

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 19, No. 1
Dec 2004 - Feb 2005
Issued June 2005





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 19 Number 1 Dec 2004 - Feb 2005

Nick Pulcinella - Editor-in-chief
(610) 696-0687 nickpulcinella@comcast.net
<http://www.pabirds.org>

Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning
Michael Fialkovich
Albert Guarente
Deuane Hoffman

Department Editors

Book Reviews

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.
513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock 16057-1145
724-794-2434
GeneWilhelm@aol.com

CBC Report

Nick Bolgiano
711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
814-234-2746
NBolgiano@minitab.com

Hawk Watch Reports

Kyle McCarty
Keith Bildstein
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
1700 Hawk Mountain Road
Kempton 19529
(610) 756-6961
mccarty@hawkmntn.org

NAMC

Bill Etter
1030 Old Bethlehem Road
Apt#2
Perkasie, PA 18944
(215)-258-0229
better@netcarrier.com

Pennsylvania Birdlists

Peter Robinson
P. O. Box 482
Hanover, PA 17331
pabirder@hotmail.com

Photo-Quiz

Rick Wiltraut
Jacobsburg EE Center
835 Jacobsburg Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

Data Technician

Wendy Jo Shemansky
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.
Daisytown, PA
pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

Publication Manager

Franklin Haas
2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

Contents

- 1 **Editorial**
- 2 The Imperial Grasslands—Site Overview and a Summary of Bird Records
..... Mike Fialkovich
- 8 First Pennsylvania Record of Gray Kingbird Nick Pulcinella
- 9 BOOK REVIEW - *The American Bird Conservancy Guide to the 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States – Key Sites for Birds and Birding in all 50 States* Gene Wilhelm
- 10 Photo Quiz #7 Answer Rick Wiltraut
- 11 First Pennsylvania Record of MacGillivray's Warbler Bernie Morris
- 12 Pennsylvania Bird Lists For 2004 compiled by Peter Robinson
- 18 The 13th Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological records Committee
..... Matt Sharp and Nick Pulcinella
- 27 Redwing (*Turdus Iliacus*) - Bucks County August Mirabella
- 29 First Record of Sedge Wren wintering in Pennsylvania Rick Wiltraut
- 30 Serendipitous Birding or Lucky Chasing John Fedak
- 31 Townsend's Solitaire *McKean County* Len Groshek
- 32 The 2005 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania Greg Grove
- 35 The 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania
..... Nicholas C. Bolgiano
- 52 Summary of the Season - December 2004-February 2005 ... Albert Guarente
- 53 Birds of Note - December 2004-February 2005
- 55 Photo Highlights
- 60 Local Notes
Photo-Quiz #8 - Inside back cover

Cover: **Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). This immature was present at the Shamrock Christmas Tree Farm in Pomeroy, Chester 12-20 December 2004 establishing a first state record. The buff edges to the secondary coverts and brownish wings identify it as an immature. Photographed here 18 December 2004 (Geoff Malosh).

from the Editor...

The Pennsylvania Birds Editorial Board held a meeting recently to review the results of the reader survey conducted last year. The majority of comments were favorable and most felt the publication served their needs. One feature, the Migration Tables, received a mostly negative response. Most respondents reported they don't read them.

The Editorial Board mulled over a few options regarding the tables and has decided to continue to gather information on migration dates but to move the tables to the PSO website <http://www.pabirds.org> where they will be available for those interested.

The migration tables provide a wealth of useful information to researchers. The forthcoming *Annotated List of Pennsylvania Birds* relied heavily on the years of data provided by these tables. I used these tables to supplement my personal data when writing the *Birds of Delaware County* and anyone who is contemplating a book on their county birdlife would do well

to research these tables.

We hope that the county compilers will continue to supply this important data to *Pennsylvania Birds*. Anyone who does not have access to the Internet and would prefer to have hard copies of the tables mailed to them please notify the chief editor.

Pennsylvania Birdlists

This issue contains the most recent list totals submitted by Pennsylvania birders. Please note in Peter Robinson's introduction to the lists that beginning next year the county threshold number will be increased to 125 species. Peter and I have also discussed the possibility of a "Total Tick" category. This would be a grand total of all species seen in all 67 counties. This category would allow those who cannot make a county threshold to still have their effort recognized.

The Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas

The second breeding bird atlas is well underway and I encourage anyone contemplating participating to contact a regional coordinator as soon as possible. There are still plenty of blocks to sign up for and plenty of birds to confirm. You can contact the regional coordinators for your area at www.pabirdatlas.org or call 724-593-6022.

Nick Pulcinella
Editor-in-Chief

PSO T-shirts now come in three colors! (Natural, Bamboo Green, and Blue)



With the round PSO Logo on the front and a larger image of the Pileated-on-Pennsylvania graphic on the back.
To order, use the order form included with this issue or visit the PSO web site www.pabirds.org and download an order form.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A. \$28.50, Canada \$40, Foreign \$45. Library rate \$30. Single copies: \$5.50. Checks and money orders in U.S.\$ only should be made payable to **PSO**. Copyright © 2005 by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555**
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **PSO**, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

The Imperial Grasslands Site Overview and a Summary of Bird Records

Mike Fialkovich

Introduction

The Imperial Grasslands are an extensive reclaimed strip mine in western Allegheny County, near the town of Imperial in Findlay Township, extending into northern Washington County (Map 1). The area is roughly bordered on the east and north by State Route 30, on the south by State Route 22, and on the west by the Allegheny/Washington County border (Map 2).

When the site was “discovered,” birders were keenly interested in exploring the only extensive grassland habitat in Allegheny County. Although the county is extensively developed, hillsides, stream valleys, and numerous parks contain good habitat for migrant, resident and breeding birds. However, it was necessary to travel north or east of Pittsburgh to find grassland species. The strip mines at Imperial provided a place to seek birds associated with grasslands without traveling long distances outside of the Pittsburgh area.

Former Allegheny County compiler Ted Floyd encouraged local birders to explore this area after his first visit in March 1994 (although a few other locals were aware of the area prior to his “discovery”). Ted spoke with great excitement about the birds at the site and the incredible potential this location had to offer. What’s interesting is Ted’s

discovery was quite fortuitous; he decided to explore the western part of the county (where few birders ventured) using what he described as “an imprecise road map and a yearning to see good birds.” The potential of the site became evident when a singing Lark Sparrow was found in April 1994.

Besides the rare birds that have been recorded here, densities of uncommon species such as Vesper and Henslow’s Sparrows are amazingly high. Horned Larks, Brown Thrashers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Prairie Warblers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Field Sparrows, and Savannah Sparrows can be found in good numbers. The populations of Vesper and Henslow’s Sparrows are certainly among the highest in western Pennsylvania.

Site Overview

Typical of a reclaimed strip mine, extensive, gently sloping grassy “plains” dominate the site (Figure 1), however that is not all Imperial has to offer. Brushy habitats are found along the roads and throughout the area as succession is slowly taking place in the nutrient-poor soils (Figure 2). Pioneering Black Locust trees dot the landscape as they spread into the grassland. Quaking Aspen, Big Tooth Aspen, and Staghorn Sumac

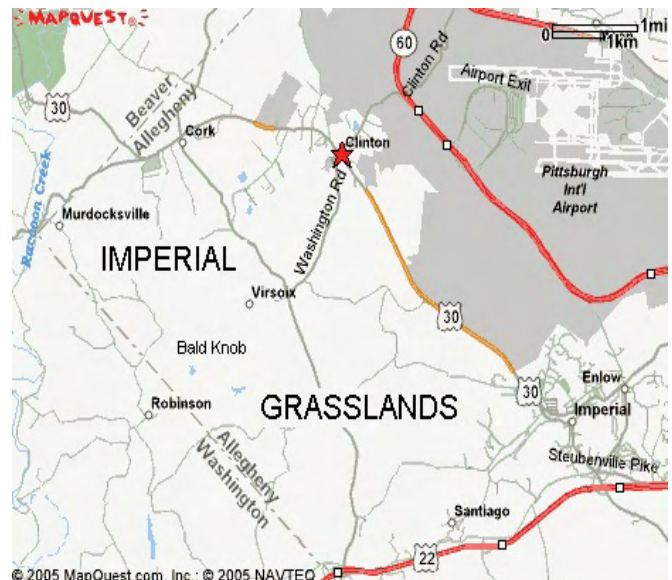
form tightly packed groves along the borders of the fields. An extensive area of scattered aspens behind the ponds on Bald Knob Road is particularly favored by Vesper Sparrows. The road is named after this high point of the mine.

Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose and non-native honeysuckles (probably Morrow’s or Tartarian) spread across the area from nearby State Game Lands #117, a few miles to the west in Washington County. These shrubs are commonly planted to provide food for wildlife. The game lands are part of a network of former strip mines that extend throughout this area. Other habitats at the site include Norway Spruce, European Larch, and Jack Pine plantations used as part of the reclamation process because the trees have the ability to survive in the nutrient poor soils following mining and provide erosion control (Figure 3). A few large White Pines can be found in the area as well. The fields and roads are bordered by native second growth woodland. Streams in the woodlands provide habitat for species such as Acadian Flycatcher and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Other features (common in reclaimed strip mines) include several shallow ponds that attract migrant shorebirds and waterfowl.



Map 1: General location of the Imperial Grasslands in western Allegheny County. The area lies west of Pittsburgh, near the borders of Washington and Beaver Counties.



Map 2: Detailed map of the Imperial Grasslands west of the Pittsburgh International Airport and State Route 30. The Bald Knob area is the location where the majority of shorebird and grassland species have been recorded.

Two large ponds are easily visible along Bald Knob Road, and there are many more out of sight in the fields. Cattail marshes and beaver ponds are scattered along Potato Garden Run Road, and despite the effects of acid runoff, breeding species such as Swamp Sparrows and Wood Ducks, and migrants such as Sora, Virginia Rail, and blackbirds can be found. There is also a large pond with many standing dead trees at Bald Knob where Hooded Mergansers and Tree Swallows nest.

The Imperial Landfill is visible from many points at the site and large numbers of Turkey Vultures and American Crows gather to feed there.

Ornithological Highlights

Birds that were rarely reported in the county became regulars in the Allegheny County reports as Imperial was covered regularly. An impressive variety of shorebirds have been recorded at the site, and populations of grassland species rivaled those found anywhere in the state. In addition, a few rarities highlighted the list over the years.

Blue Grosbeak - One of the most extraordinary discoveries was a small disjunct population of Blue Grosbeaks at the site. Two birds (a female and juvenile) were found in August 1994, and for four years following that discovery, Blue Grosbeaks were easily seen in the brushy areas along Bald Knob Road. Males were observed in territorial squabbles and singing from power lines or treetops. Females could be found foraging in the fields and shrubs. Strangely, just as suddenly as the birds were found, they abruptly disappeared. For unknown reasons, the birds did not return in the spring of 1998. Despite repeated searches throughout the area in subsequent years, this species has not been seen since that time.

Shorebirds - Over time it became clear that in terms of species variety, Imperial was one of the most productive locations for migrant shorebirds in Pennsylvania with twenty seven species recorded. The most astounding record was a Snowy Plover found at one of the ponds along Bald Knob Road (the third record in the state). Other interesting species include American Avocet, (the only record for Allegheny County), Long-billed Dowitcher (the only record for



Figure 1. Vast open "plains" and one of the shallow ponds at the Bald Knob section of the Imperial Grasslands.

Allegheny County), Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Upland Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper (a first county record), Stilt Sandpiper, Sanderling, and Ruddy Turnstone (the last two species rarely recorded away from the Lake Erie shore). Large flocks of Wilson's Snipe are regularly seen during migration and Spotted Sandpipers and American Woodcocks breed here. Shorebird variety of this magnitude was unheard of in Allegheny.

Grassland Species - The density of grassland species is noteworthy. All the expected grassland sparrows can be found in good numbers. Singing Clay-colored Sparrows were

present in spring for several years, but always seemed to move on. There was an instance of a bird observed carrying food, but breeding was never confirmed. A bird singing in July was suggestive of breeding, or at least a bird on territory.

Initially Short-eared Owls were found only in the winter, and Northern Harriers are present all year. Both species were confirmed nesting in the summer of 1997.

Other species associated with grasslands are also found in good numbers. Horned Larks, Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks are summer residents. American Pipits are regularly found in good numbers during migration. Single Lapland



Figure 2. Grassland interspersed with shrubs and second growth woodland.

Longspurs were found twice, and small numbers of Snow Buntings were sometimes seen in the winter. A flock of approximately thirty lingered in the area in the winter of 2004. Rough-legged Hawks were found regularly in winter and in good numbers during the winter of 2004 when the state experienced an incursion of this species.

Conclusion and Future of the Site

The Imperial Grasslands gave birders the opportunity to find good concentrations of grassland species, rare migrants and uncommon breeders in the Pittsburgh area. The birds themselves benefitted from the habitat available to sustain them as residents, breeders, and stopover migrants. Birders have enjoyed observing the birds of this reclaimed strip mine and surrounding woodlands for many years. In the summer of 2004, this began to change drastically.

All the excitement of birding the area came to an abrupt halt several years ago as local newspapers revealed a proposal to construct a road connecting the Pittsburgh International Airport to areas south of the city in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion and to provide a direct route to the airport from the south. The road was to bisect Bald Knob, one of the most productive areas and the site of two large ponds where many shorebirds have been observed.

In the summer of 2004, the plans became reality as construction began. A large portion of Bald Knob was bulldozed, eliminating the grassland. A grove of Jack Pines was removed, some small ponds were drained, and as the project continued, some of the access roads were closed. Fortunately, the ponds along Bald Knob Road were spared, and should remain intact when the road is complete. There are still large areas of grassland and brush available, but the concern among birders is the likely development of the surrounding land once construction of the road is completed. The future of the site is tenuous and it remains to be seen how much of the area will remain as habitat for birds.

Birders plan to continue to cover the remaining area as much as possible and to document the birds that remain at the site. Although losing this area is very disappointing, birders are thankful

they had the opportunity to enjoy the birds found here, and document the variety of migrant, breeding and rare birds that have been discovered. The Imperial Grasslands certainly provided an impressive array of bird records for the state.

Annotated List of Birds of the Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny County March 1994 thru December 2004

The following is a list of all species known to have occurred at the Imperial Grasslands. All records are from Allegheny County. If a species was found just outside the main grassland and surrounding woodlands, it is noted and included for supplemental information. Exact boundaries at the site are difficult to select and are somewhat flexible. Not all annotations list all occurrences of a particular species. Low numbers of records for certain species are not an indication of abundance in Allegheny County (for example there are only a few records for Chestnut-sided Warbler, but this is a common migrant in the county).

Canada Goose – Resident; often observed with young around the ponds on Bald Knob Road in the summer.

Mute Swan - One record. A bird was on the large pond along Bald Knob Road 24 December 2002 and remained until 12 January 2003.

Tundra Swan – Migrant. Three records of flocks in flight over the area: an estimated three after dark on 12 March 2002, 38 on 29 November 2003, and an unknown number heard on 12 February 2004. One 2 March 1996 on one of the ponds.

Wood Duck - Breeds in area beaver ponds; withdraws from the area in winter. On 19 June 1997, 16 young were observed with a male and two females.

Gadwall – Uncommon migrant. Three records: one on 13 August 1994, four on 12 April 1998, and two on 30 March 2002.

American Wigeon – Uncommon migrant. Eight records, all in spring: three 28-31 March 1997, one on 8 April 1997, two on 20 April 2000, one on 22 February 2001, two on

23 March 2001, two on 28 April 2002, one on 11 April 2003, and two 13 March 2004.

American Black Duck - Uncommon in late summer, fall and winter. Confirmed breeding 17 June 1995 when an adult was observed with two juveniles. Not confirmed breeding in subsequent years. One early summer record of a bird 1 June 2004. Maximum count of 15 on 4 April 1995.

Mallard – Resident.

Blue-winged Teal – Breeds. First confirmed breeding 17 June 1995 when two adults were seen with seven young. A family group of five birds was present on 26 April 1997, and nine on 28 June 1997. On 4 July 2001, four adults and three young were noted. Other breeding records: a female with seven young 18 May 2002, a female with three young 1 June 2002 and a female with nine young 1 June 2004.

Northern Shoveler – Uncommon migrant. Five records: 15 on 17 September 1994, two on 31 February 1997, two 11-12 April 2003, six on 24 March 2004 and one on 10 December 2004.

Northern Pintail – Uncommon migrant. Three records: four on 2 March 1996, two on 31 March 1997 and two on 27 March 2002.

Green-winged Teal – Fairly common migrant. High counts include 32 on 27 March 2002, and 26 on 26 March 2002.

Canvasback – Uncommon migrant. Four records: 16 on 17 March 1997, one or two on 29 October 1997, two on 10 March 2004 and one on 31 October 2004.

Ring-necked Duck – Fairly common migrant, all records from spring. High counts include 32 on 23 March 2001 and 46 on 30 March 2002.

Greater Scaup – Uncommon migrant. Six records: one on 25 March 1993, two on 25 March 1999, one on 30 March 1999, one on 20 December 2001, one 6-7 April 2003 and one 21 November to 5 December 2004.

Lesser Scaup – Uncommon migrant. Four records: one on 21 April 2002, one on 25 March 2003, one on 26 March 2004 and 13 on 14 April 2004. One Scaup sp. was present 9 April 2003.

Long-tailed Duck – Rare migrant. Two records, both on a pond along Bald Knob Road. One 26 March 1994 and one 21 March 2004; photo in *Pennsylvania Birds*,



Figure 3. Larch plantation along Bald Knob Road.

- Bufflehead** – Fairly common migrant; eleven records, all from spring.
- Common Goldeneye** – One record: one on 25 March 1999.
- Hooded Merganser** - Confirmed breeding in May 1996 when a female was found with seven young; first breeding record in Allegheny County. A female with five young was present 7 June 1997. A female with two young was present 20 June 1998. A female was seen with eight young 18 May 2002 and a female with nine young was found 10 May 2003.
- Red-breasted Merganser** – Uncommon migrant. Three records: two on 11 April 1999, two on 23 April 2004 and one on 30 April 2004.
- Ruddy Duck** – Fairly common migrant. Maximum count of 19 on 13 April 2003.
- Common Loon** – Rare migrant. Two records. A bird was present on a pond on Bald Knob Road 8 May 2003 and four were flyovers on 23 April 2004.
- Pied-billed Grebe** - recorded fairly regularly. This species has lingered in the area late in the spring which suggested breeding, but was never confirmed. One summer record of a bird 9 July 2004.
- Horned Grebe** – One record of a bird on 17 September 1994.
- Red-necked Grebe** – One or two records. A bird was present on the large pond on Bald Knob Road 3-18 April 2003 following a statewide spring invasion of this species. One (perhaps the same individual) was present at the late date of 3 June 2003.
- Double-crested Cormorant** – Few records. Seven were found on 1 December 2003. Birds are mainly found along the rivers in the county.
- American Bittern** - One record of a bird at one of the ponds on Bald Knob Road 30 September 1997.
- Great Blue Heron** - Regular (probably resident) in the area. A large rookery of over 30 nests is just over the border in Washington County.
- Great Egret** – Rare migrant. Three records: single birds on 8 April 1995, 20 August 2000 and two May 2004.
- Green Heron** - Fairly regular in summer. A nest was discovered in the summer of 2004.
- Black Vulture** – Two records: one on 30 June 1997 (second Allegheny County record), and one on 18 April 2004 at the Imperial Landfill.
- Turkey Vulture** - Can be seen flying over at any location in the grasslands. Large numbers can always be seen at the Imperial Landfill. This species was noted throughout the winter in 2004.
- Osprey** – Rare migrant. Four records of single birds on 1 August 1996, 9 May 1998, 18 April 2003 and 10 April 2004.
- Bald Eagle** – One record. An immature observed in flight 16 May 1997.
- Northern Harrier** - Resident. Confirmed breeding 6 June 1997; photo in *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 11, No. 4. Ten were found 29 October 1994, and 16 were observed at a communal roost 9 November 1995.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** - Resident.
- Cooper's Hawk** - Resident.
- Red-shouldered Hawk** - Resident.
- Broad-winged Hawk** – Breeds.
- Red-tailed Hawk** - Resident. A leucistic bird was seen 8 May 1996.
- Rough-legged Hawk** – Irregular winter resident. First recorded January 1996. Not reported in 1998 or 2001. Maximum count of seven on 11 February 2004. During the winter of 2004 good numbers of this species wintered across Pennsylvania. Both color morphs were present in the winter of 2004. Four were present November – December 2004.
- Golden Eagle** – One record of a bird flushed from the ground where it carried off a rabbit sized mammal 3 October 1996.
- American Kestrel** - Resident.
- Merlin** – Rare migrant. Five records of single birds on 6 August 1995, 14 October 1997, 22 December 2003, 16 April 2004 and 18 September 2004.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** – Resident but probably declining.
- Ruffed Grouse** - Resident. Often heard drumming in the larch plantation along Bald Knob Road.
- Wild Turkey** - Resident. Flocks of over 60 birds have been recorded in the area. A nest was found along Bald Knob Road in 2003.
- Virginia Rail** - Uncommon migrant. Not recorded often due to secretive nature. One summer record of a bird present 30 June 1995 suggested possible breeding. At least three birds were found in a small wetland on the Washington/Allegheny County border 5 July 1995 and were believed to be breeding. This wetland was drained and filled in 1996 (C. Tague, pers. comm.). Subsequent searches in other years failed to produce birds during the breeding season. Other records: one was present 19-20 August 1994 and a few were found in the spring of 2003 and 2004.
- Sora** – Uncommon migrant. One heard 17 April – 18 May 2004 and 30 May 2004. One heard in May 2003 just outside the area covered by this list. Probably regular, but not detected.
- American Coot** – Uncommon migrant; only a few records: one on 5, 8, and 26 April 1997, one 18-20 May 2004 and one on 5 December 2004.
- Black-bellied Plover** – Rare migrant. Five records: one 12 August 1994, two on 16 May 1997, one on 2 October 2000, two on 23 April 2004 and one on 13 August 2004.
- American Golden-Plover** – Rare migrant. Seven records: one 26 August 1995 was a first county record, four on 30 September 1995, one on 19 September 1998, one on 10 April 2000, one on 14-16 September 2001, one on 20 August 2002 and one flying over and calling 18 September 2004.
- Snowy Plover** – Accidental. One record of a bird on 6 August 2002. Extremely rare in the Northeast and only the third Pennsylvania record. Seen by many observers and photographed.
- Semipalmated Plover** – Regular migrant. Usually found singly or in pairs. High counts include seven on 19 May 2004, and seven on 12 August 2004.
- Killdeer** – Breeds. High counts: 60 on 13 August 1994 and 60 on 4 August 2004.
- American Avocet** - One record of a bird on 23 August 1995; photo in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 9, No. 3. First Allegheny County record.
- Greater Yellowlegs** - Common spring and fall migrant. A maximum count of 21 were present on 28 April 1998. Six late fall migrants were present 16 November 2002. A late spring or early fall migrant was present 22 June 2003.
- Lesser Yellowlegs** - Common spring and fall migrant. High counts include 23 on 13 August 1994, 16 on 2 May 2004 and 11 on 30 July 2004.
- Solitary Sandpiper** – Common spring and fall migrant. High counts: 10 on 14 August 1997 and nine on 22 July 1999.
- Spotted Sandpiper** – Breeds.
- Upland Sandpiper** – Rare migrant. One 20 August 1994, one on 13 August 1995, one on 13 July 2002, two on 23 April 2004 and one on 24 April 2004.
- Ruddy Turnstone** – Rare migrant. Three records: one on 13 May 2002, three on 10 August 2004 and one on 20 August 2004. The birds in 2004 appeared during thunderstorms.
- Sanderling** – One record of a bird at one of the ponds on Bald Knob Road 5 August 2001. Third county record.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** – Common spring and fall migrant. High counts include 11 on 2 August 1997, ten on 11 May 2004, 13 on 3 June 2004 and 11 on 8 September 2004.
- Western Sandpiper** – Rare migrant, four records. One sight record 8 August 1997 was a first Allegheny County record, one well photographed 22 August 2002, two on 5 August 2004 seen and identified by voice, one sight record of a bird 8 September 2004.
- Least Sandpiper** - Common spring and fall migrant. High counts include 34 on 11 May 1997, 28 on 7 May 2004 and 17 on 12 August 2004. Latest fall record: two on 22 November 1998.
- White-rumped Sandpiper** – Regular migrant. High counts include eight on 10 May 1997, four on 8 May 2003 and 13 on 9 May 2004. Latest spring record was a bird present 1 - 15 June 2004.
- Baird's Sandpiper** – Uncommon migrant. Records: one on 26 August 1995, one on 12 September 1995, five on 20 August 2002, with two remaining 23 August 2002, three on 25 August 2003, five 28-29 August 2003, two on 30 August 2003 and one on 30 August 2004.
- Pectoral Sandpiper** - Fairly common migrant. A maximum count of 40 birds were found on 5 April 1995. A good count of 12 were found 25 March 2003.
- Dunlin** – Regular spring and fall migrant. A maximum count of 35 were put down during a thunderstorm 25 May 1997. Latest dates include one on 9 November 1999 and one 14 November 2003.
- Stilt Sandpiper** – Uncommon migrant. Records: one on 18 August 1994, one on 20 August 1995, one on 7 September 1996 during the passage of Hurricane Fran, two on 8 August 1997, one on 25 July 2001, two on 13 July 2002 and one 4-5 September 2003. A high count of seven on 26 July 2004 were put down following thunderstorms. One 8-11 September 2004.
- Short-billed Dowitcher** - Uncommon migrant. High counts include 27 on 15 May 1997, nine on 12 May 2002 and 46 on 9 May 2004.
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – One record. An adult present with three Short-billed Dowitchers 18 July 2004 was well photographed. First Allegheny County record.
- Wilson's Snipe** – Common migrant. High counts include 18 in the spring of 1994, 33 on 14 April 1996, 30 on 30 March 2002 and 60 on 16 April 2002. One summer record of a bird on 30 June 1997. Latest fall date was 1 on 12 November 2004.
- American Woodcock** - Breeds.
- Wilson's Phalarope** – Rare migrant. Records: one on 20 August 1994, three on 25 August 1996, one on 6 May 1997, one on 10 May 1997, one on 14 May 1999 and one on 15 May 2002.
- Red-necked Phalarope** – Two records. One 7 September 1996 during the passage of Hurricane Fran. Photo published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 10, No.3, which resulted in disagreement on the identification (some claimed the bird was

a Red Phalarope, some agreed it was a Red-necked. Perhaps it needs to be revisited). Regardless of the species, it was a first county record. One 26-27 August 2002.

Bonaparte's Gull – Uncommon migrant. Five records, all from spring: 11 on 17 April 1997, one on 3-4 May 2003, 23 on 27 March 2004, 60 on 9 April 2004 and six on 11 April 2004.

Ring-billed Gull – Small numbers regularly at the Imperial Landfill in fall, winter, and early spring.

Herring Gull – Occasionally seen in small numbers at the Imperial Landfill. Seven were there 20 August 2004.

Caspian Tern – One record: two on 30 April 1998.

Common Tern – Rare migrant. Two records: one on 26 May 1996, and one put down during a thunderstorm 25 May 1997.

Forster's Tern – One record: six grounded during a thunderstorm 25 May 1997.

Black Tern – Rare migrant, but a surprising number of records: nine on 13 August 1994, two on 14 August 1994 (photo in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 8, No.3), an amazing 23 on 20 August 1994, two on 12 June 1995, one 26-27 May 1996, one on 6 May 1999, one on 16-19 May 2003 (photo in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 17, No. 2), one on 5 June 2003, five grounded by thunderstorms 30-31 July 2004, one on 1 August 2004 and one on 10 August 2004.

Rock Pigeon – Resident. Usually seen around nearby farms and highway overpasses. Also seen flying over Bald Knob.

Mourning Dove - Resident.

Black-billed Cuckoo - Breeds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Breeds.

Eastern Screech Owl – Resident but not often detected.

Great Horned Owl - Resident. A nest was used for several years off Bald Knob Road and another near the intersection of Burgettstown and Potato Garden Run Road.

Barred Owl – A bird was heard calling from Bald Knob Road 13 June 1996. Two heard on 23 March 2003. Probably resident in the area but not recorded due to secretive nature.

Long-eared Owl - one heard 29 December 1998, one roosting in a grove of Norway Spruce 12 March 2004. There may be one other record.

Short-eared Owl - First noted in the fall of 1994. High counts include 27 on 18 December 1994 and 13 on 20 November 1998. Four birds present, two seen performing display flights 10 May 1997. Confirmed nesting 30 May 1997 when a nest containing four young was found and photographed; photo in *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 11, No. 4. A statewide irruption of this species was noted in 1997. Observed performing courtship display flights 12 April 1998. An environmental impact survey in June 1998 revealed two nests, each with four young. A bird was observed hunting during the day on 2 June 2001, indicating possible nesting. Birds were recorded in the winter from 1999 to the present, however they were not found during the breeding season from 2002 to present.

Northern Saw-whet Owl – A few records: one on 27 December 2001 heard calling, one possibly heard 24 March 2003, one calling 15-16 May 2004, and three heard calling 18 December 2004.

Common Nighthawk - Three records: one on 16 May 1996, two on 26 August 1998 and two on 27 August 2002. The August records were probably migrating birds.

Whip-poor-will – One record of a bird calling

15 May 2004.

Chimney Swift – regularly seen flying over the area in spring, summer and early fall. Probably breeds nearby.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – Breeds.

Belted Kingfisher- Probably resident, but may move out of the area during winter if all water freezes.

Red-bellied Woodpecker - Resident.

Downy Woodpecker - Resident.

Hairy Woodpecker- Resident.

Yellow-shafted Flicker - Breeds. Present all year, however there is withdraw in the winter.

Pileated Woodpecker - Resident.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – Uncommon migrant. One 19 May 1996, one on 19 May 1997, one on 7 and 20 September 2003, one on 13 and 19 May 2004.

Eastern Wood-Pewee – Breeds.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Rare migrant. One record of a bird on 13 May 2004.

Acadian Flycatcher – Breeds. Found along wooded streams near the grassland.

Alder Flycatcher – Two records: a bird found 22 May 2004, and one 7 August 2004 just outside the main strip mine area on Seabright Road in North Fayette Twp.

Willow Flycatcher – Breeds.

Least Flycatcher - Spring and fall migrant. Occasionally found in summer. Breeding status uncertain.

Eastern Phoebe - Breeds. One winter record of a bird along Bald Knob Road 16 January 1999.

Great Crested Flycatcher – Breeds.

Eastern Kingbird - Breeds. Nests have been found on a few occasions.

Northern Shrike – Two records: one on 24 December 2001 and one on 22 December 2002.

White-eyed Vireo - Breeds.

Yellow-throated Vireo – Breeds.

Blue-headed Vireo – Migrant. One record of a bird on 17 April 2000.

Warbling Vireo - Breeds.

Philadelphia Vireo – Migrant. One record of a bird on 13 May 2003.

Red-eyed Vireo - Breeds.

Blue Jay - Resident.

American Crow - Resident. A flock of 250 were seen on 14 October 1997.

Common Raven – one on 13 July 2002 and 30 July 2002, two on 11 February 2004. Up to three birds were regularly seen in early spring 2004. The birds could be found at the Imperial Landfill by scanning through the American Crows. Regularly seen and heard flying over the fields through the summer and fall of 2004.

Horned Lark - Resident.

Purple Martin – Five records: one on 30 April 1994, one on 23 July 1995, two on 3 August 1997, two on 29 May 1999 and one on 22 May 2002.

Tree Swallow – Breeds. Numbers increase during migration. Maximum counts of 200 on 9 April 1997 and 200+ on 7 September 1997. Latest fall dates: four on 16 October 2004 and one on 17 October 2004.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – Breeds under small bridges in the area. Numbers increase during migration.

Bank Swallow – Uncommon migrant. Records include: April – June 1995 (exact date unknown), six on 10 May 1997, one on 11 May 1997, one on 21 May 2001, up to two birds 9 – 22 May 2002, one on 13 May 2003, and two on 13 August 2004. Besides Cliff Swallow, this is the least reported swallow in Allegheny County.

Cliff Swallow – Uncommon migrant. Three records: one on 26 May 1995, seven on 23 April 2004, and a summer record of a bird on 29 June 1997.

Barn Swallow – Breeds.

Carolina Chickadee - Resident.

Black-capped Chickadee – One record: one bird on 18 December 1995.

Tufted Titmouse - Resident.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – Migrant, possible winter resident. A high count of 12 on 20 February 2004. One summer record of a bird on 28 June 1997.

White-breasted Nuthatch - Resident.

Brown Creeper – Migrant, possible winter resident.

Carolina Wren - Resident.

House Wren - Breeds.

Winter Wren – Migrant. Three records: one on 3 November 1995, two on 22 April 2004, and three on 23 September 2004.

Sedge Wren - One record: a bird heard singing and flushed 10 May 1997.

Golden-crowned Kinglet – Common migrant. Sometimes found in winter.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Common migrant.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Breeds.

Eastern Bluebird - Resident.

Veery – A few records. One 10 May 1997, one on 19 May 2001, one on 11 May 2002. There are two other records from May (exact dates unknown).

Swainson's Thrush – Migrant.

Hermit Thrush – Migrant. Three records: one on 3 November 1995, one on 2 February 2004 and one on 5 May 2003.

Wood Thrush – Breeds in the second growth woodland in the area.

American Robin - Breeds, winters.

Gray Catbird – Breeds.

Northern Mockingbird - Resident.

Brown Thrasher – Breeds.

European Starling - Resident. In 2004, a pair nested in a rusty hollow post that was only approximately 4 ft. high. The birds entered through the top of the post.

American Pipit - Regular migrant. High counts include: 140 on 29 October 1994, 110 on 4 April 1995, 43 on 10 May 1997, and 85 on 31 March 2003 and 2 April 2003. This is the only location in Allegheny County where this species regularly occurs.

Cedar Waxwing - Breeds. Several seen carrying nesting material into a grove of Black Locust trees at the intersection of Bald Knob Road and Burgettstown Road 15 June 1996.

Blue-winged Warbler - Breeds.

Golden-winged Warbler – One record: three birds near the intersection of Burgettstown and Bald Knob Road on 30 April 1994. There was hope this was a breeding species at Imperial, however none were ever found during the breeding season.

Lawrence's Warbler – One record of a bird on 8 May 1997.

Tennessee Warbler – Migrant.

Orange-crowned Warbler – One record of bird along Bald Knob Road 20 May 1997.

Nashville Warbler – Migrant.

Yellow Warbler - Breeds.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – Migrant. Three records: single birds 19 May 1997, 11 May 2002, 10 May 2003 and 13 May 2004.

Magnolia Warbler – Migrant.

Cape May Warbler – Uncommon migrant. Five records: single birds 5 May 1997, 19 May 1997, 24 September 1998, 24 May 2003 and 31 May 2004.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - Migrant. Four records: single birds 9 May 2002, 11 May 2002, 10 May 2003 and 13 May 2004.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – Migrant and winter resident.

Black-throated Green Warbler - Migrant.

Blackburnian Warbler – Migrant. Four records: one on 3 May 1997, one on 19 May 1997, one on 11 May 2002 and two

on 10 May 2003.

Yellow-throated Warbler - One heard singing along Potato Garden Run Road on 30 April 1994.

Pine Warbler - Migrant. Three records: single birds 3 May 2002, and 20 May 2003. One other record (date unknown).

Prairie Warbler - Breeds.

Palm Warbler - Migrant.

Blackpoll Warbler - Migrant. Usually found in the Jack Pines and European Larches along Bald Knob Road.

Cerulean Warbler - One record: two on 10 May 2003. Breeds nearby, but not at Imperial.

Black-and-white Warbler - Migrant. At least four records: one on 3 May 1997, two on 10 May 2003 and one the second week of May, 2004. One summer record of a bird 28 June 2004.

American Redstart - Breeds.

Ovenbird - Breeds.

Northern Waterthrush - Migrant. Two records: one on 8-9 May 2004 and one other record (date unknown).

Louisiana Waterthrush - Breeds.

Kentucky Warbler - Breeds in second growth woodland.

Common Yellowthroat - Breeds.

Hooded Warbler - Breeds. Can be heard singing in second growth woodland throughout the area.

Wilson's Warbler - Migrant. Three records: one on 10 May 1997, one on 11 May 2002 and one on 19 May 2003.

Canada Warbler - Migrant. One or two records: single birds 19 and 21 May 2003.

Yellow-breasted Chat - Breeds.

Scarlet Tanager - Breeds. An orange variant was seen at the pond with standing dead trees off Bald Knob Road 7 June 2003.

Eastern Towhee - Breeds. Several found in the winter of 2004 on the border of the area on Strouss Road.

American Tree Sparrow - Winter resident.

Chipping Sparrow - Breeds.

Clay-colored Sparrow - Irregular. One 16 May 1997, two on 19 May 1997, one heard singing 18 July 1997, one singing 27 July 1998, two on 30 May 2000 and two 12 June 2000 with one carrying food indicating a possible nest site, however the birds were not found following that date. Two 26 May 2003 with one seen up to 1 June 2003. One 8-30 May 2004.

Field Sparrow - Breeds.

Vesper Sparrow - Breeds. An informal single visit count totaled 50 birds.

Lark Sparrow - Accidental. One record: a singing male was found in 30 April 1994 perched in a shrub.

Savannah Sparrow - Breeds. An informal single visit count totaled 35 birds.

Grasshopper Sparrow - Breeds. An informal single visit count totaled 48 birds.

Henslow's Sparrow - Breeds. An informal single visit count tallied 39 birds and another 25 birds.

Fox Sparrow - Migrant.

Song Sparrow - Resident.

Lincoln's Sparrow - Migrant. Three records: single birds 26 September 2004, 29 September 2004 and 2 October 2004.

Swamp Sparrow - Breeds.

White-throated Sparrow - Common migrant and winter resident.

White-crowned Sparrow - Migrant. Small numbers regularly winter at a farm on the border of the area on Strouss Road.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco - Migrant, winter resident.

Lapland Longspur - Rare migrant. One in flight and calling 30 October 1994. There is at least one other record (date unknown).

Snow Bunting - Rare migrant. One on 27 October 1997, four in a farm field on Strouss Road 10 January 1999, 18 on 18 November 2001, one on 8 November 2003, four on 15 November 2003, 31 on 8 February 2004, and 12 on 14 February 2004.

Northern Cardinal - Resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Breeds.

Blue Grosbeak - Former breeder. First discovered August 1994 when a female and a juvenile were observed, confirming breeding. Adults were observed feeding young on 16 July 1995. Two males were observed 12 June 1996, two singing males were noted 28 June 1997 and several birds were regularly observed during the summer of 1996-97. The species remained at the site through the 1997 breeding season and mysteriously did not return in the spring of 1998. Continued searches in subsequent years failed to produce the birds.

Indigo Bunting - Breeds. A flock of 20 was observed 15 August 1994.

Dickcissel - Rare vagrant. One male was present 16 May 1996. A male on 7-8 June 1996 was probably the same individual. A male was seen 29 May 2004 along the Montour Bike Trail.

Bobolink - Breeds. An informal single visit count tallied 55 birds. Numbers tend to fluctuate and the birds moved around from year to year. Appears to be decreasing at the site.

Red-winged Blackbird - Breeds. A flock of over 300 was seen 22 October 2000.

Eastern Meadowlark - Breeds. Winter records may have been early migrants: one on 10 January 2003, three on 11 January 2003 and four on 14 February 1998. Flocks of 20+ birds have been observed in fall.

Rusty Blackbird - Uncommon migrant. High counts include a flock of 120 on 25 March 1995, and 40 on 24 October 1997.

Common Grackle - Breeds, common migrant.

Brown-headed Cowbird - Breeds, migrant.

Orchard Oriole - Breeds. Nest with two young found on 23 July 1995. Interesting was a flock of 46 on 18 July 2004.

Baltimore Oriole - Breeds.

Purple Finch - Migrant. Possible local breeder but not confirmed.

House Finch - Resident.

Pine Siskin - Two records: one 16 November 2003 with a large flock of American Goldfinches, one other record (date unknown).

American Goldfinch - Resident. A flock of at least 100 birds was seen 16 November 2003.

House Sparrow - Resident around nearby homes and other buildings.

References:

Floyd, T. 1994. Miracle at Imperial, *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 8, No.4.
 — 1994. Preliminary Checklist of the Birds of Allegheny County. *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 8, No 3.
 Mapquest Web Page. 2005. Mapquest.com Inc.; GDT Inc. Maps of Clinton, PA.

<http://www.mapquest.com>.

Acknowledgments:

Many birders searched the area tirelessly and enthusiastically over the years. Their observations were vital in documenting the birds found in the Imperial Grasslands.

Paul Hess, Geoff Malosh, Chuck Tague, and Dave Wilton made helpful suggestions on this article and provided additional information on bird records.

805 Beulah Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15235
 mpfial@earthlink.net

First Pennsylvania Record of Gray Kingbird

Nick Pulcinella

On 12 December 2004 while cutting down his Christmas tree at the Shamrock Christmas Tree Farm in Pomeroy, Chester Co., Joe Meloney noticed a flycatcher type bird nearby. The bird was very active and flitting about the numerous trees. Not having binoculars with him, Joe could not make a positive identification but thought the bird might be an Ash-throated Flycatcher. He notified local birder Larry Lewis who was able to find the bird the following day and make the identification of Gray Kingbird. Soon, word went out to the birding community and it was seen by many over its eight-day stay.

Gray Kingbirds breed from the coastal southeastern United States (Alabama to South Carolina) south throughout the West Indies to northern South America (A.O.U. 1998). In winter, birds retreat from the northern part of their breeding range — the United States, the Bahamas, and Cuba — and migrate to northern South America. Vagrants have appeared along the east coast as far north as Massachusetts. There are confirmed records from several bordering states and provinces — Maryland (4), New Jersey (7), New York (9), and Ontario (5) (Armistead and Iliff 2003) and it seemed only a matter of time for this species to show up in Pennsylvania. The Chester Co. bird was aged as a juvenile by plumage. According to Armistead and Iliff (2003), of the individuals that have been aged as juveniles, five of six have occurred during the late-fall period (5 October to 25 November) suggesting navigational errors by inexperienced hatch-year birds as a possible cause of vagrancy.

Literature cited

- American Ornithologists' Union 1998. *Check-List of North American birds*. 7th edition. American Ornithologists's Union, Lawrence, Kansas.
- Armistead, G. L. and M. Iliff 2003. The Vagrancy of Gray Kingbird in North America. *North American Birds* 57:148-161

613 Howard Road
West Chester, PA 19380



Plate 1. Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). Probably a juvenile based on the dull brown color of the upperparts and pale fringes to the upperwing coverts. 18 December 2004 (Geoff Malosh).



Plate 2. Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). View from below showing the gray-white underparts and again the crisp pale margins to the wing coverts. 18 December 2004 (Geoff Malosh)

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY GUIDE TO THE 500 MOST IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES Key Sites for Birds and Birding in all 50 States Robert M. Chipley, George H. Fenwick, Michael J. Parr, and David N. Pashley. 114 IBA maps and production support by Gavin Shire, acknowledgments, 508 site listings in 37 Bird Conservation Regions, list of 39 side bars, 2 maps of IBAs in the United States, and scores of color illustrations by Marcia Poling. Random House Trade Paperbacks, NY. 534 pp., 2003. \$25.95 in U.S.A., \$39.95 in Canada.

Introduction

This is a fantastic book that should be appealing to professional ornithologist, citizen scientist, and amateur birder alike. The work is perhaps the best up to date rationale WHY the army of 75 million birdwatchers in this country should be staunch avian conservationists. The tone of the volume is set immediately in Paul R. Ehrlich's Foreword titled Save the Birds, Save Ourselves (pp. v-vii). Ehrlich asks: Why should we care about the conservation of birds? Ornithologists and ecologists can readily rattle off reasons why we should care ranging from the importance of birds in supplying ecosystem services...to their value as indicators of environmental health. . . . Less frequently cited is the role birds have played in affecting human culture: birds live in every ecosystem on Earth, have been present at the rise and the fall of every human civilization, large and small, and have had profound effects on our species throughout our history. . . . And many of us revel in the vivid colors and fascinating behavior of birds and, in the process, imagine ourselves close to nature. . . . But in truth we are growing apart from nature. Our own species now dominates the biosphere and is increasingly destroying it. . . . Fully 70 percent of eastern neotropical migrants have dwindled in numbers in the past 20 years. . . . These losses are damaging not just in terms of the environmental services birds provide. . . but because of what they say about our cultures and our values today. . . . Birds, like all other organisms, face two basic kinds of threats: those that reduce reproduction and those that increase mortality. . . . Many people believe habitat loss to be the greatest threat to all wildlife, and myriad efforts are underway to stem the tide of these losses to some effect. Led by broad coalitions such as Partners in Flight. . . and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, ornithologists have become highly organized in the past decade in targeting conservation of prime breeding, wintering, and migratory areas.

The Book

Actually this book is the first to identify and describe the 'globally' most significant Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the United States to bird conservationists. The IBA concept originated in Europe and was developed by BirdLife International in the 1980s, and since then, has become a worldwide

effort. In 1995 both the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and the National Audubon Society (NAS) accepted the avian conservation idea with enthusiasm, with the former organization emphasizing continental and global connections while the latter organization first stressed the eastern United States. In fact, Pennsylvania was the first state to develop an IBA program in the country.

The book describes 508 IBAs in the form of 'site accounts.' These accounts provide information on location, size, ownership, official designation, habitats, land use, a general site description, and information about the birds found there and concerns regarding their conservation. The Highlight section provides an at-a-glance indication why the site is globally significant to birds. Numbers in parentheses after the IBA names correspond to the numbers on the maps at the start of each chapter. These maps vary in scale and are provided to indicate the approximate geographical location of IBAs relative to each other and major landscape features. Where the information is available and where the size of the IBA warrants it, sites are represented by polygons. All other sites are marked with dots. A checklist on p. 453 provides the opportunity to record your visits to individual IBAs. The checklist is arranged by state, and contains page numbers referencing all the IBA accounts. In this way it also can be used as an index of IBAs by state, supplemental to the main alphabetical index at the rear of the book.

ABC Criteria for Site Selection

With over 1,500 IBA sites to choose from, why did ABC pick the particular sites it did? And how do the ABC criteria differ from Audubon Pennsylvania's? For a site to be chosen by ABC it must be of significant importance at the global scale during at least some part of the year and by containing critical habitat that supports:

Category 1: a species on the ABC Green List that reflects the most advanced and consistent scientific reasoning yet attempted concerning the assessment of the status of birds in the United States. Criteria used include species range size, population size, population trend, and threats. The ABC does not attempt for species on this list to describe each and every important site but rather concentrates on the few best and most critical of known sites.

Category 2: a significantly large concentration of breeding, migrating, or

wintering species, including waterfowl, seabirds, wading birds, raptors, or land birds. For the species in this category, ABC does not include super-abundant flocking species such as some of the blackbirds or increasing species like the Canada Goose, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Specific criteria include:

1. ABC counts as a globally significant IBA site for waterfowl only those with more than 100,000 geese and/or ducks.

2. For seabirds, ABC limits this criterion to colonies of 50,000 individuals or more, omitting concentrations of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls.

3. For shorebirds, ABC includes only sites at the international and hemispheric level in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and sites with 50,000 or more individuals at some time of the year. Many shorebird species are on the Green List and thus sites that reliably host important contingents of these species are included.

4. Congregations of raptors with 25,000 or more individuals regularly counted during a season are included. These are usually "overflight" sites during migration, such as Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania.

5. For wading birds, ABC limits sites to those representing the largest colonies or other places regularly used, not merely those with more than 10,000 individuals.

6. For migrating land birds other than raptors, sites are stopovers, such as well known migrant traps, such as High Island, Texas.

Note that at the individual state level, such as Pennsylvania, the IBA criteria are far less stringent. To qualify in Pennsylvania, a site must meet at least one of four criteria, each associated with a different type of vulnerability: It must support 1) endangered or threatened federal or state species; 2) species that are not widely distributed; 3) species that are restricted to a single extensive habitat or biome; or 4) high densities of congregating species, such as waterfowl or shorebirds. Audubon Pennsylvania is responsible for the IBA Program in the Commonwealth. There are currently 81 IBA sites in the state.

Pennsylvania is included in the Appalachian Mountain Bird Conservation Region (BCR No. 28) in the book (pp. 286-290) under Allegheny Plateau. Three IBA sites were chosen by the ABC: Allegheny National Forest, Mount Zion (Piney Tract), and combined

Hawk Mountain and the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlight for the Allegheny National Forest is its high concentrations of breeding neotropical migrants, including a dense population of the Blackburnian Warbler (estimated 40 times more than in second-growth forests). Forest-interior breeding species abound in various habitats in the woods, including Canada, Nashville, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Yellow-throated, Yellow-rumped, Black-and-white, Cerulean, Worm-eating, and Mourning Warblers, plus Ovenbird, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Of course, the highlight for Mount Zion in Clarion County is its being a dense (hundreds of pairs) breeding site for the Henslow's Sparrow and other grassland avian species, such as the Grasshopper, Savannah, Clay-colored Sparrows, the Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Northern Harrier, and Short-eared Owl. Finally, the highlight for Hawk Mountain and the rest of the Kittatinny Ridge is that together they are the most heavily used raptor migration corridor in the entire northeastern United States with an amazing average of 23,000 raptors of 16 species passing over each autumn. Some 140 other migrating avian species are recorded regularly as are monarch butterflies and bats.

