

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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Cover: **Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*). The spring season brought at least nine individuals of this species to Pennsylvania. This female was photographed at Green Pond in *Northampton* 19 May 2008. (*Dave DeReamus*)

## Evolution

I often wonder about the experience of birders who first discovered our hobby after the year 2000, and how it compares to my own. At the risk of sounding like an old fogey, I sometimes feel like I began birding back in the Stone Age (circa 1984), way back when what would become the precursor to the Internet was a little-known and even less accessible network called ARPANET (and I would be duly impressed with any reader who knows what that is without an assist from Google). I started back in the day when the only wireless phones were the recently introduced “cordless” variety (anybody remember that word?), which allowed “mobile” communication only about as far from one’s house as the middle of the front yard. Cameras were, for the most part, lumbering and largely indecipherable contraptions that actually required external light metering devices (oh, the horror) and something called film (whatever that is). I could go on.

Anyway, being a grade-school birder in the 80s, I didn’t have even these primitive tools at my disposal, nor had even heard of them. Back in the day, young birders were usually armed with a 7x35 binocular made of glass apparently recycled from two used Coke bottles, a beat up and handed down Peterson, and their wits. We rarely traveled more than a few miles from home. All we had was our backyard or a local park and all the time in the world. I can still remember with remarkable accuracy the field trip that officially opened my birding career at the tender age of eight: a two day outing in May 1984 to Presque Isle State Park, which, 110 miles north of our house in Pittsburgh, might as well have been on the other side of the planet.

The birders in my family were listers, of course, and were ecstatic to reach just 200 birds in a year, which we catalogued over our Christmas vacations by typing up an official record of the year’s take on a

typewriter, correcting the mistakes with white-out (whatever that is).

Before you panic, this isn’t going to turn into a diatribe about the good old days, the days of “real” birders who had to actually work, and how the birders of today have no idea how good they have it, much less hold any appreciation for their modern conveniences. In fact it’s just the opposite. I tell these stories to create context. Truth be told, having lived in both worlds, I much prefer the modern. I wouldn’t trade my digital SLR and my ultra-lightweight Leica 10x42’s for anything. But I do wonder. What is it really like for a birder, of any age, who never lived through a day of birding without a cell phone or iPod or Internet listserv?

Obviously this is a question I’ll never be able to answer from personal experience. But having seen both sides makes some things very obvious about some of the issues these birders are dealing with. The modern tools of birding have laid the groundwork for a massive evolution in birding, making possible things I could never have imagined even as a very imaginative 8-year-old in the mid-80s. But these same modern tools of the trade carry with them some nasty pitfalls that are anything but easy for the birders of this next generation to avoid.

In the last issue I extolled the virtues of the digital/informational revolution. But I would be remiss if I didn’t point out that a digital camera hooked up to the Internet is also a device that sets what is perhaps the most nefarious pitfall of all for modern beginning birders (and veterans too for that matter).

Too often these days we see birders let the camera and the Internet do the thinking for them. There is an obvious and somewhat alarming trend of birders, particularly beginners, to figuratively “shoot first and ask questions later”. I don’t think it makes me too much of an old-schooler to say that basically nothing is learned by resorting to the camera and the opinions of the online community when first learning about birds. Nothing can

replace actual experience in the field, whether it be with some 30-year-old Coke-bottle Bushnells or the latest image stabilized 10x50s. Despite all of our fancy toys and lightning-fast information exchange, at the very beginning, we are still best served by starting out the same way we always have: no cameras, no Internet, no MP3’s... just a pair of eyes, a pair of ears, a pair of binoculars, and our wits. We cannot learn that which we do not truly observe. The modern tools are wonderful, but like anything else, they have a specific place and time.

This is an issue that has garnered some attention among birders recently; indeed, it is, at a more fundamental level, a question with deep implications far beyond the world of birding. Is the great irony of the Information Age that it has enabled the next generation to be more ill-informed than ever before? Of course, only time will tell. Personally, I am not pessimistic. The truth is that we are only at the beginning of this particular evolution. Adjustment to this new world will take some time, but is anything but impossible. What might the 8-year-old beginner birder of today write about the crop of up-and-coming birders 25 years from now? What benefits and pitfalls might that generation be experiencing after another quarter century of informational evolution? I can only imagine.

## Compiler News

**Don Watts** has resigned his post as *Warren* compiler, which leaves that county vacant, but two counties picked up new compilers. **Joe DeMarco** has agreed to compile for *Wyoming* beginning with fall 2008, which will have left *Wyoming* vacant for only two seasons, and **Dave Gobert** will be the new compiler for *Clearfield* beginning with summer 2008. Don already compiles for *Cambria*, making him the fifth author currently submitting reports for two counties. Thanks to both the incoming and outgoing compilers for their efforts.

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# Carolina Wrens in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

If you were to name a Pennsylvania bird species most affected by severe winter weather, it might be the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Adult wrens remain on territory year-round, and this stay-at-home strategy puts them at risk when severe weather occurs. When snow and ice restrict the availability of food, many Carolina Wrens perish; during years with milder winters, populations rebound. Over time, the diminishing frequency and intensity of severe winters have allowed Carolina Wrens to expand their range and numbers in Pennsylvania and elsewhere (Ickes 1992; Haggerty and Morton 1995; McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Carolina Wrens were last discussed at length in this journal near the end of the first Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas. At that time, their population was starting to expand after a notable population crash that began during the winter of 1976-77 (Hess 1989). It is timely to discuss them again now as the second Pennsylvania atlas effort draws to a close, and after a period of relatively mild winters.

## History

Carolina Wrens have probably been present in the southern corners of the state for some time. Audubon and Wilson observed them near Pittsburgh (Todd 1940), and regular reports from the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas have occurred throughout the history of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which began in 1900. During the first half of the twentieth century, one would occasionally show up away from the core distribution, for example, a 1923 CBC report from Williamsport, and a 1933 report from Warren (Todd 1940). In the middle of the twentieth century, Carolina Wrens expanded their range in the western and central parts of the state (Todd 1940; Wood 1983). Crashes still occurred during severe winters, but some wrens persisted in the newly expanded range. Over time, population peaks became progressively higher, and the range expansions more firmly established.

In the vicinity of Williamsport in the upper Susquehanna Valley, winter weather sometimes pushes Carolina

Wrens to the very edge of survival. To illustrate the relationship between wren dynamics and winter weather, Figure 1 juxtaposes statewide Carolina Wren statistics from the CBC and the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), with weather measurements collected at the Williamsport airport and published in *Climatological Data, Pennsylvania*. The weather measures displayed are the December-February average and minimum temperatures, and the total December-March snowfall. The year cited for the weather measures is that of the January-March period. Therefore the chronology of each year in Figure 1 is as such: winter weather early in the year, followed by the BBS in early summer, and the CBC at the end of the year. Severe winters and associated wren declines are thus vertically aligned. Black-colored bars indicate the most severe weather.

Carolina Wren trends were remarkably similar in both surveys (correlation = 0.96). Over time, the warm-period wren peaks became increasingly higher while the cold-period troughs did not dip as low. A small peak occurred in the late 1950s, about the same magnitude as those before 1950 (data not shown). Five of the next eleven years (1961-71) were cold and snowy, and wren numbers plummeted. From 1972-76, winters turned mild again and wren numbers rebounded, but the severe winters of 1977-78 knocked the wrens back again. It took about eight years before wren numbers began to rebound, reaching another peak in 1991-92. Wren numbers again declined when it turned cold and snowy during three of the years 1993-96, but they rebounded quickly during the subsequent mild winters. There was a modest decline in 2003-04, but another expansion shortly ensued (Figure 1).

## Analysis

The combination of cold and snow is particularly lethal to wrens, as has been previously noted (Robbins et al. 1986). This is demonstrated especially well by data from the late 1970s and from the mid-1990s. It is remarkable how fast wrens recovered from the 1990s decline. During the second Pennsylvania atlas, Carolina Wrens

have been at a historical peak, with survey counts at twice the magnitude as during the first atlas. It is likely that by the end of the second atlas, they will have been found in nearly 60% more atlas blocks than during the first atlas.

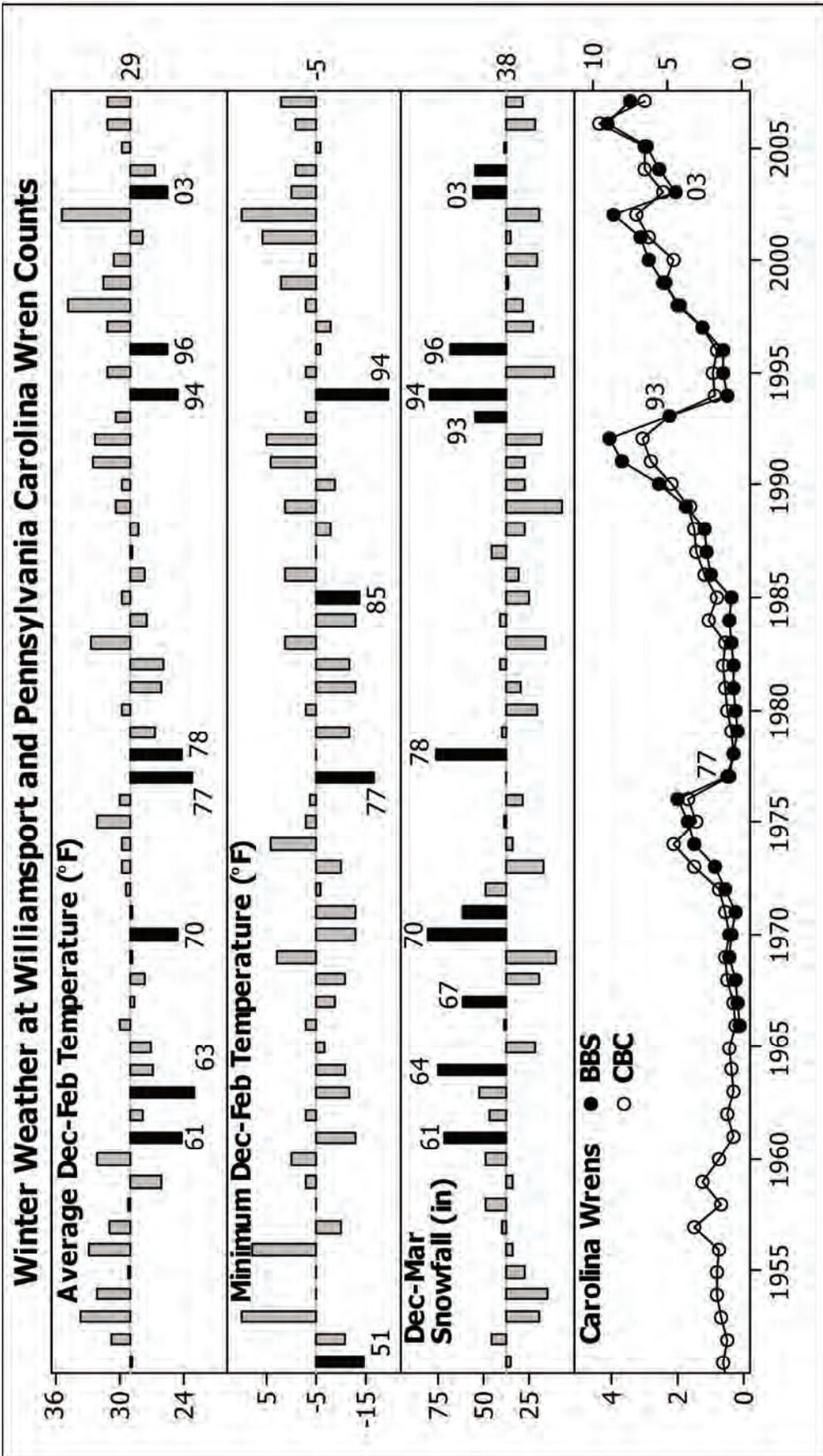
CBC distribution maps show how Carolina Wren numbers have fluctuated across the state. In Figure 2, maps on the left refer to periods of cold and snowy winters, and maps on the right correspond to periods of warmer winters. During the cold periods, particularly 1961-71 and 1977-85, wrens were scarce even in the southern corners of the state, yet they never completely died out in the northern regions. The population increase over time was particularly noticeable in the central valleys.

Wrens feeding on suet may survive harsh winter weather when nearby wrens without available suet do not (Robbins et al 1986; Ickes 1992). Over time, perhaps there were enough feeding stations available to wrens to sustain population renewal during subsequent milder periods. This may explain the short recovery time from the decline in the 1990s.

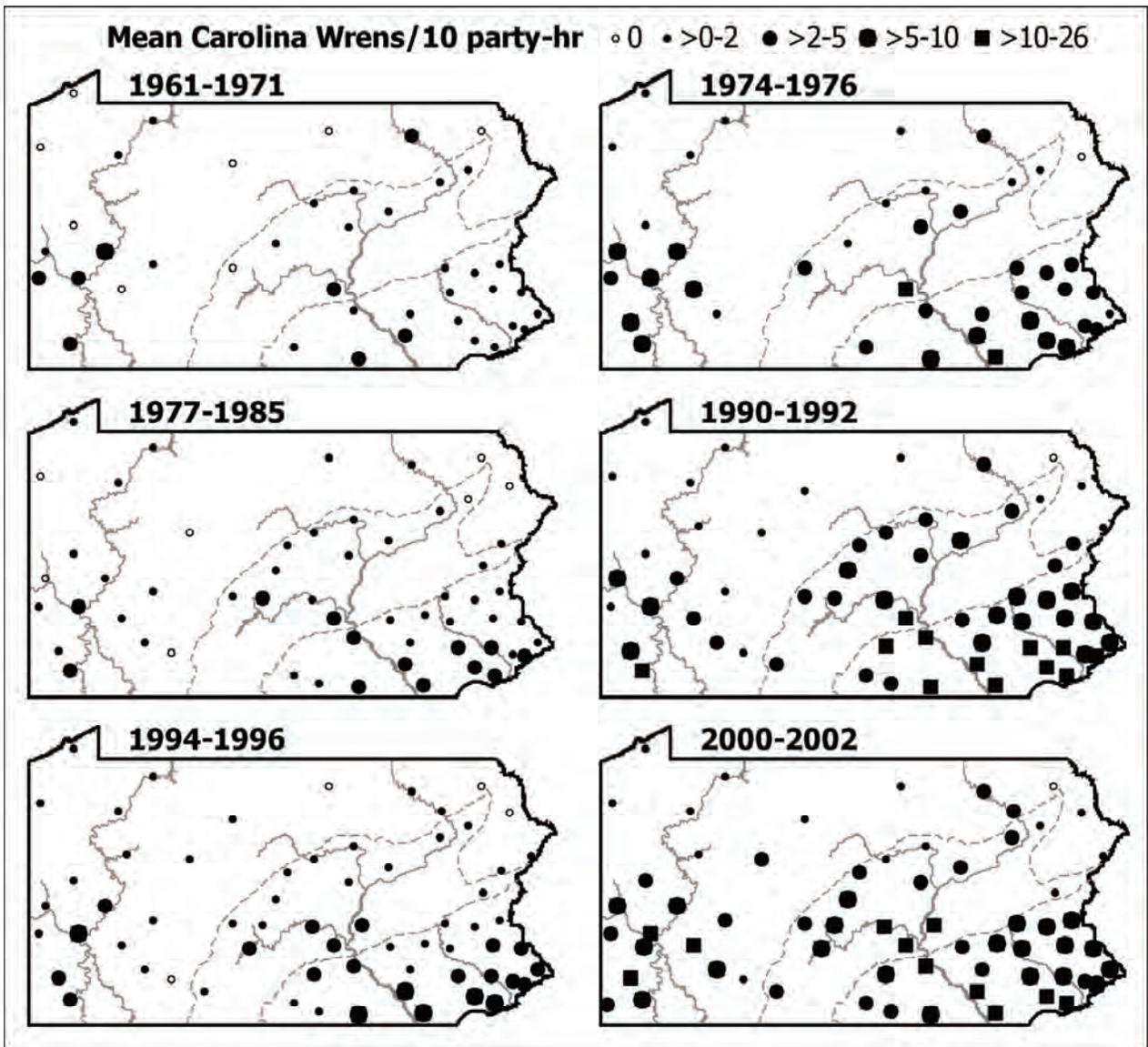
If severe winters become less frequent, there is considerable potential for further Carolina Wren population expansion in Pennsylvania; just to the south in parts of nearby West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, Carolina Wren BBS densities are 2 to 3 times higher than in Pennsylvania. There is evidence that winter temperatures are increasing faster than summer temperatures (Vose et al. 2005). The threat of population decimation will probably remain, but given their quick response to mild winters, Carolina Wren populations will likely continue expanding and could be considered to be among Pennsylvania's best avian bio-indicators of a warming planet.

*Acknowledgment:* I thank Greg Grove for suggestions that improved this paper.

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**Figure 1.** Williamsport winter temperatures and snowfall, the BBS mean Carolina wrens per route (solid circles and left scale) and the CBC mean wren count/10 party-hours (hollow circles and right scale), 1951-2007. Within-year chronology is winter weather early in year, BBS in early summer, CBC late in year. Bars are displayed above or below the mean, with black-colored bars indicating the most severe weather. Numbers near bars or symbols are two-digit year values.



**Figure 2.** Distribution maps of Carolina wren mean count/10 party-hours in the Pennsylvania CBC. Maps on the left correspond to population troughs and maps on the right correspond to subsequent population peaks. The year cited is the year in which Christmas occurred.

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# Spring Raptor Migration Summary 2008

## Laurie Goodrich

### Celebrating Spring

Pennsylvania birders have grown comfortable with autumn hawk-watching. Decades of counts have shown the state hosts a world-class raptor migration from August through December, and thousands of visitors flock to well-established sites across Pennsylvania to view hawks winging their way south. Less well-known—and much less appreciated—are the state's spring flights.

On 3 March, a strong southeast wind over Pennsylvania ridges stirred eagles into the air. Thirty-seven Golden Eagles soared over Allegheny Front in Bedford County, and 67 migrated north past Tussey Mountain, Centre County, with 22 passing in one hour. The Golden Eagles were accompanied by 14 Bald Eagles, which together made it an 81 eagle day for Tussey!

For some species, the northbound flight over Pennsylvania is among of the best in all of North America. The average Golden Eagle tallies at Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front rank fourth and sixth, respectively, in North America, and are the two best for sites east of the Mississippi River. Rose Tree Park averages the fourth-highest spring count on the continent for Black Vulture, and just south of Pennsylvania at Fort Smallwood, Maryland, totals for many species place in the top five spring counts in the continent, suggesting there may be many spring migrants passing over Pennsylvania at as yet unknown sites.

In 2008, one-day site records include the 62 Golden Eagles on 3 March at Tussey, and 12 Bald Eagles flying north past Hawk Mountain on 4 May. An exciting new site, Presque Isle in Erie County, recorded thousands of Broad-winged Hawks and Turkey Vultures despite incomplete coverage, along with noteworthy one-day counts of American Kestrel (76) and Red-shouldered Hawk (42). Surely, Pennsylvania has much to offer spring hawk-watchers.

### Regional Summary

During spring 2008, five watch sites tallied 12,367 raptors of 16 species across Pennsylvania. Overall, effort

was reduced this year with a total of 1056 hours in 188 days (down 27% compared to 2007; see Tables 1 and 2). Observation dates ranged from 24 February to 15 May.

Presque Isle contributed over half of the sightings: 7239 in 53 hours of counts during March and April. Reduced coverage at Rose Tree Park and Tussey Mountain was reflected in overall totals; however, Allegheny Front and Hawk Mountain showed average to above-average effort and totals in 2008, and a few new seasonal highs for some species. Tussey counters maintained good coverage during early-season eagle migration and noted record counts as well, despite reduced coverage in April.

Spring counters were challenged by cold and northerly winds during April, contributing to lower overall counts at Rose Tree Park. Cold may also have played a role in what seemed a late Bald Eagle push at Hawk Mountain in early May. Overall, the 2008 spring season brought impressive eagle flights over the entire state (Figure 1). Bald Eagles set season records at three sites: Hawk Mountain (25), Allegheny Front (35), and Tussey Mountain (51).

The 2008 count was higher than average and was more dominated by Turkey Vulture (40% of migrants) than in prior years, primarily due to the new efforts at Presque Isle (Tables 1 and 2). Numbers of Black Vulture were lower than in most prior years (Table 2), and Osprey, Northern Harrier, and Cooper's Hawk also showed lower counts than in 2007, possibly due to reduced effort at some sites. Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk all showed above average counts.

Peak migration dates were early beginning with the eagle push on 3 March which also included the peak Red-tailed Hawk flight at Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front, where totals were 51 and 33 respectively. Golden Eagles continued to storm northward through late March; Tussey counted 10 to 21 eagles daily from the 11 to 16 March. In April, Broad-winged Hawks flights were staggered across the state, with peak days occurring at

Rose Tree Park on the 13 April (85 birds), at Presque Isle on 19 April (1212 in 3.5 hours), at Hawk Mountain on 26 and 27 April (98 both days), and at Allegheny Front 25 April (128 birds). Only Allegheny Front and Hawk Mountain recorded hours in May. A surprisingly late push of 12 Bald Eagles flew past Hawk Mountain 4 May, with 8 passing in a 40 minute span.

**Table 1: Pennsylvania watch sites reporting for 2008**

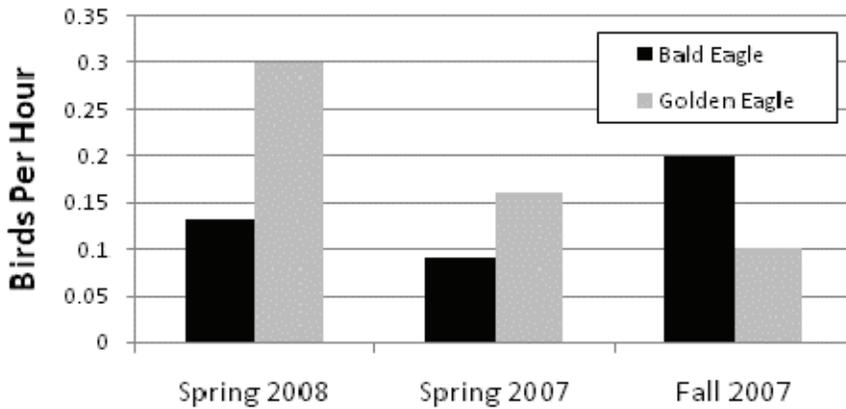
Site	Hours	Total
Allegheny Front	430	2161
Hawk Mountain	253	1062
Presque Isle	53	7329
Rose Tree Park	73	626
Tussey Mountain	248	1283
<b>Total</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>12367</b>

### Site Highlights

**Allegheny Front (Bedford):** Allegheny Front counters expended 430 hours of effort over 65 days between 23 February and 7 May. An above-average 2161 hawks were tallied, compared to the long-term average of 1851. Red-tailed Hawks led the count totals with 478, comprising 22% of the flight (Table 2). Broad-winged Hawks, Turkey Vultures, and Osprey made up 20%, 19%, and 9% of the flight respectively. New records were set for Osprey (185), Bald Eagle (35), and Red-shouldered Hawk (110). 25 April brought the highest one-day count, with 260 migrant raptors which included 128 Broad-winged Hawks and 36 Osprey. Red-shouldered Hawk numbers for this site were some of the highest recorded for spring in Pennsylvania, and the Golden Eagle tally was above average (Table 2). Rarities sighted included four Merlin and four Peregrine Falcons sighted during March and April.

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill):** Hawk Mountain's spring watch began on 3 March with the daily coverage from 1 April to 15 May, excluding nine days of rain. The count of 1062 raptors in 240 hours of coverage was slightly higher than last

**Figure 1: Counts of migrating eagles at PA sites in 2007 (n=4, 10) and 2008 (n=5).**



year's 1012 birds but lower than the nine-year average of 1128. Effort was slightly above-average. Broad-winged Hawks dominated the total with 468 migrants composing 44% of the flight. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Osprey contributed 11%, 9%, and 9% of the migrants respectively (Table 2). Above-average counts were recorded for Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, and American Kestrel, and a new spring record was set for Bald Eagle (25). Below-average tallies of Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted. Light northwest winds on 12 April brought the season's best one-day flight of 133 migrants, which included the peak one-day count for Sharp-shinned Hawk (36) and Osprey (17). Broad-winged Hawks peaked later in the season with 98 birds on both 26 and 27 April. On 4 May, 12 Bald Eagles glided past, setting a new spring one-day record for this species. Another 17 Osprey joined the northbound eagle parade, tying the best one-day peak Osprey count; the total of 103 migrants on 4 May was of the best May totals on record.

**Presque Isle (Erie):** A promising new site was established at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie adjacent to Presque Isle State Park, by J. McWilliams and others. Counts were conducted periodically from 3 March through 29 April, covering 17 days and 53 hours of effort. The count total for this site, 7239, was fully 59% of Pennsylvania's total flight in 2008. This Great Lakes site revealed a migration dominated by Turkey Vulture (4257, 59% of the flight) and Broad-winged Hawk (1661, 23%).

Counts of Rough-legged Hawk (13), Red-shouldered Hawk (120), and American Kestrel (188) were best among the state's spring sites. Peak dates were 1258 migrants on 25 March including 1117 Turkey Vultures and 52 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 1543 migrants on 19 April with the peak Broad-winged Hawk count of 1212.

**Rose Tree Park (Delaware) -** Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch counters covered 73 hours from 15 March through 30 April, a reduction from previous years. Counters tallied 626 total migrants as compared to a seven-year average of 2251, though the birds per hour were comparable to prior years (Table 2). Inclement weather on nine days and a series of stalled fronts in April may have reduced counts for this southeastern site. Broad-winged Hawks were the most abundant migrant with 192 counted representing 31% of the flight. Osprey represented 19% of the flight, and Sharp-shinned (73) and Red-tailed Hawks (75) each represented 12% of the migrants. Peak flights occurred on 12 and 13 April, when 137 and 113 total raptors were noted, respectively.

**Tussey Mountain (Centre):** Tussey Mountain reported an "eagle year", with the site setting new records for Bald Eagle (51) and Golden Eagle (225). Coverage began 24 February and concluded 26 April, and included 39 days and 248 hours of effort (42%, below-average). A total of 1243 raptors were tallied, below the 5-year average of 1543. Red-tailed Hawk was the most numerous species for this site, representing 29% of the flight (Table 2). Golden Eagles totaled 18% of the

migrants, Broad-winged Hawks 15%, and Turkey Vultures 11%. Reduced coverage in late March and April kept overall totals below average for most species, although Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks were above-average (50 and 9 respectively), as were both eagle species (Table 2).

3 March brought Tussey's peak one-day count of 166 raptors and, amazingly, more Golden Eagles (62) than Red-tailed Hawks (51). This was a new record one-day count of Golden Eagles anywhere in Pennsylvania! Golden Eagle counts were steady from 11 to 16 March with more than 10 eagles per day for the period. On 19 April, the peak flight of Broad-winged Hawks (108) soared northward.

### Conclusion

In spring 2008, Pennsylvania watchers reported an average of 12 birds per hour, and set several new site and state records. Golden Eagles per hour were higher than seen during either autumn or spring 2007 (Figure 1), and one-day counts for some species at single sites (e.g., Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel) were as high or higher than is generally expected during autumn. Despite the migrant numbers, several sites suffered from lack of counters to cover the peak migration periods.

So, dust off your binoculars a little early in 2009 and help us celebrate spring flights through Pennsylvania—there is much still to discover and enjoy. For information on Pennsylvania watch-sites, contacts, daily counts, and contacts, see <[www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org)>.

### Acknowledgments

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Table 2. 2008 Pennsylvania Spring Raptor Migration Summary

**ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford); Angelo Mincone, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AKEST	MERL	PEFA	UNID	TOTAL
FEB	6	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	1	12
MAR	27	174	5	298	2	19	5	36	22	5	93	0	228	1	83	16	2	3	45	863
APR	25	183	3	105	145	12	24	116	29	4	15	411	230	0	8	10	2	1	53	1168
MAY	7	52	2	7	38	4	0	19	4	0	2	22	15	0	0	0	0	0	5	118
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2161</b>
Avg/Year		418	12	349	109	17	33	174	68	5	56	375	449	3	66	22	7	4	103	1851
Birds/Hour			0.03	0.95	0.43	0.08	0.07	0.40	0.13	0.02	0.26	1.01	1.11	0.00	0.22	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.24	5.03
% Flight			0.6	19.0	8.6	1.6	1.3	7.9	2.6	0.4	5.1	20.0	22.1	0.0	4.3	1.2	0.2	0.2	4.8	100.0

**HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY (Berks and Schuylkill); Laurie Goodrich and Dana Owen, compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AKEST	MERL	PEFA	UNID	TOTAL
FEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAR	2	7	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	14
APR	27	179	7	35	70	9	16	98	40	2	5	443	73	0	0	40	6	0	65	909
MAY	11	67	3	0	22	14	6	15	5	0	3	25	16	0	0	2	2	0	26	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1062</b>
Avg/Year		229	11	19	126	10	31	145	35	1	11	459	147	0	1	39	6	2	69	1128
Birds/Hour			0.04	0.14	0.36	0.10	0.09	0.45	0.18	0.01	0.04	1.85	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.00	0.36	4.21
% Flight			0.9	3.3	8.7	2.4	2.1	10.7	4.3	0.2	0.8	44.1	9.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.8	0.0	8.6	100.0

**PRESQUE ISLE (Erie); Jerry McWilliams, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AKEST	MERL	PEFA	UNID	TOTAL
FEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAR	4	11	0	1897	0	4	4	38	26	0	97	0	135	2	0	29	0	1	28	2261
APR	14	42	0	2360	53	10	39	337	31	0	23	1661	270	11	0	159	8	1	15	4978
MAY		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4257</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1661</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7239</b>
Avg/Year		na																		
Birds/Hour			0.00	80.32	1.00	0.26	0.81	7.08	1.08	0.00	2.26	31.34	7.64	0.25	0.00	3.55	0.15	0.04	0.81	136.58
% Flight			0.0	58.8	0.7	0.2	0.6	5.2	0.8	0.0	1.7	22.9	5.6	0.2	0.0	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.6	100.0

**ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware); Jim Lockyer, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AKEST	MERL	PEFA	UNID	TOTAL
FEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAR	8	19	3	72	2	4	0	10	1	1	4	0	24	0	0	3	0	0	2	126
APR	18	54	21	47	32	7	7	63	24	1	2	192	51	0	0	43	6	0	4	500
MAY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>626</b>
<b>Avg/Year</b>		<b>292</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1191</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2251</b>
<b>Birds/Hour</b>			0.33	1.64	0.47	0.15	0.10	1.01	0.34	0.03	0.08	2.65	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.08	0.00	0.08	8.63
<b>% Flight</b>			3.8	19.0	5.4	1.8	1.1	11.7	4.0	0.3	1.0	30.7	12.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	1.0	0.0	1.0	100.0

**TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre); David Brandes and Dan Ombalski, compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AKEST	MERL	PEFA	UNID	TOTAL
FEB	5	34	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	27
MAR	24	171	11	112	2	45	19	29	14	0	48	0	266	7	218	18	0	0	25	814
APR	10	43	0	22	31	6	10	51	12	0	2	193	92	0	1	7	2	0	13	442
MAY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1283</b>
<b>Avg/Year</b>			29	325	70	19	40	135	86	3	53	349	531	7	168	41	3	0	64	1545
<b>Birds/Hour</b>			0.05	0.58	0.13	0.21	0.12	0.32	0.10	0.00	0.20	0.78	1.47	0.04	0.91	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.15	5.17
<b>% Flight</b>			0.9	11.2	2.6	4.0	2.3	6.2	2.0	0.0	3.9	15.0	28.5	0.7	17.5	1.9	0.2	0.0	3.0	100.0

**TOTAL FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AKEST	MERL	PEFA	UNID	TOTAL
FEB	11	55	3	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	13	2	9	0	0	0	1	39
MAR	65	382	19	2379	6	74	28	114	64	6	243	0	660	10	301	68	2	4	100	4078
APR	94	501	3	2569	331	44	96	665	136	7	47	2900	716	11	9	259	24	2	150	7969
MAY	18	119	5	7	60	18	6	34	9	0	5	47	31	0	0	2	2	0	31	257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4965</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>2947</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>12357</b>
<b>Birds/Hour</b>			0.05	4.70	0.38	0.13	0.12	0.77	0.20	0.01	0.28	2.79	1.34	0.01	0.30	0.31	0.03	0.01	0.27	11.70
<b>% Flight</b>			0.5	40.2	3.2	1.1	1.1	6.6	1.7	0.1	2.4	23.8	11.5	0.1	2.6	2.7	0.2	0.0	2.3	100.0
<b>% Chg</b>			-24.3	-26.8	-4.6	3.8	-9.1	8.0	-21.1	28.6	95.4	111.4	34.0	62.5	37.5	67.9	75.0	-33.3	33.6	115.6

**Key for Summary Tables**

Code	Species Name
BLVU	Black Vulture
TUVU	Turkey Vulture
OSPR	Osprey
BAEA	Bald Eagle
NOHA	Northern Harrier
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk
COHA	Cooper's Hawk
NOGO	Northern Goshawk
RSHA	Red-shouldered Hawk
BWHA	Broad-winged Hawk
RTHA	Red-tailed Hawk
RLHA	Rough-legged Hawk
GOEA	Golden Eagle
AKEST	American Kestrel
MERL	Merlin
PEFA	Peregrine Falcon
UNID	Unidentified hawks
TOTAL	Total hawks

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# Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), Westmoreland County

## Karen DeSantis

I am a relative newcomer to the birding community, although I've been casually birding on my own for years, gradually adding to my life list here at home as well as on vacations. I've yet to attend an outing and I'd never chased a rarity—until this past May. My gradual involvement in the “community” began about three years ago, when I read about the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas and began participating in the project. I joined the PABIRDS listserv one year ago and then joined the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club. I've enjoyed getting to know some of the local birders, if only through emails. I never would have guessed the exciting circumstances that would soon lead me to meet some of them in person and put me right in the middle of a chase!

I live in Bell Township, in the northeast corner of Westmoreland County. This is a rural area with varied habitats, nicely situated for birding, and over the years I've had several lucky breaks here that resulted in good birds being added to my life list. The luckiest break of all came on Sunday, May 4, 2008. My husband and I had been outside doing yard work all day. I came in the house around 3:00 PM and noticed a message on the answering machine from 10:30 that morning from our neighbor that lives about a half a mile away. The message began with her stating that she had seen a very unique looking bird that morning. My jaw dropped as I listened to her saying that she was positive she had seen a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along a country road nearby. She and her husband were driving along when they saw the bird sitting on the road. As their car approached, it flew up right in front of them and perched in a tree. At home, she looked it up in her field guide and then called me, knowing of my interest in birds. I immediately called her back and listened to her describe a light gray bird with dark wings, very long forked

tail, rosy pink sides—right on the money. I got the exact location, which was just a minute's drive from my house! My husband and I jumped in the car and drove over, even though about five hours had passed since the bird was seen.

I was doubtful it would still be there and sure enough, we slowly cruised along the road and saw nothing. We then drove to a vantage point on top of a nearby hill where we got out and began scanning the area with binoculars. This area is a wide expanse of rolling hills with farm fields bordered by woodlots. The hilltop vantage point is ideal for long

large figure eights directly in front of my car, returning to the same perch in the top of a dead tree. I got excellent views of this unmistakable flycatcher. I hastily drove towards the dead tree and parked, trying to get close enough for clear photos. I then whipped out the camera and began snapping away like mad from the car window. Although the photos are not the best angle (basically underneath the bird) they came out well enough, considering my highly excited state! The bird stayed put long enough for me to also get a good look through binoculars, then it took off again across the fields. I waited but it didn't return.



**Plate 1: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bell Twp., Westmoreland, 4 May 2008**  
(Photo by Karen DeSantis).

unobstructed views, but despite that, we came up empty. Disappointed, we eventually left and returned to our yard work.

After a bit, I couldn't concentrate on pulling weeds another minute, so I decided to go back over and look again. I took my camera this time, just in case, but still didn't expect to see the bird. I very slowly drove to the hilltop again, stopping and scanning along the way. Again, nothing. I turned around and had just started creeping along towards home when suddenly my eyes caught movement as a bird appeared, flying over the fields towards the tree line, spectacular long tail streaming behind it. Hardly believing what I was seeing, I jerked to a stop and saw it land in the exact spot my neighbor had described to me. In a moment it took off again and I watched as it sallied out in

At that point, I knew I needed to send out the alert so I returned home. My first thought was to call Dick Byers, regional coordinator for my BBA region (72). However, from reading the latest Westmoreland Nature Club newsletter, I knew there was an outing that day and I didn't think he'd be home. I decided to call Marcy Cunkelman in Indiana County, who I'd gotten to know through emails over the past year. She gave me advice on how to proceed with this rare sighting, and also said that Dick

was probably home by this time after all, so after talking with her I called him. I hurriedly downloaded my photos, put them on Flickr's online photo hosting website, then posted my sighting online on the PABIRDS list with a link to the photos. Meanwhile, Dick had sent an email to the Westmoreland Nature Club email list.

Within minutes I began receiving phone calls and emails asking for directions. I did my best to field all the inquiries and give accurate directions. Finally, I thought I'd better drive back over to the location and give the details to anyone who had shown up to see this great bird. In fact, there were several people there already, but the star attraction had not been seen. In the whirlwind of excitement and introducing myself to everyone, I regret that I can't recall all of the names, but

Geoff Malosh, Mike Fialkovich, and Mark McConaughy were among those present. We were all scanning and a few people even drove the roads nearby searching, but the bird was a no show. I stayed as long as I could and then finally left to go home. I found out later that Marcy Cunkelman was there, too, and I missed getting to meet her in person. Everyone stayed until dark but unfortunately the vigil was fruitless.

The next morning at dawn I went back over and watched for about half an hour with no luck. I had to be somewhere that day, so I went home and got ready to leave. I also realized then that I could utilize a mapping

feature on Flickr that showed the exact location of where my photos were taken – so I did that and then posted again on PABIRDS with that info, and also that the bird hadn't been seen again. Before I went off for the day, I stopped back at the location once more. Dick Byers was there by that time and I spoke with him briefly, then left. He had no luck either, but he later reported that Bob Jackman was there at about 2:30 that afternoon and saw the flycatcher, again in the same dead tree. After that, it was not seen again.

Altogether, this was quite an experience for me. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a beautiful bird and made

a memorable addition to my life list. It was great getting to meet some of the local expert birders and experience first-hand the flurry of activity involved in a rare bird sighting. Everyone was very gracious and welcoming to this newcomer. I only wish that they had gotten to see the bird! My thanks go out to all of them for their help & advice, and also to my alert neighbor. This bird would have gone unnoticed if it weren't for her lucky sighting and phone call.

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## Hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal, Washington County

### Geoff Malosh

On 31 March 2008, an apparent hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal male was discovered at Canonsburg Lake by Mark Vass. It was found in a small cove at the base of a steep, wooded hillside, feeding in shallow water and mud in the company of female Blue-winged Teal and one or two male Blue-winged Teal. It remained in the area until at least 14 April and was seen by dozens of birders. During its stay it remained in the company of a female Blue-winged Teal, which it defended aggressively against any nearby male Blue-wings. It also apparently never strayed from the small cove on the lake where it was originally found, making it very easy to

recover each day. Eventually some photographers, including the author, quietly ventured down the hillside and were able to make some very pleasing images of this unusual visitor.

Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal is a rare but well-known hybrid, primarily in the western United States within the core breeding range of Cinnamon Teal. The *Washington* bird showed all of the expected characters of this hybrid combination. It had a partial white crescent in front of the eye, speckling or streaking on the underparts, and a light-colored hip patch. All of these are Blue-winged Teal features. It also had an overall cinnamon tone to the plumage, a red

eye, and what appeared to be a slightly larger bill than nearby Blue-winged males, which are all Cinnamon Teal features. Some of these characters were intermediate in nature, for instance, the speckling on the underparts and flanks was intermediate between the heavy marking of a Blue-winged and the blank red of a Cinnamon. In flight the bird showed a blue panel on the lesser coverts with a trailing white edge, and green secondaries.

This is apparently only the second record for Pennsylvania; the first was of a bird found at Somerset Lake in *Somerset* during the summer of 1976 (McWilliams and Brauning 2000, D. Darney, pers. comm.).

As an interesting side note, Canonsburg Lake is quickly becoming the unusual hybrid capital of Pennsylvania. It is this same lake which has hosted a putative Great Egret x Great Blue Heron hybrid each year since at least 2004. Though the true identity of this heron has never been confirmed, the theory of hybrid Egret x Heron is supported by the unique structure of the bird, and has gained wide acceptance among birders as the most likely explanation (Malosh 2004).

#### *References:*

- Malosh, Geoff. 2004. Great Blue Heron x Great Egret in Washington County. *Pennsylvania Birds* 18(2):72–73.
- McWilliams, G. and D. Brauning. 2000. *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.



**Plate 1: Hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal male at Canonsburg Lake, Washington.**  
This bird was present 31 March to 14 April, photographed here 5 April by Geoff Malosh.

# Arrival Dates of Eastern Phoebe in Pennsylvania, 1987 – 2007

## Franklin Haas

While writing the Summary of the Season for the spring 1990 issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*, I noticed that the arrival dates of Eastern Phoebe looked earlier than normal. I went back and compared the 1990 arrival dates with the dates reported in the previous three years' issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* and made a series of maps showing the arrival dates over that period (*Pennsylvania Birds* 4:17). The arrival dates for 1990 were indeed earlier than those in the previous three years.

I came across that feature recently while working on another project and wondered how those figures stacked up now that we have 20 years of data published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. (Do you believe it has been 20 years?) I gathered data from ensuing issues, put them in a spreadsheet, and generated Figure 1.

I was expecting to see a great deal of variation, but was also hoping to see a trend of some sort. Well, you will be happy to know that most phoebes still arrive in this state in March, a few overwinter, and a few arrive in February. For the graph and table

below, I did not use any "arrival" dates prior to February; instead I assumed those records referred to overwintering birds.

As can be seen on the graph, there is no real pattern, and the moving average, although appearing to indicate that the arrival date is getting later, is not statistically meaningful. A more rigorous statistical analysis might be able to coax a significant trend out of this data, but on the surface it looks like there has not been a significant change in phoebe arrival dates in Pennsylvania over the past 20 years.

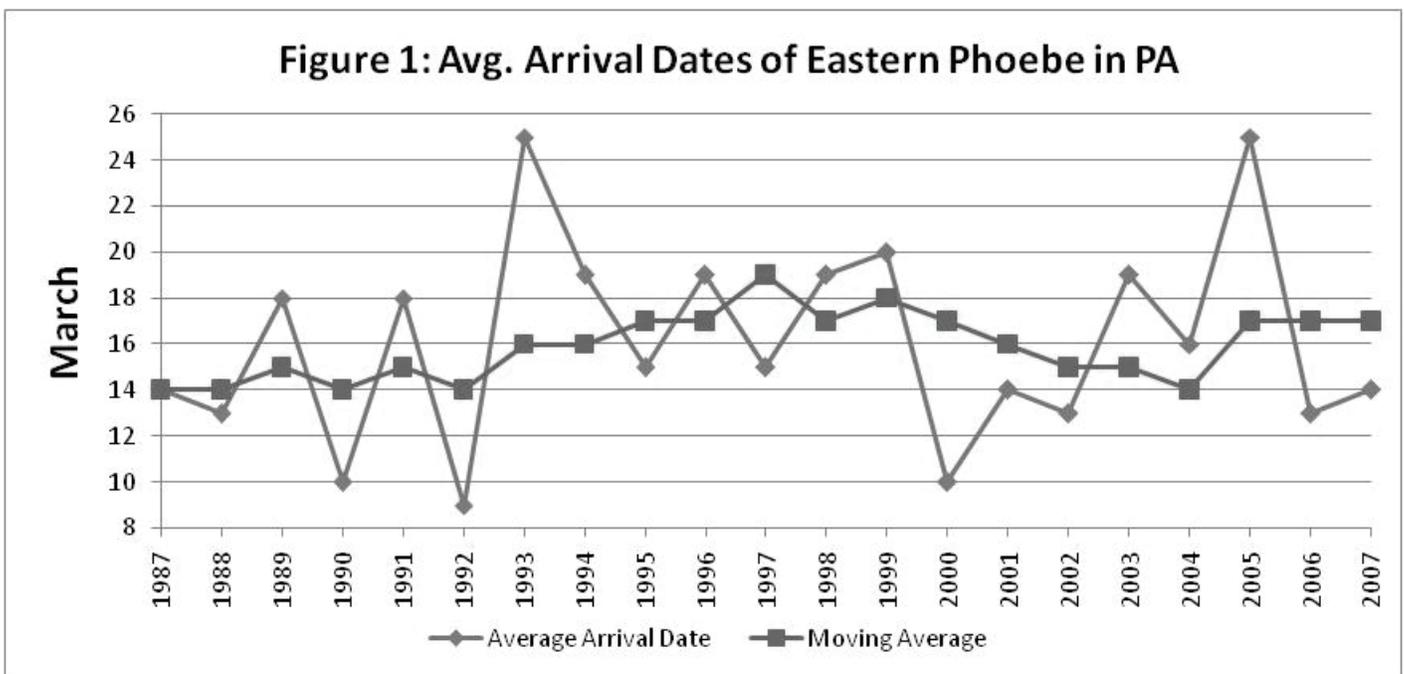
Table 1 shows the range of data used to generate Figure 1. Note that the number of counties reporting arrival dates varied from a low of 10 in 1987 (the first year of publication) to a high of 44 in 1996 and 2000 (out of 67 counties). The extreme arrival dates for each year varied from 1 February to 15 April. The early February dates may have been overwintering birds and the April arrival dates may have been more a result of lack of observers rather than lateness of arrival. However, the two years with the latest average arrival date had no

April dates!

As one pundit said, "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics."

**Table 1. Eastern Phoebe Arrival Dates in Pennsylvania.**

Year	Avg. Mar. Arrival Date	No. of Counties	Earliest Date	Latest Date
1987	14	10	2/21	3/28
1988	13	17	2/25	3/29
1989	18	24	2/15	3/30
1990	10	32	2/23	3/16
1991	18	25	2/24	3/28
1992	9	22	2/5	3/29
1993	25	28	2/22	3/31
1994	19	40	2/10	3/31
1995	15	40	2/20	3/30
1996	19	44	2/7	3/31
1997	15	43	2/2	3/30
1998	19	38	2/27	3/30
1999	20	42	2/19	3/31
2000	10	44	2/16	3/28
2001	14	34	2/13	3/31
2002	13	35	2/2	3/30
2003	19	34	3/11	4/10
2004	16	31	2/20	4/15
2005	25	24	3/1	4/6
2006	13	28	2/4	4/15
2007	14	27	2/1	4/5



## BOOK REVIEWS

Gene Wilhelm

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**OWLS OF THE NORTH: A NATURALIST'S HANDBOOK** by David Benson with Mark Sparky Stensaas, graphic designer, and Matt Kania, cartographer; 10 color maps, 95 color photographs, and color covers of Great Gray Owls. 86 pp., published by Stone Ridge Press, Wrenshall, MN 55797, printed in Canada by Friesens, © 2008 by David Benson and Mark Stensaas. \$16.95 (US), \$19.95 (CAN), soft cover.

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*"Like a hike in the woods with a seasoned naturalist, this book takes you on a journey into the world of owls. It explains how to tell them apart, how they live, where they live, and the most interesting, down-to-earth details about their lives. Packed with photos that capture the beauty and intrigue of owls, this book will answer your questions about the owls that you see. . . and help you find the ones you haven't seen."*

I am always dubious when I read a synopsis like this one on the back cover of this tome, but what a pleasant surprise this little book is. In fact, every space in this book has been cleverly designed with 95 color photographs and 35 sidebar essays that convey accurate up-to-date information about owls.

Author David Benson is an experienced writer and naturalist. He was the naturalist at famous Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, Minnesota, and summer naturalist at Gooseberry Falls and Jay Cooks State Parks in Minnesota, and Pattison State Park in Wisconsin. It is obvious from the very beginning of this book that Benson has a special passion for owls. As he clearly states (p. 7):

*"This is a book for people who love owls. In my opinion, that includes most people, who are attracted to the mystery of creatures that are active mainly at night and are difficult to see. Or maybe we're attracted to owls because of their eerie sounds. The word "owl" is an old one, and it is believed to come from an imitation of the sounds owls make. . . . Actually, I think we love owls for one simple reason: they are upright, vertically-oriented, short-necked, big-headed, two-legged creatures with both*

*eyes and a down-turned beak on the front of the face, just like us."*

Benson has had years of experience conducting owl surveys and training sessions for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. National Park Service, and has taught classes in owl identification and behavior for many groups. He wrote the book for anyone, expert and neophyte alike, who is intrigued by owls.

I was curious about the book's title *Owls of the North*. It turns out that the book purposely deals only with the northern owls of eastern North America, species that the author personally has had experience with. These are the Short-eared, Long-eared, Great Horned, Barred, Great Gray, Snowy, Northern Hawk, Northern Saw-whet, Boreal and Eastern Screech-Owls. The book therefore excludes the other North America owl species, i.e., Spotted, Flammulated, Western Screech, and Northern Pygmy, and two other species that do occur in the eastern U.S. but not in the north, the Burrowing and Barn owls.

Each of the ten species accounts included in the book covers description, range, size, wingspan, other names (often in three languages), diet, identification, sounds, habitat, food, hunting, courtship and nesting, juveniles and behavior. Six pages each are devoted to the Short-eared, Long-eared, Barred, Snowy, Northern Saw-whet, Boreal and Eastern Screech owls. The Great Horned Owl merited 8 pages, the Northern Hawk Owl 10, and the Great Gray Owl 12 pages, perhaps indicating the author's longer experience with this species and maybe his favorite.

I was especially impressed with two aspects of the book: its 35-sidebar essays, and the nearly 100 color photographs, mostly of owls. The former includes such topics as Wings and Weight, Feathers and Muscles, Owl Vision, Functional Feathers, Owl's Ears, Deep Snow Hunting Technique, Swivel Vision, Staying Warm, Food Hoarding, Owl Feet, Roosting and Resting, Owl Migration, Comparing the Sizes of Owls, Owls at Bird Feeders, Find the Owl: Cryptic Coloration and many others.

The sidebar essay Linked to Lemmings (p. 49) brought back fond memories from when I was responsible for recording the ecological impact that mammalian and avian predators (including Snowy Owls) had on the brown lemming (*Lemmus trimucronotus*) at Point Barrow, Alaska. As stated in the essay: "A large proportion of the population of Snowy Owls times its breeding to coincide with the four-year peak cycle of the Brown Lemming. When the lemmings are plentiful, almost all adult Snowy Owls breed and may lay up to twelve eggs. Then very few of them breed at all until the top of the cycle comes again four years later." At Point Barrow, at least, the lemming-snowy owl cycle was four and one-half years and the Snowy Owl adult females laid up to fourteen eggs.

Finally, the book has collected "the best of the best" color photographs of owls that I personally am aware of. Benson intentionally searched far and wide (some photos are even from Finland), and ultimately contacted nineteen photographers who specialize in owl photography. The results are absolutely spectacular. One of my favorite photographs in the book is of twenty Northern Saw-whet Owls staring at the camera lens as they patiently wait for their turn to be banded at Hawk Ridge.

