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 birdering 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 some things very obvious about some of those 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.

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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.
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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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS 86 2008 – VOLUME 22 NO. 2
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.

References


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

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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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
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>.

Acknowledgments

I thank site compilers David Brandes, Jim Lockyer, Jerry McWilliams, Che Mincone, Dan Ombalski, Dana Owen, and the overseer of the migration count database <www.hawkcount.org>: the Hawk Migration Association of North America. I also thank all the spring counters who collected these data. Keith L. Bildstein provided helpful comments on an earlier version of this manuscript. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 170.

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Table 2. 2008 Pennsylvania Spring Raptor Migration Summary

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

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

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Birds/Hour: % Flight

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**Notes:**
- **BLVU:** Black Vultures
- **TUVU:** Turkey Vultures
- **OSPR:** Ospreys
- **BAEA:** Bald Eagles
- **NOHA:** Northern Harriers
- **SSHA:** Sharp-shinned Hawks
- **COHA:** Cooper's Hawks
- **NOGO:** Northern Goshawks
- **RSAH:** Rough-legged Hawks
- **BWHA:** Barn Owls
- **RTHA:** Red-tailed Hawks
- **RLHA:** Rough-legged Hawks
- **GSEA:** Geese
- **AKEST:** Golden Eagles
- **MERL:** Merlions
- **PEFA:** Peregrine Falcons
- **UNID:** Unidentified
- **TOTAL:** Total

---

**Pennsylvania Birds**

2008 - Volume 22 No. 2
### ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware); Jim Lockyer, compiler

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### Birds/Hour

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### % Flight

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### % Chg

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**Key for Summary Tables**

**United States Postal Service**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. **Publication Title:** Pennsylvania Birds  
2. **Publication Number:** 0898-8501  
3. **Filing Date:** 9/10/2008  
4. **Issue Frequency:** Quarterly  
5. **Number of Issues Published Annually:** 4  
6. **Annual Subscription Price:** $28.50  
7. **Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:** 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730; Contact Person Franklin Haas; Telephone 717-445-9609  
8. **Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:** 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730  
9. **Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor**  
   - **Publisher:** Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730  
   - **Editor:** Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730  
   - **Managing Editor:** Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730  
10. **Owner:** Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730  
11. **Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box:** X None  
12. **Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:** 07/21/08  
13. **Extent and Nature of Circulation**

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15. **Extent and Nature of Circulation**

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</table>

16. **Publication of Statement of Ownership**

   - Publication required. Will be printed in the Vol 22 No. 2 issue of this publication.

17. **Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date**

   Franklin C. Haas, Membership Manager, 09/10/08  

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).
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 listerv 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 in front of them and perched in a tree. At home, she looked it up in her field guide and then called me, her husband were driving along when they saw the bird sitting on the road. As their car approached, it flew up 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 unobstructed views, but despite that, 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 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.

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

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


McWilliams, G. and D. Brauning. 2000. 
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.

<table>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>17</td>
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BOOK REVIEWS

Gene Wilhelm


“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 trimucronatus) 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.


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)."


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 and found 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.

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 it 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).


A Field Guide to Birds of North America (Brinkley, 2007).

National Geographic Complete Birds of North America (Alderfer, Dunn, 2005).

Birds of Old Cape May (Stone, 1937).
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 worthwhile. The cool rainy weather may have been a factor in surprises such as showing. The cool rainy weather may have been a factor in surprises such as showing. The cool rainy weather may have been a factor in surprises such as showing. The cool rainy weather may have been a factor in surprises such as showing. The cool rainy weather may have been a factor in surprises such as showing.

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 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’easters 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 Willets 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 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 rarities 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.
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 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.

Birds in Italics typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

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 at least 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’s 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).


**Cackling Goose** – Armstrong: one on the Allegheny River at Rosston 3/9 (Dan Yagusic). **Beaver:** one at Little Blue Lake 3/8-17 (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh). **Berks:** two at Lake Ontelaunee 3/2 (Rudy Keller). **Bucks:** first 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 Miller). **Erie:** 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 which 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 (Deune Hoffman). **Montgomery:** one at Green Lane Res. 4/27 (Steve Kacir).


**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 Yagusic). **Bucks:** one at Peace Valley Park 3/3 (Chuck Crunkleton). **Cambridge:** 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 Rut, 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:** 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 (Deivich 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 (Deivich 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 Schmoyer). **Erie:** 2 at Presque Isle State Park 5/25
(Mark Vass).  

Montgomery: one at a Perkiomenville pond 5/20 (Ron Grubb).  


**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), Landenberg 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.  

_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).  


_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** – 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).


**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).  

_Lebanon:_ 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 Dunnings 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:_ 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 Greenscastle 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.

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.


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 Wreatesville 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*: 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).


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 Riffigts). *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 Tincum-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 (Karim DeSantis); third county record (doc submitted).


Fish Crow – *Allegheny*: one at Dashields 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).


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


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


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

**Lark Sparrow** – Crawford: one visited a feeder in Meadville 5/23-26 (Ronald Leberman) (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).


**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.

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).
**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)

**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)

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

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)

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

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)

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

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)

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*). 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)


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

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). This bird was one of two at Imperial, Allegheny, 8 May 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)
Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). This bird continued from the winter season at Beltzville State Park in Carbon, photographed here 15 March 2008. (*Dustin Welch*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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

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)

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

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

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

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>B.B.S.</td>
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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).

Observers: Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com, Chuck Berthoud, Peter Bugler, Clyde & Barb Fisher (CBF), Mike Harvey, Bart & Judy Hogan
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 reported in the county, none of the most part migration species were seen.

Tundra Swans were missed through much of the season 3/15-3; 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 (DY, m.obs.) and another was at IMP 3/21 (MF). Reports were good for Northern Pintail the season, with the highest total was on the AR from the Highland Park dam to Emsworth where 132 were counted (DY), and over that location 5/10 (DY). A Single bird was at Etna 4/24 and 5/3 (DY) with a rather late bird flying included the DASH (MV). The highest total was on the AR from the Highland Park area where refuge for grebes that halted their migration in the face of the Horned Grebes in the county. All three major rivers in the Pittsburgh area were too high to identify species on, although a few rarities were reported from the Ohio River near the Carnegie Science Center 5/1 (SSa), providing the 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 was 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 Crichton 3/28 (DY). The migration of gulls and terns was once again observed at DASH on the Ohio River in 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 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 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 were notably absent from the county this spring, both from DASH. A total of 13 flew by 4/11 (GM, DW, MV) and 3 were tallied 4/14 (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 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, as was observed in apparent courtship on a pond 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 migration reports found in the area from feeders in dark hardwood and 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 (PS), 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 (BS), a very handsome bird and a late report of Noisy Miner at East Liberty 5/13 (singing) and 5/18 (DY), single Cape May Warblers at South Park 5/4 (TP), Sitter’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 single Broad-winged was present at IMP 4/26 (GM), Harmer 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 (MC, JS, SJJ); these were noted at IMP 5/1-3 (MC, JS, SJJ) and 5/30 (DY).

