991	236	Randy Miller	1991	<i>YORK</i>		
<i>DAUPHIN</i>			234	Jonathan Heller	1991	178	Russell Ryan	1991
205	Deuane Hoffman	1986	214	Randy Miller	1990	100	Steve Santner	1986
202	Deuane Hoffman	1991	211	Jonathan Heller	1990	84	Carl Garner	1991
132	Steve Santner	1990	202	Steve Santner	1986	70	Kenneth Gabler	1991
124	Steve Santner	1991	188	Steve Santner	1991	<i>COUNTY ANNUAL LISTS (TOP 50)</i>		
114	Steve Santner	1986	47	Kenneth Gabler	1991	1	264	<i>Erie</i> Sam Stull 1979
<i>DELAWARE</i>			<i>LEBANON</i>			2	252	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1991
241	John Miller	1969	187	Steve Santner	1987	3	251	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1983
184	Nick Pulcinella	1991	180	Steve Santner	1990	3	251	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1988
182	Al Guarente	1991	160	Steve Santner	1991	5	248	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1989
172	Al Guarente	1990	152	Steve Santner	1986	6	245	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr 1983
171	Al Guarente	1988	<i>LEHIGH</i>			7	244	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1985
148	Skip Conant	1991	200	Bernard Morris	1984	8	243	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1979
<i>ERIE</i>			<i>LUZERNE</i>			8	243	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1981
264	Sam Stull	1979	72	Jonathan Heller	1991	10	242	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1984
252	Gerald McWilliams	1991	<i>NORTHAMPTON</i>			11	241	<i>Delaware</i> John Miller 1969
251	Gerald McWilliams	1983	189	Dave DeReamus	1990	12	238	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1990
251	Gerald McWilliams	1988	168	Dave DeReamus	1991	13	236	<i>Lancaster</i> Randy Miller 1991
248	Gerald McWilliams	1989	<i>PERRY</i>			14	234	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1980
244	Gerald McWilliams	1985	108	Dallas Dowhower	1991	14	234	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1982
243	Gerald McWilliams	1979	103	Walter Shelly, Jr.	1991	14	234	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1987
243	Gerald McWilliams	1981	<i>PHILADELPHIA</i>			14	234	<i>Erie</i> Ed Kwater 1989
242	Gerald McWilliams	1984	225	John Miller	1965	14	234	<i>Lancaster</i> Jonathan Heller 1991
238	Gerald McWilliams	1990	161	Al Guarente	1990	19	230	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1986
234	Gerald McWilliams	1980	152	Skip Conant	1988	29	230	<i>Erie</i> Deuane Hoffman 1991
234	Gerald McWilliams	1982	142	Skip Conant	1989	21	229	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1985
234	Gerald McWilliams	1987	141	Skip Conant	1990	22	227	<i>Cumberland</i> Deuane Hoffman 1989
234	Ed Kwater	1989	140	Al Guarente	1991	22	227	<i>Erie</i> Ed Kwater 1991
230	Gerald McWilliams	1986	135	Nick Pulcinella	1991	24	225	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1982
230	Deuane Hoffman	1991	134	Skip Conant	1991	24	225	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1988
227	Ed Kwater	1991	<i>SCHUYLKILL</i>			24	225	<i>Philadelphia</i> John Miller 1965
221	Linda McWilliams	1986	191	Tom Clauser	1987	27	224	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1981
219	Linda McWilliams	1987	167	Tom Clauser	1988	27	224	<i>Centre</i> Terence Schiefer 1985
218	Gerald McWilliams	1978	159	Tom Clauser	1985	29	221	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1983
218	Ed Kwater	1990	156	Tom Clauser	1989	29	221	<i>Cumberland</i> Deuane Hoffman 1986
215	Linda McWilliams	1988	<i>SULLIVAN</i>			29	221	<i>Erie</i> Linda McWilliams 1986
183	Mike Fialkovich	1991	115	Skip Conant	1991	32	219	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1986
81	Margaret Higbee	1991	114	Skip Conant	1987	32	219	<i>Erie</i> Linda McWilliams 1987
<i>FRANKLIN</i>			111	Skip Conant	1990	34	218	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1984
153	Kenneth Gabler	1987	98	Skip Conant	1988	34	218	<i>Erie</i> Gerald McWilliams 1978
152	Carl Garner	1991	98	Skip Conant	1989	34	218	<i>Erie</i> Ed Kwater 1990
141	Kenneth Gabler	1988	<i>TIOGA</i>			37	217	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1980
139	Kenneth Gabler	1990	151	Larry Brown	1991	38	216	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1984
133	Kenneth Gabler	1991	137	Arlene Brown	1991	39	215	<i>Butler</i> Gene Wilhelm, Jr. 1979
<i>FULTON</i>			111	Larry Brown	1990	39	215	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1982
115	Kenneth Gabler	1988	107	Arlene Brown	1988	39	215	<i>Erie</i> Linda McWilliams 1988
114	Carl Garner	1991	87	Arlene Brown	1989	42	214	<i>Centre</i> Terence Schiefer 1986
107	Kenneth Gabler	1991	<i>VENANGO</i>			42	214	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1987
82	Kenneth Gabler	1990	194	Gary Edwards	1991	42	214	<i>Cumberland</i> Don Henise 1991
<i>GREENE</i>			179	Gary Edwards	1989	42	214	<i>Lancaster</i> Randy Miller 1990
137	Ralph Bell	1985	174	Gary Edwards	1990	46	211	<i>Centre</i> Terence Schiefer 1984
134	Ralph Bell	1986	<i>WARREN</i>			46	211	<i>Lancaster</i> Jonathan Heller 1990
<i>HUNTINGDON</i>			152	Ted Grisez	1985	48	209	<i>Chester</i> Larry Lewis 1985
182	Greg Grove	1991	<i>WASHINGTON</i>			48	209	<i>Cumberland</i> Deuane Hoffman 1991
169	Greg Grove	1990	134	Russ Ruffing	1985	50	205	<i>Dauphin</i> Deuane Hoffman 1986
63	Kenneth Gabler	1991	132	Roy Ickes	1984			
35	Kenneth Gabler	1990	100	George Malosh	1975			
<i>INDIANA</i>			94	George Malosh	1976			
203	Margaret Higbee	1991	87	Margaret Higbee	1987			
188	Margaret Higbee	1990	<i>WYOMING</i>					
172	Margaret Higbee	1986	96	Skip Conant	1990			

203 E. Gillespie St.
Starkville, MS 39759

Summary of The Season - January to March 1992

The snows in mid to late March were particularly devastating to a few known species: Killdeer, Am. Woodcock, E. Phoebe, Am. Robin, and E. Meadowlark. Space here does not allow for complete coverage of comments, but we direct you to the reports of *Bedford*, *Clarion*, *Columbia*, *Elk*, *Juniata*, *Mifflin*, *Somerset*, *Tioga*, and *Westmoreland* for more details and accounts.

Two **Eared Grebe** were found in *Crawford*, and singles in *Erie* and *York*. Best shot for finding a **Great Cormorant** still is *Philadelphia*. **Gr. White-fronted Goose** were found in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, and *Tioga*. For the second year in a row (1991 was the first state record), a **Ross' Goose** was found in *Lancaster*; a report from *Chester* had no details submitted. No less than five counties had sightings of **Eurasian Wigeon**! A **Canvasback** in *Columbia* was noteworthy writes Gross. Unprecedented for *Erie* was the flock of 40 **Black Scoter** in February. A **C. Goldeneye** in *Lackawanna* was a good find, but finally **Barrow's Goldeneye** was photographed and this will bring it off the Hypothetical List pending acceptance by the Pa. Ornithological Records Committee.

A **Turkey Vulture** was a surprise visitor in a snow-covered *Butler* driveway at 8 PM in January. **Osprey** set record early dates in *Bucks*, *Erie*, and *Tioga*. Please refer to the separate article on **Bald Eagles** for an up-to-date summary of activity in the state. A number of leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** were reported plus a dark form found in *Centre*, and quite remarkable was the one adding suet to its diet in *Clearfield*. **Rough-legged Hawk** numbers in *Erie* were outstanding. **Peregrine Falcon** made their presence known in several areas away from the Delaware River, in *Clarion*, *Columbia*, *Lancaster*, *Lycoming*, *Venango* and *York*.

January records of **Virginia Rail** are very rare, so one in both *Blair* and *Erie* (dead) were indicative of the mild winter. Four counties had sightings of **Sandhill Crane** (*Bucks*, *Clarion*,

Huntingdon, *Venango*). A **Gr. Yellowlegs** in *Huntingdon* in early March may not have survived the later snow storms. **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** were both noteworthy in *Erie* for early and late dates.

Gulls and more gulls. *Berks* became the hotspot with Jonathan Heller seeing nine species in one day and finding the first state record of a **Mew Gull**! (See separate articles). He also had a **Laughing Gull**, always a good bird in January. For the first time in 17 years in *Erie*, no Little Gull was found. *Lancaster* recorded its first **C. Black-headed Gull**. **Thayer's Gull** was restricted to *Erie*, **Lesser Black-backed** more widespread than ever, and both species of white-winged gulls found in several counties.

If the **N. Hawk Owl** in *Bedford* could have been verified, there was a possibility that 10 species could have been found this quarter. Grisez estimated over 2000 people visited *Warren* for the first live twentieth century record of **Great Gray Owl**. There was a significant number of **Snowy Owl** reports, ranging as far south as *Berks*. How encouraging to get increased numbers of **Short-eared Owls**. When cleaning out a Wood Duck box, the Walters (*Forest*) found a **N. Saw-whet Owl** nest with 4 eggs.

Could it be there was a hummingbird in *Huntingdon* during our warm February? There certainly was a **Great Crested Flycatcher** in *Berks* to start the year. To the best of our knowledge this represents the first true winter (January/February) record of this species in the entire Northeast. Pennsylvania, in our opinion, is fast developing into a good spot to look for flycatchers in winter. The **Barn Swallow** in *Indiana* in late February seemed doomed, note the Higbees, unless it had the foresight to go back south. Marich was able to locate a **C. Raven** nest in *Somerset*. The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** in *Cumberland* was fighting the odds of survival, but the **Brown Thrasher** in *Delaware* may have fared better.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was reported from *Tioga* and **N. Shrike** may have had their best showing

across the state in many years. Eight species of warblers were found: **Orange-crowned**, **Black-and-white**, and **C. Yellowthroat** (*Philadelphia*), **Yellow-rumped** all over, **Pine** (*Delaware*, *Huntingdon*), **Ovenbird** (*Huntingdon*), **Louisiana Waterthrush** (*Lawrence*), and **Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Delaware*).

Dickcissel were noted (*Chester*, *Crawford*), a first in the state for Ron Leberman. Was it the mild winter that kept numbers of **Am. Tree Sparrow** low once again, or their continued decline in the state? Early records of **Chipping Sparrow** (*Greene*, *Northampton*) were probably due to the mild winter. *Chester* hosted a **Clay-colored Sparrow** while *Delaware* had a rare March record of **Lincoln's Sparrow**. Going out in one of the March snow storms, to look at the birds that were trying to cope with the adverse conditions, gave Kenep her life **Lapland Longspur**.

The only **Yellow-headed Blackbird** report came from *Lancaster*. A **N. Oriole** was found in *Montgomery* and we received a late report from Smrekar who tells of one in *Clearfield* that was noted in late December until it fell prey to a Red-tailed Hawk. The days of many **Purple Finch** visiting your feeders in winter seem about over. Oh, for those days of yesteryear when **House Finch** were not the dominant species! Only **White-winged Crossbill** report was a brief sighting in *Lehigh*. The few **C. Redpoll** sightings were restricted to the northern tier (*Elk*, *Erie*, *Warren*), with the exception in *York* of one at a feeder.

All in all, a quarter with a lot of variety, many surprises and a few sad notes. We, like many of you, basked in the marvel of migration, did some breeding bird work for various counts or Special Areas Projects, and now look forward to what the rest of the year will bring. Reading this summary is only a preface to what lies ahead in the next pages. Enjoy and report.

COUNTY REPORTS - January through March 1992

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

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Ted Floyd

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Beechwood Farms (BF), Forest Hills Park (FH), Harmar Twp (HA), Harrison Hills Park (HH), Homewood Cemetery (HO), Natrona Heights (NH), North Park (NP), Ohio R. (OR), Ohio Twp (OT), Penn Hills (PE), Plum Boro (PL), Sewickley (SE), Sharpsburg (SH), South Park (SP), Whitehall Boro (WB).

Grebes included **Pied-billed** at AR and OR 1/22-3/12 (PB) and **Horned** at NP 3/19 (JH). Best of 3 **Great Blue Heron** reports was 5 at NH 2/21 (PH). *Anatidae* were widely scattered in small numbers as follows: 2 **Wood Duck** at NP 1/12-2/15 (MF,TF,JH,EK) and 4 at NP 3/28 (MF); 43 **Am. Black Duck** at OR 1/6 (PB) and smaller numbers elsewhere (v.o.); 2 **Am. Black Duck X Mallard hybrids** at OR 2/12 (PB); 1 **N. Pintail** at NP 2/6-3/28 (MF, JH); 1 **Gadwall** at NP 1/12 (MF,JH,EK); 2 **Am. Wigeon** at OR 3/3 and 2 at NP 3/28 (MF); 1 **Canvasback** at OR 1/27-2/3 (PB); 1 **Redhead** at NP 2/6-2/9 (MF,JH); 5 **Ring-necked Duck** at AR 3/12 (PB) and 14 at NP 3/28 (MF); 1 scaup *sp.* at OR 1/22-2/12 (PB); 20-23 **C. Goldeneye** at OR 1/27-2/3 (PB); 7-8 **Bufflehead** at OR 1/29-2/12 (PB); and 2 **Hooded Merganser** at NP 2/6-2/15 (MF,TF,JH).

First **Turkey Vulture** were not noticed until 3/28 at several locations (MF,PH,JS). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were reported from just 2 locations (WH). **Cooper's Hawk** were again reported at encouragingly many locations (v.o.), in accordance with RG's observation that this species is becoming more common here. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at NH 1/4-3/4 (PH). **Red-tailed Hawk** nesting activity was underway by 3/3 (PB). Single **Ring-necked Pheasant** were reported from 2 locations (WH), and 4 **Wild Turkey** were at NP 3/28 (MF).

1 **Am. Coot** was at OR 2/12 (PB). First **Killdeer** at SE 3/3 (PB). Hundreds of **Ring-billed Gull** were reported 2/21-2/29 (v.o.), and 5 **Herring Gull** at NH 2/23 (PH). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were common and **Hairy Woodpecker** uncommon (v.o.). **N. Flicker** wintered at many locations (v.o.), but only **Pileated Woodpecker** was 1 at SP (WH).

First **E. Phoebe** was at HH 3/28 (PH). A leucistic **Blue Jay** was at OT during Jan. (PB). A **Black-capped Chickadee** remained s. of its usual range at WB all quarter (WH). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at WB 3/27 the only report (WH), and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at NP 1/12 (MF, JH,EK). An **E. Bluebird** was at PL 2/12 (PB), and **Am. Robin** wintered in good numbers (v.o.). **N. Mockingbird** was listed at 4 locations. Notable among many **Cedar Waxwing** reports was an account of considerable consumption of freshly accumulated snow by a flock of 21 at OT 2/8 (PB).

A **Rufous-sided Towhee** at OT 2/15 (PB) and an **Am. Tree Sparrow** at PE 1/1 (MF,RP) were the only reports. **Fox Sparrow** reports included: 1 at NH 3/19-3/31 (PH); 1 at HA 3/14-3/31 (JV); 1 at BF 3/15 (MF); and 2-4 at HC 3/15-3/28 (MF,JS). **White-throated Sparrow** numbers were very low (v.o.). The best

find was a ♂ "**Oregon Junco**" at NH 2/24 (PH). First dates: **Red-winged Blackbird** at PL 2/25 (RG); **C. Grackle** at NH 2/23 (PH), and **Brown-headed Cowbird** at WB 3/10 (WH). An orangevariant **House Finch** was at FH 2/8 (MF).

OBSERVERS: Paul Brown, Mike Fialkovich, Richard Floyd, Ted Floyd, Pesticide Research Laboratory, Penn State Univ., University Park 16802, Randi Gerrish, Walter Hammond, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Ed Kwater, Andrew Mesaros, Rob Preuhs, Jack Solomon, Raghuram Tadikamala, Jim Valimont.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Elders Ridge strips (ER), Elderton (ED), Ford City (FC), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RT), Tub Mill Run (TMR).

All reports by ES at RT unless otherwise indicated. **C. Loon** was found 3/19,27. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted 1/12 but not found again until 2/22; max. was 4 3/31. Three **Horned Grebe** at KR 3/2 (M&RH) was the lone report. A **Tundra Swan** was seen 3/14. **Canada Goose** peaked at 240 2/9. First flock of **Wood Duck**, 4, arrived 2/21; numbers peaked at 16 by 3/21. **Green-winged Teal** max. included 12 at RT 3/14 and 5 at MV 3/31. Top **Am. Black Duck** count was 22 at MV 2/15 (MH, RH). **N. Pintail** was noted 1/12; high count 7 2/25. A **Blue-winged Teal** was observed 3/15, the lone report. **Am. Wigeon** max. were 19 at RT 3/19 and 13 at TMR 3/21. Four **Redhead** were a nice find at MV 2/16-17; 1 at RT 2/25. **Ring-necked Duck**, present from 2/21-3/19, peaked at 34 3/14. KR, still partially unfrozen 1/11, yielded 2 **Ring-necked Duck**. 8 **Gr. Scaup** were seen 3/5; 6 **Ls. Scaup** 3/18. A **Surf Scoter** was a nice find at MV 2/6 (DL). **C. Goldeneye** reports included 1 2/20-22 and 2 3/27. **Bufflehead** were noted in small numbers after 1/28. Merganser max. included 15 **Hooded** 2/21, 13 **Common** 2/22, and 11 **Red-breasted** 3/31.

Up to 77 **Turkey Vulture** were counted perched in trees and soaring overhead at Wattersonville 3/19 (TS,MJO). The 2 **Bald Eagle** reported wintering last quarter continued into this period with last report 3/6 at Templeton (SH). 2 **N. Harrier** were at ER 2/2 (M&RH). A flock of 15 **Wild Turkey** was seen nr Pyrra 3/25 (RH). 4 **Am. Coot** were observed at KR 1/11 (M&RH) and at RT 3/27. Best **Ring-billed Gull** tally was 140 at Tartrton 2/21 (NK,GW). A **Herring Gull** was at MV 2/15 (M&RH).

An **E. Screech-Owl** was observed perched in a low shrub in an adjacent field that 3 **Short-eared Owl** were working 2/8 at ER (M&RH). An ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was hammering on a telephone pole nr ED 1/11 (M&RH). The lone **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** report was 1 at KTN 1/16 (NK). 2 **N. Flicker** were at ED 2/21 (M&RH). 1-2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited feeders nr FC (JV) and KTN (NK). Small flocks of **E. Bluebird**, reported from scattered locations, included 6 in Burrell Twp 2/2 (JV). Up to 30 **Pine Siskin** were regular at a KTN feeder through 3/31, the only report for the county.

OBSERVERS: Scott Hetrick, Margaret & Roger Higbee, RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Nancy Karp, Debby Livengood, M.J. Odre, Ed Slovensky, Tom Snail, Joe Valasek, Gloria Winger.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Janet Shafer

Abbreviations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Beldon (BL), Black Valley (BKV), Buffalo Mills (BM), County Home Rd (CHR), Shaunee SP (SSP).

Only one report from SSP as Gordon Hassel who birded that area has moved. Therefore there were almost no reports of waterfowl. **Great Blue Heron** was found 2/24 BL (CMC) and 3/28 BM (DH). **Tundra Swan** migrating over BKV (MJ) 3/2 and 23

were seen 3/20 at SSP (CMc). On 3/7 there were 3 **Wood Duck** present at BL (CMc). A kettle of 46 **Turkey Vulture** was seen 3/4 BV (JES). **Black Vulture** (8) were feeding at a deer pit on Wills Mt. 3/? (TF). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** present BM (DH) 2/7 and a ♂ was netted and banded 3/8 in BV (JES). **Cooper's** reported 1/17 BM (DH) and 1/29 BL (CMc). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** caught the attention of a neighbor in BV (BC) 2/27. As many as 3 **Golden Eagle** and several **C. Raven** reported from 1/1 until at least as late as 3/16 on Wills Mt. (TF) and **Bald Eagle** sighted nr Hyndman 3/?, (TF). **N. Harrier** seen 1/19, 2/4 & 3/1 BM (DH). **Ruffed Grouse** 3/6,15 BM (DH).

Killdeer were first seen 2/28 BV (JES). Snowstorms the first two weeks of Mar. sent many Killdeer and robins out foraging along the highways where plows had cleared. **Am. Woodcock** heard "peenting" 3/4 BV (JES), also seen 3/9–20 BM, BL & BKV (DH,CMc,MJ).