The book's message is nicely reinforced by four pages of bibliography and further readings and should be appealing to children and adults alike.

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**THE YOUNG BIRDER'S GUIDE TO BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA** by Bill Thompson III, with 300 color photographs and 200 black and white illustrations by Julie Zickefoose. 256 pp., published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York, in the Peterson Field Guides series; 2008, \$14.95 soft cover.

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This newest field guide in the well-known Peterson Field Guides series describes 200 of the most common and interesting avian species in eastern North America. Although intended for children ages eight and older, it is ideal, in my opinion, for anyone at any

age who is exploring a new interest in our feathered friends. Bill Thompson is the second generation editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, a bimonthly magazine started in 1978 currently with 70,000 subscribers. Even with such birding expertise, Thompson had the insight to ask his eleven-year-old daughter Phoebe and her classmates what would make the book most helpful for them. The result is a fine work filled with fresh adolescent ideas and suggestions, plenty of color photographs, and superb pen and ink drawings of birds in their natural habitats by the well-known artist Julie Zickefoose. The 200 species contained in the pages were chosen by Thompson either due to their abundance or because "every young birder should get to see [them] in his or her lifetime (p. 38)."

Content titles include: *What is Birding?*, *Getting Started in Bird Watching*, *Identification Basics*, *Field Skills*, *Birding Manners*, *Birding by Habitat*, *Be Green: Ten Things You Can Do for Birds*, *How to Use This Guide*, *Ten Tips for Beginning Bird Watchers*, *Species Accounts* (the bulk of the book: 200 pages), *Resources*, *Glossary*, *Acknowledgments* and *Index*.

In the early part of the book titled *Getting Started in Bird Watching*, the author uses the term "spark bird" referring to how many birders can trace our interest in birding to a single encounter that sparked our imagination. For the author, it was a Snowy Owl he found when he was six years old and helping his parents rake leaves off the front yard in Pella, Iowa. For me, it was an adult Greater Roadrunner that fell out of the sky exhausted, apparently after being caught by tornadic winds that blew from the Ozark hills through Saint Louis, Missouri. The large bird with long tail and legs and crested crown remained hunkered down in our family's back yard for two hours until the severe southwestern winds subsided. I focused my entire being on that bird, even counting the number of primary and secondary feathers that were damaged by the wind. As Thompson accurately concludes, "Once you see your spark bird... the best way to get good at birding is to watch birds whenever you can (p. 9)." And, I might add, the quickest way to learn birds is to attach oneself to a local expert birder and immerse yourself in birding. For me, that was Wayne Short, President of the Saint Louis Audubon Society,

who knew his birds extremely well not only by eye but also by ear. Because I was just eight years old, my parents were reluctant to buy me binoculars, so I concentrated on identifying birds by their vocalizations, and I still do so today.

*Under Basic Gear*, Thompson makes a valid suggestion about binoculars when it comes time to invest in them: "Try to find binoculars that are easy to use. Make sure they are comfortable to hold (not too large or heavy), fit your eye spacing, and focus easily, giving you a clear image (p. 12)." Based on many years of personal experience, I'd add that when you go to buy binoculars it is best to deal with an optics expert who can answer your questions and show how to use them properly.

Another 'cool' part of the book is *Parts of a Bird Watcher*. Using his daughter Phoebe as a model, the author includes a color photo labels items from head to toe that youngsters can consider. He states: "To get the most out of your bird-watching adventures, you'll want to have the right gear. In birding, like in other sports, the emphasis is on function more than fashion. Good binoculars and a field guide are essential." (p. 13). Unfortunately, my review copy of the book cut off the footwear worn by Phoebe labeled 'sensible birding shoes' and I presume the 'field checklist of birds' in Phoebe's left vest pocket is local in nature. Finally, Phoebe's binoculars seem somewhat large but perhaps this is the size most comfortable for her.

I especially like the section *Identification Basics* because it contains so many tips, hints and suggestions for the beginning birder. For example: "Resist the urge to take a quick glance at a strange bird, note one field mark, then drop your binocs and grab the field guide. Birds can fly and are prone to sudden decisions. Field guides are books and cannot fly. Watch the bird as long as it lets you, and then reach for the field guide." (p. 15). I force my students to not only make mental notes about the mystery bird, but also write quickly its size, shape, color(s), field marks, vocalizations, any sounds of wings, flight pattern, and habitat in a small notebook. Once the bird flies away, then draw the bird, as crude as it may be, labeling its traits as you recorded them. This procedure forces the beginner to gain an image in their mind before searching a field

guide.

*Field Skills* (pp. 20-23) concentrates on using binoculars properly and how to accurately find birds using them. This is probably the most difficult problem for beginning birders. "Lock your eyes on the bird, as if you are engaging in a staring contest. Don't move your eyes or your head. Then slowly bring the binoculars up until they are aligned with your eyes." (pp. 20-21). This ability, like birding in general, takes plenty of practicing and patience, but soon becomes automatic.

*Birding Manners* (pp. 27-28) is valid for all birders, not just youngsters. Keep your voice down, treat others as you'd like to be treated, stay with the group, share the scope, help beginners, and pish in moderation.

In *Birding by Habitat* (pp. 29-33), the author advises to think like a bird by looking at the landscape and its various habitats and think where you'd go if you were a certain bird. A colorful illustration by Julie Zickefoose (pp. 30-31) shows some of the birds to expect on a summer day birding along a country road in the eastern half of North America. A key to the illustration (pp. 32-33) lists fifteen habitats: Sycamore Tree, Pines and Conifers, Beaver Swamp, Beaver Pond, Cattail Marsh, Tussock (Sedge) Marsh, Cut Bank of Stream, Gravel Road/Roadside, Brushy Old Field, Farmyard, Hardwood Forest, Hay Meadow, Power Lines, Pasture and Sky, with those bird species most likely to be found in each habitat.

*Be Green: Ten Things You Can Do For Birds* (pp. 34-37) contains suggestions for all birders and conservationists, such as, create bird-friendly habitat, don't use chemicals, recycle your trash, keep your feeders and nest boxes clean, monitor your nest boxes, participate in bird counts, reduce window kills, keep cats indoors, support conservation initiatives and make a new bird watcher today.

Finally, *Ten Tips For Beginning Bird Watchers* (pp. 41-43) are sensible and will lead to great birding results: get a decent pair of binoculars, find a field guide to the birds of your region, set up a basic feeding station in your yard or garden, start with your backyard birds, practice your identification skills; notice the bird's behavior, listen to the bird's sounds, look at the bird, not at the book, take notes, venture beyond the backyard, and find other bird watchers in your area.

The bulk of the book, some 200 pages, is made up of *Species Accounts* (pp. 44-243). Each bird's page has three parts. First, at the top, is the common name, followed by the scientific name, length in inches, and at least one color photograph of the species in typical adult plumage. Second, the mid-section is subdivided into "Look for" field marks, "Listen for" the bird's vocalizations, "Remember" an additional identification tip (often comparing to similar species), and "WOW!", an interesting extra fact about the species. This part of the page also has a delightful pen and ink

drawing of the bird in its natural habitat, displaying a characteristic behavior. Finally, at the bottom, "Find it" stresses habitat preferences and seasonal occurrences, and a full North American range map shows seasonal distribution. At the very bottom of each bird's page, there is a check box and enough space for the date and location seen.

The species accounts do not follow strict taxonomic order, but it is close. The color photographs emphasize adult breeding plumage, often showing both male and female, and are good. But the drawings are excellent and vividly

illustrate characteristic behaviors for each species. I only wish that Julie Zickefoose would follow up this work with a book of her own illustrating all of the birds of eastern North America. The \$14.95 cost of this 'cool' book is a steal for young and adult beginning birders alike, and bird book collectors will cherish its wonderful drawings.

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## Answer to Photo Quiz 20

### Rick Wiltraut

Notice the profile of this bird with neck outstretched and body held parallel to the ground. This bird is obviously some kind of rail. This bird has buffy back feathers with dark centers and distinct rusty-brown colored wings. Also notice the stubby, pale bill and grayish-buff face. Virginia Rail and King Rail also have rusty colored wings, but their beaks are long, not stubby. Yellow Rail and Sora have stubby pale bills, but lack the rusty color on the wings. Virginia, King, and Clapper Rails have grayish cheeks, but all of these have long bills.

This Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) is actually a photograph of specimen that I set in a field at the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. Corn Crakes breed from northern Europe to Siberia and winter in eastern Africa. It has been recorded in eastern North America only 27 times (Brinkley, 2007). Virtually all records are in October-November and most were shot by hunters along the coast in the late 1800's and early 1900's. This particular bird was collected in Maryland 26 November 1900. The stomach contents contained insects and seeds. Recent records include of one killed at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon on 22 October 1989, one in a yard at Shelburne, Nova Scotia 28-30 November 1997, and one flushed by Bruce Mactavish and Ken Knowles at Cape Race, Newfoundland 2 November 2002. There are also recent records from Bermuda and Guadeloupe. Though this species is a "red alert" vagrant anywhere in North America, its pattern of vagrancy particularly in the Northeast makes in a candidate to appear in Pennsylvania. Remember, anything is possible.

Like other grassland birds, the Corn Crake has declined as a result of modern mowing methods. Although the species has seriously declined throughout most of western Europe, recovery efforts in Scotland, which began in the early 1990s, have been very successful. A recent survey there in 2007 recorded 1273 calling males (The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). As it has for other declining grassland birds, alternative mowing methods (e.g., mowing from the center of the field outward) greatly benefited this species. In the breeding season, calling males utter a two-note "*crex, crex.*"

Since almost all records of Corn Crakes in North America are of birds shot by hunters, only a handful of people have ever seen this species alive on this side of the Atlantic. It was hard for me to do this photo quiz since Jason Horn, Deuane Hoffman, John Fedak and I missed the Corn Crake in Nova Scotia mentioned above by one day. We had to settle for a Brown Shrike in Halifax as a consolation prize.

#### References

- Birds of Europe (Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterstrom, Grant, 1999).
- Birds of the New York Area (Bull, 1964).
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# Summary of the Season – March through May 2008

Mike Fialkovich

The spring season began with the appearance and feel of winter with harsh weather refusing to release its grip on the state. A nor'easter 22 March caused an impressive fallout of **Horned Grebes** across the southern half of the state. **Long-tailed Ducks** were affected as well, with birds reported in scattered locations during the fallout. Another fallout 28 March resulted in large numbers of **Long-tailed Ducks** and other waterfowl in several counties. Migration proceeded as expected in April and early May, and then cold north winds delivered below normal temperatures and ample precipitation. The weather reduced warbler and thrush sightings with many observers lamenting a poor showing. The cool rainy weather may have been a factor in surprises such as a late push of terns in the western part of the state, perhaps delayed in their migration by the weather conditions. There was an influx of **Summer Tanagers** with twelve reports statewide; certainly an unexpected event given the persistent north winds in May. An even rarer find were two **Western Tanagers**.

A few Greater **White-fronted Geese** remained in early March, with three birds providing a first county record for *Washington*. **Snow Geese** were reported in good numbers away from the southeastern part of the state with flocks of 18 and 51 in *Crawford*, 50 in flight and two on a pond in *Westmoreland*, and three in *Washington*. Blue morphs are rarely recorded in the western part of the state but they were present in the flocks in *Crawford* and *Westmoreland*. A flock of 2000-3000 in *Clinton* was reported as the largest in recent memory. **Ross' Geese** were in three of the eastern counties where they are now expected, with four seen together in *Lebanon*. A single report of six **Brant** came from *Centre* and a **Barnacle Goose** was found in *Snyder*. Increased interest by birders combined with the ease of reporting banded birds through the internet has shed light on the origins and travels of some of our migrant species in the state. A collared **Canada Goose** in *Northampton* was determined to be a female tagged northeast of Quebec in 2007. **Cackling Goose** reports continue to increase.

**Mute Swans** were only reported in *Indiana*, however there were six birds.

Two **Eurasian Wigeon** in *Erie* were the only reports for the season. A **Mallard x Black Duck** was in *Berks*. A male **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal** was a very interesting and rare find in *Washington* where it cooperatively remained in plain view for two weeks. A **Common Teal** from the winter remained in *Lancaster* into March, as did the immature male **Harlequin Duck** in *Beaver*. Continuing the hybrid theme, a male **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** was in *Erie*. All scoters were reported, but **Black Scoters** were scarce with reports from only two counties, *Dauphin* and *Montgomery*. **White-winged Scoters** were reported in seven counties and **Surf Scoters** in eight. A **White-winged Scoter** set a late record date in *Beaver*. There were good counts of eleven in *Dauphin* and thirteen in *Berks*; eight was a new high count for *Lebanon*. A male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen briefly in *York*. The same storm that caused the Horned Grebe fallout affected migrating **Long-tailed Ducks** which were reported in several counties. Birders in *Armstrong* (48), *Clinton* (109), *Dauphin* (63) and *Indiana* (76) tallied good numbers of these attractive migrants. *Dauphin* also hosted a wide variety of waterfowl during the fallout including all three scoters.

Several **Northern Bobwhites** were reported, however the provenance of these birds is always an issue. Nevertheless, continued reports are important for monitoring this species.

A fallout of **Red-throated Loons** occurred on a rainy April day in *Fayette*, where 30 birds gathered on a small lake. As the restless flock took flight circling the lake they started calling before settling down once again to feed. Over 100 **Common Loons** stopped on the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* in April.

That March nor'easter stalled the migration of **Horned Grebes** and forced hundreds of birds onto lakes and rivers across the southern part of the state. Record counts were set in many counties with observers lamenting the unexpected onset of this event that prevented action plans to adequately cover more bodies of water. Counties

and counts where large numbers were noted included, *Allegheny* (743), *Armstrong* (160), *Beaver* (733), *Dauphin* (360), *Indiana* (250), *Somerset* (120) and *Washington* (65). The impressive total reported for that day was 2445. Certainly there were more that went undetected. **Red-necked Grebes** were spotty as usual with reports from six counties. Only a single **Eared Grebe** was found this spring in *Dauphin*. Two **Clark's Grebes** were reported by observers in *Berks* and *Crawford*.

Single **Anhingas** were seen in *Chester* and *Delaware*, continuing a trend of spring observations in the southeastern corner of the state.

**Least Bitterns** were reported in eight counties with four in *Cumberland* and *Erie* representing the high counts. Uncommon egrets included **Snowy Egrets** in three counties, **Little Blue Heron** in three (including an unexpected bird in *Erie*) and **Tricolored Heron** in *Philadelphia*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** still hold on as tenuous breeders in a few locations. There was an encouraging report of four nests at a former breeding site in *Cumberland*. **Glossy Ibis** were found in singles and pairs, with the exception of three in *Cumberland* and nine in *Philadelphia*.

**Black Vulture** reports in *Tioga* and *Erie* were unexpected. Nests with eggs were found in *Lancaster* and *Lebanon*. **Mississippi Kite** reports were good this spring with birds reported in six counties. With recent nesting in Ohio and even New Hampshire, there is potential for this species to be the next addition to our breeding avifauna in the coming years. The **Prairie Falcon** in *Cumberland* during the winter was still present in March.

A **Yellow Rail** was seen and heard at close range in *Crawford*, and a **King Rail** was heard in *Bucks*. **Common Moorhen** reports were good with birds found in seven counties. In addition to breeding pairs in a few western counties, **Sandhill Cranes** are no longer unexpected migrants and were reported from eleven counties statewide.

Shorebirds were the stars of the season with a variety that rivaled the fall migration, although they were

locally distributed. Flooded fields along Mud Level Road in *Cumberland* and locations in *Bucks* hosted the most impressive shorebird variety. Rare in spring, single **American Golden Plovers** were found in *Cumberland* and *Northampton*. A **Wilson's Plover** at Presque Isle in *Erie* was described by an out of state birder from New Jersey. Two **Black-necked Stilts** in *Bucks* provided an overdue first county record. Single **Willetts** were in *Allegheny* and *Dauphin*, three were in *York*, and a record count of 41 was made in *Centre*. *Beaver* hosted four **Whimbrels**, and a single bird in *Washington* provided a second county record. **Ruddy Turnstones** were reported at "inland" locations in *Bedford*, *Cumberland*, *Lancaster* and *Somerset*. Others were found in *Bucks* and *Delaware*. **Sanderlings** were in *Bucks* and surprisingly also in *Cumberland* at Mud Level Road. Three other rare spring migrants were reported: single **Western Sandpipers** were found in *Clinton*, *Lancaster*, and *York*, single **Baird's Sandpipers** were in *Crawford* and *Franklin*, and two **Stilt Sandpipers** were in *Cumberland*. **Long-billed Dowitcher** was reported in *Franklin*, and **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported in *Crawford*, *Cumberland* and *Franklin*. Best counts of the latter were 28 in *Bedford* and 29 in *Somerset*. **Wilson's Phalarope** reports were numerous with birds in six counties, and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found in four counties, including a first county record for *Cumberland*.

Good numbers of **Laughing Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Delaware*, where they are regular. Single **Franklin's Gulls** (both in first cycle plumage) were in *Erie* and *Somerset*. The migration of **Little Gulls** continues to be good, particularly along the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster*. Although regular in *Erie* in spring, only one was reported, and a bird in *Crawford* provided a rare record. Perhaps three **Black-headed Gulls** were found in *Dauphin* during the Little Gull passage. A **Thayer's Gull** remained in *Bucks* into March. **Iceland Gulls** were numerous in March, and two lingered until early May in *Bucks*. *Bucks* continued to host large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. Birds in *Allegheny* and *Crawford* provided rare spring records, and six in *Somerset* were out of place. Along with Iceland Gulls, **Glaucous Gulls** lingered until early May in

*Bucks*. Two reports from different locations in *Crawford* were unusual. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were reported in unexpected counties including *Crawford*, *Mercer* and *Tioga*.

Two pushes of terns during May in the western part of the state were surprising. Approximately 300 **Common** and **Forster's Terns** were present at Kahle Lake in *Venango* 5/8. Many moved on by the following day, but the remaining one or two **Common Terns** and 70 **Forster's Terns** were joined by three **Black Terns**. Later in the month on 5/18, Moraine State Park in *Butler* hosted 43 **Common Terns** and two **Black Terns**.

There were two reports of **Eurasian Collard Dove** from *Lebanon* and *Lancaster*.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in mid-May provided a first record for *Berks*, and a bird in *Westmoreland* provided a third county record; neither stayed in place for more than a few hours. A **Loggerhead Shrike** remained in *Adams* raising hopes for a return of this rare breeder to a former nesting site. Single birds were also found in *Bucks* and *Franklin*.

A **Northern Wheatear** was a fantastic find in *Clinton*, and in true wheatear fashion, the bird was not relocated. The sighting provided a first county record. An early **House Wren** in *Chester* in March was thought to have wintered in the area.

Compilers reported a lack of thrushes in *Adams*, *Allegheny*, *Bucks*, *Forest*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia*, probably due to weather conditions. *Forest* and *Indiana* compilers only received single reports of **Veeries**. A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** was heard and photographed in *Bucks*.

Warbler movement was reportedly slow this season, however observers in *Lebanon* and *Mercer* reported a good a warbler migration. Continuing this season's theme of hybrids, **Brewster's Warblers** were found in nine counties, and **Lawrence's Warblers** were in *Erie* and *Monroe*. An extremely rare hybrid was netted at Powdermill Nature Reserve in *Westmoreland*: a female **Sutton's Warbler** was captured (and recaptured twice) and extensively photographed. An unusual hybrid netted and photographed at that location was probably a **Nashville x Orange-crowned Warbler**. Feathers were collected for DNA testing; the results are pending. A **Swainson's Warbler** was found in *Berks*.

Despite cold fronts in May, there was a surprising overshoot of **Summer Tanagers** across the state, with twelve birds reported in nine counties. Two birds made it as far north as *Erie*. Two **Western Tanagers** were exciting rarities. A male came to a feeder in *Erie* for two days, and a female was in *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* for a day.

One of the most interesting and unique fallouts occurred in April at a completely unexpected location in *Lehigh*. Normally we think of concentrations of waterfowl, shorebirds or warblers in appropriate habitat during migration, however this fallout featured sparrows and the habitat was anything but appropriate: at least 300 total sparrows representing five species were forced down to a parking lot in the middle of the night. A **Lark Sparrow** visited a feeder in *Crawford*. **Fox Sparrows** were reported in good numbers including two separate flocks of 30 and 12 in *Adams* and 26 in *Franklin* the last week of March. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was present in *Bucks*.

A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited a feeder for a few days in *Dauphin*. An extremely early **Indigo Bunting** was in *Bucks* in March. A bird that overwintered in *Delaware* moved on by the beginning of May. A male **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder in *Philadelphia* for a day in May. Five **Dickcissels** were found in *Cumberland* during the PAMC, and a single bird was in *Franklin*.

A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in *Erie* and a **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported in a flock of Rusty Blackbirds in *Bucks*. A **Baltimore Oriole** that wintered in *Bucks* departed in early April.

Northern finches moved back through the state this spring in small numbers. Two **Red Crossbills** were in *Chester* and single birds were in *Delaware* and *Northampton*. Numerous **Common Redpolls** continued their presence into the spring season. A bird thought to belong to the Greenland race was documented in *Dauphin*. A few **Hoary Redpolls** were reported. One was tentatively identified in *Dauphin* and others were in *Erie* and *Tioga*. **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported in ten counties with a few in small flocks. A flock in *Cameron* visited a feeding station daily for about a month. A rare yellow variant **Purple Finch** was seen in *Bucks*.

Reports were received from 41 counties this season.

# Birds of Note – March through May 2008

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included.

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 terms “no doc” and “doc submitted” indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; “no doc” indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

Birds in *Italic* typeface are uncommon or rare, but occur during this time period in most years.

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

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in Normal typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually, usually in more than one county.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Berks*: one along Evansville Road near Lake Ontelaunee 3/7 (Rudy Keller), and another was near Oley 3/27 (Rudy Keller). *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/3 (August Mirabella). *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Road 3/10 (Andrew Markel). *Washington*: three near Bentleyville 3/12-15 (Andy Berchin, Ross Gallardy, et al.) represented a first county record.

**Ross' Goose** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/2 and 3/11; one at Oley 3/11 (Rudy Keller, Matt Wlasniewski). *Lancaster*: three at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/6-12 with at least one present up to 3/15 (m. obs.). *Lebanon*: two up to 3/8 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (Randy Miller); 4 at Lebanon Valley Business Park 3/4 (Randy Miller).

**Brant** – *Centre*: six observed flying over Halfmoon Valley 3/6 (Don Bryant).

**Barnacle Goose\*** – *Snyder*: one at Walker Lake 3/14 (Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer, et al.) (*doc submitted*).

**Cackling Goose** – *Armstrong*: one on the Allegheny River at Rosston 3/9 (Dan Yagusie). *Beaver*: one at Little Blue Lake 3/8-17 (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh). *Berks*: two at Lake Ontelaunee 3/2 (Rudy Keller). *Bucks*: last seen at Peace Valley Park 3/4 (August Mirabella). *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park. *Chester*: one 3/4 and two 3/13 in West Goshen Township (Nick Pulcinella). *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 3/20 (Randy Stringer), two at the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 3/29 (Mike Fialkovich, Paul Hess, Bob VanNewkirk). *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area up to 3/8 (Randy Miller). *Lancaster*: up to 3 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management area up to 3/15 (m. obs.).

**Mute Swan** – *Indiana*: six on Musser's Pond 5/10 (Bill Betts); the same birds moved to Two Lick Reservoir later that day where they remained until 5/26 (Don Frew).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Erie*: a male at Presque Isle State Park 3/24 was joined by another male with both present up to 4/3 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal** – *Washington*: a male at Canonsburg Lake 3/31-4/14 (Mark Vass, m. obs.). This very unusual visitor was viewed and photographed by many.

**Green-winged (Common) Teal\*** – *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Lake from the winter season remained up to 3/21 (Tom Amico).

**Harlequin Duck\*** – *Beaver*: the immature male from the winter season at New Brighton remained to 3/4 (Scott Kinzey) (*doc submitted*).

**Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser** – *Erie*: a male at Presque Isle State Park 4/2 (Dave Wilton).

**Black Scoter** – *Dauphin*: nine on the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg 3/28 (Deuane Hoffman). *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Res. 4/27 (Steve Kacir).

**Barrow's Goldeneye\*** – *York*: one seen briefly at Gifford Pinchot State Park 3/11 (Vern Gauthier) (*no doc*).

**Northern Bobwhite** – *Bucks*: two in Falls Township 5/10 (PAMC). *Chester*: one at White Clay Creek 5/7 (Al Guarente). *Cumberland*: two found during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/10 (observer and location not listed). *Delaware*: one in Thornbury Township 5/11 (Sue Downing, Vance Downing). *Franklin*: present during the season. *Greene*: two at the Ralph Bell Farm from 5/16 through the season (Ralph K. Bell). *Washington*: one in Eighty Four 5/23 was probably a released bird (Andy Berchin).

**Red-necked Grebe** – *Armstrong*: one on the Allegheny River at Rosston 3/16 (Dan Yagusie). *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/3 (Chuck Crunkleton). *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzen State Park (John Savetti). *Dauphin*: one at Millersburg 3/7 (John Sink); 2 on the Susquehanna River between Harrisburg and Dauphin 3/22 (Ramsay Koury, Cameron Rutt, et al.). *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 3/9 (Randy Miller, Morris Cox). *York*: several at Gifford Pinchot State Park: one 3/11 (Vern Gauthier), two 3/13 (Ramsay Koury), one 3/14 (Peter Robinson) and two 3/16 (Randy Phillips).

**Eared Grebe** – *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 3/25 (Chad Kauffman, et al.).

**Clark's Grebe\*** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/7 (Jack Holcomb, Joan Silagy) (*no doc*). *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/23 (Thomas C. Nicholls) (*no doc*).

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas in Bristol up to 6/1 (Devich Farbotnik). *Philadelphia*: present from the winter season and last seen on the Delaware River 4/14 (Frank Windfelder).

**Anhinga\*** – *Chester*: two soaring over Struble Lake 5/5 (Larry Lewis); third county record (*no doc*). *Delaware*: one flying over Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch 4/12 (Jim Lockyer, Gary Becker) (*no doc*).

**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 5/31-6/1 (Devich Farbotnik). *Cumberland*: one at Opossum Lake 4/27 (Mike Kotz) and one at Mud Level Road 5/15-27 (Bill Franz, Linda Franz). *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 4/10 (Patricia and Richard Williams).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 4/19 (Sue Schmoeyer). *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle State Park 5/25

(Mark Vass). *Montgomery*: one at a Perkiomenville pond 5/20 (Ron Grubb). *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion 4/5 (Frank Windfelder).

**Tricolored Heron\*** – *Philadelphia*: one flying over John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion 4/12 (Todd Fellenbaum, Ned Connolly, Lynn Roman) (*no doc*).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: one at Churchville Reservoir Park 4/20 (Bill Keim). *Cumberland*: four nests along the Conodoguinet Creek 4/26 (Deuane Hoffman). *Dauphin*: birds returned to the small nesting colony in Harrisburg 4/10 (Cameron Rutt, Carolyn Blatchley). *Montgomery*: one at Evansburg State Park 4/19 (Steve Kacir). *York*: two at Kiwanis Lake 4/5 (Bryon Erb); one at the Garriston Road Pond 4/23 and 4/25 (Jason Miller); one at the Hanover Airport 5/19 (Chuck Berthoud).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 4/19 (Gail Johnson); one in Bedminster Township 5/12 (Jessica Huff). *Chester*: single birds in Atglen 4/3 (Dan Smart), Landenburg 5/5 (Andrew Leidig) and Marsh Creek State Park 5/14 (John MacNamara). *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Road 5/6-10 (Andrew Markel, Ramsay Koury), and 3 at the same location 3/24 (Andrew Markel). *Lancaster*: three at the Conejohela Flats 4/16 (Deuane Hoffman). *Philadelphia*: nine at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion 4/14 (Dave Wilton, Todd Fellenbaum, m. obs.).

**Black Vulture** – *Allegheny*: one at Harmarville 5/18 (Brian Shema). *Bedford*: a total of 20 tallied at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch during the season (Tom Dick). *Centre*: present during the season. *Cumberland*: present during the season. *Lancaster*: a nest with eggs in a barn in Rapho Township (Kate Miller, Randy Miller). *Lebanon*: a nest with two eggs on the Governor Dick property 4/19 (m. obs.). *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/21 (Mike Fialkovich). *Somerset*: present 4/15 (location and observer not specified). *Tioga*: three near Millerton 5/23 (Larry Brown).

**Mississippi Kite\*** – *Berks*: one at North Lookout, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 3/26 (Arlene Koch) (*doc submitted*). *Bucks*: one probable sighting of a bird passing State Game Lands 157 on 4/13 (Bill Keim); one definite sighting at the same location 5/24 (Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton). *Dauphin*: one flying over Paxtang 4/18 (Deuane Hoffman). *Lancaster*: a first year bird in flight in Rapho Township 4/13 (Randy Miller). *Lebanon*: the same bird as in *Lancaster* flying south over State Game Lands 145 on 4/13 (Randy Miller). *Lehigh*: one flying over North Whitehall Township 5/7 (Dustin Welch). (*No doc for any except as noted*).

**Northern Goshawk** – *Bedford*: at total of 9 at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch during the season (Tom Dick). *Bradford*: one at Peck Hill 3/27 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze). *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 4/7 (Devich Farbotnik); one at State Game Lands 157 on 4/23 (Bill Etter). *Chester*: one at Longwood Gardens 3/10 and 3/24 (Al Guarente, Carol Majors, et al.). *Delaware*: one at the Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch 3/28 (Jim Lockyer) and 4/12 (Dave Eberly, et al.). *Lehigh*: three at Bake Oven Knob 4/19 (John Traynor, Doug Burton).

**Golden Eagle** – *Bedford*: a total of 94 at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch during the season (Tom Dick). *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management

Area 3/26 (Ronald Leberman) and 4/23 (Mark Vass). *Lebanon*: one passing over Second Mountain Hawk Watch 4/11 (Morris Cox), one at Gold Mine Road 3/9 (Morris Cox). *Somerset*: last reported 4/27 (observer and location not listed).

**Prairie Falcon\*** – the bird present since the winter season was last seen 3/10 along Mud Level Road (Andrew Markel, Mary Stutzman) (*no doc*).

**Yellow Rail\*** – *Crawford*: one seen and heard at close range at Geneva Marsh 5/28 (Ronald Leberman) (*no doc*).

**King Rail\*** – *Bucks*: one heard calling at Quakertown Swamp from late April to 5/4 (Devich Farbotnik) (*no doc*).

**American Golden Plover** – *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Road 5/11 (Andrew Markel) to 5/18 (Ron Freed). *Northampton*: one at the Hanoverville Road retention ponds 4/21 (Joe Zajacek).

**Wilson's Plover\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/26 (Cliff Miller) (*doc submitted*).

**Black-necked Stilt** – *Bucks*: two at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik); first county record (*doc submitted*).

**Willet** – *Allegheny*: one along the Ohio River in Pittsburgh 5/1 (Steve Sarro). *Centre*: a flock of 41 at Poe Valley (Andy Wilson, et al.), the largest flock ever recorded in the state. *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 5/9 (Ramsay Koury). *York*: three in flight over Dillsburg 5/11 (Jay Keller).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: two at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Township 5/7 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith). *Crawford*: present at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/23 through the end of the season (Mark Vass, m. obs.). *Franklin*: four near Lemasters (date and observer not specified). *Somerset*: present in the Berlin area 4/20 (Levi Yoder) and 5/1 (Jeff Payne, Chris Payne), two calling at the Garrett Mud Flats 6/3 (Jeff Payne, Lauretta Payne, Chris Payne).

**Whimbrel** – *Beaver*: four at Little Blue Lake 5/31 (Mark Vass). *Washington*: one in a farm field near Green Cove Wetlands 5/26 (Mike Campsey); second county record.

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Bedford*: 2 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/13 (Tom Dick). *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/9 (Devich Farbotnik). *Cumberland*: at Mud Level Road, nine on 5/8 (Andrew Markel, Vern Gauthier), one on 5/13 (Drew Weber); three on 5/18 (Ron Freed). *Delaware*: one at Tinicum 5/27 (Todd Fellenbaum). *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/21 (Eric Witmer) and 5/29-30 (Bob Schutsky). *Somerset*: 2 at the Garrett Mud Flats 5/18 (Jeff Payne, Lauretta Payne, Chris Payne).

**Sanderling** – *Bucks*: two at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik). *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Road 5/8 (Andrew Markel); third county record.

**Western Sandpiper** – *Clinton*: one at South Avis 4/5 (Carol and Charles Hildebrand). *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 5/31-6/1 (Bob Schutsky, Eric Witmer). *York*: one at Shrewsbury 5/11 (Randy Phillips).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/14 (Tony Bledsoe) and 5/17 (Mark Vass). *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/27 (Carl Garner).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – *Cumberland*: 2 at Mud Level Road 5/12-13 (Andrew Markel, Bob Keener, Vern Gauthier, Drew Weber); second spring county record.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Franklin*: one in a flooded field along Guilford Springs Road (Dale Gearhart). No doc.

**Wilson's Phalarope** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/9 (Devich Farbotnik). *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/25-26 (Evelyn Fowles). *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Road 5/12-13 (Andrew Markel, Bob Keener, Dale Gearhart, Vern Gauthier, Drew Weber); fifth county record. *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/18 (Dale Gearhart). *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/29 (Bob Schutsky). *Northampton*: a female at ponds on Greinar Road 5/10-11 (Dustin Welch); a male at that location 5/19-28 (Dustin Welch, m. obs.); one at Green Pond 5/19 (Dave DeReamus). *Venango*: one at Polk Wetlands 5/9 (Russ States).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/28 (Chuck Tague). *Berks*: one near Shartlesville 5/19-20 (Matt Wlasniewski, Rudy Keller). *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 5/12 (Jason Horn). *Cumberland*: two on Mud Level Road 5/13 (Dale Gearhart, Andrew Markel, Vern Gauthier); first county record.

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: approximately 1500 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/31 (Devich Farbotnik). *Delaware*: present 3/23-4/28.

**Franklin's Gull** – *Erie*: one in transition to first summer plumage at Presque Isle State Park 5/16 (Jerry McWilliams) and 5/19 (Chuck Tague). *Somerset*: a first summer bird at Somerset Lake 5/30-6/2 (Jeff Payne, m. obs.).

**Little Gull** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/5-10 (Devich Farbotnik); fourth county record. *Crawford*: one near the Pymatuning Jamestown Dam 3/24 (Scott Kinzey, Dave Wilton). *Cumberland*: one at the West Fairview Boat Launch 4/15 (Cameron Rutt). *Dauphin*: two at Fort Hunter 3/18 (Deuane Hoffman); up to 4 present along the Susquehanna River at Fort Hunter, Marysville and West Fairview up to 4/15 (m. obs.). *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/31-4/11 (Jerry Stanley, et al.). *Lancaster*: one along the Susquehanna River at Long Level 3/16; numerous sightings along the Susquehanna R. between Writesville and Long Level with a max. of 5 at the Conejohela Flats 3/25 (Andy McGann, Cameron Rutt, Drew Weber); 2 at Fallmouth 4/14 (Deuane Hoffman) were the last reported.

**Black-headed Gull\*** - *Dauphin*: one at Fort Hunter 3/16 (Ramsay Koury); up to three present along the Susquehanna River between Fort Hunter and Marysville up to 4/9 (m. obs.) (*doc submitted*).

**Thayer's type Gull\*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/23 (Devich Farbotnik) (*no doc*).

**Iceland Gull** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/11 and 3/22 (Rudy Keller). *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Township 3/20-4/1 (Richard Smith, Vicky Smith); present at Nockamixon State Park with a high count of 5 on 3/2 (Bill Etter); one through March at Churchville Reservoir Park (Henry D'Allessandro, et al.); one at Peace Valley Park 3/29 (August Mirabella); two at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/3 (Devich Farbotnik). *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/20-26 (Jerry McWilliams). *Northampton*: present at Green Pond 3/11-4/18 with a max. of 3 on 3/26 (observer not listed).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - *Allegheny*: an adult at the Highland Park Dam on the Allegheny River 4/18 (Dan Yagusic). *Berks*: an adult at Lake Ontelaunee 3/22 (Rudy Keller). *Bucks*: 254 at Nockamixon State Park and 104 at Peace Valley Park 3/2 (Tom Johnson); 279 at Nockamixon State Park 3/24 (Bill Etter). *Butler*: 2 at

Lake Arthur 3/28-29 (Dave Darney). *Crawford*: one near the Pymatuning Jamestown Dam 3/24 (Scott Kinzey, Dave Wilton). *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/31 (Jerry McWilliams) and 5/21 (Don Snyder). *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 3/25 (Andy McGann, Cameron Rutt, Drew Weber). *Northampton*: over 130 present 3/15 (Dave DeReamus), 301 on 3/26 (Mike Schall) and 332 on 3/27 (Dave DeReamus) all at Green Pond. *Somerset*: 6 imm. at Lake Somerset 3/29 (Cole Wild) and an adult 4/9 (Lauretta Payne). *York*: an adult at Codorus State Park 3/30 (Peter Robinson).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: two birds last seen 5/3 at the Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik). *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Lake 3/22 (Scott Kinzey); one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/30 (Scott Kinzey). *Erie*: four present at Presque Isle State Park 3/11-4/23 (Jerry McWilliams). *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 3/25 (Andy McGann, Cameron Rutt, Drew Weber).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: a first winter bird present at Lake Ontelaunee up to 3/11 (Rudy Keller). *Crawford*: one off the Pymatuning Causeway 3/29 (Thomas C. Nicoles). *Delaware*: present all season. *Erie*: present during the season at Presque Isle State Park (m. obs.). *Lancaster*: present. *Mercer*: present during the season. *Tioga*: one at Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (Gary Tyson).

**Eurasian Collared Dove** – *Lebanon*: one at the Mark Hersey Feed Store 5/15 (Tom Johnson). *Lancaster*: one in West Lampeter Township 5/8 (Bob Schutsky).

**Barn Owl** – *Cumberland*: one found during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/10 (location and observer not listed). *Lebanon*: a nesting pair at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area produced 5 young (Jim Binder).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: last reported at Peace Valley Park 4/18 (Virginia Riffitts). *Chester*: one remained at Struble Lake from last season to 5/5 (Larry Lewis); one at Waterloo Mills 3/3-4/15 (Kevin Fryberger). *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park. 4/18 (Dave Darney). *Lebanon*: present up to 4/6 at State Game Lands 145 (m. obs.). *Montgomery*: one in the eastern part of the county (observer and location not specified). *Northampton*: one from the winter season at Martin's Creek Environmental Preserve was last seen 4/6 (Michael Schall). *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion 4/11 (Jim Deasey). *York*: a road-killed bird near Lewisbury 3/25 (Jeff Pheasant).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher\*** – *Berks*: one north of Kempton 5/14 (Lee Simpson) provided a first county record; one in Eckville 5/23 may have been the same bird (Sue Meitzler) (*no doc*). *Westmoreland*: one in Bell Township 5/4 (Karin DeSantis); third county record (*doc submitted*).

**Loggerhead Shrike\*** – *Adams*: one in Freedom Township 3/1 (Mike Harvey, Tom Johnson, Tim Lenz). *Bucks*: one at Perkasio 5/5 (Rob Fergus) (*no doc*). *Franklin*: one in a backyard off Walker Road 4/1 (Russ Martz) (*no doc*).

**Fish Crow** – *Allegheny*: one at Dashiels Dam 4/11 (Geoff Malosh, Dave Wilton, Mark Vass); one at Harrison Hills Park 5/17 (Paul Hess, Carol Reigle); one in North Braddock 5/27 (Mike Fialkovich). *Cumberland*: resident. *Sullivan*: one in Dushore. *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/3 (Lee Carnahan, Susan Comfort, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Katie Musselman, Mike Musselman, John Taylor, Marjorie Van Tassel); four in

Indiana 5/10 (m. obs.); a pair at a nest on North Fifth Street in Indiana 5/23 (Ray Winstead).

**Northern Wheatear\*** – *Clinton*: one in a field at South Avis 3/1 (Dave Ferry, Nate Fronk); first county record (*no doc*).

**Townsend's Solitaire\*** – *Carbon*: one at an undisclosed location 4/13-15 (Rich and Barbara Rehrig) (*doc submitted*).

**Bicknell's Thrush\*** – *Bucks*: one probable bird heard and photographed at Bowman's Hill 5/22 (Devich Farbotnik) (*no doc*).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/11 (Joan Silagy). *Crawford*: one north of Sugar Lake 5/8 through the season (Richard Eakin). *Carbon*: two in the Penn Forest area 5/19 (Jeff Hopkins). *Centre*: one at the Scotia Barrens 5/10 (Jay Keller). *Cumberland*: one or two reported on several occasions at State Game Lands 130. *Dauphin*: one at Stony Creek Valley 4/26 (observer not listed). *Monroe*: one at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/18 through the season (Darryl Speicher). *Northampton*: one at Jacobsburg State Park 5/25 (Dave DeReamus). *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 4/26 (Molly McDermott).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/11 (Jerry McWilliams). *Monroe*: one in Bushkill 5/17 through the season (Darryl Speicher).

**Yellow-throated Warbler X Northern Parula (Sutton's Warbler)** – *Westmoreland*: one banded and extensively photographed at Powdermill Nature Reserve 5/4.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one at East Liberty 5/13 and 18 (Dan Yagusic). *Bucks*: one at Hidden Lake 5/2 (Bill Keim). *Crawford*: one near the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 5/10 (Ronald Leberman). *Franklin*: one along Stillhouse Hollow Road near South Mountain 5/3 (Bill Oyler). *Lancaster*: present. *Mercer*: one along Skunk Run Road 5/11 (Neil Troyer). *Pike*: one at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/2 (Adam Sabatine).

**Swainson's Warbler\*** – *Berks*: one at State Game Lands 106 on 5/3 (Tom Clauser); second county record (*no doc*).

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 5/24 (Ramsay Koury). *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake S.P. 5/17 (Randy Miller, Kate Miller). *Pike*: one at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in late May (Adam Sabatine, John Yuhas).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Allegheny*: one visited a backyard in Boston 5/6 (Jim Pemberton). *Bedford*: 2 during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/10 in different locations in the county (observer and locations not specified). *Delaware*: one heard singing at Swarthmore College 5/4 (Larry Lewis). *Erie*: a first spring male visited a feeding station in Greene Township 5/17-19 (Bob and Pam Zelenak) (*doc submitted*); a female at Presque Isle State Park 5/24-25 (Randy Stringer, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, Mark Vass). *Lancaster*: a singing male at Chickies Rock County Park 5/10 (Cameron Rutt, Adam Stuckert). *Monroe*: one near Marshall Creek 5/7 (John Serrao). *Montgomery*: one in Upper Marion 5/10 (Mike Rosengarten). *Venango*: a singing male at Buttermilk Hill Sanctuary in Franklin 5/14 (Jerry Stanley); one female in a backyard in Franklin 5/24 (Nancy Baker). *Washington*: a male in a backyard in North Strabane Township 5/7 (Fran O'Malley). (*No doc for any except as noted.*)

**Western Tanager\*** – *Delaware/Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/13 (Dick Eales, Doris McGovern, Debbie Beer, Lynn Roman, Cindy Ahern) (*doc submitted*), *Erie*: a male visited a feeder in Waterford 5/4-5 (Jean and Toby Cunningham) (*doc submitted*).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Clarion*: present at the Piney Tract. *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/3 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Lark Sparrow\*** – *Crawford*: one visited a feeder in Meadville 3/23-26 (Ronald Leberman) (*no doc*).

**Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow\*** – *Bucks*: one seen and photographed at Peace Valley Park 3/7-8 (August Mirabella, Howard Eskin) (*doc submitted*). *Erie*: one 4/26 (Michele Franz) (*no doc*).

**Black-headed Grosbeak\*** - *Dauphin*: an adult male visited a feeder near Hummelstown 5/3-6 (Martha Grigsby, Kevin Grigsby) (*doc submitted*).

**Painted Bunting\*** – *Philadelphia*: a male visited a feeder in Chestnut Hill 5/18 (Janet Lippincott) (*no doc*).

**Dickcissel** – *Cumberland*: five recorded during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/10. *Franklin*: one along Rocky Spring Road, northwest of Chambersburg 5/18 (Bill Oyler).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Erie*: a female at Presque Isle State Park 5/3 (Isaac Field, Jim Barker).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – *Bucks*: one with a flock of Rusty Blackbirds at Quakertown Swamp 4/9 (Bill Etter).

**Red Crossbill** – *Chester*: two heard flying over Coatesville Reservoir 3/17 (Larry Lewis). *Delaware*: one in Upper Providence Township 4/11 (John Damico). *Northampton*: one in Williams Township 3/8 (Arlene Koch).

**Common Redpoll** – Many continuing across the state from the winter into April. *Butler*: one at Moraine State Park 5/10 was among the latest spring dates ever recorded for the state (Gene Wilhelm).

**Greenland Common Redpoll** - *Dauphin*: a bird tentatively identified visited feeders on Blue Mountain with a flock of Common Redpolls from the winter season to 4/15 (Chuck Berthoud, Randy Brenner, Deuane Hoffman).

**Hoary Redpoll\*** - *Dauphin*: a bird tentatively identified as this species visited feeders on Blue Mountain with a flock of Common Redpolls from the winter season to 4/15 (Chuck Berthoud, Randy Brenner, Deuane Hoffman) (*doc submitted*). *Erie*: one at a feeder in Edinboro 3/15 (Don Snyder) (*no doc*). *Tioga*: reported at a feeder (Rich Faber, Terry Faber) throughout the winter (*no doc*). Interestingly, at the same feeder on 3/24, a dead redpoll was found with a leg band which had identified by the USGS as a Hoary Redpoll, however the discoverers disagreed with that identification; see county report.

**Evening Grosbeak** – *Adams*: a female stopped at a feeder 5/4 (Bob Moul). *Chester*: one visited a feeder in West Goshen Township 4/27 (Nick Pulcinella). *Cameron*: a small flock continued at a feeder in Emporium daily up to 5/7 (Mark Johnson); *Centre*: a flock of 16 visited a feeder in Sinking Creek 3/3 and 4/4 (Larry Ramsey). *Forest*: one visited a feeder near Tionesta 4/5 (Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire). *Juniata*: present. *Luzerne*: eight at a feeder in White Haven 3/8 - 4/1 (Eleanor Harding, Dave Birchler); one at a feeder in Wilkes-Barre 5/1 (*vide* Christopher Bohinski). *Northampton*: over 20 in Williams Township 4/12 (Arlene Koch). *Tioga*: present through March (Rich Fabor, Gary Tyson).

## PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



**Greater White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*). These three birds, present 12 (here) to 15 March 2008, represented the first record for *Washington*. (Ross Gallardy)



**Presumed Snow x Ross's Goose hybrid**. This "Blue" goose photographed at Middle Creek W.M.A. in *Lebanon* 2 March 2008 showed characters intermediate between Ross's and Snow, particularly the size and shape of the bill. (Tom Johnson)



**Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid**. This male aggressively defended the female Blue-winged Teal it accompanies in the picture above throughout its stay at Canonsburg Lake, *Washington*, 31 March to 14 April 2008 (here 5 April). (Geoff Malosh)



**Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*). The presence of the Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal at Canonsburg Lake, *Washington*, drew the attention of photographers from around sw. Pennsylvania, who made some outstanding portraits of both the hybrid and some of its "half-brothers". (8 April 2008, Cris Hamilton)



**Redhead** (*Aythya americana*). A flock of seven males at Pymatuning Reservoir, *Crawford*, 15 March 2008 (Steve Grosser).



**White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta fusca*). This first-spring male, which stayed on the Beaver River until 22 May 2008, provided the latest spring date for *Beaver*. Photographed here 17 May (Geoff Malosh).



**Horned Grebes** (*Podiceps auritus*). These 22 birds were part of a local record-setting fallout of 743 total grebes forced down onto the rivers of Allegheny during a nor'easter 22 March 2008. Horned Grebes were reported in large numbers across southern Pennsylvania during this event. (Mike Fialkovich)



**Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*). This gorgeous portrait was made at Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford, 15 March 2008. (Steve Grosser)



**Horned Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*). Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford, 15 March 2008. (Steve Grosser)



**Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*). Basic plumage adult at Beltzville State Park, Carbon, 30 April 2008 (Dustin Welch).



**Putative Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid**. The so-called "Hegret" was present again at Canonsburg Lake, Washington, for a fifth consecutive summer. The true identity of this strange bird remains unconfirmed. (27 April 2008, Geoff Malosh)



**Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*). This bird was one of an amazing total of 62 Golden Eagles that passed Tussey Mountain, Centre, 3 March 2008, which set a new state record for most of this species seen in a single day in a single location. (David Brandes)



**Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus palliatus*). These two birds at Van Sciver Lake 16 May 2008 represented the first record for Bucks. (Devich Farbotnik)



**American Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*). A rare spring migrant in Pennsylvania, this bird at Hanoverville Road, Northampton, 21 April 2008 was one of two found in the state this spring. (Dave DeReamus)



**Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*). Lower Nazareth Township, Northampton, 23 May 2008. (Dustin Welch)



**Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*). This beautiful adult decked out in high breeding plumage was photographed at Van Sciver Lake, Bucks, 31-May 2008. (Devich Farbotnik)



**White-rumped Sandpiper** (*Calidris fuscicollis*). These two birds were at Van Sciver Lake, Bucks, 20 May 2008. (Devich Farbotnik)



**Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*). This was an excellent spring for this species in Pennsylvania with nine individual birds reported in seven counties. This female was present in Lower Nazareth Township, *Northampton*, 10 to 11 May 2008, photographed here on the 11th. (*Dave DeReamus*)



**Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*). This outstanding adult female in blazing alternate plumage at Imperial, *Allegheny*, 28 May 2008 provided just the third confirmed record for the county, but was also the second in three years. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*). Along with the bird pictured above, this male was one of three Wilson's Phalaropes found in *Northampton* this season. This bird was present in Lower Nazareth Township 19 to 28 May 2008 (here 20 May). (*Dustin Welch*)



**Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Female at Imperial, *Allegheny*, 28 May 2008. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*). Male at Lower Nazareth Township, *Northampton*, 20 May 2008. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*). Marina Bay at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, has provided excellent opportunities to study and photograph this species in recent years. This adult in basic plumage was present 31 March to 11 April 2008 (here 6 April). (Geoff Malosh)



**Eastern Screech-Owl** (*Megascops asio*). This wonderful portrait was made 8 March 2008 in a Downingtown yard in Chester, where they nested. (Joshua Clapper)



**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*). Marina Bay at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, 6 April 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



**Northern Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*). This bird stayed from the winter season to at least 8 April 2008 at Birmingham-Lafayette Cemetery in Chester, here 4 Feb 2008. (John Freiberg)



**Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*). This bird was one of two at Imperial, Allegheny, 8 May 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



**Northern Shrike** (*Lanius excubitor*). This bird continued from the winter season at Beltzville State Park in *Carbon*, photographed here 15 March 2008. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*). This bird frequented a location on private property near Palmerton, *Carbon*, 13 to 15 March 2008 (here 15 March). (*Dave DeReamus*)



**Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*). This beautiful portrait of one of Pennsylvania's most abundant breeders was made at Jacobsburg State Park in *Northampton* 27 May 2008. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*). On private property near Palmerton, *Carbon*, 13 to 15 March 2008 (here 13 March). (*Dustin Welch*)



**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*). This bird was one of a pair in the vicinity of Ottsville near Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks*, where the two engaged in obvious breeding behaviors, including carrying sticks to a potential nest site (here 28 March 2008); however the actual outcome is unknown. These would represent the first breeding record for *Bucks*. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



**Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*). A nice portrait made at Canonsburg Lake, *Washington*, 1 April 2008. (*Cris Hamilton*)



**Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). A powerline cut in Penn Forest Township in Carbon provided the photographer with an excellent opportunity to study this species and its hybridization with the closely related Blue-winged Warbler. This image was made 13 May 2008. (Dustin Welch)



**Sutton's Warbler (Yellow-throated Warbler x Northern Parula)**. This after second year female was captured and banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland. It was initially captured 4 May 2008 and again 6 May, when this image was made. It also was captured a third time, when it was found to have a well-developed brood patch. (Powdermill Avian Research Center).