Perhaps it was exhibiting this behavior due to the season and was not holding any in its bill. It then flew off. The habitat is a city park and there were several minutes before dropping it. The bird flew to another tree and appeared on a tree trunk. Once again it perched with the material for a few more minutes. It then dropped it and began gathering more material. It was collecting tendrils of wild grape growing from 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 another single report of a male at FR 5/1 (MF) which 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 5/5 (JP), the first reported in the county since 2004. An interesting Scarlet Tanager, described as pale but not a true orange variant, (PL, SL), 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 cassinus Dark-eyed Junco reported last season was last seen at a feeder in Harmar Township 3/16 (MC). 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 3/13 (MC). 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).

Observers: Mike Fialkovicz, 805 Beulah Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15240; 412-731-3539, mpfialkovicz@verizon.net, Tommi Byrnes, Meg Bledsoe, Tony Bledsoe, Dan Brauning, Paul Brown, Steve Carbol, Yale Cohen, Holly Ferckett, Ted Floyd, Donna Fonnye, Ross Gallardy, Steve Gossler, Eric Hall, Any Henrici, Chuck Herrold, Deborah Hess, Paul Hess, Joyce Hofmann, Chad Kaufman, Margie Kern, Scott Kinzey, Lydia Konecky, Tom Kuehl, Dave Liebmann, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Connie Madia, Pat McShea, Bob Machenesky, Oscar Miller, Shirley Mudd, Del Noll, Dick Noll, John Paul, Tom Pawlesh, Jim Pemberton, Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Members (PSO), Carol Reigle, Kate St. John, Steve Sarro (SSa), Kathy Saunders, Jamie Seher (JSE), Brian Shema (BSh), Ed Shott, Sam Sinderson (SSn), Becky Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Leo Stember, Bill Switlata (BSW), Amy Taracido, Steve Thomas, Sue Thomas (SuT), Shannon Thompson (SHT), Ryan Towne, Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen (MvV), Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Susanne Varley, Mark Vass, Carol Willenpart, Dave Willton, Dan Yagusic.

Location: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Dayton (DT), Elderton (EDT), Hoosicks Mill (HM), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Manorville (MNV), Rosston (RT), Rural Valley (RV), Smelter (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 MVN 4/17 (MC) and 2 at RT 3/9 (DY); KR yielded 18 on 3/22 (MH, RH). Four American Black Ducks 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH) were the only ones reported. Mallard maxima included 32 at MVN 3/9 (MH, RH) and 20 at KR 3/22 (MH, RH). Northern Pintail records included 7 at MVN 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 MVN, 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 MVN 3/9 (MH, RH, DY), 30 at Margaret 3/12 (MH, AH), and 167 at KR 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH). Thirteen Greater Scaup included 3 at MVN 3/9 (MH, RH) which was a bit later 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 MVN 3/27 (DY), 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 (DV). 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); 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 (JY), 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). Rudd Ducks reported were one at RT 3/9 (DY), 2 at RT 3/16 (DY), 8 at RT 3/22 (EF, MF, MH, RH), and last 2 at KR 3/29 (MH, RH).

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


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

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 6 on 4/21 (RH) as the field started to dry up. Single American Woodcocks were sighted 3/13 (DF) at Keystone State Park and 4/16 (MH, RH) near Belknap.

First Bonaparte’s Gull appeared at RT 3/16 (DV); 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) and 6 were listed at CC 4/6 (JV). The Herring Gull count at Belknap contained first chicks 5/19 (CG, MH, RH, DJ).

Great Horned Owls were listed only at Manor Twp. 3/14 (JV, JA) and near Belknap 4/16 (MH, RH). A Common Nighthawk flew over the Lenape Gorge County 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 (DV) at RT. Great Crested Flycatchers had returned to 5/3 (MH, RH) 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 Swallows near EDT and 5/4 (MH, RH) for both Northern Rough-winged Swallows 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 contained first chicks 5/19 (CG, MH, RH, DJ). 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 Gray Catbird. This Masks a new late departure date for this species in Beaver. Long-tailed Ducks continued 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 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 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 inconspicuous; MV tallied 300 at RCH and 433 on the OR at Beaver, for a record-setting total of 732. 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).

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 Masks a new late departure date for this species in Beaver. Long-tailed Ducks continued 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 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 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).

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Double-crested Cormorants moved through 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 severa 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 also 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 5/3 (MH). 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 it is believed to be no doubt that the Peregrine 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 three of their four pair mates so close to their territories. 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 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 4/16 (MV); A Sora was seen at LBL for the second straight year 5/9. Last year two birds stayed in this location until Mar 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 migration occurred 4/9 at RCH 3/5 (GM) which also contained the season’s first Bonaparte’s Gull. Last year Ring-billed Gulls were 1 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 RSCP 4/9 (J&S&S), 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 and 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 downstream 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 viros 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 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 one mile from 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.

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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 associated 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.

**Observers:** Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Simone Bennett, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, Marianna Gregg, Scott Gregg, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Scott Kinzy, Karen Lang, Oscar Miller, Ed Richards, Becky Smith, Jack and Sue Solomon, Kate St. John (KJS), Joan Tague, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Bill Walbek, Mike Weible, Dave Willton.

**Bedford County**

Locations: Dunnings 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.

The following are peak numbers for waterfowl counted at DCW unless noted otherwise: 2000 (SSP). 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 Dunnings Creek and another three quarters of a mile away on a rural road cut.

The PAMC on 5/13 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 Empidomax 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), Orange-crowned Warbler (27), Canada Geese (9), Baltimore Oriole (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 possibly 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, 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 or fields with scattered trees, 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 a result of weak songs and elusiveness as opposed to actual scarcity. The distance to DCW and the hatchery is about 4 miles.

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 1 at 410, Osprey 1 (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, JM, LT).

**Observers:** Thomas Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA 15924 (814) 754-5727, Thoma5022@gmail.com, Bedford Bird and Nature...
Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Lake Ontelaune (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 on Old Rt. 22 (JS). A Canada Goose 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 4/1/1 (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 binos...” 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 Vultures 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 seen close up looked white).” The observer did not locate 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 vires were reported (SF). Single Common Raven found 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 warblers, 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 was reported 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, including the head, the crest was a very 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 Snow 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. Disappointingly, 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).