E. Screech-Owl found d.o.r. 1/2 BED (JES); reports of live ones 1/31 BL (CMc) & 2/22 BM (DH). **Great Horned Owl** d.o.r. s. of Bedford 1/27 (JES). **Barred Owl** seen 1/29 nr Chaneyville (JES), 1 on power line s. of Centerville 2/7 and 1 reported 3/21 at BL (CMc). Unconfirmed report of **N. Hawk Owl** 1/26 CHR (LH). All expected 7 species of woodpeckers were found in various locations.

E. Phoebe 3/29 at BM (DH). **White-breasted Nuthatch** 3/31 BM (DH); **Carolina Wren** 1/23 BM (DH) and present on feeder all quarter CHR (LH). **N. Mockingbird** 1/20 BKV (MJ) & 2/2 BL (CMc). Large numbers of **Am. Robin** reported from all areas beginning 2/18 BV (JES). **E. Bluebird** reported 2/5 from BL (CMc) and BM (DH).

The snow storms and extreme weather fluctuations the first 2 weeks of March took quite a toll of these birds. In a 24-hour period 3/12-13 there were 18 dead counted along 30-mile stretch. Some were so exhausted they could barely fly out of the way of cars. Ten robins took shelter in a wood pile on the front porch at CHR (LH) during one of the storms.

E. Meadowlark seen 2/27 BV (JES) and **Red-winged Blackbird** reported 1/1 BL (CMc), 2/22 BV (JES), 3/11 BKV (MJ) and 3/20 BM (DH). **Purple Finch** was in BL 1/25 (CMc) and BKV 3/11 (MJ). A banded ♂ **House Finch** visited 2/17,18 BM (DH). **Pine Siskin** appeared 1/31+ BV (JES); also reported 3/10 in BM (DH).

Earliest **Rufous-sided Towhee** was 2/23 from BKV (MJ). **Am. Tree Sparrow** 3/22 BL (CMc) and **White-throated** in BL (CMc) 3/3. **Fox Sparrow** (6) on 3/8 BV (JES), also at CHR (LH) and on 3/11 BL (CMc). **Song Sparrow** appeared 3/3 BL (CMc), 3/7 BM (DH) and 3/11 BV (JES).

OBSERVERS: Brad Chippendale, Tim Flanigan, Les Hollinger, Donna Housel, Michael Jackson, Rosie & Clyde McGinnett, Janet E. Shaffer, RD 6 Box 338, Bedford 15522 (814-356-3553).

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Abbreviations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO).

Open lakes and plenty of pig farm garbage near Strausstown attracted 9 spp. of gulls in Jan. The front-page bird was the Pa. record **Common Gull** picked out of hundreds of closely packed Ring-bills at LO 1/2 by Jonathan Heller and carefully identified and described by David Rich of Wales, who knew the sp. well in Europe. It was later seen by m.obs. at BML 1/3,5–13, and was reported again at Strausstown 2/22,23 (PGE). Best estimates of numbers and dates of the other spp. are: 1 **Laughing** 1/3; 1 **Bonaparte's** 1/7,15; 10,000 **Ring-billed** 1/3+; 2000 **Herring** 1/3+; up to 7 **Iceland** 1/1–3/1; up to 6 **Ls. Black-backed** 1/1–3/1; 4 **Glaucous** 1/1–10; and 8+ **Great Black-backed** 1/1–3/15 (RK, DK,EK,HJS,MS). Gull numbers plummeted after hard freezes in mid-Jan., but plenty were left to hone local birders' identification skills.

Black-crowned Night-Heron returned to LO 3/30 (KC,BP). The usual small numbers of **Tundra Swan** were seen 2/20–3/30,

with a high 13 at LO 2/24 (KC). A **Mute Swan** was at LO 3/2 (KC). "Over 800" **Snow Goose**, a record number, were at LO 1/13 only (JG,DG,fide BM). A "blue" at LO 2/24 (KC) and 3 "white" and a "blue" 3/1,2 (KC,MS) were more normal numbers. A "**Hutchin's Canada Goose**" was at Strausstown 3/1 (RK,HJS).

Some peak duck counts, from LO unless otherwise noted, were: 100 **N. Pintail** 3/15 (BOC); 3 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/30 (KC); 4 **N. Shoveler** 3/23,30 (KC); 100 **Gadwall** 3/23 (KC); 73 **Am. Wigeon** 3/23 (KC); 12 **Canvasback** Grace Mine 3/9 (MW); 56 **Ring-necked** Shartlesville 3/1 (RK,HJS); 6 **Ls. Scaup** 3/30 (MS); 5 **C. Goldeneye** 1/12 (KC); 5 **Bufflehead** Big Spring Farm 1/25 (RK,HJS); 15 **Hooded** 3/15 (BOC), 720 **Com.** 2/23 (DK), 24 **Red-breasted** mergansers 3/30 (MS,MW), and 2 **Ruddy** 3/22 (MS).

MS notes that high counts of Red-breasted Merganser have fallen on 3/30 before, with 51 at LO 3/30/75 (MS) and 120 there 3/30/39 (E.Poole). At LO 3/27, MS saw a ♂ Hooded Merganser "obviously paired" with a ♀ C. Goldeneye swimming and later flying off together, and notes that a hybrid of these spp. is illustrated in the 1978 ed. of Frank C. Bellrose, *The Ducks, Geese & Swans of North America*.

An **Osprey** nr Kutztown 2/20 (CE) is the earliest on record. Single ad. **Bald Eagle** were at LO 1/5 (EK), Port Clinton 1/14 (*fide* CV), HMS 2/22 (*fide* CV), and LO 3/30 (EB). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was on territory nr Krumsville 3/25 (MS). **Rough-legged Hawk** was absent from many areas, and only 2 were in prime territory in Marion Twp 1/8 (RK, HJS). An ad. **Golden Eagle** was nr Steinsville 1/24 (*fide* CV).

The reintroduced semi-**Wild Turkey**, bolstered by a good mast crop and having learned to glean fields and visit feeders, is doing very well in Pike & District twps, where 100+ could easily be found this winter (RK). **Am. Coot** counts of 20–50 were made at LO. First **Am. Woodcock** was in Pike Twp 2/22, and 8–10 at BML 3/20 (RB,RM,PN,BP).

There were 3 **Long-eared Owl** 1/26 at the Penn Twp roost, an almost impenetrable abandoned orchard overtopped with multiflora rose in which the birds roost close to the ground (HJS). Only non-birders saw the **Snowy Owl** on the roof of the Berkshire Mall 1/3 (*fide* PC) and the bird in Laurel Run Park, Muhlenberg Twp, in late Jan. (*fide* CCD), but the descriptions were convincing.

Earliest arrival date for **E. Phoebe** was 3/6 at Red Bridge (BP).

The **Great Crested Flycatcher** found 1/1 (ESB) on the Bernville CBC was seen again 1/5,6 (†DK,ES,DJS). *The documentation confirms this as the first winter (January - February) record in the Northeastern United States. Although Ash-throated Flycatcher may have been the more expected species for this time of year, the merits of documentation cannot be emphasized enough. -eds.]*

The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report was at a Plowville feeder 3/18+, and a **Pine Warbler** visited that same feeder 3/28 (KL). Up to 3 **Lapland Longspur** in breeding plumage were nr Lyons 3/15,22 (MS,MW), and the only **Snow Bunting** reported was at BML 1/18 (HJS). A grand total of 4 **Purple Finch** was reported, and **Pine Siskin** at only 2 feeders—up to 40 all winter at HMS (*fide* CV) and 18 all winter at Plowville (KL).

OBSERVERS: Ed & Sarah Barrell, Baird Ornithological Club, Randy Bleyer, Peggy Copeland, Carl & Carolyn Drasher, Catherine Elwell, Pat & Gerry Essler, Jack Galm, Dick Gemmel, Kerry Grim, Rudy Keller, RD 4 Box 235, Boyertown 19512 (215-367-9376), Dean Kendall, Ed Kwater, Ken Lebo, Richard Matz, Harold Morrin, Bernie Morris, Paul Neider, Barry Pounder, Harold & Joan Silagy, Matt Spence, Doris & Jerry Steffey, Cathy Viverette & HMS staff, Matt Wasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Stan Kotala

Abbreviations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CC), L. Altoona (LA), Mill Run Res. (MR), Special Areas Project (SAP).

The quarter was relatively unremarkable until Mar., when several snowstorms moved through. Waterbird reports from CC unless otherwise noted. 1 **C. Loon** rested 3/21 & 5 on LA 3/27 (BK). 2 **Horned** and 6 **Pied-billed grebes** 3/21 (BK,GK) and a **Red-necked Grebe** there 3/23. During the night of 3/2 SK was awakened several times as large flocks of **Tundra Swan** flew over his home in Elberta; 12 were found at CC 3/3 (ASK) and 127 noted at LA 3/8 (BK). 11 **Am. Wigeon** and 3 **Gadwall** rested at CC 3/8. A ♂ **Canvasback** 3/1–22 (m.ob.) was joined by 15 others 3/23 (GK), but not seen subsequently. 1–4 **N. Pintail** found 3/1–8 (ASK,BK). 7–18 **Ls. Scaup** found 3/8–29 (BK,ASK,DK). 18 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/8 (ASK) rose to a high of 155 during the 1st PSO SAP census there 3/29 (DK). A **C. Goldeneye** was on LA 2/29 (BK) and 3 at CC 3/2 (GK). BK saw an **Oldsquaw** at LA 3/27. 14 **Bufflehead** joined large rafts of other diving ducks 3/21 (SK) along with 4 **Ruddy Duck** (BK). 2–20 **Hooded Merganser** found 3/5–23 (ASK,GK). High for **Red-breasted Merganser** was 104 at LA 3/8; 1 at CC 3/3 with 6 **C. Merganser** (ASK).

DK observed 2 sub-adult **Bald Eagle** in a thermal at CC 3/29. They engaged in mock combat, spiraled, and moved eastward and out of sight. On the same date, an imm. **Golden Eagle** circled over CC (DK). 2 **Osprey** (m.ob.), a ♀ **N. Harrier**, and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** were at CC 3/29 (MF). A **Cooper's Hawk** landed on an old post in a grape tangle below MB's house 1/15. This accipiter flew from post to post to fallen log, searching for small birds. It jumped to the ground and succeeded in flushing several juncos but did not attempt to catch any and eventually flew off empty-taloned.

Ruffed Grouse were drumming several times on BM 1/8 (MB). An imm. **Virginia Rail** was seen for several minutes among cattails and watercress during the SAP 1/19. 5 **Am. Woodcock** were at CC 3/29 (DK,SK) and 1 found on BM 3/31 (MB).

N. Flicker returned in force in late Feb. On 2/22 MB observed a ♀ **Pileated Woodpecker** in her yard as it ate Staghorn Sumac berries. The ♂ called her from a distance several times, but the ♀ kept ducking her head and not answering, all the while continuing to eat as the shrub swayed from her weight. Finally, just as she took off she did answer. According to Terres, these berries are a favorite winter food for Pileateds. First **E. Phoebe** was seen on Lower Trail (GK); MB noted 1 on BM 3/7, fully a week ahead of the earliest record there. Earliest **Tree Swallow** were at CC 3/29, when 7 were seen.

E. Bluebird numbers at CC were in the 50s all quarter. A **Hermit Thrush** was at MR 1/4. Wetlands next to a small private pond nr CC harbored 4 **Am. Pipit** 3/21 (BK,GK). First **Pine Warbler** was at CC 3/29 (GK). **Red-winged Blackbird** returned to CC 2/23. A ♂ **Rufous-sided Towhee** was in ASK's yard 1/10–13. **Song Sparrow** returned to BM 3/2 (MB) and **Chipping** to CC 3/29. A **Savannah Sparrow** was in the fields at CC 3/10 (GK). **Fox Sparrow** were relatively common, a group staying on BM for 2+ weeks after a 3/11 snowstorm, and 3–4 at Tipton Wetlands 3/11–23 (GK). **Pine Siskin** were uncommon, but 3 were at MB's feeder 1/28.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, Melissa Focht, Bill King, Gary Koch, Alice & Stan Kotala, RD 3 Box 866, Altoona 16601 (814-946-8840), Dave Kyler, Dan Sinal, Terry Wentz.

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: Dublin (DU), Falls Twp landfill (FT), New Hope (NH), Nickamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Revere (RV), Silver Lake Nature Ctr (SL), Tyler SP (TSP), Van Sciver L. (VL).

Only **C. Loon** was at NSP 3/21 (SF). High count of **Pied-billed Grebe** was 5 at NSP 3/13 (B&NM). A **Horned Grebe** was at PVP 2/22 and 1 leucistic bird (totally white head/neck) at NSP

3/31 (SF). 8 **Great Cormorant** at Salem Harbour 3/1 (SF,DF) and **Double-crested** common on the Delaware R. after then. Undoubtedly, the most exciting find was a **Great Blue Heron nest** (more next issue). 100+ **Tundra Swan** flew over PVP in late Feb (APG). Best **Snow Goose** tally was 70+ over NSP 3/30 (SF). An ad. **Gr. White-fronted Goose** (Greenland race) was at PVP 2/10–13 (KC,SF,DF); another at VL 1/17 (CD). AM saw a **Brant** feeding with **Canada Geese** at PVP 1/25 and 2 at VL 1/26 (CD).

First **Wood Duck** at NSP 2/14 (SF), with 18 at SL 3/26 (BoM). The 2 Eur. race **Green-winged Teal** continued at PVP all quarter (AM *et al.*). High count of **N. Pintail** at NSP was 14 3/13 (SF). First **Blue-winged Teal** at PVP 3/21 (AM). A **N. Shoveler** at NSP 3/10 and 2 **Gadwall** at PVP 1/1 (SF). **Am. Wigeon** noted at 4 locations (v.o.). 1 **Canvasback** at PVP 2/24 (TE). **Ring-necked Duck** was widely reported, 81 the high count at L. Warren 3/8 (SF). 13 **Ls. Scaup** at PVP 3/10, 2 **Oldsquaw** at NSP 3/25, and 12 **Black Scoter** at PVP 3/26 (SF). High for **C. Goldeneye** was 45 on the river nr NH (BH). **Bufflehead** at NSP, NH, PVP (SF, BH,RF *et al.*). Pairs of **Hooded Merganser** were reported by many, and a flock of 75–80 at VL most of the period (CD). High for **C. Merganser** was 450 at VL (CD). 2–5 **Red-breasted Merganser** at NSP 3/14–26 (BNM,SF). 75 **Ruddy Duck** at FT 1/31 (CD).

Black Vulture were found after 2/3 at several locations. First **Osprey** was at NSP 3/24 (SF). An imm. **Bald Eagle** 1/1 (BNM) started their year off well. There were numerous records of both ad. and imm. all quarter, including 1 imm. at PVP *with a trap caught on its leg* seen 1/19 (RH) and 1/25 (AM). In all, at least 6 different birds were noted in the Co. **N. Harrier** was found at RV 1/5 (SF) and TSP in Mar. (JH). **Cooper's Hawk** were frequently reported 1/18+ (v.o.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found at Quakertown 1/13 and PVP 2/29 & 3/8 (DF,SF;AD). The "shimmering" albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was in Upper Bucks all quarter and **Rough-legged** at NSP 1/23 (SF). The pair of **Peregrine Falcon** reported previously at the Pa. Tpk Bridge are still being seen there and a 3rd bird visits the FT landfill, apparently flying in from Trenton, N.J.

Ring-necked Pheasant continue only occasional. The **Wild Turkey** flock has increased from 19 to 36 indiv. (HR,JC). 12 **Am. Coot** were at NSP (SF). A **Sandhill Crane** first found at SL 2/1 (JH) was observed at various places in Lower Bucks (Penn Manor, Levittown L.) for 2–3 weeks (CD,BoM). SF found **C. Snipe** at NPS 3/30 and **Am. Woodcock** were plentiful by quarter's end (RF *et al.*).

An imm. **C. Black-headed Gull** was at VL 1/25 and an ad. there 2/15 (*no details for either -eds.*) (CD). **Bonaparte's Gull** were in FT 1/4 (CD). 1000+ **Ring-billed Gull** at NSP 3/12. An **Iceland** and 10 **Ls. Black-backed gulls** at FT 3/25 (CD). High for **Great Black-backed Gull** was 30 at NSP 2/29 (AM). SF & DF found a **Short-eared Owl** hunting at Mechanicsville; another at PVP 3/18 (AB). A very cooperative **N. Saw-whet Owl**, seen and photographed by many, was first seen 1/22 (RF *et al.*) and remained through the end of Feb.

An ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Plumsteadville 2/29 (SF) and another nr DM's home all quarter. A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** was at RV 3/8 (SF). Earliest **E. Phoebe** was at NH 2/11 (BH). 30+ **Horned Lark** at DU 3/8 (SF). Earliest **Tree Swallow** was 3/11 when ±80 were at NH; 2 **N. Rough-winged** and a **Barn swallow** at NH 3/28 (BH). **Fish Crow** from 1/29+ (v.o.). 2 **Brown Creeper** at TSP 2/3 (JH) and a **Winter Wren** at RV 1/21 (SF). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at PVP 3/18 (JH) and a **Ruby-crowned** at PVP 3/18 (SF). A **Hermit Thrush** over-wintered in Warwick Twp (SC) and other at PVP 1/25 (RF *et al.*). The mild winter produced many **Am. Robin** (m.ob.). **Gray Catbird** was at RV 1/1 (SF), at NH 1/12 (BH), at NSP 3/14 (BNM), & at least 2 at PVP all Feb. (RF). **Am. Pipit** at FT all Jan. (CD); a single bird at NSP 3/12 (SF).

A **N. Shrike** reported last quarter remained at PVP all quarter; a 2nd imm. was found 1/8 in another part of the park (DA). At NSP SF reported a sub-ad. bird 2/26 and yet another more immature-plumaged bird was there 3/16 (SF). Surely a shrike year!

A **Rufous-sided Towhee** at RV 1/20 (SF); another at TSP 2/11 (JH). 2 **Savannah Sparrow** at NH 1/18 (BH). 2 **Fox Sparrow** at NSP 1/1 (BNM) and 7 **Snow Bunting** (SF). 6 **E. Meadowlark** at DU 2/24 (SF) and 1 at E. Rockhill Twp 3/30 (HR,JC). Single **Rusty Blackbird** reported by several observers: at NH 3/7 (BH); at RV 3/19 (SF); at TSP 3/31 (JH). 7 **Purple Finch** at NSP 1/1 (BNM) and single birds at PVP 2/1,8 (AM).

EXOTIC. 7 **Ruddy Shelduck** on the Delaware R. at NH 2/9; 2 birds were still present 3/29 (BH).

OBSERVERS: Don Aiman, Alan Brady, Gary & Karen Campbell, Sally Conyne, Kevin Crilley, Jewel Cummings, Anthony DeBonis, Chris Dooley, Ted Evans, Devich Farbotnik, Steve Farbotnik, **Ron French**, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765), Anita & Paul Guris, Jim Hanley, Ray Hendrick, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Lisa Mattioli, Don McClintock, Bruce McNaught, Bob Mercer, August Mirabella, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Maria O'Brien, Hart Rufe.

BUTLER COUNTY

Paul Hess

Abbreviations: *Glades SGL (GSG)*, *L. Arthur (LA)*, *Lancaster Twp (LT)*, *Moraine SP (MSP)*, *Slippery Rock Twp (SRT)*.

Snow was the season's remarkable feature, with GW reporting 59" overall. March's 27" may help explain some delayed arrivals—phoebe over a week late, only 1 towhee, and no Chipping or Field Sparrow by 3/31.

LA max. were 20 **C. Loon**, 15 **Pied-billed Grebe** (CL), 32 **Horned Grebe** (PB), and 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** (CL), all in Mar. Only 3 **Great Blue Heron** were listed in Mar. at Butler, LA and SRT (v.o.).

Tops among few **Tundra Swan** reports were 90 at LA 3/23 (MG, BS,HB) and 23 at GSG 3/1 (GSB,RC). Mar. waterfowl max. were 6 **Wood Duck** at SRT (GSB,RC); 2 **Green-winged Teal** at LA (CL) and GSG (GSB,RC); 6 **Am. Black Duck** at LA (CL); 7 **N. Pintail**, 13 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 3 **N. Shoveler** at GSG (GSB,RC); 58 **Am. Wigeon** and 5 **Canvasback** at LA (CL); 3 **Redhead** at GSG (GSB,RC); 250 **Ring-necked Duck** at LA (DPH); 120 **Ls. Scaup**, 42 **Bufflehead**, 26 **Hooded Merganser**, 160 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 5 **Ruddy Duck** at LA (CL,MG *et al.*). At LA 1/2: 6 **Am. Black Duck** and 4 **Oldsquaw** (DPH).

Extraordinary was a **Turkey Vulture** on FL's snow-covered driveway in LT 1/29 at 8 PM; more usual was the first SRT migrant 3/14 (GSB,RC). Great news: GSG's **Bald Eagle** pair returned, and eggs were laid by mid-Mar. (NW). **N. Harrier** noted only at Queen Anne's Jct. (MG,BS,HB). A **Cooper's Hawk** preying on doves at SRT 2/9–11 (GW) was the only report. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at MSP 1/2 (DPH), and 3 appeared in SRT 2/19 with a pair remaining to nest (RC,GSB).

