

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Cover: **Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*). 21 January 2006 Chambersburg, *Franklin*. Photo by Geoff Malosh. A common breeder in the midwest and western prairies, this species is a rare and irregular fall and winter visitor to Pennsylvania. This individual was seen by many from 10 January through at least 5 February.

## from the Editor...

### Pennsylvania Comp. List

The Pennsylvania Comprehensive List (all species reported to *Pennsylvania Birds*) for 2005 was 327 species. In addition there were two unconfirmed reports, Fulvous Whistling-Duck and Great Gray Owl. Among the rarer species competing for the title of Bird-of-the-Year (BOTY) were **Pacific Loon** (*Berks*), **Anhinga** (*Bucks*, *Northampton*), **Northern Gannet** (*Erie*, *Schuylkill*), **Black-necked Stilt** (*Berks*), **Long-billed Curlew** (*Erie*), **Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Somerset*), **California Gull** (*Lancaster*), **Sooty Tern** (*Lancaster*), **Townsend's Solitaire**

(*McKean*), and **Seaside Sparrow** (*Dauphin*). Despite the appearance of all these quality rarities, the BOTY title goes to the **Redwing** found at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* on 5 February. The bird was observed by about fifty stunned birders during its 3-4 hour stay. Notwithstanding a few previous winter reports for eastern North America of the fine European thrush, I don't think this species was high on anyone's list of possibilities.

### County Checklists

Please consider using *Pennsylvania Birds* as a vehicle to publish your county checklist.

There have been seven county checklists published previously: Allegheny (1994), Blair (1994), Butler (2001), Clarion (1993), Clinton (1995), Lycoming (1995), and Warren (2003). An ideal checklist might include a status and abundance key, but a simple list of the birds that have been recorded in the county is sufficient. Please contact the editor if you have any questions regarding creating a county checklist

Nick Pulcinella  
Editor-in-Chief

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# Results of the 2005 Pennsylvania Mid-Summer Mute Swan Survey

Ian D. Gregg

Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*), native to Eurasia, were first introduced to North America in captivity in the mid-1800s. Wild populations eventually became established as some of these captive birds escaped or were released; feral Mute Swans first appeared in Pennsylvania in the 1930s. Mute Swans have been able to thrive in the wild because of their high reproductive rate, a lack of natural predators, and an abundance of suitable wetland habitat. In addition to those present in the wild, many Mute Swans continue to be kept in captivity because of their aesthetic appeal.

Like many other exotic species, Mute Swans have several negative ecological effects, and these problems have become increasingly evident, as their numbers have grown. Most importantly, overgrazing of aquatic vegetation by Mute Swans has been implicated as a factor in reducing, or preventing the restoration of, food and cover plants important to native birds, fish, and shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay and other wetland habitats. In 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program identified Mute Swans as one of six invasive species causing significant degradation to the Chesapeake Bay's aquatic ecosystem. Mute Swans also tend to be aggressively territorial. They have been observed displacing Tundra Swans from preferred roosting and feeding areas, causing nest abandonment by terns and skimmers, and killing Mallard ducklings and Canada Goose goslings. This aggressiveness may also be directed against other animals or humans, posing at least a nuisance, or even a danger, to people and pets.

In 2003 the Atlantic Flyway Council (AFC), the administrative body that facilitates federal/state cooperation in migratory game bird research and management in eastern North America, adopted a Mute Swan Management Plan with the goals of 1) reducing Mute Swan populations in the flyway to levels that will minimize negative impacts on wetland habitats and native waterfowl, and 2) preventing range expansion into unoccupied areas. Under the flyway management plan, Pennsylvania has a twofold Mute Swan population goal: zero free-ranging Mute Swans, and a maximum of 250 in captivity. The key tool that has been used to document trends in the Mute Swan population in the past, and will be crucial for tracking progress toward management plan goals in the future, is the Atlantic Flyway Mid-Summer Mute Swan Survey (MSMSS).

**About the survey.** The AFC identified the need for a coordinated, broad-scale

survey specifically targeted to Mute Swans in the mid-1980s. Although some localized studies of population dynamics had been conducted, and a variety of waterfowl or general avian surveys appeared to indicate that Mute Swans were increasing, none of these efforts provided adequate detail on the species' status and population trends on a rangewide level. A survey design addressing this need was approved in 1985, and the first MSMSS was conducted in 1986. Since then, the survey has continued to be conducted periodically, normally at 3-year intervals. In the first survey, 5,800 Mute Swans were recorded in the Flyway. By the time of the 2002 survey, the population had more than doubled to over 14,300 swans, with growth being especially dramatic (more than tenfold) in the Chesapeake Bay region.

In years when the survey is scheduled, states from Florida to Maine, as well as the Canadian provinces from Ontario east, attempt to conduct a complete census of all Mute Swans within their borders during July and August. There are two main advantages to this timing of the survey. First, Tundra Swans, a superficially similar species with an overlapping winter range, are not present in the Flyway during the summer; this reduces the potential for species identification errors (especially during aerial surveys). Second, most Mute Swans are flightless at this time of year (cygnets are not yet fledged, while adults are undergoing the annual wing molt), reducing the chances that swan movements will lead to their being missed or double-counted. In some cases, molting Mute Swans gather in large flocks, which further enhances survey efficiency.

Many states use aircraft to conduct their MSMSS, but this would be a cost prohibitive method in Pennsylvania due to the state's relatively low, widely dispersed Mute Swan population. Instead, MSMSS data in Pennsylvania is collected by Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs). Each WCO records all Mute Swans encountered during routine patrols in his or her district during the survey period, and checks areas where Mute Swans have been known to occur in the past. Survey results are then compiled by PGC biologists and provided to a flyway survey coordinator. Swans are classified as captive, semidomesticated, or feral based on habitat, information provided by landowners, etc., but it should be noted that these classifications can be difficult and subjective. For example, many privately owned swans classified as semidomesticated are unconfined and capable of moving off the properties

where they are normally located, while many "feral" swans probably receive at least some supplemental feeding.

**2005 Results.** Due in large part to an increased number of vacant WCO districts, 2005 MSMSS coverage in Pennsylvania was reduced slightly from previous years; surveys were conducted in 116 of 136 (85%) WCO districts statewide this year as compared to 91-96% of districts being surveyed in the 1996, 1999, and 2002 surveys. Most surveys were conducted from the ground (motor vehicle and/or on foot), with 8 officers using a combination of ground and boat surveys.

A total of 307 Mute Swans were recorded statewide (Table 1). This should be considered a minimum estimate of the Pennsylvania Mute Swan population; in addition to swans possibly present in districts not surveyed, some swans known to exist in surveyed districts, but not actually observed during the survey period, were not included in the totals. The number of Mute Swans recorded was 12% lower than the 2002 total.

Mute Swan numbers have historically been highest in southeastern Pennsylvania, and this held true in the 2005 survey with 203 swans (about two-thirds of the statewide total) recorded in this region. Mute Swan numbers increased 26% in the southeast since 2002. Mute Swan numbers decreased substantially from 2002 in the Northwest Region, decreased slightly in the Northcentral and Northeast Regions, and increased slightly in the Southwest and Southcentral Regions. The number of Mute Swans classified as feral statewide (95) was similar to the feral totals observed in 2002 (94 swans) and 1999 (97 swans).

As with total population, the numbers of broods (19) and cygnets (34) documented in this year's survey also decreased from 2002 (Table 2; Figure 1). Brood sizes ranged from 1 to 5 and averaged 1.8 cygnets.

Although the total number of Mute Swans observed in this year's survey declined, the number of WCO districts where they were found increased. Mute Swans were present in nearly 40% of WCO districts surveyed. This continues a pattern of steady geographic expansion in Pennsylvania (Figure 2).

**Management Implications.** There are some encouraging signs in Pennsylvania's 2005 MSMSS results. Domestic Mute Swan numbers appear to have decreased from 2002 and were below the maximum level identified in the management plan; reproductive output was lower than in the previous 2 surveys; and feral swan numbers did not increase, despite court-imposed



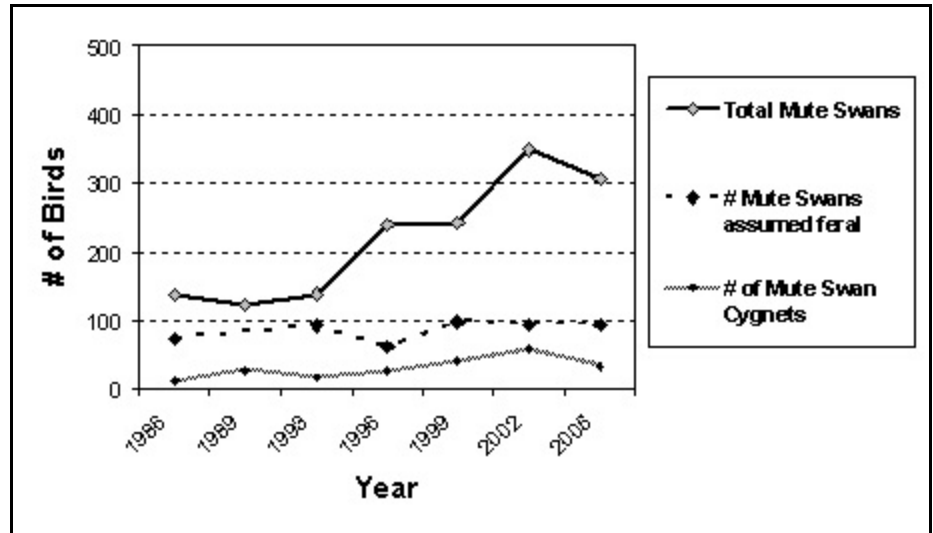
restrictions on control efforts that were in place for much of the period between the 2002 and 2005 surveys. However, several concerns remain: feral Mute Swan numbers are still well above the management plan goal, geographic expansion of Mute Swans continues, and the still-sizeable number of domestic Mute Swans remains capable of causing nuisance and ecological problems while serving as a potential source for future increases in the free-ranging population.

A number of approaches will need to be continued or improved to adequately address the negative impacts of this invasive species in Pennsylvania and the flyway. Ongoing population monitoring, through the MSMSS and other surveys, will be important to keep tabs on Mute Swan numbers and assess progress toward management plan goals. Active control efforts, both addling of eggs and humane removal of adults, are essential to reducing populations to acceptable levels. Guidelines and regulations for keeping captive Mute Swans should be re-examined and strengthened where necessary to ensure that domesticated swans are not causing ecological damage, or serving as a source of new feral populations. Educational efforts by wildlife agencies and birders alike will be crucial to increasing public awareness of the detrimental effects of this invasive species.

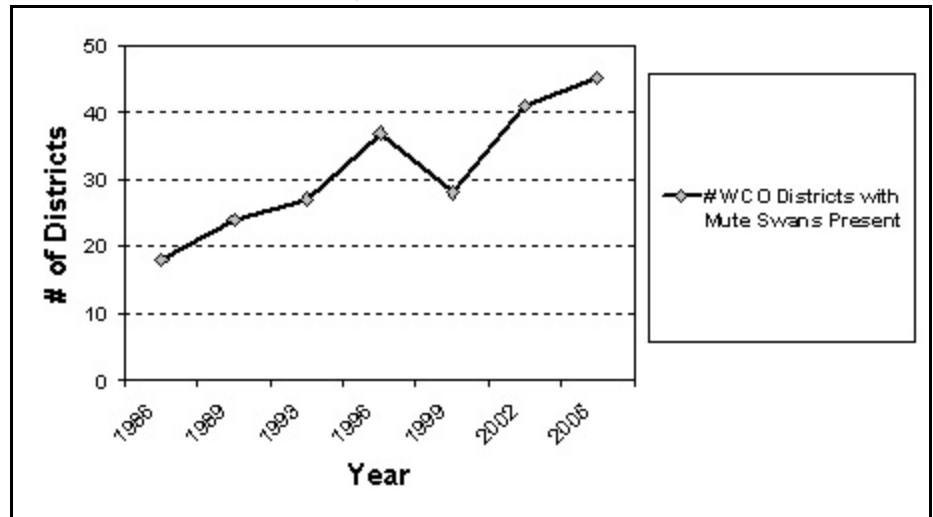
**Acknowledgments:** I thank numerous Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel for their assistance in Mute Swan monitoring: Wildlife Conservation Officers who conducted surveys, Regional Wildlife Management Supervisors and Clerical Supervisors who compiled data, and Regional Directors and Bureau of Wildlife Management Research Division staff who coordinated personnel assignments and funding for the survey.

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**Figure 1. Trends in total, feral, and juvenile Mute Swans in Pennsylvania MSMSS, 1986-2005.**



**Figure 2. Trend in the number of WCO districts with Mute Swans present in Pennsylvania MSMSS, 1986-2005.**

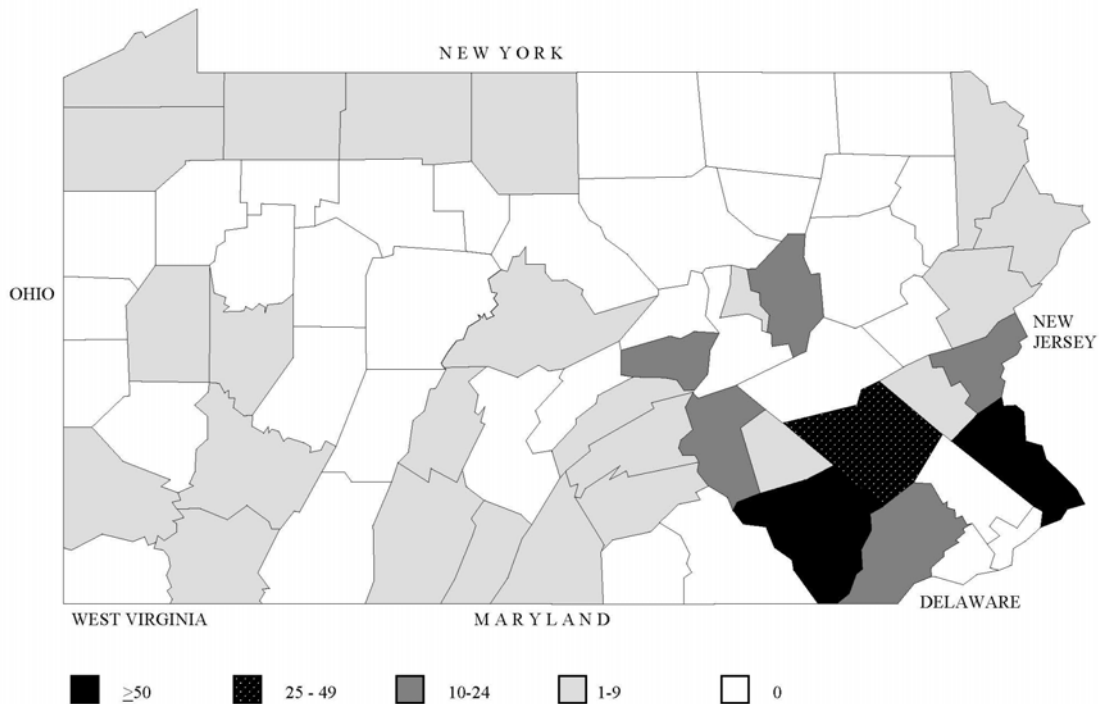


Region	Distribution by WCO District			Numbers of Mute Swans				
	# (%) Districts Present	# (%) Districts Not Present	# Districts with No Survey Conducted	# Adults	# Broods	# Cygnets	Total Swans	# Swans Assumed Feral
NW	5 (25%)	15 (75%)	2	18	1	1	19	5
SW	4 (19%)	17 (81%)	0	15	0	0	15	6
NC	3 (23%)	10 (77%)	11	11	1	1	12	0
SC	11 (58%)	8 (42%)	1	31	0	0	31	7
NE	7 (37%)	12 (63%)	6	20	3	7	27	3
SE	15 (63%)	9 (38%)	0	178	14	25	203	74
<b>State Total</b>	<b>45 (39%)</b>	<b>71 (61%)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>95</b>

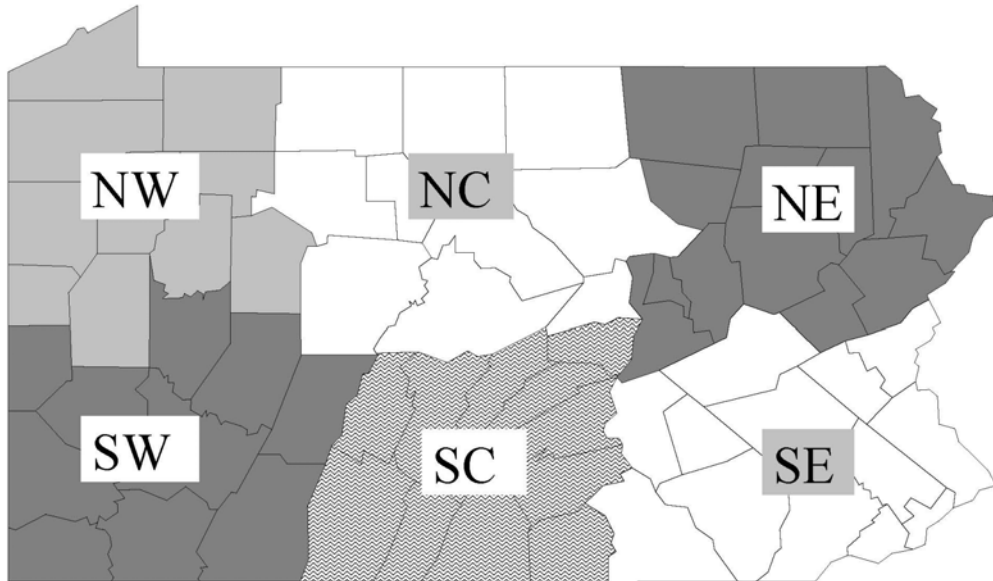
**Table 2. Summary of the 1996 - 2005 Mid-Summer Mute Swan Survey Results by Region**

Region	Year	# Adults	# Broods	# Cygnets	Total Swans	Assumed Feral
NW	2005	18	1	1	19	5
	2002	91	5	12	103	5
	1999	26	2	7	33	4
	1996	9	0	0	9	2
SW	2005	15	0	0	15	6
	2002	9	0	0	9	4
	1999	8	0	0	8	2
	1996	10	1	5	15	11
NC	2005	11	1	1	12	0
	2002	15	0	0	15	0
	1999	12	1	1	13	0
	1996	11	1	1	12	0
SC	2005	31	0	0	31	7
	2002	19	2	4	23	4
	1999	26	4	12	38	12
	1996	19	1	1	20	0
NE	2005	20	3	7	27	3
	2002	28	5	9	37	12
	1999	12	3	5	17	15
	1996	31	1	1	32	18
SE	2005	178	14	25	203	74
	2002	127	12	34	161	69
	1999	118	7	15	133	64
	1996	134	6	17	151	30
Total	2005	273	19	34	307	95
	2002	289	24	59	348	94
	1999	202	17	40	242	97
	1996	214	10	25	239	61

**Figure 3. Mute Swan distribution by county in 2005 Pennsylvania MSMSS. Totals include only those swans actually observed during the survey period; additional mute swans are known to be present in some counties**



**Figure 4. Pennsylvania Game Commission Regions**



<b>Region</b>	<b>Counties</b>
<b>NW</b>	Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren
<b>SW</b>	Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland
<b>NC</b>	Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union
<b>SC</b>	Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder
<b>NE</b>	Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming
<b>SE</b>	Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, York

# "Lesser" Sandhill Crane

*Grus canadensis canadensis*

Erie County

Jerry McWilliams

Location: Along Rt. 89 about one half mile north of the junction of Rt. 89 and Rt. 86, Greenfield Twp., Erie Co., Pa.

Date: December 30, 2005

Time: 10:45 to 11:45AM

Weather: Mostly cloudy

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: 10 X 40 Zeiss binocular and Kowa TSN 4 spotting scope set at 40X

Viewing distance: as close as 150 yards.

Viewing conditions: good



Plate 1. This flight photo shows the undeniable size difference between the two subspecies. The darker primaries of the Lesser Sandhill Crane are also clearly evident (Jerry McWilliams).

I am submitting this report because it is possible that this subspecies of Sandhill Crane has not been described in Pennsylvania. Perhaps not all nominate Sandhill Cranes can be distinguished from the larger *G. canadensis tabida*, but the distinction between the two subspecies was quite apparent with these birds. It has only been in recent years that Sandhill Cranes have been reported in large flocks in Pennsylvania, so it would not be surprising that a few of the northern "Lesser" Sandhill Cranes might get caught up in one of these flocks.

Details of sighting and description: I had received third hand reports of a large flock of Sandhill Cranes consisting of from 50 to 74 birds that were observed feeding near a standing field of corn along Rt. 89 just south of Northeast. I had checked the site once immediately after receiving the first report, but it was snowing heavily and was foggy, so visibility was quite

poor and I did not see the birds. I went back to the site again on December 30 following another report of 74 or more cranes in the same area. I did not see the large flock of cranes in the field when I arrived, but I did see seven birds scattered about in the field. Shortly after I arrived I heard a single adult bird calling, which appeared flying in from the east and then moments later two more adults appeared from the opposite direction. I could clearly see the difference in size between the two birds that were coming in to join the original flock on the ground. The larger bird being *G. c. tabida* and the smaller one being a *G. c. canadensis*.

The smaller "Lesser" became even more apparent when it joined the flock on the ground that were all *G. c. tabida*. The overall size of the "Lesser" was about 2/3 the size of the "Greater." The legs were very short and much thinner than the "Greater." In flight just the feet, and perhaps an inch or two of the tarsus, extended past the tail in the "Lesser" where all of the tarsus extended past

the tail in the "Greater." The leg difference between the two subspecies was quite obvious when the birds were in flight. Plumage characteristics were similar between the two subspecies except that the black in the primaries and secondaries was more extensive in the "Lesser" than in the "Greater." The primary shafts were noticeably white to the tip on the

spread wings of the "Greater", where the white was faint on the primary shafts of the "Lesser" extending only about a third or perhaps half way up the primary shafts. The paler shafts of the "Lesser" were not always easy to see, but the paler shafts of the "Greater" were always quite visible. The "Lesser" was mainly grayish overall with a red patch on the forehead, similar to the adult "Greater", but the neck appeared to be a paler gray on the "Lesser" Sandhill Crane. All but two of the "Greater" Sandhill Cranes were adult birds, the young birds being distinguished from the adults by the minimum amount of red on the head. I was able to obtain numerous photographs of the "Lesser" Sandhill Crane and the "Greater" Sandhill Cranes in flight and on the ground.

3508 Allegheny Rd.  
Erie, PA 16508

This is the first record of this nominate subspecies.

"Lesser" Sandhill Cranes breed from Alaska and eastern Siberia across Arctic Canada. Most winter mainly from California to Texas but have been recorded in the Atlantic Maritimes. *Ed.*



Plate 2. This group photo also demonstrate the significant size difference (Jerry McWilliams).

# The 2005-06 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nicholas C. Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 106<sup>th</sup> time during December 14, 2005 to January 5, 2006. 164 species were reported, plus three count-week species, the fourth highest species number among previous Pennsylvania CBCs. The 106<sup>th</sup> count featured three new species for the state CBC, apparent irruptions of Blue Jays and Red-breasted Nuthatches, unusual numbers of half-hardy mimids and sparrows, and continued trends for some 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 106<sup>th</sup> count reported on here is referred to as occurring in 2005.

## Weather and Effort

November was exceptionally mild, but the first three weeks of December averaged 7-10 degree Fahrenheit colder than normal statewide. Temperatures warmed after the first weekend of the count period, with the rest of the month averaging about 6 degrees warmer than normal (*Weather World*, 1/04/06). Two storms during the cold period dumped a moderate amount of snow over the northern part of the state. The net effect of the cold and snow may have been to concentrate some half-hardy species south of the snow.

Reports were received from 67 Pennsylvania sites. Pocono Mountain was rejuvenated after an absence of five years. The 5479 party-hours were slightly higher than during the last three years, but slightly below the peak of 5700 during 1999 and 2001.

## Site and Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County once again remained the top site for species total, with 109, while Delaware County came close with 107. Harrisburg's total of 100 species for third place, while Southern Bucks County was not far behind with 99. Finding 100 species in Pennsylvania is not easy – it takes hard work and good luck. Bethlehem-Easton, Elverson, Upper Bucks County, Lehigh Valley, Curtin, and Lititz rounded out the top 10 list. Erie was just off the bottom of this list, with 86 species, a very good tally away from the southeast.

### Top 10 Sites

1. Southern Lancaster County	109
2. Delaware County	107
3. Harrisburg	100
4. Southern Bucks County	99
5. Bethlehem-Easton	92

6. Elverson	91
Upper Bucks County	91
8. Lehigh Valley	88
9. Curtin	87
Lititz	87

The high species totals were again concentrated in southeastern Pennsylvania (Figure 1). You might think that the uneven distribution results from the higher effort in areas with more birders. Although effort is a big contributor to CBC results, the southeast is where many birds go for warmth and sustenance, particularly after the cold start to December. This can be seen from the distribution of **White-throated Sparrows**.

Away from the southeast, intermediate numbers of White-throated Sparrows were found in some more sheltered areas, but they are about 10 times harder to find at colder, less sheltered sites on the Allegheny Plateau than in the southeast (Figure 2). This distribution pattern is typical for a number of the less hardy species. For those birds, the Ridge and Valley province is the northern edge of tenable winter survival.

## Hits and Misses

A "hit" is a species found in 2005 that was unexpected (recorded in less than 40% of the years 1970-2004). A "miss" is a species not found in 2005 on count day but expected (recorded in more than 60% of the years 1970-2004). Compared to past years, the number of hits (14) was high and the number of misses (2) was quite low. This explains the high species number.

## Hits

Brant
Trumpeter Swan
Red-necked Grebe
Sandhill Crane
Least Sandpiper
Purple Sandpiper
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Snowy Owl
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Orange-crowned Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Harris's Sparrow
Blue Grosbeak

## Misses

Loggerhead Shrike
Evening Grosbeak

The three new species for the Pennsylvania CBC were **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, with 3 at Western Chester County, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, with 125 at Pennypack Valley, and **Blue Grosbeak**, at Bethlehem-Easton. The Pennypack Valley swallow gathering at a water treatment plant was quite a remarkable observation. The only other continent-wide CBC reports of this species were along the southern edge of the United States or in Central America. Further, it was the fourth highest tally of this species in the 106<sup>th</sup> CBC. The flock was carefully checked, but they were all identified as rough-wings (P. Kurtz, pers. comm.).

Among the rarer species, **Trumpeter Swan** at Harrisburg was the second report of that species in the Pennsylvania CBC. The single **Sandhill Crane** that joined a flock of captive Rheas last year at Curtin doubled in number this year, with an adult and a juvenile (S. Bills, pers. comm.), constituting a sixth report. **Least Sandpiper** at Newville was the seventh report, while **Purple Sandpiper** at Erie was just the second report, the first also being at Erie three years earlier. **Ovenbird** at Huntingdon was the fourteenth report, but a repeat of a 2003 observation at the same place and by the same observer (D. Kyler, pers. comm.). **Harris's Sparrow** at the Lost Creek Optic Shop within the Lewistown circle was a fourth report.

The two misses have become increasingly scarce in recent years. **Loggerhead Shrike** was missing in the Pennsylvania CBC for the fourth consecutive year. **Evening Grosbeak**, while found during count week at Central Bucks County, was missing on count day for the first time since 1956. Their absence may become the norm.

Additional count-week species were **Harlequin Duck** at Erie and **Bullock's Oriole** at Bethlehem-Easton. These species have been seen just six times and one time previously, respectively, on count day.



## Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

There were good numbers of some big waterfowl. The 137,000 **Snow Geese** were 45% higher than the previous statewide CBC high, with over 50,000 at both Bethlehem-Easton and Hamburg. Since 1993, high numbers have been found during the CBC in all but two years. **Canada Geese** numbers remained high, at 190,000. Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from Central Bucks County, while 15 **Brant** were at Bethlehem-Easton. The 17 **Cackling Geese** were found at ten sites south of the mountains and east of the Susquehanna River. The 223 **Mute Swans** were a new high, with 77 at Southern Bucks County and 24 at Central Bucks County.

Other than the big three of **Mallard**, **American Black Duck**, and **Common Merganser**, the numbers of most ducks were generally low. The 63 **Green-winged Teal** were the fewest since 1963, while the 272 **Common Goldeneyes** were the fewest since 1961. Although high numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers** have been appearing in recent years, their 2005 numbers were only modest. However, the **Blue-winged Teal** at Lancaster and York were the first tallied statewide since 2001. All three scoter species were found once again at Erie.

Uncommon water birds were **Red-throated Loons** at Erie, Lewistown, and Upper Bucks County; **Red-necked Grebe** at Erie; 46 **Great Cormorants**, including 42 at Pennypack Valley, the usual hotspot; **Black-crowned Night Heron** at Southern Bucks County; and 2 **Virginia Rails** at Upper Bucks County. The **American Woodcock** at York was the only one reported.

## Chickens

The chicken trends continued. The 3487 **Wild Turkeys** constituted the third highest statewide tally of that species. Before 1993, statewide totals were less than 1000. 172 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported from half the sites, about the same as last year. In comparison, in 1995, 605 Pheasants were reported from 80% of sites. The 81 **Ruffed Grouse** from 46% of sites continued a downward slide that began about ten years ago. Back in 1995, 301 Grouse were reported from 68% of sites. **Northern Bobwhite** was reported from Butler County.

## Raptors

**Bald Eagle** counts have set new highs nearly every year during the last decade. This happened again in 2005, as the 199 Bald Eagles surpassed last year's 184, with 53 at Southern Lancaster County, 28 at Warren, 17 at Linesville, 13 at Southern Bucks County, and 12 at both Lancaster and White Mills. During the last three years, Bald Eagles have been reported from over half the sites. In comparison, ten years previous, 65 eagles were reported from a quarter of the sites. A map of the eagle distribution shows them concentrated in the northwest, the northern tier, along major rivers, and at large lakes (Figure 2).

Another raptor reported in increasingly higher numbers is **Merlin**. Twenty-nine Merlins were reported in 2005 from just over one-third of sites, besting the previous high count of 26 from three years earlier. In comparison, before 1997, statewide CBC totals were in the single digits. At some sites, Merlin is an expected species for the count, but this is highly dependent upon location. Your chances of seeing a

Merlin are best if you are in the southeast or along one of the major rivers (Figure 2).

For the second year in a row, **Cooper's Hawks** outnumbered **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, this time by 428 to 405, with the Cooper's Hawk tally being a new high. The 3463 **Red-tailed Hawks** were a good number, though slightly fewer than last year. There were 131 Red-tails reported at both Lewistown and Upper Bucks County and 123 at Curtin. The 71 **Rough-legged Hawks** were the highest number since 1995, which may reflect the early snow and cold. Highest concentrations were in the central counties and in the northern tier. The 810 **American Kestrels** represent the second consecutive year of increased numbers after the low period in 2003, with a high of 61 at Curtin. **Peregrine Falcon** is another species that has routinely been setting new highs. This happened again in 2005, with 17 Peregrines reported from 12 sites, many near nesting areas.

Two **Barn Owls** were found at each of four sites: Hamburg, Lewisburg, Lewistown, and Southern Lancaster County. The 35 **Long-eared Owls** were a good tally and included 15 at Elverson and 7 at Curtin. The 17 **Short-eared Owls** included 3 each Clarion, Gettysburg, and Lititz. The 38 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** included 12 at Southern Lancaster County, 6 at Upper Bucks County, and 4 each at Curtin and Harrisburg.

Upper Bucks County regained the top owling position from Southern Lancaster County with a total of 153 owls, highlighted by 114 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, the highest tally of that species in this year's North American CBC. A sweep of the six most common owls, **Screech**, **Great Horned**, **Barred**, **Long-eared**, **Short-eared**, and **Saw-whet**, was achieved by Southern Lancaster

### Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	EScr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks County	0	114	28	5	0	0	6	153
2. Southern Lancaster County	2	72	43	6	3	1	12	139
3. Curtin	0	44	37	1	7	1	4	94
4. Lewistown	2	39	38	2	1	0	0	82
5. Central Bucks County	0	59	18	0	3	0	0	80
6. New Bloomfield	0	38	23	5	1	0	3	70
7. Elverson	0	34	11	1	15	1	1	63
8. Harrisburg	0	23	29	3	1	0	4	60
9. Bloomsburg	0	24	25	2	2	2	0	55
10. West Chester	0	40	10	0	0	0	0	50

County, Curtin, and Elverson, with Southern Lancaster County adding Barn Owl. Central Pennsylvania sites, including Curtin, Lewistown, New Bloomfield, and Bloomsburg, have gradually moved onto the top 10 list. Not far behind are Wild Creek-Little Gap, Tunkhannock and Lewisburg at spots 11-13.

## Gulls

Southeastern Pennsylvania continued as one of North America's premiere gull hotspots. Usual leader Southern Bucks County boasted 75,000 **Herring Gulls**, 6582 of the state's 7014 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 10 of the 12 **Iceland Gulls**, and 8 of the 10 **Glaucous Gulls**. Southern Bucks was the top North American site for Herring Gulls, as it has been since 1999 and it was also the second highest site for Great Black-backed.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** is another species that has exhibited a meteoric rise in numbers. It was first reported in the state CBC in 1978, but totals were no more than 33 before 1998. In the last five CBCs, 248-290 Lesser Black-backed have been tallied statewide, most at the three Bucks County sites. Southern Bucks County is usually the top site, but Central Bucks County took the lead in 2005, with 140 to Southern Bucks' 87. Those CBC totals were the top two in North America for this species in 2005, completing a Bucks County trifecta for leading a North American CBC species tally. An additional 36 Lesser Black-backed were reported from Upper Bucks County. In recent years, small numbers of Lesser Black-backed have been appearing elsewhere in the southeast or at Erie, as seen in 2005 (Figure 2). Look for it where gulls gather.

Bernville was the top North American site for **Ring-billed Gulls**, with over 35,000. An additional 12,000-21,000 Ring-bills were at Southern Lancaster County, Elverson, and Southern Bucks County. Nearly all of the **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 562 of 570, were observed at Erie.

## Woodpeckers to Blackbirds

The 49 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were about average, with highest numbers at the usual south-central hotspots, with 14 at Chambersburg, 11 at York, and 9 at Gettysburg. The 4743 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were nearly 500 more

than the previous high in 2001. The 6 **Northern Shrikes** were about average in number.

The total of 20,800 **Blue Jays** was higher than the usual range of 6,000-15,000 and similar in magnitude to the 1981 and 1995 totals. High concentrations were not found uniformly across the state, but at certain locations; high counts/party-hour were at Clarion, New Bloomfield, Emporium, Bald Eagle S.P., and Upper Bucks County.

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** count was consistent with the long-term pattern of an irruption when Christmas falls in an odd-numbered year. The tally of 1146 was second highest to the 1981 tally. They were reported from all but three sites, with high counts of 118 at Southern Lancaster County, 73 at Lebanon County, 60 at Wild Creek-Little Gap, and 56 at Newville.

A **Carolina Chickadee** was reported at Lewistown, consistent with their tendency to move northward along river valleys. **Tufted Titmouse** and **Eastern Bluebird** numbers continued to recover from small weather-related declines several years ago, while **Carolina Wren** numbers remained steady. **Brown Creepers** were abundant, with the highest statewide count/party-hour in the modern era.

The 142 **Gray Catbirds** were a new high for the Pennsylvania CBC, even when adjusted for party-hours. There were 20 Catbirds at Southern Bucks County, 16 at Delaware County, 12 at Lititz, and 10 each at Harrisburg and Southern Lancaster County, all unusually high. The 17 **Brown Thrashers** were a good total, with 5 at Southern Bucks County. **Cedar Waxwing** numbers returned to normal after being very low in 2004. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported from Bethlehem-Easton and one from Southern Bucks County.

The **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from Delaware County, the **Palm Warbler** from Bloomsburg, and the **Northern Waterthrush** from Chambersburg. Six of the ten **Common Yellowthroats** were at Johnstown.

Qualifying as abundant were the 476 **Eastern Towhees**, the 171 **Savannah Sparrows** from over a third of sites, and the 11,720 **Song Sparrows**. **Vesper Sparrows** were observed at Lehigh Valley, Ryerson, and Southern Lancaster County, while **Lincoln's Sparrows** were

reported from Bushy Run, Delaware County, Indiana, and Pittsburgh.

**Eastern Meadowlarks** remained low in number, with 59, but the 213 **Rusty Blackbirds** were the most since 1998. **Brewer's Blackbird** was a Ryerson and **Baltimore Oriole** was at Lewisburg and Wyncote.

## Finches

According to long-term patterns, chances were good for winter finch irruptions because Christmas fell in an odd-numbered year. However, the 119 **Pine Siskins** at 21 sites and 829 **Purple Finches** at 52 sites were just modest flights, while the 33 **Common Redpolls** at 3 sites were more consistent with a non-flight year. Among the uncommon finches, 1 **Pine Grosbeak** was reported at Indiana, 1 **White-winged Crossbill** was found at Dubois, a good tally of 83 **Red Crossbills** was observed at Clarion, with an additional one at Pocono Mountain.

The number of **House Finches**, which began declining in 1994-95, has leveled off the last three years at about 20% of the 1998-2003 peak.

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

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### ABBREVIATIONS

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

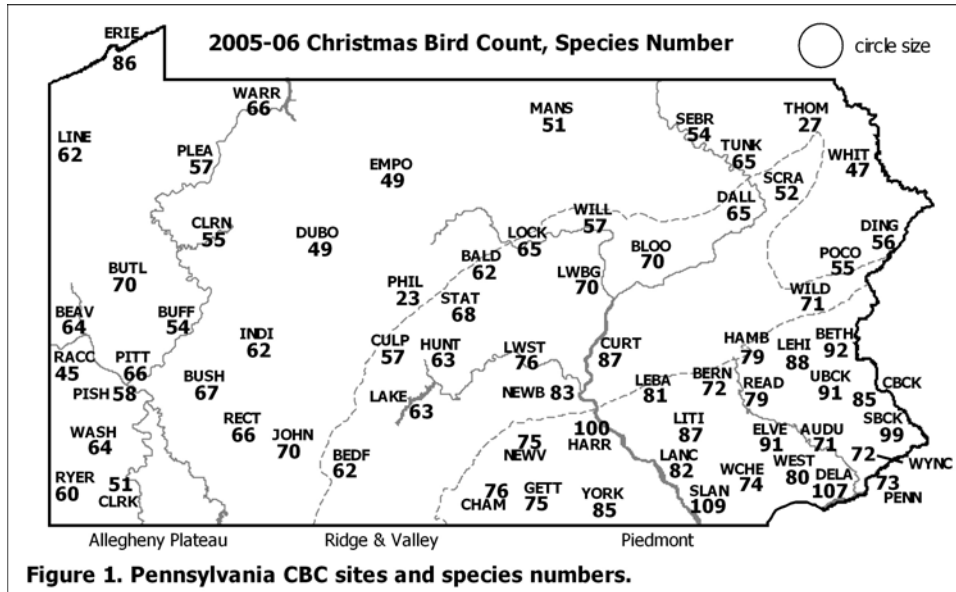


Figure 1. Pennsylvania CBC sites and species numbers.