**Brewster's Warbler**. This familiar hybrid of Golden-winged Warbler (shown above) and Blue-winged Warbler (shown below) was photographed at Penn Forest Township, Carbon, 13 May 2008. (Dustin Welch)



**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata*). Bethlehem, Northampton, 16 April 2008. (Dustin Welch)



**Blue-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora pinus*). Singing male at Jacobsburg State Park, Carbon, 27 May 2008. (Dustin Welch)



**Prairie Warbler** (*Dendroica discolor*). Penn Forest Township, Carbon, 13 May 2008. (Dustin Welch)



**Leucistic Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). This interesting-looking male frequented a feeder in Franklin Township, Susquehanna, for much of late May, photographed here 28 May 2008. (Herb Flavell)



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). This more traditional-looking male was nicely photographed in Williams Township, Northampton, 30 April 2008. (Dave DeReamus).

(Editor's Notes: The photo captioned as a "Probable Thayer's Gull" on p. 45 of Volume 22, No. 1 should have been labeled as "Larus sp.", more accurately reflecting the photographer's opinion of the bird. The photo of a Greater White-fronted Goose at Dorney Pond on p.42 of Volume 22, No. 1 was taken in Lehigh County, not Northampton. Both errors were those of the Chief Editor.)



**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*). This bird was present at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, crossing into both Philadelphia and Delaware, from 13 to 15 April 2008, photographed here 13 April (under PORC review). (Tom Johnson)

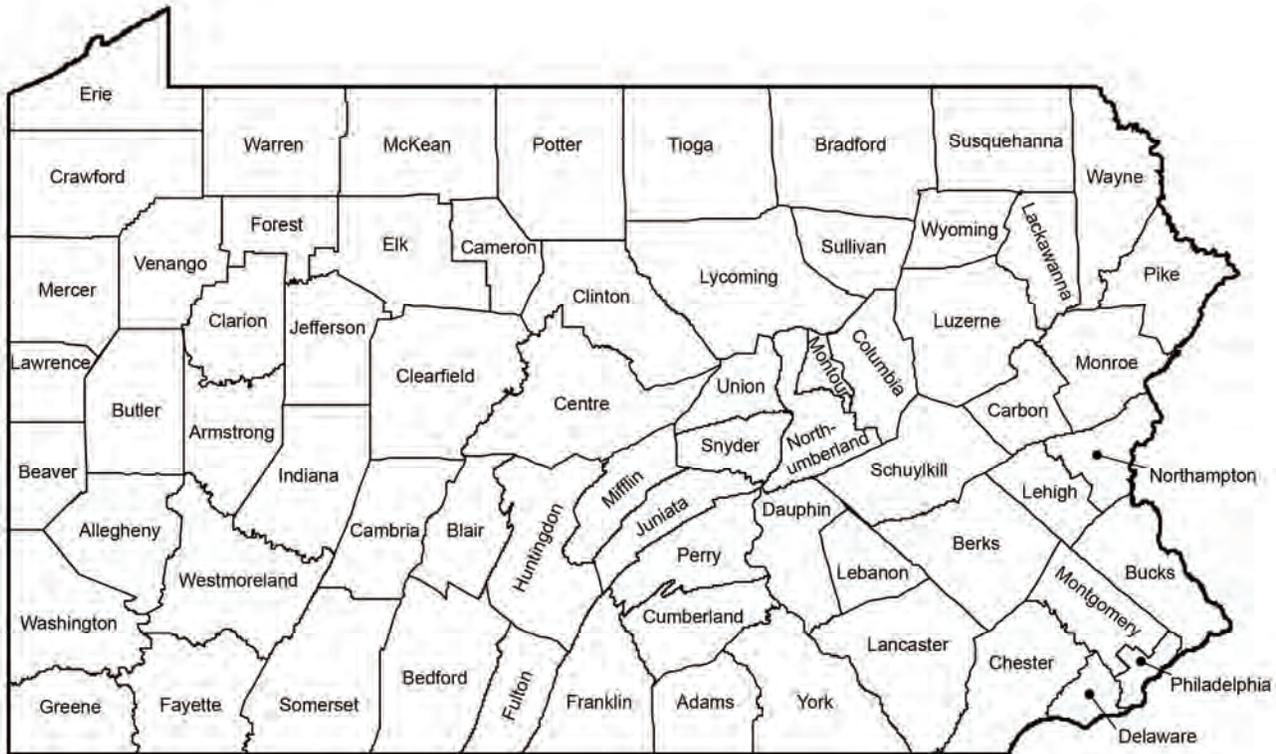


**Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*). This bird was seen periodically through the winter at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, before finally being documented by photograph 7 Mar 2008 (under PORC review). (Howard B. Eskin)



**Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*). A fine portrait made at Homewood Nature Preserve, Lancaster, 29 April 2008. (Drew Weber)

# Local Notes – March to May 2008



## ABBREVIATIONS

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

## Adams County

Locations: Fairfield (FFLD), Freedom Township (FRDM), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Mountain Rd. (MTN), Pumping Station Rd. (PSRD), SGL 249 (SGL).

There were 141 species reported during the season, including 11 species of waterfowl and 18 species of warblers. Flycatcher, thrush, and warbler reports left a lot to be desired.

The 65 acre SGL pond hosted a nice flock of 30 **Green-winged Teal** 4/4 and a **Redhead** 3/17 (PJR). A flock of about 25 **Common Loon** was seen flying over SGL 4/12 (m. obs.). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard 5/10 at SGL (PJR); a **Wild Turkey** was at SGL 4/4 (PJR) and another was at MTN 5/4 (RDS). These were the only reports of these two species. A **Great Egret** that flew over Abbottstown 3/22 was a little early (PK).

An **Osprey** flew over MTN 4/13 (RDS), another cruised over SGL 4/26 (PJR), and an adult **Bald Eagle** was seen soaring above FFLD 5/8 (m. obs.). A **Merlin** was a nice sighting 3/22 at SGL (MW). Six different **American Woodcock** were heard 3/21 at SGL (MW). Following a morning rain, the afternoon of 5/10 was unusually good for cuckoos at SGL, with a **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 4 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** (PJR).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** visited a Westminster Rd. property for a few days mid-Mar (CBF), and another was found 3/29 on the road shoulder in Michaux State Forest (DS). The FRDM **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen 3/1 (MH, TJ, TL), and again 5/10 (PAMC).

Three **Yellow-throated** and 2 **Blue-headed Vireos** were found during the 5/10 PAMC. A **Common Raven** was seen 5/4 along PSRD and 3 were found during the 5/10 PAMC. There were no reports of Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, or Hermit Thrush. A nice flock of 200 **American Pipit** was seen in FRDM 3/22 (MW). Warbler sightings were meager; a number of species that should have been seen were not reported. The two notable sightings were a **Prothonotary Warbler** 4/12 at SGL where there have been previous sightings at a small area of suitable habitat, and a **Kentucky Warbler** found 5/10 on the PAMC.

A singing **Vesper Sparrow** at SGL 4/15 was a surprise (PJR). On 3/22, there were 30 **Fox Sparrows** at SGL and 12 at GNMP (MW). A few **Bobolink** were reported. **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at SGL 3/22 (MW), 4/13 (m. obs.), 4/15 (PJR), and one was at MTN 4/19 (RDS). A **Pine Siskin** visited MTN 4/2 and 4/14 (RDS).

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(BJH), Tom Johnson, Phil Keener, Art & Nonie Kennell (ANK), Tim Lenz, Nancy Locher, Bob Moul, Mike O'Brien (MOB), PA Migration Count (PAMC), Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Dan Snell, Mike Weible.

## Allegheny County

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

This season was not good for observing migration. Winds were persistently out of the north or northwest, and the third week of May in particular was cool with abundant precipitation. Although a few rarities were found in the county, for the most part the migration was slow.

**Tundra Swans** moved through on their way north 3/4-15; the max count was 35 flying over Kennedy Township 3/7 (SK), a day when birds were reported from several locations. A flock of 22 at IMP 3/7 included two birds with neck bands numbered P780 and P781 (DW).

A **Northern Shoveler** lingered in FT 3/15-30 (MV, m.obs.) and another was at IMP 3/21 (MF). Reports were good for **Northern Pintail** this season. Four were tallied along the Ohio River 3/1 (MV), up to 4 were at IMP 3/15-19 (MV, GM), and 2 were on the AR at Sharpsburg 3/15 (DY). A pair were at the restored wetlands in Frick Park 3/15 (JS, SS); these represented a first record for the park. The male **Green-winged Teal** that spent the winter in Harmar Township was still present 5/26 (MF).

A flock of 18 scoters (possibly one of the largest flocks ever recorded in the county) were spotted flying over the AR near Etna, but were too high to be identified (DY). The best the observer could do was eliminate white-winged. **Surf Scoter** reports were more numerous than normal. A female was at O'hara Township 3/9 (DY, ST, SuT), another female was at Cheswick 3/12 and 3/22 (DY), both on the AR, and a female was at Emsworth Dam 3/22 (MV) on the Ohio R. A great total of 14 **Long-tailed Ducks** was made on the AR at Aspinwall (9) and Etna (5) 3/22 (DY). Five were in Aspinwall 3/28 during a rainy day (DY). Six were found on the Monongahela River at the South Side 4/5 (DF). A great count of 65 **Ruddy Ducks** were at Aspinwall 3/28 (DY).

A nor'easter on 3/22 resulted in an unprecedented fallout of **Horned Grebes** in the county. All three major rivers in the Pittsburgh area were refuge for grebes that halted their migration in the face of the storm. Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River hosted 125 birds (JS, SS, MF), while 204 were tallied along the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to DASH (MV). The highest total was on the AR from the Highland Park dam to Cheswick where 414 birds were counted (DY, MF). This fallout included the **Long-tailed Ducks** mentioned above. Rain showers on 3/28 resulted in good numbers of **Horned Grebes** again on the Allegheny R. where 132 were counted (DY).

Single **Common Loons** were at DASH 4/9-10 (DW, GM, MV); 3 were there 4/11 (DW, GM, MV) and two 4/12 (DW, DY, MF, GM, BM). Single birds were at Etna 4/24 and 5/3 (DY) with a rather late bird flying over that location 5/10 (DY).

A **Black Vulture** was a rare find in Harmar Township 5/18 (BSh). Single **Osprey** were reported from DASH 4/1 (DW), North Park 4/5 (BM) and 4/10 (DN), DASH 4/10-12 (GM, DW, DY, MF, BM), Fox Chapel 4/27 (DY), and Etna 5/3 (DY). A **Bald Eagle** was seen along the AR at Harrison Hills Park during a PSO field trip 5/18 (TK, PH, PSO). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Pittsburgh International Airport 3/14 (ES). Up to three birds were at IMP from mid-March to 4/6 that included two light and one dark morph (MV). A late bird was there 5/2 (MV).

There always seems to be news regarding **Peregrine Falcons** in the county. A bird was seen at a road cut along Rte. 28 near Tarentum 3/23 (KSJ). The first egg was laid at the downtown Pittsburgh nest 3/11 (KSJ). There was a surprise at the nest at the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus in Oakland 4/3. Images from the webcam at the nest revealed a new male at the site. This bird was successful mating with the resident female because the cams also revealed 4 eggs in the nest. The fate of the original male that had been present since 2002 is a mystery (KSJ). The pair that nested unsuccessfully last year on the R.D. Flemming (62nd St.) Bridge over the AR at Etna was disturbed this year due to bridge repair work. We are hopeful they will return once the project is complete, but it will be too late this year for nesting. Yet another new nest was discovered on the McKees Rocks Bridge (*vide* KSJ).

An **American Bittern** was flushed at Barati's Ponds in Jefferson Borough 5/10 (SSn). Single **Great Egrets** were found at Crieghton 3/28 (DY), DASH 4/11-12 (GM, DW, MV, DY) and FT 4/26-29 (MV). Three

were present at Barati's Ponds in Jefferson Borough 5/10 (SSn). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find at Boyce-Mayview Park during a PSO field trip 5/18 (NN, PSO).

A **Semipalmated Plover** stopped along the AR in Etna 5/3 (DY). Another visited IMP 5/17-28 (CT, JT, et al.). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived at IMP 4/20 (MV) and the species continued at that site until 5/18 with a max of 5 on 4/28 (MV). This species was widely reported and is one of the few shorebirds that can be found away from the shallow ponds at IMP. Reports came from Jefferson Borough 4/27 and 5/10 (SSn), two were at Fox Chapel 4/27 (DY, MF) and one was there 5/3 (DY), one was at a pond in Homewood Cemetery in Pittsburgh's east end 5/3 (MF), and one was in Plum that same day (AH, PM). Other reports include singles at North Park 5/11 (BM), Boyce Mayview Park 5/18 (NN, PSO), and 2 at Frick Park 5/18 (JS, SS). The max count for the season was 8 birds at Etna 5/3 (DY). What was believed to be a **Sanderling** was at IMP 5/26 (BS). Unfortunately, it was gone before other observers arrived at the site to confirm it. Six **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 5/27 (MV) and **Least Sandpipers** maxed out at 19 on 5/23 at that location (MV). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was a nice find there 5/2-3 (MV, et al.). There were only two reports of **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one at Cheswick 4/27 (DY) and one at IMP 5/27 (MV). Five **Dunlin** were found 5/17 during a PSO field trip to IMP (CT, PSO) where they remained until 5/24 (m.obs.). Eight **Wilson's Snipe** was the max at IMP 3/23 (MV). Aside from breeding sites at IMP, **American Woodcock** reports were from Beechwood Farms 3/18 (BSh) and Harmar Township during several Three Rivers Bird Club outings in April and May (TB).

Two rare shorebirds highlighted the season. A **Willet** was along the Ohio River near the Carnegie Science Center 5/1 (SSa), providing the third county record of this species, all since 2004. In fact both previous records in 2004 and 2006 were on 5/5, so perhaps this species moves through the area during a narrow window in early May. A beautiful female **Red-necked Phalarope** spent a few hours at IMP 5/28 (CT), only the third definitive county record.

Small numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported from ten locations with a nice count of 55 at Crieghton 3/28 (DY). The migration of gulls and terns was once again observed at DASH on the Ohio River in April 4/5-13. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were the most abundant species; the terns are listed below. The peak of the migration occurred 4/10-11. On 4/10 a total of 118 flew past the dam (DW, GM, MV) and 161 were tallied 4/11 (GM, DW, MV). Numbers quickly dropped the following two days with just 44 birds tallied. A single bird was at the Highland Park Bridge on the AR 4/18 (DY), 2 were at DASH 4/28 (GM), and 2 were at the Highland Park Bridge 5/10 (DY). A late bird was seen flying over I-79 near Wexford 5/16 (SL). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Highland Park Bridge 4/18 (DY) provided a rare spring record and the eighth for *Allegheny*.

**Caspian Terns** made their annual appearance at DASH 4/9-13 with a high count of 37 on 4/11 (GM, DW, MV). Three **Common Terns** were found during the PAMC 5/10 at the Highland Park Bridge (DY, MF). There were only two reports of **Forster's Tern** this spring, both from DASH. A total of 13 flew by 4/11 (GM, DW, MV) and 3 were tallied 4/12 (GM, DW, DY, MF, BM). Two **Black Terns** were a nice find at IMP 5/8 (GM).

An **Alder Flycatcher** at Harrison Hills Park during a PSO field trip 5/18 was the first reported since 2005 (PH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** at Harrison Hills Park 5/17 (PH, JV) was the only one reported. A **Purple Martin** was in Frazier Township 4/25 (PH) and a flock of 12 were at Walker Park in Sewickley 4/29 (BS). A **Bank Swallow** was seen in FT 4/20 (MV) and 20 were at DASH 4/28 (GM).

A notable count of 21 **Blue Jays** were in and around a yard in Shaler Township 3/18 (JH). An interesting leucistic **American Crow** was observed in Natrona Heights 4/27 (PH, DH). The bird was described having pale gray wings, with the remainder of the plumage black as normal. After regular reports for two years, a **Fish Crow** at DASH 4/11 (GM, DW, MV) was the first in months. Perhaps they are not expanding into the area as quickly as once thought. One was seen at Harrison Hills Park during a PSO outing 5/17 (PH, CR) and a single bird was in North Braddock 5/27 (MF). On the other hand, **Common Ravens** continue to be observed and are suggestive of breeding activity. A pair was observed in apparent courtship on a railroad bridge over the AR in Aspinwall 3/22 (MF). A soaring bird quickly flew to the bridge where another bird was calling. It landed very close to the other bird, and the individual on the bridge was wing quivering. Eventually, the bird that flew to the bridge flew off and the wing quivering bird entered the internal bridge structure. Actual mating was not observed,

but could the inner structure of the bridge be a nest site? That question was answered 4/19 when a nest was discovered at that location (DY). Two were seen in the southern part of the county at Large 3/22 (AT) and a single bird was at IMP 4/28 (MV).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued at many area feeders through April. One visited a feeder in Pine Township 5/7-10 (PL, SL) and a few migrants were found in May away from feeders. A lack of migrant thrushes was notable this spring. Few **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Veeries** were found during migration. There were only two reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, one at Harrison Hills Park 5/18 (PH, JV), and one at East Liberty 5/19 (DY).

A total of 37 species of warblers were reported this spring. Highlights include a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Beechwood Farms 5/8 (BSh) and one at Frick Park that day (EH), **Orange-crowned Warbler** at East Liberty 5/13 (singing) and 5/18 (DY), single **Cape May Warblers** at South Park 5/4 (TP), Settler's Cabin Park (SK, PSO) and Sewickley Heights Park 5/17 (GM, PSO), and Frick Park 5/21 (JS, SS). Single **Pine Warblers** were found at Beechwood Farms 4/16 (JV), Pine Township 4/17 (PL, SL), Harrison Hills Park 4/19 (PH), SGL 203 in Marshall Township 4/25 (GM), and Sewickley Heights Park 5/3 (BS, MV). A **Palm Warbler** was in Pine Township 4/25 (PL, SL), two were present at IMP 4/26 (GM), Harmar Township 4/27 (AH, PM), and East Liberty 4/30 and 5/5 (DY). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find at Harrison Hills Park 5/16-17 (PH, SSN, JV) where they are usually annual. This species has been suspected as a breeder in the park and this was confirmed 5/26 when a bird was observed carrying food to a nest site (JV, PH, MF). This is one of few confirmed breeding records for the county. There were three reports of **Northern Waterthrush** this season: one at North Park 5/9 (DN), one at IMP during the PAMC 5/10 (MF) and one at Sewickley Heights Park 5/16 (MV). **Mourning Warblers** were found at Frick Park 5/14 (JP), Sewickley Heights Park 5/17 (DB, GM, PSO), Frick Park 5/19 (JS, SS), and East Liberty 5/19 and 5/30 (DY). **Wilson's Warblers** were found in Pine Township 5/1 and 5/21 (PL, SL), Beechwood Farms 5/9-10 (DN, BSh), Schenley Park 5/18 (MF, PSO), East Liberty (DY) and Frick Park (JS, SS) 5/19, Moon Township 5/21 (GM), and Frick Park 5/24 (MF). **Canada Warbler** reports came from Beechwood Farms 5/13 (BSh), Frick Park 5/15-19 (JS, SS), Sewickley Heights Park 5/18 (MV), and East Liberty where there were 2 birds 5/23 (DY). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** lingered to 5/24.

A **Black-throated Green Warbler** exhibited interesting behavior in Frick Park 5/24 (MF). It was gathering nesting material, then perched and held the material for several minutes. It then dropped it and began gathering more material. It was collecting tendrils of wild grape growing on a tree trunk. Once again it perched with the material for a few minutes before dropping it. The bird flew to another tree and appeared to be searching for food. It was observed tugging at material again, but did not hold any in its bill. It then flew off. The habitat is a city park and this species has never been known to breed or hold territory in the area. There was only a single bird and a singing male was not heard or seen. Perhaps it was exhibiting this behavior due to the season and was not actively building a nest in the park. Subsequent searches will, we hope, answer this question made even more significant during this the final season of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

A **Summer Tanager** visited a backyard in Boston 5/6 (JP), the first reported in the county since 2004. An interesting **Scarlet Tanager**, described as pale but not a true orange variant, was at Sewickley Heights Park during a PSO outing 5/17 (GM, PSO).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found in the grasses behind a parking lot of the PPG Plant in Creighton 5/3 (DY), an unusual location. The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** report came from East Liberty where one was present 5/18 and two 5/19 (DY). The *cismontanus* **Dark-eyed Junco** reported last season was last seen at a feeder in Harmar Township 3/16 (JV). The bird was a male with a complete dark hood like a Dark-eyed Oregon Junco, but lacked the contrasting reddish back and buffy sides (the back and sides were gray). Three **Dark-eyed Juncos** at Sewickley Heights Park 5/6 (GM) were a bit later than normal.

**Rusty Blackbird** numbers were very good this spring. A flock of 18 were at a farm in FT 3/8 (GM), and a great count of 56 were in Pine Township 3/8 (PL, SL). Two were found in East Liberty 3/14 (DY) and 4 were in FT 3/16 (GM).

Single **Purple Finches** were reported at Hampton Township 3/7 (DN), Pine Township 3/9-10 (PL, SL), and East Liberty 3/14 (DY). The northern finch presence continued into March. **Common Redpolls** from the last reporting period remained in Pine Twp. the entire month with a high of 56 on 3/8 (PL, SL). Three were in Frazier Township 3/15 (ES),

and a flock of 27 were found feeding on larch buds at IMP 3/23 (BS, MV, SM, KS). Two **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in Pine Township 3/24 and 3/27 (PL, SL) and a single bird visited the same feeders during the PAMC 5/10 (PL, SL).

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### Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Dayton (DT), Elderton (EDT), Hoosicks Mill (HM), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Manorville (MNV), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Smeltzer (SZ), Yatesboro (YB).

A **Cackling Goose** was a nice find at RT 3/9 (DY), the same day 108 **Tundra Swans** also stopped on the river at RT. A single **Tundra Swan** at KR 3/22 (MH, RH) was the only other report. First **Wood Ducks** were noted at RT 3/9 (DY) with top count of 13 there 3/16 (DY). **American Wigeon** reports included 3 at MNV (MH, RH) and 2 at RT (DY) 3/9; KR yielded 18 on 3/22 (MH, RH). Four **American Black Ducks** 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH) at KR were the only ones reported. **Mallard** maxima included 32 at MNV 3/9 (MH, RH) and 20 at KR 3/22 (MH, RH). **Northern Pintail** records included 7 at MNV 3/9 (MH, RH), one at RT 3/15 (DY), 5 at KR 3/22 (MH, RH), and 4 at KR 3/29 (MH, RH). Two **Green-winged Teal** were listed 3/9 (MH, RH) at MNV; 12 fed in the wet field near EDT and 7 were at KR, all 3/22 (MH, RH). Three **Canvasbacks** were found at RT 3/9 (DY), and KR harbored 13 on 3/22 (MH, RH). Six **Redheads** at RT 3/15 (DY) and 5 at KR 3/22 (MH, RH) were the best counts. Top **Ring-necked Duck** tallies included 28 on the river between RT and MNV 3/9 (MH, RH, DY), 30 at Margaret 3/12 (MH), and 167 at KR 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH). Thirteen **Greater Scaup** were listed at CC 4/18 (MF). The highest counts of **Lesser Scaup** included 57 at RT 3/15 (DY) and 76 at KR 3/22 (MH, RH). More than the usual **Long-tailed Duck** reports were received; first one was found at RT 3/16 (DY). Other reports were 48 at KR 3/22 (MH, RH), 5 at MNV 3/28 (JV), 12 at CC 3/28 (MM), and last 2 at KR 3/29 (MH, RH). RT yielded 4 **Buffleheads** 3/9 (DY) and 8 on 3/16 (DY); KR's maxima included 18 on 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH), 27 on 3/29 (MH, RH), and 17 on 4/16 (MH); 3 also stopped at CC 3/29 (JV). **Common Goldeneyes** were listed only at KR with counts of 11 on 3/22 (MH, RH) and one 3/29 (MH, RH). First **Hooded Mergansers** were 3 at RT 3/9 (MH, RH, DY); best count at KR was 16 on 3/29 (MH, RH). Top **Common Merganser** tally was 38 at KR 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH); 6 were on the water at CC 3/25 (JV), and a pair was found near Mahoning Dam 4/16 (MH, RH). First **Red-breasted Merganser** was observed at RT 3/9 (DY); KR's tallies included 89 on 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH) and 47 on 3/29 (MH, RH). **Ruddy Ducks** reported were one at RT 3/9 (DY), 2 at RT 3/16 (DY), 8 at KR 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH), and last 2 at KR 3/29 (MH, RH).

**Wild Turkeys** numbered 27 in RV 3/20 (LU).

A **Red-throated Loon** was a nice find at RT 3/16 (DY). First 8 **Common Loons** arrived at KR 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH); 14 was KR's high 3/29 (MH, RH); one still lingered at KR 5/29 (KB). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at RT 3/16 (DY) and 6 at KR 3/29 (MH, RH) were first arrivals. A **Horned Grebe** fallout at KR 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH) included at least 160 individuals. A **Red-necked Grebe** appeared at RT 3/16 (DY), the lone report.

Three **Double-crested Cormorants** at CC 4/6 (JV) were the only ones noted. Two **Great Egrets** visited CC 5/22 (MVT). First **Green Heron** was listed at CC 5/30 (MVT).

Ten **Turkey Vultures** over Manor Twp. 3/18 (JV) were first. Three **Bald Eagles** soared together near RT 3/9 (MH, RH, DY). The continued presence of adult eagles near KR through the end of May caused us to speculate on the possibility of nesting. **Northern Harriers** were listed at four locations this spring (m. obs.). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed chasing a towhee from bush to bush near Mt. Tabor 4/23 (CG, MH). A **Cooper's Hawk** at CC 4/6 (JV) was the lone report.

**American Coot** reports included 3 at RT 3/19 (JV), 29 at KR 3/29 (MH, RH), and one still present at KR 5/29 (KB). First **Killdeer** were 3 near EDT 3/22 (MH, RH); 4 were found at CC 4/6 (JV) while 6 were noted near SZ 5/7 (MH). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** stopped in the wet field near EDT 4/18 (RH). That same field was a magnet for **Wilson's Snipe** which numbered 12 on 3/29 (MH, RH), 27 on 4/16 (MH), 21 on 4/18 (RH), and only 9 on 4/21 (RH) as the field started to dry up. Single **American Woodcocks** were sighted 3/13 (DF) at Keystone Power Plant and 4/16 (MH, RH) near Belknap.

First **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at RT 3/16 (DY); KR yielded 7 on 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH) and 3 on 3/29 (MH, RH). Top **Ring-billed Gull** count was 35 in a field near South Bend 3/8 (DC); 12 were on the river at RT 3/9 (MH, RH) and 6 were listed at CC 4/6 (JV). The **Herring Gull** nest at Kittanning contained two chicks 5/19 (CG, MH, RH, DJ).

**Great Horned Owls** were listed only at Manor Twp. 3/14 (JV, JVa) and near Belknap 4/16 (MH, RH). A **Common Nighthawk** flew over the Lenape Golf Course 5/27 (RH).

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived near Leechburg 5/3 (MVT) and at RV 5/4 (LU).

A **Least Flycatcher** was singing near SZ 5/7 (MH). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/9 (DY) at RT. **Great Crested Flycatchers** had returned to KR and to the SZ area by 5/7 (MH). First **Eastern Kingbird** and **White-eyed Vireo** were noted south of DT 5/4 (MH, RH). Earliest **Blue-headed Vireo** was near HM 5/4 (MH, RH). Both **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** were first found near SZ 5/7 (CG, MH).

At least 5 **Purple Martins** were perched on the boxes at the colony near EDT 5/4 (MH, RH). Arrival dates included 4/16 (MH) for **Tree Swallow** near EDT and 5/4 (MH, RH) for both **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at KR and **Barn Swallows** near EDT.

A wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last seen at RV 5/4 (LU). **House Wren** returned to HM by 5/4 (MH, RH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through *Armstrong* between 4/16 (MH) and 5/10 (LU). First **Wood Thrushes** were 3 south of DT 5/4 (MH, RH). **Gray Catbird** was first found near HM 5/4 (MH, RH). A **Brown Thrasher** sighted 4/23 (CG, MH) near Mount Tabor was first.

May 7 (MH) yielded a plethora of **Blue-winged Warblers** including 2 at KR, 2 near SZ, one near Atwood, and one in Boone Hollow. **Nashville Warblers** were found 5/7 (MH) at KR and near SZ. First dates included 5/4 (MH) for **Yellow Warbler** near Sagamore, 5/7 (MH) for 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** near SZ, 5/7 (MH) for *Magnolia* at KR, 5/4 (MH, RH) for **Yellow-rumped Warbler** south of DT, and 4/23 (CG, MH) for **Black-throated Green Warbler** west of Timblin. **Pine Warbler** reports included singletons at KR 5/4 (MH, RH), at CC 5/10 (MVT), and near Leechburg 5/16 (MVT). First **Prairie Warbler** (MH) at KR and **American Redstart** (MH, RH) south of DT were both listed 5/4. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was well described at CC 5/10 (MVT). **Ovenbirds** 5/4 (MH, RH) near HM were the first reported. 5/7 (MH) also yielded numerous **Common Yellowthroats**, many **Hooded Warblers**, one **Yellow-breasted Chat** near SZ, and multiple **Scarlet Tanagers** across the county.

**Eastern Towhees** arrived 3/29 (MH, RH) near EDT. **American Tree Sparrows** lingered until 3/20 (LU) at RV. **Chipping Sparrows** returned to RV by 4/11 (LU). The first **Vesper Sparrow** and 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were near SZ 5/7 (MH). A **Fox Sparrow** was spotted near Olivet 3/8 (DC). A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at RV 5/9 (LU). **White-crowned Sparrow** reports included 2 near SZ 5/7 (MH), 2 at YB 5/10 (PB), and one at RV 5/12 (LU). Last **Dark-eyed Junco** was one at RV 4/26 (LU).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/26 (LU) and an **Indigo Bunting** 4/30 (LU), both at RV, were first. **Bobolink** reports included 3 south of DT 5/4 (MH, RH) and 10 near SZ 5/7 (MH). First **Eastern Meadowlark** appeared at CC 4/6 (JV). A single **Rusty Blackbird** surfaced in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds near EDT 3/22 (MH, RH). Two **Orchard Orioles** returned 5/7 (MH) near SZ. First **Baltimore Orioles** were noted 5/4 (MH), both near Sagamore and at HM.

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## Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver River (BR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), New Brighton (NB), Ohio River (OR), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

A **Cackling Goose**, the first confirmed for *Beaver*, was found at LBL 3/8 (MV), and stayed to at least 3/17 (GM). **Tundra Swans** appeared *en masse* in early Mar: 27 were at IND (MV, GM, DW), 46 were at LBL (MV, GM) 3/8, and 96 were counted at LBL 3/9 (MV).

**Gadwalls** passed through 3/13-4/4, with a peak of 11 at LBL 3/13 (MV). Two stragglers appeared at RCH 4/30 (MV). **American Wigeon** had one of their most impressive fallouts in the county's history 3/13, when 124 were counted at LBL (MV). **American Black Ducks** were reported from several locations on the BR though mid-Apr, but were most numerous at LBL, where 33 were counted 3/13 (MV). First **Blue-winged Teal** did not appear until 3/28, but they remained present primarily at LBL through late May (GM). Pairs of **Northern Shovelers** were at LBL 3/8 (MV), AR 3/12 (LC), and IND 3/28-30 (MV). Forty-seven **Northern Pintail** dropped out of a foggy sky in front of GM's eyes at LBL 3/8, but the peak total at LBL for the season was 78 on 3/13 (MV). **Green-winged Teal** were present 3/4-4/12, with a top count of 23 at LBL 3/21 (MV).

Ten to 12 **Canvasback** continuing from the winter on the BR were last seen near RCH 3/2 (MV, MW); the last date for this species was 3/16. **Redheads** were found in small numbers through 4/5. With a few good waterfowl fallouts in sw. Pennsylvania in Mar, **Ring-necked Ducks** numbers were strangely low, but they were reported frequently in small numbers through 4/18. Six reports of **Greater Scaup** were received 3/2-4/4, but only four of **Lesser Scaup** over roughly the same time period. This author has long wondered about the true status of the two scaup in this region, relative to each other. Generally, the record shows Greater Scaup to be more unusual than Lesser Scaup, yet Greater Scaup are clearly more frequently reported in sw. Pennsylvania in recent years than past. Perhaps Greaters are presently over-reported, or perhaps observers are doing a better job of identifying all scaup seen, and not simply defaulting all scaups to Lesser. Whatever the case, scaup of both species are easily misidentified, so this seems a difficult problem to solve.

The first-year male **Surf Scoter** present at the mouth of BR from last season continued to just 3/3 (BS). A first-year male **White-winged Scoter** made an unexpected and extended stay on the BR 5/11-22 (MV, ph. GM). This marks a new late spring departure date for this species in *Beaver*. **Long-tailed Ducks** continue to be more commonly reported than one should expect; there were four reports, including an outstanding total of 24 on the OR between RCH and Beaver during a large Horned Grebe fallout 3/22 (MV). Other reports were 2 at RCH 3/16 (MV), one female at AR 3/26-28 (BW), and 4 on the OR at Beaver 3/31 (ph. GM). The first-year male **Harlequin Duck** continued at NB from last season to 3/4 (SK). **Bufflehead** were very easy to find in Mar and early Apr, headed by 71 on the OR during the 3/22 fallout (MV); last was a late single on the BR 5/11 (MV). **Common Goldeneyes** were thrice reported 3/2-4/5. A female **Hooded Merganser** was found tending to 8 chicks on a gravel pond north of BBW 5/17 (MV). A pair of **Common Mergansers** was intriguingly late on the BR 5/11-17 (MV) but did eventually move on. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were extremely well represented through early Apr; last was a single at RCH 4/26 (MV). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** was of 8 at AR 3/28 (MV).

Two **Red-throated Loons** were a great find on the OR at Beaver 3/20 (ST, DW). They were not relocated the next day. Ten reports of **Common Loon** for the season were made; top was 13 at AR 3/28 (MV). As mentioned already, a huge fallout of **Horned Grebes** occurred on 3/22 that spanned much of southern Pennsylvania. *Beaver's* portion of the event was incredibly impressive: MV tallied 300 at RCH and 433 on the OR at Beaver, for a record-setting total of 733. Surely there were even more than this in the county that day, as AR and the rest of the OR were not searched. Last Horned Grebe of the season was one at RCH 4/26 (MV).

**Double-crested Cormorants** moved though in large numbers in

the middle of Apr. See the SA below. Aside from this, the only interesting cormorant report was of a single at AR 5/30 (MV). For several years, ER has had success finding **American Bittern** on Raccoon Creek in Potter Twp. in Apr and May, and this year was no exception. A single was there 5/2, but not relocated later. Six reports of **Great Egret** totaling 9 birds were made 3/23-4/27. A **Ruffed Grouse** at AR 5/30 was a nice find (MV).

**Osprey** returned again to their established nest site in Potter Twp., but these were the only reported. An Osprey was seen hunting at IND 5/25 (BW) but this was very likely one of the Potter birds. Up to 5 **Bald Eagles** continued from the winter on the BR and OR, last date was 3/16. SG reported seeing courtship displays and talon locking between two adults 3/9. An established **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest near Chippewa hatched its chicks around 5/1 (SG). **American Kestrels** again nested somewhere in the RCH area (SG).

**Peregrine Falcon** drama continued in the Monaca/RCH area this spring. In early Mar, SG and others noted a pair of Peregrines copulating on the P&LE railroad bridge, about one mile downstream from the East Rochester Bridge where a pair nested last year and was being seen again this year. Before long, a second pair was suspected in the area, and indeed there could be no doubt that there were at least 3 birds present. By 3/17, SG was sure of a second pair on the P&LE bridge, which seemed strange given the proximity to the so-called "Monaca" (East Rochester Bridge) pair, which itself was definitely engaged in nesting efforts again on the East Rochester Bridge. But it didn't last. On 3/22, while SG monitored the East Rochester Bridge (and saw nothing), KSJ and KL witnessed a Peregrine fight for the ages at the P&LE bridge. Apparently the Monaca birds had finally had enough of the theatrics of the second pair so close to their territory, and KSJ and KL were lucky enough to witness the final duel. It was hard to follow all the action, but suffice to say, the P&LE pair was not to be seen after 3/22. With the state of their world set back to a state of some normalcy, the Monaca pair resumed the tasks of nesting, and the squeals of chicks were heard from beneath the bridge by 5/4 (MG). On 5/17 the Pennsylvania Game Commission visited the site (as did a reporter from the *Beaver County Times* which published a story shortly thereafter) to inspect the nest, and at that time it was discovered that the female of the pair was actually a different bird this year. Kelly, the female hatched in Chicago in 2003 that was mother to last year's young, was gone, replaced by a new female found to have hatched in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 2006. It is unknown whether Kelly simply didn't return this year, or was killed or driven off during the 3/22 drama. Either way, the Harrisburg female is believed to be the first Peregrine hatched in the Susquehanna R. basin to nest in Pennsylvania west of the Allegheny Mts. (KSJ). Four chicks were found on the nest 5/17, with banding scheduled for early Jun. The story, and the drama, is surely to be continued.

**Virginia Rails** were again at Madden Run Marsh, this year beginning 4/18 (MV). A **Sora** was seen at LBL for the second straight year 5/9 (MV). Last year two birds stayed in this location into late May, but this year's bird was not seen after 5/9. A **Common Moorhen** stayed at LBL until late May, first found 5/24 and staying to at least 5/30 (MV). A **Sandhill Crane** was a big surprise flying over RCH 3/7 (SG); this bird was followed up by another **Sandhill Crane** at IND 3/8 (DW) which is about 10 miles south of RCH. These two and several others in nearby counties in the past two or three spring seasons may be indicative of an increase of this species as a migrant though sw. Pennsylvania.

With good views of LBL ever more difficult to access, shorebirding was very slow in the county this spring. However, for the third straight spring LBL did host **Whimbrel**; this year 4 spent most of the afternoon of 5/31 resting on the flats (MV). This is the third county record. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were very early at IND 3/19 (GM) and were also the only reported. Other shorebirds reported this year were **Semipalmated Plover** (5/31 at LBL by MV), **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock** (first at SGL 285 on 3/21 by GM).

Aside from the peak in the second week of Apr, **Bonaparte's Gull** migration was about average, with 6 reports outside of the 4/8-14 window, all before. Also outside the April migration window, peak **Ring-billed Gull** total was about 500 at RCH 3/5, which also contained the season's first **Bonaparte's Gull**. Last Ring-billed Gulls were 3 on the BR 5/17. Five **Herring Gulls** were also on the BR 5/17, but *Beaver* is still, and by now surprisingly, without a nesting colony of this species. Six **Black Terns** at industrial gravel ponds north of BBW 5/22 (MV) were an excellent find.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** responded to tape at SGL 285 on the morning of 3/21 (GM). This was the second time in three years a Saw-whet was located at SGL 285 in the second half of Mar. No reports were received of Common Nighthawk. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found: one at RCSP 4/9 (J&SS), and one at Hopewell Twp. Community Park 4/16 (BW).

S.A.

It is ever more well-documented that certain waterbirds, specifically **Double-crested Cormorants**, **Ring-billed Bonaparte's Gulls** and **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns**, migrate in good numbers along the rivers of sw. Pennsylvania, with an apparent peak in the second week of April. Observers stationed just one mile from the *Beaver* line at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny*, have for the past five years documented the migrations of these species along the Ohio River, as the birds pass Dashields and continue nw. into *Beaver*. This year daily surveys were conducted primarily by GM, DW, and MV from that location each day from 4/8-13 with the following highlights and totals of species moving into *Beaver*: 393 **Double-crested Cormorants** (peak of 145 on 4/10), 325 **Bonaparte's Gulls** (peak of 161 on 4/11), 987 **Ring-billed Gulls** (peak of 473 on 4/11), 16 **Forster's Terns** (peak of 13 on 4/11), and, most impressively, 60 **Caspian Terns** (peak of 37 on 4/11, a county record for *Allegheny* and *Beaver*).

Unfortunately, for the most part, these early Apr migrations have not been monitored from RCH, a location 10 miles downriver from Dashields which the birds that migrate past Dashields should logically pass. This year, however, MV and GM coordinated efforts on 4/12 and 4/13, with GM covering Dashields and MV covering RCH. The results from these limited observations were interesting. In general, slightly fewer birds were counted from RCH (as an example 31 Bonaparte's at Dashields and 20 at RCH the morning of 4/13). Part of this may simply be due to misses by one observer or the other, but it may also be indicative of the migratory paths these birds take. Possibly some birds move off the river before its westward bend at RCH, while others continue to that point and beyond up the Beaver R. valley.

One other interesting observation was made the morning of 4/13. A flock of 9 Caspian Terns, the largest single flock of the season, passed Dashields Dam about 30 minutes after dawn, and was counted accurately by GM. Twenty minutes later, MV saw the same flock, but by then it contained 10 birds. GM, quite sure of his count of 9, concluded that the flock was augmented by an additional bird after it passed Dashields, probably one that had roosted somewhere along the river and was swept up as the flock of 9 passed overhead.

Much more about these migrations is still unknown. We hope that continued coordinated observation of this fascinating phenomenon will be made in the future along the Ohio.

Flycatcher reports were off, but a good find was an **Alder Flycatcher** at IND 5/25 (BW). All six vireos were reported; **Philadelphia Vireo** was represented by a single at LBL 5/19 (MV). There was also a very late **Blue-headed Vireo** at IND 5/25 (BW), one of the later dates in the county's history.

Very intriguing was the continuing presence of two **Common Ravens** in the RCH area, generally beginning this season 3/2. Doubly interesting was the fact that the pair was exhibiting strong territorial behavior on the opposite tower of the P&LE railroad bridge from the second pair of Peregrine Falcons that was present briefly in early Mar. It made for quite a scene, with one or two ravens calling loudly from one side of the bridge and a pair of young and brash Peregrine Falcons dominating the other side. After the Peregrine clash of 3/22 detailed above, the Common Ravens were not seen for awhile, but did periodically reappear in RCH 4/13-22. (All observations MV, GM, SG, KSJ, KL.) Two **Common Ravens** were also seen at RCSP 4/9 (J&SS); this location is far enough away to make reasonable the possibility of two pairs at least investigating territories in the county.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, continuing in a Hopewell Twp. backyard from 7/28/2007 (!), was still present 3/12 (BW). Last for this species was a single at AR 4/25 (MV). A **Winter Wren** at RCSP 4/9 (J&SS) and another there 4/17 (GM) were the only reported. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** began their migration through the county with a flock

at AR 4/13 (BS, GM, MV). *Catharus* thrushes were virtually invisible; the only report was of a **Hermit Thrush** at RCSP 4/9 (J&SS). An **American Pipit** was seen walking on the ice of a frozen pond at IND 3/8 (GM, MV, DW).

All of the more common and expected species of breeding and transitory wood-warblers were noted, but rarities were basically nil, save an unexpected and early **Prothonotary Warbler** at AR 4/13 (BS). The bird was associating with a flock of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Unfortunately it could not be recovered a mere 30 minutes after the discovery. The only other warbler of any rarity was a **Cape May Warbler** in a Hopewell Twp. yard 5/12 (BW). First **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a single at RCSP 4/26 (GM), a bit early. A **Pine Warbler** at RCSP 4/15 (MV) was the only reported.

**Henslow's, Grasshopper, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows** returned in their usual ubiquity to SGL 285 this year (GM). **Fox Sparrows** were one in Beaver Falls 3/2 (SB) and two in Greene Twp. 3/9 (MV). **White-crowned Sparrows** persisted at LBL, a traditional wintering location, to 5/19 (MV).

A **Bobolink** at LBL 5/31 was probably of a small breeding population that has been noted the past few summers in that area (MV). An impressive flock of 125-150 **Rusty Blackbirds** was noted near SGL 285 on 3/21 (GM); otherwise reports were of singles and flocks of up to 30 birds from various locations 3/8-4/12. **Orchard Oriole** returned to IND 4/26 (GM), and **Baltimore Oriole** to MLD the same day.

**Purple Finch** reports were one at RCSP 4/7 (KSJ) and 2 in Hopewell Twp. 5/14 (BW). Otherwise spring finch reports were zero following the strong northern invasion this past winter.

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## Bedford County

Locations: Dunning's Creek Wetlands and White-tail Wetlands (DCW), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Shawnee State Park (SSP) Pennsylvania Migratory Bird Count (PAMC) (county wide).

The Spring was cold and wet, which may have influenced what were strong hawk and waterfowl migrations; however, the lack of mudflats may have decreased the shorebird numbers. In general, the season was interesting, although few unusual birds were reported. Unless noted otherwise all the observations are that of TD.

The following are peak numbers for waterfowl counted at DCW unless noted otherwise: 2000 **Canada Geese** 3/9, 527 **Wood Duck** 3/23, 60 **Green-winged Teal** 3/15, 47 **American Black Duck** 3/29, 350 **Mallards** 3/29, 235 **Northern Pintail** 3/15, 41 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/29, 8 **Northern Shoveler** 3/26, 6 **Gadwall** 4/5, 246 **American Wigeon** 3/15, 16 **Canvasback** 3/14 (SSP), 50 **Redhead** 3/15 (SSP), 246 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/15, 136 **Greater Scaup** 3/15 (SSP), 40 **Lesser Scaup** 3/15 (SSP), 70 **Long-tailed Duck** 4/5 (SSP), one **Surf Scoter** 3/18, 2 **Common Goldeneye** 3/13 (SSP), 111 **Bufflehead** 3/19 (SSP), 110 **Hooded Merganser** 3/31 (SSP), 60 **Common Merganser** 3/15 (SSP), 260 **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/33 (SSP) and an all time low of 24 **Ruddy Duck** (SSP) 4/5.

Both male and female **Ring-necked Pheasants** at DCW overwintered successfully, again, without stocking. **Ruffed Grouse** within the county are losing ground to development, but are doing well within large intact forest. **Wild Turkey** have adapted well throughout the county.

The peak for **Common Loons** was low at 22 on 3/31; **Pied-billed Grebes** peaked at 19 on 3/19, and **Horned Grebe** at 38 on 3/19, all observed at SSP. Fifty-five was the peak number for **Double-crested Cormorants** at SSP on 3/29. A single **American Bittern** first arrived at DCW 3/26 and increased to 3 on 5/13. Two **Least Bitterns** appeared 5/18 at DCW, regrettably one was found freshly killed in the morning by what appeared to be owl predation. The high for **Great blue Heron** at DCW was 16 on 4/9. The Great Blue Heron is also a common sight at Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery (to their dismay), which are just a few miles from DCW. I often wondered where these herons came from until I discovered a herony of 25-28 active nests on a farm near Osterburg.

The distance to DCW and the hatchery is about 4 miles. **Great Egret** high counts were 8 on both 4/9 and 5/21 at DCW. **Green Heron** peaked at 9 on 5/24 (DCW), and a single **Black-crowned Night Heron** visited DCW 5/9 and 5/13.

The Spring AFHW count was successful with 3 new records. A total effort of 430 hours produced the following: **Black Vultures** 20, **Turkey Vulture** 410, **Osprey** 185 (new record which bested past Spring and Fall Counts), **Bald Eagle** 35 (record for Spring), **Northern Harrier** 29, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 171, **Coopers Hawk** 56, **Northern Goshawk** 9, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 110 (new record and highest Spring record ever for the state), **Broad-winged Hawk** 433, **Red-tailed Hawk** 478, **Rough-legged Hawk** 1, **Golden Eagle** 94, **American Kestrel** 26, **Merlin** 4, **Peregrine Falcon** 4 and unidentified 54, for a total of 2161 (TD, BG, EG, EH, KJ, JR, BS).

All these sightings were at DCW unless noted otherwise. The first **Virginia Rail** was flushed 5/9 followed by 3 **Sora** 5/17. A late **Common Moorhen** that usually shows up at the end of April appeared on 5/22. Once the moorhen landed it was immediately escorted around by an **American Coot**. The high number for **American Coot** was 25 on 4/5. One impoundment is drawn down for shorebirds starting around the first of May. The following shorebird peaks were: 16 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/24, 5 **Killdeer** 5/15, 23 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/7, 35 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/7, 4 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/24, 34 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/15, 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/13, 30 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/19, 23 **Least Sandpiper** 5/26, 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/26, 4 **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 85 **Dunlin** 5/15, 28 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/20, 63 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/31, and 32 **American Woodcock** 4/11 (TD, CH).

Thirty-three **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 62 **Ring-billed Gulls** were observed at SSP 3/31. Sixteen **Herring Gulls** were observed 3/31 (SSP), 3 **Forster's Tern** 5/26 and 2 **Common Terns** 5/26 (SSP). A **Great Horned Owl** was seen in a tree at DCW 5/6 and on 3/15 two **Short-eared Owls** were flushed while walking a field at DCW. Three **Belted Kingfishers** were spotted 5/24 (DCW) and later the nest cavities of two were found within a streamside bank on Dunning's Creek and another three quarters of a mile away on a rural road cut.

The PAMC on 5/10 was well attended with 39 participants. Most waterfowl were long gone with the exception of **Ruddy Ducks** and one lingering **Redhead**. All seven woodpeckers were well represented including 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**. Of *Empidonax* sp., only the **Willow Flycatcher** and **Least Flycatcher** were reported. Of the swallow family the following were well represented: **Purple Martin**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** and **Bank Swallow**. The **Purple Martins** thrive in the Martin houses in Everett, Northern Rough-winged enjoy the precarious existence of life in drainage pipes especially around bridges at SSP. Thrushes were well represented with the exception of Gray-checked and Swainson's. Twenty-one species of warblers were reported. The top 10 warblers in total numbers were: **Common Yellowthroat** (103), **Ovenbird** (82), **American Redstart** (52), **Black-and-white Warbler** (36), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (27), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (23), **Hooded Warbler** (18), **Black-throated Green Warbler** (12), **Magnolia Warbler** (9) and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Northern Parula** (8). Waterthrushes were under-represented possibility due to the relative difficulty in hiking riverine systems, which might also apply to forest interior species like Cerulean Warblers. The other warblers that were 5 or less were **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

The best birds for the PAMC were two **Summer Tanagers** located in different locations within the county by different participants. Whether these birds are transient overshoots or will remain to breed is unknown.

