

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Cover: **Scott's Oriole** (*Icterus parisorum*). This very popular and cooperative bird thrilled many observers during its stay in Mechanicsburg, *Cumberland*. It was a first state record and one of a very few for eastern North America. Photographed here 28 March 2007 (Cameron Rutt).

## from the Editor...

### Correction

We apologize to Cameron Rutt for publishing the incorrect photo and caption for Figure 3 of his fine article on Greater White-fronted Geese in the Fall issue. The correct information is as follows.

*Nick Pulcinella*  
*Editor-in-Chief*



**Figure 3.** Here, the stubby orange bill, limited white "front," and the darker brown coloration especially on the head make this individual a very likely candidate for *flavirostris*. (2/9/2006 Hershey, Dauphin County, PA © Tom Johnson)

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# The 2006-07 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nicholas C. Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 107<sup>th</sup> time during December 14, 2006 to January 5, 2007. The Pennsylvania highlight was the record-busting statewide species tally of 179. The previous high of 169 species was recorded in 1984; the average over the last 20 years has been 157. An additional six count-week species were reported. There were unusually high numbers of vagrants and less-hardy birds. There were no signs of any irruptions.

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 107<sup>th</sup> count is referred to as occurring in 2006.

## Weather and Effort

The weather in the early winter period was more like fall, as December averaged 5-9 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal statewide (*Weather World*, 1/03/07). The occurrence of so many unusual birds was undoubtedly related to the warm temperatures.

Reports were received from 67 Pennsylvania sites, one fewer than last year. The 5626 party-hours were slightly more than last year's effort. After 43 years, last year was the end for the Raccoon Creek State Park count. Bill Smith, the site compiler for the last 18 years, noted that too many participants had retired from active birding. Curtin and Dingman's Ferry also didn't report in 2006. However, two new counts began: Buffalo Creek (distinct from Buffalo Creek Valley) and Western Schuylkill County, with compilers Larry Helgerman and Dave Krueh, respectively.

Bill Reid, who recently passed away, started the Southeastern Bradford County count in 1950 and was its compiler for 57 years. Bill will be missed.

Only several compilers have had similar tenures. Bob Cook of Elverson has coordinated that site over the same time span as Bill Reid compiled. Within the last few years, Ralph Bell handed over the Clarksville compiler duties after compiling since 1958.

## Site and Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County once again remained the top site for species total with 111, the highest such total at a Pennsylvania site since 1998. Delaware County's total was close behind with 110 species. Harrisburg and Southern Bucks County followed with 104 and Elverson was fifth with 100. Butler County, Central Bucks County, Lititz, Lancaster, Newville, and Upper Bucks County rounded out the top 10. Southeastern Pennsylvania sites usually comprise this list, but periodically a western site is included; this year Butler County ranked sixth. Figure 1 shows a map of site species totals.

### Top 10 Sites

1. Southern Lancaster County	111
2. Delaware County	110
3. Harrisburg	104
Southern Bucks County	104
5. Elverson	100
6. Butler County	91
Central Bucks County	91
Lititz	91
9. Lancaster	86
10. Newville	85
Upper Bucks County	85

### Hits and Misses

A "hit" is a species found in 2006 that was unexpected (recorded in less than 40% of the years 1970-2005). A "miss" is a species not found in 2006 on count day though expected (recorded in more than 60% of the years 1970-2005). Compared to past years, the number of hits (27) was extraordinary and the number of misses (1: **Red Crossbill**) was quite low.

### Hits

Ross's Goose  
Brant  
Barnacle Goose  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Red-necked Grebe  
Eared Grebe  
American Bittern  
Great Egret  
Glossy Ibis  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Prairie Falcon  
Common Moorhen  
Sandhill Crane  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Least Sandpiper  
Empid sp.  
Ash-throated Flycatcher

White-eyed Vireo  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Swainson's Thrush  
Varied Thrush  
Cape May Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Ovenbird  
Lark Sparrow

The two new species for the Pennsylvania CBC were **Barrow's Goldeneye**, with 3 at Chambersburg, and **Prairie Falcon** at Newville. The falcon was likely one that has been observed there during the last several years; it has been speculated that it is a falconer's escapee.

A list of rarely observed species, the site where observed, and the number of previous Pennsylvania CBC reports is shown in Table 1.

Following last year's remarkable finding of 125 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at the Pennypack Valley water treatment plant, 84 were tallied this year. This total ranks third among North American sites, other high counts being from Central America, the Gulf Coast, and the southwestern U.S.

Count-week species were **American White Pelican** at Upper Bucks County, **Purple Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** at Erie, **Thayer's Gull** at Lebanon County, **Western Kingbird** at Elverson, and **Painted Bunting** at Emporium. Except for Dunlin, these are all rare species, with just 1-5 previous Pennsylvania count day reports.

### Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

Big waterfowl remained numerous. The 46,000 **Snow Geese** continued the trend since 1993 of generally good numbers. The **Canada Goose** tally of 153,000 was a slight drop-off from recent years. The single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at West Chester, while a single **Brant** was at Southern Bucks County. The 14 **Cackling Geese** were reported from eight southeastern sites and Tunkhannock in the northeast. The 216 **Mute Swans** nearly matched last year's high of 223, with 99 at the three Bucks County sites.

The 2977 **American Black Ducks** were relatively few compared to other years. The 867 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 1039 **Hooded Mergansers** were a return to good numbers after a one-year slump. Erie again produced the most diving ducks, with nearly 11,000 scaup, all three scoters, including 71 **White-winged Scoters**, and 5897 **Red-breasted Mergansers**. The 3 **Blue-winged Teal** were at Harrisburg.

The numbers of four water bird

Species	Site	Previous Reports
Ross's Goose	Southern Bucks County	14
Eared Grebe	Dallas Area	8
Glossy Ibis	Delaware County	4
Sandhill Crane	Linesville, Lititz	8
Least Sandpiper	Newville, Southern Bucks Co	9
Empid sp.	Southern Lancaster County	7
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Central Bucks County, Lititz	3
White-eyed Vireo	Newville	4
Tree Swallow	West Chester	4
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Pennypack Valley	1
Swainson's Thrush	Lititz	10
Varied Thrush	Bloomsburg	3
Cape May Warbler	Rector	6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Pennypack Valley	2
Black-and-white Warbler	New Bloomfield	14
Ovenbird	Buffalo Creek	15
Lark Sparrow	Central Bucks County	3

**Table 1.**

species ranked among the top four yearly Pennsylvania CBC totals and probably reflect the extent of open water. These included 203 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 183 **Double-crested Cormorants**, 1047 **Great Blue Herons**, and 6425 **American Coots**. High coot counts were 2395 at Erie, 1349 at Butler County, 1220 at Southern Bucks County, 692 at Indiana, and 200 at Linesville.

Uncommon water birds included **Red-throated Loon** at Butler County, Delaware County, and Erie; **Red-necked Grebe** at Dallas Area; 44 **Great Cormorants**, including 21 at Pennypack Valley and 20 at Southern Bucks County; **American Bittern** at Western Chester County; 6 **Great Egrets** at Delaware County; **Black-crowned Night Heron** at Harrisburg and Southern Bucks County; **Virginia Rail** at Linesville and Upper Bucks County; 3 **Common Moorhens** at Southern Bucks County; and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Delaware County.

### Chickens

The 3077 **Wild Turkeys** were slightly lower than last year's total. The 136 **Ring-necked Pheasants** continued their downward trend. The 155 **Ruffed Grouse** were the highest tally since 2001, though historically on the low end. **Northern Bobwhite** was reported from Buffalo Creek, Butler County, and Western Schuylkill County. I believe that these were likely pen-reared birds as they were found away from southern Lancaster and Chester counties, where native bobwhites could still survive.

### Raptors and Vultures

Counts of **Black** and **Turkey Vultures** reached new highs, even when adjusted for effort. Turkey Vultures were found away from their usual southeastern stronghold, as shown by the Figure 2 distribution map. A central Pennsylvania hotspot was Lake Raystown, with 119 Turkey Vultures.

The 168 **Bald Eagles** were the third highest count, slightly lower than the previous two years' total. These included 35 at Linesville and 21 at Southern Lancaster County. When adjusted for hours, the 306 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were the lowest number in 10 years. The 398 **Cooper's Hawks** were slightly fewer than last year's high. The 3893 **Red-tailed Hawks** were comparable to 2004's high tally. The 16 **Rough-legged Hawks** were the fewest since 1962. **American Kestrels** displayed the third straight

year of increases after the 2003 drop-off. The 24 **Merlins** continued the good tallies of recent years. The 18 **Peregrine Falcons** were a new high, 1 more than last year. Uncommon wintering raptors included **Osprey** at Culp and **Broad-winged Hawk** at Bethlehem-Easton.

Nine **Barn Owls** were reported, with 5 at Lewistown and 1-2 each at Hamburg, Lewisburg, and Southern Lancaster County. **Eastern Screech-Owl** numbers were very good, with 1067. The 101 **Barred Owls** were a new high. Just 11 of both **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owls** were reported.

Pennsylvania birders again worked hard to find owls. Upper Bucks County remained the top owling spot with 211 total owls, including 161 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, the highest tally of that species in this year's North American CBC. Southern Lancaster County was second with 123 total owls, including a sweep of the seven most common owls. Central Bucks County was third with 111 owls, including 85 Screech-Owls, the second highest North American total.

### Gulls

The trend continued for southeastern Pennsylvania being a gull hotspot. Tallied at Southern Bucks County were nearly 31,000 **Herring Gulls**, 93% of the state's 6135 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, and 12 of the 14 **Iceland Gulls**. After a run as the top North American site for Herring Gulls, Southern Bucks was second this year. However, it was the top site for Great Black-backs.

The 617 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** more than doubled the previous statewide high. For the second year in a row, Central Bucks County was the leading North American site for this species, with 344. Most of the rest were also observed in Bucks County, with 157 at Upper Bucks County and 97 at Southern Bucks County. Upper Bucks ranked second among North American

### Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	EScr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks County	0	161	41	5	0	0	4	211
2. Southern Lancaster County	1	69	35	4	3	1	10	123
3. Central Bucks County	0	85	21	1	3	0	1	111
4. Hamburg	2	46	41	0	0	0	0	89
5. Harrisburg	0	37	20	7	0	0	4	68
6. West Chester	0	56	11	0	0	0	0	67
7. Lewistown	5	24	24	2	0	0	0	55
Southern Bucks County	0	43	12	0	0	0	0	55
9. Elverson	0	39	14	1	0	0	0	54
10. Newville	0	20	26	5	1	0	0	52

sites for this species. Lesser Black-backs were also found at seven other southeastern sites.

**Ring-billed Gulls** were again abundant, with 19,000 at Southern Lancaster County, 17,000 at Lancaster, and 10,000 at Elverson. The hotspot for **Bonaparte's Gull** was Linesville, with 998.

#### Woodpeckers to Blackbirds

The 28 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at the low end of normal, with 19 recorded at Gettysburg. The 763 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were a new high, 100 more than the previous record. The 7 **Northern Shrikes** were about average in number. The **Loggerhead Shrike** was reported from Mansfield. The 291 **Common Ravens** were the second highest to the 296 in 2001.

The 6609 **Carolina Chickadees** were a new high. The 168 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were low compared to the 1152 from the 2005 irruption. The 6019 **Carolina Wrens** were a 32% increase over the previous high count/party-hr from 2002, apparently signifying a population expansion. The 406 **Winter Wrens** were an excellent number.

The 9100 **Eastern Bluebirds** were also a new high, even when adjusted for party-hrs. Most were found at locations where they are typically found, but with higher-than-usual numbers in the southwest corner, the Juniata Valley, and the upper Susquehanna Valley (Figure 2). The 826 **American Pipits** were second only to the 1551 in 1998. Most were found in the southeast, with 166 at Hamburg and 107 at Southern Lancaster County. They were also found at three sites outside the southeast (Figure 2). The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was reported from Lancaster and the **Yellow-breasted Chat** from Delaware County.

The 846 **Field Sparrows** and 12,000 **Song Sparrows** were higher counts than in recent years, though far below levels of the 1960s and 1970s when adjusted for effort. At this time of year, Song Sparrows typically concentrate in the southeastern and southwestern corners of the state. In 2006, most were again found in those same regions, but they were also relatively abundant in valley locations elsewhere, including Buffalo Creek, Washington, and Bushy Run in the west and Southeastern Bradford County and Dallas Area in the northeast (Figure 2). **Vesper Sparrow** was observed at Chambersburg, while **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from Culp, Lehigh Valley, and Rector.

The 38 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were a very low number, continuing their downward trend. The 8 **Baltimore Orioles**, including 4 at West Chester, were the third historical total for that species. **Brewer's Blackbird** was at Buffalo Creek.

#### Finches

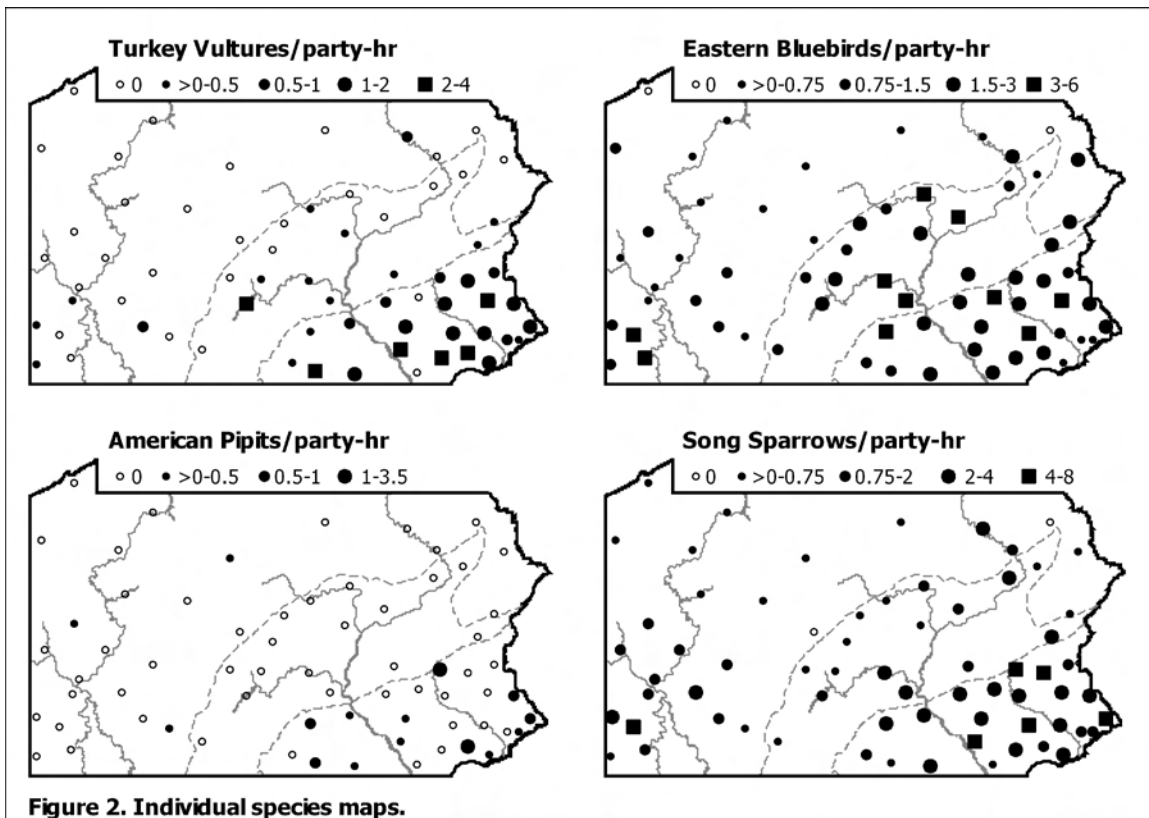
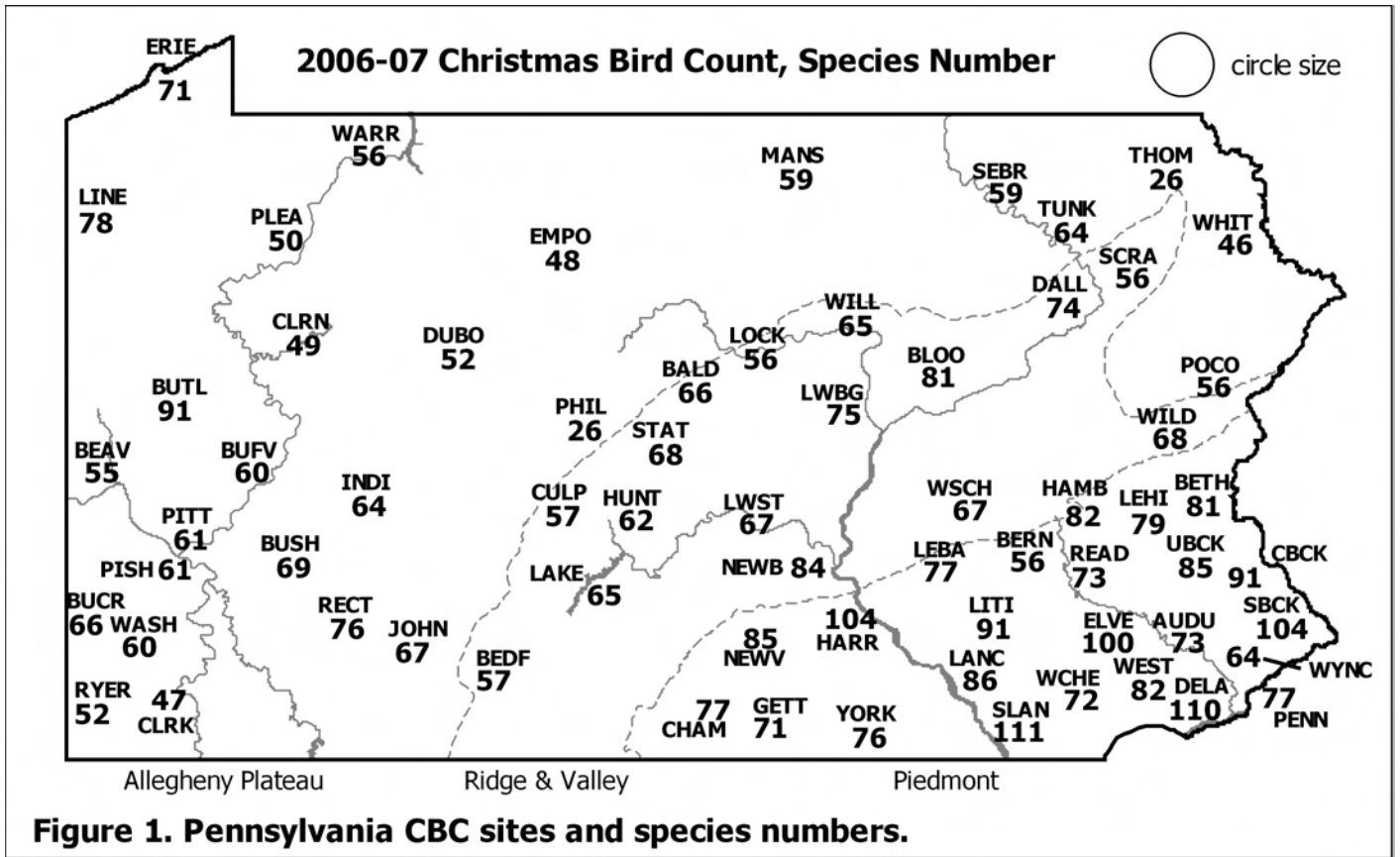
Seed crops were abundant to the north and northern finches were few in number. Reports of uncommon finches include a **Pine Grosbeak** at Rector, 11 **Common Redpolls** at Reading, and 30 **Evening Grosbeaks** at Mansfield. A total of 17 **Pine Siskins** were reported from six sites. No crossbills were reported.

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

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#### Site Abbreviations

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



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	20	-	-	-	-	29350	-	-	-	-	-	1140	-	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	6217	340	284	490	501	10515	1188	75	84	474	2247	17379	728	605	581	352	550
Mute Swan	1	-	-	-	11	12	2	-	-	10	2	29	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	22	1	12	2	1	-	-	1	-
Wood Duck	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	-	6	-	-	-	2
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	6	11	18	-	12	75	140	5	-	8	45	2	-	-	-	-	44
Mallard	214	78	190	358	223	905	762	19	96	335	108	516	1014	23	157	135	174
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	-	-	-	CW	7	-	-	-	1
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ring-necked Duck	5	-	-	-	-	27	1	-	-	-	128	21	-	-	-	-	10
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	70	1	-	-	-	-	1
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	35	-	-	-	-	2	15
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	20	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	6
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	24	10	1	10	-	2	4	-	-	32	23	9	-	-	-	-	55
Common Merganser	32	13	-	5	19	51	81	-	24	7	3	87	-	1	-	-	53
Red-breasted Merganser	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	1	-	4	11	7	1	-	2	1	5	5	6	-	1
Ruffed Grouse	-	6	-	1	-	-	3	1	2	2	-	-	-	6	-	4	-
Wild Turkey	-	23	61	72	-	99	140	48	62	2	82	58	-	58	63	38	16
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	-	1	-	1	1	3
Horned Grebe	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	1	-	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	23	9	10	-	10	25	15	6	4	17	6	28	62	2	9	4	5
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glossy Ibis	151	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	144	-	-	-	CW	113	-	2	-	-	-	196	47	-	-	-	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bald Eagle	2	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	2	CW	3	1	-	-	-	CW

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Northern Harrier	2	-	-	1	-	4	17	-	2	1	4	5	4	7	-	3	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14	-	2	2	6	10	4	-	1	3	2	12	12	1	4	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	7	1	7	2	-	12	4	4	-	3	4	11	10	5	8	1	2
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	3	2	4	-	-	-	1
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	78	26	26	16	37	96	107	52	25	63	65	92	123	69	38	13	28
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	5	9	5	8	14	2	42	14	5	13	21	6	30	19	11	12	7
Merlin	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	9	2	-	-	6	5	-	1	7	1349	1	-	-	-	35	55
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	4	CW	10	-	3	-	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	530	26	44	10	2152	5339	91	-	1	2	208	726	CW	-	-	-	9
Herring Gull	4	-	3	-	15	12	20	-	6	-	2	28	-	-	-	-	28
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	344	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	216	434	653	589	399	1002	839	107	112	669	674	828	1607	301	200	174	180
Mourning Dove	1399	288	146	109	829	1732	905	149	252	529	665	1237	1846	671	194	74	285
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	14	4	-	1	1	10	27	33	-	8	6	85	10	7	1	9	17
Great Horned Owl	6	3	2	1	2	9	13	3	-	5	10	21	14	1	2	8	10
Barred Owl	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	3	5	1	3	1	1	2	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	26	5	2	3	7	12	13	15	12	10	5	16	21	-	9	8	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	112	18	29	22	39	121	56	96	27	69	42	112	127	18	31	29	12
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	2	-	-	2	10	4	4	1	2	1	7	24	-	2	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	189	32	49	41	94	272	113	160	48	91	86	171	186	86	25	51	52
Hairy Woodpecker	30	6	16	9	6	29	19	32	12	21	37	17	33	29	12	11	9
Yellow-shafted Flicker	77	4	3	11	16	56	34	53	11	33	8	75	57	1	36	10	5
Pileated Woodpecker	5	5	5	10	3	9	26	33	9	18	12	5	12	20	19	12	6
empid sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	1
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	268	167	143	102	100	222	358	105	106	209	186	206	315	316	136	87	74
American Crow	401	395	127	329	163	9558	916	635	109	774	248	448	210	948	167	164	382
Fish Crow	-	2	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	-	-	12	11	1	-	-	2
Common Raven	-	5	-	7	-	1	4	4	-	-	-	1	7	1	2	9	3
Horned Lark	-	12	-	-	30	143	14	10	49	80	8	47	310	-	-	110	-



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUFF	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	126	-	CW	11	-	24	4	1	-	-	1	82	44	3	-	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	-	2	1	30	39	-	51	-	44	-	110	100	-	-	-	3
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	1	45	2	-	17	-	-	1	3	-	13	10	-	-	-
House Finch	195	47	92	76	128	568	236	65	28	161	124	271	403	141	77	197	115
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	148	136	92	59	39	170	227	155	79	112	119	243	301	184	35	79	100
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	130	167	694	239	311	344	513	290	120	387	265	507	1780	465	310	130	103
Number Species	73	66	55	57	58	81	81	66	60	69	91	91	77	49	47	57	74
Number Individuals	19613	5966	4523	7626	16411	71268	14988	4639	2728	7625	10919	45532	22124	7615	3544	3847	4344
Party-hours	135.75	46	35	50.75	57	225	133.5	77.5	30	83.25	81.75	121	113.5	99.25	27.5	65	53.5

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	43	-	937	-	-	-	4595	-	-	-	-	-	656	-	254	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Canada Goose	5090	2	5204	1	589	1947	2564	1365	500	1200	1195	21	4793	1877	1299	812	456
Mute Swan	2	-	8	-	2	7	8	3	-	-	-	-	5	5	3	-	-
Tundra Swan	68	-	4	-	-	-	200	-	-	CW	1	-	18	-	-	1	-
Wood Duck	-	-	3	-	13	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	2
Gadwall	2	4	-	-	-	-	41	93	-	5	-	-	-	1	6	-	-
American Wigeon	2	-	11	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	9	-	3	-	-
American Black Duck	529	12	34	-	24	27	5	75	14	9	61	30	25	6	51	2	3
Mallard	1380	707	569	-	277	83	532	1017	81	291	411	152	767	317	679	299	191
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	129	-	51	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Pintail	147	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	324	-	4	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	2	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Redhead	1	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	23	3	26	-	106	37	4	4	10	29	29	-	35	2	68	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	3	-	48	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	1	-	7	-	355	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	10536	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	11	2	2	-	171	2	-	15	-	52	-	1	-	-	-	9	-
Common Goldeneye	1	1	1	-	185	-	-	12	-	2	-	-	23	-	-	1	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	19	13	12	-	12	-	2	114	20	-	14	6	1	-	-	4	-

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Common Merganser	14	-	22	-	9	8	6	46	-	-	2	26	32	1	3	50	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	1	-	5897	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	114	-	126	-	29	31	-	-	-	14	60	-	1	-	2	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	7	7	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	2	1	1	-	1	-	10
Ruffed Grouse	-	6	-	26	-	-	3	2	9	5	2	4	-	-	-	1	3
Wild Turkey	2	17	26	68	2	CW	181	11	10	123	27	11	2	19	58	49	141
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Loon	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	1	-	1	-	21	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	6	3	11	-	53	1	-	1	-	13	7	-	2	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	51	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	45	-	-	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	27	1	18	-	53	13	24	63	4	5	5	8	15	20	21	15	16
Great Egret	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glossy Ibis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	58	-	126	-	-	78	109	24	12	-	-	10	95	19	62	-	48
Turkey Vulture	205	-	197	-	-	305	119	128	4	CW	-	119	250	83	182	6	27
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	1	-	5	1	1	2	1	7	-	CW	-	7	10	1	-	2	1
Northern Harrier	5	1	4	-	1	1	4	1	1	7	9	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16	2	13	-	CW	2	11	9	1	2	2	1	6	7	20	3	3
Cooper's Hawk	10	2	8	1	3	5	18	16	-	7	3	3	12	5	10	8	10
Northern Goshawk	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	-	1	-	-	9	-	4	3	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	96	9	79	16	22	42	153	121	22	39	37	51	53	91	171	92	140
Rough-legged Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	5	1	7	-	1	44	37	20	14	20	24	17	10	25	10	65	66
Merlin	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Peregrine Falcon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	68	-	216	-	2395	6	-	1	-	692	42	-	3	30	4	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	20	-	16	-	-	7	49	8	1	-	-	2	1	6	11	3	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	1
American Woodcock	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	184	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	1963	-	10436	-	6203	-	25	1899	36	3	16	100	17222	947	11	550	-
Herring Gull	181	-	258	-	2925	-	8	191	-	-	-	-	96	1813	2	2	1
Iceland Gull	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	1	-	CW	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	55	-	6	-	36	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	207	23	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	571	311	287	37	913	179	2108	937	251	149	601	372	327	810	785	728	1050
Mourning Dove	479	296	975	203	22	427	1743	775	335	486	429	222	487	1179	2043	434	575
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Eastern Screech-Owl	24	2	39	4	CW	1	46	37	8	2	2	6	12	27	5	19	24

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	DELA	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Great Horned Owl	9	9	14	2	5	2	41	20	17	3	1	8	5	17	12	16	24
Barred Owl	2	4	1	3	-	6	-	7	1	CW	1	-	-	2	-	2	2
Long-eared Owl	1	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	19	5	12	6	3	5	14	32	10	4	4	17	16	11	19	11	14
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	1	19	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	118	3	101	9	15	55	115	157	50	41	16	36	70	46	79	45	94
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	-	4	1	-	3	2	19	5	-	1	2	4	6	7	3	6
Downy Woodpecker	159	15	177	43	66	52	231	267	131	58	55	99	95	108	217	112	170
Hairy Woodpecker	30	8	28	20	13	14	28	37	12	18	10	12	10	9	24	16	19
Yellow-shafted Flicker	24	-	37	1	24	29	91	77	13	9	2	14	39	35	48	27	34
Pileated Woodpecker	9	8	13	16	4	5	9	13	36	12	-	30	10	3	6	15	34
empid sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	189	95	113	216	79	69	239	286	264	156	128	102	65	161	185	151	143
American Crow	511	128	962	215	185	97	1242	3822	265	608	699	565	748	1220	1593	855	592
Fish Crow	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	381	-	-	-	-	91	3	1	-	-
Common Raven	-	3	-	17	-	4	11	5	23	-	7	9	-	-	-	4	17
Horned Lark	4	11	295	-	-	CW	455	7	-	-	505	-	29	194	244	56	200
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	521	-	440	-	-	89	-	436	-	-	-	-	223	48	8	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	8	183	68	406	115	21	-	64	260	434	339	141	4	55	433	158	109
chickadee sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	387	160	-	-	-	-	82	39	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	379	38	354	90	24	101	487	473	184	178	108	220	144	128	413	149	349
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	6	-	-	-	1	4	4	16	5	2	1	-	2	-	6	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	182	37	167	127	43	84	254	214	158	121	48	86	38	81	167	89	194
Brown Creeper	16	2	6	12	-	4	21	50	13	9	3	17	18	8	10	19	43
Carolina Wren	227	5	174	25	13	36	203	236	56	22	2	66	154	78	141	65	148
House Wren	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	18	-	8	-	-	7	12	22	-	4	1	2	13	9	7	2	18
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	7	5	55	22	11	18	67	62	54	7	20	25	17	30	51	94
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	CW	1	-	-	1	7	26	1	2	-	2	2	19	9	2	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	103	23	328	23	CW	122	423	385	143	84	43	115	128	139	180	169	260
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	7	-	16	1	3	1	7	16	13	2	-	4	3	1	6	6	8
American Robin	2727	-	147	39	23	12	126	324	16	50	5	1	18	22	198	19	32
Varied Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	4	14	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	125	2	131	1	-	82	176	153	-	8	3	34	181	78	177	84	107
Brown Thrasher	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	1778	268	4496	81	642	2962	6563	3855	550	1382	4582	861	2885	3862	3663	3064	7487
American Pipit	1	-	-	1	-	80	166	2	-	3	-	-	11	-	-	-	CW
Cedar Waxwing	35	82	30	177	8	-	414	240	132	108	2	2	10	-	55	109	80
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	-	-	-	50	4	20	17	6	1	-	-	-	1	9	-	3
Myrtle Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-





PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
200	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	36	2	-	-	1220
1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	8	-	4	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-
998	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2968	229	38	89	25	545	1008	-	3	113	1	61	3269	-	-	3443	2624
36	7	-	2	6	100	10	-	-	63	-	31	38	-	-	150	30908
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	-	-	-	3	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5684
117	1097	1585	272	410	1012	397	120	95	1112	14	80	1068	47	32	1115	417
150	731	142	300	244	1006	438	5	499	780	65	74	1839	311	236	362	951
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	20	1	-	22	8	11	-	14	4	2	4	43
2	9	1	2	13	26	11	2	3	9	1	1	17	4	-	-	12
1	-	-	2	2	5	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	4	5	1	-
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	2	2	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	32	7	4	25	25	8	-	8	23	5	3	17	10	3	2	31
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	102	22	11	72	113	52	-	112	175	17	7	91	68	59	7	108
1	9	-	-	9	6	-	-	4	6	-	-	5	3	4	-	3
61	187	55	48	116	195	80	3	123	198	52	51	102	93	69	47	183
14	29	13	20	22	29	18	2	24	45	13	9	17	21	12	16	27
11	54	8	3	54	82	15	-	31	20	2	8	37	7	35	4	78
3	10	14	8	30	22	2	2	17	16	9	2	2	33	34	2	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	2	-	-	3	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88	176	103	200	132	183	89	2	337	426	243	45	185	185	200	107	245
134	1660	922	371	863	261	81	38	417	7648	184	404	402	438	283	1118	921
-	17	-	1	1	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1063
-	2	8	34	5	5	-	2	-	CW	6	-	-	12	29	-	-
-	1062	CW	-	383	563	-	-	-	-	-	-	199	3	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	98	-	-	21	134	213	-	183	188	-	-	86	7	199	-	369
232	172	123	357	150	43	2	24	6	178	443	210	-	603	14	612	2
-	75	-	-	26	26	-	-	342	241	-	-	193	-	-	-	21
28	246	76	50	372	206	122	5	319	577	79	155	203	275	110	135	199
7	1	4	4	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	1
90	251	55	43	134	141	100	4	108	173	123	56	122	195	104	81	86
2	12	5	2	26	31	3	-	9	12	4	1	7	14	11	3	8
13	123	27	6	153	219	106	1	188	288	13	18	122	52	51	7	180
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	8	-	2	7	21	13	-	1	7	3	1	6	2	2	-	23





PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	177	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	84	65	-	-	-	12	7	51
Turkey Vulture	23	2	-	-	-	416	-	-	288	301	-	3	-	22	42	147
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	21	1	-	-	2	4	8	-	5	1	7	-	2	-	-	2
Northern Harrier	4	15	-	-	3	1	1	-	CW	1	-	-	-	4	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	-	3	-	2	11	-	4	4	12	1	3	5	3	8	8
Cooper's Hawk	12	-	6	-	13	4	4	2	6	10	1	4	5	1	3	13
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	-	2	-	CW	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	67	76	52	3	60	116	21	25	61	118	10	28	39	76	52	47
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	41	11	13	-	7	12	1	4	14	8	-	4	12	18	1	12
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	2	-	1	-	2	5	2	1	-	17	-	-	7	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	17	-	-	-	-	5	-	7	1	35	-	13	-	-	-	6
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	19	405	6	-	28	608	34	-	475	113	70	15	43	31	123	105
Herring Gull	81	-	1	-	3	52	-	-	-	2	-	4	45	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	6	-	-	-	-	157	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	11	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Rock Pigeon	1808	442	1231	16	383	700	379	40	515	172	128	147	1180	419	208	418
Mourning Dove	1085	232	708	10	589	1725	407	364	552	527	115	161	464	231	288	549
Barn Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	69	23	4	-	7	161	4	11	19	56	-	8	15	4	8	-
Great Horned Owl	35	9	2	-	7	41	1	-	5	11	1	12	4	6	6	2
Barred Owl	4	3	1	-	1	5	CW	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	1
Long-eared Owl	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	10	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	45	2	17	-	4	12	9	2	17	17	2	10	5	4	10	8
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	176	18	46	4	31	112	21	39	45	116	9	10	28	16	55	31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	29	-	2	-	1	4	-	6	1	12	-	1	1	-	7	-
Downy Woodpecker	193	39	94	20	58	275	88	71	70	140	38	42	109	40	70	69
Hairy Woodpecker	37	12	19	8	52	13	13	18	13	31	15	4	15	3	12	15
Yellow-shafted Flicker	141	10	7	-	13	117	4	28	14	44	1	23	25	6	21	42
Pileated Woodpecker	12	9	15	1	20	7	8	12	4	8	2	2	15	4	1	5
empid sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	CW	-	-	-	2
Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK
Lapland Longspur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	710	117	250	1	146	642	153	231	185	432	31	91	205	86	155	187
Red-winged Blackbird	12502	6	1	-	51	202	1	6	6276	3002	-	1	1	50	123	16
Eastern Meadowlark	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	8	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	17749	-	-	-	-	156	-	2	54811	3670	-	23	-	3	3	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2719	-	8	-	1	47	-	4	932	17	-	9	10	50	8	10
Baltimore Oriole	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	4	2	-	CW	-	1	30	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	8
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Finch	303	80	184	-	64	368	131	167	228	337	40	66	267	62	156	93
Common Redpoll	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	1	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	216	196	143	4	145	654	150	135	91	245	71	87	204	71	121	74
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	962	187	702	-	212	300	622	308	340	69	76	73	246	424	208	148
Number Species	111	59	68	26	64	85	56	60	72	82	46	68	65	67	64	76
Number Individuals	125363	6420	12156	442	6112	28836	6166	3792	76380	37751	2492	7941	10442	5733	6958	14180
Party-hours	141	65	105.5	10	56	162.5	72.5	17	81.75	147	28.75	40.25	47	45	60.75	77

SUMMARY

	NO. OF COUNTS		HIGH COUNT		TOTALS		NO. OF COUNTS		TOTALS		NO. OF COUNTS		TOTALS		HIGH COUNT	
	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH	TOTALS	HIGH
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	1	WEST	8	12	2	ERIE	8	12	2	ERIE	8	12	2	ERIE	8
Snow Goose	45918	19	BETH	5	83	5	HARR	76	83	5	HARR	76	83	5	HARR	76
Ross's Goose	1	1	SBCK	171	620	28	ERIE	171	620	28	ERIE	171	620	28	ERIE	171
Brant	1	1	SBCK	218	527	21	LINE	218	527	21	LINE	218	527	21	LINE	218
Barnacle Goose	1	1	BLOO	3	3	1	CHAM	3	3	1	CHAM	3	3	1	CHAM	3
Cackling Goose	14	9	CBCK	236	1039	41	LINE	236	1039	41	LINE	236	1039	41	LINE	236
Canada Goose	152641	66	CBCK	1007	3470	45	SLAN	1007	3470	45	SLAN	1007	3470	45	SLAN	1007
Mute Swan	216	29	SBCK	5897	6001	10	ERIE	5897	6001	10	ERIE	5897	6001	10	ERIE	5897
Tundra Swan	1050	16	LITI	450	1058	24	BUTL	450	1058	24	BUTL	450	1058	24	BUTL	450
Wood Duck	76	21	SBCK	11	136	40	BLOO	11	136	40	BLOO	11	136	40	BLOO	11
Gadwall	382	22	HARR	26	155	34	EMPO	26	155	34	EMPO	26	155	34	EMPO	26
American Wigeon	162	16	HARR	181	3077	58	HAMB	181	3077	58	HAMB	181	3077	58	HAMB	181
American Black Duck	2977	54	DELA	5	7	3	BUTL	5	7	3	BUTL	5	7	3	BUTL	5
Mallard	24887	64	DELA	1380	4	3	ERIE	1380	4	3	ERIE	1380	4	3	ERIE	1380
Blue-winged Teal	3	1	HARR	3	57	16	ERIE	3	57	16	ERIE	3	57	16	ERIE	3
Northern Shoveler	232	9	DELA	129	203	33	ERIE	129	203	33	ERIE	129	203	33	ERIE	129
Northern Pintail	314	15	DELA	147	70	15	ERIE	147	70	15	ERIE	147	70	15	ERIE	147
Green-winged Teal	421	22	DELA	324	1	1	DALL	324	1	1	DALL	324	1	1	DALL	324
Canvasback	80	9	ERIE	59	1	1	DALL	59	1	1	DALL	59	1	1	DALL	59
Redhead	39	9	LINE	11	183	14	PENN	11	183	14	PENN	11	183	14	PENN	11
Ring-necked Duck	867	33	SBCK	195	44	3	DELA	195	44	3	DELA	195	44	3	DELA	195
Greater Scaup	64	8	ERIE	48	1	1	WCHE	48	1	1	WCHE	48	1	1	WCHE	48
Lesser Scaup	600	12	ERIE	355	1047	64	SBCK	355	1047	64	SBCK	355	1047	64	SBCK	355
scaup sp.	10540	2	ERIE	10536	6	1	DELA	10536	6	1	DELA	10536	6	1	DELA	10536
Black Scoter	6	1	ERIE	6	2	2	DELA	6	2	2	DELA	6	2	2	DELA	6
Surf Scoter	16	1	ERIE	16	1	1	DELA	16	1	1	DELA	16	1	1	DELA	16
White-winged Scoter	71	1	ERIE	71	1790	27	SLAN	71	1790	27	SLAN	71	1790	27	SLAN	71
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	1790	27	SLAN	-	-	1790	27	SLAN	-	-	1790	27
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	2	1	2	2	2	DELA	2	2	2	DELA	2	2	2	DELA	2
Glossy Ibis	1	1	1	1	1	1	DELA	1	1	1	DELA	1	1	1	DELA	1
Black Vulture	1790	27	177	177	1790	27	SLAN	177	1790	27	SLAN	177	1790	27	SLAN	177
Turkey Vulture	4152	36	416	416	4152	36	416	4152	36	416	4152	36	416	4152	36	416
Osprey	1	1	1	1	1	1	CULP	1	1	1	CULP	1	1	1	CULP	1
Bald Eagle	168	39	35	35	168	39	35	168	39	35	168	39	35	168	39	35
Northern Harrier	141	44	17	17	141	44	17	141	44	17	141	44	17	141	44	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	306	55	20	20	306	55	20	306	55	20	306	55	20	306	55	20
Cooper's Hawk	398	62	20	20	398	62	20	398	62	20	398	62	20	398	62	20
Northern Goshawk	7	6	2	2	7	6	2	7	6	2	7	6	2	7	6	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	70	25	9	9	70	25	9	70	25	9	70	25	9	70	25	9
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	1	1	1	1	BETH	1	1	1	BETH	1	1	1	BETH	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3893	66	171	171	3893	66	171	3893	66	171	3893	66	171	3893	66	171
Rough-legged Hawk	16	15	2	2	16	15	2	16	15	2	16	15	2	16	15	2
Golden Eagle	5	4	2	2	5	4	2	5	4	2	5	4	2	5	4	2
American Kestrel	913	63	66	66	913	63	66	913	63	66	913	63	66	913	63	66
Merlin	24	17	3	3	24	17	3	24	17	3	24	17	3	24	17	3
Peregrine Falcon	18	12	3	3	18	12	3	18	12	3	18	12	3	18	12	3
Prairie Falcon	1	1	1	1	1	1	NEWV	1	1	1	NEWV	1	1	1	NEWV	1
Virginia Rail	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2
Common Moorhen	3	1	3	3	3	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	3
American Coot	6425	35	2395	2395	6425	35	2395	6425	35	2395	6425	35	2395	6425	35	2395
Sandhill Crane	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
Killdeer	284	30	49	49	284	30	49	284	30	49	284	30	49	284	30	49
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2
Least Sandpiper	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
Wilson's Snipe	50	15	9	9	50	15	9	50	15	9	50	15	9	50	15	9
American Woodcock	9	7	2	2	9	7	2	9	7	2	9	7	2	9	7	2
Bonaparte's Gull	1265	6	998	998	1265	6	998	1265	6	998	1265	6	998	1265	6	998
Ring-billed Gull	84021	52	19405	19405	84021	52	19405	84021	52	19405	84021	52	19405	84021	52	19405

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

SUMMARY

	NO. OF		TOTALS	NO. OF		TOTALS	NO. OF		TOTALS	NO. OF		
	TOTALS	COUNTS		HIGH	COUNTS		HIGH	COUNTS		HIGH	COUNTS	HIGH
Herring Gull	37134	37	30908	SBCK								
Iceland Gull	14	3	12	SBCK								
Lesser Black-backed Gull	617	10	344	CBCK								
Glaucous Gull	2	1	2	SBCK								
Great Black-backed Gull	6135	18	5684	SBCK								
Rock Pigeon	36576	67	2108	HAMB								
Mourning Dove	38570	67	2043	LEHI								
Barn Owl	9	4	5	LWST								
Eastern Screech-Owl	1067	58	161	UBCK								
Great Horned Owl	570	62	41	8								
Barred Owl	101	41	7	HARR								
Long-eared Owl	11	6	3	9								
Short-eared Owl	11	3	9	CLRN								
Northern Saw-whet Owl	30	12	10	SLAN								
Belted Kingfisher	742	64	45	SLAN								
Red-headed Woodpecker	28	9	19	GETT								
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3810	66	176	SLAN								
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	248	46	29	SLAN								
Dowry Woodpecker	6880	67	275	UBCK								
Hairy Woodpecker	1242	67	52	UBCK								
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1939	64	141	SLAN								
Pileated Woodpecker	763	65	36	HUNT								
empid sp.	1	1	1	SLAN								
Eastern Phoebe	36	17	6	10								
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2	2	1	11								
Northern Shrike	7	7	1	12								
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	1	MANS								
White-eyed Vireo	1	1	1	NEWV								
Blue Jay	11228	67	461	WARR								
American Crow	56487	67	9558	BETH								
Fish Crow	1676	23	1063	SBCK								
Common Raven	291	39	34	MANS								
Horned Lark	6323	34	1062	LITI								
Tree Swallow	2	1	2	WEST								
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	84	1	84	PENN								
Carolina Chickadee	6609	31	605	AUDU								
Black-capped Chickadee	11466	59	624	WARR								
chickadee sp.	2886	21	387	HAMB								
Tufted Titmouse	12626	67	577	PITT								
Red-breasted Nuthatch	168	41	16	HUNT								
White-breasted Nuthatch	7433	67	254	HAMB								
Brown Creeper	727	65	50	HARR								
Carolina Wren	6019	67	355	SLAN								
House Wren	12	6	6	CHAM								
Winter Wren	406	54	48	SLAN								
Marsh Wren	3	3	1	13								
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1913	64	123	SLAN								
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	229	39	26	HARR								
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	1	1	LANC								
Eastern Bluebird	9094	65	491	UBCK								
Swainson's Thrush	2	1	2	LITI								
Hermit Thrush	365	48	43	SLAN								
American Robin	15339	62	4878	CBCK								
Varied Thrush	1	1	1	BLOO								
Gray Catbird	63	24	14	HUNT								
Northern Mockingbird	4185	58	232	SLAN								
Brown Thrasher	11	6	4	DELA								
European Starling	170979	67	10472	CBCK								
American Pipit	826	15	249	WCHE								
Cedar Waxwing	4217	56	572	BALD								
Cape May Warbler	1	1	1	RECT								
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	1	1	PENN								
Myrtle Warbler	659	34	151	UBCK								
Pine Warbler	5	4	2	UBCK								
Palm Warbler	8	5	2	14								
Black-and-white Warbler	1	1	1	NEWB								
Ovenbird	1	1	1	BUCR								
Common Yellowthroat	10	10	1	15								
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	1	DELA								
Eastern Towhee	184	32	39	DELA								
American Tree Sparrow	5011	66	319	LINE								
Chipping Sparrow	53	17	13	NEWV								
Field Sparrow	846	52	74	ELVE								
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	1	CHAM								
Lark Sparrow	1	1	1	CBCK								
Savannah Sparrow	179	16	41	PENN								
Fox Sparrow	160	33	35	SLAN								
Song Sparrow	11943	65	1059	SLAN								
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	3	1	16								
Swamp Sparrow	584	50	69	SBCK								
White-throated Sparrow	27303	63	2303	SLAN								
White-crowned Sparrow	1076	41	156	SLAN								
Slate-colored Junco	43577	67	2749	HAMB								
Dark-eyed Junco	1	1	1	RECT								
Lapland Longspur	15	6	9	NEWV								
Snow Bunting	29	5	20	HAMB								
Northern Cardinal	16859	66	710	JOHN								
Red-winged Blackbird	27511	49	12502	SLAN								
Eastern Meadowlark	38	12	7	CBCK								
Rusty Blackbird	106	13	29	UBCK								
Brewer's Blackbird	1	1	1	BUCR								
Common Grackle	88159	40	54811	WCHE								
Brown-headed Cowbird	10196	38	2719	SLAN								
Baltimore Oriole	8	5	4	WEST								
Pine Grosbeak	1	1	1	RECT								
Purple Finch	296	32	45	BEDF								
House Finch	11329	66	613	LEHI								
Common Redpoll	11	1	11	READ								
Pine Siskin	17	6	6	17								
American Goldfinch	10490	67	654	UBCK								
Evening Grosbeak	30	1	30	MANS								
House Sparrow	24558	66	1780	CHAM								
Number Species	179			SLAN								
Number Individuals	1159334			SLAN								
Party-hours	5606			BETH								

1 ERIE,SBCK  
 2 HARR,SBCK  
 3 GETT,SLAN  
 4 LEHI,SBCK  
 5 LINE,LITI  
 6 NEWV,SBCK  
 7 LEBA,NEWB  
 8 HAMB,UBCK  
 9 CBCK,SLAN  
 10 HARR,SLAN  
 11 CBCK,LITI  
 12 BALD,DALL,ERIE,LINE,SLAN,SEBR,UBCK  
 13 CBCK,NEWV,UBCK  
 14 HARR,LANC,SBCK  
 15 BALD,BERN,BLOO,DELA,EMPO,LWBG,NEWV,RECT,SBCK,SLAN  
 16 CULP,LEHI,RECT  
 17 CHAM,WHIT-PISH,SLAN

# Pittsburgh's Winter of Gulls

Michael Fialkovich and Geoff R. Malosh

The Pittsburgh area is not a classically ideal location for concentrations of gulls. Despite the presence of three major rivers, Allegheny County's location—110 miles south of Lake Erie and isolated from the Atlantic Ocean by 300 miles and a major mountain range—makes it a relatively uninteresting destination for "gulling". Certainly throughout much of its history this was true, as Allegheny County was never known to harbor gulls of any significant numbers. W. E. C. Todd's 1940 discussion of Herring Gull was concerned mostly with its occurrence in the northwest part of Pennsylvania, and he made little mention of records from the major rivers of the southwestern corner. Today, in contrast, Herring Gulls breed in Allegheny County and nearby, and are common year-round residents of the area's rivers.