This wonderful book ends with Further IBA Resources (p. 479), a rich Bibliography (pp. 481-491), Index of Place Names (pp. 493-507), Index of Bird Names (pp.509-518), and Index of IBA Maps by State (p. 519). Brief sketches About the Authors (p. 521) are interesting: Robert M. Chipley has been Director of the IBA Program for ABC since 1998. George H. Fenwick is the current ABC President, founded ABC in early 1994 and became President upon its merger with the U.S. and Pan American Sections of the International Council for the Preservation of Birds later that year. Michael J. Parr is Vice President for Program Development at ABC. Finally, David N. Pashley, is Vice President of Conservation Programs at ABC. Please read the complete backgrounds of the authors in the book but it can be stated that the world of birds owes a great amount of gratitude to these four competent ornithologists for publishing this timely work.

*513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057*

Answer to Photo Quiz #7

Rick Wiltraut

It's early December and you're standing on the beach at Presque Isle scanning the lake for ducks, gulls, or possibly a jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake or Northern Gannet. Not far from where you're standing you notice a large duck emerging from behind one of the break walls and you get a 15 second look before it dives and disappears behind the break wall. You were able to see enough to realize that the bird was a female eider, but which one? Although the adult males of the two species of eiders that occur in eastern North America are very distinctive, adult and first winter females can pose an identification problem. Both eiders are large, however the Common is the largest of all sea ducks with a heavy body, a large wedge-shaped head and a large sloping wedge-shaped bill. Female Commons vary in color from grayish in the Hudson Bay populations to a darker rufous-brown color in Atlantic Coast populations. They have grayish-colored bills and their gape is straight. The feathering on the bill reaches the nostrils and comes to a point. Female Commons have a barred pattern to the flanks and tend to point their bills downward when resting on the water. Female King Eiders are slightly smaller than Commons overall and have smaller heads and bills and a steeper forehead which makes the head look more rounded and less wedge-shaped. Adult and first winter female Kings are buffy-brown to grayish in coloration. They have dark bills with a small pale spot where the base of the bill and the chin meet. The feathering on the bill falls short of the nostrils and is more rounded at the tip than on a Common Eider. They also have an upturned gape, which crosses the small pale spot at the base of the bill creating a grinning expression. The feathering on the flanks is crescent-shaped forming a distinctive scaly pattern. Kings sometimes show a distinct pale line behind the eye. When resting on the water, Kings tend to hold their bills straighter than Commons.

This female Common Eider was photographed at the jetty at Barnegat Light, New Jersey where both species can be found in winter. Although there are over twenty records of King Eiders in Pennsylvania (mostly from Lake Erie), Common Eiders are listed as "hypothetical." Perhaps the best spot to look for this species would be along the break walls at Presque Isle where there is an ample supply of mussels, a favorite food of eiders. I'm betting that young Ben Coulter will find one up there one of these days (it has been recorded recently along the Lake Erie shore in Ohio not far from the PA border).



First Pennsylvania Record of MacGillivray's Warbler

Berks County

Bernie Morris

On Saturday, December 18, 2004 on the Allentown Christmas Bird Count, a group of four of us; Bernie Morris, Kathy Sieminski, Alan Jennings, and Todd Watkins, were covering the area that we had been doing for about 20 years. One member of the group, Todd Watkins, was new to the count. The birding was fairly slow, and I kept apologizing to Todd for the lack of "good" birds. About 1:00 P.M. we reached the Rodale Institute's organic farm, near the town of Maxatawny in eastern Berks County, about one mile west of the Lehigh County line. This location has usually produced good birds for us in the past. The best spot is a medium sized marshy area surrounding a small stream. The weather was very nice by this time of the day, about 40 degrees, calm and sunny. We all split up to cover different areas.

About 1:20 P.M., I saw Alan waving to me frantically. He was standing right next to the stream, looking at a spot about ten yards away. When I went over to look, he said nothing but just pointed. There was a small yellow bird, which was alternately hawking for insects right over the stream and then hiding in the brush. It was a warbler-sized bird with bright yellow underparts and a grayish hood. My first impression was Nashville Warbler, very unusual to say the least, but possible. Then I noticed the broken eye ring. It was really distinct, just like two crescents above and below the eye. This ruled out Nashville.

The lighting was excellent, with the sun behind us and slightly to the right. By this time the four of us were gathered together and looking at the bird. Its upper parts were an olive green/yellow with no wing-bars or streaking. The tail was the same color as the back. There was a distinct grayish hood, and the feet and legs were bright pink. Fortunately Todd was carrying a bird book, the new Sibley Guide to Eastern Birds. When we looked at it, the choices narrowed down to two: Mourning and MacGillivray's. The latter choice seemed to be ridiculously improbable, but the more we looked, the more likely it seemed. The whitish chin contrasting with the bright yellow underparts clinched the ID for me.

The bird did not make any vocalizations during the time that we watched it, about 30 minutes in total.

What to do? No one had a camera. In the 30+ years that I have been doing the Christmas Count, this was the first bird that really needed a picture. After a quick discussion, it was decided to go get a camera. I drove home, but it was almost an hour until I got back. The bird disappeared shortly after I left, and did not show up during the next 90 minutes. It started to cloud over, and since there was only about an hour of daylight left, we went on. Both Todd and I wrote up details of the sighting, but I had a bad feeling that unless many others saw the bird, and someone photographed it, that it would be a "hard sell" to the PA birding community. I did not know of any other records for the state. That evening at our Christmas Count round-up, I described the experience. Both Todd and I put directions to it on the PABIRDS listserve.

The next morning about 20-25 birders were there. About 10:30 A.M. the bird was finally seen. It was very skittish, and hard to see, but I know that Jason Horn got some identifiable pictures, and very likely others who were there photographing also got pictures. The bird was seen most of Sunday. Late Sunday afternoon the weather got much worse, with the wind picking up and the temperature falling to single digits. The bird was seen again Monday morning, but as far as I know it was not seen after that time.

4324 Glenwood Drive
Emmaus, PA 18094

MacGillivray's Warbler is a species of western North America breeding no farther east than western South Dakota. The significance of this report can be illustrated by the few well documented records for the eastern third of North America; MA (4), NC (1), NJ (1), NY (1), VA (4), ON (1). This is a long-overdue and sought after species for Pennsylvania. It is likely to show up again and any Oporornis warbler found in late fall should be checked carefully for the species. Ed



Plate 1. MacGillivray's Warbler 12/19/2005 near Maxatawny, Berks. (Photo from video Devich Farbotnik).



Plate 2. MacGillivray's Warbler 12/19/2005 near Maxatawny, Berks. (Photo from video Devich Farbotnik).

Pennsylvania Bird Lists For 2004

Compiled by Peter Robinson

It was a good year for rarities found in the state that stayed long enough to become additions to state and county life lists. A Harris's Sparrow was found coming to a feeder near Sugar Grove, Warren County, on 12/13/03 and it stayed until 1/30/04 or later. On 1/31 another Harris's Sparrow was reported, this one near the town of Stone Church, Northampton County, and it was seen by many birders until at least 4/11. Also on 1/31, a small group of redpolls showed up at a feeder in Chalfont, Bucks County, where they stayed until early March. A Snowy Owl first reported 3/23 in Franklin County was seen until 3/29. An American White Pelican was found 3/25 in Lawrence County at Black Swamp and was seen until 4/3. At SGL 56 in Bucks County, a Tufted Duck was found 3/22, was still being seen 3/28, but was not found 4/1. A male Painted Bunting was first seen 3/7 at a feeder in the village of Saginaw, York County, and it stayed until 4/22. It was seen by about 150 birders. A Lazuli Bunting spent a few days from 4/25 to 4/29 coming to a feeder in Oakland Mills, Juniata County. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in central Lebanon County on 6/9 and 6/10. Two Mississippi Kites that frequented Bulls Island in the Delaware River, a few miles north of New Hope, Bucks County, were seen flying over the PA shore from 6/19 to 6/27. A Royal Tern was at Lake Galena, Peace Valley County Park, Bucks County, from 9/29 to 10/1. Also in Bucks County, a Franklin's Gull was at Falls Township Community Park from 10/16 until at least 10/19. A Cave Swallow was found the evening of 10/24 at Chamber's Lake, Chester

County. Six birders who were there at daybreak on 10/25 got to see it for about 45 minutes before it flew off at 7:45 am. A Black-headed Gull was found near the Tullytown dump on 11/27, and was seen until 12/8. A California Gull was found 11/29 at Presque Isle State Park and was there until 12/15 or longer. A Varied Thrush that was first reported 12/11 came to the feeder at the Caledonia State Park office, Franklin County, through the end of the year. A Gray Kingbird (first state record) was identified 12/13, and was last seen at the Shamrock Christmas Tree Farm, Chester County, near Strasburg, on 12/20. Another first state record was the MacGillivray's Warbler that was found during a 12/18 Christmas Count, and was seen again 12/19.

There are 62 birders now whose Pennsylvania life lists are 300 or more, an increase of six. Ten birders now have PA life lists of 350 species or more, with Devich Farbotnik and Steve Farbotnik joining that group. There are still seven birders above the 300 mark in the PA Life List-Unassisted category -- species found by the individual, or by another person with whom they were birding at the same spot at the same time, but not including "chase" birds.

There are 12 County Life Lists of 300 or greater -- 2 for Bucks, 2 for Erie, and 8 for Lancaster County. There were two lead changes among the County Life Lists. The Carbon County lead is now held by Dave Hawk, and Arlene Koch has Northampton's highest life list. There were new annual high species counts for 5 of the 67 counties: Geoff Malosh's 227 species for Allegheny (an increase of 37 species), Carol Hildebrand's 143 for Clinton,

Michael Schall's 153 for Montgomery, Tom Clauser's 215 for Schuylkill, and Deuane Hoffman's 171 for Union. Perhaps the most noteworthy of this year's county annual lists, which is also Somerset's lowest, is the 178 species seen in Somerset County by Christopher Payne, age 11. Christopher is off to a great start, with a little help from his birding parents.

Every year the Lists Report becomes a little longer. To help keep the List Report at a reasonable length, the County Annual Lists this year has been changed from "greater than 100 species" to the "top ten lists greater than 100 species" for the county. For next year (the report for 2005) the plan is to raise the threshold for reporting County Life Lists from the current 100 species to 125 species. Even for the counties where there is little opportunity to find waterfowl and shorebirds, a 125 species county life list should not be too difficult to achieve. The birders with county life list entries between 100 and 125 species will have the rest of 2005 to find a few more if they want to do so.

The suggestion has been made to add a new "total ticks" category. "Total ticks" would be the grand total of all species seen in all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. If a person had seen Blue Jay in all counties, they would have 67 "total ticks". When the PA Birds Listserve was queried a few months ago there were only a few responses, with about half in favor and half not, but let's try again. Please send an E-mail message, with "Total Ticks" in the subject line, to me at pabirder@hotmail.com to vote "for" or "against" adding a new total ticks list category.

Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	373	Deuane Hoffman	04
2	371	Jason Horn	02
3	363	Barbara Haas	01
4	360	Franklin Haas	01
4	360	Dave DeReamus	04
6	358	Devich Farbotnik	04
6	358	Eric Witmer	04
8	356	Steve Farbotnik	04
8	356	Tom Garner	04
10	350	Randy C. Miller	03
11	349	Robert Schutsky	03
11	349	Ken Lebo	04
13	348	Bernard Morris	03
13	348	Peter Robinson	04
15	346	Jerry Book	00
15	346	Joyce Hoffmann	04
17	345	John Fedak	04

17	345	Arlene Koch	04
19	343	Rick Wiltraut	98
20	341	Al Guarente	04
21	339	Jonathan Heller	03
22	338	Jan Witmer	97
22	338	Richard Colyer	00
22	338	Harold Lebo	02
22	338	Nick Pulcinella	04
26	337	John Miller	97
27	336	William Stocku	97
28	332	William Murphy	00
29	329	Paul Schwalbe	98
29	329	Fritz Brock	03
29	329	Jerry McWilliams	04
32	327	Glenna Schwalbe	98
32	327	Steve Santner	99
34	324	Harry Franzen	96
35	321	Margaret Higbee	04
36	320	Mike Fialkovich	04
37	319	John Ginaven	98

38	318	Phillips Street	99
39	316	Ronald Leberman	01
40	315	Evelyn Kopf	95
40	315	Bruce Carl	03
42	314	Walter Shaffer	99
43	313	Harold Morrin	96
43	313	Geoff Malosh	04
45	311	Dana Shaffer	99
45	311	Don Henise	00
45	311	Michael Schall	04
48	309	Tom Clauser	04
49	308	Robyn Henise	00
50	307	Ernest Schiefer	00
50	307	Skip Conant	02
52	306	Ronald Leberman	03
53	305	Gene Wilhelm	92
53	305	David Kyler	04
55	303	Matt Wasniewski	04
56	302	Sam Stull	85
56	302	Edward Pederson	98

56	302	John Salvetti	03
56	302	Rick Koval	04
60	300	Larry Lewis	88
60	300	Richard Timm	97
60	300	Mark Vass	04
63	299	Keith Richards	82
64	298	Roger Higbee	99
64	298	George Malosh	03
66	297	Allan Keith	98
67	296	Ed Kwater	96
67	296	Mark McConaughy	03
69	295	Frank Windfelder	98
69	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	02
71	294	James Baxter	86
71	294	Terence Schiefer	99
71	294	William Reid	01
74	293	John Peplinski	94
75	292	Allen Schweinsberg	02
75	292	Dave Rieger	03
75	292	Bill Etter	04

174	John Salvetti	1995	DELAWARE			167	Deuane Hoffman	1998	MONTGOMERY		
171	John Salvetti	1999	241	John Miller	1969	167	Aden Troyer	2000	153	Michael Schall	2004
165	John Salvetti	1998	211	Al Guarente	1996	166	Aden Troyer	1995	151	Deuane Hoffman	1999
161	John Salvetti	2002	209	Al Guarente	1998	166	Aden Troyer	1999	140	Deuane Hoffman	1998
CAMERON			206	Al Guraente	1997	158	Aden Troyer	1998	132	Deuane Hoffman	1997
119	Deuane Hoffman	1998	205	Al Guraente	1995	129	Deuane Hoffman	2001	126	John Fedak	1997
CARBON			184	Al Guarente	1999	LACKAWANNA			113	Michael Schall	2002
204	David Hawk	2002	183	Al Guarente	2002	169	Glenn Czulada	1996	MONTOUR		
187	David Hawk	2004	182	Al Guraente	2000	161	Glenn Czulada	1995	143	Deuane Hoffman	2000
183	David Hawk	2000	179	Al Guraente	2004	117	Richard Koval	1995	126	John Fedak	1997
182	David Hawk	1999	175	Skip Conant	1998	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	115	Deuane Hoffman	1997
162	David Hawk	1996	ELK			103	William Reid	2001	112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
155	David Hawk	1998	116	John Fedak	1997	LANCASTER			NORTHAMPTON		
152	Robert Frantz	1999	113	Deuane Hoffman	1996	268	Deuane Hoffman	2000	236	Michael Schall	2003
145	Robert Frantz	1995	ERIE			255	Robert Schutsky	1992	231	Michael Schall	2004
140	Nick Kerlin	2003	264	Sam Stull	1979	249	Jonathan Heller	1992	210	Adam Miller	2000
CENTRE			256	Jerry McWilliams	1992	242	Deuane Hoffman	2001	206	Michael Schall	2002
224	Terence Schiefer	1985	252	Jerry McWilliams	1991	239	Jonathan Heller	1993	203	Michael Schall	2000
221	Molly Heath	2003	251	Jerry McWilliams	2004	235	Deuane Hoffman	1998	202	Michael Schall	2001
214	Terence Schiefer	1986	246	Jerry McWilliams	1993	230	Deuane Hoffman	1999	189	Dave DeReamus	1990
211	Terence Schiefer	1984	245	Jerry McWilliams	1996	226	Jonathan Heller	2003	186	Adam Miller	1999
201	Jim Dunn	2003	240	Jerry McWilliams	1997	221	Randy C. Miller	2003	174	Michael Schall	1999
170	Deuane Hoffman	1998	239	Jerry McWilliams	1994	220	Jonathan Heller	2002	171	Dave DeReamus	2003
137	Nick Kerlin	2004	238	Jerry McWilliams	1990	LAWRENCE			NORTHUMBERLAND		
CHESTER			FAYETTE			210	Gene Wilhelm	1992	224	Deuane Hoffman	2003
225	Larry Lewis	1988	145	Mark McConaughy	2000	118	John Fedak	1997	157	Deuane Hoffman	1999
221	Larry Lewis	1983	112	Mark McConaughy	1998	110	Deuane Hoffman	1996	147	Deuane Hoffman	1998
219	Larry Lewis	1986	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	LEBANON			144	Deuane Hoffman	1997
197	Nick Pulcinella	2004	FOREST			222	Randy C. Miller	1999	128	John Fedak	1997
188	Ted Drozdowski	2002	144	April Walters	1993	215	Randy C. Miller	1993	PERRY		
174	Ted Drozdowski	2001	143	Richard Walters	1993	213	Randy C. Miller	2002	202	Richard Colyer	1997
173	Nick Pulcinella	2003	132	John Fedak	1997	211	Randy C. Miller	2000	199	Deuane Hoffman	1995
170	Ted Drozdowski	2004	FRANKLIN			210	Randy C. Miller	2003	193	Deuane Hoffman	1996
163	Ted Drozdowski	2003	215	Dale Gearhart	1999	205	Randy C. Miller	1996	188	Deuane Hoffman	1998
154	Ted Drozdowski	2000	185	Carl Garner	1997	204	Randy C. Miller	1998	184	Deuane Hoffman	2000
CLARION			182	Carl Garner	2004	179	Deuane Hoffman	1998	179	Deuane Hoffman	1999
231	John Fedak	1998	180	Carl Garner	1993	171	Bruce Weaver	1999	171	Deuane Hoffman	2001
223	John Fedak	2000	180	Carl Garner	1994	167	Deuane Hoffman	2001	PHILADELPHIA		
219	John Fedak	1996	178	Carl Garner	1999	LEHIGH			225	John Miller	1965
213	John Fedak	1997	174	Carl Garner	1998	200	Bernard Morris	1984	208	Edward Fingerhood	1996
208	John Fedak	1999	156	Kenneth Gabler	1999	132	Deuane Hoffman	1998	162	Al Guarente	1992
188	John Fedak	2001	156	Dale Gearhart	2000	128	Michael Schall	2003	135	Skip Conant	1999
152	Deuane Hoffman	1998	152	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	119	Deuane Hoffman	1997	133	Skip Conant	1998
119	Mark McConaughy	1999	FULTON			110	Michael Schall	2001	132	Skip Conant	2000
115	Bill Reddinger	1999	173	Daniel Snell	1997	LUZERNE			127	Deuane Hoffman	1998
CLEARFIELD			128	Deuane Hoffman	1996	224	Rick Koval	2001	120	Skip Conant	2001
155	John Fedak	1997	120	Deuane Hoffman	2001	220	Rick Koval	1996	116	Skip Conant	2003
102	Deuane Hoffman	1997	115	Kenneth Gabler	1988	220	Rick Koval	2002	103	Skip Conant	2002
CLINTON			112	Deuane Hoffman	1998	219	Rick Koval	1995	PIKE		
143	Carol Hildebrand	2004	108	Kenneth Gabler	2000	219	Rick Koval	1997	123	Michael Schall	2002
117	Deuane Hoffman	2000	GREENE			206	Rick Koval	1994	112	Deuane Hoffman	1999
115	Deuane Hoffman	1999	137	Ralph Bell	1985	153	William Reid	1999	109	Deuane Hoffman	2000
COLUMBIA			134	Ralph Bell	1986	132	William Reid	2001	POTTER		
117	Deuane Hoffman	1997	130	Ralph Bell	1990	121	Deuane Hoffman	1998	160	David Hauber	1992
112	John Fedak	1997	122	Deuane Hoffman	2000	LYCOMING			160	David Hauber	1999
111	Deuane Hoffman	1998	107	Deuane Hoffman	1998	126	Deuane Hoffman	2000	157	David Hauber	1993
CRAWFORD			HUNTINGDON			120	Deuane Hoffman	1999	SCHUYLKILL		
208	Ronald Leberman	1994	205	David Kyler	1996	112	Deuane Hoffman	1997	215	Tom Clauser	2004
202	Ronald Leberman	1989	201	Greg Grove	2003	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	212	Tom Clauser	1999
201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	194	Greg Grove	1994	100	Don Henise	2000	210	Tom Clauser	2001
196	Ronald Leberman	2000	191	Greg Grove	1992	McKEAN			210	Tom Clauser	2002
188	Ronald Leberman	2003	191	Greg Grpve	2000	222	John Fedak	2003	209	Tom Clauser	1996
180	Marvin Byler	2000	191	Greg Grove	2004	217	John Fedak	2004	208	Tom Clauser	1997
180	Marvin Byler	2004	190	Greg Grove	2002	151	John Fedak	2001	203	Tom Clauser	2000
174	Deuane Hoffman	1998	188	Greg Grove	2001	119	Deuane Hoffman	1996	203	Tom Clauser	2003
172	Marvin Byler	2001	180	Greg Grove	1998	MERCER			191	Tom Clauser	1987
167	Marvin Byler	2002	137	Deuane Hoffman	1998	213	Harvey Troyer	1999	167	Deuane Hoffman	2001
CUMBERLAND			INDIANA			212	Jerry Troyer	1999	SNYDER		
227	Deuane Hoffman	1989	206	Margaret Higbee	1993	211	Gene Wilhelm	1992	177	Deuane Hoffman	1998
226	Deuane Hoffman	1998	203	Margaret Higbee	1991	210	Neil Troyer	1999	175	Deuane Hoffman	1996
225	Deuane Hoffman	1992	195	Steve Graff	1998	192	Neil Troyer	1997	172	Deuane Hoffman	1997
221	Deuane Hoffman	2000	186	Steve Graff	2000	192	Eli Troyer	1999	158	Deuane Hoffman	2000
219	Deuane Hoffman	1999	131	Deuane Hoffman	1998	190	Neil Troyer	2001	SOMERSET		
217	Deuane Hoffman	2001	115	Mark McConaughy	2003	190	Neil Troyer	2002	222	Scott Bastian	1999
148	Carl Garner	1997	114	Mark McConaughy	1998	186	Neil Troyer	1998	219	Jeff Payne	2002
138	Carl Garner	1998	107	Mark McConaughy	2001	185	Neil Troyer	2004	218	Jeff Payne	2003
DAUPHIN			106	Mark McConaughy	2002	MIFFLIN			216	Jeff Payne	1996
246	Deuane Hoffman	2003	100	Mark McConaughy	1999	160	Deuane Hoffman	1998	216	Retta Payne	1996
234	Deuane Hoffman	1997	JEFFERSON			155	Deuane Hoffman	2000	208	Scott Bastian	1994
231	Deuane Hoffman	1998	198	John Fedak	1997	128	Greg Grove	2003	206	Jeff Payne	1999
230	Deuane Hoffman	2000	143	Deuane Hoffman	1996	126	Deuane Hoffman	1997	202	Jeff Payne	2004
229	Deuane Hoffman	1996	121	Deuane Hoffman	1998	113	Deuane Hoffman	1996	178	Christopher Payne	2004
226	Deuane Hoffman	2001	JUNIATA			MONROE			SULLIVAN		
224	Deuane Hoffman	1999	188	Aden Troyer	1996	160	Michael Schall	2003	140	Nick Kerlin	1999
210	Grace Randolph	1998	176	Aden Troyer	1997	103	Deuane Hoffman	1999	130	Nick Kerlin	1995
118	Chuck Berthoud	2004	172	Deuane Hoffman	2000	101	Deuane Hoffman	1998	125	Skip Conant	1995
			170	Deuane Hoffman	1996				124	Nick Kerlin	1997

123	Skip Conant	1999	UNION		WASHINGTON		WYOMING				
121	Skip Conant	2000	171	Deuane Hoffman	2004	134	Russ Ruffing	1985	196	William Reid	1999
118	Skip Conant	1998	121	Deuane Hoffman	1999	132	Roy Ickes	1984	193	William Reid	1993
114	Skip Conant	2001	102	Deuane Hoffman	1998	100	George Malosh	1975	188	William Reid	2001
114	Skip Conant	2002				100	Geoff Malosh	1999	181	William Reid	1994
113	Nick Kerlin	1998							134	Richard Koval	1994
			VENANGO			WAYNE			122	Richard Koval	1999
SUSQUEHANNA			221	Gary Edwards	2000	127	Deuane Hoffman	1997	105	Skip Conant	2000
170	Jerry Skinner	2003	207	Gary Edwards	1995	121	John Fedak	1997	102	Skip Conant	1998
157	Jerry Skinner	2004	194	Gary Edwards	1991	112	Deuane Hoffman	1998	101	Skip Conant	2001
145	Jerry Skinner	1999	192	Russ States	1991						
109	Deuane Hoffman	1997	113	Deuane Hoffman	1998						
109	William Reid	2001	WARREN			WESTMORELAND			YORK		
107	William Reid	1999	204	John Fedak	2003	190	Mark McConaughy	1999	219	Bruce Fortman	1999
105	Deuane Hoffman	1996	201	John Fedak	2002	179	Mark McConaughy	2000	214	Deuane Hoffman	1999
103	John Fedak	1997	165	Ted Grisez	1992	175	Mark McConaughy	2002	202	Deuane Hoffman	2001
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	152	Ted Grisez	1985	167	Mark McConaughy	2003	196	Russell Ryan	1992
			141	John Fedak	2001	163	Mark McConaughy	1998	191	Randy Phillips	1999
			117	John Fedak	1997	163	Mark McConaughy	2001	189	Deuane Hoffman	2000
						138	Mark McConaughy	2004	182	Deuane Hoffman	1998
TIOGA									178	Russell Ryan	1991
197	Benjamin Israel	2000							153	Candy Krenzer	1999
174	Larry Brown	1998							110	Carl Garner	1991
167	Larry Brown	1992									
163	Benjamin Israel	1999									
160	Arlene Brown	1992									
142	Arlene Brown	1998									
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998									

County Life Lists (Top 50)

1	321	Lancaster	Randy Miller	2003
2	320	Lancaster	Eric Witmer	2004
3	319	Lancaster	Tom Garner	2004
4	317	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
5	314	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2004
6	313	Bucks	Steve Farbotnik	2004
7	310	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	2003
8	309	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
9	306	Lancaster	Jerry Book	2000
10	305	Erie	Donald Snyder	2002
11	304	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	2003
12	301	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2003
13	294	Lancaster	Barbara Haas	2000
14	293	Berks	Ken Lebo	2004
15	292	Lancaster	Jan Witmer	1997
16	291	Erie	Sam Stull	1985
16	291	Lancaster	Harold Morrin	1996
16	291	Erie	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
19	290	Philadelphia	John Miller	1985
19	290	Bucks	Jason Horn	2002
21	289	Delaware	John Miller	1985
21	289	Erie	Deuane Hoffman	2001
23	288	Lancaster	Jason Horn	2002
24	287	Berks	Jason Horn	2002
25	286	Berks	Harold Lebo	2002
26	285	Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2003
27	284	Northampton	Arlene Koch	2004
28	281	Bucks	Bill Etter	2004
29	280	Luzerne	William Reid	2001
29	280	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2004
31	278	Berks	Matt Wasniewski	2003
32	275	Berks	Kerry Grim	1998
32	275	Montgomery	Jason Horn	2002
32	275	Erie	John Fedak	2004
32	275	Indiana	Margaret Higbee	2004
36	274	Lancaster	Steve Santner	1995
36	274	Erie	Ed Kwater	1996
38	273	Lebanon	Randy Miller	2002
39	272	Centre	Merrill Wood	1991
39	272	Berks	Deuane Hoffman	2004
39	272	Cumberland	Deuane Hoffman	2004
42	271	Lehigh	Jason Horn	2002
43	270	Delaware	Al Guarente	2004
43	270	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	2004
45	269	Northampton	Rick Wiltraut	1998
45	269	Franklin	Kenneth Gabler	2002
45	269	Northampton	Dave DeReamus	2004
45	269	York	Deuane Hoffman	2004
49	268	Chester	Larry Lewis	1988
49	268	Erie	James Flynn	1997

County Annual Lists (Top 50)

1	275	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
2	268	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2000
3	264	Erie	Sam Stull	1979
4	256	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1992
5	255	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
6	253	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
7	252	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1991
7	252	Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
9	251	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1983
9	251	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1988
11	249	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
12	248	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1989
12	248	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
14	247	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
15	246	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1993
15	246	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2003
17	245	Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
17	245	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1996
17	245	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
20	244	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1985
21	243	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1979
21	243	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1981
23	242	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1984
23	242	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2001
25	241	Delaware	John Miller	1969
26	240	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1997
26	240	Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
28	239	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1993
28	239	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1994
28	239	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	2001
31	238	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1990
31	238	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1999
33	237	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1995
33	237	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	2000
35	236	Lancaster	Randy Miller	1991
35	236	Berks	Ken Lebo	1997
35	236	Northampton	Michael Schall	2003
38	235	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	1998
39	234	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1980
39	234	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1982
39	234	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	1987
39	234	Erie	Ed Kwater	1989
39	234	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1991
39	234	Lancaster	Randy Miller	1992
39	234	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	1997
46	233	Erie	James Flynn	1979
47	232	Erie	Ed Kwater	1992
47	232	Erie	Gerald McWilliams	2002
47	232	Bucks	Bill Etter	2003
50	231	Erie	Deuane Hoffman	1996
50	231	Clarion	John Fedak	1998
50	231	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	1998
50	231	Bucks	Bill Etter	2002
50	231	Northampton	Michael Schall	2004

THIRTEENTH REPORT of the PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

February 2005

Matt Sharp and Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

This report covers 99 records of 65 species submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter PORC or the Committee). The 59 records accepted, of 43 species, represent an acceptance rate of 59%. Highlights include the first record for California Gull, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Cave Swallow; second record for Pink-footed Goose; and third records for White-winged Dove and Green-tailed Towhee. The addition of the three new records brings the state total to 398 species (Pulcinella 2000).

The Committee received reports from 33 counties. The top seven counties reporting were Erie (19), Bucks (18), Northampton (8), Berks (4), Crawford (4), McKean (4) and Montgomery (4). PORC requests reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Pennsylvania. The Committee encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible. The Committee also emphasizes that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. At times, the committee receives photographs that do not adequately depict the field marks needed to clinch the identification, whereas supporting written documentation may add the missing information. On the other hand the Committee has also received written descriptions, apparently made up to a month after the sighting. While we recognize that busy lives do not always provide the spare-time for such luxuries as writing descriptions of reviewed species, in cases where there is a significant time-lapse between observation and description, anything more than several hours, it is important to include notes or sketches made in the field at the time of the observation. Otherwise there will be no objective material for the Committee to evaluate, and properly identified birds will be rejected on nothing more than a technicality.

For tips and guidelines on documenting rare birds, observers

are encouraged to consult the Committee's web pages at <http://www.pabirds.org>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, Hanisek and Lehman 1997, and PORC 2000.

Documentation can be submitted to Nick Pulcinella, PORC Secretary, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380.

Committee News:

The current members of the Committee include Matt Sharp (chair), Dan Heathcote (treasurer), Paul Guris, Eric Witmer, Jerry Stanley, Bob Leberman and Rick Wiltraut. Nick Pulcinella is the non-voting secretary. Recent members who voted on some records in this report include Paul Hess and George Armistead.

At the Committee's last meeting on October 11, 2003 several changes were made to the Review List. Removed from the list were: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Least Tern and brewer's Blackbird. Additions to the list: Yellow-crowned Night Heron (with no exemptions), sharp-tailed sparrow species. Changes in county exemptions; Little Gull – add Lancaster; Blue Grosbeak – add Berks; Summer Tanager – remove Greene. Changes in sex exemptions; Eurasian Wigeon – remove male only.

The Committee has a presence on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology web site at www.pabirds.org where PORC's pages include the Official State List, the Review List of species requiring documentation, tips for improving documentation of rarities, and a documentation form that can be downloaded. The site also contains information about the functions of the Committee as well as a photo gallery of rarities found in Pennsylvania.

Classification of Records:

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (p) photograph submitted, (r) sound recording, (a) audiotape, (v) videotape, (s) specimen.

Class II: An accepted sight record documented independently by two or more observers.

Class III: An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

Format of this Report:

The records are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998).

The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989.

A + after the number signifies that there are accepted records prior to the formation of PORC.

Each record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the quarterly reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the initials of known observers and those who submitted documentation.

Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee's vote tally for each record.

All photographs, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary until a permanent location is established.

An * after a species name indicates that the species is no longer on the PORC review list.

Abbreviations: **CBC** = Christmas Bird Count, **et al.** = and others, **m.obs.** = multiple observers; **NAB** = North American Birds; **NAMC** = North America Migration Count, **PB** = Pennsylvania Birds; **PISP** = Presque Isle State Park; **Res.** = Reservoir; **S.P.** = State Park; **Tw.p.** = Township

ACCEPTED SPECIES

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (2)

Buckingham Twp. *Bucks*, 27 January-2 February 2002. (DF(v), AM(v), AB(p) m.obs.; Class I; 108-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:25. This is the second accepted record for Pennsylvania.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (8+)

A female in Richmond Twp. *Crawford*, 18 October 2001. (BS(p); Class I; 149-01-2001). 7/0. Photograph published NAB 56:124. PISP, *Erie* 2 February 2002. (MF, BM, JM, DF; Class I; 149-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:25.



Plate 1. Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). A female in Richmond Twp. *Crawford*, 18 October 2001 (Bob Scribner).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) (5+)

A female present on the Delaware River near New Hope, *Bucks*, 19 January-11 March 2001. (BH, AM (v); Class I; 155-01-2001). 7/0. This bird was seen repeatedly over its course of stay traveling with a flock of about 60 Common Goldeneyes.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (2+)

One at PISP, *Erie*, 30 November-1 December 2002. (JM (p), BC (p); Class I; 065-01-2002). 7/0. This bird came flying in over Lake Erie during Jerry McWilliams waterbird count. The bird was seen again the following day feeding with gulls. Photograph published in PB 16:183.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) (5+)

Two at Marsh Creek S.P., *Chester*, 3 October 2001. (JMa, AG, NP, m.obs.; Class III; 068-01-2001). 7/0. This was a first county record. Photograph published in PB 15:236. One at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 4 November 2001-8 January 2002.

(GFra, KC, m.obs.; Class III; 068-02-2001). 7/0. This species winters in small numbers along the lower Delaware River from s. Bucks to the Delaware state line. It seems to be slowly spreading its fall and winter range north and west from this core area.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (2+)

One observed on a horse farm in Hebron Twp., *Potter*, 28 October 2001. (GW; Class III; 089-01-2001). 7/0.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (9+)

One immature photographed at Gretna Glen Camp, *Lebanon*, 8-14 July 2001. (DW (p); Class 01; 093-02-2001). 7/0. Photographed published in PB 15:171.



Plate 2. White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). An immature photographed at Gretna Glen Camp, *Lebanon*, 12 July 2001. (David Wheeler). (check PA Birds 15/171 to see which photo was published)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (13+)

One adult at Buzzard Swamp, *Forest*, 11 May 2002. (FM; Class III; 095-01-2002). 7/0. An adult at Tullytown, *Bucks* 17 May 2002. (DF(v); Class I; 095-02-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:98. One at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 14 September 2002. (GF; Class III; 095-03-2002). 6/1. Photograph published in PB 16:184. This bird was noted to be an adult in "summer plumage". The observer was diligent in ruling out the similar White-faced Ibis by noting the bird had a dark eye and the leg color was olive-gray.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) (5+)

One juvenile at Mosiertown, *Crawford*, 12-31 August 2001. (MM (p), m.obs., Class I, 099-01-2001). 7/0. One at Littlestown, *Adams*, 19 August-3 September 2001. (BM (p), AG (p), m.obs.; Class I; 099-02-2001). 7/0. Photograph published in NAB 56:1 cover, PB 15:3 cover. Both of these birds fall into the traditional

late-summer, early-fall occurrence pattern for this species in Pennsylvania.



Plate 3. Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). An adult in Littlestown, *Adams*, 24 August 2001 (Al Guarente)

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (13+).

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, 2 June 2001. (IB; Class III; 171-01-2002). 7/0. One at the Blue Marsh Gamelands, *Berks*, 24 May 2001. (KK; Class III; 171-04-2001). 7/0. This species has become a regular spring visitor and these two records fit nicely into the mid-May early June pattern.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). (2+).

One at Little Gap Hawk Lookout, *Northampton*, 15 September 2001. (MS, BS; Class II; 186-01-2001). 6/1 after two rounds.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*) (5+)

A dark-morph probable first-year at PISP, *Erie*, 27 January-2 February 2001. (DC, RS m.obs.; Class II; 200-01-2001). 6/1. A white-morph also at PISP, *Erie*, 31 March-2 April 2001. (BC; PK, m.obs.; Class II; 200-02-2001). 7/0.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (2+)

One flushed several times from a patch of sedges in Eldred, *McKean*, 6 October 2002. (BC, DW; Class III; 231-01-2002). 7/0. The date is consistent with other reports of this species in Pennsylvania. The peak of its fall migration passage in the state is probably during the first few weeks of October but more reports of this secretive species are needed to verify this.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (8+)

One photographed on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, 31 May 2002. (TA(p), BSch; Class I; 261-01-2002). 7/0.



Plate 4. Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster, 31 May 2002 (Tom Amico).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (13+)

A juvenile seen at Allegheny Res., Warren, 3 September 2002. (JF; Class III; 293-02-2002). 7/0. The description of the black underwing ruled out the similar Black-tailed Godwit for which there is one Pennsylvania record.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) (11+)

One bird seen at PISP, Erie, 28 April 2002. (JM(p), BC; Class I; 295-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 16:99. This bird was seen and heard as the observers were arriving at Gull Point to conduct a count for the International Shorebird Survey. The descriptions ruled out all other godwit species.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper * (*Tryngites subruficollis*) (6)

One at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, 7 September 2001. (DF(v); Class I; 320-01-2001). 7/0. Photograph published PB 15:174. One at Pine Run, Bucks, 9-20 September 2001. (DF(v), m.obs.; Class I; 320-02-2001). 7/0. Reports of this species after 2003 will no longer be reviewed.

Red-necked Phalarope * (*Phalaropus lobatus*) (14+)

A juvenile at Imperial, Allegheny, 26-27 August 2002. (MF; Class III; 330-02-2002). 7/0. Reports of this species after 2003 will no longer be reviewed.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (7+)

One found sitting on one of sand islands at PISP, Erie, 18 November 2001. (JM; Class III; 332-01-2001). 5/1. One observed flying along the shoreline of Lake Erie at PISP, Erie, 1 January 2002. (JM; class III; 332-01-2002). 6/1. The mid-November to late December period at PISP has contributed the majority of non-

storm related Pomarine Jaeger reports for Pennsylvania.

Jaeger species (*Stercorarius* species) (10+)

One at PISP, Erie, 8 October 2001. (JM; Class III; 332a-01-2001). 6/1. Another seen at a distance at PISP, Erie, 24 December 2001. (JM; Class III; 332a-02-2001). 6/0. Another at PISP, Erie, 28 December 2001. (JM; Class III; 332a-03-2001). 6/1. All three birds were seen offshore Lake Erie but at such a distance that determination to specific species could not be made.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) (8+)

Three adults at Lake Somerset, Somerset, 21-22 April 2001. (JP, LP; Class III; 338-01-2001). 6/1.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (13+)

One at Martin's Creek PP&L Flyash Basin, Northampton, 7 April 2001. (RW; Class III; 339-02-2001). This bird was in near alternate plumage and seen in direct comparison with Bonaparte's Gulls.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (1)

One at PISP, Erie, 18-23 November 2002. (BC(p), DW, JM(p); Class I; 346-01-2002). 7/0. This bird was photographed and meticulously described in direct comparison with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Photograph published in PB 16:147-149. This is a first state record.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (21)

One adult on the Delaware River in Tullytown, Bucks, 23 February 2002. (MS; Class III; 348-01-2002). 5/1 with one member abstaining. The majority of accepted records of this species have come from this location

or from PISP, Erie. This bird was observed in direct comparison to adult Iceland and Herring gulls. Until further field identification characteristics are worked out in separating non-adults of this species from non-adult Iceland Gulls, PORC will no longer review reports of this species unless they are adult birds.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (9+)

An immature on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster, 22 September 2002. (EW, TG, et al; Class II; 360-01-2002). 7/0. This bird was studied both flying and swimming in direct comparison with Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls while the observers were "chumming old bread" to attract gulls on the Susquehanna River.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (4)

One in Fairview, Erie, 25 November 2001-14 April 2002. (JM(p), DF(v) m.obs; Class I; 409a-01-2001; 409a-01-2002). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 15:237. This long-staying bird was observed intermittently on the dates provided and favored a small area making it easily available to birders. It was noted mostly perched on utility wires or at a nearby feeding station. This species continues to expand north to Pennsylvania from its stronghold in the southern states and more reports are expected.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (3)

This bird was especially accommodating as it visited a feeder in New Castle, Lawrence, 11-12 June 2001. (CG, BD; Class I; 413-01-2001). 7/0. Photograph published PB15:95. This is the third state record.

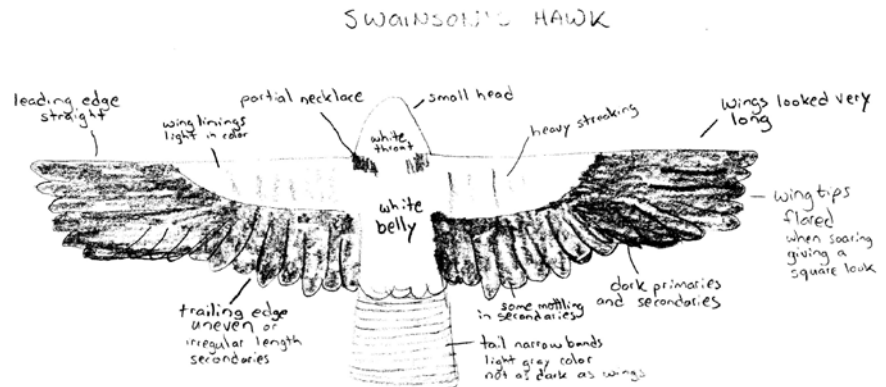


Plate 5. Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Sketch of bird observed at Little Gap Hawk Lookout, Northampton, 15 September 2001 (Michael Schall).

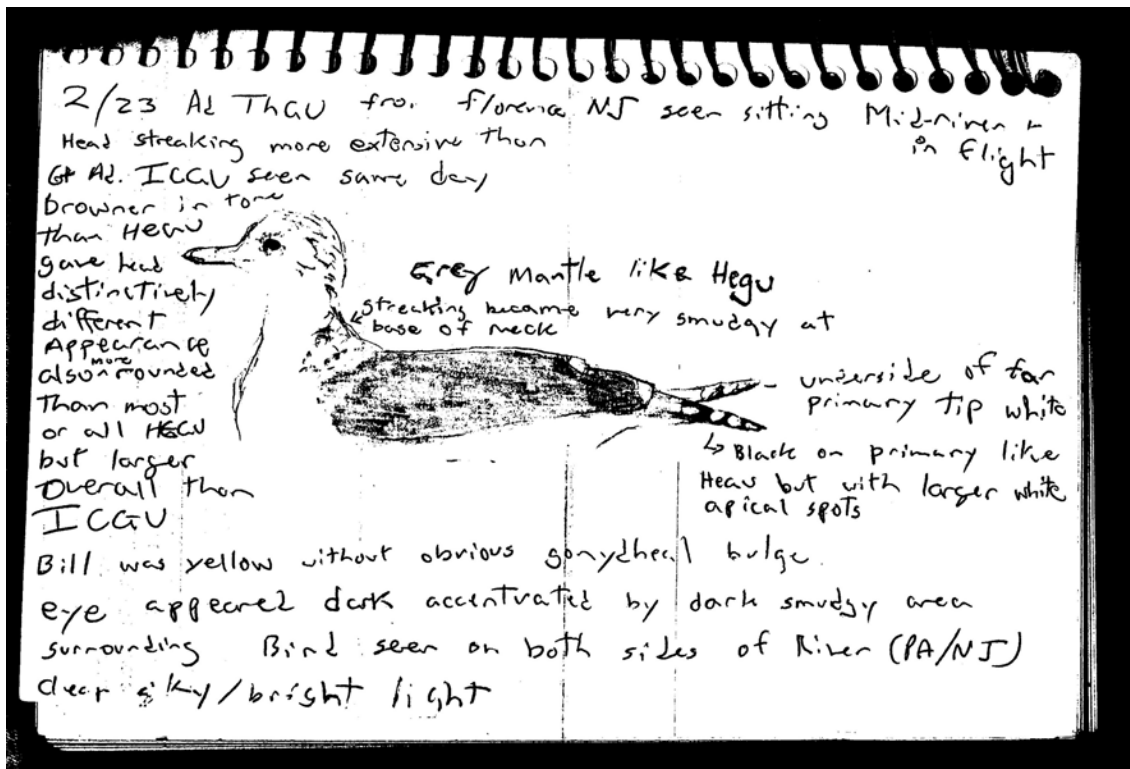


Plate 6. Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Field notes of adult on the Delaware River in Tullytown, Bucks, 23 February 2002 (Matt Sharp).

SPECIES: IMMATURE SABINE'S GULL

WHERE: CONEJOHELA FLATS, LANCASTER CO. PA.

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 22, 2002

OBSERVERS: TOM GARNER, ERIL WITMER, BRUCE CARL, JERRY BOOK

NOTES: VIEWED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR UNDER VERY FAVORABLE
 CONDITIONS THROUGH A KOWA TS824 20x-60x SCOPE
 AND SWAROVSKI 8.5x42 EL BINOCULARS

SIZE: SWIMMING IN WATER IN DIRECT COMPARISON WITH
 A BONAPARTE'S AND RING-BILLED GULLS, THE SABINE'S
 WAS MUCH SMALLER THAN THE RING-BILLED'S AND
 ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS BONAPARTE'S.

DESCRIPTION: BILL SMALL AND BLACK. FACE AND
 UNDERPARTS WHITE. SIDES OF FACE, CROWN,
 NAPE, AND UPPERPARTS DUNKY BROWN WITH
 NOTICEABLE PALER FEATHER EDGINGS ON WINGS
 AND BACK GIVING A "SCALLOPED" APPEARANCE.
 TAIL WAS WHITE AND NOTICEABLY FORKED WITH
 BLACK BAND AT END. WING PATTERN IN
 FLIGHT VERY BOLD AND OBVIOUS AS BELOW -



NOTE: THREE OF THE
 OBSERVERS INCLUDING
 MYSELF HAVE PREVIOUSLY
 SEEN IMM. SABINE'S GULL
 AS DOCUMENTED BY PHOTOS
 FROM THE FLATS IN THE 90'S.

SUBMITTED 9/29/2002
 BY TOM GARNER

Plate 7. Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) Written documentation submitted for immature on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster, 22 September 2002 (Tom Garner).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) (7+)

One near Easton, *Northampton*, 9-17 November 2001. (AK, DD(p), SW(p) m.obs.; Class I; 495-01-2001). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 15:235. This bird was trapped and banded by Scott Weidensaul on 10 November and identified as a hatching-year female. Interestingly, this bird had already replaced its rectrices with adult feathers, which initially caused a bit of confusion as to age. This is one of a growing number of late fall reports of this species for the state.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) (1)

This amazing individual flew past the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford*, 20 October 2002. (CT, LS, TK, JK, JP, m.obs.; Class II; 504-01-2002). 6/1. Needless to say, the 15 observers at the hawkwatch that day were astonished by this fly-by. The committee is grateful that five of the observers submitted written descriptions. This is a first state record.



Plate 8. Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picooides arcticus*) One male at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, *Pike*, 3 March 2001 (Mark McConaughy).