Am. Coot max. was 49 at LA 3/26 (CL). First **Killdeer** were 4 at LA 3/15 (MG,BS,HB), where 50 **Ring-billed** and 2 **Herring** gulls were noted 3/26 (CL). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** came to a LT feeder 1/25+ (FL). A wintering **N. Flicker** was at SRT 1/22 (GW), with first arrivals 3/14–15 at several localities (v.o.). A **Pileated Woodpecker** pair visited a SRT peanut-butter feeder through the season (GSB,RC).

E. Phoebe didn't appear until 3/28 at LT (FL) and 3/29 at SRT (GSB,RC), but 22 **Tree Swallow** at GSG 3/28 (GSB,RC) were about on time. A **Brown Creeper** spent the season at SRT, where **Carolina Wren** remained in good numbers despite the snow (GSB,RC). A few wintering **E. Bluebird** were at several spots and up to 7 at SRT in Mar. (GSB,RC). An **Am. Robin** was at MSP 1/2 (DPH) and first migrants at SRT 2/19 (GSB,RC). 2 **N. Mockingbird** in Butler daily (HB); a **Brown Thrasher** visited a Slippery Rock feeder regularly 3/6+ (*fide* GW).

Rufous-sided Towhee noted only at MSP 3/23. **Am. Tree Sparrow** max. 16 at MSP in Mar. (MG,BS,HB) & 9–11 at SRT 1/21–22 (GW); just a few were seen elsewhere. A **Fox Sparrow** appeared 3/14 (GSB,RC) and 2 seen 3/22–29 (GW), all at SRT. **White-throated Sparrow** were scarce (v.o) and a **White-crowned** at MSP 3/15 (MG,BS, HB) was early. First **Red-winged Blackbird** wasn't listed until 3/14 at SRT, but a **Rusty Blackbird** appeared there 2/27 (GSB,RC). First **C. Grackle** date was 2/22 at SRT, where a wintering **Brown-headed Cowbird** was first noted 1/25 (GW). 3 **Purple Finch** 3/28 (GSB,RC) were the only report, as were a **Pine Siskin** 1/21 (GW) and 2 on 3/15

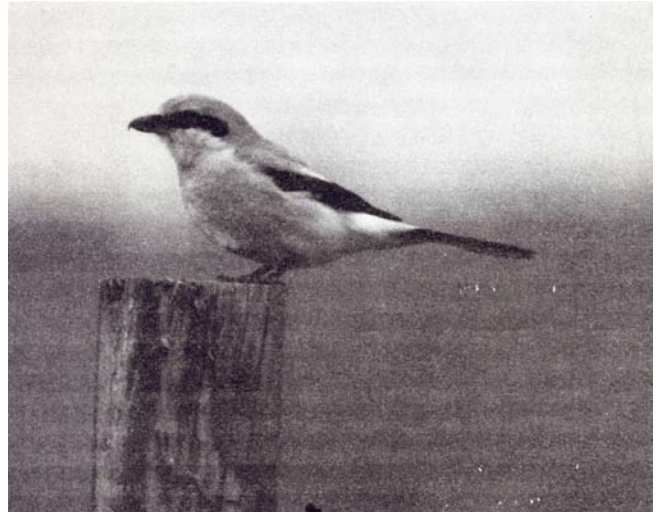
(GSB,RC), all at SRT.

OBSERVERS: Helen Beck, Paul Brown, Gene & Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford, Marguerite Geibel, Deborah & **Paul Hess**, 1412 Hawthorne St, Natrona Heights 15065 (412-226-2323), Carroll Labarthe, Fred Lochner, Betty Snow, Ned Weston, Gene Wilhelm.

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

All from Beltzville SP. A **Horned Grebe** 2/29 (RZ). A **Great Black-backed Gull** 2/16 (RZ). A **N. Shrike** in early Jan. (RW, m.ob.).



Northern Shrike, Beltzville SP, 2/4/92. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

OBSERVERS: **Bernie L. Morris**, 825 N Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Rick Wiltraut, Richard ZainEldeen.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Abbreviations: *Bald Eagle SP (BESP)*, *Colyer L. (CL)*, *Scotia Barrens (SB)*.

2 **C. Loon** were at BESP 3/23 (EZ) and 1 at CL 3/26 (TF). Many flocks of **Tundra Swan** were observed in migration during the first 10 days of Mar. and were present at CL from 3/1–29 with 180–200 3/20 (KJJ). A major passage of **Canada Geese** occurred over State College 2/23, especially during the early evening hours. This is 7–10 days earlier than average for the first northbound flocks of geese. 1 **Wood Duck** wintered at Centre Furnace Pond from 12/14 to at least 2/11 (TF, m.ob.). 6–8 **Green-winged Teal** and a **N. Shoveler** were on Centre Furnace Pond all quarter. A ♂ **Am. Wigeon** was along Spring Cr. 1/1 (RH). Some fairly early waterfowl that were at BESP 2/23 included 7 **N. Pintail**, 2 **Am. Wigeon**, 31 **Hooded Merganser**, and 90 **C. Merganser** (TF,JH). 4 **Redhead** were at CL 3/17–29 (KJJ,TF,MWi). Many **Ring-necked Duck** were throughout the area from early Mar+, with a max of 72 at CL 3/29 (KJJ). Also at CL, 1 **Gr. Scaup** 3/21 (TF,MWi) and 2 3/28 (TF), 10 **Ls. Scaup** 3/2,18 (KJJ).

Two ad. **Bald Eagle** were at BESP 3/1 (RH,RM) and 3/2 (EZ), and 3 ad. were there 3/13 (RH). **N. Goshawk** was nr Stormstown 3/25 (TK). An ad. dark-morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was behind Wal-Mart off N. Ather-ton St. 2/23 (JH,TF) 3/1,3 (DB,BB), and irregularly through end of quarter (JH). 4 **Barred Owl** were heard at Bear Meadows 3/8 (SCFT). Near Boalsburg, a **Long-eared Owl** spent the day in a backyard hemlock 3/16 (PH). Nighttime owling in SB yielded 2 **N. Saw-whet Owl** 2/23, 2 on 3/1, and 1 on 3/21 (JP).

At least 1 **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintered near Linden Hall (RH), while another indiv. was nr CL 3/20 (KJJ). **E. Phoebe** apparently returned 3/8 with a report of 1 nr Fairbrook (JP). A **Tree Swallow** had returned to BESP 3/25 (MW). The single **Fish Crow** seen/heard 1/1 nr Spring Cr. was a *rare winter* record (RH). 6 **Am. Pipit** were at CL 3/21 (TF,MWi), and 1 at Toftrees 3/29 (TF). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at the Ag Progress Days area at Rock Springs 3/20 (AF). A **N. Shrike** was in SB 1/21 (RH). Apparently the same bird was seen a mile away 1/22 (AF), while another indiv. was at CL 1/29 (BT). A small group of wintering **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Millbrook Swamp on various dates through the end of the quarter.

First spring reports of **Rufous-sided Towhee** included indivs. in SB 3/5 (TF,MWi) and 3/7 at Millbrook Swamp (TF,KS). Many **Fox Sparrow** appeared at feeders following the snow storm 3/11, with many remaining through Mar. A small flock of 5–10 **Snow Bunting** was along Nixon Rd. 1/13 (KJJ), 1/19 (HH,m.ob.), and 2/13 (GG). 3 **E. Meadowlark** were at the Univ. Park Airport 1/25 (JP). **Red-winged Blackbird** and **C. Grackle** began appearing in the State College area 2/19, about a week later than in 1991. **Rusty Blackbird** reports included 19 at Toftrees 3/11 (TF) and 1 at CL 3/21 (TF,MWi).

OBSERVERS: Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Ted Floyd, Alice Fuller, Greg Grove, Randy Harrison, Harry Henderson, P. Hock, Jeff Hoover, Katherine & Jennings Jones, Tim Kimmel, Robert Merideth, Becky & John Peplinski, 761 Beaver Branch Rd, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), State College Field Trip (SCFT), Kei Sochi, Bill Toombs, Mark Witmer (MWi), Merrill Wood, Eugene Zielinski.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

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

Only report of **C. Loon** was 2 at MC 3/26. **Pied-billed Grebe** were in good numbers at MC, with as many as 10 there 1/10. Single **Horned Grebe** at MC 1/15 and at SL 3/2. **Great Blue Heron** in good numbers due to the mild winter. On 1/7 as many as 160 **Tundra Swan** were at MC. On 3/30 at MC a flock of ±250 **Snow Goose** arrived. In the flock was a single **Ross' Goose** (LL). For a few days before a similar flock of Snow Geese with a Ross' Goose was at Muddy Run in Lancaster. They were last seen flying E so this was quite possibly the same bird. First **Wood Duck** observation was of 8 birds at KFF 2/3. On 3/30 there were 5 **N. Shoveler** at SL. A total of 49 **Am. Wigeon** were at MC the last two weeks of Mar. A ♀ **Eurasian Wigeon** was at MC 2/21–22 (LL). 1 **Canvasback** was at MC from 1/1–2/10. The 4 **Redhead** remained at MC until 1/13 and 2 were still present 1/26. Numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** continued to increase up until the end of the quarter with a flock of 234 at MC 3/26. At least 23 **Gr. Scaup** were there as well 3/19. A **C. Goldeneye** was at SL 1/10. **Bufflehead** were in good numbers at many locations. An "earlyish" group of 4 **Red-breasted Merganser** was at SL 3/2.

A pair of **Bald Eagle** is nesting on the Lancaster side of the Octorara, but seen in both counties. Other reports were of an imm. at MC 1/5 and an ad. over Downingtown 2/21. A **Merlin** was at OR 1/11. A light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen 3/20 nr Rts. 10 & 30. The 6 **N. Bobwhite** were still at MC 1/3. LL and GS went on a **C. Snipe** count in HB twp 3/23 and tallied a total of 54 birds with at least 20 present at the usual spot along "Snipe Creek." At least 5 **Am. Woodcock** were displaying nr Romansville 3/9–14 and 2 displaying in E. Goshen twp. 3/9.

An ad. **Ls. Black-backed Gull** was at OR from 3/3–5. A real good find was 1 **Glaucous Gull** on the Chester side of OR 2/23 for one day only (LL). 2 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were at Hibernia Park in the same spot as years past during most of Feb. Another was in a yard nr Malvern in late Mar. At least 4 **Long-eared** and 8 **Short-eared** owls were seen until mid-Feb. in the evergreens near the parking lot at SL.

An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** has been seen sporadically nr the parking lot at SL and the pair are still along Pleasant View Rd nr HB. **E. Phoebe** was seen occasionally throughout the early part of the season, no doubt assisted by the relatively mild winter. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a tough find

this winter, only 1 report of an indiv. which remained all quarter nr West Chester. **Am. Robin** wintered over in very large numbers and a few **Gray Catbird** were also at various locations. **Am. Pipit** were first reported nr HB 2/5 and 13 were at MC 3/19. **Dickcissel** was seen and photographed at a feeder in Kennett 2/16. An excellent bird was the **Clay-colored Sparrow** seen for only 3/21 at a feeder nr Devon (PS). Absolutely NO winter finches reported!

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Tony Fernandes, John Ginaven, Larry Lewis, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Ln, Coatesville 19320, Phillips B. Street, Grier Saunders, Era VanDenburg.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Abbreviations: Clarion area (CA), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Leeper (LP), Shippenville (SV).

Horned Grebe found 3/15+ at KL and other large ponds in the area (WF). Up to 20 **Tundra Swan** were at KL 3/15,19,24 (WF,CR). First **Wood Duck** noted arrived at Beaver Cr. 3/29. KL was the magnet for various diving and puddle ducks as soon as the ice was partly off: 2 **Am. Wigeon** 3/15; 50+ **Ring-necked Duck** 3/18+; **scaup**, probably Lesser, 3/15+; 3 pairs **Oldsquaw** 3/30+; 8 **Hooded Merganser** 3/26+; and 30 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/30+.



Sandhill Cranes, Limestone, 3/17/92. Photo by Margaret Buckwalter.

A pair of **Sandhill Crane** grazing in snow-covered corn stubble startled Jack Williams 3/16 as he was riding between Frogtown and Limestone on Rt. 66. The cranes were subsequently seen and verified in the same locality 3/16,17 by several birders, the compiler included. Some snow-drifted tracks led to the conclusion the birds had also been there 3/15. They weren't seen there after 3/17, but on 3/19 WF saw a pair flying overhead at KL. On 3/20, the author found them grazing in another corn stubble field at KL. We have not been able to verify if this were a different pair or not. One of each pair observed was definitely smaller than the other and at KL the smaller crane was much lighter than the other, but the photographs (MB) were taken under such different lighting conditions that we still don't know if 2 or 4 cranes visited us.

First **Turkey Vulture** noted 2/23. The fate of the **Killdeer** that came back during the warm spell in Feb/Mar is doubtful. 3 dead Killdeer in emaciated condition were turned into the bird

banders at Clarion Univ. of Pa. in Mar. A **N. Goshawk** was seen in Tylersburg 1/23 (LC). A **Red-tailed Hawk** being chased by 2 **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 3/4 at LP (LC). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed 2/27 at LP (LC), and another at KL 3/15 (WF,CR). A lucky ornithology class of 17 students led by Professor Jack Williams found a **Peregrine Falcon** perched on a fence post in a field n. of KL 3/26. The falcon was verified the same day in a nearby tree by WF and CR.

1 **C. Snipe** showed up at KL 3/15 (WF,CR). 1 **Herring Gull** was at KL 3/30 (WF,CR). A couple of feeder watchers at SV were lucky enough to see a **Great Horned Owl** swoop in and catch a mouse (vole?) 1/12 (S&LV). Sightings of **Short-eared Owl** were sporadic: 2 at CV 2/6; 1 at the "Triangle" s. of Beaver Cr. (CR); and 2 at KL 3/19 (W&AF).

50–60 **Horned Lark** were prospecting in newly manured fields at KL 3/15 (WF,CR). A **Gray Catbird** was at a feeder all quarter in CA (EM). **Fox Sparrow** showed up in Mar.: 3/11 (EH), 3/12 (WF,CR), 3/20 (RK). Many **E. Meadowlark** that came during the warm spell before 3/15 may have met the same fate as the Killdeer because they were scarce later. 1 **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from Summerville 3/19 (J&FW). 5–50 **Pine Siskin** appeared at SV at my feeder 1/17+. The only **Evening Grosbeak** flock, ±12, stayed at a feeder nr LP all quarter (LC).

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RR 2 Box 26, Shippenville 16254 (814-782-3925), Lois Callahan, Walter & Annabelle Fye, Edith Hays, Reba Klingler, Eleanor Moore, Carl & Ruth Rowe, Sherry & Lorna Vowinckel, Jack & Fran Williams.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Jocelynn L. Smrekar

Abbreviations: Brockway (BR), Dubois (DU), Troutville (TV).

Tundra Swan and **Snow Geese** were sighted at Sabula L. in mid-Mar. Other waterfowl seen in Mar. were **Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Ls. Scaup** at the Tannery Dam in DU and Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, **Bufflehead**, and **Hooded** and **Red-Breasted** mergansers at Kyle L.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** bit the dust as it slammed into Betty Cessna's window in Camp Mt. Run while in pursuit of a Purple Finch in Jan. Betty, a local rehabilitator, was not able to save either of the birds! **Cooper's Hawk** were seen frequently in DU and TV, as well as the Beechwoods area. **Red-tailed Hawk** were also common in the DU area, including the one which grabbed a chunk of suet from a feeder in Home Camp and flew away with it, net bag and all, in the latter part of Jan. A **Red-shouldered** was observed in DU and **N. Harrier** were seen on Boone Mt. and frequently nr TV. **Am. Kestrel** were not as prevalent as last year.

A **Ruffed Grouse** and 2 **Wild Turkey** came to feeders in Jan. in Chestnut Grove. A few **Ring-necked Pheasant** were observed to have survived the winter in this northern locale at least until the end of Feb. First **Killdeer** was noted in mid-Feb. **Am. Woodcock** were seen in early Mar. nr Sykesville and **Ring-billed Gull** were in DUB in mid-Feb.

Barred Owl were observed nesting at Treasure L. in Feb. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was seen in Chestnut Grove in Feb. **Belted Kingfisher** stayed all quarter on Sandy Lick Cr. in DU & 1 in Penfield 1/31 (B&FH, BS,RC). A few **N. Flicker** were observed in the area through the winter. **Horned Lark** in a flock of 150 were seen on a strip mine nr DU in Feb. **Carolina Wren** found in DU and BR on several occasions in Jan/Feb. **Am. Robin** and **E. Bluebird** were common. A flock of 150 robins was in Camp Mt. Run in Jan. **Cedar Waxwing** were in several locations including DU and BR in Jan/Feb.

A **N. Oriole** (unusual for this time of year) was observed for about 5 days prior to and on 12/29/91 at a feeder in the Clear Run section of DU. It was eaten by a Red-tailed Hawk as Ann Crawford, a CBC observer, watched.

Am. Tree Sparrow were common and a **Chipping Sparrow** was seen in late Feb. in Luthersburg. **White-throated Sparrow** were seen in Feb. and **Fox Sparrow** came to feeders in TV, Luthersburg & Beechwoods during the record-breaking snowfall

in mid-Mar. At least 1 hardy **Song Sparrow** survived the entire winter here at a feeder in TV. First **E. Meadowlark** found 3/13 nr Sykesville. 50 **Red-winged Blackbird** noted in a flock near DU at the end of Feb. **C. Grackle** were seen in the latter part of Feb. **Evening Grosbeak** were scarce. A few were seen in mid-Feb in DU and again in Brockport in Mar. **Pine Siskin** were also scarce, with sightings of a dozen in BR in Jan., a handful in DU in Feb. and 5 in TV in mid-Mar.

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Betty Cessna, Bob Cook, Tom Crawford, Barb & Frank Haas, Betty Quashnock, **Jocelynn Smrekar, RD 4 Box 409A, DuBois 15801 (814-583-5110)**, Bill Stocku.

Jocelynn writes that classwork for her Ph.D. is finally over and she only has her dissertaion to go. We can look forward to receiving more reports from Clearfield in the future. Congratulations, Jocelynn. –eds.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: Briar Creek L. (BCL), Rohrsburg (RB).

Due to mild weather, the waterfowl migration started early and got stalled during a mid-March freeze-up. **Am. Black Duck** seemed less common this quarter (DG). **Am. Wigeon** was common at BCL: 34 3/14 and 50 3/15 (KH). A **Canvasback** rested on a small lake nr Jonestown 3/23 (SK). 16 **Ring-necked Duck** were at BCL 3/3, 20 3/8, and 60 3/15 (KH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen flying in Briar Creek Twp 2/19 (DG), and in Briar Cr. Borough 3/28 (K&SH), perhaps the same bird.

Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported at BCL 2/22 (KH), and nr Jonestown 3/23 (SK). **E. Phoebe** was nr Mainville 3/12 (DG), and probably near the river earlier (see *Montour*, DG). **Horned Lark** was not reported as commonly as usual so 8 at BCL 2/2 was good sighting (KH). **Fish Crow** arrived in Berwick 2/17 (ND). **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin** were common all winter with flocks of 50+ regularly seen nr Millville & RB in Jan and Feb. Robins staged a particularly large migration in late Feb. & early Mar., but got caught in killer snow, 3/19, when March turned into a lion. **Carolina Wren** continued success in upland habitats (DG,RS). At least 2 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** stayed on DG's property nr RB through winter. Many **N. Cardinal** stayed in w. Berwick with 12 regular at KH's feeder. **Rufous-sided Towhee** returned by 3/21 at both Mainville (JF) and RB (DG). **Am. Tree Sparrow** was scarce. **Fox Sparrow** was especially common in n. Columbia in Mar. (DG,RS). **E. Meadowlark** was at BCL (4) as early as 2/22 (KH).

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CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

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

A **C. Loon** at PSP 3/21. 1-2 **Pied-billed Grebe** at PSP most trips. High count of **Horned Grebe** was 9 at CM 3/29. 2 **Eared Grebe** in basic plumage at PS 3/14 were well studied at 500' with a 30X scope. Several **Horned Grebe** were nearby and the bill difference was noted. Max. **Tundra Swan** count was 130 at WL 3/15. 1 **Snow Goose** at PSP 2/7 (TM) and 1 2/15 (RFL).

A pair of **Wood Duck** on a small farm pond e. of MV 2/23 and 28 at CM 3/21. 5 **Green-winged Teal** at CM 3/21 and 26 at PS 3/28, with smaller groups noted thereafter. **N. Pintail** first noted at WL 2/23 with a total of 14; numbers built up to 90 in the CM area by 3/28. 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at CM 3/21 were the first noted. 2 **N. Shoveler** were nr CL at Smith's Marsh 3/28 and 10 at CM 3/29. 1 **Gadwall** was at PS 2/1 and 6 at CL 3/28 was the high.