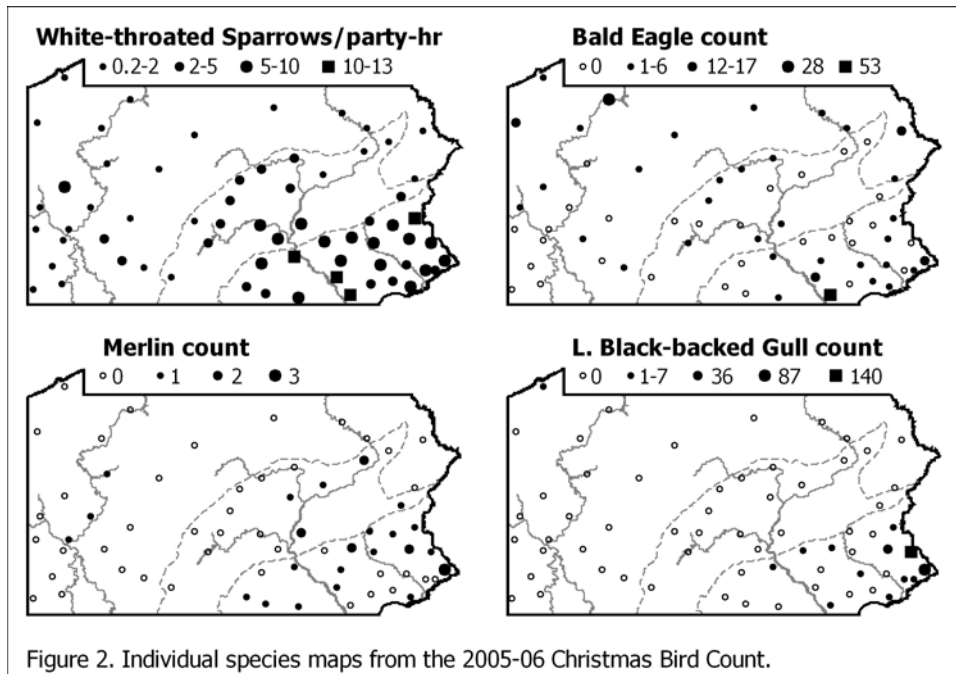


Figure 2. Individual species maps from the 2005-06 Christmas Bird Count.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	180	-	-	-	8944	51700	-	-	-	-	292	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	11626	37	590	281	6711	14981	1763	490	710	654	17652	880	193	156	25	80	725
Mute Swan	-	-	3	-	3	12	-	-	7	-	24	-	-	-	-	7	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	CW	-	2	-	-	-	-	27	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wood Duck	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	2	-
Gadwall	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	CW	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	22	84	35	2	9	72	7	2	36	7	76	3	8	8	23	64	64
Mallard	353	150	471	125	269	696	129	96	548	8	581	762	1	35	38	315	201
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Redhead	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	1	50	1	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	19
Greater Scaup	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	91	-	CW	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	5	20
Common Goldeneye	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	24	1
Hooded Merganser	2	3	8	-	-	9	-	-	7	CW	5	-	-	-	-	3	46
Common Merganser	77	23	2	-	26	47	39	-	9	-	156	-	-	-	-	37	47
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	2	2	7	15	-	8	1	1	-	1	3	32	12	2
Ruffed Grouse	-	9	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	3	1	1
Wild Turkey	3	-	16	15	1	100	94	3	58	140	27	2	60	104	5	22	24
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	10	5	24	3	11	17	7	-	8	1	25	31	-	3	5	7	5
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	169	11	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	30	3	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	143	1	-	-	1	25	-	-	-	-	140	12	-	-	-	1	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	CW
Northern Harrier	2	1	CW	1	2	10	9	5	1	-	5	-	5	2	-	8	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	-	2	1	3	12	9	2	6	5	17	18	8	3	3	6	6
Cooper's Hawk	10	2	4	4	4	10	7	4	8	10	15	18	7	4	3	9	3
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	71	25	18	12	82	70	96	28	65	52	62	88	53	28	13	123	20
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	1	1	1	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	4	2
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
American Kestrel	7	8	3	5	32	4	40	13	19	6	10	27	5	9	3	61	4
Merlin	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	2
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	CW	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	9	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	1	-	CW	4	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	12	-	-	1	1	1
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	58	21	748	-	35682	1354	13	2	-	-	1460	-	-	-	-	29	5
Herring Gull	8	-	7	-	613	34	1	-	-	-	172	-	-	-	-	3	4
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	140	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	26	3	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	6	-
Rock Pigeon	188	478	155	412	720	402	664	390	511	621	797	1981	295	185	47	834	204
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	513	141	191	599	1521	1374	862	184	746	425	1423	2567	515	248	178	1123	167
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	24	5	1	1	12	3	24	12	5	2	59	5	3	1	8	44	9
Great Horned Owl	9	1	1	3	17	14	25	2	5	2	18	12	2	2	3	37	23
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	1	2	-	-	1	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	7	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	CW	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Belted Kingfisher	16	5	7	1	13	17	8	3	3	3	19	23	CW	5	1	9	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	191	29	30	29	87	165	54	19	94	75	164	72	22	32	17	125	18
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10	1	-	3	4	8	7	-	2	4	2	9	5	-	2	13	-
Downy Woodpecker	237	48	51	44	92	226	113	28	121	69	182	146	82	41	34	149	40
Hairy Woodpecker	32	12	14	8	14	25	17	1	28	30	21	24	26	6	10	22	20
Yellow-shafted Flicker	114	15	5	7	35	90	25	18	38	16	85	50	8	26	3	71	5
Pileated Woodpecker	2	6	4	11	1	5	13	8	25	4	5	8	14	5	14	22	8
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	580	305	214	224	368	372	580	149	333	336	464	445	954	161	63	314	161
American Crow	275	411	161	90	217	1526	785	172	488	290	306	259	743	1268	173	789	247
Fish Crow	1	-	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-
Common Raven	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	9	5	-
Horned Lark	-	-	18	549	65	277	273	87	30	97	160	560	7	-	80	120	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	443	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	256	40	-	-	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	63	247	75	263	174	613	366	115	106	416	139	231	560	-	81	362	234
chickadee sp.	59	-	89	-	130	-	-	-	341	-	57	-	-	182	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	306	112	79	120	118	361	176	45	165	134	281	184	118	94	74	232	73
Red-breasted Nuthatch	20	13	2	13	2	36	16	1	12	8	28	9	8	5	3	14	12
White-breasted Nuthatch	221	98	41	74	92	194	128	32	118	78	171	142	108	70	39	167	63
Brown Creeper	30	8	4	5	14	33	22	4	20	12	26	20	11	3	4	55	11
Carolina Wren	153	39	32	11	99	85	32	23	67	31	141	65	15	23	17	107	16
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	8	1	-	-	3	7	1	-	2	2	5	2	2	-	7	15	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	41	14	2	3	26	22	10	18	38	34	32	33	31	5	6	52	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	5	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	8	-	1	-	10	-



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	154	64	27	17	118	140	162	6	103	65	271	28	30	51	55	311	21
Hermit Thrush	4	6	1	9	4	7	5	-	8	6	4	2	-	-	7	10	1
American Robin	453	31	12	2	1051	1814	37	13	14	5093	1077	23	48	24	5	40	17
Gray Catbird	4	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	CW	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	73	10	4	17	86	64	63	2	48	3	115	148	4	5	6	84	5
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1523	2270	780	605	3908	3795	2751	291	4057	1789	3937	8673	1257	1637	488	5546	1052
American Pipit	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Cedar Waxwing	27	245	-	40	372	107	6	-	6	3	64	20	52	8	2	48	18
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	24	1	7	-	9	8	12	-	45	2	19	1	-	12	1	6	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	4	-	3	2	4	4	-	2	15	5	4	4	1	1	1	4	-
American Tree Sparrow	36	65	11	30	122	75	300	23	73	501	38	33	265	8	105	223	91
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	4	12	-	-	-	2	-
Field Sparrow	18	1	14	2	13	9	2	4	6	-	23	9	-	3	-	13	1
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	5	-	-	1	-	13	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	CW	-	-	2	-	-	1	CW	5	3	-	-	-	3	CW
Song Sparrow	289	46	72	15	422	183	163	22	182	113	284	242	37	63	35	574	141
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	1	-	26	4	-	-	2	11	13	-	-	-	-	7	7
White-throated Sparrow	691	225	29	71	693	1457	279	60	221	652	987	520	162	23	91	368	59
Harris Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2	-	17	68	10	1	3	10	6	25	92	-	3	3	79	-
Slate-colored Junco	714	338	213	538	705	1402	1236	224	343	679	886	1465	1469	191	317	784	202
Lapland Longspur	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	CW	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	CW	-	4	-	-
Northern Cardinal	357	105	129	86	86	408	273	90	282	224	280	456	137	266	52	341	98
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	4067	1	-	103	-	369	3	2	-	151	401	-	-	132	-	6	8
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	2	85	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	923	2	5	-	702	1285	-	2	-	37	55	29	-	4	-	51	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	10	12	24	-	700	4	-	1	46	222	196	-	3	2	2	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	9	2	CW	19	10	13	12	-	2	26	31	27	106	-	3	5	-
House Finch	338	148	91	70	152	467	473	40	176	146	482	355	168	93	56	187	66
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	8	-	-	3	-	-
American Goldfinch	225	183	67	146	144	258	121	48	252	155	188	506	188	115	125	224	76
House Sparrow	130	202	312	248	474	364	441	97	492	313	375	1497	356	339	123	833	132
Number Species	71	62	64	62	72	92	70	54	67	70	85	76	55	51	57	87	65
Number Individuals	26663	6342	4968	5097	65496	88093	12806	2897	11185	13665	35620	23151	8246	5700	2490	15261	4600
Party-hours	144	49.5	38	40	75.5	117.5	185	35	73.25	70.75	116.5	113.5	105.75	44	65	70.5	44



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG
American Kestrel	7	-	6	9	-	5	29	49	13	4	8	8	10	12	19	11	37
Merlin	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	15	-	-	60	-	168	1	-	1	-	61	-	-	1	-	9	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	7	-	-	4	-	1	1	3	2	1	-	-	2	-	1	3	2
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	4	-	10
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	1	-	-	-	-	562	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1698	1	-	18930	-	3915	7	19	810	101	-	5	48	7015	69	49	21
Herring Gull	151	-	-	1142	-	924	1	16	241	-	-	-	1	220	70	3	1
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	36	-	-	28	-	54	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	54	6	-	-
Rock Pigeon	345	24	30	454	124	1183	155	1506	1344	138	166	481	41	289	723	696	891
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	635	13	163	630	207	142	543	1888	993	251	593	321	66	504	664	1214	1050
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	13	17	CW	34	-	-	3	20	23	7	CW	3	4	8	22	-	19
Great Horned Owl	12	2	1	11	1	3	4	18	29	9	2	2	6	2	9	7	19
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	1	1	1	-	-	7	-	3	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	17	-	1	10	1	1	2	10	22	3	4	7	4	8	6	14	7
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	163	19	4	153	3	20	38	127	175	28	54	16	38	54	70	134	56
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	4	1	6	1	-	4	6	36	7	3	CW	2	20	6	12	6
Downy Woodpecker	163	22	25	179	38	77	53	221	168	54	117	29	81	65	82	180	82
Hairy Woodpecker	48	5	12	34	25	16	21	24	21	14	23	13	15	7	9	18	15
Yellow-shafted Flicker	43	5	3	96	1	33	16	88	97	13	7	3	8	30	35	46	19
Pileated Woodpecker	3	5	9	8	14	1	12	10	12	16	20	10	20	5	3	4	9
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Northern Shrike	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	483	135	112	351	366	135	187	690	398	303	521	204	173	83	251	466	268
American Crow	568	48	158	351	175	343	79	774	4363	268	2432	377	488	6314	686	1090	627
Fish Crow	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	533	-	CW	-	-	55	5	2	-
Common Raven	-	3	5	-	35	-	7	4	2	14	1	1	3	-	5	-	2
Horned Lark	-	-	-	255	-	-	35	170	14	21	30	369	-	359	230	191	265
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	570	-	-	473	-	-	47	1	283	-	-	-	-	225	26	11	-
Black-capped Chickadee	23	112	197	148	448	145	25	110	100	204	798	294	81	36	153	691	258
chickadee sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	632	169	-	-	-	-	-	169	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	361	34	47	246	83	53	67	341	306	159	298	93	164	59	120	405	116
Red-breasted Nuthatch	30	6	2	17	31	5	4	33	21	7	16	8	7	19	73	36	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	233	22	43	160	118	39	48	205	123	105	177	47	74	46	64	192	111
Brown Creeper	29	2	2	25	13	1	4	21	62	3	11	7	11	19	16	16	15
Carolina Wren	146	6	5	84	13	4	23	127	151	22	24	7	21	77	44	200	32
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	15	-	-	4	1	2	-	6	23	-	-	-	-	8	7	5	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	14	15	13	50	3	9	14	66	22	33	2	15	36	20	16	17
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	2

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG
132	7	63	197	35	-	53	204	288	53	39	18	46	62	117	193	135
23	7	-	20	4	3	3	19	26	12	2	-	4	1	3	5	4
1556	12	8	318	-	168	79	63	4422	2	5	11	8	1173	33	299	23
16	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	3	2	2	3	1
142	1	-	80	-	-	83	133	133	21	2	5	6	175	67	112	53
3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3131	4	735	1909	154	1137	2408	5689	5566	681	1983	1052	787	9960	2144	6037	2814
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	49	-	-	-
87	56	74	86	235	3	23	346	326	27	79	1	2	36	250	46	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	6	1	4	-	89	9	4	19	1	-	11	-	7	2	4	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
84	-	-	14	1	3	6	5	17	2	1	-	1	9	6	1	-
American Towhee	21	40	51	96	145	15	167	92	72	160	74	34	6	46	143	111
American Tree Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	23	19	50	-	2	20	35	2	4	8	1	3	2	2	19	17
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-
Savannah Sparrow	10	3	4	2	1	4	1	8	-	2	CW	-	11	2	1	1
Fox Sparrow	614	29	246	26	25	79	468	367	109	128	23	61	246	114	407	148
Song Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	24	-	20	-	-	7	2	12	-	1	-	1	1	2	5	-
Swamp Sparrow	1085	-	803	85	22	602	834	1276	180	175	17	177	707	566	979	306
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris's Sparrow	1	1	4	-	-	53	24	8	7	15	9	10	4	14	35	41
White-crowned Sparrow	1025	256	692	1158	115	983	1852	1044	998	1525	260	334	319	782	1685	981
Slate-colored Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	1	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	549	30	273	73	95	163	329	612	127	453	141	127	175	107	431	233
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	469	-	4542	1	-	-	2	49	-	-	20	-	329	1	21	2
Eastern Meadowlark	1	-	-	-	-	26	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	6	-	29	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	30	1	9444	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	4424	35	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	-	650	39	CW	1	244	20	9	18	1	-	20	-	7	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	28	20	28	7	-	47	24	13	7	84	10	1	-	4	7	2
House Finch	469	1	208	31	24	89	443	396	67	427	130	92	77	83	493	153
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	8	1	-	-	1	7	-
American Goldfinch	331	140	347	229	54	119	239	367	188	323	72	199	61	85	257	136
House Sparrow	382	7	89	627	129	97	1156	433	113	325	369	212	271	374	281	378
Number Species	107	56	49	91	49	75	79	101	63	62	70	63	82	81	88	70
Number Individuals	23090	1193	2747	53355	4234	12858	77817	29055	5026	12126	5392	3877	36023	10356	28701	10533
Party-hours	163.75	29	32.25	113.5	55.5	48.5	181.25	103	64	115.75	74.75	42	56.5	74.25	112.5	76

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	RACC	READ	RECT	RYER
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	10237	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	317	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	300	6156	15036	380	15	57	887	882	-	339	789	294	95	3	3530	629	212
Mute Swan	-	-	11	1	-	-	CW	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	2	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	9	4	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	-
Wood Duck	3	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Black Duck	26	103	1480	17	-	48	14	223	-	-	16	7	12	-	109	-	2
Mallard	283	384	2544	345	-	114	784	279	67	304	1390	8	417	8	758	66	120
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	2	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	CW	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	16	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	11	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	5	-	-
Common Merganser	67	0	12	27	-	62	1	12	-	-	6	55	-	1	9	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	6	8
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	2	-
Wild Turkey	-	87	7	7	104	19	1	5	-	108	190	35	67	15	32	73	112
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	16	11	31	7	1	6	76	7	-	10	26	4	1	1	20	3	6
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	5	-	110	13	-	44	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	-	-
Turkey Vulture	3	-	286	3	-	21	8	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	88	4	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	CW	17	2	3	1	3	-	4	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Harrier	3	-	4	CW	1	1	7	1	-	1	-	1	1	4	2	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	1	9	7	3	5	6	9	-	2	8	1	1	-	6	5	2
Cooper's Hawk	6	4	13	1	-	5	6	3	1	14	19	1	1	-	4	8	6
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	2	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	2	2	-
Red-tailed Hawk	131	52	87	23	31	78	71	31	1	55	71	8	16	9	60	28	50
Rough-legged Hawk	3	4	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
Golden Eagle	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	RACC	READ	RECT	RYER
American Kestrel	40	27	1	-	-	47	4	-	9	6	2	-	1	9	3	13
Merlin	-	1	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	22	-	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	1
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	12	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	2	3	476	1	17	317	509	-	2	259	-	222	-	519	-	-
Herring Gull	CW	125	-	-	7	202	4	-	-	51	-	-	-	41	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	CW	5	-	-	2	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1438	32	1196	1003	549	480	259	86	358	2132	5	74	26	1014	110	11
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	817	120	1654	298	388	839	394	6	431	684	58	34	25	1091	241	271
Barn Owl	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	39	14	10	1	38	14	3	-	4	10	8	1	4	25	8	-
Great Horned Owl	38	2	20	3	23	14	9	-	4	9	2	2	-	11	5	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	2	1	-	2	5	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	-	4	3
Long-eared Owl	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	12	-	30	2	1	7	14	1	7	7	5	6	2	10	8	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	132	51	178	13	95	111	90	-	116	167	24	23	11	98	81	52
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21	1	12	1	9	1	4	-	4	9	-	4	-	5	8	5
Downy Woodpecker	244	102	166	50	48	127	144	3	104	238	52	41	20	94	109	42
Hairy Woodpecker	36	19	23	17	10	16	13	22	16	55	22	9	-	12	25	13
Yellow-shafted Flicker	76	31	80	6	2	53	67	28	32	46	7	3	2	45	6	25
Pileated Woodpecker	25	11	8	11	3	19	3	CW	1	20	18	4	3	4	27	15
Eastern Phoebe	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	387	264	487	224	241	476	220	146	287	493	269	217	44	358	352	310
American Crow	551	299	20123	672	348	1222	274	58	315	8879	124	213	49	69	565	200
Fish Crow	-	-	129	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Raven	13	-	-	12	20	1	3	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	5	-
Horned Lark	562	1	1490	208	168	437	42	1	-	-	-	-	-	291	-	3
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	1	-	108	-	-	3	55	233	71	134	-	-	19	77	5	181
Black-capped Chickadee	265	327	327	196	300	369	213	3	28	206	581	364	22	61	773	10
chickadee sp.	-	-	156	-	-	-	-	-	371	401	-	-	-	156	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	334	31	267	120	35	359	169	128	3	210	413	105	32	199	309	146
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	8	17	1	1	37	56	5	2	19	7	8	10	16	20	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	169	84	133	85	48	149	100	114	8	108	192	116	10	133	200	90
Brown Creeper	73	9	34	3	-	24	41	14	8	14	10	1	1	8	12	9
Carolina Wren	100	7	144	22	1	87	115	57	2	98	184	8	6	105	40	38
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	14	4	9	-	1	6	10	10	-	5	4	-	-	7	2	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	121	20	23	17	8	38	32	9	2	20	40	5	3	4	54	43
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	1	4	-	-	5	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	LWST	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	RACC	READ	RECT	RYER
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	152	68	137	10	22	279	152	29	-	54	51	58	50	11	100	46	92
Hermit Thrush	19	1	18	-	-	27	6	1	-	5	-	6	3	-	21	2	1
American Robin	275	56	79	47	5	351	27	227	-	239	547	1	32	187	239	16	29
Gray Catbird	2	2	12	3	-	6	4	4	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	68	-	89	8	2	71	68	31	-	19	30	-	8	3	79	5	8
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	3472	805	6524	969	486	2755	3325	1102	167	1986	2350	357	377	131	4170	861	453
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	97	39	92	251	150	-	-	16	142	259	46	4	71	CW	4
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	6	4	-	1	-	16	24	4	-	7	-	-	2	-	4	3	2
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	3	3	40	1	1	2	3	21	-	4	14	-	-	-	8	6	20
American Tree Sparrow	141	86	188	159	222	68	36	48	16	16	26	55	22	42	17	135	9
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	2
Field Sparrow	10	-	36	-	15	9	9	17	-	-	10	6	7	-	3	42	24
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Fox Sparrow	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	4
Song Sparrow	482	62	799	66	38	168	137	103	-	265	188	11	41	30	170	118	100
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	1	4	10	-	2	3	11	4	-	2	1	-	2	5	6	CW	-
White-throated Sparrow	598	76	1142	265	47	510	390	347	-	101	277	49	57	25	672	152	36
Harriss Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	50	18	33	-	-	11	63	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	3	5	12
Slate-colored Junco	1185	197	764	958	298	1154	393	268	26	286	589	239	187	58	624	579	378
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	4	60	-	37	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	368	155	402	110	115	448	238	153	-	411	621	117	51	28	278	429	253
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	1	-	20	64	7	2	482	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	138	4	3
Eastern Meadowlark	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rusty Blackbird	CW	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Grackle	-	-	150	1	-	17	31	36	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	CW	-	218	50	7	19	278	1	-	1	1	8	-	-	5	27	29
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	2	3	8	-	-	9	16	-	-	-	-	14	2	-	10	13	3
House Finch	250	41	374	168	64	212	107	67	2	134	366	35	18	30	244	76	38
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	CW	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	-	1	1	40	-	-	-	4	-
American Goldfinch	185	111	268	291	100	291	122	86	17	301	591	182	57	8	161	196	108
House Sparrow	828	190	1340	274	157	442	212	230	10	447	633	119	26	71	619	295	303
Number Species	76	62	87	65	51	83	75	73	23	58	66	57	55	45	79	66	60
Number Individuals	14543	10217	71539	7349	4089	12050	11867	6846	491	7821	23690	3469	3093	975	17233	6874	3937
Party-hours	71	47	146	56	52	62	53.5	73	10	204.5	198	50.25	44	26	71	75.25	58.75



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SCRA	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WYNC	YORK
American Kestrel	1	4	37	7	6	-	4	20	3	8	16	4	1	3	11	CW	16
Merlin	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	147	3	-	6	-	4	-	2	30	8	2	-	-	-	-	27
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	7	-	-	-	1	4
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	13	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
American Woodcock	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	573	21160	12525	-	-	5	5	1229	190	-	816	128	52	20	2	78	646
Herring Gull	65	75582	182	16	-	5	5	24	1	-	10	3	-	5	-	5	-
Iceland Gull	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	87	2	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Glaucous Gull	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	6582	62	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	865	405	1419	583	700	10	418	477	314	135	463	111	58	126	1358	122	971
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	243	723	814	207	366	4	170	1696	327	335	424	698	121	218	507	335	460
Barn Owl	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	15	72	12	7	-	31	114	1	14	25	40	-	18	13	6	2
Great Horned Owl	2	10	43	6	4	-	11	28	-	5	7	10	4	27	8	4	9
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	6	-	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Belted Kingfisher	-	15	29	4	12	-	3	11	14	-	9	12	-	2	2	2	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	131	201	15	49	-	28	211	20	55	88	149	8	20	16	85	55
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	7	35	3	4	-	1	17	1	6	2	4	-	2	1	4	3
Downy Woodpecker	75	161	218	53	65	7	62	262	107	54	69	135	19	53	66	71	51
Hairy Woodpecker	25	25	41	13	19	8	11	24	18	28	5	20	7	3	16	6	8
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	93	200	19	7	-	15	120	3	14	20	44	-	4	5	25	37
Pileated Woodpecker	3	-	24	9	12	2	14	4	4	11	1	5	3	3	15	-	3
Eastern Phoebe	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	249	423	383	223	269	10	177	876	535	160	219	531	160	158	231	251	165
American Crow	562	732	516	412	1078	42	512	698	302	134	364	956	210	258	867	120	180
Fish Crow	-	158	3	-	42	-	-	2	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	-
Common Raven	5	-	-	8	15	1	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	2
Horned Lark	-	-	442	-	150	-	77	45	-	-	50	-	-	88	79	-	140
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	493	429	655	-	368	67	253	349	-	90	230	323	-	-	-	246	92
Black-capped Chickadee	-	53	72	298	368	-	253	189	788	35	10	31	446	194	247	15	1
chickadee sp.	-	12	112	-	-	-	-	390	-	-	-	101	-	-	-	10	-
Tufted Titmouse	127	207	199	52	136	11	73	403	105	135	83	227	97	51	93	131	44
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	33	118	4	13	-	17	42	8	29	3	8	16	60	16	14	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	99	120	177	66	99	8	78	239	187	74	83	159	102	43	79	86	38
Brown Creeper	3	32	46	8	15	-	4	14	6	16	5	6	10	11	5	15	8
Carolina Wren	7	107	230	20	15	-	18	170	15	37	48	149	14	14	14	51	59
House Wren	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	-	16	47	1	3	-	1	8	-	1	1	5	-	2	-	6	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	32	181	16	21	-	9	40	23	13	10	16	10	8	20	4	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	4	6	1	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

SCRA	SBCK	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WYNC	YORK
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	7	289	99	36	6	69	237	9	33	115	199	26	74	74	20	98
-	10	44	-	16	-	1	52	-	-	1	17	-	24	2	5	1
8	6091	378	59	16	-	137	3106	11	58	79	1755	3	21	230	407	106
-	20	10	-	2	-	1	5	-	-	3	3	-	1	2	3	-
11	78	214	1	44	-	6	161	-	12	88	162	-	27	14	26	82
-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1018	10661	3127	1860	2314	18	622	4881	1161	420	5512	7136	299	382	2443	451	2372
-	-	81	-	3	-	-	9	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	168	89	43	14	-	26	949	154	-	-	31	28	111	118	12	10
-	19	87	-	-	-	-	149	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	24	41	-	-	-	2	18	-	1	10	29	-	2	CW	11	8
102	44	30	96	104	40	105	97	85	34	31	35	23	79	105	10	41
-	-	4	-	3	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	CW	-
-	62	26	-	-	-	1	22	9	5	13	25	-	5	6	6	5
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-
-	5	35	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	18	20	-	-	-	2	-
-	8	18	-	6	-	-	10	1	1	1	6	-	1	1	11	1
16	323	1037	34	87	-	48	493	30	95	138	329	5	38	51	66	207
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	6	22	-	1	-	3	17	-	-	1	26	-	5	-	1	17
24	977	2100	45	333	2	115	909	85	47	332	654	6	132	177	406	539
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	4	98	-	10	-	-	24	1	9	32	2	-	9	-	-	13
509	652	1478	313	745	26	308	1445	824	218	596	871	130	386	867	534	532
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	93	286	817	165	9	131	572	216	177	142	444	29	85	148	141	111
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	50	10286	-	18	-	2	186	1	6	118	8292	-	15	-	8	202
-	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	45	46181	-	7	-	-	16	2	2	237	11965	-	-	-	22	3090
10	35	6365	-	26	-	37	9	9	8	-	3	-	1	-	400	252
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	4	2	23	-	14	11	113	1	4	-	8	14	7	4	2	2
145	206	234	122	145	6	85	613	123	167	60	358	31	87	143	230	70
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	6	1	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
158	179	535	131	153	8	155	218	321	115	119	187	44	123	-	171	65
545	280	905	191	582	-	170	355	369	185	194	105	32	48	206	281	121
52	99	109	54	68	27	65	91	66	64	74	80	47	71	57	72	85
7262	150714	126128	5955	9175	449	4770	46229	8147	3875	18384	48083	2308	3513	8985	7864	14311
72	135.5	204	53.5	91.25	6	71	144.5	93	32	75	141.75	26.5	29	62.5	55.5	61



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	TOTALS	NO. OF COUNTS	HIGH COUNT	HIGH COUNT	TOTALS	NO. OF COUNTS	HIGH COUNT	HIGH COUNT	TOTALS	NO. OF COUNTS	HIGH COUNT	HIGH COUNT	
Greater White-fronted Goose	2	1	2	CBCK	Golden Eagle	2	2	1	7	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	119	29	12
Snow Goose	137426	24	51700	BETH	American Kestrel	810	61	61	CURT	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	2	2
Brant	15	1	15	BETH	Martin	29	23	3	SBCK	Eastern Bluebird	5998	65	311
Cackling Goose	17	10	3	1	Peregrine Falcon	17	12	3	PITT	Hermit Thrush	486	51	52
Canada Goose	189618	66	21328	UBCK	Virginia Rail	2	1	2	UBCK	American Robin	32744	64	6091
Mute Swan	223	27	77	SBCK	American Coot	629	24	168	ERIE	Gray Catbird	142	35	20
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	1	HARR	Sandhill Crane	2	1	2	CURT	Northern Mockingbird	3164	58	214
Tundra Swan	543	15	127	HARR	Killdeer	120	33	22	LWST	Brown Thrasher	17	10	5
Wood Duck	78	24	7	AUDU	Least Sandpiper	1	1	1	NEVV	European Stalling	165513	67	10661
Gadwall	195	14	77	HARR	Purple Sandpiper	1	1	1	ERIE	American Pipit	160	8	81
American Wigeon	130	14	92	HARR	Wilson's Snipe	74	15	13	8	Cedar Waxwing	5605	56	949
American Black Duck	4055	57	1480	LITI	American Woodcock	1	1	1	YORK	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1	1
Mallard	25441	64	2544	LITI	Bonaparte's Gull	570	3	562	ERIE	Myrtle Warbler	636	41	149
Blue-winged Teal	2	2	1	2	Ring-billed Gull	111810	47	3582	BERN	Pine Warbler	7	4	4
Northern Shoveler	44	8	19	DELA	Herring Gull	79940	36	75582	SBCK	Palm Warbler	1	1	1
Northern Pintail	54	11	20	LITI	Iceland Gull	12	3	10	SBCK	Ovenbird	1	1	1
Green-winged Teal	56	13	27	DELA	Lesser Black-backed Gull	286	13	140	CBCK	Northern Waterthrush	1	1	1
Canvasback	46	8	19	ERIE	Glaucous Gull	10	3	8	SBCK	Common Yellowthroat	10	4	6
Redhead	24	3	14	INDI	Great Black-backed Gull	7014	18	6582	SBCK	Eastern Towhee	476	50	84
Ring-necked Duck	380	24	200	LEHI	Rock Pigeon	35142	67	2132	PITT	American Tree Sparrow	5672	67	501
Greater Scaup	315	8	279	ERIE	Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	1	3	WCHE	Chipping Sparrow	66	21	12
Lesser Scaup	402	13	318	ERIE	Mourning Dove	38017	67	2567	CHAM	Field Sparrow	671	52	62
Black Scoter	3	1	3	ERIE	Barn Owl	8	4	2	9	Vesper Sparrow	3	3	1
Surf Scoter	2	1	2	ERIE	Eastern Screech-Owl	925	57	114	UBCK	Savannah Sparrow	171	24	35
White-winged Scoter	5	1	5	ERIE	Great Horned Owl	635	61	43	SLAN	Fox Sparrow	147	38	18
Long-tailed Duck	5	1	5	ERIE	Snowy Owl	1	1	1	CLRN	Song Sparrow	11720	65	1037
Bufflehead	445	25	102	SBCK	Barred Owl	74	35	7	GETT	Lincoln's Sparrow	4	4	1
Common Goldeneye	272	20	95	ERIE	Long-eared Owl	35	9	15	ELVE	Swamp Sparrow	296	40	26
Hooded Merganser	511	31	107	WARR	Short-eared Owl	17	10	3	10	White-throated Sparrow	26041	66	2100
Common Merganser	5566	44	3004	SLAN	Northern Saw-whet Owl	38	11	12	SLAN	Harris's Sparrow	1	1	1
Red-breasted Merganser	409	7	391	ERIE	Belted Kingfisher	502	61	30	LITI	White-crowned Sparrow	1001	47	98
Ruddy Duck	233	19	70	ELVE	Red-headed Woodpecker	49	14	14	CHAM	Slate-colored Junco	44227	67	1852
Ring-necked Pheasant	172	34	32	CULP	Red-bellied Woodpecker	4743	65	211	UBCK	Lapland Longspur	4	3	2
Ruffed Grouse	81	31	10	PLEA	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	362	54	36	HARR	Snow Bunting	232	13	100
Wild Turkey	3487	59	284	TUNK	Downy Woodpecker	6528	67	262	UBCK	Northern Cardinal	15461	67	817
Northern Bobwhite	1	1	1	BUTL	Hairy Woodpecker	1210	65	55	PITT	Blue Grosbeak	1	1	1
Red-throated Loon	4	3	2	ERIE	Yellow-shafted Flicker	2265	64	200	SLAN	Red-winged Blackbird	30590	43	10286
Common Loon	26	10	9	ERIE	Pileated Woodpecker	615	64	27	RECT	Eastern Meadowlark	59	13	26
Pied-billed Grebe	83	16	22	WARR	Eastern Phoebe	26	19	4	HARR	Rusty Blackbird	213	17	85
Horned Grebe	8	5	3	ERIE	Northern Shrike	6	5	2	CLRN	Brewer's Blackbird	1	1	1
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	1	ERIE	Blue Jay	20822	67	954	CLRN	Common Grackle	78841	36	46181
Double-crested Cormorant	73	5	26	SBCK	American Crow	69221	67	20123	LITI	Brown-headed Cowbird	10040	48	6365
Great Cormorant	46	3	42	PENN	Fish Crow	984	21	533	HARR	Baltimore Oriole	2	2	1
Great Blue Heron	714	60	76	NEVV	Common Raven	213	34	35	EMPO	Pine Grosbeak	1	1	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	1	1	SBCK	Horned Lark	8536	42	1490	LITI	Purple Finch	829	52	113
Black Vulture	1423	27	175	SLAN	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	125	1	125	PENN	House Finch	11831	67	613
Turkey Vulture	2493	32	346	LANC	Carolina Chickadee	5761	32	655	SLAN	Red Crossbill	84	2	83
Osprey	2	2	1	3	Black-capped Chickadee	15389	66	798	INDI	White-winged Crossbill	1	1	1
Bald Eagle	199	35	53	SLAN	Chickadee sp.	3672	19	632	HAMB	Common Redpoll	33	3	18
Northern Harrier	165	43	14	GETT	Tufted Titmouse	10803	67	413	PITT	Pine Siskin	119	21	40
Sharp-shinned Hawk	405	63	32	DELA	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1146	64	118	SLAN	American Goldfinch	11832	66	591
Cooper's Hawk	428	63	19	PITT	White-breasted Nuthatch	7163	67	239	UBCK	House Sparrow	22900	66	1497
Northern Goshawk	7	6	2	CHAM	Brown Creeper	1002	64	73	LWST	Number Species	164	109	164
Red-shouldered Hawk	79	33	5	4	Carolina Wren	3916	65	230	SLAN	Number Individuals	132750	150714	150714
Red-tailed Hawk	3463	67	131	5	House Wren	9	5	3	PENN	Party-hours	5462	204	15
Rough-legged Hawk	71	31	6	6	Winter Wren	303	47	47	SLAN				
					Golden-crowned Kinglet	1607	66	181	SLAN				

1-LEBA,SLAN  
 2-LANC,YORK  
 3-BETH,CHAM  
 4-AUDU,DELA,LITI,SLAN  
 5-LWST,UBCK  
 6-CLRN,LWBG

7-CULP,LWST  
 8-CHAM,SLAN  
 9-HAMB,LWBG,LWST,SLAN

10-CLRN,GETT,LITI  
 11-LEHI,RYER,SLAN  
 12-BUSH,DELA,INDI,PITT

13-BERN,WEST  
 14-LWBG,WYNC  
 15-PISH,SLAN

# The 2006 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania With a Summary of Results from 2001-2006

Greg Grove

## Introduction.

The 6th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from January 21 through February 19, 2005 with 144 routes run in 61 of the state's 67 counties.

Briefly, the WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines (Appendix 1). All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are also collected on sex/age/color form as applicable. The previous emphasis on surveying for open-country raptors has been dropped as a stated goal, but open-country raptors will continue to dominate because Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels are common and conspicuous winter residents. Readers of previous WRS annual reports will also note that I have discontinued the practice of breaking down the data into physiographic regions for reasons explained below.

In addition to the WRS results from 2006, this article also includes a summary of the first six years of the Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey.

## Results from 2006 WRS

**Effort and Weather.** In 2006, 477.5 hours of observation were recorded, covering 7,930 miles. These values are similar to those in 2004 and 2005 (Table 2). Raw numbers of each raptor species by county are presented in Appendix 2. Data for most abundant species have been normalized to birds/hour to allow for comparisons among years (Table 1) and between counties (Fig. 1-6).

During 2006, for the second consecutive winter, weather conditions in January and February were mild. Temperatures during January were well above average. There was little snowfall in January and most surveys noted no snow cover or at most a couple inches. Temperatures in February were more typical of winter but still little snow fell until a significant snowstorm passed through the eastern part of the state, after most routes had been completed.

**Species Comments for the 2006 WRS.** Of the four open-country raptor species, only Rough-legged Hawks dropped substantially in number from the 2005 count. Perhaps attributable to the mild character of the winter of 2006, both vulture species, along with Bald Eagle were recorded in the highest numbers yet for the six-year history of this survey. As noted previously (Grove, 2005), the highest concentration of wintering raptors in the state again appeared to be in the central and south-central counties of the Susquehanna and Juniata River drainages.

**Red-tailed Hawks.** Red-tails, as always, were the most abundant raptor, with a total of 2,184 recorded. This number was higher than any previous year except for the 2,610 counted in 2005. The statewide rate of 4.57 Red-tail's per hour was also second only to the 2005 rate of 5.28 per hour (Table 1). Of 1658 Red-tails aged, 165 (10%) were immature, within the range seen in previous years (9-16%).

The highest numbers of wintering Red-tails were in southeastern and south-central counties, although some counties west of the mountains also had good numbers of Red-tails (Fig. 2). Routes in Cumberland, Juniata, Lehigh, Northumberland, Perry, and Snyder counties averaged over 10 Red-tails per hour of observation. Excepting Lehigh, all of those counties form a contiguous cluster in the central Susquehanna Valley.

**American Kestrels.** For the fifth time in six years, Kestrels were the second most numerous raptors reported, albeit a very distant second to Red-tails. During the first four years of WRS there was a substantial downward trend in Kestrels per hour (Table 1). In 2005, this trend was reversed. In 2006, the number of Kestrels increased again, to 488, a record high count; and the number observed per hour of observation was 1.02, the third highest rate, behind only the first two years of WRS when hours of effort were lower. The winters of 2005 and 2006 were mild, a fact that may partially explain the reversal of the downward trend through 2004.

As with Red-tails, though even more apparent, the greatest concentration of wintering Kestrels was in the central and lower Susquehanna valley (Fig 4). Eight counties reported 2.0 or more Kestrels per hour, all in that region.

Of 414 Kestrels sexed, 60% were males, a result essentially identical to previous years.

**Rough-legged Hawks.** In 2006, a total of 93 Rough-legged hawks were recorded, down substantially from 341 and 200 in 2004 and 2005, respectively. On a per hour basis, 0.19 Rough-legs were counted, a value much lower than the previous two years, but within the range recorded during the first three years, 2001-2003 (Table 1). As seen in Fig 3, most Rough-legs were found primarily in northern tier counties and in the central Susquehanna Valley.

Each year, a few routes have very high Rough-leg counts. For example, in 2005, one route each in Perry and Juniata counties produced a remarkable 16 Rough-legs (Grove, 2005). In 2006, with lower overall numbers statewide, the most on any one route was the nine

Rough-legs on the Penn's Valley/Brush Valley route in eastern Centre County, a productive area each year for Rough-legs. A Warren county route produced 8 Rough-legs and 5 each were recorded on routes in Lycoming and Perry counties.

All Rough-legs were classified by color phase with 71% being light-phase. This value is higher than in previous years when light-phase birds constituted 60-64% of the total.

**Northern Harriers.** The 80 Northern Harriers recorded in 2006 was the second highest total thus far, as was the per hour rate of 0.17 (Table 1). The distribution of Harriers was similar to that of Red-tails and Kestrels, with many of the best reports coming from the central and lower Susquehanna Valley (Fig. 1). One route in Northumberland had nine Harriers, although there were Harrier "hotspots" elsewhere in the state as demonstrated by the finding of ten Harriers on a Bucks county route and seven on a route in Washington County.