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picooides arcticus*) (2+)

One male at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, *Pike*, 6 March-29 April 2001. (KD, MF, WL(p), MM (p), NP(p), PS, RW(p), m.obs.; Class I; 521-01-2001) 7/0. Photograph published NAB 55:383, PB 15:97. This long-staying individual was seen by hundreds of birders from several states as it meticulously in a stand of Red Pines allowing close approach. This was the first confirmed record in twenty years.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (14+)

One observed at Nockamixon S.P.,

Bucks, 4 October 2001. (BE; Class III; 557-01-2001). 7/0. The date falls nicely into the mid-September to mid-October time frame for this species in Pennsylvania.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (1)

One at *Huntsdale, Cumberland*, 19 November 2002. (DS; Class III; 576-01-2002). 7/0. This bird was observed from distances as close as 15 feet for about fifteen minutes as it fed over a small pond at a fish hatchery during a sleet storm. This species has occurred in nearby states within this same time frame and has been overdue to occur in Pennsylvania. This is a first state record.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) (11+)

One at PISP, *Erie*, 1 June 2002. (GM; Class III; 625-01-2002). 7/0. One seen and heard at close range in West Twp., *Huntingdon*, 26-27 May 2002; (GG, DK, TK; Class III; 625-02-2002). 6/1.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) (1+)

One videoed at Core Creek County Park, *Bucks*, 13 May 2001. (AM, DF(v); m.obs., Class I; 654a-02-2001). 7/0 after two rounds. This was an amazing video showing the bird well as it save and also gave call notes. During first-round voting a majority felt that the record was probably good but because field identification of Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush can be complicated a review by an outside expert was requested. Michael O'Brien who was able to obtain sonograms from the video, which matched those of Bicknell's Thrush, reviewed the record. There was unanimous acceptance on second-round voting.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) (9+)

One at PISP, *Erie*, 10-17 November 2001. (DDo; JM(p), m.obs.; Class I; 694-01-2001). 7/0. Photograph published NAB 56:52, PB 15:238. This bird was found by visiting Ohio birders while it fed on berries with a flock of Cedar Waxwings.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) (2+)

One at PISP, *Erie*, 8 September 2001. (JH, BC, DW, MK; RFri, KCo; Class II; 737-01-2001). 6/1 after two rounds.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica*

kirtlandii) (6+)

One seen and heard in a small pine plantation at the Piney Tract, *Clarion*, 12 May 2001. (JF; Class III; 746-01-2001). 6/1. This is the third accepted spring record.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) (8+)

One present at Bushy Run Battlefield Park, *Westmoreland*, 8-18 May 2001. (MM(v); Class I; 756-01-2001). 7/0.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (2)

One present at feeders near Center, *Juniata*, 10 November-1 December 2002. (TP; JF(p), MM(p), MO(p) Matt Osie m.obs.; Class I; 799-01-2002). 7/0. A great find by Toby Petersheim, many enjoyed this cooperative bird. Photograph published PB 16:154. Third state record.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (6+)

One present at Benjamin Rush S.P., *Philadelphia*, 2 February-6 March 2002. (JD(p), DF(v), NP(p) m.obs. Class I; 820-01-2002). 7/0.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (6+)

One at Bullis Mill Swamp, *McKean*, 5 October 2002. (JF; Class III; 829-01-2002). 7/0.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (10)

Three birds seen together at close range at PISP, *Erie*, 5 October 2001. (JM(p); Class I; 830a-04-2001). 7/0.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (6+)

One at Moorestown, *Northampton*, 22-24 December 2001. (DD; AK; Class III; 839-02-2001). 6/1. This bird was first found by Dave DeReamus on the Wild Creek-Penn Forest CBC and then seen again two days later by Arlene Koch.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) (4+)

One seen and heard near Mammoth, *Westmoreland*, 28-29 April 2001. (DL; MM(v); Class I; 858-01-2001). 7/0. One found during the NAMC near Crabtree, *Westmoreland*, 12 May 2001. (MM(v); Class I; 858-02-2001). 7/0.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) (2+) Three present at Mansfield, *Tioga*, 26 January 2002 last date unknown. (MM(v), DF(v); Class I; 879-01-2002). 7/0.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable (Votes are listed as for/against/abstain. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance.)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). One at Moraine S.P., *Butler*, 12 April 2001. Class IV-A; 002a-01-2001. 0/7.

This bird was seen from considerable distance. At long range the subtle field marks separating non-adult plumaged loons are hard to detect and in this case many were not described. Size is a very difficult feature to judge on a solitary bird at 300 yards and the only feature mentioned that would positively identify the bird was the "chinstrap" a mark that can be approximated by shadow or displaced feathers, or both.

Band-rumped Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). One found on the Lake Erie Shore, *Erie*, 24 February 1998. Class IV-B; 052-01-1998. 3/1 after three rounds.

One of the more remarkable reports the committee has dealt with. After a 3rd round of voting and the opinion of a seabird expert not on the PA Committee, the report was placed in class IV-B. The committee never received any measurements of the specimen, only the expert opinion that the bird was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. It is important that the committee not let an outside expert determine its opinion without objective data. As of September 22, 2003, the specimen was lost, so measurements is now impossible. Furthermore, one committee member brought up the possibility that this bird was never alive in Pennsylvania and could have been transported dead aboard an ocean-going vessel. Unfortunately, the record will remain in a state of limbo indefinitely.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). One in Allentown, *Lehigh*, 28 May 2002. Class IV-A; 168-01-2002. 2/5.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). One seen along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, *Fulton*, 12 August 2001. Class IV-A; 171-05-2001. 2/5.

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). One seen passing North

Lookout, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks*, 9 October 1986. Class IV-C; 173-01-1986. 0/7 after two rounds. This report began with the discovery, in a drawer at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, a photograph of a large eagle-like bird labeled as White-tailed Eagle taken at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The Committee was able, with the assistance of personnel from Hawk Mountain, to accumulate additional information surrounding the sighting. This information included personal comments from an eyewitness, a copy of a notation from the *Hawk Mountain News* Number 67/May 1987 and an opinion rendered at the time from Kenneth Parkes then Senior Curator of Birds at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. The Committee agreed that the documentation be sent to current raptor experts, Jerry Liguori and William Clark for additional opinions. Both authorities agreed that the photo was a juvenile Bald Eagle based largely on the presence of six emarginated primaries, which is characteristic of Bald Eagle. White-tailed Eagle has seven. The tail was also considered too long for White-tailed Eagle. Liguori also submitted several photographs of similar shaped Bald Eagles.



Plate 9. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A juvenile at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks*, 9 October 1986 (Photographer unknown). Originally identified as a White-tailed Eagle.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). One seen at Second Mountain Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, 13 October 2002. Class IV-B; 186-01-2002. 2/5.

Identifying migrating hawks is as much art as science. In this case the committee's most experienced hawk watcher felt the description was quite accurate in terms of shape and size or "jizz", one of the most important criteria in raptor identification. Unfortunately the art of raptor identification is often lost when translated into a written description. The perception of subtle

differences in size and shape, an ability that is almost second-nature to veteran hawk watchers, is easily lost on those who have not spent as much time on the ridges and elsewhere. For the purposes of documentation, subtle distinctions in shape or size need to be further supported by plumage details, or something that is more readily assessable.

Red-tailed Hawk (Krider's) (*Buteo jamaicensis*). One at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon*, 21 October 2002. Class IV-A; 190a-01-2002. 4/3 after two rounds.

The committee was unanimous in its opinion that this was a superbly written and accurate description. The bird in question was probably correctly identified, but not beyond reasonable doubt. The doubt here comes mainly from the fact that Red-tailed Hawk is such a highly variable bird, one that not only shows geographic variation but which also occurs in a variety of morphs and is relatively frequently seen with plumage anomalies such as leucism and partial albinism which can be symmetrical. For a form with no pattern of vagrancy, which is part of a species as taxonomically complex as Red-tailed Hawk, the committee will most likely need some physical evidence. This excellent description does provide a very compelling reason to look for this mid-western form at hawk watches in the future.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). One at Asbury Hill, *Erie*, 19 May 2002. Class IV-A; 191-01-2002. 1/6. One in Revere, *Bucks*, 8 November 2002. Class IV-A; 191-02-2002. 0/7.

For a species as unprecedented as this the committee took an expected conservative stance on both these reports. Neither were detailed enough to rule out all the possibilities. In one case the description seemed to have been written over a month after the sighting, and while it seemed very accurate to what was seen in the field, a month is more than enough time for the mind to confirm what the observer wants to believe the y saw.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*). One at the Mouth of Conawago Creek, *York*, 15 August 2002. Class IV-A; 258-01-2002. 3/4. This description lacked several key elements the committee felt necessary for acceptance. There was no description of the overall size and

build of the bird, or a direct comparison to another species such as Killdeer which was also present. Finally there is no description of the rear third of the bird. For a species as rare as Wilson's Plover, a description of the whole bird is needed.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). One at Conneaut Marsh, Crawford, 17 November 2002. Class IV-A; 331-01-2002. ¾ after two rounds.

A brief observation of birds mainly in flight that included details inconsistent with Red Phalarope.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). One at Lake Somerset, Somerset, 1 April 2001. Class IV-B; 337-01-2001. 4/2 after two rounds.

Even those who accepted the report were concerned with the sparseness of the details. The notes provided seemed like field notes which are excellent supporting material but need to be accompanied by a formal description in order to meet the standards of documentation the Committee wishes to maintain for the permanent records of the state's avifauna.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Three at Beltzville Lake, Carbon, 17 December 2000. Class IV-B; 338-01-2000. 1/6.

After 2 rounds of review the committee was nearly unanimous in their comments that there were simply not enough details provided in either the written descriptions or the video to confidently assess the identity of the birds in question.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). One at Tullytown, Bucks, 13 January 2001. Class IV-A; 348-01-2001. 1/5 after two rounds with one member abstaining. One at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 3 March 2002. Class IV-B; 348-02-2002. 2/5. One at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks, 31 March 2001. Class IV-B; 348-08-2001. 0/6/ with one member abstaining.

The evolutionary history, and taxonomic placement of this species has been debated for a long time. Currently it is considered a distinct species by the AOU. This placement is in question and it has been suggested that it is rather a subspecies of Iceland Gull. Complicating this further is uncertainty regarding the treatment of the North American race of Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* known as Kumlien's Gull.

This race has even been considered a species of its' own, but more troubling is the possibility that Kumlien's Gull is derived from intergradation between Thayer's and nominate Iceland Gull. At this point the range of variation in young birds of both gulls has not been defined though it is clear that Thayer's tends to be darker. In light of the taxonomic questions and the unknown extent of variation in young birds the committee does not believe it can confidently assess documentation of birds under four years of age. Though not able to definitively judge reports of apparent Thayer's Gull the committee encourages observers to submit documentation of the species to be archived.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*). One at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, 23 May 2001. Class IV-A; 367-01-2001. 3/4.

A brief sighting of a bird seen only in flight. For a species so rare away from the coast and with only three previous reports in the state a more detailed study, if not a photo, is needed. The fact that one of the previous reports is a specimen does make this frustrating as it indicates the possibility of the species appearing again. Most species of tern complete the molt to "breeding" plumage in the south before migrating so the bird described was almost certainly a bird in either its first or second summer plumage, approximately 11 or 22 months old. Forster's, Common, Arctic as well as Roseate Tern would show the combination of dark outer primaries (to varying degrees) and a black bill with some red at the base at this age. To be positive it would be necessary to see the bird perched and assess the tail extension past the wings, and the leg length.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). One at Shenango Res., Mercer, 12 August 2001. Class IV-A; 372-02-2001. 1/5 after two rounds.

Much of the identification rested on the apparent size of the bird with a Killdeer used as a comparison species. Given the great difference in build this may have been misleading. The average lengths given in most field guides can be misleading when used to compare the sizes of birds, a character more related to mass than length. In terms of mass a Least Tern is more comparable to a *Calidris* sandpiper than a Killdeer since most of a tern's length

consists of feathers.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). One at Shady Grove, Franklin, 9 May - 15 September 2001. Class IV-A; 409a-02-2002. 1/6.

This bird was obviously a *Streptopelia* dove but the photograph provided did not show the undertail, undertail coverts, or primaries. Without a description or view of these parts it was simply not possible to identify the bird positively since all the field marks visible are shared by Ringed Turtle-Dove, not to mention a hybrid between the two species. Hybrids are being found with increasing frequency in areas where both species are found, and considering that both species are still sold as pets, the possibility of a hybrid is real.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*). One in Jackson Twp., Tioga, 13 August 2000. Class IV-A; 489-01-2000. 3/4.

A fascinating report which stumped most members and caused the committee to seek an outside opinion. This opinion revealed that young hummingbirds replace tail feathers with adult-type feathers if they are lost outside the first pre-basic molt. Also, young hummingbirds occasionally show a dark necklace of damaged feathers due to being in the nest. This resolved the two most confounding aspects of this report and strongly suggest that the bird involved was a young Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). One at Warren High School, Warren, 21 October 2002. Class IV-A; 649-01-2002. 2/5 after two rounds.

This report was almost certainly correct but the written descriptions contained a few details which were ambiguously or incorrectly described. This was frustrating since otherwise the descriptions were excellent and seemed to accurately describe a Mountain Bluebird. However the committee would be remiss to ignore the above inconsistencies.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*). One at Tyler S.P., Bucks, 19 May 2001. Class IV-B; 654a-03-2001. 0/7.

Field identification of this species has not been resolved and there are no known plumage distinctions between this and Gray-cheeked

Thrush. There do seem to be some differences in size and build. One of the more useful may be that Gray-cheeked tend to be longer winged so the primary extension past the tertials is greater than or equal to the length of the tertials (a ratio greater than or equal to one) while Bicknell's is shorter winged with a ratio less than or equal to one. Complicating this are nominate Gray-cheeked Thrush nesting in eastern Labrador, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia which are smaller and redder above, hence more like Bicknell's. Until field identification of non-singing Bicknell's has been placed on a firmer footing the committee has decided not to accept reports of this species without sound recordings.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). One at Eldred, *McKean*, 5 October 2002. Class IV-A; 826-01-2002. 0/7.

The committee unanimously chose to be conservative on this report as it is a potential first for the state, and involves a notoriously hard to observe species. With records in NY, OH, and MD however it is a species to keep in mind while working autumn sparrow flocks.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*). One in Jackson Twp., *Mercer*, 23 September 2001. Class IV-A; 830a-03-2001. The Jackson Twp. bird was almost certainly a Nelson's, but Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow could not be ruled out. Regardless, this reports definitely pertains to a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and as such helps establish the occurrence of these secretive birds in the state.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). One in Hartstown, *Crawford*, 27 January 2001. Class IV-A; 840a-01-2001. 3/4. One in Nockamixon Twp., *Bucks*, 30 November 2004. Class IV-A; 840a-01-2002. 4/3 after two rounds.

Juncos are arguably the most taxonomically complicated passerines in North America with some 15 described subspecies. These races will interbreed where ranges overlap, and one race *cismontanus* is believed to be derived from intergradation between "Slate-colored" and "Oregon". Given this degree of complexity Juncos need to be very closely described to turn an identification from "not a Slate-colored" to an "Oregon".

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*). One in Leesport, *Berks*, 16 November 2001. Class IV-A; 840d-01-2001. 1/6.

Though almost certainly correct, for a species with almost no precedence of occurring in the east an acceptable record would probably have to include a photograph, or at least a feather-by-feather description.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). One at Leighton High School, *Carbon*, 24 March 2001. Class IV-A; 861-01-2001. 3/4. One in Green Lane, *Montgomery*, 20 January 2002. Class IV-A; 861-01-2002. 3/4 after two rounds. One in Steinberg, *Bucks*, 16 December 2001. Class IV-A; 861-02-2001. 3/3 after two rounds. One at Shenango Res., *Mercer*, 27 October 2002. Class IV-A; 861-02-2002. 4/3 after two rounds. One in Buckingham Twp, *Bucks*, 26 December 2001. Class IV-A; 861-03-2001. 4/2 after two rounds.

All of the above records were likely correct, but were not described thoroughly enough to rule out all other possible species. Brewer's Blackbird was removed from the review list in 2003. This species is familiar to birders and poses more of a problem in the description than in the identification. It is a rare but regular fall-early spring visitor to the state and has a fairly predictable pattern of occurrence. The records committee felt that there was not much else to be gained from reviewing additional documentation of the species.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). One at Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, 22 October 2001. Class IV-A; 874a-01-2001. 3/4.

Separation of female and immature Bullock's and Baltimore Oriole is extremely difficult and often requires close and extended views. In this case it was unclear what age and sex was involved.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED because they represent or may represent an escapee or an introduced species not yet established in Pennsylvania. IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*). One at Galeton, *Potter*, 22 April 2002. (JF; Class V; 104-01-2002). 3/4. Photograph published in PB 16:98. Though not outside the realm of

possibility this species would be extremely unlikely, especially in the spring. The few North American records are from the west coast and usually involve southbound or overwintering birds. Though no one can say for sure where this bird came from, an escapee captive seems more likely than an individual from Iceland or Europe.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). One at the Haines-Seville Wetlands, Area, *Fulton*, 13 April 2001. (DS; Class V; 105-01-2001). 2/5. Two at Blue Marsh Lake, *Berks*, 7 April 2002. (JS, RK; Class V; 105-01-2002). 2/5

With on-going reintroduction programs as close as Ohio and Ontario, Trumpeter Swans in Pennsylvania will be assumed to have originated from one of these programs in the absence of direct evidence of natural origin such as a band. Regardless, the species is an increasingly regular visitor and now is the time to compile records of its occurrence so that any decision to include it on the official state list can be based on reliable sightings.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). One in Buckingham Twp., *Bucks*, 8-19 February 2002. (FT, AM, AB; Class V; 115-01-2002). 2/5 Photograph published in NAB 56:160 Records of this species have apparently been on the increase and show a pattern of occurrence consistent with a wild migrant species. However there are more certain records of escaped captives, including breeding records, than birds of wild origin. At this point, additional, well-documented, records are needed before the species can reliably be considered a naturally occurring vagrant.

Contributors:

Tom Amico, George Armistead, Ian Baldock, Alan Brady, Larry Brown, Donald Bryant, Marvin Byler, Doug Couchman, Ben Coulter, Kristen Comelia (KCo), M. Cook, Kevin Crilley, John D'Amico, Barb Dean, Dave DeReamus, Gerry DeWaghe, Dan Donaldson (DDo), Kristine Dzurison, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, Steve Farbotnik, John Fedak, M. Fialkovich, George Franchois (GFra), Gary Freed, Ron French, Rick Fridell (RFri), Tom Garner, Dale Gearhart, JR George, Candy Gonzalez, Greg Grove, Ron

Grubb, Al Guarente, David Hawk, Bill Hoehne, Joyce Hoffmann, Jason Horn, Dean Kendall, Margie Kern, Katrina Knight, Arlene Koch, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Wayne Laubscher, Dennis Lauffer, Ronald Leberman, Bob Machesney, John MacNamara (JMa), Geoff Malosh, Mark McConaughy, Doris McGovern, Florence McGuire, Marty McKay, Jerry McWilliams, August Mirabella, Evan Obercian, Matt Orsie, Jeff Payne, Laretta Payne, Toby Petersham, Nick Pulcinella, B.Reynolds, Joe Sabo, Michael Schall, Patrick Scheuer, Bob Schutsky (BSch), Bob Scribner, Matt Sharp, Brad Sifles, Daniel Snell, Al Spiese, Linda Sporrer, Randy Stringer, Chuck Tague, Fred Tetlow, Harvey Troyer, Neil Troyer, Scott Weidensaul, David Wheeler, Chuck Widman, Dave Wilton (DWi), Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Gary Witmer, Debra Yovanovich, John Yerger, Robert Yurvati.

Acknowledgments

Persons outside of PORC who commented on certain records include William Clark, Jerry Liguori, Nancy Newfield, Michael O'Brien, and Bob Sargent. A draft was read and improved by Paul Hess. The Committee also wishes to thank all those who submitted documentation.

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed.* Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.
- Dittman, D. and G. W. Lasley. 1992. How to document rare birds. *Birding* 24:145-159.
- Hanisek, G. and P. Lehman. 1997. Documenting rarities. *Records of New Jersey Birds* 22:82-83.
- Pulcinella, N. 2000. Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds*. 14:105-109.

VIREO/ANSP
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103

613 Howard Road
West Chester, PA 19380

First Pennsylvania Record of Redwing (*Turdus Iliacus*)

Bucks County
August Mirabella

I started out Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, leading the Peace Valley Nature Center bird walk. As winter had been slow locally for bird sightings, expectations were low. So, a Greater White-fronted Goose on the lake was a welcome find, satisfying whatever it is that makes birders happy. As usual we retreated to the Nature Center for coffee and doughnuts and the social hour, which has become equally as important as the birding. After that, Jessica Huff, who is a talented watercolor artist, who created the Belted Kingfisher that graces the Bucks Co. Birders newsletter, joined me. Although a beginning birder, her artist's eye for form and color will undoubtedly result in success as a birder. We were trying to decide where to go when we were told a Fox Sparrow was out at the feeder on the Unami Trail. As this was a species that Jessica hadn't seen before, we decided to head out that way.

We sat at the bench I made out there last fall (breaking my toe in the construction process), and watched the feeder for an hour to no avail. We then started to head out the trail on our way back. There were birds along the tree line, so I pushed. I heard, "What's this?" from Jessica. Immature Robin went through the old brain, but no, not at this time of year; then Varied Thrush, but after checking Sibley, that was ruled out; then hybrid Robin x Varied Thrush was my conclusion. However, I had recently looked at a website which had pictures of various thrushes from around the world, since several alien species have been in the country this winter in Texas and Washington. Thus, I knew some have streaked breasts. So, a foreign species crossed my mind. But it couldn't be, could it? Finally, I called Devich Farbotnik and described what we saw. Luckily, he was at the other end of the park and came up and joined us, but the bird had flown. So, we walked back to the parking lot and we looked at field guides. The European guide I had didn't do it for me, but the National Geographic guide, which had a picture of Redwing, came the closest to what we saw. Jessica's artist's eye was telling her that Redwing was correct. However, we were both being cautious. Devich



Plate 1. Redwing (*Turdus Iliacus*) 5 February 2005, Peace Valley Park, Bucks. This photo shows the robin-shape, heavy streaking to the upper breast and sides, wide eye-stripe and dark (rusty red in color) flanks. (Devich Farbotnik)

was quite certain it wasn't a hybrid based on our description. So, I took Devich up and dropped him off near the site to see if he could relocate it. He did and confirmed that it was a Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*, a thrush that nests from Iceland through northern Europe and Asia and should be wintering south of there.

This was the third member of this species to be found in N. America this winter making it an "invasion" of sorts, as there were only 10 previously accepted records. Before this winter, records were from Newfoundland (6), Nova Scotia (1), Quebec (1), and New Brunswick (1). The only previous lower 48 record was in 1959 on Long Is., NY. This winter one was found in Washington State in December and the other in Newfoundland in January. Our bird was the 3rd this winter and 3rd lower 48 record! Thus, as only a birder can understand, the word got out quickly via the Internet and phone calls, and the crowds began to arrive. By the end of the day, about 50 birders had seen the bird. Traffic was blocked on New Galena Rd. by overzealous birders who parked in the right of way. All in all, however, it was a well-mannered group. There seemed

to be a quietness that not only was appropriate to avoid scaring the bird so others could see, but also a sense of disbelief and awe that such a rarity would actually be at hand.

That evening I warned Corey Jarin, PVNC director, to the fact that bedlam would prevail the next day. It did! I arrived at about 8AM or so, and the parking lot was full and cars were lining New Galena Rd. I noticed cars from Maine to Virginia and on Monday from N. Carolina. It is only a guess, but probably as many as 200 people were there Sunday. At least one car was towed by the police and eventually no parking signs were posted along New Galena Rd. and Chapman Rd. Some who wanted a more peaceful nature experience wandered away from the crowd, and a few showed their disappointment that they didn't "get the bird". It wasn't to be found. What a shame, as seeing it would have made what was a beautiful weather day perfect and made for many contented birders.

Here are some sideline stories of interest. The first is that Devich, who is on a mission to break 700 species on his N. American list and is very close, flew to Washington a few

weeks earlier to try for the Redwing out there. He missed it! The second is the incredible spirit of our club patriarch, Alan Brady. He was scheduled to receive the Fred Mears Birder of the Year award at the PVNC annual meeting that day. I had alerted him to the fact that we might have a Redwing, moments before the meeting as he entered from the parking lot. I described it to him, and he was quick to blow aside my cautious stance and say that's obviously what it was. When it was confirmed, I came to the meeting and he saw me at the door.

I gave him the thumbs up. He jumped up and walked all the way out in the snow to the spot with camera and walking stick to see the bird. He never made it back for the award presentation despite two phone calls to me asking to get him back. His enthusiasm resulting from this event lasted for two days! He was there Sunday; busy taking pictures of the cars and crowd and greeting old friends. Third, Dave DeReamus of the Lehigh Valley Hotline recorded the bird as his 700th species. Finally, Paul Lehman of Cape May came Sunday looking for his 800th N. American tick, but alas this was not to be.

Those who know me are aware of the fact that the bird list is a low priority with me. I can't tell you how many species are on my county, state, or life lists. That doesn't mean I don't like to find or see rarities. However, I can say I got more pleasure from having been a part of helping a new birder, which resulted in this find. If it weren't for Jessica, I wouldn't have been out there to see this bird. Adding to the pleasure is the knowledge of how much this means to Devich and others who lust for the list. Finally, bringing some joy to Alan's day, a man I have admired and respected for 35 years was in itself reward enough. I just wish that everyone could have seen it.

*1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454*



Plate 2. Redwing (*Turdus Iliacus*) 5 February 2005, Peace Valley Park, Bucks. With the wing extended, the dark axillary and flank (rusty red in color) are clearly visible. (Devich Farbotnik)



Plate 3. A few of the estimated 200-300 birders seeking the Redwing on 6 February 2005 (Sharon Pulcinella).

First Record of Sedge Wren Wintering in Pennsylvania

Rick Wiltraut

On December 26, 2004, I was participating in the Merrill Creek, New Jersey Christmas Bird Count in an area of the count circle that extends into Northampton County, Pennsylvania. I was covering the area northwest of the town of Martins Creek and was investigating a small stream bordered by what appeared that to be a spring or seep running through the area. The habitat consisted mostly of Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*), Rush (*Juncus*, sp.), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). There were several Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) here. I also heard a “chap, chap” sound along the stream. Knowing that it was a call that I was not familiar with in winter, I checked it out and was surprised to see a Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) pop up out of the sedge. I was able to get some decent looks and video of the bird before it buried itself back into the sedge. It was not easy to get good looks of the bird as the bird moved mouse-like through the sedge, only popping up occasionally to utter its “chap, chap” call notes. Because of the late date, it appeared that the bird was attempting to winter in this small patch of sedge. Feeling an obligation to protect the bird, I decided not to report it and risk damage to its small amount of habitat. The wren continued to survive in this small patch of sedge for over three weeks. The last time I saw the bird was January 20, 2005.

During the week that followed there was a heavy snowfall in the area (about 8”) and the wren was not seen again. During its stay however, it survived wind chills of 0 degrees F on several occasions. Because of the seep, it apparently was still able to find food under these severe conditions. According to the many resources I checked regarding the diet of Sedge Wrens, it seems that they eat insects exclusively. I would imagine that this bird was finding midge larvae (*Chironomus*, sp.) as well as spiders and other invertebrates.

The Sedge Wren is considered a “Threatened” species in Pennsylvania. The previous late date



Plate 1. Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) 26 December 2004, Martin's Creek, Northampton (video capture Rick Wiltraut).

for a Sedge Wren in Pennsylvania was one at Frances Slocum State Park in Luzerne Co. on November 25, 1979. This was only the third “modern” record of Sedge Wren in the Lehigh Valley and all have occurred in Northampton County. Previous sightings included a singing bird at Bear Swamp May 8-9, 1994 and a pair which nested at Jacobsburg May 21-August 31 1996, the only breeding record. There are also two “historical” records for the area. In southern New Jersey, the Sedge Wren is a rare winter visitor. On CBC's from 1965-1992, the Cape May count averaged only one every four years (Sibley, 1997). It was formerly more common in winter.

It's interesting to note that Tussock Sedge was a major vegetation type in at least one Minnesota location during the breeding season (Schneider and Pence, 1992) and the singing bird found at Bear Swamp in 1994 was also found in this species of sedge

References

- Bent, A.C., 1948 *Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, and their Allies*, United States Government Printing Office.
- McWilliams, G.M. and D. Brauning, 2000. *Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.
- Saenger, P.G., Malt, B.C., and K. Crilly, 2002. *Birds of the Lehigh Valley Area*, Lehigh Valley Audubon Society.
- Schneider, K.J. and D.M. Pence, 1992. *Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern in the Northeast*, U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Sibley, D., 1997. *The Birds of Cape May*, New Jersey Audubon Society.
- Walsh, J., Elia, V., Kane, R., and T. Halliwell, 1999. *Birds of New Jersey*, New Jersey Audubon Society.

Jacobsburg EE Center
835 Jacobsburg Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

Serendipitous Birding Or Lucky Chasing

John Fedak

I guess it really is being in the right place at the right time. At least that is the way it was for my brother and myself on February 5th. It started cold in Alden, PA – near Wilkes-Barre. My brother was moving and I volunteered to help him. We were up before light and really worked hard until about 11:00 a.m. My brother Joe said he was done for the day – we had accomplished more than he could handle. I suggested a visit to my Grandmother in Palmyra.

As we were driving down I-81, I slyly suggested that if there was enough time, we could head to Middle Creek and I would try to show him a rare thrush for the state, a Varied Thrush. He said alright, he wasn't really into birds, but it would be nice and we could spend more of the day together. My Grandmother was glad to see us and we had a nice visit. As we were leaving I asked Joe if he was still interested in seeing the Varied thrush and he said sure. With that we were on our way – east on Rt. 322 at a nice leisurely pace.

That soon changed. Near the entrance for the Turnpike, I received a phone call. Thinking it was my wife I answered it only to hear Devitch Farbotnik say, "we have a Redwing at Peace Valley." Thinking at first of a Red-winged Blackbird, then at the same time realizing that Devitch would not call me for that, and at the same time realizing what bird he was talking about I took a deep breath. I said "I am getting on the turnpike now and I should be there in an hour or so!" I pulled the Gazetteer out and got quick directions to the spot. Devitch sounded surprised and asked where I was – thinking I was in Bradford! I told him and hurried to get my ticket and head east. I just looked at Joe and said, I'm driving and this is a chase, I hope

you don't mind but we are going!!

I would like to say it was a nice trip, but that would be a lie. It was a frantic, exciting, fast, and sometimes even frustrating trip knowing what was nearby and knowing that I would just make it before dark and knowing that birds fly. I encountered no traffic on the turnpike. I was psyched; I had made better time than I want to admit on paper. Then I hit traffic. With the Gazetteer and another phone call to Devitch, I pulled into Peace Valley and found the bend in the road. Carefully and legally pulling my van off the road onto the shoulder, I parked and followed the tracks in the mud and snow. I stopped and asked Barb Haas where the bird was and she told me it had flown and that it looked like people were looking at something now.

I ran down the sloppy, icy path full tilt and only slowed near Arlene Koch. She showed me where the bird was being seen and I soon had an identifiable look at it – not a great look, but I saw it. I pointed it out to my brother who had straggled along and he also saw it. I apologize to anyone I might have slighted by not talking to or acknowledging, but I think you understand what excitement can do. Then I got to look through a scope – I think Devitch's – wow. This was a great look at a greater bird. Talk about serendipity!

I turned to look at my brother expecting him to feel like I did and could clearly see that although he was happy for me, and although he thought it was neat, he just didn't understand how chasing a bird gets into your blood. Some of you that read this will understand, some of you might understand someday and some of you – well, I am sorry you never will understand. I do

know that Joe still asks if the Redwing has been seen and is now starting to tell me about birds that he knows and has seen. He said that even though he has Redwing as the first bird on his list (I made him record it), he thinks Red-winged Blackbirds are nice too! I can understand his view. And I also understand that although I may have seen one of the best birds in this state, the more important thing was that at that moment, I realized that birds are not family. People to love you without understanding you, talk about luck!

By the way, I never got the Middle Creek Varied Thrush, but I still would take a Redwing over a Varied Thrush any day!

*26 Race Street
Bradford, PA 16701*

Townsend's Solitaire

McKean County

Len Groshek

On the morning of January 15, 2005, which was the last day of Pennsylvania's flintlock muzzle loader season for deer, I decided to check State Game Lands #30 in southern McKean County for hunting activity. I have been stationed in McKean County as a Wildlife Conservation Officer with the Pennsylvania Game Commission since 1994, and I have learned that SGL 30 is a favorite place for many hunters. As I traveled along a game lands road, I noticed a bird flying among the branches of some crab apple trees. A flash of white on its tail and buff wing patches caught my eye. My immediate thought was that I was looking at a mockingbird, but I knew it wasn't, so I stopped the truck and grabbed my binoculars. I noticed an eye ring, and the bird was performing some fancy aerobatics, so my next thought was that I was looking at some type of an unfamiliar flycatcher. I've birded for about twenty-five years, but I had to pull out a field guide for this one. I'm glad that Peterson included the Townsend's Solitaire in his *Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies*, because that is the only bird guide I keep in my Game Commission vehicle.

The bird was very cooperative, and I was able to watch it perched, flying, and feeding on crabapples, and positive identification was simple. This bird was a life bird for me. I then made a cell phone call to John Fedak, who is the most avid birder I know in the county, and by later that afternoon, he had documented, photographed, video recorded, and reported the bird to the PABIRDS listserv.

The Solitaire has become quite a celebrity. It made the front page of the local newspaper (*The Bradford Era*), and birders have traveled from all over Pennsylvania and surrounding states, including New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia, to see it.

The bird couldn't have picked a better location to spend the winter. Game Commission employees have done a tremendous amount of wildlife habitat work on Game Lands #30 since the PGC purchased the 11,572-acre tract in 1921. The crabapple and hawthorn trees that sustained the bird were planted in

the late 1970s and early 1980's, and the pines and spruces that surround the fruit trees and provide excellent thermal cover were planted in the 1930's and 1940's. During the severe winter of 1994, I kept tabs on a flock of nearly 200 wild turkeys that regularly roost in those same conifers and fed on the abundance of persistent fruits. The Game Commission's Food and Cover Crew also erected a bat box and bluebird nest boxes in the area.

Birders who came to SGL 30 to see the bird would probably be surprised to know that if they stood on that exact site just nine decades ago, they would have been standing in the heart of the town of Norwich. The lumber town was thriving from 1910 until 1920 with a population of nearly 5,000 residents. During those ten years, approximately 26,000 acres of virgin timber were cut from the hills surrounding the town. The mill, which stood in the open area behind where the solitaire was most often seen, closed in 1920, and the town was abandoned. When the Game Commission bought the property in 1921, the entire area was deforested, and little of the ghost town remained. In today's world, with the constant threat of urban sprawl, it's nice to be able to stand in a spot that has gone the other way and is protected from development. Of other historical interest in the area are the two hollows south of the Solitaire's location on the east side of SR 46. Squab Hollow and Pigeon Hollow were named after the enormous Passenger Pigeon nesting sites located here until the late 1880's.

I checked on the solitaire regularly throughout January and February and reported its status to John who was very diligent at keeping the PABIRDS

web site updated. I occasionally ran into birders who made the trip to see the bird, and seldom ran into anyone who was disappointed.

There are 302 tracts of State Game Lands, consisting of over 1.4 million acres, in Pennsylvania. These lands were bought and are maintained by the PA Game Commission, primarily through funds generated by hunters and trappers through license sales and taxes on sporting arms and ammunition.

947 Kent Hollow Road
Smethport, PA 16749



Plate 1. Townsend's Solitaire SGL 30, McKean 27 January 2005 (Mike Fialkovich).

There are approximately ten records for this western species in Pennsylvania. Prior to this record the date range was 10/10-3/23. This bird represents a new last date. Ed.



Plate 2. Townsend's Solitaire SGL 30, McKean 21 January 2005 (Geoff Malosh).

The 2005 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

Introduction

The 5th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from January 15 through February 13, 2005. One or more routes were run in 63 of the state's 67 counties.

Briefly, the WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors are recorded but the focus of the survey is open-country raptors (Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, and American Kestrels) as well as Black and Turkey Vultures. Data are also collected on sex/age/color form as applicable for a given species (Grove 2001).

Effort and Weather

In 2005, 494 hours of observation were recorded, covering 8,007 miles. These values are slightly below (4% lower) those of 2004. (Table 1, and see Appendix for each county).

Results are presented for the entire state and for the four physiographic regions listed below (see Appendix for counties in each region). The data are normalized on a birds *per hour* basis to allow comparisons between different regions of the state and among years. The data are also presented on an individual county basis in the accompanying maps.

Physiographic Regions

- I. Piedmont (southeast)
- II. Ridge and Valley (south central, central, east central)
- III. High Plateau (Allegheny mountains through the north central highlands and east to Pocono's)
- IV. West (northwest, west central, southwest).

Following the cold, snowy winters of 2003 and 2004, January and February of 2005 were relatively

mild. The average temperature reported on 2004 surveys was 30°F, much higher than the average of 21°F the previous year. The average snow cover reported was 4 inches, about half the average of 2004 (Grove 2004). Only four counts reported over 10 inches of snow cover. Possibly these milder conditions led to the increase this year of our most common wintering raptors, Red-tails and Kestrels.

General Comments

The 2005 maps for each of the four open-country raptor species show that the highest concentrations of wintering raptors in the central and south-central counties of the Susquehanna and Juniata River drainages. This trend has been evident throughout the previous surveys but was especially striking in 2005. Not surprisingly the reasons likely have to do with habitat and weather.

1. This area includes extensive open farmland with woodlots and fencerows, providing the preferred habitat and prey base for the open country raptors.

2. With the exception of the far southeast corner of the state, this area has milder winter weather than elsewhere in Pennsylvania. The advantage of milder weather farther to the southeast is presumably negated by the more extensive development and consequent loss of agricultural lands.

Red-tailed Hawks

Red-tails, as usual, were easily the most abundant raptor recorded (Table 1). The total of 2610 was higher than in any of the four previous WRS years. The statewide *per hour* rate of Red-tail observation was also the highest thus far at 5.28 birds *per hour* of observer effort.

During previous WRS surveys, the average statewide Red-tail rate was 4.00 *per hour*, ranging from 3.02 to 4.51 (Grove 2004).

The concentration of wintering Red-tails tended to be highest in counties along the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers (Table 2 and see maps). The numbers of Red-tails *per hour* in the Piedmont, Plateau, and West were comparable to rates of previous years, but the 2005 Ridge and Valley Red-tail rate of 5.90 was by far the highest yet recorded for any WRS year. The previous high Ridge and Valley rate was 3.60 Red-tails *per hour*, recorded in 2004 and the average from 2001-2004 was 3.32 (Grove 2004). Thus the substantial statewide Red-tail increase in 2005 over previous years is largely attributable to more birds wintering in the Ridge and Valley region.

Most Pennsylvania hawk watches posted below-average or at best average numbers of Red-tails during the fall of 2004 (HAWKCOUNT website data). This is in contrast to the above-average WRS Red-tail count. Of further interest is that Pennsylvania CBCs had high Red-tail numbers for the 2004-2005 count period (Bolgiano, per. comm.). Thus the poor Red-tail count at hawk watches in 2004 may be explained by the choice of many Red-tails to stay north. As always, however, caution must be exercised when interpreting year-to-year trends at hawk watches as weather also plays a significant role in the count for any particular year.

Of 2109 Red-tails aged, 16% were immature. In the four previous years, this value has ranged between 9-13%. Thus it was either a good year for Red-tail productivity or, again, many young birds choose to winter here, either because of the mild conditions or perhaps enabled by an abundant prey supply.

Table 1 – Effort and Numbers of Open-country Raptors and Vultures during the 2005 Pennsylvania WRS.

	Hrs	Miles	Northern Harrier	Red-tailed hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	American Kestrel	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture
Piedmont	138	2052	15	932	8	143	128	863
R. & V.	157	2620	45	927	118	212	71	135
Plateau	72.5	1348	0	172	30	10	0	1
West	126.5	1987	10	579	44	68	0	1
Total	494	8007	70	2610	200	433	199	1000

Table 2. Birds per Hour by region – 2005 Pa. WRS.

	Statewide	Piedmont	R & V	High Plateau	West
Northern Harrier	0.14	0.11	0.29	0.00	0.08
Red-tailed Hawk	5.28	6.75	5.90	2.37	4.58
Rough-legged Hawk	0.40	0.06	0.75	0.41	0.35
American Kestrel	0.88	1.04	1.35	0.14	0.54
Black Vulture	0.40	0.93	0.43	0.00	0.00
Turkey Vulture	2.02	6.25	0.89	0.01	0.01

American Kestrels

The first four years of the WRS saw a substantial downward trend in Kestrels *per hour* (Table 3). In 2004, despite a record high in hours of effort, the number of Kestrels recorded declined 26% from 2003 and the number *per hour* declined 43% (Grove 2004). Was that because of a real population decline or did severe weather force birds south of Pennsylvania?

The 2005 results suggest that severe weather may have been a significant reason for the lower counts in 2003 and 2004. The number of Kestrels recorded in 2005 was 433, a record high. The *per hour* rate of 0.88 in 2005 was well above the 2004 rate though still below the rates from 2001 through 2003 (Table 3). This is hopefully an encouraging sign for a species considered by many to be declining in northeastern states (Brinkley & Baicich 2004, Farmer 2005).

Of 376 Kestrels sexed, 62% were males, a result essentially identical to previous years.

Table 3. American Kestrels per hour statewide, 2001-2005.

	Kestrels per hour
2001	1.36
2002	1.25
2003	0.91
2004	0.52
2005	0.88

Rough-legged Hawks

Following a record high number in 2004, the Rough-leg count declined in 2005 (Table 1) but was still well above the counts from 2001–2003 (Grove 2004). 200 were counted this year, about 2/3 of which were light form birds, the same ratio as in previous years (Grove 2004).

In contrast to previous years when the high plateau counties consistently led in Rough-legs *per hour*, Rough-legs were far more prevalent in the Ridge and Valley region in 2005 (Table 2). In fact, examination of the 2005 map for Rough-legs shows a marked concentration in a cluster of counties centered on the

Susquehanna River Valley. Note the trend through Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, Lycoming, Northumberland, Union, Centre, Snyder, Juniata, and Perry counties.

There were some remarkably high Rough-leg counts on certain routes. The list below includes 10 counties in which five or more Rough-legs were recorded on one or two routes, a total of 12 such routes:

Allegheny	7
Bradford	5
Centre	12
Clarion	13
Columbia	5
Juniata	16, 7
Luzerne	7
Northumberland	11, 8
Perry	16
Union	5

Northern Harriers

The Northern Harrier results in 2005 resembled those of Rough-legs. Following a record count in 2004, the Harrier total fell back somewhat in 2004 but was still well above the counts from the first three years. And like Rough-legs, Red-tails, and Kestrels, the map shows a concentration of Harriers wintering in central and south-central counties. As has been the case each year, harriers were absent in most northern and plateau counties.

Of the 70 harriers counted in 2005, 70% of aged birds were adults and 39% of sexed birds were males, results that are similar to previous years.

Vultures

Statewide, the Turkey and Black Vulture counts normalized *per hour* in 2005 were within the ranges of the previous years (Table 1, Grove 2004). Despite the milder weather this year vultures were, as usual, essentially absent from the Plateau and West regions (Table 2). Within the Ridge and Valley, most vultures reported were from the counties closer to the Piedmont.

Other Raptor Species Reported in 2005

- Bald Eagle: 21 (12 adult)

- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 34
 - Cooper's Hawk: 78
 - Northern Goshawk: 1
 - Red-shouldered Hawk: 20
 - Merlin: 5
 - Peregrine Falcon: 1

Owls and Shrikes

- E Screech: 2
 - Great Horned: 2
 - Short-eared: 14
 - N Shrike: 4

Acknowledgments

I thank Nick Bolgiano for comments on a draft of this article and for again creating the maps. And of course thanks go to the well over 100 birders and companions who gathered the data across the state.

Literature Cited

Brinkley, E. S. & P. J. Baicich. 2004. The Changing Season; Rome Burning? *North American Birds* 58: 474-485.
 Farmer, C. 2005. Every Hawk Counts. *Hawk Mountain News* 102: 28-29.
 Grove, Greg. 2001. The 2001 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 15:3-5.
 Grove, Greg. 2004. The 2004 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 18:24-26.
 H A W K C O U N T website (www.HAWKCOUNT.org)

Appendix : Counties in each region with hours/miles of survey effort.

I. Piedmont

Adams	8/110
Berks	15.5/194
Bucks	4.5/44
Chester	20/389
Cumberland	13/125
Dauphin (south)	7/117
Delaware	3.5/98
Franklin	18/225
Lancaster	14/240
Lebanon	4.5/64
Lehigh	3/39
Montgomery	6.5/67
Northampton	7.5/131
Philadelphia	0/0
York	13/209
Total	138/2052

II. Ridge and Valley

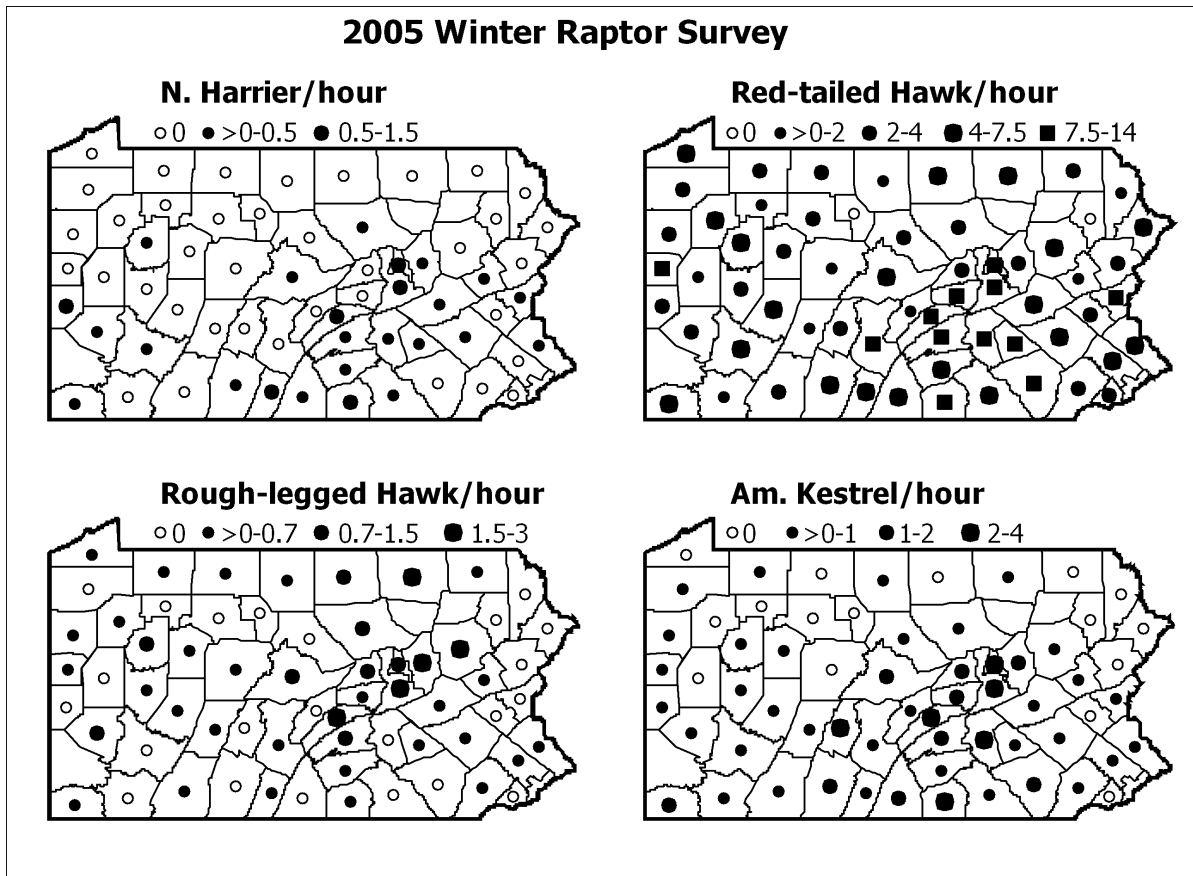
Bedford	8/195
Blair	2/30
Carbon	7.5/163
Centre	23/320
Clinton (south)	7/161
Columbia	3/53
Dauphin (north)	5.5/66
Fulton	5.5/62
Huntingdon	4/98
Juniata	10/149
Luzerne	3/86
Lycoming (south)	7.5/167
Mifflin	14/187
Monroe	7.5/146
Montour	2.5/42
Northumberland	8/127
Perry	14.5/125
Schuylkill	13/233
Snyder	7/148
Union	4.5/62
Total	157/2620

III. High Plateau

Bradford	4/70
Cambria	5.5/58
Cameron	2/60
Clearfield	4.5/118
Clinton (north)	0/0
Elk	1.5/45
Fayette (east)	0/0
Forest	3/59
Lackawanna	3.5/146
Lycoming (north)	1/18
McKean	4/72
Pike	2.5/30
Potter	11/173
Somerset	7.5/130
Sullivan	0/0
Susquehanna	5/35
Tioga	2.5/40
Warren	9/144
Wayne	1.5/57
Westmoreland (east)	4.5/93
Wyoming	0/0
Total	72.5/1348

IV. West

Allegheny	6.5/149
Armstrong	5/104
Beaver	2.5/68
Butler	2/55
Clarion	18/285
Crawford	5/72
Erie	4/84
Fayette (west)	4/87
Greene	15/102
Indiana	11.5/185
Jefferson	10/153
Lawrence	8/112
Mercer	11/170
Venango	4/84
Washington	0/0
Westmoreland (west)	20/277
Total	126.5/19



The 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nicholas C. Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 105th time during December 14, 2004 to January 5, 2005. 163 species were reported, plus one count-week species, the fourth highest species number among previous Pennsylvania CBCs, though this was augmented one by a new split. The 105th count included a new species for the state, an unusual number of vagrants and hard-hardy species, irruptions of two uncommon northern species, large numbers of gulls, and continued trends for various species.

In this report, I generally omit subspecies, hybrids, exotics, sp., and count-week species. When I cite a year, I refer to it by the year in which Christmas occurs; the 105th count reported on here would be referred to as occurring in 2004.

Weather and Effort

Fall temperatures were exceptionally mild. Temperatures turned seasonally colder during mid-December, but there was little snow and count-day conditions were generally very good.

Reports were received from 64 Pennsylvania sites, with Phillipsburg being a new site and Dubois, Potter County, and Western Chester County not reporting. The 5300 party-hours were about the same as during the previous two years, but slightly below the peak of 5700 during 1999 and 2001.

Site and Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County again led the state with 108 species, the most since 1999. Southern Bucks County reached 103, while Harrisburg observers tallied 101 species, the first time they exceeded the century mark. Delaware County was not far behind with 97 species. Figure 1 shows the distribution of species numbers; highest counts were in the southeast, as usual. Upper Bucks County, Elverson, Lehigh Valley, Curtin, Central Bucks County, and Hamburg filled out the top ten. Curtin is a newcomer to this list. Away from the southeast, Erie reached an above-average tally, with 82 species.