Pennsylvania Birds
Blair County
No Compiler.

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 Brownstown near the SUR (HS, JS). An American Black Duck was seen 5/10 near the upper SUR (AV). At a pond on Brownstown, 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 and the Troy Humane Society (TNE) responded to the PBBA protocol CD on 4/14 at TNE, one on Cahill Mt. 5/5 (TG), and 6 on 5/10 (PAMC) there were 2 adults and 2 chicks at the mid-county nest (DB, MBf, BF), one eagle each at Sayre and Milan (MB, JP, MP), one at Terrytown (DB, MBf), and an immature at Wyalusing (DB) 4/28. A Northern Harriers were 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 4/14, 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 Twp. (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 weeks, 3/22 in Churchville Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Pennsylvanialocations:

Churchville Reservoir Park (CVP), 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 rainfall being about 0.5” above normal. The only reliable shorebird habitat was on private property at PWT, and good variety in small

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).

As in previous years, the PBBA and the PAMC have brought many observations of waterfowl. 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, JP, MP, NR), as well as 3 singing 5/10 at Peck Hill. Only 3 Northern Parulas 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 along the Troy side of the SUR (CH, CHa). 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/Monoeroenten area (BF) and one singing 5/28 on 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 Hollemback (MB, NB), 30 at ESM on 3/25 (RG), one at a Hollemback 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 Hollemback 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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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 total of 1579 individuals of 29 warbler species was equal to the previous spring’s first report, followed by one on 3/27 at NSP (BE). Three stopped at PWT 4/19 (DP). One to two were reported at CVP 4/20-5/31 (EC, BK, JMi). Their May report being 3/1 at SGL 56 (JMi, AM) was the highest single site high count (BK). A second pair were seen nesting away from the Delaware River at MKF 3/30 (RFe, BK, BE, DFa). A male

Our two existing colonies was not completed this year. 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 Kilston (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from near 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 Great 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 (BHc), but as usual individual stragglers and non-migrating individuals were reported later, with the last May report being one at CVP 3/31 (RA). The last Cackling Goose reported was at PWT 3/14 (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 PWT this year. The only high Tundra Swan count came from CVP, where 50 stopped 3/11 (GB). Three stopped at PWT 3/13 (RFe), and one was at CVP the same day (BK).

Northern Shoveler 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 PWT 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 peak. Three shorebird species were added to the list for PWT 3/31 (DFa) and 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 at PWT 5/18-19 (DFa). Common Merganser has been recorded several times in the period. This has been a good place to see this species in recent years. Our two existing colonies was not completed this year. Great Blue Heron was heard starting 4/17 at QTS (DFa). Two were found at PWT starting 5/2, 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 50 56 on 3/31 (JMi).

Another pair were found on the New Jersey side of the Burlington-Bristol Bridge (AMc). One of these pairs was recorded at PWT 5/10-11 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 PWT 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+ at PWT 4/29-5/3 (BHc) and Bradford Dam 5/10 (RFe). One to two White-rumped Sandpipers were reported 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

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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 coming from Buckingham Wildlife Management Area 5/13 (RH). American Woodcock was first noted 2/28 at PVP (fide KK).

About 150 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 at PWT 5/23 (DFa). A Red-necked Gull was a nice addition to the MFK year 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). CVC 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 PVT (TU). NSP had 2 birds carrying nest material. A Slavonian Gull also last seen 5/3 at PWT (DFa). Caspian Tern was noted only with PWT, with each 5/20 and 5/31 (DFa). Always a good find locally, a storm brought one Black Tern to PVT 5/9 (RFe) and 2 to PWT 5/9-10 (DFa). The 4/28 storm brought 24 Common Terns to PVT (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 was unreported again. Barred Owl was heard all month with the last notes on 5/27, 1 bird each. A recently reported Short-eared Owl was reported 4/18 at PVT (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). They are rare in the southern part of the county. SGL157 had at least 2, with a peak count of 5 on 3/2 (BE). 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 at PVP 5/24 (MH, ML) for the only reports. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported at PVP 15/5-24 (AM, JM) and SGL157 5/21-26 (DFa, AM, JM). 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 Perkasie 5/5 (RFe). This is only the eighth 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 report coming Feb 14 (JMc). A probable Purple Finch carried sticks up to a probable nest site in late Mar (DFa). Sighting Brant continued as 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 manure area at the NSP may indicate more birds present. The small flock at US Steel disappeared 3/18 at Buckingham Widefield, 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, JM) 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 was rare in the county. A white-rumped Longspur was first noted 2/28 at PVP (fide KK). An American Pipit was reported 4/18 at PVP (VR), a new spring late date. Two Cerulean Warblers were reported in the county on the same date, with both 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 PVT (JT), and was carrying nesting material into a hole 5/28 (AM). Mourning Warbler was noted at Tyler State Park 5/22 (BSh, N2), 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 5/24 continued at least until 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 Tinton 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, JM). 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 in May (m. obs.), including a PAMC record 14, with the last at Doylestown on 5/7 (BE). Five warblers continued to be reported in May. 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 could not be exceeded 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 for 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 coveys of Pileated Woodpeckers continued at least until Apr, with 25 in Kinzersville 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 Kinzersville 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 overflew 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 efforts 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 (1625) were far below previous years 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 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze. On 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze, and 3/26 LA finally opened from its long winter freeze. 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.

This season, 2 Henslow’s Sparrows returned on 5/10 to MSP for the first time in nearly five years. On the whole, the 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 preferred nesting and dense orchard and agricultural areas.

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).

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 predators 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 nesting pairs (one on the northside of Cambria County and one active Broad-winged 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 many of 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 (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 northern central Pennsylvania and southwestern New York. Although a couple of these species of these nests were reported locally, 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 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, the 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 preferred nesting and dense orchard and agricultural areas.

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.

Observers: Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com, Carl Bleakney, Roxanne Bleakney, Michol Berrigan, Bernie Cunningham, Tom Cunningham, Debbie Darney, Bill Elliott, Sally Kamison, Dean Kildoo, George Mihalik, Laura Mihalik, Bob Ozmun, Peg Ozmun, Bonnie Renick, Stacey Steele, Terry Steele, Susan Tenace, Blasé Tucci, Dawn Tucci, Mark Vass, Joan Williams.

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 CMR 4/25 (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.