**Vultures.** A noticeable effect, presumably, of the mild weather in January was on the number of vultures reported. Both species were recorded in record numbers, with 1863 Turkey Vultures and 477 Black Vultures, nearly double the previous high counts and per hour rates (Table 1) for each. Despite the big increase however, as usual there were very few vultures reported outside of the Piedmont and lower Ridge and Valley counties (Figs. 5,6). Chester and Lancaster led the Turkey Vulture count with 456 and 377 respectively and the same two counties had the highest Black Vulture counts with 132 and 88, respectively.

## Other Raptor Species Reported in 2006

- Bald Eagle	81**
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:	29
- Cooper's Hawk:	52
- Northern Goshawk:	1
- Red-shouldered Hawk:	8
- Merlin:	3
- Peregrine Falcon:	1

\*\* (record high) 39 of the 81 Bald eagles were in Lancaster County

## Owls and Shrikes:

Barred Owl	1
Great Horned:	6
Short-eared:	1
Nothern Shrike:	5

## Summary of Results from 2001-2006

The Winter Raptor Survey has been conducted for six years beginning in 2001, when 253 hours of observation time were logged. Since 2004 the level of participation has leveled-off at close to 500 hours (Table 2) indicating that the routes run each year are now fairly consistent, a desirable goal for year-to-year comparisons. Most participants in 2006 have been running their routes for several years and most have established the details of their routes with little modification.

*Weather 2001-2006.* It is impossible to know the relative importance of all the factors that dictate the number of raptors that winter in our state and what causes annual variation of those numbers. Along with prey availability and the success of the preceding breeding season, we may safely presume that weather also is an important factor. But can we assume that a mild winter means lots of wintering raptors and a severe winter means few? This may hold true for some or most species, in some or most years, but for some species or in some years the relationship is not likely to be so straightforward.

Pennsylvanians know that winter weather conditions in our state vary considerably in character – some years are quite benign but others present a constant challenge of storms and extended periods of sub-freezing weather. Such variation certainly has been the case during the six years of the Winter Raptor Surveys. It would not be much of an oversimplification to state that during the past six winters we have had two years of mild weather (2001, 2002), two harsh years (2003, 2004) and then, again, two mild years (2005, 2006).

In summarizing the WRS results in Figs. 1-6 I shall make some tenuous correlations between individual species trends and the general weather conditions throughout the six years. For convenience, I have briefly summarized below the weather during each winter.

2001, 2002 – Mild; limited snowfall and snow cover

2003, 2004 – Cold (very cold in 2004), significant snow cover across the state

2005, 2006 – Mild; limited snowfall and snow cover

*Red-tailed Hawks* Red-tailed Hawks are probably the most abundant wintering raptor in Pennsylvania and are certainly the most conspicuous. The WRS count of Red-tails each year has been much higher than all other raptors combined (Table 1).

A comparison of the annual hourly detection rates from 2001-2006 (Table 1) and the weather each year suggests a very simple relationship. The two lowest rates occurred during the two years with severe winters, 2003 and 2004. The rate in 2003 was particularly low, only about 2/3 the rate in the four relatively high years when mild weather prevailed. Whether this seemingly simplistic relationship will always hold remains to be seen. Certainly it is to be expected that other factors play a role as well, most obviously prey availability. Is the supply of rabbits, squirrels and mice, favored prey of Red-tails, relatively stable enough year-to-year so that given mild weather conditions, many Red-tails are satisfied to winter in Pennsylvania?

Red-tails winter throughout all of Pennsylvania, but not surprisingly, more are found in the southern counties as expected given the milder weather there. However, it is also true that the southern counties have more of the open, agricultural habitat favored by Red-tails. As mentioned above, the maps in Fig. 2 show that Red-tails are especially abundant in the central and lower Susquehanna River region. This part of the state apparently has the best combination of extensive agricultural habitat and relatively milder winter weather. Further to the southeast, the weather is even milder but land development has caused a decline in attractive agricultural acreage, enough to apparently cause fewer Red-tails to winter there as compared with the Susquehanna Valley. Nevertheless, southeastern and southwestern counties also host a significant number of Red-tails in winter. Fig. 2 shows that the colder and more heavily forested northern tier counties have fewer Red-tails and this trend is also noted south through the high elevations of the Laurel Highlands to the Maryland border.

*American Kestrels.* With the exception of 2004, Kestrels have been the second most abundant raptors recorded each year during the Winter Raptor Survey.

The maps in Fig. 4 show that, like

Red-tails, wintering Kestrels appear to be most abundant in the central and lower Susquehanna Valley, a pattern particularly obvious from 2004 through 2006. During some years, rates were fairly high in scattered southwestern counties but less consistently and uniformly so than in the Susquehanna Valley counties.

As shown in Table 1, the highest rate of Kestrel detection statewide was highest the first year, declined annually through 2004, and then partially rebounded in 2005 and 2006.

The two years with severe weather, 2003 and 2004, produced two of three lowest Kestrel detection rates. The year with the most severe winter and with particularly deep and continual snow cover, 2004, saw a substantially lower rate of Kestrel detection than in any other year. Therefore an obvious suggestion is that, like Red-tails, annual variability in WRS Kestrel counts may be explained by the weather conditions in a given year, with severe conditions pushing birds south of the state. However, six years of data is not enough to allow a high level of confidence in this hypothesis. And in particular, it should be noted that in fact the Kestrel rates in the mild winters of 2005 and 2006 were similar to 2003, a severe year.

An interesting alternative hypothesis for the low Kestrel count in 2004 is that because of the high plowed snow banks at roadside, Kestrels may have moved away from their typical utility wire perches to find shallower snow cover and thus better prospects for hunting rodents (Bruce Fortman, per. comm.).

Careful examination of the Kestrel maps (Fig. 4) suggests a continuing decline in the southeastern counties where there appears to have been minimal, if any, recovery (as happened in the Susquehanna Valley) in the detection rate following the 2004 statewide low. Thus we might tentatively suggest that the winter Kestrel population in the far eastern counties of Pennsylvania is undergoing a somewhat different dynamic than that in the Susquehanna Valley. Although the WRS data is far from conclusive, it suggests the possibility of a decline in numbers in the southeast for reasons somewhat separate from weather issues. Evidence from Breeding Bird Surveys and autumn hawk watch counts

**Table 1 – Birds Observed *per hour* for Selected Species during the 2001-2006 Pennsylvania WRS**

	NOHA	RTHA	RLHA	AMKE	BLVU	TUVU
2001	0.09	4.51	0.17	1.36	0.44	2.09
2002	0.10	4.47	0.07	1.25	0.55	1.68
2003	0.07	3.02	0.25	0.91	0.53	1.28
2004	0.18	4.00	0.66	0.52	0.51	1.84
2005	0.14	5.28	0.40	0.88	0.40	2.02
2006	0.17	4.57	0.19	1.02	1.00	3.90

indicates a declining Kestrel population in the northeastern states, particularly coastal areas and New England (Farmer 2005, 2006). If this trend is real, it might be expected to be most evident in eastern counties of Pennsylvania.

**Rough-legged Hawks.** Of the four raptor species on which WRS has focused, the number of Rough-legged hawks has varied most over the six years with annual hourly rates varying by a factor of nearly ten (Table 1). Rough-legs of course are the only one of the four species that does not nest in Pennsylvania, the southern extent of their breeding range being some 500 hundred miles or more north of the state. Thus all Rough-legs we see here are migrants. The extent of their southward push varies, presumably according to some combination of prey availability and temperature and snow cover conditions. In some years, few Rough-legs come as far south as Pennsylvania. For example in 2002 only 21 were counted during 313 hours of WRS effort, a rate of 0.07 per hour. That year was one of the mildest winters of the six years of the Winter Raptor Surveys. By contrast, in 2004, the year of the most severe weather since 2001, 341 Rough-legs were tallied in 514 hours, a rate of 0.66 per hour. The second highest Rough-leg rate, 0.40, however did not occur in the other severe season (2003), but rather in the mild winter of 2005. (The 2003 season ranks third). Thus there is some correlation between the influx of Rough-legs and weather with the two most severe seasons producing the first and third highest hourly rates. Possibly the high rate in the mild winter of 2005 was an "echo" flight from the strong flight of the previous season.

Given that Rough-legs are not year-round residents and come to Pennsylvania from the far north, it should not be surprising that their winter distribution in the state does not mirror that of Red-tails and Kestrels. In comparison to those two common winter residents, which are more abundant in southern counties, Rough-legs are most often found in northern counties (Fig 3). However the one region in which they do push south most often is in the Susquehanna Valley, the stronghold also of other wintering raptors.

The strongest southward push was in 2004, the year with the most severe winter weather. In that year, in fact, Rough-legs were at least as abundant in middle latitude counties in the state as they were in northern tier counties. That year also saw by far the strongest movement into counties west of the Alleghenies. In no year was there a strong push of Rough-legs all the way into the far southeast and southwest corners of the state.

**Northern Harriers.** In five out of six years, Northern Harriers have been the least often recorded of the four "open-country" raptor species. Any statement

on trends or distributional patterns about Harriers during the WRS years is relatively tenuous, especially for 2001-2003 when hours of effort were lower than from 2004 on.

Harrier numbers were much lower during 2001-2003 than 2004-2006, but not simply as a function of less effort because the average hourly detection rate was also substantially lower in those first three years, approximately half of the average in the latter three years. A pattern apparent from 2004 on is that clearly the central and lower Susquehanna Valley has been the favored wintering area of Harriers, mirroring Red-tails and Kestrels, though at lower density. It is not clear why this pattern was not evident in the first three WRS years, but possibly this simply reflects the lower effort of those years.

**Vultures.** Turkey and Black Vulture ranges have been expanding northward during the last century, with Turkey Vultures becoming established as breeders in the state before 1900. Black Vultures arrived in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and are still largely confined to the southeast counties as a breeding species. The spread of vultures northward has been attributed to availability of road kill, especially white-tailed deer (Brauning 1992, McWilliams & Brauning 2000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas).

Turkey Vultures withdraw from most of Pennsylvania during winter months but are still relatively common at that time in the southeast. Black Vultures, though less numerous at any time of the year in Pennsylvania, are also well established winter residents in the southeast. The winter range of both includes the Piedmont counties as well the more southerly counties of the Ridge and Valley region, a geographical pattern that has been consistently observed during the Winter Raptor Surveys (Figs 5,6). Very few vultures are found outside of the southeast quadrant in any given winter. When they are observed elsewhere, the sighting is usually of a single bird.

The distribution pattern of vultures has no obvious correlation with the severity of the weather in a given year. The most obvious deviation from any pattern for the two vulture species was the substantially higher counts of both species in 2006, a very mild year. But from 2001 through 2005, variations in rates of detection were not substantial and thus cannot be correlated with the substantial weather differences among those winters. At this point, it appears that vultures are not significantly extending their winter range beyond the Piedmont and southeastern Ridge and Valley counties.

**Summary** For earlier analyses of WRS data, I divided the state into four major regions, based largely on physiographic areas delineated previously (Brauning 1992, McWilliams & Brauning 2000).

These divisions (Piedmont, Ridge and Valley, central and northern Highlands, West) clearly showed expected regional differences in winter raptor populations.

However, I have concluded that the physiographic regions do not reflect with sufficient accuracy the distribution of raptors and vultures in winter in Pennsylvania. For example, and as seen clearly in the maps, the region of greatest winter raptor density includes the northern and western Piedmont counties as well as the southern Ridge and Valley counties. Within the Highlands/Plateau region, there are substantial differences between counties that are largely forested compared to those with significant agricultural acreage.

Thus it seems that winter raptor distribution in Pennsylvania is best visualized by displaying rates of wintering raptors within individual counties, as in the maps prepared by Nick Bolgiano. This presentation of the data clearly shows a principle conclusion from the Winter Raptor Surveys thus far, which is that the greatest concentration of wintering raptors in Pennsylvania clearly lies within the Susquehanna River Valley.

**Table 2. WRS Effort 2001-2006**

	Hours	Miles
<b>2001</b>	253	4560
<b>2002</b>	313	5119
<b>2003</b>	391	6036
<b>2004</b>	514	8290
<b>2005</b>	494	8007
<b>2006</b>	478	7930

*Acknowledgements*

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.

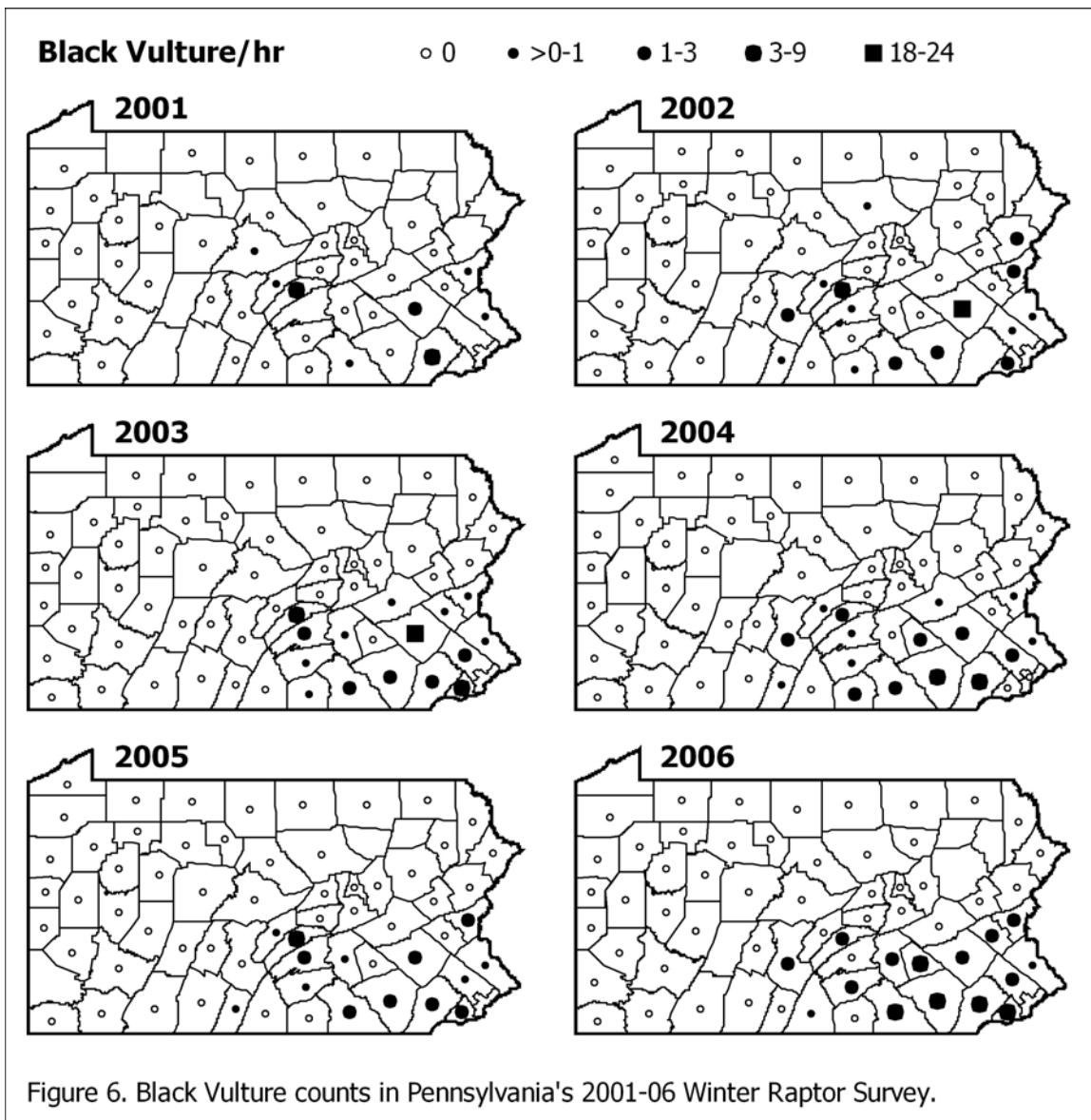
*Literature Cited*

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**2006 Winter Raptor Survey Results**

	Hrs	miles	BE	NH	S	S	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Adams	5	72		3			1			31		13			58	
Allegheny	1.75	55								2						
Armstrong	4	98					1			5		5				
Beaver	3	43	1							8		5				
Bedford	6	202							1	19		8				
Berks	16.75	248	1	2	3	1				87		25			81	29
Blair	2.25	30								13						
Bradford	3.75	70								9	3	1				
Bucks	9	130	2	10	1	1				36		2			79	8
Butler	3.5	105								15		2				
Cambria	0	0														
Cameron	1.75	52														
Carbon	5.75	73					1			5		2				
Centre	20	286		2			1			62	12	22				
Chester	21.5	440	4	1	5	4			1	121		13			456	132
Clarion	16.5	279	1	2		1				55	2	9				
Clearfield	4.5	116								3						
Clinton	5.5	108								12						
Columbia	3.5	72	1	2	1	3				16	4	7				
Crawford	5.5	82	3	1						10	2	1				
Cumberland	3.5	56								38		6			30	9
Dauphin	9.75	174	4				5			71		27			46	11
Delaware	6.75	140					1			15		1			73	28
Elk	2.5	53								3	1					
Erie	0	0														
Fayette	7	132					1			19		4				
Forest	4.25	63						1		3	1	1			1	
Franklin	13.75	234		1			1			50		19			49	1
Fulton	5.75	57		2	1				1	19		3				
Greene	10.75	168		1	1					74	1	20			8	
Huntingdon	7.25	137	1	2			1		1	21		11			9	14
Indiana	11.75	178				1				50		7				
Jefferson	8	111		1						8	4	2				
Juniata	12.5	145		4						133	2	29			134	37
Lackawana	0	0														
Lancaster	14	205	38		1	7			1	121		23		1	377	88
Lawrence	11.5	165		4	1	2			1	66	1	20	1			
Lebanon	4.25	64					2			34		8			57	15
Lehigh	9.75	131				2	2		2	101		1	1		40	17
Luzerne	0	0														
Lycoming	10.25	154		7			1			40	12	14				
McKean	8.5	105	3			3				15	1	3				
Mercer	10	152	6	1			1			49	5	9				
Mifflin	11.5	160				1	1			15		10				
Monroe	5.25	117	1							20					1	
Montgomery	5	50	2			1	3			29		1			57	9
Montour	2.75	40		3						15		3	1			
Northampton	10.5	204				1	1			40					64	27
Northumberland	5.75	133	2	13			2			79	5	27			2	
Perry	3	22		3						42	5	12			21	
Philadelphia	0	0														
Pike	2.25	28	1							2					1	
Potter	10.5	133				1				15	7					
Schuylkill	11.25	202		3						41		8			29	

Snyder	7	145		1	1				79		19			5	
Somerset	9	171			1				14	1	6				
Sullivan	5.25	100							4	2					
Susquehanna	6.25	49				1			29	2	3				
Tiogo	8.25	123	2	2					19	7	2				
Union	4	58				1			9	1	8				
Venango	8.75	147							16		6				
Warren	7.25	116	4	1					39	11	6				
Washington	6	75		7					23	1	5				
Wayne	1.5	60							6						
Westmoreland	20	372		1	2	1			121		31			2	
Wyoming	0	0													
York	15.25	241	4		1	4			88		18			183	
Totals	477.5	7931	81	80	29	52	1	8	2184	93	488	3	1	1863	477



**Turkey Vulture/hr**

○ 0    ● >0-1    ● 1-6    ● 6-15    ■ 20-37

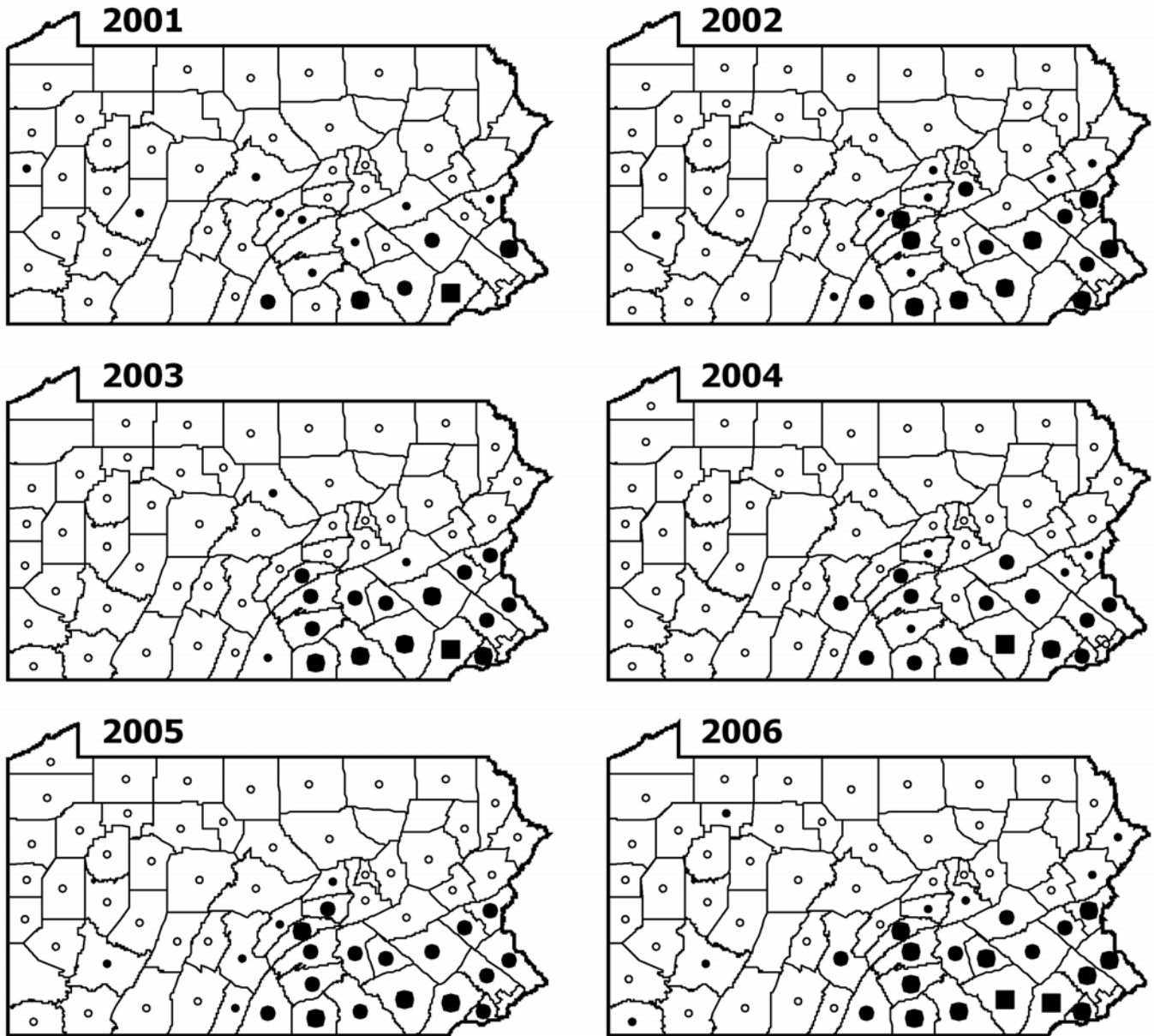


Figure 5. Turkey Vulture counts in Pennsylvania's 2001-06 Winter Raptor Survey.

**Northern Harrier/hr**

○ 0   ● >0-0.5   ● 0.5-1   ● 1-1.5   ■ 1.5-3

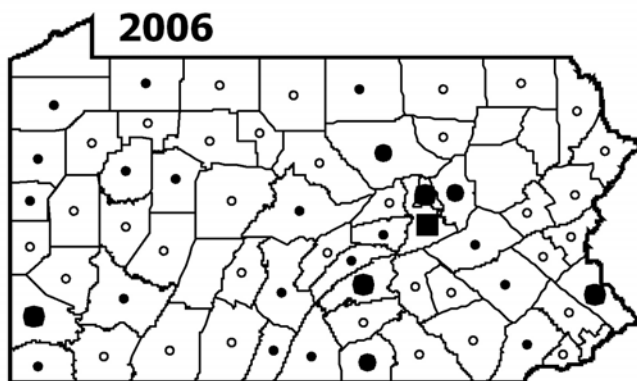
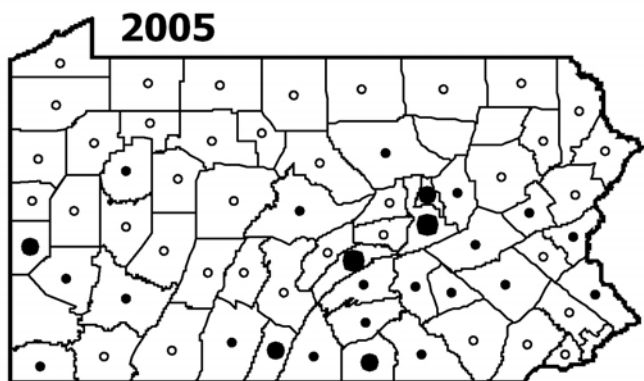
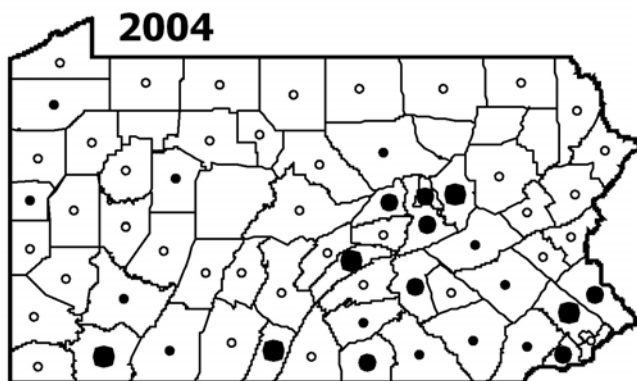
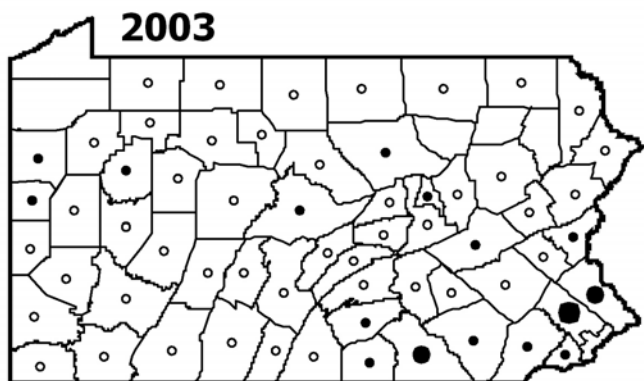
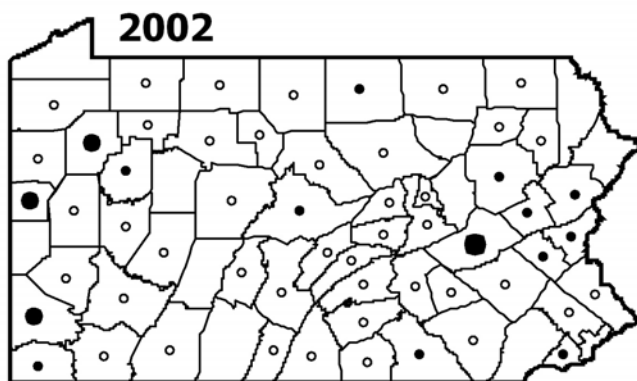
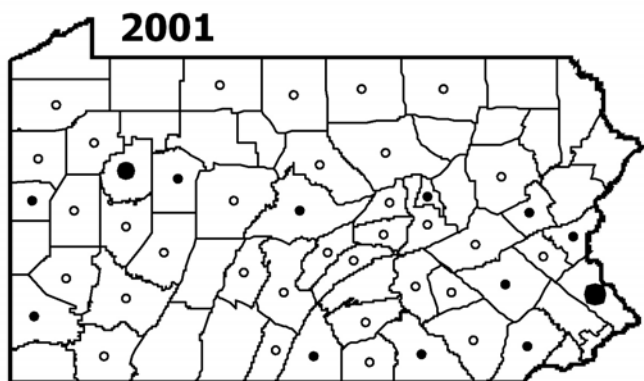


Figure 4. Northern Harrier counts in Pennsylvania's 2001-06 Winter Raptor Survey.



**Red-tailed Hawk/hr**

○ 0    ● >0-2    ● 2-4    ● 4-8    ■ 8-22

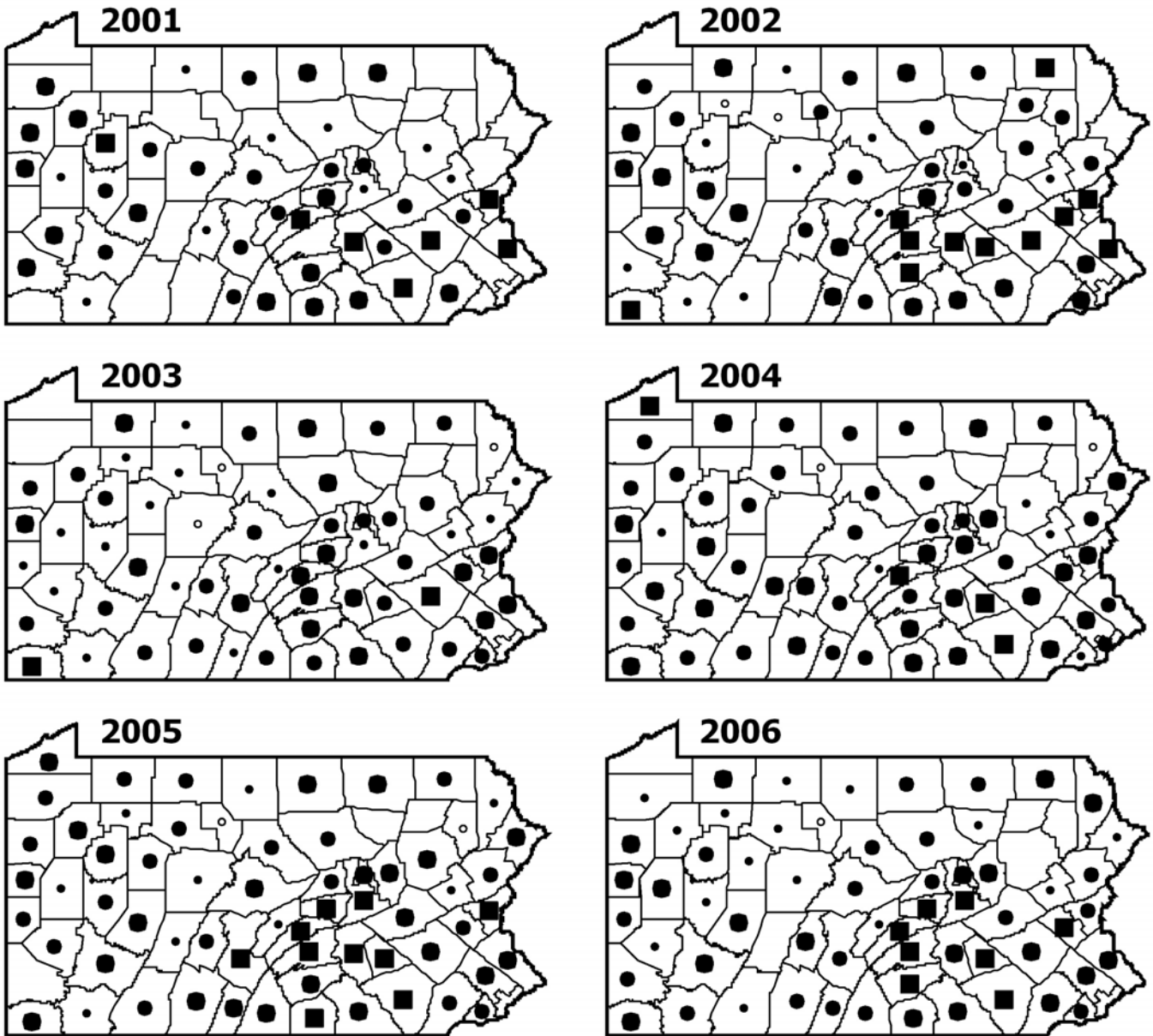


Figure 1. Red-tailed Hawk counts in Pennsylvania's 2001-06 Winter Raptor Survey.

**Rough-legged Hawk/hr**   ○ 0   ● >0-0.5   ● 0.5-1   ● 1-2.5   ■ 2.5-5

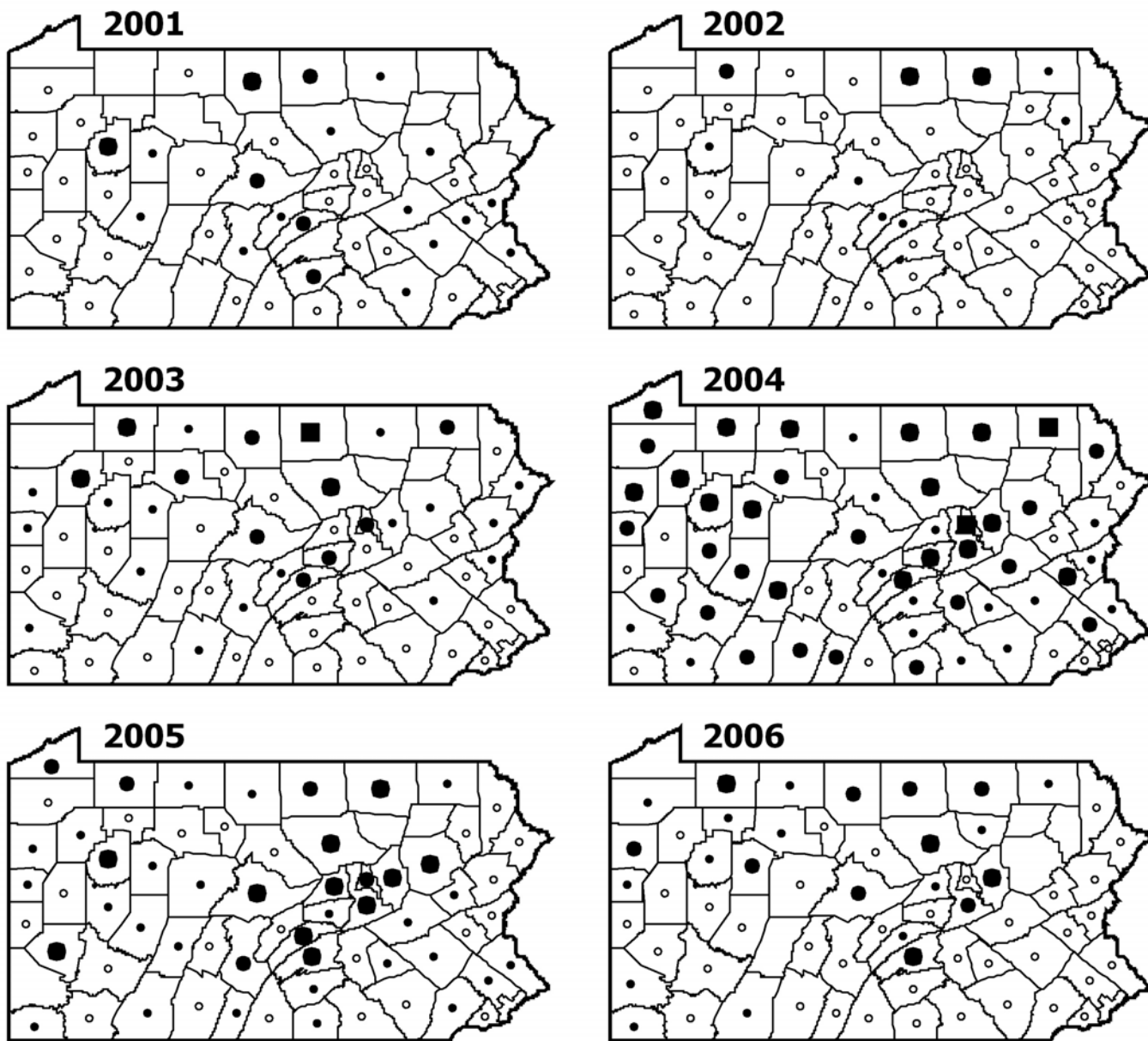


Figure 2. Rough-legged Hawk counts in Pennsylvania's 2001-06 Winter Raptor Survey.

## American Kestrel/hr

○ 0   ● >0-1   ● 1-2.5   ● 2.5-5   ■ 5-8.5

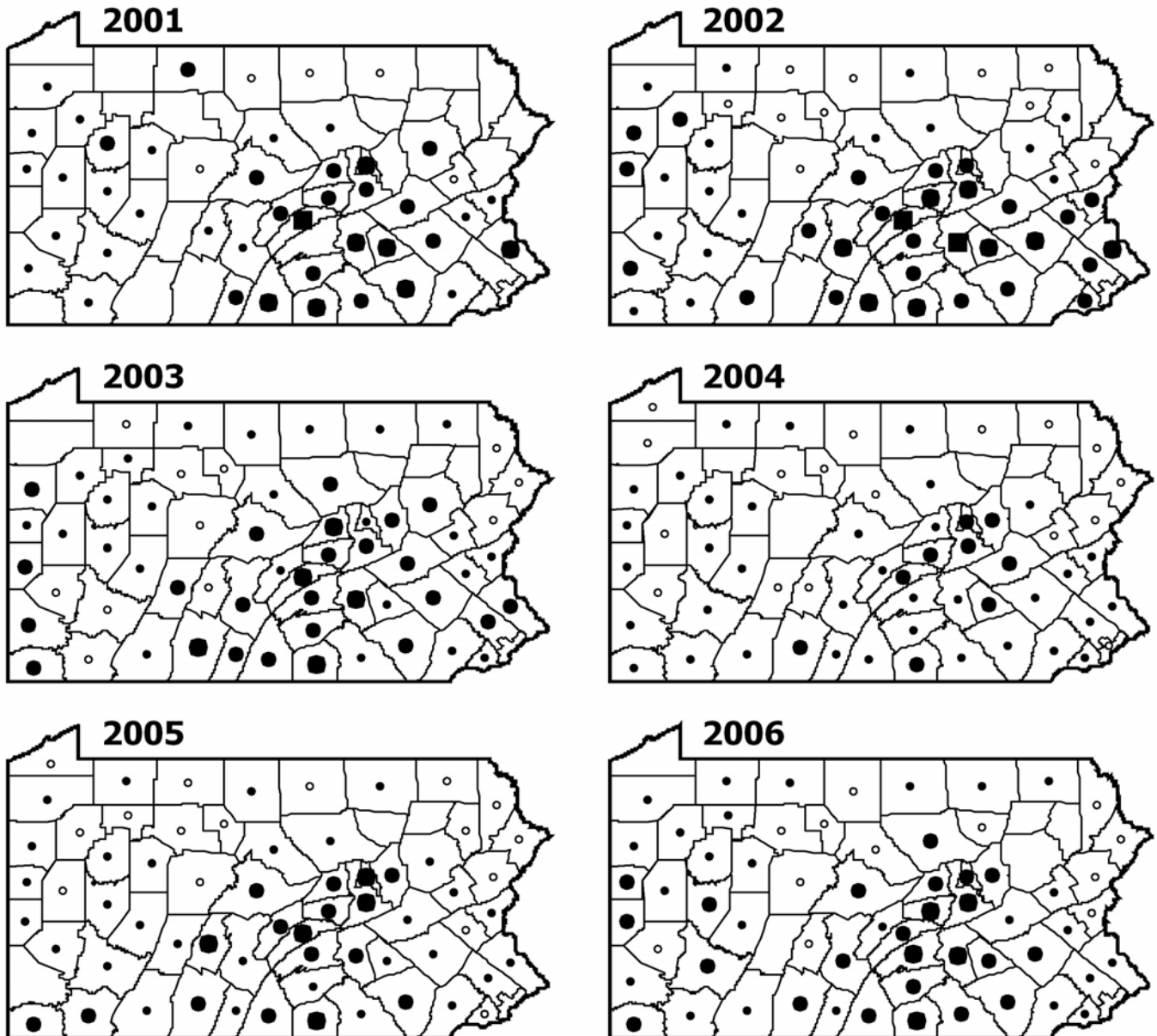


Figure 3. American Kestrel counts in Pennsylvania's 2001-06 Winter Raptor Survey.