155 **Am. Wigeon** at PS 3/21 was best count. A **Canvasback** at CL 1/11; 25 at PS 2/22; 14 remained at CL until 3/28. 2 **Redhead** at ST 2/29 and 50 there 3/14. 1 **Ring-necked Duck** at PS 1/4 and 420 there 3/21. 4 **Gr. Scaup** at PS 3/14 and 4 at CL & 5 at PS 3/21. A **Ls. Scaup** at TL 3/7; 300 were recorded at TL and at PS 3/21. 14 **Oldsquaw** at CL and 2 at PS, both 3/21. 12 **C. Goldeneye** were at SP 1/11; best total was 100 at CM 3/21. A ♀ **Bufflehead** stayed at the fish hatchery all winter; 60 at PS 3/21 was best count. 850 **Hooded Merganser** at PS 3/21 was high count; first date for its return was 2/23 at WL with 3 indiv. 3 **C. Merganser** at PS 2/22 (RFL). 12 **Red-breasted Merganser** at PS 2/22 were first returning birds noted; 2930 were found at PS 3/28. 1 **Ruddy Duck** at PS 3/14,28.

Turkey Vulture first seen e. of MV 3/1. The following **Bald Eagle** encounters: 3 imm. in same tree 1/5 at PS; 1 ad. at CM 1/12; 1 ad. at PS 2/1; 1 imm. at CM and 1 ad. at PS 3/7; 1 ad. on the nest and 1 close by at CM 3/21. (From recent information I understand the nest tree at CM was felled during a wind storm in early April.) **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings include: 1 dark form at MV 1/12; 2 dark form at PS 2/15 & 3/21; 1 light form at CL 3/28 and 2 dark form at PS 3/28. 5 **Ruffed Grouse** found at ENWR 1/5.

5–52 **Am. Coot** at CL all quarter. First **Killdeer** were 2 at WL 2/23, about a week early up here. 4 **Gr. Yellowlegs** at PS 3/28. 42 **Ring-billed Gull** were at PS 1/4 despite the lake 99% frozen; ±650 at PS 3/21. Single **E. Screech-Owl** along Mullan Rd 2/16 (MV) and in MV through Mar. (GF). A **Snowy Owl** was at PS 2/29.

1 **Horned Lark** nr ST 2/2 (RFL,VJ) and 15 n. of CL 3/7. 12 **Tree Swallow** at WL and 2 at CM 3/28, with 35 at CM in a raging snowstorm. A **Carolina Wren** at my feeder 2/23 and 1 at CM 3/21. 4 **E. Bluebird** w. of MV 1/1; none in Feb., but several records in Mar. of 1–2 birds. A fair wintering population of **Am. Robin** noted, with 1–750 seen in the area. A **N. Shrike** was at the Wm. Smith farm nr Blooming Valley 1/26 (W&MS) and 1 at PS 2/22. 30 **Am. Tree Sparrow** at ENWR 1/5.

On 3/21 I had stopped to look at the CM Bald Eagle nest along Vernon Rd, by the old duck farm, and moved ahead to a brushy area with lots of grape tangle a short distance west. I stopped and began to pssh and a small sparrow-like bird came close to the car and at the same time a Carolina Wren. After looking at the wren I put my binoculars on the sparrow, which to my amazement was extremely yellow on the head and chest area and had rufous wing patches. I also had it in my 30X scope before it took off and I could not get it to respond again. I had seen my first **Dickcissel** in Pa., a nice female. It was about the 3rd Co. record (the last 25 or 30 years). It would not respond to my calls the following week, so it may have moved on (RFL).

OBSERVERS: Gary Fields, Virginia Johnston, **Ronald F. Leberman, RD 1, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**, Tony Marich, William & Margerite Smith.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: Big Springs Fish & Game Club (BS), Green Springs area (GS), Kuhn L. (KL), Mud Level Rd (ML), Opossum L. (OL), W. Fairview Boat Launch (WF).

Few **C. Loon** noted: 2 at OL 3/25 (CG); 4 at OL 3/28; 2 at KL 3/30+ (DHe). 2 hardy **Pied-billed Grebe** were at WF 1/1 (RK). First **Great Egret** was 1 at WF 3/12 (DH). 3 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** returned to Huntsdale Fish Hatchery 3/18 (CG).

Waterfowl migration was better than average this season. 265 **Tundra Swan** at KL 3/10 (DHe) and 498 at GSA 3/9 (RH), seen in several flocks flying overhead. A **Mute Swan** first seen at KL 3/2+ arrived under its own power. As one can see, 3/31 at WF was a day

to remember. A total of 24 spp. of waterfowl seen with an est. 2500 indiv. including: 47 **Horned Grebe** (RK); 25 **Green-winged Teal** (RK); 43 **Am. Black Duck** (RK,DH); 45 **Blue-winged Teal** (RK); 300+ **Am. Wigeon** (RK); 50+ **Canvasback** (DH); 1500+ **scaup** sp. (DH,RK); 23 **Oldsquaw** (RK); 2 **White-winged Scoter** (DH); 9 **Ruddy Duck** (RK). From elsewhere were 14 **N. Pintail** at KL 3/16 (DHe) and 16 **Ring-necked Duck** at OL 3/28 (DH).

2 **N. Goshawk** were northbound over OL 3/25 (CG); this is a rare spring migrant. **Rough-legged Hawk** were in residence in ML area (DHe).

A new shallow pond with excellent waterfowl and shorebird habitat was created at BS for **Wood Duck** propagation. Many thanks from us for the new birding place. A high of 10 **Gr. Yellowlegs** were there 3/31 (DHe). An impressive 29 **C. Snipe** were noted 3/24 (DHe). The high count of only 8 **Bonaparte's Gull** was disappointing at WF 3/31 (RK). Only 1 **Long-eared Owl** was found at OL, 2/22 (DRH,RK). **Short-eared Owl** wintered at a field nr Blosserville, with a high of 4 1/19 (DH).

Red-headed Woodpecker are thankfully holding on along Waggoners Lane nr Newville, with many sightings all quarter, and a high 4 2/22 (DRH,RK). First **E. Phoebe** was at GS 3/10 (DHe). High count of **Horned Lark** along ML was an average 200. First scout **Tree Swallow** at GS 3/9, earliest **Barn** was at KL 3/30 (DHe), and finally **N. Rough-winged** at WF 3/27. A most hardy **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen frolicking about WF 1/1 (RK). High of 20 **Am. Pipit** at BS 3/20 (DHe).

2 indiv. **Fox Sparrow** found: 1 at ML 3/26 (DHe) and 1 at SGL 169 3/30 (CG). **White-crowned Sparrow** continue to enjoy the western portion of the Co., with an average 12 at the Henise's and 7 at KL 1/12 (RK). A most impressive 90 **Rusty Blackbird** tallied 3/22 at the watercress farm nr GS (DHe).

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DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels

Abbreviations: Harrisburg (HB), Hershey (HS) Wildwood L. (WL).

Both **C. Loon** (2) and **Horned Grebe** (2) were on Dehart Dam 3/30 (DH), but other species including 8 **Oldsquaw** at Ft. Hunter 3/14 (DH) and several reports of **Wood Duck** 2/29 on the Swatara Cr. (RW) and 6 on WL 3/21 (DH) marked earlier waterfowl migration. **Great Egret** arrived early, 2/26 (EC) and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on WL 3/10 (DH). A rather mild period resulted in early movements of **Tundra Swan**. EC noted 375 over HB 2/22 and 150 more 3/9. Additional large groups (125) were seen over HB 2/26 (DH) and 75 3/9 (JW).

Osprey arrived along the Susquehanna 3/10 (JW). 1–2 **Bald Eagle** were noted through the quarter (DH), presumably the birds of Haldeman I. **N. Harrier** was in HS 2/29 (SR). A **N. Goshawk** on Blue Mt. 1/30 (DH). **Rough-legged Hawk** were seen in low numbers in HS and HB areas through Jan. A trip to Clarks Valley 2/11 (DH) was rewarded by a flock of 18 **Wild Turkey** and 14 **Pine Siskin**. The 9 HS **Long-eared Owl** remained through the quarter (EC,SR,RW,FW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found at Ft. Hunter 1/15 and in HB 3/5 (JW). **E. Phoebe** were singing 3/25 (SR,RW), well after **Carolina Wren** had begun nesting activities in HB 3/10 (JW). A large group of 25 **E. Bluebird** flocked in a HS park 2/7 (SR) and a wintering **Hermit Thrush** was at WL 1/23 (DH). A group of 700 **C. Grackle** was conspicuous behind the HS Medical Center 1/22 (SR) demonstrating that some species did not move very far S this winter. Of note were the number of **Fox Sparrow** seen: an early group moved through Hershey 3/7 (SR) and 3/10 (SP), with another wave nr the end of Mar. (RW *et al.*). Both **E. Meadowlark** and **Rusty Blackbird** were found between 3/8–15 (JW).

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, Deuane Hoffman, Sue Patrick, Gene Rannels, **Steve Rannels, 237 E Areba Ave, Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480)**, Judy Ward, Richard Williams, Frank Winger.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Springton Res. (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TA), John Heinz NWR at Tinicum (TN), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP).

C. Loon were present all season at SR with as many as 5 seen one day. **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes (AG, NP) were also there on various days. **Double-crested Cormorant** (NP) returned to the area 3/28 when 28 birds were along Darby Cr. 6 **Snow Geese** (NP) were at SR 1/1. **Wood Duck** appeared to have overwintered since reports came in for all three months. An unusual find at TA were 10 **N. Pintail** (JG) 2/28. **Ring-necked Duck** (NP) grew in numbers from 4–100+ 1/1–3/8 (AG) at SR. Also at SR 1/1 were 2 **Gr. Scaup**, 2 **C. Goldeneye**, 5 **Ruddy Duck** and 50 **C. Merganser**. 5 **Hooded Merganser** (AG) were at CCR 3/8 and 14 there 3/31 (SC, HMc, TR). 2 **Red-breasted Merganser** (EK) were at SR 3/12. Along the Delaware R. 3/31 18 Red-breasted Mergansers (AG) appeared for two days. 3 **Black Vulture** (JG) were at TA 3/12. At TA 3/22 was a sub-ad. **Bald Eagle** (DM). A **Cooper's Hawk** (FH) was at RCSP 2/15 and 1 also present the whole season at Crozer Hospital campus in Upland (NP). A **N. Goshawk** (EK) was reported from Boothwyn 2/23. A nice find 1/5 was a **Golden Eagle** (FH) found flying over RCSP. On 2/8 a **Merlin** (JCM) was found at TN. Apparently there is still hope in the Co. for the **N. Bobwhite** as 1 was calling in Boothwyn 2/23 (EK).

4 **Gr. Yellowlegs** (JCM) were at TN 3/28. 100+ **C. Snipe** (JCM) were along the Darby Cr. 3/27. This is a great area for finding large flocks of these birds; also 2 snipe at CCR 3/15 (AG, EK). 1 **Am. Woodcock** (JG) arrived at TA 2/27. In Swarthmore a **Barred Owl** (HMc) was present 2/16. One of the better discoveries for the period was 2 **Long-eared Owl** which spent until 3/31 in an undisclosed location. A **Pileated Woodpecker** (EK) was observed on the campus of the DelCo Community Col. 1/17. 2 **E. Phoebe** (EK) were in Boothwyn 1/1. A **Winter Wren** (JG, TR) was at TA 3/28, 30. M.ob. noted the extremely high numbers of **Am. Robin** which spent the winter. A little out of season was a **Brown Thrasher** (AG) found at the Folcroft Nursery 1/20 and 1 at TN (JCM) 2/10. Apparently 3 **Pine Warbler** (JG) spent the winter at TA. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** (NP) 1/1 at RCSP was a good way to start the New Year.

On 12 March 1992 John Ginaven observed 3 indiv. **Pine Warbler** (2 ♂, 1 ♀) at the Tyler Arboretum. "Each Pine Warbler was associating separately with its own pair of **E. Bluebirds**. When the bluebirds flew to a different tree, 'their' Pine Warbler followed them, fed on the ground under the tree, and followed them to the next tree. I observed this behavior for at least fifteen minutes with each warbler on three separate locations. During the last five years I have found at least one Pine Warbler wintering at the arboretum. Invariably, I found it associating with a flock of bluebirds. In *The Birders' Handbook*, Ehrlich *et al.* mention that Pine Warblers associate with bluebirds. Has anyone else observed this one warbler per pair of bluebirds behavior?"

Chipping Sparrow (JG) arrived on schedule at TA 3/24, but apparently some Chippers (AG) remained for the winter as 2 were at TA 1/2 and 6 there 1/25. An excellent sighting was of a **Lincoln's Sparrow** (JF) at RCSP 3/15. Always a delight to see were 100+ **Snow Bunting** (JCM) at the Philadelphia Airport 1/15.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Freiberg, John Ginaven, Al Guarente 421 Old Middletown Rd, Media 19063 (215 566-8266), Frank Hohenleitner, Evelyn Kopf, Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves.

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

Abbreviations: Benzinger Twp (BT), Owl's Nest (ON), Ridgway (RW).

After a mild winter, we had a heavy 17" snowfall 3/11, and other snowstorms in the following weeks. We worked to keep our feeders open and snow-free. Reports were received of dead robins. One hung around a BT feeder and drank water many times a day. The orange halves that were put out were gobbled up by starlings. DW noted very aggressive behavior by the robins as they would find an open patch in the snow and drive off any other bird that would try to use it. He heard reports of **Killdeer** getting hit by cars on the roads because of not having open areas in which to feed. DS mentioned the birds were just starting to come back before the heavy snow and he only saw 1 **E. Bluebird** since 3/11 and no **Am. Woodcock** since then. A grove of sumac by DS's office was hard hit by robins during the snows. He mentions that "Sumac must be important as an early spring food for robins and bluebirds."

Tundra Swan flew over 3/9 (DS). A pair of **Wood Duck** swam at Wilcox 3/7 (LC). 4 **Am. Wigeon** 2/23, 4 **Hooded Merganser** 3/29, and 8 **C. Merganser** 2/23 with an increase to 15 3/29 at the Hallton/Belltown area (DW). First **Turkey Vulture** 3/1 in RW (DW). 1 imm. **Cooper's Hawk** briefly visited a BT feeder 1/16, 17 and 2/10, but on 1/18 settled in for 1½ hr in a tree opposite (LC) kitchen window. What a view! DW was lucky to observe a **Rough-legged Hawk** at ON 2/23. RF saw a **Golden Eagle** in Benzette in mid-Jan.

Am. Woodcock returned 3/9 (DS). A flock of 100+ **Ring-billed Gull** were in RW late Feb., while other flocks were in other RW areas until 3/8 (DW). **C. Raven** seen: 1/10 SGL 25; 1/22 Haney Hill; 1/27 Taft Rd near carrion; 3/19 BT (LC); 3/8 SGL 25, a pair nesting on cliff (PD); and a pair at ON 3/29 (DW).

4 **Tufted Titmouse** continued at a feeder (DS) all quarter, while 1 was at Taft Rd 1/13 and 2 at Johnsonburg 1/30 (LC). 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in BT 3/6 (LC). Only 2 **Carolina Wren**: 1/1 AND 3/4 in RW (DW). **E. Bluebird** back 3/3 (DS). 1 **N. Mockingbird** at a farm in Johnsonburg (LC). At the end of Feb. a flock of **Cedar Waxwing** cleaned up all the berries on the 12' tall Am. Holly tree in (LS) yard!

Very few **Am. Tree Sparrow**. Up to 4 **Fox Sparrow** arrived 3/11+. Very few **White-throated Sparrow**. First **Red-winged Blackbird** in RW 3/1 (DW). 3 **E. Meadowlark** seen airport area 3/25 (LC). 2 **Brown-headed Cowbird** at RW feeder 1/27 (DW). A pair of rarely seen **C. Redpoll** 2/29 (DS) feeder, while 1 at (LC) feeder 3/13–15. **Pine Siskin** and **Am. Goldfinch** stayed the quarter in large flock and DW reported 200+ 2/16. Very scattered reports of up to 20 **Evening Grosbeak** all quarter (LC, DS, DW).

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ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

Locations: Fairview (FV), Presque Isle SP (PI), Roderick Wildlife Reserve (RWR).

A good wild food crop encouraged numbers of **Am. Robin** to spend the winter along L. Erie. The opposite was true for gulls; this was the first winter that there was no warm water being discharged into the public docks at the foot of State St. in Erie. This locally famous area has in the past decades attracted hundreds of thousands of gulls every winter where they fed on dying Gizzard Shad. This year, however, without the warm water, it was frozen solid. The few open areas in the bay harbored few Gizzard Shad and very low gull numbers throughout the winter. Max. mid-winter highs were 7000–8000 birds. When the ice did melt in March the Gizzard Shad began dying and rather than being concentrated at the public docks they were scattered throughout the bay attracting 100,000+ gulls on 3/12. Waterfowl species such as **Tundra Swan**, **Am. Black Duck**, **Mallard**, and

several species of diving ducks including scoters were also eating them!

A few **C. Redpoll** appeared this winter and some **Pine Siskin** made a showing, but where were the **Evening Grosbeak**? It has been several years since this species has staged an invasion in NW Pa. All sightings from PI unless otherwise noted.

C. Loon 1/22 (JHS,JGS). An **Eared Grebe** 1/1 (same bird from 12/91; JM). Up to 5 **Double-crested Cormorant** 1/20 (EK,JM). 1 **Snow "blue" Goose** 2/29, 3/1 (BSc,JM). 2 **Wood Duck** 2/19 (DS); 1-2 **Green-winged Teal** 1/7-15 (JHS). A ♂ **Eur. Wigeon** 3/29+ (†EK,ph JM) was the 12th Co. record. Quite bizarre and certainly unprecedented for late winter in *Erie* was the flock of 40 **Black Scoter** flying past Gull Pt. 2/17 (TF). Up to 7 **White-winged Scoter** were present all quarter (JM). Less bizarre was the flock of 23 accompanying the 40 Black Scoter 2/17 (TF). These two flocks of scoter may have been wintering N of here and were forced S by ice, since this date is far too early to expect northbound migrants.

A pair of **Barrow's Goldeneye** noted 2/20-3/17 (†,ph JM, et al.). Another ♂ was seen with the pair 2/26 (JM). This represents about the 8th Co. and about the 15th state sight records, but the 1st state record documented by **photographs**.

A **Turkey Vulture** was at FV 2/28. The **Osprey** at RWR 3/9 was the earliest spring record by 12 days (JHS,JGS). **Bald Eagle** were seen in Feb. and Mar. at PI, FV, West L., and Northeast (m.ob.). Up to 2 **N. Goshawk** were in Summit Twp 1/1-9 (JHS). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen into Jan. in Summit Twp (REG,JHS). Several reports of **Rough-legged Hawk** throughout the Co., with largest concentrations [16 on 2/22 (EK) & 17 on 3/18 (DS)] in Franklin Twp. These numbers are unprecedented for the Co. **Merlin** reports include 1 1/10 & 2/17; 2 at RWR 3/9; & 1 at RWR 3/25 (all JHS,JGS).

Quite unusual was the discovery of the fresh remains of an ad. **Virginia Rail** that had apparently been killed and eaten during the night at the FV Fish Culture Station 1/2 (JM). This was the 1st winter record and 1 of the latest winter records for Pa.

Single **Killdeer** noted 1/1,11 (JM,WS) and in w. *Erie* 1/12 (GR). Other shorebird reports were a **Ls. Yellowlegs** 3/23 (JHS); 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at FV 3/10 (earliest spring record by 2 days); and 1 **Dunlin** 2/6,29 (JM,BSc) for the latest Pa. record.

A **Franklin's Gull** in alternate II plumage was seen 3/23+ (JGS,JHS et al.). This is the 1st winter that **Little Gull** has not been recorded in *Erie* in 17 years. There have been fewer sightings of this species in the past few years. This is likely to continue at least through the winter since the public docks are no longer open in the winter where nearly all of the Little Gull were found. It was encouraging to see up to 3 birds from 3/27+ (JM,EK). 3 indiv. **Thayer's Gull** were found: 1 imm. 1/25 (JM); 1 basic definitive 3/14 (JM,EK); and 1 basic alternate 3/15 (JM). Up to 8 **Iceland Gull** were seen (JM,EK), ±4 **Ls. Black-backed Gull** (JM,EK,DS), and ±15 **Glaucous Gull** noted through the period (JM,EK).

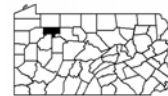
A **Snowy Owl** was at Franklin Ctr (JM et al.), 1 in McKean Twp, which may have been the Franklin Ctr bird (SS), and 1-2 at PI (JM et al.). A **Long-eared Owl** found 3/2-9 (DD). Up to 7 **Short-eared Owl** were reported from Franklin Twp; 2 in McKean Twp; & ±5 at PI. Up to 4 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were found (DD).

The **Am. Crow** roost reported nr Edinboro last year totaled 140 birds, which was nearly matched by the 130 this winter in the same area (DS). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at RWR 2/7 (JGS). A **N. Mockingbird** was found 1/1-12 (DD), plus 1 or 2 at Wesleyville early Feb. (CK). Rarely reported away from PI in winter were 2-3 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at RWR (JGS). More **N. Shrike** than usual were reported with a total of 10 birds seen in several areas including PI (JM,JHS,SS,BS). A ♂ **Pine Grosbeak** was at a McKean Twp feeder 3/21 (WW). 5 **C. Redpoll** were found 1/18 (DD) and 25 3/6 (KL).

OBSERVERS: Dave Darney, Ted Floyd, Rod & Ellen Gehrlein, Chuck Krantz, Ed Kwater, Ken Lebo, **Jerry McWilliams**, Bob Schutsky (BSc), Bob Scribner, Don Snyder, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull, Sam Stull, Wilma Wakely.