### Cameron County
No Compiler.

### Carbon County
No Report.

Compiler: David Hawk, 287 Walnut Street, Lehighton, PA, 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net

### 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 <http://www.scbird.org>. SCB is an IBA (see Important Bird Areas at <http://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 3/30 to 4/25: A sharp-eyed Rusty Blackbird was seen at COL 4/8 (MH). A Great Egret was observed on 3/12-3/16. 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 Goose, 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, and Ruddy Duck (NK, BK, TA, MH, NK, AW, CG, JD, LR). No Report.

A Whippoorwill 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 overhead, 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 Fair Ridge Ave., State College 3/5 (NK), one was observed in Horseshoe Brook 3/8 (BF), 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 3/3, 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 Brus Min 3/30 (CH). About 16 Evening Grosbeaks were seen at a Sinking Creek feeder 3/3 (LR), and were seen again 4/4 (LR).

Observers: Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16468, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu, Tom Auer, Robert Benson, Nick Bolgiano, Rory Bower, Margaret Brittingham, Don Bryant, Nan Butkovich (NAB), Jack Cochran, Benjamin Cooley, Jim Dunn, David Facey, Susan Butkovich (STLA), White Clay Creek (WCC).

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 March. A flock of 400 was seen over WCC 3/3 (AL) and 360 were noted west over 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 West Nanticoke 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 (LM). 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 (LM). 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).

Gallinaceous 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 of 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 flush-out of Red-breasted Mergansers at MCSP when 48 were counted (LL). This is probably a county record. 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 (BB), WCC 5/11 (EW, NP) and another of this decreasing species was found at WCC 5/17 (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 of 9 was at Appendino’s (CC), Single birds continued there until at least 5/16 (NP). Pied-billed Grebes 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 at Longwood Gardens 5/10. This species 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 where found at several locations including Chad’s Ford Marsh 3/27 (KF); Downingtown 4/4-6 (JH, JC); Chester Creek Restoration Area 4/20 (NP); CHLA 4/25 (JM); 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).

Oysktes 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 3/10 (JH). A single Northern Goshawk, a rare winter visitor, 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 (LM). 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 (JM).

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 Soras was heard at CFS 5/18 (NP). High numbers of American Coots continued from the winter season at MCSP with 115 on 3/5 (BII). 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 (LM) and Myrick Preserve 5/22 (HM). Both reports were of birds in flight.

An irregular spring visitor, 9 Semi-palmated Plovers were at Octoraro L. 5/10 (CC). Greater Yellowlegs were noted 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). Semi-palmated Sandpipers, regular spring migrants in small numbers, were noted 4/29-5/10 (NP). Greens were found at Longwood Gardens 5/5-10 (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 (BBL, 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). American Bittern visited Waterloos Mill 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).

Cemetery was last seen 4/8 (m. obs.). Another was at BTPR 4/10-14 (AU, JS). Ruby-throats Hummingbirds returned 4/20 and were then found throughout the county, Red-headed Woodpeckers were recorded 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 Hooded Warbler was also 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 5/3 (BBL). A single Marsh Wren, a rare, irregular migrant, was at Embreeville Marsh 5/3 (NP). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Oakslands Cemetery 5/18 (NP). There were few reports of Swainson’s Thrush, all single birds, 5/14-26 (AL, NP). A flock of 21 American Pipits was noted over STLA 3/14 (NP, AG, DE). Single singles, reported from all corners of the county 4/11-27 (m. obs.).

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 (EW, 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 reported at the Chadwick Bridge 5/7 (SM). The King Ranch area 5/10 (BBY) and at Oakslands 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 Landenberg 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 Baltimoreos 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).

Observers: Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-0687, nickpulcinella@verizon.net, Barry Blust (BBL), Brian Byrnes (BBY), Chuck Chalfant, Josh Clapper, Molly Daly, Amy Dauphinee, David Eberly, Pam Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, Jennifer Harned, Sue Kileeoon, Rick Keyser, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, John MacNamara, Jeff McLaughlin (JMcL), Carol Majors, Holly Merker, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Dan Smith, Vince Smith, Tim Sterret, Doug Tallamay, John Traynor, Andy Urquhart, Laura Wagner, Eleanor Wolf, Rick Wolf.

Clarion County

No Report.

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Clearfield County

No Report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING SUMMER 2008: Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net

Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), South Avis (SA), Susquehanna River (SR), and Swissaide (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-bandaded 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 migration wetlands in Mill Hall (JS). A Peregrine Falcon was reported over fields along River Rd. east of LH on 4/2 (BS, VJ). 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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Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Lake Outlot (CLO), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Hartstown (HS), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva (GVN), McMichael Rd (McM), Mud Lake (ML), Old Duck Farm (ODF), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS) Sheltto’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 Loon was at ENWR 3/30 (RCL) and 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 GVN and McM 5/15 and 5/20, and one Least Bittern was at GVN 5/12 (MB). RFL found 30 at PGMA (RCL) and ENWR (RA). No egrets were reported. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen at GVN 5/12. A Cackling Goose was found at PGMA 3/20 (RS) and two were noted at FH 3/29 (MF, BH, VBN). 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 GVN 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 Canvasbacks were noted at PC 3/27 (TB) and a small group of Ring-necked Ducks was seen at CM 3/24 (SK) and the best total. Some 200 Redheads 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 was 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 Mergansers 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 3/15 (LAR) and 8 were seen at PC 4/10. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported at CM and Pymatuning 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 GVN 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 GVN 5/25. Single Soros were at GVN 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 a sound of two stones clicking together; it was loud and clear 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 and was observed in an emerging patch of smartweed at the edge of the marsh (RFL).

Two Common Moorhens were at GVN 5/6 and one was at HM 5/4 (MB). A Sandhill Crane was observed at HM 3/23 (MB). Three were seen at PGMA 3/24 (TCN), 2 at GVN 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 seen at CM 5/25. One 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 PA). 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 CM 4/24 and had 30 5/29. GVN had 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 5/23 (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 was 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-backed 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.

Walnut Swallows were 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 GVN (RCL) 4/30. Marvin Byler reported the only Red-headed Woodpecker of the season at Pine Road, HM 5/7.

The first reported Eastern Kingbird was at Shaw’s Landing south of Meadville along French Creek 4/26 (RE). Most of the catchers were late arriving and in small numbers. RFL found 2 Purple Martins at PGMA 4/8. Two Tree Swallows were seen at GVN 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 3/22, 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 Swallow-thrushes were reported at Marsh Rd. PM 3/27 and 45 were 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...
Prothonotary Warbler was seen at McM 4/28-29 (RCL). There were 3 at GNV 4/29 (RCL). A Northern Waterthrush was rarely reported, a north of SL 5/17 (RE). A Hooded Warblers were found at SGL 230 on 5/3 (PL), 5/6 (RK) and 1/3 (VG), and one at a feeder at MLR 5/16 (AM). The 113 individuals not only made for the best spring season ever, but 32 were banded 3/2 was also the single best night ever at KG, spring or fall (SW).