### Appendix: WRS Guidelines

1. This being a road survey, **THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS SAFETY**. I suggest a designated driver if possible.
2. Design your own route(s). I suggest a min. of 10-20 miles and max. of 100 miles. Avoid busy roads as much as possible. Also avoid non-maintained back roads that might not be passable some years.
3. Dates: You choose the day: Jan. 21-Feb. 12 (2006) inclusive. For "official" report purposes, do the route just one time.
4. Time of day: Suggest between 10-2 as much as possible.
5. Weather: **WAIT FOR GOOD WEATHER**: Avoid foggy, windy, rainy, snowy days.
6. Record hours of survey time and miles driven.
7. Note the average approx:
  - snow depth
  - temperature
  - % cloud cover
  - wind as calm, light, or strong
8. Record the following as possible:
  - Harriers: Ad. male or female; or immature

Red-tails: Adult or immature  
Rough-leg: light or dark form  
Kestrel : male or female  
Other raptors - record by age (if possible)  
Vultures (TV or BV)  
Don't linger over birds you can't easily age or sex - just record species.

9. Record other owls, shrikes.
  10. You may leave your car to scope or get closer to a bird but do not go on hikes looking for birds.
  11. If possible, you may establish some optimal (and safe) stops (good vantage points) where you can get out and scan more thoroughly.
  12. Coordinate with others in your county to avoid route duplication.
  13. For consistency sake, I will not accept routes that are primarily on interstate highways.
- 

## Answer to Photo Quiz #11

Rick Wiltraut



Jaegers (or skuas as they're known in Europe) can be very difficult to identify, especially in juvenile and sub-adult plumages. The "jizz" of a jaeger (size, shape, and flight style) can be very useful in separating them in all plumages although adults, like the one pictured here, are usually easier to identify on plumage characteristics alone.

Long-tailed Jaegers are the smallest jaegers, about the size of a Black-headed Gull. They have a slender body, although they can appear chesty. They have long, slender wings and have a very buoyant tern-like flight. Long-tails only have two white shafts in the outer primaries thus lacking a white flash in the wing. Adults have a small black cap and have very long pointed tail projections. They do not have a chest band.

Parasitic Jaegers are larger and bulkier than Long-tails (about the size of a Laughing Gull) and have a very fast Peregrine-like flight style, especially when harassing gulls and terns. Their wings are long and somewhat narrow and show a distinct white flash in the primaries. Adult Parasitics have short pointed tail projections and a black cap, which does not extend below the gape. Their chest band is rather small with a grayish wash. They are the most frequently encountered jaeger close to shore.

Note the large bulky body, thick neck, and "barrel" chested look of the bird pictured in the photograph. The wings are wide at the base and show a white flash in the primaries. Also note that the dark cap is extensive (like a helmet) and extends onto the malar area below the gape. Also note the wide mottled breast band and the light colored bill with a black tip. This Pomarine Jaeger, the most frequently encountered jaeger at sea off the Atlantic Coast, was photographed at the Hudson Canyon, NJ. Pomarines are the largest jaegers (about the size of a Ring-billed Gull) and have a slow, steady flight style. Note the lack of the long tail projections with spoon-like tips characteristic of this species, which are sometimes broken off or missing during molt. Pomarines are occasionally seen in Pennsylvania, particularly in the fall, on Lake Erie at Presque Isle State Park and on larger lakes and river after hurricanes.

# Summary of the Season - December 2005 through February 2006

Nick Pulcinella

## Laggards

The recurrent theme through the county reports this winter was the number of species that lingered into the winter season. The bulk of this group consisted of species that winter in the southern United States. There were several late reports for **Eastern Phoebe**, **House Wren**, **Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, and **Chipping Sparrow**. Many of these species were listed in high or record numbers on CBC's. The winter season also produced nine reports of **Baltimore Orioles**, four **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, 150+ **Sandhill Cranes** including the first record of a "Lesser" **Sandhill**, at least ten **Pine Warblers**, and a few **Common Yellowthroats**.

As many as seven **Virginia Rails** were found in *Bucks* in December and January. A quick review of the Christmas Bird Count results will show eight species of warblers including **Nashville**, **Cape May**, **Ovenbird** and **Northern Waterthrush**. **Lincoln's Sparrows**, rare and irregular anywhere in the state in winter, were found on four CBCs. Other interesting lingering species were a **Blue-winged Teal** and **Great Egret** (*York*), **Osprey** (*Montgomery*), and a well-watched **Least Sandpiper** (*Cumberland*). The mild, dry winter was no doubt part of the reason for this event.

## Irruptives

Outside of a good flight of **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, it was generally a poor year for northern irruptive species. **Snowy Owls** were found at only four locations and **Northern Shrikes** were about average with 20-30 birds reported, mostly in the western counties. There was one report of a **Pine Grosbeak** (*Indiana*), one report of **White-winged Crossbill** (*Clearfield*), and sporadic reports of **Red Crossbill**, **Common Redpoll** and **Evening Grosbeak**.

## Northern Rough-winged Swallow

There is an interesting phenomenon unfolding in a small specific location in Philadelphia. For the second consecutive year, Northern Rough-winged Swallows have overwintered. The birds gather at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant were as many as 125 were recorded on the local CBC. These birds are able to survive on the large number of insects attracted to this location. So far, this is the only swallow species that has attempted to linger here.

About forty miles south in Wilmington DE, Tree and Barn Swallows along with Northern Rough-winged have been recorded in winter also at a water treatment plant. In addition to the *Philadelphia* report, three Northern Rough-winged Swallows were also found at the Allentown Waste Water Treatment Plant along the Lehigh River, *Lehigh*, 1/11. It will be interesting to see what unfolds next winter.

## Rufous Hummingbird

After last fall's record number of reports, it was not considered unusual to find that many of these western jewels stayed into December. All were gone by 12/15. In 2004 a window-kill Rufous Hummingbird was picked up in Tower City, *Schuylkill* 1/14. The bird had been banded 12/4/05 in the Ripley Garden of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. This bird was already making its northward journey. The question begs, are the birds that disappear in mid-December continuing their southward flight, or beginning to move north, or are they falling victim to the colder temperatures?

## Rarities

An examination of the county summaries will reveal many rarities but the more outstanding finds include: a pair of **Harlequin Ducks**, a **California Gull** and an immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Erie*), a **White-winged Dove** (*Bucks*), two **Harris's Sparrows**, one in

*Northampton*, and a long-staying bird in *Mifflin*. Another long-staying bird was a very cooperative female **Bullock's Oriole** (*Northampton*).

What maybe a new state late record was a **Blue Grosbeak** (*Bucks*) on 12/31. Of all the rarities though, probably the most bizarre as to date and location would be the **Black Skimmer** observed flying over Williams Twp., *Northampton* on 12/9. Where did it come from and where was it going?

# Birds of Note - December 2005 through February 2006

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

An \* denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The term "No Desc" refers to a Review List species for which no description of the bird was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <http://www.pabirds.org>

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** - *Bucks*: A peak single site count of 12 at Nockamixon S.P. 2/11 (Devich Farbotnik). Nine of these were first reported at Peace Valley Park 1/22 (Kirk Moulton, Lois Moulton), seen at Peace Valley Park 2/14 (August Mirabella), and last reported at Nockamixon S.P. 2/20 (Bill Murphy, Naomi Murphy). The other three were first reported 12/24 at Peace Valley Park (Cameron Rutt) and seen again there 2/9 (Judy Mirabella, August Mirabella). These two groups apparently stayed separate at all times even when at the same location. In addition, another one continued at Peace Valley Park from fall through at least 2/2 (August Mirabella). Possibly another individual was seen one time each in January at Lake Towhee Park (Devich Farbotnik) and Nockamixon State Park (Bill Etter). One was at Lake Caroline, north of Levittown, 1/5 (Jason Horn), and probably the same bird was seen at Silver Lake Park sporadically through Feb (Doug Filler); *Chester*: one at Coatesville Res. 1/7-1/26 (Rick Robinson, m.ob); *Dauphin*: one at the Hershey Corporate Center pond 2/9 (Tom Johnson); *Lancaster*: two at Octoraro Lake 12/28 (Chuck Chalfont); *Lehigh*: one at the Fogelsville quarry 1/6 (Geoff Malosh); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 1/26 (Dave DeReamus); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 1/30 (George Franchois, Kevin Crilley, Steve Rothenberger).

**Ross's Goose** - *Bucks*: one seen flying over with Snow Geese at Core Creek Park 12/3 (Bill Keim); *Lancaster/Lebanon*: one at Middlecreek WMA 1/16 (Peter Saenger) and 2-5 there on 2/4 (Randy Miller).

**Brant** - *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S. P. 12/12 (Bill Etter); *Northampton*: 60 from the Little Gap Hawk Watch 12/7 (Michael Schall), 15 on the Bethlehem-Easton CBC 12/31.

**Cackling Goose** - *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 2/6 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: maximum report was 7 at Peace Valley Park 1/6 (August Mirabella); *Chester*: two at Coatesville Reservoir 12/22 (Andrew Leidig), one at Coatesville Reservoir 12/31 (Theodore Drozdowski) and 1/26 (Mike Tanis et al.), one at Tel Hai 2/12 (Chuck Chalfant), and 4 at Coatesville Res 2/18 (Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella); *Dauphin*: three at the Hershey Corporate Center pond 2/5 (Cameron Rutt, Tom Johnson), following this there were many sightings of individuals or small groups at various Hershey area ponds through February; *Delaware*: one on the Garnet Valley School grounds in Concord Twp. 12/17 (Nick Pulcinella); *Lancaster*: one on the Lititz CBC 1/1, one at Speedwell Forge Lake 1/27 (Bruce Carl, Pamela Fisher) and at one at Middlecreek WMA 1/22 and 2/4 (Randy Miller); *Lebanon*: reported all period from Memorial Lake SP and Middlecreek W.M.A. (m.ob) with a high count of 3 at Memorial Lake SP 12/18 (Randy

Miller); *Montgomery*: four at Green Lane Reservoir 1/9 (George Franchois, Kevin Crilley, Steve Rothenberger); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond in early December (Dave DeReamus); *Westmoreland*: one at Livermore 2/7 (Ken Byerly) and one at Trout Run 2/7 (Robert Leberman); *Wyoming*: one on the river at South Eaton 12/24 (Bill Reid).

**Trumpeter Swans\*** - *Berks*: two unmarked birds at Lake Ontelaunee 2/2 (Matt Spence); *Dauphin*: one with tag #698, from the Wye Marsh, ON reintroduction project, continued to keep company with two Mute Swans at Susquehanna River from West Fairview during the season (m.ob); *Lancaster*: one with band #00C was at the Muddy Run Recreation Lake 2/5 (Tom Raub) and 2/22 (Chuck Chalfont).

**Eurasian Wigeon** - *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 2/21-through the end of the period (Lee Carnahan, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Scott Speedy).

**Blue-winged Teal** - *York*: a very late individual was reported on the York CBC 12/17.

**Eurasian Green-winged Teal\*** - *Lancaster*: one at Alcoa Marsh 1/24-2/6 (Lou Carpenter, m.ob).

**Harlequin Duck\*** - *Erie*: a pair at Sunset Point 12/16 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Osprey** - *Montgomery*: one was unusually late at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 12/1 (Steve Grunwald).

**Red-necked Grebe** - *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park from late November continued until 12/7 (*fide* Ken Kitson), one at The Penn-Warner Tract 1/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 12/1-12/17 and another on 1/6 (Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: two on the Delaware River at the Glenn Foerd Mansion 1/28 (Chuck Lyman).

**Eared Grebe** - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 12/5-12/6 (Jon Dunn, Chris Wood); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake S.P. 1/25-until the end of the period (Randy C. Miller, Ryan Miller).

**Great Cormorant\*** - *Berks*: an imm. at Trout Run Res. above Boyertown 12/17-12/18 (Patrick O'Donnell); *Bucks*: only three were tallied on the Southern Bucks Co. CBC 12/17; *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River at Marc7u Hook 12/17 (Nick Pulcinella); *Northampton*: three were at Martins Creek Quarry 2/2-2/5 (Billy Weber). No desc.; *Philadelphia*: all season with 26 counted on the Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census.

**Great Egret** - *York*: a late bird was seen along Gut Rd. 12/6 (John & Jean Prescott).

**Sandhill Crane** - *Dauphin*: two keeping company with Rheas at the Lake Tobias Wildlife Park near Halifax 12/28 (*fide* Scott Bills); *Erie*: 78 were found near Northeast from 12/23-12/30 (Tim Wallin), one was present 1/10 near Wattsburg (John Fedak); *Lehigh*: one was a fly-by in the Center Valley area 1/31 (Ann Lessel); *Mercer*: 150+ in 2 flocks 12/3 flying over Coolspring Church Rd. (Jerry Troyer).

**Lesser Sandhill Crane**\* - *Erie*: one studied and photographed among a smaller group of Greater Sandhill Cranes near Northeast 12/30 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Virginia Rail** - *Bucks*: two at Quakertown Swamp 12/17 (Cameron Rutt), two on the Upper Bucks CBC 12/18 (Arlene Koch), and three there 12/26-1/12 (Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella).

**Least Sandpiper** - *Cumberland*: one on the Newville CBC 1/2.

**Purple Sandpiper**\* - *Erie*: one was found feeding among the breakwaters at Presque Isle S.P. 12/16-12/17 (Jerry McWilliams, Adam Troyer.).

**Jaeger species**\* - *Erie*: one distant imm, believed to be a Parasitic or Pomarine, was observed at Sunset Point 12/1 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Laughing Gull** - *Bucks*: numbers dropped quickly by early December with the last report being 11 on 12/3 at Tullytown (August Mirabella, Howard Eskin).

**Little Gull**\* - *Erie*: six were at Presque Isle S.P. 12/4-2/15 (Jerry McWilliams).

**California Gull**\* - *Erie*: an adult that gave a brief appearance at Presque Isle S.P. 2/20 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Thayer's-type gulls** - *Erie*: four were at Presque Isle S.P. 1/25-2/21 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Iceland Gull** - *Berks*: one was at the New Morgan landfill on the Elverson CBC 12/26 (Frank & Barb Haas); *Bucks*: The three CBC total was 11 with most at the Tullytown/The Penn-Warner Tract landfill area (m.ob). One or two reported sporadically at both Nockamixon S.P. and Peace Valley Park in all three months (Bill Etter, August Mirabella, Cameron Rutt, Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: 15 from 12/15 through the period at Presque Isle S.P. (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter); *Lancaster*: a first winter was seen along the Susquehanna River at the Conejohela Flats 1/22 (Eric Witmer); *Lebanon*: a first winter at Memorial Lake S.P. 1/14 (Randy Miller).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - *Berks*: up to seven were reported, mostly in late December (m.ob); *Bucks*: the three CBC total was 263 with 140 of those in the Peace Valley Park area (m.ob). Large numbers spent January into early February at Peace Valley Park, they moved to Nockamixon S.P. for the rest of the period; *Dauphin*: two were near the Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter 12/17 (Tom Johnson); *Delaware*: one near the UPS complex at Philadelphia Airport 12/17 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: at least 20 at Presque Isle S.P. during the period (m.ob); *Lebanon*: two adults were reported from Memorial Lake S.P. 12/1-12/18 (Tom Johnson, Randy Miller); *Montgomery*: three at Church Road 2/1 (George Franchois); *Philadelphia*: one on the Pennypack CBC 12/17 from Pleasant Hill Park and one along the Delaware River in the northeast 1/7 (Frank Windfelder).

**Glaucous Gull** - *Berks*: one was found at the New Morgan landfill on the Elverson CBC 12/26 (Frank & Barb Haas); *Bucks*: eight 12/17 on the Southern Bucks CBC at Tullytown/The Penn-Warner Tract landfill area (m.ob); *Erie*: about 25 were present at Presque Isle S.P. 12/15 through the period (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter); *Wyoming*: an adult on the river at South Eaton 12/12 (Bill Reid).

**Black-legged Kittiwake**\* - *Erie*: one imm that flew past Sunset Point 12/3 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Black Skimmer**\* - *Northampton*: one flyby in Williams

Twp.12/9 was a first county record (Arlene Koch).

**Eurasian-Collared Dove** - *Chester*: continued in Coatesville into December with 2 on 12/18 (James and Susan McVoy); *Dauphin*: one with a of Mourning Doves 1/11 (Tom Johnson), a first county record.

**White-winged Dove**\* - *Bucks*: one at feeders 12/9-12/20 in Upper Makefield Twp. was a first county record of (Megan Rusnak).

**Snowy Owl** - *Berks*: one in the open farmland near Fleetwood 12/18-12/27 (Matt Wlasniewski, m.ob); *Centre*: one in State College beginning 1/24 (m.ob); *Clarion*: one at Mt. Airy 12/17, just in time for the Christmas Bird Count (Pete Dalby, Deb Freed, Ron Montgomery); *Mifflin*: one at Bellville 1/4-1/7 (m.ob).

**Rufous Hummingbird** - *Bucks*: one selasphorus hummingbird, probably a Rufous, at Upper Southampton Twp., previously reported in the fall report was last seen late 12/7 Erv Hiller, Nan Lawrence, Howard Eskin, Devich Farbotnik; *Chester*: the imm in West Goshen Twp. from late Oct remained until 12/4 (Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella), the adult male in West Grove remained until 12/12; *Dauphin*: one present in South Hanover Twp. since 10/19 was last seen 12/14 (Jan Getgood); *Erie*: a selasphorus hummingbird, probably a Rufous, visited a feeder in Albion from November to at least 12/11 (Mike Lipinski).

**Northern Shrike** - *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 2/12 (Molly Heath); *Clarion*: one at Mt. Airy 12/18 (Carole Willenpart), one near Leatherwood from 1/31-2/20 (Carole Willenpart) and one at Curllsville 2/10 (Carole Willenpart); *Erie*: a total of five for the period was a typical number for this area (m.ob); *Forest*: one near Neiltown 1/1 on the Pleasantville CBC (Flo & Jim McGuire); *Juniata*: one on Long Road off Cedar Spring Road 1/22 (David Troyer); *Venango*: found in three locations, with 15 total sightings of these individuals.

**Tree Swallow** - *Lancaster*: one was flying around the Route 283/30/Fruitville Pike interchange in Lancaster 1/29 (Tom Johnson).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - *Lehigh*: three were seen near the Allentown Waste Water Treatment Plant along the Lehigh River 1/11 (Mark Boyd); *Philadelphia*: 125 on The Pennypack CBC at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant, ninety-five were present 1/7.

**House Wren** - *Centre*: one on the State College CBC 12/18.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - *Bucks*: one reported on the Southern Bucks CBC at The Penn-Warner Tract 12/17 (Rick Mellon); *Northampton*: a pair were found in Freemansburg 12/31; *York*: one near Wrightsville 12/10 was very late (John & Jean Prescott).

**Nashville Warbler** - *Delaware*: one in Lester during the week 12/17 Marlene Miller).

**Cape May Warbler** - *Lancaster*: one seen at the Hurst's property 12/4.

**Pine Warbler** - *Bedford*: one on the Bedford County CBC; *Bucks*: one was at Levittown 12/1 (Doug Filler) and another was at Silver Lake Park 1/2 (Bill Keim); *Chester*: one was in Landenberg 12/15-12/22 (Philadelphia Rare Bird Alert), one visited a feeder in Willistown Twp. 2/10-2/19 (Martin Page); *Greene*: four on the Ryerson CBC 12/17; *Philadelphia*: one on the Wyncote CBC 12/17 (Pam Serenty, Rick White).

**Ovenbird** - *Bradford*: one on Woods Rd. 12/8 (Charlene Miller); *Huntingdon*: one on the Huntingdon CBC

12/18 **Northern Waterthrush** - *Franklin*: one on the Chambersburg CBC 12/17.

**Common Yellowthroat** - *Berks*: one at Kernsville Dam near Hamburg 11/2-12/3 (Tom Clauser); *Bucks*: one continued to at least 12/9 at Peace Valley Park (Devich Farbotnik), one was at Core Creek Park 12/1 (Bill Keim), and one on the Southern Bucks CBC 12/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: two on the Glenolden CBC 12/17 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one on the Southern Lancaster County CBC 12/18.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - *Bucks*: one in New Britain Twp. 12/23 (Devich Farbotnik).

**Lark Sparrow\*** - *Franklin*: one near Chambersburg 1/10-2/6 (Joan Bowen, m.ob); *Montgomery*: one originally found in October in Limerick was seen several times from 12/22-2/5 (Steve Grunwald).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** - *Butler*: one on the Pittsburgh CBC 12/31; *Delaware*: one in Broomall on the Glenolden CBC 12/17 (Sheryl Johnson, Barbara Hohenstein); *Westmoreland*: one on the Bushy Run CBC 1/1.

**Harris's Sparrow\*** - *Mifflin*: one at Oakland Mills seen from the first couple of days in December and off/on until through the period (m.ob). *Northampton*: one from 11/28-12/15 in Seemsville (Betsy Mescavage). No desc.

**Dark-eyed "Oregon Junco"** - *Forest*: one male in Tionesta 2/4-2/28 (Flo McGuire).

**Blue Grosbeak** - *Bucks*: one at Springtown on the Bethlehem CBC 12/31 (Elaine Mease).

**Dickcissel** - *Bucks*: one was in Buckingham Twp. 12/15-12/17 and reappeared 1/16-1/19 (Sally DeStefano).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird\*** - *Chester*: a male was seen in the midst of a flock of 200-300 near Chamber's Lake 2/10 (Nick Pulcinella).

**Brewer's Blackbird** - *Allegheny*: a male visited the feeding station at the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania in Fox Chapel 12/8 (Brian Shema); *Beaver*: one was reported in Darlington Township 12/22 (Brian Shema); *Greene*: one on the Ryerson CBC 12/17.

**Bullock's Oriole\*** - *Northampton*: one female was visiting a feeder in Bethlehem 1/11 through the end of the period (Steve Wolfe, Rick Wiltraut, m.ob).

**Baltimore Oriole** - *Bucks*: one was in Tinicum Twp. 1/20 (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, Ken Kitson), an adult male was in Northampton Twp. 2/14 (Jacquelyn Hritz); *Dauphin*: one in Halifax 1/13 (Scott Bills) and one from Hershey 2/4-2/5 (Art Schiavo); *Delaware*: one visiting a feeder in Lansdowne in December; *Philadelphia*: one on the Wyncote CBC 12/17 (Steve Lawrence); *Union*: one on the Lewisburg CBC 12/18; *Washington*: an adult male at a feeder in Peter's Township 1/14 and remained throughout the period (Peggy Milani), another adult male was in a backyard in Houston sometime between 2/13-15 (*fide* Ryan Tomazin);

**Pine Grosbeak\*** - *Indiana*: a male made a brief stop at an Indiana feeder 12/26 (Marjorie Peterson).

**Red Crossbill** - *Berks*: five on top of the Kittatinny Ridge at SGL, Rt.183 section 1/20 (Kerry Grim); *Clinton*: a small flock was observed at Ravensburg S.P. 12/6 (Deuane Hoffman); *Monroe*: one on the Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count in Tannersville Bog 12/18 (Bob & Steve Duryea); *Westmoreland*: up to six were at Powdermill Nature Reserve between 12/31-1/21 (Mike Lanzzone).

**White-winged Crossbill** - *Clearfield*: a single male visited a feeder near Luthersburg from Dec until 1/7 (Geoff Malosh, Flo McGuire, Matt Orsie, Tom Roberts).

**Common Redpoll** - *Allegheny*: one made a brief stop at a

feeder in Moon Twp. 1/25 (Geoff Malosh); *Bradford*: fourteen were on the CBC at the Echo Beach area (Trudy Gerlach); *Clarion*: one on the Clarion CBC, 12/17, at Mt. Zion (Deb Freed); *Erie*: one was observed feeding with American Goldfinches 1/6-1/8 (Jerry McWilliams) and one or two were visiting a feeder in Union City from 1/7-2/18 (Donna Peters); *Luzerne*: one at a feeder in Wilkes-Barre, 1/24 (William Reid); *McKean*: six were seen near Indian Creek (John Fedak).

**Evening Grosbeak** - *Armstrong*: nine at Crooked Creek Park 1/30 (Joe Valasek, Josie Valasek); *Bucks*: a flyover in New Britain Twp 1/4 and 15 more at Plumstead Twp. 1/7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one at the Old Gatesburg Rd. feeder 12/8 (Chuck Widman); *Dauphin*: seven in Stony Creek Valley 12/2 (Deuane Hoffman); *Huntingdon*: one at the The Grove's feeders 12/24 and 12/27 (Deb Grove, Greg Grove); *Luzerne*: 70 were at Maple Grove 1/5 (Mr. and Mrs. Mose); *McKean*: three in Bradford 2/12 (John Fedak).



## PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). A regular, but rare, winter visitor in eastern Pennsylvania, several where noted this year including this bird at the Hershey Corporate Center Pond, Dauphin, 9 February 2006 (Tom Johnson).



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Birders have been actively searching for this species since it was split from Canada Goose. So far, reports have shown it to be a rare but regular winter resident especially in the southeast counties. This bird showing, the small stature and short stubby bill, was photographed 20 December 2005 at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, (Cameron Rutt).



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Question of size in Cackling Goose can sometimes be confusing. Occasionally, "Lesser" Canada Geese, a smaller form of Canada Goose, are mistakenly called Cackling. This photo taken at Marsh Creek S.P., Chester, 6 January 2006 (Sam Stuart), clearly demonstrates the size difference between Cackling Goose and Canada Goose. The third bird from the left in this flock of Canada Geese is a Cackling Goose. Note the dramatic size difference.



Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*). 30 January 2006, Alcoa Marsh/ Red Rose Commons, Lancaster (Tom Amico). First discovered 24 January, it remained at this location until 6 February and was seen by many. Considered a distinct species in Europe, the presence of the white horizontal line and lack of the white vertical bar of the North American Green-winged Teal help to distinguish the two species.



Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) 16 December 2005 Presque Isle S.P., Erie (Jerry McWilliams). This pair made onto the Erie Christmas Bird Count.



Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). This female was present on the Beaver River, Beaver, only one day, 8 January 2006 (Geoff Malosh).



Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). 1 March 2006 Memorial Lake S.P. Lebanon (Cameron Rutt). First found 25 January, it remained at this location through the winter.



Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 28 December 2005 Bristol, Bucks, (Cameron Rutt). This species can be found regularly in winter along the lower Delaware River from this location south to the Delaware state line.



Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). Backyard feeders provide good hunting grounds for wintering accipiters like this bird in Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery, 31 December 2005 (Joe Greco).



Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). 21 January 2006 Cumberland (Geoff Malosh). An outstanding highlight of this winter and the Newville CBC, first found 1 January, this bird remained at this location until at least 5 February and was seen by many.



Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). This first-year bird was photographed at Tullytown, Bucks, 28 December 2005 (Cameron Rutt).



Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). This immature was photographed 3 December 2005 at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, (Jerry McWilliams).



Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). 5 February 2006 Shady Grove, Franklin (Cameron Rutt). A small colony seems established here.



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). 6 January 2006 Belleville, Mifflin (Geoff Malosh)



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). 24 January 2006, State College, Centre (Wayne Laubscher).





Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). 22 December 2005 along Red Rock Rd., Adams, (Bob Moul).



Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). 24 December 2005 Peace Valley Park, Bucks. (Cameron Rutt)



Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). 10 February 2006 Willistwon Twp., Chester (Martin Page). This is one of at least ten reported in the state this winter, the others were all from December.



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). Unlike most fall/winter Rufous Hummingbirds which are usually female or immature, this adult male was a treat. It regularly visited this feeder in West Grove, Chester, from mid-October through early December. Photographed here 8 December 2005 (Howard Eskin).



Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). First noted in early December in Oakland Mills, Juniata, this bird was present through the period. Photographed here 15 December 2005 (Dale Gearhart).



Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*). Most "Oregon" Juncos reported are hard to identify females, so it is nice to see this male photographed in Tionesta, Forest 27 February 2006 (Flo McGuire).

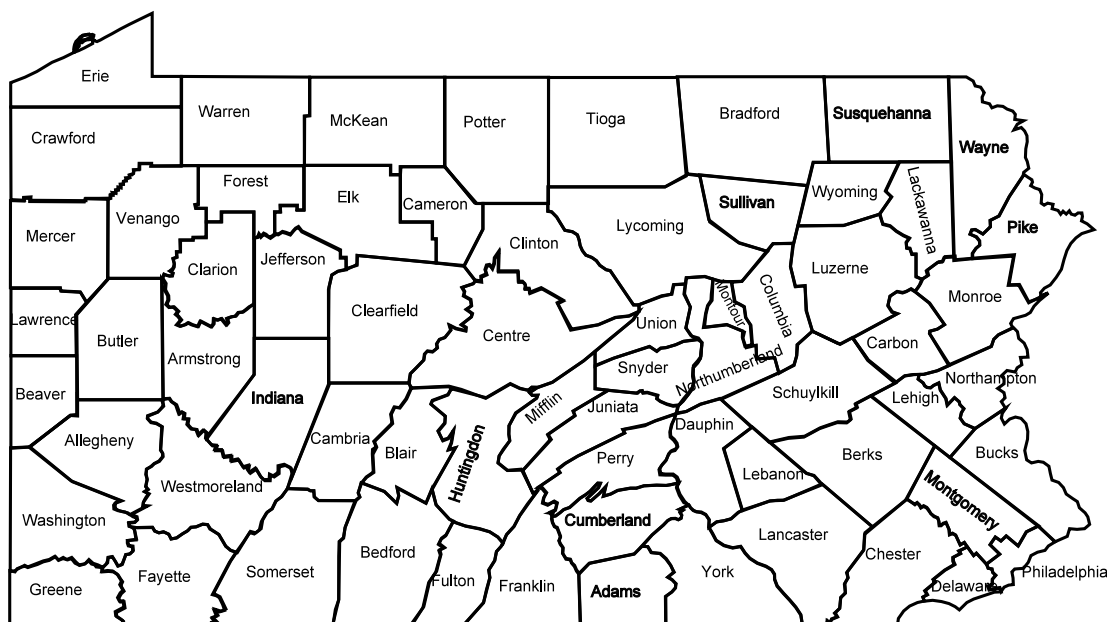


Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). This female was present from 1 January 2006 through the end of the period in Bethlehem, Northampton. Photographed here 26 January 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). During an otherwise lackluster winter for "northern finches" this was a nice find in Troutville, Clearfield, 7 January 2006 (Geoff Malosh)

# Local Notes - December 2005 through February 2006



## ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	Rte.	Route
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	S.F.	State Forest
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count	Mt. (Mts)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	SGL	State Game Land
C.P.	County Park	N.A.	Nature Area or Natural Area	S.P.	State Park
Cr.	Creek	N.F.	National Forest	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
et al	and others	N.M.	National Monument	subad (subads.)	subadult(s)
Ft.	Fort	N.P.	National Park	Twp.	Township
G.C.	Golf Course	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge	vr.	voice recording
G.P.	Game Preserve	ph.	Photographed	vt.	videotape
Hwy.	Highway	Pt.	Point	W.A.	Wildlife Area
imm (imms.)	immature(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
Jct.	Junction	R.A.	Recreational Area		
juv (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert		
L.	Lake	Res.	Reservoir		

### Adams County

Locations: East Berlin (EBER), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP).

There were 80 species reported during the December through February winter season, nearly the same as the 82 species reported during the 2005 winter season. The 22 people who participated in the December 17<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count found 74 species, a few more than the 69 species found during the 2004 Christmas Count.

The nine species of waterfowl reported included **Snow Goose** sightings -- a flyover 1/10 in GBG (CA), and another single bird 1/14 at a pond in Ortanna (MO), perhaps the same bird. In both cases the Snow Goose was with Canada Geese.

Twenty one **Wild Turkey** were found on the 12/17 CBC, and a partial albino was in a group of 15 on Plantation Rd. 2/7 (RDS). **Black Vultures** (53) outnumbered **Turkey Vultures** (43) on the 12/17 CBC. An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen 12/19 when it flew across Rt. 30 at McKnightstown (NL). **Northern Harriers** were reported throughout the period, with a high of 5 seen 1/28 along Rt. 15 and Pumping Station Rd. (SC). Three **Rough-legged Hawks** were found on the 12/17 CBC, and a **Merlin** was photographed 12/19 on Cunningham Rd. (BM). A few **Short-eared Owls** were seen throughout the period, with a high of 5 at GNMP 1/28 (SC). Last winter there was a high of 40 Short-eared Owls seen 2/1 along Bigham Rd. (BM). The only **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** reported were the 4 on the 12/17 CBC.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were more common than usual this winter, but there were only 2 reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, 9 on the 12/17 CBC and 1 in EBER 1/2 (PK). Evidence of the mild weather were the 6 **Eastern Towhees**, the 20 **Field Sparrows**, and the 26 **Eastern Meadowlarks** found on the 12/17 CBC. A **Rusty Blackbird** at SGL 249 on 2/15 was unusual for that date (MW). **Purple Finches** were

reported on the 12/17 CBC, and several came to feeders on Bullfrog Rd. all winter (ANK), but those were the only reports. There were no reported sightings of Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin, Crossbill, Redpoll, Pine Siskin, or Evening Grosbeak.

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### Allegheny County

Despite the extreme cold we experienced in December, a surprising number of species normally gone by this time lingered in the county.

The only report of **Tundra Swan** was 28 birds flying over the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh 12/12 (DY). Three **Mute Swans** were on the Ohio R. at Neville Is. 12/22 (MV). A **Northern Pintail** was a great find during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/31 in Shaler Twp. (JH) where it remained until 1/7 (m ob). Two **Surf Scoters** and a **Long-tailed Duck** were on the Ohio R. at Sewickley 12/4 (MV). A good variety of waterfowl were reported during the period from various locations including **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Canvasback**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck**. A **Common Loon** was at the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. 12/11 (MV).

There was a concentration of **Great Blue Herons** at Neville Is. on the Ohio R. during the season with a maximum count of 37 on 2/10 (MV). **Turkey Vultures** were seen in Dec in Moon Twp and Sewickley (MF, MV, GM). In recent years, this species has become regular, but

local in winter. Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported at North Park (BVN, LS) and Beechwood Farms 12/10 (BSh, MF), and through the season in Pine Twp.(PL, SL). An albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen along Carson St., upriver from the South Side section of Pittsburgh (JF). This bird was reported a few years ago, but is not often seen. Another was reported from Baldwin 2/18 (fide BSh) where there have been reports in past years. The open grasslands at Imperial continue to attract **Rough-legged Hawks**. Four were there in Dec including two dark morphs (MV). A **Merlin** was at Frick Park 12/5 (SS) and one was at the roost site in Schenley Park during the period and was last seen 2/16 (MFO, EF).

**Barred Owls** were found in Franklin Park (OM, JG) and Sewickley (DW) 1/27. Up to 3 **Short-eared Owls** were at Imperial during the period (MV). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling at Imperial 12/30 (GM).

Three late **Killdeer** were in Findlay Twp.12/4 (MV). The **American Crow** roost in the East End of Pittsburgh continued this winter; an estimated 5000 birds were present in Homewood Cemetery 12/31 (MF). The **Common Raven** previously reported in the vicinity of Bruno's Is. along the Ohio R. in Pittsburgh continued into Feb (m.ob). On 12/21 it was observed carrying a Norway Rat to the island (OM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported at five locations in Dec (m.ob). There were no reports in Jan and the only report in Feb was at Pine Twp.(PL, SL). Eight **Northern Flickers** at Harrison Hills Park 12/17 (PH) was a good count for this time of year.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were welcome visitors to feeders in the area this season. A total of 19 were recorded on the Pittsburgh CBC with 10 of those in North Park (JV). **Winter Wrens** were reported throughout Dec in five locations, a good showing for this species which is irregular here in winter. Single **Hermit Thrush** were found in North Park 12/10 (BM) and 12/22-2/18 in Sewickley Heights Park (PB, BVN).

A male **Brewer's Blackbird** visited the feeding station at the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania in Fox Chapel 12/8 (BSh). Despite repeated searches, it was not relocated. The bird appeared just prior to a large snow and ice storm which may have been a factor in its appearance. This was the third county record. Normally gone by this time, a few **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported into Dec, mainly at feeders. A flock of 24 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at a feeder in Pine Twp.12/5 (PL, SL) was the highest number seen. Seven **Common Grackles** (probably migrants) visited at a feeder in Natrona Heights 2/16 (PH). A flock of 30 migrant **Red-winged Blackbirds** stopped at Point S.P. in Pittsburgh 2/26 (DY). Two late **Eastern Meadowlarks** lingered at Imperial 12/22 (MV).

**Eastern Towhees** were found in eight locations during the season; another good showing for a species not always found here in winter. Late **Chipping Sparrows** visited feeders in Pine Twp. 12/1-12/3 (PL, SL), Harmar Twp. 12/23 (JV), and Plum Borough 1/21-1/22 (JW). **Field Sparrows** were found in four locations with a high count of 6 in Ohio Twp. 2/11 (PB), unusual for this time of year. Single **Fox Sparrows** were found in Findlay Twp.12/11 (MV), at a feeder in Shaler Twp. 12/22 (JH), and in East Liberty 12/31 (DY). A **Swamp Sparrow** was in Fox Chapel 12/31 (BSh) at a small wetland where they have been regular in winter in recent years. **White-crowned Sparrows** continue to be regular in winter along Strouss Road in Findlay Twp.(m.ob).

A **Common Redpoll** made a brief stop at a feeder in Moon Twp. during heavy snow showers 1/25 (GM). A **Pine Siskin** visited the feeders at the Audubon Society of Western PA 12/6 (BSh), several were in Mount Lebanon 12/8-10 (BJ) and one visited a feeder in Indiana Twp.12/31 (TB).

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#### **Armstrong County**

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Yatesboro (YB).

**Canada Geese** maxima were 96 at CC 1/17 (JV,JVa) and 88 near RV 2/28 (MH,RH). Two **Mute Swans** appeared at MV 12/16 (JV,JVa), and by 1/13 (JV,JVa) they had moved down river to RT. A **Wood Duck** near McVile 2/19 (DY) was first. The 25 **American Black Ducks** at CC 12/2 (JV,JVa) had gradually dwindled to 2 on 1/13 (JV,JVa); 14 were spotted near RV 1/29 (MH,RH). Best **Mallard** count was 75 on the Allegheny at MV 12/20 (JV,JVa); KR hosted 46 1/8 (MH,RH), and 26 were near RV 1/29 (MH,RH). Five **Green-winged Teal** and one **Canvasback** stopped at KR 2/25 (MH,RH). The fall's last **Ring-necked Ducks** were 2 at KR 12/2 (LC); first spring raft of 34 arrived at KR 2/25,

accompanied by a lone **Bufflehead** (MH,RH). Single **Hooded Mergansers** were found at RT 12/20 (JV,JVa), at Keystone Power Plant 1/8 (MH,RH), and at Freeport 2/19 (DY). The Allegheny R. at RT hosted only 11 **Common Mergansers** this winter (JV,JVa) while as many as 12 wintered at CC; by 2/25 (MH,RH) 6 arrived at KR. Five **Ruddy Ducks** were still at KR 12/4 (MH,RH); Keystone Power Plant harbored 2 on 1/8 (MH,RH).

Top **Wild Turkey** count was 20 at CC 12/17 (JV,JVa). The only **Pied-billed Grebes** noted were one at RT 12/17 (JV,JVa) and 3 near RV 1/29 (MH,RH). A **Double-crested Cormorant** seen at KR 12/2 (LO) was the lone report. Dec. 2 (JV,JVa) yielded the last **Great Blue Heron** reports at both CC and RT until 1/31 (ER) when one was spotted at KR. Single **Bald Eagles** were observed 12/2 over Ford Cliff (JV,JVa) and 12/20 (JV,JVa) at MV. Two **Northern Harriers** hunting a field near Elderton 12/4 (MH,RH) could not be found on subsequent trips. No **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and only 2 **Cooper's Hawks** were noted; one was at YB 1/1 (PB) and the other at KR 1/8 (MH,RH). Two light and one dark morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were found near Elders Ridge 2/12 (MC et al). Keystone Power Plant yielded 3 **American Coots** 1/8, the lone report (MH,RH). One **Ring-billed Gull** at MV 12/26 (JV,JVa) was the first noted on the Allegheny this season; 19 stopped at KR 2/25 (JV,JVa). A gray morph **Eastern Screech-Owl**, peering from a tree cavity near West Lebanon, 1/2 (MH,RH) was seen at the same location 2/19 (MH,RH). A **Short-eared Owl** was sighted near West Lebanon 1/22 (EF,MF) and 2/2 (LC,SS); 3 were listed 2/12 (MC et al) while 2 were present 2/19 (MH,RH). One **Belted Kingfisher** at KR 1/31 (ER) was the only one reported.