Even more startling is Todd's account of Ring-billed Gull, a species for which he could only cite scattered records in southwestern Pennsylvania. He considered it common only on Lake Erie and at other locations in the northwest. In the southwest, he mentions only a few records on the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers. Today, Ring-billed Gulls pass through Allegheny County by the thousands, and often winter here in varying numbers.

Gulls rarer than these, such as Iceland and Great Black-backed, were almost totally unheard of in Allegheny County prior to the 1990s. But since then, the occurrence of all gulls along the rivers of Pittsburgh has increased significantly, and rare gulls in Allegheny County have steadily become more and more frequent in the past 15 years.

## A Brief (And Uninteresting) History of Gulling

In addition to its substandard geographical location, the industrial history of Pittsburgh was certainly a limiting factor in the presence of gulls and other waterbirds in the area. It is well known that Pittsburgh was once one

of the world's leading steel producers; for this reason and others, the rivers were heavily polluted throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This pollution decimated the food supply for gulls and other species that rely on fish and other aquatic plant and animal life as a food source, which is likely the primary reason for the relative scarcity of these species here for most of the county's recorded history.

Beginning in the 1970s, however, the ecology of Pittsburgh's rivers began to change for the better. In the 1970s, the PA Sewage Facilities Act and the U.S. Clean Water Act were updated for with stronger requirements and better enforcement, and the PA Clean Streams Law was passed in 1980. Simultaneously, the steel industry in Pittsburgh collapsed, which removed what was perhaps the most significant source of water pollution from the area. Slowly, the rivers became cleaner and began to heal. Fish moved back into the rivers of Allegheny County, and the fish eaters, e.g., gulls, soon followed beginning in the early 1990s.

Despite the less than ideal conditions, gulls were not completely unheard of in the area even during the height of the steel industry. Small numbers were found on the rivers in the late 1970's, when the water quality of the rivers was still poor, however the birds did not concentrate even during peak migration periods or the winter. This is apparent when reviewing Christmas Bird Count Data for the Pittsburgh CBC and speaking with local birders.

An examination of Pittsburgh CBC data from 1959 to 2006 shows a complete lack of Herring Gulls for just over a decade (1959–1970). From 1971 to 1990, the numbers were still very low, with single birds recorded in 1971, 1973–1975, 1979, 1984, and 1990. Three birds were recorded in 1983. In the

Table 1: Pittsburgh CBC Data 1975-2006

Year	Herring Gull	Ring-billed Gull
1975	1	2
1976	0	0
1977	0	0
1978	0	2
1979	1	2
1980	0	0
1981	0	0
1982	0	1
1983	3	28
1984	1	1
1985	0	0
1986	0	13
1987	0	63
1988	0	1
1989	0	0
1990	1	5
1991	16	93
1992	13	689
1993	81	4145
1994	29	110
1995	424	3297
1996	26	25
1997	17	385
1998	22	737
1999	53	438
2000	19	634
2001	33	494
2002	37	292
2003	38	125
2004	76	2120
2005	51	259
2006	63	113

1990's, numbers started to increase with a peak of 424 in 1995 (Table 1).

Ring-billed Gulls followed a similar pattern of occurrence during this time period. From 1959 to 1972 none were recorded except for single birds in 1961 and 1963. Two birds were recorded in 1973 and 1975, 1978 and 1979. A single bird was recorded in 1982. From 1983–1990 single birds were tallied in 1984 and 1988. There were a few years during this period with higher numbers: 1983 (28), 1986 (13), and 1987 (63). Today, the rivers easily support quadruple-digit counts of Ring-billed Gulls most winters, and the CBC itself has seen in excess of 1000 Ring-billed Gulls on three occasions: 1993, 1995, and 2004.

Bonaparte's Gulls were apparently never common along Pittsburgh's rivers. Currently they are considered uncommon and irregular in winter, and when they do occur, numbers are very low. The Christmas Bird Count data reflect their absence in winter; however an increase has been seen along with other species in the 1990s. Two were recorded in 1983, twenty-two in 1987,



Plate 1. Glaucous Gull (first winter), 11 February 2007. This cooperative individual was present at Pittsburgh 8 to 13-Feb-2007, providing a first county record. It was one of three Glaucous Gulls seen in the Pittsburgh area in February 2007. (Geoff Malosh).

four in 1992, one in 2000, and eight in 2001 (CBC Data). In recent years it has been learned that migrant Bonaparte's can be quite numerous during a brief period of transit in early April (Malosh 2006).



Plate 2. Glaucous Gull (first winter), 11 February 2007. The photo above was featured in a front page story in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 11-Feb. The story nicely featured both Pittsburgh's gulls and its birders. (Geoff Malosh).

A few rarities have been recorded during the CBC, including single Great Black-backed Gulls in 1999 and 2000 and a single Lesser Black-backed Gull in 1995. Besides these CBC data, the county record in total reflects a startling increase of Great Black-backed Gulls in the county beginning in the mid-1990s. Prior to 1990, there was but one record for the county; today, this species is annual except in the mildest of winters. The first records of Iceland Gull were made in 2004 and 2005.

It is important to remember that differences in total numbers from winter to winter are most likely caused by varying weather conditions and ice cover, particularly on bodies of water to the north, most significantly the Great Lakes. Observer effort during the Pittsburgh CBC and at other times of the winter has remained relatively stable for many years, yet gull reports rare and otherwise continue on a steady increase.

Perhaps most interesting and significant of all events in the history of gulls on the rivers of Pittsburgh was the establishment of a small breeding colony of Herring Gulls beginning in 1994, the first known colony in Pennsylvania (Floyd 1994). The birds place their nests on the support structures just above concrete piers on the Highland Park Bridge that spans the Allegheny River, approximately six miles upriver from the confluence in Pittsburgh. Another small colony was discovered in 1998 at Dashields Dam on the Ohio River, approximately eleven miles downstream from Pittsburgh near the Beaver County border (Fialkovich 1998). Both colonies are still active.

### The Deep Freeze of '07

Allegheny County's gulling has certainly become more interesting since 1990, as already discussed. The incredible winter of 2007, however, saw an invasion of gulls into the Pittsburgh area unlike any other in the county's

history. In all, eight species of gull were recorded in a single week, two of which were firsts for Allegheny County. Rare gulls persisted on Pittsburgh's rivers for over a month of extreme cold, whereas most previous rarities were one-day wonders. Almost all local records related to gulls fell during this incredible event.

Following what had been a somewhat mild and ice-free winter to date, February 2007 was one of the coldest months on record at Pittsburgh, particularly during the first half of the month. Table 2 provides some historical perspective; the average temperature of 20.8 F in February 2007 ties for the eleventh coldest month on record at Pittsburgh. The first three weeks of February averaged 17.8 F, which is as cold as any three-week stretch in Pittsburgh's recorded history. 28-Jan kicked off an impressive string of 23 straight days with below normal temperatures (see Figure 1), and the nine days from 3 to 11-Feb all featured single-digit or negative low temperatures, the first such string of seven or more days at Pittsburgh since 1996. The cold descended quickly and rapidly, causing near total icing of the rivers in just over a week's time. During the second and third weeks of February, the Allegheny River became totally impassible, and the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers were kept passable only by a constant, single-file line of ice-breaking barges.

Table 2 - Coldest Months at Pittsburgh		
Rank	Month	Avg. Temp (F)
1	Jan 1977	11.4
2	Jan 1940	17.4
3	Feb 1979	18.0
4	Jan 1918	18.6
5	Dec 1989	19.2
6	Feb 1963	19.3
7	Feb 1934	19.7
8	Jan 1912	20.4
9	Jan 1981	20.5
10	Jan 1970	20.7
11	<b>Feb 2007</b>	<b>20.8</b>
11	Feb 1875	20.8
13	Jan 1982	20.9
13	Feb 1978	20.9

Source: National Weather Service

The circumstances leading to the rapid freeze-up of February 2007 were unique in the past two decades, and the result was an onslaught of rare gulls never before recorded here. Lake Erie and the rest of the southern Great Lakes remained largely ice-free in December and January owing to overly mild temperatures, which in turn probably allowed many gulls (rare and otherwise) to remain dispersed throughout the Great Lakes much longer into the winter

than usual. But they were quickly forced off the lakes in February and made to wander *en masse* southward into "inland" Pennsylvania, and many of them ultimately found their way to Pittsburgh. Indeed, the gull list for the second week of February at Pittsburgh reads more like a week of gulling on Presque Isle Bay than a week spent in the shadow of Heinz Field.

In a more normal winter, the freezing of Lake Erie is a prolonged event beginning earlier in the season. Birds probably tend to trickle southward in their migrations during these normal winters, and one or two rare gulls may find their way to Pittsburgh along with the now-usual migrant flocks of Ring-billed and Herring. It seems reasonable that it was the combination of the warm start to the winter, which held most gulls of all species in place on Lake Erie deep into the season, combined with the rapid freeze of Lake Erie in February, which quickly forced them to seek refuge at unlikely locations in inland Pennsylvania and beyond, that caused the gulling in the winter of 2007 to stand so far and above all previous winters at Pittsburgh.



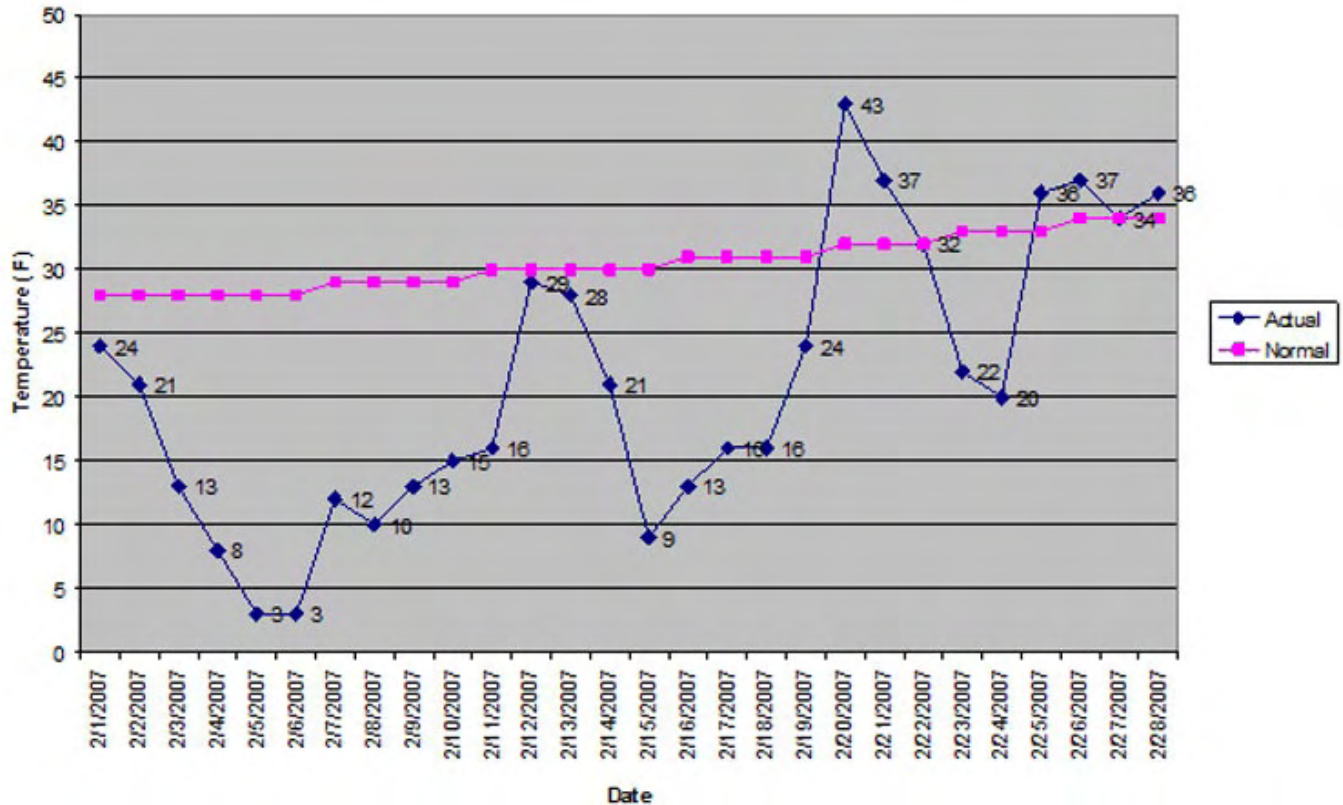
Plate 3. Iceland Gull (first-winter), 17 February 2007. One of six Iceland Gulls present in Pittsburgh in February 2007, doubling the total number of Iceland Gulls recorded in Allegheny County in all years up to that point. (Mike Fialkovich).

### Unprecedented Rarities

We begin our discussion of the specifics of the historic winter of 2007 by first describing the general scene at Pittsburgh any time gulls are present in winter.

Most locally wintering gulls roost at the confluence itself in downtown Pittsburgh, where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers join to become the Ohio (hereafter, this location is referred to as the "Point"). After spending their day foraging at parts generally unknown (with a few exceptions, see below), they begin to reappear at the Point between 2 and 4 hours before dusk. Many gulls stream into the Point area only at dusk itself, so invariably the highest numbers of gulls are present at twilight. Many birds are still present at dawn the next day, but it is obvious that some begin to move out for the day's foraging before

Figure 1: Average Temperatures at Pittsburgh, February 2007 (Source: National Weather Service)



first light, since the numbers of gulls present in the morning is always seems slightly less than the maximum from the previous night. On some occasions, gulls have been found roosting overnight at some of the other gull “hotspots” in Allegheny County, such as at McKees Rocks Marina (Ohio River) and Duck Hollow (Monongahela River). When they leave the Point for the day, they split up, with groups of birds dispersing along each of the three rivers, though the bulk of birds seem to disperse down the Ohio. Generally they are gone from the Point within 2 hours after sunrise, sometimes much earlier.

Where they all spend the lunch hour is only partially known. This winter it was confirmed by D. Wilton and D. Yagusic that a large number of them make their way to the Imperial Landfill in Findlay Township—some 15 miles west of the Point and halfway to West Virginia. Large groups of Ring-billed Gulls were found this winter also in the parking lots at Robinson Town Center, a major shopping complex that is more or less on the flight path between the Point and the Imperial Landfill. Other flocks were found in similar parking lots off the Allegheny River. But birds at these known feeding locations represent only a fraction of the total birds present at the Point in the evenings, so the full extent

of their wanderings remains something of a mystery.

The first rare gull found in 2007 was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, which M. Vass found at Riverfront Park on the Monongahela River 28-Jan. Later, on 7-Feb, what was almost certainly the same Lesser Black-backed reappeared at the Point, and was joined by another adult 9-Feb. These two birds represented the sixth record for the county.

On 4-Feb, in a driving north wind, a flock of 77 wayward Bonaparte’s Gulls was seen by D.Yagusic on the Monongahela. This was a very late record for this species in Allegheny County. No doubt these birds were making an attempt at wintering on Lake Erie (or nearby) until they were quickly iced out in early Feb. These were the only birds of this species seen in Feb, though a single Bonaparte’s appeared at the Point on the morning of 1-Mar (G.Malosh). Beginning 5-Feb, one or two Great Black-backed Gulls started to appear at the Point, one adult and one first-winter (D Wilton, D Yagusic, m. obs.).

These were good finds, but were only precursors to a much larger event, which kicked off in full on the afternoon of 8-Feb, when D.Yagusic and D. Wilton found a first-winter Glaucous Gull among 2000 Ring-billed and Herring Gulls at the Point. It was the first record

of this species for the county (see Plates 1 and 2). This bird remained, to the delight of the numerous birders who appeared to see it, until 13-Feb.

Things really became exciting on 9-Feb, when the afternoon roost at the Point was found to include a first-winter Iceland Gull, the fourth county record. This was in addition to the Glaucous, Great Black-backed, and Lesser Black-backed already mentioned, which, when combined with the ubiquitous Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, brought the day’s total to six species, a county record (m. obs).

But this record was short-lived. The next morning (10-Feb), D.Wilton found an adult Thayer’s Gull at the Point, the first county record and perhaps the first record for the entire southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. It was frantically photographed by G. Malosh before it departed 20 minutes after its discovery. It was not refound. The six species listed on 9-Feb were also all still present on 10-Feb, making a total of seven species on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a record that was not surpassed later in the month. Additionally, the 77 Bonaparte’s Gulls found on 4-Feb brought the week’s total (4 to 10-Feb) to eight species, a record that also survived the season.

Gulling fell into something of a routine thereafter, with no new species identified, but there were some exciting



Plate 4. Iceland Gull (second-winter), 17 February 2007. One of two second-winter Iceland Gulls present in February. These were the first Iceland Gulls of any age group other than first-winter recorded in Pittsburgh. (Geoff Malosh).

moments nonetheless. At least six Iceland Gulls were discovered throughout the month, and possibly there were more, but only six could be readily distinguished as separable individuals. This compares to a total of three individuals in the county's history prior to 2007. Two of the Iceland Gulls were second-winter birds, one of which was nicely photographed at Riverfront Park on 17-Feb (see Plates 4 and 5). At least five, and very likely six, Great Black-backed Gulls were found over the course of Feb, a new seasonal high for the county. Most surprising of all were the Glaucous Gulls. After the original individual departed 13-Feb, another first-winter bird, known to be different based on the bill pattern, appeared 17-Feb (m. obs.), but it stayed only that night. Finally, a gorgeous third-winter Glaucous Gull was found by D. Yagusic 25-Feb, and was enjoyed by a few observers until 27-Feb.

Plenty of excitement and discussion was generated by a first-winter Thayer's-type gull that was first discovered by D. Wilton, G. Malosh, R. Gallardy, B. Shema, and D. Yagusic on 12-Feb. The bird remained until at least 18-Feb and was eventually well-seen by many, though in the first few days of its stay it would only appear just before dark and elude all efforts to photograph it. Finally, on 16-Feb and 18-Feb, it was seen well before dark and good photos were made by G. Malosh, M. Fialkovich, and D. Yagusic (see Plates 6 and 7). The photos and observer notes all indicated Thayer's as the best identification. The distinct dark secondary bar and dark outer primaries on the extended wing

were photographed, as well as the overall chocolate brown color. Additionally, the folded primaries and plain secondaries on the resting bird were clearly much darker than the rest of the bird. The head and body shape and size were also both OK for Thayer's.

Though most observers agreed that Thayer's was a safe identification, some doubt was also expressed; the bird's mantle had an odd "wavy-bar" pattern that is not typical of a "normal" Thayer's (see Plate 7), though it was ultimately agreed that this alone was probably not enough to discourage identification as Thayer's. But in addition to the difficulty with the mantle pattern, the tail pattern in flight was not photographed nor ever described in good detail (though not due to any lack of effort on the part of the observers). Together these missing and conflicting details could introduce enough doubt into reasonable minds that the ultimate decision whether to count the bird rested with each individual observer.

Temperatures finally rebounded to normal in the fourth week of the month. Gulling slowed down considerably in the fourth week, and the show was considered over by the second week of March as mild temperatures and breaking ice allowed the birds to disperse.



Plate 5. Iceland Gull (second-winter), 17 February 2007. (Geoff Malosh).

## Summary

In all, there were eight species of gull confirmed and one unconfirmed in Allegheny County in the month of February 2007, as follows:

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 77 on the Monongahela River 4-Feb (D. Yagusic) were very late southbound migrants. Another was seen at the Point 1-Mar (G. Malosh).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Throughout February, numbers varied between 2000 and 4000 at the Point. This fell short of the highest single-day high count in the county's history, however, which was an estimated 7000 at the Point 13-Mar-2005.

**Herring Gull:** Anywhere between 25 and 500 were counted daily throughout February. 500 were estimated on the

evening of 11-Feb (G. Malosh), the highest reported count in the county's history.



Plate 6. Probable Thayer's Gull (first-winter), 18 February 2007. Note the dark secondary bar on the upperwing in flight, and the dark outer webs on the outer primaries. These and many other characters consistent with first-winter Thayer's Gull were noted on this bird. (Geoff Malosh).

**Thayer's Gull:** One adult discovered by D. Wilton at the Point 10-Feb was the first county record (ph. G. Malosh). Unfortunately it was under observation for only twenty minutes and was not relocated. A first-winter bird that was very likely a Thayer's was well studied by many 12 to 18-Feb, and was photographed by G. Malosh, D. Yagusic, and M. Fialkovich (see plates 6 and 7 and discussion above).

**Iceland Gull:** At least six distinguishable individuals (four first-winter, two second-winter, see Plates 3, 4, and 5) were present 9 to at least 23-Feb (m. obs.). Five were seen on a single day 17-Feb (G. Malosh). Prior to 2007, there were only three records of Iceland Gull, all first-winter birds and all since 2004. One or two Iceland Gulls were seen at the Imperial Landfill in the second week of Feb (D. Wilton, D. Yagusic).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** One seen on the Monongahela River 28-Jan (M. Vass) was likely one of two adults found at the Point 7 to 12-Feb (D. Wilton, D. Yagusic, m. obs.). These were the sixth record for the county, all but one since 2001.



Plate 7. Probable Thayer's Gull (first-winter), 18 February 2007. Note the wavy-bar pattern to the mantle, a character which gave some reviewers pause in assigning it as a "definite" Thayer's. (Geoff Malosh).

**Glaucous Gull:** A first-winter bird, found D.Yagusic 8-Feb, was the first record for the county and remained to at least 13-Feb (see plates 1 and 2). It was also seen at the Imperial Landfill 12-Feb. Another first-winter Glaucous appeared the evening of 17-Feb, known to be a different individual based on the bill pattern (m. obs.). Another first-winter Glaucous at the Point 21-Feb (D.Yagusic) could not be determined to be different than the first two reported. Finally, a third-winter bird was present 25 to at least 27-Feb (D.Yagusic, S.Kinzey, m. obs.).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Five or six were present, though not all at once, in February, including one or 2 first-winter birds, 2 second-winter birds, one third-winter bird, and one adult. This species is on the increase in Allegheny County, though is absent in mild winters; six is a seasonal record.

**[Unconfirmed] California Gull:** A compelling bird showing characters consistent with California Gull at the Point 28-Feb was described by D Wilton and D Yagusic; unfortunately, the encounter was brief, some field marks could not be fully described, and subsequent searches for the bird failed to relocate it. The observers qualified the sighting only as probable.

#### Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to Jim Valimont for compiling the CBC data presented herein and to Ted Floyd, Jim Valimont and Paul Hess for providing their perspective on the occurrence of gulls in Allegheny County in the 1970s and 1980s. Jim and Paul must also be credited with originating the straightforward explanation for the increase in gulls in recent years (reduction of river pollution). Now that they have posited this so obvious and simple idea, in retrospect, it seems absurd that it was not thought of sooner. As always, recognition must also go to the dozens of dedicated Allegheny County birders who diligently kept and shared their records this year and in all years past, which form the basis for our understanding and appreciation of phenomena such as this.

Cited observers: Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Scott Kinzey, Geoff Malosh, Brian Shema, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

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# First Record of Scott's Oriole for Pennsylvania

Tom Johnson

On February 20, 2007, I opened my email to see a note from Karen Atwood. She had sent me a set of photos of an unusual bird that had been roaming around her neighborhood in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Co. Taking a look at the photos, I was shocked to find a bird that had never before been seen in Pennsylvania, an adult male Scott's Oriole. Word of this bird's presence was spread on Tuesday (2/20/07) night through the PABIRDS internet listserv, and the very next morning over a dozen birders from across Pennsylvania were searching the neighborhood for the oriole, armed with binoculars, scopes, and cameras to enjoy and document the bird's visit. The oriole frequented several bird feeders and neighborhood spruce trees, occasionally belting out a few song phrases from high perches there. The Scott's Oriole stayed for around six weeks, with the last sighting coming on April 8. During this time, many birders from around the Northeast were able to view the oriole as well as other local rarities like an Eared Grebe, multiple Little Gulls, and a Black-headed Gull which were present on the Susquehanna River.

Scott's Oriole, unlike our familiar Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, breeds in the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, normally only coming as close to Pennsylvania as west-central Texas.

Even more interesting is that almost all United States-breeding Scott's Orioles migrate south into central Mexico and Baja California in the winter with only a few stragglers remaining in southern California and Arizona, making it even more impressive that one found its way into the Commonwealth. While prone to vagrancy, Scott's Oriole has not occurred in the eastern United States until recently, with records in Georgia in 2002 and Kentucky in 2007. Other east-of-range records include birds in Louisiana (several), Arkansas, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Scott's Oriole can be expected to occur in the East with increasing frequency due to the species' recently increasing population and northern range expansion (Flood 2002).

Thanks are directed to Karen Atwood for getting the initial word out about this bird, and Doug and Candy Maneval and Yvonne Glass for hosting the oriole during its stay.

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Plate 1. Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, 19 February 2007 (Karen Atwood).



Plate 2. Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, 24 February 2007 (Tom Johnson).

# Western Kingbird – Berks County

## Holly Hartshorne

Trying to devise a way to keep up a regular exercise routine, years ago I combined a new interest in bird watching with walking. Bird watching got me out walking every day, every season, rain or shine. It wasn't long before bird watching turned into fairly serious birding, and I'm not sure my walks even count as exercise anymore, considering the number of stops I make to look and watch and listen and just enjoy being outdoors with my feathered friends. I tell you this so you understand why I was outside on Christmas day, braving the cold, damp drizzle and fog.

Often it's easy to talk myself out of trekking outdoors on these kinds of days, especially in winter, when I'm really not expecting to see anything out of the ordinary -- and this year was winding up more uneventful than most. Just the day before, on my Christmas Bird Count walk, I had found nothing unusual. Not a single winter finch or Red-breasted Nuthatch, no Fox Sparrow, not even an American Goldfinch, no Red-shouldered Hawk this year, either. But I had new binoculars to try out -- and that did it. I dressed for the weather and headed outside, not knowing at the time it would be one of my most exciting bird walks ever.

A continuous curtain of gray stretched from the sky in a breathy fog that crept over the streets, the fields and woods, moving silently through the rain-darkened trunks and limbs of naked trees. It was strangely still and unusually quiet, being Christmas -- no traffic, no airplanes, nothing flying, no noise, not even the caw of a crow. I was alone in that wonderful, blissful state of relaxation, contentment, reflection, wandering and not feeling constrained by time, about a mile from home -- when I saw a bird. One lonely, wet, cold bird, perched on top of some brambles and vines, about 30 paces away from me, just inside a small patch of woods at the edge of the road; so close, in fact, I didn't even need to use my new binocular. I stood and watched it from the roadside. What was this?

Something was different about this bird, but what? It sat with its back and tail toward me, head turned for a side view. It was unremarkably gray overall, mirroring the day; the head made me think at first it might be a

mockingbird, as there seemed to be a dark eye line. But the eyes were dark. The tail was dark and the posture was wrong. This was no mockingbird. While I was making mental notes of all the physical characteristics I saw, I noticed what the bird was doing. It was sitting there spitting out bits of seeds. That was odd.

The bird dipped its tail once or twice. Was it an Eastern Phoebe? They've been known to hang around in winter. It did have that flycatcher kind of look. But its head was not dark enough, it wasn't the right color gray, and the contrast was wrong.

Just then the bird flew. There is no way to describe the surprise I felt in seeing that beautiful flash of brilliant yellow as that bird rose up against the backdrop of that gray winter day. Wow. A Great-crested Flycatcher! I didn't know whether these guys overwintered or how late they stayed around in a mild winter, but I'd go home to my books and a cup of hot coffee and check it out.

I followed the bird and watched for awhile as it sallied forth, flycatcher-style, as if hawking insects, but snatching berries from near the top of a tall bittersweet vine. It settled back down and after a while resumed spitting out bits of berry seeds. I'd never seen this kind of behavior before. I knew that other

birds changed their diets from spring and summer to fall and winter. I'd never seen a Great-crested Flycatcher in December -- maybe this was what they ate in winter on their breeding grounds. It must have found the berries unpalatable and that was the reason for spitting them out.

Soaked with rain and suddenly feeling the cold, also anxious to check my books and field guides, I headed home. My family informed me that two hours had passed -- nice of me to come home! (How time flies when you're out on those bird walks). They were anxious to start a new board game; Hold on, I said. I need to check something. I heard the groans as I reached for my bird books.

Flipping first to Great-crested Flycatcher in my *Birds of Pennsylvania*, I found that while most of this species is out of here by mid-September, two records of late birds were noted, the latest being in Berks County in January 1992. OK. Sort of unusual. Next I checked my Sibley Guide, but one quick look at that bird and I knew I was wrong. If I got a good look at anything, it was the tail, and the tail was as dark as a wet telephone pole. There was no rufous.

So, what had I seen? I flipped through the pages of the field guide, looking for grayish birds with yellow



Plate 1. Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Morgantown, Berks, 10 January 2007 (Howard Eskin).

bellies. There were four yellow-bellied kingbirds on pp. 336-337 – two of which looked an awful lot like the bird I'd seen. I ruled out Cassin's Kingbird because of the sharply contrasting white malar, which I would have noticed, and also Couch's Kingbird, as it appeared too stocky, too yellow. I considered Western Kingbird. The gray head and the whitish throat, which did give an appearance of a dark eye line – dark eyes; dark, thick bill; dark tail; yellow belly. Everything seemed to fit. Of course, there was also that Tropical Kingbird; the two birds looked awfully similar. I looked closely to see how to distinguish Western from Tropical kingbird, having never seen either of these birds before. Tropical Kingbird had a slightly longer, thicker bill, but that might be hard to judge in the field. Then I noted the white edges on the Western Kingbird tail.



**Plate 2.** Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Morgantown, Berks, 30 December 2006 (Geoff Malosh).

I checked *Pennsylvania Birds* again to see what I could learn. Tropical Kingbird was not even in the book. That, and the range maps in the Sibley Guide, seemed to almost rule out Tropical Kingbird. Looking at the entry for Western Kingbird, I learned that no more than four of these birds have ever been recorded in Pennsylvania in any single year, with the latest date being 16 or 18 December. OK. Tropical Kingbird would be a terrific find; Western Kingbird would also be

nice. I knew one thing for sure; I had to see that bird again!

Next day, right after work and just before dusk, I returned to the spot where I'd seen the bird and searched high and low. No luck. No bird.

Not to be deterred, though, I tried again late Wednesday afternoon. I looked around – waited – watched. It was getting dark. Then I found it, right there in the same spot, doing the same thing: Sitting and spitting out bits of berry seeds. I watched it fly from the bittersweet vine where it fed to another vine heavily laden with yellow berries (later identified as *Eunonymous*). Here the bird sallied for berries, just like before, then perched and posed for camera-less me. With a good view from not too far away, I looked for but did not see any white edges on the tail. I watched it until just about dark. It flew off into the woods, and I vowed to return to that spot in the morning.

Just as the sun was coming up next morning, armed with my photographer husband, his cameras and scope, I returned to the spot where I'd last seen the bird the previous evening. It wasn't long before I spotted it in the same vine it had been feeding in the night before. Beautiful. It was a crisp, cold morning and the light was perfect for good shots. It was in this bright, early Thursday morning light that I first saw the white edges on the bird's tail – pretty worn, but there it was. A Western Kingbird. My husband got some great photos, many of which captured that white-edged tail beautifully.

That evening, I reported the sighting on e-bird and on Friday morning sent word and a great photo to Rudy Keller, whose name and e-mail I found in my *Baird Ornithological Club* brochure, indicating bird sightings should be reported to him. Friday morning brought an excited reply from Holly Merker, who monitors the e-bird reports for this part of Pennsylvania. From there, news spread and my kingbird quickly became a celebrity. I had no idea one small bird could generate so much excitement.

When I walked down to the kingbird site early Saturday morning, December 30, I was a little surprised by all the activity there. The birders, with their scopes, binoculars, and cameras, had arrived! And the kingbird did not disappoint – that bird loved to pose for cameras!

Over the next 18 days, checking on the bird almost daily, usually in late afternoon, I met lots of great people, birders from all over Pennsylvania. I enjoyed sharing my find and seeing other birders' excitement in seeing the kingbird; some of whom, like me, were seeing the species for the first time. An experience like this brings with it learning, too, and I sure learned a lot about yellow-bellied kingbirds. I'm now hooked up with the PABirds Listserv, which I hadn't previously known about. That led me away from my kingbird one cold morning when I ventured to Lititz to see the Ash-throated Flycatcher, another wayward visitor to Pennsylvania this winter. I learned the name of the *Eunonymous* vine and that the kingbird spat seeds because, accustomed to an insect diet, it was unable to digest the berry seeds. Moreover, I was happy to be able to share with my family that I'm not as nuts as they think. There actually are people out there even crazier than I am about birds, some (and you know who you are) who keep not only one life list but multiple lists for different counties, different years, different moon phases (well, OK, a little joke).

I last saw the Western Kingbird on the afternoon of my birthday, January 11, 2007, which turned out to be the latest date on record for the species in Pennsylvania. On that day it was across the road and a Hermit Thrush was feeding on the *Eunonymous* berries. I like to think the kingbird moved on to a warmer place with food more to its liking, somehow knowing colder weather was on the way; a week later temperatures really dropped and winter finally arrived. No reason not to go out for a bird walk, though. You just never know what you might find! And that's what I love best about birding. Every day brings something new.

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# The 2007 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

## Introduction

The 7th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from January 20 through February 19, 2007 with 151 routes run in 61 of the state's 67 counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines (Grove 2006). All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are also collected on sex/age/color form as applicable.

County-by-county results from 2001-2006 were summarized previously (Grove 2006).

## Effort and Weather

In 2007, 505 hours of observation were recorded, covering 8523 miles, similar to effort expended in the previous three years (Table 3).

The winter of 2006-2007 was mild during December and the first half of January. From December 1 to January 19, the daily average temperatures at State College were at least three degrees above the long-term average on 37 of 50 days. The weather pattern changed dramatically in mid-January. From January 20 through February 28, temperatures were at least three degrees below normal on 26 of 40 days (Accuweather). Despite the cold weather, much of the state had no significant snow fall or snow cover through most of the WRS period with the notable exception of the northwest and the Laurel Highlands, which experienced numerous rounds of lake-effect snow.

## Results from 2007

Raw numbers of each raptor species by county in 2007 are presented in the appendix. The data for most abundant species have been normalized to birds/hour to permit comparisons among years and between counties (see maps).

**Red-tailed Hawks** - As usual, the number of Red-tails in 2007 far exceeded the sum of all other raptors (Table 1). The total of 2218 was second highest in the seven years of Winter Raptor Surveys. The number of Red-tails per hour was 4.39, consistent with values of most previous years (Table 2). Of 1685 Red-tails aged, 179 (11%) were immature, within the range of previous years (9-16%).

Again in 2007, the greatest concentration of Red-tails was in central and south-central counties of the Susquehanna Valley (map). Routes in Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Northumberland, Perry, and Snyder counties averaged over 8.0 Red-tails per hour of observation, the seven highest rates within the state.

**American Kestrels** - In 2007, Kestrels

again ranked as the second most abundant raptor. The total of 511 was the highest yet in seven WRS years, topping the 488 recorded in 2006. The number observed per hour was 1.01, essentially matching the rate in 2006. Of 430 Kestrels sexed, 58% were males, consistent with previous WRS years (range = 59-66%).

As with Red-tails, the greatest concentration of wintering Kestrels was in the central and lower Susquehanna valley (map). Eight counties reported 2.0 or more Kestrels per hour, all in that region (Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union). However, Kestrel counts were relatively low again in southeastern counties, despite the expectation that mild weather conditions there should be conducive to overwintering Kestrels. Collectively, the far southeastern counties (Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Northampton, and Lehigh) had a rate of only 0.29 Kestrels per hour, a total of 18 in the six counties combined.

**Rough-legged Hawks** - In 2007, a total of 87 Rough-legged hawks were recorded, down slightly from the previous season and far below the high count of 341 in 2004. The number of Rough-legs per hour was 0.17, the second lowest rate in the seven WRS years (Table 2).

Considering the warm conditions that prevailed through the first half of the winter, the low number of Rough-legs is perhaps not surprising. The low count on WRS routes reflected a very low number of Rough-legs on Pennsylvania CBC's conducted earlier in the winter (Bolgiano 2007). As the WRS period began, the weather pattern turned intensely cold, but still there was little snow (except in the lake-effect areas) and there was no indication of an immediate response to the cold by Rough-legs moving south. However, on routes run in the latter part of the WRS period, higher numbers of Rough-legs were reported on some routes, suggesting that finally some birds were seeking warmer temperatures or perhaps experiencing prey shortages further north. Several WRS observers unofficially re-ran routes that had been conducted earlier during the survey period, and most indeed reported Rough-legs where none had been seen earlier; for example in Columbia, Schuylkill, Indiana, Berks, and Lancaster.

As seen in the map, Rough-legs were found primarily in northern counties. By far the highest count in 2007 (and second highest ever on a WRS route) was 15 recorded on a Tioga route on Feb. 3. Elsewhere the highest Rough-leg counts were five on routes in Clarion (Feb. 11) and Centre (Mar. 4), and four each on routes in Lycoming (Feb. 4),

Northumberland (Feb. 7), Susquehanna (Jan. 27), and another in Tioga (Feb. 11). Note that none of these counts occurred early in the WRS period.

Among Rough-legs classified by color morph, 65% were light, consistent with the range of previous years (60-71%).

**Northern Harriers** - The number of Harriers recorded in 2007 was 107, the highest yet for the WRS, as was the per hour rate of 0.21; both topping previous highs from 2004 (Tables 1,2). The distribution of Harriers was somewhat similar to that of Red-tails and Kestrels, with most of the best reports coming from the central Susquehanna Valley (map). Two routes, in Northumberland and Montour, had ten Harriers each. Another Northumberland route had five and in Lycoming, three different routes had four Harriers each while routes in Dauphin and Huntingdon had three each. Away from the Susquehanna region, seven Harriers were recorded on a route in Lawrence. The sex and age distribution of Harriers was similar to past years:

Adult males	30
Adult females	42
Immature	25

**Vultures** - The two vulture species had another good year, presumably in response to a winter that was mild for much of the season and lacked substantial snow cover within the winter range of these birds. Black vultures set a new record for the second consecutive year with 542 recorded. Turkey Vultures fell back from the high in 2006, but nevertheless had their second highest WRS total with 1260 recorded (Tables 1,2).

The top three combined vulture counties were Chester, Lancaster, and York, which collectively accounted for 45% of all vultures recorded. Only one vulture was recorded well beyond the bounds of the usual winter range, a single Turkey Vulture in Allegheny County.

**Other raptors** - Numbers of other raptors recorded in 2007 are shown in Table 1. The Sharp-shinned Hawk and Peregrine Falcon totals were the highest thus far, while the three Golden Eagles (McKean, Mifflin, and Warren) matched the previous high.

**Shrikes and Owls** - The seven Northern Shrikes recorded was a new high. Few owls were recorded this year: one Barred Owl, two Great Horned Owls, and one Short-eared Owl.

*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.

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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. For long routes - split into 2 days? AVOID BUSY ROADS as much as possible.  
 Avoid non-maintained backroads that might not be passable some years.

3. Dates: You choose the day: Jan 20 -Feb 11 inclusive.  
 Do the route just one time (at least for "official" report purposes).

4. Time of day: Suggest to center if possible on mid-day.

5. Weather: WAIT FOR GOOD WEATHER: Avoid foggy, windy, rainy, snowy days.

6. Record hours of survey time(to the nearest half-hour) 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. It may be advisable to establish some good (and safe) spots (good vantage points) along your route where you get out scan more thoroughly.