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters



Buzzard Swamp is a great place during spring migration. Some of the species observed there: **C. Loon**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Horned Grebe**, **Tundra Swan**, **Wood Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Am. Black Duck**, **N. Pintail**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Gr. Scaup**, **Oldsquaw**, and **Hooded Merganser** (RD,ADW,RAW).

First **Turkey Vulture** arrived 3/1 (RAW,ADW). Two ad. and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** are seen regularly on the Allegheny R. A local restaurant overlooking the river is high enough that the eagles are just about eye level as they fly by (CRM,ADW,RAW,KC). **Red-shouldered Hawk** arrived on Church Hill 2/17 (ADW). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at the Old County Home 2/16 (RAW,ADW).

When we were out getting our Wood Duck boxes ready for the spring nesting, we got a surprise in one of them. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** flew out of the box and inside were 4 eggs and 5 dead mice. As usual, we did not have the camera (RAW,ADW).

Two **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were at Tionesta 1/11 (DW,DD).

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FRANKLIN COUNTY

Don Henise

Abbreviations: Timmons Mt. (TM), Thornwood Rd, Shippensburg (TH).

A **N. Goshawk** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen on TM 3/29 (DRH,DH). Several **Rough-legged Hawk** spent the winter in the TH area with 1 dark morph and 3 light morphs seen 1/8 (DH). Last record was 1 dark and 2 light morphs perched in the same tree 1/27 (DH). One **C. Raven** was seen at TM 3/29 (DRH,DH).

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GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

Not much snow and generally mild during the quarter. There were no below zero temperatures. Because of the recent run of mild winters, the **Carolina Wren** should be in very high numbers this coming summer.

First **Great Blue Heron** noted flying over 3/8. This species is now nesting in numbers in the Co. and additional comments on their nesting will be made in the next issue. 80+ **Canada Goose** flying over our farm 1/19 and probably the same flock was seen eating grass on a dairy farm nr Carmichaels 1/31. Detailed records have been kept for 40 years and this is the largest number of Canadas ever seen here in Jan.

A **Cooper's Hawk** was often noted here in the area. First **Killdeer** (4) were reported 2/22 (KB), and 93 **Ring-billed Gull** counted on a farm nr Dry Tavern 2/24 (JW).

E. Phoebe arrived here a bit earlier than usual, as 3 were singing near here 3/9. Not many **Cedar Waxwing** wintered but 20 were observed eating Am. Holly berries in the yard 1/29. First **Chipping Sparrow** noted 3/25—the earliest since 1979 when 1 was noted 3/21. No **Evening Grosbeak** reported, but a single **Pine Siskin** in the yard 3/7.

OBSERVERS: Kim Barbetta, **Ralph Bell**, RR 1 Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505), Jim Willis.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Greg Grove

Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Huntingdon (HU), McAlevy's Ft. (MF), Stone Valley Rec. Area (SVL). Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Two Co. records, **Sandhill Crane** and **Great Black-backed Gull**, were the highlights. Also noteworthy were the **Ovenbird** which wintered at a feeder and a possible hummingbird checking on a feeder location of last summer. The combination of a partially drawn-down SVL and 3 Mar. snowstorms resulted in a good variety of waterfowl sightings.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was found at SVL during heavy snow 3/22 (GY). Some **Great Blue Heron** wintered; first migrants at SVL were 3/21. Drawn-down several feet, SVL provided bottom feeding for up to 270 **Tundra Swan** which sat-out a cold, snowy 2 weeks of mid-Mar. 1 **Snow Goose**, unusual for SVL, joined the swans 3/11-16. First dates for ducks at SVL: **Wood Duck** 3/6; **Green-winged Teal** 3/11; **N. Pintail** 3/8 (15 on 3/15); **Blue-winged Teal** 3/22; **Gadwall** 3/8; **Am. Wigeon** 3/12 (DK); **Canvasback** 3/22 (12 during snow); **Ring-necked Duck** 3/4; **Ls. Scaup** 3/8; **Oldsquaw** 3/28; **White-winged Scoter** 3/22 (RH); **C. Goldeneye** 3/16; **Bufflehead** 3/8; **Hooded Merganser** 3/6; **C. Merganser** 3/19; **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/8 (50 on 3/22 during snow).

Black Vulture wintered again nr HU (DK). 1 **Bald Eagle** was found on the L. Raystown census 1/10 (DK). **N. Harrier** were seen 3/31 at Blairs Mills (RT) and Richvale (RC) and a **N. Goshawk** on Jack's Mt. 3/24 (RC). **Red-shouldered** wintered and 3 **Rough-legged** hawks remained at MF 3/22. Near Alexandria, 2 **Red-tailed Hawk** were reported dive-bombing a **Wild Turkey** gobbler which apparently strayed onto the hawk's territory (*vide ML*).

The **Sandhill Crane** at AA (ph. RC) was found on the L. Raystown Bald Eagle Census (DK,RC). It was present at least 1/10-15. 2 very early **Gr. Yellowlegs** fed on exposed mudflats at SVL 3/8-10 but were not seen after the first snowstorm 3/11. 8 **C. Snipe** were at AA 3/19 (RC). First **Am. Woodcock** was seen strolling across a dirt road nr MF 2/29.

The **Great Black-backed Gull** was on the Juniata R. nr HU 1/12. *Did a hummingbird visit the county during warm Feb.? Hard to believe, but seen twice, what could have been mistaken for such a unique bird?* 1-2 **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintered nr HU (DK). A **N. Flicker** found "Bird Pudding" [suet, oatmeal, (cheap) peanut butter] to its liking at our feeders all quarter (DG).

First **E. Phoebe** on Piney Ridge 3/6 (RC) and first **Tree Swallow** at HU 3/26 (DK). RC found 6 **Fish Crow** at Ardenheim 3/24. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were scarce; **Carolina Wren** and **E. Bluebird** easy to find. Only **Hermit Thrush** sighting was 1/18 at SVL. Mudflats at SVL attracted up to 12 **Am. Pipit** 3/11-17 during wintry weather.

The imm. **N. Shrike**, a Christmas Day (1991) 1st Co. record, was seen again 1/5 at MF. **Pine Warbler** sang at SVL 3/10, one day before winter's return. Probably more surprising than the Sandhill Crane was the

Ovenbird which *spent the winter* at the feeders of Merrill Rohrer (DK). Up to 7 **Fox Sparrow** came to our feeders 3/8+. **White-throated Sparrow** were few. Occasional **Red-winged** and **Rusty blackbirds** were seen at AA (DK). Though not seen last quarter, **Purple Finch** accumulated at our feeders by Mar. 10-12 ♂♂ and 2-3 ♀♀ were regulars. By the end of Mar. they outnumbered **House Finch**, which declined at our feeder over 50% during the course of the winter. **Evening Grosbeak** not reported.

OBSERVERS: Rob Criswell, Deb & Greg Grove, RR 1 Box 483, Petersburg 16669 (814-667-2305), Randy Harrison, David Kyler, Melvin Lane, Robert Taylor, George Young.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Brush Valley (BV), Clarksburg (CB), Creekside (CS), Indiana (IND), Margus L. (ML), Robinson (RBS), Shelocta (SHL),

Strongstown (ST), Twolick Reservoir (TR), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

Highlight of the season was a **Eur. Wigeon** at YC. Of interest, too, was an extremely early **Barn Swallow** 2/24. All reports are from YC unless otherwise noted.

C. Loon still lingered at TR 1/1 (AB,DB) but not found at YC until 3/24 (BB,MH,GL,GS). Top counts of **Pied-billed** and **Horned grebes** were 6 & 23 respectively, 3/17 (MH,GL,MJS,GS) & 3/21 (M&RH *et al.*). **Great Egret** was listed only 3/24 (GC). **Tundra Swan** numbers were 167 3/20 (GL) and 145 3/24 (BB,MH,GL,GS). Duck max. included 38 **Wood Duck** 3/18, 33 **Green-winged Teal** 3/20, 36 **Am. Black Duck** 3/18 (GL), 10 **N. Pintail** 3/3 (m.ob.), 8 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/24 (BB,MH,GL,GS), and 4 **Gadwall** 3/10 (GC,MH,GL,GS). Unexpected was 1 ♂ **Eur. Wigeon** among the 42 **Am. Wigeon** present 3/24+ (BB,MH,GL,GS). Best **Canvasback** count was 9 3/21; **Redhead** listed on 7 dates with best count 20 3/21 (M&RH *et al.*). **Ring-necked**, present since the CBC, continued at McCreary's Pond in IND through Feb. Other duck max. (v.o.) included 248 **Ring-necked** 3/21; 18 **Gr. Scaup** 3/10; 157 **Ls. Scaup** 3/21; 1 **Black Scoter** 3/28; 5 **Surf Scoter** 3/31; 21 **C. Goldeneye** 3/21; 72 **Bufflehead** 3/21; 48 **Hooded Merganser** 3/24; 3 **C. Merganser** 3/24; and 156 **Red-breasted Merganser**. Two **Ruddy Duck** appeared 3/24.

An imm. **Bald Eagle** 3/31 (MH,GL *et al.*) soared high over the lake heading toward Chestnut Ridge. **N. Harrier** was regular at YC 1/21+; another found nr CS 3/28 (M&RH). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found at 6 locations and **Cooper's** at 4. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was well observed at YC 1/29 (MH,GL) and seen periodically through 3/25 (MH, GL, BM). **Rough-legged Hawk** was found nr YC 1/21 (MH,GL,MJS) and 2/4 (MH,GL,MJS); another sighted nr IND 2/7 (AB,DB). Two **Am. Coot**, lingering in a small open area of water, were last reported 1/15 (AB,DB, GL); by 3/31, up to 45 had returned (MH,GL *et al.*). **C. Snipe** did not return until 3/14 (TBC) when 5 were a nice count nr YC. **Am. Woodcock**, also late in arriving, appeared first at RBS (GC) and at YC (TF) 3/23. First **Bonaparte's Gull** arrived 3/31 (BB,MH,GL,NK,MJS,GS). Top **Ring-billed Gull** count was 96 3/1 (CL,GL). 1-2 **Herring Gull** were noted 3/3 and 3/24,25 (MH,GL *et al.*).

Two **Short-eared Owl** nr BV 2/5 (PA) were at a new location; these birds were subsequently seen 2/7 (AB,DB,GC,GL,GS). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports include 1 at YC (GL) and 1 at Nolo (GS) 3/25. **E. Phoebe** first reported 3/13 (GC). **Horned Lark**, in very low numbers for the past few years, included 1 at ML 3/20 (GL) and 28 nr BV 3/28 (GC, GL,GS), our only reports. **Tree Swallow** found 3/30 (GL) was late.

Barn Swallow, observed at YC 2/24 (GL) was seen again 2/25 (MH,GL, GS) picking black insects from the ice; undoubtedly, this indiv. did not survive.

A **Hermit Thrush** reports include 1 nr CS 1/20 (SC,MH) and 1 at YC 1/21 (MH,GL,MJS). Top **Am. Robin** count was 222 on 3/10 at YC (GC,MH,GL,GS). **N. Mockingbird** was listed at 3 separate IND locations 1/11 (M&RH), 2/12 (GL), and 3/4 (MH). **Am. Pipit**, present 3/14-21, appeared in only numbers of 2-8 (v.o.). A **Cedar Waxwing** 1/7 (AB,MH, GL) was YC's lone report; waxwing also at Blairsville 3/3 (AJ). Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, subsisting largely on poison ivy berries, continued nr SHL all quarter (M&RH). The major invasion of **Fox Sparrow** occurred 3/11 with reports that day of 2 nr CS (SC), 3 nr SHL (PF), 4 at another SHL feeder (MH), 1 nr IND (BM), and 1 at Nolo (AB). **Pine Siskin** reports included 1-2 at CB 1/15,2/12 (MC), 1 at SHL 3/2 (MH), 1 at Nolo 3/12-13 (GL), and 20+ at BV 3/17 (MH,NK). Up to 14 **Evening Grosbeak** were noted at ST until 3/10 (JM).

OBSERVERS: Pat Andrascik, Alice & Dave Beatty, Becky Byerly, Suzanne Conner, Greg Cook, Ed Slovensky, Tom Fetterman, Paula Fleming, Margaret & Roger Higbee, RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Aino Johnston, Nancy Karp, Carroll Labarthe (CLa), Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Beth Marshall, Jim Michny, Mary Jane Seipler, Ed Slovensky, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Abbreviations: Cedar Spring Rd (CS), Juniata R. (JR), Mifflintown Access (MA), Muskrat Springs Access (MS), JR at Van Dyke (VD).

Migration, which seemed to be in full swing with flocks of **Tundra Swan**, **Canada Goose**, and **Ring-billed Gull** nr Thompsonstown reported 2/22-23 (DW), was slowed by cold weather until mid-Mar. on. 14 **Ring-necked Duck** on JR at VD were 2-3 weeks later than previous years' records. 35 **C. Goldeneye** were last seen at that location 3/15. All mergansers were in good supply: 8 **Hooded** at MA 3/15 and 1 there 3/23; high count of 282 **Common** at VD 2/28; high count of 12 **Red-breasted** at VD 3/15 and 1 at Thompsonstown 3/30.

Black Vulture only reported at Thompsonstown 1/27 (DW). A **N. Harrier** was nr Richfield 3/14 (DW). **Killdeer** arrived 3/8 and along with **Am. Robin** had trouble finding food due to late snows and frozen ground starting 3/13; for a while they were very visible along roads and in yards. 12-13 **C. Snipe** were nr the CSR ±3 mi from Mifflintown 3/21,23.

At MA 3/23 a **Great Black-backed Gull** was harassing a **C. Merganser**, which would dive to escape it. The gull would then set down on the spot where the merganser dove or circle and dive-bomb it again when it came up.

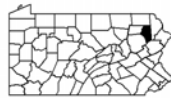
Ned Fogleman reported a **Barn Owl** on his farm 2/5. The **Long-eared Owl** first heard in late Dec. 1991 (DW) on the ridge at Kellerville was first seen 1/2, then again 2/10,22,26 (DW,LW). Two were seen 3/5 and 1 was watched 3/30. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** just n. of Oakland Mills was a welcome report 2/8 (MK).

An **E. Phoebe** was at Hammer Hollow 2/23 during the week of the waterfowl migration; the next report was at VD 3/16. A **Purple Martin** made it back before the snowstorm of 3/16 at MS (MR). **C. Raven** were nr Van Wert the week of 2/2-8 (MR) and 2 on Shade Mt 2/9. **Am. Pipit** were nr Van Wert that same week (MR). **White-crowned Sparrow** reported consistently all quarter from a field nr CSR were 14 in number 2/8. A **Red-winged Blackbird** nr Oakland Mills 2/1 was early.

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

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas



Abbreviations: Dalton area (DA), Factoryville area (FA), Glenburn (GL), L. Scranton (LS).

Great Blue Heron were in FA 3/1 and DA 3/6. At FA, 2 **Wood Duck** 3/10; 8 **N. Pintail** 3/1; 1 **Am. Wigeon** and 1 **C. Goldeneye** 3/29; **Hooded Merganser** 3/7. 8 **C. Merganser** at LS through Feb.

Turkey Vulture at Maple L. 3/15. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in Scranton 1/3. 12 **N. Bobwhite** visited at DA feeder 1/13. **Am. Woodcock** noted at DA 3/5. **Killdeer** were at LS 3/22, despite the snow on the ground. ±50 **Ring-billed Gull** in Feb at LS, GL, and Clark's Summit.

Belted Kingfisher found at FA 1/5 and 2 there 3/6. A **N. Flicker** at DA 3/1 and **Pileated Woodpecker** at GL 3/8,23. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** noted at DA 1/12 and at FA 3/3. **Carolina Wren** were seen occasionally in FA and DA. **Am. Robin** at DA 2/27. 2-6 **Fox Sparrow** during Mar. at FA and 2 at LS 3/15-19. 10 **Savannah Sparrow** nr DA 3/22. A ♀ **Purple Finch** at FA 2/22 and 2 ♂ there 3/2; 10 were at DA 3/2. A few **Pine Siskin** were at DA 1/6 and 1 at FA 3/16.

OBSERVERS: Rosann Bongey, Nancy & Derry Bird, Gerald Klebauskas, RR 2 Box 2821, Factoryville 18419 (717-945-3949), Tinka Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Abbreviations: Conowingo Pond (CP), Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run Pump Storage area (MR), New Holland (NH), Speedwell Forge L. (SF), Susquehanna R. / Conejohela Flats (SRC).

Highlights of the period include the 1st Co. record of **C. Black-headed Gull** (ph.EW), the recurrence of **Ross' Goose** among large flocks of Snow Geese, four **Bald Eagle** nests within the Co. and **Yellow-headed** and **Brewer's** blackbirds.

11 **Horned Grebe** were found during a rainstorm at SRC 3/19 (JH). **Red-necked Grebe** sightings on CP include 2 3/20 and 5 3/26 (RMS,LL *et al.*). An ad. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the Lititz Run (Manheim Twp) rookery 1/1 (EW) and 4 present 3/28 (JW,EW) presumably the start of another breeding season. **Tundra Swan** continue to winter in the Co. in large numbers with 750+ at MC 1/10 (JW,EW) and 3000+ at SRC 1/23 (JH). The swan migration was as usual with 5000+ at MC (mid-late Feb). Interesting was 500+ **Tundra Swan** at SFL 2/22 (BC). Waterfowl numbers have been low for many years in spring at SFL, however the complete drawdown of the lake last year and increased coverage by BC yielded some noteworthy numbers including 60 **N. Pintail** 3/21, 85 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/31, 1 **C. Goldeneye** 3/14, 12 **Hooded Merganser** 3/29, and 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/26.

A **Gr. White-fronted Goose** was at MC 3/8 (RM,JH). **Snow Goose** made an impressive showing for the 2nd consecutive spring, with the initial flock of 200 at MR 2/23 (JH). 2000+ Snow Geese "staged" at MR and at MC and SRC seemed to hold the most birds with a high count of 10,000 on 3/8 (JB). Also for the 2nd consecutive year single **Ross' Goose** were found with Snow Geese at MC 3/8-21 (RM,JH,TG), at MR 3/20-30 (RMS,LL) and nr Willow Street 3/31 (RMS). A **Wood Duck** was at MC 2/2 (JH). The ♂ **Eurasian Wigeon** at a Chestnut Level farm pond remained until late-Feb with up to 80 **Am. Wigeon** (RMS *et al.*). A high count of 125 **Am. Wigeon** was made on the Chickies Cr. nr Mt. Joy 3/31 (JH). A ♀ **Canvasback** and a **Gr. Scaup** were at MR 1/26-2/8 (JH *et al.*). A flock of 25 **Gr. Scaup** was also present at MR 3/31 (RMS). Numerous reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** were made from MC and along the SR 3/20-28 (m.ob.).



Common Black-headed Gull (with Ring-billed Gull), Susquehanna River, 2/23/92. Photo by Eric Witmer.

The most unusual sighting of the period (many more sightings in Apr.) was a basic 1 **C. Black-headed Gull** on CP nr the Maryland border 3/22-23 (f,ph.RMS,DH *et al.*). "Captain Bob" and his chumming crew obtained many photographs and determined that this gull preferred buttered popcorn over bread and day-old pastry!

Osprey were reported from the Holtwood area 3/8 (RMS). At least 4 active **Bald Eagle** nests found. Locations include Octoraro

L., above Holtwood Dam, Lower Bear I. nr MR, and another in Conoy Twp (this nest not containing eggs). Very encouraging for the lower Susquehanna. A **N. Goshawk** was found at Lime Rock Rd (Clay Twp) 1/26 (TK,NC) and another at MC 3/7 (SS). 31 **Red-tailed Hawk** were in one location in E. Hempfield Twp 3/15 (BC). An imm. **Golden Eagle** was in MR area 1/19-2/4 (RMS *et al.*). An ad. ♂ **Merlin** was seen in the vicinity of the Stoltzfus Quarry (Upper Leacock Twp) 1/12 (JB). Unusual **Peregrine Falcon** sightings include an ad. nr Salunga 1/28 (JH) and an imm. at Lime Rock Rd 1/21 (FH). Another peregrine was nr Rheems 3/23 (LC).

A **Laughing Gull** in alternate definitive plumage was on CP 3/8 (RMS *et al.*), an early spring Co. record. An **Iceland Gull** was in the Holtwood Dam area 2/4-8 (CH,RMS, JH,HM). Multiple sightings of **Ls. Black-backed Gull** include 2 ad. in a field nr Rheems (away from the SR) 3/4 (JH) and 3 different aged birds at Safe Harbor Dam 1/26 (EW,JW). Unusual was an imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** in NH 1/2 (JH,HM).

