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Cover: **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*). This outstanding breeding-plumaged bird was present along the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*, 4-7 May 2007, providing a first Pennsylvania record. Its propensity to feed close to shore provided many observers with super looks and first-rate photos such as this one taken 5 May 2007 (*Jason Horn*).

from the Editor...

This issue brings my tenure as Editor-in-chief to a close. Together, with assistance from the editorial board, we were able to achieve several of the goals laid out when I came on board five years ago. The most important goal at that time was to return the publication to a more timely schedule. With few exceptions, the issues are now back on schedule. We were also able to add a color cover and more recently the quiz photos have been in color.

During the past five years, seven new counties were added to the roster of reporting localities. To have a clear and complete seasonal picture, it would be gratifying to have compilers from every county and consistent reports from all compilers.

In the birding-for-fun arena, we added a new listing category — “Total Ticks” — to recognize birders who have many county lists but don’t meet the respective listing threshold. I hope this category will continue to grow in the future.

A publication of this caliber cannot exist without the input and support of its readers and contributors. It all begins with the many observers who are willing to report their sightings to the dedicated corps of very competent county compilers. These observers and compilers are the backbone of every issue.

The fine team of Seasonal Editors, with their collective years of experience and expertise, perform a remarkable job of summarizing the seasonal data and do the intricate task of gleaning and then verifying the rare bird reports out of the many county summaries for the Birds of Note compilation.

I also want to thank Sheryl Johnson, Paul Hess, and Bob Ross, who reviewed one or more manuscripts and provided useful ideas for improvement or revision.

Frank Haas provided much assistance and guidance, especially during those first few “rushed” issues when we were feverishly trying to get the publication back on track. He also afforded an objective sounding board for my thoughts and ideas.

My tenure has been both fulfilling and challenging and as I pass the baton to our new Editor-in-chief, Geoff Malosh, I look forward to re-emerging from behind the desk and back into the field where I hope to see many of you.

Spring Migration Tables

A reminder that the 2007 Spring Migration Tables for this issue are available on the PSO website <http://www.pabirds.org/>. For those who do not have internet access and wish to have copies of the Tables, please contact the Chief Editor.

Compiler News

We welcome Mike Weible as the new compiler for Jefferson County. Please refer to the Local Notes for his contact information. The following counties still lack compilers: **Blair, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Lackawanna, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne**. Once again if you have bird sightings from

counties that do not have an official County Compiler, they may be sent directly to the Editor-in-chief for inclusion. If you are a birder from a county that has no Compiler and you wish to volunteer your services, please contact the Editor-in-chief.

*Nick Pulcinella
Editor-in-Chief*

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Yellow-billed Loon in Dauphin County First Pennsylvania Record

Cameron Rutt

Even though I once had “all afternoon” to complete my few tasks, it was once again apparent that I was behind schedule. I was due to be at Camp Hebron, near Halifax, Dauphin County, to help give a presentation beginning at 8:00 PM that evening. It was May 4th, 2007, a date that would soon become indelibly etched in my memory. After scrambling about doing some last minute packing, I finally hit the road, and with enough time to spare for a few “brief” stops along the Susquehanna River before fast food and my arrival at camp. I scurried off to the West Fairview Boat Launch, one of everyone’s favorite river viewing destinations. With its easy access and scopeable panorama of Harrisburg’s riverfront, it is plain to see why this is such a favored destination. Added to this, of course, is the fact that this section of the river often holds an excellent assortment of waterfowl, among a nice collection of other waterbirds. Some of you may recall Tom Johnson’s Thanksgiving sighting (24 November 2006) of a raft containing about 1400 Horned Grebes.

As I was approaching the turnoff to the boat launch, I quickly (and safely) glanced over the guardrail to note a couple of loons swimming in the water close to shore. I continued on, knowing I could likely see these from West Fairview. As I pulled in, an up-close-and-personal Ruddy Duck was very apparent directly offshore. I whipped out the scope and began my sweep of the river...“a number of diving ducks out in the channel...likely scaup,” but first things first, the loons downriver. As I locked the scope on the actively diving loons, three individuals materialized. There were two adults and one 1st/2nd summer type loon. For some reason, the light that was glinting off of one of the adult’s bill was quite obvious, even from this long distance. “Hmmm, that’s interesting, it must be some weird product of this strong afternoon light.” After it submerged, I began looking at the other loon’s bills. As could be expected, the immature loon was also showing a pale bill. And then, all of a sudden, an adult Common Loon popped up with an obviously jet black bill, in spite of the “weird lighting!”

Without finishing my river pan, I attempted to calmly pack up my gear and drive south for a closer examination. As I waited for the Market Street red light to finally flick to green (one of the longest red lights I’ve sat through for awhile), I tried to resist thinking of what large diver I may have just sighted. After wheeling into one of the first parking slots available, I grabbed my gear (having already slung the digital camera around my neck) and frantically began scanning the river in search of the loons. Shortly afterwards, I located the adult Common Loon, but no sign of that awfully pale-billed loon.

I nervously paced up and down the western shoreline, straining to try to find the other adult loon through the concealing shoreline vegetation. Naturally, all of this took place in the public eye of the rush-hour traffic that was hurtling past on the other side of the guardrail. Finally, after what seemed like hours, I was viewing an adult Yellow-billed Loon in stunning breeding attire!

After securing a few more looks between dives, I quickly called Ramsay Koury who did not have the pleasure of completing dinner before bolting out of the house. After what seemed like another eternity (meanwhile I managed to snatch a number of “documentable” photos),

Ramsay pulled in and got the bird in the scope. The two of us worked to get the word out to the state’s birding community and before nightfall about ten birders were able to obtain views.

Over the next two days – which just happened to be the weekend – the bird put on a show and was easily located from the intersection of Route 11/15 and Edna Street, Wormleysburg, Cumberland County. Dozens of birders (likely a few hundred) were able to enjoy this rarity during its four day stint on the Susquehanna. On the morning of May 7th, it appears that the bird took off at approximately 6:10 AM heading north. Despite some online discussion suggesting otherwise, there were no reliable sightings of the loon after that point in time.

The Yellow-billed Loon spent all of its visible stay along the western edge of the Susquehanna River, favoring a very limited, calm section of the river, located between some wooded islands and the western shore. It seemed to develop a pattern of action over the course of its stay. It would go through periods of regular activity, diving frequently as it closely approached the western shore of the river. Viewing times were often quite brief as it actively foraged below the water. On



Plate 1. Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). Susquehanna River, Dauphin, 4 May 2007 (Cameron Rutt).

Table 1. Yellow-billed Loon Records east of the Mississippi River

	Date(s)	Location
1.	4 May 1967	Niagara County, Ontario
2.	19 May 1980	Carleton County, Ontario
3.	7 June 1986	Portneuf County, Quebec
4.	15-27 December 1986	Whiteside County, Illinois
5.	5-7 February 1995	Monroe County, Indiana
6.	18-21 February 1995	Clay County, Tennessee
7.	2-7 January 1997	Niagara County, Ontario
8.	21-30 December 1997	Oswego County, New York
9.	19-30 December 1998	McLean/Woodford County, Illinois
10.	20-30 January 1999	Herkimer County, New York
11.	30 November 1999	Carter County, Tennessee
12.	29 December 2003 - 3 April 2004	Fayette County, Georgia
13.	21-29 February, 7-8 March 2004	Henry County, Tennessee (photographed but not reviewed)
14.	6-8 March 2004	Henry County, Tennessee (photographed but not reviewed)
15.	13-30 March 2004	Marshall County, Kentucky
16.	26-27 November, 4 December 2005	Henry County, Tennessee (photographed but not reviewed)
17.	4-7 May 2007	Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

numerous occasions, the bird was seen surfacing with a crayfish in tow, as this seemed to be its preferred source of food during the bird's visit.

While actively feeding, it would steadily work its way upstream and then, after some time, it would rest and/or preen and float downstream. It was during this time, that the best looks could be had. To my knowledge, the bird never drifted past the M. Harvey Taylor Memorial Bridge downriver. Lastly, it may be important to note that while the bird was observed from Wormleysburg, Cumberland County, the bird was always viewed in the Dauphin County portion of the Susquehanna River.

Although the Yellow-billed Loon seemed to occupy the same stretch of river as at least two Common Loons during its stay (an adult and a 1st/2nd summer Common Loon), it only loosely associated with the Common Loons, being mostly seen by itself. However, on May 4th, as it was approaching darkness, the adult Yellow-billed Loon, an adult Common Loon, and two immature Common Loons gathered together in an essentially silhouetted flock. After that first night, I never saw the Yellow-billed Loon closely aligned with any of the other Common Loons for more than a brief moment. More than one person rightly remarked that while this species would have been expected to grace Pennsylvania's waters at some point,

a bird in near complete breeding plumage, at such a close range, and in beautiful May weather was certainly unexpected.

Although not an exhaustive list of all Yellow-billed Loon sightings, Table 1 lists the accepted and valid (photographed but not documented) records for this species east of the Mississippi River. This summary takes into account Ontario and Quebec but does not deal with any Minnesota records, of which there are a handful. Tennessee has the most sightings out of any eastern state or province with five. More

than half (9/17) of these birds were discovered between the months of December and February. It is interesting to note, though, that two of the three Ontario records pertain to birds found in May. All but four of the eastern Yellow-billed Loons have been discovered since 1995. Ironically, the first sight record for this species in the east came 40 years to the day before the first Pennsylvania state record!

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Plate 2. Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). Susquehanna River, Dauphin, 4 May 2007 (Cameron Rutt).

Spring Raptor Migration Summary 2007

Lindsay Zemba

Four watchsites reported counts for spring 2007 (Tables 1 and 2). A total of 5,731 raptors representing 16 species were counted. The passage rate for all species for the four sites ranged from 3.1 to 4.9 raptors per hour (mean = 4.0). Count effort (hours of observation) for the four watchsites totaled 1,443 hours, ranging from 274 to 455 hours among the sites. There was some variation in count effort among the four sites, with Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain counting for a week in February and all of March, whereas Rose Tree Park started their count in the second half of March and Hawk Mountain counted on only five days in March. All of the sites counted throughout April, but only Allegheny Front and Hawk Mountain extended counts into May.

Composition of the flight

Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) made up 24% of the overall flight (range 14 - 45%), and their migration peaked in the second half of April. Broad-winged Hawks were the most common species at both Hawk Mountain (45% of overall count) and Rose Tree Park (29% of overall count). Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) made up 19% of the overall flight (range 7.7 - 26%), and their migration peaked in late March. Red-tailed Hawks were the most common species counted at Allegheny Front (25% of overall count) and Tussey Mountain (26%).

Turkey Vultures were the

third most abundant species overall, making up 11% of the total count (range of 0.5 - 14%). Turkey Vultures were seen as early as February, with most individuals passing in March (Table 2). Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*), a species whose migration peaked in late March and into April, made up 13% of the overall flight, followed by Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), whose migration peaked in late April and made up 7.3% of the overall flight. At all sites, Ospreys were first seen in mid- to late March, with the earliest sighting on 15 March at Rose Tree Park. Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) totaled 151 individuals (2.6% of overall flight) and peaked in March. Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) totaled 118 individuals among the sites and made up 2.1% of the flight.

A total of nine Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) were counted (1 at Allegheny Front and 8 at Rose Tree Park), together with a total of 16 Merlins (*F. columbarius*). Sixty-three percent of the 196 American Kestrels seen (*F. sparverius*) were counted in April. For kestrels, the overall rate of passage was 0.14 birds per hour, which is nearly twice that of 2006 (0.08), possibly signaling a population rebound. Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) were the earliest migrants; 97% of all Golden Eagles counted were detected in February and March, with Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front accounting for most of them (152 and 76, respectively).

through 7 May, with a total of 455 hours of observation. The season started out with cold temperatures and snow, with only 16 birds counted during the seven days in February. The count picked up in March with 47 birds counted in just the first two days, totaling 1,157 by the end of the month. The season ended with 1,969 birds counted, compared with a 5-year average of 1,830 birds. The most common species counted were Red-tailed Hawks (489), followed by Broad-winged Hawks (327), Turkey Vultures (268), and Sharp-shinned Hawks (265). Season records (since 2002) were set for Bald Eagles (26), Black Vultures (26), and Sharp-shinned Hawks (265). Golden Eagles (76) were back up after 3 years of being below the season average. Several other birds were above the 5-year average, including Ospreys (135), Cooper's Hawks (85), Red-shouldered Hawks (72), Red-tailed Hawks (489), Rough-legged Hawks (4), and American Kestrels (27).

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

(Berks and Schuylkill Counties) – The three Golden Eagles counted on 9 March were the only Golden Eagles counted at the site. Warmer temperatures brought 46 birds on 2 April, including 13 Red-tailed Hawks, 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 8 Cooper's Hawks, and 6 Northern Harriers. Another 24 birds were counted on 3 April. The peak of the migration began on 21 April when 72 birds were counted, including 29 Broad-winged Hawks, 12 Ospreys, and 1 Merlin. 28 April was the peak day, with 263 raptors counted, including 187 Broad-winged Hawks, 36 Ospreys, 16 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 11 Red-tailed Hawks, 8 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Northern Harriers, and 1 Bald Eagle. The numbers of birds decreased thereafter, with a high count of 22 birds on 2 May. From 4 through 13 May, the count

Seasonal Highlights

Allegheny Front (Bedford County) – The count started on 22 February and c o n t i n u e d

Table 1. Watchsites reporting for spring 2007.

Watchsite	County	Hours of observation
Allegheny Front	Bedford	455
Hawk Mountain	Berks-Schuylkill	274
Rose Tree Park	Delaware	294
Tussey Mountain	Centre	420

tapered to single digits, and ended with a grand total of 1,042 raptors, and a new season record (since 1998) for Red-shouldered Hawks (20).

Rose Tree Park (Delaware County) – The count began on 13 March and finished on 30 April, recording a total of 1,432 birds. The peak day was 21 April, when a total of 195 birds were counted, including 77 Broad-winged Hawks, 50 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 17 American Kestrels, 8 Northern Harriers, and 5 Bald Eagles. Three days later on 24 April, 138 Broad-winged Hawks were counted, making this the peak day for the species. Season records were set for Cooper's Hawks (85) and Peregrine Falcons (8). Several other birds were above the 5-year average, including Bald Eagles (63), Black Vultures (49), Sharp-shinned Hawks (216), Northern Goshawks (3), Red-shouldered Hawks (21), and Red-tailed Hawks (110). Broad-winged

Hawks (420) and Turkey Vultures (169) had lower counts compared with the 5-year averages (1346 and 253, respectively). All other species were on par with their 5-year averages.

Tussey Mountain (Centre County) – Red-tailed Hawks (334), Broad-winged Hawks (178), Turkey Vultures (179), Golden Eagles (152), and Sharp-shinned Hawks (151) were the most common birds seen at Tussey Mountain this spring. The peak period of migration for Broad-wings was 19-23 April, with a high of 68 Broad-wings passing through on 20 April, along with a season high count of 15 Ospreys. Turkey Vultures (25) peaked on 2 March, whereas the high count for Red-shouldered Hawks (11) was on 12 March, and high counts for Red-tailed Hawks (37), American Kestrels (8), Sharp-shinned Hawks (30), and Cooper's Hawks (8) were on 25 March. Peak

flights of Golden Eagles occurred in mid-March, with a total of 152 counted for the season. One season record was 29 Bald Eagles by the end of April.

Acknowledgments: I thank the compilers who reported their counts for the spring 2007 season, and all of the watchsite participants who helped to document the migration. Keith Bildstein commented on an earlier version of this manuscript. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 165.

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Answer to Photo Quiz #16

Rick Wiltraut

This bird has a long, black bill and appears to be a tern. Note the very long wings which are brownish-gray above. Also note the whitish underparts. On the underwing, note that the dark remiges contrast with the whitish coverts forming a distinct border along the rear edge of the wing. If you look closely, you can see that the base of the primaries on the underwing are white. Juvenile and non-breeding Black Tern are similar but have a gray underwing and much shorter tail. Adult Black Skimmer is dark above and white below, but has an unmistakable large red and black bill and lacks the dark border along the rear edge of the wing. Adult Sooty Tern is very similar to this bird, but has a darker (blackish) upperwing. Also, adult Sooty Tern has darker primaries on the underwing, which contrast more sharply with the whitish coverts.

This juvenile Bridled Tern was among 23 seen near Wilmington Canyon on a trip out of Cape May, New Jersey, Sept. 3, 2000, the highest number ever recorded in the mid-Atlantic region. The birds were found in very warm water (up to 80 degrees F) and were found feeding in large floating mats of *Sargassum*. *Sargassum* harbors large quantities of marine life including small fish, and the Bridled Tern has as a close bond to this floating plant. Bridled Tern has yet to be documented in Pennsylvania and should be looked for after hurricanes, especially along the lower Delaware River.



Fox Sparrow Fallout Due To A Late Winter Storm

Mike Fialkovich

One of the most welcome spring migrants in Pennsylvania is the Fox Sparrow. This species arrives with a pleasant song and attractive plumage; a welcome sight and sound in the often dreary early spring. Normally this species is found singly or in small numbers in brushy habitats throughout the state beginning in March. This year, they arrived on time, but in unusual circumstances.

In eastern North America, Fox Sparrows winter from southern Ontario, southwest Quebec and southern Newfoundland south to Florida and along the Gulf Coast to Texas (Rising 1996). Although Pennsylvania lies within the winter range, they are rarely reported in winter. Birds begin to appear in numbers in mid-March, continuing into April.

A snowstorm in the middle of March dumped sleet followed by a foot of snow in a widespread swath across the state. This late winter storm coincided with the Fox Sparrow migration and the result was an impressive fallout.

On 16 March 2007, a low pressure system developed over Georgia and began to intensify and move northeast, spreading snow, sleet and freezing rain from northern Virginia north to New England through 17 March 2007 (NOAA). Fox Sparrows were moving through Pennsylvania in good numbers and may have been trying to stay ahead of the storm, but the birds were forced to stop as the storm overtook them and weather conditions deteriorated to the point that flight was best suspended until the storm passed. As with all migrating birds, the next step was to rest, find shelter, and most importantly refuel in preparation for continuing the migration once weather conditions improved. Well stocked feeders were just what the birds needed, and the result was a large number of birders reporting a large number of sparrows at their feeding stations. By far the majority of the birds were reported at feeders, but some were also reported with other sparrows along roadsides cleared of snow.

The communication during this event on the Pennsylvania Birds Listserv provided documentation of this impressive and unprecedented fallout. Post after post appeared reporting Fox Sparrows at feeding

stations and other sites beginning 16 March 2007. At first a few observers mentioned seeing this species during the storm; not an unexpected occurrence. However, as more posts were read, more observers began to look for Fox Sparrows and reported their sightings, and the observations continued across the state.

The majority of the posts were made 16 - 17 March representing 30 counties (Table 1). Maximum counts were available for a few counties and are summarized in Table 2. The number of posts to the PA Birds Listserv increased as the storm progressed with an increase in the number of counties represented. The numbers were reduced following the storm, as expected (Table 3). Fox Sparrow sightings were not summarized after 20 March because posts pertaining to the sparrows decreased significantly, and the active precipitation from the storm ended in Pennsylvania.

Interestingly, there was a lack of reports from the extreme northwestern and northeastern counties. This could be due to a lack of observers in these regions, observers not reporting birds, inability to get into the field due to the weather, the birds moved through undetected following the storm, or other reasons. A report did not come from Bradford County until 3/19, and higher numbers were not reported in Monroe until 3/20; later than other counties. Perhaps observers in the northern locations did not see arriving birds until the storm moved further north, allowing birds to continue moving north or become grounded. Without a large data set this is speculation.

History

Another massive count of this species in Pennsylvania occurred in December 1958 on a Christmas Count in Delaware County where 248 birds were tallied (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Conclusion

The late winter snowstorm of 2007 resulted in an incredible number of Fox Sparrows in Pennsylvania, and this event was documented by birders using the PA Birds Listserv. This storm related fallout revealed a surprising number

of Fox Sparrows that were traveling through the state on migration. Although the numbers recorded are significant, there were certainly many birds that were undetected.

Acknowledgments

The birders that posted Fox Sparrow sightings documented an unprecedented event. Sharing their observations made readers of the listserv aware of what was occurring and served as a catalyst to other birders to search for Fox Sparrows and share their sightings. Without these posts to the listserv, this event may have not been recognized as a statewide occurrence.

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Table 1. Summary of Fox Sparrow Posts to the Pennsylvania Birds Listserv, 16- 20 March 2007

COUNTY	POST DATE	NUMBER	LOCATION, DATE, ETC.
Allegheny	3/14-15	1	Feeding station.
	3/16	8	Boyce Mayview Park
	3/17	1	At a farm.
Armstrong	3/20	1 or 2	Feeding station.
Beaver	3/20	6	Two at a feeding station 3/16-20 with a max of 6 on 3/20.
Berks	3/16	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	5	Along a road.
	3/17	4	Feeding station.
	3/19	1	Feeding station.
Bradford	3/19	at least 50	Found along roadsides where the snow was cleared.
Bucks	3/16	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	1	Silver Lake.
	3/18	1	Falls Twp. Community Park.
Butler	3/17	1	Feeding station at Moraine State Park.
Cambria	3/18	many	No specific numbers or location.
Centre	3/17	11	Walnut Springs Park.
Chester	3/14	8	Both 3/14 and 3/17 at the same feeding station.
	3/17	1	Same feeding station as above.
	3/17	2	Feeding station.
Columbia	3/16	3	Feeding station.
Cumberland	3/18	6	At a feeding station 3/16
	3/18	30+	At the same feeding station as above 3/17.
	3/18	3	Feeding station.
Dauphin	3/16	2	Feeding station.
	3/16	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	4	At a feeding station 3/16-17
	3/17	8 - 10	Along roadsides.
	3/19	1	Feeding station.
	3/19	5	Feeders at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary.
Delaware	3/17	5	Feeding station.
Franklin	3/18	13	At a feeding station 3/10.
	3/18	20+	Feeding station at New Caladonia State Park 3/16.
	3/17	35+	Feeding station.
	3/18	15+	Unspecified location(s).

Indiana	3/16	3	Feeding station.
	3/16	3	Feeding station.
	3/17	5	Number increased to 5 at the same feeding station as above.
Jefferson	3/19	several	Unspecified location(s).
Juniata	3/17	dozens	Unspecified location(s) and numbers.
		2	Feeding station.
Lancaster	3/16	2	At a feeding station (on the crust of sleet that accumulated).
	3/16	1	At a feeding station (while sleet was falling).
	3/16	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	2 - 9	Two on 3/16 and 9 on 3/17 at a feeding station.
	3/17	4 - 10	Four at a feeding station 3/16 and 10 at the same location 3/17.
	3/17	8	Feeding station.
Lawrence	3/17	1	Feeding station.
Lebanon	3/17	9	Total from two locations.
	3/18	7	Memorial Lake.
Lehigh	3/16	1	At a feeding station for several days up to 3/16.
	3/16	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	3	Along a road.
	3/18	10	Feeding station.
	3/20	1	Feeding station.
Luzerne	3/17	1	Feeding station.
McKean	3/17	2	Along a roadside.
Monroe	3/16	1	Unspecified location.
	3/20	2	At a feeding station 3/11-20.
	3/20	numerous	Delaware Water Gap Area.
Montgomery	NA	12	No specific information.
Northampton	3/16	2	Feeding station.
	3/16	2	Present for a week at a feeding station.
	3/17	1	Feeding station.
	3/17	3	Feeding station.
	3/17	5	Feeding station.
	3/17	13	Seven at a feeding station, 6 others at unspecified locations.
Tioga	3/15	1	No details.
Warren	3/17	4	Along roadsides.
Westmoreland	3/16	several	Feeding station.
	3/16	1	Feeding station.
	3/16	1+	Several locations; none specified.

York	3/17	7	Present 3/16-17 with a max. of 7.
	3/19	1	At a feeding station 3/18-19.
Dauphin and Lebanon	3/17	75	Total along roadsides in both counties.
TOTALS	POSTS	FOX SPARROWS	
	73	477	

Notes: Multiple feeding station listings represent different locations. If the date of a report differs from the date of the post, it is indicated in the Location, Dates, Etc. Column.

Table 2. Maximum Totals of Fox Sparrows in Select Counties During the March 2007 Winter Storm

COUNTY	TOTAL FOX SPARROWS
Berks	74
Bradford	50
Centre	56
Dauphin and Lebanon	75
Philadelphia	20
TOTAL	275

Table 3. Summary of Total Posts to the PA Birds Listserv / Date / County

DATE OF POST	NUMBER OF POSTS	NUMBER OF COUNTIES
3/14	2	2
3/15	2	2
3/16	19	11
3/17	30	21
3/18	10	6
3/19	5	5
3/20	5	4

Summary of Season - March through May 2007

Mike Fialkovich

A common thread in many county reports was the lackluster warbler migration this spring as well as small numbers of thrushes and the lack of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Purple Finches**. The weather in May was dry and clear for the most part, and favorable for migration, so the birds continued over the state without fallouts or concentrations. A major winter storm in March with wind and snow resulted in a fallout of **Fox Sparrows** in unprecedented numbers.

Greater-white Fronted Goose and **Ross' Goose** continued in four counties from the winter season. Notable was a flock of 98 **Brant** in *Delaware*, the only report of this species. **Cackling Goose** was recorded in six counties including a first for *Huntington*. Three **Trumpeter Swans** were in *Lancaster*.

Eurasian Wigeon were only found in five counties, but were distributed across the state with two in *Bedford*. A **Common Teal** spent 14 days in *Delaware*. Interesting was a **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** in *Erie* for the second spring in a row. All three scoters were reported with **Black Scoter** the least reported. **White-winged Scoters** were found across the state the last two weeks of April.

The March snowstorm resulted in a massive total of 2200 **Northern Pintail** in *Berks*. Late in March an impressive count of 1400 Common Mergansers appeared in that county. Although there was not a widespread fallout of **Long-tailed Ducks** across the state, 224 were found in *Centre* in April, and 20 flew over Powdermill Nature Reserve in *Westmoreland* at the rather late date of May 1.

There was an incredible fallout of **Common Loons** in mid-April, however it was not widespread. Impressive numbers were in *Beaver* at Ambridge Reservoir where 115 gathered and in *Bedford* where 202 were at Shawnee State Park. Lesser (but still high) numbers were found in *Somerset* with a combined total of 80 between Somerset Lake and Quemahoning Reservoir and

Huntington where 68 flew over the Tussey Mt. Hawkwatch.

The bird of the season was certainly a **Yellow-billed Loon** in breeding plumage that spent a long weekend on the Susquehanna River in *Cumberland*. The bird thrilled the throngs of birders near and far that came to see it, and it couldn't have been more cooperative, feeding just a few yards offshore and remaining in a small area of the river the entire time. This provided ample opportunity for excellent documentation, and many cameras were focused on this incredible visitor from the arctic. Fortunate as we were to have this species as a visitor, a bird in breeding plumage was an added bonus.

Eared Grebes were found in four counties, but absent from *Erie*, where this species is regular in spring. In late May single **American White Pelicans** were in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster*.

It was a good spring for uncommon herons. A great count of 12 **Snowy Egrets** were tallied in *Bucks*; five in *Lancaster* was the only other report. **Little Blue Heron** reports included 2 in *Bedford* and singles in *Bucks* and *Lancaster*. Two **Cattle Egrets** were in *Bucks* and one in *Northampton*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** hold on at only two known breeding locations. Hopefully this species will increase. **Glossy Ibis** reports were good with birds in five counties. A flock of 22 in *Delaware* and 8 in *Philadelphia* were notable.

Two **Black Vultures** flying over a hawk watch site in *Erie* was a rare event for that northern county, but even more unusual was an albino **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at that location. **Black Vultures** are becoming a more common site in *Somerset*, and active nests were found in *Chester, Delaware* and *Philadelphia* (in an abandoned building). Actually finding a vulture nest is a rare occurrence.

Mississippi Kites were reported in the usual counties of *Berks* and *Lancaster*, and a bird was seen in *Lehigh*. **Northern Goshawks** were found in *Beaver,*

Chester, Delaware (where three were recorded at a hawkwatch) and *Somerset*. A white phase **Gyr Falcon** was reported in *Bradford*.

A **Yellow Rail** was found in *Cumberland* and single **Black Rails** were in *Bucks* and *Westmoreland*. Both are incredible finds for species that are so secretive.

Rare shorebirds highlighted the wader migration. An **American Oystercatcher** in *Bucks* was the second for that county, but as in the past, only remained for a day. A **Black-necked Stilt** in *Lehigh* (also a second county record) stayed a little over a week, allowing many a chance to see it. Rare, but regular three **American Avocets** were found in *Indiana*, and several **Willetts** were in *Beaver, Crawford, Indiana,* and *Mifflin*, a good showing this spring. **Upland Sandpipers** were only reported in *Clarion* and *Somerset*. **Ruddy Turnstones** were in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*, but absent from *Erie* where they are expected. Two **Red Knots** were in *Lancaster*; an uncommon spring record, and the only report of **Sanderling** was in *Bucks*. Extremely rare in spring, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was on the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster*. Uncommon in spring, **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported in six counties with a great count of 58 in *Bedford*. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were found in *Bedford* and *Lebanon*.

Little Gulls moved through the expected locations in *Dauphin, Erie* and *Lancaster*. Two **Black-headed Gulls** were found in *Dauphin*. A **California Gull** in *Northampton* provided a first county record. **Iceland Gulls** were in four counties. The bird in *Beaver* was probably a left over from the influx in the Pittsburgh area. *Bucks* continues to be the gathering site for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** where a max of 456 were tallied. Ten were found in *Erie*. **Glaucous Gulls** were in four counties and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were only reported in three counties. A **Herring x Glaucous Gull (Nelson's Gull)** and a **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull** were once again found in *Bucks*. **Black Terns** were reported in eight counties with 13 in *Erie* the

high count.

Eurasian Collared Doves were found in *Chester* and *Lebanon*. **Barn Owls** were reported in five counties. There was good news that a pair bred at Middle Creek, alternating between *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* on their hunting trips. A **Chuck-wills-widow** was heard calling for a single day in *Lebanon* and another was photographed in *Fulton*.

The **Townsend's Solitaire** in *Erie* ended a three month stay in late March. **Bicknell's Thrush** was found in *Bucks* (although not heard singing, two birds were listed conservatively as probable) and *Lancaster*, where one was singing.

Brewster's Warblers were noted in at least seven counties and **Lawrence's Warblers** were only found in *Cumberland* and *Monroe*. PSO members had opportunities to see at least two **Brewster's** on field trips during the annual meeting in Harrisburg in May. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found in six counties and **Connecticut Warblers** were only found in *Erie* and *Lancaster*. A **Swainson's Warbler** was heard singing in *Allegheny* and eventually two birds were found for several weeks in May. Several county compilers reported low numbers of **Wilson's Warblers** this spring.

A first year **Summer Tanager** was in *Bucks* and an adult was found in *Lancaster*, however neither lingered.

Clay-colored Sparrows arrived at the breeding sites in *Clarion*, and as transients in *Erie* where they are expected. A bird near the Erie Zoo was a rare report away from Presque Isle. Another passed through Powdermill Nature Reserve in *Westmoreland*. The **Lark Sparrow** from last season in *Bucks* remained until the first of May. Another long staying rarity, this bird was present for just over six months. A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was reported in *Cumberland*. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was in *Erie*.

Blue Grosbeaks were reported in *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Chester* and *Lehigh*. The bird in *Lehigh* was found while searching for the Black-necked Stilt; a good example of how a search for a rarity can result in

other good finds. A first year male **Lazuli Bunting** in *Montgomery* was present for several weeks, but notoriously difficult to observe at the beginning of its stay, but became more reliable later. This was the third for the state and another rarity enjoyed and documented by many observers. **Dickcissel** sightings were very good this spring with birds found in *Allegheny*, *Berks* (continuing from the winter season at a feeder), *Cumberland* (another from last season at a feeder and a separate individual found during the migration count), *Delaware* (at a feeder), *Franklin* and *Westmoreland*.

A flock of 100 **Eastern Meadowlarks** in *Berks* was noteworthy, and 25 in *Bucks* was a very good count. Two female **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds near the Philadelphia International Airport in *Delaware* and one visited a feeder in *Northampton*. A nice count of over 220 **Rusty Blackbirds** in two flocks were tallied in *Centre*. The **Scott's Oriole** from last season in *Cumberland* remained until early April. This was another exciting, cooperative, long staying rarity enjoyed by many.

A snowstorm in the middle of March dumped sleet and up to a foot of snow in some areas. This early spring storm coincided with the **Fox Sparrow** migration and the result was an impressive fallout of **Fox Sparrows** across the state. Birds were reported from 29 counties during and following the storm. Several counties had very high numbers including *Berks* (74), *Bradford* (50), *Centre* (56), and *Philadelphia* (20). An albino **White-throated Sparrow** was spotted among a flock at Haverford College in *Delaware*.

Northern finch reports were few. Single **Common Redpolls** remained from last season at feeders in *Beaver* and *Bucks* until early March. **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in *Erie*, *Indiana* and *Somerset*, with the *Somerset* bird remaining through May. Finally, a few **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from *Bradford*, *Schuylkill* and *Westmoreland*.

Reports were submitted from 38 counties.

Birds Of Note - March through May 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 - *Bucks*: one continued from last season at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp until at least 3/11, one at Silver Lake Park 3/11 (Corey Holden) and again 3/27-31 (Doug Filler); *Chester*: one at Chamber's Lake 3/3 (Rick Robinson); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 4/11 (Jerry Book, Deuane Hoffman, Cameron Rutt); *Montgomery*: 3 at Green Lane Reservoir 3/1 (Kevin Crilley, m.ob.).

Ross' Goose - *Berks*: one at Oley 3/26 (Kevin Crilley); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/15 (August Mirabella); *Lancaster*: found on many occasions during the season. The last observed was an injured bird at Middle Creek WMA 3/30 (Cameron Rutt); *Lebanon*: 3 at Middle Creek WMA 3/6 (Randy Miller) and 3 at the Lebanon Valley Business Park up to 3/6 (Randy Miller).

Brant - *Delaware*: a flock of 98 observed flying over Rose Tree Hawk Watch 3/14 (Jim Lockyer).

Cackling Goose - *Berks*: 3 at Blue Marsh L. and L. Ontelaunee 3/10-11 (Rudy Keller, Joan Silagy, et al.); *Bucks*: the last one reported was at Core Creek Park 3/6 (Bill Keim); *Chester*: one at Chamber's Lake and Coatesville Res. 3/6 (Pam Fisher), one flying over West Goshen Twp. 3/25 (Nick Pulcinella); *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon 5/3 (David Kyler), first county record; *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/28 (observer not indicated); *Montgomery*: 2 at Green Lane Reservoir 3/10 (Kevin Crilley, m.ob.).

Mute Swan - *Bedford*: two found during the PAMC 5/12; *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 4/6 (Jim Hoyson, Rick Koval).

Trumpeter Swan - *Lancaster*: 3 at Middle Creek WMA 3/18 (Tom Johnson).

Eurasian Wigeon - *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/6 (Tom Dick); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/4 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 3/31 (Ron Leberman), *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/4 (m.ob.); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 3/14.

Green-winged (Common) Teal - *Delaware*: one at Darby Creek 3/8-22 (Todd Fellenbaum, m.ob.).

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/15 (Kathie Goodblood, Jerry Stanley).

Black Scoter - *Beaver*: two at Rochester 3/15 (Geoff Malosh); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 4/15 (Andy Wilson, Sarah Pabian, Grant Stokke); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 4/17 (Robert Cook); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Long Level 3/25 (Randy Miller).

Yellow-billed Loon - *Dauphin*: one in breeding plumage on the Susquehanna River along the Wormleysburg waterfront 5/4-5/7 (Cameron Rutt, m.ob.). First fully documented state record.

Eared Grebe - *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 3/21-3/28 (Tom Johnson, Dave Yeany); *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River 3/23 (Al Guarente); *Luzerne*: one

photographed at Kirby Park Natural Area 5/2 (Jonathan DeBalko); *York*: one at Lake Marburg 3/15 (Mike Weible).

American White Pelican - *Dauphin*: one 5/28 near Perdix (reported by a fisherman). It was relocated 5/29 on the Susquehanna R. about a mile south of the Clarks Ferry Bridge (Chuck Chalfant, Deuane Hoffman, et al.); *Lancaster*: one near the Peach Bottom Power Plant 5/31 (Michael Sankovich) and 6/1 (Bob Schutsky).

Great Cormorant - *Bucks*: high of 7 at Bristol 5/16 was unusually high for this late date (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 4/26 (Robert Cook); second county record; *Delaware*: one lingered on the Delaware R. until at least 3/23 (Al Guarente); *Northampton*: last reported at Martins Creek Quarry 4/3; *Philadelphia*: present up to 3/23 (Al Guarente).

Least Bittern - *Berks*: 4 heard at Glen Morgan L. 5/11 (Ken Lebo); *Bucks*: one at Bristol 5/12 (Bob Mercer); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek S.P. 5/29 (John McNamara); *Erie*: two at Presque Isle S.P. 5/17-5/23 (Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: two heard during the season at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

Snowy Egret - *Bucks*: twelve 5/12, and one 5/24 at Falls Twp. (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/12 (m.ob.) and four at Middle Creek WMA 6/8-6/9 (Bruce Carl, et al.).

Little Blue Heron - *Bedford*: 2 at Shawnee State Park 5/12 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one along the Maiden Creek above L. Ontelaunee 5/8 (Sue Schmoyer); *Bucks*: an adult reported from Lower Makefield Twp. 5/4 (Mike DeBonis); *Bucks*: one in Lower Makefield Twp. 5/4 (Mike DeBonis); *Centre*: one at the remediation wetlands west of Julian 5/27 (Nan Butkovich, Andy Wilson, Matt O'Donnell).

Cattle Egret - *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/28 (Devich Farbotnik), and another at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. 5/16 (Richard Smith); *Northampton*: one near Nazareth 4/25-26 (Rick Wiltraut).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 3/31-4/3 (Susan Charkes, Devich Farbotnik, Bill Etter); *Dauphin*: two active nests found in a residential neighborhood in May (Tom Johnson, et al.).

Glossy Ibis - *Bucks*: one at Falls Twp. Community Park 4/15 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Pine Run Dam 4/29 (Thomas Ford-Hutchinson); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood L. 4/28 (Joan Renninger, et al.); *Delaware*: 22 flew past the Rose Tree Hawkwatch 4/25 (Jim Lockyer, Skip Conant); *Northampton*: two in a flooded field next to Green Pond 4/19, one remained until 4/23 (Dave DeReamus); *Philadelphia*: 8 at Rhawn St. and the Delaware R. (Brian Schultz, Pete Kurtz).

Mississippi Kite - *Berks*: one at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 4/29 (Kerry Grim), one independently seen by two

birders a few miles apart on the Reading Prong in District Twp. and Henningsville 5/12 (Rudy Keller, Peter Saenger); *Lancaster*: one at Chickies Rock County Park 5/28 (Meredith Lombard, Joseph Yoder); *Lehigh*: one flying over Weisneberg Township 5/15 (Fritz Brock).

Northern Goshawk - *Beaver*: an imm. at West Mayfield 4/12 (Scott Gregg); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Tract 3/3 (Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella); *Delaware*: three 3/20, 4/10, and 4/22 at Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch; *Somerset*: one at the Payne Property 5/31 (Jeff Payne, Laurretta Payne).

Gyr Falcon - *Bradford* - a white phase bird at Woods Rd. 4/22 (Charlene Miller, George Miller).

Yellow Rail - *Cumberland*: one in an overgrown field on private property near Messiah College 3/15 (Cameron Rutt, Adam Stuckert, Jarrod Derr).

Black Rail - *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 4/29 - 5/5 (Devich Farbotnik); *Westmoreland*: one at the Little Sewickley Creek wetlands found during the PAMC 5/12 (Jim Pemberton, Tony Pegnato); second county record.