Top 10 Sites

1. Southern Lancaster County	108
2. Southern Bucks County	103
3. Harrisburg	101
4. Delaware County	97
5. Upper Bucks County	93
6. Elverson	91
7. Lehigh Valley	89
8. Curtin	87
9. Central Bucks County	86
10. Hamburg	85

Hits and Misses

A "hit" is a species found in 2004 that was unexpected (recorded in less than 40% of the years 1970-2003). A "miss" is a species not found in 2004 but expected (recorded in more than 60% of the years 1970-2003). Compared to past years, the number of hits (18) and the number of misses (7) were both high.

Hits

Eared Grebe
Great Egret
Ross's Goose
Common Moorhen
Sandhill Crane
Least Sandpiper
Laughing Gull
Snowy Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Tree Swallow
Varied Thrush
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Ovenbird
MacGillivray's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Grasshopper Sparrow

Misses

Northern Bobwhite
Blue-winged Teal
Osprey
Loggerhead Shrike
Vesper Sparrow
Pine Grosbeak
Red Crossbill

MacGillivray's Warbler, at Lehigh Valley, would be the first record for this species in Pennsylvania if approved by the state records committee. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, at Curtin, was a first for the Pennsylvania CBC.

The **Eared Grebe** at Erie was

the sixth report of that species in the Pennsylvania CBC, all at Erie. **Sandhill Crane** at Curtin, which joined a flock of captive Rheas (S. Bills, pers. comm.), was a fifth report. The two **Least Sandpipers** at York constituted a sixth report, all from the southeast. Three **Ross's Geese** at Southern Lancaster County constituted the thirteenth report. **Rufous Hummingbird** at Southern Bucks County was the sixth report, all within the last nine years. After just one previous report of **Tree Swallow**, in 1974, eight were reported from Pennypack Valley and one was reported from Southern Lancaster County. **Varied Thrush** at Chambersburg was only the second report. **Yellow Warbler** at Wyncote was the fourth report, **Ovenbird** at Audubon was the thirteenth report, and **Wilson's Warblers** at Lehigh Valley and Southern Lancaster County were the seventh and eighth reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow**, at Southern Bucks County, was the fifth report. The count-week species was **Sabine's Gull**, at Erie, which was found later than is usual (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Five of the misses indicate their increasing rarity. **Northern Bobwhite** may be nearing the end as a naturally reproducing species in Pennsylvania. **Loggerhead Shrike** may be gone as a breeding species; it was missing in the CBC for the third consecutive year. In the last ten years, a few **Vesper Sparrows** are typical, but none were found in 2004. The tendency for few **Pine Grosbeaks** and **Red Crossbills** is a trend that began in the mid-1980s; the high Red Crossbills numbers of 1997 and 1999 may have been an exception (Bolgiano 2004).

Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes, Irruptors From the Far North

The **Snowy Owls** observed at Erie and at Williamsport, along with additional reports outside the CBC, are consistent with an irruption having occurred in Pennsylvania. This species is rarely found in Pennsylvania, but when an irruption occurs, ten or more may be found within the state over the course of the winter (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). **Snowy Owls** have been previously reported during the

Pennsylvania CBC in only 18 of 104 years. Most of those were singles; three were found in 1949, 1960, and 1967, while two were reported in 1961, 1964, and 1980. Unfortunately, the Williamsport owl died on count day, apparently of starvation (W. Laubscher, pers. comm.).

After large irruptions of **Northern Shrike** in Pennsylvania occurred in the winters of 1995-1996 and 1999-2000 (Hess 2000), some recent North American CBC Northern Shrike tallies have been below average (Niven et al. 2004). However, the 16 Northern Shrikes, plus one count-week bird, of the 105th count were the third-highest count of this species in the Pennsylvania CBC. The previous CBC high was 30 in 1999; 1-8 shrikes is the usual range for a non-irruption year. Twelve of the 17 birds were found in the northern half of the state, a distribution that may be more typical than the nearly statewide distribution observed during the 1999-2000 irruption (Hess 2000). Many of the shrikes were found in river valleys, including the four northernmost sites along the North Branch of the Susquehanna, in the Delaware Valley, in the Upper Susquehanna Valley of central Pennsylvania, and in the Allegheny River Valley (Figure 2).

Cackling Goose, the New Split

Cackling Goose was recently split from **Canada Goose** (Banks et al. 2004). Although it was possible to report this before as "Canada Goose (small races)", this was probably inconsistently done. The new species designation will surely result in more careful recording of sightings and a better understanding of its distribution. Figure 3 shows the nine locations, totaling 20 birds, where Cackling Geese were reported in the 105th CBC, all from the southeastern part of the state.

Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

Uncommon water birds were **Red-throated Loons** at Erie and Southern Lancaster County; 46 **Great Cormorants**, including 29 at Pennypack Valley, 16 at Southern Bucks County, and one at Bethlehem-Easton; **Great Egrets** at Bushy Run State Park, Southern Bucks County, and West Chester; **Black-crowned Night Herons** at Lancaster and Southern Bucks County; and **Common Moorhen** at

Delaware County.

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from Bedford County, Central Bucks County, Lehigh Valley, and Washington, two of these sites away from the typical southeast. This was the tenth year in the last 12 for large numbers of **Snow Geese**. The 212 **Mute Swans** set a new high. Duck numbers depended upon the species and site. Erie observers counted high numbers of some diving ducks: 3900 scaup, all three scoters, and 3700 **Red-breasted Mergansers**. **White-winged Scoter** was also reported at Johnstown. **Gadwalls** were abundant at Harrisburg and Southern Bucks County, where 197 and 56 were reported, respectively. Butler County observers tallied 515 **Ruddy Ducks**. **Ring-necked Ducks** were present in good numbers for the fifth of the last six years. The 1177 **Hooded Mergansers** was the third highest total. On the low end, the 2530 **Black Ducks** were the fewest since 1948 and the 18 **Canvasbacks** were the fewest since 1960, years when effort was much lower.

American Coots were plentiful in the northwest, with 956 at Erie, 300 at Butler County, and 250 at Linesville. For the second year in a row, **Wilson's Snipes** were present in good numbers. The 145 included 29 at Southern Lancaster County, and 20 each at Lebanon County and Lewisburg.

Raptors

The 184 **Bald Eagles**, including 46 at Southern Lancaster County, 26 at Lancaster, 14 at Warren, and 10 at Linesville, surpassed the previous high of 157, set in 2002. For the first time since 1974, **Cooper's Hawks**, with 376, outnumbered **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, with 344. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers may be leveling off after steadily increasing since the early 1970s, while Cooper's Hawk numbers continued their upward trend that began around the same time (Bolgiano 1997). The 3768 **Red-tailed Hawks** set a new high, as their numbers continued an upward trend. The highest concentrations were at Hamburg, Curtin, Lewistown, and Lewisburg. The 44 **Rough-legged Hawks**, including 10 at State College, were about average. The six **Golden Eagles**, including three at Emporium, comprised the second highest count, after the 11 of 2001. The 724 **American Kestrels** were

slightly more than last year's low of 663. The 13 **Peregrine Falcons** set a new high. They were observed at Pittsburgh, Culp, Williamsport, Dallas Area, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, and Southern Bucks County, most of these locations being near nest areas.

Barn Owls were found at Hamburg, Lewisburg, Lititz, and Southern Lancaster County. **Great Horned Owl** numbers remained steady at about one-third fewer than during the 1986-1998 peak. The 22 **Long-eared Owls** included 5 at Curtin and 4 each at Central Bucks County and Elverson. The 12 **Short-eared Owls**, including 4 at Raccoon Creek State, were on the low end, but still in the normal range. Only one was reported from Clarion, the traditional hotspot. The 44 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, including 11 at New Bloomfield, 7 at Southern Lancaster County, and 5 at Curtin, set a new high. The top owling sites were concentrated in southeastern Pennsylvania, as shown in the below top 10 list. As of this writing, Upper Bucks County's **Eastern Screech-Owl** tally was second-highest in North America, with 92.

Top 10 Owling Sites (total owls)

1. Southern Lancaster County	133
2. Upper Bucks County	132
3. Curtin	101
4. West Chester	90
5. New Bloomfield	79
6. Elverson	75
7. Central Bucks County	65
Delaware County	65
9. Reading	53
10. Lewistown	39

Upland Game Birds

Wild Turkey was the only species of the group to fare well. The 168 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were a low number; in the previous eight years, 213-288 pheasants were reported. The 112 **Ruffed Grouse** were about the same as last year's low number.

Gulls

Nine gull species were reported and southeastern Pennsylvania continued to be a North American gull hotspot. 145,000 **Herring Gulls** and 144 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported from Southern Bucks County, the top North American CBC site for Herring Gulls during 1999-2003 and for Lesser

Black-backed Gulls during 1996-2003. These were new highs for the state. As of this report, Southern Bucks was again the top North American site for Herring Gulls, but it was second to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in the tally for Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Sixty-four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from both Central Bucks County and Upper Bucks County. This species is increasingly being reported from Pennsylvania sites, with observations from eight southeastern sites and Erie.

Single **Laughing Gulls** were reported from Delaware County and Southern Bucks County. **Ring-billed Gulls** were abundant; the total of 155,000 included 58,000 at Lancaster, the second-highest North American tally, and more than 20,000 at both Southern Bucks County and Southern Lancaster County. The 23 **Iceland Gulls** and nearly 17,000 **Greater Black-backed Gulls** were new state highs, with most reported from Southern Bucks County.

Woodpeckers to Blackbirds

The 48 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were about average, including 22 at Gettysburg, one of the top wintering sites for this species in northeastern North America. Although good numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported in the early fall, the 239 reported were typical of a non-flight year. **Tufted Titmouse** and **Eastern Bluebird** numbers remained about 15-25% below previous levels for the second year in a row, while **Carolina Wrens** had nearly recovered to their 2002 peak after consecutive cold winters. The 18 **House Wrens** set a new high. **Marsh Wren** was reported from Bushy Run State Park, while **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Southern Bucks County.

The number of **Cedar Waxwings** declined for the third consecutive year; their total numbers were the lowest since 1977. The single **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from Aububon, the single **Yellow-breasted Chat** from West Chester. The eleven warbler species set a new high, topping the ten of 1994 and 1998.

The 305 **Eastern Towhees**, 29,000 **White-throated Sparrows**, and 17,000 **Northern Cardinals** were good numbers and probably reflected the mild weather conditions. The 87 **Eastern**

Meadowlarks remained low. **Dickcissel** was reported from Central Bucks County, **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported from Southern Lancaster County, and **Baltimore Oriole** from Southern Bucks County. Large numbers of blackbirds were found at Elverson and at Southern Lancaster County.

Finches

According to long-term patterns, because Christmas fell in an even-numbered year, winter finch irruptions were not expected and this held true for the 105th count. The 11 **Common Redpolls**, the 69 **Pine Siskins**, and the 5 **Evening Grosbeaks** were consistent with non-flight years. If current trends (Bolgiano 2004) continue, Evening Grosbeaks will become a rare species in Pennsylvania. No crossbills were reported. **House Finch** numbers were about the same as last year, but consistent with a continued downward trend; they may not have reached bottom since their numbers began plummeting in 1995.

Acknowledgment. This report was made possible by the many hours spent by numerous birders and count compilers.

References

- Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2004. Fourth-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*. *Auk* 121:985-995.
- Bolgiano, N.C. 1997. Pennsylvania CBC counts of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. *Pennsylvania Birds* 11:134-137.
- Bolgiano, N.C. 2004. Changes in boreal bird irruptions in eastern North America relative to the 1970s Spruce Budworm infestation. *Am. Birds* 58: 26-33.
- Hess, P. 2000. Pennsylvania's record high Northern Shrike invasion of 1999-2000. *Pennsylvania Birds* 14:2-10.
- McWilliams, G.M. and D.W. Brauning. 2000. *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.
- Niven, D.K., J.R. Sauer, G.S. Butcher, and W.S. Link. 2004. Christmas Bird Count provides insights into population change in land birds that breed in the boreal forest. *Am. Birds* 58:10-20.

Site Abbreviations

AUDU	Aububon
BALD	Bald Eagle S.P.
BEAV	Beaver
BEDF	Bedford County
BERN	Bernville
BETH	Bethlehem-Easton
BLOO	Bloomsburg
BUFF	Buffalo Creek Valley
BUSH	Bushy Run S.P.
BUTL	Butler County
CBCK	Central Bucks County
CHAM	Chambersburg
CLRN	Clarion
CLRK	Clarksville
CULP	Culp
CURT	Curtin
DALL	Dallas Area
DELA	Delaware County
DING	Dingman's Ferry
ELVE	Elverson
EMPO	Emporium
ERIE	Erie
GETT	Gettysburg
HAMB	Hamburg
HARR	Harrisburg
HUNT	Huntingdon
INDI	Indiana
JOHN	Johnstown
LAKE	Lake Raystown
LANC	Lancaster
LEBA	Lebanon County
LEHI	Lehigh Valley
LWBG	Lewisburg
LWST	Lewistown
LINE	Linesville
LITI	Lititz
LOCK	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore
MANS	Mansfield
NEWB	New Bloomfield
NEWV	Newville
PENN	Pennypack Valley
PHIL	Phillipsburg
PISH	Pittsburgh South Hills
PITT	Pittsburgh
PLEA	Pleasantville
RACC	Raccoon Creek S.P.
READ	Reading
RECT	Rector
RYER	Ryerson
SCRA	Scranton
SBCK	Southern Bucks County
SLAN	Southern Lancaster County
SEBR	Southeastern Bradford County
STAT	State College
TUNK	Tunkhannock
UBCK	Upper Bucks County
WARR	Warren
WASH	Washington
WEST	West Chester
WHIT	White Mills
WILD	Wild Creek-Little Gap
WILL	Williamsport
WYNC	Wyncote
YORK	York

711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
nbolgiano@minitab.com

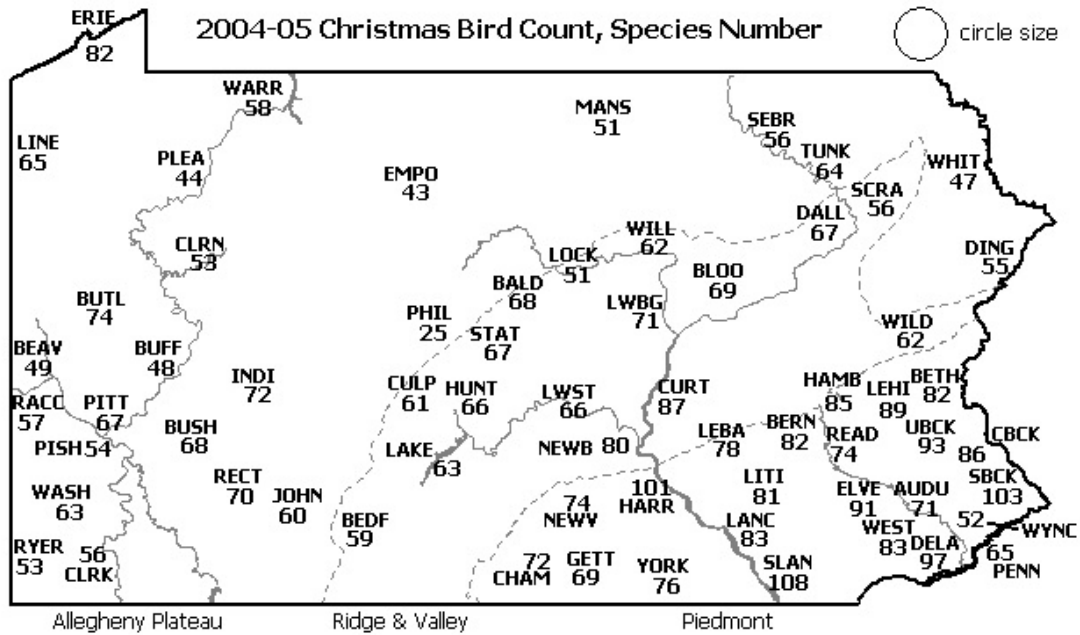


Figure 1. Pennsylvania CBC sites and species numbers.

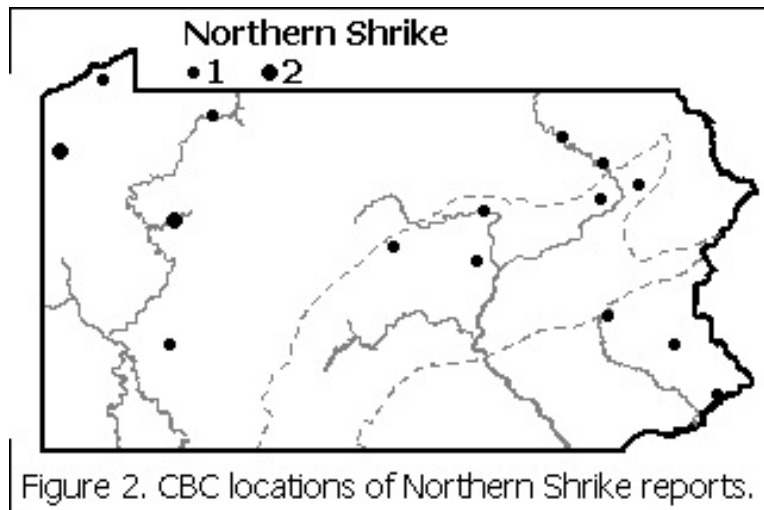


Figure 2. CBC locations of Northern Shrike reports.

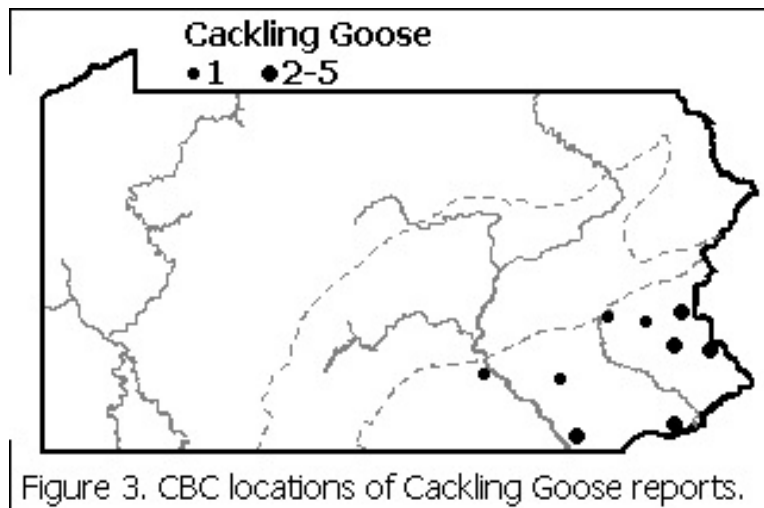


Figure 3. CBC locations of Cackling Goose reports.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	4679	7015	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	4512	202	242	591	13433	26861	2210	346	804	738	20131	1078	282	248	470	259
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	5	8	-	-	6	1	44	-	-	-	-	2
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	5	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	2
Wood Duck	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	2	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Widgeon	2	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	31	52	8	31	40	84	37	-	18	25	35	1	-	-	4	47
Mallard	411	62	292	269	163	1201	227	43	517	43	1324	765	-	117	119	761
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	7
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	3	-	-	-	2	19	-	-	-	2	27	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	93	-	-	-	1	-	16	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	3	11
Common Goldeneye	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	43
Hooded Merganser	2	31	2	3	-	-	6	-	21	58	8	-	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	61	413	-	-	24	58	194	-	2	4	305	-	-	-	-	39
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	515	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	2	-	10	1	4	9	8	1	1	-	10	6	9	10	16
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	-	9	-	4	-	2	6	1	-	-	15	1	1	1
Wild Turkey	27	12	12	12	57	125	24	1	142	109	90	41	184	47	10	44
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	19	6	4	22	14	21	8	-	5	4	12	48	-	3	3	8
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	62	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	-	-	66	133	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	102	-	-	-	2	31	-	-	-	-	283	144	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	-	1	-	-	8
Northern Harrier	2	2	-	5	2	4	14	2	1	2	8	2	8	3	1	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	1	-	4	8	9	5	1	3	8	13	11	4	1	1	9
Cooper's Hawk	9	3	5	2	8	15	7	2	13	5	10	8	6	9	2	10
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Accipiter, sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	5
Red-tailed Hawk	88	29	21	23	101	87	80	36	77	45	108	88	76	43	17	140
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	8	13	4	14	31	5	42	11	22	14	10	14	6	10	9	46

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT
Merlin	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	300	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	5	-	-	8	15	-	1	-	5	3	1	29	-	5	2	5
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	211	53	384	-	11227	810	82	-	3	157	2265	-	-	-	20	10
Herring Gull	4	-	21	-	568	43	4	-	2	3	183	-	-	-	-	2
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	43	3	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	2
Rock Pigeon	354	437	869	752	-	690	689	126	380	302	696	1478	160	151	130	902
Mourning Dove	558	108	284	313	1443	1653	470	185	785	482	1355	2085	447	373	198	1729
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	29	-	-	3	8	5	14	9	10	3	43	8	2	1	8	63
Great Horned Owl	8	-	-	-	9	17	8	8	3	13	16	8	1	2	8	26
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	5
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	16	1	-	3	10	15	4	2	2	1	9	17	-	6	1	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	140	19	20	16	65	139	33	24	81	52	107	93	24	48	37	98
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	1	-	2	1	13	1	-	7	-	23	1	-	2	3	8
Downy Woodpecker	215	65	22	41	80	224	88	25	91	47	173	129	85	52	41	165
Hairy Woodpecker	27	10	7	11	9	29	14	10	19	14	33	23	22	11	9	26
Yellow-shafted Flicker	64	11	2	3	36	63	25	1	28	4	90	37	1	25	22	39
Pileated Woodpecker	6	8	1	8	1	6	13	11	20	4	-	15	19	11	8	10
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Northern Shrike	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Blue Jay	77	133	180	86	148	145	141	92	187	169	252	422	309	160	85	175
American Crow	324	313	119	140	880	3226	826	172	768	179	372	119	684	1472	159	590
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	9	5	-	-	-	2
Common Raven	-	5	-	9	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	7
Horned Lark	-	73	3	-	152	30	150	36	52	86	189	110	-	-	30	113
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	412	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	19	-	227	15	-	188	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	3	260	32	190	70	641	501	233	114	303	93	200	665	4	117	380
chickadee sp.	39	-	84	-	174	-	-	-	141	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	236	106	81	130	80	427	153	49	110	131	242	186	140	121	80	247
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	4	2	2	2	5	6	1	4	4	-	3	7	1	1	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	175	71	34	62	71	297	98	27	109	82	147	111	137	79	47	190
Brown Creeper	21	8	-	1	9	20	4	1	4	3	11	10	16	2	3	33
Carolina Wren	143	19	20	6	93	141	38	20	31	16	85	70	5	77	6	118
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	4	5	-	-	2	6	-	-	2	3	5	2	-	-	1	15
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	35	60	15	50	14	11	36	22	32	39	20	25	63	12	5	104
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	1	-	1	7	3	-	-	1	9	7	-	1	-	10

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	121	78	4	15	154	156	154	13	102	53	165	34	30	92	56	187
Hermit Thrush	2	2	-	4	2	6	1	-	-	1	6	2	-	-	1	9
American Robin	639	56	95	3	442	779	105	10	103	337	1526	55	97	86	44	289
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	1
Northern Mockingbird	99	8	1	7	78	87	50	3	36	2	140	176	2	35	4	93
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2234	1694	502	1270	10276	2561	3507	1033	1797	1242	3718	8300	921	858	869	5394
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Waxwing	13	32	-	-	4	58	25	12	-	46	21	26	60	3	37	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Myrtle Warbler	12	6	-	-	4	6	-	-	25	1	55	-	-	31	-	9
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MacGillivray's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	4	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	6	-	3	1	-	2	-	3
American Tree Sparrow	50	205	3	3	197	124	348	12	37	101	77	6	230	19	71	221
Chipping Sparrow	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	14	1	1	-	14	4	9	14	6	-	27	17	5	1	-	6
Savannah Sparrow	3	-	-	-	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	2
Song Sparrow	375	22	42	9	346	246	38	37	141	37	335	146	30	62	15	153
Swamp Sparrow	2	1	1	-	41	5	-	-	1	9	20	2	-	-	-	5
White-throated Sparrow	1256	173	10	19	1238	1533	218	22	130	46	1367	375	16	34	77	551
White-crowned Sparrow	-	1	-	6	80	13	43	-	44	-	12	70	-	7	1	69
Slate-colored Junco	1240	514	140	316	903	1675	1069	191	537	427	2728	1183	841	151	238	798
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	457	98	155	93	269	496	244	79	319	210	394	422	170	188	61	383
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	13	283	171	3	-	-	-	52	9	3	-	-	1026
Eastern Meadowlark	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	11
Rusty Blackbird	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	3	-	-	-	3696	935	103	-	-	-	3	62	3	2	-	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	1	216	300	12	2	89	-	4	-	4	-	550
blackbird sp.	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	31	1	7	6	-	3	2	6	32	5	65	25	-	1	4
House Finch	223	101	134	40	180	417	110	8	197	159	381	364	123	79	82	162
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	7	1	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	14
American Goldfinch	236	176	79	111	145	339	232	45	125	85	225	347	216	75	104	170
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	99	123	362	341	830	362	362	165	518	273	236	1688	630	559	152	881
Number Species	71	68	49	59	82	82	69	48	68	74	86	72	53	56	61	87
Number Individuals	15757	5855	4340	5103	53216	54514	13254	3169	8785	7245	40758	20925	6788	5587	3577	17558
Party-hours	133.75	55.1	31.75	52.75	79.5	125	152	45.75	73	71	131.5	129	90.5	40	42.5	72.5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DALL	DELA	DING	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	894	-	15
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	5	4845	310	4574	131	656	1244	2741	1715	588	522	1101	640	3452	5669	18082
Canada Goose	-	-	8	7	-	1	11	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Mute Swan	-	20	-	-	1	40	-	-	31	2	200	8	-	103	-	-
Tundra Swan	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wood Duck	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	20	197	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Widgeon	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	63	-	4	4	-	-	-	2
American Black Duck	50	45	22	31	-	25	16	23	78	5	7	5	18	37	23	35
Mallard	216	869	40	498	-	453	310	662	1165	41	199	296	21	894	387	737
Northern Shoveler	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Green-winged Teal	-	81	-	2	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	52	3	30	25	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	70	-	8	-	82
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	4	1	-	-	-	284	-	-	17	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	3801	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	22	22	1	1	-	209	14	-	21	-	-	7	12	26	-	2
Common Goldeneye	6	1	62	2	-	266	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	158	-	-
Hooded Merganser	29	35	10	7	1	60	8	-	76	5	3	53	7	-	2	-
Common Merganser	42	73	30	39	-	65	12	2	25	6	5	-	33	93	52	8
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	3726	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	1	-	-
Ruddy Duck	2	4	-	56	-	9	30	-	5	-	3	92	-	5	-	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	4	-	-	2	6
Ruffed Grouse	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	2	9	3	1	1	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	43	-	30	105	117	26	-	201	16	-	62	23	245	-	2	125
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	1	5	-	7	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	31	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	3	42	-	12	-	27	9	13	60	2	1	2	3	10	9	22
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	-	9	-	55	-	-	71	7	16	8	-	-	16	26	19	9
Turkey Vulture	-	126	-	221	-	-	114	43	77	20	-	-	53	252	38	62
Bald Eagle	1	4	3	6	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	26	-	1
Northern Harrier	-	5	-	7	-	4	-	6	3	1	4	1	2	-	-	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	22	1	9	-	3	-	12	7	1	10	3	-	9	8	18
Cooper's Hawk	3	8	-	6	-	6	1	8	20	1	4	4	1	3	2	5
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accipiter, sp.	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	3	-	3	-	-	6	3	-	3	1	-	2	4	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	24	72	8	97	5	14	44	147	121	36	56	10	38	49	77	140
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	4	4	-	17	-	2	16	33	19	9	7	12	7	6	28	5

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DALL	DELA	DING	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Peregrine Falcon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Moorhen	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	28	20	-	100	-	956	-	-	-	-	11	1	2	2	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	1	-	23	-	-	2	7	5	3	-	2	1	-	3	34
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	11	-	3	1	-	-	9	2	1	-	-	-	10	20	5
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	2	2194	1353	9716	-	12262	3	10	833	40	5	-	192	58133	344	279
Herring Gull	4	222	56	528	-	1168	1	15	30	-	-	-	-	1713	160	3
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	32	28	10	-	80	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	462	13	-
Rock Pigeon	215	868	13	504	65	900	132	1118	1476	322	100	-	45	-	976	610
Mourning Dove	189	708	70	647	238	101	260	1295	1231	216	638	243	231	671	671	1386
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	19	17	44	1	-	-	19	33	7	3	-	10	18	12	1
Great Horned Owl	10	16	4	27	-	1	4	16	24	9	3	-	11	9	8	11
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	3	16	1	10	-	1	4	10	33	5	4	5	4	9	11	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	95	10	146	3	8	53	86	152	41	55	12	47	74	49	113
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	6	3	27	-	-	5	15	26	3	3	-	5	6	4	14
Downy Woodpecker	49	164	21	183	23	70	39	193	238	90	83	18	92	85	72	213
Hairy Woodpecker	13	39	10	37	10	17	14	16	50	21	29	9	18	15	6	35
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2	20	4	72	-	9	19	61	82	11	6	-	7	48	19	62
Pileated Woodpecker	1	5	5	20	5	1	11	6	8	14	16	1	34	7	7	4
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	29	75	28	198	116	42	99	164	163	225	283	78	141	75	88	193
American Crow	368	413	70	631	55	135	42	3079	3424	376	1084	347	292	2592	579	1429
Fish Crow	1	18	-	3	-	-	4	24	203	-	-	-	-	67	154	10
Common Raven	1	-	1	-	12	-	7	3	1	12	4	3	7	-	-	-
Horned Lark	-	22	-	331	-	-	50	563	3	400	17	755	-	116	325	130
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	-	365	-	360	-	-	72	-	254	-	-	-	-	179	5	25
Black-capped Chickadee	236	5	81	87	374	108	33	287	95	254	674	233	122	12	53	774
chickadee sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185	217	-	-	-	-	-	87	-
Tufted Titmouse	92	292	35	296	99	20	76	273	377	147	254	71	134	171	51	522
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	11	2	1	1	3	6	2	2	13	5	1	1	-	-	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	49	147	20	199	76	3	62	106	185	123	162	36	70	93	73	255
Brown Creeper	6	27	1	13	8	2	4	12	48	14	12	-	6	17	10	32
Carolina Wren	23	195	7	130	9	4	24	71	231	19	13	1	23	127	53	172
House Wren	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	1	13	-	7	1	1	-	5	20	1	2	-	2	8	1	9
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	14	20	38	69	17	12	74	71	94	74	9	47	84	13	32
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	5	3	3	3	1	1	1	18	-	-	-	2	7	4	8

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DALL	DELA	DING	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	42	101	11	216	5	-	36	135	320	99	71	10	56	84	64	130
Hermitt Thrush	2	7	4	12	-	1	4	10	11	8	1	-	-	1	1	3
American Robin	38	1058	319	1702	25	93	21	1328	284	16	16	7	7	67	101	982
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	-	8	2	1	-	2	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Northern Mockingbird	8	186	-	127	-	-	80	110	129	15	8	-	9	68	48	174
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	459	3112	351	4909	179	1106	1256	6046	2669	1262	684	4099	440	2271	3791	3952
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	45
Cedar Waxwing	1	17	57	50	-	1	4	130	52	15	8	-	25	1	6	47
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	1	-	-	5	-	32	2	9	16	1	-	-	-	15	5	3
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MacGillivray's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	-	45	-	16	-	-	3	3	24	1	1	-	-	25	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	277	19	26	180	98	124	7	233	42	132	187	121	19	4	33	152
Chipping Sparrow	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Field Sparrow	2	20	1	18	-	-	-	9	22	2	3	-	1	5	1	16
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	29	3	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	42	-	10	-	-	-	2	20	-	2	2	-	15	-	2
Song Sparrow	43	881	14	460	3	9	42	353	374	39	117	10	16	406	138	311
Swamp Sparrow	4	54	-	34	-	5	7	18	14	-	7	2	2	13	4	14
White-throated Sparrow	62	1156	85	886	42	12	188	887	1432	134	129	31	87	1206	280	1640
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	-	8	-	-	20	119	12	15	12	-	-	9	27	44
Slate-colored Junco	364	1031	228	1509	839	40	332	3356	1060	757	1350	335	562	514	594	2127
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	3
Northern Cardinal	155	482	29	579	96	77	134	381	933	166	333	132	192	426	100	694
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	25	287	-	16190	1	1	11	3	47	-	25	1	1	127	802	282
Eastern Meadowlark	-	3	-	5	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	5	-	16	-	-	-	3	13	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	26	-	67025	-	-	6	-	44	-	-	6	-	283	103	21
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	15	-	10060	1	-	1	349	5	-	1	50	-	4	114	35
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	26	-	12	45	-	9	15	17	9	71	1	-	1	1	11
House Finch	137	500	3	230	53	26	11	465	494	82	231	130	60	164	204	459
Common Redpoll	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	8	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
American Goldfinch	86	253	61	189	187	55	94	173	439	160	321	60	64	101	75	269
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	92	420	3	357	172	182	90	903	525	303	569	260	129	182	202	442
Number Species	67	97	55	91	43	82	69	85	101	66	72	60	63	83	78	89
Number Individuals	3847	22227	3619	125013	3182	27759	5332	26754	23408	6422	8788	8793	4322	76977	16908	37632
Party-hours	37	265.25	33.75	115	57.25	47	90	111.75	137	54	127.25	72	45	74	72	130.25

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LWBG	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	RACC	READ	RECT
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	160	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	777	160	7192	4523	243	551	166	870	871	42	1662	105	505	2279	706
Mute Swan	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	3	10	-
Tundra Swan	1	-	796	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	4	5	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Widgeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Black Duck	7	4	28	304	45	-	27	2	14	-	10	-	12	230	19
Mallard	121	136	119	1095	368	81	133	492	385	130	1157	2	205	712	192
Northern Shoveler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Green-winged Teal	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	1	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	2	-	-	-	-	11	-	2	-	-	5	-	-	1	2
Common Goldeneye	-	-	7	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	354	1	10	2	-	-	1	5	5	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	31	12	152	-	16	200	31	-	-	-	4	22	-	55	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	9	-	3	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	5	1	3
Ruffed Grouse	2	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	5
Wild Turkey	12	34	37	-	15	94	111	35	-	73	105	4	65	4	34
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	2	10	7	35	2	2	7	32	4	10	18	4	2	12	2
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	2	110	-	13	-	25	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	-
Turkey Vulture	29	72	-	362	-	1	27	3	-	-	1	-	-	84	2
Bald Eagle	1	1	10	2	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
Northern Harrier	4	1	1	2	-	5	1	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	3	2	13	1	3	3	5	1	3	21	-	-	4	4
Cooper's Hawk	9	7	-	11	6	-	7	3	-	10	19	1	1	2	9
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accipiter, sp.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	5	-	8	1	-	1	-	4	-	1	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	123	126	17	123	26	20	70	67	21	1	75	95	10	68	44
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	63	30	1	33	1	1	8	35	3	9	5	-	1	11	4

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LWBG	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	RACC	READ	RECT
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	27	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	6	3	-	6	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	21	6
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	20	4	-	12	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	41	8	500	61	-	150	3	478	904	-	1	2120	23	1	2405	-
Herring Gull	2	-	18	2	-	100	7	21	4	-	-	76	-	-	190	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	19	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rock Pigeon	958	1384	50	1156	1431	352	212	1197	259	118	61	1674	16	45	855	59
Mourning Dove	437	553	29	1209	372	86	212	1137	550	7	499	743	89	207	2136	182
Barn Owl	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	7	20	-	25	5	1	40	13	3	-	3	24	6	8	24	18
Great Horned Owl	9	19	1	8	2	2	24	9	4	-	1	13	1	2	29	10
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	7
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	8	14	1	23	1	1	12	12	10	1	7	5	4	-	12	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35	91	21	99	35	6	95	82	28	-	77	159	14	13	85	42
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	14	1	14	2	-	13	4	-	-	-	5	-	1	3	4
Downy Woodpecker	92	151	46	152	51	20	156	94	58	4	111	211	58	26	100	61
Hairy Woodpecker	5	39	7	20	12	11	29	15	14	-	22	62	9	8	12	15
Yellow-shafted Flicker	17	44	8	35	7	-	71	42	13	-	35	27	3	5	47	8
Pileated Woodpecker	10	29	1	7	8	-	34	6	1	1	15	27	5	11	2	13
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	101	259	51	149	181	87	198	195	32	12	239	417	110	34	89	158
American Crow	1273	473	38	9170	611	616	910	184	42	48	397	15143	69	72	388	402
Fish Crow	1	-	-	73	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Raven	-	6	-	-	2	10	3	3	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	5
Horned Lark	265	184	-	3293	-	5	39	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	354	-
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	-	-	-	31	-	-	23	42	176	-	147	257	-	74	44	2
Black-capped Chickadee	281	211	245	161	146	235	276	88	15	14	16	205	381	6	54	484
Chickadee sp.	-	-	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	138	303	61	139	144	51	357	97	56	2	237	465	90	24	133	162
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3	7	1	-	1	3	2	1	-	5	8	-	24	3	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	78	167	29	118	77	23	184	99	73	3	123	230	85	36	100	116
Brown Creeper	10	36	6	14	-	1	30	17	14	-	14	17	8	3	4	27
Carolina Wren	26	102	-	78	21	1	84	94	65	-	100	269	11	5	98	46
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	2	13	2	10	-	1	8	8	9	-	3	2	3	1	6	4
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	120	15	32	32	1	96	1	15	2	62	34	71	23	8	112
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	1	-	19	-	-	6	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LWBG	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	RACC	READ	RECT
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	153	199	20	129	23	1	167	96	14	-	100	77	15	20	85	87
Hermit Thrush	-	4	-	13	2	-	14	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	-
American Robin	-	124	45	217	16	2	54	194	137	-	133	814	6	92	66	102
Variied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	40	61	-	80	8	4	86	91	45	-	33	48	-	9	66	9
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2902	4231	93	7921	859	397	1250	4646	1837	222	1168	3956	124	215	3981	715
American Pipit	-	4	-	171	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	16	162	5	153	19	16	206	3	-	2	37	16	1	32	16
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	-	3	1	-	1	-	6	31	-	-	17	11	-	-	1	3
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MacGillivray's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	-	-	-	42	-	-	5	3	6	-	4	1	-	-	3	1
American Tree Sparrow	179	158	307	223	42	53	143	101	6	18	7	30	95	132	3	70
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	2	5	-	38	2	-	6	6	16	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Savannah Sparrow	8	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	16	-	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Song Sparrow	117	235	23	554	17	22	191	157	159	-	164	310	5	37	176	81
Swamp Sparrow	3	1	4	29	-	5	5	15	1	-	1	1	-	4	6	13
White-throated Sparrow	242	507	28	2076	172	17	588	848	432	-	127	206	12	33	662	57
White-crowned Sparrow	32	40	33	77	-	-	14	376	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	1
Slate-colored Junco	529	695	233	1431	745	131	1093	715	428	10	255	581	119	145	805	364
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	2	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	192	545	190	416	198	41	472	274	145	4	290	586	50	123	299	234
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	3	-	1	5	-	-	30	14	6	-	-	-	-	40	179	3
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	1	2	11	-	-	-	21	16	-	-	3	-	-	26	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	19	-	-	178	-	-	1	81	-	-	-	1	-	-	92	4
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	3000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	2	4	10	-	9	25	4	-	2	-	2	3	1	-	2	9
House Finch	73	163	46	243	156	37	253	147	237	-	179	605	37	33	290	29
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
American Goldfinch	62	170	134	170	178	65	193	147	204	30	178	427	99	47	247	156
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	344	585	195	1106	498	132	343	546	186	7	400	863	41	96	619	286
Number Species	71	66	65	81	51	51	80	74	65	25	54	67	44	57	74	70
Number Individuals	9952	12727	10871	43334	6953	3687	8720	14294	7639	686	7130	34104	1848	2506	18802	5245
Party-hours	82.5	75.5	45	121	57.75	46	63.5	59	58	20	168.75	207	50.25	31.75	76.5	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	RYER	SCRA	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WYNC	YORK
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	1361	16717	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	73	492	17846	3288	1227	326	1854	7384	348	525	11540	46	1376	954	1704	1126
Mute Swan	-	-	58	-	-	2	-	11	1	-	10	-	-	-	2	2
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	-
Gadwall	-	-	56	6	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Widgeon	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	-	29	239	364	15	2	14	166	14	5	68	7	21	25	-	26
Mallard	64	96	1643	593	1	641	266	1675	587	130	428	51	137	435	623	721
Northern Shoveler	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	18	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	3	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	432	17	-	-	-	8	-	1	124	-	-	-	2	16
Greater Scaup	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	33	2	-	-	3	-	55	-	8	-	1	18	-	2
Common Goldeneye	-	-	6	2	-	-	1	4	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	16
Hooded Merganser	-	3	160	8	-	-	5	40	83	3	7	3	20	-	34	5
Common Merganser	-	12	408	891	12	4	128	44	122	-	24	35	20	231	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	25	-	-	-	-	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	4	1	3	1	6	5	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	1	9	8	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	84	52	-	11	152	38	-	136	18	77	11	116	11	121	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	21	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	2	3	77	62	-	55	-	20	8	-	27	-	1	3	13	17
Great Egret	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	-	-	1	69	-	-	-	2	-	-	86	-	-	-	15	16
Turkey Vulture	1	-	60	35	-	-	-	81	-	-	168	-	-	-	70	121
Bald Eagle	-	-	4	49	3	-	3	4	14	-	2	2	1	1	-	5
Northern Harrier	-	-	1	1	4	3	2	1	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	3	21	8	4	3	8	4	4	3	12	2	2	3	8	4
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	13	15	3	9	2	13	6	6	10	1	-	4	5	8
Northern Goshawk	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Accipiter, sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	54	34	105	87	28	67	69	58	31	44	122	17	12	56	28	52
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	1	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	17	1	1	28	1	9	4	6	1	10	2	-	2	4	2	3

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	RYER	SCRA	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WYNC	YORK
Merlin	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	70	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	1
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	1	-	13	60	-	7	1	8	-	8	17	-	4	-	19	23
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	2396	21992	22665	-	2	13	1733	142	-	111	98	79	21	126	427
Herring Gull	-	25	145249	84	1	-	20	61	2	-	3	-	1	1	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	1	144	-	-	-	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	2	15867	27	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	26	812	521	1246	197	746	423	351	258	235	497	52	-	796	465	306
Mourning Dove	306	188	1223	1394	48	201	158	1858	554	335	1126	73	245	134	408	227
Barn Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	1	13	81	7	2	20	92	2	6	78	1	8	12	-	1
Great Horned Owl	3	4	14	36	1	-	10	35	-	5	12	1	8	4	3	5
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Barred Owl	1	-	-	6	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	5	-	17	28	-	14	6	12	6	2	16	2	4	2	11	13
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	9	91	215	13	49	19	109	20	60	120	7	14	24	48	47
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	-	-	20	-	3	2	9	-	5	11	-	1	1	5	5
Downy Woodpecker	39	41	124	240	22	75	59	194	84	58	125	30	33	58	91	42
Hairy Woodpecker	7	8	17	60	7	22	14	38	25	17	27	14	8	15	17	12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	17	3	81	159	8	10	7	84	3	32	41	2	16	32	18	28
Pileated Woodpecker	12	3	-	17	1	7	4	6	7	12	1	4	3	15	2	2
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Shrike	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Blue Jay	116	119	115	189	39	291	57	387	298	160	93	90	66	127	27	88
American Crow	198	1340	590	323	1023	813	952	257	121	205	903	153	125	733	78	154
Fish Crow	-	1	985	-	-	20	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Common Raven	3	-	-	-	5	25	7	-	16	-	-	3	-	1	-	1
Horned Lark	-	-	-	751	-	227	4	-	-	-	-	-	114	-	-	-
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	137	-	318	268	-	-	-	318	-	90	325	-	-	-	208	45
Black-capped Chickadee	9	399	9	-	235	387	254	189	457	35	1	319	146	244	2	1
chickadee sp.	4	-	42	25	-	-	-	170	-	130	46	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	118	90	206	270	78	175	112	385	80	115	243	63	85	117	145	44
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	5	11	1	8	-	6	5	21	4	5	1	1	2	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	78	77	114	158	21	129	78	165	126	64	136	44	42	47	71	45
Brown Creeper	1	2	15	26	4	10	3	19	6	13	6	2	3	1	5	2
Carolina Wren	7	8	191	292	4	29	19	160	4	42	204	1	13	19	72	39
House Wren	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	-
Winter Wren	-	-	11	74	-	5	2	6	1	4	5	-	1	3	-	3
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	19	8	1	115	5	104	17	28	24	26	31	3	10	23	19	21
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	-	15	13	-	2	1	7	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	3

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	RYER	SCRA	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WYNC	YORK
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	37	21	70	188	45	30	50	202	5	85	307	18	100	113	12	66
Hermit Thrush	-	-	8	18	-	2	1	39	-	2	18	-	1	-	3	2
American Robin	11	13	1156	277	38	43	5	728	2	46	897	18	150	202	625	61
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	-	2	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	7	10	166	172	1	41	5	128	-	22	243	-	15	14	50	102
Brown Thrasher	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	791	1587	5269	10228	608	3550	1098	3495	973	895	7308	237	682	6621	1223	3376
American Pipit	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cedar Waxwing	-	11	22	28	79	45	65	7	-	2	23	19	270	7	-	6
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	-	-	29	28	1	-	-	99	-	15	12	-	-	-	2	23
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palmer Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MacGillivray's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	2	-	21	32	1	-	-	1	-	2	28	-	-	-	1	11
American Tree Sparrow	10	57	27	12	117	69	219	162	48	4	2	21	48	130	-	37
Chipping Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	4	-	42	13	-	-	-	38	-	-	37	-	3	4	4	4
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	9	13	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	1	14	30	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	6
Song Sparrow	64	19	563	881	4	29	26	316	7	65	446	-	44	25	103	203
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	36	23	-	3	7	20	-	2	27	-	1	-	-	36
White-throated Sparrow	52	9	1504	2584	22	389	131	1084	48	38	955	-	141	181	478	503
White-crowned Sparrow	10	-	6	108	1	-	-	11	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	42
Slate-colored Junco	232	387	1056	1962	285	715	491	2032	508	190	1243	102	768	667	861	662
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	223	116	489	824	104	205	175	647	170	195	655	22	66	124	187	228
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	2	158	34185	20	1	21	5242	1	2	274	-	6	-	1	98
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	1	16	-	1	-	15	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	1	-	19	110162	-	3	-	-	-	10	229	-	5	-	3	45
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	1	13	13131	-	109	1	9	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	6
blackbird sp.	-	-	-	775	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	6	-	2	8	3	3	2	10	-	9	11	10	9	4	-	-
House Finch	42	172	435	186	37	132	104	271	90	200	473	8	95	135	170	51
Common Redpoll	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	129	82	694	294	187	172	133	252	244	165	304	27	49	102	286	64
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	349	526	677	783	185	347	189	355	394	210	100	33	58	227	414	82
Number Species	53	56	103	108	56	67	64	93	58	63	83	47	62	62	52	76
Number Individuals	3431	9285	223315	228269	4920	10441	7359	31652	6044	4656	30518	1773	5155	12861	8779	9456
Party-hours	59	73	181.5	155	44	94.25	57	168.75	89.5	36	154	18.75	23.75	59	70.75	69

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2004 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	TOTALS	NO. OF COUNTS	HIGH COUNT		TOTALS	NO. OF COUNTS	HIGH COUNT		TOTALS	NO. OF COUNTS	HIGH COUNT
Greater White-fronted Goose	4	4	1	1	15	12	2	4	15	12	2
Snow Goose	3082	15	1671	SLAN	13	7	3	PITT	329	62	320
Ross's Goose	3	1	3	SLAN	1	1	1	DELA	239	41	39
Cackling Goose	21	9	5	DELA	1799	22	956	ERIE	17004	62	1702
Canada Goose	190549	64	26861	BETH	1	1	1	CURT	1	1	1
Mute Swan	212	26	58	SBCK	372	41	60	SLAN	66	26	11
Tundra Swan	1390	15	796	LITI	2	1	2	YORK	3339	55	243
Wood Duck	55	22	6	SLAN	145	20	29	SLAN	6	4	2
Gadwall	311	10	197	HARR	8	5	3	CURT	165220	64	10276
American Widgeon	88	10	63	HARR	2	2	1	5	283	9	171
American Black Duck	2530	54	364	HARR	191	4	160	ERIE	2024	54	270
Mallard	27064	62	1675	UBCK	157088	51	58133	LANC	1	1	1
Northern Shoveler	84	3	78	DELA	150597	39	145249	SBCK	1	1	1
Northern Pintail	58	20	18	SBCK	23	4	19	SBCK	1	1	1
Green-winged Teal	166	14	81	DELA	290	10	144	SBCK	521	36	99
Canvasback	18	4	12	PENN	8	4	5	SBCK	4	2	3
Redhead	63	3	50	ERIE	16673	19	15867	SBCK	1	1	1
Ring-necked Duck	941	25	432	SBCK	32218	60	1674	PITT	1	1	1
Greater Scaup	117	4	101	ERIE	38189	64	2136	READ	1	1	1
Lesser Scaup	349	11	284	ERIE	7	4	3	HAMB	4	4	1
scaup sp.	3808	3	3801	ERIE	920	55	92	UBCK	4	2	1
Black Scoter	4	1	4	ERIE	555	56	36	SLAN	1	1	1
Surf Scoter	7	1	7	ERIE	2	2	1	6	305	33	45
White-winged Scoter	5	2	3	JOHN	44	21	7	RECT	5888	63	348
Long-tailed Duck	5	4	2	SLAN	22	9	5	CURT	1	1	1
Bufflehead	668	31	209	ERIE	12	5	4	RACC	29	16	4
Common Goldeneye	597	21	266	ERIE	44	15	11	NEWB	446	42	42
Hooded Merganser	1177	41	354	LINE	1	1	1	SBCK	120	18	29
Common Merganser	4042	45	891	SLAN	470	58	33	HARR	1	1	1
Red-breasted Merganser	3746	9	3726	ERIE	48	16	22	GETT	197	24	42
Ruddy Duck	838	16	515	BUTL	3717	63	215	SLAN	10293	62	881
Ring-necked Pheasant	168	44	16	CURT	313	46	27	ELVE	508	45	54
Ruffed Grouse	112	30	15	CLRN	5882	64	240	SLAN	29448	62	2584
Wild Turkey	3382	53	245	LAKE	1201	63	62	PITT	1375	38	376
Red-throated Loon	3	2	2	ERIE	1776	60	159	SLAN	48389	64	3356
Common Loon	20	11	9	ERIE	550	60	34	7	8	4	5
Pied-billed Grebe	51	19	9	SBCK	12	10	2	8	58	10	20
Horned Grebe	44	7	30	ERIE	16	14	2	9	17436	64	933
Eared Grebe	1	1	1	ERIE	9332	64	422	CHAM	1	1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	67	9	31	DELA	63063	64	15143	PITT	59655	44	34185
Great Cormorant	46	3	29	PENN	1599	23	985	SBCK	87	13	27
Great Blue Heron	829	55	77	SBCK	178	33	25	STAT	85	15	16
Great Egret	4	3	2	SBCK	8993	34	3293	LITI	1	1	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	2	1	2	9	2	8	PENN	182877	32	110162
Black Vulture	1048	26	137	READ	4638	31	412	AUDU	25469	38	13131
Turkey Vulture	2685	31	362	LITI	12733	62	774	LEHI	3791	4	3000
Bald Eagle	184	37	49	SLAN	1991	19	217	10	1	1	1
Northern Harrier	130	43	14	BLOO	10214	64	522	LEHI	556	49	71
Sharp-shinned Hawk	344	56	22	DELA	239	54	24	RACC	11138	63	605
Cooper's Hawk	376	58	20	HARR	6332	64	297	BETH	11	5	3
Northern Goshawk	9	8	2	WHIT	677	60	48	HARR	69	24	14
Accipiter, sp.	14	9	2	3	4094	62	292	SLAN	10988	64	694
Red-shouldered Hawk	73	30	8	NEWB	18	8	8	WYNC	5	2	4
Red-tailed Hawk	3768	64	147	HAMB	303	48	74	SLAN	23588	64	1688
Rough-legged Hawk	44	21	10	STAT/Golden	1	1	1	BUSH	164	108	108
Eagle	6	4	3	EMPO	2318	64	120	LW ST	1453826	228269	265
American Kestrel	724	59	63	LWBG	181	37	19	LITI	5310	265	265

1 BEDF, CBCK, LEHI, WASH
 2 LANC, SBCK
 3 ERIE, HARR, PISH, PITT, WARR
 4 CBCK, PITT, SBCK
 5 DELA, SBCK
 6 ERIE, WILL
 7 LAKE, NEWB
 8 CHAM, HARR

9 CLRN, LINE
 10 HARR, PISH
 11 SBCK, SLAN
 12 BALD, HARR, JOHN, SLAN

13 LEHI, SLAN
 14 DELA, SLAN
 15 ELVE, SLAN
 16 DALL, MANS

Summary of the Season - December 2004 through February 2005

Al Guarente

For the most part, December was a mild one and produced some excellent vagrants. As the winter progressed the colder weather set in and the northwestern portion of the state received quite a bit of snow. At least 80" were reported at the Erie Airport

Once again PA missed out on any major winter finch invasion this season. However, this season was nevertheless productive, with birders finding two birds that are first state records for PA.