Although abundant habitat exists within the county for grassland species, we missed Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's probably as a result of weak songs and elusiveness as opposed to actual scarcity. The cutting of hay came precariously close to **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** nesting season. This prompted a grant proposal to put 40 acres of upland field at DCW into native prairie grass. Twelve **Rusty Blackbirds** were counted at DCW 4/15. The PAMC total for **Orchard Orioles** was 15 with 80 **Baltimore Orioles**. Eleven **Pine Siskins** were counted, of which, some might be local breeders since **Pine Siskins** are now regularly seen at summer feeders (TB, DB, BBNC, TD, SD, CH, RM, LT).

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Club, Tom Bodeenschatz, Debbie Bodenschatz, Sally Dick, Bob Gorsuch, Ed Gowarty, Eric Hall, Connie Hunt, Karen Jackson, Rosemary McGlynn, Che Mincone, Tom Miller, Jeff Payne, Jim Rocco, Bob Steward, Lee Tosh.

## Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands (SGL).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was among **Canada Geese** along Evansville Rd. near LO 3/7 (RK), and another was in a mixed goose flock near Oley 3/27 (RK). The season's high count of **Snow Geese** was 30,000 at BML 3/7 (RK, JS). As usual, a few (mostly the walking wounded) lingered through May. Single **Ross' Geese** were at LO 3/2 and 3/11 and at Oley 3/11 (RK, MW). Two **Cackling Geese** were part of a large Snow Goose flock at LO 3/2 (RK). Birders reported 22 duck spp. in numbers consistent with those of recent years. **American Wigeon** were again seen kleptoparasitizing **American Coots** at LO, during which one or two wigeon shadow a foraging coot and rush in to steal part of the vegetation pulled up by the coot during its dive. A **Mallard X American Black Duck** drake was apparently paired with a female Mallard at LO 3/22 (RK). As usual, rain produced some seasonal high counts of ducks at LO, including 125 **Lesser Scaup** 4/1 (KL), 13 **White-winged Scoters** 3/19 (RK), 19 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/1 (KL) and 200 **Bufflehead** 4/12 (KL), when the spring high count of 21 **Horned Grebes** (KL) was also recorded.

A breeding plumaged **Aechmophorus (Clark's/Western) grebe**, the second reported in *Berks*, was seen 5/7 by JH and JS in BML from the Visitor Center on Palisades Rd. while they waited to lead an early morning birdwalk. In a report to this compiler, JH writes, "The bird was grebe size. The back, back of the neck and top of the head were black (dark). The neck front was white and the bill yellow. My first thought was Western Grebe... However, I took note that the eye was not covered by black like the Western Grebe... The bird was probably 200 yards from my vantage point. I was using 10X42 binocs..." Posting on the Pabirds Listserv 5/7, Silagy reported that the grebe was seen twice more during the birdwalk, and on their best views she and Holcomb thought it was a **Clark's Grebe**. Both observers had seen Clark's/Western Grebes before. The bird disappeared shortly after speed boaters and waterskiers took over the lake in mid-morning. A thorough search of nearby LO later in the day failed to find it (RK). The bird was also seen by BML staff and birdwalk attendees, some of whom had advanced beyond the beginner stage.

The only reported **American Bittern** was walking around in a residential neighborhood near Morgantown 4/18 (HH). Single **Great Egrets** were at LO 4/21 (SF) and flying over HMS 4/4 (LG). A **Little Blue Heron** was at the inlet end of LO 4/19 (SS). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at BML 5/7 (JS) and LO 5/22,31 (MW), but the heronry at its new location off Wyomissing Blvd. was not censused.

Two downy **Turkey Vulture** chicks were photographed on a rock outcrop in Pike Twp. in mid-May (JZ). During the spring raptor counting season at HMS, **Bald Eagles** set a single day record of 12 birds 5/4, as well as a record seasonal total of 25 (LG). **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, localized Piedmont breeders, again fledged young in a mature Norway spruce plantation in District Twp. (RK). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were courting in May in areas of District Twp. where they have not previously nested (CRE, RK). Reading's resident **Peregrine Falcon** pair, which lost both of its chicks last spring, nested this year in a more secluded place on the Callowhill Center at Fifth and Penn Sts. and fledged three young 6/4, the day before they were scheduled to be banded (BU). A southbound adult **Mississippi Kite** crossed the Kittatinny Ridge 3/26 at North Lookout, HMS above the observer (AK), providing the earliest spring county record.

Of the 14 shorebird spp. reported, the most unusual was a **Red-necked Phalarope** 5/19-20 (MW, RK) at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville, a small but consistent shorebird magnet. A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at LO 3/11 and 3/22 (RK) and the last reported **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, an adult, was at LO 3/22 (RK). **Bonaparte's Gull**, never as numerous here as on the Susquehanna River, peaked at 13 at LO 4/1 (KL). Two or three of the **Short-eared Owls** that wintered at Pheasant Valley Farm near Robesonia lingered until 3/7 (EB, RK). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found and photographed roosting in a young, dense Colorado Blue Spruce

plantation near Lenhartsville 3/8 (HK).

Two **Chimney Swifts** that were seen flying past HMS 3/26 (AK) were the earliest on record. A migrating **Red-headed Woodpecker** stopped at a feeder in Bern Twp. 5/17 (JS). **Northern Flicker** migration was clearly in evidence in April at SGL-110, where 44 were found 4/6 and 50 on 4/12 (KG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was calling in Pike Twp. 5/25 (RK). An adult **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, the first reported in *Berks*, was spotted in flight from a range of about 100 yards 5/14 by LS while birding at Bailey Rd. and Rt. 143 in farm country north of Kempton. According to the observer, posting on the Pabirds Listserv 5/15, "The field marks I noted were a very long forked tail with streamers, and I remember that the tail was dark with white feathers contrasting, and there was a flash of rose color on the breast (which when I looked it up, was on the axillas [sic].)" She could not relocate the bird, which flew north. On 5/23, there was another sighting, probably of the same bird, at the other end of the Kempton valley in Eckville at the base of the Kittatinny Ridge (SM, *fide* LG). No further sightings or details were reported.

A **Northern Shrike** on its return trip north was at Henningsville 3/13 (PS). All six eastern vireos were reported (SF). Single **Common Ravens** were seen in District Twp. 3/13, at Moselem Springs 3/22, and at Birdsboro Reservoir 5/10 (RK), all well south of the traditional range on the Kittatinny Ridge. A **Horned Lark** was lining a depression in a barren Oley Valley field with dry grass 3/13 (RK). The last wintering irruptive **Black-capped Chickadees** left feeders around the end of March (RK, DK, JS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported several weeks longer, the last two in District Twp. 5/15 (RK). The only report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** came from near Morgantown 5/28 (HH).

This was a remarkable spring for warbler variety, though numbers were low. Birders reported 35 spp. and one hybrid, including a very rare spring overshoot. The only normally occurring eastern warblers not reported were Orange-crowned, Connecticut and Lawrence's hybrid. A **Golden-winged Warbler**, rare now even on migration, was found 5/11 and 5/17 on a territory occupied last year (KG). A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen and heard at BML 5/11 (JS). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, now irregular in *Berks*, was in Bern Twp. 4/15-16 (JS). A previously unknown cluster of breeding **Cerulean Warblers** (four or five pairs) was discovered near Port Clinton 5/6 (SS). A **Prothonotary Warbler** returned 5/6 for the fourth consecutive year to a territory on the Maiden Creek above LO (SS). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at SGL 110 on 5/10 and 5/25 (KG). A **Swainson's Warbler**, the second reported in *Berks*, was seen 5/3 at SGL 106 on the east side of Pine Swamp Rd. at the base of the Kittatinny Ridge near Eckville by TC, an experienced observer. In a rare bird report sent to this compiler, TC writes, "the Swainson's Warbler popped up from below a thicket area and sat in plain view for about two minutes before returning to the ground unseen. When the warbler first appeared, I thought oh, there's a Worm-eating Warbler, but then after putting my binoculars on the bird it did not take long to realize that it was an obvious Swainson's. The bird was all brown above, including crown and neck. The supercilium was fairly heavy and long in an off white color. The sides and flanks were also a light brown color, and the underside was all an off white/gray color. The most striking feature was the exceptionally long bill with a very sharp point. The bird also seemed to be rather long and flat-headed looking. The bill seemed to be very slightly upturned, and there was a striking black line through the dark eye... It should also be noted that the Swainson's did not vocalize..."

Once again, the hotspot for **Fox Sparrows** was SGL 110, where 50 were found 3/30 and 57 on 4/6 (KG, TC). Encouragingly, **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from several locations this spring. Discouragingly, the total number reported was 16 (KG, RK). Flocks of 12-20 **Purple Finches** continued to please some feeder watchers through April (CRE, RK, DK, JS). A **Common Redpoll** straggling north was at Reinholds 3/7 (AW). Flocks of about 25 **Pine Siskins** continued at a few feeders through March, the last few reported in District Twp. 4/23 (RK).

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**Bradford County**

Locations: East Smithfield (ESM), PA Migration Count (PAMC), Patton Hill Rd., west of Towanda (PHR), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach's farm near New Era (TNE).

There are normally not many reports of waterfowl in the county, so these are worthy of note: about 2000 **Snow Geese** were seen 3/18 at Browntown near the SUR (HS, JS). An **American Black Duck** was seen 5/10 (PAMC) along the upper SUR (MB, JP, MP). At a pond in Browntown, three male and one female **Canvasback** were present 3/30-31, and on 4/7, 17 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at the same location (HS, JS). On 3/18 a **Bufflehead** was at ESM (RG).

A large roost of **Double-crested Cormorants** was present prior to 4/17, when first reported, with evening roosting continuing until around 5/10 at Echo Beach Rd. near Wysox (DN). Surveys by the PA Game Commission of **Great Blue Heron** colonies revealed 2 active sites 4/16 near Wyalusing and Orwell (MBu, TG), one on 4/23 near Towanda (TG, SF), and one 5/26 near Leroy (TG). Rarely seen, there was a **Green Heron** at a pond west of Towanda 4/18, and one on the SUR 5/10 (PAMC) (DB, MBu).

A delightful discovery was a **Turkey Vulture** nest with eggs 5/26 in a barn near Monroeton (BF). Migrating **Osprey** sightings included one 4/15 calling and momentarily attacking an immature **Red-tailed Hawk** along the Towanda Creek near Powell (TG), one at Peck Hill 4/27 (AV, GV), 6 seen during the PAMC 5/10 in the Troy area (se. *Bradford*) and along the SUR (DB, MBu, BF, TG, CM, GM, NR, RY), and one at a pond on PHR 5/14 (TG). **Bald Eagles** continue to expand their nests in the county: on 3/25 there were 2 nests with eggs in the SUR valley (RG), on 5/10 (PAMC) there were 2 adults and 2 chicks at the mid-county nest (DB, MBu, BF), one eagle each at Sayre and Milan (MB, JP, MP), one at Terrytown (DB, MBu), and an immature at Wyalusing (DB) 4/28. A **Northern Harrier** was spotted 3/22 in Columbia Twp. (JH), 3/22 in E. Smithfield (RG), 4/18 at Wysox, flying right over all the businesses along Rt. 6 (TG), and 5/22 at Peck Hill (AV, GV). A **Northern Goshawk** was checking out a feeder on 3/27 at Peck Hill (AV, GV). **Red-Shouldered Hawk** sightings included one 4/4, 4/21, 4/22 (calling continuously) at TNE, one on Cahill Mt. 5/5 (TG), and 6 on 5/10 (PAMC) in Towanda, Monroe and Asylum Twps. (BF). **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen 2/14 (one dark and 3 light morph) in nw. *Bradford* (BL), a pair was at the Wysox Rocks 3/14 (DA), and a dark morph female was in Columbia Twp. 4/2 (JH). Seemingly expanding its range, evidenced by more nesting records in ne. Pennsylvania, a **Merlin** was at a Peck Hill feeder 3/7 and 3/12 (AV, GV).

**Sandhill Cranes** have been moving into the area for the past several years; 2 were seen 5/10 (PAMC) near Hollenback (RW). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were winnowing over a field 4/14 in almost the exact location as last year, near Wilmot (TG). Two **Great Horned Owl** owlets were discovered in a nest on Peck Hill 4/7, and were fledged by 4/25 (AV, GV). Two **Short-eared Owls** were observed 3/22, and one was seen hunting over a field on 4/2, both in Columbia Twp. (JH). Four **Northern Saw-Whet Owls** responded to the PBBA protocol CD on Cahill Mt. 5/28 (TG). On 3/11, **Common Nighthawks** were flying over E. Smithfield (RG). On 5/13 the first **Whip-poor-will** known in the county since 2002 was heard singing on Cahill Mt. (TG).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was heard 5/27 near Evergreen (TG). Four **Yellow-throated Vireos** were observed 5/10 (PAMC) along the SUR corridor and in se. *Bradford* (MB, TG, JP, MP, NR). **Horned Larks**, in a mixed flock of 100+ with **Snow Buntings**, were at Sopertown Rd. 2/14 (BL). There were more than the usual number of sightings of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**: 5/6 along the Towanda Creek, near Monroeton (TG); 27 during PAMC 5/10 (Troy and Towanda areas, northern half of the SUR) (MB, BF, JP, MP, RY); 5/14 along Sugar Creek west of Towanda, and 4 at the Franklindale bridge 5/26 (TG). In the Troy area and SUR northern corridor, 37 **Bank Swallows** were found 5/10 (PAMC). Only 3 **Cliff Swallows** (apparently in decline here) were seen 5/10 on the PAMC also in the Troy area and SUR northern corridor (MB, JP, MP, RY). Only two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were observed: 4/20 and 5/2 on Iron Bridge Rd. at Sugar Run Creek (TG), and 5/10 (PAMC) at Woods Rd. (CM, GM). Two **Winter Wrens** were heard 5/5 at a Cahill Mt. stream (TG), and one on 5/10 (PAMC) in the Troy area (RY). Four **Northern Mockingbirds** were observed on 5/10

(PAMC) at Troy and Towanda, and the SUR northern corridor (MB, BF, JP, MP, RY).

As in previous years, the PBBA and the PAMC have brought many observations of warblers. **Blue-winged Warblers** are observed less in recent years; 7 were seen 5/10 on the PAMC in se. *Bradford* and the SUR northern corridor (MB, BF, TG, JP, MP, NR), as well as 3 singing 5/14 and one 5/21 at PHR (TG). Only 2 **Tennessee Warblers** were reported, both on 5/10 during the PAMC in the Athens area (CH, CHa). Two **Northern Parulas** were heard on Oak Rd. near SUR bridge at Wyalusing 5/10 during the PAMC (TG, NR). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were singing along the Schrader Creek, Cahill Mt. side on 5/7 (TG), one was found 5/10 (PAMC) in the Troy area (RY), and one 5/26 on Barclay Mt. (TG). A number of singing **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were observed: 5/7 along the Schrader Creek, Cahill Mt. side (TG), 5/10 (PAMC) at Barclay Mt. (TG, NR); 5/13 on Cahill Mt., 5/26 on Barclay Mt, and on 5/28, many were singing on Kellogg Mt. (TG). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were countersinging 5/7 along the Schrader Creek, Cahill Mt. side, and one was on Barclay Mt. 5/26 (TG). Seldom reported in the county, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was singing on Kellogg Mt 5/28 (TG). Reported less than previous years, a **Northern Waterthrush** was observed 5/10 on the PAMC in the Troy area (RY), and on 5/14 on PHR (TG). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** continue to be very evident with many singing individuals heard beginning 4/22 (TG, SF, NR, MB, JP, MP). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing 5/26 on the road up to Barclay Mt. from Leroy, and two were countersinging on Cahill Mt. in recently timbered forest (TG). Observations of **Hooded Warblers** were 5/10 (PAMC) in the Towanda/Monroeton area (BF) and one singing 5/28 on Kellogg Mt. (TG). Two **Canada Warblers** were singing on the top of Kellogg Mt. 5/28 (TG).

**Snow Buntings** were in a mixed flock of 100+ with **Horned Larks** at Sopertown Rd. on 2/14 (BL), and a flock of 25 was at Litchfield 3/4 (DR). Two **Orchard Orioles** were seen on 5/10 (PAMC) in the Troy area (RY). The winter influx of **Common Redpolls** continued into spring but numbers tapered off throughout Mar: 3/1-22 at a Peck Hill feeder (AV, GV), 60 near New Era on 3/1 (TG), 2 at a Woods Rd. feeder (CM, GM) 3/24, one at Hollenback (MB, NB), 30 at ESM on 3/25 (RG), one at a Hollenback feeder (MB, NB) 4/3 and 4/6, 3 at a Woods Rd. feeder 4/4 and 4/7 (CM, GM), and one 4/7 at the Hollenback feeder (MB, NB).

After only a few reports of **Pine Siskins** during the winter, there were a number of reports this spring: one at Woods Rd. 4/4 (CM, GM), one at a feeder at Rt. 220 near town of Kellogg (TG), 2 on 4/12, one 4/21, 7 on 5/3 and 20 on 5/10 (PAMC) all at Woods Rd. (CM, GM), 5 on 5/21 and 9 on 5/22 at a Sayre feeder (DP, SP).

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**Bucks County**

Locations: Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #157 (SGL157), Warminster Community Park (WCP).

Mild weather almost 4°F above normal in March meant no ice on lakes and thus low numbers of staging waterfowl. Shorebird stopover sites were limited by high water levels most of the period, with total rainfall being about 0.5" above normal. The only reliable shorebird habitat was on private property at PWT, and good variety in small numbers occurred there. April was almost 3°F above normal and early Neotropical migrants arrived on time. A cool May, almost 3°F below normal with many days with unfavorable winds and some precipitation slowed things down. Thus, a good variety of migrants continued through at least 5/25. A major nor'easter occurred 5/12. As a result, the only significant widespread fallout day reported for numbers of Neotropical migrants was 5/3, but 5/25 was excellent as well at NSP (DFa). Nine

species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and fourteen remained later. Some of these late dates will be reported in the breeding season report but can be found on the spring season occurrence spreadsheet. A total of 241 species were reported in the three-month period compared to 233 last year, not including escapes and exotics.

The PAMC 5/10 had 57 participants, some participating in more than one area, providing 23 area reports totaling a record 172 species. The PAMC total of 1579 individuals of 29 warbler species was equal to the average for the previous 9 years. **Northern Shoveler**, **Greater Scaup**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, and **Little Gull** were all new to the county's PAMC cumulative species list.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA).

Waterfowl reports, among others, present an almost annual problem, as increasingly, various species are being reported when they should be long gone. It is difficult to know when a bird is still migrating, or for whatever reason, is not leaving. The occurrence chart requires dates, and undoubtedly many of the late dates this year and in past years are actually birds that are not moving on. So, as usual, not all dates can be categorized with certainty. Continuing a low year for **Greater White-fronted Goose** reports, the only report was one at PVP 3/3 (AM). Continuing the higher than normal winter reports of **Snow Goose**, a flock of approximately 2500 stopped in Warrington Twp. 3/20 (DW). The last migrant flock was reported 3/31 at New Hope (BHo), but as usual individual stragglers and non-migrating individuals were reported later, with the last May report being one at PWT present until 5/16 (DFa). The last **Cackling Goose** reported was at PVP 3/4 (AM). The **Canada Goose** egg oiling by the USDA Wildlife Services Division, contracted for the last several years by the county, basically eliminated hatchlings at PVP this year. The only high **Tundra Swan** count came from CVP, where 50 stopped 3/11 (GB). Three stopped at PVP 3/13 (RFo), and one was at CVP the same day (BK).

**Northern Shoveler** lingered at CVP until 5/17 (BK), providing a new late departure date. Two male **Green-winged Teal** were regularly seen through the end of the period at PWT, surpassing the previous spring late date (DFa). This species was believed to have bred in that area in 2001. A total of 11 **Canvasbacks** at 6 sites were reported between 3/4 and 4/6 (m. obs.), which is consistent with its limited occurrence locally. Similarly, **Redheads** are scarce most years and thus always noteworthy. Five were at Falls Twp. 3/2 (TJ), 6 were noted at PWT 3/23 (DFa), and 4 stopped at PVP 4/5 (AM). The count of 242 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/10 at SGL 56 (JMi, AM) was the highest single site report as usual. A **Greater Scaup** at Pine Run Dam 5/10 (CC, EC) extended the spring late date two weeks beyond the previous date and was a first PAMC record for the county. A male and a female **Lesser Scaup** lingered at PWT through the end of the period (DFa), surpassing the previous spring late date. Three **Surf Scoters** 5/4 at NSP provided the only report (DFa). Two **White-winged Scoters** were reported at NSP 3/31 (DFa) and 4/3 (BE). One more dropped in there 4/27 (DFa). Eleven **Long-tailed Ducks** were recorded at 4 sites between 3/12 and 3/30 (RFe, BK, BE, Dfa). A male **Bufflehead** was late at PWT 5/18-19 (DFa). **Common Merganser** high counts continued through 3/4 with 1300 tallied at PVP (AM), but numbers dropped quickly thereafter. **Common Merganser** nested away from the Delaware River at MKF along the Pidcock Creek in a **Wood Duck** box (RS, VS). Juveniles were seen on the creek 5/31. A count of 145 **Ruddy Ducks** 3/28 at Falls Twp. Community Park (BK) was the highest count reported.

Again, no **Ruffed Grouse** were reported. Two **Northern Bobwhite** were in Falls Twp. for the PAMC 5/10. A count of 14 **Common Loons** 5/3 at PWT (DFa) may have been the last notable fallout; 10 were tallied for the PAMC 5/10, but stragglers continued with the last May report being 2 flying over SGL157 5/26 (AM, JMi). A record 4 late **Horned Grebes** were tallied on the PAMC 5/10 (BE, Dfa), but even later individuals were at PWT (DFa) and at PVP (AM), both 5/19. The highest count reported was 21 at NSP 3/20 (BE). One **Red-necked Grebe** 3/1 at PVP (CC) was the only report. **Double-crested Cormorant** continues to be an abundant migrant with a peak of 200+ at PVP 4/28, the same day a peak count was made last year (AM). An adult **Great Cormorant** lingered at Rohm and Haas, Bristol, to 6/1, passing the previous spring late date (DFa). **American Bittern** migrants, often multiple birds, were noted leaving QTS on several evenings 3/30-5/10 (BE, Dfa). A count of all **Great Blue Heron** colonies was not completed this year. Reports received include: Prahls

Island, one (AM), PWT, zero (DFa), QTS, 17 (RH), near NSP just outside the park, 26 (BE), Richland Twp., at least 30 (BE), E. Rockhill Twp., not counted, Springtown, 10 (LS), and Upper Makefield Twp., one (BK). Despite observations of **Great Blue Herons** carrying sticks and fish at PVP, no nests were located. The PAMC count for this species was 130, far surpassing the previous high of 79, reflecting the breeding success of this species in the county. There were a total of about 16 **Great Egret** reports 4/20-5/27, including 8 on the PAMC 5/10 (m. obs.). Most were from the southern part of the county. The only **Snowy Egret** report came from Core Creek Park 5/31-6/1 (DFa). Up to 3 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were noted at PWT 3/22-23 (DFa) for the spring's first report, followed by one 3/27 at NSP (BE). Three stopped at PVP 4/19 (DP). One to two were reported at CVP 4/20-5/31 (MC, BK, VD), and 4 were at Silver Lake Park 5/10 (PAMC). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at CVP 4/20 (BK), continuing our string of near-annual reports of this species formerly considered accidental. A **Glossy Ibis** was at Bradford Dam 4/19 (GJ), and another stopped in Bedminster Twp. 5/12 (JHu). **Ospreys** returned to nests at Riegelsville (DFa) and Mudd Island (BK). A pair at PWT started but did not finish a nest for the second year in a row (DFa).

Although seen briefly, a probable **Mississippi Kite** passed SGL157 4/13 (BK). Another was unequivocally reported there 5/24 (CC, EC). This has been a good place to see this species in recent years. Our two existing **Bald Eagle** nests at Core Creek Park and Lynn Island were both active, but the Core Creek Park nest failed (GD). The Lynn Island nest had 3 healthy young in late May (AK). A new nest in New Britain Township on private property was reported in early Mar but failed (JMo). Plumage indicated both parent birds were just reaching adult status and thus more likely to fail in their attempt. A nest at NSP could not be confirmed. A **Northern Goshawk** was reported from NSP 4/7 (DFa) and SGL157 4/23 (BE), providing a new spring late date. The wintering all white **Red-tailed Hawk** in Milford Twp. continued to at least 3/17 (fide RFo). A **Rough-legged Hawk** near Quakertown 3/12 was the only report (GG). A late **Merlin** passed Bradford Dam 5/21 (RFR). The Turnpike Bridge **Peregrine Falcon** pair raised 4 young, which were banded 5/27 (AMc). A new pair nested on the NJ side of Scudders Falls Bridge, but that nest failed, and they decided to try the *Bucks* side for their second attempt, with the outcome yet to be determined (AMc). Another pair nested on the New Jersey side of the Burlington-Bristol Bridge (AMc). Two soaring over a Warrington Twp. quarry 5/25 were unexpected (FRr). A **King Rail** was heard at QTS on several nights in late Apr through 5/4 (DFa). After a report in early Jan, **Virginia Rails** were not reported until 4/7 at QTS (BE). **Sora** was heard starting 4/17 at QTS (DFa). Two were found at PWT starting 5/5, two were reported at NSP starting 5/10 (BE, Dfa), and 2 may have been resident in a catch basin 5/18 in Plumstead Twp. (CW). The Warwick catch basin pair from last year did not return (CW). **Common Moorhen** was again found at US Steel, Falls Twp. 5/10, where they nested for at least the past two years (ABi, NB, Dfa), and one was seen at SG 56 on 5/31 (GJ).

Very good shorebird habitat was available at the private PWT. It had a steady flow of shorebirds, although most daily counts of each species were generally in the single digits. A total of 22 shorebird species was reported for the period. Four **Black-bellied Plovers** at PWT 5/9, furnished a new spring early arrival date, with one or 2 noted on 3 dates through 5/31 (DFa). MKF provided the highest count report for **Killdeer**, with 47 on 3/31 (RS, VS). Two **Black-necked Stilts** stopped at PWT 5/16 after a rain, to provide the county's first ever report and top rarity of the season (DFa). The lack of previous reports is surprising considering our proximity to Delaware Bay. A count of 35 **Solitary Sandpipers** at Core Creek Park 5/8 was a noteworthy single site high count (BK). A **Greater Yellowlegs** stopped at PVP 3/11 (AM), and the same or another was there 3/19 (CR). Both dates are earlier than the previous spring early arrival dates. A high count of 58 each of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** was made 5/3 at PWT (DFa). Two unusually late **Upland Sandpipers** were at MKF 5/7 (RS, VS), for one of very few recent records in the county. There have been only about 10 reports in the past 40 years. A **Ruddy Turnstone** stopped at PWT 5/9 (DFa). Two **Sanderlings** were added to the list for PWT 5/16 (DFa). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at PWT 5/3 provided a new spring early date. Not surprising, **Least Sandpiper** ranked best in terms of number of individuals, with 200+ each at PWT 5/3 (DFa) and Bradford Dam 5/10 (RFR). One to two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at PWT starting 5/16 through the end of the period (DFa). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at PWT 3/22 (DFa) was the earliest spring arrival date on record. **Dunlin** was also present there from 5/3 through the end of the period, with a peak of 10 on 5/20 (DFa). One to two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at

PWT 5/9-20 (DFa). A **Wilson's Phalarope** at PWT 5/9 was only about our 10th county report (DFa). A female **Red-necked Phalarope** 5/12 at NSP was carried in by the nor'easter (JHo), but it spent all day too far away to really be appreciated. For the second year in a row, **Wilson's Snipe** was reported all winter, and reports were unusually high for migrants throughout Mar and into Apr from multiple sites (m. obs.). The last report came from Buckingham Wetlands 5/13 (RH). **American Woodcock** was first noted 2/28 at PVP (fide KK).

About 1500 **Laughing Gulls** were at PWT 5/31 (DFa). The observer noted mating displays and copulation and hopes that nesting may be proven here someday. A first summer **Little Gull** was with a flock of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at PWT 5/5-10, for only the fourth county report (DFa). **Bonaparte's Gull** lingered through the end of the season at PWT (DFa). A probable **Thayer's Gull** was again reported from PWT 3/23 (DFa). An **Iceland Gull** was a nice addition to the MKF yard list 3/20-4/1 (RS, VS). Besides the Tullytown area, NSP continues to be the most reliable **Iceland Gull** location, with a peak count of 5 on 3/2 (BE). CVP also had one throughout Mar, and PVP had one 3/29 (AM). Two were still at PWT 5/3 (DFa) for the last report. The highest report of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** came 3/2, with 254 at NSP and 104 at PVP (TJ). NSP alone had 279 on 3/24 (BE). Two **Glaucous Gulls** were also last seen 5/3 at PWT (DFa). **Caspian Tern** was noted only at PWT, with one each 5/20 and 5/31 (DFa). Always a good find locally, a storm brought one **Black Tern** to PVP 5/9 (RFo) and 2 to PWT 5/9-10 (DFa). The 4/28 storm brought 24 **Common Terns** to PVP (DFa), a count about as high as we ever get here. Two more were noted at PWT 5/9 (DFa). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at PVP 4/30 (HMc) provided a new spring early date. **Barn Owl** went unreported again. **Barred Owl** was heard at two sites in the upper county in Mar (DFa). The last **Long-eared Owl** was reported 4/18 at PVP (VR), a new spring late date, although they formerly were known to breed here. Two **Short-eared Owls** in Bedminster Twp. were last reported 3/1 (DFa). Rarely spotted migrating during the day, two such reports came from QTS, the last being 2 on 4/16 (BE, DFa). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reports were one at PVP 3/11-17 (AM) and one at Bedminster Twp. 3/28 (BE).

**Chimney Swift** numbers have been trending downward. The PAMC count of 100 compares to the previous 9 year average of 274. Thus, a single site count of approximately 200 at Morrisville 5/21 is noteworthy. The recent only known breeding site for **Red-headed Woodpecker** at SGL157 appeared to have only one bird through the period (m. obs.). A second site with a pair was found 5/10 about a mile away at the NSP/SGL157 border (BE). A probable wintering pair was found in Quakertown in Mar (TB) and was last reported 4/29 (AM), and another pair not previously known until now, appears to be resident in Tinicum Twp. for the second year (DFa, DA). High winter numbers of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** carried over into Apr (m. obs.), with the last at SGL157 on 4/13 (BK). An **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL157 5/24-28 (CC, EC, BSh) was the only one reported. Noteworthy is the possible increased reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** in previously unoccupied areas. At least one was regular through the period at PVP where infrequent reports have only occurred the last few years (m. obs.), and one was spotted at Tyler State Park 5/25, a first for the observer there (GD). A PAMC record of 12 may be an indicator of increased numbers. They are rare in the southern part of the county. SGL157 had at least 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** 5/24-25 (DFa, BE), and one was also at PVP 5/24 (MH, ML) for the only reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported at PVP 5/19-5/24 (AM, JMi) and SGL157 5/21-26 (DFa, AM, JMi). A **Least Flycatcher** at PVP 5/3 (DW), provided a new spring early date. Surprisingly **Northern Shrike** went unreported after Jan. The first **Loggerhead Shrike** reported here in over two decades was at Perkasio 5/5 (RFe). This is only the eighth known county report. A rare spring **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from CVP 5/24 (SF). Following the rash of winter reports, **Common Raven** continued in the NSP area, with the final result being two birds carrying sticks into a quarry to a probable nest site in late Mar (DFa). Sightings were few thereafter, and the last sighting at NSP was 5/10 (BE), so the actual outcome is unknown. This would be the first known breeding in the county. The area was well posted with no trespassing signs, making it nearly impossible to provide more confirmation. Access was permitted once but the observers were not allowed to go where they thought the nest was. Other sightings near the marina area at NSP may indicate more birds present. The small flock of 10 or less **Horned Larks** continued at WCP area until at least 3/31 (HD), and was last noted at MKF 4/5 (RS).

The 18th season for the Upper Makefield Twp. **Purple Martin** colony started 4/12, with the arrival of 3 birds (JMa). Only 7 **Bank Swallows** were recorded on PAMC 5/10 and they were scarce in

general. We lost our largest colony in Tinicum Twp. to one of the Delaware River floods in the past couple of years and landowner alteration of the site. Although the last report from the winter invasion of **Black-capped Chickadee** came 4/3 at PVP (AM), PAMC produced 2 from the northern part of the county. Field DNA kits are needed when it comes to determining the status of this species locally. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports continued until 5/5 (m. obs.). A **Marsh Wren** was detected 3/18 at Buckingham Wetlands, providing a new spring early arrival date. Another was in the CVP area for PAMC 5/10, and one stopped at PVP 5/18 (AM, JMi) in a small cattail patch. A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** was photographed and heard at Bowman's Hill 5/22 (DFa). No unusual *Catharus* thrush fallouts were reported, with numbers generally low except for our two local breeders. After high winter counts of **American Pipits**, MKF still had 60 4/18 (RS, VS), with the last straggler 5/14 (RS, VS).

A total of 31 warbler species was reported. **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Warbler** were missed, with the latter apparently missing from all its former breeding sites again. In addition, the PAMC missed **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, and **Mourning Warbler**, all of which were barely reported for the season. A **Tennessee Warbler** at SGL157 5/25 (DFa) furnished a new spring late departure date. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a rare spring find at Hidden Lake 5/2 (BK). A new spring early arrival date was recorded for **Northern Parula** 4/15 at CVP (MC). The PAMC tally for **Cape May Warbler** matched the previous high of only 5, a good indication of how difficult it is to find this species here. One of these lingered at NSP to 5/11 (DFa) for the only other report. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/25 at NSP (DFa) provided a new spring late date. Two **Cerulean Warblers** were reported on the PAMC 5/10, with only two other reports with dates not recorded (DFa, GG). This species was again missing from all previous breeding sites. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were at US Steel, Falls Twp. 5/10 (DFa). Another was found 5/27 at PVP (JT), and was carrying nesting material into a hole 5/28 (AM). **Mourning Warbler** was noted at Tyler State Park 5/22 (BSh, NZ), and one each was at SGL157 5/24, PVP 5/24, and NSP 5/25 (all DFa). The probably wintering **Yellow-breasted Chat** at CVP that was found at the end of Feb continued until at least 4/25 (BK). The tally of 5 on the PAMC matched the previous PAMC high count. The year-to-year report fluctuations of this species are a mystery but generally, it is now a rare bird here.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported at Tinicum Twp. 5/11 (DFa), and one was at WCP (HE). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MKF 5/14 (RS, VS), and one lingered at PVP 5/18-23 (AM, JMi). **White-throated Sparrows** were late and still being reported in the second half of May, with last reports on 5/31 at Warminster Twp. (CW) and Rushland (SC). A **gambelii White-crowned Sparrow** was confirmed by a photo at PVP 3/7, and last reported 3/8 (AM, HE). To my knowledge, if there have been previous reports, they have not been documented. An unusual number of **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported into May (m. obs.), including a PAMC record 14, with the last at Doylestown on 5/14 (LW). The PAMC previous 9-year average was less than two. Five **Snow Buntings** in the WCP area continued until at least 3/2 (BK). A **Blue Grosbeak** returned to MKF 5/8 (RS, VS), and one was first noted at PWT 5/16, where they are expected (DFa). This species' status has been historically rare or occasional here with no apparent change. A male **Indigo Bunting** at Tyler State Park 3/28 (MC), seen well from a range of only 12 feet, provided a new, amazingly early spring arrival date and would be considered extremely early anywhere in the state. After Dec, there were no reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** until 2 were noted at WCP 3/6 (GJ). A flock of 90 **Rusty Blackbirds** 4/1 at Quakertown (NT) was unusual for its size and location away from the swamp. A conservative count of 390 at QTS 4/7 was a very nice high even for this regular location (BE). A female blackbird in the blackbird flock at QTS 4/9 was identified as a **Brewer's Blackbird** due to its dark eyes (BE). This is one of very few reports of this species in the county. The PAMC yielded 297 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, a new record compared to the previous 9 year average of 200. This is not surprising for anyone doing the Breeding Bird Atlas who has seen so many of our locally fragile species feeding cowbird young. Surviving its fourth winter in New Hope, the **Baltimore Oriole** left 4/8, 6 days earlier than last year (SM). One in Warminster Twp. 3/10 (DA) may have also been wintering. Large counts of **Purple Finch** continued at upper county feeders through late Apr, with 25 in Kintnersville 4/20 (CE) and 40 in Upper Black Eddy 4/21 (KH). The last report was of 2 on the PAMC 5/10. Interesting photos of a yellow variant female or first year male **Purple Finch** were taken at Kintnersville 4/20 (CE, LS). Although apparently well documented elsewhere, I am not aware of having any like this

reported locally.

**EXOTICS:** An **Egyptian Goose** was near Five Mile Woods 3/27 (MD).

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### **Butler County**

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Township (SRT).

This report period was simply a continuation of winter. Even May was unusually cold, cloudy, windy, and rainy with a total of 4.75 inches recorded for the month in SRB. Severe eastern wind and rainstorms pounded the county the weekends of 5/2-4 and 5/9-11, forcing avian migrants to land south of the county both weekends. Then, with favorable weather returning, the migrants apparently overflowed the county accompanied by newer migrants pushing them northward.

This particular spring migration process, in fact, resulted in many bird groups being missed on the annual PAMC 5/10 including, with a few exceptions, rails, shorebirds, gulls, terns, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers and sparrows. A continuous early morning rain on 5/10 and a low cloud ceiling around dawn discouraged normal avian vocalization among the recently arrived and resident breeders. The only high point of the day was the surprising appearance of three rare species, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll**, never recorded on a former PAMC. In all probability the flycatcher and grosbeak were blown within the gale-like northeastern winds that occurred Friday 5/9 afternoon into Friday night throughout western Pennsylvania. In large measure, this storm system played a major role in the paucity of species on the 2008 PAMC because many species and individuals were caught by the storm and flew with it and over this part of western Pennsylvania. Number of species (113) and individuals (1629) were far below previous PAMC averages and several species, although known to be here, were simply missed that day.

LA and MSP continued to be the traditional birding hot spots in the county, although PF and SRB had their share of unusual avian occurrences. On 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and like magic on 3/28, 15 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 3 **Red-throated Loons**, and 55 **Common Loons** were observed (DD). Even more surprising were 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** that constituted the first county record (DD). On 3/29 at least 8 **Tundra Swans**, 2 **Canvasbacks**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 4 **Common Goldeneyes**, and 3 **Red-throated** and 70+ **Common Loons** were present as were apparently the same 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** of 3/28, one adult and one second winter bird (MV).

There has been an explosion in breeding pairs of **Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** in western Pennsylvania the past few years, and 2008 was no exception. Predictions by this compiler in 2004 indicated that it was just a matter of time until these raptors would breed in proximity to the county's streams. This year they did so along Slippery Rock and Wolf Creeks. Two nearby telecommunication towers provided the nest sites for the Ospreys, and the Bald Eagles nested in tall white pines close by.

I had numerous telephone calls and emails stating that people have observed adult Bald Eagles attacking adult Ospreys in mid-air as the birds approached their nests, forcing the latter to release their caught fish and the eagles snatching the prey without too much difficulty. This is the first spring in 35 years that I can recall hearing Bald Eagles screaming almost daily above SRB and SRT. Two active **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests, one active **Broad-winged Hawk** nest, and one active **Red-tailed Hawk** nest were again monitored in PF and SRB this spring, but the traditional pair of nesting **Cooper's Hawks** was absent (GW et al).

Encouraging were 10 reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in the northern part of the county. The **Purple Martin**, usually the second swallow species to arrive in spring, had a rough time in May when freezing temperatures killed their insect prey. Many died even with attempts by birders at feeding the martins scrambled eggs. A total of 63 pairs produced 314 eggs, of which 285 hatched and 269 fledged (and 7 dozen chicken eggs were scrambled) (DK). **Northern Mockingbird** was reported in five spots in the extreme northern portion of the county.

Weather apparently can also have positive results in the avian world. The extended cool and wet spring induced more northerly inclined species to establish territories and attempt to nest, such as **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (one pair), **Blue-headed Vireo** (one pair), **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (2 pairs), **Brown Creeper** (one pair), **Winter Wren** (one pair), **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (one pair), and **Northern Waterthrush** (one pair). The unusual aspect about these nesting sites is that the combined habitat consisting of human planted black spruce plantation adjoining an old growth deciduous palustrine forest with emergent cattail and skunk cabbage wetlands resembles the habitats of north central Pennsylvania and southwestern New York. Although a couple of these species nested in these sites previously, 2008 is the first breeding season that all of these species nested at the same time.

The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** on 5/10 was a male bird observed just 20 feet away at eye level in MW on Wolf Creek in SRT. The bird was a beautiful empidonax flycatcher with a distinct yellow eye-ring, throat, breast, belly and undertail coverts, two yellow wing bars, and even a bright yellow bill. The bird repeatedly sang *chu-wee!* for 10 minutes, was unafraid of observers, and remained perched the whole time of observation. On the other hand, the male **Blue Grosbeak** was on the ground below a bird feeder filled with black sunflower seeds. It apparently was traveling with 2 male **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** that were feeding above him on the feeder. The bird's distinct dark blue body, the size of the 2 male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, with a thick gray-bluish bill and 2 broad, brown wing bars, clinched the identification. The bird uttered a sharp chink call note several times (BO, PO). It was gone early the next morning.

This season, 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** returned on 5/10 to MSP for the first time in nearly five years. On the whole, far fewer **Grasshopper Sparrows** returned this season to breed, but the density of **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** was higher than average due to plenty of precipitation and dense orchard grass.

Finally, a lone male **Common Redpoll**, found in a small flock of 8 **American Goldfinches** on the south shore of MSP, was feeding on dandelion seeds along the South Shore Beach parking lot and remained within 15 feet of observers for 10 minutes. The bird's bright red cap on the forehead, black chin, pink breast, brown-streaked back and flanks and 2 white-wing bars identified the bird as a male (GW). At least 50 **Common Redpolls** spent the winter and early spring (late Apr) in MSP.

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### **Cambria County**

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

Waterfowl migration at PG was one of the best in recent years. The ice was late in leaving but the highlights were **Northern Shovelers**, **Canvasbacks**, **Redheads**, **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup**. The **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads** were seen in greater numbers than other

years (JS).

A **Great Egret** was seen in late Mar at PG (DG). A **Rough-Legged Hawk** was at PT 3/22 (JS). **Virginia Rails** and **Sora** were seen at PG 4/24 (JS). Shorebirds were rare this year due to high water at PG.

**Forster's Terns** and **Black Terns** were seen at PG during the period (DG, JS). A **Northern Shrike** was at PG from Feb to 4/10 (JS). **Veeries** were seen at STL 5/10 (DG).

Warbler migration was fair. A **Kentucky Warbler** at STL 5/10 was a good find. The colder weather in May seemed to limit the sightings of our grassland sparrows, we hope this is only temporary.

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

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### Cameron County

No Compiler.

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### Carbon County

No Report.

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

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### Centre County

**Locations:** Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bear Meadows (BEM), Bellefonte, Black Moshannon Creek Bog, Centre Furnace Duck Pond (DP), Colyer Lake (COL), Curtin Wetland (CW), Fairbrook Park (FP), Halfmoon Valley (HV), Howard, Lederer Park(LP), Miles Hollow Rd at Julian (MH), Linden Hall (LH), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Panther grasslands (PG), Penn State Retention Pond (RET), Poe Valley (PV), Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens Pond (SBP), Sinking Creek (SC), Spring Mills Rt 45 Marsh aka Muddy Paws Marsh (SM45), State College (SC), Stormstown (ST), Tadpole Rd. (TR), Toftrees Pond and adjacent areas (TOF), Williams Road (WR).

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@lists.psu.edu>.

Rare or uncommon species reported below: **Cackling Goose, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Merlin, Common Tern, and Olive-sided Flycatcher.**

Waterfowl during this period were observed mainly at four well-known local ponds and lakes. The following waterfowl were reported at DP from 3/1 to 5/4 by several observers at various times: **Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Common Goldeneye** (AW, BJ, DG, NM, NAB, MH, JV).

The following waterfowl were reported at Retention Pond 3/15-22 by several observers at various times: **Canada Geese, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck** (JV, NAB).

The following waterfowl were reported at Colyer from 3/11 to 4/12 by several observers at various times: **Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Canada Goose** (500+ on 3/12), **Tundra Swan** (95 on 3/12), **Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-Necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck** (NK, BK, TA, MH, NK, AW, CG, JD, LR).

The following waterfowl were reported at BESP (the largest body of water in the county) from 3/6 to 4/13 by several observers at various times: **Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Snow Goose, Canada Goose** (1130 on 3/18), **Cackling Goose, Tundra Swan** (600+ on 3/3), **Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck,**

**Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup** (955 on 3/20), **White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Ducks** (581 on 3/28), **Bufflehead** (300+ on 3/20), **Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck** (TA, DG, GG, JD, MH, MN, NB, AW, SP, NAB, BS, JV, GSY).

An **American Bittern** was seen at SM45 Marsh 5/5 (DG). Over 1000 **Canada Geese** were seen early in the evening at SBP 3/23 (JV). A flock of 6 **Brant** was seen flying over Halfmoon Valley 3/6 (DB). A late male **Surf Scoter** seen on the lake at Poe Valley 5/9-13 (RB), and one was at the TOF pond 3/20 (MB). Forty **Tundra Swans** were found on the TOF pond 3/3 (JV), and several were sitting on the hill by the pond on Old Gatesburg Rd. 3/9 (CW). At least fifty **Wood Ducks** were observed at SM45 on 3/31 (DG).

Four **Osprey** were seen at COL 4/2 (JD). **Bald Eagle** chicks were clearly visible on the nest at BESP 4/13 (AW, SP). Several **Northern Harriers** were seen during this quarter: a pair was seen working the field north of Sinking Creek Road near the Rte. 144 intersection 3/9 (LR); a male was seen along Tadpole Rd. at Fairbrook 3/22 (AW); a female was seen quartering the same field that a male did previously 3/25 (AW); a female was seen two mornings working the fields along Route 45 west of Fairbrook 4/11 (BF); an adult male seen flying over Way's orchard near Stormstown was being harassed by Red-winged Blackbirds 5/4 (DB). A **Merlin** was discovered at TOF Pond 4/27 (DF) where a few other Merlin sightings have occurred over the past 10 years, and one was seen near the stop sign at the Shiloh Road exit 3/29 (RB). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew west across the road about 60 ft above the observer about three miles west of the Bellefonte interchange of I-80 in atlas block 62A33, 5/26 (NB).

Three **Soras** were heard at JUL 4/28 (AW); three were calling from different points in the north pool at JUL 5/11 (NAB); one called 4 or 5 times at JUL 5/12 (JL); one was heard at MM 4/28 (AW); one at the SM45 on 5/5 (DG); two were calling from both sides of Miles Hollow Rd, Julian 5/21 (GG). A flock of 41 **Willetts** were seen by several people at JUL 4/28 (AW); according to *The Birds of Pennsylvania* (G. McWilliams and D. Brauning, 2000), the largest flock of Willetts recorded in PA at the time of publication was 12 at Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana*, on 4/30/1991.

One or two winnowing **Wilson's Snipe** were heard above the Black Moshannon Creek Bog 5/7, where they have been observed in second half of each April since 2003 (NB). A flock of 52 **Wilson's Snipe** were found along Tadpole Rd. at Fairbrook 3/22 (AW), and three were flushed at JUL 3/29 (BS).

A **Northern Shrike** was seen perched in the middle of the open area of Bear Meadows Bog 3/2 (AW). From an office window South Atherton St., State College, a pair of **American Crows** was seen constructing a nest on the early date of 3/12 (TP); at the same nest, two fledglings were seen on a branch stretching their wings and begging for food 5/22 (TP). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in a fence-row treeline on Williams Rd. near Airport Rd. 5/4 (JD) and 5/27 (CM, MS).

Three **Forster's Terns** were observed at COL 4/8 (MH). At BESP, a **Common Tern** was discovered 4/11 (GSY), and one (probably the same one) was seen 4/12 (TA). Three **Caspian Terns** were seen 4/12 (TA).

A **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling NE of Snow Shoe in the Breeding Bird Atlas region 48, partly in the Panther grasslands 4/15 (GG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was heard at MM 5/13 (NAB). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were seen at Lederer Park along the Arboretum Trail 5/17 (JV, MO), and two more were seen at the same location 5/23 (JV). A **Philadelphia Vireo** and a **White-eyed Vireo** were seen at TOF 5/22 (RS), and a **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at TOF 5/25 (JV, SF). Four **Purple Martins** were observed flying high over head, along with some **Chimney Swifts** at Howard 4/7 (BS). **Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and five Northern Waterthrushes** were seen at TOF 5/22 (RS).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was heard singing somewhere in a corn field about 1/4 mile west of Fairbrook Park 4/14 (BF), and a couple were heard singing near Old Gatesburg Road 5/24 (AW). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found near COL 4/10 (NK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found near COL 4/15 (JV). A pair of **Fox Sparrows** were seen at a feeder on Ridge Ave., State College 3/5 (NK), one was observed in Howard 3/9 (BS), and one in Boalsburg 3/10 (AM). Four singing **White-crowned Sparrows** were found in a cornfield hedgerow about 3/4 mile west of Fairbrook Park 4/24 (BF).

Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at MM 3/8 (NAB), and at least 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** (probably many more) were mixed among thousands of blackbirds along Tadpole Road at Fairbrook 3/22 (AW).

Part of Ridge Ave. in State College was a roosting and staging area for large flocks of **European Starlings**, **American Robins**, **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. Birds would begin arriving at street side oak trees about half an hour before dark and then Robins would move to Hemlocks in the local area, and other species would fly off to areas yet unknown. Flocks became mixed upon arrival, so it was difficult to estimate individual numbers of each species. The total was estimated to be at least 1000 individuals 3/9, and 3000 on 3/11 (NK).

An **Orchard Oriole** was seen at Curtin Wetland 4/26 (BS), at Linden Hall 5/24 (AW), and an immature male at JUL 5/29 (NAB). Several **Common Redpolls** were visiting Nyjer feeders daily in Howard 3/3 (BS), one was seen at another feeder in State College 3/23 (JC), and about 40 were busy feeding at thistle and sunflower seed feeders at Brush Mtn 3/30 (CH). About 16 **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen at a Sinking Creek feeder 3/3 (LR), and were seen again 4/4 (LR).

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### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Preserve (BTPR), Chamber's Lake (CHLA), Church Farm School (CFS), Coatesville Res. (CORES), Honeybrook Sewage Treatment Plant (HBSTP), Kurtz Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek S. P. (MCSP), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Struble Lake (STLA), White Clay Creek (WCC).

This spring was abnormally cool and wet. Most migrants arrived on or around their normal dates. Several rarities and unusual species were noted including **Cackling Goose**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Least Bittern**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Marsh Wren**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Red Crossbill** and **Evening Grosbeak**. Thirty-one species of warblers were found and a few "northern finches" lingered. Approximately 205 species were recorded this season.