Black-bellied Plover - *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/16 (Mark Vass); *Beaver*: one 5/12 and two 5/24 at Little Blue Lake (Mark Vass); *Berks*: one near L. Ontelaunee 5/9 (Ken Lebo); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 5/23 (Greg Grove); *Lancaster*: present at the Conejohela Flats 5/12-6/6 with a max. of 16 on 5/21.

American Oystercatcher - *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S. P. 4/19 (Rob Fergus); second county record.

Black-necked Stilt - *Lehigh*: one feeding in a pond off Rt. 100 near Fogelsville 5/13 (Drew Weber). The bird remained until at least 5/21 and was seen and photographed by many; second county record (Pa Birds Listserv).

American Avocet - *Indiana*: 3 at Yellow Creek S.P. 5/15 (Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer); fourth county record.

Willet - *Beaver*: 5 along the Ohio R. at Monaca 4/27 (Ed Richards); *Crawford*: 4 near the Pymatuning Spillway 5/10 (Ron Leberman); *Indiana*: 4 on 5/2 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee), and 2 on 5/15 at Yellow Creek S.P. (Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer); *Mifflin*: 3 at a pond on Bunker Hill Road 4/27-4/29 (Katie Peight, Jay Zook). First county record.

Upland Sandpiper - *Clarion*: first noted 4/21 at Mt. Airy and continued through the season (m.ob.); *Crawford*: single birds at the Pymatuning Game Management Area 5/5 (Mark Vass) continuing through the period (m.ob.); *Somerset*: up to 3 on 4/25 in the Berlin area (Jeff Payne, Laurretta Payne), one in early July in the same area (Levi Yoder).

Whimbrel - *Beaver*: one at Little Blue Lake 5/27 (Mark Vass), second county record; *Bedford*: 3 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/27 (Tom Dick); *Dauphin*: one at a small pond on Knight Rd. in Whitehall Twp. 4/28 (Bernie Crist), heard calling in the early morning along the Susquehanna R. at West Fairview 5/29 (Tom Johnson); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S. P. 5/21 (Eric Hall); *Washington*: 9 flying in V-formation over Eighty-Four 5/28 (Andy Berchin).

Ruddy Turnstone - *Lancaster*: two 5/26-5/28 at the Conejohela Flats (Bob Schutsky); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 5/31 (Steve Grunwald, Joe Greco).

Red Knot - *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman).

Sanderling - *Bucks*: one in Middletown 5/12 (George Carmichael).

White-rumped Sandpiper - *Allegheny*: one at Fox Chapel 5/20 (Brian Shema); *Beaver*: 5 on 5/20 (Mark

Vass) and 8 on 5/26 (Geoff Malosh) at Little Blue Lake; *Berks*: one at Shartlesville 5/15-5/21 (Drew Weber); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/23-5/24 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: present at the Conejohela Flats 5/12-6/9 with 19 on 6/16 (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: 2 at Mt. Pleasant Road 5/12-5/22 (m.ob.).

Stilt Sandpiper - *Lancaster*: one 5/16 at the Conejohela Flats (Cameron Rutt).

Wilson's Phalarope - *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/29 (Tom Dick); *Lebanon*: a female at Mt. Pleasant Rd. 5/19 (Jonathan Heller, m.ob.).

Red-necked Phalarope - *Beaver*: a female at Little Blue Lake 6/3 (Mark Vass); *Chester*: one at Struble L. 5/26 (Larry Lewis, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella).

Laughing Gull - *Lancaster*: 3 at the Conejohela Flats 4/4 (Deuane Hoffman).

Little Gull - *Dauphin*: reported from various locations on the Susquehanna R. in the Harrisburg area through 4/4 including one seen at Millersburg 3/25 (Mick Brown); *Erie*: one 3/24 (Jerry Stanley, Kathie Goodblood) and one 4/1 (Jerry McWilliams) at Presque Isle S.P.; *Lancaster*: present from 3/22-4/20 (m.ob.) along the Susquehanna R. from the York Haven Dam 3/22 (DHo) to Long Level. It is difficult to say how many Little Gulls passed through this spring, but 5 were in view at one time at Wrightsville 3/24 (DH, EW) and 4 were there 3/31 (JH, m.ob.) with another 3 at Long Level the same day (EW, et al.).

Black-headed Gull - *Dauphin*: one at Fort Hunter along the Susquehanna R. 3/30-3/31 (Cameron Rutt, Mike Weible), and another at City Island, Harrisburg 4/7 (Mike Oyler).

California Gull - *Northampton*: an adult at Green Pond 3/26 (Dave DeReamus); first county record.

Thayer's Gull - *Bucks*: one adult Thayer's type at Tullytown 3/22 (Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt).

Iceland Gull - *Beaver*: one at Rochester 3/4 (Geoff Malosh); *Bucks*: regular at Nockamixon State Park most of March through 4/21, with a peak of 3 on 3/26 and 4/18-4/19 (Bill Etter), one at Core Creek Park 3/6 (Bill Keim), one at Peace Valley Park 4/15 (Ken Rieker), and 7 at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/14, last reported 5/12 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: 4 from 3/11 to 4/5 (Mark Vass, Jerry McWilliams), 6 on 4/6 and 4/8 (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: up to 2 seen regularly at Green Pond 4/4-4/28 (Dave DeReamus, m.ob.), a first winter bird at Dutch Springs Quarry 3/21 (Michael Schall).

Glaucous Gull - *Berks*: one at L. Ontelaunee 3/17 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/3 (Ken Rieker, August Mirabella); *Erie*: 2 at the Erie landfill & Presque Isle S.P. 3/2 - 4/5 (Jerry McWilliams), 5 at Presque Isle S.P. 4/6 and 4/8 (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: a first winter bird at Green Pond 4/19-4/29 (Dave DeReamus).

Great Black-backed Gull - *Berks*: last reported 3/24; *Chester*: last reported 4/21; *Dauphin*: last reported 5/12; *Lancaster*: last reported 5/12.

Nelson's Gull - *Bucks*: one at Tullytown 3/31 (Andy Urquhart).

Herring Gull X Lesser Black-backed Gull - *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 3/4 (Bill Etter).

Eurasian Collared-Dove - *Chester*: present in downtown Coatesville 3/28 (Larry Lewis); *Lebanon*: one in Campbelltown 4/14 (Nick Pulcinella).

Barn Owl - *Cumberland*: 6 tallied during the PAMC 5/12; *Lebanon/Lancaster*: nested and produced 2 young at Middle Creek WMA (m.ob.); *Huntington*: one at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center 5/5 (m.ob.); *Juniata*: 2 on Cedar Springs Rd. 3/3 (Chad Kauffman, Henry Petersheim, Art Shivo, Geoff Malosh).

Long-eared Owl - *Bucks*: one heard at Lake Towhee 3/11

(Bill Etter), 3 at Peace Valley Park 3/3 (Chuck Crunkleton, Bob Scheibner); *Erie*: up to 5 at Presque Isle State Park 3/31 - 5/11 (Mark Vass, Jerry McWilliams, Linda McWilliams, Geoff Malosh.); *Juniata*: 5 on 3/9 and 6 on 3/18 in Center (Henry Petersheim); *Northampton*: one found 3/22 (Joe Yugas); *Westmoreland*: one near Donegal Lake in mid-May (Mike Lanzone, et al.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - *Bucks*: 2 heard and seen in Warwick Twp. 4/14 (Butch Lishman), one heard at Churchville Reservoir Park 4/21 (Chris Stieber); *Dauphin*: one in a Paxtang neighborhood 3/23 (Deuane Hoffman); *Northampton*: one along National Park Drive 4/23 (Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine, Mark Tolino); *Sullivan*: first noted the first weekend in May.

Chuck-wills-widow - *Fulton*: one was photographed near Needmore 5/24 (Tom Johnson); *Lebanon*: one at SGL 145 on 5/19 (Kate Miller, Randy Miller); second county record.

Northern Shrike - *Centre*: one along Rte. 550 between Waddle and Fillmore 3/24 (George Young, Sue Young); *Cumberland*: one of two from the winter season present up to 3/3 at SGL 169 (m.obs); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/24 (Andy McGann).

Townsend's Solitaire - *Erie*: the bird from last season remained in Fairview Township to 3/25 (Mark Anderson).

Bicknell's Thrush - *Bucks*: found separately at Peace Valley Park 5/12 at opposite ends of the park (Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton, Judy Mirabella, August Mirabella), listed as probable, see county notes; *Lancaster*: one singing on private property in Rapho Township 5/29 (Randy Miller).

Lawrence's Warbler - *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 during the PAMC 5/12 (Andrew Markel); *Monroe*: one in early May in the Bushkill area (Darryl Speicher, Brian Hardiman).

Swainson's Warbler - *Allegheny* - 2 at Settler's Cabin County Park 5/12 through the end of the season (Fred McCullough, Carol McCullough). Fourth county record.

Connecticut Warbler - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/21 (Dan Richards); *Lancaster*: one at Reed Run Nature Preserve 5/20 (Tom Raub).

Summer Tanager - *Bucks*: a first year male heard and seen in Doylestown Twp. 5/14 (Bill Graham); *Dauphin*: one in SGL 246 on 5/9 (Shawn Hayes, Deuane Hoffman); *Lancaster*: one 5/1 along Fishing Creek Hollow Road (Tom Amico).

Clay-colored Sparrow - *Clarion*: arrived 5/3, breeds at the Piney Tract and Curlesville Strip Mines; *Erie*: one seen and heard at a golf course near the Erie Zoo 5/5 (Ben Coulter), a total of 3 at Presque Isle S.P. 5/12 and 5/14 (Randy Stringer); *Westmoreland*: one singing near Powdermill Nature Reserve 5/15 (Mike Lanzone, et al.).

Lark Sparrow - *Bucks*: continued from last season at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. up to 5/1 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow - *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 4/30 (Andrew Markel)(No Doc).

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow - *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/16 (Jerry McWilliams).

Snow Bunting - *Crawford*: 6 at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/13 (Ron Leberman).

Blue Grosbeak - *Bucks*: one in Tinicum Twp. 4/23 (Kathleen Weidemoyer), one at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. 5/4-5/13 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith), *Centre*: one near Coburn 5/27 (Andy Wilson); *Chester*: one at Longwood 5/12 (Larry Lewis); *Lehigh*:

one near Fogelsville 5/15 (Tom Johnson).

Lazuli Bunting - *Montgomery*: one in Red Hill 3/4 - 4/10 (George A. Franchois, m.ob.). This long staying and well documented individual provided the first county record and the third record for PA.

Dickcissel - *Allegheny*: a male at Boyce Mayview Park 5/22 (Dave Wilton); *Berks*: an immature female from last season continued at a feeder near Leesport up to 5/1 (Dean Kendall); *Cumberland*: a male from last season continued through 3/12 at a feeder in Shippensburg (Marilyn Snell, Dan Snell), one found during the PAMC near Plainfield 5/12 (Dave Grove); *Delaware*: a female at a feeder in Middletown (Bob and Nancy Bernhardt); *Franklin*: one seen and heard near Lemaster 5/21 (Dale Gearhart, Joyce Stuff); *Philadelphia*: one singing where the Pennypack Park Creek meets the Delaware R. 6/1 (Frank Windfelder); *Westmoreland*: one at Powdermill Nature Reserve 5/22 (Mike Lanzone).

Yellow-headed Blackbird - *Delaware*: a female at the Philadelphia International Airport 3/23-4/6 (Al Guarente). Another female was present 4/3 (Dirk Robinson); *Northampton*: one at a feeder in Plainfield Twp 4/26 (Kathy Sieminski).

Scott's Oriole - *Cumberland*: continued from last season at a Mechanicsburg neighborhood, Upper Allen Twp. until 4/8 (Karen Atwood).

Common Redpoll - *Beaver*: a bird from last season at a feeder in Aliquippa was last seen 3/10 (Bill Walbek, Mike Fialkovich); *Bucks*: two from last season at a feeder in Bedminster Twp. were seen three times through 3/9 (John Mertz).

Pine Siskin - *Erie*: one at a feeder in Edinboro up to 3/5 (Linda McWilliams); *Indiana*: present from last season at a feeder near Indiana up to 3/14 (Herbert Pollock); *Somerset*: one 4/9 through the end of the season at the Payne Property (Jeff Payne, Lauretta Payne).

Evening Grosbeak - *Bradford*: one at a feeder in Moxie 4/16 (Steve Chant); *Schuylkill*: 6 visited a feeder in Schuylkill Haven 3/2 (*fide* Arlene Koch); *Westmoreland*: a flock of 8-10 flying over Stahlstown 3/25 (Linda Hess).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 11 April 2007 (Cameron Rutt).



Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). Pittsburgh, Allegheny, 4 March 2007 (Geoff Malosh).



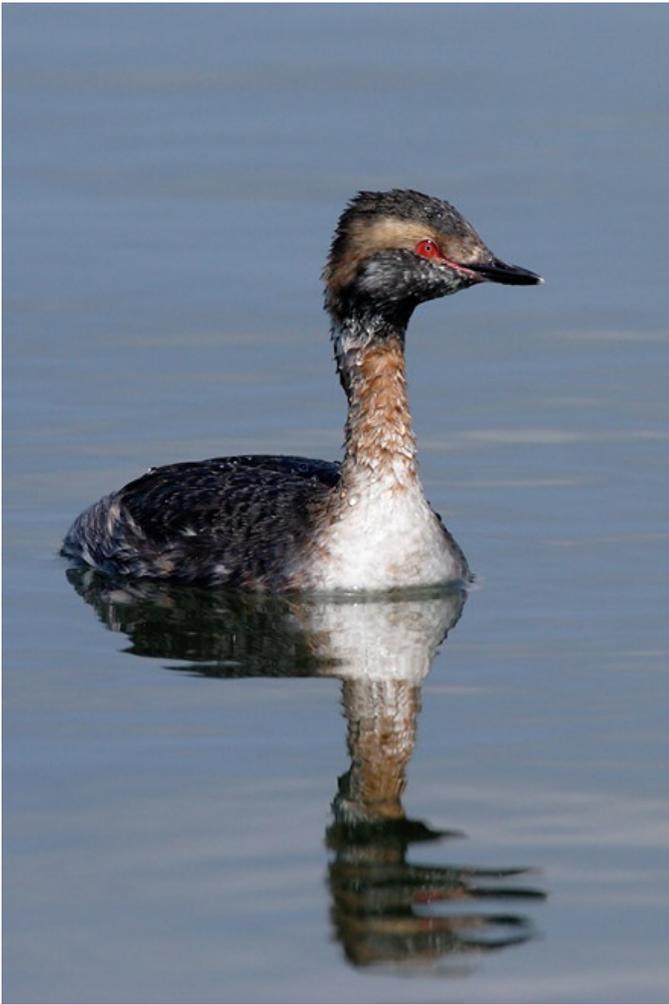
Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver, 16 April 2007 (Geoff Malosh). This bird was present at least 4 days, a first park record and third county record in past 30 years.



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Pittsburgh, Allegheny, 1 March 2007 (Geoff Malosh).



Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). These birds photographed at Ambridge Reservoir, Beaver, 16 April 2007 (Geoff Malosh) were part of a county-record setting fallout 16-17 April 2007.



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Susquehanna River, Dauphin, 25 March 2007 (Cameron Rutt).

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 10 April 2007 (Geoff Malosh).



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Photographed at a backyard pond in Devon, Chester, 12 May 2007 (Tony Fernandes).



Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). McElhatten, Clinton, 18 April 2007 (Wayne Laubscher).



Sora (*Porzana carolina*). This individual was present 24-31 March 2007 at the West Fairview Boat Launch, *Cumberland*, photographed here 25 March (*Cameron Rutt*).



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Near Plain Grove, *Lawrence*, 10 March 2007 (*Mike Fialkovich*).



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). DeLeo's Ponds, Dalton, *Lackawanna*, 12 March 2007 (*Carol Lizell*).



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This was a nice backyard surprise in Norriton, Montgomery, 26 April 2007 (Chrissy Collison).



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This unique perspective was taken from a glider at 7000 feet over Centre, 29 April 2007 (Karl Striedieck).



American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*). Most likely blown inland during the nor'easter of 15-16 April, this bird at Nockamixon State Park, Bucks 19 April 2007 (Cameron Rutt) furnished the second county record.



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Near Fogelsville, Lehigh, 21 May 2007 (Drew Weber). This bird was found 13 May and remained for about a week, a first county record.



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). Monaca, Beaver, 27 April 2007 (Ed Richards). Part of a group of five birds that put down to rest for a few hours on the bank of the Ohio River.



Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). This adult was present along the Susquehanna River near Fort Hunter, Dauphin, 30-31 March 2007 (Cameron Rutt).



Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). This adult was at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 10 April 2007 (Geoff Malosh).



Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). This first-winter was among the many Bonaparte's at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 10 April 2007 (Geoff Malosh).



Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). Struble Lake, Chester, 13 April 2007 (Nick Pulcinella).



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). This first-year bird was present at Green Pond, Northampton, 19-29 April 2007 (Dave DeReamus).



Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). A lucky photo of this bird captured in flight near Needmore, Fulton 26 May 2007 (Tom Johnson).



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette, 19 May 2007 (Geoff Malosh). Ohiopyle S.P. remains one of the most solidly reliable breeding locations for this species in sw PA.



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Rare in Chester this male was at Waterloo Mills,, 3 May 2007 (Al Guarente).



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Monroe, 20 May 2007 (Brian Hardiman).



Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). Steller's Cabin Park, Allegheny, 28 May 2007 (Geoff Malosh). This bird was present for a month beginning in the second week of May.

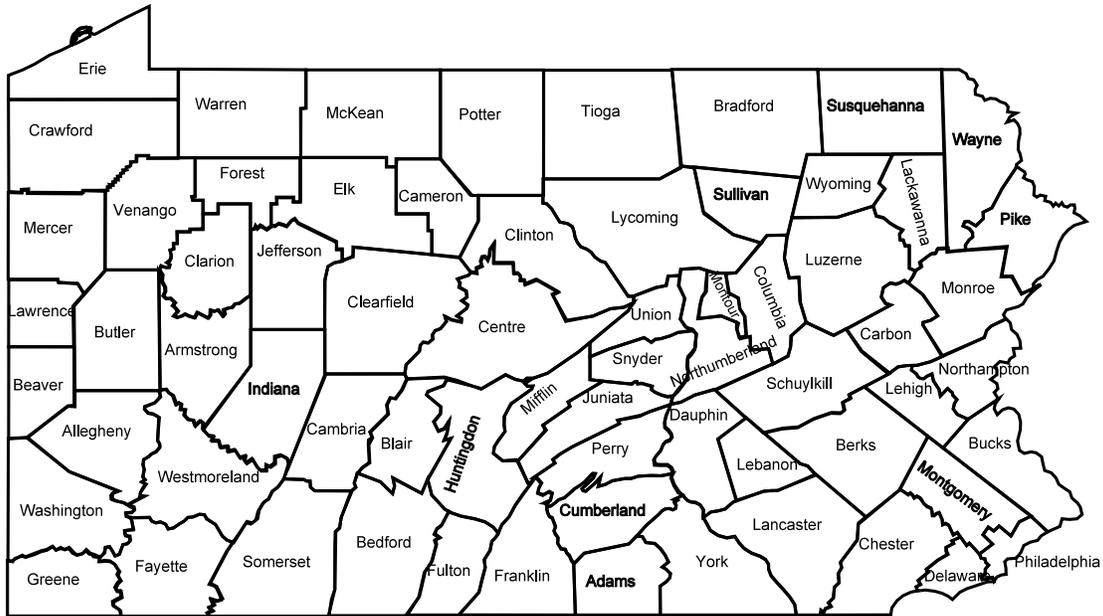


Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). City of Lancaster, Lancaster, 14 May 2007 (Drew Weber). This residence also had a Clay-colored Sparrow in summer 2006. Possibly the same bird.



Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). Initially giving frustratingly short appearances, this bird became quite cooperative, feeding on seed scattered along the roadside in Redhill, Montgomery. It was present 4 March - 10 April 2007 providing a first county record and third state record. Photographed here 8 March (Howard Eskin).

Local Notes - March through May 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.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert		
L.	Lake	Res.	Reservoir		

Adams County

No Report
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Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP).

A **Northern Pintail** at IMP 4/30 was the lone spring report (MV). A male **Surf Scoter** was a nice find at DASH 3/31 (GM). Another bird was on a pond in Findlay Twp. 4/16 and 2 **White-winged Scoters** were at DASH that day (GM). Some high counts of migrating waterfowl include a good count of 15 **American Wigeon** on the Allegheny R. in Harmar Twp. 3/11 (JV), 24 **Ring-necked Duck** at IMP 3/22 (DY), 13 **Lesser Scaup** at IMP 3/23 (MV), 9 **Bufflehead** on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox 4/14 (DY), 8 **Common Merganser** on the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 3/18 (DY), and 3 **Red-breasted Merganser** at DASH 4/7 (MF).

Common Loons moved through the area beginning 3/19. Four birds were at DASH 4/16 (MV), 3 were at Etna 4/25 (DY) and the last was reported 5/16, also at Etna (DY). Six **Horned Grebes** were on the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks 4/7 (MF). The **Red-necked Grebe** reported last season remained at the point in Pittsburgh up to 3/3 (GM, MF). A bird on the Allegheny R. at Etna 3/3 (DY) was probably the same individual.

An **American Bittern** at BMP 4/20 (DW) was a rare find in the county. A bird was flushed at a different location in the park 4/24 (DW), but it is unknown if this was a different individual. There were only two **Great Egret** reports: one at BMP 4/17 (DW) and one that descended from great height to land in the newly restored wetlands in the Nine Mile Run area of Frick Park during a Three Rivers Bird Club /Nine Mile Run Watershed outing (JS, et. al.). The purpose of the outing was birding and education regarding the restoration project that is nearly complete in this section of the park. This bird provided a perfect example for the group of how a

restored wetland can attract wildlife. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at BMP 5/21-5/24 (DW) was another rare find for the county.

S.A.

There was a lot of news regarding **Peregrine Falcons** in the Pittsburgh area this spring. First, a territorial battle between 2 birds at the University of Pittsburgh nest site was captured on the WPC's web cam which provided details that otherwise would have gone undocumented. The pair eventually hatched 4 young. The pair in downtown Pittsburgh also produced 4 young (WPC). A new pair was discovered on the 62nd Street Bridge that spans the Allegheny R. in Etna, just a few miles upriver from Pittsburgh. Single birds were noted in late Mar, but on 4/3 two birds were observed (DY). On 4/9 the pair was observed mating, and by 5/5 a nest had been found on the bridge. The nest was examined by PGC Staff and found to contain two infertile eggs (DB, TK, DD, BF). Another potential nest site was found 5/2-3 at the Westinghouse Bridge that crosses Turtle Creek between East Pittsburgh and North Versailles (EH). Two birds were observed landing on the bridge and walking along a pier, possibly exploring a sheltered area for nesting. The birds were not relocated since the initial sighting, but the site bears watching. A single bird was seen at the McKees Rocks Bridge along the Ohio R. 5/27 (SSn).

Red-shouldered Hawks are nesting again Pine Twp. this spring (PL, SL). A pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** was observed collecting nesting material at Beechwood Farms 4/24 (BSh). A pair is also nesting in Moon Township (GM) and the pair that nested in Pine Twp. last summer returned (PL, SL). A **Rough-legged Hawk** continued from last season at IMP to 3/17 (GM). A **Golden Eagle** was reported flying high over BMP 5/13 (DW). Two **Bald Eagles** interacting aggressively towards each other were flying over Natrona Heights 4/30 (SKr). **Osprey** were reported at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 4/9 (SK), 4/16 at DASH (MV), and at BMP 4/17-5/19 (DW). A **Merlin** was found at that location 3/1; a single bird continued from

last season at Schenley Park at least to 3/12 (MF), and one was found at DASH 3/31 (GM).

A **Sora** was found dead in Warrendale 5/3 (SK) where it possibly struck a building. A **Common Moorhen** was a nice surprise during the migration count at IMP 5/12 (MF, JV). Another bird was found at BMP 5/17 where it remained until 5/23 (DW). A **Sandhill Crane** was a very surprising find at BMP 5/23 (DW). Unfortunately, it was flushed by a non-birder walking through the area and was not relocated.

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at IMP 5/16 (MV). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were first noted at IMP 3/30 (MV) and continued through mid-May at three locations; 9 at IMP 4/27 was the max. count (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in good numbers at IMP with 16 on 4/28 (MF), 23 on 4/30 (MV) and 33 on 5/2 (MV). **Solitary Sandpipers** stopped in several locations with 8 at BMP 5/19 the max. count (DW). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 5/11 & 5/18, and 4 were there 5/28 (MV). **Least Sandpipers** made a much better showing at IMP and were recorded there almost the entire month of May (m.ob.) with a high count of 15 on 5/16 (MV). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** stopped by a small wetland in Fox Chapel 5/20 (BSh). There were only two reports of **Pectoral Sandpipers** this spring: one at North Park 5/15 (BM) and one at Fox Chapel 5/16 (DY). Five **Dunlin** were found at IMP 5/16 and 2 were there 5/18 (MV).

A leftover from the gull invasion last season, a third winter **Great Black-backed Gull** was at the point in Pittsburgh 3/1 (GM). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were recorded in Mar and Apr. This year the migration along the Ohio R. at DASH did not produce the numbers seen in previous years. On 3/30, 72 birds passed the dam (MV) and on 3/31, 63 were counted (GM). Other observations included 18 on the main pond on Bald Knob Rd. at IMP 3/23 (MV), 16 on the Allegheny R. at Sharpsburg 3/27 (DY), and 12 at DASH 4/16 (MV). The final report was a single bird at DASH 5/13 (GM). **Caspian Terns** were reported from several locations this season with 19 tallied flying past DASH 4/15 (GM, MV), one seen flying along the Allegheny R. from Harrison Hills Park 4/19 (PH, JS, SS), 2 in Etna 4/25 (DY), and a flock of 8 at DASH 4/28 (MF). Small numbers of **Forster's Terns** were reported at DASH 4/13-28 (MV, MF), and 3 were at Etna 5/15 (DY).

A **Barred Owl** was seen at Sewickley Heights Park 4/24 and 5/5 (GM, MF, NN). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in Sewickley 5/23 (GM), a rare spring migrant here. An **Alder Flycatcher** was present at BMP 5/22-25, and 2 were there 5/27 (DW). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at BMP 5/22 (DW) and Sewickley 5/23 (GM).

What sounded like a **Fish Crow** to the observers was seen flying over Frick Park 5/3 (BM, MH). **Common Ravens** continue to be seen in the area. Single birds were reported at Harrison Hills Park 3/20 (KK), Cheswick 4/3 (DY), and East Liberty 4/26 (DY). Two birds were seen at IMP 4/7 (MF) and 5/12 (MF, JV).

A great count of 15 **Cliff Swallows** were along the Ohio R. in Sewickley 4/28 (BS). One was in Etna 4/28-4/29 (DY), and one was at IMP 5/10 (GM). Four **Purple Martins** were at Natrona Heights 4/29 (DY), and 4 were at Harrison Hills Park 5/12 (PH). Interesting was the lack of reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** this season. A **Carolina Wren** was heard singing inside Phipps Conservatory in Schenley Park 3/9 (PW). Occasionally birds find their way into the greenhouses with several species seen and heard over the years. **American Pipits** were reported from three locations: one in Findlay Twp. 3/16 (MV), 3 in East Liberty 3/17 (DY), and one at IMP 3/24 (DY).

Always a welcome find, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Frick Park 4/29 (SK) and another was at BMP 5/7 (DW). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Beechwood Farms 5/5 and 2 were there 5/10 (BSh). One was found in East Liberty 5/12 (DY). **Cape May Warbler** reports were good with single birds at IMP 5/10 (GM), Sewickley Heights Park 5/11 (SK), IMP 5/12 (MV), Settlers Cabin Park 5/13 (MV, GM), and BMP 5/20 (DW). Two were found at Settler's Cabin Park 5/12 (SK, NN). Single **Pine Warblers** were reported at East Liberty 4/17 (DY), BMP 4/22 (DW), and Harrison Hills Park 4/26 (PH). **Palm Warbler** reports were very good for this uncommon species in the county; birds were reported from nine locations. A rather early bird was in O'Hara Twp. 3/17 (PB), and 16 were tallied at BMP 4/28 (DW). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was a great find along a stream in Hampton Twp. 4/29 (BSh). This was the third consecutive spring this species has been recorded in the county. Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported in four locations: 4/25 in Moon Township (GM), 4/26 at Harrison Hills Park (PH), 4/30 at BMP (DW), and 5/12 at Riverview Park (FM, CM). For several years this species was regular at Frick Park, however it was not found this spring. A **Swainson's Warbler** was heard singing in a remote area of Settler's Cabin Park 5/12 through the end of the month. Two birds were eventually found and fell within the safe dates for the Breeding Bird Atlas (FM, CM). As of this writing, breeding was still not confirmed. The last report of this species in the county was Apr 2004. This was the fourth county record. **Mourning Warblers** were reported at Frick Park 5/9 (WS, DS), Sewickley Heights Park 5/10 (GM), Boyce Park 5/15 (MF), and BMP 5/21-22 (DW). Other less common species reported include **Wilson's Warbler**, **Canada Warbler** and **Northern Waterthrush**. A total of 36 warbler species were recorded this spring.

Eight **Fox Sparrows** were BMP 3/16 were the max. count for the spring (DW). A male **Dickcissel** was a great find at BMP 5/22 (DW). The bird was rather secretive; it wasn't singing and was located while walking

along the edge of a field. It was present the entire day, but could not be relocated the following day.

Rusty Blackbird reports included one at BMP 3/5 (DW), 3 at IMP 3/15 (GM), 13 on a farm in Findlay Twp. 3/17 feeding with **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** (GM), 29 at BMP 4/17 (DW), and 8 at that location 4/24 (DW). A female **Brewer's Blackbird** with pale eyes was found in Pine Twp. 3/26 (PL, SL).

Purple Finch reports were good this season. Two were in Pine Twp. 3/28 and one was there 4/14-4/17 (PL, SL), 2 were at Harrison Hills Park 3/31 (PH), and one was there 4/19 (PH, JS, SS). Single birds visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 4/21 and 4/24 (PH), one was in East Liberty 5/18, and 2 were in Sewickley 5/21-23 (GM).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Elderton (EDT), Keystone Reservoir (KR), McWilliams (McW), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Worthington (WT), Yatesboro (YB).

Four **Wood Ducks** at KR 3/17 (MH,RH) were first; 5 were at McW 4/19 (CG,MH). The Margaret mine drainage treatment ponds hosted a single **Gadwall** 3/7 (MH). **American Wigeon** reports were limited to 4 on 3/17 at KR (MH,RH). KR yielded 2 **American Black Ducks** and 6 **Mallards** 3/17 (MH,RH) while 4 **American Black Ducks** lingered at Glade Run Marsh 4/19 (CG,MH). Eight **Northern Pintails** stopped at RT 3/2 (MH). Six **Green-winged Teal** at KR 4/17 (LC) were the only ones noted. Four **Canvasbacks** were found at RT 3/2 (MH). **Ring-necked Duck** tallies included one at RT 3/2 (MH), 22 at Margaret 3/5 (MH,RH), and 45 at KR 3/17 (MH,RH); 6 on 4/17 (LC) at KR were last. Single **Lesser Scaup** were reported at RT 3/2 (MH) and at KR 3/17 (MH,RH); other reports included 17 at KR 4/17 (LC) and 2 near EDT 4/22 (MH,RH). KR harbored 24 **Buffleheads** 3/30 (MH) while 6 were listed there 4/17 (LC). Top **Hooded Merganser** count at KR was 17 on 3/30 (MH). Six **Common Mergansers** were at RT 3/3 (MH), 11 at Manorville, and 2 at CC; 9 visited KR 3/17 (MH,RH). Fifty-three was a good count of **Red-breasted Mergansers** at KR 4/17 (LC). **Wild Turkey** maxima included 10 at Girty 3/2 (MH) and 23 in RV 3/28 (LU).

The first two **Common Loons** arrived at KR 4/17 (LC); 4 was KR's high count 4/30 (MH). KR harbored 4 **Pied-billed Grebes** 4/17 (LC) and 2 on 4/22 (MH,RH). **Horned Grebes** stopped at KR between 3/30-4/30 (MH) with counts of 2-7.

Four **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared at KR 4/22 (MH,RH), the lone report. A **Great Egret** visited KR 4/30 (MH). First **Green Heron** was listed near McCrea Furnace 4/22 (RH).

Bald Eagle sightings included 2 at CC 3/2 (MH), one subadult and one adult. A pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** was listed near Hoosicks Mill 4/14 (MH,RH). A **Cooper's Hawk** visited a YB feeder 4/10 (PB).

An **American Coot** at KR 3/17 (MH,RH) was the first and only report. First **Killdeer** was listed at CC 3/6 (JV,JVa); 9 were found near EDT 3/17 (MH,RH) while 6 were noted at YB 3/24 (PB). First **Spotted Sandpiper** was spotted near EDT 4/22 (MH,RH).

Ring-billed Gulls were only listed 3/2 (MH) with counts of 2 at Manorville, 5 at RT, and one at CC. A **Forster's Tern** 5/2 (JV,JVa) at CC was the lone report.

First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/30 at KR (MH). First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** returned to YB 4/27 (PB). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/22 (CG,MH) n. of Dayton. Earliest **Blue-headed Vireos** and **Yellow-throated Vireo** were found near Belknap 4/19 (CG,MH); this was rather early for the latter species. A pair of **Common Ravens** was observed near Milton Loop 4/22 (MH,RH). At least 8 **Purple Martins** were perched on the boxes at the colony near EDT 4/22 (MH,RH). Arrival dates included 3/30 (MH) for **Tree Swallow** near EDT and 4/22 (MH,RH) for both **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at KR and **Barn Swallows** near McCrea Furnace.

A wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last seen at YB 4/24 (ED). **House Wren** returned to RV 5/8 (LU). A **Winter Wren** was singing near Belknap 4/22 (CG,MH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** near McGregor and McCrea Furnace were first 4/22 (MH,RH). **Hermit Thrush** reports included one near Mahoning L. 4/19 (CG,MH) and 2 near McGregor 4/22 (MH,RH). First **Wood Thrushes** were 2 near KR 5/12 (SP). **Gray Catbird** arrived at YB 4/26 (PB). A **Brown Thrasher** sighted 4/19 (CG,MH) near McW was first.

First dates included 4/30 (MH) for **Yellow Warbler** near KR and 4/22 (MH,RH) for 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at KR and a single **Prairie Warbler** near McGregor. April 19 yielded 6 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, 4 near Mahoning L., one near Belknap, and one near McW (CG,MH).

Two **Eastern Towhees** arrived 3/16 at YB (ED) where 2 **American Tree Sparrows** lingered till 4/11 (ED). **Chipping Sparrows** returned to YB 4/10 (PB). First **Field Sparrow** was near McGregor 4/22 (MH,RH). April 19 (CG,MH) produced the first **Vesper Sparrows** near Mahoning L. and the first **Savannah Sparrows** both near Glade Run Marsh and near McW. One to 2 **Fox Sparrows** were found at RV 3/20-3/28 (LU). A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at RV 5/5 (LU). First **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared at YB 4/10 (PB) while YB also yielded the last 5/9 (ED). Last **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 6 at YB 4/24 (ED).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at YB 4/28 (ED) and 3 **Indigo Buntings** at RV 5/12 (LU) were first. First **Eastern Meadowlarks** and **Rusty Blackbird** surfaced near EDT 3/17 (MH). Ten **Common Grackles** returned 3/1 at Ford City (JV,JVa). First **Baltimore Orioles** was noted at RV 5/19 (LU).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver River (BR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Ohio River (OR), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

It was an interesting season in *Beaver*, and one of extremes. Following a stretch from early Feb to mid-Mar that was among the coldest on record in sw. PA, temperatures rebounded dramatically in late Mar and very early Apr, with 15 days of temperatures well above normal, topping out at a whopping 78F in Pittsburgh 3/26 and 79F 4/3. This period was accompanied by a strong southerly flow, which ushered first real waves of migrants to sw. PA. Unfortunately for those early birds, winter made a late and stubborn push beginning 4/5 and continuing for the next two weeks. This period included 4 nights in a row below freezing and several more with temperatures dipping below 40. Frequent rain and even occasional heavy snow made life miserable for birds and birders alike in mid-Apr, and took a heavy toll on early returners. Foliage, which had begun to appear in late Mar, was stunted or killed outright. The damage lasted well into May, by which time temperatures had finally moderated, when trees were still mostly bare on 5/1.

Many arrival dates were similarly extreme. A few species reappeared quite early, such as **Pine Warbler** 3/4, **Yellow Warbler** 4/11, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 3/31. Several species were also notably delayed, but none so much as the **Gray Catbird**, absent until 5/6! Normally first reported by 4/20 and abundant throughout the county by 5/1, catbirds did not return in their usual ubiquity this season until well into the third week of May.

In the rarities department, *Beaver* birders turned up several headliners, most notably **Red-throated Loon**, **Willet**, **Whimbrel**, and **Red-necked Phalarope**. Also impressive were reports of **White-winged** and **Black Scoters**, **American Bittern**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Common Raven**, and **Common Redpoll** (continuing from the winter season).

Waterfowl made their best showing in *Beaver* in recent memory this spring, probably owing to the extreme cold of Feb which forced birds completely off Lake Erie and the other larger reservoirs north of the area. Surf Scoter was the only regular w. PA duck species that escaped detection. A large flock of dabbling ducks which persisted for several weeks at LBL was monitored by MV and, to a lesser extent, GM. Peak counts from this location included 28 **Gadwall** 4/24, 25 **American Wigeon** 3/18, 32 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/15, 9 **Northern Shoveler** 3/23, 15 **Northern Pintail** 3/2, and 66 **Green-winged Teal** 3/23 (all high counts MV). Countywide, **Gadwall** were noted in numbers and frequency not often found here, with many sightings also at AR, where MV counted 24 on 4/24, the same day he counted 28 at LBL, making for a great day's total of 52. **American Wigeon** similarly persisted in higher than normal numbers throughout the county, with double-digit daily counts most days in Apr (MV, GM). **Blue-winged Teal** returned to LBL 3/18 where they remained downright common through mid-May (MV, GM). Daily counts exceeded 20 on five occasions in the latter half of Apr. **Northern Shoveler** was found away from LBL only once, at AR 4/10 (MV). **Northern Pintail** was the only dabbling species well reported; they had departed the LBL super-flock by 3/23 and were not recorded in the county thereafter. Most impressive of all dabbling species was **Green-winged Teal**. At least 50 were present at LBL for the last two weeks of Mar, and again 4/15-4/21. The highest daily count was 78 on 3/23, when MV recorded his 66 at LBL and an additional 12 at IND. Green-wings held on at LBL until 5/12 (GM).

The only report of **Canvasback** was a group of 4 that remained at RCH from the winter season until 3/7 (MV, GM). **Redheads** were also gone early, with the last having departed by 3/23. **Ring-necked Ducks** were easily found throughout the county 3/1-4/19, with the highest count being 68 at the industrial ponds north of BBW (MV). A straggling pair of this species remained at BBW until 5/12 (GM). Three reports of **Greater**

Scaup would be good in most seasons but seemed disappointing in a season like this, with the best being 9 at RCH 3/20 (MV). Much more common were **Lesser Scaup**; like Ring-necks, they were easily found throughout. Best count of 45 came during a fallout at AR 3/28 (MV).

A pair of **White-winged Scoters** at AR 4/29 (MV) followed two reports of this hard-to-find species from the winter season. Even rarer was a pair of **Black Scoters** at RCH 3/15 (GM). **Long-tailed Ducks** were twice reported by MV: 3 put down as part of a fallout at AR 3/28, and 4 were at that same location 4/15. **Bufflehead** high counts topped out at 22 twice in Apr, while an apparently healthy male lingered at LBL until the very late date of 5/20 (MV, GM). **Hooded Merganser** numbers were excellent, with a peak of 63 at the gravel ponds north of BBW 3/21 (MV). **Common Mergansers** seemed a bit underreported; best were 20 on the OR 3/9 (MV). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were sporadically found in low numbers 2/24-4/28 (m. obs.). Similarly, **Ruddy Ducks** were found frequently but never in impressive numbers for most of Mar and Apr (MV, GM).