This year seven counties reported **Greater White-fronted Goose**. A **Ross' Goose** was a first for *Venango*, and reported in only four other counties. Only *Allegheny* reported **Red-breasted Merganser** and *Erie* reported a spectacular sighting of 2 **Harlequin Ducks** in December. There was an apparent dearth of scoters this season with only two **White-winged Scoters** being reported from Presque Isle.

The winter season produced a plethora of gulls for the lariphiles to enjoy. The almost predictable **California Gull** was found again in *Erie*. Finding a **Sabine's Gull** on Lake Erie must have been a real delight also. But the eastern portion of the state wasn't to be denied their fair share of gulls. **Thayer's**, **Iceland**, and **Glaucous gulls** all made an appearance in either *Bucks* or *Berks*. Hundreds of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, probably the largest wintering population in North America, made their presence known to *Bucks* birders.

With the big invasion of owls in Ontario and Minnesota making the news, PA birders were awaiting in anticipation of some northern owls. An obliging **Snowy Owl** made a pit stop at the Pharo's Truck Stop for six days in *Cumberland*. But the owl everyone was waiting for was seen only by a photographer in

Adams. He reported having a **Great Gray Owl** sitting on his property, other birders searched in vain to verify its presence.

One of the highlights this reporting season was a well studied and photographed **Gray Kingbird** in western *Chester*. Normally a southern species, this bird made a December appearance at a Christmas Tree Farm, of all places. The kingbird stayed for 8 days and if accepted will be a first state record for PA.

Three species of swallows occurred in the period. An early **Tree Swallow** in *Lancaster* arrived Feb 6. In December, 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were in *Philadelphia* and in January, 21 were found at a different location in *Philadelphia*. *Erie* came through from the opposite end of state and produced a swallow they believe to be a **Cave Swallow**.

Two of the most cooperative birds of the season were a **Townsend's Solitaire** in *McKean* and a **Varied Thrush** in *Franklin*. The solitaire was found on January 15 and remained throughout the period. The **Varied Thrush** also remained the whole period and was observed by birders from four states. Two other **Varied Thrushes** were also seen in two other counties.

Pennsylvania quickly made national attention on the internet with a fantastic find of a **Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*) in *Bucks* on February 5. A new birder pointed out the bird to August Mirabella who in turn got the word out within minutes. The bird was photographed and only remained for that one day. However, the next day birders from as far away as Maine and Florida showed up in hopes of spotting this bird. If accepted by P.O.R.C. this would be another first record for the state. It will also be the third North American record.

For some unforeseen reason **Cedar Waxwings** seemed to disappear from the state even in the southeast portion where they normally overwinter.

Eight species of warblers were seen this period and one of them, a **MacGillivray's Warbler**, found in *Berks* will also be a first state record if approved by the records committee.

A male **Painted Bunting** was present in *Bucks*. A **Harris' Sparrow** returned to the exact same location as last year but this bird was a different individual. How cool is that? A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was also an amazing find in *Schuylkill*.

Brewer's Blackbirds are increasingly regular, being seen in three counties this season. Birders should be putting more effort into searching through large flocks of blackbirds in hopes of finding more Brewer's.

As stated earlier, this period was not a good winter finch year, for the third season in a row. However, a total of 11 **Evening Grosbeaks** at two separate locales and a **Red Crossbill** were an indication that others could have been present, just not found. **Common Redpolls** were at numerous northern feeders also.

421 S Old Middletown Rd
Media, PA 19063

Birds of Note - December 2004 through February 2005

(Species not expected or reported in fewer than five counties this period)

This report summarizes unexpected species and species reported in fewer than 5 counties during the reporting period.

Rare and unusual sightings for which details have been submitted will be reviewed by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. "No Desc" means no description of the bird was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time.

Birds in *Italics* are uncommon, but occur during this time period in most years.

Birds Underlined occur at least 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Italics Underlined occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of every 10 years during this time period.

Greater White-fronted Goose - *Allegheny*: one at Neville Island 2/18 (Mark Vass). The bird continued at the site through the end of the month; *Bedford*: one at Shawnee SP 12/18; *Berks*: one at L. Ontelaunee 1/9-18 (Rudy Keller, Ken Lebo, Bill Uhrich); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/26, 12/29, 2/5-6 (Ian Baldock, August Mirabella, Paul Lehman); possibly the same bird was at Blooming Glen 1/6 (Rob Fergus); two were at Nockamixon SP 2/27 (Bill Etter); *Montgomery*: one-two at Green Lane Res. 2/13-28 (Kevin Crilley, m.obs.); *Northampton*: one of the Greenland race was at the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 2/20 (Billy Weber); *Westmoreland*: five at Donegal L. 2/22 established a new high count for the county (Robert C. Leberman).

Ross's Goose - *Berks*: one at L. Ontelaunee 1/9 (Rudy Keller); *Lancaster*: three on the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/19; *Lebanon*: up to five were at Middle Creek WMA 2/12 (Randy Miller) and a blue phase was found there 2/19 (Randy Miller, Kate Miller); *Northampton*: one in Lower Mount Bethel Twp. 12/26 (Rick Wiltraut); *Venango*: one on the Allegheny R. 1/22, a first county record (Jerry Stanley, Kathie Goodblood); *York*: one at Shrewsbury Pond 2/27-28.

Brant - *Bucks*: an injured bird reported at Hilltown Twp. 12/30 (Rob Fergus) and four at Peace Valley Park 1/17-18 (August Mirabella); *Chester*: a single bird found at Chambers L. 12/19 (Larry Lewis, Andy Smith, Eleanor Wolf).

Barnacle Goose - *Bucks*: one at Churchville Res. 1/30 (Nick Zahn, Devich Farbotnik) and one was first reported at Peace Valley Park 2/28 (Ken Rieker); *Chester*: one at Coatesville Res. 1/9 (Rick Robinson); *Lancaster*: one on Octorara L. 1/7 (Chuck Chalfant).

Trumpeter Swan - *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee in Feb wearing yellow wing tags (#698), first seen at the Peters Creek inlet 1/2 (Matt Spence), where it remained through Mar (m.obs.); *Crawford*: a single bird was seen 1/12 at Jamestown SP (Ronald F. Leberman).

Blue-winged Teal - *Allegheny*: an early individual was at Fox Chapel 2/20 (Dan Yagusic, Chris Knoll); *Schuylkill*: a pair were at Landingville Dam 2/6 (Tom Clauser).

Harlequin Duck - *Erie*: two females flying by Presque Isle SP 12/27 (Jerry McWilliams).

Surf Scoter - *Allegheny*: one present in Findlay Twp. 1/7-23 (Mark Vass, et al.).

White-winged Scoter - *Bucks*: One at Peace Valley Park 12/13 (Steve Farbotnik); two at Peace Valley Park 1/1 (Ian Baldock); *Erie*: up to two were present from 2/19-28 at Presque Isle SP (Ben Coulter); *Wyoming*: one seen 12/13 at L. Carey (William Reid).

Red-throated Loon - *Bucks*: one continued to 12/19 at Nockamixon SP (Bill Etter); *Huntingdon*: one was on L. Perez 12/2 (Alice Fuller); *Lancaster*: one found on the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/19.

Red-necked Grebe - *Butler*: one on L. Arthur 1/15 (Dave Darney, Debbie Darney); *Erie*: one bird for at Presque Isle SP 1/1 (Jerry McWilliams).

Eared Grebe - *Erie*: one 12/18 at Presque Isle SP (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter)

Great Cormorant - *Bucks*: all season on the Del. R at Bristol with a peak of 20+, 12/19 (August Mirabella); three at Nockamixon SP 12/25 (Bill Etter) adds to other recent sightings there so that they are now expected annually.

Great Egret - *Bucks*: two near Bristol 12/18 (Bob Mercer); *Chester*: one bird seen 12/18 on the West Chester CBC; *Dauphin*: one reported at Highspire Res. 1/4 (Allen Lindsey); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz Refuge 1/8 (Doris

McGovern); *Westmoreland*: one on the Bushy Run CBC 12/26 (*fide* Dick Byers)

Black-crowned Night Heron - *Bucks*: one was found on the Southern Bucks CBC 12/18 but five were believed to have wintered near Bristol (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one bird found on the Lancaster CBC 1/2.

Osprey - *Chester*: one at Valley Forge 12/27 (Mike Bertram, Kathy King).

Broad-winged Hawk - *Carbon*: an immature present at Beltzville SP 1/10-15 (Richard Rehrig). The photos were reviewed by raptor expert William Clark who confirmed the identification. This is one of the few documented winter records of this species for North America.

Common Moorhen - *Delaware* & *Philadelphia*: one found on the dike that borders both counties at John Heinz NWR 12/18 (Robert Miller).

Dunlin - *Crawford*: one individual seen at Woodcock L. 12/8 (Ronald F. Leberman).

Laughing Gull - *Bucks*: one at Tullytown 12/18 (Cameron Rutt); *Delaware*: one on the Delaware R. near Chester 12/18 (John Freiberg).

Black-headed Gull - *Bucks*: one arrived in late Nov and remained until 12/8 at Tullytown (Cameron Rutt, Bill Etter et al.).

Black-tailed Gull - *Bucks*: a possible 2nd winter bird at Falls Twp. Park DATE (Alan Brady). No Desc.

California Gull - *Erie*: an adult at Presque Isle SP 12/14 (Jerry McWilliams).

Thayer's Gull - *Bucks*: one was reported from the Tullytown area 12/8, 12/16 (Bill Etter), 12/12 (Matt Sharp), 1/6 (Devich Farbotnik), and 1/19 (Sam Stewart); *Erie*: a total of six were studied throughout the period at Presque Isle SP and the Lake View Landfill (Ben Coulter, Jerry McWilliams).

Nelson's Gull (Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull) - *Bucks*: one was present at Tullytown 1/19 (Sam Stewart).

Sabine's Gull - *Erie*: an adult well photographed at the channel at Presque Isle SP 12/21-22 (Nate Zalik, Craig Kern).

Eurasian Collared Dove - *Franklin*: as many as six at one time have been observed regularly in Shady Grove, and occasionally one or two in Greencastle (Dale Gearhart). No Desc.

Snowy Owl - *Cumberland*: one located at Pharo's Truck Stop in Shippensburg 12/10-15 (m.obs.); *Erie*: one remained at Gull Point and the channel at Presque Isle SP through at least 1/15 (m.obs); *Montour*: one reported in a field along Blee Hill Rd. 1/31 (Bob Bleiler); one seen flying in the northern part of the county 2/3 (Mike Kuriga); *Lycoming*: one at the Lycoming Mall 12/4 (Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Dave Ferry, Steve Pinkerton, Wayne Laubscher); one in Williamsport 12/13-18 (Mike Kuriga, Wayne Laubscher et al.).

Great Gray Owl - *Adams*: there was an unconfirmed report of an owl seen 1/9 near Cashtown that the property owner believed to be this species. It was seen sitting on a fence railing from a distance of less than 50 feet. No Desc.

Rufous Hummingbird - *Bucks*: one ad female present at a Bristol row house from at least early Nov was not reported (Evelyn Schwartz) and identified (Linda Rowan, Mick Jeitner) until early Dec. On 12/11, the bird was caught and banded (Nick Pulcinella). It was last seen 12/19; *Erie*: one adult male from the fall season at East Springfield was last seen 12/14 (Arla Parmarter); *Fayette*: one reported and banded last season continued to visit a feeder in South Connellsville to 1/17 (Joanna Adams); *Indiana*: the female,

visiting a feeder near Brush Valley since early Nov was seen again 12/8 (Gordon Hollingsworth).

Eastern Phoebe - *Bucks*: one 12/19 on the Upper Bucks CBC (Jewel Rufe, Wendy Margolis) and one 1/9 at State Game Lands #56 (Diane Allison); *Centre*: one in College Heights, State College 1/14 (Hillel Brandes); *Dauphin*: one was tallied on the Harrisburg CBC 12/18 near the State Hospital and another lingered in East Hanover Twp. long enough to make the Lebanon CBC 1/2 (Sally & Rich Zaino); *Lancaster*: one on the Lititz CBC 12/19; *Snyder*: one at the east end of Faylor L. 1/19 (Chad Kauffmann, Aden Troyer, Deuane Hoffman).

Gray Kingbird - *Chester*: one at the Shamrock Tree Farm in Pomeroy 12/12-20 (Joe Meloney, Larry Lewis m.obs). If accepted by P.O.R.C. this would be a first state record.

Tree Swallow - *Lancaster*: one on the Southern Lancaster County CBC 12/19; an early bird was seen at Middle Creek WMA 2/6 (Doris McGovern).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow - *Philadelphia*: four at the Southwest Pollution Control Facility 12/31 (Al & Bryan Guarente); a group of 21 foraging over the sewage ponds at the Northeast Water Pollution Control facility, across from the Tioga Marine Terminal 1/8 (Rich Horwitz, Peter Kurtz, Matt Sharp).

Cave Swallow - *Erie*: a bird observed flying overhead in failing daylight at Presque Isle ISP 12/9 was possibly this species (Don Snyder). No Desc.

House Wren - *Berks*: one on the Hamburg CBC 12/26; *Bucks*: One was above New Hope 12/30 and 1/10 (Ken Rieker); *Chester*: one on the West Chester CBC 12/18; *Delaware*: three were on the Glenolden CBC 12/18.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - *Bucks*: one was at the Penn Warner Tract 11/26 (Paul Lehman) and relocated 12/18 (Devich Farbotnik); *Northampton*: one was around until 12/2 at Monacacy Nature Center (Linda Freedman).

Townsend's Solitaire - *McKean*: a very cooperative bird at State Game lands #30 near Betula 1/15 through end of period (Len Groshek, m.obs).

Redwing (Turdus iliacus) - *Bucks*: a first for Pennsylvania found 2/5 at Peace Valley Nature Center (Jessica Huff, August Mirabella, m.obs).

Varied Thrush - *Franklin*: one at Caledonia SP 12/11 through the end of the period (Dale Gearhart m.obs); *Lancaster*: one was discovered at Middle Creek WMA 1/21-2/27 (Barbara Hunsberger, Peter Hunsberger et al.); *Westmoreland*: one bird at a feeder in Lionizer 2/17 (Mike Luther). No Desc.

Orange-crowned Warbler - *Allegheny*: one visited a feeder in Forest Hills 12/21, 22, and 30, and last seen 1/9 (Tony Bledsoe); *Chester*: one bird seen 12/26 at Lorimer Preserve (Tony Fernandes, John Carpenter).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - a male on the Curtin CBC 12/29 at Myo Park in Millersburg (Ramsay Koury, Richard Williams).

Pine Warbler - *Berks*: one at Green Hills L. 1/28 and 2/8 (Ken Lebo); *Indiana*: one visited a feeder near Reservoir Hill 1/13-20 (Pat Johner); *Lehigh*: three were seen at feeders in West Allentown sporadically during the winter (John Boyer, Nancy Boyer); *Montgomery*: one in Elkins Park 12/28-29 (Paul Driver).

Palm Warbler - *Chester*: one found during West Chester CBC 12/18 (Dale Umble)

American Redstart - *Snyder*: a lone bird that first appeared at a Middle Creek Twp feeder in early Nov and remained to 12/11.

Ovenbird - *Chester*: one in Chesterbrook from late Nov-12/26 (John Carpenter); *Philadelphia*: One bird found on the Philadelphia Mid-winter Count 1/8 (David Weidner).

MacGillivray's Warbler - *Berks*: one at the Rodale Institute in Maxatawny Twp. 12/18-20 (Alan Jennings, Bernie Morris, Kathy Sieminski, Todd Watkins et al.) would be a first state record if accepted.

Common Yellowthroat - *Allegheny*: one at North Park 12/18 (Bob VanNewkirk); *Bucks*: One near Phillips Chapel above New Hope 12/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one on the Bald Eagle SP CBC 1/2; *Cumberland*: one on the Harrisburg CBC 12/18; *Schuylkill*: one at Adamsdale 2/14 (Barb

Jucker).

Wilson's Warbler - *Lancaster*: one bird on Southern Lancaster County CBC 12/19; *Lehigh*: one on the Lehigh CBC 12/18 (Steve Smith et al.).

Yellow-breasted Chat - *Chester*: one found 12/18 during the West Chester CBC (Mary Alice Knox).

Scarlet Tanager - *Northampton*: a female visited a feeder in Nazareth 12/10 (no observer listed).

Chipping Sparrow - *Adams*: one was found during the Christmas Bird Count 12/18; *Bucks*: one on the Central Bucks CBC 12/26; four were driven by snow to the road edge at Peace Valley Park in late Jan (Ken Rieker); *Chester*: one at Okehocking Preserve 12/18 (Edie Parnum, Lynn Neefe), another was seen 12/27 in Upper Uwchlan Twp. (Barry Blust); *Delaware*: three on the Glenolden CBC 12/18; *Erie*: one at a feeder in Erie during the last week of Feb was probably a very early migrant (Ken Andersen); *Indiana*: two were near Indiana 12/27 (Gary Ferrence); *Montgomery*: one at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 1/12-29 (Paul Driver); *Westmoreland*: one spent the entire season at a Powdermill Nature Reserve (Mike Lanzone).

Clay-colored Sparrow - *Berks*: a single bird was in a flock of 20 American Tree Sparrows in Oley Twp. 1/16 (Rudy Keller)

Grasshopper Sparrow - *Bucks*: one at Neshaminy SP 12/18 (Mick Jeitner) and again 1/1 (Linda Rowan); *Schuylkill*: one near Hegins 2/18 (Aaron Clauser, Brian Clauser).

Lincoln's Sparrow - *Chester*: one in Penn Twp. 1/24 (Molly Daly).

Harris's Sparrow - *Northampton*: one imm 1/18 at Stone Church (Rick Wiltraut). The bird continued until at least 3/7.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - *Bradford*: a female 12/8 at Ulster (Dick Allyn).

Painted Bunting - *Bucks*: an adult male was at a feeder in Northampton Twp. 2/6 through the period (Paul & Jean Edwards, Beverly Ilenda, August Mirabella).

Dickcissel - *Bucks*: one on the Central Bucks CBC was above New Hope near Phillips Chapel 12/26 (Devich Farbotnik) and was last reported 1/20 (Ken Rieker); another was at Buckingham Twp. 2/3-25 (Vicki & Richard Smith).

Yellow-headed Blackbird - *Chester*: one bird was found in Fallowfield Twp 12/18 (Armas Hill). No Desc.

Brewer's Blackbird - *Allegheny*: a female was discovered in Findlay Twp 2/17 (Geoff Malosh); *Dauphin*: one was reported along Pine Hill Rd. in South Hanover Twp 1/8 (Tom Johnson); *Lancaster*: one on the Southern Lancaster County CBC 12/19.

Baltimore Oriole - *Bucks*: one on the Southern Bucks CBC 12/18 (Paul Lehman, George Armistead); *Lehigh*: three at feeders in West Allentown, no date given (John Boyer, Nancy Boyer); *York*: there were two winter reports – one was in a yard in Manchester Twp. for two weeks beginning 1/14 (Shawn Godack), and two were seen 2/14 at Stillmeadow Park (Lou Carpenter)

Red Crossbill - *Luzerne*: one at a feeder in Wilkes-Barre on 2/16.

Evening Grosbeak - *Clarion*: one female graced a feeder at Mt. Airy for about one minute on 12/17 (Gil Twiest); *Crawford*: ten birds found near Conneaute Marsh 2/5 (Ronald F. Leberman).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Rare in western Pennsylvania, this bird was at Neville Island, *Allegheny*, 20 February 2005 (*Geoff Malosh*).



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). One of a group of five found on the Glenolden CBC in Concord Twp, *Delaware*, 18 December 2004 (*John Freiberg*). Evident in this photograph is the small size, small bill and small head with steep forehead.



Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). This bird was found in a driveway in Jermyn, *Lackawanna*, 8 December 2004. The home is about a 1/2 block from Rushbrook Creek that feeds into the Lakawanna River (*Ann Marie Greco*).



Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). This species is known to frequent backyard feeding stations in winter where finding prey is easy. This adult was doing just that in Buck Hill Falls, *Monroe* 31 January 2005 (*William Kendall*).



Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). An immature in West Goshen Twp., Chester, 25 February 2005 (Nick Pulcinella).



Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). This immature was present at Beltzville State Park, Carbon, 10-15 January 2005. This is one of the few documented winter records for North America. Photographed here 12 January 2005 (Richard Rehrig).



Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Only the third county record, this bird arrived to Tullytown, Bucks in late November 2004 and remained until 8 December 2004 (Bill Etter).



Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). What is probably the first winter record for this species in Pennsylvania, this adult was at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, 21 December 2004 (Nate Zalik).



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). This popular and cooperative bird spent most of its time atop a truck stop in Shippensburg, *Cumberland*. Photographed here 11 December 2004 (*Jim Wojewodzkith*).



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). This immature was photographed 13 December 2004 in Williamsport, *Lycoming* (*Wayne Laubscher*). It was later recorded on the Williamsport CBC and subsequently found dead of apparent starvation 18 December 2004.



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). Present from at least early November 2004 in Bristol, *Bucks*, this bird was banded and photographed 11 December 2004 (*Nick Pulcinella*). It was last seen 19 December 2004.



Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). An outstanding male frequenting a backyard suet supply in Shipperville, *Clarion*, 25 February 2005 (*Margaret Buckwalter*).



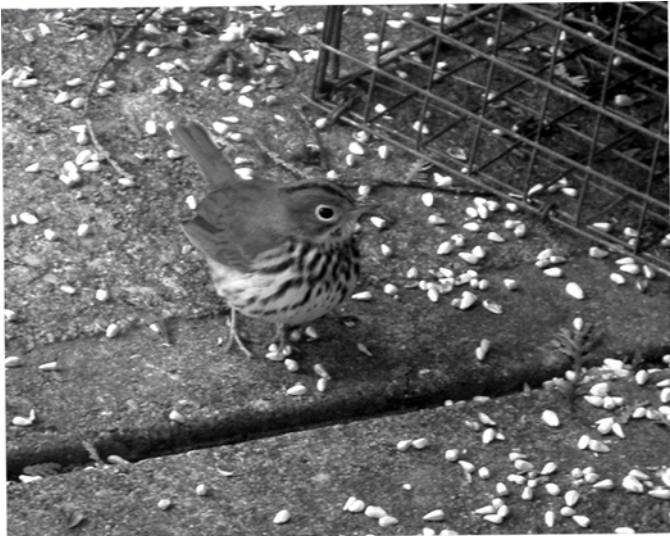
Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). Kresge Tree Farm, Kresgeville, Monroe, 2 February 2005 (*Michael Schall*).



Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). This bird was present at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster, 21 January-6 February 2005 (*Tom Amico*).



Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). Another popular and cooperative bird, it was present at Caledonia State Park, Franklin, 11 December 2004 through March 2005. Photographed here 21 December 2004 (*Bob Moul*).



Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). This bird was present from late November 2004. It subsisted on peanut butter and managed to get itself caught in a Have-a-Heart trap twice during its stay. Photographed here 26 December 2004 on the Audubon CBC in Chesterbrook, *Chester* (*Tony Fernandes*).

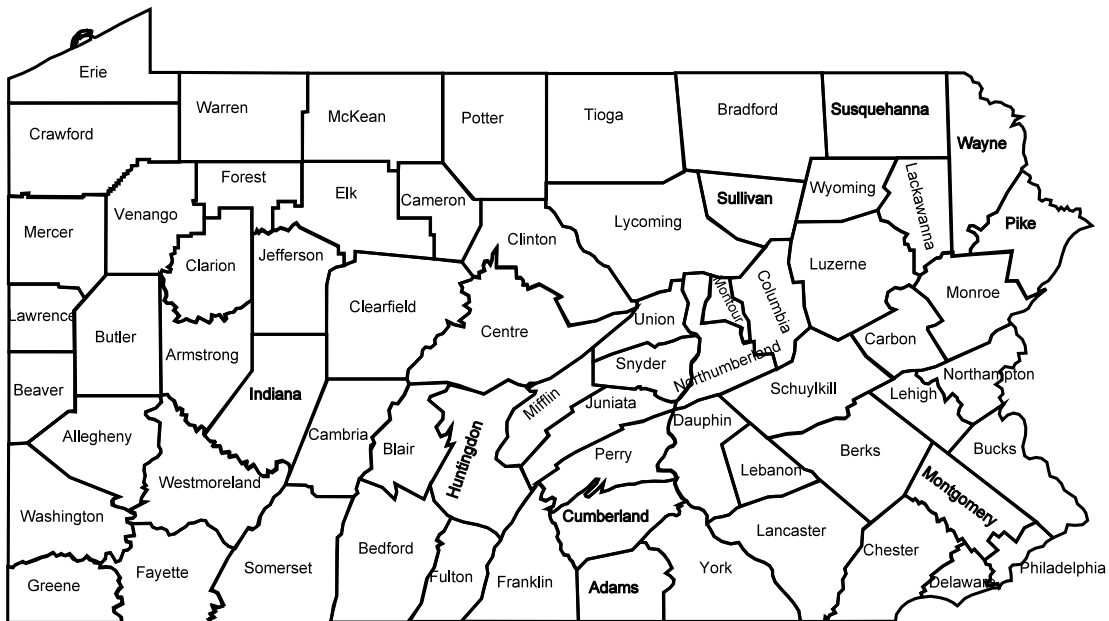


Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). This immature was found 18 January 2005 at Stone Church, *Northampton* (*Rick Wiltraut*) the same location where an adult spent last winter. It remained at this location into March.



Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). This male was present at a feeder in Northampton Twp, *Bucks*, 6 February through the end of the period. It was photographed here 27 February 2005 (*Adrian Binns*).

Local Notes - December 2004 through February 2005



Adams County

Locations: East Berlin (EBER), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Kay (LKAY), Mountain Road (MTN)

There were 82 species reported during the Dec through Feb winter season, a little more than the 80 species reported during the 2004 winter season. The 17 people who participated in the December 18th Christmas Bird Count tallied 69 species, the same as the 2003 Christmas Count.

The 12 species of waterfowl reported included 11 **Mute Swans** found on the 12/18 CBC; 17 **Tundra Swans** seen 1/9, a few others mid-Feb, and one 3/5, all in the same farm field near EBER (PK); and the gorgeous but exotic male **Mandarin Duck** that has been wintering there for the past several years, reported 2/19 at L. Kay (RDS).

A **Bald Eagle** was seen 1/2 along Red Rock Rd. (RDS). There were seven reports of **N. Harrier** from 12/18-2/26, with a high of six seen 2/3 during a Winter Raptor Survey (RDS, NL). An albino **Red-tailed Hawk** that has nested in the area for several years attracted a lot of attention along Pumping Station and Bigham Rds. A few **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen throughout the season, with a high of six seen 2/2 from Bigham Rd. (DGr).

There were only two sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasant**, three males seen 2/1 (PK) that may have been escapees from a nearby small private game farm, and one 2/26 at Sach's Covered Bridge.

There was a report of an owl seen 1/9 near Cashtown that the property owner believed was a **Great Gray Owl**. It was seen sitting on a fence railing from a distance of less than 50 feet. Pennsylvania birders did not learn about the sighting until 1/15. A number of birders then searched for the owl, but were not successful in finding it. The season's main event by far was a terrific show put on by a large number of **Short-eared Owls**. The first report was of two birds 1/23 along Shriver Rd. (CS). The numbers grew to a high of 40 Short-eared Owls seen 2/1 from Bigham Rd. (BM), and good numbers continued to be seen through the end of the period. Because of much publicity, the owls were seen by a great many birders. Another encouraging report was that of six Short-eared Owls seen 2/20 at the GNMP (BK). The Park's hay fields look like good Short-eared habitat, but they are seldom seen there. As the Pumping Station Rd. area becomes more populated with houses, it will probably become less populated with wintering Short-eared Owls, so let's hope that more owls find the Park's hay fields.

Adams is a good place to find **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. The CBC recorded 22 of them but that was much less than the 41 found on the 2003 CBC. There were just two reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – five on the 12/18 CBC, then one 12/27 at MTN (RDS). There were seven **Common Raven** reported on the 12/18 CBC, quite a high count for the county. A pair was seen 1/2 along Flohr's Church Rd. (PJR). There were only three reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and just two reports each of **Brown Creeper** and **Winter Wren**. A **House Wren** and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were unexpected finds for the 12/18 CBC. Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen on the 12/18 CBC, but more of a surprise was the one that showed up 2/21 at a suet feeder in GBG (NL). Three E.

Towhees stayed for the 12/18 CBC, and one was heard 1/2 along Water St. (PJR). The **Chipping Sparrow** found during the 12/18 CBC was very late. Quite early, or over-wintering, were the **Fox Sparrow** 2/12 at or near Bigham Rd (DGe, CG) and the one 2/18-28 at a GBG feeder (NL).

There were no reported sightings of Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin, crossbill, redpoll, or Evening Grosbeak.

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P.O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com**, Celia Adams, Dale Bicksler, Michael Bowen, Lou Carpenter, Joshua Clapper, Cy Deitz, Trinh Doan, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart (DGe), Frances Gilbert, Jim & Jen Gillis, Dave Grove (DGr), Robert Himmer, Judie Hogan, Tom Johnson, Bob Keener, Phil Keener, Art & Nonie Kennell, Bill Kimmich, Nancy Locher, William Meredith, Bob Moul, Beth Pugliese, Kilburn Roulette, Rusty Ryan, Art Schiavo, Joe Sheldon, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Carole Simon, Tora Stith, Josette Wiggins.

Allegheny County

Locations: DASH (Dashields Dam on the Ohio River), FT (Findlay Township), IMP (Imperial)

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was an incredibly rare find for the county (and for western PA) at Neville Island 2/18 (MV). The bird continued at the site through the end of the month. It was most often seen feeding with a small flock of **Canada Geese** on an athletic field at the Island Sports Center. It was observed in flight and calling 2/19 (MF, JH). The last record for **Allegheny I** could find was on 28 Nov 1895 on the Allegheny R. in Tarentum (Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*). A **Snow Goose** was on a pond in FT 12/17 where it remained until 12/26 (DW, MV). Three **Mute Swans** were at DASH 12/25 (MV). **Tundra Swans** were heard flying over Ross Twp. and Pine Twp. 12/23 (BM, PL, SL).

Waterfowl variety was very good for the period. A **Gadwall** was on the Ohio R. just west of Pittsburgh 2/12 (MV). An early **Blue-winged Teal** was at Fox Chapel 2/20 (DY, CK) and a **N. Shoveler** was at IMP 12/10 (MV). We had good reports of **N. Pintails** with up to five birds at the Moody Rd. ponds in FT 12/17-23 (DW, MV), one on the Allegheny R. at Etna 2/13 (DY) and two on the Allegheny at Fox Chapel 2/20 (DY). A pair of **Canvasbacks** were on the Monongahela R. at the South Side of Pittsburgh 1/1 (MV, MF) and a single bird remained up to 2/20 (CT, MV, KSJ). A **Surf Scoter** was present in FT 1/7-23 (MV, et al.). The only report of **Red-breasted Merganser** was a single bird at DASH 1/2 (MV). Other ducks reported include **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser**.

Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to winter along the rivers in Pittsburgh. Up to nine were reported during the season.

A **Bald Eagle** was seen occasionally along the Ohio R. at DASH and Coraopolis from 12/12-2/20 (MV, GM, KSJ). A bird was also sighted at the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny R. 1/13 (DY), and another was seen in FT 2/11 (MV). **Rough-legged Hawks** were in good numbers

again this winter at IMP where up to eight birds were present. Three dark phase birds were reported (m. obs.). **Merlins** continue to be reported from various locations in the county. A single bird was at Schenley Park at least to 1/1 (MF, WS, DS); one was at Duck Hollow 12/30 (SS, JS, MVV); one was found in Hampton Twp. during the Pittsburgh CBC (AW), and one was seen in Marshall Twp. 2/4 (SL).

Single **Killdeer** were reported 12/17 at Natrona Heights (DH), 1/1 in Lawrenceville (FN, KF), and 2/8 at East Liberty (DY). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was in FT at the Moody Rd. ponds 12/17 (DW). A basic one **Iceland Gull** was a great find at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 12/30 (MVV) and only the second county record (the first was Feb 2004). Also rare for the county, a **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen on the Ohio R. near Brunot's Island 2/12 (MV).

A **Barred Owl** was heard at IMP 2/5 (MF). **Short-eared Owls** wintered at IMP again this year with max counts of 30 on 2/6 (TP) and 22 on 2/13 (BM, MV). Up to three **N. Saw-whet Owls** were heard calling at IMP in mid-December (DW, et al.).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a great find in Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville in Nov, where it remained through the season (FN, AB, CB). **Common Ravens** continued at IMP with up to three seen in Dec and Jan (MV, DW, WS, DS). A **Winter Wren** was a nice find in Fox Chapel 12/12 (DY, CK) and at North Park 1/18 (CK, SM) and 2/5 (MV). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were present in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh throughout the period (DY). An **American Pipit** was an unusual winter find along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 12/16 and 1/23 (DY). Two were in FT 2/17 (MV).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** visited a feeder 12/21, 22, and 30, and last seen 1/9 in Forest Hills (TB). Interestingly, an Orange-crowned Warbler visited this feeder last winter. A **Common Yellowthroat** was found at North Park 12/18 (BVN).

E. Towhees were reported from several locations throughout the period. Up to four were in East Liberty (DY), one visited a feeder in Shaler Twp. (JH), up to two were in FT (MV, BJ, VJ), and one was in Fox Chapel (BSH). A very late **Savannah Sparrow** was found at IMP 12/10 (MV). A **Fox Sparrow** was visiting a feeder in Marshall Twp. 1/16-18 (MV, et al.), and one was seen in Etna 2/20 (DY). A **Swamp Sparrow** was in Fox Chapel 12/11 (DY) and 1/28 (BSH). **White-crowned Sparrows** were present again this winter at a farm on Strouss Rd. in FT (v.o.). Three were found 1/19 in West Deer Township (DY).

A female **Brewer's Blackbird** was discovered with a small group of **Red-winged Blackbirds** in FT 2/17 (GM). Careful scrutiny of blackbird flocks may reveal more records of this hard to find species. The most recent record in the county was a bird in Dec. 2003, and there are a few other records. Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were with a flock of over 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** at IMP 2/5 (MF). Two were seen at the same area 2/13 (GM). A **Common Grackle** visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 12/20 (PL, SL), and three were in Indiana Twp. 1/1 (Pittsburgh CBC). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited a feeder in Ohio Twp. 1/1 (AL, JL) and one visited a feeder in Shaler Twp. 1/2 (JH).

A single **Common Redpoll** spent the day at a feeder in Leetsdale 1/2 (BS). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were scattered with reports from Marshall Twp. (where they were present last winter), Ross Twp. and Harrison Hills Park.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net**, Tony Bledsoe, Al Borek, Carol Borek, Paul Brown, Kevin Fung, Deborah Hess, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Bill Judd, Vicky Judd, Scott Kinzy, Chris Knoll, Arlene Lucas, Jim Lucas, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Bob Machesney, Geoff Malosh, Shirley Mutz, Felicity Newell, Tony Pagnato, Dana Shaffer, Walt Shaffer, Brian Shema, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Linda Sporrer, Kate St John, Chuck Tague, Jim Valimont, Bob VanNewkirk, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Mark Vass, Al Werling, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Rosston (RT).

Canada Geese maxima were 255 at RT 12/31 (JV, JVva) and 205 at CC 1/9,30 (JV, JVva). One **Mute Swan** was at RT 12/31 (JV, JVva) and 1/1 (MH, RH). Seventeen **Tundra Swans** at CC 1/21 were first (EC, KJ, MLS). The Keystone Power Plant hosted six **American Black Ducks** and 55 **Mallards** 1/1 (MH, RH). Other high **Mallard** counts included 25 along flooded Campbell's Run 1/6 (JV, JVva), 63 at Manorville 1/25 (JV, JVva), and 45 at CC 1/30 (JV, JVva). A **N. Pintail** visited CC 1/21 (EC, KJ, MLS). One female **Canvasback** was spotted at Keystone Power Plant 1/1 (MH, RH). Twelve **Redheads** and an equal number of **Greater Scaup** were found at CC 1/21 (EC, KJ, MLS). CC yielded 11 **Lesser Scaup** 2/23 (BJ). A **Hooded Merganser** at CC 2/27 was the lone report (KSJ). The Allegheny R. at RT hosted only two-eight **Common Mergansers** this winter (JV, JVva) while the bulk of the birds wintered at CC. CC's maxima included 77, 1/21 (EC, KJ, MLS) and 75, 2/22 (JV, JVva).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found near Ford City 1/30 (JV, JVva). Top **Wild Turkey** counts were 18 at CC 1/27 (JV, JVva) and 25 near Elderton 2/23 (JV, JVva). A **Double-crested Cormorant** seen at RT 2/5

(JV, JVva) was relocated 2/27 (BJ, KSJ). **Bald Eagle** reports included one-two imm 1/2-4 and 2/27 (JV, JVva, KSJ), one ad 1/21 (EC, KJ, MLS), all at CC. KSJ writes, "...two immature Bald Eagles flew in, one noticeably larger than the other (female and male). They ignored the ducks and circled above the thin ice, then landed on it (thud!) and looked through it. They obviously wanted to break the ice. They stomped on it, jumped on it, tried grabbing it with their talons, pecked at it a bit. It was pretty funny to see two eagles float up and thud down on the ice, then slip while trying to walk. They circled together briefly, almost as in courtship, but they were too young to do anything fancy. Then they stood right next to each other. I'm not sure, but they may have touched beaks. After the eagles determined that the ice was not going to break they flew over the ducks, who remained unconcerned. The eagles weren't interested in eating duck. The female eagle stole the male's perch with a bit of jostling. Eventually both eagles flew off to better hunting grounds."

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at RT 1/1 was the lone report (MH, RH). Single **Cooper's Hawks** were noted 12/8 near Distant (Fmc, JMc), 1/15 near Kittanning (MH, RH), and 1/25 at CC (JV, JVva). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were found near Elders Ridge 1/30 (MC et al). Only three **American Kestrels** were reported (v.o.).

Keystone Power Plant yielded one **American Coot** 1/1, the lone report (MH, RH). One **Ring-billed Gull** at Manorville 1/25 was the first noted on the Allegheny this season (JV, JVva); two were at CC 2/22 (JV, JVva) and 2/27 (KSJ). A **Great Horned Owl** calling at CC 2/27 was the only record (KSJ). Two **Belted Kingfishers** were found at CC 1/4 (JV, JVva); one was seen sporadically at CC throughout the period (v.o.).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder near Ford City 1/23 (JV, JVva). **Carolina Wren** reports included individuals at CC 1/4 (JV, JVva), at Manorville and RT 1/15 (MH, RH), and three in Manor Twp. 1/29 (JV, JVva). Six **E. Bluebirds** were counted at CC 1/2,30 (JV, JVva). **American Robins** wintered in low numbers with reports of only three at CC 1/02 (JV, JVva) and six near Ford City 1/27 (JV, JVva). A **N. Mockingbird** was observed in Manor Twp. 2/20 (JV, JVva).

Observers: **Roger and Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701 (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Ellie Cochran, Marcy Cunkelman, Bob Jackman, Karen Jackson, Kate St. John, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Mary Lou Schreffler, Joe Valasek, Josie Valasek (Jva).

Beaver County

No Report.

Compiler: **Jim Barker, 250 Neville Road, Beaver, PA 15009, barkers@access995.com**

Bedford County

Locations: Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW) and Shawnee State Park (SSP)

Dec was cold with most lakes frozen by Christmas count time. However, by Jan 13 we had such strong thaws that spring peepers were singing at Dunnings Creek Wetlands. Feb was cold, windy and produced most of the winter snow.

The first **Tundra Swan** arrival was 62 at DCW 2/21. The first thrust of migrant **Canada Geese** occurred at DCW 2/20 (2000) followed by 3000 2/27. On 12/18 a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found at SSP mingling with approximately 200 **Canada Geese**. Due to frozen water, ducks were scarce, but a few interesting numbers were 90 **Mallards** and 25 **American Black Ducks** Jan 13 at DCW. Fourteen **N. Pintails**, six **American Wigeon** and four **Ring-necked Ducks** were counted at DCW 2/25 and were followed 2/27 by 1200, 23 **Tundra Swans**, 57 **Mallards**, four **American Black Ducks** and 12 **Lesser Scaup**. The waterfowl, although present, moved around to any open water in the tightly frozen south-central counties.

The winter raptor surveys failed to produce any **Rough-legged Hawks**, but good numbers of **Red-tailed Hawks** (26 on 2/2) and very good numbers of **American Kestrels** (10 on 2/6). **N. Harriers** were present but spotty. A highlight was an immature **N. Goshawk** discovered hounding a feeder for pheasant at Helixville. Another interesting report was a **Merlin** taking a sparrow at a feeder at DCW 2/8 (CH).

A pair of **Winter Wrens** was seen along Dunnings Creek at DCW 2/25. Six **Snow Buntings** were seen along side Shaffer Mt. Rd. 1/11 and several thousand **Horned Larks** over a manured field near Rainsburg 2/26. **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskins** were sporadic with no evidence of northern finches.

Observers: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA, 15924, (814) 754-5727, wetmeadow@aol.com, thomasd102@aol.com**, Sally Dick, Jerry Fetter, Connie Hunt, Rosemary McGlynn.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Bernville CBC 1/2/05 (BCBC), Hamburg CBC 12/26/04 (HCBC).

Except for a late Dec cold snap that brought many geese and gulls into the county, weather continued to be fairly mild (up to 60F in mid-Jan) until the end of Jan, when more normal winter weather set in and persisted into Mar.

The most remarkable rarity this season was a **MacGillivray's Warbler** found on the Allentown CBC 12/18 in a brushy creek bottom at the Rodale Institute in Maxatawny Twp. (AJ,BM,KS,TW). Multiple observers seeking this state record bird soon arrived to beat the bushes, and it was last seen 12/20.

Peak counts of **Snow Geese** at LO ranged from 20,000 (50 blues) 1/9 to 40,000 on 1/15 (RK). Travelling with these flocks were a **Greater White-fronted Goose** 1/9-18 (RK,KL,BU), an ad white **Ross's Goose** 1/9 (RK), a white probable **Ross's X Snow Goose** hybrid 1/15 (RK) and two-three **Cackling Geese** 1/9-15 (RK). Single **Cackling Geese** were also reported on the HCBC 12/26, at LO 2/23 (DF) and 2/27 (RK). Those identified to type were presumed to be 'Richardson's' based on size, color and head shape. Among 2000 **Canada Geese** at LO 2/27 were many birds the size of Snow Geese or smaller. An orange collared (H4C9) **Canada Goose** in the flock was a female hatched in 2000 or earlier and banded 8/6/01 northeast of Port Harrison, PQ (RK). One of three swan spp. at LO in Feb was a **Trumpeter Swan** wearing yellow wing tags (#698), first seen at the Peters Creek inlet 1/2 (MS), where it remained through Mar (m.obs.). The bird hatched in 2002 at Georgian Bay, L.,ON and was last seen there in Oct 2004 (fide KL).

The 16 reported duck spp. included the usual wintering birds and early migrants. The more uncommon spp. at LO were one-two **Redheads** 12/31-1/9 (RK,MS,DW), two **Long-tailed Ducks** 12/17 (SF) and one-two **Common Goldeneyes** 1/16-2/19 (RK,DK,MS). An extremely late **Great Egret** was watched for several minutes in a ditch at the Flying Hills golf course condo 12/30 before it flew west (BS). The only other winter record is of a bird at Glen Morgan L. 1/17-2/14/98 (KL).

Most of the numerous **Bald Eagle** sightings were of adults at lakes. The LO pair was courting in Jan, and there were several reports of one of them chasing or eating **Snow Geese** and **Common Mergansers** on the ice. The HMS post-season count tallied 11 **Bald Eagles** 12/24-1/20 and four **Golden Eagles** 12/20-27 (DB). About nine different **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported 12/15-2/10 (m. obs.). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was seen eating a **Rock Pigeon** near Lyons 12/19 (MW), and a bird was in Reading 12/21 (DW). There were four reports of **Merlins** 12/22-2/28, three at lakes and one in farmland (KK,KL,JS,MW).

The spring-fed meadow on Milestone Rd. near BML again attracted mud birds after other wetlands froze. On 1/31, 12 **Killdeer**, 12 **Wilson's Snipe** and 16 **Am. Pipits** were there (JS). Spring's first **American Woodcock** was very early at BML 2/8 (JS). Sharply colder temperatures at the end of Dec brought a large gull influx, benefitting the BCBC, which recorded six gull spp. Birders noted one-two first winter **Iceland Gulls** 12/31-1/2 and a first winter **Glaucous Gull** 12/31-1/4 (RK,KK,KL,DW). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, mostly adults, were reported all period, with a high of nine on the BCBC. **Great Black-backed Gulls** of all age classes were more numerous than usual all winter, and the 43 birds tallied on the BCBC set a record high count for Berks.