12. Coordinate with others in your county to avoid route duplication.

13. For consistency sake, I will not accept Interstate highway routes.

**Table 1. WRS Species Counts for 2007 and High Counts from 2001-2007.**

Species	2007 Total	High Count
Bald Eagle	58	81 (2006)
Northern Harrier	107	107 (2007)
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	43	43 (2007)
Cooper's Hawk	81	82 (2004)
Northern Goshawk	3	5 (2004)
Red-shouldered Hawk	24	32 (2004)
Red-tailed Hawk	2218	2610 (2005)
Rough-legged Hawk	87	341 (2004)
Golden eagle	3	3 (2003, 2007)
American Kestrel	511	511 (2007)
Merlin	4	5 (2005)
Peregrine Falcon	7	7 (2007)
Black Vulture	542	542 (2007)
Turkey Vulture	1260	1863 (2006)

**Table 2. Birds Observed *per hour* for Selected Species during the 2001-2007 Pennsylvania WRS**

	NOHA	RTHA	RLHA	AMKE	BLVU	TUVU
<b>2001</b>	0.09	4.51	0.17	1.36	0.44	2.09
<b>2002</b>	0.10	4.47	0.07	1.25	0.55	1.68
<b>2003</b>	0.07	3.02	0.25	0.91	0.53	1.28
<b>2004</b>	0.18	4.00	0.66	0.52	0.51	1.84
<b>2005</b>	0.14	5.28	0.40	0.88	0.40	2.02
<b>2006</b>	0.17	4.57	0.19	1.02	1.00	3.90
<b>2007</b>	0.21	4.39	0.17	1.01	1.07	2.50

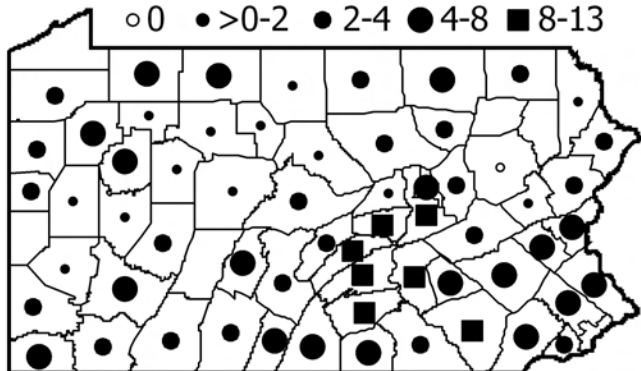
**Table 3. WRS Effort 2001-2007**

	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
<b>2007</b>	505	8523

## 2007 Winter Raptor Survey

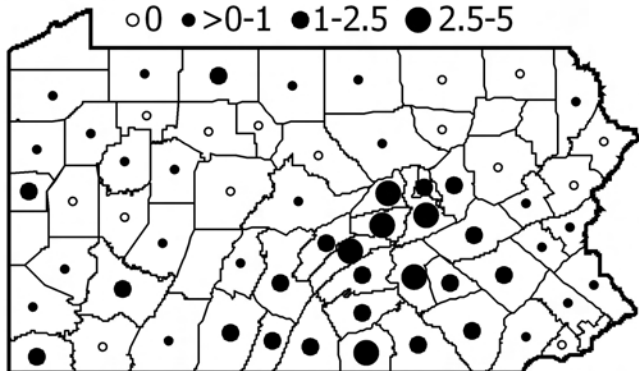
### Red-tailed Hawk/hr

○ 0   ● >0-2   ● 2-4   ● 4-8   ■ 8-13



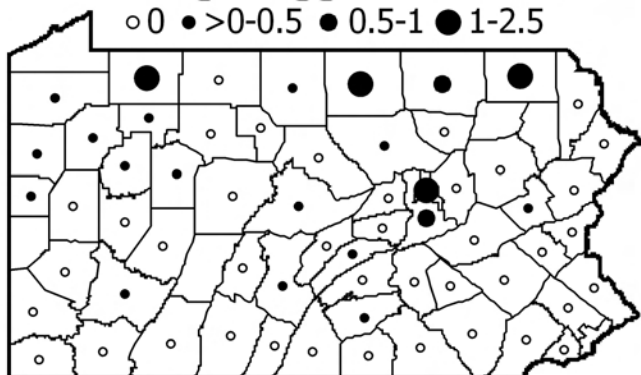
### American Kestrel/hr

○ 0   ● >0-1   ● 1-2.5   ● 2.5-5



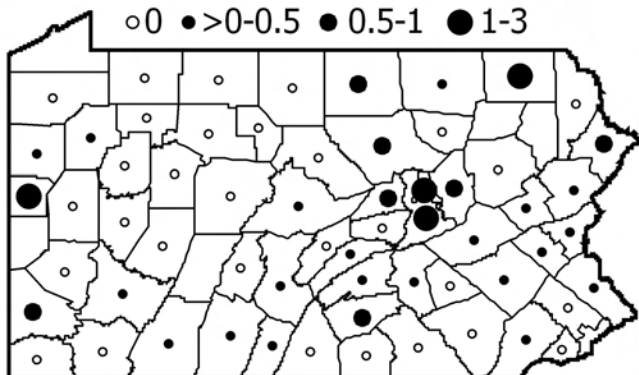
### Rough-legged Hawk/hr

○ 0   ● >0-0.5   ● 0.5-1   ● 1-2.5



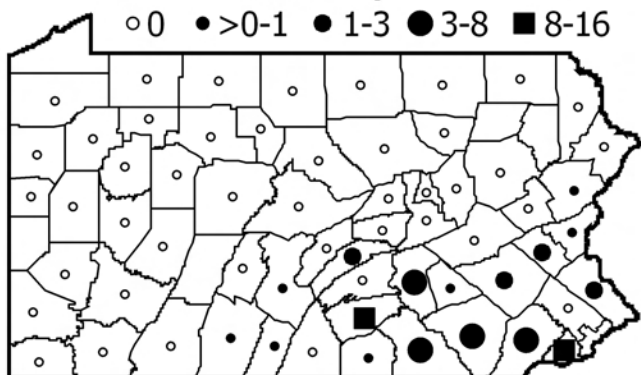
### Northern Harrier/hr

○ 0   ● >0-0.5   ● 0.5-1   ● 1-3



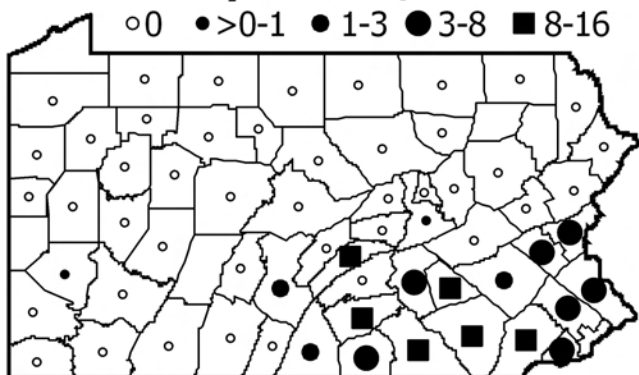
### Black Vulture/hr

○ 0   ● >0-1   ● 1-3   ● 3-8   ■ 8-16



### Turkey Vulture/hr

○ 0   ● >0-1   ● 1-3   ● 3-8   ■ 8-16



## 2007 Winter Raptor Survey Results

	Hrs	miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Adams	5.25	80				1		1	32			14			26	5
Allegheny	2.5	53			1				2			1			1	
Armstrong	3.75	86				1			3							
Beaver	0	0														
Bedford	9.75	163		2		2			25			15				5
Berks	19	258		1		5			101			25	1		52	25
Blair	2.25	33			1				12			2				
Bradford	4	70		1	2				17	2						
Bucks	9.5	114		2	2	1			58			4		2	62	25
Butler	3.5	99							3							
Cambria	0	0														
Cameron	2	70							2							
Carbon	8	183	1	1		1			14	1		1				
Centre	21.75	304		3	1	3			67	7		19				
Chester	15	375		2	1	5		1	107			5			194	56
Clarion	15.5	159	1		2	3			65	7		4				
Clearfield	5.25	137				1			4							
Clinton	4	86							2							
Columbia	4	63		2		3			12			7				
Crawford	3	39	5			1			6	1		1				
Cumberland	4.5	51		3					53	1		10			59	37
Dauphin	7.75	140		3	2	2			87			38			47	58
Delaware	6	142			1				13						37	76
Elk	1.25	44							1							
Erie	0	0														
Fayette	8	175				1		1	16							
Forest	5.25	79	5			1			3	1						
Franklin	14.25	233	1			2	1		77			25	1	1	19	
Fulton	6.25	56		1	1				30			9				2
Greene	10	201				1			48			12				
Huntingdon	13	246	3	6	2	1		4	47	1		16			14	6
Indiana	10.75	200				1			37			9				
Jefferson	24	319			3	5	1	2	32	4		5				
Juniata	11	152	1	2	3	4			121	3		41			113	29

## 2007 Winter Raptor Survey Results

	Hrs	miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV
Lackawana	0	0														
Lancaster	14	202	14		1	6			118			31	1	3	217	60
Lawrence	7	116	1	7		2			18	2		7				
Lebanon	9	130				3			59			14			106	4
Lehigh	13.75	167		1	6	2			86			3	1		52	37
Luzerne	1.5	30							0							
Lycoming	16.5	237	2	15		3			51	8		10				
McKean	4.5	90	2						19		1	5				
Mercer	14	228	2	1	1	2		7	38	2		13				
Mifflin	10.5	167			1	2			33		1	11				
Monroe	9.25	216		3				2	29							3
Montgomery	4.5	53	2			3			30			4			19	
Montour	4	54		10					24	5		6				
Northampton	14	285		1	2	3			63			2		1	54	10
Northumberland	8.25	140	5	15		3			96	8		28			4	
Perry	2.25	21		1					21			3				
Philadelphia	0	0														
Pike	3.5	28	7	2					9							
Potter	11.5	166					1		12	2		1				
Schuylkill	10.25	185		3		1			40			13				
Snyder	6.75	133			1				86			23				
Somerset	10.75	202		2					27			9				
Sullivan	5.5	109							12							
Susquehanna	2	22		3					6	4						
Tiogo	9	172		7	2				21	19		1				
Union	4.75	70		3	1				7			17				
Venango	8	148	2	1	3	1		1	47	1		3				
Warren	5.75	104	2		1			4	29	7	1	1				
Washington	2.25	57		2					8			2				
Wayne	2	59	1						2			1				
Westmoreland	13	246		1	1	1			75	1		19				
Wyoming	0	0														
York	17	276	1		1	4		1	55			21			184	104
<b>Totals</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>8523</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2218</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>542</b>

# Pennsylvania 2006 Bird Lists Report

## Compiled by Peter Robinson

A number of rare species were found in the state that stayed long enough to become additions to state and county life lists. Snowy Owls are always a big attraction, and numerous birders got to see the one that was near Belleville (Mifflin County) from 1/1 to 1/10, then the bird (the same one?) in State College (Center County) from 1/22 until at least 3/17. A White-winged Crossbill visited a feeder periodically in Lutherville (Clearfield County) from 01/02 to 01/07 or later. The Harris's Sparrow that showed up at Oakland Mills (Juniata County) 12/1/05 stayed through the 2006 winter, and was last seen 5/6. A Bullock's Oriole identified 01/04 in Bethlehem (Northampton County) stayed until at least 4/7. The Franklin County Lark Sparrow was found 1/10 near Chambersburg and stayed until 4/3 or longer. An Eared Grebe visited Memorial Lake (Lebanon County) from 2/25 until 3/7. A California Gull that was found 3/23 at Lake Nockamixon (Bucks County) was there only that day and the next, but that was long enough for a number of birders to get there to see it. The state's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher found along the Delaware River in Morrisville (Bucks County) was seen only 6/4 and 6/5, but that was again long enough for many birders to get there to see it. A small farm pond near Pleasantville (Berks County) hosted 4 adult Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks that were found 6/4 – some of them were there and at a nearby pond in Oley until 6/18. For those who did not get to see the Berks birds, another Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was at a small marsh in Lancaster (Lancaster County) from 6/24 until at least 7/6. A Cinnamon Teal at the John Heinz NWR in Philadelphia was reported 6/25 and stayed until 7/2.

Tropical storm Ernesto brought a number of unusual species to the state from 9/3 to 9/6. Almost all of the species were found along the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers: Wilson's Storm-Petrel, American Oystercatcher, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Royal Tern, Arctic Tern, Sooty Tern, and Sandwich Tern. The only other location was Blue Marsh Lake, where a group of about 12 Wilson's Storm-Petrels went by.

In Lehigh County near Macungie a Purple Gallinule was found 10/1 and stayed until 10/14. In York County, a Hudsonian Godwit was at Codorus State Park near Hanover from 10/10 until 10/22, providing close views for many birders. A Lark Sparrow near Pineville (Bucks County) found 10/14 by the home owner, stayed beyond the end of the year. Also in Bucks County, there was a LeConte's Sparrow at Pine Run from 11/24 to at least 11/27. Late December brought a Thayer's and a California Gull to Memorial Lake (Lebanon County). Both an Ash-throated Flycatcher found 12/27 in Lititz (Lancaster County), and a Western Kingbird found 12/29 near Morgantown (Berks County) stayed into the new year.

There are 63 birders now whose Pennsylvania life lists are 300 or more, the same as at the end of 2005. Eighteen birders now have PA life lists of 350 species or more, an increase of four. There are now eight birders above the 300 mark in the PA Life List-Unassisted category — species found by the individual, or seen when found by another person with whom they were birding at the same spot at the same time, but not including "chase" birds. There are 12 County Life Lists of 300 or greater — 2 for Bucks, 2 for Erie, and 8 for Lancaster County, with no additions during 2006. There were two lead changes among the County Life Lists. Geoff Malosh now has the high County Life List for Allegheny County; and Devich Farbotnik has the highest for Bucks County. There were new high County Annual Lists for 2 of the 67 counties — Geoff Malosh's 225 species for Beaver, and Ross Gallardy's 192 for Washington County.

### Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	377	Deuane Hoffman	06	46	311	Bill Etter	06	98	273	Randi Gerrish	03
2	371	Jason Horn	02	50	309	Matt Wlasniewski	05	98	273	Deborah Grove	06
2	371	Barbara Haas	06	50	309	Skip Conant	06	101	272	Scott Kinzey	99
4	370	Rick Wiltraut	06	50	309	David Kyle	06	101	272	Bob Machesney	05
5	366	Dave DeReamus	06	53	308	Robyn Henise	00	103	271	James Flynn	97
5	366	Devich Farbotnik	06	54	307	Ernest Schiefer	00	103	271	Sarah Gerrish	03
7	361	Eric Witmer	06	55	306	Ronald Leberman	03	103	271	Jim Dunn	06
8	360	Franklin Haas	01	56	305	Gene Wilhelm	92	106	270	Gary Edwards	03
9	358	Steve Farbotnik	06	56	305	John Salvetti	06	107	269	Chuck Berthoud	06
10	356	Tom Garner	04	56	305	Mark Vass	06	108	268	David Hawk	05
10	356	Peter Robinson	06	59	303	Chuck Chalfant	06	108	268	Sam Sinderson	05
12	355	Randy C. Miller	06	60	302	Sam Stull	85	110	267	Harry Henderson	91
13	354	John Fedak	06	60	302	Edward Pederson	98	110	267	Scott Bills	03
13	354	Robert Schutsky	06	60	302	Rick Koval	04	112	266	Joe Meloney	94
15	351	Ken Lebo	05	63	300	Larry Lewis	88	113	265	Neil Troyer	04
15	351	Bernard Morris	05	64	299	Keith Richards	82	114	262	Theodore Drozdowski	05
17	350	Jonathan Heller	06	65	298	Roger Higbee	99	115	260	Dennis Miller	99
17	350	Arlene Koch	06	65	298	George Malosh	03	116	259	Linda McWilliams	92
19	349	Al Guarente	06	67	297	Allan Keith	98	116	259	Eugene Zielinski	00
20	346	Jerry Book	00	67	297	Aden Troyer	06	116	259	Marjorie Howard	06
20	346	Joyce Hoffmann	04	69	296	Ed Kwator	96	119	258	Steve Graff	00
22	345	Nick Pulcinella	06	69	296	Mark McConaughy	03	119	258	Jeffrey Wentz	02
23	338	Jan Witmer	97	71	295	Frank Windfelder	98	121	257	Russell Ryan	93
23	338	Richard Colyer	00	71	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	02	122	256	Ted Grisez	96
23	338	Harold Lebo	02	73	294	James Baxter	86	123	255	Jeff Payne	03
26	337	John Miller	97	73	294	Terence Schiefer	99	124	253	Scott Bastian	99
26	337	Fritz Brock	06	73	294	William Reid	01	124	253	Retta Payne	04
28	336	William Stocku	97	76	293	John Peplinski	94	124	253	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	06
29	332	William Murphy	00	76	293	Wayne Laubscher	06	127	250	Stanley Glowacki	02
30	329	Paul Schwalbe	98	79	292	Allen Schweinsberg	06	128	248	Nick Kerlin	06
30	329	Jerry McWilliams	04	80	291	Dave Rieger	03	129	247	Gerry Boltz	06
30	329	Geoff Malosh	06	81	290	Carl Garner	06	130	245	Bill Reddinger	99
33	327	Glenna Schwalbe	98	81	290	David Abbott	98	130	245	Robert Frantz	00
33	327	Steve Santner	99	81	290	Chuck Tague	99	130	245	Carol Hildebrand	06
35	325	Mike Fialkovich	05	83	289	Kevin Crilley	98	133	244	Harvey Troyer	99
36	324	Harry Franzen	96	83	289	Greg Grove	06	134	242	Walter Fye	97
36	324	Bruce Carl	06	85	288	Ross Gallardy	06	134	242	Jerry Troyer	99
36	324	Margaret Higbee	06	86	286	Thomas Reeves	06	134	242	Marvin Byler	05
39	321	Michael Schall	06	87	285	Armas Hill	96	134	242	Martin Page	06
40	319	John Ginaven	98	87	285	Neal Thorpe	97	138	240	Dale Gearhart	00
41	318	Phillips Street	99	87	285	Trudy Kyler	06	138	240	Pamela Fisher	06
42	316	Ronald Leberman	01	90	284	James Gray	83	140	239	Adam Miller	00
43	315	Evelyn Kopf	95	91	283	Kerry Grim	98	141	238	Roy Ickes	99
44	314	Walter Shaffer	99	92	282	John Billings	98	141	238	Chad Kauffman	06
45	313	Harold Morrin	96	92	282	Dick Byers	02	143	235	Glenn Czulada	05
46	311	Dana Shaffer	99	94	278	James Baird	81	144	232	Joe Strasser	94
46	311	Don Henise	00	94	278	Merrill Wood	91	144	232	Voni Strasser	94
46	311	Tom Clauser	05	96	277	Bonnie Baird	81	146	231	Larry Brown	98
				97	274	Gloria Lamar	92	146	231	Jim Mountjoy	00
				98	273	Katrina Knight	99	146	231	Jerry Skinner	05

146	231	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	06
150	226	Eli Troyer	99
150	226	Stan Kotala	01
150	226	Leonard Hess	03
153	224	Arlene Brown	98
154	223	Pamela Woodman	93
154	223	Mike Ward	06
156	222	Linda Hess	03
157	220	Jon Dunn	04
158	219	Ann Pettigrew	96
158	219	Daniel Snell	00
160	213	Richard Murphy	99
160	213	Grant Stevenson	05
162	212	Bill Keim	06
163	210	Gregg Gorton	01
164	206	Benjamin Israel	00
164	206	Dennis Weaver	00
166	205	Jeff Michaels	05
167	200	Fred Crowley	95
168	199	Candy Krenzer	99
169	190	Lewis Grove	00
170	180	Thomas Mason	99
171	178	Helena Kotala	03
172	153	Douglas Anderson	03

**PA Life Lists – Unassisted**  
("Chase" birds not included)

1	322	John Fedak	06
1	322	Deuane Hoffman	06
3	321	Jason Horn	02
4	318	Robert Schutsky	06
5	314	Jerry McWilliams	04
6	306	Eric Witmer	04
7	305	Ronald Leberman	03
7	305	Devich Farbotnik	06
9	297	Jonathan Heller	06
10	292	Peter Robinson	04
11	289	Franklin Haas	00
12	286	Geoff Malosh	06
13	282	Nick Pulcinella	05
14	278	Ken Lebo	05
15	277	Chuck Chalfant	06
16	276	Al Guarente	05
17	275	Skip Conant	01
18	273	Don Henise	00
19	268	Michael Schall	05
20	267	Bill Etter	06
21	266	Mark Vass	06
22	264	David Hawk	04
23	263	Steve Farbotnik	00
24	256	Dave DeReamus	06
25	254	Jeff Payne	04
26	253	Neil Troyer	04
27	250	Retta Payne	04
28	249	Greg Grove	06
29	248	Mark McConaughy	03
30	233	Ross Gallardy	03
31	230	Pamela Fisher	06
32	226	Stan Kotala	01
32	226	Leonard Hess	03
34	222	Linda Hess	03
35	216	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	05
36	212	Jim Mountjoy	00
36	212	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	05
36	212	Grant Stevenson	05
36	212	Martin Page	06
40	207	Gregg Gorton	01
41	206	Benjamin Israel	00
42	205	Dennis Weaver	00
43	199	Bill Keim	06
44	186	John Salvetti	03
45	153	Douglas Anderson	03
46	110	Helena Kotala	01

**PA Annual Lists 2006**

305	Deuane Hoffman
265	Geoff Malosh
258	Devich Farbotnik
257	Mike Weible
251	Peter Robinson
248	Chuck Chalfant
244	Michael Schall
242	Mark Vass
236	Bill Etter
232	Ross Gallardy
230	Jerry McWilliams
223	Mike Fialkovich
221	Chad Kauffman
218	Aden Troyer
211	Al Guarente
204	Pamela Fisher
199	Carl Garner
187	Bill Keim
186	Bob Machesney

180	Skip Conant
160	Dave DeReamus
156	Carol Hildebrand
141	Martin Page
104	Marjorie Howard

**PA Annual List > Personal Best**

313	Deuane Hoffman	1998
306	Robert Schutsky	1992
297	Jason Horn	2000
296	Devich Farbotnik	2002
294	John Fedak	1998
290	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
288	Barbara Haas	1986
288	Franklin Haas	1986
284	Peter Robinson	2002
283	Geoff Malosh	2004
279	Tom Johnson	2005
278	Sam Stull	1979
278	Gene Wilhelm	1983
272	Randy C. Miller	1992
268	Terence Schiefer	1985
267	Jonathan Heller	1992
267	Michael Schall	2002
263	Jerry McWilliams	1983
262	Ken Lebo	1995
262	Walt Shaffer	1999
260	Dana Shaffer	1999
260	Mark Vass	2004
259	Mike Fialkovich	1998
258	Steve Santner	1992
257	Mike Weible	2006
254	Chuck Chalfant	2005
248	Dave Rieger	2001
239	Bill Etter 2001	
239	Rick Koval	2002
238	Ross Gallardy	2005
231	Dave DeReamus	1990
230	Gary Edwards	2000
229	Mark McConaughy	1998
228	Greg Grove	2004
226	Theodore Drozdowski	2005
223	John Salvetti	1996
222	Matt Wlasniewski	1995
220	Al Guarente	1998
210	Carl Garner	1997
209	Neil Troyer	1999
208	Sam Sinderson	1974
208	Gerry Boltz	2003
204	Aden Troyer	1998
204	David Hawk	2002
204	Marvin Byler	2004
204	Pamela Fisher	2006
200	Scott Bills	1996
192	Marjorie Howard	2004
190	Chad Kauffman	2005
187	Bill Keim 2006	
186	John Salvetti	1999
177	Jeff Michaels	2005
174	Carol Hildebrand	2005
170	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
161	Martin Page	2004

**Total Ticks**

(Total Of All County Life Lists)

13,590	Deuane Hoffman	2006
10,122	John Fedak	2006
3,491	Al Guarente	2006
3,153	Greg Grove	2006
3,082	Deborah Grove	2006
2,992	Nick Pulcinella	2006
2,646	Geoff Malosh	2006
2,347	Jim Dunn 2006	
1,732	Sam Sinderson	2005
818	Bill Keim 2006	
797	Pamela Fisher	2006

**County Life Lists**

(100 Or More)

<b>ADAMS</b>		
213	Arthur Kennel	1995
210	Deuane Hoffman	2006
207	Carl Garner	2006
193	Nonie Kennel	1995
182	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
150	Steve Santner	1995
144	Russell Ryan	1993
124	Jeffrey Wentz	2002
108	John Fedak	1998
104	Don Henise	2000

**ALLEGHENY**

258	Geoff Malosh	2006
255	Joyce Hoffmann	2004
255	Mike Fialkovich	2006
246	Mark Vass	2006
224	Bob Machesney	2006
208	Ed Kwater	1996
203	Sam Sinderson	2005
200	Ross Gallardy	2006
190	Deuane Hoffman	2004
188	Scott Kinzey	1999
185	Randi Gerrish	2003
176	Dave Rieger	2003
173	Sarah Gerrish	2003
168	George Malosh	1989
141	Greg Malosh	1991
140	Margaret Higbee	1993
139	John Fedak	2001
138	Roger Higbee	1993
122	Dick Byers	1999
102	Steve Santner	1995

**ARMSTRONG**

239	John Fedak	2000
231	Margaret Higbee	2006
211	Roger Higbee	1999
188	Scott Bastian	1997
185	Steve Graff	2000
181	Deuane Hoffman	2000
175	Bill Reddinger	1999
148	Mark McConaughy	2004
100	Steve Santner	1995

**BEAVER**

238	Geoff Malosh	2006
219	Mark Vass	2006
199	Bill Hintze	2000
171	Deuane Hoffman	1999
168	Nick Kerlin	1996
152	George Malosh	1998
138	Scott Kinzey	1998
124	John Cruzan	1994
113	John Fedak	1998
112	Greg Malosh	1991
108	John Snarey	1997
102	Steve Santner	1995

**BEDFORD**

227	Deuane Hoffman	2006
219	Ross Gallardy	2006
152	John Fedak	2000
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
122	Steve Santner	1995
121	Richard Murphy	1999
114	Deb Grove	2005
111	Dick Byers	2003
109	Greg Grove	2006
102	Randi Gerrish	1999
102	Sarah Gerrish	1999

**BERKS**

298	Ken Lebo	2006
287	Jason Horn	2002
286	Harold Lebo	2002
283	Matt Wlasniewski	2005
276	Deuane Hoffman	2006
275	Kerry Grim	1998
253	Ernest Schiefer	1999
253	Tom Clauser	2005
221	Bernard Morris	2005
207	Barbara Haas	1999
206	Terence Schiefer	2003
192	Larry Lewis	1988
180	Al Guarente	2006
174	Steve Santner	1995
170	Randy C. Miller	2002
168	Nick Pulcinella	2006
162	Jonathan Heller	2001
151	Bruce Carl	2005
149	Kevin Crilley	1998
145	Steve Farbotnik	2001
139	Scott Bills	1992
135	John Fedak	1999
111	Devich Farbotnik	2006

**BLAIR**

221	Stan Kotala	2001
180	David Kyler	1996
160	Deuane Hoffman	2000
123	Helena Kotala	2002
104	John Fedak	1998
103	Steve Santner	1995
103	Deb Grove	2005
103	Greg Grove	2006

**BRADFORD**

230	William Reid	2001
194	Ronald Young	1993
168	Frances Biles	1985
152	Randy C. Miller	2006

150	Deuane Hoffman	2003	CHESTER	288	Larry Lewis	1988	DAUPHIN	284	Deuane Hoffman	2006	141	Don Henise	1997	
133	J. Kenneth Gabler	2003		261	Nick Pulcinella	2006		235	Grace Randolph	1998	130	Steve Santner	1995	
129	Rick Koval	2004		253	Chuck Chalfant	2006		243	Scott Bills	2003	114	John Fedak	1998	
111	John Fedak	2002		252	Barbara Haas	1996		238	Mark McConaughy	1998	FULTON			
105	Barbara Haas	1993		246	Phillips Street	1996		219	Steve Santner	1996	205	J. Kenneth Gabler	2000	
102	Steve Santner	1995		243	John Ginaven	1998		202	Chuck Berthoud	1999	200	Daniel Snell	2000	
BUCKS				236	Deuane Hoffman	2006		211	Richard Colyer	2005	194	Daniel Snell	1997	
319	Devich Farbotnik	2006		235	Al Guarente	2006		175	Don Henise	2000	192	Deuane Hoffman	2006	
316	Steve Farbotnik	2006		231	Theodore Drozdowski	2005		156	John Fedak	2002	152	Jeffrey Walck	1989	
294	Bill Etter 2006			209	Joe Meloney	1994		145	Randy C. Miller	2006	119	Steve Santner	1995	
290	Jason Horn	2002		205	Jason Horn	2002		140	Jonathan Heller	2003	118	Robert Walker	1989	
256	Deuane Hoffman	2006		193	Martin Page	2006		128	William Reid	2001	115	Dale Gearhart	2000	
251	William Murphy	2000		167	Neal Thorpe	1995		127	Merrill Wood	1991	108	John Fedak	2001	
239	Thomas Ford-Hutch.	2006		158	Steve Santner	1995		124	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	GREENE			
228	Stanley Glowacki	2002		130	Pamela Fisher	2006		289	John Miller	1985	194	Ralph Bell	1993	
216	Anthony Ford-Hutch.	2006		126	Bruce Carl	2005		274	Al Guarente	2006	188	Marjorie Howard	2006	
215	Harry Franzen	1996		122	Jonathan Heller	2002		271	Nick Pulcinella	2006	162	Deuane Hoffman	2001	
202	Stan Glowacki	1991		121	Bill Keim 2006			257	Skip Conant	2006	134	Roy Ickes	1996	
199	Bill Keim 2006			116	Randy C. Miller	2006		256	Barbara Haas	2000	109	Steve Santner	1995	
178	Bernard Morris	2005		115	Thomas Reeves	2004		249	Thomas Reeves	2003	109	John Fedak	2001	
160	Nick Pulcinella	2006		111	John Fedak	2004		226	Paul Schwalbe	1998	103	Sam Sinderson	2000	
157	Kevin Crilley	1998		CLARION					224	John Ginaven	1999	101	Mark McConaughy	2003
156	Al Guarente	2006		255	John Fedak	2001		209	Deuane Hoffman	1999	HUNTINGDON			
151	John Fedak	2005		229	Walter Fye	1997		151	Jason Horn	1995	244	David Kyler	2004	
146	Michael Schall	2004		210	Deuane Hoffman	2004		136	Martin Page	2006	240	Greg Grove	2004	
129	Barbara Haas	2000		200	Margaret Buckwalter	1996		130	Steve Santner	1995	232	Trudy Kyler	2005	
121	Steve Santner	1995		181	Gene Wilhelm	1992		119	John Fedak	2001	226	Deb Grove	2004	
114	Jonathan Heller	2006		163	Bill Reddinger	1999		ELK				200	Jim Dunn	2006
111	Thomas Mason	1999		152	Mark McConaughy	2003		198	John Fedak	2006	196	Deuane Hoffman	2006	
103	Rick Koval	2004		150	Fred Crowley	1995		183	Linda Christenson	1997	181	Merrill Wood	1991	
BUTLER				104	Steve Santner	1995		165	Deuane Hoffman	2005	178	John Salvetti	2003	
267	Gene Wilhelm	1992		CLEARFIELD					105	Steve Santner	1995	171	Lewis Grove	2000
203	Margaret Higbee	2004		186	John Fedak	2005		ERIE				155	Eugene Zielinski	1998
202	Deuane Hoffman	2000		181	Deuane Hoffman	2006		317	Jerry McWilliams	2004	122	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	
199	Dick Byers	2005		154	Eugene Zielinski	2000		305	Donald Snyder	2002	106	John Fedak	1998	
191	Bob Machesney	2005		114	Paul Schwalbe	1998		291	Sam Stull	1985	104	Steve Santner	1995	
169	John Fedak	2000		100	Steve Santner	1995		289	Joyce Hoffmann	2002	INDIANA			
166	Ed Kwater	1996		CLINTON					289	Deuane Hoffman	2001	276	Margaret Higbee	2006
165	George Malosh	1989		248	Paul Schwalbe	2004		277	John Fedak	2005	245	Roger Higbee	1999	
155	Randi Gerrish	2003		209	Wayne Laubscher	2006		274	Ed Kwater	1996	233	Gloria Lamer	1992	
151	Geoff Malosh	2006		195	Deuane Hoffman	2006		273	Geoff Malosh	2006	232	Steve Graff	2000	
146	Sarah Gerrish	2003		189	Carol Hildebrand	2006		268	James Flynn	1997	203	Deuane Hoffman	2004	
144	Sam Sinderson	2002		143	Greg Grove	2006		264	Mike Fialkovich	2005	195	Anne Hedgpeth	1986	
119	Greg Malosh	1991		121	John Fedak	2000		263	Ronald Leberman	2001	193	Leonard Hess	2003	
119	Roger Higbee	1993		120	Deborah Grove	2006		257	Jason Horn	2002	185	Linda Hess	2003	
100	Steve Santner	1995		101	Steve Santner	1995		253	Linda McWilliams	1992	184	John Fedak	2001	
CAMBRIA				COLUMBIA					253	Margaret Higbee	2004	177	Mark McConaughy	2004
228	John Salvetti	2006		180	Deuane Hoffman	2006		249	Barbara Haas	1996	173	Randi Gerrish	2003	
177	Deuane Hoffman	2003		133	John Fedak	2005		237	Roger Higbee	1999	137	Sarah Gerrish	2003	
161	Gloria Lamer	1992		115	Richard Koval	1999		236	George Malosh	1989	118	Ross Gallardy	2003	
161	Ross Gallardy	2006		104	Rick Koval	2004		235	Sam Sinderson	2005	118	Steve Santner	1995	
131	John Fedak	1998		100	Steve Santner	1995		233	Gene Wilhelm	1992	104	Bill Reddinger	1999	
103	Steve Santner	1995		CRAWFORD					231	Dave Rieger	2003	JEFFERSON		
CAMERON				285	Ronald Leberman	2003		224	Randy C. Miller	2002	225	John Fedak	2000	
151	Deuane Hoffman	2000		244	Deuane Hoffman	2004		223	Bob Machesney	2003	172	Deuane Hoffman	1998	
128	John Fedak	2005		224	Margaret Higbee	2004		221	Richard Colyer	2000	105	Bill Reddinger	1999	
105	Steve Santner	1995		219	Marvin Byler	2005		217	Greg Malosh	1991	104	Steve Santner	1995	
CARBON				218	John Fedak	2005		208	Steve Santner	1995	JUNIATA			
252	David Hawk	2005		211	Sam Sinderson	2002		204	Jonathan Heller	2002	248	Aden Troyer	2006	
245	Rick Wiltraut	1998		210	Geoff Malosh	2006		197	Terence Schiefer	1998	234	Deuane Hoffman	2006	
227	Jason Horn	2002		208	Roger Higbee	1999		180	Don Henise	2000	175	Chad Kauffman	2006	
206	Bernard Morris	1998		201	Gene Wilhelm	1992		179	Randi Gerrish	2003	143	John Fedak	2006	
205	Deuane Hoffman	1999		164	Ed Kwater	1996		178	Bernard Morris	1998	118	Jonathan Heller	2002	
203	Michael Schall	2006		150	Greg Malosh	1991		176	Marjorie Howard	2006	109	Greg Grove	2005	
202	Robert Frantz	2000		146	Randi Garrish	2003		148	Greg Grove	2005	108	Steve Santner	1995	
158	Nick Kerlin	2003		146	Sarah Garrish	2003		146	J. Kenneth Gabler	1999	106	Deb Grove	2006	
128	John Fedak	2005		124	George Malosh	1989		144	Steve Graff	2000	LACKAWANNA			
115	Steve Santner	1995		123	James Flynn	1997		139	Rick Koval	2004	199	Glenn Czulada	2005	
104	Rick Koval	2004		117	Randy C. Miller	1998		110	Bill Reddinger	1999	172	Deuane Hoffman	2003	
102	Al Guarente	2002		116	Dick Byers	2003		100	Ross Gallardy	2004	169	Rick Koval	2004	
100	Randy C. Miller	2006		112	Steve Santner	1995		FAYETTE				158	William Reid	2001
CENTRE				107	Jonathan Heller	1998		170	Mark McConaughy	2004	136	John Fedak	2002	
272	Merrill Wood	1991		103	Don Henise	2000		126	John Fedak	2005	103	Steve Santner	1995	
263	Harry Henderson	1991		102	Terence Schiefer	1998		125	Randi Gerrish	2003	LANCASTER			
251	Jim Dunn	2006		100	Bill Reddinger	1999		120	Sarah Gerrish	2003	322	Randy C. Miller	2006	
245	Rick Wiltraut	1998		CUMBERLAND					119	Steve Santner	1995	322	Eric Witmer	2006
245	Deuane Hoffman	2006		272	Deuane Hoffman	2004		111	Ed Kwater	1996	319	Tom Garner	2004	
244	Terence Schiefer	1998		261	Don Henise	2000		FOREST				318	Deuane Hoffman	2006
243	Greg Grove	2006		259	Robyn Henise	2000		188	John Fedak	2005	314	Robert Schutsky	2005	
232	Eugene Zielinski	2000		247	Richard Colyer	1999		183	Deuane Hoffman	2006	309	Jonathan Heller	2006	
218	Scott Bills	1992		204	Carl Garner	2006		141	Ted Grisez	1996	307	Bruce Carl	2006	
213	Jeff Michaels	2005		197	Steve Santner	1995		108	Steve Santner	1995	306	Jerry Book	2000	
203	Jeff Michaels	2005		176	George Wertz, Jr.	1986		FRANKLIN				294	Barbara Haas	2000
199	Deb Grove	2006		170	Mark McConaughy	2002		269	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002	292	Jan Witmer	1997	
184	Paul Schwalbe	1998		165	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002		266	Carl Garner	2006	291	Harold Morrin	1996	
184	John Fedak	2005		154	John Fedak	1998		215	Dale Gearhart	2000	288	Jason Horn	2002	
162	Russ Ruffing	1991		125	Jonathan Heller	2001		213	Jeffrey Walck	1989	283	Chuck Chalfant	2006	
150	Nick Kerlin	2004		125	Chad Kauffman	2006		213	Deuane Hoffman	2006	274	Steve Santner	1995	
145	Steve Santner	1995		121	Randy C. Miller	2002						240	Larry Lewis	1988
145	Kevin Crilley	1998										230	Al Guarente	2006
127	Barbara Haas	1999												
125	Jonathan Heller	2003												
123	Randy C. Miller	2006												



**County Annual Lists**

(Top 10 of 100 Or More)

<b>ADAMS</b>							
201	Arthur Kennell	1992					
144	Deuane Hoffman	2001					
140	Carl Garner	1991					
137	Carl Garner	1998					
126	Carl Garner	1999					
114	Carl Garner	2006					
109	Carl Garner	2005					
105	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
105	J. Kenneth Gabler	2000					
101	J. Kenneth Gabler	2001					
<b>ALLEGHENY</b>							
233	Geoff Malosh	2005					
227	Geoff Malosh	2004					
221	Mark Vass	2005					
210	Mark Vass	2004					
190	Geoff Malosh	2003					
190	Mark Vass	2006					
180	Geoff Malosh	2006					
167	Scott Kinzey	1998					
164	Scott Kinzey	1999					
163	Bob Machesney	1996					
<b>ARMSTRONG</b>							
201	John Fedak	1997					
177	Scott Bastian	1996					
152	Margaret Higbee	1993					
141	Steve Graff	2000					
133	Bill Reddinger	1998					
116	Bill Reddinger	1999					
113	Mark McConaughy	1998					
113	Mark McConaughy	2004					
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
110	Steve Graff	1998					
<b>BEAVER</b>							
225	Geoff Malosh	2006					
202	Mark Vass	2005					
202	Mark Vass	2006					
186	Bill Hintze	1999					
168	Geoff Malosh	2005					
161	Bill Hintze	2000					
124	John Cruzan	1994					
117	Deuane Hoffman	1999					
110	George Malosh	1974					
109	Geoff Malosh	2003					
<b>BEDFORD</b>							
223	Sally Dick	1997					
221	Tom Dick	1997					
155	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
<b>BERKS</b>							
252	Ken Lebo	1995					
240	Ken Lebo	1999					
236	Ken Lebo	1997					
229	Ken Lebo	1996					
219	Ken Lebo	1998					
217	Matt Wasniewski	2003					
215	Matt Wasniewski	1999					
211	Ken Lebo	2005					
210	Matt Wasniewski	1998					
210	Matt Wasniewski	2001					
210	Matt Wasniewski	2005					
<b>BLAIR</b>							
143	Beryl Sternagle	1995					
141	Beryl Sternagle	2000					
126	Beryl Sternagle	1990					
121	Beryl Sternagle	1989					
<b>BRADFORD</b>							
147	Ronald Young	1993					
146	Ronald Young	1992					
141	William Reid	1999					
128	William Reid	2001					
102	Deuane Hoffman	1996					
<b>BUCKS</b>							
277	Devich Farbotnik	2002					
253	Devich Farbotnik	2001					
248	Devich Farbotnik	2004					
247	Devich Farbotnik	2000					
246	Devich Farbotnik	2006					
245	Devich Farbotnik	2003					
234	Devich Farbotnik	2005					
232	Bill Etter	2003					
231	Bill Etter	2002					
230	Bill Etter	2001					
225	Bill Etter	2004					
224	Steve Farbotnik	1992					
<b>BUTLER</b>							
245	Gene Wilhelm	1983					
229	Gene Wilhelm	1985					
225	Gene Wilhelm	1982					
222	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
<b>CAMBRIA</b>							
177	John Salvetti	1992					
175	John Salvetti	1997					
174	John Salvetti	1995					
171	John Salvetti	1999					
165	John Salvetti	1998					
161	John Salvetti	2002					
<b>CAMERON</b>							
119	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
<b>CARBON</b>							
204	David Hawk	2002					
201	David Hawk	2003					
192	Michael Schall	2005					
187	David Hawk	2004					
183	David Hawk	2000					
182	David Hawk	1999					
182	David Hawk	2001					
181	David Hawk	2005					
162	David Hawk	1996					
155	David Hawk	1998					
152	Robert Frantz	1999					
145	Robert Frantz	1995					
145	Robert Frantz	1998					
<b>CENTRE</b>							
224	Terence Schiefer	1985					
221	Molly Heath	2003					
214	Terence Schiefer	1986					
211	Terence Schiefer	1984					
201	Jim Dunn	2003					
200	Greg Grove	2006					
172	Jeff Michaels	2005					
170	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
158	Nick Kerlin	2005					
141	Nick Kerlin	2006					
<b>CHESTER</b>							
225	Larry Lewis	1988					
221	Larry Lewis	1983					
219	Larry Lewis	1986					
217	Chuck Chalfant	2006					
200	Theodore Drozdowski	2005					
197	Nick Pulcinella	2004					
194	Nick Pulcinella	2006					
192	Nick Pulcinella	2005					
188	Theodore Drozdowski	2002					
174	Theodore Drozdowski	2001					
<b>CLARION</b>							
231	John Fedak	1998					
223	John Fedak	2000					
219	John Fedak	1996					
213	John Fedak	1997					
208	John Fedak	1999					
188	John Fedak	2001					
152	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
119	Mark McConaughy	1999					
115	Bill Reddinger	1999					
<b>CLEARFIELD</b>							
155	John Fedak	1997					
102	Deuane Hoffman	1997					
<b>CLINTON</b>							
157	Carol Hildebrand	2005					
143	Carol Hildebrand	2004					
142	Carol Hildebrand	2006					
133	Deuane Hoffman	2005					
125	Greg Grove	2005					
117	Deuane Hoffman	2000					
115	Deuane Hoffman	1999					
<b>COLUMBIA</b>							
117	Deuane Hoffman	1997					
112	John Fedak	1997					
111	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
<b>CRAWFORD</b>							
208	Ronald Leberman	1994					
202	Ronald Leberman	1989					
201	Gene Wilhelm	1992					
196	Ronald Leberman	2000					
188	Ronald Leberman	2003					
180	Marvin Byler	2000					
180	Marvin Byler	2004					
178	Marvin Byler	2005					
174	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
172	Marvin Byler	2001					
<b>CUMBERLAND</b>							
227	Deuane Hoffman	1989					
226	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
225	Deuane Hoffman	1992					
221	Deuane Hoffman	2000					
219	Deuane Hoffman	1999					
217	Deuane Hoffman	2005					
210	Deuane Hoffman	2006					
206	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
205	Deuane Hoffman	2005					
197	Carl Garner	1997					
196	Carl Garner	1998					
<b>DAUPHIN</b>							
251	Deuane Hoffman	2005					
246	Deuane Hoffman	2003					
242	Deuane Hoffman	2006					
234	Deuane Hoffman	1997					
231	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
230	Deuane Hoffman	2000					
229	Deuane Hoffman	1996					
226	Deuane Hoffman	2001					
224	Deuane Hoffman	1999					
210	Grace Randolph	1998					
<b>DELAWARE</b>							
241	John Miller	1969					
211	Al Guarente	1996					
209	Al Guarente	1998					
206	Al Guraente	1997					
205	Al Guraente	1995					
203	Al Guarente	2005					
184	Al Guarente	1999					
183	Al Guarente	2002					
182	Al Guraente	2000					
179	Al Guraente	2004					
<b>ELK</b>							
116	John Fedak	1997					
113	Deuane Hoffman	1996					
<b>ERIE</b>							
264	Sam Stull	1979					
256	Jerry McWilliams	1992					
252	Jerry McWilliams	1991					
251	Jerry McWilliams	1983					
251	Jerry McWilliams	1988					
251	Jerry McWilliams	2004					
248	Jerry McWilliams	1989					
246	Jerry McWilliams	1993					
245	Jerry McWilliams	1996					
244	Jerry McWilliams	1985					
<b>FAYETTE</b>							
145	Mark McConaughy	2000					
112	Mark McConaughy	1998					
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
<b>FOREST</b>							
144	April Walters	1993					
143	Richard Walters	1993					
138	Deuane Hoffman	2005					
132	John Fedak	1997					
<b>FRANKLIN</b>							
215	Dale Gearhart	1999					
185	Carl Garner	1997					
182	Carl Garner	2004					
180	Carl Garner	1993					
180	Carl Garner	1994					
178	Carl Garner	1999					
174	Carl Garner	1998					
171	Carl Garner	2006					
166	Carl Garner	2005					
156	Kenneth Gabler	1999					
156	Dale Gearhart	2000					
<b>FULTON</b>							
173	Daniel Snell	1997					
128	Deuane Hoffman	1996					
120	Deuane Hoffman	2001					
115	Kenneth Gabler	1988					
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998					
108	Kenneth Gabler	2000					
<b>GREENE</b>							
137	Ralph Bell	1985					

119	Deuane Hoffman	1996	224	Deuane Hoffman	2003	SOMERSET				204	John Fedak	2003
	MERCER		157	Deuane Hoffman	1999	222	Scott Bastian	1999		201	John Fedak	2002
213	Harvey Troyer	1999	147	Deuane Hoffman	1998	219	Jeff Payne	2002		165	Ted Grisez	1992
212	Jerry Troyer	1999	144	Deuane Hoffman	1997	218	Jeff Payne	2003		152	Ted Grisez	1985
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992	128	John Fedak	1997	216	Jeff Payne	1996		141	John Fedak	2001
210	Neil Troyer	1999		PERRY		216	Retta Payne	1996		117	John Fedak	1997
192	Neil Troyer	1997	202	Richard Colyer	1997	208	Scott Bastian	1994			WASHINGTON	
192	Eli Troyer	1999	199	Deuane Hoffman	1995	206	Jeff Payne	1999		192	Ross Gallardy	2006
190	Neil Troyer	2001	193	Deuane Hoffman	1996	202	Jeff Payne	2004		134	Russ Ruffing	1985
190	Neil Troyer	2002	188	Deuane Hoffman	1998	199	Christopher Payne	2006		132	Roy Ickes	1984
186	Neil Troyer	1998	185	Deuane Hoffman	2005	178	Christopher Payne	2004		100	George Malosh	1975
185	Neil Troyer	2004	184	Deuane Hoffman	2000		SULLIVAN			100	Geoff Malosh	1999
	MIFFLIN		179	Deuane Hoffman	1999	140	Nick Kerlin	1999			WAYNE	
164	Greg Grove	2005	171	Deuane Hoffman	2001	130	Nick Kerlin	1995		127	Deuane Hoffman	1997
160	Deuane Hoffman	1998		PHILADELPHIA		125	Skip Conant	1995		121	John Fedak	1997
155	Deuane Hoffman	2000	225	John Miller	1965	124	Nick Kerlin	1997		112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
128	Greg Grove	2003	208	Edward Fingerhood	1996	123	Skip Conant	1999			WESTMORELAND	
126	Deuane Hoffman	1997	162	Al Guarente	1992	121	Skip Conant	2000		190	Mark McConaughy	1999
113	Deuane Hoffman	1996	135	Skip Conant	1999	118	Skip Conant	1998		179	Mark McConaughy	2000
100	Jim Dunn	2005	133	Skip Conant	1998	114	Skip Conant	2001		175	Mark McConaughy	2002
	MONROE		132	Skip Conant	2000	114	Skip Conant	2002		167	Mark McConaughy	2003
160	Michael Schall	2003	127	Deuane Hoffman	1998	113	Nick Kerlin	1998		163	Mark McConaughy	1998
103	Deuane Hoffman	1999	120	Skip Conant	2001		SUSQUEHANNA			163	Mark McConaughy	2001
101	Deuane Hoffman	1998	116	Skip Conant	2003	170	Jerry Skinner	2003		138	Mark McConaughy	2004
	MONTGOMERY		103	Skip Conant	2002	157	Jerry Skinner	2004			WYOMING	
153	Michael Schall	2004		PIKE		153	Jerry Skinner	2005		196	William Reid	1999
151	Deuane Hoffman	1999	123	Michael Schall	2002	145	Jerry Skinner	1999		193	William Reid	1993
140	Deuane Hoffman	1998	112	Deuane Hoffman	1999	109	Deuane Hoffman	1997		188	William Reid	2001
132	Deuane Hoffman	1997	109	Deuane Hoffman	2000	109	William Reid	2001		181	William Reid	1994
126	John Fedak	1997		POTTER		107	William Reid	1999		134	Richard Koval	1994
113	Michael Schall	2002	169	Chuck Chalfant	2004	105	Deuane Hoffman	1996		122	Richard Koval	1999
	MONTOUR		160	David Hauber	1992	103	John Fedak	1997		105	Skip Conant	2000
143	Deuane Hoffman	2000	160	David Hauber	1999	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998		102	Skip Conant	1998
133	Deuane Hoffman	2005	160	David Hauber	1999		TIOGA			101	Skip Conant	2001
126	John Fedak	1997	157	David Hauber	1993	197	Benjamin Israel	2000			YORK	
115	Deuane Hoffman	1997		SCHUYLKILL		174	Larry Brown	1998		219	Bruce Fortman	1999
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998	225	Tom Clauser	2005	167	Larry Brown	1992		214	Deuane Hoffman	1999
	NORTHAMPTON		215	Tom Clauser	2004	163	Benjamin Israel	1999		202	Deuane Hoffman	2001
236	Michael Schall	2003	212	Tom Clauser	1999	160	Arlene Brown	1992		196	Russell Ryan	1992
231	Michael Schall	2004	210	Tom Clauser	2001	142	Arlene Brown	1998		191	Randy Phillips	1999
210	Adam Miller	2000	210	Tom Clauser	2002	122	Deuane Hoffman	1998		190	Deuane Hoffman	2005
209	Michael Schall	2006	209	Tom Clauser	1996		UNION			189	Deuane Hoffman	2000
206	Michael Schall	2002	208	Tom Clauser	1997	171	Deuane Hoffman	2004		182	Deuane Hoffman	1998
203	Michael Schall	2000	208	Tom Clauser	2000	121	Deuane Hoffman	1999		178	Russell Ryan	1991
203	Michael Schall	2005	203	Tom Clauser	2003	102	Deuane Hoffman	1998		153	Candy Krenzer	1999
202	Michael Schall	2001	191	Tom Clauser	1987		VENANGO					
189	Dave DeReamus	1990		SNYDER		221	Gary Edwards	2000				
186	Adam Miller	1999	177	Deuane Hoffman	1998	207	Gary Edwards	1995				
	NORTHUMBERLAND		175	Deuane Hoffman	1996	194	Gary Edwards	1991				
227	Deuane Hoffman	2005	172	Deuane Hoffman	1997	192	Russ States	1991				
			158	Deuane Hoffman	2000	113	Deuane Hoffman	1998				

### County Life Lists (Top 50)

1	322	Lancaster	Randy Miller	2006
1	322	Lancaster	Eric Witmer	2006
3	319	Lancaster	Tom Garner	2004
3	319	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
5	318	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2006
6	317	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
7	316	Bucks	Steve Farbotnik	2006
8	314	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	2005
9	309	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	2006
10	307	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	2006
11	306	Lancaster	Jerry Book	2000
12	305	Erie	Donald Snyder	2002
13	298	Berks	Ken Lebo	2006
14	294	Lancaster	Barbara Haas	2000
14	294	Bucks	Bill Etter	2006
16	292	Lancaster	Jan Witmer	1997
17	291	Erie	Sam Stull	1985
17	291	Lancaster	Harold Morrin	1996
17	291	Erie	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
20	290	Philadelphia	John Miller	1985
20	290	Bucks	Jason Horn	2002
22	289	Delaware	John Miller	1985
22	289	Erie	Deuane Hoffman	2001
24	288	Lancaster	Jason Horn	2002
25	287	Berks	Jason Horn	2002
25	287	Northampton	Arlene Koch	2006
27	286	Berks	Harold Lebo	2002
28	285	Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2003
29	284	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2006
30	283	Berks	Matt Wlasniewski	2005
30	283	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2006
32	281	Lebanon	Randy Miller	2006
33	280	Luzerne	William Reid	2001
34	277	Erie	John Fedak	2005
35	275	Berks	Kerry Grim	1998
35	275	Montgomery	Jason Horn	2002
37	276	Indiana	Margaret Higbee	2006
37	276	Berks	Deuane Hoffman	2006

39	274	Lancaster	Steve Santner	1995
39	274	Erie	Ed Kwater	1996
39	274	Northampton	Dave DeReamus	2006
39	274	Delaware	Al Guarente	2006
43	273	Erie	Geoff Malosh	2006
44	272	Centre	Merrill Wood	1991
44	272	Cumberland	Deuane Hoffman	2004
44	272	York	Deuane Hoffman	2006
47	271	Lehigh	Jason Horn	2002
47	271	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	2006
49	269	Northampton	Rick Wiltraut	1998
49	269	Franklin	Kenneth Gabler	2002
49	269	Northampton	Michael Schall	2005
49	269	Lehigh	Fritz Brock	2006

### County Annual Lists (Top 50)

1	277	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
2	268	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2000
2	268	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2006
4	264	Erie	Sam Stull	1979
5	258	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2005
6	256	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
7	255	Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
8	253	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
9	252	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
9	252	Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
11	251	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
11	251	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
11	251	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
11	251	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2005
15	249	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
16	248	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
16	248	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
18	247	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
19	246	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
19	246	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2003
19	246	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006

22	245	Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
22	245	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
22	245	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
25	244	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985
26	243	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
26	243	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
28	242	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
28	242	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2001
28	242	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2006
31	241	Delaware	John Miller	1969
32	240	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
32	240	Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
32	240	Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
35	239	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1993
35	239	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1994
35	239	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2001
38	238	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1990
38	238	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1999
40	237	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1995
40	237	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2000
42	236	Lancaster	Randy Miller	1991
42	236	Berks	Ken Lebo	1997
42	236	Northampton	Michael Schall	2003
45	235	Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	1998
46	234	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1980
46	234	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1982
46	234	Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1987
46	234	Erie	Ed Kwater	1989
46	234	Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1991
46	234	Lancaster	Randy Miller	1992
46	234	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	1997
46	234	Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2005

# Summary of the Season – Dec 2006 through Feb 2007

Greg Grove

The winter of 2006-2007 came in two parts, with unseasonable warmth till mid-January, followed by an abrupt shift to an extended period of bitter cold. The temperature contrast is amply summarized with statistics for State College from Accu Weather. From December 1 through January 20 there 41 days *above* normal and 8 *below* normal. However, from January 21 through February 28, there were only 11 days *above* normal and 28 days *below* normal. For most of the state, snow was not a big issue this year, even after the onset of cold. The exception was the “lake effect” areas in the northwest and the Laurel Highlands, which had abundant snow, even before temperatures plummeted in mid-January.