Visiting a feeder at Meadville 4/8 (GM, KM) and 3 were seen west of PA 4/16 (AM), and an olive-backed Woodpecker was reported at SGL 169 on 5/25 (VG) and again on 5/26 (VG), AM). Common Nighthawks were reported at SGL 169 on 5/25 (VG) 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 reported 4/16 (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, DG, VG) was only the county’s fifth, and the 2 Red-necked Phalaropes 5/13 (DG, AM, VG) were 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 32 were banded 3/2 was also the single best night ever at KG, spring or fall (SW).
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, SWF), Hunting Park Twp. (SHP), Susquehanna (SR), general (SR), Susquenana River from Forest 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 interrupted by winter with 35 species counted. The season was wassoff 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 Northern Pintail, 95 American Wigeon, 150 Ring-necked Duck, 12 Canvasback, 69 Redhead, 60+ 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 Egrets 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, CB). 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 (CRt, et al.), 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 (OK). 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 reported 3/30 by CRt. 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 Common Loons were noted in this stretch of the SR (RK, & CRt). Another good warbler day was 5/15 when 19 species were found on one property in the Five Senses Garden on the Greenbelt Trail in Swatara Twp. 5/5 (PP).

For nearly the next month, sightings of one to as many as 4 were made of the Greenland race (CBt, RB, & DH). Photos and videos were acquired of one near 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 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 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 was reported at Boathouse Rd. Park near HER 5/11 (P&RW), and on 4/11 they were still present at 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).

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 (RB), Tom 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 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 3/15 when two were reported SFH (DH).

For nearly the next month, sightings of one to as many as 4 were made from WL, SWF, or SFH (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 was noted 4/15 where a single Black-headed Gull was seen (EC). 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 PM (CRT, RK), a pair of Prothonotary Warblers at a parking lot near 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).

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The Philadelphia area had many interesting birds.

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.

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, JB), 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).

The Purple Finch report was 3/30 at SR (SK), and 2 during 4/12 (38), 4/13 (85) and 4/18 (44). April 12 was the overall peak flight day for total migrants and only double digit days for this species were 4/12 (38), 4/13 (85) and 4/18 (44).

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 number 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.

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 Thompwn Twp 5/11. Neither of these birds was in a location close to any known game farms, but in Delaware in this era, escapes 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).
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Elk County
No Compiler.

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. For the most part 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 recorded 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 6 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 (MJ, 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 a male 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 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). A single bird fed in a tree 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 near 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). Observers: Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com, Jim Barker, Jean & Toby Cunningham (JTC), DD-Dave Darney, Debbie Darney (Dda), Mike Fialkovich, Isaac Fields, Michele Franz (MFr), Ramsay Koury, Jimmy Marz (JMa), Cliff Miller, Gayle Neely, Susan Smith, Don Snyder, Jerry Stanley, Randy Stringer, Chuck Tague, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Bob & Pam Zelenak (BPZ).

Fayette County

Locations: Jacob’s Creek Lake at Jacob’s Creek County Park (JCL), Ohiopyle 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.

RS, Dick 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 (DS, 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 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 3/5 (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 3/16 (MF) and 3/19 (MF, GM), 4 on 3/27 (MF), and 9 was the tally 3/28 (MF), all at JCL.

Ruffed Grouses 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 Grebes 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). Two Turkey Vultures were observed feeding on a dead White-tailed Deer near SGL 296 on 3/9 (MB).

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Kellettville (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 passersines reported probably bred 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 Ruff 4/12 (TB), and 5 Hooded Mergansers 4/6 (FM). 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 Red-tailed Hawk was 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 (fide 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 the next 3/10-15. The first Osprey was spotted near 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 near TI 5/9 and a migrating 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 near TI 5/10; the first Red-winged Blackbird was hosted at 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 5/10.
3/21 (DY). The first Common Grackle came to feeders near Tl 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).

Observers: Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net. Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Nancy McGill, Jim McGuire, David Yeany II.

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 Scap sp., Bufflehead, and some Common Goldeneye, 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 Whippoor-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 regularly then 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.

Observers: Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256 (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net. Valerie Barnes, Carl Gamer, Donna Hocker, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler, Miklos Oyler.

Fulton County

No Report.

Compiler: Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com

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 heard on 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 major flock of Osprey was seen in Morgan Twp. on 3/28 for 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 well 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 on March 11th, 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 a village of Hero in Olive Township (RKB).

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 flowwerpot still hanging in the yard. One species that did leave sooner than usual was Ruby-throated Hummingbird. 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, 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
found 4/20 at LCR (MLP) and the earliest Siskin arrived at YC 3/23 (LC, MH, GL); 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 estimated 100 were noted on 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 228 on 3/18 (LC, CG, MH, GL); last noted were 8 on 3/25 (LC, MH, GL) at TLR. White-crowned Sparrows were last noted 5/19 at RBF (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 at TLR 3/29 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 RBF 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 stock 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 KF 4/26 (KK). A female Indigo Bunting appeared well nourished.

First Great Egret was found dead in the yard at KF 4/26 (KK). The first Amargosa Fox Sparrow was reported 3/2 (MS) near Beyer but was not seen again. The last noted was one on Little Mahoning Cr. 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 Marquis 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 Scaups taled 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 (EF, MF) with 76 on 3/21 (EF, MF). Greater Scaup was heard singing in a tree in the yard at RBF 4/7 (CR). YC yielded first Redheads 3/22 (EF, MF), the highest YC count on record, tying a tally made 4/2/1995 (CL, GL, MS). First Hooded 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 (EF, JJU), 15 near Strongstown 4/15 (LC, 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); singles 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, MS), also at YC. Pied-billed Grebe first appeared 3/11 (GL) 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 population of 250 occurred 3/22 (EF, MF), the highest YC count on record, tying a tally made 4/2/1995 (GL, CG).