Providing a first record for RCSP and one of only a few for the county in the past 30 years was a winter-plumaged **Red-throated Loon** discovered on the park lake 4/16 by MV (ph. GM). The bird remained until 4/19 and was seen by several observers. This Red-throated accompanied an incredible fallout of **Common Loons** in the county 4/15-4/17. On 4/15, MV counted 36 at AR and 13 at LBL, for a total of 49. On 4/16, MV and GM combined efforts to tally up 101 at AR, and on the morning of 4/17, GM returned to count the Common Loons at AR and RCSP and came up with 119, including 115 at AR alone! This was almost certainly the highest *Beaver* count on record. The bulk departed 4/17; MV counted only 9 at AR 4/18. Also of note was a breeding-plumaged **Common Loon** that remained on the BR until 6/12 (MV). Usually, loons that linger into early summer in sw. PA are 1st-year individuals not making the journey to the breeding grounds. **Horned Grebes** had a very nice showing this spring, with 11 reports 3/7-4/6, including 10 at LBL 3/26 (MV).

An **American Bittern** along Raccoon Creek in Potter Twp. 4/22 was a great find (ph. ER). The bird was not relocated; however, this was not the first time ER has found American Bitterns at this location. There were five reports of **Great Egret**, including 2 that were slightly late 5/20 at IND (MV).

S. A.

It was reported in this space last season that a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** had taken up residence on the underside of the East Rochester Bridge over the Ohio R. between Monaca and Rochester in central *Beaver*, the county's first known pair to attempt to nest in modern times. This season, the great news from Monaca continued. Throughout the spring, SG made nearly daily observations of the pair, and kept local birders and the PA Game Commission (PGC) authorities up to date on all the happenings. He observed copulation several times in early Mar, and speculated that eggs had been laid sometime around 3/25. On 3/27, he confirmed without a doubt that the male was unbanded, which raises the very interesting question of that bird's place of birth. Apr was relatively uneventful, likely because the birds were on nest. However, on 5/8 SG reported that he was losing hope, because he had not seen any prey being taken to the nest in some time. But by then arrangements had already been made with the PGC to come out and examine the site, and on 5/16 the visit was made. Given the bleak outlook throughout May, everyone present (which included SG, DB, BF, DD, and TK) was shocked and delighted to find two young on the nest and a frantically objecting female Peregrine screeching at the intruders from just a few feet away! The hatch date was estimated to be around 5/10.

The PGC personnel returned 5/31 to band the two chicks, which turned out to be a healthy male and female. At that time the PGC also got a close look at the adult female, which SG had found to be banded in Feb but whose band numbers could not be discerned until 5/31. BF quickly found that she was named Kelly, and she fledged in 2003 from a nest in downtown Chicago near the Sears Tower, one of five female fledglings from that location that year. Interestingly, Kelly's father, Jingles, was 17 years old at the time of Kelly's fledging and was the male half of Chicago's very first nesting Peregrine pair. Greater Chicago now supports more than 10 nesting pairs annually; with the addition of Kelly and her mate in *Beaver* and another pair discovered by Dan Yagusic this season under the 62nd Street Bridge in *Allegheny*, Greater Pittsburgh now supports four pairs, and counting.

It is not possible to exaggerate the credit that must go to Scott Gregg for his efforts to observe and document *Beaver's* nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons. His enthusiasm for these birds and his attention to detail are nearly unparalleled in this author's experience, and his record of the events reads like a daily diary of the life of Peregrine Falcons. In late May, Scott was finally rewarded by earning the attention of the editors at the *Beaver County Times*, who on 6/3 published a full account of the Monaca pair's story, based largely on interviews they held with Scott himself. Kudos to Scott for his diligence in recording and sharing the wonderful story of the *Beaver* Peregrines with the world!

Ospreys returned to the nest site in Industry for at least the fourth consecutive year 3/14 (SG). This pair was seen feeding young 5/20 (SG). Another pair also returned to a nest site in Midland which failed last year, first noted this year 4/22 (SG). A migrant **Osprey** or two were also recorded elsewhere in Apr. Nine reports of **Bald Eagle**, probably representing 6 different birds, were received throughout the season, which was better than average. SG personally tracked down 3 **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests in central *Beaver* this season, and GM added two more at SGL 285, making for a nice little population of this species in the county. A **Merlin** reported near the PA Turnpike bridge over PA-18 in early Apr (JM *fide* SG) was the only reported. A flyover immature **Northern Goshawk** at West Mayfield 4/12 (SG) was an excellent find and the second for this species in the county in 2007.

Virginia Rails returned to Madden Run Marsh 4/12 (MV). They were suspected breeding there last year but eluded confirmation. One or 2 **Soras** took up residence at LBL 4/28-5/20 (MV, GM), but apparently departed by the end of May.

Seventeen species of shorebirds were recorded at LBL this season (18 total for the county), including a **Whimbrel** 5/27 (MV), the second record for the county and the second in as many years at LBL. This year, unfortunately, GM did not arrive in time with enough light to document the bird via photograph. All shorebird reports that follow are from LBL except where noted otherwise.

Black-bellied Plovers were twice recorded, on 5/12 and 2 on 5/24 (MV). **Semipalmated Plover** numbers peaked at 15 on 5/12 (MV, GM). Eleven **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/10 (MV) was the best count. The only shorebirds of consequence found away from LBL were 5 **Willetts** found by ER on the bank of the OR at Monaca 4/27 (ph. ER, ph. GM). This was the third record of this species for *Beaver* in the past two years, following a several-decade hiatus prior to that. Back at LBL, 18 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were the best count of the season 5/24 (MV); 34 **Least Sandpipers** was the top count 5/12 (GM). At least 16 **Least** remained until 5/26 (GM). **White-rumped Sandpipers** moved through quickly, with two reports: 5 on 5/20 (MV), and 8 on 5/26 (GM). Shockingly, there was but one report of **Pectoral Sandpiper**, a single 4/28 (MV). A solitary **Dunlin** 4/4 was early; more timely were birds that moved through 5/4-5/20. A single *griseus* **Short-billed Dowitcher** present 5/24-28 (MV) was joined by 4 *hendersoni* 5/26 (GM). Excellent but becoming less surprising at LBL was a female **Red-necked Phalarope** 6/3 (MV). This was the third or fourth record for LBL, and the sixth for the county. Other shorebirds recorded this season included **Killdeer**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock**.

Bonaparte's Gulls apparently pushed though a bit earlier compared to the past three years, when the peak came on exactly 4/10 each year. This season, good-sized flocks were seen 3/20-4/7, such as 29 at RCH 3/20 (MV) and 34 at Hereford Manor L. 4/7 (MV). April 10 itself was quite uneventful (GM, MF). Whatever peak came this year likely moved through in the last week of Mar or the first week of Apr when nobody was watching. GM and MV combined for a spectacular total of 19 **Caspian Terns** migrating along the OR at the county line 4/15. This was quite likely a record high for the county. Another 8 were seen moving toward *Beaver* from the same location 4/28 (MF). The only reported **Forster's Terns** this season accompanied these Caspians, with counts of 5 on 4/15 (MV) and 5 on 4/28 (MF).

The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was not reported until 5/13 at IND (BS). **Whip-poor-wills** were once again very dense at SGL 285 beginning 4/29; at least 9 were counted 5/12 (GM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** at LBL 5/26 (MV) was a great find; red-heads are rare and irregular in sw. PA. Only two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported, one at North Sewickley Twp. 3/29 (JM) and one at RCSP 4/2 (KSJ).

GM conducted a 15-hour marathon big day throughout the county on PAMC 5/12 and racked up 123 species and some impressive counts of various passerines, while other species counts made by GM 5/12 were curiously low. Many of these counts follow in the remainder of this report. An **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 285 on 5/12 (GM) was a nice find. Only 4 **Great Crested Flycatchers** 5/12 (GM) was a surprisingly low total. A single **Philadelphia Vireo** at RCSP 5/12 (GM) was a good find for spring. This species seems a little easier to track down in fall. Eighty-six **Red-eyed Vireos** 5/12 (GM) was notable.

A **Common Raven** found last season at RCH remained in that area until at least 4/29. Another, or possibly the same bird, was seen at LBL 3/30 (MV). Evidence strongly suggests this species is on the increase in sw. PA, with recent records also in *Allegheny* and especially *Washington*. A **Purple Martin** at LBL 5/12 (MV) was also a nice find. Forty-five **Bank Swallows** were found at the gravel ponds north of BBW 5/12 (GM); perhaps there is a colony nearby on the gravel company property that is waiting to be discovered. **Bank Swallows** also returned to a colony site near Montgomery Lock & Dam for the third straight year, first noted 5/28 (MV). Several **Brown Creepers**, perhaps more than normal, were found on migration at various locations 4/2-28 (MV, GM, MF, KSJ). **Winter Wrens** were found only at RCSP 4/2 (KSJ) and 4/22 (MV). As noted elsewhere, **Carolina Wren** numbers were down this spring in *Beaver*, likely due to the Feb freeze-up. GM noted only 7 on his big day 5/12, and other observers reported similarly low numbers. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** arrived on the early extreme of their normal window, first found at Hereford

Manor 4/7 (MV). *Catharus* thrushes were nearly invisible, with just one report of **Swainson's Thrush**, at SGL 285 on 5/12 (MD) and two reports of **Hermit Thrush**, including one in an Aliquippa yard 5/4 (BW). **Gray Catbirds** were very late as noted in the introduction; GM counted only 23 on 5/12, a date on which it would not be completely unreasonable to add a zero to GM's total as an expected big day count. **Brown Thrashers** returned in a much more timely fashion, first noted at LBL 3/30 (MV).

Twenty-nine species of wood-warbler were recorded this spring, a relatively low total. Twelve **Tennessee Warblers** were found 5/12 (GM). A nice count of 61 **Yellow Warblers** was made 5/12 (GM). A single **Yellow Warbler** near RCSP 4/11 was very early (GM). A single **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen near a nest site from last year at SGL 285 on 5/12 (GM). Surprisingly, **Magnolia Warbler** was reported only from RCSP 5/12 (GM). **Blackburnian Warblers** were noted variously 4/28-5/12. A **Pine Warbler** visited a *Beaver Falls* backyard 3/4-11 (ph. SB), another species which reappeared at the earliest end of its normal migration window. Another **Pine** was found at RCSP 5/20 (MV), this one at the late extreme of its migration dates. **Prairie Warblers** returned to SGL 285 by 4/28. This species can be difficult to find on migration away from SGL 285, so a single at AR 5/12 was pleasing (GM). An early **Palm Warbler** was seen in *Beaver Falls* 3/31 (SB). More timely were birds recorded 4/28-5/12, including a peak of 10 at AR 5/3 (MV). **Bay-breasted** and **Blackpoll Warblers** were each limited to a single birds at AR 5/20 (MV). Fifty-two **American Redstarts** 5/12 (GM) were in just about at their expected abundance that day, whereas only 23 **Ovenbirds** was very low. The **Ovenbird** count was mostly due to GM's choice of habitats to search, however. A **Northern Waterthrush**, always a good find in *Beaver*, was at AR 5/24 (MV). **Louisiana Waterthrush** returned a bit early 3/30. A **Wilson's Warbler** at SGL 285 on 5/12 (GM) was the only reported, as was a **Canada Warbler** at AR 5/13 (MV).

GM counted 35 **Scarlet Tanagers** 5/12, less than was expected. The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen at Brush Creek Park 3/25 (JM). **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's Sparrows** were all first noted at traditional locations at SGL 285 on 4/28 (GM). **Fox Sparrows** were thinly reported 3/15-4/3 (GM, SB, LC). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at LBL 3/18 (MV) was a bit of an unusual date, otherwise, this species moved through quickly 5/2-5/6 (BW, JM, GM).

Sixty-five **Indigo Buntings** was a nice total 5/12 (GM). **Rusty Blackbirds** had a decent flight, with reports 3/15-4/24, including a peak of 25 at Brush Creek Park 3/21 (JM). Only 2 **Orchard Orioles** noted 5/12 (GM) was absurdly low, but 49 **Baltimore Orioles** that same day was better than expected. SB told an amazing tale of an errant **Baltimore Oriole** male that flew into an open second-story window at her *Beaver Falls* house 5/2. The bird could not find its way back out, and remained stuck in the house for over an hour. Eventually, SB was able to lure the bird back to the open window with some orange slices, and it finally made its way back outside shortly thereafter. SB obtained a nice picture of the bird sitting on a parrot perch inside her house, hardly a classic field guide portrait!

A pair of **Purple Finches** frequented an Aliquippa yard beginning 3/31 and remaining perhaps as late as 5/12 (BW). Otherwise, the only report was of a pair at RCSP 4/28 (GM). The **Common Redpoll** that wintered at that same Aliquippa yard was last seen 3/10 (BW, MF).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 **Amherst Avenue**, **Moon Township, PA, 15108**, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net, Simone Bennett, Dan Brauning, Lauren Conkle, Karyn Delaney, Michael Dietrich, Doug Dinkerly, Mike Fialkovich, Beth Fife, Scott Gregg, Richard Grigg, Chuck Herold, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Todd Katzner, Joel Mason, Ed Richards, Becky Smith, Kate St. John (KSJ), Mark Vass, Bill Walbek.

Bedford County

Locations: Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DC), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Allegheny Front (AF), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC).

Cold weather left little open water until March 15th resulting in some waterfowl flyover. The season was characterized more by unusually high numbers than species, although a pair of **Eurasian Wigeons** was a nice find. Most of the following information is by the author, PMC participants, Allegheny Front Hawk Watch counters and the Bedford Nature Club.

The waterfowl season was interesting despite frozen lakes and storms. At DC during the freeze, 3/10, the following were found in a short stretch of Dunnings Creek waiting for impoundments to open: 36 **Mallards**, 2 **Buffleheads**, 38 **Wood Ducks**, 3 **Black Ducks** and 3 **Great Blue Herons**.

One **Canada x White Fronted Goose hybrid** was observed 3/13 at SSP. A small flock of 380 **Snow Geese** were seen flying over the AF 3/1. The largest gathering of migratory **Canada Geese** was 2000 sitting on ice at DCW 3/12. **Tundra Swan** this year were flyovers with only 76 at SSP in a small opening 3/5. Two **Mute Swans**, a rarity in the county now, were seen 5/12 on the PMC.

At DCW the following highs were counted: 205 **Wood Ducks** 3/17, 22 **Green-wing Teal** 3/18, 10 **American Black Duck** 3/18, 140 **Mallards** 3/20, 52 **Northern Pintail** 3/30, 20 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/7, 4 **Northern**

Shoveler 4/12, 16 **Gadwall** 4/15, 36 **American Widgeon** 3/25, and 2 **Eurasian Wigeon** 4/6.

Only 2 **Canvasback** were counted 3/11 at SSP, 3 **Redheads** 3/13 at DCW. At SSP the highs were 75 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/13, 60 **Greater Scaup** 4/15, 20 **Lesser Scaup** 4/15, 211 **Long-tailed Duck** 4/15, 3 **Surf Scoters** 4/27. At DCW 4 **Common Goldeneye** were counted on 3/24, 162 **Bufflehead** 4/15 at SSP, 18 **Hooded Merganser** 3/20 at DCW, 48 **Common Merganser** 3/25 at SSP and 210 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SSP 4/18. The **Ruddy Duck** had a good showing with 320 at SSP and 210 at DCW 4/27 for a total of 530 that day.

Four **Red-throated Loons** were present at SSP 4/18. Following a heavy storm system 202 **Common Loons** settled into SSP 4/15. Seven **Pied-billed Grebes** were observed at DC 3/20 and 42 **Horned Grebes** at SSP 4/15. The high for **Double-crested Cormorants** was 160 on 4/29 at SSP. The first appearance of 3 **American Bitterns** 4/29 and 2 **Least Bitterns** 5/22 were at DCW. Nine **Great Egrets** were observed 5/2 at DCW and 2 **Little Blue Herons** 5/12 at SSP. Two **Green Herons** reappeared at the late date of 5/21 at DCW.

There are only a few Spring Hawkwatchers and the AFHW is one. The following is the count from 2/25-5/7. The marked numbers indicate a season record: **Black Vulture** 26*, **Turkey Vulture** 268, **Osprey** 135, **Bald Eagle** 26*, **Northern Harrier** 31, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 265*, **Cooper's Hawk** 85, **Northern Goshawk** 4, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 72, **Broad-winged Hawk** 327, **Red-tailed Hawk** 489, **Rough-legged Hawk** 4, **Golden Eagle** 76, **American Kestrel** 27, **Peregrine Falcon** one, **Merlin** 3 and unidentified hawks 130, for a total of 1969 raptors. Soon this hawk site will be surrounded by 40 (two megawatt) 400 foot industrial wind turbines. It is unlikely we will be able to stop this process and it is my hope we can continue with the count.

One **Common Moorhen** appeared 4/28, along with 88 **American Coots** 4/28. Bittern pool at Dunning's Creek is drawn down by three inches of horizontal retreat starting 5/1 and the following are high counts at or around this pool: 30 **Black-bellied Plover** 5/25, 7 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/22, 10 **Killdeer** 5/22, 15 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/22, 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/18, one **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/22, 3 **Whimbrel** 5/27, 6 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/12, 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/28, 16 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/16, 15 **Least Sandpiper** 5/22, 58 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/15, 13 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/22, 17 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/18, 16 **Dunlin** 5/22, 27 **Wilson's Snipe**, 5 **American Woodcock** 4/22 and one **Wilson's Phalarope** 5/29.

Forty **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed over a field near SSP 4/22. Two hundred and ten **Ring-billed Gulls** were at SSP 4/18, 24 **Caspian Terns** were there 4/18, and 6 **Forster's Terns** were at DCW 4/22. This is the second year we missed Black Terns.

Six **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 18 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were counted on the PMC. The number reflects the gypsy moth activity. **Whip-poor-will** were heard along the Allegheny Front (5/22). This is a consistent area for nesting and the most predictable area to hear them. Ten **Common Nighthawks** were flying over DCW 5/18. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were missed on the *Bedford* PMC, however, there are many excellent habitats of large oaks with little understory in and around pastures that could easily be missed. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was spotted at the AF 5/5. The only flycatcher not seen on the PMC count was the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. The PMC counted the following vireos: 4 **White-eyed**, 3 **Blue-headed**, one **Yellow-throated**, 3 **Warbling**, 6 **Philadelphia** and 34 **Red-eyed**. The top 6 warblers were: 87 **Common Yellowthroats**, 66 **Ovenbirds**, 36 **Yellow Warblers**, 34 **American Redstarts**, 27 **Black and-white Warblers** and 16 **Cerulean Warblers**. The ceruleans, a species in deep decline, were spotted in one flock by Tom and Debbie Bodenschatz. A **Marsh Wren** was flushed at DCW 5/2.

The PMC also showed stable numbers in **Scarlet Tanagers** at 59. **Bobolinks** were low at 8. All the sparrows were counted with the exception of **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow Sparrow**, which were picked up the following day. Orioles on the PMC were lower this year but the proportion was 1:6 of **Orchard Orioles** to **Baltimore Orioles** where in most years is 1:10. Two **Pine Siskins** and one **Evening Grosbeak** were counted on the PMC.

Observers: **Tom Dick**, 123 **Hummer Lane**, **Cairnbrook, PA, 15924, (814) 754-5727**, **Thomasd102@aol.com**, *Bedford Nature Club*, Sally Dick, Gene and Nancy Flament, Ed Gowarty, Kevin Georg, Eric Hall, Connie Hunt, Merle and Karen Jackson, Rosemary McGlynn, Che and Marian Mincone, Bob Stewart.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Glen Morgan Lake IBA (GML), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Land #110 on Kittatinny Ridge (SGL 110).

Spectacular flocks of geese and swans moving through the county 3/10-3/11 included 100,000 **Snow Geese** (~100 Blue), 25,000 **Canada Geese**, 3 **Cackling Geese** and 429 **Tundra Swans**, mostly concentrated on icy BML and LO (RK, JS, m.obs.). A **Ross' Goose** was among Snows at Gotwals pond, Oley 3/26 (KC). Among the big birds at LO 3/10 were seasonal high counts of 200 **American Wigeon**, 400 **American Black Ducks**, 600 **Mallards** and at least two **Mallard/Black hybrids**. A sleety

snowstorm the next week stalled 2200 **Northern Pintail** on the ice at LO 3/17, with 1000 remaining when the lake thawed 3/24 (RK); both counts far exceeded previous records. The thaw 3/24 also brought seasonal high counts of 208 **Green-winged Teal**, 350 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 1400 **Common Mergansers** to BML and LO (RK,JS).

Traditionally uncommon ducks included single **Northern Shovelers** at Kernsville Dam 3/21 (TC) and LO 3/24 (RK), two **White-winged Scoters** at LO 4/2 and another 4/27 (MS), and 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** at LO 3/24 (MS). Rain dropped 20 **Common Loons** at BML 4/15 (JS) and 15 at LO 4/16 (MS). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at LO 4/27-5/5 (MS).

Single **American Bitterns** were at a pond on Lowland Rd., Hamburg 3/25 (MW) and Kernsville Dam 4/8 (KG). Four **Least Bitterns** were heard at GML, a probable breeding location, 5/11 (KL). A **Little Blue Heron** was along the Maiden Creek above LO 5/8 (SS).

A **Mississippi Kite** was seen at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 4/29 (KG), and another was independently seen by two birders a few miles apart on the Reading Prong in District Twp. and Henningsville 5/12 (RK,PS). Many birders saw the LO **Bald Eagle** pair courting, copulating and hunting Snow Geese in Feb and Mar. Even more encouraging were multiple reports of immature birds of various ages. Lingering with winter were single light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** at LO 3/3 and BML 3/12 (RK,JS). An imm. **Golden Eagle** eating a Snow Goose on the ice at LO 3/7 (DH) and perhaps the same bird soaring over the lake 3/17 (RK) added to the few sightings south of the Kittatinny Ridge. Two **Merlins** were at BML 3/11 (JS) and another passed over District Twp. 4/23 (RK). A **Peregrine Falcon** was in the Oley Valley 3/25 (RK). A blog by Bill Uhrich detailing the saga of *Berks* first nesting *Peregrines* in Reading can be read at www.readingeagle.com.

A **Sora** was heard at BML 5/11 (KL). A **Sandhill Crane** was spotted flying over the hills near Boyertown 5/20 (PO). Ten species of shorebirds were reported, including a **Black-bellied Plover** on Evansville Rd. near LO 5/9 (KL) and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Shartlesville 5/15-5/21 (DW). Earthworms in spent mushroom compost spread on the seasonally flooded field on Evansville Rd. attracted 50 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/15 (MW).

The spring high count of 36 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made at the same field 4/17 (KL), with 20 more at Shartlesville 4/29 (KG). A second winter **Glaucous Gull** brought by a storm was late at LO 3/17 (RK). The only reported terns were a **Caspian Tern** at LO 4/16 (MS), 2 **Common Terns** at BML and one at LO 4/27 (JS,KL), and a **Black Tern** at LO 5/13 (RK).

A juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintering at Kaufmann Rd., Oley Twp. was acquiring adult plumage 3/3 (RK), and a migrant was near Bethel 5/11 (CC). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** seen and heard at SGL 110 on 5/5 (JE) was early. A **Common Raven** soaring over LO 3/24 (RK) was part of a recent trend of sightings south of the Kittatinny Ridge. The only reported **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in VA pines at SGL 110, Stony Creek 5/20 (TC), where breeding is likely but unconfirmed. A **Marsh Wren** was in the cattails at Peters Cr., LO 4/27 (DW). There were three records of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/6, 12, and 21 (KL, RK, HH). A flock of 80 **American Pipits** was in Windsor Twp. 4/20 (KG).

Birders reported 32 warbler species, including a now locally rare **Golden-winged Warbler** at SGL 110 5/10-5/2626 (KG). **Pine Warblers** visited suet feeders near Bechtelsville 4/6 (JK) and in Bern Twp. 4/21 (DK). One to 3 **Cerulean Warblers** were found near Bethel 5/7 (CC) and on the Kittatinny Ridge 5/12 (SF,LS), as well as at their most consistent breeding area along Hay Cr. south of Birdsboro (KL). A **Prothonotary Warbler** returned for the third year to a presumed nesting territory along the Maiden Cr. above LO 4/30 (SS). The mid-Mar snowstorm concentrated **Fox Sparrows** at feeders and scraped roadsides, with 74 reported 3/17 and probably hundreds unreported. A breeding plumaged male **Lapland Longspur** was in a Horned Lark flock near Hamburg 3/17 (MW). Use of feeders by returning **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** was again widely reported, with 20 at just one feeder near Bethel 5/7 (CC). The wintering imm. female **Dickcissel** that appeared at a feeder near Leesport 12/3/06 was last seen 5/1 (DK). A flock of 100 **Eastern Meadowlarks** along Bright School Rd. near BML on the foggy morning of 3/24 (JS) was very large for recent years. The highest spring count of **Rusty Blackbirds** was 57 near Hamburg 4/19 (KG).

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Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: East Smithfield (ESM), Trudy Gerlach's farm near New Era (TNE), Wildwood, Athens Twp.(WWD), Susquehanna River (SUR), Long Valley Run Road (Barclay Mt.) LVR.

Spring and summer these past few years in Bradford Co. have been birdy times. Folks out roaming around the county working on the PA Migration Count 5/12 and the PA Breeding Bird Atlas have uncovered the normally more concealed treasure of birdlife in our relatively sparsely populated county.

There were four duck species not always seen here: **American Widgeon** 3/24 at WWD (RS) and 5/12 at Crane Swamp (CM, GM); **American Black Duck** 3/24 at WWD (RS) and 5/12 (PAMC) at Crane Swamp (CM,GM); **Blue-winged Teal**, at WWD 4/13 (RS); and **Green-winged Teal**, at WWD 3/24 (RS).

An **American Bittern** has made a spring appearance at a wetland near ESM for the past several years, this year 5/7 (RG). A **Great Egret** was seen in Troy 5/5 (as reported to RY), and 5/12 at WWD (MBo, JP, MP). Two **Green Herons** were in the Sayre area 5/7 (RS); 5/12 there was one along Cayuta Creek near Sayre (RS) and one near ESM (LG, RG).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was mobbed by Blue Jays on Woods Rd., 3/19 (CM,GM). As last year, a **Black Vulture** showed up at Sugar Run, 5/5 (DB, MBu). There were more sightings of **Osprey** than usual: a Wilmot area pond 4/23 (TG), Saxe Pond 5/7 (TG), Peck Hill 5/9 (AV, GV), Ridgebury Lake 5/12 (BB, LB), Mt. Pisgah 5/12 (CM). **Bald Eagles** continue to be seen frequently: including 3/24 WWD (RS), and 10 on 5/12 at various locations along the SUR in the northern half of *Bradford* (during the PA Migration Count). A **Northern Harrier** was seen near Overton 4/24 (TG), and a pair of harriers, the male feeding the female, and another single one were at Wolfe Hollow Rd. 4/30 (JH). A pair of **American Kestrels** was nesting near ESM 5/12 (LG, RG). A white phase **Gyrfalcon** was seen 4/22 at Woods Rd. (CM, GM).

Sandhill Cranes were seen in more locations this year than last: 2 near Oak Hill doing a courtship dance 3/14 (CM, GM), 5 flying over Wyalusing 3/22 (CM, GM), heard at Overton 3/28 & 4/10 (SW), and seen 4/14 at Eddinger Hill (SG). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at WWD 4/14 (RS). Six **Solitary Sandpipers** were at the Athens boat launch on the Chemung River and WWD 5/12 PAMC (DP, SP, JP, MP, MBo). Seen extremely infrequently, a **Wilson's Snipe** was at Sugar Run 3/14 (CM), and winnowing at a Wilmot area wetland on both 5/6 and 5/12 (TG). As has been the case around this date for some years now, a flock of **Bonaparte's Gulls** graced the SUR at Towanda 3/2 (FI).

Two **Short-eared Owls** were found in their traditional wintering area near Columbia Crossroads 4/30 (JH). Infrequently observed, an **Eastern Screech Owl** was on Leunis Rd. near Woodside 5/21 (BF). **Acadian Flycatchers** are undoubtedly much more common in the country than previously known, as work on the Breeding Bird Atlas is making clear: one was at WWD 5/12 (RS), and one singing on LVR 5/23 & 5/30 (TG). There were 2 **Willow Flycatchers** on 5/12: Troy area (RY) and Mt. Pisgah S.P. (CM), and one at the Beers Wetland at Wysox 5/22 (TG). There were 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos** 5/12: Woodside (BF) and SUR in the Athens/Sayre area (MBo, DP, JP, MP, SP). Twenty seven **Horned Larks** were at Mt. Pisgah and 2 near Columbia Crossroads 4/30 (JF).

There was a **Rough-winged Swallow** at WWD 4/24 (RS), and in the Troy area 5/12 (RY). **Bank Swallows** were on the SUR 5/12 (DB, MBu, DN, ON, SN). **Cliff Swallows** were at Sayre Riverfront Park 5/3 (RS), and at the Sayre Bridge 5/12 (RS). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was at Eddinger Hill 4/14 (SG).

There were lots of rather infrequently seen warblers to report: The only **Blue-winged Warbler** report of the spring was at Woodside 5/12 (BF). A **Northern Parula**, 5/6, was at Sayre Riverfront Park (RS) and at Saxe Pond 5/7 (TG). **Magnolia Warblers** were observed 5/9 at TNE (TG), Chemung River (MBo, DP, JP, MP, SP); 5/12 in the Troy area (RY), 5/13 at TNE (TG), LVR 5/23 & 5/30 (TG). A **Cape May Warbler** was at Beebe Hill Rd. Woodside 5/12 (BF). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** are turning out to be quite common in migration and in the unpopulated, wooded higher elevations: 4/30 in a Sayre backyard (DP, SP), 5/12 Chemung River, Athens (DB, MBu, DN, ON, SN), 5/12 Kellogg Fire Tower Rd. & Barclay Mt. (TG), LVR 5/23 & 5/30 (TG). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at TNE 5/2 (TG), 5/12 at Mease Rd. and LVR 5/23 & 5/30 (TG). A **Palm Warbler** was at TNE 4/27 (TG), and at Mt. Pisgah SP 5/12 (CM). Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were at two wetlands at TNE 5/9 (TG), one at TNE 5/12 & 5/19 (TG), in the Troy area 5/12 (RY). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found in many more stream locations than usual: 5 in the Monroeton area 5/12 (BF), 2 on Mease Rd. 5/12 (TG), one on Wickham Falls Rd. 5/12 (TG), 2 on Deep Hollow Rd. 5/12 (TG), one on Lake Rd. near Wysox 5/22 (TG), and on LVR 5/30 (TG). A **Hooded Warbler** was at Beebe Hill Rd. Woodside 5/12 (BF). A **Canada Warbler** was at SGL 237 SW of Sayre 5/12 (MBo, DP, JP, MP, SP), SGL 142 5/13 (TG) and Schrader Creek at Long Valley 5/23 (TG).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at French Asylum 5/12 (BF). There were a total of 50 **Fox Sparrows** (along with 30 White-throated Sparrows and 70 Dark-eyed Juncos) in various flocks Hollenback to Wilmot feeding along roadside bare of snow, 3/19 (TG). Twenty six **Brown-headed Cowbirds** showed up at a Sayre feeder during the surprise snowstorm on 4/16 (RS). Responding to the same snowstorm, there was an **Evening Grosbeak** at a Moxie birdfeeder (SC).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Falls Twp. Community Park (FTP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #157 (SGL157), US Steel, Falls Twp. (USS).

As usual, weather played a role in bird sightings. Many area lakes were not clear of ice until mid-March, which helped stage some waterfowl waiting for the thaw. A light snow 3/7 and a hard-crusted snow and sleet storm 3/16 drove birds to feeders. With the cold weather, ice, and snow, it was hard to tell if birds were going north or heading south to escape. I think there was very little early migration. April remained cool with snow flurries on several days and averaged about 2.6°F below normal. The major event was the nor'easter of 4/15-4/16 which contributed to a record 10" of rain for the month which was over 6" above average. At least a couple of good birds were probably the result of the storm. May was 2.1°F above average and was dry with a 2" below average rainfall. The lack of severe weather in May probably was a factor in the lack of large fallouts.

The consensus was nearly universal that there were no really great warbler days this spring. The PAMC 5/12 had 75 participants providing 22 area reports totaling 163 species. The good PAMC total of 2114 individuals of 29 warbler species coming from 22 areas of the county indicated a much better day compared to last year's count. In general, the migration period, although enjoyable, lacked a lot of standout highlights. Despite what seemed like a slow early migration, species setting spring new early arrival dates outnumbered those with new late departure dates by 10 to 5. A total of 233 species were reported in the three-month period compared to 231 last year, not including escapes and exotics.

Historical references are from "Birds of Bucks Co." by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this Journal. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). Diane Allison compiled the PAMC data.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** continued from winter at MKF until at least 3/11, and another was reported at Silver Lake Park 3/11 (CH) and again 3/27-3/31 (DFI). This last date provided a new county late spring date from this location for the 2nd year in a row. The highest count of **Snow Geese** from two flocks totaled about 600 birds 3/15 at PVP (HD,BL,NZ,AM). A very small goose with them was most likely a **Ross's Goose** (AM). The last **Cackling Goose** reported was at CCP 3/6 (BK). **Tundra Swan** made a nice showing with peak counts of 92 at NSP 3/11 (BE), 15 at CVP 3/11 (BK), and 7 at PVP 3/3 and again 3/27 (AM). Some noteworthy peak counts included 52 **Gadwall** at USS 4/14 (DFa), 54 **American Wigeon** 3/25 at PRN (BK), 161 **American Black Duck** near Mudd Island 3/25 (CH), 10 **Blue-winged Teal** at PRN 4/10 (MH), 121 **Northern Pintail** at PWT 3/11 (DFa), 57 **Green-winged Teal** at BRD 4/13 (GJ), 20 **Greater Scaup** at FTP 3/20 (BK), 392 **Scaup species** (mostly **Lesser Scaup**) at PWT 3/24 (DFa), 62 **Hooded Mergansers** at PVP 3/22 (CR), 23 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/14 at PWT (DFa), and 136 **Ruddy Ducks** 3/20 at FTP (BK). A **Northern Shoveler** at PWT 5/9 (DFa) exceeded the previously known late departure date by 6 days. Five **Canvasbacks** and 8 **Redheads** were at PWT 3/11 (DFa), the most dependable location for these species. Six **Canvasbacks** were at Neshaminy State Park 3/21 (CH). A handful of other reports for the latter two species involved mostly single birds. **White-winged Scoters** made a move 4/12 with 3 at NSP (BE), another 3 at PWT (DFa), and 6 more at PVP (BK,JH,AM). One reported last season at Quaker Penn Park 2/25 (DFa), if a migrant, provided a new early spring migrant date. **Long-tailed Duck** was recorded at PVP with 5 on 3/20 and one 4/20 (AM,RfE), and NSP had 7 on 4/12 (BE). One, possibly injured, **Hooded Merganser** remained at PVP through the period (AM). **Common Merganser** peak counts included 1500 at NSP 3/15 (BE), up to 1800 at CCP 3/17 (GD), 1100 at FTP (BK), and 800 at PVP 3/20 (AM).

No Ruffed Grouse were reported again. Probably releases, 3 **Northern Bobwhite** were in Solebury Twp. 5/7 (MR).

Common Loon had a very modest peak of 50 at NSP 4/14 (BE). One 3/20 at PVP (AM) provided a new spring early migrant date. Late or staying individuals were reported 5/23 at PWT (DFa) and 5/24-5/31 at CVP (BK). **Pied-billed Grebes** again stayed to breed at USS in late May (DFa). Reported counts of **Horned Grebe** were mostly in the low single digits, so a high count of 15 at PVP 3/20 was noteworthy (AM). Up to 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were seen regularly between Neshaminy State Park and Mudd Island 3/6-4/5 (BK,CH), one was at PVP 3/23-4/3 (RfR,AM), up to 3 were present at PWT 3/31-4/29 (DFa), and 3 were at NSP 4/18 with one lingering until 4/20 (BE). Since they weren't reported in the county until early Feb, they probably started coming south at that time due to the late freeze to our north. The first migrants drifting north probably started in the

later part of Mar. Some high-count reports for **Double-crested Cormorant** were 188 at NSP 4/12 (BE), 200 at PVP 4/28 (AM), and 170 at Morrisville 5/4 (BK). The high total of 7 **Great Cormorants** at Bristol on 5/16 (DFa) seemed unusually late.

American Bittern numbers were low at QTS compared to recent years with only 9 total migrants noted there (BE,DFa). Others were reported from Buckingham Wetlands 4/9 (RH), PVP 4/25 (RZ), and at PVP 5/26 for a new spring late migrant date (BL). A **Least Bittern** was tallied for PAMC at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 5/12 (BMe). **Great Blue Heron** nests were surveyed in early Apr. Approximate nest counts were: Prahls Island, one (DFa), PWT, 8 (DFa), QTS, 16 (a sharp reduction) (BE), NSP from just outside the park, 24 (BE), Richland Twp., 54 (BE), and E. Rockhill Twp., 33 (DFa). A new site was discovered in Upper Makefield Twp. with 2 nests (DFa,BK). The total approximate number of nests in the county equals 138, which is a net increase from last year. The first **Great Egret** report came from Doylestown 4/4 (RH) with four other reports in Apr. The only May report was of 6 at PWT 5/13 (DFa). A record high PAMC count of 12 **Snowy Egrets** was reported 5/12 in Falls Twp. Another was at USS 5/24 (DFa). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was reported from Lower Makefield Twp. 5/4 (MD). A **Cattle Egret** was at PWT 4/28 (DFa), and another was at MKF 5/16 (RS), where they were also reported last year at both locations. A **Green Heron** at PVP 3/31 (DMc) provided a new spring first arrival date. Eight **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Silver Lake Park 4/10 (BK) and 6 at PWT 4/14-4/15 were the highest count reports (DFa) with other scattered reports from Silver Lake Park, CVP, and PVP from 3/12-5/5. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at QTS 3/31-4/3 (Sch, DFa,BE) providing a new early spring migrant date. This continues our string of annual reports of a species formally considered accidental. A **Glossy Ibis** was at FTP 4/15 (DFa). Another one was at PRN 4/29 (TF), a more unusual location. Multiple reports each year have become normal but usually from the southern Delaware River area.

Ospreys returned to nests at Riegelsville (AK) and Mudd Island (FW), both first reported 3/20. A pair at PWT 5/6 appeared to be building a nest but never finished (DFa). Our two **Bald Eagle** nests at CCP and Lynn Island both produced young (GD, AM). Most unusual and apparently very rare was a reported mixed nesting pair of **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Silver Lake Park first reported 4/14 (DFi,BMe). The nest failed. **Merlin** favored the MKF area with reports 3/11 (DFa), 3/23 (BK), and 4/14 (RS,AM). Fortunately for the **Lark Sparrow** there, the **Merlin** picked off other birds. Other reports came from Warminster 3/1 (GJ) and NSP 4/12 (BE).

Sharing bird of the season status was a **Black Rail** flushed at PRN 4/29 and last heard 5/5 (DFa). This is the first fully documented report for the county. There had been one other report in Sep 2003 and a possible sighting in Oct 1970. Protection of the bird and the fragile potential breeding habitat was of foremost concern. The late freeze may have caused the QTS **Virginia Rails** to leave for a while, as they were not noted for several weeks before being heard 3/31 (DFa). At least two **Soras** were located 5/8 in Warwick Twp. and continued through the season (CW). The strange part of this observation was that the location was basically a flood plain adjacent to a townhouse development. The wetland area had been nearly completely sprayed with herbicides turning most vegetation brown. **Common Moorhen** returned to USS 4/27 (ABi,NB,DFa). First found breeding there last year, they may have been there for many years, as apparently no one surveyed the site previously. A **Sandhill Crane** flying over QTS 4/30 was only the 6th county report (RFe).