An **Eastern Phoebe** near McVile 2/19 (DY) was probably a wintering bird. A **Brown Creeper** visited a feeder near YB 1/18 (SD) and 2/2, 2/19, and 2/24 (ED). A **Winter Wren** stopped briefly in Manor Twp.12/2 (JV,JVa).

An **Eastern Towhee** took advantage of a feeder near YB 12/19-1/7 (ED). A **Swamp Sparrow** 2/19 (DY) near McVile was the lone report. First **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived 2/27 (CG) near Worthington. A **Common Grackle** appeared at YB 2/2 (PB); by 2/12 (PB) 7 were present.

Nine **Evening Grosbeaks** at CC 1/30 was the first report in the county since 1998 (JV, JVal).

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#### **Beaver County**

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Darlington Township (DT), Independence Marsh (IND), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), North Sewickley Township (NST).

Warm weather was the story of the season this period. Mild temperatures with little or no snow cover dominated January and February, and many small bodies of water, which had frozen by the end of December, were open or partially open through much of the rest of the period. December and early January brought reports of typical winter birds such as **Rough-legged Hawk** and **Snow Bunting**, but these species were absent after the first or second week of January. The lack of ice also allowed wintering waterfowl to remain dispersed instead of concentrated on the rivers where they are easier to predict, and allowed a few individuals of species not always known to winter in *Beaver* to remain throughout the season.

A late report of **Tundra Swan** was of 5 on the Beaver R. 12/18 (MV). Three **Mute Swans** were found on the Beaver R. 12/17 (RM, PM), and another (or more probably, one of this same group) was present near Rochester 12/31-2/6 (MV, BS, et. al.). Two **Wood Ducks** were on the Beaver R. 12/23 (MV), and a male that appeared 1/9 stayed for the season on the river between New Brighton and Rochester. Two **Gadwall** were found at Rochester on the Beaver CBC 12/17 and remained the next day, but were absent from the county otherwise. A single male **American Wigeon** was at IND 1/20 (MV), and three more males were at IND 2/21 through the end of the period (MV, GM). A very nice count of 17 **American Black Ducks** was made at AR 1/14 (MV).

The lone report of **Canvasback** was of one male at AR 2/21 (GM). A single **Redhead** was reported from the Beaver R. 12/17 (JM), and a pair was found at AR 2/19 and remained until at least 2/24 (MV). A few **Ring-necked Ducks** (singles) were reported throughout the period, but none seemed to stay longer than a day. A female **Greater Scaup** was found at AR 2/21 (GM), and a female **Lesser Scaup** spent most of Jan and Feb on the Beaver R. above Rochester. Most exciting among waterfowl reports was the occurrence of two separate **Long-tailed Ducks** on the Beaver R.; a first-year male was found at New Brighton 12/10 (RM, JM), and a female was found at Rochester 1/8 (DW). Both were photographed (GM), but neither bird was refound in subsequent days. **Bufflehead** were reported sporadically throughout

the period, with the first northbound individuals noted 2/19 at the mouth of the Beaver R. (GM). **Common Goldeneyes** were reported on the Beaver R. 12/18 (probably a fall migrant) and on 2/10 (probably a spring migrant) (MV). Up to 8 **Hooded Mergansers** spent a month on the Beaver R. near Rochester between mid-Dec and mid-Jan. **Common Mergansers** reappeared at AR 2/3, and a nice group of 16 were on the Beaver R. 2/20 (MV). Two late **Ruddy Ducks** were found at Rochester 12/10 (MV).

**Pied-billed Grebes** wintered in good numbers on the Beaver R., with peak counts of 8 on 1/8 (MV, GM, DW) and 9 on 1/14 (MV). The only report of **Horned Grebe** came from MLD 12/23 (MV). Six **Double-crested Cormorants** spent a few weeks at the mouth of Raccoon Creek beginning 1/6 (GM), which is a good count for Jan. Very impressive numbers of **Great Blue Herons** frequented the Ohio R. near the mouth of Raccoon Creek in the first two weeks of January; a high count of 34 was made there 1/14 (MV).

Probably owing to the warmer than normal temperatures, wintering **Turkey Vultures** were more common than usual in adjacent counties, but the only report from *Beaver* came from Greene Twp. beginning 2/17 (MV). **Bald Eagles** were once again found wintering along the Beaver and Ohio Rivers; two adults and one transitional bird were reported from the Beaver R. throughout Dec (SG), and two adults at MLD 2/21 may have been the same birds or could have been migrants (SG). Interesting was an "inland" adult **Bald Eagle** in Potter Twp. 2/3 (MV), certainly a migrant. A few **Northern Harriers** wintered in grasslands near Little Blue Lake, and also in the farm fields of NST (MV). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was found on the Beaver CBC in NST 12/17 (B&BK), and another dark morph bird was found in DT 1/2 (GM), but the species was absent from the county after that. A **Peregrine Falcon** found in Rochester 12/31 was very nice (MV, BS).

SGL 285 has proven to be an excellent location for **Ruffed Grouse**, certainly best known location in *Beaver*, with several individuals observed there throughout the winter (GM, MV, DW). A few **American Coots** were reported throughout the period with a peak of 7 on the Beaver R. 2/3 (MV); again, the frequent occurrences of this species this season are probably due to the warmer weather. **Killdeer** lingered until 12/23 (MV), while the only report of **Wilson's Snipe** was of one in NST 12/26 (MV). Two **American Woodcock** were found displaying at SGL 285 on 2/24 (MV), and another was kicked up in different area of the SGL on 2/26 (GM). These records seem early by a week or two when compared to a colder winter. Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** lingered at MLD until 12/4 (MV). The huge gull numbers on the Ohio R. reported at the end of last quarter dispersed quickly in Dec; not more than 300 **Ring-billed Gulls** and a handful of **Herring Gulls** remained by 12/10 (RM), and by Jan, gulls were a rare sight anywhere in the county.

A **Short-eared Owl** found on a reclaimed strip mine adjacent to SGL 285 2/19 was the only report (GM); however, the grasslands of northwest *Beaver* on and around SGL 285 are extensive and probably support a small population of Short-eared Owls in winter. Certainly this area deserves extensive scrutiny at all times of the year.

It appeared to be an excellent invasion year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in *Beaver*; the best count of 16+ came from the pines on SGL 285 on 2/26 (GM). This species was also present at AR in good numbers (GM, MV), and were reported from feeders scattered throughout the county. Four **Brown Creepers** were found on the Beaver CBC 12/17, and were also located at AR 2/21 and at SGL 285 on 2/26 (GM). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were first reported at Raccoon Creek S. P. 12/4 (KSJ). Late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** reports were of two on the Beaver CBC 12/17, and another at a feeder in Chippewa Twp. 12/26 (MV). A **Hermit Thrush** hung around in New Brighton long enough to be counted on the Beaver CBC 12/17 (B&BK), while two **American Pipits** were early when found in NST 2/26 (GM). Seven **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on the Beaver CBC 12/17 were the last and only report of that species (MV, B&BK).

**Eastern Towhees** were found wintering in small numbers around the county, mainly at IND (MV). A very nice Dec count of 14 total **Field Sparrows** from three locations was made on the Beaver CBC 12/17 (MT, NC, GA, KW), but the only report of a definite wintering bird was one at SGL 285 on 2/26 (GM). **Fox Sparrow** was last reported 12/18 along Brush Creek Rd. in Marion Twp. (MV), and 2 **Swamp Sparrows** were reported: one at Chippewa Twp. on the Beaver CBC 12/17 (FW, JL), and one in DT 2/20 (MV).

Three **Lapland Longspurs** in NST 12/18 were an excellent find for *Beaver* (MV). Three **Snow Buntings** were found in the same fields as the longspurs 12/16 (B&BK) and 1/2 (GM). **Red-winged Blackbirds** lingered near Little Blue Lake until 12/10 (MV) and reappeared at SGL 285 on 2/24 (MV). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were found on the Beaver CBC 12/17, a pair at a feeder in Fallston (RM, PM) which furnished the only report. A **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported in DT 12/22 (BSh *vide* MV) from an area that has hosted this species at least two out of the last six years. Subsequent searches did not recover the bird. A small group of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** wintered in NST, with a peak count of 22 on 1/2 (GM). It was a poor year for winter finches; the only report of **Purple Finch** was of one at Patterson Twp. 12/18 (JLy), and there was also only one report of **Pine Siskin**: one at SGL 285 on 2/26 (GM).

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#### **Berks County**

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Gameland #110 on the Kittatinny Ridge (SGL), Reading CBC 12/18 (RCBC), Bernville CBC 1/1 (BCBC), Hamburg CBC 1/2 (HCBC).

An unusually warm, rainy January was sandwiched between the more seasonably wintry months of December and February. Soils and surface waters were not frozen for extended periods and there was little lingering snow. Wild food crops were easily available.

There was a large influx of **Snow Geese** in late Dec and Jan, swelling late CBC counts (8,932 with 12 Blues BCBC; 50,990 HCBC). A **Cackling Goose** was part of a flock of 20,000 **Snow Geese** at LO 2/6 (RK). Two unmarked **Trumpeter Swans** were at LO 2/2 (MS). The high count of **Tundra Swans** was 30 at BML 12/10 (JS). With much open water available, the 16 reported duck species seemed widely dispersed and were counted in fairly low numbers. The pond at Blue Mt. Academy near Hamburg hosted at least 7 species, including a high of 6 **Common Goldeneyes** 1/28 (TC,KG,MW).

The broken record plays on: **Ruffed Grouse** remain at rock bottom population levels (the only 2 reports from the Kittatinny Ridge) while **Wild Turkey** flocks are so common that they barely turn heads when they cross busy streets in downtown Reading. An accurately described imm. **Great Cormorant** was at Trout Run Res. above Boyertown 12/17-12/18 (PO). Post-season hawk counters at HMS tallied 6 **Bald Eagles** 12/19 and 3 on 1/5 (LG,RH). Adult and imm. birds were widely reported all season. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was at BML 2/10 (JS). **Rough-legged Hawks** stayed north, with no report after 1/2. Single **Golden Eagles** passed over HMS 12/19 and 1/15 (LG,RH), and an adult soared over SGL, Stony Creek 1/28 (TC). Four **Peregrine Falcons** were reported 12/17-1/14, 3 of them hunting in farmland and one at BML (CC,DK,JS,DW). One of these birds was a first record for the HCBC.

The first **American Woodcock** of spring were 3 birds flushed at BML 2/18 (RK,JS). Tens of thousands of gulls appeared in late Dec, with a record 35,682 **Ring-billed Gulls** recorded on the BCBC. Single **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** found at the New Morgan landfill on the Elverson CBC 12/26 (F&BH) were the only ones reported. Up to 7 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 28 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were reported, mostly in late Dec. These two species are probably undercounted because few birders comb gull flocks for imm. birds. Two **Barn Owls** were found on the HCBC. A **Snowy Owl**, the first since 1996, was discovered in the open farmland near Fleetwood 12/18 (MW) and was enjoyed by many birders till 12/27. Six **Long-eared Owls** were found near Mill Creek Corners in eastern *Berks* 1/8 (TW). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard at French Creek S.P. on the Elverson CBC 12/26 (JC,RK), at BML on the BCBC (DK), and near Seisholtzville 2/6 (JM).

High numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were counted on the CBC's and birds settled in at many feeders for the winter. True numbers of irruptive **Black-capped Chickadees** on CBC's were probably obscured by the recent practice of listing chickadees as "chickadee sp." in the Carolina/Black-capped hybrid zone. Dozens of well marked Black-capped were seen at feeders and on field trips through Jan, when numbers began to decrease. A leucistic bird with mostly white head and pink feet visited a Leesport feeder till 1/4 (DK). More **Hermit Thrushes** than usual were seen on CBC's (21 RCBC, 19 HCBC). A **Gray Catbird** survived 12/24-1/22 at Kernsville Dam near Hamburg, where a **Common Yellowthroat** was also found 11/2-12/3 (TC). An **Eastern Meadowlark** found on the HCBC was the only one reported all season. A scant handful of **Rusty Blackbirds** was found, the highest count of 5 at LO 1/22 (BS,MS). The only reported **Pine Siskin** was at a Leesport feeder 2/18 (DK). The most exciting finch report was of 5 **Red Crossbills** 1/20 on top of the Kittatinny Ridge at SGL, Rt.183 section, just across the *Schuylkill* line (KG).

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#### Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

#### Bradford County

Locations: SE Bradford Co. Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Winter weather has been confused in *Bradford* this year. December and January were mild, with little snowfall. Cold temperatures appeared at the beginning of February, surprising some species which had been responding to the earlier warmth.

Three **Common Loons** were still present for the CBC 12/26.

An area in the Columbia Crossroads vicinity is great territory for **Northern Harriers** (and **Short eared Owls**, see below): this year's sightings include 5 on 1/28 (JH) and 5 also on 1/31 (TG). There were a number of **Rough-legged Hawk** observations: one 12/26 on the CBC, one 2/16 at the old Blue Swan airport area (RS), and 3 on 2/18 in the Winter Raptor Survey in western *Bradford* (BL). **Bald Eagles** have been present in small but regular numbers throughout the winter; sightings include one on 12/17 feeding on an island in the Susquehanna R. off Sugar Run (DB, MB), two (1 adult) 1/11 above the James St. bridge, Towanda (RS), three (Tioga Point, 1.5 miles above the James St. bridge, Rummerville) on the Bald Eagle Survey 1/14, and a pair nesting (this will be the third year of nesting in the county) near Rummerville beginning 2/17 (RG).

**Short-eared Owls** were seen a number of times at their traditional wintering site near Columbia Crossroads: one on 12/4 (JH), six on 1/28 (JH, et al.), four on 1/31 (TG), and 3 on 2/21 (BL).

**Red Breasted Nuthatches** have been seen much more frequently than normal: two were observed on 1/6 on Iron Bridge Road near New Era (TG), one was at a feeder 1/14 in Sayre (RS) and one at a feeder 2/14-3/28 in the Sayre vicinity (DR). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen on the CBC on 12/26 (JL, RL). There was a very chilly **Ovenbird** on Woods Rd. 12/8 (CM).

A **Rusty Blackbird** was observed 12/13 and 12/27 on Woods Rd (CM, GM), and also 12/26 on the CBC (perhaps the same bird?). The CBC also found 14 **Common Redpolls** at the Echo Beach area (the first on the CBC since 1999, and the only known sighting in the county this winter) (TG). **Pine Siskins** were quite sparse, one was at a feeder in Sayre 12/1, one was on the CBC 12/26 (the CBC has only had 10 birds of this species from 1996 to 2005), and one was at a feeder 2/22 near LeRaysville (PG).

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#### Bucks County

Locations: Bedminster Twp. (BET), Buckingham Twp. (BUT), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Core Creek Park (CCP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), The Penn-Warner Tract (WNT), Rushland (RSH), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC). Christmas Bird Count data was supplied by Bob Mercer: S-CBC; Diane Allison: Central CBC; and Bill Etter: 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) and Trenton (NOAA).

Weather extremes seem to be the norm, from 6°F below normal in December and snow cover most of the month from 10" of snow, to 7°F above normal in January with no snow but above average rainfall, and back to about average temperatures in February and below normal precipitation with the 18" snowfall on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the noteworthy event. Lakes froze in December reducing waterfowl. The February snow melted quickly. **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which irrupted this fall, remained but the earlier large numbers of **Purple Finch** were less apparent. Many half-hardy species were present in unusually high numbers at least through the CBCs. Whether they were pushed down from the north due to the cold December or stayed due to adequate food supply is anyone's guess. Some are the result of warmer climate extending their winter ranges north. Waterfowl numbers were generally lackluster but thanks to the Tullytown landfill, gulls kept birders busy. **White-winged Dove** was the bird of the season, being a first for the county.

Weather was good for all three Christmas Bird Counts. The U-CBC 12/18 had 92 species and 46,229 individuals. C-CBC on 1/1 had 85 species and 35,620 individuals. The S-CBC 12/17 tallied 100 species and 150,716 individuals. Recent AOU list addition, **Cackling**

**Goose**, padded the total for the first time for S-CBC, having been recorded for the first time last year on the other two counts. Except for the S-CBC, the species counts were low compared to previous highs.

Certainly, a major highlight was the unprecedented numbers of **Greater White-fronted Geese** reported at several sites, with a peak single site count of 12 at NSP 2/11 (DF). Nine of these were first reported at PVP 1/22 (KM,LM), seen at PVP 2/14 (AM), and last reported at NSP 2/20 (BMu,NM). The other three were first reported 12/24 at PVP (CR) and seen again there 2/9 (JM, AM). These two groups apparently stayed separate at all times even when at the same location. In addition, another one continued at PVP from fall through at least 2/2 (AM). Possibly another individual was seen one time each in Jan at Lake Towhee Park (DF) and NSP (BE). Lake Caroline, north of Levittown, had one 1/5 (JH), and probably the same bird was seen at Silver Lake Park sporadically through Feb (DFi). Although all had yellow-orange bills, which it seems most birders believe indicates the Greenland subspecies, plumage characteristics on some of the birds indicated possible central flyway birds (ABi.NH,PL). A flyover group of the 400-500 **Snow Geese** 12/8 at NSP (BE), thousands over RSH 1/21(SC), and an overhead flock of 1500 at Sellersville 2/12 (RF) were the highest count reports. This is consistent with our normal relatively low counts compared to nearby counties. One and sometimes 2 blue **Snow Geese** were at PVP starting 12/17 and were seen through the period there and at other nearby sites (m.ob). A small goose seen flying over with **Snow Geese** at CCP 12/3 was convincingly described as a **Ross's Goose** (BK). A **Brant** was at NSP 12/12 (BE). **Cackling Goose** can be found regularly in most large flocks of geese. Most are typical *B. h. hutchinsii* as expected. The maximum report was 7 at PVP 1/6 (AM). **Oddball Canada/Cackling Geese** of various sizes and colors or showing features of both species are also seen and best left as species unknown.

**Tundra Swan**, normally reported in small numbers here, had 6 reports of only 19 birds. The highest counts were 9 at PVP 1/28 (LG) and 5 at RSH 1/29 (SC). Scarce here, two **Canvasbacks** were at CCP 12/9 (WH), 2 were at PVP 1/16 (KR), and 14 were on the Delaware R. near Mud Island 1/21 (DF). A **White-winged Scoter** was at NSP 12/16 (BE,CR) and another stopped at PVP 1/11 (MH), the latter adding to the rare Jan late migrant reports for this species. There were six reports of **Long-tailed Duck** from four locations with a total of 14 individuals (GD,BE,AM). The latest was one at NSP 1/2 (BE). With the mid Jan, **Common Merganser** numbers grew rapidly with approx. 1500 at PVP 1/28 (AM) being the highest report. The numbers crashed after the 2/12 snowstorm, but rebounded to about 600 at PVP 2/25 (AM), 800+ at CCP 2/15 (GD), and 800 at NSP 2/20 (BE). Known to be rare even on the lower Delaware R. in winter, **Red-breasted Mergansers** were unexpectedly regular at PVP 12/31-1/4 and again 1/25-2/10 (m. ob.). One at WNT 12/28 (CR) had a broken bill. A count of 105 **Ruddy Ducks** at Falls Twp. Park 2/8 (AM,JM) was the highest count reported. A **Red-throated Loon** was at NSP 12/16-12/25, resulting in a first for the U-CBC (BE,CR). A **Common Loon** was at WNT 1/27-1/29 (CR,DF). The **Red-necked Grebe** at PVP in late Nov continued there until 12/7 (*vide* KK). The only other report was one at WNT 1/29 (DF). Only 3 **Great Cormorants** were tallied on the S-CBC 12/17, less than half the 10 yr. average and far less than recent counts in the teens. One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Rohm & Haas near Bistol on the S-CBC 12/17 (BM). From the mid 1970s to mid 1980s, this species was recorded in the teens most years on the S-CBC but has averaged far less since.

The vulture roost north of NSP had 92 **Turkey Vultures** and a few **Black Vultures** 1/28 (CR). The local concentration of 31 **Black Vultures** was again noted this year at BUT 2/18 (V&RS). Finally, after much anticipation and premature reports of nesting by **Bald Eagle**, a new nest was found under construction on 12/14 at CCP and incubation started about 2/26 (GD). There is no easy viewing area for this nest, so any close up viewing could be detrimental to success and birders should refrain from approaching it. One was seen carrying a stick at NSP in the second week of Feb, but no nest has been found (BE). **Bald Eagles** were reported widely throughout the period with the highest site counts being in late Feb with 9 at NSP 2/27 (BE) and 7 at PVP 2/23 (AM,JM). Not surprising, considering the rapid growth in numbers, only three of these 16 were adults. A record 13 on the S-CBC more than doubles the previous high. A roost of 7 **Northern Harriers** in Nockamixon Twp. contributed to a count of 10, for a new record high on the 44 mile Winter Raptor Survey route run for the sixth year (BE,BL). Unfortunately this historic roost site is slated for development this spring. A CBC total tally of 15 was just above average after only 3 last year. Record highs of 16 **Cooper's Hawks** on the S-CBC, 15 on the C-CBC, and well above average 16 on the U-CBC reflected the recent rapid increase of this species. As an example of the change for this species, the S-CBC count never exceeded 3 before 1991, and it was missed completely in 50% of the 44 yrs. prior to 1991. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at BET on 12/10 (AM) for the only report. A total CBC count of 34 **American Kestrels** was double last year's count but still about half of the 10 year average. A **Merlin** was seen at the same perch in Tincicum Twp. for the 8<sup>th</sup> winter in a row for a short time in Dec but vanished (DA). A well above average five on the three CBCs duplicated

last year's total. Our only known resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was at their usual perch under the Delaware River Turnpike Bridge and seen copulating in mid-Feb (LR).

Despite the freeze and snow in Dec, Quakertown Swamp produced 2 **Virginia Rails** 12/17 (CR), 2 on the U-CBC 12/18 (AK) for the 8<sup>th</sup> count report, and 3 on 12/26 (CR). They continued to at least 1/12 (AM). **Wilson's Snipe** went unreported until 1/29 when 3 were found in BUT and remained through the period (RS,VS). Two were found near Newtown 2/26-2/27 (GD). An **American Woodcock** was reported at Silver Lake Park 12/18 (MJ) and not noted again until 2/17 with four at Bristol Twp. (DFi). **Laughing Gull** numbers dropped quickly by early Dec with the last report being 11 on 12/3 at Tullytown (AM,HE). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at Tullytown 1/21 was the only report (KR). The magnitude of the three CBC gull total dropped by almost half from last year with most again at the Tullytown/WNT landfill area. The counts this year were: 23,849 **Ring-billed**; 75,778 **Herring**; 11 **Iceland**; 263 **Lesser Black-backed**; 8 **Glaucous**, and 6641 **Greater Black-backed**. Although still uncommon away from the landfill, **Iceland Gulls** at upper county lakes are now expected in winter with one or two reported sporadically at both NSP and PVP in all three months (BE,AM, CR, DF). After large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** spent Jan into early Feb at PVP, they moved to NSP for the rest of the period. The peak report from PVP 1/26 was 184 (AM) and the peak at NSP 2/26 was 200+ (BE). Eight **Glaucous Gulls** on the S-CBC 12/17 was a new record high where the 10 yr. average is less than 2.

The best find of the season by far was the first county record of **White-winged Dove** at feeders 12/9-12/20 in Upper Makefield Twp.(MR). Unfortunately, the homeowner was opposed to birder access and was only convinced to allow limited access the day before it vanished. No **Barn Owls** were reported and are near being extirpated here. The three CBC total count of 56 **Great Horned Owls**, was down again and just more than half the 10 yr. average. A record 5 **Barred Owls** were tallied on the U-CBC. The maximum count of **Long-eared Owls** at PVP was about 6 in late Dec. (CR,AM) but only 3 could be found there 1/1 on the C-CBC with none on the other CBCs. One was in BET at the end of Jan (BE) and another was reported at NSP 2/20 (BE). This species also appears to be on a long downward trend based on CBC history. At least 2 **Short-eared Owls** were at BET starting 12/11 (DF) and remained through the period for our only report. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was recorded only on the U-CBC with 6 being well above average. One was heard at PVP 12/23 (DF). One was found dead as road kill 2/26 at NSP (BE).

The **Selasphorus Hummingbird** at Upper Southampton Twp., previously reported in the fall report as a **Rufous Hummingbird** based on video showing the spread tail feather shape, was last seen late on 12/7 before severe cold and snow arrived (EH,NL, video DF). At least one **Red-headed Woodpecker** remained at State Game Land #157 1/8 where they nest (DF). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was way above average on all three CBC counts with a total of 507. The 164 on the C-CBC was new record. One **Eastern Phoebe** was tallied on each CBC. The **Blue Jay** CBC total of 1763 was well above average. The CBC total of 1736 **American Crows**, although still under 40% of the 10 yr. average, was better than last year's total and may be showing a slow rebound from the West Nile Virus impact. **Horned Lark** was seen through the period in Hilltown Twp. to at least 2/14 (AM). The numbers of **Black-capped Chickadee** following this fall's irruption remained high through the period with a CBC total of 381. The U-CBC had a record count of 390 for those only designated as **Chickadee Species**, many of which were probably also **Black-capped**. This is the second year in a row for high CBC numbers for this species whose normal summer range is now apparently well to our north. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption was well documented on the CBCs with 103 compared to only 11 last year. The **Brown Creeper** CBC tally was well above average with 72. The S-CBC tally was at the previous record of 32 set in 1972 and the C-CBC had 26 which was 2 short of the record. **Carolina Wren** has been on an upward trend in recent years and had another good total on the CBCs of 418. A new record of 141 was recorded for the C-CBC. For the second consecutive year, the **Winter Wren** CBC total greatly exceeded the CBC 10 yr. average increasing to 29 vs. 22 last year. For the second year in a row, a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was reported on the S-CBC at the WNT (RM) for only our 5<sup>th</sup> winter record.

Berry eating birds were way above average at least through the CBC period. High CBC count totals of 515 **Eastern Bluebirds** and 10,274 **American Robins** are indicative. The S-CBC shattered its previous **American Robin** record with 6091. Also, last year's total 53 **Hermit Thrushes** was bettered with an incredible count of 66, mostly due to the record high 52 on the U-CBC. Although **Gray Catbird** was missed on the C-CBC, 25 were reported on the other two counts with an amazing record 20 on the S-CBC where the 10 yr. average is less than 6. This species only became regular in low single digit numbers on the S-CBC in the early 1970s and reached the U-CBC regularly by the early 1980s. Five **Brown Thrashers** were found on the S-CBC 12/17 which was way above average. In general, unusual numbers were reported wintering mostly in the southern part of the county (m.ob). **American Pipits** were reported more often than normal this year from six sites (m.ob) with a peak count of 9 at one site on the U-CBC 12/18 (DK,RB).

The **Cedar Waxwing** CBC count of 1171, mostly due to the 949 on the U-CBC, was about double the 10 yr. average but they seemed scarce afterward. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was the exception in the berry-eating category with an unexceptional CBC total of 187, mostly contributed by the U-CBC tally of 149. Other winter warblers are always noteworthy. A **Pine Warbler** was at Levittown 12/1 (DFi) and another was at Silver Lake Park 1/2 (BK). A **Common Yellowthroat** continued to at least 12/9 at PVP (DF), one was at CCP 12/1 (BK), and the first since 1984 was found on the S-CBC 12/17 (DF).

**Eastern Towhee** was another species with an exceptionally high 46 CBC total. **Chipping Sparrow** continues to be erratic in winter with 3 on the U-CBC and 4 on C-CBC. You would expect more in the southern county but none were found on the S-CBC. One was at BUT 12/13 (AM), one was at Warrington Twp. 12/26 (RFR), and one was at Pine Run Dam 1/29 (DF). Rare here, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in New Britain Twp.12/23 (DF). Sixteen **Snow Buntings** at NSP 12/12 (BL) was the only report and the highest single count reported this fall and winter. Certainly unexpected and unexplainable anywhere in the state for winter, a **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at Springtown on the Bethlehem CBC 12/31 (EM). A **Dickcissel** was in BUT 12/15-12/17 and reappeared 1/16-1/19 (SD) for the only report this fall and winter. Unusually high numbers of both **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** returned early by late Jan due to the mild conditions. **Eastern Meadowlark** was missed for the second year in a row on the CBCs. The only reports were of 3 at PVP 12/11(TF-H) and one there 12/13 (AM). Only one **Rusty Blackbird** was at Quakertown Swamp for the U-CBC 12/18 (AK). However, a record 6 was on the C-CBC 1/1 and 3 were tallied on the S-CBC 12/17. One was at PVP 12/9 (*fide* KK) and another was at BUT 12/11-12/15 (RS,VS). The next reports were 3 at U. Makefield Twp. 2/12 (MR), 2 at RSH 2/13-2/16 (SC), and at Silver Lake Park 2/18 (DFi). A **Baltimore Oriole** brightened a warm day 1/20 in Tinicum Twp. (AM, JM, KK). An adult male was in Northampton Twp. 2/14 (JHR) for the only other report. As is often the case in irruptions of **Purple Finch**, while widespread at first, they remain in pockets and are absent elsewhere. An estimate of 120 in a small area of NSP 12/25 (CR) is a good example. The total CBC count of 146 was consistent with an irruption year compared to only 7 last year. A couple of **Pine Siskins** continued from fall at Quakertown and were seen sporadically through at least 2/20 (NT). Another report came from Langhorne 12/12 (BK). A flyover **Evening Grosbeak** 1/4 in New Britain Twp. and 15 more at Plumstead Twp. 1/7 were the first reports for this species in several years (DF).

Exotics: **Egyptian Geese** continued at NSP through mid-Dec. (BE). A **Black Swan** was at NSP for the U-CBC 12/18 (CR). A mostly dark **Muscovy Duck** is now a resident of PVP (AM). Following a fall report in Carversville, a **European Goldfinch** was sporadically seen in Feb at a feeder near RSH starting around 2/1 (*fide* SC).

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#### **Butler County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Cambria County**

Locations: Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), Dunlo Area (DL), Patton Area (PT).

Due to the mild weather Glendale L. at PG. did not completely ice over. Waterfowl reports have 25 **Redheads** and 16 **Pintails** at PG in late Feb (RB). **Northern Harriers** were seen at several locations in early Dec and again in late Feb (DG). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was a regular visitor to my feeders at Patton, preying on the large number of **Mourning Doves** that were present (DG). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were located at DL (JJ) and PT (DG) throughout the period. Large flocks of **Horned Larks** wintered on the potato fields at PT (DG). Single **Brown Creepers** were at DL (JJ) and PG (DG) visiting feeders. The bird at PT was a regular visitor and spent most of the time on the ground feeding on fallen suet (DG). About a dozen **Snow Buntings** were mixed in with the lark flocks at PT (DG), but no **Lapland Longspurs** could be found.

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#### **Cameron County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Carbon County**

No Report.

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#### **Centre County**

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bald Eagle Ridge (BER), Boalsburg (BB), Bellefonte I-99/220 Interchange (B99), Brush Valley, Colyer Lake (COL), Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Howard, Jo Hayes Vista on Tussey Mt. (JHV), Marsh Creek, Millbrook Marsh (MM), Nixon Rd (NR), Old Gatesburg Rd, Penn State Campus at State College (PSU), Penn's Valley, Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery (PGFH), Rimmey Rd, Sharer Rd (SHA), Smith Rd, State College (SC), State College I-99/220 Interchange (S99), Stormstown, Tusseyville (TUS), Wagner Rd (WAG), Williams Rd (WIL).

More information about some of these locations is available at [www.scbirdcl.org](http://www.scbirdcl.org). BER, and JHV are parts of IBAs (see Important Bird Areas at [pa.audubon.org](http://pa.audubon.org)). Almost all of the species information for this report comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv list [scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu](mailto:scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu) during this period. All data for the CBCs may be seen at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html).

The State College Christmas Bird Count (CBC) 12/18 had 68 species with 9,175 birds. Highlights: a **Bald Eagle** (3rd time), **Rough-legged Hawk** (5), **American Pipit** (2nd time), **Chipping Sparrows** (5th time), **House Wren** (2nd time), **American Coot** (6th time), **Lesser Scaup** (7th time), **Ring-necked Duck** (98th time), and **Ruddy Duck** (8th time). Interestingly, both the **pipit** and the **Chipping Sparrows** were seen by two parties. Significant misses were **Wilson's Snipe** (count week), **Killdeer**, **Northern Harrier**, and **Green-winged Teal**, all seen on more than half of previous counts. **Evening Grosbeak**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, and **Ring-necked pheasant** were seen on more than half of previous counts, but considerably less often recently. Species with numbers well below their 10 year average are **Great Blue Heron**, **Canada Goose**, **American Kestrel**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Rock Pigeon**, and **House Finch**. **House Finch** numbers have fallen in the past four years, having been about 400 before that and about 140 since (JD).

The BESP CBC 1/1 had 62 species (down from 68 species last year) with 6342 birds. Highlights: one adult **Bald Eagle**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Great Horned Owl** (1), **Barred Owl** (2), and **Eastern Screech Owl** (5). **Barred Owls** have only been reported for the BESP CBC (1/year) in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994 and 1997. No **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported this year, and no **Wilson's Snipe** were observed for this count year, though 3 were reported during last year's count. Previous years that snipe was reported (with one bird each year), were count numbers 84, 92, 99, 101, and 102. No **Horned Lark**, **Snow Bunting**, **American Pipit**, or **Northern Shrike** was observed for the BESP CBC this year (BS). The bird of the season was a **Snowy Owl** near State College and Bellefonte. See below for details.

A wounded **Mute Swan**, appearing to have been shot, was sitting on the ice at COL 2/15 (MAH). No reports of **Snow Geese** this winter and there have been no reports of large flocks of **Canada Geese** as there were last year. Except for **Mallards**, dabbling reports were significantly lower than last year. A few **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen at various times at DP and COL (MAH, NAB, JM), and a group of 21 **Lesser Scaup** at BESP 12/4 (BS). A lone drake **Long-tailed Duck** was seen at COL 12/1 (MAH) and 12/4 (JD). A few **Buffleheads** were found at COL, BESP, and DP in Dec and Jan. Five **Common Goldeneye** showed up at BESP 12/4 (MAH), and a drake and hen **Common Goldeneye** at COL 12/7 (JM).

Several flocks of **Wild Turkeys** were seen: ten on NR 12/4 (JY), 30 at COL 12/13 (CW), and 63 near B99 2/8 (JL).

No **loons** were reported this winter but nine **Horned Grebes** were seen at COL 12/4 (JM). Twenty-one **Great Blue Herons** congregated at PGFH 12/19 (KE).

A few **Turkey Vultures** were spotted in this period: one overhead at COL 12/6 (MAH), one over the fields adjacent to SHA 1/24 (JM), and one soaring high over BB 1/25 (JM). **Black Vultures** included: a flock of over Rt. 64 just west of Lamar 12/7 (WL), and three circling over Stormstown which is the first sighting since 1991 2/13 (DB). Two adult **Bald Eagles** suspected of being a breeding pair seen at BESP 12/4 (BS), sitting in the white pine above their newly constructed nest BESP 12/11 (MAH), and at their nest 2/20 (BS).

A **Northern Harrier** flying near Rimmey Rd 1/10 (MAH). An adult **Cooper's Hawk** was perched in a tree next to the entrance of Mount Nittany Medical Center 1/24 (KB). An imm **Cooper's Hawk** seen

roaming backyards in State College 1/27 (MAH). Sightings of **Rough-legged Hawks** included: one dark morph perched in a tree along SHA and one light morph on WAG 12/3 (JM), low-flying light morph near TUS 12/6, dark morph WAG 12/6 (MAH), one on WAG 12/5 (JM), one light morph on WAG 12/10 (JD), one near TUS off 322 12/13 (CW), two light morphs WAG 12/22 (DO), two light morph TUS area 1/11 (MAH), light morph TUS area 1/20 (JM), and nine (2 dark, 7 light morphs) during a Centre County WRS in Penns Valley and Brush Valley 1/30 (SH, BH).

An adult and juv **Red-tailed Hawk** terrorized squirrels PSU 12/1 (JL). An adult **Red-tailed Hawk** "swooped 10 feet over my head up into a tree with many **Common Grackles**. You can imagine the clatter that caused! There were acorns and sticks and leaves dropping all around me from the mass exodus!" PSU (JL) 12/13. An imm **Red-shouldered Hawk** perched in a tree along Bubb Rd COL 2/8 (JM). An adult **Golden Eagle** flew over JHV 12/12 (CW). The Bald Eagle Mt Spring Eaglewatch along BER began with one redtail and one roughleg 2/25 (MattH).

Winter Raptor Surveys between 1/21 and 2/19 in Centre tallied 20 hours and 286 miles and the following open-country raptors: 2 **Northern Harriers**, 62 **Red-tailed Hawks** (116 last year), 12 **Rough-legged Hawks** (26 last year), 22 **American Kestrels**, and 0 **vultures**.

A lone **Killdeer** was seen along the shore of COL 2/16 (MAH). A **Wilson's Snipe** was spotted in MM 12/3 (NAB), and four in the same marsh 12/11 (NAB). 226 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and 2 **Herring Gulls** near the BESP dam 12/4 (MAH).

During the CBC, **Great Horned Owl** and **Eastern Screech Owl** were found, and a fairly rare find for a CBC was a **Barred Owl** 12/14. Daytime calls were heard from a **Barred Owl** at Lower Green's Run BESP 2/19 (MAH). The wife of a local birder thought she spotted a possible **Snowy Owl** near S99 close to the Mount Nittany Hospital in State College 1/22 (JM), and it was confirmed the next day 1/23 (MB, AL). The local newspaper, The Centre Daily times, sent a photographer and reporter and the owl became front-page news. The last day at the State College location it flew up from a depression in the ground next to the interchange onto the side of busy S99 for a few minutes and then flew away in the direction of Bellefonte 1/24 (BF). It was subsequently seen near B99 1/26 (JL) and sitting on a light pole 1/29 (CW and others). It flew in front a car 1/30 (SB). One day it was first seen perched and then flying as it was harassed by three ravens 2/2 (MAH); the same day it was perched near a grated concrete drainage pipe 50 ft below the 78A southbound exit ramp of the interchange 2/2 (GG). This is the location it chose to spend a lot of time perching until the end of the quarter. At both locations it was observed feeding on **Rock Doves** and **Starlings** that roost beneath the overpasses. About 100 reports were posted to the [scbirdcl listserv](mailto:scbirdcl@listserv.org) (see above), many with pictures, about the location and behavior of the owl. There have been other brief reports of past **Snowy Owls** in Centre but this is the first one to remain for this long and to be easily located and widely seen. This owl appeared shortly after another **Snowy Owl** disappeared from a Belleville farm 20 miles south of State College where it had been observed for several weeks in Jan. Comparison of digital photos showed that the two owls appeared to have different markings and were therefore assumed to be different birds.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in a small woodlot off Smith Rd. 2/20 (MB). One **Eastern Phoebe** at MM 12/3 (NAB), and another at PGFH 12/22 (JM). A **Northern Shrike** was seen from the Overlook in the treetops of two deciduous trees at BESP 2/12 (MAH). This was the only reported sighting this season. A flock of over 70 **Horned Larks** was found near TUS area 12/3 (JM) and six on WIL 12/6 (MAH) and 12/7 (JM). **Winter Wren**, and **Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglet** at MM 12/28 (NAB). **Gray Catbird** at PSU 12/15 (NB,JD). Six **American Pipits** found at COL 12/4 (JD). One **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found around the Lamar Fish Hatchery during the CBC 12/18.

An unexpected male **Eastern Towhee** surprised this observer in State College 2/11 (MAH). **Fox Sparrow** seen at a feeder College Heights 12/15 (JY), and six were found during the CBC 12/18. Several **Red-winged Blackbirds** at MM 12/10 (NAB). One **Evening Grosbeak** (and the only reported this season) at the Old Gatesburg Rd. feeder of (CW) 12/8. Eight **Pine Siskins** gathered at a BB feeder 1/13 (JM), two arrived at a Nyjer feeder in Howard 1/15 (BS), and one at the same Nyjer feeder 2/5 (BS). In general, winter finches were quite uncommon this winter.