Migrating flocks of **Snow Geese** were evident passing over the county during the first two weeks of Mar. A flock of 400 was seen over WCC 3/3 (AL) and 360 were noted over West Goshen Twp 3/4 (NP). Close scrutiny of migrant **Canada Goose** flocks over West Goshen Twp. turned up one **Cackling Goose** 3/4 and 2 on 3/13 (NP). A lone **Cackling Goose** was seen feeding with Canadas in a farm field in Westtown Twp. 3/1 (NP). *Chester's* lakes occasionally provide resting areas for **Tundra Swans** winging their way north from their Chesapeake Bay wintering grounds. Twelve were at CHLA 3/12 (HM) and 23 were at STLA 3/14 (NP, AG). **Wood Ducks** arrived 3/3 when 4 were noted at Waterloo Mills, Willistown Twp. (KF). A high of 22 were in the King Ranch area 5/10 (BBy, et al.). Small numbers of **Gadwalls** were found at several lakes 3/14-25 (m. obs.). It was a good spring for **American Wigeon** with 83 at KFH 3/14 (NP, AG) and 80 at HBSTP 3/16 (LW). The only report of **Blue-winged Teal** was of 2 at Black Rock Sanctuary 4/15-19 (RK). There were scattered reports of **Northern Shovelers** 3/14-28 (m. obs.) with a high of only 6 at HBSTP 3/16 (LW). The last of the wintering **Northern Pintails** were observed at STLA 3/14 (NP, AG). **Green-winged Teal** were in good numbers 3/8-4/25. High counts were 30 at STLA 3/14 (NP, AG) and 37 at CHLA, 3/16 (PF).

**Canvasbacks** continued their good numbers from the winter season with 17 at the Uwchlan Twp. Water Treatment Plant 3/14 (NP, AG). A late individual was noted at Longwood Gardens 4/5 (CM, et al.). **Redheads** were found 3/1-24 (m. obs.) with a high of 6 at the Uwchlan Twp. Water Treatment Plant 3/14 (NP, AG). **Ring-necked Duck** is one the more numerous diving ducks to grace the county's lakes both in winter and spring. High counts included 131 at the Uwchlan Twp. Water Treatment Plant 3/14 (NP, AG), 191 at KFH 3/14 (NP, AG) and 305 at KFH 3/25 (PF). A late individual was on the PAMC 5/10. **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** continued their presence at all lakes through 4/11 (m. obs.). A late **Greater Scaup** was found on the PAMC 5/10. **White-winged Scoter**, a rare, irregular migrant, was at MCSP 3/3-10 (HM, BBI). **Buffleheads** remained in good numbers from the winter season

with a high of 20 at Westtown Lake 4/2 (TS). A lingering individual was at a pond in Longwood Gardens 5/24 (CM, et al.). The last of the winter's **Common Goldeneyes** were at MCSP 3/14 (NP, AG). Wintering **Hooded Mergansers** were present throughout the county with the last bird noted at Black Rock Sanctuary 4/18 (RK). A late **Common Merganser** was at KFH 5/3 (LL). A heavy rainstorm 3/19 produced a fall-out of **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MCSP when 48 were counted (LL). This is probably a county record high count. An additional 10 were at CHLA the same date (LL). **Ruddy Ducks** remained in good numbers from the previous season. High counts included 59 at MCSP 3/14 (NP, AG) and 65 at STLA 3/30 (NP). The last individual reported was at Longwood Gardens 5/17 (CM, et al.).

Reports of single **Wild Turkeys** were received from MCSP 5/10 (BBI), Welkinweir 5/11 (EW, RW) and North Coventry Twp. 5/16 (SK). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard calling at MCSP 3/15 (NP, SP) and another of this decreasing species was found at WCC 5/7 (AG). **Northern Bobwhite**, another species in serious decline, was also at WCC 5/7 (AG).

The spring migration of **Common Loons** in the county commenced 3/7 with a single bird at CHLA (JL). The single-observer high count was 9 at MCSP 4/28 (CC). Single birds continued there until at least 5/16 (NP). **Pied-billed Grebe** numbers slowly increased from the winter season to a single observer high of 9 at MCSP 3/14 (JM). This species was also present at KFH and STLA (m. obs.). **Horned Grebes** were found at most county lakes with a high of at MCSP 3/14 (NP, AG). Three were still present at this location 5/14-16 (NP, JM). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at Black Rock Sanctuary 3/22 (VS). The peak of their passage was 4/28 when 50 were counted over Longwood Gardens (CM, et al.). A few individuals could be found at MCSP and STLA through the end of the season. Two **Anhingas** were observed soaring over STLA 5/5 (LL), the best time of year to search for these wanderers from the south. This report constitutes the third county record.

A single **American Bittern** was noted flying over Hibernia Park 4/25 (JL) and up to two were present at Embreeville Marsh 5/3-17 (JM, NP). Single **Least Bitterns** were also at Embreeville 5/10-17 (JM, NP). Single **Great Egrets** were found at several locations including Chadd's Ford Marsh 3/27 (KF); Downingtown 4/4-6 (JH, JC); Chester Creek Restoration Area 4/20 (NP); CHLA 4/25 (JL); Embreeville Marsh 5/3 (NP). Up to 2 were at Longwood Gardens 5/6-26 (AG, CM, et al.). A high of five **Green Herons** were noted at BTPR 5/26 (NP, DE, AG). **Glossy Ibis** continues to be rare and regular in *Chester*. This year single birds, all one-day wonders, were in Atglen 4/3 (DS), Landenburg 5/5 (AL) and MCSP 5/14 (JM).

**Ospreys** arrived 3/24 when a single bird was seen in Landenburg (AL). Though the species has not been confirmed as a breeder in the county, it was noted until at least 5/27 (CM). The single-observer high for Osprey was 6 at MCSP 4/9 (JM). The Doe Run area held over several **Northern Harriers** from the winter season with a high of 10 on 3/19 (LL). A single **Northern Goshawk**, rare anywhere in the county, was at Longwood Gardens 3/10 and 3/24 (AG, CM, et al.). Two **Merlins** were regular visitors to CORES to at least 3/19 (LL). Singles were also found at Waterloo Mills 4/15 (KF) and Laurel's Preserve 5/10 (BBy). A good find for *Chester* was a **Peregrine Falcon** at STLA 3/12 (HM).

Single **Virginia Rails** were flushed at Embreeville Marsh 5/10 (JM) and 5/17 (NP). **Soras** were also noted there 5/3-17 (NP, JM). Another **Sora** was heard at CFS 5/18 (NP). High numbers of **American Coots** continued from the winter season at MCSP with 115 on 3/5 (BBI). This number swelled to 134 on 4/5 (NP). A very late individual was at Westtown L. 5/17 (TS). Rare at any season, **Sandhill Cranes** were found twice this season, at CHLA 4/13 (LW) and Myrick Preserve 5/22 (HM). Both reports were of birds in flight.

An irregular spring visitor, 9 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Octoraro L. 5/10 (CC). **Greater Yellowlegs** visited the county 4/5-5/10 (m. obs.) with a single-observer high of 6 at KFH 4/28 (CC). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present 4/29-5/10 (m. obs.). Eight were at Octoraro L. 5/10 (CC). **Solitary Sandpipers** were at lakes and rain pools 4/26-5/26 (m. obs.) with a high of 15 at Octoraro L. 5/10 (CC). **Spotted Sandpipers** returned 4/28. A high of 14 were noted at MCSP 5/14 (JM). **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, regular spring migrants in small numbers, was recorded twice. Single birds were found at Longwood Gardens (CM, et al.) and Octoraro L. (CC) both 5/10. **Least Sandpipers**, the most common spring "peep", were found 4/29-5/24 (m. obs.). A high of 200 were at Octoraro L. 5/10 (CC). The first northbound **Wilson's Snipe** was found 3/12 at CFS (JL). High counts included 21 at Embreeville 4/2 (NP, AG) and 16 at the same location 5/3 (NP).

**American Woodcocks** began displaying at MCSP 3/6 (BBI, et al.). Up to 8 were there 3/15 (NP, SP). The only report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was one at MCSP 4/12.

**Black-billed Cuckoos** arrived 5/3 and were reported widely thereafter (m. obs.), but **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were a bit late arriving 5/10. The **Long-eared Owl** roost at STLA held one bird until at least 5/5 (LL). Another visited Waterloo Mills 3/3-4/15 (KF, ph.). Three **Short-eared Owls** in the King Ranch area remained until 4/2 (m. obs.). Another was present at STLA 3/16-23 (LW, JT). The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** that wintered on the grounds of the Birmingham-Lafayette Cemetery was last seen 4/8 (m. obs.). Another was at BTPR 4/10-14 (AU, JS). **Common Nighthawks** were recorded at Phoenixville 5/15 (RK), Hibernia Park 5/18 (JL) and 2 in Westtown Twp. 5/25 (TS). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returned 4/20 and were then found throughout the county. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued in Honeybrook Twp (m. obs.) and another was found at Hibernia Park 4/8-4/20 (LW, et al.). There was a smattering of **Blue-headed Vireos**, all singles, reported from all corners of the county 4/11-27 (m. obs.).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches**, which staged a moderate invasion during the winter, lingered at feeders in West Goshen Twp. and Coatesville until 5/5 (m. obs.). A **House Wren** at Waterloo Mills 3/3 was probably an individual that overwintered (KF). The first migrants were noted 4/17 (NP). A very late **Winter Wren** was singing in a yard in Glenmore 5/23 (BBI). A single **Marsh Wren**, a rare, irregular migrant, was at Embreeville Marsh 5/3 (NP). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Oaklands Cemetery 5/18 (NP). There were few reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, all single birds, 5/14-26 (AL, JS, NP). A flock of 21 **American Pipits** was noted over STLA 3/14 (NP, AG) and few birds remained in nearby Honeybrook Twp 5/4 (LL). Numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** began to appear in early Apr with 30 in East Goshen Twp. 4/4 (NP). Good numbers continued through the season (m. obs.) with 31 at BTPR 5/26 (NP, AG, DE).

The only report of **Tennessee Warbler** was one in West Goshen Twp. 5/3 (NP). **Magnolia Warblers**, present 5/3-25, seemed more numerous than in previous years. Single observer high was 4 in West Goshen Twp. 5/25 (NP). An early **Cape May Warbler** was in southern Chester 5/5 (JS). The only other report was a single bird in West Goshen Twp. 5/25 (NP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, always one of the more common transients, were in very good numbers this spring. High counts included 30 at WCC 5/3 (AL), 32 at Hopewell Furnace 4/27 (EV, RW) and 60 at Airdrie Forest 4/27 (NP). It was a good season for **Blackburnian Warbler** with several reports 5/7-25 (m. obs.). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was also reported in better than average numbers (m. obs.). **Cerulean Warbler** had returned to their traditional nesting areas along the Struble Trail by 5/8 (HM, et al.). **Prothonotary Warblers** are rare anytime in Chester. This year two males were found in two widely scattered areas. The first was at STLA 4/28 (CC), and the other was seen feeding on an island in the Schuylkill R. near Phoenixville 5/15 (JMcl). Single **Worm-eating Warblers**, a rare regular breeder, were found at the Chrome Barrens 4/27 (SK), the King Ranch area 5/10 (BBy) and at Oaklands Cemetery 5/18 (NP). **Northern Waterthrush** reports were numerous 5/3-25 with a high of 3 in Westtown 5/19 (TS). **Louisiana Waterthrush** were back on their breeding grounds by 4/8 (HM). **Hooded Warblers** were reported from their usual haunts at Templin Rd. 5/4 (NP) and WCC 5/7 (AL).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** in Unionville 4/16 was a good find (KF). **Savannah Sparrows** were quite numerous this spring with a single observer high count of 22 in Unionville 4/16 (KF). Twelve were in the King Ranch area 5/10 (BBy). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were back at their King Ranch breeding areas 5/7 (AG, et al.). **Fox Sparrows** moved through the county 3/3- 4/13 (m. obs.) with a high of 8 at Hibernia Park 3/30 (RR). The last **White-throated Sparrow** reported was in West Goshen Twp. 5/24 (NP) and a lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** was in Landenburg 5/14 (AL). A single **Blue Grosbeak** was recorded in Penn Twp. 5/11 (MD) and two were at Longwood 5/21 (CM, et al). Rare in spring, two **Dickcissels** were near Oxford during the last week of May (DT).

Two **Rusty Blackbirds** along Isabella Rd. 4/5 was the only report (AD). Observers noted that both **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were in above-average numbers this season. Twenty-six Baltimores were in the King Ranch area 5/10 (BBy).

The winter irruption of "northern finches" lingered into spring with two **Red Crossbills** heard in flight at CORES 3/17 (LL). The pair of **Common Redpolls** reported from Downingtown in Feb remained until 3/8 (JH). **Pine Siskins**, which had all but disappeared after Dec, made northbound appearances at several locations. Up to eight visited

feeders in West Goshen 3/4-5/15 (NP, SP) and one was still near Coatesville 5/24 (JM). An **Evening Grosbeak** made a brief visit in West Goshen Twp. 4/7 (NP).

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#### Clarion County

No Report.

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#### Clearfield County

No Report.

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#### Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), South Avis (SA), Susquehanna River (SR), and Swisssdale (SW).

There was significant waterfowl activity from late Feb through Mar with a large and diverse fallout occurring on 3/28. On that day on the SR at LH a large mixed flock of waterfowl included 42 **Canvasback**, 109 **Long-tailed Ducks**, a **White-winged Scoter**, and a **Northern Shoveler** (JS). In fields just west of LH, a flock of **Snow Geese** was located on the same day (JS). Earlier in March at the fields in SA, the largest flock of **Snow Geese** in recent memory was present 3/8-12. A conservative estimate was 2000- 3000 birds including one neck-banded individual. Several hundred **Tundra Swans** were in the company of the geese (WL, RC). One **Red-throated Loon** was found with a flock of **Common Loons** on the SR at LH from 3/28 through 3/30 (DR, WL).

On 3/3 an **American Bittern** was seen at the mitigation wetlands in Mill Hall (JS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported over fields along River Rd. east of LH on 4/2 (BZ, VS). A notable shorebird sighting was a single **Western Sandpiper** found 4/5 in the fields at SA (C&CH).

Late May through Jun produced a significantly higher than usual number of reports of both **Black-billed Cuckoos** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** throughout the county (m. obs.). The first **Whip-poor-will** report of the season on 5/2 in SW was later than usual (WL).

The most exciting report of the season had to be the brief observation of a **Northern Wheatear** in a field at SA on 3/1 (DF, NF). The N. Wheatear was seen only twice in a period of only a few minutes before flying off. Despite intensive searching by several people over the next few days, it was never relocated. If accepted, it will be a first *Clinton* record.

Noteworthy warbler sightings included a **Northern Waterthrush** found on 4/1 at the Lick Run Natural Area near Farrandsville (JS), and a probable first county record of a **Prothonotary Warbler** in Rote 5/7 (AT). A very difficult bird to find in *Clinton*, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was observed at the same Rote location 5/7 (AT).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were found on 4/13 in Woolrich (C&CH) and on 4/14 near LH (JS). A small number of **Snow Buntings** were seen at the SA fields 3/1 (DF, NF, WL).

The celebrated influx of **Common Redpolls** ended rather abruptly in the county after a period of heavy rain during the first week of Mar. A few stragglers were seen coming to feeders in SW until 3/6 (WL). A few **Pine Siskins** continued throughout Mar at the same location (WL).

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**Columbia County**

No Report.

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**Crawford County**

Locations: Custards (CUS), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Lake Outlet (CLO), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva (GNV), McMichael Rd (McM), Mud Lake (ML), Old Duck Farm (ODF), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS) Shellito's Pond (SP), Smith's Marsh (SM), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Sugar Lake (SL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

In spite of the colder and windier than usual and a rainy May some outstanding birds were recorded. Warbler fallouts were few in the area and fewer species and numbers were recorded. All sightings were made by RFL unless otherwise stated.

A **Clark's Grebe** was well studied at PC on Pennsylvania side 3/23 (TCN); a first for *Crawford* and perhaps Pennsylvania if accepted. **Red-throated Loons** were reported 3/24-29 at PC (m. obs.). The first **Common Loon** was spotted at PC 3/15; RFL found 10 there 3/24. **Horned Grebe** showed up at PC 3/15 and the high count was 12 on 3/25 (SK). **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted several times at CM in small numbers. The first **Double-crested Cormorant** was found at PC 3/24 (SK) and 70 were seen at the PS 5/26. Two **American Bittern** were seen at GNV and McM 5/15 and 5/20, and one **Least Bittern** was at GNV 5/12. **Green Herons** were noted at GNV by 4/28 (RCL) and ENWR (RA). No egrets were reported. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at GNV 5/12. A **Cackling Goose** was found at PGMA 3/20 (RS) and two were noted at FH 3/29 (MF, PH, BVN). A count of 18 **Snow Geese** at PGMA was good 3/21 and a group of 51 was noted 3/24 (SK, DW). A **Blue Goose** was in with the snows at PGMA 3/21.

Good numbers of **Tundra Swans** stayed at CM and PA to rest and feed for two weeks in March. Best count was 2197 on 3/10 (SK). **Wood Ducks** were common and 65 were seen at ML 3/23 (MB). **Green-winged Teal** were seen at PA 3/11 (SH) and **Blue-winged Teal** had returned by 3/29 (MF, BUN, PH, JV). I noted 7 **Northern Shovelers** at GNV 3/25, 8 were seen at HM 4/6 (MB). Three **Northern Pintail** at PC 3/6 and 345 at CM 3/30 were good finds. **Gadwall** and **American Wigeon** were found at many locations in small numbers. Eight **Canvasback** were noted at PC 3/2 and 70 there 3/24 (SK) was the best total. Some 200 **Redhead** were noted at PC 3/15 (SK). Four hundred **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported at HM 4/6 (MB). A **Greater Scaup** was off the PC 3/6 and 5 were at CUS 4/8. Twenty **Lesser Scaup** were counted at PC 3/6 and an excellent tally of 600 were there 3/24 (SK). There were 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** at PS 3/11 (SK) and 40 there 3/24 (SK). **Bufflehead** were first seen at PC 3/6, and 141 in WP 3/30 was a good count. The **Common Goldeneye** counts ranged from one to 45. **Hooded Mergansers** were in rather small numbers with a high count of 80 at SM 3/21, and **Common Merganser** totals were from one to 25. **Red-breasted Mergansers** fared better, with counts of 32 to 2503 at PC 3/6-30 (SK). Thirty **Ruddy Ducks** were noted at WL 4/12 and 30 at CL 4/20.

A **Turkey Vulture** was seen near Meadville 3/5 (LAR) and 8 were seen at PC 4/10. **Bald Eagles** were reported at CM and Pymatuning all period with 17 totaled 4/20 and 18 at PGMA and PS 3/26. RFL had a **Golden Eagle** at PGMA 3/26 and one was found there 4/23 (MV). Both were later than the usual mid-March arrivals of the past year. **Osprey** nested and produced two young for the first nesting at WL 4/8 (RCL).

A pair of **Northern Harriers** were at HM (MB) and one was noted at PGMA 4/25 (RCL). Single birds were at PGMA 5/20 (MF) and HM 4/11 (MB). Two **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen at HM 4/18 (MB). **Rough-legged Hawks** were last reported 4/23 (MV) and all birds found at the PA ranged from one to 4 individuals (TCN, RS, MF, BUN, SK). RFL saw a **Merlin** at PGMA 3/30 and RE found one at ENWR 3/24 and one near SL 4/1. A **Ruffed Grouse** was near GNV 5/4. **Wild Turkey** numbers were rather small this season and a flock of 35 west of CUS

4/10 (RFL) was the highest total reported. A **Virginia Rail** was located at McM 5/5 (RE) and at GNV 5/25. Single **Soras** were at GNV 5/5 and McM 5/15.

The evening of 5/28 I took a quick trip to GM and parked my car north of the bridge on South Watson Run Rd. It was cool, windy and cloudy. When I got out of the car I walked up the road a few feet and heard the sound of two stones clicking together; it was loud and clear and close. I walked up the road just five more feet, and there to the east, 25-30 feet away, was a motionless **Yellow Rail** looking right at me. I studied it for about two minutes and then took a few more steps. When I looked up it was gone. Typical rail shape but much smaller, short feet, very yellow-orange, dark lemon back, yellow bill short but thick. I didn't see it fly so I cannot comment on the white in the wing. The bird was facing me most of the time as I watched it in an emerging patch of smartweed at the edge of the marsh (RFL).

Two **Common Moorhens** were at GNV 5/6 and one was at HM 5/4 (MB). A **Sandhill Crane** was located at HM 3/23 (MB). Three were seen at PGMA 3/24 (TCN), 2 at GNV 4/27 (RCL) and one there 5/31.

RCL located a **Black-bellied Plover** at FH 4/29 and it remained there to 5/4. MV saw a **Semipalmated Plover** at PGMA 5/17, and 6 were there 5/26. The first **Greater Yellowlegs** was found at PGMA 3/23 (TCN), and 15 there 4/8 was the best count. **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived by 4/8 with 3 at Marsh Rd., CM. One bird remained at PGMA 5/29. **Solitary Sandpipers** were found at McM (RCL) 4/29 to 5/14 PGMA (AB). One to 3 **Upland Sandpipers** were found at PGMA 4/23 (MV) to the end of the period (m. obs.). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** numbers ranged from 3 on 5/10 to a good count of 31 on 5/26 at PGMA (MV). RE found a **Least Sandpiper** north of SL 5/8, and good numbers were found at PGMA through 5/31. AB had 30 at PGMA 5/14. PGMA produced 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 3/26 (SK), and one was at WL 5/31. A good find was a **Baird's Sandpiper**, rare in spring, at PGMA 5/14 (AB), 5/17 (MV) and 5/18 (TCN), all likely the same bird. One **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at WL 5/25. **Dunlin** at PGMA 5/13 numbered 9 birds; 34 were noted there 5/20 (MF), and 23 were at PGMA 5/23 (MV). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were noted at PGMA 3/23 (TCN), and 2 were at ENWR 3/24 (RE). **American Woodcock** were reported at HM with 3 on 4/11 and one 5/17 (MB). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was seen at PGMA 5/25-26 (EF).

An excellent find were single **Glaucous Gulls** at CL 3/22, and PC 3/17 (SK) and 3/30. CN found one **Great Black-backed Gull** off the PC 3/29 and a **Lesser Black-back Gull** was found near the Pymatuning Jamestown Dam 3/24 (SK, DW). Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were first to arrive at PGMA 3/21, and some 400+ were at CL 4/20. One was taken by a **Cooper's Hawk** at JSP 3/24 out of a flock of 150 (SK). A very good find was a **Little Gull** watched at the Jamestown Dam 3/24 (SK, DW). RFL found 2 **Caspian Terns** at PC 4/10 and a **Common Tern** was at PS 5/17 (MV) and 5/18. A **Forster's Tern** was at PS 4/16 and one was located at SL 5/8 (RE). A **Black Tern** showed up at ENWR 5/13 (RE) and 2 were at PS 5/29.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at SP 5/13 and 4 were noted at CM and Pymatuning 5/25. Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at Towpath Rd. at CM 5/25 and one was seen at HM 5/26 (MB). Single **Barred Owls** were seen or heard 3/11 to 4/30 at Meadville, CM, TL, and HM (m. obs.). The first returning **Chimney Swift** was at GNV (RCL) 4/30. Marvin Byler reported the only **Red-headed Woodpecker** of the season at Pine Road, HM 5/7.

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at Springboro 5/23 (TCN). The first reported **Eastern Kingbird** was at Shawn's Landing south of Meadville along French Creek 4/26 (RE). Most of the flycatchers were late arriving and in small numbers. RFL found 2 **Purple Martins** at PGMA 4/8. Two **Tree Swallows** were seen at GNV 3/14 and I had 744 in western *Crawford*. 4/12. Other swallows were in average numbers. **Cliff Swallows** were in lesser numbers than last year with a high count of 250 at FH 4/30. I had 65 **Horned Larks** at PGMA 3/2, and 45 were found near HM 3/10 (MB). Rich Eakin reported a **Common Raven** near SL 5/20. Single **Brown Creepers** were seen 4/5 and 4/6 at HM (MB). A **Winter Wren** was listed at SL 3/9 (RE). From two to 4 **Marsh Wrens** were noted at CM 5/5-31 (m. obs.), and 2 to 4 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen from 4/19 (RE) to 5/4 (RCL, MB) at CM, HM and SL.

A **Veery** was seen at FI and one was heard near CL 5/4. Two **Swainson's Thrush** were noted at Marsh Rd. 5/10 and one was at WL 5/20 (no other reports were submitted). MB reported a **Wood Thrush** at HM 4/24 and no less than 30 were singing along Towpath Rd. at CM 5/5. Single **Hermit Thrushes** were found at HM 4/19 (CMB) and SL 4/26. One was heard ENWR 5/14 (RE). A **Mockingbird** was a good find at McM 5/5 (RE) and another was along Pine Rd. at HM 5/14 and

5/17 (MB). The first reported **Gray Catbird** was at HM 4/26 (MB). An early **Brown Thrasher** was noted at HM 4/8. **American Pipits** were seen at HM 3/23 (MB). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was reported at HM 5/6 (MB). **Warbling Vireos** were common after the last week in April and 26 were counted at SP at Pymatuning 5/29. **White-eyed Vireos** were found CM, PA and SL 4/30 to 5/25 (RCL, RE).

Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were found at HM 5/4 (MB). **Blue-winged Warblers** were at HM 5/4 and 5/26 (MB). A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen regularly after 5/8 at the home of RE north of SL. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was located across the road from FH 5/10. Lone **Tennessee Warblers** were found at HM 5/4 (MB) and GVA (MF). The first **Yellow Warbler** was seen at Springboro 4/23 (TCN). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at HM 5/4 was the lone report (MB). A good total of 35 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were recorded at PA 4/30 (RCL). Just one **Blackburnian** was reported at McM 4/30 (RCL). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at McM 4/28-29 (RCL). There was only one report of a **Pine Warbler** at Leads Rd., HM 3/28 (LB). A pair of **Palm Warblers** were seen along Brooks Road at Pymatuning 4/26 (RE) and 3 were at GNV 4/29 (RCL). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found north of SL 5/17 (RE). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at HM 5/26 (MB). Rarely reported, a **Prairie Warbler** was seen at McM 5/5 (RE), and a **Northern Waterthrush** was noted at McM 5/5 (RE). Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** were found 4/16 at SL (RE) and one was along Pine Road at HM 4/20 (MB). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen at SL 5/25 (RE). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen and heard at Springboro 5/8 (TCM), 2 **Hooded Warblers** were recorded at HM 5/4 (MB) and 4 **American Redstart** were found at HM 5/4 (MB).

RE reported the first **Eastern Towhee** at SL 3/26. Two **Scarlet Tanagers** were seen at HM 5/4 (MB), and RFL found no less than 17 at FI 5/10. A very early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found at HM 4/26 (MB). I found an **Indigo Bunting** at Meadville 5/4. The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen 4/8 at HM (MB). A good surprise for RFL was a **Lark Sparrow** that came to feeders in Meadville 3/23-26. **Swamp Sparrows** had returned to GNV by 3/15; 16 were at McM 4/12. Two **Fox Sparrows** visited a feeder at Meadville 4/8 (GM, KM) and 3 were noted at HM 4/6 (MB). Thirty **Snow Buntings** were seen along Leach Road at HM 3/10 (MB) and the last one was noted at PG 3/29 (MF, BVN). A **Lapland Longspur** was seen 3/8 at HM (HM). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was found 3/4 at HM (HM). A **Bobolink** was seen PGMA 4/26 (RE). Some 28 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at CUS 3/22 and 300+ were there 3/30. An early **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at HM 4/26 (MB) and single **Orchard Orioles** were found at HM 5/20 (MB) at Towpath Rd. 5/25 and TL 5/29. RFL found 3 **Purple Finch** in Meadville 4/16, and one or 2 were at WL, CM and ENWR. Two **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in SL 4/12 (RE). Twelve **Common Redpolls** were seen west of GNV 3/13, and 18 were at a feeder at SL 3/30 (RE) where one remained 4/12 (RE).

**CORRIGENDA:** The number of **Wood Ducks** reported in Volume 21, No. 4 at PGMA should have been 2111, not 111. Also, all sightings for *Crawford* in Volume 21, No. 3 credited to "RE" were made by Richard Eakin, not Richard Eaton as was indicated in the text.

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### **Cumberland County**

Locations: Big Springs (BS), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Huntsdale (HD) King's Gap (KG), Messiah College (MC), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Opossum Lake (OL), State Gamelands 169 (SGL 169), State Gamelands 260 (SGL 260), Thompson Hollow (TH), Three Square Hollow (TSH), West Fairview Boat Launch (WF).

Although *Cumberland* does not have an overabundance of waterfowl, it did produce 23 species, including loons and grebes, during the spring season. Included in the total was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at MLR 3/10 (AM), only the third county record. Also reported at MLR were up to 72 **Tundra Swans**, 50 **Snow Geese**, and one female **Bufflehead** that stayed the season. Added to this was one **Long-tailed Duck** at WF that was seen at the mouth of the CC 3/22 (AM, VG).

**Common Loon**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, and **Horned Grebe** were reported at OL 5/3 (DG). Additionally, a **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported 5/10 (PAMC), and **Hooded Mergansers** were observed with young at two different locations. Absence of **American Black Duck** was notable.

**Glossy Ibis** were reported on MLR on two different occasions. One was present for at least a week starting 5/6 (AM), and 3 more were found 5/24 (AM). There was a **Snowy Egret** reported on two different occasions, once at OL 4/27 (MK), and another at MLR 5/27 (BF, LF). **American Bitterns** were seen at several locations along with up to 4 **Least Bitterns** at SGL 169 (AM). **Black-crowned Night Herons** continue to be found at SGL 169 and at "Hidden Pond" in HD, but there are still no signs of nesting found in the county. However, 4 **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** nests were reported on the CC 4/26 (DH).

Reports of **Bald Eagles** continue to increase, including what is believed to be the first reported nesting pair near Carlisle 5/14 (RF). The **Prairie Falcon** seen since 2/23 on MLR was last reported 3/10 (AM, MS). This was the fourth sighting of a **Prairie Falcon** in this area in the last decade. A **Merlin** reported at WF 3/15 (RK) and a **Peregrine Falcon** 4/2 (ML) rounded out the raptors of interest seen this spring.

A **Common Moorhen** was reported at SGL 169 on 4/28 (AM, VG) and 5/6 (BK). A **Sora** was reported on 3 different occasions at SGL 169: 5/10 during the (PAMC), 5/14 (DH), and 5/26 (VG, AM). No reports of **Virginia Rails** were received.

This was an extraordinary shorebird migration season thanks to the activity at MLR, where 21 species were identified including **Black-bellied Plover**, **American Golden Plover**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, and **Red-necked Phalarope**. The 9 Ruddy Turnstones present 5/8 (AM, VG) furnished only the fourth county record since 1989, and were followed by a single 5/13 (AM, DW, VG) and a group of 3 on 5/18 (RF). The Sanderling 5/8 (AM) represented the third county record since 1989. The 2 Stilt Sandpipers 5/12-13 (AM, BK, DW, VG) were the county's second spring record. Short-billed Dowitchers were present 5/8-11 (AM, RK, VG), with a peak of 11 on 5/9 (AM), for the county's third spring record. The Wilson's Phalarope present 5/12-13 (AM, BK, DGe, VG, DW) was only the county's fifth, and the 2 Red-necked Phalaropes 5/13 (DGe, AM, VG) were a first.

Gulls and terns of note were one **Little Gull** at WF 4/15 (CR) along with 9 **Black Terns** (VG), and one **Common Tern** at MLR 5/16 (AM).

Also of note was the record-setting number of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** banded at KG. The 113 individuals not only made for the best spring season ever, but 22 banded 3/2 was also the single best night ever at KG, spring or fall (SW).

**Whip-poor-wills** were reported at TSH 4/18 (RK, AM), and, oddly enough, one was calling during the day at TH 5/24 (BO, VG). **Common Nighthawks** were reported at SGL 169 on 5/25 (VG) and again on 5/26 at Carlisle (VG).

A total of 32 species of warblers were encountered in *Cumberland* this spring. One-time sightings include **Cape May Warbler** at SGL 230 on 5/3 (PL), **Tennessee Warbler** at SGL 230 on 5/3 (PL), and **Wilson's Warbler** at SGL 230 on 5/6 (RK). There were 4 reports of **Kentucky Warbler**: 3 at SGL 230 on 5/3 (PL), 5/6 (RK) and 5/13 (VG), and one at TH 5/24 (BO, VG). Singing **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported at three locations: CC 4/26 (DH), HD 5/14 (DH), and SGL 169 on 5/28 (BO). There were 2 reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** from MC 4/29 (CR), and at SGL 220 on 5/11 (NM). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported at SGL 220 on 5/3 (PL), on 5/10 PAMC, and 5/28 at MSF (PR). One to two **Brewster's Warblers** were reported on several occasions at SGL 230. Early arrivals included a **Nashville Warbler** on the BS 4/19 (BF, LF) and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** north of Neville 4/16 (VG).

Five **Dickcissels** were reported on the PAMC 5/10 along with numerous **Bobolinks**, 2 **Northern Bobwhite**, one **Barn Owl**, 10 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos**, 2 **Veery**, and 6 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**. Finally, there was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** reported 5/26.

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## Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BM), Dauphin (DAU), Dauphin County Wildlife Rehab. (DCWR), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Haldeman Island (HI), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Millersburg (MBG), Peter's Mountain (PM), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River in general (SR), Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna River from HBG (SHB), Susquehanna River from Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River from West Fairview (SWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

The waterfowl migration on the SR from HBG north to DAU was again impressive this season with 35 species reported. The season was off to a good start when 18 species were recorded 3/1, including more than 100 **Redheads** and 95 **Common Goldeneye** (CRt, et al.). Arguably the best single day was 3/22 when 28 waterfowl species were counted and included the season's high tally for many. There were 65 **Green-winged Teal**, 75 **American Black Duck**, 55 **Northern Pintail**, 95 **American Wigeon**, 150 **Ring-necked Duck**, 12 **Canvasback**, 69 **Redhead**, 63 **Long-tailed Duck**, 600+ **Bufflehead**, 119 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 360 **Horned Grebe**, and two **Red-necked Grebe** (RK, CRt, et al.). A week later, 3/28, all three scoters were reported with 9 **Black**, 11 **White-winged**, and a single **Surf Scoter** (DH). The best "loon day" was 4/20 when more than 100 **Common Loons** and one **Red-throated Loon** were noted on this stretch of the SR (RK, & CRt). The first **Red-necked Grebe** report came from MBG 3/7 where one was spotted from Mio Park (JS). An **Eared Grebe** was found at SWF 3/25 (CK, et al.).

The first **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed 3/13 SWF (RK), and the first **Great Egret** of the season returned, right on schedule, to WL 3/16 (SL & CRb). An early sighting of a **Snowy Egret** occurred at WL 4/10 (P&RW). This year's spring Wade Island Nest Survey was conducted 5/12 and yielded some positive results. There were 178 **Great Egret** nests counted (highest since 2003), 98 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (highest since 2004 and 36 more than 2007), and 112 **Double-crested Cormorant** (not necessarily positive and continuing their annual increase, up from 73 nests in 2007) (DB). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were back at their nesting colony in the Bellevue Park section of HBG 4/10 (CRt, CBl). A follow-up report came 5/31, from a local resident, who noted the presence of at least two active nests (JM). An **American Bittern** was reported at WL 5/4 (CRb), another returned to an EHT pond 5/6 (NC), and one was found on a Swatara Creek canoe trip 5/15 (MM).

A second nest site for **Black Vulture** was confirmed in southern *Dauphin* on 6/3, when one adult and two chicks were found in a barn near Middletown (GK). Last spring nesting **Black Vultures** were found only a few miles away in another barn in Lower Swatara Twp. The first **Osprey** was reported 3/29 at HI (SB & AW), and the active nest on TMI was noted 4/15 (EC). A **Bald Eagle** was observed carrying nest materials from WL and flying west towards the SR on three occasions in Apr, the third on 4/26 (SL). A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** were observed nest building in a wooded ravine in Highspire 4/5 (KK). An adult **Mississippi Kite** was observed flying over the Paxtang area near HBG 4/18 (DH). A **Merlin** was reported in HBG 4/3 (N&CJ) and two were recovered within the county by DCWR 4/16-17, both of which were rehabilitated and released (B&JC). Another **Merlin** was noted in SHT 5/15 (TJ). The Rachel Carson **Peregrine Falcons** had another successful year in HBG. Five eggs were laid in the last week of Mar, and four of the five hatched the first week of May. The banding of the four nestlings took place on 5/22.

Sometimes the migration of the more secretive birds go unnoticed, however, when DCWR received three calls of injured **Virginia Rail** during the week of 4/11-17, clearly this species was on the move. Fortunately all three were recovered, rehabilitated, and released at WL (B&JC). **American Coot** continued to be found at WL through at least mid-Apr (CRb). The first **Greater Yellowlegs** of the season was observed at HI 3/29 (SB, AW). Two unusually early **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted 3/18 in a flood field in the HIBA (RW). One **Willet** and two **Dunlin** were among the shorebirds found at SWF 5/9 (RK). Ten **Wilson's Snipe** were found in EHT 3/22 (S&RZ) and 30 were on HI 3/29 (SB & AW). The first **American Woodcock** report came in on 3/6 from SHT (JG).

**Bonaparte's Gull** was first noted 3/7 when four were reported SWF (CK, et al.). By 3/15 more than 100 were counted from this location, and hundreds continued to be seen from SWF north to

SMV/SFH through mid-Apr (m. obs.). The last reported Bonaparte's was 5/9 when one was noted at SWF (RK). This was an especially good migration season along the SR for both Little and Black-headed Gulls which usually accompany the larger Bonaparte's Gull flights. The first **Little Gull** observation came 3/18 when two were reported SFH (DH). For nearly the next month, sightings of one to as many as 4 were made from SFH, SMV, or SWF (m. obs.) with the last report coming 4/15. **Black-headed Gull** observations followed a similar pattern with the first report on 3/16 SFH (RK). From one to 3 were noted through 4/9 with most observations coming from the SR between SFH and SMV (m. obs.). The last report came from just south of the county line at Falmouth, *Lancaster* 4/15 where a single **Black-headed Gull** was seen (EC). **Caspian Tern** was first noted at the SR 4/10 and five were counted 4/20 (CRt). There was an impressive tern flight on 5/16 with 60+ counted, mostly **Common Terns** with a few **Forster's**, at SWF (RK).

About a dozen **Common Nighthawks** were counted the evening of 5/12 HBG (BH). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported in SHT 5/21 (P&RW). The first **Tree Swallows** of the season were observed over the SR from the Rte. 83 bridge 3/3 (BH). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** present since 8/17/2007 continued to visit a SHT property through 4/28 (P&RW); others were noted in EHT (NC) and HER (GK). A flock of about 50 **American Pipits** was reported from the HIBA 4/27 (RW).

The first big warbler day was 4/26 when 16 species were found in SCV and PM. Highlights in SCV included a **Brewster's Warbler** at its usual haunt and a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, which is unusual for this location. A **Cerulean Warbler** was noted atop PMt (CRt, RK). A pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** were at the parking lot for the Five Senses Garden on the Greenbelt Trail in Swatara Twp. 5/5 (PP). Another good warbler day was 5/15 when 19 species were found on one property in SHT (JG & TJ).

One of the best visitors to the county this season was a **Black-headed Grosbeak**. It made at least three visits to a property near Hummelstown between 5/3-6. This adult male was usually in the company of one or more **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and was observed at close range as it fed on sunflower seeds (M&KG). This is the first report for this species in the county and documentation has been submitted.

The last **American Tree Sparrow** of the season was noted 3/1 near Halifax (TR). The first **Fox Sparrows** were noted 3/8 when 6 were found in EHT (S&RZ). Reports continued from various locations to 4/10 (m. obs.). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were still present in SHT, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed at this location 5/15 (JG, TJ). Another **White-crowned Sparrow** paid a visit to a HER yard later in May (AS); this species was still being observed at WL through 5/20 (CRb).

**Bobolinks** returned to the HIBA by 5/15 when a half dozen singing males were observed (RW). A flock of 12 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at Boathouse Rd. Park near HER 3/11 (P&RW), and on 4/11 they were still present at WL (CRb).

A **Purple Finch** "fallout" occurred the week of 4/11-18 in the southern portion of the county with record-setting "yard counts" of 15-20+ from a few locations (GB, JG, P&RW, et al.). **Purple Finch** remained in SCV where 26 were counted 4/26 (CRt, RK), and a few were still visiting yard feeders in SHT through mid-May (JG).

**Common Redpolls** continued to visit feeders near the top of BM through 4/15, often in numbers exceeding 100 (M&RB). Among these large flocks may have been at least one **Hoary Redpoll** as well as a **Common Redpoll** of the Greenland race (CBt, RB, & DH). Photos and other documentation have been submitted. Throughout the late winter and early spring season the Brenners graciously hosted local birders who wanted a close look at this/these delightful winter visitors.

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Rosemary Spreha, Joe Swift, Larry Usselman, Drew Weber (DWb), Dave Wildson (DWi), Patricia Williams, Andy Wilson, Sally & Rich Zaino.

## Delaware County

Locations: Big Bend Farm (BB), Crum Creek Reservoir (CC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), Haverford College-Delaware, Hildacy Farm (HF), Philadelphia Int'l Airport-Delaware (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tinicum/John Heinz NWR-Delaware (TI).

No significant weather events appeared to impact migration this spring. Precipitation and temperatures were near average and most birding days were unaffected by the weather. There was no significant snowfall. I believe most birders in Delaware would call this a good season with good numbers of not-so-common migrants and some interesting records.

In previous years **Snow Goose** has been reported from Delaware in the several thousands and sometimes over 10,000. This spring only 79 **Snow Geese** were reported and on a single date: 4/5 at RTP (JL). This, at least in part, reflects the decision of the counters at RTP to switch from full time to voluntary part-time coverage for the spring count, so larger migrating flocks very well could have been missed. Ducks were not reported in great numbers. Among those reported were 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** SR 3/19 (AG), a male **Common Goldeneye** DR 3/30 (SK), and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** SR 4/1 (AG). **Common Merganser** at BB 5/24 and 5/30 are late dates for this species (NP).

A **Horned Grebe** was spotted on SR 3/9 (SC) and 2 were on SR 3/12 (AG). SC was surprised to find 32 **Double-crested Cormorant** sitting on the dam at CC 4/28. He remarked he never saw that many at that location in his many years of birding. An **Anhinga** was a bonus flyover for the hawk watchers at RTP 4/12 (JL, GB).

The two known **Osprey** nests along DR were active again this spring (AG, DM, DE, NP). Eleven **Bald Eagles** were counted at RTP despite the part time count. The presence of the first post-DDT era **Bald Eagle** nest in the county presented a happy conundrum for the hawk watchers as they attempted to determine which birds to count as migrants (JL, AG, DE, et al.). Two **Northern Goshawks** graced RTP with flyovers 3/28 (JL) and 4/12 (DE, et al.). The part time nature of the count made **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers difficult to compare. The only double digit days for this species were 4/12 (38), 4/13 (85) and 4/18 (44). April 12 was the overall peak flight day for total migrants and included daily high counts for **Osprey** (8), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (33) and **American Kestrel** (24 of the 46 total for the season). On that day a cold front that stretched from New England to Georgia was just to our west, and a complex frontal system with precipitation was just to our north. It is likely these systems concentrated the migrants in our area.

Three **Merlins** interacting were a surprise find in an urban cemetery near West Philadelphia 3/2 (AK). There were also reports of **Merlin** at SC 3/6 (JS), HC 3/22 (SJ), and RTP reported 6 migrating individuals for the season (JL). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted on the Commodore Barry Bridge 3/19 (AG). This species has nested on the bridge in the past but subsequent checks failed to turn up any more individuals.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported on the Rocky Run Trail in Middletown Twp 3/5 (TR) and HF 5/13 (SC). A **Northern Bobwhite** was seen and photographed by S&VD at their home in Thornbury Twp 5/11. Neither of these birds was in a location close to any known game farms, but in Delaware in this era, escapees must always be considered.

The only reported **Black-bellied Plover** was still in winter plumage 5/2 at TI (AG). Peak counts for other shorebirds, all at TI, were 8 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/10 (AG), 14 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/2 (AG), 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/2 (AG), 150 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/26 (TF), and 60 **Least Sandpiper** 5/20 (AG). Also at TI was a **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/27 (TF), **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/26-27 (TF), and 2 **Dunlin** 5/20 (AG) with single birds after that until 5/27 (AG, TF).

The wet area known as Fireman's Pond at PHL is the most reliable spot for **Wilson's Snipe**, certainly 51 there 3/16 did not disappoint (AG). **American Woodcock** were at HF 3/14 (DM) and DT 3/16 (DE).

AG found a lone **Bonaparte's Gull** sitting on Tinicum Island in the DR 3/27. Thirty-two **Forster's Terns** were seen migrating up the DR 4/28 and 14 were at TI 5/2 (AG).

Only 2 **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were received, both from

RCSP 5/13 (SC, AG) and 5/31 (AG).

In early Apr, DM received a surprise email about a pair of **Barred Owls** in Media, and the presence of this pair was confirmed 4/9 (DM) and 4/10 (DE). Over the years single **Barred Owls** have been recorded in each month, and many sightings come from the Riddlewood area where this pair is located. This is the first pair monitored over the breeding season of which I am aware. The homeowner reported third hand information that a neighbor saw an adult feeding a young owl.

DW was surprised and very pleased to hear a **Whip-poor-will** calling outside his home in Newtown Square 4/12. It called for about an hour. He described it as a "favorite of his youth" and tells how he used to fall asleep in Erie to the "sound of the freight train and the call of the Whip-poor-will".

The first **Chimney Swift** reports were 4/14 at RTP (JL). They arrived 4/2 last year. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived 4/30 (JZ).

The Bridle Path at RCSP hosted the migrant flycatchers: **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/24 (AG) and 5/25 (DE), **Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher** 5/23 (JM, AG, GB), and **Least Flycatcher** 5/15 (AG).

**Blue-headed Vireo** typically leave Delaware by mid-May so individuals 5/22 and 5/24 were late birds RCSP (AG).

**Purple Martin** arrived at a tended colony in Boothwyn 3/29 (BC). The sky watchers at RTP reported the first **Tree Swallow** of the season 3/21 (JL). **Cliff Swallows** were first seen at the stables at RCSP 5/4 (AG). They have nested at this location since 2005.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were everywhere this winter and spring. The latest report was an average departure date, 4/27 RCSP (AG, DE).

The only reported **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at HC 5/25 (SJ). On the other hand **Swainson's Thrush** seemed more numerous than usual, especially at RCSP (m. obs.).

Thirty species of warbler were reported. All 30 could be found at RCSP, primarily in the area known as the Bridle Path. The count would have been 31 had it not been a leap year. As reported in the winter issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* the **Orange-crowned Warbler** at JM's feeder on 2/29 would otherwise have been a spring record. **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Worm-eating Warbler** were misses that would have capped off a season that was notable for good numbers of some uncommon migrants. **Tennessee Warbler** was seen regularly 5/1-5/24 at RCSP (AG, DE, m.obs.) and also at HC 5/25 (SJ) and SC 5/4-5 (LL, AG). Although not an uncommon migrant, **Black-throated Green Warbler** appeared, at least to several birders, to be particularly abundant. Likewise, reports of **Blackburnian Warbler** were plentiful including a male and female in the same tree in Glen Mills 5/24 (JP). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing from a large sycamore tree at RCSP 5/29 (DE). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen twice at RCSP 5/15 and 5/19 (AG). **Cerulean Warbler** has not nested in Delaware for a number of years. AG found an individual male 5/10 at RCSP; hopes were raised on 5/22 when a persistently singing male was found at a different location in RCSP (DE). This individual remained in the same locale, singing frequently, through 5/26, but was not seen thereafter (m. obs.). No females were seen. One or at most two **Mourning Warblers** are found in Delaware in spring migration, but not every year. This season, **Mourning Warbler** was reported on 4 different dates and at least 3 individuals were present on the Bridle Path 5/24 (AG, DE, et al.). **Canada Warbler** can easily be added to the list of warblers noted in above-average abundance this season as well.

Delaware was visited by three Tanager species this spring. Besides the usual **Scarlet Tanager**, a **Western Tanager** originally found in the Philadelphia portion of Heinz Refuge was noted to cross into Delaware at times 4/13 (DM). A **Summer Tanager** was heard singing at SC 5/4 (LL).

**Fox Sparrows** were reported through 4/13 (m. obs.). Two adult **White-crowned Sparrows** were at HC 5/10 (SJ). Among the 27 **Snow Buntings** at PHL 3/8 were several individuals in breeding plumage (AG). The male **Indigo Bunting** that was found at a backyard feeder in Swarthmore in early Dec successfully overwintered and was last seen around 5/1, just as the migrant birds of this species were arriving. The owner of the home provided us with an interesting sequence of photos which document this single bird's molt from basic to alternate plumage.

**Eastern Meadowlark** is no longer easy to find, so an individual on the UPS grounds at PHL was a satisfying find for AG 3/23. The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was of 4 individuals 4/3 TI (AG).

Finally, as a testament to the extent of the winter finch invasion this year, were the late dates for lingering individuals: **Purple Finch** 5/24 RCSP (AG), **Red Crossbill** 4/11 Upper Providence Twp (JD), and **Pine Siskin** 5/20 Media (JL).

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**Elk County**  
No Compiler.

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**Erie County**

This was a very cold spring with at least some ice remaining on Lake Erie well into April. The unseasonably cold weather persisted through most of May with little Passerine movement from about 5/14 to 5/22. Despite the poor weather there were several notable sightings, including **Little Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Franklin's Gull**, a possible **Wilson's Plover**, and **Western and Summer Tanagers**. **Redpolls** remained in the area until mid-April, but few **Pine Siskins** were reported.

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

A single male **Eurasian Wigeon** appeared in Misery Bay on 3/24 and was joined by another male a few days later, with both remaining to 4/3 (JM). A single **White-winged Scoter** made a brief stop off Beach 11 on 3/24 (DS). **Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser** has been recorded in recent years, so it wasn't totally unexpected to see a male in Presque Isle Bay on 4/2 (DW). **Red-throated Loons** are rarely reported in spring in *Erie*, so one off the channel 3/24-26 was a bit of a surprise (JM).

A total of at least 4 **American Bitterns** were reported this spring from Niagara Pond and along Sidewalk Trail 4/12-5/21 (m. obs.). About the same number of **Least Bitterns** was recorded, mainly from Niagara Pond and Leo's from 5/10 through the period (m. obs.). A season total of at least 8 **Great Egrets** was reported from various sites on Presque Isle S.P. 3/30-5/23 (m. obs.). Not seen since the year 2000, a **Little Blue Heron** in transition plumage was at Gull Point 5/25 (MV). At least a dozen **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were present on the park with mostly singles reported 3/22-5/15 (m. obs.).