The long-lingering mild weather presumably was responsible for the good variety and numbers of lingering waterfowl and the usual half-hardy species. It was also a good season for Pennsylvania’s gull fanatics.

The bird of the season was undoubtedly the **Scott’s Oriole**, a first state record, found in *Cumberland* in February. Other outstanding rarities were **American White Pelican**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Townsend’s Solitaire**, **Painted Bunting**, and **Lark Sparrow**.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** and **Ross’s Goose** were reported in 8 and 6 counties respectively. While still rarities of course, these two species nevertheless continue a trend of increased reports in the state. Perhaps less common as a winter bird, **Brant** were found in 4 counties. **Barnacle Geese** were found in *Bucks* and *Montour* but this species is not on Pennsylvania’s official bird list because of uncertain origin.

Ducks were well represented. The outstanding individual was probably the **King Eider** that flew past Sunset Point at Presque Isle 12/23. But more spectacular from *Erie* were the 3,295 **Long-tailed Ducks** tallied 12/2. All three scoter species were recorded, with **White-winged** found in 8 counties. The sudden shift to cold weather caused some shifts in the waterfowl scene. Some lingerers were forced to finally move south, but others arrived from places even colder. For example in *Bucks*, **Common Mergansers** were described as “well below normal” before the cold onset, but afterwards numbers increased, with a peak of over 1300 at Peace Valley 1/27. Among the dabblers,

perhaps most rare in winter is **Blue-winged Teal**, this year found in *Cumberland*, *Lawrence*, and *Washington*.

**Red-necked Grebes** staged a mild invasion of the state. From the county reports, I tallied at least 23 birds from 10 counties. Most of these reports were after the onset of cold weather beginning January 21, suggesting they may have been pushed by cold and freezing conditions off the Great Lakes where they are thought to winter when conditions permit. **Common Loons** were widespread while **Red-throated Loons** were found in 5 counties, all but one during early and mid-December.

A December **American White Pelican** in *Montgomery* provided a first county record. Cormorants of both species continue to do well in the state; as an example, the Southern Bucks CBC set record highs for both. Among unusual winter herons were two **American Bitterns**, including one in *Warren* in mid-January, **Great Egrets** in *Philadelphia* right up to the January freeze, and **Black-crowned Night-herons** in December in *Bucks* and *Cumberland*. The “possible” **Glossy Ibis** from the fall continued at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* until 12/23.

Vultures continue to strengthen their winter numbers in the southeast helped this year, no doubt, by the mild early season. For example, the Newville CBC in *Cumberland* recorded a record 150 **Black Vultures**. Both species were abundant in *Bucks*, but only until the freeze in January when many apparently withdrew to the south. However, neither species shows much sign of substantially expanding their winter range in the state as demonstrated by the Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

**Osprey** lingered into December in *Bucks* and *Huntingdon*. **Northern Goshawks** were reported in 7 counties. **Rough-legged Hawks** were scarce early, but with the northeast turning cold, there was notable movement into the state beginning in late January. Of particular note were the 15 recorded on a single WRS route in *Tioga*. On the other hand, the onset of cold seemed to cause **Northern Harriers** and **American Kestrels** to vacate *Clarion*. An encouraging record number of **American Kestrels** were recorded on WRS routes statewide, but numbers continue to be very low in southeastern counties, in line with low numbers of this species further east and in New England. The WRS results are presented elsewhere in this

volume.

**Ruffed Grouse** have been low in recent years. It’s not clear to what extent grouse go through population cycles in Pennsylvania though they apparently do to some degree. Compilers in *Luzerne* and *Somerset* commented that numbers seemed to be improving.

**Sandhill Crane** reports are becoming almost commonplace, but maybe that is somewhat an illusion created by instant and repeated reports via the Internet of a small number of birds. Cranes were reported from 4 locations in December, with the Middle Creek bird staying the winter. **Virginia Rails** were seen in 4 counties, most northerly in February in *Tioga*. In *Indiana*, 1700 **American Coots** were counted at Yellow Creek on 12/10.

Among shorebirds, most unusual was the return for a second winter of a **Least Sandpiper** to *Cumberland*, where it was seen as late as 2/19; presumably the same individual as last year. Another Least was in *Bucks* in December. Other notable shorebird reports included a December **Purple Sandpiper** at Presque Isle and a good count of 43 **Wilson’s Snipe** in *Delaware* on 1/7.

It was a very active gull season, with 10 species reported. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue to consolidate their winter range here, reported in at least 11 counties. **Glaucous**, **Iceland**, and **Thayer’s Gulls** were all reported in 3 or more counties and even **California Gulls** (with only about 5-6 previous state records) were reported from two counties, *Bucks* and *Lebanon*. A **Black-headed Gull** was in *Bucks*. As usual, much of the gull activity was in the southeast and at *Erie*. However, the southwest also got in on the action with probably their best gull season ever. Much of that action on the Allegheny River occurred after the late January freeze-up. Among the highlights were first *Allegheny* records of **Thayer’s** and **Glaucous Gulls**. (See the special *Allegheny* report by Mike Fialkovich).

With only one report, from *Dauphin*, this was not a **Snowy Owl** year. Bad news for birders but perhaps good news for Snowys if they had sufficient food to keep them on their home range rather than forced into a perilous journey south to seek food and avoid starvation.

It was a very good winter for reports of **Barn**, **Long-eared**, and **Short-eared Owls**. All of these are

species of uncertain status, difficult to assess, and often cited as being in trouble. Thus the large number of reports is encouraging, even if perhaps influenced by the mild first half of the winter and in part a result of more awareness and active searching by birders. The epicenter for **Barn Owls** may well be the Amish farm country of *Juniata*, where owls were wintering in at least a half dozen barns. There is a strong and active interest in birds among the farmers and other rural folks there and perhaps that's why so many reports. Remarkable was the report from *Northumberland* of **Barn Owls** already on eggs in late January.

As is now expected, multiple **Rufous Hummingbirds** were found, with reports from 4 counties. The big news was the capture of one in *Washington* that had been banded last winter in Mississippi.

The second best rarity of the season was probably the *Lancaster Ash-throated Flycatcher*, present in Lititz 12/21-1/4, for what will likely be the third state record and second from *Lancaster*. During that same approximate time frame another Ash-throated was found in New Jersey; in addition a Tropical Kingbird was in Maryland, a **Western Kingbird** was at Morgantown, *Lancaster* in our state, and a Western tanager was in New Jersey. Were all these birds brought to the northeast by the same process? Other notable flycatchers were a late **Great Crested Flycatcher** in *Adams* 12/2 and an **Empidonax** not identified to species in *Lancaster* 12/17.

There were two **Loggerhead Shrike** reports. Documentation has been submitted to P.O.R.C. for one on the Mansfield CBC in *Tioga*. And a long-staying bird showed up in *Adams* in February in the region where breeding of the species last occurred in the late 1990s. **Northern Shrikes** were found in at least 20 counties, with a majority coming from northern locations. A **White-eyed Vireo** was a first for the Newville CBC in *Cumberland*.

Again this winter, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were wintering in *Philadelphia* and in fact were reported from more than one location. **Cave Swallows** were reported during the first few days of December from *Lehigh* and the *Somerset/Bedford* line. Both of these swallow phenomena were undreamed of a few years ago, but now appear to be something we should at least look for and be aware of annually.

**Common Ravens** continue their spread out of the mountainous center of the state. Compilers from several counties commented on ravens appearing in new areas, especially in the west in *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Erie*,

*Indiana*, and *Venango*; but also from *Lancaster* in the southeast.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** in *Erie* was about the 10<sup>th</sup> state record. **Northern Mockingbirds** were noted in *Bradford* and *Erie*, where they are considered unusual in winter. **Brown Thrashers** appeared to respond to the mild conditions, reported from 9 counties. Good flocks of **American Pipits** were found on 1/21 in *Berks* (500) and 12/20 in *Franklin* (460).

At least 10 warbler species were found (still counting Chats as warblers, which they probably are not), many on CBCs. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Common Yellowthroat** led the parade with records too numerous to list. See the Birds of Note section for details on the others. Among records after the CBC period, most remarkable was the **Cape May Warbler** present for two weeks in *Franklin* beginning in mid-January.

Sparrows, too, stayed north, especially **Savannah Sparrows**, reported from at least 10 counties. One count from *Delaware* in January tallied 42 birds. A **Lark Sparrow** found in the fall stayed all winter in *Bucks*. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found on CBCs in *Blair*, *Lehigh*, and *Westmoreland*.

An **Indigo Bunting** was a nice find on the *Philadelphia* Winter Bird Count 1/6. Even better were two reports of **Painted Bunting**, one from *Cameron* 12/10-12/15 posted on PABIRDS and another at Tinicum from 1/4 through at least 2/6. There are about twenty previous state records of **Painted Bunting**. Good counts of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from *Bucks*, 82 on 1/23, and over 100 in *Cumberland* 2/17.

As mentioned earlier, Pennsylvania's first ever **Scott's Oriole** was identified in Mechanicsburg, *Cumberland* 2/19. Dozens, perhaps hundreds, of birders eventually saw this bird, though for some it required more than one attempt as the bird occasionally shifted backyards or even streets. This species, not known for eastern vagrancy, also appeared in Kentucky and Indiana this winter. There were plenty more orioles in the state with **Baltimore Orioles** reported from 7 counties, a total of about 14 different individuals. These reports were scattered throughout the time period.

While a good winter for half-hardies, it was not so good for those who like to see winter finches. **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** were scarce. "Astonishing" was the word used to describe the absence of **Purple Finches** from all three *Bucks* CBCs. **Common Redpolls** were reported in 5 counties, but all reports were comprised of only 1-2 birds. These

reports all came from late in the reporting period and except for two birds in *Bucks*, all were in southwestern counties. **Evening Grosbeaks**, now rare here, were seen in *Tioga*, a flock of 30 on the Mansfield CBC; and a single during January in *Juniata* that associated with a flock of **American Robins**. There were no crossbill reports received, but a single **Pine Grosbeak** was found on the Rector CBC in *Westmoreland*.

Finally, for those interested in birds that stay north when most members of their species go south, I have compiled a list of selected half-hardies and the number of counties in which they were reported after the CBC season (which ends each year on January 5). It seemed to be an above-average year for these lingerers. The numbers below represent number of counties (not individuals) and, to repeat, are reports from what we might consider mid-winter, which I define somewhat arbitrarily as beginning January 6.

Species	Counties
Wilson's Snipe	15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	17
Eastern Phoebe	9
Blue-headed Vireo	0
House Wren	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9
Hermit Thrush	22
Gray Catbird	6
Brown Thrasher	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15
Common Yellowthroat	2
Eastern Towhee	15
Field Sparrow	17
Eastern Meadowlark	11

# Birds Of Note - December 2006 through February 2007

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 Doc" refers to a Review List species for which no supporting documentation 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 10 years during this time period.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** - *Armstrong, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, Northampton, Westmoreland.*

**Ross's Goose** - *Bucks*: A small goose flying over Tyler State Park 12/16 was thought to be this species (Gerry Dewaghe); *Chester*: Two over Unionville with Snow Geese 2/25 (Nick and Sharon Pulcinella), one at Coatsville Reservoir 1/6 (Chuck Chalfant); *Lancaster*: One at Middle Creek, early Jan (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: One at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park ponds 1/20-1/21, a first county record (Brian Bynes); *Somerset*: An injured bird was collected by a hunter 1/13 (Jim Moses, Meg Moses), another was found with Canada Geese 2/3 (Anthony Marich).

**Brant** - *Bucks*: One from the fall continued at Peace Valley Park through 12/6 (August Mirabella) and another (or same) was at Core Creek Park 12/16 (Dianne Allison); *Franklin*: One at Greencastle Reservoir 1/21-1/26 (Dale Gearhart); *Montgomery*: One in Mainland 12/10 (Paul and Anita Guris).

**Barnacle Goose** - *Bucks*: One reported 12/27 at Peace Valley Park (Steve Kacir); *Montour*: One found during CBC at Lake Chillisquaque 12/17 remained until 1/1.

**Trumpeter Swan** - *Franklin*: One at Shook's Pond 1/19 for just a day (Dale Gearhart); *Union*: A wing tagged bird was discovered at Mifflinburg 1/19 (Joe Southerton) and remained until dying 3/14.

**Blue-winged Teal** - *Cumberland*: A male in Upper Allen 2/17 (Barry and Jenni Horton); *Lawrence*: A female was present near Big Beaver wetlands through 1/5 (Geoff Malosh); *Washington*: A male at Canonsburg 2/8-10 (Ross Gallardy).

**King Eider** - *Erie*: An immature male flew past Sunset Point during the waterbird count at Presque Isle SP 12/23 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Surf Scoter** - *Adams*: Two at Lake Meade 12/9; *Erie*: Up to 6 present at Presque Isle until the freeze on 1/27 (Mike Fialkovich, Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: One on the Delaware R. 2/6 (Frank Windfelder).

**White-winged Scoter** - *Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Cambria, Erie, Lancaster, Northampton, Philadelphia.*

**Black Scoter** - *Erie*: One on 1/13 and 1/20 (Jerry McWilliams); *Warren*: One on the Allegheny R. 2/5 (John Fedak).

**Red-throated Loon** - *Bucks*: One at Peace Valley Park 12/2 (August Mirabella) and two on the Delaware R. 2/22-2/25 (Nick Zahn, Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: One on the Butler County CBC 12/16; *Chester*: One at Chambers Lake 12/6 (Pam Fisher); *Dauphin*: One at Fort Hunter on the Susquehanna R. 12/1 (Cameron Rutt); *Delaware*: One (at least) present on the Delaware R. 12/16-1/12 (Nick Pulcinella, Cameron Rutt, August Mirabella); *Erie*: Two on Erie CBC.

**Red-necked Grebe** - *Adams, Allegheny, Beaver, Bucks, Dauphin, Erie, Lancaster, Luzerne, Montgomery, Philadelphia*

**Eared Grebe** - *Erie*: One flew past Sunset Point 12/11 (Jerry McWilliams); *Luzerne*: One on the Dallas CBC 12/16 (Eleanor Harding, Dave Birchler, Bill Hintze).

**American White Pelican** - *Montgomery*: One bird at Green Lane reservoir 12/14-16 (Len and Judy Hillegas), a first county record.

**Great Cormorant** - *Bucks*: A record high 20 recorded on the Southern Bucks CBC 12/16, twenty were counted at Mudd Island 2/12 (Bill

Keim); *Delaware*: Three were counted for the Delaware County CBC 12/16 (Nick Pulcinella); *Montgomery*: Nine at Martins Creek 12/31; *Philadelphia*: Wintered as usual on Delaware R. (Doris McGovern).

**American Bittern** - *Chester*: One at Sadsburyville 12/17-12/18 (Jay Edge); *Warren*: One flew into the side of a shed during a storm 1/20, but was apparently unharmed (Keith Confer, Tony Fera).

**Great Egret** - *Philadelphia*: Six found on CBC 12/16, remaining until the freeze in January.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** - *Bucks*: One at Bristol 12/16-1/1 (Bob Mercer, Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: One on Harrisburg CBC at West Fairview 12/16 (Deuane Hoffman).

**Glossy Ibis** - *Philadelphia*: A "possible" Glossy was at Tinicum though at least 12/23.

**Osprey** - *Bucks*: One from the fall continued at Nockamixon SP until 12/9 (Bill Etter); *Huntingdon*: One on the Culp CBC near Waterstreet 12/16 (David Kyler).

**Virginia Rail** - *Bucks*: Two on Upper Bucks CBC at Quakertown Swamp 12/17 remained until at least 1/13 (Arlene Koch, Devich Farbotnik, Cameron Rutt); *Crawford*: One on the Linesville CBC 12/17 (Robert Leberman, Ronald Leberman); *Mercer*: One heard calling 1/3 at SGL 130 (Neil Troyer); *Tioga*: One photographed at the The Muck (SGL 213) 2/7 (Robert Ross, Dianne Franco).

**Common Moorhen** - *Bucks*: One-four present through 1/26 at U.S. Steel in Falls Township by which date the pond froze (Adrian Binns).

**Sandhill Crane** - *Crawford*: One on Linesville CBC 12/17; *Dauphin*: Three at Tobias Lake on Curtin CBC 12/28 (Sandy Lockerman, Pam Parsons); *Lancaster & Lebanon*: One at Middle Creek all period; *Mercer*: One flew over Coolspring Church Road 1/1 (Neil Troyer).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** - *Delaware*: Two on Darby Creek mudflats 12/16 (Skip Conant).

**Spotted Sandpiper** - *Dauphin*: One near the Rockville Bridge on of the Susquehanna R. 12/2 (Cameron Rutt).

**Least Sandpiper** - *Bucks*: One from fall continued at Penn-Warner through at least 12/16 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: Found for the second consecutive winter – the same bird? Present 12/12-1/17 at Stoughstown Pond (as during the previous winter). Another (likely the same individual?) was at Big Springs 2/3-2/19 (Vern Gauthier).

**Purple Sandpiper** - *Erie*: One at Sunset Point, Presque Isle 12/14 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Dunlin** - *Erie*: Two at Presque Isle 12/14 (Don Snyder).

**Black-headed Gull** - *Bucks*: One at Tullytown 1/6-1/23 (Devich Farbotnik).

**California Gull** - *Bucks*: One on 1/13 at Bristol was a second county record (Matt Sharp); *Lebanon*: One found 12/26 at Memorial Lake was a first county record (Tom Johnson).

**Thayer's Gull** - *Allegheny*: One on 2/10 was a first county record (Dave Wilton); *Bucks*: "Reported with caution" were three different birds thought to be this species. A first year bird at Tullytown 1/12 (Tom Johnson), one at Nockamixon SP 1/6-12 (Bill Etter), and a "less problematic" adult 1/13 at Penn Warner (Devich Farbotnik); *Lebanon*: A second winter bird at Memorial Lake 12/14-1/3 (Tom Johnson, Jonathan Heller).

**Iceland Gull** - *Allegheny, Beaver, Bucks, Chester, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon.*

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - *Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia.*

- Glaucous Gull** - *Allegheny*: Three birds, the first of which on 2/8 provided a first county record (Dan Yagusic, Dave Wilton, Geoff Malosh); *Bucks*: Present beginning 12/14 at Tullytown (Sandra Keller); *Erie*: One at Presque Isle 12/14 and up to three at Presque Isle and the Erie Landfill 1/21 and 2/27 (Jerry McWilliams).
- Eurasian Collared Dove** - *Franklin*: At the established location in Shady Grove (Dale Gearhart).
- Barn Owl** - *Berks*: Two on the Hamburg CBC 12/31; *Juniata*: Found in at least six barns during the winter season (*vide* Chad Kauffman); *Lancaster*: One on Southern Lancaster CBC; *Northumberland*: A pair already nesting 1/28 (Wayne Laubscher).
- Snowy Owl** - *Dauphin*: One in West Hanover Township 2/9 (Beth Carricato).
- Long-eared Owl** - *Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Juniata, Lancaster, Monroe*.
- Short-eared Owl** - *Adams, Berks, Clarion, Erie, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Northampton, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union*.
- Rufous Hummingbird** - *Berks*: A female *Selasphorus*, probably this species, present in Bethel Township 11/26-1/18 (Chuck Cravotta); *Delaware*: Two present in Middletown through 12/3 (Nick Pulcinella, Al Guarente); *Montgomery*: One in Merion Station 12/8-12/18 (Steve Blank, Nick Pulcinella); *Washington*: One at McDonald was captured and found to have been banded last winter in Mississippi. It remained until 12/19 (Ray and Eydie Posel).
- Empidonax species** - *Lancaster*: A empid not identified to species at Muddy Run 12/17-12/18.
- Ash-throated Flycatcher** - *Lancaster*: One at Lititz 12/21-1/4 at the home of Joyce Shaeffer.
- Great Crested Flycatcher** - *Adams*: One at SGL 249 on 12/2 was late (Mike Weible).
- Western Kingbird** - *Lancaster*: One near Morgantown 12/25-1/11 (Holly Hartshorne).
- Loggerhead Shrike** - *Adams*: One discovered 2/8 stayed the remainder of the period in Freedom Township (Miklos Oyler) where this species formerly bred; *Tioga*: One was reported on the Mansfield CBC (John Corcoran).
- White-eyed Vireo** - *Cumberland*: One on the Newville CBC 12/30.
- Tree Swallow** - *Chester*: Two on the West Chester CBC 12/16 (Dave Davis).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - *Philadelphia*: Again this winter a flock over-wintered at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant. On 1/6, additional birds were found at the Southeast Philadelphia sludge ponds and at Eastwick (Doris McGovern, Jim McKinney).
- Cave Swallow** - *Lehigh*: Two fly-bys at Jordon Creek Parkway 12/1 (Dustin Welch); *Somerset/Bedford*: One on 12/1 reported on PABIRDS.
- House Wren** - *Bucks*: One at Penn-Warner until at least 12/16 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: One at Marshallton 12/30 (Dave Kruel); *Dauphin*: One at Halifax 12/28 (Sandy Lockerman, Pam Parsons); *Franklin*: Six reported on the Chambersburg CBC; *Lancaster*: Two on Southern Lancaster CBC 12/17; *Philadelphia*: One in Pennypack Park 1/6 (Roland Williams).
- Marsh Wren** - *Bucks*: One each on the Upper Bucks CBC 12/17 and Central Bucks CBC 12/30; *Cumberland*: One on Newville CBC 12/30; *Northampton*: One on Upper Mud Run Road 12/31 and another in Forks Township 1/6 (Dam Zmoda).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - *Lancaster*: One remained in Washington Boro until the Lancaster CBC 12/30.
- Townsend's Solitaire** - *Erie*: One in Fairview Township 12/31-2/3 (Mark Anderson).
- Swainson's Thrush** - *Lancaster*: Two were reported on the Lititz CBC 12/31.
- Brown Thrasher** - *Allegheny, Bedford, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Juniata, Lancaster*.
- Orange-crowned Warbler** - *Philadelphia*: One at a peanut butter feeder in the northeast 2/18-22 (Frank Windfelder).
- Yellow Warbler** - *Philadelphia*: One along Pennypack Creek for the CBC 12/16 (Frank Windfelder).
- Cape May Warbler** - *Franklin*: One appeared at a feeder near Greencastle 1/17 and stayed for about two weeks (Eric Martin); *Westmoreland*: One on Chestnut Ridge during the Rector CBC 12/16 (Mike Lanzzone).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** - *Philadelphia*: One in Pennypack Park for the CBC 12/16 (Bill Jelek).
- Pine Warbler** - *Berks*: One on the Hamburg CBC 12/31 was a first for that count; *Bucks*: Two at Perkasio 12/17 for the Upper Bucks CBC (Jewel Rufe); *Lancaster*: One each on Lititz CBC 12/31 and Southern Lancaster CBC 12/17.
- Palm Warbler** - *Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Montgomery, Philadelphia, York*.
- Ovenbird** - *Washington*: One found during the Buffalo Creek CBC 12/17 (Ross Gallardy, Tom Byrnes).
- Yellow-breasted Chat** - *Delaware*: One in Aston 12/16 (Doris McGovern).
- Vesper Sparrow** - *Franklin*: One on Chambersburg CBC.
- Lark Sparrow** - *Bucks*: The bird discovered at Maple Knoll Farms in the fall continued throughout the winter period (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith).
- Lincoln's Sparrow** - *Blair*: One on Culp CBC 12/16; *Lehigh*: One on the CBC 12/16. *Westmoreland*: One on Rector CBC 12/16.
- Indigo Bunting** - *Philadelphia*: A female at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 1/6 (Rob Hynson, Bill Keim). (doc. submitted).
- Painted Bunting** - *Cameron*: One was reported present 12/10-12/15 on the PABIRDS listserv; *Philadelphia*: Found 1/4 at Tinicum where it remained until at least 2/6, feeding each day with Dark-eyed Juncos and other sparrows. A first county record (Frank Windfelder).
- Dickcissel** - *Berks*: An immature female visited a feeder at Leesport beginning 12/3 continuing into Mar (Dean Kendall); *Cumberland*: A male at a feeder in Shippensburg from 1/14 through the period had an injured leg but was surviving nevertheless (Dan Snell).
- Brewer's Blackbird** - *Washington*: One at Greencove Wetlands on the Buffalo Creek CBC 12/17 (Larry Helgerman, Mary Gary, John Oleyer, Ellen Hamill).
- Baltimore Oriole** - *Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Fayette, Franklin, Lancaster, Montgomery*.
- Scott's Oriole** - *Cumberland*: First State Record - Adult male in Mechanicsburg was discovered 2/19 and remained into Mar, visiting a number of backyards in the neighborhood (Karen Atwood, Candy Maneval).
- Pine Grosbeak** - *Westmoreland*: One on Rector CBC 12/16.
- Common Redpoll** - *Allegheny*: One at feeder in Natrona Heights 2/7 (Paul Hess); *Beaver*: One at feeder 2/17-3/8+ in Aliquippa (Bill Walbek); *Berks*: 11 on the Reading CBC 12/16; *Bucks*: Two at a feeder in Bedminster Township 2/28 (John Mertz); *Westmoreland*: One at a Powdermill feeder 1/27 and 1/29 (Mike Lanzzone, Lewis Grove); Another was at a feeding station near Linn Run SP 2/3 (Chuck Norton).
- Pine Siskin** - *Chester, Clinton, Dauphin, Erie, Franklin, Lancaster, Westmoreland*.
- Evening Grosbeak** - *Juniata*: One present 1/14-1/21 (Chad Kauffman). *Tioga*: A flock of 30 located on the Mansfield CBC.

# PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



**Greater White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*). This bird was present on the West Chester CBC, Chester, 16 December 2006 (Tony Fernandes).



**Greater White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*). This individual was in Solebury Twp., Bucks, 19-20 January 2007 (Howard Eskin).



**Cackling Goose** (*Branta hutchinsii*). Photographed at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 29 January 2007 (Cameron Rutt), this bird demonstrates nicely the size difference between this species and the nearby Canada Geese.



**Black Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*). This female was photographed at Moraine State Park, Butler, 27 January 2007 (Mike Fialkovich).



**Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*). This male was photographed at New Wilmington, Lawrence, 28 January 2007 (Geoff Malosh).



**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). Present since November at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, this bird remained throughout the winter. Photographed here 10 December 2006 (Howard Eskin).



**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*). This first-winter bird was in Tullytown, Bucks, 6-23 January 2007. Photographed here 11 January (Geoff Malosh).



**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*). This adult bird was found during the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club's annual "Gull" outing in Bristol, Bucks, 13 January 2007 (Howard Eskin). It remained for only a day.



**Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucooides*). This first-winter bird was one of several Icelands found in Tullytown, Bucks, this winter. This individual was photographed 10 January 2007 (Cameron Rutt).



**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*). These nestlings were photographed in Turbotville, Northumberland, 27 January 2007 (Wayne Laubscher). Unfortunately, they apparently did not survive the late January and early February severe cold temperatures and snow. A subsequent check by a Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist in mid-February found no signs of the owlets.



**Barred Owl** (*Strix varia*). This bird has been frequenting a section of northwest Philadelphia for several years and was very cooperative for this photo taken 25 January 2007 (Cliff Hence).



**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). This immature female was photographed 8 December 2006 (Howard Eskin) in Merion Station, Montgomery, where it was present 8-18 December and subsequently banded 10 December. This same backyard hosted a Calliope Hummingbird in 2002.



**Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). This immature was photographed in Berks, 10 January 2007 (Howard Eskin).



**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*). This bird spent most of the winter visiting this suet feeder near Fisher, Clarion. This photo was taken 21 January 2007 (Ron Montgomery).



**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). This nice cooperative bird was in Lititz, Lancaster, 21 December 2006 - 4 January 2007 and seen by many. Photographed here 28 December (Tom Johnson).



**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*). This outstanding and obliging bird was in Fairview Twp, Erie, 31 December 2006 - 3 February 2007. This photograph was taken 8 January (Jerry McWilliams).



**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*). This first-winter bird was seen by many as it fed with a small flock of mixed sparrow species at John Heinze NWR, *Philadelphia*, 4 January - 3 February, 2007. This photo was taken 5 January (*Chris Wood*).



**Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*). Several Baltimore Orioles were found this winter throughout the state. This bird was found on the Wyncote CBC 16 December 2007 at the Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve near Ambler, *Montgomery* (*Cliff Hence*).

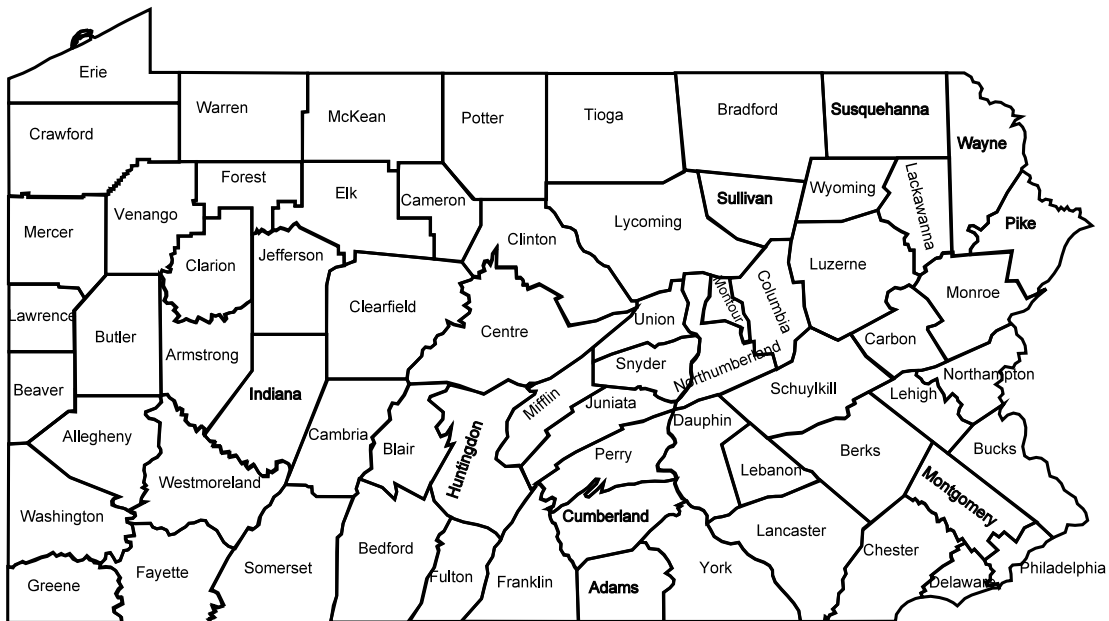


**Common Redpoll** (*Carduelis flammaea*). This bird spent about four weeks in a yard in Aliquippa, *Beaver* and was photographed here 28 February (*Bill Walbek*).



**European Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*). This bird frequented a feeder in Albany Twp., *Berks* 7 February - 7 March and was photographed here 21 February (*Jack Holcomb*).

# Local Notes - December 2006 through February 2007



## 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)	mountain	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.)	juvinal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert		
L.	Lake	Res.	Reservoir		

### Adams County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Freedom Township (FRDM), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Meade (LMDE), SGL 249 (SGL).

There were 100 species reported from December through February, a significant increase over the 80 species reported for 2006 and 82 species during 2005. The 2007 increase was primarily due to the 21 species of waterfowl, 12 more than were reported for 2006. The 19 people who participated in the December 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count found 72 species, two less than the 74 species found during the 2005 Christmas Count.

The 21 species of waterfowl reported included a **Snow Goose** 12/31 at SGL (PK) and another 1/3 at FRDM (MW). Uncommon in the winter were a **Wood Duck** at SGL 1/18 (MW) and a **Northern Shoveler** 12/16 (CBC). Uncommon at any time were 2 **Surf Scoters** at LMDE 12/9 (PJR), and a **Red-necked Grebe** at Lake May 2/28 (MOB). On 2/28 there were 12 species of waterfowl at Lake Kay, a very small lake that was half frozen (MOB, PJR).

A group of 6 **Ring-necked Pheasants** that acted like they were established and wild were seen near Biglerville 12/17 and 1/14 (MW). Two **Wild Turkeys** were at SGL 2/3 (MW). Last year **Black Vultures** (53) outnumbered **Turkey Vultures** (43) on the 12/17 CBC. This year the 12/16 CBC reported 59 **Black Vultures** and 298 **Turkey Vultures**. Two **Bald Eagles** were found on the CBC, another was seen 12/31 at the Carbaugh Res. (PK), and one was seen 1/29 in FRDM (BM). A **Northern Harrier** was found on the 12/16 CBC and 2 were seen at GNMP 2/27 (RC). The only **Rough-legged Hawk** found was on the 12/16 CBC. An unexpected **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed 12/3 along Peepytown Rd. (BM). On 1/2 in a residential back yard in East Berlin with the floodlights turned on, a **Great Horned Owl** pounced on the plug at the end of an electrical cord that was being pulled through the yard, and pinned the plug for several minutes before it realized that it did not have a meal (PK). No **Short-eared Owls** were seen in the Pumping Station Rd. area this winter, but at GNMP

one was found 2/24 (MW) and two were at the same spot 2/27 (RC).

There were four reports of single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** during the period. At SGL a very late **Eastern Phoebe** 1/7 (MW) and **Great Crested Flycatcher** 12/2 (MW) were surprises. The flycatcher was studied carefully at close range in hopes that it was an even more unusual vagrant, but it was not. Probably the "best find" of the season was the **Loggerhead Shrike** discovered 2/28 in FRDM (MO), and subsequently seen by a number of other birders. A pair nested in the area for several years, but it has been several years since any have been seen there. The shrike was singing and was observed looking skyward, as if it was looking for a mate, so let's hope it finds one.

There was only one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report – a single bird found on the 12/16 CBC. Evidence of the mild early winter weather were the 109 **Eastern Bluebirds** on the 12/16 CBC and a **Gray Catbird** at SGL 12/31 (PK). A nice flock of 80 **American Pipits** was found on the CBC. An **Eastern Towhee** wintered at SGL (MW). A few **Field Sparrows** were seen throughout the period, and a **Savannah Sparrow** showed up at a Biglerville feeder 2/14-2/16 (MW). **Fox Sparrows** were at SGL during the period, with a high count of 14 on 1/7 — the same day that a high count of 12 **Swamp Sparrows** was recorded there (MW).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were also at SGL, two 12/25 and ten 1/18 (MW). There were no reports of Purple Finch, 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**, Richard Cleary, Christmas Bird Count (CBC: Peter & Sarah Bugler, Cy & Melissa Deitz, Ann Gilbert, Bart & Judie Hogan, Art & Nonie Kennell, Nancy Locher, Bill Meredith, Mike O'Brien, Caryl O'Gara, Rusty Ryan, Cornelia Saltzgeber, Arlene Sandstedt, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Thora Stith) – Barry & Jenni Horton, Phil Keener, Bob Moul, Mike O'Brien (MOB), Miklos Oyler (MO), Cameron Rutt, Ralph & Deb Siefken (R&DS), Mike Weible.

## Allegheny County

December was one of the mildest on record and the weather probably played a role in allowing a few species to linger through the month. By mid-January more seasonal weather moved in with colder temperatures and some snow.

A few flocks of **Tundra Swans** were still moving through in Dec. On 12/7, 33 birds were seen flying past Dashields Dam (MV), and 22 were spotted flying over Harrison Hills Park 12/16 (JV). Two **Northern Pintails** were at Dashields Dam 12/31 (MV) and a male was on a pond in Findlay Twp. 2/16 (MV). A **Gadwall** was at Neville Island 2/18 (MV). With frigid weather in place for several weeks in Feb and bodies of water freezing in the north, waterfowl moved into the county. **Canvasback** were reported throughout the month on area rivers. The highest count in one location was at Emsworth on the Ohio R. where up to 14 birds were present (PB, MV). **Redheads** were also found in the area through Feb. Two good counts of **Common Mergansers** included 26 at the Highland Park Bridge area on the Allegheny R. 2/17 and 46 at that location 2/19 (DY). Other waterfowl reported included **American Wigeon**, **American Black Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Hooded Merganser**.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was feeding in a yard in Ross Twp. in early Dec (BM) and one was in Hampton Twp. 12/31 (*vide* JV).

Two **Common Loons** were on the Ohio R. at Emsworth 12/3 (MV). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 2/16 (WS). A bird at the point in Pittsburgh 2/27 (SK, GM) through the end of the reporting period was probably the same individual.

A **Bald Eagle** was spotted flying over the Allegheny R. at Etna 12/6 (PW) and one was at Dashields Dam 12/10 (BM). An adult was regularly seen along the Allegheny R. during the reporting period (DY, et. al.) and an imm was present 1/31 (SG). A **Merlin** was at the Schenley Park roost site at dawn 12/30 (MF) and two birds were found at Duck Hollow that day (SS, PH). Interestingly, one was perched and another flew in calling.

S.A.

With frigid temperatures and subsequent freezing of lakes to the north, there was an unprecedented influx of gulls into the county in Feb. **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gull** numbers increased during this period with estimated maximum totals of 4000 Ring-billed and 400 Herring, but the show stoppers were the "white-winged" and other rare gulls. A flock of 77 **Bonaparte's Gulls** rested on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow 2/4 (DY) and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at Riverfront Park on the South Side 1/28 (MV). Apart from these sightings, gulls were observed when they gathered at dusk around the point in Pittsburgh where they roosted on the ice-covered river. Up to 2 adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were present during the month of Feb providing the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> county records. A basic one **Glaucous Gull** was a thrilling sight 2/8 (DY, DW) which was the first county record. Astonishingly, another basic one and a basic three bird were later found (GM, DY, m.ob.). Up to 4 **Iceland Gulls** were present (2 basic one and 2 basic two birds) providing the 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> county records. An adult **Thayer's Gull** 2/10 (DW) was a real heart stopper and the first county record. A basic one bird soon followed 2/12 that remained in the area to 2/18 (DW, m.ob.). This bird was well studied and photographed, however a consensus was not reached among the many birders that studied the bird and the photographs whether this was a hybrid, or a true Thayer's. All features studied seemed to point to basic one Thayer's, however the only character not seen well was the detail on the tail. Finally, 3 **Great Black-backed Gulls** (a basic one, a basic two and 2 adults) graced the scene. A bird that showed characters of a basic three **California Gull** was seen briefly 2/28 (DW, DY) within a flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, however a conclusive identification could not be made and unfortunately the bird was never relocated. A basic one **Iceland Gull**, a basic one **Glaucous Gull** and a probable adult **Great Black-backed Gull** were observed at the Imperial Landfill 2/12 (DW, DY). These were probably birds commuting between the rivers and feeding areas during the day. This event brought out many birders to brave the cold and enjoy the gulls. Most species were photographed and well documented.

**Turkey Vultures** continue to be seen in winter the past few years. Single birds were found at Frick Park 12/24 (MF), North Park 12/26 (BVN), and Kilbuck Twp. 12/30 (PB). An albino **Red-tailed Hawk** that has been in the Hays section of Pittsburgh for several years (but rarely reported) was seen 2/19 (TP).

The mild weather and open water probably contributed to **Killdeer** lingering into December. Three were found in Findlay Twp. 12/7 (MV), and one was in Frazier Twp. 12/14 (DH) and 12/30 (JV). Two **Wilson's Snipe** at Imperial 2/17 (MF) provided a rare winter record for this species. A

**Barred Owl** was found roosting in a tree in Harmar Twp. 12/30 (JV, SSn). A female/immature **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** was visiting a feeder in Franklin Park 1/4 (*vide* PB). A photo was sent to the staff at Powdermill who offered to band the bird however the homeowner declined and did not want visitors.

Two **Common Ravens** were seen and heard at Brunot's Island along the Ohio R. 12/31 (MF). A single bird frequented this site since last year. One was seen in Pine Twp. 1/27 (MKo, PK), a first for that location, and two were seen again in the Brunot's Island/McKees Rocks area 2/11 (KSJ) and 2/28 (PB).

A **Winter Wren** at North Park (BVN) and Shaler Twp. 12/30 (JH) were nice finds during the Pittsburgh CBC. The bird in Shaler was seen again 1/20 (JH). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were at Harrison Hills Park 12/16 (MF, PH, JV), one was at North Park 12/26 (BVN), one was at Beechwood Farms 12/30 (BSh), and one was at Sewickley Heights Park 1/24 (GM). The **Brown Thrasher** reported last season was still present up to 12/5 at East Liberty (DY).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Beechwood Farms 12/30 (BSh) was the only report for the season. The **Common Yellowthroat** reported last season at East Liberty was still present 12/4 (DY). Another was at the Mayview Wetlands 12/1 (DW).

Irregular in winter, 4 **Field Sparrows** were at East Liberty 12/1 (DY), 3 were at Harrison Hills Park 12/16 (PH, MF, JV), and one was in Harmar Twp. 12/30 (JV, SSn). Three birds were present through Jan in Ohio Twp. (PB) and at Mayview Wetlands (DW). Single **Fox Sparrows** at Mayview Wetlands 12/1 (DW) and Pine Twp. 12/8-12/9 (PL, SL) were probably lingering fall migrants. An early spring migrant visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 2/24 (JV). A few **Swamp Sparrows** were found including a maximum of 5 at Mayview Wetlands in Dec and Jan (DW). One was found in a small marsh at Harrison Hills Park 12/16 (PH) and 2 were in a small wetland in Fox Chapel 12/30 (BSh). **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen at the traditional wintering site in Findlay Twp. during the season (m.ob.). Two **Eastern Towhees** were at Mayview Wetlands 12/15 (DW), one was heard calling in Schenley Park 12/19 (TB) and again 12/30 (MF), one was in East Liberty 12/30 (DY) and one visited a feeding station in Harmar Twp. 1/23 (JV).

Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Imperial 1/7 (DY) might have been wintering in the area. Five **Common Grackles** were found during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/30, 2 were in Scott Twp. 1/7 (DW), one visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 1/11 (JV) and another in Shaler Twp. 1/21 (JH). By early Feb, the first returning migrants were noted. A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Leetsdale 12/9 (BS). A **Common Redpoll** made a brief visit to a feeder in Natrona Heights 2/7 (PH).

Thank You - As another year closes I want to thank all the observers who submitted bird reports and meticulously keep records of their observations. I rarely have to ask for data, and that makes my job easier, so thank you for continuing to contribute to the county reports.

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## Armstrong County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Freeport (FP), Keystone Power Plant (KPP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RT).

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found on the AR at RT 1/27 (DY); they were still present at dusk (EF, MF, MH, RH) but could not be found the following morning (MV). **Canada Goose** maxima included 214 at KR 12/10 (LO) and 300 at FP 2/5 (DY). Three **Cackling Geese** were discovered at KR 12/10 (LO) and were seen later that day (MH, RH) and again the following morning (JS). Two **Mute Swans** were present at RT 1/27, 2/10 (MH, RH). Last **American Wigeons** were 8 at KR 12/10 (LC). Before freeze-up KR yielded a single **American Black Duck** 1/11 (MH); 2 were at CC 1/14 (MH, RH). When cold weather finally arrived freezing all the area lakes, the AR harbored the wintering ducks. On 2/10 (MH, RH) 15 **American Black Ducks** were on the river at KT while a singleton was farther downriver at MV. Top **Mallard** count was achieved 2/10 (MH, RH) when a river trip between KT and FP yielded 168 individuals in addition to another 20 at KPP. A **Canvasback** at FP 2/5 (DY) and 3 **Redheads** at KPP 2/10 (MH, RH) provided the lone reports for these species. Two **Ring-necked Ducks** at KR 12/11 (JS) were last. The only **Buffleheads** noted were 2 at KR 12/10 (MH, RH), 2 at FP 2/5 (DY), 3 at KT 2/10 (MH, RH), and 1 at FP 2/10 (MH, RH). A **Common Goldeneye** visited KR 12/10 (MH, RH); the only others, on the AR, were 2 at FP 2/5

(DY) and one at KT 2/10 (MH, RH). KR yielded 8 **Hooded Mergansers** 12/10 (LC), while 3 lingered there as late as 1/11 (MH); singletons were on the AR at KT and at MV 2/10 (MH, RH). **Common Mergansers** on area lakes included one at KR 1/13 (LC, MH, GS) and 48 at CC 1/14 (MH, RH); the AR between KT and RT yielded 22 on 1/27 (MH, RH); 19 was the count at FP 2/10 (MH, RH). The only **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted at KR and included 7 on 12/11 (JS) and 3 on 1/11 (MH). A **Ruddy Duck** at KPP 2/10 (MH, RH) comprised the only report for this species.