A Double-crested Cormorant occurred at Conenough Dam 3/31 (DC, MC); 6 was YC’s high 4/13 (EF, MF); 13 flew over RM 5/5 (EF, MF). The Plum Creek heronry contained at least 8 active Great Blue Heron nests by 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, MS). 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, MS), 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, MS), 2 immns. at YC 4/15 (LC, MH, GL, JS), and one near LV 4/19
Young Twp. Apr 11 yielded 4 Hermit Thrushes in the Strongtown 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 for hermit thrushes 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 Tunnelfoot. First Yellow Warblers appeared 4/22 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT) and 4/23 (EF, MF) near North Point. First American Redstart 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, RJ, MVT). First Black-throated Green Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler occurred on 4/21 (BN) 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 5/5 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT). First Northern Parula 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 (MH, 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, LS, 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 (MH, RH) and near ST 4/11 (MLT). 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) while returning Eastern Towhee occurred 3/9 (MC) near LV. American Redstart were first noted 4/10 (LC, SC, MH, RH, KM, MM, JT, MVT) and 4/13 for Eastern Phoebe occurred 3/13 (MC) near LV. Great Crested Flycatcher was first found at Locust 4/25 (MH). Eastern Kingbird returned 5/6 (EF, MH) near RM. Vireo dates included return 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 (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), 4 and individuals were located in three sections of IN 5/10 (MC, MH, RH). 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 circulated over a yard near SH 4/5 (MH) 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 Kurilsk 4/18 (RH) near SH. Winter Wren records included one at YC 4/15 (LC, GH, LS) 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.
Dunmire, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Don Frew, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Jessica Jopp, John Kilmak, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Laufer, Mary A. Little (MAL), Gib McLaughlin (GMc), Michelle McSparrin (MMc), Katie Musselman, Mike Musselman, Cindy Rogers, Kate St. John (KSJ), John Salvetti, Nancy Smeltzer, Mike Shaffer (MSh), Jack Solomon (JSJo), Sue Speck, Pat Takacs (PT), Mark Strittmatter (MS), John Taylor, Tom Taylor, Toby H. Petersheim (THP), Toby J. Petersheim (TJP), Art Shiao, Jim Stoner, Shawn Stoner, Raymond Swarey, Aden Troyer, Andy Troyer (AnT), David Troyer, Stevie Troyer.

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 Scapua sp. at MSRA 3/2 (CK, AS), a Scapua sp. at CD 3/8-9 (CK, AT), 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 (AntT).

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. 223/4 N. 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 Wart 5/3 (SS). Shorebirds included a phase bird was there 3/8 (CK). 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.

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 Pennsylvania, and this year we received reports of 17 species of shorebirds from the LCSS 4/8 (AT), Pine Siskins were at that location 4/13, and two were still visiting 5/25 (AT).

Lackawanna County
No Compiler.

Lancaster County
Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Susquehanna River, Conewago Flats—Susquehanna River (SRFC), Long Level (SLRL), 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 516 (DH), but that was the only report of the season. Three Glossy Ibis were at SCRF 5/16 (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/delaware border along the 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 Manhein 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 Holmdown 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 pairs 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 Zeltenreich Rd. near New Holland 5/27.

This spring I received reports of 17 species of shorebirds from SCRF. 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 SR. 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 SRFC 3/25 (AM, CR, DW). Other Larid highlights included Glaucous Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull at SRFC 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 (DH). Another Black Tern was at SRFC 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 SRFC. 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 seen until 5/6 with a peak count of 115. There were also 10-12 at the end of May at FIG (m. obs.). Second Mountain had some good numbers of raptors 4/11: 2 Northern Harrier (38), a Sharp-shinned Hawk (1), Broad-winged Hawks (17), and Cooper’s Hawk (17). A flock of 8 White-winged Scoters at MLSP on 4/27 set a new county high (AS). On 4/12 at MLSP, 26 Bufflehead were there after a storm (RCM, CRM). 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 (DK). A displaying Red-breasted Merganser at MLSP 4/12 was the only sighting for the season (RCM, CRM).

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 (RK) with a peak of 22 on 4/12 (RCM, CRM). A Red-necked grebe was on MLSP 3/14 and FIG 5/3 (DY).

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 Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Swainson’s Hawk (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 were 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 (OW) 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 were a new high with 195 at NRP (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). Least Sandpipers were found 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

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**Lawrence County**

No Report.

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**Pennsylvania Birds 2008 – Volume 22 No. 2**

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 (MFR), 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 Batt’s Warbler was again reported on 5/10 along with 2

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**Lebanon County**

No Report.

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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 (MFR), 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.

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**Lawrence County**

No Report.

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**Lawrence County**

No Report.

Compiler: Randy Stringer, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA, 16127, rcstringer@gcc.edu
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 (RM, KM). 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 Lower Lehigh Parkway. A few Least Terns spotted 5/11 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 Cerulean Warbler was found at MLSP 4/23 (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 on 4 with 3 on SGL 145 (RCM). Two were singing at Blue Mtn. on 50 on 5/11 (RCM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found in Mt. Gretna 4/11 (SH). Another at SSP 4/19 would have tied the early date (DD). The first Tennessee Warbler was found was singing 5/26 at Gov. Dick property near the new center for two weeks in early May.

Great Crested Flycatcher was reported from 5/10 at MPR and Mountain 5/11 (RCM, KM). A Lewis Road (GK). A Tufted Titmouse was spotted at Union Twp. Access Area (PFBA), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Susquehanna County, 366-9996, levinjl1@yahoo.com

Some early shorebirds were on flooded fields west of Allentown 3/30 included Greater Yellowlegs (JL), 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 Trexlerton 4/5.

A Northern Saw-whet Owl was seen near 4/22 (TW). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Berks 5/4 (RM) was a new early date. A Yellow-throated Vireo (JH). On 5/30 a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (BM, PM) was seen interacting with a territorial male Scarlet Tanager, was not happy with the presence of the flycatcher.

Along Kunkle’s Mill Rd. 5/26 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 (RM) was seen 3/26 at Upper Macungie Twp.

A Swainson’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 Township 5/6, JH found another Bluebird, and a couple of 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 Creek 5/22 with many Beigi-throated Vireos, 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 5/4. At Copee Farm Road 5/7 Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a sickly looking female Purple Finch 5/26. The Purple Finch stayed until 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.

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 in Fogleville 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 Fogleville Quarry 3/17 were a pair of Buffleheads (BM), 3 Canvasbacks, several American Coots, and many Ring-necked Ducks. Also at the Fogleville Quarry were a few Common Merganser (JH), some Green-winged Teal, a Cooper’s Hawk and several Snow Geese nearby, all seen on 3/25. JH spotted the following birds in the Fogleville/Trexleront on this day: 3 Wilson’s Snipe, several Green-winged Teal, 4 American Wigeon, and a female American Kestrel.

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).

A Saw-whet Owl (BM) was a good find near Trexler Twp. 5/2. An American Coots, 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 (JL), Lesser Yellowlegs and Wilson’s Snipe.