It has only been in recent years that **Black Vultures** have begun to show up along Lake Erie. However, they are still quite rare and not recorded every year, so one over Misery Bay on 5/21 was a rare sighting (MF). There were fewer **Sandhill Cranes** reported this season, with only five individuals seen or heard over the park on 4/15, 4/17, and 4/26 (JMa, JM, RS).

Recorded only once every few years now in *Erie* was a **Franklin's Gull**, transitioning from first winter to first summer plumage, on 5/16 (JM) and 5/19 (CT). An adult **Little Gull** in basic plumage was in the vicinity of Marina Lake from 3/31 to at least 4/11 (JS, et al.). Only one **Iceland Gull** was in the area this spring 3/20-26 (JM). Even **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were scarce this spring with only two reported: one was at Gull Point on 3/12 (JM) and another on the record-setting late date of 5/21 (DS). A total of four **Glaucous Gulls** were present periodically 3/11-4/23 (JM).

Pending acceptance of the PORC, an adult **Wilson's Plover** observed near Sunset Point would be one of fewer than ten records in the state in the past century. The bird was observed at close range by visiting birders from New Jersey (CM). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** flew over Gull Point on 5/26, for the only record this season (JM).

The only **Long-eared Owl** reported this spring was one in the pines 4/18 (DD). At least three migrating **Short-eared Owls** were observed overhead near the entrance of the park and at Gull Point 4/3-12 (m. obs.). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were on the park with one bird at Fry's landing on 4/12 and 4/14 (JM) and another along B-trail 4/13 (DD). An early **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling in Erie near the Lake Erie shore 4/22 (SS). A rather early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 5/7 (JTC), and one or two others were reported at the expected time 5/23-25 (RK, JTC).

The very rare hybrid **Lawrence's Warbler** made a brief appearance at Fry's Landing 5/11 (JM). Three **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 4/25 were earlier than usual (JM). Annual, but rare in *Erie*,

were single **Prairie Warblers** on 5/3 and 5/13 (JM). Not seen every year in the county was a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Fry's Landing 5/9 (RS). The only **Connecticut Warbler** reported was a single bird heard only along Pine Tree Trail on 5/24 (RK).

A first spring male **Summer Tanager** feasted on cut oranges at a feeding station in Greene Township 5/17-19, providing a very rare county sighting (BPZ). Yet another bird, a female, was seen near the lighthouse at PISP, then later along Pine Tree Trail on 5/24-25 (RS, DD, DDa, MV). The rarest find of the season was still another tanager species, a male **Western Tanager**. This bird was visited a hummingbird feeder in Waterford 5/4-5 at the residence of JTC. Unfortunately the bird was only present for the first day and the early morning of the second day, so few birders were able to see this first for nw. Pennsylvania.

The only **Clay-colored Sparrow** reported was one at Leo's on 5/3 (JM). A very late, and first county record for May, was a **Fox Sparrow** coming to a feeding station that remained to 5/15 (GN). Annual in the county, but still rarely reported, was a **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** 4/26 (MFr). An earlier-than-usual male **Indigo Bunting** was observed migrating overhead at a hawkwatch at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 4/9 (JM). A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a rare find along Sidewalk Trail 5/3 (IF, JB). The male **Rusty Blackbird** seen and heard singing 5/25 nearly tied the county record for tardiness (RK). As expected, with all of the **Common Redpolls** reported this spring, a male **Hoary Redpoll** was at a feeding station in Edinboro 3/18 (DS). **Pine Siskins** were especially scarce this reporting period with only one reported on Pine Tree Trail 5/21 (MF) and two at the same location 5/26 (RK).

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**Fayette County**

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

Spring is the season I receive most of my reports for this terribly under-birded county. With waterfowl fallouts and returning Neotropical migrants, many birders begin to return to the county to enjoy the migration. A good variety of waterfowl were reported during the season, particularly on days with heavy precipitation. March 18 and 28 produced good fallouts. All waterfowl reports for the season were from JCL except where indicated.

A flock of 36 **Tundra Swans** put down 3/18-19 during a rainy day (MF). The first **Wood Duck** was reported 3/15 (DB); 12 on 3/19 (GM) was the max count. **American Wigeon** were only reported 3/15-19 with no more than 4 birds present (DB, DB, GG, LG, MF, GM).

An overcast day with showers 3/28 produced a good fallout that included 2 **Gadwall**, 7 **Blue-winged Teal**, 8 **Northern Shovelers**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 55 **Ring-necked Ducks**, one **Greater Scaup**, 59 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 46 **Buffleheads**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 24 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 10 **Ruddy Ducks** (MF).

In addition to the fallout, **Northern Shovelers** were reported in small numbers with 7 on 3/8 (LH, LiH) and 5 on 3/19 (GM). **Canvasbacks** were present at the lake 3/8-25 with a high of 10 on 3/15 (DG, GG, LG, DB). **Redheads** were present 3/16-21 with a max of 9 on 3/18 (MF). High counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** in addition to the fallout included 60 on 3/17 (MF) and 21 on 3/19 (GM). **Greater Scaup** were present for most of Mar with a max of 10 on 3/15 (DB), and **Lesser Scaup** were found the second half of Mar. **Hooded Mergansers** were present most of Mar with a high of 24 on 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA). **Common Mergansers** were in small numbers in Mar, and 3 were on the Youghiogheny River 3/9 (MB). **Red-breasted Mergansers** reached a max of 31 on 3/19 (GM).

**Red-throated Loons** appeared in great numbers this spring. A single bird was at JCL 3/15 (DB, DG, GG, LG) and 3/16 (RG, SG). An incredible number were on the lake 3/18 when rain showers moved through the area all day. A raft of 30 was resting on the lake near dusk. The group took flight and circled the lake several times with many birds

calling as they flew over. They appeared to leave but soon returned and fed actively (MF). They were not present at dawn the following morning (GM). On 3/28, only (!) seven were present at the lake (MF). **Common Loon** numbers were surprisingly much lower than Red-throated. Single birds were present 3/18 (MF) and 3/19 (MF, GM), 4 on 3/27 (MF), and 9 was the tally 3/28 (MF), all at JCL.

**Pied-billed Grebes** were in good numbers at JCL this spring. Thirteen were there 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA), 16 on 3/27 and 11 on 3/28 (MF). **Horned Grebe** reports were also good with 15 present 3/19 (MF, GM), 16 on 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA), and 63 during the fallout 3/28 (MF).

The only **Osprey** report was a single bird at JCL 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA). Two **Turkey Vultures** were observed feeding on a dead White-tailed Deer near SGL 296 on 3/9 (MB).

Up to 50 **American Coots** spent the month of Mar at JCL (m. obs.). Shorebirds are never reported in great numbers or variety, but this spring the only species reported was **Killdeer** (LH, LiH).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped to rest in small numbers at JCL. A single bird was present 3/18 (MF), 6 were found 3/19, one 3/21 (LH, LiH), 4 on 3/27 (MF), and 10 on 3/28 (MF). **Ring-billed Gulls** are also attracted to JCL during migration. They were present 3/12-25 with high counts of 140 on 3/16 (RG, SG) and 170 on 3/18 (MF).

Owl reports were good due to atlasing efforts this spring. A few **Barred Owls** were heard 5/6, and 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard that day in the OSP area (MB, EH); a welcome report for this secretive species.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Springfield Twp. 5/4 (GM) and a **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/26 (KSJ).

The first reports for vireos this spring included 2 **White-eyed** at OSP, **Yellow-throated** at OSP and Mill Run, **Blue-headed** at Normalville, and **Warbling** at OSP 5/4 (GM).

Two **Common Ravens** were seen at SGL 51 on 3/9 (MB) and 2 were at OSP 5/4 (GM). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/26 (KSJ), a known breeding location.

Unfortunately I did not receive any reports of **Golden-winged Warbler**, however one observer searched for them at OSP 5/4 but concluded they probably had not yet arrived. Perhaps the summer report will contain observations of this appealing species. A trip through the county 5/4 provided the first spring dates for many warblers. Four **Northern Parulas** were at OSP (MB, GM), **Yellow Warblers** were present, a **Magnolia Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were at OSP, up to 10 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at various locations, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread, a **Blackburnian Warbler** and a **Cerulean Warbler** were at OSP, at least 6 **Black-and-white Warblers** were present at OSP and surrounding areas (MB, GM), **American Redstarts** and **Ovenbirds** were present, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was detected near OSP, one **Kentucky Warbler** was at OSP, and **Common Yellowthroats** and **Hooded Warblers** were widespread (all GM except where indicated). Five **Nashville Warblers** at OSP and Normalville and a **Palm Warbler** at Mill Run 5/4 represented the only migrant species for the area that day (GM).

Quebec Run Wild Area on Chestnut Ridge provides breeding habitat for a variety of warblers and a trip to that location 5/26 yielded the following species: **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler** (KSJ). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was the only certain migrant found at that location 5/26 (KSJ).

There were a good variety of sparrow reports this spring, a group that is not well represented in the reports normally. **Savannah Sparrows** were present at a farm near OSP 5/4 along with a **Grasshopper Sparrow** (GM). Three **Fox Sparrows** were found on 3/9; one or two were at SGL 51 and the other at an unspecified location (MB). A **White-throated Sparrow** was still present at OSP 5/4 (GM) and **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/26 where they breed (KSJ).

A nice count of 15 **Purple Finches** was at OSP 5/4 (GM).

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## Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Kellettsville (KE), Marienville (MA), Muzette (MU), Nebraska (NB), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta Lake (TL), Tionesta Outflow (TO).

Spring migration was plentiful in *Forest*, with a good assortment of waterfowl; most of the passerines reported probably breed here.

**Tundra Swans** at BS 3/21 numbered 115 (DY); smaller groups were reported near TI 3/7 (FM, JM) and 3/11 (NM). BS was the spot for waterfowl this spring: 4 **Gadwall**, 7 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 4 **Northern Shovelers** were reported 4/12 (TB), 9 **Northern Pintail** and 4 **Green-winged Teal** on 3/21 (DY), a high of 8 **Bufflehead** 4/12 (TB), and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** 4/6 (FM, JM). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted on the river at TI 4/2, where a **Common Loon** was also seen 4/19 (FM, JM).

The first **Turkey Vulture** was seen near TI 3/17. An **Osprey** was reported at BS 5/10 (FM, JM). Adult and immature **Bald Eagles** were reported from several locations, and a new active nest was found. The only **Northern Harrier** was seen near TI 3/21, and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** was near TI 4/15 (FM, JM).

**Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were located at BS 5/10 for the PAMC, when **Spotted Sandpipers** were found in several locations in the county (FM, JM). Perhaps a dozen **American Woodcocks** were flushed at BS 3/21 (*vide* DY).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted near TI 5/15. The first **Whip-poor-will** was reported from RB 5/10. A **Northern Flicker** was seen near TI 4/10, and the first **Chimney Swifts** were at TI 5/10. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was near TI 5/10 (FM, JM).

The earliest **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard at NB 5/14. **Least Flycatchers** were found at several locations as early as 5/10. The first **Eastern Phoebe** was found at BS 4/6. Seven **Eastern Kingbirds** were tallied at RB 5/10. The earliest **Blue-headed Vireo** was noted at RB 4/14; first **Red-eyed Vireos** were found 5/10 for the PAMC at several locations (FM, JM).

Early date for **Tree Swallows** was 4/6 at BS. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** returned to a traditional nest site at TO 4/23; a high of 12 was counted there 5/10. A **Bank Swallow** was seen at TC 4/23, when the first **Cliff Swallows** were noted at KE. Seven **Barn Swallows** were tallied at RB 5/10. The first **House Wren** was noted near MU 5/23, and **Winter Wrens** were singing at 3 different locations 5/10. The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted near TI 4/17. The only **Veery** report was made 5/23 near MU. Nine **Hermit Thrushes** were found in various locations 5/10. The first **Wood Thrush** was seen near TI 5/9; a count of 14 **Wood Thrushes** for the PAMC was above average for *Forest*. The earliest **Gray Catbird** was calling near TI 5/10. Two **Brown Thrashers** were found at TL 4/23 (FM, JM).

The first **Blue-winged Warbler** was found near TI 5/9. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a good find on an atlasing trip near MU 5/23. **Nashville Warblers** were noted near MA 5/20 and near MU 5/23; **Northern Parulas** were singing at TO and at KE 4/23. **Yellow Warblers** were found at several locations 5/10. The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and the first **Magnolia Warbler** were singing near TI 5/5. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at several locations 5/10; the first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was near TI 5/9. The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard near TI 4/25, with a high of 15 at RB 5/10. Fifteen **Blackburnian Warblers** were reported from various locations in *Forest* for the PAMC 5/10. A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** came into view in the low branches of a sycamore at TO, providing a PAMC highlight 5/10. A single **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at RB 5/10; 4 **American Redstarts** and 21 **Ovenbirds** were found at RB 5/10. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were singing at RB and NB 5/10; the first **Common Yellowthroats** were found 5/10 at 6 different locations in *Forest*. Four **Hooded Warblers** were found near TI 5/10. A **Canada Warbler** was seen near KE 5/10 (FM, JM).

The first **Scarlet Tanagers** were noted at various locations 5/10. An **Eastern Towhee** was singing near TI 4/14. The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen at feeders near TI 3/30, the first **Chipping Sparrow** near TI 4/7, and the first **Field Sparrow** near TI 4/23. A **Savannah Sparrow** was found at RB 5/10. Feeders near TI hosted the last **Fox Sparrow** 4/10, the last **White-throated Sparrow** 5/10, the last **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/10, the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 5/10, and the first **Indigo Bunting** 5/10. The first **Bobolinks** (9) were singing in a hay field at RB 5/10. The first **Red-winged Blackbirds** were found near TI 3/3 (FM, JM). The first **Eastern Meadowlarks** (14) were seen at BS

3/21 (DY). The first **Common Grackle** came to feeders near TI 3/8, where a high of 20 was seen 3/22. **Baltimore Orioles** were found at several locations 5/10 (FM, JM). The only **Evening Grosbeak** reported for the period was a single bird that visited a feeder near Tionesta 4/5 (FM, JM).

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### Franklin County

Locations: Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Chambersburg Area (CA), Stillhouse Hollow Rd. (SH).

A good variety of shorebirds were present in the county, however the numbers were low for many species. Many **Canada Geese** and a number of **Tundra Swans** were reported at various locations. **Mallard, Green-winged Teal** and **Ring-necked Duck** were the most numerous ducks, with some good sightings also of both **Scaup sp.**, **Bufflehead**, and some **Common Goldeneyes**, mainly at GR and ponds around CA.

**Wild Turkeys** are becoming rather common in wooded areas south of CA, and in some places, they are almost a problem. There some encouraging sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Northern Bobwhite** which have been hard to locate in recent years due to loss of habitat.

With a wet spring in the county, shorebirds were more numerous than usual, and at more locations. There were several good flooded areas on farms that produced at least 14 shorebird species for two weeks or more. Highlights included **Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope**, both **Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, Forster's Tern**, and more. Probably the best sighting was 4 **Upland Sandpipers** on a farm near Lemasters.

Mid-Apr brought out the **Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl** and the **Whip-poor-wills** along Stillhouse Hollow Rd. to join the **Great Horned Owls**. On 3/3, the first **American Woodcock** and **Hermit Thrush** were observed along the Stillhouse Hollow Rd.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** are being reported with much more regularity than in the past. This is another bird on the rebound in our county.

A good number and variety of warblers were reported along the edges of both mountains in the county. Starting with the **Pine Warbler** and ending with the **Blackpoll Warbler**, most of the usual species were heard or seen from early Apr until late May.

VB reported 24 **Fox Sparrows** at her feeder for several days near Caledonia State Park, along with **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**.

**Eastern Meadowlark** and **Orchard Oriole** are being seen often which is good news. **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, however, also seem to be on the increase which is not good news.

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### Fulton County

No Report.

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### Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Franklin Township (FT), Hunting Hills Farm (HH), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Waynesburg Water Dam (WWD).

**Wood Ducks** generally get off to an early start in *Greene*. The first was found 3/10 at WWD (JH), and by 5/24, a family with 7 young was found on a small pond overhanging with trees in Morgan Twp. (KK). Also at WWD, 4 **American Wigeon** were seen 3/10 along with 24 **Ring Necked Ducks**, 4 **Northern Pintails**, and 2 **American Black Ducks** (JH). The next day, 3/11, one **Redhead** was seen there (JH). The first **Mallard** pair was reported 3/25 at HH (SS). A **Blue-winged Teal** visited

EV 4/12 (MH). A pair of **Buffleheads** was noted at HH 4/10, and on 3/25 a **Hooded Merganser** was seen (SS). One **Great Egret** was seen at WWD 4/12 (JH). A pair of **Green Herons** was found at the pond at HH 4/10 (SS) where they had successfully raised young last summer and (we hope) will again this year.

The earliest **Turkey Vulture** noted was in Morgan Twp. by KB. A migrant **Osprey** was seen a WWD 4/12 (JH). Always an impressive sight, **Wild Turkey** courtship displays were witnessed 3/17 at LCR (MLP). An **American Coot** stopped to visit HH 3/29 (SS). Locally rare since the 1950s, a pair of **Northern Bobwhites** turned up at RBF 5/16 and was heard calling several times after that date (RKB). On PAMC day, 5/10, the sandpipers were will represented with **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Spotted Sandpipers** all reported. The first sighting of an **American Woodcock** was 3/17 at WWD (JH).

**Mourning Dove** courtship was observed 3/21 at LCR (MLP), and KK reported fledged young at KF by late May. KK reported an odd place for a **Mourning Dove** nest atop an exterior pilaster of a masonry building. This site has frequently been used by **American Robins**, whose old nest is vacant beside the Mourning Dove nest.

While cleaning the **Wood Duck** boxes she had put up last year, MLP found owl pellets inside and "the feathers from what appears to be a Downy Woodpecker." She had seen an **Eastern Screech-Owl** roosting at the box on occasion. At EV, a pair of **Eastern Screech-Owls** makes a pretty picture. One is a gray phase and the other is a red. A **Great Horned Owl** was heard the night of 3/2 at RBF (RKB). This owl has become scarce in the area. On the other hand, **Barred Owls** are being reported with increasing frequency. One was seen 5/4 near the village of Hero in Gilmore Township (Ed Kern).

**Chimney Swifts** arrived 4/12 at EV (MH). The earliest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported 4/22 also at EV (MH). The flycatchers seemed a little late this year, with only the **Eastern Phoebe** 3/14 and the **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/1 (both at RBF by RKB) being reported prior to PAMC 5/10. That day **Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher**, and **Eastern Kingbird** were reported. A great find was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** by TD. **Willow Flycatchers** did not show up until later, but once they finally arrived in *Greene*, they were encountered frequently.

The first **White-eyed Vireo** and the first **Blue-headed Vireo** were found 4/19 at EV (MH). The last day a **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported was 5/10. The earliest **Yellow-throated Vireo** showed up at LCR 4/23 (MLP). **Warbling Vireos** were not reported until 5/10. **Red-eyed Vireos** were found 4/24 at HH (SS). CH witnessed the first **Purple Martin** scout to arrive 3/22. A pair of **Tree Swallows** turned up at RBF 3/14, but the **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** did not appear until 4/8 (RKB). During the PAMC, 5 **Cliff Swallows** were found in a mixed group also containing **Chimney Swifts, Tree Swallows**, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on Turkey Knob Road (RB, KK). **Barn Swallows** took up residence at RBF 4/11 (RKB).

The latest date at RBF for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was 4/22 (RKB), which is in their normal departure time frame. Since they had arrived so early last Aug, we were interested in whether they would leave at their usual time. **House Wrens** were first heard 4/21 at RBF (RKB). One of the resident **Carolina Wrens** investigated a Boston Fern within 24 hours of the time that MLP hung it out on the front porch. However the fern apparently did not appeal to it, and later the nest was found in an unused flowerpot still hanging in the shed. One species that did stay longer than usual was **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. One was at RBF 5/4 (RKB). The usual departure time is mid-Apr rather than early May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at RBF 4/22 (RKB).

A **Veery** was found in western *Greene* 5/10 for the PAMC. The first **Wood Thrush** was reported at HH 4/25 (SS). The first **Gray Catbird** was noted 5/2 and a **Brown Thrasher** on 4/12 at EV (MH). As noted in the Winter Report, **American Robins** were abundant most of the winter in *Greene*. A young **American Robin** was seen out of the nest 5/6 at RBF (RKB).

The first sightings of several warblers were during PAMC. These were **Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Worm-eating**, and **Kentucky Warblers**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Other warblers passing through *Greene* during the PAMC were **Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian (JC)**, and **Bay-breasted Warblers**. A **Northern Parula** and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** arrived at EV 4/19 (MH). Both of these warblers are being found more frequently and at more sites in *Greene*. A singing **Yellow Warbler** was noted at RBF 4/22 (RKB). SGL 179 yielded a **Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart**, and a **Scarlet Tanager** 5/4 (KK). The

first **Ovenbird** was found 4/20 at LCR (MLP) and the earliest **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard 4/4 at RFB (RKB). A **Common Yellowthroat** was found 4/25 at EV (MH). A **Hooded Warbler** arrived at HH 3/31 (SS).

The first **Eastern Towhee** was noted 3/1 in FT (RB). The **Field Sparrows** returned to HH 3/31 (SS). The grassland group of sparrows, **Grasshopper, Savannah, and Henslow's**, were not reported until 5/10 on the PAMC. A **Chipping Sparrow** spent the whole winter dining at the ample feeders at RBF, and 3 were present 3/16 (RKB). A rare **Fox Sparrow** stayed close to the feeders at FT in from 12/23/2007 through early Mar, and was joined by two more on 3/3. They were last seen 3/17 (RB). The **Fox Sparrow** usually came to the feeder with **White-crowned Sparrows**. **Fox Sparrows** were also reported by RKB and MH 3/5 and MLP 3/9 at LCR. The **White-crowned Sparrows** were last noted 5/19 at RBF (RKB). The last date a **White-throated Sparrow** was seen was PAMC day, 5/10. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last noted 4/26 at EV (MH), which is a week or so earlier than they usually depart.

The feeders at EV drew in a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/21 (MH). At HH the **Indigo Buntings** made an appearance 5/2 (SS). An earlier than usual **Bobolink** was heard singing in a tree in the yard at RBF 4/25 (RKB). A pair of **Eastern Meadowlarks** showed up at RFB 3/4 (RKB). The first **Common Grackle** was seen at the feeder 3/7 at KF, and on 3/9 there were 12 **Common Grackles** scattered through a flock of 150 **Red winged Blackbirds**, all males. A few redwings had been around since 2/7, but not in this large a group (KK). Three male **Brown-headed Cowbirds** found the feeders at RBF 3/22 (RKB). The orioles showed up very close together with the **Baltimore Oriole** coming 4/25 at LCR (MLP) and the first **Orchard Oriole** at KF 4/26 (KK). Birds are frequently attracted to manmade items. MLP watched a female **Baltimore Oriole** try in vain to get a ribbon off a deflated balloon that was stuck high in a spruce tree at LCR 5/10.

While the occurrence of conjunctivitis among **House Finches** seems to be abating somewhat, it is still around. MLP reports that a female sitting on a thistle seed stocking did not see her due to the infection, and flew off erratically when she touched it. A very late **Pine Siskin** was found dead in the yard at LCR 5/24. MLP states there was no sign of eye infection or other illness, injury, or cause of death. On 5/31 a live **Pine Siskin** was seen on the thistle feeder and seemed fine, only to be found dead under the feeder the next morning, 6/1. Again, this bird showed no obvious reason for its demise. The bird was examined by RKB who also was puzzled at the cause of death as the bird appeared well nourished.

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#### **Huntingdon County**

No Report.

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#### **Indiana County**

Locations: Blacklick Valley Natural Area (BVNA), Cookport (CP), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), PAMC (Pennsylvania Migration Count), Reservoir Hill in Indiana (RH), Rochester Mills (RM), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A single **Snow Goose** visited YC 3/11 (LC, MH). Top **Canada Goose** count was 821 at YC on 3/23 (LC). Six **Mute Swans** appeared on Musser's Pond the morning of 5/10 (BB) then later that same day at TLR (DF), where they remained through 5/26 (DF). First **Tundra Swans** were 34 on 3/4 (LC, MH) at YC; the last noted were 8 at TLR 3/22 (LC).

The date of return for many waterfowl species was 3/11, but 3/25 produced many of the season's best counts. YC harbored more ducks this season than last spring with many days with high counts. First **Wood Duck** appeared near LV 3/5 (DC); 146 was the high count at YC 3/25 (LC, MH, JS). Seven **Gadwalls** arrived at TLR 3/11 (LC) while YC produced 4 that same day (LC, MH, GL); high counts, all at YC,

included 18 on 3/25 (LC, MH, JS), and the season's last were 4 on 4/14 (EF, MF). First **American Wigeons** were 10 at YC (LC, MH, GL) and 4 at TLR (LC) 3/11; YC's high tally of 237 occurred 3/25 (LC, MH, JS). YC yielded the first 32 **American Black Ducks** 3/11 (LC, MH, GL). Top counts of 71 **Black Ducks** and 428 **Mallards** were achieved 3/18 (LC, CG, MH, GL) at YC. Though first 3 appeared near Tide 3/21 (LC) and an equal number on the Auen Road Pond 3/31 (MC, KSJ), **Blue-winged Teal** did not show up at YC until 4/5 when 4 were sighted on a joint TBC-3RBC outing. The last of this species spotted were 3 birds at YC 4/29 (LC, MH).

One to 2 **Northern Shovelers** stopped at YC between 3/23 (LC) and 4/19 (LC, BF, TF, MH, RH, et al.). **Northern Pintails**, with first arrival 3/11 (LC, MH, GL), peaked at 228 on 3/18 (LC, CG, MH, GL); last were 38 on 3/25 (LC, MH, JS). **Green-winged Teal** moved through between 3/11 (LC, MH, GL) and 4/22 (LC, MH, JS, MVT) with top count of 105 on 3/23 (LC). **Canvasbacks** stopped between 3/11 (LC, MH) and 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC) with high tally of 110 on 3/22 (EF, MF). YC held 71 **Redheads** 3/11 (LC, MH, GL), and 86 were at TLR (LC) the same day; numbers peaked 3/25 (LC, MH, JS) at YC when 241 were noted. The last reported were 6 at Margus Lake 4/5 (BF, TF). First **Ring-necked Ducks** were a singleton at YC 3/7 (GL) and 15 near Elders Ridge 3/8 (DC); YC's maxima included 13 days of triple digits, with 606 the high on 3/23 (LC); last was a single bird 5/6 (MJA, LC, MH). A **Greater Scaup** at YC 3/11 (LC, MH, GL) was first; 72 was a good count 3/22 (EF, MF), and a late individual remained at YC through 5/20 (MJA, MA, SB, CG, MH, MS). Top **Lesser Scaup** tally was 324 at YC 3/24 (LC); 3 lingered through 5/10 (LC) near Tide. More than the usual **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted this season. First was a singleton at TLR 3/11 (LC); 76 were counted at YC 3/22 (EF, MF), 24 were on LA's pond near IN 3/28 (LA); 68 was a nice YC count 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC), and last were 4 at YC 4/11 (MH). **Bufflehead** maxima included 230 on 3/24 (LC) and 88 on 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS); one male still lingered on Dragonfly Pond at YC 5/13 (MJA, MH). YC yielded an all-time second highest count of 34 **Common Goldeneyes** 3/22 (EF, MF); the high of 36 had occurred 3/6/1995 (GL); 2 on 3/23 (LC) were last. Two early **Hooded Mergansers** landed at YC 3/7 (GL); YC numbers peaked at 64 on 3/22 (EF, MF), last of this species noted were 2 on Little Mahoning Cr. 4/7 (CR). YC yielded first **Common Merganser** 3/23 (LC) and 6 on 5/3 (LC); one was found near Bolivar 5/10 (MS, JT). Ten **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived 3/11 (LC, MH, GL) at YC while TLR harbored 19 that same day (LC); last noted was one on Musser's Pond 5/10 (MS, JT). The best day for **Ruddy Ducks** was 4/13 (EF, MF) when an estimated 100 were noted at YC; one still lingered at YC 4/22 (LC, MH, JS, MVT).

**Ruffed Grouse** seem to be in better numbers than in recent years with 21 reports at various locations, just one more report than last year; but migration count numbers indicated a good increase: 18 this year compared with only 6 last year. **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at many locations with largest flocks including an estimated 50 near Beyer 3/23 (EU, JU), 15 near Strongstown 4/11 (MH, GL), and 11 sw. of IN 5/9 (SB).

Two **Red-throated Loons** stopped on the lake at YC 3/21 (LC); 3 were there the following day (EF, MF); singletons were spotted at YC 3/23 (LC) and 5/10 (EF, MF). A **Common Loon** 3/21 (LC) at TLR was first; best loon count was 5 at YC on 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT); last noted were 3 on 5/20 (MJA, MA, SB, CG, MH, MSh), also at YC. **Pied-billed Grebe** first appeared 3/11 (LC) at TLR; the rather low top count of only 9 occurred at YC 4/1 (LC, MH, MVT), 4/8 (LC, MH, JS, MVT), and 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS). A **Horned Grebe** fallout of 250 occurred 3/22 (EF, MF), the highest YC count on record, tying a tally made 4/2/1995 (CL, GL).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at Conemaugh Dam 3/31 (DC, MC); 6 was YC's high 4/13 (EF, MF); 13 flew over RM 5/5 (EF, MH). The Plum Creek herony contained at least 8 active **Great Blue Heron** nests on 5/10 (JT).

First **Great Egret** visited the Plumville area and was seen independently by two observers 3/26 (NS, MVT). First **Green Heron** arrived at YC 5/6 (MJA, LC, MH). An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find on the annual YC pontoon ride 5/20 (MJA, MA, SB, CG, MH, MSh).

First **Turkey Vultures** were 2 spotted over Nolo (GL) and one over SH (MH) 3/3. **Ospreys** moved through YC between 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC) and 5/20 (MJA, MA, SB, CG, MH, MSh), but none stayed to nest. **Bald Eagle** reports included a first-year bird at YC 3/18 (LC, CG, MH, GL), an imm. bird at YC 4/1 (LC, MH, MVT) and 5/20 (MJA, MA, SB, CG, MH, MSh), 2 imms. at YC 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS), and one near LV 4/19

(MC). WL yielded 3 **Northern Harriers** 3/31 (MC, KSJ); last recorded was one in Wash. Twp. 5/10 (MS, JT). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were listed at 10 and 9 locations, respectively, during the period. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted at 7 locations with courtship flight observed 4/10 (BF, MH). **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/15 at YC (LC, MH, GL, JS), with the next sightings occurring 4/19 (MH) at Gilgal Cemetery and at Mottarns Mill (MH). A brief stop at YC 4/11 (MH) yielded a **Merlin** which landed in a tree where the observer attempted to photograph it.

The YC **American Coots** peaked at 307 on 4/7 (MH, JSo, SS); one was still present 5/13 (MJA, MH). First **Killdeer** arrived 3/3 (MH) near SH and 3/4 (LC) near Homer City. Ten **Greater Yellowlegs** was a nice count at YC 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC); 9 were present at YC 4/19 (LC, BF, TF, MH, RH et al.); the last singleton lingered until 5/10 (EF, MF). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived at YC 5/6 (MJA, MH), the lone report. **Solitary Sandpipers** appeared in the county between 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT) and 5/17 (EF, MF). Respective arrival dates for **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** were 4/13 and 5/17 (both, EF, MF) at YC where a pontoon ride 5/20 (MJA, MA, SB, CG, MH, MSh) yielded 7 spotties and 2 **Dunlin**. Single **Wilson's Snipe** were found at YC 4/13 (EF, MF), 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS), and 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT). First **American Woodcocks** were found 3/5 (MC) near LV and 3/29 (DB) at Nolo.

Top **Bonaparte's Gull** tallies included 53 on 3/19 (GL) at Margus Lake and 211 on 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS) at YC. The highest **Ring-billed Gull** count of more than 100 occurred near the JS Airport 3/15 (BW, GW). The only **Herring Gulls** noted were one 4/8 (LC, MH, JS, MVT) and 2 on 4/20 (EF, MF) at YC. Single **Caspian Terns** were spotted 4/20 (EF, MF) and 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT). Five **Forster's Terns** 4/20 (EF, MF) and a **Black Tern** 5/10 (EF, MF, DL) were the only ones reported.

Cuckoo arrival dates included 5/5 (MC) near LV for **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 5/10 (m. obs.) for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** on RH (PJ) and in Conemaugh Twp. (MC). **Eastern Screech-Owls** were listed at 5 locations (m. obs.) and **Great Horned Owls** and **Barred Owls** were each noted at 4 (m. obs.). Fourteen **Short-eared Owls** was a great count at WL 3/14 (KD); 4 were still present 3/31 (MC, KSJ). **Common Nighthawks** continue to be difficult to find with only one report of 2 near LV 5/29 (MC). **Whip-poor-will** reports include singletons 4/25 (ED) near SH, 5/10 (MC) at WL, and 5/27 (CG) in White Twp. First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/19 (EF, MF) near Tunnelton. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 4/25 (MC) near LV and 4/27 (BF, TF) near Penn Run.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared 5/10 (GMc) near IN where it remained through 5/24 (GMc). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** moved through our county between 3/8 (MC) and 4/13 (EF, MF).

**Eastern Wood-Pewees** at BS (RW) and **Acadian Flycatchers** in various parts of the county (m. obs.) appeared first on 5/10. May 25 (MH, RH) was the date of return for **Willow Flycatcher** near Edgewood. Locust yielded the first **Least Flycatchers** 5/3 (EF, MH). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/13 (MC) near LV. **Great Crested Flycatcher** was first found at Locust 4/25 (MH). **Eastern Kingbird** returned 5/5 (EF, MH) near RM. Vireo dates of return included 4/27 (PJ) for **White-eyed Vireo** on RH; 4/10 (BF, MH) for **Blue-headed Vireo** near CP; 4/26 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT) for **Yellow-throated Vireos** at BVNA; 5/6 (MH) for **Warbling Vireo** near SH; and 5/6 (MJA, LC, MH) for **Red-eyed Vireos** at YC. A **Philadelphia Vireo** found near Edgewood 5/25 (MH, RH) was the lone report. **Fish Crows** have become less elusive this season; one visited YC 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT), and 4 individuals were located in three sections of IN 5/10 (m. obs.). RW was able to confirm nesting when he spotted a pair on their nest 5/23 on N. Fifth. **Common Ravens** continue to be widespread with a confirmed breeding record 4/11 (MH) near Nolo. Four **Purple Martins** circled over a yard near SH 4/5 (MH, RH) for about 15 minutes. Arrival dates included 3/22 (EF, MF) for **Tree Swallow**, 4/8 (LC, MH, JS, MVT) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 4/22 (LC, MH, JS, MVT) for **Bank Swallow**, 4/29 (LC, MH) for **Cliff Swallow**, and 4/13 (EF, MF) for **Barn Swallow**, all at YC. A **Carolina Chickadee** continued near LV 5/10 (DC, MC). One to 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at 6 locations during the season.

A **House Wren** returned 4/18 (RH) near SH. **Winter Wren** records included one at YC 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS) and one south of CP 4/17 (BF, MH). First **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived 4/10 (BF, MH) near CP while last migrants were listed 5/5 on RH (PJ), at RM (EF, MH), and near Locust (EF, MH). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared near LV 4/18 (MC). Only one **Veery** was reported, a singleton 5/10 (DC, MC) in

Young Twp. Apr 11 yielded 4 **Hermit Thrushes** in the Strongstown area, and 5 were found in ne. **Indiana** 5/10 (SC, MH, RH, JJ). First **Wood Thrush** appeared 4/26 both near SH (MH, RH) and at BVNA (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT) while first **Gray Catbird** arrived at YC 4/29 (LC, MH). **Brown Thrasher** was seen first 4/4 (MC) near LV. A single **American Pipit** at YC 3/22 (EF, MF) comprised the report.

The best day of the spring warbler migration was 5/3. **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at North Point 5/2 (CG, MH); best count was 6 at YC 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT). **Tennessee Warblers** migrated through our county between 5/6 (MC) and 5/19 (MH). RH was responsible for both the first and last **Nashville Warbler** reports: 2 on 4/25 (PJ) and 5/24 (PJ). **Northern Parula** arrived 4/19 (EF, MF) both at CD and Tunnelton. First **Yellow Warblers** appeared 4/25 at IN (MC) and near Marion Center (MH). Other warbler first dates included 4/26 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at BVNA; 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT) for **Magnolia Warbler** at YC; 5/4 (PJ) for **Cape May** on RH; 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT) for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at YC; and 4/5 (MH, RH) for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** near SH. Top **Yellow-rumped Warbler** counts included 10 on RH 4/25 (PJ) and 17 at YC 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT); 5 near LV 5/14 (MC) were last. Earliest **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** occurred on 4/21 (BF, MH) near Cush Cushion Crossing and 4/25 (PJ) on RH, respectively. **Yellow-throated Warbler** reports included 3 near Robinson (JS, JT), one at Saltsburg (MD), and 3 at CD (MC), all 5/10. **Pine Warblers** returned near SH 3/21 (MH) and at YC 4/1 (LC, MH, MVT). BVNA yielded the season's first 2 **Prairie Warblers** 4/26 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT). The only 2 **Palm Warblers** were noted at YC 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT). The season's only **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found 5/10 (MLT) near Tanoma and 5/10 and 5/14 (MC) near LV. **Blackpoll Warblers** were first recorded 5/14 (MC) near LV; other reports included as many as 5 at YC 5/27 (MJA, MH, MVT) with last report this quarter of 3 at YC 5/30 (MH). **Cerulean Warblers**, all noted 5/10, included 2 found at TLR (PJ) and 12 in Conemaugh/Young Twp. (DC, MC). First dates included 5/3 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT) for **Black-and-white** and **Am. Redstart** at YC; 5/10 (RS) for **Worm-eating Warbler** in Armstrong Twp.; and 4/22 (LC, MH, JS, MVT) for **Ovenbird** at YC. **Northern Waterthrush** was recorded only at RM 5/5 (EF, MH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first found near CP and at Pine Flats 4/10 (BF, MH) and near ST 4/11 (MH, GL). Other first dates included 5/8 (MH) near Elkin for **Kentucky Warbler** and 4/26 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT) at BVNA for both **Common Yellowthroat** and **Hooded Warbler**. The only **Wilson's Warblers** were singletons near SGL 262 (SC, JJ, MH, RH,) and at YC (EF, MF) both 5/10 and on RH 5/19 and 5/22 (PJ). A **Canada Warbler** at CD 5/13 (EF, MF) was the lone report. The Commodore area yielded the first **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/9 (BF, CG, MH).

First **Scarlet Tanager** surfaced at BVNA 4/26 (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT). First returning **Eastern Towhee** occurred 3/9 (MC) near LV. **American Tree Sparrows** lingered at YC until 3/25 (LC, MH, JS) while the first **Chipping Sparrow** arrived near LV 4/1 (MC). First **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** were found near Gilgal Cemetery 4/18 (MH). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were first sighted 5/5 (EF, MH) near Locust. A nocturnal trip to the WL strips added 7 **Henslow's Sparrows** to the PAMC count (MC, DC); one was near Gipsy 5/24 (MH, MMC). **Fox Sparrows** moved through our area between 3/3 (MH) and 4/8 (LC, MH, JS, MVT); best count was 6 on 3/24 (PJ) on RH. A **White-throated Sparrow** remained near Elders Ridge through 5/10 (MC). **White-crowned Sparrows** were last observed n. of IN 5/17 (SB) and near LV 5/18 (MC).

Arrival date was 4/19 (MC) for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** near LV. Dates of return included 4/26 near CS (MAL) and at BVNA (LC, SC, MH, RH, JK, MVT) for **Indigo Bunting**; 5/1 (BF, MH) near Luciusboro and near Kenwood for **Bobolink**, and 3/8 (DC) for **Eastern Meadowlark** near WL. **Rusty Blackbirds** were once again in low numbers with all reports at YC; 3 was the best count 3/22 (EF, MF) and single birds were noted 4/1 (LC, MH, MVT) and 5/6 (MJA, LC, MH). **Orchard Orioles** were first listed 5/5 (MC) near LV and 5/6 (MJA, LC, MH) at YC while **Baltimore Orioles** arrived 4/25 (TF) near Penn Run. **Pine Siskins** were last seen near LV 5/21 (MC).

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### Jefferson County

No Report.

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### Juniata County

Locations: Cedar Springs Road (CSR), Cocolamus Dam (CD), Cuba Mills Road (CMR), Locust Run (LR), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Mountain Road (MR), Muskrat Springs River Access (MSRA).

PAMC was conducted 5/10 this year, and we had another great count: 152 species were counted totaling 14,236 total birds. Forty species had high counts and 4 new species were added to *Juniata's* PAMC all-time list. Those were **Horned Grebe** found by HP's crew, and 2 **Sandhill Cranes**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** found by AT's crew. We had 9 groups participating in the count totaling 26 observers, with a few feeder watchers helping this year as well. Over 101 hours were spent that day, and observers racked up 295 miles covered.

Waterfowl sightings included 6 **Tundra Swans** flying overhead at the LCSS 3/3 (AT), a **Canvasback** and 5 **Scaup sp.** at MSRA 3/2 (CK, AS), a **Scaup sp.** at CD 3/8-9 (CK), and two groups of **Long-tailed Ducks** counted on 3/28: 32 at MSRA and 9 at LR (THP). An adult **Hooded Merganser** with 7 young was found in the Groninger Valley 5/28 (AnT).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were spotted on MR 4/15 (CK, AT).

An **American Bittern** was found near some ponds on CMR 4/13 and 4/15 (DT, AnT, ST) and again on 4/27 (AT). A **Great Egret** was at that location 4/27 (AT).

The first **Bald Eagle** nest for *Juniata* was found at LR 3/21 (TJP). The birds were seen several times over the next few weeks (CK, AT, JS, et al.). A **Bald Eagle** and an **Osprey** were seen perched and feeding at MRA 4/17 (CK). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen on Rte. 235 outside of McAlisterville 4/15 (CK, AT). Three dark-phase **Rough Legged Hawks** were seen at CSR 3/2 (CK, AS), and a single light-phase bird was there 3/8 (CK).

A **Virginia Rail** was seen and heard before daylight during a turkey hunt near Van Wert 5/3 (SS). Shorebirds included a **Greater Yellowlegs** at MSRA 4/6 (EP), a **Solitary Sandpiper** at CMR 4/27 (AT), and several **American Woodcocks** including 4 at CMR 3/6 (RS), 6 at MR 4/15 (CT, AT), and a nest with eggs found near MR 5/5 (DT). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen flying over the LCSS 4/2 (AT). MSRA hosted 100 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/8 (CK, AS).

A **Long-eared Owl** was near the village of Center 3/2 (HP). A **Short-eared Owl** was spotted over the fields near LCSS 4/15 (AT, DT, ST). Three **Whip-poor-wills** were heard during a turkey hunt at MR 4/19 (DT, ST). **Chimney Swifts** returned to Mifflintown 4/18 (CK, JS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted near Spruce Hill 4/2 (AT), and 2 were a nice find while in the Groninger Valley 5/28 (AnT).

A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen and heard on Flint Road 4/20 (AnT). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen near Van Wert 4/14 (EP).

On 4/1 over 100 **Tree Swallows** were counted at MRA (CK, THP) along with a single **Barn Swallow**. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen flying over at LCSS 4/2 (AT), and 3 were seen at MRA 4/17 (CK).

A **Wood Thrush** was seen near Van Wert 4/14 (EP). A female **Scarlet Tanager** was spotted at the LCSS 4/6 (AT). A **Red-winged Blackbird** was at Cedar Springs Road 3/2 (CK, AS), and an **Orchard Oriole** was spotted at CMR 4/27 (AT).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were found at the LCSS 4/22 (ST).

**Common Redpolls** were still attending a feeder at the LCSS 4/8 (AT). **Pine Siskins** were at that location 4/13, and two were still visiting 5/25 (AT).

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### Lackawanna County

No Compiler.

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### Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats—Susquehanna River (SRCF), Long Level (SRLL), Wood's Edge Pond (WE), Octoraro Lake (OL).

This year marked the 13th year that *Lancaster* has participated in the PAMC and recorded more than 160 species. The rarest sighting was a singing **Summer Tanager** near Chickies Rock.

This year **Snow Geese** peaked at MC around 3/12 with about 110,000 counted (MC staff estimate). **Ross's Goose** was found on many occasions this spring with an extremely late sighting 5/19 (TRo). **Ross's Geese** were seen frequently at MC up until 3/15, and three were present from 3/6-12 (m. obs.). As many as 3 **Cackling Geese** were also present at MC, with the last report 3/15 (m. obs.). A dead **Tundra Swan** was found at SCRF 5/4.

Lingering waterfowl at SCRF this year included **Gadwall** 5/10, **American Wigeon** 6/1, **Green-winged Teal** 5/25, **Bufflehead** 5/25, **Hooded Merganser** 5/31, **Common Merganser** 5/25 and **Red-breasted Merganser** 5/30. **Red-throated Loon** is never common in the spring, but this year one was seen on a number of occasions at SCRF (EW, et al.). The last report was 5/30. The **Eurasian (Common) Teal** reported at OL during the winter was still there 3/21 (TA). A **Surf Scoter** was on the SR at Wrightsville 3/2 (EW). A **Surf Scoter** was discovered at MC 3/13 (MO), and it was seen there until at least 4/7 (m. obs.). This is a species that is usually not seen away from the SR in *Lancaster*.

Two **American Bittern** were reported from SCRF 4/16 (DH), but that was the only report of the season. Three **Glossy Ibis** were at SCRF 4/16 (DH) and they were also the only reported for the season. A **Black Vulture** was on a nest with eggs on the second floor of a barn at the intersection of Pinch and Cider Press Road in Rapho Township (KM, RM). Some people have **Barn Owls** and others are lucky enough to have vultures in their barns. The rarest raptor of the season was a **Mississippi Kite** flying south at the *Lancaster/Lebanon* border along Pinch Road in Rapho Twp. 4/13 (RM). The bird was believed to be a first year bird. A **Merlin** was seen flying over a yard in the eastern part of the county 4/20 (CC), and another was seen along Newport Road north of Manheim on two occasions in early Mar (RM). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in many places all season. This bird is definitely becoming more common all over the county. Birds continued to frequent the Columbia and Wrightsville area of the SR where they nested last year. Another pair was seen in the area of Holtwood Dam and Norman Wood Bridge 5/26, exhibiting what was believed to be courtship behavior (TR, EW). In addition birds were reported at MC and even in downtown Lancaster.

Once again **Virginia Rails** and **Sora** were both reported at WE 5/10 and at least the **Virginia Rails** remained into June (CC). **Sandhill Cranes** now seem to be annual in *Lancaster* and once again they were seen on multiple occasions. Two cranes were seen near auto stop #3 during the middle of May (JBi, et al.). These birds would have been present in both *Lancaster* and *Lebanon*. Another was reported in a field along Zelteneich Rd. near New Holland 5/27.

This spring I received reports of 17 species of shorebirds from SRCF. This total is down from previous years, but some of the highlights were **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/21 (EW) and 5/29-30 (BS), 2 **Western Sandpipers** (a spring rarity) 5/31-6/1 (BS, EW), **White-rumped Sandpiper** from 5/10-30 with 5 on 5/29 (BS), **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/21, and **Wilson's Phalarope** 5/29 (BS). This year OL was drawn for construction work on the dam. This created a lot of shorebird habitat and drew in good numbers of shorebirds. The most unusual

species were 8 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/17 and **Dunlin** 5/17 and 5/20, but a nice count of 150 **Least Sandpipers** 5/17 was also reported (CC). The highest count occurred during the migration count 5/10 when nearly 500 shorebirds (mostly Least Sandpiper) were present (CC).

This year **Little Gulls** were again reported with **Bonaparte's Gulls** on many occasions. The season started with one basic plumaged adult 3/16 at SRLL. The last report of the season was of 2 along the SR at Falmouth 4/14 (DH). In between these dates there were numerous sightings along the SR mostly between Wrightsville and Long Level. The highest count reported was 5 at SRCF 3/25 (AM, CR, DW). Other Larid highlights included **Glaucous Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at SRCF 3/25 (AM, CR, DW).

Up to 6 **Common Terns** were along the SR just south of Columbia 5/10 along with 2 **Black Terns** (JH). Another **Black Tern** was at SRCF 5/4 along with the season's first reported **Forster's Tern** (BS). **Short-eared Owls** were in good numbers at MC all winter and were last reported 3/28. **Common Nighthawk** was reported on the PAMC at Bainbridge 5/10 (JH). This is a species that does seem to be reported less frequently and in lower numbers in recent years.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Rolling Hills Park 5/18 (TRo) and at the Lancaster County Central Park 5/21 (CC). **Least Flycatcher** was noted on the PAMC and at MC 5/17 (KM, RM). **Northern Shrike** was reported at MC 3/15 with other possible sightings around the same time (m. obs). **Tree Swallows** showed up especially early this year with the first report on 3/13. Thrushes were in very limited supply this year, and I didn't receive any reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush.

For the most part, migrant warblers were reported in low numbers and variety this year. For example, on an entire day of birding during the count 5/10, I did not see any Blackburnian Warblers and only saw singles or doubles of most other species including **Black-throated Green** which are usually fairly common. Indeed, **Blackburnian Warbler** was missed entirely on the PAMC this year. An exception to our down season was some encouraging reports from RM 5/3-4 along the power line cut off of Pinch Road in Rapho Twp. Highlights over these two days included 7 **Tennessee Warblers** 5/3, 24 **Nashville Warblers** 5/4, 17 **Northern Parula** 5/4, 21 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 5/4, **Pine Warbler** 5/3, 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** 5/3, 4 **Cerulean Warblers** 5/3, 14 **Black-and-white Warblers** 5/4, and **Wilson's Warbler** 5/4. One other bright spot was significant numbers of **Prothonotary Warblers** at SRCF. On 5/31 at least 5 nests were verified with the potential of as many as 7 nests in the 9 tubes. This is very encouraging and the warblers were seen on several different islands. On a less positive note, **Prothonotary Warblers** were not reported from the Bainbridge area where they have been common in previous years.

Once again a **Summer Tanager** was reported in the county. A singing male was reported the morning of 5/10 at Chickies Rock County Park, just north of Columbia (CR, AS). The location was near the Breezyview Overlook. The bird was first heard singing just before 9:00 AM and was last seen about an hour later. It was not relocated. The bird was likely a first-spring bird; however, it was largely red overall, with just a small patch of greenish coloration to the lower belly.

**Rusty Blackbird** is another species that seems to be reported less frequently each year. This year the only two reports off Pinch Road in Rapho Twp. 4/13 (RM) and during the PAMC 5/10. This year **Purple Finches** were in good numbers with as many as 15-20 birds reported at feeders. The last straggling **Purple Finch** was reported 5/10 and the last **Pine Siskin** 4/28.

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#### Lawrence County

No Report.

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#### Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG) Lebanon Valley Business Park (LVBP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), N. Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC), Reistville Ponds (RV), Second Mountain Hawk Watch (2nd Mtn.), Swatara State Park (SSP).

The highlights for this quarter were the sighting of a male **Surf Scoter** at MC on the Lancaster side that moved around to the Lebanon side 3/8-4/5 (m. obs.). On 5/3 a **Prothonotary Warbler** on the Gov. Dick property was being chased by 2 **Ovenbirds** (RCM). They both furnished fifth county records.