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#### **Chester County**

Locations: Audubon Christmas Bird Count (AUD CBC), Chambers Lake (CL), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), East Marlborough Twp. (EMT), East Pikeland Twp. (EPI), East Whiteland Twp. (EWT), Honeybrook Twp. (HBT), Marsh Creek State Park (MC), Octoraro Reservoir (OR),

Phoenixville (Phx), Pickering Creek Reservoir (PCR), Struble Lake (SL), Upper Uwchlan Twp. (UUT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF), Wedgewood Pond (WP), West Cain Twp. (WCT), West Chester Christmas Bird Count (WC CBC), Western Chester County Christmas Bird Count (WCC CBC), West Goshen Twp. (WGT), West Marlborough Twp. (MT), Willistown Twp. (WT), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

The only **Greater White-fronted Goose** reported during the period was found at CR 1/7 (RR, m.ob) and last reported 1/26. **Snow Geese** were common in Chester. During the WC CBC, about 1,200 were found in one area (JR, JMa). A huge number of **Snow Geese** in long skeins flew over SL 1/1, traveling east and estimated to number well over 10,000. Birders usually associate such large numbers with Middle Creek WMA in Feb and Mar or with wildlife refuges along the Atlantic Coast. After an e-mail to PABIRDS about the huge movement, Rudy Keller replied, "The movement was notable in Berks, where those of us helping on the Bernville and Hamburg CBCs noted thousands of **Snow Geese** flying over on 1/1 and 1/2. The compilers may have a tough time figuring out which areas were counting the same geese." Several flocks were reported in WCT 2/12 (RR), and 150+ were flying over UUT 2/26 (BB). **Canada Geese** that stayed the winter and were seen in flocks of 1000 up to ~12,000 at CR (TD) 12/31. Two **Cackling Geese** were found at CR 12/22 (AnL), one at CR 12/31 (TD), 1/26 (MT et al.), one on 2/12 at Tel Hai (CC), and 4 at CR 2/18 (NP and SP).

**Mute Swans** have been seen at VF, CL, MC, and Phx. **Tundra Swans** highest numbers were 34, 12/10 at SL (TD), and 29 2/5 at CL (RW, EW).

**Wood Ducks** were seen at several sites in Chester throughout Dec, then not again until 2/22 when 2 were found at MC (SSt). Just one report of a **Gadwall** was received, 2 were seen at CL 2/15 (NP, SP). **American Wigeons** followed the same pattern as the **Wood Ducks**. Several reports were received for Dec, none for Jan, and then they reappeared in the county when 1+ were seen at SL from 2/12 (CC). Sixteen were reported at MC and 20 at CR 2/16 (CC). High counts for **American Black Ducks** were 25 in PCR in Phx. 1/8 (SSt), 30 at CR 2/10 (NP, SP), and 40 at CR 2/16 (CC). **Northern Pintails** arrived 2/17 when (CC) found numbers of them at CR, MC, and SL. **Green-winged Teal** were seen from 1/13 when 2 were found at MC (SSt). The highest numbers of **Green-winged Teals** were 10 at CR 2/16 (CC).

One **Canvasback** was regularly found throughout the report period at MC (m.ob). However, 10 were at MC 1/7 (MP). One was at CL hosted 12/26 (RR). Up to 5 **Redheads** were seen, mainly at MC (m.ob). Two were seen at SL 12/3 (TD), and 2 at CL 12/28 (RR). Flocks of **Ring-necked Ducks** were present throughout the period. Highest numbers found were 150 in EWT 1/22 (RW, EW), and 125 in the same location 2/5 (RW, EW). Small numbers of **Greater Scaup** were found mainly at CR, but 2 were also discovered at CL 2/15 (NP, SP). **Lesser Scaup** were present during the period at CR and MC. The highest numbers were 7 at MC 12/3 (TD), and 5 at MC 1/7 (BB). **Long-tailed Ducks** made several appearances.

**Buffleheads** were missing from most locations during Jan but reappeared in Feb. **Common Goldeneyes**, seem to be slightly more numerous after several years of being almost totally absent. Seven were at CL 12/28 (RR) and 6 at MC 2/22 (SSt). Highest numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were 13 females at MC 12/4 (TD), and 20 at PCR 1/8 (SSt). **Common Mergansers** were present from late Dec and began to build in number through the end of the report period. The largest group was 100 seen at CR 2/18 (NP, SP). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported at SL 1/8 (CC, RW, EW). **Ruddy Ducks** were at their highest number with 200+ at MC 12/3-12/18 (TD).

Three **Wild Turkey** sightings were reported. Twenty plus were found on the Chesco side of OR 2/21 (CC). One **Common Loon** wintered at MC (m.ob). One or two **Pied-billed Grebes** were found at three sites, VF, MC and WP. A single **Horned Grebe** was seen at MC from 12/4-12/10 (TD).

The highest number of **Black Vultures** was counted during the (AUD CBC) when a total of 168 were counted. A WRS conducted 1/27 produced a high number of 146 **Turkey Vultures** (HM, KF, JC). **Bald Eagles** were seen in several locations through the winter. A pair has and is nesting in the PCR area of Phx. A **Bald Eagle** successfully killed a **Canada Goose** on in Pocopson Twp. during mid-Dec (MD). A maintenance worker at MC who reported that 2 **Bald Eagles** have been picking the coots off like crazy; he counted 7 carcasses 1/2 (LW). Mostly single **Northern Harriers** were seen in the county. The highest number was 2 on the WC CBC 12/17 (NB, BBe).

**Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were reported several times usually in the vicinity of bird feeders. One **Northern Goshawk** was seen at Okehocking Preserve 12/17 (EP, LN, BE). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen in several locations (m.ob). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was found in Highland Twp. 12/18 (HM, JC). From 1 to 4 **American Kestrels** were reported. The highest number of **American Kestrels** found was 16 during the WCC CBC 12/18. Four were found on the WRS 1/27 and 2/8 (HM, KF, JC). One **Merlin** was found at CL 1/7 (RR) and another was found at MC 2/27 (SSt). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 1/7 in EMT (RR).

Up to 100 **American Coots** were seen on MC 2/17 (CC). **Killdeer** were seen mainly at MC with the high number of 8 on 1/22 (RW, EW). **Wilson's Snipe** were scarce. One was in HBT 12/11 (LW); one on the WC CBC 12/17 (LN, JN); and another one was located 2/18 in HBT (NP, SP).

Thousands of **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen at the major lakes with up to 20,000 at SL 12/17 (TD, LW). (TD) About 25,000 to 30,000 gulls were estimated coming to roost at MC 12/31 (TD). The largest group of **Herring Gulls** occurred at SL where about 100 were found 12/3-12/10 (TD). That number dwindled to 50 by 12/27 (TD). A first-year **Iceland Gull** was at SL 12/10 and a second year bird was there 12/27 (TD). Four **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at SL 1/8 (CC).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued to be found in Coatesville into Dec with 2 on 12/18 (J & SMC). A **Barn Owl** was found at OR 12/29 (TD). A high number of 25 **Eastern Screech-Owls** was reported on the WCC CBC 12/17. One **Barred Owl** was found at OR 1/22 (CC). **Long-eared Owls** returned to SL with 6+ reported 12/11 (CC), 5 on 1/1 (NP, SP) and 3 on 1/8 (RW, EW). A **Short-eared Owl** was at SL 12/27 (TD) and a **Northern Saw-Wet Owl** was at OR 12/31 (TD).

The imm **Rufous Hummingbird** in WGT from reported that arrived in late Oct remained until 12/4 (NP, SP). The adult male in West Grove remained until 12/12. Reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** are always exciting. A sub adult was present in EGT 12/18 -12/31 (TD, PE). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were rather spotty. The last report was an adult at East Goshen Park 2/16 (NP, SP). **Horned Larks** reached a high of 200 on 12/4 in HBT (LW). These numbers were found again there 1/1 (NP, SP).

**Black-capped Chickadees** seemed more widespread than usual as were **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. The AUD CBC found 6 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** 12/18. Most **Brown Creeper** reports were for Dec, but one was present in WGT 12/1-2/28 (NP, SP). **Winter Wren** sightings came mainly from CBCs. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen in various locations. The highest number was 22 was reported on the AUD CBC. Two **Hermit Thrushes** were found at MC 12/17 (BB, TD). A few over-wintering **Gray Catbirds** were found, usually just one bird (MP, RW, et al). **American Pipits** were seen 12/17 during the WC CBC.

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported twice. One at OR 1/28 (NP, SP) and 10 in EPi 12/24 AUD CBC. A **Pine Warbler** was reported in Landenberg 12/15-12/22 frequenting a feeder with peanut butter and cornmeal mixture (PRBA). A **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder in WT 2/10-2/19 (MP).

**American Tree Sparrows** were reported 12/17 when 9 were found during the WC CBC (MP). The high count was 31 on the WC CBC 12/18. The highest count of **Savannah Sparrows** was 19 on the WC CBC (JR, JMa). **Fox Sparrows** were scarce; the high count was 4 during the WCC CBC 12/17 (MP). **Swamp Sparrow** reports were mainly from the WC CBC 12/17. **White-throated Sparrows** were present but mostly unreported. The high count for **White-crowned Sparrows** was 32 on the WCC CBC 12/18. The area where the most **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen was AUD CBC 12/24 with 292. Single **Lapland Longspurs** were reported in HBT 12/3 (LW) and one in WMT 12/22. Eleven **Snow Buntings** were in HBT 12/4 (NP, SP).

**Red-winged Blackbirds** were mainly south, but 4000 were counted in Treddyffrin Twp. during the 12/24 Audubon CBC. One **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported from WMT 12/22 (AnL). Reports of single **Rusty Blackbirds** came from (JR, JMa) on the WC CBC, and one in WCT 2/12 (RR). The high count for **Common Grackles** was about 10,000 during the WC CBC in the Embreeville area (PE, LM). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in the midst of a flock of 200-300 blackbirds, mostly **Common Grackles** and some **Red-winged Blackbirds** near CL area 2/10 (NP).

The highest count of **Purple Finches**; was 8 during the WC CBC 12/17 (MP). **Purple Finches** appeared at feeders in UUT in Feb with 11 on 2/11, and 5 on 2/12 (BB).

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#### Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest S.P. (CF), Curllsville (CV), Fisher (FI), Fryburg (FR), Kahle L. (KL), Leatherwood (LE), Marble (MR), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion (MZ), Strattanville (ST), Shippenville (SV).

The extremely open winter shortened the season so that many migratory species appeared later and arrived earlier than usual. Some species had January records that seldom had been recorded before.

A late **Tundra Swan** as well as 6 late **Gadwalls** were observed at KL 12/6/05 (MB). A pair of **Common Mergansers** showed up at CF 2/19 (MB). Nine late **Ruddy Ducks** were found at KL 12/6 (MB). One **Ring-necked Pheasant** startled a birder at MR 2/20 (PD). **Ruffed Grouse** continued to be scarce; the only one being reported from FR 2/18 (3R). A flock of **Wild Turkeys** that inhabited an area of Shipperville and adjoining SGL 63 for at least 20 years unaccountably disappeared completely after Christmas. The last turkey was found freshly dead with only its innards removed. Coyotes or a recently seen fisher might have been the predator (MB). On the other hand, in the same rural/suburban area a pair of fall "released" **Northern Bobwhite** survived the winter at least until Mar going from feeder to feeder (MB,BH,LV). Single **Great Blue Herons** were observed in three scattered locations in Dec, Jan, & Feb; the Jan sighting being the most unusual (CW).

The Clarion R. roughly bisects *Clarion* from northeast to southwest. **Bald Eagles** were more conspicuous than usual the whole stretch of the valley from Cook Forest down to Callensburg, some singly, some in pairs (m.ob). Another imm **Bald Eagle** seemed to be testing the thickness of the ice at KL by hitting it with his talons 1/28 (ML). **Northern Harriers** seemed to be scarce with one report of 2 at FR 1/28 (ML). In marked contrast, both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** showed up most days at a well-stocked feeder in CV (CW). Three early **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed at ST 1/12 (RM). **Red-tailed Hawks** were in good numbers all over *Clarion* (WF). **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported from Shannondale, 1/6; Nineveh, 1/28; and MZ, 2/19, by DW, ML, and 3R respectively.

One newly arrived **Killdeer** was spotted at KL 2/7 (WF,GE). A late **Wilson's Snipe** was seen 12/17 at LE (CW). By contrast, an early **Wilson's Snipe** showed up at KL 2/7 (WF,GE). By far the largest flock of **Mourning Doves**, 500+, was recorded 1/5 at KL (WF). One **Snowy Owl**, a winter rarity, showed up at MA, 12/17, just in time for the Christmas Bird Count but not thereafter (PC,DF,AH,RM). The only **Short-eared Owl** for the season was seen at MA 1/6 (WF). One **Belted Kingfisher** at CV arrived 1/4 and remained (CW). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were recorded at CV 12/17 (CW). One **Northern Shrike** was seen 12/18 at MA (CW). Then another **Northern Shrike** stayed at or near LE from 1/31-2/20 (CW). On 2/10 yet a third **Northern Shrike** was seen at CV (CW). All three localities are a good distance from each other. One **Common Raven** croaked his presence over ST 2/4 (RM). Flighty flocks of **Horned Larks** could be seen in many farm fields from 12/21, but the largest flock, 500+, was recorded on 2/7 at the Rhoades Farm, KL, (WF). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in singles and pairs at many feeders. **Carolina Wrens** seemed to take advantage of the warm winter at feeders all over the county. One **Winter Wren** at CF, northern *Clarion*, 2/12 isn't too surprising (RS), but another one stayed at CV, in southern *Clarion*, pretty much all season (CW). A flock of 5 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was reported at SV 1/7 (TB). At CF 2/19 another five were tallied (3R).

**Eastern Bluebirds** are known to stay in *Clarion* all winter but a flock of 12 at Limestone 2/9 was unusually large (CG). A winter flock of 35 **American Robins** at Lenwood Acres was likewise rather large 12/27 (JR). A **Gray Catbird** at CV 1/8 raised the question of whether it was early or late (CW). One **Northern Mockingbird** remained the whole season at CV close to some multiflora rose (CW).

**American Tree Sparrows** continued throughout the season with the largest flock, 59, reported from CV 2/12 (CW). One **Fox Sparrow** appeared briefly at SV 12/3. Another **Fox Sparrow** arrived at CV 2/5 and stayed until the end of the season (CW). Two late **Swamp Sparrows** were reported from CV 12/28 (CW). **White-throated Sparrows** were present at various localities all season. Low numbers, up to 3, of **Lapland Longspurs** were associated with the flocks of **Horned Larks** mentioned above (m.ob). Twelve **Snow Buntings** at KL 2/28 was the largest number reported (ML). A few **Red-winged Blackbirds** wintered over. A late **Eastern Meadowlark** and a late **Common Grackle** were observed 12/18 at MA and CV respectively (CW). The 5 latest **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported from SV 12/3/06; whereas the earliest 6 were seen at MA on 2/18 (PD). **Purple Finches** visited feeders all season long, including 8 at CV (CW). One **Common Redpoll** turned up on the CBC, 12/17, at MZ (DF). Some flocks of **American goldfinches**, common at many feeders, were reported to have a few **Pine Siskins**, but no reports came close to the 52 siskins that showed up on 2/18 in CA, just in time for the Great Backyard Bird Count (JH).

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## Clearfield County

Ten **Wild Turkeys** were reported along I-80 between mile markers 114-116 1/29 (DG). One **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen along Route 53 near Drifting 1/28 (JM). A WRS route covering a portion of the eastern half of the county produced 3 **Red-Tailed Hawks** 1/29 (DB, JD). Non-raptors reported from the route included **American Crows**, **Mourning Doves**, **Rock Pigeons**, **Eastern Bluebirds**, one **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, and **Blue Jays** (DB, JD).

Six **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, unusual for the time of year, were reported at a home in Houtzdale 1/6 along with 50 **American Goldfinches** (SB). Two **Pine Siskins** were seen 1/5 from the same location.. A single male **White-winged Crossbill** visited a feeder near Luthersburg from Dec until last reported 1/7 (GM, FM, MO, TR).

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## Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), McElhatten (McE), Mill Hall (MH), South Avis (SA), Susquehanna River (SR), Swisssdale (SD), Woolrich (WR).

A report of late migrant waterfowl on the SR at LH 12/4 included: **Horned Grebe**, **Bufflehead**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers** (JS).

Late winter reports of expected species began 1/10 through the period and were few and sporadic. Raptor highlights from the local CBC held 12/17 included the following: a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** at S. Avis (BZ, VS), three **Bald Eagles** along the SR at McE (B&DB, JS), **Black Vultures** at McE and MH (B&DB, JS, CH, SB), **Turkey Vultures** at Rauchtown (DK, DRr), a **Northern Goshawk** east of LH (WL), and a **Peregrine Falcon** at SA (BZ,VS). Both species of vultures were count firsts. A **Bald Eagle** was observed at MH 1/3 (BZ), one at SA 2/6 (DR), and another at McE 2/15 (WL). A **Black Vulture** was seen at Lamar 2/5 (TS). Along Rt. 220 at LH, a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 2/21 (RH).

Noteworthy owl reports included a sighting of a **Long-eared Owl** along a street in LH near the SR and a **Short-eared Owl** was observed in the Tangascootac area 1/7 (SB). Probably a result of the generally mild winter here, an **Eastern Phoebe** was seen at a residence in LH 1/30 (JS). Coinciding with other statewide reports, three **Gray Catbirds** were found 12/17. One was at Lockport (WL), one at Loganton (JB, PF, SH), and another in the Avis area (C&CH). **American Pipits** were seen near LH 12/3 (JS).

Reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were rare with one seen 12/17 in MH (CH, SB) and another at a feeder in WR 1/10 (B&DB). A single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported from MH 12/17 (HH). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were heard 2/25 at SD (WL). A flock of **Snow Buntings** was found 12/17 at SA (BZ, VS). Winter finch reports were few, but on 12/6 a small flock of **Red Crossbills** was observed at Ravensburg SP (DH). **Pine Siskins** began to appear at a WR residence on 12/14 (C&CH) and continued throughout the period there and at feeders in LH and SD (JB, WL). Finally, another surprise winter bird was an **Eastern Towhee** found along Pine Creek near Avis on 12/17 (C&CH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Steve Bason, Beth and Don Brobst, Pat Farrell, Carol and Charles Hildebrand (C&CH), Cec Hazlett (CH), Harry Henderson, Deuane Hoffman, Shonah Hunter, Rick Houseknecht, David Krempasky, David Rockey, David Rothrock (DRr), Vesta Schach, Jeff Schaffer, Beth Zbegner.

## Columbia County

No Report.

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## Crawford County

Locations: Custards (CS), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Lake Outlet (CLO), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Geneva Marsh (GM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), Meadville (MD), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Fish Hatchery (PFH), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Woodcock Lake (WL).

We had a rather wintery December all area lakes and ponds were ice covered by 12/18 Christmas Count. January was much warmer than usual with a small amount of snow and February turned cooler again with no major storms.

A **Snow Goose** was located at FH 12/1 (MBu) and group from *Clarion* PA. One **Blue Goose** was noted at CS 1/15 (RFL). Sixty **Tundra Swans** were noted at CL 12/12 (TM). A good count of 15 **Wood Ducks** was reported at CLO 12/16 (TM). I found 4 at Custards Bridge,

CM 2/19 (RFL). A single **Northern Shoveler** was seen 12/12 at CM (TM) along with 2 **Northern Pintails**. I found 8 at Custards 2/25 (RFL). There were 8 **Canvasbacks** on CL 12/10 and 13 were seen there 1/8 (RFL). Five **Redheads** were on CL 12/30 and 55 off PC 2/24 (RFL). A single male **Long-tailed Duck** was noted at PS 1/8 (IF). Better than usual were 220 **Red-breasted Mergansers** see at WL 1/8 (RFL).

Eighty-seven **Wild Turkeys** were tallied 12/18 on LCC (MO). Four **Horned Grebes** were noted at CL 12/14 (RFL, RCL). Two **Pied billed Grebes** found at CLO 12/16 (TM). The 13 **Great Blue Herons** on the LCC 12/18 was an excellent number considering the icy conditions, 2 remained at the PS 12/26 (MB).

On 1/22, a **Bald Eagle** was seen between CM and PGMA (KSJ). I found 12 (5 adults & 7 imm) at PYM area alone 2/25 (RFL). One to 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** were noted at PGMA all period (MO). A **Merlin** was observed at WL 1/8 (RFL).

Two **Killdeer** were at WL 1/8 (RFL) and 2 were found at FH 2/11 (JC). All gulls were scarce here in late Dec and early Jan, but **Ring-billed Gull** numbers had increased with 3725 off the PC 2/11 (RFL), included in that group was an immature **Great Black-backed Gull**.

Several **Red-breasted Nuthatches** wintered at MD and HM (RFL, MBy). Two **Gray Catbirds** appeared on the LCC, one at HM (MB) and one at PGMA (RFL, RCL) 12/18. **Snow Buntings** were seen off and on the PC 12/10-2/11 from 6 to 60 (MO). One **Red-winged Blackbird** was seen 1/22 (KSJ) and 8 near GM 2/25 (MF). Two **Common Grackles** and 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found near CS 2/25 (MF).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler (MBy), Rachel Byler, Margaret Buckwater (MBu), Jack Christion, Mike Fialkovich, Irene Frey, Robert C. Leberman, Tony Marich, Kate St. John.

#### **Cumberland County**

No Report.

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#### **Dauphin County**

Locations: Clarks Creek Valley (CCV), Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Corporate Center (HCC), Hershey IBA (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), Lisa Lake & Highspire Reservoir (LLHR), Millersburg (MBG), Powells Creek Valley (PCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna River from Harrisburg (SHB), Susquehanna River from Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River from West Fairview (SWF), Wildwood Lake (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

The **Trumpeter Swan** (tag #698), from the Wye Marsh, ON reintroduction project, continued to keep company with two **Mute Swans** at SWF and was viewed and photographed by many during the season. While doing a WRS 1/21 about 200 **Tundra Swans** were observed flying over the southeast corner of the county (PW, RW). **Snow Geese** were first reported 1/29 when about 30 were seen over Swatara Twp. (LU), while a much larger flight, numbering in the thousands, occurred in SHT 2/10 (PW, RW). The first report of **Cackling Goose** was 2/5 when three were found at the HCC pond (CRT, TJ), following this there were many sightings of individuals or small groups at various Hershey area ponds through Feb. Another good find at the HCC pond occurred 2/9 when a lone **Greater White-fronted Goose** was discovered (TJ).

With the mild weather many of our area ponds remained ice free for much of the season affording the opportunity for some of the dabbling ducks to remain all winter. A dozen **Wood Duck** were at WL 1/20 (LU), **Gadwall** were found at both LLHR and WL in Jan and Feb (PF, LU, RW), and **Green-winged Teal** returned to Hershey area ponds by early Feb (TJ, KK).

A late fall report from SMV 12/4 had **Redhead, Canvasback, Surf and White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Horned Grebe** still on the SR (DB) and, just a few days later 12/9, **Ring-necked Duck, and Long-tailed Duck** were added (CRT). Unfortunately, from this list, only **Red-breasted Merganser** remained to be counted on the HBG CBC 12/17, although **Redhead** was found during count week 12/19 (DH). More common were **Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser** and were reported from various locations along the SR throughout the quarter however, the discovery of a female **Common Goldeneye**, that remained at the HCC pond through February, was noteworthy (TJ, LU, et al.). The first **American Wigeon** of the season was noted at the HCC pond 2/8 (TJ), a **Northern Shoveler** was found at WL 2/26 (LU), and an early **Common Loon** was seen a SWF 2/3 (CRT).

Winter reports of **Black Vulture** in the southern third of the county is not unusual but finding two in PCV 1/27 on a WRS was noteworthy (JR). Other WRS results showed a reduction in the **Red-tailed Hawk** count and the absence of both **Northern Harrier** and **Rough-legged**

**Hawk**; while two **Bald Eagles** were tallied on each of the other three surveys (BC, RK, RW). Three **Northern Harriers** were observed in the Gratz area 2/12 (MaB). A surprising find in Paxtang, just outside HBG, was a **Northern Goshawk** 12/19 (DH). The **Peregrine Falcon** pair in HBG seem ready for another successful nesting season. The report of a **Peregrine Falcon** near the *Dauphin/Lebanon* line along Rt. 81 was unusual 2/14 (BHT).

Two **Sandhill Cranes**, have been keeping company with Rheas at the Lake Tobias Wildlife Park near Halifax, and were counted on the Curtin CBC 12/28 (fide SB). The first arrived in 2003 and was joined by the second one sometime this past year. **American Woodcock** returned 2/27 SHT and immediately began displaying (JG, TJ). Also in SHT an **Eurasian-collared Dove** was found with a flock of **Mourning Doves** 1/11 (TJ). This is the first report of this species in the county.

Finding Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** near SFH 12/17 (TJ) provided the HBG CBC with one of its two new count species (the other was the **Trumpeter Swan**).

**Long-eared Owls** were reported, albeit irregularly, at two locations near Hershey. A **Short-eared Owl** was observed at HIBA 12/18 for the Lebanon CBC (SR) and, another was present in the Gratz area from 1/12-2/12 (MaB). **Common Ravens**, usually limited to the northern half of the county, have been frequenting the HUM area increasing the possibility of nesting in one of the nearby quarries. Most recent sightings occurred 1/26, 2/12, and again 2/17 (PF).

The **Rufous Hummingbird** that arrived in SHT 10/19 was last seen 12/14 (JG). A juv **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found on the HACC campus 12/17 during the HBG CBC (B&SB, BC, RW) and an **Eastern Phoebe** lingered long enough near MBG to be counted on the Curtin CBC 12/28 (RK, JR, PW, RW). There were also reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Gold-crowned Kinglet** visiting yards in the HER and HUM area (GB, PF, et al.). Another reports from the Lykens area made note of the unusually large numbers of **American Robins** spending the winter (JP); this certainly was supported in the numbers of this species found on the area CBCs. An unusual feeder visitor at WL was a **Swamp Sparrow** 12/14-15 (CRb).

Single **Lapland Longspurs** were found with large flocks of **Horned Larks** near Gratz 2/12 (MaB) and in the HER area 2/26 (TJ). Two reports of **Baltimore Orioles** visiting backyard feeders came in this winter. The first was from Halifax 1/13 (SB) and, the second from HER 2/4-2/5 (AS). Before this there was only one documented winter report of a **Baltimore Oriole**, this was found in a journal written by Ned Smith, noted naturalist, artist, and writer from the MBG area, for 1/20/1967 (RW). Both **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Eastern Meadowlark** returned to their respective popular nesting sites by mid-February.

Some late fall reports including a flock of 20 **Pine Siskins** in CCV 11/25 (RK), of seven **Evening Grosbeaks** in SCV 12/2 (DH), and a number of **Purple Finch** reports in Dec raised hope for a good winter finch season. Unfortunately this did not occur.

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#### **Delaware County**

Locations: Glenolden 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), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY)

This short season saw mild temperatures and little rainfall with only a short-lived snow storm in early December. Unless otherwise noted, records in this report come from the 84<sup>th</sup> Glenolden CBC held on 12/17.

A **Cackling Goose** was found on the Garnet Valley School grounds in Concord Twp. for the second CBC in a row 12/17 (NP). The CBC tally of **Snow Goose** was 156. **Green-winged Teal** were on the SR and at DC mudflats in fairly low numbers, only 23 as a high count. Among the teal at SR there was a possible **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** 12/3 (AG), but he could not confirm it and I did not locate the bird on the next day. Large rafts of **American Black Duck** were absent from the DR this season (DM), perhaps because there was abundant unfrozen tidal marsh available. Three **Common Goldeneye** were at SR throughout Dec (AG, DM). **Common Merganser** at SR reached a high of 90 on 1/13 and many **Hooded Merganser** were on the lower Crum Creek Res. (DM). Two **Red-breasted Merganser**, in the DC area and at Marcus Hook, were nice finds (SC, NP). Also, at Marcus Hook was a



**Great Cormorant** (NP) seen twelve times since its first appearance on the CBC in 1986. **Horned Grebe** were scarce, but one was at SR 12/3-12/17 (AG).

A pair of **Northern Harriers** wintered, as usual, in the PHL area. Accipiters did well this year. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** with 32 counted had their 2<sup>nd</sup> highest CBC record and 12 **Cooper's Hawk** was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest. A **Northern Goshawk** was in Upland 12/18 (NP). I would never expect a **Rough-legged Hawk** to be at suburban Delaware County Community College, but SJ and BH had great looks at this species, seen on less than half of the last 46 counts.

One **Wilson's Snipe** and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (AG) were found near the UPS complex at PHL 12/17 (AG).

Land development taking place in the county seems to benefit **Red-bellied** and **Hairy Woodpecker**, but it may be the cycle of warm weather that supports their increase. The new high count for **Red-bellied** was 163 and 48 **Hairy Woodpeckers** tied the previous high in 1993. **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported from many feeders (AS, DE, et.al.). **Eastern Bluebird** winter population continues to grow due to the work of Bob Bodine and the many Bluebird trail monitors in the Birding Club of Delaware County. A **Hermit Thrush** count of 23 was 2<sup>nd</sup> highest and 16 **Gray Catbird** benefitted from the warm temperatures. **Eastern Towhee** set a new high of 84 and on 1/13 SK found nine at RCSP.

Four warbler species were reported. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was near Fair Acres in Middletown 12/17 (JD, SD). Six **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and 2 **Common Yellowthroats** were also found on the CBC. Marlene Miller had a **Nashville Warbler** in her Lester yard splashing in a water bath during count week, but not on 12/17. A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 3<sup>rd</sup> CBC record, was found feeding with other sparrows in a disturbed maintenance area at St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Broomall (SJ, BH). A **Baltimore Oriole** has been visiting a feeder in Lansdowne and a **Brown Thrasher** has claimed a Media yard for his winter territory (CS).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA, 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Skip Conant, John D'Amico, Susan D'Amico, Dave Eberly, Al Guarente, Barbara Hohenstein, Rich Horwitz, Sheryl Johnson, Sandra Keller, Jill McElderry-Maxwell, John Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Alice Savareid, Charles Smith.

#### **Elk County**

No Report. No Compiler

#### **Erie County**

Locations: Presque Isle Bay (PIB), Presque Isle State Park (PI), Waterbird Count (WC),

A mild open winter with plenty of wild food allowed many species that typically do not successfully winter to survive through the period including **Common Loon**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Winter Wren**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Eastern Towhee**. See details below. Even more unusual was a wintering **Eastern Phoebe** at a wastewater treatment plant. There were also many fall migrants lingering well into January. This was the first year in many that Presque Isle Bay remained open through most of the period and of course Lake Erie never froze. This allowed many gulls to winter around Presque Isle, especially white-winged gulls. **Bald Eagles** were also more frequently reported than usual for this season. This was not a **northern finch** winter with only a handful of **Redpolls** and **Siskins** reported.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PI) unless noted otherwise.

While JM was conducting the waterbird count 12/16 at Sunset Point, a pair of **Harlequin Ducks** flew in and landed next to one of the breakwaters. A single male **Long-tailed Duck** was out-of-season in PIB 2/10 (DN). **Common Loons** are not known to winter at PI, so one that successfully spent the entire season was unprecedented (JM). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was found 12/1 and remained to 12/17 while another bird appeared 1/6 (JM). The regular but rare **Eared Grebe** made a two day appearance 12/5-12/6 (JDu, CW). **Rough-legged Hawks** are noteworthy in winter in *Erie*, so the total of three birds seen periodically from 12/17-2/15 was interesting (TJC, DP).

Almost never reported in winter was a **Merlin** 2/2 (JP, PH). **Peregrine Falcons** have recently become regular in winter, so one or two from 12/1-12/10 (PH, JM) and one from 1/4-1/20 (JM) was not a surprise. **Sandhill Cranes** have become regular in *Erie* in recent years, but always in small numbers until a flock of 78 was found in a cut cornfield near Northeast from 12/23-12/30 (TW). Even more remarkable was the **Lesser Sandhill Crane** that was studied and photographed among a smaller group of **Greater Sandhill Cranes** at the same site 12/30 (JM). A single **Sandhill Crane** was still present 1/10 near Wattsburg (JF). A late **Killdeer** was found in Scott Park 12/17 (LM). The only report of **Purple Sandpiper** came 12/16-12/17 when one was found feeding among the breakwaters (JM, AT.).

A distant immature **Jaeger**, believed to be a Parasitic or Pomarine, was observed on the WC 12/1 (JM). **Little Gulls** are very rare in winter at PI, so the total of six birds recorded from 12/4-2/15 was unusual (JM). PIB is usually frozen solid by mid-winter, but this winter it remained open through a good portion of the season attracting thousands of gulls from late Jan into late Feb. With the open water and available food came 5000 or more **Bonaparte's Gulls** 1/25 (JM). As expected among the thousands of gulls, were the more uncommon to rare ones like the adult **California Gull** that gave a brief appearance 2/20 (JM). The always-challenging **Thayer's-type gulls** were recorded as well including a total of four from 1/25-2/21 (JM). An outstanding number of **white-winged gulls** were attracted to the open water surrounding the park including more than 15 **Iceland Gulls** and 25 **Glaucous Gulls** 12/15 through the period (JM, BC). The uncommon, but always reportable, **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was recorded in higher than usual numbers with a seasons total of at least 20 (mob). Whenever PI hosts thousands of gulls one can always expect to find a hybrid or two. This season an apparent **Herring Gull X Glaucous Gull** was reported 2/11 (BC) and an apparent **Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull** 2/10 (JM). Observed only a few times in *Erie*, was an immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** that flew past Sunset Point during the WC 12/3 (JM).

Not as rare as in the past, but still very exciting, was a **Selasphorus Hummingbird** that visited a feeder from November to at least 12/11 in Albion (ML). **Eastern Phoebes** are rarely seen in the county after Oct, so one found 1/4 that remained to at least 1/28 (LM, EK) was noteworthy. Not to be outdone was an **Eastern Phoebe** that successfully wintered at a wastewater treatment plant in Lake City, subsisting on flying insects that emerged from the wastewater. A total of five **Northern Shrikes** for the period was a typical number for this area (m.ob). **Common Ravens** continue there west and northwestern movement from the mountains of *Warren* and *Forest* to the foothills of *Erie*. For at least the second year in a row two **Common Ravens** were observed soaring and calling overhead near Union City 2/15 (DP). Winters are usually too severe for **Winter Wrens** to stay long, but with the mild winter this year one remained to at least 1/19 at Edinboro (DS) and one to at least 2/12 at PI (BC). A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found at PI 1/3 (BC) and a **Northern Mockingbird** was present at Edinboro until at least 12/14 (SW).

Other later than usual birds reported were; **American Pipit** 12/18 in *Erie* (JD), a **Savannah Sparrow** at a feeder in Union City from 12/6-12/11 (DP), and a **Fox Sparrow** at PI from 12/13-12/17 (BC, JM). An irregular winter visitor was a **Lapland Longspur** feeding at a recently seeded field in *Erie* from 12/15-12/17 (JM). The only **Pine Siskins** reported were four in Union City from 12/6-12/11 (DP) and one near Waterford 12/28. A single **Common Redpoll** was observed feeding in a birch with **American Goldfinches** from 1/6-1/8 (JM) and one or two were visiting a feeder in Union City from 1/7-2/18 (DP)

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Road, Erie, PA, 16508, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com.**, Ben Coulter, Toby & Jean Cunningham, John DePaul, Jon Dunn, John Fedak, Chuck Gehringer, Pat Howell, Ethan Kistler, Richard Kreider, Mike Lipinski, Linda McWilliams, Don Nixon, Donna Peters, Janet Price, Don Snyder, Adam Troyer, Tim Wallin, Suzanne Winterberger, Chris Wood

#### **Fayette County**

No Report.

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#### **Forest County**

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake Outflow (TO)

The winter was comparatively mild, particularly the month of January, but did not provide more waterfowl, as we would hope. (All sightings by F&JM)

Seven female **Hooded Mergansers** were reported at TO 12/1. A **Great Blue Heron** was spotted 1/11 at TO, and another was seen 1/16 along the Allegheny R. north of TI.

A **Turkey Vulture** spotted near Red Brush 1/27 provided the earliest record in 7 years. There were three **Bald Eagle** sightings during the reporting period, all at TO - 2 adults and an imm 12/1; one adult 1/3; one imm 1/11. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** snagged a **Dark-eyed Junco** 12/18 at feeders near TI. A **Northern Goshawk** was spotted on German Hill 1/27, during the Winter Raptor Survey. There were two sightings of light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** - one 1/20 on German Hill, and another 1/27 near Red Brush.

There were several sightings of **Belted Kingfisher** at TO, where the water never froze. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** seemed scarce this winter, with one sighting 2/1 at ANF. A pair of **Hairy Woodpeckers** were regular at feeders near TI. A **Northern Shrike** was found near Neiltown 1/1 on the Pleasantville CBC; it could not be relocated on

subsequent searches. **Common Raven** was reported 12/25, 1/3 and 1/20 from the TI area.

A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was regular at feeders near TI throughout the reporting period; two were spotted 1/20 at TO. Two **Brown Creepers** regularly visited feeders near TI; singles were also seen 1/3 and 1/12 at TO and 1/15 at ANF. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found: 12/1 at TO; 1/9 at Neiltown; 2 on 1/30 at ANF, and 2 on 2/1 at ANF.

**American Tree Sparrows** were regular at feeders near TI, with a high of 8 on 12/31. **White-crowned Sparrows** were regular visitors at feeders near TI, numbering 2 or 3. High of **Dark-eyed Junco** was 38 on 1/26, near TI. A single **Dark-eyed Junco, Oregon form** was present on numerous occasions from 2/4-2/28. There were several sightings of **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, with a high of 5 on 1/26 near TI. **Purple Finches** were seen almost regularly, with a high of 3 males on 2/26. **Pine Siskins** were seen only twice in Dec, but regularly through Jan and Feb near TI, with a high of 17 on 1/9. The high number for **American Goldfinch** was 59 on 2/18 near TI.

Observers: Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA, 16353, (814) 755-3672, mcguires@csonline.net, Jim McGuire.

#### Franklin County

No Report.

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#### Fulton County

Locations: CREP1- Plum Run survey route, CREP2- Pleasant Grove survey route, CREP3- Hustontown survey route, CREP4- Buck Valley survey route.

On 1/28 Meadow Grounds Lake hosted 5 **American Black Ducks**, 2 **Gadwall**, and 1 **Green-winged Teal** (DS).

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 2/10 CREP1 netted 10 **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one **American Kestrel** (DS, MS). On 2/8, 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** were detected along CREP2 (DS, MS). 1/28 CREP3 survey results included one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 5 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 2 **American Kestrels** (RR, DS). On 2/09, CREP4 netted one **Red-tailed Hawk**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, and 2 **Northern Harriers**(DS, MS).

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at a sheep farm along Wertzville Rd 2/08 (DS, MS). This was my first winter sighting of this species in the county.

A small flock of **Pine Siskins** fed along a pasture stream in Knobsville 1/28 (DS, MS).

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#### Greene County

Locations: Big Shannon Run, Perry Twp.(BSR) Cumberland Twp (CUM), East View, Franklin Twp.(EV), Kern Farm, Morgan Twp.(KF), Ralph Bell Farm, Morgan Twp.(RBF).

The warm weather of January and part of February definitely had an influence on the local birding. Sally Sisler reported a **swan species** on the Monongahela R. near Greensboro in late Feb. Sixty plus **Canada Geese** were seen flying over RBF 1/1 (RKB). A **Great Blue Heron** was noted on the creek bank near her yard on BSR 1/30 (ML). **Killdeer** moved in late Feb, with one in EV 2/27 (LO) and one on Rt. 19 in Franklin Twp. 2/28 (MK). **Wild Turkeys** started coming to the feeder at ML's yard on BSR 12/15, in two separate flocks, with 12-15 in each group. Each group would come in every morning at a different time, suggesting they might be roosting as two separate groups. There were 30+ **Wild Turkeys**, with the males showing off and chasing each other 1/11 and by 2/20, there were 44 **Wild Turkeys** coming into the feeders as a single group. RKB reported first hearing a **Wild Turkey** gobbling 2/27.