Some good shorebird habitat was available at PWT and BRD. Credit all reports to Dfa at PWT unless otherwise noted. Some peak single site counts follow: 58 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/12, 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/6, 28 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/6, 19 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/7 at Washington Crossing (BK), 17 **Solitary Sandpipers** at Quakertown (RFe), 16 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/4-5/5 at Solebury Twp. (AM,JMi), 17 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/21 at BRD (AM), 12 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/16, approximately 500 **Least Sandpiper** 5/16, 85 **Least Sandpiper** 5/21 BRD (AM), one **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/23-5/24, 19 **Dunlin** 5/16, one **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/16-5/17, and 40 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/6 at BRD (GJ). Some other noteworthy reports follow. A total of 89 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/12 furnished a PAMC record high. Certainly the most rare shorebird of the season and sharing the top spot overall was an **American Oystercatcher** 4/19 at NSP (RFe), apparently a result of the nor'easter a couple of days earlier. This was the 1st fully documented but 2nd record for the county and one of about 5 for the state. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PWT 3/11 (DFa) provided a new spring early date. One **Sanderling** 5/12 (GC) in Middletown Twp. provided a first for the county for PAMC, our only spring report, and established a new spring early date. A **Least Sandpiper** at PVP 4/12 (AM) established a new spring early date. A PAMC record high 487 **Least Sandpipers** was tallied 5/12. Single **Dunlin** were at PRN 5/7 (RFe, MH), LaSalle Pond, Newtown 5/20 (BK), and BRD 5/21 (AM). One **Wilson's Snipe** was still at MKF 5/1 (RS), three were at QTS 5/2, including one winnowing (BE), and another was in Quakertown 5/7 (RFe). **Wilson's Snipe** was reported regularly in each month of the winter and spring seasons which is unusual (m.ob.). After no reports in Feb, **American Woodcock** was widely reported starting 3/10 (GJ, m.ob.).

Laughing Gull was reported from NSP 4/4 (BE) and 2 were at PVP 5/12 (CC,EC) where not expected in spring. A noteworthy peak count of 130 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at PWT 4/12 (DFa). An adult **Thayer's Gull**

was reported from Tullytown 3/22 (TJ) but a 2nd observer was more conservative in calling it **Thayer's-like** (CR). **Iceland Gulls** were again regular at NSP most of Mar through 4/21, with a peak of 3 on 3/26 and again 4/18-4/19 (BE). Another was at CCP 3/6 (BK), with PVP tallying one 4/15 (KR). Seven were still at PWT 4/14 with the last report 5/12 (DFa). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** counts continue increasing, with an estimated high count of 400-450 at NSP 3/18 (BE). Combined counts at NSP and PVP 3/17 yielded 456 including 107 at PVP (BE). Unlike the last two years, apparently few lingered into May. Only one was reported at NSP 5/12 (BE) and 2 flew over SGL157 on 5/20 (CR). A few were believed to be staying for the summer at Tullytown (DFa). Apparent **Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull** hybrids are regularly reported including one at NSP 3/4 (BE). The first ever reported PVP record for **Glaucous Gull** was tallied 3/3 (KR,AM). A **Nelson's Gull** (**Herring x Glaucous**) hybrid was reported 3/31 at Tullytown (AU). **Caspian Tern** was reported from NSP 4/19 (BE), PWT 4/28 (DFa), and PVP 5/13 (CC). A **Common Tern** spent the day at PVP 5/2 (AM,CC) and another was seen at NSP 5/18 (CR,AM).

Barred Owl was heard at three sites in the upper county (BE,DFa). A calling **Long-eared Owl** at Lake Towhee 3/11 is of interest (BE). They were formerly known to breed in the county. A maximum of 3 were at PVP 3/3 (CC, BSc). One **Short-eared Owl** was noted in Bedminster Twp. 3/1-3/4 (SCo,FGi,DFa), and another was in Nockamixon Twp. 3/4 - 3/11 (BE). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard and seen 4/14 in Warwick Twp. (BL), and another was heard at CVP 4/21 (CS), for rare spring reports.

Common Nighthawk was reported in single digits only and did not repeat last year's good showing along the Delaware River (JMr). A **Whip-poor-will** at Buckingham Twp. 4/28 (GJ) was a rare find for the county. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** stopped at suet in Rushland 5/3 (SCo). The SGL157 breeding pair was present again this year (m.ob.). SGL157 had an off year for reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, with the first report of one 5/13 (DFa) and another there 5/27 (DMc) for the only reports. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at State Game Land #56 5/13 (JMi,AM) with another at SGL157 5/20 (DFa) for the only reports. **Great Crested Flycatcher** shows an upward trend on the PAMC in recent years, with a record count of 93 compared to the previous 8-year average of 58. **Horned Lark** was last noted at MKF 3/18 (RS,BK).

The first **Tree Swallows** arrived at PVP (KK) and NSP (BE) 3/3 providing a new early arrival date. Two **Purple Martins** arrived 4/14 at an Upper Makefield Twp. colony marking the latest arrival date in the 17 year history of that site (JMa). There were no **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports after the Christmas Counts. Possibly the same **Marsh Wren** that wintered at Buckingham Wetlands was seen 3/31 (DFa) and 4/28 (RH). Three at QTS 5/2 provided the peak report (DFa, BE) and one at PWT 5/12 provided a first for the PAMC.

It was a good local fallout day for thrushes on 5/12. The resulting counts were PAMC records of 112 **Veerys**, 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, and 45 **Swainson's Thrushes**. Their previous 8 year averages equal 41, less than one, and 11, respectively. A **Hermit Thrush** at PVP (DFa) and 318 total **Wood Thrushes** were also tallied for PAMC with the 8 year average for the latter equal to 235. No other good thrush days were reported. In addition, not officially counted because they were not singing for positive identification, two probable **Bicknell's Thrushes** were found separately at PVP 5/12 at opposite ends of the park (CC,EC,JMi,AM). A wintering **Brown Thrasher** in Warrington was seen again 3/19 (Rf). The first migrant was reported at PVP 4/14 (KR). The highest reported count of 60 **American Pipits** was noted 3/24 in Hilltown Twp. (CR). Surprising for so late was a count of 24 on 5/12 for our first PAMC record, with 22 of those found at MKF (RS,VS).

A "flood" of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was noted at Bowman's Hill 4/23 (DP) and 60 were at Churchville Res. 4/26 (BK). A multi-species warbler fallout of approximately 100 warbler individuals at Bowman's Hill 5/5 was considered good (BK). Twenty-two species with about 90 individuals, not including numerous **Ovenbirds**, at SGL157 on 5/22 was the highest single site species count reported (CR,AM). The Durham Twp. area took the PAMC honors 5/12 for the most warbler species with 19 (HR,JR). The warbler average for the 22 PAMC reports was a low 12 species. The PAMC warbler counts follow with an asterisk indicating a new PAMC count record high: **Common Yellowthroat** 407*, **Yellow Warbler** 385, **Ovenbird** 261*, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 159, **American Redstart** 135, **Northern Parula** 115, **Prairie Warbler** 101*, **Black and White Warbler** 96, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 86, **Blue-winged Warbler** 71, **Black-throated Green Warbler** 62, **Blackpoll Warbler** 44, **Magnolia Warbler** 38, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 32, **Worm-eating Warbler** 23, **Northern Waterthrush** 21, **Canada Warbler** 19* (previous 8-year average equals 5), **Louisiana Waterthrush** 18, **Blackburnian Warbler** 11, **Nashville Warbler** 6*, **Hooded Warbler** 5, **Pine Warbler** 4, **Tennessee Warbler** 3 (the only ones reported this spring), **Palm Warbler** 3, **Kentucky Warbler** 3, **Yellow-throated Warbler** 2, **Wilson's Warbler** 2, **Cape May Warbler** 1, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 1 (the only spring report).

Some non-PAMC reports of rarely reported or otherwise noteworthy warbler species include the following. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Five Mile Woods 5/2 (RP). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from Tyler S. P. 4/24 (BK). A **Nashville Warbler** 5/20 at SGL157 (CR) provided another new spring late date. In addition to one **Cape May Warbler** in Durham Twp. from PAMC 5/12 (HR,JR), another was in

Warrington Twp. 5/14 (RFR), and one was seen near SGL157 on 5/18 and 5/22 (CR,AM), for the only reports. **Bay-breasted Warbler** was reported from PVP 5/19 (SK) and 2 were at SGL157 5/22 (CR,AM). One **Cerulean Warbler** at SGL157 5/23 (DFa) was the only report. This species appears to be extirpated from the county as a breeder. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at PVP 4/28 (TF), and another was at PWT 5/17-5/21 (DFa). **Kentucky Warbler** was reported from Tyler S. P. 4/24, a new early arrival date (BK). A pair were near SGL157 5/18 (CR,AM) and 5/20 (DFa). Two **Mourning Warblers** were at SGL157 5/22 (CR,AM) and another was there 5/27 (CC) for the only reports. Only 3 probable migrant **Hooded Warblers** were reported, with one female at PVP 5/6, a male there 5/11 (JMi,AM), and the PAMC Five Mile Woods bird 5/12 (GC). The other half dozen or so reports, including PAMC, were probably all summer residents hanging on at Bowman's Hill (DFa) and SGL157 (BE,DFa).

A first year male **Summer Tanager** was heard and then seen in Doylestown Twp. 5/14 (BG). There are only 11 known reports for the county. **Scarlet Tanager** had a good PAMC count with a record 122 compared to the previous 8-year average of 75. Similarly, a PAMC record 101 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** was reported compared to the previous 8-year average of 53. The MKF **Lark Sparrow** continued until the evening of 5/1, completing its 6.5 month stay there (RS,VS). The mid-Mar ice crust brought unusual numbers of **Fox Sparrow** which lingered at feeders for several days (GD,m. ob.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at PVP 5/5 (IK), one at Warrington Twp. 5/9-5/14 (RFR), and one at SGL157 5/12 (BE) were the only ones reported. An unusually large fallout of **White-throated Sparrows** was noted throughout the area 4/30-5/3 (m.ob.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** suffered again this year due to mowing. Examples were PRN (SK) and Warminster Twp. Park (GJ). The first arrival at the latter site 5/3 (GJ) provided a new early arrival date. A PAMC record 120 **Bobolinks** were reported mainly due to a flock of 97 at MKF (RS,VS). The mid-Mar snow grounded migrant **Eastern Meadowlarks** with 10 at MKF 3/18 (RS,VS) and 25 at PRN 3/22 (CR).

A **Blue Grosbeak** 4/23 surprised the observer in her front yard in Tincum Twp. (KW) and another used the MKF feeders 5/4-5/13 (RS,VS). The wintering **Rusty Blackbird** site at QTS still had a good count of 60 4/3 (BE) with the last report there 5/5 (DFa). Another regular site for this species is Silver Lake Park where 31 were seen 3/28 (BK). Wintering **Baltimore Orioles** continued in Levittown through at least 4/12 (GC), and for the third year in a row in New Hope until 4/14 (SM). Oranges, raisins, and mealworms were the attraction. One in Warminster 3/10 (DA) may have also been wintering. The **Purple Finch** drought continued with none reported. The two **Common Redpolls** reported 2/28 at a Bedminster Twp. feeder were seen briefly three more times through 3/9 (JMe). This was surprising considering the general lack of reports in southeast PA.

Exotics: The only mention of **Egyptian Goose** was of 2 at NSP 4/30 (Rfo). A cage worn **Ringed Turtle Dove** was reported on 5/12 at Silver Lake Park (BMe). The **European Goldfinch** reported multiple times in Rushland starting on about 2/1/2006 and seen again 3/12/2006-4/20/2006, amazingly returned one year later 3/11/2007 (Sco).

Corrigendum: Vol 21, No. 1 Winter Season Birds of Note, Pg. 42 – Common Moorhen should be credited to Al Bilheimer (ABi) and Nancy Bilheimer (NB). On page 53, they should be added to the Observers list and the abbreviation for Adrian Binns should be ABn instead of ABi.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Diane Allison, Alana Balogh (ABa), Al Bilheimer (ABi), Nancy Bilheimer, Alan Brady (ABr), George Carmichael, Susan Cawthern (SCa), Susan Charkes (SCh), Sally Conyne (SCo), Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton, Henry D'Allesandro, Mike DeBonis, Gerry Dewaghe, Hildy Ellis (HEI), Howard Eskin (HEs), Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Rob Fergus (RFe), Doug Filler (DFi), Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, Ron French (RFR), Roy Frock (Rfo), Fred Gagnon (FGa), Sam Galick, Jan Garretson, Frank Gill (FGi), Gene Gladston, Bill Graham, Ray Hendrick, Mike Homel, Corey Holden, Jason Horn, Peter Hussie, Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Bill Keim, Sandra Keller, Rose Kihm, Ken Kitson, Arlene Koch, I. Kossak, Mike Line, Butch Lishman, Joe Majdan (JMa), John Maret (JMr), Wendy Margolis, Don McClintock (DMc), Harry McGarrity, Bob Mercer (BMe), John Mertz (JMe), Suzanne Meyers, Judy Mirabella (JMi), Dwight Molotsky (DMo), Bob Mullen (BMu), Many Observers (m. ob.), Don Parlee, Ruth Pfeffer, Ken Rieker, Patricia Rossi, Margie Rutbell, Cameron Rutt, Bob Scheibner (BSc), Bob Shaffer (BSh), Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, Chris Stieber, Mike Tanis, John Tramontano, Andy Urquhart, Chris Walsh, Kathleen Weidemoyer, Lesley Weissman-Cook, Dave Wilbur, Frank Windfelder, Nick Zahn, Ruth Zumeta.

Butler County

No Report.

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Cambria County

Locations: Patton Area (PT), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Tundra Swans first arrived at PG 3/9 while the lake was still ice covered. Waterfowl highlights included **Northern Shovler** 4/15, **Northern Pintail**, 3/15, **Canvasback** 3/26, **Redhead** 3/26, **White-winged Scoter** 4/13, and **Common Goldeneye** 3/31 (RB, JS). Two **Red-throated Loons** at PG 5/2 (DG) were only our second spring record at the park.

Osprey first appeared at PG 3/30 (RB) and were gone by the end of May. **Virginia Rail** were first heard at PG 4/21 (JS). Shorebirds were spotty this year as the water was high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was heard tapping at PT 3/24 (DG). **Tree Swallows** 3/23, **Northern Rough-winged** 4/2 and **Barn Swallows** 4/15 had to endure snow and cold when they returned, but seemed to make it through. **American Pipits** passed through PG 4/10 and 4/28 (DG).

The warbler migration seemed to be worse this year with very few migrants seen passing through. Those that nest in the area seem down also. **Louisiana Waterthrush** at PT 3/30 was early (DG). A lone **Wilson's Warbler** was seen by JS at PT 5/12. **Henslow's Sparrow** was spotted at PT 5/12 (DG). **Orchard Oriole** first seen at PG 5/8 (RB).

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

Cameron County

No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

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

Centre County

Locations: Allegheny Front, Bear Meadows (BEM), Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bell Hollow/West Mountain road area (BEL), Buffalo Run, Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Coburn, Colyer Lake (COL), Curtin Wetland, Farm ponds in/near Filmore and along Buffalo Run (FL), Howard, Lower Green's Run (LGR), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Penn State Campus, Penn State Retention Pond (RET), Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens Weather Station (SBWS), Scotia Barrens Pond (SBP), Sinking Creek, Stormstown, Tait Farm, Talleyrand Park in Bellefonte, Tofrees Pond and adjacent gamelands (TOF), Unionville, Walnut Springs Park, Whitehall and Tadpole Rd.

More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. SCB is an IBA (see Important Bird Areas at pa.audubon.org). Most of the species information comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv group SCBIRDCL AT lists.psu.edu.

Rare/uncommon species reported below: **Little Blue Heron, Common Moorhen, Black Tern, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Northern Shrike, Marsh Wren, and Blue Grosbeak.**

An **American Bittern**, a relatively uncommon species here, was seen at LGR 4/17 (BS), and also at SBP 4/20 (AW). A **Little Blue Heron**, a rare visitor, was seen at JUL 5/27 (NAB, AW, MO). **Great Egrets** were seen several places: at LGR 4/18 (BS), Curtin Wetland while leading a field trip 4/23 (BS), one at JUL 4/27 (NK), one at JUL 4/29, two west of Port Matilda 4/29 (LG), and one at Tait Farm 5/23 (AW).

Some flocks of **Tundra Swans** were heard flying over Stormstown 3/1 (MB), 130 **Tundra Swans** flew over the Allegheny Front 3/1 (DO), eight were on the ice near the BESP causeway bridge 3/4 (BS), 160 were seen from the Rt 150 BESP overlook 3/14 (BS), and a flock of about 500 flew north at high altitude over Howard 3/26 (BS).

An unusual waterfowl fallout seen during a trip to BESP 4/15 during bad weather consisted of: 15 **Common Loon** (all but one in breeding plumage), 188 **Horned Grebe**, 12 **Red-necked Grebe**, 5 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 5 **Double-crested Cormorant**, 4 **American Black Duck**, 3 **Gadwall**, 3 **Northern Shoveler**, 5 **Ring-necked Duck**, 90+ **Lesser Scaup**, 15 **Greater Scaup**, 27 **White-winged Scoter**, **Black Scoter** (female - with a raft of **Ruddy Ducks**), 224 **Long-tailed Duck**, 304 **Bufflehead**, 3 **Common Goldeneye**, 2 **Common Merganser**, 24 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 8 **Hooded Merganser**, 67 **Ruddy Duck**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Ring-billed Gull**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, and 3+ **Caspian Tern** (AW, SP, GS).

A nice mix of waterfowl: 6 **Northern Pintail**, 4 **American Wigeon**, 3 **Green-winged teal**, **Long-tailed duck**, 5 **Ring-necked duck**, and 4 **Lesser scaup** was seen at FIL 3/21 (DO). Five **Green-winged Teal** were found at RET 3/22 (JV). A **Canvasback** was seen at Talleyrand Park in Bellefonte 3/11 (MN), and two near Sayer's Dam at BESP 5/10 (AW). A **White-winged Scoter** was seen at LGR landing 4/23 (BS). About 150 **Common Mergansers** were seen on open water between the marina and the causeway bridge at BESP 3/4 (BS).

First of the year **Turkey Vultures** were seen at Pine Grove Mills 3/12 (BF), and at Bellefonte 3/10 (BS). Both nesting **Bald Eagles** from previous years were seen at the nest tree with one on the nest and the

other "standing guard" nearby but no sign of hatchlings yet 3/14 (BS). The eagle watchers keeping tabs on the Bald Eagle nest at Bald Eagle S.P. report 2 small gray heads poking above the nest edge 3/24 (NB). Both Bald Eagle chicks were seen at BESP 3/26 (BS).

Two **Northern Harriers**, one just before the Shiloh Rd exit (on north side of highway), and the other off 1-99/322 in vicinity of the National Guard bldg were seen 3/2 (BS), and a juv and adult were seen near the intersection of Whitehall and Tadpole Rds. 3/1 (JK, AP, LUG). Penn State Campus hawks are seen at various times like the **Cooper's Hawk** taking down a pigeon in front of Hammond Bldg 4/23 (JV). The following were seen during migration along the Allegheny Front: 5 **Turkey Vulture**, 2 **Cooper's Hawk**, 4 **Redtail Hawk** (many seen but only a handful seemed to be moving, some doing their undulating display flight), 6 **Golden Eagle**, and one **American Kestrel** 3/1 (DO). Three **Golden Eagles** were seen at Whitehall and Tadpole Rd. 3/1 (JK, AP, LUG).

Three uncommon marshland birds were all seen this quarter: **Virginia Rail** at JUL 4/22 (AW), **Sora** at JUL 4/25 (NK), and at MM 5/2 (NAB), and **Common Moorhen** at JUL 5/10 (RC), 5/12 (NK). Five **American Coots** were seen at DP 3/3 (JV). A **Sandhill Crane** was observed and photographed flying at 7000 feet by KS in his glider over Kishacoquillas Valley 4/29 (DO).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was seen at BESP beach 5/23 (GG). The following sandpipers were present at JUL 5/15 (AW, MB): 7 **Least Sandpipers**, 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Solitary Sandpiper**. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were seen at Walnut Springs Park 3/1 (JV).

Bonaparte's Gull was seen at various locations: TOF 3/28 (NK), COL 3/29 (NK), BESP 4/15 (AW), JUL 4/22 (AW), BESP 4/29 (NAB), and 5/12 (AW). Two **Black Terns** were unexpectedly found during the PA Migration Count at BESP 5/12 (AW). Six **Caspian Terns** were sitting on a sand bar just off the silted south boat ramp at BESP 4/30 (BT).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed at TOF gamelands 5/2 (CG). **Purple Martins** returned to BESP 5/4 (BS). Uncommon was a **Marsh Wren** seen and heard at JUL 5/12 (NK). A late season **Northern Shrike** was found on the southeast (streamside) side of PA-550 along Buffalo Run between Waddle and Fillmore 3/24 (GSY).

The prime spring warbler migration area at SBWS did not receive much coverage this year. Fifteen species of warblers: **Northern Parula**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Blackburnian**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-throated Green**, **Worm-eating**, **Black-and-white**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Canada**, and **Hooded Warbler** were found in BEM 5/10 (AW). Two or more **Palm Warblers** were seen at COL 4/10 (GG). **Blackpoll** and **Wilson's Warbler** were found during the PMAC at BESP 5/12 (AW). **Blackburnian**, **Magnolia**, and **Bay-breasted Warblers** plus a few other warblers were seen at a State College residence 5/14 (CA).

Six singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard in BEL 5/16 (AW). An early **Fox Sparrow** was found at BESP 3/4 (BS), and mid-Mar brought **Fox Sparrows** to various locations around the county: as many as 10 at one time with some of them singing at feeders in Unionville 3/16 (DO), 11 in the Walnut Springs area 3/17 (JV), two in a State College backyard 3/17 (MH), a pair spent the good part of a day near feeders 3/17 (CG), five in Howard 3/18 (BS), 6 near Sinking Creek 3/18 (LR), and 25 in Unionville 3/20 (DO). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found in a corn field in Kaywood, Boalsburg 4/9 and was the first one seen since moving there in 1997 (TP). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in various locations: 20 at MM 3/22 (NAB), 220+ in two flocks at TOF 3/25 (JV), 10 at TOF 3/28 (NK), and 6+ at TOF (NK). An **Orchard Oriole** was reported during the PA migration count at BESP 5/12 (AW). About seven male **Bobolinks** were found in their usual habitat in BEL 5/16 (AW) (this location is one of the few in *Centre* for Bobolinks).

While carrying out point counts for the PA Breeding Bird Atlas, a singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was found in a scrubby area in a cow pasture on Long Lane near Coburn (south of Millheim) 5/27 (AW).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Tract (BTCK), Chamber's Lake (CHLA), Church Farm School (CHFS), Hibernia Sewage Treatment Plant (HBSTP), Kurt's Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMAC), Struble Lake (STLA), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP)

Northbound **Tundra Swans** were recorded from most county lakes with a high of 8 at CHLA 3/6 (PF). Last migrants were noted 4/9 with 6 at West Chester Res. (NP). Migrant **Snow Geese** continued through most of Mar peaking 3/14-3/17 with numerous flocks of 200+ being seen throughout the county (m.obs). A single **Greater White-fronted Goose**

was at CHLA 3/3 (RR) possibly one of birds leftover from the winter season. **Cackling Geese** were found at CHLA and Coatesville Res. 3/6 (PF) and a single bird was noted within a flock of **Canada Geese** over West Goshen Twp. 3/25 (NP).

Wood Ducks were in good numbers throughout the county with a high of 17 at CHFS 3/13 (NP). **American Wigeon** were found 3/1- 4/21 at all county lakes (m.obs) with a high count of 67 at CHLA 3/4 (NP). All reports of **Gadwalls** came from KFH were they were recorded 3/1- 4/21 (m.obs) with a high count of 14 on 3/28 (LL). **Green-winged Teal** were found throughout the county 3/1- 4/29 with a max of 50 at KFH 3/28 (LL). **Northern Pintail** were reported 3/9-3/15 (m.obs), with a high of 91 at CHLA 3/1 (JS). **Blue-winged Teal** were found in small numbers at KFH, HBSTP, and Great Marsh 4/15- 4/28 (m.obs). **Northern Shovelers** were found 3/23-5/13 at several locations (m.obs) with a high of 9 at HBSTP 4/27 (NP).

Canvasbacks remained until 4/3 mostly at CHLA and MCSP with a high of 17 at CHLA 3/1 & 3/4 (JS, NP). **Redheads** remained until 3/28 with a high of 12 at KFH that date (LL). **Ring-necked Ducks** were plentiful at all county lakes with a high of 150 at KFH 3/28 (LL). The last Ring-neck was reported 5/13 (NP). **Lesser Scaup** remained until 5/13 (NP) with a high count of 45 at KFH 3/28 (LL). **Greater Scaup** numbers were lower with a high of 10 at CHLA 3/1 (JS). They were last noted 4/21 with 2 at STLA (LL). **Long-tailed Ducks** were present at MCSP 3/23-3/25 with a high of 5 on 3/24 (BB, NP, EW, RW). A good find were 3 **White-winged Scoters** at STLA 4/12 (RC). The most difficult of the scoters to observe in the county, **Black Scoter**, was at STLA 4/17 (RC). **Common Goldeneyes** continued from the winter period and remained until 4/21 (RC). The max count was 3 on 3/4 at CHLA (NP). **Buffleheads** were found in good numbers at many locations with a max of 33 at MCSP 3/24 (NP, m.obs). They were last noted 5/12 (MP). **Hooded Mergansers** remained until 4/21 with a high of 24 at KFH 3/28 (LL). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were recorded 3/14 - 4/21 mostly singles or pairs. The single observer high count was 7 at KFH 4/19 (RC). **Common Mergansers** continued in good numbers from the winter season with a high of 50 at MCSP 3/22 (NP). They were last recorded 3/28 from KFH (LL). **Ruddy Ducks** were found at all lakes in good numbers with a high of 62 at MCSP 4/12 (NP). Numbers slowly diminished in late Apr and the last birds were recorded in the county 5/13.

Wild Turkeys continue to be recorded sporadically. A single bird was reported this season from VFNP 3/27 (RW). Reports of **Ring-necked Pheasants** remain few and far between. This spring singles were reported from STLA 3/25 & 4/21 (EW, RW, LL) and Great Marsh 4/23 (BB) while 3 were at KFH 3/28 (LL).

Common Loons were noted 3/30-5/23 (m.obs.). Fourteen were found at MCSP during a heavy rainstorm 4/15 (CC). Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were found throughout the county 3/15- 4/22 (m.obs.) with a high of 9 at MCSP 3/29 (JM). **Horned Grebes** staged a nice flight with double-digit numbers at most locations and a peak of 30 at MCSP 3/25 (EW, RW). A late individual was present at STLA 5/28-5/29 (RC, JM ph, AG).

Double-crested Cormorants arrived 4/11 with 6 at MCSP (SF). Small numbers could be found migrating overhead almost daily thereafter. On the ground, 14 were observed at CHLA 4/28 (NP). Small numbers continued through the end of the period but nesting was not noted. A **Great Cormorant**, the 2nd county record, was at STLA 4/26 (RC). Single **Great Egrets** were noted in East Goshen Twp 4/17 (NP); Westtown School 4/21 (MP); MCSP 4/24 (JM). Two were at Longwood 5/12 (LL). **Green Herons** were first noted 4/21 with a high of 5 at MCSP 5/2 (JM). Single **American Bitterns** were at MCSP 3/29 (JM) and Longwood 5/12 (LL) and another was a "surprise" new yard bird at Devon 5/12 (TF). A single **Least Bittern** was found at MCSP 5/29 (JM). This species has nested here previously.

A **Black Vulture** nest with two eggs was discovered near Elverson 4/12 for a rare find (RC). **Ospreys** arrived 3/10 (LW). A few could be found at most lakes daily thereafter. A single observer high count of 9 was recorded at CHLA 4/19 (RR). No breeding was noted. Single **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the county all period (m.obs.). Single **Northern Harriers** were found at MCSP 4/11 (SF) and STLA 4/26 (RC). A **Northern Goshawk** was a surprise at BTCK 3/3 (NP, SP). The first **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted 4/20 with 2 at KFH (RC). Twenty were observed over VFSP 4/22 (MB, KK) fitting nicely into this species peak migration window. A **Merlin** was a good find at MCSP 5/2 (JM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at CHLA during the PMAC 5/12 (RW).

A single **Virginia Rail** was at Great Marsh 5/7 (BB) and 3 were noted at Embreeville during the PMAC 5/12. A **Sora** was at Longwood also during the PMAC (LL). **American Coots** were in high numbers at most lakes with a max of 75+ at MCSP 4/15 (CC). They were last noted 5/16.

Greater Yellowlegs were present 3/28-5/16 with a high of 6 at KFH 4/15 (CC). Singles were also found at the Laurels Preserve (MP); the pond at Doe Run (LL, KF, NP); and Embreeville (JM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted 4/20-5/31 at the same locations with a high of 6 at Embreeville 4/29 (MP). **Solitary Sandpipers** passed through in good numbers with a high of 25 at Embreeville 4/29 (JM, MP). In addition to being at traditional wetland locations several were noted along creeks at White Clay Creek and Black Rock County Park. Small numbers of **Least Sandpipers** were noted mostly at the pond at Doe Run were 7 were found 5/16 (CC, KF) and

at Goshenview Farms, East Goshen Twp. where 4 were present 5/15 (NP). Two were also feeding at the retention ponds at the Rustin High School Campus 5/19 (NP, SP). This new campus in Westtown Twp. has good potential for shorebirds with five retention ponds on the grounds. A single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Longwood 5/12 was the only report for this species (LL). A very early **Dunlin** was found at KFH 3/28 along with a **Pectoral Sandpiper** (LL). An additional early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in Coatesville 3/19 (LL). **Wilson's Snipe** were recorded from their traditional locations – CHFS, CHLA, and Embreeville. A respectable 13 were discovered in Penn Twp. 4/11 (MD). A lingering bird was at Longwood 5/12 (LL). **American Woodcock** were a bit early with a single bird at BTCK 2/20 (JS). A high of 6 were noted at their traditional MCSP location 3/24 (NP, SP). A **Red-necked Phalarope** made a brief visit to STLA 5/26 (LL, NP, SP).

Ring-billed Gull peak at STLA was about 10,000 on 3/3 (CC). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at STLA 3/1 (JS) and 4/21 (LL) and at MCSP 3/11 (HM). **Bonaparte's Gulls** passed through in small numbers 3/23-4/27 with a high of 9 at STLA 4/19 (RC). A single **Caspian Tern** was at STLA 4/13- 4/21 (NP ph, LL, RC).

Eurasian Collared-Doves were found again at their customary location in downtown Coatesville 3/28 (LL). Breeding at this location is suspected but not yet confirmed. Away from their established locations at Nottingham County Park or the Serpentine Barrens, **Whip-poor-wills** can be difficult to locate. This spring one was heard in East Goshen Twp. during the first week in May (JA) and another was heard in Avondale 5/23 (AL). There was a single report of **Common Nighthawk**, 5/21 at Hibernia Park (JL).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was an early surprise find at BTCK 4/29 (JS). **Alder Flycatcher**, the rarest of the regularly occurring *empidonax* that pass through the county, was observed twice. A single bird was at CHFS 5/22 (JL) and a late individual was at BTCK 6/10 (JS). Single **Blue-headed Vireos** were found in Elk Twp. 4/22 and West Goshen Twp. 4/23 (NP, SP). The **Warbling Vireo** population seems to be exploding in all corners of the county and especially along the Elk and White Clay Creek watersheds where double-digit numbers were found frequently.

Horned Larks continued in good numbers in Honeybrook Twp. with 200+ on 3/20 (LW). A displaying male was in Franklin Twp. 5/31 (NP). An early **Barn Swallow** was at Hibernia Park 4/1 (JL). Kinglets passed through in good numbers. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** peaked 4/1 with 10 at Great Marsh (AMG) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** max was 15 at VFNP 4/10 (RW). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported in exceptionally high numbers throughout *Chester* with a single daily high of 17 at White Clay Creek 4/23 (CC).

Gray Catbirds seemed unusually numerous after their arrival 4/28. There were several counts of 30+ and a report of 50+ at the Laurels Preserve 5/16 (CC, KF). Numbers of migrant thrushes seemed low with few reports of **Swainson's** and **Gray-cheeked**. Eleven **Hermit Thrushes** at BTCK 4/22 was a good count (JS). There were few reports of **American Pipits** with singles at CHFS 3/13-3/14 (NP), MCSP 3/30 (AMG) and 6 in Honeybrook Twp 5/12 (MP, LW). **Cedar Waxwings** went unreported to about mid-May and then were found daily in good numbers.

Warblers seemed slightly late with low numbers and diversity. A single **Tennessee Warbler** was at the Laurels Preserve 5/12 (KF). **Nashville Warblers** passed through 5/3-5/14 mostly in singles (m.obs.). **Magnolia Warblers** were recorded 5/3-5/22 (m.obs.). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, the most numerous warbler occurring during Apr, was once again found in good numbers with a single observer max of 13 at CHFS 4/22 (NP). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were recorded throughout the county 4/22-5/23 (m.obs.). A male **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at White Clay Creek 5/25 (NP). Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Hibernia 5/2 (JL), Longwood 5/12 (LL) and the Laurels Preserve 5/12 (KF). **Pine Warblers** returned 3/17 (JS) with a max of 6 at Nottingham County Park 3/25 (NP, SP). **Palm Warblers** were numerous 4/3-5/2 with good single observer counts of 7 at the Laurels Preserve 4/20 (MP) and 8 at BTCK 4/22 (JS). **Cerulean Warblers** returned to their traditional nesting area along the Struble Trail 5/7 (HM). There were no other locations reported for this declining species. Rare in *Chester*, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Waterloo Mills 5/3-5/4 (KF, AG ph). There were only two reports of **Northern Waterthrush**. A single bird was at BTCK 4/29 (JS) and 3 were on the PMAC at Longwood 5/12 (LL). **Hooded Warblers** were found in their usual haunts at Hibernia Park (LL, LW) and Templin Rd. (LW, NP). A single **Wilson's Warbler** at Pickering Creek 5/6 (EW, RW) was the only report. Single **Canada Warblers** were at Black Rock County Park 5/11 (NP, SP) and West Goshen Twp. 5/15 (NP). Eight were found on the PMAC 5/12 (m.obs.).

An early **Chipping Sparrow** was in Willistown Twp. 3/16 (MP). Fourteen **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found in on the PMAC 5/12 in their traditional nesting locations in Honeybrook Twp. and Doe Run (MP, LW, KF). **Fox Sparrows** were evident throughout the county 3/3- 4/15 with a single observer high of 8 at BTCK 3/14 (JS). **White-crowned Sparrows** continued from the winter season with a single observer high of 5 at HBSTP 4/21 (LL). A single individual was last recorded 5/14 in West Goshen Twp. (NP, SP). The last report for **White-throated Sparrow** was in West Goshen Twp. 5/15 (NP). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was found on the PMAC at Kendall 5/12. A single **Blue Grosbeak** was at Longwood 5/12 (LL) the only report for this localized species.

Rusty Blackbirds were reported 3/13- 4/29 with a single observer high of 9 at Great Marsh 4/23 (BB). Two large concentrations of **Common Grackles** were found this spring. A flock estimated at 3000 was in Londonderry Twp. 3/3 (NP, SP) and another flock estimated at 5000 was near MCSP 3/11 (HM). Holdover **Baltimore Orioles** from the winter season were recorded at Jenner's Pond 4/1 (RH) and Marshallton 4/17 (DK). Returning spring birds arrived 5/1 (NP). **Orchard Orioles** seemed in exceptional numbers this spring with a single observer high of 6 at BTCK 5/9 (NP). Unusual in their absence, there were no reports of northbound **Purple Finches**.

Observers: **Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-0687, nickpulcinella@comcast.net**, Jay Atkins, Barry Blust, Chuck Chalfant, Robert Cook, Molly Daly, Tony Fernandes, Kevin Fryberger, Pam Fisher, Scott Fraser, Al Guarente, Robert Hickman, Kathy King, Dave Krueel, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, John McNamara, Andy McGann, Holly Merker, Martin Page, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Laura Wagner, Eleanor Wolf, Rick Wolf.

Clarion County

No Report

Carole Willenpart, 159 Moggey Road, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, rwillenpart@windstream.net,

Clearfield County

No Report. No Compiler.

Clinton County

Locations: McElhatten (McE), Lock Haven (LH), Mill Hall (MH), South Aviss (SA), Susquehanna River (SR), and Swissdale (SW).

Waterfowl migration during the period produced a reasonable variety of sightings. Highlights included a small number of **Snow Geese** 3/1 at SA (BZ), **Northern Shovelers** 3/14 and 4/12 at SA and on the SR at LH (BZ, DR, C&CH), and a **Surf Scoter** on the SR at LH 5/2 (WL). A **Red-throated Loon** was seen on the SR at LH 4/6 (JS).

An **American Bittern** was found at the mitigation wetlands in MH 5/2 (JS). Apparently a first county record, a **Black-crowned Night Heron** was located along the SR at McE 4/18 (BZ, NS, VS). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed east of LH 2/15 (JS). **American Kestrels** nested at a farm in SW during May and Jun (WL).

The wetlands at MH produced another "uncommon" marsh bird, a **Common Moorhen** 5/2 (JS) which remained well into the following period. On 4/20, another county first, a flock of 9 **Sandhill Cranes** was spotted flying over a farm in SW (DL, WL).

Shorebird sightings were of the usual suspects and generally unremarkable except for a few **Dunlin** found 4/27 at SA. Also with them were **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Pectoral**, **Solitary**, and **Least Sandpipers** (JS).

A good variety of warblers were reported during the period, most notable being a **Brewster's Warbler** seen at McE 5/1 (BZ). **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed 3/22 (C&CH) and 4/13 (JS), both near LH.

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@ub.kcnet.org**, Carol and Charles Hildebrand (C&CH), Doreen Laubscher, David Rockey, Noreen Sample, Vesta Schach, Jeff Schaffer, and Beth Zbegner.

Columbia County

No Report.

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Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Woodcock Lake (WL), Tamarock Lake (TL).

The **Tundra Swan** flight was the shortest and smallest in several springs with 74 on 3/10 at PC the high count. **Wood Ducks** and **Green-winged Teal** were abundant all season. **Northern Shoveler** and **Northern Pintail** numbers were about normal, and as many as 173 **Gadwall** were found at PGMA. I had 231 **American Wigeon** 3/24 in west *Crawford*, and one **Eurasian Wigeon** at PGMA 3/31. **Ring-necked Ducks** made a good showing here in Mar and Apr. A high count of 800 at HM 3/25 (MB) was tops.

Some 200 **Lesser Scaup** were noted at PC 4/21. No **Scoters** were reported but several small groups of **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported from WL and PC (TCM, SK, BVN). A better than usual flight of **Buffleheads** were seen Mar through early May with a peak count 4/21 of 300. **Hooded**, **Common**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers** made a good

showing in their area (m.obs). Top count of 182 **Ruddy Ducks** were found at PC 4/21 (RCL).

The first **Common Loon** was noted at PL 3/25, with 15 present here 4/14, being the rather low high count. The last report was of one on Mud Lake at Hartstown 4/29 (MB). A **Red-necked Grebe** was noted off the PC 3/10, 3/11 (MV) and 3/18 (RFL). Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** were present on all area lakes and ponds 3/12- 4/29 (m.ob.).

A total of 33 **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at JSP 3/31.

Perhaps the bird of the Spring was a pair of **American White Pelicans** at PS, 5/1 (IF). They remained there through 5/5 (m.ob.). The first **Green Heron** was reported at HM 4/29 (MB), and the only report of a **Great Egret** was one at HM 4/17 (MB). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at PS 5/29 (TB), and photographed by Robert Locklan.