The PAMC conducted on 5/10 saw mostly low numbers of species, but there were some highlights. **Common Mergansers** (3), **Bald Eagles** (6), **Peregrine Falcon** (1), **Spotted Sandpiper** (29, a new county high), **House Wren** (109, a new county high), **Swainson's Thrush** (2), **Palm Warbler** (8), **Kentucky Warbler** (3), and **Orchard Oriole** (6).

The **Cackling Goose** was last seen at MC 3/8 (RCM). **Snow Geese** at MC peaked at about 110,000 on 3/14 (m. obs.). **Ross's Geese** were last seen on 3/8 at MC with two (RCM). Four were found at LVBP on 3/4 with about 6000 **Snow Geese** (RCM). **Tundra Swans** peaked the first week of March with 3000; most left by the middle of March (m. obs.). There were 32 **Wood Ducks** on MLSP 4/12 (MC, RCM). On 5/6 a female **Gadwall** at MC sent a new late date (RCM). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** set a late date on 5/22 at MPR (RCM). **Green-winged Teal** were seen until 5/6 with a peak count of 115. There were 49 at RV and 66 at MC (RCM). **Canvasbacks** were seen from 3/21 at MC with 2 (RCM) until 3/27 at MLSP, also with 2 (GK). **Redheads** were seen until 4/4 at MC with 6 (RCM). The flock at MLSP peaked at 11 on 3/5 (GK). There were also approximately 150 **Ring-necked Ducks** on the lake (GK). A flock of 8 **White-winged Scoters** at MLSP on 4/27 set a new county high (AS). On 4/12 at MLSP, 262 **Bufflehead** were there after a storm (RCM, MC). On 3/1 at MLSP 3 **Common Goldeneyes** provided the highest count for the season (GK). A female **Common Merganser** at MLSP on 5/25 was a good find (GK). A displaying **Red-breasted Merganser** at MLSP 4/12 was the only sighting for the season (RCM, MC).

**Common Loons** were in good numbers. On 4/11 57 passed 2nd Mtn. (MC). On 4/13, 43 were over SGL 145 (RCM). **Horned Grebes** were at MLSP from 3/9 (RCM) to 4/14 (GK) with a peak of 22 on 4/12 (RCM, MC). A **Red-necked Grebe** was on MLSP on 3/9 (RCM, MC).

A **Black Vulture** nest with 2 eggs was found on the Gov. Dick property 4/19 with one egg in the process of hatching. In the photo we could see the chick's bill with the egg tooth sticking out of a small hole (m. obs.). Second Mountain had some good numbers of raptors 4/11: **Osprey** (38), **Northern Harrier** (10), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (62), **Cooper's Hawk** (17), **Broad-winged Hawk** (70), **Golden Eagle** (1), **American Kestrel** (83, a new county high), **Merlin** (9), **Peregrine Falcon** (1) (MC). On 4/26 there were 59 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 130 **Broad-winged Hawks** (RB, DS). A first year **Mississippi Kite** was seen 4/13 flying sw. over SGL 145 (RCM). Other raptor reports away from 2nd Mtn. included a **Golden Eagle** 3/9 at Gold Mine Road (MC) and a **Merlin** flying east over the Gov. Dick Tower (RCM, KM). **Peregrine Falcons** were reported all over the county at the following locations: Palmyra 3/6 (GK), MC 3/21-5/10 (RCM) and FIG 5/3 (DY).

**American Coots** sent a new high with 112 at MLSP (GK). The first May report of **Sandhill Crane** was at Stop #3 at MC with one 5/12 (DW) and 2 until 5/17 (JB, CE). A nice breeding plumage **Black-bellied Plover** was at NPR 5/5-15 (RCM, KM). On 5/15 **Least Sandpipers** sent a new high with 195 at NPR (RCM, KM). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were only seen 4/18 with 20 at RV (RCM). **Dunlins** were seen 5/4-23 with a county high count of 26 on 5/15 (JH). **American Woodcocks** were only found from 3/3 at SGL 145 (RCM).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at MLSP from 4/4 (6) and 2 on 4/11. A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was found next to the Mark Hershey Feed Store 5/15 (TJ). Both cuckoos were again in good numbers throughout the county.

The **Barn Owl** pair at MC had 5 young on the Lebanon side (JB). **Long-eared Owls** were found until 4/6 at SGL 145 (m. obs.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard 3/20 at Rexmont and another 4/12 at MLSP (RCM). **Whip-poor-wills** were heard from 5/10 (RS) with approximately 10-12 at the end of May at FIG (m. obs.).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were on Fonder White Road beginning 5/17, including a pair (RCM, KM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

was seen until 5/10 at CS (SW).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** on 5/17 in Spring Hill Acres was the only one reported (JH). **Least Flycatchers** were reported from 5/3 at FIG (DY) to 5/17 at MC (RCM, KM). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was heard on 4/19 near SGL 145 (RCM). There were 2 reports on 4/19 of a **Yellow-throated Vireo**. One was in Mt. Gretna (SH) and the other along SGL 145 (RCM). There was also a **Warbling Vireo** on 4/20 singing near SGL 145 (RCM). All are new early dates. **Red-eyed Vireos** were in low numbers in May.

First **Purple Martins** reported were 2 males at RV 4/18 (RCM). A **Tree Swallow** over 2nd Mtn. 3/14 was a good find (MC). Only one **Bank Swallow** was reported from 5/10 at MPR and **Cliff Swallows** went unreported (RCM). The first **Barn Swallow** was seen 4/12 along Lewis Road (GK). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SGL 80 on Blue Mountain 5/11 (RCM, KM). A **Winter Wren** was at CS 5/10 (SW); we hope breeding will be confirmed. **Swainson's Thrushes** were found from 5/10 on SGL 211 (RS) to 5/20 with 3 at Spring Hill Acres (JH).

Warbler migration was very good this year. Good numbers were here for two weeks in early May. **Nashville Warbler** and **Northern Parula** set new highs when 24 and 17 were seen on 5/4 at SGL 145 (RCM). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found at MLSP 4/27 (GK). Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at 2nd Mtn. 4/26 (RB). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at SSP 4/19 (DD). **Pine Warblers** were reported more than usual. There were 12 found at MLSP 4/12 for a new high (RCM). **Palm Warblers** were found 4/13-5/10 with 8 at CS (SW). A **Blackpoll Warbler** on 5/4 tied the early date at SGL 145 (RCM). **Cerulean Warblers** were found from 5/3 with 4 on SGL 145 (RCM). Two were singing at Blue Mtn. on SGL 80 on 5/11 (RCM, KM). **Black-and-white Warblers** sent an early date with one in Mt. Gretna 4/11 (SH). Another at SSP 4/19 would have tied the early date (DD). **Worm-eating Warblers** set a new high with 11 at SGL 145 on 5/4 (RCM). A male **Connecticut Warbler** was found at MLSP 5/17 for only the second spring record (RCM, KM). A **Mourning Warbler** was found was singing 5/26 at Gov. Dick property near the new center (RCM). **Wilson's Warblers** were found from 5/4 on SGL 145 (RCM) to 5/17 at Spring Hill Acres (JH). On 5/6 there were 5 at SGL 145 (RCM).

There were two reports of **Vesper Sparrow**. The first was on 4/9 in Annville (MC); the other at LVBP 4/29 (RCM). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** along Chapel Road at MC 4/18 sent a new early date (RCM). **Fox Sparrows** were reported until 5/10 at CS (SW). There were 12 at Camp Strause 3/1 (JL). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found 4/13 at SGL 145 (RCM) and 5/22 at CS (JH). The last **White-throated Sparrow** was found 5/25 at MLSP.

A male **Blue Grosbeak** was found 5/13-16 at LVBP (RCM). An **Indigo Bunting** at SGL 145 on 4/20 made for a new early date (RCM). **Bobolinks** were found from 5/10 with 22 found on the PAMC. **Rusty Blackbirds** were present until 4/13 at SGL 145 (RCM). **Purple Finches** were reported up to 4/26 at many locations. On 4/17 there were 15 at Spring Hill Acres (JH). The last **Common Redpoll** was at a feeder in Mr. Gretna 3/7 (SH). A **Pine Siskin** was found 5/3 at FIG (DY).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Barry Bell, Jim Binder, Gerry Boltz, Randy and Mary Brenner, Greg Burgdorf, Morris Cox, Dennis Donmoyer, Chuck Engle, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman, Sid Hostetter, Tom Johnson, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Richard Light, Jim Logan, Kate Miller, Bob Peda, Cameron Rutt, Art Schiavo, Dave Schwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Drew Weber, Susan Wheeler, David Yeany II.

### Lehigh County

Eight **Double-crested Cormorants** (BM, PM) were seen flying over Upper Milford Township 4/15. A **Horned Grebe** (JH) was seen in near breeding plumage at Leaser Lake 4/5. A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** (JH) was seen near Fogelsville in a retention pond 5/26. Eight **Northern Pintail** (JL) and 4 **Green-winged Teal** were in a flooded field along the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Township 3/8. At the Fogelsville Quarry 3/17 were a pair of **Buffleheads** (BMe), 3 **Canvasbacks**, several **American Coots**, and many **Ring-necked Ducks**. Also at the Fogelsville Quarry were a few **Common Mergansers** (JH), some **Green-winged Teal**, a **Cooper's Hawk** and some lingering **Snow Geese** nearby, all seen on 3/25. JH spotted the following birds in the Fogelsville/Trexlerstown on this day: 3 **Wilson's Snipe**, several **Green-winged Teal**, 4 **American Wigeon**, and a female **American Kestrel**.

At Bake Oven Knob 4/19 John Traynor and Doug Burton had 32

**Sharp-shinned Hawks**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, 3 **Northern Goshawk**, 164 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 23 **Osprey**, 4 **Northern Harrier**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 5 **American Kestrel** and 6 **Common Loons**. An immature **Bald Eagle** (JL) was seen flying over Lower Macungie Twp. 5/4. A **Mississippi Kite** was seen flying over North Whitehall Township 5/7 (DW).

An **Osprey** (BM, PM), **Hermit Thrush**, **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seen 4/10 in Upper Milford Twp. Some early shorebirds were on flooded fields west of Allentown 3/30 included **Greater Yellowlegs** (JH), **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Wilson's Snipe**. Also on the flooded fields was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** observed 4/5 (JH). JH also had two **Wilson's Snipe** near Trexlerstown 4/5.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen 4/2 (TW). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was spotted at Leaser Lake on 5/26 along with a **Yellow-throated Vireo** (JH). On 5/30 a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (BM, PM) was seen interacting with a territorial male **Scarlet Tanager**, which was not happy with the presence of the flycatcher.

Along Kunkle's Mill Rd. 5/26 there was a mixed colony of **Cliff Swallows** (JH) and **Barn Swallows**. There were duetting **Alder Flycatcher** (JH) and **Willow Flycatcher** along Valley Road 5/26. A **Winter Wren** (BM, PM) was seen 3/26-4/9 in Upper Milford Twp.

A **Swanson's Thrush** (BM, PM) was seen in Upper Milford Twp. on 5/8. At Whitehall Parkway on 4/19 there were **Black-throated Green Warbler** (JH), **House Wrens**, **Brown Thrasher**, many **Tree Swallows**, **Eastern Bluebird**, and many singing **White-throated Sparrows**. Also on this date at Jordan Creek, JH had many **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a few **Palm Warblers**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and a couple of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**. In Salisbury Twp. 5/5 were **Chestnut-sided** (JS), **Black-and-white**, and **Canada Warblers** along with **Northern Waterthrush** with many **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and **Ovenbirds**. At Leaser Lake on 5/21 were **Cerulean**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Tennessee**, **Pine**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Blackpoll**, **Magnolia**, **Canada**, and **Black-and-white Warblers**. Other warblers seen or heard were **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Ovenbirds**, and **American Redstarts**. At Jordan Parkway on 5/9 were **Northern Waterthrush** (JH), **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and several **Ovenbirds**. Other non-warblers included **Scarlet Tanager**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Veery**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Red-eyed Vireos**, and **Chimney Swifts**.

A **Cape May Warbler** was seen along the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Twp. 5/7 (JL). At Leaser Lake on 5/26 were **Blackpoll** (JH), **Hooded**, and **Worm-eating Warblers**. Lots of warblers were seen in Upper Milford Twp. 5/4 including **Hooded**, **Black-throated Green**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-and-white**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Canada**, **Northern Parula**, **American Redstart**, and **Common Yellowthroat**. **Wood** and **Hermit Thrushes** were also seen. Other warblers seen by BM and PM in Upper Milford Twp. were **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/5, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Hooded Warbler** 5/6, **Tennessee Warbler** 5/7, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and a sickly looking female **Purple Finch** 5/26. The **Purple Finch** stayed into June.

A **Blue Grosbeak** (m. obs.) was seen on a Lehigh Valley Audubon trip to Leaser Lake on 5/17. Along with the **Blue Grosbeak**, **Ruffed Grouse** and **Hooded Blackpoll**, **Canada**, **Tennessee**, **Cerulean**, and **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen. Finally DW had an interesting experience on 4/12 while working overnight in Whitehall. Around 2AM he began to hear flight calls, and around 3:15 there were over 300 sparrows in the lit portion of the parking lot where he worked. He estimated there were 100+ **Chipping Sparrows**, 100+ **White-throated Sparrows**, 20+ **Savannah Sparrows**, 30+ **Song Sparrows**, and 50+ **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinj1@yahoo.com**, Jeff Hopkins, Betsy Mescavage (BMe), Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Jill Stanley, Todd Watkins, Dustin Welch.

### Luzerne County

Locations: Crystal Lake (CL), Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Kirby Park Natural Area (KP), Moon Lake County Park (ML), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), PA Fish & Boat Commission Union Twp. Access Area (PFBA), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Susquehanna River (SR).

This past spring was cooler and wetter than normal. As a result there were some decent fall-out days and if one was lucky enough to hit it right, some wonderful days were to be had in the field. RK was one observer who did just this at least one day when he was filming a segment on waterfowl migration for Pennsylvania Outdoor Life. There were numerous reports of finches leftover from the winter incursion.

**Common Loons** were recorded from 3/22 thru the end of May with a peak of at least 26 individuals on HL 4/5 (JH). **Horned Grebes** appeared in lower than usual numbers, but up to 5 individuals were seen 3/22 at HL (JDB).

A report of **Great Egret** was made 5/15 flying over the Cross Valley Bridge in Plains (RK). On 4/22 an **American Bittern** was found at NSP during an Earth Day event (DM). Another **American Bittern** was reported from the traditional location, Lee Swamp, 4/26 (RK).

A nice find for our area was 15 **Long-tailed Ducks** in breeding plumage at HL 3/22, along with 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 2 **Common Goldeneye** (JDB, JH, JS, RK). As noted in the introduction RK had a wonderful waterfowl day on 3/18 at PLYF, when he recorded 250 **Canada Geese**, 15 **Wood Ducks**, 75 **American Wigeon**, 16 **Gadwall**, 250 **Green-winged Teal**, 150 **Mallards**, 50 **American Black Ducks**, 1000 **Northern Pintails**, 3 **Blue-winged teal**, 7 **Canvasback**, 11 **Redheads**, 400 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, 25 **Lesser Scaup**, and 15 **Bufflehead**. The only scoter reported this season was a **Surf Scoter** at CL 5/10 (MK).

On 4/27 RK and JH stopped at the PFBA and were treated to some remarkable observations. While watching an **Osprey** flying above the SR with a fish in its talons, an adult **Bald Eagle** appeared on the scene. As the drama quickly unfolded, the **Bald Eagle** flew directly at the **Osprey** and began harassing it in an apparent act of piracy. The **Bald Eagle** continued to dive at the **Osprey** and finally, after a minute or two, the **Osprey** released the fish from its talons. The **Bald Eagle** then turned on its back and grasped the falling fish from mid-air. After losing its catch to the eagle, the **Osprey** flew away in a northerly direction and the **Bald Eagle** flew south with its ill-gotten meal. Although this behavior has been recorded in the birding literature, it's the first time that either observer actually witnessed this in 50 years of combined birding experience.

At Lee Swamp, both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found during the PAMC 5/10 (SGo, BW). **American Woodcock** were first reported this year on 3/22 (RK) and 30 **Wilson's Snipe** were seen 3/14 at PLYF (RK). The conditions locally were not conducive for shorebirds to stop on their migration, and as a result only 10 species were recorded including the two mentioned.

**Whip-poor-will** numbers continue to hold steady in the ne. portion of the county, with the greatest density on Bald Mt. (RK). **Common Nighthawks**, on the other hand, are anything but common in our area with only one or two reported in Wilkes-Barre during mid-May (JS).

**Swainson's Thrush** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** both went unreported this season. The numbers of **Hermit Thrush** appeared to be somewhat less than average, but **Veery** and **Wood Thrush** seemed to be about average.

There were at least 30 species of wood-warblers reported during the period with some of the highlights being **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/10 in Bear Creek (RK, MK) and another individual at ML 5/20 (JH). **Cape May Warblers** were also reported in increasing numbers with several sightings in early May (JH, JS, SGo, BW). A **Cerulean Warbler** was heard by RK while driving along Rt. 11 in the Shickshinny area 5/2. Another was found at its traditional breeding area at the PFBA 5/20 (JH). Probably the most unusual warbler was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** found by SGA at KP in mid-May. **Mourning Warbler** went unreported for the first time in many years.

**Purple Finch** was reported throughout the period by numerous observers, and 16 **Common Redpolls** continued at a feeder near FSSP through 4/8 (BT). **Pine Siskin** was another winter finch that persisted until early April (BT, JS, EJ). An unexpected but great find were 8 **Evening Grosbeaks** that showed up at a feeder in White Haven 3/8; they continued sporadically until 4/1 (EH, DB).

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925 birdder@aol.com**, Susan Baron, Dave Birchler, Mark Blauer, Christopher Bohinski, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Eleanor Harding, Ed Johnson, Don Kapral, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Diane Madl, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

## **Lycoming County**

No Report.

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## **McKean County**

No Compiler.

## **Mercer County**

Locations: Shenango River Reservoir (SRR), Williamson Road (WR), Zahnier Road (ZR), Williamson Road (WR).

May nesters had poor success, due to cold, wet weather, but weather patterns were favorable for passerine fallouts, and most migrants were observed in larger numbers than in previous years.

**Turkey Vulture** is noticeably more common countywide. Seven **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen along Airport Rd. 3/26. A **Wilson's Snipe** was winnowing in a swampy area on Skunk Run Rd. 5/5. EF reported 3 **Great Black-backed Gulls** (1 imm.) at SRR 3/20. **Eastern Phoebe** arrived 3/28, which is 10 days later than average.

Clearly, the best species of the period was **Northern Shrike**: one was seen along Cannon Road 3/15, and another along Donation Road 3/26 (both NT).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued at a feeder until 5/1 on ZR, and another was observed 5/11 during a fallout. A **Brown Creeper** was singing at SGL 130 on 5/26. Two **Wood Thrushes** 4/1 were remarkably early. **Northern Mockingbird** is slow to become established in *Mercer*, so a pair frequenting a particular suburban yard for the whole month of May in S. Pymatuning Twp. was noteworthy.

Twenty-seven spp. of warbler were counted, and as a whole, were considered fairly numerous. Outstanding were: 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** 5/11-14, one **Orange-crowned Warbler** along Skunk Run Rd. 5/11, and 3 **Northern Parulas** along Nicklin Lane 5/13. **Cerulean Warbler** numbers seemed lower. **Prothonotary Warblers** were back to their nesting territory along SR. **Kentucky Warbler** numbers were up at SGL130 (all NT).

A single **Fox Sparrow** took a six-week migration stop, feeding daily under a sunflower feeder at SRR 3/5-4/16. At SGL 130, 3 singing **Dark-eyed Juncos** 5/26 were found in a dense Hemlock forest. Two **Lapland Longspurs** were mixed in with a flock of Horned Larks along ZR 3/16. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were one week early, arriving 4/18. **Bobolinks** are becoming more common in various pastures in Delaware Twp. Two **Common Redpolls** fed at a thistle feeder on WR 3/30-4/7.

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

## **Mifflin County**

No Report.

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## **Monroe County**

Locations: Cherry Valley (CV), Delaware State Forest (DSF), Delaware Water Gap (DWG), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The early part of the period was, for the most part, seasonable, followed by a warm, dry April and a cool, wet May. Highlights included breeding **Hooded Merganser**, **Sora**, an outstanding **Summer Tanager**, and 104 species recorded 5/18 on MCEEC's "Century Day" (DS, JS).

Two **Common Loons** were reported from Tobyhanna Lake 3/28 and Skytop Lake 4/5 (JS). A MCEEC field trip produced first of the

spring **Wood Duck**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Green-winged Teal** 3/7 in CV (BH). A **Hooded Merganser** was discovered on 5/13 nesting in a wood duck box on an MCEEC pond (BH). Eleven eggs were in the nest. The nest was successful, the female Hooded Merganser was seen with young 5/22 (TA). An injured **Sora** was found in a Stroudsburg yard 4/30 and taken to a rehabilitation center (KD). Unfortunately, the bird succumbed to its injuries. **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found at CV 5/18 (DS, JS) and the earliest reported **Wilson's Snipe** was one in CV 3/7 (BH), with numbers building there to nearly 60 by the end of the month (BW). An exciting and uncommon find was an **American Woodcock** with 2 young at Big Pocono St. Park 5/28 (JS).

The DWGNRA headquarters swamp near Bushkill had at least one **Red-headed Woodpecker** 5/17 (DS). The Bushkill area also had an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/18 (DS, JS). A **Mourning Warbler** was banded at MCEEC 5/30 (DS), representing a first record for the site. A **Brewster's Warbler** was discovered at a site along the Freeman Tract Rd in DWGNRA 5/18 for the second straight year (DS), and the **Lawrence's Warbler** in Bushkill returned for a third consecutive year with the first report 5/17 (DS).

An exceptional find was a **Summer Tanager** at DSF's Meesing site near Marshall's Cr. 5/7 (JR). This species is a rare spring overshoot and the only known previous records for the county was one at Hialeah-Shawnee in May 1988, and one near DWG in early Jun 1994.

The high count for **Fox Sparrow** was 8 individuals at a Mountainhome feeder 3/8-16 (DS). **Bobolink** was reported from CV 5/18 (DS, JS) and a flock of 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** was found 3/7 in CV by a MCEEC field trip (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman**, **Monroe County Environmental Education Center**, **8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360**, (570) 629-3061, [bhmccd@ptd.net](mailto:bhmccd@ptd.net), Trish Attardo, Kathy Dubin, Jenifer Rituper, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Billy Weber.

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### Montgomery County

Locations: Delaware Valley College (DVC), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Gwynedd Preserve (GP), Haverford College (HC), Lower Gwynedd Township (LGT), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The spring season brought extremes of weather and birding fortunes in *Montgomery*. Precipitation ranged from near average in March, to below average in April and well above average in May.

Waterfowl variety was on the low side with 22 species reported. **Tundra Swan** numbers peaked at 19 birds at Walt Road, GLR 3/8-9 (SK, GF). All expected dabbling ducks were observed, but most in low numbers. Highlights were 10 **Blue-winged Teal** at UPVP 3/25, and 2 **Northern Shovelers** at Walt Road, GLR 4/11 (GAF). Diving ducks of note (all from Walt Road, GLR) included a high of 4 **Canvasbacks** 3/15 (GAF), 110 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/1 (KC, m. obs.), a male **Black Scoter** 4/27 (SKa), 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/28 (GAF), 2 **Common Goldeneyes** 4/6 (SKa), and 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/27 (GAF). Diving ducks away from Walt Road included a **White-winged Scoter** at Hill Road, GLR 3/16 and a **Canvasback** at Norristown Farm Park 3/16-22 (SKa).

The season's first **Common Loon** was at Walt Road 3/22, and reached a season high of 8 on 3/28 (GAF). Our lack of big loon numbers was likely due to a paltry 2.61 inches of rain for the month of Apr. No big storms means no storm fallouts. Another low "high count" was 6 **Horned Grebes** at Walt Road 3/12 (GAF). **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to increase, with a high of 100 at Walt Road, GLR 5/3 (GAF). More surprising were flyovers of 32 on 5/1 (AJM), and another flock of 72 on 5/11 (KC), both from the UCV.

Hérons provided some of the season's biggest surprises. An **American Bittern** in the UCV 5/1 was a great find (AJM). Fourteen **Great Blue Herons** at Church Road, GLR 5/1 was a nice spring count for another species on the increase (GAF). Perhaps our best bird in the group was an adult **Little Blue Heron** at a Perkiomenville pond 5/20 (RG). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Evansburg State Park 5/11 (SKa), and 3 were at Haverford College 5/20 (SJ). Another nice find was an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at ESP 4/19 (SKa).

Raptor sightings included 2 large and apparently healthy **Bald**

**Eagle** nestlings at GLR by the end of May (m. obs). Our first **Osprey** report came from Walt Road, GLR 3/24 (GAF). **Red-shouldered Hawk** sightings included one at Walt Road, GLR 3/24 and one 5/14 in the UCV (GAF). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was in Harleysville 3/25 (RG). A **Merlin** was seen at NFP 3/16, representing our only report (SKa).

Two **Virginia Rails** were in a Blue Bell retention pond 5/11-16 (SKa, AJM). Spring shorebirds have been scarce in recent years, but 2008 was a minor exception to the rule. Church Road, GLR hosted 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 8 **Spotted Sandpipers** and 3 **Least Sandpipers** on 5/1 (GAF). May 2 brought 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 8 **Solitary Sandpipers** (GAF). A **Dunlin** there 5/3 rounded out the list (JG). A **Wilson's Snipe** and 2 **American Woodcock** near Church Road, GLR 3/11 were both a bit early (KC). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Walt Road 3/30, and were followed by a season high of 10 birds 4/15(GAF). An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** was at Church Road, GLR 4/20 (SKa). A very early **Forster's Tern** was at Church Road 4/11 (GAF). Another **Forster's Tern** was at Walt Road 5/9, along with 3 **Black Terns** (JG).

A **Long-eared Owl** was in eastern *Montgomery* 3/22 (location and observer deleted). A **Short-eared Owl** was at Church Road, GLR 3/21 (SKa). **Common Nighthawks** continued their downward trend, with sightings of one 5/18 at GLR (GAF), and 2 in the UCV 5/29 (JG).

Our best flycatcher was a **Least Flycatcher** at Haverford College 5/25 (SJ). Single **White-eyed Vireos** were found 4/25 in the UCV (GAF), 5/7 in UGT 5/7 (AJM), and at Fort Washington State Park 5/11 and 5/26 (SKa). Another intriguing report was that of 2 **Common Ravens** in the UCV 5/1 (AJM).

A **Cliff Swallow** was at Walt Road, GLR 5/15, along with a season high of 12 **Bank Swallows** (GAF). **Purple Martins** went unreported for the spring season; we hope this was merely a stroke of bad luck. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Haverford College 4/30 was unusually late (SJ). Thrushes appeared to have a good showing this season. Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at Delaware Valley College 5/14 (AJM), and singles were in LGT 5/25 and 5/28 (SK). **Swainson's Thrush** reports were also good, and included 3 in the UCV 5/5 (KC), 2 each at DVC 5/7 and 5/14 (AJM), and 3 each at LGT 5/11 and 5/25 (SK). A late migrant **Hermit Thrush** was in Upper Hanover Township 5/3 (JG).

Warbler variety was excellent, with 29 species reported. Most outstanding among them were **Nashville Warbler** at HC and FWSP (SJ, SKa), **Cape May Warbler** at FWSP 5/10 and 5/15 (SKa), **Yellow-throated** and **Cerulean Warblers** at Ambler 5/27 (SK), and **Prothonotary Warbler** in the UCV 4/25 (GAF). **Northern Waterthrush** was seen on various dates beginning 4/25 in the UCV (GAF). Other locations included HC, DVC, and UGT (SJ, AJM). A **Mourning Warbler** was reported from Lansdale 5/25 (SK), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at FWSP 5/4 (SKa).

**Fox Sparrow** reports were low for the spring season. A high of 3 were at a feeder near UPVP 3/25 (RG). Others were seen in the UCV 3/1, HC on 4/5, and through most of March in UGT (KC, SJ, AJM). **Savannah Sparrows** reached a high count of 10 at Gwynedd Preserve 4/16 (AJM), and 2 were near Walt Road 4/1 (GAF). **White-crowned Sparrows** reached a maximum of 5 near Walt Road 4/11 (GAF). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at GP 4/16 (AJM).

The decline of **Rusty Blackbirds** continues, with a single report of 6 birds in LGT 4/13 (SK). **Purple Finch** attained a high of 12 near UPVP 4/12, and were last seen there 4/15 (RG). A maximum of 3 were at the GLR Nature Center until 4/12 (KC).

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### Montour County

No Report.

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### Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins

Creek Environmental Preserve (MCP).

Lingering finches, lots of waterfowl, rarities, and plenty of warblers were in the county this spring. There was a **Ross's Goose** at Echo Lake 3/5 (AS) and 2 **Tundra Swans** at Christian Spring Rd. in Nazareth 3/9 (DW). **Canvasbacks**, **Redheads** and **Long-tailed Ducks** were found at several locations in Mar and Apr. A high count of 300 **Common Mergansers** were at Minsi Lake 3/6 (AS). Lingering waterfowl included a **Lesser Scaup** at Gremar Rd. in Nazareth 5/18, **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead**, and **American Coot** into mid May at MCP, and a continuing **Gadwall** at Christian Spring Rd. Minsi Lake held a **Red-throated Loon** 4/2-5 (AS) and a **Red-necked Grebe** 3/5 (AS). **Great Cormorant** was first reported 3/8 at Martins Creek Quarry (MS) and stayed into mid-Apr. During a "big day" adventure 5/18, a **Least Bittern** was calling at East Bangor Dam (MS, BW). The only **Great Egret** sighting was a bird at GP 5/1 (DD). The season's first **Osprey** returned to MCP 3/20 (JD). The **Bald Eagle** pair near Portland produced 2 young and the **Peregrine Falcon** pair at MCP produced 4 young. A wintering dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was last reported 4/6 along Gravel Hill Rd. (MS).

A surprise find was a **Common Moorhen** at the Gremar Rd. retention ponds 5/23 (DW). It did not stay long and was gone before any other birders could get there. An **American Golden Plover** was spotted at the Hanoverville Rd. retention ponds 4/21 (JZ). **Black-bellied Plovers** were at GP 5/22 and 5/30 (DD), Tatamy 5/16 (MS) and at Willow Brook Farms 5/16 (MS). An early **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported 4/20 at MCP (MS, BW). Hanoverville Rd. also attracted a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/16-17 (DW). Finding one **Wilson's Phalarope** is nice, but having 3 is incredible. The ponds at Gremar Rd. held a female 5/10-11 (DW) and then a male 5/19-28 (DW, m. obs.). A third **Wilson's Phalarope** was at GP 5/19 (DD).

If you want to see gulls in the county, visit GP Mar-May. **Iceland Gulls** made regular appearances 3/11- 4/18 with a high of 3 on 3/26. DD and a few other birders kept counts on **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and found numbers over 130+ starting 3/15, reaching 301 on 3/26 (MS) and a record 332 on 3/27 (DD). After 230 were counted 4/1 (AK, RK), numbers declined with 20+ per day into late May.

The wintering **Long-eared Owl** at MCP was last seen 4/6 (MS). **Short-eared Owls** were found along Richmond Rd. 3/28 (AS) and at Gravel Hill Rd. 3/18 (MS, BW). An early **Whip-poor-will** was heard along National Park Dr. (Delaware Water Gap) on 4/13 (AS).

A section of Bear Swamp off Bangor Vein Rd. had a **Red-headed Woodpecker** 3/6 (AS) and another was near the Lehigh River in Northampton 5/6 (EV). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at Katellen and JSP 5/28 (RW). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Katellen 5/18 (MS, BW) and JSP 5/20-21 (RW). **Alder Flycatcher** returned to its nesting area at Bear Swamp 5/18 (MS, BW). An early **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at JSP 4/26 (KS) and an early **Eastern Kingbird** was at Monacacy Nature Center 5/18 (MS, BW).

**Blue-headed Vireo** not known as a regular nester in the county, was observed carrying food 5/18 at Kirkrigde (MS, BW). An early **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at Monacacy Nature Center 4/20. Another uncommon nester is **Purple Martin**. Three were seen at a martin house in East Allen Twp. in May (DW) and several were at the Walnport canal 5/10 (BM). Early swallows included a **Bank Swallow** at MCP 4/20 (MS, BW) and a **Barn Swallow** at Albert Rd. ponds 4/2. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued at Graver's Arboretum into May. This area has good habitat for them to nest. There was a **Brown Creeper** at JSP 5/14 (RW). National Park Dr. had an early **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/25 (AS), and a **Brewster's Warbler** was seen at JSP 5/25 (DD). Washington Twp. held a **Nashville Warbler** 4/17 (AS). **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to the Bethlehem Boat Club area along the Lehigh River 4/13 (ASm). **Ovenbird** made an early appearance at JSP 4/26 (KS). A singing **Kentucky Warbler** at JSP seemed to be on territory 5/21-27 (DW). **Mourning Warblers** were observed on National Park Dr. 5/18 (MS, BW) and in Seemsville 5/20 (BM). **Yellow-breasted Chat** made its annual appearance at JSP 5/6 (KS).

A late **American Tree Sparrow** lingered at JSP until 4/12 (KS). DW counted 5 singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** on Spring Hill Rd., Northampton 4/18. **Lincoln's Sparrows** made a good showing at JSP 5/5-8 (RW). Up to 3 **Lapland Longspurs** were at a field on W. Dannersville Rd. 3/8-18 (DW, BW). Normally, I wouldn't be able to mention much on winter finch sightings, but this year was special. **Purple Finches** visited feeders for several people and 3 made the PAMC count on 5/10 (MS). A single **Red Crossbill** was in Williams Twp 3/8 (AK). Feeders in Danielsville had **Common Redpolls** until at least

4/6 and a **Pine Siskin** 3/8 (MS). There were 20+ fly-by **Evening Grosbeaks** over Williams Twp. 4/12 (AK).

Northampton tallied 137 species on the PAMC.

Observers: **Michael Schall**, 126 N. Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com, Dave DeReamus, John Drabic, Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, Betsy Mescavage, Adam Sabatine, Kathy Sieminski, Adam Smith, Ed Vemillion, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Zajacek.

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#### Northumberland County

No Compiler.

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#### Perry County

No Report.

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#### Philadelphia County

Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), 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 5/10 (PAMC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Except for four days of near 100F in early June, Philly's weather and precipitation were ideal for a steady and satisfying spring migration. The PAMC on 5/10 tallied 122 species, with lower participation yet with similar results to past years. A **Western Tanager** was our best find, followed by a male **Painted Bunting**, 2 **Whip-poor-will**, plus 32 species of warbler including numerous **Cerulean Warbler** and **Cape May Warbler** sightings. The **Bald Eagle** pair whose nest failed last year fledged a chick in early July making it the first successful **Bald Eagle** nest in Philly in more than 100 years (DBe). There were few reports from BRSP and FDR with the exception of the PAMC, so this report only partially represents the season.

Spring bird sightings in Center City come from any bit of greenery which is likely to attract warblers, thrushes, and even woodcock, rail or moorhen; whatever can't fly over it, around it, or avoid crashing into it, settles down to rest. Independence National Historic Park had good numbers of 9 species of warbler, vireo, tanager and flycatcher at mid-day throughout May (JS). Temple University and Rittenhouse Sq. had numerous **Ovenbird** that spent a week or more singing and foraging (MD, PM). Even Love Park and the Bell Atlantic Tower hosted **Ovenbird** and **Gray Catbird** on a daily basis (DC).

**Snow Goose** was missed, but waterfowl at TI were abundant with 20 species present, probably as a result of the fall 2007 impoundment drawdown which spurred growth of beneficial aquatic vegetation. **American Black Duck** ceased breeding in Philly and we haven't seen good numbers even in migration. However, dozens of **American Black Duck** were present at TI in Mar. **Mallards** seem to be on a similar, but slower, decline, although they continue as breeders. **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, and **American Wigeon** were present at the beginning of the season. **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 4/9 (NC), and 2-3 pair continued as late as 5/10. Hundreds of **Northern Shovelers** and **Northern Pintails** were present at TI in Mar, but no more than 50 **Green-winged Teal** were reported. Good numbers of divers included 42 **Canvasback** 3/9 at TI (DBe, DM), 118 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/23 (DM), 50 **Lesser Scaup** 3/9 (MD), numerous **Bufflehead**, and 132 **Ruddy Duck** 4/6 (DM). In addition to **Pied-billed Grebe** at various locations, **Horned Grebes** were at TI in breeding plumage 4/12 (FW).

More than 150 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at TI 4/18 (MDe). **Great Cormorants** were last seen 4/14 on the DR (FW). Individual **Least Bittern** were reported from TI throughout the period, but a nest was not found. **Little Blue Heron** was a good find at TI 4/5 (FW) and a fly-over **Tri-colored Heron** on 4/12 was a thrill (TF, NC, LR). Adult and immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen at TI,

Rhawn St., and the DR, and on the SR (MD), but gave no hint of a nest location. Nine **Glossy Ibis** were seen in the TI impoundment as birders searched for the **Western Tanager** 4/14 (DW, TF, m. obs.).

**Osprey** attempted to nest at the Pennypack Ave. site, but the result is unknown. Three **Northern Harriers** were at TI 4/12 (DM, m.obs.). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** migrated from 3/9-5/2 and **Cooper's Hawk** nested at Woodland Cemetery (AK, DM) and in the small group of white pines at TI. The TI **Cooper's Hawk** pair was vocal and demonstrative giving many birders extended views of courtship and mating behavior. A **Broad-winged Hawk** 5/10 at Morris Park was a very late migrant, if not a breeder (RH). **American Kestrels** were reported hunting at 18th and Vine on 3/2 (LR), and a pair was found in Mt. Moriah Cemetery 3/23 (AK) and were still present 4/6 (DM). Three **Merlin** were seen at 60th and Cobb's Creek Pkwy. (fide SK) 3/5 and the last report came from TI 5/5 (TF).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** at TI are occasionally heard, and male **Wild Turkeys** were seen at the TI feeders daily as the females presumably were on nests.

I received no report of rail or **Common Moorhen**. **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** began to arrive 4/12 and departed after 5/10. **Solitary Sandpiper** was at TI from 5/4 (BB) to 5/14 (FW). A nice total of 12 **Spotted Sandpipers** was tallied on 5/10 from FDR, Bartram's Garden, and TI. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** were reported in May in small numbers with 56 **Least Sandpipers** a high count. **Wilson's Snipe** were at Rhawn and the DR 3/24-4/21 (FW) and as many as 6 were at TI (TR). **American Woodcock** were found dancing at SCEE 3/10 (LA) and at TI during Mar. The evening Woodcock walk at both locations produced dancing birds, and at TI, participants heard an **Eastern Screech-Owl** calling, a rare event at the refuge.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at SCEE on a scheduled bird club walk 5/2 and was reported again 5/10 (LA, m. obs.). **Yellow-bill Cuckoo** was not reported, amazingly.

On 5/23 a **Barred Owl** called from south of the Rex Ave. bridge over WC (CHen). This species has a history in the Wissahickon Valley for several years, but it is still unknown whether its status is breeding or migratory. A **Long-eared Owl** at TI was a super find 4/11 (JD). That bird was certainly a migrant since the area had been searched for owls many times. The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** wintering at TI was last reported 4/3 (NC, LR). **Common Nighthawk** was seen at Awbury Arboretum 5/13 (BR) and roosting in a cidreira tree in FP 5/22 (DM). The **Whip-poor-will** MS heard near Cresheim Valley Dr. between Mt Airy and Chestnut Hill 4/18 was only his second one in the city. Another **Whip-poor-will** was heard in Pennypack Park 4/28 (PK). **Chimney Swifts** roost communally in their northward migration in many of the same chimneys used in fall. JS's highest roost count was made 5/14 when she watched 1500 **Chimney Swift** at the Dobson School in Roxborough. Her other counts before and after 5/14 were of hundreds of swifts.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed on the Karakung Golf Course on Cobb's Creek near City Line Ave. 5/1 (AS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded in FP 5/22 (DM) and 2-3 **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were seen and heard at TI 5/24-25 (TF, FW, TR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at TI 5/25 (TF, FW) and **Least Flycatcher** was found on Karakung Golf Course 5/1 (AS), others were heard in FP 5/21 (DM) and at TI 5/25. April 11 was an early arrival date for **Blue-headed Vireo** in CW (KJ) and 5/25 was a good late date at TI (TF). A rare spring **Philadelphia Vireo** was banded in FP 4/30 (DM). All the expected *hirudinidae* were seen including **Bank Swallow** (which nest in New Jersey) frequenting the Philly side of the DR 4/21-5/24 (RH, FW); they were also seen in the hundreds over the TI impoundment 5/19 (TF), along with 5 **Cliff Swallow** (TF) also on 5/19. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found as late as 5/4 (BB).

**Eastern Bluebird** is now nesting at Krewstown and Veree Rds. (PK). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported for only a week 5/21-27. **Swainson's Thrush** arrived 4/28 and were seen and banded through 5/25. The first migrating **Hermit Thrush** was at Kitchen's Lane Bridge over WC on 3/26 (KJ), but I received very few other reports.

We saw 32 species of warbler, missing only Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated, Golden-winged, and Connecticut Warbler. Full daily bird reports from SCEE and WC (KJ, SD) and from TI (MD, TF, FW) often included 16-20 species of warbler from 5/11-25 and usually had good numbers of each species. Best finds were **Cape May Warbler** seen at Awbury Arboretum (BR) and 9 individual **Cape Mays** seen at TI 5/10-13 by scores of birders (LR, TF, DB, FW, m. obs.). I remember only one other such Cape May fallout in the 1980's, a thrilling event then

and now. **Cerulean Warbler** was found by MD in CW on 5/2, at Morris Arboretum 5/10 (LA), and was at Greenland Nursery in FP 5/14 (DM, WS). A **Prothonotary Warbler** 5/7 was singing at Greenland Nursery in FP (DM). **Mourning Warbler**, always an exciting find, was at TI 5/20-24 (FW, TF) and was banded at FP 5/21 (DM). From 5/3-11 a **Yellow-breasted Chat** explored a TI field which used to be a chat nesting site (DM) and on 5/6 SD reported a singing chat from the Spring Lane area where they have recently bred.

A couple who signed the TI bird log as Dick Eales (sp.?) reported a **Western Tanager** as a "really good bird" when they met the scheduled bird walk on the Darby Creek dike at TI the morning of 4/13. DB, LR, CA, and a host of birders rushed back to the area, located the tanager, and alerted the birding community to this first *Philadelphia* record. The female **Western Tanager** was a fairly bright yellow individual with median coverts tips of yellow and the primary covert tipped in white. She fed low over tidal marsh edge of DC and occasionally frequented the edge of the TI impoundment which is dry and weedy. There must have been a fair number of insects in the phragmites and arrow arum to have kept her there for three days. A male **Painted Bunting** made a surprise visit to JL's Chestnut Hill feeder 5/18 and was not seen again.

April 12 brought a good fallout of 30+ **Savannah Sparrow** at TI (TF, LR, NC). Several **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at TI and banded in FP 5/2-23 (FW, TF, DM). **White-crowned Sparrow** gave a decent showing from 3/15-5/10 with singing birds heard 5/2-5 at TI (MD). Three **Bobolink** were on the Manatawana Farm fields 5/6 (SD) and 8 were found at BRSP 5/10 (FW). **Bobolink** were abundant in the DC marsh (which is technically *Delaware*), but they fly over the Philly border frequently due to the abundant wild rice stands. Philly birders were alert to the effort to monitor and report **Rusty Blackbird** abundance. From 3/23 when 25 **Rusty Blackbird** were counted, they dropped to 12 on 3/29 and 4 on 4/29, with the last one seen on 5/3 (MD). FDR is traditionally the gathering place for large flocks of **Rusty Blackbird**, but the reporting from FDR was almost nil. **Orchard Oriole** continues to impress birders with its increase as a breeder.

EXOTICS: A **Chukar** was on FW's ne. Philly lawn 5/28.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063; (610) 565-8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Cindy Ahern, Leigh Ashbrook, Debbie Beer, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Debbie Carr, Skip Conant, Ned Connolly, Tony Croasdale, Jim Deasey, Martin Dellwo, Michael Drake, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Cliff Hence (CHen), Chuck Hetzel, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Steve Kacir, Bill Keim, Alex Krofta, Pete Kurtz, Janet Lippincott, Chuck Lyman, John Miller, Penelope Myers, Bill Reaume, Tom Reeves, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Win Shafer, Matt Sharp, Judy Stepanaski, Gary Stolz, Andrew Strassman, Dave Wilton, Frank Windfelder.

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**Pike County**  
No Compiler.

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**Potter County**  
No Report.

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**Schuylkill County**

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (AP), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Landingville Dam (LVD), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD).

A relative lack of waterfowl moved through the county, with only 17 species reported, and in very low numbers. **American Coots** were noticeably more plentiful, especially at LVD, more so than in many previous years.

**Rough-legged Hawks** were practically absent, with only a few reports during the quarter. Encouraging numbers of **Merlins** were reported from various locations in the county.

Shorebirds were also virtually absent, with very few reports other than the usual species, probably due to a lack of substantial mudflats this year.

Excellent reporting of **Whip-poor-wills** from numerous county locations was very encouraging.

**Alder Flycatchers** continued to be reported this year, mostly from northern sectors of the county. Continued expertise by local birders in correctly identifying empid flycatchers has helped tremendously, especially with the two Traill's species. **Common Ravens** returned to their usual nesting site at a quarry near the village of Summit Station. Continued reports from other county locations have also been very encouraging. The **Bank Swallow** colony near LVD continues to prosper, regardless of continuing excavations being done by a local mining company, which often causes a shifting of the silt banks. An excellent total of 34 species of wood-warblers were once again reported, although **Golden-winged Warbler** has certainly declined in recent years. The most exciting find was a second county record for **Prothonotary Warbler**, represented by a male singing on territory near LVD 5/21-25, unfortunately unable to entice a mate. **Yellow-breasted Chats** continue to return to their yearly nesting territories near LVD.

Very nice reports of grassland sparrows, namely **Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows** continue, mostly from western county sectors. Also a few reports of **Lincoln's Sparrows** were very encouraging. **Dark-eyed Juncos** continue to be reported from the northern mine reclamation areas of the county, probably forthcoming nesting a probability.

Observers: **Tom Clauser, 701 W. Market St., Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 622-1818, runner01@comcast.net**, David Barber, Amy Beres, Roland Bergner, Barb Birosik, Brian Clauser, Aaron Clauser, Tom Clauser, John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko, Denise Donmoyer, Catherine Elwell, Marilyn Gamble, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Sue Guers, Hawk Mountain staff, Barb Jucker, Doris Klint, Dave Kruel, Nancy Kruel, Ann Marie Liebner, Sue Schmoeyer, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Sally Weisacosky, Doug Wood.

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### Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Wetlands Restoration Area of SGL 188 (WRA), Walker Lake (WL).

A partially thawed FL had 12 **Tundra Swans**, 17 **Northern Pintails**, 14 **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Common** and **Hooded Mergansers**, and one **American Coot** 3/9; at Middleburg L. 5 **Gadwalls** and 3 **Redheads** were noted, and at Isle of Que near Selinsgrove, 25 **Tundra Swans** were found (MB). By 3/14 these additional species were observed at FL: **Wood Duck, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser** and **Pied-billed Grebe**. At WL on 3/14, 31 **Tundra Swan**, one **Barnacle Goose, American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup**, and **Common** and **Hooded Merganser** were observed (CK, AT, et al.). Another good location for waterfowl was the WRA in SGL 188 along Creek Rd. On 4/1 six **Wood Duck**, 6 **Green-winged Teal**, 14 **Northern Pintails**, and 88 **Ring-necked Ducks** were noted (P&RW). On 4/3 a **Horned Grebe** was observed at FL (P&RW) and 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** were at WL 4/12 (LW).

A **Great Egret** was at the WRA 5/6 (P&RW) and remained to at least 5/10 (AS). On 4/1 two **Double-crested Cormorants** and one **Bonaparte's Gull** were among the species at FL (P&RW).

A **Bald Eagle** was at WL 3/14 (CK & AT), two were observed at FL 4/12 (LW), and one was noted along the Susquehanna R. at Selinsgrove (DU). An **Osprey** was also at WL 4/12 (LW).

**Winter Wrens** were already setting up territory along the Tall Timbers Trail in Snyder-Middleswarth S.P., where seven were seen or heard 4/12 (CB). This is a well established nesting area for **Winter Wren** in northern *Snyder*. Two **Palm Warblers** and a **Swamp Sparrow** were among the species noted at FL 4/12 (LW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Carolyn Blatchley, Mick Brown, Chad Kauffman, Allen Schweinsberg, Aden Troyer, Don Ulrich, Patricia Williams, Linda Whitesel.

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### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Garrett Mud Flats

(GMF), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

A fairly mild winter was followed by a cool, wet spring. The larger lakes were starting to thaw by 3/9 and a good variety and numbers of waterfowl followed. Somerset Lake showed its remarkable productivity by hosting thousands of gulls (many feeding on gizzard shad frozen in the ice), as well as 25 species of waterfowl. Thunderstorms 5/18 brought in a good assortment of shorebirds, and more storms 5/30 and 5/31 deposited a **Franklin's Gull**, all four expected terns, and some late waterfowl.

The only **Snow Goose** report was a large flock over Berlin 3/10 (BC). Waterfowl were plentiful with 1050 ducks on SL 3/22. A maximum of 101 **Canvasbacks** and 120 **Hooded Mergansers** were notable (JP, CP). A beautifully plumaged male **Surf Scoter** was at SL for an unprecedented 13 days 3/9-22 (m. obs.). A very late young male **Greater Scaup** was at GMF from 5/27-6/3 (JP, LP, CP). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/5 at SL were the only ones found. Thirty **Common Loons** at SL 3/30 was about a normal maximum, but the 120 **Horned Grebes** there 3/22 was unusually high. Twenty three **Great Blue Herons** joined the fracas at SL 3/22. Several individual **Great Egrets** passed through there and in BA from 4/5-15. One near adult **Bald Eagle** was present at SL 4/1.

**Virginia Rail** was present at BC from at least 4/5 to 5/4 and Sora from 5/2-19 (JP, LP, CP); both may possibly try to breed in a wet year like this. The best shorebirds numbers were 5/18 when GMF had 3 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 29 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, 6 **Least Sandpipers**, 2 **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Dunlin**, **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers**. A late **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found in BA 5/18 (JP, LP, CP). **Upland Sandpipers** were found in BA 4/20 (LY) and 5/1 (JP, CP), and 2 were whistling at GMF 6/3 (JP, LP, CP). The presence of **Northern Harriers** at these spots seems to be causing the **Upland Sandpipers** to be less conspicuous.