The previously reported **Snowy Owl** was irregularly seen in the NH area until 1/19 (DoH). 14 **E. Phoebe** were in the SFL area 3/29 (BC). First reported **Tree Swallow** at MC was 3/7 (JW). A **Gray Catbird** was in Warwick Twp 1/5 (RM). 300 **Am. Pipit** were nr Rowenna 3/20 (LC). The previously reported **N. Shrike** at Milton Grove was present 1/1 (EW) and was most likely there a while longer. Several **Lapland Longspur** were noted in Clay Twp 3/29 (EW). Very few **Snow Bunting** were reported with the high count 25 nr NH 2/14 (JH,BC,HM). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen 3/18 nr the Buck (RMS). **Brewer's Blackbird** were found in several areas of the Co. by observers patient enough to scrutinize the blackbird flocks: 3 in Caernarvon Twp 1/27 (BH), 1 nr Quarryville 3/10 (RMS,LL), and up to 5 in Drumore Twp 3/17 (RMS,LL). A ♀ **N. Oriole** visited a feeder in NH 3/19+ (CS).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Bruce Carl, Nancy Clupper, Larry Coble, Tom Garner, Barb Haas, Fred Habegger, Dan Heathcote, Jonathan Heller, Don Henise (DoH), Cathy Hicks, Tom Kurtz, Larry Lewis, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Charles Smith, **Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave, Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan Witmer.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Locations: Bessemer area (BA), New Castle area (NC), Plain Grove area (PG), Shenango R. (SR), Volant area (VA), Volant strip mines (VS), Vosler Rd. (VR).

Pied-billed Grebe reports were 2 found in NC 3/28 and 2 on a pond where they usually breed nr *Beaver*. The **Great Blue Heron** heronry nr *Beaver* was active with 37+ nests the end of Mar. 200+ **Tundra Swan** flew over NC 3/15 (RB). Only 7 **Wood Duck** were at the Rt. 18 marsh compared to the 20+ in past years. On 1/26 5 **Am. Black Duck** were on Shenango R. (BW), 3 on Mahoning R. (BD), & 4 at VA (SM). **Mallard** numbers seem to be in decline. **C. Goldeneye** were found in various locations 1/26 (BW,BD) plus 1 ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser**.

Our **N. Harrier** sightings remain up, a trend that started 2 years ago. 14 indiv. were at VA, VS, NC, & PG (v.o.). Accipiters were reported from various feeders. **Red-shouldered Hawk** is a rare find here, and no reports this quarter. Only 1 **Rough-legged Hawk** was found, in NC 1/26 (BW,BD). Two **Merlin** include 1 on E. River Rd. 1/25 and 1 ad. ♀ in PG 3/28 (BD). For the 1st time in 9 years, no report of Ring-necked Pheasant, but hunters report **Ruffed Grouse** doing well in Harlonsburg. **Wild Turkey** were found in Neshannock woods, McConnells Mills, and now even in the BA. **Am. Woodcock** reports were way up, and a drive at dusk in BA revealed at least 7 pair in a 2-mi area doing courtship flight.

The mild winter provided good numbers of **Belted Kingfisher**. Several **Red-headed Woodpecker** over-wintered in BA and PG (GW,BD). Unusual was the lack of **N. Flicker** reports in Mar. **Pileated Woodpecker** continue to do well. Our 1st **E. Phoebe** was here 2/5, over a week earlier than noted the past 9 years (BW). **Horned Lark** can usually be found here in excellent numbers: 700 in BA 1/25; 50 on VR 1/26; 20+ in PG, a few at VS (NR) and in BA some courtship was observed 3/2 (BD,GW). A **Blue Jay** fledgling was found dead the first week of Apr.

The big story is that **Short-eared Owl** continue to build in numbers at VS nr Pennsy, which borders *Mercer*. In 1990 only 1 was seen for 1 day only. This year we have seen at least 10 at a time and 5 or 6 remained to end of the quarter. I have searched the BA for many years and finally enlisted the help of several farmers. It paid off! I got a call from Bob Trotter who reported 3 owls at dusk from 2/12-15. On 2/17 I confirmed 3 Short-eared Owl there and they remained to 3/31+. The owls at both locations barked and "played" with each other and the N. Harriers, but no courtship behavior such as clapping was observed (BD,BW,SM,NR).

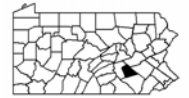
Feb. is the only month we have not recorded **Gray Catbird**, especially the last few years. 1 was on VR until 1/26 (BD,BW) and fed in a weedy, brushy area on dark berries and old apple trees. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in NC 3/28 nr Covered Bridge and a **Rufous-sided Towhee** on E. River Rd. 3/2 (GW,BD). We did not receive the heavy snowfall that surrounding cos. did. Our largest flocks of **Am. Tree Sparrow** were 30 in PG and NC. First **Savannah Sparrow** were in BA 3/2 (GW,BD). Very few **White-throated Sparrow** were seen all period. 25 **Snow Bunting** were at BA 1/26 (BW,BD) and 12 at VS 3/2 (BD,GW). NR reports 200 **Red-winged Blackbird** in PG 2/9 and hundred of mixed blackbirds flew over BA 3/2. SM reported 3 **Purple Finch** along Pennsy Rd. 2/16. The Rodgers' feeder usually accommodates 30 by the end of Mar., but 200 **House Finch** may have discouraged Purple Finch there and it was very unusual to have none here in NC. 3-7 **Pine Siskin** were at a NC feeder 2/13+. Open water in the bird bath and catkins on the birch trees were the major attractions. **Am. Goldfinch** numbers seemed down in PG (NR), but average in NC and Amish areas.

NR reports, "One thing that I feel certain has affected birds and other wildlife in our area is the huge amount of trees which have been timbered and all the fence rows cleared because of the strip mining in PG. I have no idea how many acres of land have been taken by the strip mining, which, of course destroys everything in its path."

OBSERVERS: Ray Bales, **Barb Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave, New Castle 16105 (412-658-3393)**, Shirley McCarl, Nancy Rodgers, Bob Trotter, Bob Walczak, Gene Wilhelm.

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner



Abbreviations: Memorial L. (ML), Middle Creek WMA (MC).

It was a quiet quarter. The temperatures on average were about normal but there were no cold snaps or warm spells and there was very little snowfall (only about 12" for the season at Harrisburg). ML was frozen completely only for about a week or so in early Feb. Overall it was probably a good season for the birds. Winter finches were nonexistent. The bird of the season was the **N. Shrike**.

12 **Pied-billed Grebe** at ML 3/28 (MC), a relatively high number. A **Tundra Swan** was there 2/18 (MC) and several appeared after that through end of quarter, an insignificant number compared to the thousands at nearby MC. 4 **Redhead** at ML 2/18 (MC) and 6 there 2/22 (SR). A **Canvasback** was there virtually all winter and 4 there 3/1 (MC,JKL,SS).

Red-shouldered Hawk returned to nest in the *Lebanon* section of MC for the 10th year in a row (m.ob). An **Am. Coot** successfully wintered at ML (m.ob.). Both **kinglets** were at Swatara Gap SP 1/25 (EC, GR). Usually few Ruby-crowneds are found in mid-winter but apparently the lack of bad weather allowed a few to survive. A **N. Shrike** was found n. of Palmyra 1/11 (SR) and seen again 1/13 (DW). It was seen by a few others into early Feb.

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, Morris Cox, Jane & Ken Light, Grace Randolph, Steve Rannels, **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook, Village Green Apts, Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Dick Williams.

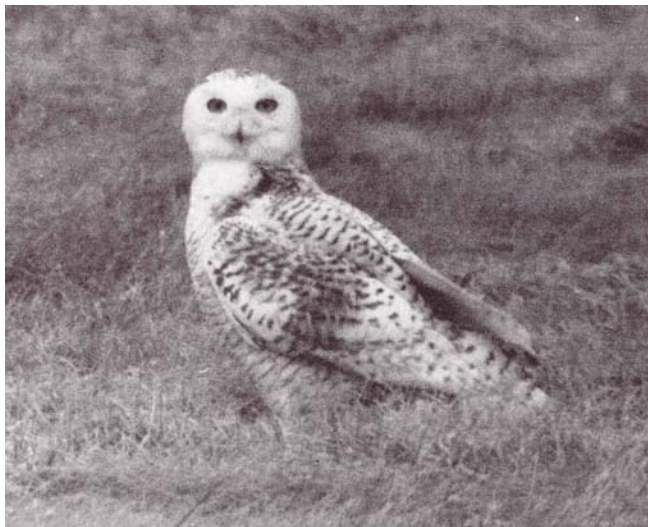
LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: *Fogelsville Quarry (FQ)*, *L. Muhlenberg (LM)*.

Birding this season was well above average. Despite yet another year with hardly any winter finches, the gulls and owls more than made up for it.

7 **Tundra Swan** were at FQ 3/8 (PE,BLM). 2 **Mute Swan** were at the Lehigh Valley Corp. Center 2/25 (DG,JG). 7 **Snow Goose** were at LM 2/29 (PE). 25 **Ring-necked Duck** at Leaser L. 3/7 (PE,BLM) and 1 **C. Goldeneye** at FQ 2/29 (PE). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** spent the winter at Applewood (PE). An early **Am. Woodcock** was found nr Applewood 2/27 (PE), and several were flushed in mid-day at Jordan Park 2/29 (PE,BLM). As many as 200 **Ring-billed Gull** were at LM 12/27 (BLM). **Great Black-backed Gull** were in Allentown along the Lehigh R. 2/5 (FBa), at Walnutport 2/6 (DG,JG).



Snowy Owl, Fogelsville, 2/20/92. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

The **Snowy Owl** which appeared to a lucky few last Nov. finally settled down next to the Strohs brewery at Fogelsville from mid-Jan through the end of quarter (m.ob.), a record late date (actually to at least 4/4). It could usually be found and approached for good photos. A **Barred Owl** was seen in the unusual locale of a residential area in Catasauqua 1/12 (DG,JG). 6 **Long-eared Owl** were in Lynn Twp 1/11 (PE,BLM,FBa).

2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at Trexler Park 1/1 (NJB). **Carolina Wren**, **E. Bluebird**, **Am. Robin**, and **Cedar Waxwing** were all found in very good numbers throughout the area, while **Am. Tree** and **White-throated** sparrows were generally low. After the Nth consecutive season (where N is a bignum) with no unusual winter finches, 2 ♀ **White-winged Crossbill** briefly appeared at the Fogelsville Pond 3/8 (PE). Unfortunately the birds could not be found a half-hour later.

OBSERVERS: Frank Bader, Nancy & John Boyer, Pauline England, Jason Horn, Jack Galm, Dick Gemmel, **Bernie L. Morris**, 825 N Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134).

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: *Council Cup (CC)*, *Susquehanna Riverlands (SR)*, *SR Wetlands Nature Area (SW)*.

A **Canvasback** was at SR 2/25 and 3/1 (JF). **Ring-billed Gull** was particularly common in Mar. with 50+ at SR almost daily, sometimes reaching 80 birds (JF,DG). 3 early **Wood Duck**

were at SR (JF,DG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at SR 3/23 (JF). An usual winter **E. Phoebe** was at SW 1/11 (A&MG), but not seen again. An **E. Phoebe** arrived at an extra early 3/3 at SR, feeding on stoneflies over the river, and apparently survived the month (DG). 2 **Tree Swallow** arrived at SW 3/3 (JF,DG). **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** numbers were low at CC, SW, and other woods nr SR (DG). A **Winter Wren** overwintered in SW (DG). 2 **Am. Pipit** were at SR 3/12 (JF) for a rare visit. Several **Am. Robin** survived the winter in SR (JF,DG). There were at least 2 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in SW/SR through winter (A&MG,DG). At least 5 **Swamp Sparrow** stayed winter in SW (DG) and 5 **Field Sparrow** were found there 1/15.

OBSERVERS: John Fridman, Allen & Monica Gregory, Doug Gross, **William Reid**, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

Abbreviations: *Montoursville (MV)*, *Muncy Creek Twp (MCT)*, *Muncy Twp (MT)*, *Picture Rocks (PR)*, *Rose Valley L. (RVL)*, *SGL 252 (SGL)*, *Susquehanna R. (SR)*, *Upper Fairfield Twp (UFT)*, *Wolf Twp (WT)*.

On 3/26 the following species were observed at RVL by SS: **Horned Grebe**, **Tundra Swan**, **Am. Black Duck**, **Am. Wigeon**, **Canvasback** (a species rarely seen here), **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded**, **Common**, and **Red-breasted** mergansers, **Merlin**. **Tundra Swan** were also on the SR at Muncy 3/3 (WE). On 2/3 **Bufflehead** and **C. Merganser** were on the SR n. of Montgomery (DB). MCT also had **C. Merganser** 1/20,26 (WE).

A **Turkey Vulture** was in MT 3/12 (WE). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was on the SR at Williamsport 2/6 (DB). **N. Harrier** was quite common all quarter in UFT, MT, WT (ER,SS,WE). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were in MV (SS). **Red-tailed** and **Rough-legged** hawks were frequently seen in appropriate habitat (DB,WE,ER,SS). Another **Merlin** in MV (possibly the same 1 from last quarter) 1/3 (SS). An imm. **Peregrine Falcon** was in UFT 1/18 nr the home of ER. **Ruffed Grouse** were nr PR 3/1 (WE). 15+ **Wild Turkey** were flushed nr PR 1/5 (WE).

Killdeer were first noted in MCT 2/19 (WE). On 3/19 17 **C. Snipe** were found in a field (SS). **Am. Woodcock** were heard in WT 2/26 (DB). **Ring-billed Gull** were first seen in MCT 3/5 (WE). A **Barred Owl** was seen in the early PM s. of RVL (SS). **Short-eared Owl** seen in MT 1/26 (WE) & 3/19 (SS).

A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** frequented suet at UFT (ER). **Tree Swallow** returned to UFT 3/31 (ER). 6 **Blue Jay** came to my PR feeder 2/16, the most I've ever recorded (WE). **Fish Crow** in Elimsport 1/12 (DB) then in good numbers 3/5+. **C. Raven** nr PR 3/1,14 (WE). 2 **Am. Pipit** in MV 3/19, the first SS has ever seen this species in a town. 17 **Am. Tree Sparrow** appeared at ER;s feeder 1/20; also in PR 1/26 (WE); and 2/17 at SGL (DB). **Fox Sparrow** noted at feeders in PR 3/21+ (WE) and UFT (ER). **White-throated Sparrow** were at SGL 2/17 (DB). Also noted at WE's feeders were: **Red-winged Blackbird** 3/19+; **C. Grackle** 2/22+; and **Purple Finch** 2/22+. **Pine Siskin** 1/11+ in PR (WE) and 1/18+ in UFT (ER) were the only reports of winter finches.

OBSERVERS: Dan Brauning, **Wesley Egli**, PO Box 381, **Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222)**, Ed Reish, Stanley Stahl.

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Locations: *Grove City area (GC)*, *Hermitage area (HA)*, *L. Latonka (LL)*, *Limber Rd. (LR)*, *Saguallas Pond (SP)*, *Shenango R. Res. (SR)*, *L. Wilhelm, (LW)*, *Willow Pond (WP)*. Waterfowl reports without location noted are from SR by compiler.

1 **C. Loon** at LL 3/21 (HB,LW) and 2 at SR 3/29. 4 **Pied-billed Grebe** at SR 3/6 and 1 **Horned Grebe** at LL 3/21 (HB,LW). 3 **Tundra Swan** at WP 3/2 (HB,LW) and high of 180 at SR 3/29. A **Snow Goose** at SR 2/28. Waterfowl reports: 16 **Green-**

winged Teal at Pennsy Swamp in Mar. (SM); 35 **Am. Black Duck** 1/3; 250 **Mallard** 1/11; 1 **N. Pintail** 2/28 & 25 3/20; 12 **Am. Wigeon** 3/20; 1 **Canvasback** and 1 **Redhead** at LL 3/21 (HB,LW); 200 **Ring-necked Duck** at WP 3/21 (HB,LW) and 125 at SR 3/15; 1 **Ls. Scaup** at LL 3/21 (HB,LW); 12 **Bufflehead** at LL 3/21 (HB,LW) and 4–25 at SR 3/6–15; 1 pair **Hooded Merganser** at HA 3/11 and 24 at LL 3/21 (HB,LW); high **Red-breasted Merganser** count 300 3/20, and 6 at LL 3/21 (HB,LW).

The PGC reported a **Bald Eagle** at SR in Jan. and another at LW in early Mar. A **Cooper's Hawk** was at SP 3/21 (HB,LW) and 1 at HA 1/12. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** were displaying 3/9.

Wild Turkey numbers are increasing. A flock of 14 at HA 3/12 failed at their clumsy, comical attempt to cross a frozen pond by "ice skating," and retreated to the edge to walk around instead. This flock remained in the area until 3/15 before dispersing. 21 **Am. Coot** were at SR 3/20, where only 1 was seen last year. First **Killdeer** arrived at HA 2/27. **Am. Woodcock** was heard 3/1 at Christy Rd. 7 **Short-eared Owl** were found at LR 2/9 (BD), and 3 were at a new location: the overgrown old Chadderton airport 2/23, 3/1.

The unusual warm early Mar. brought **E. Phoebe** to HA 3/12, 6 days early by my records. 1 **Brown Creeper** at GC 1/17 (HB). The **Carolina Wren** population is exploding at HA. One smart wren learned to gain access to a heated workshop through a series of cracks and roosted inside all winter, making it impossible for the sympathetic workman to use this outbuilding evenings, lest he disturb it.

Finally, the long expected **N. Mockingbird** was reported from HA: 1 on 3/20, and surely the same bird again 3/29 in the same bush. 12 **Am. Tree Sparrow** at SR 3/20. 35 **Dark-eyed Junco** at HA 2/2 and 1–2 "Oregon" at a GC feeder 1/16–3/22 (HB). An **E. Meadowlark** at SP 3/21 (HB,LW). 2 **Pine Siskin** at a GC feeder 1/25–3/22, with 12 there 3/8 (HB). No **Evening Grosbeak** reported.

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

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

Abbreviations: Belleville (BV). All observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

We had a great quarter of watching the feeders and backyard areas. I had some old lard given to me and mixed it with peanut butter and some small seeds. The birds loved it. Carolina Wrens and chickadees were pushed aside by the woodpeckers and even the Red-bellied and N. Flickers came in to the porch for the new menu.

Great Blue Heron became regular since mid-Mar., in company of a **Green-backed Heron** and a **Spotted Sandpiper**. **Am. Black Duck**, **C. Merganser**, and **Herring Gull** were in great numbers on the Juniata R. s. of Lewistown 2/24. Large flocks of **Canada Goose** and **Tundra Swan** were flying N, day and night, 3/12–14. A **Ring-necked Duck** was on Dunmires Pond 3/8 (RD). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was over BV 1/19 and 1 nr Strodes Mills 3/20 (GB). **Am. Woodcock** were present 3/10+. **E. Phoebe** arrived 3/5. A flock of 18 **Horned Lark** nr BV. 1/19.

Carolina Wren had a nest with 5 eggs by 3/28. 150+ **Am. Robin** flew over LK's yard at dusk; it was getting very cold and they flew in a direct line towards the nearby ridge. A flock of 16–18 ♂ **N. Cardinal** 1/22 suggested just arrived from the south or ready to head north? All during Feb/Mar were **White-crowned** and **White-throated** sparrows feeding under the picnic table in the company of **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Mourning Dove**. At times were 9 **White-crowned**, 7 **White-throated**, and 7 **Fox** sparrows. **Am. Goldfinch** were in excellent numbers in Mar: 12 in McVeytown, 32 at B&MKs feeders, and 42 at ours. ±10 **Pine Siskin** visited for perhaps two weeks in mid-Mar.

OBSERVERS: Gloria Bickel, Rhonda Dunmire, Bill & Mary Kauffman, Margaret Kenepf, RR 2 Box 343, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), Lorma Kritser, Don Miller, Grace Miller, J. & A. Morgan, Catherine Snyder, Merrill Wray.

3/10 was a warm, spring-like day. The woodcock were heard over the fields. After a warm rain in late evening the temperature dropped rapidly to below freezing. At 6 the next morning a snow squall began, with a mixture of snow, sleet and freezing cold winds. Returning from an early trip to town, my husband related that he had seen 200 and maybe 300+ robins in the fields along the way. It didn't register with me as I started to prepare lunch, until a neighbor called and excitedly said he had circled around twice and was about to go again to see the unbelievable sight of so many birds. We cancelled lunch, needless to say, bundled up, gathered field guides, binoculars, a scope and started out in the harsh weather with @Eliane, Rebecca and I becoming very excited by the end of our driveway.

Dozens of robins and small birds were everywhere on the road and they were not at all concerned of our presence. As we journeyed toward Mattawana we saw 17 **Killdeer** on Yoder's Bus driveway. Other birds were scurrying about. On the River Rd. e. of Mattawana, along the Juniata R., we were able to view the birds on the highway, perhaps from 5–6' through the open jeep windows. They were eating the frozen earthworms which had come out onto the macadam the day before and had frozen on the road.

We realized that many species were involved in this fallout:

Sparrows included **Chipping**, **Song**, **House**, and **Fox**; finches; bluebirds; several shorebirds; and then an unusual gait revealed (confirmed in Peterson's guide, **Am. Pipits** (we saw 20+ from there to Newton Hamilton). They were mostly running along the edge of the frozen slush on the road. They were not bothered by us in the blustery squalls and as we watched I noted another unusual species and immediately knew it looked like a **Lapland Longspur**. The facial markings were very distinct. The field guides confirmed our identification as Laplands. We had 5 in view for perhaps 10 minutes, just out of the open windows. We had snow in our faces, but that didn't bother us at all. A life bird is worth it!