A pair of **Turkey Vultures** showed up at Meadville 3/2 with snow still on the ground and frozen waters. There were several good counts of 10 or more **Bald Eagles**. I had 23 on 5/19 at Pymatuning and a late **Golden Eagle** at the PGMA 3/29 (about 2 weeks later than usual). Two **Ospreys** were seen at PS 5/4 (IF) and one was noted at WL 5/26. Most of the hawks were reported in usual numbers. **Rough-legged Hawks** remained in the PGMA through 4/3 (m.obs). Eight were noted there 3/11 (MV, SK) and 12 on 3/20 (SG). I had a **Merlin** near Linesville 3/13.

From one to 2 **Virginia Rails** were present at CM 4/21 to 5/30 (m.obs) and single **Soras** there 5/2-5/30 (m.obs). Two to 3 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at HM and PGMA (IF, MB, TCN).

As usual in the spring high water at area ponds and lakes left few places for shorebird observations. Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were spotted at HM 5/18 (MB). **Killdeer** were noted 3/3 to end of period (m.obs). **Greater Yellowlegs** were first spotted at PGMA 3/29 when 5 were seen, and numbers increased to 40 by 4/29 at that location (MB). Thirty four **Lesser Yellowlegs** were top count at PGMA 5/5 (MV). Rare were 4 **Willetts** on the large stone blocks near the PS 5/10 flushed by fisherman in a nearby boat. They left and were not seen again (normally single birds are found at PGMA). Single **Upland Sandpipers** were seen at PGMA from 5/5 (MV) through the period (m.obs). Ten **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at PGMA 5/13 and 3 were there 5/19 (MV). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was located at PGMA 5/19 (MV) and 3 **Pectoral** there 5/13 (RFL). Three **Dunlin** were noted at PGMA 5/17 (HM) and 10 were there 5/19 (MV, RFL).

Bonaparte's Gulls returned here 3/25 with 85 at JSP and a good count was seen 4/19 at CL of 1,750 (RFL). A **Common Tern** was at FH 4/13 (TCN) and a pair of **Forster's Terns** were spotted off the PC 5/4 (IF).

A good find was a **Short-eared Owl** at PC 3/17 (SK). A **Great-Horned Owl** was noted at TL 4/11, and one to 2 at HM 3/8 to 4/21 (MB). **Barred Owls** were seen or heard at Meadville, ENWR, CM and HM this period (RFL, IF, MB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at CM 5/17 (RFL) and at HM 5/21 (MB). The first report of an **Eastern Phoebe** was one at Cambridge Springs 3/23 (LAR). Most of the flycatchers arrived in usual numbers and later.

Most of the vireos returned in early May and in fair numbers. There were 5 well spread records for **Yellow-throated Vireo** from WL, CM, Pymatuning and HM (m.obs). I had a good look at a **White-eyed Vireo** at Pymatuning 5/19 on Zuckenfuse Rd.

The earliest **Purple Martin** was seen at CM 4/1 (RB). I found 68 **Tree Swallows** at CM 3/24 and all the other swallows and martins arrived on early Apr dates and in good numbers. **Horned Larks** were seen regularly at PGMA (one – 20 on several days in Mar) and a good total of 45 were found along Pine Road near HM (MB).

The only report of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was one at WL 5/7 (RFL). **Carolina Wrens** seemed fewer this spring than in the last several. A **Winter Wren** was seen at HM as late as 4/29 (MB). **Marsh Wrens** had returned to CM by 3/31, and one to 8 were noted thereafter (m.obs). **Wood Thrushes** returned to this area the end of Apr and made a good showing. A **Northern Mockingbird** was found at HM 5/17 (MB). An early **Gray Catbird** was at FI 4/29, and **Brown Thrashers** were in good numbers. Some 35 **American Pipits** were found at Mud Lake, HM 4/8 (MB).

The warbler flight was good but rather brief. Better than some years there were 11 reports of **Prothonotary Warbler** sightings in west Crawford 5/4-5/29, most at CM and Pymatuning (m.obs). A pair of **Cerulean Warblers** at CM was a good find 5/5 (MV). **Scarlet Tanagers**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and **Indigo Buntings** were found in many areas. Six **Snow Buntings** were seen at the PC 3/13 (RFL). A flock of 40 **Bobolinks** were in a PGMA field 5/19 (RFL). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found here 3/10- 4/29 with 150 at Pine Rd., HM 3/24 the best total reported (MB). **Orchard Orioles** were seen at HM 5/5-5/6 and at FH 5/12-5/15 (MB).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Anthony Bledsoe, Marvin Byler, Rachel Byler, Ike Field, Irene Frey, Bonnie Ginader, Scott Gregg, Janice Grindel, Scott Kinzey, Larry Massey, Daniel Miller, Henry Miller, Miriam Miller, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Lee Ann Reiners, Bob VanNewkirk, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: Big Springs (BGS), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Messiah College (MC), Mud Level Road (MLR), Stoughtown Pond (STP), West Fairview Boat Launch (WF), Yellow Breeches Creek (YB).

Although *Cumberland* does not have an over abundance of waterfowl, the county did produce 19 species, without loons and grebes, during the spring season. While **Tundra Swans** were noted in the county as early as 2/20, a nice count of 139 at MC 3/15 provided the last spring sighting (CR, AS, JD). Of the regularly occurring dabbling ducks, *Cumberland* only missed the **Northern Pintail**; however diving ducks were much harder to come by. Therefore, 2 **Buffleheads** at BGS 3/28 (VG) and a pair of **Redheads** 3/10 at Laughlin Mill (B&JH) were noteworthy. A female **Lesser Scaup** at BGS 3/3 continued from 2/10 (VG, BF, LF, CR). **Hooded Mergansers** were observed as late as 5/17 when a total of 5 females, 3 with a single young apiece were detected on the CC (RF).

Although flyover **Common Loons** are not an uncommon occurrence in the spring, an adult seen swimming on the YB near MC 4/30 was remarkable (CR). A **Pied-billed Grebe** detected at STP 4/28 was also a nice find (VG).

An **American Bittern** was found at SGL 169 on 4/18 and was last seen at this site 4/22 (MW, AM). A new colony of **Great Blue Herons** was located near Hays Grove 4/10 (VG) with a total of eight nests counted. However, upon closer examination 4/11, one of the nests was occupied by a **Great Horned Owl**. Although not unheard of, this was certainly a neat discovery. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were first noted at the Huntsdale Fish Hatchery 4/3 (MK). The spring single-site high count of 14-16 birds occurred at various points throughout the month of May at SGL 169 (VG).

Bald Eagles were seen three times during the month of Apr, from 4/13- 4/28 (CR, JS, PL). **Merlins** also put in three separate appearances. The first was found at MC 4/3 (CR) followed by another at SGL 169 on 4/21 (VG, BF). A somewhat late **Merlin** was observed zipping along the Susquehanna R. at WF 5/12 for the PAMC (CR). A nice collection of 6 **Barn Owls** was had for the PAMC 5/12 – a good number for this seldom encountered species.

Although the origins of **Northern Bobwhite** are always cause for question, a bird present at SGL 169 on 4/21 (VG) is nonetheless noteworthy due to this species decline and general paucity of sightings. A **Common Moorhen** along the CC above WF put in a one-day appearance 4/22 (RK) and represents a nice county find. This species has only occasionally occurred in the county, most often in spring, with at least eight previous sightings for *Cumberland*. A **Sora** put in an early showing at WF and was easily seen for a week, 3/24-3/31, flirting with the *Dauphin/Cumberland* line (LU, et al). However, the most unusual rail found in *Cumberland* this spring was a **Yellow Rail**. The bird was quite literally stumbled upon in an overgrown field on private property near MC 3/15 (CR, AS, JD). Rare anywhere in the state, with less detected during the spring, this bird was viewed running mouse-like through the vegetation in the failing light. After following the bird for a number of minutes at close range (<10 feet), the three excited observers finally succeeded at flushing the bird once it was surrounded, revealing the distinctive white secondary patches. If accepted, this may represent the earliest occurrence for this species in the state as McWilliams and Brauning discuss the next earliest record from Tinicum, *Delaware/Philadelphia* on 26 Mar 1963. Despite a small group of birders canvassing the snowy field the following morning, the bird was never refound.

While shorebird diversity was notably low, eight species were found. *Cumberland's* only **Semipalmated Plover** was found in a flooded farm field near King's Gap for the PAMC 5/12 (RK, JR). The hardy **Least Sandpiper** that overwintered in *Cumberland* was found at STP 3/3 (CR) after spending most of its visible Feb stay at BGS. It was again noted back at BGS 3/9 (VG) followed by sightings of a single **Least Sandpiper** at STP 4/7, 4/14, 4/15 and 5/12 (m.obs). Although it is difficult to ascertain if this was, in fact, the same overwintering individual throughout Apr and into mid-May, that scenario is certainly plausible. Despite subsequent visits to STP after 5/12, no **Least Sandpiper** was observed. The only other noteworthy shorebird was a **Dunlin** at STP 4/15 (MW, VG). Although a good find anywhere in *Cumberland*, two **Caspian Terns** flying over a wooded region of campus at MC 4/18 (CR, PM) were especially surprising.

Whip-poor-wills were again present along Ridge Road on South Mountain beginning 5/9 (MW). The sole **Olive-sided Flycatcher** report was of a single bird at Lams Gap 5/15 (DW, CR). The only reports of **Alder Flycatcher** came in the form of 2 or 3 individuals at SGL 169 on 5/26 (MW). One of the two **Northern Shrikes** that were found 2/28 at SGL 169 (AM) lingered into the spring season and was last recorded 3/3 at that location (m.obs). Evidence of the species near non-existence this past winter was only two reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** for the entire spring season. Three birds were found at Pine Grove Furnace S.P. 4/28 (VG) while another was discovered at SGL 230 on the same date (PL). **American Pipits** were recorded until 5/12 in *Cumberland* with a high count of 164 tallied along MLR 4/14 (CR).

A total of 34 species of warblers were encountered in *Cumberland* this spring with the late arriving **Mourning Warbler** providing the most obvious absence. Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were found at MC (CR), BGS (VG), and SGL 169 (RF) from 5/6-5/17. Most notably, the last

sighting for this species was a male present at SGL 169 from 5/15–5/17 (RF). Both of the “winged” warbler hybrids were also detected in *Cumberland* this spring. A backcross adult male **Lawrence’s Warbler** was present at Lambs Gap from 5/11 to at least 5/16 (RK, CR) consistently singing a “blue-winged” song. Both a **Lawrence’s** and **Brewster’s Warbler** were noted at SGL 169 on 5/12 for the PAMC (AM). Lastly, a F2 backcross **Brewster’s Warbler** was found on North Mountain 5/19 (VG). A single **Orange-crowned Warbler** at MC 4/26 (CR) provided an unusual spring find for this species.

Cape May Warblers, a noteworthy find anymore, were in short supply with only four individuals found during the PAMC 5/12 (VG, et al.) and a single at Michaux S. F. 5/13 (MW). While not known to reliably breed in the county, **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at four different locations during the spring season. The first was located 4/9 along the CC (AM) followed by another at MC 4/30 (CR). Both of these areas were visited subsequently without turning up any additional sightings. A singing male along the YB, near MC 5/15 (CR), and another at Pine Grove Furnace SP 5/26 (MW) provided the most tantalizing possibility of breeding for this species. The warbler highlight for the season was certainly an extremely early **Blackpoll Warbler** found on 4/26 along the CC upstream from WF (RK). This may well represent one of the earliest records of this species in the state. To my knowledge, the next spring sighting of a **Blackpoll Warbler** wasn’t had until 5/11 – a much more expected arrival date for this species. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were present for only a single day each, with the first at MC 4/24 (CR, RS) and the second at Spangler’s Mill 5/8 (RK). Both of these locations were visited afterwards, but no further sightings resulted.

Although unfortunately lacking details, a report of a **Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at SGL 169 on 4/30 (AM) would not only be a county first, but would be an exceptional spring find for Pennsylvania. The statewide influx of **Fox Sparrows** in mid-Mar infected *Cumberland* with more than one sparrow noted at multiple feeders 3/15–3/17 (TS, RK). The only spring **Lincoln’s Sparrow** was of a single bird at SGL 169 on 5/15 (VG). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** 5/15–5/17 at SGL 169 was noteworthy (RF). While a number of **Lapland Longspurs** were found during the winter season, the only spring report was of a single bird along Duncan Rd. 3/3 (CR). The male **Dickcissel** that was first noted coming to a Shippensburg feeder 1/16 continued its visitations through 3/12 (MS, DS). Another **Dickcissel** was discovered 5/12 near Plainfield for the PAMC (DG).

Not to be forgotten, the first state record male **Scott’s Oriole** continued at a Mechanicsburg neighborhood, Upper Allen Twp, until 4/8 (KA). This bird was originally discovered 48 days earlier on 2/19 (CM, KA). Although the bird became less than dependable at times, this long-staying rarity hung around long enough to be enjoyed by many. While the **Scott’s Oriole** frequented a number of different backyards, it was seldom located far away from the original location. As was noted previously for the dearth of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, the same holds true for **Purple Finches**. After being scarcely seen during the preceding fall and winter, **Purple Finches** were reported at only one backyard bird feeder in Dillsburg 4/12 and 4/15 (JS).

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Dauphin County

Locations: East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Haldeman Island (HI), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), Millersburg (MBG), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna from Fort Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna from Harrisburg (SHB), Susquehanna from Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna from West Fairview (SWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Please indulge me as I revert to a previous taxonomic order for when a **Yellow-billed Loon** in breeding plumage spends three days on the SR near HBG and is enjoyed by hundreds it is worthy of being mentioned first. This first fully documented state record was initially reported late Friday afternoon 5/4 along the Wormleysburg waterfront and north of the Harvey Taylor Bridge (CRT). There it remained, in the company of four or five **Common Loons** of various plumages, for the next few days. This cooperative bird remained close to the west shoreline providing the opportunity for hundreds to observe and/or photograph, and in most cases, add to “life lists.” It was last seen early Monday morning 5/7.

Large flights and feeding flocks of **Snow Geese** were reported in the HER-HUM area during the first two weeks of Mar. Most of these sightings were of hundreds, and occasionally thousands, along Rt. 39 in SHT or along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA (many). **Tundra Swan** also continued its migration north over the county in Apr. Among the reports were of more the

400 flying over SHT 3/12 (PW, RW) and 500 along the SR at HBG 3/23 (DH).

By 3/1 **Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Gadwall, and Northern Shoveler** were all being reported at WL; **Northern Pintail** arrived 3/3 and **Blue-winged Teal** 3/19 (CRb, et al.). Most remained through the end of Apr. The peak of the waterfowl migration on the SR seemed to occur the last week of Mar, although a nice variety of species were reported throughout Mar and Apr. **Redhead** 3/2 and **Canvasback** 3/10 were among the earlier migrating waterfowl observed (Crt). **Surf Scoter** was reported 3/24 SWF (AMk) while **White-winged Scoter** was observed from 3/15–4/15 from various locations along the SR near HBG (many). **Long-tailed Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck** were also noted from various locations throughout this period.

An **Eared Grebe** spent the last week of Mar at SWF. It was first reported 3/21 (TJ, DY) and remained close to the boat launch area in company with a few **Horned Grebes** through 3/28. **Red-necked Grebe** was also found at various locations along the SR from 3/10, when one was observed at SMV (Crt). Reports of this species continued through 4/18. One observer noted finding four species of grebe (Pied-billed, Horned, Eared, and Red-necked) during one visit to SWF 3/24 (AMk). Although the **Yellow-billed Loon** was the big attraction both **Common and Red-throated Loon** made their annual migration up the SR. The first **Common Loon** was reported 3/23 SWF (BK, DG) and sightings continued through 5/18 (many). **Red-throated Loon** was first observed 3/30 SMV (R&DH, RK) and the last observation came from SFH 4/15 (Crt).

Another great find for this quarter was an **American White Pelican**. It was first reported 5/28 by a fisherman near Perdix, and relocated the following morning on the SR about a mile south of the Clarks Ferry Bridge (CC, DH, et al.). This is only the second “modern” report for the county, the other being sightings of a single bird in the spring of 1989 (Pennsylvania Birds Vol. 3, No. 2 p. 66).

The first **Great Egrets** arrived on schedule and 2 were sighted at WL 3/14 (SL, RW), while **Double-crested Cormorants** followed two days later 3/16 when one was observed near SWF (Crt). An early **Black-crowned Night Heron** was found at WL 3/19 (TJ). The Wade Island Nest Survey, conducted 4/30, yielded 173 **Great Egret** nests, 62 **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, and 73 **Double-crested Cormorant** (*vide* DB). This is the highest **Great Egret** count since 2003, the lowest **Black-crowned** since the survey began in 1985, and the highest cormorant total, despite last year’s culling, since first nesting in 1996. Two **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** nests were confirmed in a residential neighborhood in May (TJ, et al.). A **Glossy Ibis** paid a visit to WL in time for the Centennial Celebration 4/28 (JR, et al.).

Bald Eagles were observed by many. The most notable report came from a Manada Conservancy outing to HI 4/22 when not only were the two adult **Bald Eagles** present at their sycamore tree nest site but at least six sub-adult **Bald Eagles** were also viewed on the Island (SB, et al.). The Harrisburg **Peregrine Falcons** had another successful nesting season on the ledge of the 15th floor of the Rachel Carson Building. Five eggs were laid from 3/26–4/4 with the first hatching 5/4. Four of the five hatched successfully.

A **Sora** paid a visit to SWF, first reported 3/24 (TJ, LU), and remaining on the river’s edge and flotsam through 3/31. Another **Sora** was found at WL 5/5 (RM). One or more **American Coot** were reported from various location from mid-Mar through Apr including WL and SWF (many).

The first “shorebird” report was of 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** found in a wet field at HIBA 3/26 (RW). A **Whimbrel** and 3 **Dunlin** were found with both **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper, and Killdeer** at a small pond on Knight Rd. in West Hanover Twp. 4/28 (BCt). This small impoundment has been a magnet for a variety of unusual species over the past few years and is certainly worth regular visits. **Whimbrels** were also among the species heard in the early morning hours 5/29 SWF (TJ). The first **Am. Woodcock** was reported in EHT 3/4 and **Common Snipe** arrived 3/11 and remained through 4/17 (R&SZ).

The **Bonaparte’s Gull** migration was first noted 3/15 when a small flight of 13 were observed SWF. With them came the first **Little Gull** of the season (RK, Crt). **Bonaparte’s** continued to be reported from various locations along the SR near HBG through 5/18 including a report of more than 500 at SMV 4/1 (AMg). **Little Gull** was also reported from various locations through 4/4 (many) including one seen at MBG 3/25 (MB). This was another very good season for **Little Gull** with multiple individuals, as high as nine, sighted on many occasions. A **Black-headed Gull** was found at SFH 3/30 and again 3/31 (Crt, MW) and another was reported a week later 4/7 at City Island, HBG (m.obs). There was also a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** observed SWF 3/10 (Crt). **Caspian and Forster’s Tern** were observed along the SR from mid-Apr to mid-May (many), but only one **Black Tern** was reported 5/6 SWF (DM, RK).

A surprising find in the Paxtang neighborhood 3/23 was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** roosting in an ornamental evergreen; and, from the same location, **Common Nighthawks** were first reported 4/22 (DH). The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** noted this quarter was sighted during a round of golf at the Manada Golf Club 5/15 (CJ). Not a bad “birdie”.

Both **Alder** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were among the birds found in SCV 5/21 (MF, DH). The first **Willow Flycatcher**, returning to its nesting habitat in EHT, was noted 5/4 (NC). The report of a **Red-eyed**

Vireo near Pillow along the northern border of the county 4/14 was a new "earliest" date (MB). **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in SCV 5/7 (DH) and also in SGL 246 on 5/9 (SH).

A lone **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, after spending the fall and winter, continued to visit suet feeders through 4/9 SHT (PW, RW). On 4/21 another paid a visit in EHT (NC). The first reports of **American Pipit** included one observed from SWF 3/16 (CRt), and, as many as 60 found in the HIBA 3/16-19 (TJ, RW).

This was a good season for warblers with 34.5 species reported. Some of the most notable included a very early **Hooded Warbler** that showed up in a HER yard 4/5 (GB); a **Prothonotary Warbler** that was found at WL 4/27 (CRb) and remained for two days; and, two reports of **Orange-crowned Warbler**, the first at WL 4/28 (CRt, et al.) and the second from SGL 246 on 5/4 (RK, JR). **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in SCV 5/5 (CRt), in Weiser S. F. 5/7 (DH), and again in SCV 5/21 (MF, DH). **Mourning Warbler** was found at SGL 246 on 5/13 (CB, CI) and, another was reported in SCV 5/20 (RK). Most warbler species arrived the last week of Apr through the first few days of May and SCV and SGL 246 proved to be the two best birding locations. A **Summer Tanager** was found in SGL 246 on 5/9 (SH, DH). The **Summer Tanager** is a rare/irregular visitor with this being only the third spring report of this species over the past decade.

The snow storm on 3/16, dropping 10"+, must have corresponded to the peak of the **Fox Sparrow** migration. During the following week **Fox Sparrows** were everywhere. Feeder watchers, who normally reported one or two, now had half a dozen or more, and **Fox Sparrows** were also found in the narrow grass patches along recently plowed roadways with other ground scratching birds, such as in the HIBA (many). The last reported **Fox Sparrow** was in SHT 4/12 (PW). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was reported 3/14 SHT (JG) and both **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrow** were found in the HIBA 3/17-3/19 (TJ, AS). The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** reported this season was found at the Hummel Nature Trail in HUM 3/30 (SH); and the most noteworthy **Swamp Sparrow** report was during the PAMC 5/12 when 6 were counted on a property in EHT (NC).

A single **Rusty Blackbird**, in the company of a few **Red-winged Blackbirds**, stopped at a yard feeder in SHT 3/7 (PW, RW). Most other **Rusty Blackbird** reports came from either SFH or WL between 3/28 and 4/28 (many).

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Delaware County

Locations: Crum Creek (CC), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/12 (PAMC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY)

Twenty-four hours of sleet, rain and snow on 3/16 must have been a shock to the early migrants such as **Eastern Phoebe**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (JMc) and **Pine Warbler** (AS). The storm brought down an impressive number of migrants.

A better than average flight of 10,000 **Snow Goose** from 3/13- 4/11 over RTP included 3000 on 3/26 and again 3/14 when 98 **Brant** were also counted (JL). Waterfowl diversity and numbers were disappointing. A **Common Teal** (**Eurasian Green-winged Teal**) was found among the 100 **Green-winged Teal** feeding on the flats of DC 3/8-3/22 (TF, m.obs.). A **Wood Duck** pair completed a clutch of 11 eggs in a 150-year-old red oak (*Quercus rubra*) in Media. The tree was cut down 4/11 and the eggs, warm to the touch, were subsequently eaten raw by the workers. I have watched ducks nest in that tree for a decade. For two weeks afterward the **Wood Duck** pair visited the empty space at about 6:30 AM, flew around the opening giving plaintive calls (to my ear), and finally moved on.

Many dabblers, **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Blue-winged Teal** were missed, but 100 **Ring-necked Duck**, a **Common Goldeneye** 3/1 (DM) and **Greater Scaup** (AG) 3/16 were on SR along with the usual group of **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser**. The DCCC pond also hosted 17 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/31- 4/14 (SJ). A **Long-tailed Duck** on the DR 4/4 was a good bird, but an **Eared Grebe** 3/23 (AG) was a super find. A fly-over **Red-throated Loon** 4/21 and 40 **Common Loon** 4/5-

4/30 were seen over RTP. A **Great Cormorant** lingered on the DR until at least 3/23 (AG) and more than 125 **Double-crested Cormorant** 4/21- 4/22 passed over RTP to join the many overwintering cormorant on our county's large bodies of water.

Birds are a known part of the **Great Blue Heron's** diet. Hawkwatchers at RTP witnessed a unique feeding style on 4/1 when, "... one of two **Great Blue Heron** dropped down quickly and snapped up a passerine in mid-air for an in-flight snack." (JL, SC). The first report of a **Great Egret** came 4/7 as it roosted at a small "marsh mitigation" site in Essington (DM). Twenty-two **Glossy Ibis** passed RTP 4/25 (BR, JL) documenting their increasing presence in PA.

A **Black Vulture** pair nested successfully at RCSP. Park workers found the abandoned young bird in an empty building and took it to rehab where it is doing well. Only three years after our first **Osprey** nest in over six decades, we have two active nests. The 2005 failed nest in Chester was not active in 2006. On 4/4 AG saw a female **Osprey** on that nest which is just yards away from the new Harrah's Casino. The Marcus Hook pair was seen 4/8 on the tower where it successfully nested in 2006 (TR).

Ridley Creek, stocked with trout in Mar by the PA Fish & Boat Commission, was a "happy hunting ground" for an adult **Bald Eagle** 4/10. Not only has this species recently set migration records at RTP, where 13 **Bald Eagle** passed 4/13, but Gary Becker reported that since opening day of trout season, the eagle has been fishing alongside anglers, seeking the largesse of the stocking program. Gary noted that, "between man and raptor the future doesn't look good for the fish." Single **Northern Goshawks** were reported 3/20, 4/10, 4/22 at RTP. A **Broad-winged Hawk** 4/7 preceded the bulk of the migration which totaled only 430, most of which passed 4/21- 4/29. Sheryl Johnson's **Red-tailed Hawks** bred successfully again this year at HC. One chick, fallen from the nest, was rehatched briefly and returned to the nest tree along with two other fostered fledglings. A **Golden Eagle** 3/20 at RTP was the only individual reported. A pair of **American Kestrel** has been hunting the fields surrounding the Glen Mill School, but breeding status is not confirmed (DM). **Wild Turkey** continue to be seen in Aston 4/5 this time in a commercial area 4/5 and on 3/16 on Little Tinicum Island, where they nested in 2006 (AG). After the historic Nor'easter of 4/16 with snow and winds gusts up to 50 mph, 3 **Sandhill Crane** gave hawkwatchers at RTP a thrill at 9:30 AM 4/17 (GB, SC).

All reports of waders come from PHL which Al Guarente checked often for his county Big Year. **Semipalmated Plover** 5/23, 14 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/23, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** were his finds. The Firefighter's Pond on Hog Island Rd. hosted as many as 45 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/30 (DM) and is now the most dependable snipe site in season. **Bonaparte's Gull** along the DR since 3/16 were joined by **Laughing Gull** 4/4 (AG).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was in Media 5/4 (AG). Only three PBBA blocks have **Black-billed Cuckoo** and only one has confirmed breeding in 2004. **Chimney Swift** returned 4/2 and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived at one feeder 4/23, a day later than the last four years (DL). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/1-5/11 was seen by many birders on the Bridge Trail at RCSP and **Alder Flycatcher** 5/2 is a rare county bird (AG). The first **Least Flycatcher** arrived at RTP 4/21. Another was seen 5/3 (AG).

Purple Martin's arrived 4/21. We have four martin colonies which all did well this year. At Glen Mills we banded 269 of the more than 300 chicks still in the nest. The new colony at Red Hill Farm (Neumann College) Aston is growing. Bruce Child's Boothwyn colony and the old Aston Municipal group also fared well. More than 425 martins will fledge. **Cliff Swallows** returned 5/4 to the barn where they nested last year at RCSP (AG).

Red-breasted Nuthatch sightings were few with one bird at RCSP (TR) and a bird on a Glen Mills Llama Farm 3/19 (JMCE). At Waterloo Mills MP found his first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/22. We saw all expected thrushes with both **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** 5/15.

Twenty-seven species of warblers were reported. I wasn't in the county for most of May, but it's hard to believe that **Blackburnian**, **Bay Breasted** or **Tennessee** were missed. See the season chart for details. A **Cerulean Warbler** sang persistently near Russell Cemetery at RCSP 5/10 (AG, BG), but was not seen again. In the same area a **Mourning Warbler** responded to phishing 5/19 (DM). At HC 13 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were a record for SJ.

A fallout of **Fox Sparrows** was widely reported after the 3/16 storm came through. Nine arrived at our ground feed in Media and lingered for ten days. Among the **White-throated Sparrow** on the HC campus 4/25, SJ found an albino individual for which good photos are available. A beautiful female **Dickcissel** was feeding under Bob and Nancy Bernhardt's feeder when she returned from pruning trees at their Indian Orchard Farm, Middletown. AG found a bright female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** inside the airport fence at PHL. She was feeding with a mixed blackbird flock from 3/23- 4/6. At least one other female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** joined the flock on 4/3 (DR).

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Lawson, Bill Lane, Jim Lockyer, Jill McElderry-Maxwell (JMcE), Martin Page, Tom Reeves, Bill Roache, Dirk Robinson.

Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

Erie County

The weather in March was fairly typical for the month, but April brought unusually cold temperatures and severe snow storms. The first three weeks were bitterly cold, which some birders reported impacted the survival of **Eastern Phoebe**s, **Tree Swallows**, and **Eastern Bluebirds**. The ice melted off Presque Isle Bay by March 22, but stayed on the lake until well into the first week of April. Despite the delayed ice melt waterfowl peaked in early April with **Red-breasted Mergansers** numbering from 15,000 to 20,000 birds. On April 5 there was a huge movement of **Bonaparte's Gulls** that blanketed Presque Isle Bay with numbers exceeding 75,000 birds. Passerine migrations appeared better this year than last, at least from a birders perspective. The first major movement was on May 9 when 22 species of warblers were identified from one site on the park. Migration through the rest of the month was drawn out without any other major movements detected. Birders commented that they were more **Cape May** and **Blackburnian Warblers** on the trails of Presque Isle State Park than in many years. There was however a lack of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and northern finches this season with few reports.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise. The large flock of 38 all white **Snow Geese** at the channel 3/15 was a very high count for western PA (JM). A total of seven **White-winged Scoter** were tallied from 3/7- 4/14 (JM, MV). Up to ten **Surf Scoters** were present from Mar- 4/21 (JM, MV) with a single late one seen 5/2 (BC). One of few records in *Erie* of a male **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** was studied near Perry Monument 3/15 (KG, JS). Very rare in spring were two **Red-throated Loons** in basic plumage found dead on the beach, with the first discovered 4/20 and the second one 4/27 (JM). A total of four **Red-necked Grebes** were counted between 3/11- 4/8 (JM).

A lower than usual tally of **American Bitterns** this season totaled only 6 birds between 4/21-5/4 (MV, JM). Even **Least Bittern** numbers were low for this elusive bird with only two birds reported from 5/17-5/23 (JM). The usual number of **Great Egrets** was reported for the season with about 5 from 4/14-5/24 (m.obs), but an unusually high count of 11 birds was counted at Long Pond 4/26- 4/27 (JM). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were not well represented this spring with only two birds found 5/9 (BC) and two birds 5/17 (LM).

Very rare in *Erie* were 2 **Black Vultures** observed migrating past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/26 (JM). Quite unusual was an albino **Sharp-shinned Hawk** migrating past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/26 (JM). A total of 3 **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded this spring from the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and Presque Isle S. P. (JM).

Four or 5 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen flying over Thompson Bay 3/22 (PH) and a season's total of 7 birds periodically from 4/9-5/21 (m.obs). The only **Whimbrel** was one reported from Gull Point 5/21 (EH), right on time for this rare shorebird.

Two **Little Gulls** made an appearance at Presque Isle with one 3/24 (JS, KG) and one 4/1 (JM). The seasons total of **Iceland Gull** was four from 3/11- 4/5 (MV, JM) with up to 6 seen on 4/6 and 4/8 (JM). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** tally was a total of 4 observed at the Erie Landfill & Presque Isle S.P. from 3/2- 4/9 (JM) with a high of at least 10 at Presque Isle S.P. 4/6 and 4/8 (JM). Up to 2 **Glaucous Gulls** were present at the Erie Landfill & Presque Isle S.P. from 3/2- 4/5 (JM) with a high of 5 at Presque Isle S.P. 4/6 and 4/8 (JM). A **Forster's Tern** 4/4 was earlier than usual (JM). **Black Terns** made a decent showing this spring with 2 reported 5/11 (TJC), 6 on 5/15 (DS), and 13 on 5/21 (*fide* BG).

There were a total of five **Long-eared Owls** found between 3/31- 5/11 (MV, JM, GM), with the latter date quite late (LM). The only report of **Short-eared Owl** was 2 at Gull Point on 4/27 (JM).

A **White-eyed Vireo** 4/24 was a bit early for *Erie* (BV). Totally unexpected and quite rare for *Erie* was the **Common Raven** that cruised past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center during a hawk flight 3/26 (JM). The **Townsend's Solitaire** that carried over from the winter season was still present in Fairview Twp. to 3/25 (MA). A **Gray Catbird** 4/14 made an earlier than usual appearance at Presque Isle SP (MV).

The singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/9 was the only one reported this season (JM) as well as the lone **Orange-crowned Warbler** 4/14 (JD). A **Northern Parula** that arrived 4/25 was a few days earlier than expected (JM). The seasons total of 3 **Prairie Warblers** was the norm for the spring season at Presque Isle SP (JM, EH). A **Palm Warbler** in a back yard in *Erie* 3/26 was earlier than usual (KA). The always rare and secretive **Connecticut Warbler** was found 5/21 (DR) for the only report this spring.

Now regular in *Erie*, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard singing and observed briefly before it flew off at the golf course near the Erie Zoo 5/5 (BC). There was a season's total of 3 **Clay-colored Sparrows** on Presque Isle S.P. 5/12 and 5/14 (RS, *fide* DS resp.). Annual but rare, was a **White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's race)** photographed in the Beach 11 parking lot 5/16 (JM). Rarely reported from Presque Isle S.P. was a male

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco photographed 5/18 (JM, MW). Only regular in the fall in *Erie* was a **Lapland Longspur** at Bluffs S. P. 3/12 (BC). The single **Pine Siskin** coming to an Edinboro feeder to at least 3/5 was the only one reported this spring (LM).

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Fayette County

Locations: Jacob's Creek Lake at Jacob's Creek County Park (JCL), Ohio State Park (OSP).

March brought a nice variety of water birds to the county with the expected fallouts during spring rains. March 20 was a good day for waterfowl with the following reported at JCL: one **Wood Duck**, 20 **Northern Shoveler**, 4 **Green-winged Teal**, 150 **Ring-necked Duck**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, 50 **Lesser Scaup**, one **Long-tailed Duck**, 20 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Common Goldeneye**, 10 **Hooded Merganser**, 2 **Common Merganser**, and 3 **Ruddy Ducks**. In addition to the ducks, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, 20 **Horned Grebe**, and a **Ring-billed Gull** were present (WS).

At Deer Lake that same day the following were found: 3 **Wood Duck**, 2 **Gadwall**, 4 **Northern Shoveler**, 3 **Northern Pintail**, 10 **Green-winged Teal**, 3 **Canvasback**, a **Redhead**, 14 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Hooded Merganser**, a **Pied-billed Grebe** and a **Horned Grebe** (WS). There were two reports of **Blue-winged Teal**: 8 at JCL 4/15 (LH, LiH) and 2 at that location 4/29 (MB). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived at JCL 3/25 (MF), one was there 3/31 (MF) and 15 were there 4/15 (LH, LiH).

Waterfowl were reported from the Youghiogheny River Outflow in Mar including 5 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/17 and 3 on 3/24, one **Bufflehead** 3/17, 9 on 3/24, and 7 on 4/3, five **Common Goldeneye** 3/17, and 3 **Hooded Merganser** 3/17. Two **American Coot** were also reported there 3/17 (PW).

Overcast and rainy conditions 3/23 forced down 25 **Common Loons** to JCL (MF). **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported from JCL from 3/22 to 4/19 with a max count of 23 on 4/15 (LH, LiH).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard calling at JCL 3/31 (MF). I got a report from a co-worker that there is a sustaining population of pheasants in Lower Tyrone Twp.

Raptor highlights include a **Bald Eagle** at Lake Lynn 4/19 (JB), and **Osprey** at the Youghiogheny River Outflow 4/13 (PW) and JCL 4/15 (LH, LiH). **American Coot** were present at JCL 3/22- 4/19 with a max count of 20 during that period (LH, LiH, MF).

As usual shorebird reports were sparse, but the following were found in the county. **Killdeer** were first reported 3/20 (WS), but undoubtedly arrived earlier than that. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Deer Lake 4/29 (JB), and a **Spotted Sandpiper** was found along the rapids at OSP 5/7 (MF). Three **American Woodcock** were found near OSP 4/29 during a night bird survey for the Breeding Bird Atlas (MB). Five **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 2 **Ring-billed Gulls** and a **Caspian Tern** were at JCL 4/15 (LH, LiH).

Although resident in the county, I get few reports of Great Horned, Barred and Eastern Screech Owls. Thanks to atlas efforts I have a report of 4 **Barred Owls** 4/29 (MB), 2 **Eastern Screech Owls** (location unknown) 5/25 (MB, EH) and a **Great Horned Owl** (carrying prey no less) near Chalkhill 5/26 (MB, EH). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling near Ohioville during a night survey for the Breeding Bird Atlas 4/29 (MB) and was heard again 5/18 (GM). **Whip-poor-wills** were located during Breeding Bird Atlas Surveys this spring. Three were heard 4/29 (MB), and 4 were heard in different locations 5/25 and 5/26 (MB).

A visit to Mill Run Res. and OSP 5/7 yielded **Northern Rough-winged**, **Tree**, **Barn**, and **Cliff Swallows**, all nesting in the area (MF). The **Barn Swallows** and **Cliff Swallows** have been nesting on bridges at both locations for many years. A **Bank Swallow** was seen at Indian Creek Valley Trail 5/8 (LH, LiH).

Two **Least Flycatchers** were calling at Mill Run Res. 5/7 (MF). One was heard at OSP 5/19 (GM). The only migrant thrush reported was a **Swainson's Thrush** at OSP 5/19 (GM), but this was due to lack of coverage in the area. **Wood Thrushes** were noted in many locations 5/7 (MF), but due to few birders in the area, arrival dates are unknown. A **Brown Thrasher** was welcome sight at JCL 3/31 (MF).

A trip to OSP 5/7 yielded 2 **Golden-winged Warblers**, 5 **Northern Parulas**, 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, one **Yellow-throated Warbler**, one **Prairie Warbler**, one **Black-and-white Warbler**, 5 **American Redstarts**, 6 **Ovenbirds**, 7 **Common Yellowthroats**, and 4 **Hooded Warblers** (MF). A **Blue-winged Warbler** and 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** were found at the park 5/19 (GM). Other warblers found that day included 4 **Chestnut-sided**, 3 **Black-throated Green**, a **Black-and-white**, **Ovenbirds**, and a **Canada Warbler**. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at OSP 5/19 and a **Northern Waterthrush** was singing at Mill Run Res. 5/7 (MF).

Three **Bobolinks** were present on a farm near OSP 5/7 (MF). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were present in the fields around JCL 3/28, and one was seen and heard at the farm mentioned above 5/7 (MF).

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Kellettsville (KE), Marienville (MA), Muzette (MU), Nebraska (NB), Neiltown (NE), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta Lake (TL), Tionesta Outflow (TO), West Hickory (WH).

Nine years of data for the Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC) in *Forest* is enabling some comparison in this report. The PAMC (5/12/07) is always done on the second Saturday in May.

Tundra Swans were reported near TI 3/9 (FM, JM), 3/15 (TBe), and a high of 85 on 3/25 (FM, JM). A **Blue-winged Teal** was found at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen at the hatchery near TI 3/2 (FM, JM), and 5 were at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). A **Bufflehead** was located at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC), while 3 were seen at WH 4/3, along with a **Hooded Merganser** (FM, JM). A singleton **Common Loon** was noted at TC 4/24 (FM, JM), and 4/26 (CW), and at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). The only **Common Loon** in 9 years to linger for the PAMC was found at NB 5/12 (FM, JM). The first **Green Herons** (2) were spotted at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC).

The first **Turkey Vultures** were seen near CF 3/31 (MB, TB), with a high of 9 at RB 5/12 (FM, JM). An **Osprey** was reported near KE 4/26 (CW), and another at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). **Bald Eagles** were reported from several locations: an active nest 3/31 (MB, TB); an imm. 4/26 (CW); and 2 adults 5/12 (FM, JM). A **Northern Harrier** was a nice find, as well as the first **Broad-winged Hawk**, and an **American Coot**, all at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC).