The HCBC recorded three **Barn Owls**, and a **N. Saw-whet Owl** was heard on the BCBC (KK,DK). A **N. Shrike** was reported on the HCBC, and an imm was at SGL 110 12/13-17 (KG,DR). A **shrike sp.** at Sheidy Rd., BML 1/10 disappeared too quickly for a definitive look (JS). Irregular **Black-capped Chickadees** were evident at feeders and on field trips all winter (RK,DK). Other "northern" irruptives were very scarce, with only a few **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** reported. However, many 'half-hardy' spp. lingered or survived well into winter. A **House Wren** was found on the HCBC. **Winter Wrens** wintered at LO and in District Twp. (RK). A suet assisted **Hermit Thrush** was in Reading till Mar (MS). Five **Gray Catbirds** were found on the BCBC and a survivor was near Oley 1/9 (RK). A **Pine Warbler** was at Green Hills L. 1/28 and 2/8 (KL). **E. Towhees** wintered in Hamburg and elsewhere (KG). The wintering blackbird line jogged north (~10,000 at BML 1/10-JS).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in a flock of 20 **American Tree Sparrows** in Oley Twp. 1/16 (RK). A flock of 20 **Savannah Sparrows** in an uncut grass hayfield near Yellow House 1/9 was a high count for winter (RK). The first two spring migrant **Fox Sparrows** came to feeders in Hamburg 2/19 (KG,MW). The few **Snow Buntings** reported included 10 on the tundra-like lawn in Cabela's parking lot, Hamburg 12/30 (SF) and three near Lyons 1/29 (MW).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rkeller@temple.edu**, David Barber & HMS vols/staff, Ed Barrell, Tom Clauser, Catherine R. Elwell, Devich Farbotnik, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Alan Jennings, Anna Kendall, Dean Kendall, Katrina Knight, Ken Lebo, Bernie Morris, Dirk Robinson, Peter Saenger, Joan Silagy, Kathy Sieminski, Bart Smith, Matt Spence, Bill Uhrich, Todd Watkins, Drew Weber, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

Bradford County

Winter was relatively mild, with not too much snow, in the county this winter. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen 1/15 on a pond on Marsh Rd. in southeast Bradford (ME). The first **Turkey Vulture** of the spring season appeared 2/27 in Sayre (MB). The first southbound **Snow Geese**, three big flocks, of the fall season observed in the county 12/20 near New Era (TG). An **American Black Duck** was seen 2/15 at Tioga Point (RS), and a pair of **Buffleheads** on the Susquehanna R. at Athens 1/24 (TG).

There were many **Bald Eagle** sightings: two on the Susquehanna near Athens 12/23 (DA), an immature near Wysox on the same date (GM). On 1/8 as part of the **Bald Eagle** Survey, an ad and imm were observed at French Asylum (BF, TG) and an ad near the Chemung R. (TL, JP), and 2/20 at the Sugar Run near Woods Road (CM, GM). A **N. Harrier** was observed 2/19 on Wells Mt. (CM, GM). An imm **N. Goshawk** appeared 2/17 in a yard on Woods Rd. (CM, GM). The Winter Raptor Survey of northwest Bradford (Wells, South Creek, Springfield and Columbia Twps.) 1/31 produced 12 **Red-tailed Hawks** and five **Rough-legged Hawks** (BL, ML). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** also were seen on the CBC 12/27, one at Spring Lake (TG, RK); and one at Acklas' Pond 1/29 (TG). There were a number of **Golden Eagle** sightings also: 12/27 on the CBC in the Quick's Bend area (RK), one at Ridgeberry L. 12/28 (BB, LB), and one on Woods Rd. (CM, GM).

As has happened in previous winters, **Bonaparte's Gulls**, eight of them, were on the Susquehanna R. at Towanda 2/10 (WC, FI). One observer was fortunate enough to have a **N. Saw-whet Owl** at her house 2/15 (PG). Another observer was equally fortunate to see a **N. Shrike** on the CBC 12/27 (RL). Also on the CBC, at Quick's Bend, was an **American Pipit** 12/27 (RK).

Two more sightings of note on the CBC 12/27 was a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Standing Stone (BR), and an **E. Towhee** (SG, BW). Although not as unusual, the appearance of **American Tree Sparrows** (15 near New Era 12/25) is becoming a rarer occurrence (TG). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Standing Stone on the CBC 12/27 (BR). Quite unusual was the appearance of a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 12/8 at Ulster (DA). The first **Red-winged Blackbirds**, about 20, in the county were observed 2/19 on Woods Rd. (CM, GM).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, RR2, Box 228, Wyalusing, PA, 18853, (570) 746-9270**

tgswoods@epix.net, Dick Allyn, Marty Borko, Bruce Bosselli, Lee Bosselli, CBC: SE Bradford County Christmas Bird Count, Wendy Crowley, Mollie Eliot, Bob Fowles, Pat Goodlow, Sandy Goodman, Frank Inness, Rick Koval, Bruce Launius, Margaret Launius, Rebecca Lesko, Tony Ligouri, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Jason Petlock, Bill Reid, Richard Shelling, Bob Wasilewski.

Bucks County

Locations: Blooming Glen (BLG), Bristol (BRS), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Churchville Reservoir (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Delaware River (Del. R.), Falls Twp. Park (FTP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), The Penn-Warner Tract (WNT), Tullytown (TYT), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC). Christmas Bird Count data was supplied by Bob Mercer: S-CBC; Diane Allison: Central CBC; and Hart Rufe: U-CBC. Historical references are from "Birds of Bucks County" 1998 by Ken Kitson and subsequent updates recorded in this Journal. Weather statistics are from Willow Grove Naval Air Station (Accuweather).

It was a winter season of weather extremes but averaged out to about 7% above average overall in rainfall with Feb below normal. Dec and Jan were each almost 2°F below normal with Feb about 0.4°F below. About 27 inches of snow was recorded. Lakes didn't freeze until mid-Jan but stayed that way through Feb. In general, except for **Black-capped Chickadee** mentioned in the migration report, there were no irruptions. High water levels on the Del. R. and area lakes followed by the mid-Jan freeze seemed to reduce the number of waterfowl. However, gulls were a standout in both numbers and variety mainly near the TYT landfill. A few outstanding rarities kept the birders busy.

The Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC had bad weather but managed 93 species 12/19 and 31,692 individuals. Central Bucks CBC had 86 species 12/26 and 40,758 individuals. Southern Bucks CBC 12/18 matched its previous high with 103 species and 223,965 individuals. **Cackling Goose** padded the total for the first time for U-CBC and C-CBC only.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was again found at PVP 12/26 (IB), 12/29 (AM), 2/5 (AM), and 2/6 (PL). Possibly the same bird was at BLG 1/6 (RF). Two were at NSP 2/27 (BE). **Snow Goose** made a larger than normal appearance on the S-CBC with 1358 reported compared to a 10 year average of 185 for all three CBCs combined. About 400 flew over CCP 1/9 (GD). Also, unusual, approx. 6000 **Snow Geese** including several "blues" flew over PVP 2/6 (KK). An injured **Brant** was reported at Hilltown Twp. 12/30 (RF). Unexpected were four **Brant** at PVP 1/17-18 (AM). A **Barnacle Goose** was at Churchville Res 1/30 (NZ,DF) and one was first reported at PVP 2/28 (KR). **Cackling Goose** was frequently

reported in single digit quantities at PVP, NSP, Churchville Res., BLG, CCP, etc. (AM, BE, DF, RF, PL). Probably most of these were Richardson's due to the difficulty in identifying the other subspecies. The CBC total of 45,588 **Canada Geese** was lower than expected. The countywide **Mute Swan** increase was indicated by a CBC total of 113 compared to a 10 yr. average of 62. **Wood Duck** was noted more often this winter in the central and upper county and a count of 13 12/15 at NSP (BE) was surprising. **N. Pintail** scouts arrived at NSP 2/6 (BE) and PVP 2/7 (AM) followed by 25 at NSP 2/16 (BE). A **Canvasback** was at NSP 12/20 (CR) and one was at FTP 1/15 (DFI). Four migrants were noted at PVP 2/28 (KR). Two **Redheads** at WNT 1/2 (DF) and again 1/9 (GJ) were the only reports. A **White-winged Scoter** was at PVP 12/13 (SF) and two made a late stop there 1/1 (IB). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** were at NSP and 13 at PVP 12/20 (CR). One was at WNT 1/9 (GJ), and one at FTP 1/15 (DFI). **Common Goldeneye** had a peak count of 60 at New Hope in Jan and Feb (BH). **Common Merganser** peaks were in the low hundreds in the central and upper county (AM, BE). However, WNT had approx. 1000 1/9 (GD), CCP had close to 2000 on 1/14 (GD), and Silver Lake Park had a good local count of 700 2/18 (DFI). With more frequent reporting from the south end of the county, **Red-breasted Merganser** has been found to be a regular rare winter visitor along the lower Del. R. A pair at NSP 12/15 (BE) and one at PVP starting 2/26 (AM) were migrants. A count of 90 **Ruddy Ducks** at FTP 12/14 (DB, JB) was a good recent peak report.

Red-throated Loon continued to 12/19 at NSP (BE). A **Common Loon** lingered too long when NSP froze quickly but was rescued from the ice by about 15 members of the Haycock Twp. Fire Co. on 1/31 (BE). Undoubtedly, ice rescue training was the main motivator, but local birders appreciated the end result. Three **Great Cormorants** at NSP 12/25 (BE) adds to other recent sightings there so that they are now expected annually. Their peak count at the Del. R. marker at BRS was 20+ on 12/9 (AM) and 2/27 (LR). **Great Egret** made its 5th appearance on the S-CBC with two 12/18 near BRS (BM). With warmer winters, four of the five appearances have been since 1997. The earlier one goes back to 1949 (BM). One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found on the S-CBC 12/18 but five were believed to have wintered near BRS (DF).

A roost of 50 **Black Vultures** was tallied at Buckingham Twp. 2/19 (V&RS). After a period of absence, a **Turkey Vulture** roost at NSP was occupied with 88 birds 2/15 (BE). A total of 11 **Bald Eagles** were evenly distributed on the three CBCs and exceeded the 10 yr. average of four. Mid-winter surveys in early Jan resulted in none along a stretch of the Del. R. north of Lumberville (PG) and six individuals from sections of the river from TYT to Taylorsville plus stops at CCP and WNT (GD). A pair appeared to be courting at CCP (GD) in early Jan. One **N. Harrier** on each CBC was an indication of relative scarcity compared to the 23 total reported last year and the 10 yr. average of 13. Consistency was the word to describe the **Red-tailed Hawk** CBC results with an identical count of 275 compared to last year. A total CBC count of 17 **American Kestrels** reflected the dramatic decline of this species compared to the 10 yr. average of 60. **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at Bedminster Twp. starting 12/4 (BL) and seen until at least 2/13 (BE) with a max. of two. One 1/7 and two 2/20 were reported at the WNT (ABr), but BUT had one 1/17 (GG). A **Merlin** wintered at the same location in Tinicum Twp. for the 7th winter in a row (DA) and was included in the relatively good count of five for this species on the three CBCs. The 10 yr. average for this species is less than two. The two resident **Peregrine Falcons** continue to endure the rumble of traffic at the Del. R. Turnpike Bridge as usual (AM).

Two **Wilson's Snipe** were at BLG 12/19 on the U-CBC (CR) and one was found for the C-CBC 12/26. The next report was 2/26 at Silver Lake Park 2/26 (DFI). **American Woodcock** was first noted on 2/15 with two at NSP (BE). One in a Levittown backyard 2/18 was seen again 2/27 (PR) and was a nice surprise there. A good Dec count of 31 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at NSP 12/20 (DF). The magnitude of the three CBC gull counts was even more incredible this year than normal with most being at the TYT/WNT landfill area. The counts this year were: one **Laughing**, 26,038 **Ring-billed**; 145,493 **Herring**; 19 **Iceland**; 272 **Lesser Black-backed** (10 yr. average = 123); five **Glaucous**, and 15,889 **Greater Black-backed**. The lone **Laughing Gull** was at TYT for only the 7th S-CBC report (CR). After very low counts last year, the **Iceland Gull** and **Glaucous Gull** counts were noteworthy and much above the 10 yr. averages, and high numbers continued to be reported into Feb. (MSh). In line with the higher counts were at least four **Iceland** and one **Glaucous** reported at NSP in the second half of Dec. plus two reports in Jan. (BE). One **Iceland** was at PVP 12/21 (IB). A **Nelson's Gull** was at TYT 1/19 (SS). The 3rd documented county record of **Black-headed Gull** that arrived in late Nov. (CR) remained until 12/8 at TYT (BE). The one that got away before it could be photographed or confirmed was a possible 2nd winter **Black-tailed Gull** at FTP (ABr). A **Thayer's Gull** was reported from the TYT area 12/8, 12/16 (BE), 12/12 (MS), 1/6 (DF), and 1/19 (SS) (no doc.). It was missed on the CBCs. Caution in identifying this difficult species has reduced the number of reports and those reported are often qualified, as were most of the above reports except for the 1/6 date.

Owl numbers were lower this winter compared to last year. Two screeching birds were believed to be **Barn Owls** 12/3 in Richland Twp. (DF) and one was there roosting in a barn from late Dec to Feb and may

have been one of the same birds (fide BE). The three CBC total count of 65 **Great Horned Owls**, down from last year and less than the 10 year average of 92, continues to reflect the decline possibly due to West Nile Virus. **Barred Owl** was found at Richland Twp. 12/3 (DF), Haycock Twp. 12/19 (SC), and another there 1/16 (PG). The max. count of **Long-eared Owls** at PVP was only five in late Dec (AM) with only three others reported elsewhere on CBCs. Up to four **Short-eared Owls** were reported at Bedminster Twp. (BE, ABr, m.obs) through the period. Unfortunately, the property owner has soured due to birders' intruding on his privacy. **N. Saw-whet Owl** made a one-day stop at PVP 12/4 (AM) and two more were reported there (DF). An early Dec single night high count of six was noted at various sites with a total of 10 located in the upper half of the county over the winter (DF).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** was tallied on a CBC for the second year in a row. This time the S-CBC 12/18 took the honors. The bird, an adult female, was not reported (ES) and identified (LR, MJ) until early Dec. It had been present at a BRS row house from at least early Nov. On 12/11, the bird was caught and banded (NP) and found to have extremely low fat levels and be in a very weakened condition. Logistics, the homeowner's wishes, and the health of the bird precluded visitation by birders. It undoubtedly succumbed during the bitter cold night of 12/19, the last day it was seen. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was consistent with a count of 32 on the three CBCs for the 2nd year in a row and with the 10 yr. average of 33. However, the S-CBC had none.

One **E. Phoebe** was found 12/19 on the U-CBC (JR, WM) and one was found 1/9 at State Game Lands #56 (DA). A **N. Strike** was a one-day find on the U-CBC at Bedminster Twp. (BE). The S-CBC total of 985 **Fish Crows** was well above the 10 yr. average and gives another indication of the attraction of the TYT landfill. However, the three CBC total of 1220 **American Crows**, only 26% of the 10 yr. average, probably reflects the WNV impact. Two **Common Ravens** flew over Nockamixon Twp. on 2/26 (HM), adding to the recent yearly reports of this species in that area. The peak **Horned Lark** report was approx. 400+ at HLT 1/26 (AM). The **Black-capped Chickadee** irruption was reflected in the CBC total of 326 compared to last year's 135. Again this winter **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in short supply with only 11 on the CBCs. A **House Wren** was above New Hope 12/30 and 1/10 (KR). **Winter Wren** seemed more common at least in Dec and the CBC tally of 22 vs. 11 last year and a 10 yr. average of 12 confirms it. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** that was found at the WNT 11/26 (PL) was relocated 12/18 on the S-CBC (DF) for the 4th county winter record.

Although winter food supplies seemed low, berry dependent species were not consistently low on the CBCs although most seemed scarce after Dec. **E. Bluebird** and **American Robin** CBC totals were about 75% of the 10 yr. average. However, a count of 53 **Hermit Thrushes** on the CBCs with an amazing 39 on the U-CBC was a surprise and nearly twice the 10 yr. average. The bird of the winter was a **Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*) found at PVP 2/5 (JH, AM) in a small flock of **American Robins** for only the third lower 48 record and 13th for North America if accepted. The **Gray Catbird** CBC count of 12 with 11 of those on the S-CBC was 50% above the 10 yr. average. Two **Brown Thrashers** were found on the S-CBC. Only three **American Pipits** were reported, all on the U-CBC at BLG (CR). The **Cedar Waxwing** CBC count of 50 was low compared to the 10 yr. average of 666 and were all but absent through the season. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** had a CBC tally 66% of the 10 yr. avg. and seemed almost absent at PVP (AM) and NSP (BE). A **Common Yellowthroat** was found near Phillips Chapel above New Hope 12/28 (DF).

The grand total for all CBCs was one **Chipping Sparrow** on the C-CBC 12/26. Four were driven by snow to the road edge at PVP in late Jan (KR). **Savannah Sparrow** status was scarce again this winter with a CBC total of 15 and three also driven to the road edge at PVP 1/26 (AM) and 1/27 (CR). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** carefully identified at Neshaminy St. Pk. on the S-CBC 12/18 (MJ) was a first for the CBC and probably only the 2nd county winter report. It was seen again on 1/1 (LR). The below average **Fox Sparrow** CBC count of 21 compared to 37 last year with most shifting from the upper to southern count, indicated a more southerly wintering area this year. After last year's high **White-crowned Sparrow** numbers, only 29 were tallied on the CBCs. A single **Snow Bunting** at Hilltown Twp. 1/26-27 (AM, CR) was the only report. A male **Painted Bunting** was sighted at a feeder in Northampton Twp. 2/6 (BI), relocated nearby 2/12 (J&PE), and remained through the period. This is the 5th county record and 2nd in three years. Since this sighting is only about 12 miles from the one in 2003, it may be the same bird. Due to homeowner request, birder access was limited. A **Dickcissel** was above New Hope near Phillips Chapel on the C-CBC 12/26 (DF) and was last reported 1/20 (KR). Another was at Buckingham Twp. starting 2/3 and was last seen 2/25 (V&RS).

E. Meadowlark was missed on the CBCs but six were reported at Tyler State Park 12/2 (JB), seven were at Pine Run Dam 1/3 (KR), and seven were near NSP 1/16 (BE). **Rusty Blackbird** used Quakertown Swamp as a roost site again this winter, probably beyond 12/19 when last reported (BE). The next report was of one at Silver Lake Park 2/19 (SK). Higher than normal sightings of **Common Grackle**, **Red-winged Blackbird**, and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were noted in the upper county throughout the period (BE). A **Baltimore Oriole** on the S-CBC 12/18 (PL, GA) was the only report. The CBC count of 17 **Purple Finches** was

a far cry from the 189 last year. A few **Pine Siskins** lingered at a Doylestown feeder into early Dec. (TF), one was on the S-CBC 12/18, and one was on the U-CBC 12/19. One was at Kintnersville 1/29 (BF). Exotics: **Egyptian Geese** continued at NSP through mid-Dec. (BE). A pair of **Black Swans** with two downy cygnets were at Silverdale on 12/19 (CR). It was later learned that one cygnet died and the farmer took the family into captivity. They first appeared late last fall and the farmer suspected that they were released by someone nearby (BE). The young hatched in Nov.

Observers: **August Mirabella 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Diane Allison, George Armistead, Ian Baldock, Alana Balogh, Adrian Binns (ABi), Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Alan Brady (ABr), Jane Burroughs, Sally Conyne, Gerry Dewaghe, Carol Easter, Jean & Paul Edwards, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, Steve Farbotnik, Rob Fergus, Doug Filler (DFi), Ron French (RFR), Bob Friedermann, Roy Frock (RFO), Phil Getty, Gene Gladston, Bill Graham, Paul Green, Ray Hendrick, Bill Hoehne, Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, Beverly Ilenda, Gail Johnson, Mick Jeitner, Steve Kacir, Ken Kitson, Paul Lehman, many observers (mobs), Wendy Margolis, Harry McGarrity, Bob Mercer, Nick Pulcinella, Ken Rieker, Patricia Rossi, Linda Rowan, Hart Rufe, Jewel Rufe, Cameron Rutt, Mike Schall, Evelyn Schwartz, Matt Sharp (MSh), Vicki & Richard Smith, Sam Stewart, Nick Zahn.

Butler County

Locations: Barkeyville (BA), Buffalo Twp (BT), Evans City, Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock Boro (SRB), Slippery Rock Twp (SRT), Southeast Butler County (SEC).

The 2004 pluvial weather conditions ended briefly in Dec, the first month below average precipitation in the last fourteen. But the pause was short-lived with Jan and Feb 2005 once again above average precipitation. Only one major snowstorm materialized the entire season, 1/23-24, with snow accumulation ranging from 6 to 10 inches throughout the county. Temperatures were mild for the period, averaging 3-5 degrees F. warmer than last year. Ice fishermen on LA had a rough time with the mild conditions keeping the lake open most of the winter. However, the boat fishermen readily took their place en masse and certainly contributed to the paucity of water birds there.

A 3RBC outing to LA 12/5 disappointedly produced only eight duck species but did record one **Common Loon**, three **Pied-billed Grebes**, two **Bald Eagles**, 40 **Bonaparte's**, 102 **Ring-billed** and six **Herring Gulls**.

The Buffalo Creek Valley CBC 12/18 covered parts of SEC by 12 ASWP birders who tallied 48 species and 3,159 individuals, including eight **Ring-necked Pheasants**, nine **E. Screech Owls**, eight **Great Horned Owls**, 36 **Horned Larks**, 233 **Black-capped Chickadees**, one **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 20 **Carolina Wrens**, 22 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and one **Pine Siskin** (GR).

The Butler County CBC 12/18 centered slightly north of the Route 528 Bridge over LA had an average count day, even though LA was mostly open and the weather conditions "bearable." I never received the customary complete results of the count but one field team of the BAS that was responsible for most of LA observed 262 **Canada Geese**, one **Mute Swan**, 62 **Buffleheads**, one **Common Goldeneye**, 28 **Hooded Mergansers**, four **Common Mergansers**, and 38 **Ruddy Ducks** (JB, BM, CT, BW, GW). Other CBC species included 78 **Wild Turkeys**, four **Pied-billed Grebes**, seven **Horned Grebes**, 104 **Am. Coots**, 18 **Bonaparte's**, 89 **Ring-billed Gulls** and one **Herring Gull**, 185 **American Robins**, 32 **Cedar Waxwings**, one **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, 29 **American Tree**, two **Swamp Sparrows** and a flock of 21 **Purple Finches**. The field team had a modest 49 species and 1,511 individuals for the day.

Jan and Feb 2005 produced a paucity of field observations and I am not certain why. Among the few reports received were 150 **Canada Geese** in SE 2/21 (DY), one **Red-necked Grebe** on LA 1/15 (D&DD), an early **Turkey Vulture**, five **Cooper's Hawks** (migrating?), and eight **American Kestrels** in SEC 2/7 (CK, DY); one **N. Harrier** (female) in SEC 2/20 (CK, DY). Two local resident **Red-tailed Hawks** were pair-bonding in SRB 2/6, the same day that a male **Red-shouldered Hawk** announced his arrival on territory by circling and calling profusely over SRT (GW, JW). There were two reports of **Rough-legged Hawks**, one (light morph?) in BT 1/18 (BS), another light morph in BT 1/23, perhaps just 3-4 miles from the previous report. Other species reported were three **Killdeer** in SEC 2/21 (DY), one **Wilson's Snipe** in SEC 2/7 (CK, DY); two **Short-eared Owls** at BA 1/15 (KG, JS) and one **Short-eared Owl** in SEC 1/21 (JF, LF).

The anxiously anticipated 'big spring melt' did not occur in SRB/SRT in the northern part of the county before the end of Feb but the 20+ **E. Bluebirds**, 14 **American Robins**, and 75-80 **Common Grackles** in SE 2/7 plus 43 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 100+ **Common Grackles** and 17 mostly male **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in SEC 2/21 (DY) indicated that the earliest arriving species associated with spring are paused to lurch northward as soon as proper weather conditions warrant it. Unusual were 14 **White-crowned Sparrows** in SEC 2/20 (DY), although a few others

were observed in EC (CT) in Feb. No reports of boreal species of any kind reached my desk for the period.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 794-2434 genewilhelm@aol.com**, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Bartramian Audubon Society, Jim Barcaskey, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, John Fedak, Lisa Fedak, Kathie Goodblood, Deborah Hess, Paul Hess, Chris Knoll, Bob Madjaric, George Reese, Brian Shema, Jerry Stanley, Three Rivers Bird Club, Clark Trauterman, Bob Walczak, Joanne Wilhelm, Jim Valimont, Daniel Yagusic.

Cambria County

Locations: Besverdam Res. (BRD), Dunlo (DL), Ebensburg area (EB), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin SP (PG), Wilmore Dam (WD),

A lone **Great Blue Heron** spent the winter along Chest Creek in the Patton area. It is unusual for herons to winter here. The bird appeared healthy. John Salvetti had a late **Redhead** at WD in mid Jan. **Long-tailed Ducks** 12/5 and **Tundra Swans** 12/22 were seen at BRD (JJ). **Red-tailed Hawks** and **N. Harriers** were present in several locations in PA (DG). The periods lone **Rough-legged Hawk** report was one at DL 2/27 (JJ). A few **American Kestrels** were seen at PA in Dec and late Feb but were absent otherwise.

About 500 hundred **American Crows** spent the mid Jan to mid Feb period in the barren potato fields north of Patton. Three **Carolina Wrens** were at EB during Dec (DG, JS). This is the highest count he has had in 10 years. The hard winters have taken a toll on them. **Horned Larks**, **Snow Buntings**, and a lone **Lapland Longspur** were present in PA area during the period. The only **Pine Siskins** reports were from PG (RB) and at EB (JS).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech St. Patton, 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@webtv.com**; **John Salvetti, 519 E. Crawford St., Ebensburg, 15931, (814) 472-9298, jsalvetti70@aol.com**, Rory Bower, Judy Johns.

Cameron County

No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County

An immature Broad-winged Hawk was present at Beltzville SP 1/10-15 (Richard Rehrig). The photos were reviewed by raptor expert William Clark who confirmed the identification. This is one of the few documented winter records of this species for North America.

No Report.

Compiler: **David Hawk, 521 Walnut Street, Lehighton, 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net**

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bald Eagle State Park Christmas Bird Count (BESP CBC), Bear Meadows (BM), Black Moshannon SP, Boalsburg (BB), Brush Valley Rd, Colyer L. (CL), Centre Furnace Pond (Duck Pond), Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery (PGFH), Sharer Rd. (SR), State College (SC), State College Christmas Bird Count (SC CBC), Wagner Rd (WAG), Williams Rd. (WIL)

The 12/19 SC CBC had 67 species with 10,441 birds. Highlights: nine **Common Mergansers** (first since 1978), 55 **Great Blue Heron** (most since 1998), ten **Rough-legged Hawks** (most since 1994), **N. Saw-whet** and **Barred Owls**, eight **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Gray Catbird**, five **E. Meadowlarks** (last was one in 1996, and most was 69 in 1971), 109 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, **Rusty Blackbird**, **Pine Siskin** and three **Purple Finches**.

The 1/2 BESP CBC had 68 species with 5955 birds. Highlights: **Common Goldeneye**, four **Bald Eagles** (two ad and two imm.), two **N. Harriers**, two **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, four **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Rusty Blackbird**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, and seven **Pine Siskins**

Instead of flocks of **Snow Geese**, singles were seen at various times: imm were seen at DP 12/29 (NAB), 1/1 (MH), and 1/27 (MH). One was at the PGFH 2/14 (JL), and a single in a flock of about 200 **Canada Geese** near SR 2/19 (BT). A **Cackling Goose** was seen at the DP at least three times: 2/10 (RS), 2/12 (MH), and 2/16 (JAM, JY, ML). Another was seen (SR feeding with about 600 **Canada Geese** along SR 2/20 (JY). Northbound skeins of **Canada Geese** around 2/15 were seen by several people. About a thousand geese were scattered over the corn fields near SR along Rt 322 2/19 (BT).

Thirty **Common Mergansers**, were at BESP 12/28 (BS). **American Wigeon** was at DP 12/5 (DIB). Ten **N. Pintail**, two **Hooded Merganser** and four **Common Mergansers** at BESP 12/29 (LR). **Red-breasted Merganser** at CL 1/8 (LG). Five male **Redheads** in pond at PGFH 2/14

(JL). **Bufflehead** at the DP 1/1 (NAB). **Common Goldeneye** seen during BESP CBC 1/2, and one later at BESP 2/15 (MH). **N. Pintail** at the PGFH 2/20 (NK). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was at BESP 12/28 (BS). A **Common Loon** at BESP, and **Pied-billed Grebe** at CL 12/4 (JM). **Tundra Swans** were seen over BB 12/7 (JM), and one was near Howard Borough Park 12/22 (BS).

Ring-necked Pheasant BESP 12/4 (JM). Eight **Wild Turkeys** at Link Run Marsh near the Howard Narrows Gap, 1/30 (BS). Winter Raptor Surveys between 1/15 and 2/15 in *Centre* tallied over 23 hours and 320 miles and the following open-country raptors: one imm. **N. Harrier**, 116 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 26 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 24 **American Kestrels**, and zero **vultures** (complete details available from GG).

The BESP area CBC 1/2 included four **Bald Eagles** (two ad and two imm: most likely the adults and offspring from the 2004 nesting success story at BESP last year). Single **N. Harriers** were seen along WAG 12/4 (JAM, JY) and 1/10 (JM). A first year **N. Goshawk** was seen at the BESP overlook along Rt 150 1/15 (RS). **Coopers Hawks** are not uncommon in the county but this occurrence is. At the Benner Spring Fish Hatchery, a **Coopers Hawk** had captured a **Pileated Woodpecker**. The hawk dragged the struggling Pileated down into the water and stood on it until it drowned. Once the woodpecker was dead, the hawk took it back under some overhanging brush (as told to Kurt Engstrom 2/3). During a WRS an ad **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen along Rt. 150 near the entrance to Curtin, and a imm along Marsh Creek Rd. just west of the Romola church 1/29 (JD, NEK, MH, DIB). Adult and imm **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found at. Another was seen on a WRS on Rt 550 toward Filmore (BF, BP); another on a WRS in the Tusseyville-Colyer area 2/1 (RF, AF, DG, SB, NAB); and one at Colyer 2/9 (JM). Several **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed including tow at WAG 12/4 (JAM, JY), singles at Orchard Rd and near the Airport 12/4 (JAM, JY); between WAG and BB 12/30 (DO); two at CL 1/8 (LG); a light phase at WAG 1/21 (GG); dark birds were at WAG 1/10 (MH), Sharer Rd 2/26 (MH), two at Brush Valley Rd 1/31 (RF) and one at Penn State 2/3 (NK). **Golden Eagles** have been observed several times along a ridge near BB by resident (JM): immature 2/11, sub-adult 2/22, age not specified 2/23, age not specified flying ENE along the ridge 2/22, and age not specified 2/27 (JM).

A single **Wilson's Snipe** was at Millbrook Marsh 1/29 (NAB), five-seven were on Forest Rd near Zion 1/24-29 (WV, JD, MH)

E. Phoebe in College Heights State College 1/14 (HB). One or more shrikes are seen at BESP each year and this year was no different. A **N. Shrike** was seen at various times in the BESP area but it is not known if one or more shrikes were present: sightings include Hunter's Run West Launch 12/4 (JM); one near Rt 150 close to BESP 12/5 (RS, SL), BESP beach area 1/10 (MC&LC), and one near the Howard Causeway 2/17 (MH).

On the Penn State campus at SC (JAM) watched for several minutes while an **American Crow** in broad daylight harassed a bat with small tears in its wing until finally the bat made a quick turn into a nearby building 2/9. **Fish Crows** in College Heights 2/8 (JY), and on both CBCs 12/19 and 1/2.

Horned Larks were found along WAG and WIL with 50+ 1/21 (GG), 25-50 1/24 (JY, JAM) and 55 (in three different groups) along WIL and WAG 1/26 (NK).

Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed more numerous this year. Two were at BM (NB), Brush Valley Rd (BF, MH), and (AFM) route during the SC CBC 12/19; one at Julian 12/17 (AW); one at a BB feeder 1/30 (JM), and at BM 1/26 (JM). **Hermit Thrush** during BESP CBC 1/2, a flock of 20 **American Robins** on Bibb Rd. near Colyer 1/8 (LG). Two **Gray Catbirds** were in BB 1/1 (JM). A flock of at least 24 **American Pipits** in a field near Pleasant Gap 2/25 (HB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler during BESP CBC 1/2 (NB). **E. Towhee** in BB 12/7 and 1/1 (JM). **American Tree Sparrows** (there were herds of them - at one point they were all around me) at BM 1/26 (JM), and four at BESP 12/29 (LR). **Field Sparrow** at a Fish Hatchery (Schweinsberg et al). **Swamp Sparrow** UGR area (John and Becky Peplinski), and **White-crowned Sparrow** (Bordner/Norris BESP) CBC 1/2. **White-crowned Sparrow** at Millbrook Marsh 2/26 (NAB), and one at BESP Skater's Pond 1/30 (BS). **Fox Sparrow** at feeders since 2/18 (JM) 2/21.

Six-eight **Snow Buntings** mixed in with a flock of about 150 **Horned Larks** WIL 12/20 (LG, JY). **Snow Bunting** on WIL 1/24 (JY, JAM). A large flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** headed south over State College 1/28 (MH). **Rusty Blackbird** at Link Run Marsh 1/2 (BS). In addition to the CBC **E. Meadowlarks**, six were seen on WAG 2/26 (MH). **Common Grackle** at feeder SC 1/2 (MH). Three **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and 18 **Common Grackles** Millbrook Marsh 1/29 (NAB), and 60+ **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in Boalsburg 1/30 (JM).

Five **Purple Finches** for several days at BB feeder 1/20 (JM), and one at Millbrook marsh 1/3 (JL). No winter finches were reported except for those few **Pine Siskins** on the two *Centre* CBCs, and 16 **Pine Siskins** at a thistle feeder at Howard 12/30 (BS), and four at the same feeder later on 1/2 (BS).

Observers: **Bob Fowles**, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu, Jean Aron, Diane K. Bierly (DIB), Joe Bishop, Nick Bolgiano (NB), Hillel Brandes, Margaret Brittingham, Susan Braun, Don Bryant, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Mark Cohen and Lisa Cass,

Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, Alice Fuller, Roana Fuller, Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Mark Henry, Nancy Ellen Kiernan, Nick Kerlin (NK), Jen Lee, Scott Lewis, Mike Lohr, Joel McNeal (JOM), Alan & Fran MacEachren, Jeff Michaels (JM), Jake Mohlman (JAM), Dan Ombalski, Benji Pipenberg, Larry Ramsey, Matt Rockmore, Bob Snyder, Rob Stone, Bill Toombs, Wendy Vreeland, Ann Wilken, John Yerger.

Chester County

Locations: Chambers Lake (CL), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), Honey Brook Twp. (HBT), Marsh Creek State Park (MC), Nottingham Park (NP), Octoraro Lake (OL), Okehocking Preserve (OP), Struble Lake (SL), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF), and Wedgewood Pond (WP).

Chester did not have the number of accidental visitors that were here last winter. The bird that created the most excitement was a **Gray Kingbird** at a tree farm in the Pomeroy area. The weather became much colder, harder for a bird, normally inhabiting the southeastern part of the U.S., to find food and stay warm. Other rare or scarce species were **Cackling Geese**, a **Glaucous Gull**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and several warblers found mostly during Christmas Bird Counts.

Large flocks of **Snow Geese** began appearing in Jan: 217 at NP 1/10 (TD), 1000 in HBT 1/10 (NP), and two flocks of 100+, one flying over Kimberton and the other over the Great Valley Corporate Center 2/16 (EW). **Canada Geese** were seen in groups of 1,000 to 3,000 throughout the county. The largest flocks were reported from CL, MC, and SL. **Cackling Geese** were reported 12/19 at CL during the WC CBC (LL, AS, EW). A **Brant** was also seen at CL 12/19 during that count. A **Barnacle Goose** was found at CR 1/9 (RR). **Mute Swans** are being seen regularly at CL, MC, Tel Hai Retirement Community, and WP. The highest count was five at MC 1/30 (BB). **Tundra Swans** appeared in Feb at MC where ten were seen 2/16 (EW), and at SL 2/27 when -20 were seen (RW, EW, WM).

Wood Ducks began appearing in late Feb when two pairs were seen at SL (RW, EW, WM). **Gadwalls** were seen during Jan; one 1/1 at Church Farm School (NP), three at WP 1/7 (TD), and three 1/30 at MC (BB). **American Wigeons** began appearing mid-Feb: four at CL 2/16 (EW), four at MC and two at CL 2/20 (EW), two at SL 2/24 (TD), and three+ at CL 2/27 (RW, EW, WM). **N. Pintails** were scarce: two at CL 12/19 (EW), one at CL 1/1 (NP), and four 2/16 at a quarry located at the intersection of Rte. 29 and Swedesford Road (EW). Only two reports of single **Canvasbacks** were received. **Ring-necked Duck** numbers began to build in Jan with the largest flock of -150 being reported by the (PRBA) on Somerset L. 1/21. **Bufflehead** were present, but in small numbers except those on the Schuylkill R., the only water not frozen during much of the period. A high number of -75 was seen 1/21 (RW). Single **Common Goldeneyes** were seen at CR on 12/15 (CC), a female at MC on 2/20 (EW), and a male on 2/27 (RW, EW, WM). **Hooded Mergansers**, always a treat for the eyes, were present on most bodies of water. On 2/27, groups of 12+ ducks were seen on MC, SL, and CL (RW, EW, WM). **Common Mergansers** occurred in much larger numbers, the most of 127 seen 2/27 at SL (TD). **Ruddy Ducks**, 58 seen 12/16 at MC (NP), and 22 on 12/19 at CR (EW), dwindled down to three or less on the unfrozen parts of lakes in Jan and Feb.

A group of 11 **Wild Turkeys** was seen 12/18 (BB, RW) during the WC CBC. Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at OR 12/16 (CC), 12/19 at CL (LL, EW, AS), and 1/7 at WP (TD). Only one **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported, 12/16 at OL (CC). **Great Blue Herons** were seen on many occasions, with four the greatest number at OR 12/16 (CC). A **Great Egret** was seen on 12/18 on the WC CBC.

The largest gathering of **Black Vultures**, 15, was seen at Embreeville 1/2 (DK, NT). Nine were counted in northwestern *Chester* 1/26 during a WRS (HM, JC). That same day, they counted 164 **Turkey Vultures**. One **Osprey** was seen 12/27 at VF (MBe, KK). **Bald Eagles** were present in much of the county. One was seen circling over OP 12/28 before flying north (MP). Two ad and one imm were seen at SL 2/20 by the Loomis family and (EW). That same day, another adult was seen on the ice at MC eating a duck. A **Bald Eagle** nest with a pair on it just outside Coatesville (Kfr). A few reports of one-two **N. Harriers** were received. Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen: an ad 12/18 during the WC CBC, an imm in western *Chester* 1/20 (HM, JC), one 1/26 in Glenmoore (HM, JC), and an imm 2/25 in WC (NP). Rarely seen in *Chester*, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed at SL 12/11 (MAK, PE). The hawk was seen by many observers with the last report made on 2/27 (RW, EW, WM). Another **Rough-legged** was seen at MC 1/26 (HM). **American Kestrels** do not seem as prevalent as they once were. Two recorded on the WC CBC were the lowest since 1935! (BB). Seven were on the Winter Raptor Survey done in northwestern *Chester* (HM, JC). Single **Merlins** were seen 12/18 at VF (MB, KK), 1/9 and 1/26 at CL (RR, PRBA). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in East Whiteland Twp. 1/25 and 1/27 (ES) and 1/17 (JMa) with no specific location given.

American Coots were seen mainly at MC, but small numbers were also reported at CL and Church Farm School. A group of 40+ coots were seen at MC on several occasions with a high of 51 being reported 2/14 (NP). **Killdeer**, from one-eight, were seen at MC and in HBT during Feb. A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen on the WC CBC 12/18. A **Glaucous Gull**

was seen at Kurtz Fish Farm 12/26 during the Elverson CBC (PE, LM). **Ring-billed Gulls** were found on lakes and fields with 300+ at MC 1/30 (BB). One **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen 2/25 at VF (RW). An oil spill on the Delaware R., at the beginning of the report period, produced oil-coated birds that were reported in *Chester*. On 12/3, (HM) found oil-soiled **Ring-billed Gulls** at Fairfield Shopping Center in Exton. The birds that Holly observed were preening constantly. On the same day, (MR) found soiled gulls at the duck pond in Downingtown. No reports of any subsequent deaths of soiled gulls were received.

Two-three **Long-eared Owls**, seen on separate occasions at SL from 12/16- 2/27 (PE, RW, EW, NP, WM). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported in West Cain Twp. 1/23 (TaS).

A totally out-of-range **Gray Kingbird**, confirmed by (LL, m.obs), caused quite a flurry of e-mail messages as people reported seeing the bird or asked if it was still present at the Shamrock Tree Farm in Pomeroy. (HM) reported, "The owners of the farm are happy to have birders come to see this bird, and are delighted that a 'state first' has decided to spend some time at their farm." It was observed by a great many people from 12/12-20. The bird was seen eating crickets near brush piles on 12/13 (JB) and was observed to catch and eat at least three grasshoppers or crickets (NP).

Horned Larks were seen in HBT with flocks of 50+ in Jan (NP) and 200+ in Feb (TD). Six **Black-capped Chickadees** were reported at SL 1/10, and one was reported in West Chester 1/18 (NP). Reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were rare: six 1/10 (TD), and one in West Chester 12/3-2/23 (NP). A lingering **House Wren** was found on the WC CBC. A late **Gray Catbird** was also found on the WC CBC. On 2/13, a flock of 14 **Cedar Waxwings** was seen perched in a tree in a condominium in Phoenixville (EW). That flock has since made several more appearances, eating berries fallen from a juniper bush.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found in Tredyffrin while doing the Audubon CBC 12/26, (TF, JCa). Twelve **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen 12/18 on the WC CBC and one 2/16 at CR (EW). A **Palm Warbler** was found 12/18 WC CBC (DU). An **Ovenbird**, unexpectedly staying from late Nov-12/26 in a Chesterbrook backyard, was reported on the PRBA and recorded on the Audubon CBC. Another warbler surprise was a **Yellow-breasted Chat**, found 12/18 during the WC CBC (MAK).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was found at OP 12/18 (EP, LN); another was seen 12/27 in Upper Uwchlan Twp. (BB). A **Savannah Sparrow** was seen at Embreeville Park 1/2 (DKr, NT). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** in Penn Twp. was seen on 1/24 just after a snowstorm feeding with other sparrows (MO). On 1/24, 12 **Snow Buntings** were seen flying past his office window in East Whiteland Twp. (ES).

On 12/18, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found in Fallowfield Twp. in a huge flock of blackbirds composed of **grackles**, **red-wings** and **cowbirds** (AH). A wonderful sighting of two **Rusty Blackbirds** was made on the WC CBC. Single **Purple Finches** were seen in West Chester 12/8 (NP), and at OP 12/18 (EP, LN).

Observers: **Eleanor Wolf, 148 Harvest Lane, Phoenixville, PA, 19460, (610) 933-6414, wolfriel@voicenet.com**, Chuck Berthoud, Mike Bertram, Barry Blust, Justin Bosler, Bruce and Sheri Carl, John Carpenter (JCa), Chuck Chalfant, Joshua Clapper (JoC), Janet Crawford (JCr), Molly Daly, Theodore Drozdowski, Paul Earley, Elverson CBC (ECBC), Tony Fernandes, Mike Fialkovich, Kevin Fryberger, Frank Haas, Armas Hill, Jeffrey Hopkins, Sean Kelly, Kathy King, Mary Alice Knox, Dave Krueel, Paul Lehman, Larry Lewis, John McNamara (JMa), Joe Meloney (Jme) Holly Merker, Lou Molnar, Walt Mychalus, Lynn Neefe, Chris Neri, Martin Page, Edie Parnum, Philadelphia Rare Bird Alert (PRBA), Nick Pulcinella, Marita Richards, Rick Robinson, Tammy Serata, Ed Sigda, Andy Smith, Bill and Melanie Steward, Nancy Trout, Oale Umble, Valley Forge Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (VFAS CBC), West Chester Christmas Bird Count (WC CBC), Western Chester County Christmas Bird Count (WCC CBC), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Richard Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Clarion Area (CA), Cook Forest SP (CF), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L (KL), Leeper (LP), Mt. Airy (MA), New Bethlehem (NB), Rimersburg (RB), Ritt's Farm (RF), Shippenville (SV), Wentlings Corners (WC).

Probably because of the warm early part of Dec, waterfowl were late to migrate. The first large flock of **Tundra Swans** was reported from LP 12/14 (LC). The last flock was seen over NB 1/6 (CW) with many flocks in Dec. **American Black Ducks** were reported from a pond near Rimersburg 12/22 and 1/30 (CW). Four **scaup sp.** were seen at KL 12/10 (WF). An unusual sighting for this area was two **Hooded Mergansers** at NB 2/25 (CW). **Common Mergansers** were seen in small flocks on the KL and the Clarion River at CF in Jan and Feb (WF, JH). Four **Common Loons** turned up at KL in the Jan thaw 1/11 (WF).

Bald Eagles were reported only from CA and KL and only in Dec (WF & ML). **N. Harriers** were reported chiefly from CV throughout the period (CW). **Cooper's Hawks** demonstrated their ability for adapting to an urban environment in two instances: around the Court House in CA where they are preying on bird feeders and probably **Rock Pigeons** (ML), and

at the busy intersection of Routes 66 and 322 in SV where one was hunting in small patches of wetlands and weedy vacant lots despite the traffic, 1/4 (MB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at RF was seen 1/29 (WF). A pair of **Red-shoulders** was first seen 2/18 at Fl. One of these hung around a bird feeder during the deep snow of Feb, not exactly typical behavior (RS). **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed many times from 12/20-2/19, chiefly over reclaimed strip mines (WF, ML, CW).

Great Horned Owls were first reported hooting from Leeper 12/31 (LC), and last reported from CV 2/9 (CW). Up to three **Short-eared Owls** were observed at CV in Dec (CW), and two at MA 1/04 (WF). They continued through the whole period. From 2/8 to the present (3/25) a **Pileated Woodpecker** has been feeding at a suet feeder in SV. This behavior has not been seen in the thirty years of feeder watching at this site (MB).

Two **Common Ravens** were seen in Limestone Twp. 2/10, farther south than usual in the county (ML). Three other **Common Ravens**, two of which were carrying nesting material, were reported in CF at the northern edge of the county 2/19 (ML). Other **ravens** were heard between Strattanville and Fl in the Mill Creek drainage (RM). This is more reports than usual. It was a good year for **Horned Larks**. Beginning in the middle of Dec until the end of Jan many flocks of 200+ larks were reported from freshly-manured fields (ML, WF, CW). An opportunistic **Tufted Titmouse** was observed plucking out the eyes of a frozen white-footed mouse during a cold spell 2/25 (MB). Brown **Creepers** were scarce at feeders this season (MB, CW), but **Carolina Wrens** were not. A lone **Hermit Thrush** was discovered 1/27 at CV (CW).

The first **American Tree Sparrow** was reported 12/17 from SV (HB); up to 30 were feeding at a feeder in CV all period (CW). Only one **Snow Bunting** was seen at KL 1/26 (WF) in spite of all the **Horned Larks** this year. The first flock of 80 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was reported from KL 1/26 (WF). Three **E. Meadowlarks** were the first to be seen at CV 1/14 (CW). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in a flock of 21 were at KL 1/26 (WF). Small bands of **Purple Finches** invaded feeders especially during cold spells at SV, CV, and other localities (MB, RS, CW). Two **Common Redpolls** turned up on the CBC 12/27 at SV (F&JM). **Pine Siskins** weren't completely absent but turned up in low numbers at some feeders (MB). One lone female **Evening Grosbeak** graced a feeder at MV for about one minute 12/17 (GT).

Observers: **Margaret Buckwalter, 249 Maple Dr., Shippenville, PA 16254, (814) 782-3925 buckwalter01@alltel.net**, Hendrika Bohlen, Ted Buckwalter, Walter Fye, Harvey & Sarah Ganoe, Janice Horn, Mike Leahy, Flo & Jim McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Joan & Carl Rowe, Ruth Schurr, Gil Twiest, Carole Willenpart.

Clearfield County

No Report. No Compiler.

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), McElhatten (McE), South Avis (SA), Susquehanna River (SR)

Few waterfowl reports were received after late Dec for the county, but two **Herring Gulls** were seen on the SR at LH 2/10 (JS). There were some noteworthy raptor reports during the period. Received were two reports of **Rough-legged Hawks**- one light phase bird seen over the fields in SA 1/28 (JS) and a dark phase individual over fields near Tangascootac Creek in southern Sproul SF 2/5 (SB). An imm **Bald Eagle** was seen along the SR at McE 2/4 (JS). Two different **N. Harriers** were seen hunting over CREP fields in Swisssdale 1/25-26 (WL). A first of the year sighting of a **Turkey Vulture** occurred at McE 2/27 (GDG). A juv **N. Goshawk** was observed in LH 1/3 (JB) and another, an ad, was seen at the edge of a woodlot along the SR east of LH during a Winter Raptor Survey (WL).

Fish Crows were heard in Feb at LH- 2/16 (JS) and 2/26 (WL). A single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found along Bald Eagle Creek 1/31 near LH (JS) and seen again 2/1 (m. obs.).