Some of the birds actually lay on their sides in the slushy road and they seemed so slow and half frozen. I am sure they didn't all survive. I have had some interesting finds, but this was one of the most exciting snowy excursions ever. Four-year old Rebecca thought it was great as she crunched her apple in the carseat.

MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

2 **Rusty Blackbird** were at Brodheadsville 3/1 (RZ).

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Gary Freed

Abbreviations: Ft. Washington SP (FW), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Mont Clare Canal (MC), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF).

Grebe max. at GLR were 5 **Pied-billed** 3/31 and 2 **Horned** 3/18 (GAF, GLF, KC). **Tundra Swan** seen periodically at GLR in Mar. with a max. of 36 3/22 (GLF, LR). **Snow Goose** was present at GLR from mid- Mar. with max. of 8 3/31 (GAF); 1 blue morph there 2/18 (KC). MC hosted 40 **Wood Duck** 3/31 (NT). **Green-winged Teal**, 50+ mid-Mar., and **N. Pintail**, 140+ 3/25, were both above average at GLR. Only 1 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/22 was there (GLF, LR). Diving ducks continue to be scarce. 4 **Canvasback** at GLR 2/29 (GLF, LR), 50 **Ring-necked** at a pond nr UPVP 3/12 (RG), 2 **Oldsquaw** at GLR 3/13 (NT), 6 **C. Goldeneye** and 20 **Bufflehead** at VF 1/9 (NT), a pair of **Hooded Merganser** in

Wynnewood 2/25 (WMC). **C. Merganser** present all quarter at GLR when there was open water with a high count of 220+ 2/22 (GLF,LR).

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was over Oaks 2/29 (BF) and an imm. at GLR 3/6 (KC). **N. Harrier** present at several locations in small numbers. 2-3 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** wintered at Evansburg SP (FH). **Cooper's** present at FW & GLR (B&NM,GAF,GLF). An imm. **N. Goshawk** seen occasionally at GLR (GAF,GLF,LR). **Red-shouldered** also at these same locations (RG,B&NM,GAF). There were 2 **Merlin** sightings: nr Zieglersville 2/23 (RG) & at GLR 3/6 (KC). **Wild Turkey** is now common at GLR with 48 at GLF's GLR feeder 1/25. 2 **Am. Coot** at GLR 1/25.

An early **Am. Woodcock** display flight was observed at GLF's nr GLR 2/19 and were regular for the subsequent 6 weeks. BF reported 1 at Mont Clare 3/23,24. A 1st-winter **Ls. Black-backed Gull** was first found (JH) at UPVP 1/15 and it stayed a few weeks more (GLF,LR). **Great Black-backed Gull** was fairly regular in small numbers at GLR. **Great Horned Owl** was in a Mont Clare yard 1/4 (NT) and there were 2 active obvious nests at GLR to the delight of many. **Barred Owl** called fairly regularly at GLF's from mid-Feb+ and **Long-eared** 3/16-29 and **N. Saw-whet** owls 3/24 were heard at the same location (a benefit of walking a dog at night). KC reported a d.o.r. Long-eared Owl at GLR in Feb.

An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** spent the quarter at GLR (KC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reported as regular at several locations. **Fish Crow** regular nr UPVP all quarter in small numbers (RG). **Brown Creeper** was as easy to find at several locations. **Winter Wren** at UCV 3/29 (GLF,LR). **Hermit Thrush** at GLR in Jan. and nr UPVP in Feb. (GLF,RG). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was easy to find at several locations with 100+ at MC 3/3 (NT).

Rufous-sided Towhee was at RG's near UPVP 2/8. RG also had 3 **Fox Sparrow** 3/19,20 and GLR had 1 most of Feb. at its feeder (KC). GLR had 24 wintering **E. Meadowlark** (KC,GLF,LR). MC hosted 3 **Rusty Blackbird** 3/31 (NT) and GLR had 1 3/28. A **N. Oriole** fed on suet nr GLR all quarter (KC *vide* Jane West). While **Purple Finch** was scarce most places, RG had 10-20 all quarter with 50 3/19.

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Bob Fetterman, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, 1132 Walters Rd (please note change in address - I did not move), Pennsburg 18073 (215-679-8536), Ron Grubb, Frank Hohenleitner, Jason Horn, William McLean, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Larry Rhoads, Neal Thorpe.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

About 30 **Am. Black Duck** were counted on windswept L. Chillis-quaque at Montour Preserve (MP) 1/15 (AG). In a nearby field on that date, CS saw 10 **Wild Turkey**. As many as 30 **C. Snipe** were present nr Washingtonville between 3/17-26 (CS). She also found an ad. and an imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Cooper Twp 1/19. A very early **E. Phoebe** at Danville was seen 3/2 (DG), and a lone **Tree Swallow** put in an early appearance at MP 3/25 (CS). After a late winter snowstorm 3/12, 3 **Am. Pipit** were along the roadside nr the PP&L flyash basin (CS).

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

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: Mount Bethel (MB), Martins Creek Quarries (MCQ), North Catasauqua (NC).

23 **Wild Turkey** were at MB this quarter (BT). On 1/12, Brock and Koch saw an **Iceland**, a **Ls. Black-backed**, and 3-4 **Great Black-backed** gulls at MCQ. The Iceland was a 1st Co. record and the Ls. Black-backed a 3rd Co. record.

There was an "invasion" of **Barred Owl**. One was seen several times in Jan. in a backyard in NC (JG *et al.*) and 1 d.o.r. along Rt. 22 in Bethlehem 1/12 (RW). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was

seen sitting on the ground at MB 2/26 (BT). On a warm 2/23 (65°F), Boyce heard a **Winter Wren** burst into song at Martins Creek. A **Gray Catbird** was at MB 2/28 (BT), a sp. rarely reported after the CBCs and before the last week in Apr. A **Chipping Sparrow** was nr Edelmans 2/28 (KS) and an **Evening Grosbeak** was at MB 2/10 (BT), the only report in the Lehigh Valley area all season (BLM).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Fritz Brock, Jack Galm, Arlene Koch, Bernie Morris, Kathy Sieminski, Barry Transue, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St, Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Abbreviations: Delaware Twp (DT), Irish Valley (IV), Ralpho Twp (RaT), Riverside (RS), Roaring Creek Water Co. (RCWC), Rush Twp (RT), N. Branch Susquehanna R. at Riverside (SR).

The compiler thanks Ms. Dorothy Faust for her observations from Irish Valley and all the other persons who reported sightings. Any sightings from *Northumberland* would be deeply appreciated, especially the N or S end. If you watch birds and either live here or know someone who does, please call or send data to the compiler.

Great Blue Heron were common along the SR all quarter due to the relatively mild winter. 1 was also seen along a small farm pond in RT during a snowstorm 3/1. **Canada Goose**, **Am. Black Duck**, **Mallard**, and **C. Merganser** (high 25+ on 2/24) were all common on the SR (CS,DU). **Bufflehead** were seen there occasionally.

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was observed at RCWC the beginning of Jan. (BK) and several imm. were present during the later part of Mar. (BK,DU). **N. Harrier** were uncommon in both IV (DF) & RT during the first part of the quarter. Both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were reported preying on feeders in IV (DF), RS & RT. **Am. Goldfinch** and **Darkeyed Junco** were reported to be the most common prey (DF,DU). **Red-tailed Hawk** were reported successfully preying on Rock Dove in IV (DF). **Rough-leg-ged Hawk** were reported from DT (RF). **Ring-necked Pheasant** were uncommon in RaT & RT, but several survived the winter. **Ruffed Grouse** numbers declined in RT but **Wild Turkey** were reported in increasing numbers from all wooded areas (m.ob.). First **Killdeer** were observed in RS & RT 3/4. Both **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls were common, with >100 seen several times. A ad. **Great Black-backed Gull** was on the SR 1/27, 2 ad. 2/12, and 5 (2 ad. and 3 imm.) were seen 2/17.

Horned Lark were seen occasionally in RaT and RT especially during the infrequent snow storms, >100 were seen in RT 2/25. **Blue Jay** were reported as numerous in IV (DF) but were scarce in RT. Blue Jays have been few or nonexistent for the past several quarters in RT. **Carolina Wren** continue their comeback due to another mild winter. **E. Bluebird** also reported as common in many areas. On 1/22 a flock of >60 **Cedar Waxwing** was seen in RT (CS), otherwise they were rare.

Am. Tree and **White-throated** sparrows were numerous in RaT & IV (DF) but uncommon in RT. A **Fox Sparrow** spent the winter at a feeder in IV (DF) and several were in RS 3/11. **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Am. Goldfinch** were reported as numerous in all areas. **Red-winged Blackbird** and **C. Grackle** returned 3/11. **House Finch** numbers have been on the decline in RT but were numerous in IV, RaT & RS. For another year, no northern finches were reported with the exception of **Pine Siskin** in RT. 2 were seen 2/2 and 4 on 2/28.

OBSERVERS: Dorothy Faust, Roy Fontaine, Bill Krieger, Chris Smull, Linda & Dave Unger, RD6 Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672- 3254).

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: Board Run Rd (BR), Little Buffalo SP (LB).

A nice mixture of waterfowl was at LB 3/25: 2 **Red-throated Loon**, 4 **C. Loon**, 20 **Am. Wigeon**, 25 **Ring-necked Duck**, 10 **Ls. Scaup**, and 2 **Gr. Scaup** (DC). 1 **Redhead** was on the Juniata R.

nr Watts 1/25 (DD).

Ad. **Bald Eagle** sightings are becoming commonplace along the river nr Duncannon. Many sightings were submitted as the pair that nests on Haldeman I. got prepared for their hatchlings. Thank you PGC for the hacking program. Let us hope more of their released birds call the Susquehanna R. valley home.

A large flock of 28 **Wild Turkey** was nr Shermans Dale 1/30 (DH). A wintering **E. Phoebe** was found nr Liverpool 1/18 (DD), most unusual for here. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** took to the Warm Springs Lodge area with 12 seen 1/30 (DH).

A **Fox Sparrow** was at BR 3/20 (DD). A most difficult bird to find was **Pine Siskin**, but 3 were tallied at BR 2/29 during Project FeederWatch (DD). 3 **Evening Grosbeak** were nr Warm Springs 1/30 (DH).

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

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: Bartram Ave. pond (BA), Carpenters Woods (CW), Delaware R. (DR), Franklin Sq. (FS), Lewis Ave. pond (LA), Livezy Ln (LL), Pennypack Ave. Res. (PR), Roxborough (RX), Schuylkill R. (SR). Note: On 11/13/91 the Tinicum Nat'l Environ. Center changed its name officially to the John Heinz NWR at Tinicum. For the sake of consistency, continuity, and convenience, we will continue to refer to the area as *Tinicum (TN), Winter Bird Census (WBC), W. Fairmount Park (WFP), Wissahickon Cr., Valley (WC, WV).*

As usual, space constraints do not allow for a species-by-species account. But, as in recent years the highlight was the WBC held 1/11. 42 field and 10 feeder observers found 90 species (25,153 birds). A full report of the WBC is available from K. Russell, 71 W. Washington Ln, Phila 19119. Please include a SASE.

Numbers/species refer to the WBC unless otherwise noted. 3 **Pied-billed Grebe**, plus 1 at TN 3/8 (NP). 20 **Great Cormorant**; 11 found on the DR 3/25 (KS). 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** was found as well as 28 **Great Blue Heron** and 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. Very unusual was the 1 **Tundra Swan** (D. Cutler) on the E. Park Res. **Wood Duck** highs at TN were 28 3/9 (NP) and 25 3/28 (JCM). High for **Am. Black Duck** on PAR was 220 3/21 (CL), with an equal number of **Mallard** in WFP 1/1-2/29 (CM). A newly discovered pond, LA, produced **Green-winged Teal**, **N. Shoveler**, and **Am. Wigeon** (CL). From 1-200 **Canvasback** at PA 1/14-3/21 indicate that it is primarily a safe-harbor for these ducks. Only 1 **Redhead** on WBC, but 6 at PA 2/23 (CL). Best max. were 7 **Ring-necked Duck** at TN 3/22 (TR) and 7 **Bufflehead** at Peter's I. in SR. **C. Merganser** tally was 118. A 6-yr all-time CBC low of 151 **Ruddy Duck** was dismaying. A ♂ **Hooded Merganser** was at TN 2/23 (KS).

The WBC missed the peculiar ♀ **Hooded Merganser** found by Freda Rappaport on the WC 1/1-2/18 at Valley Green. It "panhandled" with Mallards for bread crumbs. The Mallards often behaved aggressively toward her; she dove when they snapped at her. She ate bread, popcorn, Ritz crackers, and pretzels offered by visitors.

8 species of raptor were found on the WBC including 12 **Turkey Vulture** and 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Also noteworthy were a **N. Harrier** at LA 3/14 (CL), a **N. Goshawk** at LL 1/17 (SL), and a **Merlin** in TN 1/17 (JCM); a Merlin perched in an Olney yard 2/24 (KS). Encouraging is that pairs of **Peregrine Falcon** have nested on 4 of the 5 major bridges, plus suspected nesting on center city buildings. Details will be published in the next issue of *Pa. Birds*. The introduced **Wild Turkey** in Pennypack Park was found for the WBC (not counted, as needs to be self-sustaining for 10 yrs under ABA rules and only at 5 yr). The 2 **C. Moorhen** were new to the count.

Best **C. Snipe** count was 55 at TN 3/21 (JCM), and although reported in Feb., **Am. Woodcock** were noted as many in RX 3/20

(CM). Owl reports include the return of **E. Screech-Owl** to CW; 22 **Great Horned** on WBC; **Long-eared** at TN 3/20 (JCM); **Short-eared** in RX 3/30+ (CM); and **N. Saw-whet** at TN 1/23 & 3/10 (JCM). 2 **E. Phoebe** found on WBC. A flock of 24 **Horned Lark** noted in n.e. PHL on the WBC. **Tree Swallow** arrived remarkably early with 4 at TN 2/23 (SS,FW,KS) & 10 2/25 (TR).

A high count of 160 **Carolina Wren** on the WBC was influenced by continuing mild winters, and 10 **Winter Wren** (becoming more regular). Only 1 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** found on WBC (FU) while MD found 4-6 at LL 3/17; lone **Ruby-crowned** report was 1 at TN 2/23 (KS). **E. Bluebird** were obvious in RX 2/23 (CM). The **Am. Robin** was unusually abundant: WBC had a record 1036. A few comments: "more than anytime in recent years in the area throughout the entire season (SL);" "every flat, grassy area covered with them (EF);" "commonplace (FU)." ±20 **Cedar Waxwing** in RX 2/23 (CM).

Two, new-for-the-count warblers, **Orange-crowned** and a **C. Yellowthroat**, were found for the WBC in Roosevelt Park. 17 **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were found in n.e. PHL. An early **Pine Warbler**, scarce in PHL, was at TN 3/9 (NP), and a startlingly early **Black-and-white** was along the WC 3/29 (FU).

Although SL considered **White-throated Sparrow** "lower than used to be the norm" in Mt. Airy, the WBC came up with an average 1365. A flock of 100+ **Snow Bunting** at the PHL airport was a welcome return of decent numbers for JCM. **Red-winged Blackbird** never really left the area. **Rusty Blackbird** counts in TN included 2 early in TN 2/23 (KS), 50+ 3/6 (JCM). **C. Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** had arrived in RX by 3/8 (FU). 2 **Purple Finch** visited RX feeders 2/10 and 11 3/9 (CM) to round out, with a surprise, a very mild winter, with some very early arrivals.

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Michael Drake, **Edward Fingerhood**, 541 W Sedgwick St, Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Stephen Lawrence, Chuck Lyman, Chris McCabe, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Jack Siler, Kate Somerville, Fred Ulmer.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Dan Knarr

All reports by compiler in the New Ringgold area unless otherwise noted. A **Black Vulture** was at Port Clinton 3/10. 70 **Wild Turkey** were found in one flock 1/13, with smaller flocks noted on several other occasions. 3 **Am. Woodcock** noted 3/8. 2 **Pileated Woodpecker** 3/7. A **Hermit Thrush** 2/15. A flock of 75 **Am. Pipit** found 3/13. 2 **Swamp** and 1 **Fox** sparrow found 3/14.

OBSERVER: **Dan Knarr**, RR 1 Box 23D, New Ringgold 17960 (717-386-4780).

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

No report this quarter.

COMPILER: **Allen Schweinsberg**, 1200 Zeigler Rd, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

SOMERSET COUNTY

Abbreviations: High Point L. (HPL), L. Somerset (LS), Markleton (MK), Meyersdale Sewage Lagoons (MSL), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Samii's Pond (SP).

Tony Marich sent us his sightings as follows. As usual, waterfowl

At LS were 1 **Pied-billed** 3/22 and 1-11 **Horned** 3/14, 22. 4 **Tundra Swan** at Jerome Landing 2/28; 15 at MSL 3/23 (1 had a

black neck collar #Y988), and 2 at LS 3/27. A white **Snow Goose** was with **Canada Geese** at MSL 2/1. High count of Canada Goose was 428 at MSL 2/1. A migrating flock of 215 were at SP 2/29. There were 7 neck-collared birds and the 4 different type collars indicate birds from 4 separate studies.

3 **Wood Duck** at Rockwood 3/26. 1 **Green-winged Teal** at SP 3/15 and 7 at LS 3/27. High count of **Am. Black Duck** was 50 at QD 1/1. Black X Mallard are becoming more common. 1 at SP 1/4 and 4 at Confluence 1/19. A ♂ Black was seen pair-banded with a ♀ Mallard at LS 3/27. High **Mallard** count was 600-800 at QD 1/1. 3 **N. Pintail** at QD 1/1. 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at LS 3/21. 2 **N. Shoveler** were on a farm pond nr Jennerstown 1/11. 1 **Gadwall** at HPL and 2 at LS 3/21. High **Am. Wigeon** count was 18 at HPL 3/21. 82 (11 ♀) **Canvasback** at LS 3/21. 27 **Ring-necked Duck** at HPL and 3 at LS 3/21. 159 **Ls. Scaup** at LS 3/21. 5 **Oldsquaw** at LS 3/22. 8 **C. Goldeneye** at HPL and 10 at LS 3/21. 9 **Bufflehead** at HPL and 5 at LS 3/21. High **Hooded Merganser** count was 20 at HPL 3/21. High **Red-breasted Merganser** was 117 at LS 3/22.

First 2 **Turkey Vulture** were at Ft. Hill 2/27. A **Cooper's Hawk** took up residence in an unused industrial building 3/13 and was seen eating pigeons. 4 **Ruffed Grouse** at MK 3/29. An **Am. Coot** at LS 3/21. A **C. Snipe** was at MK 1/15 at the same spring-fed pond where present last winter. 1 was in Black Twp in a spring seep 3/12 and thereafter present in roadside ditches and wet fields.

First migrant **Ring-billed Gull** were 5 in farm fields nr Rockwood; an imm. **Herring** was with a flock of Ring-bills at LS 3/27. A **Short-eared Owl** was at Dumas 3/25 at a reclaimed strip mine eating a robin. 10 **Horned Lark** in Black Twp 2/13.

A pair of **C. Raven** built a nest (found 2/11) on a structural steel beam on the outside of an unused coal processing building at Rockwood. The nest was beneath a ramp to the top of the building which kept the nest dry. Incubation was evident 3/10. 5 fledglings were in the nest by end of quarter.

Large numbers of **Am. Robin** arrived the first week of Mar. during an unseasonable warm spell. The return of cold weather caused mortality along highways. One report of an ice-covered bird being revived at an automotive service center was received. A crow was seen eating a robin 3/25. It picked up the road kill and carried it to a tree to dine. Weakened birds were taken by predators. See Short-eared Owl above. Robin numbers decreased through the end of Mar. as sub-freezing nighttime temperatures and snow cover continued.

3 **Am. Pipit** were at Confluence 3/14 and 2 at LS 3/22. 2 **Fox Sparrow** at MK 3/11. One had a leg missing. 1 **Snow Bunting** on a reclaimed strip mine 1/10. 7 **E. Meadowlark** nr Rockwood 1/29 and present at various locations afterward. 2-3 **Pine Siskin** at MK all quarter.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

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

Populations of even common birds were low all quarter. Two **C. Raven** were carrying nesting materials as early as 2/5 in WESP (MN). Raven was again noticeably more common in e. part of county than most past winters (TJ,TS). **Tufted Titmouse** was hard to find in many of its summer haunts, but quite common in Eagles Mere where there were feeders (DG,FC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was notably absent from its usual places in WSF; even **White-breasted Nuthatch** was hard to find in WSF and WESP (DG). Although nearly absent elsewhere, **Evening Grosbeak** was seen regularly in Eagles Mere this winter (FC).

OBSERVERS: Fred Crafts, **Doug Gross, RR 1 Box 147, Orangeville 17859**, Ted Jacobsen, Mike Norris, Terry Soya.