A pair of **Ring-necked Pheasants** had apparently survived the season at a feeder near Robb's Forging 1/14 (MH, RH). **Ruffed Grouse** continue to go unreported with only one noted at KR 1/11 (MH). A flock of 19 **Wild Turkeys** were regular visitors to feeders near Rural Valley throughout the period (LU); 32 were in a field near South Bend 1/14 (MH, RH).

Last **Red-throated Loons** were 4 photographed at KR 1/11 (MH). Eight was the best **Pied-billed Grebe** count at KR 12/11 (JS); 4 were last noted there 1/13 (LC, MH, GS); a singleton appeared at MV 2/10 (MH, RH). No Horned Grebes were reported.

**Great Blue Heron** reports included 3 at KR 12/10 (LC), 2 at KR 1/13 (LC, MH, GS), and one at RT 1/27 (MH, RH). An early **Turkey Vulture** was spotted north of KT 2/26 (MB). **Bald Eagles** noted at CC included as many as 3, one imm and 2 adults, 1/12 (fide MM).

A male **Northern Harrier** was found in the Worthington area 1/3,5 (CG). A Yatesboro feeder was visited by a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1/29 and a **Cooper's Hawk** 1/4 (ED). The only **American Coots** noted were 2 at FP 2/5 (DY) and one at RT 2/10 (MH, RH).

First **Ring-billed Gulls** were 4 at CC 1/14 (MH, RH); numbers on the AR remained low with the high count of 18 at RT 1/27 (MH, RH). A pair of **Herring Gulls** was standing beside their nest at KT 1/27 (MH, RH); 2 were also at FP 2/10 (MH, RH). Late **Belted Kingfisher** reports included singletons at Rural Valley and KR 1/14 (LC, MH, GS) and at CC 1/14 (MH, RH).

The **Common Ravens** at KPP were on nest on 2/10 (MH, RH); the nest appeared empty, but while the observers were watching, a raven flew to the nest carrying food. His mate stood up off the nest and ate the offered food before settling back onto the nest. This didn't last long as she noticed an intruder on her territory—a **Red-tailed Hawk** perched in a tree about 100 yards from her nest. With repeated truncated croaks she flew directly toward him, landing on the limb above. The hawk appeared unconcerned, but the raven continued to complain.

One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** wintered at a Yatesboro feeder (ED), the lone report. A **Brown Creeper** appeared at the same feeder 2/6 (ED) and remained throughout the end of the month. A **Northern Mockingbird** near Ford City 12/18 (FM, JM) provided the lone report.

First **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 2 that arrived at Rural Valley 2/9 (LU). Unseasonable flocks of **Common Grackles** included 50 at Yatesboro 1/19 (PB) and 2 at Rural Valley 1/25 (LU). Up to 19 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** frequented the latter location 1/21-2/12 (LU).

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## Beaver County

Locations: Beaver River (BR), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), North Sewickley Township (NST), Rochester (RCH), Ohio River (OR).

An extremely warm (and rather boring) start to the winter in December and January gave way to a prolonged deep freeze in February, which saw nearly the entire lengths of the Beaver and Ohio Rivers ice over. By mid-Feb, the only open water to be found was near the dams of the Beaver River, concentrating waterfowl and providing for some good counts of less common species. Aside from the Beaver CBC, passerine reports were few this season, owing to a lack of coverage of many worthwhile sites.

Five **Tundra Swans** on the BR 2/6 (MV) were interesting for Feb, a month when this species is rarely reported. **Wood Ducks** lingered on the BR throughout Dec and Jan, but were not reported when the cold descended in Feb, though 4 at the Beaver Falls Dam 2/5 was a good winter count (MV). Two **Gadwall** on the BR 2/9, and one **American Wigeon** there 1/27 (MV) were the only reported. Double-digit counts of **American Black Duck** on the BR were the norm in Feb, with a peak of 22 on 2/11 (MV). Just a few feet over the county border in Lawrence, a female **Blue-winged Teal** lingered at the industrial gravel ponds north of Big Beaver Wetlands until 1/5. This Lawrence location is mentioned here because many of the waterfowl which are found there often cross into the ponds on the Beaver side, though the Blue-winged Teal was never found on the Beaver side.

Despite good Feb fallouts in nearby sw. PA counties, **Canvasbacks** were not well reported in Beaver, with just three individuals found this season. Two or three **Redheads** spent most of Feb at various spots on the

BR (MV, GM). **Greater Scaup** were reported in Feb, with 4 at MLD 2/5, one on the BR 2/14, and 2 at Beaver Falls Dam 2/23-24 (MV). **Lesser Scaup** were only reported from the OR 2/24 (MV). Five **White-winged Scoters** at RCH 2/4 (BS, MV) and one female at Shippingport 2/11 (MV, GM) were excellent for the county. This species is missed in most years. **Buffleheads** were found in decent numbers on the BR during the Feb freeze, with a peak of 13 on 2/11 (MV). **Common Goldeneye** had an excellent season, likely owing to the harsh winter north of the area. As many as 16 were present at the Beaver Falls Dam in early Feb (MV, GM), and MV made a single day count of 33 on the BR 2/11. Lesser numbers persisted to the end of the season. **Common Mergansers** were very well reported 1/26-2/19 (var. obs.), with a great high count of 22 at MLD 2/5-11 (MV). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the BR 2/24 (BS) were not wintering but rather the first northbound migrants of this species. Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at RCH 2/2-3 (MV), and one was at Beaver Falls Dam 2/18 (GM), providing the only reports.

A **Common Loon** lingered at Hereford Manor Lake until 12/15 (MV). Four **Pied-billed Grebes** remained at that same location 12/9-1/14 (MV), though this count was bested by the 5 found on the BR 12/10 (GM) and 2/9 (MV). **Horned Grebes** were sporadically reported along the BR and OR throughout Feb (GM, MV). Excellent was a **Red-necked Grebe** on the OR at Industry 1/26 (MV). Unfortunately it was not relocated after that day. Six **Great Blue Herons** were found on the BR 1/21 (MV), but these birds quickly made themselves scarce when temperatures plummeted in Feb.

*Beaver* has become host to an ever-increasing number of wintering **Bald Eagles**. The species was well reported throughout the season at locations all along both rivers, with at least 6 and perhaps as many as 9 different individuals present for varying amounts of time (SG, MV, GM, JM). JM described a gripping spectacle he witnessed on the BR 2/19, when a Bald Eagle caught and drowned a Mallard, but had to drag its quarry by paddling across the river with its wings to a nearby rock to recover from the struggle. Given this species' strengthening winter presence here, it seems ever more likely that a pair will eventually remain behind for the summer. The relatively inaccessible and unpopulated stretches of the OR near the West Virginia border seem the likeliest spot. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was an outstanding find at SGL 285 on 2/18 (GM). This is another species that is absent from the county year-list more often than not. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported in Chippewa Twp. 2/4 (SG), and another was first seen near the nest site in the city of Beaver 2/23 (MV). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was a good find on the Beaver CBC at NST 12/17 (BaK, BrK). It was seen again the next day, but not thereafter. A **Merlin** was seen speeding down the BR near the PA Turnpike bridge over same 2/20 (JM).

S.A.

The most exciting local news of the season is the impending breeding attempt of a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that have taken up residency in RCH (SG, MV, BS, GM, et al.). Beginning 12/15, MV and BS reported a Peregrine Falcon that had taken to perching on one of the towers of the East Rochester Bridge, were it could be seen daily for the next six weeks. Beginning in early Feb, activity that could be interpreted as indicative of true territoriality was witnessed. SG noticed that the bird would disappear to a location under the bridge for hours at a time (the potential nest site), and KSJ reported watching the bird harass and attack nearby Red-tailed Hawks on 2/11. Finally, as had been long hoped-for all winter, a second Peregrine appeared in mid-Feb (SG), and a pair bond was formed. SG kept nearly daily tabs on the two throughout Feb and early Mar, and reported all manner of courtship behaviors, including prey sharing, aerial displays, and copulation. SG reports that one of the pair is banded and the other is not, but the exact details of the band colors have yet to be determined.

As of this writing, it is still unknown whether eggs have yet been laid (probably not quite yet); obviously an update will be made in subsequent reports. Though finding breeding evidence of Peregrines in Beaver was not entirely unexpected, these birds are still a welcome addition to the county's list of breeding avifauna, and a great opportunity for Beaver to write its own little chapter in the wonderful story of the recovery of the Peregrine Falcon in Pennsylvania.

Five **American Coots** spent most of Dec and Jan on the BR, and they were joined by 14 more at the onset of the Feb freeze 2/9, for a total of 19. As many as 13 coots remained for at least the next two weeks. **Killdeer** were noted on the BR 1/26-2/9 (MV), but they disappeared in the cold of Feb. A **Wilson's Snipe** in Darlington Twp. 2/23 (MV) provided the only report.

Beaver got a small slice of the Feb gull excitement that enthralled birders in nearby Allegheny this season. Best was a first-winter **Iceland Gull** that was seen passing RCH 3/4 (GM), a first county record. A first-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** at MLD 2/14 (MV) was also very good, but this author suspects that this species is on the increase in sw. PA during winter, and perhaps someday sightings of this species will become routine. Flocks of **Ring-billed Gulls** numbering up to a few hundred were noted variously

throughout Feb. The only report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was a late southbound migrant on the BR 12/10 (GM).

A **Common Raven** was an excellent find in RCH 2/3 (MV). This species, like Great Black-backed Gull, is very rare in *Beaver*, but in the case of the raven, reports of this species from nearby *Allegheny* and (especially) *Washington* indicate that a range expansion of Common Ravens into sw. PA may be underway, and this RCH sighting may very well be simply the first of many more to come. Forty-seven **Carolina Wrens** tallied on the Beaver CBC was a very good count, and one of the highest CBC tallies in the years since the population of this species crashed in the late 1970s. Four **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found on the Beaver CBC 12/17, but that was the only report. A **Gray Catbird** which was reported last season as lingering at SGL 285 until 12/10 was not seen after that date (GM), but one was found in NST on the Beaver CBC 12/17 (BaK).

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** wintered on SGL 285 (GM). A **Field Sparrow** was a good find in Darlington Twp. 1/7 (MV), a bird that was undoubtedly taking advantage of the balmy Jan temperatures. Two **Swamp Sparrows** were located at Madden Run Marsh, also on 1/7 (MV). GM found **White-crowned Sparrows** wintering again on SGL 285 - this seems to be one of the few reliable wintering locations known in the county. A **Common Grackle** on SGL 285 2/18 was likely wintering and not an early migrant, as were 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** there on the same date (GM). Finally, a beautiful **Common Redpoll** (probably a first-winter male) frequented a feeder in Aliquippa from 2/17 to at least 3/8 and perhaps later (ph. BW). BW graciously opened his yard to other birders and several got to see and photograph this northern visitor from close range.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Karyn Delaney, Scott Gregg, Barb Kiester (BaK), Bruce Kiester (BrK), Joel Mason, Rick Mason (Beaver CBC compiler), Becky Smith, Kate St. John, Mark Vass, Bill Walbek

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#### **Bedford County**

No Report.

Observers: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102@aol.com**,

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#### **Berks County**

Locations: CBC's: Reading CBC 12/16, Hamburg CBC 12/31, Bernville CBC 1/2, Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Glen Morgan Lake (GML), Lake Ontelaunee (LO).

Mild fall weather prevailed until late January, when more seasonably wintry conditions set in. Very cold temperatures in February froze lakes and caused snow from the only major storm of the period to persist well into March. The list of 'half hardy' birds that survived into or through the period is long.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen off and on at LO among **Canada Geese** 1/30-2/18 (KL, BS, MS, DW). Northbound **Snow Geese** began to appear by the end of the period, with 2000 in the Oley Valley 2/28 (RK, PO). One to three **Cackling Geese** were seen with **Canada Geese** and **Snow Geese** 1/26-2/18 (RK, DW). A record high count of 200 **Tundra Swans** appeared on the HCBC.

At least 17 duck species spent all or part of the winter, becoming more visible when they concentrated at LO in Feb after most other waters froze. Brief visits by sea ducks included a **White-winged Scoter** at LO 1/23 (DW), a flock of 10 **Long-tailed Ducks** at LO 12/2 (PO) and one there 2/18 (RK, MS). The shallow, marshy, privately owned GML IBA, mostly off limits to birders, was visited 1/7 and produced excellent counts of 34 **Northern Shovelers** and 128 **Ruddy Ducks**, among more common species (KL). Nearby Grace Mine pond hosted a few **Canvasbacks** as usual. At BML 2/1, 28 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen among 500 **Common Mergansers** (JS). Winter grebe records included two **Pied-billed Grebes** at Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp. 1/30 (PO), and one to four **Horned Grebes** at LO 2/17-28 (RK).

**Bald Eagles** of all ages were reported, especially at LO, where the breeding pair was seen courting in Jan and Feb. Hawks reported just once included a **Northern Goshawk** and a **Golden Eagle** on the HCBC and two **Red-shouldered Hawks** on the RCBC. No **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported prior to the arctic blasts of Feb, which pushed two light morph birds into the Oley Valley 2/26-2/28 (RK, PO). Perhaps due to the mild early winter, more **American Kestrels** wintered than usual. There were five **Merlin** reports 12/16-2/19, the latter date involving a raid on a Bern Twp. feeder (RK, JS, DW). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in Reading 1/26 and near Robeson 1/31 (DW).

The first report of **American Woodcock** came from Hamburg 2/27 (MW). Gull numbers were lower than in recent years. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at LO 1/11 (DW). One to eight **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (all ages, but mostly adults) were reported at LO 12/15-2/18 (RK, DW). Two **Barn Owls** were found on the HCBC. Up to six **Short-eared Owls** were seen

during the Winter at a game farm with uncut grass and standing sorghum in Heidelberg Twp. (MD, RK, JS, DW). A **Selasphorus** hummingbird, probably an adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** (photo, CC), visited a feeder on Bloody Spring Rd., Bethel Twp. 11/26-1/18 (CC). Unfortunately, its visits did not coincide with those of a bander. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** wintered at three traditional locations. An adult female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** with a black rather than red crown, a rare variant noted in the scientific literature, visited a Bern Twp. feeder for a few days around 2/12 (RK, JS).

There were six reports of **Eastern Phoebe**, perhaps of the same one or two birds, from Leesport and nearby LO 12/30-2/18 (DK, MS, DW). On the latter date, a bird that had survived single digit night temperatures appeared healthy as it sallied out to pluck insects from the surface of the Maiden Creek below the LO spillway (RK). A **Western Kingbird** discovered on a Christmas morning walk north of Morgantown (HH) was watched and photographed by many birders till 1/11 (HH). It fed largely on fruit of exotic plants (*Euonymus*, *Celastrus*, *Lonicera*), which it harvested by sallying. After feeding, it would perch quietly, digesting fruit and occasionally regurgitating seeds (RK).

The HCBC tallied a record 11 **Common Ravens**. One or two continued to be seen at Leesport south of the usual range till 1/24 (DK). A **House Wren** lingered to be counted on the HCBC, on which a record 12 **Winter Wrens** were also counted. **Carolina Wrens** and **Eastern Bluebirds**, two mild winter bellwethers, reached or exceeded record counts on CBC's. Four **Hermit Thrushes** were found at LO and one in Pike Twp. 2/25 (SF, RK). Much more unusual were two surviving **Gray Catbirds** at LO 2/25 in multi-flora rose (SF). A flock of 500 **American Pipits** was in the Oley Valley 1/21, before hard winter weather set in (RK). The HCBC recorded its first **Pine Warbler**. A **Common Yellowthroat** was found on the BCBC. An **Eastern Towhee** was in District Twp. 1/14 (CRE).

Single **Chipping Sparrows** visited feeders near Leesport 2/22 (DK) and Bern Twp. 1/29 and 2/8 (JS). **Savannah Sparrows**, which winter every year but are seldom seen in the tundra-like fields they prefer, were found by the dozen along scraped roadsides and on manure after snowstorms (RK). The first **Fox Sparrows** appeared at feeders 2/15-2/26 (CD, CRE, DK).

Though **Horned Larks** were abundant, their manure visiting companions were scarce. A flock of 20 **Snow Buntings** was found on the HCBC, but only one other in the Oley Valley 2/28, where one of only two reported **Lapland Longspurs** was also found (RK, JS). An imm female **Dickcissel** wintered at a feeder near Leesport 12/3 through March (DK). Birders seeking Short-eared Owls found 6-14 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the same game farm this winter (MD, RK, JS, DW). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at BML 2/17 (JS).

A yellow variant **House Finch** was at Baldy Hill, District Twp. 2/14 (CRE). A **European Goldfinch** (photo, JH) visited a feeder near New Bethel Church, Albany Twp. 2/7 (PR, LG) till at least 3/7 (HW). Though the Distelfink is a staple of Pennsylvania German folk art and is on the logo of the Baird Ornithological Club, this is the first county record of a free flying bird.

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rkeller@temple.edu**, Tom Clauser, Chuck Cravotta, Mike Deegan, Carolyn Drasher, Catherine R. Elwell, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Holly Hartshorne, Jack Holcomb, Dean Kendall, Ken Lebo, Patrick O'Donnell, Penny Rhodes, Joan Silagy, Bart Smith, Matt Spence, John Traynor, Helen Weaver, Drew Weber, Matt Wlasniewski.

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#### **Blair County**

No Report. No Compiler.

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#### **Bradford County**

As I sit down to write this report, my mind is on the person who compiled this report for many years: Bill Reid. His passing (on March 27, 2007) will leave an immense hole in our birding world. He was a constant, an authority, and the person to turn to when there were unanswerable questions. Now we will have to muddle through on our own.

Locations: Bradford County Bald Eagle Survey (BES), Bradford County Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Southeast Bradford County Christmas Bird Count on 12/30 (CBC).

As last year, the winter was extremely mild, with the first true snowstorm not occurring until Valentine's Day.

The CBC produced some nice duck sightings: a **Gadwall**, a **Green-winged Teal** and a **Ruddy Duck**, all at Tamarack Pond (DBr, BR). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was observed at the Sayre access 1/14 (BF, IF). A **Common Loon** was present on the Wyalusing Creek at Camptown on the CBC (SG, BW).

There were plenty of **Bald Eagle** sightings: on the CBC at Sugar Run (RK), an adult flying south over the Susquehanna R. at Quick's Bend (on the BES) 1/12 (TG), three seen on day two of the BES, 1/14, one at the Sayre access, an adult at Hornbrook, an adult at Echo Beach (BF, IF), one seen near Moxie 2/13 (JW), and an imm at the Wysox cliffs (CM, GM).

There were also a number of **Northern Harrier** reports: at Peck Hill 12/27 (AV, GV), a female at South Waverly 12/27 (RS), 9 seen on the CBC, including an amazing 7 hunting together in the same field between Laceyville and Spring Hill in Tuscarora Twp. (JD, MC), and a male on the WRS in the SW part of the county (BL). A **Northern Goshawk** was present near Oak Hill 2/10 (GM). A surprisingly large total of nine **Red-tailed hawks** was seen 1/12 on the BES from Quick's Bend to Standing Stone along the Susquehanna R. (TG). There were reportedly a larger number of **Rough-legged Hawks** in the northern counties of PA this winter: in *Bradford* one was seen on the CBC in the Wyalusing vicinity (RL), a light morph in southwestern *Bradford* 2/6, and a light form 2/8 in western *Bradford*, both on the WRS (BL). A **Golden Eagle** was in the Tamarack L. vicinity on the CBC (DBr, BR). A **Merlin** was present, adjacent to a bird feeder on Peck Hill 1/3 (AV, GV).

Not common, there were a few observations of **Eastern Screech Owls**: one 12/11 in the Peck Hill vicinity (AV GV), one at Quick's Bend 12/30 (DBu), and one in the Wyalusing area on the CBC (RL). Although **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** are frequently seen at lower elevations along the Susquehanna R. during the winter, this year there were a great many sightings at higher elevations at bird feeders: from 1/12 and continuing at Peck Hill (AV, GV), 12/30 near Oak Hill (CM, GM), 2/9 at the suet feeder, 2/14 at the sunflower seed feeder, and on 2/17 in the woods, all near New Era (TG).

Not frequently seen, a **Northern Shrike** was observed on the CBC (MC, JD), and an imm on 2/18 at Fisk and Ross Roads near Oak Hill (CM, GM). A **Hermit Thrush** was present on Oak Hill during the CBC (DG). A **Northern Mockingbird** (rarely seen here in winter) was near Oak Hill 1/3 (CM, GM). Unusually large numbers of **American Tree Sparrows**, totaling 30, and **Dark-eyed Juncos**, totaling 160, were seen in various flocks near Hollenback 2/23 (TG). The CBC produced two **Eastern Meadowlarks** on Old Stagecoach Rd. near Wyalusing (SG, BW).

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

**tgswoods@epix.net**, Dan Brauning, David Buck, Mark Catalano, Joe DeMarco, Bob Fowles, Ingrid Fowles, Sandy Goodwin, Doug Gross, Rick Koval, Bruce Launius, Rebecca Lesko, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Bill Reid, Richard Shelling, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Bob Wasilewski, John Winters.

## Bucks County

Locations: Bedminster Twp. (BET), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Core Creek Park (CCP), Delaware River (Del. R.), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Tullytown (TYT), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC).

Extremely mild weather brought spring blooms on some flowering trees and shrubs by early January. December was 6 degrees F above average and January was 5 degrees F above. Late January and February reversed with February being 6.3 degrees F below normal. Rainfall was over 2" below normal and snowfall was less than 10". Ice cover began in late January and by mid-February all the large lakes were frozen. The early warm weather generally resulted in lackluster numbers of waterfowl on lakes except where they normally concentrate at PWT. Even **Canada Geese** were in lower numbers. However, the late freeze pushed some additional waterfowl down to our lakes, when in normal years they would be starting to move north. The numbers of half-hardy species were a mixed bag, with several species that have been increasing in winter in recent years surprisingly scarce. However, there were several new high counts on CBCs for some species that benefited from the mild weather. Opposite to last year, there were no irruptive species.

Weather was exceptionally good for all three Christmas Bird Counts. The 39<sup>th</sup> U-CBC 12/17 had 89 species and 30,145 individuals. The species count was slightly below recent averages, but there were 9 species that exceeded previous high counts plus 6 more that equaled previous high counts. The 41<sup>st</sup> C-CBC on 12/30 had 91 species and 45,622 individuals. This was only the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 41 years with 90 or above species. There were an amazing four new species for the count, but the most rare two of these were not in *Bucks*, or even in PA. There were 8 new high counts and 4 that equaled previous highs. The 60<sup>th</sup> S-CBC 12/16 tallied a new record 104 species and 76,958 individuals. There were 10 species with new high counts and 3 species that equaled previous highs. Three species were new to this count.

As usual, historical references are from "Birds of Bucks County" 1998 by Ken Kitson and subsequent updates recorded in this Journal. Weather statistics are from NOAA at nearby Trenton, NJ. Christmas Bird Count data was supplied by Bob Mercer: S-CBC; Diane Allison: Central CBC; and Bill Etter: U-CBC.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was in Solebury Twp. 1/19-1/20 (DFa). One was at MKF 2/17 (RS) and remained through the period. The small showing was in sharp contrast to last year's high numbers. The high count of about 1000 **Snow Geese** migrating over PVP 12/30 on the C-CBC was a nice addition to the count (BE, AM). Otherwise, flocks totaling only

630 were reported passing over various sites between 12/16-1/2, which is consistent with the relatively modest numbers we normally get (BK, S-CBC, U-CBC). A small goose seen flying over Tyler State Park on the S-CBC 12/16 was probably a **Ross's Goose**, for the 1<sup>st</sup> S-CBC report (GD). A **Brant** continued from fall through at least 1/6 at PVP (AM), and possibly the same bird was on the S-CBC 12/16 at CCP (DA). A **Barnacle Goose** was reported at PVP 12/27 (SKa), but surprisingly not reported again. **Cackling Goose** was widely reported with one to five being the norm (m.ob.), but possibly as many as 11 were believed to be this species at PVP 1/29 (CR). Two **Tundra Swans** at PVP 12/30 provided only the 6<sup>th</sup> record for the C-CBC (HE) and were seen again 1/4 (DW). In addition, a total of about 13 birds were reported from four locations between 1/1-2/28, which is good for a species normally scarce here in winter (BE, RFe, MH, Dfa). All but one were in Feb.

A count of 220 **American Black Ducks** near Mudd Island on the Del. R. was noteworthy for our area (BK). A peak count of 1000+ **Mallards** at NSP in mid-Feb is also noteworthy (BE). Scarce here, six **Canvasbacks** and one **Redhead** were welcome on the S-CBC 12/16. Small numbers of both species were reported from multiple sites from 1/24 through Feb with the highest count being 9 **Canvasbacks** at NSP 2/6 (BE) and 9 **Redheads** at PWT 2/25 (DFa). **Lesser Scaup** far surpassed the previous high count on the S-CBC with 150 reported. A **White-winged Scoter** at PVP 1/29 (CR) was unusual for the date. Another was on the Del. R. off Quaker Penn Park 2/25 (DFa). Also unusual for the date were two **Long-tailed Ducks** at PVP 2/4 (MH) and another 2/14 (FG). The high-count report for **Common Goldeneye** was 83 on 2/10 in one flock on the Del. R. at the traditional location just below the bridge to Frenchtown, NJ (AM). High water in the past two winters may have prevented the normal gathering there. **Common Merganser** counts were well below normal until the cold weather in late Jan. The peak count reported was 1300+ at PVP 1/27 (AM). **Red-breasted Merganser** was recorded for the first time on the C-CBC at PVP 12/30 (CR). It has become apparent in recent years that this species is rare but regular in winter as evidenced by one at PVP 1/22-28 ((KR,AM), one at TYT in mid-Jan (CR), and one at NSP starting 2/5 (BE). A count of 101 **Ruddy Ducks** on the S-CBC is about double the long-term average. A single site count of 100 at Falls Twp. Community Park 1/16 (BK) is noteworthy.

A **Red-throated Loon** was at PVP 12/2 (AM), and up to two were on the Del. R. off Quaker Penn Park 2/22-2/25 (NZ, Dfa). **Common Loon** was at NSP in early Dec, again 12/17 for the U-CBC, and 12/31 (BE). One was at PWT 1/1 (DFa). A count of 32 **Pied-billed Grebes** was almost double the 10 year average on the S-CBC 12/16. A **Horned Grebe** at PVP was a good find for only the 5<sup>th</sup> time on the C-CBC 12/30 (AM, KK). Three were reported on the S-CBC 12/16, where more frequent but still uncommon. More unusual were individuals at PVP 2/6-21 (AM), Ingham Springs 2/6 (GJ), and NSP 1/1-2/11 (BE). A **Red-necked Grebe** was on the Del. R. at Tinicum Twp. 2/10 (DFa), and 4 were in PWT area 2/25 (DFa). A **Double-crested Cormorant** missing one wing survived well for several months at PVP (RH, AM), but vanished after 2/16. A record 51 were on the S-CBC. Another record high, 20 **Great Cormorants** were tallied for the S-CBC 12/16. Twenty were near Mudd Island 2/12 (BK). **Great Blue Heron** set a new record of 40 for the U-CBC 12/17, a count of 75 on the S-CBC was three times the long-term average, and 28 tallied on the C-CBC was two times the average. This is not surprising considering the mild weather and increased local breeding. Only one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found for the second year in a row on the S-CBC 12/16 (BM) and was still at Rohm & Haas, Bristol 1/1 (DFa).

Vultures were abundant, as one might expect with the mild weather, with twice the average being reported on the U-CBC and C-CBC, and five times average on the S-CBC. The counts are shown in the following table:

SPECIES	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Turkey Vulture	416	196	75	687
Black Vulture	95	87	26*	208
TOTAL	511	283	101	895

\*Record High

However, after the freeze began, vultures decreased quickly. A flock of 15 **Black Vultures** and 75 **Turkey Vultures** heading south 1/23 at PVP was apparent evidence of their departure (AM), as was their near absence at NSP (BE). An **Osprey** at NSP continued from the fall until 12/9 (BE). After last year's discovery of our first **Bald Eagle** nest at CCP, our second nest site was reported 1/26 from Nockamixon Twp. on Lynn Island in the Del.R. (AK). **Bald Eagles** were reported widely throughout the period with the highest site counts being 7 each at NSP 1/31 (BE) and PVP 1/27 (AM). The build up in numbers stopped when the lakes froze. A roost of 9 **Northern Harriers** was observed at NSP 12/12 (BE). Possible **Rough-legged Hawks**, not seen well, were reported from MKF 2/11 (ABr) and CCP 2/22 (NZ, HD). Unusual, **Merlin** was completely missed in the Bucks areas of the CBCs. One was in Upper Bucks in early Dec (BE), and one was at MKF 1/23 (BK). Our only known resident pair of **Peregrine Falcon** was at their usual perch under the Del. R. Turnpike Bridge in Jan (CR).

Two **Virginia Rails** were found again this winter at Quakerstown Swamp 12/17 (AK) for the 9<sup>th</sup> UB-CBC record (AK) and were still there

through at least 1/13 (DFa, CR). It is now apparent that they remain there through mild winter weather. The family of 4 **Common Moorhens** attempted to winter at US Steel, Falls Twp. where they nested (ABi, NB). Three of them were tallied there on the S-CBC for a 1<sup>st</sup> count record, and at least one was seen through 1/26, after which the pond froze. High numbers of **American Coots** wintered at PWT area, with a 30-year high count of 1220 on the S-CBC 12/16.

Another indicator of unusual numbers due to mild conditions were the unusual winter reports of 25 **Killdeer** 1/4 at New Britain Twp.(AM) and a peak of 27 at Buckingham Twp. 1/18-24 (DFa). A **Least Sandpiper** at PWT continued from the fall season to be tallied on the S-CBC 12/16 (DFa), providing a new late date and a 1st for the S-CBC. **Wilson's Snipe** was reported more frequently, as one would expect with the mild weather. There were a total of 8 on the three CBCs. Reports also came from Pine Run (DFa), PVP (BL), and Bradford Dam (GJ) in Jan, Silver Lake Park 2/5 (BK); and they were regular at MKF in Jan-Feb (RS). **American Woodcock** is assumed to be present in mild winters but an actual sighting is rare. So, reports from PVP 12/1 (CL), Richlandtown 1/3 (DFa), and Nockamixon Twp. 1/21(HM) were noteworthy.

A **Laughing Gull** at Bradford Dam 12/1 was unusual for that date at an upper county location (BK). Two on 12/14 at TYT were the last reported (SKe). A first winter **Black-headed Gull** at TYT 1/6-1/23 provided our 4<sup>th</sup> county record (DFa, m.ob.). A good local count of 21 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at PVP 12/5 (JT). One was unexpected at NSP 2/5 (DFa). The 2<sup>nd</sup> fully documented county record of **California Gull** occurred 1/13 at Bristol (MS). **Thayer's Gull** is always reported with caution. This year was no exception with one possible first-year bird at TYT 1/12 (TJ) and another very good candidate at NSP 1/6-1/12 (BE). However, an adult 1/13 at PWT was believed by the observer to be less problematic (DFa). **Iceland Gulls** again were fairly regular away from the TYT landfill this winter, with NSP being the best location (BE), but reports also came from PVP (AM), CCP (BK), and Lake Towhee Park (ABr). The single site high count report for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was 315 12/30 at PVP (AM), with a confirming count there of 314 on 1/4 (TJ). A **Glaucous Gull** at TYT 12/14 was the first of the season (SKe). Two second-winter **Nelson's Gull** (Herring x Glaucous hybrids) were reported at TYT 1/12 (TJ), and a first-winter bird was at Bristol 1/14 (DFa). The following table shows this year's CBC gull numbers, which were relatively low and may be a result of the warmer weather.

SPECIES	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Ring-billed Gull	608	726	2,642	3,976
Herring Gull	52	28	30,908	30,988
Iceland Gull	0	0	12	12
Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	157*	344*	97	598*
Glaucous Gull	0	0	2	2
Great Bl.-backed Gull	6	13	5,684	5,703
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>39,345</b>	<b>41,279</b>

\* Record High

There were no reports for **Barn Owl** or **Short-eared Owl**. Aggressive nocturnal CBC counting and the mild weather produced record **Eastern Screech Owl** counts. The U-CBC smashed its previous record of 114 with 161, and the C-CBC broke its record of 59 with 85. The S-CBC had 43. One wonders if all the counters are listening to each other's recorded calls! The post West Nile Virus **Great Horned Owl** CBC numbers were still well below average on the S-CBC and C-CBC, but the U-CBC count had 41 which was par for the 15 year average. Five **Barred Owls** matched last year's record on the U-CBC, and one was recorded on the C-CBC for only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Only 3 **Long-eared Owls** from three locations were reported, all on the C-CBC 12/30. A CBC total count of five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** was good for a reported off year.

There were no **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports. After last year's way above average **Red-bellied Woodpecker** CBC counts totaling 507 birds, they were far below recent averages with only 276. Making up for them was a total of 629 **Downy Woodpeckers**, which far exceeded the long-term averages on all three CBCs, with 183 on the S-CBC, a new record. Similarly, a record 27 **Hairy Woodpeckers** were tallied on the S-CBC, and 52 on the U-CBC was almost double the 10 year average. **Pileated Woodpecker** was also noteworthy for exceeding the averages with 5 on the C-CBC and 7 on the U-CBC. Apparently the S-CBC has never recorded them. Two **Eastern Phoebes** were found on the S-CBC at PWT (DFa), with one still there 1/1 (DFa), for the only reports. The CBC total of 2601 **American Crows**, increased again this year to about 60% of the 10 yr. average, possibly continuing a recovery from West Nile Virus impact. Peak counts of **Horned Lark** were 147 on 2/17 at Hilltown Twp. (AM), 100 near Blooming Glen 2/20 (BE), 74 at BET 2/20 (BE), and about 200 at MKF 2/26 (RS).

No apparent movement of **Black-capped Chickadee** occurred into our area this year as compared to the very large irruption last year. Birder

awareness of the status and range of this species locally has improved greatly over the years, but a CBC total 132 were still reported and probably would be better reported as **chickadee species**. After last year's **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption, only 5 were recorded on the CBCs and none thereafter. This large fluctuation is not unprecedented. **Carolina Wren** continued its upward trend, far exceeding previous records, with 280 on U-CBC and 180 on the S-CBC. The C-CBC count of 110 was above average. Surprising considering the weather, only one **House Wren** stayed at PWT long enough to be recorded on the 12/16 S-CBC (DFa) and was the only report all winter. After two high years, the **Winter Wren** CBC counts smashed records with 23 on the S-CBC, 16 on C-CBC, and a record equalling 11 on the U-CBC. **Marsh Wren** also took advantage of the weather. It was found 12/17-12/24 at Quakertown (RFe,BE), making an appearance for the U-CBC, and at least one continued at Buckingham Wetlands from last season through the winter period (RH) and was tallied for the C-CBC. **Eastern Bluebirds** surpassed last year's good CBC total count of 515 with a way above average 726. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, **Hermit Thrush** had a total CBC above average count of 44, due to 40 on the U-CBC. Suitable habitat at NSP is believed to be the reason. Only the C-CBC found a large roost of **American Robins** resulting in an above average count of 4878. The other two counts were well below average. Another surprise considering the weather was a drop from a total of 25 **Gray Catbirds** on CBCs last year to only 5 this year, all on the S-CBC 12/17. The only others reported were one at NSP 12/9 (BE) and another at Falls of the Delaware Park, Lower Makefield Twp. 1/19 (BK). **Brown Thrashers** were at Warrington Twp. 12/12-2/26 (RFR), Warminster 1/7 (GU), and BET 2/21 through the period (JMe). None were on the CBCs this year after a well above average showing last year.

An unusually large flock of about 75 to 100 **American Pipits** wintered into early Jan at MKF (RS), with 32 still there 2/11 (AM, JMi), and 4 noted 2/26 (RS). Seven were found at PVP 2/4 (RS,HS), and 3 remained 2/6 (AM, JMi). The total **Cedar Waxwing** CBC count of 60 was a tiny fraction of average and probably reflected a shortage of appropriate food. However, a total CBC count of 214 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was close to average, indicating adequate food supply. As usual, the U-CBC was the main contributor with 151. Two **Pine Warblers** were at Perkasio 12/17 for only the 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence on the U-CBC (JR). Two **Palm Warblers** on the S-CBC 12/16 provided only the 6<sup>th</sup> report for that count (DFa). A **Common Yellowthroat** was found on the S-CBC 12/16 and two were found at the same spot 12/17 (LR, MJ).

Despite the mild weather, and after being way above average last year with 46 **Eastern Towhees** on the CBCs, there were only 5 this year, which was well below average. In addition, one was at NSP 12/8 (BE), two were at Falls of the Delaware Park 1/19 (BK), one was at CCP 2/13 (BK), and one was regular at feeders in BET in Feb (JMe). **American Tree Sparrow** has decreased over the years, and the CBC total of 167 was well under half the long-term average. The U-CBC 12/17 had the only **Chipping Sparrow**, contrary to higher expectations for the warm weather. The very cooperative **Lark Sparrow** at MKF continued from the fall season through the period (RS, VS). **Savannah Sparrow** was in greater than normal numbers on the CBCs, with a record U-CBC 28 and a C-CBC 2<sup>nd</sup> highest count of 29. Mild conditions undoubtedly were also a factor in keeping **Swamp Sparrow** numbers way above average for a total 132 on the CBCs, with new high counts of 32 on the U-CBC 12/17 and 31 on the C-CBC 12/30. Rarely reported here, 2 **Lapland Longspurs** were a good find 12/10 at PWT (DFa), and 2 were at MKF 2/26 (RS, HS, VS). A **Snow Bunting** on the S-CBC 12/16 was the only report all season.

Decades old maximum CBC counts of **Eastern Meadowlark** were 189 on the S-CBC, 77 on the C-CBC, and 63 on the U-CBC. They now can be missed completely. This year, a tally of 7 on the C-CBC was the only report. Again, **Rusty Blackbirds** wintered at Quakertown Swamp. A high count of 82 there 1/13 was believed to be exceptionally high (CR), as were 64 2/1 (BL). **Baltimore Oriole** was reported at Levittown 12/26 through the season (GC), Spinnerstown 1/5-1/8 (RFO), and Northampton Twp. 1/24 (JH, DH). One was particularly noteworthy in New Hope, wintering for the third year in a row at the same feeders well supplied with jelly and grapes (SM).

Astonishing was the complete absence of **Purple Finch** on all 3 CBCs and no post CBC reports. The first miss of this species in 39 years on the U-CBC is an indication of how unusual this is. The only report was a flyby at West Rockhill Twp. 12/9 (BE). A significant downward trend in **House Finch** CBC numbers is represented well by the U-CBC data as follows: 15 year average 1210; 10 year average 908; and 5 year average 527. Two **Common Redpolls** were seen briefly at a feeder in BET 2/28 (JMe). This species has been so nearly absent in recent decades compared to the often-large invasions of years ago, that they are no longer expected in our area. Surprising was the complete absence of **Pine Siskin**. **Evening Grosbeak** is another species no longer expected and went unreported this year.

**Exotics:** One **Egyptian Goose** stopped at PVP 2/12, and 2 made an appearance at NSP 2/18 (BE).

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Coyne, Henry D'Allessandro, Gerry Dewaghe, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Rob Fergus (RFe), Doug Filler (DFi), Ron French (RFR), Roy Frock (RFo), Fred Gagnon, Ray Hendrick, Mike Homel, Diann Hritz, Jim Hritz, Peter Hussie, Mick Jeitner, Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Steve Kacir (SKa), Bill Keim, Sandra Keller (SKe), Ken Kitson, Arlene Koch, Paul Lehman, Butch Lishman, Cindy Long, Harry McGarrity, Bob Mercer, John Mertz (JMe), Suzanne Meyers, Judy Mirabella (JMi), Ken Rieker, Linda Rowan, Jewel Rufe, Cameron Rutt, Matt Sharp, Hannah Smith, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, John Tramontano, Dustin Welch, Nick Zahn

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### Butler County

Locations: Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Macoskey Center (MC), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Poplar Manor (PM), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Township (SRT).

The winter weather was actually balmy until late January 2007 throughout *Butler*. Then, Old Man Winter woke up and socked it to us with a vengeance. The north jet stream dipped farther south than usual and quickly established a high ridge of arctic cold air over most of the mid-west and northeastern United States. Moist, warmer air tried to penetrate this high ridge time and time again from southerly climes with the only result being a pile up of drifting snow as high as windowsills.

February 2007 was cold, windy and snowy. In fact, some severe wind-storms felled many old forest trees in the county. This further added another survival problem to the paucity of natural foods, such as seeds, nuts and fruits. Several observers noted that the American Robin, Eastern Bluebird and Cedar Waxwing had eaten most of the Staghorn Sumac fruit before the middle of the month, a telltale sign that natural foods were scarce by then.

However, this report stresses the "good time" of the winter period, namely the county's 41<sup>st</sup> Christmas Bird Count (CBC) held on Saturday 16 December 2006 from 5 am to 6 pm by the Bartramian Audubon Society. BAS has been responsible for this annual National Audubon Society event since its inception as an official NAS chapter in December 1982. The sky was unusually clear on 12/16 with gentle winds and temperatures ranging from a minimum of 28 degrees and a maximum of 50 degrees F. All moving and standing water bodies were completely open and for that reason Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park, the central focal point of the count, produced an outstanding list of water-oriented avian species. Although no record was broken for number of species, the 91 different kinds did tie with the 1999 count that also experienced a balmy day with an open Lake Arthur.

While BAS members and friends did not add any new avian species to the accumulated list, thanks to Suzanne Butcher, CBC compiler, those birds below marked with HC represent newly established "high counts." Those species marked US are considered 'unusual species' having been observed three times or less in prior counts.

Canada Goose 2247 HC, Mute Swan 2, Tundra Swan 12, Gadwall HC, American Wigeon 2, American Black Duck 8, Mallard 108, Northern Shoveler 1, Northern Pintail 1, Canvasback 1, Redhead 7, Ring-necked Duck 128 HC, Lesser Scaup 70 HC, Long-tailed Duck 2, Bufflehead 35, Common Goldeneye 2, Hooded Merganser 23, Common Merganser 3, Red-breasted Merganser 1, Ruddy Duck 450, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, Wild Turkey 82, Northern Bobwhite 5, Red-throated Loon 1 US, Common Loon 4, Pied-billed Grebe 5, Horned Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant 1, Great Blue Heron 6, Northern Harrier 4, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Cooper's Hawk 4, Red-shouldered Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 65 HC, Rough-legged Hawk 1, American Kestrel 21, American Coot 1349, Killdeer 4, American Woodcock 1 US, Bonaparte's Gull 40, Ring-billed Gull 208, Herring Gull 2, Rock Pigeon 674, Mourning Dove 665, Eastern Screech Owl 6, Great Horned Owl 10, Barred Owl 5 HC, Belted Kingfisher 5, Red-bellied Woodpecker 42, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, Downy Woodpecker 86, Hairy Woodpecker 37, Northern Flicker 8, Pileated Woodpecker 12 HC, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue Jay 186, American Crow 248, Horned Lark 8, Black-capped Chickadee 346, Tufted Titmouse 145, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 101, Brown Creeper 9, Carolina Wren 77 HC, Winter Wren 3, Golden-crowned Kinglet 27, Ruby-throated Kinglet 3, Eastern Bluebird 109 HC, Hermit Thrush 6, American Robin 38, Gray Catbird 1, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 1380, American Pipit 29 HC, Cedar Waxwing 149, Yellow-rumped Warbler 5 HC, American Tree Sparrow 185, Field Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 86, Swamp Sparrow 6, White-throated Sparrow 22, White-crowned Sparrow 2, Dark-eyed Junco 459, Snow Bunting 1, Northern Cardinal 238, Red-winged Blackbird 2, Common Grackle 1, Purple Finch 3, House Finch 124, American Goldfinch 119, House Sparrow 265. Total Species: 91; Total Individuals: 10,919

Observers: Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 794-2434, genewilhelm@aol.com, Nancy Baker, Jim Barcaskey, Brenda Bessell, Laura Bessell, Carol Bickel, Steve Bickel, Thomas Black, Jim Blain, Nancy Blain, Kate Brydon, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher,

Linda Cooper, Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, Bobbie Davis, Charles Davis, Sharon Davis, Barb Dean, George Dean, Veda DePaepe, Mary Beth Edwards, Kathie Goodblood, Kyle Griffith, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Robert Jamison, Sally Jamison, Berenice Madjaric, Robert Madjaric, Barbara Michalowski, Richard Nugent, Bob Piety, Judy Pietz, Arthur Richards, Carol Schreffler, Joanne Sergeant, Pam Seth, Katie Seth, Rhonni Seth, Samantha Seth, Becky Sheeler, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Terry Steele, Alice Stehle, John Stehle, Mark Swansiger, Sandee Swansiger, Bob Van Newkirk, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Kimberly Williams, Sarah Wilson, Joan Wilver, and Linda Xerophantos.

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### Cambria County

Locations: Dunlo area (DL), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), ST. Lawrence area (STL)

A tale of two seasons, the first half of the period was unusually mild and wet, while the second half was brutally cold. A **White Winged Scoter** was an unusual find at PG 12/11 (JS). Waterfowl were present at all locations until the freeze up in late Jan.

Several adult **Bald Eagles** were present at PG, but only one seemed to tough out the brutal weather. A **Northern Harrier** was at PG sporadically (RB). A lone **Rough-Legged Hawk** was seen at STL during the latter half of Feb (DG).

A **Barred Owl** was seen at DL 12/2 (JJ). Large flocks of **Horned Larks** were seen at PA throughout the period (DG). A **Hermit Thrush** was seen early and late in the period at PG (RB). **American Tree Sparrows** appeared later than usual at DL (JJ).

Although it is not a part of the winter report we always show the results of the years' Bluebird boxes at Prince Gallitzin St. Park. The program is run by John Salvetti and gets better every year. A new record was set this year (2006). Out of 100 boxes, 209 **Eastern Bluebirds** and 253 **Tree Swallows** were fledged. John feels that because all boxes now have predator guards, the success rate is much higher.

Observers: Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd. Patton, PA, 16668 (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net, Rory Bower, Judy Johns, John Salvetti.

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### Cameron County

No Report. No Compiler.

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### Carbon County

No Report.

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

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### Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bald Eagle Ridge (BER), Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Colyer Lake (COL), Millbrook Marsh (MM), State College (SC).

More information about some of the locations in this report is available at [www.scbirdcl.org](http://www.scbirdcl.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). 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 67<sup>th</sup> State College Christmas Bird Count (CBC) 12/17 had 68 species with 12,158 birds. Highlights: **Herring Gull** (1st time), **Northern Goshawk** (8th time), **American Coot** (6th time), and **Ring-necked Duck** (8th time). Significant misses were Wilson's Snipe, Killdeer, Northern Harrier, and Common Grackle, all seen on more than half of previous counts. Large numbers include records for **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, **Ring-billed Gulls**, and a tie of the old record for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Gray Catbirds**.

The BESP CBC 12/31 had 66 species and 5966 birds. Highlights: **Double-crested Cormorant** (a first for this count), **Common Yellowthroat**, **Tundra Swan**, **Northern Shrike**, **Barred Owl**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Bald Eagle**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Snow Bunting**. The accidental bird of the season was a Harris's Hawk near Toftrees (details below).