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 (FPBA), 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 Live. There were numerous reports of finches left over 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, 700 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. At 5:50 PM and in the dark, 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 season 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 for the 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 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.

Lycoming County
No Report.

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McKean County
No Compiler.

Mercer County
Locations: Shenango River Reservoir (SRR), Williamson Road (WR), Zahnri Road (ZR), Williamson Road (WR).

May nesters had poor success, due to cold, wet weather, but weather patterns were favorable for passerine fallbacks, 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 Donacion 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 Junco 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.


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 (DWGRNA), 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
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 peaked at 19 birds at Walt Road, GLR 3/8-9 (SK). Diving ducks of Canvasbacks were at UPVP 3/27 (GAF). A high count for March, to below average in April and well above average in May.

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 Brewer's Warbler was discovered at a site along the Freeman Tract Rd in DWGNRA 5/18 for the second straight year (DS), 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).

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, bhmcdd@ptd.net, Trish Attardo, Kathy Dubin, Jenifer Rituper, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Billy Weber.

Montgomery County

Locations: Delaware Valley College (DVC), Evensburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWS), 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 Perkimon 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 peaked at 19 birds at Walt Road, GLR 3/8-9 (SK). Diving ducks of Canvasbacks were at UPVP 3/27 (GAF). A high count for March, to below average in April and well above average in May.
Creek Environmental Preserve (MCP).

Linger ing, 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 3/8 (DW). Canvasbacks, Redheads and Long-tailed Ducks were found at Coot Pond in Mar and Apr. A high count of a 300 Common Mergansers were at Minsi Lake 3/6 (AS). Linger ing 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 Land 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 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), Tanyard 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 along 3 in mid March 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 Great Grey Owl at JSP 5/14 (DD). A surprise find was a Great Cormorant at the Gremar Rd. canal 5/10 (BM). Early swallows included a Blue Jay at JSP 5/25 (DD). Washington Twp. held a Chimney Swift at 3/9 (AS). National Park Dr. had an early 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). Short-eared Owls were numerous in early May. A delightful sighting of regular nester in the county, was observed carrying food 5/18 at Kirkrige (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 Walnutport 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 single 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 (RM). Up on Lambs Leap Road, Dannahers 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.

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Northumberland County
No Compiler.

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 (Tl), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), PA Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBBA), Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/10 (PAMC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schulykill River (SR), Schulykill 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, ral 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 warblers, but none known as a regular nester in the county, was observed carrying food 5/18 at Kirkrige (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 Walnutport 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 single 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 (RM). Up on Lambs Leap Road, Dannahers 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
Rhwon 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 on 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 reported at Woodland Cemetery (AK, DM) and in the small group of white pigeons at TI. The Ti Cooper’s Hawk was vociferous 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 Merlins were seen at Cornell 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. Sanibel Sandpipers were at TI from late 3/10 to 5/2 (BR). A rare 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. A male Long-billed Curlew at FP 5/2-23 (FW, TF) reported 4/3 (NC, LR). Common Nighthawk was seen at Awbury Arboretum 5/13 (BR) and roosting in a cidrella tree in FP 5/22 (DM). The Whip-poor-will ms heard near Creshell 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 hirundinidae 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 banding 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 the1980’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 Lincolns Sparrows were 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 (TD). 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 effervescent reports of 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 Deluwo, Michael Drake, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Greg Gorton, Cliff Hence (Chen), Chuck Hetzel, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Steve Karas, 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, Franklin Windfelder.

Pike County
No Compiler.

Potter County
No Report.

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

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. Further reports of Whip-poor-wills from numerous county locations was very encouraging. Further reports of Whip-poor-wills, 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, probably forthcoming.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Wetlands Restoration Area of SGL 188 (WRA), Somerset Lake (SL), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA),partners and 1 Common Tern (CW), and 3 Black Terns, 1 Forster’s Terns and 1 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 Nighthawks may not breed in the county anymore, but a single bird was over SL 5/30 (JP), and 3 Long-tailed Ducks were at SL 4/12 (LP). A spring Olive-sided Flycatcher was a nice find at PP 6/5 (JP, CP). A Bald Eagle was at SL 3/14 (CB), two were observed at FL 4/12 (LP), and one was noted at the Susquehanna R. at Selingsgrove (DU), An Osprey was also at SL 4/12 (LP).

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 Wrens in northern Snyder. Two Palm Warblers and a Swamp Sparrow were among the species noted at FL 4/12 (LP).

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Garrett Mud Flats (GMF), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), partners and 1 Common Tern (CW), and 3 Black Terns.
3/20-24. The weather was mostly clear but cold and standing water was mostly frozen. Large flocks of both Snow (250) and Canada Goose (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 smaller numbers. This included, as follows: 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.

Sharp-shinned Hawk observers took to the field for a weekend of birding. The following 3/23, brought the vicinity of the pair with young, and there was an unconfirmed report pair at this location was observed in May with 2 young. There are observation recorded aggressiveness that ended when 2 of the birds were seen this year. Observations indicated 2 separate pairs as there (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 confirmed 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 1 to 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.

Observations: Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com, Mike Brawley, Skip Conant, Al Guarante, Tom Reeves.

Susquehanna County
No Report.

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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, Cowanesque 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 noted as early as 3/10 at the south of Crook Lake at Hammond L. and at the outflow of the dam at Cowanesque 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 included 40 Ring-necked Ducks, 15 Green-winged Teals, 2 Ruddy Ducks, and 10 Lesser Scapula 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 or relocate (JH) 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. 15/1-99 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-billed 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 Hammonds 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 return or relocate (JH) 5/17 at HCSP (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 County.

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 (GT), 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, EY).

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 was, however, the Pine Warbler reported 4/12 at HCSP (RF, GT). An observer in Millerton, who reported a Prothonotary Warbler (5/6) and a Cerulean

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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 warblers. Bloodroot, Blackfooted, Blackpoll, 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 site, but on opposite sides of the same road.” A pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes was found 5/23 through Strut Rain in the Asaph section of Tioga State Forest (RR). No Report was seen at the same site.

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 in 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).

Observers: Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-5789, gntsys@ptd.net, Larry Brown, Bruce A. Cart, Leslie Clifford, Dianne Franco, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, Jeff Holbrook, Emily Rizzo, Robert Ross, Ann Vayansky.

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Union County
No Report.

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Venango County
No Report.