A **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** was sitting on a deck rail just a few feet from a feeder in CUM (KR). She was able to watch it for several minutes before it took off. Another **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** was seen flying through the Spruce trees along the driveway 1/2 and a few days later saw a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** sitting on the deck rail and was able to have a good look at it. (KK). ML also reports **Sharp-Shinned Hawks** dining at her feeders, taking an occasional **Mourning Dove**. Two **Red-tailed Hawks** at RBF 12/8, were apparently "pairing-up" and renewing their bond (RKB). A pair were seen flying together then sitting close together in a tree through Jan. at KF (KK). RKB noted his resident pair of **American Kestrels** several times through the period.

Twenty-one **Mourning Doves** sitting on the electric wires at RBF and were heard calling 2/13 (RKB). He also reports two **Common Ravens** flying over 12/13, 12/17-12/18, but he did not hear any during

Feb. He is concerned about the **Common Ravens** since the abandoned concrete mine building where they nested for several years has been destroyed.

**Red-Breasted Nuthatches** were reported by RKB, who had at least one coming to his suet all winter. He had three in the yard at RBF 12/13. MH reported one at her feeder 1/1 in EV, and KR had one at her feeders in CUM all winter. ML had a **Brown Creeper** in her yard on BSR 1/23. By 2/3 **Carolina Wrens** were singing frequently at BSR reports ML. A pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted in her yard in EV 2/18 (MH).

At least three **Northern Mockingbirds** resided at RBF all winter and started singing 2/16 (RKB). **Eastern Bluebirds** were seen examining nest boxes 1/19 and on 2/16 the bluebirds were singing and enjoying the 60 degree weather (ML). **American Robins** were moving around the area with 5 reported 1/14 at KF (KK). One was seen at BSR 2/18 (ML). Nine **Cedar Waxwings** were feeding on Holly Berries at RBF 12/9 (RKB). Eleven were there 2/16 (RKB). Roosting in the Holly trees all winter were at least 24 **Yellow-Rumped Warblers** (RKB). They showed up in early fall, stayed all winter, and started singing in mid-Mar.

A male **Eastern Towhee** was observed under shrubs in the yard at BSR 1/6 (ML). **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were present at the feeders at KF all winter (KK). ML spotted her first **White-throated Sparrow** 12/6 at BSR. An **American Tree Sparrow** was seen at the feeder at KF 1/21 (KK). A **Red-winged Blackbird**, first migrant, was noted near RBF at Jerry Wolfe's feeder 2/17. A **Red-winged Blackbird** was at a feeder 2/18 (MH), and on 2/27 a **Red-winged Blackbird** and 2 **Common Grackles** were sighted on BSR (ML). On 12/14 ML had about 20 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at her feeder on BSR.

The first **House Finch** with infective conjunctivitis was noted 12/13 at BSR (ML). RKB tells us that populations of **House Finches** really decreased for several years due to a strain of bacteria. The bacterium caused the eyes to swell up, ooze, then crust over and many died. But now populations seem to be starting to build up again as several were noted at the feeders every day and over 15 were counted at RBF 2/2. Unfortunately, though, the infection is still around.

Apparently the warm weather got to the **House Sparrow** population at KF, as some were seeing carrying nesting material to nest boxes in Feb.

Observers: Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Rd., Waynesburg, PA, 15370 (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net, Ralph K. Bell, Marjorie Howard, Kathy Kern, Mark Kesner, Mary Laplante, Linda Olczak, Kathy Reeves,

#### Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Lake Raystown (LR), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (OC), Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch (TMH).

The early winter thaw spurred reports of waterfowl from the county's smaller ponds and lakes. A pond near Cassville hosted an **American Wigeon** and 12 **American Black Ducks** 2/19 and a **Common Goldeneye** was found 1/8 at Petersburg (DK). At OC, 6 **Bufflehead**, 12 **Hooded Mergansers** and 6 **Common Mergansers** were reported 2/4 (DK). DK spotted 45 **Black Vultures** and 2 **Turkey Vultures** near HU 1/11 and 150 **Black Vultures** near McConnellstown 1/23. An annual survey by boat 1/13 on LR turned up 8 adult and 5 imm **Bald Eagles** (PL). A **Bald Eagle**, 2 **Northern Harriers** and 4 **American Kestrels** highlighted a Winter Raptor survey 2/19 near LR (GG). TMH began the count season 2/25 with 2 **Golden Eagles**, one **Rough-legged Hawk** and 6 **Red-tailed Hawks** (GG). A record high 44 **Red-tailed Hawks** were also found on the LR CBC (GG) and a record high of 4 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were tallied 12/18 HU CBC (DK). A **Herring Gull** provided a new species for the 12/26 LR CBC (NB).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near MF 12/22 (DK, GG) and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 12/24 (GG). Both HU and LR CBCs recorded respective record highs of 109 and 61 **Song Sparrows** and 180 and 177 **White-throated Sparrows** (DK, GG). Four **White-crowned Sparrows** were found near Waterstreet 1/6 (DK) and a **Swamp Sparrow** 1/12 at OC (DK). **Pine Siskins** were regular visitors at feeding stations in MF, with a high of 150 1/25 (SW). The Grove's feeders attracted an **Evening Grosbeak** 12/24 and 12/27, and a high of 20 **American Tree Sparrows** 12/24.

Observers: Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA, 16669, (814) 863-2000, djw105@psu.edu. Nick Bolgiano, Geoff Gould, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, David Kyler, Philip Lukish, Susan Wentzel.

#### Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).



**Canada Goose** maxima included an estimated 427 at TLR 12/26 (LO) and 321 at YC 2/28 (LC). **Tundra Swan** reports were limited to 3 near Heilwood 12/2 (RH) and an estimated 200 over Homer City 12/5 (LC).

YC Lake, which is rather shallow tends to freeze more readily than TLR which boasted open water throughout the season. YC, however, froze in mid-Dec, and although parts of the lake remained frozen, temperatures above freezing permitted at least some water to remain open during Jan and Feb. Because of flock composition, we surmised that there was some movement back and forth between the preferred YC when it was open and TLR when YC froze. **Gadwall** reports included 8 at YC 12/1 (LC), 4 at TLR 12/9 (LC), and one at YC 2/22 (ER). A **Eurasian Wigeon** at YC 2/21 furnished a third county record (LC, CG, MH, SS). It lingered here through the end of the period. One **American Wigeon** appeared at YC 1/10 (LC, MH, KR, SS); by 2/21 (LC, CG, MH, SS), 31 were present. **American Black Duck** maxima were 38 at YC 1/3 (LC, CG, MH, KR, SS) and 14 at TLR 1/16 (LC). High **Mallard** counts included 118 at TLR 1/16 (LO) and 165 at YC 2/23 (LC, DL). An interesting **Northern Pintail** report involved a single male visiting a feeder in IN with the resident Mallards 12/25 (LS); 3-4 were noted at YC after 1/8 (ER); high count of 16 was achieved 2/23 (LC, DL).

One **Canvasback** was reported at YC 12/1 (LO) and at TLR 12/27 (LC, MH, SS) and 1/6 (LC). TLR hosted 14 **Redheads** 12/26 (LC); first singleton appeared at YC 2/21 (LC, CG, MH, SS). Five **Ring-necked Ducks** lingered at TLR through 12/27 (LC, MH, SS), but 2/28 (LO) yielded counts of 74 at YC and 184 at TLR. A single **Lesser Scaup** at TLR 12/27 (LC, MH, SS) was the lone report. A **White-winged Scoter** was a nice find at YC 1/17 (LC, MH, ER, SS); this was the county's first Jan. record. YC yielded a pair of **Buffleheads** 1/19 (CG, MH); 1-2 were present on every outing through Feb's end. Four **Common Goldeneyes** stopped at YC 12/1 (LC); another was found 1/10 (LC, MH, KR, SS); 4 was the high YC tally 2/21 (LC, CG, MH, SS). Thirteen **Hooded Mergansers** stayed at YC through 12/1 (LC); next reported were 2 on 2/14 (LC, MH, SS) at YC. Six **Common Mergansers** arrived at YC 2/14 (LC, MH, SS); best count was 13 one week later (LC, CG, MH, SS). TLR yielded 7 **Ruddy Ducks** 2/19 (CG, MH); one was at YC 2/21-23 (v.o.).

The IN CBC yielded only one **Ruffed Grouse** 12/26 (RS); only 2 other grouse were reported, one at TLR 12/28 (RH) and another near CS 1/1 (MH, RH). Three **Common Loons** at YC 12/1 (LO) were last. Top **Pied-billed Grebe** counts were 14 at YC 12/1 (LO) and 9 at TLR 2/22 (LC). A single **Horned Grebe** was present 12/1 (LO) at YC and 1/6 (LO) at TLR. Very few **Great Blue Herons** were reported; 2 were spotted while the observer was canoeing near Seward 2/24 (DF).

**Northern Harriers** were listed near Brush Valley 1/8 (ER); at Nolo 2/1 (DB) and 2/3 (AB), and at YC 2/6 (DB). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at 10 locations during the period; **Cooper's Hawk**, at 8 (v.o.). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was sighted near IN 2/5 (ER). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted only at Timber Lake 2/25 (CL, GL). Two Winter Raptor Survey routes in the northern part of the county yielded 21 **Red-tailed Hawks** 1/21 (MH, RH) and 29 on 2/11 (MH, RH), down respectively from last year's counts of 31 and 39.

**American Coots** at YC 12/1 (LO) numbered 451; the flock gradually decreased until by 12/13 (MH, KR, SS), the last report, only 10 were present. Some of these birds may have moved to TLR where the count on 12/26 (LO) was 61. A **Killdeer** at YC 2/21 (LC, CG, MH, SS) was the first and only report. Nine was the high **Ring-billed Gull** count at YC 1/12 (LC).

**Eastern Screech-Owls** included one gray morph peering from a cavity at YC 2/21 (LC, CG, MH, SS) and another calling near Chambersville 2/24 (DF, MF). The CBC yielded 2 **Great Horned Owls** (v.o.); this species was reported at 5 other areas this season. A **Barred Owl** was heard only at SH 12/5, 1/3, 1/6 (MH, RH). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling near Shelocla 2/2 (MH).

An imm **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice find at an Armstrong Twp. feeder 12/26 (BMe). Among many reports, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were spotted near IN 12/19, 1/6, and 2/25 (DJ); at TLR 12/22 (PJ); and at YC 1/17 (LC, MH, SS). **Common Raven** reports included 2 at Nolo 12/17 (CL, GL), one at YC 12/26 (JD, MStr, JT), individuals near Penn Run and at TLR 1/19 (CG, MH), and one near Gipsy 2/11 (MH, RH). **Horned Lark** maxima were 30 near Penn Run 12/26 (BF, TF) and 25 near YC 1/19 (CG, MH). The CBC yielded 16 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at 11 locations (v.o.); 3-4 were found near SH (MH, RH) and 1-3 were at YC throughout the period; one was near IN 1/7 (CGar). Five **Brown Creepers** at YC 12/26 (DD, DYD, MH, RH) was the high count. With the somewhat mild winter **Carolina Wrens** seemed to remain in good numbers with many reports. A **Hermit Thrush** near SH was eating poke berries 12/1 (MH, RH); one was at YC 12/13 (MH, KR, SS), and another at TLR 12/22 (PJ); after 2 on the CBC (m.ob.), the only other report came 1/19 (CG, MH) near TLR. After a count of 79 for the CBC 12/26 (v.o.), the only **Cedar Waxwings** noted were 8 near Gipsy 2/11 (MH, RH) and 26 on Reservoir Hill 2/20 (PJ). One **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found near SH 2/20, the lone report (MH).

A male **Eastern Towhee** appeared at a feeder near SH 12/11 (MH, RH) where it was seen again 1/7 (MH); another was found near IN 12/14, 24 (CG); YC yielded one 12/27 (JD, MStr, JT). A good count of **American Tree Sparrows** was 42 at Blue Spruce Co. Park 12/26 (LM, TP, MS). Single **Chipping Sparrows** in Saltsburg 12/14, 15 (SS) and at Blacklick 12/25 (JM) were unusual. A flock of 8 **Field Sparrows** near Homer City 12/26 (LH, LHe) comprised the lone report. Two **Savannah Sparrows** surfaced at a feeder in Center Twp. 12/26 (BM, KM). **Fox Sparrow** reports included 5 near SH 12/2 (MH), one on Reservoir Hill 12/13, 16 (PJ), one near Brush Valley 12/26 (PA), and another near CS 12/26 (MAL). One **Swamp Sparrow** at YC 12/26 (DD, DYD, MH, RH) was the lone report. Four flocks of **White-crowned Sparrows**, totaling 15 individuals were sighted 12/26 (v.o.).

Last **Red-winged Blackbird** was noted 12/5 (MH) near SH. **Rusty Blackbirds** were recorded only near IN with one 12/8 (DJ) and 2 on 12/26 (DJ). One **Common Grackle** near SH 12/7 (MH) and 18 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on Reservoir Hill 12/26 (PJ) were the lone reports. A male **Pine Grosbeak** made a brief stop at an IN feeder 12/26 (MP); this site is less than ½ mile from historic records from the late 70s-early 80s (MStr). **Pine Siskins** included one near IN 12/15 and 2/23 (CG) and 8 in IN 12/26 (AP, MP).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA, 15701 (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Pat Andrascik, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Dave Darney, Debbie Yovanovich Darney, Jim Dearing, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Don Frew, Marie Frew, Cindy Gardiner (CGar), Carol Guba, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LHe), Roger Higbee, Dory Jacobs, Pat Johner, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Mary A. Little, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Bruce Mehus (BMe), Jeff Michaels, Lauren Morgens, Tom Pearson, Ann Peterson, Marjorie Peterson, Kevin Redvay, Ed Richards, Matt Sarver, Scott Speedy, Linda Stormer, Rodger Stormer, Mark Strittmatter (MStr), Georgette Syster, John Taylor.

#### **Jefferson County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Juniata County**

Locations: Cedar Spring Road (CSR), Lewistown Christmas County (CBC), Muskrat Springs (MS), Thompsontown River Access (TTRA).

Five **Tundra Swan** were at the Port Royal river bridge and three at the TTRA 12/17 (TjP, TpP). 2/10/06 Seventy-five **Snow Geese** were spotted flying over the eastern part of the county 2/10 (DH, CR). One hundred **American Black Ducks** were seen by an unnamed hunter near TTRA 12/24. Twenty **Common Goldeneye** were spotted at TTRA 1/8 (MT). A flock of **Lesser Scaup** were observed near MS 12/20 (HT). Eleven **Common Mergansers** were regular near MS 12/17-1/15 (TpP). One **Long-tailed Duck** was amongst twelve **Common Goldeneye** at MS 1/15 (TpP).

A **Red Throated Loon** was found below Muskrat Springs on the CBC 12/17-12/18 (TjP, TpP). There were many sightings of **Bald Eagles** in (MS), Arch Rock area and Denholm. during Jan and Feb (TpP, MoT, RP). A single **Merlin** was sighted numerous times during Dec including the CBC count week (CK,DS,JS,SS,AT). A **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Herring Gull** was spotted near MS 12/18 (TpP).

A **Barn Owl** was seen flying MS 1/6 (TpP). A number of were seen and heard in the county 12/17-2/26 (CK, EP, HP, TpP, DS, SS, AT, DT, ST). While looking for **Long Eared Owls**, two **Great Horned Owls** and an **Eastern Screech Owl** 1/17 (CK, AT, DT). A single **Short Eared Owl** was seen just feet away as it flew across the car windshield on CSR 1/3 (CK, MO).

High numbers of **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen and heard on a walk on Tuscarora Mt. 12/3 (TpP). There was a one day single sighting of a **Northern Shrike** on Long Road off CSR 1/22 (DT). Seventy three **Brown Creepers** were counted by the river crew during the CBC 12/17 (TjP, TpP). One **Hermit Thrush** was seen near the Mifflintown Airport 2/18 (EP).

A **Harris's Sparrow** was at Oakland Mills from the first couple of days in Dec and off/on until through the period (AT, m.ob). Twelve **Purple Finches** were counted at a feeder near Center 1/1 (HP). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen near MS 12/18 (TpP).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6464, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Deuane Hoffman, Mackenzie Osborne, Roger Parks, Elmer Petersheim, Henry Petersheim, Toby J. Petersheim, Toby P. Petersheim, Cameron Rutt, David Stoner, James Stoner, Shawn Stoner, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Moses Troyer, Stevie Troyer.

#### **Lackawanna County**

No Report. No Compiler.

## Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MCWMA).

This year winter in Lancaster was very mild. While December was fairly cold with some snow, we experienced one of the warmer January's on record.

The avian highlight of the season was a cooperative **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** that put in an appearance at the old Alcoa Marsh in late January. The Lancaster CBC was held on 12/18 with a total of 82 species reported. It was a very average year. The most notable sightings were 12 **Bald Eagles**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon** and **Blue-winged Teal**. The Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count was held 12/19 with 109 species the highlights included **Ruffed Grouse**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Peregrine Falcon**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 3 **Barn Owls**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Short-eared Owl**, 12 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, 10 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 10 **Gray Catbirds**, **Pine Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin**. The total makes the count one of the highest in the state, a position this count has held consistently since its start over 25 years ago.

This year the Litz count was held 1/1 on Sunday, January 1 with 88 species. The highlights were **Black-crowned Night Heron**, 2 **Cackling Geese**, 2 **Wood Duck**, **Merlin**, 2 **Rough-legged Hawks**, **Wilson's Snipe**, 5 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 3 **Short-eared Owl**, 4 **Northern Harrier**, **Eastern Phoebe** and **Red-headed Woodpecker**.

This winter presented a good selection of waterfowl once again. Two **White-fronted Geese** were discovered at Octoraro Lake 12/28 (CC). Many **Snow Geese** were present at the same location and 4000 **Snow Geese** were in nearby Gap 12/23. By 2/4 **Snow Geese** had built to 50,000+ at MCWMA and would grow closer to 95,000 later in the spring. Despite these high numbers, the concentrations of geese at MCWMA appeared to be slightly lower than last year. More unusual sightings at MCWMA included **Ross's Goose** 1/16 (PS) and 2 on 2/4 (RM) 2/4. In addition to the sightings on the Litz CBC, **Cackling Goose** was reported at Speedwell Forge Lake 1/27 (BC, PF) and at MCWMA 1/22 and 2/4 (RM). **Tundra Swan** were present in good numbers at MCWMA and the highest tally received was 7,000 on 1/20 (CC). A **Trumpeter Swan** (band #00C) reported from the Muddy Run Recreation Lake 2/5 (TR) and 2/22 (CC) was especially noteworthy. This species has been seen regularly in surrounding counties in recent years and may be more frequent than the reports indicate. Two **Mute Swans** at MCWMA 1/20 and one at Speedwell Lake rounded out the swans for the quarter.

Because of the mild weather, water was open on the Susquehanna R. and at MCWMA most of the winter. **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** were regular at MCWMA all season. **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye** were easily along the SR with a peak count of 60 **Common Goldeneye** 12/16 near Columbia. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was along the SR near Norman Wood Bridge 2/8 (CC) and a **Red-throated Loon** was at Muddy Run 2/10 (CC).

The winter was warm enough that many smaller ponds stayed open and waterfowl such as **American Wigeon**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** were seen at a number of locations such as Wood's Edge Pond west of Lancaster and the Alcoa Marsh in Lancaster near the Red Rose Commons shopping center. It was the latter location that produced the 'Eurasian' **Green-winged Teal** or **Common Teal** as it is known in Europe. The bird was located on 1/24 (LCA) in the presence of the North American race of the **Green-winged Teal**. Over the following two weeks it was seen by hundreds of birders and was photographed by Tom Amico and featured in an article in the Lancaster New Era. The bird was seen at least until 2/6.

**Bald Eagles** were present in very solid numbers all season as usual. However, good numbers were seen in locations a bit off the beaten path. Nineteen eagles were seen along Quarry Rd. a few miles east of Strasburg 1/29 (TR). This is a large number to see at one time anywhere in the county, but especially out in the farmland. Some have theorized that they were attracted to the area because of some turkey farms. At least four eagles were in the Paradise area along the Pequea Creek through the end of the season.

**Northern Harriers** were seen throughout the winter as well, and they were especially regular at a newly created grassland area in southern Lancaster near Wakefield. As many as seven were seen in late Dec and early Jan and they were also joined by as many as five **Short-eared Owls** (CC, BS et al). By all accounts this area was very productive for birds and is worth checking in the future. **Peregrine Falcons** were present all season as well and were seen along the SR 12/19 & 2/24, Greenfield Ponds in Lancaster 12/21 (JBo), two in Strasburg 12/30 (TR), along route 283 just west of Lancaster 1/29 (TJ) and at MCWMA 1/7 (KM, RM). One **Bonaparte's Gull** was along the SR near Peach Bottom 2/14 (BS). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was seen along the SR at the Conejohela Flats 1/22 (EW).

As mentioned at the beginning of the report, owls put in a good appearance on the Southern Lancaster CBC. The **Barn Owls** were especially exciting because this species has been almost absent in the county for a number of years. The 12 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** reported was also an unusually high total. A single **Tree Swallow** was flying around the Route 283/30/Fruitville Pike interchange in Lancaster 1/29 (TJ). This sighting was more than a month earlier than the normal arrival for this species. This winter **Black-capped Chickadees** were seen in large numbers at feeders throughout the county. Many even made it to the southern part of the county. **Black-capped Chickadees** used to be common winter residents through most of the county and common breeders in the northern part of the county. In recent years, **Carolina Chickadees** have displaced **Black-capped Chickadees** as breeders in almost the entire county. Even in the winter, **Black-capped Chickadees** are usually rather uncommon even in the northern and central portions of the county. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen on the CBC's and were present in small numbers most of the winter. A **Cape May Warbler** was seen at the Hurst's property 12/4 (AH). This species is known to occur in the winter in the northeast, but this is a very late sighting.

This year, winter finches were almost non-existent. Even **Purple Finches**, which were quite plentiful last fall, were very scarce.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller**, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, (717) 228-2161, jonathan.heller@comcast.net, Tom Amico, Jim Binder (JBi), Jerry Book (JB), Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfont, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Peter Saenger, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Kathleen Stahley, Eric Witmer.

## Lawrence County

No Report.

**Randy Stringer**, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA, 16127, rstringer@gcc.edu

## Lebanon County

Locations: Lebanon Valley B.P. (LVBP), Memorial Lake SP (MLSP), Middlecreek W.M.A. (MC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Mountain Hawk Watch (2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn.), S.G.L 80, S.G.L. 145, S.G.L. 211

**Snow Geese** numbers peaked at 95,000 at the end of Feb at MC (JB). **Ross's Geese** were seen from 2/4 on with a high county of 5 at MC (RCM). **Cackling Geese** were reported all period from MLSP and MC (m.ob). A high count of 3 was seen at MLSP on 12/18 with **Canada Geese** (RCM). **Tundra Swans** peaked at MC 2/10 with 7000 (JB). **Wood Ducks** were reported all period, even during the freeze up in Dec (m.ob). There were 47 **American Wigeon** at MC 2/28 (RCM, KM). A **Common Goldeneye** at MLSP 2/28 was the only one reported (JG). Up to 100 **Common Mergansers** were seen at MLSP 2/25 (TJ).

A **Common Loon** 12/1 at MLSP was the only one reported (TJ). **Horned Grebes** were seen 12/1 (TJ) and from 2/20 (RS) at MLSP. The highlight of this quarter was the second county record of an **Eared Grebe** found 1/25 (RCM, RM) at MLSP and stayed until the end of the period.

**Bald Eagles** set a record on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn with 96 when the last one passed 12/26. **Rough-legged Hawks** were in good numbers with 5 on 1/1 at MC (BC, m.ob). The last **Golden Eagle** reported on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn was 12/8. **Merlins** were reported 1/1 at MC (CEC) and 1/7 near Cornwall (RCM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 1/14 along Rt. 934 near Rt. 322 for a first Jan record (RCM, KM).

**American Coots** peaked at only 15 at MLSP 12/1-12/3 (TJ, RCM). **Killdeer** were seen all period, even during the snow cover at MC (RCM, KM). **American Woodcocks** set a new early date 1/10 east of Mt. Gretna (RCM). On 1/12, I checked the traditional spots on SGL 145 and found 2 (RCM).

Up to 600 **Herring Gulls** were seen in early Dec at MLSP (TJ, RCM). On 1/14 a 1<sup>st</sup> winter **Iceland gull** was seen in the morning at MLSP (RCM). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported only from 12/1 (TJ) to 12/18 (RCM) with 2 adults at MLSP.

The Lebanon Christmas Count 12/18 reported 22 **Eastern Screech Owls** for a new high. There were 3 **Short-eared Owls** at MC 1/1 (BC, m.ob). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported 12/18 with 3 at Fort Indiantown Gap. Another was reported on SGL 80 at Monroe Valley using a wood duck nesting box 12/20 (RM) and 2 were heard calling in Stony Valley, SGL 211 on 2/21 (TP).

There were 70 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** reported 12/18 and 73 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** of which 51 were seen in Lebanon Christmas County (m.ob). **Eastern Phoebes** were reported at MC 2/4 (RCM). There were 16 **Brown Creepers** and 7 **Winter Wrens** on 12/18 (m.ob). **Hermit Thrush**, **Gray Catbirds** and **Eastern Towhees** were reported most of the period near Camp Shand (JH, SW).

There were 566 **White-throated Sparrows** 12/18 for a new high count (m.ob). A **Fox sparrow** 1/12 at SGL 145 set a new early date

(RCM). Two **Lapland Longspurs** with 600 ± **Horned Larks** were seen after the fresh snow 12/10 (RCM).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**. Jim Binder, Gerry Boltz, Greg Burgdorf, Bruce Carl, Chuck and Eliane Chalfant, Ron Ferry, Jay George, Leon Gerberich, Jim Griffin, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Gary Koppenhaver, Dave Krue, Gayle Lawrence, Ken and Jane Light, Kate Miller, Ryan Miller, Richard Pohner, Tom Powers, Steve Rannels, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Dennis Wengle, Larry Westhafer, Susan Wheeler, Fred Wilcox

#### **Lehigh County**

The Lehigh Valley's 62nd annual Christmas Bird Count took place 12/17. The count recorded 88 species totaling 28,960 individual birds. The 88 species was one short of last year's record 89 species. Record numbers were established for **Snow Geese**, 3466 and **Mute Swans**, 6.

The following birds were seen at the Fogelsville quarry. A **Horned Grebe** was seen 1/22 (JL). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was spotted 1/6 (GM). Twenty-two **Tundra Swans** were reported flying over Breinigsville 1/29 (BM, PM). **Wood Ducks** were seen on the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Twp. 1/30 (JL) and at Johnson's Pond near Schnecksville 1/7 (FD).

A **Merlin** was seen along the Lehigh River in Salisbury Twp. 1/7 (MB). A second **Merlin** was seen near Germansville 1/21 on the annual winter bird survey conducted by the Wildlife Information Center (JO, TO). Also seen by Jane and Tom in the same area were 300 **Horned Larks**, a **Pileated Woodpecker** and **Red-winged Blackbirds**. A flyby **Sandhill Crane** was seen in the Center Valley area 1/31 (AL).

A **Great-horned Owl** was seen sitting on a nest mid-Feb in Weisenberg Twp.(BM, PM). A pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen all winter in Upper Milford Twp.(BM, PM). A rare winter record of 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen 1/11 near the Allentown waste water treatment plant along the Lehigh River (MB). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen off and on all winter at feeders in Lower Macungie Twp.(JL). Also seen on a regular basis was a **Brown Creeper**. At the same feeders were **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Fox Sparrow** 2/18. A **Winter Wren** was seen near Fogelsville 1/22 (JL). In Lower Macungie Twp. a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was observed on 1/28 (JL).

Three **Lapland Longspurs** were seen along Smith Lane 12/25 (JL). It was a nice Christmas present for the observer. **Lapland Longspurs** were also seen on the Lehigh Valley Christmas count 12/17 (m.ob).

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA, 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinj1@yahoo.com**, Mark Boyd, Frank Dickman, Ann Lessel, Geoff Malosh, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Jane Ostroski, Tom Ostroski

#### **Luzerne County**

(Records sent by Bill Reid).

Six **Redhead** were at Harvey's L.12/1-2/16 (EJ, et al.). **Canvasback** were represented with 6 birds at Harvey's L. 12/15-1/2 (EJ, et al.). A **Red-throated Loon** was at Harvey's L. 12/1, (EJ, WR). Two **Black Vultures** were at Schickshinny, 2/5 (BW). A **Golden Eagle** was found at Hunlock's Creek, 1/20 (RK). Two different **Merlins** were found – one at Plains, and one at Plymouth, 12/23, (JH, RK). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Exeter 1/9 (WR). One **Common Redpoll** was at a feeder in Wilkes-Barre, 1/24 (WR). A total of 70 **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Maple Grove, 1/5, (Mr. and Mrs. Mose).

Observers: Jim Hoyson, Ed Johnson, Rick Koval, William Reid, Bob Wasilewski

**No Compiler**

#### **McKean County**

This was an uninterestingly slow and under-reported period. There was a **Merlin** located below the strip mall at the Wal Mart Plaza in Bradford 12/30 seen by JF, LF, DF, BF). On 2/6 during a WRS Route going roughly east of Bradford for 31.5 miles and ending near Annin Creek, the following raptors were seen: 12 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **American Kestrels**, 3 **Bald Eagles**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**. On the same day 6 **Common Redpolls** were seen near Indian Creek. Three **Evening Grosbeaks** made an appearance in Bradford 2/12.

During the season, at various times, the following birds were noted in Bradford at my feeders or around my yard: **Canada Goose**, **Common Merganser**, **Wild Turkey**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Ring-billed Gull**, **Mourning Dove**, **Barred Owl**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Blue Jay**, **American Crow**, **Common Raven**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Red-breasted** and **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**. A constant **Carolina Wren**, **Golden Crowned Kinglet**,

**American Tree Sparrow**, **Song Sparrow**, **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Northern Cardinal**, **Purple Finch**, **House Finch**, **American Goldfinch**, **Pine Siskin**, **Common Redpoll**, **Evening Grosbeak**. Imagine if more reports were received from other birders during the period.

Once again, coverage this period was low. Bird reports were also low. It is a big county with lots of habitat of various kinds – come on up and enjoy it!

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 275-4086, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net**, Bailey Fedak Danny Fedak, Lisa Fedak.

#### **Mercer County**

Locations: Shenango River Res. (SRR).

**Bald Eagle** continued all period at SRR and the Mercer – Lake Latonka area. A juv **Northern Harrier** was at Homer Rd. 2/21, one **Rough-legged Hawk** at Franklin Rd. 2/29, and **Cooper's Hawk** 12/20 at SRR.

Jerry Troyer observed 150+ **Sandhill Cranes** in 2 flocks 12/3 flying over Coolspring Church Rd. This represents the highest number of cranes ever in Mercer. **Killdeer** was first seen 2/15 on Skink Run Rd.

A single **Short-eared Owl** was flushed 1/7 at Williamson Rd. Mike Fialkovich got 200+ **Horned Lark** 12/7 at Cannery/Bowen Rds. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** did well at several county locations, but **Brown Creeper** remained scarce. Strangely, neither **kinglet** was reported. At SGL 130, a **Hermit Thrush** was spotted 12/13, and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was there 12/27.

**Eastern Towhee** continued all period at SRR. Six **Lapland Longspur** and 2 **Snow Bunting** were good finds 12/7 at Cannery/Bowen Rds. (MF). **Snow Buntings** were also at Coolspring Church Rd. 12/3.

**Red-winged Blackbird** returned 2/16, 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 1/3, and **Common Grackle** arrived 2/16. A **Purple Finch** made a brief appearance at a feeder 1/16, as did 15 **Pine Siskin** 12/20.

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 East Lake Rd., Transfer, PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476**. Harriet Bauer, Mike Fialkovich, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer.

#### **Mifflin County**

No Report.

**J. Irvin Zook, 132 Beech Tree Lane, Belleville, PA, 17004, knjzook@pa.net**

#### **Monroe County**

Locations: Delaware Water Gap (DWG), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC), Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC), Tannersville Bog (TB).

Above average temperatures and below average snowfall characterized the season. January and early February were especially mild with no snowfall. The PMCBC was held 12/18 with 55 species recorded. Notable was the high count of 364 **Black-capped Chickadees** - a number not seen for this count since the 1980's—and a single **Red Crossbill** in TB, a count first.

Higher than usual numbers of vultures were seen in the southern portion of the county through the season. Two **Black Vultures** were observed in the DWG area 1/30 (BH). **Snow Geese** were moving north early with a flock of 400 over Swiftwater 1/30 (ED) and 2400 passing Canadensis 2/4 (DS). A **Merlin** was seen at Shawnee 12/17 (BH)—this is the 3rd winter out of the last four that this species has been found at this location. **Peregrine Falcons** were again back on the cliffs at Mt. Minsi in DWGNRA with the first sighting 12/17 of a single bird (BH).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued in the swamp at DWGNRA headquarters near Bushkill where at least one was seen 12/17 (BH). **Common Raven** was reported from Tobyhanna 1/27 and Skytop 2/6 where 2 and 4 birds, respectively, were seen feeding on road-killed deer (JS). A **Chipping Sparrow** was at a Stoddartsville feeder 12/28 (BC). An excellent find on the 12/18 PMCBC was a **Red Crossbill** in TB (B&SD) and 3 to 4 **Pine Siskins** were recorded at a MCEEC feeder Jan and Feb (BH) with a high count of 7 at a Mountain home feeder 1/28 (DS).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman. MCEEC, 8050 Running Valley Rd. Stroudsburg, PA, 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**. Bud Cook, Ellen Davis, Bob & Steve Duryea, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher.

#### **Montgomery County**

Locations:Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust

(PERT), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The winter season was unusually warm and rainy in *Montgomery*. The period began and ended with major snow events, but between those storms were over two months with zero snow-cover.

Waterfowl variety was good with 22 species reported. Highlights from Church Rd., GLR included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** 1/30, a high of 4 **Cackling Geese** 1/9, and 8 **Tundra Swans** 2/5 (GF, KC, SR). Walt Rd., GLR held 500+ **Snow Geese** 1/14 (KC). While some nearby counties had snows by the tens of thousands, several hundred is a significant number for *Montgomery*!

Unusual dabbling ducks at GLR included 5 **Green-winged Teal** 1/19, single **Northern Shoveler** 12/15 and 1/19, and 2 **Wood Ducks** at Hill Rd 2/19 (KC, DR). An **American Wigeon** at HC 1/2 was another good winter find. (SJ). Diving ducks provided a great show at Walt Rd., GLR 12/4 after an overnight snow event. Ten **Canvasback**, 7 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 4 **Surf Scoters**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and 22 **Ruddy Ducks** joined 3 **Horned Grebes** on that day. The encore for this water bird performance was provided by 12 antler-less deer swimming across the lake behind the birds! We won't likely see that again soon (KC,GAF). Three **Pied-billed Grebes** along Knight Rd., GLP 12/12 were unusual for winter (KC).

Raptors were somewhat disappointing overall, with only single **Northern Harriers** at GLR and GP (GAF, AM). An **Osprey** at UPVP 12/1 was unusually late. (SG). Green Lane's **Bald Eagle** pair began incubation right on schedule 2/15 (GAF). Their previous incubation dates were Feb 9, 10, 12, and 23...a nice cluster of dates! Two lucky birders got an eagle plumage clinic at Church Rd, GLR 2/25 when a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year bird perched together on a log! (GAF, SG). Our lone **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Walt Rd., GLR 12/3 (GAF). Falcons of note included a **Merlin** in Pottstown 1/14 and 2/16 (PO) and a **Peregrine** at Walt Rd., GLR 2/20 (GAF).

**Killdeer** returned in a timely fashion 2/22 (GAF, KC). Gulls, as usual at GLR, were unimpressive. A season "high" of 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Church Rd. 2/1.(GAF).

Owl highlights were also few, but did include a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling near UPVP 12/16 (PAG). Both **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owls** were missed completely for the first time in many years.(m.ob).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was at Church Rd., GLR 1/28, perhaps another result of our "so-called winter" (SG). Many observers commented on the large numbers of **Black-capped Chickadees** this winter. In many cases, they out-numbered the resident **Carolinas** at feeding stations (m.ob). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were another widespread visitor, with reports ranging from UHT in the northwest to Upper Gwynedd and Ambler in the southeast. (m.ob). Conversely, **Brown Creepers** and both **kinglets** were "virtually non-existent", as one observer put it (GAF, m.ob).

Up to 3 **Hermit Thrushes** were reported from Walt Rd., GLR, and another was at the Temple University Ambler Campus throughout the period. (GAF, RK). Two **Gray Catbirds** at PERT 12/17 and one at HC 12/9-1/2 were yet another sign of a mild winter (PD, SJ).

Perhaps the most remarkable bird this winter was the "half-hardy" **Eastern Towhee**. Tallies of 9 at PERT 12/17 and 7 near UPVP 2/12 were impressive (PD, RG). In addition, single birds were seen in UHT, HC, GLR and Sumneytown throughout the period (m.ob). Sparrows were highlighted by a **Lark Sparrow**, originally found in Oct, on a Limerick construction site. The bird was seen several times from 12/22-2/5 (SG). Sparrow highlights from PERT included 6 **Chipping Sparrows** 12/17, 25 **Savannah Sparrows** 12/10, and 60 **American Tree Sparrows** 12/31 (PD). **American Tree Sparrows** were scarce at most other locations (m.ob). Our first returning **Fox Sparrow** was at the GLR Nature Center 2/18 (KC). Up to 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were at a Pennsburg feeder through most of the season (GAF).

**Purple Finch** numbers were good in some places and great in others. High counts of 30-50 were reported at two neighboring feeding stations near UPVP. (RG, PAG). No other winter finches were reported.

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA, 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Paul Driver, George Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Steve Grunwald, Paul and Anita Guris, Sheryl Johnson, Rudy Keller, Augie and Judy Mirabella, Patrick O'Donnell, Steve Rothenberger, Diana Rudloff.

#### Montour County

**Snow Geese** descended on Lake Chillisquaque in the thousands in early Feb. Between 1,000 and 6,000 geese were on the lake and feeding in nearby farm fields for the next two weeks before numbers began to dwindle. This was over a month earlier than usual, prompted, no doubt, by the unusually warm weather in early Feb. Other waterfowl began to arrive early also: **Tundra Swans, Hooded Mergansers, American Wigeon, Redhead**.

**Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harriers** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were common throughout the period, but no

sightings of **Rough-legged Hawks**. A **Merlin** was observed in early Feb along Stamm Rd.

Noticeably absent this winter was the roost of **Long-eared Owls** at Montour Preserve. Occasional observations of one or two birds were much lower than the higher numbers of previous winters. **Great Horned Owl** or **Barred Owl** activity in the general area of this winter roost might account for the low numbers of **Long-eared Owls**. The winter roost of **Short-eared Owls** on Stamm Rd. was also vacant this year after several consecutive winters of use.

For the second winter in a row and the third time in ten years that there were no **White-crowned Sparrows** observed at Montour Preserve, particularly at the bird feeders. In previous winters there were usually one or two birds with a high of eight in 1996.

Observers: **Jon Beam, Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Rd., Danville, PA, 17821, (570) 437-3131, jdbeam@pplweb.com.**

#### Northampton County

It was another banner period for rare birds in the county with highlights of **Black Skimmer, Harris's Sparrow** and **Bullock's Oriole**. Finds at Green Pond included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** 1/26 and **Cackling Goose** being seen in early Dec (DD). In Jan, up to 30,000 **Snow Geese** were regular at Nazareth Quarry. A report of 60 **Brant** came from the Little Gap Hawk Watch 12/7 (MS). Uncommon ducks included a **Redhead** at Seiple's farm pond 1/29-2/5 (DW) and 5 **Greater Scaup** at Nazareth Quarry 12/31 (DD, JN). At Lafayette College boat launch 12/31, a **Common Loon** was found during a Christmas Count (DD, JN). Three **Great Cormorants** were at Martins Creek Quarry 2/2-2/5 (BW).