A possible **Cackling Goose** that matched descriptions in several field guides was discovered at the DP 12/10 (NAB). Twenty **Tundra Swans** were seen and heard flying over Pine Grove Mills during a snow squall 12/7 (BF), and a single one was an unusual find among 200 **Canada Geese** at DP 12/9 (NAB). A wintering **Wood Duck** was seen on Sinking Creek 1/5 (LR). A lone female **Common Goldeneye** was found at DP 2/3 (JV). A group of forty **American Coots** was seen at BESP 12/13 (MAH). A flock of 100-120 **Wild Turkeys** (largest flock ever seen by this observer in *Centre*) was found just north of Unionville 2/15 (DO).

Two **Bald Eagles** rising up out of a cornfield (an unexpected

location) were seen being harassed by crows at Shiloh Road 1/2 (JL). A mating pair of **Bald Eagles** was observed and photographed as both birds exchanged nest-sitting duties at BESP 2/10 (BS). **Northern Harriers** were seen at various places throughout this quarter: at the Julian wetlands 12/15 (MN); at Lick Run Marsh 12/16 (BS); at Curtin Marshland 1/31 (MAH); a female or imm was working a field off I-99 midway between Bellefonte and State College and another (age and sex unknown) was soaring high above the first one 2/11 (BF); an adult female and an adult male with the male hunting near the backwater of the marina inlet at BESP 2/6 (LG); one around the Woodward area 2/11 (GY, SY); and one hunting fields near Rockview Prison 2/25 (DO).

An imm **Northern Goshawk** was spotted in a tree behind a townhouse in State College 1/7 (LG). A surprising find was a Harris's Hawk at Daybridge/Research Park; turns out there was a Falconry Convention at the Ramada Inn and some falconers were out exercising their birds 1/12 (JV). A **Golden Eagle** was seen along Bald Eagle ridge 12/10 (CW), and another near the Centre-Clearfield County line during a hike on the Allegheny Front Trail 1/21 (NB).

A **Common Raven** and **Red-tailed Hawk** had the following interesting aerial encounter 12/6: "I was heading to my car after work yesterday (stadium west lot), heard the "gronk gronk" of a **Common Raven** from the NW stadium area, then saw him, then saw a **Red-tailed Hawk** in hot pursuit. They swooped and swirled for a few minutes then both perched on the same high railing about 20 feet apart looking at each other for a minute or so. Then they seemed to both make a move toward each other for round 2, and continued their aerial acrobatics for a few more minutes. It was a fantastic display - I'd call the battle a draw." (JL).

Sightings of **Rough-legged Hawks** included: near COL 1/25 (MAH); a dark morph on the south side of the new Rt. 220, about 1/4 mile west of Bellefonte exit 78 1/29 (BS); a light morph west of Pine Grove Mills on Rt. 45 over PSU Agricultural fields 1/26 (JB); near COL 12/25 (DO); a very dark morph hovering for prey just off the west bound on-ramp to I-99 from Harrison Road (Pleasant Gap) 2/10 (JL); a light morph near Wagner Rd. and Rt. 322 2/11 (MAH); a light morph around Woodward area 2/11 (GY, SY); and a light morph hunting at ROC 2/25 (DO).

One or more **Northern Shrikes** were seen at BESP at two places: the BESP marina 12/13 (MH), 12/29 (BS, BB), 1/3 (BS), 1/6 (MH), 1/7 (RF, AF, TF); and the BESP Letterman Campground 1/11 (WL), 1/22 (GY, SY). Three **Fish Crows** were observed at game lands #176 near Toftrees 1/4 (NK).

An unusual find for the Penn State Main Campus was a **Winter Wren** 1/31 (GG). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found at game lands #176 near Toftrees 1/4 (NK), and at Walnut Springs 2/2 (JV). Many **Eastern Bluebirds** were seen at BESP 1/7 (RF, AF, TF). A large flock of **American Robins** was sighted at BESP 1/7 (RF, AF, TF). A **Brown Thrasher** was seen at a game land near Toftrees 12/29 (CG).

A wildlife rehabilitator reported that two inebriated **Cedar Waxwings** were brought to her 2/1 (RG); fermented berries were the suspected cause (an Internet search gives further details on this condition). An uncommon winter species was a **Common Yellowthroat** in the bushes near the entry to the MM boardwalk 1/8 (JV). Two **Snow Buntings** were seen foraging along the water's edge at the BESP beach 12/14 (GG). No winter finches, including Pine Siskin, were reported this quarter.

Observers: **Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu**, Bob Benson, Joe Bishop, Bob Fowles, Nick Bolgiano, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Chet Gottfried, Alice Fuller, Roana Fuller, Ted Fuller, Robyn Graboski, Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Molly Heath, Nick Kerlin, Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, Mark Niessner, Dan Ombalski, Larry Ramsey, Bob Snyder, Joe Verica, Chuck Widman, George Young, Sue Young.

### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Tract (BTCK), Chambers Lake (CHLA), Coatesville Reservoir (CVRS), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Struble Lake (STLA), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

A single **Tundra Swan** was at MCSP 12/21-12/23 (CC) while 7 were at CVRS 12/5 (PF) and 6 at STLA 12/21 (CC). Northbound birds were found at MCSP 2/2-2/13 (m.obs) with a peak of 20 on 2/11 (AMcG) and at CHLA where 5 were observed 2/22 (NP). **Snow Goose** numbers fluctuated widely throughout the season. Single birds were at CVRS 12/20 (PF) and MCSP 1/29 (HM). An estimated 3000 in several groups were observed flying over Unionville 2/25 (NP, SP). These latter flocks also contained 2 **Ross's Geese**. There was additional report of a **Ross's Goose** at CVRS 1/6 (CC). **Greater White-fronted Goose**, which seems annual now in winter, was reported at four locations: one was found during the West Chester CBC 12/16 (TF); one was seen feeding with a flock of **Canada Geese** in a field in New Garden Twp. 12/29 (CC); one was at CVRS 1/6-2/14 (CC, AG, MP) and the same or a different bird was nearby at CHLA, 2/2 (RR). **Cackling Geese** are also being found with increased frequency. This winter they were present at CVRS 12/11-2/4 (m.obs) with a high count of 5 on 1/7 (NP). Single birds were also reported from CHLA 1/27 (PF), West Chester Res. 2/17 (NP) and Goshenview Farms 2/22

(NP). A lingering female **Wood Duck** was at CHLA 12/3 (MD, NP) while early arrivals were 9 at BTCK 2/20 (JS) and 2 on the Schuylkill R. at VFNP 2/21 (RW). **American Black Ducks** were in good numbers with a high count of 30 at VFNP 2/5 and 2/17 (RW). **Green-winged Teal**, present until the lakes froze, had a high of 12 at CHLA 1/22 (PF). Other "puddle-ducks" were generally scarce into Jan and Feb with only one **Gadwall** report 1/22 at CHLA (PF), a pair of **Northern Pintails** at CHLA 2/11-2/17 (NP), single **American Wigeons** at CHLA 1/22 (PF) and 2 at Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 1/10 (CC).

**Canvasbacks** began to move into the area in late Jan with a single bird at CVRS 1/24 (AG). High counts included 16 at MCSP 2/10 (RG) and 15 at CHLA 2/19 (JW). **Redheads** were at CHLA 2/6-2/25 with a high count of 4 on 2/11 (m.obs). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in good numbers all winter with high counts of 40 at CVRE 1/10 (CC), 30 at MCSP 2/11 (NP) and 25 at CHLA 2/17 (NP). **Greater Scaup** were at MCSP 1/27-2/19 (HM, AG, NP). Small numbers of **Lesser Scaup** were at MCSP 12/23-2/12 (CC, HM, MP), CHLA 2/17-2/25 (NP). **Long-tailed Ducks**, unusual in mid-winter, were found at MCSP 12/11 (CC) and CHLA 1/10 (CC). **Common Goldeneyes** were at CHLA 12/3-1/22 (m.obs) with a high of 4 on 12/6 (PF). Two were at MCSP 2/13 (AM). **Buffleheads** were in good numbers on the Schuylkill R. at VFNP 12/3-2/21 with a high of 50 on 2/17 (RW). They were also found at CVRE, CHLA and MCSP (m.obs). **Hooded Mergansers** were present at CHLA all season with a high count of 7 on 2/9 and 2/19 (MD, JW). Nine was the high count at MCSP 1/27 (HM). **Common Mergansers** were present in good numbers at most lake sites with a high of 30 at MCSP 2/7 (JL). Ten were also found along the Schuylkill R. in VFNP 2/17-2/21 (RW). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at CVRS 12/2 (RR) and one was seen sporadically at MCSP 1/5-1/27 (m.obs). **Ruddy Ducks** were in average numbers at all lakes with a high of 108 at MCSP (CC).

**Wild Turkeys** were reported from a few scattered areas with a high of 5 in East Coventry Twp. 2/18 (RB). Single **Common Loons** were present at MCSP 12/12-12/23 (CC), 1/5 (JM) and 2/2 (JL). A **Red-throated Loon** was at CHLA 12/6 (PF). Eleven **Pied-billed Grebes** were at MCSP 12/11-12/12 (CC) with numbers diminishing to six by 2/7 (JL). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were at CVRS 12/3-12/30 (m.obs) and again 2/11 (AG, NP). **Horned Grebes** were seen at MCSP 12/11-2/25 (m.obs) with a peak of 15 on 2/7 (MP). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was noted at STLA 12/12 (EW). An **American Bittern** first discovered on the Western Chester County CBC at a pond in Sadsburyville was present 12/17-12/18 (JE, m.obs).

Several imm and adult **Bald Eagles** were noted at multiple locations 12/3-2/5 (m.obs). A **Merlin** was a good find on the West Chester CBC at Westtown School 12/16 (TS, et al). **American Coot** numbers were high in Dec with 100+ at MCSP 12/21 (CC). Numbers slowly decreased as lakes froze with 20 at CHLA 2/11 (NP).

A single **Wilson's Snipe** was in Honeybrook Twp. 2/17 (NP) and **American Woodcock** was an early spring arrival at BTCK 2/20 (JS). An estimated 10,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at STLA 12/11 (CC). A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was also there 12/10 (CC). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at STLA 12/11 (CC), Chester Co. Landfill 12/29 (CC) and MCSP 1/27 (HM). Two were at STLA 2/17 (NP). An **Iceland Gull** was reported on the Elverson CBC at STLA 12/24 (LL).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was a nice mid-winter find at BTCK 1/21 (JS, et al). Two **Tree Swallows** on the West Chester CBC in West Bradford Twp. 12/16 were a new species for that long-running count (DD). **Horned Lark** numbers in Honeybrook Twp. were good in Feb, with 200-300 present 2/17 (NP). This species was also found at other locations including 20 at Church Farm School 12/2 (NP); 200 in Cochransville 2/16 (KF); 50 in Upper Oxford Twp. 2/18 (NP, SP). A **House Wren** was observed in Marshallton 12/30 (DK). Five **American Pipits** were reported in Downingtown 1/4 (KF) and 15 were noted in Cochransville 2/16 (KF). **Gray Catbirds** were reported from several locations in Dec with at least one remaining until 1/27 at BTCK (JS).

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** was scarce after Dec, with a single bird reported from CVRS 1/24 (AG) and 2/4 (PF). A **Palm Warbler** was found in Downingtown 1/4 (KF) and a **Common Yellowthroat** was noted at BTCK 12/23 (JS).

**Chipping Sparrows** are now annual in Dec with 4 on the West Chester CBC 12/16 (BB). A single bird was also found at BTCK 1/28 (JS). There were 50+ **American Tree Sparrows** in the fields bordering CHLA 12/2 (NP). **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted at STLA all season with a high of 6 on 2/19 (NP, SP, m.obs). Over 100 **White-throated Sparrows** were flushed from the large tracts of edge habitat on the Rustin H.S. campus 12/31 (NP, SP). Eight **Snow Buntings** were in Cochransville 2/16 (KF).

It was a good season for wintering **Baltimore Orioles** with 4 on the West Chester CBC 12/16 including one that was present in Marshallton 12/3-12/30 (DK et al). Single birds were also at Radley Run 12/16 (HM, SK), Westtown 2/11 (AG), and Jennersville 2/18 (RH). Other than the **Pine Siskins** found on the Elverson CBC 12/24, northern finches were non-existent.

Observers: **Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Rd., West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-0687, nickpulcinella@comcast.net**, Barry Blust, Rob Blye, Chuck Chalfant, Dave Davis, Marty Delliwo, Jay Edge, Tony Fernandes,

Pam Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Ross Geredien, Al Guarente, Robert Hickman, Susan Killeen, Dave Krue, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, Andrew Maenza, Andy McGann (AmcG), John McNamara, Holly Merker, Martin Page, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Tim Sterrett, Jeff Wahl, Eleanor Wolf, Rick Wolf.

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### Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Leatherwood (LE), Marble (MR), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion (MZ), Strattanville (ST), Shipperville(SV).

December was a month of high temperatures and little to no snow so that the usual "winter" birds were late arriving and some absent through the winter. January continued record high temperatures and late in the month leading into February, record cold and some snow finally arrived along with the few sightings of **Rough-legged Hawks** for the season. Winter finches were absent or at least not reported.

A single **Snow Goose** was present at KL 1/11 and 1/21 (JS) as well as 5 over WC 1/9 (WF), not a common winter sight. **Tundra Swans** in flocks of 30-40 were heading south over WC 12/7 and 12/8 (WF). More winter duck records from KL were 5 **Gadwall**, 6 **American Black Duck**, and 2 **Northern Pintail** 1/11(JS). On 2/10, 30 **Common Goldeneye** were present at a small open area of water on the mostly frozen Allegheny R. at Foxburg along with 10 **Common Merganser** and 2 **Hooded Merganser** (CW). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at KL 1/6 and 12 late **Ruddy Ducks** were present 12/7 (WF).

A very unusual report occurred 2/5 with a **Horned Grebe** being accidentally plowed up in a snow bank in a residential driveway in MR (PD). A successful conclusion came after the bird was rescued and released on open water, apparently unharmed. Two other reports of downed **Horned Grebes** also occurred the week of 2/5 with unknown details. **Great Blue Herons**, normally absent in Jan were still present on open water through mid-Jan (CW, WF).

**Turkey Vultures** made an early return with one spotted in Knox the third week of Feb (ML). Mar 2 started their more normal return dates with two seen near LE (CW). **Bald Eagle** sightings continued to be fairly regular, especially with the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers being open through the first half of winter. Reports came from East Brady and Foxburg on the Allegheny R. (CW) and Clarion and Millcreek Twp. on the Clarion R. (RS,H) as well as KL(WF). **Northern Harrier** reports came from several areas near LE and CV (CW) through late Jan but none after the start of snow cover. The exception was a single report near SV 2/12 unusually close to a residential area but with surrounding fields (HB). Both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** continue to be frequently reported at various yards and feeders (WF, CW, HB, RM). **Red-shouldered Hawks**, more unusual during winter months, were reported back in a known territory in ST by mid-Feb (RM) and also seen at MA the 2nd week of Feb and 3/1 in SV (CW). **Rough-legged Hawks** had their worst showing in the past four years with very few reports, the first not until 1/28 with two birds seen near CV and Rimersburg (CW). They were also reported early Feb from MZ (ML), 2/7 at MA, and 2/16 at LE (CW). No reports noted after that date. **American Kestrels** appeared in good numbers in southern Clarion through late Jan then dropped sharply after the start of snow cover (CW). The most exciting raptor report for the winter came from MZ with the report of a **Merlin** 1/27 which was well documented with photographs as it was observed eating on top of a utility pole. Another unusual report came from downtown Clarion 2/28 with the report of a possible **Peregrine Falcon** hunting from a building top in town (RS). Unfortunately, it was not re-found.

**Short-eared Owls** appeared in better numbers this year, at least in the early part of winter. Five were reported 12/9 at MA (WF) and a total of 9 were found on the Clarion CBC 12/30 at CV, MA, and MZ (WF, GE, CW, RM). The last winter report was 1/4 with 5 birds continuing to be seen at MA (WF). **Great-Horned Owls** were first heard "dueting" 1/17 in CV (CW).

A female **Belted Kingfisher** continues to be a regular winter sight in CV until freeze-up, occurring this year in late Jan (CW). A rather unusual report of a wintering male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in ST from 12/9 through winter came along with the report of a female **Pileated Woodpecker** at the same feeder through winter (RM).

**Northern Shrikes** were not as regular as last winter with only two single reports, 12/15 near Rimersburg and 1/28 in CV (CW). **Common Ravens** continue to be present in the northern part of the county, seen 1/24 near Leeper (LC). **Horned Larks** were not reported as commonly in the first part of winter, possibly due to lack of snow cover and field manure spreading by local farmers with more cattle still on pasture instead of inside? Increased birds were noted in various hilltop farm fields near LE during Feb (CW) and KL continues to have the highest flock numbers with 200+ there 1/11 (GE). The only reported **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came during the CBC count 12/30 in Sligo (CW, RM). A single **Brown Creeper** in SV 2/15 was noted with the unusual behavior of feeding on a deck rather than on a tree trunk (MB).

**Carolina Wrens** were present on the 12/30 CBC in record numbers and could be heard and seen in various areas through the first part of winter though harsh conditions later may affect numbers this year. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year a **Winter Wren** was present in CV until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec as well as **Hermit Thrush** present until 1/8 (CW). Wintering **Northern**

**Mockingbirds** were again present in CV as well as MA (CW), both in areas with lots of multiflora rose. **Cedar Waxwings**, always sporadic in appearance, were reported more this winter with flocks of 27-42 in Knox and WC (WF) during late Dec through early Jan and a flock at Clarion University 1/15 (RM), as well as ~30 in CV late Feb (CW).

**Northern Cardinals** seem to be increasing in population in appropriate habitat with record numbers in ST (RM) over the winter and a high count of 33 at feeders in CV in early Feb(CW), a record for the past 13 years there. **American Tree Sparrows** showed decreased numbers at feeders until mid-winter, numbers increased then to a record high of 60+ at CV by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb (CW). A late **Savannah Sparrow** was still at KL 1/21(JS). **White-throated Sparrow** numbers were lower this winter, not present at feeders until 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan and even then with only 2-3 present instead of the usual 10-12 (CW). Reports of **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** were noticeably absent this winter.

**Red-winged Blackbirds** returned 2/14 to CV (CW). Near CV, 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen feeding in a field in corn stubble 2/10, along with a possible female **Brewer's Blackbird** (CW), both rather unusual winter sightings for this county. A yellow-variant

**House Finch** was present at a feeder in ST through the first part of Dec (RM) and a high count of 200+ **American Goldfinch** came from Limestone 2/17 (FW). No reports of wintering Purple Finches, Pine Siskins or other winter finches were received this year.

Observers: **Carole Willenpart, 800 Greencrest Dr., Apt 22, Shipperville, PA 16254, (814) 226-5958, cwillenpart@libcom.com**, Hendrika Bohlen, Margaret Buckwalter, Lois Callahan, Pete Dalby, Gary Edwards, Walter Fye, Steve Gosser, Janice Horn, Mike Leahy, Ron Montgomery, Ruth Schurr, Jerry Stanley.

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### Clearfield County

No Report. No Compiler.

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### Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), McElhatten (McE), South Avis (SA), and Woolrich (WR).

As a result of the early winter mild conditions there were several waterfowl reports for the period. Most notable among them was a flock of eight **Tundra Swans** seen on the Susquehanna R. 1/22 at McE (B&DB).

A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed east of LH 1/15 with a possible second nearby (JS). On 1/24, two adult **Bald Eagles** were found at SA (DR). Another adult was seen at SA 2/23 (WL). A **Killdeer** was located in LH at the airport 2/28 (JB).

**American Pipits** were observed at SA and McE 1/10 (WL) and later 2/19 at SA (C&CH). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen periodically during the period at a feeder in WR (B&DB).

As expected, finch reports were very rare. A few **Pine Siskins** were seen at a residential feeder in WR 2/20 (C&CH). Another appeared at a feeder in Swisssdale on 2/25 (BD).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA. 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@pub.kcnet.org**, JoAnn Bowes, Beth and Don Brobst, Brenda Dunlap, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, David Rockey, Jeff Schaffer.

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### Columbia County

No Report

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

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### Crawford County

Locations: Custards (CU), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (G), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), Mead Lake (ML), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro (SPR), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR).

I found a **Snow Goose** at PGMA 1/13 and a "Blue form" was found 12/13 (DY) and 1/13 at PGMA. A total of 46 **Tundra Swans** were found on CL 12/10 (DY). A count of 89 **Northern Pintails** on the LCC 12/17 was a new high count (MO). A **Wood Duck** was located at CU 2/11 and 20 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at CU 2/20. MB saw 55 **Common Goldeneyes** at Mud Lake 1/13 (HM). 150 were seen at Pymatuning 1/21 as well as 145 **Hooded Mergansers** (TCN). I found 125 **Common Mergansers** off the CU 1/13.

A total of 9 **Common Loons** was a good count for the LCC 12/17 (MD). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted at CL 1/13. From 1-4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at PS through Dec and 3 were counted on the LCC 12/17 (RCL). A total of 10 **Great Blue Herons** were listed for

the LCC 12/17. The first ever **Sandhill Crane** on the LCC was well seen on 12/17 (MO).

A **Turkey Vulture** was found at PGMA 12/18 (RCL), a new species for the LCC count week. An excellent total of 33 **Bald Eagles** was tallied on the LCC (MP). Fewer than usual **Rough-legged Hawks** were present at Pymatuning after 1/15 likely due to deep snow cover the rest of the period. Single birds were seen 12/10 and 12/24 (DY, RCL). The bird of the season was a **Virginia Rail** found at McNath Knoll in the Pymatuning refuge on the LCC 12/17 (RCL, RF). A **Wilson's Snipe** was found near Hartstown Marsh 12/10 (MJB).

A good count of 998 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was recorded on the LCC 12/17 (MO) and a **Great Black-backed Gull** was recorded on the LCC (RCL) for the second time. It was seen again 1/7 and 1/13 off the PC (likely same bird?).

An **Eastern Screech Owl** was heard and seen at Springboro 1/2 (TCN). A **Northern Shrike** was noted at F1 12/30 (MV) and one on the LCC (MO). **Northern Shrikes** were found at CM 1/11 (JS) and ENWR 1/28 (LAR, CH). Nine **Horned Larks** were seen at PGMA 2/11 and 5 on 2/24. A single **Brown Creeper** was noted at my suet feeder 2/5 near Meadville. CN reported 12 **Cedar Waxwings** at Springboro 2/2 and one **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen at PGMA 1/3.

The only report of an **Eastern Towhee** was from HM along Pine Rd (MJB) present from 12/1-12/9. Nine **Snow Buntings** were seen 1/11 at PC. Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were noted at the PGMA for LCC week 12/20 (TCN). A single **Common Grackle** was present at Geneva (CM) 2/17.

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler, Charles Houpt, Robert C. Leberman, Clara Miller, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Lee Ann Reiners, Jerry Stanley, Mark Vass, Den Yaguisc,

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### Cumberland County

Locations: Boiling Springs (BLS), Big Springs (BGS), Stoughstown Pond (STP), Mud Level Road (MLR), Newville Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

The CBC held 12/30 resulted in above average numbers for both species tallied and total individuals, 85 and 19,697, respectively. Two new species and an impressive 23 high counts were amassed with **Prairie Falcon** (origin undetermined) and **Marsh Wren** being added to the growing species list. The other unusual species recorded this year on the CBC included **White-eyed Vireo** and **Least Sandpiper**.

For a county with limited access to open water, the tally of 16 species of waterfowl over the winter period was significant. Two **Horned Grebes** were a pleasant surprise at BGS 2/10 (VG). BLS hosted a nice sum of 64 **American Wigeons** 2/19 with many remaining through the end of the period (CR). Single **Northern Pintails** were reported from BLS 1/1 (MW) and Huntsdale 2/19 (CR). Two **Northern Shovelers** 12/23 in Monroe Twp. (RS) and a peak of 5 at BLS 2/24 (VG) provided the only reports for this species. Surprising for the incredibly early date, if a spring migrant, was a male **Blue-winged Teal** 2/17 in Upper Allen Twp. (B&JH). The only reports of **Lesser Scaup** were of single birds that graced two of the limited bodies of open water in *Cumberland* with a female at BGS from 2/10 through the end of the period (VG) and a male at BLS on 2/19 (CR). What may well represent the first county Winter record was an exceptional sighting of a female **Red-breasted Merganser** taking refuge on the warm water of BLS 2/19 (CR).

A very large count of 150 **Black Vultures** on the 12/30 CBC broke the previous high count of 101 established last year. Away from Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch, single **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported on the Newville Winter Raptor Survey 1/30 (RF, DGi, DG, CH), at Bloersville 2/20 (RF), and from SGL 169 2/28 (AM). **Bald Eagle** reports were scarce with 2 on the CBC 12/30 and another bird seen 1/20 from Dickinson Twp (RH). The only **Merlin** report was of 2 from New Cumberland 12/16 (RK).

One of the best birds for *Cumberland* this winter was a **Least Sandpiper** that was again found at STP from 12/12-1/17 (VG, MW et al). During the course of its stay, it was tallied on the CBC 12/30 for the second year running. Almost certainly the same bird was then discovered along BGS from 2/3-2/19 (VG). Last winter, a single **Least Sandpiper** was present at STP from 1/1/2006 to at least 2/5/2006. To my knowledge, this represents the first over-wintering **Least Sandpiper** for the state and the first to do it two years in a row. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were reported in Feb with one at BGS 2/10 (VG) and another present at MLR 2/19 (D&RS). The first **American Woodcock** of the season was detected 2/28 from SGL 169 (AM).

Five species of owls were recorded either on the count or during count week for the 12/30 CBC. A single **Long-eared Owl** was found on the day of the count 12/30 while a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported during the count week. **Eastern Phoebe**s were reported in each month of the period with a peak of 4 on 12/30 for the CBC. There was, however, about a four-week hiatus between the 1/6 sighting at SGL 230 (B&JH) and the following report 2/2 at BGS (VG). **Northern Shrikes** made a good showing with one present 12/21 at SGL 230 (PL), while an additional 2

birds were at SGL 169 2/28 (AM). A single bird continued at SGL 169 through the end of the period (m.obs).

A good single day count of 989+ **Horned Larks** was tallied throughout the western part of *Cumberland* on 2/19 (CR). The only **Gray Catbirds** were 2 reported on the CBC 12/30. **American Pipits** were seen each month of the period (VG, PL, CR) with a good tally of 48 on 12/30 for the CBC, establishing a new high count. As **American Pipits** are typically very scarce in Jan, a sighting of 2 on 1/13 in Oakville was notable (VG). Other than **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, the only other warbler reported was a **Common Yellowthroat** on the CBC 12/30.

Certainly one of the highlights for the winter period was a long-staying male **Dickcissel** present at a feeder in Shippensburg beginning 1/14 (DS). The bird was most often seen in the presence of a flock of **House Sparrows**. In mid-Feb the bird was observed with a dangling right leg and was believed to be injured. It remained at its favorite feeder through the end of the winter period (m.obs). A great winter count of 13 **Chipping Sparrows** was recorded on the CBC 12/30 for a new high count. The only **Savannah Sparrows** reported for the period were 4 located 2/19 between MLR and Bullshead Road (CR). Two good counts were recorded for **Lapland Longspurs** with a high of 9 on 12/30 for the CBC and another total of 7 between three locations in western *Cumberland* 2/19 (CR).

Thirty **Eastern Meadowlarks** were counted near Bloersville 2/20 (RF). After 4 were seen on the CBC 12/30, **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in three different locations in mid-Feb with a fantastic number of 100+ observed at BGS 2/17 (VG).

Far and away the best bird for the county (as well as the state) was the sighting of an adult male **Scott's Oriole** in Mechanicsburg, Upper Allen Twp 2/19 (KA, CM). The bird was present through the end of the month and as of this writing, was last recorded on 3/24 at the same location (TJ). This not only represents the first record of this species for *Cumberland* but also the first state record. Moreover, this bird represents the first record for the northeastern United States as very few records have occurred east of the Mississippi River: Georgia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Indiana, with the latter two records also from this past winter. The bird was observed visiting a backyard bird feeder, checking out sapsucker wells, and feeding on un-fallen apples in a backyard tree (m.obs).

Winter finches were in extremely short supply this winter with the only reports coming in the form of 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on the 12/30 CBC and **Purple Finch** reported from the CBC count week.

Observers: **Cameron Rutt, PO Box 223, 727 Blooming Glen Road, Blooming Glen, PA 18911, (215) 453-9585, cr1193@messiah.edu**, Karen Atwood, Ron Freed, Vernon Gauthier, Deborah Gingrich (DGi), Dave Grove, Ron Heishman, Deuane Hoffman, Barry & Jenni Horton, Craig Houston, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Peter Lusardi, Candy Maneval, Andrew Markel, Deb & Ralph Siefken, Dan Snell, Richard Stevick, Mike Weible.

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### Dauphin County

Locations: Dauphin (DAU), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fishing Creek Valley (FCV), Fort Hunter (FH), Halifax (HAL), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Millersburg (MBG), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna River in general (SR), Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna River from Harrisburg (SHB), Susquehanna River from Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River from Royalton (SRT), Susquehanna River from West Fairview (SWF), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

After a very mild December and January "winter" began on the day a certain groundhog who "shall not be named" proclaimed an early spring! February will be remembered for the Valentine's Day snow/ice storm and the deep freeze before and after.

Some early **Tundra Swan** sightings included eight in FCV 1/12 (BB) and five in SHT 2/6 (PW & RW). An impressive early winter **Snow Goose** flight of +/- 5000 occurred 1/12 near HUM (PW & RW) and again, several thousand, on 1/15 near HER (RZ). **Cackling Goose** was reported in HER 1/9 when four were found at various sites (TJ) and one was observed at the Hershey Corp. Pond 1/19 (AS). The sighting of two **Wood Ducks** on the Swatara Creek in SHT 1/21 (S & RZ) may have been an indication that a few remained through the winter.

The mild winter allowed **American Black Duck**, **Gadwall**, and **Northern Shoveler** to remain at WL into early Feb (m.ob.). A count of eight of the latter 1/24 was unusual for any season at WL (CRb, PW & RW). All three of the above, plus **Wood Duck** and **Green-winged Teal** returned by the end of Feb as the south compound began to thaw (CRb, et al.).

**Long-tailed Duck** sightings on SR continued into Dec and more than 70 were included in the HBG CBC 12/16 (DH), and the one found at MBG 12/27 (RK & JR) missing the Curtin CBC by one day. **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were reported throughout the winter quarter on the SR and Swatara Creek. Of note were the 55 **Common Mergansers** congregated on the Swatara just below the bridge in Union Deposit 2/19 (PW & RW). By mid-Feb the variety of waterfowl on the SR started to increase with **American Wigeon**,

**Redhead, Greater Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser** joining those species already present at SMV and SWF (m. ob.).

Both a **Red-throated** and a **Common Loon** were reported at SFH 12/1, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** at SMV 12/2 (CRt). **Horned Grebe** lingered on the SR to mid-Dec and one was included on the HBG CBC 12/16 (DH). The first **Red-necked Grebe** of the year was observed at the mouth of the Swatara Creek at Middletown 1/27 (PF). A surprise for the HBG CBC 12/16 was a **Black-crowned Night Heron** found along the west shore-line (*Cumberland*) at SWF (DH).

A large vulture roost, in excess of 100 mixed **Turkey** and **Black Vultures**, was reported south of HER in early January (GBI). This explained the unusually high count of 58 **Black Vultures** and 45 **Turkey Vultures** tallied on a WRS in the southeastern part of the county 1/23 (P & RW). There were more than 15 **Bald Eagle** sightings reported this season from throughout the county. Most noteworthy were the three observed near Fort Hunter 1/31 (RB), another sighting of three over the SR off the Mahantango ridge 2/4 (BB); and, four imm. on the river ice below the Clark's Ferry bridge 2/8 (EC). A pair of **Northern Harriers** were flying over the M. S. Hershey School grounds 2/17 (PW & RW). A **Peregrine Falcon** atop a light standard in the intersection of Eisenhower Blvd. and Rt. 83, 2/21 caught the attention of at least one motorist (EC). This season's WRS yielded mixed results. On a northern county route 58 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 20 **American Kestrels**, both new highs, were counted along with three **Northern Harriers** 1/27 (RK); while more modest results were achieved on the southern routes.

A very late **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed 12/2 near the Rockville Bridge SMV (CRt). **Killdeer** remained for the Dec CBCs and returned in time for the GBBC with one reported near Middletown 2/17 and another near HER 2/19 (P & RW). There were three **Sandhill Cranes** at the Tobias L. near HAL and were counted on the Curtin CBC 12/28 (SL, PP). The two best owl sightings were a **Snowy Owl** hunting in WHT along Devonshire Heights Rd. 2/9 (BCr) and of a **Long-eared Owl** that paid a visit to a HER yard 2/19 (CB).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was still at WL 1/21 (CRb), a **House Wren** was found at the Halifax Boat Access 12/28 and counted on the Curtin CBC (SL, PP), and a lone **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a regular at a SHT yard throughout the quarter (P & RW). **Hermit Thrush** was present on the Mahantango ridge for the Curtin CBC 12/28 (RK) and was also reported in Jan at SGL 246 near Middletown (AS) and in EHT (NC).

**American Pipit** lingered into Dec and made both the HBG and Curtin CBCs. Two were found along the shoreline SWF 12/16 (DH) and one was observed along the river's edge at Mio Park, MBG 12/28 (JR, RW). Later in the quarter one was found SMV 2/18 (CRt). Flocks of 50-100 **Horned Larks** were found in farm fields around HER 1/7 (LU), 1/21 (S&RZ), and 2/4 (N&CJ). A lone **Snow Bunting** was observed with a small flock of **Horned Larks** along Baddorf Rd., HAL 2/18 (TR).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** was another species that probably remained the winter. Two were found 12/28 in wetlands north of MBG (RK) while others were observed at FH 2/10 and 2/16 (EC). **Field** and **Fox Sparrow** and **Eastern Towhee** were also reported through the season and appeared in Dec on the CBCs and the Feb GBBC. A **Savannah Sparrow** was found with a flock of **American Tree, Song, White-throated,** and **White-crowned Sparrows** in the HIBA 2/16 (P & RW).

**Red-winged Blackbird** was reported regularly at WL through the quarter (SL, CRb) and in EHT 1/27 (S & RZ). A flock of about 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found along the Greenbelt Trail near the State Hospital grounds for the HBG CBC 12/16 (RW, et al.).

One of the best birds of the quarter was a **Baltimore Oriole** that was a regular visitor to a *Dauphin* feeder from mid-Jan through mid-Feb (LG). (photo was submitted)

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Drive Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Bill Baker, Gerry Boltz (GBI), Randy Brenner, Greg Burgdorf (GBG), Beth Carricato (BCr), Ed Chubb, Nancy Cladel, Chris Colby, Walter Cressler, Bernie Crist (BCt), Suzanne Donovan, Pete Fox, Jan Getgood, Linda Gipe, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Nancy & Carl Juris, Bob Keener, Ramsay Koury, Gary Lockerman, Sandy Lockerman, Cara Musser, Gene Odatto, Mik Oyler, Pam Parsons, Tom Randall, Chris Rebert (CRb), Joan Renninger, Cameron Rutt (CRt), Art Schiavo, Larry Usselman, Patricia Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino

#### Delaware County

Locations: Crum Creek (CC), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

This winter was extremely mild and dry with 60-70° F temperatures in early January. We didn't see a true hard freeze until mid-February when snow and ice really impacted bird's ability to find food. Waterfowl came to open water and at last we saw some variety of species and modest

numbers of birds. There had been an expectation that the mild weather would induce many half-hardy species to linger and maybe even produce some new and unexpected species for the 85<sup>th</sup> Glenolden CBC held on 12/16 (NP, compiler). The CBC total of 110 species was above the average of 102, but many passerines were found in below-average numbers and irruptive species were rare. The compilation showed that **Eastern Bluebird, Carolina Wren, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk** and the resident woodpecker species are increasing (NP). The best birds of the season were included in the Fall report: two **Rufous Hummingbirds** present in Middletown through 12/3.

**Tundra Swan** on the CBC average 35, so 68 on the DR were exceptional and 60 of those swans remained below the Commodore Barry Bridge until 1/28 (AG). BB was pleased to find 8 **American Black Duck** 1/12-1/28 on the lower CC Res., where he regularly was seeing 2-3 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 38 **Hooded Merganser** 1/22 and several **Common Merganser**. A few **Green-winged Teal** and **Northern Shovelers** were reported along DC, but other dabblers were hard to find. Diving ducks on the CBC on the DR included: a **Redhead** at Marcus Hook (NP), and a **Long-tailed Duck** off of Chester (NP). A few **Ring-necked Duck** and **Lesser Scaup** could be found on the DR with effort, but I didn't find a **Ring-necked Duck** at SR until 2/12 after which numbers increased steadily to over 100 on 2/26. Also present were small groups of **Ruddy Duck**, 25 **Bufflehead** and 14 **Common Goldeneye** on 2/12 (DM). Earl's Lake had 8 **Bufflehead** 1/15 (AG). We found no large rafts of **Canvasback**, only 5 **Canvasback** at SR 2/7 (DM) and 9 on the DR behind PHL 2/7 (AG). AG found 36 **Hooded Merganser** at SR. **Common Mergansers** were present in very low numbers. Usually, SR hosts 100-200, but I counted no more than 25 until 3/2 when I saw 100 **Common Merganser**, which I considered to be stopover migrants taking off to the north and leaving at least 75 mergansers feeding at the edges of the ice.

A small group of **Wild Turkey** seen repeatedly in Lenni along railroad tracks at the edge of woods couldn't be found on 12/16. This species was confirmed breeding in the county on Little Tinicum Is., but that may not be the only place these birds have chosen to set up house.

A **Common Loon** and the less common **Red-throated Loon** were on the DR at Marcus Hook 12/16 (NP). Perhaps that same **Red-throated Loon** remained until 1/12 (CR, AM). I found 4 **Horned Grebe** at SR 2/7, but AG found three groups totaling 21 **Horned Grebe** on the DR that day. Since 1986 there have been **Great Cormorant** on the DR for 13 CBCs, so 3 **Great Cormorant** this year were no surprise. **Double-crested Cormorants** are present year round and the CBC tallied 45 birds 12/16.

Vultures are doing very well in our county. A total of 205 **Turkey Vulture** on the CBC is nine short of the record set in 2005. A Winter Raptor Survey of the southeast portion of the county, partially overlapping the CBC circle, produced 54 **Black Vultures** 1/27 (JL) compared to 58 seen on the CBC. On 12/5 I saw a mixed group of more than 70 **Turkey Vultures** and **Black Vultures** going to roost in pines along Ridley Creek in Media. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were found in greater than average numbers on the CBC. Two **Northern Goshawks** were in Bryn Mawr 12/16 (RH) and a third was at RCSP (SP). Later, on 1/6 a **Northern Goshawk** was seen at a busy intersection on Rt. 452 in Aston (NP). Tom Reeves and the Wednesday morning birders at TY reported a **Red-shouldered Hawk** through 12/27. Steve Kapski and party found a **Rough-legged Hawk** at the Penn State Delco campus 12/16.

One of the two **Merlin** seen 12/16 was found and photographed in the same tree as last year (NP) suggesting some site fidelity for winter territory.

Birds benefiting from the mild winter were 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** feeding on the DC mudflats 12/16 (SC). As late as 1/14 there were 43 **Killdeer** at PHL. Fire Fighter's pond inside the PHL fence continues to be a great place to find **Wilson's Snipe**. Al Guarente counted 43 on 1/7. Nine **Great Horned Owls** on the CBC were well below the average of 17. A few of these owls may have been in the Philadelphia portion of the count circle where I also will report owl numbers in single digits for five years in a row. I found two dead owls at TI in late Feb., one bird in each county, both high in trees where they apparently expired. Two **Barred Owls** were again located in the Riddlewood area, boding well for a breeding record for the PBBA. A **Long-eared Owl** 12/16 is not unusual in the evergreens at TY (TR), but a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** tooting at dawn in Aston was a pleasant surprise (DM).

Although **Northern Flicker** numbers were below average, 9 **Pileated Woodpecker** tied the high count from 1977. An **Eastern Phoebe** was at PHL 12/16 (AG). **American Crows** and **Fish Crows** are both more scarce since West Nile Virus arrived. Recently, I've seen a flock of 100 **American Crow** at SR and it appears a new roost is being formed in the Media area, good signs that the worst may be past for these corvids. The **Carolina Wren** population is at its peak following several mild winters. Over 225 birds were found on 12/16. The **Eastern Bluebird** population continues to be strong due to the trail monitoring efforts of members of the Birding Club of Delaware County ably led by Bob Bodine. **Cedar Waxwings** descended on the county for a short period in fall, but were scarce this winter. Only 35 were found on the CBC compared to a 47-year average of 335. Every winter I have a hundred or more on the fruiting vines on our property near Media, but I haven't seen one this season.

Only three warbler species were seen: a **Common Yellowthroat** at PHL of all places (AG), a lone **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (SJ, BH) and a

**Yellow-breasted Chat** in a powerline cut in Aston (DM). *Emberizine* across the board were below average. **American Tree Sparrows** were few and far between and **Field Sparrow** numbers were about half of other years. Two **Savannah Sparrows** in Concord Twp. 12/16 were low, but throughout Jan as many as 42 **Savannah Sparrow** were at PHL (AG).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Brian Byrnes, Janet Crawford, Al Guarente, Barbara Hohenstein, Rich Horwitz, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kapski, Jim Lockyer, John Miller, Augie Mirabella, Sharon Pulcinella, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Cameron Rutt.

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#### Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

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#### Erie County

It was a very mild start to the winter allowing many birds to remain in northwestern PA through January. However, a drastic change from the mild temperatures to extremely low temperatures and heavy snowfall in February forced most birds out. Presque Isle Bay remained open until January 21 when about 50% of the bay froze overnight and in a couple of days it was entirely frozen. The lake followed suit shortly after with floating ice beginning to form on February 3 and in a couple of weeks most of the lake froze over. Many water-related birds were caught off guard with the rapid freeze and did not get out in time and over 1000 birds were forced into a tiny amount of open water in the channel and at an outflow at the foot of East Avenue in Erie. By the end of February at least nine Great Blue Herons and dozens of American Coots and diving ducks were found dead between the channel and the foot of East Avenue. It is too soon to tell how passerines fared through February, especially weather sensitive birds such as Carolina Wren. It certainly was not a northern finch winter, despite a heavy cone crop and an abundance of birch catkins. The only finches reported throughout the entire season were a few Purple Finches and a single Pine Siskin.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise. Not surprising because of the open winter early on in the season were several species of waterfowl later than usual. A pair of **Wood Ducks** found open water along Big Conneauttee Creek south of Edinboro until at least 1/17 (DS). At least six **American Wigeons** remained to the late date of 1/22 and a single bird was early 2/22 (JM). Two **Northern Shovelers** lingered until 12/30 (MV), while a pair of **Northern Pintails** remained until 1/16 (JM). The nearly annual **King Eider** made an appearance during the waterbird count (WC) when an imm male cruised past Sunset Point 12/23 (JM). Up to six **Surf Scoters** were present until 1/27 during the big freeze (MF, JM) and single **White-winged Scoters** passed Sunset Point on the WC 1/13 and 1/18. A high count of 91 **White-winged Scoters** were counted flying past Sunset Point 12/11 (JM). The only **Black Scoter** reported for the season was one observed on two different days, 1/13 and 1/21 (JM). An outstanding concentration of **Long-tailed Ducks** was on the move off Walnut Creek access in Fairview Twp. when 3295 birds were counted during the WC 12/2 (JM). Up to two **Long-tailed Ducks** lingered at Presque Isle until the big freeze 1/27 (JM, DS). Unusual, but not unprecedented at Presque Isle, was an adult male **Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser** 1/24 (JM). The annual WC yielded a total of four **Red-necked Grebes** for the Winter season from 12/2- 12/11 (JM). Another goodie seen flying past Sunset Point during the WC was an **Eared Grebe** 12/11 (JM). The open water remaining in Presque Isle Bay so long through the season allowed a large number of **American Coots** to concentrate with an estimate of between 3000 and 4000 birds through Jan (JM).

**Rough-legged Hawks** were present during the cold days of Feb with one south of Union City from 2/9-2/27 (RS) and another 2/9 and 2/10 in Millcreek Twp. (RSw). The only **Short-eared Owl** of the season was one flushed from Gull Point 12/14 (JM).

Always exciting, a Purple **Sandpiper** made a brief stop on the breakwaters off Sunset Point during the WC 12/14 (JM). Two **Dunlins** were rather late 12/14 (DS).

Always a mystery are adult dark-mantled **Herring Gulls**, so the one day appearance of one at the channel 1/16 (JM) was noteworthy. It is suspected that these birds could represent one of the European subspecies of Herring Gulls like *L. S. vegae*. An adult **Thayer's-type Gull** was studied at length by JM and BC at the Erie landfill 1/9. The other usual white-winged gulls were reported as well including an **Iceland Gull** at Erie 12/9 (JM) and up to four from 1/9-1/19 at Presque Isle and the Erie landfill (BC, JM). A total of four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were present periodically from 12/9-1/21 at the Erie landfill (JM). There was a single **Glaucous Gull** at Presque Isle 12/14 (JM) and up to three were seen 1/21 and 2/27 at Presque Isle and the Erie landfill (JM).

At least three **Northern Shrikes** were reported from various sites in the county including Presque Isle (m.ob.). **Common Raven** has just recently entered Erie with growing reports of birds near Union City and south of Waterford, so it wasn't a total surprise to have a report of a high flying calling bird just south of Union City 2/1 (DP). A **Winter Wren**

observed 1/2 in Edinboro may have been the same bird reported 2/24 (DS). **Winter Wrens** rarely successfully winter this close to Lake Erie. Very exciting was the discovery of a **Townsend's Solitaire** by MA coming to a fruit tree in a suburban backyard in Fairview Twp. The solitaire, seen by many visiting birders, was first observed 12/31 and was last seen 2/3 (MA). **Northern Mockingbirds** are expected from spring through fall in Erie, but they are a bit unusual to see during the winter season. One was observed in Erie 12/21 (JM).

With the open mild winter extending well into Jan, it wasn't a total surprise to have three **Field Sparrows** still around 1/22 (BC). **Fox Sparrows** are rarely reported in winter, so the bird seen at a feeder in Wesleyville from the last week of Jan to the first week of Feb (GK) was noteworthy. The only **Pine Siskin** report was one at a feeder on the last day of the reporting period 12/28 in Edinboro (LM).

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Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**. Mark Anderson, Ben Coulter, Mike Fialkovich, Greg Kern, Geoff Malosh, Linda McWilliams, Donna Peters, Don Snyder, Russ States, Ruth Swaney (RSw), Mark Vass.

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#### Fayette County

Very few reports were received for the winter season. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a nice find during a Winter Raptor Survey 2/4 (MB, EH). Six **Horned Larks** were also found during the survey that covered the eastern part of the county. The most unusual bird was an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** that visited a feeder in Chalkhill 12/20 to at least 1/10 (AR, FR, *fide* DW). This is probably the first winter record for the county.

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Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Bowers, Eric Hall, Mark McConaughy, Aletta Rubish, Fred Rubish, Dave Wilton.