A first summer **Franklin's Gull** showed up at SL 5/30 and stayed until 6/2 (JP, many observers). On 5/31 it was joined by a late **Bonaparte's Gull** (JP, CW) and a **Caspian Tern**, 3 **Black Terns**, 14 **Forster's Terns** and one **Common Tern** (CW). **Ring-billed Gulls** topped out at over 3000 on 3/15 and the **Common Tern** maximum was 10 on 5/16 at SL. An overdue new county bird was **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Approximately 6 immature birds were found 3/29 at SL (CW) and an adult was present 4/9 (LP).

**Common Nighthawk** may not breed in the county anymore, but a single bird was over SL 5/30 (JP). **Whip-poor-will** seems to be more easily found especially on the wooded ridges, a new site was found along Allegheny Mountain with at least 8 singing birds 6/6 (JP, LP).

A spring **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find at PP 6/5 (JP, LP, CP). **Least Flycatchers** and **Winter Wrens** were found to be common along the Laurel Mountain hiking trail 5/17 (CP). **Warbling Vireos** were found along Will's Creek at Glencoe 6/2 and in Confluence 6/5.

Twenty eight species of warblers graced the county this spring with 20 being breeders. New spots were found with **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler**. **Yellow-throated Warbler** seems to not be present in sycamores near Confluence for the past 3 or 4 years where it was previously reliable.

Twenty **Fox Sparrows** were at PP 4/3 (LP). **Rusty Blackbirds** were fairly common in early April especially along creeks with shrub-scrub swamp, 45 at BC 4/5 was the highest count (JP, LP, CP). **Pine Siskins** returned to PP 3/17 and were present throughout the period.

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

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### Sullivan County

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

*Sullivan* is mostly rural farm land and second growth eastern deciduous or mixed forest on State Forest and State Game Land. It is not a heavily birded area except by a few individuals, primarily from the breeding season through early fall migration. Most of the birding occurs at an elevation near 2000' on North Mountain.

The first reports for 2008 were made during Easter weekend from

3/20-24. The weather was mostly clear but cold and standing water was mostly frozen. Large flocks of both **Snow** (250) and **Canada Geese** (200) were observed flying north. Duck counts were low and limited to resident breeders: **Mallard** (9), **Wood Duck** (8) and both **Hooded** (18) and **Common Merganser** (a pair).

Most other observations were of resident or early return breeders in small numbers. This included the following species with 7 or fewer individuals observed: **Ruffed Grouse**, **Wild Turkey**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Killdeer**, **American Woodcock** (display flights observed), **Downy**, **Hairy** and **Pileated Woodpeckers**, **Northern Flicker**, **Blue Jay**, **Common Raven**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Song Sparrow**, **Northern Cardinal** and **Eastern Meadowlark**.

**Rock Pigeon**, **Mourning Dove**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **European Starling** and **Common Grackle** were seen in slighter larger numbers (10 to 20) and **Red-winged Blackbird** (35), **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Dark-eyed Junco** (60 each), **American Crow** (100) and **American Robin** (225) were seen in much larger numbers.

**Sandhill Cranes** have again returned to the county; 4 adult birds were seen this year. Observations indicated 2 separate pairs as there were aggressive displays from 2 of the birds against the other pair. One observation recorded aggressiveness that ended when 2 of the birds flew from the area. One of the remaining cranes then began bugling. A pair at this location was observed in May with 2 young. There are unconfirmed reports from this location that include 3 additional adults in the vicinity of the pair with young, and there was an unconfirmed report of another pair of adults with a single young bird at a location nearby.

Five wintering **Tree Sparrows** were observed. Easter morning, 3/23, brought **Common Redpoll** to feeders at my cabin. In total, 14 individuals were seen at 2 separate locations.

The weekend of 5/16-18 was mostly cold and wet; 5/17 saw the only significant warmth and sun but still produced showers. Five observers took to the field for a weekend of birding. The following resident breeding species were observed for the first time this season: **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Chimney Swift**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Tree Swallow**, **Barn Swallow**, **Winter Wren**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Wood Thrush**, **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping Field**, **Swamp** and **White-throated Sparrow**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Bobolink**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Purple Finch** and **American Goldfinch**. All observed warblers were returning nesters and included **Nashville**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, **Prairie**, **Black-and-White**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat** and **Canada Warbler**. **Fish Crow** was found in the town of Dushore. This was a county first for many of *Sullivan's* veteran birders. The weekend's best find was 2 **Horned Grebes** spotted by AG.

The following residents were first-of-the-year observations over Memorial Day weekend, 5/24-26: **Green Heron**, **Barred Owl**, **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **House Wren**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Savannah Sparrow** and **Orchard Oriole**. Additional migrants included **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Tennessee Warbler** and **White-crowned Sparrow** for the second straight weekend.

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#### **Susquehanna County**

No Report.

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner**, **Woodburn Preserve**, RR 6 Box 6294, **Montrose, PA 18801**, (570) 278-3384, jskinner@epix.net.

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#### **Tioga County**

Locations: **Darling Run Access to Pine Creek Rail Trail (DR)**, which is also a part of **Pine Creek Gorge Important Bird Area #28**, **Cowanisque**

**Lake Recreation Area (CL)**, **Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL)**, **Hills Creek State Park (HCSP)**, **Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck)**.

Although area lakes and streams were largely frozen over through most of March, a fair number of ducks and other waterfowl were observed as early as 3/10 at the mouth of **Crooked Creed** at **Hammond L.** and at the outflow of the dam at **Cowanisque L.** Species recorded included 4 **Tundra Swans**, 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, a **Gadwall**, 2 **Canvasbacks**, and 10 **Northern Pintails** (JH). More waterfowl continued to arrive throughout the month, with a **Horned Grebe**, 23 "vigorously displaying" **Hooded Mergansers**, and 4 **Buffleheads** 3/13 at HL (JH). The numbers of ducks and the variety of species continued to increase at HL, and on 3/24, 70 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 15 **Green-winged Teals**, 2 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 10 **Lesser Scaup** were seen along with the other species mentioned above at HL (GT). A park-sponsored bird walk at **Hills Creek State Park 4/12** yielded a **Long-tailed Duck**, many **Buffleheads**, a pair of **Northern Shovelers**, one **Gadwall**, 6 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 6 **Horned Grebes**, and a few **Pied-billed Grebes** (GT). **Common Loons** started to show up 4/18 at the Muck and were seen as late as 5/17 at HCSP (GT).

Shorebirds did not generally make a strong showing this spring, perhaps because high water covered most mud flats. **Killdeer** arrived early 4/16 at HL (GT). One **Greater Yellowlegs** and 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen 5/2 at HCSP (GT). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen in **Marsh Creek** near the **USGS Lab** west of **Wellsboro** 5/23 (DF), and a mudflat located at the intersection of old Rte. 15 and the new Rte. 15/I-99 corridor produced a **Semipalmated Plover**, a **Spotted Sandpiper**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 4 **Least Sandpipers** and 3 **Dunlin** 5/26 (JH). **American Woodcock** sightings were more encouraging, with as many as 24 reported near **Millerton** 4/6 (LB).

A **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen 3/16 at HL (GT), and a flock of 8 **Bonaparte Gulls** was seen 4/12 at HCSP during a park-sponsored bird walk (GT). Two **Forster's Terns** were seen 5/17 at HL by the **Lancaster Birding Club** that was visiting the area (BC).

According to a PA Game Commission official, there were five active **Bald Eagle** nests in **Tioga County** this spring: two at **Hammond Lake**, two at **Pine Creek Gorge IBA #28**, and one at **CL**, although there was some question whether the nest at **CL** was actually being used due to disturbances caused by bridge construction for Rte 15. Unfortunately ice storms at the end of Mar and the beginning of Apr damaged the nests at **DR** and **HL**, making them unusable. The eagles apparently did not rebuild or relocate (JH, GT).

The first **Turkey Vultures** of the year were reported 3/14 near **Millerton** in the northern part of the county (LB). Three **Black Vultures** were seen 5/23 near **Millerton** (LB), and a courting pair were seen 6/3 at the site of the abandoned **Anna S. Mine** south of **Wellsboro** (RR). **Black Vulture** sightings seem to be increasing, but are still unusual for most of *Tioga*.

One of the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** of the season appeared at a feeder 5/6 near **HCSP** (GT).

A **Red-Headed Woodpecker** was reported in **Mansfield** 5/21. According to the observer, this was the first she had seen in forty years in *Tioga* (AV).

Most expected species of swallows had returned to the county by 5/18. First reported swallow was a **Barn Swallow** 4/15 in **Millerton** (LB), followed by **Tree Swallows** 4/18 in **Millerton** (LB), **Cliff Swallows** 4/24 at HL (GT), **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 4/28 at HL (JH), and **Bank Swallows** 5/18 at HL (BC). All of these species may be seen at any one time at **Hammond Lake** throughout most of summer.

A **Brown Creeper** was seen building a nest under loose bark on a dead maple tree 5/24 at **HCSP** (RF, GT).

A **Blue-Headed Vireo** made an early start this spring, appearing 4/20 in **Millerton** (LB). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was first reported 5/10 at **HCSP** followed a week later by a **Yellow-throated Vireo** 5/17, also at **HCSP** (RF, GT). The first **Warbling Vireo** was 5/20 in **Millerton** (LB).

The first **Wood Thrush** was also reported 5/10 in the **Hills Creek area** (GT). **Eastern Bluebirds** were said to be nesting in larger numbers than usual at both **HL** and **HCSP**. Unfortunately, predation at **HCSP** eliminated any perceived gains (GT, LC, ER).

Wood-warblers made a good showing this year, with flocks of 50 or more **Yellow-rumped Warblers** appearing 5/3 at **Hills Creek State Park** accompanied by smaller numbers of **Palm** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** (GT). The first warbler of the season though, was probably the **Pine Warbler** reported 4/12 at **HCSP** (RF, GT). An observer in **Millerton**, who reported a **Prothonotary Warbler** (5/6) and a **Cerulean**

**Warbler** 5/23, said that later in the month the warblers came in "two big WAVES," and he was "overwhelmed by their colors and the species mix". He reported **Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Pine, and Prairie Warblers** 5/26 (LB). The Lancaster Birding Club was visiting the county over the weekend of 5/17 and spent the morning of 5/18 at Colton Point State Park (also part of IBA #28), where they reported seeing **Hooded, Blackburnian, Canada, Wilson's, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Pine Warblers**, and a **Louisiana Waterthrush**. Two male **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen "at the same time on the same branch, which was enjoyed by all the participants" (BC). A pair of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** was found 5/23 on Strait Run in the Asaph section of Tioga State Forest (RR).

A small flock of **Rusty Blackbirds** was seen 4/18 at the Butler Rd. access to the rail trail paralleling Marsh Creek (GT). First **Baltimore Oriole** of the season was reported 5/1 in near Millerton (LB). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were first reported 5/3 in the same area (LB).

**Evening Grosbeaks** continued to be seen in backyards in the county throughout the month of Mar (RF, GT). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** started to show up in numbers by 5/1 in the HCSP area (GT). **Common Redpolls** also were found in many places in the county throughout Mar (RF, GT). A dead **redpoll** with a band (band number: 1771-61627) on its leg was found 3/24 at a residence near Mainesburg. The information was sent to the USGS, and a report came back that the bird was a **Hoary Redpoll** banded 4/14/2002 in Quebec. However, the finders believe that the bird was not correctly identified, that it was in fact a **Common Redpoll**, based on the fact that "the bird clearly has a streaked underside to the rump and tail area. We've had hundreds of the **Common Redpolls** and a few **Hoary Redpolls** at the feeder this winter. The latter are considerably lighter in color." (RF, TF). A small flock of 3 **Pine Siskins** was seen 4/23 in the HCSP area (GT).

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#### **Union County**

No Report.

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#### **Venango County**

No Report.

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#### **Warren County**

No Compiler.

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#### **Washington County**

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville area (BNT), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Dutch Fork Lakebed (DFL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4), Robinson Township (RT), Scenery Hill (SH).

*Washington* birders will remember the spring of 2008 primarily for its waterfowl. Not only were there two excellent fallouts, but rarities too, including a totally unexpected Cinnamon x Blue Winged Teal hybrid, likely only the second in Pennsylvania's known history. Shorebirding was painfully slow with one outstanding exception—a Whimbrel, the county's second. Neotropical migrants were well represented, especially by way of AB's work in the central part of the county.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese**, the first for *Washington*, were an extraordinary find in BNT 3/12 (AB). The birds were often found in a small farm pond just feet from the side of Johnston Rd., allowing at least a dozen birders outstanding views of this w. Pennsylvania rarity.

They remained to at least 3/15, appearing in at least two different ponds and a nearby cornfield (ph. RG). Three **Snow Geese**, another good *Washington* find, were discovered near BNT 3/8 (RG), and were seen sparingly until 3/12, when they were last seen in the same pond with their three white-fronted cousins the day those birds first appeared.

**Tundra Swans** fell out of the sky across sw. Pennsylvania counties in early Mar, and *Washington* was no exception. A minimum of 209 were reported across the county 3/8, including 30 at CL (JB), where rare, and 76 at R4 (RG). The CL birds numbered just 3 the next day, but the R4 flock persisted to at least 3/10 (LC). AB located another 44 near BNT 3/19; he also dug up a very late straggler (probably sick or injured) near BNT 5/2, easily the latest date for the county.

Small numbers of **Gadwall** were scattered through most of Mar, with the last date being 3/22. **American Wigeon** were reported much more frequently, including a great flock of 40 (along with 30 **Northern Pintail**) jammed into a small patch of open ice at GCW 3/9 (MD), and a fallout of 43 total at GCW and BNT 3/20 (RG). **American Black Ducks** were scarcely reported with just two mentions in early Mar. This species is difficult to understand; at times, it seems common, at other times, totally absent.

AB reported, but unfortunately was unable to photograph, a probable **American x Eurasian Wigeon hybrid** near BNT 3/19. Unfortunately the bird moved on before others could get to the scene. This was not the case, however, with what proved to be one of the most unusual birds in *Washington's* history: a **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid** male, found by MV at CL 3/31. It stayed in the same few hundred square feet of CL for the next two weeks, which allowed dozens of birders time to study and photograph this striking bird. It was last seen 4/14. It spent its time in the company of a female **Blue-winged Teal**, which it defended against one or two male Blue-winged Teal. Aside from these birds, blue-wings were not well reported, with just one report away from CL, that on 3/20 at R4 (RG), which was also the first of the season.

Two to six **Northern Shovelers** were at BNT 3/12-20, the only reported. **Northern Pintail** were unusually well reported, with several flocks of 10 or more reported in Mar; best were the 30 at GCW 3/9 already mentioned, and 38 in BNT 3/12 (AB, RG). **Green-winged Teal** were well reported through 4/17, with a peak of 25 at GCW 3/20 (RG).

It was a great year for "bay" ducks in the county, mostly on the strength of two significant fallouts 3/12 and 3/22. Despite this banner year, **Canvasbacks** made their typical early departure, this time by 3/12. **Redheads** persisted longer—to 3/29—with numbers building significantly toward the end of the month. Best was 42 during the 3/22 fallout, including 32 at R4 (RG). In stark contrast to the spring of '07, **Ring-necked Ducks** were ubiquitous in *Washington* this year. On four occasions, daily maxima exceeded 175: approximately 210 were split between BNT and R4 3/12 (RG, AB), 275 were totaled in BNT 3/13 (AB, GM), 187 were counted county-wide during the 3/22 fallout (RG), and another 225 were counted in BNT 3/25 (AB). Migrants were gone by 4/7, but a single male appeared at a pond in RT 5/4 and stayed into the summer (MV). **Greater Scaup** were oft reported in Mar, always in small numbers save a flock of 20 in BNT 3/15 (AB). Unusual for their lateness were 2 Greaters in BNT 4/23 and 5/6 (both AB). More often, it seems, a late scaup turns out to be a Lesser. Speaking of unusually late **Lesser Scaup**, RT reported 10 at CL 4/29, which was doubly unusual for the high number of individuals involved. Prior to that, Lesser Scaup peaked at 47 on the same date and the same BNT location as the 20 Greaters: 3/15 (AB). A **Long-tailed Duck** at R4 3/20 (RG) was very unusual for *Washington*. **Bufflehead** peaked at 75 (50 in BNT, 25 at R4) during the 3/22 fallout (AB, RG), but were not reported thereafter. **Hooded Mergansers** were reported through Apr but no breeding evidence was brought forth. In a season so good for waterfowl, it was surprising to receive just one report of **Common Merganser**, that of a single at R4 3/8 (RG). **Red-breasted Mergansers**, however, had a good showing beginning 3/12 at R4 (MV), with the peak being a flock of 40 that put down on R4 during the 3/22 fallout (LC). A female at CL 4/29 (RT) was certainly procrastinating. At least 9 reports were received, considerably more than usual. A **Ruddy Duck** staying from the winter at AMD was last seen 3/8; peak, as it did for many species, came during the 3/22 fallout when 11 were at R4 (RG).

But though the numbers of waterfowl were memorable, the real story of 3/22 was a fallout of **Horned Grebes** across southern Pennsylvania, which had many observers reporting hundreds of this species on rivers and lakes. Though not matching the amazing totals in other sw. Pennsylvania counties, *Washington* did not completely escape its effects either. A total of 65 were counted, with 40 in BNT

(RG, AB), 15 at R4, and 10 at Peter's Lake (RG). Unfortunately the Monongahela R. was not thoroughly examined during this event. The birds found on 3/22 were completely gone the next day, in fact, the last of this species reported for the season were 2 at Boone Res. 3/24 (MV). One or two **Common Loons** put in brief appearances beginning 3/20, with the last being 2 at BNT 5/2 (AB).

A single **Double-crested Cormorant** at R4 on 3/29 was the only reported (LC). An **American Bittern** was a surprise at a nondescript pond in RT 5/3 (MF), a reminder that this species undoubtedly moves through sw. Pennsylvania in considerably more substantial numbers than one might guess based on the number of reports received. The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid**, now at least seven years old, returned to CL for a fifth consecutive summer this year beginning 4/17. The only report of **Great Egret** was a single at CL 3/20 (RG). Usually this species can be counted upon to appear several times at CL in spring.

RG reported **Ruffed Grouse** near Burgettstown twice in late Apr, a welcome report. A **Northern Bobwhite** in Eighty Four 5/23 (AB) was probably a release. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported sparingly throughout the season, but none were likely of a self-sustaining population. The heydays of this species in Pennsylvania are probably part of an ever more distant past.

Four **Osprey**, all singles, were variously noted 4/7-5/13 (m. obs.), but we still wait for a pair to settle down in the county for the summer. **Northern Harrier** reports were off following an outstanding winter for them in RT; just two reports were received in early Mar. Two **Rough-legged Hawks** left over from the winter were quickly gone, last reports were at RT 3/1 (MV) and BC 3/2 (MD). The **Merlin** that spent the winter in Washington Cemetery was last reported 3/20 (CH).

Three **Virginia Rails** were called up at GCW 4/21 (MD), where observers are now surprised by their absence rather than their presence. **Soras** were also reported there 4/30 (MC) and 5/4 (LH, 3RBC). Another **Sora** was present 5/2 (MV) in the same RT pond that housed the American Bittern. Three or four **American Coots** intriguingly took up residence at GCW in May (JBo). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were a superb find near Bealsville 5/10 (AT). They were still present the next day (MC) but not thereafter. There seems to be a slight uptick in the number of reports of this species in sw. Pennsylvania during spring migration in recent years; perhaps additional breeding colonies may soon be established to augment the *Mercer/Lawrence/Butler* pair(s).

Shorebirding was, for the most part, slow. Just eleven species were reported, but one of them was a true headliner: a **Whimbrel**, which was found in a plowed farm field near GCW 5/26 (MC). This was the second county record, with the first just last spring. Other shorebird reports of note included: 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** at BNT 5/6 (AB), a peak of 25 **Solitary Sandpipers** at CL 5/7 (RT), and a single **Dunlin** at BNT 5/16 (AB). Otherwise it was just the usual suspects: **Killdeer**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock**.

**Bonaparte's Gulls**, perhaps not rightly, are not well reported in *Washington*, so this season was good by typical standards. Best was a flock of 78 in BNT during the 3/22 storm (AB, RG), but singles and pairs were reported an additional five times 3/8-4/3. **Ring-billed Gulls** are similarly under-reported, so the eight reports received were above average. Best were 200 in the parking lots of Trinity Point Shopping Center in Washington 3/9 (RG, JB), and a total of 240 during the 3/22 fallout, mostly at BNT (AB, RG). Two **Caspian Terns** and one **Forster's Tern** appeared over a pond in BNT 5/4 following an evening thunderstorm (AB). Both are hard to come by in *Washington*.

Northbound **Black-billed Cuckoos** were headed by a single at RT 5/3 (MV), but curiously, no Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported at all, though this is certainly not an indicator of absence of what is actually a fairly common breeding species. A pair of **Barred Owls** were calling in West Pike Run Twp. 5/17, as was a **Great Horned Owl** 5/22 (WJS). **Common Nighthawks** returned to Washington 5/15 (LC).

Two early-returning **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported, both in and near West Pike Run: 4/25 (AT) and 4/27 (WJS).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** are absent here in spring more often than not, so two reports were noteworthy: one at BAV 4/26 (BS *vide* MV), and one that visited a BNT backyard 4/30-5/5 (AB). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was one at DFL 4/19 (MD).

Flycatchers were well reported, with all possible species noted except Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied. Most notable were an **Alder Flycatcher** at SH 5/24 (AB), and a somewhat early return of **Eastern Kingbirds** to SH 4/26 (AB). Likewise, all vireo species were well

reported with only Philadelphia absent, headed up by a somewhat early **Warbling Vireo** at Enlow Fork 4/20 (KSJ). By the end of Apr all breeding species had returned, and **Blue-headed Vireos** were moving though in good numbers.

Two **Common Ravens** near SH 4/26 continued with the increase in reports of this species in sw. Pennsylvania, from an ever-increasing number of locations. The large flock of **Horned Larks** near Hickory persisted in the hundreds into early Mar but tapered off by the end of the month (RG, MD); a single near SH 4/26 was an interesting find (AB). Five **Purple Martins** were over BNT 4/15 (AB), and 10 were at SH 5/10 (AB). There are no known nesting colonies of this species in *Washington* or of **Bank Swallow**, of which there was but one report: a single at GCW 5/19 (JBo).

Following their enormous flight though Pennsylvania in the fall, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** numbers fell off sharply across the state over the winter, but two locations in *Washington* held them in strong numbers through the season: Washington Cemetery, where "many" were still present late Mar, and at least 8-10 were still in the BAV area 5/3 (MV).

**Marsh Wrens** were twice reported from CGW: 4/21 (MD) and 5/4 (LH, 3RBC). This species has become another annual fixture at GCW but remains casual to accidental elsewhere in the county. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, 4/3 at AMD (RT), was early. All five spot-breasted thrushes were reported. **Swainson's Thrush**, particularly, appeared in decent numbers: six reports between 5/3 and 5/24. LC caught up with a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Washington Park School 5/11, and a **Hermit Thrush** at Cross Creek 3/1 (RG) was probably wintering locally. Observers reported successful nesting of **Eastern Bluebirds** across the county in May. Thirty **American Pipits** at BC 3/2 was a great report (MD); the only other, however, was a single also at BC 4/22 (MD).

Twenty-eight species of wood-warblers were reported. AB found good numbers of **Tennessee Warblers** in the second half of May, including 5 at Eighty Four 5/17, and 8 there 5/23. **Nashville Warblers** were particularly well-reported, with at least 13 reports 4/26-5/17 (m. obs.). First **Northern Parulas** returned to Enlow Fork 4/20 (KSJ), and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** to Burgettstown 4/26 (RG) was a shade early. Six **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at SH 5/17 (AB) was a nice report. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** seemed to be a bit more numerous than usual; 10 reports were received 4/29 (at Burgettstown, RG) to 5/16 (at BNT, AB). Wintering **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still at Washington Cemetery 3/3 (MV), and the first likely migrants appeared 3/31 at CL (GM et al.). This species has proven to be especially common at CL in the spring, especially near Waterdam Plaza, for no immediately obvious reason. They seemed to be present virtually every day from early April to mid-May. The only **Pine Warbler** was at BAV 5/3 (MV). **Palm Warblers** were also unusually scarce, with just two reported: 4/30 and 5/10 at SH (AB). AB had success finding **Bay-breasted** and **Blackpoll Warblers** in central *Washington* in late May, including 8 **Bay-breasted** in Eighty Four 5/23. **Cerulean Warblers** were in evidence at Burgettstown and other breeding areas as early as 4/29; however, a traditional location near BC was being logged in early spring (MD), another bad sign for this struggling species. An **Ovenbird** made a slightly early return to BC 4/21 (MD). Best species of the season was a **Mourning Warbler** at Eighty Four 5/17 (AB), but equally pleasing was a **Canada Warbler** 5/24 at SH (AB).

A male **Summer Tanager** was reported in N. Strabane Twp. 5/7 (FO *vide* MH). Last **American Tree Sparrow** was in Claysville 3/8 (MC). The field sparrows (lower case)—**Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, **Field**, and **Henslow's**—were all in good numbers on traditional grassland sites by the end of Apr (m. obs.). The only **Fox Sparrow** was in Houston 3/9 (CH), and **Lincoln's Sparrow** went completely unreported. Three **Lapland Longspurs** continued from the winter near Hickory to at least 3/9 (RG, MD).

**Bobolinks** continue to do well near BC, a good sign for another struggling species; however, 5 near Eighty Four 5/7 (AB) was the only other report. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were back in RT by 3/21 (MF). Orioles returned a bit early: **Baltimore Oriole** was in Claysville 4/25 (MC) and **Orchard Oriole** was at West Pike Run 4/26 (AT).

A **Purple Finch** at Coal Center 3/10 was the only "winter finch" left over after Feb, a bit disappointing considering the invasion this past winter. However, a male Purple at Eighty Four 5/29 (LD) was a nice find.

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#### Wayne County

No Complier.

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#### Westmoreland County

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Derry Lake (DeL), Donegal Lake (DoL), Loyalhannah Lake (LL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [Latrobe Reservoir] (TRR).

The only report of a **Red-throated Loon** came from DeL 3/11 (KB) and again 3/13 (TV). **Common Loons** were a bit scarce on local lakes with a high count of just 12 at DoL 3/28 (DB). Best **Horned Grebe** counts were of 12 on DeL 3/11 (KB) and 14 on DoL 3/22 (L&LH). Four **Double-crested Cormorants** had stopped at CD by 4/5 (KB). Two **Great Egrets** were at DoL 3/24 (RCL, CL), and one was still there the next day (L&LH).

A flock of 75 **Tundra Swans** stopped briefly at DoL 3/11 (RCL), and 118 were there 3/12 (L&LH). A flock of over 50 **Snow Geese** (mixed morphs) passed over PNR 3/15 (ML), and TV reported 2 blue morphs at the St. Vincent wetlands at Latrobe 3/1. A flock of 40 **American Black Ducks** was found at CD 3/30 (KB). Three **Gadwalls** had returned to DoL by 3/25 (L&LH), and the first 3 **Blue-winged Teal** were there 4/4 (RCL). Six **Northern Shovelers** stopped at CD 3/30 (KB), and a flock of 30 **Northern Pintails** also put down there 3/30 (KB). The best count of **American Wigeon** was of 23 at DoL 3/12 (L&LH). On 3/20, 36 **Greater Scaup** were on AD (L&LH). A flock of 30 **Ring-necked Ducks** made for a good count at Powdermill's Crisp Pond 3/20-21 (PF, BM, JM). Nine **Greater Scaup** put down on TRR 3/11, and 6 **Redheads** were there that same day (RCL). Peak **merganser** dates were of 70 **Hooded** at DoL 2/22 (L&LH), 33 **Red-breasted** at DoL 3/3 (DB), and 80 **Common** at LL 3/3 (TV). An unusually late female **Red-breasted Merganser** was at DoL 5/21 (RCL). A flock of 24 **Ruddy Ducks** was a season's high at DoL 3/12 (L&LH). The wintering **Sandhill Crane** at DeL remained through at least the month of Mar (*fide* M&KJ).

Two **Ospreys** had returned to their nest site at DoL by 3/27 (RCL, L&LH). A **Merlin** was a good find at Delmont 3/26 (KB). Two **Northern Harriers** were at Randall Reserve near (DoL) 5/4 (L&LH), and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen along Old Distillery Rd. near Stahlstown 4/2 (L&LH). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at PNR on the night of 3/26-27 (BM). A rather early **Black-billed Cuckoo** was near Stahlstown 5/2 (L&LH).

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was photographed in Bell Township 5/4 (KD), and it was also seen briefly the next day; the bird represented just the third county record for the species. A flock of 41 **Horned Larks** was a good find at Crabtree 3/11 (KB). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** of the spring season was at PNR 4/2 (BM, PF). Twenty **American Pipits** were at PNR 3/20 (ML).

Hybrid warblers were the feature of the season at Powdermill: A **Sutton's Warbler** (believed to be a hybrid between the **Yellow-throated Warbler** and the **Northern Parula**) was banded at the Reserve 5/4, repeated in the nets another two times, and on its last capture was confirmed as a nesting bird showing a well developed brood patch. Both **Yellow-throated Warbler** and **Northern Parula** breed in the Reserve's banding area, and it is uncertain which species the **Sutton's** was mated to. Feather samples of this bird, and another warbler thought probably to be a hybrid **Nashville X Orange-crowned Warbler**, have been sent to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for genetic analysis. A **Brewster's Warbler**, on 4/26, was also among the hybrid warblers banded (MM) at PNR. A rather early **Worm-eating Warbler** was banded at PNR 5/2. An early **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen near Stahlstown 5/1 (L&LH), and one was netted 5/2 at PNR (MM).

Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** had returned to Latrobe Airport by 3/8 (DB). Among the few reports of **Rusty Blackbird** was that of 3 at Trees Mills 4/9 (KB). Two **Common Redpolls** stopped briefly at a feeder along Old Distillery Road 3/20 (L&LH).

Observers: **Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021, rcleberm@winbeam.com**, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Karin DeSantis, Pam Ferkett, Len & Linda Hess (L&LH), Merle & Karen Jackson, Mike Lanzone, Coki Lindsay, Molly McDermott, Julie Mears, Bob Mulvihill, Tim Vechter.

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#### Wyoming County

No Report.

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**NEW COMPILER BEGINNING FALL 2008: Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**

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#### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd. (ALT), Brunner's Island (BRUN), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), East Berlin (EBER), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Gutt Rd. (GUTT), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LWMS), Lewisberry (LWSB), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), PA Migration Count (PAMC), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Shrewsbury (SHRU), Spring Grove (SPGR).

There were 195 species reported during the spring season, including 30 waterfowl species and 28 species of warblers.

Two **Snow Geese** were at Forest Lakes 3/4 (BF), and 6 were found 3/22 at a small pond near DILL (MW). **Tundra Swans** came through during Mar with a high count of 93 at GPSP 3/11 (VG). **Blue-winged Teal** are uncommon visitors to the county, and the only reports were from CSP, three 4/2 (HM) and six 4/5 (RP). There were two **Greater Scaup** at CSP 3/19 (PJR). There was a good description of a **Barrow's Goldeneye** that was seen for about a minute 3/11 at GPSP (VG), from a distance of 50 yards, before it flew off and unfortunately could not be relocated that day or the next. **Red-necked Grebes** were found at GPSP: one 3/11 (VG), two 3/13 (RK), one 3/14 (PJR), and two 3/16 (RP). **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers continue to increase at CSP in early spring, with a high this year of 200 on 4/8 (PJR). It would not be surprising to see them begin to nest on one of the two small islands, if they can tolerate the boat activity.

An **American Bittern** was found 5/9 at a pond on Garriston Rd. (JM), and a **Least Bittern** was photographed 5/28 at BRUN (LC), but it did not stay. At Kiwanis Lake a few **Great Egret** nests were seen 5/4 (PJR) and two **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were there 4/5 (BE). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at the Garriston Rd. pond 4/23 and 4/25 (JM) and another was reported at the Hanover airport 5/19 (CB). A **Merlin** visited CSP 4/5 (RP).

A **Common Moorhen** was at BRUN 5/21 (LC), but was not found the next day. Three **Willetts** were seen flying low over DILL 5/11 (JK), and a **Western Sandpiper** was at SHRU (RP). Among the several reports of **Wilson's Snipe** was a group of 29 at the CSP flats along Rte. 214. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at CSP 4/5 (RP), and two were there 4/8 (PJR). An adult plumaged **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at CSP 3/30 (PJR). A few **Caspian Terns** came through in Apr: three at CSP 4/7 (HM), four at CSP 4/8 (PJR), four at LRED 4/9 (JG), two at LRED 4/12 (RP), and one at GPSP 4/13 (CM). Two **Black Terns** were at LAR 4/26 (DS) and two were at CSP 5/3 (KL).

A road-killed **Long-eared Owl** was found 3/25 on Rte. 382 about two miles east of LWSB (JP). A **Short-eared Owl** was at the ALT grassland area 3/6 (RP), and one was seen there again 3/9 (DC); as many as four were seen in fields near EBER until 3/24 (PK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was spotted sitting on the road near Wrightsville 3/4, grasping a small mammal (SW). A **Whip-poor-will** heard 4/26 near CSP was a surprise (*fide* RP). The only other known York location for the species is near DILL.

**Yellow-throated Vireos** reported were one 5/7 at Codorus Furnace (PJR), four 5/7 along GUTT (PJR), and three 5/28 at Lock 12 (CC). There were a few **Brown Creeper** reports, including five 3/2 at LWMS (BF). No Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported, but a **Swainson's Thrush** was at High Rock Rd. 5/24 and one was at Lock 12 on 5/28 (CC). A **Hermit Thrush** was heard 3/14 at GPSP (PJR).

There was a fairly good variety of warbler sightings, but misses included Tennessee, Cape May, Yellow-throated, Mourning, and Wilson's. Five **Pine Warblers** were at GPSP 4/13 (CM), and one was at CSP 4/21 (PJR). Three **Cerulean Warblers** were found 5/7 along Riverview Rd. (PJR) and there were four at Lock 12 on 5/28 (CC).

There were "several" **Prothonotary Warblers** at BRUN 5/5 (DC), one along GUTT 5/7 (PJR), three at BRUN 5/11 (DC), and one along the Yellow Breaches Cr. 5/14 (CR). On 5/10 one **Kentucky Warbler** was found on the PAMC (JJP), and another was at SGL 242 (CR). There were just two **Canada Warblers** reported: one 5/17 at RRCF (CMc) and one at SPGR 5/27 (DSB).

All of the grassland species reported were at ALT (RP): **Vesper Sparrow** 4/10, **Savannah Sparrow** 4/10 through the season, **Grasshopper Sparrow** 5/4 through the season, and six **Bobolink** 5/4 and one 5/7 (DC). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at GPSP 4/12 (BJH) was a little early. Several **Pine Siskins** were at New Cumberland feeders 3/13 (JM) and 4/6 (RS), as many as six were daily visitors at a LWSB feeder until 4/23 (JP), and one was at a feeder in southern York at the late date of 5/23 (DC).

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com** (PJR), Chuck Berthoud, Doug & Steff Brudhecker (DSB), Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Dick Cleary, Bryan Erb, Bruce Fortman, Jeffrey Gallo, Vern Gauthier, Shawn Godack, Judy Hamilton, Barry & Jenni Horton (BJH), Georgia Kagle, Phil Keener, Jay Keller, Ramsey Koury, Karen Lippy, Chris Malachowski, Craig McCoy (CMc), Andy McGann, Henry McLin, Jason Miller, Bob Moul, Ann Pettigrew, Jeff Pheasant, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott (JJP), Beth Pugliese, Dan Richards, Cameron Rutt, Dean Scarff, Mark Scarff, Matt Schuchart, Rich Stevick, Adam Stuckert, Drew Weber (Dwe), Steve Wildasin, Mike Weible, Dave Wilton (DWi).

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## ADDENDUM TO THE WINTER 2008 REPORT

*EDITORS NOTE: Regrettably, the following two reports from winter 2007-08 were inadvertently left out of their intended issue (Volume 22, Number 1). We sincerely apologize to both the compilers of these counties and to all cited observers for this error. Each report is included here.*

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### Luzerne County – Winter 2007-08

Locations: Council Cup (CC), Crystal Lake (CL), Dallas Area CBC (DACBC) Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Huntsville Reservoir (HR), Kirby Park Natural Area(KP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Pennsylvania Power & Light (PPL), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Sylvan Lake (SL)

This past winter season was relatively mild. There weren't any days where the temperature dropped below zero degrees Fahrenheit. The mild temperatures may have been one of the reasons that the Dallas Area Christmas Bird Count, held on 12/15, broke the record for number of species in its 50-year history with 81 species recorded. There was also a nice incursion of winter finches this year. A **White-winged Crossbill** seen at a feeder in Nescopeck in late November was a harbinger of things to come.

**Pied-billed Grebes** were recorded from 12/9 until the end of the period on HL (RK, et al). A **Horned Grebe** was seen on CL 12/6 and was the only record for the season (MK). Two **Mute Swans**, an adult and immature, appeared at HL 1/27, and the immature continued through 2/29 (JH, et al.). Two **American Wigeon** were found at Shady Side Lake 12/9 and were still present on the DACBC (RK, SGa, MK). **Canvasback** arrived late this year with a first sighting on HL 2/14 (RK). A single **Redhead** was seen on HL 12/9 and again on the DACBC (JH). The number of **Redheads** increased to at least 5 at HL 2/14 (RK). Up to 7 **Common Goldeneyes** were on the SR in West Pittston 1/27 (JS). Good numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were seen this season with 45 recorded on the DACBC, with most being reported from HL (JH, et al). Another nice find at HL on the DACBC was a **White-winged Scoter** that remained for at least a few days (BT, EJ, et al).

There were several reports of **Bald Eagles** during the period with at least two individuals on the DACBC (EH, DB). An incredible number of 6 **Northern Harriers** were seen on the DACBC with three different teams reporting (MB, SB, et al). **Rough-legged Hawk** was not as common this winter but there were a few reports, including at least 2 recorded on the DACBC (MB, SGa et al). A **Merlin** was at FSSP on 12/7 (BT) and three species of falcons—**American Kestrel**, **Peregrine**

& **Merlin**—were found by the team of BW, SGo, and JHa on the DACBC.

First vultures were 2 **Black Vultures** and one **Turkey Vulture** seen flying over Cragle Hill in Hunlock Creek 2/21 (BW).

**Ruffed Grouse** numbers continue to remain low with only a few birds seen during the period (RK). **Wild Turkey** numbers, on the other hand, have been soaring for the past several years and have been increasingly easy to see on just about any outing (JH, et al.).

**Horned Larks** were seen on several occasions, including 18 at PLYF on 12/15 (MB, SB). One observer was lucky enough to find several **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** this past winter with one seen and heard in downtown Wilkes-Barre 1/13 (JD). A few **Hermit Thrushes** over-wintered with up to 3 on PPL property along Rte. 239 near Wapwallopen 1/1 (RK, BT, JH). **Northern Shrikes** were seen early in the season with 2 recorded on the DACBC (BT, SGa) but were noticeably absent after the beginning of Jan. On the same day that the **Hermit Thrushes** were seen near Wapwallopen, at least 3 **Eastern Towhees** were also present in the same area (RK, BT, JH).

There were 5 **Evening Grosbeaks** observed in Pikes Creek 1/1 (DP) with no other reports received during the winter months. **Purple Finches** were reported on a few occasions during late Dec and early Jan (RK, MB). The **White-winged Crossbill** mentioned earlier (at least 2 individuals) were seen from 12/1 through at least 12/30 at two feeders within a half mile of each other near Nescopeck (MB, SB, BH). **Common Redpolls** began arriving in early Dec and continued to 2/29. A thousand or more **Common Redpolls** were observed feeding in a gray birch woodlot on abandoned mine land north of Plains 12/7 (SGa). **Pine Siskins** were also common this winter with 41 seen at HL on 12/15 and continuing throughout the period (BT, RK, et al).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** seen on the DACBC was actually several hundred yards over the border into *Wyoming*, but the 48 **Snow Buntings** seen by two different groups of observers on the same day were well back inside *Luzerne*; these included 24 seen in Chase and 24 at the PLYFL (JH, MB, et al).

Observers: **Jim Hoysan, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Susan Baron, Dave Birchler, Mark Blauer, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Eleanor Harding, Jeff Hartman (JHa), Julie Hart (JHt), Bob Houck, Ed Johnson, Don Kapral, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Deb Petroski, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

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### Philadelphia County – Winter 2007-08

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush SP (BRP), Christmas Bird Count 12/15 (CBC), 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), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census (PMWC), Schulykill River (SR), Schulykill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

The Pennypack, Glenolden, and Wyncote CBCs each provided a glimpse of bird life in parts of Philly on 12/15, and the SCEE Winter Census surveyed 340 acres in northwest Philly on 1/5. Only the 22nd Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census conducted ably by Keith Russell and 46 volunteers took a census of the entire county on 1/12. These efforts brought the combined species count for this mild, dry winter to 114. Several CBC highs were recorded for waterfowl and woodpeckers, and at last we hosted winter irruptive species not seen in several years. Our two common owls and both crow species appear to be slowly rebounding from their 2003 bout with West Nile Virus. Our best bird was a Sandhill Crane seen flying over Stenton Ave. by Wyncote CBC compiler, Andy Fayer, on 12/15.

Frank Windfelder's Philly Big Year ended with a spectacular 233 species, eight more than John Miller's 1966 pre-cell phone, pre-internet, pre-retirement, pre-massive development total of 225, and ahead of the totals of 208 by both Ted Floyd in 1998 and our much loved, late Ed Fingerhood in 1990. Boundless energy, uncanny intuition, and an in-depth understanding of bird behavior, plus Frank's competitive drive, produced this great new record.

Lone **Snow Geese** were found in the northeast and at TI 12/15. FW discovered a possible *tavernii* **Cackling Goose** at FDR 12/19. The small goose "was very gray with pale fringes on the upperparts,

imparting a very scaly appearance... with a chinstrap that narrowed behind the eye." (FW, DBe). Five **Tundra Swans** were seen on the DR 12/9 (BH). Fortunately, only the usual 3 **Mute Swans** were reported at FDR. **Wood Ducks** were found at the abandoned Roxborough Reservoir 1/12 (MDa), and DBre saw two **Wood Ducks** at TI 12/17, but we did not see them overwinter. **Gadwalls** were present throughout the season at TI and FDR with no more than 14 reported. Eight **American Wigeon** on 1/12 was the PMWC 22-year high, but more than 20 on 2/23 aroused the attention of eBird (Cornell's realtime online checklist program, see <www.ebird.org>) which flashed a bold red exclamation point asking me to verify the number! The Pennypack CBC found 480 **American Black Duck** on the DR 12/15, although at TI the count of American Black Duck never exceeded 75. **Mallard**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Northern Pintail** (census high of 611 on 1/12) were present in the hundreds at TI, FDR, and on the DR. Around 500 **Green-winged Teal** were at TI early in Dec. As with all the dabblers in DC tidal marsh area, the accuracy of the count varies with the tides. Usually less than 60 Green-winged Teal are reported, but among those TF found a **Common Teal** (a.k.a. **Eurasian Green-winged Teal**) 12/15 (m. obs.). A raft of **Canvasback** on the New Jersey side of the DR numbered 300 in late Dec (TC), but only 72 Canvasback were found 1/12. Our only **Redhead** was at FDR through late Dec (DBe, FW). Twenty **Ring-necked Ducks** preferred the ponds at FDR, but eventually were found at TI and the DR at Rhawn St. One **Greater Scaup** and 2 **Lesser Scaup** turned up on the Pennypack CBC, but **Common Goldeneye**, missed on all counts/census, were seen in very low numbers only on the DR. A dozen **Hooded Mergansers** and 80 **Common Mergansers** wintered at TI. Our **Ruddy Duck** count peaked at 27, probably because many of the old docks along the DR where Ruddy Ducks congregate recently became "off limits" to birders. Most reports of a **Common Loon** on the TI impoundment are really of Double-crested Cormorant, but on New Year's Day SB found a *bona fide* loon resting in the shallow water. Grebes were relatively scarce; only one **Horned Grebe** was seen on the Pennypack CBC on the DR. **Pied-billed Grebes** were absent from TI, but five were located on 1/12 at FDR and environs.

On the DR, **Great Cormorants** were in breeding plumage at the beginning of Feb. The 54 **Great Cormorants** found on the Pennypack CBC were a count high, and when all of Philly was surveyed, 79 were found 1/12. Though rarely seen, **American Bittern** often winters at TI. TC saw an American Bittern fly over the impoundment and into DC marsh 12/29, and DBr saw it 2/16. At Rhawn and the DR on 12/6, FW also saw an American Bittern. A new **Black Vulture** roost was located on the SCEE Winter Census at Manatawana Farm on Spring Lane. CH counted 41 vultures of which 10 were **Turkey Vulture**. The roost dwindled as the winter wore on, but CH reported that by Mar, 40 Black Vultures were roosting again. The rafter of **Wild Turkeys** present for the CBC at TI disappeared shortly thereafter, but returned in Mar with a displaying male and two jakes sporting "turkey beards."

On 2/10 GG was able to show a group of TI birders seven raptors, including **Bald Eagle**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **American Kestrel**, and **Peregrine Falcon** (plus 2 Black Vultures, and Turkey Vulture). Our **Bald Eagle** pair did not nest at the NBC site this season, although they have been seen in the vicinity of the nest. **Northern Harrier** was a miss for the second time in four years on the 1/12 census, but Northern Harriers were at the Northeast Airport and Rhawn and the DR on 12/15. Record high numbers of **Cooper's Hawk** were recorded on the CBCs that included Philly and other counties. For the PMWC, 18 **Cooper's Hawk** was a new census high. Coincident with the increase in Cooper's Hawks is the decline of the **American Kestrel** with only five found. Again this year, three **Red-shouldered Hawks** were drawn to the open fields of the Eastwick Redevelopment Authority property bordering TI on the east. One of the three hawks was in stunning adult plumage and we saw it almost daily. A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk**, presumably the same hawk seen in the PHL area 1/12 (CW), was found at the western border of TI in Delaware Co. 12/19 (TC). By 1/5 that light-phase hawk drifted back into Philly (DM), but was not reported thereafter. **Merlins** were seen 12/10 at BRSP (FW), 12/15 in the Pennypack, over Cottman Ave., and at TI 1/13. Three **Peregrine Falcons** at TI were a high count for the Glenolden CBC. **Northern Goshawk** was missed this season.

As mentioned above, a **Sandhill Crane** was seen flying over Stenton Ave. 12/15 (AF). Ten **Killdeer** were at Rhawn and the DR 1/12 (FW). I flushed **American Woodcock** from the "poplar woods" at TI 2/23, and on 2/26 an exhausted woodcock rested in a tiny front yard at Washington Sq. (LH). Less than ten displaying American Woodcock at TI were half the number of woodcock seen in 2007.

Our gull of note is the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** which has been seen in the northeast on the DR for several years. Five species of owl were reported. **Great Horned Owl** and **Eastern Screech-Owl** seem to be recovering from the 2003 bout with West Nile Virus. The previously reported Mt. Airy **Barred Owl(s)** have not been heard since spring, but one or possibly two owls were heard in East Falls near McNichols Park (MK). We assumed the Mt. Airy Barred Owl could be in search of better territory in East Falls, so on several early Mar evenings, MD drove the East Falls area playing Barred Owl calls, with no response. **Short-eared Owl**, once a yearly breeder at PHL, was found after a long absence at Rhawn and the DR 12/15 (FW). Finally, in this year of a huge **Northern Saw-whet Owl** invasion, PP found a Northern Saw-whet Owl at TI 12/17. There could have been one or more owls using a variety of roosts, but I know that one Northern Saw-whet Owl lingered in the poplar woods through Feb. On 2/10 this little owl was seen with a Northern Cardinal cached nearby.

An **Eastern Phoebe**, discovered by DBr 12/26, overwintered at TI. Several years ago DBr observed a phoebe pluck small fish from the surface of still water, a behavior that is well documented but little known, which enhances Eastern Phoebes' chances for winter survival. Three **Horned Larks** were found at PHL 1/12 (CW, et.al.). The largest population of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** wintering in the United States continues to be at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant on Delaware Ave. across from the Tioga Marine Terminal on the DR. On 12/15, 93 swallows were counted, 82 were found on the PMWC, and CL saw 35 as late as 2/27. Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** flew over TI 1/12 (DM). TI is 15 "river-miles" or 12 "air miles" from the Water Control Plant, and this observation might indicate either how far the birds go to forage, or that migrants are still passing in early Jan., or perhaps even that some birds break away to migrate south as food resources become scarcer.

**Black-capped Chickadees** were reported throughout the county and frequented the new bird feeder daily at TI. Some chickadees appeared to be true Black-capped Chickadees, but others could have been hybrids. Each CBC had up to 6 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. SK found a **House Wren** on an island in the Schuylkill R. north of the Art Museum 1/12 (either he has good ears or his own boat!). SaK encountered 11 **Brown Creepers** on the three mile loop walk at TI 1/24. **Eastern Bluebirds** were reported from SCEE and the Pennypack where nest box trails support bluebird reproduction. Carrying over from the fall, the **Northern Parula** at TI was last seen 12/8 (FW). A **Yellow (Eastern) Palm Warbler** was found at TI 1/23 (TC, MN).

One **Snow Bunting** was a great find at Northeast Airport 12/15 (FW). Snow Buntings are often found in season on the grass strips of the PHL runways where *Delaware* and Philly intersect. Good emberizidae at Rhawn and the DR included 8 **Savannah Sparrows** and 12 **American Tree Sparrows** 12/11 (FW). American Tree Sparrows were widely distributed: 12 at Rhawn and the DR 2/26 (FW), 13 on the 1/12 census, and 37 on the Pennypack CBC. Singing male **Fox Sparrows** enjoyed the mild season at numerous locations. FDR continues to be the best place for **Rusty Blackbird**—a group of up to 50 wintered there. TI is a close second with 34 Rusty Blackbirds counted on 1/12 (DM, MDe). A large flock of 100 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on 12/26 seemed out of place in the northeast so far from the grassy fields of PHL where they congregate (FW). From 1/15-2/19, an imm. **Baltimore Oriole** came to a suet feeder at MP's Roxborough home which borders FP. Forty **Common Grackles** were at Ish's pond on Lewis St. near the Tioga Marine Terminal on 2/27 (CL). RF heard and then saw 5 **Common Redpolls** feeding in trees along the pipeline-cut at TI 12/26. At the edge of the Wissahickon, **Pine Siskins** frequented a thistle feeder, and in Conshohocken a Pine Siskin appeared for just one day, 11/23 (SD).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063; 610 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Leigh Ashbrook, Debbie Beer, Sarah Besadny, Denis Brennan (DBr), Brian Byrnes, Tony Croasdale, Michael Darcy, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Andy Fayer, Todd Fellenbaum, Rob Furrow, Lizanne Haimes, Brian Hart, Gregg Gorton, Ken Januski, Steve Kerr, Sandra Keller (SaK), Maryellen Krober, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Jim McKinney, Mandy Meltz, John Miller, Edie Parnum, Mary Phalan, Nick Pulcinella, Paul Pulcinella, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Kate Somerville, Chris Walters, Frank Windfelder.

## PHOTO QUIZ #21

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



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

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Dec-Feb	May 31	July
Mar-May	Aug 31	October
Jun-Jul	Oct 31	December
Aug-Nov	Feb 28	April

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