TIOGA COUNTY

Bob Ross

Abbreviations: Crooked Cr. (CC), Grand Canyon (GC), Hills Cr.L. (HCL), Hamilton L. (HLL), Hammond L. (HDL), Jobs Corners (JC), Mansfield (MF), Millerton area (MA), Marsh Cr. (MC), National Fishery Laboratory (NFL), Nessmuk L. (NL), Pine Cr. (PC), Sabinsville area (SA), The Muck (TM), Wellsboro area (WA).

Many of the larger migratory waterbirds arrived earlier than last year only to find a late winter with refrozen lakes and cold weather to follow. One to three **C. Loon** were found on HCL & HDL 3/14 (AA&LB), at least 4 weeks ahead of last year. **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes, however, were observed HCL & NL 3/31,30 (CW), almost a week later than last year. Single over-wintering **Great Blue Heron** were at TM, SA, and MC (RMR,HR,MC). <20 **Tundra Swan** per observation were seen 2/22-3/29 (v.o.). 5 **Mute Swan**, perhaps a 1st (though unwanted!) Co. record, were at CC 3/29 (RMR,BR). 2 **Gr. White-fronted Goose**, the 2nd record in a year, reported at CC 3/21 (AA&LB). 8 **Snow Goose** were at MA 3/8 (A&LB), but spectacular flights of **Canada Goose** began 2/22,23; On 3/2 >9,000 Canadas were counted in flight over JC (A&LB).

As the following table shows, ducks were well represented in terms of both spp. and numbers this spring.

Species	#	Date	Locations	Observers
Wood Duck	6	3/5-21	PC,TM,HCL	CD,RMR,A&LB
Gr-wing Teal	6	3/26-29	TM,HDL	RMR,AA&LB
Am. Black Duck	9	3/14,21	NL,CC	BR,RMR,A&LB
Mallard	108	2/22-3/28	TM,NL,HLL,CC	RMR,BR,AA&LB
N. Pintail	70	3/14-31	NL,CC,HCL	BR,RMR,AA&LB,CW
Bl-wing Teal	1	3/28	CC	AA&LB
Am. Wigeon	48	3/6-31	NL,HCL,HML,CC	BR,RMR,AA&LB,CW
Canvasback	4	3/21	CC	A&LB
Redhead	5	3/28	HCL	AA&LB
Ring-neck Duck	228	3/14-31	NL,HCL,CC,MF	BR,RMR,AA&LB CW,EE
Gr. Scaup	25	3/21-29	NL,CC,HCL	BR,RMR,AA&LB,
Ls. Scaup	4	3/21	HCL	CW
C. Goldeneye	9	3/14,29	HDL,CC	AA&LB,BR,RMR
Bufflehead	6	3/21-31	HCL,CC	A&LB,BR,RMR,CW
Hooded Merg.	44	3/3-31	TM,NL,CC,HCL	RMR,BR,CW,AA&LB
C. Merganser	60	3/1-31	PC,NL,HCL,HDL	CD,RMR,CW,AA &LB,BR
Red-brst Merg.	15	3/7-14	HDL	AA&LB

These data represent approximate increases of 40% in total spp. and 90% in total numbers over last year, partly due to additional observers. Most notably, **Wood Duck** were down, **Black Duck** and **Pintail** were present (up), **L. Scaup** were down, and all 3 spp. of **Merganser** were up.

Flocks of up to 25 **Turkey Vulture** were first sighted at GC & PC 3/10 (BR,RC), a week ahead of last year. An **Osprey** was at NFL 3/4 (RMR), some 3 weeks ahead of last year. Our resident pair of **Bald Eagle** constructed a new nest near last year's fallen nest and mated before the end of the quarter (CD). A **N. Harrier** frequented TM this quarter and another was seen at CC 3/28 (RMR,AA&LB). A single **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from WA 1/18 (MC), while **Cooper's** were seen at MA and JC 3/15,31 (JS,A&LB). A **Broad-winged Hawk** returned to the Co. an early 3/21 (at CC,A&LB), while **Rough-legged Hawk** were last reported from SA 3/1 (HR). Independent sightings of single **Golden Eagle** were made at MC & CC 2/27 & 3/14 (HR,AA&LB). Single **Merlin** were at JC and HCL 3/13,14 (A&LB).

Winter sightings of wildfowl include only a single **Ring-necked Pheasant** at MA 1/6 and 5 **Ruffed Grouse** at GC 2/18 (A&LB,BR). **Killdeer** returned to JC and NFL 3/2,3 (A&LB,GP), only 2 days later than last year. 7 **C. Snipe** chose melted roadways over snow-covered fields at NFL 3/19 (GP,RMR). **Am. Woodcock** were first seen/heard at JC and GC 3/9-12 (A&LB,BR,RMR), same dates as last year. Each migratory season for the past 3 years **Ring-billed Gull** have been found more often and in larger flocks,

usually in farm fields. Up to 50 "seagulls" were counted at WA, JC & HCL 2/23-3/8 (CW,MC,A&LB) with a high of 350 birds seen at WA 3/30 (RMR). Four spp. of owl were reported including an **E. Screech** at SA 2/2 (HR), **Great-horned** at WA and SA 1/9 and 2/2 (MC,HR), **Barred** at GC and MA 2/8 and 3/15 (BR,RMR,AA&LB), and a pair of **Short-eared** at MA 3/28 (AA&LB). The only **Belted Kingfisher** fished at TM 2/23 (RMR). A few **N. Flicker** overwintered at TM and MF 1/20 and 2/11 (RMR,EE).

An **E. Phoebe** returned to TM 3/21 (within a week of the two previous years) only to experience a frigid 10°F by the following morning and 6 in. of snow later. It was observed catching aquatic insects in an open area of a stream pool. **Tree Swallow** returned to HDL 3/28 (AA&LB), a day ahead of last year. **E. Bluebird** were not reported until 3/7,19 at Tioga and TM (MC,RMR). Three **No. Mockingbird** were sighted at JC 1/2 (A&LB). **Water Pipit** interrupted their migration to feed along roadsides at NFL and WA 3/12,14 (RMR,BR). Large flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** were seen at GC (93) and MF (>60) 1/1 and 3/28 (BR,RMR,AA&LB). An adult **Loggerhead Shrike** was found at SA 1/26 (HR, previous experience with this sp.).

Chipping Sparrow returned to WA 3/22 (MC), 2 weeks ahead of last year's first report. **Fox Sparrow** arrived 3/6 (same date as last year) but stayed much longer and in greater numbers (probably due to several waves of migrants), well into the 2nd quarter. Reports came from MA, MF,JC,TM,PC, and WA (JS,EE,A&LB,RMR,BR,RC). Four **Swamp Sparrow** were found at CC 2/23 (winter resident?; RMR,BR). Only one winter resident **White-throated Sparrow** was reported (at GC,1/7+,BR). A **Pink-sided Junco** was again reported from JC 1/10 (A&LB).

Red-winged Blackbird were seen at WA 1/17 (MC,CW), but the first waves of migrants did not arrive until 2/25-29 at WA, TM, and PC (MC,RMR,CD), only 2-3 days later than last year. **E. Meadowlark** were not sighted until 3/12,14 at WA, SA, and NL (MC,HR,BR,RMR), a week later than last year. Small flocks of **Rusty Blackbird** were first heard and seen 3/23 (RMR), a month later than last year. **Com. Grackle** arrived at WA, MC, and SA in small numbers 2/25+ (CW,RMR,HR), 2-3 days later than last year. **Brown-headed Cowbird** were not reported until 3/7-29 at WA and JC (CW,A&LB,MC), some 2 weeks later than a year ago. The only report of **Purple finch** (1) came from JC 3/2 (A&LB). **Pine Siskin** overwintered in moderate numbers at WA, JC, and GC (CW,A&LB,BR). **Evening Grosbeak** visited feeders regularly in high numbers (75) at GC all quarter (BR), but only a dozen were reported at WA 3/30 (MC).

OBSERVERS: Wayne Bonney, Arlene Austin, & Larry Brown, Ron Comstock, Martha Copp, Chuck Dillon, Dave Dropkin, Ethel Erickson, Garland Pardue, Brenda Root, Elihu & Wanda Root, **Robert M. Ross, RD 2 Box 113A, Wellsboro 16901 (717-376-5394)**, Howard Rushmore, Joanna Stickler, Chuck Weed.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

No report this quarter.

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

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Hovis Pond (HP), Kahle L (KL), Oil Creek SP (OC), Two Mile Run Park (TMR).

Work schedules kept the number of hours in the field low. Nevertheless, 48 spp. were recorded in Jan., 43 in Feb., and 60 in Mar.

The first **C. Loon** was at KL 3/29. A **Snow Goose** was among 20 **Canada Goose** at HP 2/2. Our 1st Co. record **Sandhill Crane** occurred 3/22 in the KL region by Walt Fye *et al.* The AR produced several duck spp. including a **Wood Duck** 2/2, an early

Green-winged Teal 1/31, an early **Ring-necked Duck** 1/12, the first **Hooded Merganser** 2/2 and first **N. Pintail** 3/15.

First **Turkey Vulture** was seen 2/23. The Co.'s 1st recent **Peregrine Falcon** record was 3/27 when Walt Fye *et al.* observed the bird in the KL region. Several **E. Screech-Owl** were at TMR and **Short-eared Owl** were on their usual winter strip mine on several occasions.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at TMR 1/25 and at OC 2/8 (NK). **Carolina Wren** was seen 1/5. First **C. Grackle** was 2/28. AM observed an early **Fox Sparrow** 3/12. There were no other unusual or extremely early sightings.

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

WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

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

There were 2 **C. Loon** and 2 **Horned Grebe** on the river at ST 3/30 (JS), and 7 **Horned Grebe** stopped at Neels' pond nr SA the same day (CMN). Single **Great Blue Heron** were along the Allegheny R. in Jan. The first migrating flock of **Tundra Swan** was seen over SA 2/22 (CN). The next day 8 were napping on the river at ST and 60-70 flew over IR (TG). 44 were on the river at ST 3/30 (JS). The 4 **Mute Swan** at ST seemed to be paired off (TG).

A fine blue **Snow Goose** was at Dunn's Eddy downriver from IR with 47 **Canadas** 3/2,3 (TG). A ♂ **Wood Duck** and a ♂ **Green-winged Teal** spent much of the winter again with ±270 **Mallard** on the river at Warren Gen. Hosp. where people feed them. 13 **Am. Black Duck** were nr IR 2/16 (BHI). 7 **Oldsquaw** were at ST 3/31 (TG), and 3 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/30 (JS). 41 **Hooded Merganser** were counted in one flock in WA 1/1 (BHI).

3 ad. **Bald Eagle** were in WA 1/1 (BHI,CP), and 2 were often seen at KD in Jan. An imm. was nr Tidioute 1/10 (BHg,TG). A **N. Harrier** was nr LA 2/23 (DW). At least 8 **Cooper's Hawk** were reported through the quarter; 1 caught a robin. An ad. ♀ **Am. Kestrel** banded nr LA by DW 6/15/91 was found dead at Monticello, Fla. (nr Tallahassee) 10/27/91.

First **Am. Woodcock** report was of 1 calling at WA 3/4 (DW). **Ring-billed Gull**, so abundant in early winter, were practically absent in Feb. & Mar. 40+ **Mourning Dove** were at JP's home nr N. Warren 1/3. Please see the separate account of the **Great Gray Owl**.

A **N. Flicker** was in WA 2/14 and 2 on SLR 2/28 (TG). 30 **Horned Lark** were at AK 2/8 (BHg,DD). 2 **C. Raven** were seen out of usual habitat just w. of AK 1/28 (BHg,DD). 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were at KD 2/22 (CP). 2-6 **E. Bluebird** were seen 2/8-23 at four locations. Several flocks of 7-200 **Am. Robin** were noted through Jan. & Feb. A **N. Mockingbird** was nr LA 1/19 (DW), and 1 in WA 3/23 (BHg). ±200 **Cedar Waxwing** were estimated at SLR 2/13 (TG). A **N. Shrike** was at the same location on SLR for the 3rd straight winter 1/12 (DW) & 2/28 (TG). Others were seen at SLR 1/28 (DD,BHg), Columbus 3/11 (DD), AK 2/8 (BHI,CP), and w. of WA 2/23 (DW).

A flock of 15 **Snow Bunting** was nr LA 1/22 (DW). First **Rusty Blackbird** was 1 at Neels' feeder at SA 3/3. A **Purple Finch** appeared at Barnes 1/16 (DBD). Neels' feeder at SA hosted 1 or 2 **C. Redpoll** in late Feb., up to 50 **Pine Siskin** regularly through Jan., with lesser numbers in Feb. & Mar., and 8-10 **Evening Grosbeak** daily in Jan. (CMN).

OBSERVERS: Merle Caldwell, Keith Confer, Dan Doherty, Don & Brita Dorn, Ted Grisez, 10 Belmont Dr, Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse (BHg), Bill Hill (BHI), Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Jan Palmer, Chase Putnam, John Schultz, Don Watts.

WAYNE COUNTY

Pat Walters

Abbreviations: Hideout, L. Ariel (LA).

Observations by compiler at LA unless otherwise noted. 3 **Canada Goose** 2/27. A flock of 16 **Wild Turkey** was seen 3/6 (JC). **Killdeer** returned 3/5 and there were 15 along Rt. 690 nr Hollisterville 3/13 which were doing their "broken wing" act. The late snow/ice storm 3/19 may have been devastating to them as they were silent afterwards. (A positive note, 2 in Apr. apparently nesting.) **Am. Woodcock** were noted 3/24.

Mourning Dove were cooing by 2/7. 2 **Pileated Woodpecker** in Honesdale 2/2 delighted m.ob. (L). 2 **Am. Robin** in Hamlin apparently over-wintered feeding on the numerous berries available (GG). 12–15 **Cedar Waxwing** were attracted to sumac shrubs in LA. For the 1st time in 5 years I had **Eur. Starling** at our feeders 1/27–3/5. 3 **Fox Sparrow** at LA 3/13. A **Red-winged Blackbird** visited our feeders 1/27, earliest ever noted here. Also interesting was the fact that we had 200+ **Am. Goldfinch** at one time at our feeders and m.ob. reported the same!

OBSERVERS: Joe Casalone, Gary Gogohan, Alex Lilje, Pat Walters, PO Box 190, Moscow 18444 (717-842-0730).

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Donegal L. (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Res. (TRR), [also known as Latrobe Res.], Ligonier Valley (LV), Linn Run SP (LR), Loyalhanna Water Gap (LWG), Mammoth Park (MP).

This quarter was relatively uneventful, with few northern finches invading the area. And, in spite of the mild weather during most of the period, few semi-hardy birds remained to winter. The severest weather occurred during the last 2 weeks of Mar. when snow accumulated up to 1' or more; temperatures fell to below zero on 2 mornings during this late storm. Several species, such as Chipping Sparrow and towhee, which normally return to this area in late Mar. were still missing at the end of the period.

Best **C. Loon** count was just 5 at TRR 1/30 (RCL). A count of 15 **Horned Grebe** was made at DL 3/23,24 (RCL,LB). A white morph **Snow Goose** was seen with Canadas at DL 3/24 (LB,RCL,MEW). First 2 **Wood Duck** were at PNR 2/5 (RCL); 4 at DL 3/20 (MEW). A good count of 17 **Redhead** was at DL 3/20 (MEW). A flock of 32 **Ring-necked Duck** was on DL 3/15 (MEW). 13 **Ls. Scaup** were at DL 3/2 and 40 were there 3/23 (RCL). Best count of **Oldsquaw** was 4 at DL 3/26 (MEW). TR & BR found the first 2 **Hooded Merganser** at DL 3/1, and the species apparently peaked there at 40 3/23 (RCL). Only report of **C. Merganser** (unusual here in spring) was of 3 at DL 3/20 (MEW). A flock of 24 **Red-breasted Merganser** was on TRR 3/3 (BR,TR).

First **Turkey Vulture** was seen nr LR 3/1 (CN); a flock of 7 was nr their traditional nesting area along LWG w. of Ligonier 3/28 (DB). Only **N. Harrier** reported was nr Pleasant Grove s. of Ligonier 11/17 (RCL). The season's only **Rough-legged Hawk** was found 3 mi. s. of Ligonier 1/17 (HMS). No **Killdeer** were known to winter in LV, where the first 2 migrants were not found until 2/25 at TRR (RCL). Earliest record for **C. Snipe** was from PNR 3/11 (RCL). First **Ring-billed Gull** were 2 at DL 2/18 (RCL).

On 4/2 a wildlife rehabilitator received a fully feathered fledgling Mourning Dove from Youngwood, estimated to be 14-20 days old—suggesting a hatching date somewhere nr mid-Mar—early for this area (*vide* BeS). Rare in winter here, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** spent most of the season nr a feeding station at Donegal (*vide* BS). At least 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found wintering nr PNR, where they are scarce at this season, from 2/5+ (MLS). First (early!) **E. Phoebe** was reported from Ruffsedale 3/4 (JW), and subsequently nr Stahlstown 3/5 (LB), at PNR 3/6 (RCL,RSM), and at Jeannette 3/10 (VC). A heavy price was paid by many such early phoebes when severe weather returned; at PNR 3 were found dead on or nr. nests where they had attempted to roost during the sub-zero weather of late

Mar., and undoubtedly many others also perished. **C. Raven** has increasingly been found in the LV away from the forested ridges; HMS reported 4 nr her home about 3 mi. s. of Ligonier 2/29, and 1 or 2 were also seen irregularly at PNR. Two **N. Mockingbird** were found nr MP 2/2 (VC), and 1–2 wintered nr DL (v.o.).

First **Fox Sparrow** had returned to PNR by 2/22 (RCL), and numbers were good thereafter, with 23 banded by the end of the period. Best count of **Rusty Blackbird** was 13 nr DL 3/7 (MEW). 5 **E. Meadowlark** were at Acme Dam 3/16 (MEW). The **House Finch** dominated most feeding stations, and at PNR a total of 326 was banded this quarter. **Pine Siskin** were scattered about the LV in small numbers, with no feeding station reporting very large numbers. Three Evening Grosbeak at a feeder nr Stahlstown 3/14 (BR) were the only such report.

OBSERVERS: Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Larry Barth, Dick Byers, Virginia Cronenberger, Bonnie Mulvihill, Chuck Norton, Bill Rea, Barb Rich, Ted Rich, Bob Shaw (BS), Martha Lou Schove, Helen M. Schmidt, Beth Shoaf(BeS), Judy Ward, Michael & Evaleen Watko.

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Abbreviations: Codorus SP (CSP), Collinsville (CV), E. Berlin Rd (EB), Gifford Pinchot SP (GP), Gut Rd (GR), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Marietta Watershed (MW), Spring Grove (SG), Wrightsville (WR).

An **Eared Grebe** at CSP 1/26 (KL,JW,CK,EO,ph.RR). First **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Loucks Mill Rd. herony 3/30 (AS). **Tundra Swan** reports include: 2 at CSP in Jan; 27 flying over n.w. WR 2/22 (JLD); ±50 leaving GP 3/9 AS). 6 white **Snow Goose** at CSP 3/23 (AS).

A **Wood Duck** at SG 1/20 (AS) and first migrants at GR 2/22 (JJP). A **Eurasian Wigeon** at CSP 3/28 (KL,BG) was seen later (DH). 5 **Canvasback** at CSP 1/19 (RR). **Redhead** numbers were low at CSP until 2/9 when 50 were seen (RS,LL). At 6 locations a total of 280 **Ring-necked Duck** were seen 3/4–24. A ♂ **White-winged Scoter** at Sheppard Myers Dam 3/22 (RR). 6–80 **C. Merganser** at GP 1/19–2/21 (JJP,AS). 3 (about average) **Ruddy Duck** at CSP until 2/3 (AS *et al.*).

A **N. Goshawk** at CV 1/11 (MS,GS). A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Wild Horse Farm 3/9 (AS) and a **Peregrine Falcon** nr Outdoor CC 3/25 (FS). A **Gr. Yellowlegs** at CSP 3/17 (CG). A **C. Black-headed Gull** was found along race of discharge water at Peach Bottom power plant 2/23 (†,ph.RS). A **Barn Owl** at GP 3/9 (RK) and 2 **Short-eared Owl** at EB 1/10 (WF).

A 1/17 survey of 12 locations in 7 twp of our CBC area yielded 29 **Red-headed Woodpecker** (RR). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at a Wilshire Hills feeder 1/17–19 (AS). A **E. Phoebe** at WR bridge 2/2+ (BD,JLD). Several **Purple Martin** 3/15 at Winterstown and Hanover houses. 6 **Tree Swallow** at CSP 3/15 (AS). A leucistic **Am. Crow** 1/2–3/14; the wings were light gray above and below with a few dark streaks on the underside. The leucistic **chickadee** first reported at MW feeder 12/6/89 has been seen each winter since then until 2/3/92. Only 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported and none since 2/25. Best count of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was 5 at CSP 1/26 (JW,KL,CK,EO) and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** on GR 1/19 (JJP).

±50 **Am. Robin** in GR woods 2/17 (AS). ±150 **Am. Pipit** at EB 1/19 (WF) and 2 smaller groups at CSP & LAD 3/19 (DH). A flock of 24 **E. Meadowlark** at LAD 1/20 (RR,AS). Only a few **Purple Finch** & **Pine Siskin** reported in Mar. A **C. Redpoll** was at a feeder nr Glen Rock (HS).

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