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#### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest State Park (CFSP), German Hill (GH), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake Outflow (TO)

Open water on the Allegheny R. near TI yielded an assortment of waterfowl: a **Mute Swan** 2/25, a **Tundra Swan** from 2/19-2/27, an **American Wigeon** 2/27, 4 **Mallards** 2/25, 13 **Redheads** and a single **Bufflehead** 2/20, and a high of 40 **Common Mergansers** 2/20 (FM, JM). **Common Mergansers** were also reported from the Clarion R. at CFSP: 19 on 12/24 (JH), and 4 on 2/10 (MB, TB).

There were several reports of wintering **Bald Eagles** from 1/11-2/16 at TO, with a high of 2 adults and 2 juvs 1/17; 2 adults at East Hickory 1/29; singles 1/29, 2/20 and 2/29 at TI (FM, JM); also 1 juv 2/10 at CFSP (MB). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen 1/21 in TI; another made several appearances at backyard feeders near TI, where a **Cooper's Hawk** was successful in obtaining a **European Starling** for lunch on at least 2 occasions. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed 1/2 on GH, and another 1/29 soaring over TI (FM, JM).

A very early **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 2/1 near TI (FM). A **Northern Shrike** frightened the patrons of bird feeders near Marienville 2/5 (BW). A **Common Raven** was sighted 2/25 at TO, another 1/7 at BS, and 4 were observed 1/31 near TI. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report was from BS, where 4 were found 1/7. There were several sightings of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** between 12/26-1/6 from ANF.

**American Tree Sparrows** were occasional visitors at feeders near TI from 2/4-2/28; a high of 10 was seen 1/17 on GH. The only **White-throated Sparrow** reports were 3 at TO 1/5 and 1/17. (FM, JM).

**Purple Finches** were seen several times at feeders near TI from 2/4 (when 3 were seen) through the end of the period.

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Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672 fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Janice Horn, Nancy McGill, Jim McGuire, Brenda Weyant

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#### Franklin County

Locations: Church Road (PR), Cordell Wetland Area (CW), Duffield Area (Du), Falling Spring Stream (FS), Five Forks Pond (FF), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Keefer Road Pond (KR), Price's Milnor Road (MR), Shady Grove Area (SG), Shook's Pond (SP).

**Snow Geese** (one Blue Phase) stayed in the county at GR, FF and PR for about three weeks. A **Brant** was present at GR 1/21-1/26. A lone **Trumpeter Swan** made a one-day stop at SP 1/19 and a lone **Tundra Swan** remained at KR 12/16-1/23. **Gadwall** were sighted at MS 1/12 & 1/19 and one **Northern Pintail** 1/8 at FS and 3 on a farm pond south of SG 2/10 for several weeks during mid-Feb. Two **Green-winged Teal** were on a pond along Long Lane near St. Thomas. A **Redhead** landed on the

small spring pond at the Greencastle-Antrim Environmental Center 2/9 and stayed until the end of Feb. Three **Buffleheads** were on GR 12/2 and one **Ruddy Duck** on GR 1/27-2/1. **Great Blue Herons** made the trout stream their home during the winter.

A **Bald Eagle** was observed and photographed at GR 1/10, which was not a first but still rather uncommon, especially in the winter. A **Merlin** was sighted on three different days (possibly the same one) at MR and GR.

**Wilson Snipe** (usually 3) were active throughout most of the period at CW and GR. Many times **Killdeer** were in the same area. **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared several times during the winter at GR. The **Eurasian Collared-Doves** (5 or 6) continue to make SG their residence throughout the winter months.

There were three **Great Horned Owls** observed on nests, two with fledglings and the other vacated for some unknown reason. The sites were first spotted 1/26, two in the Greencastle area and one near Altenwald (this one was abandoned in mid-Feb). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** were regular visitors to a feeder near SG. A lone **Brown Creeper** was at a feeder near Zullinger 12/14. Hundreds of **Horned Larks** were sighted at various locations in the county with numbers as high as 400 in some fields with recently spread manure. **American Pipits** were present from 12/2-12/27 at GR and 12/20 a large group (460) was seen between Chambersburg and Edenville.

A rare visit by a **Cape May Warbler** 1/17 to a feeder at a residence (Eric Martin) just east of Greencastle got a lot of attention. The warbler stayed at least 2 weeks allowing a large number of birders to see it. At the same residence 2/3 a **Baltimore Oriole** made a brief surprise and rare appearance in the morning for about 2 hours and was not seen after.

Four **Lapland Longspur** were with a large group of larks along the Fetterhoff Chapel Rd. near Altenwald. After days and hours of searching, two **Snow Bunting** were located along Grand Point Rd. near Chambersburg. The buntings and longspurs were hard to find in *Franklin* this winter.

On 12/14 a **Rusty Blackbird** was found near the stream at GR. **Common Grackle** began arriving 2/23 at several locations near Greencastle.

Observers: Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 597-3979, dgearhart01@comcast.net, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Eric and Rhetta Martin, Joyce and Phil Schaff.

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### Fulton County

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

On 1/13 Meadow Grounds Lake hosted an **American Wigeon** (DS). Also on 1/13, Forbes Trail Rd. Pond had one **Killdeer** and one **Wilson's Snipe** (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 2/1 CREP1 netted one **Eastern Screech Owl**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 7 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Northern Harrier** and 2 **American Kestrels** (DS, MS). On 2/11 CREP3 survey results included 7 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 2 **American Kestrels** (DS, MS). On 2/9, CREP4 netted 6 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 4 **American Kestrels** (DS, MS).

A kettle of 12 vocal **Common Ravens** were discovered near the Maryland/Pennsylvania border 2/1 (DS, MS)

Observers: Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA, 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan\_snell@hotmail.com, Marilyn Snell.

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### Greene County

Locations: East View (EV); Kern Farm (KF); Last Chance Ranch Big Shannon Run (LCR); Pollock Mill Road (PM); Ralph Bell Farm (RBF);

So, was it the beautiful warm December and January that kept the birds out in the fields and away from the feeders and other places we commonly see them, or was it the frigid cold and snow of February that caused them to hunker down and only come in to the feeders or be visible for short time when we were not looking? It seemed we had large numbers of a few species reported and a scarcity of the rest.

**Hooded Mergansers** came back mid-Feb with two spotted near Brave 2/17 (MH) and one in Big Shannon Run 2/19 (MH). A **Northern Bobwhite** visited RBF 12/31 but RKB states it is most likely an escaped bird from a local who raises them. On the other hand, **Wild Turkeys** are doing well. MLP reports more than 40 wandering in the pasture at LCR 1/8 during a steady rain with 40 degree temperatures. Kathy Reeves always says if you want to find **Wild Turkeys** go when it is raining. Several of these birds come to MLP's feeders in the morning and late afternoon every day for corn.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on the Monongahela R. (RKB) 12/31. **Great Blue Herons** were seen at RBF 12/16 (RKB) and LCR 1/22 and

wading in Big Shannon Run 1/24 (MLP). They stay as long as there is open water. None were reported in Feb.

Local folks are amazed when they see what appear to eagles. But again this winter **Bald Eagles** were reported. There were two adults seen by Penn Dot crewmen 1/10 at New Freeport (fide JH). Another was reported by Charles Johnson near Holbrook 2/10 (fide MH). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (2/3) that watches the feeders at LCR continues to dine as piles of fluffy feathers are occasionally found. According to MLP the small hawk must miss occasionally since a **Dark-eyed Junco** that comes to the feeder is missing several tail feathers (1/26). A **Cooper's Hawk** also visited the feeders frequently at KF (KK) throughout the period. RKB reports an **American Kestrel** at RBF was present all winter. However, he only heard a **Great-Horned Owl** calling once 12/13.

A **Killdeer** was heard and finally seen along state route 221 in Washington Twp.2/4 (KK). Was it late leaving or very early returning? Commonly they leave in mid-Nov and arrive by late Feb.

One **Red-Headed Woodpecker** was seen in the Wind Ridge area 12/16 (MH). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported 1/23 at LCR (MLP) and 2/19 (KB) at PM. One **Brown Creeper** was noted 2/4 (MLP) at LCR. Amazingly, after the two straight weeks of sub-freezing temperature and continuous snow cover in Feb, as soon as it warmed a bit late in the month, a **Carolina Wren** was singing at KF (KK). A **Golden-Crowned Kinglet** was seen at RBF 12/7 (RKB) and 2/24 at EV (MH). RKB also reports four **Eastern Bluebirds** on the farm all winter, while two were seen 2/18 (KB) at PM. At least one **American Robin** stayed in the evergreens in RKB's yard all winter.

One **Northern Mockingbird** was seen 2/17(KB) at PM. Every year RKB has **Yellow-rumped Warblers** winter in the huge well-fruited Holly trees in the yard at RBF. This winter he counted at least 24 that left the roost the morning of 12/31.

Sally Sisler of Hunting Hills Rd. was thrilled to hear and see an **Eastern Towhee** 2/22. One **Chipping Sparrow** was reported 2/18 (KB) at her feeder at PM. Perhaps he/she was spending the winter as they usually do not arrive until very early Apr. MLP claims she had a sparrow fest this winter. She reports **White-throated Sparrows**, **White-crowned Sparrows**, **Song Sparrows** (who were singing 2/15 despite a temperature of minus two degrees) all winter at LCR, **American Tree Sparrows** and one **Fox Sparrow** 2/16. MH reported an **American Tree Sparrow** 12/9 at EV.

**Dark-Eyed Juncos** were not scarce this winter in southwestern PA. MLP found 35 plus at LCR 2/18, KK had 20 the same day at KF, and KB reported 25 at PM 2/17. Also plentiful were **Northern Cardinals** with RKB counting 18 birds 2/16 at RBF, 35 plus showing up 2/18 at LCR for MLP, and KK finding 40 (22 males and 18 females/first winter) 2/18 at the KF feeders.

One female **Red-winged Blackbird** showed up at LCR 1/30 states MLP and by 2/18 several friends had arrived, 16 in all. Lake Wilma (*Greene*) on Bowlby Hill Rd. near Blacksville, WV, hosted three **Eastern Meadowlarks** 2/17 (MH). KK saw seven **Brown-headed Cowbirds** 1/27 at KF. Some were adult males. An early **Common Grackle** was seen 2/28 at Ryerson S. P. (MH).

On 2/18 MLP found three **House Finches** at her feeders at LCR, which was her high count of this species for the winter. She asks, "Remember just a couple years ago when they were the predominate species?" A **Purple Finch** was seen 12/9 (MH) at EV. MLP reports 15 **American Goldfinches** 2/18 at LCR who were starting to show some more yellow around the heads. She found one with conjunctivitis 2/23. The eyes were crusty and almost sealed shut. She was able to walk right up to it on the feeder before it flew off erratically to a nearby branch.

Observers: Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA. 15370, (724) 627-5376 n3xsj@alltel.net, Kim Barbetta, Ralph K. Bell, Jerry Howard, Marj Howard, Mary La Plante.

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### Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Lake Raystown (LR), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SC), Stone Mountain Hawkwatch (SM), Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch (TMH).

Lakes and ponds in the county remained open until mid-January contributing to late season water birds. In HU, 25 **Tundra Swan** were observed 12/2 and 2 **Hooded Mergansers** 12/2 (DK). SM reported 55 **Tundra Swan** 12/7 (GG) and 6 **Common Loons** 12/4 (DK). LR hosted a **Pied-billed Grebe**, a **Double-crested Cormorant** 1/6, and 4 **Gadwall** 1/7 (DK).

A survey conducted by boat 1/12 on LR turned up 7 adult and 7 imm **Bald Eagles** and represents a record high for the 18-year count (RC). SM recorded record highs for the month of Dec with 9 **Bald Eagles**, 60 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 32 **Golden Eagles** (GG). TMH tallied the first eagles of the season with 5 **Golden Eagles** 2/28 (AH). A **Rough-legged Hawk**, 3 **Northern Harriers** and 3 **American Kestrels** highlighted a Winter Raptor survey 1/28 near MF (GG). A late season **Osprey** was tallied during the Culp CBC 12/16 near Waterstreet (DK).

A mild late fall and excellent weather conditions contributed to record

high counts for 10 species in both of the county's CBC. HU CBC 12/18 reported 500 **Canada Geese**, 20 **Hooded Mergansers**, 50 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, 131 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 36 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 23 **Common Ravens**, 158 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, 56 **Carolina Wrens**, 143 **Eastern Bluebirds**, and 379 **American Goldfinches** (DK). LR CBC 12/23 reported record highs for 10 different species including 8 **Great Blue Herons**, 119 **Turkey Vultures**, 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 51 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 17 **Belted Kingfishers**, 17 **Brown Creepers**, 34 **Northern Mockingbirds**, 103 **Song Sparrows**, 7 **Swamp Sparrows**, and 257 **Northern Cardinals** (GG).

A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** frequented the Grove's feeding station from mid-Dec through remainder of period, and a single bird turned up at feeders in MF for 4 weeks beginning 12/25 (DW). A large flock of 125 **Horned Larks** was observed in Germany Valley 2/18, and a lone **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 1/13 at LP (GG). New Year's day birding highlights included an **Eastern Towhee** in HU and a **Gray Catbird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Fox Sparrow** and a **Swamp Sparrow** at LR (DK). Near MF, 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were observed 2/25, an **Eastern Towhee** 2/9 (DW) and a flock of 15 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 2/2 (DK). **Purple Finches** have been absent from feeders throughout the county with the exception of a lone bird in HU 12/20 (DK) and a pair that appeared sporadically at SC from 1/29 through mid-Feb (DW).

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg PA, 16669, (814) 863-2000**. Nick Bolgiano, Rob Criswell, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Aaron Haiman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Susan Wentzel, and Chuck Widmann

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### Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Urling Treatment Pond (UTP), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

**Canada Goose** maxima included an even 1200 on the IN CBC 12/26 (v.o.), 600 near LV 1/7 (MC), and 320 at YC 12/10 (LC). The only **Tundra Swan** report was of 210 over IN 12/27 (DJ). Jan 23 was the last date at YC for waterfowl as the lake froze completely shortly thereafter. **Gadwall** reports included 6 on 12/12 (LO) and 3 lingering through 1/16 (LC, MH), both reports at YC. Eleven **American Wigeons** appeared at the UTP 2/27 (RH), which remained open due to pumping of the mine pool. Last **American Black Ducks** before freeze-up were 12 at YC 1/9,23 (LC, MH); 7 arrived on Dunmire's pond near Saltsburg 2/21 (MAD). High **Mallard** counts included 92 at YC 12/5 (LO) and 27 near Two Lick Res. 12/8 (PJ); 17 visited the UTP 2/10 (MH, RH). The only **Northern Shovelers** reported were 7 on 12/10 (LO) and 11 on 12/12 (LC), all at YC. Two **Northern Pintails** at YC 1/16 (LC, MH) were the only ones noted.

Two **Canvasbacks** 1/23 (LC, MH) were YC's last; UTP harbored 3 on 2/22 (RH). Last **Ring-necked Ducks** were 2 on 1/23 (LC, MH) at YC. The season's high count of 6 **Lesser Scaup** occurred at YC 12/5 (LC, MH) and 1/23 (LC, MH). Last were 3 **Buffleheads** at YC 1/2 (LC, MH). Two southward bound **Common Goldeneyes** stopped at YC 12/10 (LO) and again 1/23 (LC, MH); a pair appeared 2/11 (RH) at the UTP where the hen was still present 2/22 (RH). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were last sighted at YC 12/5 (LC, MH). Six **Common Mergansers** arrived at Conemaugh Dam 2/28 (MF), the lone report. A single **Red-breasted Merganser** lingered at YC till 1/2 (LC, MH). Top **Ruddy Duck** count was 50 on 12/1 (GC, MH) at YC; a lone Ruddy was last recorded there 1/23 (LC, MH); another singleton arrived at the UTP 2/7 (RH) where it remained through 2/15 (RH).

The IN CBC yielded 5 **Ruffed Grouse** 12/26 (v.o.), 4 in or near YC; the only other report was one near Marion Center 1/27 (MH, RH). **Wild Turkey** maxima included 40 west of Penn Run 12/26 (BF, TF) and 80 near IN 12/27 (SB).

Top **Common Loon** tally at YC was 18 on 12/5 (LC, MH); one at YC 12/26 (ED, JD, JT) was last. High **Pied-billed Grebe** count was 33 on 12/10 (LO) at YC where 5 lingered till 1/23 (LC, MH). Two **Horned Grebes** were present 12/1 (GC, MH) at YC, the lone report. A **Double-crested Cormorant** stopped briefly at YC 12/12 (LC). No **Great Blue Herons** were reported after 1/27 (MH, RH) when one was spotted on WRS #2.

A late **Turkey Vulture** was soaring over Aultman 12/27 (BF, TF). An imm **Bald Eagle** was spotted at YC 1/21 (JDu, JM) and was relocated the following day (LC, MH); a first-year bird flew over SH 2/16 (MH) while an adult was seen at Saltsburg 2/20 (AD, MAD). Two **Northern Harriers** were listed at YC through 1/23 (v.o.), e. of IN 12/26 (PJ), at Clymer 1/9 (GL), and near LV 1/25 and 2/23 (MC). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at 6 locations during the period (v.o.); **Cooper's Hawk** at 11 (v.o.). Two WRS routes in the northern part of the county yielded 25 **Red-tailed Hawks** on 1/27 (MH, RH) and 12 on 2/3 (MH, RH), compared respectively with last year's counts of 21 and 29. Two dark morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were a nice find near Marion Center 2/18 (MH, RH). Eight **Am. Kestrels** was a high count on WRS#2 on 1/27 (MH, RH).

**American Coots** at YC 12/10 (LO) numbered 1700; the flock gradually decreased until by 1/16 (LC, MH), 832 remained; on 1/23 (LC, MH), the last report, an estimated 450 were still present with little open water. Fifteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were standing on the ice at YC 1/23 (LC,

MH). High **Ring-billed Gull** counts included 65 at YC and 137 at Two Lick Res., both reports on 12/5 (LC).

Two **Eastern Screech-Owls** responded to being called on the Ferrence farm near IN 12/26 (GF, GFe). The CBC yielded 3 **Great Horned Owls** (v.o.). A **Barred Owl** was heard only near Creekside 2/19 (MAL). **Belted Kingfishers** completely withdrew from the county after 1/22 (JDu, JM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were spotted near LV 12/28, 1/26, and 2/10 (MC); near Smicksburg 1/21, 25 and 2/5-7 (MM); and near IN 2/4 (MH, RH, DJ). An **Eastern Phoebe** appeared at Conemaugh Dam 1/29 (MF) but was not seen thereafter. **Common Ravens**, which continue to spread in our county, included one on WRS#2 1/27 (MH, RH), 2 near Penn Run 1/31 (TF), 2 at Blairsville 2/10 (DC, MC), one near Covode 2/19 (GL) and 2 at YC 2/19 (MH).

**Horned Lark** maxima were 141 near Marion Center 1/27 (MH, RH) and 95 near Ambrose 2/19 (MS, JT). The CBC yielded 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at 4 locations (v.o.); 1-2 were found near SH (MH, RH) throughout the period; one visited a Reservoir Hill feeder 2/17 (PJ). Three **Brown Creepers** at YC 12/26 (MH, RH) comprised the high count. Four **Winter Wrens** were found at three locations on the CBC 12/26 (v.o.), but none were reported after the count. Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were a nice find near Homer City 12/26 (LH, LHe). **Hermit Thrush** reports, all at YC, included 2 on 12/26 (MH, RH), one 1/2 (LC, MH), and one 2/19 (MH). Among several other reports, a **Northern Mockingbird** wintering at YC was present throughout the period. After a count of 108 for the CBC 12/26 (v.o.), the only **Cedar Waxwings** noted were 14 roosting in a holly near SH 1/2 (MH, RH), 5 near LV 1/10 (MC), and 3 near IN 2/4 (MH, RH, DJ).

Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** wintered near SH through at least 2/19 (MH, RH), where they were feeding primarily on poison ivy berries supplemented by a bit of suet. Single **Eastern Towhees** were noted at YC 12/26 (GL) and 1/2 (LC, MH), near Glen Campbell 2/3 (MH, RH), and near Penn Run 2/3 (MH, RH). A good count of **American Tree Sparrows** was 30 at a LV feeder 1/25 (MC). Two **Field Sparrows** near Homer City 12/26 (LH, LHe) and one at YC 12/26 (ED, JD, JT) comprised the entire report. One **Fox Sparrow** near SH 12/26 (MH, RH) was the only one noted. One **Swamp Sparrow** still lingered at YC 1/23 (LC, MH). The only **White-crowned Sparrows** were 16 at YC (ED, JD, JT) and one near Homer City 12/26 (LH, LHe). High **Dark-eyed Junco** feeder counts included 103 near Marion Center 1/29 (KG) and an even 100 near SH 2/14 (MH).

LV yielded the first **Red-winged Blackbird** 2/19 (MC), the first **Rusty Blackbird** 2/17 (MC), and the first **Common Grackle** 2/16 (MC). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** remained near IN till 12/26 (DJ); 47 near Home 2/17 (JT) were first returnees.

Observers: **Margaret A. Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Sid Blair, Lee Carnahan, Greg Cook, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jim Dearing, Ed Donley, Jim Dunn (JDu), Annette Dunmire, Mary Ann Dunmire, Gary Ferrence, Greg Ferrence (GFe), Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Cindy Gardiner (CGA), Len Hess, Linda Hess (LHe), Roger Higbee, Dory Jacobs, Pat Johner, Gloria Lamer, Mary A. Little, Marilyn Moore (MM), Jim Myslivy, Mark Strittmatter, Georgette Syster, John Taylor.

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### Jefferson County

No Report. No Compiler.

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### Juniata County

Locations: Red Rock Road (RRR), Metz Road (MR), Cedar Spring Road (CSR), Oakland Mills (OM), Pinnacle Road (PH)

Adult **Bald Eagles** were seen 1/17 and 2/21 in Rockville (BM) and 2/1 at Port Royal (CK). The Winter Raptor Survey was conducted 1/30 in the western part of the county. We had 111 raptors in 100 miles including single **Northern Harrier**, 3 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 3 **Coopers Hawks**, 72 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 1 **Rough-legged Hawk** and 31 **American Kestrels** (CK, AT, BM, MM). The day was also ended viewing a single **Long-eared Owl** at RRR and a single **Wilson's Snipe** at MR (CK, MM, HP). Four **Long Eared Owls** were seen 1/28 in a batch of mature Cedars not too far from where they were located in prior years at RRR (HP). A **Barn Owl** was viewed 2/15 perched in a tree at CSR (AR).

**Red-winged Blackbird**, **Swamp Sparrow** and **Brown Thrasher** visited feeders 2/17 and a **Fox Sparrow** 2/19 at OM (AT, MT). An albino **Dark Eyed Junco** was spotted in Richfield visiting an orchard 12/18 (AT, DW, CK). On 2/27, during a field trip with the Shavers Creek crew, we found 2 **Lapland Longspurs** and 3 **Snow Buntings** among many **Horned Larks** (PH). Several **Rough Legged Hawks** were viewed of both phases at CSR (CK, AT, DW, HP, etc.).

A single **Evening Grosbeak** was spotted 1/14 traveling with hundreds of **American Robins** that stuck around all winter at RRR (HP). The grosbeak was seen again 1/21.

Also notable were species for which we had high numbers on our Christmas Count on 12/16 – **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Wild Turkey**, **Barn Owl**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Northern Mockingbird**, **European Starling**, and **White Crowned Sparrow**. New count species included **Ruddy Duck** and

## Merlin.

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65 Mifflintown, PA 17059, 717-436-6465, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Butch McCahren, Michael McCahren, Henry Petersheim, Amos Renno, Aden Troyer, Mary Troyer, Dusty Weidner and Linda Whitesel.

## Lackawanna County

No Report. No Compiler.

## Lancaster County

Locations: Middlecreek WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Lake (OL), Susquehanna River (SR).

This winter in started out very mild. January was one of the warmest on record, but the weather turned cold in February culminating in a sizable snowstorm on March 16. The avian highlight of the season was an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** that spent time at a residence in Lititz in December and January.

The Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count was held on 12/17 with 55 observers recording a very respectable 111 species. The highlights included 2 **Cackling Geese**, 12 **Cooper's Hawks** (HC), 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (HC), 7 species of owl including 10 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, **Empidonax** species, **Northern Shrike**, 2 **Brown Thrashers**, and **Baltimore Oriole**.

The Lititz count was held on 12/31 and 45 participants identified 91 species. Incredibly, *four* new species were added to the count. The aforementioned **Ash-throated Flycatcher** as well as **Sandhill Crane**, 2 **Common Ravens** and 2 **Swainson's Thrushes**. Other highlights included 16 species of waterfowl plus **American Coot** with **Wood Duck**, 2 **American Wigeons** and **Common Goldeneye** being notables in this group. Other sightings include 4 **Bald Eagles** (2 adult, 2 imm.), 9 **Wild Turkeys**, 8 **Killdeer**, 9 **Wilson's Snipe**, one **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, 2 **Eastern Phoebes**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 6 **Hermit Thrushes**, 2 **Gray Catbirds**, 4 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Pine Warbler**, 3 **Fox Sparrows** and 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks**.

This winter featured a good selection of waterfowl once again. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at OL 1/29 (DC, DW) and 2/7 (CC). **Snow Geese** were seen throughout the county during the period, but the largest numbers were at MC with 18,000 reported in early Jan along with at least one **Ross's Goose** (m.ob.) This year the peak counts for **Snow Geese** occurred in Mar due to the snow cover in late Feb and early Mar. **Cackling Goose** was at MC 12/27, at MR 1/4 (CC), and at a pond at the Greenfield Corporate Center in Lancaster 1/10 (DB). **Tundra Swans** were present throughout the period at MC with nearly 1,000 there in late Jan, but the peak counts occurred in Mar. **Mute Swan** was seen at Chickies Rock County Park 1/17 (CC) and on the SR near Wrightsville 2/24 (JH, RM). Mild weather in Jan kept some ducks at MC such as **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck**. However, once the cold weather arrived a decent variety of waterfowl was along the SR in the open water channels. The highlights along the SR during the winter season included 8 **Canvasback** 2/24, 10 **Redheads** 2/24, a peak of 40 **Lesser Scaup** 2/24, 2 **Greater Scaup** 2/19, **White-winged Scoter** at Accomac 2/19 (JH), 14 **Bufflehead** 2/19, and 100 **Common Goldeneye** 2/24. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at OL 1/29. A few **Red-necked Grebes** were present as well. The first was seen on the SR at Wissler's Run 2/9 (DC) and again 2/16. Up to three were at MR 2/27 (TA) and another on the SR near Wrightsville 2/24 (JH, RM).

**Bald Eagles** were present in very solid numbers all season as usual. However, good numbers were again seen in locations a bit off the beaten path. At least 20 **Bald Eagles** were seen in a small woodlot just below the chicken houses on Smyrna Road near its intersection with Route 372 and White Oak Rd. 1/6-1/7 (TR). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were in the eastern part of the county 2/19 (BH, FH) and they were the only reports I received. **Peregrine Falcons** were present much of the season as well and were seen along the SR 12/30, near the Fairview Nursing Home in Fairmont 1/10 (FH), 2 near Strasburg 1/21 (TR) and one in southern Lancaster 1/31 (BS). **Merlin** was seen in Salisbury Twp. 1/5 (CC) and near Strasburg 1/21 (TR).

The **Sandhill Crane** that was first found at MC 11/12 was present for the entire period and was still being seen in Mar. **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe** were present in scattered locations for the entire period. A first winter **Iceland Gull** was seen along the SR at Long Level 2/24 (JH, RM). The highest count of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was the six that occurred on the Solanco CBC. Two were also on the SR near Wrightsville 2/19 (JH).

As mentioned at the beginning of the report, owls put in a good appearance on the Southern Lancaster CBC. One **Barn Owl** was seen again this year, and the 10 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** reported was also an unusually high total. **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owls** were both found so the only species that was missed was **Snowy Owl**. As mentioned earlier the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was the rarest sighting this winter.

The bird was first noticed 12/21 at the home of Joyce Sheaffer in Lititz. It was recorded on the Lititz CBC, and many birders were able to see it up until 1/4. The **Empidonax** species that was found near MR on the Solanco CBC 12/17 and seen again briefly 12/18 will remain unidentified as to species. It was heard giving a dry 'whit' note, which was used to rule out Hammond's Flycatcher. Some felt that it may have been either a Least or a Dusky Flycatcher.

**Northern Shrike** was also near MR at Silver Springs Road 12/17-12/20 (BS, ES). The two **Common Ravens** found on the Lititz CBC were not only new for the count but also unusual for the county. This species is seen almost annually, but usually only as flybys, which was the case here. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** hung around at the water treatment facility along Blue Rock Road in Washington Boro at least until the Lancaster CBC 12/30. Two **Swainson's Thrushes** reported from the Lititz CBC 12/31 were highly unusual as a winter sighting. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in very small numbers on the CBC's and were virtually absent for much of the winter. Two **Palm Warblers** were at Washington Boro 12/31 for the Lancaster CBC (JH, et.al.).

There was an early report of 22 **Snow Buntings** at SR Conejohela Flats 12/3, and a single **Snow Bunting** was near Penryn 2/16 with a flock of **Horned Larks**. Eight **Purple Finches** and one **Pine Siskin** were reported from the Solanco CBC, but those were the only reports of winter finches.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA, 17042, (717) 228-2161, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Jim Binder (JBi), Jerry Book, Dustin Bosler, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfont, Dick Cleary, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Ed Sidga, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

## Lawrence County

No Report.

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

## Lebanon County

Locations: Memorial Lake SP (MLSP), Middlecreek W.M.A. (MC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Mountain Hawk Watch (2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn.).

The highlight of the quarter was the first county record of **California Gull**, a winter adult at MLSP 12/26 (TJ). Other highlights were the high numbers for **Lebanon** on the Lebanon County Christmas Count held 12/17: **Great Blue Heron** 20, **Mourning Dove** 1179, **Eastern Screech Owl** 27, **Great-horned Owl** 17, **Downy Woodpecker** 108, **White-breasted Nuthatch** 81, **Carolina Wren** 78, **Winter Wren** 9, **Northern Mockingbird** 78, **White-crowned Sparrow** 34, and new for the count were 2 **American Woodcocks** at MLSP (FH, m.ob.).

Even with warm weather and open-water, waterfowl numbers were low. A flock of 30,000+ **Snow Geese** stopped in the fields at MC for only an hour 12/24 before going north (KM, RCM). A **Cackling Goose** was seen 12/17 at MLSP (RCM). **Tundra Swan** numbers were low with about 1,000 at MC in late Feb (m.ob.). Five **Redheads** were found at MLSP from 2/17 (RS). A pair of **Common Goldeneyes** was found at a small pond at Lickdale 1/6 (JP). A **Horned Grebe** was also found at MLSP 2/17 (RS).

Raptors were moving in good numbers for Dec at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn. **Bald Eagles** set a record with 137 and **Golden Eagles** with 127 for the season. **Merlins** made two appearances 12/4 and 12/14 for the first Dec records. The last **Peregrine Falcon** was 12/3. A light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** 12/9 was only the second for the season (m.ob.).

Two **Northern Bobwhite** found in SGL 145 on 12/9 were probably stocked birds (RCM). The **Sandhill Crane** at MC was reported all quarter between stop #1 and into **Lebanon** corn fields to feed (m.ob.). **Killdeers** were seen at MC even after the snow and ice storm (m.ob.). An **American Woodcock** at MLSP 12/23 was a good late Dec find (MW).

Gull numbers were good at MLSP with rarities being drawn in. **Herring Gull** numbers peaked 11/24 with 2250 (RCM). A third county record of **Thayer's Gull** was found when a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird was seen 12/14 (TJ). It was last reported 1/3 (JH). A first year **Iceland Gull** was found 12/13 (TJ) and last seen on 1/3 (JH) for the 18<sup>th</sup> county record. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** set a new high with 12 seen 12/13 (TJ).

Two **Short-eared Owls** were reported from MC 12/31 (BC). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard on Mitchner's Rd. 12/29 while RCM was listening for Great Horned Owls for the BBA. There were still there 12/31 for the Lititz Christmas Count (SW). An **Eastern Phoebe** was found on MC 12/1 (RCM). **Hermit Thrushes** were seen all quarter at Camp Shand (SW). A **Fox Sparrow** at MLSP 12/17 was singing (RCM).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Chuck Berthound, Jim Binder, Gerry Boltz (GBo), Greg Burgdorf (GBe), Stephanie Butler, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Morris Cox, Pam Fisher, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Tom Johnson, Gary

Koppenhaver, Ramsay Koury, Gayle Lawrence, Richard Light, Tom McKinne, Kate Miller, Jerry Pastel, Steve Rannels, Peter Robinson, Cameron Rutt, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Mike Weible, Dennis Wengle, Bill Welch, Larry Westhaver, Susan Wheeler, Dick Williams, Fred Wilcox, David Yeany.

**Lehigh County**

The LVAS Christmas Count took place 12/16. There was a total of 32,875 birds representing 79 species. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at the Fogelsville Quarry 2/11 (FB). Two **Horned Grebes** and one **Greater Scaup** were at a quarry in Whitehall Twp. along W. Coplay Rd. 2/18 (DW). At the Fogelsville Quarry 12/10, the following were seen by TW: one **Pied-billed Grebe**, one **Greater White-Fronted Goose**, and 2 **Cackling Geese**. JH reported 3000 **Snow Geese** 1/21 also at the Fogelsville Quarry. JL had 700 **Snow Geese** on Smith Lane 2/12. An **American Wigeon** was on the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Twp 2/24 (JL). Three **Redheads** were seen on the lake at Dorney Park 2/12 (FB). Three **Redheads** were seen by DK 2/11 and one was seen 2/13 at the Fogelsville Quarry. **Common Mergansers** were seen on the Little Lehigh 2/25 (JL).

Four **Black Vultures** were reported 2/10 flying over Lower Macungie Twp.(JL). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen 2/17 at the I-78 and Route 309 interchange (BE). Two **Rough-Legged Hawks** were in Heidelberg Twp. along Bullhead Rd from 2/21-2/23 (BH). A **Northern Harrier** was also observed (BH). At the beginning of Feb, BH spotted a **Peregrine Falcon** in the PPL building in downtown Allentown. The bird was there for a couple of weeks. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was also seen in Ontelaunee Park in New Tripoli 2/18 and 2/21 (FD). MB had 7 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 12/10 at the Allentown Waste Water Treatment Plant along with 3 **Killdeer**.

Rare in mid-winter, an **Eastern Phoebe** was seen at Muhlenber College (PS). At Jordan Creek Parkway 2 fly-by **Cave Swallows** were observed 12/1 (DW). If accepted, this will be a 1<sup>st</sup> area record. CR reported a **Hermit Thrush** in his backyard in Lanark 12/9. BM and PM had a **Fox Sparrow** at their feeder near Macungie 2/6. They also had resident **Eastern Screech Owl** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** calling regularly throughout the winter. A **Swamp Sparrow** was in Ontelaunee Park (FD). FB recorded the following waterfowl from the Fogelsville Quarry, Dorney Park Lake, and Lake Muhlenberg in Feb.

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA. 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinj1@yahoo.com**, Mark Boyd, Fritz Brock, Frank Dickman, Bill Etter, Bob Hoopes, Jason Horn, Dan Klem, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Charlie Ruppert, Peter Saenger, Todd Watkins, Dustin Welch.

**Luzerne County**

Locations: Dallas Area Christmas Bird Count (DACBC), Ceastown Reservoir (CR), Harvey's Lake (HL), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Susquehanna River (SR)

The mild weather at the beginning of the quarter that lasted until late January made for some interesting bird records. The DACBC recorded the highest total of species in its 50 year history with 74 species reported. There were also at least two new species that were added to the cumulative count total.

Wintering waterfowl were represented by a large variety of species

**FOGELSVILLE QUARRY**

Species	2/12	2/13	2/15	2/16	2/17	2/18	2/19	2/20	2/21	2/22
Pied-billed Grebe		1			1			1		
Snow Goose		2000+			4					
Canada Goose		1000+			500+			10+	10+	
Mallard		150+			Y			Y	Y	
Black Duck		44			Y			Y	Y	
Green-winged Teal		1								
Readhead		1								
Ring-necked Duck		20+			6					
Common Merganser		6+								
Hooded Merganser		2			2					
American Coot		7			11			6+	4+	

Note: 2/13 - quarry about 70% ice covered, 2/17 - only three small areas still not frozen

**DORNEY PARK LAKE**

Species	2/12	2/13	2/15	2/16	2/17	2/18	2/19	2/20	2/21	2/22
Mute Swan	2	2			2				2	
Canada Goose	100+	100+	200+	300+	150+	300+	200+	20+	40+	15+
Wood Duck									1	
Mallard	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Black Duck	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gadwall	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1
American Wigeon	1	1		3	3	2	4	4	4	2
Canvasback				2	2	2	2	3	3	1
Redhead	3	3		3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Lesser Scaup			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Common Goldeneye					2		2	2	2	2
Bufflehead	2	2		1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Common Merganser	1	6	2	2	6	2	6	4	3	6
American Coot	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4

**LAKE MUHLENBERG**

Species	2/12	2/13	2/15	2/16	2/17	2/18	2/19	2/20	2/21	2/22
Mute Swan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
Snow Goose	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1
Canada Goose	20+	20+		40+	20+	50+	50+	50+		10+
Mallard		2		1	1	1				Y
American Wigeon										2
Canvasback										1
Common Merganser	7	3			2	3	1			9
American Coot		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1

Note: 2/13 - lake about 80% open, 2/15 - lake about 5% open, 2/18 - lake about 40% open

2/22 - lake about 90% open

Y = species present but no count taken

throughout the season and helped the DACBC reach its new high species count total. Some of the more unusual sightings were **Common Loon**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Horned Grebe** and **Eared Grebe** at CR on the DACBC 12/16 (EH, DB, BH). Unfortunately, the **Eared Grebe** could not be relocated despite attempts by several observers. Details of the sighting were forwarded to the CBC Regional Editor for review. **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, **Redhead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** are a few of the other species of waterfowl seen on the DACBC 12/16 (EJ, WR, et al). Up to 12 **Canvasback** and an equal number of **Redhead** were seen at HL 2/8 (JD) and some of the **Canvasback** lingered until at least 2/18 (JH) and a few **Redheads** lingered to the end of the winter period (RK, EJ, et al). **Common Goldeneye** numbers peaked at 40 plus on the SR near Nescopeck 2/18 (RK).

**Bald Eagles** now occur regularly in our area, especially along the SR. Several adults were reported by numerous observers (BT, JS et al) and an imm was seen feeding on the ice at HL 2/4 (RK, JH). A **Golden Eagle** was seen 12/27 flying low over the SR near Wilkes-Barre (JH). One of the breeding **Peregrine Falcons** in Wilkes-Barre stayed until mid-Jan, leaving just before the coldest part of the season began (BW). During the past 2 winters, **Merlins** were seen on the DACBC and several other times throughout the season. This year a **Merlin** was found at the Plains Flats 12/10 (RK, JH) but unfortunately was not seen again. **Rough-legged Hawk** went unreported this winter.

**Wild Turkey** numbers continue to rise and they are now being reported from urban areas (JH). **Ruffed Grouse** were seen more frequently than they have been in the past few years and may reflect an upward swing in their population cycle (RK, JH). An **American Woodcock** on the DACBC 12/16 (RK, SG) was a count first and a late date for even this hardy species. The season's only gull report of note was of a **Greater**

**Black-backed Gull** seen flying over the SR 2/22 from the North Cross Valley Expressway Bridge in Plains (RK).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** spent the winter in Nescopack feeding on suet (SB, MB). Once we got some snow cover, **Horned Larks** were easier to find with a flock of up to 75 on 2/18 in Hobby (RK). Despite extensive searching, no **Lapland Longspurs** or **Snow Buntings** were reported in the county this season. Nine **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on the DACBC 12/16 represented a single day high for this species. A few remained throughout the season in suitable habitat. A **Winter Wren** 1/27 in the White Haven area was a late record (EH). **Carolina Wrens** continue to increase and seemed to have survived the cold snap that lasted through Feb.

**Northern Shrikes** began to appear in the area 12/10 with an imm bird at the PLYF (RK, JH) and peaking with up to four different individuals into early Jan (EJ, BM, et al). As suddenly as they appeared, they seemed to just as suddenly disappear after early Jan, with no further sightings reported.

Winter finches went unreported this season despite a few tantalizing sightings during the Fall.

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925 birdder@aol.com**, Susan Baron, Dave Birchler, Mark Blauer, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGO), Alan Gregory, Eleanor Harding, Bill Hintze, Ed Johnson, Rick Koval, Bob Mose, Bill Reid, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

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#### **Lycoming County**

No Report

**Steve Pinkerton, 182 Log-Run Road, Williamsport, PA 17701, (570) 494-1308, stevepinkerton@suscom.net**

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#### **McKean County**

No Report

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

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#### **Mercer County**

The warm Dec and early Jan weather was likely responsible for a single **Virginia Rail** heard calling 1/3 at the large marsh at SGL 130, and also for one **Sandhill Crane** flying over Coolspring Church Rd. 1/1 (NT).

Then, suddenly, forget global warming! The snowy, frigid weather beginning mid-Jan. (the Shenango R. Res. did not ice over until 1/21) was more notable for what wasn't seen, than what was seen: no **American Robin**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Eastern Towhee** or **Song Sparrow**. **Carolina Wren** was wiped out. The poor berry crop (rose hips, wild grape) surely added to the lack of normal winter residents. **American Tree Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco** and **House Finch** numbers were low. **Eastern Bluebirds** somehow survived. **Turkey Vulture**, **American Woodcock** and **Killdeer**, usually arriving in Feb did not appear until Mar. A flock of **Tundra Swan** headed south over Williamson Rd. 12/3 (NT). **Hooded Merganser** was present at SGL 130 1/3 (NT).

**Bald Eagles** were incubating at last year's osprey platform site, visible from the SRR Headquarter's Bldg. 2/28. Other sightings of **Bald Eagle** came from various places throughout the winter, many being of imms. One **Rough-legged Hawk** was hunting along WR 12/7, and another (a light phase) along Hopper Rd. 2/25. Three **Red-winged Blackbird** showed up 2/28. No winter finches were reported.

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

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#### **Mifflin County**

A **Green-winged Teal** was present 2/24 at a farm pond on Bunker Hill Rd. near Belleville (JZ). Two Winter Raptor Survey Routes were run 2/1 and 2/11 (BF, CK, JZ). The combined 10.5 hours produced one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 2 **Coopers Hawks**, 33 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 11 **American Kestrels** and one **Golden Eagle**. A sub-adult **Golden Eagle** was observed 1/4 on Back Mountain Rd. near Barrville (BF). The bird flew across the road and perched on a tree at the edge of a field; markings were clearly visible on the wings and tail.

Three **Wilson's Snipe** were found in a marshy area below the small dam on Coffee Run (GG, DG) 2/17.

An **American Pipit** was also present. The State College Bird Club trip to Big Valley, 1/21, produced a flock of about 100 **Horned Larks** and 3 **Snow Buntings** on Kanagy Rd. near Belleville as well as 3-4 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and 6+ **White-crowned Sparrows** near Barrville. Also seen were 3 **Wilson's Snipe** and one **Killdeer** near Allensville. A **Lapland Longspur** was found by JZ 2/24 on Knepp Rd., Belleville on fresh manure with a flock of **Horned Larks**. It was sighted again the next day on the road's edge with about 150 **Horned Larks** (GG, DG).

Observers: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg PA 16669 (814) 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsg4@psu.edu**. Bob Fowles, Chad Kauffman, Jay Zook.

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#### **Monroe County**

December and the first half of January was mild with 100% open water. The remainder of the period was more seasonable with February giving us extended sub-freezing temperatures and a Valentine's Day snowstorm. The twenty-seventh Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held on 12/17, with 56 species and 2998 individuals tallied. The open water conditions accounted for several uncommon waterfowl records for PMCBC.

A **Northern Shoveler** wintered near Snydersville (RS) but did not make PMCBC. Nine **Ring-necked Ducks** and one **Common Goldeneye** were reported on PMCBC for only the second and third count records, respectively. PMCBC also had 7 **Ruddy Ducks** for only a second count record. **Rough-legged Hawks** made an appearance later in the period with one dark individual seen at Cherry Valley 2/28 (DS) and 3 individuals seen in the Brodheadsville area the last week of Feb (EB, KT). Both **Peregrine Falcons** were back on the cliffs of Delaware Water Gap's Mt. Minsi on the *Monroe-Northampton* line from mid-Dec to the end of the period (BH).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were seen at Skytop 2/18 (JS) and the first **Killdeer** of the season was reported from Cherry Valley 2/28 (DS). Very early was the displaying **American Woodcock** near Shawnee in the Delaware River valley 1/7 (JW). This bird was "peenting" and giving its flight display. A wintering **Long-eared Owl** was reported from Emerald Lakes Estates (DM). It was notable that no kinglets of either species were reported on PMCBC.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Ed Boyce, Don Miller, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Ken Thompson, Jim Wycoff

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#### **Montgomery County**

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The Winter season began with temperatures well above average through January. Winter weather finally arrived in February, with the season's only significant snowfall and extremely low temperatures. Due to wildly fluctuating weather, waterfowl actually experienced two separate seasons. Late "fall" or winter visitors included a **Brant** feeding with **Canada Geese** in Mainland 12/10 (P&AG), a high of 2 **Cackling Geese** at GLR 1/9 (KC), and groups of **Snow Geese** ranging from 7-26 birds at GLR (GF). Five **Tundra Swans** at Walt Rd., GLR 1/14 were unexpected on that date (GF). A late **Northern Shoveler** was at Knight Lake 12/11, and **Gadwall** numbers peaked there at 17 from 12/11+ (GF, mobs). **Hooded Mergansers** reached a high count of 25 birds 12/17 at Knight Lake (SL). Small numbers (1-3) of **Bufflehead**, **Canvasback**, and **Ring-necked Duck** were found at Walt Rd., GLR through much of the season (GF). A dramatic drop in temperatures in early Feb forced most lingering ducks to retreat southward.

As temperatures warmed again, early spring migrants appeared the last 3 days of Feb. Some goodies at GLR during this period were 200 fly-over **Snow Geese** (KC), a record-high count of 127 **American Wigeon**, 40 **Green-winged Teal**, and the season's first **Northern Pintails** and **Wood Ducks**, all 2/28! (GAF, KC). Diving ducks also got a jump on spring migration with 4 **Redheads** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** at Hill Rd. 2/26 (KC, SG), and 150 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 10 **Bufflehead**, and 3 **Lesser Scaup** at Walt Rd. 2/28 (GAF). A respectable total of 21 waterfowl species were reported during the period. GLR also enjoyed a rare winter "hat-trick" on grebes. These included a record-early **Horned Grebe** at Walt Rd. 2/12 (KC, GF), a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Walt Rd. 2/28 (GF, mobs), and a **Red-necked Grebe** at Hill Rd. 2/26+ (KC).

Our best bird of the winter season was an **American White Pelican** at Church Road, GLR 12/14-16 (L&JH, photos, mobs). While over 30 state records exist for the species, this was the first for *Montgomery* and only the 4<sup>th</sup> for the southeastern counties. Upon discovering the bird, the original observers went home and phoned their *grateful county compiler*, who made another half a dozen phone calls en route to 'the bird. (You've got to love cell phones!). As luck would have it, the Pennsylvania list-serve was out of commission, so word got out the old-fashioned way (phone calls and e-mails!). In another stroke of (bad) luck, the bird decided to depart about 21 hours before it could be counted on the Upper Bucks-Mont CBC. During the bird's visit, LH watched the bird catch (and swallow) what appeared to be a large turtle! He was even fortunate to snap a photo of the creature in the pelican's pouch. In a final bit of irony, while looking at Len's photo, I had to wonder if the large reptile wasn't one of GLR's Red-bellied Turtles (a threatened species in PA). Three **American Coots** made a rare winter appearance at Walt Road, GLR 2/10. (GF). **Killdeer** returned right on schedule 2/25, and a **Wilson's Snipe** was a good find near Church Road,

GLR 12/7 (GAF).