One particular week in late Jan proved to be very productive for winter field birds. From 1/25-29 mixed flocks of **Horned Larks**, **Snow Buntings** and several **Lapland Longspurs** were seen in the fields at SA (m.obs.). On 1/28 at least one **American Pipit** was also seen there (JS). Although it was a poor winter finch season, a few **Pine Siskins** were observed throughout the period coming to several feeders in Woolrich (CCH, LF, GF). A single **Common Redpoll** was seen along Rt. 120 near Keating 2/5 (NP).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@cub.kcnet.org**, Steve Bason, JoAnn Bowes, Gail Floruss, Linda Frye, Greg and Deb Grove, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, multiple observers, Nick Pulcinella, Jeff Schaffer.

Columbia County

No Report:

Compiler: **Doug Gross, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859, (570) 458-4568, dougros@sunlink.net**

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Linesville (LI), Linesville Christmas Bird Count (LCBC), Meadville (ME), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

All records are from Ronald F. Leberman unless marked otherwise. Despite almost totally ice covered lakes and ponds from Dec 20–end of Feb, we were able to find some good birds in the area.

Eighteen **Tundra Swans** flew over PC 12/29 (RCL) and 20 were found at HM 1/1 (DB). A single **Trumpeter Swan** was seen 1/12 at JSP near the Pymatuning Dam at close range. A **Mute Swan** was located at PGM 12/4 (MV, CK). Three **Wood Ducks** were seen 12/19 on the LCC (JB, IF). A **N. Pintail** was spotted at FH 12/4 (MV, CK) and a good count of 35 was seen at HM 2/19 (MB). Eight were seen at PCM 2/22. Four **N. Shovelers** were at PGMA 12/5 and 41 **Gadwall** were found at PC 12/5. Single **American Wigeons** were found at HM 2/19 (MB) and PGMA 12/4 (MV, CK). I had eight **Canvasbacks** at PC 2/27. Six to seven **Redheads** were on CL 12/16 (RCL) to 1/7 (m.obs), and I found 29 thru 2/27. Six **Greater** and 59 **Lesser Scaup** were located at Tuttle Point, Pymatuning 12/15 (AM). **Common Goldeneye** numbers were lower than usual with only one seen 12/19 – LCBC, and building up slowly to 55 on PC 2/27. I found 4,265 **Hooded Mergansers** at PA 12/3 and 354 were seen at LCBC 12/19 (m.obs). **Common Mergansers** were found in good numbers throughout the period from 115 to 300 at CL, PA (m.obs). On LCBC, 152 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted 12/19 (m.obs). **Ruddy Ducks** were seen in small numbers with 38 at PC 12/10 being the high count. Eighteen **Wild Turkeys** were spotted west of LI 12/29 (RCL).

A pair of **Common Loons** remained at PC 12/5 and a single bird was noted at CL. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at CL 12/16 (RCL) and one at CM 1/31. Twelve **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at PS 12/11 (RCL). A **Great Blue Heron** was seen at HM 12/21 (RB), 1/30 (MB), 2/19 (RB) and one was at TL on 1/10.

Bald Eagles left the CM and PA areas once it froze over, but I had no less than 14, 12/3. **N. Harrier** was found at HM 12/3 (MB) and 12/19 LCBC (m.obs). From one-two **Rough-legged Hawks** were at PGMA 12/19-28 (m.obs).

A **Killdeer** was present at ME 1/2. There was no other reports for this area. One **Dunlin** was seen at WL 12/8. Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** at JSP 1/12 was a late departure for that species.

One **Barred Owl** was seen at M 1/31. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was located 12/19 on LCC (RCL). I had an **American Pipit** at PGMA 12/5. At LCBC, there were 162 **Cedar Waxwings** 12/19 (m.obs). This was better than usual, but none were reported after that date. One **N. Shrike** was found at LCBC 12/19 (RH). A good total of 80 **American Robins** 2/24, HM (MB). One-two **Gray Catbirds** came to a Crossingville feeder all this period (SR) they also had two **N. Mockingbirds** there. I found one at FI 1/4 and ME 2/15 and one spent the period at a HM feeder (EB, MB).

One **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen HM 12/19 (MB). A high count of 33 **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at a HM feeder 12/19. At LCBC there were only single birds four times over the last 50 years of the local counts (MB).

Heavy snow cover in open fields made it hard to locate **Snow Buntings** this winter. Numbers seen ranged from one to 35 at HM, PA, and ENWR (NT, MB). Ten **Evening Grosbeaks** were found at Gena near CM 2/5. Twelve **Common Repolls** at PC 2/13, and one at HM 2/15 (SM) were the only reports. The only **Pine Siskin** was one at a feeder near Spartansburg 1/25 (IF).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Jim Barker, Edward Byler, Marvin Byler, Owen Byler, Rachel Byler, Ron Harrell, Ike Field, Chris Knoll, Robert F. Leberman, m.obs (many observers), Sylvia Miller, Anthony Marich, Steve Rotkovecz, Harvy Troyer, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

The most exciting find of the season was a **Snowy Owl** located 12/10 at the Pharo's Truck Stop Complex near Shippensburg (JW). The bird was seen by many individuals during its six day stay and was usually easy to find as it had a habit of sitting on the edge of one of the many buildings at the facility. The bird was last seen 12/15.

Another exciting find involving a visitor from the north was the find of an **Iceland Gull** on 12/11 associating with a large group of **Ring-billed Gulls** (TJ, RK). The bird was found in the Mud Level Road area located a few miles northeast of Shippensburg. It was noted that many of the birds had oil stains on their plumage. This was attributed directly to the oil spill accident on the Delaware R. near Philadelphia. A probable **Thayer's Gull** was also seen in the group but a positive identification could not be concluded on. The **Iceland Gull** represents a second or third county record.

A very unusual spring, off-ridge sighting of an immature **Golden Eagle** was sighted circling over the campus of Messiah College 2/17 (CR). A most impressive number of 15 **Lapland Longspur** was tallied 12/13 along Gephart Road near Newburg (LC).

Finally, the Harrisburg CBC was held on 12/18. Due to hard work in extensive pre-count scouting, excellent coverage on count day, to include a Susquehanna R. boat ride, good weather and a great crew out in the field, the count set a new all time record in number of species by cracking the century mark with 101 species tallied! Notable coverage finds include one **Cackling Goose**, one **Long-tailed Duck**, one **Common Yellowthroat** and an amazing high count of 24 **E. Towhees**, to include 10 in one small area!

Observers: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**, Lou Carpenter, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Cameron Rutt, Jim Wojewodski.

Dauphin County

Locations: East Hanover Twp (EHT), Hershey Area and Farms (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area (HIBA), South Hanover Twp (SHT), Susquehanna River at Harrisburg (SHB), Susquehanna River at Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River at Royalton (SRT), Susquehanna River at West Fairview (SWF), Susquehanna River in General (SR), Wildwood Lake (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

The largest **Snow Goose** flight ever reported in *Dauphin* occurred 2/18 when estimates of up to 20,000 were reported flying in a line from Hershey to north Harrisburg (P&RW, et al.). Two days earlier the first flight, of a more modest 36 **Tundra Swans** were observed in SHT (RW). Flights of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans continued through mid-Mar.

The SR hosted the usual winter waterfowl. **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, and **Common** and **Hooded Merganser** were reported from various locations. Somewhat unusual were three **Redheads** that appeared at SWF in late Jan and joined by a lone **Canvasback** in early Feb (RS). By the end of Feb, the number of **Redheads** had increased to +/- 30. **Gadwalls** and **American Black Ducks** remained at WL to late Jan and returned a few weeks later when the lake thawed. The first **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported at SWF 1/30 (RW), the first **Green-winged Teal** joined the resident **Mallards** at the Bull Frog Valley Rd. pond near Hershey 2/6 (BK), and the first **N. Pintail** settled into flooded fields along Rt. 39 near the Swatara Creek bridge 2/21 (TJ). Although individual **Wood Duck** drakes remained all period the first pair was found 2/17 SWF (RW). Both **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** returned to the SMV by the end of Feb (DB).

A very late **Great Egret** was reported at Highspire Res. 1/4 (AL), while one returned to WL, on schedule, 3/15 (SL). **Black Vulture** reports in the southern third of the county continue to increase, which was reflected in that area's WRS when 11 were counted 1/15 (P&RW).

After spotting five **Bald Eagles** near MBG 12/29 for the Curtin CBC (RK, et al.) and three at the same location for the Ned Smith Waterfowl Survey 3/13 (BK), it was disappointing that only one **Bald Eagle** was found along the entire stretch of the river for the "official" survey in early Jan. The one was sighted near HI (BB). The latest, mid-Mar on the HI nest is that the new pair is incubating (SB). There were numerous other **Bald Eagle** sightings throughout the quarter and from all corners of the county...certainly good news.

The news in Dec of the injury to Harrisburg's **Peregrine Falcon** male and the diagnosis that it would never be able to return to the wild made the prospect for a 6th consecutive nesting season by the Rachel Carson Building pair look bleak. The arrival of a new male in Feb and its apparent acceptance by the female has renewed hope for the upcoming season. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** reported in the county was found near Gratz for the Curtin CBC 12/29 (AT, et al.); and the only **N. Goshawk** sighting was at the HIBA 1/6 (TJ). A **Merlin** was found near HBG 12/15 (N&CJ) and another remained near the HIBA from 1/2-11 (P&RW, TJ).

Long-eared Owls returned to Hershey area roosts in Dec and **Short-eared Owls** were regularly observed in the Gratz area throughout the quarter with a high count of five tallied 1/15 (Mk&MB). Unfortunately the only **Short-eared Owl** found in the southern part of the county was a road kill along Union Deposit Rd. east of Hoernerstown 2/10.

E. Phoebes remained well into the winter quarter. One was tallied in the Harrisburg CBC 12/18 near the State Hospital and another lingered in EHT long enough to make the Lebanon CBC 1/2 (S&RZ). A **N. Shrike** made a brief appearance near Erdman in the northeast corner of the county 1/9 (MB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a regular feeder visitor in SHT (P&RW) and **Brown Creeper** was reported more often than usual with at least one observer referring to "many" in their yard in Hummelstown (J&PF). **Gray Catbird** was recorded in all the local CBCs with the latest one in Hershey 1/2 also making the Lebanon CBC (CB).

The biggest surprise of the Curtin CBC 12/29 was the discovery of a male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Myo Park in Millersburg (RK & RW). The only other warbler reported this winter was a **Yellow-rumped** that paid a visit to an EHT feeder 1/30 (S&RZ).

An **E. Towhee** reported at a home near Middletown in early Feb was still present through mid-Mar and probably spent the winter (PF). A **Field**

Sparrow was found on the Curtin CBC 12/29 (PF) and **Savannah Sparrows** were still at the HIBA and Hershey farms 1/8 (TJ). A "migration wave" of **Fox Sparrows** arrived in southeastern PA 3/8 with many individuals or small flocks reported. A flock of 50-100 **Snow Buntings** was found at the Hershey farms in early Jan and included one or more **Lapland Longspurs** and many **Horned Larks** (TJ,S&SR). **Snow Buntings** with one or more **Lapland Longspurs** were also reported in the fields near Gratz1/16 and again 2/5 (PF,TJ). A large "blackbird" flock was reported along Pine Hill Rd. in SHT 1/8 and included one **Brewer's Blackbird** and 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** (TJ). Other than a few **Purple Finch** reports earlier in the quarter and a late **Pine Siskin** 3/20 at a SHT feeder (P&RW), the only "winter finches" noted were and a small flock of **Common Redpolls** in Hummelstown 3/14 (TJ).

Observers: **Richard and Patricia Williams, 3 Parkside Ave., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Bill Baker, Chuck Berthoud, Scott Bills, Dan Bogar, Gerry Boltz, Mark Brown (MkB), Mick Brown, Lou Carpenter, Andrew Cather, Suzie & Bernie Crist, Conrad Decker, Jodie & Pete Fox, Jan Getgood, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Nancy & Carl Juris, Dave Kerr, Bill Kimmich, Ramsay Koury, Allen Lindsey, Andy McGann, Ron Ramsay, Sharon & Steve Rannels, Chris Robert, Joan Renninger, Cameron Rutt (CRT), Art Schiavo, Karen Smith, Rosemary Spreha, Aden Troyer, Patricia & Richard Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY)

Almost all the sightings for the season come from the 83th Glenolden CBC held 12/18, compiled and annotated by Nick Pulcinella. In fact, this report will read much like a CBC summary. Fifty participants tallied 97 species, slightly below the ten-year average, and unfortunately no new records were set in spite of fair weather. Prior to count day a hard freeze closed much of the open water, which severely limited waterfowl sightings.

Five **Cackling Geese** (Richardson's) were found at the Garnet Valley Elementary School in Concord Twp., a first for the CBC (JF). John took photos before the geese flew off together. They were not relocated.

Other waterfowl sightings on the CBC included: 20 **Tundra Swans** and nine flying over Haverford 12/24 (SJ), the only **Wood Duck** of the winter on Earle's Lake (AG), only 45 **American Black Duck** when usually 1000 are seen, **N. Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** in low numbers, three **Ring-necked Duck**, a **Lesser Scaup** at the Crum Creek Res (CP), a **Common Goldeneye** at SR (NP), 35 **Hooded Merganser** (3rd highest count), and only four **Ruddy Duck**. My regular visits to SR, when the water was open, produced only **Ruddy Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, as well as the requisite **Canada Goose** and **Ring-billed Gulls**.

Seven species of raptors included: four adult **Bald Eagles**, the 3rd highest count on the CBC, the usual complement of five **N. Harriers**, more accipiters than average, 22 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and eight **Cooper's Hawk**. Three **Red-shouldered Hawks** were average, but 72 **Red-tailed Hawk** (more numerous by everyone's observation) topped the average of 57. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen in the woods east of Lansdowne and north on Cobb's Creek and in late Jan (RH). **American Kestrel** continues its decline with only four being found. They are most likely to be seen in the airport area and some of the industrial fields south along the DR One **Merlin** was reported on 12/5 (AG).

Our only grebe this season were **Pied-billed**, a handful, found along DC, on SR and at other small ponds. A **Common Moorhen** at TI was a great find 12/18 by RM. The bird was on the boundary line between the counties, so this bird gets twice the press. What happened to the **Killdeer**? The one bird found on the CBC in Chester Heights is the only report from *Philadelphia* and *Delaware* that I am aware of. In Chester just south of the Commodore Barry Bridge, JF saw a **Laughing Gull** 12/18.

Six owl species were found. The **Barred Owl** that's been in the Riddlewood for a few years was finally heard on the CBC (AG). A **Long-eared Owl** barked at my Screech Owl imitation from a grove of evergreens in Aston and one **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found at TI in a section with no public access (RM).

Birders have noted the sudden decline in **Blue Jay** numbers and the 75 found on the CBC were the lowest since 1991. The species is susceptible to West Nile Virus which has been in the area for some time. JM noted the largest **Blue Jay** migration he's ever seen at Cape May this fall, suggesting that the breeding season might have been successful for them. **American Crow** numbers are at their lowest since 1973, without doubt due to West Nile Virus.

A few **Horned Lark** have been present at the airport all season although they're hard to find. Twenty-two birds were found by two CBC parties, an improvement over usual low numbers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** have been scarce this season. The usual group in the TY

pinetum moved on, as did many of the winter irruptive species that were present in fall. **House Wren** was found by three CBC parties, which is exceptional considering they are absent in about half the counts. The **Cedar Waxwing** tally by 50 birders was 17, the lowest count since 1974. What's that all about? A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Lester (JM), but not for long—that December sighting is the only one. The sparrow picture was mixed. **American Tree Sparrows**, rarely abundant two years in a row, were scarce compared to last year and most other years: 19 is really low. **Field Sparrow**, **Song Sparrow**, **Swamp Sparrow**, and **White-crowned Sparrow** were harder to find, too. **Fox Sparrow** and an unusual show of three **Chipping Sparrow** on the CBC were above average. **Eastern Meadowlark** are scarce in the county, so three found on the fields of the Elwyn Campus were a good find on 12/18. SJ had an early flock of at least 100 **Common Grackle** and mixed blackbirds over the Garnet Valley High School parking lot on 1/7. Mixed flocks of "blackbirds" increased at feeders as snow cover increased on the fields. **Purple Finch**, so numerous early in the fall, did not linger and, of course, **House Finch** still suffer from conjunctivitis.

I'm usually not skeptical enough of my own calculation of species' abundance trends, but seeing data from a few varied observers this season has been very instructive. A **Blue Jay** pair raised a family at my feeders for the first time, so I thought jays must be so abundant that they were forced into our woods to find breeding habitat. Then, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** wintered at my feeders for the first time. So I figured they must be abundant, until I read NP's report which showed how poorly each species showed. On the other hand, when I saw the largest stand of crab apple trees outside of RCSP, bulldozed, I expected **Cedar Waxwing** numbers to plummet, and they did. October bird banding produced less than half the sparrows of previous years. I rationalized the low totals, thinking I just missed the good flight days, but the sparrow counts of the CBC and the bird reports from TI and SCEE confirmed my experience. So, sometimes I can trust my reasoning and sometimes I can't. The problem is, I don't know when to trust, and when not to without the "ground-truthing" effort like the CBC. But then, maybe the CBC was held on a bad day....

Contributors: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd. Media, PA 19063. (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu** John Freiberg, Al Guarente, Rich Horwitz, Sheryl Johnson, John Miller, Robert Miller, Nick Pulcinella.

Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

Erie County

Locations: Lake View Landfill (LVL), Presque Isle State Park (PISP)

Just over 80 inches of snow was recorded at the Erie International Airport during the reporting period, but a relatively mild Dec with a substantial wild food crop allowed a few birds to remain into the period. Most of the following species typically migrate out of this region by Nov so the following birds observed into the winter season were unusual including **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **N. Pintail**, **Merlin**, **Killdeer**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Gray Catbird**, **Winter Wren**, **American Pipit**, **Field Sparrow**, and **Rusty Blackbird**. It was an uneventful season for northern finch watchers with just a sample of birds observed periodically through the period. Dec was a good month for vagrants including some spectacular finds like **Harlequin Duck**, **California Gull**, **Sabine's Gull**, and **Rufous Hummingbird**.

Rare in this season, was a single (blue) **Snow Goose** observed 12/14 just west of Presque Isle (BC). A **Wood Duck** that may have been injured, remained to 2/7 at Edinboro (DS). A late **American Wigeon** was found 1/16 at PISP and a **N. Pintail** was there 1/27 (JM). Two female-type **Harlequin Ducks** flew past Sunset Point PISP during the Waterbird Count 12/27 (JM). Up to two **White-winged Scoters** were present from 2/19-28 at PISP (BC). A single **Red-necked Grebe** made a one day appearance at PISP 1/1(JM) and an **Eared Grebe** was there 12/18 (JM, BC).

A total of seven **Rough-legged Hawks** was a fair number recorded throughout the county from 12/18 through the period (m.obs). Perhaps up to two **Merlins** were discovered at PISP. 12/4 (BC) and 1/1 (LM). Formerly very rare in winter but now annual for this season, was a total of five or six **Peregrine Falcons** seen periodically through the period at PISP (JM, BC). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was observed flying over the LVL 1/15 (BC).

A **Killdeer** in Girard Twp. 12/15 was a bit later than usual. Almost expected now at PISP though still exceedingly rare, was an adult **California Gull** 12/14. A total of at least six **Thayer's Gull**-type gulls were studied at PISP and the LVL periodically through the period (BC, JM). **Iceland Gulls** totaled about 15 individuals for the season around PISP and the LVL (BC, JM). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were a little scarce this season with only about four birds reported from PISP between 12/14-2/21 (JM, BC). At least a dozen **Glaucous Gulls** were present around PISP and the LVL from 12/14-to the end of the period (BC, JM). An adult **Sabine's Gull** well photographed at the channel at PISP 12/21-22, was

an extraordinary find for any time of the year (NZ, CK).

A **Snowy Owl** remained at Gull Point and the channel at PISP through at least 1/15 (m.obs). Single **Long-eared Owls** were located on PISP 12/26 (DD) and 1/30 (BC). The adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** from the fall season at East Springfield was last seen 12/14 (AP). Only two **N. Shrikes** were reported for the season, one on PISP 12/18 (ML, DS) and one in Greene Twp. 1/28 (JF). It seems **Common Ravens** are moving into northwestern PA. Following reports of birds seen last year, one well described bird being chased by crows made an appearance in LeBoeuf Twp. 2/19 (CG).

A swallow observed flying overhead in failing daylight at PISP 12/9, may have been a **Cave Swallow** (DS). Not usually reported after Dec were two **Winter Wrens**, one was observed in Edinboro periodically to at least 2/7 (DS) and one was seen at PISP 2/5 (BC). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was still present at PISP 12/18 (CG). An unprecedented number of **Gray Catbirds** lingered well into the winter period with at least five birds present on PISP to at least 2/1 (m.obs). A single **Gray Catbird** in Fairview stayed until at least 12/10 (JM).

A **Chipping Sparrow** at a feeder in Erie during the last week of Feb was probably a very early migrant (KA). A couple of late **Field Sparrows** were with **American Tree Sparrows** on PISP to at least 12/19 (JM, BC) and a probable early migrant was identified at PISP 2/24 (LM). Singles and small flocks of **Common Redpolls** were reported throughout the county with largest groups, containing up to 30 birds, were found to 1/28 (m.obs.). One or two **Pine Siskins** were seen at feeders in Waterford and Fairview periodically through the period (CG, PH).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508 (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Ken Andersen, Ben Coulter, John Fedak, Chuck Gehring, Pat Howell, Craig Kern, Mark Lethaby, Linda McWilliams, Arla Parmerter, Don Snyder, Nate Zalik.

Fayette County

A **Horned Grebe** was at Jacob's Creek Lake 12/21 (WS, DS). Unusual for the winter a **Killdeer** was at Curfew 1/29 (MMC).

The **Rufous Hummingbird** reported and banded last season continued to visit a feeder in South Connellsville up to 1/17 (JA). An **E. Towhee** was found at Franklin Lake 1/29 (MMC). Interestingly, a bird was at this location last winter. A **Field Sparrow** was found 1/29 which is also unusual for this time of year (MMC).

Ten **Purple Finches** were found in the Ohiopyle area 1/9 (WS, DS). A **Common Redpoll** visited a feeder near Ohiopyle 1/7-9 (OS, WS, DS), and two **Pine Siskins** were also visitors 12/19 (OS). One remained 12/21 (OS, WS, DS).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net**, Joanna Adams, Mark McConaughy, Olive Scarlett, Dana Shaffer, Walt Shaffer.

Forest County

Locations: Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake Outflow (TO)

Seven **Common Mergansers** were reported at TO 1/1. A **Horned Grebe** was also seen there 1/1-2 just in time for the Pleasantville CBC (F&JM).

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Tionesta L.) conducted a mid-winter survey 1/7 and found three imm and four ad **Bald Eagles** between the TO and the sand and gravel island (RD, AKW). An ad and imm were spotted at TO 1/9, and two ad were found 1/17. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** claimed a **European Starling** from a yard near TI 2/12, and a **Cooper's Hawk** was spotted on German Hill 1/28. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted in Red Brush 1/8 (F&JM).

Five **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen at TO 2/21. An **E. Screech-Owl** was heard calling near TI 2/21. A pair of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were regular visitors throughout the period at feeders near TI (F&JM). A **N. Shrike** was reported at Marienville 1/23 (B&JW). Two **Common Ravens** were spotted 12/18 in Jenks Twp. (TB), and one was heard near TI 2/17. Twelve **Horned Larks** were spotted at Red Brush 1/8. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and a **Brown Creeper** were spotted in Jenks Twp. 12/18. (TB). **Carolina Wrens** were reported at Marienville in Jan (B&JW) and near TI throughout the period. A **Winter Wren** was heard at TO 2/15. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at the Allegheny NF 12/26 and 12/29, Tionesta L. 12/9, and TO 2/11 (F&JM). At feeders near Tionesta: one or two **American Tree Sparrows** were regular throughout the reporting period; also a flock of about eight **Purple Finches**. A single **Common Redpoll** made an appearance 12/29. A flock of **Pine Siskins** was present throughout the period, with a high of 12, 2/28 (F&JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA, 16353, (814) 755-3672, mcguires@usachoice.net**, Ted Buckwalter, Rodney Daum, Jim McGuire, Amy Keitzer-Wallace, Brenda & John Weyant.

Franklin County

Locations: Chambersburg area (CA), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Mercersburg area (MA), Shady Grove vicinity (SG), Zullinger Area (ZA).

Turkey Vultures remained in small numbers during this period and occasionally a few **Black Vultures**. Water species continued to be scarce and unpredictable during this report period. **Great Blue Herons** were one species that was in good numbers near CA. Plenty of **Canada Geese** at various locations and causing some concern at GR, and **Mallards** were commonly seen, along with some **American Black Ducks**. **N. Pintails** were observed until the end of Dec at small farm spring. There were a few **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **N. Shoveler**, **Green-Winged Teal**, and **Ring-Necked Duck** but no big numbers to report. Eight **Common Mergansers** were sighted 2/10 on the Conococheague Creek near Greencastle.

Red-tailed Hawk numbers were impressive this period with as many as 30 counted during one trip. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were not a friendly visitor to many bird feeders in the county. A lone **N. Harrier** was seen 2/28 northwest of CA.

A **Wilson Snipe** 1/20 and a **American Pipit** 1/26 were sighted in a meadow near Clay Hill and 2/ 26 at least 75 **American Pipits** were observed at Norlo Park near Fayetteville. Eight **Ring-billed Gulls** made a appearance at GR 2/28.

Eurasian Collared-Doves (as many as six at one time) have been observed regularly in SG, and occasionally one or two in Greencastle. The **E. Screech Owl** continues to be difficult to find or hear and none were reported. **Great Horned Owls** were heard and often seen at various locations along with a lesser number of **Barred Owls**. **Barn Owls** returned to a nesting site about 1/16 and have remained there the entire period.

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported at only one location regularly near Caledonia State Park. It was reported for very time short periods at SG and CA. Many **Horned Larks** were reported various locations but **Lapland Longspurs** were only sighted two times in CA. Lack of snow cover made it difficult to spot them. A **Brown Creeper** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** visited a feeder in ZA from 12/13-2/29 regularly. A **Brown Creeper** was also reported at two other sites; near Greencastle and in the CA area.

The most exciting bird in the county was the **Varied Thrush** that arrived at Caledonia SP 12/11. It remained friendly and cooperative throughout the period. The **Varied Thrush** brought birders from at least four states. A **Hermit Thrush** was also present many times with the **Varied Thrush**.

An **E. Towhee** 1/2-23, **American Tree Sparrow** 1/28-2/29 and **Purple Finch** 12/22 used a feeder near ZA.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256 (717) 597-3979, gear@innernet.net**, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Eric Martin, Dan Snell/Regina Reeder, Joyce Schaff, Ruth Ann Smith.

Fulton County

Locations: CREP1- Plum Run survey route, CREP2- Pleasant Grove survey route, CREP3- Hustontown survey route, CREP4- Buck Valley survey route.

Reported and photographed by *The Fulton County News*, a **Barred Owl** was discovered in a Thompson Twp backyard 1/18. According to Fulton County Wildlife Conservation Officer Kevin Mountz, the bird was first found beneath a trampoline in an "alert but dazed" state. It is believed the scenario occurred when the owl flew into an unidentified object. The owl was then captured by Mountz. Finally the **Barred Owl** was transported , retained for overnight observation, and successfully released the next day (*The Fulton County News* 1/20)

Using the PA Game Commission CREP Routes, four winter raptor survey routes were run in the county. Each route averaged between 12 to 15 miles in length. On 1/16 CREP1 netted two **N. Harriers**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, nine **Red-tailed Hawks**, and two **American Kestrels** (RR, DS). On 1/28, one **Black Vulture**, eight **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and one **American Kestrel** were detected along CREP2 (DS). On 1/29, CREP3 survey results included one **N. Harrier**, seven **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and two **American Kestrels** (RR, DS). On 2/13, CREP4 netted one **Turkey Vulture**, 10 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one **Red-shouldered Hawk** (RR, DS).

Observers: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**, Regina Reeder.

Greene County

Locations: Bell Farm (BF), Bowlby Hill (BH), Blacksville Ponds (BLK), Bruckner Farm (BRU), Big Shannon Run (BSR), Carm Carmichaels (CC), East View (EV), Kern Farm (KF), Khedive (KHE), Route 21 Cumberland Twp. (RT21) . .

Canada Geese might nearly be classified as "resident" birds for this winter as they were seen around the county on several dates through the

period. On the Monongahela R. two **Tundra Swans** were found 1/29 (KR, KK). A nice variety of duck species and a **Pied-billed Grebe** were found at the Blacksville Ponds 2/19 (KK). Among the group were **Mallard**, **Redhead**, and **Ring-Necked**. The next day MH visited the ponds and found the **Redhead** and **Ring-necked Duck** still there. **Mallards** were found through-out the period with 40+ found on Ackley Creek 1/25 (KR), and 86 seen 2/1 at Rogersville (KR).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen along Hunting Hills Road, Greene Twp. 1/20 (KR). ML reports a flock of 20-23 **Wild Turkeys** in her pasture on BSR. By 1/25 the toms had started display behavior and there were two groups. One group had 15 and the other had 23 birds.

Great Blue Herons were also seen throughout the period. ML had one 12/13 fishing in Big Shannon Run and KR found one 1/14 near Sycamore. The first **Turkey Vulture** was reported by KR 2/21 on Route 18 near Nettle Hill. ML saw one on BSR 2/25.

The Clarksville Christmas Bird Count, 1/1, yielded a nice find for KK. She noted a male **N. Harrier** on Happy Valley Rd. in Morgan Twp. As she traveled up the next valley on Meadowbrook Road, she found a female **N. Harrier**. A male was found at this site 2/21. A **Rough-Legged Hawk** had been spotted near KHE 1/24 (KR). It lingered into Feb. A total of three were found on the Winter Raptor count by KR and KK. ML watched a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** make several attempts, but only three successful kills on BSR 2/4. A **Cooper's Hawk** kept a careful watch over the feeders at KF. No successful kills noted by KK. **Red-tail Hawks** are usually easy to find in *Greene* and this winter was no exception. They began to pair in late Jan -when you saw one, you soon found another. RB reports seeing his **American Kestrels** frequently through the winter.

Killdeer were found sporadically. On 1/23 at KHE KR saw one. JH found one 2/7 at the Penn Dot barn in Waynesburg and RB found one 2/21 near Dry Tavern. On 1/29 a few birds determined to be a gull species were seen on the Monongahela R. (KR, KK). KR did find three **Ring-billed Gulls** in Franklin Twp. 1/24. She saw them again 2/7 and found six birds 2/10 all in the same vicinity. **Belted Kingfishers** were also reported from many areas in the county: on 12/9 at Rutan, 12/14 at Bristoria, and 12/22 Route 218 Franklin Twp. (KR): on Big Shannon Run 12/31 and 2/4 (ML). MH reported a **Belted Kingfisher** 2/20 near Brave. ML had visits at her feeders by **Hairy** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** 2/21.

RB heard or saw **Common Ravens** flying over BF, usually one at a time through Dec. The only time he saw multiple birds was a pair 12/3. A **Brown Creeper** was seen by KK 2/19 on BH along with a **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. **E. Bluebirds** were seen by KR and KK 1/29. RB noted 24 **American Robins** roosting in evergreens in his yard at BF (12/26), and 2/21 counted 17 leaving the yard. He also had **Yellow-rumped Warblers** roost in mature holly trees in his yard again this winter. On 2/21, he counted 28 leaving yard. When this number was turned to the Great Backyard Bird Count, they had trouble accepting it and had to be reminded, this is *Greene* we are talking about, and the birds tend to do things a little differently here sometimes.

White-throated Sparrows were frequent visitors to feeders at BF and KF all winter. ML had three **American Tree Sparrows** at her feeders 12/20. She also reported hearing a **Song Sparrow** singing 2/3 accompanied by a **Carolina Wren**. Her feeders on BSR were host to **Dark-eyed Juncos** all winter with a high count of 50+ on snowy 2/24. On 1/24 with a high temperature of 15 and snow cover she hosted 45 **N. Cardinals**. **Red-winged Blackbirds** seem to be shortening the time spent away from the county. A male **Red-winged Blackbird** was seen by ML at BSR 12/11 and 12/20. A lone male was seen at the feeder at KF 2/16 (KK), but was joined by some friends 2/19 (24 in all-all males). An **E. Meadowlark** was found by KR at KHE 1/24. **Common Grackles** were reported in two groups 2/28. ML had four at her feeders on BSR in the southeastern part of the county. Meanwhile KR saw five near Rutan in the western part of the county.

MH had **Purple Finches** at her East View feeder 1/18. ML had **American Goldfinches** 30 to 40+ at a time at her feeders. She feeds them Rudbeckia and Echinacea all summer in her flower garden and they stay for the winter!

Observers: **Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA. 15370, (724) 627-5376 n3xsj@alltel.net**, Ralph K. Bell, Jerry Howard, Marj Howard, Mary Laplante, Kathy Reeves.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Greenwood Furnace State Park (GF), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (OC).

The mild start to the count period contributed to better than average reports of water birds. A **Red-throated Loon** was spotted 12/2 on LP (AF) and at LR a **Common Loon** 12/26 during the CBC (GG). New Year's day birding turned up two **Pied-billed Grebes** on LR and 18 **Tundra Swan** near HU (DK). The LR CBC also reported two **American Coots** (DK), a record high 640 **Canada Geese** and a record low count of 21 **Mallards** (GG). On 1/7, DW found four **American Black Ducks** on LP, and 1/8 GG found a lone **Long-tailed Duck** at GF. DK observed 13 **Hooded**

Mergansers 12/14 at OC.

A **Wilson's Snipe** was found in the MF area 12/19 (DG) and one near Cottage 12/27 (GG). **Golden Eagles** were observed in all months during the count period-Stone Mountain had two southbound eagles 12/8 (CW), GG had a flyover at GF 1/16 and Tussey Mountain hawkwatch recorded five heading north 2/23 (DO). DK reported 54 **Black Vultures** near HU 12/23 and the LR CBC had a record high of 53 **Turkey Vultures** 12/26 (GG).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near MF 2/26 (DK), and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 1/2 (GG). GG also spotted a **Winter Wren** 1/9 along the JR. An **E. Towhee** appeared 1/2 at a feeding station near MF and continued sporadically throughout the count period (SW). The Grove's feeders attracted a **Fox Sparrow** 2/19. On 1/16, GG recorded a **White-crowned sparrow**, 18 **Rusty Blackbirds** and 10 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in the MF area. Feeding stations in MF also attracted **Purple Finches** throughout the count period (DG, GG, SW), however a pair of **Pine Siskins** made only a brief appearance 12/11-12 (GG).

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, (814) 863-2000, djw105@psu.edu**, Alice Fuller, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, David Kyler, Dan Ombalski, Susan Wentzel, Chuck Widmann.

Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce Co. Park (BS), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Clymer (CM), Homer City (HC), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocota (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), West Lebanon (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Yellow Creek State Park (YC)

A **Snw Goose** was noted in a flock of migrating Canadas near LV 12/31 (MC). **Canada Goose** maxima included an estimated 200 at YC 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW) and 360 at TL 12/27 (PJ). **Tundra Swan** reports included 14 at YC 12/1 (LC), 50 over Penn Run 12/15 (TF), and an estimated 200 near IN 12/27 (DC,MC); a singleton lingered at YC 1/15 (ABe,GS). First northward bound migrants were 18 at YC 2/26 (MH,RH).

YC Lake, which had mostly frozen in early Dec with few periods of thawing, remained completely frozen until late Feb. Two Lick Res, however, which is deeper retained some open water through most of the winter. Because of flock composition, we surmised that the ducks were moving back and forth between the preferred YC when it was open and TL when YC froze. One **Gadwall** remained through 1/4 (LC,CG,MH,SS) at YC where a bit of open water 2/15 (LC) also contained one Gadwall. Five **American Wigeons** appeared at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). Seven **American Black Ducks** were still at YC 1/11 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW) and an equal number were near Ernest 1/30 (MH,RH); two were found at TL 2/1 (LC) and two at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). **Mallard** maxima included 74 at YC 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW) and 64 in a flooded field near SH 1/8 (MH,RH). The only **N. Pintail** reports were 23 at YC 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW), one at TL 12/27 (MH,RH), and one near Ernest 1/30 (MH,RH). A lone **Green-winged Teal** visited a farm pond near IN 12/9-10 (GM). No **Canvasbacks** were reported. **Redheads** included 12 at TL 2/1-8 (LC) and 29 at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). A **Ring-necked Duck** lingered at YC through 12/25 (LC), and another was at TL the same day; four arrived at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). There were no reports of **Greater Scaup** while single **Lesser Scaup** lingered at both YC and TL 12/25 (LC); one appeared at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). A **Long-tailed Duck** was present at YC 12/14 (LC,SS) and 1/7 (DL). YC yielded 24 **Buffleheads** 12/14 (LC,SS) while two still lingered there 1/18 (LC); two at TL 2/1 and two at YC 2/15 could possibly have been the same birds (LC). One **Common Goldeneye** was found at YC 12/21 (LC,MH,SS,LW) and 1/11 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW). **Hooded Merganser** reports included three at TL 12/27 (MH,RH) and two at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS) and 2/26 (MH,RH). Three **Common Mergansers** were seen at YC 12/21 (LC,MH,SS,LW); 11 were at TL 12/25 (LC); while 15 were back at YC 1/4 (LC,CG,MH,SS); YC again yielded five 2/15 (LC). No **Red-breasted Mergansers** were recorded. **Ruddy Duck** maxima included 50, 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW) and 76, 12/14 (LC,SS), both at YC; last reported were three at YC 1/4 (LC,CG,MH,SS).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** remained at YC 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW) but were not seen thereafter. The IN CBC yielded only three **Ruffed Grouse** 12/27 (v.o.); the only other grouse reported was one at YC 1/4 (LC,CG,MH,SS). Top **Wild Turkey** counts were 30 near Chambersville 12/12 (MH,RH), 21 near YC 12/27 (GL,GS), and 45 near SH 2/15 (EB).

A **Common Loon** at YC 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW) was still present 12/14 (LC,SS). Sixteen was the best **Pied-billed Grebe** count 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW); last were eight at YC 12/25 (LC). A total absence of **Horned Grebes** was surprising. Two Lick Res yielded the season's only **Double-crested Cormorant** sighting 12/27 (MH,RH). **Great Blue Herons** included two at YC 12/7 (LC,CG,MH,SS,LW), one at YC 12/14 (LC,SS), one near IN 12/27 (DC,MC), and only four Jan reports in other parts of the county.

An ad **Bald Eagle** near Blairsville 1/25 (BFa) and an imm near HC 2/12 (RH) were the only reports. The CBC yielded four **N. Harriers**; the only other report was an individual at WL 1/9 (MH,RH) and again 1/28 (LC,SS). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at 13 locations during the

period; **Cooper's**, at nine (v.o.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted only at YC 12/27 (GL,GS). Two WRS routes in the northern part of the county yielded 39 **Red-tailed Hawks** 1/29 (MH,RH) and 31 the following day. **Rough-legged Hawk** reports included two southwest of IN 12/27 (LH,LHe), two at WL 1/28 (LC,SS), a total of four on the two WRS runs 1/29-30 (MH,RH), and one near HC 2/3 (LC). **American Kestrels**, which had been very low in numbers, seemed to improve this season with 19 reports (v.o.).

American Coots at YC 12/1 (LC) numbered 348; the flock gradually decreased until by 12/27 (GL,GS), the last report, only 11 were present. First coot reappeared at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). A **Killdeer** near CM 1/18 was the first report (EB); another appeared there 2/8, but by 2/12, two were present (EB).

Last **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seven at YC 12/14 (LC,SS), the same day the peak count of 104 **Ring-billed Gulls** was achieved. A single **Ring-billed Gull** was seen regularly at YC throughout the period (v.o.). **E. Screeched-Owl** reports included three on the CBC 12/26 (TS), two near LV 12/30 (MC), and one near Homer City 1/8 (LC). The CBC yielded three **Great Horned Owls** (v.o.); the only other reports were individuals near HC 1/8, 12 (LC) and near LV 1/30 (DC). No **Barred Owls** were listed. The WL strips yielded as many as six **Short-eared Owls** 1/9 (MH,RH).

The female **Rufous Hummingbird**, visiting a feeder near Brush Valley since early Nov was seen again 12/8 (GH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were spotted at YC 12/27 (JD,JT), near IN 12/27 (DJ), and near HC 1/18-2/4 (LC). After a count of six **N. Flickers** on the CBC (v.o.), the season's only other report was one 2/1 at YC (LC,MH,LW). The many **Common Raven** reports included one-two near Penn Run 12/9 & 27 (BF,TF) and one near HC 2/10 (LC). **Horned Lark** maxima were 111 near Marion Center 1/30 (MH,RH) and 50 near Clarksburg the same day (MC). The CBC yielded five **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at four locations (v.o.); one-two were found near SH throughout the period; one was on Reservoir Hill in IN 1/7, 15-16 (PJ); another was at YC 1/25 (LC,MH) and 2/1 (LC,MH,LW). Seven **Brown Creepers** at YC 12/27 (MH,RH,CS) was the high count; singletons were spotted 1/1 (MH,RH) at TL and 1/16 (AJ) near Brush Valley. Down from a CBC high of 61, the **Carolina Wren** count was 13 on 12/27 (v.o.); two were present near IN 1/13 (PJ) and one-two near SH throughout the season (MH,RH). **Winter Wren** was listed only at BS (TP,MS) and near IN (LH,LHe), both 12/27. A flock of 39 **E. Bluebird** in the main recreational area at YC 12/27 (GL,GS) was an amazing sight. A **Hermit Thrush** near IN 12/27 (TS) was the lone report. High count of wintering **American Robins** was 38 near Reservoir Hill 1/21 (PJ). The only **Cedar Waxwings** noted were eight at BS 12/27 (TP,MS).

A complete absence of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was unusual. A **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder near Reservoir Hill 1/13-20 (PJ).

A male **E. Towhee** appeared at a feeder near SH 12/14 where it was seen regularly through the end of the period (MH,RH); another was found near IN 12/27 (DC,MC). A good count of **American Tree Sparrows** was 30 at YC 1/15 (Abe,GS). Two **Chipping Sparrows** near IN 12/27 (GF) were unusual. Three **Field Sparrows** made an appearance for the CBC (v.o.); one was observed at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). A **Savannah Sparrow** surfaced near BS 12/27 (TP,MS). Only three **Fox Sparrows** were noted: one near SH 12/14 (MH), one in White Twp. 12/27 (CG,MG), and another near IN 12/27 (DC,MC). Two **Swamp Sparrows** still lingered at YC 1/4 but could not be found thereafter (LC,CG,MH,SS). Three flocks of **White-crowned Sparrows**, totaling 12 individuals were sighted 12/27 (v.o.).

Red-winged Blackbird reports included 25 at YC 12/27 (MH,RH,CS), three-four near LV 1/17-19 (MC), one near YC 2/1 (MH,LW), and one at YC 2/22 (LC,MH,SS). Four **E. Meadowlarks** near WL 1/28 comprised the entire report (LC,SS). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were recorded 12/27 at YC (GL,GS) and 1/17 near LV (MC). One **Brown-headed Cowbird** was near Penn Run 12/27 (IT); others appeared 1/17 both near LV (MC) and near SH (MH). By 1/19 (MC) the LV flock had increased to 80. **Pine Siskin** reports included 17 near IN 12/15 (JD), one near SH 12/17, 23 (MH), and one near IN 12/27 (MP).

Observers: **Roger and Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701 (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Amber Beaulé, Eli Beiler, Lee Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jim Dearing, Bob Fairbanks, Gary Ferrence, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Carol Guba, Michael Guba, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LHe), Gordon Hollingsworth, Dory Jacobs, Anna Jennings, Pat Johnner, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Gib McLaughlin, Tom Pearson, Marjorie Peterson, Matt Sarver, Tom Simmons, Carin Sorosio, Scott Speedy, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Ila Tuorinsky, Linda Wagner.

Jefferson County

No Report. No Compiler.

Juniata County

No Report

Compiler: **Toby Petersheim, RR2, Box 539, Mifflintown, PA 17059**

Lackawanna County

No Report. No Compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Middlecreek WMA (MC)

Winter in *Lancaster* got off to a late start and no snow arrived until late in Jan. It was also a relatively slow season for birds. The Southern Lancaster County Christmas Bird Count was held 12/19 and 48 observers tallied 228,269 birds of 108 species. The rarest sightings were **Cackling Goose, Red-throated Loon, N. Goshawk, Tree Swallow, Wilson's Warbler, and Brewer's Blackbird**. The **Tree Swallow** was the first swallow species of any kind for the count. Unusually high counts included three **Ross's Goose**, 15 **Cooper's Hawks**, 29 **Wilson's Snipe**, seven **N. Saw-whet Owls**, 240 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 60 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 17 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 292 **Carolina Wrens**, two **Brown Thrashers**, 32 **E. Towhees**, and 881 **Song Sparrows**.

The Litz Christmas Bird Count was held 12/26 and recorded 43,318 individuals of 81 species. Highlights included **Cackling Goose, Bald Eagle, Merlin, six Killdeer, 12 Wilson's Snipe, Barn Owl, three Short-eared Owls, two Red-headed Woodpeckers, E. Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 13 Hermit Thrush, two Gray Catbirds, 42 E. Towhees, 16 Fox Sparrows and 27 E. Meadowlarks**. Fieldbirds were also recorded in very strong numbers with a total of **3,293 Horned Larks, 171 American Pipits, five Lapland Longspurs and three Snow Buntings**.

The Lancaster Christmas Bird Count was conducted 1/2 under mild temperatures and little wind. Thirty-one participants tallied a total of 76,977 individuals of 83 species. The most noteworthy birds were **Glaucous Gull, Double-crested Cormorant and Black-crowned Night Heron**.

This winter presented a good selection of waterfowl once again. A **Mute Swan** was noted 2/23 at Muddy Run (CC). In addition to the **Cackling and Ross's Geese** from the Christmas counts one **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MC 12/12 (EW). Reports from MC indicated a high count of 115,000 (estimate by the PA Game Commission) **Snow Geese** 2/26 (DK). A check of Octorara L. 1/7 found thousands of **Canada Geese, Barnacle Goose** (provenance unknown), **Horned Grebe** and three ad and 2 imm **Bald Eagles** (CC). A detailed check of the area the next day did not turn up the **Barnacle Goose**, but did uncover a **Cackling Goose and Wild Turkey**. On 2/20 there were two **Wood Ducks** at MC (CC) and 2/23 there were four at Muddy Run (CC). Two **Canvasbacks** were also at MC 2/20. A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen perched on scaffolding attached to Trinity Lutheran Church on 31 S. Duke Street in the city of Lancaster 2/23 (JH, NP et al). The same bird was seen sporadically into the middle of Mar at the same locations and nearby locations like the Lancaster County Courthouse and the Griest Building in downtown Lancaster. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was spotted in with the thousands of **Ring-billed Gulls** in the Susquehanna R. near Columbia 2/27 (EW). A very early **Tree Swallow** was seen at MC 2/6 (DM). The rarest bird of the season was a **Varied Thrush** that was discovered at MC 1/21 (BH, PH, m.ob.) through at least 2/6 and then again 2/27 (GS). The thrush spent most of its time in the hedge row behind the visitor's center feeding off of multiflora rose hips and it was definitely the highlight of the season for *Lancaster*.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 716 Bentley Ridge Blvd., Lancaster, PA 17602, (717) 940-6067, jmheller@paonline.com**, Jerry Book, Jim Binder (JBi), Ann Bodling, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfont, Larry Coble, Tom Garner, Barb Haas (BH), Frank Haas, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Hopson, Barbara Hunsberger, Peter Hunsberger, Dave Kerr, Kevin Lutz, Geoff Malosh, Doris McGovern, Randy Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Peter Robinson, Bob Schutsky, Glenn Shaffer, Jim Smith, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

No Report.

Compiler: **Randy Stringer, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA 16127, rcstringer@gcc.edu**

Lebanon County

Locations: Memorial Lake S.P. (MLSP), Middlecreek WMA (MC), second Hawk Mountain Watch (2nd Mtn), SGL 145.

Snow Geese at MC reached 115,000 in late Feb. Up to five **Ross' Geese** were found at MC starting 2/12 (RM). A blue phase **Ross' Goose** was found 2/19 at MC (RM, KM). On 2/20 a small **Snow Goose** was found but it had a black lip. There was no blue at the base of the bill (RM). **Canada Goose** numbers peaked in late February with 50,000. Two **Cackling Geese** were found 2/20 at MC (RM). Both birds had dark breasts. One had a white ring at the base of the neck while the other showed none. A pair of **Gadwall** were at a small pond near Annville 1/14 (SW). **N. Pintails** were found at MC from 2/12 with a peak of 6, 2/27 (RM). On 2/11 there were three **Canvasbacks** on Conowago L. in Mt. Greta even though the lake was mostly frozen. They were last seen 2/17 (RM, KM). A count of 52 **Common Mergansers** for the Lebanon Christmas Count 1/2 was a good Jan count. A **Common Loon** flying over MLSP 2/19 was the only report (RM, KM).

Bald Eagles were reported all period from MC and through Dec at 2nd Mt. (m.obs.). **N. Harriers** were reported all period with four at MC in Jan.

Rough-legged Hawks were reported from 2nd Mt. from mid-Dec. Beginning 1/21 (GB, RL) and through the end of the period, and throughout *Lebanon* Rough-legged Hawks were found. Two **Golden Eagles** were seen at 2nd Mt. in mid-Dec.