Shorebird reports were slim – this should be attributed more to a scarcity of birders than birds. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was found near MA for the PAMC 5/12 (FM, JM). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were spotted at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC), and a single was seen near MA 5/12, in the same pond with a **Solitary Sandpiper**. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was found 5/12 at BM (FM, JM). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were seen at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). The first **American Woodcock** was flushed at ANF 4/11, and one was seen at BS 4/17 doing the "rhumba" across the road (FM, JM). Four **Ring-billed Gulls** were a nice find for the PAMC near TI 5/12 (FM, JM), while 2 were at BS 4/28, along with a **Bonaparte's Gull** and a **Forster's Tern** (SRAS-TBC).

The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted near TI 5/13. Three **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at various locations was a high for the PAMC in *Forest* 5/12 (FM, JM). The first **Whip-poor-will** was reported from RB 5/8 (DS). A count of 14 **Northern Flickers** on the PAMC 5/12 was double the previous average. The first **Chimney Swifts** (8) were circling at TI 5/12; first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** near TI 5/6.

The earliest **Acadian Flycatchers** were heard 5/12: 2 at NB, and another at RB. An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard near WH 5/17; **Least Flycatcher** at KE 5/7. The first **Eastern Phoebe** was found near TI 3/25; **Eastern Phoebes** seemed to become scarce after an extreme cold spell in Apr - only one was found on the PAMC, where the previous average had been 8.5. The first **Eastern Kingbirds** (2) were at RB 5/12. The earliest **Blue-headed Vireos** (6) were noted at MU 4/22; and first **Red-eyed Vireo** near TI 5/12 (FM, JM).

Tree Swallows appeared at WH 4/3 (FM, JM), and a high of 105 was counted at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** (at least 6) returned to a traditional nest site at TO 4/24; 12 **Bank Swallows** were seen at TC 5/12, and 20 **Cliff Swallows** were at KE 5/7 (FM, JM). The earliest **Barn Swallows** (6) were spotted at BS 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). **House Wren** was first seen at TL 5/7, and 3 **Winter Wrens** were singing at NB 5/12. A high of 8 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was seen at BS 4/17 (FM, JM), where 13 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were counted 4/28 (SRAS-TBC). The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted at ANF 4/24. **Veery** was first reported at RB 5/12; 3 **Veeries** were found in *Forest* for the PAMC 5/12. First **Swainson's Thrush** was near TI 4/28; 2 were found at MU 5/12. The earliest **Hermit Thrushes** (2) were near TI 4/5. The first **Wood Thrush** was seen near TI 5/7; a count of 8 **Wood Thrushes** for the PAMC in *Forest* was above average. The earliest **Gray Catbird** was located near TI 5/6; a count of 23 **Gray Catbirds** for the PAMC was well above average. The first **Brown Thrasher** was found at TO 4/24 (FM, JM).

The first **Blue-winged Warbler** was found near WH 5/12; first **Nashville Warbler** near TI 5/6; first **Northern Parula**, at TO 5/7. The earliest **Yellow Warblers** (3) were found at KE 5/7, and 19 were found in *Forest* for the PAMC 5/12. The first **Chestnut-sided Warblers** (7) were singing at RB 5/12, when a total of 18 were reported in the county. The first **Magnolia Warblers** (3) were at NB 5/12; first **Black-throated Blue Warblers** (4) near TI 5/12; first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** near TI 5/6. The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard at TC 4/24, with a high of 12 at WH on 5/12; a total of 31 for the PAMC was on average. Four **Blackburnian Warblers** were at NB 5/12, and 14 were counted for the PAMC. Four **Black-and-white Warblers**, 4 **American Redstarts** and 28 **Ovenbirds** were found at RB 5/12. Forty-one **Ovenbirds** in *Forest* 5/12 for

the PAMC was above average. The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was singing at NB 5/12; the first **Common Yellowthroats** were found 5/12, with a high of 9 at RB. Ten **Hooded Warblers** were found at various locations 5/12. A **Wilson's Warbler** at TC 5/12 was the second report in 9 years for the PAMC; the previous one, in 1999, was seen at the exact same location. A **Canada Warbler** was also at TC 5/12 (FM, JM).

The first **Scarlet Tanager** was noted near TI 5/7; a total of 17 for the PAMC was well above average. A very early **Eastern Towhee** was singing near TI 3/14. The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen near TI 3/15; the first **Chipping Sparrow** near TI 4/7, and the first **Field Sparrow** at ANF 4/19. First **Savannah Sparrows** (2) were spotted at RB 5/12; first **Grasshopper Sparrow** was near NE 5/15. The last **Fox Sparrow** was seen near TI 4/15, where the high of 4 was observed 4/10. The last **White-throated Sparrow** was noted 4/29, and the last **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/12, near TI. The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found near TI 4/28, first **Indigo Bunting** near TI 5/10, first **Bobolinks** (15) at RB 5/12. The first **Red-winged Blackbirds** were found near TI 3/2, with a high of 53 at RB 5/12. The first **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen near WH 4/3. The first **Common Grackles** (4) were near TI 3/16, and the PAMC total for *Forest* 5/12 was well over average at 101. The first **Baltimore Oriole** was singing at TO 5/7, and 11 were reported for the PAMC 5/12 (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA, 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Terry Bean (TBe), Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter (TB), Jim McGuire, Duey Schlack, Carole Willenpart, SRAS-TBC (Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and Todd Bird Club outing participants): Val Means, Debbie Shirey, Ruth Schurr, Karl Schurr, Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Dory Jacobs, Flo & Jim McGuire).

Franklin County

Locations: Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Edenville Area,(EA) South Mountain Area (SMA), Chambersburg Area (CA).

Waterfowl on GR continues to be the most numerous and varied this spring. About 15 species were observed over the period with the following interesting sightings: 91 **Tundra Swans**, 3 **Common Goldeneye**, 2 **Northern Pintail**, 2 **Hooded Merganser**, 7 **Ring-necked Duck** and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 3/7. **Long-tailed Duck** made their appearance 3/23 along with some **Bufflehead**, **Horned Grebe**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Ruddy Duck**, **American Coot**, **Ring-necked Duck**, plus the usual **Mallard** and **Canada Geese**.

Red-tailed Hawks seem to have taken a liking to the county. Fourteen Red-tail Hawk nests were monitored this spring just in one area of the county.

The number of shorebirds and species were minimal this spring. Some species not reported but usually seen were; any of the plovers, Sanderling and Short-billed Dowitchers.

Whip-poor-wills are being reported along both mountains (South and Kittatinny) and the numbers are good. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** seem to making a comeback in our county. Numerous sightings have been reported at feeders and wooded areas. Also young have been sighted this year.

On 3/15 the swallows began to make their appearance at GR. The **Tree Swallows** were the first to arrive and on 4/19 over 200 were estimated literally filling the air over GR. Large numbers of **Barn Swallows** were also present during this time. A goodly number of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, along with **Bank Swallows** and **Cliff Swallows** made use of the water at GR in Apr and early May.

Goodly number of species of warblers were reported, particularly, in SMA by Bob Keener and Carl Garner which included a **Brewster's Warbler**. The **Cerulean Warblers** remain strong near Upper Strasburg.

A **Henslow's Sparrow** was sighted and heard singing near Lemaster in a farm grassfield 5/21. Dale Gearhart and Joyce Stuff were observing a **Dickcissel** when the Henslow sang. It has not been located since.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA, 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net**, Dave Cooney, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Bill Oylar, Miklos Oylar, Joyce Stuff.

Fulton County

No Report.

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Greene County

Locations: Franklin Township at East View (EV), Franklin Township East of Waynesburg (FRK), Last Chance Ranch Perry Township (LCR), Ralph K. Bell Farm Morgan Township (RBF).

Finally, spring arrived! We had our doubts the first part of April, but the last half of April warmed up and the birds arrived, most of them right on schedule. As mentioned before in this column, *Greene* is running out of

"watering holes", and therefore the ducks/geese/swans of spring were few and far between. Duke Lake at Ryerson State Park has been drained and the Waynesburg Reservoir has been partially drained. That leaves Lake Wilma at Blacksburg which is where all of the fishermen have migrated, so many of the spring ducks/geese/swans moved on.

Near Pine Bank Terry Cole reported a **Tundra Swan** 3/12. At a private pond with overhanging trees, 2 **Wood Ducks** were spotted 3/20 along with several **Mallards** (KK). A week later 3/27 she found 18 **Wood Ducks**, again with several **Mallards** at this pond on Country Club Estates Rd. in Morgan Twp. An **American Wigeon** and a **Ring-necked Duck** were found at EV 3/11 (JH, MH).

Great Blue Herons stayed until late in Jan, but returned 4/3 when MLP found one in Big Shannon Run at LCR. Even with larger bodies of water disappearing, the number of **Great Blue Heron** colonies is increasing. Hopefully this is an indicator that the streams and creeks are clean and healthy, as they must be providing ample food for the large birds. The **Green Herons** moved in as soon as it warmed up with the earliest reported 4/20 at the Waynesburg Sportsman Club pond in FRK (JH).

Turkey Vultures seem to be increasing in numbers as one can seldom view the skies without finding these high-flyers. The earliest was reported 3/11 at RBF (RKB). **Osprey** had been seen every spring for the last several years visiting Lake Duke and even lingering well in May (we were hoping for a nest). They are still passing through and are found on the larger creeks. One was spotted near Waynesburg at the Penn Dot lot, which overlooks Ten Mile Creek 4/26 (JH). Near the Waynesburg Sportsman Club in FRK, a **Northern Harrier** was seen 3/30 (JH). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported at EV 4/30 (MH). Every year members of the Pittsburgh Audubon Society and Three Rivers Bird Club have an outing at the Bell Farm (RFB). They walk down Pollock Mill road through a wooded area to Ten Mile Creek enjoying birds and flowers, return to the farm, then after lunch Ralph K. Bell takes them up to his **American Kestrel** nest box and bands the babies (five this year). A total of 71 bird species were recorded.

At EV along Ten Mile creek there is a swampy area where an **American Coot** was seen 4/23 (JH). It's hard to say when the last winter date and first spring date for **Killdeer** occurred this year. They had been seen occasionally through 2/4 (see winter report KK), then when winter really "set-in", they were not noted until 3/1 at RBF (RKB). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found 5/3, the first **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted 5/7 and the first **Spotted Sandpiper** was found 4/28, all at EV (MH). While driving to work 4/4 just at dawn, an **American Woodcock** flew across the road just in front of KK on Kennel Rd.

Cuckoos are more plentiful in *Greene* this spring, but more tent caterpillars are also noted. The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported 5/8 at RBF (RKB), and the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was 5/6 at Rohanna's Lake on Rolling Meadows Rd. (KK). The earliest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen 4/22 at Spraggs (MH) and RKB reports that again this year this species is using a porch swing chain as a nesting site. This is the third year he has witnessed this active nest at a friend's home.

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was first noted 5/11 (MH) at EV, while an **Eastern Phoebe** was first noted 3/13 at RBF (RKB). The earliest reported **Eastern Kingbird** was 5/1 at EV (MH). A **White-eyed Vireo** turned up at LCR 4/26 (MLP), and the **Yellow-throated Vireo** was not far behind singing at RBF 4/30 (RKB). Somewhat later, 5/9, a **Warbling Vireo** showed up at RBF (RKB). The first **Red-eyed Vireo** was 5/6 at EV (MH). **Common Ravens** are living up to their name, becoming more common in *Greene* with more reports every year (The 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas work is providing multiple nesting confirmations for this species). The earliest this spring was 3/3 at EV (JH, MH).

Also doing well in the county are **Purple Martins**. There are several large colonies, with more folks inquiring about starting their own each year. The earliest scout seen was 3/22 by John Antonacci on Shortcut Rd. Other "landlords" reported more birds in the next week. Unfortunately the cold damp weather the first two weeks of Apr was very hard on these birds and several died. RKB found 3 dead at RBF 4/17 due to cold weather and starvation. However the late-arriving birds have done well. RKB (fide) reports he was told of one colony that has 90 pair, while John Antonacci (who uses only gourd nesting sites) has more than 50 pair. His neighbor has also put up gourds to provide additional space. George Blystone reports that Mason-Dixon Park near Mt. Morris has two martin houses and some gourds all of which are full. Three **Tree Swallows** made it to RBF 3/21 and two **Northern-Rough-winged Swallows** arrived 3/29 (earliest record noted) at Pollock's Mill Bridge (RKB). The **Barn Swallows** were a bit later, arriving 4/20 at LCR (MLP).

While not migrants (silly little birds) **Carolina Wrens** are amazingly plentiful after the snow and bitter cold of the winter. Their more sensible migrating cousins, the **House Wrens** returned 4/27 to RBF (RKB). The latest **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was heard also at RBF 4/10 (RKB). He also reported the first **Wood Thrush** of the season 4/27, while the earliest **Gray Catbird** was found 4/10 at EV (MH). A **Brown Thrasher** arrived at RBF 4/11 (RKB). The swampy area mentioned earlier at EV was very productive this year with an **American Pipit** reported 3/17 (MH).

At LCR **Blue-winged Warblers** arrived 4/27 (MH). A change of offices at work presented a window that opens to a wooded hillside and ravine at FRK for KK. While working, she listened to what was happening

in the woods. A **Northern Parula** arrived singing 4/25, as did a **Louisiana Waterthrush** 3/26, and 5/3 a **Hooded Warbler** made the work day more pleasant. A **Yellow Warbler** found its way back to LCR 4/24 (MLP). **Magnolia Warblers**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were still found 5/12 (the day of the PAMC). Always out and about at RBF, RKB reported **Yellow-throated Warblers** 4/3, a last sighting of a **Pine Warbler** checking out a feeder 3/26, two **Cerulean Warblers** singing and an **American Redstart** 4/25. While some folks maintain that **Ovenbirds** are getting hard to find, the wooded south central part of the county must be where they are hiding, as they are heard frequently when driving along. The earliest one reported was 4/26 at LCR (MLP). Not usually this late, the first reported **Kentucky Warbler** noted was 5/14 on Independence Ridge (KK). A **Wilson's Warbler** was reported at EV 5/4 (MH).

At EV the last time an **American Tree Sparrow** was noted was 3/17 (JH, MH). At RBF **Chipping Sparrows** arrived 3/25, **Field Sparrows** 4/10, and RKB noted a **Vesper Sparrow** along the edge of the road near Waynesburg 4/5. With many observers in the field for the PAMC, 5/12 is the latest date **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last noted 4/23 at RBF (RKB).

At a sunflower seed feeder at LCR, MLP found two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** 4/26. Her word was "gorgeous." An **Indigo Bunting** was first noted at EV 4/27 (MH). The first **Bobolinks** this spring were heard 5/6 at RBF (RKB). They are being found more frequently and in larger groups the last few years. **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** both arrived at RBF 3/1 (RKB). He also noted 2 large flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** flying northeast the same day. Two **Common Grackles** were found at EV in the yard 3/3 (MH). While not his "favorite" bird RKB did note a **Brown-headed Cowbird** in the yard at RBF 3/22. He was much happier to find an **Orchard Oriole** 4/23. A **Baltimore Oriole** was first noted at LCR 4/30 (MLP).

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

Huntingdon County

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (OC), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SC), Stone Valley Recreation Area (SV), Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch (TMH).

Waterfowl numbers across the county rebounded from last year's scarce reports. A **Snow Goose** provided an unusual sighting during a bird walk at LP 4/11 (DW, m.obs). DK recorded the first county record of a **Cackling Goose** 5/3 at OC. The TMH reported peak flights of an estimated 1000 **Canada Geese** 3/13 and 500 **Tundra Swan** 3/25 (AH). LP hosted 2 **Redheads** 4/10 (AF) and a pair of late season **Ring-necked Ducks** 5/12 (DW). **White-winged Scoters** turned up on two lakes 4/15 with 6 at LP (GG, AF) and 3 at LR (DK). A storm brought a fallout 4/26 and LP season highs of 3 **Blue-winged Teal**, 63 **Buffleheads**, a **Common Goldeneye**, 8 **Ruddy Ducks**, 20 **Common Loons**, and 11 **Double-crested Cormorants** (DW). **Common Loons** were also recorded at the TMH with counts of 30 4/18, 32 4/19 and the season peak of 68 4/14 (AH). A **Red-necked Grebe** at LR provided one of the highlights during a field trip 3/25 (GG, m.ob.), and another **Red-necked Grebe** was recorded at LP 4/17 (DW).

An **American Bittern** was spotted at OC 5/15 (DK), and 5 **Great Egrets** highlighted an outing at LP 5/2 (DW, m.obs). For the first time in the county's 15 years of participating in the PA Migration Count, no **Green Herons** were reported 5/12.

Osprey numbers peaked at 5 on LP 4/29 (GG). As of the end of this period, no previously released **Ospreys** have returned to LR in year 2 of the second phase of the Osprey Introduction Program (CY). This program is a joint effort between the Juniata College Raystown Field Station and the US Army Corps of Engineers to re-establish an inland breeding population of Osprey in the Juniata River Basin. The TMH reported a season record high of 29 **Bald Eagles**, and record lows with 50 **Cooper's Hawks**, 334 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 31 **American Kestrels** (AH). For the second consecutive year, 3 active **Bald Eagle** nests were observed at LR (CY), and an adult **Bald Eagle** frequented LP from 4/15- 4/19 (m.obs). A pair of **Northern Goshawks** was first noted 4/3 in Rothrock S. F. and later confirmed to be nesting (GG). A record 7 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were tallied during the PAMC 5/12. The TMH recorded 152 **Golden Eagles** for the season, slightly below average. The **Golden Eagle** flight peaked during the second week in Mar with 29 eagles 3/9 and 30 3/11 (AH).

An unusual bird by LP standards, a **Common Tern** was sighted 4/12 (AF, DW). **Caspian Terns** were observed at 2 county lakes 4/14 with 3 at LP (GG) and 3 at LR (CK). A **Barn Owl** was spotted early morning 5/5 near the raptor enclosures at SC and stayed in the area until mid-afternoon (m.obs). GG reported a calling **Short-eared Owl** in SV 4/29.

Big day birding by foot in SV resulted in a number of highlights for the Groves and Kylers during the SC Birding Cup 5/5 including a **White-eyed Vireo** and **Kentucky Warbler**. Despite below average party hours for the PAMC 5/12, two other species provided records highs at over twice their average with 22 **Carolina Wrens** and 10 **Northern Mockingbirds**.

Other count highlights included an **Alder Flycatcher**, **Red-headed Woodpecker** and 2 **American Pipits** all in or near SV (DW). **Purple Finches** have been scarce at feeding stations throughout the period, but DK reported a lone finch near HU 3/31, and SW sighted 2 in Ennisville 4/1.

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA, 16669, (814) 863-2000, djw105@psu.edu**, Andrew Fedor, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Aaron Haiman, Chad Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Susan Wentzel, Chuck Yohn.

Indiana County

Locations: Blacklick Valley Natural Area (BVNA), Clymer (CM), Conemaugh Floodlands (CF), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), PAMC (Pennsylvania Migration Count), Reservoir Hill in Indiana (RH), Shelocta (SH), Smicksburg (SB), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise noted. A single **Snow Goose** visited YC between 3/13-3/17 (LC,MH). Top **Canada Goose** count was 111 on 3/13 (LC,MH). Two well-studied **Trumpeter Swans** 4/11 (BF,TF) on a pond near YC were unmarked. First **Tundra Swans** were 3 on 3/6 (LC,MH); the high was a mere 22 on 3/20 (LC), and these were also the last noted.

The date of return for many waterfowl species was 3/13 while 3/17 produced many of the season's best counts. First **Wood Ducks** were 6 on 3/13 (LC,MH) while 48 was the high count 3/17 (LC). **Gadwall** counts included 21 on 5/2 (LC) while the season's last were 3 the following day (LC). First **American Wigeons** were 36 on 3/17 (LC); this was also the high tally. YC yielded the first 13 **American Black Ducks** 3/13 (LC,MH). Top counts of 52 **American Black Ducks** and 146 **Mallards** were achieved 3/17 (LC). First 6 **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 3/17 (LC); last noted were 10 on 5/2 (LC). First **Northern Shoveler** appeared 3/17 (LC) while one lingered through 5/2 (LC,MH,RH). **Northern Pintails** peaked at 52 on 3/20 (LC,MH); last were 6 on 3/24 (LC, GL, DJ, DR, TR). **Green-winged Teal** moved through between 3/13 (LC,MH) and 4/17 (LC,MH) with top count of only 25 on 3/13 (LC,MH).

Canvassbacks appeared only on two dates - a singleton 3/17 (LC) and 4 on 3/20 (LC,MH). Twenty-two **Redheads** 3/17 (LC) was a nice count; last 12 were noted 3/24 (LC, GL, DJ, DR, TR). The Urling mine drainage treatment pond hosted 24 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/2 (RH) while YC's maxima included 162 on 3/17 (LC) and 175 on 3/24 (LC, GL, DJ, DR, TR); last was a single bird 5/22 (MA, PA, MH, DT). A **Greater Scaup** 3/27 (LC, MH, GL) was first; 12 were found 4/17 (LC, MH) while a late individual remained through 5/12 (GL, GS). Top **Lesser Scaup** tally was 38 on 5/2 (MH, DH); 5/12 (EF, MF) was the last date for one individual. Three **Surf Scoters** (MH, DH) and 3 **White-winged Scoters** (MH) were nice finds the morning of 5/2. Four **Surf Scoters** were noted in the late afternoon (LC) while one lingered till evening (EF, MF, MH, RH). **Long-tailed Ducks** noted included 8 on 3/20 (LC, MH), 5 on 3/24 (LC, GL, DJ, DR, TR), 5 on 4/12 (EF, MF), and 2 on 4/17 (LC, MH), a nice increase over last year's single report. **Bufflehead** maxima included 116 on 4/10 (MH) and 403 on 5/2 (LC). **Common Goldeneye** reports included singletons 3/20 (LC, MH) and 3/24 (MH, RH). Four **Hooded Mergansers** landed on the Urling pond 3/2 (RH); 17 was the count 3/17 (LC) at YC; 3 were spotted near North Point 5/12 (MM, NS), the last report. YC yielded 7 **Common Mergansers** 3/20 (LC, MH); 5 near North Point 5/12 (PS) were a great find for the PAMC. Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived 3/19 (MC) at Conemaugh Floodlands; 64 were recorded 4/7 (IH, MHa, MH, RH) while 23 on 5/8 (LC, MH) were last. The best day for **Ruddy Ducks** was 5/2 (LC) when an estimated 500 were noted; last was one 5/16 (DW).

Ruffed Grouse seem to be in better numbers than in recent years with 20 reports at various locations. **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at many locations with largest flocks including 18 between IN and CM 3/3 (EU) and 23 at Conemaugh Floodlands 4/7 (EF, MF). **Northern Bobwhite** reports included singletons in IN (DCI) and near Plumville (Bjo, MJ) 5/12.

All loon and grebe reports are from YC. Two **Red-throated Loons** stopped on the lake 5/15 (LC), the lone report. Six **Common Loons** 3/24 (LC, GL, DJ, DR, TR) were first; best loon count was 7 on 4/21 (LC, MH, RH, FOP); last noted were 3 on 5/22 (MJA, PA, MH, DT). **Pied-billed Grebe** first appeared 3/17 (LC) while the rather low top count of only 13 occurred on 4/13 (MC, MN, SN). A **Horned Grebe** 3/13 (LC, MH) was a first arrival; 11 was the best count 4/10 (MH). More than the usual **Red-necked Grebes** were reported. Single **Red-necked Grebes** were found 4/7 (IH, MHa, MH, RH), 4/17 (LC, MH), and 4/25 (MH, RH, LC, FOP); 2 were present 4/10 (MH).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at YC 3/31 (SB, LC, MH, RH); 11 was YC's high 5/10 (LC, MH); one still lingered at Margus Lake 5/26 (MH, RH). An **American Bittern** at YC 5/2 (MH, DH) remained through the evening (LC, EF, MF, MH, RH). The Trusal Bridge heronry contained at least 15 **Great Blue Herons** on 5/12 (MSt, JT). First 2 **Great Egrets** visited YC 4/7 (IH, MHa, MH, RH), but as many as 4 were counted 4/11 (BF, TF); last report involved 2 on 5/20 (LC). First **Green Heron** arrived at Two Lick Reservoir 4/20 (MH). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find on the evening of 5/2 (EF, MF, MH, RH) at YC; this was only the ninth county record.

Ospreys moved through YC between 3/27 (LC, MH, GL) and 5/8 (LC, MH), but none stayed to nest. **Bald Eagle** reports included single adults at YC 4/9 (MH), 4/14 (MC, MN, SN), 4/16 (JW), and 4/26 (JC); another adult was seen at Denton 4/14 (MH, RH). YC yielded **Northern Harrier** 3/13 (LC, MH) and 4/3 (LC, MH, GL); another was recorded near SB 4/30 (MH). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were respectively listed at 10 and 9 locations during the period. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted only near Strongstown 4/13 (CG, MH). **Broad-winged Hawk** arrived 4/7 at YC (IH, MHa, MH, RH), but the next sightings occurred 4/20 near LV (MC) and near Dixonville (MH). A **Merlin** was spotted near Edgewood 5/12 (EF, MF).

A **Virginia Rail** called at YC 5/2 (MH, DH). A **Common Moorhen** provided an eighth county record at YC 4/24 (MJA, LC, MH, ER); this bird was still present 5/3 (LC, MH). **American Coots** peaked at YC at 240 on 5/1 (LC, MH), less than half last year's maximum tally; 6 were still present 5/20 (LC).

Three **Semipalmated Plovers** arrived 5/11 at Tide (LC); 4 visited YC 5/29 (MH, BJ). Two **Killdeer** 3/3 (MH, RH) in IN were first. An Atlas pit stop yielded 3 **American Avocets** accompanied by 2 **Willetts** at YC 5/15 (BF, TF, MH, GL); the avocets were fourth *Indiana* records. One to 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** were listed at YC between 4/7 (EF, MF, IH, MHa, MH, RH) and 5/15 (DW). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived at YC 4/24 (JA, LC, MH, ER); 4 was the high 5/2 (MH, DH); last noted were 3 at the prison wetlands 5/12 (MH, RH, SC, JJ) and one at YC (GL, GS) the same day. **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared in the county between 5/3 (LC, MH) and 5/12 (v.o.). **Willet** reports included 4 on 5/2 (LC, MH, RH) and 2 on 5/15 (BF, TF, MH, GL), both at YC. Arrival date for **Spotted Sandpiper** was 4/27 (LC, MH, GL) at YC; 7 was a good count at North Point 5/12 (PS). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** visited YC 5/29 (MH, BJ), the lone report. A **Least Sandpiper** at Tide 5/11 (LC) and 3 at YC 5/12 (EF, MF) were the only ones noted. **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 2 at YC 5/12 (EF, MF) and 5 there 5/15 (DW). Single **Wilson's Snipe** were found at YC 4/9, 10 (MH) and 5/1 (LC, MH); 15 was a remarkable count 4/20 (EB) near CM. First **American Woodcocks** were found 3/11 (MM) near SB and 3/12 (MC) near LV, where 4 were present 3/15 (MC).

All gull and tern reports are from YC. Top **Bonaparte's Gull** tallies included 350 on 4/7 (EF, MF), 141 on 4/25 (MH, RH, LC, FOP), and 128 on 5/2 (MH, RH). The highest **Ring-billed Gull** count of 512 was attained at YC 5/2 (MH, RH); only one **Herring Gull** accompanied that large flock. Two **Caspian Terns** 4/14 (MC, MN, SN) were first; 3 were noted 4/18 (BF, TF), and one was last seen 5/2 (LC). **Common Tern** reports included 2 on 4/12 (EF, MF), 4 on 5/12 (EF, MF), and 6 on 5/16 (DW). **Forster's Terns** numbered 46 on 5/2 (LC). One **Black Tern** 5/12 (EF, MF, DL) and 6 on 5/15 (DW) were the only ones noted this season.

Cuckoo arrival dates included 5/11 (MH) near Jacksonville for **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 5/12 (v.o.) for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at various locations across the county. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were listed at 3 locations (v.o.) while **Great Horned Owls** and **Barred Owls** were each noted at 4 (v.o.). **Common Nighthawks** continue to be difficult to find with only 3 reports, one at YC (EF, MF, DL) and one in IN (MH), both 5/12, and one near CM 5/17 (EB). An amazingly early **Whip-poor-will** was heard 3/27 (KD) near SH, an area where they had been territorial last year; none were heard thereafter. One was found on the PAMC 5/12 (DC, MC, SS) near West Lebanon. First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/23 (CL, GL) near CM. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 4/27 both near Creekside (MA) and near LV (MC).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared 5/5 (BF, TF) near Penn Run, the lone report. RH yielded the most consistent sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** between 3/31-4/22 (PJ). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and **Acadian Flycatchers** appeared first on 5/11 (MH) near Jacksonville. **Acadian Flycatchers** arrived in the county 5/13 (v.o.). **Alder Flycatchers** were listed only 5/12 (EF, MF) at YC and 5/31 (MA, MH) south of Georgeville. May 12 (v.o.) was the date of return for **Willow Flycatchers**. YC yielded the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/2 (MH, DH). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC. May 9 (RH) was the date of return for a **Great Crested Flycatcher** near SH. **Eastern Kingbird** returned to YC 5/2 (MH, DH). First **White-eyed Vireo** was spotted 5/1 (LC, MH) at YC.

A **Blue-headed Vireo** arrived 4/14 (MH) at BVNA. SB yielded the first two **Yellow-throated Vireos** 4/30 (MH). The PAMC produced the first **Warbling Vireos** 5/12 (v.o.). **Red-eyed Vireos** appeared at YC 5/5 (LC, SC, MH, JJ, JT). **Fish Crows** have become more elusive in IN with only two sightings this spring, 2 on 4/18 (CG) and one 5/12 (RW). **Common Ravens** continue to be widespread with confirmed breeding records 3/26 (CG, MH) near Cookport and a family group near Nolo 5/26 (MH, RH). Arrival dates (all late, except for Northern Rough-winged) included 3/23 (AS) for **Tree Swallow** at Dutch Run; 4/7 (IH, MHa, MH, RH) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 5/12 (EF, MF, DL) for **Bank Swallow**, 4/12 (EF, MF) for **Cliff Swallow** and 4/17 (LC, MH) for **Barn Swallow**, the latter four species at YC. On 4/17 at YC many of the **Barn Swallows** were unable to feed because of the continuing cold weather and rain and were in obviously weakened conditions and dying; attempts were made to provide mealworms and maggots but whether this helped was undetermined. At least 4 dead were retrieved the following morning. A **Carolina Chickadee** near LV 3/27 (MC, MH) provided a first county record. One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued near SH throughout the season.

A **House Wren** returned 4/26 (MH) near SH. **Winter Wren** records included one at Heilwood 3/18 (MH,RH), 2 at BVNA 4/14 (MH), and singletons 4/20 both near LV (MC) and on RH (PJ). First **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived 3/31 (PJ) on RH while 5 were recorded 5/12 (v.o.) at 3 locations for the PAMC. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared at YC 4/24 (JA,LC,MH,ER). Only 5 **Veeries** were found, with the first report on RH 4/26 (PJ). **Swainson's Thrush** reports included 7 on the PAMC 5/12 (v.o.). First **Hermit Thrush** was found on RH 4/3 (PJ). First **Wood Thrush** and first **Gray Catbird** appeared near PR 4/25 (BF,TF). **Brown Thrasher** was seen first 4/11 near IN (CG). **American Pipits**, spotted only at YC on four dates included 9 on 3/17 (LC) and 17 on 4/9 (MH).

The spring warbler migration was unremarkable. **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at LV 4/27 (MC). A **Brewster's Warbler** was singing a blue-winged song 5/15 (TJ) at YC. **Tennessee Warblers** migrated through our county between 5/9 (MC) and 5/14 (MH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was singing near Pineton 5/21 (MH), the lone report. First **Nashville Warblers** included one at LV 4/26 (MC) and 3 on RH 4/28 (PJ); one at YC 5/22 (MJA,PA,MH,DT) was last. **Northern Parula** arrived 5/8 (LC,MH) at YC. First **Yellow Warblers** appeared 4/27 at YC (LC,MH,GL) and 4/28 (PJ) on RH. Other warbler first dates included 4/30 for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** both near LV (MC) and near SB (MH); 5/8 (LC,MH) for **Magnolia Warbler** at YC; 5/12 for **Cape May** both near PR (BF,TF) and near Johnsonburg (SC,MH,RH,JJ), the only reports; 5/12 (v.o.) for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at three locations. The PAMC produced the last **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 5/12 (v.o.) at 7 locations. Earliest **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** occurred respectively 4/22 (PJ) on RH and 5/8 (LC,MH) at YC. **Pine Warblers** returned near SH 3/16 (MH). A **Prairie Warbler** near Five Points 4/30 (MH) was first. The only **Palm Warbler** was noted near PR 5/12 (BF,TF). RH yielded the season's only **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/12 (PJ). **Blackpoll Warblers** were first recorded 5/12 both near YC (PA) and near LV (MC,DC,SS); other reports included singing individuals 5/24 (CG,MH) in Swamp Run Cemetery and near Heilwood. **Cerulean Warblers**, all noted 5/12, were found at Hemlock Lake (SC,MH,RH,JJ), Two Lick Res. (PJ), and near LV (MC,DC,SS); another was near Nolo 5/26 (MH,RH). First dates included 5/2 (MH,DH) for **Black-and-white** at YC, 5/4 (MH) for **American Redstart** in White Twp., 5/2 (MH,DH) for **Worm-eating Warbler** at YC, and 4/26 (PJ) for **Ovenbird** on RH. Eight **Northern Waterthrush** reports were received, including individuals at YC on 3 dates between 5/1-5/8 (LC,MH), 2 at two separate locations along Little Mahoning Creek 5/12 (SC,MH,RH,JJ), and one near PR 5/15 (BF,MH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first found at YC and along Repine Run 4/10 (MH). Other first dates included 5/9 (MC) at LV for **Kentucky Warbler**, 4/27 (LC,MH,GL) at YC for **Common Yellowthroat**, and 4/30 (MH) near SB for **Hooded Warbler**. The only **Wilson's Warblers** were 4 listed 5/12 (BF,TF) near PR. A **Canada Warbler** in a rhododendron thicket near Hemlock Lake 5/12 (SC,MH,RH,JJ) was the lone report. Jacksonville yielded the first 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** 5/11 (MH).

First **Scarlet Tanager** surfaced at LV 5/1 (MC); tanagers seemed to be in good numbers this season with a plethora of reports. First returning **Eastern Towhee** occurred 3/11 (MC) near LV. **American Tree Sparrow** lingered at YC till 3/20 (MC) while the first **Chipping Sparrow** arrived there (LC,MH,GL) exactly one week later. First **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** were found respectively near SB 4/13 (MM) and near Crete 4/18 (MH). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were first sighted 5/12 at various locations (v.o.). A nocturnal trip to the West Lebanon strips added 16 **Henslow's Sparrows** to the PAMC count (MC,DC,SS) in addition to the 2 near Gipsy (SC,MH,RH,JJ) 5/12. **Fox Sparrows** moved through our area between 3/6 (MC) and 4/7 (EF,MF); best count was 9 on 3/19 (MH) near SH. A **White-throated Sparrow** remained at Blue Spruce through 5/14 (MH). **White-crowned Sparrow** arrived near LV 4/28 (MC); the last 27 were seen 5/12 (v.o.) at 9 locations. A pair of **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared to be on territory near Wandin Junction 5/25 (MH).

Arrival date was 4/25 for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, both near PR (BF,TF) and near LV (MC). Dates of return included 4/26 (MC) near LV for **Indigo Bunting**, 5/12 (v.o.) at various locations for **Bobolink**, and 3/13 (LC,MH) for **Eastern Meadowlark** at YC. **Rusty Blackbirds** were once again in low numbers; 5 were first noted at Nolo 3/17 (GS); best count was 7 at YC 3/20 (LC,MH). **Orchard Orioles** were first listed for the PAMC (v.o.) while **Baltimore Orioles** arrived 4/28 (MC) near LV. **Pine Siskins** wintering at a feeder near IN were last seen 3/14 (HP).

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Jefferson County

No Report. No Compiler.

New Compiler: Mike Weible, 124 N. Third Street, Shippenville, PA, 16254, (717) 357-3319, feather_ridge@yahoo.com

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: Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SCRF), Wood's Edge Pond (WE), Muddy Run Pumped Storage Area (MRPSA).

This year the Pennsylvania Migration Count occurred May 12 and a record total of 180 species were located. This remarkable total occurred because of a combination of good waterfowl and shorebird numbers and the location of most expected (and some unexpected) songbirds. This spring the weather was drier than normal especially towards the end of the Spring, and migrant songbirds seemed to be present in good variety, but relatively low numbers. This was a very good spring for waterfowl with a sizable fallout in late March because of inclement weather and many species of waterfowl present unusually late in the spring.

This year **Snow Geese** peaked at MC around 3/10 with about 200,000 counted (MC staff estimate). **Ross's Goose** was found on many occasions this spring with the last sighting of an injured bird at MC 3/30 (CR). **Cackling Goose** was also noted at the same location 3/28. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was noted several times late in the winter, but a sighting at SCRF 4/11 was unusual at that location and at that time of the year (JB, DHo, CR). **Trumpeter Swans** were seen again this year and they were seen on several occasions. One mentioned in last season's report was on the SR at Wrightsville 2/24 (JH, RM), a possible sighting was reported from MC 3/4 (RM) and three were seen at MC 3/18 (TJ). There have been a number of reports from the Susquehanna over the years, but surprisingly not many from MC.

A lone, drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was at MC 3/4 (m.obs), a **White-winged Scoter** was on the SR near Marietta 3/31 (m.obs) and a **Black Scoter** was on the SR at Long Level 3/25 (RM). There were truly unusual (at least in recent years) numbers of waterfowl on the SR this spring. Some of the highlight numbers along the SR include 175 **Wood Ducks** 3/28, 340 **American Wigeon** 3/25, 18 **Canvasbacks** 3/24, 34 **Redheads** 3/24, 350 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/24, 50 **Greater Scaup** 3/28, 750 **Lesser Scaup** 3/28, 200 **Bufflehead** 3/28, and 125 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/24. Some days the river was literally covered with waterfowl and this spring **Redheads**, usually a scarce migrant, was rather common with sightings through Mar along the river, at MC, and MRPSA with the final sighting 4/1. Many species remained until unusually late dates with the highlights being **Northern Pintail** at MC (5/12), **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye** and **Ruddy Duck** at the SRCF 5/23. All three mergansers were recorded on the NAMC and **Hooded**

Merganser was confirmed breeding at a wetlands near Bainbridge along the Conoy Canal Trail.

Red-throated Loon was reported from the SRCF 4/1 (CR) and high counts of 25 **Pied-billed Grebes** 3/28 and 270 **Horned Grebes** 3/25 were at the same location. **Red-necked Grebes** carried over from the winter at MRPSA and were seen up until 3/29 with a high count of 3 on 3/16 (TA).

The rarest sighting of the season was an **American White Pelican** that was seen 5/31 (MS) and 6/1 (BS) near the Peach Bottom Power Plant. **American Bittern** was seen on several occasions at SRCF. The first sighting was 4/1 (CR) and again 4/11. The last sighting was 4/23 (TA, BS). **Great Egret** was seen at SRCF 4/23, but there were actually more reports of **Snowy Egret** this spring with one at SRCF 5/12 (m.obs) and four at MC 6/8-9 (BC, et.al.). The almost annual **Mississippi Kite** was seen this year 5/28 at the Breezyview Overlook within Chickies Rock County Park (ML, JY). The bird was reportedly a subadult and was in view for about five minutes. There have been several kite sightings at this location between 5/15-5/28 in previous years. **Rough-legged Hawks** were not present in large numbers this past winter, and the last report was near Gap 3/4 (PF). **Peregrine Falcon** was found on the migration count this year and a pair was confirmed breeding on the route 30 bridge across the Susquehanna. The nest was not a success this year, but this is the first confirmed breeding in Lancaster since 1947.