Raptors included a male **Northern Harrier** near Church Rd. 2/17-2/23, and an imm on Knight Rd 2/27 (SR, GF, KC). Up to 3 **Northern Harriers** were at Gwynedd Preserve 12/10 (A&JM). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** took up temporary residence on a ledge of a building in Norristown sometime in Dec. It remained through the end of the quarter (KN, mobs, photos). A **Merlin** was a one-day wonder near Church Rd, GLR 12/17. (RG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Walt Rd 1/23 (GF). Green Lane's resident **Bald Eagles** were on eggs record early 1130 (GF). Gulls of note were few, as is usually the case in *Montgomery*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers peaked at 19 at Knight Lake 1/19 (GF).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** was in a Merion Station backyard 12/8-12/18 (SB, mobs, photos). This very backyard hosted a **Calliope Hummingbird** a few years prior! **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were scarce this winter throughout the county. A single bird was in a backyard near UPVP until 2/19, and another in the UCV until 2/14. (P&AG, KC, MC). A **Northern Shrike** was another one-day visitor near Church Rd., GLR 12/17 (RG).

In sharp contrast with last winter, **Black-capped Chickadees** were scarce, being represented by a few singles (mobs). In another case of the "season without songbirds", **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was not reported! **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was represented by scattered singles at GLR 12/17 and 2/12 (KC, SR, GF), Souderton 2/18 (SB), and Lansdale-date unknown (JM). **Hermit Thrushes** were difficult to find, with reports from GLR 12/17 and 12/29 (KC, SR, GF), and Ambler through Jan (RK). **American Robins** were somewhat enigmatic, with no birds for long periods of time, and then large groups appearing. Notable of these groups were 2,000 in Ambler through Jan, and 4,000+ flyovers near Walt Rd., GLR 1/26 (RK, GF). A **Palm Warbler** at Hock Rd, GLR 1/7 was an unusual winter find (GF). Our only **Eastern Towhee** was near a King of Prussia shopping center 2/24-2/28! (RG). Good sparrows included a **Chipping Sparrow** at Walt Rd., GLR 1/8, another in Lansdale 2/28, and a third in Upper Gwynedd Twp. 12/16 (GAF, KR, A&JM). A **Fox Sparrow** at the GLR Nature Center was first seen 12/29 and remained through the quarter (B&JE, mobs). A high of 6 **Swamp Sparrows** were at Church Rd., GLR 12/16, and up to 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were in a yard near Walt Rd. 12/29+ (GF).

Winter Finches had their worst showing in a long time. A prime example being that **Purple Finches** were missed on the Upper Bucks-Mont CBC for the first time in 38 years! A lone female **Purple Finch** at a feeder near UPVP 12/21 was our only record for the season. (P&AG).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA. 18084, (215) 234-6867, KCRILLEY@mail.montcopa.org**, Steve Blank, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Michelle Crilley, Bob and Jenny Elmer, George Franchois, Ron Grubb, Steve Grunwald, Paul and Anita Guris, Len and Judy Hillegass, Sheryl Johnson, Rudy Keller, Steve Lawrence, John McCarthy, August and Judy Mirabella, Kathy Nagle, Ken Reiker, Steve Rothenberger.

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### Montour County

On 12/13, a **Common Goldeneye** turned up at L. Chillisquaue and remained through 1/4. **Common Mergansers** returned 12/14. The 12/17 Christmas Bird Count recorded a **Barnacle Goose** among a number of **Canada Geese** on L. Chillisquaue. It remained on the lake until 1/1. A single **Snow Goose** appeared with a large flock of **Canada Geese** in late Jan and remained until the lake iced over. On 2/7 during a snow storm, a **Horned Grebe** was found uninjured along S.R. 44 near Whitehall. It was released at the ash basin near PPL's Montour Electric Plant where there was open water.

A winter raptor survey in the northern part of the county 2/3 produced a large number of **Red-tailed Hawks** (20) and the first **Rough-legged Hawks** (3) as well as **American Kestrels** (5) and **Northern Harriers** (11). Also observed on the count was an **Eastern Meadowlark**. On 1/27 a **Peregrine Falcon** was observed on Strick Rd. A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted again 2/10-2/11 along Preserve Rd.

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

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### Northampton County

Locations: Merrill Creek Christmas Count (MCCC), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Seiple's farm pond 1/8 (DW). The 12/31 MCCC survey at the Martins Creek quarries turned up a **Tundra Swan** and 9 **Great Cormorants**. Rare in the county was the discovery of 4 **White-winged Scoters** at the privately owned Dutch Springs Quarry 2/10 (DD, mobs). Scoters rarely stick around more than a day, so it is unusual that they continued through the period and were observed actively feeding.

**Rough-legged Hawks** showed up in mid-Feb at MCEP (SB), Allen Twp. (DW), and in Washington Twp. (AS). The Dutch Springs Quarry also

held 34 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 2/10 (DD). The gulls gather here during the day but roost elsewhere. A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in Kesslersville during the MCCC.

There was a **Northern Shrike** on Gravel Hill Rd. near the MCEP 2/19-2/21 (RW, AS). There was a **Gray Catbird** found during the MCCC in Mt Bethel Twp. (DA, RW) and another along National Park Dr. 1/14 (MS). A **Marsh Wren** on Upper Mud Run Rd. also made the MCCC. Another **Marsh Wren** was located by the Golden Eagle Bird Club in Forks Twp. 1/6 (DZ). Miller Rd. near the MCEP produced 80 **American Pipits** 2/4 (N&RW).

This winter proved to be good for **Lapland Longspurs** with 3 seen regularly at Graver's Hill 2/4-2/21 (DW, mobs). A few **Snow Buntings** were at Graver's Hill during the same time frame. Along Mt Pleasant Rd. near Willow Brook Farm, another **Lapland Longspur** was found 2/21 as were 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** (AS). The parking lot to the Tekening Trail at the MCEP had a flock of 215 **Rusty Blackbirds** during the MCCC.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA, 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dan Atif, Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Adam Sabatine, Dustin Welch, Nicole & Rick Wiltraut, Dan Zmoda.

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### Northumberland County

No Report. No Compiler.

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### Perry County

No Report

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

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### Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), 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)

The highlights of the season include six warbler species, two bunting species, a *Plegadis* (**Glossy Ibis**?), two scoter species, overwintering **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (again!), and our first documented **Bald Eagle** nest. First county reports of **Ross's Goose** and **Cackling Goose** were accompanied by a **Monk Parakeet**.

The early winter was warm and dry with a few soft freezes prior to 12/16, with a record breaking high of 73°F on 1/6, followed by snow, sleet, and below freezing night temperatures in the second week of February. Three CBCs, the Glenolden, Pennypack and Wyncote on 12/16, each covered a portion of the county. The winter census at SCEE (led by JH, 11 observers, 34 species) and the 21<sup>st</sup> PMWC (led by KR, 55 observers) covered Philadelphia exclusively 1/6. The PMWC tallied 99 species, better than its average of 92 species, on the warmest count day in 21 years.

A **Snow Goose** or two overwintering in *Phialdadelphia* is the norm, so 26 over the mouth of the Pennypack Creek in the balmy air of 1/6 was a surprise and a record for the PMWC (PK). A skein of **Snow Goose** over TI 1/28 were good to hear (AE, DM). The first county report of **Ross's Goose** came from Brian Byrnes who stopped at the FDR ponds 1/20 after leading the bird walk at TI on which he had seen a **Monk Parakeet** (MDeI, fide) [See also **Monk Parakeet**, Fall 2006, DelCo.]. The **Ross's Goose** was reported the following morning 1/21 (DS, SD), but not thereafter. At FDR 2 **Cackling Goose**, one of the *Branta hutchinsii* likely to be found in PA, were noticeably smaller and grayer than the **Canada Goose** (*B. canadensis*) on the main pond 2/3. The two *hutchinsii* showed a steep forehead, stubby bill, and pearly grey back. Our best estimate was that they were of the race *B. taverneri* (FW, KR, DM).

Dabblers, divers, mergansers and grebes were present throughout the winter at a variety of locations and five species were record high counts on the PMWC: 505 **American Black Duck**, 416 **Northern Shoveler**, 66 **Green-winged Teal**, 87 **Ring-necked Duck**, 26 **Pied-billed Grebe**. Several dozen **Gadwall** fed at FDR (BB, FW) until 2/3 before the freeze when 100 were seen. **American Wigeon** were found only in single digits, if at all. **Canvasbacks** did not concentrate in big rafts as in the past at the Pennypack St./Baxter Water Treatment impoundment nor at EPR, but a total of 129 were located 1/6. Two, three, and finally five **Redheads** lingered on "Meadow Pond" at FDR (DB, FW, KR). **Lesser Scaup** from 12/2 (BB) and **Greater Scaup** from 1/27 were present, but not on the PMWC. A **Surf Scoter** was on the DR at Orthodox St. 2/6 (FW) and a **White-winged Scoter** was at the same location 1/6-1/8 (MS, FW). **Long-tailed Duck** on the SR near Shawmont was a nice find 12/4 (JS). **Common Goldeneye** were at TI early in the season and reached a high of 9 on the DR at Rhawn St. 2/10 and at FDR 2/17 (KR, FW). **Hooded** and especially **Common Merganser** were reported in low numbers. Usually, at least 150 **Common Merganser** would be expected at TI, but we never

found more than 50. One **Red-breasted Merganser** visited FDR 1/2 (FW). A nice group of 125-135 **Ruddy Duck** were on the TI impoundment in early Dec (BB) before gradually dispersing.

Good numbers of **Pied-billed Grebe** were found everywhere they were expected as were **Horned Grebe** from 2/6 onward. Three **Red-necked Grebe** had been on the DR along the NJ shore (BK), but FW found one at Rhawn St., which was an especially nice addition to his county big year effort. **Great Cormorant** winter on the DR and I have seen them in breeding plumage late in the season. On 3/2 BK found a group of 12 **Great Cormorant** carrying sticks back to their platform in the DR as if they were nesting or preparing to nest. Six **Great Egret** at TI were a new high for the Glenolden CBC with 1-6 **Great Egret** found there until the Feb freeze. The remaining possible **Glossy Ibis** was last seen at TI 12/23.

S.A.

As Conservation Chair of Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Debbie Beer was thrilled to hear that a **Bald Eagle** near her office was nesting *again* this season. After being shown the nest site, she notified the PA Game Commission and watched the nest for three weeks, until an adult **Bald Eagle** settled in and began to incubate. This is *Philadelphia's* first breeding record. Keith Russell shared research from his upcoming book on the history of birds in Philadelphia indicating that an eagle "attempted" to nest on the SR in 1870, but it was shot. In 1871 when the mate(?) returned to the nest tree, it too was shot. In 1877 T. G. Gentry reported that a identification was unknown in eastern PA. Reports of a **Bald Eagle** nest in the Torresdale section of the city in 1910 were unconfirmed. The fate of the current nest is in the hands of the USFWS. Imminent development of the site has been halted and the State, a development partner, may apply for an "Incidental Take" permit to remove the nest.

**Northern Harriers** were present at both airports. **Cooper's Hawk** out-numbered **Sharp-shinned Hawk** on the Pennypack CBC by 8:1 for the first time (PK) who also said that it is no longer newsworthy to find several **Black Vulture** in the greater northeast (PK). **Red-tailed Hawks** were abundant this winter. The Pennypack CBC and the PMWC recorded high counts of 40 and 83 respectively. Ten **American Kestrel** on the PMWC is a rebound into double digits for the first time since 2003 (KR). A **Merlin** wintered at Rhawn St. and the DR (CL, FW).

As mentioned last season in *Delaware*, **Wild Turkey** reports increased and chicks were observed on Little Tinicum Island in the DR, which is very close to TI. As **Ring-necked Pheasant** barely hold on in the county with maybe three breeding pair, **Wild Turkey** have been able to hold their own and two hens continue to be seen daily at TI.

On 1/6 just before first light on the dike at TI an unidentified rail flew out of the marshy "horseshoe" toward Darby Creek (DM). Disappointed to be unable to assign its species, I was doubly disappointed when a dead rail was found a week later by the botany group, but it was scavenged before I could see it.

We had few good gulls. Five **Bonaparte's Gull** at Rhawn St.2/3 (FW) were a surprise, but 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were present almost every day at the Linden Ave. boat ramp. The **Barred Owl** in Mt Airy, which is seen and heard from time to time, was hooting for KR and FW 1/23. Only 7 **Great Horned Owl** on the PMWC constitute the fifth year in a row that the census has not had ten or more leading us to suspect the effect of West Nile Virus. In the week of 1/25, I found two dead **Great Horned Owls** at TI. One owl was alive in the same location three days before. It was intact with its mate(?) sitting near its upside-down, splayed body in a tangle of vines 40' high. The other was in a low cluster of vines and had been scavenged. Near its remains were pellets, the remains of a **Mallard**, and several medium to large sized passerine feet.

**Horned Lark** frequented the soccer fields at Rhawn St. 2/23 (FW). **Eastern Phoebe** were found for the 9<sup>th</sup> time on the PMWC at the Army Corps of Engineers (CW) and at TI 1/9 (FW). The Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant where **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** overwintered again this year has become a regular birding stop. On 1/6 small groups of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were also found over southeast Philly sludge ponds (JM) and over the Eastwick section (DM) bringing the total to 140. Irruption species were scarce with only one **Black-capped Chickadee** reported at SCEE (KJ). A **House Wren** was discovered 1/6 in the Pennypack (RW). Most observers remarked on the absence of **Cedar Waxwing** this winter.

A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at the Pine Rd. picnic area of Pennypack Park was the best bird on the PP CBC (BJ). A small marsh mitigation area behind a prison at the end of the Pennypack Creek is inaccessible for security reasons. Permission to enter the area was given for the PWMC and it produced a **Yellow Warbler**, the second since 1998 (FW). Frank was disappointed it wasn't an **Orange-crowned Warbler** for his "Philadelphia Big Year," but he didn't have long to wait. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** found his Northeast Philly seed feeder and peanut butter irresistible from 2/18-2/22. The other two warblers of 1/6 were a **Palm Warbler** at Penn's Landing (DW) and a **Common Yellowthroat** at

TI (DM).

Three species of sparrow enjoyed high counts on the PP CBC: 34 **American Tree Sparrow**, 41 **Savannah Sparrow** of which 12 were at the Baxter Water Treatment Plant (PK), and 26 **Fox Sparrow**. On the PMWC, those totals were not reached even though the entire county was surveyed. However, 4 **White-crowned Sparrow** were found, one of which was in the most unlikely place, Chestnut Hill (AB, RF).

Frank Windfelder identified a **Painted Bunting** first seen at TI 1/4. Excellent photos by Chris Wood of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology showed molt limits between juvenile and first basic greater coverts and primaries, indicating it hatched in 2006. The **Painted Bunting** is a first county record and was seen daily feeding near or on the ground with a flock of **Dark-eyed Junco** or a mixed sparrow flock. A month later photos by Howard Eskin showed pre-supplemental molt in the scapulars, head, and coverts. My last report of this lovely green bird was 2/6. Another "out of season" bunting was a female **Indigo Bunting** seen and heard on the PMWC at FDR (RH, BK). They also described her distinctive call note.

Earlier this winter there were many posts to PABIRDS ListServe regarding the scarcity of **American Goldfinch** at feeders and in general. Not so, in Roxborough at JMck's feeder where 10-12 **American Goldfinch** have been the most numerous bird for the first time in seven years.

**Correction:** I discovered the origin of the newly banded **Barn Owl** reported at TI in Winter 2006. This owl, rehabilitated at Tri-state Bird Rescue and Research in Newark, DE, was released at the refuge within hours of the sighting.

Observers: **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, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Andy Ednie, Ron French, Gregg Gorton, Jennifer Hoffman, Rich Horwitz, Rob Hynson, Ken Januski, Bill Jelek, Bill Keim, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Jim McKinney, John Miller, Augie Mirabella, Edie Parnum, Nick Pulcinella, Keith Russell, Cameron Rutt, Dave Smart, Judy Stepanaski, Mike Tanis, Chris Walters, Dave Wiedner, Roland Williams, Frank Windfelder

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#### **Pike County**

No Compiler. No Report.

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#### **Potter County**

No Report

**David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, huabers3@penn.com**

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#### **Schuylkill County**

No Compiler. No Report

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#### **Snyder County**

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Selinsgrove (SEL), Susquehanna River (SR), Walker Lake (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

A **Common Loon** and a **Bald Eagle** were observed along the SR near SEL 1/12 (MB). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was sighted about one mile east of Troxelville 12/20 (CK), and a **Merlin** was found near WL 12/31 (PW & RW). The WRS for the eastern half of the county 1/21 yielded an unusually high number of **Red-tailed Hawks** (62) and the first **Red-shouldered Hawk** ever tallied on this winter survey (MB).

The **Northern Shrike**, first reported at WL 11/22, remained at this location through 12/10 (MB). On 12/20 a **Northern Shrike** was located along Shale Pit Rd. west of FL, possibly the same bird from WL, the FL habitat is where this species has spent all or part of two recent winters. It remained at this location into early Feb (JD, CK, PW, & RW). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were observed in a field along Zerbe Rd., near Centerville Swamp, 12/21 (MB).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Mick Brown, Jim Dunn, Chad Kauffman, Patricia Williams

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#### **Somerset County**

Locations: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society-Christmas Bird Count (APAS-CBC); Berlin Area (BA); Cranberry Glade Lake (CGL); Deer Valley Lake (DVL); High Point Lake (HPL); Payne Property (PP); Somerset Lake (SL); Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Youghiogheny River at Confluence (YRC).

The winter season was almost evenly divided between a balmy first half and a persistently snowy and cold second half. Many waterfowl and some sparrows lingered until late January then abruptly departed with the

hard freeze. Winter finches, longspurs and buntings were virtually non-existent and winter raptors barely showed up.

Waterfowl were well represented in numbers and species composition. A **Tundra Swan** was at Boswell 2/10 (AM). Seven **Snow Geese** (including 2 adult blue form, 2 dult intergrades, 1 adult white, and 2 imm. white) were flying between SL and a Rockwood area cornfield 1/14-1/16 (AM). An injured adult **Ross's Goose** was collected by a hunter and sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia 1/13 (JM, MM). An adult **Ross's Goose** was also found in the company of 600+ **Canada Geese** at QR 2/3 (AM), the fourth record for the county. Amongst the wintering **Canada Geese** was at least one flock of the small "Richardson's" subspecies. A single collected 1/30 in BA and 2 collected 2/14 near Jennerstown were identified and preserved at the Academy of Natural Sciences and reportedly may be the first confirmed in PA (AM, JP). These birds were only half the size of the more common large subspecies they associated with and could be mistaken for **Cackling Geese** unless head shape and bill length are carefully studied.

Some duck highlights include 18 **American Black Ducks** 12/26 at CGL (AM); one **Mallard x American Black** hybrid at QR 2/3 (AM); one **Northern Pintail** at BC 1/27 (JP) and 2 at QR 1/24 (AM); and a pair of **American Wigeon** at QR 2/1 (AM). Diving duck records include 2 **Canvasbacks** and a **Redhead** at Indian L. 1/27 (JP, LP); 44 **Ring-necked Ducks** and one **Lesser Scaup** at Indian L. 1/1 (JP, LP); 43 **Buffleheads** and 16 **Common Goldeneyes** at YRC 2/19 (AM). **Common Mergansers** peaked at 24 and **Hooded Mergansers** at 17 on the open water at YRC 2/19 (AM); 35 **Hooded Mergansers** were also present at CGL. Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** made the New Year at SL 1/1 (AM).

**Wild Turkey** flocks were large and widespread throughout the county. **Ruffed Grouse** hunters were reporting a slight increase in flushes; hopefully the population is on the upswing.

Two **Common Loons** were at QR 1/1 (JP, LP) until at least 1/9 (AM). **Pied-billed Grebe** singles were at QR 1/1 and Indian L. 1/27 (JP, LP). A small number of **Great Blue Herons** wintered including one in BA 1/30 through Feb (JP). The first detected returning **Turkey Vulture** was near Salisbury 2/21 (AM). An adult **Bald Eagle** was in BA 1/30 (JP). **Northern Harriers** persisted in BA through Jan (CP, JP, LP). In town **Cooper's Hawks** were hunting pigeons in Somerset Borough and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** visited PP feeders through the period. At least 3 **Rough-legged Hawks** were in BA 2/2- 3/3 (CP, JP, LP) and one was detected 2/26 near Salisbury (AM). A **Golden Eagle** was at PP 12/12 (CP, MP).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and 3 **Carolina Wrens** were found near Shanksville for the 12/17 APAS-CBC but they could not be found by Feb (CP, JP, LP). Also found on the CBC were one each **Winter Wren** (TD), **American Pipit**, and **Lapland Longspur**. A nice assortment of six sparrows including **Song**, **Swamp**, **White-throated**, **White-crowned**, **American Tree** and **Dark-eyed Junco** were found at BC 1/27 (JP).

Three wintering **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in BA 2/11 (JP, MM). A **Rusty Blackbird** successfully wintered at PP (CP, JP, LP). The first returning **Red-winged Blackbird** was at PP 2/14. The only finches were a few **American oldfinches** at PP through the season.

Observers; **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike Berlin, PA 215530 (814) 267-5718**, Tom Dick, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne, Matt Payne.

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### Sullivan County

2007 opened with a trek to Splashdam Pond 1/1 led by Doug Gross under poor birding conditions. Fog and mist made observation difficult and kept numbers low. Water was still open in the area. Species observed: 5 **Canada Geese** on Splashdam, one **Common Raven**, 2 **American Crows**, 2 **Blue Jays**, 4 **Black-capped Chickadees**, one **Tufted Titmouse**, one **White-breasted Nuthatch**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

A winter raptor survey was conducted on January 26 by Jeff Holbrook in cold temperatures ranging from 9 to 17 degrees F. under clear to mostly cloudy conditions with a light misty snow that left at most a half - inch of accumulation. Jeff logged 109 miles in approximately 5.5 hours observing the following raptors: one adult **Cooper's Hawk**, 11 adult and one imm **Red-tailed Hawks**. Additional species observed included: 57 **Wild Turkeys**, one **Ruffed Grouse**, 2 **Common Ravens** & 269 **American Crows**

Observers: **Rob Megraw 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA, 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Doug Gross, Jeff Holbrook

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### Susquehanna County

No Report

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

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### Tioga County

Winter 2006/07 was unusual in that it was virtually snow free and

unseasonably (unreasonably) warm until nearly the very end of the reporting period. According to the National Weather Service records for the county, December 2006 had the second least amount of measurable snow. January 2007 was the tenth warmest on record. This all changed in early February, which allowed February 2007 to become the seventh coldest February on record. The impact of these unusual weather conditions was seen in the Mansfield Christmas Bird Count (PAMA) as well as the Winter Raptor Surveys conducted in the county.

Waterfowl species are seldom abundant in the county during the winter months. The waterfowl species count from the Mansfield CBC was among most diversified ever. Twelve **Mallards**, 2 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 4 **Lesser Scaup**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 218 **Common Mergansers** and 4 **Ruddy Ducks** were found in the ice-free lakes and ponds within the count circle.

Gallinaceous birds were also found in good numbers. One **Ring-necked Pheasant**, 5 **Ruffed Grouse** and 75 **Wild Turkeys** were reported from the count. Five **Great Blue Herons** were reported on the CBC while a few were observed at a nesting site near Cowanesque L. 2/26 (JH).

**Bald Eagles** continue to be seen with increased frequency in the county. Two adults were observed during the CBC. At least two nests in the county had initiated incubation by 2/18 (JB, JH). Winter Raptor Surveys from the county yielded some unexpected results as well. Despite the dearth of **Rough-legged Hawks** further south at the beginning of Feb, **Tioga** had plenty. The count of this species from the northern portion of the county was one of the highest single count records in the state. During this count 15 **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed. **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers were similar with 15 of those reported as well (JB, JH).

Perhaps the more notable record of the season was the sighting and subsequent photographing of a **Virginia Rail** in the Muck 2/07 (RR, DF). The Muck, a.k.a. State Game Lands 213, is one of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the county. Gulls also relished the unseasonable weather. 89 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 2 **Herring Gulls** were recorded during the CBC count period.

**Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** were abundant with 272 and 300 reported, respectively. **Owls** were well represented during the CBC with 9 **Eastern Screech Owls**, and 2 **Great Horned Owls** reported from the county. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** continue their expansion from the south with 11 reported during the count period. Forty-eight **Downy** and 20 **Hairy Woodpeckers** along with 3 **Northern Flickers** and 8 **Pileated Woodpeckers** round out the reports of **Piciformes** from the county.

A report of **Loggerhead Shrike** (JC) from the CBC is the first from the county in a long while. Detailed verification forms for this sighting have been submitted. **Corvids** continue to be widely reported in high numbers from the county. 200 **Blue Jays**, 371 **American Crows** and 34 **Common Ravens** were reported from the CBC. One **Common Raven** was seen during a cross-country ski trip in Pine Creek Gorge 2/17 (JH, DW). Additional **Common Ravens** (10) were recorded from a Winter Raptor Survey in the northern portion of the county. In the Gurney area one bird was seen flying with a food item in its beak while being harassed by three others 2/3 (JB, JH).

Hills Creek S.P. continues to be reliable location for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** where 4 were found during the CBC. Two **Brown Creepers** were also found during the CBC. A **Northern Mockingbird** was observed feeding on apples regularly from late Dec through the end of the reporting period near Round Top (MC). Four were also reported from the CBC.

Other notable sightings and a reminder of the unusual weather were the observations of a pair of **Eastern Meadowlarks** and at least 3 **Fox Sparrows** during the Winter Raptor Survey. Other non-raptor species reported from the WRS were a large flock of **Snow Buntings** and a **Northern Shrike** 2/3 (JB, JH) near Gurney. **Horned Larks** were reported from the Roseville area of the county (BL).

Observers: **Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, Corning, NY 14830, (607) 936-5059, myceteria@stny.rr.com**, Joe Barnes, John Corcoran, Martha Copp, Dianne Franco, Bruce Lanius, Robert Ross, Donna Witte.

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### Union County

Notable birds from the Seven Mountains Audubon Society's C.B.C. included a male **Common Yellowthroat**, Kelly Twp. The sighting was the second documented account in the over 50 years the Seven Mountain Audubon Society has been participating in the C.B.C. (AS, JS). Also found was a **Merlin** that observers caught on film eating a small bird. (JoeS, LS, DU).

A highlight of the season was a wing tagged **Trumpeter Swan** discovered 1/19 north of Mifflinburg (JoeS). The swan stayed in the area along Dietrich Rd. to its death 3/14. The band was retrieved and the BBL was notified (AS).

A pair of **Tundra Swans** was spotted 1/24 on River Rd. north of Lewisburg (JS). On occasion dozens to hundreds of these swans use the area as a stopover during Feb and Mar (AS).

A Seven Mountain Audubon Society trip 2/3 led by Bob Reyda found dozens of **Horned Larks** on Hill School Rd., Kelly Twp. The following day 2/4 Hill School Rd. produced sightings of a small flock of **Eastern Bluebirds** and a **Merlin** (AS).

A flock of ~30 **Snow Buntings** was discovered 2/10 near Zeigler Rd, Lewisburg (AS, JS). This sighting provided the only account of the species in our county this year.

On 2/18 a drive around rural Lewisburg produced a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and four sparrow species including **White-crowned Sparrow**, **White throated Sparrow**, **Song Sparrow**, and **American Tree Sparrow**. Two **Green-winged Teal** were also found in a pond on Hoffa Mill Rd, Lewisburg (DN). A **Hermit Thrush** was found on Dale's Ridge, Lewisburg 2/18 during the Great Backyard Bird Count (AS).

Twenty-three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at a feeder 2/22 northwest of Mifflinburg (BH). They are a poorly understood species experiencing serious declines throughout their range.

Observers: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com**, Bob Holman, Dick Nickelsen, Bob Reyda, Allen Schweinsberg, Joanne Schweinsberg, Joe Southerton, Logan Stenger, and Don Ulrich.

### Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL).

The winter season started off fairly warm and then turned bitter cold in mid-January. It remained very cold through the end of the winter season (February). The warm early winter gave us plenty of open water, which means few waterfowl. Our Christmas count (Pleasantville) reflects this. Whether they are just spread out or not present at this time is unknown. Once the cold hit and the lakes and ponds start to freeze, then waterfowl can be found on the open spots on the Allegheny River. With access to a gated road between Franklin & Oil City, we were able to check the river frequently (with no traffic to worry about).

The following are high numbers and dates for the species seen. **Pied-billed Grebe** one, **Horned Grebe** 2, 2/6, **Canada Goose**, **Tundra Swan** 2, 2/7, 12/0, 12/31, **Gadwall** one, 2/20, **American Black Duck** 11, 2/11, **Mallard**, 55, 2/6, **Northern Pintail** one, 1/11, **Canvasback**, 10, 2/20, **Redhead**, 8, 2/10, **Ring-necked Duck**, 4, 2/20, **Greater Scaup** 7, 2/25, **Lesser Scaup** 3, 2/20, **Long-tailed Duck** one, 12/3 (KL), **Bufflehead** 21, 2/20, **Common Goldeneye** 206, 2/20, **Hooded Merganser** 3, 1/25, **Red-breasted Merganser** 3, 2/25, **Common Merganser** 121, 2/11, **Ruddy Duck** 28, 12/1 (KL), **Ring-billed Gull** 39, 2/22. Interestingly, even with lots of open water, two species that usually over-winter, **Great Blue Heron** and **Belted Kingfisher** were only noted rarely. A **Common Loon** was found at KL 1/10 and a **Snow Goose** was seen at KL 1/11 & 1/21. A quarry pond near Wyattville is also good for waterfowl, since it rarely freezes.

**Bald Eagle** continues to increase its presence in the county. The PA Game Commission notes 8 nests here, with 2 easily visible from major highways. The only other raptors of note were a single sighting of **Rough-legged Hawk** 1/29, and several sightings of a **Northern Goshawk** at BHNS. We had no winter northern owls, with exception of one sighting of **Short-eared Owl** at Barkeyville fields 1/4.

There were 9 sightings of **Northern Shrike**, all near BHNS, 12/30-1/24. There were 5 sightings of **Common Raven**, with most in new areas. **Horned Lark** maximum number reported was 125 on 12/6 at KL, then they became scarce for the rest of the winter season. No reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. There were very few reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. The **Hermit Thrushes** found on the CBC were re-found in January and 2/6 & 2/9. There was one report of a **Northern Mockingbird** 1/22 near Utica. A small flock (~30) of **Cedar Waxwings** remained in Franklin through the winter. They are usually very hard to find after Dec.

**American Tree Sparrows** were generally in lower than usual numbers. A **Field Sparrow** wintered at BHNS. A **White-crowned Sparrow** wintered just west of Utica, with 3 sightings throughout the winter. A very late (or very early) **Savannah Sparrow** was found 1/21 in the western part of the county. A small flock of **Rusty Blackbirds** was found between Sugar creek Village and Utica between 1/3-1/21, a new species for Jan in the county. A total absence of northern winter finches was noted. **American Goldfinch** numbers were very low through the winter season.

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

### Warren County

A **Black Scoter** was on the Allegheny R. 2/5 (JF). During a winter storm 1/20 an **American Bittern** flew into side of a shed but did get airborne at 17 Jefferson St., Warren (KC, TF). A juv. **Golden Eagle** was at Brokenstraw Creek near Garland, 2/17 (SS, DW). A **Northern Shrike** was at Columbus (big Brokenstraw drainage) 2/28 (SS).

Observers: **Don Watts, 163 Crestview Blvd, Warren, Pa., 16365-3310** Keith Confer, John Fedak, Tony Fera, Scott Stoleson.

### Washington County

Abbreviations: AMD Pond near Canonsburg (AMD), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Monongahela River (MR).

It was a season of extremes here in *Washington* as elsewhere in southwestern Pennsylvania. December and January were dominated by temperatures well above normal, followed by a quick, deep freeze lasting much of February, which featured several consecutive days of single-digit low temperatures. Some exciting finds were made during this freeze-up at the AMD Pond near Canonsburg, an industrial site that does not ice over even in the harshest of Pennsylvania winters. Additionally, the Buffalo Creek CBC once again produced a number of very interesting December birds for the county.

The birds of the season were three **Cackling Geese** (*B. h. hutchinsii*) located at AMD during the onset of the Feb freeze 2/7 (RG), which provided a first county record. The next morning, a fourth Cackler was found with them (GM, DW), and all four remained until at least 2/12 and were seen by many. For the second straight winter, a banded **Canada Goose** bearing a collar labeled "A4T7" returned to AMD, first spotted this year by RG 2/8; it remained for at least a month thereafter. After first finding this bird in December 2005, RG researched the collar number and found that A4T7 is a female, captured as an adult and banded on 7/8/99 near East Point, Ontario, making this bird at least 9 years old.

Two **Gadwall** at AMD 2/7 (RG, RT) were joined by three more 2/8 (RG), but these were the only reported. Very good in Feb for *Washington* were seven **American Wigeon** at AMD 2/25 (GM). **American Black Duck** numbers peaked with 10 on 2/12 at AMD (MV), with varying numbers present there and elsewhere throughout Feb. MV counted 242 **Mallards** flying into AMD at dusk 1/17, quite an impressive count, even if they were only Mallards. A superb winter record for anywhere in w. Pennsylvania came in the form of a male **Blue-winged Teal** which stopped at AMD 2/8 and remained to at least 2/10 (RG et al.). This bird probably lingered somewhere to the north of *Washington* throughout the unseasonably mild months of Dec and Jan, only to be quickly forced south by the freeze of Feb. A **Northern Shoveler** at AMD 2/24 (MV) was a nice find. The female **Northern Pintail**, resident at Washington Cemetery for at least the last few winters, was present again throughout this season. Others were found at Donora 2/6 (RG) and AMD 2/24 (MV).

**Canvasbacks** put on a great showing at AMD 2/7-3/2, with a peak count of 19 2/24-3/1 (RG, RT, MV, GM). As many as 6 **Redheads** were at AMD in the second half of Feb. **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported only from AMD in Feb, and a single **Lesser Scaup** present there 2/7-2/28 was surprisingly the only report of this species (var. obs.). A **Bufflehead** that appeared at AMD 2/25 (GM) was probably a northbound migrant, otherwise there were no reports of this species this winter. A female **Common Goldeneye** at AMD 2/8-2/9 (RG) was a very good find for *Washington*, and was matched only by a single female on the MR at Coal Center 2/20 (AT, JaT). A **Pied-billed Grebe** whiled away the mild Dec weather on the MR at Coal Center 12/5-1/2 (AT), and two were at Donora 2/6 (RG).

Two **Turkey Vultures** were counted on the BC CBC 12/17, a somewhat late date but not surprising considering the warm weather. **Northern Harrier** was reported (away from "traditional" locations) only at Coal Center 2/15 (JaT, JoT). A **Rough-legged Hawk** found on the grasslands of Robinson Twp. 2/24-2/25 (MV) was the only reported. RG located a **Merlin** at Amity 12/16, and a **Peregrine Falcon** was a great find during the BC CBC at Buck Run Wetlands 12/17 (W&DS).

The **American Coot** that appears never to leave AMD was present throughout this season as well. It was joined there by up to 6 more of its brethren in early Feb, just prior to the onset of the freeze (RT). The first **Killdeer** was reported in Robinson Twp. 2/25 (GM). In milder winters they may attempt to remain in the area all season, but not this year. *Washington* missed out on the gull invasion in nearby *Allegheny*, with the only intriguing report being of "hundreds of gulls everywhere on the MR" at Coal Center 2/20 (JaT). Presumably these were mostly **Ring-billed Gulls**.

RG personally tallied 30 of the 33 **Eastern Screech-Owls** counted for the BC CBC 12/17. Certainly, there are more of these birds in *Washington* than most people realize! The now famous female **Rufous Hummingbird** bearing a band labeled N-71927 remained at a feeder in McDonald until 12/19 (R&EP). As of this writing it is unknown whether it ultimately returned to the yard in Diamondhead, MS where it was originally banded in early 2006. A very impressive 160 **Downy Woodpeckers** were counted on the BC CBC 12/17. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported twice: one at Washington Park 1/4 (LC), and another at Peters Twp. 1/22 (CS).

An **Eastern Phoebe** lingered long enough to be counted on the BC CBC 12/17 (LH, KS, RG). As many as 4 **Common Ravens** were counted on that same CBC by several observers, which is no longer surprising for that location. **Horned Larks** are probably not uncommon in *Washington* but they are also not often reported, so 200+ at BC 2/3 was a very good report (RG).

The only report of **Black-capped Chickadee** was of one on the BC CBC 12/17. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce this winter following

a superb showing last winter, with birds reported only from Washington Cemetery (a traditional location), and 2 on the BC CBC 12/17. Four **Winter Wrens** on the BC CBC 12/17 were the only reported, and four **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** found on that CBC were late.

A few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported throughout the winter, including one that probably spent as much as a month in a Peters Twp. yard 1/22-2/24 (CS). An excellent find for Dec was an **Ovenbird** located near the West Virginia border on PA-331 by RG and TB during the BC CBC 12/17.

Two **Eastern Towhees** at BC 2/3 were probably taking advantage of the warm Jan (RG). Similarly, a **Savannah Sparrow** was found at BC 2/5 (RG), just before the onset of the freeze. A **Fox Sparrow** lingered at BC long enough to be counted on the CBC 12/17, and a **Swamp Sparrow** remained in Robinson Twp. until 1/20 (MF). Both were the only reported. Forty-two **White-crowned Sparrows** located during the BC CBC 12/17 was a good count. A flock of **Snow Buntings** was seen overhead near the Washington County Fairgrounds 2/4 (SV), excellent for *Washington*. Unfortunately they could not be relocated. The best find during the BC CBC 12/17, and one of the best of the season, was a **Brewer's Blackbird** at Greencove Wetlands (LH, MG, JO, EH). This was probably the third county record.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Twp., PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net**; Tom Byrnes, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Mary Gray, Ellen Hamill, Larry Helgerman (BC CBC Compiler), John Oleyer, Ray & Eydie Posel, Kathy Saunders, Walt & Dana Shaffer, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Cathy Skidmore, Amy Taracido, Jarred Taracido (JaT), José Taracido (JoT), Ryan Tomazin, Susanne Varley, Mark Vass, David Wilton.

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#### Wayne County

No Report. No Compiler.

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#### Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR)

As most elsewhere in Pennsylvania, a mild early winter (with plenty of half-hardy bird species lingering in our area), suddenly turned into an old-fashioned, harsh season, with only the hardest of species observed after the last week of January; nor were many northern finches to be found.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were an early, very rare find by KB at Twin Lakes County Park, Greensburg 2/27, and the geese remained until the next day when they were seen by DB and L&LH. A blue-phase **Snow Goose** was an unusual find at BRR 12/2 (KB). Byerly also observed a flock of 200 **Tundra Swans** over Delmont 12/2. Two early **Wood Ducks** were spotted at Delmont 2/27 (KB). Two **American Wigeons** were at DL 1/14, and another pair was at TRR on the same day (RCL); one had returned to Delmont 2/27 (KB). KB had a **Northern Pintail** along Hamilton Rd. 12/2, and two were seen on the Rector CBC 12/16. The only report of **Greater Scaup** was from the Hamilton Rd. area 1/16 (KB). Open water allowed a male **Bufflehead** to settle on DL 1/17 (RCL), and a **Hooded Merganser** was at TRR 1/17 (RCL). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Twin Lakes Park near Greensburg, 12/27 (TV), and one was at BRR 12/29 (KB). Ten **Common Mergansers** put down on BRR 1/9 (KB). A rather late **Common Loon** was at AD 12/12 (RCL). Three **Horned Grebes** put down on TRR 1/8 for a rare mid-winter sighting for this locality (RCL). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was on TRR 1/8, and three were there 1/12 (RCL); KB noted a Pied-billed at BRR 1/9.

The first ever wintering **Black Vulture** for *Westmoreland* was found by TM three miles south of Ligonier 12/9, and a remarkable three were located just east of Rector from 2/15 onward (BM, PF). **Turkey Vultures**, almost unknown as a wintering bird in this county until recently, turned up for a record count of 77 on the Rector CBC 12/16. A group of five **Killdeer** was found feeding along the DL shore 1/8 (RCL). A **Wilson's Snipe** was a County rarity on the Bushy Run CBC 12/30.

Good numbers of **Mourning Doves** were found wintering, with over 300 at L&LH's feeder along Distillery Rd. near Stahlstown 1/21, and 529 were listed on the Bushy Run State Park CBC 12/30 (DB). The **Red-headed Woodpecker**, seen a few miles north of Ligonier 2/16 (LS), was a great winter's find. An **Eastern Phoebe** lingered at PNR as late as 12/23 (ML), and TV turned up another late bird at the Saint Vincent's wetlands near Latrobe 12/21.

DB found two **Hermit Thrushes** at the Randal Reserve near DL 12/17. The **Cape May Warbler** located (ML) on Chestnut Ridge during the 12/16 Rector CBC represented the 2<sup>nd</sup> County winter record, and a **Common Yellowthroat** (ML) was also a good find that same day. A beautifully plumaged adult male **Oregon Junco** was a great find 12/16 on the Rector CBC (BM). The season's only report of a **Snow Bunting** was from Stahlstown 12/8 (TD).

A flock of 100 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was located at Delmont 1/3 (KB). A mid-winter flock of 24 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was a good find along Distillery Road, Stahlstown 1/21 (L&LH), as was a **Rusty Blackbird**

2/18. A lone **Pine Siskin** appeared briefly at a PNR feeder (AL) 1/20, as did a single **Common Redpoll** 1/27 (ML) and 1/29 (LG), and a redpoll visited CN's feeding station just outside Linn Run S.P. 2/3.

Observers: **Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021** rcleberm@winbeam.com, Karen Barnhart, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Tom Duran, Pam Ferkett, Lewis Grove, Len & Linda Hess, Mike Lanzone, Adriene Leppold, Trish Miller, Bob Mulvihill, Chuck Norton, Loren Snyder, Tim Vechter.

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#### Wyoming County

No Report.

Observers: **Rebecca Lesko, 54 Wisniewski Road, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, EMNCinfo@yahoo.com**

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#### York County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LWMS), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR).

There were 96 species reported during the winter season, including 28 waterfowl species. For the 2006 winter period there were 102 species reported, including 17 waterfowl species. The 24 participants in the December 16th Christmas Bird Count tallied only 76 species, 10 less than last year.

There was one **Snow Goose** report – found on the 12/16 CBC. A **Cackling Goose** was at LAR 1/7 (MW), and another was at CSP 2/24 (SC). Three **Tundra Swans** were found on the 12/16 CBC. Four **Northern Shovelers** were a little late at SMR 12/9 (JLD). A **Long-tailed Duck** and 7 **Common Goldeneyes** were at GPSP 12/2 (PJR). Fifteen species of waterfowl were seen in some open water at CSP 2/24, and a total of 20 species were there between 2/24-2/28.

**Bald Eagles** were seen during the period at CSP, GPSP, LAR, and LWMS. A **Northern Harrier** was seen along Graybill Rd. 2/26 (BF). There were 6 reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**. Near Wrightsville a **Pileated Woodpecker** ate suet at a feeder 2/1, then again 2/13-2/26. Two **Eastern Phoebes** lingered long enough for the 12/16 CBC. A **Common Raven** was heard 12/1 at Accomac (PJR), and 2 were found on the 12/16 CBC.

There were a few flocks of **Horned Larks**, the largest being 200 just south of the city of York 2/18 (DH). The 12/16 CBC included the only 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and the only 5 **Winter Wrens** for the period. The 12/16 CBC had a nice total of 218 **Eastern Bluebirds**. There was a very late **Palm Warbler** at GPSP 12/16 (RK).

A **Lapland Longspur** was with the Horned Larks just south of York city 2/18 (DH) – the only report. A flock of about 4000 **Common Grackles** was seen in Dunkard Valley 12/27 (SW). The 8 **Purple Finches** on the 12/16 CBC were the only ones reported. There were no reports of Snow Bunting, crossbill, redpoll, Pine Siskin, or Evening Grosbeak.

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462** pabirder@hotmail.com, Christmas Bird Count (CBC) (Bill DeGrande, Michael Boustead, Kenneth Brubaker, Richard Cleary, Jack & Lil Downs, Barb Fisher, Bruce Fortman, Richard Humbert, Phil Keener, Karen Lippy, Candy Messinger, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott, Larry Pritt, Peter Robinson, Matt Schuchart, Anna Shaffer, Tom Simmons, Millie Smith, Tish Swam, Mike Weible, Steve Wildasin), Christopher Colby, Steve Collins, Jack & Lil Downs, Bruce Fortman, Dan Heathcote, Ramsay Koury, Bob Moul, John & Jean Prescott, Steve Wildasin.

## Answer to Photo Quiz #15

Rick Wiltraut

This bird is about the size of a Brown Thrasher and looks like it got stuck in a sooty chimney. Note the short, stubby bill and the whitish malar stripe. Also notice that this bird is eating bread. When you think about it, there are many species of “black” birds that will eat bread and other handouts, including Common and Chihuahuan Ravens, Common and Fish Crows, Common Grackle, Great-tailed and Boat-tailed Grackles (males), Brewer’s and Red-winged Blackbirds (males), and European Starlings.

Ravens are huge with huge bills and can be easily eliminated. Common and Fish Crows are also much larger with longer legs and shorter tails (in proportion to the body) and have much larger, heavier bills. Both species have a glossy black plumage. Male Great-tailed and Boat-tailed Grackles are much larger with very long, keel-shaped tails, yellow eyes (except Boat-taileds along Gulf Coast and Florida) and iridescent plumage. They also have much larger bills. Common Grackle is similar in size, but has a longer keel-shaped tail, a longer, heavier bill, yellow eyes, and iridescent plumage. Body of Common Grackle *Q.q. versicolor* or “Bronzed Grackle” has bronze sheen. Male Red-winged and Brewer’s Blackbirds have stouter, more pointed bills. Adult male Red-winged Blackbird has red shoulder patches. Male Brewer’s Blackbird has yellow eyes and iridescent plumage. European Starling is chunkier with a shorter tail, longer, more pointed yellow bill, and iridescent plumage. Another possibility is Steller’s Jay, which will also readily accept handouts. Steller’s Jay is black around the head and upper back, especially the nominate race *C.s. stelleri*, but has a black crest, longer bill, and dark blue wings, tail, and belly.

This juvenile Gray Jay of the nominate race *P.c. canadensis* was photographed at Pistolet Provincial Park in northern Newfoundland. Although it is possible that a Gray Jay may wander into the northern tier of Pennsylvania, the closest area where one can regularly find this species is in the boreal bogs of the Adirondack Mountains in New York. There have been several reports of Gray Jays in Pennsylvania over the years, however none were documented and it is still listed as “hypothetical.”

Although I saw my first Gray Jay (that I can remember) in 1971, it wasn’t until I watched a Gray Jay land on my plate and consume my scrambled eggs during a camping trip in Baxter State Park in the summer of 1983 that it quickly became my favorite bird.



# PHOTO QUIZ #16

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



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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates listed below.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Dec-Feb	Mar 31	May
Mar-May	Jun 30	August
Jun-Jul	Aug 31	October
Aug-Nov	Dec 31	February

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