There was one report of wintering **Rough-legged Hawk** in Tatamy 1/8-1/9. **Peregrine Falcon** sightings included a Christmas Count bird at Willow Brook Farm 1/1 (RW) and along the RT 22&33 interchange 2/23. There was a nasty storm hitting the coast 12/9 and it may have been responsible for a **Black Skimmer** (1<sup>st</sup> county record) flyby in Williams Twp (AK). A late pair of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found in Freemansburg 12/31 while wintering **Gray Catbirds** and **Eastern Towhees** were reported from multiple locations during each month of the period.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight winter, a **Harris's Sparrow** (4<sup>th</sup> county record) was observed (BM). This 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird was found in Seemsville 11/28 with subsequent sightings on 12/5 and 12/14-12/15. A flock of 24 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Green Pond 2/2 (MS) and part of the flock lingered into Mar. The county's most exciting find was a probable **Bullock's Oriole** visiting a feeder in Bethlehem (SW, RW). Mr.Wolfe spotted the Oriole 1/1 and asked Wiltraut to identify the bird a few days later. An area in the yard was roped off for birders to view the oriole. The possibility of a hybrid has been brought up among birders but the evidence so far seems to lean toward a pure **Bullock's Oriole** which if accepted would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> PA record. The bird continues into late Mar.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 1149 Mickley Ave. Whitehall, PA, 18052, (610) 435-2781, mdtschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Betsy Mescavage, Josh Nemeth, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Steve Wolfe.

#### Northumberland County

No Report. No Compiler.

#### Perry County

No Report.

**Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA, 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**

#### Philadelphia County

Art Museum (AM), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census (PMWC), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC)

For the second year in a row, overwintering **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were the stars of this exceptionally warm and dry winter season, representing another record for the state. Important bird counts were: Glenolden, Pennypack, and Wyncote CBC's held on 12/17. Each covered a portion of the county and parts of other counties, so it's difficult to tease the *Philadelphia* records out from the rest. However, the 20<sup>th</sup> PMWC 1/7 was ably lead by Keith Russell with the help of 57 observers and covers only Philadelphia. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique count which produced 100 species, better than the average of 92, but which did not add to the 142 species tallied since 1987.

Of the 17 species of ducks recorded on the PMWC, **Gadwall** reached a new high of 37 while a mere 47 **Northern Shoveler** set a new low record. On 12/2, two **Wood Duck** were seen at EPR, the only report for a very warm winter (KR, DM). An **American Wigeon** and only 47 **Northern Pintail** were found on the "sludge ponds" of the water department 1/7 (KR, KS). FDR ponds continue to be rich in quantity and diversity of waterfowl, including 36 **Canvasback** 1/7 and 3 **Redhead**, found in Nov (AJ), which were subsequently joined by two other males, bringing the total to five by late Jan. Fifty **Canvasback** were first seen at EPR 12/2 (KR, DM) and ten were on the DR 12/17 (AG, NP). **Green-winged Teal** congregate in the Darby Creek area at the western edge of the county. Luck brought five of the teal across the border at TI 1/7 (DM). At FDR 22 **Ring-necked Duck**, 2 **Greater Scaup** and 22 **Lesser Scaup** were the other divers present 1/7-2/28. Three **Common Goldeneye** lingered on the DR in the northeast and FW found 6 on 1/7. The 37 **Ruddy Duck** on the PMWC are surely an undercount because so much of the DR cannot be surveyed, but **Ruddy Duck** continue to winter far below the thousands found in the 70's and earlier. There was no **Red-breasted Merganser** reported this season, but 17 **Hooded Merganser** and 78 **Common Merganser** represented the family well. **Ho oded Merganser** were also at Morris Arboretum 1/2 (SJ).

In Dec there were at least 11 **Pied-billed Grebe** in the city. We found 5 at the EPR 12/2 and there were 5 at FDR (DM, KR). A **Horned Grebe** was discovered at Pulaski Park 1/7 (RH). Two **Red-necked Grebe** were on the DR at the Glenn Foerd Mansion 1/28 (CL). Keith Russell reports this is the third year that **Double-crested Cormorant** outnumbered **Great Cormorant** 38 to 26 on the PMWC.

Ten species of hawk and falcon were found on the PMWC. Two **Bald Eagle** were the regulars along the upper DR, but a single Northern Harrier is less than could be found on a good day when three birds could be found. Both accipiters were counted in single digits and **Northern Goshawk** was missed for the report period. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** were at TI (DM) and one was at Awbury Arboretum (BR). A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was found near Fort Mifflin 1/7 (CW) for the first time since 2000. Only 7 **American Kestrel** on 1/7 point to the continuing decline of the species. A few **Peregrine Falcon** are roosting near the river bridges and a **Merlin** 1/7 in Chestnut Hill was the lone report (AB, RF).

**American Woodcock** danced in good numbers at TI near the parking lot and in the fields at the end of Lindberg Blvd. 2/24 (DB)

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported on the Pennypack CBC 12/17 and from Pleasant Hill Park along the DR in the northeast 1/7 (FW).

A **Barn Owl** 1/5 at TI was a one-day wonder (JC, HM, m.ob.). Holly and Janet found the bird roosting in a deciduous tree in the impoundment near the defunct heron rookery. The bird was recently banded and we could read three numbers of the prefix--696. That is not enough to identify the bird, which fortunately rested on only its banded leg while it swayed in the gusty wind. This sighting followed an earlier report of a **Barn Owl** flying over the FDR golf course 12/22. Although **Barn Owls** are highly migratory and this could have been a wandering bird, given the Barn Owl pellets found this summer mid-way between these two sightings, it seems likely that **Barn Owl** has returned to the area or has been missed for a few years. These sightings coincide with the PA State Game Commission **Barn Owl** Initiative and we will be erecting nest-roost boxes in the area. Just one day after the PMWC a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in the poplar woods at TI (GG). Subsequently, three additional birds were found in the same area (DB, DM) and remained through 3/15. These birds might have come from a nearby honeysuckle filled lot which fell to the bulldozers to create parking for the airport. Evidence of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** activity was found at FDR 1/7 when owl pellets and two mice were found cached in a tree (RH). Extra effort by Dave Belford along the Wissahickon contributed to the new high count of 43 **Eastern Screech Owls**. Unexplainable except for a suspicion about the prevalence of West Nile Virus, only 5 **Great Horned Owls** were reported.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** reached new highs (120) on the PMWC and on the Glenolden CBC (163). The overlap for this species' habitat on the CBC is negligible. **Pileated Woodpecker** found at Andorra Natural Area 1/1 (KJ) is a good way to start the new year and a bird at Livezy Lane 1/7 contributed the fifth woodpecker species to the PMWC (SL). Two **Eastern Phoebe** have been reported at TI through 2/19 and there's a possibility of a third bird, but I've only seen two.

The Pennypack CBC discovered 125 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** wintering at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant at Delaware and Lewis Ave. for the second winter in a row. Ninety-five swallows were present 1/7 and I saw 25 or more 3/5. By 3/5 two **Tree Swallows** had joined the group presumably as early migrants. **Black-capped Chickadee** were widely reported. Are these birds pure *poecile atricapilla* or hybrid *atricapilla x carolinensis* moving south from the hybridization zone to the north of the reporting area? I don't know their DNA, but they look and sound like **Black-capped Chickadee**. Most of the 128 **Eastern Bluebird** that set the new PMWC record come from SCEE where their nest box program is very successful (SD). Ten species of *Emberizidae*, including **Eastern Towhee** were reported throughout the county, but were in low numbers: 12 **American Tree**

**Sparrow**, 5 **Chipping Sparrow**, a **Savannah Sparrow** and only 8 **Fox Sparrow**. Nineteen **White-crowned Sparrow** on the PMWC was a new high.

At Island Ave. near Ft. Mifflin 2/5, I found 3 **Eastern Meadowlark** and 2 **Horned Lark**. On 12/26, **Rusty Blackbirds** were abundant at FDR (KR, DM). We saw more than 150, the largest flock I've seen in *Philadelphia*.

Contributors: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA, 19063, (610) 565 8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Debbie Beer, David Belford, Al Bilheimer, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Janet Crawford, Steve DuPont, Ron French, Gregg Gorton, Rich Horwitz, Rob Hynson, Alan Jackman, Ken Januski, Steve Lawrence, Chuck Lyman, Jim McKinney, Holly Merker, John Miller, Edie Parnum, Nick Pulcinella, Bill Reaume, Keith Russell, Chris Walters, 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 the 12/19 CBC, PEEC staff notes, PEEC led bird walks and the bird registry in PEEC's visitor center.

A few highlights from the 12/19 CBC included two **Cooper's Hawks**, seven **Hermit Thrushes**, one **Yellow-Rumped Warbler**, and nineteen **Field Sparrows**.

Two **Common Goldeneye** males were seen off 209 at the second river access mile nine and a half 1/29 (EH). Raptor sightings included a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** over Briscoe Mountain Rd. 1/24 (EH, SQ). The **Red-shouldered Hawk** pair from last year remains around PEEC. They have been sighted all winter, often seen perched together on a red maple by PEEC's front pond. A nice sighting was a sleepy **Barred Owl** perched roadside 209 near PEEC 1/11 (EH, SQ).

Twenty plus **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen and heard on PEEC campus 1/3 (EH). There have been several occasions **Brown Creepers** have been seen and heard around PEEC this winter as well.

A **Winter Wren** was spotted at the schoolhouse off Briscoe Mountain Rd. 1/4 (EH). One **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen and heard in an old orchard across from Raymondskill Falls 1/30 (EH, SQ). Ten **Eastern Bluebirds**, one-thousand plus **American Robins**, two **Hermit Thrushes**, and over sixty **American Tree Sparrows** were also seen in this same orchard off 209 on 1/30 (EH, SQ).

At PEEC's feeder station approximately forty **Purple Finches** were counted 1/25 (EH). Forty plus **American Goldfinches**, and five **Pine Siskins** were seen at a house feeder at Walker Lake, Shohola Twp. 2/22 (PW). A finch highlight this winter has been a leucistic **American Goldfinch** feeding at PEEC's main building feeder station and cabin 28's feeders (MB, KB, EH, SQ). High numbers of **Pine Siskins** have also been noted this winter at PEEC's feeders. The siskins were seen at cabin 28's feeders 12/3-12/17 (KB, MB) and have continued on throughout the winter season. Sixty plus **Pine Siskins** were spotted in a Black Walnut tree by PEEC's butterfly garden 1/29 (EH, SQ).

Observers: **Mike Brubaker, RR2 Box 1010 Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328, mikebru@ptd.net**, Kristen Brubaker, Ethan Huner, Shannon Queen, Peter Wulforst. A special thank-you to Shannon Queen for compiling this winter's report.

### Potter County

No Report.

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### Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville Dam (LVD)

The Western Schuylkill County CBC was held 12/17, and it was very productive for us. Some of our highlights on the count were: 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 3 **Rough-legged Hawks**, **Short-eared Owl**, 10 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Vesper Sparrow**, 9 **Savannah Sparrows**, **Lapland Longspur**, 37 **Snow Buntings**, and 5 **Purple Finches**.

A rather uncommon winter bird for our area, 3 **Black Vultures** were seen at Pottsville 12/13 (MW). Waterfowl reports were very slim this winter. The Schwartz Valley Rd. area had 11 **Tundra Swans** over 2/12 (SW). A **Northern Pintail** was at the Swatara S. P. 2/16 (TC).

This winter was also not as productive as some recent years for visiting northern raptors. Barring our CBC, we had no reports of **Rough-legged Hawks**. There were some **Northern Harrier** sightings, but not like numbers we saw the past couple of years. A nice find though, was a **Red-shouldered Hawk** near McAdoo 2/25 (JhD, JnD). Also in this area

2/25, a very good find for us was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (JhD, JnD). A bird that is very rarely observed in our area, a **Long-eared Owl** was seen at the Schwartz Valley Rd. area 1/23 (SW). Single **Short-eared Owls** were seen at Mabel 1/7 and 2/10 (DK). LVD held single **Common Snipe** 1/21, 2/19 (TC).

A **Gray-Catbird** was seen at LVD 12/18, 1/21, & 2/5 (TC). LVD also had an **Eastern Towhee** 1/21 (TC). Rather a late date for us, **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were still being seen near Summit Station through 12/26 (DaS, DeS, SS). Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen near Hegins 12/23, and another was at Mabel 1/7 (DK). Other than a few **Purple Finches**, we had no northern finch sightings this winter.

Observers: **Dave Kruel, 540 Pine Street, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 622-3704, accip@infoline.net**, Dave Barber, Patti Barbker, Roland Bergner, Barb Birosik, Brian Clauser, Tom Clauser, Jonathan DeBalko (JnD), John DeBalko (JhD), Denise Donmoyer, Kerry Grim, Sue Guers, Dave Hughes, Barb Jucker, Ann Marie Liebner, Joe Matukonis, Sue Schmoyer, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Beth Swartzentruber, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul.

#### **Snyder County**

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Isle-of-Que, Selingsgrove (IOQ), Walker Lake (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

A hard freeze of both WL and FL in early December pushed most waterfowl out of the area. Even though both lakes had predominantly thawed by the end of the month few species of waterfowl returned. Other than **Canada Geese** and **Mallards**, **Common Merganser** was the most common with individuals or small numbers of **Bufflehead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser** reported (MiB, CK, RW). The only unusual find was of a lone **Snow Goose** at FL 1/29 (RC, CK).

A **Bald Eagle** was sighted over IOQ 1/13 (MiB) and **Northern Harrier** was observed at FL 12/23 and 2/26 (CK), as well as on the eastern WRS 1/28 (MiB). The WRS for the eastern half of the county also yielded 52 **Red-tailed Hawks** 1/28 (MiB), while only half that number was counted on a slightly longer western WRS 1/24 (PW, RW).

On one visit to FL 1/29 **Horned Lark**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **American Tree** and **White Crowned Sparrow** were among the species reported (CK, RC).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Ave., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Donna Brown, Mark Brown (MaB), Mick Brown (MiB), Ron Colledge, Chad Kauffman, Crystal Malick, Dave Stoner, Aden Troyer, Patricia Williams.

#### **Somerset County**

Locations: Allegheny Plateau Audubon CBC (APAS CBC), Payne Property (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake (SL), Youghiogheny River at Confluence (YRC).

The winter season was one of marked fluctuations in weather. December was mostly cold and snowy. Some unusual lingering birds for *Somerset* such as **Fox Sparrow**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Wilson's Snipe** persisted up until the third week. January, however, was reportedly the warmest in 56 years and the 8<sup>th</sup> warmest since records were kept (AM). February was average in both temperature and snowfall.

A **Tundra Swan** flock containing 122 birds flew over Salisbury 12/15 (AM). Wintering **Canada Geese** flocks contained a total of 500-1000 birds. Puddle ducks were represented by widespread **Mallards**; a few wintering **American Black Ducks** at places such as SL 12/13 (AM), Shanksville 12/18 (CP, JP, LP), and Boswell 1/16 (AM), and 3 **Gadwall** at SL 12/12 (AM). Diving ducks were present in low numbers. Seven male **Ring-necked Ducks** were at QR 2/11 (AM). A lonely **Lesser Scaup** was at SL 12/17 (AM). Eight **Bufflehead** were at SL 12/2 (AM) and 2 were at YRC 2/11 (AM). **Ruddy Duck** stayed at QR and SL until 12/18 (CP, JP, LP). **Hooded Mergansers** were widespread in small numbers throughout the season. A pair of **Common Mergansers** was found at QR 2/11 (AM).

Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were at SL 12/12 (AM), Indian L. 12/18 (CP, JP, LP) and at Stoney Creek L. 1/8 (CP, JP, LP). **Great Blue Herons** stayed over winter in their usual low numbers. Two were at Boswell 12/7 (AM), one was below the dam at SL (JP, LP), and one was found at Stoughton L. 2/11 (AM).

Hidden Acres Farm hosted a mature **Northern Goshawk** in Jan (SD, TD). **Rough-legged Hawks** showed up in Jan in small numbers. A maximum of three were in the Berlin Area 1/8 (CP, JP, LP) and the furthest south was one in Wellersburg 1/11 (AM). A **Killdeer** was still braving the weather in Boswell 12/7 (AM). Unexpected after prolonged cold weather was a **Wilson's Snipe** at Stoney Creek L. 12/18 (CP, JP, LP). **Ring-billed Gulls** were found at QR until 12/18 APAS CBC and at YRC until 1/7 (AM). **Short-eared Owl** was at the Flight 93 site for the APAS CBC 12/18 (CP, JP, LP). **Belted Kingfisher** was at YRC 1/8

(AM), which is proving a reliable wintering spot. An imm **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was tending a suet feeder at PP until 12/20. **Northern Flickers** were found at Dumas 1/5 and Wellersburg 2/8 (both AM).

**Horned Lark** wintering flocks were widespread but overall numbers seemed lower than normal. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were near Shanksville 12/18 (CP, JP, LP). **Northern Mockingbirds** were found at SL 12/3 (AM) and near Shanksville 1/8 (CP, JP, LP). Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were late at YRC 1/8 (AM).

**American Tree Sparrows** were widespread with a maximum of 25 at PP (LP). A **Fox Sparrow** stayed at PP feeders until 12/20 (JP). An uncommon winter resident, **White-throated Sparrow**, was at Markleton 1/31 (AM) and throughout the season at PP. A single **Lapland Longspur** was found near West Salisbury 2/7 (JP, LP) and 10 **Snow Buntings** were near Shanksville 12/18 (CP, JP, LP). The only **Red-winged Blackbird** wintering flock was a group of 150 at Boswell 1/7 (AM). Two **Pine Siskins** were regular at PP through the season.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin PA 15530 (814) 267-5718**, Sally Dick, Tom Dick, Anthony Marich, Chris Payne, Laurretta Payne.

#### **Sullivan County**

No Report. **New compiler beginning Spring 2006.**

**Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA, 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**

#### **Susquehanna County**

No Report.

**Rob Blye, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA, 19465, rblye@audubon.org**

#### **Tioga County**

No Report.

**Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, East Corning, NY, 14830, (607) 936-5059, mycteria@stny.rr.com**

#### **Union County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Venango County**

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Butternut Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC).

The winter was fairly mild, with little precipitation. That allowed a few species to linger a bit. But we also had few northern visitors. Winter waterfowl were not in abundance. Lakes and ponds did eventually freeze, and the Allegheny R. never did. Many of our winter waterfowl sightings normally are from the "open" areas of the river. With almost 50 miles of open river (much not easily accessible) any waterfowl can be hard to locate. Late migrants included **Common Loon** til 12/3, **Horned Grebe** through 12/11, **Tundra Swan** until 12/6, **Canvasback** to 12/7 and **Ruddy Duck** to 12/7. A **Pied-billed Grebe** wintered, unusual for *Venango*. **Common Goldeneye** and **Bufflehead** which are usually found in good numbers between Oil City and Franklin were fairly scarce this season. **Wood Duck** 2/22, **American Wigeon** 2/26, **Northern Pintail** 2/15 and **Ring-necked Duck** throughout Feb were probably early spring migrants.

**Bald Eagle** continues to become more common, with 30 sightings throughout the winter. **Northern Goshawk** was seen twice at BHNS 2/22 & 2/27. It looked like a good year for **Rough-legged Hawk** in early Dec, but they just didn't stick around. The last one was seen on 1/31. **American Kestrel** numbers seemed to have increased this winter over last.

The only shorebirds were a **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe** both seem until 12/10 at KL.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was observed through the season at BHNS. No **Long-eared Owl** could be located in the county. Even with the AR open all season there were no reports of **Belted Kingfisher**.

**Horned Lark** had a maximum number of 100 on 12/10 at KL, and they were hard to locate all season. **Cedar Waxwing** were observed all winter, which is unusual. Normally they are very hard to find here after the end of Dec. A **Gray Catbird** was observed on Waitz Rd. 1/7 (RS). **Hermit Thrush** seem to be wintering more. We had them in all three winter months, with 6 being observed on the Christmas Count.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** sightings were down. **Northern Shrike** was found in 3 locations, with 15 total sightings of these individuals. **Common Raven** remained sporadic with two sightings 12/5 OC and 1/1 Pithole.

An **Eastern Towhee** was found 1/31-2/3 near Sugarcreek. **American Tree Sparrow** numbers were down. A **Field Sparrow** was seen 12/30, **Fox Sparrow** from 12/2-12/10 in two locations. **White-crowned Sparrow**, unusual for *Venango* were reported 12/5-12/11 (NB), 12/22 KL (GE, RS) and 2/21 BHNS (JS, KG). The only **Lapland Longspur** record for the season was 12/11 at KL (GE). **Red-winged Blackbird** was seen through 12/22 and from 2/17 on. **Pine Siskin**

appeared at a feeder in OC 12/12 and stayed through the season with high numbers being 50 individuals.

Observers: Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA, 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.com, Nancy Baker, Kathi Goodblood, Russ States, Jerry Stanley.

#### Warren County

Warren's 63<sup>rd</sup> CBC 12/17 produced record highs of 14 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 725 **Mallards**, 6 **Wood Ducks**, 33 **Bald Eagles** (23 adults), 535 **Blue Jays** and 15 **Carolina Wrens**.

A **Rough-legged Hawk** was found along Hatch Run in Glade Twp. 12/24 (DW). An **Eastern Screech Owl** was calling most nights in late Jan (DW) in or near North Warren. There was an all white **American Crow** in Sheffield accompanied by a flock of normal crows in late Feb (MS). One **Hermit Thrush** lingered in North Warren 12/31 (CP). There were two **Pine Siskins** in Sheffield 12/27 (BW).

Observers: Ted Grisez, 10 Belmont Dr. Warren, PA, 16365, (814) 723-9464, Chase Putnam, Marguerite Swartzfager, Brenda Watts, Don Watts.

#### Washington County

Abbreviations: AMD Pond near Canonsburg (AMD), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Washington Cemetery (WC). Washington Reservoir #4 (WR4)

Dabbling duck reports were few despite a warmer than average Jan and early Feb and an abundance of open water. A nice count of 5 **Gadwall** was made at AMD 12/16 (RG), and another was found on the Monongahela R. near California 2/19 (RG). There was only one report of each of the following species: 2 **American Wigeon** at WR4 2/11 (RG), one **Northern Shoveler** at Lake Colony 1/7 (MV), and a pair of **Northern Pintail** which appeared at a pond in WC 1/2 and remained for the rest of the period. This pair of pintail began to associate with the local **Mallards** and **Canada Geese** and subsequently became rather approachable, making for a nice study of this striking species.

A male **Canvasback** spent three weeks on WR4 1/24-2/11 (RG), and there were several reports of one or two **Redhead** at various locations throughout the period. A **Greater Scaup** on the Monongahela R. near Fredericktown 1/21 was a good find (RG), but another bird found on a small farm pond in Robinson Twp. 2/26 was even more surprising (MV). Incredibly, there were no reports of **Lesser Scaup**. Three **Bufflehead** were at WR4 1/3 (MV), also the only report of a species usually found to be more evident in winter. **Hooded Mergansers** were reported throughout, with a peak count of 7 at New Eagle 2/13 (RG), and there were two reports of **Common Merganser**: 2 at WR4 1/28 (MV) and one at New Eagle 2/19 (RG). A **Ruddy Duck** at WR4 1/3 was an interesting mid-winter find (MV).

A **Bald Eagle** found on CL 1/30 was a good report for *Washington*, especially away from the Monongahela R. where they are not exactly regular but still less out of place, and also happened to be the only report of the season (DW). **Northern Harriers** are known to winter in grasslands in Robinson Twp., where the highest number reported this year was 5 on 1/23 (MV), and a total of 7 were reported on a WRS that includes Robinson Twp. 1/27 (MV). One or two **Rough-legged Hawks** spent time in those same grasslands in Jan (MV), and another was found on the BC CBC 12/18 (KS, CM). A good total of 28 **American Coots** were at WR4 1/3 (MV), and a pair that spent the season at AMD are reported to be permanent residents there (RG). The first **Killdeer** returned to Robinson Twp. 2/26 (MV). **Short-eared Owls** also winter in Robinson Twp., but the only report after Nov was of 2 there 1/23 (MV). This lack of reports is probably due to lack of coverage at the correct time of day.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** on the BC CBC 12/18 was a very good find (ph. AT, JT). Seven **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were counted on the BC CBC 12/18, and another was found near Canonsburg 1/18 (RG). An **Eastern Phoebe** lingered near Coal Center 12/1 (JT), and another was found on the BC CBC 12/18 (M&JH), both of which can be considered late fall migrants, but 2 found on SGL 232 1/16 were very late or more likely attempting to winter (RG).

The increase in reports of **Common Raven** in *Washington* is very intriguing. RG reported ravens from three separate locations this season, each distant enough from the others to be considered separate birds: one at Burgettstown 12/3, one at SGL 232 1/16, and 2 at Ten Mile Creek County Park 1/21. The Burgettstown bird may have been one of the pair that has been noted nearby in Findlay Twp., *Allegheny* in recent years, but regardless, the occurrence of three separate winter reports this season in *Washington* may indicate a minor range expansion of this species into extreme sw. PA.

Eight **Black-capped Chickadees** found on a feeder watch during the BC CBC 12/18 were rather far south of their normal range (DS). A total of 27 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on the BC CBC 12/18 (BM, RT), along with a peak count of 9 at WC (a traditional wintering location)

were representative of a strong showing of this species in counties across southwest PA this season (GM pers.obs.). Equally noteworthy was the count of 16 **Brown Creepers** on the BC CBC 12/18 (BM, RT), but the only other report was of one at WC 1/3 (MV). Three **Winter Wrens** were found on the BC CBC 12/18 (F&DO), and another was reported from Timberlake Road 1/16 (RG). A superior total of 86 **Carolina Wrens** were tallied on the BC CBC 12/18.

A late **Hermit Thrush** was also located on the BC CBC 12/18 (F&DO). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported from several locations 12/18-1/21, often in groups of at least 10, showing that this species probably had a successful winter in *Washington*.

Sparrow counts on the BC CBC 12/18 were truly impressive, which included 24 **Eastern Towhee**, 8 **Field Sparrows** (the only report of this species for the season), 344 **Song Sparrows**, 4 **Savannah Sparrows** (M&JH), 14 **Swamp Sparrows**, 141 **White-throated Sparrows**, 145 **White-crowned Sparrows**, and 261 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. One **Savannah Sparrow** was still present at BC 2/11 (DY), which is notable winter record for the sw. part of the state. A sparrow whose description best fit **Fox Sparrow** was reported from CL 1/23 (RT), and two more **Fox Sparrows** were reported at BC 2/11 (DY). Both of these records are quite early even for a mild winter. Another sparrow search conducted by RG at SGL 232 1/16 produced 2 **Swamp Sparrows**, 70+ **White-throated Sparrows**, and 75+ **White-crowned Sparrows**.

A good Jan count of 20 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was made at SGL 232 1/16 (RG). Eleven **Eastern Meadowlarks** in Smith Twp. 1/3 (MV) was equally good for Jan. Two **Brown-headed Cowbirds** found on the BC CBC 12/18 was the only report received (DSc).

Finally, representing the best bird of the season for *Washington*, an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** appeared at a feeder in Peter's Township 1/14 and remained throughout the period (PM). Initially, the bird eluded all would-be observers other than the homeowners for most of Jan before finally becoming more regular at the feeders as the weather turned colder in Feb, when it was finally observed by a few others. The bird also proved to be difficult to photograph, but diagnostic pictures were finally obtained by the homeowner, certifying the final ID as *Washington's* first winter record of Baltimore Oriole.

Very interesting was another report of an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** in a backyard in Houston sometime between 2/13-15 (*vide* RT). This bird was not reported from this location again and was not photographed. The distance between the Houston yard and the Peter's Twp. yard is just a little over five miles as the oriole flies, with the two areas roughly connected by the Chartiers Creek corridor. It is left to speculation as to whether this could have been the same oriole found in two different places, or two separate wintering Baltimore Orioles.

Observers: Geoff Malosh 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net; Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Larry Helgerman (BC CBC Compiler), Marjorie & Jerry Howard, Bob Machesney, Eric Marchbein, Christy Meredith, Peggy Milani, Fran & Dan O'Malley, Kathy Saunders, Diane Scott (DSc), Walt & Dana Shaffer, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Claire Staples, Deb Stefkovich, Amy Taracido, Jarred Taracido, Ryan Tomazin, Mike Vacca (MiV), Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic

#### Wayne County

No Report. No Complier.

#### Westmoreland County

Locations: Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir (TRR).

A flock of 10 **Tundra Swans** put down on DL 12/13 (AL) for the season's only report. The high count for **Canada Goose** was of 264 at Livermore 2/7 (KB). February 7 was the date for **Cackling Geese** in this Region, when Byerly found one at Livermore and Leberman observed another at Trout Run on the same day. Good numbers of **American Black Ducks** wintered in the Ligonier area, where numbers peaked at 60 birds at TRR 1/16 (BL). A male **American Wigeon**, a rather rare winter find for *Westmoreland*, spent the season at TRR (BL). A lone wintering male **Ring-necked Duck** also appeared periodically at TRR during the season (BL) and 8 early spring migrants arrived there 2/16 (BL). A midwinter **Lesser Scaup** fell out on DL 2/9 (BL). A **Long-tailed Duck** was a good find at Livermore 12/4 (KB). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at Livermore 12/4 (KB), and Leberman listed a female from DL 2/3. As a result of the unusually mild winter weather Leberman listed 2 **Common Goldeneyes** at an ice-free DL 1/3, and 2 were also there 1/20 (L&LH). Ken Byerly found a rather late migrant **Common Loon** on Derry Lake 12/4, and a **Horned Grebe** was there the same date. Historically not found as a wintering bird in the Ligonier Valley, **Turkey Vultures** were seen in unprecedented numbers this season with 6 to 10 birds observed regularly just east of Rector (BL, BM, et al.), and a flock of 30 had returned there by 2/27 (BL).



A **Northern Harrier** was a good find along Rt. 31 near Acme 1/9 (L&LH). On 2/5 Barry Tuscano watched a **Bald Eagle** feeding on a deer carcass in a field 7 mi. north of Ligonier (fide. Len Hess). More than the usual number of **Red-shouldered Hawks** wintered in the Ligonier Valley where 2 were regulars at DL (BL, L&LH) and at least 3 birds were a seasonal feature at PNR (ML, BM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was an exceptional winter find for this Region 1/28 at Crabtree (L&LH). The unusually mild winter also probably was responsible for more than the usual number of wintering **American Kestrels** (m.ob). On 1/20 a **Northern Bobwhite** visited a feeder along Old Distillery Rd. near Stahlstown (L&LH). **Wild Turkeys** were widely reported in the Region, with a flock of 40 seen foraging just northwest of Ligonier 1/3 among the better counts (BL). A **Wilson's Snipe** at Snow Ball Hill, near PNR, was a good midwinter find 12/20 (ML).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** made a rare winter appearance along Oak Rd. near Stahlstown 12/6 (L&LH). The 6 **Carolina Chickadees** listed at the Hess's Stahlstown feeder 12/3 represented an unprecedented high count for the Ligonier Valley, where Black-capped are the norm. A rather late **Chipping Sparrow** was seen at Delmont 12/2 (KB), and 2 or 3 wintered at a feeder at PNR all season (TM, ML). Several **Fox Sparrows** also wintered at the Lanzone feeder. Two early **Red-winged Blackbirds** arrived at the Hess's feeder near Stahlstown 2/25. High count for **Brown-headed Cowbird** was of 49 at Delmont 12/12 (KB). Up to 6 **Red Crossbills** were an exceptionally good find at PNR between 12/31-1/21 (ML), and **Pine Siskins** were irregular at PNR feeders this season (ML, BM, AdL).

Observers: **Bob Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA, 15677, (724) 593-6021, rcleberm@winbeam.net** Ken Byerly, Linda and Len Hess, Trisha Miller, Mike Lanzone, Adrienne Leppold, Annie Lindsay, Coki Lindsay, Bob Mulvihill.

### Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), South Eaton (SE)

Sixty-four species were found on the Tunkhannock CBC 12/23. Among the birds found were: **Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, 30 Eastern Screech Owls, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbird.**

One **Cackling Goose** was seen with **Canada Geese** on the river at SE, 12/24 (BR). Some ducks at LC included **American Wigeon 12/20, Northern Pintail 12/15, Green-winged Teal 12/18, and 3 Surf Scoters 12/3.** Five **Long-tailed Ducks** flew by at SE 12/30. They all had their tails spread in a V-shape. Quite a sight! A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at SE on the river 12/25. One **Common Loon** was seen flying up the river at SE 12/8, most loons are found on lakes around here. A **Horned Grebe** was seen at LC 12/15.

As I've often seen with **Common Mergansers**, a **Herring Gull** was attacking it, trying to pirate fish from the bird. On 12/12 an adult **Glaucous Gull** on the river at SE. (BR). The bird was seen at least six times as it flew up and down the river with good comparisons with both **Herring and Ring-billed Gull.** This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record that I know of for the county and for northeast PA. An imm **Great Black-backed Gull** was at LC 1/29.

Early in the morning 1/4, during 2<sup>nd</sup> overtime of Penn State's bowl game, a bird started flapping against the screen on a window near the TV set. It was an **Eastern Screech Owl!** It almost seemed as if the bird was trying to find out how the game was going! Of course, he (or she) was a PA bird, so it must have been rooting for Penn State! A **Long-eared Owl** was found on SE 12/7.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at SE 12/23 and 12/31. A **Lapland Longspur** was seen with about 20 **Horned Larks** in Lemon Twp. 2/9.

No compiler.

Observers: Lynne Aldrich, Joe DeMarco, Stan Galenty, Sandy Goodwin, Jim Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, Rick Koval, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko, William Reid (recorder), Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

### 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), city of York (YORK).

There were 102 species reported during the winter season, including 17 waterfowl species. The 21 participants in the December 17th Christmas Bird Count tallied 86 species, including 15 species of waterfowl. Last year's Christmas Bird Count found 76 species, including 12 species of waterfowl.

There were a few **Snow Goose** reports – one was found on the 12/17 CBC, four were seen 12/25 at a small farm pond south of Shrewsbury (SC), and a surprising 1000 or so were seen flying over 12/27 about 2 miles east of Shrewsbury (RP). A pair of **Wood Ducks**, uncommon in winter, were at SMR 2/16 (BP). A very late **Blue-winged**

**Teal** was reported on the 12/17 CBC. An unexpected **Long-tailed Duck** was found 1/1 at LRED (SC). **Common Mergansers** were common throughout the period, with a high of 350 at GPSP 2/2 (BJH). **Double-crested Cormorant** are quite uncommon in Dec, but 120 of them were seen 12/26 flying over Rt. 30 in YORK (DS,RR). A late **Great Egret** was seen 12/6 along Gut Rd.(JJP).

**Bald Eagles** were seen at CSP and LAR, as they have been the past few years, and two were also seen 2/2 at GPSP (BJH). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen 12/5 flying by on the east side of YORK (BH), and a **Merlin** was reported on the 12/17 CBC. A late **American Woodcock** was another unexpected sighting during the 12/17 CBC.

Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** responded to a tape recording during the 12/17 CBC. The three reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** included three on the 12/17 CBC, one in HVR 1/21 (BP), and two that spent the winter in a YORK residential area (BDG). There were just two **Pileated Woodpecker** records – three on the 12/17 CBC, and one at GPSP 2/25 (SC). An **Eastern Phoebe** was found on the 12/17 CBC.

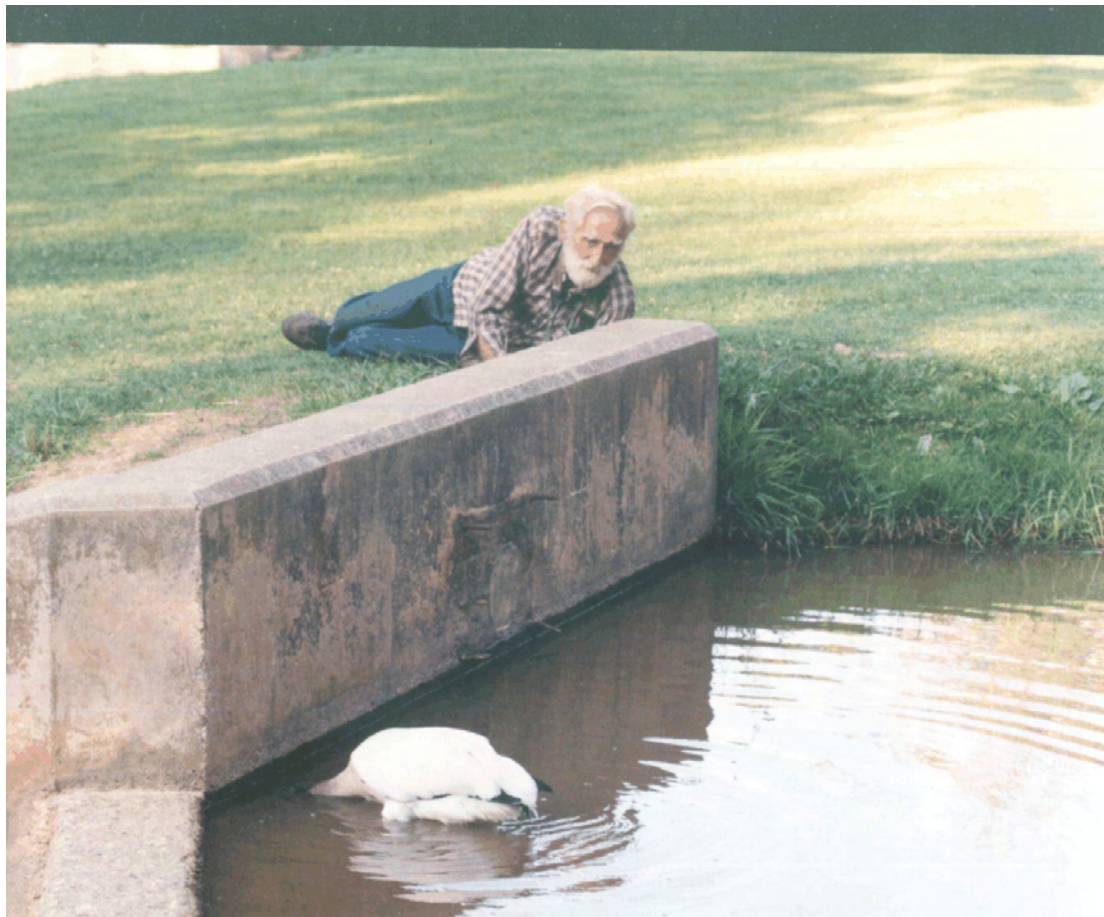
**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were more plentiful than usual. Three **Winter Wrens** were found on the 12/17 CBC, and one was at LWMS 1/2 (PJR). There were just two reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, six on the 12/17 CBC and two at GPSP 1/22 (PJR). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** near Wrightsville 12/10 was very late (JJP). A **Gray Catbird** was found 1/2 at LWMS (PJR), another spent the winter at an Andersontown Rd. residence (CR). At the same residence there was a **Brown Thrasher 2/29 (CR)**, and one spent the second winter in a row in a YORK residential area (BDG). Eight **Savannah Sparrows** were found along the edge of Flickinger Rd. 2/13 when fields were snow covered (PJR). One **Fox Sparrow** on the 12/17 CBC was the only sighting. While uncommon in winter, 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 12/6 on Gut Rd. (JJP) and 7 were found on the 12/17 CBC. The only **Purple Finches** reported were the two on the 12/17 CBC. There were no reported sightings of Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin, Crossbill, Redpoll, Pine Siskin, or Evening Grosbeak.

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P.O. Box 482, Hanover, PA, 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Dale Bicksler, Michael Boustead, Kenneth Brubaker, Steve Collins, Jon Dale, Bill DeGrande., Clyde & Barb Fisher, Bruce Fortman, Bernard & Alice Frick (BAF), Bill Himmer (BH), Barry & Jenni Horton (BJH), Richard Humbert (RH), Georgia Kagle, Karen Lippy, Candy Messinger, Bob Moul, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott, Larry Pritt, Beth Pugliese, Chris Rebert, Regina Reeder, Rich & Anna Schaffer, Thomas Simmons (TS), Dan Snell, Tish Swam (TS), Steve Wildasin.



## PHOTO QUIZ #12

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



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<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

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