Virginia Rail and **Sora** were both reported in good numbers from WE 5/12 (BC, JH) and they remained well into June (RM). The **Sandhill Crane** that was present most of the winter at MC was last reported 3/18. A week or two later a crane spent some time in Lebanon less than 20 miles from MC. Another **Sandhill Crane** was reported and well documented via video in a yard near Paradise 4/24 (MH, NH). Megan Homsher is 14 years old and Nate Homsher is 10 years old, and they were excited by this new yard bird!

Shorebird numbers and variety at SRCF were down from the excellent year in 2006. Some of the highlights were **Black-bellied Plover** from 5/12-6/6 (high of 16 on 5/21), **Semipalmated Plover** from 5/5-6/6 with 44 on 5/21, 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/26 & 5/28 (BS), 2 **Red Knot** (rare in spring) 6/6 (DHo), **White-rumped Sandpiper** from 5/12-6/9 with 19 on 6/16, **Stilt Sandpiper** 5/16 (CR), and **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/21.

Three **Laughing Gulls** were at SRCF 4/4 (DHo). This year **Little Gulls** were especially numerous. They were present from 3/22- 4/20 (m.ob.) and were seen along the SR from the York Haven Dam 3/22 (DHo) to Long Level. It is difficult to say how many **Little Gulls** passed through this spring, but 5 were in view at one time at Wrightsville 3/24 (DH, EW) and 4 were there 3/31 (JH m.ob.) with another 3 at Long Level the same day EW et al). Most of the birds were in adult plumage, but at least one immature was noted. During the same time frame in late Mar **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present in significant numbers with at least 1000 seen 3/24 and similar or greater numbers in the week after that. Terns were well represented on the migration count with all four species present. The 4 **Common Terns** were near the route 30 bridge over the SR (JH, EW). A late **Black Tern** was at SRCF 6/9.

Barn Owls are present again this year in the county and the breeding pair near the visitor's center at MC have been successful so far. **Short-eared Owls** were still at MC until 3/30. Unfortunately the driving route at MC was closed during the best season for owls due to a late snowstorm.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was first seen 5/2 and was also noted on the migration count 5/12. A late **Northern Shrike** at MC 3/24 was probably moving north from points south (AM). **Philadelphia Vireo** was a good sighting on the migration count 5/12. A late **Winter Wren** was also found on the migration count 5/12. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** appear to be breeding in a spruce and pine woods along the ridge just west of the old Cornwall Fire Tower in the Furnace Hills. At least two pair were present at least into June (JH). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported on the migration count 5/12 and a **Bicknell's Thrush** was reported singing from a property in Rapho Twp. 5/29 (RM). Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** were scarce this spring, but several were found on the migration count.

As mentioned earlier, migrant warblers were reported in better numbers and variety than last year, but numbers still seemed very modest. Highlights included **Cape May Warbler** 5/12, **Pine** 3/16, **Bay-breasted** 5/12, several **Cerulean** 5/12 in the furnace hills, the first **Prothonotary** 4/28, **Connecticut Warbler** 5/20 at Reed Run Nature Preserve in southern Lancaster (TR), and **Mourning** 5/12. This year **Prothonotary Warblers** were present in good numbers at SRCF all season, but numbers along the Conoy Trail near Bainbridge seemed to be dramatically reduced from last year. The Connecticut is a very rare spring migrant and in this case it was perched and singing.

A **Summer Tanager** was found 5/1 along Fishing Creek Hollow Road (TA), but it was not seen in subsequent days. **Fox Sparrows** were seen in large numbers all over the county in the middle of Mar. This coincided with a late snowstorm that brought up to 12 inches of snow to the northern areas of the county. Many people had four or five sparrows that spent several days and some people saw more than a dozen at their feeders. In some cases, **Fox Sparrows** visited feeders where they had never been seen before. Four extremely late **Lapland Longspurs** were seen in a field near the town of Clay 5/12 (EW). An extremely early **Indigo Bunting** was reported at a residence south of Quarryville 3/18 (DW). Once again, winter finches were all absent.

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Lawrence County

No Report.

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

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Swatara State Park (SSP), Lebanon Valley Business Park (LVBP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC), Reistville Ponds (RV), SGL 145, SGL 211.

The highlights for this quarter was the 4th county record and 2nd spring record of a **Wilson's Phalarope** at MPR 5/19, a nice female found for half a day (JH, m.ob.). A **Chuck-wills-widow** at SGL 145 on 5/19 was calling at 9:30 am for a 2nd county record (KM, RCM). A **Marsh Wren** at LVBP 4/25 furnished a 2nd county record (RCM).

Snow Geese numbers peaked at 200,000 on 3/10 at MC for a new high count (MC Staff). **Ross' Geese** were reported from 3/4 at MC with 3 until 3/6 with 3 at LVBP (RCM). **Tundra Swans** were staging in several areas in Lebanon. The highest count was at MC 3/10 with 4000 (MC Staff). A very large swan flying low over Willow Point parking lot with **Tundra Swans** on 3/4 was thought to be a **Trumpeter Swan** (BM, RCM). On 3/18 three adult **Trumpeter Swans** were found at MC off Willow Point in Lancaster County (TJ). **Gadwalls** were found throughout the county in good numbers (m.obs). A **Blue-winged Teal** at MLSP 3/3 sent a new early date (RS). **Green-winged Teal** were last reported 4/15 at MLSP with 16 (JH).

A male **Canvasback** at MLSP 3/25 was the only one reported (CR). **Redheads** were found from 2/19 with 7 (JH) until 3/18 with 11 (DY) at MLSP. **Ringed-necked Ducks** peaked 3/23 with 132 at MC (RCM). **Greater Scaups** peaked at MLSP 4/15 with 67 (JH, RCM). A female **Long-tailed Duck** at MLSP 4/15 was the only report (CR). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** at MLSP 3/25 was the only one reported (CR). **Ruddy Ducks** set a new county high with 109 on 4/15 at MLSP (RCM).

Common Loons were reported from 4/9 at MLSP (CR) to 4/28 at SGL 145 (RCM). **Horned Grebes** were at MLSP from 2/19 (JH) to 4/27 with 12 on 4/15. Also on 4/15 at MLSP was a **Red-necked Grebe** (JH).

Great Blue Herons were found nesting on SGL 211 and the Koppenhaffer Farm. The Stony Valley nest has one nest with 2 young (RS) and the Koppenhaffer Farm had 6 nests (m.ob.).

Northern Harriers were at MC until late May (m.obs). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was near CS 4/22 (JH). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were at MC during early Mar (BL). One was found on MPR 3/17 (DY). A **Merlin** flew past LVBP 3/6 (RCM). Another was found 4/28 at SGL 145 (RCM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was a flyover 4/29 at SGL 145 (RCM).

An **American Coot** was found at LVBP until 5/31 for a new late date (RCM, KM). The **Sandhill Crane** at MC left 3/26. It flew up above the MC Visitor Center until it was a speck, then flew south (MC staff). It was found 3/27 (m.obs) to 4/14 (NP) along Spangler Rd., about 10 miles from MC.

The following shorebird sightings were along MPR. **Semipalmated Plovers** were found from 5/6 with 2 (JH) until 5/20 (TJ). There were 18 **Solitary Sandpipers** and 67 **Least Sandpipers** 5/15 (RCM). Four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were there 4/27 for a new early date (RCM). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen from 5/12-5/22 (m.obs). Four **Dunlin** 4/27 also set another early date (RCM). **Wilson's Snipe** peaked 3/23 with 12 at MC (RCM). **American Woodcocks** were seen from 3/3 with a high count of 35 between SGL 145 and Lawn (RCM, KM).

Ten **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 3/25 (CR). Four **Caspian Terns** were at MLSP 4/20 for only a few minutes (m.obs). A **Eurasian Collared Dove** sitting with **Mourning Doves** in Campbelltown along Rt. 322 was a 4th county record (NP). With plenty of caterpillars to eat, both cuckoo species were in very good numbers (m.obs). The **Barn Owl** nest on the Lebanon side of MC had 2 young in May (m.obs). **Short-eared Owls** were last seen 3/10 at MC (BL). **Whip-poor-will** set an early date with 2 at FIG 4/24 (TP). Up to 12 were there in late May (m.obs). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen from 4/28 at Gov. Dick (FH) but very hard to find after late May. Up to 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found along Fonderwhite Rd. 5/24 (RCM).

Alder Flycatchers were at CS from 5/28 with one on territory (JH, SW). Only one **Least Flycatcher** was heard 5/19 at SGL 145 (KM, RCM). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were found in good numbers in Lebanon (m.obs). A **Warbling Vireo** at MLSP 4/27 set an early date (RCM).

Common Ravens were in SGL 211 all quarter (m.obs). There were 312 **Blue Jays** on SGL 145 on 4/28 (RCM). A **Cliff Swallow** getting mud along

MPR was the first nest building seen since 2000 when the bridge they nested under at MLSP was torn down.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found in South Lebanon 5/14 (MD). An **American Pipit** was found in Steeltown 3/17 (DY) and were seen into May (m.obs).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/23 at SSP was almost early. A **Golden-winged Warbler** on territory at FIG 5/6 was a nice find (TJ). Up to 6 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were on territory on SGL 145 in late May (RCM). **Cape May Warblers** were found at FIG 5/6 (TJ) and two were found on SGL 145 on 5/13 (KM, RCM). The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was seen 4/24 at CS (SW). The first **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen at Camp Mack 5/2 (AW). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen from 5/6 at FIG (TJ) to 5/14 in South Lebanon (MD). A **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/4 at LVBP set a new early date (RCM). **Cerulean Warblers** were found from 5/6 at FIG (TJ). Up to 3 territorial **Kentucky Warblers** were on SGL 145 (RCM, KM). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing at LVBP 5/17 from a small wood lot (RCM). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found on SGL 145 and FIG in May (m.obs).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was singing at MPR 5/18 (RCM). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was on territory at LVBP in late May (RCM). **Fox Sparrows** were reported in good numbers with 11 at one feeder 3/20 (RL). **Lincoln's Sparrow** were seen 5/6 and 5/7 on SGL 145 (RCM). A **Lapland Longspur** set a late date 3/19 along Zinn Mill Rd. (RCM). A **Blue Grosbeak** at LVBP 5/18 was single again (RCM).

A **Bobolink** came into a birdbath 5/5 in South Lebanon (MD). There were 23 at MC 5/11 (RCM). There were 70 **Eastern Meadowlarks** along Hinkle Rd. 3/18 after the 8" of snow for a new county high (MA). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen from 3/10- 4/28 which set a new late date on SGL 145 (RCM). Up to 3 **Orchid Orioles** were at LVBP from 5/3 (RCM).

Highlights of the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/12. A **Wilson's Snipe** came into a tape playing rail calls, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on SGL 145, and a **Brown Creeper** was found at CS. There were 55 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, and 20 **Blackburnian Warblers**, both new highs. Two **Palm Warblers** were late. There were 77 **Chipping Sparrows** and 95 **Indigo Buntings** for new high counts. Nine **Orchard Orioles** were also new high counts.

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA, 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Mike Adams, Chuck Berthoud, Jim Binder, Ann Bolding, Gerry Boltz, Greg Burgdorf, Mike Dale, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Tom Johnson, Gary Kinkley, Richard Light, Butch Lishman, Jim Logan, Kitty Logan, Ben Miller, Kate Miller, Bob Peda, Tom Powers, Nick Pulcinella, Cameron Rutt, Art Schiavo, Rosemary Spreha, John Traynor, Larry Werthofer, Susan Wheeler, Dick and Pat Williams, Andy Wolf, David Yeany II.

Lehigh County

A **Tundra Swan** was spotted in the cove of the north boat area at Leaser Lake (FD). Also on the lake were about a dozen **Common Mergansers**, and a single **American Coot**. A **Canvasback** was seen 3/18 also at Leaser Lake (FD). Ten thousand **Snow Geese** were seen in fields near New Tripoli 3/14 and 3/16 (FD). **Wood Ducks** were seen along the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Twp. 3/6 (JL). On 4/5 a **Blue-winged Teal** was photographed at a pond north of Cetrionia Rd. near Trexlertown (FB). Also seen was a **Greater Yellowlegs**, some **Green-winged Teal** and **Mallards**. A **Long-tailed Duck** was sighted at the Fogelsville Quarry 3/20 (DW). Two **Redheads** were seen at the lake on Dorney Park 3/18 (FD). Also seen in the flooded field were a pair of **Northern Shovelers** (JH). At Wessner's Pond an **Osprey** was spotted along with a **Wood Duck** and **Barn Swallows** 5/3 (JH). A **Great Egret** was seen on Sensinger Rd. along with **Tree Swallows** 3/29 (JH).

A **Mississippi Kite** was seen flying over Weisneberg Twp. 5/15 (FB). A **Bald Eagle** was seen in Upper Milford Twp. 5/2 along with **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Wood Ducks** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** (BM,PM). A **Merlin** was seen in Schnecksville 3/18 (FD). **Peregrine** Falcons were observed in downtown Allentown 3/20 (BH). Another **Peregrine** was seen 4/25 in Lynn Twp. (AS). Also seen were **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Barn Swallow**, **Brown Creeper**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Eastern Towhee**, and **Eastern Meadowlark**.

The most exciting bird this spring was a **Black-necked Stilt** seen 5/13 feeding in a pond off Rt. 100 on Schantz Rd. near Fogelsville (m.obs). It was probably a first for *Lehigh* and only a handful of sightings for Pennsylvania. Also seen at the pond were **Killdeer**, **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Least and Solitary Sandpipers**. Along Cetrionia Rd. near Trexlertown were a **Dunlin** (DW) in breeding plumage along with **Semipalmated Plover**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Spotted and Least Sandpipers** (DW). In a flooded field near Breinigsville there were 4 **Dunlin** along with **Least Sandpipers**, **Solitary Sandpipers**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (JH). Sightings from Weisenberg Twp. include **Upland Sandpiper** 5/6-5/7 (AS).

A **Barred Owl** (BM, PM) was heard at the Pool Sanctuary near Emmaus 4/10. On 4/29 a very early **Common Nighthawk** was seen in Emmaus (BM, PM).

Also in Weisenberg Township were **Horned Lark**, **Bobolink**, **Vesper** and **Grasshopper Sparrow**. An **American Pipit** (BM) was spotted in Lower Macungie Twp. 5/7 at a small retention pond along with 8 **Solitary Sandpipers**.

At Rodale Park 4/24 there was **Prairie Warbler** (JL), **Winter Wren**, **Pine Warbler**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. All the following were seen in Upper Milford Twp. A **Northern Parula** (BM,PM) 4/12, a **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/23, **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/24, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler** and **Scarlet Tanager** 4/30, **Yellow-throated Vireo** and 12 species of warblers along with an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 5/11, and **Swainson's Thrush** 5/18-5/19. In an Atlas block in Upper Saucon Twp. 5/26 was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (BM,PM), **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Orchard Oriole** and **Savannah Sparrow**.

On 4/30 in Lower Macungie Twp. there was **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Black-throated Green**, **Black-and-white**, **Yellow** and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** along with **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (JL). At the Whitehall Parkway there was **Baltimore Oriole**, **Wood Thrush**, **Warbling Vireo** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/29 (RH). **Yellow Warbler**, **Orchard Oriole**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Eastern Towhee** were also seen at Whitehall Parkway 5/2 (JH). On 4/29 at the Jordan Parkway was **American Redstart**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and **Palm**, **Yellow-rumped**, and **Black-and-white Warblers** (RH). More birds seen at Jordan Creek Parkway 4/24 were **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Winter Wren**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Eastern Towhees**, **House Wrens**, and 2 fly-over **Common Loons** (DW). Sightings from Heidleberg Twp. along Bake Oven Rd. were **Cerulean** and **Worm-eating Warbler** (JH).

Along Handwerk Rd: **Horned Lark** and **Bobolink**. **Bobolinks** were also along Fritzing Rd. Seen on 5/9: **Bank Swallow**, **Horned Lark**, **Blackburnian** and **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Bobolink** and **Vesper Sparrow** seen in the vicinity of Leaser Lake 5/6 (JH). Also seen 5/6 in Lynn Twp. were **Hermit Thrush**, **Hooded** and **Blackburnian Warblers**, and **White-crowned Sparrow**. Ten **Fox Sparrows** were seen at a feeder 3/7 (BM, PM). A **Lapland Longspur** was seen 3/18 in Heidelberg Twp. (FD).

Exotic: A **Common Shelduck** was in a flooded field near Trexlertown 5/2 (SB).

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA, 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinj11@yho.com**, Steve Boyce, Fritz Brock, Frank Dickman, Bob Hoopes, Robert Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Adam Smith, Dustin Welch.

Luzerne County

Locations: Council Cup (CC), Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Huntsville Reservoir (HR), Kirby Park Natural Area (KP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PLYF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Sylvan Lake (SL).

Winter was late in arriving this past year and it seemed like it didn't want to leave once it started. As a result our spring had temperatures well below normal that didn't seem to warm up until May. The weather didn't seem to deter the migrants as many of them passed through our area without stopping. Our usual migrant stopover spots didn't have the waves of migrants as in a typical year but when visiting the breeding areas they were occupied by the usual cast of long distance travelers. This indicates to me that the weather patterns were favorable to our neo-tropical guests despite the colder temperatures.

There were good numbers and variety of waterfowl reported during the quarter with **Tundra Swan** 5/20 and **Mute Swan** 4/6 observed at PLYF (JH, RK). A flock of **Snow Geese** was seen 3/13 flying north over NSP (RK). Although **Snow Geese** are common south of us during the winter, they're not frequently encountered in *Luzerne* so a lone individual that lingered at PLYFL until at least 5/12 was a welcome sight on the Spring Migration Count (JS). Puddle ducks were well represented this quarter with above average reports of **Gadwall** (JH, et al.). There were also several reports of **Blue-winged Teal** (WR, RK, et al.) an annual but uncommon visitor to the county. Another nice find was a **Northern Shoveler** on the SR near Mocanaga 3/10 (RK).

Both **Canvasback** and **Redhead** were seen at HL and PLYFL (JDB, EJ, et al.) from 3/14 until at least 4/7. A **Greater Scaup** and **Bufflehead** 3/25 were new species for the cumulative list of birds observed in KP (BW). The only report of **scoter** this season was of one **White-winged** on SL 4/15 (RK). **Common Goldeneye** were found in good numbers along the SR between Wapwallopen & Nescopeck during Mar (RK, et al.). Up to 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on HL 4/1 represented a high season total for this seldom seen species in *Luzerne* (JH).

Common Loons arrived 3/31 at HL and lingered until at least 5/20 (EJ, et al.). A breeding plumaged **Eared Grebe** was photographed along with a breeding plumaged **Horned Grebe** 5/2 at KP (JDB). This was the first photo documentation of **Eared Grebe** for the county. The only report of **Red-necked Grebe** was 4/17 at HL (JDB).

At least 12 **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at the Pennsylvania Power and Light Riverlands 4/7 feeding on the recently stocked trout (JH). Two **American Bitterns** were observed in Loyalville 4/23 (RK, et al.) and are presumed to be nesting as they are seen annually in this marsh throughout the Spring & Summer months.

Don Kapral spent 68.5 hours at the CC hawk watch this past spring and observed 812 individual raptors. Some of his highlights included 11,000 **Canada Geese** flying north over the lookout 3/13 and numerous sightings of **Bald Eagles** and **Peregrine Falcons**. Don was intrigued by the number of times he observed **Peregrines** in the area and mentioned this to some folks. Eventually word got to Bob Wasilewski, our very own Peregrine observer/expert extraordinaire. Sure enough, based on the tip from Don, Bob was able to find and document the 3rd known nesting location of **Peregrines** in *Luzerne* and the 2nd natural nest site vs. a manmade structure! Other Raptors of note were at least 254 **Red-tailed Hawks** that flew over the lookout while Don was manning the site. Ten **Black Vultures** seen from CC is an indication that this species continues to expand its range into our area. **Red-shouldered Hawk** went unreported at CC but several individuals were seen in suitable nesting habitat (RK).

Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were heard/seen 5/12 (BW, SGO). **American Coots** were present throughout the period with a high of 50 at HL 4/1 (JH). On 5/17 a **Sandhill Crane** was seen flying over the home of Christopher Bohinski in Wilkes-Barre Twp. **Sandhill Crane** sightings are becoming an annual event in *Luzerne* and there is a report of confirmed breeding this year in neighboring *Columbia*.

A total of 12 species of shorebirds were reported during the quarter. Reports of **American Woodcock** came from several locations with the earliest being 3/13 when at least 5 individuals were displaying with snow on the ground at NSP (RK, et al.). There were also several displaying **Wilson's Snipe** in Loyalville 5/20 (RK, JH). The only somewhat uncommon shorebird sighting was of several **Dunlin** seen in breeding plumage at PLYFL 5/13 (RK).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported by most observers. They should have a good nesting season since *Luzerne* didn't spray for Gypsy Moths this year due to a lack of funding. Let's hope that the funding remains unavailable! **Whip-poor-wills** continue to be found in good numbers from several locations (SGa, et al.) but **Common Nighthawks** continue to remain scarce.

The **Purple Martin** colony at North Lake seems to have met with disaster since the box that they have used for at least the past 15-20 years has been taken over by **Tree Swallows** this year. **American Pipits** were reported as early as 3/29 (RK, JS). **Brown Thrasher** sightings appeared to be higher than usual this year with numerous reports. One 3/29 seemed to be fairly early (RK) and hopefully survived the Apr snowstorm.

The month of May saw a rush of migrants pass through the area as the cold weather finally broke. The Spring Migration count was one of the best in recent memory. One team tallied 121 species plus a **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid. That same team also saw or heard 27 species of warblers not counting the hybrid (SGa, JH)! A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen near the base of CC on PPL land open to the public 5/23 (RK) after many years of not being found in the county. At least one **Cerulean Warbler** was found in Union Twp. 5/5 (RK) and remained through the period but frustrated many birders since he wasn't easy to find. Several observers reported seeing **Cape May Warblers** this year and I have to wonder if the spruce bud worm population is beginning to increase since we haven't had many reports of this beautiful bird in quite a few years. A southern warbler that occasionally finds *Luzerne* is the **Kentucky Warbler** and one was seen and heard singing an unusual song this year at NSP 5/12 (BH, AP). On the same day a **Mourning Warbler** was heard in a large patch of multi-flora rose in Nanticoke (SGa, JH).

Vesper Sparrow continues to be found in the southern portions of the county but is scarce or absent elsewhere (RK, BH). **Grasshopper Sparrows** seem to be doing very well in reclaimed stripping areas (JH, et al.). **Fox Sparrows** arrived as early as 3/16 and were seen at least until 4/20 (BT, et al.). There were also scattered reports of **White-crowned Sparrows** in early May. There were a few reports of **Orchard Orioles** throughout the county but this bird continues to be uncommon and is always a treat when you find one.

On a sad note, my good friend and one of my long time birding mentors, Bill Reid, passed away this past quarter. Bill's tireless devotion and enthusiasm towards birding are legendary. Just the day before he died he called me to tell me about some Blue-winged Teal along with numerous other puddle ducks he just saw at a flooded farm field in Exeter. His contributions to Pennsylvania ornithology are many and he will be missed by all within the birding community, especially me.

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA, 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Susan Baron, Mark Blauer, Christopher Bohinski, Jonathan DeBalko (JDB), Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Alan Gregory, Bill Hintze, Ed Johnson, Don Kapral, Rick Koval, Autumn Piefer, Bill Reid, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

McKean County

No Report.

John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 362-1052, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net,

Mercer County

All sightings are from Shenango R. Res. (SRR) unless otherwise noted.

Skeins of **Tundra Swan** were few and disappointing. A pair of **Osprey** were on a SRR nesting platform 3/24. One imm. **Bald Eagle** was on the iced-over SRR 3/10, and one adult plus 5 imm. were there 3/22. A pair of adult **Bald Eagle** were on the nest site (Osprey platform) at the SRR Headquarter's Bldg. on W. Lake Rd. 3/15, with 2 imm. flying nearby.

Ruffed Grouse numbers remain low. A particular **Barred Owl**, distinguished by its lack of "u - all" at the end of its call, was heard throughout the period. No **Common Nighthawk** sightings were reported.

An **Eastern Phoebe** was spotted early, 3/16, during a snowstorm. On 5/18, a pair of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were building a nest in a drainage pipe in a fake stone retaining wall in a busy parking lot. What an adaptable bird! **Cliff Swallow** continues to nest under SRR bridges. Hundreds of **American Pipit** were feeding along rural roads and ditches 4/7-4/8, during a heavy Apr snowstorm.

Twenty-seven spp. of warbler were reported. Highlights were a **Pine** at a feeder 3/18 on Fredonia Rd., a **Worm-eating** 5/13 at Nicklin Lane, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/16 at SGL 130, in the exact same logged-over area it was found in last year (all NT).

Observers: **Marty McKay 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Suzanne Butcher, Marvin Byler, Owen Byler,, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer.

Mifflin County

Blue-Winged Teal were present in a stream near Belleville 4/22 (JZ). As many as three **Willetts** were observed at a pond on Bunker Hill Road 4/27-4/29 (KP, JZ), the first county record. Other shorebird sightings included 8 **Pectoral Sandpipers** and 6 **Greater Yellowlegs** at a mudflat on Beech Tree Lane near Belleville 5/2 (JZ).

Several hundred **Ring-Billed Gulls** were observed on a farm field in Big Valley 3/16 (JZ). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were already incubating eggs at one site in Big Valley 5/25 (JZ). An **American Pipit** was found in a barn yard 3/16 (JZ). A lone **Barn Swallow** was the first of the year 4/1 (JZ).

First of the year **Blue-headed Vireos** and **Hermit Thrush** were singing on Stone Mountain just off of Route 305 on 4/22 (JZ). The first **Vesper Sparrow** was found 4/10 (JZ), who also reported a **Bobolink** singing in a tree near his house 5/2.

Observers: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Rd., Petersburg PA, 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsg4@psu.edu**, Katie Peight, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

The period was marked by erratic weather. March was cold with a storm that dumped 10 plus inches of snow on 3/16. Rainfall from a nor'easter in mid-April totaled 4 inches and more in areas, and May was dry with warm temperatures.

Three **Great Blue Herons** were seen flying over Tobyhanna 5/9, with one carrying nesting material (JS). A flight of about 5000 **Snow Geese** passed over the Meesing site in DSF 3/13 (DS). **Rough-legged Hawks** made an appearance early in the period with up to 3 reported from the Brodheadsville area 3/2 (JW).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at Skytop 5/13 (JS), but there were no reported sightings of this species in the known breeding site at DWGNRA headquarters swamp near Bushkill. Nesting **Cliff Swallows** were reported at Skytop 5/8 and seen at Tobyhanna 5/16 (JS). Singing **Winter Wrens** were enjoyed at DSFs Meesing site 3/15 (BH) and at Skytop 4/17 and 4/25 (JS).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was found on DWGNRA's Freeman Tract Rd. 5/13 (PF, MT) and a beautiful male **Lawrence's Warbler** returned in early May to the Bushkill area for a second consecutive year (DS), where it continued to the end of the period (BH). Only one **Cape May Warbler**, an increasingly hard to find spring migrant, was reported; an individual was seen at Skytop 5/13 (JS). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was confirmed as a breeder when a female was seen nest building 5/20 on the Bushkill Creek floodplain (BH, et al.). The nest was in a sugar maple in a stand of primarily deciduous trees, and not in a hemlock, a more typical nest tree for this species in the area. An exciting find 5/13 was a **Prothonotary Warbler** on DWGNRA's Freeman Tract Rd. along the Delaware R. (PF, MT). The bird remained at least through 5/20 when it was seen and photographed entering cavities in two different snags (BH, et al.). No later reports have been confirmed. Also on Freeman Tract Rd. 5/20 was a singing **Mourning Warbler** (BH, et al.). The Bushkill area produced a **Wilson's Warbler** 5/20 (BH, et al.).

A flock of **Rusty Blackbirds**, a declining species, was reported from Tobyhanna 5/30 (JS). The **Purple Finches** at Tobyhanna 5/30 were likely breeders (JS).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA, 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Steve Bagen, Brian Butler, Pat Fellion, Maura Griffin, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Megan Taylor, Jim Wilson, Scott Wood, Environmental Educator, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, Phone: 570-629-3061 Fax: 570-629-3063.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir, (GLR), Norristown Farm Park, (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Trust, (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Twp. (UFT), Upper Gwynedd Twp. (UGT), Upper Hanover Twp.(UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Whitpain Twp. (WT).

The Spring season was an exciting one in *Montgomery*. Highlights for the period included our best waterfowl migration in several years, a new species for the county, and a few other surprises. All sightings by George A. Franchois, except where noted. Waterfowl migration was very good, as Green Lane Reservoir experienced a gradual ice-out. (Some 70% if the lake remained frozen through mid-March. This was a real treat for birders, as birds were concentrated in two ice-free locations.)

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Walt Rd., GLR 3/1 got the season off to a nice start. (KC). **Snow Geese**, a near-rarity in the county, were represented by 1200 fly-overs at GLR 3/10 and 1000 on the lake 3/24 (KC, GAF). Two **Cackling Geese** were at Hill Rd., GLR 3/10, along with 83 Tundra Swans (KC, m.ob.).

Northern Pintail hit their high mark of 144 at Walt Rd. 3/1 in the company of 61 **American Wigeon**, while an additional 40 wigeon were at Hill Rd. the same day. (GAF, KC). A male **Northern Pintail** was at Church Rd., GLR on the record late date 5/29! (GAF). **Green-winged Teal** peaked at a modest 56 birds 3/12. (JG). Diving ducks also had a good showing, highlighted by 3 **Canvasback** at Walt Rd. 3/1 (KC), 110 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/19, a female **Surf Scoter** 5/2, 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/12, 19 **Bufflehead** 3/29, 37 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/14, and 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/2.

Loons nearly avoided the county again this spring, with a "high" of 3 **Common Loon** at Walt Rd. 5/2. The **Red-necked Grebe** first seen in Feb remained at Hill Rd. until 3/3 (KC, m.obs). **Horned Grebes** at GLR reached a max of 3 on 3/25, and singles were at such unlikely venues as PERT 3/21 and Norristown Farm Park 3/24 (GAF, PD, KC). **Pied-billed Grebes** reached a high of 4 on 4/8 at Walt Rd. **Double-crested Cormorants** were early 3/15, and reached a high of 96 by 4/22 (GAF, JG). A single **Great Egret** was at Church Rd., GLR 5/5 (KC, JG).

Black Vultures hit a whopping high of 100 in Upper Frederick Twp 5/2! (RG). Raptors worth noting included 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** at a newly-found birding hotspot in Red Hill 3/10 and a **Merlin** there 4/10 (GAF, ph. LH). The season's first **Osprey** was at GLR 3/25, and our first **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Gwynedd Preserve 3/22 (GAF, AJM). A **Virginia Rail** in Whitpain Twp.5/10 was another great find (AJM).

Shorebirds were good by spring standards with 10 species reported-likely due to a hot dry spell in May. Ten **Semipalmated Plover** were at Church Rd., GLR 5/26, and our rarest shorebird for the season was a **Ruddy Turnstone** there 5/31 (SG, JG). **Least Sandpiper** reached a high of 30 there 5/19 (JG). Other shorebirds reported included both yellowlegs species and **Wilson's Snipe**.

Gulls of note were few, but did include a high of 6 **Bonaparte's Gull** at Church Rd. 3/28, and 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** there 3/12 (KC, GAF). Two **Caspian Terns** were at Walt Rd. 4/26, followed by a **Black Tern** 5/13.

Common Nighthawks had a poor showing this spring, with only 1-2 birds reported from GLR and Upper Gwynedd Twp. in May (GAF, KC, AJM).

Both **Willow Flycatcher** (5/13) and **Least Flycatcher** (5/2) were early birds at Church Rd. Recently a near-rarity in the county, **White-eyed Vireo** checked in at Church Rd., GLR 5/8, and another in Lansdale 5/13 (GAF, SK). Our season "high" for **Purple Martin** was 7 on 5/22 from Walt Rd., GLR. **Bank Swallows** attained a high of 12 at Church Rd. 5/2. A **Marsh Wren** on the evening of 5/7 at Church Rd. was yet another rarity for the quarter. Our lone **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found in Lansdale 5/29 (SK), and **Swainson's Thrushes** were found in low numbers in Unami Creek Valley (KC, JG).

Warblers showed great diversity at 30 species, but numbers were low, overall (m.obs). Among the more interesting finds were **Nashville Warbler** from HC, UCV and UGT, all within normal dates (SJ, JG, GAF, AJM). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in the UCV 5/7, and a **Cape May Warbler** was there 5/5 (GAF, RG). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were in HT 4/29, UPVP 5/5-5/13, and the UCV 5/7-5/19 (JG, RG, GAF, AJM). Two **Bay-breasted Warblers** were in Lansdale 5/18, and a **Prothonotary Warbler** was in the UCV 5/17 (SK, RG). **Northern Waterthrush** was reported from UGT 5/10-5/13, Lansdale 5/11, and GLR 5/22 (AJM, SK, GAF). **Kentucky Warbler** was in the UCV 5/7+, and GP 5/10 (KC, m.ob., AJM). A **Mourning Warbler** was at PERT 5/22, another excellent find

(PD)! Rounding out the notable warblers were **Hooded** in the UCV 5/9+, and **Wilson's Warbler** at GLR 5/21 (RG, m.ob., GAF).

Sparrows also had a good showing, with ten species reported. An **American Tree Sparrow** was unusually late at Red Hill 4/18. **Savannah Sparrows** were at Church Rd., GLR, and Lansdale (GAF, JG, SK). **Fox Sparrows** seemed to be everywhere in the first half of Mar, especially at a feeding station in UFT where an enviable 12 were seen 3/17 (RG)! Our only **Lincoln's Sparrow** report was in Lansdale 5/14 (SK). **White-crowned Sparrows** at the new Red Hill "hot spot" remained steady at 6 birds through mid-Apr (GAF, m.ob.).

Montgomery's biggest avian surprise in several years came 3/4 when a **Lazuli Bunting** was located in Red Hill (near GLR)! This represents the 3rd record for the species in PA, and not surprisingly, the first for the county. The bird proved uncooperative for the first few weeks of its visit, often appearing for a minute or two during an entire day. Over time, it became down-right trusting and made extended visits to a "seed chum-slick" at roadside. Remarkably, the bird remained until 4/10, by which time it had molted into a handsome specimen (GAF, mobs, photos).

Bobolink remains a near-rarity in the county, as former hayfields continue to sprout new homes and strip-malls. Twenty three visited PERT 5/14, but all had left by the following day (PD). The UHT site produced a maximum of 6 birds 5/23. Finally, **Orchard Oriole** were in evidence at their usual haunts scattered throughout the county (m.obs).

Corrigendum: Vol 21, No. 1. Rufous Hummingbird should be credited to Sarah Bucas-Neto not Steve Blank.

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA, 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcoopa.org**, Paul Driver, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Steve Grunwald, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kerr, Rudy Keller, August and Judy Mirabella (AJM), Steve Rothenberger.

Montour County

No Report.

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Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP).

A waterfowl fallout 3/14 included a county first drake **Eurasian Wigeon** among 150+ **American Wigeons**, 300 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 5 **Greater Scaup**, and 3 **Canvasbacks** at Echo Lake (AS). Nearby Minsi Lake had 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 6 **Northern Shovelers**, and a **White-winged Scoter** (AS). The 4 **White-winged Scoters** found last period at Dutch Springs Quarry stayed till 3/31 (DD) and a **Surf Scoter** joined them 3/24, continuing until 4/5 (MS). Minsi Lake held a **Red-throated Loon** 4/5 (AS, MaS, MT) and Dutch Springs Quarry held a **Red-necked Grebe** 4/18 (DD). **Great Cormorants** were last reported at Martins Creek Quarry 4/3.

There was an **American Bittern** at Monacacy Nature Center 4/8-4/13 (LF). A breeding plumaged **Cattle Egret** (2nd County record over last 25 yrs) was found standing in a small flooded field near Nazareth 4/25-4/26 (RW). The flooded field next to GP continued its history of great birds 4/19 when 2 adult **Glossy Ibis** were found (DD). This is the 3rd straight year for Ibis at GP. One stayed till 4/23.

A **Rough-legged hawk** and **Short-eared Owl** were found hunting the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve grasslands 3/7 (RW, JD). **Virginia Rail** was reported from School Rd. near Bangor HS 4/3, continuing till 5/12. Along Totts Gap Rd. 4/3, a **Sora** was heard calling (AS, MaS, MT). That same outing also produced a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** along National Park Drive. The third difficult owl found was a **Long-eared Owl** 3/22 (JY).

It was not a spectacular spring for shorebirds despite good habitat with a few **Dunlin** found and single **Short-billed Dowitchers** at GP 4/9 (CH) and 5/23-5/25 (DD). An impressive showing of gulls at GP with 8 species made up for the shorebirds. The standout bird was an adult **California Gull** (first county record) 3/26 (DD). **Iceland Gull** was seen regularly at GP 4/4-4/28 with 2 birds at times (DD, m.ob.). A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at Dutch Springs Quarry 3/21 (MS). DeReamus kept track of the **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** that started resting at the flooded field by GP in late winter with numbers showing until 5/23. Some numbers are as follows: 93(3/27), 200(3/30), 160 (4/13), 132(4/18), 64(4/28), 83(5/4), and 53(5/19). DeReamus also found GP's first record of **Glaucous Gull**, a first winter bird 4/19-4/29. The GP highlights continued with an adult **Forster's Tern** 5/11 (MS).

Alder Flycatcher returned to Bear Swamp 5/25 (MS). An exciting find was a **Winter Wren** at the Henry's Woods section of Jacobsburg SP (RW, KS). Wiltraut characterized Henry's Woods as ideal habitat with old growth hemlocks at a rocky ravine with moss covered rocks and trickling waterfalls. The park is likely at the southern nesting limit for Winter Wren in eastern PA. The bird continued singing throughout May. Warbler highlights were an early **Worm-eating Warbler** 4/23 on the Lehigh River Towpath (R&PO) and a **Mourning Warbler** at Monacacy Nature Center

5/17 (LF). **Yellow-breasted Chat** returned at Jacobsburg SP 5/17 (KS). A high count of 7 **Lapland Longspurs** were at Graver's Hill 3/20 (DW). The last rarity to report was a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at a feeder in Plainfield Twp 4/26 (KS).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N. Chestnut St, Bath, 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, John Drabic, Linda Freedman, Corey Husic, Rett & Priscilla Oren, Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine, Kathy Sieminski, Mark Tolino, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Yuhas.

Northumberland County
No Report. No Compiler.

Perry County
No Report.

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Philadelphia County

Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), PA Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA), Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/12 (PAMC), Pennypack Park (PP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Every County Compiler should have multiple bird surveys and a dedicated birder doing a County Big Year as I have had this season. The Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/12 with 125 species, the SCEE bird census 6/2 tallying 73 species, the 6/2 Pennypack Nesting Census with 56 species, and Frank Windfelder's quest have greatly informed this report. The Seasonal Chart will reflect this. I added new locations to the abbreviated list: the Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), and what we all knew as the inaccessible "Navy Yard" is now the "Naval Business Center" (NBC), accessible on weekdays.

Flocks of **Snow Goose** migrated north over TI 3/13-3/23 (DB, FW) with individuals found at the Army Corp Property 5/22 (FW, KR) and on the PEC 6/16 nest census (BS, PK). All the expected dabbling ducks were reported. **Wood Duck** arrived in late Feb at TI where 10 were seen 3/3 (FW). At Morris Arboretum, whose small wetland continues to attract shorebirds and ducks, 6 **Wood Duck** were present 5/6 (KJ). The big rafts of **American Black Duck** usually found on the DR in the Northeast were not reported and after 4 years of PBBA effort we can cite only one breeding record for **American Black Duck**. Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at TI 4/8-4/22.