Killdeer were present most of the period. They were present on State Dr. at an industrial pond during late Jan (RM). A high count of 20 **Wilson's Snipe** was along Bachman Run 1/2 (KL, JL). A high count of 3750 **Herring Gulls** at MLSP 12/12 also had 42 **Great Black-backed Gulls** (RM). A 1st year **Iceland Gull** was found 1/1 at MLSP for the only report (RM). Up to five **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen at MLSP 1/16 (CB, RM).

Barn Owls were present all quarter near Bachmanville (LC) and Lawn (RM). **Short-eared Owls** were again at MC with four being seen (m.obs). On 2/5 one was seen on Valley Glen Rd. (DS). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found dead at Camp Shand in Jan along Rt. 322. (TP).

A high count of 154 **Fish Crows** were counted 1/2 during the Lebanon Christmas Count. **Horned Larks** were in low number with 325 being seen 1/2. **American Robins** were found in the 100's in early Jan (m.obs). Two **Lapland Longspurs** were found near Valley Glen Rd. 2/2 (RS). A new count of 6000 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** along State Dr. was a roost county high.

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr. Manheim, PA 17545 (717) 664-3778**, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, Jineen Boyle, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Larry Cobble, John Fedak, Fritz Heilman, Gary Koppenhaver, Gayle Lawrence, Ken and Jane Light, Richard Light, Kate Miller, Stephine Miller, Tom Powers, Steve Rannels, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Dennis Wengle, Susan Wheeler, Fred Wilcox.

Lehigh County

Any winter bird count for *Lehigh* has to start with Lehigh Valley Audubon Society's 61st annual Christmas Bird Count. A new species added to the count was a **Wilson's Warbler** seen by Steve Smith's team. Record numbers for 10 species were three **Mute Swans**, two **Peregrine Falcons**, 34 **Killdeer**, 279 **Ring-billed Gull**, ten **Fish Crows**, 25 **Carolina Chickadees**, 172 **Carolina Wrens**, nine **Winter Wrens**, three **Pine Warblers**, and 1640 **White-throated Sparrows**. During the winter bird census conducted by the Wildlife Information Center 1/15 the following birds were seen all in the vicinity of Germansville, imm **Golden Eagle** (JH), **American Pipits**, **Snow Buntings**, and **Horned Larks** (m.obs). On 1/9 around 20 **Black Vultures** were seen feeding on a deer carcass near Lanark (BM,PM). This is the largest number of **Black Vultures** the observers have seen outside the south. A huge flock of around 10000 **Snow Geese** (JO) was seen flying over Lynn Twp. 1/4. A male **Wood Duck** was seen picking up seed beneath feeders in Lower Macungie Twp. 2/6 (JL). A **Common Merganser** was seen on Spring Creek in Lower Macungie Twp. 2/28(JL). A **Cooper's Hawk** was hanging around bird feeders 12/19 and 1/28 (JL). A crowd of people 2/6 were watching an imm **Red-tailed Hawk** devour a **Ring-billed Gull** in the local Walmart parking lot. Three **Pine Warblers** were seen at feeders in West Allentown sporadically during the winter (JB,NB). Also seen at the same feeders were three **Baltimore Orioles**. An early flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were seen in Lower Macungie Twp. 1/29 (JL). Flocks of **Horned Larks** and occasional **Snow Buntings** were seen most of the winter on Smith Lane near Alburtis (mobs).

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Lehigh, PA 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl@planet-save.com**, John Boyer, Nancy Boyer, Jeff Hopkins, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Jane Ostroski.

Luzerne County

No Report. No Compiler.

Lycoming County

Snowy Owls were observed at the Lycoming Mall 12/4 (CCH, DF, SP, WL) and an imm along the Susquehann R. in Williamsport 12/13-18 (MK et al.). It was subsequently found dead 12/18 of apparent starvation.

No Report. Observations submitted by Wayne Laubscher.

Observers: **Steve Pinkerton, 182 Log-Run Road, Williamsport, PA 17701, (570) 494-1308, stevepinkerton@suscom.net**, David Ferry, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Mike Kuriga, Wayne Laubscher.

McKean County

The winter season began pretty slow and below average even for this far north county. But the first day of this reporting period had a nice raptor. A **Merlin** was observed hanging around the American Refining Group refinery and seemed to be eyeing the abundant **Rock Pigeon** flock there! (L&JF). Then things slowed down. That is until Len Groshek called 1/15 to report that he found a **Townsend's Solitaire**. The bird was very cooperative and as of this writing is still at the site in Gamelands 30 near Betula. The next morning there were three birders there (and myself) in a snowstorm from three far-reaching parts of the state – Rick Wiltraut,

Ben Coulter, and Peter Robinson. During the day Wayne and Bill Laubscher arrived and were treated to good looks as well. Many observers came to see the bird, a great introduction into birding *McKean* albeit for most a rather frigid one! The average temperature during this reporting cycle was well below freezing with many days in the negative digits (or double digits!). In minus 15 degree temperatures 1/21, Joyce Hoffmann, Geoff Malosh and Dave Wilton saw the solitaire as well as Mary Grishaver and Terry Ashbaugh. Gary Felton also saw the bird 1/29 and had driven 300 miles with his wife Joanne from WV. The depths birders will go to and endure to see a bird! Len Groshek and his family did a great job of keeping tabs on the solitaire. The Townsend's Solitaire became somewhat famous around here with a nice article and a photograph on the front page of *the Bradford Era!* To date, over 80 birders have seen the solitaire, and a few have missed it even after trying. I tried to keep track of everyone that saw or tried to see the bird and I know that I missed many. If I missed you and you made a point of telling me about your adventure, I am sorry. If I misspelled any names or got them wrong, I am sorry. For many birders it was their first trip to the county and many reported that they liked what they saw.

As more birders came to see the bird, I started to get reports of other birds being seen. From 1/15 a **Gray Catbird** that was still in the area near Crosby (LG). **Pine Siskins** coming to a feeder near Betula (JF). A hunter reported seeing a small covey of **N. Bobwhite** in Gamelands 30. A **N. Shrike** was seen near East Smethport on the same day. **Purple Finches**, **Common Ravens** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported at the solitaire site 1/15-17 (RS, GE). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in the same area 1/15-18 (KL, HL et al.).

On 1/19, a **Barred Owl** was heard near Pine Acres Golf Course in Marshburg, but it was too dangerous on the roads for any observers that day. There was a of a **Bald Eagle** on a road kill in the gamelands 1/20 (LG).

During a Winter Raptor Survey in the county 1/23, ten **Red-tailed Hawks** and one **Rough-legged Hawk** were found. The **Rough-legged Hawk** was near Turtlepoint. An imm **Golden Eagle** was seen in the Gamelands near the parking lot 1/23 as well. On 1/27, Mike Fialkovich observed the solitaire and also noted **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Brown Creeper**.

This is a bird abundant county that is still in need of birders. Volunteers willing to spend a few nights during the upcoming breeding bird seasons to help atlas Region 32 would be greatly appreciated! I am organizing a Block-busting Weekend for June 10, 11 and 12 if any one is interested please contact me. Who knows what birds can be found if someone were actually looking!

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 275-4086, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Joel Anderson, Terry Ashbaugh, Chuck Berthoud, Suzanne and Gene Butcher, Ben Coulter, Jim Dunn, Gary Edwards, Danny Fedak, Lisa Fedak, Ross Gallardy, Gary and JoAnne Felton, Mike Fialkovich, Mike Fowles, Dale Gearhart, Kathie Goodblood, Mary Grishaver, Jody Groshek, Len Groshek, Deb and Greg Grove, Joyce Hoffmann, Tom Hopson, Pat Howell, Jim Hoyson, Kathy and Mark Johnson, Bill Judd, Bob Keener, Rick Koval, Bill Laubscher, Wayne Laubscher, Jerry Lazarczyk, Harold Lebo, Ken Lebo, Geoff Malosh, Flo McGuire, Ellwood Meyers, Jake Mohlmann, Ron Montgomery, Linda Monti, Amy Morrison, Lynn Ostrander, Janet Price, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Rought JR., Lee Ann Reiners, Peter Robinson, Mike Schall, Carlton Schooley, Dana and Walt Shaffer, Sam and Dorothy Sinderson, Rosemary Spreha, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Scott Stoelson, Gary Ubaghs, Don Watts, Carole Willenpart, Jim Wilson, Dave Wilton, Rick Wiltraut, John Yerger.

Mercer County

Locations: Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Williamson Rd. (WR), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

South bound flights of **Tundra Swan** continued until 1/1. Two very early north bound skeins were seen 2/21 and 2/24, and were lines headed west and low over SRR, not high northwest crossings, as usual. Possibly the Feb swans were searching for food or a place to rest. (SRR was frozen). Twenty **Red-breasted Merganser** flew over WR 12/12 (NT). A very early **Turkey Vulture** was at SRR 2/19 (MM). Two **Bald Eagle** stayed at WR until 1/6 (NT), one ad and two imm were seen at SEE 1/21. On the WRS 1/21, SB and LW counted one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 30 **Red-tailed Hawks**, both at SRR and two light phase and one dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** at Stonebase Rd. Another **Rough-legged** was at Salt Spring Rd. 2/17 (NT).

Killdeer were probably present all period, since one was spotted 12/2 and 2/15, both WR. One **Wilson's Snipe** was found 1/21 at Stonebase Cannery Rds. (SB, LW). One **Belted Kingfisher** braved it until 1/8 at SRR, and one **Red-headed Woodpecker** also hung around until 1/4 at Coolspring Rd. (NT).

At an Amish area near Mercer, there were 350 **Horned Larks** 1/21 (SB, LW), and 50 were at Rutledge Rd. 1/23 (MM). SB and LW found a **Gray Catbird** at Rogus Rd., and five **N. Mockingbirds** on the WRS. A **N. Shrike** was a significant find 1/4 (NT). A few **Golden-crowned Kinglets**

were at various locations off and on throughout the period. Up to 40 **American Tree Sparrows** were at NT's feeder all period as well. Three **White-crowned Sparrow** were counted on the WRS.

Snow Bunting were observed on three occasions: five 12/26 on Zahnizer Rd., 17, 1/21 at Anderson / Mercer-New Castle Rd., and 30, 2/5 at Wolff Rd. Seven **Rusty Blackbird** were at Pensey Swamp 2/4 (NT). Brief appearances at feeders were one **Common Redpoll** 2/24, and three **Pine Siskin** 12/15, both WR (NT).

The above are only the outstanding sightings; a total of 64 spp were tallied.

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 East Lake Rd., Transfer, PA 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Marvin Byler, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Allen Troyer, Eli Troyer, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer, Linda Wagner.

Mifflin County

No Report.

Observers: **J. Irvin Zook, 132 Beech Tree Lane, Belleville, PA 17004, knjzook@pa.net**

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

The first half of the period was relatively mild with little snowfall. The remainder of the season experienced more typical winter weather with colder temperatures and more snow. An early Jan ice storm hit the area hard with many down trees and branches. No report for the Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count was received.

Single ad **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen near Neola 1/18 and Bartonsville 2/3 (BH). Two **Ruffed Grouse** at Skytop 2/24 and a **Barred Owl** at Buck Hill Falls 12/30 (JS). The **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at DWGNRA's headquarters swamp near Bushkill have departed. The last known sighting was in early Oct 2004 (DS). This species had occupied this location since 1994.

A **N. Shrike** was reported from Stoddartsville 12/15 where it took a songbird at a feeder (BC) and another was in the Gilbert area early to mid-Feb (CH). A great yard bird were the four **Common Ravens** 1/23 at a Stoddartsville home where two were again seen the following day (BC). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, scarce this winter, was seen at Skytop 2/23 (JS). **American Robins**, on the other hand, were more numerous this winter. At Skytop a flock of 25 mixed with about 50 **Cedar Waxwings** feeding in a crabapple tree 12/30 (JS). The four **Snow Buntings** at Big Pocono State Park 2/19 were a good find (BS).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**. Bud Cook, Claus Herrmann, Brian Schippers, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The winter season was yet another with above average precipitation. Temperatures ranged from above average in Dec and Jan to well below average at the end of Feb. Birding was unspectacular, overall, as winter finches were nearly absent and raptors were below average.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** at GLR 1/6 was unusual for mid-Winter (KC). Waterfowl variety was good with 22 species reported. Highlights included 22 **Tundra Swans** 2/16, one-two **Cackling Geese** through the period, and one-two **Greater White-fronted Geese** 2/13-28 (KC, GF, m.obs). **Wood Duck** were "late" 12/23-30 at UPVP and "early" at Church Rd, GLR 2/28 (RG, SL, KC). Diving duck reports included two **Greater Scaup** 12/17, a **Common Goldeneye** 2/15, and three **Red-breasted Mergansers** 12/16, all from GLR (GAF, KC).

Raptors of note were few in the county, but did include an imm **Rough-legged Hawk** at Walt Rd, GLR 12/27, and another (light morph adult) at Church Rd 1/2-2/5 (GAP, SG, m.obs). An imm **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in Elkins Park 1/2 (PD) represented our only report. One-two **N. Harriers** were sporadic at Church Road, GLR throughout the period. (m.obs). Green Lane's resident **Bald Eagle** pair began incubation on a "record-early date" 2/9 (KC, GAP, SR). Supplemental feeding with road-killed deer drew far more attention from **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Crows** than it did from eagles. (m.obs). In late Feb, I observed a **Red-tailed Hawk** engaged in a surprising foraging behavior. I watched an adult bird visiting five different leaf nests of Gray Squirrels. The bird initially landed a few feet above a nest, after which it hopped down on top of the nest. It made several downward thrusts (or probes) with one foot and then the other. After coming up empty at the first nest, the bird proceeded to visit four more nests within an area of 100 square feet. When all this effort failed to produce a meal, the bird flew into deeper woods and out of sight. While it is well known that Red-tails prey on

squirrels, I had never seen or heard of this behavior before. (KC)

Our erratic weather pattern may have accounted for a **Killdeer** 12/19 (late for "fall") and another 2/20 (early for "spring"), both at GLR (GLF, KC). As usual, gulls were unspectacular in the county. Up to six **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Walt Road, GLR 12/13-18, and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** peaked at nine at Church Road 1/9 (GAP, KC).

Noteworthy among owl reports were a **Barred Owl** 12/1-1/31, and a **Short-eared Owl** 2/28, both at PERT (PD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Common Flicker** were regular at suet feeders in western *Montgomery*, and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were occasional at several locales in and around GLR and UPVP (m.obs). A **N. Shrike** found last period at PERT remained there until at least 2/19 (PD, m.obs). Another one was found dead on Knight Road, GLR 2/13 (SR). A **Gray Catbird** was a good find at PERT 1/1 and 2/5 (PD).

Sparrows had a good showing overall, with seven species reported. Groups of three-six **White-crowned Sparrows** were regular at feeders in Gilbertsville, Pennsburg, and Upper Hanover Twps. (BA, GAP, LR). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at a feeder near UPVP all quarter, and an "early migrant" was at GLR Nature Center 2/4 (RG, KC). An unbelievable 12 **Fox Sparrows** were reported at PERT through the period (PD). PERT also hosted a **Chipping Sparrow** 1/2-29 and 20+ **Savannah Sparrows** 2/28 (PD). An **E. Towhee** was at a feeder near UPVP 12/11-28, and several more were reported at PERT through the quarter (RG, PD). A **Pine Warbler** in Elkins Park 12/28-29 was another good find in eastern *Montgomery* (PD).

A lone (lost ?) **Common Grackle** was at GLR Nature Center 1/13, and five **E. Meadowlarks** were at Church Rd, GLR 1/26 (KC).

A single **Purple Finch** at Walt Rd, GLR was our only report (GAP). **Pine Siskin** fared little better with a single bird at GLR 12/15 and three in Upper Hanover Twp. 1/15 (GAP, LR). We hope to do better on finches next year, because it will be hard to do any worse !

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, great-gray@att.net**, Beth Allen, Paul Driver, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Steve Grunwald, Paul and Anita Guns, Steve Lawrence, Augie and Judy Mirabella, Larry Rhodes, Steve Rothenberger.

Montour County

L. Chillisquaque at PPL's Montour Preserve hosted **Bufflehead**, **Common** and **Hooded Mergansers**, **Mallards**, **American Black Duck** and **Canada Geese** throughout most of the month until the lake was completely frozen over. **Canada Geese** and **Common Mergansers** took advantage of the first open water on L. Chillisquaque 2/16. **Tundra Swans** appeared on the lake ice 2/23 as did a large flock of **Snow Geese**. Numbers of **Tundra Swans** varied throughout the last week of Feb reaching a high of 90, 2/27.

A **Cooper's Hawk** made frequent appearances throughout the period in and around Montour Preserve's Visitor Center occasionally visiting the bird feeding area for a little "bird feeding" of its own. On 2/5, two **Rough-legged Hawks** put on an interesting, but brief aerial display as the smaller of the two dove from higher up on the larger of the pair. This second bird twisted on its back and answered the calls of the first bird. The observation ended as the smaller hawk followed the larger one out of sight. Several **Rough-legged Hawks**, both light and dark phase, were present in northern *Montour* from late Dec-Feb as were **N. Harriers**. **Red-tailed Hawks** were quite numerous in the county during this period.

A **Snowy Owl** was observed flying over a field in northern *Montour* 2/3 (MK). The first **Short-eared Owl** appeared 12/21 in Anthony Twp. along Preserve Rd. Two **Short-eared Owls** were reported at a winter roost site along Stamm Road 1/15 (WL). This is far fewer than in previous years. **Long-eared Owls** were at a winter roost site on Montour Preserve again this year, but almost a month later than observed in previous years. Although not there for the Christmas Bird Count 12/21, they were observed there 1/21 (WL). Bob Bleiler reported spotting a **Snowy Owl** in a field along Blee Hill Road 1/31.

An **American Robin** appeared 2/9 on a farm along Route 44 according (TB).

Observers: **Jon Beam, Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Rd., Danville, PA 17821, (570) 437-3131, jdbeam@pplweb.com**, Tom Benfer, Bob Bleiler, Mike Kuriga, Wayne Laubscher.

Observations from Montour County omitted from Fall Season: **American Avocet** 9/30-10/1, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/18, **Western Sandpiper** 9/19 and **Red-necked Phalarope** 9/9 all at Washingtonville from Wayne Laubscher.

Northampton County

Locations: Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Northampton Quarry (NQ)

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the Greenland race was at the MCEP 2/20 (BW). During the Merrill Creek Christmas Bird Count 12/26,

a **Ross's Goose** was located along RT611 in Lower Mount Bethel Twp. (RW). Since the split of **Cackling Goose** from Canada Goose, birders have been reporting this species regularly. The Nazareth quarry and the NQ have had several **Cackling Goose** sightings. On 2/27, the NQ held a male **Canvasback**, **Greater Scaup**, and **American Coots** (BM, NS). There were three **Great Cormorants** 12/21 at the Martins Creek quarry (BW). On 2/22, five **Wilson's Snipe** were at Church Rd. in Moore Twp. (DW). Other highlights from the Merrill Creek CBC included 638 **Mallards** on the Martins Creek quarry, a 1st winter **Iceland Gull** and 1st winter **Glaucous Gull** at the MCEP (JD, et al). Also seen that day at the MCEP were over 13,000 **Common Grackles** including an all white bird. In a cedar stand at the MCEP, a **N. Saw-whet Owl** was found 12/22 (MS). Fresh manure on the fields at nearby Willow Brook Farm attracted over 1000 **Horned Larks** 1/31 (MS).

The county had a number of lingering birds in Dec. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was around until 12/2 at Monacacy Nature Center (LF). **Gray Catbirds** were reported from the NQ 1/14 (DW) and in Moore Twp. 12/12-20 (JN, DW). There was a female **Common Yellowthroat** in East Allen Twp. 12/2 (BM). Finally, there was a female **Scarlet Tanager** visiting a feeder in Nazareth 12/10.

Last winter, an ad **Harris's Sparrow** spent several months at a cow pasture full of multi-flora rose near the town of Stone Church. What would the odds be that this area would attract another rare **Harris's Sparrow**? On 1/18, it happened, a 1st winter **Harris's Sparrow** was found at the same location (RW). The bird continued until at least 3/7. Two **Lapland Longspurs** and 15 **Snow Buntings** were at Graver's Hill 1/29-30 (DW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 1149 Mickley Ave., Whitehall, PA 18052, (610) 435-2781, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, John Drabic, Linda Freedman, Betsy Mescavage, Joshua Nemeth, Nancy Shala, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut.

Northumberland County
No Report. No Compiler.

Perry County

Very little personal birding was done in the county this winter. The most notable events were the New Bloomfield CBC and a Winter Raptor Survey done in the northeastern portion of the county.

The New Bloomfield CBC was held 12/26 and produced 80 species, which is a little higher than average. Notable observations during the count were record highs of **Black Vulture** with 25, a high of 11 **N. Saw-whet Owls** and a trio of highs in the woodpecker family to include **Hairy**, **N. Flicker** and **Pileated**. The high owl total can be attributed to the concerted effort of a few rabid individuals. As for the woodpeckers maybe the area is prime habitat?

A WRS was held 1/29 in the area between Millerstown and Liverpool. Incredible concentrations of raptors were found along Ridge Road just west of Liverpool. The entire count, just 22.3 miles in length tallied 63 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 16 **Rough-legged Hawks!** (DG, DO, GW). After a check of the Ridge Road raptor area 1/31 a stop by the farm fields near Nekoda yielded 350+ **Horned Lark**, 25 **American Pipit**, 35 **Snow Bunting** and six **Lapland Longspur**. (DH)

Observers: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**, Dave Grove, Ramsay Koury, Don Orris, Gene Wagner.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census (1/8) (PMBC), Schuylkill River (SR), Southwest Water Pollution Control facility (SWPC), Wissahickon Creek (WC)

We'll start with the details of one hummingbird mentioned in the last report. A retired couple, who don't have a bird book or binoculars, maintain four hummingbird feeders and keep careful notes on birds' arrival and departure dates at their Pennypack area home. They reported that a large hummingbird with green back, not as sleek as the Ruby-throated of summer, was present at their feeders from at least 10/1-12/5. They removed the feeder 12/9 when the bird did not feed for four days. Extensive questioning did not produce a more specific identification. Their records go back to 1999 and show a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrival date of 4/17 in 2000, just one day later than the record set by William Bartram in the early 19th century (thanks, KR).

This report relies heavily on the 19th Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census (PMBC) organized by Keith Russell 1/8 when 44 birders in 22 parties scoured **Philadelphia** in rain and fog that proved to be one of the worst count days with the third lowest total, 83 species. The 21 **N. Rough-winged Swallows** and an **Ovenbird**, both new to the count, brought the species grand total to 140. On 1/8 SCEE also held its annual

winter census with 32 species reported and I have a few results from the Pennypack CBC 12/18 (partly in Philadelphia).

We were having a mild winter until a freeze in mid-Dec closed the open water and chased out many ducks and half-hardy species, as usual. After Christmas, several snows accumulated until some unseasonably warm days defrosted the ground, only to have snow-cover from 1/19 on. The 11/26 oil spill by the tanker "*Athos I*" spread north and south along the DR for 59 miles. The clean-up activity on the river and along the shorelines probably contributed to the dearth of waterfowl this winter. In an oil spill in 1947, 9000 **Ruddy Duck** were killed. Imagine the impact of the 2004 spill if there had been thousands of **Ruddy Duck** in the area; 14 was the total for **Ruddy Duck** 1/8 when less than 1500 ducks and mergansers combined were tallied. Yet, with relatively low numbers of waterfowl, 366 oiled birds were recovered, successfully treated and released at Tri-state Bird Research and Rescue in Newark, DE. In addition, 178 died and probably more were never recovered. Species most affected were **Canada Goose** and **Ring-billed Gull**. **Mallard**, **American Black Duck**, both **cormorants**, as well as **Bufflehead**, **Great Blue Heron**, **American Coot**, **Canvasback** and **Belted Kingfisher** were also affected. Knowing the sleeping roost of the **Bald Eagle** pair from Gibbstown, NJ, I was able to scope them for possible contamination. It's hard to see oil on a black bird at dusk and I may have missed some, but the birds appeared to be unharmed.

There's often a stray **Snow Goose** around, although they're harder to find since the resident bird at TI disappeared (probably died of old age). At Spring Lane in northwest **Philadelphia**, CH found a **Snow Goose** among a flock of **Canada Geese** in the fields of Manatauna Farm 12/26 and JM found two more on the PMWC.

A **Black Vulture** soaring over PEC is another report of the continuing increase of the species in **Philadelphia** (BS). A **N. Goshawk** was found on the Pennypack CBC 12/18 and is still being seen at the Foxchase Farm. Chuck Lyman, who birds the area around Pennypack and the river reports **Bald Eagles** repeatedly. Although everyone suspects they are nesting, no one can confirm that this is not the pair from Petty Island (7 miles south along the river as the eagle flies). CM saw a **Merlin** eating a **N. Cardinal** at TI 1/30. Birders reported that two **American Kestrel** were perching on a Rittenhouse Sq. balcony. Perhaps they're imitating Central Park's "Pale Male." CL also had a **Peregrine Falcon** take a **Mourning Dove** at the Frankford Arsenal parking lot, after which an **American Kestrel** came in to look over the remainder of the carcass.

A **Common Moorhen** was found on the "cross dike," the borderline between **Philadelphia** and **Delaware**, 12/18 (RM). No **Killdeer** were seen this season and the species was missed on the PMWC for the first time ever. The best finds of waterfowl come from the PMWC: 12 **Canvasback** and a **Horned Grebe** on the DR (BF, BM). That grebe was still present 1/24 (CL). Dabblers in the sludge ponds near the airport and the small ponds at FDR Park were unremarkable. The impoundment at TI, when open, held 60-100 **Common Mergansers**, more than the total of all dabbling ducks present, even though the water is very shallow. Several TI volunteers and I conducted point count surveys for the Fish and Wildlife Service for oiled waterfowl throughout Dec. I observed few ducks, except 40 **N. Shoveler**, **Mallard**, **American Black Duck**, **Green-winged Teal** and 60 **American Coot**, along the DR and Darby Creek in hours of point counts. It was common to see 50-100 or more oiled gulls in each four-hour route and affected birds were reported from as far inland as **Berks**. **Common Goldeneye** and both **scaup** were missed or absent this winter, which may be due to the *Athos I* oil spill or the vagaries of migration. A **Great Egret** was at TI 1/8 (DM) and a first winter **Iceland Gull** at the mouth of the Frankford River was a 5th PMWC record (RH, RG).

A small roost of at least three **Long-eared Owls** are hiding in honeysuckle vines at TI (CM). One of the **Great Horned Owl** pairs at TI is brooding a chick on a public footpath much to the delight of visitors. The chick was fed by one of the parents as a group of birders watched. The **Barred Owl** continues to be heard from KR's Mt Airy home, but it's roost and feeding place are not known. The only **N. Saw-whet Owl** found was picked off the Bell Atlantic Building at 18th and Cherry Street, taken to rehab and released.

American Crow numbers have always topped 1000 on the PMWC, and in 2002 over 3000 crows were tallied. So, the 98 **American Crows** on the 2005 PMWC are either a stunning testimony to the power of West Nile Virus or an unexplained anomaly. **Fish Crow**, which are half as susceptible to West Nile Virus as **American Crow**, dropped to three birds. **Blue Jay**, considered to be less susceptible to the virus, usually tallied around 100, but jay totals dropped to just 14, 1/8.

Pileated Woodpecker sightings are rare in **Philadelphia**, so the bird FW saw on the Pennypack CBC was a treat. Several **Horned Lark** wintered at PHL, often within city limits (AG, DM).

Our swallow saga began with a super-late record, four **N. Rough-winged Swallow** at SWPC 12/31 (AG, BG). KR reminded me of a lone **N. Rough-winged** found on the Wilmington, DE CBC in 2001. However, that does not make the group of 21 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** foraging over the sewage ponds at the Northeast Water Pollution Control facility, across from the Tioga Marine Terminal, any less spectacular 1/8 (RH, PK, MS). This will be a really late or a really early record, depending how you look at it. It is the only Jan record known for **Philadelphia**. As I

write this in late-Feb the swallows continue to be seen and it appears the same group overwintered.

Black-capped Chickadees invaded the area and were found at many feeders and in small feeding flocks at TI. SCEE found seven in their woods 1/8. PEC installed some **E. Bluebird** houses as part of a Boy Scout project and staff reports overwintering bluebirds for the first time in many years. With no **Palm Warbler** or **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reported, the **Ovenbird** found on the PMWC was terrific. It was found in a small garden behind the Old City Tavern at 2nd and Walnut (DW).

American Tree Sparrows were scarce compared to last year, but **Fox Sparrow** and **Field Sparrow** seemed to be average. **Rusty Blackbirds** in small numbers survived at TI into Feb. The influx of **Purple Finches** which seemed so promising early in the fall dwindled, so that no individuals were reported in Jan. CH heard a **Pine Siskin** fly over his house 12/23. JMCK reported the earliest flock of **Common Grackles** returning to his neighborhood 1/31.

Contributors: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu.** Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Ish D'lessandro, Steve Dupont, Jeff Faust, Lynn Faust, Bert Filemyr, Robert Goff, Gregg Gorton, Al Guarente, Bryan Guarente, Nikolas Haass, Chuck Hetzel, Rick Horwitz, Ken Januski, Peter Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Jim McKinney, John Miller, Bill Murphy, Charles Muntean, Edie Parnum, Mary Phalan, Rich Horwitz, Tom Reeves, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Matt Sharp, Kate Somerville, David Weidner, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

Location: Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

This report is based on the data compiled from PEEC's 12/19 Christmas Bird Count (CBC), PEEC staff notes, PEEC led bird walks, and the bird registry in PEEC's visitor center.

The 12/19 PEEC CBC afforded several great looks at waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers, songbirds, etc. Some of the highlights within *Pike* included: **Mute Swans**, **American Black Ducks**, **Ring-necked Ducks** (30), **Common Goldeneyes** (62), **Bufflehead** (1), **Common Mergansers**, **Hooded Mergansers** (10), **Ring-billed Gulls** (1,352), **Greater Black-backed Gulls** (22), **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawks** (8), **Bald Eagles** (3), **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** (3), **Brown Creeper**, **Carolina Wrens** (7), **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** (3), **Gray Catbirds** (2), **E. Bluebirds** (11), **American Robins** (319), **Cedar Waxwings** (93), **Purple Finches** (3-very low numbers compared to PEEC's 2003 CBC), **Field Sparrow** (1), **American Tree Sparrows** (38).

Raptor sightings included a male **N. Harrier** flying south at sunset over PEEC's front pond 1/17 (EH). Earlier that day a rare visitor, a juv **Golden Eagle** was spotted circling over PEEC's main building 1/17 (EH). An ad **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen perched in a Black Walnut tree over PEEC's butterfly garden 1/18 (EH).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was flushed out near PEEC's beaver swamps 1/23 (EH). Two early arriving **American Woodcocks** were spotted during a Family Nature Weekend morning bird walk near PEEC's boardwalk 2/19 (PF).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was observed around the back section of PEEC's front pond 12/8 (MB). A great look at two **Pileated Woodpeckers** was afforded to a PEEC instructor over the western portion PEEC's Sunrise trail 12/26 (MG). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and **N. Flicker** were spotted around PEEC's beaver swamps 1/23 (EH).

A pair of **Common Ravens** were observed soaring over PEEC's front pond 2/13. (EH, SQ). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were spotted throughout the winter feeding on black-oil sunflower seeds around cabin 28's feeders 2/10 (MB), while later in the month a rarely seen bird, the **Winter Wren**, was briefly spotted flitting in and around the underbrush along the stream that connects into PEEC's front pond 2/28 (EH). Previous to this Feb sighting, a lone **Winter Wren** was observed around the beaver swamps 1/23 (EH). A small number of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were spotted flitting about in PEEC's Pine Plantation 2/19 (PF). Eleven **E. Bluebirds** were observed feeding on Staghorn Sumac berries in front of PEEC's main building 1/18 (EH). Near PEEC's Two Ponds Trail, PEEC's Naturalist 1/19 registered a **Hermit Thrush** (EH).

PEEC joined the rage of early **Fox Sparrows** reported in PA with one at cabin 28's feeders 2/18 about 3 weeks earlier than normal (MB). A good number of **Pine Siskins** were heard and sighted this winter in and around PEEC's feeders 12/4 (KG), 2/1, 2/10, 2/18 (MB) although the total number of winter finches was low.

Observers: **Mike Brubaker, RR2 Box 1010 Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328, mikebru@Qtd.net,** John Benzing, Adele Breikreitz, Pat Fellion, Mike Galbraith, Kristen Garvin, Ethan Huller, Sylvia Kleff, Jim Lariviere, Pat Lariviere, E. Lindsay, Carol Padalino, John Padalino, D. Witting, Peter Wulffurst, Shannon Queen. A special thank you to Shannon Queen for compiling this winter's report.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Landingville Dam (LVD), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Swatara State Park (SSP).

Two **Green-winged Teal** were a nice find in *Schuylkill* for a CBC near Pitman 12/18 (MW, JhD, JnD). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** were at LVD 2/6 (TC). From 2/19-26, two-three **Redheads** were seen at LVD (DK, TC). Some post-season raptor watching at HMS from late Dec to early Jan produced eight **Bald Eagles**, two **Golden Eagles**, a **Rough-legged Hawk**, as well as other raptors (JS). The **Rough-legged Hawk** and **N. Harrier** numbers for this winter were down some from last year's large influx, but some were seen. The Mabel area held a **Short-eared Owl** 12/18 and 12/29 (DK).

Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near Molino 1/1 (SG). Another was also observed coming to a feeder in the Tamaqua area from late Dec and throughout the winter (JM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were not abundant this winter, but **Hermit Thrushes** were observed at a number of locations. A very good winter find was a **Common Yellowthroat** at Adamsdale 2/14 (BJ).

Normally, a rather rare winter species to be reported in *Schuylkill*, an **E. Towhee** was seen in the Lewistown Valley 12/28 (SaW). Another visited a property in the New Ringgold area 1/25 (DW), and a third was seen in *Schuylkill Haven* 2/7 (BJ). Four **Savannah Sparrow** were seen on our Western *Schuylkill* CBC in the Hegins area 2/18 (AC, BC). The Christmas Count also produced one of our best winter finds, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** 2/18 (AC, BC) near Hegins. **Lapland Longspur** was seen on a farm field at Kehler 1/15 (DK). Different than the past few years, no **Snow Buntings** were seen for this winter.

The Suedberg area had three **E. Meadowlarks** 1/29 (MW). A rare bird during this winter, two **Pine Siskins** were seen at a New Ringgold feeder from 1/1-3 (DW).

Observers: **Dave Kruei 540 Pine Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 (569) 621-3704,** Dave Barber, Barb Birosik Aaron Clauser, Brian Clauser, Tom Clauser, John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko, Denise Donmoyer, Kerry Grim, Sue Guers, Barb Jucker, Doris Klint, Carole Laughlin, Joe Matukonis, Joe Scholtes, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Nancy Trout, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Sally Weisacosky, Doug Wood.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake and Environs (FL), Middle Creek Twp. (MCT), Middleburg Lake (ML), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

As waterfowl started replacing ice-fishermen on the county's lakes in early Mar few reports were submitted. At ML 3/8, ten **Canvasback**, 10 **scaup sps.**, a **Gadwall** and a **Ring-necked Duck** were found; while at FL 3/18, 250 **Tundra Swan**, 12 **N. Pintail**, **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, and **Red-breasted Merganser** were reported (MB). **Rough-legged Hawk** reports came from FL 1/20 (CK), from MCT just west of Selinsgrove 1/21 (MB), and two were found on the WRS for the western half of the county 1/31 (P&RW). Three **Short-eared Owls** were flushed at FL 1/30 (CB).

The major attraction in *Snyder* this period was the **N. Shrike** that claimed the fields at the west end of FL in mid-Dec and remained through, at least, mid-Mar (MB, et al.). Many birders paid a visit to this habitat to catch a glimpse of this unusual winter visitor and sometimes found something else. That was the case 1/19 when, in pursuit of the **N. Shrike**, an **E. Phoebe** was discovered at the east end of FL (CK, AT, DH). During the WRS, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found about a mile west of FL along Stage Rd. and a small flock of about 12 **E. Meadowlarks** were in a field along Rt. 522 just east of McClure 1/31 (P&RW).

The only warblers reported were the **American Redstart** that first appeared at a MCT feeder in early Nov and remained to 12/11, and a **Pine Warbler** that was a harbinger of spring at the same location 3/17 (D&MB).

Observers: **Richard and Patricia Williams, 3 Parkside Ave., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com,** Chuck Berthoud, Donna & Mick Brown, Jonathan DeBalko, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Hopson, Chad Kauffmann, Rosemary Spreha, Jim Stoner, Aden Troyer, Guy Ubagh.

Somerset County

Locations: Allegheny Plateau Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (APAS CBC), Berlin Area (BA), High Point Lake (HLP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Youghiegheny River at Confluence (YRC).

Generally mild conditions with more rain and less snow than normal, and only brief periods of frigid temperatures, resulted in many late departures and unusual wintering birds for *Somerset*. A few winter specialists showed up making for good early numbers on the year list.

Unusual for the date was a **Common Loon** at QR 1/11. **Great Blue Herons** were present through the season at SL and at Buffalo Creek. A **Turkey Vulture** was an early return 2/22 in BA.

A single **Snow Goose** was seen with the wintering **Canada Geese** (500+) at Indian Lake from 1/3-7. Two leg banded **Canada Geese** collected in the county had originally been banded in OH and MI (AM). At least 12 spl. of ducks were found in Jan and Feb including: two **Redhead** 1/3 at SL, one **Common Goldeneye** 1/23 and 2/27 at YRC (AM), eight **N. Pintail** 1/7 in BA, two **Greater Scaup** at SL 1/9, 71 **Hooded Mergansers** at HPL 1/5, and a good count for *Somerset* of eight **Common Mergansers** at QR 1/11.

A **Bald Eagle** migrated up the Allegheny Front at PP 2/15. **N. Harriers** were present until at least 1/11. A maximum of three **Rough-legged Hawks** (two dark, one light morph) were found in the BA and 14 **Red-tailed Hawks** were found on 1/30 while doing a Winter Raptor Survey.

Killdeer were present up to 1/9 as SL and two **Wilson's Snipes** were a good find for the APAS CBC 12/19. At least 12 **Short-eared Owls** were wintering in the county, three at the Flight 93 site, three near Roxbury, five at Rockwood (AM), and one near Berlin (JC) but many good sites were not checked. How many may be here if surveyed?

A manured field near Somerset had 500+ **Horned Larks** and one **Snow Bunting** 1/25. Two **Snow Buntings** were found on the APAS CBC 12/19. The same day, six **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in a planted pine plantation near Stoneycreek Lake. Unusual for winter on Allegheny Mountain were two **Swamp Sparrows**, one **Field Sparrow**, and two **White-throated Sparrows** all winter with the expected **American Tree Sparrows** (20+) and numerous **Dark-eyed Juncos** at PP. An early **Fox Sparrow** arrived there 2/22.

Red-winged Blackbirds wintered in small flocks (BA) and singles (PP). One female **Common Redpoll** from 1/20-early March was joined 2/12 by a **Pine Siskin** at PP feeders.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530 (814) 267-5718**, Anthony Marich, John Coughenour, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne.

Sullivan County

No Report. No Compiler.

Susquehanna County

No Report.

Compiler: **Rob Blye, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, rblye@audubon.org**

Tioga County

No Report.

Compiler: **Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, East Corning, NY, 14830, (607) 936-5059, mycateria@stny.rr.com**

Union County

No Report. No Compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Kahle Lake (KL).

The winter season was relatively slow, with few northern winter visitors. The weather was somewhat mild through Dec, but turned very cold in Jan and Feb. Even with this cold, the Allegheny R. never froze, allowing waterfowl to spread out over its many miles through *Venango*, making finding them (if they were even here) difficult. Ponds & lakes froze solid, however.

A good winter record was a **Double-crested Cormorant** seen 1/29 on the AR (KG). Another very good bird for western Pennsylvania was a first county record **Ross' Goose** on the AR at Franklin 1/2 (JS, KG). A **Redhead** 12/30, **Ring-necked Duck** 12/10-30 and a **Greater Scaup** 12/30 are all good Dec birds. **Common Goldeneye** were present through the period. **Bufflehead** weren't noted until 1/19, but then remained through the end of the winter. **Ruddy Ducks** until 12/10 were probably late migrants.

Bald Eagles continue to increase in numbers and were seen throughout the winter. **N. Harrier** was seen at least several times in each month. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were not numerous, but observable. **American Kestrel** seemed to be present in their usual numbers.

An uncommon Jan bird, **Herring Gull** was present at KL 1/8. **Horned Larks** were uncommon this winter in the fields around KL. Highest number reported was 75. **American Pipit** made a few appearances during the winter 1/2 and 2/4 KL.

N. Shrike was our only northern visitor seen with any regularity. They were seen in at least five different locations throughout the county. Our only **Common Raven** of the period was seen on the Pleasantville CBC 1/2. Unusual were number of **Cedar Waxwing** sightings, 12/24, 1/28, 2/24 & 2/27. **Cedar Waxwings** are rarely seen in *Venango* after late Dec until late spring. A **Winter Wren** on the Pleasantville CBC 1/2 was a nice find. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were not numerous, but there were a few sightings, 12/1, 12/3, 12/4, & 2/4.

White-crowned Sparrows were seen 12/25, 1/2 & 1/19 (GE). **White-throated Sparrow** was seen all winter. Only one **Lapland Longspur** record 2/4 at

KL (JS). And only one **Snow Bunting** sighting 2/24 KL (RS). A **Red-winged Blackbird**, an uncommon winter bird in Venango, was seen near Utica 1/23 & 24 (EA). **Common Grackle** were spotted 12/31, 1/16 & 2/20. The only **Pine Siskins** were 12/16 & 12/25 at a feeder (NB).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.com**, Ed Atts, Nancy Baker, Dave Edwards, Kevin Edwards, Joyce Fleming, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Carl Rogers, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Jim Wilson.

Warren County

No Report.

Observers: **Ted Grisez, 10 Belmont Dr. Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-9464**,

Washington County

No Report. No Compiler.

Wayne County

No Report. No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR).

A **Snow Goose** was an unusual find at Delmont 2/10 (KB). The **Cackling Goose** seen at DL 2/15 represented just the 3rd county record ever (RCL), and the five **Greater White-fronted Geese** that put down at DL 2/22 established a new high count for the county (RCL). Late migrating **Tundra Swans** included 55 over PNR 12/19 and 20 the following day (BM). Three **Wood Ducks** along Loyalhanna Creek made for a high winter count near Lionizer 2/26 (ML, TM), and two were seen at Livermore the same date (KB). Early ducks at Derry Lake [Ethel Springs] 2/27 included 19 **Redheads** and two **Greater Scaup** (MMc). A **Common Loon** was a rare mid-winter sighting at TRR 1/7 (RCL). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Beaver Run 1/29 (L&LH). A **Great Egret** was a nice find on the Bushy Run CBC 12/26 (*fide* DB).

The season's lone **N. Goshawk** report came from near Rector 2/26 (ML), and Lanzone had three winter sightings of **Golden Eagle** over PNR through 2/03. A (wintering?) **Wilson's Snipe** at PNR 2/06 was a rarity for the Laurel Highlands (RCL), and at lower elevation to the w. three were spotted at Crabtree 1/23 (KB). An early **Herring Gull** and six **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared at DL 2/11 (ML, TM). A **Short-eared Owl** was a good find just s. of Lionizer 12/2 (ML), and owl calling efforts coordinated by Lanzone on the Rector CBC 12/18 resulted in 18 **E. Screech Owls**, 10 **Great Horned Owls**, seven **Barred Owls** and two **N. Saw-whet Owls**.

A **N. Shrike** was a first ever for the Bush Run CBC 12/26 (TP, MS), and one was seen four mi s. of Lionizer 2/27 (ML, TM). At least 300 **Horned Larks** were at Crabtree 1/29 (L&LH, MF). The bird of the season was a **Varied Thrush** that briefly appeared at a feeder stocked by Mike Luther of Lionizer 2/17 (*fide* BS). Len and Linda Hess spotted the season's only **American Pipit** at Luxor 1/27. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was an unexpected find at PNR 1/26 (RCL).

A locally rare wintering **Chipping Sparrow** spent the entire season at a PNR feeder (ML), as did two-three **Fox Sparrows**. **Snow Bunting** counts included 30-40 at Crabtree 2/29 (MF).

Observers: **Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021 rcleberm@winbeam.com**. Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Mike Fialkovich, Len Hess, Linda Hess, Tom Kuehl, Mike Lanzone, Adriene Leppold, Mark McConaughy, Trish Miller, Bob Mulvihill, Tom Pearson, Matt Sarver, Brian Shema.

Wyoming County

Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Lake Carey (LC)

With one knee being replaced 8/7/04 and the other 1/7/05, and with both surgeries and therapy work done in *Luzerne*, I had only limited time for birding during the past few months. But you can't keep a birder down forever! Among the birds I found on the Tunkhannock CBC 12/18 were: **Common Loon**, **N. Pintail**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Killdeer**, **Barred Owl**, four **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **N. Shrike**.

A blue-morph **Snow Goose** was at LC 12/15 (WR). Other bird at LC were two **Green-winged Teal** 12/19, two **Long-tailed Duck** 12/16, one **White-winged Scoter** 1/1 when the lake was 99% frozen over and one **Horned Grebe** (WR).

Two **Rough-legged Hawks**, light and dark phases, were present most of the winter (JD, EJ, RK, JH, et.al). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a feeder in Tunkhannock all winter (JD). One **N. Shrike** at Barton Rd. w. of Tunkhannock, was present most of the winter (JD, RD, MC). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were scarce throughout the area **Horned Lark**, were very few in number. **Snow Bunting** and **Lapland Longspur**,

completely absent in Lemon Twp. and elsewhere, probably due in part to changing agricultural practices (RK, JH, WR).

No compiler,

Observers: Mark Catalano, Robt. Daniels, Joe DeMarco, Jim Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, Rick Koval, Joe and Rebecca Lesko, William Reid.

Late reports for fall for *Wyoming* were **Common Moorhen**, at LC 11/19 (WR). A **Veery** seen perched at about 30 feet at LC, 11/1 (WR) and an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, in Lemon Twp., 9/20, (WR) my first record in the county in about 20 years.

York County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Codorus State Park (CSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LWMS), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR), Stillmeadow Park (STIL)

There were 94 species reported during the winter season, including 15 waterfowl species. A year ago there were 108 species reported during the winter season, including 21 waterfowl species. This winter's highlights were a **Ross's Goose**, a wintering **Brown Thrasher**, and **Baltimore Orioles**. The 19 participants in the Dec 18th Christmas Bird Count tallied 76 species, including 12 species of waterfowl. Last year's 21 Christmas Bird Count participants found 82 species, including 14 species of waterfowl.

A few **Snow Geese** showed up – one for the CBC and 12 at a pond near Shrewsbury 12/27 (BF). A **Ross's Goose**, very unusual for *York*, was seen at the same Shrewsbury pond 2/27-28. An early **Common Loon** was found 2/24 at CSP (KL).

One or two ad **Bald Eagles** were seen at CSP, LAR, LRED, and LWMS throughout the period. A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted 12/15 at STIL (LC).

A total of 17 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found during last year's CBC, but there was only one this year. There were four reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** during the winter period. An **E. Phoebe**, quite uncommon in Dec, was found 12/18 on the CBC. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatches** reported were the two on the 12/18 CBC. Three **Winter Wrens** were found on the 12/18 CBC, and one was at a home in New Freedom on 2/28 (BF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** are uncommon in Dec, but three were found on the 12/18 CBC, and one was reported 1/1 (JJP). A **Brown Thrasher** wintered at a home in York – it was seen from 12/7 through the end of the period (BDG).

An unusually high count of 11 **E. Towhees** were found on the 12/18 CBC, along with one **Savannah Sparrow**, six **Fox Sparrows**, and another high count of 36 **Swamp Sparrows**. The only **Snow Buntings** were the 36, 1/20 along Hillside Drive near Hanover (KL). There were two winter reports of **Baltimore Oriole** – one was in a yard in Manchester Twp. for two weeks beginning 1/14 (SG), and two were seen 2/14 at STIL (LC). No Evening Grosbeaks, crossbills, or redpolls were found.

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com**, Sharon Bollinger (SBo), Michael Boustead, Sheila Brenneman (Sbr), Lou Carpenter, Ron Cathers, Fred Clark, Nina Clark, Bill DelGrande, Clyde & Barb Fisher (CBF), Bruce Fortman (BF), Bernard & Alice Frick (BAF), Shawn Godack, Patricia Gureghian, Richard Humbert, Phil Keener, Karen Lippy, Bob Moul, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott, Larry Pritt, Beth Pugliese, JR Ruppert, Rick Schaeffer, Thomas Simmons (TS), Millie Smith, Tish Swam (TS), Jeffrey Wentz, Steve Wildasin.

PHOTO QUIZ #8

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates listed below.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Dec-Feb	Mar 31	May
Mar-May	Jun 30	August
Jun-Jul	Aug 31	October
Aug-Nov	Dec 31	February

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of articles, artwork or photographs. Any materials submitted must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. Articles should be sent on IBM compatible disks when possible (Word Perfect preferred, but ASCII is also acceptable). **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

REPRINTS: Requests for reprints of articles should be sent to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555 or fchaas@pabirds.org.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS is not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

ADVERTISING: Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 a word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy.

Send all articles, artwork, advertising, etc. to **Nick Pulcinella, 613 HOWARD RD, West Chester, PA 19380, nickpulcinella@comcast.net.**