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

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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 warblers which appeared to be migrators rather than dispersers. A flock of 100+ Blue-winged Teal was seen in the pond near BNT on Mar 19, with the peak being a flock of 400 on Mar 22. A fallout of 43 total at GCW and BNT 3/20 (RG). American Black Ducks were seen “at the same pond” on Mar 22, with the peak being a flock of 20 at GCW 3/20 (RG). It was a good year for “buck” ducks in the county, mostly on the strength of two significant fallouts 3/12 and 3/22. Despite this banner year, Canvassbacks 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, with male flocks remaining in BNT 5/4 and RT 5/5 through 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 scapaus 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 3/30 (RG) was very unusual for Washington. Buffalohead 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, during the 3/22 fallout when 11 were at R4 (RG).

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.
Common Nighthawks 5/22 (WJS). West Pike Run Twp. 5/17, as was a, though this is certainly not an indicator of absence of what is actually a thunderstorm (AB). Both are hard to come by in Tern reported, both in and near West Pike Run: 4/25 (AT) and 4/27 (WJS).

Two early-returning Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were a superb find near Bealsville 5/10 (AT). They were still 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 (DH, 3RBC). This species has become another annual fixture at GCW but remained nowhere near as common as at CGW. When 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 5/2 was among the season’s best reports (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 (KJS), 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 winter, especially near Waterman 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 reports: 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 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 Side 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).

Bolobinks 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.

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@emailink.net, Andy Berchin, John Boback (JBo), James Bohn, Mike Campsey, Lauren
Conkle, Lori DeThomas, Michael Dietrich, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Cris Hamilton, Larry Helgerman (LH), Margaret Higbee, Pat Hutchinson, Fran O’Malley, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Becky Smith, Kate St. John (KSJ), Amy Taracido, Jarred Taracido (JaT), José Taracido (JoT), Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

**Wayne County** No Compiler.

**Westmoreland County**

Locations: Acme Dam (AD), Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Derry Lake (DeL), Donegal Lake (AoL), Loyalhanna Lake (LL), Powdersmill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [L Hatove Reservoir (TRR)].

The only report of a Red-throated Loon came from Del 3/11 (KB) and again on 3/13 (TV). Common Loons were a bit scarce on local lakes with a high count of just 12 at DoL 3/26 (DB). Best Horned Grebes were on 12 on Del 3/11 (KB) and 14 on Del 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 Scaups were on AD (L&LH). A flock of 30 Ring-necked Ducks made for a good count at Powdersmill’s Crisp Pond 3/20-21 (PF, BM, JM). Nine Greater Scaups 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 (non) of Mar (fide MKK).

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 Shastihurst 4/2 (L&LH).

A Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at PNR on the night of 3/26-27 (BM). A rather early Hybrid warblers were the feature of the season at Powdermill: An American Blackbird (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 Shastihurst 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).

**York County**

Locations: Althouse School Rd. (ALT), Brunner’s Island (BRUN), Codorus State Park (CSP), Dillsburg (DILL), East Berlin (EBER), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GFPSP), Gutt Rd. (GUTT), Lake Redman (LR), Laughlin Dam (LAD), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), PA Migration Count (PAC), folding book created by Robert Schau (L&LH), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), 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 (MV). 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 CSM, three 2/14 (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 Cormorants 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 Garrison 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 Garrison 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 Willets were seen flying low over DILL 5/11 (JK), and another 5 at LAR was 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 one was 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 were 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. 5/21 and one was at Lock 12 5/26 (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 RRCP (CMc) and one at SPGR 5/27 (DSB). The grassland species were at ALT (RP): Vesper Sparrow 4/10, Savannah Sparrow 4/10, Grasshopper Sparrow 5/4 through the season, and 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 Chalffant, Dick Cleary, Bryan Erb, Bruce Forteman, Jeffrey Gallo, Vern Gauthier, Shawn Godack, Judy Hamilton, Barry & Jenni Horton (B&JH), Georgia Kagle, Phil Hunt, Huntsville Reservoir (HR), Kirby Park Natural Area(KP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Pennsylvania Power & Light (PLL), 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 was 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 6/12 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 Canvasback were observed 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 JHs 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 Plaist 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 Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birder@aol.com, Susan Baron, Dave Bircher, Mark Blauer, Jonathan DeBalko, Stan Galey (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Eleanor Harding, Jeff Hartman (JHa), Julie Hart (JH), Bob Houck, Ed Johnson, Don Kapral, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Deb Petroski, Jim Shemarker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

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.

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 (PLL), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Sylvan Lake (SL)

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), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

The Penncpack, Glendenon, 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 to114. 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 Frank’s competitive drive, produced this great new record.

Lone Snow Goose 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, DBv). 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 DBr saw two Wood Ducks at TI 12/17, but we did not see them overwinter. Gadwallas were present throughout the season as documented by the FDR 2007-2008; no more birds were reported. Eight American Wigeon on 1/12 for the PMWC 22-year high count at East Falls, so on 2/23 aroused the attention of eBird (Cornell’s real-time 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 numbers (less than 512) were right at the hundred as of 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 Canvasbacks on the New Jersey side of the DR numbered 300 in the Dec (TC), 72 Cooper’s Hawk were recorded on the CBCs. Redhead was at FDR through late Dec (DBv, FW). Twenty Ring-necked Ducks preferred the ponds at FDR, but eventually were found at TI and the DR at Rhawn St. One Greater Scapau 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 winterted at TI. Our Ruddy Duck count peaked at 27, probably because many of the birds go to the DR for the open ponds, and there the birds 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 TC saw an American Bittern fly over the impoundment and into DC Pen and the DR 12/15, although at TI the count of Great Cormorant varied 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 Canvasbacks on the New Jersey side of the DR numbered 300 in the Dec (TC), 72 Cooper’s Hawk were recorded on the CBCs. Redhead was at FDR through late Dec (DBv, 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 winterted at TI. Our Ruddy Duck count peaked at 27, probably because many of the birds go to the DR for the open ponds, and there the birds 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.

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On 2/10 GG was able to show a group of TI birders seven raptors, including a Rough-legged 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 Hawks 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 Westend Redevelopment Authority property bordering TI on the east. One of these hawks was in stunning adult plumage and we saw it almost daily. A light-morph Rough-legged Hawk, presumably the same hawk that has been frequenting the PHL area 1/12 (CH), was found on 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 11/3. Three Peregrine Falcons at TI were a high count for the Glenolden CBC. Northern Goshawk missed this season.

As mentioned above, a Sandhill Crane was found on the fields of the Eastwick Redevelopment Authority property bordering TI on the east, Hunted as the winter wore on, but CH reported that by Mar, 40 Black Vultures were roosting again. A raft of Wild Turkeys present for the CBC at TI disappeared shortly thereafter, but returned in March with a displaying male and two jakes sporting “turkey beards.”
PHOTO QUIZ #21

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

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