Divers along the DR included a **Canvasback** 3/9 (FW) and 10 **Redhead** at FDR by mid-Mar (m.obs). Two dozen **Greater Scaup** and 60 **Lesser Scaup** could be found on the DR near the Naval Business Center (NBC) in Mar, and at TI 4/21 (LR). Two **Greater Scaup** at FDR 5/12 were a nice late find (RH). **Surf Scoter** also at the NBC was a great addition to FW's Big Year list, as were the 4 **Long-tailed Duck** 4/2. The expansion of **Common Merganser** breeding territory was documented in the first PBBA and on 5/5 Chuck Lyman wisely speculated: "...a pair of **Common Merganser** at Glen Foerd Mansion on the DR followed the incoming tide up Poquessing Creek and out of sight around the curve..... they may nest." Apparently, they did not nest since subsequent searches did not find them. However, neighboring counties also had late records of multiple **Common Merganser**.

A singing **Common Loon** alerted Marty Dellwo to its presence at TI 4/22. A **Common Loon** over CW 5/1 was a good bird (KR), and the dead loon that washed up 5/5 at Bartram's Gardens was unusual (JG, BL). **Red-throated Loon**, usually seen in season on the DR, was a surprise on EPR where it stayed 4/25-5/3 and where I heard it calling (KR, m.ob.). Also, at EPR a **Pied-billed Grebe** pair produced three chicks found on 5/4 by Debbie Carr, Director of Environmental Education at the park. During May we heard and saw the grebe family including aggressive attacks by the largest chick against the runt, even to the point of holding it under water. One chick disappeared and when my project ended 5/31, two very large juveniles almost devoid of their black and white "jailbird" plumage seemed to be thriving. **Pied-billed Grebe** is thought to have nested in the city in the 50's or 60's, but evidence is sketchy making this the first confirmed record that I know of. **Horned Grebe** were at TI 3/16-4/21 where several birds were seen including one in breeding plumage (DB, MDe). On 4/9 a **Red-necked Grebe** at Glen Foerd on the DR was also molting into alternate plumage (FW).

Eight **Glossy Ibis** at Rhawn St. and the DR (BS, PK). Two **American Bittern** first seen at TI 4/16 (TF, DB, FW) remained in the Darby Creek horseshoe until at least 4/21 (LR). **Least Bittern** most often heard in two areas along the trolley bed at TI probably nested, but there is no direct evidence. The high water level prevented access. The PBBA has shown me that there are numerous very small groups of nesting **Great**

Blue Heron in SE PA, so when DBr wrote that a bird flew across the TI impoundment to the Folcroft Landfill carrying sticks, I wasn't surprised. The landfill designation as a super-fund site prevents regular entrance.

Black Vulture has finally been confirmed breeding in an abandoned house at the Awbury Arboretum in E. Germantown when an adult and 2 eggs were discovered by workers on 5/21. As the renovation commenced, the nest appears to have failed. This supports our belief that **Black Vulture** bred in that building in 2006 and given that they were seen tending young in the area. **Turkey Vulture** breeding behavior was observed in the Cobb's Creek area near a rocky cliff wall at Haverford and Lansdowne Aves (MS). Matt observed two birds doing mutual preening, one with a stick, and bill swiping. **Osprey** again were confirmed breeding on the DR at the mouth of the Pennypack Creek (CL) where the nest was destroyed in a 2005 storm. Chuck reports that the nest had **American Crow** in it when both **Osprey** parents brought food to the platform 6/10. After a chase, the **American Crow** was in the nest and the **Osprey** were not seen. A second successful **Osprey** nest was found at the NBC in dry dock #3 on a light standard at the DR (DBe). Two birds fledged. Debbie's association with the recent **Bald Eagle** nest attempt brought the information her way. Visibility and networking in Philly bring bird reports to our attention which is why we foster good relations with public and private land owners. However, it did not save the **Bald Eagle** nest which was abandoned by 4/6. Egg shell fragments were found in the nest. Perhaps the pair was young and inexperienced or perhaps icy weather, raptors, gulls, four-legged or two-legged predators had something to do with the failure. We won't ever know. For at least the second year in a row each of three active **Peregrine Falcon** nests succeeded, producing a total of 8 young (AM).

In early March a **Rough-legged Hawk** hunted the Eastwick Redevelopment Authority Property (TI's eastern border) and the refuge itself where it could be seen from the windows of the visitor's center (DM, FW). Although no male **Wild Turkey** was seen at TI, the resident hens that we observed all winter produced a brood in April (JM). Much later 5 chicks were found suggesting a second nesting (LR).

A **Virginia Rail** was calling so loudly when FW reported it 3/28, I could hear it on my cell phone. The rail remained until 4/28. A **Sora** was found at FDR on the 5/12 PAMC (RH) along the edge of one of the large ponds. A **Sora** was heard at TI for just 5/20-5/21 (DM, FW, JM). At EPR 4/10 a **Common Moorhen** unexpectedly appeared and flew across the West Basin (KR). Usually, a moorhen pair manages to breed at TI, but this year only one bird was reported and no chicks were seen. An **American Coot** at EPR through 5/24 came into frequent conflict with the female **Pied-billed Grebe** protecting her chicks.

Northbound shorebirds included ten expected species with **Solitary Sandpiper** being seen at five different locations and **American Woodcock**, abundant at TI, also seen at Spring Lane 3/13 (MP), Temple University 3/14 (PM) and Morris Arboretum 3/25 (KJ). One of the two wintering **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was still at Rhawn St. 3/28 (FW). Two **Caspian Tern** were over the DR fighting for a fish 6/18 (MDr).

Black-billed Cuckoo was reported twice from PP 5/5 and 6/16 (MDr, BS). Two broods of **Eastern Screech Owl** were observed in CW with four birds fledged 5/7 (KR). The three-season **Barred Owl** in Keith Russell's Germantown neighborhood departed 5/16. On 3/17 and 4/19-20 Keith "...heard it giving a call he'd never heard before, a series of frenzied accelerating 'hoos' culminating in a 'hoo haw'". Keith thought he detected two birds and his neighbor agreed. The persistence of the owl(s) over the years makes us long for a resolution to the breeding question. **Common Nighthawk** were abundant over EPR 5/11-5/30 and a pair was seen at TI 5/21 (FW). On 5/2 a **Whip-poor-will** called at Awbury Arboretum (BR). Four hundred migrating **Chimney Swift** roosted in the Jenks School chimney 5/12 and that number dropped to 130 by 5/21 (JS).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at TI 5/21 (FW). There were more **Least Flycatcher** records than usual. Birds were at TI and EPR 4/28-5/4 (FW, LR, DM), at CW 5/12 (KR) and at EPR 5/20-21 (DM). On 5/27 after a four years' wait a female **Purple Martin** arrived at the house and gourds we erected at TI (NC, LR). By 6/9 several more martins arrived and after they departed from TI, a female martin was seen at the house we erected at Bartram's Garden 6/10 (NH).

Thirty species of warbler were encountered including 2 **Cape May Warbler** at FP (DM) and CW (KR) both on 5/12. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was in Cobb's Creek Park 4/29 (MS, KR, FW) and JM found one in the willows near the cross-dike at TI 6/9. Many nesting boxes in the area must have been an added inducement for that male to linger. Increasingly we find **Pine Warbler** enjoying a strong migration from their arrival 3/15 (DBr) to 15 feeding close to or on the ground in the cold winds of 4/8 at SCEE (KJ), to 25 at TI on 4/6 (TF, DB), and 6 in CW 4/21 (KJ). This unusually good showing of Pine Warbler seems to indicate this species is on an upward trend (KR). FW found a very late or very early (take your pick) **Northern Waterthrush** at TI 6/29! First reports of a **Louisiana Waterthrush** came from WC 4/3 (BL) and Shawmont 3/18 (JS), but the singing male along the North Ravine where it could nest at SCEE was only a brief visitor. **Mourning Warbler** were at TI 5/13 and 5/21 (FW). The Biopond at U. Penn hosted a **Hooded Warbler** 4/24 (SK), a first observation for that site. Another **Hooded Warbler** was in Morris Park, an under-birded area of the city's great park system in Overbrook 5/3 (BL). Two (and ultimately five) **Yellow-breasted Chat** were reported 5/17-6/2,

at SCEE (SD, CH) and along Spring Lane 5/17-5/30 (CH). On 5/30 five chats were found at the two sites and chat was still being reported from SCEE suggesting they bred (SD).

The 6/2 SCEE census tallied 6 **Scarlet Tanager** in good breeding habitat, and 11 males found on the PEC 6/16 census (BS) suggesting the tanager population is doing well.

A boldly singing **Dickcissel** on 6/1 where the PP Creek meets the DR was a thrill for FW and all who tried in vain to find it. We had a good showing of **Savannah Sparrow** at Rhawn St., BRSP, the Northeast Airport, and TI from 4/9-5/13. Following the 3/16 storm, we experienced the widely reported **Fox Sparrow** fall-out. On 3/23 **Fox Sparrow** were "moving" at TI and "hard to count" (DB), but 20 were found on 3/28. **Lincoln's Sparrow** arrived early at TI on 3/24 (TC, MM), were caught in nets at EPR (DM), seen on the PMAC (GG) and lastly reported from 5/22 at Rhawn St. (FW). Only 2 **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported from TI. Brief looks at **Bobolink** came from the Northeast, at BRSP and Rhawn St., not from TI where wild rice continues to flourish, though only half as high as last year's re-emerging crop. The only **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen at Northeast Airport 3/21 (FW). On 3/23 EPR hosted 10 **Rusty Blackbird** (KR) which were at TI until 5/2. **Orchard Orioles** might soon outnumber **Baltimore Orioles** in parts of the city. Orchard Oriole nesting pairs have increased steadily.

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Pike County

No Report. No Compiler.

Potter County

No Report.

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Schuylkill County

No Report. No Compiler.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

A small flock of about 15 **Tundra Swan** stopped over at FL 3/24-3/25 (CK, DU, et al.). Also, on 3/25 a nice variety of waterfowl was found at FL including: **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Northern Pintail**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and both **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe**; and a **Common Goldeneye** was at WL (PW, RW). **Common Loon** was found at WL 3/29 (CK, AT, HP). A **Ruddy Duck** and 3 **American Coots** were at FL 5/12 (PW & RW), and **American Coot** was still present 5/20 (CK, et al.).

Double-crested Cormorant was observed at both FL and WL 4/4 and one or more remained at FL through the end of May (PW, RW, CK et al.). Two **Black Vultures** were found near FL 3/3 (CK, HP, AS).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at FL 3/25 (PW & RW), and a **Black Tern** was a great find there 5/20 (CK, MF, CB, DH, et al.).

During a "Big Day" count 5/12 **Semipalmated Plover**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Solitary Spotted**, and **Least Sandpiper** were all found at the wetlands compound in SGL 188 (J&AS, et al.).

A real Atlasing coup was achieved 5/10 when **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireo**, **Eastern Kingbird**, and **Baltimore Oriole** were all found "nest building" where Covered Bridge Rd. crosses Middle Creek. **Orchard Oriole** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were among the other species present at the same location (PW & RW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Carolyn Blatchley, Mile Fialkovich, Deuane Hoffman, Marg & Jerry Howard, Chad Kauffman, Henry Petersheim, Art Schiavo, Louane Snavely, Joe Southerton, Joanne & Allen Schweinsberg (J&AS), Aden Troyer, Don Ulrich, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

Waterfowl migration started out about average in late February through March with areas of open water holding moderate numbers of most species. No major waterfowl fallouts occurred when the majority of

waterfowl were passing through. However, after a couple of unseasonably cold days at the first of April, temperatures plummeted and snow flew for nearly three weeks resulting in good numbers of loons and gulls. May temperatures moderated somewhat, and passerines arrived and passed through in fairly normal numbers.

No scoters or Long-tailed Ducks were found but all other expected ducks passed through. Eight **Gadwall** at Buffalo Creek 4/2 (JP, LP, CP), 11 **Northern Shovelers** 4/18 at SL (JP), and 8 **Northern Pintails** in BA 3/18 (JP) were good numbers for these species. A **Hooded Merganser** hen and brood were once again found at the Beachey Mitigation wetlands near Somerset (AM).

The only **Red-throated Loon** reported was at SL 5/1 (LP). After a mini-blizzard 4/16 there were 80 **Common Loons** between SL and QR (JP, RCO). Fifty two **Common Loons** at SL 4/18 were the largest gathering (JP). **American Bittern** was at a beaver pond near PP on 4/10 and obliged with a front yard pond walk by on 4/14 during a party that included a number of birders! Three **Great Egrets** were detected including two 4/3 at a farm pond in BA (LP). **Black Vultures** are becoming somewhat easier to find with 2 at PP starting 3/31, and 2 near High Point Lake 5/6 (JP, LP, CP, MM).

The SL **Osprey** pair was back a little early 3/25, and they immediately started to repair the nest. The nesting tower appears to be ready to fall over; does anyone know how to straighten a 35 foot pole standing in 4 feet of water? A pair of **Northern Harriers** were exchanging prey and exhibiting courtship behavior in a BA CRP field from 4/23 to 5/5 (LP). They were not observed after the latter date. **Golden Eagles** started moving by APAS's Allegheny Front Hawk Watch in February. A late imm. bird flew past PP 5/1 (LP).

Virginia Rail was calling at Buffalo Creek 4/25 (JP) and **Sora** was heard there 4/29 (JP, LP, CP). Shorebirds were in short supply this spring with a few **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/14 in BA (JP); **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/24 in BA (JP, LP, CP); **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/21 and up to 3 **Upland Sandpipers** 4/25 also in BA (JP, LP). The **Upland Sandpipers** seemed to disappear when the above mentioned Northern Harriers took up temporary residence, but a bird was seen in early Jul (LY) which raises hope that they may have stayed. Sixty **Wilson's Snipe** congregated along marshy upper Stoney Creek during a Mar 18 snow storm and a bird was still winnowing at Buffalo Creek 5/6 (JP, LP).

Bonaparte's Gulls favored SL this spring with, 300+ birds present 4/1 and 4/5, 350+ present 4/18, and 30 still lingering 5/6 (JP, LP). Up to 5 **Caspian Terns** 4/18, 15 **Forster's Terns** 5/1, a few **Common Terns** 4/13 - 5/17, and one **Black Tern** 5/17 was detected at SL (JP, LP, CP).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were first found 5/22 and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were widespread after that date. Spring **Common Nighthawk** has become very elusive and the 2 flying above SL 5/27 at dusk was about par for the last five years. **Whip-poor-wills** are still going strong at several sites on the east slope of the Allegheny Front. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived at PP 5/1 and seemed to be fairly numerous throughout the county.

Red-headed Woodpecker proved very scarce until one was found near Summit Mills 5/29 (JP, LP). **Willow Flycatchers** are widespread in county but the only **Alder Flycatcher** arrived 5/31 at PP and then stayed until at least mid- Jun. **Vireos** were all detected in their usual haunts — **Blue-headed** on mountain ridges and large blocks of forest with hemlock, **Warbling** along lower Laurel Creek and the Youghiogheny River, **Yellow-throated** near Confluence, and **White-eyed** near QR. **Cliff Swallows** are pioneering many new barn nesting sites in BA as well as having large colonies under bridges near Confluence. Two female plumaged **Purple Martins** visited a new martin house in BA 5/31 and were sporadically seen for about 2 weeks (LY). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** is a sparse spring migrant in most of the county so one 4/22 at PP was welcome (JP). Three pairs of **Brown Thrashers** set up territories at PP after arriving a touch early 3/30. One bird was taken by a migrant **Northern Goshawk** 5/31 which may be a peril of arriving too soon! The blizzard like conditions 4/5 brought 30 **American Pipits** almost onto the road in BA 4/5 (JP).

Breeding warblers were timely and a few migrants were found. Spring migration along the ridge tops is generally slow compared to the vibrant fall migration possibly due to the delayed budding of trees and consequently fewer insects. **Palm Warblers** were at PP 5/9-5/16; the scarce for spring **Bay-breasted Warbler** was there 5/15, **Blackpoll Warblers** were present from 5/20 - 6/1; **Wilson's Warblers** were found 5/14 and 5/18, and a loudly singing **Mourning Warbler** was found skulking in a thicket there 5/15 (JP, LP, CP). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found a QR 5/27.

Chipping Sparrows arrived at PP 3/29 as the **American Tree Sparrows** were disappearing—the last one present 4/3. **Henslow's Sparrow** was first found 5/5 at the Flight 93 site (LP). **Fox Sparrows** were present and singing at PP from 4/1 - 5/3.

Bobolinks were found in BA 5/6 but seemed to be very sparse until late May when they were widely encountered (JP, LP). **Rusty Blackbird** wintered at PP, disappeared in late Mar and then 2 were encountered at an alder swamp surrounding a beaver dam 5/1. Unfortunately they were not found later. **Orchard Oriole** was found near QR in one of the many overgrown fields in the area (JP, LP, CP).

After being absent all winter, a **Pine Siskin** showed up at PP 4/9 and remained throughout the season.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA, 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Bob Croner, Anthony Marich, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Lauretta Payne, Levi Yoder.

Sullivan County

Locations: SGL 66, Cherry Township (CT), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Briskey Mtn (BM), SGL 13.

Sullivan is not a heavily birded area except by a few individuals and then only from the breeding season through early fall migration. Most of the birding occurs at an elevation near 2000' on North Mountain.

First reports for 2007 are from 4/1-4/9. The weather for this entire period was cold and wet. Many snow showers occurred especially from the 5th to the 8th. Early returns and migrants included **Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, American Kestrel, American Woodcock** (display flight observed) and **American Robin**.

Two separate pairs of **Green-winged Teal** were observed but later follow ups did not confirm breeding – confirmation has previously occurred in the county. Waterfowl observed included **Canada Goose, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Merganser** (pair), **Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck** and **Blue-winged Teal** (not often observed in *Sullivan*).

Red-shouldered and **Red-tailed Hawk** were present along with **Northern Harrier** and a good number of **American Kestrels** at SGL 66. **Bald Eagle** was observed on nest and **Sandhill Crane** was again present. Nesting by the cranes was later confirmed.

Four species of woodpecker were recorded: **Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker**, and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. **Hermit Thrush** was seen but not heard. I made my first record for **Wilson's Snipe** in the county. **Fox Sparrow** was migrating through in good numbers and a **Northern Cardinal** was observed displaying territorial behavior – this is not a common bird or nester in the county at higher elevations.

The first weekend in May added **Great Blue Heron, Broad-winged Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Northern Saw-whet Owl** and **Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark** and **Common Grackle** were among the returning nesters.

Migrant **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were observed in good numbers. All observed warblers were returning nesters: **Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, Blackburnian, Prairie,** and **Common Yellowthroat**.

May 12th, 2007 was the date of the PAMC. To the best of my knowledge I was the only observer in the county. I have not seen the final report. The following species were observed FOY in the county. **Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Whip-poor-will, Red-bellied Woodpecker** (uncommon & notable in the county), **Alder** and **Least Flycatchers, Warbling** and **Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Veery, Swainson's** and **Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue** and **Canada Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting** and **Baltimore Oriole**. All are county residents.

Additional residents found between 5/18-5/20 include **Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler,** and **Grasshopper Sparrow**. Resident **Willow Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Cedar Waxwing** were observed FOY on Memorial Day weekend.

The following migrants were all observed 5/19: **Semipalmated Plover, Tennessee** and **Bay-breasted Warbler**. Several **Blackpoll Warblers** were observed Memorial Day. These may have been migrants or residents as there are county nesting records.

Last and notable – 2005 marked the first record in my knowledge of **Warbling Vireo** in the county at elevation. Last year brought an individual who was observed apparently singing on territory. Additional birds at additional locations have so far been observed in 2007. We have not received nesting confirmation yet.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA, 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Skip Conant, Doug Gross, Tom Reeves, Gary Becker, Trudy Gerlach.

Susquehanna County

No Report.

Rob Blye, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA, 19465, rwblye@comcast.net

Tioga County

Locations: Colton Point State Park, (CPSP), Cowanesque Lake Recreation Area (CL), Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Nessmuk Lake (NL), Lamb's Creek Recreation Area (LC), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area (Muck), Pine Creek Gorge Important Bird Area #28 (PC). Note that CPSP is also part of IBA #28.

Although the warm winter weather kept area lakes open through most of the winter, a sub-zero cold wave set in during the last week of January and froze almost all lakes and streams solid through much of March, thus providing little opportunity for migratory waterfowl to stop on their way north.

A small area of open water below the Cowanesque-Lake dam did produce 2 **American Coots** 3/11 (JH), and a pair of **Wood Ducks** was spotted in Niles Valley/Norris Brook on an unfrozen pond 3/17 (RR). A large flock of **Tundra Swans** was seen flying north over HL 3/23, which was still completely frozen over on that date (GT). However, the next day, 3/24, some water opened up on the smaller lakes, and flocks of **Mallards, Common Mergansers, Canada Geese**, and a pair of **Common Goldeneyes** moved in at HCSP (GT). On 3/26, a **Horned Grebe** and 3 **Wood Ducks** were seen in PC near the Darling Run access (GT, DF, RF), and 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers, 5 Hooded Mergansers** and several **Ring-necked Ducks** were observed on CL (BI).

By Apr the situation for waterfowl had improved greatly. Eight **Buffleheads** were seen at HCSP 4/3, and larger numbers of migratory ducks started to show up 4/12, when 20 **Ring-necked Ducks, 10 Buffleheads**, a pair of **Wood ducks**, and several **Canada Geese** stopped at HCSP. That same day a flock of 15 **Bonaparte Gulls** also made an appearance at the state park (GT).

The weather deteriorated again 4/17, with a major snowstorm that affected the entire northeast. However, the storm grounded many interesting birds in area lakes, including 2 **White-winged Scoters, 3 Long-tailed Ducks, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 4 Common Loons, 3 Horned Grebes**, and one **Red-necked Grebe** at HCSP 4/18 (GT). **Long-tailed Ducks, Horned and Red-necked Grebes**, and **Common Loons** were also reported at NL (PK, MC) that same week. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at HCSP 4/21 (GT).

Another storm 5/1-5/2 grounded a surprising large number of late migratory waterfowl at HCSP, including 58 **Buffleheads, 5 Lesser Scaups**, one **Long-tailed Duck, 12 Ruddy Ducks**, and a **Horned Grebe** (GT).

A lone **Great Egret** was seen 5/16 at the Muck, which is very unusual for this early in the year. An **American Bittern** was heard pumping at the Muck 3/23 (DF, RR).

Ospreys moved into the area as early as 3/26 at HL and CL and were seen at HCSP 4/3 (BI, GT). The county's resident **Bald Eagles** — both adults and juveniles — at HL, CL, and PC, were seen on various dates throughout the reporting period. Adults were seen on their nests as early as 3/11 at CL and HL (JH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen in Tioga S.F. at the Baldwin Run/Canada Run intersection 3/10, and a **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported in the Stony Fork area 3/21 (DF, RR). Two **American Kestrels** were observed near CL 3/26 (BI).

A pair of **Killdeer** were seen at the US Geological Survey building in Asaph 3/12 (RR). The county's first **American Woodcock** was seen at the Muck 3/18 (RR), and others were reported near CL 3/26, already engaged in their courtship rituals (BI). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported at CL 4/19 (MC, TF, RF, GT). A flock of at least a dozen **Spotted Sandpipers** (not often seen in flocks) was seen at HCSP 5/15, and a couple of **Least Sandpipers** were seen at the Muck 5/16 along with a relatively large number of **Solitary Sandpipers** (PK, GT). **Virginia Rails** have been heard or seen regularly at the Muck starting as early as 2/23, a **Wilson's Snipe** was heard winnowing at the Muck on 3/25, and a **Sora** was heard there 3/28 (DF, RR).

Bonaparte's Gulls made reappearances 4/29 at HL (4 gulls), and at HCSP 5/2 (5 gulls) (GT). Two **Caspian Terns** were seen at CL 4/19 (GT, RF, TF, MC).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard singing at the Muck 5/9 (DF, RR), and one was seen at HCSP during a park-sponsored bird walk 5/19 (GT). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at the Muck 5/21 (DF, RR). Three **Common Nighthawks** were seen working the Muck 5/15 (DF, RR). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the year was seen near a nursery greenhouse in Middlebury 5/5 (DF, RR).

The first **Alder Flycatcher** of the year was reported at HCSP 5/19, the first **Willow Flycatcher** 5/16 at the Muck (RR), and the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/10 at HL. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen at HCSP 5/12. **Least Flycatchers** were the most reported in the county, edging **Eastern Phoebe**s out of first place (GT). An **Eastern Kingbird** was seen at the Muck 5/8 (DF, RR). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** of the season was seen in the Fallsbrook area 5/12 (JH); **Warbling Vireos**, seen in many locations, were first reported at the Muck 5/2 (DF, RR).

The first **Tree Swallow** of the season was reported 3/25 in Asaph (RR), with larger numbers reported the next day — 20 **Tree Swallows** at HCSP (GT). **Cliff Swallows** began moving into their regular nesting sites on the bridge at HL 4/29, and a few **Barn Swallows** were present in the same area that day (GT). **Bank Swallows** returned to Crooked Creek, which feeds HL, 5/10, and a small flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** made an appearance at the Muck 5/16 (PK, GT).

Many **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported in various locations starting 4/3, but only one **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported 4/3 at PC. The first **Veery** of the season was reported at the Muck 5/10 (DF, RR). A **Hermit Thrush** was observed collecting nesting material 5/17 at CPSP (DF, RF, TF), and the first **Wood Thrush** report for the county was made in the Hills Creek area 5/8 (GT).

Yellow-rumped Warblers showed up in force 4/27 when several large flocks numbering in the dozens descended on HCSP (DF, GT). Three **Palm Warblers** and a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were seen at LC 4/26 (TF, RF, GT). The first **Yellow Warbler** of the year was reported at HCSP 4/28, and the first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported 5/10 at HL (DF, GT). A field trip to CPSP 5/10 yielded 4 **Black-throated Blue**, 2 **Black-throated Green**, 3 **Blackburnian**, 2 **Black-and-white**, and 2 **Hooded Warblers** (DF, MC, RF, TF, GT). These were the first reports for these species for the season. A **Wilson's Warbler** was seen on a farm near HCSP 5/21 (GT).

Brown Thrashers have made a good showing this year in *Tioga*, with the first reported from the Muck 3/21 (RR). The first **Scarlet Tanager** was reported 5/29 at HL (GT), and the first **Baltimore Orioles** were reported at the Muck 5/2 (DF, RR). The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** of the year was heard at the Muck on 4/30 (DF, RR). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen in Asaph 3/28 (RR), and numerous **Bobolinks** had arrived in various parts of the county by 5/21. A **Fox Sparrow** was seen at the Muck 3/15 (DF, RR). The first **Swamp Sparrows** seen in the county were at PC on 4/3 (RF), and a **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported at the Muck on 3/28 (DF, RR).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA, 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Martha Copp, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, Dianne Franco, Jeff Holbrook, Ben Israel, Phil Krajewski, Robert Ross.

Union County

No Report.

Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com

Venango County

No Report.

Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA, 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.com,

Warren County

No Report.

Don Watts, 163 Crestview Blvd, Warren, Pa., 16365.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond at Hahn Road (AMD), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Robinson Township (RT), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Wood Ducks were well reported this spring from many locations. A few **American Wigeon** were reported from AMD and R4 in the first week of Mar (RG, MV), but these were the only reported. **Blue-winged Teal** had an excellent spring beginning with an early pair at Enlow Fork 3/14 (WS, DS); a group that spent the middle of Apr at CL peaked at 12 on 4/20 (MV). **Northern Shovelers** were reported thrice: one at CL 3/3-3/5 (MV), one at AMD 3/8 (MV), and one at CL 3/29 (RT). The only report of **Northern Pintail** was of the female that winters annually at Washington Cemetery, which remained to at least 3/3. **Green-winged Teal** reports were scattered throughout Mar and early Apr, the last of which was a pair at GCW 4/1 (CC).

Six of the 17 **Canvasbacks** that spent much of Feb at AMD held on until 3/8, and one until 3/12 (MV). This species was not reported thereafter. Likewise, 2 **Redhead** remained at AMD until 3/8 (MV) and were absent from the county for the rest of the season. Surprisingly, **Ring-necked Ducks** were not reported after 3/19. Two **Greater Scaup** at CL 3/3-5 were a nice find (MV). A **Common Goldeneye** at AMD 3/5 was the only report of a species that is rather difficult to find in *Washington*. The only report of **Red-breasted Merganser** was of one at Reservoir #3 on 4/20 (MV). A female **Ruddy Duck** at Cherry Valley Res. was late (RT). Other waterfowl reported in scattered numbers included **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Hooded Merganser**.

Nine **Common Loons** at R4 on 4/16 (RT) was the highest count. **Pied-billed Grebe** reappeared at AMD following the Feb freeze 3/5. **Horned Grebes** were 2 at Peter's Lake 3/19 (MV), one at R4 3/28 (CC), and 3 at R4 on 4/20 (MV). This species seems harder to find in *Washington* than it should be. A **Double-crested Cormorant** that hung around CL in the first few weeks of Apr was rare for that location (RT). Other reports included one at Fredericktown 4/19 (JoT), and 2 at Cherry Valley Res. 5/12 (RT).

Excellent were three reports of **American Bittern**: one at GCW 4/2 (CC), one also at GCW 4/25 (WS), and one heard on nocturnal migration during PAMC 5/12 (RG). A good count of 20 **Great Blue Herons** was made at AMD 3/8 (MV). Four singleton **Great Egrets** were reported at CL 4/9-5/21 (MV, WS); this location is probably the easiest place in the sw. corner of PA to find Great Egrets in spring. Very interesting was a credible report of a second "Hegret" (**putative Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid**) at CL in early May, made by a local resident (JB). Unfortunately, only the "original" Hegret was seen thereafter and sporadically at that.

An **Osprey** hung around R4 4/27-5/4 (LC), and another was found in RT 5/12 (RT). There are no known nesting locations for this species in

Washington but perhaps this is only a matter of time. The only report of **Bald Eagle** was one at GCW 3/21 (*fide* JoT). A wintering dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was last reported from RT 3/10 (MF).

A **Virginia Rail** at GCW 4/25 (WS) was not unexpected but rare for *Washington* nonetheless. The **American Coot** which seems to permanently reside at AMD was present throughout the season. A total of 13 **American Coots** at R4 3/28 (CC) was the highest.

Thirteen species of shorebirds were reported, which is very good by *Washington* standards, including one extraordinary rarity that was probably the first record for the county: a credibly reported flock of 9 **Whimbrel** was seen flying in V-formation over Eighty-Four 5/28 (AB). A few **Semipalmated Plovers** utilized the mudflats at CL 5/11-19 (RT, MV, GM). GCW was drawn down for a few weeks in Apr, creating some good shorebird habitat; high counts of 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 20 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were thusly attracted to GCW 4/25 (WS), and at least 15 **Solitary Sandpipers** remained there 4/25-29 (WS, RG). Unfortunately GCW was returned to its natural, flooded state in early May. Good numbers of **Solitary Sandpipers** were also noted at CL in May, with a peak of 11 there 5/14 (MV). **Least Sandpiper** numbers built throughout May at CL to a peak of 25 on 5/21 (MV). A **Dunlin** remained at CL 5/10-12 (RT), and 4 were found in Eighty-Four 5/28 (AB). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were scarce, with birds found only at GCW 4/22-29 (RG). Ten **Wilson's Snipe** at Enlow Fork 3/14 (WS) and 15 at GCW 4/22 (RG) were nice counts. The only report of **Ring-billed Gull** was of a flock of 22 over AMD 3/12 (MV).

RT counted 5 **Black-billed** and 14 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in the county during PAMC 5/12. RG tallied at least 10 **Whip-poor-wills** that same day, which was a great count for this seldom-reported species. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were first reported at Coal Center and West Pike Run Twp. in the last few days of Apr (AT, WJS, NS, E&JZ).

Willow Flycatchers made an early return to Coal Center, where 2 were counted 4/25 (AT). A **Warbling Vireo** at Enlow Fork 4/22 (KSJ) was also rather early, but most other species in these two families returned on time. On PAMC day 5/12, RT made nice counts of 25 **Warbling** and 66 **Red-eyed Vireos** throughout the course of the day. **Tree**, **Northern Rough-winged**, and **Barn Swallows** all returned 4/1 (CC). A number of observers noted that **Carolina Wren** numbers were off this spring; possibly this is due to the extended deep freeze in Feb. It will be interesting to watch the population trend of this species in the next few years following the Feb event.

Catharus thrushes almost went unreported. **Veeries** were found only on PAMC day; one heard on nocturnal migration (RG) and one at Bavington (RT), and 5 **Swainson's Thrushes** were also heard on a nocturnal count the same day (RG). **Gray Catbirds**, as elsewhere in sw. PA, seemed slightly delayed in their return to *Washington*, with the first report not coming until 4/28. **Brown Thrasher** was similarly delayed, with the first report not until 4/25.

Thirty-one species of wood-warbler were reported this season, highlighted by RG's and RT's results on PAMC day 5/12. RG made great counts of some breeding species that day, for instance, 100 **Yellow Warblers**, 75 **American Redstarts**, 100 **Ovenbirds**, and 75 **Hooded Warblers**, while RT rung up 77 **Common Yellowthroats**. Besides these counts, the season's highlights included the following: RG counted 21 **Tennessee Warblers** (mostly around Bavington) 5/12. A single **Cape May Warbler** was also at Bavington 5/12 (RG). Great numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found in the last week of Apr and the first week of May (RT, KSJ), with a small cache of butterbutts lingering at CL until at least 5/25 (RT, GM). A **Pine Warbler** at Bavington 5/12 (RG) was in proximity to recent breeding grounds. The only report of **Prairie Warbler** was of two near Burgettstown 4/28 (RG). **Palm Warblers** frequented CL in good numbers 4/23-5/2 (RT). Three **Bay-breasted Warblers** on 5/12 (RG) were the only report. Best of all warblers was a **Prothonotary Warbler** heard at Bavington 5/12 (RG). There are few records of this species in *Washington* in "modern" times. A **Worm-eating Warbler** in N. Strabane Twp. 5/10 was also a very nice find (RT). **Northern Waterthrushes** had as good a spring as can be expected in *Washington*, with four reports 4/25-5/12 (WS, RT). Two **Wilson's Warblers** at Mingo Creek Park 5/12 (AT, JoT) rounded out a nice warbler showing for PAMC.

The county's two breeding **Ammodramus** sparrows were reported only from the strip mines of RT, whereas **Savannah Sparrows** were found in RT and also at BC and Coal Center. **White-throated Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** each lasted until 4/24 (AT), and **White-crowned Sparrows** moved through in a brief period 4/28-5/4 (LC, AT). "Several" **Bobolinks** were reported near Eighty-Four 5/3 (JoT), and one was at Bavington 5/12 (RT). The only **Rusty Blackbird** report came from CL 4/12 (RT), following a much better spring flight of this species in 2006. An **Orchard Oriole** at Canonsburg 4/27 (RG) seemed a shade early, but **Baltimore Oriole** was also first found the very next day, 4/28, at Burgettstown (RG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net**; Andy Berchin; James Bohn, Cassie Campsey, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Bob Sepesy, Dana Shaffer, Walt Shaffer, Nancy Shemansky, Wendy Jo Shemansky (WJS), Chuck Shrump, Kate St. John, Amy Taracido, Jarred

Taracido (JaT), José Taracido (JoT), Linda Trader, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Ellen & John Zelina (E&JZ).

Wayne County

No Report. No Complier.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Derry Lake (DeL), Donegal Lake (DL), Keystone State Park (KSP), Loyalhanna Lake (LL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [Latrobe Reservoir] (TRR).

Unusual for the Ligonier Valley was the flock of 5 blue phase **Snow Geese** that flew over Powdermill's Headquarters area 3/30 (ML). Thirty-three **Tundra Swans** put down on Loyalhanna Lake 3/8 (KJ). Eighteen **Wood Ducks** on 4/17 and another 8 there on 5/24 made for nice counts at Trees Mills near BRR (KB), who also had 3 **Gadwall** there 3/14. Five **Northern Shovelers** stopped off on DL 4/20 (RCL), and the species peaked (RCL) at TRR at 11 on 4/19. Tim Vechter reported 11 **Canvasbacks** on LL 3/7. A dozen **Greater Scaup** were at TRR 4/17 (RCL). A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was on DeL 3/24 (KJ), one was at DL 4/20 (RCL), and a flock of 20 flew over PNR 5/1 (ML). **Ruddy Ducks** peaked at TRR with a raft of 65 4/19 (RCL). Fifteen **Hooded Mergansers** were on AD 3/31 (RCL). An excellent count of 50 **Common Mergansers** was made at LL 3/7 (TV).

Four **Horned Grebes** were at BRR 4/17 (KB), and 10 were at DL 3/15 (DB). **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included 21 at DL 4/12 (RCL) where 11 remained 4/13 (L&LH). The **American Bittern** that first appeared at PNR 4/25 (BM) remained for several days and was seen by many observers. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was a good find at Ligonier 5/10 (TM, ML).

The pair of breeding **Osprey** at DL had returned to their nest by 3/21, an early date for this area (RCL). Two **Bald Eagles** were at LL 3/7 (TV), one at KSP 3/22 (KB), and yet another near Stahlstown 5/7 (L&LH). A **Golden Eagle** was spotted over Rt. 259 just e. of TRR 3/19 (RCL), and one was seen soaring over the Loyalhanna Water Gap near Ligonier 3/25 (TM). A **Merlin** was a good find at Delmont 4/19 (KB).

Lone **Soras** were found (ML) both at DL and passing over PNR 5/20. Undoubtedly the find of the season was the **Black Rail** found during Migration Count Day 5/12 by Jim Pemberton and Tony Pegnato at the Little Sewickley Creek wetlands — just the 2nd County record of the species. An early **Spotted Sandpiper** stopped off at DL 4/12 (RCL). The first **Wilson's Snipe** was seen at PNR 3/26 (RCL); and, in an excellent count for this area, Linda Hess found a dozen birds along Old Distillery Rd., Stahlstown 4/7.

Some 400 **Ring-billed Gulls** stopped off at LL on 3/9 (TV). The first **Bonaparte's Gull** of the season was noted at TRR 3/29 (RCL). An early **Forster's Tern** appeared at Acme Dam 4/15 (L&LH), and 2 were at DL 4/23 (RCL). In addition 2 **Common Terns** were at DL on 4/23 (RCL).

Lanzone and a group of Atlas trainees called up a **Long-eared Owl** near DL in mid-May. A flock of 24 **Common Nighthawks** passed over PNR on the evening of 5/24 (ML) for an unusual spring report, and Larry Barth reported the first **Whip-poor-will** near Stahlstown 5/1 for one of the season's few Ligonier Valley records. An early **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was spotted at Ligonier 4/2 (ML), and 17 were at DL 4/14 (L&LH). Four **Cliff Swallows** were still at BRR 5/29 (KB). **Blue-headed Vireos** were numerous in late Apr, with the first noted at PNR on the 20th (RCL). A flock of 12 **Eastern Bluebirds** was at Stahlstown 4/3, and 2 **Wood Thrush** had returned there by 5/25 (L&LH). A rather early **Brown Thrasher** was spotted by visiting PNR/ Nation Aviary interns (from the Dominican Republic) at Powdermill 3/31.

A good warbler sighting included 3 **Orange-crowned Warblers** along Old Distillery Rd. near Stahlstown 5/12 (L&LH). Two **Pine Warblers** were a good find at Phoebe Run near PNR 4/21 (DM, MP). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** had returned to Saltsburg by 4/3 (KB).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** found singing from a field just west of PNR was a pleasant surprise for ML and a group of PA Breeding Bird Atlas trainees 5/15. A **Dickcissel** was an exceptional find 5/22 at PNR (ML). The only report of **Evening Grosbeaks** this season came from Linda Hess who observed a flock of 8-10 fly over her yard near Stahlstown 3/25.

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Wyoming County

No Report.

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York County

No Report.

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PHOTO QUIZ #17

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



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